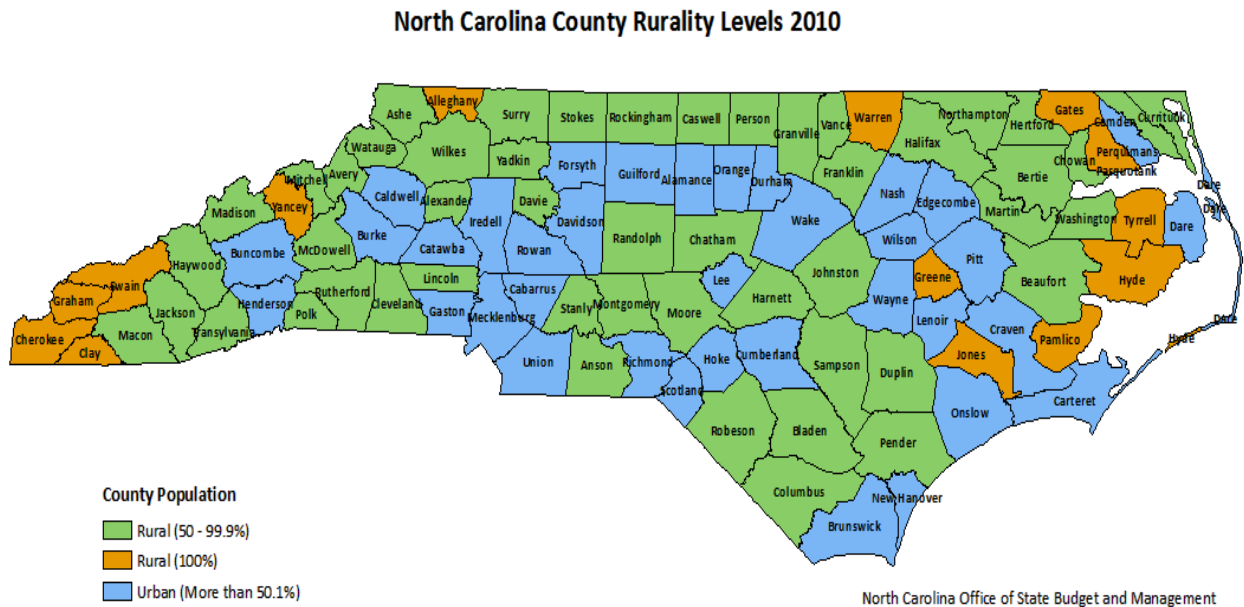


## The Urban and Rural Faces of North Carolina

2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) data released by the US Census Bureau on December 6, 2018 provides a picture of the characteristics of life in all communities whether in large metropolitan areas or the more rural countryside.



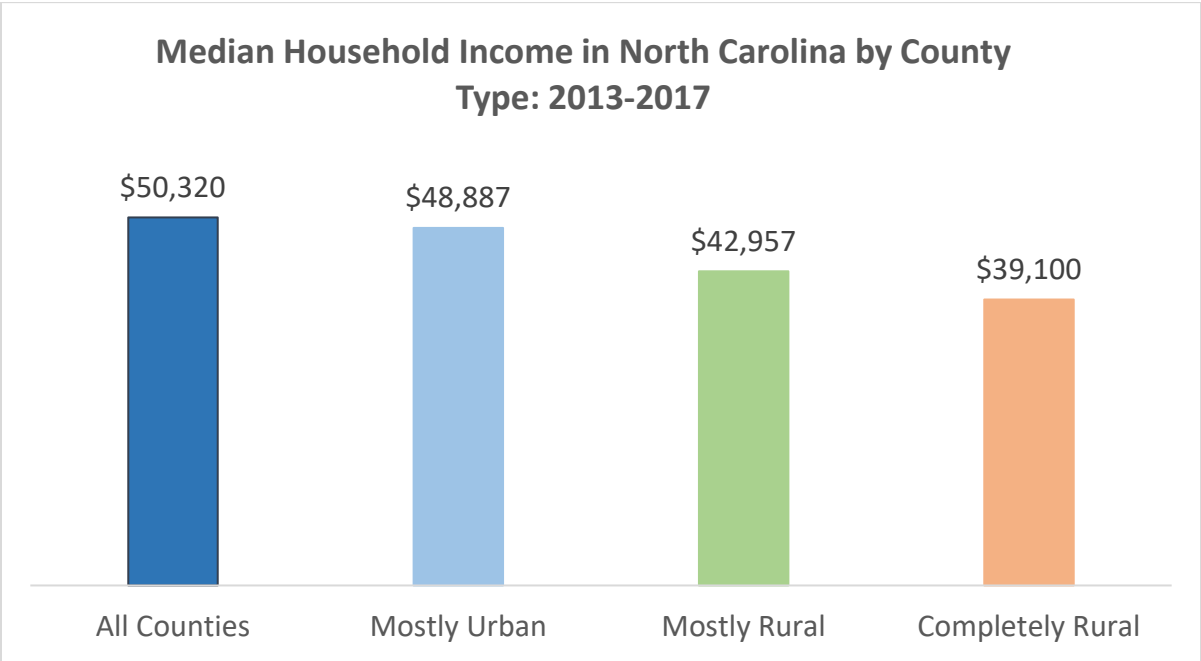
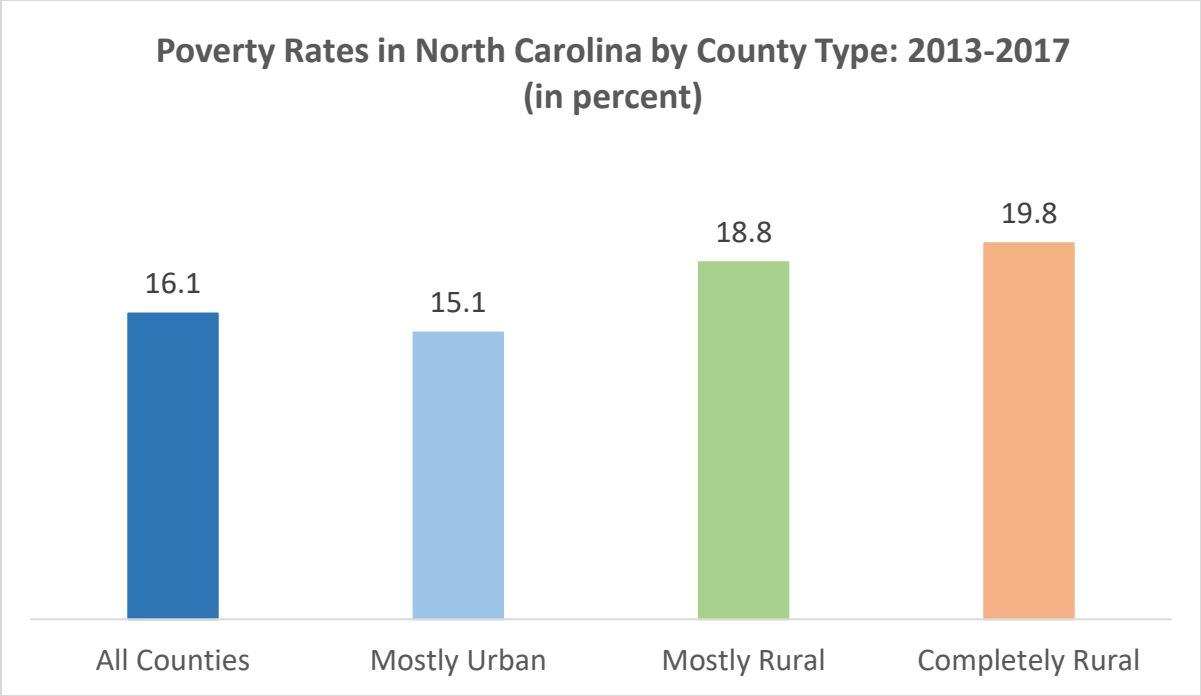
2010 Census data shows that in 50 North Carolina counties 50 to 99.9% of the population live in rural areas, 14 counties are 100% rural, and over 50.1% of the population in 36 counties live in urban areas.

Below is a brief highlight of North Carolina's rural and urban character from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey.

Rural		Urban
28.0%	Percent of Total Population	72.0%
43.9	Median Age	39.1
67.2%	Born in North Carolina	53.0%
19.1%	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	34.2%
51.6%	Civilian Employed (16 and Over)	59.1%
18.8%	Total Poverty Rate	15.1%
27.0%	Children (Under 18) Poverty Rate	21.0%
10.7%	Seniors (65 and Over) Poverty Rate	8.4%
13.1%	Uninsured Rate	11.6%
\$42,113	Median Household Income	\$48,887
45.7%	Percent of Households without Broadband	30.5%

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Data for the mainly and completely rural counties have been combined to present a single rural value.



Note: The urban-rural categories are based on the 2010 Census population counts. Mostly urban counties are defined as counties where at least half of the population lives in urban areas. Mostly rural counties have 50 to 99.9 percent of their population living in rural areas. Completely rural counties are those that have 100 percent of the population living in a rural environment. For more details on how the Census Bureau defines urban and rural areas, see the report [“Defining Rural at the U.S. Census Bureau”](#)  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 Five-Year Estimates. For more information on the ACS, see [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs).

## North Carolina Highlights from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) Release

### Population

- Mecklenburg and Wake Counties are the largest counties in total population.
- From the 2008-2012 ACS to the 2013-2017 ACS, Wake County had the largest numeric growth at 118,238, and Brunswick had the largest percent growth at 13.6%.
- 56 Counties saw estimated growth between the 2008-2012 ACS to the 2013-2017 ACS.

### Income

- Wake, Union, Camden, Currituck, and Orange Counties had the largest median household incomes in the state.
- Jackson, Camden, Alleghany, Watauga, and Orange Counties had the largest percent increase in median household income between the 2008-2012 ACS to the 2013-2017 ACS.
- 89 Counties saw an estimated increase in their median household income from the 2008-2012 ACS to the 2013-2017 ACS.

### Poverty

- The poverty rate in North Carolina decreased from 16.8% in the 2008-2012 ACS to 16.1% in the 2013-2017 ACS.
- The poverty rate decreased or remained unchanged in 57 counties from the 2008-2012 ACS to the 2013-2017 ACS.
- Scotland, Robeson, Watauga, Halifax, and Tyrell Counties had the highest poverty rates in the state.

The complete 2013-2017 American Community Survey release is available at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) and features estimates for all North Carolina counties, cities, towns, and sub-county areas such as census tracts and block groups. Data are available in detailed tables, profiles, and through the US Census Bureau application programming interface.

This summary was produced by:

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