

The State of the Economy: North Carolina

➤ While economic conditions are expected to improve in 2011, the unemployment crisis continues:

- North Carolina has lost 272,800 jobs – 6.5 percent of its payroll employment base – since December 2007.
- Employment in the state grew by just 0.3 percent in 2010.
- The depressing impacts of joblessness are evident: compared to a year ago, there are 52,626 fewer people working or actively seeking work. The size of the state's labor force now is at the lowest level recorded since July 2006.

Unemployment (December 2010)

	U.S. (Jan 2010)	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte/Gastonia/Rock Hill
# Unemployed	13.9 million	430,500	45,297	91,200
Rate	9.0%	9.7%	10%	10.7%

➤ People have yet to feel any real positive change in their lives since the supposed end of the Great Recession 18 months ago:

- Economists have predicted that it could be about eight years before Mecklenburg County achieves pre-recession sales tax revenues and employment levels.
- From 2008 to 2009, the median income in NC fell by 5.6% (\$2,500); only Michigan and Florida experienced sharper declines. By comparison, the U.S. median decreased by 2.9% over this period.

Median Income (2009)

U.S.	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte
\$50,221	\$43,674	\$52,881	\$49,779

- From 2008-2009, the state poverty rate increased by 1.7% (from 14.6% in 2008); the number of people in poverty in the state increased by 169,000.
- 6.9% of Charlotte residents have incomes below half of the poverty level.

Poverty (2009: \$22,050 for a family of four)

	U.S.	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte
Poverty Rate	14.3%	16.3%	14.2%	15.3%
Persons in poverty	43.6 million	1.47 million	129,736	108,544

Communities continue to suffer the fallout from the economic crisis:

- From November 2010 to December 2010, the number of foreclosure starts in Mecklenburg County increased by 59% (487).
- According to the Center for Responsible Lending, foreclosure projections for the state for 2009-2012 total 135,544; lost home equity due to nearby foreclosures totals \$5.2 billion.
- The market values of properties have fallen below their current tax assessments; as a result, counties in the middle of a revaluation could see the size of their tax base and revenues generated through property taxes fall.

Foreclosures

	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte
Housing Units (2009)	4,258,625	413,429	230,434 (2000)
Homeownership Rate (2000)	69.4%	62.3%	57.5%
Number of foreclosure starts, 2010	67,854	12,176	