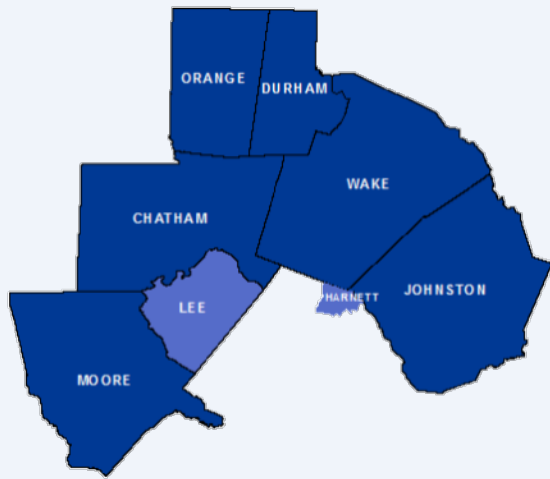


Tier Designations for Triangle J COG Region



2019 Tier Designation



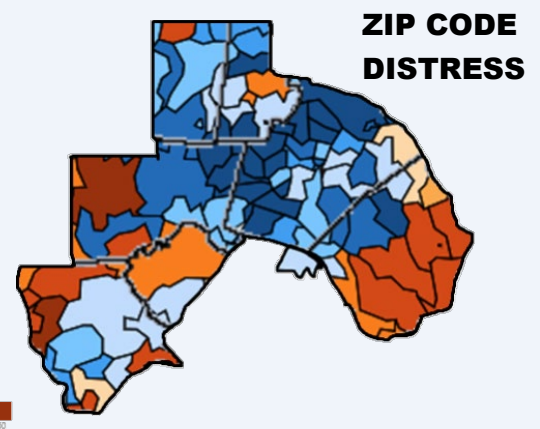
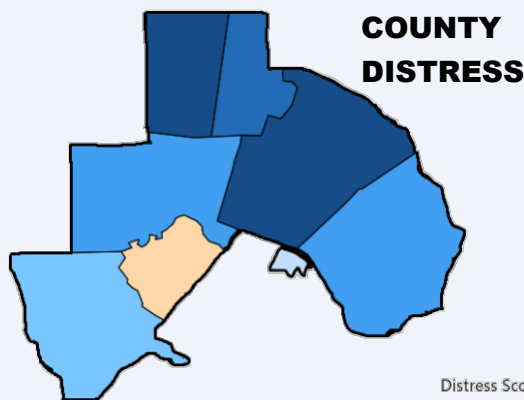
Annually, the North Carolina Department of Commerce ranks counties according to four indicators of economic distress.

Three tiers are used to categorize distress, with Tier 1 representing the 40 most distressed counties and Tier 3 representing the 20 least distressed counties. The tier designations are used by many state programs to allocate funding.

Of the 7 counties in the Triangle J COG region:

- 6 counties are designated as Tier 3
- 1 county is designated as Tier 2
- 0 counties are designated as Tier 1

Hidden Distress in Triangle J COG Region



The [2018 Distressed Communities Index](#) reveals how sub-county distress is hidden by the tier system's use of county data. The two maps shown above display distress at the levels of county and zip code. The orange and red colors represent greater distress.

EXAMPLE OF HIDDEN DISTRESS

The distress level for zip code 27325, which is in Moore County and includes the town of Robbins, is ranked 31 out of 723 zip codes in North Carolina. This means only 30 other zip codes in the state rank higher in economic distress. Despite this reality, the town of Robbins is perceived by the tier system as belonging to one of the least distressed counties in the state.

Learn more about hidden distress in the TJCOG region <http://www.tjcoq.org/policy-whitepapers.aspx>

Note: The maps are clipped from an online interactive map hosted by the Economic Innovation Group. County boundary lines are approximations.