

How North Carolina Compares

A presentation to the Joint Legislative
Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

July 6, 2009

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How North Carolina Compares

- **Designed as a quick reference that ranks North Carolina relative to other states**
- **25 indicators including population, health, education, taxes, and expenditures**
- **Data were extracted from the U.S. Census Bureau and other national databanks**



4. Unemployment Rate

Rank	State	Rate
1	South Dakota	3.0
2	Wyoming	3.1
3	North Dakota	3.2
4	Nebraska	3.3
5	Utah	3.4
6	New Hampshire	3.8
6	Oklahoma	3.8
8	Hawaii	3.9
9	Virginia	4.0
10	Iowa	4.1
11	New Mexico	4.2
12	West Virginia	4.3
13	Kansas	4.4
13	Maryland	4.4
15	Montana	4.5
16	Louisiana	4.6
17	Wisconsin	4.7
18	Delaware	4.8
18	Vermont	4.8
20	Colorado	4.9
20	Idaho	4.9
20	Texas	4.9
23	Alabama	5.0
24	Arkansas	5.1
25	Massachusetts	5.3
25	Washington	5.3
50-State Average		5.3
27	Maine	5.4
27	Minnesota	5.4
27	New York	5.4
27	Pennsylvania	5.4
31	Arizona	5.5
31	New Jersey	5.5
33	Connecticut	5.7
34	Indiana	5.9
35	Missouri	6.1
36	Georgia	6.2
36	Florida	6.2
38	North Carolina	6.3
39	Kentucky	6.4
39	Tennessee	6.4
39	Oregon	6.4
42	Illinois	6.5
42	Ohio	6.5
44	Alaska	6.7
44	Nevada	6.7
46	Mississippi	6.9
46	South Carolina	6.9
48	California	7.2
49	Rhode Island	7.8
50	Michigan	8.4



- States aspire to a low rate of unemployment.
- North Carolina ranked 38th in annual unemployment rate in 2008 at 6.3%. The 50-state average was 5.3%.
- In March 2009, North Carolina recorded the highest unemployment rate (10.8%) since the state started collecting the information in 1976. Only four states (California, Michigan, Oregon, and South Carolina) had a higher unemployment rate in March 2009.
- Until 2008, the overall trend in unemployment since 2003 had been one of steady decline, dropping from 6.5% in 2003 to 4.7% in 2007.
- Since 2003, North Carolina's unemployment rate has consistently ranked among the highest in the nation, with neighbors South Carolina and Tennessee experiencing similarly high rates.
- The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed and actively looking for work divided by the labor force.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2003-09, March 2009).



How to Read the Tables

Rank above the 50-state average

Rank below the 50-state average

Rank Measure

Rank	Measure	Rate
1	Utah	4.5
2	Minnesota	5.1
2	Washington	5.1
4	Massachusetts	5.2
4	New Jersey	5.2
6	California	5.3
6	Iowa	5.3
6	New Hampshire	5.3
9	Nebraska	5.6
10	Connecticut	5.8
10	Nevada	5.8
10	New York	5.8
13	Alaska	5.9
13	Oregon	5.9
15	North Dakota	6.0
16	Idaho	6.1
17	New Mexico	6.1
18	Colorado	6.4
20	Hawaii	6.5
20	Rhode Island	6.5
20	Vermont	6.5
24	Kentucky	6.6
24	Texas	6.6
24	Wisconsin	6.6
25	Wyoming	6.8
27	Arizona	6.9
27	Maine	6.9
28	Montana	7.0
50-State Average		7.0
29	Florida	7.2
29	South Dakota	7.2
31	Maryland	7.3
31	Pennsylvania	7.3
33	Illinois	7.4
33	Kansas	7.4
35	Missouri	7.5
35	Virginia	7.5
37	Arkansas	7.9
37	Michigan	7.9
39	Indiana	8.0
40	Oklahoma	8.1
40	West Virginia	8.1
42	Georgia	8.2
43	Ohio	8.3
44	North Carolina	8.8
45	Tennessee	8.9
46	Delaware	9.0
47	Alabama	9.4
47	South Carolina	9.4
49	Louisiana	10.1
50	Mississippi	11.4

50-state average

North Carolina

Report p. ii



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15	Montana	4.5
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Summary Table and Highlights

- **Summary Table includes North Carolina's rank across all indicators**
- **Highlights describes the indicators where North Carolina ranked in the top 20 states**

Report p. iv-v



Compendium is available online at

<http://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/HowNCCompares.html>

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