Income & Costs
What is a Cost Burden?

The cost burden indicator represents the share of households in the region that spend 30% or more of their income on rent/mortgage and housing related costs.
Cost Burden Share by Region

Data Provided by DCRP

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
COST BURDEN BY COUNTY 2017

State Average=29%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
Barriers to Mobility
• Barriers to economic mobility can include:
  • Residential segregation
  • Income and wealth inequality
  • Differential access to opportunity
  • Lack of access to supports such as childcare & transportation
Children's Chances of Reaching Top 20% of Income Distribution Given Parents in Bottom 20%

Raj Chetty & John N. Friedman & Nathaniel Hendren & Maggie R. Jones & Sonya R. Porter, 2018

Raj Chetty & John N. Friedman & Nathaniel Hendren & Maggie R. Jones & Sonya R. Porter, 2018
Educational Attainment for the Region

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% NOT Served by County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleghany</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashe</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yancey</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connections
Disconnected Youth

The term Disconnected Youth refers to people ages 16-24 who are not in the workforce or enrolled in any education system.

A potential missing link to a more skilled labor force?
Household totals reported for each county. This figure excludes households that have access only through a cellular plan.

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
Broadband by County 2017

- Yancey: 58%
- Wilkes: 66%
- Watauga: 78%
- Mitchell: 62%
- McDowell: 67%
- Catawba: 75%
- Caldwell: 70%
- Burke: 65%
- Avery: 62%
- Ashe: 66%
- Alleghany: 68%
- Alexander: 66%
Living and Working in Home County
Business Competition
Regional Industry Employment Change—TOP 3 for Southeast Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>54,943</td>
<td>49,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>28,879</td>
<td>26,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>27,797</td>
<td>27,175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Department of Commerce
Regional Business Establishment Change Relative to 2010

Source: NC Dept. of Commerce, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)
Regional Employment Compared to State as Percentage Change Relative to 2010

Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
Changing Population
Population Change by County 2006-2016 (Percentages)

Source: NC Dept. of Commerce, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS); NC Office of State Budget and Management