

Community Profile

Galax/Carroll/Grayson, Virginia

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

Interstates 77 and 81 provide easy access to Virginia, North Carolina, and Mid-Atlantic markets, and a day's drive to 80 percent of the nation's population.

An independent city and two counties working together to make a difference in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia.

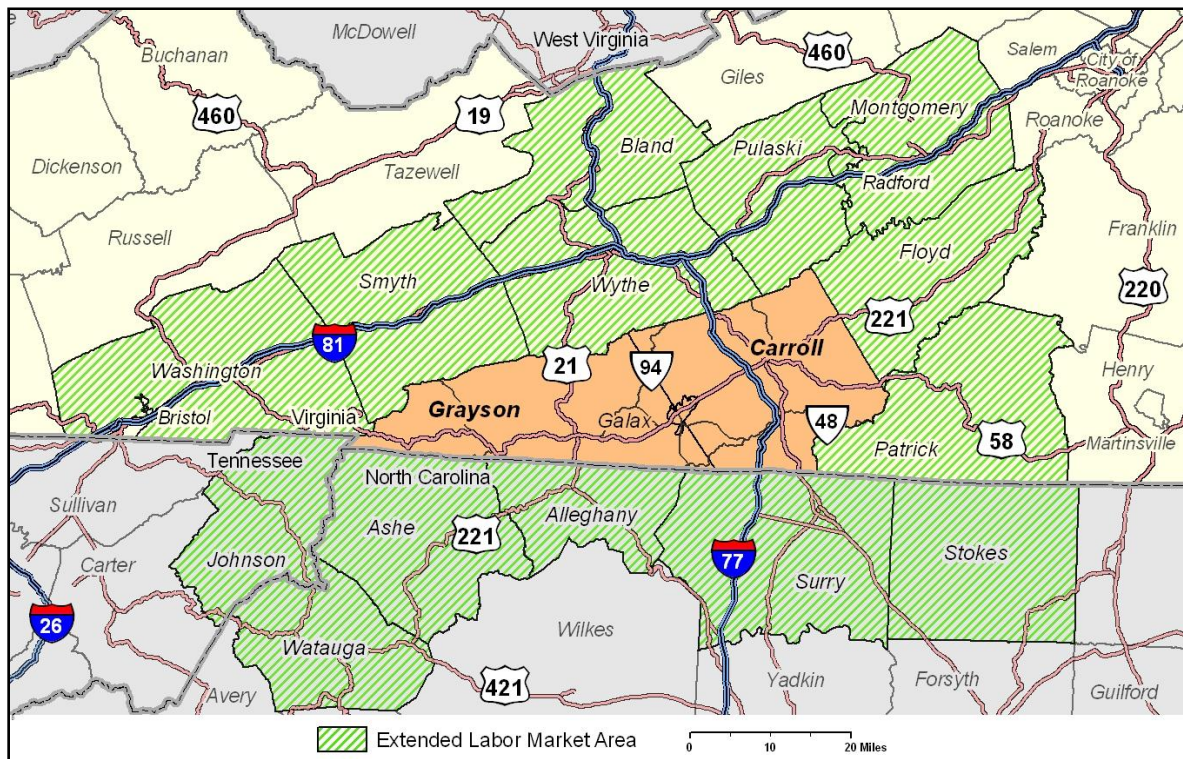
Unique to the region is an economic team that includes the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority, Crossroads Small Business Development Center and the Crossroads Institute. This group recently was awarded the 2008 Jerry W Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the University of North Alabama. The Virginia General Assembly has designated the area, "The Entrepreneurial Region of Virginia".

Location

Heritage and sophisticated training come together for a great workforce.

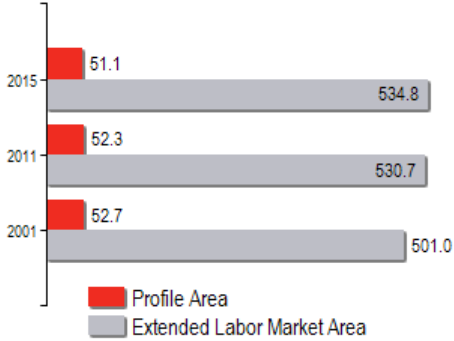
The two counties of Carroll and Grayson and the independent city of Galax are situated in southwestern Virginia, surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The North Carolina state line forms the southern boundary of the counties. Galax is located in the center of this trade area. The area's economy is anchored by a strong manufacturing base represented by the furniture, clothing, and electronic components industries.

Galax is located 313 miles southwest of Washington, D.C.; 64 miles northwest of Winston-Salem, N.C.; 262 miles southwest of Richmond, the state capital; and 294 miles west of Norfolk.

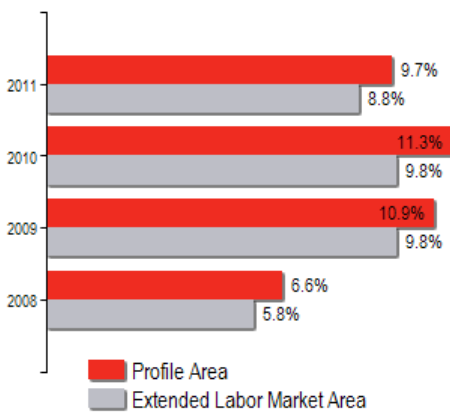


Labor Market Data

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Population

Gender Distribution (2011)	Male	Female
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	48.9%	51.1%

Race/Ethnicity (2011)		
Classification	Profile Area	Labor Area
White	50,481	495,868
Black	1,072	18,354
Two or More	424	6,826
American Indian or Alaska Native	150	1,604
Asian	129	7,862
Pacific Islander	36	210
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2,201	19,187

Median Age (2011)	
Carroll	45 years
Galax	43 years
Grayson	47 years

Labor Market Data

"Here at the Independence plant we make 125 different Nautilus commercial strength machines and ship worldwide via our company trucking fleet, common carriers and international freight forwarders." Cindy Rudy, Controller, The Nautilus Group, Independence (Grayson County), Virginia Division.

Civilian Labor Force 2011	
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	24,655
Surrounding Labor Area	262,254
Total	286,909

Labor Force Participation 2000 Census	
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	59.0%
Surrounding Labor Area	60.4%

Unemployment	
Unemployment Rate (March 2012)	
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	8.4%
Labor Area	7.8%
Statewide	5.7%
Unemployed (2011)	
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	2,393
Labor Area	22,960
Total	25,353
Underemployed (4th Quarter 2011)	
Galax/Carroll/Grayson	2,733
Labor Area	28,949
Total	31,682

Labor Market Data

Unemployment in the region is higher than the U.S. and Virginia averages.

Commuting Patterns -- 2000 Census		
Live and work in Galax/Carroll/Grayson:	17,660	66.9%
Total In-Commuters:	2,237	8.5%
Total Out-Commuters:	6,505	24.6%
Net Out-Commuters:	4,268	
In-Commuters From:		
Wythe Co. VA	547	24.5%
Surry Co. NC	324	14.5%
Alleghany Co. NC	313	14.0%
Floyd Co. VA	180	8.0%
Patrick Co. VA	142	6.3%
Out-Commuters To:		
Surry Co. NC	2,043	31.4%
Wythe Co. VA	864	13.3%
Pulaski Co. VA	610	9.4%
Alleghany Co. NC	542	8.3%
Forsyth Co. NC	321	4.9%

Commute Time -- 2000 Census		
Worked from home	627	2.6%
Under 15 minutes	7,256	30.8%
15-29 minutes	8,872	37.7%
30-59 minutes	5,509	23.4%
Over 60 minutes	1,901	8.1%

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2010-2011)	86
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	1,547
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	8,999
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	2,095
Total	12,727

Labor Market Data

A high percentage of the workforce is trained in manufacturing, forest products, light trades, and information technology.

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)	87.8%
Percentage of Galax/Carroll/Grayson population age 25+ who are high school graduates	72.9%
Percentage of Galax/Carroll/Grayson population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher	11.4%

Labor Market Data

A diversified labor force of over 58,000 is located within a 45-minute drive.

Employment by Sector* (4rd Qtr. 2011)		
Natural Resources and Mining	147	1.0%
Construction	571	3.9%
Trade	2,175	14.9%
Transportation and Utilities	237	1.6%
Manufacturing	2,861	19.6%
Information	142	1.0%
Financial	414	2.8%
Services	4,708	32.3%
Government	3,334	22.9%
Other	0	0
Total	14,589	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

Employment by Occupation* (4th Qtr. 2011)		
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	891	7.1%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	87	0.7%
Managerial, Professional & Related	2,747	22.0%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	2,668	21.4%
Sales & Office	3,366	27.0%
Service	2,712	21.7%
Total	12,471	100%

*By Business Establishment

Labor Market Data

Over 4,000 residents commute outside the area for employment.

Major Employers

Manufacturing		
<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Barker MicroFarads	Electronic components	100 - 299
Consolidated Glass & Mirror Corporation	Mirrors & glass	300 - 599
Darco Southern, Inc.	Gaskets	20 - 49
Independence Lumber Company, Inc.	Sawmill	100 - 299
Magnolia Manufacturing	Cotton yarn	300 - 599
Tritex, LLC	High temperature fabric	20 - 49

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
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$23.57	\$24.87	\$49,022.24	\$51,723.89
Team Assemblers	\$13.66	\$13.53	\$28,406.25	\$28,151.73
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
Teacher Assistants	\$8.77	\$10.16	\$18,242.25	\$21,129.49
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$24.68	\$25.57	\$51,332.43	\$53,179.17
Tellers	\$11.26	\$11.58	\$23,419.49	\$24,093.09
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

Per Capita Personal Income (2010)

\$27,601

Median Family Income (FY 2010)

\$48,665

Education

The region provides access to three strong public school programs, with all schools accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. Wytheville Community College operates an extension school at the Crossroads Institute in Galax. Private schools include Oak Hill Academy located in Grayson County.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2011)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	10	2,759
Combined	3	879
Middle	4	1,740
High School	3	2,165

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

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2010)
\$10,078.78

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2011)
87.8%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2010-2011)
83.7%

Advanced Programs (2010-2011)	
Governor's Schools	
A. Linwood Holton Governor's School	
Southwest Virginia Governor's School For Science, Mathematics & Technology	
Governor's School Enrollment	17
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	99
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	83

Education

College/university consortiums offer strong programs to the area. Major universities, including Virginia Tech, Radford University and Wake Forest University, are located within a 1½ hour drive.

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
The Crossroads Institute	Career and Technical 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>
Radford University	9,370
New River Community College	5,207
Wytheville Community College	3,792

Transportation

Interstates 77, 81, and future I-74 offer excellent transportation to metropolitan centers in Virginia and the Carolina's.

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-77	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	7.2 miles (11.5 km.)
I-381	28.1 miles (45.2 km.)
I-40	37.2 miles (59.8 km.)
I-26	41.6 miles (66.9 km.)
I-581	44.8 miles (72.0 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 100	Highway 148	Highway 16	Highway 21	Highway 221
Highway 274	Highway 48	Highway 52	Highway 58	Highway 89
Highway 93	Highway 94	Highway 97		

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

Commercial Air Service		
<i>Piedmont Triad International Airport, Greensboro, NC -- 82.4 miles (132.6 km.)</i>		
American Airlines	American Eagle	Delta Air Lines
Delta Connection	United Airlines	United Express
US Airways	Allegiant Air	

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

Transportation

Several major airports with international connections are available within reasonable drive times. A regional airport is located in Carroll County.

General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Twin County Airport, Galax	4,203 ft (1,281 m)

Freight Rail Service

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	338.0 miles (544.0 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)	35.5 miles (57.2 km)
Winston Salem	82.4 miles (132.6 km)
Tri Cities	97.5 miles (156.9 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	305.9 miles (492.3 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

Appalachian Power offers very affordable electric rates. Redundant telecommunications are available throughout the region. "The Wired Road" is a broadband initiative that transverses the region.

Utilities	
Electric	Appalachian Power
Natural Gas	Atmos Energy
Telecommunications	Sprint/United Telephone-Southeast
Water	Carroll County Public Service Authority
Water	City of Galax
Water	Town of Fries
Water	Town of Hillsville
Water	Town of Independence
Water	Town of Troutdale
Waste Water Treatment	Carroll County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	City of Galax
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Fries
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Hillsville
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Independence
Solid Waste Disposal	Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority

Financial Institutions

Several Virginia Enterprise Zones are located in the region which provide incentives to businesses who stimulate job creation and private investment in designated areas.

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2011 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assests (millions)</i>
Bank of America, N.A.	\$1,451,969.3
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	\$1,161,490.0
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$168,867.6
First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co.	\$20,566.4
Carter Bank & Trust	\$3,970.4
The National Bank of Blacksburg	\$1,063.8
Grayson National Bank	\$345.8
Bank of Floyd	\$258.8

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

Heritage events are held throughout the year. The region is rich with musical heritage and artistic talent.

Government

Galax has a City Manager and a seven-member City Council. Carroll County has a County Administrator and a six-member Board of Supervisors. Grayson County has a County Administrator and a five-member Board of Supervisors.

Galax and Grayson County have comprehensive plans and zoning and subdivision ordinances. Carroll County has a comprehensive plan and subdivision ordinance.

Hillsville is the county seat of Carroll County and the only incorporated town within the county. Independence is the county seat of Grayson County. Fries and Troutdale are other 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 (Carroll) [pdf](#)

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

Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Galax) [pdf](#)

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

Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Grayson) [pdf](#)

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

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

Various festivals and recreational facilities make the region an excellent place to work, play, live and start a business.

Community Facilities

The community's health needs are well served by Twin County Regional Hospital with 149 beds, a staff of 23 medical specialists, and state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities. The hospital's medical services include an emergency room, CT-scanning, laser eye surgery, nuclear medicine, and ultrasonography. Regional referral hospitals include the medical centers and teaching hospitals at Wake Forest University, the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, Duke University, and the University of Virginia. Five clinics are also available in the twin county area.

Seventy-one physicians and 29 dentists provide medical services to the region.

Nursing home care is available at five facilities in the area.

Nearly 200 churches are located in the two-county, one-city region, with most Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church represented. The nearest Jewish synagogue is in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The area is fortunate to be served by two regional library systems. The Galax-Carroll Regional Library System is operated from the Vaughan Memorial Library in Galax and has a branch and two stations in Carroll County. The town of Independence, in Grayson County, is part of the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library. The two systems have a combined collection of 136,000 volumes.

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

The region offers a moderate four-season environment in an air quality attainment area.

Community Facilities (continued)

The Crossroads Rural Entrepreneurial Institute, located in Galax, houses a mixed-use business incubator facility, high-tech educational center for high school and college students, and a continuing education center for GED, workforce, and corporate training.

Galax is the commercial trade center for the area. Most retail activity is concentrated in either the central business district with over 130 businesses or in several surrounding commercial shopping centers. Additional retail and service businesses are located in the outlying towns.

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

The region offers local governments working together for the benefit of industry and business by providing a friendly business environment.

Lifestyle

The Galax/Carroll/Grayson area offers a rich assortment of recreational activities and facilities. Grayson County has a 92-acre recreational park with a 25-meter swimming pool, two softball fields, a baseball park, tennis courts, picnic facilities, and hiking and fitness trails. The Carroll County Recreation Department also operates a public park with a swimming pool, softball fields, lighted tennis courts, and picnic facilities. Felts Park in Galax provides varied recreational choices including two multi-purpose athletic fields, lighted tennis courts, playground, 25-meter outdoor swimming pool, and picnic facilities. Publicly sponsored athletic programs and activities are available to area residents of all age groups. Local school facilities and community centers in Galax are also used for public recreational purposes and by area civic groups.

Felts Park is also home to The Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention. This annual gathering of musicians and fans draws 40,000 people to Galax each August. This is an internationally known event and attracts both performers and spectators from around the world.

The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the art and cultural center of Grayson County. It houses The Treasury, a fine art and craft retail gift shop, the Vault Museum, and the Baldwin Auditorium. The T. Jeff Mathews Memorial Museum in Galax houses a collection of artifacts reflecting the traditions of the Appalachians and southwestern Virginia. Also included are mounted wildlife displays of local native species and exhibits from more exotic areas.

The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area and the Jefferson National Forest combined encompass over 155,000 acres in Grayson County. This area has five campgrounds, two picnic areas, more than 94 miles of hiking trails and the 67-mile Virginia Highlands Horse Trail. In addition, miles of trout streams, two lakes for fishing and swimming and ample hunting opportunities await the sportsman. Grayson County is home of Virginia's highest peaks, Mt. Rogers and Whiteop and has 57 miles of the Historic new River flowing through it. Grayson Highlands State Park is notable for its camping, hiking, bridle trails, and some of Virginia's most scenic mountain vistas. The Blue Ridge Parkway is also located in Grayson/Carroll and is internationally known for its superb scenery and wide range of recreational opportunities. Golfers can take advantage of eight public courses in the area. Two private country clubs are also located in the community and feature golf courses, outdoor swimming pools, and tennis courts.

Galax/Carroll/Grayson

Outstanding medical facilities are available with local and university facilities within reasonable drive times.

Lifestyle (continued)

The New River Trail State Park originates in Fries and is the only linear state park in Virginia. It stretches for 57 miles to Pulaski, and 29 of those miles are parallel to the tranquil New River. The park is a historic and scenic trail for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

Virginia's aCorridor