



Buckingham County Planning Commission

Work Session Agenda

Monday, September 18, 2023 6:00PM

Buckingham County Administration Building

Peter Francisco Meeting Room

<https://youtube.com/live/IMbIR8013Bo?feature=share>

1. Call to Order by Planning Commission Chairman
 - Invocation
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Establishment of Quorums
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Discussion Topic
 - a. Comprehensive Plan with Commonwealth Regional Council
4. Commission Matters and Concerns
5. Adjournment

DRAFT Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan, 2024 - 2029

I. Introduction

A. Purpose and Legal Basis for a Comprehensive Plan

Every community faces challenges when it comes to planning for the future and managing change. While the physical manifestations of change vary from time to time and place to place, one certainty in life is that change – whether we like it or not – does occur and things will not remain the same. Buckingham County faces unique challenges and opportunities including, but not limited to: An overall population that is starting to skew older; a growing Amish population; growth and development pressures, mainly from the Charlottesville area; continued solar development; and mining.

To help address growth and change, the Code of Virginia mandates that jurisdictions prepare and regularly revise a Comprehensive Plan to guide the physical development of their communities. The Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-2223, requires that local governments develop, review, and update their Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a document used for community assessment, identifying current concerns, forecasting future needs, developing policies, and implementing problem solving strategies. A Comprehensive Plan is developed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the governing body. Furthermore, Section 15.2-2223 of the Code requires localities to review and update their Comprehensive Plans every five (5) years at a minimum.

Title 15.2-2223

Comprehensive Plan to be prepared and adopted; scope and purpose.

The local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction and every governing body shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the territory under its jurisdiction.

In the preparation of a comprehensive plan the commission shall make careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of the existing conditions and trends of growth, and of the probable future requirements of its territory and inhabitants. The comprehensive plan shall be made with the purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants.

Section 15.2-2223 further states that the Comprehensive Plan shall be general in nature in that it shall:

- Designate the general or approximate location, character, and extent of features shown on the plan, including where existing lands or facilities are proposed to be extended, removed or changed;
- Show the long-range recommendations for the general development of the territory and may include such items as the designation of areas for different kinds of public and private land use, a system of transportation facilities, a system of community service facilities, historical areas, and areas for the implementation of groundwater protection measures.

In Virginia, the local Comprehensive Plan is a guide for the governing body to follow in making both long-range and day-to-day decisions regarding all aspects of community development. The governing body can

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exercise discretion in how strictly it interprets and follows the plan. However, the Code provides that the construction, extension or change in use of streets or other public facilities be subject to review and approval by the Planning Commission as to whether the general location, character and extent of the proposed facility is in substantial accord with the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, therefore, has great control over the construction of public facilities and utilities, as well as private land uses.

A Comprehensive Plan is an important document to a local government as it serves as a tool for community preservation and development. This Plan reflects the interests of public and private stakeholders with the assurance that the community's needs are identified and met accordingly. As a community's character evolves, the Comprehensive Plan adapts through the compilation of corresponding citizen input and assessments accompanied with other data sources.

B. Developing a New Comprehensive Plan for Buckingham County

The County's existing Comprehensive Plan was last amended in 2015 and is in need of a comprehensive update to bring the Plan up to-date. In March 2023, Buckingham County contracted with the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) for assistance in updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. The process for updating the Plan took 18 months. In the early phases of the up-date, the CRC staff developed a public survey for the public to give input and participate in the process. The process included regular meetings between CRC staff and the Buckingham County Planning Commission, to review data and materials and develop/update goals, objectives and strategies. Once completed, the Plan was presented to the public for review and comment and then to the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors for adoption. This Comprehensive Planning Process addressed the major concerns of the County by identifying the fundamental, long-term goals for community development for the next five to 20 years. Furthermore, the Plan serves as a guide for setting policies for public facilities, utilities, and land use which the County will need to implement in order to achieve those goals.

C. Process for Plan Development and Adoption

The CRC assisted the Buckingham County Planning Commission in updating the Plan, gathering public comment, and presenting the Plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan includes seven (7) phases. The phases are as follows:

- Phases I and II: Collecting/updating/analyzing data, including:
 - Population
 - Education
 - Income
 - Commuting Patterns
 - Employment/Unemployment
 - Economic Activity
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Community Facilities/Services
 - Historical Sites
 - Natural Resources

- Phase III: Evaluating current land use and updating the County's Future Land Use Map.

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- Phase IV: Identifying/updating issues, and setting goals and prescribing actions.
- Phase V: Executive Summary.
- Phase VI: Public Hearing and recommendation for adoption by the Planning Commission.
- Phase VII: Public Hearing and adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

D. Overview of Methods for Identifying Issues

A range of issues, now and in the future facing Buckingham County, has been identified. Review and analysis of these issues by the public, the County staff, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors provided the basis for establishing the planning goals and policies for this Comprehensive Plan. For a more detailed review of all the input received from the issue identification methods, please refer to the Appendix materials. The major issues outlined in this Plan were identified through four methods:

1. **Community Meeting:** CRC staff held a community meeting on June 15, 2023 at the Buckingham County Community Center. *The Farmville Herald* ran an ad about the meeting, and a flyer was developed for distribution to local businesses. Buckingham County also posted a notice for the meeting on its Facebook page. The sign-in sheet showed a total of 26 people in attendance at this meeting. The CRC staff conducted a headcount and counted 36 people in attendance at the meeting. Some members of the Planning Commission attended the meeting. It is believed that many of those individuals did not sign in. The input received from attendees proved useful in developing the survey instrument and updating the Plan.
2. **Citizen Opinion Survey:** CRC staff assisted the Planning Commission with the development and distribution of the survey instrument. Surveys were made available at government offices and businesses throughout the County, and an online survey instrument was made available on the County's web site and Facebook page. Surveys were distributed on August 29, 2023, with a deadline of October 6, 2023 to submit completed surveys. *The Farmville Herald* ran stories about the surveys. A total of ___ surveys were completed and returned.
3. **Research and Analysis of Available Data:** CRC staff collected and analyzed data on a range of aspects on the County. These elements included land use patterns, environmental features, transportation conditions, population growth trends and capital facility need. Much of the information is contained in this Plan and has helped to further enhance the understanding of many of the issues identified by local citizens and by other efforts as outlined in this section.
4. **Meetings with the Planning Commission Working Committee:** The Buckingham County Planning Commission worked with CRC staff in the development of this Plan. CRC staff held [NUMBER] meetings with the Planning Commission between April 2023 and October 2024. During these meetings, the Planning Commission reviewed citizen input along with technical information and contributed its own analysis of the issues presented.

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II. Community Profile

A. Regional Setting and History

The County of Buckingham is located in the heart of central Virginia. The County consists of 582 square miles, and is bounded on the north by the James River and the southwest by the Appomattox River. Buckingham County is approximately 63 miles west of the City of Richmond, the state capital. It is approximately 45 miles south of the City of Charlottesville; 38 miles due east of the city of Lynchburg; and 173 miles south/southwest of Washington, DC. See Map 1.

Buckingham County was formed in 1761 from Albemarle County and was named after the Duke of Buckingham. It is the only Buckingham County in the United States. In 1821, Buckingham County resident Charles Yancey secured a design from his friend, Thomas Jefferson, for a new courthouse in Buckingham. The new courthouse, using Jefferson's design, was built between 1822 and 1824, but this courthouse and all of its records was destroyed by fire in 1869. Another courthouse was built on the same location in 1873 and is a registered Virginia Historic Landmark. An archeological study during recent courthouse renovation has revealed much information about "Jefferson's Courthouse" and the footprint of Jefferson's design has been preserved in the courthouse square landscape plan.

Portuguese born immigrant, Peter Francisco, is known for his American heroism during the American Revolutionary War. Francisco was raised by Judge Anthony Winston in Buckingham County after being found at a dock near Hopewell, VA. Francisco is known for pulling a 1,100-pound American cannon free from its gun carriage during the Battle of Camden. Francisco returned to Buckingham County after the revolutionary war and resided in his Locust Grove residence from late 1794 to the mid-1820s.

Known as the Father of Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson was born to Anna Eliza Riddle Woodson and James Woodson of New Canton. Woodson dedicated his career to the field of African American history and lobbied extensively to establish Black History Month as a nationwide institution. Woodson achieved many other notable accomplishments including completion of his doctorate from Harvard University and writing several historical works.

John Wayles Eppes was a successful planter and attorney who represented Virginia in the United States House of Representatives (1803-1811 and 1813-1815), and also served in the U.S. Senate (1817-1819). Eppes married Thomas Jefferson's Daughter Maria to which they had three children. After retiring, Eppes returned to his prosperous Tobacco plantation in Buckingham County and remained there until his death in 1823.

During the Civil War, Lee's army marched through the County during Lee's retreat on their way to Appomattox, Virginia. A marker in the cemetery of Trinity Presbyterian Church in New Canton reads, "According to the oral history of Trinity Presbyterian Church and this community, here are 45 Confederate and Union soldiers buried in mass graves directly behind this church. They left Appomattox after the surrender and headed for their homes north of here. Sick with disease, they died in a nearby camp. That they may not be forgotten, this plaque is placed by the Elliott Grays UDC Chapter #1877 2003"

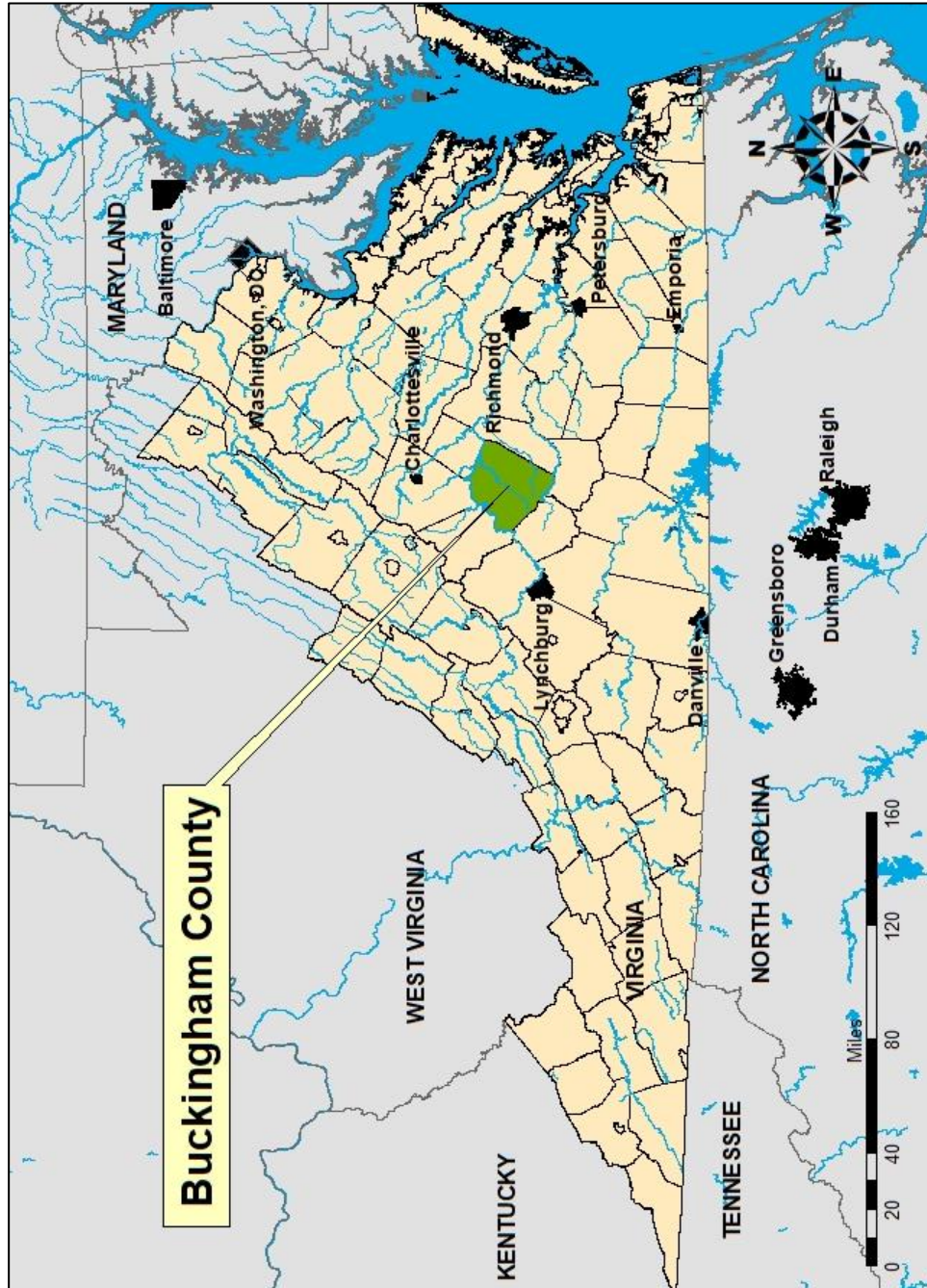
In the 21st century, large tracts of land are held by companies such as WestVaco, which sell pulpwood and other timber products to the paper mills and wood product producers. It is still largely rural, with areas devoted to recreation such as fishing and hunting. The County is home to families who can trace their ancestry to the early colonial history of Virginia. Many families still live on tracts of land that were

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granted to their ancestors in that period. Some of the land grants were originally given to French Huguenots, who resettled from London, England in the southwestern part of the county in the early 1700s.

Sources: Virginia Department of Historical Resources, Buckingham County VA Website, Monticella.org

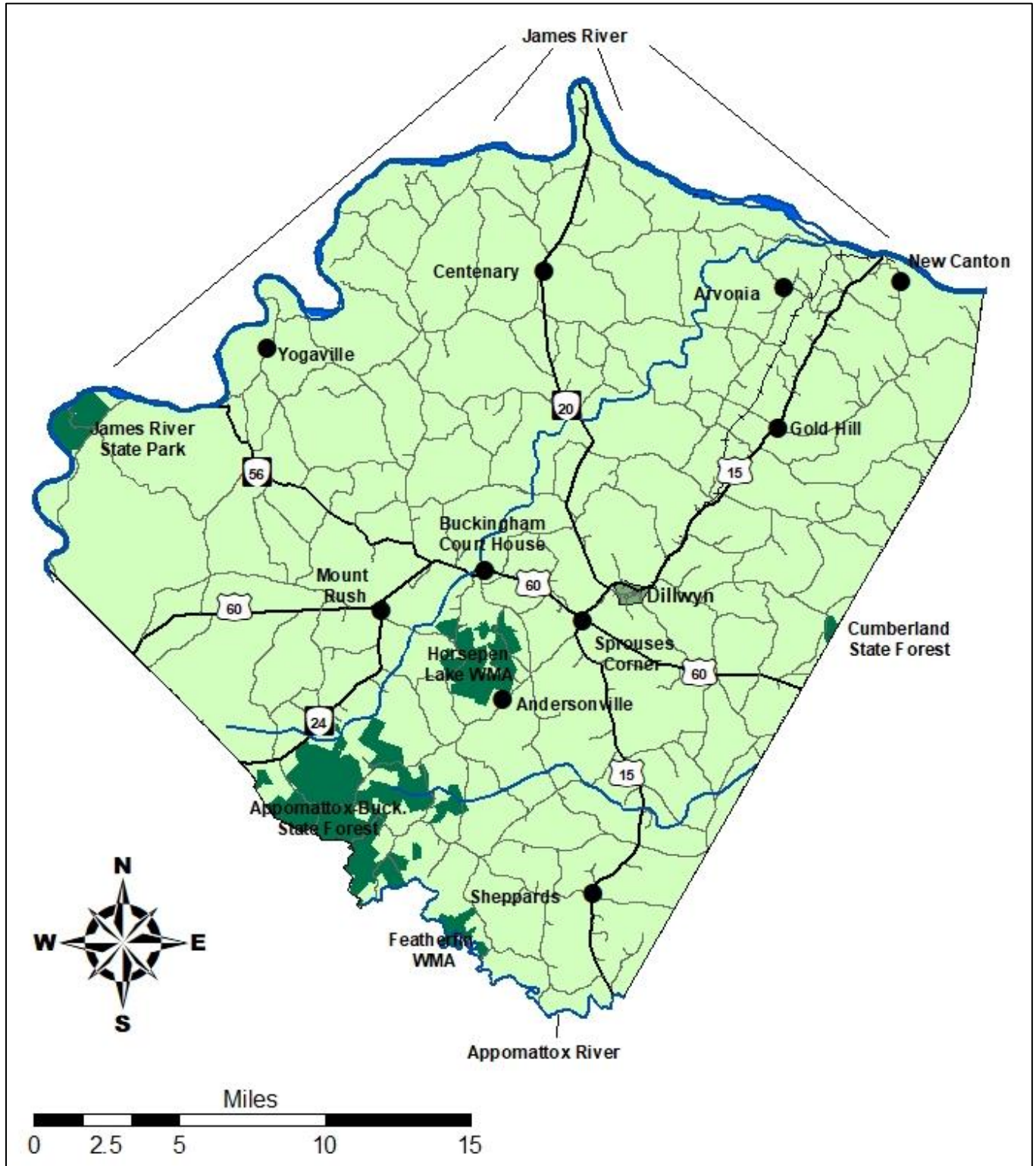
Map 1 – Location of Buckingham County



Map created by CRC – September 2023

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Map 2 – Buckingham County



Map created by CRC – September 2023

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B. Population

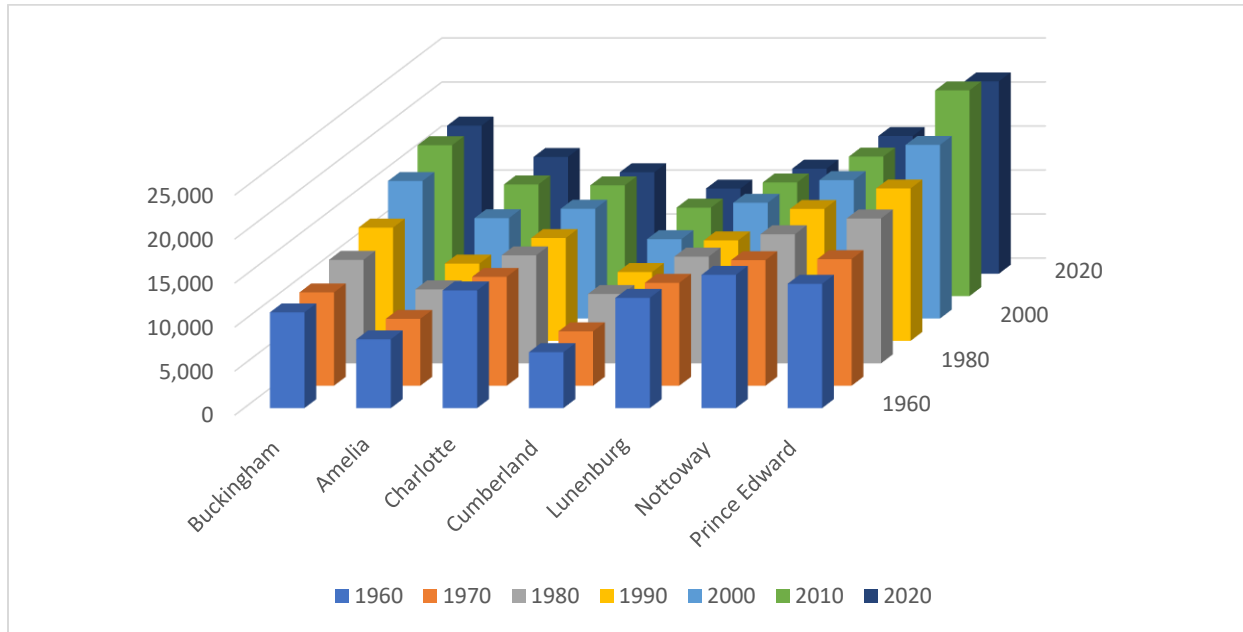
Introduction

The population section of the Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan includes an analysis of the population characteristics of the County. Population analysis often concentrates on increases or decreases in population. Important factors include changes in characteristics (age, sex, and race), rate of growth and the distribution, which can affect planning for a community. Population trends affect land use, housing, community facilities and other aspects of community development.

Past Population Trends

For the past 60 years, Buckingham County has seen its population grow steadily overall by 5,947. However, according to the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census, the 2020 population for Buckingham County (16,824) represented a decrease of 322 from the 2010 U.S. Census (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Population Trends, Buckingham, and Surrounding CRC Counties, 1960 through 2020



	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Buckingham	10,877	10,597	11,751	12,873	15,623	17,146	16,824
Amelia	7,815	7,592	8,405	8,787	11,400	12,690	13,265
Charlotte	13,368	12,366	12,266	11,688	12,471	12,586	11,529
Cumberland	6,360	6,179	7,881	7,825	9,017	10,052	9,675
Lunenburg	12,523	11,687	12,124	11,419	13,146	12,914	11,936
Nottoway	15,141	14,260	14,666	14,993	15,725	15,853	15,642
Prince Ed.	14,121	14,379	16,456	17,320	19,720	23,368	21,849

Sources: U.S. Census Historical Data, University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center, 1960-2020

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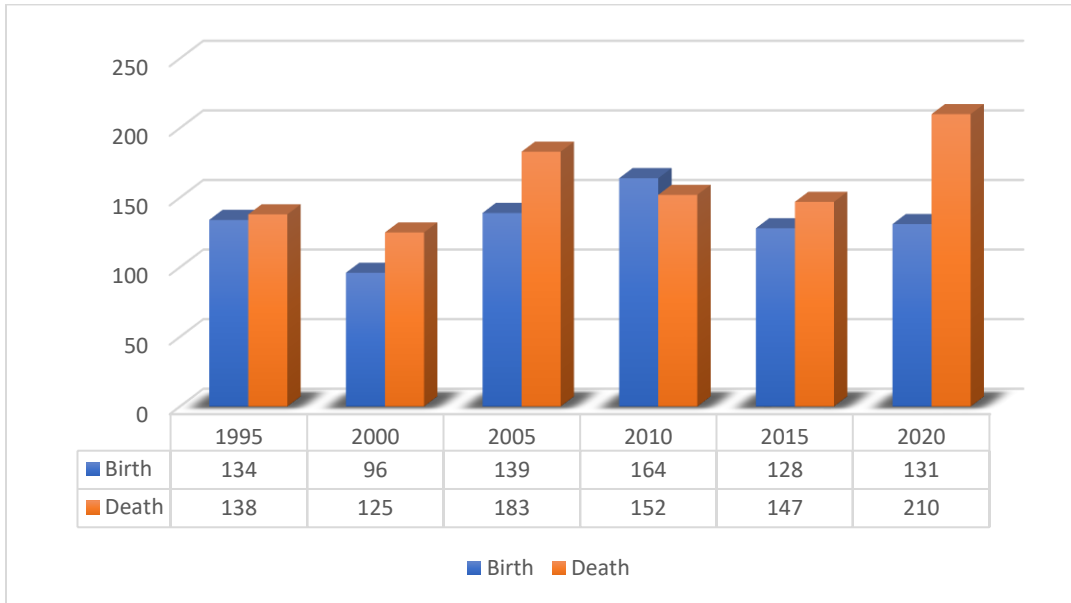
Population Density

Population density is an often reported and commonly compared statistic for localities. Population density is the measure of the number of persons per unit area. It is commonly represented as people per square mile (or square kilometer). Based on the 2020 U.S. Census population of 16,824 and a land area of 579.62 square miles, the County’s population density is 29.0 persons per square mile.

Population Change Factors

There are a handful of factors that affect population change. There are three ways in which a locality can experience population increase. The first is through having more births than deaths in a given period of time (See Figure 2). Birth rates are affected by such factors as nutrition, fertility, attitudes about abortion, social values, culture, and the availability of contraception. Death rates are affected by disease, medical technology, improved health care, transportation development and nutrition. The second is when more people move into a locality verses more people leaving a locality. Pull factors for people moving into a locality are characteristics that attract people to the locality such as amenities, cost of living, and quality of life. Push factors for people leaving a locality are those characteristics of a place that cause people to leave such as lack of job opportunities and inadequate access to health care. Finally, the most common way is a combination of both factors. For 2020, there were 131 births and 210 deaths in Buckingham County. For select years going back to 1995, using every five (5) years as a benchmark, deaths outpaced births except for the year 2010 (even though the margin between deaths and births was slim).

Figure 2 – Birth and Death Rates, Buckingham County

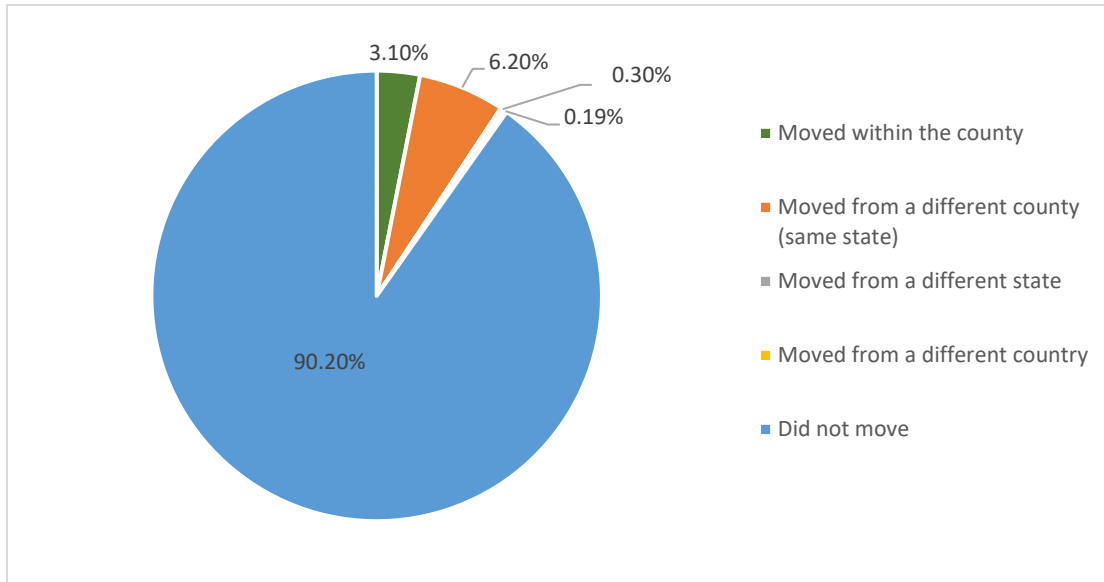


Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics, 1995-2020

Migration patterns are provided by the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). It is sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis. The ACS collects detailed information on the characteristics of our population and housing. Since the ACS is conducted every year, rather than once every ten years, it provides more current estimates throughout the decade. Migration statistics for Buckingham County are in Figure 3 and 3A.

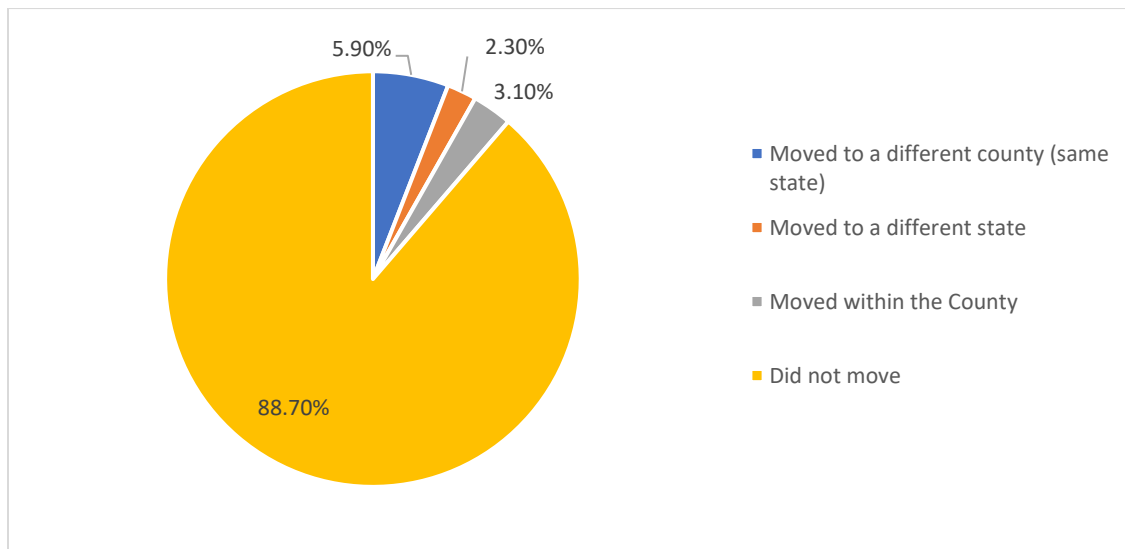
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Figure 3 – Migration In To County: Residence One Year Prior to Census, Buckingham County



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Figure 3A – Migration Out Of County: Residence One Year Prior to Census, Buckingham County



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Population Estimates

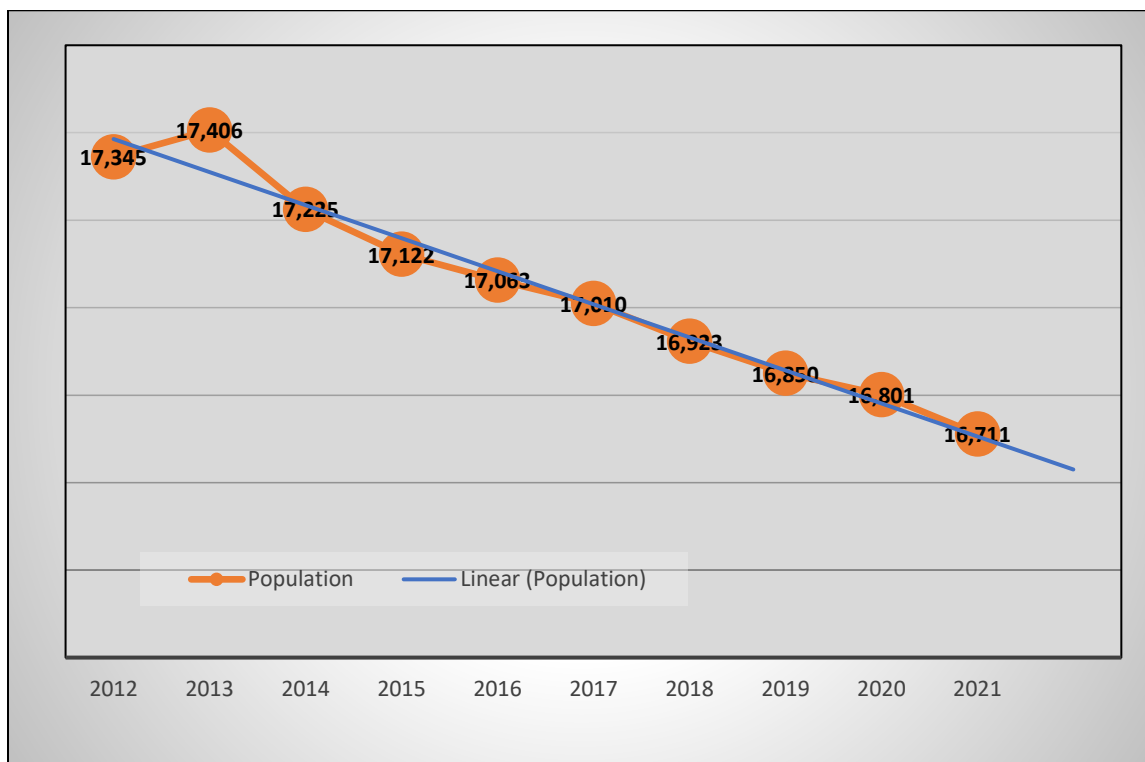
Population estimates used in this Plan were developed by the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center (see Figure 4). Population estimates look to the present or the recent past. They are usually much more accurate than projections because they can make use of current indicators – data series like births and deaths, licensed drivers, and school enrollment that are direct measurements, usually derived from governmental agency records. These estimates are used in funding formulae based on per capita

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allocations, planning, budgeting, applications for grants, approving and setting salaries for certain public officials, and in all manner of state agencies from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

The locality estimates are for the mid-year, July 1, population and are released on the last Monday of the following January. For example, July 1, 2011 estimates were released on January 30, 2012. The seven-month period between the estimate date and release date is the time required to collect and clean input data from multiple state agencies, to produce the estimates, and to prepare for the release on the website and to the public. While Buckingham County saw a brief increase in population during the middle of the decade (2013), the overall trend – as indicated by the blue line in Figure 4 – shows a slight decline in population since 2012.

Figure 4 – Buckingham County Population Estimates



Source: University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center

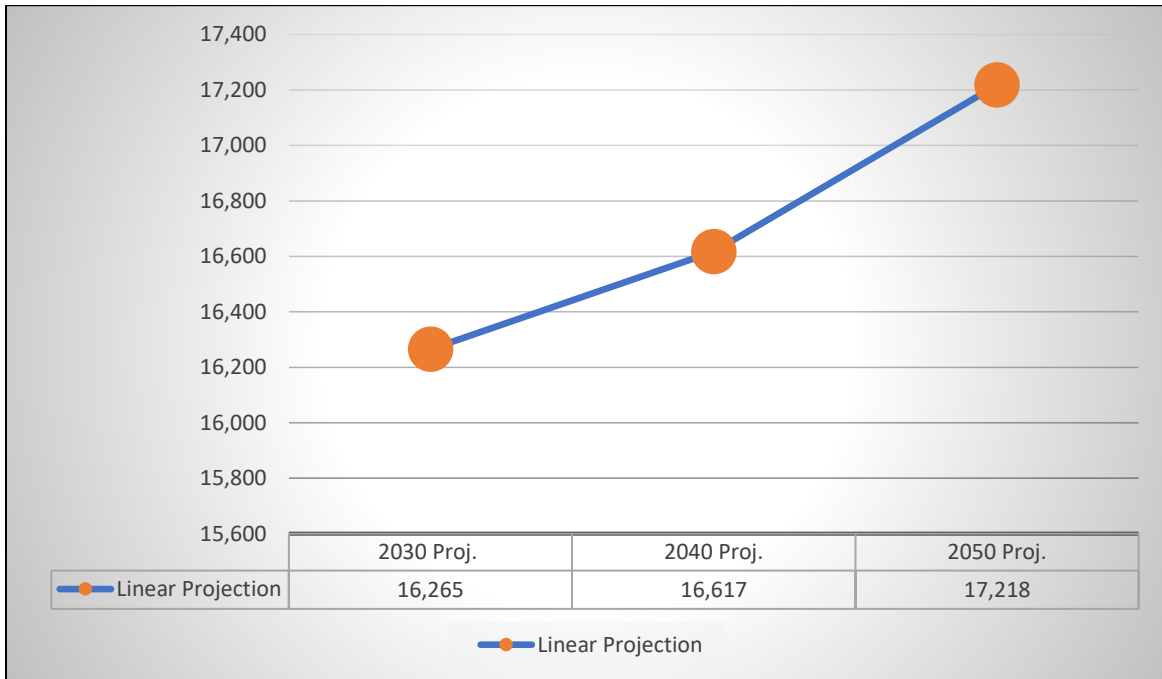
Population Projections

Population projections look to the future. They aim to produce a quantity that represents the size of a population ten, twenty, thirty years from now. As a result, projection quantities like births, deaths and net migration are an integral part of doing a projection. Additionally, most population projections are based on past trends combined with knowledge of prospective activities that may modify those trends. Projections based on past trends tend to be less accurate for areas with smaller numbers of people than for those with larger numbers. Unexpected events can drastically alter a small area's population, while only insignificantly affecting a larger area's population.

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The projection of population is essential for determining the land needs for future residential, commercial, industrial and public uses. Also, population projections can provide an indication of needs for community services, such as schools, parks and police protection to serve the future population. Figure 5 provides population projections for Buckingham County. As you can see, the County's population is projected to increase steadily over the next 25 years.

Figure 5 – Buckingham County Population Projections



Source: University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center

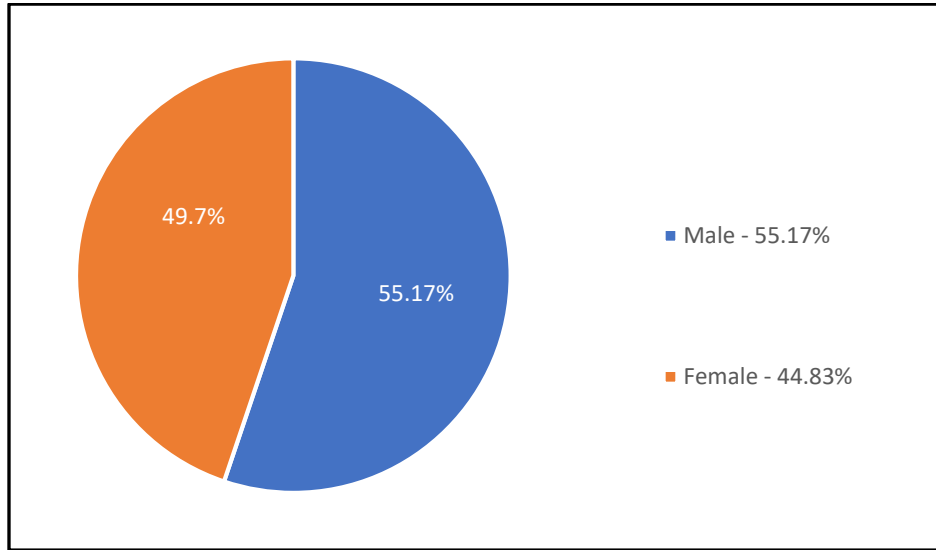
Age and Sex Characteristics

By analyzing the population's gender and age characteristics, it is possible to evaluate a locality's needs for community facilities, commercial services and housing. The data in Figures 6 and 7 is based on the 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. The ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2010, and collects information throughout the decade rather than only once every 10 years. The ACS produces population, demographic, social, housing and economic data in 1-year, 3-year or 5-year estimates based on a locality's population. In Buckingham County's case, five-year estimates are being used. While the ACS produces regular estimates, census population estimates (like the ones in Figures 1 and 2) produce official population estimates for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns as well as estimates of housing units for states and counties. Additionally, since ACS data is based on a sample as opposed to all people, it has a degree of uncertainty (also known as a sampling error).

As can be seen by these figures, males slightly outnumber females in the County. Another pattern shown by the numbers is that approximately 74 percent of Buckingham County residents are under the age of 60. However, AARP has identified aging in place as an increasingly popular trend for older adults. Thus, the proportion of Buckingham County's population aged 60 and over – currently just under 26 percent – can be expected to increase in the future.

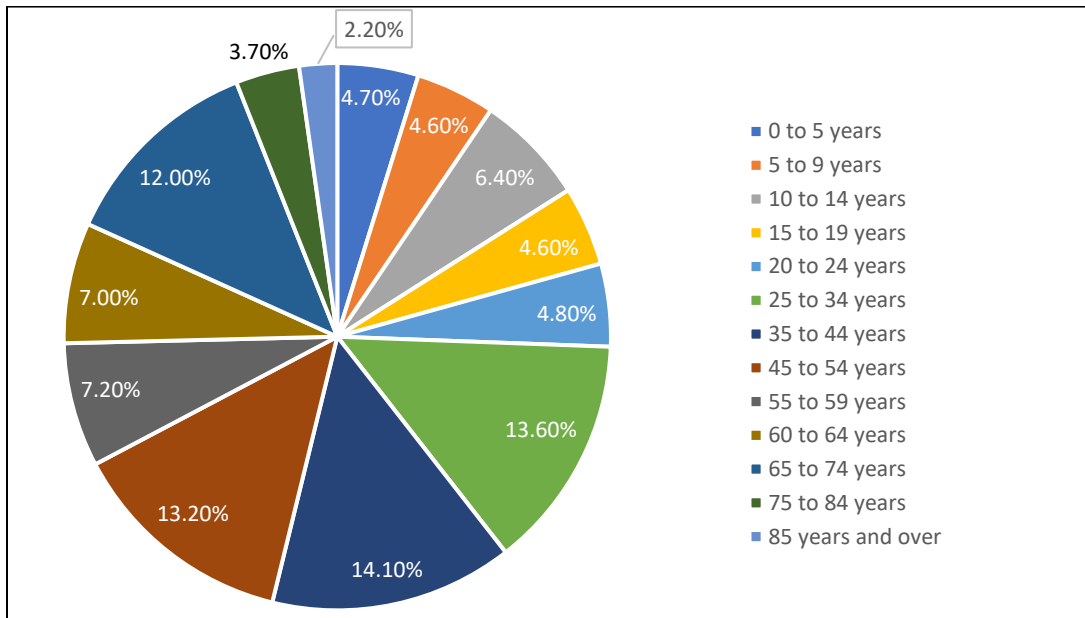
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Figure 6 – Population by Gender, Buckingham County



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Figure 7 – Population by Age, Buckingham County



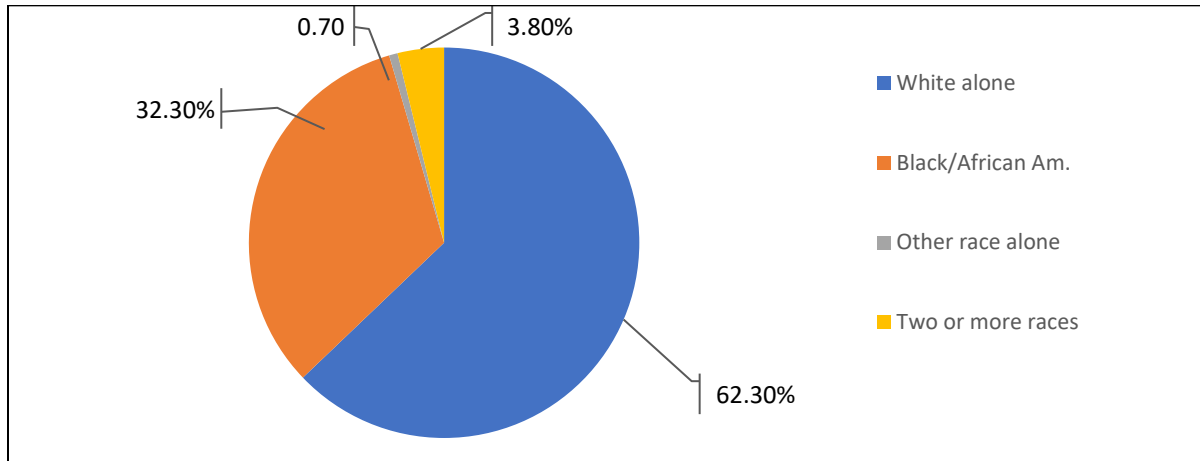
Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Racial Characteristics

Figure 8 shows the racial characteristics for Buckingham County, based on data from the 2020 U.S. Census data. According to the data, Buckingham County has seen significant declines in minority populations.

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Figure 8 – Population by Race, Buckingham County



Source: 2020 US Census Data

C. Education

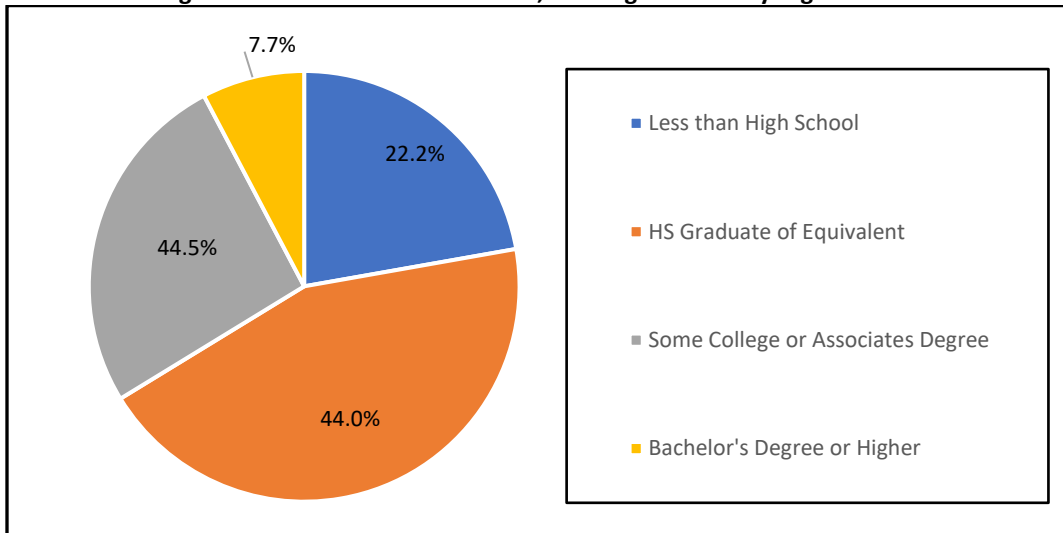
Multiple schools have served the County through the years. Today, Buckingham County is served by six (6) public schools. Buckingham Preschool serves pre-school early education students. Buckingham County Primary School serves students in Grades Kindergarten through third grade. Buckingham County Elementary School serve students in Grades 3 through 5. Buckingham Middle School serves Grades 6 through 8. Buckingham County High School serves Grades 9 through 12. Buckingham County also has a Career and Technical Center (CTC). The CTC allows Buckingham County High School Students to learn specific career skills that give them the experience needed before starting their chosen career. This program allows students to a hands-on learning experience by introducing students to skills such as automobile mechanics, culinary arts, cosmetology, nursing, agriculture, and welding that can assist students with deciding on a perspective career path.

According to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) report for the 2021-2022 school year, Buckingham County had a total of 81 homeschooled students within the county. Within the 81 students that are homeschooled 42 are in grades K to 5, 18 are in grades 6 to 8, 21 are in grades 9 to 12. Buckingham County also has 65 religious exempt students. Within those 65 students, 31 are in grades K to 5, 18 are in grades 6 to 8, 16 are in grades 9 to 12. In the State of Virginia, to be eligible to be homeschooled, the parent of the home instructed student is required to submit a notice of intent document or a letter to the school district every year by August 15th. This includes a list of every child within the household that is being homeschooled, a program of study for the school year, and providing evidence of meeting the criteria by passing a standardized test from the previous school year (if applicable).

Educational Attainment for Buckingham County residents is shown in figures 9 and 10. These numbers are based on data from the 2021 U.S. Census ACS Estimates.

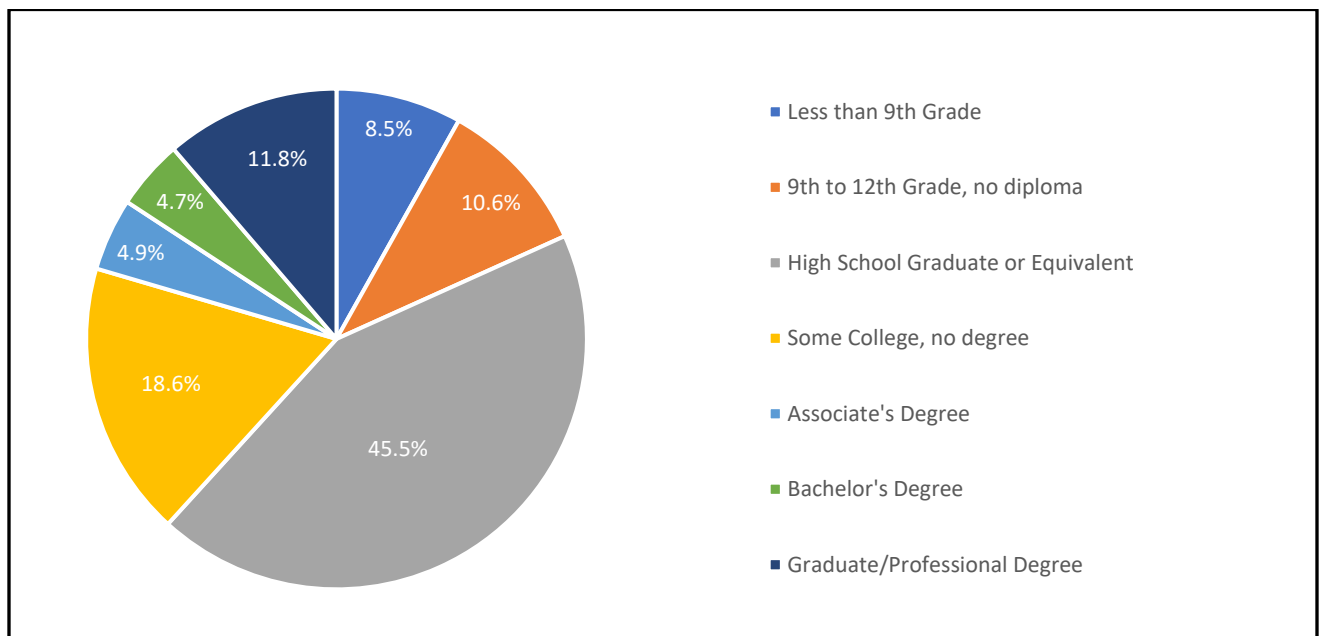
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Figure 9 – Educational Attainment, Buckingham County: Ages 18 to 24



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Figure 10 – Educational Attainment, Buckingham County: Ages 25 and Older



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

The Virginia Board of Education has revised its accreditation standards to provide a more comprehensive view of school quality, starting with the 2022-2023 school year. Under the previous standards, a school's accreditation status was based on student achievement on Standards of Learning tests in English, Mathematics, History/Social Science and Science. The revised standards go beyond the tests and measure performance on multiple school-quality indicators. Under the revised standards, schools are evaluated on the following indicators:

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Elementary and Middle Schools

- Overall proficiency and growth in English reading/writing achievement (including progress of English learners toward English-language proficiency).
- Overall proficiency and growth in mathematics.
- Overall proficiency in science.
- English achievement gaps among student groups.
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups.
- Absenteeism.

High Schools

- Overall proficiency in English reading/writing and progress of English learners toward English-language proficiency.
- Overall proficiency in mathematics.
- Overall proficiency in science.
- English achievement gaps among student groups.
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups.
- Graduation and completion.
- Dropout rate.
- Absenteeism.
- College, career and civic readiness (starting with the 2022-2023 school year).

Performance on each school-quality indicator is rated at one of three levels: Level 1 – meets or exceeds standard or sufficient improvement; Level 2 – near standard or making sufficient improvement; Level 3 – below standard.

Under the new system, schools earn one of the following accreditation ratings:

- Accredited – Schools with all school-quality indicators at either Level 1 or 2.
- Accredited with Conditions – Schools with one or more school quality indicators at Level 3.
- Accreditation Denied – Schools that fail to adopt or fully implement required corrective actions to address Level 3 school quality indicators. A school rated as Accreditation

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Denied may regain state accreditation by demonstrating to the Board of Education that it is fully implementing all required corrective action plans.

The revised Standards of Accreditation prescribes that all schools and divisions, after conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, develop a multiyear plan that will be reviewed annually. The plan should include actions for all performance levels to support continuous improvement for all schools on each school-quality indicator

Figure 11 – Buckingham County Public Schools Accreditation Status, 2022-2023

School	AA English	AG English	AA Math	AG Math	AA Science	Chronic Absent.	Grad & Compl Index	Dropout Rate	Overall Status
Buckingham County Elementary	L1	L1	L1	L2	L3	L1	NA	NA	Accredited with Conditions
Buckingham County Primary	L1	L1	L1	L2	L3	L2	NA	NA	Accredited with Conditions
Buckingham County Middle School	L3	L3	L1	L1	L1	L2	NA	NA	Accredited with Conditions
Buckingham County High School	L1	L2	L1	L1	L1	L2	L1	L1	Accredited

Source: Virginia Department of Education, 2022-2023 School Year

Level 1 – meets or exceeds standard or sufficient improvement

Level 2 – near standard or making sufficient improvement

Level 3 – below standard

AA – Academic Achievement

AG – Achievement Gap

Chronic Absent. – Chronic Absenteeism

Grad & Compl Index – Graduation and Completion Index

D. Income

Introduction

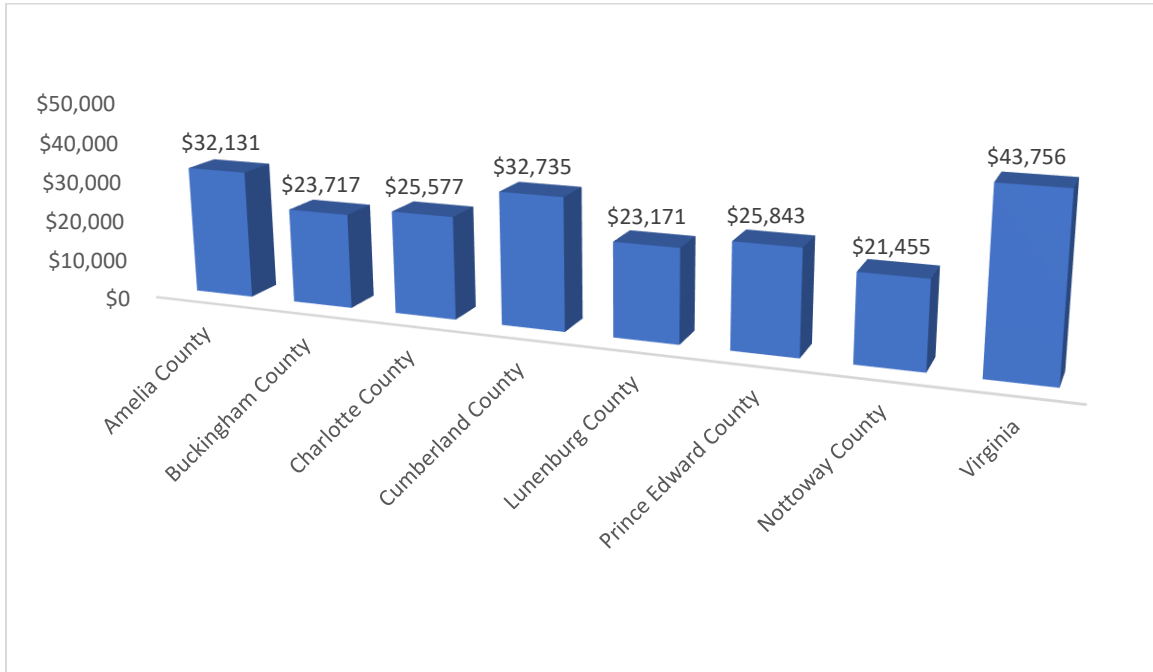
The income section of the Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan includes an analysis of the income characteristics of the County. Income analysis often concentrates on increases or decreases in the income levels of area residents. The following section on income attempts to review the most current information available to analyze differences between the County, State, and Nation as a whole.

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Per Capita Income

The per capita personal income of local residents is an indicator of the living standard of a locality's citizens and the strength of its economy. The per capita personal income is the average annual income of each person residing in the locality. Income includes such sources as wages, dividends, pensions, social security benefits and public assistance. As seen in Figure 12, Per capita income for Buckingham County is comparable with some of the surrounding counties but compares unfavorably with others. This data is from the 2021 U.S. Census ACS Five-Year Estimates.

Figure 12 – 2020 Per Capita Income



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

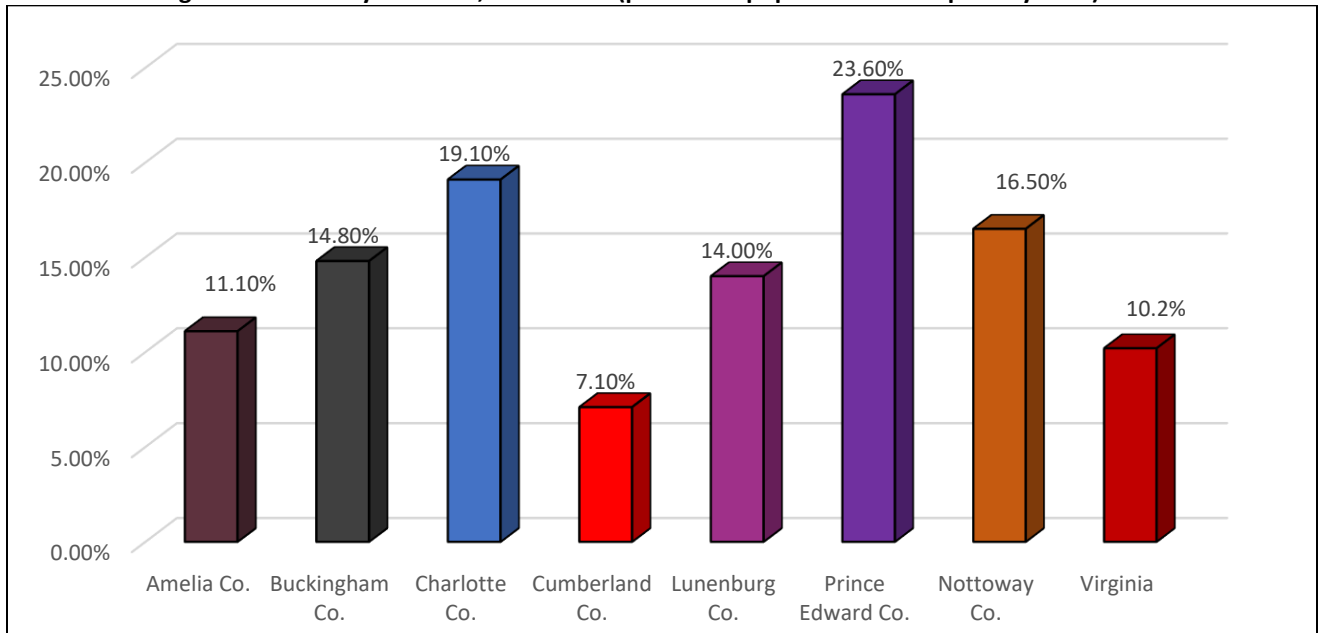
Poverty/Low-to-Moderate income

Poverty information is shown in Figures 13 and 14. The numbers are based on the 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. As can be seen from those numbers, poverty rates for individuals and families in Buckingham County are higher than a number of surrounding counties.

Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) information is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD). Individuals or households whose household income is equal to or less than the Section 8 lower income limited established by HUD are determined to be LMI. The most recent data available from HUD is based on 2011-2015 ACS five-year estimates. Based on that data, 37.83 percent of Buckingham County's residents are classified as LMI.

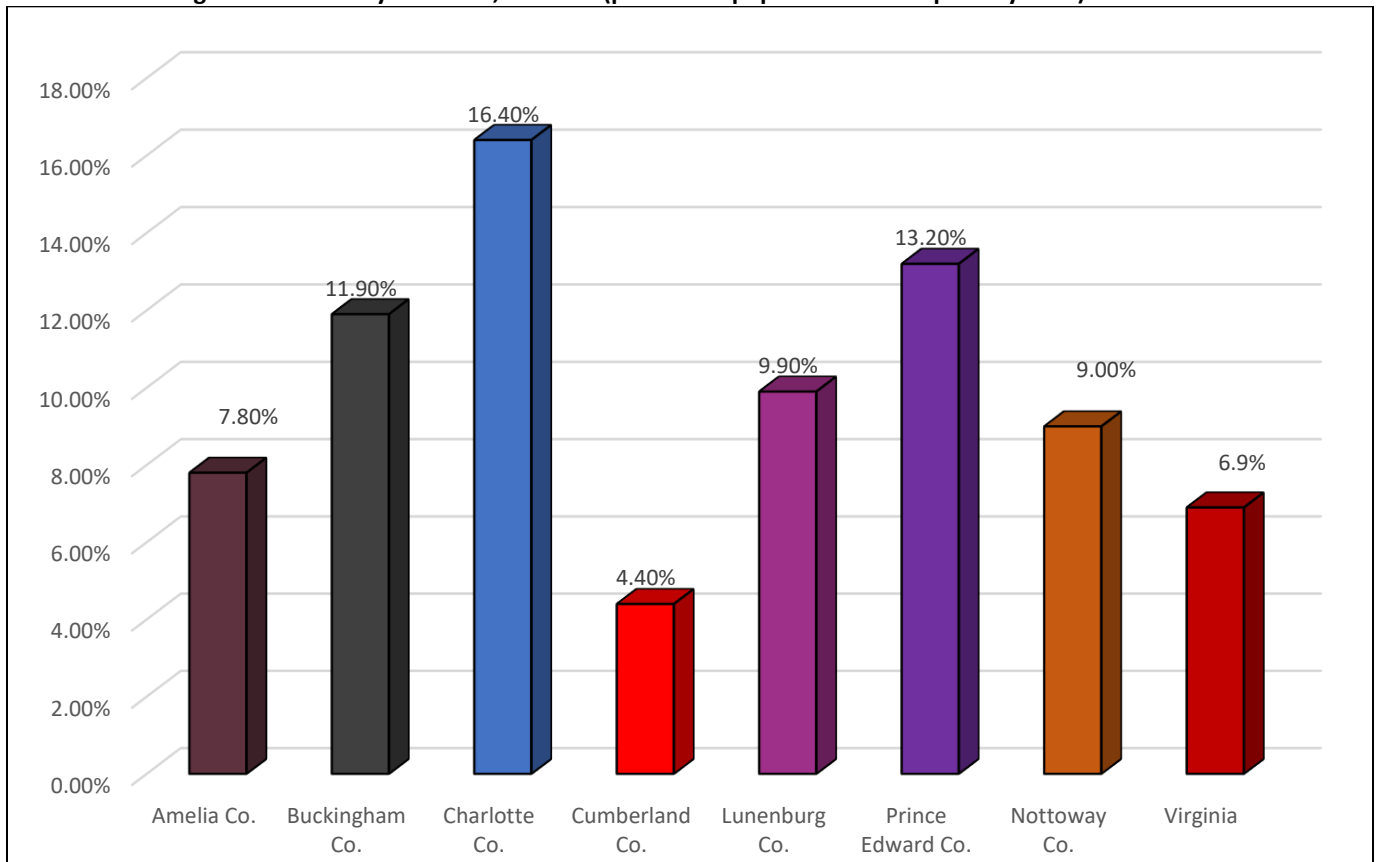
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Figure 13 – Poverty Statistics, Individuals (percent of population below poverty level)



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Figure 14 – Poverty Statistics, Families (percent of population below poverty level)



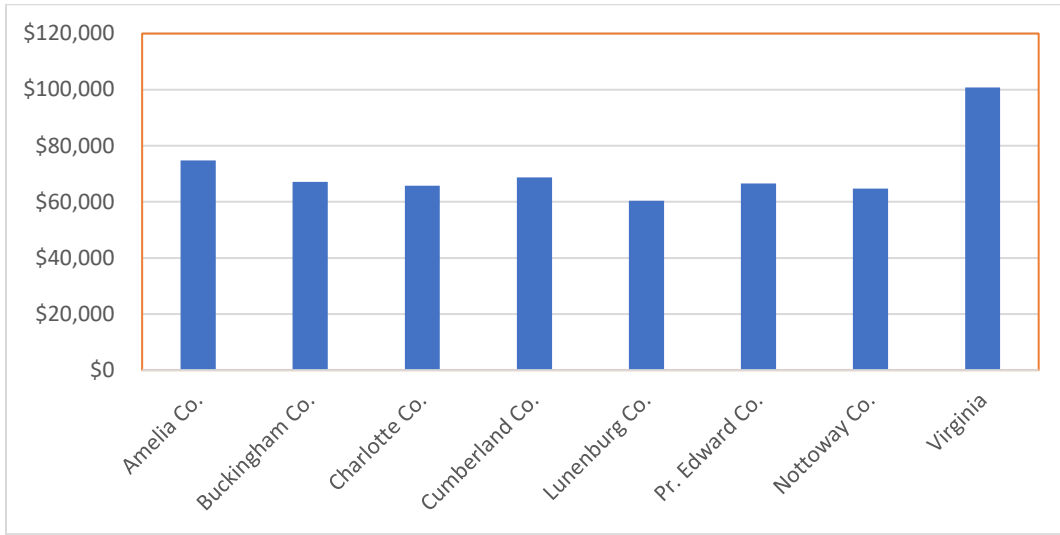
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Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Median Family Income/Median Household Income

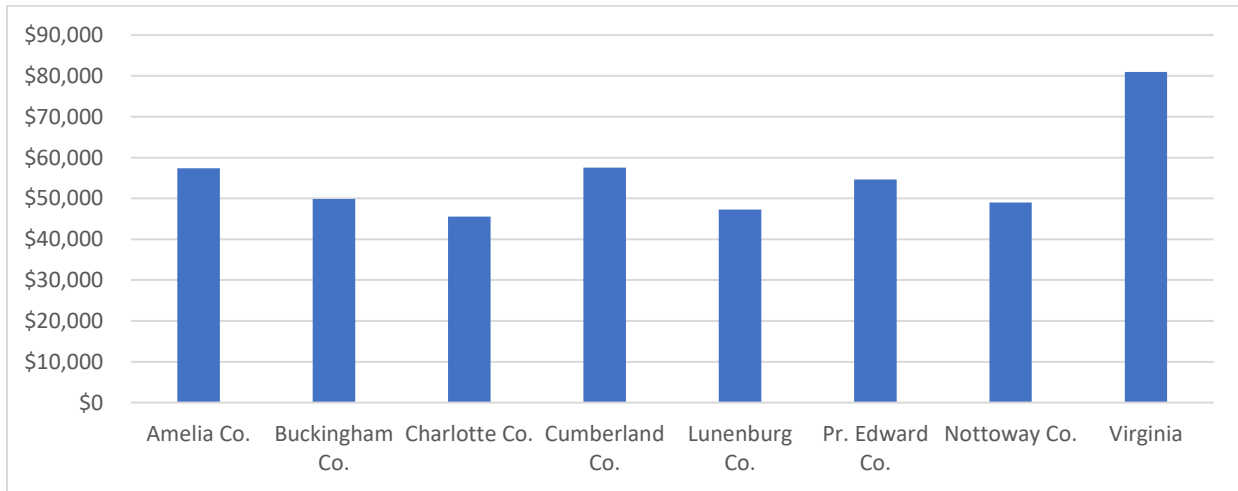
A family household is defined as any two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption and living together. For Buckingham County, the estimated median family income per the 2021 ACS was \$67,114 (see Figure 15). This was lower compared to surrounding counties and the State of Virginia, which had an estimated median family income is \$100,763 for the same time. A household includes all persons who occupy a housing unit. For Buckingham County households, the estimated median household income per the 2021 ACS was \$49,841 (see Figure 16). This was also lower than the surrounding counties and the state, which had an estimated median household income of \$80,963 for the same time.

Figure 15 – Median Family Income



Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

Figure 16 – Median Household Income



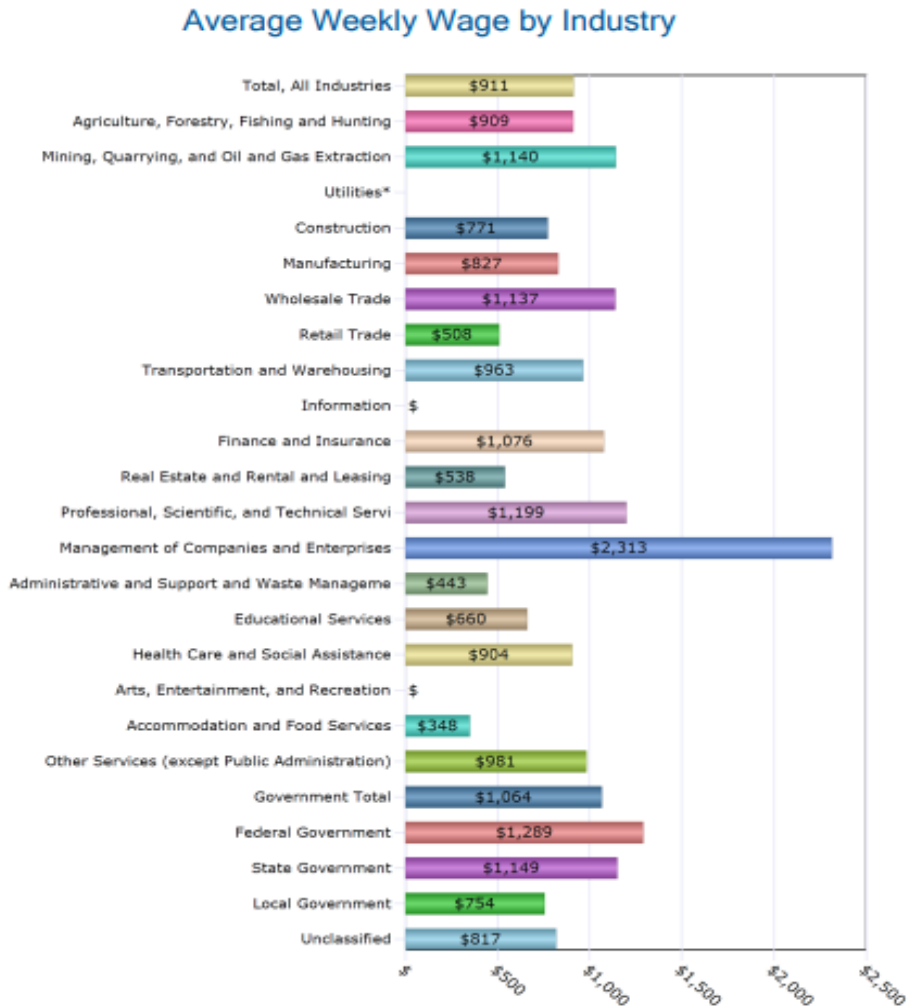
Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

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Wages

Figure 17 shows the average weekly wage by industry for workers in Buckingham County during the first quarter of 2023. These figures, derived by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) – Labor Market Information, are from reports by local establishments on both their total monthly employment and their total quarterly gross wages. This is required for unemployment insurance taxes. The average weekly wage is found by dividing quarterly gross wages for the industry by the average employment for the quarter for the industry and then dividing by thirteen weeks. If a sector is identified by an asterisk (*) in the chart, that means VEC considers the data to be non-disclosable.

**Figure 17 – Average Weekly Wage by Industry, Buckingham County
First Quarter (January - March), 2023**



Note: Asterisk (*) indicates non-disclosable data.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 1st Quarter (January, February, March) 2023.

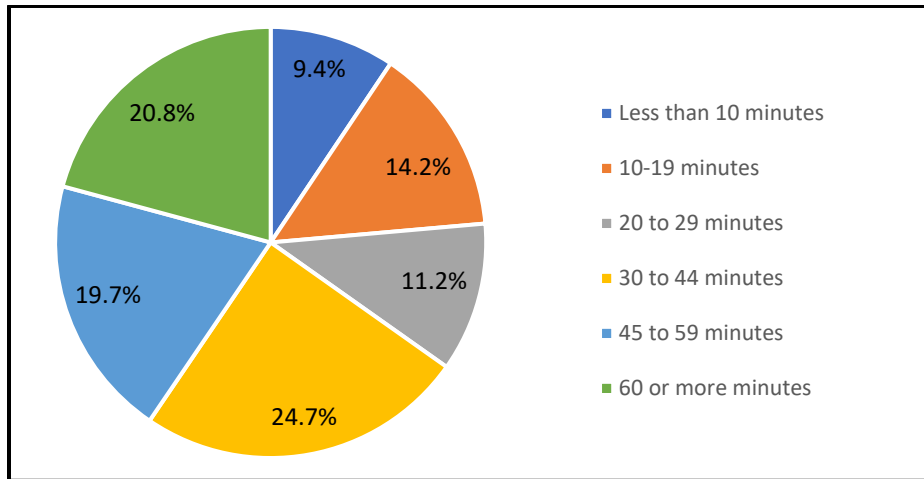
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Source: Virginia Employment Commission

E. Commuting Patterns

Commuting patterns measure the daily travel between places of residence and places of work. According to the Virginia Employment Commission’s Community Profile for Buckingham County, last updated in April 2022, Buckingham County has significantly more out-commuters (3,744) than in-commuters (1,624). The data also shows that 1,197 people live and work in the County. According to the 2021 ACS five-year estimates, the average commute to work for a worker in Buckingham County was 39.3 minutes. The data also shows that just under 35 percent of workers commute less than 30 minutes to work. The breakdown is as follows:

Figure 18 – Travel Times to Work, Buckingham County Workers Ages 16 and Older

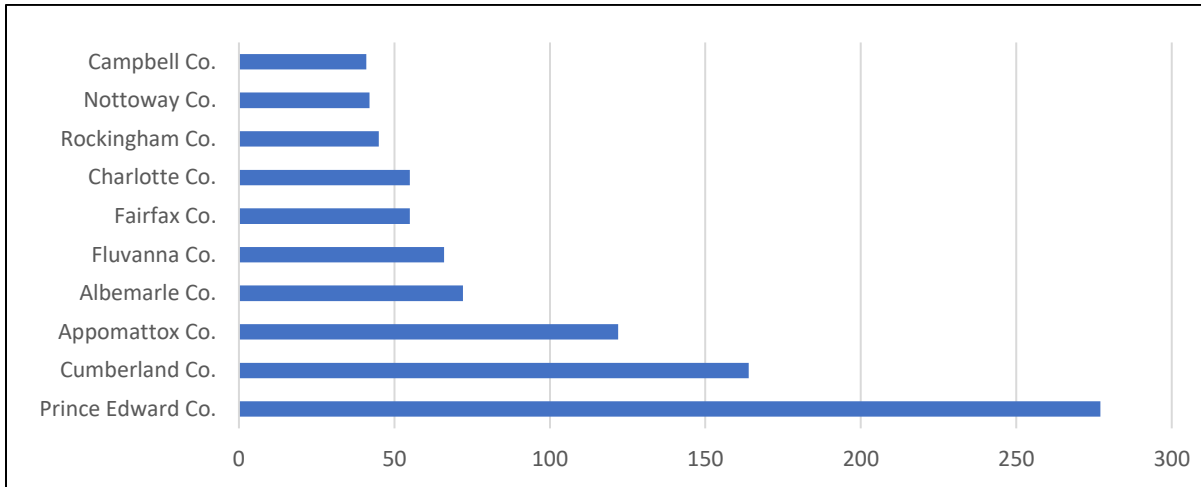


Source: American Community Survey 2021 five-year estimates

According to data from the Virginia Employment Commission’s Community Profile for Buckingham County, the top 10 destinations for out-commuters include some surrounding counties (Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Campbell), but also Chesterfield and Henrico Counties plus the Cities of Lynchburg and Richmond. The Community profile data also shows that the top 10 localities from which workers commute to Buckingham County include some surrounding counties – Charlotte, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Appomattox, Cumberland, and Prince Edward– plus others a little further away including Fairfax County and Rockingham County. See Figure 20.

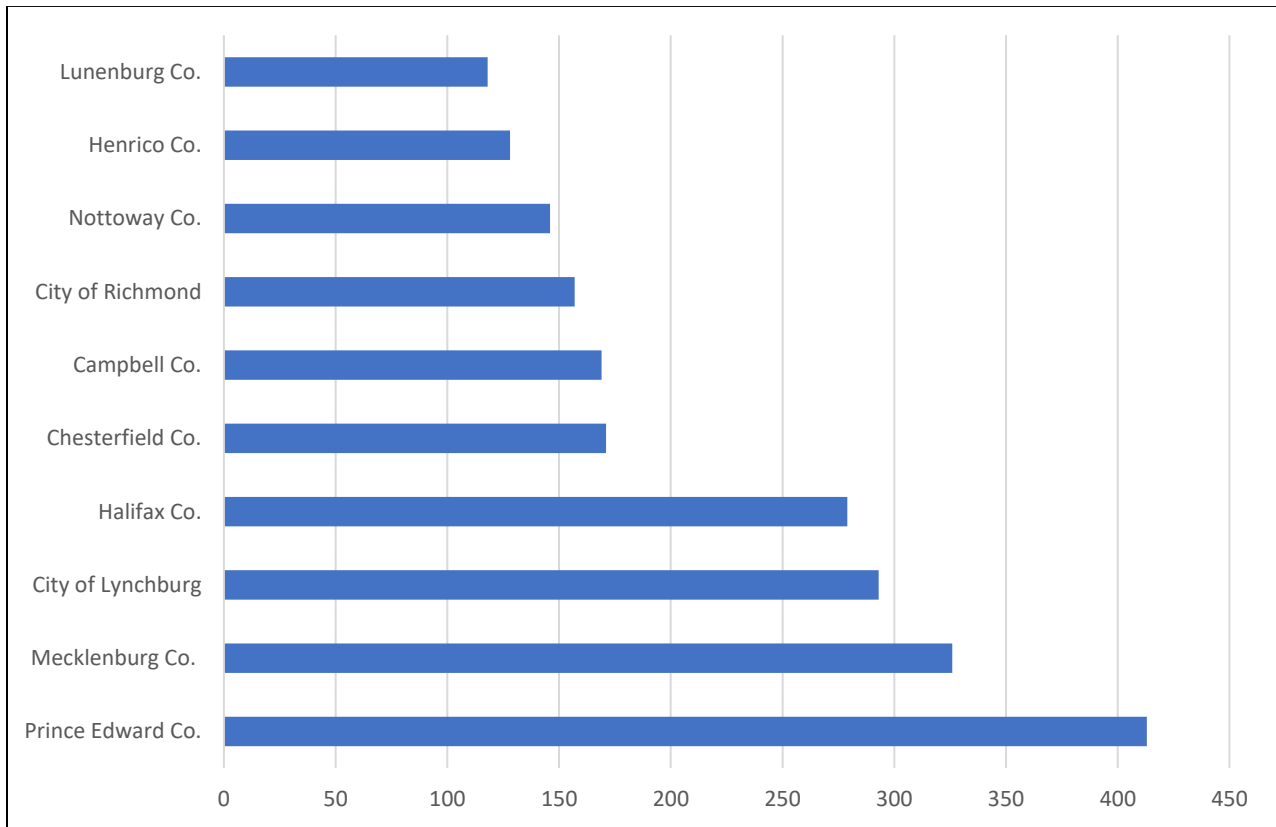
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Figure 19 – Top 10 places workers are commuting from to work in Buckingham County



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Figure 20 – Top 10 places workers in Buckingham County are commuting to



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

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F. Employment/Unemployment

Occupations

The Virginia Employment Commission, in its Community Profile for Buckingham County (last updated in April 2022), identified 20 occupations that are poised for growth and 20 that are expected to decline for the South-Central Workforce Investment Area (Region 8 – which covers Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties). Those occupations are identified in Figures 21 and 22. If a sector is denoted with three asterisks (***) , that means VEC considers the data to be non-disclosable. Growth occupations include the healthcare support, personal care and service, and healthcare practitioners and technical, community and social service, and computer and mathematical occupations. Declining industries include production jobs, postal service workers, cooks and fast-food workers, and administrative jobs.

Figure 21 – Growth Occupations, South Central Workforce Investment Area (Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties)

Occupation Type	Employment			Openings		
	Estimated 2014	Projected 2024	Change	Replacements	Growth	Total
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,976	2,528	27.94%	45	55	100
Personal Care and Service Occupations	2,533	3,168	25.07%	36	64	100
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	3,457	4,116	19.06%	76	66	142
Community and Social Service Occupations	1,020	1,165	14.22%	22	14	36
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	418	469	12.2%	6	6	12
Legal Occupations	231	261	12.99%	4	3	7
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	284	316	11.27%	8	4	12
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,256	1,392	10.83%	27	14	41
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	4,786	5,284	10.41%	104	50	154
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	2,198	2,391	8.78%	44	19	63
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	848	920	8.49%	20	8	28
Construction and Extraction Occupations	2,747	2,967	8.01%	46	22	68
Management Occupations	1,532	1,642	7.18%	36	12	48
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	2,467	2,632	6.69%	58	18	76
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	4,286	4,563	6.46%	145	33	178
Protective Service Occupations	2,402	2,527	5.2%	65	14	79
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	4,660	4,900	5.15%	102	24	126

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Office and Administrative Support Occupations	8,045	8,334	3.59%	169	47	216
Sales and Related Occupations	5,211	5,372	3.09%	176	17	193
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	529	533	0.76%	14	2	16

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics,
Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024.

Figure 22 – Declining Occupations, South Central Workforce Investment Area (Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties)

Occupation Type	Employment			Openings		
	Estimated 2014	Projected 2024	Change	Replacements	Growth	Total
Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	***	***	***	***	***	***
Postal Service Mail Carriers	171	138	-19.3%	3	0	3
Cooks, Fast Food	261	218	-16.48%	7	0	7
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand	***	***	***	***	***	***
Helpers – Production Workers	239	212	-11.3%	8	0	8
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	119	108	-9.24%	4	0	4
Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	***	***	***	***	***	***
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	176	160	-9.09%	1	0	1
Sewing Machine Operators	***	***	***	***	***	***
Butchers and Meat Cutters	***	***	***	***	***	***
Tellers	245	230	-6.12%	10	0	10
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	585	551	-5.81%	6	0	6
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	260	246	-5.38%	6	0	6
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	160	152	-5.0%	4	0	4
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	316	302	-4.43%	5	0	5
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	137	132	-3.65%	1	0	1
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	795	769	-3.27%	8	0	8
Machinists	355	346	-2.54%	10	0	10
Cashiers	2,225	2,217	-0.36%	95	0	95
Customer Service Representatives	336	335	-0.3%	8	0	8

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics,

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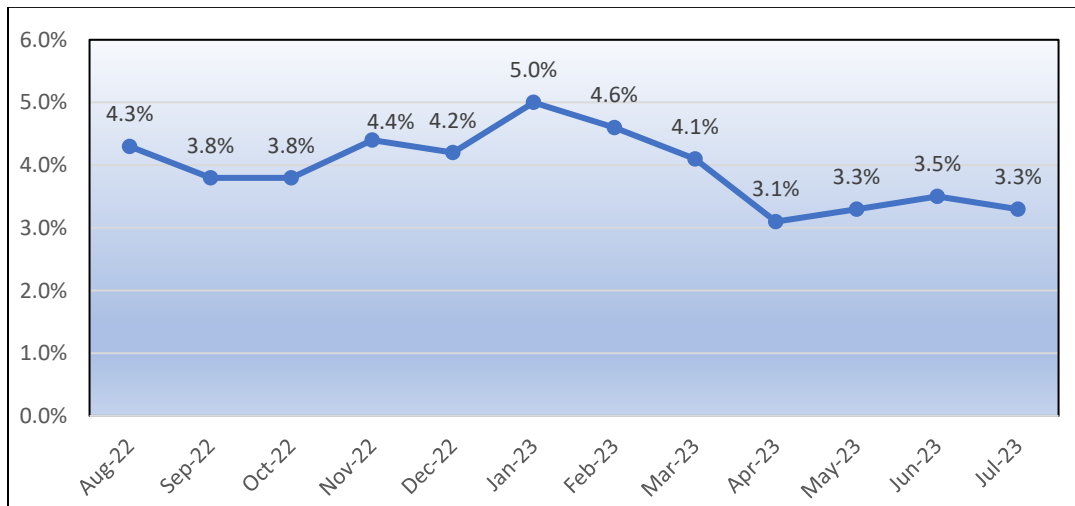
Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024.

Unemployment

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) was the source for the unemployment statistics in this Comprehensive Plan (see Figures 23 and 24). The monthly unemployment figures for Buckingham County, run from August 2022 through July 2023. Annual unemployment figures for Buckingham County run from 2012 to 2022.

Buckingham County was not immune to the recession that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The County has taken some time to recover, and unemployment rates – which have come down from a high of 7.6 percent early in the pandemic – are close to their pre-pandemic levels of 3.9 %. On an annual basis, the County’s unemployment rate came steadily down from the levels seen during the Great Recession of 2008-2009, and continued a downward trend until the pandemic.

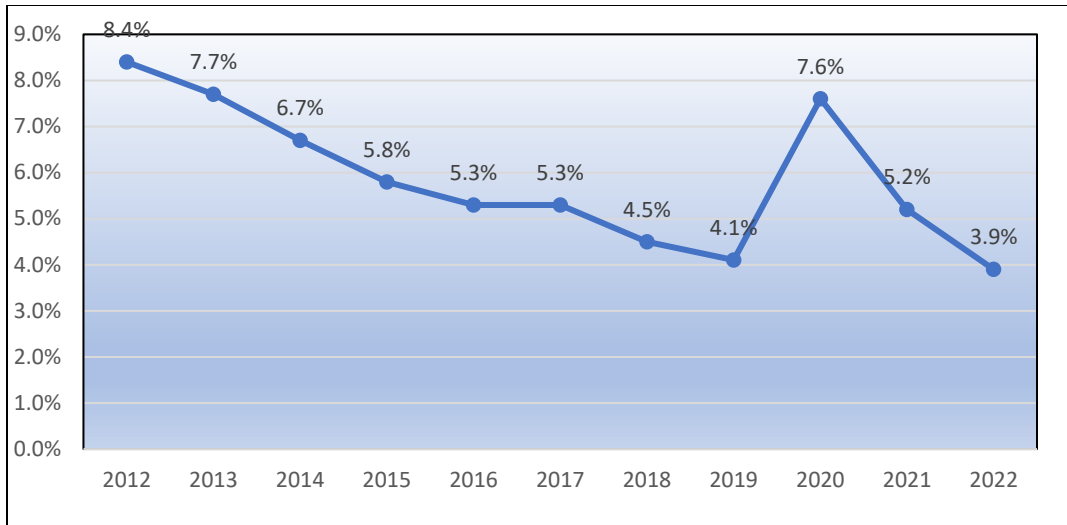
Figure 23 – Monthly Unemployment Rates, Buckingham County



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Figure 24 – Annual Unemployment Rates, Buckingham County

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Source: Virginia Employment Commission

G. Economic Activity

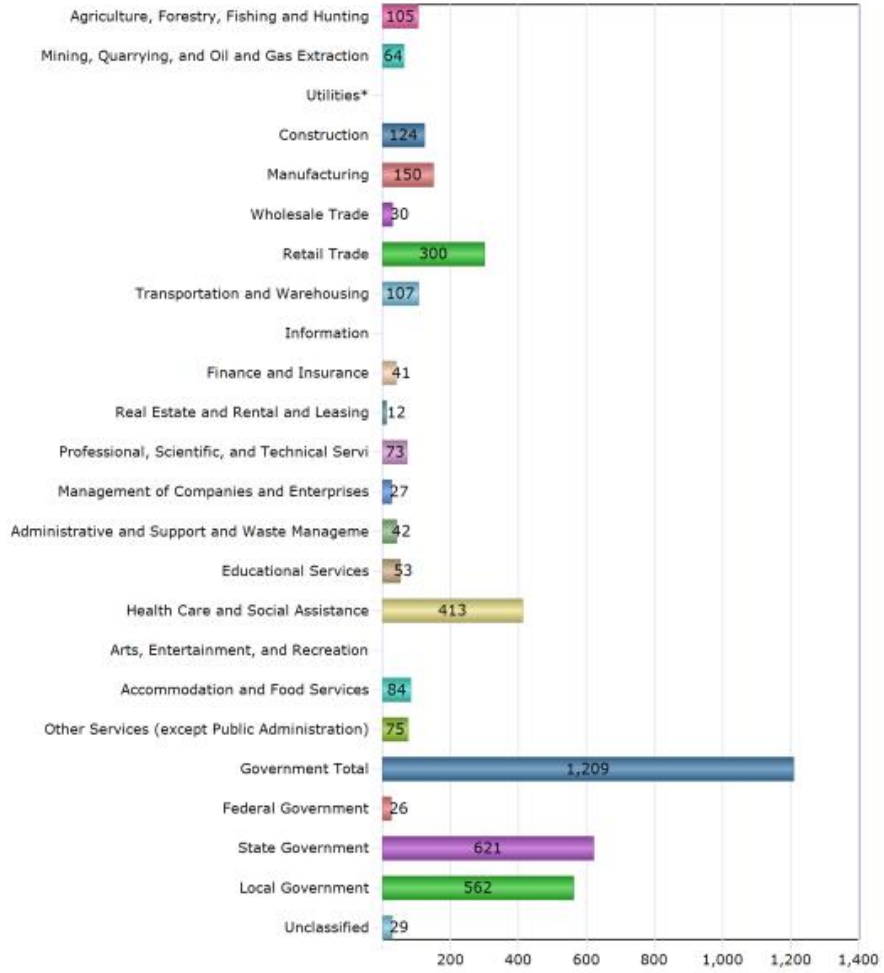
Local Industry

According to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (Community Profile for Buckingham County, last updated in April 2023), the top employment sectors in the County are government, manufacturing and health care and social assistance. Other prominent job sectors are retail and transportation and warehousing. See Figure 25

Figure 25 – Employment by Industry, Buckingham County

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Employment by Industry



Total: 2,970

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates non-disclosable data.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 1st Quarter (January, February, March) 2023.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Major Employers

Buckingham County’s top 50 employers as of the First Quarter of 2023 are shown in Figure 26. The source of this listing is the Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 1st Quarter (January, February, and March) 2023.

Figure 26 – Top 50 Employers, Buckingham County

Employer	Type
Buckingham County School Board	Local Government

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Buckingham Correctional Facility	Government
Dillwyn Correctional Facility	Government
County of Buckingham	Local Government
Central VA Health Service Inc.	Private
Kyanite Mining Corporation	Private
Food Lion	Private
Heritage Hall	Private
VDOT	State Government
HI Test Laboratories	Private
McDonalds	Private
The Rock Kamps, LLC	Private
Dominion Virginia Power	Private
Helm HR, LLC	Private
Boxley Quarries	Private
Central Virginia Christian School	Private
Postal Services	Federal Government
Price Fibers Inc.	Private
The Rock Kamps Logistics, LLC	Private
Crossroads Services Board	Non-profit
Midkiff Timber LLC	Private
Southern Building Service Inc	Private
Rock Wood Products of Dillwyn	Private
Tiger Fuel Company	Private
Virginia Department of Conservation	State Government
Division of Institutions	Government
Walter E. Saxon Jr., DDS.	Private
Anderson Tire Company	Private
Commonwealth Academy of Professional Education	Private
Dillwyn Dairy Freeze LC	Private
DolgenCorp LLC	Private
Shore Stop Store	Private
Little Creek Farm & Lumber LLC	Private
Pearson Construction	Private
Nukumers Logistics LLC	Private
Reid Super-Save Market	Private
South Central Counseling Group	Private
Advance Auto Parts	Private
Central Virginia Exterminating	Private
Seay & Haver Oil Company Inc	Private
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance	Private
James River Slate Company, Inc.	Private
Mary's Rest Home for Adult Living	Private
Pinos Italian Restaurant	Private
Seay Milling Company	Private

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Slate River Vet Clinic	Private
W D Hackett Logging Inc	Private
DNA Logging LLC	Private
Hill Brothers Construction, LLC	Private
Lighthouse Truck & Auto LLC	Private

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Buckingham County