Demographic Shifts in Forsyth County, NC (1990 - 2010)

General Population

- The total population of Forsyth County has increased by 32% between 1990 and 2010, with percent annual growth rate of 1.5% a year.¹
- The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management projects that growth in the county will slow down slightly over the next 20 years to annual growth rate of approximately 0.7% a year.²

Gender³

- Between 1990 and 2010 there was little shift in the gender make up of Forsyth County. Females have made up approximately 53% of the total population since 1990.
- In 2011, slightly over half of the labor force was made up of men (51.3%), this is down slightly from 52% in 2005.⁴
- In 2011 the unemployment rate for males was 6.3% and 5.0% for females. Figure 1 demonstrates that this is a shift from 2005 when the unemployment rate for males was 2.5% and 3.4% for females.⁵

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate by Gender in Forsyth County, 2005 & 2011

* The labor force consists of individuals who are employed and those unemployed actively looking for employment.
Race & Ethnicity

- Over 20 years the number of non-white or Hispanic residents has increased at a greater percentage in Forsyth County than white or non-Hispanic residents.
- As seen in Figure 2 the number of Black/African Americans residing in Forsyth County increased by approximately 47% between 1990 and 2010, with an annual growth rate of approximately 2% a year. However, the proportion of Black/African American residents in the total population has remained relatively consistent increasing from 25% in 1990 to 28% in 2010.
- The number of white residents increased by 22%, only an annual growth rate of 1% a year.
- The annual growth rate for Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaskan Native residents were 8% and 9% respectively.

![Figure 2. Percent of Population by Race in Forsyth County, 1990 - 2010](image)

- Between 1990 and 2000 the number of Hispanic/Latino residents increased at an annual growth rate of 25% a year, this rate slowed between 2000 and 2010 to approximately 8% a year. The number of residents who are not Hispanic/Latino is only increasing by less than 1% a year.
- The proportion of Hispanic/Latino residents compared with non-Hispanic/Latino has increased by almost 15 times, from 0.8% of the population in 1990 to 12% in 2010.
- Figure 3 demonstrates the number of residents in Forsyth County that are non-White or Hispanic/Latino increased 3.6% annually from 1990 to 2010. The number of White, non-Hispanic/Latino residents only increased by .3% annually.
- The number of interracial households increased by over 60% between 2000 and 2010 in Forsyth County. 4

![Figure 3. Percent of the Population Based on Race & Ethnicity in Forsyth County, 1990 - 2011](image)
Income by Race & Ethnicity

- The percent of White, Black/African American, and Hispanic households with income levels over $100,000 has increased from 2005 to 2011. ³
- For all races and ethnicities the percent of households with income levels between $50,000 and $74,999 and $75,000 to $99,999 thousand have decreased since 2005.
- Black/African American households are the only group that saw an increase in the percent of households with incomes less than $15,000 a year from 2005 to 2011.

Education by Race and Ethnicity ³

- Between the 2006-2007 school year and the 2010 – 2011 school year white students were more likely to reach target goals of proficiency than students who are Black, Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, are Limited English Proficient, or that have a disability. ⁵
- In 2011 whites residents (over the age of 25) were most likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher as their highest level of education, while Black/African American residents were most likely to have some college or an associate's degree as their highest level of education. In 2005, Black/African American residents were most likely to have a high school degree or equivalent as their highest level of education.
- Approximately 53% of Hispanic/Latino residents had not finished high school in 2011 compared with 57.5% of Hispanic/Latino residents in 2005.

Table 1. Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in Forsyth County, 2005 & 2011

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School Diploma</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Graduate/Equivalent</td>
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<td>26%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate's Degree</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
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<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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Age

- Figure 4 demonstrates the annual growth rate of the population in Forsyth County by age group.
- Since 1990 the only age group in Forsyth County with a negative annual growth rate is individuals ages 25 to 34. The annual growth rate was -0.3% from 1990 to 2010.
- In 1990 this age group had the highest percent of the population (at 18%), by 2010 this age group decreased to 13% of the population.
- Consistently, children 5 to 18 years old have made up between 16% and 18% of the population between 1990 and 2010.
- The age group of individuals 45 –64 years old has experienced the greatest growth in population, increasing by a growth rate of almost 3% each year from 1990 - 2010.

Grandparent Headed Households

- In 2011, approximately 1.7% of grandparents were living with and responsible for their own grandchildren under the age of 18. This is a slight increase from 2005 when 1% of grandparents were living with and responsible for their own grandchildren.

Language Spoken at Home

- Since 2005 there has been an increase in the number of individuals that speak a language other than English at home, from 10% of the population (over 5 years old) to 15% in 2011.
- However, the portion of residents that speak English less than “very well” has remained consistent since 2005, only increasing from 6.3% to 6.8%.


5  Adequate Yearly Progress Reports. Accountability Services Division. NC Department of Public Instruction. [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/ayresults](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/ayresults)