



2015 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 2015 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 1 or Tier 2 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 2013 – September 2014, NC Dept. of Commerce LAUS)
- **Median household income** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (2012, U.S. Census SAIPE)
- **Percentage growth in population** for the most recent 36 months for which data are available (July 2010 – July 2013, NC Office of State Budget & Management)
- **Adjusted property tax base per capita** for the most recent taxable year (FY 2014-15, 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 Automatic Qualifiers
 - A county must be Tier 1 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 percent or greater.
- Tier Two Automatic Qualifier
 - A county with a population less than 50,000 people

After taking these qualifiers into account, counties are ranked from 1 to 100 to determine *Adjusted County Rank*, which determines final tier designation. All components of this process are consistent with the methodology designated in the general statutes.

County Tier Changes in 2015

Nine counties will change tiers in 2015: Ashe, Burke, Caldwell, Guilford, Haywood, Hoke, Macon, Mitchell, and Nash Counties. This section provides the reasons for each of these changes.

Counties Moving to a Less Distressed Tier Designation

Burke County: From 2007 to 2014, Burke County held a Tier One designation. Burke County ranked number 21 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Burke County qualifies as a Tier Two county. Burke County now ranks 27 based largely on a much-improved 12-month average unemployment rate ranking (number 35 in the 2014 Tiers to number 51 in the 2015 Tiers). As a result of this improvement and taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments made for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Burke County will move into Tier Two designation.

Caldwell County: From 2007 to 2014, Caldwell County held a Tier One designation. Caldwell County ranked number 16 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Caldwell County qualifies as a Tier Two county. Caldwell County now ranks 22, based largely on a much-improved 12-month average unemployment rate ranking (number 31 in the 2014 Tiers to number 45 in the 2015 Tiers). As a result of this improvement and taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments made for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Caldwell County will move into Tier Two designation.

Haywood County: From 2010 to 2012, Haywood County held a Tier Two designation. It qualified as a Tier Three county in 2013, and returned to Tier Two status in 2014. Haywood County ranked number 72 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Haywood County qualifies as a Tier Three county. Haywood County now ranks 80, based largely on a much-improved population growth ranking (number 47 in the 2014 Tiers to number 61 in the 2015 Tiers). As a result of this improvement and taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments made for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Haywood County will move into Tier Three designation.

Hoke County: From 2007 to 2012, Hoke County held a Tier Two designation. It then qualified as a Tier One county in 2013 and 2014. Hoke County ranked number 68 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments made to the 2014 tiers for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Hoke County automatically qualified for Tier One designation. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Hoke County qualifies as a Tier Two county. Hoke County now ranks 67 and no longer automatically qualifies for Tier One designation. Automatic Tier One designation is reached through a population less than 50,000 (Hoke population is 50,183) and a poverty rate over 19 percent (Hoke poverty rate is 21.9%).

Mitchell County: From 2007 to 2014, Mitchell County held a Tier One designation. Mitchell County ranked number 18 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Mitchell County qualifies as a Tier Two county. Mitchell County now ranks 28, based largely on:

- 1) a much-improved population growth ranking (number 7 in the 2014 Tiers to number 18 in the 2015 Tiers) and
- 2) a much-improved unemployment rate ranking (number 9 in the 2014 Tiers to number 22 in the 2015 Tiers).

As a result of this improvement and taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments made for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Mitchell County will move into Tier Two designation.

Counties Moving to a More Distressed Tier Designation

Ashe County: From 2007 to 2014, Ashe County held a Tier Two designation. Ashe County ranked number 40 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2014 tiers for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Ashe County qualified for Tier Two designation. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Ashe County qualifies as a Tier One county. Ashe County is now ranks 38 and it automatically qualifies for Tier One designation. Automatic Tier One designation is reached through a poverty rate over 19 percent (Ashe poverty rate is 19.3 percent) and a population less than 50,000 (Ashe population is 27,434).

Guilford County: From 2007 to 2012, Guilford County held a Tier Three designation. It qualified as a Tier Two county in 2013, and returned to Tier Three status in 2014. Guilford County ranked number 75 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2014 tiers for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Guilford County was shifted out of Tier Two and into Tier Three. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Guilford County qualifies as a Tier Two county. Guilford County now ranks 71, based in part on the change in median household income ranking (number 78 in the 2014 Tiers to number 70 in the 2015 Tiers). Adjustments for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates do not affect Guilford County in the 2015 Tiers.

Macon County: From 2007 to 2014, Macon County held a Tier Two designation. Macon County ranked number 49 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Macon County qualifies as a Tier One county. Macon County now ranks 68, based largely on:

- 1) a much-improved population growth ranking (number 27 in the 2014 Tiers to number 50 in the 2015 Tiers) and
- 2) a much-improved unemployment rate ranking (improved from number 33 in the 2014 Tiers to number 56 in the 2015 Tiers).

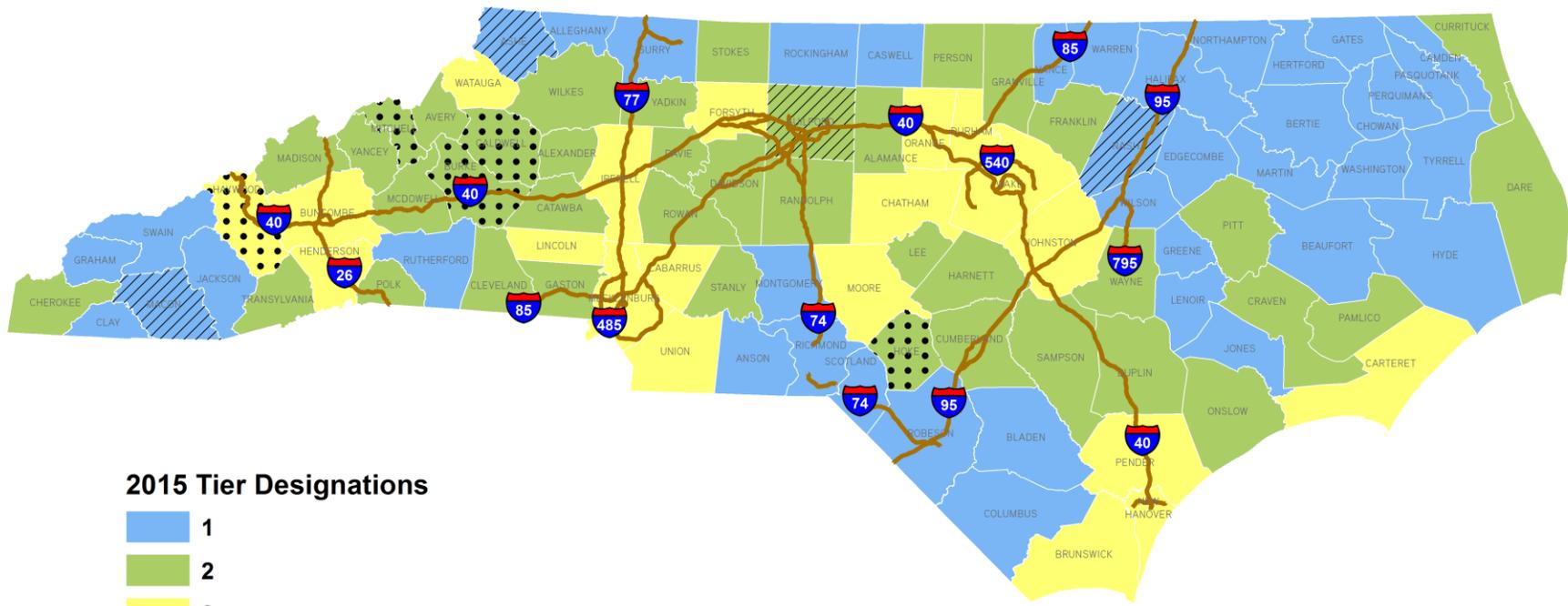
Macon County automatically qualifies for Tier One designation after legislatively required adjustments for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates. Automatic Tier One designation is reached through a poverty rate over 19 percent (Macon poverty rate is 19.6 % and in the 2014 rankings it was at 18.3%) and a population less than 50,000 (Macon population is 34,151).

Nash County: From 2007 to 2014, Nash County held a Tier Two designation. Nash County ranked number 36 in the 2014 development tiers calculations. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2014 tiers for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Nash County was shifted out of Tier One and into Tier Two. For the 2015 County Development Tier designations, Nash County qualifies as a Tier One county. Nash County now ranks 21, based largely on:

- 1) the change in population growth ranking (number 37 in the 2014 Tiers to number 17 in the 2015 Tiers) and
- 2) the change in median household income ranking (74 in the 2014 Tiers to number 56 in the 2015 Tiers).

As a result of these changes, Nash County will move into Tier One designation. Adjustments for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates do not affect Nash County in the 2015 Tiers.

2015 North Carolina County Tier Designations



2015 Tier Designations

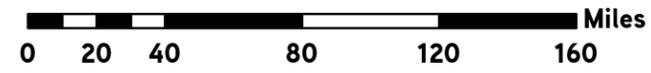
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Tier Change from 2014

down

up

Interstate



Map Created November 2014

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

2015 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS								TIER ADJUSTMENTS								Adjusted County Rank	FINAL 2015 TIERS	
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015		Population Growth July 2010-July 2013		Median Household Income 2012		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 13-Sept 14		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2013	Poverty Rate 5-year 2008-2012	2013 Tier	2014 Tier	Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40	Pop <12,000 then top 40			Must be Tier One for two consec. Years
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank											
	ALAMANCE	\$77,347	39	1.40%	60	\$41,394	58	6.53%	71	228	66	153,595	17.3%	2	2	66	66	66	76	2
	ALEXANDER	\$73,159	33	0.17%	40	\$39,655	51	6.21%	79	203	50	36,331	18.3%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	ALLEGHANY	\$160,277	90	-0.86%	19	\$34,046	18	7.51%	39	166	32	11,052	20.9%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	ANSON	\$69,221	23	-1.58%	9	\$32,339	11	7.94%	24	67	10	24,298	22.2%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
↓	ASHE	\$149,224	88	0.65%	49	\$34,080	19	8.10%	21	177	38	27,434	19.3%	2	2	0	0	0	1	1
	AVERY	\$279,492	98	0.84%	56	\$34,727	22	7.41%	41	217	59	16,128	17.8%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	BEAUFORT	\$119,004	73	0.03%	34	\$38,256	44	8.03%	23	174	37	47,777	20.6%	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
	BERTIE	\$63,566	12	-3.10%	2	\$30,414	2	9.37%	9	25	1	19,651	24.3%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	BLADEN	\$77,970	42	0.16%	39	\$32,766	13	9.77%	5	99	14	35,074	24.4%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	BRUNSWICK	\$210,131	95	7.08%	99	\$48,624	84	7.37%	43	321	88	115,716	15.2%	3	3	88	88	88	89	3
	BUNCOMBE	\$123,617	78	4.19%	86	\$43,146	69	4.98%	97	330	90	248,058	16.8%	3	3	90	90	90	91	3
↑	BURKE	\$72,269	29	-0.95%	16	\$38,581	47	7.21%	51	143	27	88,393	18.7%	1	1	27	27	27	43	2
↑	CABARRUS	\$102,047	59	4.55%	89	\$55,531	98	6.02%	85	331	91	186,347	12.1%	3	3	91	91	91	92	3
	CALDWELL	\$71,138	27	-0.56%	27	\$35,127	24	7.36%	45	123	22	82,251	19.0%	1	1	22	22	22	41	2
	CAMDEN	\$104,749	63	1.91%	65	\$53,563	94	6.73%	68	290	81	10,174	7.4%	1	1	41	0	0	1	1
	CARTERET	\$209,308	93	3.78%	83	\$48,930	86	6.21%	80	342	96	68,939	14.1%	3	3	96	96	96	97	3
	CASWELL	\$66,848	19	0.80%	55	\$39,615	50	7.04%	55	179	39	22,744	20.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CATAWBA	\$100,835	58	0.73%	51	\$42,080	62	7.26%	50	221	61	155,174	15.1%	2	2	61	61	61	72	2
	CHATHAM	\$130,081	81	6.08%	94	\$55,371	96	4.59%	100	371	100	67,597	11.1%	3	3	100	100	100	100	3
	CHEROKEE	\$110,404	68	0.12%	37	\$31,370	7	8.78%	16	128	23	27,471	15.1%	1	2	23	23	23	42	2
	CHOWAN	\$104,625	62	0.39%	44	\$37,458	41	8.19%	20	167	33	14,815	24.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CLAY	\$157,704	89	2.14%	68	\$36,871	36	6.52%	72	265	74	10,794	22.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CLEVELAND	\$76,231	36	-0.61%	25	\$38,265	45	7.17%	52	158	30	97,429	19.7%	2	2	30	30	30	45	2
	COLUMBUS	\$59,320	6	-0.17%	32	\$33,765	17	8.87%	13	68	11	55,672	24.5%	1	1	11	11	11	35	1
	CRAVEN	\$91,184	53	0.30%	42	\$47,087	82	7.72%	32	209	53	103,691	16.3%	2	2	53	53	53	68	2
	CUMBERLAND	\$66,017	17	1.56%	62	\$45,110	79	7.82%	29	187	42	332,553	16.8%	2	2	42	42	42	63	2
	CURRITUCK	\$293,712	99	3.63%	80	\$54,822	95	5.42%	94	368	99	24,506	9.9%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	DARE	\$420,851	100	3.73%	81	\$51,900	92	7.81%	30	303	85	35,273	10.4%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	DAVIDSON	\$77,946	41	0.55%	48	\$43,824	73	6.92%	60	222	62	163,400	15.2%	2	2	62	62	62	73	2
	DAVIE	\$99,097	56	0.47%	45	\$49,984	89	6.05%	84	274	76	41,507	13.0%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	DUPLIN	\$66,508	18	2.76%	73	\$36,075	31	7.35%	46	168	34	59,967	24.4%	2	2	34	34	34	47	2
	DURHAM	\$104,194	61	5.60%	93	\$50,889	90	5.42%	93	337	94	283,210	18.0%	3	3	94	94	94	95	3
	EDGECOMBE	\$56,273	4	-1.25%	14	\$32,002	10	11.51%	3	31	3	55,352	24.0%	1	1	3	3	3	32	1
	FORSYTH	\$91,962	54	2.59%	72	\$43,049	68	6.36%	77	271	75	360,226	17.6%	3	3	75	75	75	81	3
	FRANKLIN	\$67,373	20	3.12%	76	\$42,346	64	6.16%	82	242	69	62,222	15.4%	3	2	69	69	69	78	2
	GASTON	\$68,350	21	1.66%	63	\$41,614	59	6.94%	59	202	47	209,335	17.0%	2	2	47	47	47	65	2
	GATES	\$72,544	30	-2.37%	7	\$44,273	76	6.75%	67	180	40	11,880	18.2%	1	1	40	0	0	1	1
	GRAHAM	\$141,385	86	-0.18%	31	\$32,883	14	11.97%	2	133	25	8,854	17.3%	1	1	25	0	0	1	1
	GRANVILLE	\$72,744	31	1.15%	58	\$46,303	81	6.98%	57	227	65	54,973	14.3%	2	2	65	65	65	75	2
	GREENE	\$55,373	3	-0.68%	22	\$35,050	23	7.04%	54	102	15	19,102	22.1%	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
↓	GUILFORD	\$90,358	51	3.62%	79	\$43,299	70	7.05%	53	253	71	507,419	16.9%	2	3	71	71	71	80	2
	HALIFAX	\$70,556	24	-1.52%	10	\$31,253	6	10.12%	4	44	5	52,727	25.3%	1	1	5	5	5	34	1
	HARNETT	\$61,437	8	6.59%	98	\$44,998	78	7.65%	33	217	59	122,333	16.4%	2	2	59	59	59	71	2
↑	HAYWOOD	\$121,541	75	1.41%	61	\$40,022	53	5.57%	90	279	80	59,674	14.2%	3	2	80	80	80	84	3
	HENDERSON	\$114,724	71	2.18%	70	\$45,168	80	5.01%	96	317	87	109,287	13.5%	3	3	87	87	87	88	3
	HERTFORD	\$61,565	9	-0.74%	20	\$31,861	9	7.91%	28	66	9	23,188	25.0%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
↑	HOKE	\$59,684	7	6.41%	97	\$44,717	77	7.28%	49	230	67	50,183	21.9%	1	1	67	67	67	77	2
	HYDE	\$210,015	94	1.96%	66	\$35,301	27	7.93%	26	213	56	5,152	23.3%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	IREDELL	\$122,933	77	3.26%	77	\$49,666	87	6.47%	73	314	86	164,974	13.5%	3	3	86	86	86	87	3
	JACKSON	\$240,463	97	1.15%	57	\$37,049	38	5.88%	86	278	79	40,810	19.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

2015 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08) continued

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS								TIER ADJUSTMENTS								Adjusted County Rank	FINAL 2015 TIERS	
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015		Population Growth July 2010-July 2013		Median Household Income 2012		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 13-Sept 14		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2013	Poverty Rate 5-year 2008-2012	2013 Tier	2014 Tier	Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40	Pop <12,000 then top 40			Must be Tier One for two consec. Years
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank											
	JOHNSTON	\$74,563	34	4.54%	88	\$48,773	85	5.82%	88	295	82	176,675	16.1%	3	3	82	82	82	85	3
	JONES	\$79,353	45	4.69%	91	\$35,159	25	7.54%	36	197	45	10,554	17.0%	1	1	41	0	0	1	1
	LEE	\$83,668	48	2.54%	71	\$43,424	72	8.55%	18	209	53	59,048	17.4%	2	2	53	53	53	68	2
	LENOIR	\$65,305	14	-0.60%	26	\$35,634	29	7.54%	37	106	16	58,981	24.9%	1	1	16	16	16	36	1
	LINCOLN	\$102,837	60	1.67%	64	\$47,799	83	6.57%	70	277	78	79,519	14.9%	2	3	78	78	78	83	3
↓	MACON	\$236,448	96	0.66%	50	\$36,438	34	7.02%	56	236	68	34,151	19.6%	2	2	0	0	0	1	1
	MADISON	\$97,918	55	2.88%	74	\$37,644	43	5.46%	91	263	73	21,372	17.4%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	MARTIN	\$79,323	44	-2.91%	4	\$33,159	16	7.77%	31	95	13	23,750	24.9%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	MCDOWELL	\$79,077	43	0.38%	43	\$36,584	35	7.30%	48	169	35	\$44,457	19.0%	1	2	35	35	35	48	2
	MECKLENBURG	\$117,848	72	7.44%	100	\$55,392	97	6.79%	62	331	91	991,867	14.5%	3	3	91	91	91	92	3
↑	MITCHELL	\$121,631	76	-0.87%	18	\$36,210	32	8.07%	22	148	28	15,407	18.7%	1	1	28	28	28	44	2
	MONTGOMERY	\$110,345	67	-0.26%	29	\$35,272	26	7.32%	47	169	35	27,138	26.3%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	MOORE	\$132,239	82	3.87%	84	\$49,670	88	6.40%	75	329	89	91,937	14.5%	3	3	89	89	89	90	3
↓	NASH	\$75,567	35	-0.89%	17	\$40,937	56	8.87%	14	122	21	94,094	17.6%	2	2	21	21	21	40	1
	NEW HANOVER	\$139,384	84	5.18%	92	\$50,890	91	6.40%	74	341	95	213,417	16.0%	3	3	95	95	95	96	3
	NORTHAMPTON	\$90,362	52	-2.99%	3	\$31,217	5	8.36%	19	79	12	20,904	26.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	ONslow	\$68,862	22	3.78%	82	\$44,263	75	6.76%	66	245	70	193,925	13.9%	2	2	70	70	70	79	2
	ORANGE	\$113,137	69	4.02%	85	\$53,026	93	4.66%	99	346	97	139,481	17.4%	3	3	97	97	97	98	3
	PAMLICO	\$125,291	79	-0.14%	33	\$41,004	57	7.63%	35	204	51	12,515	13.8%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	PASQUOTANK	\$85,144	50	-2.89%	5	\$43,935	74	9.09%	11	140	26	38,651	18.0%	2	1	26	26	0	1	1
	PENDER	\$114,592	70	6.16%	95	\$43,318	71	7.50%	40	276	77	54,813	18.0%	3	3	77	77	77	82	3
	PERQUIMANS	\$108,948	66	2.14%	69	\$42,494	65	7.93%	25	225	64	13,771	18.6%	2	1	41	41	0	1	1
	PERSON	\$105,449	65	-0.63%	24	\$42,546	66	6.83%	61	216	58	39,192	16.4%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	PITT	\$64,084	13	3.02%	75	\$39,343	49	6.76%	65	202	47	173,879	24.0%	2	2	47	47	47	65	2
	POLK	\$141,120	85	0.79%	54	\$41,719	60	4.81%	98	297	83	20,603	15.7%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	RANDOLPH	\$71,831	28	0.49%	47	\$41,815	61	6.30%	78	214	57	142,341	17.1%	2	2	57	57	57	70	2
	RICHMOND	\$65,562	15	-1.06%	15	\$30,726	3	8.84%	15	48	6	45,436	24.8%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	ROBESON	\$42,821	1	-0.25%	30	\$29,965	1	9.66%	6	38	4	133,020	31.9%	1	1	4	4	4	33	1
	ROCKINGHAM	\$72,818	32	-1.43%	11	\$37,577	42	7.63%	34	119	19	92,254	17.2%	1	1	19	19	19	38	1
	ROWAN	\$84,669	49	0.23%	41	\$40,400	54	6.79%	63	207	52	137,677	18.5%	2	2	52	52	52	67	2
	RUTHERFORD	\$81,422	47	0.05%	35	\$34,193	20	8.99%	12	114	18	67,575	20.3%	1	1	18	18	18	37	1
	SAMPSON	\$63,447	11	1.38%	59	\$37,420	39	6.39%	76	185	41	63,858	21.3%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	SCOTLAND	\$56,442	5	-1.27%	13	\$31,704	8	12.58%	1	27	2	34,702	30.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	STANLY	\$76,724	37	0.13%	38	\$42,816	67	6.19%	81	223	63	59,762	14.9%	2	2	63	63	63	74	2
	STOKES	\$77,798	40	-1.31%	12	\$42,272	63	5.88%	87	202	47	46,731	17.4%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	SURRY	\$70,897	25	-0.46%	28	\$36,934	37	6.96%	58	148	28	73,344	18.3%	2	1	28	28	0	1	1
	SWAIN	\$105,213	64	4.24%	87	\$36,280	33	8.76%	17	201	46	14,590	22.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	TRANSYLVANIA	\$181,567	92	0.48%	46	\$40,642	55	6.72%	69	262	72	33,220	14.2%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	TYRRELL	\$133,089	83	-3.49%	1	\$30,728	4	7.36%	44	132	24	3,653	21.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	UNION	\$99,361	57	4.64%	90	\$61,260	99	5.79%	89	335	93	211,539	9.7%	3	3	93	93	93	94	3
	VANCE	\$53,926	2	-0.67%	23	\$34,371	21	9.47%	8	54	7	45,056	28.2%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	WAKE	\$119,511	74	6.38%	96	\$64,107	100	5.20%	95	365	98	961,945	10.9%	3	3	98	98	98	99	3
	WARREN	\$128,178	80	-1.68%	8	\$33,068	15	9.16%	10	113	17	19,676	24.4%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	WASHINGTON	\$65,785	16	-2.63%	6	\$32,545	12	7.91%	27	61	8	12,826	26.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	WATAUGA	\$170,911	91	3.28%	78	\$38,563	46	6.05%	83	298	84	52,682	28.8%	3	3	84	84	84	86	3
	WAYNE	\$62,819	10	2.08%	67	\$38,776	48	6.78%	64	189	43	124,299	21.6%	2	2	43	43	43	64	2
	WILKES	\$80,255	46	0.75%	53	\$35,362	28	7.51%	38	165	31	69,518	22.4%	1	2	31	31	31	46	2
	WILSON	\$77,308	38	0.12%	36	\$37,440	40	9.54%	7	121	20	81,397	22.8%	1	1	20	20	20	39	1
	YADKIN	\$71,021	26	-0.70%	21	\$40,012	52	5.45%	92	191	44	38,131	17.6%	2	2	41	41	41	49	2
	YANCEY	\$148,388	87	0.75%	52	\$36,019	30	7.39%	42	211	55	17,921	18.9%	1	2	41	41	41	49	2

Note: For the 2015 County Tier Rankings, the four factors of economic distress were renumbered to reflect consistency with overall rankings. This version of the 2014 Tiers reflects this change. *Economic Distress Rank* and *Final Tiers* are unaffected by this change.

2014 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (\$ 143B-437.08)

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS								TIER ADJUSTMENTS								Adjusted County Rank	FINAL 2015 TIERS	
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015		Population Growth July 2009-July 2012		Median Household Income 2011		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Sept 12-Aug 13		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2012	Poverty Rate 5-year 2007-2011	2012 Tier	2013 Tier	Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40	Pop <12,000 then top 40			Must be Tier One for two consec. Years
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank											
	ALAMANCE	\$77,632	40	2.52%	65	\$41,371	62	9.08%	69	236	64	153,033	16.1%	2	2	64	64	64	75	2
	ALEXANDER	\$72,806	33	0.92%	43	\$39,812	53	9.16%	66	195	47	36,507	16.8%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2
	ALLEGHANY	\$160,626	90	-0.67%	13	\$32,673	10	9.96%	46	159	34	11,028	22.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	ANSON	\$67,798	20	0.52%	34	\$32,341	8	11.36%	21	83	11	24,808	21.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	ASHE	\$149,813	88	1.26%	51	\$34,333	22	11.42%	19	180	40	27,326	17.9%	2	2	40	40	40	49	2
	AVERY	\$281,008	98	-0.29%	17	\$36,071	33	10.82%	25	173	38	16,041	18.1%	2	2	38	38	38	48	2
↓	BEAUFORT	\$118,432	72	1.61%	56	\$38,248	46	10.69%	27	201	53	48,008	19.1%	1	2	0	0	0	1	1
	BERTIE	\$62,710	10	-1.60%	4	\$29,615	1	12.07%	15	30	2	19,919	23.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	BLADEN	\$78,157	43	0.26%	28	\$33,138	16	12.33%	11	98	14	34,990	23.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	BRUNSWICK	\$215,753	95	7.10%	97	\$42,685	72	9.99%	45	309	86	112,701	15.0%	3	3	86	86	86	87	3
	BUNCOMBE	\$125,470	79	3.97%	82	\$41,551	65	7.01%	96	322	90	244,394	15.6%	3	3	90	90	90	91	3
	BURKE	\$71,878	29	-0.12%	22	\$37,719	44	10.41%	35	130	21	88,874	17.9%	1	1	21	21	21	39	1
	CABARRUS	\$103,512	60	5.17%	90	\$50,298	91	8.43%	80	321	89	183,711	11.9%	3	3	89	89	89	90	3
	CALDWELL	\$71,064	27	0.08%	25	\$34,876	23	10.61%	31	106	16	82,337	17.4%	1	1	16	16	16	35	1
	CAMDEN	\$105,768	63	1.57%	55	\$57,113	98	7.89%	90	306	84	10,076	8.8%	1	1	41	0	0	1	1
	CARTERET	\$212,611	93	3.72%	78	\$45,507	81	8.30%	83	335	95	67,868	13.1%	3	3	95	95	95	96	3
	CASWELL	\$67,465	19	-0.90%	10	\$38,495	48	9.23%	64	141	26	22,536	20.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CATAWBA	\$100,858	57	1.23%	46	\$44,339	79	10.42%	34	216	57	155,138	13.4%	2	2	57	57	57	71	2
	CHATHAM	\$132,046	82	6.75%	96	\$53,564	95	6.50%	99	372	100	66,591	11.4%	3	3	100	100	100	100	3
↑	CHEROKEE	\$110,239	68	1.24%	49	\$32,913	12	12.10%	14	143	28	27,512	13.4%	1	1	28	28	28	42	2
	CHOWAN	\$104,476	61	-0.31%	16	\$36,231	35	10.28%	38	150	31	14,836	23.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CLAY	\$158,659	89	2.31%	63	\$35,143	26	8.95%	73	251	70	10,729	21.8%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	CLEVELAND	\$75,942	36	0.36%	30	\$37,390	43	10.17%	41	150	31	97,800	19.4%	1	2	31	31	31	44	2
	COLUMBUS	\$58,994	6	0.42%	32	\$31,282	5	12.11%	13	56	7	55,980	23.0%	1	1	7	7	7	32	1
	CRAVEN	\$90,607	52	2.60%	67	\$47,291	85	9.81%	48	252	71	104,351	16.2%	2	2	71	71	71	78	2
	CUMBERLAND	\$66,271	17	3.84%	80	\$43,863	76	10.16%	43	216	57	331,279	16.6%	2	2	57	57	57	71	2
	CURRITUCK	\$297,857	99	2.76%	68	\$55,665	96	6.94%	97	360	98	24,165	7.8%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2
	DARE	\$426,375	100	2.35%	64	\$50,393	92	11.05%	23	279	78	34,816	11.1%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2
	DAVIDSON	\$77,990	41	1.65%	59	\$41,631	67	9.69%	51	218	59	163,308	15.1%	2	2	59	59	59	73	2
	DAVIE	\$99,121	55	1.64%	58	\$50,110	90	8.35%	82	285	80	41,497	12.3%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2
	DUPLIN	\$66,716	18	4.02%	83	\$35,587	30	9.44%	57	188	44	59,780	22.7%	2	2	44	44	44	64	2
	DURHAM	\$106,155	64	5.54%	92	\$47,007	84	7.22%	93	333	94	277,979	17.1%	3	3	94	94	94	95	3
	EDGECOMBE	\$55,948	4	0.07%	24	\$32,901	11	14.62%	3	42	4	55,674	22.6%	1	1	4	4	4	31	1
	FORSYTH	\$92,730	54	2.93%	70	\$43,804	75	8.62%	77	276	76	357,241	16.3%	3	3	76	76	76	82	3
↓	FRANKLIN	\$68,544	21	3.61%	74	\$42,269	70	8.44%	79	244	67	61,159	15.5%	2	3	67	67	67	76	2
	GASTON	\$68,634	22	1.62%	57	\$40,969	59	10.06%	44	182	41	208,469	16.6%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2
	GATES	\$72,077	30	-0.78%	12	\$41,437	63	7.32%	92	197	50	11,957	18.2%	2	1	41	0	0	1	1
	GRAHAM	\$142,285	85	0.30%	29	\$33,041	15	16.24%	1	130	21	8,798	17.2%	1	1	21	0	0	1	1
	GRANVILLE	\$72,598	32	3.03%	71	\$48,596	88	9.41%	58	249	69	55,084	11.3%	2	2	69	69	69	77	2
↓	GREENE	\$54,435	3	1.52%	54	\$35,013	25	9.50%	56	138	24	19,431	18.4%	1	2	24	24	24	40	1
↑	GUILFORD	\$91,505	53	3.89%	81	\$44,229	78	9.41%	59	271	75	501,058	16.2%	3	2	75	75	75	81	3
	HALIFAX	\$69,766	23	-0.98%	9	\$31,084	4	13.13%	5	41	3	53,324	24.1%	1	1	3	3	3	30	1
	HARNETT	\$62,675	9	8.01%	99	\$40,617	57	10.34%	37	202	54	119,917	16.9%	2	2	54	54	54	69	2
↓	HAYWOOD	\$122,357	76	1.23%	47	\$40,114	54	8.28%	84	261	72	59,276	14.3%	2	3	72	72	72	79	2
	HENDERSON	\$115,727	70	2.79%	69	\$46,165	83	6.77%	98	320	88	108,340	12.6%	3	3	88	88	88	89	3
	HERTFORD	\$61,486	8	-0.17%	20	\$31,581	6	10.24%	39	73	10	23,218	24.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	HOKE	\$60,655	7	8.83%	100	\$42,908	73	9.15%	67	247	68	49,380	20.9%	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
	HYDE	\$212,950	94	-0.18%	19	\$35,810	32	10.68%	28	173	38	5,081	25.1%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	IREDELL	\$124,277	78	3.66%	76	\$49,902	89	9.19%	65	308	85	163,189	12.3%	3	3	85	85	85	86	3
	JACKSON	\$239,793	97	3.65%	75	\$37,388	42	8.80%	75	289	82	40,924	19.5%	2	1	0	0	0	1	1

2014 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08) continued

NEW TIER	COUNTY	ECONOMIC INDICATORS										TIER ADJUSTMENTS								Adjusted County Rank	FINAL 2015 TIERS
		Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015		Population Growth July 2009-July 2012		Median Household Income 2011		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Sept 12-Aug 13		County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	Population Less Prison July 2012	Poverty Rate 5-year 2007-2011	2012 Tier	2013 Tier	Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40	Pop <12,000 then top 40	Must be Tier One for two consec. Years			
		Value	Rank	% Change	Rank	Income	Rank	Rate	Rank												
	JOHNSTON	\$75,581	35	5.97%	94	\$48,380	87	7.98%	89	305	83	174,295	15.2%	3	3	83	83	83	85	3	
	JONES	\$78,897	44	4.80%	88	\$38,230	45	9.27%	62	239	65	10,615	14.9%	1	1	41	0	0	1	1	
	LEE	\$84,021	49	3.15%	73	\$41,506	64	11.37%	20	206	55	58,800	16.8%	2	2	55	55	55	70	2	
	LENOIR	\$64,738	14	0.22%	26	\$32,602	9	9.78%	49	98	14	59,498	24.4%	1	1	14	14	14	34	1	
↑	LINCOLN	\$103,135	59	3.11%	72	\$50,746	93	9.66%	53	277	77	79,289	13.7%	3	2	77	77	77	83	3	
	MACON	\$237,925	96	0.25%	27	\$36,953	40	10.42%	33	196	49	33,939	18.3%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
	MADISON	\$99,218	56	2.07%	61	\$36,724	38	8.05%	88	243	66	21,092	18.1%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
	MARTIN	\$78,044	42	-1.51%	6	\$33,305	19	10.90%	24	91	13	24,139	22.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
↑	MCDOWELL	\$79,017	45	0.98%	44	\$35,627	31	10.47%	32	152	33	44,491	18.5%	1	1	33	33	33	45	2	
	MECKLENBURG	\$121,431	73	6.22%	95	\$52,111	94	9.02%	70	332	93	962,593	13.6%	3	3	93	93	93	94	3	
	MITCHELL	\$121,710	74	-1.31%	7	\$35,322	29	12.44%	9	119	18	15,397	17.4%	1	1	18	18	18	37	1	
	MONTGOMERY	\$110,207	67	0.52%	33	\$30,684	2	10.19%	40	142	27	27,172	25.9%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	MOORE	\$134,466	83	3.68%	77	\$47,301	86	8.68%	76	322	90	90,414	13.0%	3	3	90	90	90	91	3	
	NASH	\$75,040	34	0.69%	37	\$43,151	74	11.87%	17	162	36	94,755	16.0%	2	2	36	36	36	46	2	
	NEW HANOVER	\$142,021	84	4.79%	87	\$45,890	82	8.92%	74	327	92	209,454	15.9%	3	3	92	92	92	93	3	
	NORTHAMPTON	\$89,408	51	-2.12%	2	\$31,668	7	10.63%	30	90	12	21,127	21.9%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	ONslow	\$70,154	24	4.19%	84	\$45,434	80	8.52%	78	266	73	190,187	13.8%	2	2	73	73	73	80	2	
	ORANGE	\$114,237	69	4.62%	85	\$56,792	97	5.91%	100	351	97	138,138	16.9%	3	3	97	97	97	98	3	
	PAMLICO	\$123,954	77	0.73%	40	\$41,325	61	9.67%	52	230	63	12,650	12.2%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
↓	PASQUOTANK	\$83,623	48	-1.03%	8	\$40,261	55	10.74%	26	137	23	39,354	19.9%	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	
	PENDER	\$117,396	71	5.73%	93	\$44,171	77	10.16%	42	283	79	53,504	15.9%	3	3	79	79	79	84	3	
↓	PERQUIMANS	\$109,577	66	2.58%	66	\$39,112	50	9.93%	47	229	61	13,692	20.6%	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	
	PERSON	\$104,908	62	0.76%	41	\$42,303	71	9.52%	55	229	61	39,394	18.1%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
	PITT	\$64,571	13	4.84%	89	\$39,713	52	9.09%	68	222	60	172,569	24.0%	2	2	60	60	60	74	2	
	POLK	\$142,371	86	0.73%	38	\$41,851	68	7.04%	95	287	81	20,422	11.8%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
	RANDOLPH	\$71,873	28	1.32%	53	\$40,749	58	9.34%	61	200	52	142,258	17.6%	2	2	52	52	52	68	2	
	RICHMOND	\$65,129	15	-0.36%	14	\$32,932	13	12.25%	12	54	6	45,738	24.9%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	ROBESON	\$42,529	1	1.26%	50	\$30,931	3	12.65%	7	61	8	133,931	30.6%	1	1	8	8	8	33	1	
	ROCKINGHAM	\$72,251	31	-0.32%	15	\$36,746	39	10.65%	29	114	17	92,977	15.8%	1	1	17	17	17	36	1	
	ROWAN	\$84,908	50	0.40%	31	\$40,267	56	9.39%	60	197	50	137,290	16.9%	2	2	50	50	50	67	2	
	RUTHERFORD	\$81,125	47	1.24%	48	\$35,208	27	12.79%	6	128	20	67,822	20.5%	1	1	20	20	20	38	1	
	SAMPSON	\$63,635	12	1.29%	52	\$36,471	37	8.25%	85	186	43	63,669	21.0%	2	2	43	43	43	63	2	
	SCOTLAND	\$56,232	5	-1.55%	5	\$32,999	14	16.21%	2	26	1	34,832	29.7%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	STANLY	\$76,687	37	0.73%	39	\$38,301	47	8.99%	72	195	47	59,791	14.1%	2	2	47	47	47	66	2	
	STOKES	\$77,310	39	-0.29%	18	\$42,147	69	8.12%	86	212	56	47,026	14.3%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
↓	SURRY	\$70,503	25	0.57%	35	\$35,269	28	9.75%	50	138	24	73,754	18.0%	1	2	24	24	24	40	1	
	SWAIN	\$106,653	65	3.82%	79	\$36,167	34	13.43%	4	182	41	14,393	22.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	TRANSYLVANIA	\$181,736	92	1.22%	45	\$41,578	66	9.25%	63	266	73	33,189	13.1%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
	TYRRELL	\$131,115	81	-1.85%	3	\$33,430	21	9.56%	54	159	34	3,708	20.5%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	UNION	\$101,102	58	5.38%	91	\$61,515	99	7.74%	91	339	96	207,896	8.7%	3	3	96	96	96	97	3	
	VANCE	\$53,352	2	0.61%	36	\$33,377	20	12.63%	8	66	9	45,541	27.6%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	WAKE	\$121,973	75	7.15%	98	\$62,436	100	7.12%	94	367	99	942,526	10.1%	3	3	99	99	99	99	3	
	WARREN	\$127,350	80	-0.89%	11	\$33,218	17	11.68%	18	126	19	19,804	27.1%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	WASHINGTON	\$65,307	16	-2.44%	1	\$33,278	18	11.94%	16	51	5	12,920	25.2%	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	WATAUGA	\$171,595	91	4.69%	86	\$39,168	51	8.10%	87	315	87	52,472	26.3%	3	3	87	87	87	88	3	
	WAYNE	\$63,350	11	2.19%	62	\$39,089	49	9.00%	71	193	46	123,257	20.2%	2	2	46	46	46	65	2	
↑	WILKES	\$80,346	46	0.86%	42	\$34,954	24	10.39%	36	148	29	69,439	21.9%	1	1	29	29	29	43	2	
	WILSON	\$76,720	38	1.66%	60	\$37,166	41	12.40%	10	149	30	82,020	21.7%	2	1	30	30	0	1	1	
	YADKIN	\$70,885	26	-0.15%	21	\$40,983	60	8.37%	81	188	44	38,204	16.3%	2	2	41	41	41	50	2	
↑	YANCEY	\$148,920	87	-0.08%	23	\$36,440	36	11.05%	22	168	37	17,857	17.9%	1	1	37	37	37	47	2	