

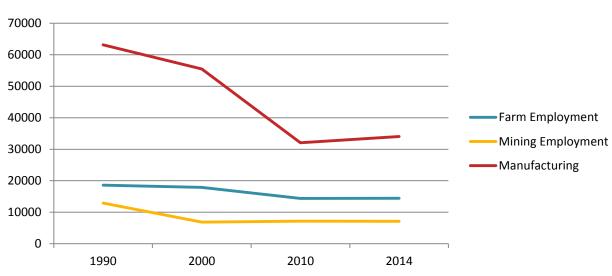
# **Economic Impact Analysis Report**

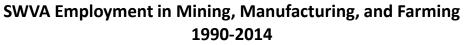
**Prepared by Friends of Southwest Virginia** 

March 2016

#### **Southwest Virginia Economic History and Trends**

Like much of rural America, especially rural Appalachia, Southwest Virginia has seen strong downward trends in the traditional economic sectors of manufacturing, mining, and agriculture over the last 25 years. Since 1990, farm employment has decreased by 22%, mining employment has decreased by 45%, and manufacturing has decreased by 46%.<sup>1</sup>



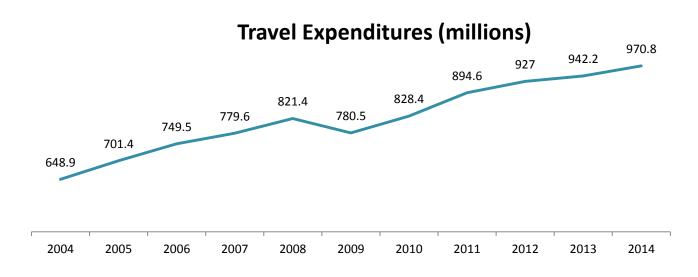


Beginning in the early 2000's, Southwest Virginia began to look at its unique assets for economic development. A strategy for a *creative economy* based off of the region's authentic, distinctive, and alive assets of traditional music, art and craft, local food and drink, and outdoor beauty and recreation was put into motion, and The Crooked Road and 'Round the Mountain were developed , branded, and marketed. The entire region itself also began community development efforts and a branding/marketing campaign under the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission (now Foundation).

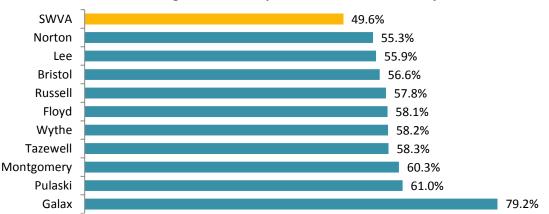
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data taken from U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C. Table CA25. Retrieved through the Headwaters Economics Economic Profile System.

#### Tourism<sup>2</sup>

The development of the creative economy in Southwest Virginia is tied directly to tourism and travel. Creative economy businesses and attractions draw in tourists, which has a large economic impact on the region. From 2004 to 2014, travel expenditures in SWVA increased by almost \$322 million, with travelers spending a total of \$971 million in 2014. In this ten year period, travel expenditures have increased by 50%, and in the five years from 2010-2014, expenditures increased by 17%.



Southwest Virginia counties with the highest travel expenditures in 2014 are Wythe (\$137.65 million), Montgomery (\$136.33 million), Franklin (\$102.42 million), and Washington (\$101.5 million). All other counties and cities had under \$100 million in travel expenditures for 2014. Those localities that had the highest travel expenditures in 2014, and in past years, tend to be located along major interstates or nearby larger cities. Those localities in the lower end of travel expenditures tend be farther from major highways and have a more rural population.

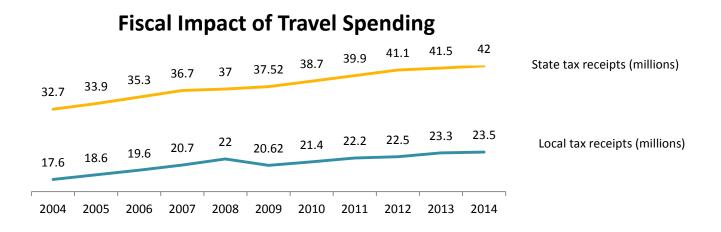




<sup>2</sup> Virginia Tourism Corporation. Virginia Locality Economic Data, Economic Impacts Report.

When looking at how travel expenditures have changed in the past ten years, Wythe, Montgomery, Franklin, and Washington counties have remained at the top since 2004, but others have made big changes over that time. The City of Galax increased travel expenditures at the highest rate for any locality (79.2%) between 2004 and 2014. During this time period, Galax lost many manufacturing jobs and refocused on revitalizing its downtown and focusing on traditional music heritage. Additionally, the City of Galax is in close proximity to both the New River and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Galax's change rate is much higher than the 49.6% growth rate for SWVA as a whole for the same time period, and the next closest are Pulaski County (61%.), Tazewell County (58.3%), and Wythe County (58.2%).

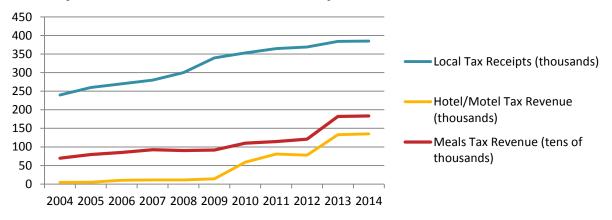
In addition to direct travel spending which supports local business, this travel spending also supports job growth in the region. According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, 9,758 jobs existed in SWVA thanks to travel in 2014. This is up 461 jobs since 2010.



This travel income has a fiscal, as well as economic, impact. Local tax revenue from travel in 2014 was \$23.5 million, and state revenue was \$41.97 million. These both reflect a steady trend of increased tax revenues from travel.

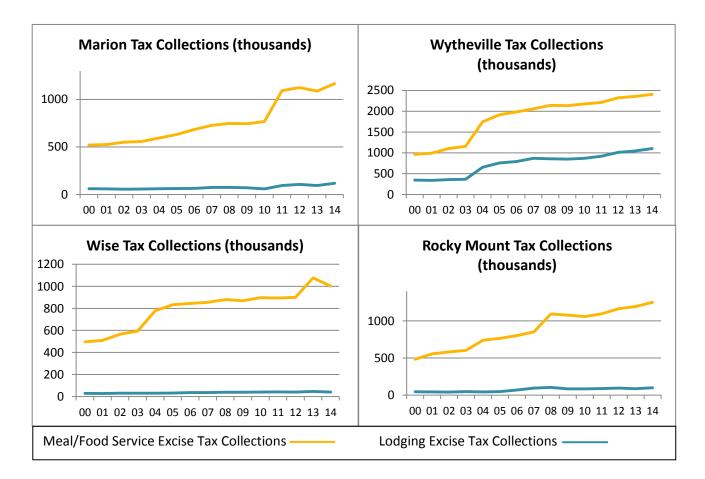
The increase in travel related local and state tax receipts mirrors the upward trend in travel expenditures. These increases in local tax receipts are influenced by the increase in local excise tax collection through food service, admissions, and lodging taxes. The increase in tax receipts at state, county, and local levels of government show the return on investment for communities that grow their creative economy.

For example, between 2004 and 2014, the travel expenditures in Galax increased by over \$7 million. In that same time frame, local travel related tax receipts increased by about \$150,000 and the lodging tax collected went from \$4,400 to \$135,000.



#### **City of Galax Travel Economic Impact**

We can see this same trend in even smaller localities by looking at the increase in lodging and meals tax collections in the communities of Marion, Wise, Wytheville, and Rocky Mount.<sup>3</sup>



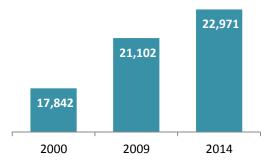
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts. Comparative Reports of Local Government.

#### **Employment**

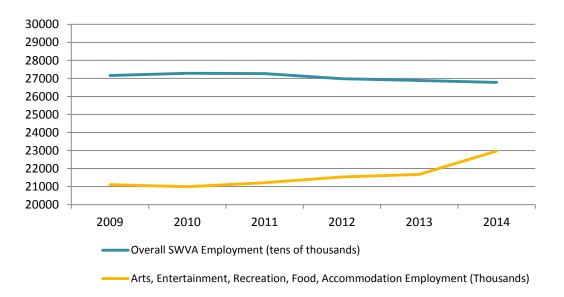
The creative economy boosts job growth in related employment sectors, specifically the arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services industry. The estimated employment in the arts, entertainment, recreation, food, and accommodation industry cluster has increased by over 5,000 jobs in SWVA since 2000. As of 2014, the region had about 23,000 jobs in this industry. In 2000, 6.6% of all employed individuals in SWVA worked in this industry, but that proportion increased to 8.6% by 2014, indicating that creative economy related employment is becoming a larger part of the region's economy.

This trend is especially impressive as overall employment in SWVA decreased by 1.2% while

Employment in Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services in SWVA

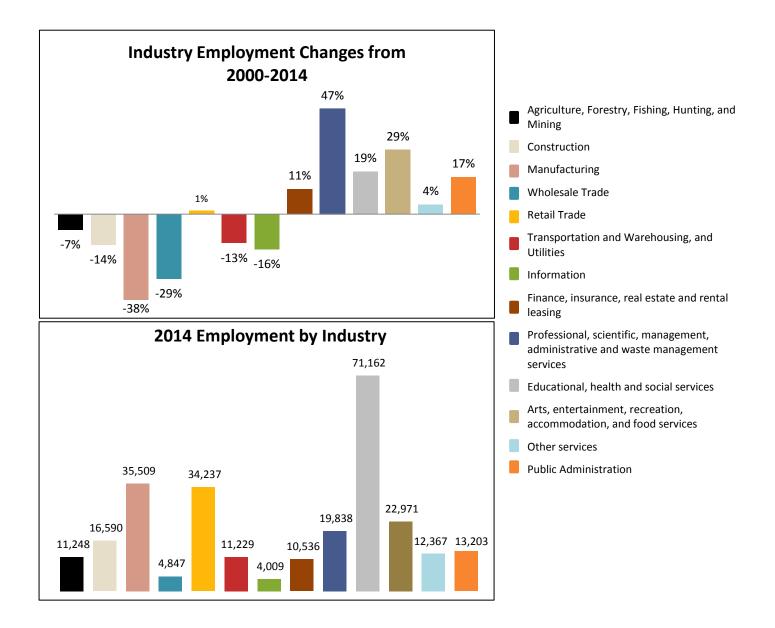


employment in this creative economy related industry increased by 28.7% between 2000 and 2014. The localities that saw the greatest increase in employment in this industry are Galax (102%), Norton (91%), Bristol (89%), and Patrick (85%).<sup>4</sup>



## **Changes in SWVA Employment**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> American Community Survey. 2014 Five Year Estimates, Table DP03.

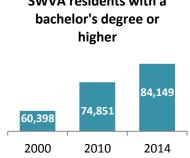


The other industries that grew the most from 2000-2014 were Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (47%), Education, health and social services (19%), and Public Administration (17%). In 2014, the top employment industry in Southwest Virginia was Education, health and social science (71,162 employees). Even though manufacturing has seen a significant decline since 2000, it remains the second largest industry in the region, with over 35,000 employees. Retail is also a large employer, though the level of employment has remained fairly steady over the last 14 years.

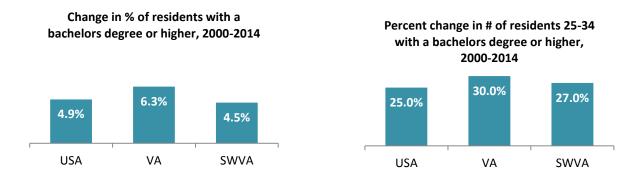
#### Talent

In addition to job growth for those employed in the tourism sector, there has also been change in the overall population of SWVA's localities. Localities that have been actively participating in the creative economy (such as Floyd, Galax, Washington, Montgomery, and Wythe) have seen the largest increases in their population over the last ten years. (See Appendix D for details). SWVA residents with a

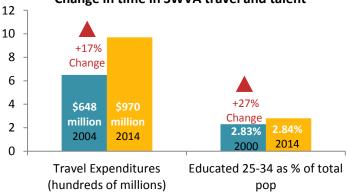
There have also been significant changes in the educated population. Between 2000 and 2014, the population 25 and older who has a bachelor's degree or higher increased 4.5%. This change is similar to the overall trend nationwide, but less than the 6.3% increase for Virginia as a whole.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, when we look specifically at the 25-34 age range, SWVA is growing at a pace in between Virginia and the US. We lag behind the country and the state in the proportion of our



total population comprised of those between 25 and 34 with a bachelor's degree or higher. On this measure, SWVA sits at 2.7%, Virginia at 5.4%, and the US at 4.4% (see Appendix E for details).<sup>6</sup>



The graph below shows how, for the Southwest Virginia region, the proportion of the population comprised of college educated 25-34 year olds is growing at a similar upward rate as annual travel expenditures.

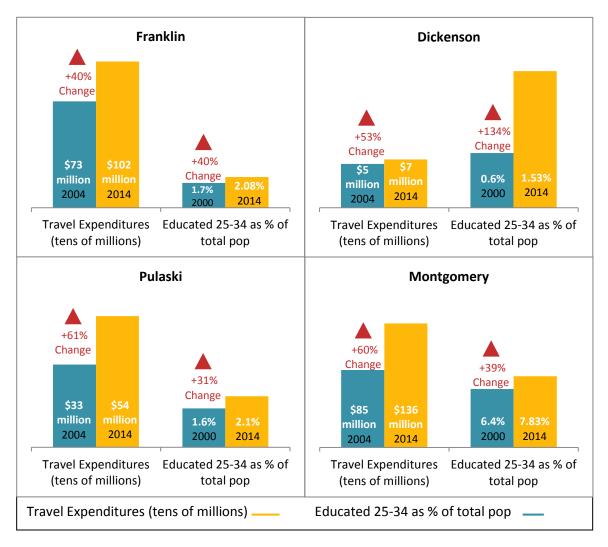


#### Change in time in SWVA travel and talent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> American Community Survey. 2014 Five Year Estimates, Table DP02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> American Community Survey. 2014 Five Year Estimates, Table S1501.

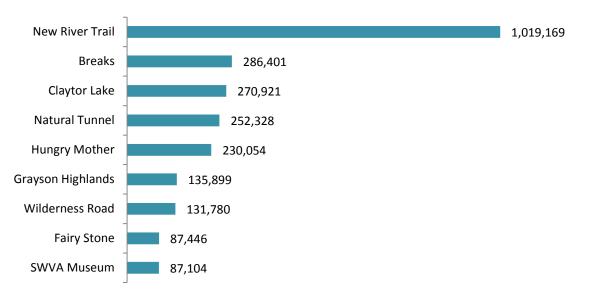
This same trend is also mirrored in specific localities including Franklin County, Dickenson County, Montgomery County, and Pulaski County.



However, other localities, such as Giles and Grayson counties, have trends that are the opposite. Though travel expenditures have been slowing increasing in those areas, the proportion of their population made up of those aged 25-24 with a bachelor's or higher has been decreasing over the last five years. It is important to note that the increase for these localities is much more modest than for the localities that also show increases in talent.

#### **Outdoor Recreation**

In 2014, 2.5 million visitors attended Virginia state parks located within the SWVA region. The economic impact of these visits was over \$56.7 million, which is almost \$1 million more than 2013.<sup>7</sup>



## 2014 State Park Attendance

Data from the National Recreation and Park Association also show that Virginia is 8<sup>th</sup> in the country for jobs supported by local and regional parks. They indicate that in 2013, over 30,000 jobs were either directly or indirectly supported by local and regional parks. Operations and capital spending at local and regional parks in Virginia created \$3.7 billion in economic activity in 2013<sup>8</sup>. Data from this report is only available by state, but Southwest Virginia contributes to this great statewide impact.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Virginia Department of Conservation and Resources. Virginia State Parks 2014 Attendance and Economic Impact. Retrieved from <u>http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/document/14parkattend.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> National Recreation and Parks Association. State Charts: The Economic Impact of Local Parks. Retrieved on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <u>http://www.nrpa.org/parkeconreport-state-charts/</u>

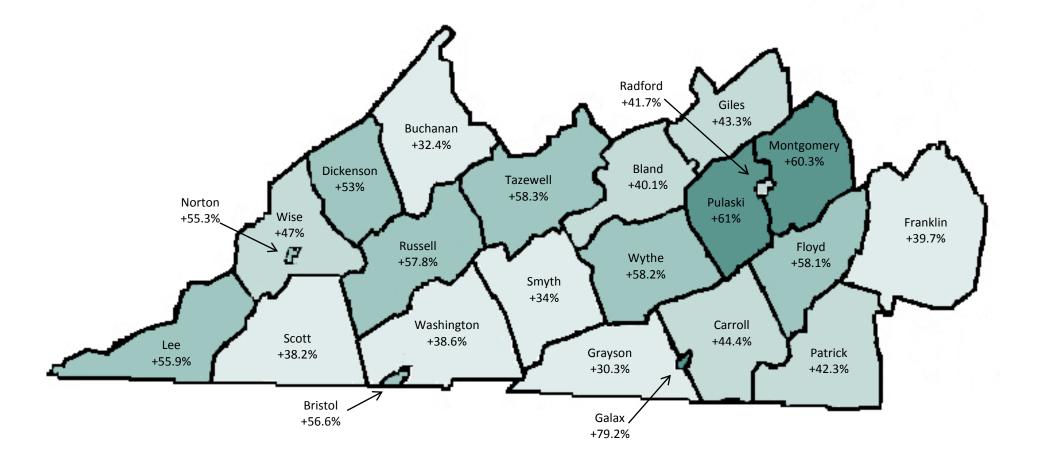
## Appendix A: Travel Expenditures by locality

(Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation)

County/City	2004	2010	2014	04-14	10-14
	(\$ millions)	(\$ millions)	(\$ millions)	% Change	% Change
Wythe	86.99	108.86	137.65	58.2%	26.4%
Montgomery	85.04	111.74	136.33	60.3%	22.0%
Franklin	73.3	87.34	102.42	39.7%	17.3%
Washington	73.25	86.80	101.50	38.6%	16.9%
Carroll	44.88	57.73	64.81	44.4%	12.3%
Pulaski	33.49	46.42	53.92	61.0%	16.2%
Tazewell	31.87	45.20	50.44	58.3%	11.6%
Bristol	30.16	40.81	47.22	56.6%	15.7%
Wise	22.01	29.94	32.36	47.0%	8.1%
Patrick	18.46	22.69	26.26	42.3%	15.7%
Giles	18.09	21.51	25.92	43.3%	20.5%
Smyth	17.48	21.23	23.42	34.0%	10.3%
Floyd	14.43	20.05	22.82	58.1%	13.8%
Buchanan	14.68	16.91	19.44	32.4%	15.0%
Norton	11.9	16.56	18.48	55.3%	11.6%
Scott	11.96	14.92	16.53	38.2%	10.8%
Galax	9.2	14.19	16.49	79.2%	16.2%
Radford	10.88	13.38	15.42	41.7%	15.2%
Grayson	11.05	12.54	14.40	30.3%	14.8%
Bland	9.56	11.37	13.39	40.1%	17.8%
Russell	7.67	10.77	12.10	57.8%	12.3%
Lee	7.68	10.70	11.97	55.9%	11.9%
Dickenson	4.87	6.54	7.45	53.0%	13.9%
SWVA Total	648.9	828.2	970.76	49.6%	17.2%

Map of Change in Travel Expenditures from 2004-2014

(Darker colors indicate greater changes)



# Appendix B: Travel Related Tax Receipts by locality

(Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation)

County/City	Local Tax Receipts 2004 (millions)	State Tax Receipts 2004(millions)	Local Tax Receipts 2014(millions)	State Tax Receipts 2014(millions)	% Change Local Tax Receipts	% Change State Tax Receipts
Bland	.3	.43	.37	.49	24.6%	14.0%
Bristol	.95	1.56	1.34	2.15	41.0%	37.7%
Buchanan	.18	.53	.21	.55	18.1%	-53.0%
Carroll	1.42	2.31	1.84	2.91	29.3%	25.9%
Dickenson	.12	.3	.16	.39	37.2%	32.4%
Floyd	.46	.7	.65	.99	40.9%	41.0%
Franklin	2.31	3.1	2.91	3.9	26.0%	25.8%
Galax	.24	.50	.39	.75	60.5%	49.1%
Giles	.6	.97	.77	1.2	28.1%	23.5%
Grayson	.35	.5	.41	.58	16.8%	16.8%
Lee	.2	.42	.28	.56	38.2%	32.9%
Montgomery	1.63	4.16	2.34	5.77	43.7%	38.8%
Norton	.55	.61	.77	.84	40.1%	37.2%
Patrick	.58	1.16	.74	1.39	27.6%	20.2%
Pulaski	1.06	1.62	1.52	2.23	43.8%	37.9%
Radford	.33	.56	.42	.67	26.1%	20.1%
Russell	.13	.43	.18	.57	39.2%	32.2%
Scott	.32	.64	.39	.75	21.4%	17.6%
Smyth	.38	1.17	.46	1.34	20.7%	14.7%
Tazewell	.47	1.53	.67	2.1	42.9%	37.5%
Washington	1.91	3.65	2.38	4.44	24.6%	21.7%
Wise	.34	1.11	.44	1.37	30.4%	23.3%
Wythe	2.8	4.7	3.91	6.01	39.7%	27.8%
SWVA Total	17.63	32.66	23.55	41.96	33.6%	27.5%

County/City	Jobs from tourism/travel (Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation)			Recre	ation, an	d Food a	Entertainmen nd Accommo ommunity Su	dations		
	2004	2010	2014	10-14	04-14	2000	2009	2014	09-14	00-14
				% Change	% Change				% Change	% Change
Bland	130	125	130	4.0%	0.0%	158	186	183	-1.6%	15.8%
Bristol	430	430	449	4.4%	4.4%	493	752	930	23.7%	88.6%
Buchanan	210	184	192	4.3%	-8.6%	263	459	311	-32.2%	18.3%
Carroll	620	637	634	-0.5%	2.3%	902	722	1052	45.7%	16.6%
Dickenson	70	73	75	2.7%	7.1%	211	268	351	31.0%	66.4%
Floyd	210	210	215	2.4%	2.4%	285	532	453	-14.8%	58.9%
Franklin	1250	1177	1241	5.4%	-0.7%	1224	1048	1806	72.3%	47.5%
Galax	130	142	148	4.2%	13.8%	115	306	232	-24.2%	101.7%
Giles	230	219	239	9.1%	3.9%	332	474	526	11.0%	58.4%
Grayson	150	136	142	4.4%	-5.3%	340	322	388	20.5%	14.1%
Lee	150	167	168	0.6%	12.0%	361	452	499	10.4%	38.2%
Montgomery	1150	1213	1330	9.6%	15.7%	4084	5006	5426	8.4%	32.9%
Norton	140	157	158	0.6%	12.9%	180	192	344	79.2%	91.1%
Patrick	260	262	270	3.1%	3.8%	320	369	592	60.4%	85.0%
Pulaski	520	577	603	4.5%	16.0%	827	781	1236	58.3%	49.5%
Radford	130	131	136	3.8%	4.6%	1020	1183	1388	17.3%	36.1%
Russell	130	143	147	2.8%	13.1%	427	557	310	-44.3%	-27.4%
Scott	170	173	173	0.0%	1.8%	518	731	559	-23.5%	7.9%
Smyth	240	236	234	-0.8%	-2.5%	812	728	1000	37.4%	23.2%
Tazewell	510	576	580	0.7%	13.7%	984	1502	1112	-26.0%	13.0%
Washington	1170	1112	1173	5.5%	0.3%	1694	2055	2134	3.8%	26.0%
Wise	340	370	364	-1.6%	7.1%	1025	1203	869	-27.8%	-15.2%
Wythe	850	847	957	13.0%	12.6%	1267	1274	1270	-0.3%	0.2%
SWVA Total	9190	9297	9758	5.0%	6.2%	17842	21102	22971	8.9%	28.7%

## **Appendix C: Jobs and Employment through Creative Economy**

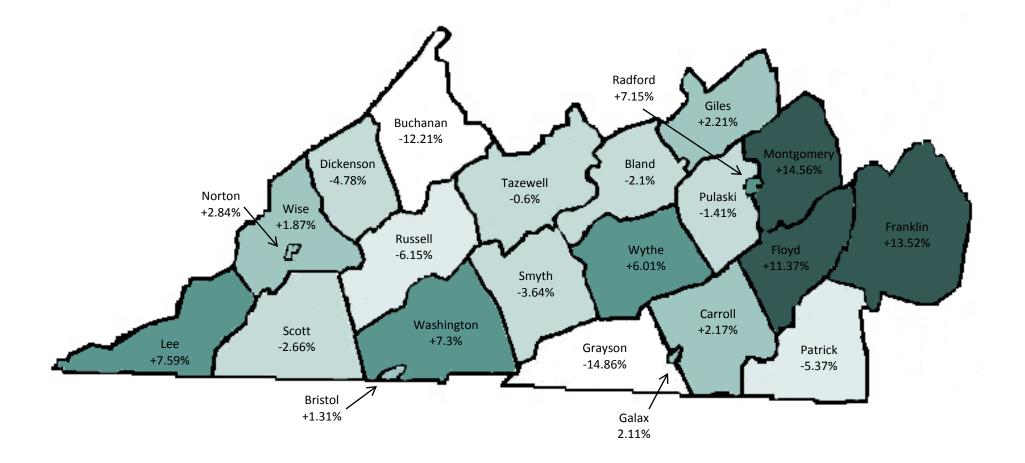
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The numbers in the table are based on *estimates* from the American Community Survey. Because many of these localities have small, rural populations, the margins of error for these estimates may be larger. It is also important to keep in mind that a few people enter a given industry may appear as a large % of change given the small populations.

## **Appendix D: SWVA Population Changes**

(Source: American Community Survey)

County/City	2000 Population	2004 Population	2009 Population	2014 Population	% Change (00-14)	% Change (09-14)
Bland	6871	7034	6792	6727	-2.10%	-0.96%
Bristol	17367	17308	17526	17595	1.31%	0.39%
Buchanan	26978	25200	23584	23683	-12.21%	0.42%
Carroll	29245	29495	29137	29881	2.17%	2.55%
Dickenson	16395	16177	16099	15612	-4.78%	-3.03%
Floyd	13874	14464	14756	15452	11.37%	4.72%
Franklin	47286	49841	51023	53630	13.42%	5.11%
Galax	6837	6657	6806	6981	2.11%	2.57%
Giles	16657	16989	17193	17025	2.21%	-0.98%
Grayson	17917	16490	16056	15255	-14.86%	-4.99%
Lee	23589	23846	25001	25380	7.59%	1.52%
Montgomery	83629	83959	89109	95808	14.56%	7.52%
Norton	3904	3753	3688	4015	2.84%	8.87%
Patrick	19407	19239	18755	18365	-5.37%	-2.08%
Pulaski	35127	35152	34910	34630	-1.41%	-0.80%
Radford	15859	14770	16062	16993	7.15%	5.80%
Russell	30308	28893	28921	28444	-6.15%	-1.65%
Scott	23403	22982	22771	22781	-2.66%	0.04%
Smyth	33081	32538	31996	31876	-3.64%	-0.38%
Tazewell	44598	44753	44307	44331	-0.60%	0.05%
Washington	51103	52030	52547	54833	7.30%	4.35%
Wise	40123	41744	41715	40872	1.87%	-2.02%
Wythe	27599	28013	28517	29259	6.01%	2.60%
SWVA Total	631157	631327	637271	649428	2.89%	1.91%

Map of % Change in Population from 2000-2014



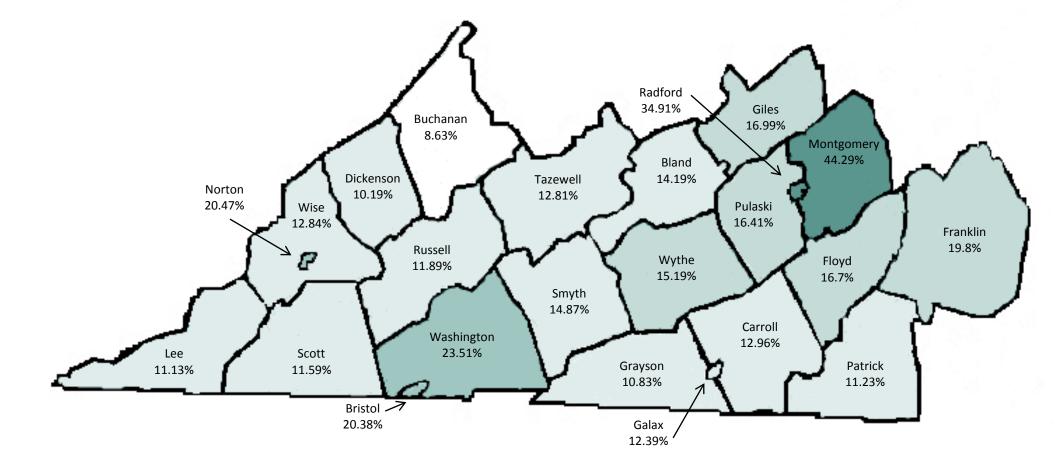
# **Appendix E: SWVA Changes in College Educated Population**

(Source: American Community Survey)<sup>10</sup>

County/City	% of Population with Bachelors or Higher (2000)	% of Population with Bachelors or Higher (2010)	% of Population with Bachelors or Higher (2014)	% Change (00-14)	% Change (10-14)
Bland	9.16%	12.03%	14.19%	+5.03%	+18.04%
Bristol	17.03%	19.72%	20.38%	+3.35%	+3.18%
Buchanan	7.96%	8.85%	8.63%	+0.67%	-4.93%
Carroll	9.48%	11.68%	12.96%	+3.48%	+9.99%
Dickenson	6.66%	8.61%	10.19%	+3.54%	+18.55%
Floyd	12.51%	19.34%	16.70%	+4.19%	-9.75%
Franklin	14.78%	15.17%	19.80%	+5.02%	+35.52%
Galax	11.08%	12.67%	12.39%	+1.31%	-7.47%
Giles	12.45%	16.06%	16.99%	+4.54%	+5.05%
Grayson	8.04%	10.33%	10.83%	+2.79%	+1.98%
Lee	9.52%	12.01%	11.13%	+1.61%	-4.57%
Montgomery	35.88%	39.37%	44.29%	+8.40%	+20.79%
Norton	14.03%	20.60%	20.47%	+6.43%	+3.42%
Patrick	8.61%	9.54%	11.23%	+2.62%	+18.73%
Pulaski	12.47%	13.86%	16.41%	+3.94%	+18.51%
Radford	34.05%	35.14%	34.91%	+0.86%	+6.70%
Russell	9.36%	10.71%	11.89%	+2.53%	+10.16%
Scott	8.33%	10.32%	11.59%	+3.26%	+12.00%
Smyth	10.62%	14.62%	14.87%	+4.25%	+1.46%
Tazewell	11.00%	14.35%	12.81%	+1.81%	-11.22%
Washington	16.10%	20.55%	23.51%	+7.41%	+15.78%
Wise	10.84%	11.33%	12.84%	+2.00%	+11.61%
Wythe	12.11%	13.97%	15.19%	+3.09%	+10.96%
SWVA Total	14.24%	16.89%	18.77%	+4.53%	+12.48%
Virginia	29.46%	33.81%	35.77%	+6.3%	+11.72%
US	24.4%	27.9%	29.28%	+4.88%	+9.83%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The numbers in the table are based on *estimates* from the American Community Survey. Because many of these localities have small, rural populations, the margins of error for these estimates may be larger. It is also important to keep in mind that a few people moving out of a small locality may greatly affect the proportion of their population with a given characteristic.

## Percent of Locality population with a bachelor's degree or higher

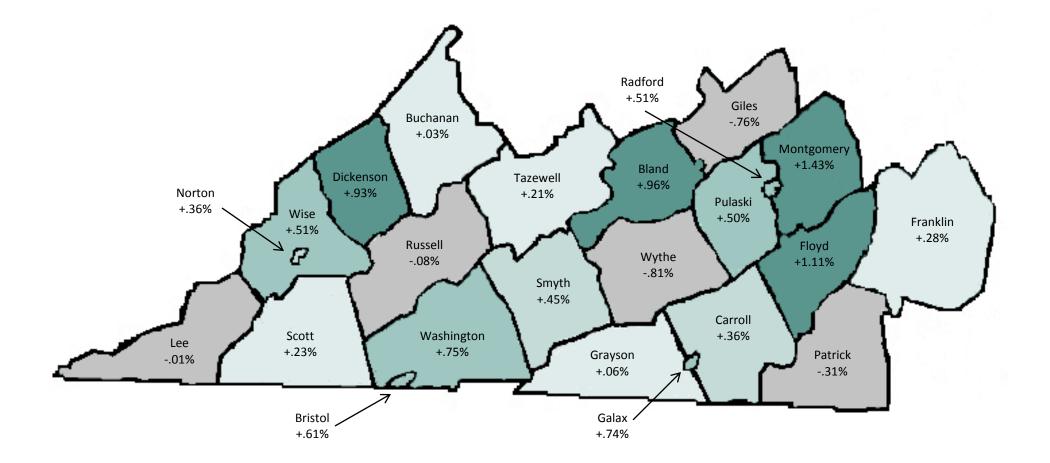


## Appendix F: SWVA Changes in College Educated Young Adult Population

(Source: American Community Survey)

County/City	Individuals aged 25-34 with bachelors or higher as percentage of total population (2000)	Individuals aged 25- 34 with bachelors or higher as percentage of total population (2010)	Individuals aged 25- 34 with bachelors or higher as percentage of total population (2014)	Change in proportion of 25-34 year olds with bachelors or higher (00-14)
Bland	1.1%	2.84%	2.06%	+.96%
Bristol	2.6%	3.11%	3.21%	+.61%
Buchanan	1.2%	1.30%	1.23%	+.03%
Carroll	1.2%	1.40%	1.56%	+.36%
Dickenson	0.6%	0.92%	1.53%	+.93%
Floyd	1.4%	2.73%	2.51%	+1.11%
Franklin	1.7%	1.59%	1.98%	+.28%
Galax	0.7%	1.37%	1.44%	+.74%
Giles	2.1%	1.92%	1.34%	76%
Grayson	0.9%	1.29%	0.96%	+.06%
Lee	1.3%	1.82%	1.29%	01%
Montgomery	6.4%	6.08%	7.83%	+1.43%
Norton	2.5%	1.24%	2.86%	+.36%
Patrick	1.5%	1.09%	1.19%	31%
Pulaski	1.6%	1.69%	2.10%	+.5%
Radford	3.9%	3.79%	4.41%	+.51%
Russell	1.5%	1.07%	1.42%	08%
Scott	1.3%	1.09%	1.53%	+.23%
Smyth	1.2%	2.04%	1.65%	+.45%
Tazewell	1.9%	1.94%	2.11%	+.21%
Washington	2.4%	3.27%	3.15%	+.75%
Wise	1.5%	1.86%	2.01%	+.51%
Wythe	2.1%	1.66%	1.29%	81%
SWVA Total	2.3%	2.49%	2.83%	+.53%
US	3.9%	4.1%	4.36%	+.46%
Virginia	4.8%	5.04%	5.44%	+.64%

Change in proportion of population comprised of 25-35 year olds with bachelors or higher 2000-2014



## Appendix G: SWVA State Park Attendance and Economic Impact

(Source: Virginia State Parks Attendance and Economic Impact Reports)

State Park	2013 Attendance	2013 Economic Impact	2014 Attendance	2014 Economic Impact
New River Trail	948,465	\$ 15,619,946	1,019,169	\$16,735,280
Breaks Interstate Park	287,593	\$ 9,226,616	286,401	\$8,548,278
Claytor Lake	275,289	\$ 8,149,295	270,921	\$8,103,656
Natural Tunnel	246,398	\$ 4,981,122	252,328	\$5,027,150
Hungry Mother	240,241	\$ 7,509,880	230,054	\$7,052,360
Grayson Highlands	142,032	\$ 4,408,843	135,899	\$4,362,458
Wilderness Road	136,233	\$ 2,179,728	131,780	\$2,108,480
Fairy Stone	91,933	\$ 3,468,212	87,446	\$3,335,516
Southwest VA Museum	124,813	\$ 2,012,407	87,104	\$1,409,004
Total SWVA State Parks	2,492,997	\$57,558,062.00	2,501,092	\$56,682,182.00