

COUNTY WAGE PROFILE: Cumberland County

These County Profiles provide a look at how workers in North Carolina counties are faring in North Carolina's low-wage economy. Cumberland County is a Tier 2 county and has a working-age population of 217,456.¹

POVERTY,

17 percent of the county's residents (53,583) lived in poverty in 2012; the state poverty rate was 18 percent.³

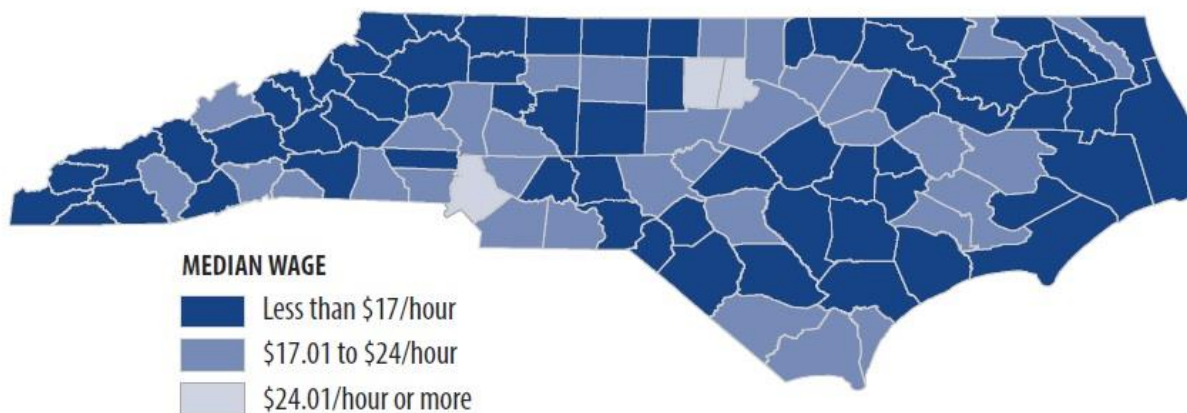
Poverty for people of color is higher than for whites and for Asian Americans: 23.7 percent of African Americans and 24.1 percent of Hispanics live in poverty, while 11.4 percent of whites live in poverty.

40.7 percent of the county's residents were low-income on average from 2010 to 2012, meaning their incomes were less than twice the federal poverty level (\$46,100 for a family of four in 2012).⁴

9.7 percent of working-age people in the county live below the poverty line (\$23,500 for a family of four), while 13.8 percent are considered near-poor—they earn 125 percent of the poverty line.

WAGES & INCOME

The county's median hourly wage, the wage of the worker in the middle of the distribution of all workers in Cumberland County, is \$14.86.



Source: Estimated Median Wage from Occupational Employment and Wages in North Carolina, 2013

Median household income in the county was \$45,110, which equaled 99.8 percent of the statewide household income of \$45,195 in 2012.⁶

The richest 5% of the county's households had an average income that was 20.6 times greater than that of the poorest fifth of households and almost 5 times greater than that of the middle fifth of households on average from 2010 to 2012.⁷

WORK

The number of employed persons in the county declined by 15 people from January 2013 to January 2014.

The percentage of working-age people with jobs—a better measure of the availability of work than the unemployment rate—is 58.9 percent in Cumberland County, which is 8.8 points below the state average.

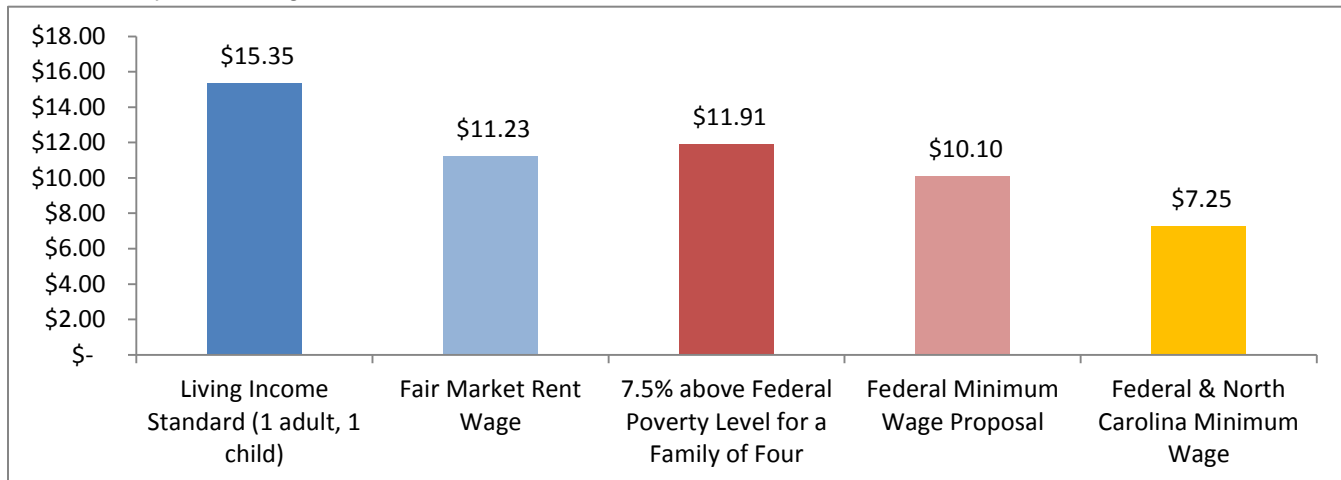
39 percent of occupations pay an average wage below the Living Income Standard for one adult, one child of \$15.35.

From 2012 to 2013, the following industries showed the fastest growth in Cumberland County.

Industry Name	Job Growth 2012-2013	Average Hourly Wage	Above LIS?
National Security & International Affairs	7128	\$ 34.43	YES
Restaurants & Other Eating Places	764	\$ 6.38	NO
Support Activities for Air Transport	474	\$ 25.15	YES
Office Administrative Services	312	\$ 22.50	YES
Ambulatory Health Care Services	228	\$ 18.10	YES
Nursing Care Facility	184	\$ 12.08	NO
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	172	\$ 11.03	NO
Executive, Legislative, & Gen Government	128	\$ 19.68	YES
Architectural and Engineering Services	124	\$ 34.88	YES
Local Messengers and Local Delivery	113	\$ 20.63	YES

LIVING WAGE MEASURES

There are various measures that seek to capture what it takes to make ends meet for working families. The figure below demonstrates that many of the federal measures being used fail to adequately provide a wage that allows a family to meet their basic needs in Cumberland County as measured by the Living Income Standard.



Data included in this profile is from publicly available sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, the Occupational Employment and Wages Survey from the Department of Labor and others. A full list of data sources can be found at www.ncjustice.org/countydata.