

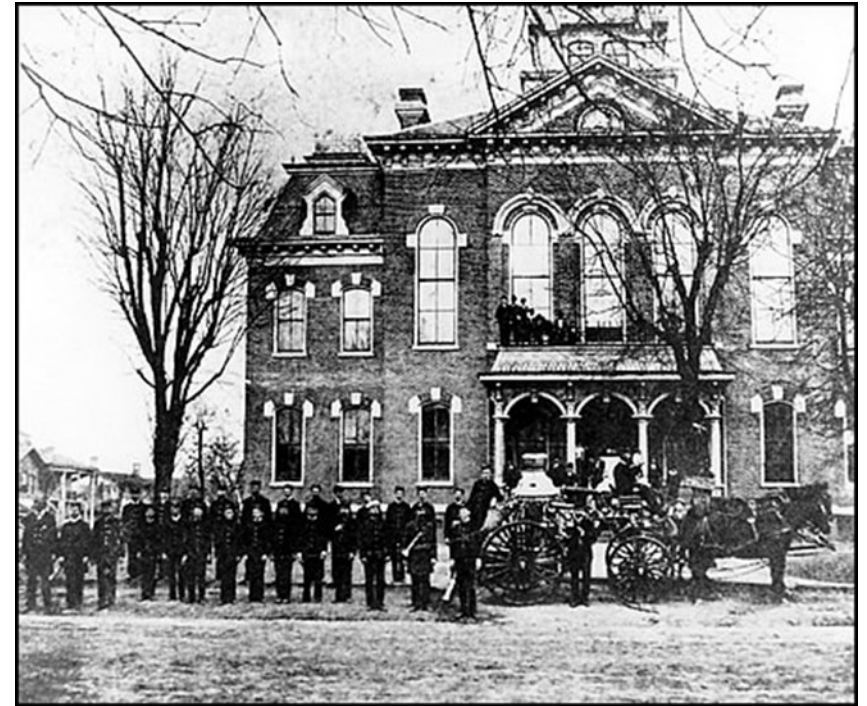
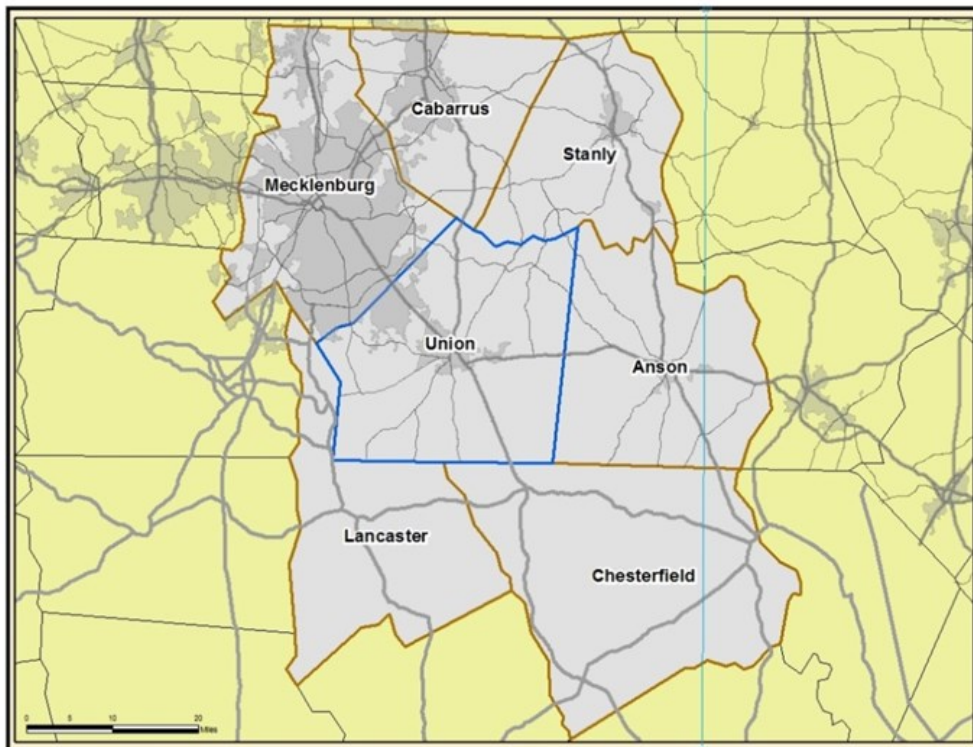


2015 Community Profile
Union County, North Carolina

Overview

Established in 1842, Union County was formed from parts of Anson County and Mecklenburg County. Its name was a compromise between Whigs, who wanted to name the new county for Henry Clay, and Democrats, who wanted to name it for Andrew Jackson. Situated in the south central Piedmont area of North Carolina, Union County's estimated population is 215,956, with approximately 643 square miles of land.

The County provides a wide range of services including public safety, human services (Social Services, Health, Veterans and Transportation), funds for education, cultural and recreational activities, and general administration functions. Additionally, the County owns and operates water, sewer and solid waste systems, and a stormwater program.

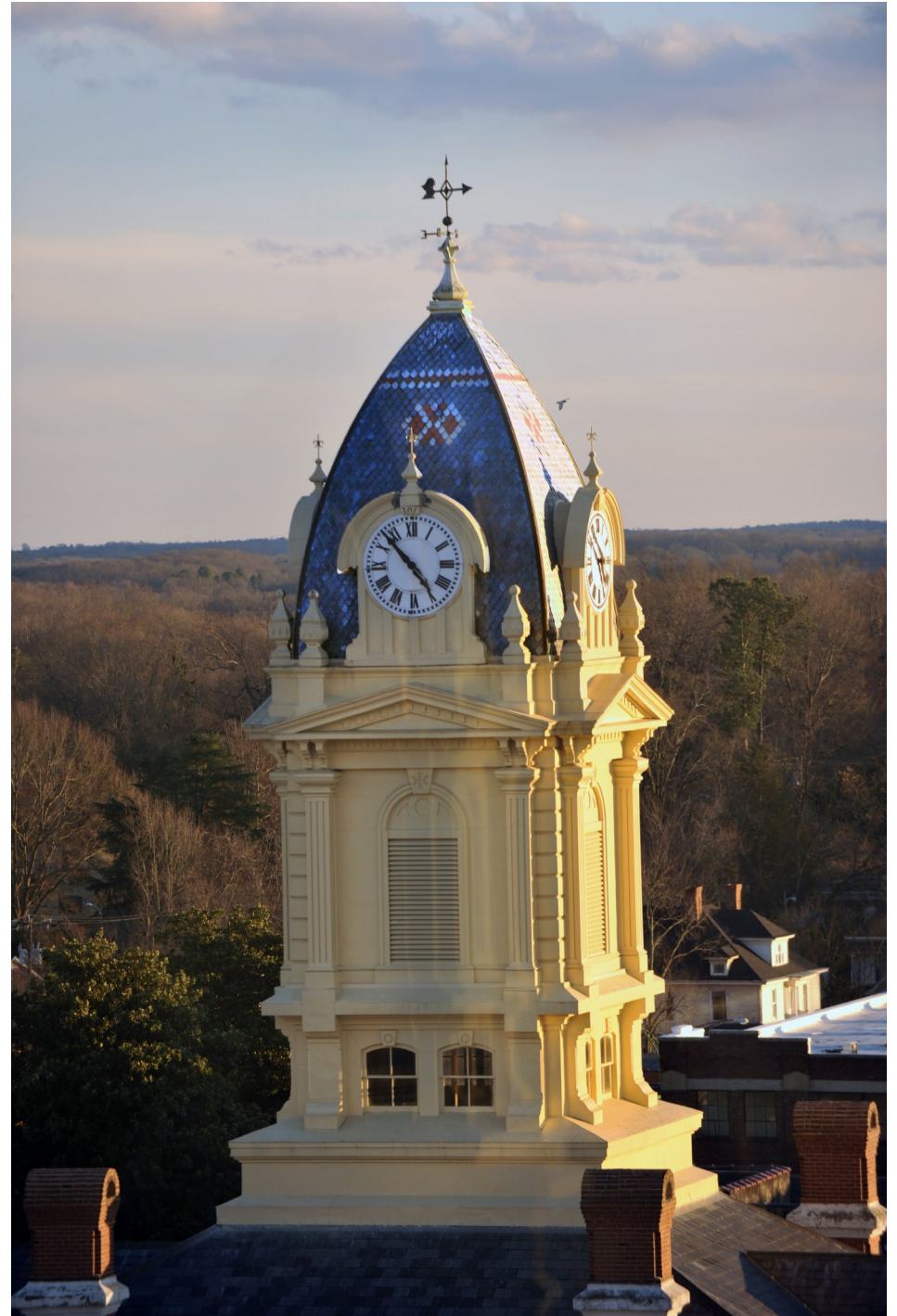


Union is tenth fastest growing county in the state of North Carolina since July 2010. It provides a unique blend of rural and metropolitan lifestyles. While having vast areas of nature untouched by development, it also has areas flourishing in suburban and industrial growth. The primary factors contributing to Union's economic growth are agriculture, business and industry.

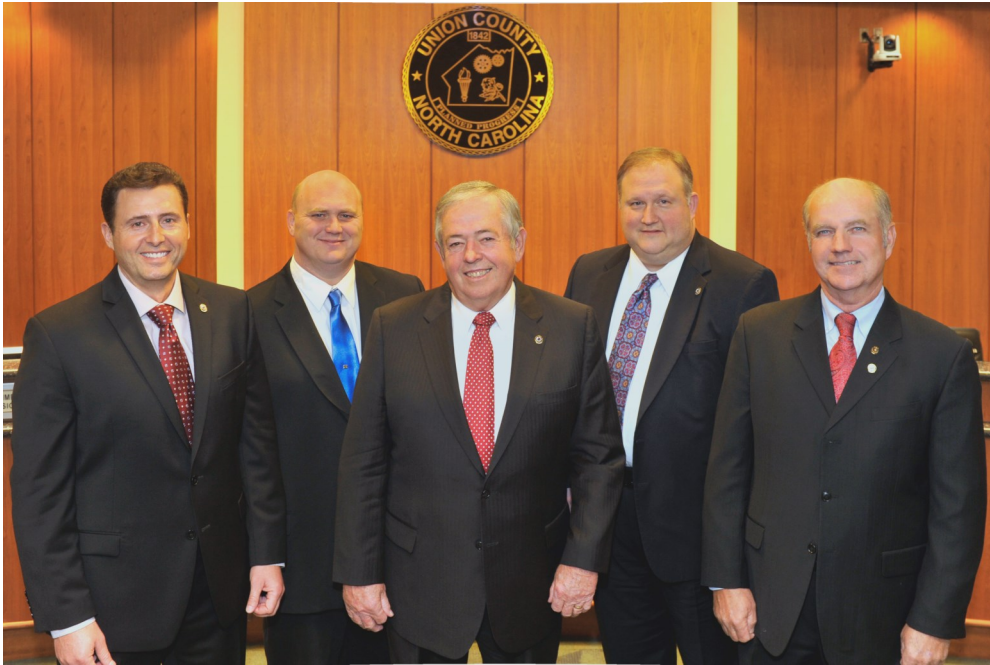
Between 2000 and 2010, the County experienced rampant growth, driven mainly by residents seeking a higher quality of life through lower tax rates, newer communities, larger lots, better public school test scores, and less congestion. During that period the County grew at 63.25% (78,329), which stressed the infrastructure, namely the school system and public services. This increased the need for additional personnel in schools, police, and social services, and demanded new school and public works infrastructure.

The County's incorporated municipalities include Fairview, Hemby Bridge, Indian Trail, Lake Park, Marshville, Marvin, Mineral Springs, Monroe (the County seat), Stallings, Unionville, Waxhaw, Weddington, Wesley Chapel and Wingate. The July 2013 (most recent available) population of these municipalities totaled 142,911, meaning approximately 32% of Union County's population lives in unincorporated areas.

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Governance



Board of Commissioners from left to right, Lance Simpson, Stony Rushing (Vice-Chairman), Richard Helms (Chairman), Frank Aikmus, and Jerry Simpson.

Cynthia Coto was appointed to the position of County Manager in November 2010. The County Manager is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners as the County's Chief Executive Officer.

The County has a Commissioner-Manager form of government with five at-large Commissioners comprising the governing body.

The Commissioners are elected on a staggered basis for terms of four years and formulate the policies for the administration of the County. The Board of Commissioners annually adopts a budget and establishes a tax rate for the support of County services. The County Manager has the responsibility of administering these programs in accordance with policies and the annual budget adopted by the Board. The County is responsible for providing public safety, health and human services, public utilities, park and recreation programs and local funding for public education. The commissioners meet the first and third Monday of every month.



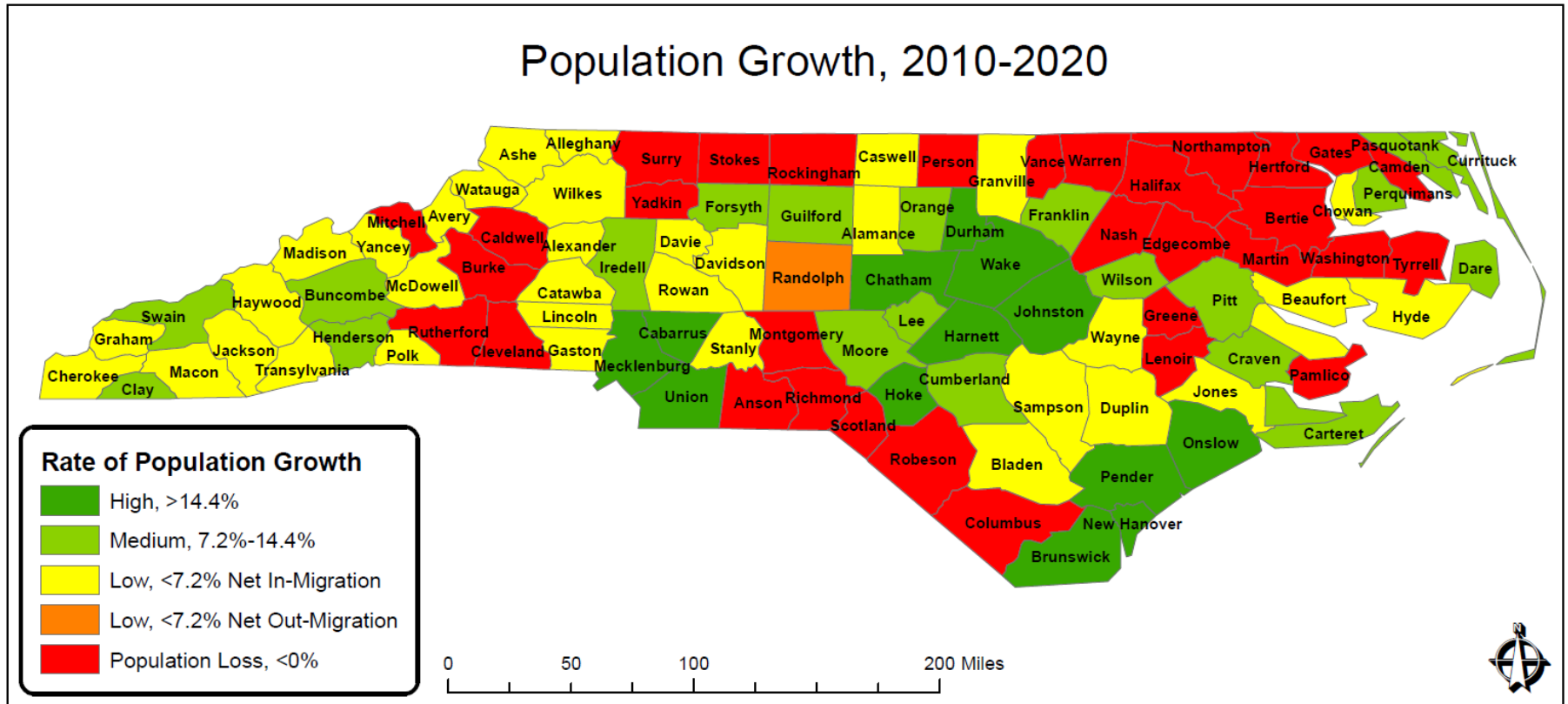
County Manager, Cynthia Coto

Population

For the period 2000 to 2010, the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (the “U.S. Census Bureau”) ranked the County as the 16th fastest-growing County in the country, measured by percentage population increase. During this period, the County’s population grew by 62.8%, rising to 201,292 from 123,677.

Since 2010, population has slowed, due to a variety of factors. The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) estimated the County’s population, as of July 2014, to be 215,956, yielding an average annual growth of 1.77% since 2010. Their projections suggest the County’s population will reach 243,793 by July 2020, meaning average annual growth will be approximately 2.04%.

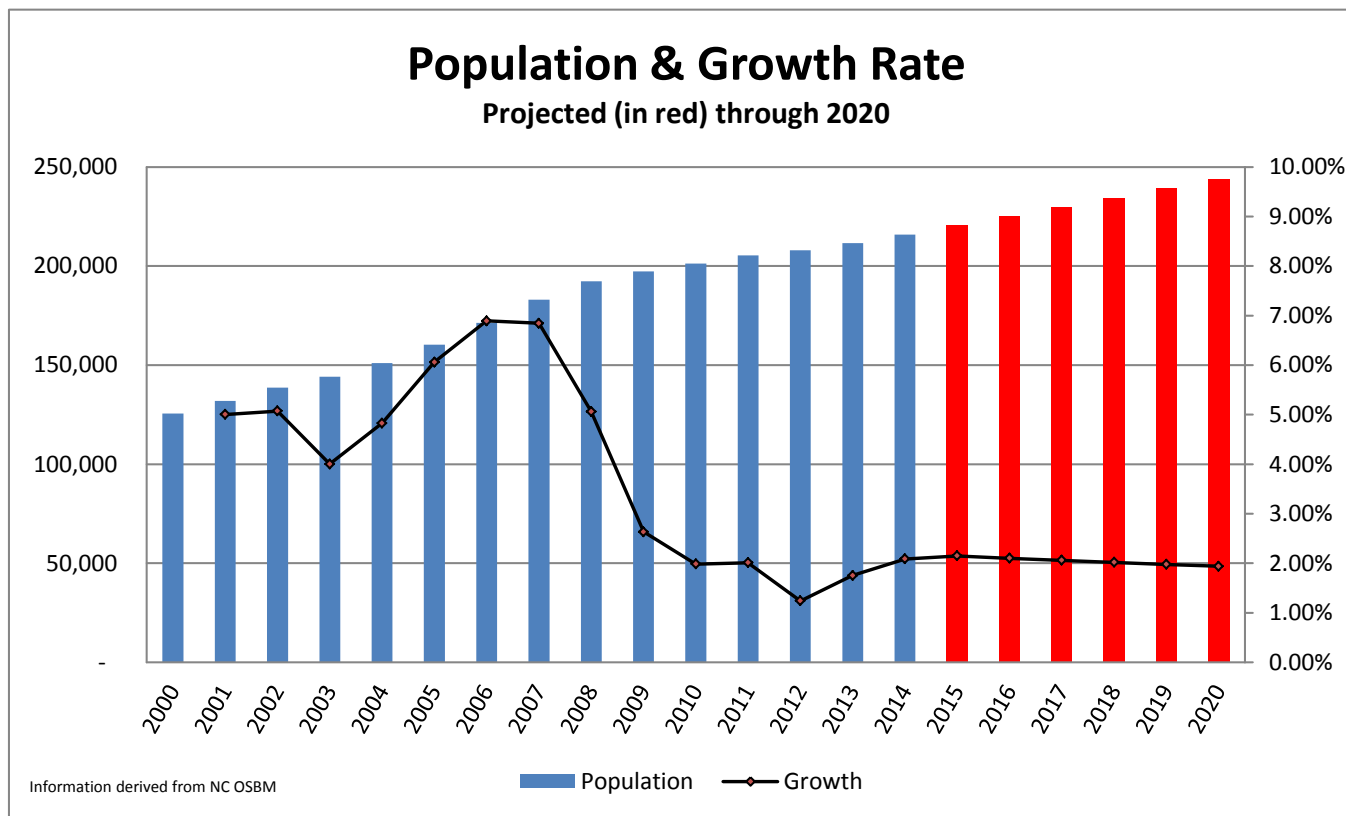
The County is a rich agricultural hub that has blossomed into a bedroom community for the Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord Metropolitan Statistical Area. The added population has brought a majority of residents to the western portion of the County, shifting the balance of service needs. With this shift has come a change in the County demographics from a farming community to a diversified economic residential base.



With diversity of ethnicity comes a challenge from the schools to teach children who may have little background with English. This is evident in that 1 in 8 households (12.8%) speak a language other than English in their home in Union County.

As a percentage of population, Union County is unique due to the recent residential inflow that has skewed the age brackets with a greater percentage of population between 6-17 and 35-54, as compared to the State of North Carolina. Although North Carolina has changed during the last decade, with greater numbers of retirees and near-retirees looking at either beach or mountain homes, there is plenty of diversification across the age spectrum thanks to a burgeoning job market in the major metropolitan areas. In contrast to the rest of the State, Union County's percentage of population between 25-34 is close to 2% lower than that of the State of North Carolina.

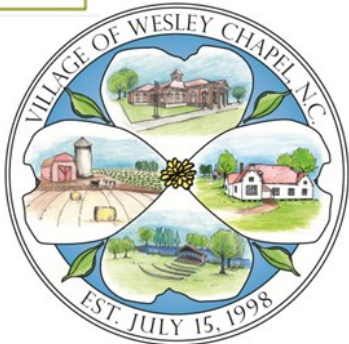
The average age has been slowly increasing in the County, which has been attracting middle aged professionals, likely driven by a better life balance, and a newer and robust housing availability. The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) demographic report suggests Union County will see a decline in 5-17 year old (school aged) children by 4,564 over the course of the next five years. This is a result of the aging population within the County, decline in new home building, and the national trend of have fewer children.



According to the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, the July 2013 estimated population (most recent available) for each of the County's municipalities is as follows:

Union County, NC Municipalities and Population			
Municipality	Population	Municipality	Population
Fairview	3,485	Monroe	33,708
Hemby Bridge	1,531	Stallings	14,310
Indian Trail	35,795	Unionville	6,141
Lake Park	3,547	Waxhaw	11,311
Marshville	2,467	Weddington	9,924
Marvin	6,110	Wesley Chapel	8,069
Mineral Springs	2,783	Wingate	3,674
Mint Hill	56		

NC OSBM municipal Information has not been updated since July 2013



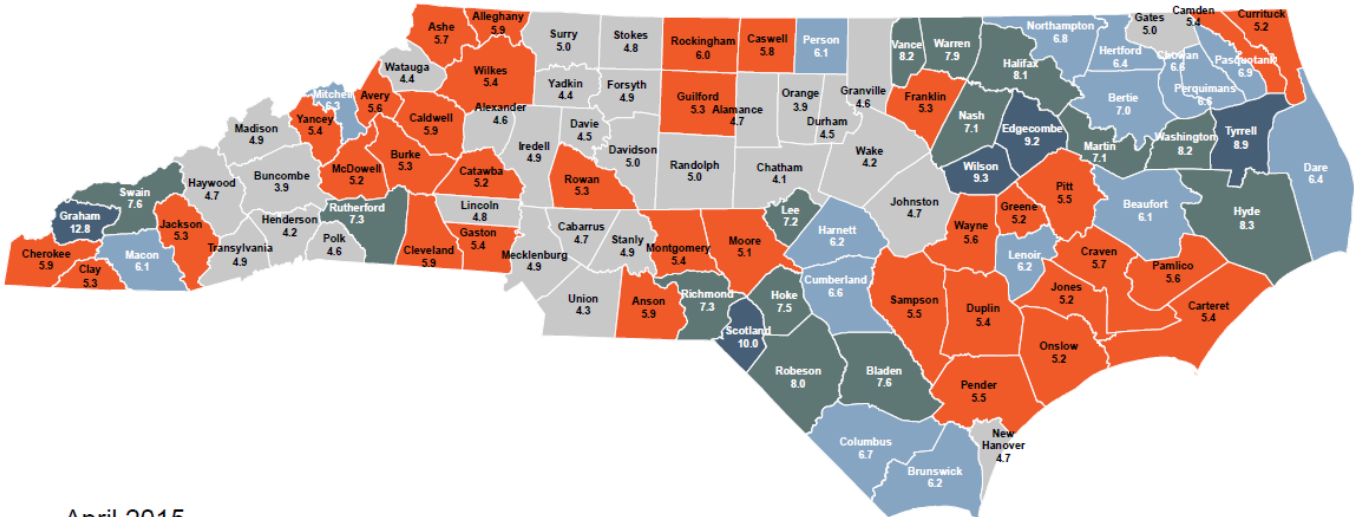
Economy

Employment

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission has published the percentage of unemployment in the County to be as follows:

Year	Union County, NC - 3 Year Unemployment Rates												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2012	8.7	8.8	8.2	7.6	8.0	8.6	8.8	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.9	8.0	8.2
2013	8.6	7.9	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.0	6.5	6.3	6.0	5.9	7.1
2014	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.2	5.4
2015	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.3									

The Employment Security Commission of NC has estimated the April 2015 State unemployment rate at 5.5% compared to the United States rate of 5.4%. Union County has historically shown a lower unemployment rate than several of the neighboring Counties and the State. Below is the most recent unemployment rates across the state as published by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. As of April 2015, Union County has the 6th lowest unemployment rate in the State.



April 2015

Major Employers of Union County, NC

Company Name	Industry	Employment Range
Union County Schools	Education & Health Services	1000+
Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital	Education & Health Services	1000+
Tyson Farms Inc	Manufacturing	1000+
Tdy Industries Llc	Manufacturing	1000+
County Of Union	Public Administration	1000+
Harris Teeter	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1000+
Wal-Mart Associates Inc	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500-999
Pilgrims Pride Corporation	Manufacturing	500-999
City of Monroe	Public Administration	500-999
Scott Technologies Inc	Manufacturing	500-999
South East Employee Leasing	Professional & Business Services	500-999
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry Company	Manufacturing	500-999
Unicon Inc	Natural Resources & Mining	250-499
Wingate University	Education & Health Services	250-499
Food Lion	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
Lowes Home Centers Inc	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
Allied Staff Augmentation Partners	Professional & Business Services	250-499
Consolidated Metco Inc	Manufacturing	250-499
Edwards Wood Products Inc	Manufacturing	250-499
Windsor Window Company	Manufacturing	250-499

Source: Employment Security Commission, Fourth Q 2014

Retail Sales

Total local sales and use tax collections for the most recent eight fiscal years are shown in the table below:

<u>Local Option Sales Tax Collectoins</u>		
Fiscal Year Ended	Total	Change From
<u>30-Jun</u>	<u>Receipts</u>¹	<u>Previous Year</u>
2007	\$36,308,330	— %
2008	37,588,851	3.53%
2009	36,554,311	-2.75%
2010	30,943,989	-15.35%
2011	30,616,457	-1.06%
2012	36,675,651	19.79%
2013	35,457,649	-3.32%
2014	39,342,956	10.96%

¹Includes sales and use tax collections by the County and all municipalities; excludes Art. 44

Source: North Carolina Department of Revenue, Sales and Use Tax Division

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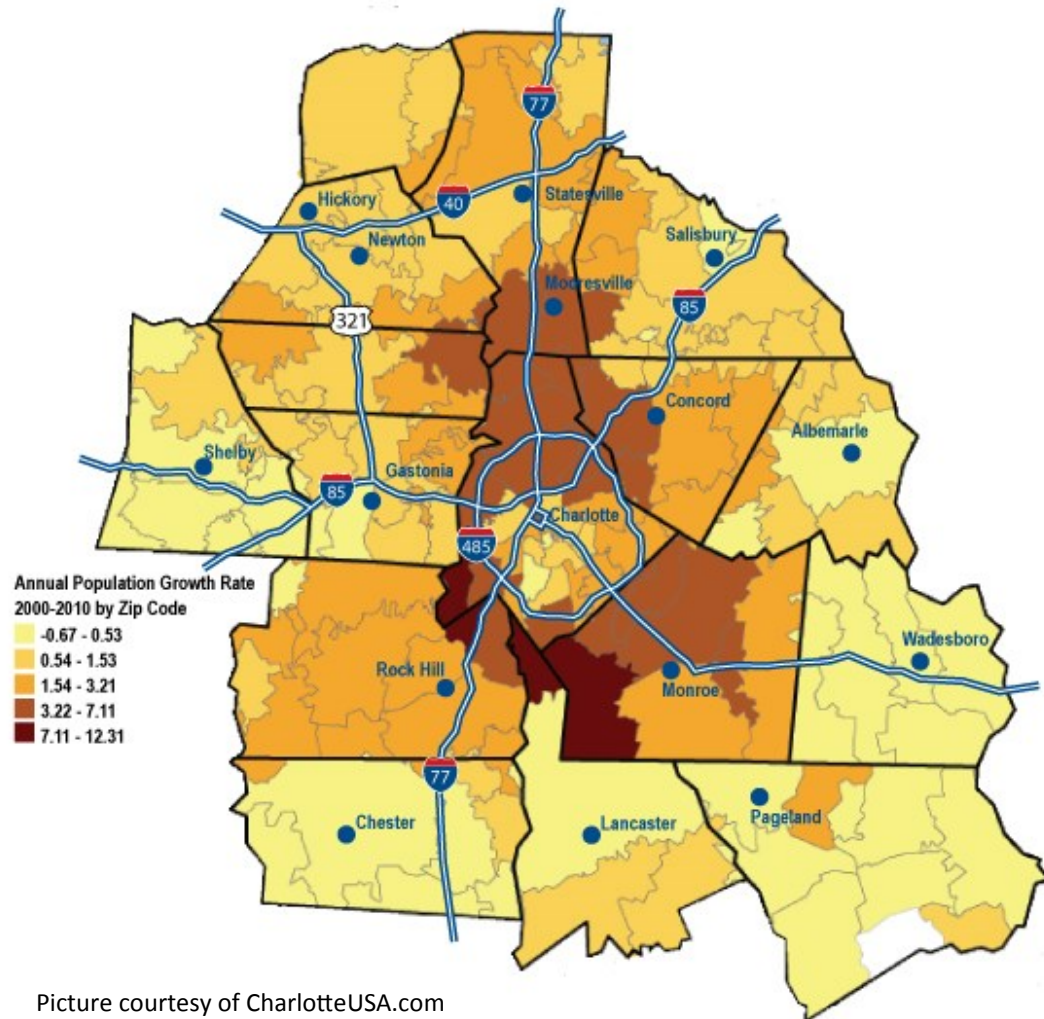
Union County is part of the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia Metropolitan Statistical Area which is home to 8 Fortune 500 Companies including Bank of America, Duke Energy, Nucor Steel, and Lowe’s Home Improvement. Other large super regional firms include Harris Teeter, Food Lion, Cheerwine, and Sundrop.

In addition, the region is known for its auto racing, being home to over 75% of all NASCAR teams, and is home to the Charlotte Motor Speedway, owned by Speedway Motorsports. Because of this, the City of Charlotte built the Nascar Hall of Fame in their downtown area. The CMS track hosts three NASCAR events each year.

Major employers in the region include Wells Fargo, Carolinas Healthcare, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, City of Charlotte, US/American Airways (Hub), Presbyterian Healthcare (NOVANT), University of North Carolina @ Charlotte, AT&T, Belk, Family Dollar, IBM and Bank of America. Charlotte has long been known as the second largest banking and finance center in the United States, however since the 2008 recession, there has been additional diversification.

The Charlotte MSA is the 34th largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in the nation and the fourth fastest growing over the past decade.

According to the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, the County had a median household income (MHI) of \$65,892 in 2013 (most recent available data), which was the second highest in the State. Additionally, the County MHI is 42.2% above the North Carolina average (\$46,334) and 24.2% higher than the U.S. National (\$53,046) average.



Picture courtesy of CharlotteUSA.com

Agriculture

Union County is home to over 1,100 farms and ranks high in numerous categories of production. As a state-wide measure, Union County ranked third in total number of economic revenue generated from Agriculture, exceeding \$464 million as of the 2012 report¹. A statewide breakdown of those crops and livestock shows the County ranked second in soybean and wheat production, third in chicken (broilers) and egg production (layers). The County ranked fourth in turkey production and tenth in cattle production statewide. As a measure of productivity based on solely livestock, the County ranked third. Other Crops that brought revenue into the County were grain corn, hay, and cotton (however to a much less extent). Additionally, the County agriculture provided revenue from nursery's, greenhouses, floriculture, vegetables, fruits and nut production.

Both Tyson Farms Inc. and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. are large employers, but also taxpayers in the County through their investment in plant, equipment and human training. In addition, Pilgrim's Pride is a user of the County's water and sewer system.

With over 175,000 acres dedicated to farming, and 61% of that dedicated to harvest crops, it becomes easy to see the impact Agriculture has made on the County. Given 44% of the County (by acre) is used in some method of agriculture, it is hard to stray off any main road and not see agriculture impacting the land.

In addition to the more typical forms of agriculture, Union County has a burgeoning number of equine stables, forestry projects and vineyards located in the County.



¹ The National Agriculture Statistics Service Report is release every five years, and the information is compiled and released approximately 18 month later. The last report was released on May 2, 2012. The report is available [here](#), and the North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Census of Agriculture is available [here](#).

Comprehensive Planning

Long-Term Financial Planning and Major Initiatives

The North Carolina State Demographics Unit expects the County's population to grow by additional 10.7% or 23,198 residents between 2014 and 2019, reaching a projected 239,154 residents. Public school enrollment, currently at approximately 41,622 students (UCPS), is projected to decrease during the same time. This is a result of expansion from Charter Schools, in combination with the population of 5-17 year olds decreasing from 47,127 currently to 43,993, as referenced from the NC OSBM.

Although it is anticipated the County will experience minimal growth, maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities will become an even greater challenge. While the County's current debt load is significant, 40.0% or \$163.1 million of the County's tax supported debt will be retired during the next five years. Within the next ten years, 70.7% or \$288.3 million of the County's tax supported debt will be retired. This maturation of debt sets the stage for the preparation of the next round of infrastructure and maintenance needs.

The tax-supported Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) contains projected capital expenditures for the Union County Public Schools (UCPS), South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) and other County programs and functions such as law enforcement, parks and recreation and general government. The CIP is funded through current revenues, capital contributions and long-term debt. The CIP and financial forecast is updated annually to reflect changing priorities and circumstances.



Union County Public Works retained a professional consultant to develop a comprehensive water and wastewater master plan. The Plan provides for an assessment of water and wastewater service areas including water supply, water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment and disposal and provides an integrated plan for a consolidated method for improving and expanding its water and wastewater systems. The integrated plan provides a comprehensive approach to Union County's water resources development and utilization and serves as a guide for future system development maintenance and investment decisions.

This plan included community outreach, population & demand/flow projections, system performance criteria, water and wastewater system models, future water and wastewater scenarios and a 20-year CIP. Based on the service area projections and system evaluations and assessments, the CIP defines the needed system improvements for the 20-year planning horizon.

Needed capacity and system improvements for existing and future system conditions were identified, prioritized and compiled into a CIP for the 20-year planning horizon. The CIP is based on an assumption of an Inter-Basin Transfer (IBT) increase from five million gallons per day to ten million gallons per day granted by the State by 2017.

System improvement projects are categorized as water supply/treatment projects, wastewater treatment/disposal projects, water distribution projects, or wastewater collection projects. A project identification (ID) system defines the project location and type. System improvements and expansions will be funded through a combination of pay-as-you-go funding and revenue bonds supported through utility rates.



Education

Primary Education

State law provides for and funds the operating costs of a basic minimum educational program which is supplemented by the County and Federal governments. The building of public school facilities has been a joint State and County effort. Local financial support is provided by the County for capital and operating expenses.

The following table shows the number of schools and average daily membership for Union County Public Schools for the past seven school years:

Union County Public Schools - ADM Count								
School Year	Elementary Grades (K-5)		Intermediate Grades (6-8)		Secondary Grades (9-12)		Total ADM	% Change, YOY
	Number	ADM	Number	ADM	Number	ADM		
2008-09	29	19,426	8	8,785	10	10,357	38,568	3.93%
2009-10	30	19,593	9	8,954	11	10,819	39,366	2.07%
2010-11	30	19,425	9	9,157	11	11,318	39,900	1.36%
2011-12	30	19,133	9	9,542	11	11,684	40,359	1.15%
2012-13	30	18,521	9	9,851	11	11,970	40,342	-0.04%
2013-14	30	18,777	9	10,112	11	12,258	41,147	2.00%
2014-15	30	18,534	9	10,327	11	12,761	41,622	1.15%

Source: NC DPI; Principal's Monthly Report (revised) for current year, final ADM for prior years

Charter Schools

In addition to Union County Public Schools, the only charter school established in the County is Union Academy. UA as it is commonly known offers 2 campuses and provides K-12 education split between two campuses , both located in Monroe. Founded in 2000, the school is run by their own board and receives funding from both the State and the County, operating under a State charter that provides a non-sectarian, de-regulated learning environment that is designed to allow greater freedom to parents and leaders to determine the best options to run the school. The school was designed to promote innovation through public education.

Charter schools are not new to North Carolina or the United States, as the first opened in 1991, and have been operating in the State since 1996. Union Academy is free for all residents, and admission is granted on a lottery basis irrespective of gender, race, religion, or origin. As such, the School has been positively accepted into the community. According to the NC State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, the first month Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the school year started August 2014 was 1,405 students encompassing grades K-12.

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Higher Education

Wingate University located on a 400-acre campus in the Town of Wingate serves approximately 2,700 students and offers 35 undergraduate majors in arts and sciences, business education, fine arts, music and sport sciences. Students can also earn a Doctor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Education. It is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



South Piedmont Community College (SPCC), with locations in Monroe and Wadesboro, serves both Union and Anson counties. It offers technical courses designed to meet the skill needs of local employers, including in-plant training. Local financial support is provided by the County for capital and operating expenses.

Additionally, the County is located within a one-hour drive of several other colleges and universities. These include Central Piedmont Community College, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Queens University, Johnson & Whales, Johnson C. Smith University and Charlotte Law School.

Transportation

The expansion, maintenance and improvement of primary and secondary highways within the County are primarily the responsibility of the State. Each municipality within the County bears the primary responsibility for its local street system. The County has limited financial obligation with respect to construction and maintenance of roads.

The County is served by two U.S. highways (74 and 601) and eight North Carolina highways (16, 75, 84, 200, 205, 207, 218, and 522). The County is within one mile of Interstate 485. In addition, U.S. Highway 74 Monroe Bypass – Connector toll road has begun construction, and will connect near Interstate 485 loop. The State of North Carolina in 2008 included “GAP” funding for the Monroe Bypass – Connector toll road project. The GAP appropriation provides funding for the difference between the projected toll revenues and the total project cost. A sum of \$24 million per year is committed during the life of the project financing. Construction of the Monroe Bypass – Connector, a 20-mile interstate road linking eastern Union County with I-485 in Charlotte is scheduled to be completed in approximately 4 years. Current project costs are estimated at \$750-\$825 million.

MONROE BYPASS



CSX Transportation provides freight rail service to the County and Greyhound Trailways provides bus service to the County. In addition, Charlotte/Douglas International Airport is approximately 17 miles from the County boundary and is now directly accessible via Interstate 485. The Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport, an FAA-designated reliever facility to Charlotte/Douglas International Airport, offers general aviation, air freight and charter service as well as hangar and repair facilities for corporate and private aircraft.

County Utilities

Public Service Enterprises

The County operates water and sewer utilities serving approximately 42,406 water connections and 30,306 sewer connections.

The water system serves a significant portion of the County, including all major urbanized areas except the City of Monroe. The primary water suppliers are (i) the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (CRWTP), a joint impoundment and treatment facility venture between the County and the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, South Carolina, (ii) the Anson County, North Carolina water system, (iii) the City of Monroe and (iv) Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities. The four combined water treatment sources provide an average of approximately 11.1 million gallons per day (“MGD”) with a peak capacity of approximately 25 MGD of treated water to the County’s customers. The County maintains approximately 980 miles of water pipes ranging from 2 to 42 inches in diameter.

Additional water capacity will be needed in the 2017 time frame to serve the growing needs of the County. The County recently completed a comprehensive water and sewer master plan to evaluate alternatives. The draft master plan provides for a 9 MGD expansion of the CRWTP by 2017 and the development of a new eastern water treatment plant in partnership with another local government along the Yadkin River. The existing County water main network contains pipes ranging in size from 2 inches up to 42 inches in diameter. There are approximately 969 miles of pipe in the system. The water system is composed of asbestos-cement pipe, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, cast iron and ductile iron pipe. The County currently specifies only PVC pipe and ductile iron pipe for its distribution water main system. The majority of the water main system is less than 25 years old.

The County’s wastewater system is comprised of five wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) owned by the County and contractual treatment capacity with the City of Monroe and Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities. There are approximately 65 wastewater pumping stations and 607 miles of pipe. The combined treatment capacity of the County owned WWTP’s is 8.15 MGD. Through contractual agreement, the County also has wastewater treatment capacity of 2.65 MGD at the City of Monroe’s WWTP and up to 3.0 MGD through the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities. Current wastewater flows are approximately 6.94 MGD.

Additional wastewater treatment capacity will be needed in the 2018-2020 timeframe. The County is currently pursuing permitting for the expansion of the 12-Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant from 6 to 12 MGD to meet service needs in the western portion of the County. The County is also discussing with the City of Monroe joint participation in an expansion of their wastewater treatment plant to meet growth needs in eastern Union County.

Solid Waste Facilities

The County currently provides residents and businesses alike with municipal solid waste disposal, construction and demolition waste disposal and recycling opportunities. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal services are provided through a state-of-the-art transfer station. At the transfer station, MSW is loaded onto tractor-trailer trucks and transported to a lined landfill for ultimate disposal. For the general public's convenience, there are six sites strategically located throughout the County that accept "bagged" household garbage and recyclable materials.

A Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris landfill is located adjacent to the transfer station. There are currently eight C&D cells permitted through the State in the County, each designed to accept 52,000 tons of material. These cells are vertical expansions over a closed MSW landfill.

The County promotes recycling and provides the opportunity for residents and businesses to recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, aluminum, scrap metal (including white goods), spent motor oil, antifreeze, electronics and used tires free of charge.

The County is evaluating means to improve and expand the services provided at cost-effective rates. Programs that are currently in the developmental/exploratory stage include "household hazardous waste" and electronic device disposal/recycling. The market and direct sale of bulk paper and cardboard is also being investigated.

The County uses an enterprise fund to account for the operations of its solid waste programs and charges tipping fees for disposing of solid waste. This source generated approximately \$4.4 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

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Housing

Construction Activity

The County's housing construction and residential permits began to substantially decline in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. There were approximately 40% fewer residential permits in fiscal year 2008 than the previous fiscal year. Annualized trends based on the fiscal years 2010-2011 suggest that residential construction and commercial construction activity reached a ten-year low. The County's housing data is starting to show signs of improvement. The total number of building permits issued County-wide for July 2014 through May 2015 were 3,301 compared to 3,385 such permits issued during the period July 2013 through May 2014, reflecting a 2.5% decrease. The value (in thousands) during that same period in 2013-2014 was \$396.94MM versus \$335.12MM during the same period of the current year. What is important to consider is the information below on residential permits is inclusive of remodeling and renovations, and is not a measure of new home growth.

The following table shows the number of building permits issued and the estimated value of the related construction in the County for the past seven fiscal years and a portion of the current fiscal year:

Building Permits and Estimated Values						
FY Ended	Non-Residential		Residential		Total	
	Number	Value²	Number	Value²	Number	Value²
2008	472	268,061	2,638	356,472	3,110	624,533
2009	409	105,731	1,725	148,101	2,134	253,832
2010	278	51,858	1,759	118,588	2,037	170,446
2011	210	56,050	1,537	134,358	1,747	190,408
2012	232	66,331	1,829	178,838	2,061	245,169
2013	255	150,362	2,385	269,294	2,640	419,656
2014	400	104,010	3,285	320,781	3,685	424,791
2015 ¹	453	78,477	2,848	256,643	3,301	335,120

Source: County Department of Inspections of Union County, City of Waxhaw, and City of Monroe

¹ July through May

² In Thousands

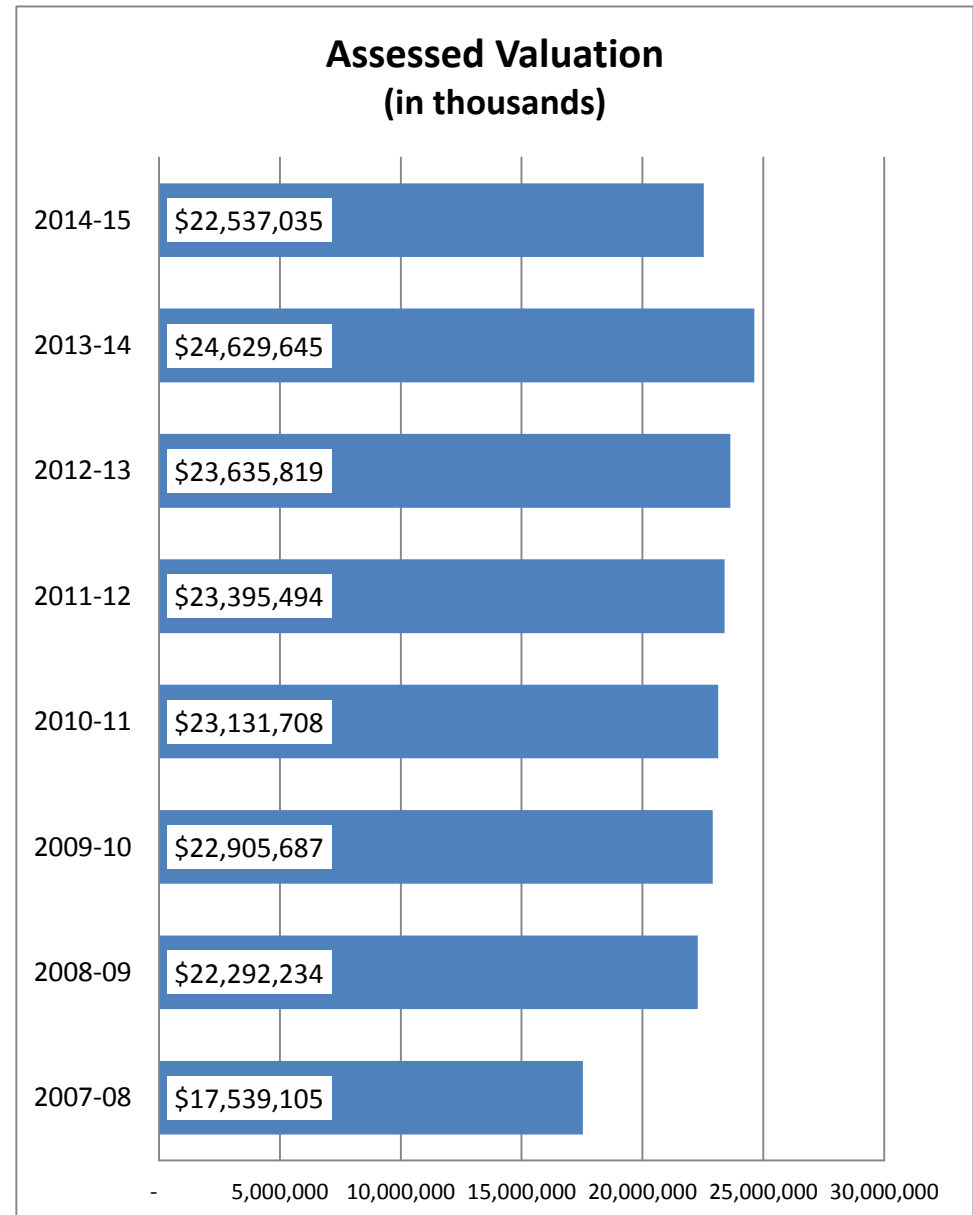
Tax Base

Growth and Valuation

The County continued to grow, even through the economic downturn of 2008, and experienced growth in assessed valuation that has increased by roughly \$250 million each of the last three years, and approximately \$600 million in 2010. In FY 2014, Union County has experienced resurgence in building activity, which looks to be just as promising this year, however without as much concentration in Non-residential. The growth rate of assessed valuation looks to be approximately 1.48% (compounded) per year since the revaluation. This slow and dependable growth is better for the County for the purposes of planning, education, safety, and water/sewer utility.

In the current fiscal year the County revalued the parcels and improvements within the County, and the net effect was a \$2 billion decrease in the County's assessed valuation. The result requires a higher tax rate to generate the same revenue generated the year prior. The byproduct of the current revaluation stemmed from the last revaluation that took place in FY 2009 and resulted in a large increase in assessed values as a result of the housing boom that was taking place. In the years that followed, recessionary changes impacted borrowing and homes sales subsequently slowed. The result was a housing freeze that reduced home values, limited buyers, and squeezed the mortgage market.

The current valuation is in line following the housing downturn, and better represents actual home sales in the Union County market.



Parks, Recreation and Regional Attractions

The County is home to several regional attractions, parks, and recreation facilities that draw crowds. Below are few:



Union County Parks and Recreation Department owns and operates three parks including Cane Creek Park in Waxhaw, Fred Kirby Park in Lake Park, and Jesse Helms Park in Wingate. These parks offer a wide variety of passive and athletic activities and services to the public.

- Extreme Ice Center is the practice facility for the Charlotte Checkers, and has a fitness center for paid public use. In addition, it offers skating, hockey, curling, and ballet, as well as various camps. Extreme Ice is located in Indian Trail.
- Entering its 6th year, Beach, Blues and BBQ is a weekend event at the beginning of May that offers BBQ competition, a 5K run, and 1 mile walk to support Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), and great live music all in the heart of Monroe.
- Warbirds over Monroe is an annual event that takes place at Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport. Started in 2005, it showcases historical planes, and has become one of the largest aviation events in the Southeast honoring those who have served our country. It typically takes place at the beginning of November, and offers excitement and viewing historical war birds in flight.
- The Museum of the Waxhaws is located in Waxhaw, and provides a glimpse of life in the 19th century, with a museum, homestead, garden, and demonstrations providing culture and education.
- The Queen's Cup is a steeplechase offered annually, produced by the Charlotte Steeplechase Association, and takes place in Mineral Springs. The event draws thousands every year to view thoroughbred horses clear obstacles on two-plus mile course galloping at speeds reaching 30 miles per hour.

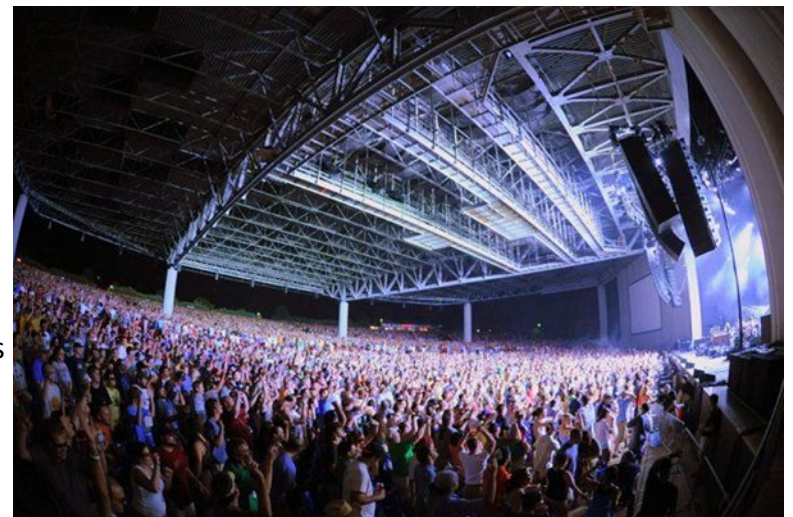
Outside Union County, there are a number of regional attractions. In neighboring Counties (less than 45 minute commute) there are the following entertainment offerings:

- National Football League: Carolina Panthers
- National Basketball League: Charlotte Hornets
- Triple-A Baseball: Charlotte Knights, affiliate of the Chicago White Sox
- American Hockey League: Charlotte Checkers
- United Soccer League: Charlotte Eagles
- Carowinds Amusement Park
- NASCAR Hall of Fame & Charlotte Motor Speedway
- Major League Lacrosse: Charlotte Hounds



Mecklenburg County is home to the U.S. National Whitewater Center, on the Catawba River Basin, which is open to the public and offers bike riding, canoeing, kayaking, and whitewater boating. The Whitewater Center is also a hub for entertainment, and offers several events throughout the year with outdoor entertainment.

The PNC Music Pavilion is located in the University City neighborhood, and attracts a wide venue of musical performances throughout the spring and into the fall.



Healthcare

Carolinas HealthCare System – Union is part of Carolina HealthCare System, the largest healthcare system in North Carolina, and one of the largest systems in the nation. CHS-Union recently completed a \$57 million expansion that expanded the lobby, provides a new covered main entrance, increases parking capacity, relocated the helipad, replace the existing façade with glass to allow for more light, and increases the number of surgical beds by 25 to 182 beds.

CHS-Union offers outpatient surgery, cancer treatment, long term care, obstetric care, and specialty clinics.

Union County is served by 18 Volunteer Fire Departments and a County-wide EMS that provides transportation and emergency care en-route to the closest hospital.

Beyond Union County

Outside of Union County there are the following full service hospitals:

- Novant Healthcare (Huntersville, Matthews, Charlotte Orthopedic, Hemby Children’s, and Presbyterian Main)
- Carolinas HealthCare System (CMC- Main, Levine Children’s, Mercy, Pineville, University, CMC-NorthEast, Jeff Gordon Children’s and Harrisburg)
- Piedmont Medical Center
- Stanly Regional

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Capital Improvement Plan

Debt Outlook

The County maintains a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and financial feasibility forecast for tax-supported and enterprise fund activities. The tax-supported CIP contains projected capital expenditures for the Union County Public Schools (UCPS), South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) and County programs and functions such as law enforcement, parks and recreation and general government. The CIP is funded through current revenues, capital contributions and long-term debt. The CIP and financial forecast is being updated at this time to reflect changing priorities and circumstances.

The County completed the annual update to its tax-supported CIP in April 2015 for the fiscal period 2016-2021. The General Capital Program (GCP) is anticipated to be funded with approximately \$70.4 million from current revenues, pay-go capital, contributed capital and reserves with the balance of \$136.3 million funded through the issuance of general obligation debt or installment financings. The GCP includes programs for SPCC and all other general government service areas. It is expected that a portion of the additional debt will come from both future tax-pledged voter authorizations.

The CIP component related to the water and sewer systems includes approximately \$510 million worth of projects scheduled for the next ten years, funded through a combination of pay-go, fund balances, and the balance funded through \$323 million of revenue bonds, which will be supported by revenues from the water and sewer system. The largest project will be the construction and/or expansion of a water treatment plant on the Yadkin River in FY 2019 of \$161.8 million. The CIP is based on growth projections and projects will be removed or delayed if growth slows or falls below projections.

The County adopted a Capital Improvement Program Management Policy in November 2012 that will require an annual update to the CIP as part of the annual budget process. The County Manager, as the County's Budget Officer, shall annually submit a financially balanced, six year CIP for review and approval by the County Commission, pursuant to the timelines established in the annual budget preparation schedule.

Miscellaneous Statistical Data

Date of Incorporation	1842
Form of Government	Commissioner- Manager
Number of Full Time County Positions	1,009
Number of Full Time School Positions	Over 1,000
Land Area	643 Sq. Miles

Medical Facilities

Hospital:

CMC - Union

Beds:

182

Nursing Homes:

- Kindred Transitional Care
- Clare Bridge of Monroe
- Jesse Helms Nursing Center
- Smith Nursing Home
- Elizabethan Gardens Assisted Living
- Brookdale Union Park
- Village of Woodridge

Urgent Care/Outpatient:

- Fast-Med
- CMC-Urgent Care
- Union West Urgent Care

Transportation

Major Highways:

Interstate(s) 77 and 85, 485 Beltway are all within 15 miles of eastern border. US Route 74 runs east/west, and US Route 601 runs north/south splitting the County.

Rail:

CSX Transportation operates a rail yard/switchyard in Monroe. AMTRAK is available in Charlotte, roughly 20 miles from Monroe.

Air:

Monroe Airport serves as the overflow for Charlotte-Douglas International. Monroe Airport serves as an intermodal transfer station with limited passenger flights.

Ground:

The County is served by Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), providing ridership into and from Charlotte along the US 74 Corridor. The County also operates a limited NCDOT funded transportation service for senior citizens, disabled adults, veterans, and Medicaid clients.

Utilities

- Electric
- Gas
- Water
- Sewer
- Cable
- Phone

- Duke Energy, Union Power
- Piedmont Natural Gas
- Union County Public Works
- Union County Public Works
- Time Warner Cable
- Windstream, Bell South

Miscellaneous Statistical Data

Certified Population ¹		Demographics	
1970	54,714	Living in same house > 5 years	88.1%
1975	63,001	Language other than English @ home	13.0%
1980	70,436	High School Graduate, % of those age 25+	87.8%
1985	76,712	Bachelor's degree, % of those age 25+	31.8%
1990	84,210	Veterans (Active and retired) %	5.7%
1995	100,437	Mean Travel time to work (min)	29.2
2000	125,609	Number of Housing Units	74,688
2001	131,896		
2002	138,589	Persons per household	2.98
2003	143,869	Homeownership Rate	82.1%
2004	150,737	Median Value of owner-occupied units	\$194,300
2005	159,800	Per Capita Income	\$28,894
2006	169,262	Median Household Income	\$65,892
2007	182,360	Persons below Poverty Level, as %	9.4%
2008	191,514		
2009	196,322	Unemployment Rate	4.3%
2010	201,292		
2011	205,337		
2012	207,835		
2013	211,539		
2014	215,956		
2015 Projected	220,596		
2020 Projected	243,793		

Population by Race (U.S. Census 2010)		Population, by Age Groups	
White	72.8%	(0-17)	27.53%
Black or African American	12.1%	(18-24)	8.39%
Native American	0.6%	(25-34)	10.90%
Asian and Pacific Islanders	1.9%	(35-44)	14.50%
Native Hawaiian	0.1%	(45-54)	16.38%
Multi-Racial	1.7%	(55-64)	11.01%
Hispanic or Latino	10.8%	(65+)	11.29%