

Community Profile

Bristol/Washington, Virginia

Bristol/Washington

Conveniently located on the Virginia/Tennessee state line, the two localities offer many amenities.

The City of Bristol and Washington County is recognized for its strong, mixed industry base and outstanding transportation connections. Both are a part of the Tri-Cities TN/VA region that was recognized in 1999 as the first region in America to be named an All-American City. The Tri-Cities MSA Region includes nearly 500,000 and has amenities that enhance the quality of life for its citizens. Home of the world famous Barter Theatre and Bristol Motor Speedway is just a couple of those amenities.

We have always placed a strong emphasis on our outstanding business and industry sectors.

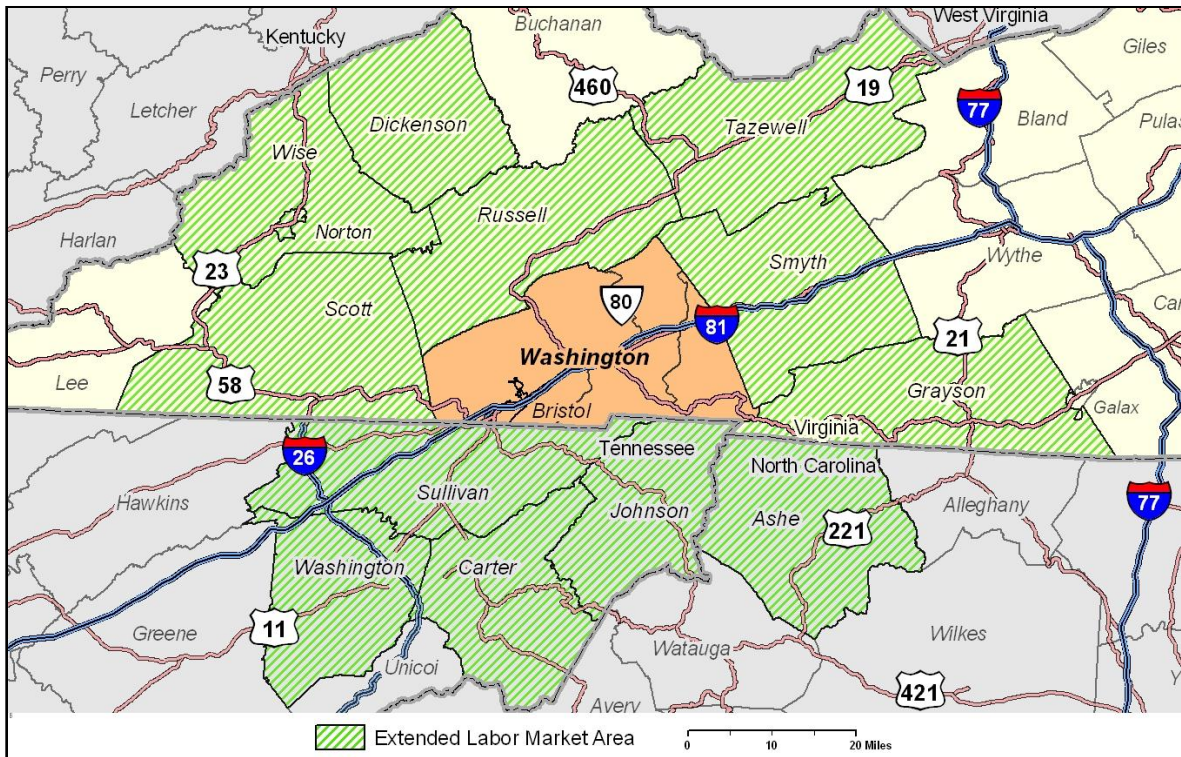
Location

The City of Bristol and Washington County are located in the first region to be recognized as an All-American City.

The independent city of Bristol is located in far southwestern Virginia and lies directly on the Virginia-Tennessee state line. Washington County surrounds the city to the west, north, and east. An excellent transportation network, utilities, and a complete array of supporting services make the community most attractive for continued economic expansion.

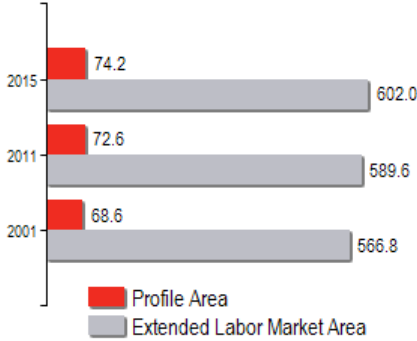
Roanoke, Virginia via Interstate 81, is 143 miles east; Knoxville, Tennessee is 118 miles west; Atlanta, Georgia is 300 miles south and the Port of Norfolk is 397 miles east.

The community is part of the Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol Combined Statistical Area (CSA).

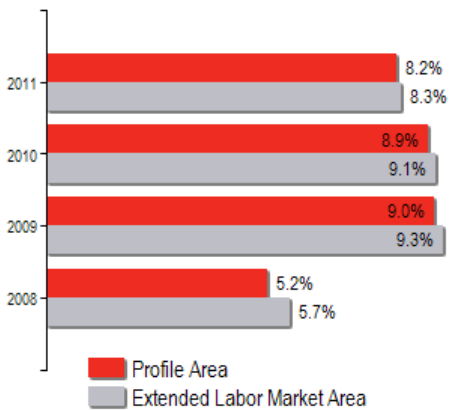


Labor Market Data

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Population		
Gender Distribution (2011)		
	Male	Female
Bristol/Washington	48.7%	51.3%
Race/Ethnicity (2011)		
Classification	Profile Area	Labor Area
White	69,391	561,602
Black	1,896	16,076
Two or More	697	6,635
Asian	387	3,594
American Indian or Alaska Native	182	1,558
Pacific Islander	24	173
Hispanic (may be of any race)	1,038	11,311
Median Age (2011)		
Bristol		42 years
Washington		44 years

Labor Market Data

The region's industrial base includes autos, electronics, compressors, mining machinery, textiles, IT, and food products.

Civilian Labor Force 2011	
Bristol/Washington	36,939
Surrounding Labor Area	284,821
Total	321,760

Labor Force Participation 2000 Census	
Bristol/Washington	58.0%
Surrounding Labor Area	56.3%

Unemployment	
Unemployment Rate (March 2012)	
Bristol/Washington	6.4%
Labor Area	7.4%
Statewide	5.7%
Unemployed (2011)	
Bristol/Washington	3,018
Labor Area	23,601
Total	26,619
Underemployed (4th Quarter 2011)	
Bristol/Washington	3,909
Labor Area	29,873
Total	33,782

Labor Market Data

"We looked at more than 30 sites in five states before deciding to locate a \$30 million glass coating operation in Washington County. Key to our decision was this region's professionalism, aggressiveness and interest in our company." Ed Weegener, AFG Industries, Inc.

Commuting Patterns -- 2000 Census		
Live and work in Bristol/Washington:	21,867	51.6%
Total In-Commuters:	11,926	28.1%
Total Out-Commuters:	8,590	20.3%
Net In-Commuters:	3,336	
In-Commuters From:		
Sullivan Co. TN	6,763	56.7%
Russell Co. VA	1,463	12.3%
Smyth Co. VA	1,281	10.7%
Washington Co. TN	539	4.5%
Scott Co. VA	239	2.0%
Out-Commuters To:		
Sullivan Co. TN	4,516	52.6%
Smyth Co. VA	1,617	18.8%
Russell Co. VA	499	5.8%
Washington Co. TN	456	5.3%
Wise Co. VA	161	1.9%

Commute Time -- 2000 Census		
Worked from home	842	2.8%
Under 15 minutes	10,191	34.4%
15-29 minutes	11,645	39.3%
30-59 minutes	6,070	20.5%
Over 60 minutes	1,709	5.8%

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2010-2011)	151
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	2,088
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	12,534
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	3,616
Total	18,389

Labor Market Data

Bristol/Washington and the surrounding area offer a workforce of more than 300,000 people.

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)	85.1%
Percentage of Bristol/Washington population age 25+ who are high school graduates	80.2%
Percentage of Bristol/Washington population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher	20.3%

Labor Market Data

Advanced manufacturing and IT industries have had much success locating suitable employees in the area.

Employment by Sector* (4rd Qtr. 2011)		
Natural Resources and Mining	251	0.8%
Construction	877	2.7%
Trade	6,352	19.8%
Transportation and Utilities	1,421	4.4%
Manufacturing	5,439	17.0%
Information	374	1.2%
Financial	934	2.9%
Services	11,634	36.3%
Government	4,788	14.9%
Other	0	0
Total	32,070	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

Employment by Occupation* (4th Qtr. 2011)		
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	2,071	7.5%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	42	0.2%
Managerial, Professional & Related	5,947	21.4%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	5,550	20.0%
Sales & Office	9,097	32.8%
Service	5,052	18.2%
Total	27,759	100%

*By Business Establishment

Labor Market Data

The localities offer several excellent locations for businesses to expand.

Major Employers

Manufacturing		
<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Ball Corp.	Aluminum can ends	100 - 299
Bristol Compressors	Hermetic compressors	1,000 - 1,499
Columbus McKinnon Corporation	Electric & hand hoists	100 - 299
DieCast Connections, LLC	Aluminum & zinc die castings	50 - 99
HAPCO	Aluminum poles	100 - 299
Mid-Mountain Foods	Grocery distribution	300 - 599
Paramont Manufacturing	Molded truck components	100 - 299
Snack Alliance, Inc.	Snack foods	100 - 299
Steel Fab	Pressure tanks	100 - 299
Strongwell	Plastic products	300 - 599
Universal Fibers, Inc.	Man-made fibers	300 - 599
NonManufacturing		
<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Boise Cascade Office Products Inc.	Office Supplies	300 - 599
Dutt & Wagner of Virginia, Inc.	Poultry & egg processing	100 - 299

Labor Market Data

Closings, Reductions, Layoffs (1/2011 to date)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Employees Affected</i>
9/1/2011	Closing	Gates Corporation*	Hydraulic systems for industrial equipment and vehicles	146
12/1/2011	Reduction	Bristol Compressors International	Compressors; air conditioning, heating	250

*Internationally-owned

Union Activity (2/2007 - 2/2012)

Petitions filed for representation	2
Elections won by union	1
Elections won by company	1

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
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
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

Per Capita Personal Income (2010)

\$32,084

Median Family Income (FY 2010)

\$49,435

Education

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Emory and Henry College, Virginia Intermont College, and Virginia Highlands Community College offer unique educational opportunities.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2011)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	11	4,692
Middle	5	2,214
High School	5	2,886

Student Teacher Ratio (2010-2011)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	13:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2010)
\$9,506.15

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2011)
85.1%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2010-2011)
79.4%

Advanced Programs (2010-2011)

Governor's Schools

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Senior International Baccalaureate (IB) Enrollment	1
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	256
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	162
Students taking 1 or more college courses	81

Education

The Center for High Performance Manufacturing, based at Virginia Tech, offers services designed to help manufacturers remain competitive.

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
Washington County Skill Center	Career and Technical Center
Washington County Technical School	Career and Technical Center
William N. Neff Center for Science and Technology	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>
East Tennessee State University	14,952
Northeast State Technical Community College	6,478
Southwest Virginia Community College	3,233
Virginia Highlands Community College	2,823
King College	1,949
Emory and Henry College	964
Virginia Intermont College	556
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center	.
Virginia Tech - Southwest Virginia Center	.
National College - Bristol Campus	†

· Enrollment figures are included in participating colleges and universities.

† Enrollment figures are not available.

Transportation

Interstate 81 offers a day's drive to 70 percent of the U.S. population. Rail service by Norfolk Southern along its mainline offers excellent service.

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-381	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-26	15.9 miles (25.6 km.)
I-77	35.7 miles (57.5 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 11	Highway 113	Highway 140	Highway 19	Highway 381
Highway 421	Highway 58	Highway 75	Highway 80	Highway 91

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

Commercial Air Service		
<i>Tri-Cities Regional Airport, Blountville, TN -- 21.4 miles (34.4 km.)</i>		
Delta Connection	US Airways Express	Allegiant Air

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

Transportation

Tri-Cities Regional Airport is a short distance away offering connections to Atlanta, Charlotte, and Cincinnati.

General Aviation Service	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Virginia Highlands Airport, Abingdon	4,470 ft (1,362 m)

Freight Rail Service
Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Seaports	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	376.0 miles (605.1 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>
Tri Cities	21.4 miles (34.4 km)
New River Valley Airport (Virginia TradePort)	84.9 miles (136.7 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	345.1 miles (555.4 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

Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) offers a complete line of services to the residents of Bristol including redundant high-speed broadband. Washington County is also served with BVU high-speed broadband, and electric power is supplied by Appalachian Power.

Utilities	
Electric	Bristol Virginia Utilities Board
Electric	Appalachian Power
Natural Gas	Atmos Energy
Natural Gas	Virginia Natural Gas
Natural Gas	Tennessee-Virginia Energy Corporation
Telecommunications	Bristol Virginia Utilities
Telecommunications	Sprint/United Telephone-Southeast
Water	Bristol Virginia Utilities Board
Water	City of Bristol
Water	Town of Abingdon
Water	Washington County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Bristol Virginia Utilities Board
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Abingdon
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Damascus
Waste Water Treatment	Washington County Regional Service Authority
Solid Waste Disposal	City of Bristol Landfill
Solid Waste Disposal	Washington County Landfill

Financial Institutions

Several local, regional and national banks operate branches in the area.

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
Regions Bank	\$123,368.2
Capital Bank, N.A.	\$6,448.0
Carter Bank & Trust	\$3,970.4
First Bank-NC	\$3,289.4
The First Bank and Trust Co.	\$1,247.0
The National Bank of Blacksburg	\$1,063.8
New Peoples Bank, Inc.	\$781.6
Highlands Union Bank	\$620.6
Citizens Bank	\$608.7
TruPoint Bank	\$455.3
Grundy National Bank	\$352.0
The Bank of Marion	\$348.9
Trisummit Bank	\$278.6
Lee Bank & Trust Co.	\$177.6

Bristol/Washington

Musical heritage runs deep in Bristol, named by the U.S Congress as the official "Birthplace of Country Music."

Government

Washington County has a County Administrator and a seven-member Board of Supervisors. Bristol has a City Manager and a five-member City Council.

Both have a comprehensive plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Abingdon is the county seat. Damascus and Glade Spring are other incorporated towns within the county. A very small portion of the town of Saltville is located in Washington 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 (Bristol) [pdf](#)

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

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

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

Bristol/Washington

Numerous recreational opportunities are available for any taste. The area is home to two nationally recognized golf courses, The Virginian and The Farm.

Community Facilities

Bristol Regional Medical Center is a comprehensive regional medical center with 337 beds and 24-hour emergency room care. Complete general hospital service is provided with modern laboratory, surgical, and clinical facilities. The hospital is noted as a teaching hospital and offers its facilities to East Tennessee State University medical students. Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon has a patient capacity of 154 beds with a medical staff of 40 physicians. Both Bristol and Washington County operate public health centers where clinics and other health services are rendered.

Over 100 doctors and 60 dentists practice in the region.

Extended care needs for 80 residents can be met at Memorial Hall near the hospital in Bristol. Additional nursing homes are available in the community.

Two public libraries, containing over 100,000 volumes, are located in the community. In addition, library collections of King College, Virginia Intermont College, Emory and Henry College, and Virginia Highlands College are publicly available.

More than 100 places of worship representing most Protestant denominations, Roman Catholic, and Jewish faiths are located in the region.

Choices for area shopping and services are widely varied with both downtown and suburban shopping centers offering a broad retail mix. The historic center of Abingdon boasts a number of boutiques and specialty shops in an attractive setting. Regional climate-controlled shopping malls exist in this area.

Bristol/Washington

The City of Bristol has been designated a 2010 Smart21 Community finalist by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), a think tank that studies the economic and social development of the 21st Century Community. ICF recognizes communities with a documented strategy for using broadband and information technology to attract leading-edge businesses, stimulate job creation, generate economic growth, build skills and improve the delivery of government services. Twenty-one communities from 13 nations have been designated Smart21 Communities. Virginia contributed three of those communities.

Lifestyle

The community is a major cultural center for the region. The Bristol Ballet Company is recognized throughout the Southeast for its quality productions. Theatre Bristol presents some 170 performances annually at the Paramount Theatre. Additional offerings include the Bristol Concert Choir, the Bristol Art Museum, and performing arts at area colleges. The world-famous Barter Theater in Abingdon continues to delight its audiences with quality drama following more than a half-century of performances. Also in Abingdon, the Williams King Regional Arts Center, an affiliate of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, houses several galleries and studios and a museum store, and holds classes, workshops and lectures.

The Bristol Parks and Recreation Department operates 15 parks and two 650-acre recreational areas and presents arts and sports instruction throughout the year. The community offers two country clubs with 18-hole golf courses and four public golf courses. Area forests, lakes and streams provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Clinch Mountain Wildlife Area, South Holston Lake, Grayson Highlands State Park, Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area, and the Virginia Creeper Trail are but a few of the major outdoor attractions. The Appalachian Trail winds through Washington County and snow skiing is within an easy drive. Each summer Abingdon is the site of the Virginia Highlands Festival that draws thousands of visitors for this gathering of artists, writers, craftsmen, and performers. The Bristol Spring Arts Festival has also developed into a successful annual occasion.

Area residents can enjoy professional baseball, as Bristol home to the Bristol Sox, minor league team of the Chicago White Sox. Bristol International Speedway is home to NASCAR sanctioned auto racing.

Virginia's aCorridor

City of Bristol

Bristol Virginia Office of Economic Development