

# 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

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**Manager, Occupational Analysis Team**

**NC Department of Commerce**

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**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



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.

Network and Computer Systems Administrators

Computer Network Support Specialists (Network and Threat Support Specialist)

Computer Network Architects (Network and Security Engineer)

Sort By View Options Filters

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

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%

LOTS OF JOBS

 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  
2.1%

LOTS OF JOBS

 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

## Network and Computer Systems Administrators

★★★★★

Information Technology

Annual Salary (Wages)



Rating



### 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

More ▾

### Pathway

Network Systems

### NCDPI Career Pathways

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

Find classes

North Carolina



More videos provided by CareerOnDeck. CareerOnDeck is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the North Carolina Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development. Additional videos have been provided by other partners.

### Interests

- C
- R
- I

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.

# 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

Wage (5/5)

Job Openings (4/5)

Job Growth Rate (3/5)

Experience Level (4/5)

### Common Job Titles

Network Manager  
Server Administrator  
Systems Administrator

More ▾

### Similar Occupations

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All Other Computer Occupations  
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More ▾

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Network Systems

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Annual Median Wage  
**\$ 97,590**

\$57,260      \$149,970

Annual NC Wage Range

Growth Rate  
Moderately Growing



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Interests  
Conventional, Realistic, Investigative

### Work Place

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### Education & Training

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

Associated Programs or Majors

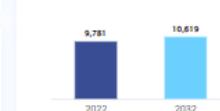
Management Information Systems, General

Systems Science And Theory

Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician

More ▾

### 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

### Top Skills & Abilities

Programming  
Installation  
Troubleshooting  
More ▾

### Knowledge/Specialties

Computers and Electronics  
Telecommunications  
Engineering and Technology  
Design  
Communications and Media  
Administrative

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# What education do they need?

 **Education & Training**

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**Associated Programs or Majors**

- Management Information Systems, General
- Systems Science And Theory
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician

**More ▾**

**License**

**NC Workforce Credentials**

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- CompTIA Network + [Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)]
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## Network and Computer Systems Administrators



### Information Technology

#### Annual Salary (Wages)



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

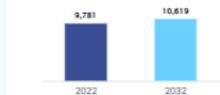


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#### Occupation Code

151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators

#### Pathway

Network Systems

#### NCDPI Career Pathways

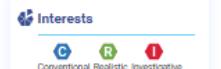
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North Carolina 



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Management Information Systems, General

Systems Science And Theory

Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician

**More ▾**

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Cyber Security Analyst

Cyber Security IT Professional

#### PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROFESSIONAL (CISSP)

**More ▾**

#### Top Skills & Abilities

Programming

Installation

Troubleshooting

**More ▾**

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Design

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

Growth Rate

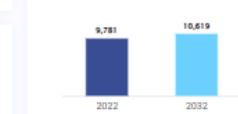


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151244 - Network and Computer Systems Administrators

**Pathway**

Network Systems

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**Interests**

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[More ▾](#)

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[Private Training Programs](#)

[Cyber Security Analyst](#)

[Cyber Security IT Professional](#)

[PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROFESSIONAL \(CISSP\)](#)

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**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.

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

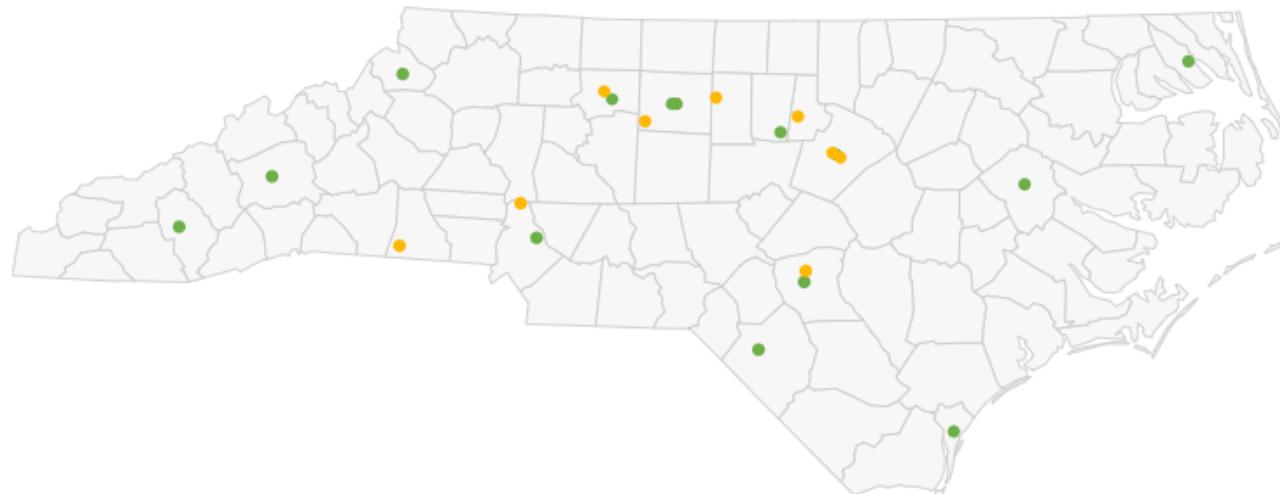
● Shaw University

● 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



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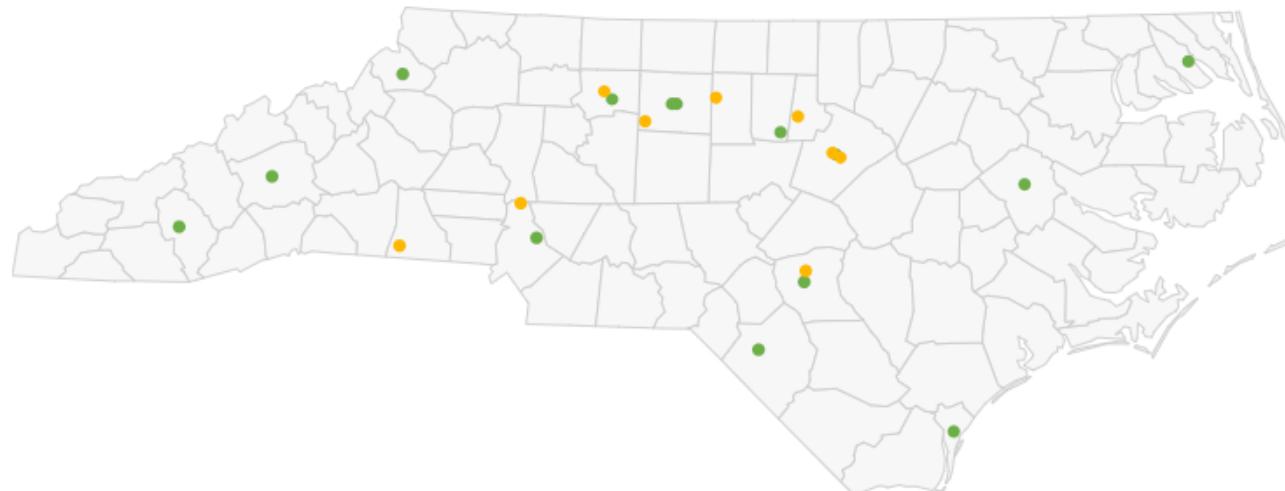
● Shaw University

● UNC - Asheville

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# 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

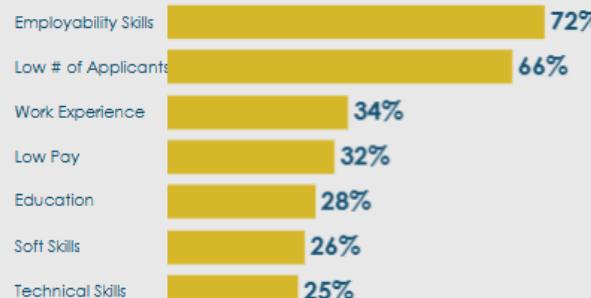
A job seeker has been unemployed for several months. They ask you, "aside from technical skills, what are employers looking for?"

## SELECT AN INDUSTRY GROUP

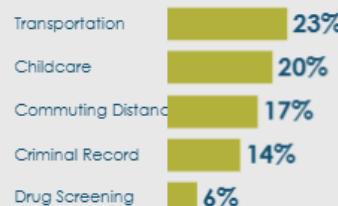
Overall

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

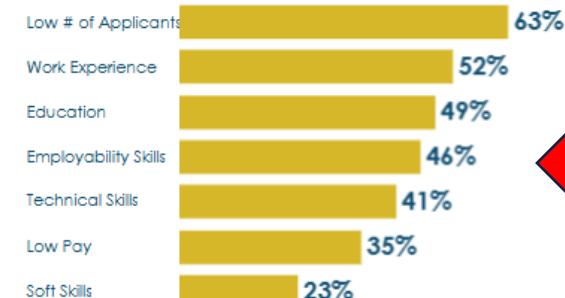
## Reasons for Difficulty (among employers with entry-level difficulty)



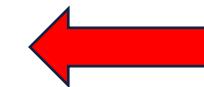
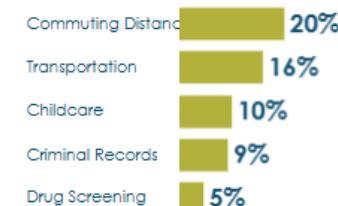
## Barriers to Employment (among employers with entry-level difficulty)

**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)



## TOP SKILLS OR QUALITIES OF YOUNGER WORKERS THAT EMPLOYERS WISH WERE IMPROVED

teamwork  
task  
good  
accountability  
know  
commitment  
mechanical  
flexibility  
efficiency  
willing  
availability  
patience  
ethics  
sticking  
attention  
adaptability  
childcare  
restaurant  
compassion  
thinking  
signed  
finished  
people  
resume  
count  
schedule  
drive-to  
want  
experience  
team  
working  
attitude  
detail  
loyalty  
motivation  
skills  
technical  
working  
retail  
follow-through  
showing  
dedication  
responsibility  
ethic  
customer-service  
willingness  
respectful  
problem  
respectability  
dependability  
ability  
drive  
work  
professionalism  
start  
expectations  
attention-to  
communication  
time  
familiar-with  
writing  
courteous  
proper  
management  
need  
basic  
computer  
punctuality  
consistency  
hours  
education  
learn  
social  
attendance  
ambition  
initiative  
literacy  
show  
dependable  
pride  
training  
accept  
timeliness  
staying  
positivity  
positive  
honesty  
phone  
passion  
appearance  
better  
respect  
commit  
solving  
oriented

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



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)