

# Rhea County, TN



GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



**Rhea County** is located in eastern Tennessee between the metropolitan areas of Chattanooga and Knoxville with access to major interstates, I-75, I-24, and I-40, through four-lane U.S. Hwy. 27. Tennessee Department of Transportation records indicate that over 33,000 vehicles a day travel into Rhea County. The strategic location provides an ideal opportunity for companies looking to locate or expand.

Norfolk Southern's Crescent Corridor runs through the heart of Rhea County which offers a unique opportunity for projects with rail access requirements. One of the fastest, most direct routes from the Southeast to the Northeast with convenient connections to Mexico and Los Angeles, the Crescent Corridor makes green shipping a reality.

Mark Anton Airport, located in Dayton, provides general aviation services with a runway length of 5,000 feet. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, located within 40 miles of Rhea 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.

Rhea County has a variety of properties available for manufacturing, warehousing and office. The county is part of the 11-county Foreign Trade Zone 134.

Post-secondary educational choices include a satellite community college campus operated by Chattanooga State in Dayton offering a general education core for most majors as well as selected career courses. A new TCAT Mobile facility is available in the heart of Dayton's bustling Industrial Park. Courses in industrial management and industrial electricity will be available for day and night students. Bryan College, a four-year institution with 1,475 students, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate, baccalaureate, and master degrees.

Rhea County offers a wealth of outdoor opportunities and natural attractions. With 700 miles of lake shorelines, one can enjoy a relaxing fishing trip on Chickamauga Lake or attend the annual Strawberry Festival, the Scopes Trial re-enactment, or even Pumpkinfest. World-class bass fishing tournaments are regularly hosted in Dayton in the spring and fall. In 2020, Dayton will host the inaugural Monkeytown Masher, a grueling 70-mile gravel bike race..



## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES
LA-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries	1,478
TVA - Watts Bar Nuclear	800
Suburban Manufacturing Co.	366
Robinson Mfg. Co.	380
TenCate Grass	229

Source: Companies

## POPULATION

Population 2019	32,887
Population 2024	33,534
Households 2019	13,010
Median Age	41.0
Median Household Income	\$43,555
Per Capita Income	\$22,618

Source: Gale Research

## ANNOUNCED PROJECTS (2016-2020)

Number of Projects	7
New Jobs	1,008
Capital Investment	\$447,300,000

Source: GCEP

## LABOR FORCE (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

Labor Force	13,011
Unemployment Rate	9.8%

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

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25+	22,472
High School Graduate (only)	37.9%
Some College	22.3%
Associate's Degree	6.2%
Bachelor's Degree	8.8%
Graduate or Professional	4.3%
ACT-County	19.0
ACT-State	19.3

Source: Gale Research, Tennessee Department of Education

## EDUCATION

Public Schools	8
Public School Enrollment	4,789
Private Schools	3
Private School Enrollment	173
School Districts	2
Colleges & Universities	2
College & University Enrollment	1,697

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)	\$375,100,593
Sales Tax Rate-State	7%
Sales Tax Rate-County	2.75%
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%/2.75%

\*Residential  
Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

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

Property Taxes-County Incorporated	\$2.2548
Property Taxes-County Unincorporated	\$2.2548
Property Taxes-County Seat	\$2.8314

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
Natural Resources & Mining	1.4%	\$666
Construction	2.0%	\$979
Manufacturing	28.3%	\$1,069
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13.3%	\$563
Information	0.8%	\$1,636
Financial Activities	2.1%	\$925
Professional & Business Services	5.4%	\$577
Education & Health Services	10.6%	\$599
Leisure & Hospitality	8.8%	\$281
Other Services	0.8%	\$544
Government	26.4%	\$1,499

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

## ACCESSIBILITY

Largest City or Town	Dayton
Population-2019	7,358
Miles to Chattanooga	38
Nearest Commercial Airport	Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport
Runway Length	7,400 and 5,575
Miles to Airport	40
Nearest Interstate	I-24; I-40; I-75
Miles to Nearest Interstate	22
Foreign Trade Zone	Yes
Population within 50-mile radius	1,159,569

Source: GCEP, Gale Research

## UTILITIES

Name of Electricity Provider	Dayton City Utilities
Is Natural Gas Available (Yes/No)	Yes
Name of Natural Gas Provider	Middle TN Natural Gas
Name of Water Provider	Dayton City Utilities
Excess System Capacity	Yes
Name of Wastewater Provider	City of Dayton
Excess System Capacity	Yes

Source: GCEP

## CONTACT US

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