

Community Profile

Bland County, Virginia



Bland County

The County of Bland is strategically located at the center of the U.S. Eastern Market and is within one day's drive of more than one-half of the U.S. population.

Bland County is an excellent location for business. Interstate 77 cuts through the middle of the county and positions the county to be strategically located in the center of the U.S. Eastern markets. Bland County is a rural area whose people continue to practice a traditional work ethic not found in many other areas. The county is known for its two tunnels on Interstate 77 that are located at each end of the county and offer a memorable experience. Bland County has land and infrastructure available for businesses to locate in our Bland Commerce Park. Visit us and see our opportunities.

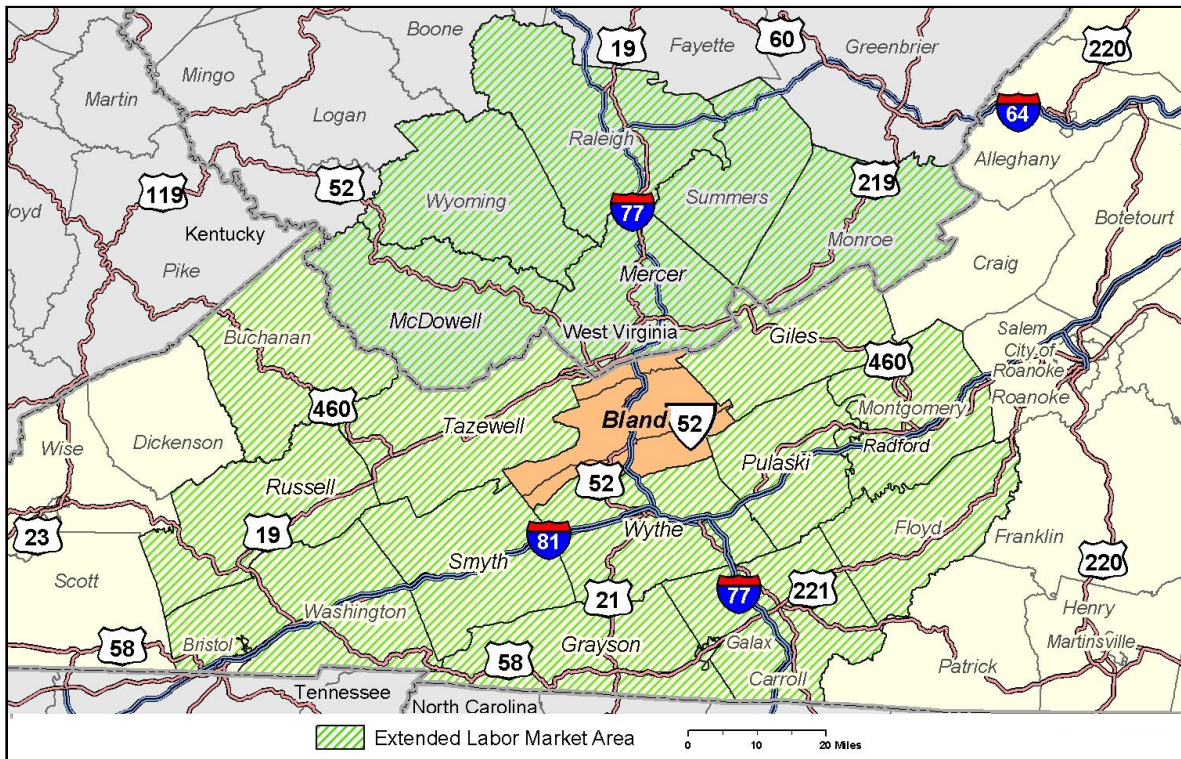


Location

Positioned as the front door to southwestern Virginia, the County of Bland is contiguous to West Virginia and has arterial access to the coal fields of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, as well as the industry's major suppliers.

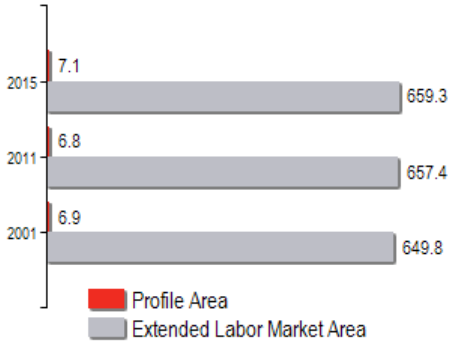
Bland County is located in southwestern Virginia on the border of West Virginia. The county is strategically positioned on Interstate 77 with the intersection of I-77 and I-81, 13 miles to the south of the county. This location gives Bland County ready access to the markets of the Great Lakes Region, the Northeast and the Southeast.

Roanoke is approximately 90 miles east and Richmond, the state capital, is 250 miles east.

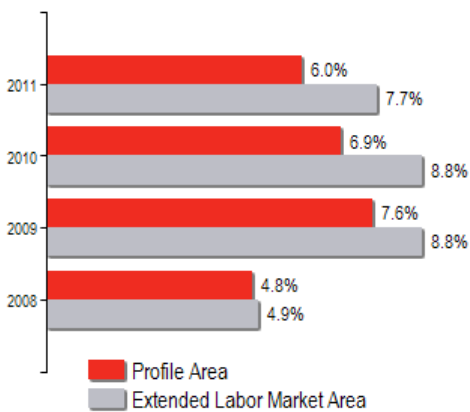


Labor Market Data

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Population

Gender Distribution (2011)	Male	Female
Bland County	55.2%	44.8%

Race/Ethnicity (2011)

Classification	Profile Area	Labor Area
White	6,499	612,077
Black	244	27,078
Two or More	51	8,372
Asian	22	8,264
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1,432
Pacific Islander	1	180
Hispanic (may be of any race)	50	1,000

Median Age (2011) 44 years

Civilian Labor Force 2011

Bland County	3,477
Surrounding Labor Area	302,774
Total	306,251

Labor Force Participation 2000 Census

Bland County	49.3%
Surrounding Labor Area	53.2%

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (March 2012)	
Bland County	5.6%
Labor Area	6.8%
Statewide	5.7%

Unemployed (2011)

Bland County	208
Labor Area	23,388
Total	23,596

Underemployed (4th Quarter 2011)

Bland County	391
Labor Area	31,930
Total	32,321

Labor Market Data

"With its excellent workforce to draw from, access to dual interstates, and low cost of doing business, the County of Bland is an excellent choice for any business or industry." Todd Hodge, President, Quarter Tyme, Inc.

Commuting Patterns -- 2000 Census		
Live and work in Bland County:	1,191	36.2%
Total In-Commuters:	657	20.0%
Total Out-Commuters:	1,439	43.8%
Net Out-Commuters:	782	
In-Commuters From:		
Wythe Co. VA	212	32.3%
Mercer Co. WV	176	26.8%
Tazewell Co. VA	80	12.2%
Giles Co. VA	66	10.0%
Pulaski Co. VA	37	5.6%
Out-Commuters To:		
Wythe Co. VA	521	36.2%
Mercer Co. WV	393	27.3%
Tazewell Co. VA	189	13.1%
Pulaski Co. VA	67	4.7%
Giles Co. VA	34	2.4%

Commute Time -- 2000 Census		
Worked from home	66	2.5%
Under 15 minutes	498	19.4%
15-29 minutes	905	35.3%
30-59 minutes	806	31.4%
Over 60 minutes	355	13.8%

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2010-2011)	10
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	1,547
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	8,999
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	842
Total	11,398

Labor Market Data

We are the home to many industry leaders such as ABB Inc., GIV Inc., Pascor Atlantic Inc., and American Mine Research Inc. These businesses have successfully utilized our world-class workforce, logistical advantages, and pro-business climate to thrive in today's global economy.

Career Readiness Certificate (CRC)

Regional CRC Recipients (01/01/2010-10/19/2010)	292
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Virginia's CRC assists employers by certifying that a recipient possesses core skills in applied math, reading for information, and locating information. The CRC certification is based on established Workeys® assessment tests. Virginia uses a three-tiered approach (bronze, silver, gold) to credentialing certificate holders that is based on the recipients level of development skills. (Numbers are regional, based on workforce investment area.)

Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2011)	88.0%
Percentage of Bland County population age 25+ who are high school graduates	82.9%
Percentage of Bland County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher	12.0%

Labor Market Data

We have demonstrated our ability to close deals and facilitate new business location decisions. In 2004, the County of Bland ranked 5th for Overall Economic Development Performance per capita compared to all other counties within the Commonwealth.

Employment by Sector* (4rd Qtr. 2011)		
Natural Resources and Mining	N.D.	N.D.
Construction	56	2.9%
Trade	257	13.5%
Transportation and Utilities	N.D.	N.D.
Manufacturing	537	28.2%
Information	0	0
Financial	21	1.1%
Services	254	13.3%
Government	610	32.1%
Other	0	0
Total	1,903	91.2%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

Employment by Occupation* (4th Qtr. 2011)		
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	96	6.8%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	5	0.4%
Managerial, Professional & Related	358	25.3%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	478	33.8%
Sales & Office	351	24.8%
Service	126	8.9%
Total	1,414	100%

*By Business Establishment

Labor Market Data

The County of Bland is the recent winner of the VACo Achievement Award and the VEDA Community Economic Development Award.

Major Employers

Manufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
ABB Power T & D Co., Inc.	Transformers	100 - 299
East River Metals, Inc.	Fabricated metal	20 - 49

NonManufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Bland Correctional Center	Correctional institution	100 - 299
General Injectables & Vaccines, Inc.	Wholesale drugs	100 - 299

Union Activity (2/2007 - 2/2012)

Petitions filed for decertification	0
Petitions filed for representation	0
Petitions filed for raid	0
Elections won by union	0
Elections won by company	0

Labor Market Data

Estimated Earnings (May 2010)				
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Median Wage</i>	<i>Mean Wage</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Mean Salary</i>
Office Clerks, General	\$10.79	\$11.45	\$22,448.21	\$23,820.80
Customer Service Representatives	\$12.59	\$14.69	\$26,181.95	\$30,563.90
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	\$9.15	\$10.20	\$19,034.49	\$21,213.78
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$10.33	\$11.28	\$21,491.16	\$23,471.88
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$15.30	\$16.57	\$31,834.22	\$34,447.83
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$13.57	\$14.39	\$28,235.26	\$29,926.88
Team Assemblers	\$13.66	\$13.53	\$28,406.25	\$28,151.73
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$23.57	\$24.87	\$49,022.24	\$51,723.89
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$18.40	\$20.13	\$38,273.20	\$41,862.68
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$14.44	\$14.95	\$30,030.54	\$31,100.46
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$19.53	\$21.34	\$40,633.61	\$44,396.63
General and Operations Managers	\$34.48	\$42.59	\$71,729.69	\$88,583.04
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$14.60	\$14.77	\$30,359.63	\$30,712.51
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$20.40	\$21.62	\$42,444.24	\$44,981.36
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	\$13.23	\$13.83	\$27,513.41	\$28,751.67
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$24.68	\$25.57	\$51,332.43	\$53,179.17
Teacher Assistants	\$8.77	\$10.16	\$18,242.25	\$21,129.49
Telemarketers	\$8.70	\$8.71	\$18,111.40	\$18,115.39
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$10.57	\$10.83	\$21,977.80	\$22,535.58
Tellers	\$11.26	\$11.58	\$23,419.49	\$24,093.09

Per Capita Personal Income (2010)

\$29,030

Median Family Income (FY 2010)

\$48,892

Education

Wytheville Community College offers advanced instruction and custom training programs for new and existing business and industry.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2011)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Combined	2	491
High School	2	375

Student Teacher Ratio (2010-2011)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	11:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2010)
\$9,367.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2011)
88.0%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2010-2011)
85.9%

Advanced Programs (2010-2011)

Governor's Schools

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	1
Students taking 1 or more college courses	40

Education

There is direct access to three major universities (Virginia Tech, Radford University, and Concord University), three 4-year colleges, and three community colleges all within 60 miles or less.

Workforce Development Facilities	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Bristol Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Galax Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Giles County Partnership For Excellence	Satellite Center
Marion Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
People Incorporated Workforce Development	Satellite Center
Radford Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Workforce Development Center - Christiansburg	Satellite Center
Workforce Development Center - Dublin	Satellite Center
Workforce Development Center - Floyd	Satellite Center
Wytheville Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2011	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
New River Community College	5,207
Wytheville Community College	3,792
Concord University	2,822
Bluefield State College	1,929
Bluefield College	763
National College - Bluefield Campus	†

† Enrollment figures are not available.

Transportation

With I-77 bisecting the county and only minutes from the crossroads of I-77 & I-81, the County of Bland has superior access to one of the most sophisticated transportation systems on the Eastern Seaboard.

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-77	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	4.2 miles (6.7 km.)
I-64	31.3 miles (50.4 km.)
I-381	48.8 miles (78.5 km.)
I-581	48.9 miles (78.7 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 42	Highway 52	Highway 598	Highway 61	Highway 98

Note: 4-Lane US Highways located within locality/region.

Commercial Air Service	
<i>Raleigh County Memorial Airport, Beckley, WV -- 57.7 miles (92.9 km.)</i>	
United Express	

Note: Within a 75-mile drive of the center of the locality.

Transportation

Routes 42 and 52 provide a scenic alternative to interstate travel and add a redundant layer to our transportation network.

General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Mercer County Airport, Bluefield, WV	4,742 ft (1,445 m)

Freight Rail Service

CSX Transportation

Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	348.0 miles (560.1 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Virginia and any other seaports within 100 miles.

Other Ports of Entry

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
New River Valley Airport (Virginia TradePort)	32.7 miles (52.6 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	309.8 miles (498.5 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Washington - Dulles and any other port of entry within 100 miles.

Utilities

The County of Bland has a tremendous excess of water and wastewater capacity, ease of access to 3-phase power, and a true-redundant broadband network.

Utilities	
Electric	Appalachian Power
Telecommunications	Sprint/United Telephone-Southeast
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Telecommunications	Burke's Garden Telephone Company
Water	Bland County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Bland County Service Authority
Solid Waste Disposal	Wythe-Bland Public Service Authority

Financial Institutions

The Bland County Economic Development Authority will assist qualifying businesses with accessing any and all local, regional, and state incentives and funding programs.

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2011 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	Assets (millions)
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$168,867.6
New Peoples Bank, Inc.	\$781.6

Bland County

The 369-square mile community is well known for its rich history and distinct culture.

Government

Bland County has a County Administrator and a four-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan, subdivision ordinance, and zoning ordinance.

Bland is the county seat. There are no incorporated towns within the county.

Taxes

Localities in Virginia collect a 1% sales tax. They do not tax other items taxed at the State level.

Counties and cities in Virginia are separate taxing entities. Therefore, a company pays taxes to either a county or to a city.

If a company is located in a town, it pays town and county taxes except for utility taxes which are paid only to the town and the license tax which is paid only to the town unless town law permits the additional collection of a county tax.

Manufacturers pay real estate, machinery and tools, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes.

Nonmanufacturers pay real estate, tangible personal property, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes. They also may pay either a merchants' capital or a license tax.

[Manufacturer's Tax Profile \(Bland\) pdf](#)

[Non-Manufacturer's Tax Profile \(Bland\) pdf](#)

Bland County

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the County of Bland is a natural wonderland, hosting over 74,000 acres of the pristine Jefferson National Forest.

Community Facilities

Bland County residents utilize medical facilities located in nearby localities such as Wythe and Tazewell Counties. Wythe County Community Hospital, a progressive 106-bed facility that offers emergency, intensive and coronary care services, also has a heliport for air ambulance service. Tazewell County has two medical facilities, the Tazewell County Hospital and Humana Hospital Clinch Valley that serve area residents.

With a total of 250 beds, these facilities offer a range of general medical services that include emergency care, surgery, diagnostic capabilities and obstetrics.

The county operates a public health department that offers an array of public health services.

Three physicians and five dentists maintain rotating practices in Bland County. One dentist maintains a full-time practice in the county. The county has a 60-bed nursing home, Kegley Manor that offers long-term care for the elderly.

The Smyth-Bland Regional Library serves county residents with a branch library that contains some 9,000 volumes. Residents can also utilize the library facilities at Wytheville Community College. This library has 30,000 volumes plus films, videotapes, records and a genealogical and local history collection.

Bland County

Within the county or minutes thereof, you can experience golfing, skiing, theatre, museums, fine cuisine, indigenous music, state and federal parks, boating, fishing, hunting, trail hiking and biking, equestrian and much more.

Community Facilities (continued)

Approximately 30 churches representing the predominant Protestant faiths are located in Bland County. Catholic churches are located in Wythe and Tazewell Counties. A Jewish synagogue is located in Bluefield, West Virginia.

General retail and service needs of county residents are met at several shopping locations dispersed throughout the county. Additional shopping opportunities are available at shopping centers and malls in the Wytheville and Bluefield areas.

Bland County

The County of Bland is home to 56 miles of the famous Appalachian Trail, the most of any other county along the 2,174 mile trek.

Lifestyle

As a rural community, Bland County's churches, schools, 4-H Clubs and other social and civic organizations are active in sponsoring recreational and cultural programs.

Bland County offers area residents a variety of outdoor recreational assets. Portions of the Jefferson National Forest and the Appalachian Trail are located in the county. Camping, hunting, fishing, hiking and picnicking opportunities are virtually unlimited. The area is a hunter's paradise where bear, deer and small game can be hunted in season. For the fisherman, brook and rainbow trout are abundant in the small mountain streams while bass and other species are found in the larger streams. For the golf enthusiast, Wolf Creek Golf and Country Club has an 18-hole course that is open to the public.

Other activities and sporting events available to area residents include plays, concerts, musicals and craft fairs sponsored by Wytheville Community College; professional Appalachian League baseball; and car racing in Wythe and Pulaski Counties.

Virginia's aCorridor