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Cleveland County is located in the rolling Piedmont of the southwestern portion of North Carolina. Pivotal in 1780 in halting the British advance into North Carolina at the Battle of Kings Mountain, the county was formed from two others in 1841 and named in honor of Revolutionary War hero Col. Benjamin Cleveland.

The county seat of Shelby was established the following year, named in honor of another war hero, Col. Isaac Shelby. The picturesque court house, now serving as the Cleveland County Historical Museum, was built in 1907 and still serves as the center of the uptown business district.

Just west of Charlotte, Cleveland County has convenient access to the I-85 corridor, and Charlotte Douglas International Airport provides reliable infrastructure for local industry's transportation needs. Cleveland Community College offers a diverse set of programs, including associate programs in applied science degrees with 28 technical specialty areas. The college serves approximately 10,000 students each year in both curriculum and continuing education programs.



Until the 1960s the county's primary form of subsistence was agriculture. Wheat, sweet potatoes and oats were all grown in the area, but cotton was king. During the height of cotton production there were 25 textile plants located in the county. By 1960 there were also more than 400 dairy farmers.

While agriculture continues to be an important part of the county's economy today, manufacturing also plays a major role. Truck cabs, motorcycles, transmissions, aircraft tires, ceramic capacitor material, electric motors, production equipment and specialized textiles are manufactured at local operations.

One of Cleveland's largest and oldest employers, PPG Industries, opened its fiber glass plant in 1959 and has undergone several expansions since then. The company continues to be one of Cleveland County's best success stories and major employers. Additional major employers in the county include Hanesbrand., Curtiss-Wright Flight Systems, Eaton Corp. and Baldor Electric Co.

Telerc, an outsource provider for customer care services, also selected Cleveland County for its sixth customer contract center and built a 60,000 square foot facility in Kings Mountain. In October 2009, Southern Power broke ground on a 275 acre tract for a 720-megawatt electric generating plant that will include four Siemens F Class turbines fueled by natural gas. All four units should be in operation in early 2012. Duke Energy Carolinas will also be locating a 150,000 square foot corporate training center in Cleveland County. Recently, Clearwater Paper Corporation announced a new 700,000 square foot tissue/paper towel manufacturing facility in Shelby, which will employ over 300 people.



Total Population, 2010	99,430
Total Households, 2010	38,395
Median Age, 2010	39.3
Projected Population, 2015	100,427

Educational Attainment, 2010

Population 25 and Older	66,773
High School Diploma	35.3%
Some College	18.7%
Associate's Degree	9.4%
Bachelor's Degree	10.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.8%
2010 SAT score, county average	1,450
2010 SAT score, state average	1,485

Income, 2010

Median Household Income	\$42,670
Per Capita Income	\$20,156

Employment by Industry, 2010

Agriculture, Mining	1.1%
Construction	7.0%
FIRE	3.6%
Manufacturing	23.2%
Public Administration	3.8%
Retail Trade	11.0%
Wholesale Trade	3.5%
Services	41.3%
Transportation, Utilities	4.2%
Total Employment, 16+	42,260

Labor Force, 2009

Labor Force	50,334
Unemployment Rate	14.6%

Source: ESRI 2010, NC Dept of Public Education, NC ESC

MAJOR EMPLOYERS (non government/retail)

Company	Major Product	Employees
Hanesbrands	Textile Manufacturing	500-999
PPG Industries	Fiber Glass Building Materials	550
Baldor Electric Company	Electric Motors	500-999
Eaton Corporation	Electrical Components and Systems	250-499



Average Weekly Wage 2009

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	\$550
Utilities	\$1,069
Construction	\$619
Manufacturing	\$863
Wholesale Trade	\$682
Retail Trade	\$482
Transportation & Warehousing	\$609
Information	\$645
Finance & Insurance	\$754
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$492
Professional & Technical Services	\$727
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$910
Administrative & Waste Services	\$410
Educational Services	\$604
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$693
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	\$307
Accommodation & Food Services	\$232
Public Administration	\$682
Average Weekly Wage	\$620

Unemployment Insurance

New Employers (per \$100)	1.2%
Deficit Employers (max rate)	6.84%
Minimum Tax Rate	0.0%
Taxable Base	\$19,700

Inventory Tax

Finished Goods	none
Raw Materials	none
Goods in Process	none
Mat'l consumed in Mfg.	none

Sales Tax, General

State	5.75%
Local	2.0%

Sales Tax, Special Provisions

Electricity (farms and manufacturing exempt)	3.0%
Natural Gas	% of receipts
Manufacturing Fuels	none
Manufacturing Equipment	none
Telecomm Service: Intrastate (state + county)	8%

Education

Public Schools	29
Private Schools	1
School Districts	1
Colleges & Universities	1

Announced Jobs & Investments

Jobs announced, 2008	323
Total investment announced, 2008	\$2,500,000,000

Accessibility

Nearest Major City	Charlotte
Distance to Nearest Major City	47 miles
Nearest Commercial Airport	CLT
Runway Length	10,000 ft
Distance to Nearest Airport	38 miles
Nearest Interstate	I-85
Distance to Nearest Interstate	12 miles
Nearest Deepwater Port	Port of Charleston
Distance to Nearest Deepwater Port	254 miles
Foreign Trade Zone Accessibility	Yes
Population within 50 mile radius, 2009	2,605,558

Development Capacity

Wastewater Treatment Capacity Available	Yes
Natural Gas Available	Yes

Taxes, Sales & Service

Property Taxes/\$100 value (10-11)	\$0.75
Taxable Retail Sales (Mil\$, F2008)	\$661.7
Number of Physicians, 2007	174
Physicians per 10,000 population, 2007	18
RN per 10,000 population, 2007	91
Dentists per 10,000 population, 2007	3

Sources: County data and NC Department of Revenue