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INTRODUCTION

The Code of Virginia section 15.2-2223 grants the county Planning Commission in Dickenson County the authority to undertake a planning program that includes the preparation of a county comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is an important step in the growth and development of a county. Implementation of a long-range plan aids in the practice of good public management and provides a framework for orderly development in terms of land use and facilities.

The officials of Dickenson County intend that the comprehensive plan serve as a broad policy guide to assist in the decisions necessary for future development and redevelopment in Dickenson County. The comprehensive plan provides an analysis of present conditions and trends in areas such as population and the local economy. Plans for capital improvements, community facilities, and future land use can be based on this analysis. By nature, the comprehensive plan is a general document, and to be useful in the long-range management of the county it should be updated and revised as changing conditions warrant.

Every effort was made to use the most current data available.

LOCATION AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Dickenson County lies in the Appalachian Plateau, along the crest of the Cumberland Mountains. It is located in the north-central section of Southwest Virginia and is one of four counties in the Cumberland Plateau Planning District. Dickenson County contains 331.7 square miles covering some of the richest coalfields in the United States. Buchanan, Russell, and Tazewell Counties join with Dickenson County to form the planning district; Dickenson County comprises 18.1 percent of the district's total land.

Dickenson County, named for W.J. Dickenson, a prominent citizen, was formed in 1880 from portions of Russell, Wise, and Buchanan Counties. The county seat is Clintwood, Virginia. Dickenson County is bordered in the north by Pike County, Kentucky; in the south by Russell County, Virginia; in the west by Wise County, Virginia; and in the east by Buchanan County, Virginia. Major access to Dickenson County from an east-west direction is State Highway 83. State Highway 63, State Highway 80, and State Highway 72 provide access from a north-south direction.

The rough mountainous terrain, characteristic of the Appalachian Plateau, forced the early settlers to locate along the county's streambeds. The best farmland was to be found along the flat bottomlands, and the streams provided a good water supply. The first settlements in Dickenson County were Sandlick, Holly Creek (Clintwood) and Nora, all of which are located along the streams of the area. Other major settlements in the county, including Haysi, Clinchco, McClure, and Trammel are also located along streams and rivers.

As the bottomlands of the county became occupied, more settlers began locating on the numerous ridges in the county. The settlers built homes on the broad ridge tops and began to farm the fertile land. Some of the ridge communities include Big Ridge, Rose Ridge, and Caney Ridge. This is still

evident today in Dickenson County.

The valley floors and ridge tops are the only lands suitable for development. This fact brings to the forefront Dickenson County's developmental problems. The lowlands offer problems concerning susceptibility to flooding, and the ridge tops limit the availability of site development.

Prior to the 1900's the people of Dickenson County lived under pioneer conditions, with self-sufficiency type farming being the chief occupation. In the late 1800's when attention focused on the county's valuable coal and timber reserves, several companies moved into the county. These companies bought timber and mineral rights, but the resources were not developed because of a lack of any means of transporting the end products to Eastern markets. Upon completion of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, the coal mines and hardwood forests became accessible to the markets of the nation and the world. The population of the county nearly doubled between 1910 and 1920, as young men came with their families to live and work.

The county continued to grow until the 1950's. By this time, most of the lumber companies had exhausted their timber, and the mines began to increase mechanization, thus requiring fewer workers. As the coal industry continued to decline during the 1960's, so did Dickenson County's population. Since the county's economy is so closely tied to the coal industry, it can be expected that it will rise and fall at a pace concurrent with the rises and declines in the coal industry. The "energy crisis" and Arab oil embargo of the early seventies signaled the beginning of prosperity once again for Dickenson County, but the 1977 Federal Mine Reclamation Act dampened this renewed vigor of the coal industry and out-of-state as well as international competition has had a negative effect.

In the 1980's a "bust" period was again upon the area, as the boom of the 1970's quickly dwindled. The 1980's also saw a "second generation" of mechanization in the coal industry, increasing coal production but further reducing the manpower needs. Population declined once again and over the next decade employment reached double digits and the County's population was reflective of employment. The transition of the 1990's saw dramatic shifts in the County's local economy with the world economy changing throughout this decade. Pittston Coal Corporation owned the largest mineral reserves; their announcement of its intent to sell its holdings in mineral resources spurred the formation of a new company, Alpha Natural Resources. They acquired all mineral rights from Pittston while Forestland Group acquired the majority of surface property owned by Pittston. These acquisitions coupled with two specific events in history, the Iraq War and Hurricane Katrina drove crude oil prices to record highs, in turn driving the cost of coal and natural gas to market highs also. This coupled with the world demand for fossil energy fuels has seen the resurgence of the coal, natural gas, and even the timber industry. By the 2003/2004 period the expansion of new mining activity, coupled with trucking and vendor activity, revitalized the coal economy. Over the past 10 years, coal-mining jobs have declined while the average number of tons produced by each miner (productivity) has increased steadily due to modern mining equipment.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The physical characteristics of an area such as topography, climate, and soils contribute to the type, location, and nature of development in that area. In Dickenson County, the physiographic conditions are highly restrictive toward development. The cost of development is often beyond the range of economic feasibility, excluding previously stripped mining property, which establishes its own unique constraints.

TOPOGRAPHY

In this mountainous region, flat land, even a few acres in extent is rare, and valley slopes are very steep. The surface is deeply and maturely dissected by streams, with the water courses being only a few miles apart but separated by ridges that rise 500 to 1,000 feet above them. The valleys are deep, narrow, and V-shaped with little or no flat bottomlands.

The highest point in the county is an elevation of 3,120. This high point is on Cumberland (Pine) Mountain, which constitutes the boundary between Virginia and Kentucky. The lowest point, 904 feet above sea level, is found where the Russell Fork crosses the state boundary into Kentucky. Dickenson County has a maximum relief of 2,233. The southern slopes of Pine Mountain are long and comparatively gentle, but the northern slopes are very steep and descend a vertical distance of nearly 2,000 feet between the mountain crest and Elkhorn Creek, Kentucky, a distance of only 1.5 miles.

Several ridges in Dickenson County deserve special mention. Sandy Ridge is a conspicuous feature that forms the divide on the north side of the Clinch River drainage basin, closely paralleling or actually forming the Dickenson-Russell County boundary. Big Ridge extends from Sandy Ridge northeastward to the mouth of the Pound River, forming the divide between the McClure and Cranesnest Rivers. The Breaks Canyon, a gorge carved by the Russell Fork

through Pine Mountain, is visited by thousands of tourists and campers due to spectacular views of the defining terrain.

CLIMATE

The climate of Dickenson County is continental. Temperatures average 37 degrees in January and 74 degrees in July, with the average annual temperature being a mild 54 degrees. Average annual rainfall is 45 inches; average annual snowfall is 15 inches. The prevailing winds are usually from the west with more northerly flows in winter months.

SOILS

Soil properties exert a strong influence on the manner in which land is used. Soils are an irreplaceable resource and mounting pressures continue to make soil more valuable. The Cooperative Extension Service of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has done some on-site survey work in Dickenson County in order to compile information on the county's soils, since soil capabilities influence development.

The flatter ridge tops offer soils of sufficient thickness of developable terrain. On these uplands, where soils are found in place from residual rock materials, the only two series suitable for development are the Hartsells and Enders. The Hartsells is developed in sandstone and the Enders in micaceous shale. Both the soils average less than three feet to bedrock, but both are sometimes found to range up to five and one-half feet in depth. The Coeburn, which is associated with the Enders, is also present on the ridge tops but its depth (0 to 30") is insufficient for development. Areas that are located at the mouths of hollows may support very limited development. Most of the soils in these areas are colluvial; they were formed from materials accumulated from the adjacent higher upland slopes. The two most prevalent soils in these colluvial lands, the Leadvale and the Jefferson, were formed from areas of Coeburn soils. These soils are usually thicker than the upland soils, but they are subject to considerable seepage from high lying areas, making them unsuitable for any use except agriculture.

On the terrace lands, those bench like areas bordering but higher than stream bottoms, the chief soils suitable for development are the Holston and portions of the Monongahela. These soils, which were deposited by streams at a time when their channels were higher, range in thickness from three feet to 30 feet, averaging about seven feet.

Areas along the streams contain alluvial soils washed away from areas underlain by sandstone and shale. These soils are very sandy and gravelly, and the depth to water level of these soils is usually 9 to 20 inches during wet periods. They are also subject to flooding.

The areas along the streambeds are unsuited for development because of flooding problems. Aside from some terrace land, ridge tops, and the hollow mouths, the remaining portions of the county are of steep terrain and thus unsuitable for development.

ROCK CLASSIFICATIONS

Seven classifications of rocks have been identified in the Dickenson County studies. Four of these, the Lee Formation, the Norton Formation, the Gladeville Sandstone, and the Wise Formation belong to the Pennsylvanian series, in which the commercially important coal beds in the area are located. The other three the Grainger Shale, the Newman Limestone, and the Pennington Shale belongs to the Mississippian series.

The Lee Formation is exposed along the upper slopes of Pine Mountain and in the middle and left forks of Cane Creek in the extreme southeastern part of the county. A nearly complete section is exposed in the Breaks and one drill hole on the Cranesnest River passes through the whole formation.

In the Cranesnest boring, the Lee Formation is 830 feet thick and consists largely of sandstone, relatively thin beds of shale, and several coal beds. These

coal beds found throughout the Lee Formation, however, are thin and are not economically important.

The Norton Formation forms the greater part of the surface of Dickenson County. The thickness of the Norton Formation ranges from 920 feet in the northwestern part of the county to approximately 1,460 feet in the southeastern part of the county. The formation consists chiefly of alternating beds of sandstone and shale, with a number of coal beds, some of which have thin layers of clay beneath them. The Norton Formation includes several of the most important coal beds in Dickenson County, including the Tiller, Jawbone, Raven, Aily, Kennedy, Lower and Upper Banner, Splash Dam, Hagy, and Norton. The Gladeville Sandstone is 60 to 110 feet thick, is stained brownish by iron, and contains considerable mica and other minerals. It lies between the Norton and Wise Formations and is found throughout the coalfields. The Wise Formation differs little from the Norton Formation. It is very thick in Wise County, but only the lower 750 feet exposed are in Dickenson County. Except near Clintwood and in the western part of the county, the Wise Formation is confined to the upper parts of the ridges. The lower 200 feet of the Wise Formation contains five coal beds including the Dorchester, Lyons, Blair, Eagle, Clintwood, Campbell Creek (Lower Bolling) and Upper Bolling. Although rocks from the Mississippian series are also present, none actually come to the surface anywhere in the county. Well drillings have revealed its presence beneath the coal bearing rocks in so many places that it seems to be located under the entire county. The thickness of the series, which includes the Grainger Shale at the bottom, the Newman Limestone in the middle, and the Pennington Shale at the top, is 1,700 to 1,800 feet in Pine Mountain.

The Grainger here is composed chiefly of green shale and brownish sandstone with considerable red sandstone in the upper 50 feet, and is from 400 to 500 feet thick. The Newman Limestone is about 500 feet thick and is fossiliferous, bluish gray to dark gray, firm, compact limestone. It weathers to a dull gray color, becomes cavernous, and yields typical karst topography.

The Pennington Shale is about 800 feet thick and is composed of red, green, and drab shale, green sandstone, and a 100 feet thick layer of siliceous sandstone. The formation is thicker in the southeastern part of the county than in Pine Mountain.

FAULTS

The only fault of any importance concerning development in Dickenson County is the Russell Fork Fault. The Russell Fork Fault closely follows the Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River, leaving it at only a few places. The main line of the fault in Dickenson County begins at Bee, passes somewhat north of Abners Gap, and northwestward through Haysi to a point where the river turns eastward above Bartlick. Here the fault continues northwestward and ends at Skegg's Gap at the Pine Mountain Fault. All along the fault evidence of vertical movement is apparent and crumbling has been a problem, especially around Haysi. Heavy construction should be avoided in the area of the fault. There are two other faults in Dickenson County one along Pine Mountain and the other along Big A Mountain (Hunter Valley Fault). These faults should not have any direct effect on development in Dickenson County.

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER

Water is a very important natural resource, necessary to maintain human life itself. Additionally, a safe, clean, and dependable water supply is required for many commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational purposes. The availability and quality of water is therefore an important consideration in assessing the development potential of Dickenson County.

Water resources exist both as surface water and as ground water. Streams, rivers, and lakes comprise our surface water, since they occur on the surface of the earth. Ground water is stored in open spaces underneath the surface of the earth. Coal mining operations have seriously damaged the supply of groundwater in

Dickenson County. Underground aquifers have been depleted and only a small amount of groundwater is still available.

Surface water can be found in the three major rivers and many smaller streams, but the largest supplier of surface water is the John Flannagan Reservoir. The John Flannagan Reservoir provides much of Dickenson and Buchanan Counties with fresh water.

Dickenson County lies in the Big Sandy River Basin. The principal streams of the county are Pound River, Cranesnest River, Caney Creek, McClure River, Lick Creek, and Russell Fork. These are headwater streams and the area drained is not sufficiently large enough to provide other moderate supplies of surface water.

It should be noted that Russell Folk is a Virginia Scenic River from the Splashdam railroad crossing to the Kentucky state line (approximately 9 miles), as defined by the Scenic Rivers Act of the Code of Virginia, and recommended for inclusion by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and approved by the Virginia General Assembly in 2010; the Cranesnest River also qualifies for such a designation.

The County is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources, including these streams, and these demographics serve to highlight this community.

In 1966, the John W. Flannagan Dam was completed, a recreation project constructed under the supervision of the District Engineer, Huntington District, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. The project provides for a flood control pool of 95,000 acre-feet, and a minimum pool (winter) of 12,000 acre-feet. At minimum pool-elevation 1,315 the project will have 310 surface acres extending six miles upstream from the dam.

Since 1946, stream-gauging stations have been maintained on Russell Fork at Haysi and Pound River near Haysi. The water is moderately hard with comparatively high sulfate content owing to drainage from coal mines. Records of temperatures and water quality data are available for these gauges. Flow duration and high and low flow sequence data are also available for these gauges. With the anticipated increase in coal production in Dickenson County, greater demands have been placed on the water supply. Presently, there appears to be sufficient ground water to fulfill the needs of users with deep wells, however, increasing population, mining activities, and gas exploration has lowered the water table and placed stress on the more shallow wells.

DRAINAGE

The streams in Dickenson County are tributary to two great drainage systems. Those on the south side of Sandy Ridge flow into the Clinch River, which joins the Tennessee, a river that flows as far south as Alabama before turning west and north to the Ohio River. Streams north of Sandy Ridge are tributary to Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River and reach the Ohio by a direct northerly route.

The largest tributaries of Russell Fork are the Pound, Cranesnest and McClure Rivers. Although even small tributaries contain some running water during most of the year, none of the streams have a very large flow. The rainfall of the region is high, but the sandy soil, dense growth of trees and brush, and the high stream gradients all work to prevent serious flooding. The town of Haysi, which lies at the confluence of the Russell Fork and McClure Rivers, is the area most subject to periodic flooding in Dickenson County.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The chief mineral resources in Dickenson County are coal and natural gas. The Southwest Virginia Coalfield is part of the larger Central Appalachian coal region, which also includes parts of Southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky.

COAL

One measure of coal's significance is the economic value of its production. The dramatic increase in coal's price in 1974 caused coal's value to more than double, but as prices declined throughout the decade of the eighties, so did the value of production. That reduction in price had forced coal companies to increase productivity (tonnage mined per miner) in order to be profitable. The U.S. Department of Energy has estimated that there are 1,609 million tons of recoverable coal in Virginia (based on annual production) and that these mineable reserves may be depleted in 36 years. According to the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, there are 2,160 million tons, which would be mined out in 48 years. The Virginia Division of Mineral Resources gives a range of recoverable reserves of 1,995 to 4,393 million tons, which would last 44 to 98 years. Whether the coal resources will be depleted in 36 or 98 years, coal mining will remain a major economic activity for the near future. Dickenson County was the third largest producer in 1999 with 4,284,833 tons produced from 55 mines compared to a state total of 32,253,994 tons from 361 mines.

NATURAL GAS

Of the known natural gas fields in Virginia, major portions are located in the Cumberland Plateau Planning District.

It is important to distinguish between reserves and resources. Reserves include those known deposits that are recoverable at today's prices using today's technology. In addition to reserves, resources also include unknown deposits, as well as those known but not developable profitably at today's prices. According to recent government estimates, the nation's natural gas reserve and resource base is weak. This weakness will increase the importance of Southwestern Virginia and is one of Dickenson County's strengths.

Dickenson County is the second leading county in the state in the production of natural gas. Natural gas demands have increased and will continue to increase

into the next century due to the development of new southern markets. EQT Corporation, (formerly Philadelphia Oil Company, a subsidiary of PECO Resources, Inc.), dominates natural gas development in Dickenson County. Other gas operators are Sub Range Resources, Pine Mountain, and Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company.

Explorations that resulted in increases in Dickenson reserves in 1986 anticipated the development of a new East Tennessee Natural Gas Company pipeline spur from Philadelphia Oil's Nora gas field to the main ETNG pipeline in Abingdon. The new ETNG pipeline has made available new markets in Southwest Virginia between Bristol and Roanoke and as far south as Atlanta. Very little is being used locally except for landowners that own reserves and have wells on their property. Natural gas is unavailable to industries in most areas of the county. Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company is the licensed distributor for the region. Service has recently been installed to the town of Clintwood and the Technology Park.

According to the Virginia Division of Oil and Gas, 1987, Dickenson County has 118.5 million cubic feet of natural gas reserves, the most in the state. In 1999, Dickenson County had a total of five gas operators producing 8,138,874 million cubic feet (mcf) from 436 conventional gas wells; 9,526,242 mcf from 373 coal bed methane (cbm) wells; and 139,375 mcf from five dual completion wells. (Dual completion wells produce both cbm and conventional natural gas.) Columbia Natural Gas acquired permit rights to a gas gathering system formerly operated by Virginia Gas Company in the Haysi area of Dickenson County. The newly acquired system is complementary to Columbia's current area of production and drilling activity. Dickenson County had 53 cbm wells drilled, one dual completion and four conventional wells totaling 58 wells during 1999. A total of 55 wells were completed (made ready for production) during the year. A total of 144,129 feet was drilled in Dickenson County in 1999.

In Virginia in 1989, natural gas provided about 10 percent of the primary energy and 14 percent of the end-use energy. Because of concerns about oil imports and the air emissions from coal burning, many look to natural gas as an increasing source of energy for Virginia and throughout the nation. Natural gas has been produced from the natural gas fields in Southwest Virginia since the 1930s. Production doubled in the mid-to-late eighties and the development of unconventional coal seam gas has improved the continued increase in natural gas production through the 1990s and has steadily increased through 2000.

In 2007, the County secured a regional operational headquarters for EQT that was established in the Dickenson County Technology Park. This announcement will create approximately a 100+ new jobs and an annual schedule of 300 new wells over a period of five years. Over this five-year period it is forecast that 300-500m of new infrastructure will occur, nearly doubling the County's current natural gas service. In Virginia in 1990, Dickenson County ranked number one in natural gas production and contains the second largest reserve in the state, closely following Wise County, which currently has the largest natural gas reserve in the state. Reserve additions are expected with further discoveries, improved economic conditions (higher prices), and new technology.

Substantial increases in Dickenson County's natural gas activities led to a near quintupling of production between 1983 and 1988, with levels slightly dropping since then due partly to the poor market conditions in the north brought on by mild winter weather. Three major companies in Virginia produced more than 90 percent of the state's 1990 production. One of these companies, Equitable Production Company, Inc. (now EQT Corp.) produces primarily in Dickenson County. Equitable's completion of the East Tennessee Natural Gas (ETNG) pipeline spur into Dickenson County facilitated production increases.

Coal bed methane found in the coal seams offers an opportunity for production of unconventional gas. A long-time hazard of underground mining, this gas has had

to be vented from mines to insure safe mining conditions. After successful commercial development in Alabama and New Mexico, this methane is now seen as a valuable resource. The greatest potential coal-bed methane resources are in the coal seams of Dickenson and Buchanan Counties.

NATURAL GAS RESERVES & PRODUCTION BY COUNTY

Natural Gas Production by County

<u>Year</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Dickenson</u>	<u>Russell</u>	<u>Tazewell</u>	<u>CPPD</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>2000</u>	2,651,146	6,451,725	6,810	621,464	9,731,145	18,369,768
<u>2001</u>	2,939,488	6,234,050	13,679	576,537	9,763,754	16,903,089
<u>2002</u>	3,153,952	6,549,414	14,264	505,777	10,223,407	18,025,790
<u>2003</u>	4,204,559	6,239,374	13,810	446,407	10,904,150	18,237,107
<u>2004</u>	4,064,642	6,751,203	80,682	380,839	11,277,366	18,814,071
<u>2005</u>	4,988,187	7,072,100	67,816	331,312	12,459,415	19,541,986
<u>2006</u>	5,539,713	7,890,575	157,513	609,917	14,197,718	21,166,867
<u>2007</u>	6,617,813	9,030,808	472,025	840,593	16,961,239	23,505,106
<u>2008</u>	6,800,400	9,906,597	876,691	752,216	18,335,904	25,887,513
<u>2009</u>	6,056,557	12,275,895	979,073	752,326	20,063,851	27,470,723
<u>2010</u>	5,456,513	12,095,942	665,467	637,298	18,855,220	26,141,557

Source: www.dmme.virginia.gov

Gas Production by County (Thousands of Cubic Feet)

<u>County</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Total	137,743,577	131,109,841	118,899,393	103,740,445	94,269,076	80,402,178	73,916,559
Buchanan	78,658,860	75,336,583	69,625,399	60,213,361	57,182,653	49,967,426	50,613,544
Dickenson	34,179,358	32,848,286	29,828,606	27,298,661	23,498,296	20,125,474	17,401,670
Russell	11,345,773	10,796,414	10,044,097	8,692,041	7,601,657	6,422,942	5,901,345
Tazewell	13,559,586	12,128,558	9,401,291	7,536,382	5,986,470	3,886,336	3,533,22

Source: www.dmme.virginia.gov

Conventional Gas Production by County (Thousands of Cubic Feet)

County	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
<u>Total</u>	18,855,220	20,063,851	25,887,513	23,505,106	21,166,867	19,541,986
<u>Buchanan</u>	5,456,513	6,056,557	6,800,400	6,617,813	5,539,713	4,988,187
<u>Dickenson</u>	12,095,942	12,275,895	9,906,597	9,030,808	7,890,575	7,072,100
<u>Russell</u>	665,467	979,073	876,691	472,025	157,513	67,816
<u>Tazewell</u>	637,298	752,326	752,216	840,593	609,917	331,312

Source: www.dmme.virginia.gov

Coal Bed Methane Production by County (Thousands of Cubic Feet)

County	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total	137,805,965	131,175,267	118,975,508	103,813,952	94,339,415	80,490,761	77,167,034
Buchanan	78,671,765	75,351,846	69,644,706	60,232,768	57,199,657	49,989,439	50,637,115
Dickenson	34,228,841	32,898,449	29,885,414	27,352,761	23,551,631	20,192,044	17,475,252
Russell	11,345,773	10,796,414	10,044,097	8,692,041	7,601,657	6,422,942	5,901,345
Tazewell	13,559,586	12,128,558	9,401,291	7,536,382	5,986,470	3,886,336	3,153,322

Source: www.dmme.virginia.gov

Gas wells and anything connected with gas wells have to be taxed at real estate tax levy:

Total assessed value of all gas wells for 2012: 185,992,700

Total taxes on all gas wells for 2012: 985,761.31

Total assessed value of all pipelines for 2012: 63,753,900

Total tax of all pipelines for 2012: 337,895.67

Source: **Dickenson County Commissioner's Office**

Gas total in general	2010-2011	\$2,737,454.39
	2011-2012	\$2,164,813.23
Coal total in general	2010-2011	\$6,227,162.63
	2011-2012	\$7,228,434.65
County General Fund	2010-2011	\$3,893,230.94
	2011-2012	\$3,393,772.33

Source: **Dickenson County Commissioner's Office**

The following is a list of gas companies and number of gas wells that each gas company has operating in Dickenson County as of January 15, 2013.

EQT Corporation	2,022
Appalachian Energy Inc	28
Range Resources-Pine Mountain Inc	91
Elliott Production	2
Blue Flame Energy Corporation	1
Total Wells	2,144

Source: Dickenson County Commissioner's Office

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Current forest resource status:

Dickenson County's land area is approximately 85% forest and the county realizes significant economic impact from the products of that land. Based on data from the 2011 Forest Inventory Assessment, 91% of the forest land in the county is in private ownership. Dickenson County relies heavily on its rural land and natural resources to support its population. Loss of forestland will result in loss of both economic vitality and environmental stability in the county. Therefore, the leaders of Dickenson County should seek a balance between growth and development and forestland retention.

Table 1: Forestry Statistics for Dickenson County, Virginia, 2011

Source: USDA, Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis

Land use	Acres
Total Area of Dickenson County	236,770
Commercial Timberland	201,410
Total Area of Forestland	201,410
Nonforest area	35,361
% of Dickenson County in Forest	85.1%

Ownership	Acres	Percentage
Area of Forestland all classes	201,410	
National Forest System	17,266	8.6
Private Ownership	184,144	91.4

Forest type group	Acres	Percentage
Total Area of Forestland - Dickenson County	201,410	
White / red / jack pine group	2,014	1.0
Loblolly / shortleaf pine group	5,995	3.0
Oak / pine group	5,743	2.9
Oak / hickory group	157,195	78
Elm / ash / cottonwood group	6,116	3.0
Maple / beech / birch group	22,986	11.4
Nonstocked	1,361	0.7

(Web citation: Miles, P.D. Mon Jun 18 15:18:33 CDT 2012. Forest Inventory EVALIDator web-application version 1.5.00. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [Available only on internet: <http://apps.fs.fed.us/Evalidator/tmattribute.jsp>])

As shown in Table 2 below, the net growth of the forest in the county exceeds removal by a ratio of 1.72. In fact, the growth exceeds removals (both from logging and natural mortality) by over 5 million cubic feet according to the latest FIA data.

Table 2: Net growth and removals data on forestland for Dickenson County.

	Net Growth	Removals	Surplus	G/R Ratio
Softwoods (cubic feet)	720,098	0	720,098	0
Hardwoods (cubic feet)	11,310,396	7,000,933	4,309,463	1.62
Total (cubic feet)	12,030,494	7,000,933	5,029,561	1.72

Source: US Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory, 2011.

Revenue to landowners:

Timberland plays an important economic role in the county. Landowners in Dickenson County have averaged earning almost \$900,000 dollars annually from timber sales from 2000 to 2010. The 2006 publication *Virginia's Forest Our Commonwealth* by the Virginia Department of Forestry estimates that every dollar a landowner receives for their timber generates more than \$35.00 for the state's overall economy.

Table 3: The value of both pine and hardwood timber harvested in Dickenson County from 2000 to 2010.

Year	Softwood Value	Hardwood Value	Total
2000	\$10,511.15	\$1,409,280.04	\$1,419,791.19
2001	\$0.00	\$1,010,676.99	\$1,010,676.99
2002	\$0.00	\$1,724,054.21	\$1,724,054.21
2003	\$0.00	\$826,808.41	\$826,808.41
2004	\$0.00	\$1,127,415.26	\$1,127,415.26
2005	\$0.00	\$767,536.14	\$767,536.14
2006	\$0.00	\$910,522.17	\$910,522.17
2007	\$515.10	\$608,645.33	\$609,160.43
2008	\$0.00	\$225,132.00	\$225,132.00
2009	\$4,737.20	\$532,701.05	\$537,438.25
2010	\$461.00	\$617,813.00	\$618,274.00

Forestry is a major contributor to Dickenson County's economy through the sale of products, employment, and the generation of support activities. Forestry also provides benefits such as protection of public water supply watersheds, preservation of the natural landscape and open space, and less costly service delivery needs that would be required by scattered residential subdivision developments. The forestland has traditionally contributed to the quality of life in Dickenson County. It provides the rural character and scenic quality which distinguishes these areas from urban regions.

Non-consumptive benefits:

Forests help recharge ground water and clean it for drinking, absorb carbon dioxide from combustion, and provide oxygen. In addition, timberland filters and traps sediments and pollutants. They also act as natural buffers along the rivers and their tributary streams by preventing excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorous, from entering and polluting our water ways. Moreover, forests provide essential ecosystems for a variety of plants and animals by providing food, shelter, nesting, and bedding areas. Several rare or threatened species, along with some very unique ecological systems, can be found throughout Dickenson County. According to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage, at least 17 rare and/or endangered animals, 13 rare and/or endangered plants, and two unique terrestrial natural communities have been found in Dickenson County. (The complete list is attached along with the web citation for additional information.)

Challenges:

Due to past harvesting methods, the quality of timberland in Dickenson County and the surrounding counties has steadily declined. Traditionally, the forests of the Appalachian region have been selectively cut or “high-graded.” During these type harvests the best timber is removed, leaving the less desirable timber to become dominant. The result is a species conversion from the preferred yellow poplar and upland oak to beech, maple, and lower quality oak.

Through sound forest management techniques, such as harvest planning, the quality of this renewable resource can be improved. In addition, proper harvest planning will protect soil and water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. The Virginia Department of Forestry offers many services to assist landowners with the management of their forest resources.

Forestlands are perhaps the most important aesthetic, environmental, and economic resource of Dickenson County. While their annual value as a cash crop can be determined, their economic value as the scenic backdrop of the county is incalculable. Forests provide the beauty which is enjoyed by both residents and tourists alike. Maintaining forestland will enable Dickenson County to grow at a measured and deliberate pace and to better plan for public services.

Submitted by:

William Miller, Forester

Virginia Department of Forestry

P.O. Box 978, Abingdon, VA 24212

william.miller@dof.virginia.gov

276.676.5488, ext. 104

276.676.5581 (fax)

SENSITIVE HABITATS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Divisions of State Parks and Natural Areas has set aside locations within each state park that represent the natural diversity of that area. The Breaks Interstate Park has concentrated the development of its facility in order to allow for the protection of its resources on a significant portion of its property. In addition the US Forestry Service, which is a large land owner in Dickenson County, makes it a priority to protect its resources as well.

Beginning with the Open Space Land Act in 1966, the General Assembly authorized local governments and park authorities to acquire land/or certain rights in

order to preserve open space. According to this law, land may qualify for protection if it displays significant natural features or historic, scenic, or scientific qualities.

Article XI, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution, which states in relevant part, “Further it shall be the Commonwealth’s policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution impairment, or destruction for the benefit, employment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth” is the legal foundation for resource preservation of this type.

If an adequate example of each of Virginia’s natural community types is protected, then the majority of the species native to the state will be preserved because they are the usual components of those communities. A list is compiled of exceedingly rare plants and animals, and those with very uncommon habitat types, in order to carefully monitor them. The following page contains the inhabitants of Dickenson County that are cited in *Virginia’s Endangered Species* as being either endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

Virginia Endangered

Virginia Spiraea, Spiraea Virginian, Federal Threatened
Bewick’s Wren, Thryomanes bewickii (recommended)

Virginia Threatened

Brown supercoil (snail), Paravitrea septadens (recommended)
Swainson’s Warbler, Limnothlypis swainsonii (recommended)

Virginia Special Concern

Carey saxifrage, Saxifraga careyana
Dwarf anemone, Anemone minima
Nodding mandarin, Disporum maculatum
Drooping trillium, Trillium flexipes
Nodding pogonia, Triphora trianthophora

Large-flowered heatleaf, *Hexastylis shuttleworthii*
Round-leaved catchfly, *Silene rotundifolia*
Mountain bitter-cress, *Cardamine clematitis*
Little-leaved alum-root, *Heuchera parviflora*
Large-fruited sanicle, *Sanicula trifoliata*
Box huckleberry, *Gaylussacia brachucera*
Baker's rhododendron, *Rhododendron cumberlandense*
Great Indian-plantain, *Cacalia muhlenbergii*
Glossy supercoil (snail), *Ventridens lawae*
Balsam globe (snail), *Mesodon andrewsae*
Buttress threetooth (snail), *Triodopsis rugosa*

By using traditional land acquisition techniques along with administrative and voluntary protection by landowners, the components of Virginia's natural diversity and the natural habitats of Dickenson County can be safeguarded in ways that best fit each particular situation.

POPULATION TRENDS

DENSITY

Approximately 86 percent of Dickenson County's population resides outside the County's incorporated towns, while 9 percent reside in the town of Clintwood, 2 percent lives in the town of Clinchco, and 3 percent lives in the town of Haysi. These three towns account for 2,243 of the county's residents, or 14.1 percent of the county's total population. Dickenson County has a density of 48 people per square mile. The density per square mile for the town of Clintwood is much larger, approximately 741 people per square mile, and Clinchco has 122 people per square mile and Haysi 134 people per square mile.

Source: Census 2010

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution pattern of Dickenson County's population is linear, with development following the major streams, ridge tops, and highways. This linear growth is likely to continue, given the limited amount of developable land.

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

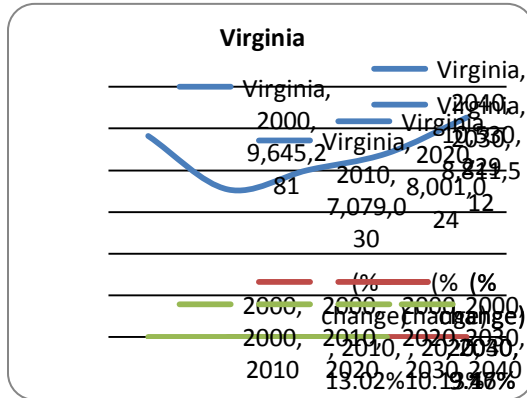
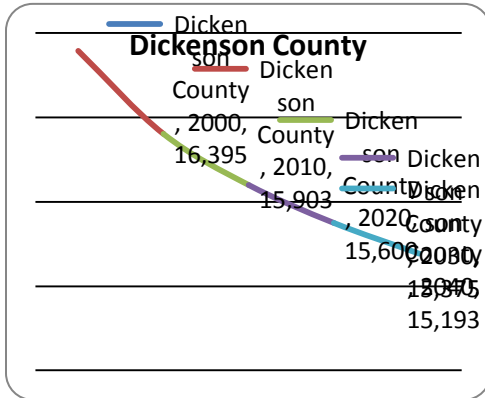
Dickenson County has a primarily white population, with minority groups totaling approximately 253 persons in 2010, which is less than two percent of the county's population.

POPULATION TRENDS

	2004 Population	2010 Population	% Changes
Dickenson County	16,212	15,903	-1.9%
Tazewell County	44,634	45,078	+ .98%
Russell County	28,857	28,897	+ .14%
Buchanan County	25,143	24,098	-4.3%
Virginia Statewide	7,472,448	8,001,024	+7.1%

Source: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Population Change



	Dickenson County	(% change)	Virginia	(% change)
2000	16,395		9,645,281	
2010	15,903	-3.00%	7,079,030	-13.02%
2020	15,600	-1.91%	8,001,024	+10.13%
2030	15,375	-1.44%	8,811,512	+9.46%
2040	15,193	-1.18%	10,530,229	+9.17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Virginia Employment Commission

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

The age of populations can be used as a rough indicator of the level and type services which are needed and desired in an area. Each age group generally possesses certain needs and desires which are quite different from those of the other age groups. The obvious trend is that the population of Dickenson County is growing older.

The median age of all the counties within the Cumberland Plateau Planning District is increasing, and currently Dickenson County's median age is 42 years old. This median age is expected to increase due to several factors such as a lack of job opportunities for young adults and the resulting outward migration as graduates leave and do not return. Also contributing to the aging population is the influence of the nationwide group known as baby boomers. As this segment of the nation's population grows old, no county will be left unaffected, and many adjustments will need to be made to support their needs.

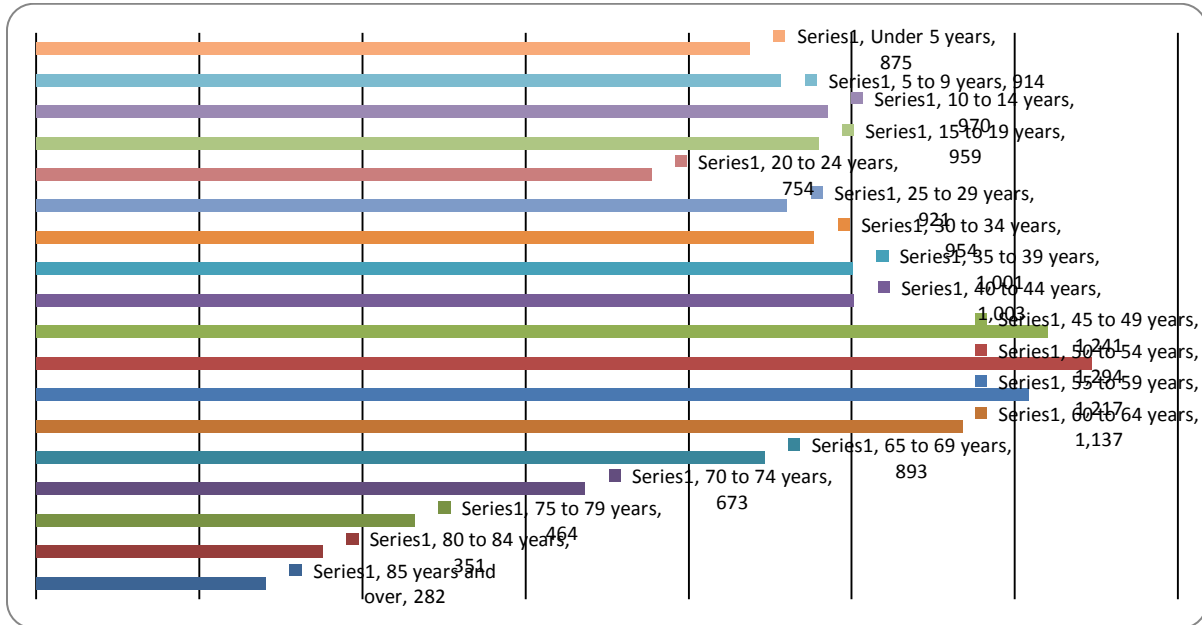
Dickenson County remains slightly lower than the other three counties in the District.

MEDIAN AGES: 1970-2010

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Dickenson	28.50	28.0	34.0	39.7	42.0
Buchanan	21.50	25.9	32.2	38.8	43.8
Russell	27.30	29.3	34.6	38.7	43.0
Tazewell	28.10	29.6	35.4	40.7	43.2
CPPD	26.35	28.2	34.1	39.5	43.0
Virginia	26.80	29.80	32.6	35.7	37.5

Source: 2010 Census

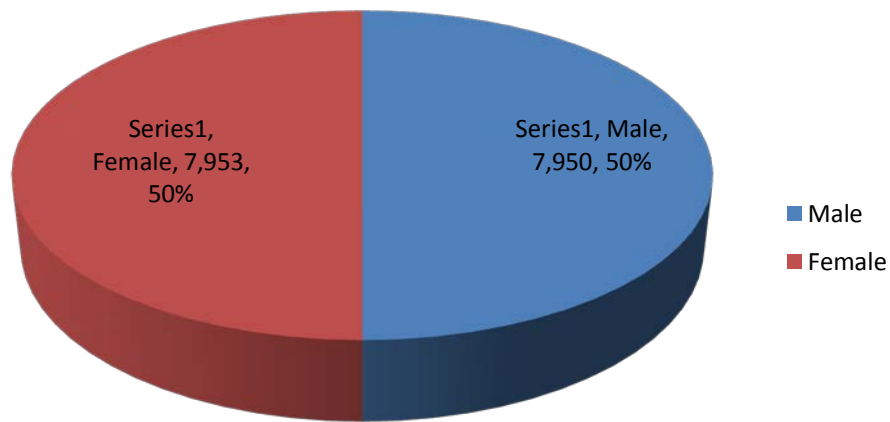
Population by Age



	Dickenson County	Virginia	United States
Under 5 years	875	509,625	20,201,362
5 to 9 years	914	511,849	20,348,657
10 to 14 years	970	511,246	20,677,194
15 to 19 years	959	550,965	22,040,343
20 to 24 years	754	572,091	21,585,999
25 to 29 years	921	564,342	21,101,849
30 to 34 years	954	526,077	19,962,099
35 to 39 years	1,001	540,063	20,179,642
40 to 44 years	1,003	568,865	20,890,964
45 to 49 years	1,241	621,155	22,708,591
50 to 54 years	1,294	592,845	22,298,125
55 to 59 years	1,217	512,595	19,664,805
60 to 64 years	1,137	442,369	16,817,924
65 to 69 years	893	320,302	12,435,263
70 to 74 years	673	229,502	9,278,166
75 to 79 years	464	173,929	7,317,795
80 to 84 years	351	130,801	5,743,327
85 years and over	282	122,403	5,493,433
	15,903	8,001,024	308,745,538

Source: 2010 Census

Population by Gender



	Dickenson County	Virginia	United States
Male	7,950	3,925,983	151,781,326
Female	7,953	4,075,041	156,964,212
	15,906	8,001,024	308,745,538

Source: 2010 Census

FORECASTS

According to Virginia Populations 2020 Projections, the populations of Dickenson County were forecast to continue dropping slightly over the next twenty years. The Virginia Employment Commission produces both long and short population projections to serve as common reference points in the planning and development of programs and facilities. The projections are to be used as guidelines by all agencies, boards, and commissions in preparing required plans, programs, and budget requests.

Population Projections by Age and Gender

	2020		2030		2040	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Under 5 years	359	373	330	343	328	341
5 to 9 years	372	391	355	373	342	358
10 to 14 years	503	500	440	438	417	416
15 to 19 years	468	480	408	419	402	413
20 to 24 years	326	366	352	396	318	358
25 to 29 years	341	373	353	385	318	348
30 to 34 years	360	411	345	395	385	441
35 to 39 years	504	499	409	405	436	432
40 to 44 years	472	508	399	429	395	425
45 to 49 years	520	521	545	546	456	457
50 to 54 years	507	527	518	538	452	469
55 to 59 years	593	604	520	529	563	573
60 to 64 years	645	630	539	526	568	555
65 to 69 years	545	609	561	626	508	566
70 to 74 years	503	445	590	522	509	450
75 to 79 years	355	266	479	360	509	382
80 to 84 years	258	143	380	210	460	254
85 years and over	218	106	280	135	396	192
	7,849	7,752	7,803	7,575	7,762	7,430
	15,601		15,378		15,192	

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2030	2040
Total			
Total Population	15,600	15,375	15,193
Race			
White	15,353	15,025	14,675
Black or African American	54	57	60
Asian	29	43	67
Other	165	249	391
Ethnicity			
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15,463	15,137	14,772
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	137	237	421

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Age and Gender

	2020		2030		2040	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Under 5 years	420	475	390	440	376	425
5 to 9 years	507	509	482	484	453	455
10 to 14 years	635	669	547	576	532	560
15 to 19 years	524	659	485	611	484	609
20 to 24 years	491	568	509	589	460	533
25 to 29 years	507	606	454	543	442	528
30 to 34 years	593	772	512	667	556	724
35 to 39 years	700	783	580	649	545	610
40 to 44 years	704	747	727	771	658	698
45 to 49 years	734	785	769	822	668	715
50 to 54 years	812	909	726	813	786	880
55 to 59 years	981	987	807	812	886	891
60 to 64 years	1,074	949	950	840	891	788
65 to 69 years	903	885	985	965	850	832
70 to 74 years	781	648	975	809	905	751
75 to 79 years	526	454	745	644	853	737
80 to 84 years	409	239	567	331	742	433
85 years and over	288	149	453	234	685	354
	11,589	11,793	11,663	11,600	11,772	11,523
	23,382		23,263		23,295	

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2030	2040
Total			
Total Population	23,383	23,263	23,296
Race			
White	22,421	22,077	21,836
Black or African American	683	772	820
Asian	80	109	147
Other	199	305	493
Ethnicity			
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	23,220	22,973	22,772
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	163	290	524

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Age and Gender

	2020		2030		2040	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Under 5 years	660	667	667	674	668	676
5 to 9 years	685	694	686	694	696	705
10 to 14 years	884	859	783	761	812	789
15 to 19 years	805	864	723	776	742	797
20 to 24 years	722	768	776	825	705	750
25 to 29 years	770	854	757	840	698	774
30 to 34 years	816	863	822	870	906	959
35 to 39 years	824	784	886	844	895	852
40 to 44 years	848	834	876	861	906	891
45 to 49 years	994	950	859	821	949	907
50 to 54 years	1,025	991	917	886	972	939
55 to 59 years	1,130	1,081	1,030	985	914	874
60 to 64 years	1,244	1,244	1,040	1,040	954	954
65 to 69 years	1,115	982	1,135	999	1,061	935
70 to 74 years	916	741	1,175	951	1,008	817
75 to 79 years	673	480	927	661	969	691
80 to 84 years	396	280	566	401	746	528
85 years and over	390	219	500	281	702	395
	14,897	14,155	15,125	14,170	15,303	14,233
	29,052		29,295		29,536	

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2030	2040
Total			
Total Population	29,051	29,296	29,534
Race			
White	28,269	28,211	27,924
Black or African American	223	216	208
Asian	76	112	166
Other	483	757	1,237
Ethnicity			
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	28,568	28,400	27,897
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	483	896	1,638

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Age and Gender

	2020		2030		2040	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Under 5 years	1,054	1,073	1,007	1,025	1,001	1,019
5 to 9 years	1,164	1,165	1,114	1,115	1,101	1,102
10 to 14 years	1,239	1,360	1,167	1,281	1,144	1,256
15 to 19 years	1,307	1,372	1,237	1,299	1,216	1,276
20 to 24 years	1,034	1,132	1,048	1,146	1,013	1,109
25 to 29 years	1,041	1,178	1,038	1,174	1,008	1,141
30 to 34 years	1,138	1,327	1,087	1,267	1,130	1,318
35 to 39 years	1,286	1,412	1,193	1,310	1,221	1,340
40 to 44 years	1,481	1,577	1,354	1,442	1,327	1,413
45 to 49 years	1,535	1,462	1,474	1,404	1,404	1,337
50 to 54 years	1,526	1,435	1,697	1,596	1,593	1,499
55 to 59 years	1,643	1,621	1,565	1,544	1,543	1,522
60 to 64 years	1,839	1,829	1,521	1,512	1,736	1,727
65 to 69 years	1,784	1,581	1,674	1,483	1,636	1,450
70 to 74 years	1,486	1,225	1,722	1,419	1,462	1,205
75 to 79 years	1,045	749	1,485	1,065	1,430	1,025
80 to 84 years	694	421	1,056	640	1,256	762
85 years and over	745	338	877	398	1,246	565
	23,041	22,257	23,316	22,120	23,467	22,066
	45,298		45,436		45,533	

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2030	2040
Total			
Total Population	45,300	45,436	45,535
Race			
White	42,602	41,953	40,854
Black or African American	1,414	1,475	1,456
Asian	401	569	856
Other	883	1,440	2,369
Ethnicity			
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	44,786	44,541	43,956
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	514	895	1,579

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

The coal mining and natural gas industry represents the County of Dickenson's major employment, while basic employment is defined as the employment in industries, which sell most of their goods and services outside of the area. Government services represent a large sector of employment. Emphasis is always placed on the basic employment sector because it is the primary source of area growth. An economy based on a single industry, such as coal or natural gas, is subjected to the global/national economy. Dependence on one basic industry makes the economy of an area highly susceptible to changes in that industry. Industries, which sell most of their goods to outside areas, depend on national or regional demand rather than on local demand.

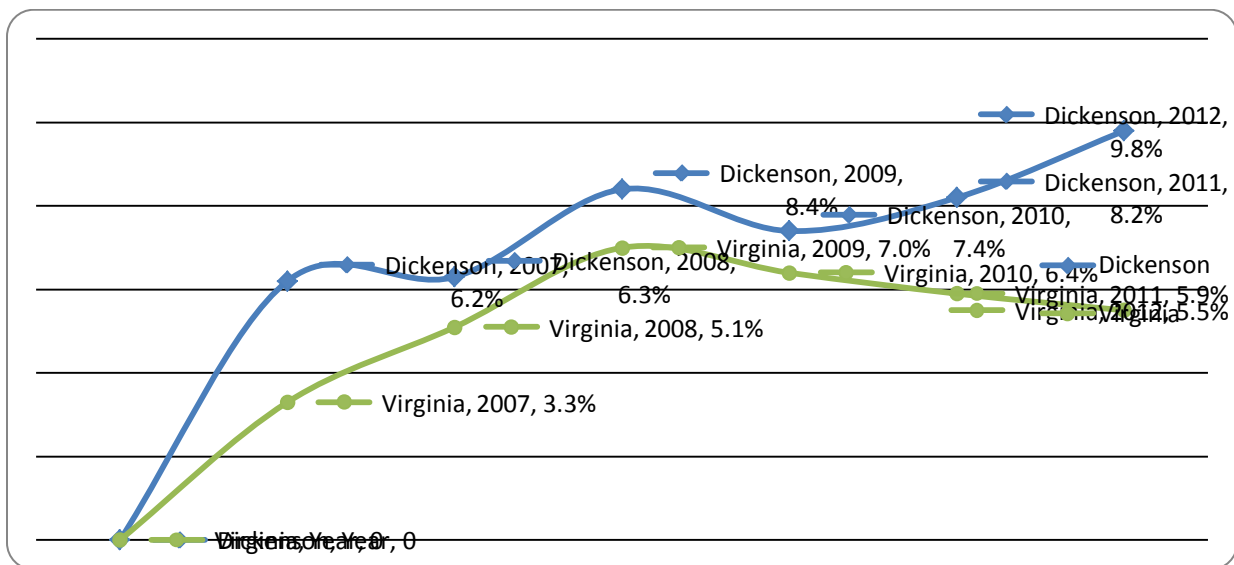
The national demand for coal during the 1960's decreased, as oil and natural gas moved into coal's major markets as home and industrial heating fuel. Stricter environmental controls added to the diminishing demand for coal, and mechanization within the industry further eliminated the need for larger workforces. Many of the smaller mining establishments were unable to afford the costs of updating to a long wall system and could not absorb the short-term losses that the larger companies could, so they closed down entirely. The economy of Dickenson County suffered during this time and population declined. The coal upturn of the 1970's brought a short-lived boost to the area's economy, but during the 1980's, economic decline became apparent by the high rates of unemployment and the low levels of family income for Dickenson County.

UNEMPLOYMENT

A commonly cited statistic for economic health is the unemployment rate and Dickenson County has historically lagged far behind both the region and the state. In the late 80s and early 90s as well as in 2002, double-digit unemployment rates in Dickenson County were common during the last major downturn of the coal industry. This was likely a result of a major job loss at a county-based call center,

Travelocity.com, in addition to the sale of holdings by Pittston Coal Corporation and the period of uncertainty and the transition of ownership to Alpha Natural Resources and their implementation of production. As the following chart shows, current rates are more reasonable and show a general downward turn and a more equitable standing with the statewide average reasoning.

Unemployment Rate: Dickenson County vs Virginia, 2007-2012



Still the data indicates that Dickenson County faces many challenges in the foreseeable future. Through the 1990's coal production and sales were moderate to low retaining little growth through the transition of Pittston Coal selling its holdings to Alpha Natural Resources. The transition and implementation of production of mining occurred in 2002. The economy shifted with emphasis and demand for coal due to oil prices and global unrest creating a strong and vibrant market for natural resources. This demand has placed an emphasis on the need for experienced miners and the development of training a new generation of coal miners. Markets are currently stable with long-term contracts for purchase of coal and the potential for the development of a new coal fired plant in a neighboring locality could assist with stabilization of the coal industry for decades to come. One area of concern is that of

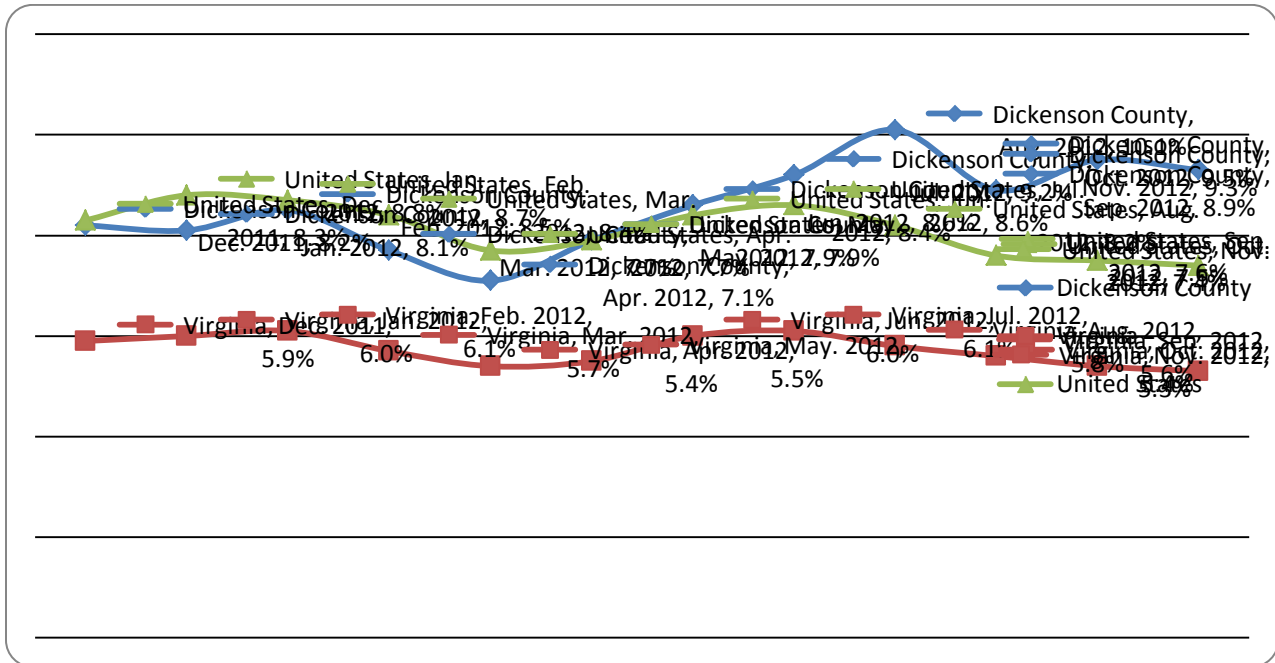
new federal and state regulations for mining search and rescue requirements to all coal operators. This regulation will force a financial burden to coal companies and the potential for smaller operations to cease due to the financial burdens.

Other concerns include: retired persons; seasonal workers not employed and not actively seeking employment during the week census information is collected; temporarily ill or disabled persons; voluntarily idle persons; persons working unpaid in a family business less than 15 hours per week; and discouraged workers who have given up looking for work because they do not believe they can find a job.

Potential workers at some point join the ranks of discouraged workers due to a lack of opportunities in the county, sometimes called a “job famine.” One way to compare the availability of employment in Dickenson County to the availability of employment in the State of Virginia is to calculate the number of people employed as a percentage of the working age population. The number of discouraged workers suffering from “job famine” is found by subtracting Dickenson County’s work force participation rate from the participation rate average for the State of Virginia, which is 68.9 percent. That difference, 25 percent, is equal to 3,365 workers. These discouraged workers are added to the number of unemployed workers in Dickenson County (815 in 1990) and together total 4,619 persons, 32.7 percent of Dickenson County’s working age population.

Unemployment Rates

Past 12 Months

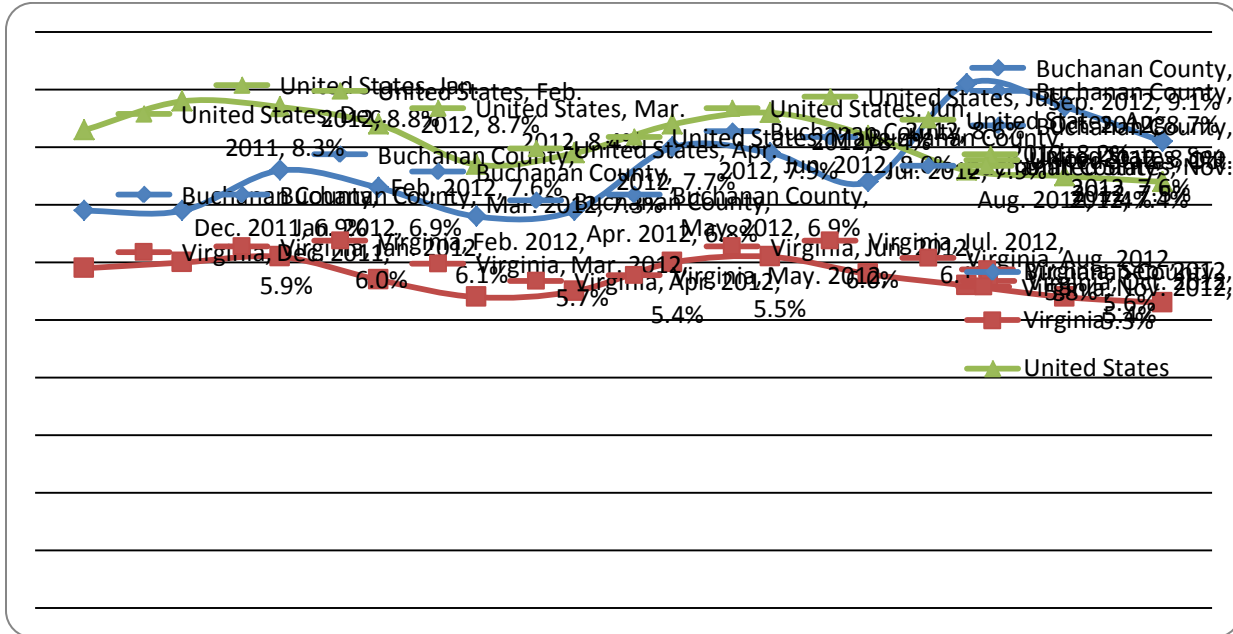


	Dickenson County	Virginia	United States
Dec. 2011	8.2%	5.9%	8.3%
Jan. 2012	8.1%	6.0%	8.8%
Feb. 2012	8.5%	6.1%	8.7%
Mar. 2012	7.7%	5.7%	8.4%
Apr. 2012	7.1%	5.4%	7.7%
May. 2012	7.9%	5.5%	7.9%
Jun. 2012	8.6%	6.0%	8.4%
Jul. 2012	9.2%	6.1%	8.6%
Aug. 2012	10.1%	5.8%	8.2%
Sep. 2012	8.9%	5.6%	7.6%
Oct. 2012	9.5%	5.4%	7.5%
Nov. 2012	9.3%	5.3%	7.4%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Unemployment Rates

Past 12 Months

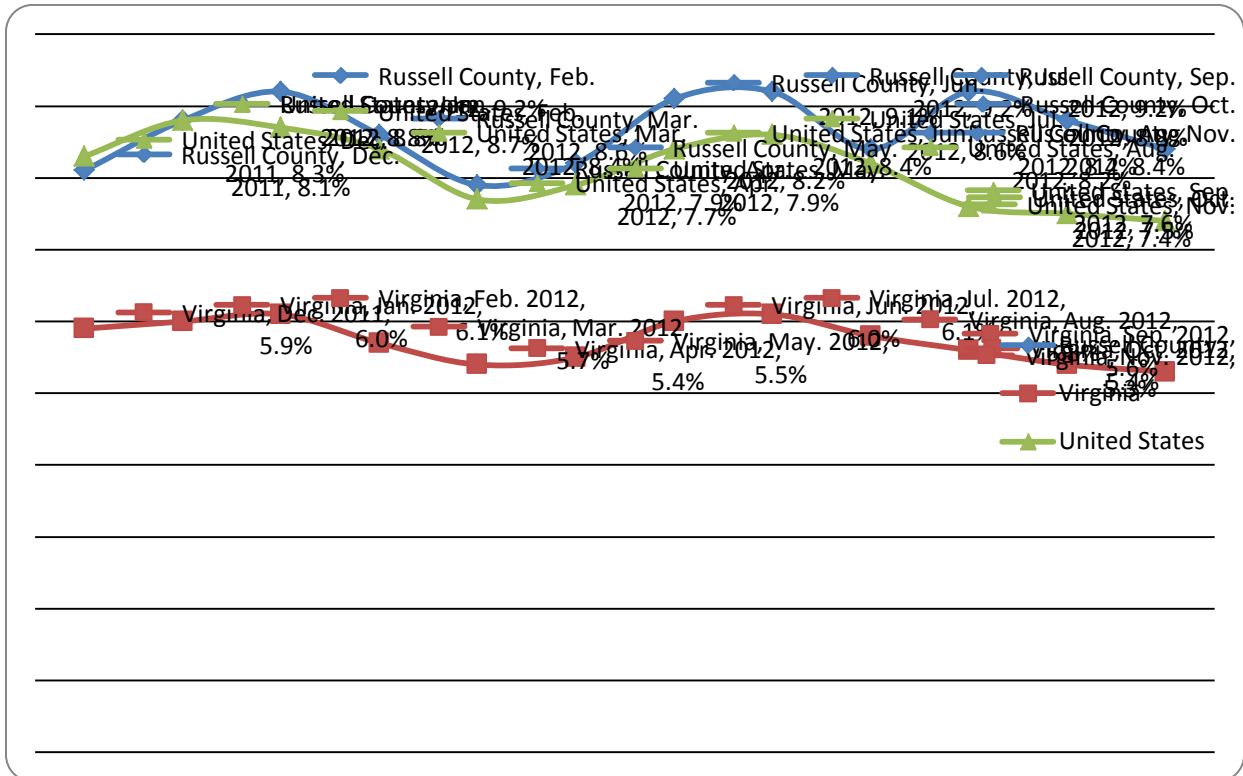


	Buchanan County	Virginia	United States
Dec. 2011	6.9%	5.9%	8.3%
Jan. 2012	6.9%	6.0%	8.8%
Feb. 2012	7.6%	6.1%	8.7%
Mar. 2012	7.3%	5.7%	8.4%
Apr. 2012	6.8%	5.4%	7.7%
May. 2012	6.9%	5.5%	7.9%
Jun. 2012	8.0%	6.0%	8.4%
Jul. 2012	7.9%	6.1%	8.6%
Aug. 2012	7.4%	5.8%	8.2%
Sep. 2012	9.1%	5.6%	7.6%
Oct. 2012	8.7%	5.4%	7.5%
Nov. 2012	8.1%	5.3%	7.4%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Unemployment Rates

Past 12 Months

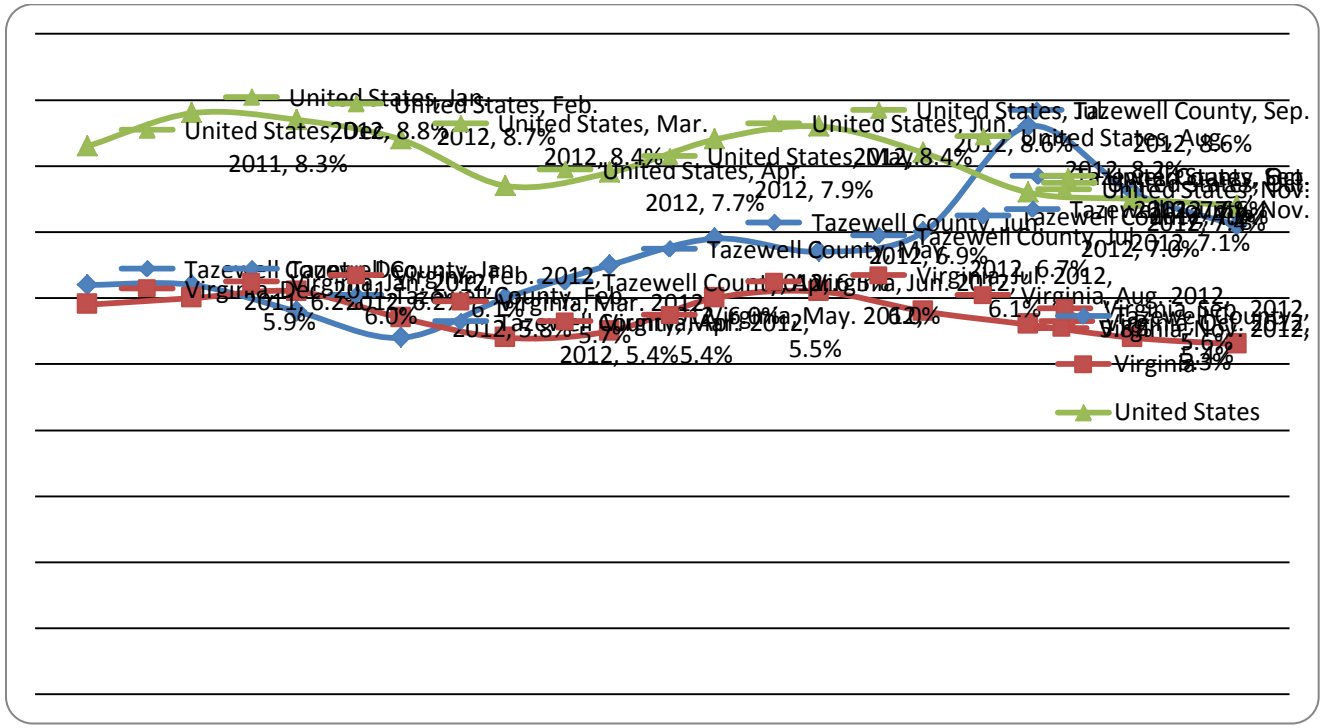


	Russell County	Virginia	United States
Dec. 2012	8.1%	5.9%	8.3%
Jan. 2012	8.8%	6.0%	8.8%
Feb. 2012	9.2%	6.1%	8.7%
Mar. 2012	8.6%	5.7%	8.4%
Apr. 2012	7.9%	5.4%	7.7%
May. 2012	8.2%	5.5%	7.9%
Jun. 2012	9.1%	6.0%	8.4%
Jul. 2012	9.2%	6.1%	8.6%
Aug. 2012	8.4%	5.8%	8.2%
Sep. 2012	9.2%	5.6%	7.6%
Oct. 2012	8.8%	5.4%	7.5%
Nov. 2012	8.4%	5.3%	7.4%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Unemployment Rates

Past 12 Months



	Tazewell County	Virginia	United States
Dec. 2011	6.2%	5.9%	8.3%
Jan. 2012	6.2%	6.0%	8.8%
Feb. 2012	5.8%	6.1%	8.7%
Mar. 2012	5.4%	5.7%	8.4%
Apr. 2012	6.0%	5.4%	7.7%
May. 2012	6.5%	5.5%	7.9%
Jun. 2012	6.9%	6.0%	8.4%
Jul. 2012	6.7%	6.1%	8.6%
Aug. 2012	7.0%	5.8%	8.2%
Sep. 2012	8.6%	5.6%	7.6%
Oct. 2012	7.6%	5.4%	7.5%
Nov. 2012	7.1%	5.3%	7.4%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

INCOME

Dickenson County has the lowest per capita income and the lowest median family income, when compared to the counties in the Cumberland Plateau Planning District. All counties within the district have below average incomes for the State of Virginia. Income disparity is expected to remain constant without addressing availability of jobs and increasing educational attainment.

PER CAPITA INCOME

DICKENSON COUNTY	
2007	\$22,694
2006	\$21,771
2005	\$20,629
2004	\$19,375
2003	\$18,760
2002	\$18,247
2001	\$17,858
2000	\$17,230
1999	\$16,716
1998	\$16,265
1997	\$15,087

BUCHANAN COUNTY	
2007	\$26,194
2006	\$24,876
2005	\$22,650
2004	\$21,958
2003	\$21,801
2002	\$20,879
2001	\$20,519
2000	\$19,475
1999	\$18,528
1998	\$17,957
1997	\$17,711

RUSSELL COUNTY	
2007	\$23,124
2006	\$22,606
2005	\$21,836
2004	\$20,739
2003	\$20,450
2002	\$19,857
2001	\$19,661
2000	\$18,514
1999	\$17,302
1998	\$16,686
1997	\$16,314

TAZEWELL COUNTY	
2007	\$28,810
2006	\$27,428
2005	\$25,431
2004	\$24,072
2003	\$22,827
2002	\$22,232
2001	\$21,647
2000	\$20,325
1999	\$19,151
1998	\$18,715
1997	\$18,105

Source: VA Employment Commission

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: 2000 – 2007

DICKENSON COUNTY	
2007	\$29,320
2006	\$28,505
2005	\$26,224
2004	\$26,490
2003	\$25,479
2002	\$24,922
2001	\$24,138
2000	\$24,716

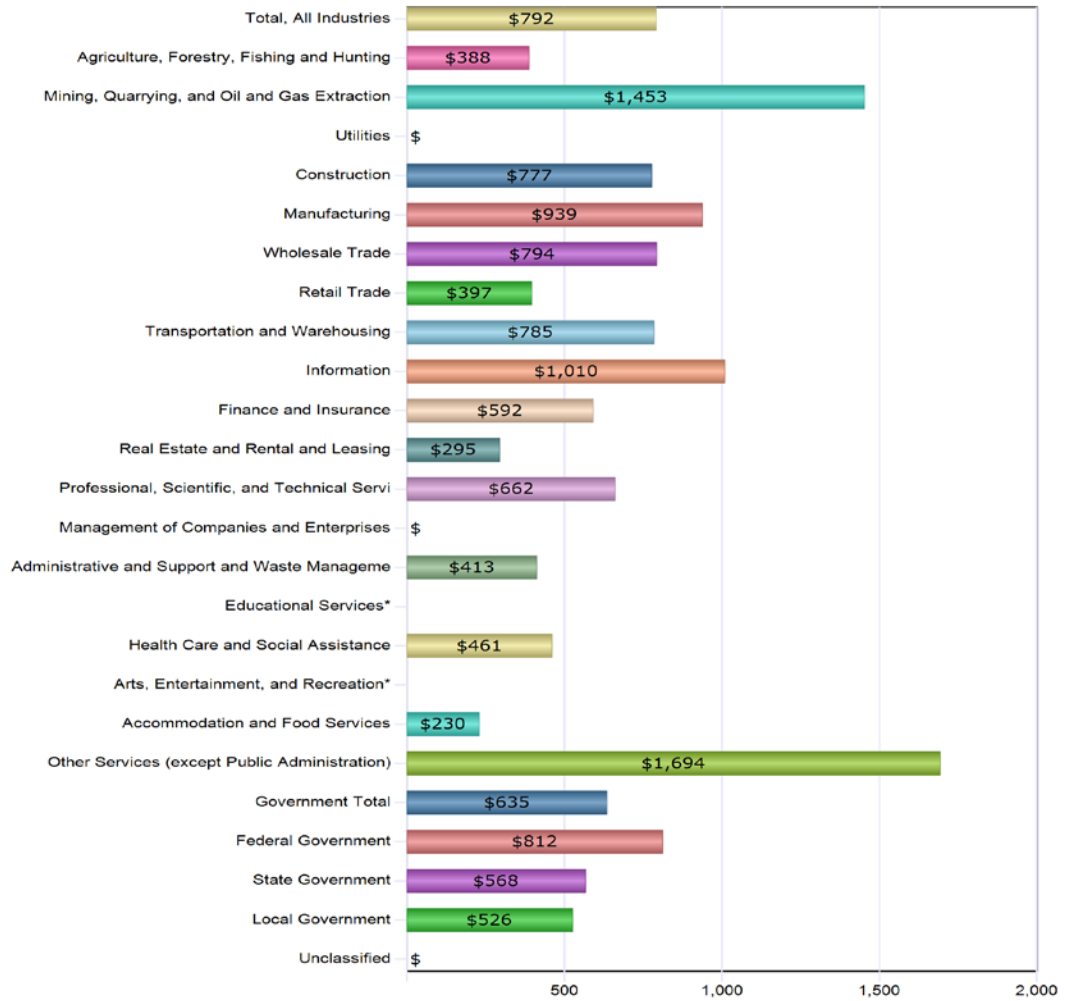
Decreases in weekly wage rates are likely to continue as productivity increases even further and competition necessitates more cutbacks in employment and/or wages. While the average weekly wage rates are slightly lower in Russell and Tazewell Counties, a wider variety of jobs provide wages. These lower wage earners may be more secure than those earning higher wages in Dickenson and Buchanan Counties, since the high earners are dependent upon the fluctuating mining sector.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE PER EMPLOYEE: 2012			
As 3 rd Qtr. 2012			
	Avg. Establishments	Avg. Employment	Avg. Weekly Wage
Dickenson	352	3,505	\$752.00
Buchanan	597	8,368	\$848.00
Russell	602	6,546	\$642.00
Tazewell	1,206	16,060	\$622.00
Virginia Statewide	237,245	3,622,277	\$960.00

Source: Virginia Employment Commission-velma

As this data shows, Dickenson County falls far below the state average weekly wage with \$752 compared to statewide average of \$960. The average weekly wage for Dickenson County in 3rd Quarter 2012 was \$752. This would be equivalent to \$18.80 per hour or \$40,081.60 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around. The average weekly wage for Tazewell County in 3rd Quarter 2012 was \$622. This would be equivalent to \$15.55 per hour or \$32,344 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around. The average weekly wage for Russell County in 3rd Quarter 2012 was \$642. This would be equivalent to \$16.05 per hour or \$33,384 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around.

Average Weekly Wage by Industry



Note: Asterisk (*) indicates non-disclosable data.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission
 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Second Quarter (April, May, June) 2012.

POVERTY

In Dickenson County, 21.8 percent of the population lives below poverty level. When female householder families are singled out, the rate increases to 42.5% living below poverty level. 68.1% of these women have children under age five.

ALL AGES IN POVERTY STATUS 2011				
State and County		90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval
Dickenson	3,357	2,654- 4,060	21.8	17.2 to 26.4
Russell	10,867	8,788-12,946	20.1	16.2 to 24.0
Buchanan	5,459	4,539-6,379	24.3	20.2 to 28.4
Tazewell	7,580	6,214-8,946	17.6	14.4 to 20.8
Virginia	912,779	894,233 - 931,325	11.6	11.4 to 11.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 1950, 56.2 percent of the employed labor force in Dickenson County was engaged in mining. By 1978 mining as a percentage of the labor force had grown to 64 percent. The number has now dropped to 32.71 percent. Agricultural employment has also dropped tremendously. Increases in wholesale and retail trade somewhat lessened the blow of declines in mining and agriculture, but offer lower salaries than mining did. Even if all of the laid-off miners could find another source of employment (which has not been the case), loss in the community's overall cash flow is still substantial.

By 1970 employment in the trade sector represented 17.2 percent of the employed work force in Dickenson County, the second largest employer. In 1987, the number of retail sales establishments had reached 80, with 603 paid employees. Of these establishments, 29 were individual proprietorships; 12 were partnerships. There were 11 wholesale establishments with 30 paid employees.

The distribution of employment for 1992 shows that trade had dropped to 15.9 percent and the government now holds second place with 21.17 percent of the work force. The expanding service industry now comprises 13.45 percent of total employment.

Between 1986 and 1992, Dickenson County lost approximately 1,035 jobs within the mining industry. Seven hundred fifty (750) jobs were lost in the county over the six-year time span. Buchanan County had 371 fewer jobs in 1992 than in 1986, while Russell County gained 839 jobs, and Tazewell County gained 1,278 jobs. Growth of the manufacturing industry is primarily responsible for employment gains in Russell and Tazewell Counties.

Dickenson County

Economic Profile

Total Employment by Industry

	Employment			Percent	
	Estimated	Projected	Change	Total	Annual
	2010	2020			
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	141	145	4	2.84%	0.28%
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	6,114	5,955	-159	-2.60%	-0.26%
Utilities	264	262	-2	-0.76%	-0.08%
Construction	4,643	6,466	1,823	39.26%	3.37%
Manufacturing	3,741	3,883	142	3.80%	0.37%
Wholesale Trade	1,626	1,822	196	12.05%	1.14%
Retail Trade	9,164	10,289	1,125	12.28%	1.16%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,480	1,792	312	21.08%	1.93%
Information	972	1,038	66	6.79%	0.66%
Finance & Insurance	1,442	1,595	153	10.61%	1.01%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	394	452	58	14.72%	1.38%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Servi	1,960	2,518	558	28.47%	2.54%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	691	720	29	4.20%	0.41%
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	2,134	2,576	442	20.71%	1.90%
Educational Services	7,809	8,031	222	2.84%	0.28%
Health Care & Social Assistance	8,981	12,166	3,185	35.46%	3.08%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	302	353	51	16.89%	1.57%
Accommodation & Food Services	4,237	4,846	609	14.37%	1.35%
Other Services (except Public Admin.	1,568	1,868	300	19.13%	1.77%

Projections data is for Southwestern Virginia (LWIA I) No data available for Dickenson County.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission,
Industry and Occupational Projections, 2010-2020

TOP 20 EMPLOYERS IN DICKENSON COUNTY

1. Paramount Coal Company Virginia
2. Dickenson County School System
3. Dickenson Russell Coal Company
4. County of Dickenson
5. Food City
6. Highlands Drilling LLC
7. Heritage Hall
8. Equitable Resources Explorario
9. Breaks Interstate Park
10. Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority
11. Roth LLC "McDonalds"
12. Dickenson County Community Hospital
13. Homemakers LLC
14. Dickenson County Department of Public Welfare
15. Shore Stop Store "FAS Mart Subway"
16. Dickenson County Home Health
17. Johnson Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Buick
18. Dickenson County Ambulance Inc
19. Stanco Equipment Inc
20. Town of Clintwood

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Economic growth taking place in Dickenson County can be witnessed by an increase in the number of housing permits issued. The largest numbers of permits were issued in 1983, directly proceeding the two years which had the highest (nominal) taxable sales. The gradual decline in building permits reflects pessimistic expectations about the future in an area which has experienced such severe economic dislocations.

TOTAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS BY COUNTY/CITY

County/City	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
Buchanan	33	\$1,292,000	23	\$1,427,167	34	\$2,201,000	26	\$1,233,000	21	\$1,240,000	12	\$1,120,000
Dickenson	18	\$2,349,000	13	\$1,421,000	26	\$2,435,400	14	\$1,119,500	11	\$1,144,900	22	\$1,976,100
Russell	121	\$32,626,842	86	\$13,360,912	37	\$6,230,190	28	\$4,134,642	43	\$5,287,586	29	\$3,819,990
Tazewell	130	\$10,34,583	85	\$8,307,179	50	\$6,180,619	36	\$5,220,249	24	\$3,560,756	37	\$5,900,126

Source: <http://censtats.census.gov>

Another indication of the growth taking place in an area is an increase in the number of new automobiles. This indicator can be obtained by analyzing the county's vehicle registration trends. The coal "boom" years of 1970 to 1975 created an increase in the number of registered vehicles, but the trend leveled off and has proceeded at a steady rate.

FORECASTS

The different segments of the economy are interrelated. If employment is to increase, sales and production must expand. If sales and production are to expand, there must be an increase in demand. If demand is to increase, there must be an increase in income, in the size of the economic base, or both.

Like all economic and demographic forecasts, analyze historical data to make estimates of future data. One limitation is that the future is never known with any

certainty. There is always the possibility of an unprecedented shock to the economy, or of some other event that could not be foreseen based on analysis of historical data. Small area forecasts are subject to more error because of the small sample size. The larger the area, the more reliable the model will be.

Employment growth for Dickenson County is likely to occur in the areas of state and local government, services, manufacturing, retail trade and specifically the natural resources industry. Current economic development through the natural gas industry and ongoing growth within the coal industry will bolster economic growth. The County, prior to the 2010 census has already seen population growth and the new creation of 500+ jobs in the natural resources industry and will see emerging up-street development of new business opportunities such as subcontractors. These components combined will have a dramatic positive input on the stabilization and growth of county population and substantial employment growth. When the forecast population growth is compared to the forecast growth in employment, the result is an expected 830 more jobs, and an expected 410 more people. This indicates that the unemployment rate will decline.

As the population ages and people begin to leave the labor force, labor market pressures will be eased further, with the changes most keenly felt in 2015 when the bulk of the baby-boom generation enters retirement.

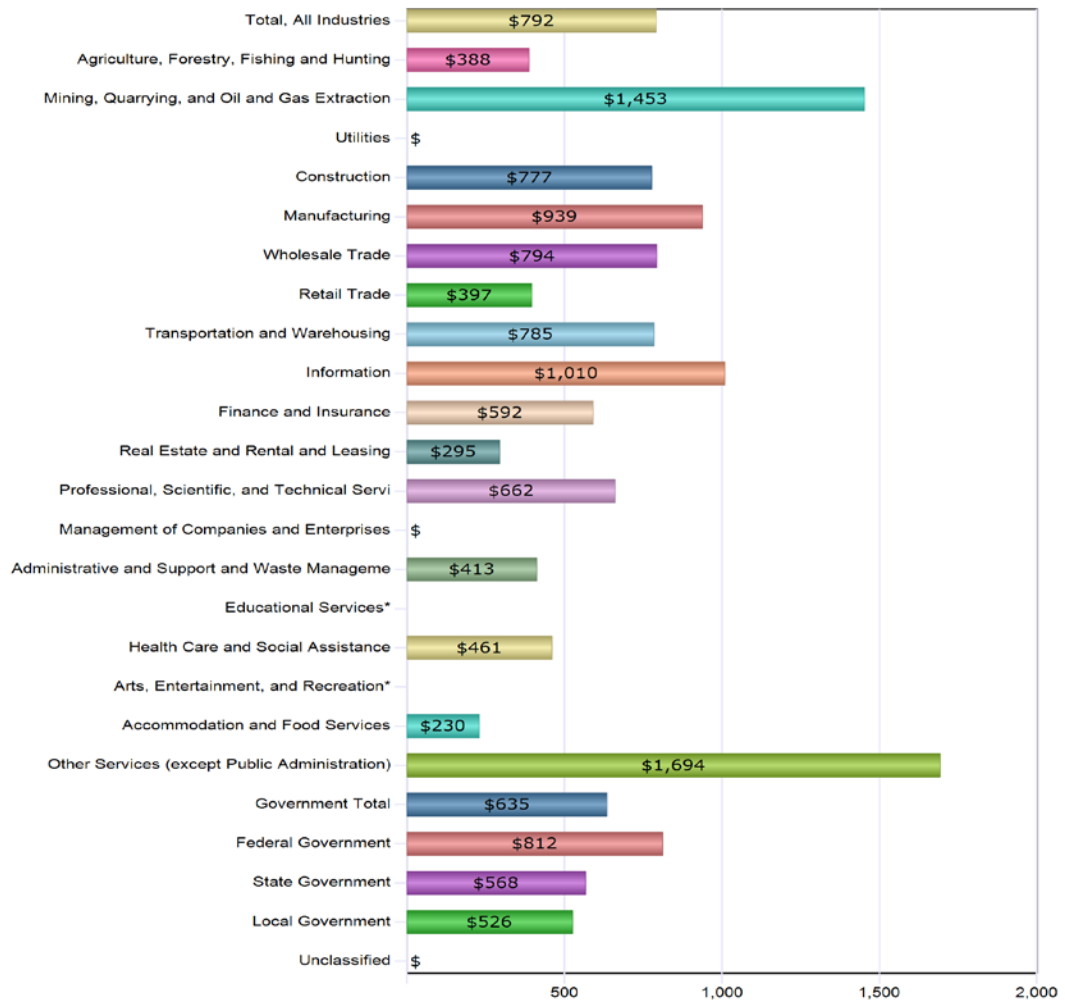
Dickenson County has the institutional, locational, and human resources necessary to plan and successfully stimulate a recovery in the local economy. Efforts must be made to allow the residents to fully satisfy their demands for consumer goods locally by encouraging expansion and revitalization of the retail sector. Since the county does not contain any large towns or urban centers with which to attract business and secure economic diversification, local government must be very attentive to existing business's needs and preparation for new service industry such as tourism development.

Age of Workers by Industry

	14 - 18	19 - 21	22 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+
Total all Industries	40	149	181	747	881	953	688	125
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting				5	6	5		
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction		22	37	236	250	268	258	13
Utilities								
Construction		12	12	38	58	47	23	3
Manufacturing				8	8	8	4	
Wholesale Trade				9	8	11	10	
Retail Trade	14	37	38	74	83	105	57	19
Transportation & Warehousing		5	11	15	39	43	15	10
Information					6	6	4	
Finance & Insurance			4	25	26	15	13	3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing						2	5	
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Service			4	6	13	14	9	
Management of Companies & Enterprises								
Administrative & Support & Waste Management		3	4	16	14	15	12	
Educational Services		21	23	118	151	193	139	27
Health Care & Social Assistance	3	17	13	76	90	73	62	16
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation								
Accommodation & Food Services	10	20	15	25	17	17	10	7
Other Services (except Public Administration)			4	12	13	20	8	7
Public Administration	4	4	11	77	92	100	56	12

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Program, 2nd Quarter (April, May, June) 2012, all ownerships.

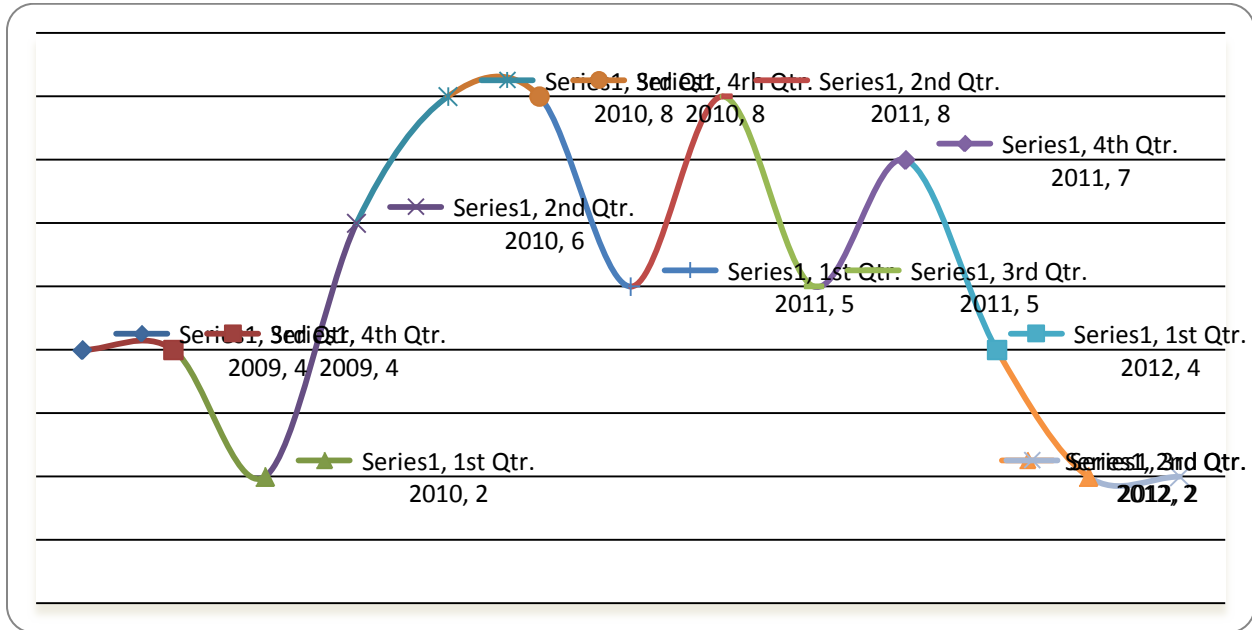
Average Weekly Wage by Industry



Note: Asterisk (*) indicates non-disclosable data.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission
 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Second Quarter (April, May, June) 2012.

New Startup Firms



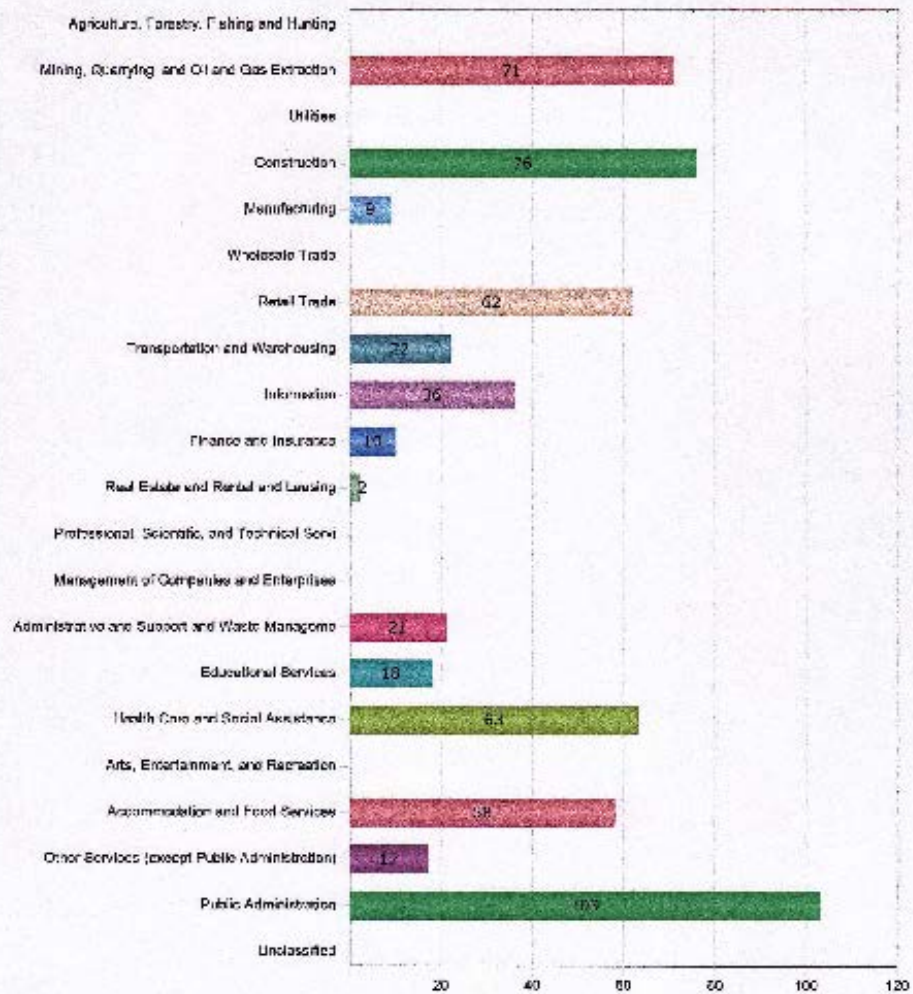
	Dickenson County	Virginia
3rd Qtr. 2009	4	2,436
4th Qtr. 2009	4	2,135
1st Qtr. 2010	2	2,633
2nd Qtr. 2010	6	2,475
3rd Qtr. 2010	8	2,758
4th Qtr. 2010	8	2,580
1st Qtr. 2011	5	3,090
2nd Qtr. 2011	8	3,023
3rd Qtr. 2011	5	2,405
4th Qtr. 2011	7	2,518
1st Qtr. 2012	4	3,079
2nd Qtr. 2012	2	2,506
3rd Qtr. 2012	2	4,051

Note: The following criteria was used to define new startup firms:

1. Setup and liability date both occurred during 3rd Quarter (July, August, September 2012)
2. Establishment had no predecessor UI Account Number
3. Private Ownership
4. Average employment is less than 250
5. For multi-unit establishments, the parent company must also meet the above criteria.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 3rd Quarter (July, August, September) 2012.

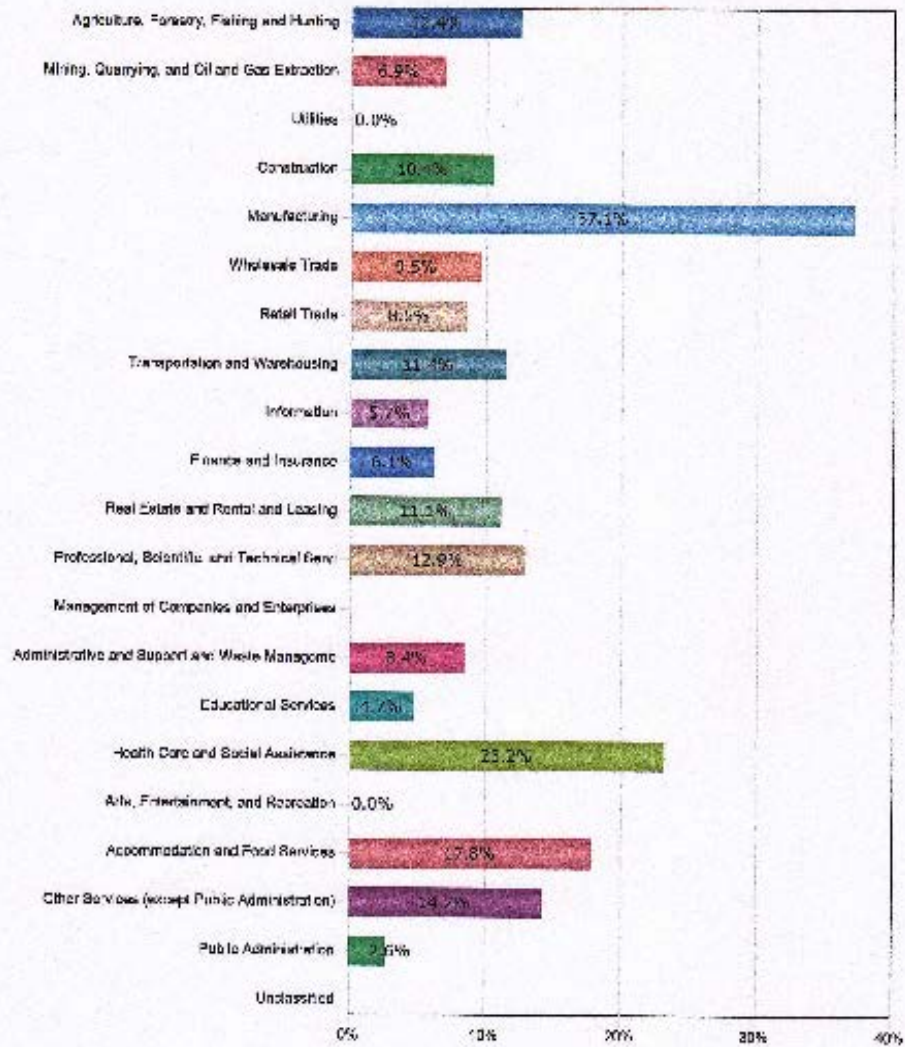
New Hires by Industry



Total: 879

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Program, 2nd Quarter (April, May, June) 2012, all ownerships.

Turnover by Industry



Average: 8.8%

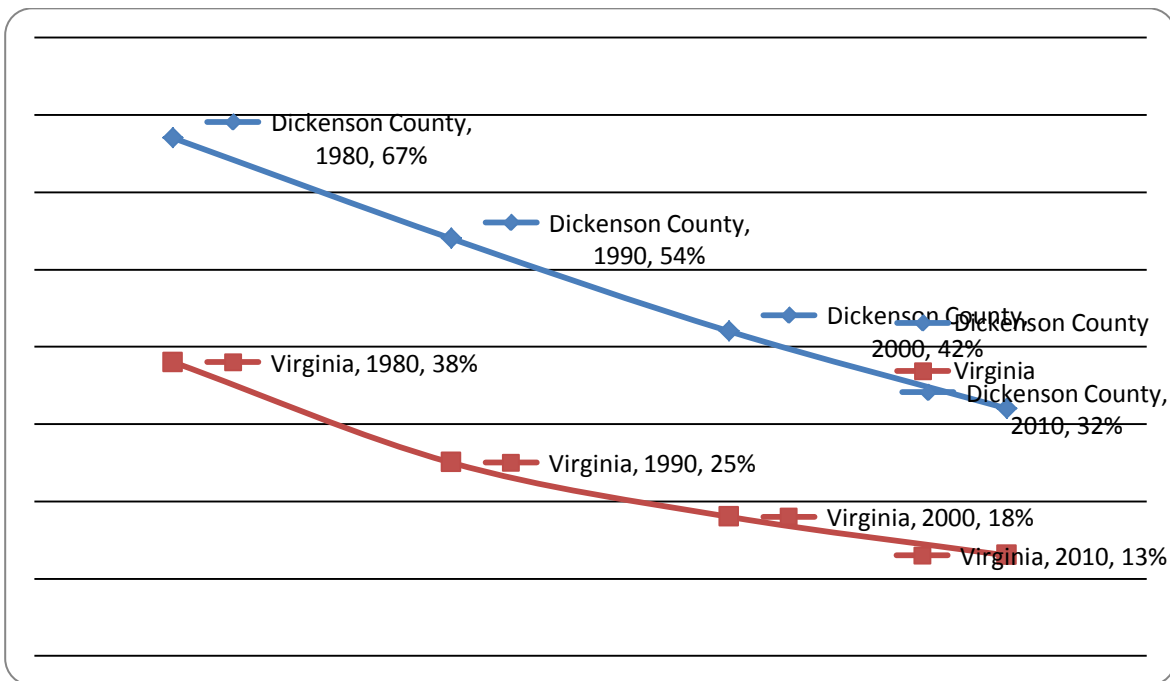
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Program, 1st Quarter (January, February, March) 2012, all ownerships.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

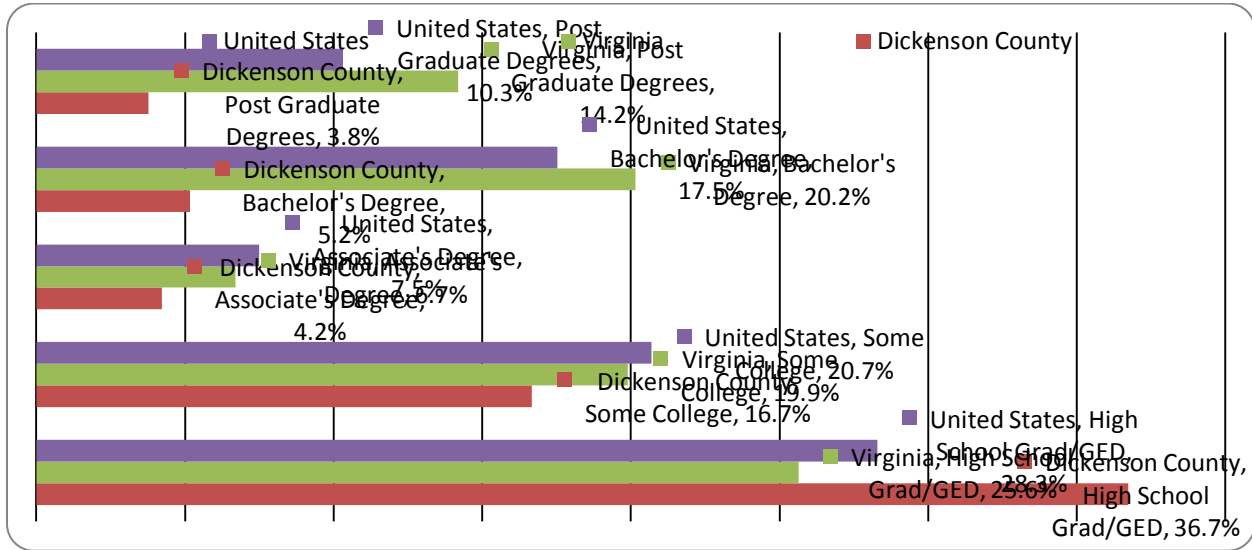
Lack of educational attainment has been and is still a serious detriment to future development. Average grade completion level for the county lags far behind the state average. Low educational attainment of residents of the county is indicative of a labor market that emphasizes blue-collar skills and does not encourage young people to return to or remain in the area once they have received their college education. Education is an important channel for individuals to progress upwards in society, and it increases socio-economic status as well as income.

% of Population w/Less Than a HS Education



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Level
(Population 25 years and over)



	Dickenson County	Virginia	United States
High School Grad/GED	4,197	1,353,561	57,861,283
Some College	1,905	1,050,703	42,350,233
Associate's Degree	483	354,025	15,344,048
Bachelor's Degree	590	1,064,406	35,852,277
Post Graduate Degrees	432	749,438	21,121,347

Source: 2010 Census

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Interest in developing an education center in Dickenson County originated, albeit perhaps in an indirect manner, from the educational attainment levels in the county. Lagging behind the state and the region in this critical data set has left the county in a difficult situation in terms of economic development at large and personal income levels on a more individualized basis. Fighting the stigma of a workforce that is not as “highly educated” as others is a detriment to locating industry and jobs in the county and also makes local entrepreneurship more difficult. As such, talented citizens of the county may choose, or even be forced, to relocate for professional

reasons. When compared to statewide data, Dickenson County seems to lag approximately twenty years behind in educational attainment statistics. While progress is being made, it is a slow, gradual improvement as shown in the nearly parallel lines of the preceding graph. For example, in 1980, 66.5% of the citizens of Dickenson County had less than a high school diploma. By 2000, that number had dropped to 41%, a sizeable improvement. However, the Virginia average in 1980 was 37.6% and by 2000, had dropped to 18.5%.

Percentage of population 25 and older who have earned:				
No diploma or Degree	High School Diploma	Some College	Associates Degree	Bachelor's
36.3%	38.5%	14%	5.2%	6%

Percentage of population 25 years of age and older who are high school graduates is 38.5%. Percentage of population 25 years of age and older who have earned a Bachelor's Degree is 6%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Virginia Employment Commission.

When comparing the counties within the Cumberland Plateau Planning District, Dickenson County has the lowest percentage of high school graduates for the 2011-12 school year. The percentage of graduates is based on the number of ninth grade students, four years earlier.

High School Graduates 2011-2012	
<u>Graduates</u>	
Dickenson	174
Buchanan	234
Russell	311
Tazewell	439

Enrollments in Region

Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, & Tazewell Counties

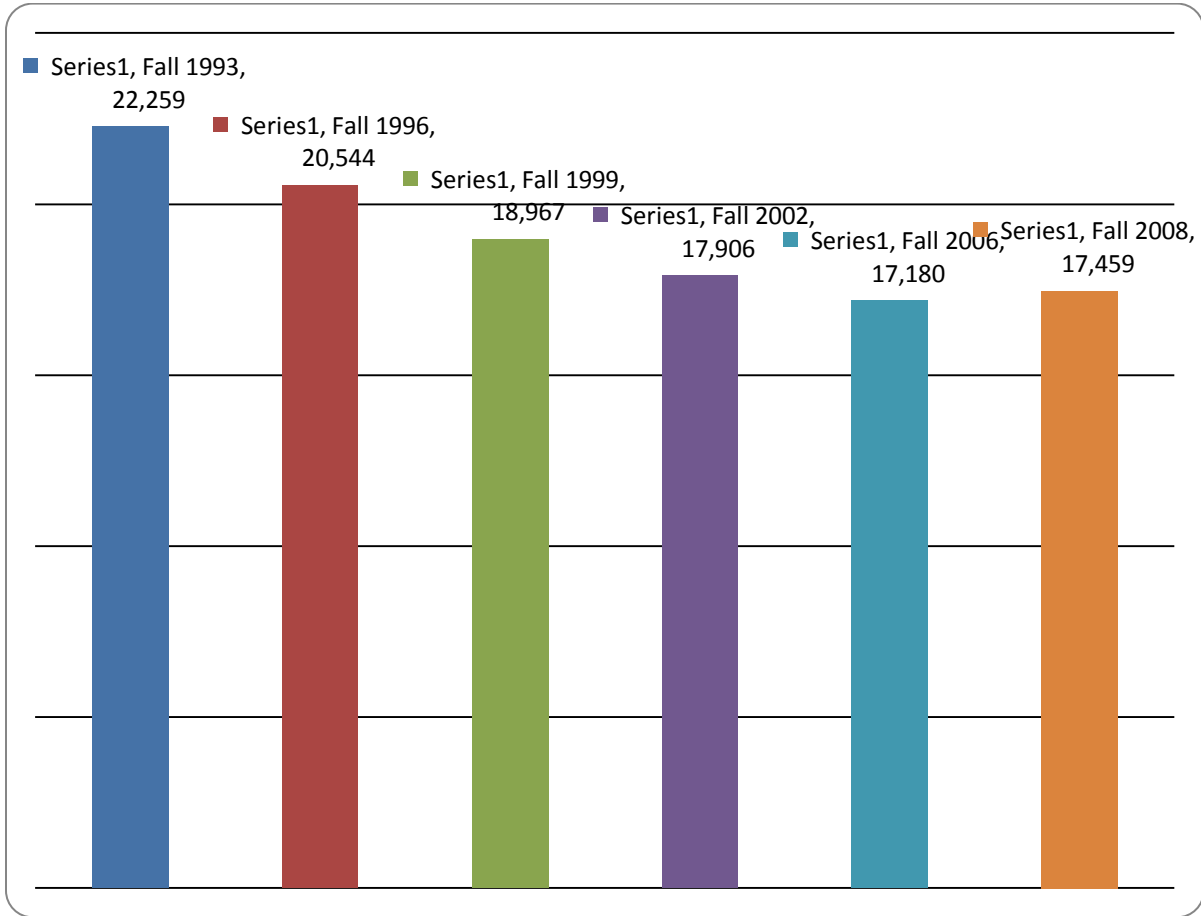
Chg. 1991 to 2008	Buchanan County		Dickenson County		Russell County		Tazewell County		SwVCC Service Region	
Fall	Buchanan County	Buchanan County Percent Change From Prior Yr.	Dickenson County	Dickenson County Percent Change From Prior Yr.	Russell County	Russell County Percent Change From Prior Yr.	Tazewell County	Tazewell County Percent Change From Prior Yr.	SwVCC Service Region	SwVCC Service Region Percent Change From Prior Yr.
1991	6,168	-3.7%	3,515	-2.7%	5,092	-3.4%	8,760	-0.6%	23,535	-2.3%
1992	5,913	-4.1%	3,372	-4.1%	4,986	-2.1%	8,615	-1.7%	22,886	-2.8%
1993	5,729	-3.1%	3,301	-2.1%	4,799	-3.8%	8,430	-2.1%	22,259	-2.7%
1994	5,427	-5.3%	3,292	-0.3%	4,737	-1.3%	8,288	-1.7%	21,744	-2.3%
1995	5,210	-4.0%	3,181	-3.4%	4,713	-0.5%	8,033	-3.1%	21,137	-2.8%
1996	4,969	-4.6%	3,092	-2.8%	4,616	-2.1%	7,867	-2.1%	20,544	-2.8%
1997	4,711	-5.2%	3,030	-2.0%	4,494	-2.6%	7,793	-0.9%	20,028	-2.5%
1998	4,487	-4.8%	2,971	-1.9%	4,410	-1.9%	7,738	-0.7%	19,606	-2.1%
1999	4,293	-4.3%	2,844	-4.3%	4,355	-1.2%	7,475	-3.4%	18,967	-3.3%
2000	4,063	-5.4%	2,712	-4.6%	4,263	-2.1%	7,116	-4.8%	18,154	-4.3%
2001	3,979	-2.1%	2,720	0.3%	4,260	-0.1%	6,987	-1.8%	17,946	-1.1%
2002	4,029	1.3%	2,719	0.0%	4,156	-2.4%	7,002	0.2%	17,906	-0.2%
2003	3,649	-9.4%	2,601	-4.3%	4,077	-1.9%	6,982	-0.3%	17,309	-3.3%
2004	3,570	-2.2%	2,538	-2.4%	4,260	4.5%	6,876	-1.5%	17,244	-0.4%
2005	3,500	-2.0%	2,494	-1.7%	4,271	0.3%	6,846	-0.4%	17,111	-0.8%
2006	3,436	-1.8%	2,464	-1.2%	4,281	0.2%	6,999	2.2%	17,180	0.4%
2007	3,435	-0.9%	2,464	0.0%	4,281	0.0%	6,996	-0.9%	17,176	-0.9%
2008	3,795	1.1%	2,681	1.1%	4,206	-1.0%	6,777	-3.1%	17,459	1.0%

Fall Enrollment

<u>Fall 1993</u>	<u>Fall 1996</u>	<u>Fall 1999</u>	<u>Fall 2002</u>	<u>Fall 2006</u>	<u>Fall 2008</u>
22,259	20,544	18,967	17,906	17,180	17,459

Source: SWVCC Institutional Research

Four County Enrollments: 1993 to 2008
Number of Enrolled Dropped by 22% -- 4,800 in 15 years



Source: Annual Fall Membership Reports Virginia Department of Education

TRAINING PROVIDERS

Southwest Virginia Community College

369 College Road Us Rt. 19, 6
Richland, VA 24641-1101
Phone: (276) 964-2555 ext. 7338

www.sw.edu

Number of 2012 graduates: 555

Mountain Empire Community College

3441 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
Phone: (276) 523-2400

www.mecc.edu

Number of 2012 graduates: 550

The University of VA's College at Wise

One College Avenue
Wise, VA 24293-4400
Phone: (276) 328-0100

www.uvawise.edu

Number of 2012 graduates:

Appalachian School Law

1 Slate Creek Road
Grundy, VA 24614-2825
Phone: (800) 895-7411

Number of 2012 graduates: 92

University of Appalachian College of Pharmacy

1060 Dragon Road
Oakwood, VA 24631
Phone: (276) 498-4190

www.uacp.org

Number of 2012 graduates: 65

Dickenson County Career Center

325 Vocational Drive
Clinchco, VA 24226
Phone: (276) 35-9384

www.dickenson.k12.va.us/dccc

Source: Phone Call to each College

TRANSPORTATION

The effects of a community's transportation system upon the community are vital. A transportation plan must take into consideration topography, population density and distribution, land development policies, and the overall planning objectives of the community. Four County Transit, operated by the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, is the public transportation provider for Virginia Planning District 2. They have been providing public transportation since 1998. Four County Transit serves the residents of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell Counties. Four County Transit is a fully funded public transportation system made possible by Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Four County Transit offers public transportation on each of our college routes. Public transportation is available throughout the day and with convenient fixed routes and demand responses. Four County Transit provides a variety of services to complement the need for public transportation service in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell Counties. Service hours range from 5:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, depending upon the type of transit service.

HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Dickenson County is a part of the Bristol District of the Virginia Department of Transportation, which includes eight other districts, each divided into five sections: interstate, primary, urban, public transit, and secondary systems. The Bristol District covers a 12 county area consisting of 126 miles of interstate highways and 1,182 miles of primary system highways. Dickenson County has three major primary roads and many secondary roads, which are an important part of the infrastructure. Dickenson County has a total of 475.63 miles of highway, 79.70 miles of primary roads and 393.93 miles of secondary roads.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The Six Year Improvements Program is the Commonwealth Transportation Board's plan for identifying funds anticipated to be available for highway construction,

ports, airports, and public transit, for distribution in the 2006-07 fiscal year, as well as those funds planned for the next five fiscal years through 2011-12. Public hearings were held in each of the nine construction districts in the state as part of the development of this program. These hearings are held to seek input and advice from members of the county boards of supervisors, city council members, other public officials, and the general public.

Included in the Six Year Improvement Program are the following projects:

The screenshot shows the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, User's Guide, and About. Below this is a menu with 'All Projects', 'Major Projects', 'MPO', 'Fund', and 'Reports'. The main content area is titled 'All Projects' and features a search interface. The search criteria are set to Program: FY13-18 FINAL BYIP, District: Bristol, Jurisdiction: Dickenson County, and Road System: All. There are also checkboxes for 'Only Show Projects with Programmed Allocations' and input fields for Route, ZIP, UPC, and Keywords. A 'Search' button and a 'Reset' button are present. Below the search criteria, it says 'Project Search Results (9 Projects found)'. There is an 'Export Project List' link. The search results are displayed in a table with the following columns: UPC, Description, Route, District, Road System, Estimate, Previous, FY13, FY14-18, and Balance. The values are in thousands of dollars.

UPC	Description	Route	District	Road System	Estimate	Previous	FY13	FY14-18	Balance
E3546	DICKENSON COUNTY - CRANENEST RIVER TRAIL	EN02	Bristol	Primary	\$1,789	\$1,187	\$0	\$0	\$601
E0634	HAYSI BREAKS TRAIL	HPEN	Bristol	Enhancement	\$970	\$1,858	\$0	\$0	(\$888)
E0585	BIRCH KNOB TRAIL - TRAILHEAD & RELATED FACILITIES	HPEN	Bristol	Primary	\$0	\$258	\$0	\$0	(\$258)
E8281	ROUTE 83 OVER ROARING FORK TRAMMEL VA STRUC 1038	0083	Bristol	Primary	\$718	\$718	\$0	\$0	\$0
E0289	ROUTE 80 OVER PRATER CREEK HAYSI VA STRUC 1040	0080	Bristol	Primary	\$2,251	\$174	\$600	\$1,577	\$0
E2352	DELICATILU BRIDGE 1 UND - REPLAC STRUCTURE #1016 ON RTE 83	0083	Bristol	Primary	\$0,301	\$428	\$1,260	\$2,312	\$1,611
E8728	RECONSTRUCT TO STATE STANDARDS	9957	Bristol	Secondary	\$2,007	\$406	\$0	\$0	\$2,401
101118	INCREASE SURFACE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS SECONDARY ROUTES	9900	Bristol	Secondary	\$2,882	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	(\$11)
102725	ASPH-ALT STRENGTHENING VARIOUS ROUTES	9900	Bristol	Secondary	\$2,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0

VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program v1.0

In addition to the Six-Year Plan

1. The need for improvements and widening of the existing Lake Road to the John W. Flannagan Reservoir.
2. The widening and improvement of Rt. 80 from the Breaks Interstate Park to the Town of Haysi, and widening and improvement of St. Rt. 80 from Haysi to Honaker.
3. Rt. 72 should be added to Mapquest for GPS service.

For a detailed listing of primary highway improvement projects in Dickenson County, please refer to the Six Year Improvement Program for fiscal year 2011-2012 through 2017-2018, and the Secondary System Construction Program for 2014 through 2020.

DISTANCES TO NEARBY AREAS

The distance from Clintwood, the county seat of Dickenson County, to nearby metropolitan areas, makes the county seem somewhat remote. These distances can be used partially to demonstrate the value of a well-developed transportation system; one that will counteract the problems created by isolation.

DISTANCES TO NEARBY AREAS:	
Bristol, VA/TN	68 miles
Blacksburg, VA	175 miles
Knoxville, TN	154 miles
Roanoke, VA	200 miles
Richmond, VA	385 miles

AIRPORTS

Lonesome Pine Airport, which is located in Wise County, is less than 30 miles from Clintwood. It is equipped with a 5,400 foot long lighted runway. Most general aviation aircraft, including small jet powered aircraft, can be accommodated there. The Tazewell County Airport located on Kent's Ridge in Tazewell County also has a runway suitable for small aircraft. Tri-City Regional Airport (Bristol, Kingsport, Johnson City) provides commercial air transportation and is approximately two hours from the center of Dickenson County.

RAILROADS

CSX Transportation provides rail service to most of Dickenson County. Piggyback service is available in Bluefield, West Virginia, and in Kingsport, Tennessee. CSX offers direct connections to the rail lines that provide rail service to the entire United States.

HOUSING

HOUSING

Physically, socially, and economically, housing is one of the most important elements in our lives. Unsafe, unsanitary, and inadequate housing can affect the resident's physical and mental health. Government has long recognized the importance of housing, and many goals have been set to meet the needs of low-income households and to eliminate inadequate housing.

HOUSING DEMAND

Housing is a factor in the national economy, and increased building is a sign of economic growth, as well as an economic stimulator. Nationally, growth in housing is primarily determined by government decisions such as interest rates, the tax codes, and regulation of financial institutions. Local and state governments have attempted to encourage housing production by providing financial incentives. Since investment in housing is so highly leveraged, the availability of money has the most significant impact on construction. The relatively low median family income of Dickenson County residents has prompted a shift in demand away from site-built homes towards the less expensive alternative of a mobile home. The price difference between a mobile home and a site-built home makes the former the only affordable choice for many residents. While mobile homes have solved the short-term problem of housing, they have a much shorter life span than do site-built homes, so the need for adequate housing in the future should not be forgotten.

HOUSING GROWTH

The real estate market has markedly declined due to the current lack of quality employment, and housing density per unit is decreasing at a slower pace. This is a common trend in times of unfavorable economic conditions, one reason being that grown children are often forced to live with their parents longer, or return to their former home.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

In 1990, only 480 housing units lacked complete plumbing facilities. Although this number should be decreased further, improvements have been made since 1970, when the number of units lacking complete facilities was 2,319.

Sewage disposal in Dickenson County housing units is predominately provided by septic tanks or cesspools. 5,180 units use this method of disposal. Public sewer is available to ? units, while 874 units use “other” means.

A public water system or private company provided 3,152 housing units with water in Dickenson County in 1990. Individual wells provided almost as many units with water – 2,590 units used drilled wells, 232 units used dug wells. “Other sources” provided 1,136 housing units with water.

HOUSING VALUE

Between 1980 and 1987, housing values declined substantially in Dickenson County, with houses dropping 25 to 30 percent in value. The same was true for Buchanan County, while in Russell and Tazewell Counties, housing values increased slightly. In 1980, the time a house stayed on the market in Dickenson County before being sold averaged three to four months. In 1987, the average was from seven months to one year.

The median value for housing units in Dickenson County is \$39,300, compared to Buchanan County's \$41,700; Russell County's \$45,000; and Tazewell County's at \$48,600. This indicates that while the housing market may be weak in Dickenson County, housing is more affordable

ASSISTED HOUSING

Centennial Heights contains 91 living units and is located off State Route 63, northwest of Haysi. This complex was financed by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and is managed by the Cumberland Plateau

Regional Housing Authority. The Farmers Home Administration in Dickenson County provides FmHA subsidized loans to qualified applicants to be used for the purchasing or refinancing of homes. FmHA also sponsors a housing rehabilitation program, which provides low-income loans up to \$15,000 and grants of \$5,000. In addition, the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) provides low interest loans to persons of low to moderate incomes so that they may purchase homes.

FUTURE HOUSING

Housing should be designed to accommodate household needs, optimize the quality of life, use land resources efficiently, and create minimal adverse impact on the natural environment. Certain segments of the housing market, such as elderly or handicapped individuals, require specially designed units that provide certain amenities and physical features adapted to their needs. Communities can encourage sufficient upgrading of existing properties to prevent further loss of tax revenues, since the tax base has declined and poor economic conditions have led to property neglect. Housing and building codes should be carefully enforced, to preserve housing stock in as sound a state as possible. Policies aimed at providing affordable housing must use a combination of strategies, including new construction, subsidy programs, and preservation of the existing housing stock through rehabilitation programs.

LAND USE

The factors influencing the past and present development of Dickenson County have been presented in the preceding chapters of this report. The land use section of the comprehensive plan includes a summary of the county's residential, commercial, industrial, public and semi-public, and open space uses. An analysis of existing land use development patterns can be used to determine implications for future land use planning.

The land use plan is a design by which the future development of Dickenson County and the surrounding area may be guided. By considering the spatial relationship of the various land use activities from a physical as well as socio-economic standpoint, the Land Use Plan provides a sound basis for both the public and private decisions concerning future development. The land use plan is presented in three successive steps. The first step consists of a discussion of principles and standards for land development. The second step is the determination of future land needs. The final step is the presentation of the actual design or plan for future growth.

The land use plan, along with the land use plan map, reflects the existing land use, and in part, the anticipated growth that will take place during the next twenty years. The plan is sufficiently generalized so as to permit flexibility in selecting development alternatives yet specific enough to give proper direction to future growth. The following sections present a generalized form of the principles and standards that should be considered in guiding the growth of Dickenson County.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE

Residential land use encompasses the entire mix of dwelling unit types and densities. The location, character and intensity of residential development should be linked to natural characteristics of the land, such as topography, soils, existing vegetation and water flow.

When decentralized, uncoordinated development occurs, many years may pass before the provision of some services becomes feasible. Uncontrolled, random patterns of residential development would be contrary to the goal of providing services to the residents in a timely and efficient manner.

Residential Land Use Guidelines:

1. Future residential development should take place on land having stable, well-drained soils and land that is free from the danger of flooding. Moderately level topography is desirable for most residential development; however, some areas with steep terrain can be used, but it should be developed only as low density residential development.
2. Residential densities should be determined on the basis of topography; proximity to major access streets and highways; proximity to work areas; and the availability of utilities and other community facilities.
3. There should be a range of choice in residential densities located on or near the areas of intensive activities. However, there should be adequate, permanent open space made available in high-density areas. Lower densities should occupy the steeper portions of Dickenson County.
4. Residential development should preserve or create a neighborhood unit free from the influence and encroachment of incompatible uses.
5. Each residential area should contain or have readily accessible all the facilities, both public and private, that are necessary for convenient, modern living.

COMMERCIAL LAND USE

Commercial land use includes all activities which are predominantly connected with the sale of products or the performance of services. This includes retail trade, office space, personal and professional services, and entertainment facilities. Retail establishments can be classified according to the type of market that they serve, such as regional, community, or neighborhood scales. Convenience, neighborhood

and community scale retail provide every day, immediate goods, while regional and sub-regional retail provide more specialized goods.

Commercial Land Use Guidelines:

1. Provisions should be made for two principal types of commercial areas: neighborhood shopping and community shopping.
2. New commercial developments should be in the form of unified and concentrated planned developments. Spot commercial development in residential neighborhoods and the stringing out of commercial development along streets, or what has been referred to as a strip commercial development. Due to physical constraints of property, commercial development is advantageous for immediate development of commercial property.
3. Commercial areas should not detract from residential and industrial development nor should residential and industrial development adversely affect commercial areas.
4. The protection of pedestrian traffic should be given adequate consideration to insure the safety and flow of pedestrians in new commercial development areas without unnecessary interruption of automobile traffic.

Existing commercial establishments should be encouraged and assisted to the fullest extent possible in correcting any deficiencies, to improve traffic safety and convenience.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE

Activities predominantly connected with the manufacturing, assembly, processing, storage and distribution of products are considered industrial. Industrial facilities place a heavy demand on local resources, and have the greatest impact on the surrounding environment. Land use policies that promote the efficient utilization of industrial development is to be realized. The location must respect air and water flows and the more visible environmental features.

In general, “cleaner” industries are preferred over those that employ heavily impactful processes. Any new industrial activity should not impede the county’s efforts to meet established environmental quality standards. In order to attract desired industries, it is necessary to reserve enough suitable land as is deemed necessary for future growth. Industrial activities should be located where land use buffers can be established to separate and protect non-industrial uses, and where natural land characteristics are conducive to high site development intensities.

Industrial Land Use Guidelines:

1. Industrial development should take place on land having stable, well-drained soils. Topography should be reasonably level and free from flooding and grading problems. Climatic factors such as prevailing wind speed and direction should be considered in potential industrial locations.
2. Basic utilities such as water, sewer, electricity, and gas should be available in adequate capacities to industrial areas.
3. Appropriate transportation facilities with good access to highways and, where possible, rail facilities, should be available to industrial areas. Industrial plants which generate large volumes of traffic should be located on major streets so as not to encourage traffic through residential areas; and, where possible, industrial areas should be buffered by major highways, railroads, and greenbelt areas, greater set-back depth, or natural topographic features.
4. Site size requirements for different types of industrial usage vary widely as does the locational requirements. Therefore, there should be provided a range of choice in site sizes and location with sufficient flexibility to meet the need of a wide variety of industries.
5. Land set aside for industrial use should not overshadow other community needs nor be arranged as to hinder proper residential or commercial growth. At the same time, it is equally important that residences and commercial establishments not be allowed to encroach upon land planned for industrial use.

RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACES

The recreational and open space areas are ordinarily included in a larger category “public and semi-public lands” which includes areas containing schools, churches, police protection and other necessary lands. Although recreation will be dealt with in the community facilities category, recreational space and open space land use guidelines are presented in the land use plan.

Recreational and open land use guidelines:

1. Appropriately located community recreation facilities should be provided to serve the residents. These facilities should be adequate in terms of size, number and variety. The facilities should serve the needs of the total population.
2. Whenever possible, natural boundaries such as steeply sloping ridges, sinkable areas, areas of exposed bedrocks, stream flood plains, and the areas unsuitable for urban development should be used as natural dividers between neighborhoods and retained as recreation and for open spaces.
3. Places of historical significance, as well as areas having rare natural beauty, should be preserved and well maintained.
4. Areas designated in the land use plan as intended for permanent open space or recreation should be reserved as such.
5. Agricultural uses should be retained in areas subject to periodic flooding and in outlying areas where premature urbanization would be detrimental to the community.
6. Where feasible, land use for the production or extraction of natural resources should be isolated in compact areas so as not to detract from the beauty and integrity of the community.
7. When possible, especially along designated scenic rivers, provide a 100-foot buffer of limited development to protect the water and scenic quality of the river.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING LAND USE

A comprehensive view of the existing land use composition in Dickenson County was determined approximately 35 years ago. Recent field studies indicate changes in land use acreage since the original calculations were compiled.

Slight growth since 1978 has occurred in all areas of developed land, with residential land use showing the largest increases. More land is being used for residential purposes because of two reasons, the population increases that took place during the seventies and a decrease in the number of persons living in each housing unit.

Land used for mining and quarrying has dropped tremendously, with reclaimed land adding to Dickenson County's forest areas. Mining and mining related industries are expected to continue to decrease. Land used for agriculture has decreased slightly, while the amount of acreage covered by water remains unchanged.

FUTURE LAND USE

Future residential development should take place in areas where public water and sewer service is available and the continued expansion of those services. The development will occur mainly on ridge tops and as in filling in semi-developed areas where topography is suitable. Recreational and second homes are a likely growth possibility if efforts to promote the scenic beauty of Dickenson County are successful.

Commercial development of gas well, coal, timber, and service support will occur primarily as small service oriented business in a random pattern related to population density and location. The major commercial developments will likely occur in and around Clintwood and Haysi. Development of the tourism industry will provide opportunities for further commercial development along Rt. 83, the development of the proposed Coalfield Expressway, and in the vicinity of the Breaks Park.

The Dickenson County Technology Park continues to provide for industrial development in Dickenson County, as evident by bringing the current number of employees; such as Serco, Kid Central Day Care, American Electric Power, Dickenson Center for Education and Research and Equitable Resources. Additional sites suitable for industrial development should be analyzed and optioned for future use.

Dickenson County's scenic beauty and opportunities for various types of outdoor recreation could make the county a potential tourist attraction. Scenic byways are potential attractions and collaboration between our local efforts and the Virginia Tourism should be explored in establishing and promoting them. A specific and comprehensive tourism/recreation plan for the county should be developed.

The Breaks Park should be the focal point of all tourism efforts and given renovation efforts; such as the recently opened waterpark will assist in attracting more visitors. Improved access to the park should be provided by a proposed scenic parkway.

SUITABILITY

The ability of soil to support various land uses affects suitability. Soil properties such as percolation, compaction, shrink-swell potential, density, and slope, depth to bedrock, underlying material, location, water table, and composition are factors considered in determining the suitability and limitations that soil may possess for different land uses. The County is currently assisting with a countywide soil analysis to record all soils and their properties.

Areas with slopes in excess of 20 percent are generally considered unsuitable for urban type development. This presents severe development problems, and a suitability analysis should be performed before any land is developed in Dickenson County.

Caution should be exercised when considering the use of surface mined land for development purposes. Strip mined land has been used for a number of urban type uses including residential development, mobile home parks, school sites, commercial development and industrial sites. The development of strip mined lands should be approached with caution. Subsurface conditions are often unstable and there have been many problems with subsidence and settling after these areas have been developed. Anytime a void is created below the surface, the possibility of subsidence is present.

This problem has grown in recent years with the widespread use of “long wall” mining. In conventional “room and pillar” mining, only 50-60 percent of the coal is actually removed, with the remainder left in place to provide surface support. Only in undeveloped areas where surface disturbances would not be harmful are these pillars usually removed.

In long wall mining, the extraction rate is nearly 100 percent. This mining technique is basically a controlled subsidence, as the long wall panel moves through the seam; the mountain is allowed to cave in behind it. The extent of surface damage due to subsidence depends on many factors, including geology and seam depth.

In order to prevent costly and deadly destruction from the ravages of floods, areas known as floodways should be reserved for the unobstructed flow of floodwaters. In the adjacent flood plains, new structures should be elevated above the level of the hundred-year flood. The County is currently participating in a U. S. Corps of Engineers project to evaluate all structures in the flood plain/zone to remove all these structures and implement a flood warning system.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Community facilities and services include those government and quasi-public improvements that benefit and serve the general public. Community facilities include buildings, lands, and improvements that provide utilities, schools, health care, public safety and recreation. These facilities are among the basic necessities needed for a community's growth and development.

WATER

As stated in the survey of Dickenson County's natural resources, a safe, clean and dependable water supply is required for many commercial, industrial, agricultural and recreational purposes. Coal mining operations have seriously damaged the supply of groundwater in Dickenson County. Underground aquifers have been depleted and only a small amount of groundwater is still available.

Lack of water is a slight problem for some residents. Projects are currently underway to provide adequate water services for all of Dickenson County. Upcoming and ongoing water projects are: Tom Bottom which will serve 34 customers; Multi-Community water projects 125 customers; Sullivan Branch water project 38 customers; Rt. 80 water project 44 customers; and Tempest Branch which will serve 34 customers. The Dickenson County PSA presently serves 4,923 customers. The major provider of water is the John Flannagan Water Authority, which is authorized to draw 2.75 million gallons of water per day from the John Flannagan Lake. The Buchanan County Public Service Authority and the Dickenson County Public Service Authority also receive water from John Flannagan Water Authority.

The Dickenson County Public Service Authority has experienced unprecedented growth since its entry into public water in 1990. The number of customers has increased almost a hundredfold to the current level of 4,923. A concentrated effort has been made to establish a new service in all areas of the

county, thereby creating a springboard for additional extensions in the future.

Dickenson County is somewhat unique in that it has four (4) providers of public water, two (2) of which are other counties. In addition to the Dickenson County Public Service Authority and the Town of Clintwood, water is also provided to portions of Dickenson County by Buchanan and Wise Counties. The geographic locations of these various providers has dictated that the Dickenson County Public Service Authority development be a system of sub-systems, many times relying on the other providers for the water source. While this arrangement is complex it has worked extremely well.

Public water availability has increased from 35% in 1990 to approximately 97% presently. Although our bulk water suppliers are separate government entities they have their own budgets and capital improvement plans. The Public Service Authority communicates regularly to insure that sufficient water is available to provide a water source for projects for Dickenson County.

Dickenson County is predominately a residential and agricultural community with very limited industrial development. Thus, there are some areas within the county which will be very difficult to provide with public water when financial feasibility is considered. The Dickenson County Public Service authority is very dedicated to exhausting every effort to provide clean and safe drinking water to Dickenson County homes and has been able to extend service to areas which were considered unfeasible a decade ago. The authority maintains 400 miles of line four inches in diameter and larger, 31 pump stations and 23 storage tanks. Since 1992, a total of 40 projects has been completed or are funded and in progress.

SEWAGE

The town of Clintwood Sewage Treatment Facility has a treatment capacity of 500,000 gallons per day with average daily use of 240,000 gallons per day. Available capacity is 260,000 gallons per day with the capacity to readily expand to 1,000,000

gallons per day. The Dickenson County Public Service Authority Sewage Treatment Facility, located in Haysi, has a treatment capacity of 200,000 gallons per day. Average daily use is 42,500 gallons per day. A smaller plant located in Trammel has a capacity of 20,000 gallons per day; average daily use is currently 7,500 gallons per day. Public sewer in Service for the Town of Clintwood serves 799 customers, while Town of Clinchco serves 177 customers; Town of Haysi 107 customers; and Trammel 42 customers.

Public Sewer in Service	Water Projects On-going or Up-coming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Town of Clintwood - 799 customers * Town of Clinchco - 177 customers * Town of Haysi - 107 customers * Trammel - 42 customers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Frying Pan Water Project - 35 customers * Big Caney "5" Rehab
Public water in service 4,900+ customers served by	Dickenson County PSA

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Solid Waste is defined as any type of garbage or refuse including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material. This includes industrial, hazardous, medical and municipal waste, each of which requires different treatment. Most of these waste types are strictly regulated by federal agencies, but several aspects of their collection, processing, and disposal are local planning issues. Solid Waste collection and disposal is a growing responsibility for county, city and town governments. This service is a fundamental part of each resident's daily life.

Once refuse has been collected, there are two main methods of preparing it for final disposal, incineration and compacting. Both methods are aimed at reducing the mass and volume of waste, the former by burning and the latter by compression. Incineration, although sometimes believed to be more cost effective and efficient, may produce gaseous pollutants, which can be removed from the exhaust gases only by stack scrubbing. However, wet scrubbers produce liquid effluent, creating a

tradeoff between polluted air and polluted water. The heat generated by combustion can be recovered for beneficial uses such as the generation of steam, chilled water or electricity. Compacted waste is placed in a sanitary landfill, where fresh waste is covered with clean fill.

There are a number of ways to limit the need for disposal, including recycling, source reduction, composting and energy reclamation. All of these methods are elements of the comprehensive solid waste management program operated through the Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Authority.

A regional approach to solid waste management is offered by the Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Management Authority, which includes Dickenson, Buchanan and Russell Counties. Three transfer stations have been constructed, one in each county, Dickenson County sends its waste to the county transfer station at Fremont, where the waste becomes property of the authority and is transferred to a landfill located in Tennessee.

Jurisdictions using their existing landfills after October 1993 faced new and expensive regulations taking effect at that time. In order to avoid additional expenses, the authority elected to transport its waste at this time. Although the costs of establishing a regional landfill are not currently in the best interest of the authority, future consideration of a regional landfill is recommended.

The Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Management Authority has compiled a regional waste management plan and are reviewing waste management options being operated successfully in other regions, in order to provide the three-county area with safe and adequate disposal in the future.

If needed by the county and if suitable areas of the county can be based on state and county regulations and/or law, areas may be designated for the establishment of landfills and/or incinerators. No areas of the county are currently designated for the development of landfills and/or incinerators.

ELECTRICITY

American Electric Power supplies most of Dickenson County with electricity. Old Dominion Power Company serves the Sandy Ridge area. Six coal burning generator plants and two hydroelectric plants provide power.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Thirty-four (34) law enforcement officers and three (3) school resource officers provide public safety in the county. The county has four (4) State Police officers that are also assigned to the county. The town of Clintwood has four (4) full-time and three (3) part-time policemen, the town of Haysi has one (1) full-time and three (3) part-time, and Clinchco has one (1) full-time and three (3) part-time policemen..

There are 4 fire departments in Dickenson County with 75 volunteers serving the county residents with fire protection. Clintwood's fire insurance rating is a 5, Haysi rates a 7, and the rest of the county receives an ISO rating of either a 9 or 10.

The County also has a 911 office centrally located in the Town of Clintwood that assists local residents as well as local law enforcement agencies in emergency situations. The 911 office also provides a mapping department that provides residents with a needed physical address.

Three squads provide rescue service in the county with 75 volunteers, each of which has training in general emergency service and a variety of industrial accident situations including hazardous materials and heavy equipment.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Dickenson Community Hospital (Mountain States Health Alliance), located in Clintwood, Virginia, opened in November 2003. It was a 25-bed not-for-profit Critical Access Hospital owned by Norton Community Hospital. The hospital is now closed

with the exception of the Emergency Room which provides 24-hour emergency care, Laboratory Services, and the following medical services: 3-D Ultrasound, Bone Densitometry, CT Scan, EKG, Echo, Radiology Services, Respiratory Services, Mammography, Cardiopulmonary Function Testing, Nebulizer Treatments, Arterial Blood Gas Testing, and Senior Life Solutions.

Dickenson County also contains six community medical clinics, and long term care in the county is provided by Heritage Hall Health Care nursing home in Clintwood. Three dentists and 19 physicians attend to the medical needs of Dickenson County residents.

EDUCATION

The Dickenson County public education system is composed of three elementary schools, one middle school, two high schools, and one career and technical center. Elementary schools are Clintwood, Ervinton, and Sand Lick. Clinchco Elementary was closed at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Over the last eighteen years, the enrollment in Dickenson County Schools has dropped substantially from 3,467 students to 2,464 students. Haysi High School, built in 1953 and located in Haysi, houses eighth through twelfth grade students. Haysi has a total enrollment of students. Clintwood High School, located in the Town of Clintwood, was built in 1954 and houses ninth through twelfth grade students. Clintwood's total enrollment is students. The smallest high school, Ervinton, located near Nora, was built in 1955. This school was closed at the end of the 2011-12 school year due to low enrollment. Taking into account the age of the high schools along with the declining enrollment and staff, it is obvious that the students in Dickenson County are not only trapped in mid-20th Century buildings, but cannot be exposed to a broad based curriculum needed to compete in the 21st Century workforce. A study of the available staff and course offerings at each school makes it obvious that the Dickenson County School curriculum offerings are at a very minimum as required by State and Federal regulations. The goal of Dickenson County should be to meet the needs of the children and to prepare them for real

world experiences.

An analysis of data, including enrollment numbers, staff, and class schedules, indicate that the School System does not presently have the enrollment or staff at each school to support a broad range of curriculum offerings in order to meet the 21st Century needs of the students. Because students are obviously deprived of opportunities that would more effectively assure their success in the real world, Dickenson County has the obligation to the students and their future to develop short and long-range plans that will move our education system into the 21st Century.

Construction is now underway for a consolidated high school to be located on Rose Ridge. Ridgeview High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015 and will be the only high school in the county. On the same campus, will also be a consolidated fifth through eighth grade Middle School and the new Career and Technical School. The campus will also include a football, baseball, and softball field. In addition, it will have lighted tennis courts, and soccer practice fields.

Two Community Colleges serve Dickenson County—Southwest Virginia Community College near Richlands and Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap. Both colleges offer two-year programs in technical/occupational fields as well as transfer programs for students planning to attend a four-year school.

Four-year colleges, universities and professional schools in the region, within three hours driving time, are:

UVA-Wise	Wise, VA
Emory and Henry College	Emory, VA
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	Blacksburg, VA
Radford University	Radford, VA
East Tennessee State Univ.	Johnson City, TN
King College	Bristol, TN
Lincoln Memorial University	Harrogate, TN

Public responsibility for education does not stop at the provision of schools and libraries; it extends to such diverse areas as public television and radio, adult literacy, and job training. Educational television and radio provide ways of making specialized information available to the majority of the population.

Colleges and universities are often the best providers of higher education for nontraditional students in this region, and these institutions may require local government assistance in performing this function. Community-based educational programs or extension services sometimes need the part-time use of public facilities to hold weekend and evening programs. Schools, libraries, and other public structures should be made available for this purpose.

COMMUNICATIONS

Verizon provides telephone service. Long distance suppliers include AT&T, Telecom USA, Pectec Communications, and Mid Atlantic Delecom. Wireless internet access is provided through DCWIN, Verizon and Comcast. Verizon Wireless and Appalachian Wireless provide cellular service. Telegrams and funds can be sent by Western Union. Six U. S. Post Offices serve the county, namely Birchleaf, Breaks, Clinchco, Clintwood, Haysi, and Nora. UPS and Federal Express provide express delivery. Fiber Opti Broadband service is provided by BVU Optinet through the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission. The network provides a diverse loop of high capacity fiber, assuring continuous broadband service to the customers along the route. Several new 4-G Towers have been installed throughout the county by Verizon wireless.

Dickenson County is served with one weekly newspaper—The Dickenson Star. The Coalfield Progress from adjoining Wise County is received biweekly. Newspapers received daily in Dickenson County include the Bristol Herald Courier,

the Roanoke Times, the Kingsport Times-News, the Richmond Times Dispatch, USA Today, and the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

COMMERCE

There are several hotel, motel and bed and breakfasts in Dickenson County; along with banks, and approximately 17 grocery/convenience stores.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Dickenson County Technology Park, which is adjacent to Clintwood's town limits, is a 125 acre site with an access road to State Route 83. Natural gas, electrical, water and sewer services are available on-site.

The Dickenson County Technology Park is currently the home of the following companies: Appalachian Power, SERCO, EQT, and Marty Materials.

The Dickenson Center for Education and Research is also located inside the Technology Park as well as the Dickenson County Childcare Center. The Childcare Center offers licensed childcare, with open enrollment and fee subsidy for eligible families.

RECREATION

The Breaks Interstate Park is one of two interstate parks in America and encompasses 4,500 acres of woodland. The Breaks, home of the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi river, also rises to lofty heights where golden eagles make their home. The Towers and other rock formations, caves, flora, and wildlife make the Breaks Park a unique tourist destination. History, legend and lore combine with the scenic beauty of the park, which was the reported destination of several trips by Daniel Boone. It is home of the Pow-Wow Cave used by the Shawnee Indians, and those who love mystery and adventure can search for the buried treasure of John Swift. For active visitors, the park also offers hiking, bike and driving trails, picnic and recreation areas, a lake with pedal boats, a new water park, horseback riding, and an

amphitheater. A rustic lodge, motel units, cottages, and a large campground are available for extended visits. The Breaks Park also has a modern conference center, restaurant, gift shop, and visitor's center.

Breaks Interstate Park is often called "The Grand Canyon of the South." Perhaps the scale of the 5-mile-long, .25 mile-deep gorge that forms the park's centerpiece cannot rival that of the Grand Canyon, but the canyon is among the longest and deepest east of the Mississippi River. A better title might be "The Grand Canyon With Clothes On." Where the raging Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River has carved the solid sandstone over millions of years to break through Pine Mountain (known locally as Cumberland Mountain), nature has dressed the canyon walls in some of Virginia's most spectacular scenery.

Today, 4,500-acre Breaks Interstate Park, so called because it sits astride the state line shared by both Kentucky and Virginia, attracts more than a third of a million visitors annually. The Breaks Park is the terminal of the Crooked Road Music Trail and the Pine Mountain Trail. Visitors come to fish the still pools, raft the Class IV rapids of the Russell Fork River, stand at panoramic overlooks, camp in the park's wooded campsites, walk the miles of meandering hiking trails, and see the beauty of Catawba rhododendron in lavender bloom in early May.

Flannagan Dam is located in Dickenson County, Virginia, and stores the waters of the Cranesnest and Pound Rivers. The dam was built as an element in the Comprehensive Flood Control Plan for the Ohio River Basin. Flannagan is located in the Pound River Valley only 12 miles south of the Breaks Interstate Park. The dam is operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and it provides flood protection and water supply for areas downstream along Pound River, Russell Fork, Levisa Fork, and Big Sandy River.

Construction of the dam, spillway, and outlet works began in 1960, and was completed by 1964. The dam was named in honor of the late Virginia Ninth District

Congressman, John William Flannagan, Jr., who was from the highlands of Southwest Virginia and provided much assistance in creating the flood control project. The earth-filled dam is 250 feet high and 916 feet long, and is constructed of rock with a central clay core, which prevents water from passing through the dam. A 1,145-acre lake is formed behind the dam with almost 40 miles of shoreline.

During the first four full weekends in October, Flannagan has whitewater releases to achieve winter pool. From the dam, the first two miles are Class II Rapids that progress downstream reaching Class V+ Rapids. Some of the most challenging rapids in the eastern U. S. can be found while traveling through Breaks Interstate Park, with names like 20 Stitches, Broken Nose, Triple Drop, and El Horrendo.

Flannagan is well known as a fisherman's paradise with many secluded coves of deep, clean, cool water well stocked with bass, walleye, catfish, crappie, bluegill, carp, and musky. The dam also provides a wide range of other outdoor recreational experiences as outlined below:

Bicycling:

Bicycles are permitted on main roads and campground areas.

Boating:

Launch ramps for boating enthusiasts and fishermen are located at the Spillway Launch Area, Junction Area, and Cranesnest Area. Fees are charged at the Junction Area.

Camping:

Camping at John W. Flannagan Lake is restricted to developed camping areas only and is prohibited outside of the campgrounds. John W. Flannagan Reservoir has three campgrounds, Lower Twin, Cranesnest Areas #1 and #3, and Pound River Area, all operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The three campgrounds combined have a total of 93 sites. All sites have electrical hookups, water tank filling stations, and sewage dump stations. Camping fees are charged at all sites. The

campgrounds are open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Hunting and Fishing:

Fishing and hunting regulations may be obtained from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regional office in Marion, Virginia, by calling (276) 783-4860 or going online.

Handicapped Access:

Universally Accessible Facilities are provided at the Project Office and all of the recreation areas.

Horseback Riding:

John W. Flannagan Pound River Area offers a horse show ring which is managed by the Cumberland Mountain Trail Riders. Shows are scheduled the second of the month, June—August. Trail Ride outings are in May and September. A hiking, biking, horseback riding trail is now (2013) under construction down the Cranesnest River toward the campground. Some two miles have been completed thus far.

Marina:

John W. Flannagan Boat Dock is located at the Junction Area and provides visitors with docking facilities, a gas station, fishing supplies, and a snack bar.

Picnicking:

Picnic shelters are located at the Below Dam Area (Spillway) and Launch Ramp Area. All shelters are available on a first come-first served basis except when reserved in advance (a fee is required for reserving a shelter). Picnic shelters cannot be reserved by calling the Project Office. You must call 1-877-444-6777 to reserve a shelter. There are also picnic tables at all recreation areas, except the Junction Area.

Swimming:

John W. Flannagan Reservoir has no developed swimming area and swimming around the lake is at your own risk. Dickenson County offers a pool with lifeguard at Bear Pen, which is located just outside the Town of Clintwood. The pool is open Memorial Day through Labor Day and a fee is charged through Friday.

Tourism:

Opportunities to enhance revenue from tourism lie in the development of programs for which Virginians normally travel out-of-state. The scenic beauty of Dickenson County, as stated in the future land use section, could make the County a tourist attraction. Many types of outdoor recreation activities can exist in Dickenson County.

With Dickenson County lying in the Heart of Appalachia, the outdoor and cultural opportunities abound—from the Ralph Stanley Museum in Clintwood to the “Grand Canyon of the South” in the Breaks Interstate Park. With potential tourists looking for their next new playground, Dickenson County seeks to provide information through a unique brochure, magazine publications, and web advertisements that will not only promote Dickenson County as an outdoor haven, but the place to find the Heart of Appalachia!

With many new trails being developed through Dickenson County, it is a must that Tourism be added in the Dickenson County Comprehensive Plan. The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail, established in July 2007 as a State Byway, is now being promoted to become a National Byway. Along this trail that attaches to the West Virginia Coal Heritage Trail, you will find a 325-mile-route that goes through the heart of Virginia’s Coalfield Region including the counties of Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Wise, Russell, Lee, Scott, and the City of Norton. The Crooked Road: Virginia’s Music Trail comes through Dickenson County and ends (or begins) at the Breaks Interstate Park. The Ralph Stanley Museum and The Jettie Baker Center in Clintwood along with The Breaks Interstate Park are all venues on the Crooked Road Music Trail. The Round the Mountain Artisan Center, now opened in Abingdon,

houses local artisans' work from throughout the Southwest Virginia counties. Other items of local interest are the Back of the Dragon Motorcycle trail, the Route 76 Natural Bike Trail, Virginia State byway Route 64, and Dickenson County's participation in the regional Spearhead Trail System (SRRA). The county also is part of the Heartwood Collision based out of Abingdon and its WGB-Based interactive system.

Another aspect of tourism in Dickenson County will be the hiking, biking, and horseback trails at Cranesnest (now under construction), the proposed Haysi/Breaks Hiking Trail, the hiking trails in the Breaks Park, Birch Knob, John Flannagan, and others. A new Multi-Use ATV Trail (SRRA) is being investigated and meetings are being held regionally. These trails will connect among Southwest Virginia Counties and be structured in a similar fashion to the Hatfield-McCoy Trail in West Virginia; portions will travel through Dickenson County as well as the other Coalfield Counties in Southwest Virginia.

We have many bird watching trails now being developed and soon will be listed in a new trail brochure being developed on Trails in Dickenson County. White water rafting is another outdoor recreation that brings in many tourists to our county each year.

A combined recreation and tourism strategy for Southwestern Virginia is emphasizing the interrelationship of the forest with other attractions in the region. This program should do much to encourage tourism and recreational use of public and private parks and attractions. The development of tourism is expected to bring many jobs to Dickenson County and the entire district both directly and through indirect supporting businesses, as tourists buy gas and food, stay overnight, and visit other attractions in the surrounding area.

Fishing is a popular activity in Southwestern Virginia, and the many rivers and streams in Dickenson County provide opportunities for the development of additional

access for canoe and bank fishing. Through close cooperation of state, planning district, county, local, and federal agencies, it would be possible to develop a system of access points with some sites being set aside for picnicking, parking, and camping.

Other water activities such as rafting and tubing are gaining increased interest in Dickenson County. Efforts have been made easier due to the improved river access and coordination with DGIF for access to the existing and proposed designated scenic rivers.

Hunting opportunities are ample in Dickenson County. Small game, including rabbit, squirrel, ruffed grouse, fox, and raccoon are numerous. Big game in Dickenson County includes wild turkey, deer, and black bear.

U. S. Bike Route 76 (Route 80), also called the Transamerican Bicycle Route, begins in Yorktown, Virginia, and crosses the country, ending in Astoria, Oregon. This bike route travels through Russell and Dickenson Counties before exiting the state at Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia/Kentucky line in Buchanan County.

Abandoned railroad corridors, such as the 2.9 mile N&W Hurricane Junction and the 3.3 mile Duty coal line, make interesting linear parks and greenways with many opportunities for linking outdoor, recreational, historical, and cultural areas. These two lines were both abandoned in August of 1990. Once the right-of-way is acquired, costs associated with converting to a trail are minimized because the grading, draining, and stabilizing has already been done. As to date (2013), nothing has been done along these lines.

Much of the reclaimed mine land is suitable for recreational use and consideration should be given to converting some of it for this purpose. Off-road 4-wheeler and motorcycle riding are popular sports in the region, and a deficiency of suitable places to ride exists. Constructing a challenging off-road course could be one form of strip mine reclamation that would help to satisfy this demand.

FINANCE, TAXES & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

FINANCE

The Comprehensive Plan is only a plan and cannot be implemented unless the revenue needed for infrastructure and capital projects can be generated. A financial analysis of Dickenson County's tax base, revenues, expenditures, and indebtedness, in addition to a long range plan for development, will be required for planning activities to be implemented. The county audit is available for all financial information to include historic, statistical data to assist the governing body for planning.

TAX RATES

Dickenson County's tax rates for personal property, machinery, and tools next to Tazewell County are in line with adjoining counties, while real estate taxes are closer to the district's average. While raising taxes is not politically popular, the long-term benefits of increased public investment in education, transportation, and public utilities can be substantial.

TAX RATES PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE:				
	2013 Real		Tangible Personal	
<u>County</u>	<u>Estate</u>	<u>Property (effective)</u>	<u>Tools (effective)</u>	<u>Capital (nominal)</u>
Buchanan	\$0.43	\$1.95	\$1.95	\$2.00
Dickenson	\$0.53	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$10.50*
Russell	\$0.61	\$1.65	\$1.65	\$0.65
Tazewell	\$0.57	\$.57	\$.57	\$4.30

Source: Virginia Department of Taxation

Local Tax Rates: Tax Year 2013, Richmond, Virginia, Annual.

***Based on 10% of value**

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Business and industrial financial assistance is available through the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). This Authority is empowered to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds and can act as the recipient of Virginia Revolving Loan Funds.

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) derives its funding from a portion of the coal severance tax funds available for new and existing industrial projects.

SERCO, a telecommunications firm, has located in the Dickenson County Technology Park as a result of VCEDA's marketing efforts. (Before SERCO it was SI International) Dickenson County constructed a shell building in 1993 in an effort to attract business to the county. When efforts failed to find a tenant to occupy the facility, the county decided to establish a higher education center in order to provide citizenry with higher educational opportunities closer to home and establish an energy research center for carbon capture and storage. The Dickenson Center for Education and Research was funded in part by a \$4 million grant from VCEDA.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

In order to formulate a plan for Dickenson County, goals, objectives, and policies must be developed in regard to concerns, which were outlined in the background material. These goals will provide a framework for the comprehensive plan. A goal is a statement of something, which the community wishes to achieve, and an end to which actions are aimed. An objective states the way in which a goal is to be achieved and refers to some specific idea that can be reasonably attained. A policy prescribes the course of action needed to fulfill that objective. Goals, objectives, and policies have been developed for each of the areas covered in the background information. The goals aim to improve the quality of life and the economy of Dickenson County.

I. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: To promote the development of Dickenson County to the greatest benefit of its citizens within the physical nature imposed.

Objective: Identify areas to be developed and those to be preserved.

Strategies:

1. Encourage natural resource development that will create the most jobs while protecting the natural environment.
2. Promote the use of reclamation methods that will restore an environmental balance in conjunction with the natural resource development.
3. Decrease the pollution of streambeds and preserve the quality of surface water in Dickenson County.
4. Project scenic resources not only to preserve the natural beauty of

our county, but to enhance the economic strength of our communities.

GOAL: To promote the development of fish and wildlife populations in conjunction with federal and state agencies, for commerce and tourism.

Objective: Encourage hunting and fishing activities.

Strategies:

1. Promote programs that capitalize on various species of game/non-game for commercial use or tourism.
2. Protect species which are endangered or of special concern.

II. POPULATION

GOAL: To encourage a population level and balance commensurate with employment, water and sewer facilities, housing construction, acceptable traffic volumes, and community services.

Objective: Promote a population increase and a balanced population structure.

Strategies:

1. The construction of water and sanitary sewer facilities and improvement/expansion of existing systems.
2. New housing construction and existing housing rehabilitation in compliance with building codes and development regulations in those areas most amenable to development.
3. Maintenance of acceptable traffic volumes, safety, and road conditions.
4. An improved system of community services (police, fire protection,

emergency medical services, etc.) and facilities (schools, libraries) while simultaneously recognizing the suitability of development that would adversely affect floodplains, agriculture, and forest lands, and Dickenson County's scenic areas and wildlife.

III. ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

GOAL: To strengthen Dickenson County's economy by diversifying its economic base.

Objective: Foster new or expanding local business by creating the necessary incentives and creating an emerging business environment.

Strategies:

1. Work with financial institutions to improve the availability of venture capital for existing and new local industries.
2. Provide a highly trained and motivated work force by using job training programs to improve the skills of unemployed and underemployed workers.
3. Provide opportunities for higher education closer to home by constructing the Dickenson Center for Education and Research.
4. Increase inventory of industrial buildings and developed land.
5. Commit resources into market research and technical assistance for local businesspersons and local developers.
6. Increase amount of Revolving Loan Fund monies available for existing and small start-up businesses.
7. Promote, support and assist small business, especially for business that is eco-friendly and/or supports tourism.

GOAL: To reduce the number of persons and families living below poverty level.

Objective: Strengthen Dickenson County's economy so that all residents will have access to suitable employment and education.

Strategies:

1. Establishment of a long-range plan for commercial industrial site development by the County, IDA, Planning Commission, and Planning Districts.
2. Increase per capita income through economic development, education, and workforce development.
3. Improve access to skill training programs and enhance the programs' linkages with industry.
4. Provide access to educational opportunities closer to home with the development of the Dickenson Center for Education and Research.

GOAL: To promote tourism.

Objective: Development of a comprehensive plan to incorporate tourism and recreational opportunities for the County.

Strategies:

1. Continue to encourage scenic development and enhancement through identification of county scenic resources and support of scenic designations; like the Scenic River and the Virginia by ways program.
2. Continue to encourage the preservation of arts, crafts, and traditional music activities.
3. Continue to implement a tourism marketing strategy.
4. Promote bed and breakfast inns.
5. Promote group tours, host travel writers, develop press kits, promote festivals and horse shows.
6. Develop "Round the Mountain Artisan Trail," ATV Multi-Use Trail.
7. Promote and market Virginia Coal Heritage Trail, bird watching trails, white

- water rafting, tubing, fishing, Crooked Road Music Trail, horse trails, Birch Knob, Back of the Dragon, Pine Mountain Trail and the Bike Route 76.
8. Encourage Start-Up Tourism Businesses; continue workshops on Hospitality Training, Starting Tourism Businesses, etc.
 9. Work regionally and statewide to promote/market the area.
 10. Keep website updated.
 11. Develop more historical information on the county by working with the Historical Society, develop historical marketing materials.
 12. Research grant opportunities to promote tourism, write grants.

IV. TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: To promote feasible solutions to relieve current traffic problems and support future land use objectives.

Objective: Provide a street and highway system that is compatible with residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

Strategies:

1. Encourage improvement in the primary and secondary road system.
2. Improve traffic flow and circulation in commercial areas.
3. Develop a system of highway and street signs.
4. Establish the Coalfields Expressway.
5. Upgrade primary and secondary roads leading to tourism destinations, i.e. Breaks Park, Flannagan Dam, and Birch Knob, including development of scenic pull offs in these areas and others of interest in the county.
6. Apply for Virginia by-way designations for all qualifying road corridors including upgrading these routes with way finding and interpretive signage to add interest and education about the history of the county.
7. Establish safety upgrades to Bike Route 76 and at the entrance/internal roads of the Breaks Park

GOAL: To encourage the development of a transportation network that will provide better access to industrial sites and to major trade markets.

Objective: Support the proposed transportation corridors.

Strategies:

1. Pursue the feasibility of rail transportation for commercial use.
2. Make recommendations concerning future highway routes, airways, and rail transportation facilities that will support and maintain present and future development of the area.
3. Promote and encourage the proposed Coalfield Expressway exit near the towns of Clintwood and Haysi.

V. HOUSING

Goal: To expand the range of housing opportunities for all county citizens.

Objective: Define and implement a residential development policy, which will protect and enhance the right of citizens of modest means to acquire housing.

Strategies:

1. Develop programs to construct affordable housing in conjunction with the Dickenson County Career Center.
2. Support the development of housing for citizens who are handicapped.

Objective: Provide for safe and attractive housing and housing areas.

Strategies:

1. Encourage property owners to maintain their dwelling units.
2. Promote rehabilitation of existing housing units which are below standards; where possible seek federal and state funding to assist in making the renovations.
3. Encourage cleaning and fix-up campaigns, calling upon the civic and church groups within the community.
4. Sponsor a housing maintenance/housekeeping educational training program.
5. Seek to modify existing Sub Division Ordinance to fit the topographic challenges of the county.

VI. LAND USE

GOAL: To encourage harmonious and wise use of land through future development decisions.

Objective: Implement a land use plan that will be used to guide and control future development.

Strategies:

1. Limit non-residential encroachment on residential areas, where feasible and in the best interest of the area.

GOAL: Encourage development to occur in a manner which will best utilize the natural characteristics of the land by delineating those areas which limit development.

Objective: Implement a plan to serve as a guide to control development.

Strategies: Seek professional planning assistance from Cumberland Plateau and other qualified planners.

VI. WATER, SEWAGE, AND SOLID WASTE SYSTEMS

GOAL: To provide public water and sewer services in existing areas of population concentration and in areas targeted for residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Objective: Continue to work with federal and state agencies to plan and develop water and sewer projects.

Strategies:

1. Complete current water and sewer projects.
2. Promote the growth of the Public Service Authority.
3. Obtain a water source from the John Flannagan Water Authority.

VII. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL: Improve the quality of education for all students.

Objective: To provide a 21st Century high school facility for students of Dickenson County.

Strategies:

1. Carefully monitor population and enrollment trends to accurately project educational needs.
2. Carefully study the impact of maintaining three (now two) high schools.
3. Seek funding sources to consolidate high schools by coordinating efforts of the Board of Supervisors and school system.
4. Establish the Dickenson Center for Education and Research.

GOAL: To encourage an acceptable level of community facilities to be located in areas throughout Dickenson County where they will be most efficiently and effectively utilized.

Objective: Provide recreational opportunities to all citizens.

Strategies:

1. Support the development of the Breaks Interstate Park and surrounding areas as a major tourist destination area.
2. Continue to lease recreational facilities from the Corp of Engineers.
3. Obtain other leases from the Corps of Engineers and develop recreation areas in the John Flannagan Dam vicinity.
4. Promote outdoor activities such as white water rafting, tubing, fishing and hiking.

IX. FINANCE

GOAL: To implement a Capital Improvements Program.

Objective: Improve the scheduling, financing, and location of proposed projects.

Strategies:

1. Balance competing pressures for limited funds.
2. Insure that money is spent wisely.
3. Minimize the impact of improvements on the local tax rate.
4. Seek services of professional governmental financial planners.

GOAL: To provide the needed funding for county improvements and expansions.

Objective: Maintain an adequate tax base and expand county revenues.

Strategies:

1. Consider the development of retirement facilities as a potential foundation for diversified future growth and revenue.
2. Consider long-term gains from increased public investment in education, transportation, and public utilities.