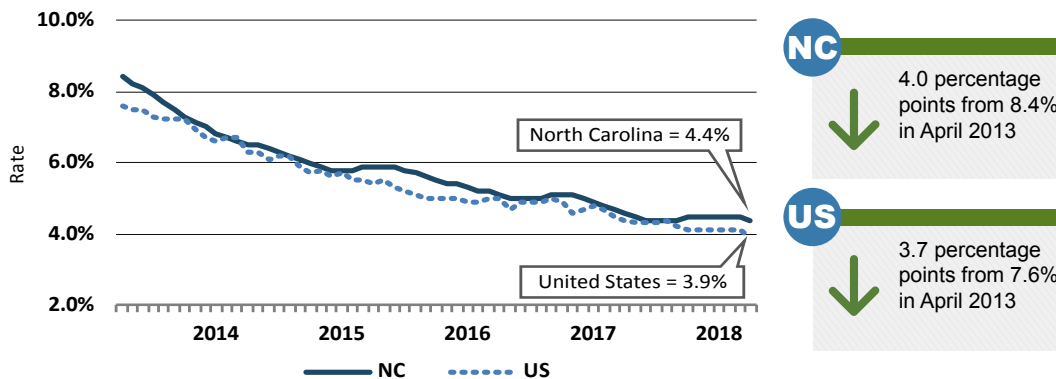
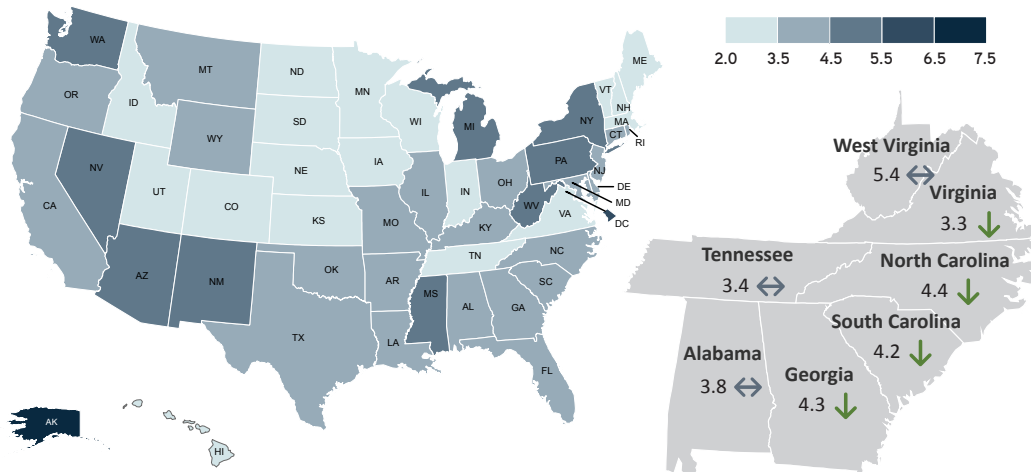


Despite North Carolina's increased unemployment rate, signs point to a continuation of our economic expansion heading toward 2017. Yes, the picture isn't quite as rosy as it looked this summer - with six straight months of increased unemployment insurance claims. However, broader trends remain positive. NC's continuing to grow jobs. More people are participating in the labor force. And the US economy as a whole, which greatly impacts local conditions, is showing no signs of slowing. Bring on '17.

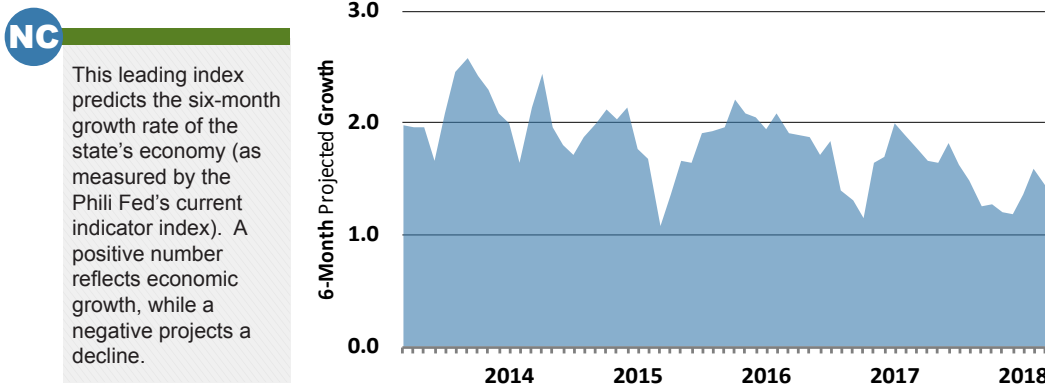
Unemployment Rate Trend



Unemployment Rate Comparison



Philadelphia Federal Reserve Leading Indicators for North Carolina



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Note: December 2017 data most current available.

*All data produced in this publication are based off April 2018 figures, are generated by LEAD, and have been seasonally adjusted and/or smoothed unless otherwise stated. Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.



Unemployment Rate Change

↓ 0.1 ↓ 0.2

Change in Employed

↑ 6,958 (0.1%) ↑ 3,000 (<0.1%)

Change in Unemployed

↓ 2,958 (1.3%) ↓ 239,000 (3.6%)

Labor Force Participation Rate

↔ 0.0 to 61.4% ↓ 0.1 to 62.8%

Data

Industry Employment

4,482,100 Total Nonfarm Jobs

↑ 9,100 over the month

↑ 84,100 over the year

Initial UI Claims

10,842 Individuals Filing

↑ 130 over the month

↓ 3,557 over the year

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Real Taxable Retail Sales

↑ \$49.9M over the month

↑ \$316.2M over the year

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue

Note: March 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits

↓ 0.2% over the month

↑ 19.3% over the year

Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Job Postings

↑ 8.3% over the month

↑ 15.2% over the year

Source: The Conference Board; BLS; LEAD
Note: March 2018 data most current available at time of release.

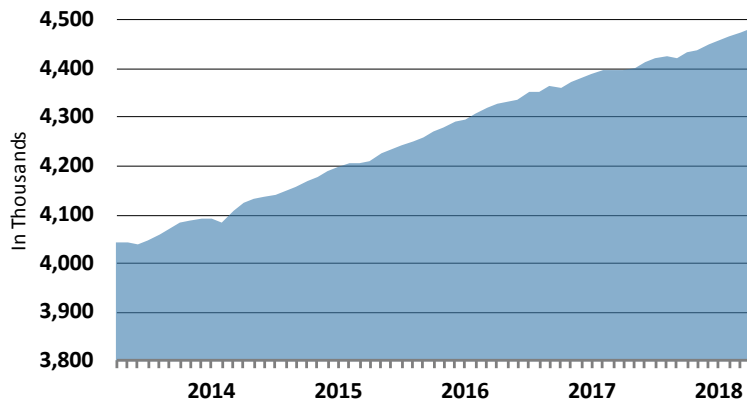
Manufacturing Hours Worked

↑ 0.2% over the month

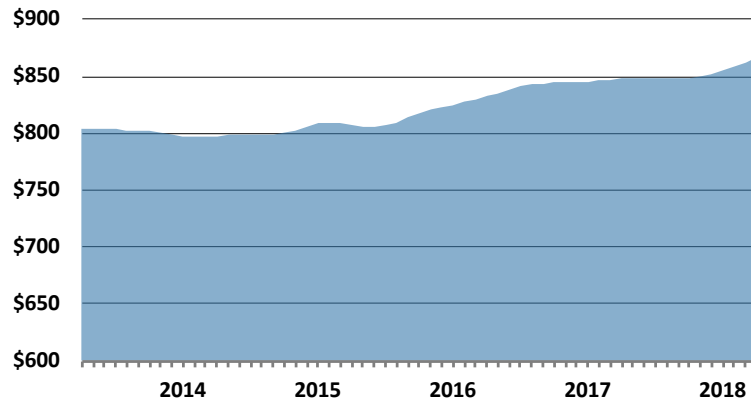
↑ 1.5% over the year

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

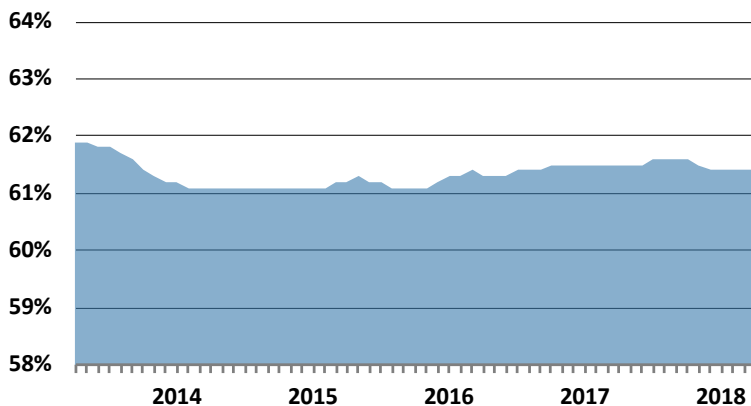
Total Nonfarm Jobs



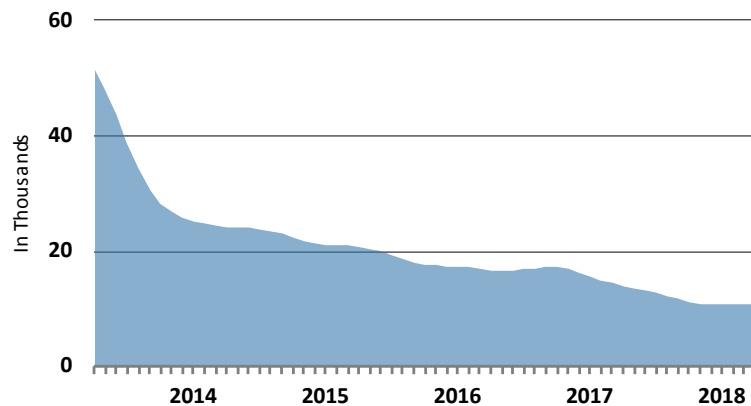
Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)



Labor Force Participation Rate

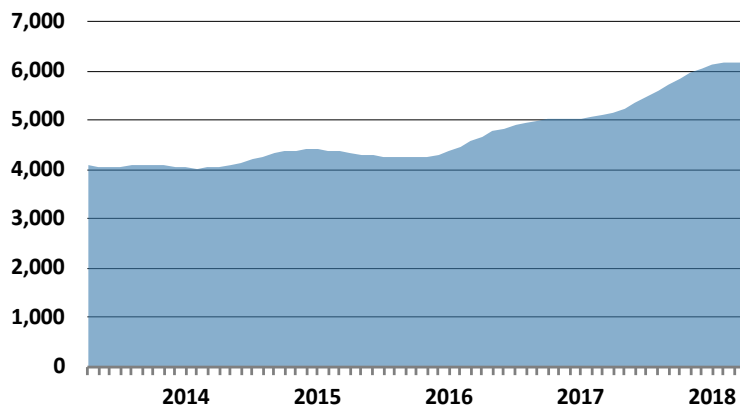


Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



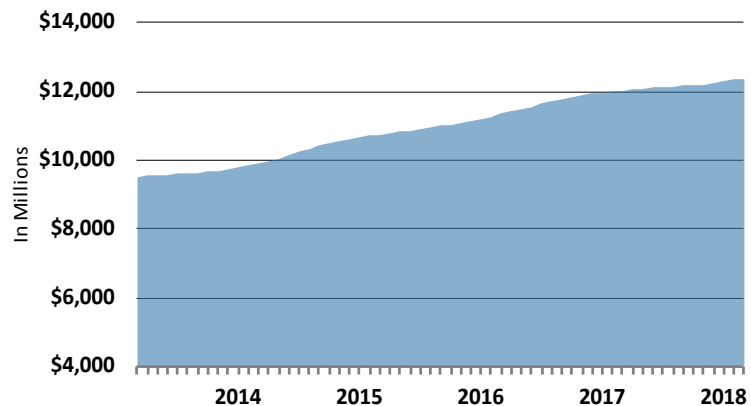
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits



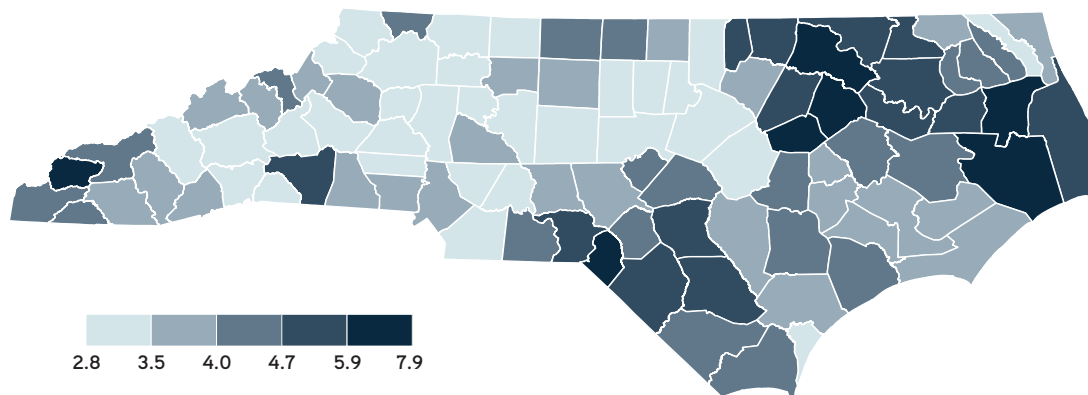
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales



Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: March 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Lowest	
Buncombe	2.8%
Alexander	3.0%
Orange	3.1%
Henderson	3.1%
Chatham	3.1%

Highest	
Hyde	7.9%
Scotland	7.2%
Edgecombe	7.1%
Tyrrell	6.3%
Wilson	6.2%

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