2017 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 2017 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](https://)) 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 2014 – September 2015, NC Dept. of Commerce LAUS)
- ***Median household income*** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (2013, U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates)
- ***Percentage growth in population*** for the most recent 36 months for which data are available (July 2011 – July 2014, NC Office of State Budget & Management)
- ***Adjusted property tax base per capita*** for the most recent taxable year (FY 2015-16, 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 2017

Ten counties will change tiers in 2017: Cherokee, Guilford, Haywood, Lenoir, Mitchell, Nash, Perquimans, Person, Rutherford, and Yadkin Counties. This section provides the reasons for each of these changes.

Counties Moving to a Less Distressed Tier Designation

Haywood County (Tier 2 to Tier 3): From 2010 to 2012, Haywood County held a Tier Two designation. It then qualified as Tier Three in 2013, Tier Two in 2014, Tier Three in 2015, Tier Two in 2016, and is returning to Tier Three in 2017. For 2017, Haywood County ranks 79 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 74 in 2016). Relative to 2016, this rise in the rankings is due to improvements population growth and median household income. Adjustments for counties with populations less than 50,000 shifted three counties from Tier Three to Tier Two, which bumped Haywood County into Tier Three for 2017.

Lenoir County (Tier 1 to Tier 2): Lenoir County held a Tier One designation from 2007 to 2016 and is shifting to Tier Two in 2017. For 2017, Lenoir County ranks 14 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 11 in 2016). Relative to 2016, the County experienced improvements in median household income and unemployment rate, but a decrease in population growth ranking. Adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rates bumped Lenoir County to Tier Two for 2017.

Nash County (Tier 1 to Tier 2): From 2007 to 2014, Nash County held a Tier Two designation, then shifted to Tier One status in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, Nash County returns to Tier Two. For 2017, Nash County ranks 27 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 24 in 2016). Adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rates bumped Nash County to Tier Two for 2017.

Perquimans County (Tier 1 to Tier 2): From 2007 to 2013, Perquimans County held a Tier Two designation, then shifted to Tier One for 2014, 2015, and 2016. For 2017, Perquimans County ranks 46 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 63 in 2016). Relative to 2016, this fall in ranking resulted largely from declining population growth and median household income rankings. The statutes also require that counties with small populations and high poverty rates automatically qualify for Tier One. However, unlike 2016, Perquimans County's poverty rate was less than 19% and, therefore, does not automatically qualify for Tier One status for 2017.

Rutherford County (Tier 1 to Tier 2): Rutherford County held a Tier One designation from 2007 to 2016 and is shifting to Tier Two in 2017. For 2017, Rutherford County ranks 20 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 15 in 2016). Relative to 2016, the County experienced improvement in population growth ranking. Adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rates bumped Rutherford County to Tier Two for 2017.

Counties Moving to a More Distressed Tier Designation

Cherokee County (Tier 2 to Tier 1): From 2011 to 2013, Cherokee County held a Tier One designation, then qualified as Tier Two from 2014 to 2016. For 2017, Cherokee County ranks 42 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 30 in 2016). One factor that led to this change was an improved population growth ranking. Because Cherokee County has a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate greater than 19%, it automatically qualifies as Tier One for 2017.

Guilford County (Tier 3 to Tier 2): Guilford County was a Tier Three county from 2007 to 2012, Tier Two in 2013, Tier Three in 2014, Tier Two in 2015, Tier Three in 2016. For 2017, Guilford County ranks 73 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 75 in 2016). A slight drop in median household income explains most of this drop in ranking relative to the current year. While adjustments for counties with small populations have affected Guilford County's tier status in the past, they did not impact Guilford County's tier status for 2017.

Mitchell County (Tier 2 to Tier 1): Mitchell County was a Tier One county from 2007 to 2014, then shifted to Tier Two for 2015 and 2016. For 2017, Mitchell County ranks 31 in the *Economic Distress Ranking*

(ranked 61 in 2016). The change in ranking relative to 2016 was driven largely by decline in population growth ranking and median household income ranking. Because Mitchell County has a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate greater than 19%, it automatically qualifies as Tier One for 2017.

Person County (Tier 2 to Tier 1): Person County was a Tier Two county from 2007 to 2016. For 2017, Person County ranks 63 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 40 in 2016). The change in ranking relative to 2016 was driven largely by improvement in population growth ranking and median household income ranking. Because Person County has a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate greater than 19%, it automatically qualifies as Tier One for 2017.

Yadkin County (Tier 2 to Tier 1): Yadkin County was a Tier Two county from 2007 to 2016. For 2017, Yadkin County ranks 45 in the *Economic Distress Ranking* (ranked 47 in 2016). The change in ranking relative to 2016 was driven mostly by a small decline in median household income ranking. Because Yadkin County has a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate greater than 19%, it automatically qualifies as Tier One for 2017.

2017 County Tier Designations
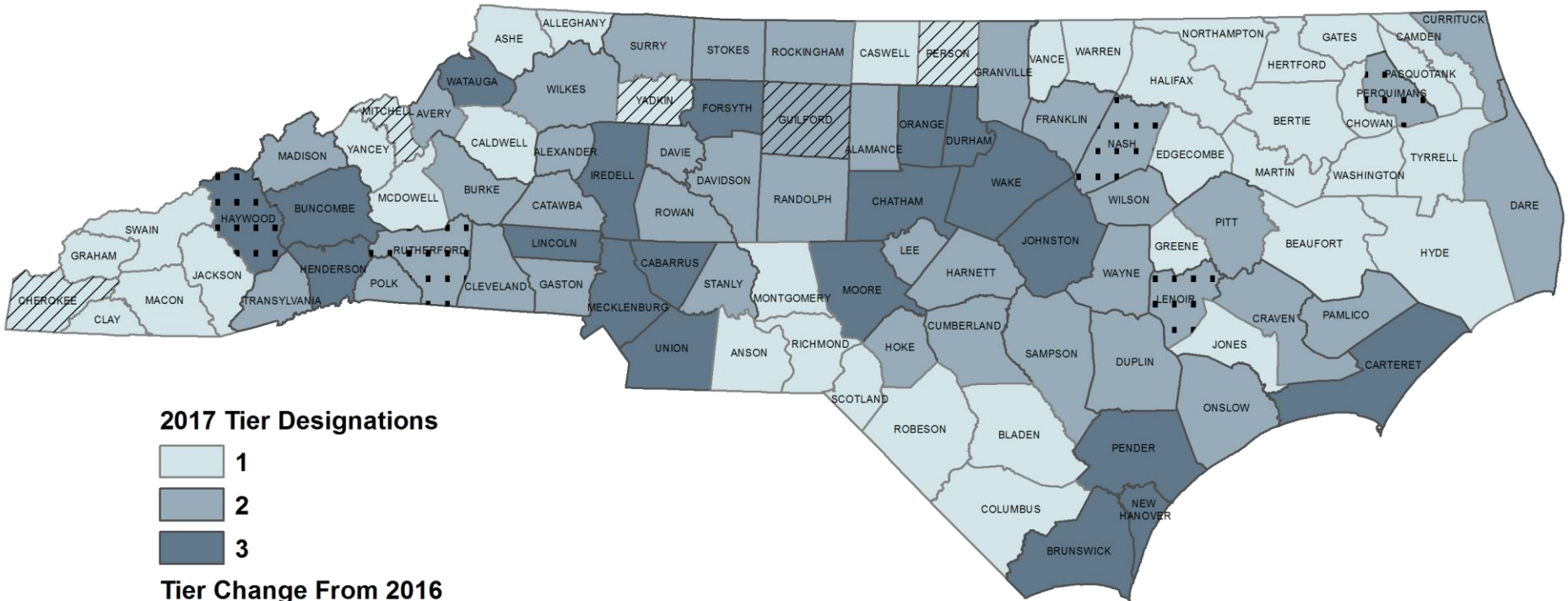
2017 Tier Designations

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Tier Change From 2016

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Map Created November 2016

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

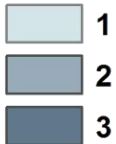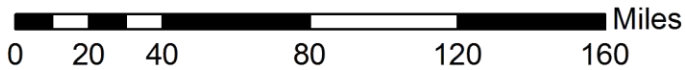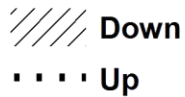| NEW TIER	COUNTY	Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2016-2017 Value	Rank	Population Growth July 2012-July 2015 % Change	Rank	Median Household Income 2014 Income	Rank	Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 15-Sept 16 Rate	Rank	County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	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
	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

	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
NEW TIER		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

2016 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

		ECONOMIC INDICATORS								County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	TIER ADJUSTMENT FACTORS				TIER ADJUSTMENTS				Auto-Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2016 TIERS
NEW TIER	COUNTY	Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2015-2016 Value	Rank	Population Growth July 2011-July 2014 % Change	Rank	Median Household Income 2013 Income	Rank	Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 14-Sept 15 Rate	Rank			Population Less Prison July 2014	Poverty Rate 5-year 2009-2013	2014 Tier	2015 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		
	ALAMANCE	$75,903	37	2.41%	73	$43,001	64	5.17%	84	258	72	155,789	18.3%	2	2						2
	ALEXANDER	$70,324	25	0.28%	48	$46,064	77	4.95%	90	240	67	36,680	17.2%	2	2	X				<3	2
	ALLEGHANY	$147,485	88	0.26%	46	$37,086	34	6.18%	41	209	58	11,099	19.8%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	ANSON	$69,933	21	1.75%	66	$33,443	10	6.40%	37	134	23	24,063	24.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ASHE	$148,836	90	0.06%	42	$35,155	22	6.15%	42	196	49	27,448	21.1%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	AVERY	$263,142	99	-0.49%	32	$34,933	20	5.77%	56	207	54	16,142	18.0%	2	2	X				<3	2
	BEAUFORT	$119,186	75	-0.17%	39	$39,043	41	6.55%	33	188	43	47,717	21.0%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BERTIE	$57,526	6	-3.37%	1	$31,610	3	7.22%	24	34	2	19,371	23.4%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BLADEN	$76,073	38	0.28%	47	$33,971	14	8.12%	12	111	16	35,113	25.8%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	BRUNSWICK	$202,254	93	6.85%	99	$47,799	81	6.93%	28	301	85	117,834	16.6%	3	3						3
	BUNCOMBE	$117,232	73	3.15%	80	$45,738	76	4.26%	100	329	91	250,468	17.1%	3	3						3
	BURKE	$70,853	28	-0.85%	25	$36,150	29	5.73%	62	144	28	88,465	20.0%	1	2						2
	CABARRUS	$101,317	59	5.65%	94	$55,046	94	5.10%	85	332	92	190,949	13.2%	3	3						3
⬇	CALDWELL	$73,463	34	-0.58%	30	$34,811	19	6.32%	39	122	20	82,179	19.5%	1	2						1
	CAMDEN	$101,348	60	1.79%	67	$60,537	98	5.82%	53	278	77	10,251	6.0%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	CARTERET	$207,719	95	2.57%	75	$46,227	80	5.77%	55	305	86	69,050	14.4%	3	3						3
	CASWELL	$68,659	19	-0.88%	23	$37,122	35	6.25%	40	117	18	22,605	22.6%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CATAWBA	$103,472	63	0.64%	56	$43,777	67	5.60%	68	254	71	155,590	15.2%	2	2						2
	CHATHAM	$128,788	82	4.76%	91	$56,981	95	4.57%	97	365	99	68,691	12.4%	3	3						3
	CHEROKEE	$109,995	67	-0.28%	36	$34,476	16	6.49%	34	153	30	27,451	17.9%	2	2	X				<3	2
	CHOWAN	$99,509	57	-0.89%	22	$39,143	42	7.14%	26	147	29	14,636	29.0%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	CLAY	$148,426	89	1.04%	61	$37,078	33	5.93%	49	232	65	10,794	24.3%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	CLEVELAND	$78,786	43	-0.31%	34	$40,528	51	6.38%	38	166	32	97,920	19.3%	2	2						2
	COLUMBUS	$63,003	11	-0.62%	29	$35,026	21	7.48%	18	79	9	55,506	25.0%	1	1						1
	CRAVEN	$87,933	50	-0.21%	37	$45,022	73	6.12%	43	203	51	103,766	16.6%	2	2						2
	CUMBERLAND	$67,073	16	-0.36%	33	$44,038	69	7.18%	25	143	27	329,403	17.0%	2	2						2
	CURRITUCK	$237,442	98	4.47%	89	$57,577	96	5.75%	59	342	94	25,072	9.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DARE	$380,121	100	3.43%	81	$52,083	91	7.38%	22	294	82	35,415	8.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DAVIDSON	$77,493	41	0.45%	52	$40,424	48	5.49%	72	213	60	164,081	16.3%	2	2						2
	DAVIE	$99,450	56	0.22%	45	$49,708	86	4.94%	91	278	77	41,476	13.4%	2	2	X				<3	2
	DUPLIN	$66,449	14	1.79%	68	$38,106	38	5.70%	64	184	40	60,126	26.3%	2	2						2
	DURHAM	$102,872	62	6.40%	97	$52,331	92	4.88%	93	344	95	289,173	18.5%	3	3						3
	EDGECOMBE	$55,512	4	-0.67%	28	$33,080	9	9.61%	3	44	5	55,141	25.2%	1	1						1
	FORSYTH	$88,786	51	2.90%	79	$46,163	79	5.39%	77	286	80	364,005	18.6%	3	3						3
	FRANKLIN	$69,211	20	2.76%	78	$39,312	43	5.67%	66	207	54	62,753	16.1%	2	2						2
	GASTON	$68,652	18	1.66%	65	$42,461	61	5.80%	54	198	50	210,499	17.9%	2	2						2
	GATES	$70,076	22	-2.15%	5	$48,194	83	5.52%	71	181	37	11,912	19.6%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	GRAHAM	$141,220	87	-1.04%	16	$33,553	11	12.57%	1	115	17	8,829	21.1%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	GRANVILLE	$70,486	26	0.37%	50	$48,680	85	5.01%	89	250	70	55,224	15.4%	2	2						2
	GREENE	$54,018	3	-2.00%	6	$39,481	45	5.54%	70	124	21	19,115	23.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
⬆	GUILFORD	$90,223	53	3.59%	83	$46,093	78	5.76%	57	271	75	512,273	18.1%	3	2						3
	HALIFAX	$70,616	27	-2.22%	4	$32,597	6	8.82%	6	43	4	52,204	27.4%	1	1						1
	HARNETT	$62,539	8	6.23%	96	$45,257	75	6.70%	31	210	59	124,760	17.2%	2	2						2
⬇	HAYWOOD	$120,246	76	0.95%	59	$39,320	44	5.07%	86	265	74	59,913	16.6%	2	3						2
	HENDERSON	$111,005	68	2.64%	76	$44,561	71	4.58%	96	311	88	110,897	14.1%	3	3						3
	HERTFORD	$62,889	10	-0.03%	40	$33,616	12	6.84%	29	91	12	23,143	26.0%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	HOKE	$61,585	7	3.96%	86	$43,987	68	7.73%	16	177	36	50,453	22.9%	1	2						2

		ECONOMIC INDICATORS								County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed)	ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed)	TIER ADJUSTMENT FACTORS				TIER ADJUSTMENTS				Auto-Adjusted Tiers	FINAL 2016 TIERS
NEW TIER	COUNTY	Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2015-2016		Population Growth July 2011-July 2014		Median Household Income 2013		Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 14-Sept 15				Population Less Prison July 2014	Poverty Rate 5-year 2009-2013	2014 Tier	2015 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												
	HYDE	$203,577	94	-0.18%	38	$36,681	31	8.71%	7	170	34	5,077	25.6%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	IREDELL	$120,364	77	3.68%	84	$49,983	87	5.37%	78	326	90	167,157	13.8%	3	3						3
	JACKSON	$219,755	96	1.32%	63	$40,511	50	5.89%	51	260	73	41,039	21.8%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	JOHNSTON	$76,462	39	4.48%	90	$50,904	90	5.04%	88	307	87	179,692	17.2%	3	3						3
	JONES	$80,183	46	-0.89%	21	$39,602	46	5.73%	61	174	35	10,468	16.7%	1	1	X	X			1	1
	LEE	$86,323	49	1.87%	70	$48,061	82	7.56%	17	218	62	58,905	18.9%	2	2						2
	LENOIR	$66,824	15	-0.85%	24	$34,127	15	6.46%	35	89	11	58,795	23.7%	1	1						1
	LINCOLN	$101,435	61	1.83%	69	$50,537	89	5.29%	80	299	84	79,970	15.6%	3	3						3
	MACON	$223,653	97	0.65%	57	$37,219	36	6.10%	44	234	66	34,428	21.3%	2	1	X		X	X	1	1
	MADISON	$101,015	58	2.07%	72	$37,479	37	5.41%	76	243	69	21,584	17.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	MARTIN	$85,110	48	-1.80%	7	$34,761	18	7.42%	21	94	13	23,714	23.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
↓	MCDOWELL	$79,876	45	0.19%	43	$36,840	32	5.57%	69	189	44	44,554	21.9%	2	2	X		X		1	1
	MECKLENBURG	$115,517	72	7.80%	100	$54,657	93	5.31%	79	344	95	1,013,199	15.4%	3	3						3
	MITCHELL	$114,820	71	2.43%	74	$38,303	39	6.77%	30	214	61	15,825	18.3%	1	2	X				<3	2
	MONTGOMERY	$105,913	65	-0.58%	31	$35,613	25	5.69%	65	186	42	27,179	25.6%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	MOORE	$128,111	81	4.19%	87	$50,169	88	5.61%	67	323	89	93,078	15.6%	3	3						3
	NASH	$75,634	36	-0.95%	17	$41,575	59	7.31%	23	135	24	93,876	17.0%	2	1				X	1	1
	NEW HANOVER	$136,098	85	5.18%	93	$48,651	84	5.24%	83	345	97	216,564	16.9%	3	3						3
	NORTHAMPTON	$94,361	54	-2.94%	2	$31,732	4	7.46%	19	79	9	20,764	26.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ONSLOW	$70,200	23	3.52%	82	$45,213	74	5.71%	63	242	68	193,204	15.2%	2	2						2
	ORANGE	$112,415	69	3.81%	85	$59,472	97	4.41%	99	350	98	139,791	17.8%	3	3						3
	PAMLICO	$130,915	83	-1.31%	14	$43,517	65	6.00%	46	208	57	12,573	13.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
	PASQUOTANK	$79,575	44	-1.34%	13	$40,094	47	7.44%	20	124	21	38,874	18.4%	1	1	X				<3	1
	PENDER	$113,749	70	5.93%	95	$44,949	72	5.98%	47	284	79	55,773	19.3%	3	3						3
	PERQUIMANS	$127,999	80	0.65%	58	$42,504	62	7.13%	27	227	63	13,638	20.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	PERSON	$107,877	66	-0.84%	26	$42,091	60	6.58%	32	184	40	39,265	18.0%	2	2	X				<3	2
	PITT	$65,731	13	2.70%	77	$40,940	55	5.97%	48	193	48	174,424	24.3%	2	2						2
	POLK	$134,710	84	0.98%	60	$43,665	66	5.05%	87	297	83	20,740	16.7%	2	2	X				<3	2
	RANDOLPH	$70,996	29	0.43%	51	$40,896	54	5.48%	73	207	54	142,858	17.8%	2	2						2
	RICHMOND	$68,023	17	-1.79%	8	$32,825	8	7.96%	13	46	6	44,880	25.9%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	ROBESON	$45,880	1	-0.30%	35	$30,248	1	8.48%	10	47	7	132,783	31.7%	1	1						1
↑	ROCKINGHAM	$72,795	32	-0.90%	19	$40,446	49	6.43%	36	136	25	92,543	17.9%	1	1						2
	ROWAN	$83,411	47	0.33%	49	$41,475	57	5.86%	52	205	53	137,725	18.8%	2	2						2
	RUTHERFORD	$88,859	52	-0.92%	18	$35,544	23	7.78%	15	108	15	67,378	21.5%	1	1						1
	SAMPSON	$63,362	12	1.18%	62	$35,890	27	5.76%	58	159	31	63,941	22.8%	2	2						2
	SCOTLAND	$57,352	5	-1.40%	12	$32,314	5	10.69%	2	24	1	34,373	32.3%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	STANLY	$72,964	33	0.48%	53	$42,801	63	5.29%	81	230	64	60,205	16.1%	2	2						2
	STOKES	$77,830	42	-1.45%	10	$44,552	70	5.27%	82	204	52	46,786	15.8%	2	2	X				<3	2
↑	SURRY	$72,167	30	0.52%	54	$36,221	30	5.46%	75	189	44	73,834	19.9%	1	1						2
	SWAIN	$105,701	64	4.32%	88	$34,552	17	7.86%	14	183	38	14,831	27.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	TRANSYLVANIA	$179,275	92	0.55%	55	$40,578	52	5.47%	74	273	76	33,428	14.3%	2	2	X				<3	2
	TYRRELL	$126,130	79	-1.75%	9	$32,642	7	8.86%	5	100	14	3,645	20.8%	1	1	X	X	X		1	1
	UNION	$96,687	55	5.17%	92	$63,912	99	4.71%	95	341	93	215,933	9.4%	3	3						3
	VANCE	$51,735	2	-0.89%	20	$35,565	24	8.68%	8	54	8	45,077	28.0%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WAKE	$118,210	74	6.62%	98	$65,433	100	4.53%	98	370	100	982,473	11.0%	3	3						3
	WARREN	$124,317	78	-1.26%	15	$33,767	13	8.38%	11	117	18	19,743	26.2%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WASHINGTON	$70,315	24	-2.72%	3	$31,596	2	8.56%	9	38	3	12,679	23.7%	1	1	X		X		1	1
	WATAUGA	$166,787	91	1.59%	64	$38,380	40	4.88%	92	287	81	52,923	31.3%	3	3						3
	WAYNE	$62,846	9	2.01%	71	$41,526	58	6.02%	45	183	38	124,926	22.1%	2	2						2
	WILKES	$75,205	35	0.19%	44	$35,895	28	5.73%	60	167	33	69,642	22.7%	2	2						2
↑	WILSON	$77,242	40	0.04%	41	$40,772	53	9.03%	4	138	26	81,410	23.2%	1	1						2
	YADKIN	$72,184	31	-1.44%	11	$40,998	56	4.85%	94	192	47	37,842	18.5%	2	2	X				<3	2
↓	YANCEY	$141,101	86	-0.80%	27	$35,866	26	5.90%	50	189	44	17,907	20.1%	2	2	X		X		1	1