

LABOR STUDY

Washington-Wilkes County, Georgia

A Study of Workforce Characteristics and Labor Draw

March 2020

Prepared on behalf of

Mashington GEORGIA



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Introduction

The purpose of this Labor Study is to report on the availability and characteristics of workers near the City of Washington and Wilkes County, Georgia. Wilkes County, located in eastern Georgia close to the South Carolina border, has experienced a slight decline in the number of jobs over the past several years. Simultaneously, Wilkes County has experienced a slight decline in population and a shift toward an older population. With a declining working-age population comes labor challenges that must be addressed in order to sustain the county's economic growth and success. This labor study attempts to identify the strengths and challenges of the Wilkes County regional labor force.

In this report, Region 7 refers to the State Service Delivery Region in Georgia to which Wilkes County belongs. Other counties in Region 7 are Lincoln, Columbia, Richmond, Burke, Jenkins, Jefferson, Glascock, Washington, Hancock, Warren, McDuffie, and Taliaferro. The Wilkes County Region refers to Wilkes and its contiguous surrounding counties, including Elbert, Oglethorpe, Lincoln, McDuffie, Warren, and Taliaferro counties.

Summary

Commute

- Wilkes County is a minor attractor for workers from directly surrounding counties, while the willingness of many Wilkes County residents to travel as far as Athens and Augusta for work reflects a lack of diverse employment options within Wilkes County.
- Nearly equivalent numbers of workers commute into the city of Washington and out of the city, while Wilkes County experiences a significant net commuter outflow.

Income, Poverty, and Age

- The median household income and per capita income of Wilkes County are lower and the poverty rate is higher than other regional counties, the state, and the national average.
- A larger share of Wilkes County's population is 65 years and older than other regional counties or the state or national average. **Housing**

HOUSING

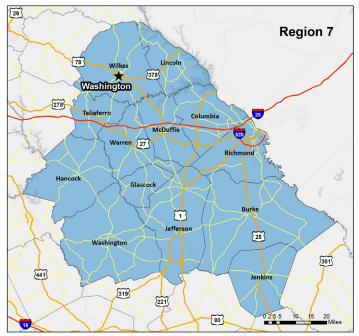
 Wilkes County experienced a slight decline in employment between 2010 and 2018, as did the Wilkes County Region. The Region experienced a slight increase in housing units in the same period, while Wilkes County experienced a slight decline.

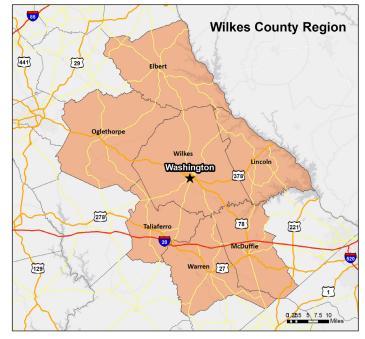
Education

• Most educational awards within a 50 mile radius of Wilkes County are Bachelor's degrees. The top three post-secondary degree programs are Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and Welding.

Industry and Occupations

- Most occupations are projected to decrease in Wilkes County between 2019 and 2024.
- Health Care and Manufacturing are the top industry sectors in Wilkes County in terms of number of employees. The highest paid industry sectors are Utilities, Information, and Wholesale Trade.
- The top Manufacturing industries are Wood Product Manufacturing and Plastics and Rubber Manufacturing.



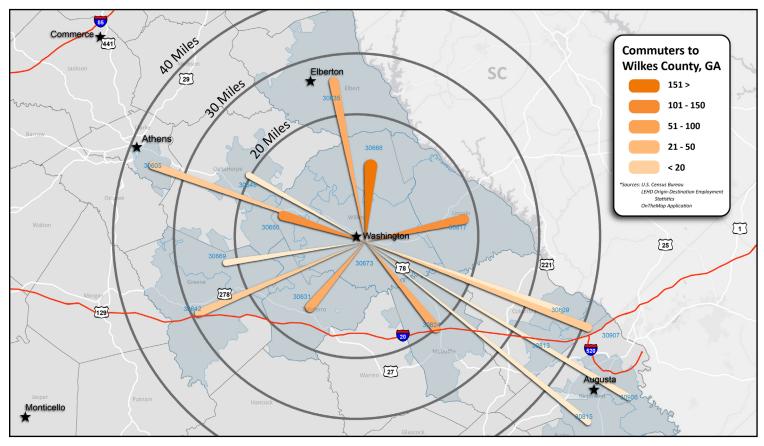


KEY FINDINGS Labor Shed & Commute Shed

- Wilkes County is not a large labor attractor, as many workers with jobs in Wilkes either live in Wilkes or one of the counties directly adjacent to Wilkes.
- While a portion of Wilkes County residents with jobs work within Wilkes, sizable portions of Wilkes residents with jobs commute over an hour away to Clarke County (Athens) and Richmond and Columbia counties (Augusta) for employment.
- Wilkes County, therefore, is a minor attraction for workers from directly surrounding counties, while the willingness of many Wilkes County residents to travel as far as Athens and Augusta for work reflects a lack of diverse employment options within Wilkes County.

Wilkes County Labor Shed Region: IN COMMUTERS

The Wilkes County Labor Shed Region was defined according the U.S. Census Bureau OnTheMap database, combining zip code tabulation areas (ZTCAs) in which the labor force commuting to Wilkes County is greater than 0.5% of the county's total labor force.

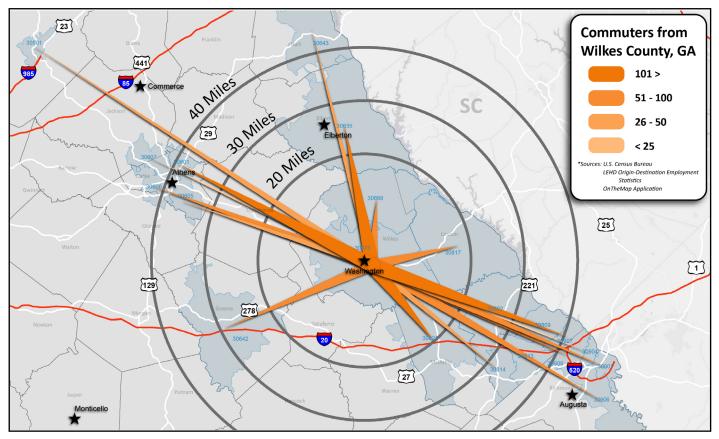


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies 2017



Wilkes County Commute Shed Region: OUT COMMUTERS

The Wilkes County Labor Shed Region was defined according the U.S. Census Bureau OnTheMap database, combining zip code tabulation areas (ZTCAs) to which the resident workers of Wilkes County commute is greater than 0.5% of the county's total resident worker population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies 2017



Wilkes County Labor Shed IN COMMUTERS

Wilkes County Workers by Place of Residence	Workers	Share
Total	3,015	100.0%
Wilkes County, GA	1,488	49.4%
Lincoln County, GA	121	4.0%
McDuffie County, GA	100	3.3%
Richmond County, GA	71	2.4%
Gwinnett County, GA	69	2.3%
Elbert County, GA	66	2.2%
Columbia County, GA	62	2.1%
Oglethorpe County, GA	60	2.0%
Taliaferro County, GA	59	2.0%
Greene County, GA	51	1.7%
Clarke County, GA	42	1.4%
Fulton County, GA	34	1.1%
Warren County, GA	28	0.9%
Jefferson County, GA	27	0.9%
Cobb County, GA	23	0.8%
DeKalb County, GA	23	0.8%
Laurens County, GA	20	0.7%
Oconee County, GA	20	0.7%
Burke County, GA	19	0.6%
Houston County, GA	19	0.6%
Bibb County, GA	18	0.6%
Chatham County, GA	17	0.6%
Greenwood County, SC	17	0.6%
Clayton County, GA	16	0.5%
Jackson County, GA	15	0.5%
All Other Locations	530	17.6%

Wilkes County Commute Shed OUT COMMUTERS

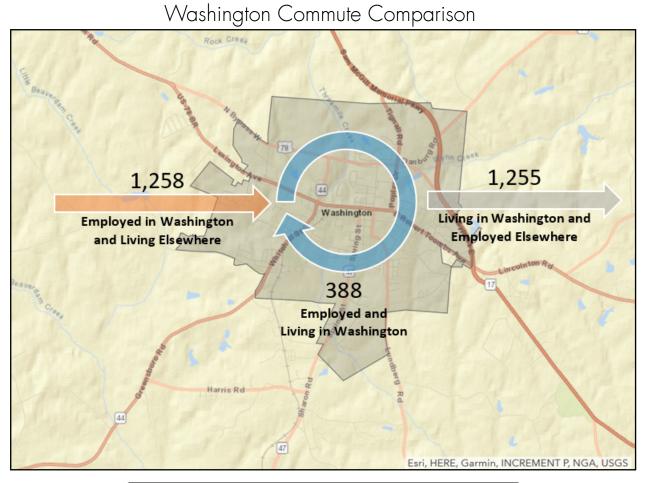
Workplace of Wilkes County Residents	Residents	Share
Total	4,503	100.0%
Wilkes County, GA	1,488	33.0%
Clarke County, GA	270	6.0%
Richmond County, GA	256	5.7%
Columbia County, GA	248	5.5%
Fulton County, GA	181	4.0%
McDuffie County, GA	172	3.8%
Gwinnett County, GA	165	3.7%
Elbert County, GA	131	2.9%
Lincoln County, GA	97	2.2%
Hall County, GA	88	2.0%
DeKalb County, GA	84	1.9%
Cobb County, GA	68	1.5%
Greene County, GA	68	1.5%
Bibb County, GA	40	0.9%
Chatham County, GA	40	0.9%
Oconee County, GA	40	0.9%
Henry County, GA	39	0.9%
Oglethorpe County, GA	37	0.8%
Anderson County, SC	37	0.8%
Dougherty County, GA	35	0.8%
Jackson County, GA	33	0.7%
Greenwood County, SC	33	0.7%
Barrow County, GA	32	0.7%
Aiken County, SC	32	0.7%
Forsyth County, GA	30	0.7%
All Other Locations	759	16.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies 2017



KEY FINDING Commute Comparison

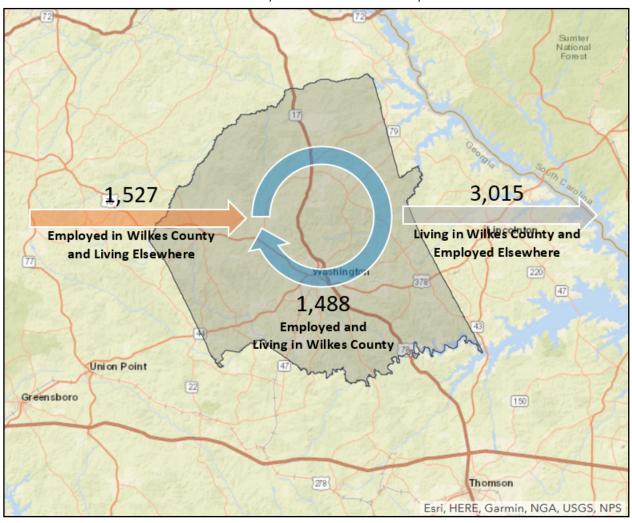
- Nearly equivalent numbers of workers commute into the city of Washington and out of the city, while Wilkes County experiences a significant net commuter outflow.
- Note that due to recent business closures, the latest 2017 commute numbers are likely an overestimation of the number of commuters into Wilkes County.



Inflow/Outflow Report (2017)								
City of Washington, Georgia								
Washington Employees Count Share								
Employed in Washington	1,646	100%						
Employed in Washington but Living Outside	1,258	76%						
Employed and Living in Washington	388	24%						
Washington Residents	Count	Share						
Living in Washington	1,643	100%						
Living in Washington but Employed Outside	1,255	76%						
Living and Employed in Washington	388	24%						

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies 2017





Wilkes County Commute Comparison

Inflow/Outflow Report (2017)								
Wilkes County, Georgia								
Wilkes County Employees Count Share								
Employed in Wilkes	3,015	100%						
Employed in Wilkes but Living Outside	1,527	51%						
Employed and Living in Wilkes	1,488	49%						
Wilkes County Residents	Count	Share						
Living in Wilkes	4,503	100%						
Living in Wilkes but Employed Outside	3,015	67%						
Living and Employed in Wilkes	1,488	33%						

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies 2017

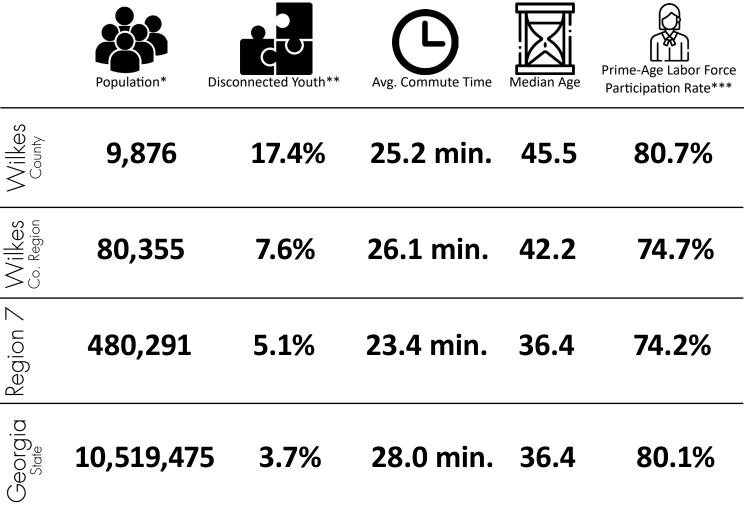


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KEY FINDINGS Population Characteristics

- The share of the population aged 16-19 that are considered "Disconnected Youth" is higher in Wilkes than in the other regional counties.
- The median household income and per capita income of Wilkes County are lower than other regional counties or the state or national average.
- The poverty rate and the share of households receiving food stamps or SNAP benefits are higher in Wilkes County than other regional counties or the state or national average.
- A larger share of Wilkes County's population is 65 years and older than other regional counties or the state or national average.

Population Characteristics



Sources: JobsEQ, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018 *Population figures and labor force estimates are for 2018. **Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are not in school, not high school graduates, and are unemployed or not in the labor force. ***The prime-age labor force participation rate is the sum of all employed and unemployed people between the ages of 25 and 54.



Population Characteristics

	Wilkes County, Georgia		Wilkes County Region		Region 7		Georgia	
Median Household Income	\$34,234		\$37,971		\$47,982		\$52,977	
Per Capita Income	\$21,957		\$21,408		\$24,026		\$28,015	
Poverty Rate (of all people)	2,595	26.5%	18,658	23.5%	91,433	20.1%	1,679,030	16.9%
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	839	21.1%	6,585	20.6%	29,176	17.6%	530,636	14.5%

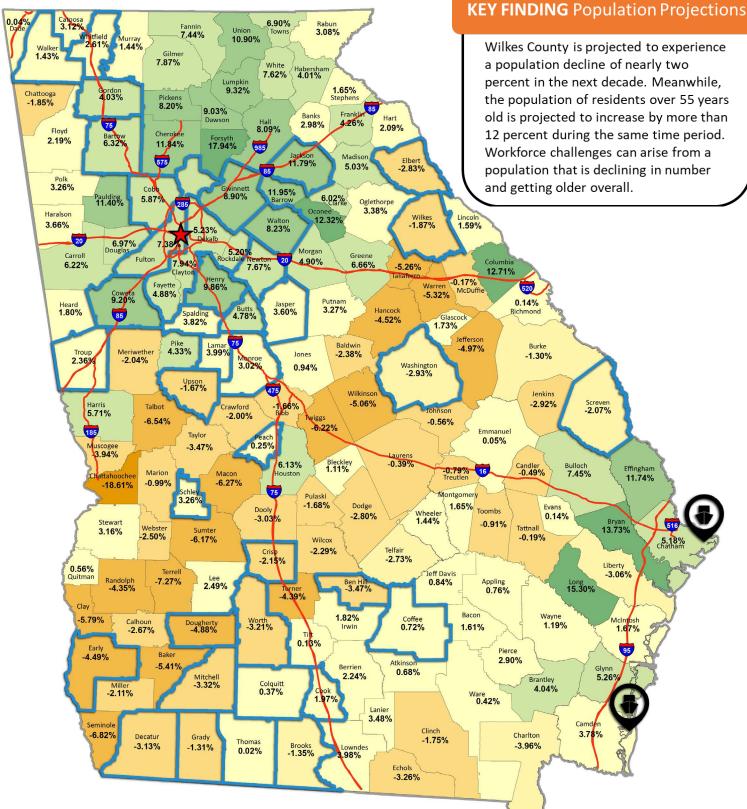
	Wilkes Cour	nty, Georgia	Wilkes County Region		Region 7		Georgia	
Population (2017)	9,9	05	80,	357	471	,434	10,201,635	
Median Age	45	.5	42	2.2	3	6.4	36	5.4
Under 18 Years	<mark>2,</mark> 039	20.6%	18,107	22.5%	113,608	24.1%	2,499,203	24.5%
18 to 24 Years	887	9.0%	6,232	7.8%	46,601	9.9%	1,008,606	9.9%
25 to 34 Years	1,004	10.1%	9,114	11.3%	67,285	14.3%	1,401,609	13.7%
35 to 44 Years	976	9.9%	9,397	11.7%	57,528	12.2%	1,374,423	13.5%
45 to 54 Years	1,359	13.7%	10,865	13.5%	60,846	12.9%	1,407,042	13.8%
55 to 64 Years	1,447	14.6%	11,445	14.2%	60,331	12.8%	1,210,322	11.9%
65 to 74 Years	1,257	12.7%	9,088	11.3%	39,497	8.4%	802,397	7.9%
75 Years and Over	936	9.4%	6,109	7.6%	25,738	5.5%	498,033	4.9%
Prime Age (25 to 64 Years)	4,786	48.3%	40,821	50.8%	245,990	52.2%	5,393,396	52.9%
Seniors (65 Years and Over)	2,193	22.1%	15,197	18.9%	65,235	13.8%	1,300,430	12.7%

	Wilkes County, Georgia		Wilkes County Region		Region 7		Georgia	
Population (2017)	9,9	05	80,	357	471,434		10,201,635	
White	5,231	52.8%	49,551	61.7%	247,102	52.4%	6,061,821	59.4%
Black or African American	4,205	42.5%	28,346	35.3%	196,909	41.8%	3,195,268	31.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%	22	0.0%	1,190	0.3%	30,552	0.3%
Asian	79	0.8%	336	0.4%	9,933	2.1%	388,946	3.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	196	0.2%	651	0.1%	5,237	0.1%
Some Other Race	302	3.0%	1,121	1.4%	5,030	1.1%	282,570	2.8%
Two or More Races	88	0.9%	785	1.0%	10,619	2.3%	237,241	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	453	4.6%	2,972	3.7%	22,430	4.8%	950,380	9.3%

Sources: JobsEQ, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017



Population Projections, 2018-2028



Source: EMSI and JobsEQ. Mapping by ECG. Counties with ECG communities are outlined in blue.



Labor Force Comparison Snapshot

KEY FINDINGS Labor Force Comparison

- Within the Wilkes County Region, Wilkes has a fairly typical labor force participation rate, but the rate is low compared to the state as a whole.
- Wilkes County has the highest rate of labor force participation among the prime-age population (those ages 25 to 54) of all counties in the Wilkes County Region.
- Wilkes County has a fairly low rate of veteran labor force participation.



	Wilkes Cou	nty, Georgia	Wilkes Cou	Inty Region	Regi	on 7	Geo	orgia
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	4,178	51.4%	34,235	53.3%	206,603	57.2%	4,978,910	62.7%
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	2,694	80.7%	21,822	74.7%	133,333	74.2%	3,327,295	80.1%
Armed Forces Labor Force	16	0.2%	174	0.3%	9,301	2.5%	47,396	0.6%
Veterans, Age 18-64	221	3.9%	2,947	6.3%	28,910	10.2%	386,615	6.1%
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	109	49.3%	1,913	64.9%	21,167	73.2%	291,136	75.3%

	Elbert Cour	nty, Georgia	Lincoln Cou	nty, Georgia	McDuffie County, Georgia	
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	7,940	50.9%	3,422	53.0%	8,925	54.6%
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	4,974	70.7%	2,047	76.5%	5,724	75.0%
Armed Forces Labor Force	0	0.0%	12	0.2%	117	0.7%
Veterans, Age 18-64	748	6.6%	352	7.7%	921	7.6%
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	318	42.5%	211	59.9%	697	75.7%

	Oglethorpe Co	ounty, Georgia	Taliaferro Co	unty, Georgia	Warren County, Georgia	
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	6,784	57.6%	693	43.6%	2,293	52.1%
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	4,489	76.6%	420	59.3%	1,474	74.3%
Armed Forces Labor Force	29	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Veterans, Age 18-64	544	6.2%	41	3.5%	120	3.8%
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	460	84.6%	29	70.7%	89	74.2%

Sources: JobsEQ, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018



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Labor Force Characteristics



4.3% Unemployment Rate

(November 2019)



تى بىك 51.4% Labor Force Part. Rate (2018)





KEY FINDINGS Occupational Snapshot

- Management and healthcare professionals have the lowest unemployment rates in Wilkes County, as well as some of the highest average annual wages.
- Most occupations are projected to decrease in Wilkes County between 2019 and 2024.

Wilkes County Occupational Snapshot

Occupation	SOC	Employment (Place of Work)	Average Annual Wages	Unemployment Rate	Annual Percentage Employment Change (2014-2019)	Annual Projected Percentage Employment Change (2019-2024)
Total - All	00-0000	3,272	\$36,800	4.5%	0.0%	-0.7%
Management	11-0000	266	\$86,500	1.5%	0.6%	-0.8%
Business and Financial Operations	13-0000		\$60,700	3.2%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Computer and Mathematical	15-0000	35	\$64,200	n/a	-0.1%	-0.4%
Architecture and Engineering	17-0000	27	\$59,900	n/a	-1.6%	-1.2%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	19-0000	11	\$62,400	n/a	-0.7%	-0.8%
Community and Social Service	21-0000	41	\$41,500	2.5%	-0.3%	0.2%
Legal	23-0000	18	\$63,000	n/a	4.4%	-0.5%
Education, Training, and Library	25-0000	112	\$42,300	3.3%	-0.6%	-1.1%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	27-0000	23	\$47,800	n/a	-7.7%	-1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	29-0000	236	\$61,700	1.6%	-1.0%	0.2%
Healthcare Support	31-0000	122	\$22,600	4.1%	-4.6%	1.3%
Protective Service	33-0000	101	\$32,100	2.7%	-1.3%	-0.8%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	35-0000	176	\$19,300	6.9%	-2.7%	0.1%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	37-0000	135	\$23,200	5.9%	0.4%	-0.3%
Personal Care and Service	39-0000	107	\$20,500	4.5%	1.6%	1.2%
Sales and Related	41-0000	296	\$27,700	5.8%	0.9%	-1.2%
Office and Administrative Support	43-0000	381	\$31,300	3.9%	-0.6%	-1.5%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	45-0000	66	\$37,900	6.5%	7.3%	-2.7%
Construction and Extraction	47-0000	211	\$33,000	6.7%	12.4%	0.0%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	49-0000	154	\$40,700	2.7%	-0.1%	-1.1%
Production	51-0000	316	\$30,100	4.5%	-0.8%	-1.9%
Transportation and Material Moving	53-0000	342	\$29,900	5.4%	-1.2%	-1.0%

Source: JobsEQ 2019 Q3



KEY FINDINGS Employment Fair Share

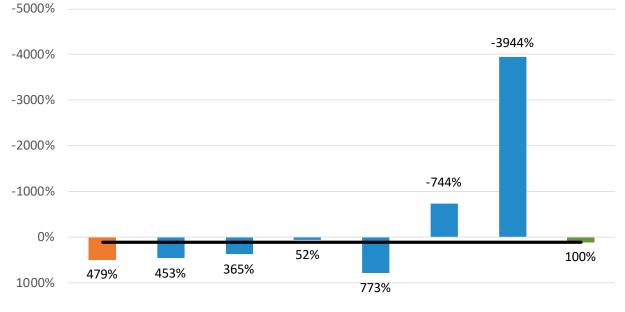
- Wilkes County experienced a decline in total employment, as did the Wilkes County Region as a whole.
- Warren and Taliaferro counties experienced much more than their fair share of employment growth between 2010 and 2018, distinguishing themselves from all other counties in the region, which experienced employment decline.

Employment Fair Share Comparison

A metric known as percentage of fair share is shown in the equation below and is used to gauge whether a part of a region (such as a county) is receiving its fair share of new employment (or housing units) within a larger region (such as the Wilkes County Region).

percentage of fair share = $\frac{county \% employment growth (2010-2018)}{regional \% employment growth (2010-2018)}$

Employment Growth Percentage of Fair Share Relative to Wilkes County Region (2010-2018)



2000%

Wilkes Elbert Lincoln McDuffie Oglethorpe Taliaferro Warren Region

Region	Housing (2010)	Housing (2018)	Housing Change (2010-2018)	Housing % Change (2010-2018)	Fair Share
Wilkes	5,169	5,159	-10	-0.2%	-20%
Elbert	9,536	9,600	64	0.7%	68%
Lincoln	4,771	4,875	104	2.2%	221%
McDuffie	9,314	9,323	9	0.1%	10%
Oglethorpe	6,356	6,616	260	4.1%	415%
Taliaferro	1,085	1,018	-67	-6.2%	-627%
Warren	2,954	2,980	26	0.9%	89%
Region	39,185	39,571	386	1.0%	100%

Source: JobsEQ



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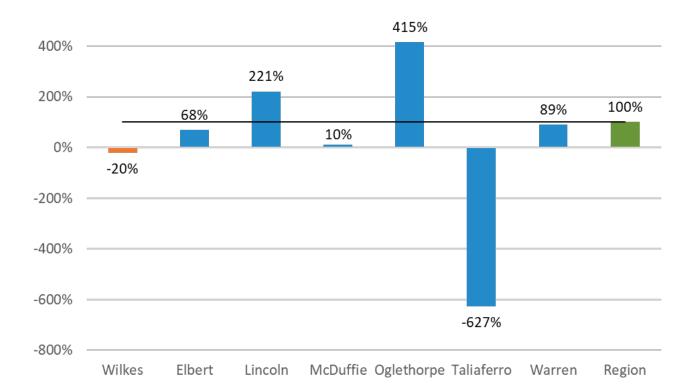
KEY FINDINGS Housing Fair Share

- Since Wilkes County experienced very little change in housing units between 2010 and 2018, it experienced none of its fair • share of Wilkes County Regional housing growth.
- Among counties in the region, Oglethorpe County experienced much more than its fair share of housing growth between 2010 and 2018, and Taliaferro County experienced much less.

Housing Fair Share Comparison

percentage of fair share = <u>county % housing growth (2010-2018)</u> regional % housing growth (2010-2018)

Housing Growth Percentage of Fair Share Relative to Wilkes County Region (2010-2018)



Region	Employment (2010)	Employment (2018)	Employment Change (2010-2018)	Employment % Change (2010-2018)	Fair Share
Wilkes	3,416	3,255	-161	-4.7%	479%
Elbert	6,844	6,539	-305	-4.5%	453%
Lincoln	1,681	1,620	-60	-3.6%	365%
McDuffie	7,636	7,596	-39	-0.5%	52%
Oglethorpe	2,407	2,224	-183	-7.6%	773%
Taliaferro	256	275	19	7.3%	-744%
Warren	1,284	1,782	498	38.8%	-3944%
Region	23,523	23,291	-231	-1.0%	100%

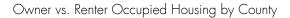
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2014-2018

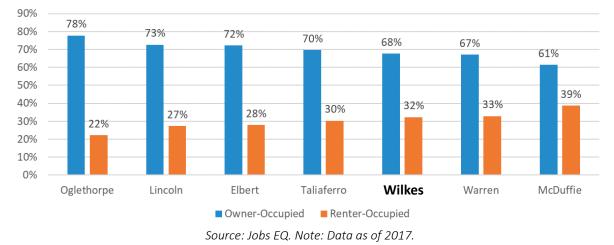


Housing Characteristics

	Wilkes Cou	nty, Georgia	Wilkes Cou	unty Region	Regi	ion 7	Geo	rgia
Total Housing Units	5,171		39,612		203,952		4,203,288	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)	\$83,400		\$94,556		\$123,193		\$158,400	
Homeowner Vacancy	52	1.9%	550	2.4%	3,625	3.2%	50,815	2.1%
Rental Vacancy	54	4.0%	538	5.2%	6,615	9.9%	109,640	7.4%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	2,689	67.7%	22,181	69.5%	106,536	64.4%	2,306,772	63.0%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	1,282	32.3%	9,740	30.5%	58,874	35.6%	1,356,332	37.0%
Mean Commute Time (minutes) 25.2		26.1		23.4		28.0		

	Elbert County, Georgia		Lincoln Cou	nty, Georgia	McDuffie County, Georgia		
Total Housing Units	9,5	9,593		4,857		9,331	
Median House Value	\$81,800		\$115,600		\$102,500		
(of owner-occupied units)	ÇÛI	,000			9102,300		
Homeowner Vacancy	112	1.9%	57	2.2%	187	3.6%	
Rental Vacancy	128	5.6%	61	6.1%	217	6.4%	
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	5,580	72.2%	2,496	72.6%	5,008	61.4%	
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	2,150	27.8%	942	27.4%	3,148	38.6%	
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	20	20.8		33.3		26.5	
	Oglethorpe County, Georgia		Taliaferro County, Georgia		Warren County, Georgia		
	Oglethorpe Co	ounty, Georgia	Taliaferro Co	unty, Georgia	Warren Cou	ınty, Georgia	
Total Housing Units		ounty, Georgia		unty, Georgia)91		inty, Georgia 973	
Total Housing Units Median House Value	6,5	596	1,0	091	2,	973	
	6,5		1,0		2,		
Median House Value	6,5	596	1,0	091	2,	973	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)	6,5 \$112	596 1,800	1,0 \$59	091 ,100	2, \$62	973 2,300	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) Homeowner Vacancy	6,5 \$111 139 32	596 1,800 3.1% 2.5%	1,(\$59 <u>3</u> 31	091 ,100 0.6% 12.2%	2, \$62 0 15	973 2,300 0.0% 1.9%	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) Homeowner Vacancy Rental Vacancy	6,5 \$111 139	596 1,800 3.1%	1,0 \$59 3	091 ,100 0.6%	2, \$62 0	973 2,300 0.0%	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) Homeowner Vacancy Rental Vacancy Owner-Occupied Housing Units	6,5 \$111 139 32 4,387	596 1,800 3.1% 2.5% 77.8%	1,(\$59 <u>3</u> 31 495	091 ,100 0.6% 12.2% 69.7%	2, \$62 0 15 1,526	973 2,300 0.0% 1.9% 67.1%	
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) Homeowner Vacancy Rental Vacancy Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	6,5 \$111 139 32	596 1,800 3.1% 2.5%	1,(\$59 <u>3</u> 31	091 ,100 0.6% 12.2%	2, \$62 0 15	973 2,300 0.0% 1.9%	

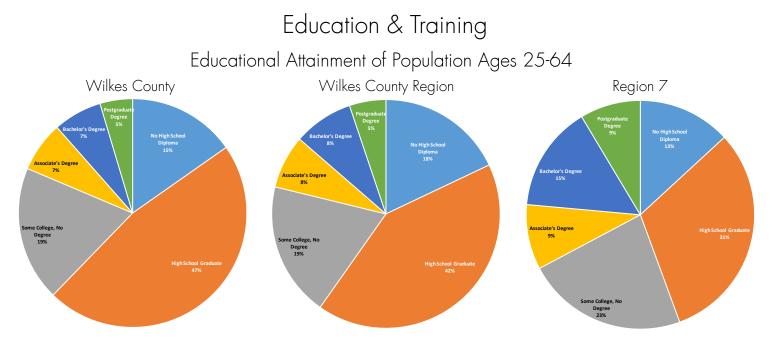




Community Development

KEY FINDINGS Education & Training

- Wilkes County is skewed more toward high school graduates than higher levels of education when compared to the region.
- Most educational awards within a 50 mile radius of Wilkes County are Bachelor's degrees.
- The top three post-secondary degree programs are Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and Welding.



Wilkes County 50 Mile Radius Educational Degrees and Certificates (2017)

	Bachelor's 11,714	Program	Total Awards	Share of Awa
		Business Administration and Management, General	1,181	5%
		Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	783	3%
ertificate < 1 Yr 4,377		Psychology, General	729	3%
		Biology/Biological Sciences, General	711	3%
		Marketing/Marketing Management, General	591	2%
A		Finance, General	580	2%
Associate's 3,722		General Studies	502	2%
		Accounting	479	2%
		Early Childhood Education and Teaching	467	2%
Master's 2,709		Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	465	2%
		Business/Commerce, General	464	2%
		Kinesiology and Exercise Science	426	2%
Certificate 1+ but < 2 Yr 1,433		Welding Technology/Welder	406	2%
		Pre-Nursing Studies	342	1%
		Medical/Clinical Assistant	333	1%
Destarata 1 412		Political Science and Government, General	303	1%
Doctorate 1,412		Social Work	297	1%
		Management Information Systems, General	283	1%
Post-Master's 217		Computer Science	272	1%
		International Relations and Affairs	264	1%
		Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia	257	1%
		Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator and Instructor	235	1%
ost-Baccalaureate 167		Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration	234	1%
		Journalism	224	1%
		Insurance	217	1%
ertificate 2+ but < 4 Yr 132		All Other Programs	11,045	43%
		Total	25,883	100%



KEY FINDINGS Industry

- Health Care and Manufacturing constitute the top two industry sectors in Wilkes County in terms of number of employees. The highest paid industry sectors in Wilkes County are Utilities, Information, and Wholesale Trade.
 The top Manufacturing industries in Wilkes County are Wood Product Manufacturing and Plastics and Rubber
 - Manufacturing.

Employment by Industry Wilkes County

Health Care 539
Manufacturing 535
Retail Trade 387
Construction 267
Public Admin. 250
Transport. & Warehousing 219
Agric., Forest., Fish., and Hunt. 211
Accomodation and Food 159
Education 146
Admin. and Support 123
Other Services 105
Finance and Insurance 99
Wholesale Trade 76
Prof., Sci., and Tech. 47
Information 40
Utilities 34
Real Estate 10
Unclassified 9
Mining, Quarrying, Oil, and Gas 8
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation 4

Average Annual Wages by Industry Wilkes County

Industry	Average Annual Wages
Total - All Industries	\$35,870
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)	\$44,144
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)	\$30,698
Utilities (22)	\$71,592
Construction (23)	\$49,626
Manufacturing (31)	\$46,070
Wholesale Trade (42)	\$55,008
Retail Trade (44)	\$22,217
Transportation and Warehousing (48)	\$26,252
Information (51)	\$56,305
Finance and Insurance (52)	\$53,509
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)	\$38,369
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)	\$34,146
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (56)	\$36,373
Educational Services (61)	\$30,086
Health Care and Social Assistance (62)	\$29,562
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (71)	\$11,827
Accommodation and Food Services (72)	\$13,109
Other Services (except Public Administration) (81)	\$18,760
Public Administration (92)	\$31,027
Unclassified (99)	\$36,030

Manufacturing Spotlight Wilkes County

Industry		Share of Manufacturing Jobs	Average Annual Wages
Wood Product Manufacturing (321)	169	32%	\$42,040
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing (326)	133	25%	\$39,367
Paper Manufacturing (322)	94	18%	\$58,568
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (327)	68	13%	\$43,437
Food Manufacturing (311)	30	6%	\$40,513
Textile Product Mills (314)	19	4%	\$24,690
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (332)	17	3%	\$70,255
Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing (337)	3	1%	\$122,840
Miscellaneous Manufacturing (339)	1	0%	\$30,950
All Manufacturing (31)	535	100%	\$46,070
Total - All Industries	3,272	-	\$35,870

Source: JobsEQ 2019Q3





For research inquiries, please contact:

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