



# Greater Roanoke Virginia Statistical Guide



ROANOKE  
REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

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## WELCOME TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA

The region is home to over 290,000 people and is the center of a service area of over one million people throughout western Virginia. Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke counties and the cities of Roanoke and Salem are all part of this wonderful place to live, work and visit. The accolades include:

- *Expansion Management* magazine's named Roanoke as one of the 50 hottest cities for expansions and relocations.
- *Expansion Management* also named the Roanoke Valley one of its Five-Star Communities for quality of life. The rating is based on a reasonable cost of living, affordable housing, low crime, excellent transportation access, good public schools, proximity to community colleges and universities, an educated work force, and low taxes.
- Roanoke was ranked the 11th best city in the U.S. by the publication, "*Cities Ranked and Rated*".
- Roanoke was ranked 39 of 276 metropolitan areas by *Inc. Magazine's* Top 25 Cities for Doing Business in America in the Most Balanced Economy and Growth category.
- The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Roanoke Valley schools for being among the nation's best.
- *Money Magazine* ranked Roanoke as one of the top three "Best Places to Retire in the United States." The city was picked among the five best cities for retirees in a survey by Kiplinger.com.

## BUSINESS LICENSE

(Commissioner of Revenue)

Botetourt County	540.473.8270	City of Roanoke	540.853.2524
Craig County	540.864.6241	City of Salem	540.375.3019
Franklin County	540.483.3083	Town of Vinton	540.983.0601
Roanoke County	540.772.2050		

## CHURCHES

The Roanoke Valley has approximately 500 churches and three synagogues.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Ten radio stations and eight television stations serve the region, along with cable television services. A daily newspaper, *The Roanoke Times*, has a circulation of 100,000. To order, phone 540.981.3100 or 800.346.1234. Several weekly newspapers and monthly business and cultural publications are also available.

## COST OF LIVING

The Roanoke Valley has a lower cost of living than the national average according to the *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*. The Valley's cost of living is 93.8, below the national average of 100. ACCRA compares groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services for 301 urban areas.

## Roanoke's Cost of Living Index:

Composite Index:	93.8		
Housing	91.2	Grocery Items	93.2
Transportation	93.7	Utilities	94.9
Misc. Goods/Services	95.5	Health Care	98.8

\*Source ACCRA, 1st quarter 2009.

## Roanoke compares favorably with other cities:

National Average	100.0		
Charleston, SC	97.1	Atlanta, GA	94.9
Harrisonburg, VA	99.2	Raleigh, NC	100.3
Charlottesville, VA	106.1	Washington, DC	138.4

## POPULATION

Greater Roanoke Valley	298,108
City of Roanoke	92,967
Roanoke County (including Vinton)	90,867
City of Salem	25,449
Botetourt County	32,261
Craig County	5,087
Franklin County	51,477

Source: [www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables) - July 1, 2008

## DRIVER'S LICENSE/AUTO REGISTRATION

A Virginia driver's license is required after residence has been established. A person must be 16 years and three months of age to obtain a Virginia driver's license.

To license an automobile in Virginia, a valid title of ownership must be established with the state and proof of sales and use tax furnished. Vehicles must be inspected annually with the:

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) 866.368.5463

Most local governments also require a decal. Decals may be obtained

Franklin County	540.483.3078	City of Roanoke	540.853.2522
Botetourt County	540.473.8256	City of Salem	540.375.3019
Craig County	540.864.5641	Town of Vinton	540.983.0608
Roanoke County	540.772.2046		

## EDUCATION

### Public Schools:

Excellence in academics and a balance of cultural and athletic opportunities are available in the Valley's public schools. Secular and parochial private schools are also available for preschool students through high school. Adult and continuing education programs are offered by most public systems. To register a school-age child, call:

City of Roanoke	540.853.2816	Franklin County	540.483.5138
Roanoke County	540.562.3900	Botetourt County	540.473.8263
City of Salem	540.389.0130	Craig County	540.864.5191

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## Colleges & Universities:

There are 20 colleges & universities within a 60-mile radius of

Roanoke College	Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Virginia Tech	Virginia Military Institute
Radford University	Hollins University
Virginia Western Community College	National College
Liberty University	Ferrum College
New River Community College	Sweet Briar College
Roanoke Higher Education Center	Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Patrick Henry Community College	Jefferson College of Health Sciences
Washington & Lee University	Southern Virginia University
Lynchburg College	
Roanoke College	
ECPI Technical College	

## EMPLOYMENT

The Roanoke area's largest private employers:

Carilion Clinic	11,412	Allstate Insurance	1,400
Kroger Mid-Atlantic	3,400	Norfolk Southern Corp.	1,400
Wachovia Roanoke	1,900	Lewis-Gale Medical Center	1,300
ITT Night Vision	1,509	Yokohama Tire Corp.	999
Goodwill Industries	1,448	Advance Auto Parts	900

Source: Blue Ridge Business Journal-Book of Lists 2009.

## GEOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

Metropolitan land area (sq. miles)	1,866	Average January temperature	36
Botetourt County	545	Snowfall (inches, annual)	24.4
Craig County	330	Mean annual temperature	55.9
Franklin County	683	Average July temperature	76.4
City of Roanoke land area	43	Rainfall (inches, annual)	40.3
Roanoke County land area	251		
City of Salem	14		
Average elevation (feet)	1,149		

Source: Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

## GOVERNMENT

Virginia cities and counties operate as separate governmental units. The counties of Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke each employ a county administrator and have an elected board of supervisors. Vinton is an incorporated town within Roanoke County. Roanoke and Salem are independent cities. Vinton, Roanoke, and Salem have the council-manager form of government, with a mayor serving as chair of the council. The governing body of each form of government is elected by the people. For general information and referral, call:

Botetourt County	540.473.8220	City of Roanoke	540.853.2000
Craig County	540.864.5010	City of Salem	540.375.3000
Franklin County	540.483.3030	Town of Vinton	540.983.0605
Roanoke County	540.772.2006		

## HOUSING/APARTMENT COST

Average home price: \$176,062  
Source: Roanoke Valley Association of REALTORS.

The average monthly rental cost for an unfurnished apartment:

One bedroom	\$603
Two bedroom	\$704
Three bedroom	\$800

## INCOME (Per Capita)

Roanoke MSA	\$35,135	City of Roanoke	\$34,482
Roanoke County	\$37,324	Salem City	\$37,324
Botetourt County	\$38,127	Franklin County	\$30,248
Craig County	\$27,896		

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## LIBRARIES

The Roanoke Valley offers 31 libraries, including 18 public, 5 college, 2 medical, 1 architectural, 1 history, 1 religion, and 3 law.

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

Roanoke is a major Virginia medical center. More than 500 physicians and surgeons provide services to western Virginia's population. General hospitals are:

Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital	540.981.7000
Lewis-Gale Medical Center	540.776.4000
Veterans Affairs Medical Center	540.982.2463
Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital	540.483.5277

## TAXES

### Virginia Individual Income Tax Rates:

Less than \$3,000 2% of federal adjusted gross income\*  
 \$3,001 - \$ 5,000: \$60 + 3% of excess over \$3,000  
 \$5,001 - \$17,000: \$120 + 5% of excess over \$5,000  
 More than \$17,001: \$720 + 5.75% of excess over \$17,000  
 \*With exemptions of \$800 each and applicable modifications.

Federal Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
State - Roanoke District Office	540.562.3510
FICA- Social Security Administration	540.857.2190

### Sales Tax:

Sales tax in Virginia is 5% (excluding prescription medicine) plus 4% meals tax on prepared food in most localities in the area.

Source: Virginia Department of Taxation, 2004.

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## Property Tax:

Taxes on real estate and tangible personal property are levied and collected by local authorities. All real estate assessments are made at 100% of the market value. Each municipality uses a different assessment for personal property tax.

	Real Estate*	Personal Property*	Phone
City of Roanoke	\$1.19	\$3.45	540.853.2523
City of Salem	\$1.18	\$3.20	540.375.3024
Roanoke County	\$1.09	\$3.50	540.772.2046
Vinton	\$1.12	\$4.50	540.983.0608
Botetourt County	\$ .65	\$2.55	540.473.8205
Franklin County	\$ .46	\$1.89	540.483.3083
Craig County	\$ .54	\$3.00	540.864.5641

\*Per \$100 of assessed value.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Air Service:

The Roanoke Regional Airport is served by six airlines providing approximately 50 daily departures:

Allegiant Air	800.432.3810
Delta Connection - ASA	800.282.3424
Delta Connection - Comair	800.354.9822
US Airways / Express	800.428.4322
Northwest Airlink	800.225.2525
United Express	800.241.6522

### Bus Service:

Valley Metro (local)	540.982.2222
Greyhound	800.231.2222
Smartway Bus - Roanoke to Blacksburg	800.388.7005

### Charter Bus Lines:

Abbott Bus Lines	540.343.1133
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### Limousine & Taxi Services:

Executive Town Car Limousine Serve	888.854.1998
Go Green Taxi	540.397.5555
Yellow Cab	540.345.7711

## UTILITIES

### Electrical Power:

Appalachian Power	800.956.4237
Salem Electric Department	540.375.3021

### Telephone Service:

Verizon	800.826.2355
Adelphia Business Solutions	877.780.0220
KMC Telecom	540.982.8180
NTELOS	877.4NTELOS

### Gas:

RGC Resources	540.777.4427
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## Cable Service Providers:

Cox Communications	540.776.3848
Comcast (Salem)	540.378.1190
Comcast (Bedford & Botetourt)	877.760.5341

## Water:

Western Virginia Water Authority (City of Roanoke and Roanoke County)	540.853.5700
Salem Utility Collections	540.375.3021
Vinton Water Dept.	540.983.0608
Botetourt County Public Works	540.473.8316
Franklin County - Rocky Mount Water	540.483.5747

## VOTING

To vote in Virginia, a person must be 18 years old and a resident of the Commonwealth. Voter registration is required 30 days prior to a general election. Registrar offices:

Botetourt County	540.473.8235	Roanoke County	540.772.7500
Craig County	540.864.6190	City of Salem	540.375.3034
Franklin County	540.483.3025	Town of Vinton	540.772.7500
City of Roanoke	540.853.2281		

## RESOURCE LIST

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board	540.562.3535
Environmental Protection Agency	800.368.9051
Health Department of Roanoke County	540.857.7804
Health Department of City of Roanoke	540.857.7600
International Trade Development, Virginia Division	434.582.5182
OSHA	804.786.8011
Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center	540.983.0717
Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau	800.635.5535
Roanoke Regional Partnership	540.343-1550
Unemployment Compensation Taxes	540.561.7525
Virginia Employment Commission	540.561.7525
Virginia's Workers' Compensation Commission:	
Regional Office	540.776.2700 / State 877.664.2566
Wage and Hour Laws:	Federal 804.771.2995 / State 540.562.3580

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