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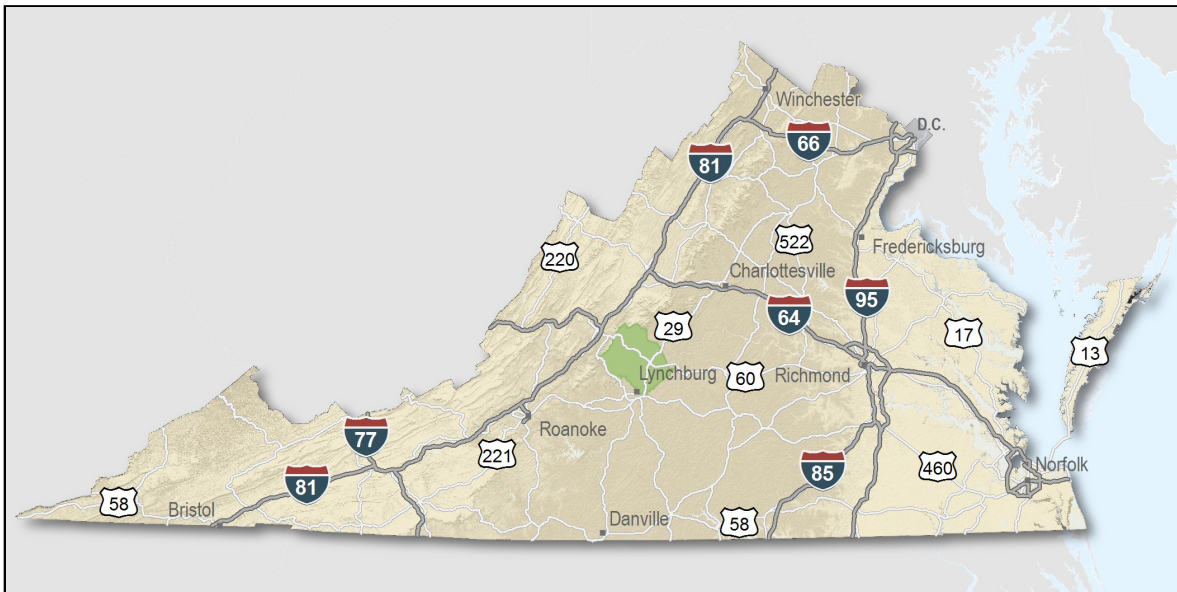
# Amherst County, Virginia

# Overview

Only a few locations can guarantee the right combination of resources that are crucial to your business's success. Virginia's premier location offers excellent domestic and international access. Centrally located on the U.S. East Coast, more than 47 percent of the U.S. population is within a day's drive, and our integrated transportation system of highways, railroads, airports and seaports ensures that you can reach every one of your markets efficiently. Close proximity to Washington, D.C. facilitates contact with policy makers and the federal government system.

Virginia continues to rank among America's leading states for business by CNBC and Forbes.com. Business-first values, easy access to markets, stable and competitive operating costs, and a talented workforce all drove Virginia to the top. This unique combination of assets has encouraged businesses to prosper here for more than 400 years. Like you, they searched the world over for that convergence of resources that would help ensure their prosperity. For them, their search ended here. Chances are yours will too.

- AAA bond rating- Virginia has maintained a AAA rating since 1938, longer than any other state.
- Right-to-work law allows individuals the right to work regardless of membership in a labor union or organization.
- Corporate income tax rate of 6% has not been increased since 1972.
- Headquarters to 37 Fortune 1000 firms.
- Headquarters to 56 firms each with annual revenue over \$1 billion.
- More than 21,400 high-tech establishments operate in Virginia.
- More than 700 internationally-owned businesses from 40 countries are located in Virginia.
- Ranks third among the 50 states as a recipient of federal R&D funds.
- Streamlined permitting process.
- Recruitment training programs to help new businesses become operational faster.
- Programs at little or no cost to help businesses increase international sales.

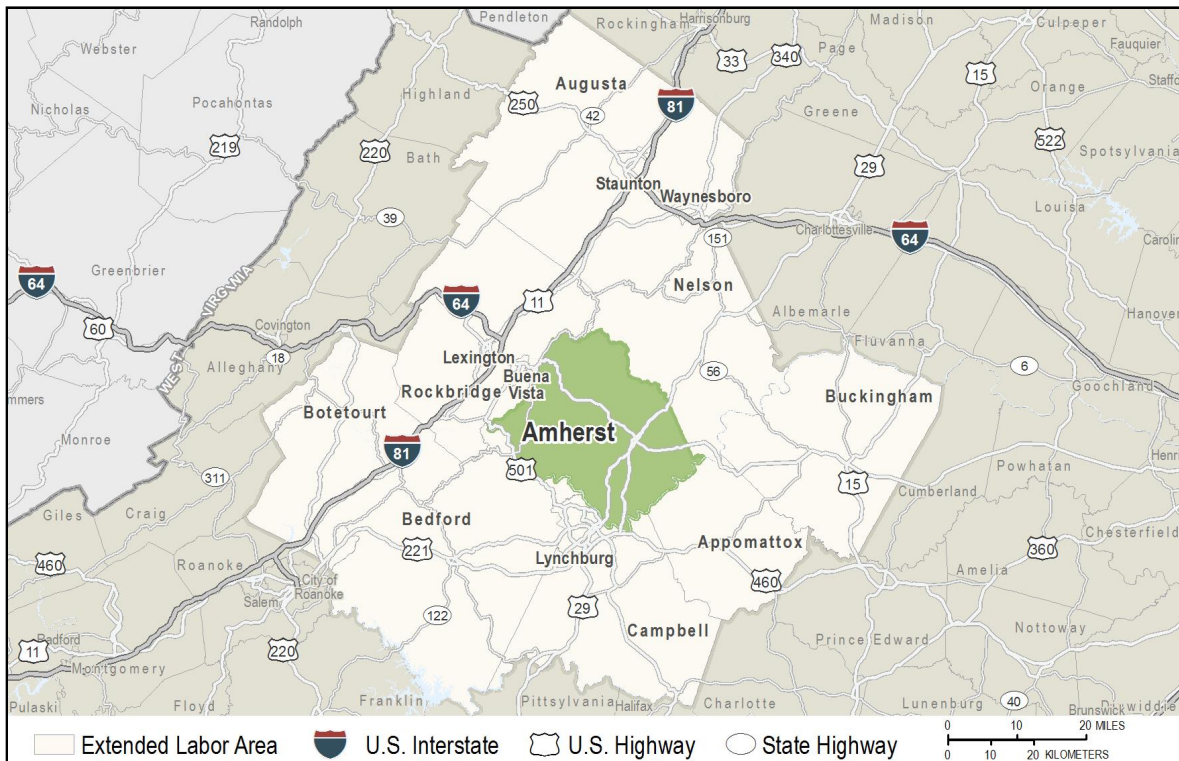


# Location

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.



# Labor Market

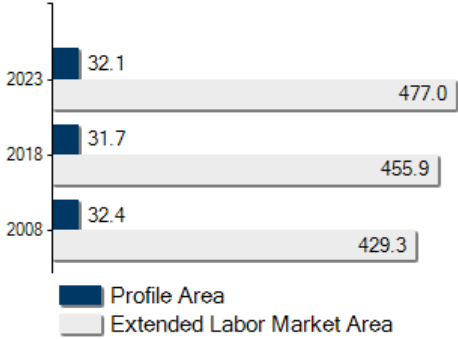
Population		
<b>Gender Distribution (2018)</b>		
Amherst County	Male 48.5%	Female 51.5%
<b>Race/Ethnicity (2018)</b>		
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Profile Area</b>	<b>Extended Labor Area</b>
White	24,394	379,193
Black	6,043	59,419
Two or More	753	9,098
American Indian or Alaska Native	288	1,759
Asian	174	6,210
Pacific Islander	14	252
Hispanic (may be of any race)	822	11,508
<b>Median Age (2018)</b>		45 years

Civilian Labor Force (2018)	
Amherst County	14,984
Extended Labor Market Area	213,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,343</b>

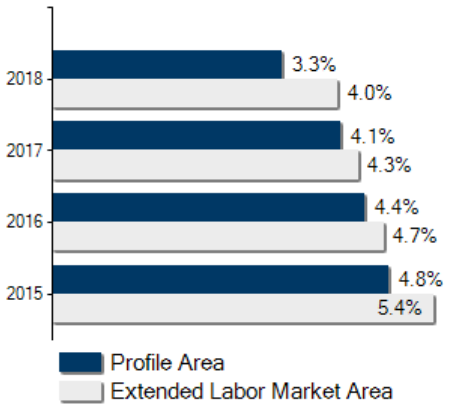
Labor Force Participation (2013-2017)	
Amherst County	58.3%
Extended Labor Market Area	58.8%

Unemployment	
<b>Unemployment Rate (December 2019)</b>	
Amherst County	2.9%
Extended Labor Market Area	2.6%
Statewide	2.5%
<b>Unemployed (2018)</b>	
Amherst County	488
Extended Labor Market Area	6,888
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,376</b>
<b>Underemployed (4th Quarter 2019)</b>	
Amherst County	1,302
Extended Labor Market Area	19,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,784</b>

**Population in Thousands**



**Unemployment Rates**





# Labor Market

## Commute Time (2013-2017)

Worked from home	372	2.6%
Under 15 minutes	3,195	22.9%
15-24 minutes	5,064	36.3%
25-34 minutes	3,613	25.9%
35-44 minutes	739	5.3%
45-59 minutes	530	3.8%
Over 60 minutes	809	5.8%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		24

## Additional Labor Resources

High School Graduates Not Continuing (2017-2018)	68
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2018)	1,195
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2018)	4,047
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2018)	19,260
Total	24,570

### Career Readiness Certificate (06/30/2017-06/30/2018)

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.

Amherst County	41
Extended Labor Market Area	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

### Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2018)	93.2%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2013-2017)	84.1%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2013-2017)	19.9%



# Labor Market

## Employment by Sector\* (4th Qtr. 2018)

Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	47	0.6%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0
Utilities	0	0
Construction	506	6.3%
Manufacturing	1,343	16.6%
Wholesale Trade	139	1.7%
Retail Trade	1,085	13.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	252	3.1%
Information	29	0.4%
Finance and Insurance	122	1.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	23	0.3%
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	161	2.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	N.D.	N.D.
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	149	1.8%
Educational Services	N.D.	N.D.
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,152	14.3%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	59	0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	645	8.0%
Other Services	246	3.0%
Total Government	1,851	22.9%
Federal Government	47	0.6%
State Government	498	6.2%
Local Government	1,306	16.2%
Unclassified	14	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,069</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

N.D. - Not Disclosed

\*By Business Establishment



# Labor Market

Major Employers	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
<b>Company</b>	<b>Product/Service</b>
Buffalo Air Handling Co.	Air handling equipment
England's Stove Works Inc.	Wood Burning Stoves
Glad Manufacturing Co.	Plastic bags & wraps
Greif Brothers Corp.	Containerboard
Hermle Black Forest Clocks	Clocks, Furniture
Lynchburg Steel	Structural steel
Quality Archery Design	Archery Equipment
S&S Machine, Truball	Metal Fabrication, Archery Equipment
Shibuya Hoppmann Corp.	Packaging machinery
<b>NonManufacturing</b>	
<b>Company</b>	<b>Product/Service</b>
Central Virginia Training Center	Residential facility for the intellectually disabled
H.T. Hackney	Wholesale Distributor
Old Dominion Job Corps	Residential Training Programs
Sweet Briar College	Women's College



# Labor Market

<b>Union Activity (8/1/2015 - 8/1/2018)</b>	
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

## Estimated Earnings (May 2018)

Occupation	Median Wage (US\$)	Mean Wage (US\$)	Median Salary (US\$)	Mean Salary (US\$)
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	12.45	13.24	25,899	27,550
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	16.18	16.94	33,639	35,244
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	19.85	22.11	41,288	45,982
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	17.88	19.13	37,180	39,788
Machinists	18.97	19.35	39,475	40,247
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	24.35	25.21	50,647	52,440
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	26.90	28.42	55,952	59,119
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	18.55	19.08	38,583	39,691
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	21.71	22.94	45,156	47,724
Office Clerks, General	21.23	21.38	44,150	44,473
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	12.72	13.52	26,448	28,122
Receptionists and Information Clerks	14.98	15.77	31,157	32,796
Customer Service Representatives	11.46	11.97	23,846	24,891
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	12.15	13.96	25,264	29,027
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	16.83	17.12	35,011	35,601
Industrial Engineers	24.30	26.54	50,551	55,205
Electrical Engineers	37.71	38.90	78,427	80,893
Software Developers, Systems Software	58.57	55.99	121,841	116,460
Accountants and Auditors	51.72	52.07	107,569	108,314
	34.00	35.93	70,714	74,735

## Per Capita Personal Income (2017)

\$35,992

## Median Family Income (2013-2017)

\$61,614

# Education

## Public School Enrollment (Fall 2018)

Level	Number	Enrollment
Elementary	6	1,943
Middle	2	978
High School	1	1,157

## Student Teacher Ratio (FY 2018)

Elementary	11:1
Secondary	9:1

## Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2018) (US\$)

11,369.00
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## On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2018)

93.2%
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## High School Graduates Continuing Education (2017-2018)

77.4%
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## Advanced Programs (2017-2018)

### Governor's Schools

Central VA Governor's School For Science and Technology

### Governor's STEM Academies and Health Academies

Lynchburg Regional Governor's STEM Academy

Governor's School Enrollment	14
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	187
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	78
Students taking 1 or more Dual Enrollment Courses	107

## Workforce Development Facilities

Facility	Type
Lynchburg Workforce Center	Satellite Center
Region 2000 Career Center	Comprehensive Center



# Education

Higher Education Facilities – Fall	
Facility	Enrollment
Liberty University	79,152
Central Virginia Community College	4,047
University of Lynchburg	3,081
Washington and Lee University	2,220
Virginia Military Institute	1,685
Southern Virginia University	979
Randolph College	623
Centra College of Nursing	401 <sup>◊</sup>
Sweet Briar College	330
Virginia University of Lynchburg	304 <sup>◊</sup>
Miller-Motte Technical College - Lynchburg Campus	†
American National University - Lynchburg Campus	†

† Enrollment figures are not available.

◊ Fall Enrollment



# 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.

Highways				
Highway 130	Highway 151	Highway 210	Highway 29	Highway 501
Highway 60				

Commercial Air Service		
<b>Lynchburg Regional Airport, Lynchburg -- 32.5 miles (52.3 km.)</b>		
American Airlines		
<b>Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville -- 63.1 miles (101.6 km.)</b>		
American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	United Airlines
<b>Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, Roanoke -- 67.7 miles (109.0 km.)</b>		
American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	United Airlines
Allegiant Air		
<b>Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Weyers Cave -- 70.8 miles (114.0 km.)</b>		
United Express		

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

# Transportation

## General Aviation Service

Name	Runway Length
Falwell Airport, Lynchburg	2,932 ft (894 m)

## Freight Rail Service

CSX Transportation Norfolk Southern Railway Company
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## Seaports

Name	Distance
Port of Virginia	215.0 miles (346.0 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

Name	Distance
Port of Washington - Dulles	154.5 miles (248.6 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

Utilities	
Electric	American Electric Power
Electric	Central Virginia Electric Cooperative
Natural Gas	Columbia Gas of Virginia
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Telecommunications	Verizon-Virginia
Telecommunications	Comcast Business Communications
Telecommunications	Lumos Networks
Water	Amherst County Public Service Authority
Water	Town of Amherst
Waste Water Treatment	Amherst County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Amherst
Solid Waste Disposal	Amherst County Sanitary Landfill

# Financial Institutions

<b>Financial Institutions – 4th Qtr 2018 Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	<b>Assets (US\$ Millions)</b>
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	1,689,351.0
Branch Banking and Trust Company	219,071.0
SunTrust Bank	209,720.5
WoodForest National Bank	5,923.7
Carter Bank & Trust	4,039.6
Bank of the James	675.3
First National Bank	469.5





# Government and Taxes

## 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) [pdf](#)*

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



# 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.

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.

**(continued)**

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.

*Lynchburg MSA Profile*

*Lynchburg Region Profile*

*Amherst County*

*Virginia's Region 2000 Economic Development Partnership*