



# Q2 ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Watauga County's Current Economic Conditions  
July, 2021

\*Data references found on page 2.



## RESIDENTIAL HOME SALES

**726** | **448** | **47%**  
(HC 2Q 2021) | (HC 2Q 2020) | (% 2Q '21 Wat. CO)

## NET SALES TAX COLLECTIONS

**\$2,120,854.17** | **\$2,390,474.81** | **\$1,369,173.90**  
MAY 2021 | APRIL 2021 | MAY 2020

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

<b>3.6%</b> <small>(Watauga)</small>	<b>4.5%</b> <small>(NC)</small>	<b>5.8%</b> <small>(U.S)</small>	<b>3.2%</b> <small>(Watauga)</small>	<b>4.4%</b> <small>(NC)</small>	<b>6.1%</b> <small>(U.S)</small>	<b>11.3%</b> <small>(Watauga)</small>	<b>12.7%</b> <small>(NC)</small>	<b>13.3%</b> <small>(U.S)</small>
<b>MAY 2021</b>			<b>APRIL 2021</b>			<b>MAY 2020</b>		

## OCCUPANCY TAX COLLECTIONS

**\$1,533,170.32** | **\$1,536,179.02**  
(MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2021) | (MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2019)  
**.19% DECREASE**

## NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOMES (APPLICATIONS RECEIVED)

**80** | **55** | **145%**  
(2Q 2021) | (2Q 2020) | (% Change)

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### DR. HARRY DAVIS, PHD

NCBA PROFESSOR OF BANKING, ECONOMIST


North Carolina's unemployment rate for May at 4.5% is well under the national rate of 5.9%. Watauga county's rate is even less at 3.6% and only two counties in the state have a lower rate.

Tourism and restaurant sales are in full swing. Occupancy taxes continue to be at record levels. Finding a sufficient number of employees is a major problem.

Real estate sales in the High Country continue at a very robust level. For the year, real estate sales may not exceed last year's level due to the lack of inventory. Home prices are up over 30% since last June. As an aside, home prices in the US rose by the greatest amount in the first quarter of this year than any quarter on record. Housing permits in May were up almost 30% over the April number. Housing permits are strong, but demand is even greater.

While sales taxes were down slightly in May from April, they are well above the level in May 2020. Tourists continue to come to Boone and bring their money.

North Carolina is on schedule to run a large state budget surplus this year. That will bode well for Appalachian State University and thus for Boone.

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- Housing sales data provided by the High Country Association of Realtors, HC = Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, & Watauga Counties.
  - Sales Tax data provided by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.
  - Occupancy Tax data provided by the Watauga Co. TDA. Total includes Boone, Blowing Rock, and Watauga County.
  - Unemployment data reported by the NC Department of Commerce.
  - New Single Family Home Application data provided by Watauga County, Town of Beech Mountain, Town of Boone, Town of Blowing Rock, & Town of Seven Devils.