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 or mortgage and housing related costs.
Cost Burden Share by Region

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

State Average = 29%

Bar chart showing the cost burden by county, with Buncombe having the highest at 30% and Transylvania having the lowest at 15%. Other counties include Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Polk, Rutherford, Swain.
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
A Closer Look

Raj Chetty & John N. Friedman & Nathaniel Hendren & Maggie R. Jones & Sonya R. Porter, 2018
Household Income by Race for the Region

Data Provided by DCRP

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
Educational Attainment for the Region

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

- Less than High School
- High School Diploma
- Some College or Associate's
- Bachelor's or Higher

2010 vs. 2017

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
Median Annual Earnings and Gender Earnings Ratio, North Carolina Counties, 2016

CHILDCARE:
% of Eligible Children NOT Served by County 2017

BUNCOMBE: 76%
CHEROKEE: 70%
CLAY: 66%
GRAHAM: 67%
HAYWOOD: 62%
HENDERSON: 79%
JACKSON: 70%
MACON: 65%
MADISON: 85%
POLK: 78%
RUTHERFORD: 75%
SWAIN: 83%
TRANSYLVANIA: 73%

NC Early Childhood Coalition
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?
Disconnected Youth by County

State average=12%

Bar chart showing disconnected youth rates by county, with the following data points:
- Buncombe: 10%
- Cherokee: 5%
- Clay: 0%
- Graham: 7%
- Haywood: 15%
- Henderson: 12%
- Jackson: 6%
- Macon: 20%
- Madison: 18%
- Polk: 10%
- Rutherford: 25%
- Swain: 12%
- Transylvania: 6%
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.
Living and Working in Home County

Source: NC Department of Commerce
Business Competition
Regional Industry Employment Change—TOP 4 for Western Region

- **Health Care and Social Assistance**
  - 2012: 24,591
  - 2017: 45,258

- **Retail Trade**
  - 2012: 36,526
  - 2017: 34,242

- **Accommodation and Food Services**
  - 2012: 26,782
  - 2017: 32,947

- **Manufacturing**
  - 2012: 28,372
  - 2017: 40,364

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
Percentage of County Population Born Outside of NC 2013-2017

Source: Carolina Population Center