



Location

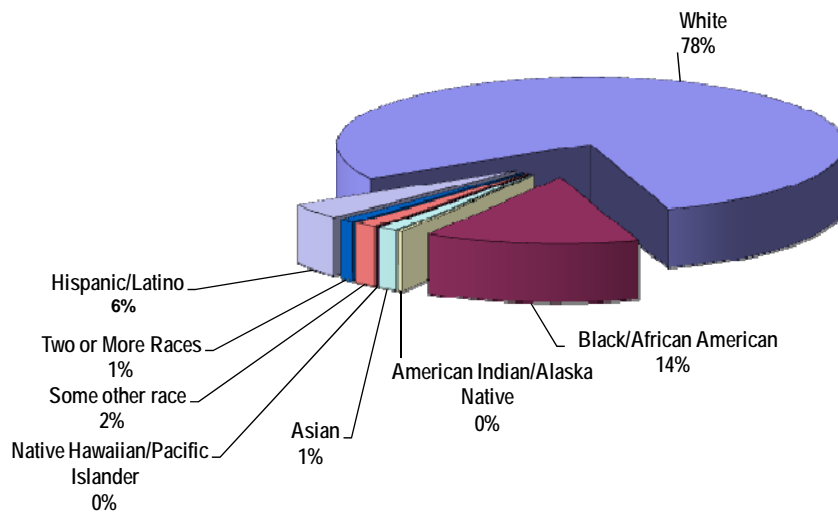


Population

2008 Population
 by Race and Origin

| | North Carolina | Gaston County | Gastonia |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------|
| Total Population | 9,231,191 | 203,546 | 68,111 |
| One Race | 9,082,480 | 201,322 | 67,256 |
| White | 6,472,338 | 165,823 | 46,635 |
| Black/African American | 1,983,698 | 28,974 | 17,614 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 115,352 | 613 | 150 |
| Asian | 181,373 | 2,674 | 1,054 |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 5,628 | 69 | 21 |
| Some other race | 324,091 | 3,169 | 1,782 |
| Two or More Races | 148,711 | 2,224 | 855 |
| Hispanic/Latino (Any Race) | 601,020 | 8,132 | 4,701 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2008 and 2013 were effective as of 7/08.

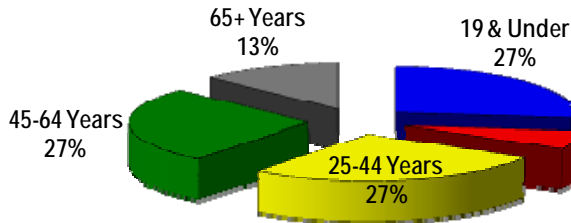


Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

Population
2008 Municipal Population Estimates

| | <i>2008 Estimates</i> | <i>2000 Census</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Gaston County | 204,971 | 190,422 |
| Belmont | 10,264 | 8,794 |
| Bessemer City | 5,597 | 5,119 |
| Cherryville | 5,767 | 5,361 |
| Cramerton | 3,472 | 2,976 |
| Dallas | 4,005 | 3,402 |
| Gastonia | 74,518 | 66,355 |
| High Shoals (Part) | 802 | 729 |
| Kings Mountain (Part) | 1,062 | 590 |
| Lowell | 2,758 | 2,662 |
| McAdenville | 605 | 619 |
| Mount Holly | 11,387 | 9,617 |
| Ranlo | 3,320 | 2,198 |
| Spencer Mountain | 52 | 51 |
| Stanley | 3,256 | 3,053 |

Source: North Carolina Office of State Planning, State Demographer, 2009

Persons by Age Groups


Source: U. S. Census Bureau, www.ospl.state.nc.us, 2009.

Population Projections Overview

| | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2029 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Gaston County | 214,025 | 236,261 | 258,498 | 298,523 |

Source: The State Demographer's Office, 9/2009.

Income
BEA Estimates of Per Capita Income: 1995-2007

| Year | Gaston County | NC | US |
|--------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| 2007 | \$31,585 | \$33,735 | \$38,615 |
| 2006 | \$30,892 | \$32,247 | \$36,714 |
| 2005 | \$29,856 | \$30,713 | \$34,757 |
| 2004 | \$28,961 | \$29,322 | \$33,050 |
| 2003 | \$27,685 | \$27,859 | \$31,484 |
| 2002 | \$27,108 | \$27,510 | \$30,810 |
| 2001 | \$26,759 | \$27,493 | \$30,574 |
| 2000 | \$26,357 | \$27,068 | \$29,845 |
| 1999 | \$25,255 | \$25,560 | \$27,939 |
| 1998 | \$24,218 | \$24,743 | \$26,883 |
| 1997 | \$22,630 | \$23,530 | \$25,334 |
| 1996 | \$21,485 | \$22,320 | \$24,175 |
| Current % US | 84% | 88% | |

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 9/2008

Median Household Income

| | 2009 | 2014 Projections |
|----------------|----------|------------------|
| Gaston County | \$51,034 | \$54,142 |
| North Carolina | \$51,418 | \$53,634 |
| United States | \$54,719 | \$56,938 |

Source: ESRI 2009.

Retail Sales Comparison

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2008 | \$1,471,900,000 |
| 2007 | \$1,476,379,041 |
| 2006 | \$1,393,163,887 |
| 2005 | \$1,781,348,238 |
| 2004 | \$2,259,848,351 |
| 2003 | \$2,156,437,181 |
| 2002 | \$2,149,669,189 |
| 2001 | \$2,019,683,592 |
| 2000 | \$2,189,412,729 |

Source: North Carolina Department of Revenue, Monthly Retail Sales Report.

**Major Employers
(Non-manufacturing)**

| <u>Company</u> | <u>Employment</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Gaston County Schools | 1,000 & over | Education & Health |
| 2. Caromont Health | 1,000 & over | Education & Health |
| 3. Walmart Associates, Inc. | 1,000 & over | Trade, Trans & Utilities |
| 4. County of Gaston | 1,000 & over | Public Administration |
| 5. City of Gastonia | 500-999 | Public Administration |
| 6. Gaston College | 500-999 | Education & Health |
| 7. Food Lion | 500-999 | Trade, Trans & Utilities |
| 8. NC Advance Stores | 250-499 | Trade, Trans & Utilities |
| 9. Gaston County YMCA | 250-499 | Other Services |
| 10. Bi Lo LLC | 250-499 | Trade, Trans & Utilities |
| 11. US Postal Service | 250-499 | Trade, Trans & Utilities |
| 12. Quality Business Solutions | 250-499 | Professional Services |
| 13. Southwood Realty Co., Inc. | 250-499 | Financial Activities |
| 14. Belmont Abbey College | 250-499 | Education & Health |
| 15. Lowe's Home Centers Inc. | 250-499 | Trade, Trans & Utilities |

Top Manufacturing Employers

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Wix Filtration Group | 1,000 & over |
| Pharr Yarns | 1,000 & over |
| American & Efird, Inc. | 1,000 & over |
| Freightliner of Gastonia | 500-999 |
| Dole Fresh Foods | 500-999 |
| Danaher Tool Group | 250-499 |
| Stabilus, Inc. | 250-499 |
| FMC Corporation | 250-499 |

Industry Announcements

- Burlan Industries
- Roechling Engineered Plastics
- Koops Woodworks
- Century Building Products
- Lukjan Metal Products
- Wren Flex Building
- R&R Powder Coating
- LAVA USA
- DSM-Dyneema
- Dole Fresh Foods
- National Gypsum
- Parker Hannifin
- Hapco
- Wachs Technical Services
- R-Anell Homes
- Dellinger Enterprises
- IGA
- FMC Lithium
- Titan Fabrication
- IMACC Corporation
- Wilbert Plastic Services

**Closings & Layoffs
(By effective year/primarily industrial)**
Jobs Lost:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Job losses, 1998 | 1,102 |
| Job losses, 1999 | 3,099 |
| Job losses, 2000 | 2,682 |
| Job losses, 2001 | 2,403 |
| Job losses, 2002 | 1,585 |
| Job losses, 2003 | 746 |
| Job losses, 2004 | 554 |
| Job losses, 2005 | 1,116 |
| Job losses, 2006 | 256 |
| Job losses, 2007 | 1,342 |
| Job losses, 2008 | 1,268 |
| Job losses, 2009 | 1,694 |

Establishments that Closed:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| No. of affected establishments, 1997 | 5 |
| No. of affected establishments, 1998 | 7 |
| No. of affected establishments, 1999 | 17 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2000 | 10 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2001 | 16 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2002 | 10 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2003 | 5 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2004 | 4 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2005 | 4 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2006 | 3 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2007 | 4 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2008 | 3 |
| No. of affected establishments, 2009 | 17 |

Civilian Labor Force

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2000 | 1990 | 1980 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 100,232 | 100,064 | 97,543 | 98,382 | 99,985 | 96,024 | 93,500 |
| Employment Total | 86,060 | 92,303 | 91,894 | 92,979 | 94,470 | 92,082 | 88,120 |
| Unemployment Total | 14,171 | 7,761 | 5,559 | 5,403 | 5,515 | 3,942 | 5,380 |
| Unemployment Rate | 14.1% | 7.80% | 5.70% | 5.50% | 5.50% | 4.10% | 5.80% |

Employment by Place of Work

| Industry | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Insured Employment | 70,226 | 69,184 | 69,728 | 69,616 | 69,700 | 68,689 |
| Goods Producing | 17,679 | 19,004 | 19,546 | * | * | * |
| Construction & Mining | 3,480 | 3,762 | 3,609 | * | * | * |
| Manufacturing | 14,200 | 15,242 | 15,937 | 16,843 | 17,463 | 18,159 |
| Food & Beverage | 221, | 224 | 211 | * | * | * |
| Textiles | 3,688 | 3,959 | 4,206 | 4,958 | 5,372 | 5,810 |
| Apparel | 16 | 24 | 23 | 32 | 57 | 121 |
| Wood Products | 99 | 130 | 131 | 959 | 114 | 105 |
| Furniture & Fixtures | 787 | 1,026 | 880 | * | 805 | 712 |
| Paper/Allied Products | * | 149 | 186 | 284 | 326 | 490 |
| Printing | 193 | 185 | 165 | 167 | 178 | 300 |
| Chemicals | 457 | 496 | 517 | 568 | 629 | 682 |
| Rubber/Plastics | 534 | 571 | 543 | 532 | 1,056 | 1,028 |
| Nonmetallic Minerals | 200 | 177 | 181 | * | * | * |
| Metals | 2,333 | 2,275 | 2,092 | 2,011 | * | * |
| Industrial Machinery | 1,007 | 490 | 493 | 1,114 | 1,082 | 1,176 |
| Electrical Eq. | 84 | 98 | 108 | 99 | 221 | 181 |
| Transportation Eq. | 3,797 | 4,284 | 4,709 | 4,934 | 4,646 | 4,439 |
| Miscellaneous Mfg. | 505 | 488 | 478 | 348 | 335 | 308 |
| Other Manufacturing ¹ | 490 | * | * | * | * | * |
| Service Producing | 50,317 | 52,607 | 50,771 | 49,097 | 48,541 | 43,563 |
| TCU | 2,394 | 2,258 | 2,855 | 2,760 | 2,914 | 2,707 |
| Trade | 11,978 | 17,377 | 16,543 | 16,675 | 16,514 | 16,117 |
| FIRE | * | 2,124 | 2,187 | 2,169 | 2,096 | 2,312 |
| Service/Misc. | 25,662 | 26,956 | 24,763 | 23,727 | 23,524 | 22,427 |
| Public Administration | 3,648 | 3,527 | 3,466 | 3,481 | 3,493 | * |
| Management of Co. | 370 | 365 | 357 | 285 | | |
| Government | 8,809 | 8,193 | 9,013 | 8,757 | 9,193 | 9,306 |
| All Other Non-Ag. ³ | 168 | 270 | 261 | * | * | * |

Educational Attainment

| Education Level | 2009 Census |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Grade K - 8 | 11,746 |
| Grade 9 - 12 | 22,514 |
| High school graduate | 44,518 |
| Some college, no degree | 28,843 |
| Associate degree | 10,830 |
| Bachelor's degree | 15,811 |
| Graduate degree | 6,158 |
| No schooling | n/a |
| Total | 140,420 |

Source: EDIS, NC Department of Commerce

Job Applicants Profile

Number of Registered Job Applicants

| Registered | |
|------------|--------|
| Total | 12,225 |
| Male | 7,140 |
| Female | 5,085 |

Major Occupation Class

| Experience | No. of Applicants |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 0-6 Months | 1,458 |
| 7-24 Months | 2,297 |
| Over 24 Months | 7,660 |

Current Employment Statistics

December 2009
 Employed 85,484
 Unemployment Rate 13.9%

December 2008
 Employed 89,525
 Unemployment Rate 11.3%

North Carolina Taxes

General Fund Taxes

- Alcoholic Beverage Tax
- Cigarette/Tobacco Tax
- Corporate Income Tax
- Franchise Tax
- Freight Car Tax
- Gift Tax (repealed effective 1/09)
- Individual Income Tax
- Inheritance/Estate Tax
- Insurance Tax
- Privilege License Tax
- Sales/Use Tax

For a complete North Carolina Tax Guide or additional information regarding State or local taxes, please contact the EDC office.

Sales Tax

The combined sales tax for Gaston County, North Carolina, is 7.75 percent. The State of North Carolina receives 5.75 percent and the County of Gaston receives 2 percent.

Local Business Property Tax

Business property is taxed locally according to the rates listed below. This tax applies to all machinery and equipment, furniture & fixtures, supplies, expensed items, vehicles, leased and other equipment. However, inventories are not taxed in the State of North Carolina. Property such as raw materials, goods-in-process, finished products, or products held for sale are considered inventory.

Local Real Estate Tax

Local real estate taxes depend on the physical location of the property. If a property lies within corporate limits of any municipality, taxes are due to both the municipality and the County of Gaston according to the schedule below. However, if a property lies outside corporate limits, taxes are due to the County of Gaston and the fire district serving the area.

County & Local Property Tax Rates - 2009

| Taxing Authorities | \$ Per \$100 Valuation |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Gaston County | \$ 0.8350 |
| City of Belmont | \$ 0.4750 |
| City of Bessemer City | \$ 0.4100 |
| City of Cherryville | \$ 0.4400 |
| Town of Cramerton | \$ 0.4750 |
| Town of Dallas | \$ 0.3800 |
| City of Gastonia | \$ 0.5300 |
| City of Gastonia/York Chester | \$ 0.5300 |
| City of Gastonia Svc. District* | \$ 0.2000 |
| City of High Shoals (+FD) | \$ 0.4000 |
| City of Kings Mountain | \$ 0.4000 |
| City of Lowell | \$ 0.4000 |
| Town of McAdenville | \$ 0.3000 |
| City of Mount Holly** | \$ 0.5300 |
| Town of Ranlo (+FD) | \$ 0.3700 |
| Town of Spencer Mtn.** | \$ 0.1300 |
| Town of Stanley | \$ 0.5400 |

**City Collects City Taxes

Fire District Taxes for Locations Outside Municipal Limits: 2009

| Fire Districts | Rate/\$100 Valuation | Fire Districts | Rate/\$100 Valuation |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture Center | \$0.0590 | Lucia Riverbend | \$0.1050 |
| Alexis Fire | \$0.0850 | New Hope | \$0.0700 |
| Chapel Grove | \$0.0750 | Ranlo Fire | \$0.0790 |
| Chestnut Ridge | \$0.0730 | South Gastonia Fire | \$0.0750 |
| Community | \$0.0880 | South Point | \$0.0540 |
| Crouse Fire | \$0.0740 | Spencer Mountain | \$0.0620 |
| East Gaston | \$0.0680 | Tryonata | \$0.0730 |
| High Shoals | \$0.0970 | Union Road | \$0.0670 |
| Hugh's Pond | \$0.1010 | Waco Fire | \$0.0730 |
| Long Shoals | \$0.0970 | | |
| Lowell Fire | \$0.0500 | | |

State Incentives

- Credits for Growing Businesses (Article 3J Credits)
 - Credits for Jobs Created
 - Credits for Business Property Investment
- Research & Development Tax Credit (Article 3F Credits)
- Industrial Development Fund
- Industrial Revenue Bonds
- One NC Fund
- Job Development Investment Grant Program (JDIG)

Local Incentives

Local Investment Grant Program

The following industrial grants are available in Gaston County as well as Gastonia, Bessemer City, Belmont, Cherryville, Dallas and Stanley.

- Industrial Grant I — A five-year property tax grant beginning at 90%, decreasing 10% each year.
- Industrial Grant II — A nine-year grant beginning at 90%, decreasing 10% each year. .
- Industrial Grant III — A ten-year grant beginning at 90%, decreasing 5% each year.
- Industrial Grant IV— A ten-year grant beginning at 85% for five years and decreases to 70% for the last five years.
- Retail Grant — A five-year property tax grant beginning at 90%, decreasing 10% each year.
- Small Business Grant — Business investments made during calendar year 2010 in an amount equal to or greater than \$10,000 and less than \$1,000,000.00 in net new taxable value -50% property tax grant.

The City of Kings Mountain has an individual investment grant program available for locations within its municipal limits.



GASTON
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Specializing in industry recruitment and retention for over 25 years...
Call 704-825-4046



Trucking

More than 50 trucking companies provide freight services to Gaston County businesses. Carolina Western Express, Frederickson Motor Express Corporation, CF Motor Freight, GSI Transportation, Interstate Air Freight Systems Corporation and Yellow Freight are only a few.

Highways

- Three interstate highways intersect Gaston County: Interstates 40, 85 & 77.
- Major US highways run through Gaston County: US Highways 29, 74, & 321.
- Major state highways run through Gaston County: NC Highways 7, 16, 27, 161, 273, 274, 275 & 279.

Rail

Gaston County is served by three rail companies: Norfolk & Southern Railway, CSX Transportation, and Amtrak.

Airport

- Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is located just minutes east of Gaston County in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is served by 6 major and 4 commuter airlines with 517 scheduled commercial departures daily and 8.4 million passenger boardings a year. US Airways provides direct international flights to Germany, Canada, France and Mexico, England, as well as Caribbean destinations.
- Gastonia Municipal Airport is located in Gaston County providing commuter access to Gaston County. The facility has one lighted runway of 3,500 feet and one unlighted runway of 2,500 feet.

Ports

- North Carolina has two modern, deep-water ports.
- North Carolina has an intermodal terminal network.
- North Carolina offers inland ports to reduce total shipment costs by consolidating individual truckloads.
- Foreign Trade Zones are in operation at both North Carolina ports, as well as Charlotte and Research Triangle Park.
- Gaston County Ports: Wilmington, NC, Morehead City, NC, and Charleston, SC.

Utilities

Major Utility Providers

- Electricity.....Duke Power Company
www.dukepower.com
- Sewer.....City of Gastonia
www.cityofgastonia.com
- Gas.....PSNC Energy
www.scan.com/psnc/default.html
- Telephone.....AT&T
- Fiber Optics.....AT&T

For additional information regarding utilities and utility rates, please contact Marc Bolick or Darlene Ritter at 704.867.4771 or via e-mail at mbolick@co.gaston.nc.us and dritter@co.gaston.nc.us respectively. You may also visit each company's website as noted above.

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ's)

A foreign-trade zone is a site within the United States where foreign and domestic merchandise is generally considered by the U. S. government as being outside the U. S. Customs territory in international commerce. Foreign or domestic merchandise may enter this enclave without a formal customs entry or the payment of customs duties or government excise taxes, and without a thorough examination.

If the final product is exported from the United States, no U. S. Customs duty or excise tax is levied. If the final product is import into the U. S., customs duty and excise taxes are due only at a time of transfer from the foreign-trade zone and formal entry into the U. S. on the product itself or its imported parts, whichever is lower. Spoiled, damaged or waste goods may be disposed of or re-exported without payment of duty.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Zone #57 – Charlotte Piedmont Distribution Centers Post Office Box 7123 Charlotte, NC 28217 704-588-3277 704-588-2867 TMX: 810-621-0465 | Zone #93 – Durham Triangle J Post Office Box 12276 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 919-549-0551 919-549-9390 |
|---|--|

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Zone #67 – Morehead City NC State Ports Authority P. O. Box 9002 Wilmington, NC 28402 919-763-1621 TWX: 510-937-0330 | Zone #66 – Wilmington |
|---|-----------------------|



Gaston County EDC

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission (GCEDC) is dedicated to attracting and retaining desirable employers to continue improving and diversifying economic opportunities in the County. The GCEDC's main functions are:

- Attracting new, quality industry and commerce;
- Helping existing industry and businesses grow;
- Stimulating development of appropriate land and buildings;
- Improving area infrastructure;
- Improving the general business climate, including conditions for new industry; and
- Informing citizenry of the advantages of economic development

The elected Gaston County Board of Commissioners appoints members to the GCEDC Board, one appointee representing each major township, to serve three-year staggered terms. The following full-time EDC staff members handle daily operations:

Executive Director
 Gary D. Hicks, Jr., CEcD, CCIM
 dhicks@co.gaston.nc.us

New Industry Consultant
 Marc Bolick
 mbolick@co.gaston.nc.us

Marketing Director
 Steve Nye, CEcD
 snye@co.gaston.nc.us

Existing Industry Consultant
 Darlene Ritter
 dritter@co.gaston.nc.us

Project Coordinator
 Matt Blackwell
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Research Specialist
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Economic Development Specialist
 Donna Buff
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About this Publication & Gaston County, NC

This publication was prepared by the Gaston County Economic Development Commission (GCEDC) to provide basic demography on Gaston County, primarily for business decision-makers and developers considering locating or expanding a business Gaston County.

As the second-largest county in the Charlotte Region, Gaston County has a great deal to offer businesses and residents. Located just across the Catawba River from Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Gaston's closeness to the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, its penetration by Interstate 85 and rail lines, and its access to other major arteries, gives Gaston's businesses major transportation advantages. Its long heritage as a hard-working manufacturing center has been enhanced in recent years with a steady growth in service-related firms and a rapid expansion of retail stores and shopping centers.

Gaston County offers a business-smart combination of economical real estate, dedicated employees, transportation advantages, and a quality of life that translates into superior value for many companies.

If, while making your decision about Gaston County, you need any information not found in this publication, please do not hesitate to contact the Gaston County Economic Development Commission.

Gaston County Economic Development Commission

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 Gastonia, NC 28053-2339
 704.825.4046
 Fax: 704.825.4066
 www.gaston.org