Western Piedmont
Council of Governments
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles
2030 Proposed Regional Council Attainment Goal: 49,137

Population Spotlight
Growth Rate: Council of Governments: 0.8% vs. State: 2.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>10,439,414</td>
<td>10,698,973</td>
<td>259,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander County</td>
<td>36,440</td>
<td>36,512</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke County</td>
<td>87,573</td>
<td>87,881</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell County</td>
<td>80,664</td>
<td>80,492</td>
<td>-172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba County</td>
<td>160,609</td>
<td>163,462</td>
<td>2,853</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022
- 0-4: 15%
- 5-17: 15%
- 18-24: 30%
- 25-44: 16%
- 45-64: 16%
- 65+: 8%

Race/Ethnicity, 2022
- White: 79%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 3%
- Black: 6%
- Hispanic: 8%
- Multiracial: 3%
- Amer. Indian: 0%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Educational Attainment
Western Piedmont residents ages 25-44, 2022
- No Degree: 48,719 (57.3%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 36,352 (42.7%)

In Western Piedmont Council of Governments:
- 327 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 1,951 graduates in 2020
- 80% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $37,805 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Western Piedmont earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2
- Total Jobs: 154,229
- Business Establishments: 9,225
- Employed: 169,174
- Unemployed: 6,024
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $960
- Median Household Income: $60,949

Top Industries in Western Piedmont Council of Governments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>41,884</td>
<td>$1,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>21,096</td>
<td>$1,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>17,763</td>
<td>$758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>12,538</td>
<td>$374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>9,905</td>
<td>$905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Western Piedmont Council of Governments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>132,495</td>
<td>$957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>15,557</td>
<td>$972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>5,558</td>
<td>$980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>$1,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incomes:
- Households with Broadband: 67%
- Child Poverty Rate: 20.9%
- Opportunity Youth Rate: 17.1%
- Foreign Born: 5%
- Gender: 56% Male, 44% Female

Opportunity Youth Rate: 2021 (State: 12.1%)
Child Poverty Rate: 2022 (State: 17.2%)
Households with Broadband: 2022 (State: 77%)
Foreign Born: 2022 (State: 9%)

Labor Market Alignment
Carolina Demography
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Counties in Council of Governments:
Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba
Success of Western Piedmont High School Graduates

- 81% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 61% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 59% for the state. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 6,272 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
- 3,807 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI
- 2,911 of all college-goers attended Western Piedmont CC

Adult Learners

Western Piedmont resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
296 Basic Skills
5,382 Continuing Education
1,339 Curriculum

- 58% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 752 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state. 2022
- 54% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state. 2022

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
1,541 certificate
2,036 associate
322 bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Public, 4-year or above
- Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, Western Piedmont Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Lenoir-Rhyne University

Private not-for-profit, 2-year

How students in Western Piedmont traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Western Piedmont needs:

- 60% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 275 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 9,783 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 10,902 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 346 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 34% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 11,776 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022
- 2% of students drop out of high school (373 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/