

Demographic Data

from [choosenrg.com](https://www.choosenrg.com)

Population:

Raleigh County: Approximately 74,000 residents.

Age Distribution:

- Median Age: 43.7 years
- Age Breakdown:
- Under 18: 18.5%
- 18-24: 8.8%
- 25-44: 24.3%
- 45-64: 27.1%
- 65 and older: 21.3%

Gender:

- Male: 48.5%
- Female: 51.5%

Education:

- High School Graduates: 85.8%
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 17.9%

Households:

- Number of Households: 29,282
- Average Household Size: 2.38 persons

Economic Data

Income:

- Median Household Income: \$45,634
- Per Capita Income: \$25,614
- Poverty Rate: 19.2%

Employment:

- Labor Force Participation Rate: 53.4%
- Unemployment Rate: 6.7%

Major Industries:

- Healthcare and Social Assistance: 21.1%
- Retail Trade: 14.3%
- Educational Services: 11.2%

- Manufacturing: 7.8%
- Accommodation and Food Services: 8.6%
- Construction: 6.1%

Business Environment:

- Number of Businesses: Approximately 2,300

Major Employers:

- Raleigh General Hospital
- Beckley ARH Hospital
- Raleigh County Board of Education
- Walmart
- West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Economic Growth:

Recent Trends:

- There has been a focus on diversifying the economy, with significant investments in healthcare, education, and manufacturing sectors. The region is also seeing growth in tourism due to its natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Regional Highlights

Transportation:

- Airports: Raleigh County Memorial Airport
- Highways: Access to major highways including I-64, I-77, and US Route 19.
- Railroads: Norfolk Southern Railway

Education and Workforce Development:

- Higher Education Institutions: New River Community and Technical College, West Virginia University Institute of Technology.
- Technical and Vocational Training: Strong emphasis on technical training programs to support the manufacturing and healthcare industries.

Quality of Life:

- Cost of Living: Relatively low compared to the national average.
- Recreational Opportunities: Proximity to the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, offering hiking, rafting, and other outdoor activities.
- Community Services: Access to quality healthcare facilities, public libraries, and community centers.

Future Prospects

Economic Development Initiatives:

- Focus on attracting aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries.
- Investments in infrastructure improvements and site development at the Airport Industrial Park.
- Support for small business development and entrepreneurship.

Strategic Advantages:

- Central location in the Eastern United States with access to major markets.
- Availability of site-ready pads and state-of-the-art facilities at the Raleigh County Memorial Airport and Industrial Park.
- Strong support from local and regional economic development organizations like NRGRDA.