

# Amherst County, Virginia

## Community Profile

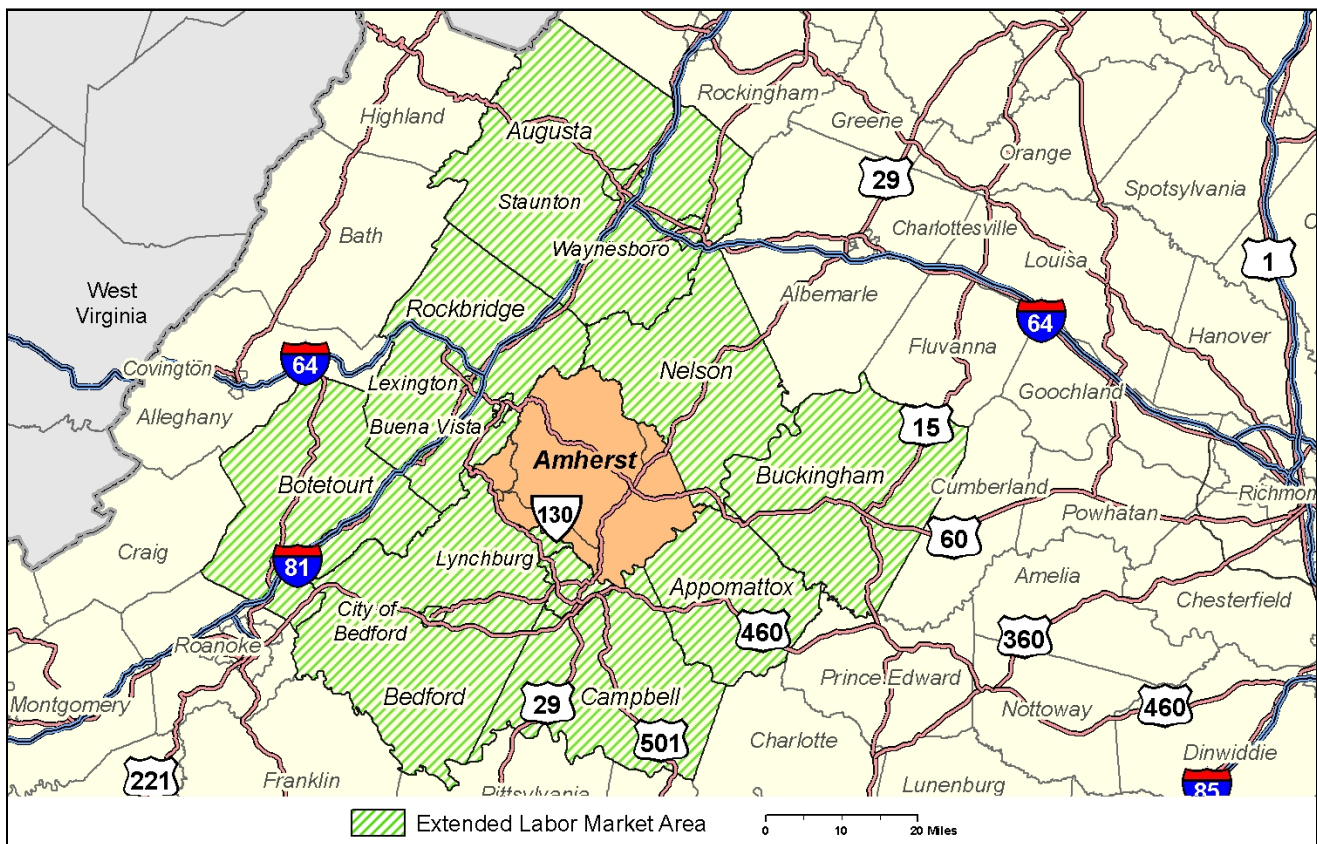


### LOCATION

Amherst County is located near the geographic center of Virginia just north of the city of Lynchburg. The James River borders the county on the south and east with the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains forming the western boundary. The Piney River comprises much of the county's northern boundary. The U.S. Route 29 corridor in the eastern region of the county has become the focal point for most commercial, industrial and residential development.

The county is part of the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Amherst County is 165 miles southwest of Washington, D.C.; 115 miles west of Richmond, the state capital; and 47 miles southwest of Charlottesville.



### VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this report through the use of standardized, reliable data sources, including the community. However, the Partnership provides this information "as is," and therefore, assumes no liability arising from the use of this report or data.



### LABOR MARKET DATA

#### Population

##### Gender Distribution (2006)

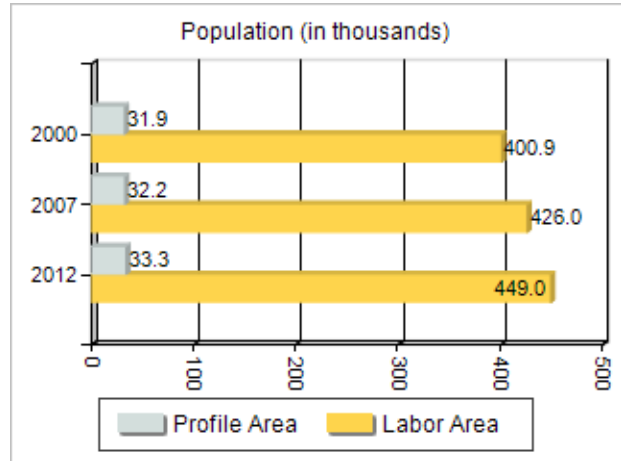
Area	Male	Female
Amherst County	48.0%	52.0%

##### Race/Ethnicity (2006)

Classification	Profile Area	Labor Area
White	25,180	356,416
Black	6,334	55,606
Two or More	292	4,543
Asian	150	3,360
American Indian or Alaska Native	276	970
Pacific Islander	7	95
Hispanic (may be of any race)	389	5,446

##### Median Age

Amherst	40 years
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#### Civilian Labor Force (2007)

Amherst County	15,866
Surrounding Labor Area	214,791
Total	230,657

#### Labor Force Participation (2000 Census)

Amherst County	61.0%
Surrounding Labor Area	62.1%

#### Unemployment

##### Unemployment Rate (February 2008)

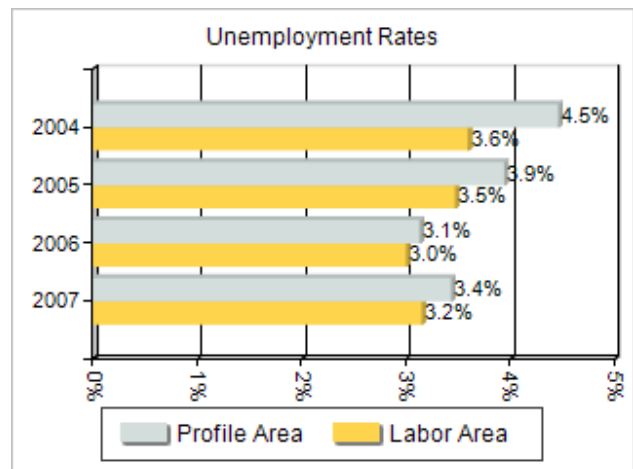
Amherst County	3.79%
Labor Area	3.91%
Statewide	3.8%

##### Unemployed (2007)

Amherst County	545
Labor Area	6,767
Total	7,312

##### Underemployed (4th Quarter 2007)

Amherst County	3,122
Labor Area	30,843
Total	33,965





### Commuting Patterns (2000 Census)

Live and work in Amherst County:	6,688	36.4%
Total In-Commuters:	3,945	21.4%
Total Out-Commuters:	7,762	42.2%
Net Out-Commuters:	3,817	
<i>In-Commuters From:</i>		
Lynchburg City VA	1,627	46.7%
Campbell Co. VA	781	22.4%
Bedford Co. VA	414	11.9%
Appomattox Co. VA	336	9.6%
Nelson Co. VA	326	9.4%
<i>Out-Commuters To:</i>		
Lynchburg City VA	5,393	77.4%
Campbell Co. VA	839	12.0%
Nelson Co. VA	349	5.0%
Bedford Co. VA	261	3.7%
Albemarle Co. VA	127	1.8%

### Additional Labor Resources

High school graduates not continuing (2006-2007) .....	105
Two-year college graduates (Spring 2007) .....	451
Two-year college enrollees (Fall 2007) .....	5,207
Other college and university graduates (Spring 2007) .....	3,919
Total .....	9,682

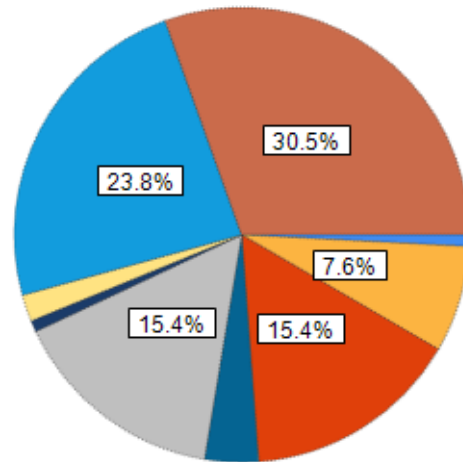
### Educational Attainment

Percentage of Amherst County 2003-2004 ninth graders graduating in 2006-2007 .....	77.9%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who are high school graduates .....	70.6%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher .....	13.1%



### Employment by Sector\* (3rd Qtr. 2007)

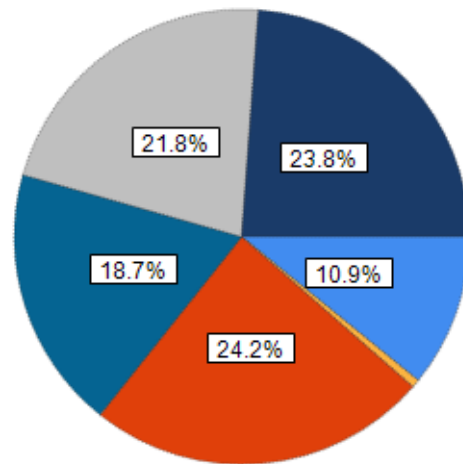
Natural Resources and Mining	80	0.8%
Construction	737	7.6%
Trade	1,503	15.4%
Transportation and Utilities	371	3.8%
Manufacturing	1,499	15.4%
Information	79	0.8%
Financial	185	1.9%
Services	2,319	23.8%
Government	2,968	30.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,741</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*By Business Establishment

### Employment by Occupation\* (3rd Qtr. 2007)

Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	1,057	10.9%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	57	0.6%
Managerial, Professional & Related	2,358	24.2%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	1,818	18.7%
Sales & Office	2,117	21.8%
Service	2,318	23.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,725</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*By Business Establishment

### Major Employers

#### Manufacturing

Company	Product/Service	Est. Employment
Buffalo Air Handling Co.	Air handling equipment	100 - 299
England's Stove Works Inc.	Wood Burning Stoves	50 - 99
Glad Manufacturing Co.	Plastic bags & wraps	300 - 599
Greif Brothers Corp.	Containerboard	300 - 599
Hermle Black Forest Clocks	Clocks	50 - 99
Hoppmann Corp.	Packaging machinery	50 - 99
Lynchburg Steel	Structural steel	100 - 299



### Nonmanufacturing

Company	Product/Service	Est. Employment
Central Virginia Training Center	Residential facility for Mentally retarded	1,000 - 1,499
Old Dominion Job Corps	Residential Training Programs	100 - 299
Quality Foods	Wholesale Distributor	100 - 299
Sweet Briar College	Women's College	300 - 599

### Closings, Reductions, Layoffs (1/2006 to date)

Date	Type	Company	Product/Service	Employees Affected
12/1/2006	Closing	New Dominion Packaging	Manufacture folding cartons	25

### Union Activity (1/2004 - 6/2007)

No Union Activity

### Estimated Earnings (May 2006)

Occupation	Med. Wage	Mean Wage	Med. Salary	Mean Salary
Packers and packagers, hand	\$9.05	\$9.57	\$18,814.30	\$19,902.46
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	\$10.19	\$10.46	\$21,205.17	\$21,765.09
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	\$9.36	\$9.84	\$19,464.13	\$20,461.35
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	\$13.18	\$14.13	\$27,408.15	\$29,389.30
Team assemblers	\$12.76	\$12.64	\$26,538.94	\$26,294.79
Maintenance and repair workers, general	\$15.74	\$16.98	\$32,742.05	\$35,317.20
Construction laborers	\$10.68	\$11.50	\$22,206.70	\$23,913.33
Carpenters	\$14.08	\$15.07	\$29,292.96	\$31,350.33
Office clerks, general	\$11.27	\$11.64	\$23,431.63	\$24,210.46
Stock clerks and order fillers	\$9.34	\$10.05	\$19,422.42	\$20,894.79
Customer service representatives	\$10.59	\$11.67	\$22,037.35	\$24,278.28
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	\$13.67	\$14.08	\$28,431.34	\$29,284.15
First-line supervisors/managers of office & admin support workers	\$17.94	\$20.29	\$37,305.67	\$42,205.71
Sales reps, wholesale & manufacturing, ex technical & scientific products	\$23.57	\$30.80	\$49,035.75	\$64,069.24
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	\$10.29	\$10.23	\$21,399.68	\$21,282.78
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	\$17.02	\$17.00	\$35,401.17	\$35,367.17
Registered nurses	\$23.36	\$24.04	\$48,581.68	\$50,006.80
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	\$19.47	\$20.61	\$40,487.48	\$42,864.74
Elementary school teachers, except special education	\$19.37	\$20.59	\$40,289.64	\$42,828.67
General and operations managers	\$40.74	\$43.26	\$84,747.87	\$89,970.94

### Per Capita Personal Income (2005)

\$25,406

### Median Family Income (FY 2007)

\$54,200



### EDUCATION

#### Public School Enrollment

Level	Number	Fall 2007 Enrollment
Elementary	7	2,874
Middle	2	1,133
High School	1	1,511

#### Student Teacher Ratio (2006-07)

Elementary .....	12.5:1
Secondary .....	9.8:1
Percentage of 2003-2004 ninth grade membership graduating 2006-2007 .....	77.9%
Percentage of high school graduates continuing education 2006-2007 (including military) .....	69.6%

#### Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2007)

\$8,976.00

#### Workforce Development Facilities

Facility	Type
Region 2000 Career Center	Comprehensive Center

#### Higher Education Facilities

Facility	Fall 2007 Enrollment
Liberty University	26,974
Central Virginia Community College	4,927
Lynchburg College	2,489
Washington and Lee University	2,117
Virginia Military Institute	1,378
Randolph College	1,176
Sweet Briar College	802
Southern Virginia University	752
National College - Lynchburg Campus	280
Virginia University of Lynchburg	†

†Enrollment figures are not available.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Interstates

Name	Distance
I-81 .....	5.2 miles (8.4 km.)
I-64 .....	5.8 miles (9.3 km.)
I-581 .....	35.2 miles (56.7 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

# Amherst County, Virginia

## Community Profile



### Highways

Highway 130      Highway 151      Highway 210      Highway 29      Highway 48      Highway 501  
Highway 60

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

### Commercial Air Service

**Lynchburg Regional Airport, Lynchburg** ..... **6.6 miles (10.6 km.)**

Delta Connection/ Atlantic Southeast Airlines      US Airways Express

**Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Staunton** ..... **33.7 miles (54.2 km.)**

US Airways Express

**Roanoke Regional Airport, Roanoke** ..... **35.3 miles (56.9 km.)**

Atlantic Southeast Airlines      Comair      Northwest Airlinck      United Express  
US Airways

**Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville** ..... **41.9 miles (67.4 km.)**

Comair/ Delta Connection      Northwest Airlines      United Express      US Airways Express

**Greenbrier Valley Airport, Lewisburg, WV** ..... **55.3 miles (88.9 km.)**

Delta Air Lines      US Airways

Note: Within 75 miles of nearest locality/region boundary.

### General Aviation Service

**Name**      **Runway Length**  
Falwell Airport, Lynchburg ..... 2,900 ft (884 m)

### Freight Rail Service

CSX Transportation  
Norfolk Southern Railway Company

### Ports

**Name**      **Distance**  
Port Of Richmond ..... 95.0 miles (152.9 km)  
Virginia Inland Port At Front Royal ..... 109.0 miles (175.4 km)  
Norfolk International Terminals ..... 164.0 miles (263.9 km)

Note: Measured from center of locality/region

## UTILITIES

### Electric

American Electric Power      Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

### Natural Gas

Columbia Gas of Virginia





### Telecommunications

Verizon South Verizon-Virginia

### Water

Amherst County Public Service Authority Town of Amherst

### Waste Water Treatment

Amherst County Service Authority Town of Amherst

### Solid Waste Disposal

Amherst County Sanitary Landfill

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Bank	3rd Qtr 2007 Assets (in millions)
Wachovia Bank, N.A.	\$557,018.0
SunTrust Bank	\$171,510.8
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$126,290.2
Carter Bank & Trust	\$2,568.8
The First National Bank of Altavista	\$277.7
Bank of the James	\$261.7

## GOVERNMENT

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

The county has a comprehensive plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances.

The town of Amherst is the county seat. There are no other incorporated towns in 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 (Amherst) [51009 MFG.PDF](#)*

*Non-Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Amherst) [51009 NMFG.PDF](#)*





### CLIMATE

#### Average Temperatures

January .....	37°F (3°C)
July .....	77°F (25°C)

#### Average Annual Precipitation

Rainfall .....	40.66" (103.28 cm)
Snowfall .....	18.80" (47.75 cm)

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Adjacent Lynchburg offers two major hospital facilities for Amherst County residents. Lynchburg General Hospital and Virginia Baptist Hospital collectively offer 768 beds and comprehensive medical services for the region. The University of Virginia Hospital is located in Charlottesville approximately 50 miles away.

Ten physicians and three dentists have offices established in the county. More than 200 physicians and 70 dentists representing more than 30 medical and surgical specialties serve the metropolitan area.

The Amherst County Health Department operates two public health clinics and provides nursing home care. Private nursing and extended care is available at two locations in the town of Amherst. Additional nursing and extended care facilities are located in nearby Lynchburg.

More than 50 churches representing most of the leading Protestant and Catholic denominations are located in Amherst County. A Greek Orthodox church and a Jewish synagogue are located in Lynchburg.

Amherst County residents are served by public libraries in the town of Amherst and in Madison Heights.

Seven shopping centers are available in Amherst County offering residents a wide variety of retail goods and services including department stores, supermarkets, furniture stores, appliances and many others. In addition, adjacent Lynchburg provides substantial shopping and entertainment options including a regional mall and numerous neighborhood retail centers distributed throughout the city.

### LIFESTYLE

Sweet Briar College is a major cultural center for the community. The college sponsors many concerts, lectures, and dramatic productions that are available to the general public. An annual tennis camp operated by Dennis Van der Meer is hosted by the college and draws participants from county residents and students from across the nation. The Lynchburg Fine Arts Center and other local colleges add to the cultural offerings within the region including art galleries, dance studios, theater, and musical entertainment.

The Amherst County Recreation Department directs a comprehensive countywide recreation program consisting of team sports, public park facilities, and special interest classes. The three Buffalo River Watershed Lakes covering over 400 acres at the base of the mountains provide a breathtaking setting for canoeing, fishing, and picnicking. The George Washington National Forest has numerous



mountain streams with championship trout fishing along with excellent hunting opportunities featuring deer, turkey, and small game. The Appalachian Trail offers scenic and challenging trails for hikers. The Blue Ridge Parkway features dramatic views for the motorist along with historic sites and public camping areas.

Winton Country Club offers members excellent dining, swimming, and golf facilities. Its 18-hole championship golf course is also open to the public. The Izaak Walton league operates a private club in the county including swimming, camping, and picnicking facilities. Poplar Grove, a premier golf course designed by Sam Snead, is also located in the county. Wintergreen Resort, in adjoining Nelson County, showcases excellent winter skiing in addition to year-round vacation amenities.

Amherst County hosts several traditional annual festivals including the Garlic, Apple, and Sorghum Festivals and Monacan Indian Pow Wow, which draw thousands of patrons each year. The Amherst County Historical Museum, located in the town of Amherst, offers both permanent and temporary exhibits of historical events and artifacts relative to the county's history.

*Virginia's Region 2000 Economic Development Partnership*  
*Amherst County*