

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
Polk Co. Board of Education	272
Life Care Centers of America	103
Polk County Government	100
Angiosystems, Inc.	75
Ocoee Retreat Center & Camps	50

Source: Companies

POPULATION

Population 2019	18,154
Population 2024	19,623
Households 2019	7,096
Median Age	45.4
Median Household Income	\$45,269
Per Capita Income	\$22,591

Source: Gale Research

LABOR FORCE (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

Labor Force	7,455
Unemployment Rate	6.9%

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

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25+	13,283
High School Graduate (only)	41.4%
Some College	17.9%
Associate's Degree	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	6.6%
Graduate or Professional	3.9%
ACT-County	18.7
ACT-State	19.3

Source: Gale Research, Tennessee Department of Education

EDUCATION

Public Schools	7
Public School Enrollment	2,266
Private Schools	1
Private School Enrollment	10
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: ADP

SALES TAX - GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Taxable Retail Sales (2020)	\$100,683,776
Sales Tax Rate-State	7%
Sales Tax Rate-County	2.25%
Electricity* (State/Local)	None
Piped Natural Gas* (State/Local)	None
Mfg. Water (State/Local)	1.0%/.33-.05%
Mfg. Fuels (State/Local)	1.5%/0%
Mfg. Equipment (State/Local)	None
Telecommunications (State/Local)	7%/2.25%

*Residential
Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

PROPERTY TAX (PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE)

Property Taxes-County Incorporated	\$2.5120
Property Taxes-County Unincorporated	\$2.5120
Property Taxes-County Seat	\$3.2820

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 (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

	% OF TOTAL	WEEKLY WAGES
Manufacturing	9.2%	\$737
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	18.5%	\$791
Financial Activities	3.7%	\$900
Professional & Business Services	4.0%	\$809
Education & Health Services	9.4%	\$820
Leisure & Hospitality	20.9%	\$275
Government	28.3%	\$787

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

ACCESSIBILITY

Largest City or Town	Benton
Population-2019	1,278
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	1,208,487

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
www.greaterchatt.com



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