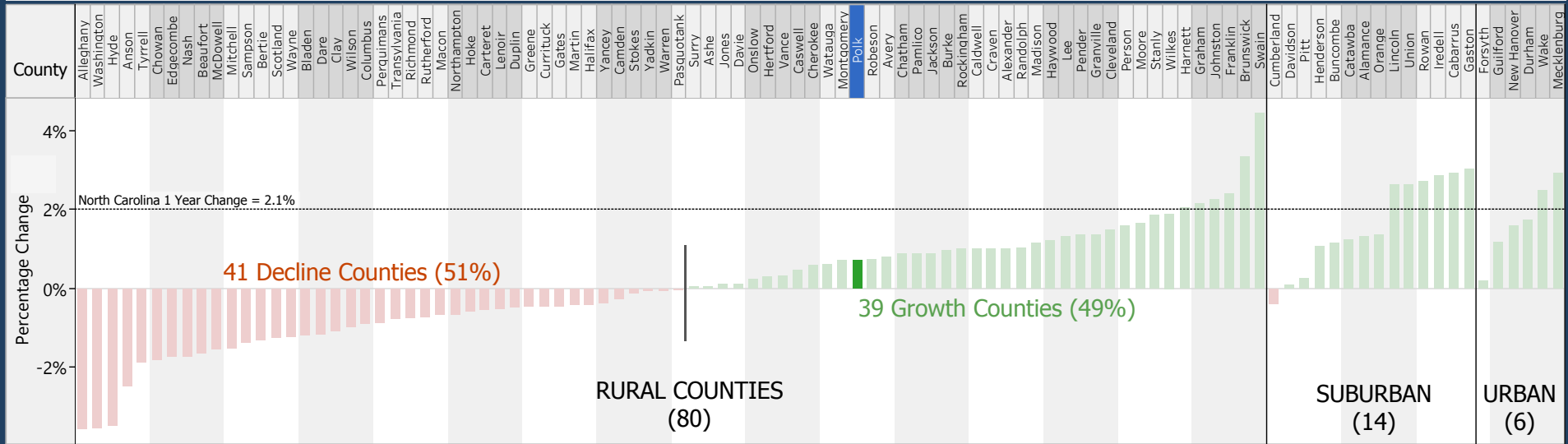


Employment Growth - A Challenge in Many Rural Counties



Change in North Carolina Employment, May 2016 - May 2017



Polk

Number Employed in May 2016	Number Employed in May 2017	One Year Change in Employment	One Year Change in Employment (%)
8,444	8,504	60	0.7%

Measures	Total Laborforce Employment by County Classification		
	Rural Counties (80)	Suburban Counties (14)	Urban Counties (6)
Total Employed, May 2016:	1,675,416	1,163,931	1,764,544
Total Employed, May 2017:	1,682,949	1,182,773	1,802,408
Numeric Change:	7,533	18,842	37,864
Percentage Change:	+ 0.4%	+ 1.6%	+ 2.1%

Data Source: May 2017 Labor Force Employment data from U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, N.C. Department of Commerce. Seasonal adjusting of data carried out by the East Carolina University, Bureau of Business Research and released on June 28, 2017.