

## ALEXANDER COUNTY

- 36,500 people live in Alexander County
- The population has stayed about the same over the past decade
- NC's population increased by 11% over the past decade

Released March 2025

Data sources, dashboard, and  
other counties at  
[NCBudget.org/Snapshots](https://NCBudget.org/Snapshots)

For media queries and other  
questions, contact us at  
[info@ncbudget.org](mailto:info@ncbudget.org)



\* Candidates include all people willing to work in the county, regardless of county of residence

\*\* A family of four is considered low-income if they make below 200% of the poverty level, or \$62,400 in 2023, the most recent year with available income data.

## Alexander County communities thrive when ...



... people can meet  
their basic needs

- Rent is unaffordable for 33% of renters
- 9% of people don't have health insurance
- There is one mental health provider for every 1,260 residents



... good jobs are  
accessible to everyone

- There are 39 candidates for every job opening\*
- The number of unemployed people actively seeking work has decreased by 8% from Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024†



... the economy works  
for everyone

- 32% of residents are considered low-income (less than \$62,400 for a family of four)\*\*
- The richest 5% of households make an average of 22 times more than the poorest 20% of households

† This county was affected by Hurricane Helene in September 2024, which may have contributed to high unemployment and economic hardship in 2025. Pre-Helene data will not show these effects. Learn more at [NCBudget.com/Snapshots](https://NCBudget.com/Snapshots).

**Table 1: Poverty and Economic Hardship**

	County	State
<b>Living in poverty, 2019-2023</b>		
Percentage of people living in poverty	12%	13%
Black	41	20
White	11	9
Latine	18	21
Asian & Pacific Islander	NA	9
American Indian	NA	24
Percentage of children living in poverty	20	18

**Table 2: Employment <sup>†</sup>**

	County	State
<b>Employment, December 2024</b>		
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.4%
Number of unemployed people actively seeking work	570	178,000
Number of employed people	17,100	5,067,000
<b>Percent change in employment over the past year (December 2023 to December 2024)</b>		
Change in unemployed people actively seeking work	-8%	3%
Change in people employed	-1%	0%

<sup>†</sup> This county was affected by Hurricane Helene in September 2024, which may have contributed to high unemployment in 2025.

**Table 3: Educational Attainment**

	County	State
<b>High school graduation, 2024</b>		
High school graduation rate	83%	87%
Black	>95	85
White	81	90
Latine	95	83
Asian & Pacific Islander	NA	>95
American Indian	NA	82
<b>College degrees, 2019-2023</b>		
Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher	15%	35%
Men	14	33
Women	17	36
Median earnings for men with a bachelor's degree <sup>††</sup>	\$58,700	\$77,900
Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree <sup>††</sup>	\$48,700	\$52,700

<sup>††</sup> Does not include people who also have a graduate degree.

**Table 4: Income and Ability to Afford the Basics**

	County	State
<b>Living Income Standard, 2025</b>		
Living Income Standard annual income (1 adult, 2 kids) <sup>†††</sup>	\$73,000	\$87,700
<b>Median earnings and income, 2019-2023</b>		
Median worker earnings	\$42,000	\$47,200
Median household income	\$65,300	\$69,900

<sup>†††</sup> The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover basic expenses. See more at [NCbudget.org/LIS](https://NCbudget.org/LIS)

**Table 5: Access to Affordable Housing**

	County	State
<b>Rent burden, 2019-2023</b>		
Percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent	33%	48%
Percentage of renter households paying more than 50% of income on rent	20%	23%
<b>Fair market rent, 2025</b>		
Fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom home	\$1,050	\$1,410
Number of work hours at minimum wage it takes to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent	111 hours per week	150 hours per week

**Table 6: Healthy Lives and Communities**

	County	State
<b>Health insurance, 2019-2023</b>		
Percentage of residents without health insurance	9%	10%
<b>Medicaid enrollment, February 2025</b>		
Percentage of residents enrolled in Medicaid	28%	28%
<b>Life expectancy, 2019-2021</b>		
Life expectancy in years	75	77
Black	75	73
White	74	77
<b>Mental health providers, 2023</b>		
Residents per mental health provider	1,260	320
<b>Food assistance, February 2025</b>		
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	14%	13%

NA values indicate insufficient data for this county.

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