

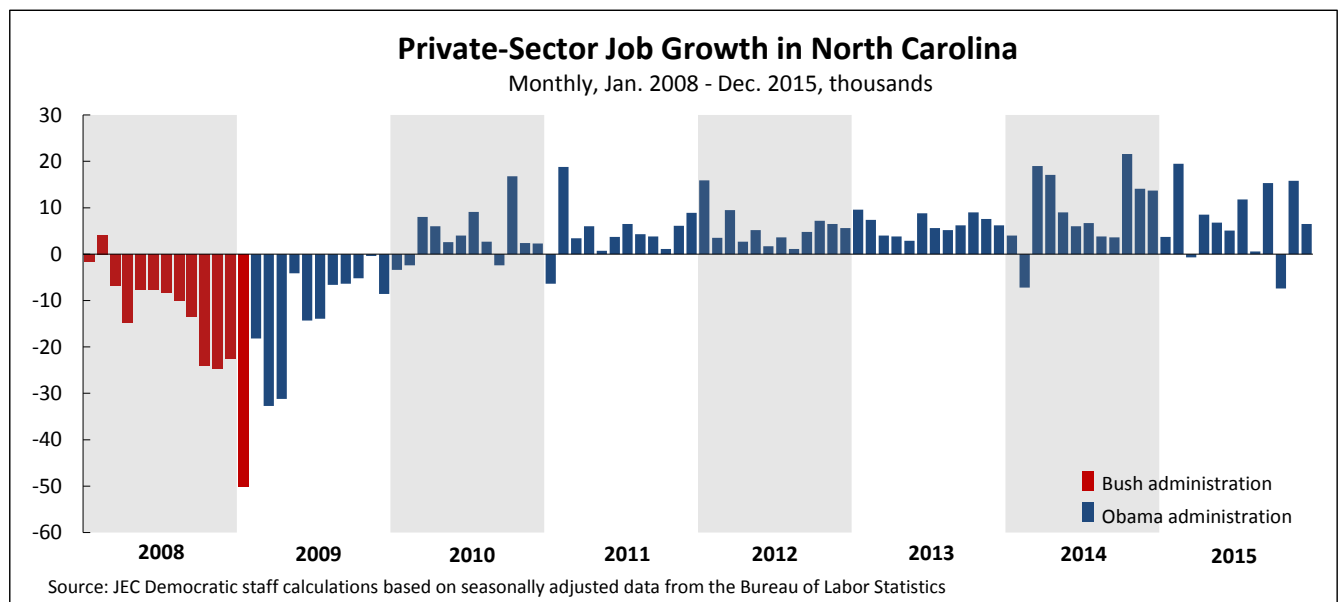


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: NORTH CAROLINA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in North Carolina grew by 85,500 jobs, an average of 7,130 jobs per month. This represents a slowdown in job growth from the 9,280 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, North Carolina businesses added 6,500 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: financial activities at 4.0 percent (8,500 jobs), construction at 3.9 percent (7,100 jobs) and other services at 3.4 percent (5,200 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, North Carolina businesses have added 448,900 jobs (an increase of 14.4 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The North Carolina unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point in 2015 and was 5.6 percent in December. The rate is 5.7 percentage points below its recent peak of 11.3 percent in March 2010.
- Unemployment in North Carolina was 0.6 percentage point above the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was down 0.1 percentage point from November.
- There were 269,800 state residents unemployed in December, up 19,800 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in North Carolina rose by 2.6 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$22.54. The average workweek was 34.5 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$777.63.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		North Carolina	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	85,500	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	448,900	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	5.6%	5.0%
	December 2014	5.4%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	11.3%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$46,800	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$49,700	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	17.1%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	15.5%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.2%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	7.2%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	13.1%	11.7%
	2013	15.6%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in North Carolina grew by 2.9 percent in 2014, above the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual North Carolina GDP growth has averaged 1.3 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in North Carolina increased by 6.8 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 18.2 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in North Carolina broke ground on 50,430 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 50,175 units. That marks an increase of 0.5 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In North Carolina, goods exports totaled \$2.4 billion in November and \$29.4 billion over the past year, up 3.9 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 30.6 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the North Carolina economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional North Carolina-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the North Carolina office: <https://www.nccommerce.com/lead>