

# Polk County, TN



GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



**Polk County** is located on the southeastern corner of Tennessee and is bordered by North Carolina and Georgia. The county has three hydroelectric plants on the Ocoee River and one on the Hiwassee River that are operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

As a Three-Star Community, Polk County is making strides to preserve existing employment, create new job opportunities, and build a strong base for future economic development.

Business travel and freight shipments and deliveries are convenient to and from Polk County because of its strategic location within 18 miles of I-75, and proximity to the east/west connectors of I-40 (50 miles) and I-24 (30 miles). U.S. Hwy. 64 and U.S. Hwy. 411 travel through the county providing secondary transportation routes. State Highways 30, 314 and 68 are also located in the county and serve as connectors to the interstate and federal highway systems.

Air service options include, Martin Campbell Field providing general aviation services for personal, recreational and business use with a runway length of 3,500 feet. The Cleveland **Regional Jetport** in neighboring Bradley County provides general and business aviation services with a runway length of 5,500 feet. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, located within 45 miles of Polk County offers non-stop service to nine locations throughout the U.S. Air cargo is also available. Airlines serving the Chattanooga airport include: Allegiant, American Airlines, American Eagle, Delta and United Airlines.

Polk County is home to two industrial parks with a combined total of 94 acres with all utilities available. The Copper Basin Industrial Park is located on Hwy. 64 in Ducktown and the Benton Industrial Park is located off Hwy. 411 in Benton. Polk County is part of the 11-county Foreign Trade Zone 134.

Copper Basin Medical Center is a 25-bed general medical and surgical facility. The emergency room is staffed with physicians 24 hours a day with lab and radiology services available. Hospital care is also available in neighboring Bradley County at Tennova Healthcare-Cleveland (26 miles).

There are eight Century Farms in Polk County, the oldest of which is the Boyd Farm established in 1838. Dairy and poultry farming, soybean production and other agricultural endeavors are still carried on in the county. The area rivers along with the towering Chilhowee, Big Frog and Little Frog Mountains offer many options for outdoor recreation including boating, hiking, biking, picnicking and trail walking.



## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES
Life Care Center of Copper	135
Copper Basin Specialty Clinic	105
Ocoee Outdoors	100
Polk County Copper Basin High	90
Angio Systems	75

Source: Companies

## POPULATION

Population 2018	17,697
Population 2023	17,856
Households 2018	6,927
Median Age	44.8
Median Household Income	\$41,874
Per Capita Income	\$20,805

Source: Gale Research

## LABOR FORCE (2017 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

Labor Force	7,372
Unemployment Rate	4.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25+	12,852
High School Graduate (only)	41.3%
Some College	17.4%
Associate's Degree	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	6.3%
Graduate or Professional	3.6%
ACT-County	19.2
ACT-State	19.8

Source: Gale Research, Tennessee Department of Education

## EDUCATION

Public Schools	6
Public School Enrollment	2,415
School Districts	1

Source: Tennessee Department of Education, Individual Schools and GCEP

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

New Employers (Maximum)	2.7%
Experience Rate Range	0.01% to 10.0%
Taxable Base	\$7,000

Source: Tennessee Department of Education, Individual Schools and GCEP

## SALES TAX - GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Taxable Retail Sales (2017)	\$97,709,878
Sales Tax Rate-State	7%
Sales Tax Rate-County	2.25%
Electricity (State/Local)	7%/0%
Piped Natural Gas (State/Local)	7%/0%
Mfg. Water (State/Local)	1.0%/ .33-.05%
Mfg. Fuels (State/Local)	1.5%/0%
Mfg. Equipment (State/Local)	None
Telecommunications (State/Local)	7%/2.5%

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

## PROPERTY TAX (PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE)

Property Taxes-County Incorporated	\$2.5221
Property Taxes-County Unincorporated	\$2.5221
Property Taxes-County Seat	\$3.2721

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

## INVENTORY TAX

Finished Goods	None
Raw Materials	None
Goods in Process	None
Materials Consumed in Manufacturing	None

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

## EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (2017 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

	% OF TOTAL	WEEKLY WAGES
Natural Resources & Mining	1.4%	\$566
Construction	2.2%	\$626
Manufacturing	8.5%	\$670
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15.4%	\$574
Financial Activities	3.0%	\$688
Professional & Business Services	3.2%	\$614
Education & Health Services	7.4%	\$855
Leisure & Hospitality	26.0%	\$226
Government	31.3%	\$690

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## ACCESSIBILITY

Largest City or Town	Benton
Population-2017	1,289
Miles to Chattanooga	47
Nearest Commercial Airport	Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport
Runway Length	7,400 and 5,575
Miles to Airport	45
Nearest Interstate	I-75
Miles to Nearest Interstate	12
Foreign Trade Zone	Yes
Population within 50-mile radius	1,193,488

Source: GCEP, Gale Research

## UTILITIES

Name of Electricity Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Is Natural Gas Available (Yes/No)	Yes
Name of Natural Gas Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Name of Water Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Excess System Capacity	Yes
Name of Wastewater Provider	Benton Water Works, Ocoee Utilities Board
Excess System Capacity	Yes

Source: GCEP

## CONTACT US

**Charles Wood**  
**Greater Chattanooga Economic Partnership**  
811 Broad Street, Suite 100  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
423.763.4335  
[cwood@greaterchatt.com](mailto:cwood@greaterchatt.com)  
[www.greaterchatt.com](http://www.greaterchatt.com)



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