

2006 BUCHANAN

COUNTY PROFILE



POPULATION

Total County Population	
2000:	26,978
1990:	31,333
1980:	37,989
1970:	32,071
Incorporated Towns	
Grundy	1,105
Vansant	989
Population Projections	
2010:	25,913
Population Age Breakdown (2000)	
0-18	5,773
18-24	2,293
25-44	8,417
45-64	7,419
65+	3,102
Median age:	38.8
County Area (Square Miles)	508
Population Density (Per Sq. Mile)	62
Population of immediate surrounding counties	233,812

CLIMATE

Average January Temperature	36°
Average July Temperature	76°
Average Annual Rainfall	40 inches
Average Annual Snowfall	23 inches
Prevailing winds are from the west and southwest and a secondary northeast direction.	
Buchanan County is considered an attainment area for all national air quality standards.	

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force (July 2006)	
County Civilian Labor Force . .	8,696
Unemployment Rate	6.0%
Labor Force of Contiguous Areas	79,111
Employment by Industry (First Quarter 2006)	
Natural Resources and Mining . .	1,845
Construction	559
Manufacturing.	326
Trade, Transportation, Utilities .	1,306
Information	51
Financial Activities.	195
Professional & Business Services.	383
Education & Health Services. . .	1,735
Leisure & Hospitality	316
Other Services	153
Public Administration	613
Total	7,481

COUNTY TAXES

	Assessment Ratio	Effective Tax Rate
Real Estate	97.7%	.48
Machinery & Tools		
New - 3	80%	1.56
Years 4 - 6	60	1.17
Years 7 - 9	40	.78
Years 10+	20	.39
Personal Property	80%	1.56
Utility Taxes		
Electric	10% of first \$50.00	
Telephone	10% of first \$50.00	
Sales.		5.0%

UTILITIES

Serving the Industrial Parks:	
Water	Buchanan County PSA Capacity - 2.0 M gpd Rate - \$8.00/1000 gallons
Sewer	Buchanan County PSA Capacity - 1.65 M gpd Rate - \$8.00/1000 gallons
Electric	American Electric Company 220V 3 Phase Service Rate - \$3.89/kWh 1,000Kw@400,000 kWh/Mo.
Telephone	Verizon Communications, Inc. Conventional and fiber-optic cable facilities are available.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

	Approximate # Employees
Consolidation Coal Company	425
Island Creek Coal Company	740
Issues & Answers Network	90
Keen Mtn. Correctional Fac.	316
KVAT Food Stores	513
Cardinal Industries	70
Virginia Employment Commission	
Customer Service Center	70

*Virginia statutes require reassessments to be made at 100 percent of fair market value. However, because of rising real estate values and most localities reassessing only periodically, actual assessment ratios are usually lower than 100 percent. Each year, the Virginia Department of Taxation examines real estate transactions, comparing real estate assessments effective on the date of the property's sale with the selling price of the property. The Tax Department's ratios of assessed values to selling prices for 2003 are shown in this data. They represent the best measures of actual assessment ratios in Virginia localities.

EDUCATION

Fall 2004 Enrollment

6 Elementary/Middle 2,322
4 High Schools (8-12) 1,248

The Buchanan County School System is fully accredited by the Southern Assoc. Of Schools and Colleges. It offers programs for gifted students and special education for handicapped students.

Vocational/Technical Education

The Buchanan County Vocational School, in Grundy, offers courses in auto mechanics, drafting, welding, carpentry, sewing, nursing, cosmetology, printing, electricity, and masonry.

Higher Education

Community Colleges

Southwest Virginia Community College, in Richlands, and Mountain Empire Community College, in Big Stone Gap, offer two-year degree programs in technical and occupational subjects, and the first two years of college level subjects in the arts and sciences. Day and evening classes are available on and off campus.

Both colleges contract with new and existing industry to train employees and have personnel on staff to work with business and industry.

Appalachian School of Law

The Appalachian School of Law is seeking approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to confer the Juris Doctorate. The Law School, which specializes in dispute resolution, opened in August 1997 with a charter class of 71 students.

Also conveniently located from Buchanan County:

UVA's College at Wise, Wise VA
Emory & Henry College, Emory, VA
VA Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA
Radford University, Radford, VA
King College, Bristol, TN
Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, VA
East TN State Univ., Johnson City, TN
Lincoln Memorial Univ., Harrogate, TN
Univ. Of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
Pikeville College, Pikeville, KY

QUALITY OF LIFE

Health Care

– The Buchanan County Medical Center has 144 beds and offers a full range of medical care along with 11 clinics and 2 nursing homes. There are 22 physicians and 6 dentists.

Hotels/Meeting Rooms

– There are four motels located within the County. One facility offers meeting rooms.

Libraries

– The Buchanan County Library has a branch in Grundy with over 72,000 volumes.

Recreation/Culture

– The Clinch Mountain Wildlife Areas and the Breaks Interstate Park offer numerous outdoor recreational opportunities.

– Buchanan County maintains recreational facilities including 18 tennis courts, two horse rinks, four swimming pools, 11 softball fields and a 9-hole golf course.

– Organized community recreational programs are available year round for the entire family.

– The New Mountain Players, a theater group, and numerous arts and craft festivals, provide cultural entertainment throughout the year.

Religion

– There are over 100 churches in the county representing most Protestant and the Roman Catholic faiths.

Shopping

– Vansant and Grundy serve as the shopping centers of the county.

TRANSPORTATION

Highways

Buchanan County is served by US Route 460 and State Highways 80 and 83.

Interstates

I-81 83 Miles
I-77 71 Miles
I-64 100 Miles

Air

Commercial Air Service

Tri-Cities Regional Airport in Blountville, Tennessee, is approximately 100 miles from Buchanan County. Airline service available through U.S. Air, Atlantic Southeast, ComAir Express (Delta connection) and American Eagle.

General Aviation Service

Grundy Airport offers a 2,400 foot runway. Tazewell County Airport at Claypool Hill is within 25 miles of Grundy and offers a 4,300 foot runway.

Trucking

More than thirty motor freight companies provide service for Buchanan County. Sample list are: Overnite, Estee Express, Yellow Freight. Eight air freight companies serve the area including Airborne, CF Air Freight, and Air Cargo.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Buchanan Information Park

Grundy 5 acres available
25,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant facility available

Aggressive incentives are available and can include: reduced space costs, training grants, and transportation grants.