Population Spotlight

Growth Rate: WDB: 2.8% 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>Gaston County</td>
<td>227,942</td>
<td>234,215</td>
<td>6,273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

In Gaston County WDB:

152 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

981 graduates in 2020

81% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

$40,337 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

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

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

Total Jobs 77,499
Business Establishments 5,593
Employed 110,448
Unemployed 4,212
Avg. Weekly Wage $964
Median Household Income $65,430

Educational Attainment

Gaston County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree

29,858 50.4%

Have Degree or Credential

29,411 49.6%

Top Industries in Gaston County WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>14,570</td>
<td>$1,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>12,591</td>
<td>$1,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,270</td>
<td>$675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>8,083</td>
<td>$420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>5,905</td>
<td>$866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Gaston County 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>67,745</td>
<td>$954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>8,233</td>
<td>$1,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>$928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>$1,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Outcomes:
- 981 graduates in 2020
- 81% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $40,337 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)
Success of Gaston County High School Graduates

- 81% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 54% 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

- 5,531 of all college-goers attended Gaston College
- 822 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 584 of all college-goers attended Cleveland CC

Adult Learners

Gaston County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 235 Basic Skills
- 4,637 Continuing Education
- 1,117 Curriculum

• 55% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 488 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
• 72% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state.
• 49% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state.

How students in Gaston County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Gaston County needs:

- 69% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 75 more needed to meet state goal of 75%.
- 26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 6,439 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
- 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 7,661 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
- 85% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 237 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 32% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 6,672 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.
- 3% of students drop out of high school (322 total students), compared to 2% statewide.

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

2,649 certificate
751 associate
302 bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Gaston County Workforce Dev Board:

- Public, 4-year or above
- Public, 2-year
- Gaston College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Belmont Abbey College
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Gaston County WDB, 2022

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

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Gaston County completed 8,195 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 1,695 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Human Services.

1,124 high school students took at least one AP course (12%) versus 15% in the state (2022).
858 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (22%) versus 23% in the state (2022).

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