

New Research Shows People Ages 18-24 Reported Losing More Money to Scams than Older Age Groups

People ages 18-24 reported losing more money to scams than older age groups, according to a new report published by the Better Business Bureau Institute for Marketplace Trust (BBB Institute), the International Association of Better Business Bureaus' educational foundation. "Targeting our youth: How scams are impacting ages 18-24" highlights scam types, tactics, and trends based on data submitted to BBB Scam Tracker between January 1, 2022, and June 24, 2023.

Riskiest scams New BBB research shows people ages 18-24 reported losing more money to scams than older age groups

Employment scams continue to be the riskiest scams for ages 18-24, making up almost 30% of scams reported by this age group to BBB Scam Tracker. This scam type had the highest median dollar loss of all scam types reported by this age group (\$1,819).

Riskiest scams for 18-24-year-olds: 1. Employment; 2. Online purchase; 3. Cryptocurrency; 4. Rental; 5. Investment; 6. Fake check/money order; 7. Phishing; 8. Romance; 9. Advance fee loan; and 10. Credit repair/debt relief.

"It's important that we spread awareness about employment scams, especially to younger people," said BBB President/CEO Tom Bartholomy. "About 43% of employment scams reported by this age group included a mention of fake check scams. Many reported being told to deposit checks into their accounts and then transfer funds to a vendor to pay for training or office equipment. By the time they realized the check was bad, the money was gone. We must make sure young people understand it takes time for checks to clear and to be sure they're good."

About 19% of employment scams from this age group mentioned schemes involving inspecting or reshipping packages.

Online purchase scams made up 29.1% of all reports submitted by 18-24-year-olds, with 81.4% reporting a monetary loss.

Contact method Ages 18-24 were more likely to report being targeted by text message or internet messaging than other age groups. The contact methods with the highest likelihood of a monetary loss (susceptibility) included website and social media. The contact methods with the highest reported median dollar loss were phone call, text message, and in person.

This group reported a higher percentage of scams targeting them on Instagram and X (Twitter) than other age groups.

Payment method Ages 18-24 reported a higher percentage of scams via online payment system and bank account debit. The payment methods for this age group with the highest median dollar loss were wire transfer (\$2,150), check (\$1,500), and cryptocurrency (\$1,200).

You Decide: Is the Outlook Bright for Manufacturing?

Almost precisely a year ago I wrote a column about manufacturing. I reviewed the facts about manufacturing in North Carolina and throughout the country. While at both geographic levels manufacturing was once one of the dominant industries in terms of both production and employment, in the 21st century the opposite has been the case. Manufacturing has been in a state of decline.

To review: The nation has lost close to a quarter of the manufacturing jobs it had in 1990. The drop has been larger in North Carolina — almost half of the state's factory jobs are gone today. In the late 1990s, manufacturing at the national level accounted for 16% of total economic output; today it is 11%. Again, the reduction was bigger in North Carolina, where manufacturing contributed 27% to the economy in the late 1990s, but today contributes 15%.

Three factors brought about this shrinking of domestic manufacturing. First has been a desire to make countries economically interdependent to lessen the threat of war. Second were improvements in communications and transportation that made trading easier. Third was the desire to lower consumer prices by moving production to lower-cost regions and countries. These shifts hurt North Carolina relatively more because the state had long focused on producing key consumer products like textiles, apparel and furniture.

The pandemic changed some of these views about international trade. A big concern was the supply chain problems that harmed the economy even after the pandemic subsided. Both businesses and consumers realized that being dependent on other countries for products came with a big potential downside. China has grown to be the largest manufacturing country in the world. Some call China the "world's factory." But the U.S. and other countries now have serious geopolitical differences with China. This has caused many to re-evaluate trade with China.

Last year's column ended by observing that many in our country - as well as in North Carolina - were beginning to consider serious efforts to move manufacturing back to our country. The question for today's column is, how have those efforts progressed in the last year? As with most questions in economics, the answer depends on which statistics are used. Manufacturing production in both the nation and North Carolina rebounded strongly from the pandemic recession that pushed output well below pre-COVID-19 levels. However, since 2022, production has dropped as recession fears have risen. Production levels are now lower than in 2019.

Manufacturing employment has increased since the end of the pandemic and is now at 14-year highs in both the U.S. and North Carolina. However, there have been some recent retreats in factory jobs, particularly in North Carolina. Of course, a key reason for the decline in domestic manufacturing in the last four decades has been the increase in imports of manufactured products from foreign countries, particularly China. But there appears to have been a reversal in recent years. On trend, imports from China are down. This is a big reason why the U.S. trade deficit in products is 13% lower thus far in 2023 (through July) compared to the same period in 2022.

Why has there been improvement in our foreign trade deficit for manufactured products? The answer is a combination of "foreign sticks" and "domestic carrots." Here's what I mean. One traditional way of reducing imports and helping domestic producers is to make foreign imports more expensive. This can easily be accomplished by levying a tax on imports, which is termed a tariff. The tariffs are like "foreign sticks." The Trump administration imposed significant tariffs on Chinese imports, and the Biden administration has largely kept them. Hence, over the last several years, Chinese-made products have lost some of their cost advantage.

Another way of competing against imports is to subsidize domestic competitors. For example, if foreign-made computer chips are cheaper than U.S.-made computer chips, then the government can reduce the cost of U.S.-made chips by providing a financial subsidy to the manufacturers. In 2022, Congress approved, and the president signed, several legislative bills totaling over \$2 trillion that will financially assist U.S. computer chip manufacturers, auto manufacturers and other factories. These can be viewed as "domestic carrots."

While these carrots and sticks can work, they have many critics. The major argument against tariffs is that they prevent U.S. consumers from having access to lower-cost, foreign-made products, hence reducing consumers' standard of living. Also, in response to the claim that tariffs create domestic manufacturing jobs, critics say buying cheaper foreign-made products will free up money for U.S. consumers to spend on other domestic products, thus also creating jobs.

Detractors of subsidies to domestic manufacturers ask an important question: What happens when the subsidies stop? And if the subsidies never stop, will the higher taxes to support them leave U.S. consumers no better off?

There is a third way to reshore manufacturing to our country. This is to make U.S. and North Carolina factory workers out-produce and out-compete their foreign competitors. In economics lingo, this means improving manufacturing productivity. Unfortunately, U.S. manufacturing productivity has recently been lagging that of foreign countries.

While the goal of reviving domestic manufacturing persists, the future continues to be uncertain. Still, major changes in the economy can happen within a lifetime. When I was born over 70 years ago, my parents had no TV and had just purchased their first rotary phone! Will manufacturing make a big comeback? I think it can, but you decide.

Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Town of Lilesville's Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park Set for December 12

Save the date! The Town of Lilesville will host their annual lighted Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park on Tuesday, December 12 at Hatcher Park. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas in the Park will begin after the parade.

If you are interested in having an entry in the parade please contact the Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711 or Beth Griggs Richeson at 704-212-8258 for all the details.

If you would like to be a vendor at the Christmas in the Park, contact Jamie Varela at 1-321-202-3465.

Anson Alcoholics Anonymous Welcomes All

The Anson County Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has regular meetings that are open to all who are looking for help with the disease of alcoholism.

There are two meetings each week. The Anson Group meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. for an Open Topic Meeting. The Harmony Group meets on Wednesdays at 12 noon for an Open Discussion Meetings. The meetings generally last an hour.

The meetings are held at the Alcoholics Anonymous building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, across from the Anson EMS building. The building is non-smoking and handicap accessible.

Church

NOVEMBER 3 & 4

BBQ Dinner Sale

At Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, starting at 11am both days. \$12 plate includes chopped BBQ, baked beans, cole slaw, hush puppies or bread & dessert. For info call James Ratliff 704-380-7142 or Robert Moore 704-475-2967.

NOVEMBER 4

Youth Summit

At Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Lilesville, 3-5pm. All youth 12-25 are welcome. The theme is "Uncovering the Truth."

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Service

At North Wadesboro Baptist Church, 1211 N Greene St, at 10am. All are invited to this showing of thanks to those who have served in the military.

NOVEMBER 12

Friends & Family Day

Reunion at East Rock Ford Missionary Baptist Church, 2pm with Rev. David Gaddy of East Macedonia Baptist Church in Norwood. Theme is Coming Home. Dinner served after the program. All are invited.

Annual Usher's

Ministry Program at

Divine Unity H.O.R.M., located at 6090 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, 2:30pm with

Pastor Vashon Ingram, Pastor of Sandy Ridge MBC in Morven.

12th Anniversary of Pastor Sharon Lockhart at New Grove MBC. Pastor

Mary Lindsey of St. John Baptist Church in Derby NC at 11am, Dr. Billy Casey of

Myrtle Beach at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Events

NOVEMBER 7

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room,

Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in

uptown Wadesboro. Now there are two regular monthly

meetings, with the second November meeting on November 21. Meetings are

available online at youtube.com, search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign

up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

ONGOING EVENTS

After School Program

Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning

Center, 704-826-8737

Cub Scouts Pack #530

Meets each Thursday at Peachland UMC at 7pm. Info 704-994-9173

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North

Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

Partnership for Children Barn Blast Set for January 26

Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children said, "We are excited to invite you to the annual Barn Blast fundraiser in support of the children of Anson County. This event promises to be a night of fun and entertainment, all for a great cause."

The evening will kick off with a live auction featuring a wide range of exciting items up for bid. From unique experiences to valuable collectibles, there's something for everyone. Following the auction, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Jon G's. And of course, no fundraiser is complete without some dancing! So, put on your dancing shoes and get ready to groove the night away.

The event will be held at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center on Friday, January 26, from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

Your contribution will make a significant impact on the lives of Anson County children and families, providing them with educational resources, programs, and much-needed support.

Goins concluded, "Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at Barn Blast!"

You can get more information and purchase tickets by visiting: www.AnonChildren.org or calling 704-694-4036.

Wildlife in North Carolina 2023-24

Photo Competition is Now Open

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is accepting entries to its 19th annual Wildlife in North Carolina Photo Competition. Entries will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2024. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages, except for employees of the Wildlife Commission and their immediate families (children, siblings and spouses).

Adult competition entrants must be current magazine subscribers. Photographers in the two youth categories (13-17 years old and 12 and under) may enter without a subscription.

Only digital entries in JPEG format, no larger than 2 MB, will be considered - no slides, negatives or prints will be accepted. Photographs must have been taken in North Carolina on Sept. 15, 2019 or later.

Entrants may submit a maximum of two photos per category. The competition categories are: 1) Animal Behavior; 2) Birds; 3) Invertebrates; 4) Mammals; 5) Outdoor Recreation; 6) Reptiles and Amphibians; 7) Wild Landscapes; 8) Wild Plants and Fungi.

• Youth Photographer, 13-17: Any of the above subjects, shot by children ages 13-17.

• Youth Photographer, 12 and under: Any of the above subjects, shot by children 12 and younger.

Photos of captive native animals are allowed, but photos of animals that are both captive and non-native to North Carolina will not be accepted. No pets or domestic animals will be accepted, except animals participating with people in an outdoor activity, such as hunting dogs or horses with riders.

Entries will be judged by a panel comprising staff from the Wildlife Commission and professional wildlife photographers. The grand prize winner's photo will be published on the cover of the July/August 2024 issue of Wildlife in North Carolina, and the winner will receive a cash prize of \$200. All winning photos will be published in the July/August 2024 issue. Cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the first, second and third place photographers, respectively, in each category.

Additional details about the contest and past winning photos are available at ncwildlife.org/contest.

Wildlife in North Carolina is published bimonthly by the Wildlife Commission in both print and electronic formats. Subscribers to the magazine enjoy exceptional color photography and articles on hunting, fishing, natural areas, wildlife research and the state's environment in every issue. subscriptions to the printed version of the magazine are \$12. A digital subscription is \$10; a combination digital/print subscription is \$15.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

C&M AUTO SUPPLY
Auto Plus
Your locally owned Auto Parts Store
Hwy 74, Wadesboro • 704-694-5167

Williamson Wrecker Service
Since 1972
704-694-4545

Badcock HOME FURNITURE & more
Hwy. 52, South • P.O. Box 856
Wadesboro, NC 28170
Ph: 704-694-4178
www.badcock.com

PIEDMONT FLOORING
All Major Brands of Floor Covering
Serta & Orderest Bedding
214 West Main Street in Marshville
704-624-2211
MAYTAG • FRIGIDAIRE • CROSLEY

Papa Joe's PIZZA
Anson Station Shopping Center
Wadesboro • 704-694-6666

UWHARRIE BANK
704-694-2122
Member FDIC

From Your Friends At PARSONS DRUG
Serving Anson County for over 100 years
"On The Square"
Wadesboro • 704-694-2218

Glenn Trexler & Sons Logging, Inc.
"Freedom of Worship is a Precious Commodity"
WADESBORO

H. W. Little & Company
Hardware & More!
Uptown Wadesboro
704-694-2214

Henry's Body Shop
704-848-4989
4225 Stanbackferry Ice Plant Rd • Lilesville
Owner: Robbie Henry

ADVERTISE HERE! Call The Express to find out how...704-694-2480

WE SELL APPLIANCE PARTS

MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

High Quality - Low Prices

1367 Highway 74 West Wadesboro • 704-694-3185