

Wake County Facts

Founded in 1771, Wake County is consistently ranked as one of the best places in which to live, work, and raise a family in the United States. Located in the east central section of North Carolina, Wake County's 750,000 residents (2005 forecast) can reach either the Atlantic Coast beaches or the Blue Ridge mountains by traveling only a few hours in either direction.

As home to the internationally-acclaimed Research Triangle Park, along with Durham County, the area provides a world-class combination of economic vitality, education opportunity, environmental quality and community quality-of-life. A well-rounded combination of business and industry, higher education, historic preservation, arts and culture, and trees, greenways and lakes offers Wake County residents a quality lifestyle with excellent job and educational opportunities, whether they prefer rural or urban settings.

Wake County contains twelve municipalities including the city of Raleigh, which is the state capital and county seat. The County is governed by the seven-member Wake County Board of Commissioners, who are elected at large to serve four-year terms. Terms are staggered so that, every two years, three or four Commissioners are up for election. Under their direction, the County Manager oversees the daily provision of services to citizens ranging from health programs and other human and social services to parks and recreational opportunities, land use planning and zoning responsibilities, law enforcement and public safety, solid waste disposal and recycling, and libraries.

The outstanding universities and medical facilities in this area provide research and learning opportunities whose benefits extend throughout the world. Three major universities, including North Carolina State University in Wake County, Duke University in Durham County and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in Orange County, have reputations among the finest teaching and research schools in the country.

Wake County's largest employers include the State of North Carolina, International Business Machines Corporation, the Wake County Public School System, North Carolina State University, SAS Institute, Rex Healthcare, Progress Energy, Wake County Government, and the City

of Raleigh.

Recreation and leisure services range from lakes and parks to the North Carolina Symphony and North Carolina Museum of Art (both located in Raleigh). Wake County is home to the Carolina Mudcats, a double-A affiliate of the Florida Marlins baseball team, and the 2003 Southern League Champions. Wake County also enjoys a professional hockey team, the Carolina Hurricanes. The Hurricanes began playing their first season in 1997 and now play at the RBC Center, a local entertainment and sports arena.

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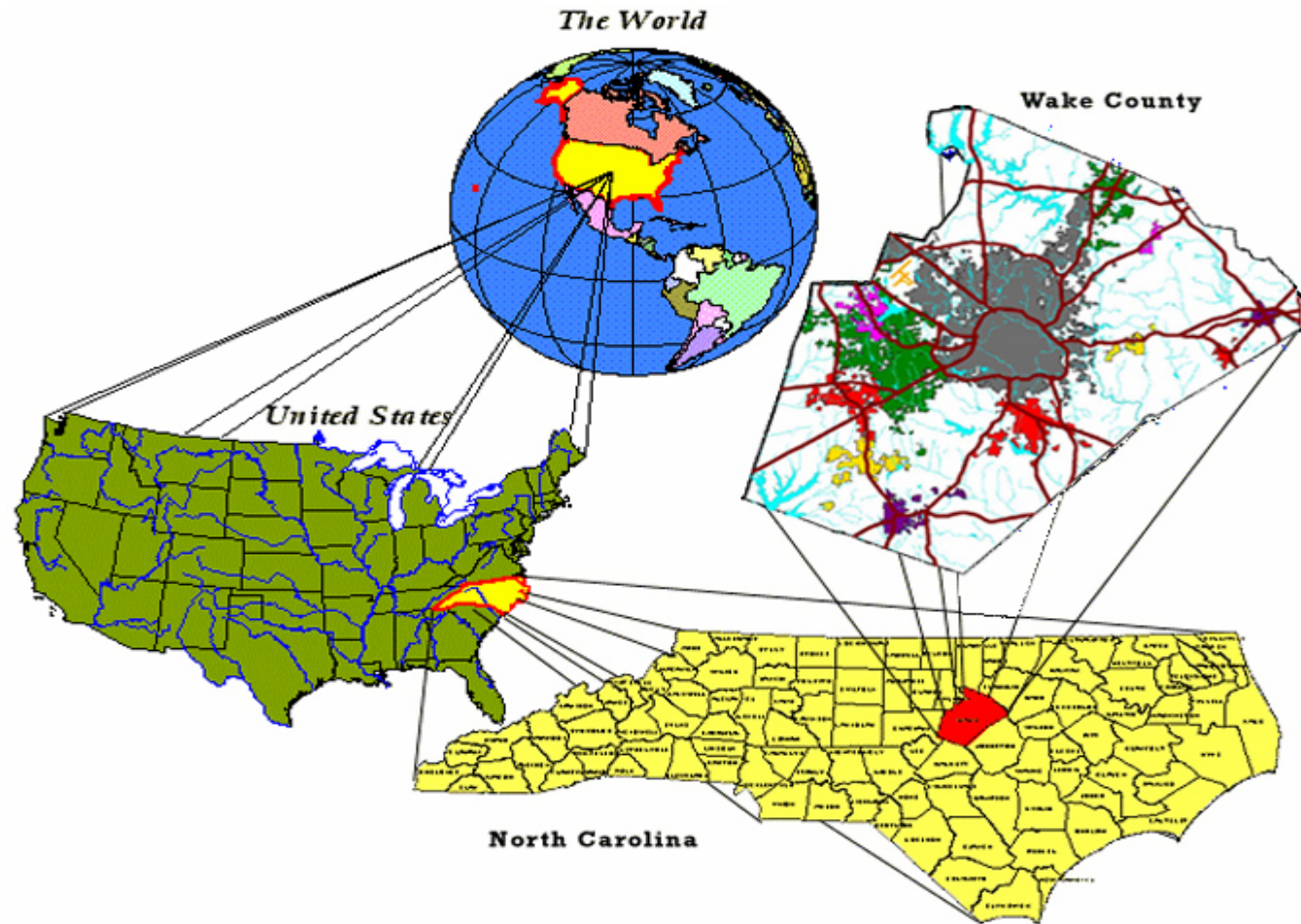
Wake County

Date Established	1771
Location of Wake County	East central section of North Carolina, located on the eastern edge of the Piedmont Plateau. The Neuse River and Little River flow north to south across the County.
Land Area	Approximately 832 total square miles (land and water approximately 857 square miles)
County Seat	Raleigh
County 2003 Population (1)	699,503
Municipalities	Population
Apex	24,701
Cary	106,264
Fuquay-Varina	9,726
Garner	20,144
Holly Springs	12,375
Knightdale	6,484
Morrisville	10,721 (2)
Raleigh	312,671
Rolesville	985
Wake Forest	16,415
Wendell	4,599
Zebulon	4,336
Unincorporated areas of Wake County	170,082

(1) The most current official NC State Demographer's Office county and municipal population estimates.

(2) This estimate does not reflect Morrisville's March 2004 special census count—11,915 residents.

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According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Wake County's population continues to change, becoming a more urban, and ethnically diverse county. With a July 1, 2004 Census population estimate of 719,520 residents - reflecting a growth rate of approximately 15% since April 1, 2000 - Wake County remains the second most populous county in North Carolina (after Mecklenburg - 771,617 residents). It is the only county that ranks among the state's Top 10 counties in total population—2nd—and rate of population growth—8th. Wake County has gained almost 92,000 residents between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2004. Most of the increase is a result of migration—both from

moves originating within the United States and internationally.

Wake County continues to experience a significant growth in its Hispanic population. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Hispanic residents increased by a rate of 530 percent—from 5,396 to 33,985. According to U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2003 estimates, 45,799 of Wake County's 695,681 residents were of Hispanic origin. Note: The Census Bureau will publish county-level 2004 Hispanic origin data later this year

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Demographic Statistics

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Population Estimate (1)	School Enrollment (2)
1996	550,532	85,411
1997	571,852	89,441
1998	593,001	91,911
1999	612,503	95,010
2000	634,003	97,691
2001	658,490	101,432
2002	679,510	104,461
2003	699,503	108,969
2004	725,902	114,068
2005	749,989	118,041 – 119,221

(1) North Carolina State Demographer's Office July 1 Population Estimates. Wake County Planning Projections for 2004 and 2005

(2) Wake County Public Schools Historic 20th Day Membership. Projected 2005-2006

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Unemployment Rate (4)	Per Capita Income (5)
1996	2.2%	28,253
1997	1.9%	30,181
1998	1.6%	32,056
1999	1.4%	33,435
2000	1.7%	35,959
2001	3.1%	36,145
2002	5.6%	35,515
2003	5.2%	35,864
2004	4.7%	Not available from this source
2005	4.5%	Not available from this source

(4) North Carolina Employment Security Commission: June unemployment rate, 2005—February.

(5) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA1-3 Per Capita.

Wake County Facts

Wake County Ten Largest Taxpayers	2004 Assessed Valuation	Tax Levy
Progress Energy	\$2,085,524,664	\$12,596,569
Cisco Systems, Inc.	375,509,383	2,268,077
BellSouth Telephone Co.	329,649,564	1,991,083
NC Eastern Municipal Power Agency	321,779,094	1,943,546
SAS Institute, Inc.	286,136,802	1,728,266
Weeks Realty LP	269,314,407	1,626,659
CVM Holdings, LLC	173,085,658	1,045,437
Highwoods Realty LTP Partnership	165,141,699	997,456
Public Service Co. of NC, Inc.	150,686,129	910,144
SmithKline Beecham Corporation	133,514,091	806,425
Total	\$4,290,341,491	\$25,913,663

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