ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT 2010 & 2011: Alamance County

Alamance County is located in the Piedmont Triad Economic Development Region and has a population of 154,193.¹

UNEMPLOYMENT

- Alamance County’s unemployment rate was 10.4% in November 2010; the state rate was 9.9%. In November 2011, the county unemployment rate was 9.6%; the state rate was 9.5%.²

- 69,070 workers were part of Alamance County’s labor force in November 2011. This is a -2% change since November 2007.²

- From November 2007 to November 2011, the number of employed persons in Alamance County declined by 4,649.²

POVERTY

- 18.5% of Alamance County residents (27,217 people) lived in poverty in 2010; the state rate was 17.4%.³

- 39% of Alamance County residents were low-income from 2008 to 2010, meaning their incomes were less than twice the federal poverty level ($44,628 for a family of four in 2010).⁴

WAGES & INCOME

- In 2010, Alamance County’s average weekly wage of $655 equaled 82.8% of the statewide average wage of $791.⁵

- Median household income in Alamance County was $41,519, which equaled 95.6% of the statewide median household income of $43,417.³

- The richest 5% of Alamance County households had an average income that was 21 times that of the poorest fifth of households and 3.1 times that of the middle fifth of households.⁴
HOUSING

- 51% of renters were unable to afford the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom housing unit in 2010.6

- There were 738 foreclosure filings in 2011 representing 1 in 90 properties in Alamance County.4,7

HEALTH

- On average, from 2008 to 2010, 16.7% of Alamance County residents did not have health insurance, compared to 16.2% of all North Carolinians.4

- The life expectancy rate for an African-American child born in Alamance County is 73.6, whereas the rate is 78.1 for a white child. The average life expectancy for all children born in Alamance County is 77.3.8

- 23,974 people were eligible for Medicaid in Alamance County in December 2011, a 28% increase since December 2007.9

EDUCATION

- The 4-year cohort graduation rate for Alamance County in 2010-2011 was 75.5%, compared to the state rate of 77.9%.10

- The 4-year cohort graduation rate for African-Americans in Alamance County in 2010-2011 was 71.6%, compared to 69.2% for Latinos and 79% for whites.10

- On average, from 2008 to 2010, 22% of adults in Alamance County had bachelor's degrees or higher.4

SUPPORTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- In September 2007, 11,711 Alamance County residents received assistance from the food and nutrition or food stamp program. In September 2011, the number increased by 108.2% to 24,382 and the share of residents receiving assistance reached 15.8%.11

- Residents in Alamance County received state Earned Income Tax Credit refunds totaling $842,455, which supported local businesses and helped these workers earning low wages make ends meet.12

THE 2010 LIVING INCOME STANDARD

- A working family in Alamance County with 1 adult and 2 children needs to earn, on average, a total of $40,887 annually to afford basic living expenses in the county. This total is 232.7% of the 2010 federal poverty level for a family of three ($17,568).13

- A working family in Alamance County with 2 adults and 2 children needs to earn, on average, a total of $47,162 annually to afford basic living expenses in the county. This total is 213.3% of the 2010 federal poverty level for a family of four ($22,113).13