

# Gaston County

Gaston County has a population of 214,793, an increase of 8.8% over the past decade.

## Our communities thrive when we ...



### Provide Jobs and Opportunities

There were 5,135 people looking for work compared to 2,764 job openings.

In the past year, the county's unemployment rate has gone from 5.2% to 4.5%.



### Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services

Rent was unaffordable for 54.0% of renters.

13.9% did not have health insurance.

There are 501 residents for every mental health provider.



### Address Structural Barriers to Equality

40.9% of residents are low-income (\$48,600 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 24 times greater than the poorest fifth and 6 times the typical household.

**... make the investments needed to power prosperity for more people and places in our state.**

Poverty and Economic Hardship			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people living in poverty	15.7%	15.4%	2012-2016
Black	26.8%	26.1%	
White	13.9%	11.5%	
Latinx	26.7%	31.5%	
Asian	11.1%	12.9%	
American Indian	22%	28.1%	
Child poverty rate	23.2%	21.7%	2016

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	13.9%	13.2%	2012-2016
Life expectancy	75.7 years	78 years	2014-2016
Black	75.1 years	75.6 years	
White	75.7 years	78.8 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 501	1 : 464	2017

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	5,135 : 2,764	150,919 : 141,253	Jan. 2018
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.3%	Dec. 2017
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	10,850 more	422,055 more	2016
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$23.94	\$21.95	2016
Hourly median wage	\$15.01	\$16.31	2016
Change in median wage since the recovery began	grew 2 cents	fell 15 cents	2009, 2016
Median Household Income	\$48,874	\$50,595	2016

Educational Attainment			
	County	State	Year
Graduation rate	88.3%	86.5%	2016-2017
Black	87.1%	83.9%	
White	89.8%	89.3%	
Latinx	82.2%	80.5%	
Asian	94.3%	93.8%	
American Indian	***	84.3%	
Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees	19.8%	29%	2012-2016
Bachelor's degree, men	20.3%	28.2%	
Bachelor's degree, women	19.3%	29.8%	
Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's	\$56,553	\$57,765	
Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's	\$36,859	\$38,851	

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	54.0%	50.6%	2012-2016
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$907	\$821	2017
Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)	\$17.44	\$15.79	2017

Work and Income Supports to Avoid Poverty			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	16.3%	13.5%	Dec. 2017
Number of people eligible for state Earned Income Tax Credit**	20,051	1,204,039	2013

\* The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover the basic expenses. \*\* Lawmakers allowed the state EITC to expire in 2013. \*\*\* Insufficient data