

**Situational Analysis Report
for
Gaston County, North Carolina**

**21st Century Communities Initiative
North Carolina Department of Commerce**

Jim Fain, Secretary

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I. Introduction

The 21st Century Communities Initiative

Now more than ever, North Carolina's prosperity is tied to global economic influences that sometimes work against our collective success. Families and communities can be rocked by layoffs and plant closings. An agrarian economic foundation once gave way to the manufacturing base that has driven North Carolina's economy for decades, but now we're moving toward an economic engine powered by knowledge and service industries, and higher value-added manufacturing. The NC Department of Commerce is prepared to work with local communities across the state to move North Carolina forward in the new global economy. The 21st Century Communities Initiative will create new partnerships between the state and designated counties to build new strategies for economic vitality.

How the initiative will work:

Ten counties across the state - Columbus, Cherokee, Duplin, **GASTON**, Halifax, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Warren and Yancey – will partner with the Department of Commerce and appropriate local, regional, state and federal agencies and leaders to rapidly develop economic game plans tailored for each county. The goal is community readiness – using existing Commerce resources in a focused, knowledge-driven approach to help assess the individual economic challenges faced by the counties.

Every division in the Department of Commerce will collaborate with the counties to conduct a thorough analysis of local strengths, challenges and obstacles to success. Bold initiatives to maximize the full potential of each county will be developed in partnership with local leaders. Commerce will work closely with counties to carry out the economic game plans tailored for each county.

Strategies for local communities:

In economic development, one size doesn't fit all. The 21st Century Communities Initiative will offer, broker or facilitate a variety of existing Commerce services as needed, including but not limited to: economic development strategy planning; community planning; product/real estate development; tourism planning; infrastructure improvement; customized community marketing; intergovernmental collaboration; downtown revitalization assistance; workforce development; and leadership development. Commerce has developed a community resource catalog to help local communities identify the existing Commerce services that can help quickly.

Future 21st Century Communities:

At the end of the first year, the Department of Commerce will assess the initiative's effectiveness and make necessary changes in the program. At that time, it is anticipated that new 21st Century Communities will be identified on the same criteria at the first participants, including unemployment rates, percentage of workforce in traditional manufacturing sectors and local community leadership and interest in the program.

II. The Process for Implementing the Gaston County 21st Century Communities Initiative.

As previously stated, the 21st Century Communities program creates a new partnership between the State and Gaston County to build a new strategy for economic vitality. A special North Carolina Department of Commerce (DOC) task force is joining with local officials in developing these specific strategies and will continue working with Gaston County over the long term to help implement recommended changes. The goal is community readiness and preparedness for economic development. The strategic planning involved in this process is recognized as a continuing process that must be flexible and adaptable. This process involves the following major activities or steps:

- County self-evaluation by the Gaston Economic Development Commission (EDC).
- Statistical Analysis by the DOC's Policy and research Division and background information to assist with the forthcoming reconnaissance study.
- In coordination with the Gaston County EDC, a DOC task force conducts a two-day reconnaissance study and evaluation of Gaston County that involves interviews with numerous community and business leaders and local governmental officials.
- The DOC task force involves representatives from the Divisions of Business and Industry, Community Assistance, Travel and Tourism, Workforce Development, Policy and Research, and DOC's USDA-Rural Development.
- Based upon the reconnaissance study, the Salisbury Regional Office of the Division of Community Assistance and the Carolinas Regional Office (Charlotte) of the Business and Industry Division will prepare a Situational Analysis Report and present the report and its findings at a community kick-off meeting that will be held in early December, 2001.
- With assistance from DOC, Gaston County will organize for a strategic planning process that may involve the appointment of a steering committee and ad hoc committees to identify issues and strategies; and identifies tailor-made processes on how to proceed with the implementation of existing and future economic development strategies.
- DOC task force agencies will continue to work with Gaston County officials on the identification and implementation of additional economic development strategies.
- At the end of the first and each successive year, DOC and Gaston County officials will review and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

III. Overview of Gaston County

History and Recent Developments

Catawba Indians and other Native Americans populated Gaston originally. In the mid-18th Century, early settlers began moving down from the northeastern states. They included Scotch-Irish, Pennsylvania Dutch and English immigrants and descendants, who found the warmer climate more conducive to farming. The area soon attracted miners because of its deposits of gold, iron, sulfur and tin.

Gaston's strong rivers provided waterpower for cotton mills beginning in the 1840's, as later hydroelectric energy to drive other facilities. Although its economy continues to diversify, Gaston County still leads the United States in yarn and thread production, with more spindles in operation and more cotton bales consumed than any other U. S. location. Gaston is also a world leader in advanced textile technology and automation.

Supplying all that textile equipment with parts and machinery has also made Gaston one of the largest centers of metalworking firms in the U. S., with more than 200 companies employing over 6,000 people. Today, some of that metalworking skill serves a major Freightliner truck manufacturing facility and other automotive component producers. A wide variety of plastic products, power tools, electrical goods and components, motor oil filters, paper products and many others are also made in Gaston. Following manufacturing in order of local employment are retail, government, service, and transportation-communications-public utilities.

Gaston County residents also benefit from the state's fifth largest school system, two colleges and a textile technology institute. Caromont Healthcare has over 450 beds, a state-of-the-art cancer treatment center, and continues to grow as one of the top medical resources in the region. The Schiele Museum of Natural History and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden attract visitors and tourists from many states. In all, Gaston County offers a full spectrum of opportunities for quality of life and work.

Note: The above information was taken from Gaston County Fact Book 2001, Gaston County Economic Development Commission.

Location and Geography

Gaston County is located in the south central "Piedmont" section of North Carolina, immediately adjacent to the western side of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. It is bounded on the south by York County, South Carolina, with Lincoln County to the north and Cleveland County to the west. Gaston is midway between the Florida Keys and New England, and just 200 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, making it a strategic center for serving the entire Eastern United States.

The county includes approximately 364 square miles of diverse topography, mostly gently rolling hills. Higher elevations include Kings Mountain Pinnacle at 1,705 feet above sea level, as well as Spencer Mountain and Crowders Mountain. These low “mountains” are the first that the traveler sees moving west from Charlotte on I-85. Average elevation in the county is estimated at 825 feet.

The county’s climate has an average temperature of 60 degrees year-round, 78 in summer and 43 in winter. Average annual precipitation is 44 inches, and average relative humidity is 54 percent. The Catawba River and its South Fork tributary provide major natural drainage as well as abundant boating and fishing opportunities.

Note: The above information was taken from Gaston County Fact Book 2001, Gaston County EDC.

Many Municipalities in Gaston County

Gaston County has 14 municipalities within its boundaries – the largest being Gastonia, the county seat, with a 2000 population of 66,277 and the smallest being Spencer Mountain with a 2000 population of 51. The individual cities and towns and the year they were incorporated are listed as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Belmont | (1895) | Kings Mountain | (1874) |
| Bessemer City | (1893) | Lowell | (1879) |
| Cherryville | (1881) | McAdenville | (1883) |
| Cramerton | (1967) | Mount Holly | (1879) |
| Dallas | (1863) | Ranlo | (1963) |
| Gastonia | (1877) | Spencer Mountain | (1895) |
| High Shoals | (1973) | Stanley | (1855) |

Gaston County was created on December 21, 1846, by the North Carolina State General Assembly. The area which comprises modern day Gaston County was formerly part of Lincoln County, that abuts Gaston’s northern boundary. The county was named for the Honorable William Gaston, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Dallas was the original County Seat and held that title until 1911 when a third attempt to move the County Seat to Gastonia was finally successful. Gastonia has maintained the title ever since. Gaston County is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners.

Gaston County Comprehensive Plan

A Gaston County Comprehensive Plan is currently being prepared and a series of planning forums were completed in August 2001. Information gathered from those meetings is being used in the development of 5 Small Area Plans, upon which the final countywide plan will be based. Considerable information on these forums can be obtained by clicking on the Gaston County website at: <http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/>

IV. Executive Summary of the Key Issues identified in Gaston County by the Commerce Resource Team.

On October 30 and 31, 2001, a ten-member team of North Carolina Department of Commerce staff, representing many of the Department's Divisions, visited Gaston County and interviewed 74 community leaders about their views of the county's local economic development issues. The individuals that were interviewed included county and municipal elected officials; local governmental administrative and professional staff; officials associated with utility companies; bank officers; Community College officials; real estate developers; people involved with tourism and museum activities; merchants; industrialists, and other such civic leaders. Each interviewee was given in advance a set of 29 questions that asked about their opinions on such issues in Gaston County as:

- Strengths, weaknesses and recent trends,
- Infrastructure,
- Labor force,
- Recruitment and incentives,
- Environment,
- Partnerships,
- Quality of Life,
- And concluded with several questions of a general nature.

The participants were encouraged to be candid and forthright and were likewise assured that their comments would not be identified by their name. The purpose and intent of this report is to summarize the content of the 74 interviews, referencing and highlighting the more often and frequently cited issues.

The October 30 – 31 interviews determined a general consensus regarding which were the most important issues facing Gaston County as it moves into the 21st century. The Department of Commerce interview team reached agreement that the following points of public concern were those that were foremost in the minds of the interview participants. **The 5 Major Issues have been identified as follows:**

- 1. The perception of Gaston County having a negative image.**
- 2. Growth management.**
- 3. A need for a “shared vision” for Gaston County’s desired future.**
- 4. Transition from traditional manufacturing jobs to more diversified employment opportunities in the future.**

5. **Coordination/cooperation between the county government officials and the officials from the many units of municipal government in Gaston County.**

Other Observations and Comments by the Gaston County Participants that were discussed during the October 30-31, 2001 Interviews by topic.

Strengths of Gaston County for Economic Development:

- Location
- Proximity to City of Charlotte and Douglas International Airport
- Good highway system
- Affordable real estate
- Available buildings and building sites
- Gaston Community College
- Great local support for Gaston Community College
- Cultural attractions:
 - Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
 - Schiele Museum of Natural History
 - Crowders Mountain State Park
 - C. Grier Beam Truck Museum
- Gaston County EDC and its professional staff
- Labor source with a strong work ethic
- Excess capacity in infrastructure, especially availability of water
- Countywide zoning protection
- Quality of life
- Good climate
- Some recent diversity in industry
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan now being prepared
- Cherryville Industrial park
- Good school system (and recent passage of school bond issue)
- Strong hospital and healthcare facilities
- Gastonia City Council is showing strong leadership
- Gastonia's "All America City" designation during 2000
- Charlotte must grow and its economic development growth will grow into Gaston County
- Attractiveness of Downtown Belmont activities
- Friendly/outgoing citizens
- Numerous recreational facilities

Weaknesses of Gaston County for Economic Development

- Literacy rate – 39% of county adults do not have a high school degree
- Downtown Gastonia

(Weaknesses-continued)

- County image and perception
- Declining tax base
- Relatively high tax rate
- Lack of confidence in elected leadership
- Lack of countywide water and sewer service
- Lack of a shared vision for desired future development
- Duplication of EDC efforts by other organizations
- Dependence upon textiles
- Lack of parental and family emphasis on the value of education
- Unsightliness of Franklin Boulevard
- Big disconnect between “workforce development” and “economic development”
- An attitude of independence and resistance to change by many residents
- Confusion about land use regulations since there are so many different municipal zoning ordinances in the county
- Traffic congestion along I-85 and US-321
- Education system doesn’t adequately prepare workforce
- Too much emphasis on manufacturing and not enough on economic diversity
- Loss of textile jobs and the textile heritage
- Poor political climate between county and municipal governments
- Inadequate public transportation
- Lack of a Civic Center
- Smaller municipalities lacking resources
- Cherryville is 15 miles from nearest 4-lane highway
- Difficulty in hiring people with basic reading, communication and math skills
- Complacency and satisfaction with the status quo
- Northwest corner of Gaston County is isolated

Environment, Partnerships and Quality of Life Issues in Gaston County

- Revitalization of downtown Gastonia is extremely important
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan underway.
- Air quality – non-attainment level/increased ozone level
- Water quality
 - Sedimentation
 - Ground water contamination and failing septic tanks
 - Buffers along waterways
- Image – self-perpetuating “Blue Collar”
- Need to develop a “Vision” that is embraced by all
- Friendly people

(Environment – continued)

- Good race relations
- Excelling quality of life as a community
- Enjoyable place to live
- Firestone/Luray Mill preservation project has tremendous potential
- Now is the time, climate and environment to make some real progress in promoting economic development activities
- EDC needs to freely operate without obstacles being thrown up in front of it
- Stowe Garden and Schiele Museum are nationally recognized facilities
- Potential for travel and tourism
- Easy access to sporting events in Charlotte
- Providing water to Clover, SC
- Working with Voices and Choices to improve Catawba River
- EDC has been helping build partnerships between the municipalities
- There is some ground water contamination and failing septic tanks
- Hydrilla growth in Mountain island Lake
- Urban sprawl and “creeping development congestion”
- Lots of churches

Infrastructure

- Countywide water and sewer
- Municipal investment in current water and sewer (excess capacity)
- Toll road (US-321-74 bypass)
- Widening of NC Highway 279 to 4-lanes from Cherryville to Gastonia
- Need for Civic Center
- Invest in Downtown Gastonia infrastructure
- Build a shared vision
- Public transportation in eastern part of county only
- School bond issue (passed on November 6, 2001)
- A Visitors Center is needed
- The completion of I-485 will be a plus for Gaston County
- Gastonia has a transportation plan (MPO), Community Transit Services Plan, Bike Plan and a Greenway Plan
- Need more developed industrial parks
- Gaston County Airport needs to be expanded

Labor Force

- Lack of education (illiteracy and the high drop-out rate)
- Skill shortage for future jobs
- Lack of parental emphasis on education

(Labor Force – continued)

- Disconnect between workforce development and EDC (reactive, not proactive)
- Available training slots not being fully utilized
- Strong work ethic of Gaston County workers
- Public schools are not adequately preparing the workforce
- Health care is an expanding field in Gaston County
- Highland High School magnet school is a positive step
- Gaston College is well positioned and willing to target, train and retain workers
- Students won't sign up for skill classes needed – machinery, HVAC, industrial maintenance, welding. These classes are hard to market
- Need re-education training dollars for a qualified work force
- There are not enough new opportunities to sustain the workforce
- Thousands of middle-aged, unemployed workers with low education levels that are in need of re-training
- Many complaints from high tech firms that high school graduates can't read and do math at the ninth grade level

Recruitment and Incentives

- Many positive comments about the EDC and its staff
- Not all the municipalities are supporting the EDC
- Incentives for smaller businesses
- High water, sewer and electrical rates in some municipalities
- County has a good incentive package and the EDC uses them effectively
- Many sites and buildings are available
- Greater industrial diversification is needed
- Need for more white-collar jobs
- Overall, there is a lack of vision and identity for the types of business and industry to recruit
- Specialized technology center – “Center of Excellence” (Example – automotive)
- Combine services and utilities between municipalities and/or county
- Tax incentives needed to recruit business
- Improve the image of Downtown Gastonia to assist in recruiting industry
- Developing small business is critical
- County tax rate is too high
- It is generally agreed that the EDC is highly regarded

Other Issues

- Planning- countywide zoning adopted in 1992

(Other Issues – continued)

- Lack of coordination/communication between governmental units
- County leadership void
- Missing a new generation of community leadership
- Vision – need to develop a shared vision for the future
- Sense of independence in the past has become a problem today
- Strong sense of community by municipalities
- Lacking sense of “County community”
- Need to cooperate now
- Tourism will play a larger role in the future economy
- Effective planning and coordination will be a challenge
- Need to constructively engage business leaders in meaningful civic projects
- Improve political climate in county
- Considerable discussion about the need for improving Downtown Gastonia
- Need to employ a highly skilled county manager and no “micro-managing” by county commissioners
- Implement “smart growth” techniques
- Need for monthly meetings of mayors, city managers, county officials and EDC to develop strategies to market Gaston County as a whole
- Recruit distribution centers to utilize empty textile buildings
- Character of individual communities is too diverse to expect unified ordinances
- Gaston should work off the strengths of its close proximity to Charlotte

V. A Listing of the members of the North Carolina Department of Commerce Resource Team that conducted interviews of 74 individuals in Gaston County on October 30-31, 2001

1. **Barbara Bergman**, Employment and Training Specialist, Employment and Training Division, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
2. **John Berndt**, Assistant Director, Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
3. **Richard Clark**, Heritage Tourism Manager, Tourism, Film & Sports Division, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
4. **Ray Denny**, Director, Business & Industry Division, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
5. **Jim Dunn**, Chief Planner, Salisbury Regional Office, Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce, Salisbury, NC
6. **Kenny Flowers**, Director, NC Rural Development Council, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
7. **Nann Guthrie**, Senior Field Officer, Asheville Regional Office, NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Asheville, NC
8. **Jim Haag**, Director, Policy and Research Division, NC Department of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
9. **Ron Leitch**, Economic Development Representative, Carolinas Regional Office, NC Department of Commerce, Charlotte, NC
10. **Jack Newman**, Community Development Planner, Salisbury Regional Office, Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce, Salisbury, NC

VI. Gaston County Economic Development Roundtable Recommendations

On the evening of Tuesday, October 30, 2001, the Department of Commerce Resource Team was invited to attend an “Economic Development Roundtable” discussion that was hosted by the Gaston County Commissioners. The Commissioners invited 12 local business leaders to the meeting to present their ideas and recommendations in an effort to develop strategies for addressing economic development initiatives, specifically how they could help in recruiting and retaining local industries. Since the mission of the Round Table discussion is likewise that of the 21st Century Communities Initiative, the DOC supports that effort and reiterates these valid recommendations that were proposed at the meeting. Those recommendations that were presented for County Commission action are identified as follows:

1. Recognize importance of and seek opportunities to be a regional partner particularly for joint Gaston County Eastside and Charlotte West side development. This will enable the county to jointly draw on state resources.
2. Develop a clear vision for the future.
3. Support education improvement.
4. Audit industries to get a clear picture of related needs.
5. Include existing businesses in incentive plans.
6. Development a plan or structure that identifies the return on investment for recruitment and incentives.
7. Use vacant buildings (6 million sq. feet in 60 buildings) as an asset to attract business and promote adaptive re-use.
8. Monitor and control cost of energy.
9. Continue to fast-track permits through rapid responsiveness for projects.
10. Focus incentives “up-front” with as much flexibility as possible within state guidelines.
EDC response:
 - Abate in net new revenue
 - William S. Lee Act with State
 - Use \$1 million threshold for existing expansion
 - Provide development team quickly to support new business and existing business expansion
11. Regulations cause home costs and tax costs to be highest in region. Neighborhood schools attract buyers, but costs are a problem. Consolidate permitting between municipalities, particularly Gastonia and the County.
12. Target more funding to expand EDC.
13. Improve government efficiencies.

14. Support downtown redevelopment for Gastonia because of importance in decisions of individuals to locate in the community.
15. Support road development – opening US-321 By-pass will open development opportunities for office buildings and distribution centers connecting cargo and trucking.
16. Implement Quality Program.
17. Bring together groups to work collaboratively to address economic development needs.

Opportunities for Industry Support and Involvement:

1. Continue to hold round table discussions to involve other business leaders including a number of smaller meetings that also include small business.
2. Open EDC meetings and promote an opportunity to address business questions.
3. Use industry leaders to work with EDC as ambassadors in recruiting as well as to connect to our community – golfing, arts, museums, communities, etc.
4. Use business leaders as resources on best practices, feedback on performance, quality initiatives, efficiency evaluations.
5. Participate in planning initiatives.
6. Use information provided by county to “sell” the community to business contacts.

VII. NC Department of Commerce Recommendations:

Community preparedness and readiness for economic development requires considerable commitment and focus on strategies that will secure economic prosperity now and in the future. Many of these strategies will need to be pursued simultaneously and will require flexibility and perseverance to assure the implementation of significant economic development strategies. It is imperative that Gaston County, in preparing for economic development and desired growth, will need to have the following:

- A well-trained workforce.
- Intergovernmental coordination and cooperation.
- Water and sewer systems capable of accommodating future growth.
- Available buildings and industrial sites served by appropriate supportive infrastructure (water and sewer services, natural gas, and transportation).
- High quality of life that includes good schools, recreation facilities and shopping.
- A growth management policy and guide that directs growth to appropriate areas.
- Local incentive and investment policies.
- A cooperative and progressive community spirit.

A list of community preparedness tools and attributes beneficial to the recruitment of new business appears on the following page. All communities have room for improvement and to recognize this fact is the first step toward preparing for economic development. The leadership of Gaston County must now determine which issues are of a high priority and therefore develop strategies and implementation tools to adequately address those issues.

VIII. The Next Steps in the 21st Century Community Process

Gaston County has accomplished several positive actions towards improving its local economy. Bringing business leaders together with the county commissioners for the Economic Development Roundtable discussion was an excellent means of opening communication lines between the public and private sectors. The Gaston County Economic Development Commission and its Executive Director and staff are considered to be outstanding. Gastonia, even with its downtown problems, was recently awarded an “All America City” designation. The county should be commended for having a Comprehensive Land Use Plan under way as it awaits its publication in the summer of 2002. The 74 participants in the Commerce Resource Team interviews expressed an optimism that now is the time and environment for the proper public-private partnerships

to be established that would develop an implementation plan and process to direct the many resources of Gaston County, its 14 municipalities, the Charlotte Region and the State of North Carolina towards growing a more vibrant local economy. With this process, local leaders and state officials can identify and prioritize the greatest needs of the Gaston community and match them with the available state resources to best prepare the county for a stronger and more resilient economy.

The key to this program's success will be the development of a local implementation strategy, devoid of politics, that will systematically prioritize strategies, identify needed resources, assign responsibility for implementation, define a time-frame for implementation and annually evaluate each strategy as to its effectiveness. The NC Department of Commerce will partner with the Gaston County implementation team to identify any and all Department and other available state resources available to help implement those identified strategies.

IX. Timeline of Events for the 21st Century Communities Initiative during the next 12 Months (Tentative):

January 2002 -----Gaston County Implementation Committee organization.

February 2002 ----- Review and Prioritize Strategies.

April 2002 ----- Committee Prepares Implementation Plans.

May 2002 ----- Implementation Plans Presented to the Community.

June 2002 ----- Initiate Implementation Process.

July 2002 – July 2003 Continue follow-through Implementation Efforts.

January 2003 -----Annual Review of Economic Development Strategies.

APPENDIX

Gaston County Profile and Statistics

The section following this page contains a detailed county profile for Gaston County that was prepared by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Policy and Research Division. Some of the topics presented in this profile include:

- Gaston County and North Carolina Population and Migration
- Municipalities' Population by Number of Households
- Gaston County and North Carolina Population by Race
- State, County and Municipal Hispanic and Latino Populations
- Municipalities' Population by Race
- Gaston County's Tier Status
- Income
- Employment and Wages
- Largest Employers
- Labor Force Estimates
- Gaston County Company Investments
- Announced Business Closings and Layoffs
- Gaston County Commuting Patterns
- Education and Worker Training
- Infrastructure
- County Tax and Budget Information
- Quality of Life and Tourist Attractions



Gaston County

Population and Migration

In 1990, Gaston County was the 7th most populous county in North Carolina; by 2000, Gaston County had dropped to the 8th most populous county. Between 1990 and 2000, 17 counties in North Carolina experienced faster population growth than Gaston County.

Gaston County and North Carolina Population and Migration, 1990-2000

| Gaston County | | North Carolina | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2000 Population | 190,365 | 2000 Population | 8,049,313 |
| 1990 Population | 174,679 | 1990 Population | 6,632,448 |
| Percent Change in Population (1990-2000) | 8.7% | Percent Change in Population (1990-2000) | 21.4% |
| Net Migration (1990-2000) | 6,854 people or 3.9% increase | Net Migration (1990-2000) | 1,000,991 people or 15.1% increase |

Source: NC Office of State Planning, April 2000 County Census Populations.

Municipalities' Population and Number of Households, 1990 and 2000

| Municipality | 1990 Population | 2000 Population | % Change Pop 1990-2000 | 1990 Total Households | 2000 Total Households |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Belmont | 8,434 | 8,705 | 3.2% | 3,049 | 3,348 |
| Bessemer | 4,698 | 5,119 | 9.0% | 1,762 | 2,009 |
| Cherryville | 4,756 | 5,361 | 12.7% | 1,950 | 2,177 |
| Cramerton | 2,371 | 2,976 | 25.5% | 950 | 1,169 |
| Dallas | 3,012 | 3,402 | 12.9% | 1,184 | 1,324 |
| Gastonia | 54,732 | 66,277 | 21.1% | 20,983 | 25,945 |
| High Shoals | 605 | 729 | 20.5% | 229 | 284 |
| Kings Mountain | 8,763 | 9,693 | 10.6% | 3,464 | 3,821 |
| Lowell City | 2,704 | 2,662 | (1.6%) | 1,073 | 1,085 |
| McAdenville | 830 | 619 | (25.4%) | 298 | 247 |
| Mount Holly | 7,710 | 9,618 | 24.7% | 3,115 | 4,028 |
| Ranlo | 1,650 | 2,198 | 33.2% | 627 | 857 |
| Spencer Mount. | 135 | 51 | (62.2%) | 42 | 16 |
| Stanley | 2,823 | 3,053 | 8.1% | 1,073 | 1,201 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

Demographic Information

Gaston County's population is 48% male and has a median age of 36.2. Of the County's total 2000 population, 23,985 people, or 12.6% are age 65 or older—compared to 12% over the age of 65 of North Carolina's total population. North Carolina's population is 49% male and has a median age is 35.3.

Gaston County residents of Hispanic or Latino (of any race) background number 5,719 or 3.0% of the County's total population.

North Carolina experienced the fastest growing Hispanic population in the United States between 1990 and 2000. 378,963 North Carolinians, or 4.7%, reported their race as Hispanic.

Gaston County Population by Race, 1990 and 2000

| Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | 1990 Percent of County Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of County Population |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| White | 150,868 | 86.2 | 157,965 | 83.0 |
| Black or African-American | 22,676 | 13.0 | 26,405 | 13.9 |
| American Indian | 397 | 0.2 | 525 | 0.3 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 915 | 0.5 | 1,864 | 1.0 |
| Some other race | 237 | 0.1 | 1,958 | 1.0 |
| Two or more races | 0 | 0 | 1,648 | 0.9 |
| Total | 175,093 | 100 | 190,365 | 100.1 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

North Carolina Population by Race, 1990 and 2000

| Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | 1990 Percent of Population | 2000 Numbers of Persons | 2000 Percent of Population |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| One race | | | 7,946,053 | 98.7 |
| White | 5,008,491 | 75.6 | 5,804,656 | 72.1 |
| Black or African American | 1,456,323 | 22 | 1,737,545 | 21.6 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 80,155 | 1.2 | 99,551 | 1.2 |
| Asian | 52,166 | .8 | 113,689 | 1.4 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | Not a Category in 1990 | | 3,983 | 0.0 |
| Some other race | 31,502 | .5 | 186,629 | 2.3 |
| Two or more races | Not a Category in 1990 | | 103,260 | 1.3 |
| Total population | 6,628,637 | 100.0 | 8,049,313 | 100.0 |

Gaston County Hispanic or Latino Population, 1990 and 2000

| Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | 1990 Percent of County Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of County Population |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 864 | 0.5 | 5,719 | 3.0 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 174,229 | 99.5 | 184,646 | 97.0 |
| Total | 175,093 | 100 | 190,365 | 100 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

North Carolina Hispanic or Latino Population, 1990 and 2000

| Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | 1990 Percent of Population | 2000 Numbers of Persons | 2000 Percent of Population |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 76,726 | 1.2 | 378,963 | 4.7 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 6,549,911 | 98.8 | 7,670,350 | 95.3 |
| Total population | 6,628,637 | 100.0 | 8,049,313 | 100.0 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

Municipalities' Population by Race, 1990 and 2000

| Municipality | Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | Percent of Municipal Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of Municipal Population |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Belmont | White | 7,354 | 87.2 | 7,346 | 84.4 |
| | Black or African-American | 829 | 9.8 | 877 | 10.1 |
| | American Indian | 24 | 0.3 | 23 | 0.3 |
| | Asian | 218 | 2.6 | 263 | 3.0 |
| | Other race | 9 | 0.1 | 196 | 2.3 |
| | Total | 8,434 | 100 | 8,705 | 100 |
| Bessemer | White | 4,104 | 87.4 | 4,274 | 83.5 |
| | Black or African-American | 570 | 12.1 | 687 | 13.4 |
| | American Indian | 9 | 0.2 | 16 | 0.3 |
| | Asian | 4 | 0.1 | 30 | 0.6 |
| | Other race | 11 | 0.2 | 112 | 02.2 |
| | Total | 4,698 | 100 | 5,119 | 100 |
| Cherryville | White | 4,311 | 90.6 | 4,761 | 88.8 |
| | Black or African-American | 389 | 8.2 | 513 | 9.6 |
| | American Indian | 9 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.1 |
| | Asian or Pacific Islander | 40 | 0.9 | 33 | 0.6 |
| | Other race | 7 | 0.1 | 47 | 0.9 |
| | Total | 4,756 | 100 | 5,361 | 100 |

| Municipality | Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | Percent of Municipal Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of Municipal Population |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cramerton | White | 2,283 | 96.3 | 2,801 | 94. |
| | Black or African-American | 67 | 2.8 | 70 | 2.4 |
| | American Indian | 8 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.5 |
| | Asian or Pacific Islander | 12 | 0.5 | 57 | 1.9 |
| | Other race | 1 | 0 | 33 | 1.1 |
| | Total | 2,371 | 99.9 | 2,976 | 100 |
| Dallas | White | 2,367 | 78.6 | 2,597 | 76.3 |
| | Black or African-American | 625 | 20.8 | 765 | 22.5 |
| | American Indian | 13 | 0.4 | 4 | 0.1 |
| | Asian or Pacific Islander | 4 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.4 |
| | Other race | 3 | 0.1 | 21 | 0.6 |
| | Total | 3,012 | 100 | 3,402 | 99.9 |
| Gastonia | White | 40,501 | 74.0 | 46,513 | 70.2 |
| | Black or African-American | 13,617 | 24.9 | 16,981 | 25.6 |
| | American Indian | 103 | 0.2 | 137 | 0.2 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 384 | 0.7 | 792 | 1.2 |
| | Other race | 127 | 0.2 | 1,854 | 2.8 |
| | Total | 54,732 | 100 | 66,277 | 100 |
| High Shoals | White | 558 | 92.2 | 642 | 88.1 |
| | Black or African-American | 44 | 7.3 | 68 | 9.3 |
| | American Indian | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.3 |
| | Other race | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2.3 |
| | Total | 605 | 100 | 729 | 100 |
| Kings Mountain | White | 6,812 | 77.7 | 7,255 | 74.8 |
| | Black or African-American | 1,791 | 20.4 | 2,089 | 21.6 |
| | American Indian | 17 | 0.2 | 15 | 0.2 |
| | Asian | 137 | 1.6 | 177 | 1.8 |
| | Other race | 6 | 0.1 | 157 | 1.6 |
| | Total | 8,763 | 100 | 9,693 | 100 |
| Lowell | White | 2,481 | 91.8 | 2,433 | 91.4 |
| | Black or African-American | 207 | 7.7 | 172 | 6.5 |
| | American Indian | 11 | 0.4 | 6 | 0.2 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0 | 17 | 0.6 |
| | Other race | 5 | 0.2 | 34 | 1.3 |
| | Total | 2,704 | 100 | 2,662 | 100 |

| Municipality | Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | Percent of Municipal Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of Municipal Population |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| McAdenville | White | 814 | 98.1 | 593 | 95.8 |
| | Black or African-American | 7 | 0.8 | 12 | 1.9 |
| | American Indian | 3 | 0.4 | 6 | 1.0 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 4 | 0.5 | 6 | 1.0 |
| | Other race | 2 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.3 |
| | Total | 830 | 100 | 619 | 100 |
| Mount Holly | White | 7,006 | 90.9 | 8,276 | 86.0 |
| | Black or African-American | 645 | 8.4 | 894 | 9.3 |
| | American Indian | 19 | 0.2 | 34 | 0.4 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 37 | 0.5 | 240 | 2.5 |
| | Other race | 3 | 0.0 | 174 | 1.8 |
| | Total | 7,710 | 100 | 9,618 | 100 |
| Ranlo | White | 1,537 | 93.2 | 2,019 | 91.9 |
| | Black or African-American | 90 | 5.5 | 134 | 6.1 |
| | American Indian | 12 | 0.7 | 7 | 0.3 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 8 | 0.5 | 14 | 0.6 |
| | Other race | 3 | 0.2 | 24 | 1.1 |
| | Total | 1,650 | 100.1 | 2,198 | 100 |
| Spencer Mountain | White | 135 | 100 | 37 | 72.5 |
| | Black or African-American | 0 | 0.00 | 10 | 19.6 |
| | American Indian | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.00 | 4 | 7.8 |
| | Other race | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 135 | 100 | 51 | 100 |
| Stanley | White | 2,738 | 97.0 | 2,730 | 89.4 |
| | Black or African-American | 73 | 2.6 | 257 | 8.4 |
| | American Indian | 2 | 0.1 | 12 | 0.4 |
| | Asian of Pacific Islander | 8 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.5 |
| | Other race | 2 | 0.1 | 39 | 1.3 |
| | Total | 2,823 | 100 | 3,053 | 100 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000

Municipalities' Hispanic or Latino Population, 1990 and 2000

| Municipality | Race Reported | 1990 Nu mbe r of Pers ons | 1990 Percen t of Munici pal Popula tion | 2000 Num ber of Perso ns | 2000 Percent of Municipal Population |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Belmont | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 79 | 0.9 | 217 | 2.5 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 8,355 | 99.1 | 8,488 | 97.5 |
| | Total | 8,434 | 100 | 8,705 | 100 |
| Bessemer | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 19 | 0.4 | 179 | 3.5 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 4,679 | 99.6 | 4,940 | 96.5 |
| | Total | 4,698 | 100 | 5,119 | 100 |
| Cherryville | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 19 | 0.4 | 123 | 2.3 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 4,737 | 99.6 | 5,238 | 97.7 |
| | Total | 4,756 | 100 | 5,361 | 100 |
| Cramerton | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 10 | 0.4 | 11 | 0.4 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 2,361 | 99.6 | 2,965 | 99.6 |
| | Total | 2,371 | 100 | 2,976 | 100 |
| Dallas | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 15 | 0.5 | 81 | 2.4 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 2,997 | 99.5 | 3,321 | 97.6 |
| | Total | 3,012 | 100 | 3,402 | 100 |
| Gastonia | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 294 | 0.5 | 3,613 | 5.5 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 54,438 | 99.5 | 62,664 | 94.5 |
| | Total | 54,732 | 100 | 66,277 | 100 |
| High Shoals | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2.3 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 605 | 100 | 712 | 97.7 |
| | Total | 605 | 100 | 729 | 100 |
| Kings Mountain | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 43 | 0.5 | 139 | 1.4 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 8,720 | 99.5 | 9554 | 98.6 |
| | Total | 8,763 | 100 | 9,693 | 100 |
| Lowell | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 6 | 0.2 | 35 | 1.3 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 2,698 | 99.8 | 2,627 | 98.7 |
| | Total | 2,704 | 100 | 2,662 | 100 |
| McAdenville | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 4 | 0.5 | - | - |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 836 | 99.5 | 619 | 100 |
| | Total | 830 | 100 | 619 | 100 |
| Mount Holly | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 31 | 0.4 | 204 | 2.1 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 7,679 | 99.6 | 9,414 | 97.9 |
| | Total | 7,710 | 100 | 9,618 | 100 |
| Ranlo | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 11 | 0.7 | 12 | 0.5 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 1,639 | 99.3 | 2,186 | 99.5 |
| | Total | 1,650 | 100 | 2,198 | 100 |

| Municipality | Race Reported | 1990 Number of Persons | 1990 Percent of Municipal Population | 2000 Number of Persons | 2000 Percent of Municipal Population |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Spencer Mountain | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 135 | 100 | 51 | 100 |
| | Total | 135 | 100 | 51 | 100 |
| Stanley | Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 20 | 0.7 | 25 | 0.8 |
| | Not Hispanic or Latino | 2,803 | 99.3 | 3,028 | 99.2 |
| | Total | 2,823 | 100 | 3,053 | 100 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

Gaston County's Tier Status, 1996-2001

| Year | Tier | 110% of Average Weekly Wage |
|------|------|-----------------------------|
| 1996 | 4 | \$480 |
| 1997 | 3 | 461 |
| 1998 | 3 | 501 |
| 1999 | 3 | 532 |
| 2000 | 4 | 564 |
| 2001 | 3 | 583 |

Source: Commerce Finance Center, NC Department of Commerce.

Income

| | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|
| Average Weekly Earnings (2 nd Quarter 2000): | \$532.00 | NC Rank ¹ |
| Per Capita Personal Income (1999): | \$24,449 | 16 |
| Median Family Income (2001): | \$60,400 | 24 |
| Gaston County Poverty Rate (1995): | 11.3% | 7 |
| North Carolina Poverty Rate (1995): | 13.1% | |

¹ NC rank is out of 100 counties. 1 represents the highest income of all 100 counties, and 100 represents the lowest income of all 100 counties.

Employment and Wages

Gaston County Employment by Industry, 3rd Quarter 2000

| Industry | Average County Employment, 3Q 2000 | Percentage of Total County Employment | Average Weekly Earnings | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | Gaston County | North Carolina |
| Agriculture | 695 | 0.9% | \$336.54 | \$578.32 |
| Mining | 126 | 0.2 | 808.42 | |
| Construction | 3,591 | 4.7 | 558.90 | 573.63 |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 2,292 | 3.0 | 557.90 | 840.06 |
| Government | 9,131 | 12.0 | 597.05 | 621.30 |
| Manufacturing | 24,728 | 32.6 | 631.07 | 690.04 |
| Retail Trade | 14,055 | 18.5 | 313.03 | 335.41 |
| Wholesale Trade | 3,696 | 4.9 | 618.46 | 755.38 |
| Services | 15,393 | 20.3 | 508.55 | 553.17 |
| Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities | 2,080 | 2.7 | 737.49 | 757.27 |
| Total All Industries | \$75,787 | 99.8% | \$537.37 | \$584.81 |

Source: North Carolina Employment Securities Commission

Gaston County's Largest Employers, 4th Quarter 2000

| Company Name | Industry Description | Employment Range |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Gaston Health Care, Inc. | Services | 1,000 and over |
| Freightliner Corporation | Manufacturing | 1,000 and over |
| American & Efird, Inc. | Manufacturing | 1,000 and over |
| Dana Spicer | Manufacturing | 1,000 and over |
| Pharr Yarns, Inc. | Manufacturing | 1,000 and over |
| Parkdale Mills | Manufacturing | 500 – 999 |
| Sara Lee Corporation. | Wholesale Trade | 500 – 999 |
| Fichtel & Sachs Industries, Inc. | Manufacturing | 500 - 999 |
| R. L. Stowe Mills, Inc. | Manufacturing | 500 – 999 |
| Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. | Retail Trade | 500 - 999 |

Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission.

| <i>North Carolina's 10 Largest</i> | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| MANUFACTURING AND NONMANUFACTURING | | |
| EMPLOYERS | | |
| <i>Ranked in order according to first quarter 2000 employment size.</i> | | |
| Company Name | Industry | Employment Range |
| WAL-MART ASSOCIATES INC | Retail | 1,000 & over |
| FOOD LION INC | Retail | 1,000 & over |
| DUKE UNIVERSITY | Services | 1,000 & over |
| INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES | Manufacturing | 1,000 & over |
| FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK | Fin., Ins. & Real Estate | 1,000 & over |
| HARRIS TEETER INC | Retail | 1,000 & over |
| U S AIRWAYS INC | Trans., Comm. & Utilities | 1,000 & over |
| MANPOWER TEMPORARY SERVICES | Services | 1,000 & over |
| LOWES HOME CENTERS INC | Retail | 1,000 & over |
| FREIGHTLINER CORP | Manufacturing | 1,000 & over |

Gaston County Labor Force Estimates, 1990-2001

| Year | Annual Average Labor Force | Annual Average Employed Persons | Annual Average Unemployed Persons | Annual Average Unemployment Rate |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1990 | 92,220 | 91,310 | 3,10 | 4.1% |
| 1991 | 95,410 | 89,080 | 6,330 | 6.6 |
| 1992 | 95,060 | 88,520 | 6,540 | 6.9 |
| 1993 | 94,560 | 89,700 | 4,860 | 5.1 |
| 1994 | 94,980 | 90,920 | 4,060 | 4.3 |
| 1995 | 94,930 | 90,990 | 3,940 | 4.3 |
| 1996 | 98,840 | 93,600 | 5,240 | 5.3 |
| 1997 | 98,090 | 94,200 | 3,890 | 4.0 |
| 1998 | 95,150 | 91,920 | 3,230 | 3.4 |
| 1999 | 97,290 | 93,800 | 3,490 | 3.6 |
| 2000 | 103,940 | 97,610 | 6,330 | 6.1 |
| January to August, 2001 | 106,778 | 98,984 | 7,794 | 7.3 |

Source: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

Gaston County Investments 1996 - 2001

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1996 | Advanced Urethane Solutions, Inc. | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$250,000 | 30 |
| | American & Efid, Inc. | Mount Holly | Finishing plants, cotton | \$3,000,000 | 14 |
| | American Forms Manufacturing | Gastonia | Commercial printing, lithographic | \$680,000 | 0 |
| | Artee Industries, Inc. | Cherryville | Cordage and twine | \$0 | 100 |
| | Avidtech | Gastonia | Broadwoven fabric mills, cotton | \$750,000 | 15 |
| | BIPCO | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$2,500,000 | 30 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Baxter-Harriss | Belmont | General warehousing and storage | \$4,400,000 | 0 |
| | Best Foods Baking Group | Gastonia | Prepared flour mixes and doughs | \$501,000 | 0 |
| | Blum, Julius Inc | Stanley | Hardware, nec | \$5,020,000 | 54 |
| | Bradington-Young, Inc. | Cherryville | Upholstered household furniture | \$209,000 | 28 |
| | Carter, AB Inc | Gastonia | Textile machinery | \$1,100,000 | 0 |
| | China Grove Textiles Inc | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$2,340,000 | 12 |
| | Comfort Suites Hotel | Gastonia | Hotels and motels | \$4,400,000 | 0 |
| | Dystar Warehouse | Belmont | Cellulosic manmade fibers | \$4,400,000 | 0 |
| | F M C Corporation | Bessemer City | Industrial inorganic chemicals | \$35,000,000 | 50 |
| | Fairfield Inn Motel | Gastonia | Hotels and motels | \$3,140,000 | 0 |
| | Freightliner Corp. | Gastonia | Truck and bus bodies | \$0 | 25 |
| | Freightliner Corp. | Mount Holly | Motor vehicles and car bodies | \$8,000,000 | 0 |
| | Gold Metal Homes of North Carolina | Cherryville | Mobile homes | \$5,500,000 | 300 |
| | Hayward Pool Products, Inc. | Kings Mountain | Plastics products | \$0 | 346 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Homelite/Textron, Inc. | Gastonia | Power-driven handtools | \$0 | 95 |
| | Outdoor Lifestyle Patios | Gastonia | Furniture and fixtures | \$0 | 4 |
| | Phasep | Cherryville | Metalworking machinery, nec | \$1,350,000 | 15 |
| | Public Service Co. of NC Inc. | Gastonia | Natural gas distribution | \$60,279,205 | 11 |
| | R-Arnell Custom Homes, Inc. | Cherryville | Prefabricated wood buildings | \$5,000,000 | 400 |
| | Royal Cordage Corp. | Stanley | Cordage and twine | \$500,000 | 0 |
| | Springford Knitting Co. Inc. | Gastonia | Weft knit fabric mills | \$1,840,310 | 170 |
| | Tri-Dim Filter Corp. | Cherryville | Motor vehicle parts and accessories | \$0 | 60 |
| 1997 | AMP, Inc. | Gastonia | Current-carrying wiring devices | \$459,607 | 3 |
| | AMP, Inc. | Gastonia | Current-carrying wiring devices | \$810,517 | 40 |
| | AMP, Inc. | Lowell | Electronic connectors | \$0 | 50 |
| | Air Technologies | Gastonia | Blowers and fans | \$250,000 | 15 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Gastonia | Thread mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Gastonia | Thread mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mount Holly | Finishing plants, cotton | \$1,313,984 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mount Holly | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mount Holly | Thread mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mount Holly | Thread mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mount Holly | Thread mills | \$1,313,985 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. (Plant #1) | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,572,000 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. (Plant #20) | Gastonia | Thread mills | \$1,313,984 | 0 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Artee Industries, Inc. | Cherryville | Yarn spinning mills | \$4,500,000 | 120 |
| | Baxter-Harriss | Blemont | Industrial organic chemicals, nec | \$3,000,000 | 0 |
| | Beal Manufacturing | Ranlo | Yarn spinning mills | \$2,000,000 | 25 |
| | Bell South | Gastonia | Communication | \$60,000 | 0 |
| | Bell South | Gastonia | Communication | \$76,000 | 0 |
| | Belmont Hosiery Mills, Inc. | Belmont | Hosiery, nec | \$0 | 3 |
| | Best In Plastics Co. | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$2,000,000 | 35 |
| | Bryant Supply Co., Inc. | Lowell | Electrical apparatus and equipment | \$0 | 60 |
| | Buckeye Fire Equipment | Kings Mountain | General industrial machinery | \$1,000,000 | 0 |
| | Conitex Tubes, Inc. | Cherryville | Fiber cans, drums & similar products | \$0 | 50 |
| | Danaher Tool Group | Gastonia | Hand and edge tools, nec | \$2,800,000 | 0 |
| | Dixie Yarns, Inc. | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$300,000 | 0 |
| | FMC Corporation | Bessemer City | Industrial Inorganic Chemicals | \$19,926,000 | 0 |
| | FMC Corporation | Gastonia | Industrial inorganic chemicals, nec | \$16,000,000 | 0 |
| | Firestone Fibers & Textiles Co. | Kings Mountain | Tire cord and fabrics | \$12,000,000 | 0 |
| | Food Lion | Gastonia | Food Stores | \$1,034,497 | 0 |
| | Freightliner Corp. | Mount Holly | Motor vehicles and car bodies | \$4,200,000 | 55 |
| | Freightliner Corp. | Gastonia | Truck and bus bodies | \$3,000,000 | 120 |
| | Galey & Lord Industries, Inc. | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$442,898 | 0 |
| | Hannaford Food Stores | Gastonia | Grocery stores | \$2,824,000 | 0 |
| | Highland Mills | Cherryville | Hosiery, nec | \$0 | 100 |
| | Jefferson Pilot Communication | Gastonia | Television broadcasting stations | \$210,000 | 0 |
| | Julius Blum, Inc. | Stanley | Hardware, nec | \$10,500,000 | 80 |
| | Keystone Powdered Metals | Cherryville | Power transmission equipment, nec | \$500,000 | 20 |
| | Medical Office | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$501,184 | 0 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Parkdale Mills, Inc. | Gastonia | Broadwoven fabric mills, cotton | \$3,200,000 | 0 |
| | Parkdale Mills, Inc. | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$257,437 | 0 |
| | Pearson Properties | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$6,413,000 | 0 |
| | Performance Friction | Gastonia | Motor vehicle parts and accessories | \$70,000 | 5 |
| | Pharr Yarns, Inc. | McAdenville | Yarn spinning mills | \$3,788,961 | 0 |
| | RL Stowe Mills | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$296,232 | 0 |
| | RL Stowe Mills | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$210,000 | 0 |
| | RL Stowe Mills | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,200,000 | 20 |
| | Rauch Industries, Inc. | Gastonia | Pressed and blown glass, nec | \$650,000 | 0 |
| | Scott & Daniels Southeast | Gastonia | Folding paperboard boxes | \$0 | 35 |
| | Stabilus | Gastonia | Steel springs, except wire | \$17,000,000 | 100 |
| | Sun Terrace Casual Furniture | Stanley | Household furniture, nec | \$12,000,000 | 200 |
| | Talon, Inc. | Stanley | Fasteners, buttons, needles, & pins | \$229,000 | 0 |
| | Thermoform Plastics | Belmont | Laminated plastics plate & sheet | \$6,500,000 | 50 |
| | US Leisure | Cherryville | Household furniture, nec | \$0 | 35 |
| | Weyerhaeuser Company | Gastonia | Corrugated & solid fiber boxes | \$1,000,000 | 0 |
| 1998 | AMP Inc. | Lowell | Electronic connectors | \$559,562 | 56 |
| | Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) | Bessemer City | Plastics pipe | \$10,000,000 | 65 |
| | American & Efird | Mount Holly | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,900,000 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,851,439 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,851,439 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,851,438 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Thread mills | \$1,851,438 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Thread mills | \$1,851,438 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Thread mills | \$1,851,439 | 0 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Thread mills | \$1,851,439 | 0 |
| | American & Efird, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Thread mills | \$1,851,439 | 0 |
| | American Cord & Twine | Stanley | Cordage and twine | \$700,000 | 12 |
| | American Linc | Gastonia | Industrial machinery, nec | \$503,197 | 0 |
| | American Metal | Gastonia | Metal coating and allied services | \$625,000 | 0 |
| | Arcade Textiles, Inc. | Bessemer City | Weft knit fabric mills | \$9,000,000 | 250 |
| | Armtex, Inc. | Gastonia | Finishing plants, cotton | \$1,400,000 | 0 |
| | Atlantic Spinners, Inc. | Bessemer City | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,136,671 | 45 |
| | CBP Resources, Inc. | Gastonia | Animal and marine fats and oils | \$1,700,000 | 0 |
| | CalciQuest | Belmont | Chemical preparations, nec | \$706,000 | 15 |
| | China Grove Textile | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$0 | 0 |
| | Conitex USA Inc. | Gastonia | Paper mills | \$1,000,000 | 3 |
| | Cougar International | Gastonia | Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions | \$897,000 | 0 |
| | Cougar International | Gastonia | Women's and children's clothing | \$267,000 | 0 |
| | Crompton & Knowles Colors, Inc. | Lowell | Cyclic crudes and intermediates | \$900,000 | 0 |
| | Danaher Tool Group | Gastonia | Hand and edge tools, nec | \$1,200,000 | 0 |
| | Dixie Industrial Supply | Belmont | Industrial supplies | \$0 | 0 |
| | FMC, Inc. | Bessemer City | Industrial inorganic chemicals, nec | \$25,000,000 | 8 |
| | Fedex Distribution Center | Gastonia | Air courier services | \$2,498,000 | 0 |
| | Firestone Fibers & Textiles Co. | Kings Mountain | Tire cord and fabrics | \$11,800,000 | 8 |
| | Freightliner | Gastonia | Truck and bus bodies | \$850,000 | 0 |
| | Freightliner | Gastonia | Truck and bus bodies | \$40,000,000 | 0 |
| | Freightliner Corporation | Mt. Holly | Motor vehicles and car bodies | \$0 | 370 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Industrial Fabricators | Gastonia | Sheet metalwork | \$276,000 | 0 |
| | Ithaca Industries, Inc. | Gastonia | Finishing plants, cotton | \$1,659,000 | 0 |
| | JPS Converter & Industrial | Stanley | Yarn spinning mills | \$560,300 | 0 |
| | Jim Hugley Building | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$600,000 | 0 |
| | Keystone Powdered Metals | Cherryville | Power transmission equipment, nec | \$519,000 | 20 |
| | Norcom Development | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$2,000,000 | 0 |
| | Parkdale Mills | Gastonia | Broadwoven fabric mills, cotton | \$3,750,000 | 0 |
| | Pass & Seymour/Legrand | Gastonia | Commercial lighting fixtures | \$30,000,000 | 125 |
| | Quality Metal Products | Gastonia | Fabricated metal products, nec | \$8,300,000 | 85 |
| | R A Serafini | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$800,000 | 12 |
| | Red Valve Co., Inc. | Gastonia | Valves & pipe fittings, nec | \$250,000 | 20 |
| | Redwood Capital | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$1,600,000 | 0 |
| | Spartan Dyers, Inc. | Belmont | Finishing plants, cotton | \$1,400,000 | 32 |
| | Spectrum Dyed Yarns, Inc. | Belmont | Throwing and winding mills | \$1,600,000 | 0 |
| | Stowe, R L Mills, Inc. | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$539,725 | 0 |
| | Tyler, W S Inc. | Gastonia | Mining machinery | \$50,000 | 35 |
| | Watson-Hegner | Gastonia | Industrial machinery and equipment | \$240,000 | 0 |
| 1999 | AW Bohanan Co., Inc. | Gastonia | Textile machinery | \$1,200,000 | 6 |
| | American & Efirid | Mount Holly | Thread mills | \$19,800,000 | 0 |
| | Baxter-Harriss | Belmont | Industrial organic chemicals, nec | \$4,000,000 | 0 |
| | Best Foods | Gastonia | Bread, cake, and related products | \$573,000 | 0 |
| | Best In Plastics Corp. | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$100,000 | 20 |
| | Bowen Machine Shop | Dallas | Motor vehicle parts and accessories | \$652,800 | 0 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | Bradington Young Cover Facility | Cherryville | Upholstered household furniture | \$935,000 | 10 |
| | Bradington-Young | Cherryville | Upholstered household furniture | \$0 | 0 |
| | Buckeye Fire Equipment | Kings Mountain | Manufacturing industries, nec | \$525,000 | 0 |
| | Buckeye Technologies, Inc. | Mt. Holly | Men's & boys' shirts | \$100,000,000 | 200 |
| | Burlington Industries, Inc. | Cramerton | Finishing plants, nec | \$500,000 | 0 |
| | CWW-Gerko Acoustics, Inc. (Rutgers) | Gastonia | Motor vehicle parts and accessories | \$7,000,000 | 40 |
| | Case Farms | Cherryville | Prepared feeds, nec | \$14,000,000 | 20 |
| | Chelsea House, Lamp Division | Gastonia | Residential lighting fixtures | \$400,000 | 0 |
| | Conitex Tubes, Inc. | Cherryville | Fiber cans, drums & similar products | \$1,250,000 | 31 |
| | Conitex-Sonoco LLC | Gastonia | Paper mills | \$4,000,000 | 30 |
| | Curtiss-Wright | Gastonia | Industrial machinery | \$2,500,000 | 0 |
| | FMC Corporation | Gastonia | Industrial inorganic chemicals, nec | \$8,400,000 | 6 |
| | FMC Lithium | Bessemer City | Industrial inorganic chemicals | \$12,000,000 | 10 |
| | Firestone Fibers | Kings Mountain | Tire cord and fabrics | \$11,000,000 | 10 |
| | Flair Filtration | Stanley | Fabricated plate work | \$1,500,000 | 75 |
| | Industrial Construction & Maintenance | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$525,000 | 0 |
| | Jewell Building Systems | Bessemer City | Fabricated plate work (boiler shops) | \$2,500,000 | 25 |
| | Julius Blum | Stanley | Hardware | \$9,000,000 | 30 |
| | Mastercraft | Cramerton | Finishing plants, manmade | \$10,000,000 | 0 |
| | McKay Electrical | Gastonia | Electrical apparatus and equipment | \$982,590 | 0 |
| | McNaughton-McKay Electric Co. | Gastonia | Relays and industrial controls | \$1,200,000 | 4 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | Microtel | Gastonia | Hotels and motels | \$1,043,000 | 0 |
| | Pass and Seymour | Dallas | Engine electrical equipment | \$9,800,000 | 63 |
| | RL Stowe Mills | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$232,000 | 0 |
| | RL Stowe Mills, Inc. | Belmont | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,000,000 | 0 |
| | Redwood Capital | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$1,713,600 | 0 |
| | Shelby Yarn Co. | Shelby | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,250,000 | 4 |
| | Stabilus | Gastonia | Steel springs, except wire | \$3,000,000 | 80 |
| | Sun Terrace Casual Furniture | Stanley | Household furniture | \$4,000,000 | 0 |
| | Uniroyal Chemcial Co., Inc. | Gastonia | Fabricated rubber products | \$4,500,000 | 3 |
| | Wix Corporation / Ozark Plant | Gastonia | Motor vehicle parts and accessories | \$3,278,604 | 0 |
| 2000 | Bernhardt Furniture Co. | Cherryville | Upholstered household furniture | \$2,500,000 | 220 |
| | Bestfoods Baking Co. | Gastonia | Bread, cake, and related products | \$650,000 | 5 |
| | Burlan Corporation | Gastonia | Broadwoven fabric mills, cotton | \$3,846,772 | 0 |
| | Castlegate Construction Co., Inc. | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$900,000 | 0 |
| | Cavalier Specialty Yarn Co USA | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$2,733,525 | 0 |
| | Chambers Container Co Inc. | Gastonia | Corrugated & solid fiber boxes | \$1,141,000 | 4 |
| | Conitex-Sonoco LLC | Gastonia | Paper mills | \$1,631,340 | 0 |
| | Curtiss-Wright Corp. | Gastonia | Industrial machinery | \$500,000 | 14 |
| | FMC Corporation | Bessemer City | Industrial inorganic chemicals | \$8,000,000 | 0 |
| | Firestone Fibers & Textiles Co. | Kings Mountain | Tire cord and fabrics | \$6,300,000 | 0 |
| | Freightliner Corporation | Mount Holly | Truck and bus bodies | \$1,115,151 | 0 |
| | Globe Manufacturing Corporation | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$1,000,000 | 35 |

| YEAR | COMPANY | CITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | \$ INVESTED | # OF JOBS |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Industrial Electroplating | Gastonia | Plating and polishing | \$1,400,000 | 20 |
| | Julius Blum, Inc. | Stanley | Hardware, nec | \$0 | 0 |
| | Marriott Courtyard | Gastonia | Hotels and motels | \$5,407,451 | 0 |
| | O'Steel Buildings, Inc. | Gastonia | Construction materials, nec | \$1,000,000 | 0 |
| | Outdoor Lifestyles | Stanley | Furniture stores | \$1,600,000 | 5 |
| | Parkdale Mills | Gastonia | Yarn spinning mills | \$3,422,631 | 0 |
| | Pass & Seymour / Legrand Inc. | Dallas | Electrical equipment & supplies, nec | \$1,990,000 | 29 |
| | Public Service Co. of NC | Lowell | Natural gas transmission | \$2,901,859 | 0 |
| | Roechling Engineered Plastics | Gastonia | Plastics products, nec | \$663,000 | 0 |
| | Southside Companies (Developer) | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$0 | 0 |
| | Stabilus | Gastonia | Steel springs, except wire | \$0 | 0 |
| | The Gaston Gazette - Freedom Newspapers | Gastonia | Newspapers | \$17,000,000 | 0 |
| | US Wiping Cloth | Gastonia | Scrap and waste materials | \$580,000 | 20 |
| | WIX/DANA | Gastonia | Blowers and fans | \$3,334,000 | 0 |
| | Yorkshire Americas Inc. | Lowell | Cyclic crudes and intermediates | \$1,500,000 | 7 |
| 2001 | Beltex Underwear Company | Belmont | Men's & boys' underwear & nightwear | \$7,000,000 | 0 |
| | Clariant | Mt. Holly | Industrial organic chemicals, nec | \$15,000,000 | 0 |
| | Cline Seabrook Warehouse | Gastonia | Real Estate | \$927,000 | 0 |
| | DSM Desotech | Stanley | Nonferrous wiredrawing & insulating | \$33,000,000 | 35 |
| | Johnson Development Associates | Kings Mtn. | | \$9,000,000 | 0 |
| | Royal American | Stanley | Cordage and twine | \$1,900,000 | 0 |
| | Textum Weaving, Inc. | Mount Holly - Belmont | Narrow fabric mills | \$735,000 | 11 |

¹ According to the ESC, these data are not all-inclusive and do not meet the Labor Market Information Division standards for accuracy. Source: North Carolina Department of Commerce, Policy and Research Division.

Announced Business Closings and Permanent Layoffs in Gaston County, 1990-2001²

| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| April-90 | Carolina Freight Carriers | CHERRYVILLE | Trucking Terminal | 42 | 119 |
| June-90 | Dixie Yarns, Inc. | BELMONT | Textiles | 22 | 83 |
| March-91 | Brinlaw, Inc. | GASTONIA | Apparel | 23 | 54 |
| August-91 | Sara Lee Knit Products | GASTONIA | Knit goods | 22 | 210 |
| November-91 | Brinlaw, Inc. (2 locations) | GASTONIA | Knit goods | 22 | 144 |
| November-91 | Pretty Paper, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Paper goods | 51 | 100 |
| January-92 | A & P Food Store | GASTONIA | Grocery store | 54 | 0 |
| March-92 | Stowe-Pharr Mills | MCADENVILLE | Textiles | 22 | 125 |
| August-92 | Dixie Lumber Co. | CHERRYVILLE | Building materials | 52 | 0 |
| September-92 | Dixie Yarns, Inc. | MOUNT HOLLY | Cotton yarn | 22 | 170 |
| December-92 | Owen Steel Company of NC | GASTONIA | Metal fabricator | 34 | 190 |
| December-92 | Delta Woodside Industries | GASTONIA | Textile yarn mfg. | 22 | 176 |
| January-93 | Modern Globe | GASTONIA | Textiles | 22 | 141 |
| February-93 | Bob's Seafood House | CHERRYVILLE | Restaurant | 58 | 8 |
| April-93 | A T S Remanufacturing | GASTONIA | Vehicle parts mfg. | 37 | 400 |
| April-93 | Avery Dennison Soabar | GASTONIA | Printing | 27 | 85 |
| June-93 | Brendle's, Incorporated | GASTONIA | Catalog showroom | 53 | 0 |
| September-93 | CHF Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Window Coverings | 25 | 60 |
| October-93 | Bassett-Walker, Inc. | GASTONIA | Apparel | 23 | 265 |
| January-94 | Cinderella Knitting Mills | GASTONIA | Men's | 22 | 99 |
| April-94 | Hampshire Group, Ltd. | BELMONT | Hosiery | 22 | 100 |
| May-94 | Roadway Express | GASTONIA | Freight Terminal | 42 | 0 |
| August-94 | Cherryville Company, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Ladies Apparel | 23 | 20 |
| September-94 | Reeves Brothers Inc. | BESSEMER CITY | Yarn Mfg. | 22 | 111 |
| September-94 | Varat Sports Wear | CHERRYVILLE | Ladies & Men's | 23 | 106 |
| October-94 | Rauch Industries, Inc. | CRAMERTON | Ornament Mfg. | 32 | 100 |
| December-94 | First Union Corporation | BESSEMER CITY | Banking | 60 | 0 |

² According to the ESC, these data are not all-inclusive and do not meet the Labor Market Information Division standards for accuracy.

| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| January-95 | Hoechst Celanese Corp. | MOUNT HOLLY | Textile Dyes | 51 | 45 |
| January-95 | Carolina Freight Corp. | CHERRYVILLE | Trucking | 42 | 30 |
| March-95 | Home Quarters Warehouse | GASTONIA | Bldg. Materials | 52 | 90 |
| May-95 | Carolina Freight Corp. | CHERRYVILLE | Trucking | 42 | 46 |
| July-95 | Carolina Freight Corp. | CHERRYVILLE | Trucking | 42 | 735 |
| July-95 | Dixie Yarns, Inc. | GASTONIA | Yarn Mfg. | 22 | 200 |
| July-95 | Danalex Corp. | BESSEMER CITY | Women's Apparel | 23 | 80 |
| August-95 | Burlington Industries, Inc. | MOUNT HOLLY | Yarn Mfg. | 22 | 65 |
| September-95 | Scott Mills | GASTONIA | Dyeing & Finishing | 22 | 85 |
| October-95 | Carrier Computer Services, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Trucking | 42 | 113 |
| November-95 | Doran Textiles, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Fabric Mill | 22 | 140 |
| December-95 | Reeves Brothers, Inc. | BESSEMER CITY | Broadwoven Fabric | 22 | 110 |
| December-95 | Bike Athletic Goods | CHERRYVILLE | Athletic apparel | 23 | 81 |
| December-95 | Comar Industries | DALLAS | Nightwear | 23 | 58 |
| December-95 | Threads, USA | GASTONIA | Yarn Mfg. | 22 | 15 |
| January-96 | AMP, Inc. | LOWELL | Electronics | 36 | 300 |
| January-96 | Ithaca Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Hosiery | 22 | 70 |
| February-96 | SCT Yarns, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Yarn Mfg. | 22 | 180 |
| May-96 | Freightliner Truck Mfg. Plant | MOUNT HOLLY | Truck Mfg. | 37 | 260 |
| May-96 | American & Efirid | GASTONIA | Thread Mill | 22 | 20 |
| July-96 | AMP, Inc. | LOWELL | Electronics | 36 | 44 |
| September-96 | Freightliner Corp. | MOUNT HOLLY | Heavy Truck Mfg. | 37 | 408 |
| November-96 | Cronland Hardware | STANLEY | Retail-Hardware | 50 | 27 |
| December-96 | Rauch Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Christmas Ornaments | 32 | 215 |
| December-96 | Homelite, Inc. | GASTONIA | Power Tools | 35 | 115 |
| December-96 | Pretty Paper Co. | CHERRYVILLE | Publishing | 27 | 89 |
| January-97 | Best Products Co. | GASTONIA | Retail Store | 53 | 55 |
| March-97 | Carolina International Textiles | CHERRYVILLE | Carpet Mfg. | 22 | 0 |
| March-97 | Talon, Inc. | GASTONIA | Notions | 39 | 0 |
| April-97 | Lions Manufacturing Co. | GASTONIA | Mens'/Boys' Apparel | 23 | 225 |
| April-97 | Ithaca Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Underwear/Hosiery | 22 | 50 |
| August-97 | Thomas & Howard Co. | GASTONIA | Wholesale Dist. | 51 | 0 |
| September-97 | Burlington Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Fabric | 22 | 75 |
| October-97 | John Deere Consumer Products | GASTONIA | Power Tools | 35 | 0 |

| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| November-97 | Western Auto | GASTONIA | Auto Supplies | 55 | 100 |
| December-97 | Harris Teeter | BELMONT | Grocery Store | 54 | 40 |
| December-97 | Tags Stores LLC | GASTONIA | Retail discount | 53 | 0 |
| February-98 | FMC Corporation | CHERRYVILLE | Lithium Mining | 28 | 50 |
| March-98 | Quincy's Family Steakhouse | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 35 |
| May-98 | Lida Stretch Fabric, Inc. | GASTONIA | Fabric | 22 | 142 |
| May-98 | Weyerhaeuser Co. | GASTONIA | Paper Mill | 26 | 80 |
| June-98 | J.P.S. Automotive Products | CRAMERTON | Automotive Fabric | 22 | 250 |
| June-98 | Long John Silver's Restaurant | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 15 |
| November-98 | Clar-Mar, Incorporated | CHERRYVILLE | Apparel | 23 | 75 |
| December-98 | AMP, Inc. | GASTONIA | Electronics | 36 | 250 |
| December-98 | China Grove Textiles | GASTONIA | Cotton yarn | 22 | 147 |
| December-98 | Custom Textiles | BESSEMER CITY | Textiles | 22 | 50 |
| December-98 | Belk-Mathews | CHERRYVILLE | Department store | 53 | 8 |
| December-98 | Duke Power (Merch. Outlets) | GASTONIA | Appliances | 49 | 0 |
| March-99 | Public Service Co. of NC Inc. | BELMONT | Natural gas distribution | 49 | 3 |
| March-99 | Public Service Co. of NC Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Natural gas distribution | 49 | 2 |
| April-99 | American & Efirid | MOUNT HOLLY | Industrial thread | 22 | 111 |
| April-99 | Wales Fabrics | GASTONIA | Fabrics | 22 | 100 |
| April-99 | AMP, Inc. | LOWELL | Electronic components | 36 | 81 |
| April-99 | Mayfair Seafood Restaurant | CRAMERTON | Seafood restaurant | 58 | 0 |
| May-99 | JPS Automotive Products | CRAMERTON | Automotive Fabrics | 22 | 220 |
| May-99 | Pharr Yarns | SPENCER MOUNTAIN | Yarn | 22 | 130 |
| May-99 | Pharr Yarns | MCADENVILLE | Manufacturing support | 22 | 40 |
| June-99 | John Deere Consumer Products | GASTONIA | Yard machinery | 35 | 700 |
| June-99 | CR Industries | GASTONIA | Engine & Transmission seals | 30 | 330 |
| June-99 | Belk, Inc. | GASTONIA | Division office | 53 | 0 |
| July-99 | Burlington Industries, Inc. | CRAMERTON | Textiles | 22 | 94 |
| July-99 | Beltex Corporation | BELMONT | Sportswear | 22 | 90 |
| July-99 | Collins & Aikman Products Co. | CRAMERTON | Fabrics | 22 | 70 |
| July-99 | Gastonia Pet Food Center | GASTONIA | Pet food | 59 | 0 |

| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| July-99 | Little Caesar's Pizza (3 locations) | GASTONIA | Pizza restaurant | 58 | 0 |
| August-99 | Ithaca Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | T-shirts and underwear | 22 | 35 |
| August-99 | Puccio's Pizza'N'Deli | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 0 |
| August-99 | Caldwell Drug Store | GASTONIA | Drugstore and grill | 59 | 0 |
| September-99 | Shoney's Restaurant | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 40 |
| October-99 | Litchfield Cinema | GASTONIA | Discount movie theater | 78 | 11 |
| November-99 | Shorewood Packaging | STANLEY | Pharmaceutical packaging | 51 | 130 |
| November-99 | R & M Sporting Goods | GASTONIA | Sporting goods | 59 | 18 |
| December-99 | AMP, Inc. | LOWELL | Electronic components | 36 | 531 |
| December-99 | AMP, Inc. | GASTONIA | Electronic components | 36 | 143 |
| December-99 | Belding Hausman, Inc., No. 2 | STANLEY | Yarn | 22 | 130 |
| December-99 | Uptons | GASTONIA | Apparel | 53 | 75 |
| December-99 | Kaiser Permanente | GASTONIA | Medical office | 80 | 15 |
| December-99 | Belding Hausman, Inc., No. 1 | STANLEY | Yarn | 22 | 0 |
| January-00 | Talon, Inc. | STANLEY | Zippers | 39 | 231 |
| January-00 | Shelby Yarn Co. | CHERRYVILLE | Yarn | 22 | 192 |
| January-00 | Belk, Inc. | BELMONT | Department store | 53 | 14 |
| January-00 | J Jay's Top N Bottoms | STANLEY | Dress shop | 56 | 0 |
| February-00 | John Deere Consumer Products (Clover, S.C.) | GASTONIA | Yard machinery | 35 | 60 |
| February-00 | B.I. Transportation Inc. | CRAMERTON | Transportation services | 42 | 30 |
| February-00 | Chipman-Union Inc. (Belmont Hosiery) | BELMONT | Hosiery | 22 | 18 |
| March-00 | Matthews-Belk | GASTONIA | Department store | 53 | 33 |
| April-00 | Ithaca Industries, Inc. | GASTONIA | Underwear/Hosiery | 22 | 240 |
| April-00 | Freightliner Corp. | MOUNT HOLLY | Truck manufacturing | 37 | 52 |
| April-00 | Clariant Corp. | MOUNT HOLLY | Textile dye manufacturing | 28 | 50 |
| April-00 | Pizza Inn | GASTONIA | Pizza restaurant | 58 | 16 |
| April-00 | R.L Stowe Mills | BELMONT | Spun yarns | 22 | 0 |
| April-00 | Handy Pantry | GASTONIA | Convenience store | 54 | 0 |
| May-00 | T-Bones Steakhouse & | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 30 |

| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| May-00 | Pic 'N Pay | GASTONIA | Shoe store | 56 | 3 |
| May-00 | Unclaimed Furniture | GASTONIA | Furniture | 59 | 0 |
| June-00 | Hannaford Food & Drug Store | GASTONIA | Grocery store | 54 | 64 |
| July-00 | Belding Hausman Inc. | STANLEY | Polyester yarn | 22 | 23 |
| July-00 | Newton's Fine Furniture | GASTONIA | Furniture | 57 | 0 |
| July-00 | Square Pharmacy | GASTONIA | Pharmacy | 59 | 0 |
| August-00 | Beltex Corporation | BELMONT | Men's underwear | 22 | 120 |
| August-00 | Pharr Yarns | MCADENVILLE | Carpet yard | 22 | 112 |
| August-00 | Active USA | MOUNT HOLLY | Trucking | 42 | 90 |
| September-00 | Cam-Art Studio Inc. | GASTONIA | Portraits | 72 | 0 |
| October-00 | Freightliner Truck Mfg. Plant | MOUNT HOLLY | Heavy-duty trucks | 37 | 825 |
| October-00 | Freightliner Truck Mfg. Plant | GASTONIA | Heavy-duty trucks | 37 | 154 |
| October-00 | Jenkins Metal Corporation | GASTONIA | Textile machinery | 35 | 33 |
| October-00 | Jenny's Purple Rose | GASTONIA | Thai restaurant | 58 | 6 |
| October-00 | Cornerstone Christian Center | GASTONIA | Substance abuse clinic | 80 | 0 |
| December-00 | Burlington Industries, Inc. | BELMONT | Broadwoven fabric | 22 | 85 |
| December-00 | B.I. Transportation, Inc. | BELMONT | Trucking company | 42 | 81 |
| December-00 | Public Service Co. of NC Inc. | GASTONIA | Natural gas distribution | 49 | 45 |
| December-00 | If It's Paper | GASTONIA | Paper products | 59 | 5 |
| December-00 | Pappy's Seafood, Chicken-N-Ribs | GASTONIA | Restaurant | 58 | 0 |
| January-01 | Armtex, Incorporated | GASTONIA | Knit fabrics | 22 | 127 |
| January-01 | Fleischmann's Yeast | GASTONIA | Yeast | 20 | 60 |
| January-01 | The Pantry Inc. (3) locations | GASTONIA | Convenience store | 54 | 15 |
| January-01 | Whitmire's Western Store & Gun Shop | GASTONIA | Gun/Leather retail | 76 | 1 |
| February-01 | Gold Medal Homes | CHERRYVILLE | Mobile home mfg. | 24 | 250 |
| February-01 | Spray Cotton Mills | MOUNT HOLLY | Yarn spinning | 22 | 49 |
| February-01 | The Butterfly | GASTONIA | Specialty gifts | 59 | 0 |
| March-01 | Freightliner Truck Mfg. Plant | MOUNT HOLLY | Heavy-duty trucks | 37 | 100 |
| March-01 | Chipman-Union Inc. (Belmont Hosiery) | BELMONT | Hosiery | 22 | 75 |
| March-01 | Spectrum Dyed Yarns, Inc. | BELMONT | Yarn texturizing | 22 | 50 |
| March-01 | Don Pablo's Mexican Kitchen | GASTONIA | Mexican restaurant | 58 | 45 |

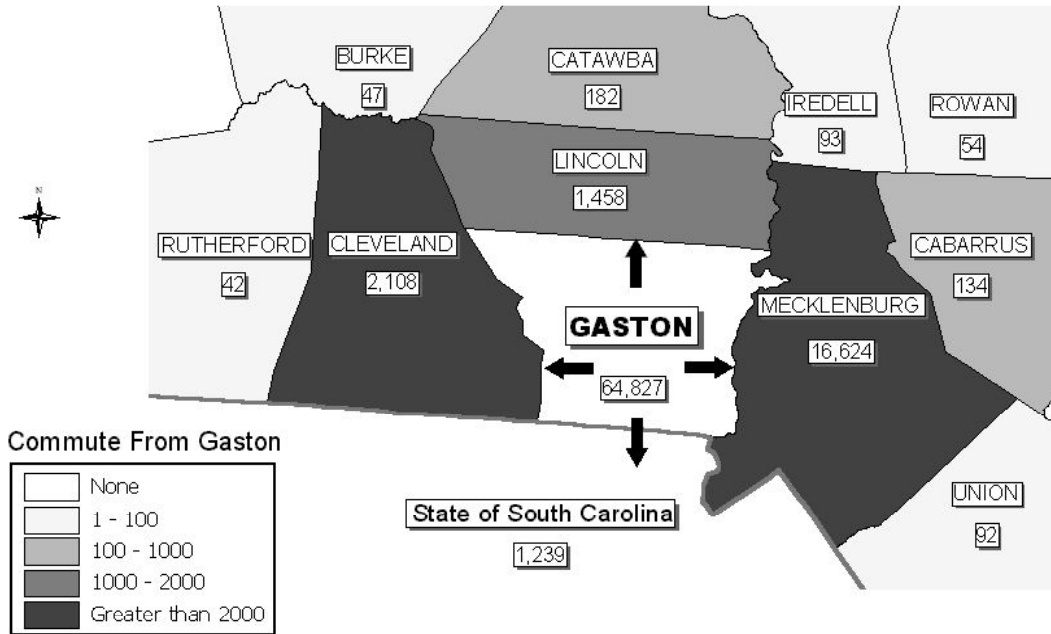
| EFFECTIVE DATE | COMPANY | MUNICIPALITY | TYPE OF BUSINESS | SIC | NUMBER AFFECTED |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| March-01 | Globe Manufacturing | GASTONIA | Spandex fiber | 28 | 20 |
| March-01 | Heilig-Meyers | GASTONIA | Furniture store | 57 | 12 |
| March-01 | Waldenbooks (Eastridge Mall) | GASTONIA | Book store | 59 | 10 |
| March-01 | Bernhardt Furniture Co. | CHERRYVILLE | Furniture | 25 | 0 |
| April-01 | Stanley's Discwax Corp. | STANLEY | Wax discs | 35 | 30 |
| April-01 | Belk Inc. Service Center | GASTONIA | Distribution center | 53 | 30 |
| April-01 | Firestone Fibers & Textile Co. | GASTONIA | Tire cord and fabric | 22 | 10 |
| April-01 | Hart's Desire Interiors | GASTONIA | Home furnishings | 57 | 5 |
| June-01 | Sweetree Sweaters | CHERRYVILLE | Sweaters | 22 | 0 |
| June-01 | The Book Market | GASTONIA | Book store | 59 | 0 |
| July-01 | Freightliner Truck Mfg. Plant | MOUNT HOLLY | Heavy-duty trucks | 37 | 475 |
| July-01 | Travis Knits, Inc. | CHERRYVILLE | Dyeing/Finishing fabrics | 22 | 105 |
| July-01 | Austin International Inc. | BELMONT | Electronic equipment | 50 | 100 |
| July-01 | American & Efird, Inc. | MOUNT HOLLY | Spun polyester | 22 | 0 |
| October-01 | DyStar L.P. | MOUNT HOLLY | Textile dye mfg. | 28 | 24 |

Source: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.



Gaston County Commuting Patterns

Living in Gaston County Commuting to Work

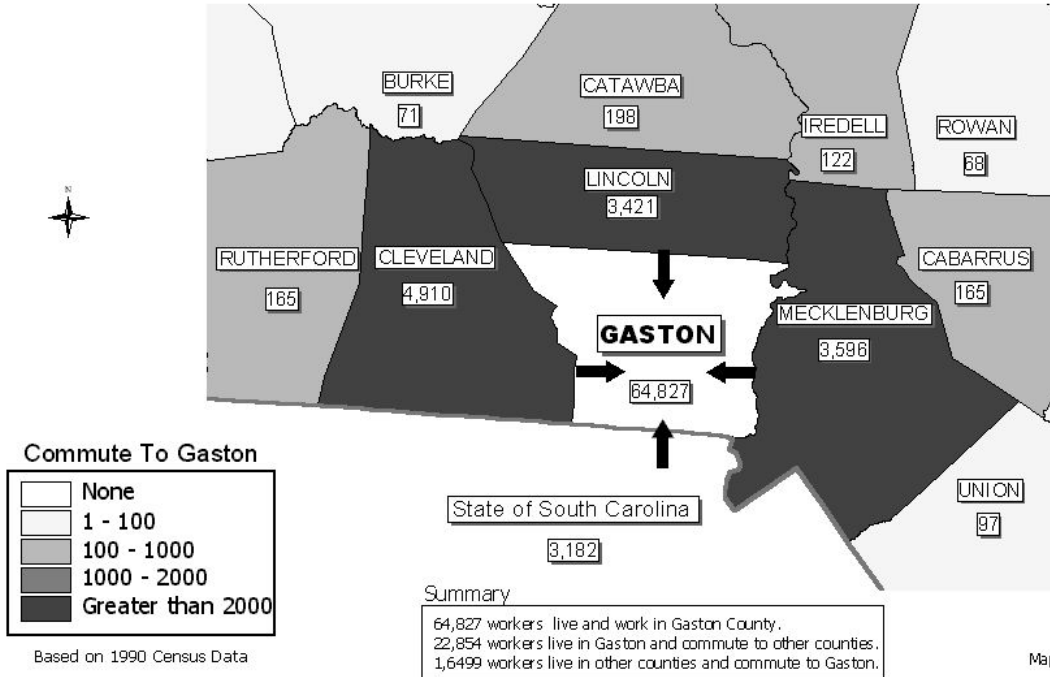


Map prepared by DCA 10/01



Gaston County Commuting Patterns

Commuting To Gaston County Living Elsewhere



Education and Worker Training

| | County Carolina | North |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| Percent of Adults with High School Education (1990): | 60.9% | 70.0% |
| Percent of Adults with College Degree (1990): | 10.8% | 17.4% |

Public School Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 2000 Enrollment in Grades K-8: | 19,698 |
| 2000 Enrollment in Grades 9-12: | 7,743 |

Projections of Public High School Graduates, 2001-2010

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Gaston County | 1,253 | 1,330 | 1,397 | 1,425 | 1,406 | 1,459 | 1,478 | 1,551 | 1,605 | 1,482 |
| NC Total | 62,531 | 63,444 | 65,324 | 65,717 | 67,112 | 69,211 | 71,663 | 72,881 | 73,206 | 72,851 |

2000 Per Pupil Expenditure (+ Nutrition) \$5,735.46
 (ranks 106 out of 117 Statewide school systems, 1 is highest expenditure and 117 is lowest)

1995-2000 Per Pupil Average Capital Outlay \$601.08
 (ranks 62 out of 117 Statewide school systems)

2000 Dropout Rate Grades 9-12 7.53%
 North Carolina 2000 Dropout Rate Grades 9-12: 6.4%

Gaston County 2001 Average SAT Score 973
 (Verbal 490; Math 483)
 58% of all Gaston County Schools' students tested

North Carolina 2001 Average SAT Score 992
 (Verbal 493; Math 499)
 65% of all NC public school students tested

Source: North Carolina Public Schools Statistical Profile 2001, NC Department of Public Instruction.

Community College Information

Gaston College in Dallas, NC

Programs Offered

| Program Name | Degree Awarded |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Program Name | Degree or Certificate |
| PRE-ART | Associate's |
| PRE-ENGINEERING | Associate's |
| PRE-LIBERAL ARTS | Associate's |
| PRE-SCIENCE | Associate's |
| PRE-PSYCHOLOGY | Associate's |
| ACCOUNTING | Associate's or Certificate |
| BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | Associate's or Certificate |
| MARKETING & RETL G TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| BUSINESS COMPUTER PROG | Associate's or Certificate |
| ADMINIS OFFICE TECHNOL | Associate's or Certificate |
| SECRETARIAL-LEGAL | Associate's or Certificate |
| MEDICAL OFFICE TECHNOL | Associate's or Certificate |
| CIVIL ENGINEERING TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| ARCHITECTURAL TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| ELECTRONICS ENGI TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| INDUSTRIAL ENGI TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| INDUSTRIAL MGMT TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| MECHANICAL ENGINEER TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| MEDICAL ASSISTING TEC | Associate's or Certificate |
| ASSOC. DEGREE NURSING | Associate's or Certificate |
| FIRE SCIENCE | Associate's or Certificate |
| EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOC. | Associate's or Certificate |
| SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOC. | Associate's or Certificate |
| PARALEGAL TECHNOLOGY | Associate's or Certificate |
| CRIM JUSTICE-PROTECT SER | Associate's or Certificate |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL SCI | Associate's or Certificate |
| AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| GEN. OFFICE (TEC SPEC) | Associate's or Certificate |
| AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY | Associate's or Certificate |
| RADIO/TV BROADCAST TECH | Associate's or Certificate |
| BASIC LAW ENFORCE TRNG | Associate's or Certificate |
| MECHANICAL DFT TECHNOLOGY | Associate's or Certificate |
| DRAFTING-MECHANICAL | Certificate or Diploma |
| ELEC. INSTALL & MAINT | Certificate or Diploma |
| A/C, HEATING, & REFRIG | Certificate or Diploma |

| Program Name | Degree Awarded |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| IND MAINTENANCE | Certificate or Diploma |
| MACHINIST | Certificate or Diploma |
| PRACTICAL NURSING | Certificate or Diploma |
| ELECTRONIC SERVICING | Certificate or Diploma |
| RADIO & TV BROADCASTING | Certificate or Diploma |
| WELDING | Certificate or Diploma |

Source: North Carolina's Consumer Guide.

Infrastructure

Wastewater Treatment Capacity³:

Total Existing Capacity (1st Quarter 2000): 36.882 million gallons per day

Available (1st Quarter 2000): 18.060 million gallons per day

Natural Gas Service:

PSNC, Piedmont

Telephone Service:

Southern Bell

Electric Service:

Duke Power, Rutherford EMC, Crescent EMC, Cherryville, Dallas, Gastonia

Available Space in Industrial Buildings⁴: 3,184,021 square feet (ranks 99)

Available Acreage in Industrial Sites: 2,721 acres (ranks 86)

Total Housing Units (2000)⁵: 78,842

Occupied Housing Units (2000): 73,936 or 93.8% of all units

Owner-occupied housing units (2000): 50,901 or 68.8% of all

occupied units

Renter-occupied housing units (2000): 23,035 or 31.2% of all

occupied units

Vacant Housing Units (2000): 4,906 or 6.2% of all units

Vacant units for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use: 204 or 4.2% of all vacant

units

³ Ranking compares per capita wastewater capacity among counties from 1 (lowest) to 100 (highest)

⁴ Ranking compares available industrial space among counties from 1 (lowest) to 100 (highest)

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, Gaston County, NC.

Nearest Commercial Airport: Douglas International Airport (20 miles away)
Nearest Interstate: I-85 (0 miles away)
Percent of Population within 10 miles of 4-lane road: 100%

Relevant Industry Clusters

Communications Services
Software and E-Commerce
Communications Equipment including Fiber Optics ⁶

⁶ Office of Economic Development, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Maintaining Competitiveness in the New Millennium: A Plan to Establish Industry Cluster Resource Centers (ICRC) in North Carolina, October 2000.

GASTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWER SERVICE
AREA MAPS

NOT AVAILABLE

County Tax and Budget Information

2000 Property Rate: \$0.825 per \$100 Value
 Last Valuation Year: 1997
 Next Valuation Year: 2003

2000 Budget Information

| Revenue | Amount |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Property Taxes | \$78,370,128 |
| Other Taxes | 3,934,584 |
| Sales Tax | 22,535,343 |
| Sales and Services | 15,125,696 |
| Intergovernmental | 39,465,995 |
| Debt Proceeds | 272,393 |
| Other Miscellaneous | 10,526,104 |
| TOTAL Revenue | \$170,230,243 |
| Expenditures | Amount |
| Education | \$51,488,501 |
| Debt Service | 12,703,050 |
| Human Services | 51,639,617 |
| General Government | 21,344,663 |
| Public Safety | 35,152,433 |
| Other | 15,589,799 |
| TOTAL Expenditures | \$187,918,063 |
| Revenues – Expenditures | -\$17,687,820 |

From the State Treasurer's website at <http://ncdst-web2.treasurer.state.nc.us/lgc/units/unitlistjs.htm>

2000 Ability to Pay (ATP) for CDBG

Score 31.85
 NC Rank ⁷ 89

⁷ 1 is the lowest capacity to commit money and 100 is the highest capacity to commit money.

Quality of Life and Tourism Attractions ⁸

| Health value) | Gaston | North Carolina (median |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1999 Number of Physicians | 291 | 57 |
| 1999 Population/Physician Ratio | 623 | 879 |
| 1999 Population/Dentist Ratio | 2,879 | 3,863 |

Golf Courses

Birkdale Golf Club, Huntersville
Briarcreek Golf Club, High Shoals
Cherryville Country Club, Cherryville
Crowders Mountain Golf Club, Gastonia
Gastonia Municipal Golf Course, Gastonia
Green Meadows Golf Course, Mount Holly
Kings Mountain Country Club, Kings Mountain
Lakewood Golf Links, Cramerton
Linwood Springs Golf Course, Gastonia
Woodbridge Golf Links, Kings Mountain

Special Attractions and Historical Sites

Alexandria, Huntersville
Catawba Indian Village at the Schiele Museum, Gastonia
Cherryville Heritage Park, Cherryville
Dallas Courthouse, Dallas
Dallas Historic District, Dallas
Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens
Gaston County Museum of Art and History - Dallas
Historic Latta Plantation, Huntersville
James K. Polk Memorial State Historical Site, Pineville
Lincoln Cultural Center, Lincolnton
McIntyre Historic Site, Huntersville
Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, Gastonia

Lakes, Campgrounds and Outdoor Activities

Crowder's Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain
Jetton Park and Lake Norman, Cornelius
Latta Equestrian Center, Huntersville
Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Huntersville
Marshall Park, Charlotte
Ramsey Creek Park and Lake Norman, Cornelius
Renaissance Park, Charlotte
Yatcha, Yatcha, Yatcha, Cornelius

⁸ Most information on Tourism comes from Division of Tourism in the NC Department of Commerce.