

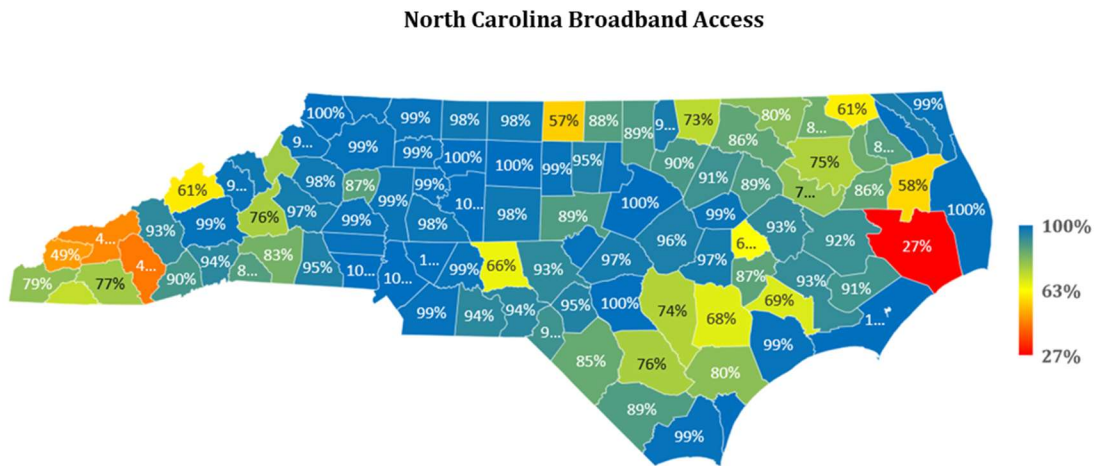
Using data from BroadbandNow and the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), TCA analyzed broadband access in the Carolinas. Currently, national broadband access stands at 93%. With work-from-home gaining traction as a desired workplace amenity, broadband access will continue to become increasingly important.



The graphic above is from the Center on Rural Innovation and Rural Innovation Strategies. Broadband infrastructure is a key component to enabling tech economies in rural communities. Consequently, a lack of broadband infrastructure and access is a barrier to enabling tech economies. Counties that lack broadband infrastructure may be able to address this deficiency by:

- Exploring public private partnerships as a means to bridge the gap.
- Highlighting existing tech assets in order to facilitate investment in tech infrastructure.
- Searching for viable funding opportunities on the US Economic Development Agency's website.

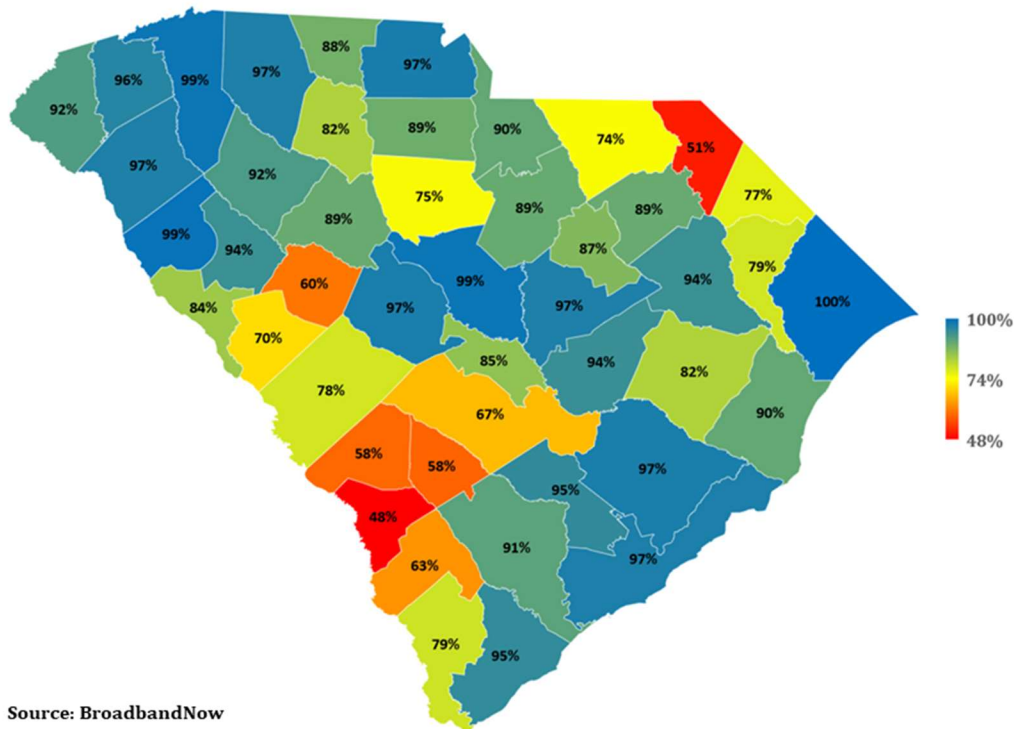
## North Carolina



- North Carolina is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in broadband access.
- 12.3% of North Carolina jobs are in tech enabled industries. This is compared to the 13.6% national average.
- Fifty-four percent (54 out of 100) of North Carolina counties have broadband access rates that exceed the national rate.
- 46.8% of North Carolinians have access to a low-priced wired internet plan (less than \$60 per month). This is less than the 51.5% national rate.

## South Carolina

South Carolina Broadband Access



- South Carolina is ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in broadband access.
- 12.7% of South Carolina jobs are in tech enabled industries. This is compared to the 13.6% national average.
- Thirty-seven percent (17 out of 46) of South Carolina counties have broadband access rates that exceed the national rate.
- 52.4% of North Carolinians have access to a low-priced wired internet plan (less than \$60 per month). This is above the 51.5% national rate.

## **About Thompson Consulting and Analytics, LLC**

Thompson Consulting and Analytics, LLC (TCA) is an economic consulting firm that operates with client success in mind. We are experienced at performing economic impact analysis, econometric forecasts, and economic research studies. In addition, we offer predictive analytics, site feasibility studies, white papers/industry analysis, and other economic consulting services. Our extensive background in regional economics and commercial real estate research has provided private and public sector clients with valuable results and actionable insights.