

COUNTY WAGE PROFILE: Robeson County

These County Profiles provide a look at how workers in North Carolina counties are faring in North Carolina's low-wage economy. Robeson County is a Tier 1 county and has a working-age population of 86,452.¹

POVERTY

34.7 percent of the county's residents (45,611) lived in poverty in 2012; the state poverty rate was 18 percent.³

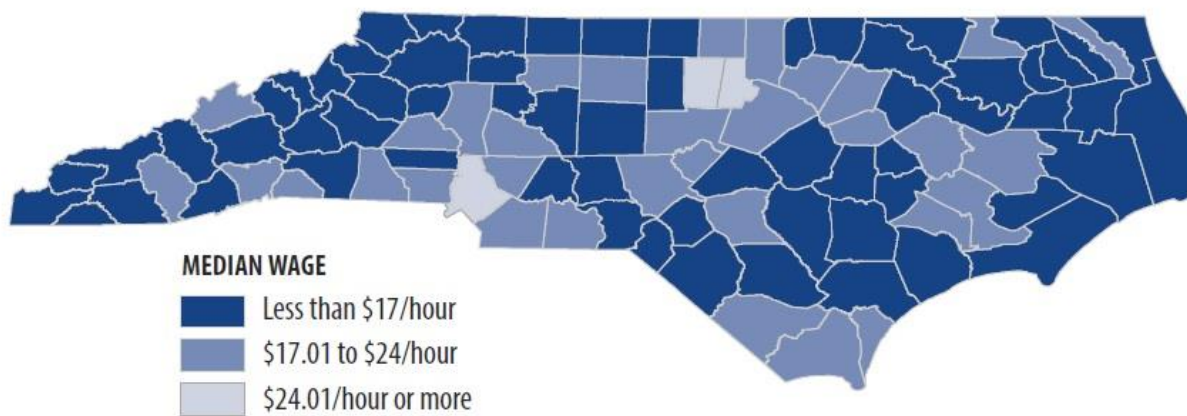
Poverty for people of color is significantly higher than for whites and for Asian Americans: 34 percent of African Americans, 63 percent of Hispanics, and 35 percent of Native Americans live in poverty, while 14 percent of Asians and just 21 percent of whites live in poverty.

60 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

15 percent of working-age people in the county live below the poverty line (\$23,500 for a family of four), while 20 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 Robeson County, is \$12.04.



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

Median household income in the county was \$29,965, which equaled 66 percent of the statewide household income of \$45,195 in 2012.⁶

The richest 5 percent of the county's households had an average income that was almost 32 times greater than that of the poorest fifth of households and almost 6 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 167 persons 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 55.9 percent in Robeson County, which is 11.8 points below the state average.

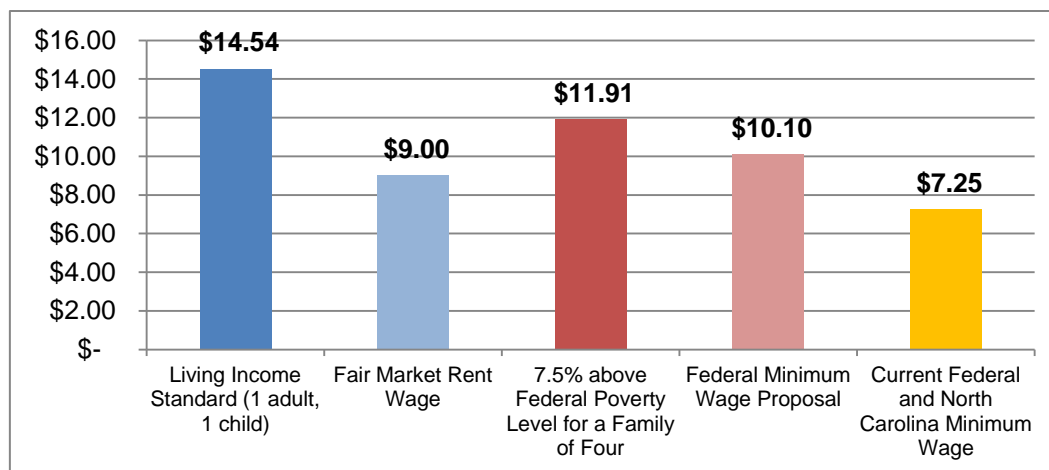
41 percent of occupations pay an average wage below the Living Income Standard for one adult, one child of \$14.54.

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

Industry Name	Job growth 2012-2013	Average Annual Wage	Average Hourly Wage
Auto Parts Accessories and Tire Stores	16	\$22,100	\$10.63
Private Households	16	\$15,028	\$7.23
Oilseed and Grain Farming	19	\$42,640	\$20.50
Gasoline Stations	28	\$14,976	\$7.20
Elementary and Secondary Schools	28	\$32,500	\$15.63
Other General Merchandise Stores	35	\$17,940	\$8.63
Automobile Dealers	38	\$39,936	\$19.20
Restaurants & other eating places	40	\$11,960	\$5.75
Building Finishing Contractors	57	\$30,160	\$14.50
Offices of Physicians	70	\$68,016	\$32.70
Individual and Family Services	664	\$19,344	\$9.30

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 current measures being used fail to adequately provide a wage that allows a family to meet their basic needs in Robeson 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.