

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

CITY OF LEXINGTON

CITY OF BUENA VISTA



Facts and Figures 2006

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY and the independent Cities of **LEXINGTON** and **BUENA VISTA** are centrally located in the historic and scenic Shenandoah Valley in west-central Virginia. The Rockbridge area covers approximately 610 square miles of land and is home to some 35,000 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
2005 Provisional Estimate - 35,000

Sub-regional Population (2005 Provisional Estimates)

Rockbridge - 21,500
Lexington - 7,000
Buena Vista - 6,500

Average Household Size

1990.....2.46 Persons
2000.....2.36 Persons

Income

Rockbridge Area Per Capita (2003): \$23,612

Median Adjusted Gross Income
For Married Couples (2003):
Rockbridge - \$42,741
Lexington - \$50,927
Buena Vista - \$38,810

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

INFRASTRUCTURE AT A GLANCE

Government

Rockbridge - Five member Board of Supervisors
Lexington - Six member City Council
Buena Vista - Seven member City Council

Real Estate Tax

(per \$100 assessed value)
Rockbridge - \$0.55
Lexington - \$0.56
Buena Vista - \$0.89

Commercial Bank Deposits - 2005

Total \$518 Million

Communications

Fiber optics, ISDN and DSL capability

Transportation

Rail - CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern
Road - Interstates 81 and 64
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 01-83-08292.

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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				
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	33.6	36.5	2.9	8.6%
Under 18 years	6,401	6,810	409	6.4%
Percent of total	20.2%	20.0%		
65 years and over	4,611	5,419	808	17.5%
Percent of total	14.5%	15.9%		

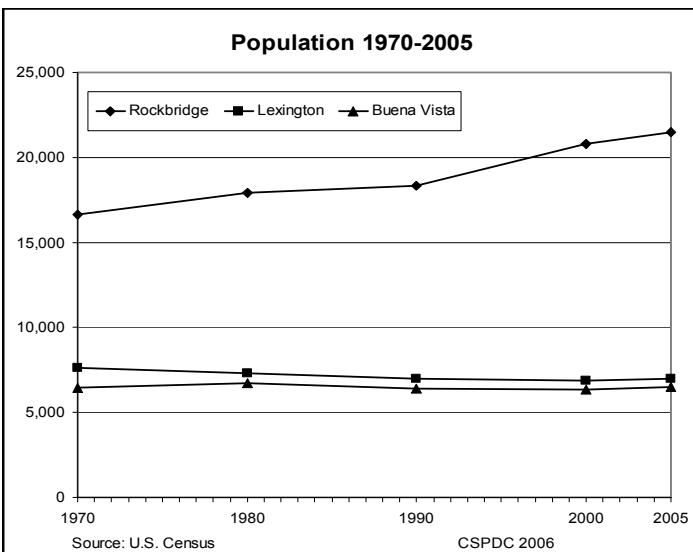
Households by Type

Total Households	11,778	13,265	1,487	12.6%
Family Households	8,317	8,901	584	7.0%
Non-family Households	3,461	4,364	903	26.1%
Percent of total	29.4	34.2		
Average Household Size	2.63	2.36	-0.27	-10.3%

Components of Labor Force

	1994	2004	Change
Civilian Labor Force	15,680	17,324	10.5%
Employment	14,832	16,821	13.4%
Unemployment Number	848	503	-40.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	2.9%	-46.3%

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	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change
Total Housing Units	12,780	14,642	1,862	14.6%
Occupancy and Tenure				
Occupied units	11,778	13,265	1,487	12.6%
Owner Occupied	8,322	9,615	1,293	15.5%
Percent	70.7	72.5	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%
Average Household Size (renter-occupied units)	2.36	2.25	-0.11	-4.7%

Units in Structure

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

Specified owner-occupied units				
Median (dollars)	55,200	94,483	39,283	71.2%

Gross Rent

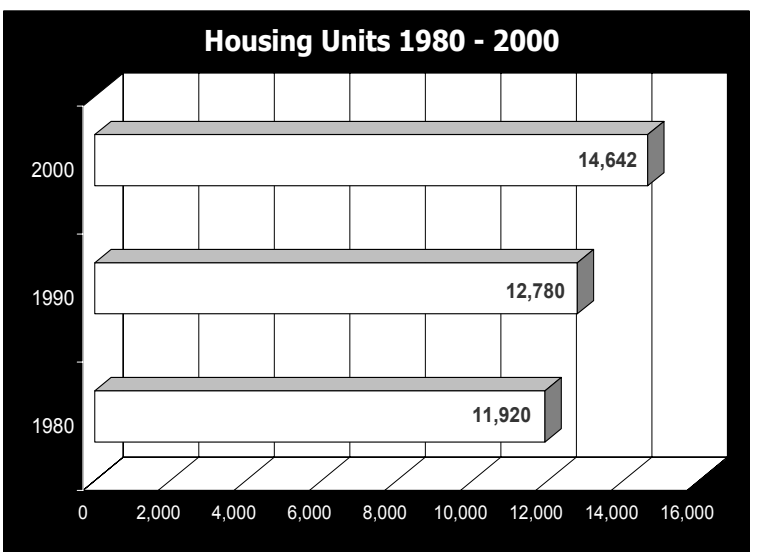
Specified renter-occupied units				
Median (dollars)	240	431	191	79.6%

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

Housing Units Authorized

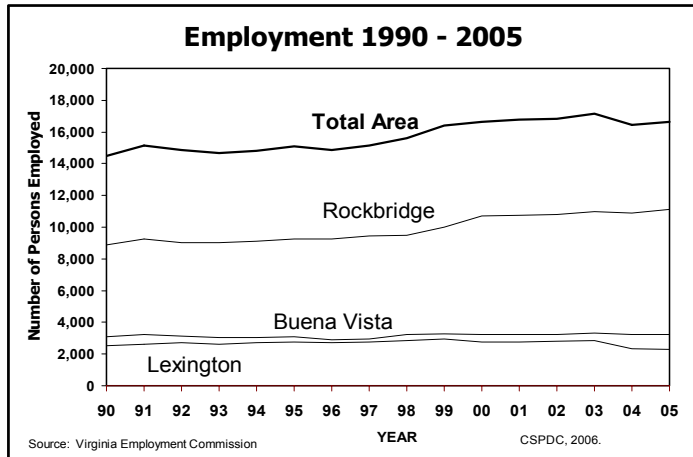
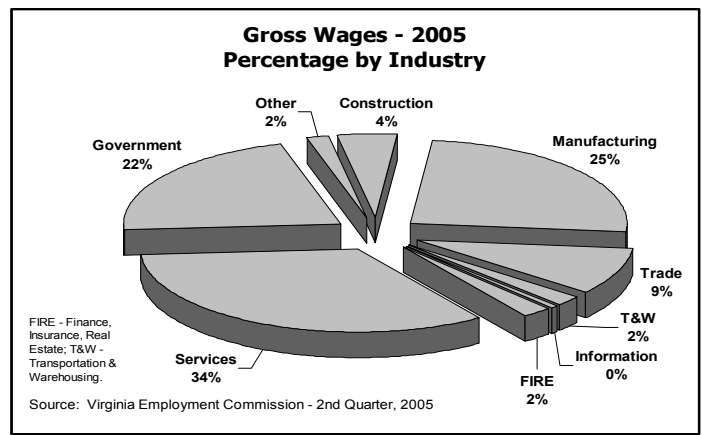
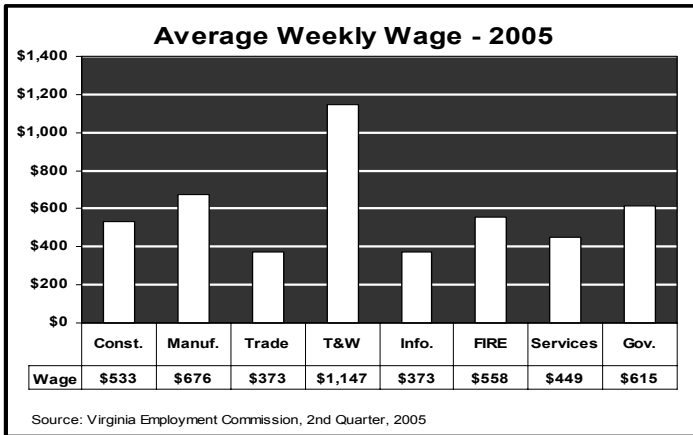
1993.....	186	197.....	187	2001.....	259
1994.....	201	1998.....	200	2002.....	295
1995.....	171	1999.....	205	2003.....	148
1996.....	174	2000.....	248	2004.....	194
				Total.....	2,468

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service



Source: U.S. Census, Weldon Cooper CPS

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Tourism - 2004

Total Travel Expenditures	\$104,000,000
Travel Related Payroll	\$20,160,000
Travel Generated Employment	1,210
Local Tax Receipts	\$2,820,000

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation

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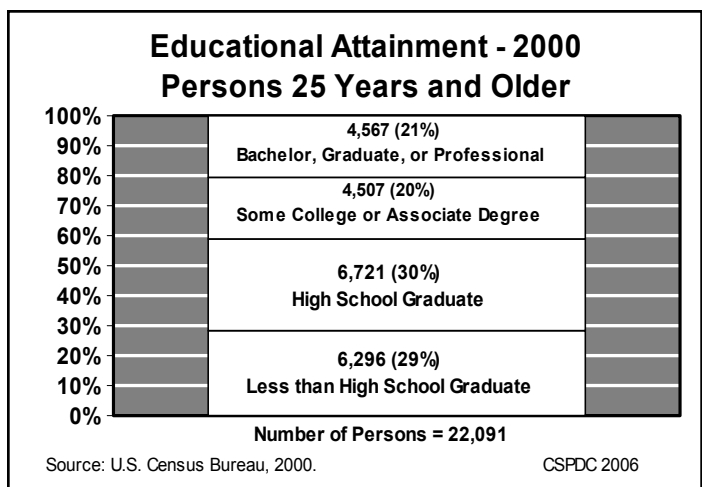
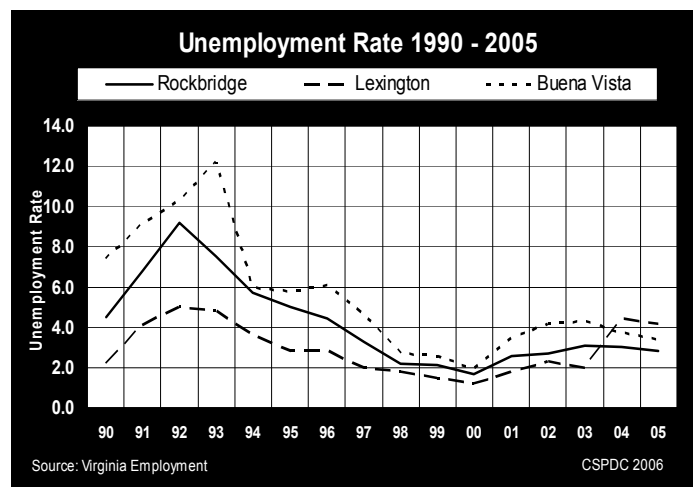
Agriculture - 1992 to 2002

	1992	1997	2002
Number of Farms	643	631	789
Acreage Farmed	141,766	140,110	157,308
Average Size (Acres)	220	222	199
Market Value of Products Sold (\$000)	\$14,373	\$15,446	\$18,545

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture 1992, 1997, and 2002.

Note: The 2002 Ag. Census used a new methodology for counting farms and acreage.

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Employment by Industrial Sector - 2005

Industrial Sector	Rockbridge	Lexington	Buena Vista	TOTAL	% of Area	% of VA
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	77	*	*	77	0.5%	0.4%
Mining & Quarrying	*	*	*	*	*	0.2%
Utilities	*	*	*	*	*	0.3%
Construction	494	141	12	647	4.4%	6.8%
Manufacturing	1,954	31	855	2,840	19.5%	8.3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,244	443	195	1,882	12.9%	14.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	137	*	*	137	0.9%	2.9%
Information	*	96	*	96	0.7%	2.6%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	113	168	51	332	2.3%	5.3%
Services	1,777	2,816	1,113	5,706	39.1%	39.9%
Government	1,268	943	486	2,697	18.5%	18.3%
TOTAL	7,129	4,703	2,757	14,589	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission - 2nd Quarter, 2005

* Data is withheld, but included in total.

Columns may not total due to rounding and withheld data.

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Total Sales - 2004

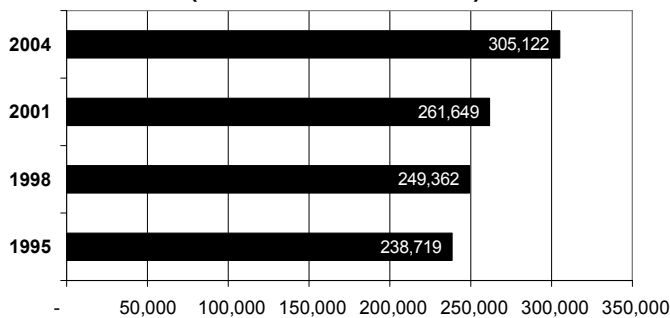
Retail Group	Dollars	Percent of Sales
Apparel	5,391,187	1.8%
Automotive	21,348,097	7.0%
Food	59,959,344	19.7%
Furniture & Home Furnishings	5,475,164	1.8%
General Merchandise	6,268,938	2.1%
Lumber & Building Materials	22,883,615	7.5%
Fuel	*	*
Machinery, Equipment, & Supplies	3,955,752	1.3%
Hotels & Motels	19,695,237	6.5%
Miscellaneous, ABC, & Other	160,144,583	52.5%
Total	\$305,121,917	100.0%

* Withheld to avoid identification but included in total

Source: Virginia Department of Taxation

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Real Taxable Sales 1995-2004 (000's of 2004 Dollars)



Source: Virginia Department of Taxation

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Public Schools 2004-05

2004-05 Year-End Enrollment	4,500
Total Expenditures Per Pupil	\$8,767
Local Share	\$3,702
Avg. # of Pupils per Classroom Teacher (2003-04)	
Elementary (K-7)	11.1
Secondary (8-12)	10.3
Total Graduates	324
Percent Continuing Education	65.0%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

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Community

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

Culture: Lime Kiln Theater, Rockbridge Arts Guild, Rockbridge Area Conservation Council, Civil War Battlefield sites, historical societies, Stonewall Jackson House, Lee Chapel, and Cyrus McCormick Farm. Local colleges and universities sponsor lectures, concerts, art exhibits, and athletic events.

Events: Virginia Horse Festival, Rockbridge Community Festival, Historic Lexington Garden Day, Maury River Fiddlers' Convention, Natural Bridge Sunrise Service, Mountain Music Days, Rockbridge Regional Fair, Friday's in the Park Rockbridge Food and Wine Festival, Lee-Jackson Lacrosse Classic, Fairfield Day.

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

Media: *The News-Gazette*, *The Rockbridge Advocate*, and *The Rockbridge Weekly*. Regional and national papers also available locally. Four local radio stations including one regional public radio station. Cable service includes network television, local news and weather, and educational programming.

Civic and Religious: More than 50 churches representing most denominations. Many civic groups dedicated to public service operate in the area, including, but not limited to, the Jaycees, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Ruritan Club, League of Women Voters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H Clubs.

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