

Total Population, 2009	37,435
Total Households, 2009	14,595
Median Age, 2009	39.2
Projected Population, 2014	38,588

Source: ESRI, 2009

Educational Attainment, 2009

Population Aged 25 and Older:	25,802
High School Diploma	38.2%
Some College	17.1%
Associates Degree	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	7.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	3.0%

Source: ESRI, 2009

2008 SAT score, county average	1,396
2008 SAT score, state average	1,489

Source: NC Dept of Public Instruction, 2008

Income, 2009

Median Household Income	\$47,207
Per Capita Income	\$21,579

Employment by Industry, 2009

Agriculture, Mining	2.4%
Construction	7.4%
FIRE	3.0%
Manufacturing	30.8%
Public Administration	3.2%
Retail Trade	10.3%
Wholesale Trade	2.9%
Services	33.6%
Transportation, Utilities	5.8%
Total Employed 16+	15,387

Source: ESRI 2009

Labor Force, 2009

Labor Force	18,397
Unemployment Rate	14.9%

Source: NC Employment Security Commission

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Alexander County is located in the scenic foothills of North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains. Bordered on the south by the Catawba River, the county offers numerous recreational activities, upscale and moderate housing, and opportunities for industrial and commercial operations.

Alexander County's motto is "Gem of North Carolina" referring to the precious emeralds found in the Hiddenite community as well as the low taxes, affordable sites, dependable workforce, and small town quality of life which make Alexander County an attractive location for residents, industries, and businesses.

While focused on diversifying the employment base, Alexander County has maintained its rural nature. Two-thirds of Alexander County's 263 square miles are farmland with an average farm size of approximately 90 acres. Major commodities include poultry, dairy, tobacco, apples, forestry products, grain crops, and beef cattle. While farming has always been an important part of the economy, Alexander County also has a long tradition of manufacturing. In fact, with some 30 percent of the workforce holding manufacturing jobs, the county has one of the highest manufacturing workforce percentages in the state.



Industrial sites are within an easy 20 minute drive of Interstates 40 and 77 and the major urban areas of Hickory, Statesville, and Charlotte. With some 250 acres available, the Alexander Industrial Park features all of the infrastructure required for industrial development. Rail service in the Industrial Park and other sites in the county is provided by the Alexander Railroad Company, a short line railroad working in conjunction with the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

In 2008, Piedmont Fiberglass, one of the nation's top fiberglass component manufacturers, announced a 170,000 square foot production facility to be located in the county, creating 75 new jobs for the county. The company joins Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, Craftmaster Furniture, Taylor King, Shurtape, Huntington House Furniture, American Roller Bearing, Industrial Timber, Hancock & Moore, and Kincaid Furniture with production facilities also located in Alexander County.

In the past several years, Paragon Films, the sixth largest stretch film manufacturer in North America, announced the construction of a new production facility in Alexander County, along with 30 new jobs. The company is located in the Alexander Industrial Park and, in 2008, purchased an additional 15 acres intended for future expansion.

Schneider Mills, one of the strongest textile mills in the country, was founded in Alexander County more than 60 years ago. The company now has some 323 employees and has recently completed a four-year \$8 million equipment upgrade.

Major Employers (non government)

<u>Company</u>	<u>Major Product</u>	<u>Employees</u>
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams	Upholstered Household Furniture	675
Craftmaster Furniture	Upholstered Household Furniture	475
Hancock & Moore, Inc.	Hardwood Dimension & Flooring Mills	405
Schneider Mills Industries Inc.	Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	323
Taylor King Furniture Inc	Upholstered Furniture	165



Average Weekly Wage 2008

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	\$387
Utilities	\$787
Construction	\$511
Manufacturing	\$587
Wholesale Trade	\$685
Retail Trade	\$429
Transportation & Warehousing	\$647
Information	\$477
Finance & Insurance	\$615
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$379
Professional & Technical Services	\$571
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$788
Administrative & Waste Services	\$395
Educational Services	\$623
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$476
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	\$246
Accommodation & Food Services	\$202
Public Administration	\$638
<i>Average Weekly Wage</i>	<i>\$541</i>

Announced Jobs & Investments

Jobs announced, 2008	95
Total investment announced, 2008	\$4,000,000

Accessibility

Nearest Major City	Winston-Salem
Distance to Nearest Major City	58 miles
Nearest Commercial Airport	Hickory Reg'l
Runway Length	6,400 ft.
Distance to Nearest Airport	20 miles
Nearest Interstate	I-40
Distance to Nearest Interstate	17 miles
Nearest Deepwater Port	Port of Charleston
Distance to Nearest Deepwater Port	271 miles
Foreign Trade Zone Accessibility	Yes
Population within 50 mile radius, 2009	1,752,571

Development Capacity

Wastewater Treatment Capacity Available	Yes
Natural Gas Available	Yes

Taxes, Sales & Services

Property Taxes/\$100 value (08-09)	\$0.535
Taxable Retail Sales (Mil\$, FY07-08)	\$120.9
Total Retail Sales (Mil\$, 2008)	\$224.6
Number of Physicians, 2007	14
Physicians per 10,000 population, 2007	4
RN per 10,000 population, 2007	34
Dentists per 10,000 population, 2007	2

Sources: NC Department of Commerce and North Carolina Employment and Securities Commission, 2008

Unemployment Insurance

New Employers (per \$100)	1.2%
Deficit Employers (max rate)	5.7%
Minimum Tax Rate	0.0%
Average Tax Rate	0.4%
Taxable Base	\$19,300

Inventory Tax

Finished Goods	none
Raw Materials	none
Goods in Process	none
Mat'l consumed in Mfg.	none

Sales Tax, General

State	4.5%
Local	2.5%

Sales Tax, Special Provisions

Electricity	3.0%
Natural Gas	3.0%
Manufacturing Fuels	1.0%
Manufacturing Equipment	1.0%
Telecommunications Service (intrastate)	6.75%

Education

Public Schools	10
Private Schools	0
School Districts	1
Colleges & Universities	0

Climate

Annual Mean Temp.	60°F
Annual Mean High Temp.	68°F
Annual Mean Low Temp.	43°F