

# Gaston County

Gaston County has a population of 220,752, an increase of 7.5% over the past decade.

## Our communities thrive when we ...



### Provide Jobs and Opportunities

There were 4,492 people looking for work compared to 4,078 job openings.

In the past year, the county's unemployment rate has gone from 4.2% to 3.6%.



### Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services

Rent was unaffordable for 48.2% of renters.

12.3% did not have health insurance.

There are 459 residents for every mental health provider.



### Address Structural Barriers to Equality

39.4% of residents are low-income (\$49,200 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 25 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	15.1%	14.7%	2013-2017
Black	26.7%	24.9%	
White	13%	11.1%	
Latinx	27.5%	30.1%	
Asian	10.4%	12.7%	
American Indian	23.2%	26.2%	
Child poverty rate	21.7%	21%	2017

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	12.3%	12.1%	2013-2017
Life expectancy	75.6 years	77.6 years	2015-2017
Black	74.6 years	75.3 years	
White	75.8 years	78.4 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 459	1 : 439	2019
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	15.5%	13%	2018

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	4,492 : 4,078	202,412 : 302,886	March 2019
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.7%	Dec. 2018
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	13,389 more	489,823 more	2018
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$24.20	\$22.94	2019
Hourly median wage	\$16.58	\$17.19	2019
Change in median wage since the recovery began	grew \$1.22	grew 38 cents	2009, 2019
Median Household Income	\$50,016	\$52,797	2017

Educational Attainment			
	County	State	Year
Graduation rate	85.5%	86.3%	2017-2018
Black	85%	83.2%	
White	85.7%	89.6%	
Latinx	83.2%	79.9%	
Asian	93.6%	93.4%	
American Indian	***	84.4%	
Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees	20.5%	29.9%	2013-2017
Bachelor's degree, men	19.8%	28.9%	
Bachelor's degree, women	21.1%	30.7%	
Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's	\$56,081	\$60,022	
Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's	\$37,794	\$40,260	

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	48.2%	48.7%	2013-2017
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$967	\$850	2018
Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)	\$18.60	\$15.79	2018

\*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](http://NCJustice.org/snapshots)**