

## Program Focus Areas

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

### Project Averages

Active and Missed

51 Missed Project Over 12 Months



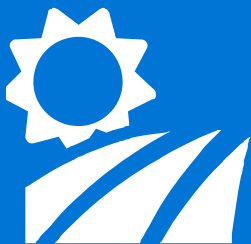
**40**

JOB  
 394



**22**

THOUSAND  
 SQUARE FEET  
 245K



**110**

ACRES  
 102



**\$2**

MILLION  
 INVESTMENT  
 \$331M

### Project Activity Stats

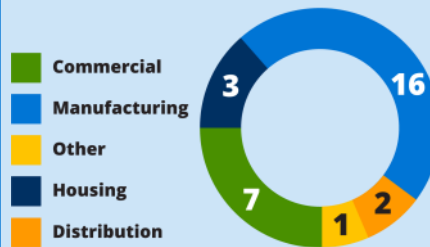


\*One project was restored from Inactive to Active.

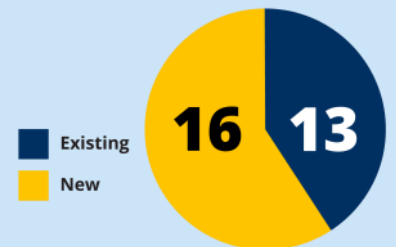
### Active Projects

**29**

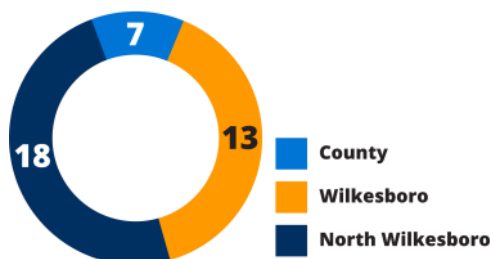
#### Project Industries



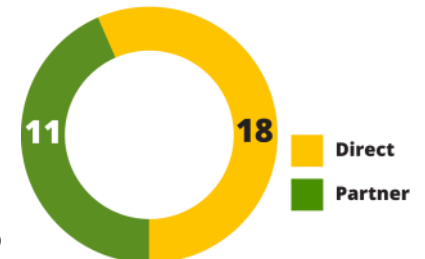
#### Projects by Type



#### Projects by Location



#### Projects by Source



## Existing Business

Current and YTD Total  
Activity since July 1, 2022



**3**

UNIQUE VISITS  
54



**8**

FOLLOW UP VISITS  
29

Total Visits YTD: 83  
Visit Goal: 140

## Monthly Newsletter

Program of Work Information | EDC Announcements | Unemployment Rate

### Wilkes Commercial Business Center Update

The Wilkes Commercial Business Center (WCBC) continues moving forward!

At the WCBC, the asphalt has been poured in, finished, and is undergoing final grading. Metal trims for the building have been entirely installed. The installation of handrails, sheetrock, paint, and sprinkler components are underway.

Subscribe to updates by visiting the [WCBC site updates on the EDC webpage](#). For details or information on pre-leasing incentives, please contact LeeAnn Nixon by emailing [LNixon@WilkesEDC.com](mailto:LNixon@WilkesEDC.com).



## Program Stats



**21**

PARTNER MEETINGS



**6**

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT



**19**

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

Total Solutions Provided YTD: 156

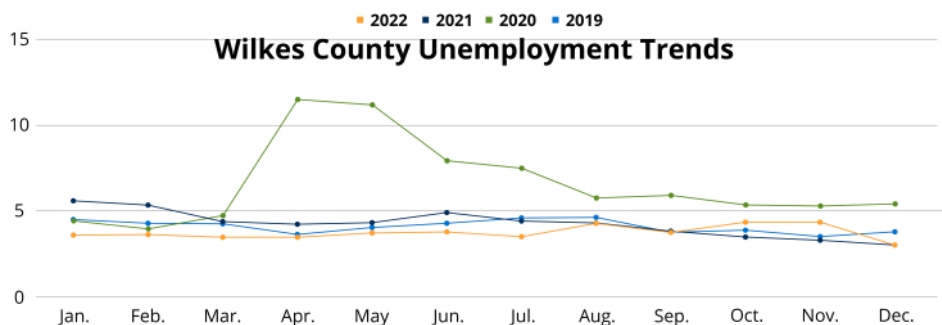
### Wilkes Entrepreneurial Grant Program



The Wilkes EDC will be accepting applications for the Spring 2023 Entrepreneurial Grant Program from March 1-31. Applications include a Business Plan, Financial Summary, and Video Pitch. We encourage applicants to start working on their materials now and

utilize helpful resources on our Entrepreneurial Grant Program page. Past Entrepreneurial Grant recipients were able to deliver stronger applications by getting connected with the Small Business Center, so we encourage applicants to consider this valuable resource.

Learn more about the Entrepreneurial Grant Program and see past winners by visiting the link below. [Entrepreneurial Grant Program - Wilkes Economic Development Corporation - EDC \(wilkesedc.com\)](#)



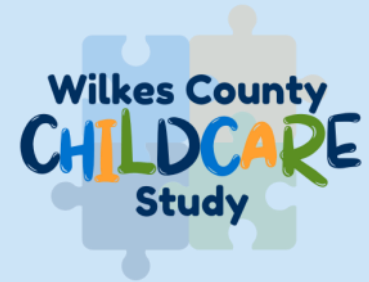
### December Unemployment Rate

3.2% ↓ Down from 3.9% in November.

Regional December Rate is 3.2%.  
State December Rate is 3%.

## Childcare Study Update

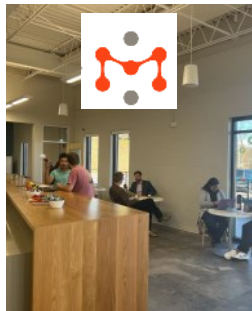
The Wilkes County Childcare Taskforce is wrapping up the Discovery and Analysis Phase of the study. President LeeAnn Nixon of Wilkes EDC and Cyndi Dancy of Dancy Research will present steps we have taken to begin forming a Childcare Coalition at Learn and Lead: Women Economic Development Network (WEDN), organized by Crystal Morphis, CEO of Creative Economic Development Consulting, LLC. The WEDN is an opportunity for professional development, training, case studies, and networking. Visitors and participants come from the southeastern United States for the annual conference.



Visit the link to learn more about the conference: [Women's Economic Development Network – Creative Economic Development Consulting \(creativeedc.com\)](#)



Click the link or scan the QR Code to learn more or to sign up to receive updates about the study. [Wilkes County Childcare Study 2022 \(wilkesedc.com\)](#)



## The Masthead

The Masthead, Wilkes first co-working space, welcomes new members and the community! The co-working space will be accessible during February for all to see and explore the valuable resources The Masthead offers, whether you are a business owner, entrepreneur, or remote worker.

Visit the link or scan the QR Code to learn more about The Masthead and the memberships they have to offer. —[The Masthead](#)

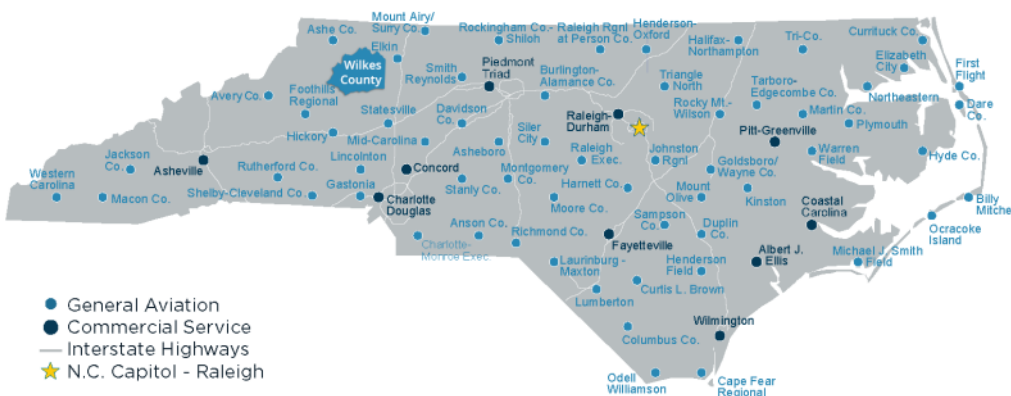


## North Carolina State of Aviation

North Carolina's aviation and aerospace industries, which are supported by the state's network of 72 publicly owned airports, are a driving force in the state's economy. They help to employ residents, grow businesses, and link companies to global markets.

Public airports in North Carolina support 330,000 jobs that generate \$23 billion in personal income and return \$3.7 billion in state and local tax revenue, adding a total economic impact of \$72 billion to the state's economy each year. The local economic impact of aviation has provided North Wilkesboro 195 jobs and \$10.8 million in personal income with a return of \$1.9 million in state and local tax revenue.

### North Carolina Public Airports



*Ninety-four percent of the state's population lives within a 30-minute drive of a public airport.*

North Carolina: The State of Aviation highlights the economic implications of the state's public airports and the numerous assets enabling a thriving and competitive aviation and aerospace industry. Both factors make North Carolina an excellent site for launching, expanding, and an aviation-related business.

Click the link or scan the QR Code to read the report. [NCDOT: The State of Aviation](#)



# SPRING JOB FAIR

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE - JOHN A. WALKER CENTER

1328 S. COLLEGIATE DRIVE, WILKESBORO, 28697

## 50+ Employers Anticipated in These Industries:

- Business
- Healthcare
- Skilled Trades
- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Criminal Justice
- Administrative and more!

## For more information or employer registration contact:

Kim Anderson at 336-838-5164 (ext. 315), Lisa Barlow at 336-667-0889, or Mike Roope at 336-838-6147

Dress appropriately and bring a resume. This is a community event with prize drawings. Veterans strongly encouraged to attend. Employer registration deadline is March 24. Limited space available.



A proud partner of the  
AmericanJobCenter®  
network

**Goodwill**  
Northwest North Carolina



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services

**HIGH COUNTRY  
workforce**  
development board



**WILKES**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

North Carolina  
**WilkesEDC**  
Economic Development Corporation

**WILKES**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Wilkes • Ashe • Alleghany