While much of Appalachia has lost population since 2010, both Southern and South Central Appalachia have seen growth.

Minorities make up a small but growing share of Appalachia’s population. Among Appalachia’s minority populations, African Americans are the largest group, while Hispanics/Latinos are the fastest-growing.

Population growth in 49 Appalachian counties exceeded the national average between 2010 and 2018. This growth is likely due to:

- Diversified economies
- “Retirement Destination” designations
- Proximity to major research universities

Find more data on this and other topics at arc.gov/chartbook
Use *The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2014–2018 American Community Survey*—also known as the Chartbook—to discover more about income and poverty in Appalachia. Authored by the Population Reference Bureau with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Chartbook features data on income, employment, education, and other indicators at the regional, subregional, state, and county levels, and examines data change over recent years to show trends. The Chartbook draws on data collected before the COVID-19 crisis to provide benchmarking for when new information becomes available.

### HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

88.7%

of Appalachian adults ages 25–64 have earned a high school diploma, similar to the U.S. average of 88.8%.

### ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE

9.8%

of Appalachian adults ages 25–64 have an associate’s degree—slightly more than the 9.1% of U.S. adults.

### BACHELOR’S DEGREE

25.7%

of Appalachian adults ages 25–64 hold a bachelor’s degree. The U.S. figure is 32.9%.

### BACHELOR’S DEGREE BY SUBREGION

The share of adults ages 25–64 with a bachelor’s degree is highest in Northern Appalachia and lowest in Central Appalachia.

### STEM DEGREE

In Appalachia, 30.8% of adults ages 25+ with a bachelor’s degree earned it in a STEM field. The U.S. figure is 35.0%.
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**Labor Force Participation**

73.0% of Appalachia’s working-age adults (ages 25-64) participate in the civilian labor force. The U.S. rate is 77.6%.

**Employment Rate**

95.2% of Appalachia’s labor force is employed. This is equal to the U.S. rate.

**Employment Location by Subregion**

31.9% of Appalachian workers ages 16+ work outside the county they live in, compared with 27.7% of U.S. workers.

**Unemployment Rate by Subregion**

The unemployment rate for working-age adults is lowest in Northern Appalachia (4.6%) and highest in Central Appalachia (6.9%).

Find more data on this and other topics at arc.gov/chartbook
## Income & Poverty in Appalachia

**Household Income**

Appalachia’s median household income is **82.5%** of the U.S. figure.

- **Appalachia**: $49,747
- **U.S.**: $60,293

**Household Income by Subregion**

Appalachia’s median household income is lowest in Central Appalachia and highest in Southern Appalachia.

- **Central Appalachia**: $36,993
- **South Central Appalachia**: $46,669
- **North Central Appalachia**: $47,022
- **Northern Appalachia**: $52,507
- **Southern Appalachia**: $53,358

**Poverty Rate**

Although the Region’s poverty rate declined 1.2 percentage points since 2009–2013, Appalachia’s poverty rate remains higher than the U.S. average.

- **Appalachia**: 15.8%
- **U.S.**: 14.1%

**Poverty Rate by Subregion**

Appalachia’s poverty rate decreased both overall and in each of the Appalachian subregions.

pp=percentage points

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## COMPUTER & BROADBAND ACCESS IN APPALACHIA

Use *The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2014–2018 American Community Survey*—also known as the Chartbook—to discover more about income and poverty in Appalachia. Authored by the Population Reference Bureau with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Chartbook features data on income, employment, education, and other indicators at the regional, subregional, state, and county levels, and examines data change over recent years to show trends. The Chartbook draws on data collected before the COVID-19 crisis to provide benchmarking for when new information becomes available.

### COMPUTER ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Snapshot</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of Appalachian households have access to a computer device.</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. average is</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SMARTPHONE ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Snapshot</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of Appalachian households have access to a smartphone, but only</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have subscriptions to a cellular data plan.</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Snapshot</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of Appalachian households have a broadband subscription. The U.S. rate is</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS BY SUBREGION

- Broadband subscriptions are highest in Northern and Southern Appalachia and lowest in Central Appalachia.

Find more data on this and other topics at [arc.gov/chartbook](http://arc.gov/chartbook)