

Community Profile

Tazewell County, Virginia



Tazewell County

Virginia's Business and Technology Gateway

The Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) is dedicated to aggressively pursuing opportunities that enhance the quality of life for citizens of the county. The County's diversified existing industry base, outstanding skilled workforce, and business-friendly atmosphere provides an excellent location for business expansion.

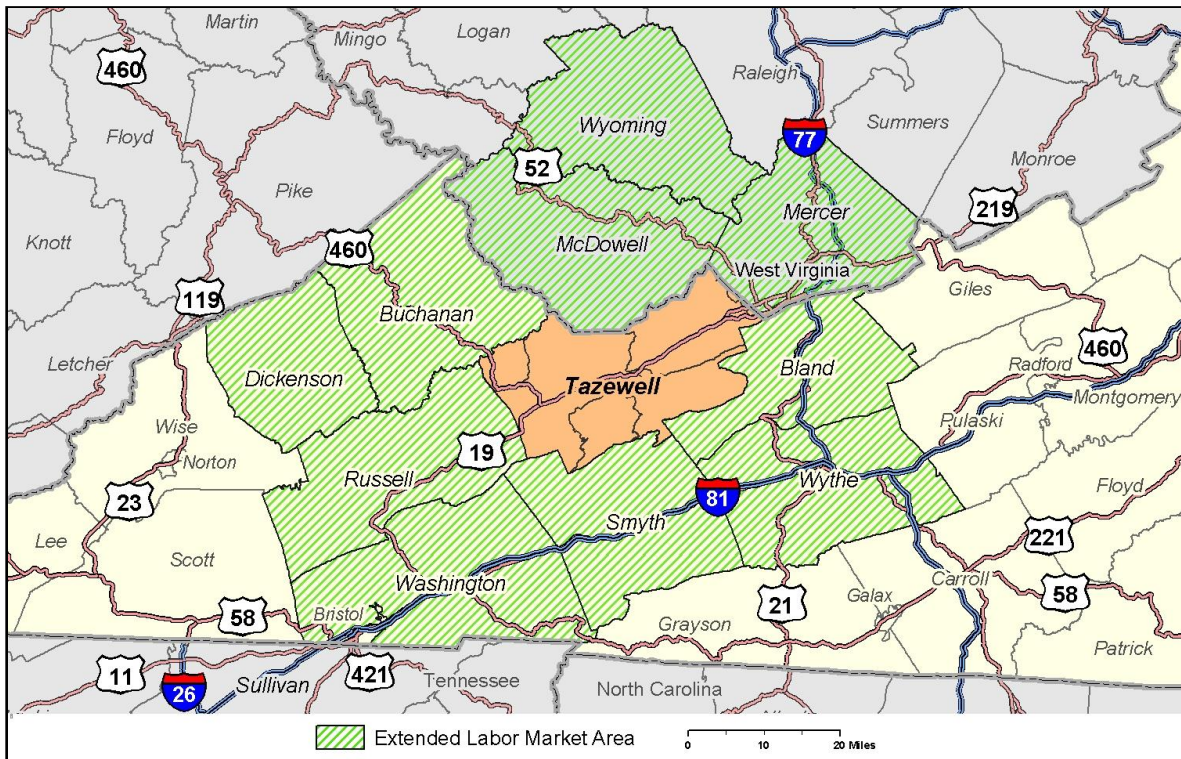


Location

Tazewell County has the diversity to move forward and the pace to relax.

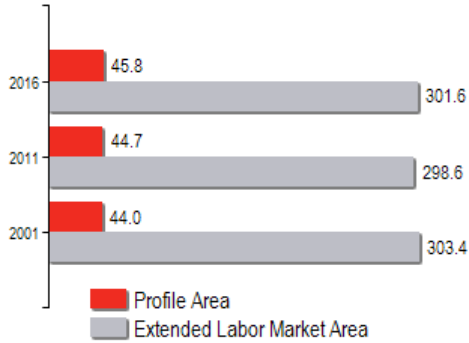
Tazewell County is in the southwestern portion of Virginia, on the border of West Virginia. It is a region of beautiful green mountains, rolling hills and wide-open valleys that covers 522 square miles. The county's accessibility to Interstates 77 and 81 makes it a convenient location for all markets east of the Mississippi and the Midwest.

Richmond, the state capital, is 281 miles northeast; Roanoke is 110 miles east; and Bristol is 70 miles southwest.

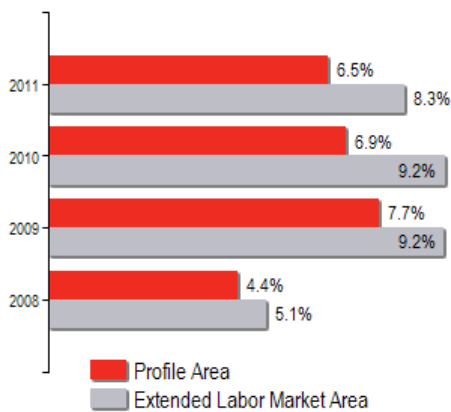


Labor Market Data

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Population

Gender Distribution (2011)	Male	Female
Tazewell County	49.5%	50.5%

Race/Ethnicity (2011)

Classification	Profile Area	Extended Labor Area
White	42,528	284,379
Black	1,388	9,791
Two or More	422	2,793
Asian	307	1,021
American Indian or Alaska Native	63	540
Pacific Islander	7	38
Hispanic (may be of any race)	325	3,250

Median Age (2011)	44 years	
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Civilian Labor Force 2011

Tazewell County	21,441
Extended Labor Market Area	131,795
Total	153,236

Labor Force Participation (2007-2011)

Tazewell County	51.1%
Extended Labor Market Area	49.1%

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (December 2012)

Tazewell County	7.4%
Extended Labor Market Area	7.8%
Statewide	5.4%

Unemployed (2011)

Tazewell County	1,399
Extended Labor Market Area	10,960
Total	12,359

Underemployed (4th Quarter 2012)

Tazewell County	2,733
Extended Labor Market Area	16,057
Total	18,790

Labor Market Data

Tazewell's employer base includes strong manufacturing, advance manufacturing, IT, and energy and research related companies.

Commute Time (2006-2010)		
Worked from home	283	1.7%
Under 15 minutes	6,093	37.0%
15-24 minutes	4,002	24.5%
25-34 minutes	2,614	16.0%
35-44 minutes	817	5.0%
45-59 minutes	1,176	7.2%
Over 60 minutes	1,617	9.9%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		25

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2010-2011)	108
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	1,603
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	7,025
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	668
Total	9,404

Labor Market Data

"We are a home-grown business--Virginia's very favorable business climate, the excellent work ethic of our citizens, the accessibility of the highway system, and VCEDA's willingness to help on any project we have that makes sense, continues to encourage us to stay right where are." Walter "Buck" Sowers, President, PEMCO Corporation.

Career Readiness Certificate (01/01/2011-10/31/2012)

Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate (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 recipient's level of development skills.

Tazewell County	105
Extended Labor Market Area	609
Total	714

Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2012)	77.8%
Percentage of Tazewell County population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2006-2010)	75.6%
Percentage of Tazewell County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2006-2010)	14.3%

Labor Market Data

Bluestone One-Stop offers training and workforce support for business and industry.

Employment by Sector* (2nd Qtr. 2012)		
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	44	0.3%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	684	4.1%
Utilities	N.D.	N.D.
Construction	672	4.1%
Manufacturing	1,649	10.0%
Wholesale Trade	549	3.3%
Retail Trade	3,026	18.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	271	1.6%
Information	95	0.6%
Finance and Insurance	398	2.4%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	175	1.1%
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	450	2.7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	340	2.1%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	348	2.1%
Educational Services	N.D.	N.D.
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,201	13.3%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	135	0.8%
Accomodation and Food Services	1,124	6.8%
Other Services	532	3.2%
Total Government	3,518	21.3%
Federal Government	72	0.4%
State Government	886	5.4%
Local Government	2,560	15.5%
Unclassified	0	0
Total	16,490	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

Labor Market Data

The Tazewell County Labor force is more than 20,000.

Major Employers

Manufacturing		
<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Bluefield Beverage	Soft drinks	100 - 299
Joy Technologies, Inc.	Mining machinery	100 - 299
Pemco Corp.	Mining machinery	50 - 99
Pyott-Boone Electronics, Inc.	Electrical equipment	100 - 299

NonManufacturing		
<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Ammars Incorporated	Retail distribution	100 - 299
Aramark Services, Inc.	Industrial launderer	100 - 299
Clinch Valley Community Hospital	Health care	300 - 599
Pounding Mill Quarry	Limestone	50 - 99
Southwest Virginia Community College	Higher education	300 - 599
Virginia Foods of Bluefield, Inc.	Wholesale grocery	50 - 99

Labor Market Data

Closings, Reductions, Layoffs (1/2012 to date)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Employees Affected</i>
4/1/2012	Closing	Bluefield Beverage	Soft drinks and bottled water	107

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 2011)				
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Median Wage</i>	<i>Mean Wage</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Mean Salary</i>
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$10.08	\$10.63	\$20,962.18	\$22,111.25
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$12.46	\$12.92	\$25,916.47	\$26,880.96
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$15.76	\$17.47	\$32,781.48	\$36,340.26
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$20.29	\$21.62	\$42,207.86	\$44,972.38
Machinists	\$17.29	\$17.45	\$35,959.02	\$36,303.19
Team Assemblers	\$11.72	\$11.28	\$24,378.10	\$23,453.21
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$24.95	\$28.10	\$51,904.48	\$58,445.72
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$15.77	\$16.56	\$32,801.39	\$34,436.04
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$16.37	\$17.26	\$34,041.57	\$35,908.43
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$16.10	\$18.57	\$33,504.13	\$38,618.98
Office Clerks, General	\$10.72	\$11.57	\$22,291.41	\$24,052.62
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$12.40	\$12.94	\$25,799.63	\$26,911.92
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$9.30	\$9.87	\$19,330.71	\$20,524.12
Customer Service Representatives	\$10.31	\$11.04	\$21,457.95	\$22,973.79
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$14.61	\$14.78	\$30,394.80	\$30,745.62
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$17.26	\$20.18	\$35,899.46	\$41,973.96
Computer Support Specialists	\$14.98	\$16.51	\$31,168.63	\$34,336.34
Network and Computer Systems Administrators*	\$25.45	\$42.65	\$52,935.40	\$88,707.20
Accountants and Auditors	\$22.68	\$25.37	\$47,176.07	\$52,750.70
Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, and Farm Products	\$21.36	\$22.16	\$44,428.19	\$46,085.82

Per Capita Personal Income (2010)

\$32,424

Median Family Income (2006-2010)

\$43,428

Education

The County has launched an innovative, educational cable network - Talent Solutions Network. This unique workforce development initiative provides free remote workforce development training programs to basic cable subscribers in the area.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2011)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	9	3,118
Middle	3	1,535
High School	3	1,899

Student Teacher Ratio (2010-2011)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	14:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2011)
\$8,664.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2012)
77.8%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2010-2011)
77.0%

Advanced Programs (2010-2011)

Governor's Schools

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Governor's Career and Technical Academies

STEM for LIFE (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for Life-Long Initiatives for Future Education)

Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	91
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	7

Education

The Richlands Business Incubator is a business resource center that contributes to the economic health of the region by providing new and increased job opportunities and adding to the variety of products and services available to the area.

Workforce Development Facilities	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Appalachian Community Action Agency	Satellite Center
Bluestone Workforce Training Center	Comprehensive Center
Cedar Bluff Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Clinch Valley Community Action	Satellite Center
Lee County Workforce Center	Satellite Center
Norton Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Occupational Enterprises, Inc.	Satellite Center
Pennington Gap Workforce Services	Satellite Center
Tazewell County Career & Technical Center	Career and Technical Center
Wise Workforce Center	Comprehensive Center

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2011	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Wytheville Community College	3,792
Southwest Virginia Community College	3,233
Bluefield State College	1,929
Emory and Henry College	964
Bluefield College	763
National College - Bluefield Campus	†

† Enrollment figures are not available.

Transportation

Tazewell County offers accessibility to Interstates 77,81, and 64.

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-77	6.0 miles (9.6 km.)
I-81	8.7 miles (13.9 km.)
I-64	28.6 miles (46.0 km.)
I-381	31.9 miles (51.3 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 102	Highway 16	Highway 19	Highway 460	Highway 61
Highway 67	Highway 91			

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

Commercial Air Service	
<i>Raleigh County Memorial Airport, Beckley, WV -- 73.6 miles (118.4 km.)</i>	
United Express	

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

Transportation

Tazewell County is served by four-lane highways U.S. 19 and 460.

General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Tazewell County Airport, Richlands	4,300 ft (1,311 m)

Freight Rail Service

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	387.0 miles (622.8 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)	66.9 miles (107.7 km)
Tri Cities	85.8 miles (138.0 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	335.9 miles (540.5 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

Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU), Verizon, Comcast, and Time Warner provide redundant high-speed broadband connectivity.

Utilities	
Electric	Town of Richlands
Electric	Appalachian Power
Natural Gas	Bluefield Gas Company
Natural Gas	Atmos Energy
Natural Gas	Virginia Natural Gas
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Telecommunications	Burke's Garden Telephone Company
Telecommunications	Bristol Virginia Utilities
Water	Tazewell County Public Service Authority
Water	Town of Richlands
Water	Town of Tazewell
Water	Bluefield Water System
Waste Water Treatment	Tazewell County Public Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Richlands
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Tazewell
Waste Water Treatment	Bluefield Sanitary Board
Solid Waste Disposal	Tazewell County Sanitary Landfill

Financial Institutions

Qualifying businesses could be eligible for assistance from the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority and the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. The Enterprise Zone can also offer incentives.

Financial Institutions — 2nd Qtr 2012 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	\$1,180,190.0
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$173,678.2
Carter Bank & Trust	\$4,297.1
WoodForest National Bank	\$3,613.0
First Community Bank, N.A.	\$2,787.6
The National Bank of Blacksburg	\$1,085.1
New Peoples Bank, Inc.	\$726.2
TruPoint Bank	\$450.9
First Century Bank, Inc.	\$423.3
Grundy National Bank	\$345.0
MCNB Bank and Trust Co.	\$321.5
First Sentinel Bank	\$168.8

Tazewell County

Tazewell County readily utilizes all available economic development tools to attract business and industry. The county takes advantage of the Enterprise Zone and provides incentives to business and industry to locate in the county.

Government

Tazewell County has a County Administrator and a five-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan and a subdivision ordinance.

Tazewell is the county seat. Other incorporated towns within the county are Bluefield, Cedar Bluff, Pocahontas and Richlands.

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 \(Tazewell\) pdf](#)

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

Tazewell County

There is access to modern healthcare throughout the county.

Community Facilities

Clinch Valley Medical Center is a 200-bed facility located in the town of Richlands. This medical facility is staffed by 75 physicians and offers general medical services that include emergency care, surgery, coronary care, extensive diagnostic capabilities, pre-natal and obstetrical care. County residents can also utilize the Tazewell Community Hospital, which is a 56-bed facility offering general medical services.

Extended care needs for approximately 100 elderly residents can be met at the two nursing home facilities located in the county.

Forty-five physicians and 11 dentists practice in the county.

The county operates a three-branch library system with a circulation of 192,788. Branches are located in the towns of Bluefield; Richlands; and Tazewell, the main office. Library facilities are also open to the public at Southwest Virginia Community College.

Retail and service needs of area residents are met through two shopping centers and the downtown business districts in the towns of Bluefield, Richlands and Tazewell.

Approximately 125 churches representing most Protestant denominations and the Catholic faith are located in Tazewell County. A Jewish synagogue is located in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Tazewell County

Recreational activities include a variety of venues such as minor league baseball, golf, hiking, and fishing.

Lifestyle

Numerous cultural and recreational opportunities are available year-round in Tazewell County. Residents can enjoy performing artist series, speaker series, and plays produced by the Tazewell Theater Group and Richlands area Citizens for the Arts (CART). The Appalachian Arts Center is a retail gallery and exhibition space featuring the work of local/regional artists, craftspeople, authors, and musicians. The Arts Center, a member and trail-site of 'Round the Mountain, Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network, offers educational workshops, demonstrations, professional development seminars as well as an assortment of evening craft classes.

The Appalachian Trail, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, Virginia Coal Heritage Trail, Wilderness Road: Virginia's Heritage Migration Route, Lake Whitten recreational area, Jefferson National Forest and the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management area offer scenic views, hiking, hunting, and fishing. Throughout the county streams and rivers are stocked with bass, muskie, and trout. Organized athletics are popular in Tazewell County where residents can participate in softball, baseball, football, and volleyball leagues. Public tennis courts and swimming pools are scattered around the county. Two private 18-hole golf courses and a public 9-hole course are located in the county. Spectators can enjoy minor league baseball with the Bluefield Orioles.

The Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park chronicles the history of the area from prehistoric to present times. The park highlights the lifestyle of the early pioneers with an exhibition of log and stone structures. The Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine, the only exhibition coal mine designated as a National Historic Landmark, is a part of the Original Pocahontas Mine. Visitors can walk through the mine with a tour guide and experience the methods of mining used in the 1880's to present day. The Town of Pocahontas is a reflection of its mining history where immigrants of Hungarian, Welsh, Russian, Polish, German, French English and Irish descent and more came to work in the coal industry. This cultural diversity is evident in the Pocahontas Cemetery, Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Opera House, and other sites and structures.

[Virginia's e-Region Profile](#)

[Bluefield MPSA Profile](#)

Tazewell County

Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority