Population Spotlight

Growth Rate: WDB: 6.4% 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>Brunswick County</td>
<td>136,694</td>
<td>153,064</td>
<td>16,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County</td>
<td>50,625</td>
<td>49,885</td>
<td>-740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hanover County</td>
<td>225,705</td>
<td>234,921</td>
<td>9,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pender County</td>
<td>60,208</td>
<td>65,737</td>
<td>5,529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

Educational Attainment

Cape Fear residents ages 25-44, 2022

- No Degree: 49,282 (44.5%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 61,554 (55.5%)

In Cape Fear WDB:
- 273 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 6,009 graduates in 2020
- 66% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,328 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

53% of adults (ages 25-44) in Cape Fear earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

- Total Jobs: 198,358
- Business Establishments: 18,381
- Employed: 232,266
- Unemployed: 8,982
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $1,016
- Median Household Income: $67,632

Top Industries in Cape Fear WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>30,113</td>
<td>$1,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>26,977</td>
<td>$462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>26,449</td>
<td>$691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>14,692</td>
<td>$931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>14,383</td>
<td>$1,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Cape Fear WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>172,408</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>16,880</td>
<td>$990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>7,197</td>
<td>$1,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>1,873</td>
<td>$1,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Success of Cape Fear High School Graduates

- 81% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state, 2022
- 58% 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

- 10,895 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 2,926 of all college-goers attended Brunswick CC
- 2,746 of all college-goers attended Southeastern CC

Adult Learners

Cape Fear resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

552 Basic Skills
8,495 Continuing Education
2,208 Curriculum

- 57% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 935 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 86% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state.
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state.

How students in Cape Fear traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Cape Fear needs:

- 74% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 21 more needed to meet state goal of 75%.
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 9,945 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
- 40% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 11,499 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 348 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 28% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 10,175 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.
- 2% of students drop out of high school (328 total students), compared to 2% statewide.

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