

Community Profile

Wythe County, Virginia



Wythe County

Wythe County - Crossroads of Southwest Virginia

Wythe County was well-known as a crossroads destination for weary travelers on the early frontier. Today, in addition to being the most visited community in western Virginia, it is a key location for manufacturing and distribution. Award-winning Progress Park, the county's 1,210-acre industrial park, is located near the intersecting interstates and provides key infrastructure, including rail and fiber optic telecommunications, required by today's competitive businesses. Investigate the many cost advantages that locating in Wythe County can provide to your business.

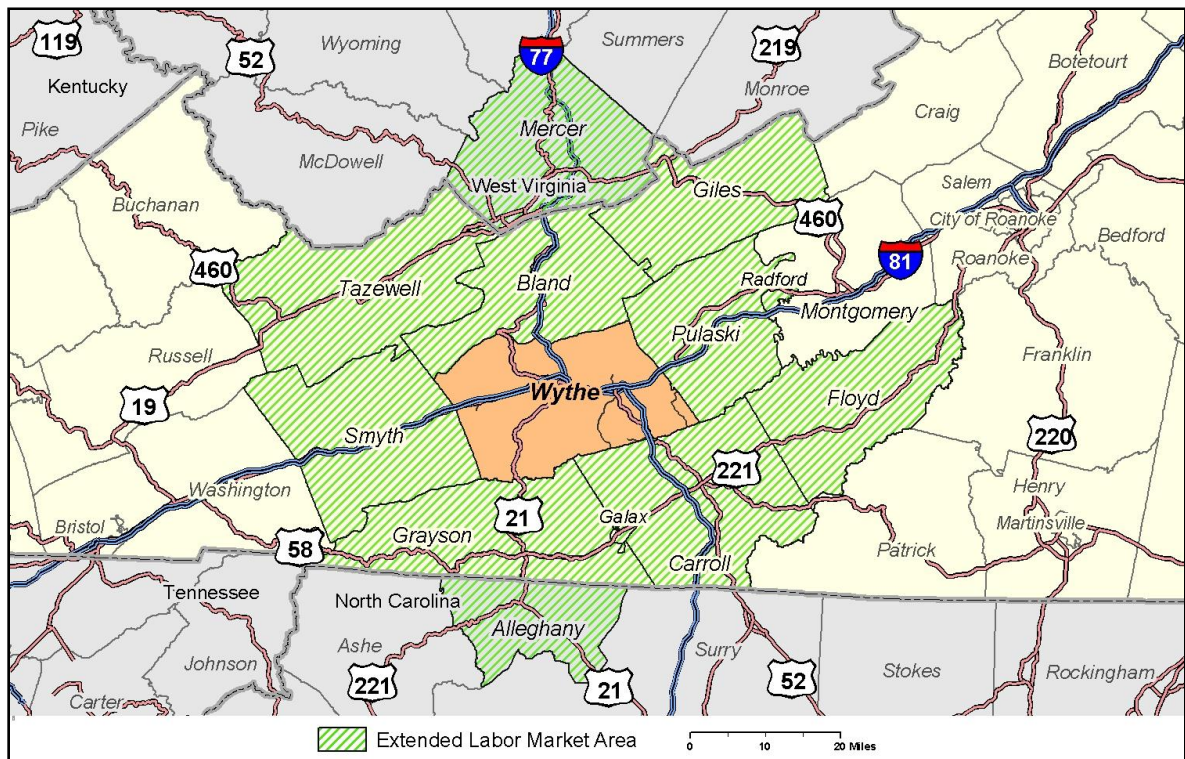


Location

Wythe County is located at the intersection of Interstates 81, 77 and future I-74 providing central access to the eastern half of the U.S.

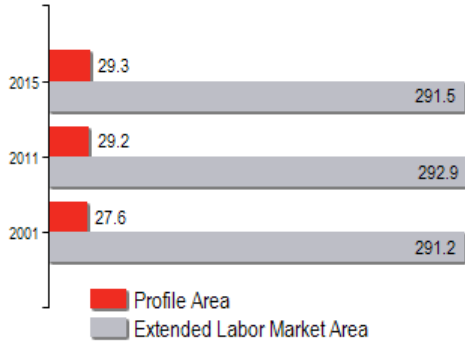
Wythe County is strategically situated in southwestern Virginia at the intersection of two major interstate highways, I-81, I-77, and future I-74. Much of the county's 460 miles of land area lies in a broad, picturesque valley bordered by the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountain ranges. Traditionally, Wythe County has been known as an agricultural county, although in recent years manufacturing operations have become increasingly important due to the interstate highway and rail transportation network.

Wythe County is 80 miles southwest of Roanoke; 70 miles northeast of Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee; and 140 miles north of Charlotte, NC.

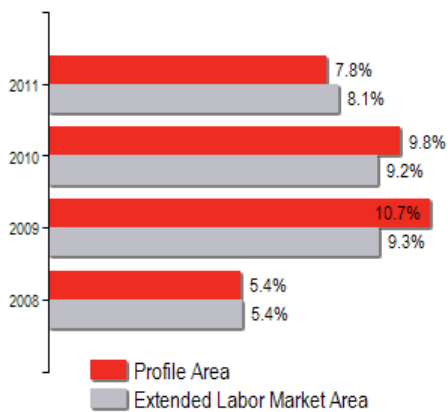


Labor Market Data

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Population

Gender Distribution (2011)	Male	Female
Wythe County	48.8%	51.2%

Race/Ethnicity (2011)

Classification	Profile Area	Labor Area
White	27,757	275,861
Black	913	11,246
Two or More	333	3,438
Asian	149	1,657
American Indian or Alaska Native	46	621
Pacific Islander	6	71
Hispanic (may be of any race)	298	3,576

Median Age (2011)	44 years
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Civilian Labor Force 2011

Wythe County	16,323
Surrounding Labor Area	135,983
Total	152,306

Labor Force Participation 2000 Census

Wythe County	61.9%
Surrounding Labor Area	56.2%

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (March 2012)

Wythe County	6.5%
Labor Area	7.1%
Statewide	5.7%

Unemployed (2011)

Wythe County	1,274
Labor Area	11,040
Total	12,314

Underemployed (4th Quarter 2011)

Wythe County	1,821
Labor Area	14,800
Total	16,621

Labor Market Data

Manufacturers often report their Wythe County facilities as among the most productive within the organization.

Commuting Patterns -- 2000 Census		
Live and work in Wythe County:	9,084	57.5%
Total In-Commuters:	2,772	17.5%
Total Out-Commuters:	3,954	25.0%
Net Out-Commuters:	1,182	
In-Commuters From:		
Smyth Co. VA	774	27.9%
Carroll Co. VA	627	22.6%
Bland Co. VA	521	18.8%
Pulaski Co. VA	268	9.7%
Grayson Co. VA	203	7.3%
Out-Commuters To:		
Pulaski Co. VA	1,307	33.1%
Smyth Co. VA	832	21.0%
Carroll Co. VA	403	10.2%
Bland Co. VA	212	5.4%
Montgomery Co. VA	165	4.2%

Commute Time -- 2000 Census		
Worked from home	500	3.8%
Under 15 minutes	4,161	33.2%
15-29 minutes	4,522	36.1%
30-59 minutes	3,112	24.8%
Over 60 minutes	743	5.9%

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2010-2011)	54
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	1,547
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	8,999
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	481
Total	11,081

Labor Market Data

Wages in Wythe are generally significantly lower than U.S. and Virginia averages.

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)	80.4%
Percentage of Wythe County population age 25+ who are high school graduates	76.9%
Percentage of Wythe County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher	13.9%

Labor Market Data

Within a 45-minute drive of Wytheville, there is a workforce of 150,000.

Employment by Sector* (4rd Qtr. 2011)

Natural Resources and Mining	198	1.7%
Construction	331	2.8%
Trade	2,056	17.6%
Transportation and Utilities	205	1.8%
Manufacturing	2,268	19.4%
Information	66	0.6%
Financial	310	2.7%
Services	3,776	32.3%
Government	2,463	21.1%
Other	0	0
Total	11,673	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

Employment by Occupation* (4th Qtr. 2011)

Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	866	8.7%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	31	0.3%
Managerial, Professional & Related	2,061	20.6%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	2,092	20.9%
Sales & Office	2,744	27.4%
Service	2,210	22.1%
Total	10,004	100%

*By Business Establishment

Labor Market Data

Unemployment rates in Wythe and the surrounding region are consistently higher than Virginia.

Major Employers

Manufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Amcor PET Packaging	Plastic bottles	100 - 299
Hutchinson Sealing Systems	Glass run channels - auto industry	100 - 299
Klockner-Pentaplast of America, Inc.	Rigid plastic film	100 - 299
Longwood Elastomers, Inc.	Diaphragms	100 - 299
Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.	Soft drinks & bottled water	100 - 299
PepsiCo	Gatorade and Propel Fitness Water	100 - 299
Somic America, Inc.	Automotive components	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)				
Occupation	Median Wage	Mean Wage	Median Salary	Mean Salary
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
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$14.60	\$14.77	\$30,359.63	\$30,712.51
General and Operations Managers	\$34.48	\$42.59	\$71,729.69	\$88,583.04
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
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$10.57	\$10.83	\$21,977.80	\$22,535.58
Telemarketers	\$8.70	\$8.71	\$18,111.40	\$18,115.39
Tellers	\$11.26	\$11.58	\$23,419.49	\$24,093.09

Per Capita Personal Income (2010)

\$28,142

Median Family Income (FY 2010)

\$54,961

Education

Colleges and universities located in the region include: Virginia Tech, Radford University, Emory and Henry College, and Bluefield College.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2011)

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	6	2,108
Middle	3	997
High School	3	1,296

Student Teacher Ratio (2010-2011)

Elementary	12:1
Secondary	14:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2010)

\$9,375.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2011)

80.4%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2010-2011)

81.2%

Advanced Programs (2010-2011)

Governor's Schools

Southwest Virginia Governor's School For Science, Mathematics & Technology

Education

The Wythe-Bland Community Foundation provides tuition for all Wythe and Bland County high school graduates who choose to attend Wytheville Community College.

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
Wythe County Technology Center	Career and Technical 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
Bluefield State College	1,929
Bluefield College	763
National College - Bluefield Campus	†

† Enrollment figures are not available.

Transportation

Located at the junction of two interstate highways (and a future third), convenient shipping access is available to and from points in the mid-west, southeast, and mid-Atlantic.

Interstates

Name	Distance
I-77	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-64	47.0 miles (75.7 km.)
I-381	49.8 miles (80.1 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways

Highway 100	Highway 11	Highway 121	Highway 21	Highway 52
Highway 69	Highway 90	Highway 94		

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

Commercial Air Service

Roanoke Regional Airport, Roanoke -- 78.8 miles (126.8 km.)

Delta Air Lines	United Airlines	US Airways
Allegiant Air		

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

Transportation

Norfolk Southern's Crescent Corridor (Shenandoah Line) passes through Wythe County. Rail-served sites are available in Progress Park, a premier 1,200-acre industrial park named a Super Site by Southern Business and Development magazine.

General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Mountain Empire Airport, Marion	5,250 ft (1,600 m)

Freight Rail Service

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	326.0 miles (524.6 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 (52.7 km)
Tri Cities	88.3 miles (142.0 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	292.3 miles (470.4 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

Electricity usage rates for industrial customers in Wythe County are approximately 50 percent of the U.S. average (based on a sample bill of 50MW/25,000MWh).

Utilities	
Electric	Appalachian Power
Natural Gas	Atmos Energy
Telecommunications	Citizens Telephone Cooperative
Telecommunications	CenturyLink
Water	Town of Rural Retreat
Water	Town of Wytheville
Water	Wythe County
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Rural Retreat
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Wytheville
Waste Water Treatment	Wythe County
Solid Waste Disposal	Town of Wytheville
Solid Waste Disposal	Wythe County Convenience Center

Financial Institutions

Wythe County is home to local offices of more than ten banking institutions.

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2011 Assets

<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Bank of America, N.A.	\$1,451,969.3
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$168,867.6
Carter Bank & Trust	\$3,970.4
First Bank-NC	\$3,289.4
StellarOne Bank	\$2,911.7
First Community Bank, N.A.	\$2,144.1
The First Bank and Trust Co.	\$1,247.0
The National Bank of Blacksburg	\$1,063.8
First Century Bank, Inc.	\$417.5
The Bank of Marion	\$348.9
Grayson National Bank	\$345.8

Wythe County

Companies with international ownership have been well-received in Wythe County. Of Wythe County manufacturers with more than 50 employees, 41 percent are internationally owned.

Government

Wythe County has a County Administrator and a seven-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan and a subdivision ordinance.

Wytheville is the county seat. Rural Retreat is the other incorporated town 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 (Wythe) [pdf](#)

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

Wythe County

The Wytheville Meeting Center offers exceptional conference-meeting and banquet facilities for up to 1,000 people. The adjoining Community Center offers outstanding recreation and community wellness facilities.

Community Facilities

Wythe County Community Hospital is a progressive 106-bed facility offering an emergency room, intensive and coronary care unit and a number of other state-of-the-art services. The hospital has a heliport for air ambulance service.

Ninety physicians and 11 dentists serve the medical needs of area residents.

Three nursing/convalescent centers are located in Wytheville and can accommodate 211 patients in addition to 166 assisted-living patients. There is an adult daycare facility and several childcare facilities for infants, preschool, and school-age children.

Primary commercial trade areas are located in and around the towns of Rural Retreat and Wytheville. Wytheville's downtown center has remained a strong viable trade area, and local merchants work closely with a downtown architectural committee to maintain a pleasant atmosphere for shopping. Four neighborhood shopping centers are located in the community. Other retail and specialty stores are located in trade areas throughout the county. The growth of factory outlet stores has become a significant trend in Wythe County.

Over 100 churches are located in the county representing most Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic faith. The closest Jewish synagogues are in Bluefield, West Virginia and Roanoke.

Wythe County

A week-long summer event, the Chautauqua Festival, celebrates the arts, culture, and history of the area.

Lifestyle

Wytheville Community College is at the center of many of the community's entertainment and cultural events, including regular plays, concerts, musicals, and craft fairs. These events are enthusiastically supported throughout the community. Area churches, schools, and social and civic organizations also take a lead role in sponsoring a wide variety of recreational, historical, and instructional opportunities. A most successful example is the Chautauqua Festival, sponsored by the Wythe Arts Council, which celebrates the community's history, culture, and entertainment for a week each summer.

Wytheville's public recreation department is active in administering a full range of youth and adult league sports, playground, and pool events. The department manages the Community Center that includes a gymnasium and meeting rooms for any number of educational and social purposes. Wythe County Recreational Department oversees Ager Recreational Park, which includes tennis and softball facilities, a unique playground for children, and picnic facilities, as well as many other recreational activities throughout the county. Both public and private 18-hole golf courses are available in Wythe County with other courses nearby.

The Mount Rogers Recreation Area, Jefferson National Forest, Appalachian Trail, and Virginia Highlands Horse Trail are located in the county and provide for virtually unlimited camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding. Rural Retreat Lake and Campground has a 90-acre, fully stocked lake, which is open for fishing year-round.

New River Trail State Park, Virginia's only linear state park, goes through Wythe County with much frontage on the New River. The Trail, which was developed on abandoned right of way donated to the Virginia Division of State Parks by Norfolk Southern Corporation, is ideal for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The Shot Tower Historical State Park, adjacent to the New River Trail in Wythe County, offers picnicking, river access, and parking.

Wythe County

There are nearly 2,000 hotel rooms and more than 60 restaurant facilities in Wythe County.

Lifestyle (continued)

Hunters and fishermen will find this region appealing as an extensive variety of game and fish are native to the area. The Wytheville State Fish Hatchery annually stocks local lakes and streams with over 110,000 pounds of brook, brown, and rainbow trout.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, with its remarkable scenery and fall colors, is less than one hour away. Nearby parkway attractions include Groundhog Mountain Resort, Mabry's Mill with its 19th and 20th century working demonstrations and exhibits, and Rocky Knob offering picnic shelters, game fields, and camping facilities. Tourists and residents alike find many reasons to revisit this unique scenic area.

[Virginia's aCorridor](#)

[Wythe County Joint IDA](#)

[Town of Wythville](#)