Southwest Prosperity Zone
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles
2030 Proposed Southwest Attainment Goal: 537,030

Population Spotlight

Growth Rate
Prosperity Zone: 3.2% 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>Anson County</td>
<td>22,052</td>
<td>22,202</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabarrus County</td>
<td>225,807</td>
<td>235,797</td>
<td>9,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland County</td>
<td>99,521</td>
<td>100,670</td>
<td>1,149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaston County</td>
<td>227,942</td>
<td>234,215</td>
<td>6,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iredell County</td>
<td>186,699</td>
<td>195,897</td>
<td>9,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln County</td>
<td>86,816</td>
<td>93,095</td>
<td>6,279</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg County</td>
<td>1,115,526</td>
<td>1,145,392</td>
<td>29,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan County</td>
<td>146,878</td>
<td>149,645</td>
<td>2,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanly County</td>
<td>62,506</td>
<td>64,153</td>
<td>1,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>238,233</td>
<td>249,070</td>
<td>10,837</td>
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Age Structure, 2022

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

Educational Attainment
Southwest residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree 272,703 40.4%
Have Degree or Credential 402,645 59.6%

9% 19% 12% 8% 9% 29% 14%

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

In Southwest Prosperity Zone:

80.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
12,495 graduates in 2020
74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$45,387 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

59% of adults (ages 25-44) in Southwest earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

In Southwest Prosperity Zone:

Top areas of misalignment:
- Business Management & Administration
- Finance
- Information Technology
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top Industries in Southwest PZ

Industry Name
- Health Care and Social Assistance: 146,172, $1,266
- Retail Trade: 125,762, $766
- Accommodation and Food Services: 113,455, $504
- Manufacturing: 105,280, $1,338
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management: 93,209, $1,026

Top Job Sectors in Southwest PZ

Job Sector
- Private: 1,094,913, $1,331
- Local Government: 120,296, $1,209
- State Government: 14,801, $1,108
- Federal Government: 10,291, $1,663
Success of Southwest High School Graduates

- 84% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 60% 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

- 24,819 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 11,305 of all college-goers attended Rowan-Cabarrus CC
- 9,387 of all college-goers attended Gaston College

Adult Learners

Southwest resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 2,910 Basic Skills
- 29,351 Continuing Education
- 8,357 Curriculum

How students in Southwest traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Southwest needs:

- 43% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 3,463 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 32% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 72,923 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 72,232 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 86% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 2,514 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 25% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 48,749 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- 2% of students drop out of high school (2,593 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

School Choice

444,697 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Southwest in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Associate</th>
<th>Bachelor's</th>
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<tr>
<td>6,906</td>
<td>6,066</td>
<td>9,125</td>
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Postsecondary assets in Southwest Prosperity Zone

- Public, 4-year or above: Carolinas College of Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Public, 2-year: Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Mitchell Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Stanly Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above: Belmont Abbey College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Catawba College, Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary, Davidson College, Gardner-Webb University, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Johnson C Smith University, Livingstone College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate University
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year: Belmont Abbey College, Cabarrus College, Catawba College, Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary, Davidson College, Gardner-Webb University, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Johnson C Smith University, Livingstone College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate University

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Southwest, 2022

Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Southwest completed 55,544 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (14,834 (27%) were industry-valued credentials) and 14,408 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; and Human Services.

19,825 high school students took at least one AP test (18%) versus 16% in the state (2023).

8,670 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (35%) versus 36% in the state (2023).

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