

# Benchmark Performance Measures Spreadsheet

Updated September 4, 2019

## Infrastructure-Water, Sewer and Broadband

Benchmark	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The number of water, sewer and broadband grants	10	4	9		
Total water, sewer, and broadband project totals	\$1,353,524	\$2,866,347	\$5,805,442		

Source: WPCOG and other organizations.

## Infrastructure-Transportation

Benchmark	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The number of transportation grants	9	1	16		
Total transportation project totals	\$13,708,268	\$458,000	\$24,719,744		

Source: WPCOG and other organizations.

## Housing

### American Community Survey Data Benchmarks

Benchmark	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Housing Units	162,285	162,990	164,528		
Number of Vacant Housing Units	22,188	18,521	23,278		
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	98,480	98,232	101,501		
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	41,617	46,167	39,749		
Median Housing Value	\$122,000	\$127,000	\$132,900		
Median Home Owner Monthly Costs (Housing Units with a Mortgage)	\$962	\$962	\$977		
Median Gross Rent	\$615	\$656	\$677		
Percentage of Home Owners with a mortgage whose month expenses exceed 35% of household income	19.5%	18.8%	15.0%		
Percentage of renters whose month expenses exceed 35% of household income	36.8%	36.4%	28.6%		

Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau.

## Additional Housing Benchmarks

Benchmark	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Civil Foreclosure Cases	857	733	709		
Number of new Site-Built Single-Family Permits	586	709	879		
Estimated Construction Value of Site-Built Single-Family Permits	\$125.2 million	\$148.6 million	\$186.2 million		
Number of Homes Addressed through WPCOG grant programs	437	250	286		

Source: NC Administrative Office of the Courts, Western Piedmont Area Grant Agencies, WPCOG Community Development Department.

## Marketing-“Regional Recruitment and Retention”

### Population Change Benchmarks

Benchmark	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Population	365,471	367,364	369,588		
Total Population Under Age 18	78,784	78,257	77,617		
Total population age 18 to 24	34,686	35,088	35,193		
Total population age 25 to 44	84,287	83,673	83,843		
Total population age 45 to 64	103,673	104,446	105,031		
Total population age 65 and over	64,041	65,900	67,904		

Source: NC Office of Management and Budget, NC Department of Commerce.

### Tourism Benchmarks

Benchmark	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tourism Expenditures	\$416.8 million	\$435.8 million	\$452.4 million		
Tourism related Employment	3,450	3,580	3,650		
Local Tourism related Tax Receipts	\$12.4 million	\$13.0 million	\$13.7 million		

Source: NC Office of Management and Budget, NC Department of Commerce.

## Community Life

Benchmark	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Population without Health Insurance Coverage	40,910	39,799	42,193		
% of Population without Health Insurance Coverage	11.5%	11.1%	11.7%		
Householder Age 65 and Over	40,584	42,479	47,722		

Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau.

## Life Expectancy at Birth

Benchmark	2013-2015	2016-2018	2019-2021
Alexander County	78.2		
Burke County	76.4		
Caldwell County	75.5		
Catawba County	76.5		

## Workforce

### Employment and Income Benchmarks

Benchmark	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Resident Labor Force	170,825	173,695	173,998		
Resident Number of Employed	162,598	166,339	167,820		
Resident Number of Unemployed	8,227	7,356	6,178		
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.2%	3.6%		

Total Number of Jobs in the Region by Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Manufacturing	40,327	41,356	42,240		
Construction	3,656	3,874	4,235		
Healthcare	21,470	21,715	21,911		
Education	10,034	9,971	9,888		
Trade (Wholesale and Retail)	23,551	24,126	23,686		
Other Services	39,935	40,860	40,946		
Public Administration	7,870	7,881	7,961		
Other Employment	951	1,004	972		
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>147,794</b>	<b>150,787</b>	<b>151,839</b>		

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor and Economic Analysis Division.

Benchmark-Income	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Weekly Wages	\$772	\$762	\$787		

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor and Economic Analysis Division.

## Education Benchmarks

Educational Attainment	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percentage of population 25+ with a high school diploma or equivalent	81.5	82.5	82.4		
Percentage of population 25+ with a four year degree or higher	18.5	17.0	17.9		

Source: American Community Survey (US Census Bureau).

Percentage of students (3-8) passing end of grade tests (EOGs)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Alexander County Schools	59.4	60.9	61.5		
Burke County Schools	62.0	62.9	61.8		
Caldwell County Schools	59.1	60.4	61.1		
Catawba County Schools	59.5	59.9	64.4		
Hickory Public Schools	55.7	55.7	61.5		
Newton-Conover Schools	55.5	59.8	58.7		
North Carolina	58.2	58.8	58.8		

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction.

Percentage of students (9-12) passing end of course tests (EOCs*)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Alexander County Schools	64.8	58.6	59.1		
Burke County Schools	60.6	62.6	61.6		
Caldwell County Schools	58.4	65.6	57.6		
Catawba County Schools	59.1	60.8	60.4		
Hickory Public Schools	53.0	52.0	56.2		
Newton-Conover Schools	53.8	57.5	55.1		
North Carolina	58.5	60.8	58.5		

\*EOCs include Math I, English II and Biology. Source: NC Department of Public Instruction.

Percentage of students graduating from high school in four years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Alexander County Schools	86.0	86.2	85.1		
Burke County Schools	91.3	86.3	88.5		
Caldwell County Schools	90.8	89.5	88.5		
Catawba County Schools	89.8	91.5	91.9		
Hickory Public Schools	84.7	85.0	90.6		
Newton-Conover Schools	93.5	95.0	91.3		
North Carolina	85.9	86.5	86.3		

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction.

## Economic Development

Benchmark	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of Business Establishments	7,370	7,355			

Source: County Business Patterns (US Census Bureau).

Benchmark	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Taxable Retail Sales*	\$3.51 billion	\$3.75 billion	\$3.86 billion		

Taxable Retail Sales are retails subject to the North Carolina Sales Tax. Source: County Business Patterns (US Census Bureau).

Benchmark	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The number building reuse and IDF* grants	10	8	8		
Total building reuse and IDF* grant project totals	\$45 million	\$49 million	\$41 million		
Jobs Created through WPCOG Grants	346	345	206		

\*Industrial Development Fund Source: WPCOG and other organizations.

Benchmark-Poverty Rates	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percentage Living Below Poverty Level-All Individuals	15.8%	15.8%	14.3%		
Percentage Living Below Poverty Level-Children (0-17)	19.4%	22.1%	18.7%		

Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau.