Southwestern Workforce Development Board

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Southwestern Attainment Goal: 32,575

Population Spotlight

Growth Rate: WDB: 1.2%  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>Cherokee County</td>
<td>28,769</td>
<td>29,512</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay County</td>
<td>11,085</td>
<td>11,614</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham County</td>
<td>8,029</td>
<td>7,980</td>
<td>-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haywood County</td>
<td>62,097</td>
<td>62,609</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>43,107</td>
<td>42,955</td>
<td>-152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon County</td>
<td>37,016</td>
<td>38,065</td>
<td>1,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain County</td>
<td>14,115</td>
<td>13,967</td>
<td>-148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

- Amer. Indian: 4%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 1%
- Black: 1%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multiracial: 3%
- White: 86%

Educational Attainment

Southwestern residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree: 23,115 (54.6%)

Have Degree or Credential: 19,199 (45.4%)

In Southwestern WDB:

- 15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
- 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)

- 45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Southwestern earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

- Total Jobs: 68,009
- Business Establishments: 6,724
- Employed: 88,071
- Unemployed: 3,276
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $876
- Median Household Income: $57,709

Top Industries in Southwestern WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,161</td>
<td>$6,35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>9,426</td>
<td>$4,93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>8,302</td>
<td>$9,52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>6,658</td>
<td>$9,07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>6,481</td>
<td>$1,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Southwestern 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>50,667</td>
<td>$8,43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>13,055</td>
<td>$9,41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>3,661</td>
<td>$1,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>$1,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southwestern 2024 Attainment Profile

Success of Southwestern High School Graduates
- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 59% 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
- 3,459 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 1,859 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 1,656 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC

Adult Learners
Southwestern resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- 711 certificate
- 823 associate
- 2,570 bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Southwestern Workforce Dev Board:
- Public, 4-year or above
  - Western Carolina University
- Public, 2-year
  - Haywood Community College
  - Southwestern Community College
  - Tri-County Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Southwestern WDB, 2022

How students in Southwestern traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Southwestern needs:
- 62% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 117 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 4,094 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 4,889 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 80 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 28% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 3,911 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- 1% of students drop out of high school (80 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

School Choice
26,756 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Southwestern in the 2022-23 school year.
Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Southwestern completed 4,773 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (1,135 (24%) were industry-valued credentials) and 1,290 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Manufacturing.

364 high school students took at least one AP test (5%) versus 16% in the state (2023).
912 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (55%) 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/