



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Charlottesville MSA, Virginia**



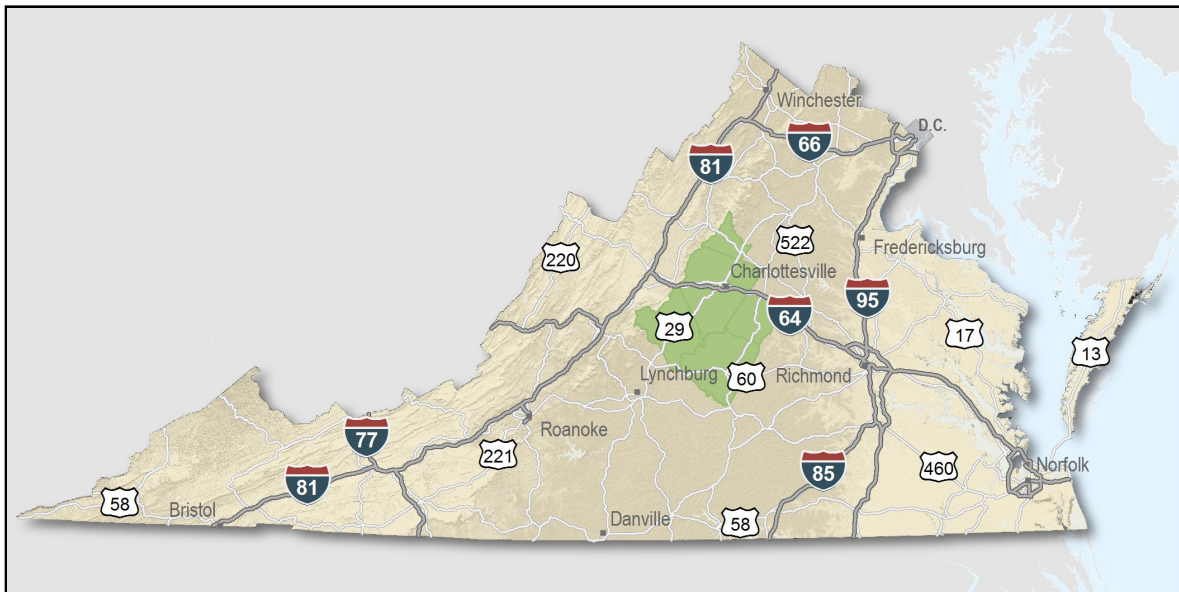
**VIRGINIA ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**  
[www.YesVirginia.org](http://www.YesVirginia.org)

# State Map

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, 40 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 52 firms each with annual revenue over \$1 billion.
- More than 17,300 high-tech establishments operate in Virginia.
- More than 700 internationally-owned businesses from 45 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.

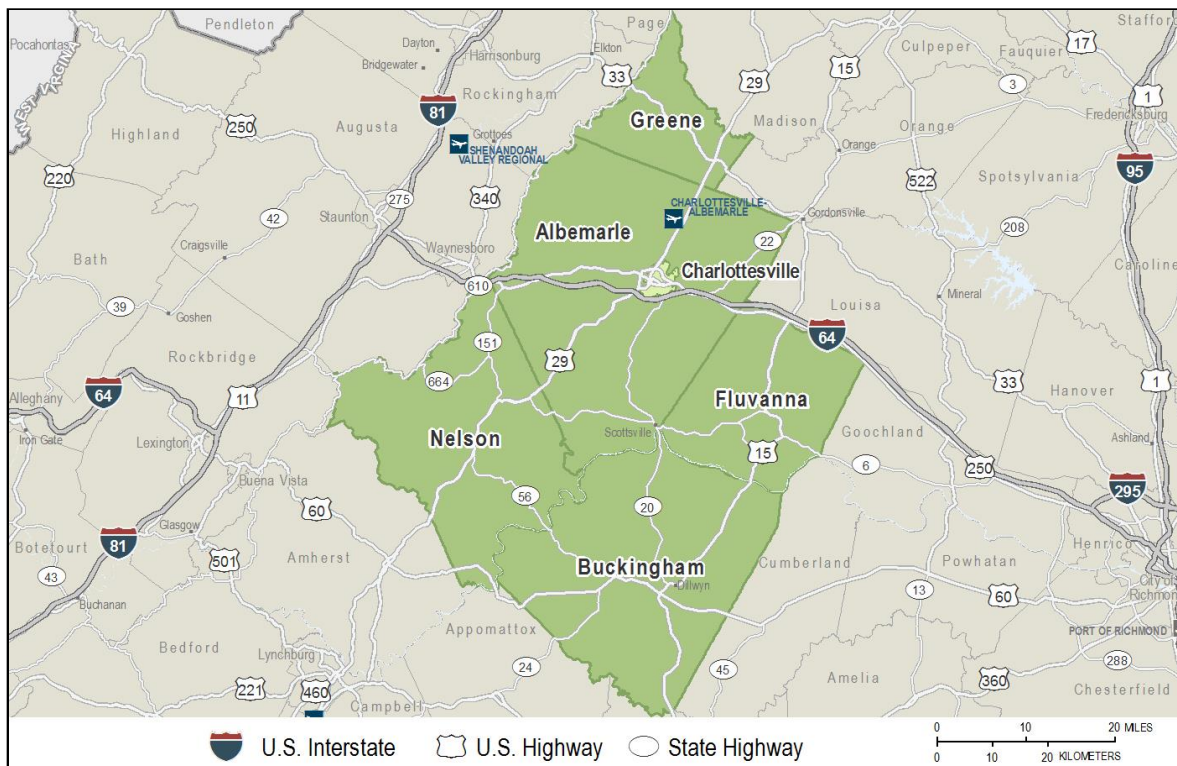


# Location

The Charlottesville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of the city of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson. The area is centrally located in Virginia in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This area offers an appealing quality of life and a highly skilled work force to complement its excellent interstate, rail, and air transportation networks.

The Charlottesville MSA is centrally located in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Charlottesville MSA is located approximately 71 miles west of Richmond; 110 miles southwest of Washington, D.C.; and 162 miles northwest of Norfolk.



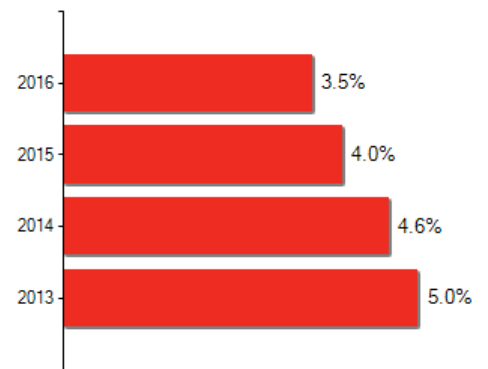
# Labor Market

Population		
<b>Gender Distribution (2016)</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Charlottesville MSA	48.4%	51.6%
<b>Race/Ethnicity (2016)</b>		
		<b>Profile Area</b>
<b>Classification</b>		
White		182,417
Black		32,332
Asian		9,704
Two or More		5,817
American Indian or Alaska Native		907
Pacific Islander		172
Hispanic (may be of any race)		11,612
<b>Median Age (2016)</b>		
Albemarle		39 years
Buckingham		43 years
Charlottesville		31 years
Fluvanna		44 years
Greene		41 years
Nelson		50 years

**Population in Thousands**



**Unemployment Rates**



# Labor Market

<b>Civilian Labor Force (2016)</b>	
Charlottesville MSA	115,519

<b>Labor Force Participation (2012-2016)</b>	
Charlottesville MSA	60.7%

<b>Unemployment</b>	
<b>Unemployment Rate (November 2017)</b>	
Charlottesville MSA	3.2%
Statewide	3.6%
<b>Unemployed (2016)</b>	
Charlottesville MSA	4,073
<b>Underemployed (3rd Quarter 2017)</b>	
Charlottesville MSA	21,125

The area possesses a highly diversified economy led by a strong commercial and service sector, light manufacturing, education and health services, and the travel industry.

# Labor Market

## Commute Time (2012-2016)

Worked from home	6,971	6.5%
Under 15 minutes	27,386	27.4%
15-24 minutes	33,412	33.4%
25-34 minutes	19,640	19.6%
35-44 minutes	6,546	6.5%
45-59 minutes	6,664	6.7%
Over 60 minutes	6,417	6.4%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		
Albemarle		22
Buckingham		35
Charlottesville		18
Fluvanna		33
Greene		30
Nelson		30

## Additional Labor Resources

High School Graduates Not Continuing (2015-2016)	336
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2016)	2,518
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2016)	18,213
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2016)	16,096
Total	37,163

Virginia continues to rank among America's leading states for business by CNBC and Forbes.com.

# Labor Market

## Career Readiness Certificate (01/01/2016-08/31/2017)

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 Workkeys® 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.

Charlottesville MSA	101
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Virginia is the northernmost right-to-work state on the East Coast.

## Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2017)	93.9%
Percentage of Charlottesville MSA population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2012-2016)	88.8%
Percentage of Charlottesville MSA population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2012-2016)	41.7%

# Labor Market

The Charlottesville MSA has a labor force in excess of 115,000.

Employment by Sector* (2nd Qtr. 2017)		
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	1,094	1.0%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	166	0.1%
Utilities	350	0.3%
Construction	5,335	4.8%
Manufacturing	3,840	3.4%
Wholesale Trade	1,539	1.4%
Retail Trade	11,241	10.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,189	1.1%
Information	2,020	1.8%
Finance and Insurance	2,617	2.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,568	1.4%
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	7,034	6.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,871	1.7%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	5,285	4.7%
Educational Services	2,051	1.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11,118	9.9%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	2,450	2.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	11,568	10.3%
Other Services	4,657	4.1%
Total Government	34,923	31.1%
Federal Government	1,423	1.3%
State Government	23,357	20.8%
Local Government	10,143	9.0%
Unclassified	324	0.3%
Total	112,239	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

\*By Business Establishment

Employment by Occupation (2016)		
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	7,990	7.4%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	490	0.5%
Managerial, Professional & Related	42,870	39.6%
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	6,710	6.2%
Sales & Office	26,010	24.0%
Service	24,180	22.3%
Total	108,250	100%



# Labor Market

## Major Employers

### Manufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
GE Information Systems	Programmable controls

### NonManufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
Buckingham & Dillwyn Correctional Centers	Correctional institutions
Crutchfield Corporation	Electronics retailer
Defense Intelligence Community - Rivanna Station	Military Base
Fork Union Military Academy	Education
Martha Jefferson Regional Hospital	Health care
Piedmont Virginia Community College	Higher education
State Farm Mutual	Insurance services
University of Virginia	Higher education
University of Virginia Health System	Health care
Wintergreen Resorts	Resort

Metropolitan Charlottesville ranks #42 out of 200 among the "Best Small Places For Business and Careers" - Forbes.com, 2015

# Labor Market

**Closings, Reductions, Layoffs (1/2015 to date)**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Employees Affected</i>
1/15/2017	Layoff	Relay Foods	HQ; Food distribution warehouse	48
2/22/2017	Closing	Delivery Agent Holdings Corp.	Provider of commerce technology and services	134

**Union Activity (10/1/2015 - 10/1/2017)**

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 2016)**

<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	\$11.40	\$12.06	\$23,722.45	\$25,089.33
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$16.95	\$17.35	\$35,251.85	\$36,093.78
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$16.91	\$17.20	\$35,162.77	\$35,769.37
Office Clerks, General	\$16.01	\$16.99	\$33,308.08	\$35,329.84
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$17.97	\$18.01	\$37,382.24	\$37,463.93
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$14.24	\$14.19	\$29,632.14	\$29,519.82
Customer Service Representatives	\$14.50	\$15.53	\$30,163.11	\$32,307.41
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$20.20	\$20.78	\$42,007.80	\$43,222.90
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$24.86	\$27.30	\$51,708.19	\$56,793.23
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	\$29.38	\$29.42	\$61,092.46	\$61,183.60
Computer Occupations, All Other	\$45.21	\$44.16	\$94,043.71	\$91,856.41
Computer User Support Specialists	\$24.22	\$24.97	\$50,378.75	\$51,938.21
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$37.50	\$38.04	\$78,003.52	\$79,137.68
Software Developers, Systems Software	\$44.08	\$45.31	\$91,694.39	\$94,225.99
Software Developers, Applications	\$45.87	\$47.69	\$95,410.77	\$99,177.79
Computer Systems Analysts	\$43.58	\$48.00	\$90,661.50	\$99,836.00
Accountants and Auditors	\$33.00	\$36.15	\$68,643.94	\$75,195.06
Management Analysts	\$51.45	\$70.42	\$107,011.90	\$146,471.70
Human Resources Specialists	\$28.02	\$30.44	\$58,286.63	\$63,327.53
Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, and Farm Products	\$31.06	\$32.56	\$64,613.26	\$67,735.76

**Per Capita Personal Income (2015)**

\$52,795

**Median Family Income (2012-2016)**

\$77,352

# Education

## Public School Enrollment (Fall 2016)

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Preschool	2	404
Elementary	31	12,933
Middle	12	6,583
High School	9	9,058

## Student Teacher Ratio (FY 2016)

Elementary	12:1
Secondary	11:1

## Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2016)

\$12,720.71

## On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2017)

93.9%

## High School Graduates Continuing Education (2015-2016)

83.7%

## Advanced Programs (2016-2017)

### Governor's STEM Academies and Health Academies

Monticello Public Schools Health Sciences Academy

Governor's School Enrollment	101
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	1,887
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	1,459
Students taking 1 or more Dual Enrollment Courses	1,478

The University of Virginia remains the #2 best public university in the 2015 edition of U.S. News and World Report rankings. For over 15 years, UVA has ranked either #1 or #2.

# Education

Workforce Development Facilities	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Albemarle Career Center	Satellite Center
Buckingham Career and Technical Center	Career and Technical Center
Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center	Career and Technical Center
Culpeper Career Resource Center	Satellite Center
Greene County Job Spot	Satellite Center
Greene County Technical Education Center	Career and Technical Center
Louisa Employment Center	Satellite Center
Madison Department of Social Services	Informational Center
Nelson Career Resource Center	Informational Center
Orange Workforce Center	Satellite Center
Piedmont Workforce Network	Comprehensive Center
Southern Virginia Center Of Manufacturing Excellence	Center of Excellence
The Hire Education Center at PVCC	Career and Technical Center
The Workplace	Satellite Center
Virginia Workforce Center - Victoria	Informational Center
Virginia Workforce Center-Charlotte Courthouse	Satellite Center
Virginia Workforce Center-Farmville	Satellite Center
Virginia Workforce Center-South Boston	Satellite Center
Virginia Workforce Center-South Hill	Satellite Center
Workforce Information Center - Alberta	Informational Center
Workforce Information Center - Crewe	Informational Center
Workforce Information Site - Amelia	Informational Center
Workforce Information Site - Cumberland	Informational Center

Piedmont Virginia Community College offers customized training programs to businesses throughout Central Virginia to assist in upgrading and teaching new skills to employees.

# Education

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2016	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
University of Virginia	23,898
James Madison University	21,270
Piedmont Virginia Community College	5,550 <sup>‡</sup>
Piedmont Virginia Community College - Eugene Giuseppe Center	5,550 <sup>‡</sup>
Longwood University	4,885
Blue Ridge Community College	4,131
Lynchburg College	2,720
Washington and Lee University	2,155
Bridgewater College	1,882
Mary Baldwin College	1,748
Eastern Mennonite University	1,745
Virginia Military Institute	1,713
American National University - Charlottesville Campus	1,207 <sup>‡</sup>
American National University - Harrisonburg Campus	1,207 <sup>‡</sup>
Hampden-Sydney College	1,027
Southern Virginia University	808
Randolph College	680
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College - Western Campus	568
Virginia University of Lynchburg	402 <sup>◊</sup>
Sweet Briar College	376
Lord Fairfax Community College - Luray-Page County Center	<sup>†</sup> §

<sup>†</sup> Enrollment figures are not available.

<sup>‡</sup> Enrollment figures are for all campuses.

<sup>§</sup> Enrollment counted at a main campus.

<sup>◊</sup> Fall 2015 Enrollment

Located in Fluvanna County, Fork Union Military Academy is one of the nation's leading college preparatory military schools for grades 6 - 12.

# Transportation

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-64	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	11.1 miles (17.9 km.)
I-295	30.2 miles (48.5 km.)
I-95	31.5 miles (50.7 km.)
I-66	35.4 miles (57.0 km.)
I-195	38.7 miles (62.3 km.)
I-85	45.0 miles (72.5 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 15	Highway 151	Highway 20	Highway 22	Highway 230
Highway 231	Highway 24	Highway 240	Highway 250	Highway 29
Highway 33	Highway 48	Highway 53	Highway 56	Highway 6
Highway 60				

### Commercial Air Service

*Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville -- 8.8 miles (14.2 km.)*

American Airlines	Delta Connection	United Airlines
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*Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Weyers Cave -- 33.9 miles (54.6 km.)*

ViaAir	
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*Lynchburg Regional Airport, Lynchburg -- 41.3 miles (66.4 km.)*

American Eagle	
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*Richmond International Airport, Sandston -- 66.8 miles (107.4 km.)*

American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	Southwest Airlines
United Airlines	JetBlue Airways	Allegiant Air
OneJet		

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

Interstate 64 bisects the MSA from east to west providing direct access to mid-west markets. U.S. Route 29 is the main artery serving north-south traffic.

# Transportation

General Aviation Service	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Gordonsville Municipal Airport, Gordonsville	2,300 ft (701 m)

Four major airlines serve the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport offering direct service to New York City, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Charlotte, Washington, Detroit, and Philadelphia.

Freight Rail Service	
Buckingham Branch Railroad	
CSX Transportation	
Norfolk Southern Railway Company	

Seaports	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia (Inland Port Front Royal)	73.0 miles (117.5 km)
Port of Virginia (Richmond Marine Terminal)	74.0 miles (119.1 km)
Port of Virginia	156.0 miles (251.1 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the closest locality in the MSA to the Port of Virginia and any other seaports within 100 miles.

Other Ports of Entry	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Richmond-Petersburg	66.7 miles (107.4 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	87.7 miles (141.2 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the closest locality in the MSA to the Port of Washington-Dulles and any other port of entry within 100 miles.



# Utilities

**Utilities****Utilities****Electric**

American Electric Power	BARC Electric Cooperative
Central Virginia Electric Cooperative	Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Dominion Energy	

**Natural Gas**

City of Charlottesville	Columbia Gas of Virginia
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**Telecommunications**

nTelos	Sprint/Centel-Virginia
Verizon-Virginia	AT&T
Lumos Networks	Sprint/United Telephone-Southeast

**Water**

Albemarle County Service Authority	Fork Union Sanitary District
Lovingston Sanitary District	Rapidan Service Authority
Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority	Sydnor Hydrodynamics, Inc.
City of Charlottesville	AquaVirginia
Buckingham County	

**Waste Water Treatment**

Rapidan Service Authority	Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority
Town of Lovingston	Albemarle County Service Authority
City of Charlottesville	Nelson County Water & Sewer Authority
Lake Monticello Service Co.	Buckingham County

**Solid Waste Disposal**

Fluvanna County Landfill	Greene County Landfill
Nelson County Transfer Station	Rivanna Solid Waste Authority
van der Linde Recycling	BFI
County Of Buckingham	

# Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2016 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	\$1,727,235.0
Bank of America, N.A.	\$1,677,490.0
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$214,433.0
SunTrust Bank	\$200,557.6
First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co.	\$32,814.8
United Bank	\$9,017.2
Union Bank & Trust Co.	\$8,402.5
Carter Bank & Trust	\$4,505.5
American National Bank & Trust Co.	\$1,669.6
Sonabank, N.A.	\$1,142.0
First Bank - Strasburg	\$715.7
Virginia National Bank	\$604.6
Bank of the James	\$574.5
Blue Ridge Bank	\$416.5
The Farmers Bank of Appomattox	\$233.6
Pioneer Bank	\$189.7
Old Dominion National Bank	\$79.9

The Charlottesville MSA is served by a variety of local, regional and national banking companies.

# Government and Taxes

## Government

The city of Charlottesville has a City Manager and a five-member City Council. Albemarle County has a County Executive and a six-member Board of Supervisors. Fluvanna, Greene, and Nelson Counties all have a County Administrator and a five-member Board of Supervisors. Buckingham County has a County Administrator and seven-member Board of Supervisors.

All six communities have adopted comprehensive plans and have zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Charlottesville serves as the county seat of Albemarle County. Scottsville is the only incorporated town. Palmyra is county seat of Fluvanna County. Columbia and Scottsville are the only incorporated towns. Stanardsville is the county seat of Greene County. Lovingston is the county seat of Nelson County. Buckingham is the county seat of Buckingham County. Dillwyn is the only incorporated town within Buckingham 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.

Wintergreen, located in Nelson County, is a four-season family resort spanning 11,000 acres.

## Community Facilities

Worldclass medical care is centrally located in Charlottesville. The University of Virginia Health System ranks among the most comprehensive medical facilities in Virginia. The University Hospital has 683 patient beds and contains many specialized services including a Level One trauma center, intensive care, dialysis, newborn and coronary care. Also part of the medical center is the Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center and Research Institute. Several public and private medical clinics are located throughout the Region.

Over 850 physicians and 130 dentists practice in the area.

Twenty adult homes and five major full-service retirement communities provide choices between intermediate and skilled care in the area. In addition, a 60-bed Alzheimer/Dementia facility is located in Greene County.

More than 500 places of worship are located in the Charlottesville MSA.

The Jefferson-Madison Regional Library operates five branches in the area with more than 400,000 volumes. Several of the counties in the Charlottesville MSA maintain library systems of their own. The Alderman Library at the University of Virginia has holdings in excess of 2.5 million books and more than eight million manuscripts. In addition, The University of Virginia's Darden Business School Library and the library at Piedmont Virginia Community College are open to the public.

The UVA Health System in Charlottesville has been recognized for excellence by U.S. News & World Report, Best Doctors in America, and Good Housekeeping. Many physicians and nurses are known worldwide as leaders in their fields.

# Community Facilities

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**(continued)**

The Charlottesville MSA offers a variety of retail shopping options to area residents. Charlottesville Fashion Square is the area's regional mall with over 75 stores, including three major department stores. Charlottesville's revitalized downtown is the site of a pedestrian mall that offers a vast assortment of specialty shops, variety stores, restaurants, and entertainment including an indoor ice-skating rink and cinema. Numerous shopping centers, convenience marts, specialty shops, antique stores, and craft stores are distributed around the region. Additional retail opportunities are clustered in the nearby Richmond metropolitan area.

Many civic and social organizations have developed a popular following and help foster the area's reputation for sophistication in the arts.

# Lifestyle

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The location of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville presents unique opportunities for area residents to sample a rich assortment of cultural and entertainment activities. The University itself schedules numerous plays, concerts, lectures and Division I Collegiate sporting events that are open to the community. The Bayley Art Museum at the University features notable collections of art from around the world and covers a broad spectrum of historic periods. The McIntire Department of Music at the university annually sponsors over 70 concerts that the community is welcome to enjoy.

In addition, many civic and social organizations have developed a popular following and help foster the area's reputation for sophistication in the arts. These groups include the Charlottesville University and Community Symphony Orchestra, the Community Children's Theatre, the Virginia Players, and the Four County Players serving the surrounding area as well. Summer months also produce cultural highlights led by the Heritage Repertory Company, Central Virginia's only resident professional theatre company, and the Ash Lawn/Highland Opera Festival.

The Charlottesville MSA's location on the eastern edge of the panoramic Blue Ridge Mountains encourages residents to take advantage of outdoor recreational pursuits. The Shenandoah National Park provides the setting for camping, picnicking, and hiking. The Appalachian Trail and the famed Skyline Drive traverse the mountains and are easily accessed from anywhere in the area. The highest waterfall in the Eastern U.S., Crabtree Falls, is located in the MSA as is the 1,500-acre James River State Park. Many of the mountain streams and lakes are well stocked with brook and rainbow trout and attract local and tourist fishing. Numerous local recreational facilities are available throughout the region, including tennis and golf.

The Charlottesville MSA is widely recognized as an attractive place to live and work. The area's rich history has been preserved in numerous attractions including Monticello, Ash Lawn-Highland, Michie Tavern, and the University of Virginia.

# Lifestyle

## (continued)

Wintergreen Resort is a significant recreational asset for the Charlottesville, MSA. This 10,800-acre resort is designed to provide outstanding leisure pursuits throughout the four seasons of the year. Ski slopes, open day and night, allow skiing for both beginners and experts. Wintergreen is one of only five resorts south of New York State to offer a thousand-foot vertical drop. Two golf courses, swimming, tennis, horseback riding, hiking, cycling, and canoeing provide opportunities for recreation for the entire family. Five restaurants, a gallery of specialty shops, and luxurious condominiums and villas help complete the total resort package.

Historic attractions such as Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, and Ash Lawn/Highland, estate of James Monroe, are popular destinations for tourists and residents alike. Michie Tavern, one of the oldest homesteads in Virginia, still serves authentic colonial fare and contains one of the largest collections of pre-revolutionary artifacts in the nation. Festivals and special events are held at the 5,000-acre Oak Ridge Estate, a 1902 mansion with formal gardens and its own train station. Nelson County is the birthplace of the once popular TV series, the Walton's, and a museum is located there to exhibit Walton's memorabilia.

Wine lovers will note that Albemarle County is home to ten wineries and hundreds of acres devoted to commercial vineyards. Most of the wineries host tours for the public. An annual Albemarle Harvest Wine Festival draws numerous visitors from afar to sample the local award-winning wines.

The area is also well known in equestrian circles as the home of some of the finest hunt clubs in the world. The rolling terrain provides an ideal and picturesque setting for horse shows, polo matches, fox hunting and steeplechase meets.

A growing wine industry exists in the Charlottesville MSA with numerous wineries in the area and hundreds of acres devoted to commercial viticulture. The Monticello Wine Trail connects 30 wineries in the heart of Virginia Wine Country.