





# Labor Force Participation Rates by County and Independent City

Locality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Accomack County	62.0%	61.3%	60.9%	60.1%	60.0%	59.6%	54.4%	64.4%	63.1%
Albemarle County	71.9%	70.6%	70.9%	69.9%	69.2%	65.0%	61.9%	71.2%	70.6%
Alleghany County	60.2%	57.9%	55.5%	54.1%	53.5%	52.9%	50.1%	55.7%	54.3%
Amelia County	61.5%	60.6%	60.6%	60.7%	60.7%	60.3%	61.7%	61.3%	60.0%
Amherst County	64.6%	63.5%	62.7%	60.1%	60.1%	57.2%	58.7%	60.0%	57.7%
Appomattox County	60.4%	59.3%	58.5%	57.7%	57.0%	56.2%	57.6%	57.0%	54.8%
Arlington County	83.5%	82.0%	79.9%	78.2%	79.0%	77.3%	78.7%	82.2%	80.2%
Augusta County	64.8%	64.1%	63.6%	62.8%	63.0%	59.8%	59.1%	63.5%	64.1%
Bath County	67.5%	69.3%	67.6%	67.5%	67.8%	68.5%	61.1%	70.2%	73.0%
Bedford County	70.0%	69.1%	63.3%	62.0%	60.8%	60.3%	60.1%	60.4%	58.0%
Bland County	56.6%	57.2%	56.3%	55.5%	54.6%	48.5%	49.5%	59.5%	58.0%
Botetourt County	67.1%	66.4%	66.3%	64.7%	64.2%	63.2%	60.0%	63.9%	61.8%
Brunswick County	54.8%	54.0%	53.2%	52.0%	52.5%	43.4%	48.7%	50.7%	48.9%
Buchanan County	44.9%	42.8%	41.1%	38.8%	37.1%	35.1%	37.3%	38.9%	37.5%
Buckingham County	54.9%	53.6%	52.8%	53.1%	53.1%	45.3%	50.7%	53.6%	53.3%
Campbell County	61.8%	61.1%	60.2%	58.8%	58.2%	57.6%	61.5%	58.0%	56.0%
Caroline County	67.0%	67.0%	67.7%	67.4%	69.0%	63.7%	67.9%	70.9%	69.7%
Carroll County	55.8%	54.7%	54.2%	53.4%	53.2%	53.0%	54.4%	54.2%	54.3%
Charles City County	63.4%	61.9%	61.2%	61.2%	61.4%	62.5%	58.2%	61.1%	60.0%
Charlotte County	54.9%	54.4%	54.2%	53.4%	53.9%	53.1%	54.3%	55.9%	54.8%
Chesterfield County	72.2%	71.9%	71.9%	70.7%	70.5%	69.6%	68.5%	70.9%	69.6%
Clarke County	70.0%	68.1%	66.4%	64.2%	64.4%	63.9%	63.2%	65.8%	64.1%
Craig County	59.7%	61.7%	61.5%	58.2%	56.9%	55.4%	52.0%	54.7%	53.0%
Culpeper County	67.7%	66.9%	66.0%	64.1%	63.7%	61.7%	65.4%	64.4%	62.9%
Cumberland County	57.4%	56.5%	56.8%	56.7%	58.3%	57.4%	61.6%	57.2%	56.0%
Dickenson County	41.1%	42.9%	42.2%	40.6%	38.0%	35.3%	38.1%	40.1%	39.9%
Dinwiddie County	63.3%	62.3%	61.6%	60.1%	60.3%	59.5%	63.3%	60.9%	59.8%
Essex County	64.6%	63.8%	63.5%	61.5%	61.7%	61.1%	61.3%	62.7%	61.7%
Fairfax County	75.1%	74.1%	72.4%	70.8%	71.4%	69.9%	71.8%	72.5%	71.5%
Fauquier County	71.3%	70.0%	69.2%	67.7%	67.5%	67.1%	67.3%	68.4%	66.8%
Floyd County	68.9%	67.0%	66.5%	66.3%	64.8%	63.0%	56.9%	63.3%	61.1%
Fluvanna County	69.1%	67.3%	67.5%	66.7%	66.5%	63.2%	60.1%	68.5%	67.9%
Franklin County	61.6%	60.9%	60.6%	58.5%	58.5%	56.0%	56.7%	57.9%	56.4%
Frederick County	72.4%	72.3%	71.8%	70.9%	70.3%	69.4%	65.8%	71.5%	68.9%

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Locality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Giles County	60.1%	60.1%	59.0%	58.4%	59.0%	57.3%	56.6%	58.4%	56.3%
Gloucester County	66.5%	66.2%	66.3%	64.6%	63.9%	63.0%	60.2%	65.2%	63.9%
Goochland County	61.6%	61.6%	62.5%	62.4%	61.9%	59.3%	58.8%	61.4%	59.7%
Grayson County	54.1%	54.6%	59.8%	58.6%	60.3%	54.2%	51.5%	65.6%	65.7%
Greene County	69.5%	68.0%	68.2%	66.9%	66.6%	67.7%	68.4%	70.1%	69.4%
Greensville County	65.1%	60.7%	60.4%	63.8%	63.5%	43.4%	42.5%	66.5%	65.5%
Halifax County	56.5%	56.1%	55.4%	54.1%	53.2%	52.1%	53.9%	56.8%	55.7%
Hanover County	72.3%	72.0%	71.6%	71.2%	71.4%	70.1%	67.5%	71.8%	69.9%
Henrico County	72.1%	71.8%	71.8%	70.8%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	71.1%	70.0%
Henry County	52.4%	54.2%	53.7%	52.7%	52.2%	52.5%	51.3%	56.9%	57.1%
Highland County	70.3%	69.0%	70.8%	68.2%	66.6%	64.0%	46.2%	63.3%	60.3%
Isle of Wight County	68.0%	67.7%	67.2%	65.9%	65.3%	65.1%	64.5%	66.6%	64.9%
James City County	62.8%	62.7%	62.7%	61.1%	59.8%	58.9%	58.2%	61.5%	61.1%
King and Queen County	63.1%	63.7%	62.2%	62.0%	61.2%	64.7%	55.7%	65.6%	64.8%
King George County	69.2%	68.9%	67.3%	65.4%	65.0%	62.6%	68.7%	68.7%	66.8%
King William County	70.6%	70.5%	70.1%	69.1%	69.0%	68.6%	65.1%	69.5%	68.0%
Lancaster County	57.4%	56.3%	56.2%	54.1%	54.6%	54.6%	47.8%	59.8%	60.0%
Lee County	50.3%	48.1%	45.8%	44.8%	44.3%	40.4%	41.5%	44.7%	43.5%
Loudoun County	82.3%	81.4%	80.2%	78.7%	76.8%	76.4%	75.8%	76.9%	75.4%
Louisa County	67.8%	67.4%	68.1%	68.6%	66.7%	67.4%	61.0%	68.5%	68.0%
Lunenburg County	57.1%	56.2%	56.4%	56.3%	56.3%	50.8%	46.3%	57.8%	55.7%
Madison County	69.7%	68.9%	69.1%	68.8%	68.7%	68.7%	60.2%	70.9%	69.7%
Mathews County	57.0%	56.2%	55.6%	54.4%	54.1%	53.5%	50.9%	53.8%	52.2%
Mecklenburg County	52.4%	49.7%	49.5%	49.4%	49.7%	47.1%	50.0%	51.0%	49.4%
Middlesex County	57.1%	57.0%	56.2%	56.5%	56.1%	55.8%	48.9%	60.6%	59.8%
Montgomery County	68.6%	68.9%	68.3%	67.7%	67.8%	59.2%	57.6%	69.1%	65.8%
Nelson County	60.6%	59.5%	60.3%	59.5%	59.3%	59.3%	59.0%	61.4%	61.0%
New Kent County	74.0%	73.6%	74.1%	73.7%	72.2%	70.8%	64.5%	73.6%	71.7%
Northampton County	63.5%	61.0%	62.1%	62.7%	61.3%	54.8%	51.7%	57.6%	56.2%
Northumberland County	55.0%	53.6%	53.0%	51.3%	51.3%	50.4%	48.2%	54.1%	53.4%
Nottoway County	62.5%	64.7%	64.8%	67.2%	66.3%	54.4%	45.3%	68.1%	65.9%
Orange County	60.4%	60.3%	60.2%	58.9%	59.6%	58.2%	61.5%	61.9%	61.5%
Page County	63.0%	61.3%	60.8%	59.8%	59.5%	59.8%	59.3%	62.4%	62.0%
Patrick County	52.5%	51.7%	51.2%	50.1%	53.3%	48.9%	50.9%	49.9%	48.4%
Pittsylvania County	60.4%	60.0%	60.1%	59.5%	59.0%	57.7%	57.5%	60.5%	59.0%

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Locality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Powhatan County	65.9%	65.3%	64.8%	60.7%	60.8%	58.0%	56.3%	61.4%	59.8%
Prince Edward County	67.6%	64.0%	64.2%	65.6%	64.7%	52.7%	46.3%	66.2%	65.3%
Prince George County	67.6%	65.4%	63.3%	62.6%	61.3%	49.5%	57.8%	61.3%	60.1%
Prince William County	78.9%	77.0%	74.7%	72.6%	72.2%	70.6%	73.0%	72.6%	71.9%
Pulaski County	60.2%	60.8%	59.4%	58.9%	59.8%	56.3%	57.0%	58.4%	57.1%
Rappahannock County	64.2%	63.2%	61.2%	59.7%	59.3%	60.1%	58.4%	59.5%	58.1%
Richmond County	65.3%	64.1%	64.7%	62.8%	64.6%	51.7%	47.6%	70.0%	68.5%
Roanoke County	68.2%	68.1%	67.9%	66.0%	66.4%	64.1%	61.6%	66.4%	64.5%
Rockbridge County	58.9%	56.4%	55.6%	55.2%	55.1%	55.7%	56.8%	58.1%	58.1%
Rockingham County	69.3%	68.5%	67.6%	66.2%	66.1%	64.7%	63.6%	66.7%	64.8%
Russell County	50.4%	50.1%	49.1%	49.8%	49.2%	48.0%	44.6%	50.5%	49.6%
Scott County	54.3%	54.5%	53.8%	52.8%	53.3%	50.6%	48.1%	52.5%	50.8%
Shenandoah County	62.6%	62.5%	63.0%	61.6%	60.2%	60.6%	61.6%	64.4%	63.7%
Smyth County	53.2%	52.8%	53.2%	53.3%	54.5%	50.6%	51.8%	55.8%	54.3%
Southampton County	69.8%	67.9%	67.7%	67.6%	66.9%	59.0%	54.9%	69.3%	67.4%
Spotsylvania County	70.0%	68.4%	66.9%	65.4%	65.3%	65.5%	67.9%	66.0%	64.8%
Stafford County	73.9%	72.9%	71.4%	69.1%	68.4%	64.3%	69.6%	68.9%	67.5%
Surry County	65.5%	64.1%	64.3%	65.0%	64.5%	66.2%	57.9%	67.1%	65.3%
Sussex County	55.3%	55.6%	54.9%	53.9%	48.3%	39.0%	36.9%	53.5%	53.2%
Tazewell County	51.3%	50.7%	49.7%	48.3%	46.4%	44.9%	48.3%	48.0%	46.9%
Warren County	69.2%	68.9%	67.8%	65.2%	65.7%	64.1%	63.8%	67.1%	65.9%
Washington County	63.8%	63.7%	63.0%	61.3%	61.0%	59.0%	55.8%	61.7%	59.8%
Westmoreland County	63.4%	62.9%	62.2%	61.9%	62.5%	61.9%	57.3%	65.9%	64.7%
Wise County	52.2%	49.0%	47.2%	45.6%	43.7%	39.9%	44.8%	46.4%	45.6%
Wythe County	60.6%	59.4%	58.5%	57.8%	57.5%	57.2%	58.5%	58.3%	57.5%
York County	67.8%	67.4%	66.4%	65.6%	65.7%	61.6%	67.1%	66.9%	65.5%
Alexandria City	81.9%	80.2%	78.8%	77.9%	77.9%	76.4%	78.3%	80.7%	79.8%
<b>Bedford City</b>	47.0%	46.0%							
Bristol City	57.0%	55.6%	54.6%	53.4%	54.4%	53.6%	55.6%	53.5%	52.7%
Buena Vista City	64.4%	67.1%	65.2%	66.2%	66.5%	62.9%	58.3%	74.1%	77.6%
Charlottesville City	66.9%	66.1%	67.5%	67.7%	67.6%	64.0%	63.8%	70.9%	70.9%
Chesapeake City	70.7%	70.5%	70.1%	68.2%	67.4%	64.7%	66.0%	69.8%	68.6%
Colonial Heights City	62.2%	63.0%	64.0%	63.5%	64.1%	63.5%	60.6%	65.1%	64.2%
Covington City	56.5%	55.4%	54.7%	54.2%	53.7%	51.1%	56.7%	53.7%	53.7%
Danville City	59.4%	59.7%	60.0%	58.7%	58.7%	57.1%	55.2%	61.1%	60.5%

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Locality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Emporia City	55.3%	53.3%	52.8%	51.4%	53.5%	53.6%	60.4%	58.8%	59.8%
Fairfax City	72.1%	72.4%	71.8%	68.9%	69.1%	69.5%	70.1%	74.1%	73.0%
Falls Church City	81.9%	81.0%	78.7%	77.7%	76.2%	76.3%	74.5%	79.4%	76.9%
Franklin City	56.9%	56.5%	56.0%	55.6%	55.3%	53.8%	63.3%	59.6%	59.6%
Fredericksburg City	77.8%	76.3%	73.0%	68.7%	68.3%	60.7%	71.0%	69.7%	68.8%
Galax City	57.6%	57.9%	56.4%	56.4%	56.1%	51.5%	55.4%	61.0%	60.9%
Hampton City	65.8%	65.1%	64.6%	63.3%	63.3%	58.8%	65.3%	64.8%	64.6%
Harrisonburg City	69.7%	68.2%	67.2%	65.5%	65.9%	54.3%	59.8%	66.3%	64.6%
Hopewell City	58.2%	57.0%	56.9%	56.8%	57.2%	57.3%	59.9%	57.1%	57.8%
Lexington City	61.4%	63.7%	61.9%	63.1%	60.7%	33.8%	37.0%	53.0%	52.3%
Lynchburg City	67.9%	67.5%	67.1%	66.0%	65.0%	54.5%	58.2%	65.1%	63.2%
Manassas City	77.3%	75.7%	73.0%	70.5%	70.4%	70.1%	74.6%	71.3%	70.5%
Manassas Park City	82.0%	78.6%	71.9%	71.4%	71.0%	70.5%	73.2%	72.5%	72.2%
Martinsville City	52.3%	53.5%	52.6%	50.8%	49.4%	50.5%	56.9%	57.2%	59.1%
Newport News City	71.5%	71.8%	71.8%	70.0%	70.1%	63.2%	67.4%	71.5%	71.6%
Norfolk City	79.8%	78.9%	77.8%	76.4%	76.3%	55.5%	69.1%	79.5%	79.5%
Norton City	64.7%	58.0%	56.1%	53.8%	52.7%	50.9%	57.4%	56.0%	55.7%
Petersburg City	55.0%	55.2%	55.4%	54.1%	54.3%	51.4%	60.7%	54.7%	56.5%
Poquoson City	67.6%	66.9%	66.0%	64.3%	64.6%	64.1%	63.0%	67.4%	65.4%
Portsmouth City	66.9%	65.3%	64.4%	62.7%	63.3%	59.3%	65.1%	65.0%	65.3%
Radford City	68.7%	71.7%	71.8%	69.5%	66.7%	52.5%	52.0%	70.4%	67.5%
Richmond City	69.7%	69.3%	69.6%	68.6%	68.4%	63.2%	65.4%	67.7%	68.0%
Roanoke City	65.8%	65.7%	65.7%	63.6%	63.3%	61.4%	64.1%	63.9%	63.4%
Salem City	68.0%	69.1%	69.9%	67.2%	67.6%	61.0%	61.1%	68.8%	67.1%
Staunton City	63.8%	65.3%	65.4%	62.5%	62.5%	58.5%	60.0%	64.6%	66.0%
Suffolk City	68.2%	67.3%	67.1%	65.9%	65.2%	63.6%	66.9%	66.5%	65.4%
Virginia Beach City	73.4%	72.8%	72.3%	70.5%	70.2%	64.7%	70.5%	71.4%	70.3%
Waynesboro City	61.5%	61.2%	61.4%	60.7%	60.9%	60.2%	62.5%	62.7%	64.1%
Williamsburg City	78.5%	76.7%	77.0%	75.1%	73.2%	51.0%	49.2%	75.5%	75.0%
Winchester City	71.3%	70.9%	70.3%	68.4%	68.7%	66.5%	64.3%	70.2%	68.3%

- The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either employed or unemployed (that is, either working or actively seeking work)
- People with jobs are employed.
- People who are jobless, looking for a job, and available for work are unemployed.

- The labor force is made up of the employed and the unemployed.
- People who are neither employed nor unemployed are not in the labor force.
- See [https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps\\_htgm.htm](https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm) and [https://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech\\_intro.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_intro.pdf) for more detailed technical information

\*2020 is preliminary data

## Frequently Asked Question

### **Q: What is the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)?**

**A:** The LFPR is a labor force statistic that can be used to help analyze and assess the health of a region's economy. The statistic explains how much of the potential labor force is being realized.

### **Q: How is the Labor Force Participation Rate calculated?**

**A:** The LFPR is calculated by taking the total labor force (both employed and unemployed but actively seeking work), and dividing it by the Civilian Non-Institutional Population (CNP). The CNP includes all individuals over the age of 16 that are potentially available for work. For this reason, active duty military and residents of prisons are removed.

### **Q: What is a good Labor Force Participation Rate?**

**A:** In recent decades the LFPR has reached its peak, but usually averages in the mid to upper 60s. The Virginia participation rate is currently at 63.4%, while the national rate is 63.1%. The national rate reached its peak of 67% in 2001, with a sharp decline since the end of the last recession. Contrastingly, Virginia's rate has remained relatively stable in the last decade. For more information regarding state averages for all 50 states as well as the national participation rate, see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Force Statistics at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

### **Q: Why is the Labor Force Participation Rate so low, even though the unemployment continues to decline?**

**A:** Consider the populations that these statistic draws from. Due to data availability at the sub-state level, some segments of the population that are not likely to participate in the labor force are left in the CNP equation. For example, residents of nursing homes, college dormitories and long-term health facilities, as well as the retired population, all remain part of the CNP. At the state and national level, it is common place to remove some of these populations as there is less sensitivity to data at such a large geographic area. However, groups such as the elderly, sick or disabled, and retired are nearly impossible to remove. For these reasons, the population of potential labor force participants remains large. Contrastingly, the unemployment rate utilizes the labor force as its population, necessarily lowering the percentage, and creating more potential for fluctuation.

### **Q: Why is my county's participation rate lower than another county, even though my region has higher employment?**

**A:** The largest factor in determining participation rates is the size of the denominator (population). Consider the following example. Region A has a civilian non-institutional population of 251,434 and its labor force is 180,031; Region B has a CNP of 252,172 with a labor force of 179,138. Because both regions have nearly identical CNPs and labor force sizes, the difference in their employment figures becomes arbitrary in participation rate calculations.