Wake County, North Carolina — #1 of 8: Residential Builders

Wake County Has 5x More Builders Than Durham

The Triangle's construction engine is concentrated in one county.

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THE DATA

963

Residential Builders

Wake County leads the Triangle in residential construction establishments.

With 963 residential building construction establishments, Wake County far outpaces its neighbors. This figure represents the total number of active firms in the NAICS 2361 sector—residential building construction—across the region's counties. The concentration of builders in Wake reflects not just demand, but the institutional capacity to scale construction output.



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 2361 (Residential building construction) · Published November 08, 2026
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-08-triangle-ind-2361-county

01

Growth Is Not Distributed

This is not a temporary spike but a structural feature—Wake has developed a self-reinforcing construction ecosystem, including access to permitting infrastructure, labor pools, and supply chains. The result is a feedback loop where more builders attract more activity, which in turn draws more builders.

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02

The Risk of Over-Reliance

This concentration poses systemic risk. If Wake's construction sector slows—due to regulatory shifts, material shortages, or economic downturn—there is no ready substitute within the Triangle. Johnston and Orange Counties, while active, operate at a fraction of Wake's scale. The region's growth model, while efficient, is vulnerable to localized shocks. Long-term resilience will require intentional investment in builder capacity across all Triangle counties.

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Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902

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