

The 2018-2028 Long-Term Employment Projections were developed over the March 2020-July 2020 period using historical data through 2018. These projections utilize a wide variety of models to determine long term industry trends, which in turn impact the occupational projections. The projections methods and assumptions were developed by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) and [Projections Management Partnership](#). In light of the current pandemic, the effects of COVID-19 were not included in the North Carolina's 2018-2028 projections due to the BLS guidance as [noted](#) below:

“long-term projections are intended to capture structural change in the economy, not cyclical fluctuations. The pandemic may cause new structural changes to the economy, but it is too soon to be able to incorporate those impacts into the 2019–29 projections...subsequent projections will incorporate new information on economic structural changes as it becomes available.”

The Projections Management Partnership, who provides technical and substantive guidance for states producing projections in consultation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has also recommended to not incorporate potential impacts of COVID-19 to the long-term employment projections.