2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Western Piedmont Region

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.6%
Unemployment Rate

+0.2%
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

169,127
Labor Force

-2,006 (-1.2%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

162,977
Employed Residents

-2,249 (-1.4%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

6,150
Unemployed Residents

243 (4.1%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

432
Single-Family Units (Site Built)

-138
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$120.5 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

-$23.2 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

628
Total Units

-169
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$143.5 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

-$25.7 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

1,669
New Listings

94 (6.0%)
More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,157
Closed Sales

44 (4.0%)
More Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$370,794
Average Sales Price

-$8,879 (-2.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.4
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)

0.7 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$45.7 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution

$3.8 Million (9.0%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$1,682.4 Million
Taxable Sales

$142.7 Million (9.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Alexander County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.6%
Unemployment Rate

16,082
Labor Force

15,505
Employed Residents

577
Unemployed Residents

0.0%
No Change from 2nd Qtr. 2024

-217 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

-210 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

-7 (-1.1%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

22
Single-Family Units (Site Built)

$8.8 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

24
Total Units

$9.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

3
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$3.3 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

5
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$3.7 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

104
New Listings

86
Closed Sales

$361,582
Average Sales Price

3.4
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)

-1 (-1.0%)
Fewer Listing than 2nd Qtr. 2024

14 (19.4%)
More Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

-$14,728 (-3.9%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

0.4 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$3.9 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution

$0.2 Million (5.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$101.8 Million
Taxable Sales

$7.2 Million (7.6%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Burke County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.8%
Unemployment Rate
+0.4%
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

39,749
Labor Force
-370 (-0.4%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

38,253
Employed Residents
-520 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,498
Unemployed Residents
153 (11.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

81
Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-5
Fewer units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$23.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$2.5 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

101
Total Units
12
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$27.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
$0.6 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

290
New Listings
-28 (-8.8%)
Fewer Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

217
Closed Sales
-7 (-3.1%)
Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$327,995
Average Sales Price
-$14,292 (-4.2%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.4
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
0.4 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$9.5 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$0.4 Million (4.7%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$315.3 Million
Taxable Sales
$26.8 Million (9.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Caldwell County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.8%
Unemployment Rate
+0.5%
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

36,366
Labor Force
-339 (-0.9%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

34,980
Employed Residents
-493 (-1.4%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,387
Unemployed Residents
154 (12.5%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

63
Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-5
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$20.9 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$4.7 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

65
Total Units
-3
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$21.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$4.5 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

315
New Listings
57 (22.1%)
More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

191
Closed Sales
-21 (-9.9%)
Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$325,951
Average Sales Price
$2,818 (0.9%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.3
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
1.2 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$8.8 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$1.1 Million (14.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$277.5 Million
Taxable Sales
$32.6 Million (13.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Catawba County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.5% Unemployment Rate
+0.0% No Change from 2nd Qtr. 2024

76,930 Labor Force
-1,081 (-1.4%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

74,228 Employed Residents
-1,037 (-0.7%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

2,690 Unemployed Residents
-55 (-2.0%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

266 Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-137 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$67.5 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$19.3 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

438 Total Units
-178 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$85.9 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$25.5 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

960 New Listings
66 (7.4%) More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

552 Closed Sales
-53 (-8.8%) Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$404,405 Average Sales Price
-$9,146 (-2.2%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.3 Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
0.5 Months Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$23.6 Million Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$2.6 Million (9.6%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$987.8 Million Taxable Sales
$76.0 Million (8.3%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.