





# Labor Force Participation Rates by County and Independent City

Locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Accomack County	61.3%	60.9%	60.1%	60.0%	62.4%	54.4%	64.3%	61.9%	61.5%
Albemarle County	70.6%	70.9%	69.9%	69.2%	64.8%	61.9%	72.0%	67.7%	66.2%
Alleghany County	57.9%	55.5%	54.1%	53.5%	54.4%	50.1%	56.5%	55.8%	54.9%
Amelia County	60.6%	60.6%	60.7%	60.7%	60.3%	61.7%	61.7%	59.4%	57.1%
Amherst County	63.5%	62.7%	60.1%	60.1%	57.2%	58.7%	60.1%	58.3%	56.4%
Appomattox County	59.3%	58.5%	57.7%	57.0%	57.0%	57.6%	57.4%	55.2%	53.8%
Arlington County	82.0%	79.9%	78.2%	79.0%	77.9%	78.7%	81.9%	78.9%	78.2%
Augusta County	64.1%	63.6%	62.8%	63.0%	59.9%	59.1%	63.6%	61.8%	61.8%
Bath County	69.3%	67.6%	67.5%	67.8%	71.9%	61.1%	69.7%	64.2%	62.3%
Bedford County	69.1%	63.3%	62.0%	60.8%	60.4%	60.1%	60.8%	58.5%	57.0%
Bland County	57.2%	56.3%	55.5%	54.6%	51.2%	49.5%	59.6%	59.0%	59.0%
Botetourt County	66.4%	66.3%	64.7%	64.2%	63.3%	60.0%	64.6%	62.2%	61.5%
Brunswick County	54.0%	53.2%	52.0%	52.5%	44.4%	48.7%	50.7%	49.9%	47.9%
Buchanan County	42.8%	41.1%	38.8%	37.1%	36.8%	37.3%	39.5%	37.3%	36.5%
Buckingham County	53.6%	52.8%	53.1%	53.1%	44.9%	50.7%	54.3%	52.4%	50.1%
Campbell County	61.1%	60.2%	58.8%	58.2%	57.8%	61.5%	58.1%	56.5%	55.2%
Caroline County	67.0%	67.7%	67.4%	69.0%	63.7%	67.9%	70.5%	68.3%	65.5%
Carroll County	54.7%	54.2%	53.4%	53.2%	55.4%	54.4%	54.5%	52.7%	52.2%
Charles City County	61.9%	61.2%	61.2%	61.4%	61.4%	58.2%	61.0%	59.8%	57.4%
Charlotte County	54.4%	54.2%	53.4%	53.9%	54.1%	54.3%	55.9%	53.8%	54.7%
Chesterfield County	71.9%	71.9%	70.7%	70.5%	69.8%	68.5%	71.5%	68.9%	66.4%
Clarke County	68.1%	66.4%	64.2%	64.4%	63.6%	63.2%	66.2%	63.0%	62.8%
Craig County	61.7%	61.5%	58.2%	56.9%	54.6%	52.0%	55.8%	54.0%	53.0%
Culpeper County	66.9%	66.0%	64.1%	63.7%	62.3%	65.4%	65.3%	62.4%	61.6%
Cumberland County	56.5%	56.8%	56.7%	58.3%	58.4%	61.6%	57.6%	54.5%	54.0%
Dickenson County	42.9%	42.2%	40.6%	38.0%	37.3%	38.1%	39.9%	40.6%	40.5%
Dinwiddie County	62.3%	61.6%	60.1%	60.3%	59.1%	63.3%	60.7%	59.5%	56.5%
Essex County	63.8%	63.5%	61.5%	61.7%	62.8%	61.3%	62.8%	60.8%	59.7%
Fairfax County	74.1%	72.4%	70.8%	71.4%	69.5%	71.8%	72.2%	70.8%	69.8%
Fauquier County	70.0%	69.2%	67.7%	67.5%	66.6%	67.3%	68.9%	66.5%	65.7%
Floyd County	67.0%	66.5%	66.3%	64.8%	63.2%	56.9%	63.8%	61.6%	61.7%
Fluvanna County	67.3%	67.5%	66.7%	66.5%	63.0%	60.1%	70.1%	66.2%	64.0%
Franklin County	60.9%	60.6%	58.5%	58.5%	56.5%	56.7%	58.1%	56.6%	55.6%
Frederick County	72.3%	71.8%	70.9%	70.3%	69.9%	65.8%	72.2%	70.4%	70.4%

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Locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Giles County	60.1%	59.0%	58.4%	59.0%	57.3%	56.6%	58.6%	57.3%	56.9%
Gloucester County	66.2%	66.3%	64.6%	63.9%	63.5%	60.2%	65.5%	63.7%	62.2%
Goochland County	61.6%	62.5%	62.4%	61.9%	58.8%	58.8%	62.5%	59.1%	57.2%
Grayson County	54.6%	59.8%	58.6%	60.3%	57.9%	51.5%	66.2%	66.4%	70.9%
Greene County	68.0%	68.2%	66.9%	66.6%	67.9%	68.4%	70.6%	66.7%	64.7%
Greensville County	60.7%	60.4%	63.8%	63.5%	45.1%	42.5%	66.6%	66.8%	61.8%
Halifax County	56.1%	55.4%	54.1%	53.2%	54.6%	53.9%	56.6%	55.3%	54.6%
Hanover County	72.0%	71.6%	71.2%	71.4%	70.5%	67.5%	71.9%	68.9%	66.5%
Henrico County	71.8%	71.8%	70.8%	70.9%	70.4%	69.8%	71.1%	69.4%	66.8%
Henry County	54.2%	53.7%	52.7%	52.2%	55.6%	51.3%	57.0%	57.1%	57.9%
Highland County	69.0%	70.8%	68.2%	66.6%	66.9%	46.2%	63.8%	64.3%	65.3%
Isle of Wight County	67.7%	67.2%	65.9%	65.3%	65.4%	64.5%	67.1%	64.1%	62.6%
James City County	62.7%	62.7%	61.1%	59.8%	60.1%	58.2%	61.8%	60.1%	58.5%
King and Queen County	63.7%	62.2%	62.0%	61.2%	65.6%	55.7%	65.9%	65.2%	64.6%
King George County	68.9%	67.3%	65.4%	65.0%	65.9%	68.7%	68.9%	69.0%	68.8%
King William County	70.5%	70.1%	69.1%	69.0%	69.5%	65.1%	70.1%	66.9%	64.6%
Lancaster County	56.3%	56.2%	54.1%	54.6%	56.8%	47.8%	59.5%	57.4%	59.7%
Lee County	48.1%	45.8%	44.8%	44.3%	42.1%	41.5%	44.9%	45.1%	44.7%
Loudoun County	81.4%	80.2%	78.7%	76.8%	77.7%	75.8%	78.1%	74.0%	72.6%
Louisa County	67.4%	68.1%	68.6%	66.7%	69.4%	61.0%	69.1%	67.0%	67.2%
Lunenburg County	56.2%	56.4%	56.3%	56.3%	52.6%	46.3%	58.0%	58.2%	57.5%
Madison County	68.9%	69.1%	68.8%	68.7%	68.8%	60.2%	71.2%	68.3%	69.1%
Mathews County	56.2%	55.6%	54.4%	54.1%	53.8%	50.9%	54.1%	53.1%	52.0%
Mecklenburg County	49.7%	49.5%	49.4%	49.7%	49.6%	50.0%	51.5%	51.1%	51.4%
Middlesex County	57.0%	56.2%	56.5%	56.1%	57.4%	48.9%	60.4%	58.5%	58.5%
Montgomery County	68.9%	68.3%	67.7%	67.8%	59.3%	57.6%	69.6%	66.3%	65.5%
Nelson County	59.5%	60.3%	59.5%	59.3%	59.1%	59.0%	62.1%	59.0%	57.1%
New Kent County	73.6%	74.1%	73.7%	72.2%	71.9%	64.5%	75.6%	70.6%	68.4%
Northampton County	61.0%	62.1%	62.7%	61.3%	56.2%	51.7%	57.5%	57.1%	57.5%
Northumberland County	53.6%	53.0%	51.3%	51.3%	52.5%	48.2%	54.1%	53.9%	55.2%
Nottoway County	64.7%	64.8%	67.2%	66.3%	55.8%	45.3%	68.4%	67.5%	68.0%
Orange County	60.3%	60.2%	58.9%	59.6%	59.6%	61.5%	61.8%	58.9%	58.0%
Page County	61.3%	60.8%	59.8%	59.5%	61.3%	59.3%	62.7%	62.0%	62.5%
Patrick County	51.7%	51.2%	50.1%	53.3%	50.9%	50.9%	50.4%	49.3%	48.5%
Pittsylvania County	60.0%	60.1%	59.5%	59.0%	60.1%	57.5%	60.6%	60.3%	60.7%

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Locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Powhatan County	65.3%	64.8%	60.7%	60.8%	57.7%	56.3%	62.2%	59.3%	56.6%
Prince Edward County	64.0%	64.2%	65.6%	64.7%	52.6%	46.3%	66.5%	63.7%	66.8%
Prince George County	65.4%	63.3%	62.6%	61.3%	49.0%	57.8%	61.4%	60.1%	73.7%
Prince William County	77.0%	74.7%	72.6%	72.2%	70.8%	73.0%	72.9%	71.0%	69.5%
Pulaski County	60.8%	59.4%	58.9%	59.8%	56.3%	57.0%	59.0%	58.2%	56.9%
Rappahannock County	63.2%	61.2%	59.7%	59.3%	58.8%	58.4%	60.5%	60.4%	60.0%
Richmond County	64.1%	64.7%	62.8%	64.6%	54.0%	47.6%	69.9%	68.3%	67.4%
Roanoke County	68.1%	67.9%	66.0%	66.4%	64.1%	61.6%	66.9%	65.2%	63.9%
Rockbridge County	56.4%	55.6%	55.2%	55.1%	55.9%	56.8%	58.4%	56.1%	56.7%
Rockingham County	68.5%	67.6%	66.2%	66.1%	64.7%	63.6%	67.8%	65.2%	65.2%
Russell County	50.1%	49.1%	49.8%	49.2%	49.9%	44.6%	50.9%	50.9%	49.7%
Scott County	54.5%	53.8%	52.8%	53.3%	50.4%	48.1%	52.6%	51.8%	50.7%
Shenandoah County	62.5%	63.0%	61.6%	60.2%	62.6%	61.6%	64.3%	63.0%	63.7%
Smyth County	52.8%	53.2%	53.3%	54.5%	53.8%	51.8%	55.7%	54.5%	53.1%
Southampton County	67.9%	67.7%	67.6%	66.9%	60.6%	54.9%	69.7%	68.9%	67.5%
Spotsylvania County	68.4%	66.9%	65.4%	65.3%	65.0%	67.9%	66.9%	64.6%	63.3%
Stafford County	72.9%	71.4%	69.1%	68.4%	64.4%	69.6%	70.2%	66.8%	65.5%
Surry County	64.1%	64.3%	65.0%	64.5%	67.1%	57.9%	67.1%	66.8%	65.7%
Sussex County	55.6%	54.9%	53.9%	48.3%	38.2%	36.9%	52.9%	53.7%	45.9%
Tazewell County	50.7%	49.7%	48.3%	46.4%	45.9%	48.3%	48.1%	48.2%	47.8%
Warren County	68.9%	67.8%	65.2%	65.7%	63.9%	63.8%	67.4%	65.4%	64.2%
Washington County	63.7%	63.0%	61.3%	61.0%	59.2%	55.8%	60.9%	59.7%	58.2%
Westmoreland County	62.9%	62.2%	61.9%	62.5%	64.6%	57.3%	66.2%	65.0%	65.3%
Wise County	49.0%	47.2%	45.6%	43.7%	41.8%	44.8%	46.4%	45.5%	44.4%
Wythe County	59.4%	58.5%	57.8%	57.5%	59.1%	58.5%	58.4%	58.5%	57.6%
York County	67.4%	66.4%	65.6%	65.7%	61.7%	67.1%	67.6%	66.0%	64.7%
Alexandria City	80.2%	78.8%	77.9%	77.9%	77.3%	78.3%	80.1%	78.9%	77.1%
Bedford City	46.0%								
Bristol City	55.6%	54.6%	53.4%	54.4%	53.0%	55.6%	54.3%	53.4%	52.5%
Buena Vista City	67.1%	65.2%	66.2%	66.5%	64.0%	58.3%	75.1%	66.2%	74.4%
Charlottesville City	66.1%	67.5%	67.7%	67.6%	64.9%	63.8%	70.0%	67.6%	64.3%
Chesapeake City	70.5%	70.1%	68.2%	67.4%	65.7%	66.0%	70.7%	68.4%	66.5%
Colonial Heights City	63.0%	64.0%	63.5%	64.1%	63.1%	60.6%	63.2%	62.9%	60.5%
Covington City	55.4%	54.7%	54.2%	53.7%	52.8%	56.7%	54.3%	55.0%	53.0%
Danville City	59.7%	60.0%	58.7%	58.7%	59.7%	55.2%	61.1%	61.9%	61.1%

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Locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Emporia City	53.3%	52.8%	51.4%	53.5%	55.9%	60.4%	59.1%	60.6%	60.5%
Fairfax City	72.4%	71.8%	68.9%	69.1%	68.3%	70.1%	72.4%	71.6%	69.5%
Falls Church City	81.0%	78.7%	77.7%	76.2%	78.2%	74.5%	78.6%	74.6%	75.0%
Franklin City	56.5%	56.0%	55.6%	55.3%	55.4%	63.3%	59.8%	61.1%	61.4%
Fredericksburg City	76.3%	73.0%	68.7%	68.3%	60.0%	71.0%	69.4%	66.9%	63.6%
Galax City	57.9%	56.4%	56.4%	56.1%	54.0%	55.4%	61.1%	63.9%	62.3%
Hampton City	65.1%	64.6%	63.3%	63.3%	58.8%	65.3%	65.1%	64.9%	62.3%
Harrisonburg City	68.2%	67.2%	65.5%	65.9%	55.0%	59.8%	65.5%	63.4%	62.7%
Hopewell City	57.0%	56.9%	56.8%	57.2%	56.5%	59.9%	56.7%	58.1%	55.2%
Lexington City	63.7%	61.9%	63.1%	60.7%	31.9%	37.0%	53.1%	51.0%	50.6%
Lynchburg City	67.5%	67.1%	66.0%	65.0%	55.1%	58.2%	65.3%	63.7%	61.1%
Manassas City	75.7%	73.0%	70.5%	70.4%	69.1%	74.6%	70.3%	69.1%	67.7%
Manassas Park City	78.6%	71.9%	71.4%	71.0%	72.5%	73.2%	73.2%	70.4%	68.7%
Martinsville City	53.5%	52.6%	50.8%	49.4%	53.4%	56.9%	57.2%	59.9%	60.5%
Newport News City	71.8%	71.8%	70.0%	70.1%	62.7%	67.4%	71.9%	72.2%	69.4%
Norfolk City	78.9%	77.8%	76.4%	76.3%	55.8%	69.1%	79.3%	80.5%	71.8%
Norton City	58.0%	56.1%	53.8%	52.7%	53.4%	57.4%	56.0%	50.0%	48.7%
Petersburg City	55.2%	55.4%	54.1%	54.3%	50.7%	60.7%	54.1%	57.3%	53.4%
Poquoson City	66.9%	66.0%	64.3%	64.6%	64.6%	63.0%	68.1%	64.7%	63.8%
Portsmouth City	65.3%	64.4%	62.7%	63.3%	59.2%	65.1%	65.0%	65.4%	63.2%
Radford City	71.7%	71.8%	69.5%	66.7%	53.1%	52.0%	70.9%	68.7%	63.6%
Richmond City	69.3%	69.6%	68.6%	68.4%	63.6%	65.4%	67.9%	67.2%	63.0%
Roanoke City	65.7%	65.7%	63.6%	63.3%	61.7%	64.1%	63.8%	64.1%	62.4%
Salem City	69.1%	69.9%	67.2%	67.6%	61.9%	61.1%	68.4%	66.3%	64.3%
Staunton City	65.3%	65.4%	62.5%	62.5%	58.9%	60.0%	64.6%	63.8%	64.3%
Suffolk City	67.3%	67.1%	65.9%	65.2%	64.6%	66.9%	67.3%	64.8%	63.6%
Virginia Beach City	72.8%	72.3%	70.5%	70.2%	64.8%	70.5%	71.6%	69.6%	67.1%
Waynesboro City	61.2%	61.4%	60.7%	60.9%	61.3%	62.5%	62.7%	61.6%	61.3%
Williamsburg City	76.7%	77.0%	75.1%	73.2%	50.7%	49.2%	76.1%	74.0%	73.9%
Winchester City	70.9%	70.3%	68.4%	68.7%	66.4%	64.3%	70.1%	70.6%	70.5%

- 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

\*2021 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 63.0%, while the national rate is 62.3%. The national rate reached its peak of 67% in 2001, with a sharp decline since the end of the last recession. Virginia's rate saw a steep decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. 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 this 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, the retired population, as well as the sick and disabled, remain part of the CNP. For these reasons, the population of potential labor force participants remains large. Contrastingly, the unemployment rate utilizes only those in the labor force, 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.