County Facts: Alexander County, NC
Population 37,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 3.7% (Alexander County), 4.5% (NC), 6.9% (United States)
Poverty rate: 4.4% (Alexander County), 4.5% (NC), 5.1% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $40 (Alexander County), $50 (NC), $57 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: 11% (Alexander County), 12% (NC), 16% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 25% (Alexander County), 18.6% (NC), 16% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 18% (Alexander County), 16% (NC), 15% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 1.8% (Alexander County), 1.5% (NC), 1.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 46% (Alexander County), 46% (NC), 46% (United States)
Percent reaching upper-middle class: 20% (Alexander County), 16% (NC), 12% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 6% (Alexander County), 4% (NC), 4% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 4% (Alexander County), 6% (NC), 10% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: 19% (Alexander County), 20% (NC), 22% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $4.6 (Alexander County), $5.4 (NC), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Lenoir-Rhyne Univ.†
- North Carolina 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

2-Year Colleges

- Catawba Valley CC (public)†
- North Carolina 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

- Percent Black
- Percent Hispanic
- Percent over age 65
- Percent college grad
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)
- Life expectancy (years)
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)

- Alexander County
- NC
- United States
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25\textsuperscript{th}-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau