LEAD Is Hiring!!

- Budget Analyst (Apply by December 9)
 - https://nc.wd108.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/NC Careers/details/Budget-Analyst-II JR-104456?hiringCompany=4c5533ba0a02100160ef92c4fe000000
- 2 Intern Opportunities (Apply by January 31)
 - NCcareers Communication & Strategy Intern
 - https://nc.wd108.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/NC Careers/job/Wake-County-NC/Communicationsand-Strategy-Intern--NCcareers JR-104306?hiringCompany=4c5533ba0a02100160ecd087de510000&workerSubType=4c5533ba0a021 00138f36e4126080000
 - Economic & Policy Analysis Intern
 - https://nc.wd108.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/NC_Careers/job/Wake-County-NC/Understanding-North-Carolina-through-Economic-and-Workforce-Analysis_JR-104305?q=%22labor%20and%20economic%20analysis%22

Updated BLS Release Schedule

- BLS Revised Schedule for LAUS/CES, aka "Monthly Unemployment Rate and Jobs Report"
 - https://www.bls.gov/bls/2025-lapse-revised-releasedates.htm#:~:text=Household%20survey%20data%20from%20the%20Current%20Population,be%20extended%20for%20both%20surveys%2C%20and%20extra
- September Data
 - Statewide Data Thursday, December 11
 - Substate Data Wednesday, December 17





The Common Questions You're Asked... and How to Answer Them with Data

December 2, 2025

Jeff Rosenthal

Manager, Occupational Analysis Team

NC Department of Commerce

Jamie Vaughn
Senior Analyst for Market Intelligence
NC Department of Commerce

Overview of Session

 We will answer common questions about the labor market with predetermined questions.

We are taking requests!

Example #1 - Helping a business

You are working with a business in Brunswick county. They are struggling to hire Welders starting at \$15/hr. They have asked you to help them understand what a reasonable starting pay rate may be. What do you do?

Example #1 - Helping a business

- You are working with a business in Brunswick county. They are struggling to hire Welders starting at \$15/hr.
- What is it you want to provide?
 - Wage information by occupation
- What is the time period?
 - Most current time period
- What is the place we're interested in?
 - Brunswick County, which is in the Wilmington MSA

Example #1 - Helping a business

- You are working with a business in Brunswick county. They are struggling to hire Welders starting at \$15/hr.
- https://analytics.nccommerce.com/
 - https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Occupational-Wage-Lookup/
- From this tool, we see that the hourly wage for Welders in this area is \$17.46 for the 10th percentile, \$23.00 for the 50th percentile, and \$31.05 for the 90th percentile.

Example #1b - Helping a business

The employer questions whether this wage is high for a starting welder across the state.

Example #1b - Helping a business

- The employer questions whether this wage is high for a starting welder across the state.
- https://analytics.nccommerce.com/
 - https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Occupational-Wage-Lookup/
 - Tab 'Areas'
- From this tool, we see that the hourly wage for Welders in Wilmington at \$17.46 is actually the most modest 10th percentile wage across regions across the state.

Example #1c - Helping a business

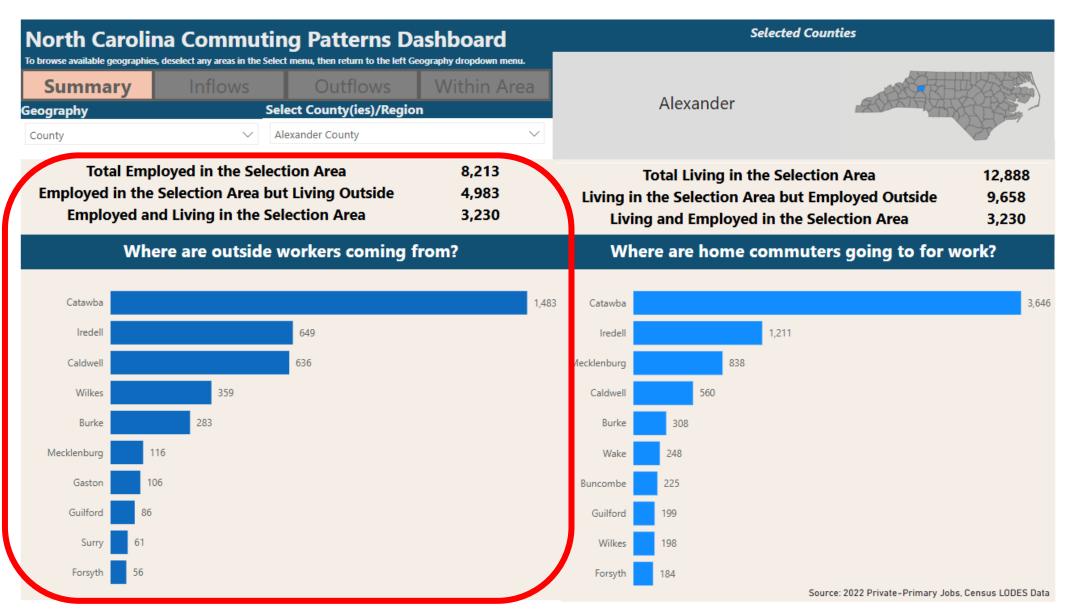
The employer further wonders if this wage may be higher because of the different types of companies across the state. Welders may make more in other industries.

Example #1c - Helping a business

- The employer further wonders if this wage may be higher because of the different types of companies across the state. Welders may make more in other industries.
- https://analytics.nccommerce.com/
 - https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Occupational-Wage-Lookup/
 - Tab 'Wages', Select North Carolina as Area/ Step 4: Sector
- From this tool, we see that the hourly 10th percentile wage for Welders in North Carolina are paid least in the Professional and Technical Services industry at \$16.86 while they make as much as \$25.83 in 'Unclassified'.

Example #2 - Helping a business

A business in Alexander County is looking to hire several new employees. They are looking for advice on what locations they should advertise the most?



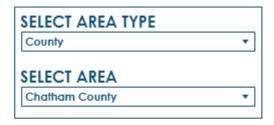
https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Commuting-Patterns/

Example #3 - Helping a business

A manager of a significant employer just moved to your area and wants to understand the economy of the area and asks you to provide information they can quickly digest.

AREA PROFILES)) Chatham County







TOTAL JOBS	BIZ ESTABLISHMENTS	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	GDP
19,940 2025 Q1	2,526 2025 Q1	\$1,092 2025 Q1	\$2.6B 2023
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	UNEMPLOYED	LABOR FORCE	MEDIAN HH INCOME
3.7% August 2025	1,457 August 2025	39,384 August 2025	\$95,716 2023

https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Area-Profiles/



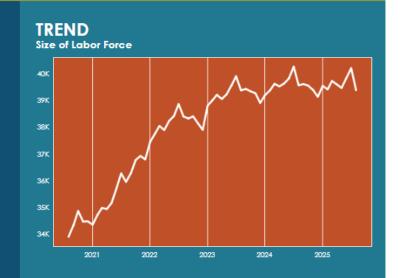
LABOR FORCE (Local Area Unemployment Statistics) Chatham County

SNAPSHOT

3.7% Unemployment Rate

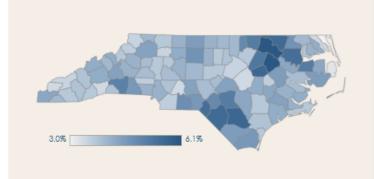
0.4 FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

0.21 FROM LAST YEAR



COMPARISON

Unemployment Rates



DATA

	Employed Individuals	Unemployed Individuals	Unemployment Rate
August 2025	37,927	1,457	3.7%
July 2025	38,876	1,326	3.3%
June 2025	38,436	1,407	3.5%
May 2025	38,170	1,294	3.3%
April 2025	38,395	1,200	3.0%
March 2025	38,449	1,274	3.2%
February 2025	38,206	1,203	3.1%
January 2025	38,232	1,311	3.3%
December 2024	38,021	1,115	2.8%
November 2024	38,123	1,264	3.2%
October 2024	38,389	1,162	2.9%
September 2024	38,497	1,111	2.8%
August 2024	38,193	1,374	3.5%
July 2024	38.873	1,386	3.4%

DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMMUTING

Chatham County

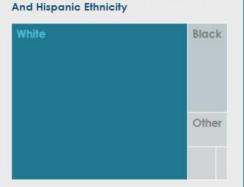
POPULATION

81,248
Certified Population Estimate

2,169 (2.7%)CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

4,791 (6.3%)CHANGE FROM THREE YEARS AGO

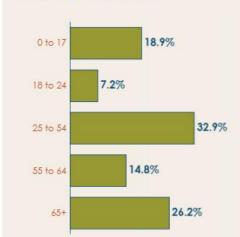
POPULATION BY RACE



Hispanic Population 11,048 (13.6% of total population)

Population Age 25+ 25.2% 25.2% 18.0% 15.4% 9.6% 8.9% 25.2% 22.8% pouls, spilones, spilo

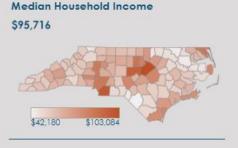
POPULATION AGE



COMMUTING



HOUSEHOLDS



Poverty Rate 8.4%

Question #4 - Helping a jobseeker

You are working with a jobseeker in Randolph county. They are new to the area and want to know where to look for work.

Question #4 - Helping a jobseeker

- You are working with a jobseeker in Randolph county. They are new to the area and want to know where to look for work.
- What types of companies are present in the area?
 - Go to D4 (https://d4.nccommerce.com/QCEWSelection.aspx)
 - Select Randolph County, Sector (2-digit), and latest data (2025q1)
 - Construction has most establishments (425)
 - Manufacturing has the most jobs (12,316)
 - Finance & Insurance pays the best per week (\$1,527)

Question #4b - Helping a jobseeker

The person thanked you but mentioned that they would be willing to work in Greensboro, as well.

Question #4b - Helping a jobseeker

- The person thanked you but mentioned that they would be willing to work in Greensboro, as well.
- What types of companies are present in the area?
 - Go to D4 (https://d4.nccommerce.com/QCEWSelection.aspx)
 - Select Guilford County, Sector (2-digit), and latest data (2025q1)
 - Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services has most establishments (2,277)
 - Health Care and Social Assistance has the most jobs (39,395)
 - Management of Companies and Enterprises pays the best per week (\$3,343)

Question #5 - Helping a jobseeker

A jobseeker has been working as a Computer Network Support Specialist for several years and is interested in advancing their career in the IT industry to work as a Network & Computer Systems Administrator. What could they do to advance their career?











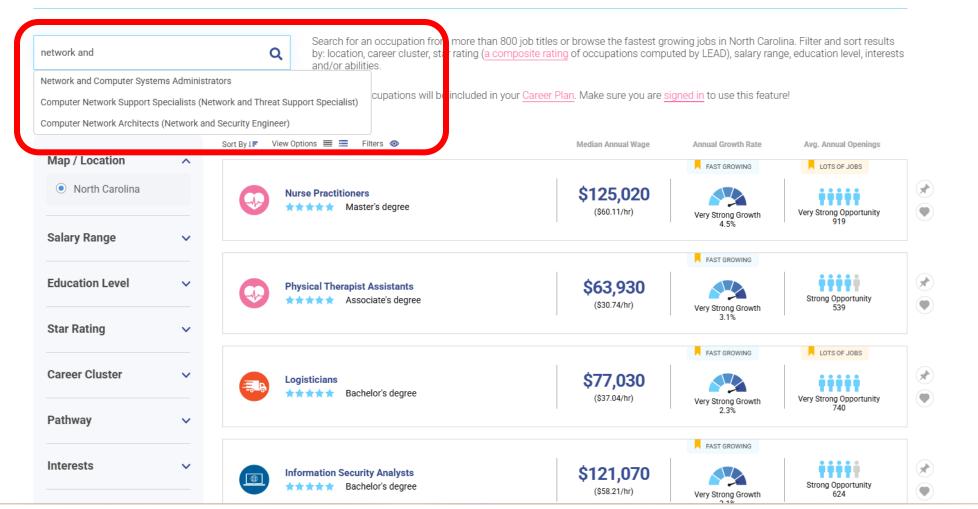








Occupations



What does the job do?

Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), data communication networks, operating systems, and servers.

What do they typically do

- Determine an organization's network and system needs and install operating and application hardware and software
- Provide input on hardware or software for an organization's purchasing decisions
- Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating correctly
- Maintain network and computer system security
- Evaluate and optimize network and system performance
- Add users to a network and assign security permissions
- Train users on the organization's network and systems
- Diagnose and resolve problems when alerted by a user or an automated monitoring system

Network and Computer Systems Administrators North Carolina Information Technology (Wages) \$ 97.590 Moderately Growing Annual NC Wage Range Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), data Lower End Wage (10th Percentile communication networks, operating systems, and servers. \$57.260(\$27.53/hr) What do they typically do Middle Wage (50th Percentile) \$97,590(\$46.92/hr) Determine an organization's network and system needs and install operating and application **(3)** Higher End Wage (90th Percentile) Provide input on hardware or software for an organization's purchasing decisions \$149.970(\$72.10/hr) Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating Work Place Maintain network and computer system security Evaluate and optimize network and system performance Network and computer eveteme administratore are Add users to a network and assign security permissions employed by a variety of Train users on the organization's network and systems variety of settings. In addition to those shown in the table, top manufacturing industries Job Growth Rate (3/5) healthcare providers, and vernment agencies. Network and computer systems Experience Level (4/5) administrators often 0collaborate with many types of information technology (IT workers, such as compute support specialists, database Most require a four-year bachelor's administrators computer degree, but some do not. ■ Common Job Titles network architects, and computer and information Associated Programs or Majors Network Manager systems managers. Most network and computer systems Server Administrator administrators work full time, Management Information Systems, and some work more than 40 may need to work evenings. Job Growth +0.8% Systems Science And Theory nights, or weekends to monitor Job Openings 647 maintain, or update networks Manufacturing Engineering Q Job Listings Technology/Technician Similar Occupations Top Skills & Abilities Select a region/location in North Carolina to begin your search. Computer Network Support Programming NG View available jobs All Other Computer Occupations Installation View available jobs on Indeed NC Workforce Credentials CompTIA Linux+ [Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)] Cocupation Code CompTIA Network + [Computing Knowledge/Specialties Technology Industry Association 151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators ICCP Certified Computing Professional (CCP) [Institute for Certification of Engineering and Technolog Computing Professionals] Design Pathway Private Training Programs Communications and Media Network Systems Cyber Security Analyst Cyber Security IT Professional

PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR

CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Experience

A considerable amount of work-

experience is needed.

Gr NCDPI Career Pathways

Find classes

Identify the High School Classes that

can help start preparing you for a

How much does it pay?



Network and Computer Systems Administrators

Lower End Wage (10th Percentile)

Middle Wage (50th Percentile) \$97,590(\$46.92/hr)

Higher End Wage (90th Percentile)

\$57,260(\$27.53/hr)

\$149,970(\$72.10/hr)

Ratings

Wage (5/5)

Job Openings (4/5)

Job Growth Rate (3/5)

Experience Level (4/5)

■ Common Job Titles

Network Manager

Server Administrator

Similar Occupations

Cocupation Code

151244 - Network and

Computer Systems Administrators

Network Systems

Find classes

Gr NCDPI Career Pathways

Identify the High School Classes that

can help start preparing you for a

Pathway

Computer Network Support

All Other Computer Occupations

8



Moderately Growing

zations' local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), data

North Carolina

t do they typically do

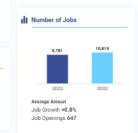
termine an organization's network and system needs and install operating and application

ovide input on hardware or software for an organization's purchasing decisions Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating

- Maintain network and computer system security
- Evaluate and optimize network and system performance

nunication networks, operating systems, and servers.

- Add users to a network and assign security permissions Train users on the organization's network and systems
- Diagnose and resolve problems when alerted by a user or an automated monitoring system



Q Job Listings

Select a region/location in North Carolina to begin your search.

No View available jobs

Yiew available jobs on Indeed

Fducation & Training

Most require a four-year bachelor's degree, but some do not.

Associated Programs or Majors

Management Information Systems,

Systems Science And Theory Manufacturing Engineering

Technology/Technician

NC Workforce Credentials

CompTIA Linux+ [Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)]

CompTIA Network + [Computing Technology Industry Association

ICCP Certified Computing Professional (CCP) [Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals

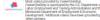
Private Training Programs

Cyber Security Analyst

Cyber Security IT Professional

PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS













Network and computer systems administrators are employed by a variety of variety of settings. In addition to those shown in the table, top manufacturing industries healthcare providers, and government agencies. Network and computer systems administrators often collaborate with many types of information technology (IT workers, such as computer support specialists, database administrators, computer network architects, and computer and information systems managers. Most network and computer systems administrators work full time, and some work more than 40 may need to work evenings, nights, or weekends to monitor, maintain, or update networks

o Top Skills & Abilities

Installation

Knowledge/Specialties

Computers and Electronics

Telecommunications

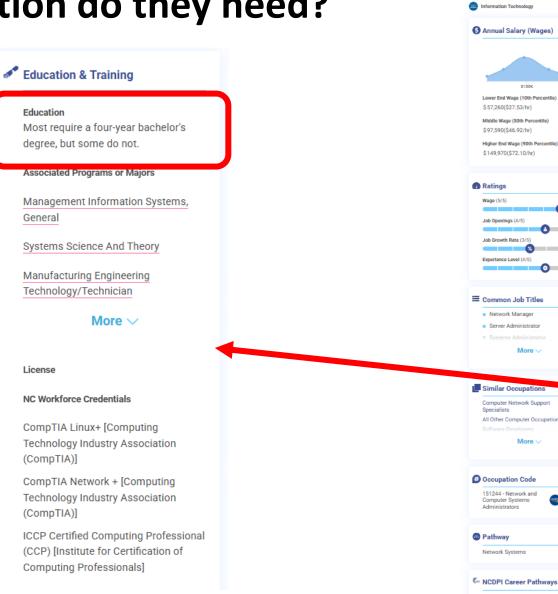
Engineering and Technology

Communications and Media

Experience

A considerable amount of workrelated skill, knowledge, or experience is needed.

What education do they need?



Network and Computer Systems Administrators

What do they typically do

Number of Jobs

Job Growth +0.8%

Job Openings 647

Carolina to begin your search. № View available jobs

View available jobs on Indeed

Q Job Listings

Lower End Wage (10th Percentile)

Middle Wage (50th Percentile)

Higher End Wage (90th Percentile)

\$57.260(\$27.53/hr)

\$97,590(\$46.92/hr)

\$149.970(\$72.10/hr)

Wage (5/5)

Job Openings (4/5)

Job Growth Rate (3/5)

Experience Level (4/5)

Network Manager

Server Administrator

Computer Network Support

151244 - Network and

Computer Systems Administrators

Network Systems

Find classes

All Other Computer Occupations

More

Identify the High School Classes that

can help start preparing you for a

More V

8

0-

Annual Median Wage

\$ 97,590

Annual NC Wage Range

communication networks, operating systems, and servers.

Maintain network and computer system security

Evaluate and optimize network and system performance

Add users to a network and assign security permissions

Train users on the organization's network and systems

Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), data

Provide input on hardware or software for an organization's purchasing decisions

Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating

Diagnose and resolve problems when alerted by a user or an automated monitoring system

Education & Training

degree, but some do not.

Associated Programs or Majors

Systems Science And Theory

Manufacturing Engineering

Technology/Technician

NC Workforce Credentials

(CompTIA)]

CompTIA Linux+ [Computing

Technology Industry Association

CompTIA Network + [Computing

Technology Industry Association

ICCP Certified Computing Professional

(CCP) [Institute for Certification of

Computing Professionals]

Private Training Programs

Cyber Security Analyst

Cyber Security IT Professional

PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR

CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Most require a four-year bachelor's

Management Information Systems,

Determine an organization's network and system needs and install operating and application

North Carolina

Moderately Growing



ቆ Interests







6 8 0



Network and computer systems administrators are employed by a variety of variety of settings. In addition to those shown in the table, top employers also include manufacturing industries. healthcare providers, and vernment agencies. Network and computer systems administrators often collaborate with many types of information technology (IT workers, such as computer support specialists, database administrators, computer network architects, and computer and information systems managers. Most network and computer systems administrators work full time, and some work more than 40 may need to work evenings, nights, or weekends to monitor, maintain, or update networks

Top Skills & Abilities

nstallation

Knowledge/Specialties

Computers and Electronics

Engineering and Technology

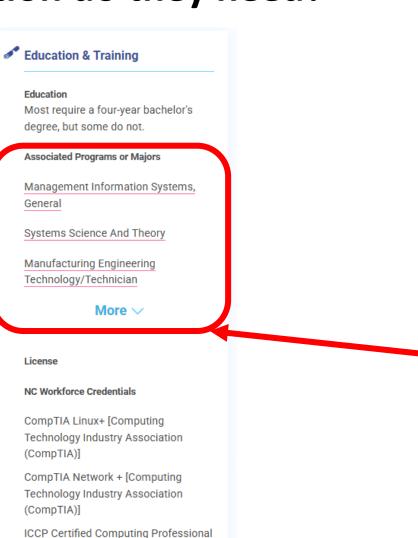
Experience

A considerable amount of workperience is needed.

What education do they need?

(CCP) [Institute for Certification of

Computing Professionals]



Pathway

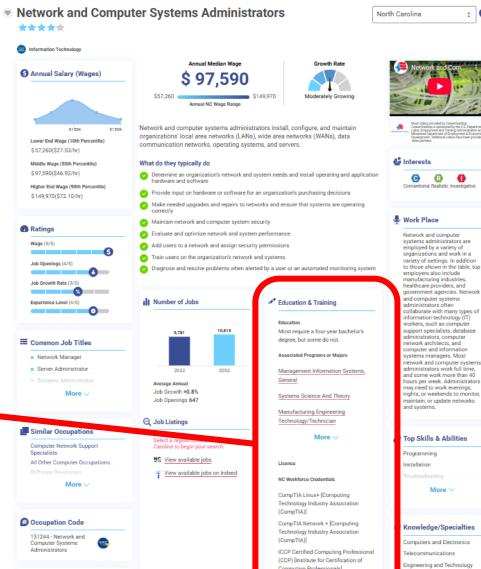
Network Systems

Find classes

MCDPI Career Pathways

Identify the High School Classes that

can help start preparing you for a



Computing Professionals]

Communications and Media

A considerable amount of work-

perience is needed.

Experience

Private Training Programs

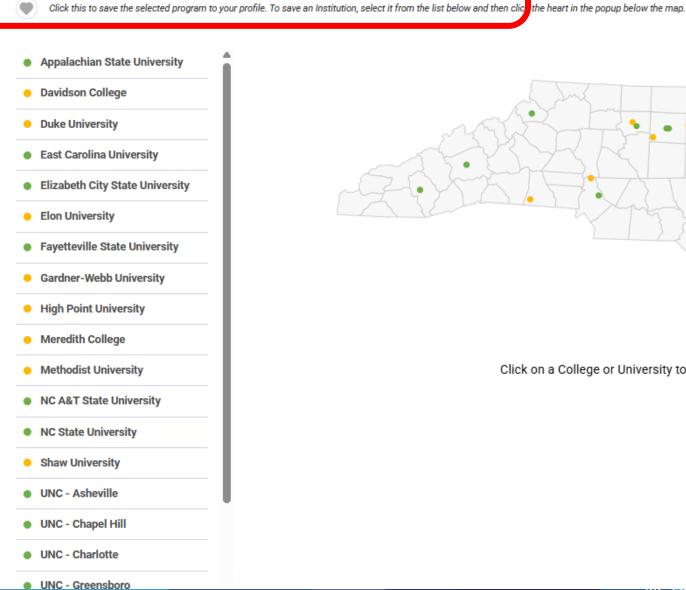
Cyber Security Analyst

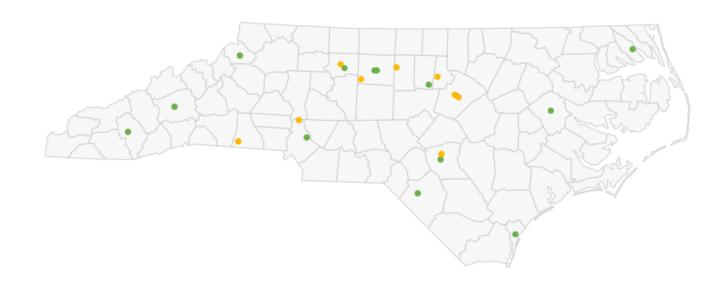
Cyber Security IT Professional

PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR

CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

✓ Public Universities Computer Science (Computer Science) - Bachelor's degree Q Independent Colleges/Universities 23 out of 110 Colleges/Universities offer this program/degree NC Community College System 58





Click on a College or University to view more information.

Computer Science (Computer Science) - Bachelor's degree

Q

Public Universities

Independent Colleges/Universities



NC Community College System

23 out of 110 Colleges/Universities offer this program/degree

Click this to save the selected program to your profile. To save an Institution, select it from the list below and then click the heart in the popup below the map.

 Appalachian State University Davidson College Duke University East Carolina University Elizabeth City State University Elon University Fayetteville State University Gardner-Webb University High Point University Meredith College

Methodist University

NC A&T State University

NC State University

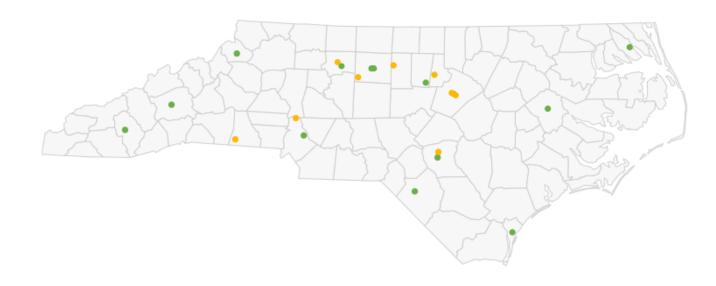
Shaw University

UNC - Asheville

UNC - Chapel Hill

UNC - Charlotte

UNC - Greensboro



Click on a College or University to view more information.

Question #6 - Unemployment Rate

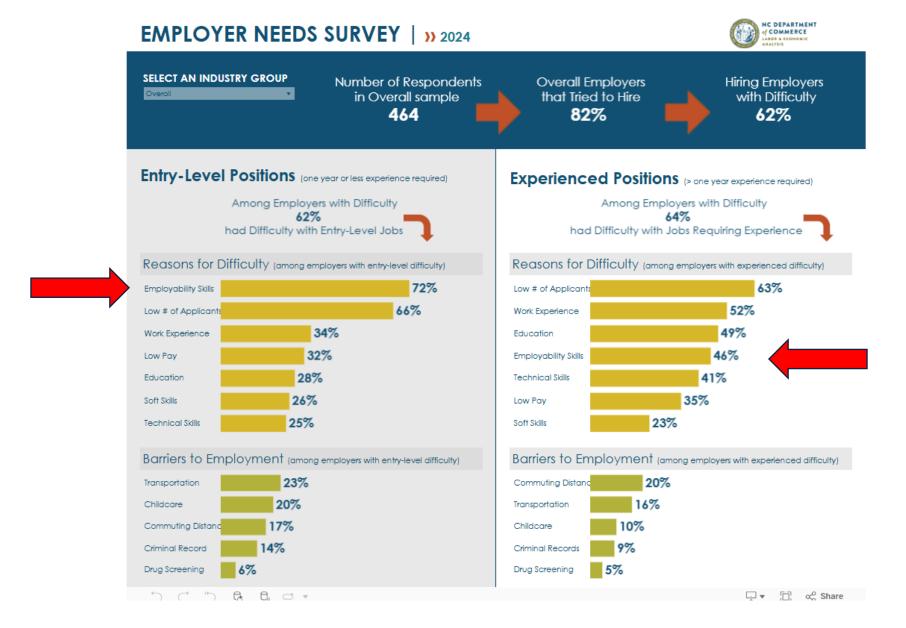
Your county manager called and wanted help understanding the unemployment rate trend over the last two years.

Question #6 - Unemployment Rate

- Your county manager called and wanted to understand the unemployment rate trend over the last two years.
- https://d4.nccommerce.com/LausSelection.aspx
- Due to only "not seasonally adjusted data":, you must compare it year over year, not month over month.
- Look at # employed, # unemployed and Labor Force changes

Question #7 - Helping a jobseeker

A job seeker has been unemployed for several months. They ask you, "aside from technical skills, what are employers looking for?"



https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Employer-Needs-Survey/



https://analytics.nccommerce.com/Employer-Needs-Survey/PDF/



Thank You!

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jamie.vaughn@commerce.nc.gov

Jeff Rosenthal

jeff.rosenthal@commerce.nc.gov