High Country Workforce Development Board
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles
2030 Proposed High Country Attainment Goal: 34,980

Population Spotlight
Growth Rate: WDB: 0.9% 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>Alleghany County</td>
<td>10,886</td>
<td>11,185</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashe County</td>
<td>26,581</td>
<td>27,110</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery County</td>
<td>17,812</td>
<td>17,571</td>
<td>-241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell County</td>
<td>14,906</td>
<td>15,094</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga County</td>
<td>54,077</td>
<td>55,089</td>
<td>1,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes County</td>
<td>65,968</td>
<td>65,784</td>
<td>-184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yancey County</td>
<td>18,470</td>
<td>18,811</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022
- 65+ Female: 10%, Male: 10%
- 45-64 Female: 20%, Male: 20%
- 25-44 Female: 30%, Male: 30%
- 18-24 Female: 20%, Male: 20%
- 0-17 Female: 10%, Male: 10%

Race/Ethnicity, 2022
- White: 89%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 1%
- Black: 2%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multiracial: 2%
- Amer. Indian: 0%

Educational Attainment
High Country residents ages 25-44, 2022
- No Degree: 23,689 (53.2%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 20,870 (46.8%)

In High Country WDB:
- 17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 5,202 graduates in 2020
- 69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,421 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC
  (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

38% of adults (ages 25-44) in High Country earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Labor ForceSnapshot - 2023 Q2
- Total Jobs: 71,482
- Business Establishments: 6,160
- Employed: 92,673
- Unemployed: 3,406
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $833
- Median Household Income: $53,749

Top Industries in High Country 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>10,345</td>
<td>$1,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,029</td>
<td>$770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>9,004</td>
<td>$390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>8,937</td>
<td>$964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>$895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in High Country 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>57,721</td>
<td>$807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>7,539</td>
<td>$787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>5,716</td>
<td>$1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>$1,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Success of High Country High School Graduates**

- 79% 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**

- 3,908 of all college-goers attended Wilkes CC
- 1,657 of all college-goers attended Mayland CC
- 1,344 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI

**Adult Learners**

High Country resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 427 Basic Skills
- 4,785 Continuing Education
- 822 Curriculum

- 66% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 222 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 74% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state. 2022
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state. 2022

**How students in High Country traditional schools are currently doing:**

To meet state goals, each year High Country needs:

- High Country has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 34% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 3,928 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 4,545 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 119 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 22% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 2,474 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- 2% of students drop out of high school (131 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

**School Choice**

27,917 total students were enrolled in K-12 in High Country in the 2022-23 school year.

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

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**

Students in High Country completed 8,500 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (1,731 (20%) were industry-valued credentials) and 1,504 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

- 704 high school students took at least one AP test (10%) versus 16% in the state (2023).
- 1,075 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (63%) versus 36% in the state (2023).

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in High Country WDB, 2022**

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

**For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:**

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/