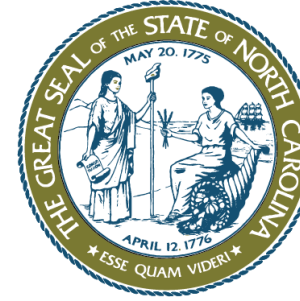


# LMI TUESDAYS!



**NC DEPARTMENT**  
**of COMMERCE**  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC**  
**ANALYSIS**

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

January 6, 2026

**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!

# Question #1 - 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 #1 - 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 #1b - Helping a jobseeker**

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

# Question #1b - 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 #2 - 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

network and



Network and Computer Systems Administrators

Computer Network Support Specialists (Network and Threat Support Specialist)

Computer Network Architects (Network and Security Engineer)

Search for an occupation from more than 800 job titles or browse the fastest growing jobs in North Carolina. Filter and sort results by: location, career cluster, star rating (a composite rating of occupations computed by LEAD), salary range, education level, interests and/or abilities.

Occupations will be included in your [Career Plan](#). Make sure you are [signed in](#) to use this feature!

Sort By

View Options

Filters

Median Annual Wage

Annual Growth Rate

Avg. Annual Openings

### Map / Location

North Carolina

### Salary Range

### Education Level

### Star Rating

### Career Cluster

### Pathway

### Interests



**Nurse Practitioners**

★★★★★

Master's degree

**\$125,020**

(\$60.11/hr)

FAST GROWING



Very Strong Growth  
4.5%

LOTS OF JOBS

Very Strong Opportunity  
919



**Physical Therapist Assistants**

★★★★★

Associate's degree

**\$63,930**

(\$30.74/hr)

FAST GROWING



Very Strong Growth  
3.1%

Strong Opportunity

539



**Logisticians**

★★★★★

Bachelor's degree

**\$77,030**

(\$37.04/hr)

FAST GROWING



Very Strong Growth  
2.3%

LOTS OF JOBS

Very Strong Opportunity  
740



**Information Security Analysts**

★★★★★

Bachelor's degree

**\$121,070**

(\$58.21/hr)

FAST GROWING



Very Strong Growth  
3.1%

Strong Opportunity

624

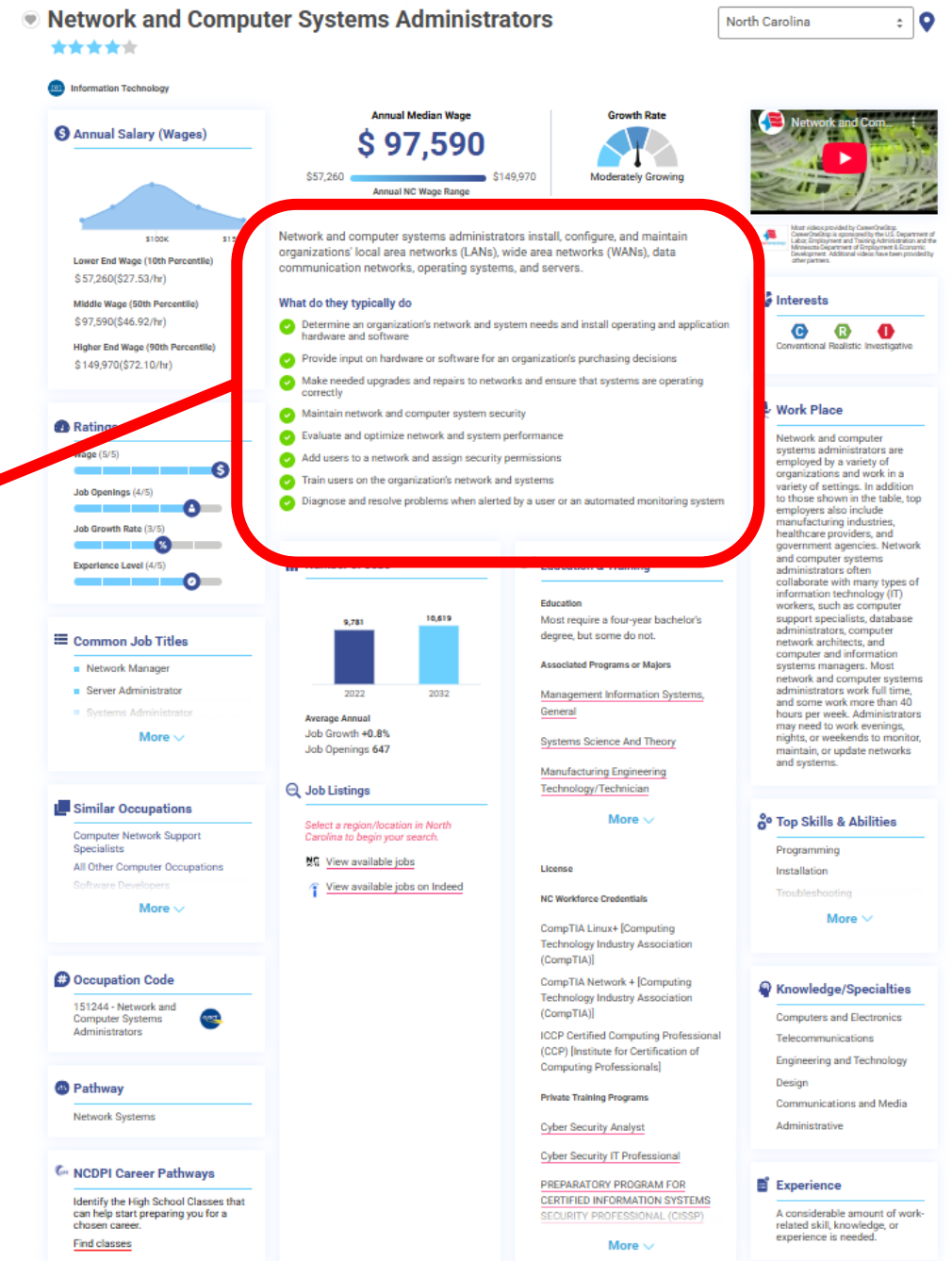


# What does the job do?

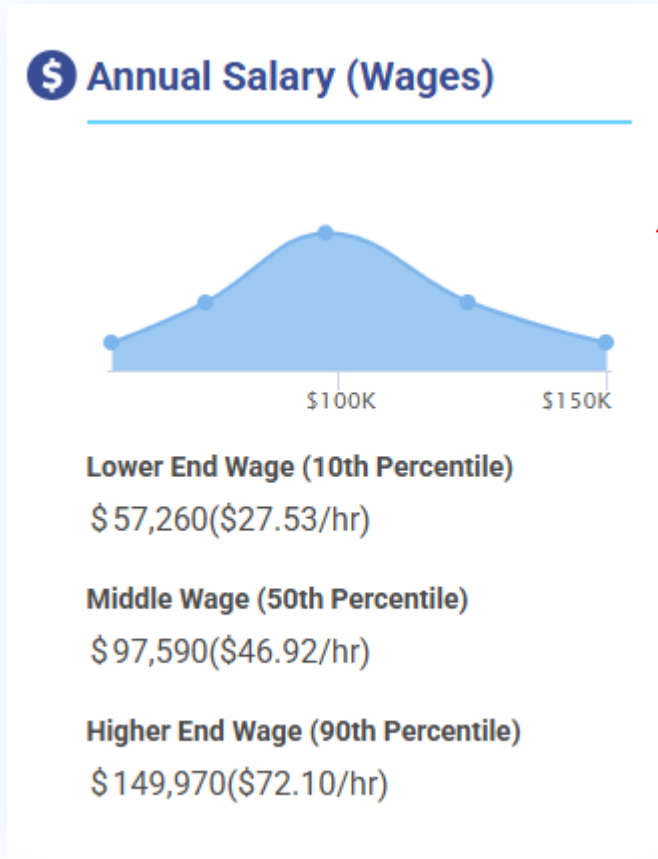
Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), data communication networks, operating systems, and servers.

## 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



# How much does it pay?



## Network and Computer Systems Administrators

★★★★★

Information Technology

### Annual Salary (Wages)



Lower End Wage (10th Percentile)  
\$57,260 (\$27.53/hr)

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

Higher End Wage (90th Percentile)  
\$149,970 (\$72.10/hr)

### Ratings



### Common Job Titles

- Network Manager
- Server Administrator
- Systems Administrator

[More](#)

### Similar Occupations

Computer Network Support Specialists

All Other Computer Occupations

Software Developers

[More](#)

### Occupation Code

151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators

### Pathway

Network Systems

### NCDPI Career Pathways

Identify the High School Classes that can help start preparing you for a chosen career.

[Find classes](#)

### Annual Median Wage

\$97,590

\$57,260 Annual NC Wage Range \$149,970

### Growth Rate

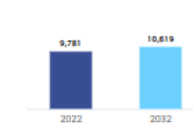
Moderately Growing

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### Number of Jobs



Average Annual Job Growth +0.8%  
Job Openings: 647

### Job Listings

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

[View available jobs](#)

[View available jobs on Indeed](#)

### Education & Training

#### Education

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

#### Associated Programs or Majors

[Management Information Systems, General](#)

[Systems Science And Theory](#)

[Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician](#)

[More](#)

#### License

#### NC Workforce Credentials

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

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

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 SECURITY PROFESSIONAL (CISSP)

[More](#)



Most videos provided by CareerOneDrive. CareerOneDrive is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration and the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Economic Development. Additional videos have been provided by other partners.

### Interests

[Conventional](#) [Realistic](#) [Investigative](#)

### Work Place

Network and computer systems administrators are employed by a variety of organizations and work in a variety of settings. In addition to those shown in the table, top employers also include 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 hours per week. Administrators may need to work evenings, nights, or weekends to monitor, maintain, or update networks and systems.

### Top Skills & Abilities

[Programming](#)

[Installation](#)

[Troubleshooting](#)

[More](#)

### Knowledge/Specialties

[Computers and Electronics](#)

[Telecommunications](#)

[Engineering and Technology](#)

[Design](#)

[Communications and Media](#)

[Administrative](#)

### Experience

A considerable amount of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed.

# What education do they need?

## Education & Training

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

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★★★★★

Information Technology

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[More](#)

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- All Other Computer Occupations
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[More](#)

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151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators

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Network Systems

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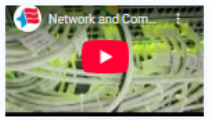
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[Cyber Security Analyst](#)

[Cyber Security IT Professional](#)

PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROFESSIONAL (CISSP)

[More](#)



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Annual NC Wage Range  
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**Growth Rate**

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[More](#)

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Job Openings 647

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[More](#)

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- All Other Computer Occupations
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**Occupation Code**

151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators

**Pathway**

Network Systems

**NCDPI Career Pathways**

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[Find classes](#)

**Job Listings**

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[View available jobs](#)

[View available jobs on Indeed](#)

NC Department of Commerce | Information Technology Analysis Division

Computer Science {Computer Science} - Bachelor's degree



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.

☒ Public Universities

16

☒ Independent  
Colleges/Universities

36

☒ NC Community College System

58

● 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

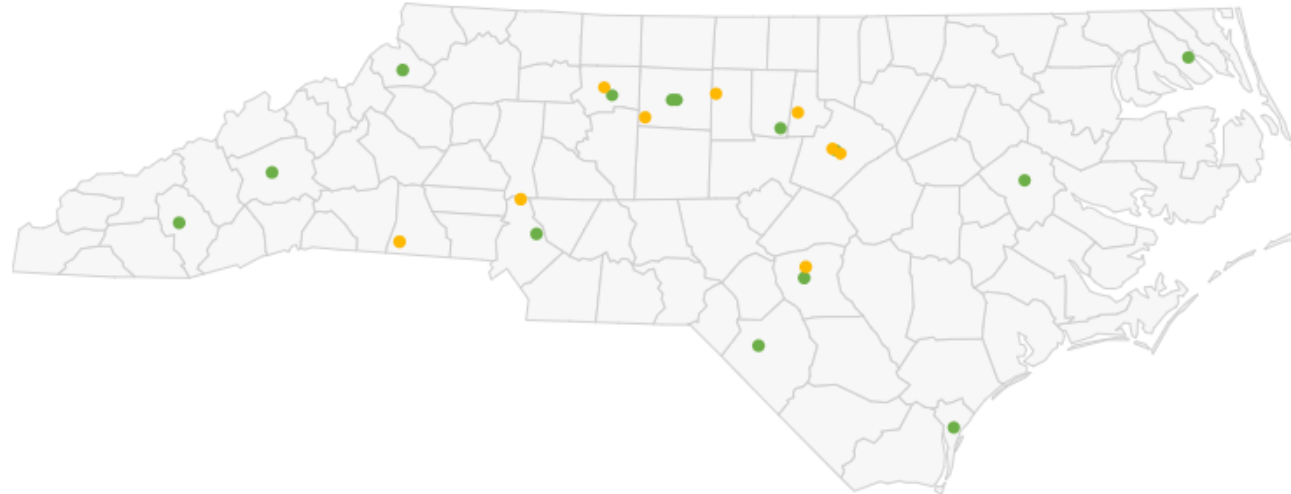
● Shaw University

● UNC - Asheville

● UNC - Chapel Hill

● UNC - Charlotte

● UNC - Greensboro



Click on a College or University to view more information.



Computer Science {Computer Science} - Bachelor's degree



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



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16

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36

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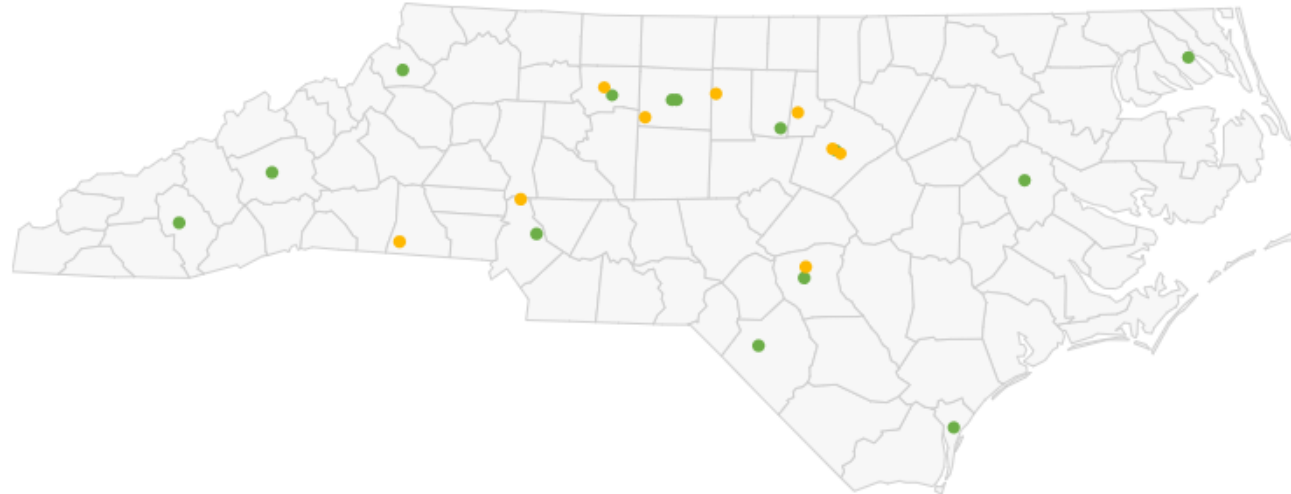
● Shaw University

● UNC - Asheville

● UNC - Chapel Hill

● UNC - Charlotte

● UNC - Greensboro



Click on a College or University to view more information.

## Question #3 - Unemployment Rate

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

# Question #3 - 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 #4 - Helping a jobseeker

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

## SELECT AN INDUSTRY GROUP

Overall

Number of Respondents  
in Overall sample  
**464**

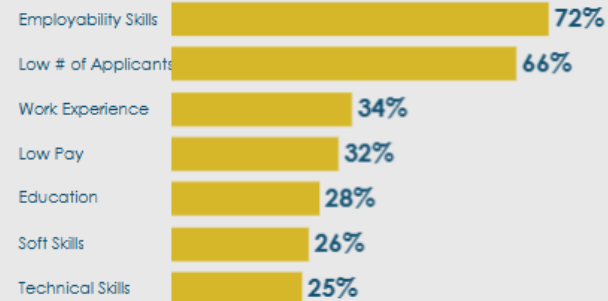
Overall Employers  
that Tried to Hire  
**82%**

Hiring Employers  
with Difficulty  
**62%**

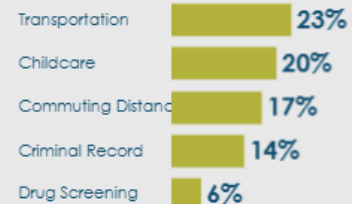
## Entry-Level Positions (one year or less experience required)

Among Employers with Difficulty  
**62%**  
had Difficulty with Entry-Level Jobs

### Reasons for Difficulty (among employers with entry-level difficulty)



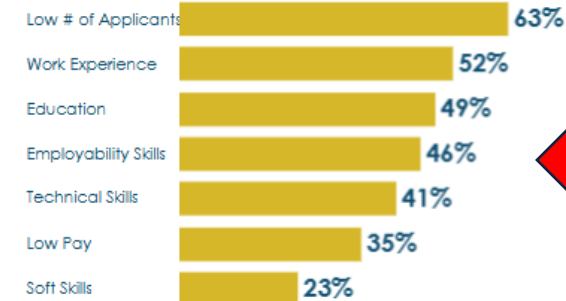
### Barriers to Employment (among employers with entry-level difficulty)



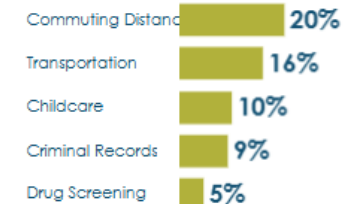
## Experienced Positions (> one year experience required)

Among Employers with Difficulty  
**64%**  
had Difficulty with Jobs Requiring Experience

### Reasons for Difficulty (among employers with experienced difficulty)



### Barriers to Employment (among employers with experienced difficulty)



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

[illegible]

NC Department of Commerce | Labor & Economic Analysis Division



NC DEPARTMENT  
of COMMERCE  
LABOR & ECONOMIC  
ANALYSIS

# Thank You!

Jamie Vaughn

[jamie.vaughn@commerce.nc.gov](mailto:jamie.vaughn@commerce.nc.gov)

Jeff Rosenthal

[jeff.rosenthal@commerce.nc.gov](mailto:jeff.rosenthal@commerce.nc.gov)