



# Recent Cross County Commuting Patterns

Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Workshop Presentation

April 30, 2021

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# Who is LEAD?

NC's primary source of economic & labor market data, information, & analysis



## Funding

Multiple sources, including state \$  
Most significantly by US Dept. of Labor (BLS & ETA)



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## NC Economic Trends Blog:

### **The LEAD FEED**

<https://www.nccommerce.com/news/the-lead-feed>



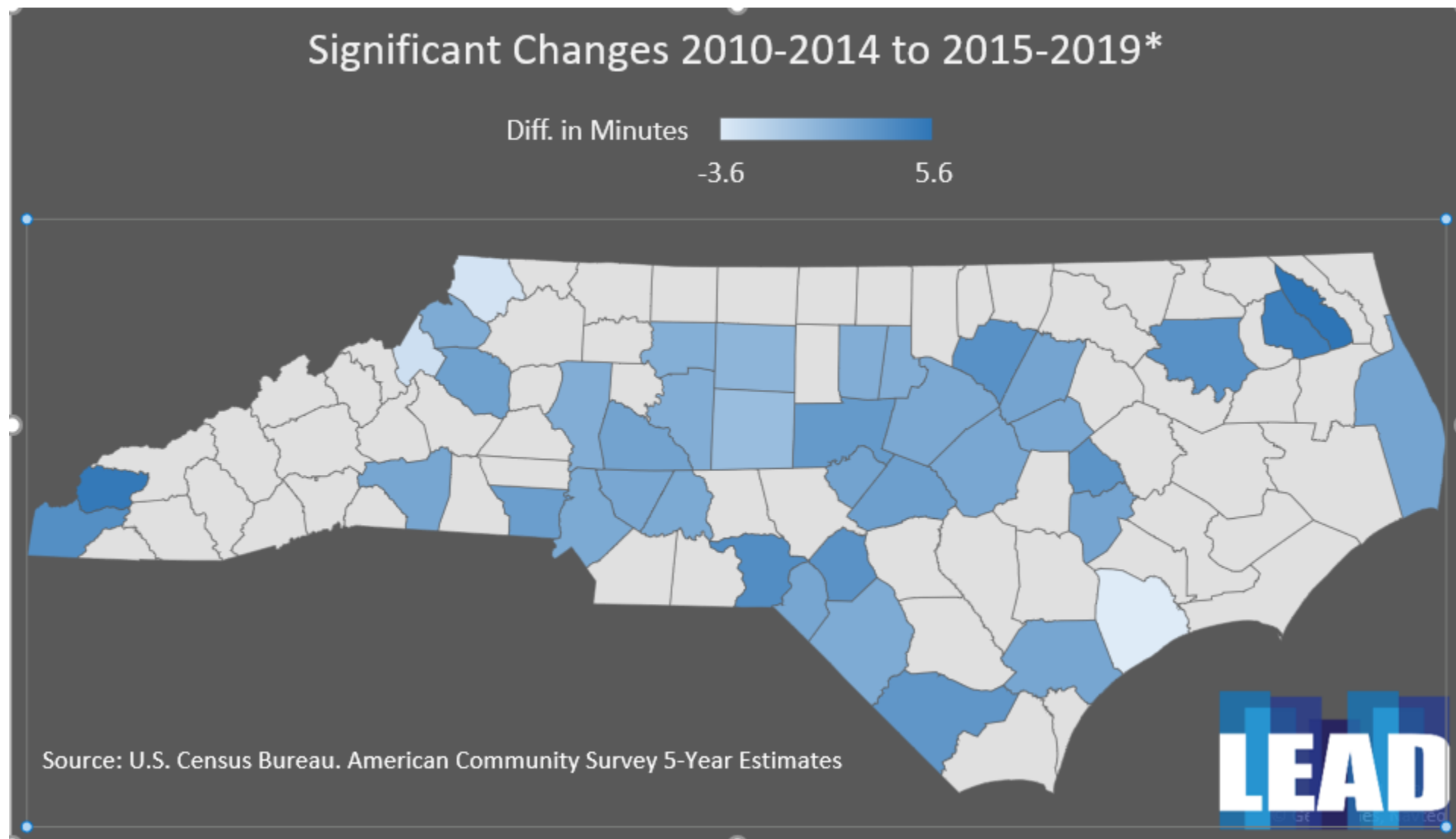
## On Twitter:

 @CareersInNC  
@LeadNC

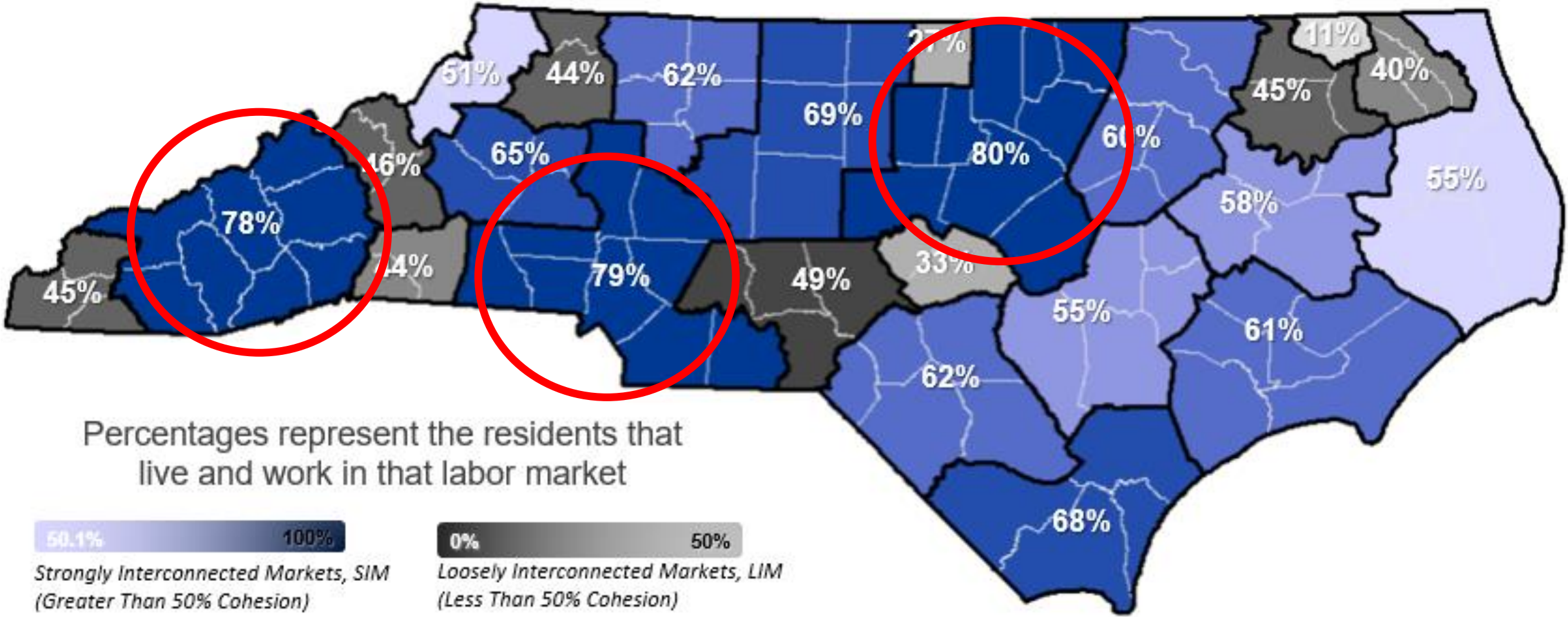
# Goal of Research

- **To better understand commuting patterns and labor markets across North Carolina**

# Mean commuting time and how it has changed



# Interconnected Markets (Average 2011-2014)



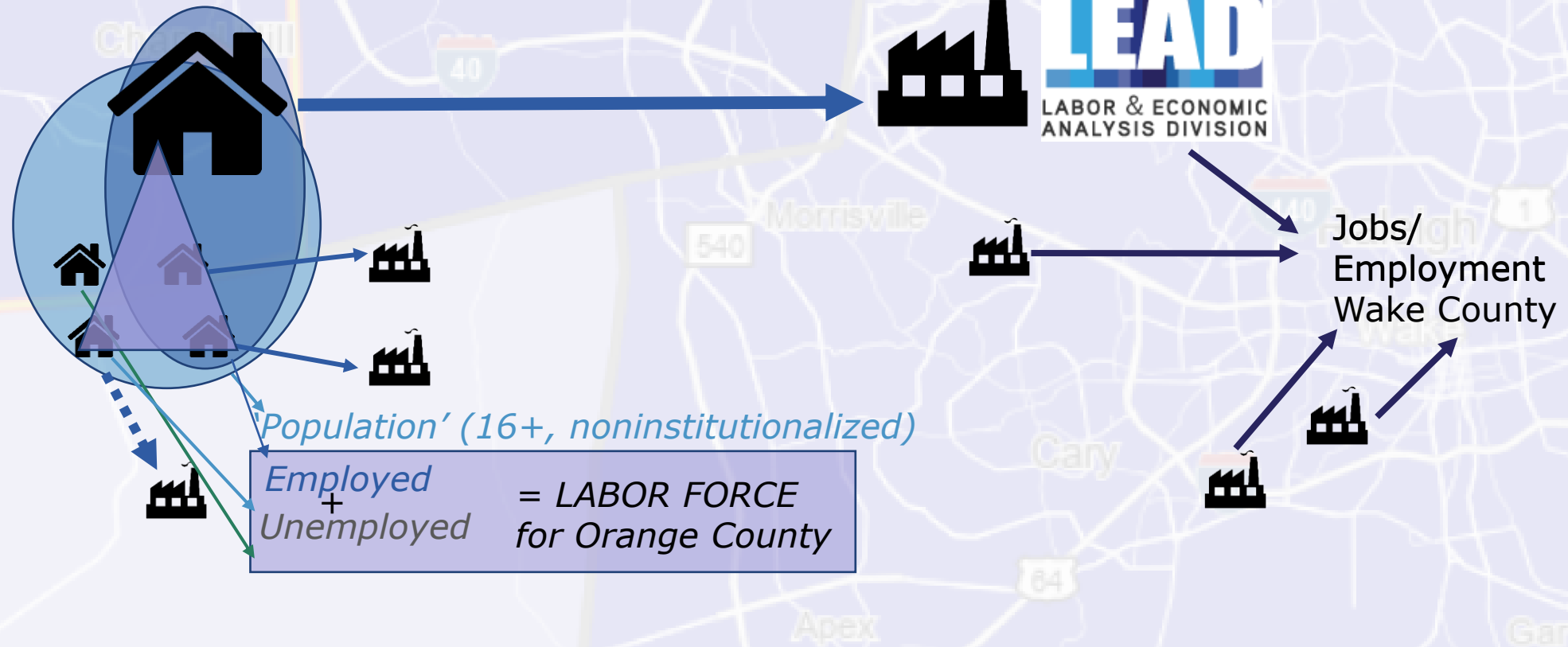
# **Changing patterns towards increased cross-county commuting**

**Do workers live and  
work in the same  
county, and if so, how  
has this relationship  
changed over time?**



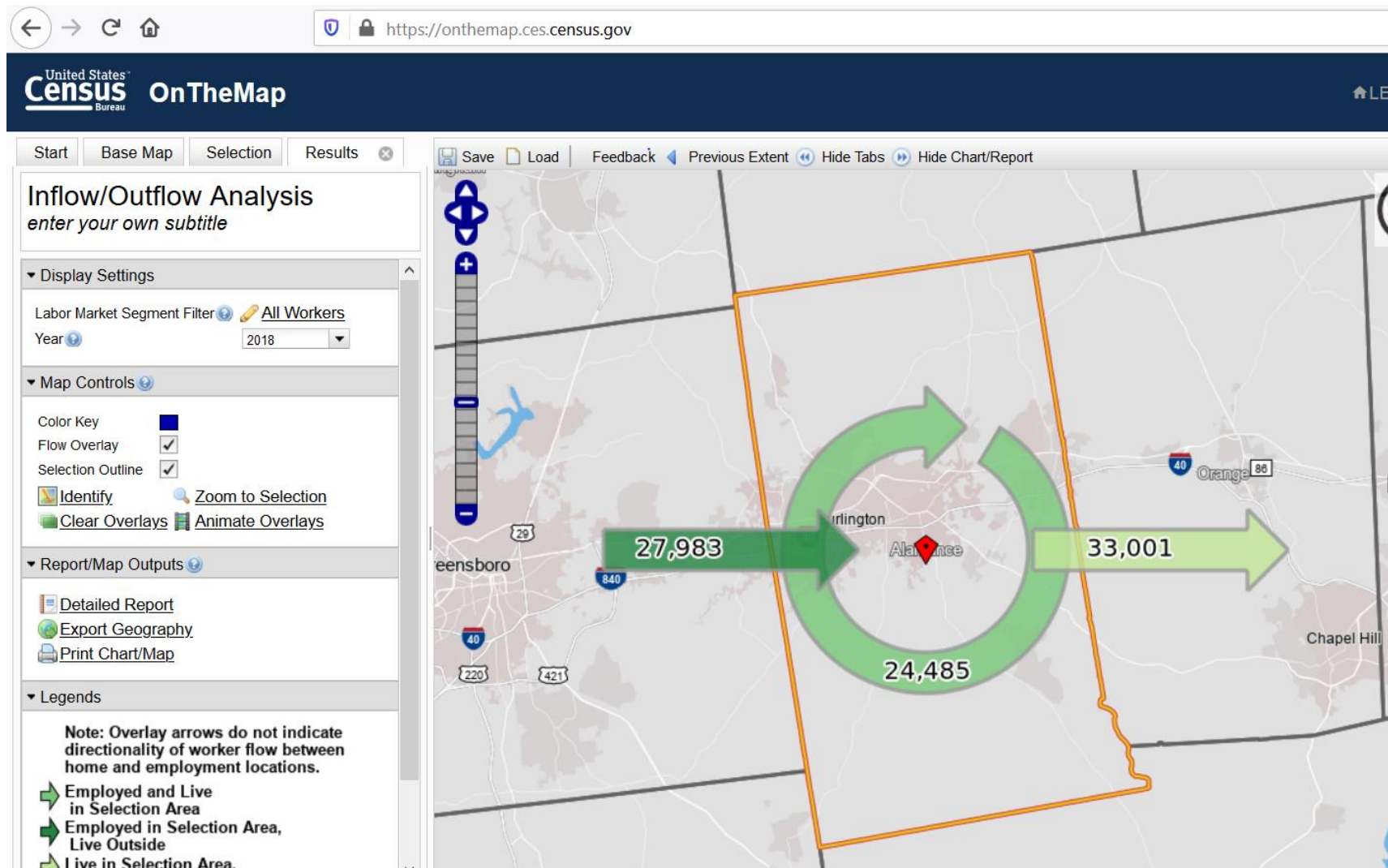
Orange County, NC

Wake County, NC



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# Method for work/live in same county



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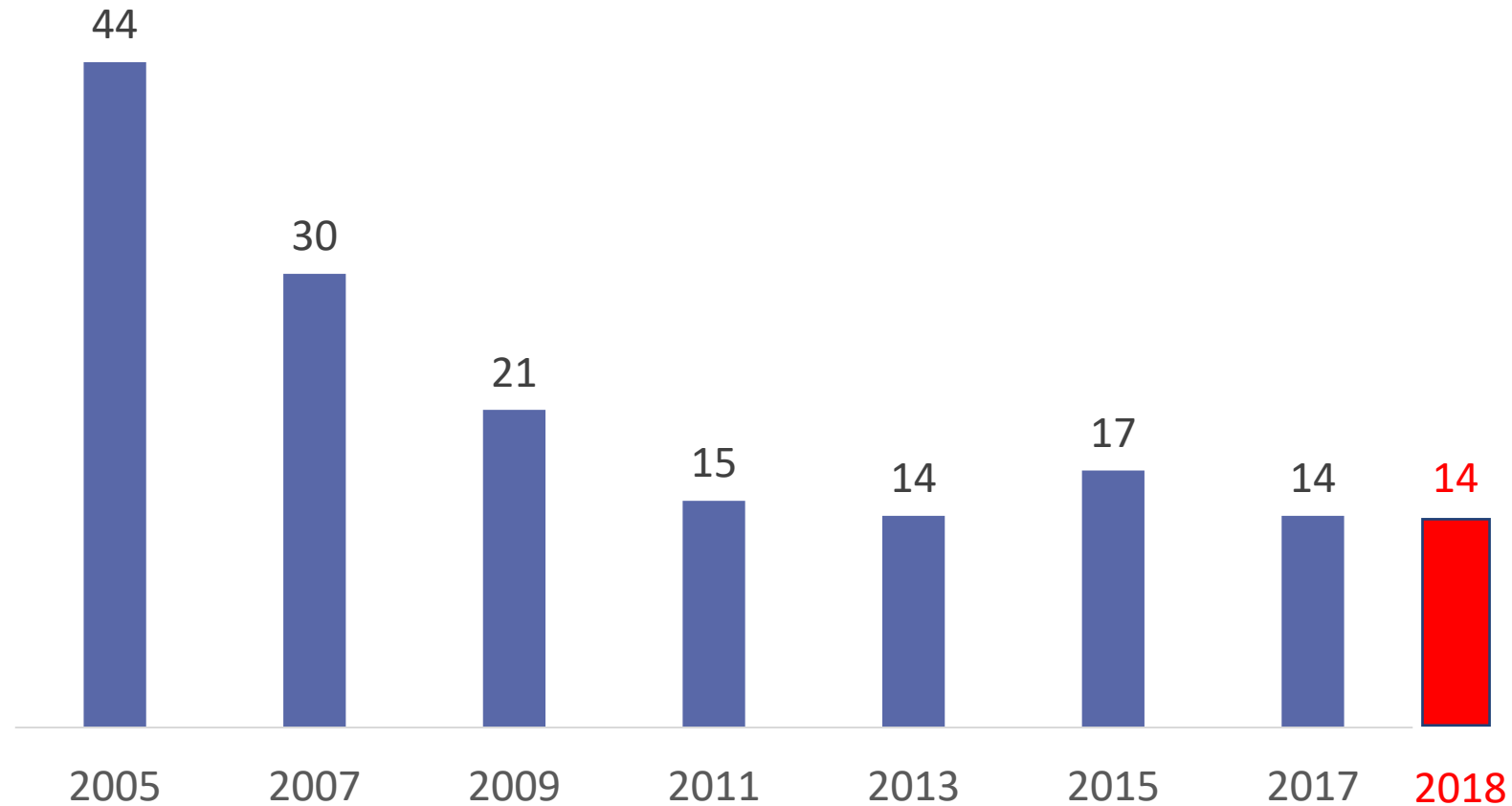
2018 Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (Private Primary Jobs)	Employed in County Live Outside (A)	Employed and Live in County (B)	Live in County Employed Outside (C)	Residents of County Workers (B+C)	Percent (B/(B+C))
Alamance County	27,983	24,485	33,001	57,486	42.6%
Alexander County	4,445	3,344	9,288	12,632	26.5%
Alleghany County	1,107	1,160	1,794	2,954	39.3%
Anson County	2,848	2,028	5,683	7,711	26.3%

# Method for work/live in same county

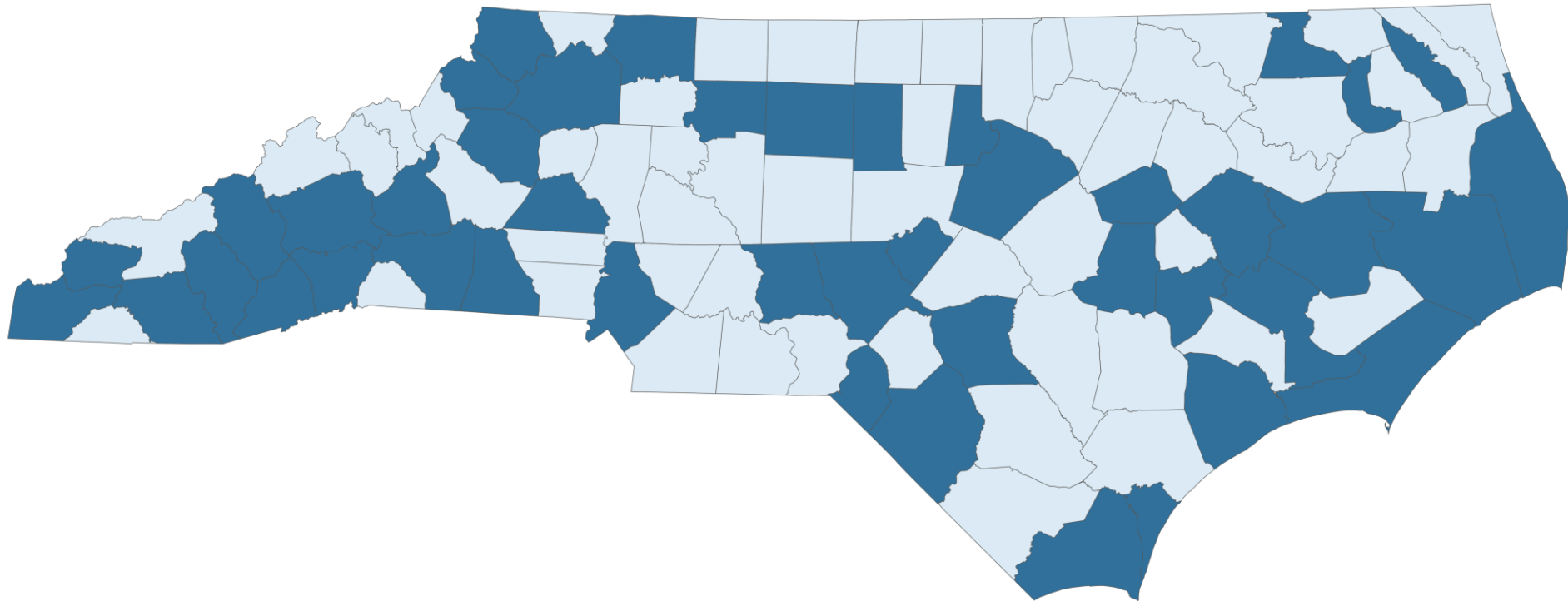
- **First time we did this, we just used OnTheMap and pulled the following pieces of information for each county using Inflow/Outflow Analysis.**
- **Only takes 100 sets of clicks for each of the 100 counties in NC, and then data entry for 3 data points each.**
- **For each year.**

# Results for work/live in same county

Number of Counties where majority of worker residents work in the same county they live in

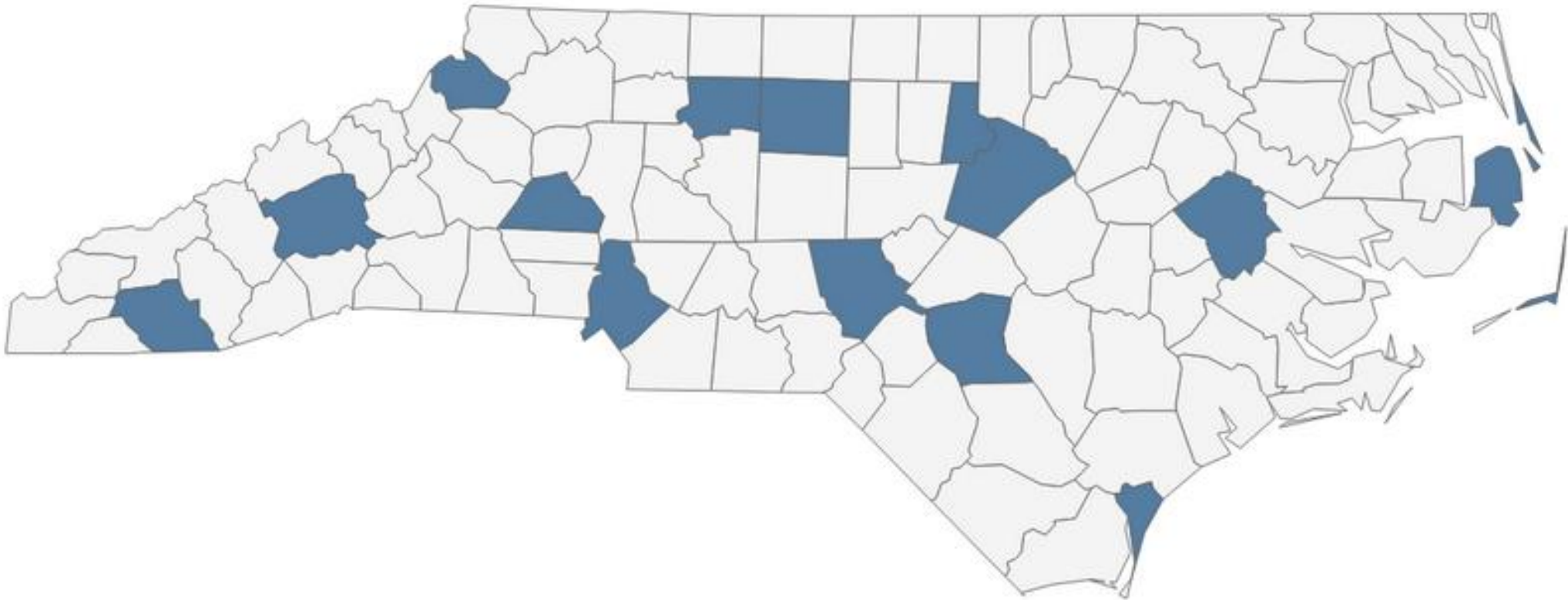


# Results for work/live in same county 2005



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LODES Private Primary Jobs

# Results for work/live in same county 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LODES Private Primary Jobs

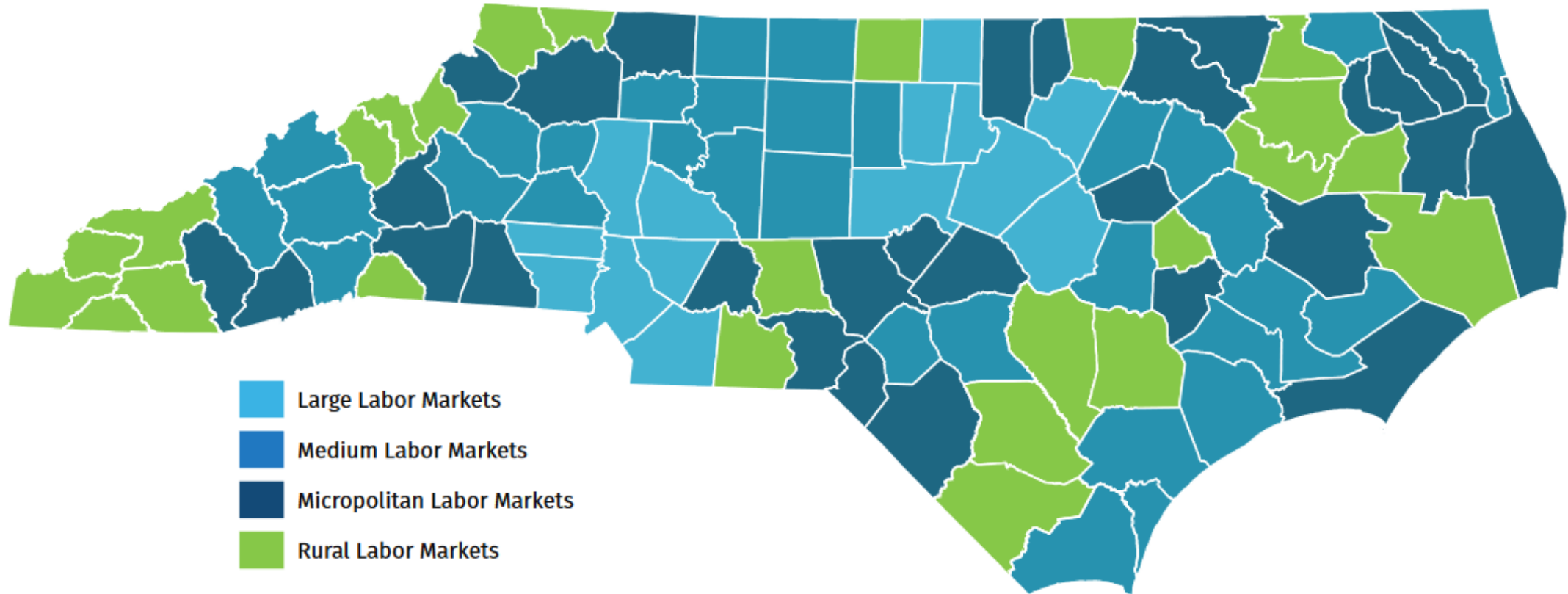


# **Question for commuting patterns by labor market**

- **What can we learn about the nature of commuting patterns by examining these by size of labor market?**
- **Do workers from large metro areas commute outside their region?**
- **Do workers from smaller sized counties and labor markets commute into larger sized labor markets?**

# What do we mean by labor market size?

North Carolina's Labor Markets by Size



# Method for commuting patterns by labor market

- **Wrote SAS program to capture this by setting counties into our pre-set labor market sizes to see if workers commuted to other counties in similar labor market sizes.**

# Results for commuting patterns by labor market

Lives in....	Works in...	Large	Medium	Micropolitan	Rural
Large		85.7%	9.7%	3.9%	0.7%
Medium		16.4%	74.9%	6.6%	2.1%
Micropolitan		23.0%	21.1%	51.4%	4.6%
Rural		16.6%	24.4%	14.5%	44.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LODES Private Primary Jobs

# Live and Work in the Same County

Statewide, 47.7% of private primary workers work in the same county they live in.

This varies by Labor Market Size:

Labor Market Size	% Live and Work in Same County
Large	51.4%
Medium	48.0%
Micropolitan	40.8%
Rural	35.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LODS Private Primary Jobs

# Results for commuting patterns by labor market (work outside home county)

Lives in....	Works in...	Large	Medium	Micropolitan	Rural
Large		70.6%	20.0%	8.0%	1.4%
Medium		31.5%	51.7%	12.6%	4.1%
Micropolitan		38.8%	35.6%	17.8%	7.8%
Rural		25.8%	37.8%	22.5%	14.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LODS Private Primary Jobs

# Results for commuting patterns by labor market

Workers in Rural and Micropolitan areas are:

- more likely to work in a different county than their residence
- more likely to drive to larger labor markets to work.

This process does not work in reverse.

# Future Research

- **Update Interconnected Markets research to see if these areas have shifted over time**
- **How commuting patterns relate to industrial patterns**
- **How commuting patterns relate to population growth or decline**
- **Keep eye on this relationship going forwards with potential increase in Working from Home**



# Thank You!



**NC DEPARTMENT**  
**of COMMERCE**  
LABOR & ECONOMIC  
ANALYSIS

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