



## North Carolina Department of Commerce

**Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor**

**J. Keith Crisco, Secretary**

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The North Carolina Department of Commerce has developed a statewide system for identifying Targeted Employment Areas in North Carolina to meet the criteria of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

The regulations for determining Targeted Employment Areas are set forth in Title II, Chapter 1 of the Immigration Nationality Act. Specifically, Section 203(b)(5)(B) provides in pertinent part as follows:

- i. Targeted employment area defined. - In this paragraph, the term "targeted employment area" means, at the time of the investment, a rural area or an area which has experienced high unemployment (of at least 150 percent of the national average rate).
- ii. Rural area defined. - In this paragraph, the term "rural area" means any area other than an area within a metropolitan statistical area or within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more (based on the most recent decennial census of the United States). 8 U.S.C. 1153 § 203(b)(5)(B).

County areas that qualify for Targeted Employment Area status based on rural criteria are:

|           |           |           |            |             |              |            |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Alleghany | Caswell   | Gates     | Jones      | Moore       | Rutherford   | Tyrrell    |
| Ashe      | Cherokee  | Graham    | Lincoln    | Northampton | Sampson      | Vance      |
| Avery     | Chowan    | Granville | Macon      | Pamlico     | Scotland     | Warren     |
| Beaufort  | Clay      | Halifax   | Martin     | Pasquotank  | Stanly       | Washington |
| Bertie    | Cleveland | Harnett   | McDowell   | Perquimans  | Surry        | Watauga    |
| Bladen    | Columbus  | Hertford  | Mitchell   | Polk        | Swain        | Wilkes     |
| Camden    | Dare      | Hyde      | Montgomery | Richmond    | Transylvania | Yancey     |
| Carteret  | Duplin    | Jackson   |            |             |              |            |

For calendar year 2010, the national unadjusted unemployment rate averaged 9.6 percent. Therefore, a non-rural area qualifies as a high unemployment area if its 2010 annual average rate was at least 14.4 percent. County areas that qualify for the Targeted Employment Area status based on high unemployment are:

Caldwell      Edgecombe

A complete list of sub county qualifying areas can be found in the accompanying excel spreadsheet. If you have questions or require additional information about the TEA status of an area, please contact the Labor and Economic Analysis Division at 919-715-5995.