Jackson County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Jackson County Attainment Goal: 8,264 (Stretch Goal: 8,328)

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 43,107
2022 Estimate: 42,955
Change: -152

Growth Rate
-0.4% vs. 2.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Measure</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 Median Household Income (2022)</td>
<td>$58,491</td>
<td>$67,516</td>
<td>-12.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>62% Home Owners (2022)</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>27.6% Child Poverty Rate (2022)</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.9% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>51% Households with Broadband (2022)</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.8% Unemployment Rate (2022)</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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Educational Attainment
Jackson County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree: 5,137 (56.9%)
Have Degree or Credential: 3,886 (43.1%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment Count and Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school: 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school graduate (including GED): 28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some college, no credential: 14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-term credential: 8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree: 11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree: 17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree: 7%</td>
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Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Jackson County to improve future attainment outcomes.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
38% of Jackson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.

FAFSA Completion
52% of Jackson County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

Chronic Absenteeism
43% of Jackson County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 35%.

Promising Attainment Practices
The new Promising Attainment Practices Database is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state’s attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Jackson County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Jackson

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.1% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science all levels
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor’s
Business Management & Administration bachelor’s

15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
3,111 graduates in 2020
69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

34% of adults (ages 25-44) in Jackson County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

UNC System College Enrollment
Curriculum

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Job Title | Annual Growth
---|---
Nurse Practitioners | 4%
Logisticians | 4%
Medical and Health Services Managers | 3%

Top 3 Employers in Jackson County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employment Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Carolina University</td>
<td>1000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County Public Schools</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dlp Partner Medwest Llc</td>
<td>500-999</td>
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</tbody>
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Jackson County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

Labor Market Alignment
Carolina Demography

myFutureNC 2 million by 2030

John M Belk Endowment
Unc Carolina Population Center

Waynesville-Franklin
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 1 (2023)
11% of Jackson County residents have student loan debt. 7% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Jackson County High School Graduates

- 81% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 66% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 1,235 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 83 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 47 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC

52% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 72 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

67% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

50% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

49% of Jackson County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

How students in Jackson County traditional schools are doing:

- 38% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 74 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 917 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 847 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 22 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 43% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 1,150 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Jackson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 338:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

2% of students drop out of high school (21 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/