

ROCKBRIDGE AREA

CITY OF LEXINGTON

CITY OF BUENA VISTA

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY



Facts and Figures 2007

THE ROCKBRIDGE AREA is centrally located in the scenic Shenandoah Valley of west-central Virginia. The Rockbridge Area covers approximately 610 square miles of land and is home to over 34,000 persons. Lexington, incorporated in 1778, is the County seat and location of Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute. Buena Vista is the industrial and manufacturing nucleus of the area. Glasgow and Goshen are the County's only incorporated towns.

The County is bounded on the west by the lower elevations of the Allegheny Mountains and on the east by the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The County is situated at the headwaters of the James and Maury rivers and is bisected by Interstates 81 and 64. The Rockbridge Area is approximately 50 miles north of Roanoke, 135 miles west of Richmond, 180 miles southwest of Washington D.C., and 200 miles northwest of the Port of Hampton Roads.

The Rockbridge Area enjoys mild winters and warm summers with an average annual temperature of 55 degrees Fahrenheit and an average annual precipitation of 39 inches.

DEMOGRAPHICS AT A GLANCE

Rockbridge Area Population

1980 Census - 31,920

1990 Census - 31,715

2000 Census - 34,024

2006 Provisional Estimate - 35,253

Sub-regional Population (2006 Provisional Estimates)

Lexington - 7,230

Buena Vista - 6,397

Rockbridge - 21,626

Average Household Size

1990.....2.46 Persons

2000.....2.36 Persons

Income

Rockbridge Area Per Capita (2004): \$26,165

Median Adjusted Gross Income

For Married Couples (2004):

Lexington - \$56,826

Buena Vista - \$41,391

Rockbridge - \$45,149

Sources: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

INFRASTRUCTURE AT A GLANCE

Government

Lexington - Six member City Council

Buena Vista - Seven member City Council

Rockbridge - Five member Board of Supervisors

Real Estate Tax

(per \$100 assessed value)

Lexington - \$0.60

Buena Vista - \$0.89

Rockbridge - \$0.55

Bank Deposits - 2006

Total \$557 Million

Communications

Fiber optics, ISDN and DSL capability

Transportation

Road - Interstates 81 and 64

Rail - CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern

Air - Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport

Port - Virginia Inland Port (75 miles north)

Sources: Local Governments and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Compiled and published by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 885-5174. FAX (540) 885-2687. Website: www.cspdc.org. E-mail: cspdc@cspdc.org. *The publication of this report was financed in part, through a planning assistance grant from the Economic Development Administration, United States Department of Commerce, EDA Project Number 01-83-08435.*

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POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Total Population	31,715	34,024	2,309	7.3%
Male	16,125	17,162	1,037	6.4%
Female	15,590	16,862	1,272	8.2%

Age	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,644	1,720	76	4.6%
5 to 17 years	4,757	5,090	333	7.0%
18 to 64 years	20,703	21,795	1,092	5.3%
65 to 74 years	2,767	3,013	246	8.9%
75 to 84 years	1,465	1,798	333	22.7%
85 years and over	379	608	229	60.4%

Median Age	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Median Age	33.6	36.5	2.9	8.6%
Under 18 years Percent of total	6,401 20.2%	6,810 20.0%	409	6.4%

65 years and over Percent of total	4,611 14.5%	5,419 15.9%	808	17.5%
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Households by Type	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Total Households	11,778	13,265	1,487	12.6%

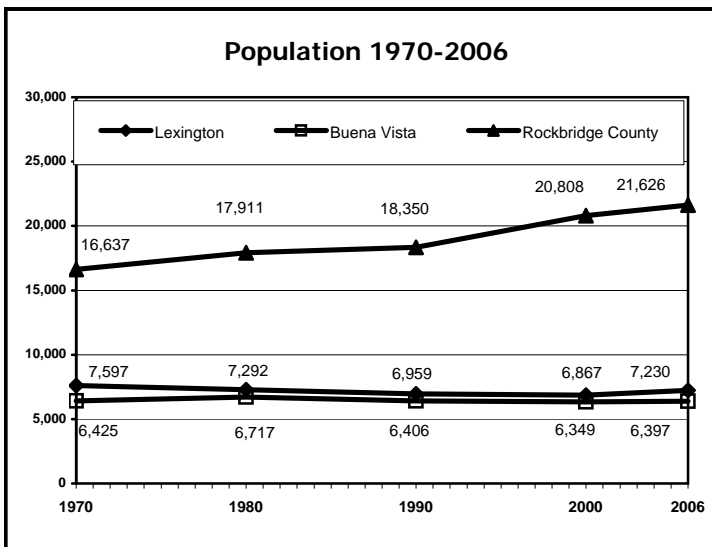
Family Households	8,317	8,901	584	7.0%
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Non-family Households Percent of total	3,461 29.4	4,364 34.2	903	26.1%
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Average Household Size	2.63	2.36	-0.27	-10.3%
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Civilian Labor Force	1995	2005	Number Change	Percent Change
Civilian Labor Force	15,848	17,189	1,341	8.5%
Employment	15,095	16,648	1,553	10.3%
Unemployment Number	753	541	-212	-28.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	3.1%	-1.7%	-35.4%

Source: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000 and the Virginia Employment Commission



Source: U.S. Census, Weldon Cooper CPS

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HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Housing	2000	2005	Number Change	Percent Change
Total Housing Units	14,705	15,739	1,034	7.0%

Occupancy and Tenure	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Occupied units	11,778	13,265	1,487	12.6%
Owner Occupied Percent	8,322 70.7	9,615 72.5	1,293	1.8
Renter Occupied	3,456	3,650	194	5.6%

Vacant Units	1,002	1,377	375	37.4%
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.07	1.71	0.64	59.8%
Rental vacancy rate	3.52	6.81	3.29	93.5%

Average Household Size (owner-occupied units)	2.51	2.40	-0.11	-4.4%
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Average Household Size (renter-occupied units)	2.36	2.25	-0.11	-4.7%
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Units in Structure	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
1-Unit, detached	9,812	11,322	1,510	15.4%
1-Unit, attached	104	188	84	80.8%
2 to 4 Units	750	654	-96	-12.8%
5 or more	733	905	172	23.5%
Manufactured home, trailer, and other	1,381	1,573	192	13.9%

Value	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Specified owner-occupied units Median (dollars)	55,200	94,483	39,283	71.2%

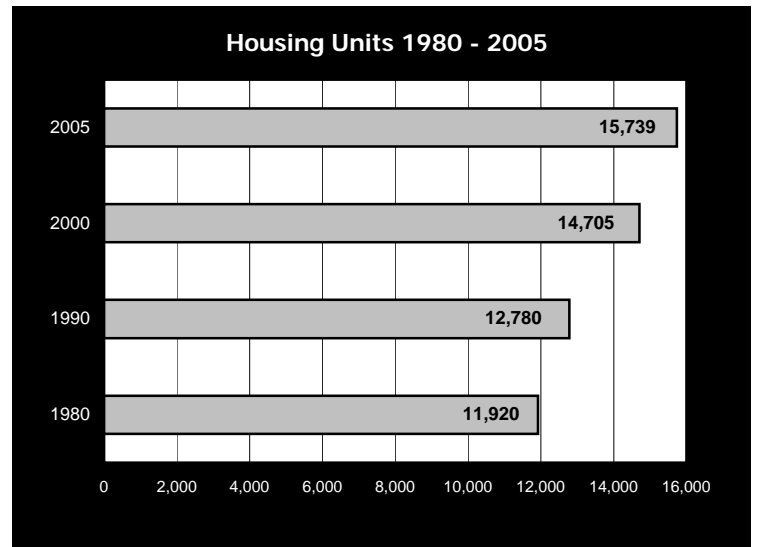
Gross Rent	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Specified renter-occupied units Median (dollars)	240	431	191	79.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census - Census of Housing 1990 and 2000

New Single-Family Housing Units Authorized

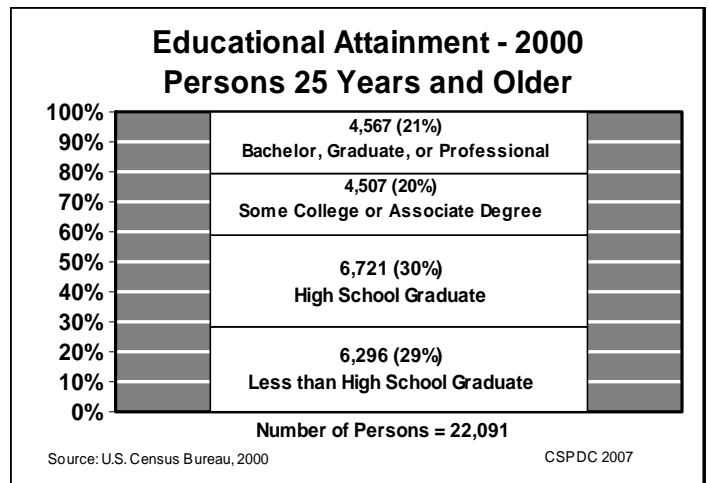
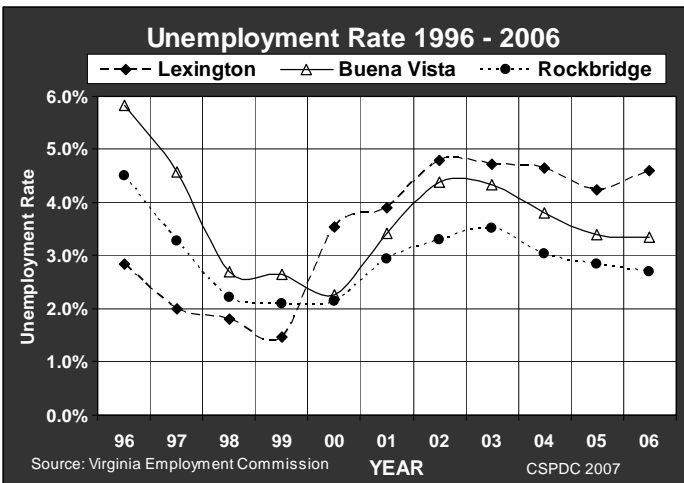
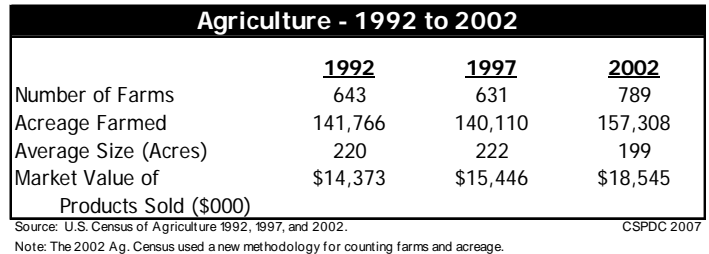
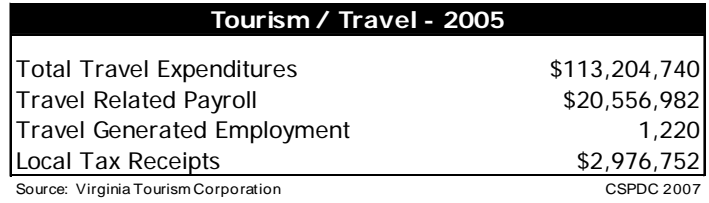
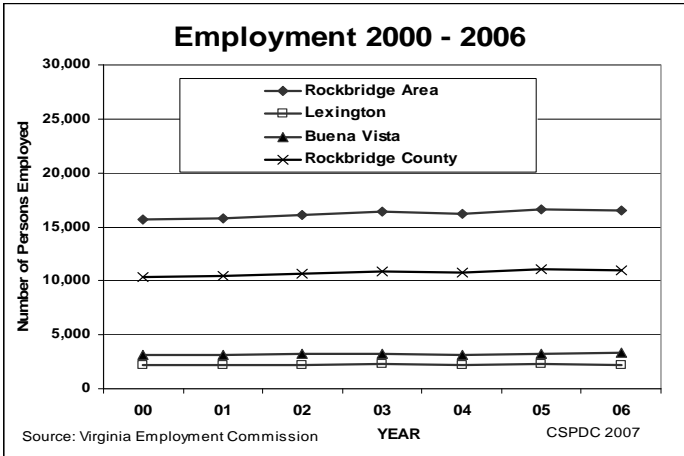
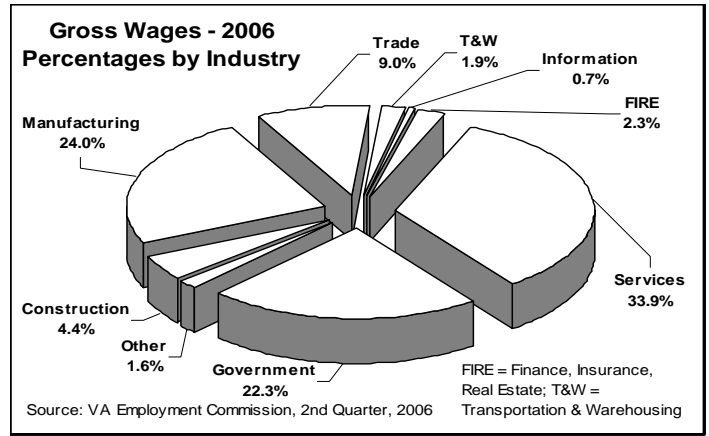
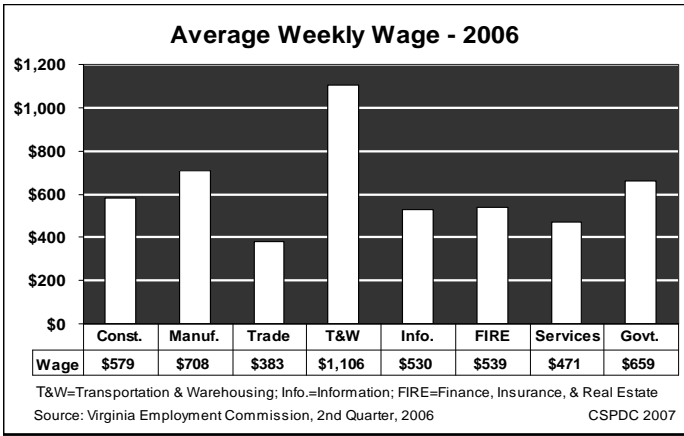
2000.....	248	2004.....	175
2001.....	237	2005.....	227
2002.....	269		
2003.....	134	2000 - 2005 Total.....	1,290

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service



Source: U.S. Census, Weldon Cooper CPS

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Employment by Industrial Sector - 2006

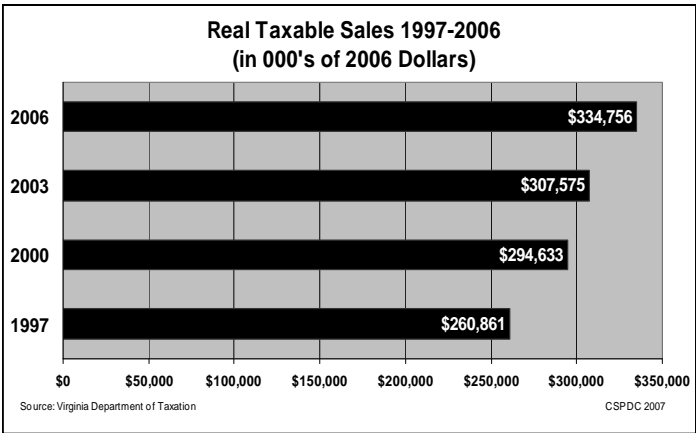
	Lexington	Buena Vista	Rockbridge	L-BV-RB	% of Area	% of VA
Agricultural, Forestry	*	*	93	*	*	0.3%
Mining & Quarrying	*	*	*	*	*	0.3%
Utilities	*	*	*	*	*	0.3%
Construction	98	13	499	610	4.2%	6.9%
Manufacturing	32	773	1,918	2,723	18.7%	7.9%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	502	210	1,174	1,886	13.0%	14.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	*	*	139	*	*	2.8%
Information	85	*	25	*	*	2.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	166	57	112	335	2.3%	5.3%
Services	2,856	1,166	1,747	5,769	39.7%	40.4%
Government	952	479	1,284	2,715	18.7%	18.3%
TOTAL	4,756	2,741	7,030	14,527	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, 2nd Quarter, 2006
* Data is withheld, but included in total. Columns may not total due to rounding & withheld data. CSPDC 2007

Number of Business Establishments: All Industries					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Lexington	360	358	358	364	374
Buena Vista	129	129	122	127	135
Rockbridge County	440	452	441	450	456
Rockbridge Area	929	939	921	941	965

Source: Virginia Employment Commission
 Covered Employment and Wages, 2nd Quarter 2006

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Source: Virginia Department of Taxation

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Public Schools 2005-06	
2005-06 Year-End Enrollment	4,505
Total Expenditures Per Pupil	\$8,947
Local Share	\$3,568
Ratio of Pupils per Classroom Teacher	
Elementary (K-7)	10.0
Secondary (8-12)	10.4
Total Graduates	328
Percent Continuing Education	65.5%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

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Community

Recreation: Blue Ridge Parkway, Washington-Jefferson National Forest, Lake Robertson, Glenn Maury Park, and Goshen Pass. Local parks and recreation programs, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and ball fields are abundant.

Culture and Attractions: Virginia Horse Center, Natural Bridge, Stonewall Jackson House, Lee Chapel & Museum, George C. Marshall Museum, Theater at Lime Kiln, Rockbridge Arts Guild, Hull's Drive-in, Cyrus McCormick Farm, VMI Cadet Museum, Rockbridge Area Conservation Council, and Downtown Lexington State and National Register Historic District.

Events: National, state and regional horse shows, the Rockbridge Wine Festival, Nothin' Fancy Bluegrass Festival, Lee-Jackson Day, Harvest Festival, Maury River Fiddler's Convention, and the 4th of July Hot Air Balloon Rally are just a few of the region's many events.

Colleges: Regional schools include Washington and Lee University, Virginia Military Institute, Southern Virginia University, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. James Madison University, Bridgewater College, Mary Baldwin College, Eastern Mennonite University, Blue Ridge Community College, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia are nearby.

Media: The News-Gazette, The Rockbridge Advocate, and The Rockbridge Weekly local newspapers circulate in the region, along with regional and national papers. Three local radio stations including public radio are available in the region. Cable service includes network television, local news and weather, and educational programming.

Civic and Religious: More than 50 churches representing most denominations are active in the region. Many civic groups dedicated to public service provide community service.

Healthcare: Stonewall Jackson Hospital in Lexington provides excellent healthcare services.

For More Information.....

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