County Facts: Jackson County, NC
Population 43,000

The Local Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Jackson County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income (000s)</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth 2000-2017</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing share of workforce</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming share of workforce</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Jackson County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent graduating any college</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent reaching upper-middle class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent achieving American Dream</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent giving birth as a teen</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent landing in jail</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local school expenditure per student (000s)</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
<td>$5.4</td>
<td>$5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 7.0% (Western Carolina Univ. (public)), 7.8% (North Carolina 4-year-college average), 20.1% (U.S. 4-year-college average)
- Low-income student success rate: 9.3% (Western Carolina Univ. (public)), 48.6% (North Carolina 4-year-college average), 51.3% (U.S. 4-year-college average)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 17.0% (Southwestern CC of Sylva, NC (public)), 15.6% (North Carolina 2-year-college average), 26.3% (U.S. 2-year-college average)
- Low-income student success rate: 17.0% (Southwestern CC of Sylva, NC (public)), 15.6% (North Carolina 2-year-college average), 32.9% (U.S. 2-year-college average)

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 2% (Jackson County), 14% (NC), 23% (United States)
- Percent Hispanic: 5% (Jackson County), 9% (NC), 17% (United States)
- Percent over age 65: 12.9% (Jackson County), 13.0% (NC), 15.1% (United States)
- Percent college grad: 18% (Jackson County), 21% (NC), 20% (United States)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 47 (Jackson County), 76 (NC), 103 (United States)
- Life expectancy (years): 82.2 (Jackson County), 82.5 (NC), 83.2 (United States)
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 25th-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
• BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
• 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