County Facts: Wilkes County, GA
Population 10,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Wilkes County 5.7%, GA 4.7%, United States 4.4%
- Poverty rate: Wilkes County 27.1%, GA 7.8%, United States 5.1%
- Median family income (000s): Wilkes County $57, GA $35, United States $53
- Population growth 2000-2017: Wilkes County 27%, GA -8%, United States 5.1%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Wilkes County 16%, GA 10%, United States 11%
- Farming share of workforce: Wilkes County 4.2%, GA 1.3%, United States 1.7%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Wilkes County 27%, GA 16%, United States 16%
- Unemployment rate: Wilkes County 4.2%, GA 1.3%, United States 1.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Wilkes County 39%, GA 43%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Wilkes County 11%, GA 16%, United States 20%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Wilkes County 6%, GA 6%, United States 10%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Wilkes County 25%, GA 20%, United States 20%
- Percent landing in jail: Wilkes County 2.9%, GA 2.2%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Wilkes County $6.4, GA $5.9, United States $5.3
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 9.1% (Wilkes County), 9.3% (GA), 48.2% (United States)
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3% (Wilkes County), 22.9% (GA), 32.9% (United States)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 15.6% (Wilkes County), 23.5% (GA), 32.9% (United States)
- Low-income student success rate: 22.9% (Wilkes County), 15.6% (GA), 23.5% (United States)

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 48% (Wilkes County), 32% (GA), 14% (United States)
- Percent Hispanic: 17% (Wilkes County), 9% (GA), 3% (United States)
- Percent over age 65: 18.6% (Wilkes County), 10.7% (GA), 8% (United States)
- Percent college grad: 19% (Wilkes County), 8% (GA), 6% (United States)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 84 (Wilkes County), 76 (GA), 63 (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 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
- 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