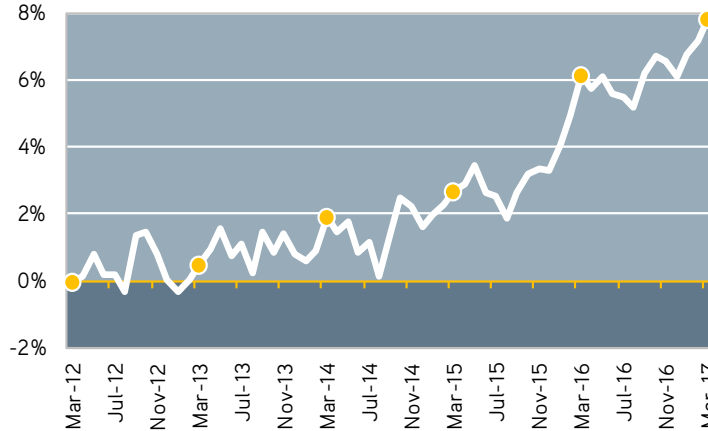


# LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

## Regional Labor Market Snapshot

**5-Year  
Percent Change  
in Number  
Employed\***



Western  
Piedmont  
Region

Source: LAUS, Labor & Economic Analysis,  
NC Dept. of Commerce

## Trending

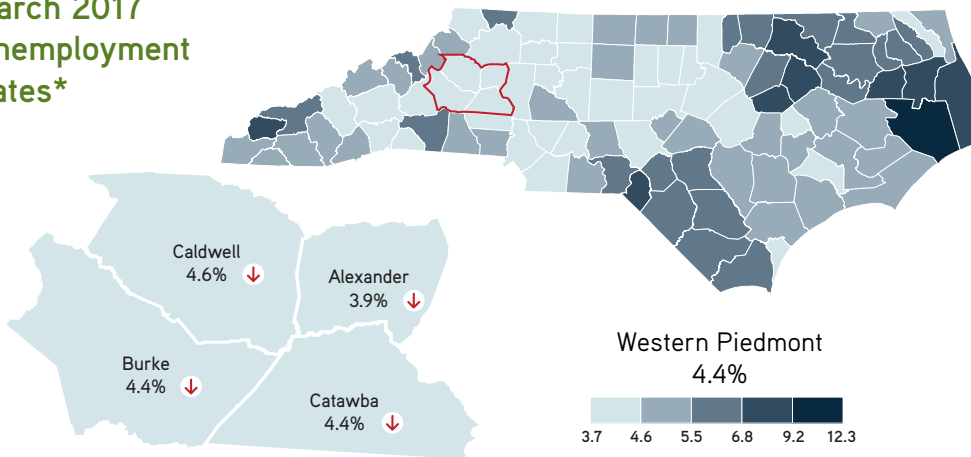
### UNEMPLOYMENT\*

March 2017

Western Total = 7,639

|        | Current | Previous |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Region | 4.4%    | 4.7%     |
| NC     | 4.7%    | 5.0%     |
| US     | 4.6%    | 4.9%     |

## March 2017 Unemployment Rates\*



## REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT\*

Western Total = 165,803

**1,005 More People Working**  
in March than previous month

**2,605 More People Working**  
than same period one year ago

## METRO JOB GROWTH\*

Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton  
Total = 152,200

**800 More Jobs**  
in March than previous month

**2,400 More Jobs**  
than same period one year ago

## Who's Hiring

past 90 days from May 1, 2017

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Corning Inc.               | 157 |
| • Army                       | 147 |
| • Valley View Medical Center | 137 |
| • State of North Carolina    | 122 |
| • Randstad                   | 114 |
| • Lowe's                     | 114 |
| • CommScope                  | 60  |
| • Adecco                     | 50  |

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

## What Jobs

past 90 days from May 1, 2017

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 445 |
| • Registered Nurses                     | 269 |
| • Retail Salespersons                   | 206 |
| • Industrial Engineers                  | 161 |
| • First-Line Supervisors, Retail Sales  | 157 |
| • First-Line Supervisors, Production    | 138 |
| • Maintenance & Repair Workers          | 134 |
| • Computer User Support Specialists     | 105 |

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Western Total = \$265,237,343

**10% Higher**  
than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue  
Note: February 2017 data most current available at  
time of release.

## ONLINE JOB ADS

**5,732 Online Advertised Vacancies**  
over past 90 days

**1,828 Fewer Vacancies**  
than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

\*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For more information, please visit <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/lmo>.

# LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board

## Civilian Labor Force Estimates\*

|                  |             | March 2017 | February 2017 | January 2017 | March 2016 |
|------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Alexander</b> | Labor Force | 18,262     | 18,131        | 18,093       | 18,035     |
|                  | Employed    | 17,549     | 17,395        | 17,283       | 17,253     |
|                  | Unemployed  | 713        | 736           | 810          | 782        |
|                  | Rate        | 3.9        | 4.1           | 4.5          | 4.3        |
| <b>Burke</b>     | Labor Force | 40,739     | 40,605        | 40,620       | 40,261     |
|                  | Employed    | 38,928     | 38,686        | 38,492       | 38,329     |
|                  | Unemployed  | 1,811      | 1,919         | 2,128        | 1,932      |
|                  | Rate        | 4.4        | 4.7           | 5.2          | 4.8        |
| <b>Caldwell</b>  | Labor Force | 36,520     | 36,444        | 36,536       | 36,224     |
|                  | Employed    | 34,845     | 34,651        | 34,498       | 34,318     |
|                  | Unemployed  | 1,675      | 1,793         | 2,038        | 1,906      |
|                  | Rate        | 4.6        | 4.9           | 5.6          | 5.3        |
| <b>Catawba</b>   | Labor Force | 77,921     | 77,707        | 77,843       | 76,919     |
|                  | Employed    | 74,481     | 74,066        | 73,871       | 73,298     |
|                  | Unemployed  | 3,440      | 3,641         | 3,972        | 3,621      |
|                  | Rate        | 4.4        | 4.7           | 5.1          | 4.7        |

\*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

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