



2018 NORTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENT TIER DESIGNATIONS

Since 2007 North Carolina has used a three-level system for designating development tiers. The designations, which are mandated by state law, determine a variety of state funding opportunities to assist in economic development. This report documents the process for calculating tiers and explains reasons that specific counties will change tiers. A North Carolina tier map and tier calculations are included for reference.

How Tier Rankings Are Calculated

The Development Tier Designation statute ([§143B-437.08](#)) provides specific guidelines for calculating annual tier rankings. This process assigns each county to a designation of Tier One (most distressed), Tier Two, or Tier Three (least distressed). Assuming no ties in rankings, the statute requires **40 Tier One, 40 Tier Two, and 20 Tier Three** counties each year. In the event of a tie for the final position as a Tier One or Tier Two county, both counties will be placed in the lower tier.

Tier Rankings use Four Factors

- **Average unemployment rate** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (October 2016 – September 2017, NC Dept. of Commerce LAUS)
- **Median household income** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (2015, U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates)
- **Percentage growth in population** for the most recent 36 months for which data are available (July 2013 – July 2016, NC Office of State Budget & Management)
- **Adjusted property tax base per capita** for the most recent taxable year (FY 2016-17, NC Dept. of Public Instruction)

Each county is ranked from 1 to 100 on each variable, making the highest possible *County Rank Sum* 400, and the lowest 4. After calculating the *County Rank Sum*, counties are then ranked from most distressed (1) to least distressed (100) in order to determine their *Economic Distress Rank*.

Tier Adjustments for Small and Impoverished Counties

The Development Tier Designation statute further specifies automatic qualifying criteria for Tier One and Tier Two status:

- Tier One or Two Automatic Qualifier
 - A county with a population less than 50,000 people
- Tier One Automatic Qualifiers
 - A county must be Tier One for at least two consecutive years
 - A county with less than 12,000 people
 - A county with a population less than 50,000 people **AND** a poverty rate of 19% or greater.

After taking these qualifiers into account, counties not automatically qualifying are re-ranked according to their economic distress rank. Those counties then fill in the remaining spots in Tier One (limited to 40 counties in total), Tier Two (limited to 40 counties in total), and Tier Three (the 20 remaining counties).

County Tier Changes in 2018

Six counties will change tiers in 2018: Beaufort, Caldwell, Forsyth, Granville, Lenoir, and Perquimans Counties. This section provides the reasons for each of these changes.

Counties Moving to a Less Distressed Tier Designation

Beaufort County (Tier One to Tier Two): From 2014 to 2017, Beaufort County held a Tier One designation. It is shifting to Tier Two in 2018. Beaufort County ranks 43 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 46 in 2017). Relative to 2017, the County experienced improvements in population growth. Adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rates allow some Counties to automatically qualify for Tier One. However, unlike some recent years, Beaufort County's poverty rate has improved and it does not qualify for automatic Tier One designation in 2018.

Caldwell County (Tier One to Tier Two): Caldwell County, which held a Tier One designation in 2016 and 2017, is shifting to Tier Two in 2018. Caldwell County ranks 41 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 36 in 2017). Relative to 2017, the County experienced improvements in median household income and unemployment rate.

Granville County (Tier Two to Tier Three): Granville County, which held a Tier Two designation from 2007 through 2017, is shifting to Tier Three in 2018. Granville ranks 74 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 74 in 2017). Relative to 2017, the County experienced improvements in population growth rate, but fell in the property tax base ranking. Adjustments for counties with small populations bumped Granville County to Tier Three for 2018.

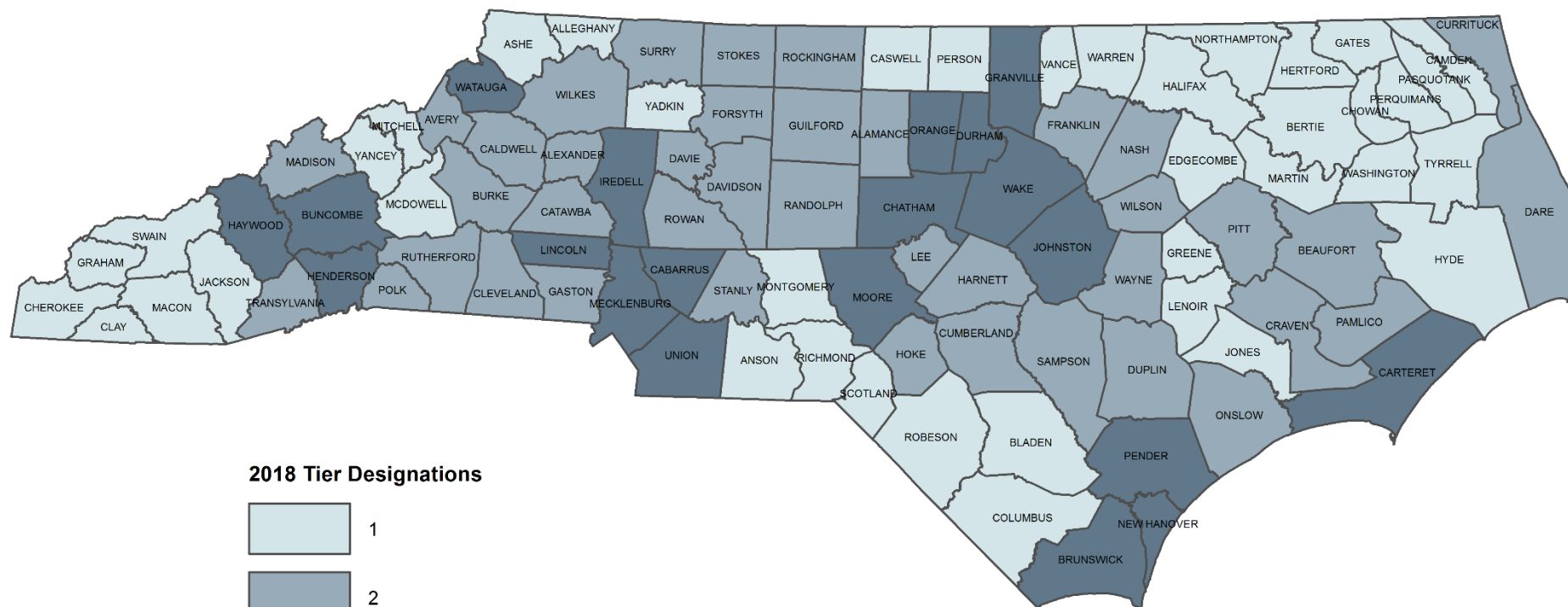
Counties Moving to a More Distressed Tier Designation

Forsyth County (Tier Three to Tier Two): Forsyth County, which held a Tier Three designation from 2007 through 2017, is shifting to Tier Two in 2018. Forsyth ranks 72 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 75 in 2017). The County experienced slight drops in its population growth and unemployment rankings relative to 2017.

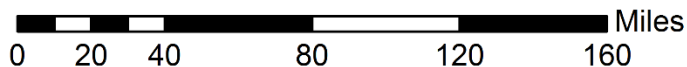
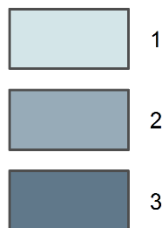
Lenoir County (Tier Two to Tier One): Lenoir County was a Tier One county from 2007 to 2016, Tier Two in 2017, and is returning to Tier One in 2018. Lenoir ranks 14 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 14 in 2017). The County experienced improvement in its property tax base, but fell in the unemployment ranking. While adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rate bumped Lenoir County out of Tier One status last year, they did not impact the County's tier status for 2018.

Perquimans County (Tier Two to Tier One): Perquimans County held a Tier One designation from 2014 to 2016, then shifted to Tier Two in 2017, and is moving back to Tier One in 2018. Perquimans ranks 38 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 46 in 2017). The county fell in the population growth and unemployment rankings, while improving slightly in the median household income ranking. Because Perquimans County has a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate greater than 19%, it automatically qualifies as Tier One for 2018.

2018 County Tier Designations



2018 Tier Designations



2018 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS								TIER ADJUSTMENT FACTORS				TIER ADJUSTMENTS				Auto- Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2018 TIERS		
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2016-2017		Population Growth July 2013-July 2016		Median Household Income 2015		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 16-Sept 17		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2016	Poverty Rate 5-year 2011-2015	2016 Tier	2017 Tier	Pop <50,000: Tier 1 or Tier 2	Pop <12,000: auto Tier 1			Pop <50,000 & poverty >19%: auto Tier 1	Must be Tier One for two consec. Years
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank												
	ALAMANCE	\$76,604	36	3.50%	78	\$41,566	50	4.35%	78	242	64	159,054	19.2%	2	2						2
	ALEXANDER	\$69,994	21	2.07%	64	\$41,092	44	3.81%	99	228	60	37,072	17.2%	2	2	X				<3	2
	ALLEGHANY	\$151,649	90	1.37%	55	\$36,113	20	5.32%	32	197	47	11,202	18.4%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	ANSON	\$72,668	28	-2.76%	5	\$35,307	17	5.45%	30	80	11	23,589	24.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ASHE	\$141,613	87	-0.05%	34	\$35,238	16	4.33%	79	216	56	27,344	20.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	AVERY	\$242,110	99	1.51%	57	\$37,120	26	4.56%	66	248	68	16,354	15.4%	2	2	X				<3	2
👉	BEAUFORT	\$111,025	68	-0.35%	29	\$41,725	51	5.25%	35	183	43	47,610	18.4%	1	1	X				<3	2
	BERTIE	\$68,969	16	-3.40%	2	\$31,967	2	6.15%	18	38	4	18,967	22.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BLADEN	\$77,939	37	-1.08%	17	\$33,882	10	6.22%	16	80	11	34,667	27.4%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BRUNSWICK	\$184,020	93	10.44%	100	\$48,831	81	5.75%	25	299	80	127,750	16.3%	3	3						3
	BUNCOMBE	\$121,779	76	3.97%	80	\$45,094	69	3.56%	100	325	90	257,491	15.9%	3	3						3
	BURKE	\$72,118	26	1.15%	50	\$42,711	58	4.42%	73	207	52	89,110	19.9%	2	2						2
	CABARRUS	\$103,933	60	7.62%	98	\$57,881	94	4.21%	87	339	94	200,565	12.5%	3	3						3
👈	CALDWELL	\$80,124	41	0.40%	41	\$39,636	34	4.63%	64	180	41	82,517	19.6%	1	1						2
	CAMDEN	\$104,181	61	1.85%	61	\$62,000	97	4.64%	63	282	77	10,287	7.9%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	CARTERET	\$206,476	95	0.96%	48	\$50,837	85	4.69%	62	290	78	69,581	15.0%	3	3						3
	CASWELL	\$69,229	18	-0.58%	24	\$40,504	39	4.93%	43	124	22	22,592	20.9%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CATAWBA	\$103,287	58	0.58%	45	\$41,745	52	4.36%	77	232	62	156,232	15.5%	2	2						2
	CHATHAM	\$129,808	82	8.57%	99	\$58,860	95	3.96%	95	371	100	73,253	13.6%	3	3						3
	CHEROKEE	\$103,897	59	4.40%	83	\$38,284	29	5.07%	40	211	54	28,591	20.0%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	CHOWAN	\$99,140	55	-2.71%	7	\$40,794	42	5.64%	27	131	27	14,410	26.6%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CLAY	\$141,334	86	4.15%	81	\$38,980	32	4.92%	44	243	66	11,320	21.1%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	CLEVELAND	\$80,868	45	0.89%	47	\$40,237	38	4.88%	46	176	38	98,244	20.1%	2	2						2
	COLUMBUS	\$67,133	11	-1.67%	12	\$34,478	13	5.78%	24	60	10	54,753	23.5%	1	1						1
	CRAVEN	\$88,729	50	-0.65%	22	\$47,805	77	4.85%	49	198	49	102,987	15.6%	2	2						2
	CUMBERLAND	\$67,525	12	-0.55%	25	\$42,380	57	5.83%	23	117	20	329,824	17.5%	2	2						2
	CURRITUCK	\$237,978	98	6.69%	95	\$66,426	98	4.74%	60	351	98	26,101	10.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DARE	\$375,258	100	3.33%	75	\$53,585	90	6.30%	14	279	76	36,387	8.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DAVIDSON	\$82,113	47	1.45%	56	\$46,400	74	4.46%	71	248	68	165,882	15.9%	2	2						2
	DAVIE	\$101,154	56	1.84%	59	\$52,525	88	4.13%	91	294	79	42,211	12.7%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DUPLIN	\$69,415	19	-0.02%	35	\$38,397	30	4.93%	42	126	23	59,597	26.7%	2	2						2
	DURHAM	\$106,485	65	5.42%	91	\$53,875	91	4.14%	90	337	92	298,767	18.0%	3	3						3
	EDGECOMBE	\$58,024	4	-3.36%	3	\$32,529	4	8.01%	3	14	1	53,472	26.3%	1	1						1
👇	FORSYTH	\$89,653	51	2.52%	68	\$47,346	76	4.51%	67	262	72	368,899	19.6%	3	3						2
	FRANKLIN	\$71,846	25	4.48%	86	\$48,009	78	4.70%	61	250	70	64,972	15.8%	2	2						2
	GASTON	\$71,463	24	2.89%	72	\$45,031	68	4.75%	58	222	58	215,249	17.4%	2	2						2
	GATES	\$67,782	13	0.42%	43	\$46,387	73	4.78%	53	182	42	11,891	14.2%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	GRAHAM	\$127,551	81	-0.32%	31	\$33,827	9	7.15%	8	129	25	8,835	21.9%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
👈	GRANVILLE	\$69,202	17	3.11%	74	\$50,314	84	3.97%	94	269	74	56,538	16.3%	2	2						3
	GREENE	\$55,604	3	-0.33%	30	\$35,060	14	4.78%	55	102	15	19,042	25.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	GUILFORD	\$93,130	52	2.58%	69	\$48,283	79	4.84%	50	250	70	520,230	17.6%	3	2						2
	HALIFAX	\$68,697	15	-2.72%	6	\$31,952	1	7.55%	5	27	2	51,207	26.3%	1	1						1
	HARNETT	\$60,548	5	4.42%	84	\$48,301	80	5.20%	36	205	50	127,800	18.3%	2	2						2
	HAYWOOD	\$118,482	73	3.57%	79	\$43,573	63	4.23%	85	300	81	61,771	17.2%	2	3						3
	HENDERSON	\$115,904	72	4.81%	89	\$47,280	75	3.93%	97	333	91	114,385	13.8%	3	3						3
	HERTFORD	\$62,325	7	-0.99%	19	\$34,453	12	5.96%	20	58	9	22,894	25.6%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	HOKE	\$65,461	9	3.35%	76	\$42,819	59	5.91%	21	165	34	51,746	22.2%	2	2						2

NEW TIER	COUNTY	Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2016-2017		Population Growth July 2013-July 2016		Median Household Income 2015		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 16-Sept 17		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2016	Poverty Rate 5-year 2011-2015	2016 Tier	2017 Tier	Pop <50,000: Tier 1 or Tier 2	Pop <12,000: auto Tier 1	Pop <50,000 & poverty >19%: auto Tier 1	Must be Tier One for two consec. Years	Auto- Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2018 TIERS
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank												
	HYDE	\$219,654	96	-3.46%	1	\$37,074	24	9.22%	1	122	21	4,973	17.7%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	IREDELL	\$125,747	80	5.05%	90	\$55,848	92	4.32%	80	342	95	173,391	14.0%	3	3						3
	JACKSON	\$204,105	94	4.29%	82	\$41,537	49	4.87%	48	273	75	42,574	22.0%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	JOHNSTON	\$80,148	42	7.01%	96	\$52,681	89	4.23%	86	313	86	188,835	15.4%	3	3						3
	JONES	\$81,490	46	-1.76%	11	\$39,688	35	4.75%	59	151	31	10,354	21.5%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	LEE	\$86,854	49	0.25%	38	\$44,294	65	5.28%	33	185	44	58,950	18.1%	2	2						2
↓	LENOIR	\$70,557	22	-2.33%	10	\$37,085	25	5.35%	31	88	14	57,544	23.2%	1	2						1
	LINCOLN	\$106,360	64	3.36%	77	\$49,343	82	4.14%	89	312	85	81,810	15.5%	3	3						3
	MACON	\$228,464	97	2.78%	71	\$41,395	48	4.87%	47	263	73	35,047	19.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MADISON	\$105,765	62	2.78%	70	\$37,899	28	4.48%	69	229	61	21,979	18.1%	2	2	X				<3	2
	MARTIN	\$78,431	38	-0.60%	23	\$36,543	22	6.09%	19	102	15	23,606	21.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MCDOWELL	\$80,856	44	1.35%	54	\$37,430	27	4.30%	81	206	51	45,052	20.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MECKLENBURG	\$120,278	75	6.26%	93	\$57,029	93	4.36%	76	337	92	1,053,545	15.2%	3	3						3
	MITCHELL	\$113,592	71	-0.83%	21	\$39,955	36	5.58%	28	156	32	15,266	19.5%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	MONTGOMERY	\$109,271	67	0.29%	39	\$39,096	33	4.77%	56	195	46	27,184	25.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MOORE	\$124,171	78	4.56%	87	\$52,139	86	4.56%	65	316	87	96,102	15.2%	3	3						3
	NASH	\$76,414	35	-0.14%	32	\$43,450	62	6.26%	15	144	30	93,771	18.5%	1	2						2
	NEW HANOVER	\$141,737	88	4.64%	88	\$52,456	87	4.24%	84	347	96	223,219	17.7%	3	3						3
	NORTHAMPTON	\$95,167	54	-2.53%	8	\$33,301	7	6.53%	11	80	11	20,367	28.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ONslow	\$69,583	20	0.39%	40	\$46,144	72	5.14%	37	169	36	193,914	14.6%	2	2						2
	ORANGE	\$118,743	74	1.26%	53	\$61,570	96	3.91%	98	321	89	140,646	15.8%	3	3						3
	PAMLICO	\$139,000	85	2.40%	67	\$41,004	43	4.90%	45	240	63	12,780	13.6%	2	2	X				<3	2
	PASQUOTANK	\$74,394	29	2.23%	65	\$42,171	55	5.74%	26	175	37	39,477	19.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	PENDER	\$112,037	70	7.50%	97	\$49,390	83	4.79%	52	302	83	58,711	18.5%	3	3						3
↓	PERQUIMANS	\$132,902	84	-1.46%	14	\$42,337	56	5.90%	22	176	38	13,561	19.6%	1	2	X		X		1	1
	PERSON	\$109,132	66	1.53%	58	\$43,917	64	4.78%	54	242	64	39,728	19.9%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	PITT	\$68,432	14	1.21%	51	\$41,909	54	5.13%	38	157	33	175,885	25.5%	2	2						2
	POLK	\$131,923	83	2.23%	66	\$45,672	70	4.30%	82	301	82	21,030	13.9%	2	2	X				<3	2
	RANDOLPH	\$75,040	30	0.97%	49	\$43,216	61	4.48%	70	210	53	143,485	17.6%	2	2						2
	RICHMOND	\$70,592	23	-2.41%	9	\$33,017	6	6.41%	13	51	6	44,209	25.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ROBESON	\$48,192	1	-0.88%	20	\$32,128	3	7.35%	7	31	3	131,875	31.6%	1	1						1
	ROCKINGHAM	\$75,772	32	-0.36%	28	\$40,148	37	5.26%	34	131	27	91,891	18.7%	2	2						2
	ROWAN	\$83,773	48	1.85%	60	\$44,862	66	4.84%	51	225	59	139,991	18.1%	2	2						2
	RUTHERFORD	\$93,295	53	0.05%	36	\$36,998	23	6.17%	17	129	25	67,472	19.9%	1	2						2
	SAMPSON	\$66,625	10	-1.15%	16	\$40,660	41	5.00%	41	108	17	63,040	25.5%	2	2						2
	SCOTLAND	\$61,319	6	-1.51%	13	\$35,447	18	8.18%	2	39	5	34,110	31.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	STANLY	\$76,208	34	2.00%	63	\$44,878	67	4.27%	83	247	67	60,902	17.7%	2	2						2
	STOKES	\$79,823	40	0.09%	37	\$42,889	60	4.39%	74	211	54	46,751	17.0%	2	2	X				<3	2
	SURRY	\$76,113	33	-0.52%	26	\$38,408	31	4.38%	75	165	34	72,843	19.7%	2	2						2
	SWAIN	\$102,783	57	1.99%	62	\$36,103	19	5.12%	39	177	40	14,852	24.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	TRANSYLVANIA	\$172,680	92	3.01%	73	\$45,792	71	4.50%	68	304	84	34,139	12.6%	2	2	X				<3	2
	TYRRELL	\$111,640	69	0.71%	46	\$33,759	8	7.90%	4	127	24	3,665	21.8%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	UNION	\$105,775	63	5.99%	92	\$71,690	100	4.03%	93	348	97	223,915	10.2%	3	3						3
	VANCE	\$54,349	2	-0.13%	33	\$32,698	5	6.42%	12	52	7	44,945	25.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WAKE	\$124,571	79	6.50%	94	\$70,629	99	3.93%	96	368	99	1,023,862	11.3%	3	3						3
	WARREN	\$122,286	77	-1.24%	15	\$34,149	11	6.92%	10	113	19	19,481	24.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WASHINGTON	\$72,202	27	-3.12%	4	\$35,146	15	6.98%	9	55	8	12,425	21.8%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WATAUGA	\$161,551	91	4.44%	85	\$41,762	53	4.15%	88	317	88	54,992	31.4%	3	3						3
	WAYNE	\$65,202	8	-0.36%	27	\$41,161	45	5.48%	29	109	18	124,021	22.3%	2	2						2
	WILKES	\$80,499	43	0.42%	42	\$40,647	40	4.43%	72	197	47	69,768	23.3%	2	2						2
	WILSON	\$79,513	39	0.50%	44	\$41,276	47	7.49%	6	136	29	81,758	23.1%	2	2						2
	YADKIN	\$75,494	31	-1.03%	18	\$41,208	46	4.10%	92	187	45	37,725	20.3%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	YANCEY	\$142,932	89	1.26%	52	\$36,418	21	4.76%	57	219	57	18,142	21.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1

2017 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS								TIER ADJUSTMENT FACTORS				TIER ADJUSTMENTS				Auto- Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2017 TIERS		
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2016-2017		Population Growth July 2012-July 2015		Median Household Income 2014		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 15-Sept 16		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2015	Poverty Rate 5-year 2010-2014	2015 Tier	2016 Tier	Pop <50,000: Tier 1 or Tier 2	Pop <12,000: auto Tier 1			Pop <50,000 & poverty >19%: auto Tier 1	Must be Tier One for two consec. Years
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank												
	ALAMANCE	\$76,032	36	2.93%	78	\$41,296	49	4.90%	81	244	67	157,522	18.8%	2	2						2
	ALEXANDER	\$70,309	24	1.24%	57	\$43,043	59	4.55%	92	232	61	36,798	16.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
	ALLEGHANY	\$144,801	88	1.97%	65	\$35,266	22	5.63%	43	218	57	11,190	21.2%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	ANSON	\$70,063	23	-2.68%	4	\$32,508	7	5.97%	32	66	11	23,789	24.1%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ASHE	\$141,923	86	-0.18%	35	\$36,488	27	5.11%	68	216	55	27,332	20.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	AVERY	\$237,109	98	0.95%	53	\$37,131	32	5.39%	58	241	66	16,179	18.2%	2	2	X				<3	2
	BEAUFORT	\$116,749	73	-0.10%	38	\$40,357	47	5.95%	33	191	46	47,829	19.9%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BERTIE	\$66,182	10	-2.94%	3	\$31,217	3	6.88%	18	34	3	19,244	25.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BLADEN	\$78,641	45	-0.05%	39	\$33,521	12	7.12%	14	110	15	35,011	27.9%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BRUNSWICK	\$192,721	93	9.63%	100	\$47,387	80	6.47%	28	301	82	123,535	16.3%	3	3						3
	BUNCOMBE	\$117,604	74	3.91%	85	\$47,296	79	3.95%	100	338	94	253,950	16.5%	3	3						3
	BURKE	\$71,728	27	-0.26%	31	\$39,275	44	5.20%	65	167	36	88,375	20.7%	2	2						2
	CABARRUS	\$101,676	59	6.58%	96	\$55,250	93	4.69%	88	336	93	195,622	13.1%	3	3						3
	CALDWELL	\$77,580	37	-0.01%	41	\$38,653	40	5.51%	49	167	36	82,297	20.5%	2	1				X	1	1
	CAMDEN	\$99,984	58	2.22%	69	\$61,730	98	5.50%	50	275	76	10,224	6.7%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	CARTERET	\$209,477	95	2.11%	67	\$48,824	84	5.37%	59	305	83	69,531	15.2%	3	3						3
	CASWELL	\$69,724	21	0.06%	44	\$42,730	57	5.72%	37	159	33	22,594	21.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CATAWBA	\$104,698	62	0.20%	48	\$45,080	70	4.99%	75	255	72	155,585	15.3%	2	2						2
	CHATHAM	\$126,154	80	8.14%	99	\$56,797	94	4.36%	98	371	99	71,784	14.4%	3	3						3
↓	CHEROKEE	\$107,046	66	1.44%	59	\$34,620	19	5.86%	34	178	42	27,770	19.4%	2	2	X		X		1	1
	CHOWAN	\$95,888	54	-1.22%	17	\$38,887	41	6.75%	22	134	25	14,541	27.4%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CLAY	\$146,396	90	2.87%	77	\$37,072	31	5.56%	47	245	68	11,036	23.6%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	CLEVELAND	\$78,640	44	0.20%	47	\$39,444	45	5.74%	36	172	40	97,871	20.1%	2	2						2
	COLUMBUS	\$66,813	12	-2.01%	9	\$34,321	18	6.68%	25	64	9	54,772	24.3%	1	1						1
	CRAVEN	\$87,684	50	-1.50%	15	\$43,972	63	5.44%	56	184	43	102,943	16.2%	2	2						2
	CUMBERLAND	\$67,263	14	-0.42%	30	\$42,582	56	6.58%	26	126	22	328,860	17.4%	2	2						2
	CURRITUCK	\$239,348	99	6.27%	94	\$58,024	95	5.45%	54	342	95	25,627	10.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DARE	\$378,627	100	3.35%	81	\$54,642	92	6.86%	20	293	80	36,001	9.1%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DAVIDSON	\$77,844	40	1.13%	56	\$43,346	61	4.98%	76	233	62	164,941	16.1%	2	2						2
	DAVIE	\$98,120	56	0.97%	54	\$47,592	81	4.67%	90	281	77	41,743	14.4%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DUPLIN	\$69,761	22	0.65%	52	\$34,109	17	5.50%	52	143	28	59,868	26.9%	2	2						2
	DURHAM	\$104,754	63	5.67%	91	\$50,745	89	4.62%	91	334	91	294,434	18.1%	3	3						3
	EDGECOMBE	\$56,372	4	-2.37%	7	\$31,615	4	8.78%	4	19	1	54,367	25.3%	1	1						1
	FORSYTH	\$88,437	51	2.48%	75	\$45,944	75	5.03%	73	274	75	366,302	19.1%	3	3						3
	FRANKLIN	\$70,342	25	3.87%	84	\$48,166	82	5.27%	62	253	70	63,731	15.4%	2	2						2
	GASTON	\$68,031	15	1.97%	66	\$42,056	55	5.40%	57	193	48	212,401	18.1%	2	2						2
	GATES	\$69,004	19	-3.15%	2	\$48,413	83	5.20%	66	170	39	11,739	16.0%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	GRAHAM	\$143,640	87	-1.07%	18	\$33,824	14	9.72%	1	120	19	8,761	21.4%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	GRANVILLE	\$72,963	28	1.49%	60	\$49,342	85	4.52%	93	266	74	55,739	15.8%	2	2						2
	GREENE	\$55,026	3	-2.14%	8	\$37,263	33	5.09%	70	114	16	18,941	24.9%	1	1	X		X		1	1
↓	GUILFORD	\$90,957	52	3.05%	80	\$44,828	67	5.34%	60	259	73	517,124	17.9%	2	3						2
	HALIFAX	\$70,485	26	-3.17%	1	\$31,674	5	8.29%	7	39	4	51,525	25.8%	1	1						1
	HARNETT	\$59,763	5	4.85%	89	\$45,380	71	5.97%	31	196	49	126,143	18.2%	2	2						2
↑	HAYWOOD	\$117,651	75	2.31%	71	\$42,812	58	4.70%	87	291	79	60,631	15.8%	3	2						3
	HENDERSON	\$110,441	69	4.11%	86	\$47,286	78	4.36%	97	330	90	112,511	14.8%	3	3						3
	HERTFORD	\$62,603	7	-0.22%	34	\$30,056	1	6.74%	23	65	10	23,009	26.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	HOKE	\$64,286	9	3.49%	83	\$44,175	64	6.87%	19	175	41	51,184	22.2%	2	2						2

NEW TIER	COUNTY	Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2016-2017		Population Growth July 2012-July 2015		Median Household Income 2014		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 15-Sept 16		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2015	Poverty Rate 5-year 2010-2014	2015 Tier	2016 Tier	Pop <50,000: Tier 1 or Tier 2	Pop <12,000: auto Tier 1	Pop <50,000 & poverty >19%: auto Tier 1	Must be Tier One for two consec. Years	Auto- Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2017 TIERS
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank												
	HYDE	\$210,124	96	-2.37%	6	\$36,891	30	9.30%	3	135	26	4,984	21.1%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	IREDELL	\$122,084	78	4.44%	88	\$54,026	91	4.93%	77	334	91	170,230	13.4%	3	3						3
	JACKSON	\$209,333	94	2.34%	72	\$38,130	37	5.61%	44	247	69	41,597	22.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	JOHNSTON	\$78,078	41	5.68%	92	\$50,055	88	4.71%	86	307	84	183,908	16.4%	3	3						3
	JONES	\$77,671	39	-1.78%	10	\$38,928	42	5.25%	64	155	31	10,423	18.8%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	LEE	\$86,848	49	0.05%	42	\$46,073	76	6.26%	30	197	50	58,674	18.7%	2	2						2
↑	LENOIR	\$68,608	17	-1.70%	12	\$35,991	26	5.64%	42	97	14	58,304	23.7%	1	1						2
	LINCOLN	\$102,543	60	2.98%	79	\$49,676	86	4.86%	82	307	84	81,170	15.6%	3	3						3
	MACON	\$218,921	97	2.37%	73	\$37,884	35	5.54%	48	253	70	34,771	20.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MADISON	\$104,418	61	2.13%	68	\$38,445	38	5.14%	67	234	63	21,663	18.2%	2	2	X				<3	2
	MARTIN	\$77,649	38	-0.93%	19	\$35,930	24	7.08%	15	96	13	23,746	22.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MCDOWELL	\$79,830	46	0.59%	51	\$37,881	34	4.93%	78	209	54	44,739	20.2%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	MECKLENBURG	\$115,399	72	7.58%	98	\$59,049	96	4.85%	83	349	98	1,035,605	15.5%	3	3						3
↓	MITCHELL	\$113,759	70	-0.49%	28	\$36,795	28	6.41%	29	155	31	15,335	19.6%	2	2	X		X		1	1
	MONTGOMERY	\$105,894	64	-0.25%	33	\$38,530	39	5.27%	61	197	50	27,174	26.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MOORE	\$126,671	81	4.19%	87	\$51,650	90	5.25%	63	321	88	94,492	16.3%	3	3						3
↑	NASH	\$75,838	35	-0.63%	23	\$43,348	62	6.76%	21	141	27	93,731	17.8%	1	1						2
	NEW HANOVER	\$139,871	85	4.91%	90	\$49,905	87	4.91%	80	342	95	219,841	18.1%	3	3						3
	NORTHAMPTON	\$96,079	55	-2.40%	5	\$32,063	6	7.47%	11	77	12	20,635	26.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ONslow	\$68,853	18	1.71%	63	\$47,201	77	5.69%	39	197	50	194,636	14.7%	2	2						2
	ORANGE	\$114,918	71	1.49%	61	\$60,304	97	4.36%	96	325	89	139,936	16.8%	3	3						3
	PAMLICO	\$139,604	84	0.06%	43	\$43,097	60	5.47%	53	240	65	12,614	13.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	PASQUOTANK	\$75,447	34	-0.81%	21	\$44,596	66	6.69%	24	145	29	38,987	19.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	PENDER	\$109,732	68	6.99%	97	\$45,453	72	5.56%	46	283	78	57,184	18.0%	3	3						3
↑	PERQUIMANS	\$130,643	82	-0.26%	32	\$41,328	50	6.54%	27	191	46	13,648	18.8%	1	1	X				<3	2
↓	PERSON	\$109,178	67	1.13%	55	\$45,841	74	5.71%	38	234	63	39,574	19.9%	2	2	X		X		1	1
	PITT	\$66,765	11	1.76%	64	\$41,765	51	5.66%	41	167	36	175,532	24.0%	2	2						2
	POLK	\$132,793	83	2.52%	76	\$45,464	73	4.80%	85	317	87	20,828	13.4%	2	2	X				<3	2
	RANDOLPH	\$73,656	30	0.37%	49	\$41,770	52	5.04%	72	203	53	142,718	18.0%	2	2						2
	RICHMOND	\$68,193	16	-1.73%	11	\$34,665	20	7.30%	13	60	8	44,690	23.8%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ROBESON	\$46,493	1	-0.51%	27	\$30,414	2	7.48%	10	40	5	132,590	32.0%	1	1						1
	ROCKINGHAM	\$74,721	32	-0.81%	20	\$39,606	46	5.80%	35	133	24	92,084	18.8%	1	2						2
	ROWAN	\$81,541	48	1.51%	62	\$44,973	68	5.60%	45	223	59	139,142	19.1%	2	2						2
↑	RUTHERFORD	\$91,034	53	-0.46%	29	\$35,629	23	7.06%	16	121	20	67,384	21.0%	1	1						2
	SAMPSON	\$67,056	13	-0.16%	36	\$33,876	16	5.50%	51	116	17	63,538	24.7%	2	2						2
	SCOTLAND	\$60,140	6	-1.64%	14	\$32,782	9	9.50%	2	31	2	34,193	31.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	STANLY	\$74,834	33	1.38%	58	\$41,921	53	4.85%	84	228	60	60,391	16.6%	2	2						2
	STOKES	\$78,283	43	-0.55%	25	\$45,065	69	4.92%	79	216	55	46,763	17.1%	2	2	X				<3	2
	SURRY	\$74,227	31	-0.63%	24	\$37,915	36	5.00%	74	165	34	73,195	19.8%	1	2						2
	SWAIN	\$106,506	65	3.43%	82	\$34,788	21	6.93%	17	185	44	14,953	27.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	TRANSYLVANIA	\$176,148	92	2.25%	70	\$44,490	65	5.09%	69	296	81	33,745	13.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
	TYRRELL	\$124,302	79	-0.55%	26	\$32,773	8	8.59%	5	118	18	3,646	23.0%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	UNION	\$99,469	57	5.90%	93	\$64,381	99	4.46%	95	344	97	219,992	9.6%	3	3						3
	VANCE	\$52,321	2	-0.77%	22	\$33,609	13	7.51%	9	46	6	45,097	25.5%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WAKE	\$119,336	77	6.57%	95	\$66,950	100	4.30%	99	371	99	1,004,811	11.3%	3	3						3
	WARREN	\$118,440	76	0.14%	45	\$33,869	15	7.45%	12	148	30	19,754	24.8%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WASHINGTON	\$69,593	20	-1.67%	13	\$32,867	10	7.91%	8	51	7	12,589	24.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WATAUGA	\$165,541	91	2.48%	74	\$41,942	54	4.68%	89	308	86	53,737	32.1%	3	3						3
	WAYNE	\$63,691	8	0.18%	46	\$36,890	29	5.68%	40	123	21	124,182	22.5%	2	2						2
	WILKES	\$80,786	47	-0.13%	37	\$33,398	11	5.08%	71	166	35	69,434	24.3%	2	2						2
	WILSON	\$78,217	42	-0.02%	40	\$39,268	43	8.47%	6	131	23	81,689	24.0%	1	2						2
↓	YADKIN	\$73,323	29	-1.40%	16	\$40,801	48	4.49%	94	187	45	37,705	19.4%	2	2	X		X		1	1
	YANCEY	\$145,314	89	0.51%	50	\$35,974	25	5.45%	55	219	58	17,959	21.5%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1