



STATE OUTCOME & POLICY  
REPORT  
**NORTH CAROLINA**

PROSPERITY NOW  
**SCORECARD**

North Carolina ranks 37th on the prosperity of its residents compared to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This rank is based on states' performance on economic measures for all residents but also accounts for racial disparities. Relative to other states, North Carolina's performance is below average for residents overall, and the large gap between White residents and residents of color drops the state's rank further. The disparities by race are significant and have negative implications for the people and prosperity of North Carolina. For example, the homeownership rate of White households is 74% compared to 45% for Black households and 46% for Latino households.

The Prosperity Now Scorecard features 28 policies that attempt to improve financial security outcomes. The Scorecard assesses whether your state has or has not adopted each of these policies. North Carolina has adopted 8 policies.

SCORECARD RANK	<b>37</b>
RACIAL DISPARITY RANK	<b>26</b>
OUTCOME RANK	<b>36</b>

**OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS**

**15.1%**

of adults in North Carolina could not see a doctor due to cost

**59.0%**

of North Carolina households kept emergency savings in the past year

**48.2%**

of North Carolina credit users have prime credit

**47.8%**

of renters in North Carolina are cost burdened

**POLICY HIGHLIGHTS**



Will state's minimum wage be at least \$15 by 2025 or is it indexed for inflation?



Does state protect Section 8 voucher-holders from discrimination in the housing market?



Has state eliminated TANF asset test?



Has state enacted an EITC that is refundable and at least 15% of the federal credit?

**About the Prosperity Now Scorecard**

The *Prosperity Now Scorecard* is a comprehensive resource featuring data on family financial health, racial economic inequality, and policy recommendations to help put all U.S. households on a path to prosperity. The Scorecard equips advocates, policymakers and practitioners with national, state, county and city data to jump-start a conversation about solutions and policies that put households on stronger financial footing across five issue areas: Financial Assets & Income, Businesses & Jobs, Homeownership & Housing, Health Care and Education.

## OUTCOME MEASURES

The *Scorecard* ranks states on 46 outcome measures from best to worst: #1 is the most desirable, #51 is the least desirable. The Outcome Rank is calculated by averaging the rank all of the state's measures and demonstrates how outcomes for all residents compare to residents of other states and DC. The Outcome Rank accounts for 60% of a state's Scorecard Rank.

### Financial Assets & Income

OUTCOME MEASURE	STATE DATA	US DATA	STATE RANK
Liquid Asset Poverty Rate	42.0%	36.9%	22
Asset Poverty Rate	26.0%	24.1%	-
Net Worth	\$85,572	\$92,110	-
Households with Zero Net Worth	15.2%	15.7%	-
Saved for Emergencies	59.0%	57.8%	28
Income Poverty Rate	13.3%	12.7%	33
Unbanked Households	5.8%	6.5%	26
Underbanked Households	18.4%	18.7%	25
Income Inequality	4.66 : 1	4.93 : 1	27
Income Volatility	19.8%	20.1%	24
Households with Savings Accounts	76.1%	71.4%	19
Consumers with Prime Credit	48.2%	53.0%	37
Access to Revolving Credit	73.4%	74.0%	34
Borrowers Over 75% Credit Card Limit	28.7%	25.4%	40
Severely Delinquent Borrowers	16.8%	14.8%	38
Consumers with Collections	27.1%	21.2%	41
Bankruptcy Rate	1.3	2.3	11
Fell Behind on Bills	11.8%	13.2%	13
Low Financial Well-Being	16.0%	18.0%	11

### Businesses & Jobs

OUTCOME MEASURE	STATE DATA	US DATA	STATE RANK
Microenterprise Ownership Rate	17.8%	18.2%	22
Business Ownership by Gender	1.3x as high for men	1.3x as high for men	28
Business Ownership by Race	17.3%	17.6%	-
Business Value by Race	\$383,829	\$440,190	-
Business Value by Gender	3.5x as high for men	3x as high for men	40
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	3.7%	36
Underemployment Rate	7.5%	7.3%	33
Employers Offering Health Insurance	41.2%	46.8%	44
Low-Wage Jobs	25.1%	18.7%	38
Average Annual Pay	\$55,593	\$57,266	21

## Homeownership & Housing

OUTCOME MEASURE	STATE DATA	US DATA	STATE RANK
Homeownership Rate	65.1%	63.9%	37
Affordability of Homes	3.35 : 1	3.71 : 1	23
Housing Cost Burden - Renters	47.8%	49.7%	25
Housing Cost Burden - Homeowners	24.9%	27.7%	21
Foreclosure Rate	0.71%	0.90%	21
Delinquent Mortgage Loans	1.23%	1.05%	34
High-Cost Mortgage Loans	5.9%	7.6%	26

## Health Care

OUTCOME MEASURE	STATE DATA	US DATA	STATE RANK
Uninsured Rate	12.7%	10.4%	42
Uninsured Low-Income Children	6.4%	7.1%	28
Employer-Provided Insurance Coverage	56.9%	59.5%	38
Employee Share of Premium	32.7%	27.8%	48
Forgoing Doctor Visit Due to Cost	15.1%	13.0%	44
Poor or Fair Health Status	19.1%	18.4%	34

## Education

OUTCOME MEASURE	STATE DATA	US DATA	STATE RANK
Four-Year College Degree	31.9%	32.6%	21
High School Graduation Rate	85.9%	84.1%	22
Disconnected Youth	11.1%	11.3%	33
Reading Proficiency - 8th Grade	32.9%	33.6%	27
Math Proficiency - 8th Grade	36.5%	33.8%	20
Early Childhood Education Enrollment	45.6%	48.2%	30
Borrowers with Student Loan Debt	20.9%	21.9%	13
Median Student Loan Debt	\$19,350	\$18,366	38
Severely Delinquent Student Loan Debt	16.5%	15.2%	32

— Indicates that no data is available, or data is suppressed due to a margin of error that is greater than 50% of the estimate.

For a complete description of *Scorecard* measures and sources, including how the ranks were assigned, go to [scorecard.prosperitynow.org](https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org).

## OUTCOMES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Racial economic inequality limits a household's ability to prosper, and it's important to explore the impact that race and ethnicity have on outcomes. The Racial Disparity rank is calculated by averaging the gaps in outcomes for White residents and residents of color for 26 measures. This average disparity is then ranked against the other states and DC. A rank of 51 means that the disparity is the largest compared to all states and DC. A lower rank indicates that the disparity is narrower, but even then, racial economic inequality remains problematic for the state and its residents' economic resilience. The Racial Disparity rank accounts for 40% of a state's Scorecard rank.

### Financial Assets & Income

OUTCOME MEASURE	OVERALL	WHITE, NH*	PEOPLE OF COLOR	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	NHPI**	LATINO
Liquid Asset Poverty Rate	42.0%	32.5%	60.4%	63.1%	-	6.3%	-	68.1%
Asset Poverty Rate	26.0%	19.5%	38.4%	40.3%	-	-	-	-
Net Worth	\$85,572	\$136,756	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households with Zero Net Worth	15.2%	12.9%	19.7%	18.6%	-	-	-	19.5%
Saved for Emergencies	59.0%	62.9%	51.2%	45.8%	-	-	-	-
Income Poverty Rate	13.3%	10.2%	20.9%	21.4%	23.6%	13.1%	14.0%	22.1%
Unbanked Households	5.8%	2.6%	12.0%	12.4%	-	-	-	-
Underbanked Households	18.4%	13.6%	27.6%	24.7%	-	-	-	-
Income Volatility	19.8%	18.7%	22.1%	20.7%	-	-	-	-
Households with Savings Accounts	76.1%	79.9%	68.7%	71.5%	-	-	-	-
Fell Behind on Bills	11.8%	7.9%	19.3%	19.6%	-	-	-	-

### Businesses & Jobs

Business Ownership by Race	17.3%	20.5%	12.0%	11.1%	12.2%	24.9%	2.3%	10.9%
Business Value by Race	\$383,829	\$577,675	\$124,465	\$57,038	\$108,122	\$365,559	\$66,957	\$148,676
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	3.2%	5.7%	6.4%	-	2.8%	-	5.1%

### Homeownership & Housing

Homeownership Rate	65.1%	73.7%	46.9%	45.0%	62.8%	62.4%	59.8%	46.2%
Affordability of Homes	3.35 : 1	2.90 : 1	-	4.70 : 1	4.50 : 1	2.30 : 1	3.40 : 1	4.30 : 1
Housing Cost Burden - Renters	47.8%	43.2%	53.4%	55.5%	44.8%	37.2%	51.4%	52.0%

### Health Care

Uninsured Rate	12.7%	9.9%	19.5%	12.2%	21.0%	8.7%	12.1%	30.3%
Forgoing Doctor Visit Due to Cost	15.1%	12.4%	-	18.9%	-	-	-	26.5%
Poor or Fair Health Status	19.1%	18.0%	-	20.1%	31.3%	-	-	28.1%

### Education

Four-Year College Degree	31.9%	35.7%	23.3%	21.7%	15.1%	59.6%	24.4%	15.7%
Disconnected Youth	11.1%	9.8%	12.8%	13.5%	20.8%	7.0%	50.0%	12.6%
Reading Proficiency - 8th Grade	32.9%	42.3%	-	14.4%	17.5%	60.0%	-	28.4%
Math Proficiency - 8th Grade	36.5%	47.0%	-	18.5%	16.3%	69.8%	-	26.1%

\* White, Non-Hispanic \*\* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

**Limitations of Scorecard Data by Race & Ethnicity:** Scorecard's sources are primarily national surveys, and for each population by racial or ethnic group, we use the data for people identifying only as that racial or ethnic group and have a minimum threshold for the number of observations available to produce an estimate. The result is a significant amount of missing data for populations of color, particularly in less populated states. In addition, we use aggregate definitions of populations (e.g., "Asian," "Latino") which group people with ancestry from a variety of countries and varying backgrounds, masking diversity and economic disparity within groups.

## POLICY MEASURES

The *Scorecard* includes 28 policies organized into 18 groups. States are assessed based on whether they have adopted each policy; a ✓ indicates the state has adopted the policy; a ✗ indicates the state has not. Policy adoption is assessed on policies enacted during calendar year 2019.

### Financial Assets & Income

5 OF 13 POLICIES ADOPTED

Debt Collection Protections	✗	Does state adequately protect consumers' assets from debt collection?
	✓	Does state adequately protect consumers from abusive debt-buying practices?
Individual Development Accounts	✗	Does state provide funding for IDAs?
	✓	Does state protect against payday lending?
Predatory Small-Dollar Lending Protections	✓	Does state protect against car-title lending?
	✓	Does state protect against high-cost installment loans?
Retirement Security	✗	Has state enacted an Automatic-Enrollment Individual Retirement Account program?
	✗	Has state eliminated TANF asset test?
Savings Penalties in Public Benefit Programs	✓	Has state eliminated SNAP asset test?
	✗	Has state eliminated LIHEAP asset test?
State EITCs	✗	Has state enacted an EITC that is refundable and at least 15% of the federal credit?
Tax Fairness	✗	Does state have a progressive effective tax rate ?
Tax Prep Regulations	✗	Does state regulate paid tax preparers?

### Businesses & Jobs

0 OF 4 POLICIES ADOPTED

Minimum Wage	✗	Will state's minimum wage be at least \$15 by 2025 or is it indexed for inflation?
	✗	Are agricultural, domestic and tipped workers covered by state's minimum wage?
Paid Leave	✗	Does state require employers to offer paid medical, family or sick leave?
	✗	Does state expand FMLA to cover more workers?

### Homeownership & Housing

2 OF 7 POLICIES ADOPTED

First-Time Homebuyer Assistance	✓	Does state provide downpayment assistance through grants, second mortgages or resources financed with premium bonds?
	✗	Does state offer direct lending programs to first-time homebuyers?
	✓	Does state fund homeownership counseling?
Property Tax Relief	✗	Does the state provide property tax relief via a well-targeted circuit breaker?
Protection from Discrimination for Low-Income Renters	✗	Does state protect Section 8 voucher-holders from discrimination in the housing market?
Resident Ownership, Titling and Zoning of Manufactured Homes	✗	Does state encourage resident ownership of manufactured home communities via an effective pre-sale notice, tax incentive or both?
	✗	Does state's titling or zoning laws treat manufactured homes the same as site-built homes?

### Health Care

0 OF 1 POLICIES ADOPTED

Medicaid Expansion	✗	Has state expanded Medicaid to at least 138% or more of federal poverty level?
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### Education

1 OF 3 POLICIES ADOPTED

Children's Savings Accounts	✗	Does state offer a universal, automatic CSA program with an incentive?
In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students	✗	Does state extend in-state tuition to undocumented students?
Targeted Financial Aid for Postsecondary Education	✓	Is state financial aid targeted to high-need students?

# NORTH CAROLINA

## DEMOGRAPHICS



**POPULATION**  
**10,383,620**



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**4,684,962**

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILES

Lowest Quintile	\$0 to \$23,338
2nd Quintile	\$23,339 to \$42,652
3rd Quintile	\$42,653 to \$67,807
4th Quintile	\$67,808 to \$108,774
Highest Quintile	Over \$108,774

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME** **\$53,855**

White	\$61,695
Black	\$38,597
Asian	\$79,216
Latino	\$42,231
Native	\$40,304
NHPI	\$52,736
Two or More	\$45,363
Other	\$39,707

## RACE AND ETHNICITY (% OF POPULATION)

White	62.7%
Black	21.0%
Asian	2.9%
Latino	9.6%
Native	1.0%
NHPI	0.1%
Two or More	2.4%
Other	0.2%

## AGE (% OF THE POPULATION)

Under 18	22.1%
18 to 24	9.5%
25 to 44	25.9%
45 to 64	26.2%
65 and Over	16.3%

**PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY** **13.3%**

# PROSPERITY NOW COMMUNITY

Prosperity Now is committed to continuing our support of and partnerships with our movement of committed advocates and practitioners seeking to create a clear path to financial stability, wealth and prosperity. The Prosperity Now Community expands our reach, creates strong connections between those in our community and mobilizes advocates to create lasting social change.

The Prosperity Now Community facilitates learning, creates connections and inspires action to create and improve programs and policies that foster opportunity, especially for those who have not had it before. Our unwavering commitment to creating prosperity includes efforts on a wide range of issues, such as consumer protections, equity in the tax code, increasing affordable housing and removing barriers to saving and building wealth.

To Join the Community, visit [prosperitynow.org/get-involved](https://prosperitynow.org/get-involved)

## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Community Empowerment Fund — Durham, NC

Crisis Assistance Ministry — Charlotte, NC

North Carolina Assets Alliance — Raleigh, NC

Winston Salem Asset Building Coalition — Winston-Salem, NC

## ABOUT PROSPERITY NOW



Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) believes that everyone deserves a chance to prosper. Since 1979, we have helped make it possible for millions of people, especially people of color and those of limited incomes, to achieve financial security, stability and, ultimately, prosperity. We offer a unique combination of scalable practical solutions, in-depth research and proven policy solutions, all aimed at building wealth for those who need it most.