

# Economic Update

**Budget & Management Services**

**August 18, 2022**



# Agenda

- Unemployment & labor market
- Consumer spending
- Sales & property tax
- Inflation

**December 2020:**  
*Uncertainty is the  
new certainty*

# December 2021:

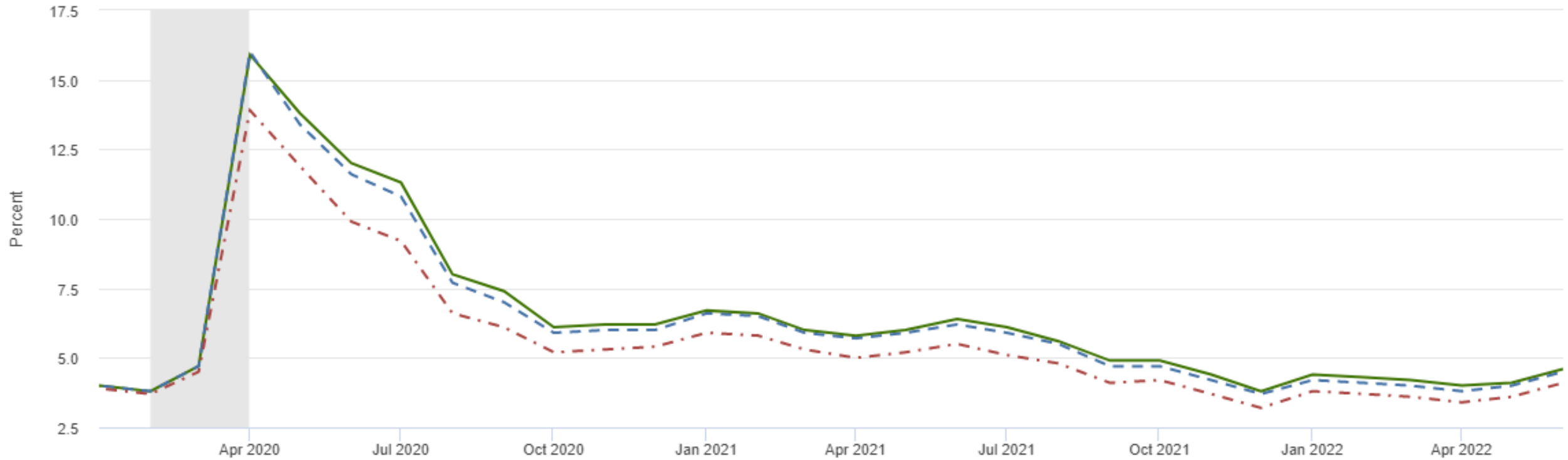
*Cautious growth,  
Cautious optimism*

# August 2022:

*It depends...*

# Unemployment & Labor Market

**FRED**  — Unemployment Rate in Guilford County, NC  
— Unemployment Rate in Greensboro-High Point, NC (MSA)  
- - Unemployment Rate in North Carolina



Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

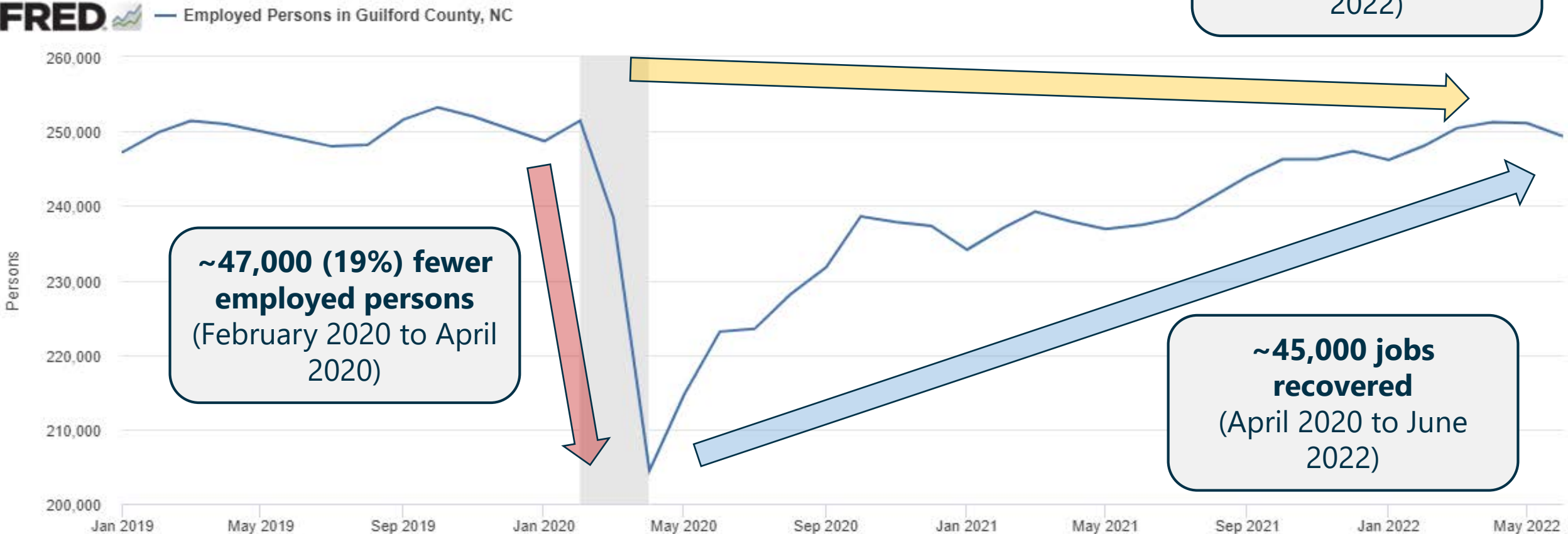
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

fred.stlouisfed.org



# Unemployment & Labor Market

**~2,000 (0.8%) fewer employed persons**  
(February 2020 to June 2022)



**~47,000 (19%) fewer employed persons**  
(February 2020 to April 2020)

**~45,000 jobs recovered**  
(April 2020 to June 2022)

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

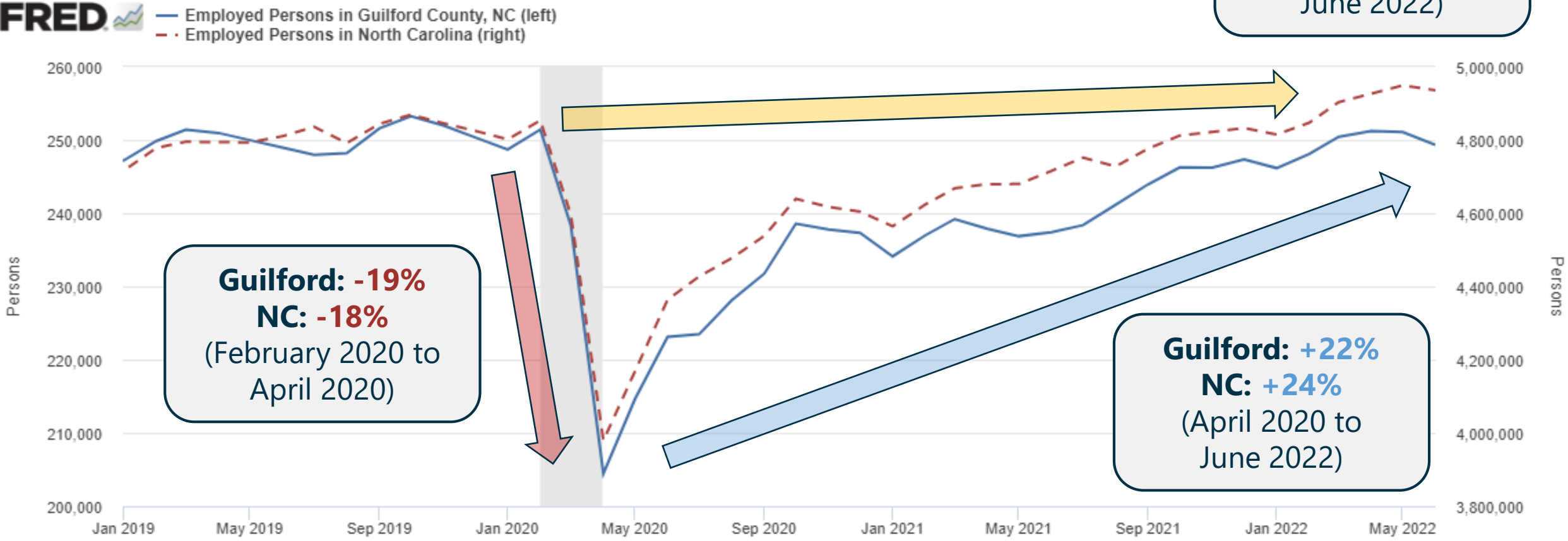
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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# Unemployment & Labor Market

**Guilford: -1%**  
**NC: +2%**  
 (February 2020 to June 2022)



**Guilford: -19%**  
**NC: -18%**  
 (February 2020 to April 2020)

**Guilford: +22%**  
**NC: +24%**  
 (April 2020 to June 2022)

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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# NC hourly wages appear to be responding



— Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees: Total Private in North Carolina

**Actual 5.8% CAGR**



**Red line** denotes 3% CAGR (reference)

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

Sources: BLS; St. Louis Fed

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# A closer look at Guilford County

## 3+ job openings for every job seeker

- ~12,000 unemployed individuals
- ~41,000 job openings
- ~261k in labor force

## Who is hiring? (and # of openings)

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| • Cone Health          | 879 |
| • NC A&T               | 310 |
| • UNC-G                | 298 |
| • Guilford Co. Schools | 281 |
| • Deloitte             | 219 |

## Wide variety of occupations

1. Registered Nurses
2. Retail Salespersons
3. Customer Service Reps
4. Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses
5. Heavy Truck Drivers

# Percent Change in All Consumer Spending\*

In **Guilford**, as of **July 31, 2022**, total spending by all consumers **increased** by **8.9%** compared to January 2020.



data source: **Affinity**

\* Change in consumer credit and debit card spending, indexed to January 4-31, 2020 and seasonally adjusted. The series is based on data from Affinity Solutions.

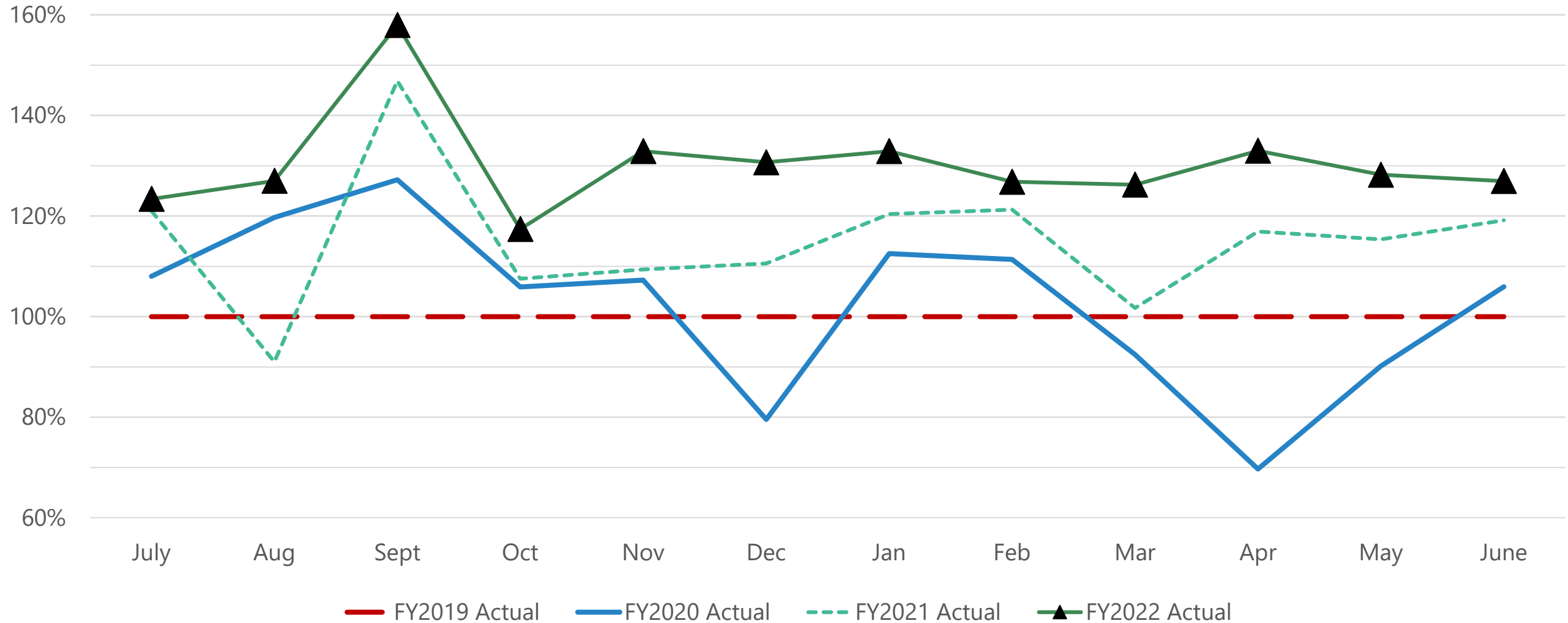
Last updated: **August 12, 2022**

next update expected: **August 17, 2022**

visit [tracktherecovery.org](http://tracktherecovery.org) to explore



# Sales tax shows continued growth



Reflects sales tax available for distribution to Guilford County, including funds restricted for school capital and fire districts



# Property tax collections remain strong

## FY2021 property tax collection

Through June 30, 2021

99.46%

## FY2022 property tax collection

Through June 30, 2022

99.35%

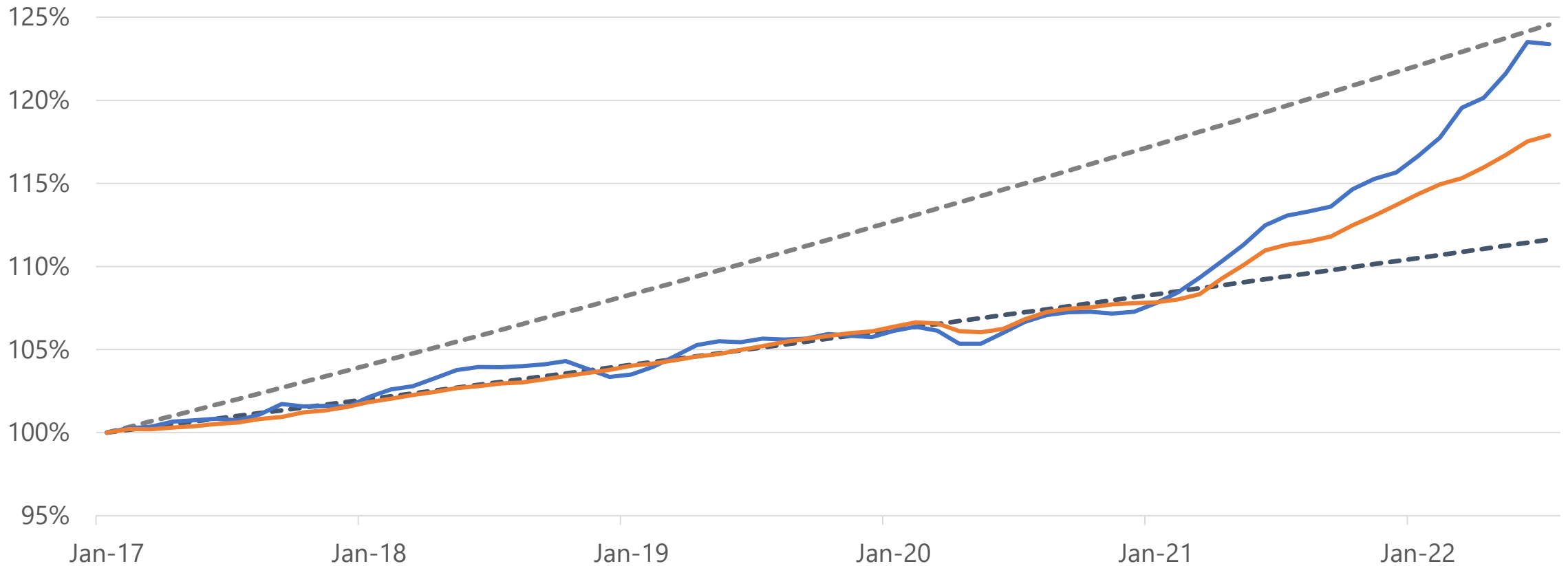
*Both years reflect strong collection*

# What about inflation??

## Consumer Price Index, January 2017 to July 2022

Cumulative % Change by Month

--- Annual 2%    --- Annual 4%    — CPI-W    — Core CPI



# What about inflation??

RETAIL  
**Walmart CEO Doug McMillin says even wealthier families are pinching**

REAL ESTATE  
**Homebuyers are backing out of more deals as high mortgage rates persist**

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**U.S. freight shipping rates have likely peaked, according to new Cass**

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**Goldman sees a 'feasible but difficult' path for the Fed to defeat inflation without a recession**

PUBLISHED MON, AUG 15 2022 2:32 PM EDT | UPDATED MON, AUG 15 2022 2:49 PM EDT

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# August 2022:

*It depends...*

*on outcomes of Fed policy*



## A parting note of optimism

CNBC NEWS RELEASES

# North Carolina is America's Top State for Business, According to CNBC Exclusive Study

PUBLISHED WED, JUL 13 2022

## N.C. A&T LANDS \$23.7M GOOD JOBS CHALLENGE GRANT FOR CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE TRAINING

By Jackie Torok / 08/03/2022 Research and Economic Development

### NC economy is strong – ‘way ahead of the nation,’ declares a Moody’s Analytics economist

N.C. ECONOMY

MOODYS

