

Program Focus Areas

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

Project Averages

Active and Missed

56 Missed Project Over 12 Months



47

JOBS
389



22

THOUSAND
SQUARE FEET
262K



109

ACRES
66



\$2

MILLION
INVESTMENT
\$355M

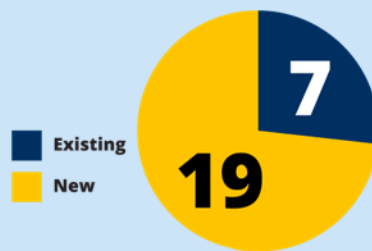
Project Activity Stats



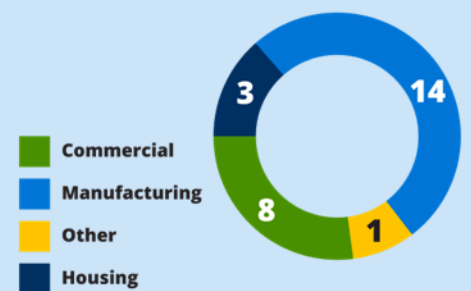
Active Projects

26

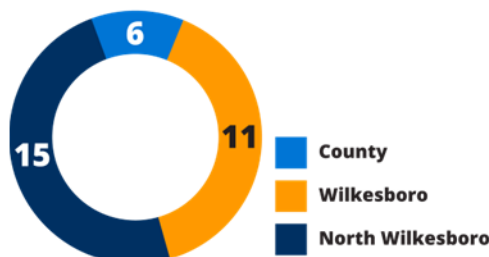
Projects by Type



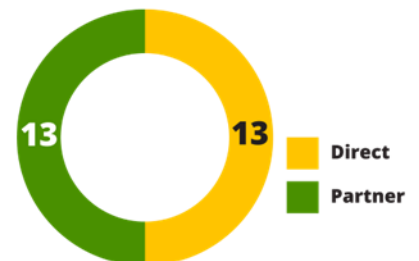
Project Industries



Projects by Location



Projects by Source



Existing Business

Current and YTD Total
 Activity since July 1, 2022



8

UNIQUE VISITS
 31



6

FOLLOW UP VISITS
 14

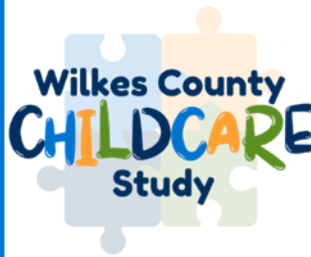
Total Visits YTD: 45
 Visit Goal: 140

Monthly Newsletter

Program of Work Information | EDC Announcements | Unemployment Rate



Wilkes County Childcare Study Update



The Wilkes Childcare Study is now concluding its Discovery Phase and moving into the Analysis Phase. We are grateful to The Block who assisted the study by offering a Birthday Party Package as an incentive for taking the Parent Survey. Nearly 400 parents took survey and once it was closed, a winner was chosen in the drawing.

Throughout October, members of the Taskforce conducted one-on-one interviews with Wilkes County employers and providers. Also, conversations were held with parent focus groups at three Wilkes County locations between October 25 and 27. The group discussions highlighted several questions from the Childcare Parent Surveys and gathered opinions and personal experiences about childcare in Wilkes County.

The overall goal of the study will document existing services and resources, then recommend steps to create an innovative childcare ecosystem in Wilkes County to enhance labor force participation and create a healthy family environment. The study will also identify the roles community stakeholders could plan to expand access and affordability for quality care.



Learn more at Info.WilkesEDC.com/ChildcareStudy

Program Stats



32

PARTNER MEETINGS



5

REAL ESTATE



12

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

Wilkes EDC Entrepreneurial Grant Program



The submission period for the Fall 2022 Entrepreneurial Grant Program has ended. Nine applicants completed their applications. The panel of judges has reviewed submissions, will invite individuals to present and then announce the winners in late November.

Prospective sponsors, [click here.](#)



News and Announcements

Wilkes Commercial Business Center Update

The Wilkes Commercial Business Center (WCBC) is moving forward with construction!

The WCBC is past the structural steel phase and undergoing insulation installments along with other interior fixtures. Up-to-date photos of the WCBC progress are now up on the webpage. Marketing efforts on LoopNet, Co-Star and CREXI have increased the number of inquiries and provided the ability to call attention to Wilkes County.

WCBC will be move-in ready for light industrial/manufacturing firms with office spaces, loading docks, and drive-in doors in January 2023. An incentivized lease rate is available for either 10,383 or 21,164 square feet, or a single tenant can lease the entire building totaling 31,703 square feet.

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.

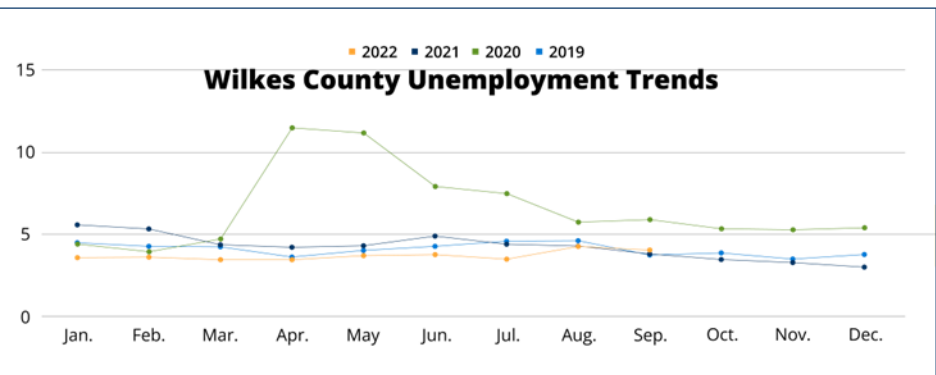


September Unemployment Rate

3.4% ↓ Down from 4% in August.

Regional September Rate is 3.1%.

State September Rate is 3.6%.



High Country Regional Statistics



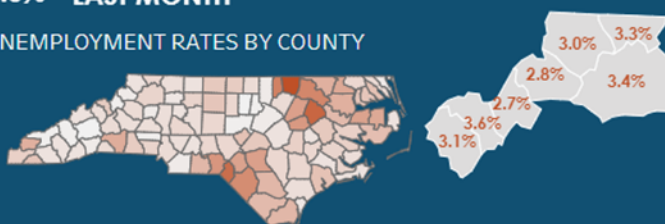
Unemployed Individuals **2,968**

3.1%

North Carolina 3.6%
United States 3.5%

3.6% LAST MONTH

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTY



Employed Individuals **92,623**

Labor Force
95,591

433

CHANGE IN EMPLOYED FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

1,470

CHANGE IN EMPLOYED FROM ONE YEAR AGO

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED OVER LAST 5 YEARS



News and Announcements

Retail Solutions Group, Inc. Celebrates Expansion

Wilkesboro, NC — Retail Solutions Group, Inc. (RSG) is an NC-based company established in 2011 as NRS Logistics, Inc. Gary Foster and Randy Whittington were part of the co-founders, and in 2017, Angie Rogers joined as a partner. In 2022, Joey Haney came on board as a managing partner to oversee field operations. RSG is a multi-layered company with three divisions; the Steel Recovery Center, the Field Service Teams, and RSG's warehousing and logistics division. RSG is celebrating growth as its fourth and largest warehouse location at 1000 Ridge Street, Wilkesboro, NC.

The Steel Recovery Center (SRC) is in its second year of a contractual agreement with a Fortune 50 company. SRC handles all the client's excess steel from its retail stores which will continue for several years. Additionally, the division continues to sign contracts daily with large retailers across the country. The steel is processed, stored, and shipped from their center to stores on an as-needed basis per request by their customers. The Field Service Team specialty includes helping several national retail companies with store merchandising, structural installations, carpentry installations, and store resets. RSG's warehousing and logistics division provides services for companies who need products warehoused or processed through their logistic facilities. They also handle all customer transportations.

During the last couple of years, RSG has grown from less than eight employees to over 200. Next year, they plan to continue adding personnel as their company grows. They are always looking to bring on individuals who desire to become part of an upcoming and growing corporation that values the team as an integral part of the organization.

"After starting in 2011 with only one warehouse, we now have four large warehouses in North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro, NC. Our total warehousing space totals over 125,000 square feet with high-level density storage racking and flex spaces available for temporary projects," said Randy Whittington, President of RSG. "It is exciting to be part of a company that started with a few people and a vision, then to see it mature into a large successful corporation. I could not ask for better partners to be involved with."

[Read the full Press Release here.](#)

