

## Program Focus Areas

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

### Project Averages

Active and Missed

46 Missed Project Over 12 Months



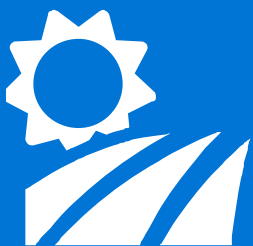
**38**

JOB  
 379



**22**

THOUSAND  
 SQUARE FEET  
 232K



**110**

ACRES  
 66



**\$7**

MILLION  
 INVESTMENT  
 \$340M

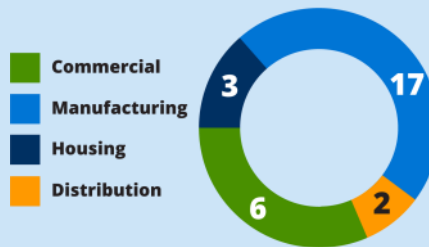
### Project Activity Stats



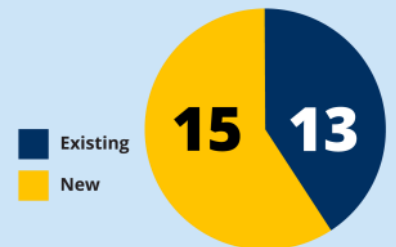
### Active Projects

**28**

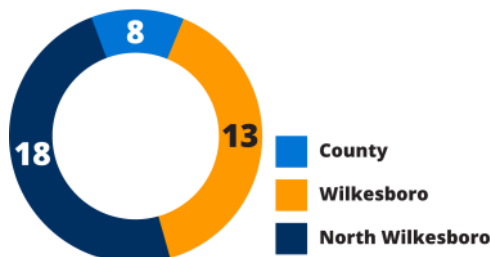
#### Project Industries



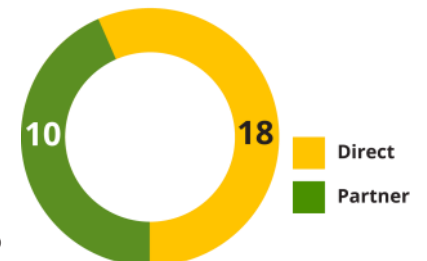
#### Projects by Type



#### Projects by Location



#### Projects by Source



## Existing Business

Current and YTD Total  
Activity since July 1, 2022



**1**

UNIQUE VISITS  
58



**6**

FOLLOW UP VISITS  
41

Total Visits YTD: 99  
Visit Goal: 140

## Program Stats



**16**

PARTNER  
MEETINGS



**7**

REAL ESTATE  
DEVELOPMENT



**20**

SOLUTIONS  
PROVIDED

Total Solutions  
Provided YTD: 217

## February Unemployment Rate

3.7% ↓ Down from 3.7% in January.

Regional December Rate is 3.4%.

State December Rate is 3.8%.

[High Country WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics](#)  
([ncommerce.com](http://ncommerce.com))

## Monthly Newsletter

Program of Work Information | EDC Announcements | Unemployment Rate

### NCEDA 2023 Spring Conference and NC Carolina Core

LeeAnn Nixon, President of the Wilkes EDC, and Robin Hamby, Vice President of the Wilkes EDC, attended the NCEDA 2023 Spring Conference at the beginning of March 2023. The conference provides opportunities for economic development professionals from across North Carolina to expand their knowledge, sharpen their skills and build connections to advance their organizations and better serve the needs of their communities.

The team also had an opportunity to meet with members of the NC Carolina Core while in Raleigh. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with leaders across the state. Being part of the NC Carolina Core region effort puts us on track to drive increased economic growth and jobs in Wilkes County and across the state.



Scan the QR Code or click the link to learn more about the NC Carolina Core: <https://nccarolinacore.com/>



### Rural Summit 2023

President of Wilkes EDC, LeeAnn Nixon, attended the Rural Summit 2023 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The Rural Summit is an annual event that welcomes people across North Carolina for two days of education and engagement with their peers and experts from around the state.

This year's theme was Driving Policy Change: All Roads Lead to Rural. The summit brought together community leaders, policymakers, granting entities, and rural advocates. Participants engaged in a thoughtful, purposeful dialogue about the actions we can take today to advance policy and systemic change across a wide range of rural development issues.



Learn more about the annual Rural Summit 2023 event here—[Rural Summit | NC Rural Center](#)

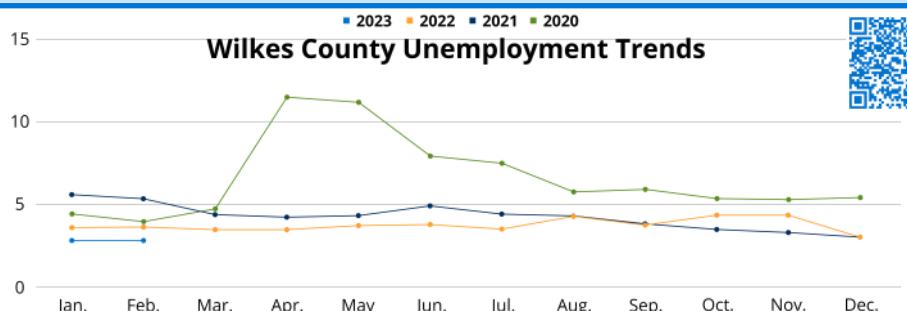
## February Unemployment Rate

3.7% ↓ Down from 3.7% in January.

Regional December Rate is 3.4%.

State December Rate is 3.8%.

[High Country WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics](#)  
([ncommerce.com](http://ncommerce.com))



## Wilkes Commercial Business Center is Complete!

Marketing efforts have created interest visits, discussions, and possibly our first tenant. Stay tuned for our celebration event!

The WCBC is move-in ready for light industrial/manufacturing firms with office spaces, loading docks, and drive-in doors.

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).



## Wilkes Women in Leadership

The Wilkes EDC team members, President LeeAnn Nixon and Vice President Robin Hamby joined the Wilkes Women in Leadership meeting hosted by the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce at Roselli's on 10th.

Guest speaker Carla Hauser, Senior Wealth Advisor of Carla Southern Hauser Financial Services and RJFS gave a presentation on "The New Face of Wealth" from her series, Women's Worth Alliance. The segment highlighted that women own nearly one-third of private businesses and control more than half of the wealth in the United States. Carla plans to expand on her series throughout 2023.

The Wilkes Chamber of Commerce holds the Wilkes Women in Leadership meetings quarterly at various Chamber membership locations. Each session features guest presenters and offers attendees an opportunity to learn from the experience of others while building relationships through networking.

Learn more about the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce: Wilkes Women in Leadership by clicking the link or scanning the QR Code. [Lead - Wilkes Chamber of Commerce](#)



## FaithFest Groundbreaking

The Wilkes EDC President LeeAnn Nixon joined community members at the FaithFest Groundbreaking. The ceremony marks the commencement of the FaithFest Events complex's new home at 1600 Industrial Drive in Wilkesboro, situated on more than 40 acres.



Scan the QR Code or click the link to learn more about the FaithFest Venue. [Next | FaithFest \(faithfestnc.com\)](#)



## Job Fair Drew Out Over 200 Job Seekers!

The Wilkes' Spring Job Fair was a success! This annual event was held at Wilkes Community College, where 57 employers were present, and over 200 job seekers came out to learn about the companies and available opportunities.

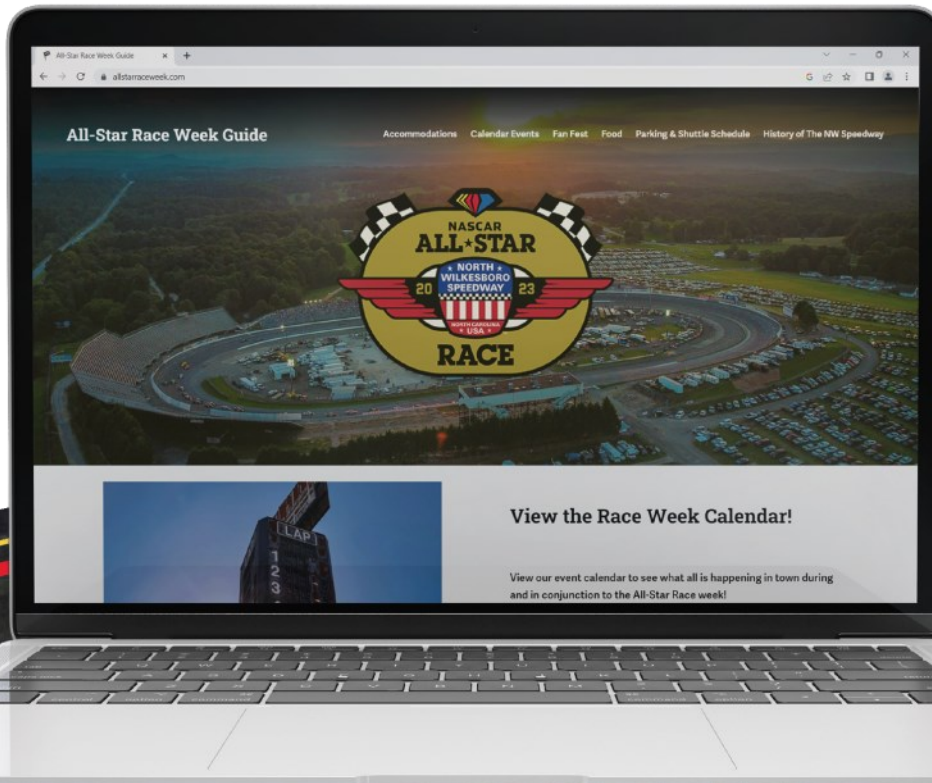
Follow the NCWorks Career Center of Wilkes' Facebook page for future events and ongoing information on job opportunities!

[NCWorks Career Center of Wilkes](#) | [North Wilkesboro NC](#) | [Facebook](#)





# The All-Star Race Week Guide is Live!



Learn more about events and resources during the All-Star Race week by visiting [allstarraceweek.com](http://allstarraceweek.com) or by scanning the QR Code.



North Carolina  
**WilkesEDC**  
START YOUR *adventure* HERE.

Explore  
**Wilkesboro**  
FIND YOUR BACK ROAD.

North  
**Wilkesboro**  
NORTH CAROLINA