Columbus County

Columbus County has a population of 57,090, an increase of 1% over the past decade.

Our communities thrive when we ...

**Provide Jobs and Opportunities**
There were 1,179 people looking for work compared to 510 job openings.

In the past year, the county’s unemployment rate has gone from 5.1% to 5.1%.

**Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services**
Rent was unaffordable for 50.9% of renters.

15.1% did not have health insurance.

There are 799 residents for every mental health provider.

**Address Structural Barriers to Equality**
46.6% of residents are low-income ($49,200 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 37 times greater than the poorest fifth and 8 times the typical household.

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

The Budget & Tax Center’s Economic Snapshots provide a look at how well counties in North Carolina are faring across key indicators of economic well-being and opportunity.

Contact Brian Kennedy II at briank@ncjustice.org or 919-856-2153 for media inquiries or other questions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobless worker : Job openings</td>
<td>1,179 : 510</td>
<td>202,412 : 302,886</td>
<td>March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>Dec. 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in number of people employed since December 2007</td>
<td>2,493 fewer</td>
<td>489,823 more</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)</td>
<td>$18.01</td>
<td>$22.94</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly median wage</td>
<td>$14.99</td>
<td>$17.19</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in median wage since the recovery began</td>
<td>grew 96 cents</td>
<td>grew 38 cents</td>
<td>2009, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$37,639</td>
<td>$52,797</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Affordable Housing</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit</td>
<td>$683</td>
<td>$850</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)</td>
<td>$13.13</td>
<td>$15.79</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults with Bachelor’s degrees</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree, men</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree, women</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor’s</td>
<td>$52,500</td>
<td>$60,022</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor’s</td>
<td>$40,208</td>
<td>$40,260</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Lives and Communities</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residents without health insurance</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>74 years</td>
<td>77.6 years</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>74.2 years</td>
<td>78.4 years</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73.6 years</td>
<td>75.3 years</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health provider : residents</td>
<td>1 : 799</td>
<td>1 : 439</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residents receiving SNAP</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover the basic expenses. *** Insufficient data

For data sources, visit NCJustice.org/snapshots