



## 2016 NORTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENT TIER DESIGNATIONS

Since 2007 North Carolina has used a three-level system for designating development tiers. The designations, which are mandated by state law, determine a variety of state funding opportunities to assist in economic development. This 2016 report documents the process for calculating tiers and explains reasons that specific counties will change tiers. A North Carolina tier map and tier calculations are included for reference.

### How Tier Rankings Are Calculated

The Development Tier Designation statute ([§143B-437.08](#)) provides specific guidelines for calculating annual tier rankings. This process assigns each county to a designation of Tier One (most distressed), Tier Two, or Tier Three (least distressed). Assuming no ties in rankings, the statute requires **40 Tier One, 40 Tier Two, and 20 Tier Three** counties each year. In the event of a tie for the final position as a Tier One or Tier Two county, both counties will be placed in the lower tier.

#### Tier Rankings use Four Factors

- **Average unemployment rate** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (October 2014 – September 2015, NC Dept. of Commerce LAUS)
- **Median household income** for the most recent twelve months for which data are available (2013, U.S. Census SAPE)
- **Percentage growth in population** for the most recent 36 months for which data are available (July 2011 – July 2014, NC Office of State Budget & Management)
- **Adjusted property tax base per capita** for the most recent taxable year (FY 2015-16, NC Dept. of Public Instruction)

Each county is ranked from 1 to 100 on each variable, making the highest possible *County Rank Sum* 400, and the lowest 4. After calculating the *County Rank Sum*, counties are then ranked from most distressed (1) to least distressed (100) in order to determine their *Economic Distress Rank*.

#### Tier Adjustments for Small and Impoverished Counties

The Development Tier Designation statute further specifies automatic qualifying criteria for Tier One and Tier Two status:

- Tier One Automatic Qualifiers
  - A county must be Tier 1 for at least two consecutive years
  - A county with less than 12,000 people
  - A county with a population less than 50,000 people **AND** a poverty rate of 19 percent or greater.
- Tier Two Automatic Qualifier
  - A county with a population less than 50,000 people

After taking these qualifiers into account, counties are ranked from 1 to 100 to determine *Adjusted County Rank*, which determines final tier designation. All components of this process are consistent with the methodology designated in the general statutes.

## County Tier Changes in 2016

Eight counties will change tiers in 2016: Caldwell, Guilford, Haywood, McDowell, Rockingham, Surry, Wilson, and Yancey Counties. This section provides the reasons for each of these changes.

### Counties Moving to a Less Distressed Tier Designation

**Guilford County (Tier 2 to Tier 3):** From 2007 to 2012, Guilford County held a Tier Three designation. It qualified as a Tier Two county in 2013, returned to Tier Three status in 2014, and was assigned to Tier Two status in 2015 (with an adjusted county rank of 80, making it the highest-ranking Tier Two county). For the 2016 rankings, Guilford County has an economic distress rank of 75. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2016 tiers for counties with small populations and high poverty rates, Guilford County had an adjusted county rank of 81 and was shifted out of Tier Two and into Tier Three.

**Rockingham County (Tier 1 to Tier 2):** From 2007 to 2015, Rockingham County held a Tier One designation. In 2016, Rockingham County had an economic distress rank of 25. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2016 tiers for counties with small populations and high poverty rates, Rockingham County had an adjusted county rank of 41, shifting it out of Tier One and into Tier Two. Rockingham County's population is above 50,000, disqualifying it from any tier adjustments.

**Surry County (Tier 1 to Tier 2):** From 2007 to 2012, Surry County held a Tier One designation, before moving to Tier Two status in 2013. In 2014 and 2015, Surry County returned to a Tier One designation. In 2016, Surry County has moved to a Tier Two designation. Surry County received a 44 in the 2016 economic distress rankings, a large improvement from its ranking of 28 in 2015. This improvement was due to positive population growth (as opposed to negative growth in the 2015 rankings) as well as a large improvement in the 12-month unemployment rate between the two periods, moving from 6.96 percent to 5.46 percent and ranking 75 out of 100 counties in this indicator. Surry County's population is above 50,000, disqualifying it from any tier adjustments.

**Wilson County (Tier 1 to Tier 2):** From 2007 to 2009, Wilson County held a Tier One designation, moved to Tier Two during 2010 through 2012, and returned to Tier One in 2013 through 2015. In 2016, Wilson County had an economic distress rank of 26. After taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments to the 2016 tiers for counties with small populations and/or high poverty rates, Wilson County had an adjusted county rank of 42, shifting it out of Tier One and into Tier Two. Wilson County experienced a gain in Median Household Income since the last tier designation, moving from 40 to 53 out of 100 counties in this indicator. The 12-month unemployment rate slightly improved but still remains the 7<sup>th</sup> highest county in this indicator. Wilson County's population is above 50,000, disqualifying it from any tier adjustments.

### Counties Moving to a More Distressed Tier Designation

**Caldwell County (Tier 2 to Tier 1):** From 2007 to 2014, Caldwell County held a Tier One designation and moved to Tier Two status in 2015. Caldwell County now ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in economic distress, and after taking into consideration legislatively required adjustments for counties with small populations and high poverty rates, had an adjusted county rank of 39 and was designated a Tier One county. Because of the legislative requirement, Caldwell County will automatically be designated a Tier One county in 2017 as well.

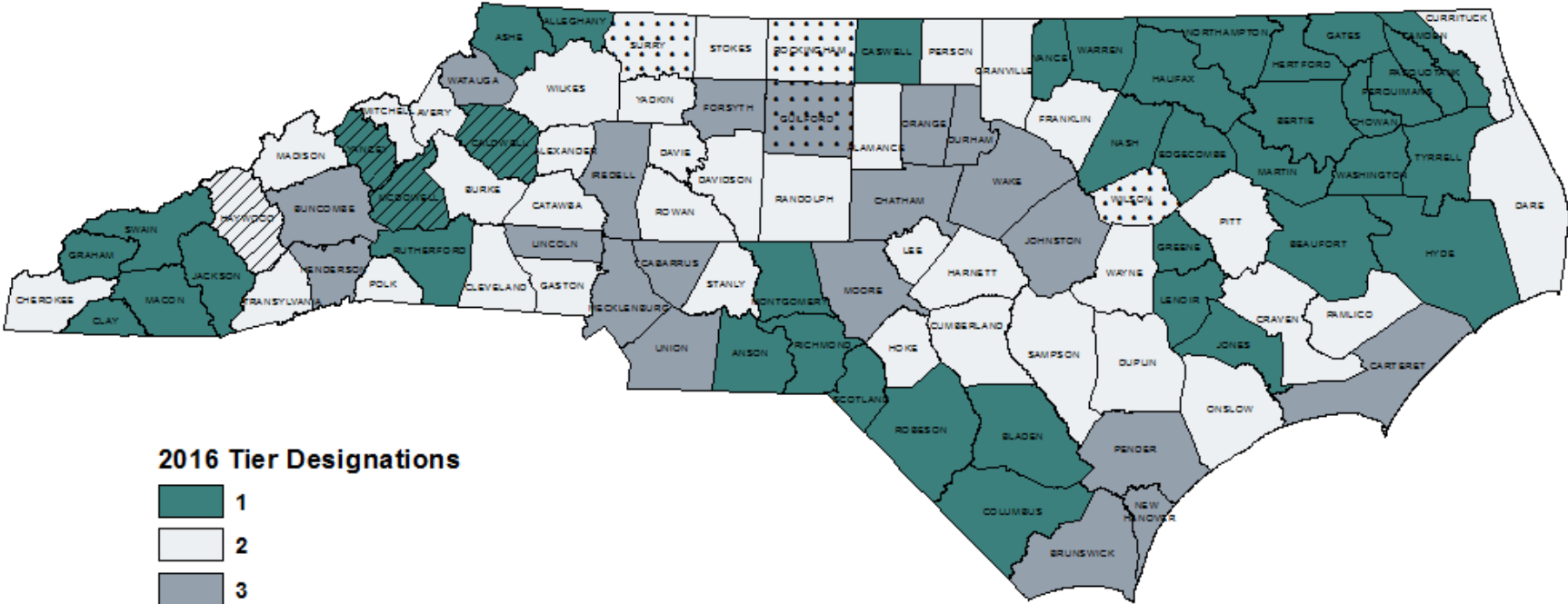
**Haywood County (Tier 3 to Tier 2):** From 2010 to 2012, Haywood County held a Tier Two designation. It qualified as a Tier Three county in 2013, returned to Tier Two status in 2014, and was a Tier Three county in 2015. In 2016, Haywood County has an economic distress rank of 74 out of 100, which was quite similar to its economic distress ranking of 80 in 2015. After taking into consideration legislatively required

adjustments made for counties with small populations and high poverty rates, Haywood County received an adjusted county rank of 80, making it the highest-ranking Tier Two county.

**McDowell County (Tier 2 to Tier 1):** In 2007 and 2008, McDowell County was a Tier One county, changing to a Tier Two county in 2009, returning to Tier One from 2010 to 2013, and then moving to Tier Two in 2013 through 2015. In 2016, McDowell County had an economic distress ranking of 44. However, due to having a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate of 21.9 percent, it qualified for a tier adjustment to Tier One. Because of the legislative requirement, McDowell County will automatically be designated a Tier One county in 2017 as well.

**Yancey County (Tier 2 to Tier 1):** In 2007 and 2008, Yancey County was a Tier One County, changing to a Tier Two county from 2009 through 2011, returning to Tier One status in 2012 and 2013, and then to a Tier Two county in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, Yancey County had an economic distress ranking of 44, a decline from its ranking of 55 in 2015. However, due to having a population less than 50,000 and a poverty rate of 20.1 percent, it qualified for a tier adjustment to Tier One. Because of the legislative requirement, Yancey County will automatically be designated a Tier One county in 2017 as well.

# 2016 County Tier Designations

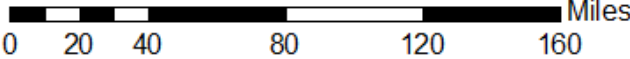


**2016 Tier Designations**

- 1
- 2
- 3

**Tier Change from 2015**

- Down
- Up



Map Created November 2015

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## 2016 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

| NEW TIER | COUNTY     | ECONOMIC INDICATORS                                |      |                                       |      |                              |      |  |      | TIER ADJUSTMENTS                           |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         | Adjusted County Rank | FINAL 2016 TIERS |  |
|----------|------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|--|------|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
|          |            | Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2015-2016 |      | Population Growth July 2011-July 2014 |      | Median Household Income 2013 |      | Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 14-Sept 15 |      | County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed) | ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed) | Population Less Prison July 2014 | Poverty Rate 5-year 2009-2013 | 2014 Tier | 2015 Tier | Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40 | Pop <12,000 then top 40 |                      |                  | Must be Tier One for two consec. Years |
|          |            | Value  | Rank | % Change                              | Rank | Income                       | Rank | Rate                                   | Rank |  |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         |                      |                  |  |
|          | ALAMANCE   | \$75,903   | 37   | 2.41%                                 | 73   | \$43,001                     | 64   | 5.17%                                  | 84   | 258  | 72  | 155,789                          | 18.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 72  | 72                      | 72                   | 79               | 2                                      |
|          | ALEXANDER  | \$70,324   | 25   | 0.28%                                 | 48   | \$46,064                     | 77   | 4.95%                                  | 90   | 240  | 67  | 36,680                           | 17.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | ALLEGHANY  | \$147,485  | 88   | 0.26%                                 | 46   | \$37,086                     | 34   | 6.18%                                  | 41   | 209  | 58  | 11,099                           | 19.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ANSON      | \$69,933   | 21   | 1.75%                                 | 66   | \$33,443                     | 10   | 6.40%                                  | 37   | 134  | 23  | 24,063                           | 24.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ASHE       | \$148,836  | 90   | 0.06%                                 | 42   | \$35,155                     | 22   | 6.15%                                  | 42   | 196  | 49  | 27,448                           | 21.1%                         | 2         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | AVERY      | \$263,142  | 99   | -0.49%                                | 32   | \$34,933                     | 20   | 5.77%                                  | 56   | 207  | 54  | 16,142                           | 18.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | BEAUFORT   | \$119,186  | 75   | -0.17%                                | 39   | \$39,043                     | 41   | 6.55%                                  | 33   | 188  | 43  | 47,717                           | 21.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BERTIE     | \$57,526   | 6    | -3.37%                                | 1    | \$31,610                     | 3    | 7.22%                                  | 24   | 34   | 2   | 19,371                           | 23.4%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BLADEN     | \$76,073   | 38   | 0.28%                                 | 47   | \$33,971                     | 14   | 8.12%                                  | 12   | 111  | 16  | 35,113                           | 25.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BRUNSWICK  | \$202,254  | 93   | 6.85%                                 | 99   | \$47,799                     | 81   | 6.93%                                  | 28   | 301  | 85  | 117,834                          | 16.6%                         | 3         | 3         | 85  | 85                      | 85                   | 86               | 3                                      |
|          | BUNCOMBE   | \$117,232  | 73   | 3.15%                                 | 80   | \$45,738                     | 76   | 4.26%                                  | 100  | 329  | 91  | 250,468                          | 17.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 91  | 91                      | 91                   | 92               | 3                                      |
|          | BURKE      | \$70,853   | 28   | -0.85%                                | 25   | \$36,150                     | 29   | 5.73%                                  | 62   | 144  | 28  | 88,465                           | 20.0%                         | 1         | 2         | 28  | 28                      | 28                   | 44               | 2                                      |
|          | CABARRUS   | \$101,317  | 59   | 5.65%                                 | 94   | \$55,046                     | 94   | 5.10%                                  | 85   | 332  | 92  | 190,949                          | 13.2%                         | 3         | 3         | 92  | 92                      | 92                   | 93               | 3                                      |
| ↓        | CALDWELL   | \$73,463   | 34   | -0.58%                                | 30   | \$34,811                     | 19   | 6.32%                                  | 39   | 122  | 20  | 82,179                           | 19.5%                         | 1         | 2         | 20  | 20                      | 20                   | 39               | 1                                      |
|          | CAMDEN     | \$101,348  | 60   | 1.79%                                 | 67   | \$60,537                     | 98   | 5.82%                                  | 53   | 278  | 77  | 10,251                           | 6.0%                          | 1         | 1         | 41  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CARTERET   | \$207,719  | 95   | 2.57%                                 | 75   | \$46,227                     | 80   | 5.77%                                  | 55   | 305  | 86  | 69,050                           | 14.4%                         | 3         | 3         | 86  | 86                      | 86                   | 87               | 3                                      |
|          | CASWELL    | \$68,659   | 19   | -0.88%                                | 23   | \$37,122                     | 35   | 6.25%                                  | 40   | 117  | 18  | 22,605                           | 22.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CATAWBA    | \$103,472  | 63   | 0.64%                                 | 56   | \$43,777                     | 67   | 5.60%                                  | 68   | 254  | 71  | 155,590                          | 15.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 71  | 71                      | 71                   | 78               | 2                                      |
|          | CHATHAM    | \$128,788  | 82   | 4.76%                                 | 91   | \$56,981                     | 95   | 4.57%                                  | 97   | 365  | 99  | 68,691                           | 12.4%                         | 3         | 3         | 99  | 99                      | 99                   | 99               | 3                                      |
|          | CHEROKEE   | \$109,995  | 67   | -0.28%                                | 36   | \$34,476                     | 16   | 6.49%                                  | 34   | 153  | 30  | 27,451                           | 17.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 30  | 30                      | 30                   | 45               | 2                                      |
|          | CHOWAN     | \$99,509   | 57   | -0.89%                                | 22   | \$39,143                     | 42   | 7.14%                                  | 26   | 147  | 29  | 14,636                           | 29.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CLAY       | \$148,426  | 89   | 1.04%                                 | 61   | \$37,078                     | 33   | 5.93%                                  | 49   | 232  | 65  | 10,794                           | 24.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CLEVELAND  | \$78,786   | 43   | -0.31%                                | 34   | \$40,528                     | 51   | 6.38%                                  | 38   | 166  | 32  | 97,920                           | 19.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 32  | 32                      | 32                   | 47               | 2                                      |
|          | COLUMBUS   | \$63,003   | 11   | -0.62%                                | 29   | \$35,026                     | 21   | 7.48%                                  | 18   | 79   | 9   | 55,506                           | 25.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 9   | 9                       | 9                    | 36               | 1                                      |
|          | CRAVEN     | \$87,933   | 50   | -0.21%                                | 37   | \$45,022                     | 73   | 6.12%                                  | 43   | 203  | 51  | 103,766                          | 16.6%                         | 2         | 2         | 51  | 51                      | 51                   | 68               | 2                                      |
|          | CUMBERLAND | \$67,073   | 16   | -0.36%                                | 33   | \$44,038                     | 69   | 7.18%                                  | 25   | 143  | 27  | 329,403                          | 17.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 27  | 27                      | 27                   | 43               | 2                                      |
|          | CURRITUCK  | \$237,442  | 98   | 4.47%                                 | 89   | \$57,577                     | 96   | 5.75%                                  | 59   | 342  | 94  | 25,072                           | 9.8%                          | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | DARE       | \$380,121  | 100  | 3.43%                                 | 81   | \$52,083                     | 91   | 7.38%                                  | 22   | 294  | 82  | 35,415                           | 8.8%                          | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | DAVIDSON   | \$77,493   | 41   | 0.45%                                 | 52   | \$40,424                     | 48   | 5.49%                                  | 72   | 213  | 60  | 140,081                          | 16.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 60  | 60                      | 60                   | 73               | 2                                      |
|          | DAVIE      | \$99,450   | 56   | 0.22%                                 | 45   | \$49,708                     | 86   | 4.94%                                  | 91   | 278  | 77  | 41,476                           | 13.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | DUPLIN     | \$66,449   | 14   | 1.79%                                 | 68   | \$38,106                     | 38   | 5.70%                                  | 64   | 184  | 40  | 60,126                           | 26.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 40  | 40                      | 40                   | 51               | 2                                      |
|          | DURHAM     | \$102,872  | 62   | 6.40%                                 | 97   | \$52,331                     | 92   | 4.88%                                  | 93   | 344  | 95  | 289,173                          | 18.5%                         | 3         | 3         | 95  | 95                      | 95                   | 95               | 3                                      |
|          | EDGECOMBE  | \$55,512   | 4    | -0.67%                                | 28   | \$33,080                     | 9    | 9.61%                                  | 3    | 44   | 5   | 55,141                           | 25.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 5   | 5                       | 5                    | 34               | 1                                      |
|          | FORSYTH    | \$88,786   | 51   | 2.90%                                 | 79   | \$46,163                     | 79   | 5.39%                                  | 77   | 286  | 80  | 364,005                          | 18.6%                         | 3         | 3         | 80  | 80                      | 80                   | 83               | 3                                      |
|          | FRANKLIN   | \$69,211   | 20   | 2.76%                                 | 78   | \$39,312                     | 43   | 5.67%                                  | 66   | 207  | 54  | 62,753                           | 16.1%                         | 2         | 2         | 54  | 54                      | 54                   | 70               | 2                                      |
|          | GASTON     | \$68,652   | 18   | 1.66%                                 | 65   | \$42,461                     | 61   | 5.80%                                  | 54   | 198  | 50  | 210,499                          | 17.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 50  | 50                      | 50                   | 67               | 2                                      |
|          | GATES      | \$70,076   | 22   | -2.15%                                | 5    | \$48,194                     | 83   | 5.52%                                  | 71   | 181  | 37  | 11,912                           | 19.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | GRAHAM     | \$141,220  | 87   | -1.04%                                | 16   | \$33,553                     | 11   | 12.57%                                 | 1    | 115  | 17  | 8,829                            | 21.1%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | GRANVILLE  | \$70,486   | 26   | 0.37%                                 | 50   | \$48,680                     | 85   | 5.01%                                  | 89   | 250  | 70  | 55,224                           | 15.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 70  | 70                      | 70                   | 77               | 2                                      |
|          | GREENE     | \$54,018   | 3    | -2.00%                                | 6    | \$39,481                     | 45   | 5.54%                                  | 70   | 124  | 21  | 19,115                           | 23.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
| ↑        | GUILFORD   | \$90,223   | 53   | 3.59%                                 | 83   | \$46,093                     | 78   | 5.76%                                  | 57   | 271  | 75  | 512,273                          | 18.1%                         | 3         | 2         | 75  | 75                      | 75                   | 81               | 3                                      |
|          | HALIFAX    | \$70,616   | 27   | -2.22%                                | 4    | \$32,597                     | 6    | 8.82%                                  | 6    | 43   | 4   | 52,204                           | 27.4%                         | 1         | 1         | 4   | 4                       | 4                    | 33               | 1                                      |
|          | HARNETT    | \$62,539   | 8    | 6.23%                                 | 96   | \$45,257                     | 75   | 6.70%                                  | 31   | 210  | 59  | 124,760                          | 17.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 59  | 59                      | 59                   | 72               | 2                                      |
| ↓        | HAYWOOD    | \$120,246  | 76   | 0.95%                                 | 59   | \$39,320                     | 44   | 5.07%                                  | 86   | 265  | 74  | 59,913                           | 16.6%                         | 2         | 3         | 74  | 74                      | 74                   | 80               | 2                                      |
|          | HENDERSON  | \$111,005  | 68   | 2.64%                                 | 76   | \$44,561                     | 71   | 4.58%                                  | 96   | 311  | 88  | 110,897                          | 14.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 88  | 88                      | 88                   | 89               | 3                                      |
|          | HERTFORD   | \$62,889   | 10   | -0.03%                                | 40   | \$33,616                     | 12   | 6.84%                                  | 29   | 91   | 12  | 23,143                           | 26.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | HOKE       | \$61,585   | 7    | 3.96%                                 | 86   | \$43,987                     | 68   | 7.73%                                  | 16   | 177  | 36  | 50,453                           | 22.9%                         | 1         | 2         | 36  | 36                      | 36                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | HYDE       | \$203,577  | 94   | -0.18%                                | 38   | \$36,681                     | 31   | 8.71%                                  | 7    | 170  | 34  | 5,077                            | 25.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | IREDELL    | \$120,364  | 77   | 3.68%                                 | 84   | \$49,983                     | 87   | 5.37%                                  | 78   | 326  | 90  | 167,157                          | 13.8%                         | 3         | 3         | 90  | 90                      | 90                   | 91               | 3                                      |
|          | JACKSON    | \$219,755  | 96   | 1.32%                                 | 63   | \$40,511                     | 50   | 5.89%                                  | 51   | 260  | 73  | 41,039                           | 21.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |

| NEW TIER | COUNTY       | ECONOMIC INDICATORS                                |      |                                       |      |                              |      |  |      | TIER ADJUSTMENTS                           |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         | Adjusted County Rank | FINAL 2016 TIERS |  |
|----------|--------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|--|------|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
|          |              | Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2015-2016 |      | Population Growth July 2011-July 2014 |      | Median Household Income 2013 |      | Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 14-Sept 15 |      | County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed) | ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed) | Population Less Prison July 2014 | Poverty Rate 5-year 2009-2013 | 2014 Tier | 2015 Tier | Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40 | Pop <12,000 then top 40 |                      |                  | Must be Tier One for two consec. Years |
|          |              | Value  | Rank | % Change                              | Rank | Income                       | Rank | Rate                                   | Rank |  |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         |                      |                  |  |
|          | JOHNSTON     | \$76,462   | 39   | 4.48%                                 | 90   | \$50,904                     | 90   | 5.04%                                  | 88   | 307  | 87  | 179,692                          | 17.2%                         | 3         | 3         | 87  | 87                      | 87                   | 88               | 3                                      |
|          | JONES        | \$80,183   | 46   | -0.89%                                | 21   | \$39,602                     | 46   | 5.73%                                  | 61   | 174  | 35  | 10,468                           | 16.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 35  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | LEE          | \$86,323   | 49   | 1.87%                                 | 70   | \$48,061                     | 82   | 7.56%                                  | 17   | 218  | 62  | 58,905                           | 18.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 62  | 62                      | 62                   | 74               | 2                                      |
|          | LENOIR       | \$66,824   | 15   | -0.85%                                | 24   | \$34,127                     | 15   | 6.46%                                  | 35   | 89   | 11  | 58,795                           | 23.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 11  | 11                      | 11                   | 37               | 1                                      |
|          | LINCOLN      | \$101,435  | 61   | 1.83%                                 | 69   | \$50,537                     | 89   | 5.29%                                  | 80   | 299  | 84  | 79,970                           | 15.6%                         | 3         | 3         | 84  | 84                      | 84                   | 85               | 3                                      |
|          | MACON        | \$223,653  | 97   | 0.65%                                 | 57   | \$37,219                     | 36   | 6.10%                                  | 44   | 234  | 66  | 34,428                           | 21.3%                         | 2         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MADISON      | \$101,015  | 58   | 2.07%                                 | 72   | \$37,479                     | 37   | 5.41%                                  | 76   | 243  | 69  | 21,584                           | 17.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | MARTIN       | \$85,110   | 48   | -1.80%                                | 7    | \$34,761                     | 18   | 7.42%                                  | 21   | 94   | 13  | 23,714                           | 23.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
| ↓        | MCDOWELL     | \$79,876   | 45   | 0.19%                                 | 43   | \$36,840                     | 32   | 5.57%                                  | 69   | 189  | 44  | 44,554                           | 21.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MECKLENBURG  | \$115,517  | 72   | 7.80%                                 | 100  | \$54,657                     | 93   | 5.31%                                  | 79   | 344  | 95  | 1,013,199                        | 15.4%                         | 3         | 3         | 95  | 95                      | 95                   | 95               | 3                                      |
|          | MITCHELL     | \$114,820  | 71   | 2.43%                                 | 74   | \$38,303                     | 39   | 6.77%                                  | 30   | 214  | 61  | 15,825                           | 18.3%                         | 1         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | MONTGOMERY   | \$105,913  | 65   | -0.58%                                | 31   | \$35,613                     | 25   | 5.69%                                  | 65   | 186  | 42  | 27,179                           | 25.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MOORE        | \$128,111  | 81   | 4.19%                                 | 87   | \$50,169                     | 88   | 5.61%                                  | 67   | 323  | 89  | 93,078                           | 15.6%                         | 3         | 3         | 89  | 89                      | 89                   | 90               | 3                                      |
|          | NASH         | \$75,634   | 36   | -0.95%                                | 17   | \$41,575                     | 59   | 7.31%                                  | 23   | 135  | 24  | 93,876                           | 17.0%                         | 2         | 1         | 24  | 24                      | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | NEW HANOVER  | \$136,098  | 85   | 5.18%                                 | 93   | \$48,651                     | 84   | 5.24%                                  | 83   | 345  | 97  | 216,564                          | 16.9%                         | 3         | 3         | 97  | 97                      | 97                   | 97               | 3                                      |
|          | NORTHAMPTON  | \$94,361   | 54   | -2.94%                                | 2    | \$31,732                     | 4    | 7.46%                                  | 19   | 79   | 9   | 20,764                           | 26.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ONslow       | \$70,200   | 23   | 3.52%                                 | 82   | \$45,213                     | 74   | 5.71%                                  | 63   | 242  | 68  | 193,204                          | 15.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 68  | 68                      | 68                   | 76               | 2                                      |
|          | ORANGE       | \$112,415  | 69   | 3.81%                                 | 85   | \$59,472                     | 97   | 4.41%                                  | 99   | 350  | 98  | 139,791                          | 17.8%                         | 3         | 3         | 98  | 98                      | 98                   | 98               | 3                                      |
|          | PAMLICO      | \$130,915  | 83   | -1.31%                                | 14   | \$43,517                     | 65   | 6.00%                                  | 46   | 208  | 57  | 12,573                           | 13.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | PASQUOTANK   | \$79,575   | 44   | -1.34%                                | 13   | \$40,094                     | 47   | 7.44%                                  | 20   | 124  | 21  | 38,874                           | 18.4%                         | 1         | 1         | 21  | 21                      | 21                   | 40               | 1                                      |
|          | PENDER       | \$113,749  | 70   | 5.93%                                 | 95   | \$44,949                     | 72   | 5.98%                                  | 47   | 284  | 79  | 55,773                           | 19.3%                         | 3         | 3         | 79  | 79                      | 79                   | 82               | 3                                      |
|          | PERQUIMANS   | \$127,999  | 80   | 0.65%                                 | 58   | \$42,504                     | 62   | 7.13%                                  | 27   | 227  | 63  | 13,638                           | 20.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | PERSON       | \$107,877  | 66   | -0.84%                                | 26   | \$42,091                     | 60   | 6.58%                                  | 32   | 184  | 40  | 39,265                           | 18.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 40  | 40                      | 40                   | 51               | 2                                      |
|          | PITT         | \$65,731   | 13   | 2.70%                                 | 77   | \$40,940                     | 55   | 5.97%                                  | 48   | 193  | 48  | 174,424                          | 24.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 48  | 48                      | 48                   | 66               | 2                                      |
|          | POLK         | \$134,710  | 84   | 0.98%                                 | 60   | \$43,665                     | 66   | 5.05%                                  | 87   | 297  | 83  | 20,740                           | 16.7%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | RANDOLPH     | \$70,996   | 29   | 0.43%                                 | 51   | \$40,896                     | 54   | 5.48%                                  | 73   | 207  | 54  | 142,858                          | 17.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 54  | 54                      | 54                   | 70               | 2                                      |
|          | RICHMOND     | \$68,023   | 17   | -1.79%                                | 8    | \$32,825                     | 8    | 7.96%                                  | 13   | 46   | 6   | 44,880                           | 25.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ROBESON      | \$45,880   | 1    | -0.30%                                | 35   | \$30,248                     | 1    | 8.48%                                  | 10   | 47   | 7   | 132,783                          | 31.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 7   | 7                       | 7                    | 35               | 1                                      |
| ↑        | ROCKINGHAM   | \$72,795   | 32   | -0.90%                                | 19   | \$40,446                     | 49   | 6.43%                                  | 36   | 136  | 25  | 92,543                           | 17.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 25  | 25                      | 25                   | 41               | 2                                      |
|          | ROWAN        | \$83,411   | 47   | 0.33%                                 | 49   | \$41,475                     | 57   | 5.86%                                  | 52   | 205  | 53  | 137,725                          | 18.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 53  | 53                      | 53                   | 69               | 2                                      |
|          | RUTHERFORD   | \$88,859   | 52   | -0.92%                                | 18   | \$35,544                     | 23   | 7.78%                                  | 15   | 108  | 15  | 67,378                           | 21.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 15  | 15                      | 15                   | 38               | 1                                      |
|          | SAMPSON      | \$63,362   | 12   | 1.18%                                 | 62   | \$35,890                     | 27   | 5.76%                                  | 58   | 159  | 31  | 63,941                           | 22.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 31  | 31                      | 31                   | 46               | 2                                      |
|          | SCOTLAND     | \$57,352   | 5    | -1.40%                                | 12   | \$32,314                     | 5    | 10.69%                                 | 2    | 24   | 1   | 34,373                           | 32.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | STANLY       | \$72,964   | 33   | 0.48%                                 | 53   | \$42,801                     | 63   | 5.29%                                  | 81   | 230  | 64  | 60,205                           | 16.1%                         | 2         | 2         | 64  | 64                      | 64                   | 75               | 2                                      |
|          | STOKES       | \$77,830   | 42   | -1.45%                                | 10   | \$44,552                     | 70   | 5.27%                                  | 82   | 204  | 52  | 46,786                           | 15.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
| ↑        | SURRY        | \$72,167   | 30   | 0.52%                                 | 54   | \$36,221                     | 30   | 5.46%                                  | 75   | 189  | 44  | 73,834                           | 19.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 44  | 44                      | 44                   | 65               | 2                                      |
|          | SWAIN        | \$105,701  | 64   | 4.32%                                 | 88   | \$34,552                     | 17   | 7.86%                                  | 14   | 183  | 38  | 14,831                           | 27.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | TRANSYLVANIA | \$179,275  | 92   | 0.55%                                 | 55   | \$40,578                     | 52   | 5.47%                                  | 74   | 273  | 76  | 33,428                           | 14.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
|          | TYRRELL      | \$126,130  | 79   | -1.75%                                | 9    | \$32,642                     | 7    | 8.86%                                  | 5    | 100  | 14  | 3,645                            | 20.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | UNION        | \$96,687   | 55   | 5.17%                                 | 92   | \$63,912                     | 99   | 4.71%                                  | 95   | 341  | 93  | 215,933                          | 9.4%                          | 3         | 3         | 93  | 93                      | 93                   | 94               | 3                                      |
|          | VANCE        | \$51,735   | 2    | -0.89%                                | 20   | \$35,565                     | 24   | 8.68%                                  | 8    | 54   | 8   | 45,077                           | 28.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WAKE         | \$118,210  | 74   | 6.62%                                 | 98   | \$65,433                     | 100  | 4.53%                                  | 98   | 370  | 100   | 982,473                          | 11.0%                         | 3         | 3         | 100   | 100                     | 100                  | 100              | 3                                      |
|          | WARREN       | \$124,317  | 78   | -1.26%                                | 15   | \$33,767                     | 13   | 8.38%                                  | 11   | 117  | 18  | 19,743                           | 26.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WASHINGTON   | \$70,315   | 24   | -2.72%                                | 3    | \$31,596                     | 2    | 8.56%                                  | 9    | 38   | 3   | 12,679                           | 23.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WATAUGA      | \$166,787  | 91   | 1.59%                                 | 64   | \$38,380                     | 40   | 4.88%                                  | 92   | 287  | 81  | 52,923                           | 31.3%                         | 3         | 3         | 81  | 81                      | 81                   | 84               | 3                                      |
|          | WAYNE        | \$62,846   | 9    | 2.01%                                 | 71   | \$41,526                     | 58   | 6.02%                                  | 45   | 183  | 38  | 124,926                          | 22.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 38  | 38                      | 38                   | 50               | 2                                      |
|          | WILKES       | \$75,205   | 35   | 0.19%                                 | 44   | \$35,895                     | 28   | 5.73%                                  | 60   | 167  | 33  | 69,642                           | 22.7%                         | 2         | 2         | 33  | 33                      | 33                   | 48               | 2                                      |
| ↑        | WILSON       | \$77,242   | 40   | 0.04%                                 | 41   | \$40,772                     | 53   | 9.03%                                  | 4    | 138  | 26  | 81,410                           | 23.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 26  | 26                      | 26                   | 42               | 2                                      |
|          | YADKIN       | \$72,184   | 31   | -1.44%                                | 11   | \$40,998                     | 56   | 4.85%                                  | 94   | 192  | 47  | 37,842                           | 18.5%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 53               | 2                                      |
| ↓        | YANCEY       | \$141,101  | 86   | -0.80%                                | 27   | \$35,866                     | 26   | 5.90%                                  | 50   | 189  | 44  | 17,907                           | 20.1%                         | 2         | 2         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |

## 2015 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08)

| NEW TIER | COUNTY     | ECONOMIC INDICATORS                                |      |                                       |      |                              |      |  |      | TIER ADJUSTMENTS                           |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         | Adjusted County Rank | FINAL 2015 TIERS |  |
|----------|------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|--|------|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
|          |            | Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015 |      | Population Growth July 2010-July 2013 |      | Median Household Income 2012 |      | Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 13-Sept 14 |      | County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed) | ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed) | Population Less Prison July 2013 | Poverty Rate 5-year 2008-2012 | 2013 Tier | 2014 Tier | Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop >50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40 | Pop <12,000 then top 40 |                      |                  | Must be Tier One for two consec. Years |
|          |            | Value  | Rank | % Change                              | Rank | Income                       | Rank | Rate                                   | Rank |  |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         |                      |                  |  |
|          | ALAMANCE   | \$77,347   | 39   | 1.40%                                 | 60   | \$41,394                     | 58   | 6.53%                                  | 71   | 228  | 66  | 153,595                          | 17.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 66  | 66                      | 66                   | 76               | 2                                      |
|          | ALEXANDER  | \$73,159   | 33   | 0.17%                                 | 40   | \$39,655                     | 51   | 6.21%                                  | 79   | 203  | 50  | 36,331                           | 18.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | ALLEGHANY  | \$160,277  | 90   | -0.86%                                | 19   | \$34,046                     | 18   | 7.51%                                  | 39   | 166  | 32  | 11,052                           | 20.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ANSON      | \$69,221   | 23   | -1.58%                                | 9    | \$32,339                     | 11   | 7.94%                                  | 24   | 67   | 10  | 24,298                           | 22.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
| ↓        | ASHE       | \$149,224  | 88   | 0.65%                                 | 49   | \$34,080                     | 19   | 8.10%                                  | 21   | 177  | 38  | 27,434                           | 19.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | AVERY      | \$279,492  | 98   | 0.84%                                 | 56   | \$34,727                     | 22   | 7.41%                                  | 41   | 217  | 59  | 16,128                           | 17.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | BEAUFORT   | \$119,004  | 73   | 0.03%                                 | 34   | \$38,256                     | 44   | 8.03%                                  | 23   | 174  | 37  | 47,777                           | 20.6%                         | 2         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BERTIE     | \$63,566   | 12   | -3.10%                                | 2    | \$30,414                     | 2    | 9.37%                                  | 9    | 25   | 1   | 19,651                           | 24.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BLADEN     | \$77,970   | 42   | 0.16%                                 | 39   | \$32,766                     | 13   | 9.77%                                  | 5    | 99   | 14  | 35,074                           | 24.4%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | BRUNSWICK  | \$210,131  | 95   | 7.08%                                 | 99   | \$48,624                     | 84   | 7.37%                                  | 43   | 321  | 88  | 115,716                          | 15.2%                         | 3         | 3         | 88  | 88                      | 88                   | 89               | 3                                      |
|          | BUNCOMBE   | \$123,617  | 78   | 4.19%                                 | 86   | \$43,146                     | 69   | 4.98%                                  | 97   | 330  | 90  | 248,058                          | 16.8%                         | 3         | 3         | 90  | 90                      | 90                   | 91               | 3                                      |
| ↑        | BURKE      | \$72,269   | 29   | -0.95%                                | 16   | \$38,581                     | 47   | 7.21%                                  | 51   | 143  | 27  | 88,393                           | 18.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 27  | 27                      | 27                   | 43               | 2                                      |
| ↑        | CABARRUS   | \$102,047  | 59   | 4.55%                                 | 89   | \$55,531                     | 98   | 6.02%                                  | 85   | 331  | 91  | 186,347                          | 12.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 91  | 91                      | 91                   | 92               | 3                                      |
|          | CALDWELL   | \$71,138   | 27   | -0.56%                                | 27   | \$35,127                     | 24   | 7.36%                                  | 45   | 123  | 22  | 82,251                           | 19.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 22  | 22                      | 22                   | 41               | 2                                      |
|          | CAMDEN     | \$104,749  | 63   | 1.91%                                 | 65   | \$53,563                     | 94   | 6.73%                                  | 68   | 290  | 81  | 10,174                           | 7.4%                          | 1         | 1         | 41  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CARTERET   | \$209,308  | 93   | 3.78%                                 | 83   | \$48,930                     | 86   | 6.21%                                  | 80   | 342  | 96  | 68,939                           | 14.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 96  | 96                      | 96                   | 97               | 3                                      |
|          | CASWELL    | \$66,848   | 19   | 0.80%                                 | 55   | \$39,615                     | 50   | 7.04%                                  | 55   | 179  | 39  | 22,744                           | 20.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CATAWBA    | \$100,835  | 58   | 0.73%                                 | 51   | \$42,080                     | 62   | 7.26%                                  | 50   | 221  | 61  | 155,174                          | 15.1%                         | 2         | 2         | 61  | 61                      | 61                   | 72               | 2                                      |
|          | CHATHAM    | \$130,081  | 81   | 6.08%                                 | 94   | \$55,371                     | 96   | 4.59%                                  | 100  | 371  | 100   | 67,597                           | 11.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 100   | 100                     | 100                  | 100              | 3                                      |
|          | CHEROKEE   | \$110,404  | 68   | 0.12%                                 | 37   | \$31,370                     | 7    | 8.78%                                  | 16   | 128  | 23  | 27,471                           | 15.1%                         | 1         | 2         | 23  | 23                      | 23                   | 42               | 2                                      |
|          | CHOWAN     | \$104,625  | 62   | 0.39%                                 | 44   | \$37,458                     | 41   | 8.19%                                  | 20   | 167  | 33  | 14,815                           | 24.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CLAY       | \$157,704  | 89   | 2.14%                                 | 68   | \$36,871                     | 36   | 6.52%                                  | 72   | 265  | 74  | 10,794                           | 22.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | CLEVELAND  | \$76,231   | 36   | -0.61%                                | 25   | \$38,265                     | 45   | 7.17%                                  | 52   | 158  | 30  | 97,429                           | 19.7%                         | 2         | 2         | 30  | 30                      | 30                   | 45               | 2                                      |
|          | COLUMBUS   | \$59,320   | 6    | -0.17%                                | 32   | \$33,765                     | 17   | 8.87%                                  | 13   | 68   | 11  | 55,672                           | 24.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 11  | 11                      | 11                   | 35               | 1                                      |
|          | CRAVEN     | \$91,184   | 53   | 0.30%                                 | 42   | \$47,087                     | 82   | 7.72%                                  | 32   | 209  | 53  | 103,691                          | 16.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 53  | 53                      | 53                   | 68               | 2                                      |
|          | CUMBERLAND | \$66,017   | 17   | 1.56%                                 | 62   | \$45,110                     | 79   | 7.82%                                  | 29   | 187  | 42  | 332,553                          | 16.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 42  | 42                      | 42                   | 63               | 2                                      |
|          | CURRITUCK  | \$293,712  | 99   | 3.63%                                 | 80   | \$54,822                     | 95   | 5.42%                                  | 94   | 368  | 99  | 24,506                           | 9.9%                          | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | DARE       | \$420,851  | 100  | 3.73%                                 | 81   | \$51,900                     | 92   | 7.81%                                  | 30   | 303  | 85  | 35,273                           | 10.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | DAVIDSON   | \$77,946   | 41   | 0.55%                                 | 48   | \$43,824                     | 73   | 6.92%                                  | 60   | 222  | 62  | 163,400                          | 15.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 62  | 62                      | 62                   | 73               | 2                                      |
|          | DAVIE      | \$99,097   | 56   | 0.47%                                 | 45   | \$49,984                     | 89   | 6.05%                                  | 84   | 274  | 76  | 41,507                           | 13.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | DUPLIN     | \$66,508   | 18   | 2.76%                                 | 73   | \$36,075                     | 31   | 7.35%                                  | 46   | 168  | 34  | 59,967                           | 24.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 34  | 34                      | 34                   | 47               | 2                                      |
|          | DURHAM     | \$104,194  | 61   | 5.60%                                 | 93   | \$50,889                     | 90   | 5.42%                                  | 93   | 337  | 94  | 283,210                          | 18.0%                         | 3         | 3         | 94  | 94                      | 94                   | 95               | 3                                      |
|          | EDGEcombe  | \$56,273   | 4    | -1.25%                                | 14   | \$32,002                     | 10   | 11.51%                                 | 3    | 31   | 3   | 55,352                           | 24.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 3   | 3                       | 3                    | 32               | 1                                      |
|          | FORSYTH    | \$91,962   | 54   | 2.59%                                 | 72   | \$43,049                     | 68   | 6.36%                                  | 77   | 271  | 75  | 360,226                          | 17.6%                         | 3         | 3         | 75  | 75                      | 75                   | 81               | 3                                      |
|          | FRANKLIN   | \$67,373   | 20   | 3.12%                                 | 76   | \$42,346                     | 64   | 6.16%                                  | 82   | 242  | 69  | 62,222                           | 15.4%                         | 3         | 2         | 69  | 69                      | 69                   | 78               | 2                                      |
|          | GASTON     | \$68,350   | 21   | 1.66%                                 | 63   | \$41,614                     | 59   | 6.94%                                  | 59   | 202  | 47  | 209,335                          | 17.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 47  | 47                      | 47                   | 65               | 2                                      |
|          | GATES      | \$72,544   | 30   | -2.37%                                | 7    | \$44,273                     | 76   | 6.75%                                  | 67   | 180  | 40  | 11,880                           | 18.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 40  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | GRAHAM     | \$141,385  | 86   | -0.18%                                | 31   | \$32,883                     | 14   | 11.97%                                 | 2    | 133  | 25  | 8,854                            | 17.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 25  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | GRANVILLE  | \$72,744   | 31   | 1.15%                                 | 58   | \$46,303                     | 81   | 6.98%                                  | 57   | 227  | 65  | 54,973                           | 14.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 65  | 65                      | 65                   | 75               | 2                                      |
|          | GREENE     | \$55,373   | 3    | -0.68%                                | 22   | \$35,050                     | 23   | 7.04%                                  | 54   | 102  | 15  | 19,102                           | 22.1%                         | 2         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
| ↓        | GUILFORD   | \$90,358   | 51   | 3.62%                                 | 79   | \$43,299                     | 70   | 7.05%                                  | 53   | 253  | 71  | 507,419                          | 16.9%                         | 2         | 3         | 71  | 71                      | 71                   | 80               | 2                                      |
|          | HALIFAX    | \$70,556   | 24   | -1.52%                                | 10   | \$31,253                     | 6    | 10.12%                                 | 4    | 44   | 5   | 52,727                           | 25.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 5   | 5                       | 5                    | 34               | 1                                      |
|          | HARNETT    | \$61,437   | 8    | 6.59%                                 | 98   | \$44,998                     | 78   | 7.65%                                  | 33   | 217  | 59  | 122,333                          | 16.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 59  | 59                      | 59                   | 71               | 2                                      |
| ↑        | HAYWOOD    | \$121,541  | 75   | 1.41%                                 | 61   | \$40,022                     | 53   | 5.57%                                  | 90   | 279  | 80  | 59,674                           | 14.2%                         | 3         | 2         | 80  | 80                      | 80                   | 84               | 3                                      |
|          | HENDERSON  | \$114,724  | 71   | 2.18%                                 | 70   | \$45,168                     | 80   | 5.01%                                  | 96   | 317  | 87  | 109,287                          | 13.5%                         | 3         | 3         | 87  | 87                      | 87                   | 88               | 3                                      |
|          | HERTFORD   | \$61,565   | 9    | -0.74%                                | 20   | \$31,861                     | 9    | 7.91%                                  | 28   | 66   | 9   | 23,188                           | 25.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
| ↑        | HOKE       | \$59,684   | 7    | 6.41%                                 | 97   | \$44,717                     | 77   | 7.28%                                  | 49   | 230  | 67  | 50,183                           | 21.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 67  | 67                      | 67                   | 77               | 2                                      |
|          | HYDE       | \$210,015  | 94   | 1.96%                                 | 66   | \$35,301                     | 27   | 7.93%                                  | 26   | 213  | 56  | 5,152                            | 23.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | IREDELL    | \$122,933  | 77   | 3.26%                                 | 77   | \$49,666                     | 87   | 6.47%                                  | 73   | 314  | 86  | 164,974                          | 13.5%                         | 3         | 3         | 86  | 86                      | 86                   | 87               | 3                                      |
|          | JACKSON    | \$240,463  | 97   | 1.15%                                 | 57   | \$37,049                     | 38   | 5.88%                                  | 86   | 278  | 79  | 40,810                           | 19.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |



2015 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TIER RANKINGS (§ 143B-437.08) continued

| NEW TIER | COUNTY       | ECONOMIC INDICATORS                                |      |                                       |      |                              |      |  |      | TIER ADJUSTMENTS                           |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         | Adjusted County Rank | FINAL 2015 TIERS |  |
|----------|--------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|--|------|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
|          |              | Adjusted Property Tax Base Per Capita FY 2014-2015 |      | Population Growth July 2010-July 2013 |      | Median Household Income 2012 |      | Unemployment 12 Mth Avg Oct 13-Sept 14 |      | County Rank Sum (Lowest = most distressed) | ECONOMIC DISTRESS RANK (#1 = most distressed) | Population Less Prison July 2013 | Poverty Rate 5-year 2008-2012 | 2013 Tier | 2014 Tier | Pop <50,000 then top 80; pop <50,000 & poverty >19% then top 40 | Pop <12,000 then top 40 |                      |                  | Must be Tier One for two consec. Years |
|          |              | Value  | Rank | % Change                              | Rank | Income                       | Rank | Rate                                   | Rank |  |   |                                  |                               |           |           |   |                         |                      |                  |  |
|          | JOHNSTON     | \$74,563   | 34   | 4.54%                                 | 88   | \$48,773                     | 85   | 5.82%                                  | 88   | 295  | 82  | 176,675                          | 16.1%                         | 3         | 3         | 82  | 82                      | 82                   | 85               | 3                                      |
|          | JONES        | \$79,353   | 45   | 4.69%                                 | 91   | \$35,159                     | 25   | 7.54%                                  | 36   | 197  | 45  | 10,554                           | 17.0%                         | 1         | 1         | 41  | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | LEE          | \$83,668   | 48   | 2.54%                                 | 71   | \$43,424                     | 72   | 8.55%                                  | 18   | 209  | 53  | 59,048                           | 17.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 53  | 53                      | 53                   | 68               | 2                                      |
|          | LENOIR       | \$65,305   | 14   | -0.60%                                | 26   | \$35,634                     | 29   | 7.54%                                  | 37   | 106  | 16  | 58,981                           | 24.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 16  | 16                      | 16                   | 36               | 1                                      |
|          | LINCOLN      | \$102,837  | 60   | 1.67%                                 | 64   | \$47,799                     | 83   | 6.57%                                  | 70   | 277  | 78  | 79,519                           | 14.9%                         | 2         | 3         | 78  | 78                      | 78                   | 83               | 3                                      |
| ↓        | MACON        | \$236,448  | 96   | 0.66%                                 | 50   | \$36,438                     | 34   | 7.02%                                  | 56   | 236  | 68  | 34,151                           | 19.6%                         | 2         | 2         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MADISON      | \$97,918   | 55   | 2.88%                                 | 74   | \$37,644                     | 43   | 5.46%                                  | 91   | 263  | 73  | 21,372                           | 17.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | MARTIN       | \$79,323   | 44   | -2.91%                                | 4    | \$33,159                     | 16   | 7.77%                                  | 31   | 95   | 13  | 23,750                           | 24.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MCDOWELL     | \$79,077   | 43   | 0.38%                                 | 43   | \$36,584                     | 35   | 7.30%                                  | 48   | 169  | 35  | 44,457                           | 19.0%                         | 1         | 2         | 35  | 35                      | 35                   | 48               | 2                                      |
|          | MECKLENBURG  | \$117,848  | 72   | 7.44%                                 | 100  | \$55,392                     | 97   | 6.79%                                  | 62   | 331  | 91  | 991,867                          | 14.5%                         | 3         | 3         | 91  | 91                      | 91                   | 92               | 3                                      |
| ↑        | MITCHELL     | \$121,631  | 76   | -0.87%                                | 18   | \$36,210                     | 32   | 8.07%                                  | 22   | 148  | 28  | 15,407                           | 18.7%                         | 1         | 1         | 28  | 28                      | 28                   | 44               | 2                                      |
|          | MONTGOMERY   | \$110,345  | 67   | -0.26%                                | 29   | \$35,272                     | 26   | 7.32%                                  | 47   | 169  | 35  | 27,138                           | 26.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | MOORE        | \$132,239  | 82   | 3.87%                                 | 84   | \$49,670                     | 88   | 6.40%                                  | 75   | 329  | 89  | 91,937                           | 14.5%                         | 3         | 3         | 89  | 89                      | 89                   | 90               | 3                                      |
| ↓        | NASH         | \$75,567   | 35   | -0.89%                                | 17   | \$40,937                     | 56   | 8.87%                                  | 14   | 122  | 21  | 94,094                           | 17.6%                         | 2         | 2         | 21  | 21                      | 21                   | 40               | 1                                      |
|          | NEW HANOVER  | \$139,384  | 84   | 5.18%                                 | 92   | \$50,890                     | 91   | 6.40%                                  | 74   | 341  | 95  | 213,417                          | 16.0%                         | 3         | 3         | 95  | 95                      | 95                   | 96               | 3                                      |
|          | NORTHAMPTON  | \$90,362   | 52   | -2.99%                                | 3    | \$31,217                     | 5    | 8.36%                                  | 19   | 79   | 12  | 20,904                           | 26.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ONslow       | \$68,802   | 22   | 3.78%                                 | 82   | \$44,263                     | 75   | 6.76%                                  | 66   | 245  | 70  | 193,925                          | 13.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 70  | 70                      | 70                   | 79               | 2                                      |
|          | ORANGE       | \$113,137  | 69   | 4.02%                                 | 85   | \$53,026                     | 93   | 4.66%                                  | 99   | 346  | 97  | 139,481                          | 17.4%                         | 3         | 3         | 97  | 97                      | 97                   | 98               | 3                                      |
|          | PAMLICO      | \$125,291  | 79   | -0.14%                                | 33   | \$41,004                     | 57   | 7.63%                                  | 35   | 204  | 51  | 12,515                           | 13.8%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | PASQUOTANK   | \$85,144   | 50   | -2.89%                                | 5    | \$43,935                     | 74   | 9.09%                                  | 11   | 140  | 26  | 38,651                           | 18.0%                         | 2         | 1         | 26  | 26                      | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | PENDER       | \$114,592  | 70   | 6.16%                                 | 95   | \$43,318                     | 71   | 7.50%                                  | 40   | 276  | 77  | 54,813                           | 18.0%                         | 3         | 3         | 77  | 77                      | 77                   | 82               | 3                                      |
|          | PERQUIMANS   | \$108,948  | 66   | 2.14%                                 | 69   | \$42,494                     | 65   | 7.93%                                  | 25   | 225  | 64  | 13,771                           | 18.6%                         | 2         | 1         | 41  | 41                      | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | PERSON       | \$105,449  | 65   | -0.63%                                | 24   | \$42,546                     | 66   | 6.83%                                  | 61   | 216  | 58  | 39,192                           | 16.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | PITT         | \$64,084   | 13   | 3.02%                                 | 75   | \$39,343                     | 49   | 6.76%                                  | 65   | 202  | 47  | 173,879                          | 24.0%                         | 2         | 2         | 47  | 47                      | 47                   | 65               | 2                                      |
|          | POLK         | \$141,120  | 85   | 0.79%                                 | 54   | \$41,719                     | 60   | 4.81%                                  | 98   | 297  | 83  | 20,603                           | 15.7%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | RANDOLPH     | \$71,831   | 28   | 0.49%                                 | 47   | \$41,815                     | 61   | 6.30%                                  | 75   | 214  | 57  | 142,341                          | 17.1%                         | 2         | 2         | 57  | 57                      | 57                   | 70               | 2                                      |
|          | RICHMOND     | \$65,562   | 15   | -1.06%                                | 15   | \$30,726                     | 3    | 8.84%                                  | 15   | 48   | 6   | 45,436                           | 24.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | ROBESON      | \$42,821   | 1    | -0.25%                                | 30   | \$29,965                     | 1    | 9.66%                                  | 6    | 38   | 4   | 133,020                          | 31.9%                         | 1         | 1         | 4   | 4                       | 4                    | 33               | 1                                      |
|          | ROCKINGHAM   | \$72,818   | 32   | -1.43%                                | 11   | \$37,577                     | 42   | 7.63%                                  | 34   | 119  | 19  | 92,254                           | 17.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 19  | 19                      | 19                   | 38               | 1                                      |
|          | ROWAN        | \$84,669   | 49   | 0.23%                                 | 41   | \$40,400                     | 54   | 6.79%                                  | 63   | 207  | 52  | 137,677                          | 18.5%                         | 2         | 2         | 52  | 52                      | 52                   | 67               | 2                                      |
|          | RUTHERFORD   | \$81,422   | 47   | 0.05%                                 | 35   | \$34,193                     | 20   | 8.99%                                  | 12   | 114  | 18  | 67,575                           | 20.3%                         | 1         | 1         | 18  | 18                      | 18                   | 37               | 1                                      |
|          | SAMPSON      | \$63,447   | 11   | 1.38%                                 | 59   | \$37,420                     | 39   | 6.39%                                  | 76   | 185  | 41  | 63,858                           | 21.3%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | SCOTLAND     | \$56,442   | 5    | -1.27%                                | 13   | \$31,704                     | 8    | 12.58%                                 | 1    | 27   | 2   | 34,702                           | 30.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | STANLY       | \$76,724   | 37   | 0.13%                                 | 38   | \$42,816                     | 67   | 6.19%                                  | 81   | 223  | 63  | 59,762                           | 14.9%                         | 2         | 2         | 63  | 63                      | 63                   | 74               | 2                                      |
|          | STOKES       | \$77,798   | 40   | -1.31%                                | 12   | \$42,272                     | 63   | 5.88%                                  | 87   | 202  | 47  | 46,731                           | 17.4%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | SURRY        | \$70,897   | 25   | -0.46%                                | 28   | \$36,934                     | 37   | 6.96%                                  | 58   | 148  | 28  | 73,344                           | 18.3%                         | 2         | 1         | 28  | 28                      | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | SWAIN        | \$105,213  | 64   | 4.24%                                 | 87   | \$36,280                     | 33   | 8.76%                                  | 17   | 201  | 46  | 14,590                           | 22.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | TRANSYLVANIA | \$181,567  | 92   | 0.48%                                 | 46   | \$40,642                     | 55   | 6.72%                                  | 69   | 262  | 72  | 33,220                           | 14.2%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | TYRRELL      | \$133,089  | 83   | -3.49%                                | 1    | \$30,728                     | 4    | 7.36%                                  | 44   | 132  | 24  | 3,653                            | 21.6%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | UNION        | \$99,361   | 57   | 4.64%                                 | 90   | \$61,260                     | 99   | 5.79%                                  | 89   | 335  | 93  | 211,539                          | 9.7%                          | 3         | 3         | 93  | 93                      | 93                   | 94               | 3                                      |
|          | VANCE        | \$53,926   | 2    | -0.67%                                | 23   | \$34,371                     | 21   | 9.47%                                  | 8    | 54   | 7   | 45,056                           | 28.2%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WAKE         | \$119,511  | 74   | 6.38%                                 | 96   | \$64,107                     | 100  | 5.20%                                  | 95   | 365  | 98  | 961,945                          | 10.9%                         | 3         | 3         | 98  | 98                      | 98                   | 99               | 3                                      |
|          | WARREN       | \$128,178  | 80   | -1.68%                                | 8    | \$33,068                     | 15   | 9.16%                                  | 10   | 113  | 17  | 19,676                           | 24.4%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WASHINGTON   | \$65,785   | 16   | -2.63%                                | 6    | \$32,545                     | 12   | 7.91%                                  | 27   | 61   | 8   | 12,826                           | 26.5%                         | 1         | 1         | 0   | 0                       | 0                    | 1                | 1                                      |
|          | WATAUGA      | \$170,911  | 91   | 3.28%                                 | 78   | \$38,563                     | 46   | 6.05%                                  | 83   | 298  | 84  | 52,682                           | 28.8%                         | 3         | 3         | 84  | 84                      | 84                   | 86               | 3                                      |
|          | WAYNE        | \$62,819   | 10   | 2.08%                                 | 67   | \$38,776                     | 48   | 6.78%                                  | 64   | 189  | 43  | 124,299                          | 21.6%                         | 2         | 2         | 43  | 43                      | 43                   | 64               | 2                                      |
|          | WILKES       | \$80,255   | 46   | 0.75%                                 | 53   | \$35,362                     | 28   | 7.51%                                  | 38   | 165  | 31  | 69,518                           | 22.4%                         | 1         | 2         | 31  | 31                      | 31                   | 46               | 2                                      |
|          | WILSON       | \$77,308   | 38   | 0.12%                                 | 36   | \$37,440                     | 40   | 9.54%                                  | 7    | 121  | 20  | 81,397                           | 22.8%                         | 1         | 1         | 20  | 20                      | 20                   | 39               | 1                                      |
|          | YADKIN       | \$71,021   | 26   | -0.70%                                | 21   | \$40,012                     | 52   | 5.45%                                  | 92   | 191  | 44  | 38,131                           | 17.6%                         | 2         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |
|          | YANCEY       | \$148,388  | 87   | 0.75%                                 | 52   | \$36,019                     | 30   | 7.39%                                  | 42   | 211  | 55  | 17,921                           | 18.9%                         | 1         | 2         | 41  | 41                      | 41                   | 49               | 2                                      |