

# THE BUSINESS BRIEF

Western Piedmont Workforce Development - Labor Market Newsletter  
FEBRUARY 2023



## REGIONAL LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

The regional economy is heading into uncharted waters with the December 2022 Data. The unemployment rate decreased by 7 tenths to 2.9 percent from the previous month. The number of job openings in the region continues to be high with over 5,900 jobs. Visit our webpage at [www.westernpiedmontworks.org](http://www.westernpiedmontworks.org) for interactive labor market information.



## Western Piedmont WDB | December 2022 Data\*

### MONTHLY TRENDS

NC Department of Commerce | Labor & Economic Analysis | 919.707.1500 | [lead@nccommerce.com](mailto:lead@nccommerce.com)

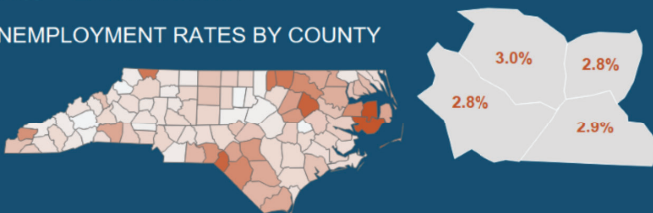
Unemployed Individuals **4,988**

**2.9%**

North Carolina 3.9%  
United States 3.5%

3.6% LAST MONTH

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTY



Employed Individuals **166,820**

Labor Force  
**171,808**

**981**

CHANGE IN EMPLOYED  
FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

**2,517**

CHANGE IN EMPLOYED  
FROM ONE YEAR AGO

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED  
OVER LAST 5 YEARS



past 90 days from February 1, 2023

#### WHO'S HIRING

Catawba Valley Medical Center	307
Frye Regional Medical Center, Inc.	209
Pizza Hut, Inc.	146
UNC Health Care System	146
UNC Health Blue Ridge	135
McDonald's Corporation	106
Food Lion	105
Carrolls Corporation	96

#### WHAT JOBS

Registered Nurses	276
Retail Salespersons	120
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	80
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	67
First-Line Supervisors of Food Prep and Servers	66
Customer Service Representatives	65
Fast Food and Counter Workers	65
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	64

#### METRO JOBS

Hickory MSA  
158,000

**400**

CHANGE IN JOBS FROM  
PREVIOUS MONTH

Industry Detail

#### TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

\$483,808,206

**8.9%** CHANGE FROM ONE  
YEAR AGO

#### JOB OPENINGS

**5,919**

-168 CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

\*December 2022 data is preliminary. Taxable Retail Sales data reflect November 2022 and Job Openings data reflect November 2022.

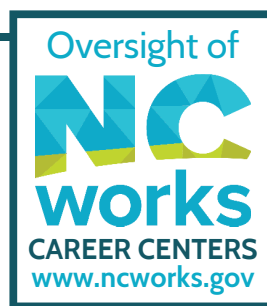
The Rework America Alliance, a partnership created in 2020 consisting of nonprofits, private sector employers, educators, labor unions, and civil rights organizations convened to identify and create structural solutions needed to expand opportunities for a more diverse and resilient workforce. Click [here](#) to read the full survey report. Here is a snapshot of their findings:

1. Employers saw preliminary signs of better recruitment and retention outcomes by focusing on required skills.
2. A skills-based mindset increases retention and facilitates employee progression.
3. Skills-based practices can help promote greater levels of diversity, equity, and inclusion within an organization
4. Support from management, staff, and community partners is critical.
5. Human resource professionals need dedicated time to develop and implement a successful skills-based practices program
6. Data collection and reporting from the onset helps to track and improve equitable hiring outcomes.

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The EIN includes in-depth analysis of economic issues facing the four county region including, American Community Survey results, bank deposits, commuting trends, construction activity, employment trends, income and poverty, retail sales and tourism. You can subscribe to the EIN for the latest issue and past issues at [WPCOG Economic Indicators Newsletter](#). Click the link for the current issue [EIN Winter 2022](#). This Quarter's Spotlight is on the Hickory MSA Traffic Counts.

- Applicant Screening
- Interview Spaces
- Labor Market Info
- Job Orders Assistance
- Job Promotion
- NEXTGEN Paid Internship
- Recruitment Events
- Federal Bonding & Tax Credit Info
- Employee Training Grant



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