

Snapshot of Employment, Poverty, Income, and Health Coverage in North Carolina

2008 and 2009

Unemployment ¹	November 2000	November 2008	November 2009
Share of North Carolinians Unemployed	4.2%	7.5%	10.8%

Poverty ²	2000 Poverty Rate	2008 Poverty Rate	2008 # Living in Poverty
Share of all North Carolinians Living in Poverty	13.1%	14.6%	1,301,929
Share of North Carolina Children Living in Poverty	18.1%	19.5%	429,054
Share of North Carolina Families Living in Poverty	9.6%	10.9%	260,167
Share of NC African Americans Living in Poverty	25.9%	24.3%	457,366
Share of NC Latinos Living in Poverty	28.2%	28.2%	188,062
Share of White North Carolinians Living in Poverty	8.2%	9.8%	589,509

Wages and Income	2001 (in 2008 \$)	2008
North Carolina Median Income ²	\$ 47,241	\$ 46,549
North Carolina Per Capita Income ²	\$ 25,454	\$ 28,908
Average Weekly Wage ³	\$749	\$764

Income & Inequality ²	2006*	2008
Richest 5% of Households Income vs. Bottom 20%	24.7 x more	25.6 x more
Richest 5% of Household Income vs. Middle 20%	3.4 x more	6 x more

* 2006 is the first year this data was available via the American Community Survey

Health Care ²	2000	2008	2008 # without insurance
Share of North Carolinians without Health Insurance	13.4%	15.90%	1,434,000

Food and Nutrition Services ⁴	November 2008	November 2009	Percent Change
Individuals Participating in the Food & Nutrition Program	1,048,072	1,285,157	23%
Share of North Carolina Population Participating in Program	11.4%	13.7%	20%

NC Living Income Standard ⁵	2 Person Family (1 Adult, 1 Child)	3 Person Family (1 Adult, 2 children)	4 Person Family (2 Adults, 2 children)
Average Annual Income Needed to Meet Basic Needs	\$ 31,067	\$ 37,509	\$ 42,841

Sources: ¹ Local Area Unemployment Statistics (BLS); ² 2000 and 2008 American Community Survey; ³ Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; ⁴ 2000 and 2008 Current Population Survey; ⁵ NC Division of Social Services; ⁶ NC Budget & Tax Center's 2008 Living Income Standard report

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