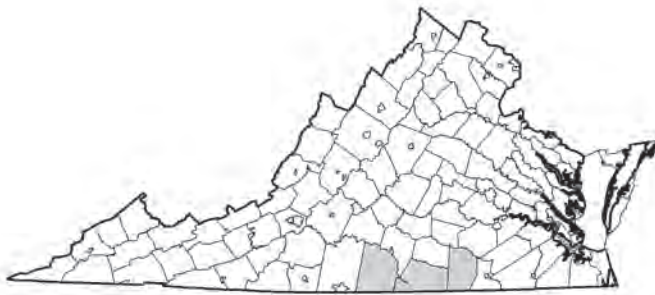


SPDC Data Book

2015



Southside Planning District Commission

**Brunswick County - Halifax County - Mecklenburg County
Town of South Boston - Town of South Hill**

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INTERACTIVE DATA SOURCES:

Some figures display a plus sign icon in the upper-right corner. If you are using this book in PDF format, clicking on this icon will open a browser to a spreadsheet in Google Drive where you are able to copy, download, or work with the source data. Some of the linked spreadsheets only include source data, while others include historical data or related information.

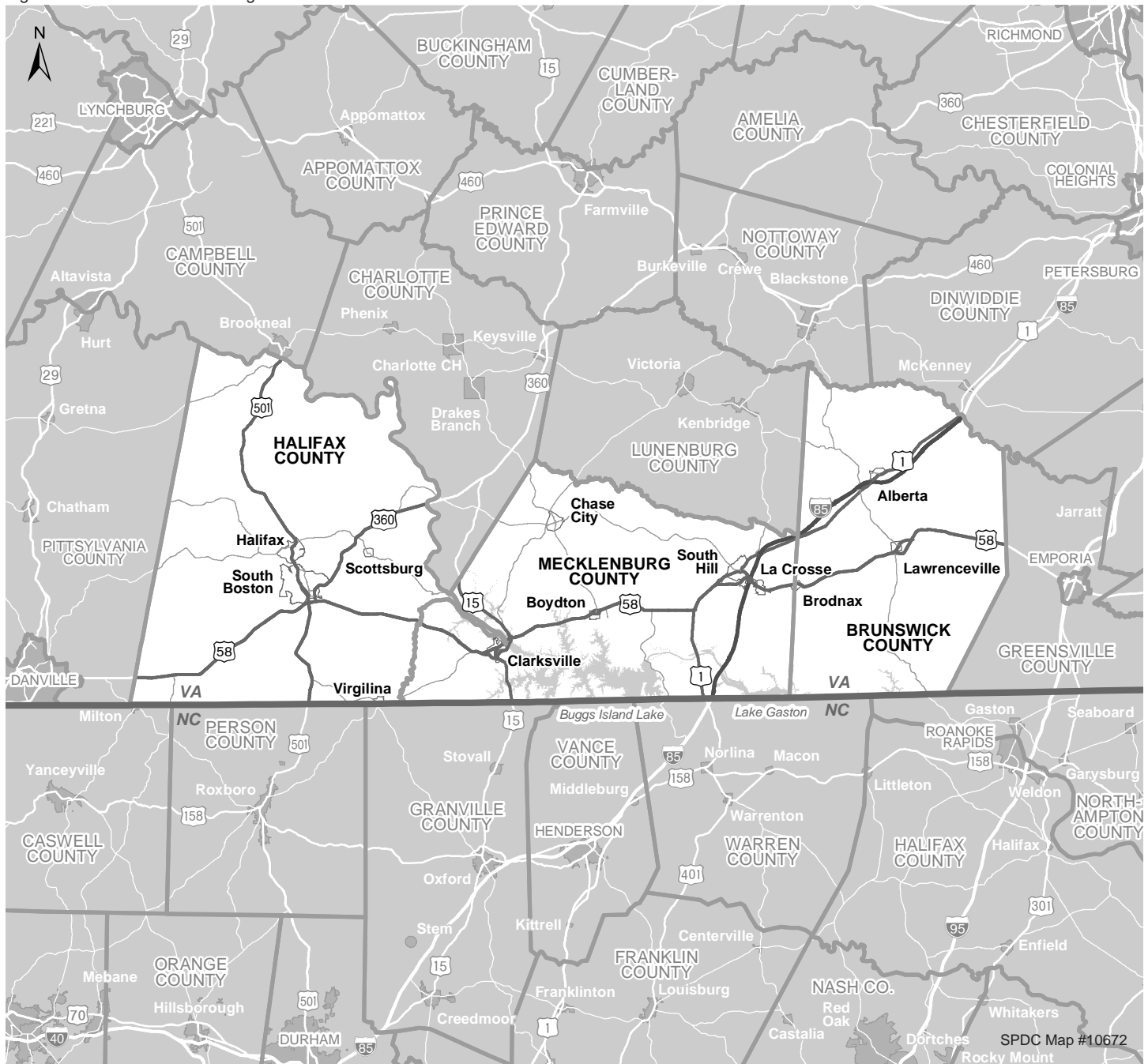
If you are using this book in print format, you can find the figures (as well as the PDF format for download) by going to www.southsidepdc.org and choosing “Data/Census”, then “SPDC Data Book”

Executive Summary

The Southside Planning District has embarked on a journey to formulate fundamental decisions that will shape growth and development in the region. These decisions are being made with deliberation and care in view of the fact that the District's economic role, the character of its environment, and its quality of life will be determined, in major part, by these choices. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides a basic foundation for making choices wisely. Strategies and decisions are evaluated and adjusted on a continuous basis as unknown and unexpected factors are encountered. This data resource provides a foundation for the goals, objectives, and recommendations set forth in the CEDS.

Southside Planning District, located in the Piedmont region of Virginia along the North Carolina border, encompasses more than 2,000 square miles and three counties—Brunswick, Mecklenburg and Halifax. Much of Lake Gaston and John H. Kerr Reservoir are located within these counties and therefore the area is often called “Lake Country.”

Figure 1: The Southside Planning District



Source: Southside Planning District Commission

Executive Summary

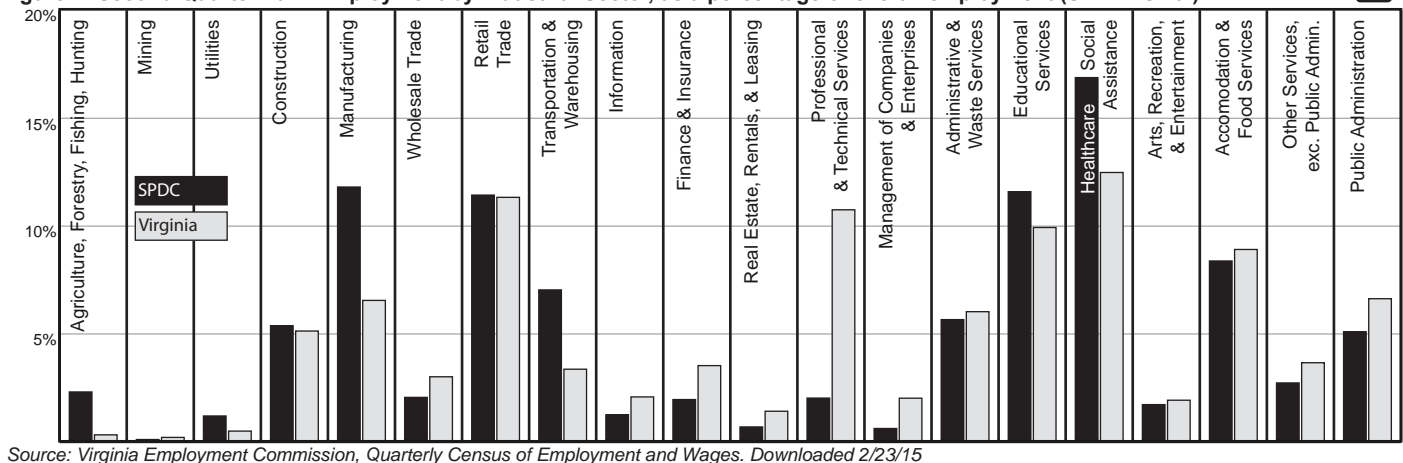
While the Planning Area counties are rural, they are in excellent proximity to large regional markets and have an outstanding transportation system, which includes an Interstate, U.S. highways, several municipal airports, and one regional airport. The region has an abundance of resources including educational facilities, industrial and residential sites, medical services, outdoor recreational facilities and six lakes: Banister Lake, Gordon Lake, Great Creek Reservoir, Kerr Reservoir/Buggs Island Lake, Lake Connor, and Lake Gaston. These resources enhance the area's competitive advantage as an attractor of people and business.

In 2010, 86,402 persons were residing in Southside Planning District, which was a decrease of 2 percent since the 2000 Census. The estimated July 2013 total population is 83,800 (from Census Bureau). The population centers are the twelve incorporated towns and the housing developments around the lakes. The 2010 Decennial Census indicated that 24% of the region's residents lived within the incorporated limits of a town (unchanged compared to 2000).

Throughout the District per capita personal income levels continue to remain below state and federal levels (and slightly decreasing over the past several years). While we find lower income and wages in Southside it is also evident that the lower cost of living increases local spending power.

An assessment of the labor market in the Planning District revealed disparity in the employment sectors. The VEC Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages indicates the region is underrepresented in most service-providing sectors with the exception of Education and Health Services, both of which exceeded the state's relative share. The Agricultural sector and Goods Producing Sector is also higher than the state average.. The PDC's employment percentage exceeded the state's in Agriculture, Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Transportation/Warehousing, Educational Services, and Healthcare/Social Assistance.

Figure 2: Second Quarter 2014 Employment by Industrial Sector, as a percentage of overall employment (SPDC vs Va.)

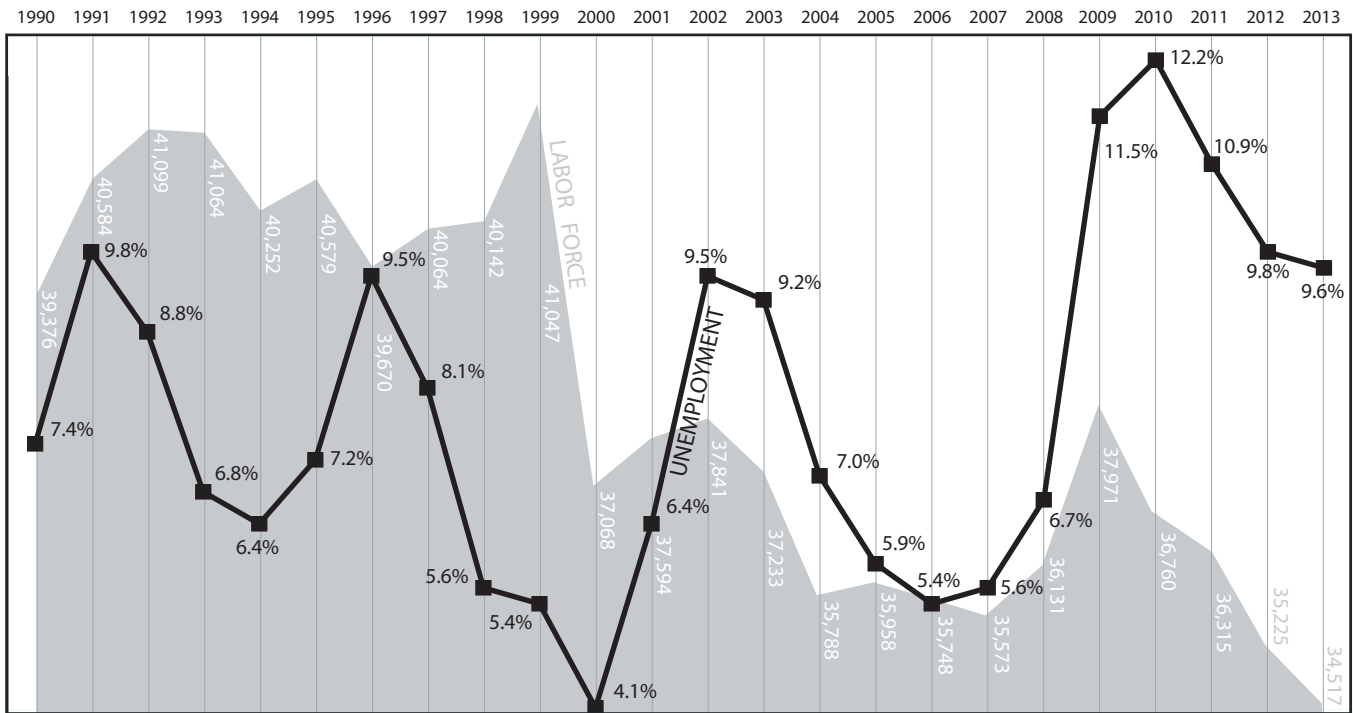


For decades, even centuries, the economic structure of the District has revolved around agriculture with tobacco being the principal crop. However, in 2004 Congress approved the Tobacco Buyout Bill, which eliminates tobacco market quotas and price supports. The buyout payments, over a period of 10 years, provide an infusion of capital into state and local economies, which are intended to assist farmers and other affected parties to move away from tobacco crops as a source of income. As a result many of the region's small operators shifted away from tobacco in favor of other crops or retirement from farming. In Virginia, an economic model projects that over the 10 years; the buyout will have had a total economic activity impact of \$605 million. After an initial reduction, the acres of tobacco grown in Southside have increased steadily.

Executive Summary

Other factors have been affecting the number of small farms, which have been steadily decreasing. During the fifties, sixties and seventies, many textile manufacturers built businesses in Southside Virginia, benefiting from readily available labor exiting the farms. As the textile sector grew, the area's economy developed a dependence upon this industry. With the passing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, the region began experiencing another severe economic blow. Industries have been attracted by the cheap labor in Mexico and overseas, and thousands of jobs have been lost. Between 1999 and 2013, the available labor force has shrunk by over 6,500 workers. Over that time, approximately 4,000 jobs have been lost; of these approximately 1,600 were in the textile/apparel sector, thus presenting another challenge to the economic stability of the region. These losses were counteracted by 2,000 new jobs in a variety of employment sectors.

Figure 3: 1990 - 2013 SPDC Annual Unemployment Rate and Civilian Labor Force



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (delivered through VEC), Obtained 2/20/15

After the employment picture began to finally stabilize in the mid 2000's, the 2007-10 recession pushed the numbers of the unemployed up to historic levels. In February of 2010, the Planning District's unemployment rate was 13.1%. The most recent unemployment rate is 7.3%, from December 2014. This was the highest rate of any Planning District in the state of Virginia. (The next highest rate is 7.2% from Cumberland Plateau PDC.)

As traditional manufacturing and agricultural jobs disappear, new types of industries are expanding. Steps need to be taken to ensure the Planning District's plentiful labor force is properly trained to take advantage of these new opportunities. The infrastructure necessary to attract these industries must also be available. In this age of new technology, industrial parks must now offer high-speed communications capabilities in addition to water, sewer, natural gas and a good road network. Additionally, tourism, or marketing to "get the word out" about the region figures prominently in any economic development strategy. According to reports from the Virginia Department of Tourism, travellers in the District spent over \$200 million on meals, lodging, transportation, admissions, and entertainment in 2013, a figure that is up by over \$60 million since 2003.

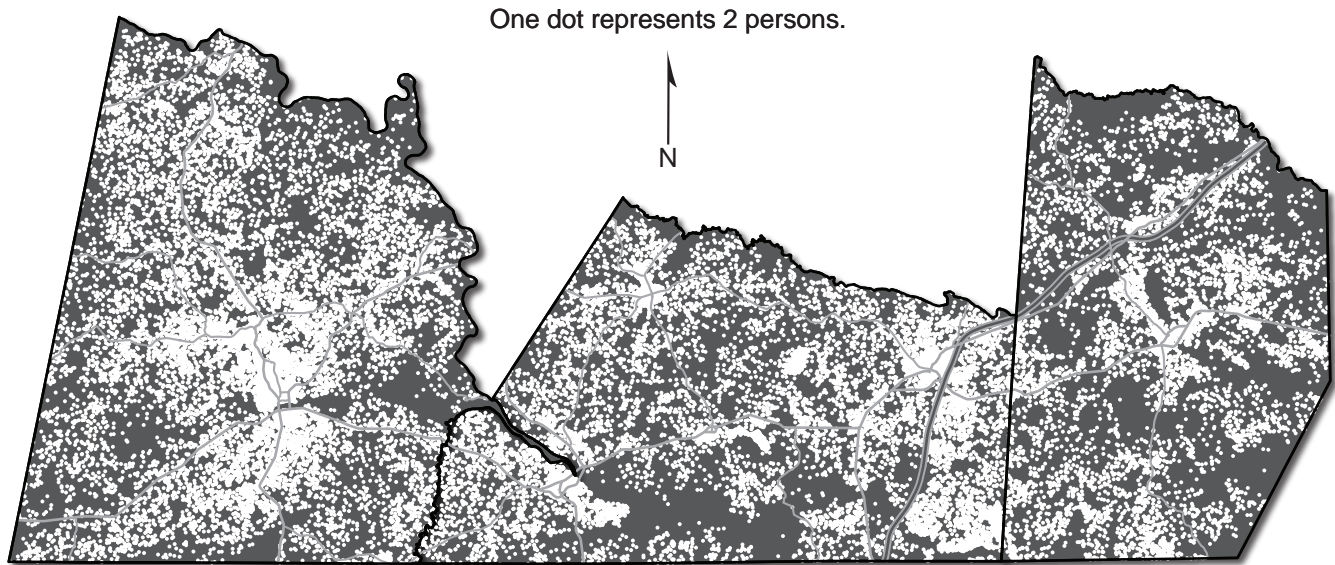
Executive Summary

Demographics

Population

Analysis of population characteristics and trends provides insight to an area's overall well-being. Economic forces, primarily changes in employment opportunities, are often the catalysts for population change.

Figure 4: Population Density, 2010



Source: Census 2010

Population Trends

After an 8.5% increase in population from 1990 to 2000, the District saw its population drop 2% from 2000 to 2010. While Mecklenburg County saw a small increase of 1.1%, Halifax County's population dropped 3%, and Brunswick County's population dropped 5.3%.

Figure 5: 1980-2010 Population of Southside PDC, and its Counties & Towns, with percent of change

	1980 Census	% Change 1970-1980	1990 Census	% Change 1980-1990	2000 Census	% Change 1990-2000	2010 Census	% Change 2000-2010	Estimate 7/2013	% Change 2010-2013
Brunswick County	15,632	-3.3%	15,987	2.3%	18,419	15.2%	17,434	-5.3%	16,973	-2.64%
Alberta	394	-15.5%	337	-14.5%	306	-9.2%	298	-2.6%	292	-2.01%
Brodnax*	492	-13.5%	388	-21.1%	317	-18.3%	298	-6.0%	292	-2.01%
Lawrenceville	1,484	-9.3%	1,486	0.1%	1,275	-14.2%	1,438	12.8%	1,093	-23.99%
Halifax County	37,692	2.0%	36,030	-4.4%	37,355	3.1%	36,241	-3.0%	35,401	-2.32%
South Boston	7,093	3.0%	6,997	-1.4%	8,491	21.4%	8,142	-4.1%	7,989	-1.88%
Halifax	772	-14.1%	688	-10.9%	1,389	101.9%	1,309	-5.8%	1,260	-3.74%
Scottsburg	335	113.4%	152	-54.6%	145	-4.6%	119	-17.9%	134	12.61%
Virgilina	212	-14.9%	161	-24.1%	159	-1.2%	154	-3.1%	151	-1.95%
Mecklenburg Co.	29,444	0.1%	29,241	-0.7%	32,380	10.7%	32,727	1.1%	31,426	-3.98%
Boydton	486	-10.2%	453	-6.8%	454	0.2%	431	-5.1%	423	-1.86%
Chase City	2,749	-5.5%	2,442	-11.2%	2,457	0.6%	2,351	-4.3%	2,325	-1.11%
Clarksville	1,468	-10.5%	1,243	-15.3%	1,329	6.9%	1,139	-14.3%	1,130	-0.79%
La Crosse	734	8.9%	549	-25.2%	618	12.6%	604	-2.3%	596	-1.32%
South Hill	4,347	12.7%	4,217	-3.0%	4,403	4.4%	4,650	5.6%	4,588	-1.33%
Southside PDC	82,768	0.3%	81,466	-1.6%	88,154	8.2%	86,402	-2.0%	83,800	-3.01%
Virginia	5,346,812	15.0%	6,187,358	15.7%	7,078,515	14.4%	8,001,024	13.0%	8,260,405	3.24%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1980, 1990, 2000, & 2010 and U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

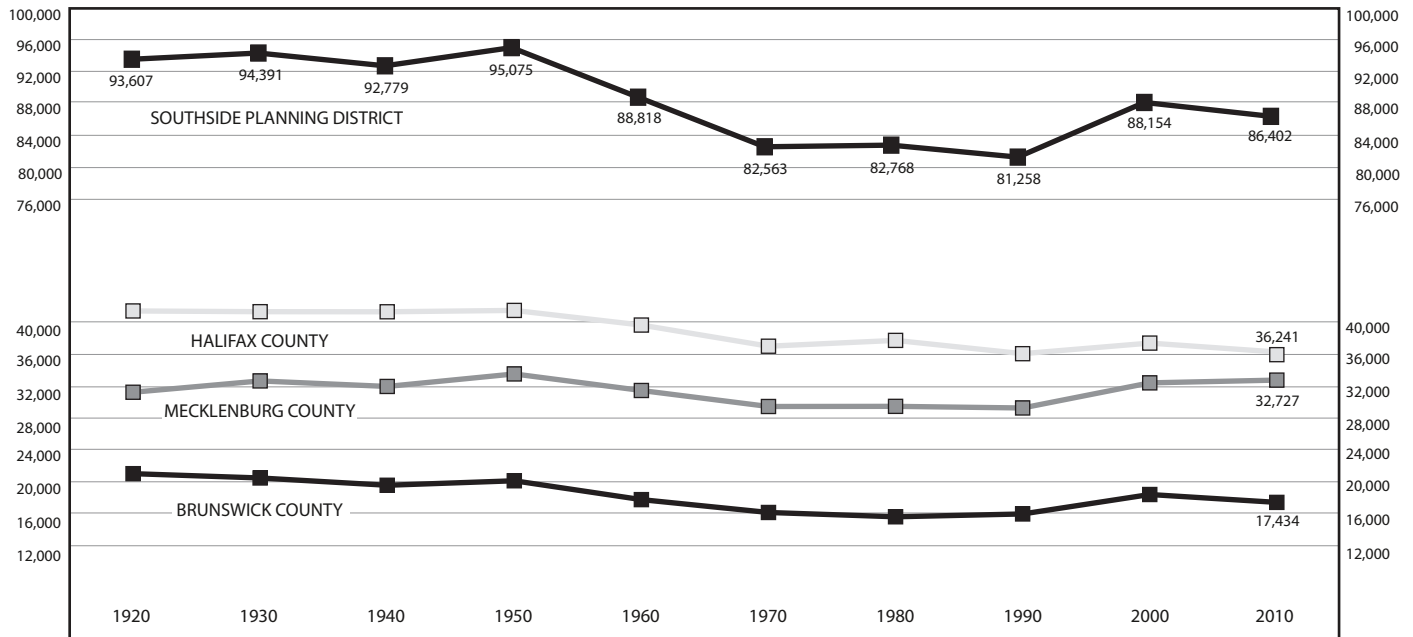
* Brodnax actually has population in Brunswick and Mecklenburg County. Total is shown here.

NOTE: Using U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates instead of VEC/Weldon Cooper, because Weldon Cooper does not produce estimates at town-level

Demographics

Over the course of the last 50 years, the Planning District suffered its greatest population losses during the twenty-year period from 1950 through 1970. This was followed by a stable period of minimal decline from 1970 to 1990. This population trend is characteristic of other rural and non-metropolitan localities throughout Virginia during that period.

Figure 6: Population Trends of Southside Planning District (1920 - 2010)



Source: US Census Bureau (1920 - 2010)

Figure 7: Historical Population of Southside Planning District, and its Counties

Year	Brunswick County	Halifax County (incl. South Boston)	Mecklenburg County	Southside PDC
1790	12,827	14,722	14,733	42,282
1800	16,339	19,377	17,008	52,724
1810	15,411	22,133	18,453	55,997
1820	16,687	19,060	19,786	55,533
1830	15,767	28,034	20,477	64,278
1840	14,346	25,936	20,724	61,006
1850	13,894	25,962	20,630	60,486
1860	14,809	26,520	20,096	61,425
1870	13,427	27,828	21,318	62,573
1880	16,707	33,588	24,610	74,905
1890	17,245	34,424	25,359	77,028
1900	18,217	37,197	26,551	81,965
1910	19,244	40,044	28,956	88,244
1920	21,025	41,374	31,208	93,607
1930	20,486	41,283	32,622	94,391
1940	19,575	41,271	31,933	92,779
1950	20,136	41,442	33,497	95,075
1960	17,779	39,611	31,428	88,818
1970	16,172	36,965	29,426	82,563
1980	15,632	37,692	29,444	82,768
1990	15,987	36,030	29,241	81,258
2000	18,419	37,355	32,380	88,154
2010	17,434	36,241	32,727	86,402

Source: US Census Bureau (1920 - 2010)

Population Projections

The Virginia Employment Commission provides long-term population projections for the state, counties, and large towns. The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA created the most recent projections under contract to the VEC. Business closings and lay-offs, as well as openings and locations, are factored into these projections. For more information on the methodology of these projections, see http://www.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/node/13/Projections_Methodology_Updated_Dec2012.pdf.

Figure 8: 2020-2040 Weldon Cooper/VEC Projections (with 2000 & 2010 Census Population)

	Census 2000	Census 2010	Projected Population		
			2020 Projected	2030 Projected	2040 Projected
Brunswick County	18,419	17,434	17,191	17,137	17,129
Halifax County	37,355	36,241	35,770	35,489	35,281
Mecklenburg Co.	32,380	32,727	32,877	32,968	33,037
Southside PDC	88,154	86,402	85,838	85,594	85,447
Virginia	7,078,515	7,078,515	8,811,512	9,645,281	10,530,228

Source: US Census Bureau (2000 & 2010 population), Weldon Cooper Center (projections)

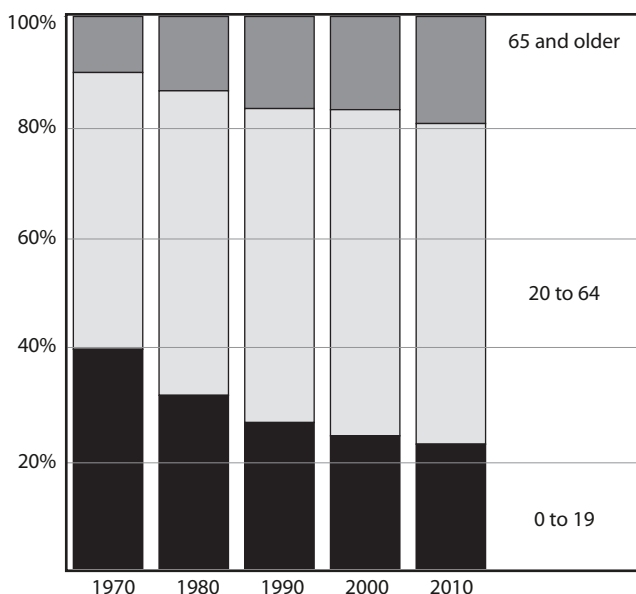
Age

One of the more significant trends for Virginia and the nation is the maturation of society. This is due in part to the aging of the baby boom generation, those 77 million individuals born between 1946 and 1964, and increasing life expectancy (see Births & Deaths). This trend results in a society where the very young no longer greatly outnumber the elderly, as was the case in the middle of this century.

About the Age of the Population of Southside Virginia:

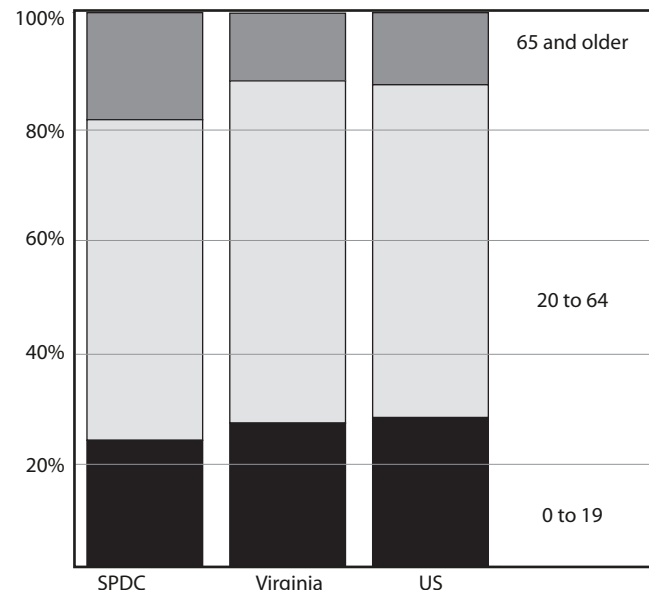
- Virginia's median age has increased: 27.3 in 1950 to 37.5 in 2010
- In 1950, those 19 and under comprised 37% of the population, in 2010 it was 26.1%
- In 1950, those 55 and older comprised 13.4%, in 2010 it was 24.1%

Figure 9: 1970-2010 SPDC Population distributed by age group



Source: US Census Bureau (1990 - 2010) & Minnesota Population Center, National Historical GIS (1970 & 1980)

Figure 10: 2010 Population distributed by age group



Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Demographics

Figure 11: Population distributed by age group, 2010 and 2013 (Estimate)



2010	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Older		Total Population	Median Age
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total		
Brunswick County	3,367	22.4%	11,185	61.1%	2,882	16.5%	17,434	41.3
Halifax County	7,983	24.3%	21,239	56.3%	7,019	19.4%	36,241	44.7
Mecklenburg Co.	6,376	24.6%	19,567	57.7%	6,784	20.7%	32,727	45.8
Southside PDC	17,726	22.9%	51,991	57.8%	16,685	19.3%	86,402	n/a
Virginia	1,853,677	26.0%	5,170,410	61.7%	976,937	12.2%	8,001,024	37.5
US	74,181,467	27.0%	194,296,087	60.0%	40,267,984	13.0%	308,745,538	37.2

2013 Estimates	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Older		Total Population	Median Age
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total		
Brunswick County	3,065	18.1%	10,811	63.7%	3,097	18.2%	16,973	42.8
Halifax County	7,416	20.9%	20,351	57.5%	7,634	21.6%	35,401	45.6
Mecklenburg Co.	6,084	19.4%	18,090	57.6%	7,252	23.1%	31,426	47.6
Southside PDC	16,565	19.8%	49,252	58.8%	17,983	21.5%	83,800	n/a
Virginia	1,864,535	22.6%	5,290,489	64.0%	1,105,381	13.4%	8,260,405	37.6
US	73,585,872	23.3%	197,838,893	62.6%	44,704,074	14.1%	316,128,839	37.6

Source: US Census Bureau (2010), US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

NOTE: Using U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates instead of VEC/Weldon Cooper, because Weldon Cooper does not produce estimates for age groups

Gender

Figure 12: Sex distribution, 2010

	Males			Females		
	Under 18	18 - 64	65 & Up	Under 18	18 - 64	65 & Up
Brunswick County	1,761	6,139	1,250	1,606	5,046	1,632
Halifax County	4,025	10,414	2,835	3,958	10,825	4,184
Mecklenburg Co.	3,233	10,104	2,888	3,143	9,463	3,896
Southside PDC	9,019	26,657	6,973	8,707	25,334	9,712
SPDC, All age groups		42,649			43,753	

Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Figure 13: Males per 100 Females, 2010

	Males per 100 Females
Brunswick County	110.5
Halifax County	91.1
Mecklenburg Co.	98.3
Southside PDC	97.5
Virginia	96.3
US	96.7

Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

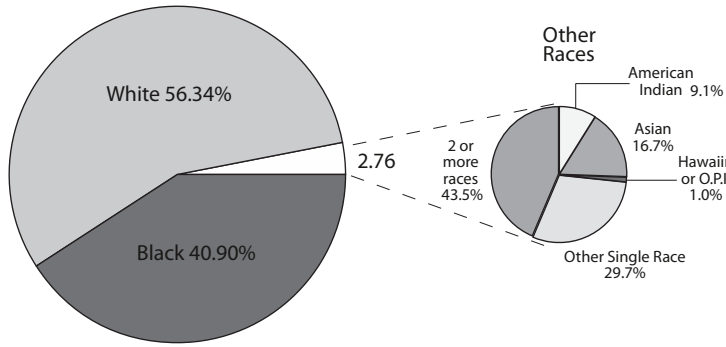
Racial Distribution

The Southside Planning District racial distribution has a greater percentage of minority population than that of the state as a whole. The non-white population accounted for 43.7% in 2010, while Virginia's non-white sector was 31.4%. In the District, the minority population is predominately African-American, making up 40.9% of the total population. The remaining minority races are shown in Figure 16.

The Hispanic population, which numbered only 364 in 1990, has increased almost 364% to 1,691 in 2010. The Hispanic population currently accounts for 2% of the total District population. Virginia's Hispanic population makes up 7.9% of the total population

Demographics

Figure 14: 2010 SPDC Population by race



Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Figure 15: 2010 Hispanic & Not-Hispanic Population

2010	Hispanic & Not-Hispanic Population			Total Population
	Not-Hispanic	Hispanic	% of Tot.	
Brunswick Co.	17,136	298	1.71%	17,434
Halifax Co.	35,654	587	1.62%	36,241
Mecklenburg Co.	31,921	806	2.46%	32,727
Southside PDC	84,711	1,691	1.96%	86,402
Virginia	7,369,199	631,825	7.90%	8,001,024
US	258,267,944	50,477,594	16.35%	308,745,538

Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Figure 16: Population distributed by race, 2010 and 2013 (Estimate)

2010	White		Black		American Indian		Asian		Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander		Other Single Race		Two or More Races		Total
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count
Brunswick Co.	7,048	40.43%	9,992	57.31%	39	0.22%	49	0.28%	7	0.04%	135	0.77%	164	0.94%	17,434
Halifax Co.	22,011	60.74%	13,293	36.68%	103	0.28%	133	0.37%	6	0.02%	300	0.83%	395	1.09%	36,241
Mecklenburg Co.	19,619	59.95%	12,050	36.82%	75	0.23%	218	0.67%	11	0.03%	275	0.84%	479	1.46%	32,727
Southside PDC	48,678	56.34%	35,335	40.90%	217	0.25%	400	0.46%	24	0.03%	710	0.82%	1,038	1.20%	86,402
Virginia	5,486,852	68.58%	1,551,399	19.39%	29,225	0.37%	439,890	5.50%	5,980	0.07%	254,278	3.18%	233,400	2.92%	8,001,024
US	223,553,265	72.41%	38,929,319	12.61%	2,932,248	0.95%	14,674,252	4.75%	540,013	0.17%	19,107,368	6.19%	9,009,073	2.92%	308,745,538

2013 Estimates	White		Black		American Indian		Asian		Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander		Two or More Races		Total
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count
Brunswick Co.	7,155	42.16%	9,514	56.05%	54	0.32%	54	0.32%	15	0.09%	181	1.07%	16,973
Halifax Co.	21,766	61.48%	12,938	36.55%	112	0.32%	176	0.50%	6	0.02%	403	1.14%	35,401
Mecklenburg Co.	19,453	61.90%	11,048	35.16%	92	0.29%	313	1.00%	17	0.05%	503	1.60%	31,426
Southside PDC	48,374	57.73%	33,500	39.98%	258	0.31%	543	0.65%	38	0.05%	1,087	1.30%	83,800
Virginia	5,851,796	70.84%	1,624,852	19.67%	44,910	0.54%	505,314	6.12%	9,241	0.11%	224,292	2.72%	8,260,405
US	245,499,216	77.66%	41,623,897	13.17%	3,910,028	1.24%	16,632,553	5.26%	722,417	0.23%	7,740,728	2.45%	316,128,839

Source: US Census Bureau (2010), US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

NOTE: Using U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates instead of VEC/Weldon Cooper, because Weldon Cooper does not produce estimates by race

Births and Deaths

The total number of births and deaths, which occurred in the District from 1995 to 2013, is given in the table on the next page. Total deaths (20,781) outnumbered total births (17,340) in the District during the given time period.

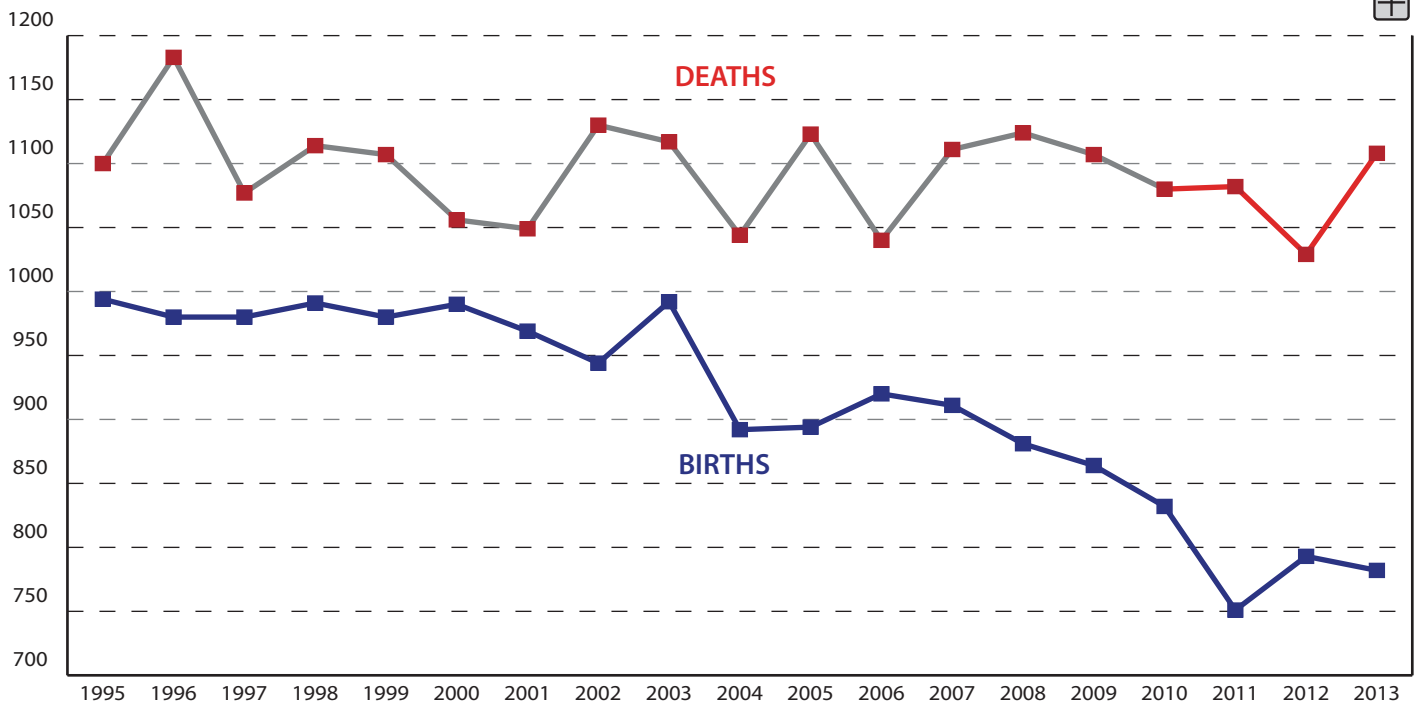
Figure 17: 1995-2013 Births and Deaths

Year	Live Births (w/ num. per 1,000 females age 15-44)								Deaths (w/ num. per 1,000 est. population)							
	Brunswick County		Halifax County		Mecklenburg County		SPDC		Brunswick County		Halifax County		Mecklenburg County		SPDC	
	Number	Per / 1000 Females	Number	Per / 1000 Females	Number	Per / 1000 Females	Number	Per / 1000 Females	Number	Per / 1000 People	Number	Per / 1000 People	Number	Per / 1000 People	Number	Per / 1000 People
2013	131	50.1	369	64.4	282	57.7	782	59.1	198	11.7	473	13.4	437	13.9	1,108	13.2
2012	159	58.3	341	59.1	293	60.3	793	59.3	169	9.9	433	12.1	427	13.4	1,029	12.2
2011	141	50.2	316	54.1	294	59.8	751	55.3	177	10.3	454	12.6	451	13.8	1,082	12.6
2010	162	56.5	365	61.4	305	61.2	832	60.3	201	11.5	466	12.9	413	12.6	1,080	12.5
2009	163	56.5	388	67.5	313	63.1	864	63.6	200	11.4	467	13.2	440	13.8	1,107	13.1
2008	191	59.3	387	63.1	303	54.2	881	58.9	189	10.8	504	14.2	431	13.4	1,124	13.2
2007	175	54.1	419	67.8	317	57.0	911	60.8	215	12.1	466	13.1	430	13.4	1,111	13.0
2006	174	55.1	399	63.1	347	60.7	920	60.6	170	9.5	461	12.8	409	12.6	1,040	12.0
2005	165	53.0	401	64.8	328	58.6	894	60.0	194	10.8	464	12.8	465	14.3	1,123	12.9
2004	173	53.6	394	61.5	325	57.0	892	58.1	192	10.6	454	12.5	398	12.2	1,044	12.0
2003	170	52.2	439	67.1	383	66.6	992	63.8	209	11.5	487	13.3	421	12.9	1,117	12.8
2002	179		421		344		944		241	13.2	476	12.9	413	12.8	1,130	12.9
2001	191		422		356		969		189	10.3	455	12.3	405	12.5	1,049	12.0
2000	185		473		332		990		211	11.5	449	12.0	396	12.2	1,056	12.0
1999	176		445		359		980		205	12.6	500	14.2	402	13.9	1,107	13.7
1998	179		440		372		991		190	11.7	470	13.3	454	15.6	1,114	13.8
1997	175		431		374		980		191	11.8	498	14.1	388	13.3	1,077	13.3
1996	178		446		356		980		200	12.4	533	15.0	450	15.5	1,183	14.6
1995	178		439		377		994		202	12.5	454		444	15.3	1,100	13.6

NOTE: Rates of live births to females 15-44 was not given in source data before 2003

Source: Virginia Dept. of Health, Center for Health Statistics (www.vdh.state.va.us/HealthStats/)

Figure 18: 1995-2013 Births and Deaths in Southside Planning District



Source: Virginia Dept. of Health, Center for Health Statistics (www.vdh.state.va.us/HealthStats/)

Income and Wages

Income

Income has a direct influence upon consumer demand and expenditure patterns. And in turn, expenditure levels within an area strongly influence the generation and potential levels of future income. Per capita income in the area localities are about 60% of Virginia's per capita income and less than 72% of the nation's. Meanwhile, Virginia's per capita income is greater than the national average. Household incomes, both median and average, reflect a similar relationship.

Figure 19: Per Capita & Household Income, Average from 2009-2013



County	Per Capita Income				Median Household Income				Mean Household Income			
	Income	Margin of Error	% Va	% US	Income	Margin of Error	% Va	% US	Income	Margin of Error	% Va	% US
Brunswick County	\$16,060	\$1,547	48.0%	57.0%	\$36,293	\$2,482	56.8%	68.4%	\$45,167	\$3,349	51.9%	61.5%
Halifax County	20,929	1,307	62.5%	74.3%	34,659	2,268	54.2%	65.3%	49,141	3,152	56.4%	66.9%
Mecklenburg Co.	20,056	888	59.9%	71.2%	36,261	2,387	56.7%	68.4%	47,454	1,925	54.5%	64.6%
Virginia	33,493	142		119.0%	63,907	248		120.5%	87,094	310		118.5%
USA	28,155	76			53,046	89			73,487	125		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013

Wages

Another disparity between the region and the Commonwealth as a whole is in employment compensation. The following chart shows that Southside Planning District falls dramatically below Virginia's average weekly wage in every employment sector except agriculture. Figure 20 on the following page, compares some Southside Planning District average weekly wages in 2014 to those statewide.

Cost of Living

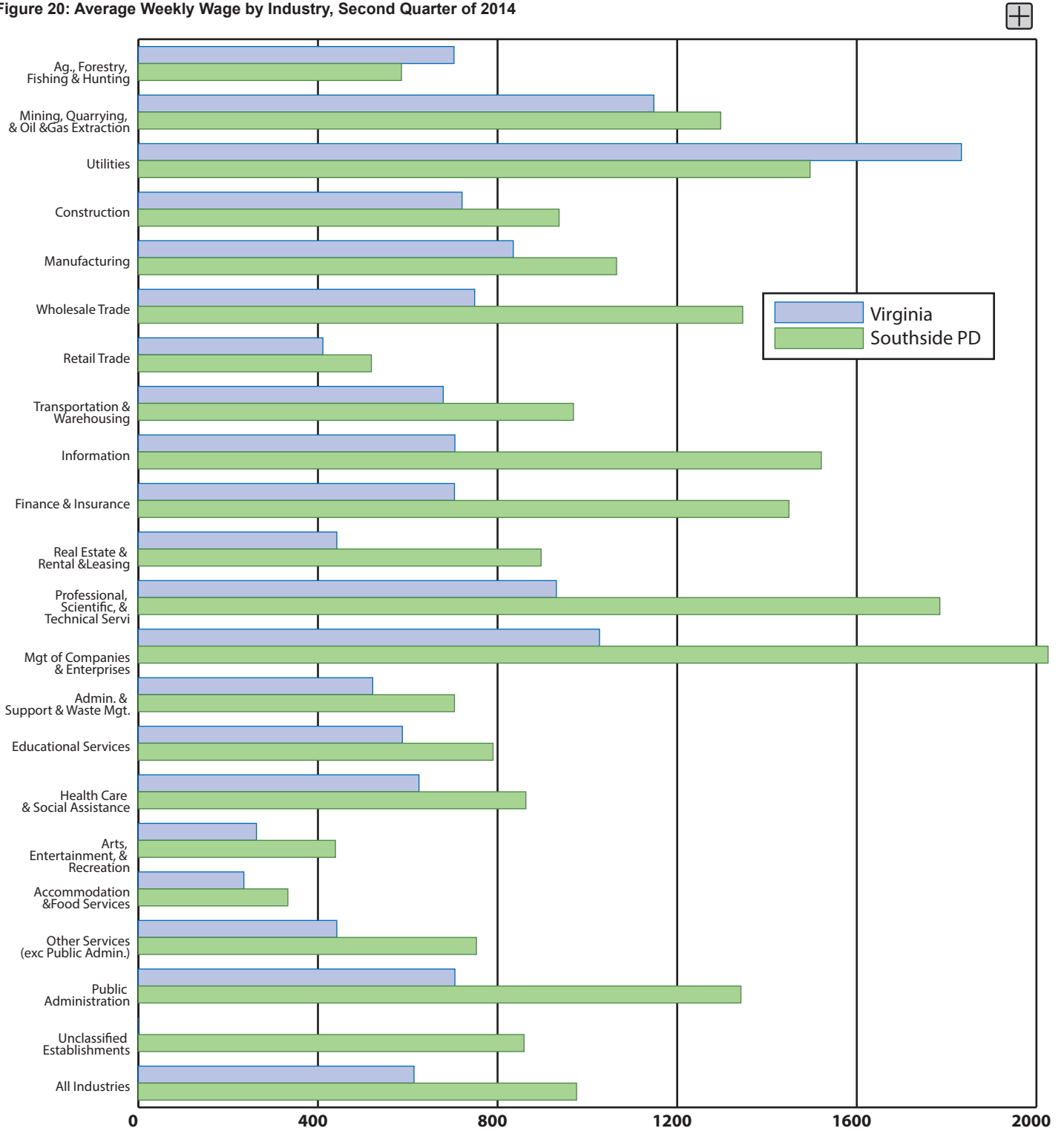
The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. Using CNN Money's easy-to-understand online cost of living database based on the closest Southside location (Danville, Virginia), we find that Southside is cheaper to live in than many listed locations in Virginia, as well as most other cities throughout the US. However, this table (Fig. 21) with regards to other Virginia areas, is beginning to change. When reported in October of 2012, 12 out of 13 Virginia cities had higher costs of living (salary-wise) than Danville. This table in February of 2015 shows that only 7 have higher costs of living. Cities outside Virginia still mostly have a higher cost of living, although the gap appears to be narrowing.

Poverty Status

Poverty levels are also higher in the region. Nationally, 15.4% of individuals have income below the poverty level, compared with 11.3% respectively statewide. The Counties of the Southside Planning District have poverty levels of 24% (Brunswick), 21.3% (Halifax), and 19.6% (Mecklenburg). All three counties have poverty levels that have increased from 2000. See Figure 22 for poverty statistics, on page 14.

Income and Wages

Figure 20: Average Weekly Wage by Industry, Second Quarter of 2014



Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Income and Wages

Figure 21: Cost of Living Comparison



In March of 2014, A \$40,000 salary in Danville Virginia...						
Target City	...would be like making this salary in a different city	...would buy this many more/less GROCERIES	...would pay for this much/less HOUSING	...would pay your UTILITY bills by this much more/less	...would cover TRANSPORTATION costs by this much more/less	...would pay for HEALTHCARE by this much more/less
Blacksburg, VA	\$41,053	-6%	8%	4%	2%	9%
Charlottesville, VA	43,751	1%	3%	-2%	4%	5%
Hampton Roads, VA	42,360	-3%	10%	-4%	2%	15%
Harrisonburg, VA	41,433	-1%	21%	-9%	-7%	7%
Lexington / Buena Vista / Rockbridge, VA	38,904	-4%	9%	-10%	-2%	-7%
Lynchburg, VA	38,946	-5%	1%	-3%	-10%	1%
Martinsville / Henry County, VA	35,574	-4%	-11%	-26%	-19%	-3%
Richmond, VA	41,770	2%	5%	-4%	2%	11%
Roanoke, VA	38,440	-8%	6%	-12%	-4%	3%
Staunton / Augusta County, VA	39,241	-4%	7%	-10%	-4%	1%
Washington / Arlington / Alexandria, VA	59,515	12%	192%	-14%	10%	2%
Winchester, VA	42,824	2%	17%	-8%	-5%	9%
Average Virginia City	\$41,984	-2%	22%	-8%	-3%	4%
Phoenix, AZ	40,421	2%	10%	-14%	8%	8%
San Francisco, CA	70,437	25%	260%	-10%	16%	26%
Fort Lauderdale, FL	48,387	10%	72%	-13%	16%	4%
Atlanta, GA	41,896	6%	15%	-19%	7%	8%
Boston, MA	57,871	15%	108%	21%	13%	28%
Kansas City, MO/KS	42,065	2%	10%	-5%	3%	6%
Raleigh, NC	39,241	3%	-8%	-10%	6%	10%
New York (Manhattan), NY	93,487	37%	421%	21%	32%	19%
New York (Brooklyn), NY	71,359	30%	247%	13%	21%	20%
Philadelphia, PA	50,200	16%	61%	8%	12%	5%
Nashville / Murfreesboro, TN	37,934	-3%	-9%	-18%	-2%	-10%
City in red - higher cost of living than Danville, VA						
City in blue - lower cost of living than Danville, VA						

Source: CNN Money, "How far will my salary go in another city?" <http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/costofliving/costofliving.html>, Feb 25, 2015. CNN sourced data from March 2014

Income and Wages

Figure 22: 2009-2013 Poverty Rates (Individuals) of the Southside Planning District, by age group



County	Pop. Below Poverty Level	Margin of Error	Percent Below Poverty Level	Margin of Error
Brunswick County	3,548	679	24.0%	4.8%
under 18 years	1,182	299	37.5%	9.3%
with related children <18 yrs	1,181	299	37.5%	9.3%
18-64 years	1,907	429	21.7%	5.2%
65 years & older	459	146	16.1%	5.1%
Halifax County	7,488	770	21.3%	2.2%
under 18 years	2,413	371	31.3%	4.9%
with related children <18 yrs	2,392	368	31.1%	4.9%
18-64 years	3,952	514	19.3%	2.5%
65 years & older	1,123	229	16.1%	3.3%
Mecklenburg County	6,014	811	19.6%	2.6%
under 18 years	1,815	345	29.6%	5.5%
with related children <18 yrs	1,804	344	29.6%	5.4%
18-64 years	3,294	515	18.4%	2.9%
65 years & older	905	173	13.6%	2.6%
Virginia	887,595	12028	11.3%	0.2%
under 18 years	271,958	6329	14.9%	0.3%
with related children <18 yrs	265,820	6284	14.6%	0.3%
18-64 years	538,970	6634	10.7%	0.1%
65 years & older	76,667	1504	7.7%	0.2%
United States	46,663,433	279630	15.4%	0.1%
under 18 years	15,701,799	140597	21.6%	0.2%
with related children <18 yrs	15,399,215	138601	21.3%	0.2%
18-64 years	27,168,057	143138	14.3%	0.1%
65 years & older	3,793,577	13956	9.4%	0.1%

Source: US Census Bureau (Census 2000, American Community Survey 2009-2013 Table S1701)


Retail Markets

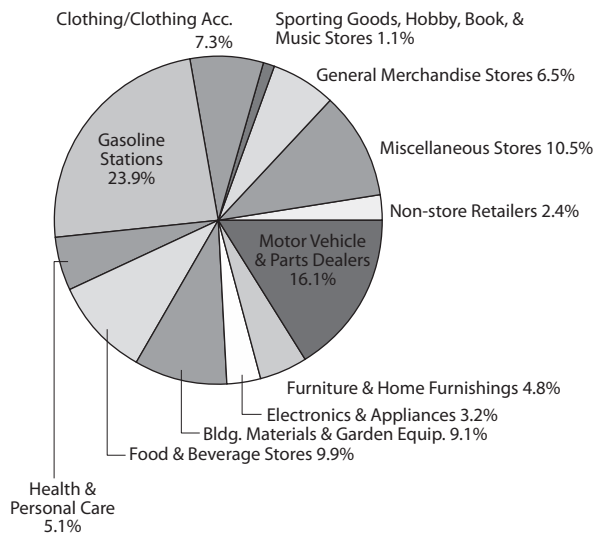
Taxable Sales

An assessment of retail business performance using annual taxable sales figures published by the Virginia Department of Taxation indicates that this sector of the local economy has continued to grow in both size and level of activity. From 2000 to 2009, taxable sales within the District increased 15.1%. During the same period, the State's taxable sales increased 25.1%. Southside Planning District represented 0.72% of Virginia's total taxable sales in 2009. While the District's taxable sales increase has been steady and positive, inflation for the same period was 24.1% (Dec 2000 to Dec 2009).

Retail Establishments

A new *Economic Census* was completed in 2012, however not all data has been released. Data from the 2007 Economic Census indicated that Southside's 372 retail operations (NAICS 44-45) with payroll, had sales totaling \$805 million. From 1997 to 2002, while the number of retail businesses decreased 10%, total retail sales for the District increased 25 percent. From 2002 to 2007 the number fell by 3% and total retail sales increased by 20%. Viewed as an average, in 2007 sales per establishment were \$2.2 million, compared with \$1.8 million per establishment in 2002.

Figure 23: Retail Establishments in Southside Planning District 



Source: US Census Bureau (2007 Economic Census)

Retail Markets

Figure 24: Retail Trade Summary Statistics - 1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic Census

South Hill			South Boston			Mecklenburg County			Halifax County			Brunswick County			County or Town		441 Motor Vehicles & Parts	442 Furniture & Home Furnishings	443 Electronics & Appliances Stores	444 Building Materials & Garden Equip-ment	445 Food & Beverage Stores	446 Health & Personal Care Stores	447 Gasoline Stations										
1997	2002		1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	Year of Economic Census	Establishments								Sales (\$1,000)	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Paid Employees	Establishments	Sales (\$1,000)	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Paid Employees	Establishments	Sales (\$1,000)	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)
16	\$35,359	\$39,638	\$30,939	\$23,062	\$27,798	\$50,355	\$56,665	\$69,224	\$36,292	\$34,411	\$36,829	\$8,030	\$7,262	\$7,488																			
\$2,917	\$3,739		\$2,261	\$1,968	\$2,450	\$4,477	\$5,288	\$5,512	\$2,682	\$2,713	\$3,451	\$1,281	\$1,037	\$1,038																			
140	153		120	79	103	229	222	204	142	115	141	69	56	56																			
2	3		3	3	8	6	9	9	5	4	9	1	0	0																			
D	\$3,410		D	D	D	\$5,282	\$6,035	\$6,765	\$5,463	\$4,481	\$4,217	D	0	0																			
D	\$741		D	D	D	\$1,017	\$1,296	\$1,318	\$961	\$700	\$616	D	0	0																			
20-99	35		20-99	20-99	20-99	53	74	73	49	29	31	0-19	0	0																			
1	4		7	6	5	5	8	7	8	6	5	1	2	0																			
D	D		D	\$3,939	\$2,780	\$2,601	\$1,612	\$2,523	\$4,214	\$3,939	\$2,780	D	D	0																			
D	D		D	654	404	371	311	\$522	\$615	\$654	404	D	D	0																			
0-19	0-19		20-99	36	25	13	17	19	42	36	25	0-19	0-19	0																			
10	7		7	5	7	21	21	20	15	9	11	6	4	3																			
\$15,542	\$6,862		D	D	\$31,066	\$21,645	\$21,124	\$37,947	\$23,749	\$23,743	\$40,073	D	\$5,269	\$5,744																			
\$1,694	\$1,005		D	D	\$3,815	\$2,457	\$2,781	\$4,639	\$2,392	\$2,405	\$5,148	D	\$736	\$791																			
83	45		20-99	20-99	167	159	149	225	175	125	211	20-99	36	40																			
8	6		10	5	4	27	21	16	30	17	14	16	10	7																			
D	\$29,344		\$31,782	D	D	\$52,366	\$60,262	\$45,045	D	\$37,699	\$36,033	D	\$13,674	\$14,048																			
D	\$2,777		\$2,595	D	D	\$4,539	\$5,783	\$3,982	D	\$3,563	\$3,151	D	\$1,161	\$1,133																			
250-499	234		204	20-99	20-99	500	489	248	250-499	303	189	100-249	100	70																			
7	6		9	5	7	11	10	9	9	7	8	3	2	2																			
D	\$9,524		D	\$9,351	D	\$13,465	\$19,580	\$27,489	D	\$17,497	\$23,653	\$3,344	D	D																			
D	\$1,117		D	\$940	D	\$1,570	\$1,766	\$2,372	D	\$1,454	\$2,879	\$485	D	D																			
20-99	47		20-99	92	20-99	99	87	93	20-99	82	84	55	20-99	20-99																			
11	10		8	4	10	35	36	44	27	27	27	14	16	18																			
\$34,766	\$12,561		\$13,803	D	\$40,174	\$57,730	\$63,842	\$104,826	\$25,526	\$35,579	\$78,277	\$12,683	\$14,884	\$37,857																			
\$2,773	\$963		714	D	\$1,907	\$4,635	\$3,846	\$4,650	\$1,420	\$2,140	\$3,421	\$847	\$1,199	\$1,966																			
121	80		55	20-99	113	319	328	332	131	159	238	75	85	124																			

Source: US Census Bureau (1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic Census)

Retail Markets

Figure 24 (Continued): Retail Trade Summary Statistics - 1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic

County or Town		448 Clothing & Cloth- ing Accessories			451 Sporting Goods Stores			452 General Merchandise Stores			453 Miscellaneous Stores			454 Non-Store Retailers			44-45 All Retail Stores		
		1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007	1997	2002	2007
South Hill	6	5	\$2,144	D	3	\$251	0	7	6	7	12	14	11	16	12	11	\$9,744	\$9,561	\$10,510
	\$6,710	\$341	\$721	D	\$57	D	0	\$3,542	D	D	\$3,350	\$3,126	\$3,493	\$1,036	\$1,091	\$1,290	\$920	\$1,324	\$1,676
	\$616	23	77	20-99	8	0-19	0	305	20-99	250-499	321	259	408	105	96	95	90	91	115
	56	3	2	3	0	4	3	14	11	12	18	10	8	3	4	1	3	4	1
South Boston	3	3	D	0	0	D	D	7	6	7	14	11	12	4	3	3	\$646	\$1,078	D
	\$313	\$251	D	0	D	D	0	\$3,580	D	D	\$3,126	\$3,493	\$7,077	D	\$57	D	\$107	\$138	D
	\$43	8	0-19	0	0-19	0	0	305	20-99	250-499	321	259	408	0-19	8	0-19	9	12	0-19
	6	4	7	7	6	14	11	12	11	12	18	10	8	3	4	1	9	12	0-19
Mecklenburg County	4	6	\$31,442	D	7	\$33,542	D	7	6	7	14	11	12	33,350	\$36,814	\$73,511	\$35,183	\$70,158	D
	\$7,286	\$3,068	\$3,580	D	\$3,580	D	D	\$3,580	D	D	\$3,126	\$3,493	\$7,077	\$3,126	\$3,493	\$7,077	\$3,680	\$6,793	D
	\$733	107	305	20-99	20-99	250-499	250-499	305	20-99	250-499	321	259	408	321	259	408	316	453	250-499
	107	7	14	12	14	18	23	19	19	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	59	20-99
Halifax County	7	9	D	D	14	D	D	12	14	12	18	10	8	17	18	17	17	18	17
	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	20-99	20-99	0-19	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99
Brunswick County	2	3	\$7,019	D	3	\$7,019	D	3	3	5	11	9	5	\$15,026	D	\$8,162	\$7,019	\$23,300	\$1,479
	D	D	665	D	D	665	D	D	D	D	216	100-249	25	\$1,760	D	\$815	\$665	\$1,776	\$73
	D	D	27	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99
	20-99	20-99	27	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99	20-99
44-45 All Retail Stores	77	74	\$147,063	\$193,521	\$151,243	\$106,143	\$221,450	\$272,476	\$348,098	\$406,322	\$272,476	\$348,098	\$406,322	\$272,476	\$348,098	\$406,322	\$215,878	\$269,357	\$324,090
	\$13,803	\$17,424	\$14,788	\$9,761	\$21,573	\$26,281	\$30,921	\$34,117	\$39,921	\$44,117	\$26,281	\$30,921	\$34,117	\$39,921	\$44,117	\$49,621	\$54,899	\$74,581	\$74,581
	\$13,803	\$17,424	\$14,788	\$9,761	\$21,573	\$26,281	\$30,921	\$34,117	\$39,921	\$44,117	\$26,281	\$30,921	\$34,117	\$39,921	\$44,117	\$49,621	\$54,899	\$74,581	\$74,581
	915	967	1,052	621	1,057	2,109	1,937	1,822	1,937	1,822	1,570	1,535	1,474	455	351	377	455	351	377

Source: US Census Bureau (1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic Census)

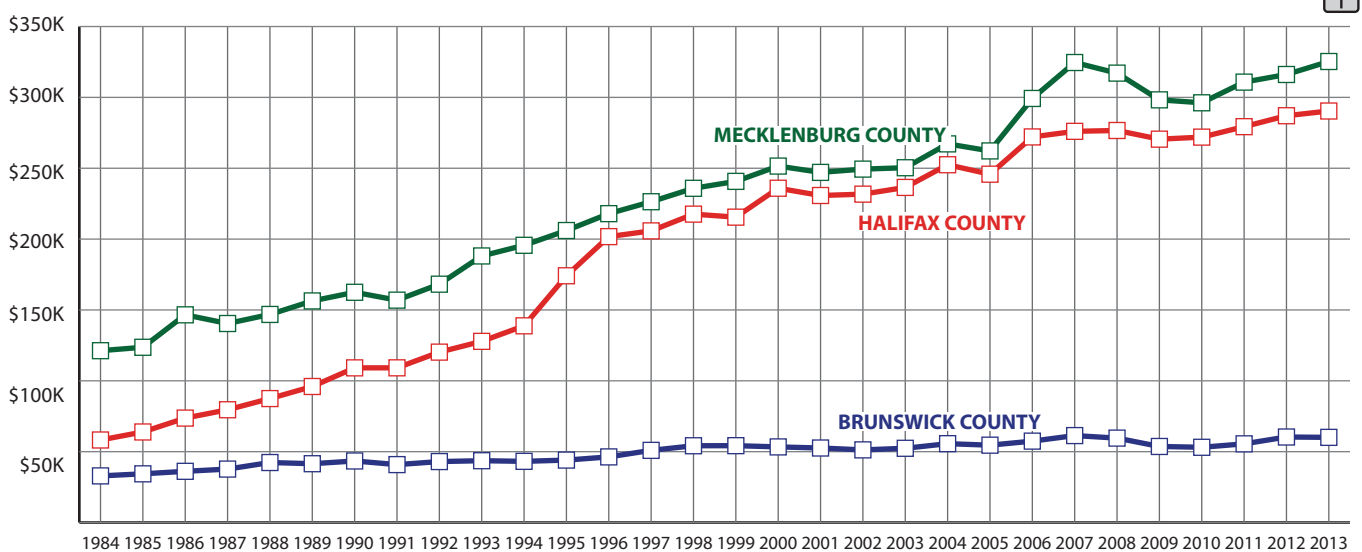
Retail Markets

Figure 25: Taxable Sales by Year from 1984 - 2013

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Brunswick County	\$32,907,117	\$34,363,696	\$36,138,166	\$37,712,134	\$42,342,028	\$41,498,347	\$43,435,768	\$40,874,633	\$43,015,756	\$43,623,406	43,170,356	\$44,058,522	\$46,307,643	\$50,926,308	\$54,177,202	\$54,231,931	\$53,360,070	\$52,580,989	\$51,267,580	\$52,385,818	\$55,642,016	\$54,584,656	\$57,440,059	\$61,350,993	\$59,572,890	\$53,669,629	\$53,096,226	\$55,527,532	\$60,344,752	\$60,095,391
Halifax County	\$116,816,230	\$119,680,790	\$122,169,650	\$134,771,377	\$139,269,811	\$150,994,363	\$164,135,179	\$162,510,582	\$176,017,139	\$187,894,417	\$195,510,800	\$197,060,824	\$201,747,772	\$205,802,734	\$217,615,743	\$215,487,937	\$235,897,533	\$230,766,322	\$231,723,274	\$236,457,631	\$252,473,807	\$245,800,722	\$272,093,132	\$276,044,225	\$276,640,034	\$270,520,889	\$271,955,447	\$279,339,914	\$287,053,901	\$290,389,956
Mecklenburg County	\$121,257,356	\$123,661,986	\$146,568,991	\$140,439,798	\$146,834,062	\$156,371,389	\$162,471,525	\$156,912,269	\$168,186,169	\$188,110,791	\$195,623,196	\$206,052,941	\$217,959,012	\$226,373,740	\$235,848,735	\$240,733,356	\$251,531,411	\$247,072,823	\$249,383,876	\$250,361,460	\$267,192,699	\$262,221,307	\$299,251,798	\$324,611,481	\$317,120,339	\$298,261,310	\$296,191,323	\$310,765,894	\$316,157,291	\$325,321,736
Southside PDC	\$270,980,703	\$277,706,472	\$304,876,807	\$312,923,309	\$328,445,901	\$348,864,099	\$370,042,472	\$360,297,484	\$387,219,064	\$419,628,614	\$434,304,352	\$447,172,287	\$466,014,427	\$483,102,782	\$507,641,680	\$510,453,224	\$540,789,014	\$530,420,134	\$532,374,730	\$539,204,909	\$575,308,522	\$562,606,685	\$628,784,988	\$662,006,699	\$653,333,262	\$622,451,828	\$621,242,996	\$645,633,340	\$663,555,944	\$675,807,083

Source: Data provided by Weldon Cooper Center, from the Virginia Department of Taxation

Figure 26: Annual Taxable Sales from 1984 - 2013



Source: Data provided by Weldon Cooper Center, from the Virginia Department of Taxation

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale Establishments

A new Economic Census was completed in 2012, however not all data has been released. The 2007 Economic Census shows the number of Wholesale establishments in the District, 64. This is down 7.2% from 69 in both 2002 and 1997. Mecklenburg County gained two, Halifax County lost seven, and Brunswick stayed the same from 2002 to 2007. In Halifax County, although there was a decrease in the number of wholesalers, the sales increased from at least \$65.8 million to over \$133 million. (Although the sales amount for all wholesalers in Halifax County was suppressed in 2002, we do know that the subsector for Durable Goods Merchant Wholesalers was \$65.8 million, with 19 establishments, 200 employees, and a payroll of around \$6.6 million)

Figure 27: Wholesale Trade Summary Statistics - 1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic Census

County	Year Of Economic Census	NAICS 42 - Wholesale Trade			
		Establishments	Sales (\$1,000)	Annual Payroll (\$1,00)	Paid Employees
Brunswick County	2007	7	\$42,022	\$1,886	46
	2002	7	\$44,808	\$1,916	57
	1997	7	\$27,625	\$1,349	54
Halifax County	2007	21	\$133,676	\$8,689	260
	2002	28	D	D	250-499
	1997	24	\$76,904	\$12,933	262
Mecklenburg County	2007	36	\$74,695	\$6,044	256
	2002	34	\$81,183	\$4,907	1,196
	1997	38	\$71,136	\$10,251	230

NAICS 423 - Durable Goods Merchant Wholesalers Halifax County			
Establishments	Sales (\$1,000)	Annual Payroll (\$1,00)	Paid Employees
19	\$65,800	\$6,595	200

Source: US Census Bureau (1997, 2002, & 2007 Economic Census)

Employment

Labor Force

One of the most basic resources influencing economic success is labor. The following section examines several labor force components and associated characteristics, which serve as barometers in forecasting economic performance and conditions.

The civilian labor force is a measurement that represents the number of people who are willing and able to work. It is determined by subtracting the number of non-workers (people not able or willing to work) from the working-age population (16 years or older). And the ratio of the labor force to the working-age population is known as the labor force “participation rate.”

The unemployment rate measures to what extent available labor resources are being under-utilized. The unemployment rate represents the ratio of the number of people who are unemployed and actively seeking work to the civilian labor force.

Figure 28: Civilian Labor Force, Employment, & Unemployment - Annual Average 2000-2013, & Current Rate (Not seasonally adjusted)



	Civilian Labor Force				Employed				Unemployed				Unemployment Rate				
	Brun	Hal	Meck	SPDC	Brun	Hal	Meck	SPDC	Brun	Hal	Meck	SPDC	Brun	Hal	Meck	SPDC	Va.
2000	6,808	16,101	14,159	37,068	6,571	15,302	13,686	35,559	237	799	473	1,509	4.0%	5.0%	3.0%	4.1%	2.3%
2001	6,830	16,651	14,113	37,594	6,461	15,438	13,292	35,191	369	1,213	821	2,403	5.4%	7.3%	5.8%	6.4%	3.2%
2002	6,859	16,832	14,150	37,841	6,423	15,113	12,712	34,248	436	1,719	1,438	3,593	6.4%	10.2%	10.2%	9.5%	4.2%
2003	7,003	16,446	13,784	37,233	6,515	14,776	12,498	33,789	488	1,670	1,286	3,444	7.0%	10.0%	9.0%	9.2%	4.1%
2004	6,836	15,736	13,216	35,788	6,397	14,543	12,337	33,277	439	1,193	879	2,511	6.4%	7.6%	6.7%	7.0%	3.7%
2005	6,802	15,885	13,271	35,958	6,455	14,921	12,462	33,838	347	964	809	2,120	5.1%	6.1%	6.1%	5.9%	3.5%
2006	6,838	15,778	13,132	35,748	6,510	14,861	12,446	33,817	328	917	686	1,931	4.8%	5.8%	5.2%	5.4%	3.0%
2007	6,894	15,448	13,231	35,573	6,563	14,466	12,563	33,592	331	982	668	1,981	4.8%	6.4%	5.0%	5.6%	3.1%
2008	7,019	15,692	13,420	36,131	6,552	14,609	12,535	33,696	467	1,083	885	2,435	6.7%	6.9%	6.6%	6.7%	4.0%
2009	7,229	16,610	14,132	37,971	6,389	14,670	12,535	33,594	840	1,940	1,597	4,377	11.6%	11.7%	11.3%	11.5%	7.0%
2010	6,799	16,362	13,599	36,760	5,985	14,333	11,973	32,291	814	2,029	1,626	4,469	12.0%	12.4%	12.0%	12.2%	7.1%
2011	6,748	16,060	13,507	36,315	6,008	14,289	12,045	32,342	740	1,771	1,462	3,973	11.0%	11.0%	10.8%	10.9%	6.4%
2012	6,655	15,697	12,873	35,225	5,962	14,211	11,601	31,774	693	1,486	1,272	3,451	10.4%	9.5%	9.9%	9.8%	5.9%
2013	6,613	15,649	12,255	34,517	5,954	14,202	11,044	31,200	659	1,447	1,211	3,317	10.0%	9.2%	9.9%	9.6%	5.5%
12/14	6,124	14,983	11,563	32,670	5,631	13,957	10,706	30,294	493	1,026	857	2,376	8.1%	6.8%	7.4%	7.3%	4.5%

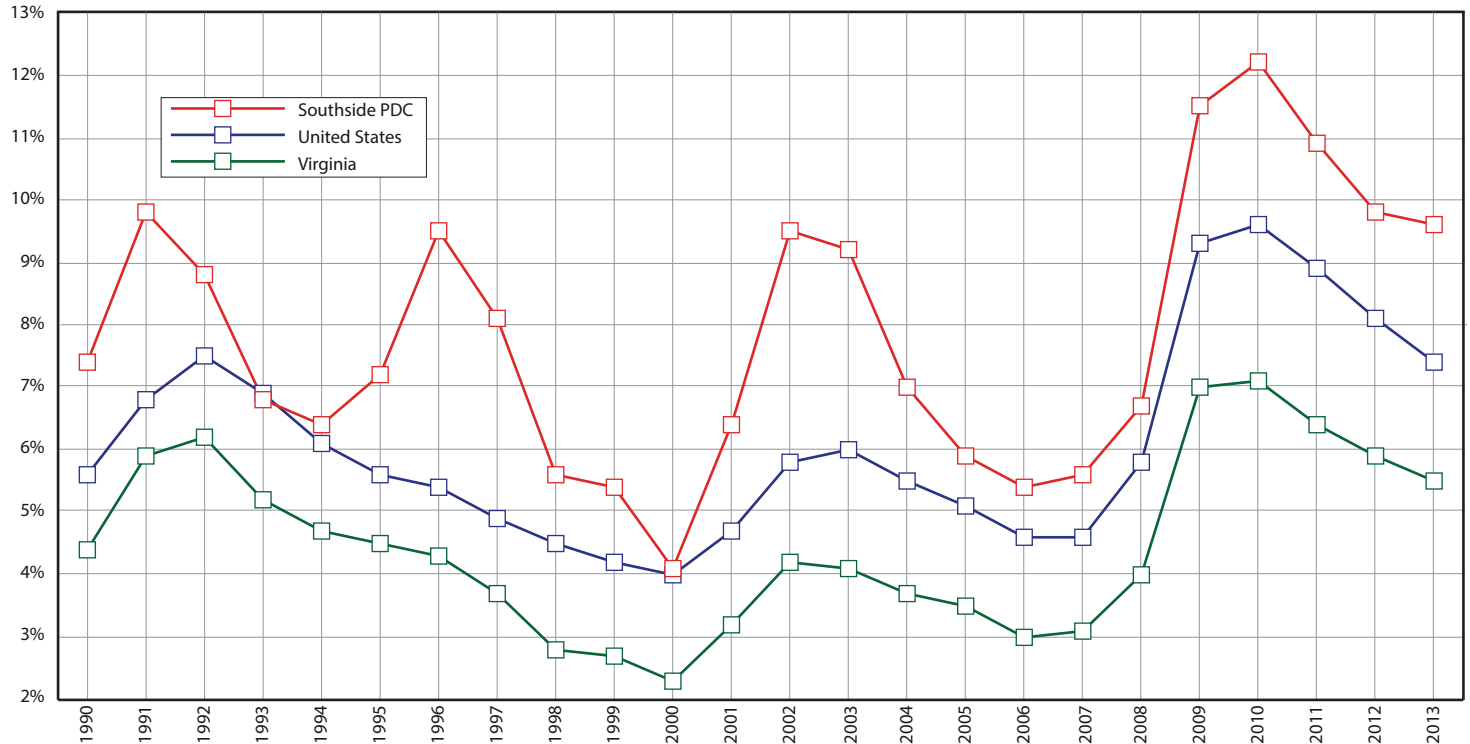
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics - Obtained Through Virginia Employment Commission, March 3, 2015

Unemployment

Over the past two decades, the role of agriculture as an employment-generating sector of the economy has declined significantly, and the trend continues. The number of small farms has steadily decreased as farmers sought work elsewhere. During the fifties, sixties and seventies, many textile manufacturers built businesses in Southside Virginia, benefiting from readily available labor exiting the farms. As the textile sector grew, the area’s economy developed a dependence upon this industry. With the passing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the region began experiencing another severe economic blow. Industries have been attracted by the cheap labor in Mexico and overseas, and thousands of jobs have been lost. Since 2000, approximately 4,000 jobs have been lost in the District; of these 43% or 1,600 were in the textile/apparel sector, thus presenting another challenge to the economic stability of the region. These losses were counteracted by 2,000 new jobs in a variety of employment sectors.

Employment

Figure 29: Unemployment Rates 1990-2009 for U.S., Virginia, and Southside PDC (Not seasonally adjusted)



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics - Obtained Through Virginia Employment Commission, March 3, 2014

Figure 30: Industrial Closings and Layoffs 2005 - Present

Firm	County	Location	Product	Jobs Lost	Status	Year
Peebles Corporate Headquarters	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Retail store headquarters	380	Closed	2013
Kurz-Kasch	Halifax	South Boston	Coils, electrical products, magnetics	60	Closed	2012
Mecklenburg Correctional Center	Mecklenburg	Boydton	State prison	300	Closed	2012
Sunshine Mills	Halifax	Halifax	Dog Food	10	Layoffs	2011
Halifax Co. Public Schools	Halifax	Halifax Co.	School employees (not teachers)	46	Layoffs	2011
Lasco Bathware / Aquatic	Halifax	South Boston	Bathware	40	Layoffs	2010
Brunswick Correctional Center	Brunswick	Lawrenceville	State prison	593	Closed	2009
Lawrenceville Brick, Inc.	Brunswick	Lawrenceville	Bricks	28	Layoffs	2009
Glaize Components	Mecklenburg	La Crosse	Roof trusses	50	Closed	2009
Carlisle Motion Control	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Heavy-duty brake parts for trucks	120	Closed	2009
Lawson Mardon Wheaton	Mecklenburg	Chase City	Glass vials	14	Layoffs	2008
VQC	Mecklenburg	La Crosse	Draperies and bedspreads	10	Layoffs	2008
National Affiliated Tech. (Rex Materials)	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Fused silica products	12	Layoffs	2008
IVC	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Hardwood veneer	25	Layoffs	2008
ITG (Narricott)	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Airbag production	60	Layoffs	2008
BGF	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Fiberglass fabric	25	Layoffs	2008
Wabash Magnetics	Halifax	South Boston	Coils, electrical products, magnetics	49	Closed	2008
Harden Manufacturing Corp.	Mecklenburg	La Crosse	Wooden bedroom furniture	43	Closed	2008
Red Oak E-Commerce	Mecklenburg	Clarksville	Software and consulting for insurance industry	40	Closed	2008
d-Scan	Halifax	South Boston	Furniture manufacturing	87	Layoffs	2006
O'Sullivan Industries	Halifax	South Boston	Ready-to-assemble furniture	196	Closed	2006
BGF	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Fiberglass fabric	13	Layoffs	2005
APT Footwear	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Polyurethane boots	14	Closed	2005
Sherwood Foods	Mecklenburg	Chase City	Cookies and candles	30	Layoffs	2005
DRS Imaging Services	Mecklenburg	Clarksville	Data, document scanning	20	Layoffs	2005
M&B Metals	Mecklenburg	South Hill	Coat hangers	67	Closed	2005
				2,332		

Source: Various area newspapers and economic development offices

Employment



Figure 31: Industrial Opening and Expansions Announced 2005 - Present

Firm	County	Product	Jobs	Status	Invested (Millions)	Year
Dominion Power	Brunswick	Natural gas-fired power plan	30	New Industry	\$1,001	2015?
Home Care Delivered	Mecklenburg	Medical supply delivery	20	Expansion		2013
Fluor	Brunswick	Construction of Dominion's Power Plant	600	New Industry		2013
Aquatic (was LASCO)	Halifax	Manufactures fiberglass & acrylic tubs	120	Expansion		2012
Faneuil	Halifax	Call Center	150	New industry	\$0.5	2012
National Tire Research Center	Halifax	Tire research	33	Expansion		2012
American Wood Finishing Institute	Halifax	Coatings and Application Research	15	New industry	\$1	2011
South Boston Energy, LLC	Halifax	Wood-fired power generating plant		New industry		2011
ABB	Halifax	Liquid-filled power transformers	11	Expansion		2011
Presto Productst Co.	Halifax	Plastic film and bags	22	Expansion	\$6	2011
Dollar General Distribution	Halifax	Distribution Center	50	Expansion		2011
Microsoft Corporation	Mecklenburg	Datacenter (Expansion)	10	Expansion	\$150	2011
Kurz-Kasch	Halifax	Coils, electrical products, magnetics	40	Expansion		2011
National Tire Research Center	Halifax	Tire research	30	New industry		2010
Microsoft Corporation	Mecklenburg	Datacenter	50	New industry		2010
NOVI Energy	Halifax	Alternative energy plant	40	New industry		2010
Home Care Industries	Mecklenburg	Floor care	100	New industry		2010
Mid-Atlantic Broadband Coop.	Halifax	Fiber network	25	Expansion	\$16	2010
Regitex (purchase of Brodnax Mills)	Mecklenburg	Yarn	45	Saved jobs		2009
Regitex (plant expansion)	Mecklenburg	Yarn	15	Expansion		2009
LASCO Bathware	Halifax	Manufactures fiberglass & acrylic tubs	50	Expansion	\$1.7	2009
Gloster Furniture	Halifax	High-end furniture	30	Expansion		2008
Presto Products Company	Halifax	Manufactures plastic bags and wraps	12	Expansion	\$2.6	2008
TMI Auto Tech, Inc.	Halifax	Manufactures high-end sports cars	16	New industry	\$1.54	2008
EDS (now Hewlett-Packard)	Mecklenburg	Datacenter	80	New industry	\$130	2008
Filtration Specialties, Inc.	Mecklenburg	Fiberglass felt	10	New industry	\$1.5	2007
Galaxy Plastics, Inc.	Mecklenburg	Decorative plastic and acrylic sheets	15	New industry	\$0.5	2006
ABB, Inc.	Halifax	Liquid-filled power transformers	127	Expansion	\$28.3	2006
American Industrial Heat Transfer	Mecklenburg	Manufactures heat transfer products	85	New industry	\$11	2006
Stage Stores (Peebles)	Mecklenburg	Expansion and upgrade to distribution center	107	Expansion	\$6.5	2005
Pacific Headwear	Halifax	Embroidery of custom-designed team/corp. headgear	25	New industry	\$1.2	2005
Adi Motorsports	Halifax	Fabrication, detail, & body repair of race cars; race team	32	New industry		2005
Huber Engineered Woods	Halifax	Oriented strandboard (OSB)	0	Expansion	\$19	2005
Narricot Industries	Mecklenburg	Airbag production	108	Expansion	\$16.7	2005
Home Care Delivered	Mecklenburg	Direct-to-consumer medical supplies	147	New industry	\$1.1	2005
Lindstrand USA, Inc.	Halifax	Inflatable structures (flood barriers, bridges, hangars)	50	New industry	\$2.5	2005

Source: Various area newspapers and economic development offices

In 2002 the District average annual unemployment rate peaked at 9.5%, then started falling. By 2006 the rates had improved significantly when the annual average unemployment rate for the District was 5.4%, while the state unemployment was 3.0%. After this brief rally, the 2007-10 recession pushed the numbers of the unemployed up to near levels experienced during the early part of the decade. In February of 2010, the Planning District's unemployment rate was 13.1%. The most recent unemployment rate is 7.3%, from December 2014. This was the highest rate of any Planning District in the state of Virginia.

Labor Market Characteristics

Labor Market Assessment

The Wadley-Donovan Group, Inc. was contracted to perform a Labor Market Assessment of the District. To provide an objective evaluation of the current labor supply within the region, the group surveyed employers with 10 or more employees, surveyed a random stratified sample of residents aged 18 to 74, and interviewed representative employers.

Current Labor Force Assets

A number of assets were identified that make the Planning District an attractive industrial location, particularly for facilities employing at least 100 employees and administrative office support operations of less than 150 employees, such as call centers:

1. Hidden labor supply with diversified skills
2. Residents that are not currently employed but wish to be. May be prevented from working due to: family responsibilities, disabilities, or unavailability of suitable job.
3. Residents currently employed but would like to increase skill levels through additional training.
4. Graduating & currently enrolled high school students.
5. A Quality Workforce—satisfactory basic skills, good work ethic and productivity level.
6. Good availability of select clerical, manufacturing and distribution skills.
7. Proximity to a good transportation network.
8. Low to moderate wages and earnings for entry-level and experienced workers.
9. Strong customized and general training programs offered through the region's post-secondary institutions.
10. Virginia is a pro-business state.

Labor Force Challenges

Likewise, the Planning District has challenges that must be overcome in order to ensure an abundant, skilled and ultimately hireable workforce:

1. The median age is higher than that of the nation, which may indicate the region is losing its younger residents and can be a deterrent to industrial locations.
2. Current Employment Statistics (3rd Quarter 2006) average quarterly employment indicate the region is underrepresented in "Service—Providing Domain" sectors, Financial Activities, and Professional/Business Services; but somewhat over-represented in the lower wage, "Goods Producing Domain" which includes Manufacturing, Construction and Mining sectors..
3. The education levels of the Planning District are below state and national figures. Spreadsheet and database software skills are weak. And residents and employers see a need for additional or expanded training programs, specifically in computer science, finance, insurance and real estate services, medical services and education-related occupations. So while there are good training programs available there is still need for improvement.

Labor Market Characteristics

- Almost one-quarter of non-employed residents who are interested in working are limited in their ability to work because of a physical disability. Alternative work arrangements such as job sharing, flexible hiring practices, special training programs for the disabled, special transportation programs or telecommuting may allow some of these individuals to participate in the workforce.

Labor Force Skills Availability

The Wadley Donovan Group survey of employers found the availability of various skills to be mixed. Among those occupations that can be recruited satisfactorily and with minimal difficulty are a number of distribution, manufacturing, and office support occupations. Specific office occupations include entry-level clerical workers, entry-level and experienced general clerks, customer service representatives, entry-level and experienced payroll clerks, accounting clerks, computer/office technical support specialists, and administrative assistants. The manufacturing and distribution occupations include order packers and fillers, material handling laborers, warehousemen, general laborers, unskilled workers, and machine operators without setup skills, truck drivers, and manufacturing technicians.

Those occupations that are somewhat difficult or difficult to find are largely professional, technical, and skilled manufacturing-related occupations. These include, among others, experienced machinists, machine operators with setup, computer programmers, CAD drafters, technicians, experienced information systems professionals, experienced maintenance workers, experienced management and entry-level and experienced engineers.



Occupation	Employed	Percent of Total
Architecture and Engineering	230	0.81%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	210	0.74%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,210	4.27%
Business and Financial Operations	660	2.33%
Community and Social Services	530	1.87%
Computer and Mathematical	370	1.30%
Construction and Extraction	880	3.10%
Education, Training, and Library	2,500	8.82%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	230	0.81%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	2,930	10.33%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,890	6.66%
Healthcare Support	840	2.96%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,220	4.30%
Legal	60	0.21%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	50	0.18%
Management	890	3.14%
Office and Administrative Support	4,250	14.99%
Personal Care and Service	850	3.00%
Production	2,340	8.25%
Protective Service	680	2.40%
Sales and Related	2,300	8.11%
Transportation and Material Moving	3,240	11.42%
	28360	100.0%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics - Obtained Through Virginia Employment Commission, March 26, 2015



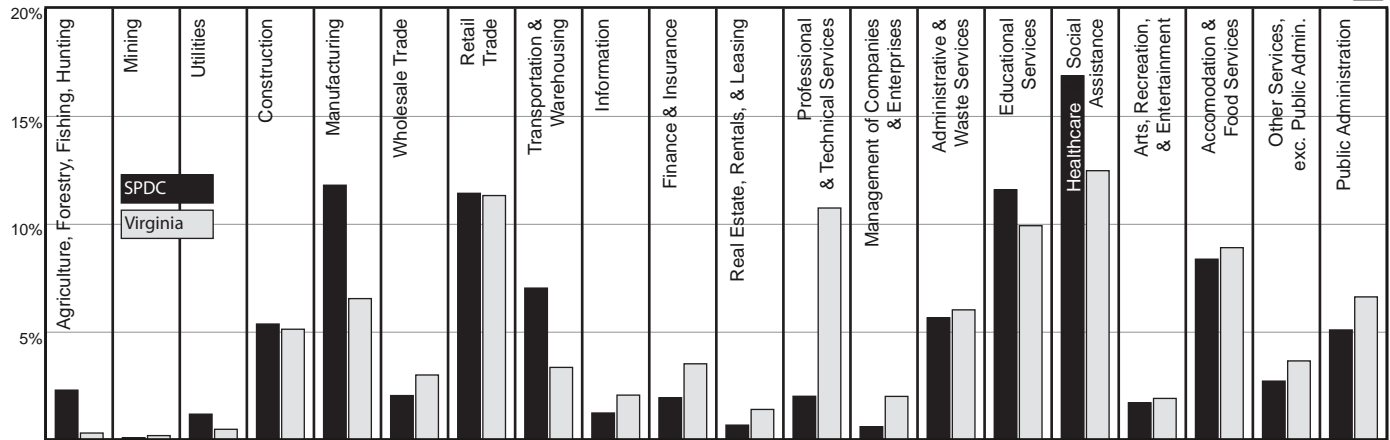
1. Halifax County School Board	26. Annin and Company
2. Mecklenburg County School Board	27. Lasco Bathware
3. Community Memorial Healthcenter	28. Postal Service
4. Halifax Regional Hospital	29. Lake Country Area Agency on Aging
5. Dolgencorp LLC (Dollar General Distrib.)	30. County of Mecklenburg
6. Wal Mart	31. Meadowview Terrace
7. ABB Service Company Division	32. Meherrin River Regional Jail
8. Brunswick County School Board	33. Eastern Region Field Unit
9. Presto Products Company	34. Climate Control
10. Food Lion	35. Faneuil Inc
11. Geo Corrections & Detention Inc	36. Chase City Nursing And Rehab Center
12. Global Safety Textiles LLC	37. Bojangles
13. Southside Virginia Community College	38. Huber Engineered Woods LI
14. Jones Distribution Corp	39. County of Brunswick
15. Hardee's	40. Berry Hill Nursing Home
16. Southside Community Services	41. Chase City Family Practice Ltd
17. Peebles	42. G A & F C Wagman Inc
18. VIR, Virginia International Raceway	43. American Buildings Company
19. Halifax County	44. Personal Homecare Inc
20. Sunshine Mills	45. Lowes' Home Centers, Inc.
21. Dominion Virginia Power	46. Electronic Data Systems Corp
22. Woodview Nursing Home	47. The Home Depot
23. Care Advantage	48. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
24. Monroe Tree Services Division	49. Parker Oil Company, Inc.
25. VDOT	50. Starr Electric Company Inc

Source: Va. Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW), 2nd Quarter (April, May, June) 2014 - VEC Profile of Southside PDC

Employment Sectors

An assessment of the labor market in the Planning District revealed disparity in the employment sectors. The VEC Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages indicates the region is underrepresented in most service-providing sectors with the exception of Education and Health Services which exceeded the state's relative share. The PDC also exceeded the state's share in the more traditionally represented areas of Agriculture, Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation/Warehousing. The state far exceeds the District when it comes to Professional & Technical Services. See Figure 34.

Figure 34: Second Quarter 2014 Employment by Industrial Sector, as a percentage of overall employment (SPDC vs Va.)



Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Downloaded 2/23/15

Labor Market Characteristics



Figure 35: Annual Employment by Industrial Sector, as a percentage of overall employment (SPDC vs Va.), Comparison of Years

Industry		Southside Planning District			Virginia		
		2001	2009	2013	2001	2009	2013
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	2.1%	1.9%	2.3%	0.4%	2.3%	0.3%
Goods Producing Domain	Mining	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
	Utilities	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	0.5%	1.2%	0.5%
	Construction	5.6%	5.4%	5.1%	6.7%	5.1%	5.1%
	Manufacturing	24.4%	12.6%	11.8%	10.1%	11.8%	6.6%
		31.4%	21.2%	18.2%	17.6%	18.2%	12.4%
Trade	Wholesale Trade	1.6%	1.9%	2.1%	3.4%	2.1%	3.1%
	Retail Trade	11.6%	11.1%	11.7%	12.0%	11.7%	11.5%
	Transportation & Warehousing	5.6%	7.0%	7.5%	3.9%	7.5%	3.4%
		18.8%	20.0%	21.3%	19.3%	21.3%	17.9%
Financial & Management Services	Information	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	3.6%	1.3%	2.1%
	Finance & Insurance	1.6%	1.9%	2.0%	3.6%	2.0%	3.6%
	Real Estate & Rentals & Leasing	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	0.7%	1.4%
	Professional & Technical Services	1.5%	1.9%	2.1%	8.6%	2.1%	11.0%
	Management of Companies & Enterprises	2.2%	1.2%	0.9%	2.1%	0.9%	2.1%
	Administrative & Waste Services	3.9%	4.8%	5.7%	6.0%	5.7%	5.9%
		11.5%	12.0%	12.7%	25.5%	12.7%	26.1%
Health & Education Services	Educational Services	9.6%	11.8%	11.2%	8.4%	11.2%	9.8%
	Health Care and Social Assistance	9.8%	15.1%	16.9%	9.7%	16.9%	12.5%
		19.5%	26.9%	28.1%	18.1%	28.1%	22.2%
Other Services	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.8%
	Accommodation and Food Services	7.0%	8.1%	8.0%	7.5%	8.0%	8.7%
	Other Services, Ex. Public Admin.	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	3.6%	2.7%	3.7%
	Public Administration	6.0%	7.3%	5.2%	6.1%	5.2%	6.8%
		16.7%	19.8%	17.5%	18.9%	17.5%	20.9%
Unclassified Establishments					0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Agriculture

Agriculture Industry

Agriculture still remains a major industry in the Southside economy. Although changes in farming technology and nonagricultural employment opportunities have altered the area's agricultural industry, it continues to be a most influential element in the District's economy. Moderate climate conditions and fertile soils make the Southside an excellent location for agricultural purposes, and farmland accounts for approximately 57 percent of the land space found within the District. It has also been projected that while other areas of the state continue to develop into urban and metropolitan centers, the Southside Planning District will probably remain one of the few predominantly agricultural regions in Virginia.

In spite of the 2004 Tobacco Buyout Bill, which eliminated tobacco market quotas and price supports, tobacco remains the main cash crop for the area, followed by soybeans and other grains. Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg Counties are all major tobacco producing counties, making the Southside Planning District the leading tobacco producing area in Virginia. As a result many of the region's small operators shifted away from tobacco in favor of other crops. Most tobacco is now grown on contractual basis by fewer large farming operations. After an initial reduction, the acres grown in Southside has increased steadily. Production was not anticipated to reach pre-buyout levels, however. A 2006 article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch noted the second year of increased in tobacco production after a decade of decline. The increase was attributed to "an improved competitive position for U.S. tobacco in world markets, as well as a smaller number of farmers growing more leaf" since the subsidies were eliminated. The table below shows the changes in tobacco production since the buyout by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Figure 36: Tobacco Acres Harvested 1999-2012



	Post-Buyout Years								Tobacco Price Support In Effect					
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Brunswick County	2,078	2,070	2,050	2,210	2,170	1,860	1,745	1,299	1,596	1,550	1,632	1,568	1,415	2,116
Halifax County	2,410	2,660	2,150	2,360	2,300	2,450	2,341	1,968	5,150	4,385	4,773	4,504	3,997	5,876
Mecklenburg County	3,950	3,670	3,020	3,160	3,120	3,120	2,800	2,170	3,078	2,731	2,995	2,866	2,265	3,339
SPDC	8,438	8,400	7,220	7,730	7,590	7,430	6,886	5,437	9,824	8,666	9,400	8,938	7,677	11,331
Virginia	23,080	21,900	19,750	20,150	19,500	20,600	19,650	17,140	29,680	25,110	30,000	29,500	25,900	38,300
SPDC as % of VA	36.6	38.4	36.6	38.4	38.9	36.1	35.0	31.7	33.1	34.5	31.3	30.3	29.6	29.6

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, Quick Stats

The selected characteristics in the following table (Figure 37), illustrate changing farm conditions from 1997 to 2002 to 2007. In Halifax and Mecklenburg Counties, the number of farms and the overall amount of land that is farmed has been decreasing steadily for many years. Brunswick County has actually seen an increase in number of farms.

The overall value of farmland increased during these three years of the Agricultural Census, although one should keep in mind that this was before the real estate downturn at the end of 2007. Average sales per farm have generally fallen over the 10 year period, and the number of farmers that have primary occupations that are not farming has risen.

Agriculture



Figure 37: Farm Summary Highlights by County - From USDA Census of Agriculture

		Farms				Irrigation		Farm Value		Sales	Farms With Farming as Principle Occupation			
		# Farms	Land in Farms (Acres)	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Proportion of County that is farm land	# Farms that irrigate	Acres Irrigated	Value of Land & Buildings Per Farm	Per Acre	Avg. Total Sales per Farm	Yes		No	
Brunswick County	1997	294	79,163	269	21.85%	43	1,612	\$330,987	1,136	\$61,439	148	50.3%	146	49.7%
	2002	333	79,045	237	21.82%	58	1,474	\$337,537	1,371	\$37,935	175	52.6%	158	47.4%
	2007	367	86,700	236	23.93%	27	1,316	\$589,501	2,495	\$33,023	132	36.0%	235	64.0%
	2012	312	89,796	288	24.78%	22	1,281	\$601,074	2,088	\$25,693	139	44.6%		55.4%
Halifax County	1997	940	227,816	242	43.46%	178	3,990	\$253,465	1,015	\$42,743	505	53.7%	435	46.3%
	2002	905	221,684	245	42.29%	126	2,617	\$384,446	1,588	\$30,635	533	58.9%	372	41.1%
	2007	908	193,683	213	36.95%	59	1,549	\$590,848	2,770	\$32,227	410	45.2%	498	54.8%
	2012	935	211,593	226	40.43%	85	2,152	\$520,118	2,298	\$36,526	411	44.0%		56.0%
Mecklenburg County	1997	604	166,821	276	41.77%	132	4,637	\$300,448	1,197	\$69,450	312	51.7%	292	48.3%
	2002	581	168,150	289	32.08%	123	4,158	\$539,182	1,582	\$45,850	362	62.3%	219	37.7%
	2007	580	157,317	271	30.01%	81	3,235	\$858,108	3,164	\$32,264	280	48.3%	300	51.7%
	2012	527	145,493	276	36.34%	67	2,760	\$710,929	2,575	\$42,895	236	44.8%	291	55.2%
Southside Planning District	1997	1838	473,800	258	36.84%	353	10,239	\$884,900			965	52.5%	873	47.5%
	2002	1819	468,879	258	36.46%	307	8,249	\$1,261,165			1,070	58.8%	749	41.2%
	2007	1855	437,700	236	34.03%	167	6,100	\$2,038,457			822	44.3%	1,033	55.7%
	2012	1774	446,882	252	34.75%	174	6,193	\$1,832,121			786	44.3%	988	55.7%

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, Table 1: County Summary Highlights - 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012

Forestry

Forestry Industry

The forest industry contributes significantly to the region's economy. Growth in value added forest products continues to occur enhancing overall competitiveness. Processing timber into usable products involves harvesting, transportation, and primary and secondary manufacturing. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, every \$1 received by landowners generates \$35.40 total value added into Virginia's economy. The forest resource of the Commonwealth contributes annually \$30.5 billion to Virginia's economy and more than 248,000 wage earners. In 1999, harvested timber had a market value of \$863 million when transported to the first point of delivery. Timber ranked first when compared to market values of Virginia agricultural crops.

The forests of Virginia provide a prosperous and high quality of life to the residents. Not only are they needed to maintain our thriving wood products industries, forests also attract tourists, provide recreational opportunities, protect air and water quality, and provide homes for people and wildlife.

A forest is a crop with an extremely long rotation and consequently a long return on investment. The pressure to sell for development is fierce. The private landowner needs encouragement to continue their vital contribution to the state's economy. Tax credits and land use taxation are helpful in this regard. Cost-Share incentives are very important to encourage landowner to continue tree farming—replanting and managing the woodlands.

Figure 38: Forestry Industry Employment, Southside PDC

	NAICS Number	Average Employment 2nd Quarter, 2010	Average Employment 2nd Quarter, 2014
Forestry and Logging	113	308	383
Wood Product Manufacturing	321	553	407
Lumber & Other Construction Materials Merchant Wholesalers	4233	9	15

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2nd Quarter 2012 (April, May, June) and 2nd Quarter 2014 (April, May, June)

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and Recreation as Economic Development

A number of national and regional studies have recommended using recreation and tourism as a major strategy for economic development in rural areas. Specifically, the former Virginia Council on the Environment, in cooperation with five other state agencies, prepared a study to assess the recreational potential of Southside Virginia. Some key findings, also applicable to other rural areas in Virginia, are as follows:

- Rural environments should be viewed as assets.
- Development and promotion of recreation resources should be an important element in an economic development plan.
- The Commonwealth should commit funds to improving state-owned resources.
- The Commonwealth should provide leadership for tourism promotional campaigns.
- Localities and the private sector should participate fully in resource and campaign development.
- Private sector infrastructure development is necessary for an effective economic development plan.

Outdoor recreation also offers much in the way of supplemental income and small-business opportunities to entrepreneurial residents of rural communities. These opportunities include: land-leasing for hunting, hunting preserves and hunt clubs, fee-fishing, fish farming, canoe liveries, raft and tube rentals, hunting and fishing outfitters and guide services, campgrounds, lodge rentals, sporting supply stores, bait shops, gun shops, sporting clay ranges, shooting ranges, archery ranges, concessions at popular lakes and other recreational areas, marinas and boat ramps, marine product supply, wildlife-watching, horse industry events, vineyards, pick-your-own farms, farmers markets, bed-and-breakfasts, and handicrafts such as custom fishing flies and hand-carved duck decoys. Economic development and tourism officials in rural Virginia are increasingly aware of the economic potential associated with promoting outdoor recreational opportunities and related services.

Financial Impact

Tourism clearly pays its way. With little drain on local services, the travel industry pumped \$188,822,514 into the District in 2011. Additionally figures from the Virginia Tourism Corporation indicate the District's share of the travel industry is increasing. Traveler spending in the district increased 35% from 2003 to 2011; with Halifax County's rate outpacing the state's rate during the same time.

In 2011, Mecklenburg County was ranked 36th in the state by expenditure levels.

Tourism and Recreation

Figure 39: Southside Planning District Travel Impacts 2003-2013



	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	State Tax Receipts	Local Tax Receipts	Lodging Excise Tax	Food Service Excise Tax
2003	\$139,817,305	\$35,367,587	2,343	\$6,939,813	\$3,870,049	\$227,549	\$883,377
2004	150,009,471	36,338,523	2,343	7,431,132	4,140,855	156,495	586,551
2005	160,925,422	36,547,450	2,334	7,676,324	4,335,437	379,573	1,551,059
2006	167,843,157	36,858,249	2,294	7,811,677	4,472,696	468,483	1,695,793
2007	177,000,852	37,120,200	2,302	8,067,894	4,702,757	515,294	1,765,557
2008	176,356,349	36,831,101	2,235	7,858,748	4,736,017	480,260	1,873,910
2009	165,817,066	36,675,377	2,206	7,875,012	4,492,191	568,383	2,114,819
2010	175,853,354	37,093,295	2,155	8,091,122	4,642,064	579,977	2,121,209
2011	188,822,514	37,739,714	2,174	8,292,351	4,756,467	589,985	2,237,219
2012	194,550,604	38,648,498	2,188	8,492,587	4,843,951	709,495	2,623,397
2013	200,001,320	40,622,504	2,248	8,697,450	5,065,969	693,492	2,919,508

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Locality Economic Impact Data

Figure 40: Travel Impacts by County 2012 & 2013



	Expenditures	Payroll	Employment	State Tax Receipts	Local Tax Receipts	Lodging Excise Tax Collected	Food Services Excise Tax Collected
2012							
Brunswick County	\$36,530,983	\$7,402,894	422	\$1,652,810	\$782,662	\$19,185	\$0
Halifax County	\$42,353,096	\$8,851,159	516	\$1,587,235	\$768,478	\$326,472	\$1,165,593
Mecklenburg Co.	\$115,666,525	\$22,394,445	1,250	\$5,252,542	\$3,292,811	\$363,838	\$1,457,804
Southside PDC	\$194,550,604	\$38,648,498	2,188	\$8,492,587	\$4,843,950	\$709,495	\$2,623,397
2013							
Brunswick County	\$36,388,445	\$7,509,863	420	\$1,638,757	\$790,965	\$16,965	\$0
Halifax County	\$43,020,865	\$9,205,856	525	\$1,608,292	\$791,965	\$345,260	\$1,398,043
Mecklenburg Co.	\$120,592,010	\$23,906,785	1,303	\$5,450,401	\$3,483,039	\$331,267	\$1,521,465
Southside PDC	\$200,001,320	\$40,622,504	2,248	\$8,697,450	\$5,065,969	\$693,492	\$2,919,508

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Locality Economic Impact Data

Figure 41: Expenditures by County 2003-2013



	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	%
Brunswick	\$36,388,445	\$36,530,983	\$35,666,895	\$34,061,597	\$33,526,388	\$37,968,038	\$36,857,606	\$34,970,844	\$33,447,017	\$31,929,652	\$29,856,924	19.5%
Halifax	43,020,865	42,353,096	\$41,118,305	\$38,125,365	\$34,592,410	\$34,112,766	\$35,397,873	\$34,483,979	\$32,700,020	\$29,980,257	\$27,239,343	51.0%
Mecklenburg	120,592,010	115,666,525	\$112,037,314	\$103,666,392	\$97,698,268	\$104,275,545	\$104,745,373	\$98,388,335	\$94,778,385	\$88,099,561	\$82,721,038	35.4%
SPDC	200,001,320	194,550,604	\$188,822,514	\$175,853,354	\$165,817,066	\$176,356,349	\$177,000,852	\$167,843,158	\$160,925,422	\$150,009,471	\$139,817,305	35.0%
Virginia	21,511,976,919	21,214,032,087	20,405,440,787	18,893,241,576	\$17,705,100,000	19,220,441,022	18,691,444,384	17,664,097,921	16,479,678,399	15,035,271,720	13,890,037,000	46.9%

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Locality Economic Impact Data

Figure 42: Bracey, Virginia Welcome Center Statistics

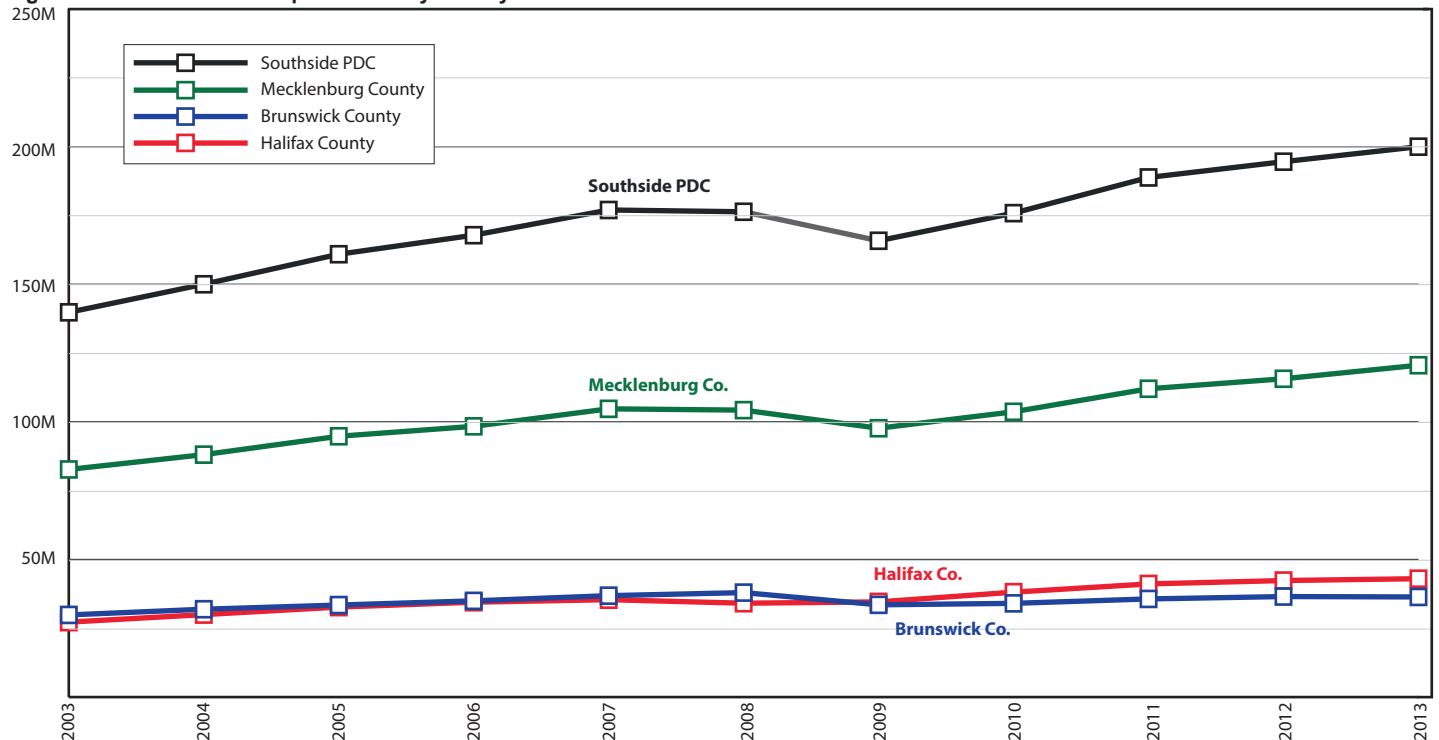


	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Electronic door count	137,691	135,941	153,040	166,347	213,461	202,467	278,985
Reservations made	49	53	60	144	162	179	169
Number of nights booked	51	68	68	178	161	204	217
Number of Buses	16	44	0	0	2	11	1
Closed Due to Weather	1	0					
Closed Due to Maintenance	19	0					

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, Welcome Center Report

Tourism and Recreation

Figure 43: Travel Related Expenditures by County & Southside PDC 2003-2013



Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Locality Economic Impact Data

Outdoor Recreation

A 2008 report by the American Sportfishing Association revealed that there are over 40 million anglers (more than golfers and tennis players combined). In Virginia, there were 858,000 anglers in 2006, fishing for the equivalent of 9,629,000 days. Nationwide, anglers generate \$45 billion in retail sales and support over 1 million jobs. Total economic output is over \$124 billion. In Virginia, freshwater fishing accounts for over \$500 million in retail sales and over \$809 million total economic output. Buggs Island Lake and Gaston Lake with more than 1,100 miles of shoreline and 70,000 acres of surface water, as well as numerous rivers and smaller lakes offer similar opportunities to Southside Planning District localities.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan indicates that the average day-use visitor at a Virginia State Park spends approximately \$16.00. Day-use visitors make up 91% of total visitation. Based on these figures for 1997, the three State Parks within the Planning District—Staunton River, Occoneechee, and Staunton River Battlefield—generated approximately \$6.8 million in spending in the area. Furthermore it was estimated that over-night park visitors spent an average of \$51-75 in the park and in the surrounding community in addition to the \$51-75 spent in preparation for the trip. While the Lakes are the primary tourist destination, travelers on U.S. 58 and Interstate 85 are also responsible for much of the travel dollars spent in the area. Lodging establishments, service stations and restaurants are generally clustered around the major population centers and usually in proximity to major transportation corridors.

The localities and regional organizations have identified need to diversify employment sectors and have targeted tourism as one area suitable for further development in the Planning District. The 2002 Virginia Outdoors Survey shows the top two outdoor activities in the state were walking and driving for pleasure. Also in the top ten were visiting historic sites, bicycling and several water related activities—fishing, swimming, boating. While the District enjoys considerable visitation due to the Lakes, there is much potential to develop other resources and capitalize on the other popular activities.

Driving for Pleasure

Tourism as an industry is greatly enhanced if a good transportation network is in place. Maps of roads linking travel destinations and recreational opportunities are very important tools for tourism. The Virginia Department of Transportation has produced the “Scenic Roads in Virginia” map which shows about 2,300 miles of roads scouted by the Department that met their standards of high aesthetic or cultural value and lead to, or are within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance. Many attractions such as recreation areas or historical sites are also designated. The Planning District has approximately 115 miles of roadway so designated on this map.

Additionally the Planning District identified routes of interest for either their scenic value or as a connection to visitor sites. A map of these routes has been created that could be further developed into a printed publication to be used as a visitor marketing tool as funds become available. It identifies destinations and attractions that might otherwise be overlooked, and suggests a pleasant, scenic route connecting them.

Halifax County and the Town of South Boston have developed tour booklets for driving tours of the Clover-Providence area and River Road east of South Boston, the Mountain Road walking tour in the town of Halifax, and a walking tour of downtown South Boston. These tours highlight the region's historic sites and interesting architecture. Interactive web tours are underdevelopment for these areas. Boydton is developing a walking tour as a part of its downtown revitalization. The Regional tour routes link these existing smaller tours and other interesting sites.

Historic Sites

Parts of Brunswick, Mecklenburg and Halifax are included in the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail (“Through Southside, on a 489-mile trail, events of national significance are integrally intertwined with the efforts of ordinary citizens struggling to provide themselves and their children with an education as a passport; in the end, to a better life.”) and Wilson-Kautz Raid Route, which is a part of the Lee’s Retreat Tour. With the fall of Petersburg, Virginia, General Robert E. Lee retreated across Southside Virginia to Appomattox Court House where he surrendered. Lee’s Retreat Trail consists of a 20-stop driving tour, through six counties connecting Petersburg to Appomattox.

Developed historic sites within the counties include Prestwoud Plantation, Fort Christanna, MacCallum More Gardens & Museum, and museums in Brunswick, Halifax and Mecklenburg. Developing sites include the Prizery in South Boston, and Boyd Tavern in Boydton. Additionally all the Districts towns have historic structures and interesting histories and have potential to attract visitors. There are other architecturally and historically important structures in the area that are privately owned and are utilized for business—Berry Hill Conference Center and Falkland Farms Hunting Lodge.

Nature Tours

A number of sites in the Planning District are included on the Piedmont Trail of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, which is a driving trail that provides opportunities to see a wide variety of wildlife. Nature tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry, and bird watching is the fastest-growing recreational activity in the United States, even more than golf. More than 2,211,000 individuals are spending nearly \$700 million annually on wildlife-watching recreation in Virginia, with the majority actively pursuing or casually observing birds during their experiences (1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation).

Some of the Southside Planning District “Birding Trail” sites include: Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area, Staunton River, Occoneechee, and Staunton River Battlefield State Parks, Great Creek Reser-

voir, and MacCallum More Gardens. Adequate accommodations and similar services need to be identified and developed to support patrons of this type of activity.

Bicycling

Another recreational genre with great potential for this region is bicycling. Clubs and tours spend weekends (and money) in areas that have identified safe and appealing routes with support facilities: eating establishments, motels, inns, and campgrounds. The nationally designated US Bike Route 1 travels through the center of Mecklenburg County, along Routes 4, 674, 669, and 634. Greenways and Rail Trail projects in adjacent counties offer the opportunity of connecting trails regionally and eventually statewide. Bike plans have been for the counties in the Southside region. As a result of these planning efforts, it has become apparent that off-road trails with on-road bike routes are an amenity desired in these counties for safety and recreation. A comprehensive system of on and off-road trails is needed to further develop the Planning District as a destination for club bicyclists and trail riders and hikers. With the continued development of the Tobacco Heritage Trail, towns, businesses located on and off the Trail system, as well as, entrepreneurs should be cognizant of the needs of bicyclists that will be drawn to the region. Businesses catering to bicycles and their maintenance and repair are non-existent in the planning district.

Equestrian Trails

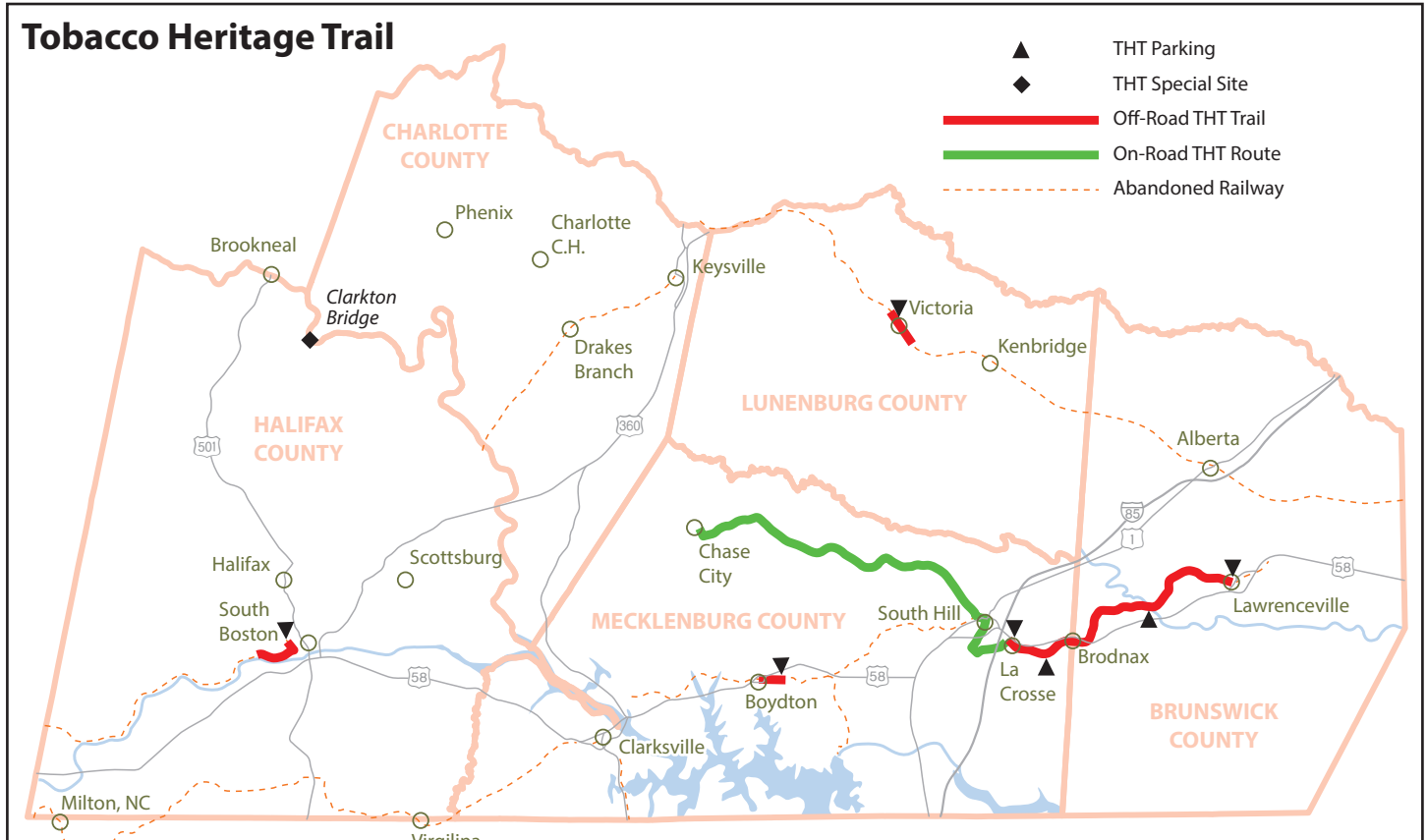
Trail riding is an increasingly popular sport among Virginia horseback riders. Increased interest in trail riding and decreased availability of private, informal trails lost to construction cause land managers, saddle club members, and other trail user groups to establish close liaisons to develop new trails and to maintain existing trails. The Staunton River Trail in Halifax County is an equestrian trail under development in Halifax County. The trail will connect Staunton River Battlefield State Park and Staunton River State Park. There are equestrian trails within the Staunton River and Oconeechee State Park as well as overnight facilities for horses.

Off-Road, Multi-Use Recreational Trails

Roanoke River Rails to Trails, Inc. (RRRT) is a consortium of Southside Virginia localities organized to facilitate acquisition and development of the abandoned railroad rights-of-way in the area in order to create a major long distance off-road recreational trails network. The group has formed a non-profit corporation with representation from the Planning District counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg, Brunswick and the towns of South Boston, Halifax, Clarksville, Boynton, South Hill, La Crosse, Brodnax, Alberta, and Lawrenceville. Representation is not exclusive to the Southside Planning District and also includes Charlotte County and the towns of Drakes Branch and Victoria. This system of long distance recreational trails to serve all citizens in Southside Virginia is envisioned as an economic development and quality-of-life tool—valuable to bring in tourism dollars and valuable to residents for health and recreational benefits.

The *Tobacco Heritage Trail* is the system of long distance recreational, multi-use, non-motorized trails, resulting from the efforts of the RRRT. More than 150 miles of abandoned railroad corridor have been identified within the Southside Planning District counties of Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg. Some connections via utility easements and other off-road easements, such as the flowage easement of the John H. Kerr Reservoir along the Dan and Staunton Rivers, will be needed. It is anticipated that where on-road is the only practical method for connectivity, county roads will be utilized and identified with unified trail signage. The fully developed Tobacco Heritage Trail is anticipated to extend into other Southside counties including Charlotte, Lunenburg, Greensville and Pittsylvania, and connect with other communities' greenways and trails. The Virginia Beach Pipeline, much of which is located on the abandoned Virginian Railroad, offers the potential for a connection all the way to the Hampton Roads

Figure 44: Tobacco Heritage Trail Overview Map



Source: Southside Planning District Commission, 2012

area. Thus the Tobacco Heritage Trail will be a major component of a statewide trail vision known as the “Beaches to Bluegrass” Trail.

Tobacco Heritage Trail Economic Benefit

The Tobacco Heritage Trail is anticipated to be a regionally beneficial project as an excellent source for recreation, tool for economic revitalization, and potential commuter travel alternative. A study by Chmura Economics and Analytics (CEA) in 2006 estimated that once completed the Trail could generate 197,000 annual visits, create 61 new jobs, and projected an annual economic impact of \$4.6 million. Most--\$3.4 million--would be from direct spending at area restaurants, gas stations, and lodging establishments.

Diversification

In the (2001) “Strategic Action Plan for Western Mecklenburg County, Virginia,” prepared by Triad Associates of Dresher, Pennsylvania, it was pointed out that the area must diversify and further develop its tourism industry. In particular, the Clarksville area must develop as a tourist attraction to serve as a focal point for the whole region of Southside. Clarksville, located on the banks of Buggs Island Lake/ Kerr Reservoir, an Army Corps of Engineer flood control project, is the only lakeside town in the Commonwealth. The town is located on U.S. 58 at its intersection with U.S. 15 making it in excellent proximity to the traveling public. Development in the Clarksville area would also benefit a wider audience as nearby towns, South Boston, Chase City, Boydton would likely benefit from additional traffic/visitors.

Clarksville is implementing a comprehensive plan of downtown/lakeside development, promotional activities and business support in order to increase the economic viability of the town and its surround-

ings. As a part of this plan several projects have been identified as needed to address these diversification issues:

1. Water access and pedestrian access to the downtown is needed.
2. The Cove, a lakeside overlook and marina facilities would provide water access to travelers, a parking area for pedestrians to visit downtown, and opportunities to draw lake users to the downtown. The Park at the Cove will include a pavilion, restrooms, parking, and lighting. The existing Chamber of Commerce facility will be on site to serve as a visitor center and to provide information to the public. The Park will provide a staging area for civic, educational, and cultural activities that attract many visitors to the area.
3. The Harbor is an extension of the next cove north and west of the Park. The Harbor will be designed for day-use temporary docking with no overnight docking, slip rentals, or boat launching anticipated and will provide docks for up to 100 small to medium-sized boats. The existing marina does not have pedestrian access to downtown. This facility will be designed to meet the needs of disabled visitors, further enhancing the accessibility of the reservoir. A harbormaster facility will provide public restrooms and information. The harbor is located within one block of the downtown area, thus providing easy access to local amenities, including restaurants, shopping, and entertainment.
4. Emphasize historic sites/properties
5. In 2002, the Town received its designation to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register. Owners of registered properties may donate historic preservation easements (which can reduce real estate taxes), qualify for the state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, receive technical assistance from DHR staff for maintenance and rehabilitation projects, and purchase plaques that mark the property's significance.
6. Improve pedestrian and bicycle access between Occoneechee State Park and Clarksville downtown
7. Tourism promotion
8. Increased marketing efforts are needed throughout the Planning District as well as Buggs Island Lake.

Historic Berry Hill Plantation, built 1842, renovated 1999, and formerly managed by the Marriott Corporation as a luxury hotel and conference center until it was closed in 2003 due to ownership issues. Berry Hill needs to be reopened to provide a much needed hotel conference space in Halifax County. Facilities include 14 conference rooms, high-speed communications, data ports in rooms, banquet and restaurant facilities. Recreation amenities include fishing and tennis, bike trails, indoor pool and billiards. This site is a destination in itself.

The Lakes and State Parks

In 1997 more than 1.5 million people visited attractions within the Planning District. The lakes are undoubtedly the District's greatest visitor attraction. As visitation increases to these areas, interest in other sites—restaurants, lodging, museums—also increases. Recent publications touting area attractions have heightened interest and awareness of these local sites resulting in increased traffic. Buggs Island/John H. Kerr Reservoir is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, making the majority of the property surrounding the lake accessible to the public. Lake Gaston, privately owned by Virginia Power, has only four boat landings in the Planning District to provide public access from the Virginia side to the 20,000-acre lake. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries own three of the Lake Gaston boat landings. Tailrace, the landing below Kerr Dam is operated by the Corps of

Tourism and Recreation

Engineers. Mecklenburg and Brunswick Counties could benefit if more public access including swimming and fishing areas, were available. Lake Gaston has developed as a residential and second home area and the weekend homeowners greatly impact travel on State Routes 903 and 626 (in Brunswick), the main access roads that service Lake Gaston.

The following table shows that overall visitation to local state parks with camping facilities increased over the past five years. Attendance at the smaller day-use only Staunton River Battlefield State Park decreased for the same period by 0.7%, however that park increased visitors by 58% from 2009 to 2010. Visitation to the John H. Kerr Reservoir also declined since 2004, by 9.5%.

Figure 45: Visitation at State Parks and John H. Kerr Reservoir

Name	Location	Acreage	% Change 2004-2010	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Oconeechee State Park	Mecklenburg County	2,698	30.6%	202,471	202,925	196,337	195,476	194,981	195,891	154,614
Staunton River State Park	Halifax County	300	31.9%	192,766	197,131	181,620	169,011	162,253	182,462	146,124
Staunton River Battlefield State Park (Day Use Area)	Halifax County	1,597	-0.7%	30,039	18,974	20,306	24,985	28,510	23,237	30,262
John H. Kerr Reservoir	Regional	50,000 (Water) 50,000 (Surrounding land)	-9.5%	1,685,958	1,742,162	1,736,269	1,704,795	1,709,824	1,830,516	1,861,946

Source: Virginia State Parks

Potential Tourist Destinations

1. Virginia International Raceway (VIR Club)—In southwest Halifax County adjacent to the Dan River, the Virginia International Raceway is operated as a Motorsports County Club. The original 3.27 mile road-racing track opened in 1957 and closed in 1974. The Club is the site of special events such as: National, regional, and local Marquee club events and driving schools; Autocross/solo II participation for all licensed drivers; Professional seminars, training, and comprehensive driving education courses; Special vintage and modern car private and public exhibitions; Corporate “ride and drive” programs and retreats.
2. MacCallum More Gardens and Museum (Chase City)—The master plan for MacCallum More Gardens and Museum calls for further improvements to the Gardens and the Hudgins home, and marketing efforts for the site have been increased.
3. The Tobacco Heritage Trail—a long distance system of recreational off-road trails throughout Southside Virginia. The trail will be made up of segments in all three Southside PDC as well as adjacent counties. See the Tobacco Heritage Trail Master Plan for details of each segment: www.tobacco-heritagetrail.org
4. Southern Virginia Blueways Trail—a water trail along the scenic rivers in Halifax, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, as well as Lunenburg and Charlotte counties.
5. The Cove and Harbor Project (Clarksville)—Development of a Land-Lake link through the provision of boat docking, vehicle parking and other day use facilities.
6. The Prizery (South Boston)—Historic tobacco manufacturing facility to be utilized as a trailhead for the Tobacco Heritage Trail, museum, fine arts and welcome center.
7. Colonial Theater (South Hill)—Historic vaudeville, and later movie, theater to be utilized as an auditorium and meeting facility, as well as, welcome center.

Tourism and Recreation

8. Fort Christanna—early 18th century fort archaeological site as well as a site on the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail due to its use as an Indian school. Brunswick County has indicated the need for a visitor center to interpret Fort Christanna and other sites in the area and in 2009 purchased the former regional office for International Paper Company on Christanna Highway for this purpose.

Education

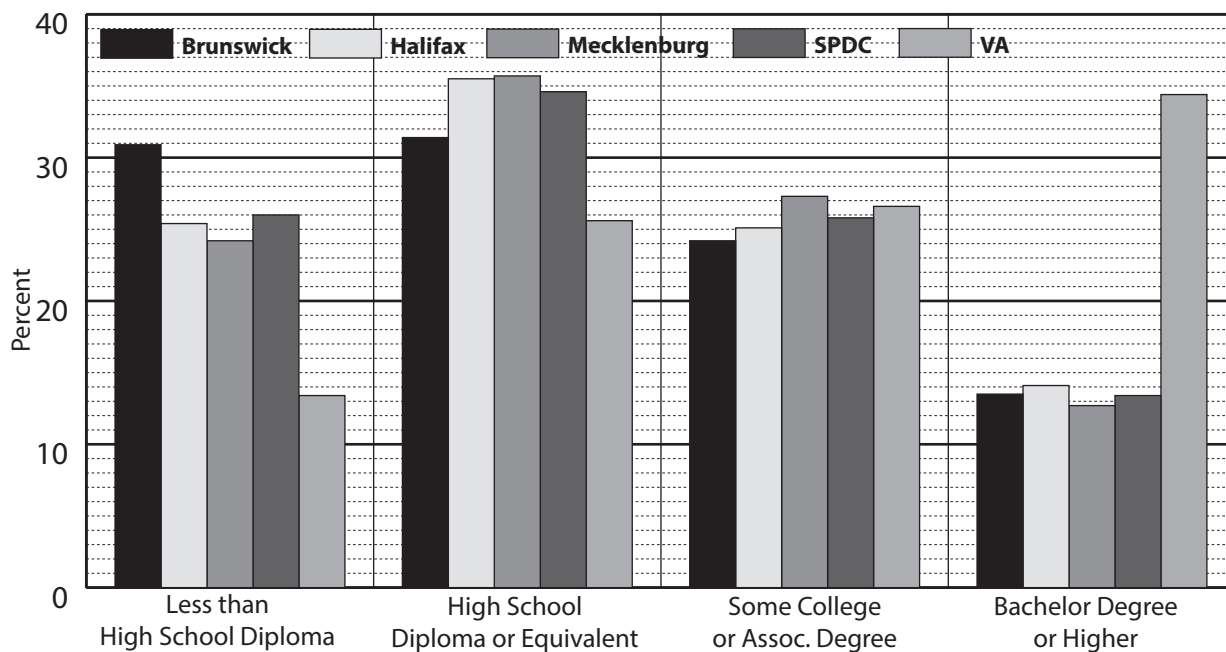
Educational Attainment

A vital indicator of an area's productivity and future potential is embedded in its educational institutions. Within the District's school system, the dropout rate of high school students remains slightly higher than the state's average. Alternative education programs are being offered in each county in an effort to curb the dropout rate.

The education levels of the region's residents are below state and national figures, spreadsheet and database software skills are weak, and residents and employers see a need for additional or expanded training programs, specifically in computer science, finance, insurance and real estate services, medical services, and education-related occupations. While the area's secondary and post-secondary schools have taken critical steps to address training needs and deficiencies, there is still room for improvement.

According to the American Community Survey (2005-2010) approximately 73.8% of the region's population had at least a high school diploma, up from 65.2% in 2000. Virginia's percentage is 86.6%. Approximately 34.4% of the population of Virginia have a Bachelor Degree or higher, compared with only 13.4% at the PDC level.

Figure 46: Educational Attainment, 2005-2010



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2005-2010)

Statewide Education Initiatives

The Commonwealth of Virginia initiated comprehensive reform in public education in 1995 when the Board of Education adopted rigorous, specific, grade-by-grade Standards of Learning (SOLs). The SOL program was undertaken to address the low achievement levels of many of Virginia's students in grades Kindergarten through 12. There are many students simply not prepared to compete successfully for the good, high-paying jobs in the international economy of the 21st century and fulfill their responsibilities as citizens of Virginia and the United States.

The Virginia Board of Education approved Standards of Learning (SOL) in several core content areas - mathematics, science, English, and history and the social sciences - plus computer technology. In October 1997, the Board of Education established new Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA) that link statewide accountability tests to the SOL and hold students, schools, and school divisions accountable for results. Virginia seeks to improve student achievement by raising academic standards and requiring accountability for progress. The reform has one primary, overriding goal: “to raise our students’ academic achievement levels so they can be productive, successful, and responsible citizens of our Commonwealth and nation.”

County Education Initiatives

Each County school system has developed programs to address the need to prepare their young people for life’s everyday challenges. The region’s school districts have varying programs related to Career and Technical Education, as well as, advanced education. High school students are exposed to a vast array of academics, fine arts, vocational and extracurricular opportunities. College prep, advanced placement and dual enrollment coursework is supplemented by the opportunity for academically talented students to receive associate degrees while attending high school through cooperative arrangements with the local community college and state universities.

Brunswick County Schools

The Brunswick County Public School System includes of three elementary schools (grades K-5), one middle school (grades 6-8), one high school (grades 9-12) and a Tech Center.

Brunswick County purchased and renovated the former Craddock-Terry shoe manufacturing center for use as a Vocational Education Center. The center, completed in 1996, is operated by the Brunswick County Schools in conjunction with Southside Virginia Community College and St. Paul’s College, and is used to provide advanced vocational education in a state-of-the-art environment. The facility will, on request from area industries, provide specialized courses.

Brunswick Academy, is an independent educational facility consisting of grades K-12, located near Lawrenceville that also serves the region. The academy is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education Committee on Accreditation as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

Halifax County Schools

The Halifax County Public School System consists of seven elementary schools (grades K-5), one middle school (grades 6-8), one high school (grades 9-12) and two early learning centers.

Halifax County Public Schools use small learning communities centered on students’ interests and aptitudes to create a career-based, yet rigorous, academic environment to prepare students for high-skilled, technology-driven, occupations. Students learn collaborative 21st century workforce skills necessary in an increasingly complex technological world. Career and technical offerings include Child-care, Health Occupations, Motorsports and Fire Fighting as well as several opportunities in computer technology through the “Academy Approach”:

- Governor’s Career & Technical Academy for Renewable Resources & Agricultural Sciences;
- STEM Academy—advanced educational opportunities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- Motorsports Academy—prepares students for jobs related to motorsports.;
- Law & Leadership Academy—focuses on political science, history, ethics, and philosophy;

Education

- Health & Human Services Academy—Medicine, education, child care, and counseling are included under this course focus;
- International Cultures & Arts Academy—Opportunities and internships are available in fashion design culinary arts, music, arts, dance, and theater;
- International Business Academy—To help prepare students for a career in a global economy.

Mecklenburg County Schools

The Mecklenburg County Public School System has four elementary schools: two middle schools, two high schools and an alternative education center. Mecklenburg County schools offer Career and Technical Education Courses in seven program areas:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Business & Information Technology
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Marketing Education
- Trade & Industrial Education (includes automotive servicing, building trades, computer systems technology, criminal justice and fire-fighting courses.)
- Design, Technology & Engineering—technical drawing and CAD
- Family & Consumer Sciences—parenting, early childhood education

The Mecklenburg County Business Education Partnership (VBEP) encourages cooperation among the education and the business. The coordinator for the Mecklenburg County Business Education Partnership is responsible for coordinating student placements with area businesses and industries. The VBEP programs provide for tutoring and/or mentoring, apprenticeship programs, student internships, distance learning, and vocational/technical education reform.

Higher Education

Local options to pursue higher education are available to residents of Southside Virginia through the Virginia Community College system that offers associate (2 year) degrees.

Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC), with two campuses plus six educational “centers,” is convenient to most District residents and offers vocational and technical training, as well as, associate degrees in a variety of programs. Established in 1970, SVCC is one of the 23 colleges in the Virginia Community College System. The Christanna Campus near Alberta and the John H. Daniel Campus near Keysville serve ten counties - the largest community college service region in the state. About 6,000 students, 63% females, are enrolled at SVCC. The average student age is 27. The majority of the students work and attend college part time. The college offers classes in the traditional classroom setting as well as online.

In addition to the two SVCC campuses, other local facilities that offer degree opportunities in a non-traditional campus setting include the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC), Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center (LCAKC), and the Estes Center. These schools coordinate a wide variety of classes from some of Virginia’s finest colleges and universities. Their programs make it possible to earn an associate’s, bachelor’s, or master’s degree (at SVHEC) in a variety of disciplines, or enroll in a community enrichment and special interest courses on a non-credit basis. Programs include Literacy, English as a Second Language, Microsoft Certification, Medical Lab Technology, LPN, CAN, and RN

Education

Nursing programs. Additionally, workforce training and job skills improvement classes, seminar and training facilities, meeting rooms, teleconferencing equipment are available for businesses.

Figure 47: Southside Virginia Community College - Campus & Center Locations

Christanna Campus	Alberta	Brunswick County
Occupational Technology Center at Fort Pickett	Blackstone	Nottoway County
Estes Community Center	Chase City	Mecklenburg County
Cumberland County Community Center	Cumberland	Cumberland County
Southside Virginia Education Center	Emporia	Greensville County, City of Emporia
John H. Daniel Campus	Keysville	Charlotte County
Campus / Center	Location	County
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center	South Boston	Halifax County
Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center	South Hill	Mecklenburg County

Source: Southside Virginia Community College

SVCC Programs

Middle College. Southside Virginia Community College's Middle College program offers 18 to 24 year-olds who separated from high school without a diploma a second chance at success. Middle College allows students to simultaneously pursue GED, enroll in community college courses, explore career paths, and complete a workforce preparation course in a college environment. This program is offered free of charge.

- **Old Dominion University's Distance Learning Program.** Enables students who live in remote locations to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from a fully-accredited university without leaving their areas of residence. In addition, ODU also offers several doctoral and teacher licensure programs.
- **Tech-Prep Program or "Technical Preparation"** works by combining secondary and post secondary programs into one program that leads to a Certificate, Associate Degree, or if practical, a Bachelors degree ("Dual Enrollment").
- **Dual Enrollment Program.** All three Planning District school divisions participate in the SVCC Dual Enrollment Program. Dual Enrollment allows high-achieving students to meet the requirements for high school graduation while simultaneously earning college credit from Southside Virginia Community College.
- **Workforce Development/Continuing Education.** Apprenticeship, on-the-job-training, related instruction, state-certified training.

A full listing of programs at SVCC can be found on its website: <http://www.sv.vccs.edu/academics/>. A sampling of the career and technical training programs available through SVCC include: Automotive Technology, Administration of Justice, Cisco Networking Academy, Computer Aided Design & Drafting, Diesel Technician Program, Electronics Technology, Heavy Equipment Operator, High Performance Technology, Human Services, Nursing and Licensed Practical Nurse Programs, Telecommunications Technology, Truck Driving Training, and Welding

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC)

The Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC) is advancing Southern Virginia economically, culturally, and socially by providing citizens with affordable, accessible educational opportunities through partnerships and regional cooperation. The SVHEC is partnered with nine educational institutions to offer Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in Halifax County. Nursing, business, digital art & design, product design & development, education, and engineering are just a few of the more than 70 certificate and degree programs available at the SVHEC. The SVHEC serves more

than 4,000 students from 16 counties and 4 cities, including high school dual enrollment students in its signature Business of Art & Design program.

In 2009 the Business Arts & Design School was initiated. Currently dual enrollment classes are only available to Halifax students.

Business Resources at SVHEC include:

- Broadband internet connectivity
- Video conference capabilities that include 6 units utilizing H.320, H.321, & H.323 plus an H.323 MCU
- Total center wireless environment
- VPN encrypted connectivity to Longwood University for staff and faculty
- Locally housed, dynamic web hosting

In addition, the Berneche Conference Room is equipped with H.321, H.320, and H.323 Videoconferencing capability with plasma screen, digital projector, VCR, DVD, computer with high speed Internet access. The room has ample seating for 12 and catering packages are available.

The SVHEC offers advanced degree programs in many disciplines from a number of colleges and universities. These include the nearby Community Colleges, Longwood and Averett Universities, Mary Baldwin College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, James Madison, UVA, Virginia Tech and Old Dominion (ODU Distance Learning). Through the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program (CGEP) a student may earn a Master of Science in Engineering (10 disciplines) from Virginia Tech, UVA, Virginia Commonwealth University, or Old Dominion. See <http://www.svhed.org/programs> for current listings.

The Estes Center

The Estes Center in Chase City offers job skills advancement classes in cooperation with the Southside Virginia Community College. There is much greater demand than the Center can currently meet in their limited classroom space. The Center has only one classroom and is utilizing the banquet room for the overflow. The Nurses Aide program, which can only handle 20 students per semester, always has a waiting list. Frequent requests for additional computer and other business classes cannot be met due to the limited classroom space and equipment. Plans for Cisco training, criminal justice classes, and LPN classes are hindered due to space restrictions. The Estes Center offers:

- Specialized training in the medical field
- Beginning and advanced computer classes
- Classes for children each summer such as Sign Language and Reading, Computers, Music, Spanish, Exercise Classes, and Nature and Safety Courses.
- A new after-school program, which provides assistance with study and homework for children in grades 2-5.
- Mecklenburg County public schools partner with The Estes Center to provide GED training opportunities.

Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center

Education

The Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center located in South Hill offers:

- Specialized training designed to address the needs of existing industry sectors such as materials handling, metal fabrication, PLC & CNC, woodworking, and plastics
- Career planning, workshops, and seminars for business, industry and professionals.
- Affordable degree and non-degree programs and workforce training opportunities
- Information Systems training
- High Performance Technology program offers instruction and training in six core areas including automation and material handling, design, electricity/electronics, quality, manufacturing systems, mechanical processes, HVAC
- Distance Education; University Parallel; Teacher Re-certification
- Cyber Café available to the public
- Manufacturing training center, which provides instruction in MIG welding, metal fabrication, machining, millwright training, pipe fitter training, electrical, etc.

Labor Market Assessment of the Lake Country Region Training/Education

The Wadley Donovan Group surveyed employers and residents in the Planning District to gather information on the availability, quality and cost of labor, and on area training institutions. The survey found that the education levels of the region's residents are at or below state and national figures, spreadsheet and database software skills are weak, and residents and employers see a need for additional or expanded training programs, specifically in computer science, finance, insurance and real estate services, medical services, and education-related occupations. While the area's secondary and post-secondary schools have taken steps to address training needs and deficiencies, there is still room for improvement.

In the secondary schools, the assessment found that emphasis needs to be placed on keeping students enrolled until they receive their high school diplomas. This must be a joint effort between educators and parents. For those high school students not interested in obtaining a two- or four-year college degree, local vocational and technical education must be enhanced to prepare these students for career development and job preparation. Meanwhile, employers would like to see additional emphasis by the high schools on work ethic and job preparedness skills. For the region, maintaining the number of students who are receiving high school diplomas or equivalents and enrolling and graduating more students from vocational and technical programs at the two-year post-secondary level should be a priority.

A mismatch was identified between occupations most in demand by local employers and the availability of those skills. The skills that are most prevalent, such as clerical and general office support skills, are not in high demand by local employers. On the other hand, there is a significant (current and projected) demand for skilled machine trades and machine/equipment maintenance and repair skills, yet employers report limited availability of job applicants for these positions. The solution to this skills gap is ultimately a long-term focus on enrolling more students into and graduating more students from technical and vocational programs in machine trades, machinery repair, and maintenance and construction trades. Increased outreach for tech-prep programs and apprenticeship programs to both high school students and adults may help alleviate some pressure.

Residents and employers have identified several other training needs. Adult education programs such as basic math, literacy, computer software and certification courses, and GED programs need to be expanded and accessible to the general public. Innovative ways to offer remedial and basic education

classes such as at different times and an increased number of locations, needs to be explored. Expanding and enhancing the training opportunities for students and workers will be a major factor in the development of the area. Employers that offer training and career advancement opportunities, and good working conditions will be the most successful in attracting and keeping quality employees.

Training Strategy

The eight locations of Southside Virginia Community College coupled with the cooperative distance learning capabilities created by high speed communications are helping to address the problems of Southside rural, remote location. However, further development and improvements at these satellite locations and continued installation of broadband to the region (with emphasis on the outlying areas) is still needed. These educational centers are still not easily accessible by much of the working population of these rural counties. All facilities must strive to keep up with the needs of industry to compete. The special certification classes offered at the SVCC centers provide important training to fulfill the employment needs for existing and locating industries and businesses. The College in concert with the Virginia Employment Commission will develop training programs and classes to fill industry needs as necessary or requested.

In addition to technical skills training, a need for vocational training or “trades skills” such as carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, electricity, exists. Possibilities include reintroduction of the “industrial arts” into secondary schools, or the development of technical schools or programs at the training centers in the region.

Housing

Housing

Measuring and analyzing trends in housing authorization permits and construction activity can identify changing economic and social conditions. Housing availability and conditions are of vital importance in regional planning. Housing conditions often reflect the social well-being of an area, and economic development is, in part, dependent upon the availability of adequate housing for additional labor.

The lakes have been helping to redefine the area in part as a retirement and vacation destination. In 1995 a survey conducted by Century 21 Real Estate Corporation ranked the South Hill-Lake Gaston area the number one second home market in the South. This is still in evidence by recent building permits, which indicate the lakes have become a major housing growth area.

Housing Characteristics

The following tables portray selected characteristics of year-round housing units found throughout the Southside Planning District. Information in the table was obtained from the 2010 Census. In 1989, there were 35,832 housing units in the District. This number increased 17% in 2000 to 41,897, and then by 6.8% to 44,761 in 2010. Of the 34,946 (78.1%) occupied housing units in the district, 27.5% are renter occupied. Over 10 percent of the houses in the District are for “seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.” In Mecklenburg County, which has the most “lakeside” area, 18% of its housing units are seasonal.

Figure 48: Housing Characteristics, 2010 Census

	Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units				Vacant, Seasonal or Vacation Use	% of Housing Units
		Total Occupied	Owned with Mortgage or Loan	Owned Out-right	Rented		
Brunswick Co.	8,166	6,366	2,452	2,190	1,724	811	0.9%
Halifax Co.	18,004	15,085	6,006	5,022	4,057	540	3.0%
Mecklenburg Co.	18,591	13,495	5,209	4,451	3,835	3,338	18.0%
Southside PDC	44,761	34,946	13,667	11,663	9,616	4,689	10.5%
Virginia	3,364,939	3,056,058	1,534,437	520,749	1,000,872	80,468	2.4%

Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Housing Needs

The 2000 Census indicated that the number of occupied homes without complete plumbing facilities decreased 62% from the previous census. In 1990, 8% of the homes were without complete plumbing; the number decreased to only 2.8% by 2000. In 1980, 31 percent of year-round units were lacking some or all plumbing. While housing rehabilitation programs have helped to alleviate the enormity of the problem, the above figures represent the need for continued housing assistance and improvement programs to eradicate these conditions, especially in the more rural and unincorporated areas in the District where poverty tends to be more predominant and where basic water and sewage systems are either lacking or unavailable. So, while improved, the situation still exists and action is still necessary. While some of the substandard housing is clustered in neighborhoods, a great deal is not, particularly in rural areas of the counties. The Indoor Plumbing (IPR) Program is helping to address the housing problems in these outlying areas. A number of applications for IPR funds have been received but not addressed because the home site cannot support a traditional septic tank/drain field system. These homes are in isolated areas that are not likely to ever be part of a public central sewage treatment system and, therefore, unless alternative methods of sewage disposal are identified, these homes will never have indoor plumbing. Likewise, towns have also noted a problem with dilapidated homes

Housing

outside of neighborhoods. These individual homes also need to be addressed to eliminate slum and blight and provide community-wide safe housing.

In addition to the substandard housing for the low-to-moderate income residents, there also exists a problem of housing availability for all levels of income. Affordable housing opportunities—both rental and homeowner—for middle and low-income persons are needed. This is also a concern of potential and new industries locating in the area. The housing needs of industrial/business prospects must be considered when encouraging businesses to locate in the District.

In recent years the Mecklenburg County Housing Assessment and the Halifax County Housing Assessment were completed. These studies identified areas where the need for housing rehabilitation is prevalent. These areas will be prioritized for rehabilitation and for application for grant funds from programs such as the Community Development Block Grant. A study for Brunswick County has been recently begun.

Figure 49: Housing Characteristics, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, & 2007-2011 American Community Survey (with Margin of Error)

		Housing Units	Number	Average House- hold Size	Occupied Housing Units					Vacant Housing Units	
					Owner Occupied		Renter Occupied				
					Number	Median Value	Number	Median Contract Rent Paid	Median Gross Rent Paid	Number	Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use
Brunswick County	2000 Census	7,541	6,277	2.47	4,871	\$66,300*	1,406	\$241*	\$349*	1,264	415
	2010 Census	8,166	6,366	2.40	4,642		1,724			1,800	811
	2007-11 ACS	8,144 ±5.2%	6,126 ±9.0%	2.40 ±6.6%	4,314 ±6.4%	\$101,400 ±6.1%	1,812 ±24.6%	401 ±20.4%	602 ±11.5%	2,018 ±16.3%	678 ±29.4%
Halifax County	2000 Census	16,953	15,018	2.43	11,430	\$69,300*	3,588	\$264*	\$360*	1,935	310
	2010 Census	18,004	15,085	2.35	11,028		4,057			2,919	540
	2007-11 ACS	17,959 ±0.8%	14,533 ±2.7%	2.42 ±3.3%	11,072 ±3.5%	\$102,300 ±7.8%	3,461 ±9.9%	352 ±7.1%	539 ±3.5%	3,426 ±11.1%	851 ±34.1%
Mecklenburg County	2000 Census	17,403	12,951	2.38	9,641	\$73,800*	3,310	\$262*	\$375*	4,452	2,715
	2010 Census	18,591	13,495	2.30	9,660		3,835			5,096	3,338
	2007-11 ACS	18,564 ±0.9%	12,547 ±3.2%	2.39 ±3.8%	9,346 ±4.4%	\$124,000 ±7.6%	3,201 ±10.1%	397 ±5.8%	603 ±3.8%	6,017 ±6.2%	3,179 ±11.1%
Contract Rent: The monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included.											
Gross Rent: The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials which result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment.											
*Data from Census 2000 SF3 is based on a sample, not 100% count. This data source has been replaced in recent yearsby the American Community Survey data.											

Source: US Census Bureau (Census 2000, American Community Survey 2007-2011)

Housing

Figure 50: Occupied Housing Unit - Occupants per Room, 2000 Census SF3 & 2007-2011 American Community Survey

		Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied Housing Units						Renter Occupied Housing Units					
			Owner Occupied Units	0.5 or less per room	0.51-1 per room	1.01-1.5 per room	1.51-2 per room	2.01+ per room	Renter Occupied Units	0.5 or less per room	0.51-1 per room	1.01-1.5 per room	1.51-2 per room	2.01+ per room
Brunswick County	2000 Census	6,277	4,871	3,646	1,123	84	22	0	1,406	862	424	92	21	3
	2007-11 ACS	6,126 ±9.0%	4,314 ±6.4%	3,584 ±7.3%	696 ±24.0%	34 ±135%	0 ±--%	0 ±--%	1,812 ±24.6%	1,211 ±25.4%	557 ±34.5%	34 ±117.6%	10 ±170%	0 ±--%
Halifax County	2000 Census	15,018	11,430	8,370	2,764	226	46	11	3,588	2,334	1,094	135	16	22
	2007-11 ACS	14,533 ±2.7%	11,072 ±3.5%	8,732 ±4.3%	2,265 ±11.9%	70 ±71.4%	5 ±180%	0 ±--%	3,461 ±9.9%	2,360 ±12.5%	980 ±20.4%	8 ±150%	113 ±76.1%	0 ±--%
Mecklenburg County	2000 Census	12,951	9,641	7,532	1,969	81	36	9	3,310	2,217	894	143	52	18
	2007-11 ACS	12,547 ±3.2%	9,346 ±4.4%	7,974 ±4.8%	1,322 ±13.8%	50 ±78.0%	0 ±--%	0 ±--%	3,201 ±10.1%	2,137 ±13.5%	931 ±24.1%	119 ±70.6%	0 ±--%	14 ±164.3%

Source: Source: US Census Bureau (Census 2000, American Community Survey 2007-2011)

Figure 51: Occupied Housing Units - Vehicle Access and Plumbing, American Community Survey 2007-2011

	Occupied Housing Units	Vehicles per Unit				Units Lacking	
		None	One	Two	Three or More	Complete Plumbing Facilities	Complete Kitchen Facilities
Brunswick County	6,126 ±9.1%	568 ±31.9%	1,730 ±19.0%	2,013 ±14.2%	1,815 ±16.3%	25 ±112%	25 ±124%
Halifax County	14,533 ±2.7%	1,409 ±19.7%	4,454 ±8.2%	4,401 ±8.9%	4,269 ±8.2%	79 ±87.3%	54 ±83.3%
Mecklenburg County	12,547 ±3.2%	1,128 ±20.7%	3,874 ±8.8%	4,079 ±7.0%	3,466 ±8.6%	200 ±57%	169 ±65.7%

Source: Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2007-2011

Note about Figures 47, 48 and 49: These tables contain data from the American Community Survey, which reports data that is averaged, in this case, over five years from 2007 to 2011. This data is sampled, coming from a survey of the population, which is not as heavily sampled as the Census 2000 SF3 "Long Form" data. As the population size decreases, and the categories become more specific, as in number of vehicles, the margins of error become increasingly large to the extent that the estimates are very broad. Use with caution. Margins of error are expressed in percentages below the estimated value. Much of the data that used to be reported by the decennial Census is now being reported in the ACS instead, and there was no "Long Form" in the 2010 Census.

Physical Resources

Environment

The Southside Planning District is located in the southern portion of the Piedmont Region of Virginia, which extends eastward from the Blue Ridge to the Fall Line. The Piedmont's geology is diverse, which leads to a wide range of water availability and quality levels. The District covers a total area of 2,006 square miles (1,283,840 acres).

The terrain is characterized by gently rolling hills with elevations varying from 200 feet to 600 feet above sea level. Southside Virginia, much like other areas throughout the Piedmont Region, is predominantly rural. Agriculture and forestry dominate land use. The region's twelve towns are urban focal points and serve as shopping and employment centers. The availability of both groundwater and surface water resources are present throughout the District. The most common use of groundwater for the area is for rural and domestic supplies. Soil associations and underlying rock formations produce water of generally good quality, dependent upon well construction and location. The potential for groundwater pollution is low to moderate, due to the areas rural nature and natural ground filtration properties. Land disposal of solid waste materials and sewage from septic systems present the greatest threats to existing groundwater quality.

Climate

Climate is an important environmental factor as it affects tourism, recreation, agriculture, and even industrial concerns. The Southside region has a fairly moderate climate. The average annual temperature is 57 degrees Fahrenheit, with summer and winter temperature averages of 76.5 degrees Fahrenheit and 42 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. The average annual precipitation ranges from 45 to 55 inches in the Southern Piedmont.

Forest Resources

According to the U.S. Forest Service, between 2008 & 2011, the Southside Planning District contained an estimated 928,000 acres of forestland. Between 1998 and 2001, this total was 932,000 acres. The following table represents the acreage found within each county.

The dominant forest type group found within Mecklenburg and Halifax falls under the Oak-Hickory Classification followed by the Loblolly-Shortleaf Pine group. In Brunswick the reverse is true. Economically important species within the Planning District include: loblolly, shortleaf, and Virginia Pine; white oak, northern red oak, southern red oak, yellow poplar, sweet gum.

Figure 52: Area of Timberland as a Percent of County - 2008 to 2011

	Loblolly / Shortleaf Pine Group		Other Eastern Softwoods		Oak / Pine Group		Oak / Hickory		Oak / Gum / Cypress		Elm / Ash / Cottonwood		Nonstocked		Total	
	Area (Acres)	% of Co.	Area (Acres)	% of Co.	Area (Acres)	% of Co.	Area	% of Co.	Area	% of Co.	Area	% of Co.	Area	% of Co.	Area	% of Co.
Brunswick Co. 364,160 acres	152,045	41.8%	--	0%	28,993	8.0%	58,715	16.1%	16,342	4.5%	8,554	2.3%	1,426	0.4%	266,075	73.1%
Halifax Co. 531,200 acres	136,731	25.7%	5,462	1.0%	66,736	12.6%	141,489	26.6%	5,840	1.1%	14,659	2.8%	--	0%	370,917	69.8%
Mecklenburg Co. 434,560 acres	113,792	26.2%	--	0%	33,362	7.7%	136,409	31.4%	--	0%	7,372	1.7%	--	0%	290,935	66.9%
SPDC 1,329,920 acres	402,568	30.3%	5,462	0.4%	129,091	9.7%	336,613	25.3%	23,642	1.8%	30,585	2.3%	1,426	0.1%	927,927	69.8%

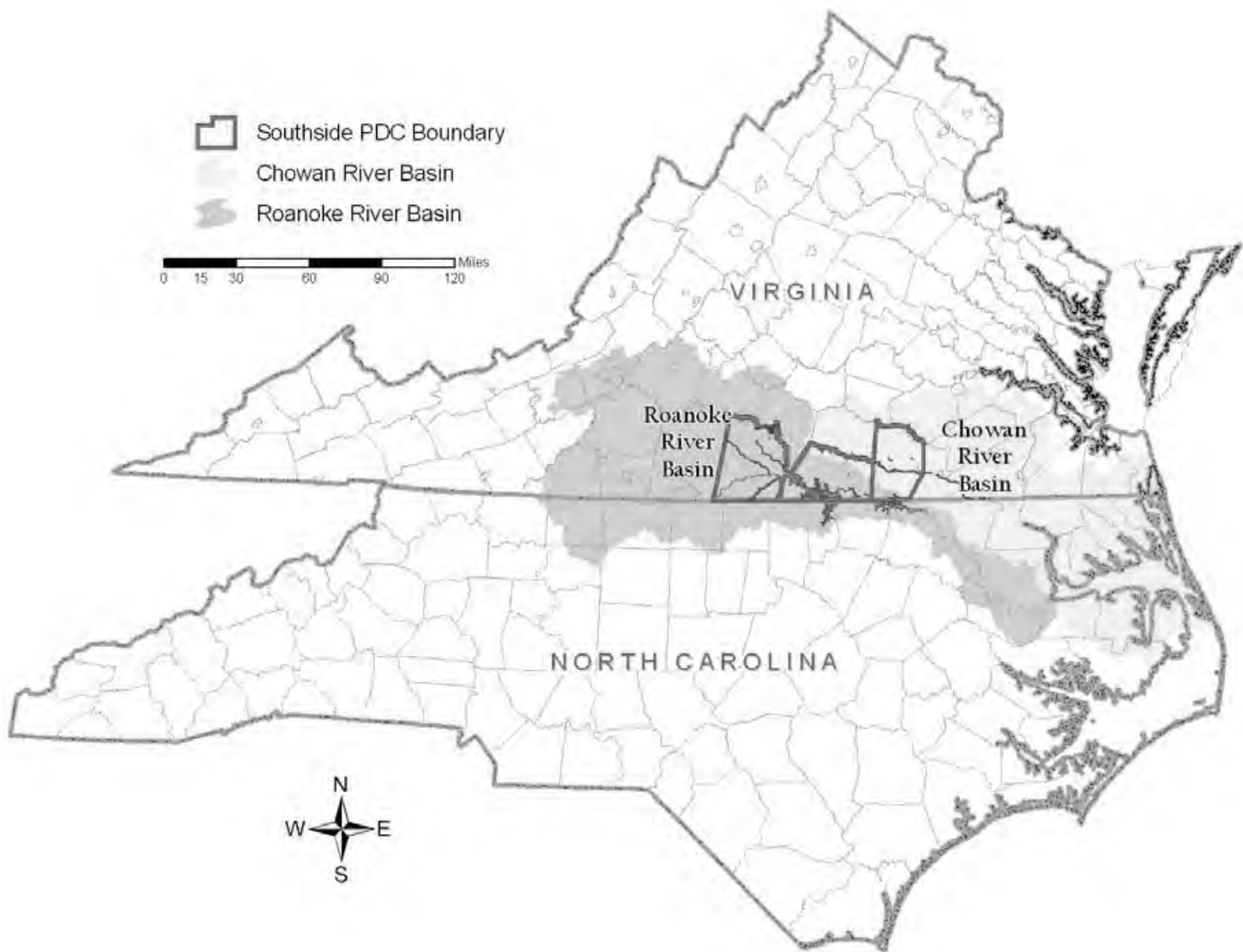
Source: USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program, FIDO

Water Resources

The availability and quality of water resources within an area are of great importance. An analysis of the District's water resources is necessary not only to determine the potential for future development, but also to ensure that the area's water resources are protected from abuse and utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible. A series of severe drought years in the region, state, and country raised concern regarding future water supply and the need for conservation. In part in reaction to the severe drought of 1999-2002, the need to determine adequacy of future water supply and formulate plans to react to future drought became apparent and the Commonwealth mandated the development of local water supply and drought management plans.

Southside Planning District lies in two drainage basins—Roanoke River and Chowan River. Halifax and Mecklenburg primarily drain to the Roanoke River, while Brunswick drains to the Meherrin, which flows into the Chowan River. Both systems flow into the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina.

Figure 53: River Basins



Source: Southside Planning District Commission

Roanoke River Basin

The Roanoke River originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and flows east/southeast through the Piedmont and Coastal Plain to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina. The entire watershed is approximately 9,666 square miles in size, 6,066 of which are in Virginia. The lower Roanoke River is important habitat for anadromous fish and has unique wetland areas.

The drainage basin includes all or portions of the Virginia counties of Botetourt, Bedford, Appomattox, Campbell, Roanoke, Prince Edward, Montgomery, Salem, Charlotte, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Floyd, Halifax, Brunswick, Carroll, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Henry; and, the cities of Lynchburg, Bedford, Roanoke, Martinsville, and Danville.

Five (5) impoundments are located in the Roanoke River—Smith Mountain Lake, Philpott Reservoir, John H. Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Lake. John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston are located within the Planning District and are significant for hydroelectric power production, flood control, water supply and for recreation and tourism.

Chowan River Basin

The Chowan River Basin is approximately 130 miles long and drains about 4,900 square miles of land in Virginia and North Carolina. Approximately 76 percent of the watershed is located in Virginia. Thirteen Virginia counties or portions thereof are in the Chowan River Basin: Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Greensville, Southampton, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Sussex, Prince George, Prince Edward, Surry and Isle of Wight. Also located in this basin are the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Franklin, Emporia, Suffolk, and Petersburg. The Chowan River is located entirely in North Carolina, formed by the confluence of Virginia's Blackwater and Nottoway rivers at the state line. Like the Roanoke River, the Chowan is a major contributor of fresh water to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina.

Surface Water Resources - Brunswick County

The Meherrin River has its headwaters in the Piedmont of Lunenburg County and flows southeast into the coastal plain of North Carolina, joining the Chowan River in North Carolina, approximately 12 miles south of the state line. The Meherrin River forms the boundary line between Mecklenburg and Lunenburg counties and flows for a distance of 37 miles through the center of Brunswick. The Brunswick County portion of the Meherrin was designated a Virginia Scenic River by the Virginia General Assembly in 2006, which has no impact on its status as an auxiliary water source for the Town of Lawrenceville.

The Nottoway River, which forms the county's northern boundary, drains that portion of the county as it flows eastward. Both of these rivers are part of the greater Chowan River Basin in Virginia. The main tributaries of the Nottoway River located in Brunswick County are Waqua Creek and Sturgeon Creek. A number of small creeks empty into the Meherrin River, the larger ones being Great Creek and Rose Creek. The tributaries of Fontaine Creek (Greensville County) are in the southern part of the county, the major one being Rattlesnake Creek. There are also a few small tributaries of the Roanoke River, which occur in the far southwestern part of the county.

There is good volume and flow in both the Nottoway and Meherrin Rivers during periods of normal rainfall and a fair flow is present in some of the tributaries. The quality of water is generally good and its content is soft. Flow information (mean discharge) is given below for selected stream-gaging stations along the Nottoway and Meherrin Rivers and Great Creek.

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Figure 54: Mean Discharge (cubic feet per second)

River/Creek	Location	County	Drainage Area (Square Miles)	Annual Mean Dis- charge (cfs)	Highest Annual Mean Discharge	Lowest Annual Mean Discharge
Allen Creek	Boydton	Mecklenburg	53.5	43.9 (1962-2007)	109 (2003)	9.07 (2002)
Banister River	Halifax	Halifax	547	500 (1905-2007)	993 (2003)	136 (2002)
Dan River	Paces	Halifax	2,587	2,708 (1951-2009)	4,729 (2003)	872 (2002)
Hyc0 River	Denniston	Halifax	288	250 (1965-2009)	776 (2003)	21.5 (2002)
Meherrin River	Lawrenceville	Brunswick	552	497 (1929-2009)	1,109 (2003)	111 (2002)
N. Meherrin River	Wallace's Bridge	Halifax	56	49.7 (1947-2009)	106 (2003)	10 (2002)
Nottoway River	Near Rawlings	Brunswick	317	303 (1951-2009)	698 (2003)	71.6 (2002)
Roanoke River	Randolph	Halifax	2,966	2,854 (1963-2009)	5,152 (2003)	852 (2002)
Roanoke River	Roanoke Rapids	Halifax (NC)	8,384	7,740 (1964-2009)	15,530 (2003)	2,361 (2002)

Source: USGS Water-Data Report 2009

Surface Water Resources - Halifax County

Halifax County has several major rivers that traverse the area. The Roanoke (Staunton), Dan, Banister, and Hyc0 Rivers all supply the county with an abundant source of surface water. There are many other smaller streams throughout the county, which serve as tributaries to these larger rivers. These waterways are all part of the larger Roanoke River Basin.

Projects needing large quantities of water can be located in the county due to two large rivers within or along its boundaries. The large number of additional smaller streams makes the development of other water supplies possible. The surface waters of the county are soft, but considerable amounts of silt are present in some of the streams. Records of chemical quality and temperature are available. Flow information is given below for selected stream-gauging stations along the various rivers.

Surface Water Resources - Mecklenburg County

The main stream in Mecklenburg County is the Roanoke River, which flows across the southern part of the county. Large supplies of water are readily available from this river. The Meherrin River, which forms the county northern border, is also a good stream, but water flow for this river is very susceptible to drought conditions. The Roanoke River has several tributaries located in the county, such as Allens Creek, Flat Creek, Butchers Creek, and Miles Creek. There are also a few good tributaries entering the Roanoke River from the south that originate in North Carolina. Small water supplies could be developed from these tributaries. The County also has two large surface water impoundments being John Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) and Lake Gaston. These waters are all part of the larger Roanoke River Basin, except for the Meherrin River, which is part of the Chowan River Basin. Both the Chowan River Basin and the Roanoke River Basin are contained within the South Atlantic Slope Basin for Virginia. Information on flow, chemical quality, and temperature are available for certain locations.

Figure 55: Estimated Water Use (million gallons per day)

	Brunswick County			Halifax County			Mecklenburg County		
	Ground- water	Surface Water	Total	Ground- water	Surface Water	Total	Ground- water	Surface Water	Total
Public Supply	0.03	0.58	0.61	0.04	0.23	0.27	0.59	1.15	1.74
Domestic	0.93	0.00	0.93	2.08	0.00	2.08	1.38	0.00	1.38
Commercial/Industrial	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.05	0.08	0.13	0.31	4.43	4.75
Thermoelectric Power	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.05	3.06	0.00	1.15	1.51
Mining	0.00	0.91	0.91	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agricultural	0.01	1.31	1.32	0.06	1.40	1.46	0.05	1.24	1.29
Total	1.17	2.80	3.97	2.24	4.89	7.13	2.33	8.33	10.66

Source: Compiled from Solley, W.B., Pierce, R.R., and Perlman, H.A., 1988, Estimated use of water in the United States in 1995: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1200

Groundwater Resources - Brunswick County

Bedrock throughout Brunswick County is comprised of igneous and metamorphic, covered in most places by a layer of soil and weathered rocks approximately 10 to 60 feet thick. These rocks are generally considered poor aquifers and successful wells usually obtain groundwater from either the adjacent soil cover or from fractures occurring in the bedrock.

Shallow large-diameter bored wells generally furnish adequate water supplies for domestic and agricultural use throughout the county. The most successful wells of this type are located in relatively low or flat areas where bedrock is generally covered by 25 feet or more of soil and weathered rock. Contamination by surface sources and decreased yields due to inadequate rainfall are major problems associated with these wells.

Drilled wells are constructed to exclude near surface waters by casing off all unconsolidated materials above firm bedrock. Wells of this nature are usually six inches in diameter and range in depth from 32 to 1,575 feet. Reported yields from these wells range from 0 to 115 gallons per minute. Approximately three-fourths of all reported wells are less than 200 feet deep and yield less than 15 gallons per minute. It is important to note that well yield is not proportional to well depth. Well location is a more important factor. Although drilling seems to have been most successful in the western portion of the county and least successful in the central portion, moderate quantities of groundwater are thought to be available in all areas at selected drilling sites. Wells in granite and gneiss rocks must be located to intersect fracture zones beneath the water table, and wells underlain by schistose and phyllitic rocks should be located at lower elevations and in close proximity to surface water sources.

The chemical quality of groundwater is fair to good in most of the county. Water is sometimes acidic in the eastern and central locations of the county and may also be high in iron content in the south and southeast. Ground water from rocks in the western portion of the county is reported to be of the best chemical quality, seldom irony or acidic, and usually soft and low in dissolved mineral content.

Groundwater Resources - Halifax County

Bedrock is comprised mostly of gneissic rocks in the western two-thirds of the county and of metamorphosed sediments in the eastern third. Small areas of unaltered sediments occur near Scottsburg, Mt. Laurel, and Cody. Generally, these rocks are covered by 10 to 40 feet of soil and partially weathered rock and are moderately to steeply inclined. Groundwater is present in the lower portions of the soil and weathered rock zone and in bedrock fractures. Bedrock fractures occurring below the water table are usually permanent water sources. Topographic location is often more important to well success than the type of bedrock encountered. Lower elevation wells are generally more productive than those on slopes or hills, except in the three areas where unaltered sediments occur where groundwater has been obtained at relatively shallow depths regardless of location.

Most recorded wells were drilled for individual home and/or farm use, few of which being located in favorable positions on the properties. Drilling was halted on most of these wells as soon as sufficient water quantities were reached. As a result, depth and yield ranges are 32 to 603 feet and 1/8 to 150 gallons per minute. Over half of these wells are less than 150 feet and yield 10 gallons per minute.

An undeveloped source of groundwater may be the sand and gravel deposits that border the rivers and large streams throughout the county. Although these unconsolidated materials are relatively thin, and large diameter wells would often be less than 50 feet deep, moderate to large supplies of water may be available from them.

The groundwater is soft and of good chemical quality in most portions of the county. Objectionable amounts of iron have been reported from a few wells and water is often moderately hard in the extreme

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eastern part of the county. The three areas where unaltered sedimentary rock occur are where the hardest, most mineralized groundwater has been obtained. There have been reports of uranium and radium in water samples taken from Well #4 of the public system for the Town of Virgilina.

Groundwater Resources - Mecklenburg County

Mecklenburg County is underlain by igneous and metamorphic bedrock covered by 30 to 50 feet of soil and weathered rock in most areas. Greenstone and slate are interlayered and steeply inclined in the western two-thirds of the county and steeply dipping gneisses and schists underlie the eastern third. A zone of granite about five miles wide occurring near Baskerville and North View and extending northward across the county separates these two areas.

Many of the wells occurring in the rural areas are either bored or dug in the zone of soil and weathered rock, generally at depths of 30 to 50 feet. These large diameter wells usually obtain sufficient quantities of water for agricultural and domestic needs. These shallow wells may be susceptible to decreased yields during periods of inadequate rainfall and also contamination from nearby sources of surface pollution. Drilled wells are constructed to eliminate near surface water by casing off the zone of soil and weathered rock, obtaining water from bedrock fractures, which usually occur at depths of less than 300 feet. Nearly two-thirds of reported wells are 100 to 300 feet deep and almost one-fourth are 300 to 500 feet deep. Approximately 60 percent of these wells produce between 1 and 25 gallons per minute, and 35 percent range from 25 to 90 gallons per minute in yield.

The chemical quality of groundwater obtained from granite rock is usually good, but other bedrock in the county may produce moderately hard water and contain small amounts of iron.

Air Quality - Nonattainment Areas

The Virginia DEQ administers the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, and enforces state laws and regulations to improve Virginia's air quality.

Under the air quality standard program, geographic areas that violate the standard for one or more criteria pollutants are called "nonattainment areas." In nonattainment areas, new plants and major modifications must meet the Lowest Achievable Emission Rate or LAER, defined as the most stringent emissions limitation derived for that type of plant. Also, to avoid increasing the total amount of a criteria pollutant in a nonattainment area, a new or expanding business must offset whatever emissions it intends to emit. For volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, the offsetting ratio must be greater than 1-to-1, depending on the severity classification of the non-attainment area.

To be classified an ozone nonattainment area, an air quality control region must exceed the air quality standard at a single monitor four times in a three-year period. The nonattainment areas in the state are Northern Virginia and the upper elevations of Whitetop Mountain in Smyth County.

Air Quality - Prevention of Significant Deterioration Areas

A prevention of significant deterioration area or PSD, is a geographic area designated attainment" or "unclassifiable" for any pollutant for which an air quality standard exists. Sources of air pollution in a PSD area are regulated to keep the air quality good as new businesses come into the area. Permit and control requirements vary with the classification of the area:

- Class I areas - primarily national parks and wilderness areas. Few pollution impacts are allowed, and some types of nearby industrial development are severely restricted.
- Class II areas - limited amounts of new emissions are allowed.

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- Class III areas - greater amount of new emissions are permitted. No Class III areas are currently designated in Virginia.

Virginia currently has two Class I PSD areas: Shenandoah National Park and James River Face Wilderness. The remainder of the state is designated Class II. Facilities affecting both Class I and Class II areas that have the potential to emit 250 tons of a pollutant, or 100 tons for a specific list of 28 source categories, will need to meet more stringent permitting requirements and apply Best Available Control Technology or BACT. Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg Counties are designated Class II.

Wildlife and Endangered Species

Wildlife is abundant in the District and a plentiful supply of land and natural cover exists in the area to continue to support its existence. White-tailed deer, rabbits, gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, dove and turkey are common. Occasionally sighted are black bear, bobcat and coyote. Hunting is a popular activity within the Planning District.

The Virginia Natural Heritage Program, which is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), maintains an inventory of the state's native plant and animal life, as well as, conservation protection information. DCR staff utilizes this data in their role as reviewing agent for projects seeking to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The following were listed as threatened or endangered species within the Planning District as of January 2009:

- Brunswick County: Bachman's Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow (birds); Atlantic Pigtoe (mussels); Roanoke Logperch (fish); Michaux's Sumac (vascular plant)
- Halifax County: Bald Eagle; Smooth Coneflower, Nestronia (vascular plants); Atlantic Pigtoe, Green Floater (mussels); Carolina Darter, Whitemouth Shiner (fish)
- Mecklenburg County: Bald Eagle; Atlantic Pigtoe, Green Floater (mussels); Carolina Darter, Whitemouth Shiner, Roanoke Logperch (fish)

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation uses ranks to set protection priorities for natural heritage resources. Natural Heritage Resources, or "NHR's," are rare plant and animal species, rare and exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic features. The criterion for ranking NHR's is the number of populations or occurrences, i.e. the number of known distinct localities; the number of individuals in existence at each locality or, if a highly mobile organism (e.g., sea turtles, many birds, and butterflies), the total number of individuals; the quality of the occurrences, the number of protected occurrences; and threats. State status rank can range from S1 (extremely rare) and SX (Presumed extinct) to S4 (Common). The inventory is updated frequently. For information consult the DCR website http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

Invasive Plants - Hydrilla

Lake Gaston, which affects both Mecklenburg and Brunswick Counties, is being impacted by the infestation of hydrilla, (*Hydrilla verticillata*) a submersed plant native to the warmer areas of Asia and first discovered in the United States in 1960. A highly specialized growth habit, physiological characteristics, and reproduction make this plant well adapted to life in submersed freshwater environments. Consequently, hydrilla has spread rapidly through portions of the United States and become a serious weed. By the mid 1980's it had spread to Lake Gaston.

Hydrilla interferes with water intakes and limits recreational activities such as fishing, boating and swimming and consequently affects the local economy. It also limits or prevents the growth of beneficial

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aquatic plants and creates breeding places for pests. Management techniques have been developed, but sufficient funding is not available to stop the spread of the plant or implement optimum management programs. Educational efforts to increase public and political awareness of problems associated with this weed and the need for adequate funding to manage it are necessary. Hydrilla fragments can become entangled on boat props and trailers, allowing it to spread to other bodies of water. Aerial surveys conducted each fall estimate that 2,640 acres were infested in 2000. According to Dr. Stratford Kay of the Extension Service at North Carolina State University, hydrilla was discovered in Lake Gaston in 1985. In 1993 herbicide treatments were begun to control the spread of the weeds. These were followed in 1996 by the introduction of sterile grass carp into the lake. The annual cost of these preventative measures is \$2.75 million.

Wetlands

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency define wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

The following table represents the acreage of non-tidal wetlands, deep-water acreage, linear wetlands, and linear deep-water habitat for each county of the Planning District.

Figure 56: Wetlands in Southside Planning District Commission

	Brunswick County	Halifax County	Mecklenburg County
Land Acres	362,353	521,097	399,590
Wetlands included in land acres (acres)	13,542 (3.6%)	23,773 (4.5%)	16,390 (3.6%)
Deep water habitat (acres)	2,047 (0.5%)	6,263 (1.1%)	35,402 (7.7%)
Total Acres	364,400	527,360	434,992
Linear wetlands (miles)	48 miles	33 miles	69 miles
Linear deep water habitat (miles)	40 miles	101 miles	103 miles

Source: The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Virginia Non-Tidal Wetland Inventory, 1990

Environmental Impacts

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) manages the major environmental programs in Virginia. The department's activities are based primarily on federal legislation and state law in the areas of water quality, air quality, and the management of solid and hazardous waste. With regard to Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) program with the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Additionally, federal and state governments regulate impacts to streams and wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) review projects with regard to wetlands and waterways. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission serves as the clearinghouse for the Joint Permit Application (JPA) used by the ACOE, VMRC, and DEQ.

Water Resources

The availability and quality of water resources within an area are of great importance. An analysis of the District's water resources is necessary not only to determine the potential for future development,

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but also to ensure that the area's water resources are protected from abuse and utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible. A series of severe drought years in the region, state, and country raised concern regarding future water supply and the need for conservation. In part in reaction to the severe drought of 1999-2002, the need to determine adequacy of future water supply and formulate plans to react to future drought became apparent and the Commonwealth mandated the development of local water supply and drought management plans.

Southside Planning District lies in two drainage basins—Roanoke River and Chowan River. Halifax and Mecklenburg primarily drain to the Roanoke River, while Brunswick drains to the Meherrin, which flows into the Chowan River. Both systems flow into the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina.

Roanoke River Basin

The Roanoke River originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and flows east/southeast through the Piedmont and Coastal Plain to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina. The entire watershed is approximately 9,666 square miles in size, 6,066 of which are in Virginia. The lower Roanoke River is important habitat for anadromous fish and has unique wetland areas.

The drainage basin includes all or portions of the Virginia counties of Botetourt, Bedford, Appomattox, Campbell, Roanoke, Prince Edward, Montgomery, Salem, Charlotte, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Floyd, Halifax, Brunswick, Carroll, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Henry; and, the cities of Lynchburg, Bedford, Roanoke, Martinsville, and Danville.

Five (5) impoundments are located in the Roanoke River—Smith Mountain Lake, Philpott Reservoir, John H. Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Lake. John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston are located within the Planning District and are significant for hydroelectric power production, flood control, water supply and for recreation and tourism.

Chowan River Basin

The Chowan River Basin is approximately 130 miles long and drains about 4,900 square miles of land in Virginia and North Carolina. Approximately 76 percent of the watershed is located in Virginia. Thirteen Virginia counties or portions thereof are in the Chowan River Basin: Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Greensville, Southampton, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Sussex, Prince George, Prince Edward, Surry and Isle of Wight. Also located in this basin are the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Franklin, Emporia, Suffolk, and Petersburg. The Chowan River is located entirely in North Carolina, formed by the confluence of Virginia's Blackwater and Nottoway rivers at the state line. Like the Roanoke River, the Chowan is a major contributor of fresh water to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina.

Surface Water Resources - Brunswick County

The Meherrin River has its headwaters in the Piedmont of Lunenburg County and flows southeast into the coastal plain of North Carolina, joining the Chowan River in North Carolina, approximately 12 miles south of the state line. The Meherrin River forms the boundary line between Mecklenburg and Lunenburg counties and flows for a distance of 37 miles through the center of Brunswick. The Brunswick County portion of the Meherrin was designated a Virginia Scenic River by the Virginia General Assembly in 2006, which has no impact on its status as an auxiliary water source for the Town of Lawrenceville.

The Nottoway River, which forms the county's northern boundary, drains that portion of the county as it flows eastward. Both of these rivers are part of the greater Chowan River Basin in Virginia. The main tributaries of the Nottoway River located in Brunswick County are Waqua Creek and Sturgeon Creek. A number of small creeks empty into the Meherrin River, the larger ones being Great Creek and Rose

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Creek. The tributaries of Fontaine Creek (Greensville County) are in the southern part of the county, the major one being Rattlesnake Creek. There are also a few small tributaries of the Roanoke River, which occur in the far southwestern part of the county.

There is good volume and flow in both the Nottoway and Meherrin Rivers during periods of normal rainfall and a fair flow is present in some of the tributaries. The quality of water is generally good and its content is soft. Flow information (mean discharge) is given below for selected stream-gaging stations along the Nottoway and Meherrin Rivers and Great Creek.

Surface Water Resources - Halifax County

Halifax County has several major rivers that traverse the area. The Roanoke (Staunton), Dan, Banister, and Hyco Rivers all supply the county with an abundant source of surface water. There are many other smaller streams throughout the county, which serve as tributaries to these larger rivers. These waterways are all part of the larger Roanoke River Basin.

Projects needing large quantities of water can be located in the county due to two large rivers within or along its boundaries. The large number of additional smaller streams makes the development of other water supplies possible. The surface waters of the county are soft, but considerable amounts of silt are present in some of the streams. Records of chemical quality and temperature are available. Flow information is given below for selected stream-gauging stations along the various rivers.

Surface Water Resources - Mecklenburg County

The main stream in Mecklenburg County is the Roanoke River, which flows across the southern part of the county. Large supplies of water are readily available from this river. The Meherrin River, which forms the county northern border, is also a good stream, but water flow for this river is very susceptible to drought conditions. The Roanoke River has several tributaries located in the county, such as Allens Creek, Flat Creek, Butchers Creek, and Miles Creek. There are also a few good tributaries entering the Roanoke River from the south that originate in North Carolina. Small water supplies could be developed from these tributaries. The County also has two large surface water impoundments being John Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) and Lake Gaston. These waters are all part of the larger Roanoke River Basin, except for the Meherrin River, which is part of the Chowan River Basin. Both the Chowan River Basin and the Roanoke River Basin are contained within the South Atlantic Slope Basin for Virginia. Information on flow, chemical quality, and temperature are available for certain locations.

Infrastructure

Brunswick County - Water

The town of Lawrenceville obtains its water from Great Creek with an auxiliary supply from the Meherrin River. The consistency and quality of this water supply is greatly enhanced by the construction of Great Creek Reservoir, which was completed in 1993 and is owned and operated by Brunswick County. The 212-acre impoundment of Great Creek, a project of the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, was constructed to provide flood control. The reservoir is a future water resource for the town, currently serving as raw water storage.

The 1997 Water & Sewer Study for Brunswick County prepared by B&B Consultants calculated the safe yield at the Great Creek intake to be approximately 3.23 MGD. However, the study notes that this amount assumes that all stream flow can be withdrawn during a drought. The withdrawals from Great Creek and the Meherrin were in place before the current DEQ permitting requirements were implemented and are therefore grandfathered with no limits. Changes to the intake infrastructure could trigger a permit application. Lawrenceville plans to construct lines directly to the Great Creek Reservoir so as to have access to better quality raw water. The town would like to have this construction in place by 2010 but the timing is largely dependent on funding availability. "County Park at Great Creek," located on the shores adjacent to the reservoir dam, provides recreation for area residents.

The Meherrin River is a secondary water source for the Lawrenceville system. The B&B study calculates the safe yield for the Meherrin intake to be approximately 2 MGD.¹ The present combined safe yield of the Great Creek and Meherrin River intakes is approximately 5 MGD with no withdrawal permits in place. Lawrenceville's Meherrin River auxiliary intake and pump is sized for one MGD capacity and the town's plant is two MGD. An 8-inch water main transmits the water to the treatment plant. For greater use, the capacity of the pump, intake, and lines to the intake should be increased to accommodate that of the water treatment plant. Likewise the treatment capacity would need to be increased to make use of the full safe yield if needed. If the Lawrenceville water treatment plant were upgraded, the two water sources—Meherrin River and Great Creek Watershed Lake—would be combined.

The Lawrenceville water treatment plant has a maximum design capacity of two million gallons per day (2 MGD). The town's four elevated water tanks, two ground storage tanks, and plant clear well provide a total treated storage capacity of 1.89 million gallons. Lawrenceville supplies finished water to the Town of Alberta under a contractual agreement. Alberta is connected to Lawrenceville's system via a 6.5-mile long 10" diameter water main along Route 46 and Route 1 with a 250 gallon per minute booster station. The water is presently stored in two elevated storage tanks with a capacity of 75,000 gallons and 200,000 gallons each. Alberta uses approximately 50,000 gallons per day.

¹ Safe Yield calculations based on drought period 6/22/54 to 10/14/54 at USGS gage #02051000, B&B study page 11.

Brunswick County - Wastewater

The Towns of Alberta and Lawrenceville both operate their own sewage treatment plant facilities. Brodnax is part of the South Hill regional system.

The Lawrenceville wastewater treatment plant has a current capacity of 1.2 MGD which discharges into Rose's Creek. Average flows at the plant are 1.0 MGD. The wastewater treatment plant discharges to Rose's Creek. With average flows at the plant of 850,000 GPD, another expansion of the plant will be needed in order for the town and county to accommodate industrial expansion and remain competitive. The plant could be expanded to 5.0 MGD; with an intermediate expansion to 2.4 MGD also an alternative.

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The Alberta wastewater treatment plant is a package plant with a design capacity of 0.10 MGD and an average daily usage of approximately 60,000 gallons per day. Effluent from the plant is discharged into Rose's Creek southwest of Town. Long-range expandability is estimated at 0.5 MGD, and an intermediate step expansion to 0.2 MGD has been evaluated. Service outside the Town is limited to small residential areas. The area near Alberta in the Interstate 85/U.S. 1 corridor is prime development property. There is great potential for development in the area due to the proximity of I-85 and favorable topography for large buildings. This development is hampered by the lack of utilities at the site. Therefore wastewater service needs to be extended to the area to increase its marketability. The Southside Virginia Community College is currently connected via a pump station and force main. A new pump station will be necessary as this new development occurs.

Wastewater generated by the Town of Brodnax is conveyed through a 6" force main to La Crosse, then through a 8" force main to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant at South Hill. Brodnax contracts with South Hill to treat up to 50,000 gallons per day of wastewater. Average demand of Brodnax is approximately 13,000 GPD.

Halifax County - Water

Until recently there were five municipalities within Halifax County with public utilities systems. In 2007, the Halifax County Service Authority was formed to include South Boston and Halifax, the adjacent urban areas of Halifax County including Riverdale, and to include the groundwater systems at Clover and VIR. Under this arrangement the County authority assumed responsibility of the customers, ownership, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure including the transmission lines and plants.

The South Boston water treatment plant has a design capacity of 3 million gallons per day. Average water demand is 1.5 MGD and maximum daily demand is 2.7 MGD. The Dan River is the water source for the South Boston system. The aged obsolete 288,000 GPD water treatment plant built in 1961 for the Town of Halifax is currently still in use until the temporary (4"-line) connection to the South Boston treatment facility is replaced by a permanent force main. In 2006, the average daily production in Halifax was approximately 200,000 GPD, or approximately 70 percent of capacity. The Halifax town treatment plant and raw water intake on Banister Lake will remain and may serve as back-up to the South Boston supply.

At this time Towns of Scottsburg, and Virgilina, which utilize groundwater, are not part of the Halifax County Service Authority, although their future inclusion was a recommendation of the Water and Sewer Master Plan for Halifax County prepared by Draper Aden Associates in 2005. The water source for the Town of Virgilina is groundwater from three wells which, since the 1992 drought have not been able to meet the Town's needs. Additionally there have been reports of uranium and radium in water samples taken from Well #4 of the public system for the Town of Virgilina.

Halifax County - Wastewater

The sewage treatment facilities for the South Boston-Halifax Urban area, Clover and VIR were also acquired by the Halifax County Service Authority. The wastewater treatment plant in South Boston has a permitted design capacity of 2 MGD with a hydraulic capacity of 5 MGD. The treatment facility in Halifax is a 300,000 GPD facility designed for secondary treatment that discharges to the Banister River just downstream of the town limits. Constructed in 1987, the plant was improved in 1989 and in 2000. The plant is operating at approximately 80 percent capacity with an average flow of 230,000 GPD. Reduction of excess inflow would free some capacity.

Mecklenburg County - Water

There are public water systems serving the towns of Boynton, Chase City, Clarksville, La Crosse, and South Hill. The impoundments of the Roanoke River, Lake Gaston and John H. Kerr Reservoir, serve

Infrastructure

as the primary water sources for the Mecklenburg municipalities, with the exception of Chase City, which makes use of available groundwater supplies. However, efforts are underway for Chase City to connect to the Roanoke River Regional Water Authority (RRSA).

The Roanoke River Public Service Authority operates a regional water system that serves the towns of Brodnax, La Crosse, South Hill, Boydton, the River Ridge community near Bracey and surrounding areas within Brunswick and Mecklenburg counties. These towns except Bracey, purchase bulk water from RRSA and distribute drinking water through their own operated distribution system to retail customers. The RRSA operates a 4.0 MGD water treatment facility with an intake on the Roanoke River (Lake Gaston) near U.S. Highway 1. The system includes 17.5 miles of water main extensions installed from South Hill along U.S. Highway 58, with branches to the Baskerville and Mecklenburg Correctional Units in Mecklenburg County. This multi-year project was completed in 2002 and utilized the Virginia Resources Authority, EDA, CDBG, Department of Health, and Rural Development funding.

Some of the RRSA water customers have experienced recurring problems with TTHM production caused in part by high organic concentrations and low dissolved oxygen in the water source. The consecutive systems of La Crosse, Brodnax and Boydton have experienced significant TTHM violations, which have resulted in Notices of Violation from the Virginia Department of Health the oversight agency. Several suggested water system management changes, such as increased flushing of water mains and reduction in system, which were implemented but did not attain adequate results to reach TTHM compliance standards. An additional treatment process and associated equipment is needed to remove total organic carbon (TOC) at the Water Treatment Plant to alleviate this problem.

Chase City's 12 deep-water wells have become unreliable due to a drop in the water table and silt deposits in the well bottom. The pumps have had to be raised as a result of silting in the wells. The water lines in the town system have experienced breaks, clogs and low flow and need replacement. From 2000 to 2008 Chase City 10 notices of violation for various infractions including exceeding the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL) for total coli form bacteria. The Town was advised that they would be required to add a treatment process to their well water to address these notices. These water system problems have resulted in a situation that has diminished Chase City's ability to attract much needed industry. As a result Chase City wishes to connect to the Roanoke River Service Authority, which will require the extension of a water line from Boydton along Route 92.

Clarksville owns and operates a 1.0 MGD MGD water treatment plant with a raw water intake on Kerr Reservoir. The original 0.5 MGD plant was constructed in 1952 and was upgraded in 2007. In addition to the plant capacity increase, a waterline "loop" to serve proposed annexed service areas along Route 722 and U.S. 58 was installed.

Mecklenburg County - Wastewater

The Town of South Hill and Mecklenburg County own a regional wastewater treatment plant and facilities. The wastewater treatment plant, which provides wastewater treatment to the eastern portion of Mecklenburg County, South Hill, La Crosse, and Brodnax and surrounding areas, was expanded from 2.0 MGD to 3.0 MGD in 2009. Each town owns its own conveyance system. This expansion and associated upgrade was necessary to meet increased service demand as well as to remove nutrients in the discharge and improve water quality downstream—Flat Creek and Roanoke River system.

The Clarksville wastewater plant was upgraded in 1995 and has a capacity of 550,000 GPD. The town has identified fringe areas that are in need of water and sewer service and the extension of transmission lines. A new pump station in Clarksville is required to eliminate the need for a failing private treatment plant at the trailer park. Other system needs include a new sewer interceptor line; pump station upgrades; replacement and upgrades of dilapidated lines; and, correction of inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems.

Infrastructure

Figure 57: Water Treatment Facilities, 2006

System	Water Storage (gallons)	Average Water De- mand (gal. per day 2006)	Water Source	Plant Treatment Capacity (gal. per day)
Lawrenceville System Serving:			Great Creek (primary) Meherrin River (aux.)	2,000,000
Town of Lawrenceville	Total Storage: 1,890,000 that includes: Food Lion Tank: 500,000 Mayfield Tank: 500,000 Craddock Terry Tank: 150,000	850,000		
Town of Alberta	Two Tanks: 275,000	50,000		
Halifax County Service Authority Serving:				
South Boston	Total Storage: 2,950,000	1,500,000	Dan River	3,000,000
Halifax	Total Storage: 360,000	200,000	Banister Lake	288,000
Clover	One Tank: 250,000	25,000	2 Wells	115,200
Scottsburg	350,000	29,000	2 Wells	71,000
Virgilina	100,000	12,500	3 Wells	20,000
Roanoke River Regional Water Authority Serving:	Total RRSA Storage: 4,763,000 that includes: Big Fork: 1,000,000 DOC: 200,000 30' Ground Storage: 300,000 WTP: 100,000 Clear Well: 90,000		Lake Gaston Roanoke River Permit 9/17/02	4,000,000
Brodnax	S. Main St. 100,000 58 East 500,000*	35,000		
La Crosse	Town: 75,000 58 East: 500,000* Airport Ind. park: 300,000	66,650		
South Hill	Plank Rd: 1,000,000 Main St. 500,000 Northside 500,000	970,000		
Bracey / River Ridge	River Ridge 100,000	60,000		
Boydton	Post Office: 75,000 Park St: 300,000	125,000		
Baskerville Correctional Unit #4	Stand Column Tank: 138,000			
Mecklenburg Correctional	Ground Tank: 100,000 Overhead Tank: 75,000	83,333		
Chase City	700,000	240,000	12 Wells	1,008,000
Clarksville	600,000	300,000	Kerr Lake	500,000
* Shared tank				

Source: Southside Planning District Commison

Infrastructure

Figure 58: Wastewater Facilities (average gallons per day), 2006

Treatment Capacity	Capacity	Present Use
Brunswick County		
Alberta	100,000	40,000
Brodnax ¹		
Lawrenceville	1,200,000	850,000
Halifax County		
Clover	35,000	16,000
Halifax	300,000	160,000
Scottsburg	30,000	18,000
South Boston	2,000,000	1,700,000
Virgilina	30,000	n/a
Mecklenburg County		
Brodnax	50,000	13,000
La Crosse	100,000	45,500
South Hill	2,000,000	800,000
Bracey / River Ridge	150,000	60,000
Boydton ²	360,000	150,000
Chase City	600,000	250,000
Clarksville	550,000	330,000
¹ Brodnax and La Crosse are participants in a regional sewer system with flows being treated at the Roanoke River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant ² Boydton usage includes Mecklenburg Correctional Center		

Source: Southside Planning District Commission

Solid Waste Management

Planning and Regulations

New landfill design, operation, and monitoring requirements found within the state's revised Solid Waste Management Regulations will have a significant adverse economic impact upon localities operating solid waste landfill facilities. In addition, newly adopted local solid waste management planning requirements and mandated recycling of waste by the state must also be complied with, further stretching the financial resources of local government.

Brunswick County

In 1997, Allied Waste Industries, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona, opened the Brunswick Waste Management Facility. The landfill encompasses 822 acres with approximately 27 active acres. The State has approved 420 acres for use. The majority of the waste is trucked in from the surrounding areas in Virginia and neighboring states including North Carolina and Maryland, and from New York. The landfill is located on Mallard Crossing Road, State Route 733.

Brunswick County has entered into a 20-year contract to dispose of its waste at no charge and to participate in the revenues generated by the landfill. Waste that is non-hazardous is accepted from North Carolina, Maryland, and New York. Plans for an on-site rail spur are being developed.

Until the mid-1990s, the County operated a system of refuse containers (344 containers) at 164 sites throughout the County. In 1997-98, this system was curtailed and many sites closed out. The County implemented a system of centralized drop-off sites, utilizing larger roll-off type containers located at: South Brunswick, Gasburg, Dolphin, Freeman, Cochran, Ante, Ebony, and Totaro (planned).

Virginia Code § 10.1-1413.1.B provides that facility owners may provide “an accounting of the facility’s economic benefits to the locality where the facility is located including the value of disposal and recycling facilities provided to the locality at no cost or reduced cost, direct employment associated with the facility, and other economic benefits resulting from the facility during the preceding calendar year.”

Brunswick Waste Management Facility, LLC reported the following benefits to Brunswick County for the 2007 calendar year:

- Host fees totaling \$2,032,582;
- Direct employment associated with the facility of \$1,373,559;
- Free or reduced cost disposal and recycling totaling \$560,720;
- Goods and services purchased in Brunswick and surrounding areas totaling \$4,111,923; and
- Payment for landfill inspectors of \$169,156;
- Indirect employment (trucking and services) in Brunswick County of \$1,600,000; and
- Local charitable contributions of \$7,700

Southside Regional Public Service Authority

In order to satisfy DEQ mandates and the ever-increasing solid waste disposal needs of the region, in 2003 the counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg and Charlotte formed the Southside Regional Public Service Authority to oversee a regional landfill effort. The Butchers Creek Landfill was constructed the property owned by Mecklenburg on Highway 92, four miles north of Boydton and opened 2007. The service area also includes the towns of Charlotte Court House, Drakes Branch, Keysville, Phenix, Halifax,

Solid Waste Management

Scottsburg, South Boston, Virgilina, Boydton, Chase City, Clarksville, La Crosse, and South Hill. The 2007 available capacity was 2.9 million tons.

Figure 59: Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Facility Name	Permit Number	County	Available Capacity 12/07 (tons)	Disposal Amount 2003 (tons)	Reported Remaining Life (years)
Brunswick Waste Management Facility, LLC	SWP 583	Brunswick	12,150,000	1,093,183	17
Mecklenburg County Sanitary Landfill	SWP 014	Mecklenburg	Closed	43,223	0
South Boston Sanitary Landfill	SWP 031	Town of South Boston Halifax County	Closed	48,426	0
Halifax County Landfill	SWP 092	Halifax	Closed	Not in Use	0
SRPSA Butcher Creek Sanitary Landfill	SWP 598	Mecklenburg Halifax Charlotte	2,950,000		39

Source: DEQ, Solid Waste Managed in Virginia During Calendar Year 2007, issued 6/2008: Capacity/Disposal Rate Detail for Virginia Landfills - 2007

District Transportation Systems

Transportation Systems

Accommodating future growth is largely dependent upon the presence and planned development of efficient transportation systems. Transportation systems, which are capable of meeting the local and regional transportation needs of both individuals and commerce, are major assets that stimulate community growth and spur economic development.

Intermodalism & Economic Development

Intermodalism as relates to transportation is the use or availability of several forms (modes) to transport goods and/or people. In today's world to remain competitive industries must be able to deliver quickly, efficiently, and at the lowest possible cost. Having these various methods of transport in one location is more cost efficient. A manufacturer shipping overseas that normally shipped by rail would not have the added expense of switching freight from train to truck to the port. The District's location on the U.S. 58 and I-85 corridors facilitates the movement of freight and travelers to the Port of Hampton Roads as well as to the entire East Coast.

Transportation (i. e. location) is one of the top factors considered by industry and corporations when selecting sites. Important factors when evaluating an area's transportation system, according to site selection industry professionals, include:

- Distance to an interstate highway
- Distance to an airport
- Major carriers serving the area
- Rail service to the site
- Distance to a port
- Inbound/outbound cost analysis

The locations identified by the localities as economic development and industrial sites must be evaluated as to how well the above criteria are met and if improvements can be made in order to provide better service. Southside's primary shipping options are trucking and rail (in most of the industrial areas). Rail is the nation's largest carrier of domestic freight. A study by Georgia Tech in 1995 revealed that rail carries 43.5% of the nation's freight, with truck, water, and air following with 31.6%, 24.5%, and 0.4% respectively.

The localities within Southside Planning District have been marketing their industrial parks and sites by emphasizing location. Most of the parks are close to and, in some cases, adjacent to a general aviation airport. Four are served by rail. The ability to accommodate double stack railroad cars has been a feature requested by some industrial prospects interested in the area. The District's strategic location along U.S. 58 and connecting with I-85, U.S. 360 and U.S. 501 is perhaps its greatest asset.

Highways

U.S. Routes 360 and 58 and Interstate 85 are part of the National Highway System. The purpose of the NHS is to provide a system of highways that meets national defense requirements, serves interstate and interregional travel, and serves major travel destinations, international border crossings, major population centers, major ports, major airports, major public transportation facilities, and other major intermodal facilities. The NHS routes selected by Virginia were chosen to ensure that there was ad-

District Transportation Systems

equate access to many types of locations such as ports, airports, intermodal facilities, freight distribution routes, national parks, recreation and scenic areas, historic sites and military installations. These are the NHS designations:

- **Interstate :** The Eisenhower Interstate System of highways retains its separate identity within the NHS.
- **Other Principal Arterials:** These are highways in rural and urban areas which provide access between an arterial and a major port, airport, public transportation facility, or other intermodal transportation facility.
- **Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET):** This is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.
- **Major Strategic Highway Network Connectors:** These are highways which provide access between major military installations and highways which are part of the Strategic Highway Network.
- **Intermodal Connectors:** These highways provide access between major intermodal facilities and the other four subsystems making up the National Highway System.

U.S. Route 58 from Hampton Roads to I-85 at South Hill is designated a STRAHNET Route. Also with in the Planning District, U.S. Routes 58 west of South Hill and U.S. Route 360 are designated as "Other Principal Arterials."

District Highways

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) uses a functional classification system that groups highways according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Principal arterials in the rural highways system are highways, which provide an integrated network of roads, which connect principal metropolitan areas and serve long distance statewide and interstate travel needs. Minor arterials are highways that link cities and towns and provide a network for statewide and inter-county travel. They are intended to be routes that have a minimum of interference to through travel and are used to support the principal arterials. Major collectors provide service to any county seat, town or other traffic generators and serve as important intra-county travel corridors. Minor collectors bring developed areas and small communities within a reasonable distance of other major routes by collecting traffic from local roads, and accordingly are situated in or near incorporated towns.

U. S. Highway 58 is a principal arterial. This highway traverses the southern boundary of the entire state and serves as the major east-west connector route for all the PDC 13 localities. U.S. 58, originating in the Hampton Roads/ Virginia Beach area, provides an important connection to major ports and industrial centers, as well as a prime tourist travel route. Many of the District's industrial parks are located along this major corridor.

Other principal arterials through the region and that provide important north-south connections are I-85, U.S. Routes 360, 501 and 1. Although not located within the District, access to I-95, the major east coast corridor, is located only 10 miles east of the Brunswick County line with an interchange on U. S. Route 58 in Emporia, Virginia. Interstate 85, which intersects with I-95 in Petersburg, Virginia, is a major industrial corridor through the state, providing a connection from points north to Atlanta, the major commerce center of the South. Interstate 85 replaced U. S. Route 1 as the primary north-south route, but U. S. 1 continues to be important locally. U.S. Route 360 remains an important truck route in the District. U.S. 501 is also a vital industrial and commercial transportation route, linking Halifax/ South Boston with the City of Lynchburg (U.S. Route 460) and Buena Vista (I-81) to the north and the Durham/Raleigh, North Carolina area (I-85 and the Research Triangle) to the south. U.S. Route 501

south of Route 96 to the North Carolina line has been widened to 4 lanes. The portion of U.S. Route 501 from 360 at South Boston to Buena Vista, Virginia, in its current state as a two-lane highway, is an impediment to economic development in Southside Virginia.

The highways passing through the Southside Planning District are an important asset for economic development. U.S. Route 15 has been identified as being an important north-south corridor connecting Interstates 64, 66 and 85. If improved and widened to 4 lanes where needed, it has the potential of being an alternative to and alleviating congestion from the heavily traveled Interstates 81 & 95. Corridor improvements would offset the negative consequences caused by the loss of rail service to some Southside areas, increase tourist traffic, and promote economic development. This improved connection the interstate system could be of major importance in the marketing of Southside Virginia for industrial and business development.

Route 903 is the major non-interstate route for travelers to the Lake Gaston area and provides a connection between I-85 and I-95 for much of the local traffic. Route 903 begins in Littleton, North Carolina at U.S. 158, crosses Lake Gaston at Eaton's Ferry Bridge, continues in Virginia running parallel to the Lake and ends at South Hill. In North Carolina Route 903 is a primary highway and is maintained by the state to a higher standard with greater road and shoulder width. In Virginia, Route 903 is a part of the Secondary System. Most of the Virginia section is narrow and winding. The section from the North Carolina line to Route 626 at Ebony is extremely narrow with no shoulder area. Local officials have expressed interest in adding Route 903 to the Primary System so that it would be maintained in a similar manner as in North Carolina. Routes 644 in Brunswick and 626 in Mecklenburg were also noted as inferior connectors from Route 58 to Lake Gaston. Furthermore as a gateway, the appearance of the road to the traveling public should also be considered when making local policy or land use changes.

Improvements are needed to State Route 693 in Halifax County. Traffic on this roadway is expected to increase significantly as a result of the VIR Raceplex, a racing enthusiast club and business complex.

Scenic Byways

The Virginia Byway program identifies road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historical, natural or recreational significance. By designating certain roads as Virginia Byways, widely distributing "A Map of Scenic Roads in Virginia," and promoting the Virginia Scenic Roads Web site, the program encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high-traffic corridors. Byways also stimulate local economies by attracting visitors to lesser-known destinations. One study showed visitors spent \$1.8 billion in counties adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina. This supported nearly 75,000 jobs and generated more than \$147 million in tax revenues in the region.

In Brunswick County Routes 903, and 626, the primary local access to Lake Gaston, and Route 46, which follows an old trading path and connects a number of historic sites including Fort Christanna and St. Paul's College have been designated Virginia Scenic Byways. Roads so designated in Halifax County include River Road (SR 629), which travels past numerous 19th century homes and plantations, VA Route 360 (Mountain, MacDonald, and Scottsburg Roads), which link Staunton River State Park and scenic historic Halifax Courthouse. In Mecklenburg County the Scenic Byway designation of State Route 903 extends from the Brunswick County line to South Hill and continues on State Route 47 at South Hill through Chase City into neighboring Charlotte County.

Railways - Current

The availability of freight rail service has been greatly reduced in the last three decades. More than 100 miles of rail have been abandoned within the district since 1970. The number of lines abandoned would have been even greater had not several lines or line segments been purchased or leased from the railroad companies and operated as "short lines". The Association of American Railroads define short

District Transportation Systems

lines as local railroads with fewer than 350 miles of track and less than \$40 million a year in revenue. Short lines transfer cars and freight to and from the main rail lines and serve one or several industrial customers. There are three rail lines remaining in the District: The Norfolk-Southern from Brookneal through South Boston and into North Carolina (a spur off this line provides coal to the Clover Cogeneration Facility), the Norfolk-Southern from Emporia to Lawrenceville (primary customer Lawrenceville Brick and Tile, and the “Virginia Southern” short line from Burkeville to Oxford, NC leased and operated by Buckingham Branch Railroad. The “Virginia Southern” short line passes through Chase City and Clarksville and currently serves the Mecklenburg Cogeneration Plant.

There is no rail passenger service within the District. Amtrak stations are located in Danville, 29 miles west of South Boston and in Petersburg, 40 miles north of Alberta.

Southeast High Speed Rail

Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia have joined together with the business communities in each state to form a four-state coalition to plan, develop and implement high speed rail in the Southeast. The system will be developed incrementally, upgrading existing rail rights-of-way. High speed rail in the southeast will mean top speeds of 110 mph and average speeds between 85-87 mph. North Carolina, Virginia and the FHWA and FRA completed the vital first part of a two-part environmental study for the Washington, DC to Charlotte portion of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR) in October 2002. The Tier I EIS identified the preferred corridor and the overall project purpose and need. The former Seaboard Airline right-of-way, now owned by CSX Corporation, known as the “S-line” in the study, was been selected as the most time and cost efficient route from Petersburg to Raleigh.

Virginia and North Carolina are now proceeding with the next phase, Tier II, which provides a detailed analysis on the impacts, including track location, station arrangement and detailed design. Rather than a single large document, smaller Tier II environmental studies will be conducted for specific segments of the route where track work will be needed. The Washington, DC to Charlotte portion of the SEHSR corridor could be implemented between 2015 and 2020 depending on funding availability. In the meantime, other projects will reduce travel time within the next few years. Implementation of the remainder of the SEHSR into South Carolina, Georgia and Florida will follow by several years.

The towns of Alberta in Brunswick County and La Crosse in Mecklenburg County have each expressed interest in development as a “skip-stop” or “whistle stop” station on the rail line once the infrastructure re-established. This has been identified as a very desirable revitalization tool for the towns and region. High Speed Rail along the “S” line with a local stop would benefit commuters and other segments of the residential population such as the elderly. The reintroduction of a freight line to this part of Mecklenburg and Brunswick Counties would be a boon to economic development efforts as well.

Abandoned Rail

Southside rail corridors abandoned since the 1970s by Norfolk Southern and Norfolk Western were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as three separate railroads—the Atlantic and Danville, the Richmond and Danville and the Virginian. These rail corridors are forming the nucleus for a regional rails-to-trails initiative which is discussed later under “Tourism and Recreation”.

Ports

Southside Planning District is fortunate to be directly connected to the Port of Virginia at Hampton Roads via U. S. Route 58. At the Port, publicly and privately owned port facilities provide total cargo handling capability. The facilities include 4 general cargo terminals including an inland port—Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal, and the Virginia Inland Port in Front Royal. The Port of Virginia’s strategic mid-Atlantic location and unparalleled trans-

District Transportation Systems

portation infrastructure offers steamship lines and shippers unbeatable access to two-thirds of the U.S. population with more than 75 international shipping lines and one of the most frequent direct sailing schedules of any port. Virginia has the best natural deepwater harbor on the U.S. East Coast. Virginia ports are located just 18 miles from the open sea on a year-round, ice-free harbor. The Port transports more intermodal containers to more cities faster and more efficiently than any other port in the United States. More than 50 motor-carrier companies offer full freight handling and load-construction services. Virginia offers six direct-service trains to 28 major cities each day. In Addition to US 58, the Planning District is connected to the Port by rail. Norfolk Southern provides a direct link from Lawrenceville in Brunswick County.

The Port of Richmond, located north of Petersburg, on the James River, is another deepwater facility easily accessible from the District. Located 100 miles up river from Hampton Roads, the port is a container and general cargo facility, serving shippers throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. This port, owned by the City of Richmond, is a small intermodal facility with rail connections—CSX directly and Norfolk Southern via switch. In addition to rail, Interstates 85 and 95, and U.S. Route 360 connect the Planning District to the Port of Richmond.

Airports

One measure of a region's accessibility is whether the largest municipality in the county is within ten miles of an interstate and within 50 miles of a commercial airport. The Brunswick-Halifax-Mecklenburg region is over 100 miles long and no locality is within 50 miles of a major commercial airport, thus a high quality regional aviation facility is an important tool for achieving economic competitiveness. The shape and length of the region necessitated having two regional airports, the Mecklenburg-Brunswick Regional Airport and the William A. Tuck Airport in addition to three general aviation facilities—Lawrenceville/Brunswick Airport, the Marks Municipal Airport in Clarksville, and the Chase City Airport.

Commercial passenger and air freight services are available to the District through four larger nearby airports which include the Danville Municipal Airport (30 miles west of South Boston), Raleigh-Durham International Airport (52 miles south of the Virginia/North Carolina line), Piedmont International Airport at Greensboro, North Carolina (90 miles southwest of South Boston), and Richmond International Airport (80 miles northeast of South Hill).

District Transportation Systems

Figure 60 Airport Facilities

Lawrenceville/Brunswick Airport - Lawrenceville	3,200' lighted runway 2,800' alternate runway 100 low lead fuel Hangers available No landing fee
Mecklenburg/Brunswick Regional Airport - Brodnax	Terminal building 5,000' lighted runway (75' wide) with 3 stub taxiways PAPI, REIL, and Pilot Controlled Runway Lighting Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS III) PanAm Weatheration TV Fuel Farm: 10,000 gallon underground tank 100 jet fuel, 10,000 gallon underground tank 100 low lead tank Fixed base operator No landing fee 13 spaces for aircraft tiedown 12 T-hangars Hangars available upon request
Clarksville Marks Municipal Airport - Clarksville	4,655' lighted runway No landing fees 100 low lead fuel
Chase City Airport - Chase City	3,400' lighted runway No landing fees Hangars available
William M. Tuck Airport - South Boston	4,000' paved lighted runway Navigation systems Radio communication Hangars available Fuel and repair service Single and twin engine charter service

Source: Various

Commuting Flows

Often limited employment opportunities lead to both the out-migration of workers, as well as, significant out-commuting. However, the Census shows that out-commuting is moderate. The figures show that most residents still work in the county in which they live. However, this percentage is falling some, particularly in Brunswick County.

Figure 61: Place of Work



County of Residence	Census Year	Work Site County							
		Brunswick	Halifax	Mecklenburg	North Carolina	Richmond Metro	Other		
							Other South-side County	Other County	Other State
Brunswick County	1990	61%	2%	11%	1%	4%	21%		
	2000	69%	<1%	12%	5%	5%	8%		
	2006-10	45.5%	0%	13.8%	5.9%	7.2%	11.9%	15%	0.8%
Halifax County	1990	0%	79%	6%	7%	1%	7%		
	2000	0%	84%	4%	2%	<1%	9%		
	2006-10	0%	77.6%	1.5%	6.5%	0.5%	6.7%	6.7%	0.6%
Mecklenburg County	1990	4%	2%	81%	4%	2%	1%		
	2000	7%	3%	74%	4%	1%	11%		
	2006-10	3.7%	3.9%	73.3%	7.7%	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%	1.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010

District Transportation Systems

Figure 62: Means of Transportation to Work, 2009-2013



	Total Workers 16 & Older	Car, truck, or van (alone)	Car, truck, or van (carpool)	Public Transpor- tation	Walking	Other Means	Work from Home
Brunswick County	6,056	4,914 81.14%	502 8.29%	73 1.21%	143 2.36%	104 1.72%	320 5.28%
Halifax County	13,881	11,618 83.70%	1,083 7.80%	30 0.22%	211 1.52%	384 2.77%	555 4.00%
Mecklenburg County	12,031	9,362 77.82%	1,506 12.52%	57 0.47%	167 1.39%	376 3.13%	563 4.68%
PDC	31,968	25,894 81.00%	3,091 9.67%	160 0.50%	521 1.63%	864 2.70%	1,438 4.50%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013

Industrial and Commerce Parks

Southside PDC Industrial Parks

Planned industrial zones or parks contain concentrated areas of land to accommodate manufacturing and industrial services. The effectiveness of an industrial or business park is dependent on infrastructure and land space. Telecommunications infrastructure has become an essential need for a locality to be competitive. Sufficient capacity for water and sewer, transportation is of prime importance as well. Location in Enterprise Zones provides desirable incentives. The following table describes the region's commerce parks that contain marketable sites. Other important site resources needed are shell buildings and graded sites.

Figure 63: Industrial Parks

Park	County	Location	Services	Notes	Park Acreage / Largest Contiguous Parcel
Alberta I-85 Industrial Park	Brunswick	Alberta	W, S, HSC	New	138 / 138
Brunswick County Industrial Park	Brunswick	Lawrenceville	W, S, NG, R, EZ	Available lots	82 / 46
Sinai Industrial Park	Halifax	South Boston	W, S, R, NG, EZ	Available lots	36.9 / 36.9
Souther Va. Technology Park	Halifax	South Boston	W, S, NG, HSC, EZ, TZ	DS3 broadband service available; 67,000 sf multitenant bldg.	149 / 40
J. Aubrey Houghton Industrial Park	Halifax	South Boston	W, S, EZ	Available lots	70 / 70
VIR Raceplex	Halifax	Alton	W, S,	20,000 sf shell bldg. for lease, available space	70 / 70
Lakeside Commerce Park	Mecklenburg	Clarksville / Chase City	W, S, EZ, TZ, FO	Redundant fiber to park, node on site, 14-acre graded pad	275 / 100
Roanoke River Regional Business Park	Mecklenburg	Brodnax	W, S, NG, FO	Fiber at front of park, dark fiber, Collapsed Sonet Ring, POPS, ISDN, and other fiber services	275 / 157
Lake Country Industrial Park	Mecklenburg	Clarksville	W, S, EZ	Available lots	32 / 7
Interstate Industrial Park	Mecklenburg	South Hill	W, S, NG, EZ, FO	Fiber at front of park, DSL, ISDN, T-1, and other fiber services.	290 / 55
Hillcrest Industrial Park	Mecklenburg	South Hill	W, S, NG, EZ, FO	DSL, ISDN, T-1, and other fiber services. Suitable for a 1.3M sf user.	137 / 116

W - Water S - Sewer NG - Natural Gas EZ - Enterprise Zone HSC - High Speed Communications FO - Fiber Optic Cable R - Rail TZ - Technology Zone

Source: VEDP and area economic development offices

Broadband Connectivity

Broadband and Economic Development

Locating businesses and industries consider high-speed broadband as necessary as water and sewer lines to their successful operation. Currently fiber optic cable has been installed along the U.S. 58 corridor through the Planning District. Installation of “Last mile” high-speed Internet service is needed throughout Southside Virginia. Lack of access to broadband services to the businesses and residents in this rural region of Virginia has been a fundamental problem. The District’s towns and industrial parks have varying levels of broadband service—from nonexistent to full connectivity. Additional fixed broadband and wireless network facilities would close this communications gap.

List of Changes

Changes from 2014 to 2015

The following table lists which pages and figures have had changes from the previous year.

Page	Figure	Par.	Update	Explanation
2		2	Update information in text	Updated of narrative
2		4	Update information in text	Updated of narrative
2	2		Update graph/chart/table	Added new data
2		5	Deleted text	Uncredited statement about tobacco production not returning to pre-2004 levels
3		1	Update information in text	Updated statement about available labor force
3	3		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 data
3		2	Update information in text	Updated reference to latest unemployment rate
3		3	Update information in text	Updated information about tourism spending
5	5		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 estimates (this was Fig 7 on page 6)
6	7		New graph/chart/table	Added a table containing actual populations from 1790-2010
7		1	Update information in text	Changed text about projections
7	8		Update graph/chart/table	Removed race breakdown, added Census 2000 & 2010 data
7		2	Update information in text	Simplified the paragraph on age
8	11		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 estimates by age group, used better age groups (so can compare between actual and estimates)
9		0	Deleted text	Removed generic statements about gender. Should add more charts
9	15		New graph/chart/table	Added 2010 Hispanic/Not-Hispanic table
9	16		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 Estimates, corrected data
10		1	Update information in text	Updated statement about births and deaths
10	17		Update graph/chart/table	Added data from 2011-2013
10	18		Update graph/chart/table	Added data from 2011-2013, changed colors
11		1	Update information in text	Updated statement about per capita income
11		2	Update information in text	Updated text about wages
11		3	Update information in text	Updated information about the cost of living table, and how it has changed
11		4	Update information in text	Updated text about poverty levels
12	20		Update graph/chart/table	Changed to industry data instead of occupation
13	21		Update graph/chart/table	New data in table, keyed by color now, some new cities
14	22		Update graph/chart/table	Updated from 2006-2011 to 2009-2013
15		1	Update information in text	Mentioned 2012 Econ Census (not available yet)
18	25		Update graph/chart/table	Added taxable sales for years 2012 & 2103 to table
18	26		Update graph/chart/table	Added taxable sales for years 2012 & 2103 to graph
19		1	Update information in text	Mentioned 2012 Econ Census (not available yet)
23	28		Update graph/chart/table	Added past years, updated with 2012 & 2013 data
24	29		Update graph/chart/table	Added years 2012 & 2013 to graph
24	30		Update graph/chart/table	Added recent closings
25	31		Update graph/chart/table	Added recent openings/expansions
26		1	Update information in text	Updated information about recent unemployment rate
28	32		Update graph/chart/table	Replaced old pie chart with Employment by Occupation table
28	33		Update graph/chart/table	Updated Top Employers for District
29	34		New graph/chart/table	Used same chart as Fig 2
30	35		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 to 2001 & 2009 data
31	36		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2011 & 2012 data
32	37		Update graph/chart/table	Addes data from 2012 Ag Census, and PDC data

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33	38		Update graph/chart/table	Added data from 2nd quarter 2014
36	39		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2013 data
36	40		Update graph/chart/table	Replaced 2011 data with 2012 & 2013
36	41		Update graph/chart/table	Added 2012 and 2013 data
36	42		Update graph/chart/table	Added newer and older years, expanded data reported
40	44		New graph/chart/table	Replaced old map with a newer map
47		5	Update information in text	Removed information about St. Paul's College
80	61		Update graph/chart/table	Added newest place of work data
81	62		Update graph/chart/table	Added newest means of transportation data
83	63		Update graph/chart/table	Minor edits to table