Mecklenburg County, North Carolina — #1 of 7: Construction Establishments

Mecklenburg leads NC in construction establishments

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina · U.S. Census Bureau 2022

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THE DATA

3,020

Construction Establishments (2022)

Mecklenburg County hosts the highest number of construction establishments among all Charlotte metro counties.

This figure—3,020—represents a concentration of active construction firms, from residential developers to specialty trades, indicating deep market confidence. The scale of this activity is unmatched in the region and reflects sustained investment in infrastructure, housing, and commercial space.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 23 (Construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-08-charlotte-ind-23-county

01

Development density signals long-term growth

Mecklenburg County’s dominance in construction establishments is not a short-term spike but a structural advantage. The high number of active firms suggests a mature, self-sustaining ecosystem of contractors, suppliers, and project managers—what economists call a 'cluster effect.' This cluster reduces transaction costs, accelerates project timelines, and attracts further investment.

The concentration is not accidental. It reflects decades of policy, infrastructure investment, and private capital accumulation that have made Mecklenburg the economic nucleus of the Charlotte metro.

02

The cost of being first is rising

While Mecklenburg leads in volume, this dominance also reflects increasing friction in the system. With 3,020 establishments operating in a single county, competition for skilled labor, materials, and permitting capacity has intensified.

This density may eventually strain supply chains and slow project completion times—especially in high-demand submarkets. The next wave of growth may shift to adjacent counties like Union or Cabarrus, where infrastructure is expanding but development is still nascent, offering earlier-stage advantages.

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