THE APPALACHIAN REGION: A DATA OVERVIEW FROM THE 2011-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY Chartbook

Kelvin Pollard Linda A. Jacobsen Population Reference Bureau

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THE APPALACHIAN REGION: A DATA OVERVIEW FROM THE 2011-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|----------|
| FOREWORD | 4 |
| CHAPTER 1: POPULATION BASICS | |
| Table 1.1: Population, Land Area, and Population Density in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 5 |
| Figure 1.1: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 6 |
| Figure 1.2: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 7 |
| Figure 1.3: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 8 |
| CHAPTER 2: AGE | |
| Table 2.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 9 |
| Figure 2.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, 2011-2015 | 10 |
| Figure 2.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, 2011-2015 | 11 |
| Figure 2.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, 2011-2015 | 12 |
| Figure 2.4: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, 2011-2015 | 13 |
| Figure 2.5: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 14 |
| Table 2.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 15 |
| Trends in Age | 16 |
| CHAPTER 3: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN | |
| Table 3.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2011-2015 | 17 |
| Figure 3.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Minority, 2011-2015 | 18 |
| Figure 3.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2011-2015 | 19 |
| Figure 3.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2011-2015 | 20 |
| Table 3.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 21 |
| Figure 3.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 22 |
| Figure 3.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 23 |
| Trends in Race and Hispanic Origin | 24 |
| CHAPTER 4: HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND TENURE | |
| Table 4.1: Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 25 |
| Figure 4.1: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2011-2015 | 26 |
| Figure 4.2: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2011-2015 | 27 |
| Figure 4.3: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Figure 4.4: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 28 29 |
| Table 4.2: Percentage Point Change in Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 | 29 30 |
| to 2011-2015 | |
| Figure 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 31 |
| Figure 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 32 |
| Figure 4.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 33 |
| Figure 4.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 34 |
| Trends in Housing Occupancy and Tenure | 35 |

<u>PAGE</u>

| CHA | PTER | 5· | FDL | IC.A | TION |
|-----|------|----|-----|------|------|

| CHAPTER 5: EDUCATION | |
|---|----|
| Table 5.1: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 36 |
| Table 5.2: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 37 |
| Table 5.3: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 38 |
| Figure 5.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015 | 39 |
| Figure 5.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2011-2015 | 40 |
| Figure 5.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 | 41 |
| Figure 5.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015 | 42 |
| Figure 5.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 | 43 |
| Figure 5.6: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 | 44 |
| Table 5.4: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, | 45 |
| 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | |
| Table 5.5: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 46 |
| Table 5.6: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 47 |
| Figure 5.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 48 |
| Figure 5.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 49 |
| Table 5.7: Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 | 50 |
| Figure 5.9: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2011-2015 | 51 |
| Trends in Education | 52 |
| CHAPTER 6: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT | |
| Table 6.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 53 |
| Figure 6.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2011-2015 | 54 |
| Figure 6.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 55 |
| Figure 6.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 56 |
| Table 6.2: Percentage Point Change in Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 | 57 |
| in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 Figure 6.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the | 58 |
| Labor Force, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | |
| Figure 6.5: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 59 |
| Trends in Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment | 60 |
| CHAPTER 7: INCOME AND POVERTY | |
| Table 7.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 61 |
| Figure 7.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 62 |
| Figure 7.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 63 |
| Figure 7.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 64 |
| Figure 7.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 65 |
| Figure 7.4. Median Paniny income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Figure 7.5: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 | 66 |
| Table 7.2: Change in Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), | 67 |
| 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | |
| Figure 7.6: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 68 |
| Table 7.3: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 69 |
| Table 7.4: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 70 |
| Figure 7.7: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 | 71 |
| | |

| | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Figure 7.8: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 | 72 |
| Figure 7.9: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 | 73 |
| Figure 7.10: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 | 74 |
| Table 7.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 75 |
| Figure 7.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 Trends in Income and Poverty | 76 77 |
| CHAPTER 8: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE | |
| Table 8.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 78 |
| Table 8.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 79 |
| Figure 8.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 | 80 |
| Figure 8.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 | 81 |
| Figure 8.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 24 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 | 82 |
| Figure 8.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 | 83 |
| CHAPTER 9: DISABILITY STATUS Table 9.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 84 |
| Table 9.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 85 |
| Figure 9.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 | 86 |
| Figure 9.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 | 87 |
| Figure 9.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 | 88 |
| Figure 9.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 | 89 |
| CHAPTER 10: MIGRATION | |
| Table 10.1: Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 | 90 |
| Figure 10.1: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2011-2015 | 91 |
| Figure 10.2: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015 | 92 |
| Figure 10.3: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015 | 93 |
| Table 10.2: Percentage Point Change in Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 94 |
| Figure 10.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 95 |
| Trends in Migration | 96 |
| CHAPTER 11: VETERAN STATUS | |
| Table 11.1: Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, 2011-2015 | 97 |
| Table 11.2: Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Gender, 2011-2015 | 98 |
| Figure 11.1: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 | 99 |
| Figure 11.2: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 | 100 |
| Figure 11.3: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 Figure 11.4: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 | 101 102 |
| Table 11.3: Percentage Point Change in Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group | 102 |
| and Gender, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | |
| Figure 11.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 | 104 |
| Trends in Veteran Status | 105 |
| APPENDIX A: REFERENCE MAPS | 400 |
| Figure A.1: Appalachian Subregions Figure A.2: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region | 106 107 |
| ngure A.Z. Rurar-orban County Types in the Appalachian Region | 107 |

FOREWORD

The data contained in this chartbook come from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey. While the types of demographic and housing data included in Chapters 1 through 4 were also collected in the 2010 decennial census, the types of social and economic data included in Chapters 5 through 11 were not. This is because unlike previous censuses—which consisted of a "short form" of basic demographic and housing questions and a "long form" (used for a sample of households) that also asked detailed questions about social, economic, and housing characteristics—the 2010 census only had a short form.

The decennial long form has been replaced by the American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide study collected continuously every year in every county in the United States. The ACS is designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data each year. However, the annual sample size of the ACS is much smaller than the sample size of the decennial census long form; therefore, data from five years must be combined to provide reliable estimates for geographic areas with fewer than 20,000 people. Since a number of counties in the Appalachian Region have fewer than 20,000 residents, we must use the 2011-2015 ACS data to have comparable statistics for all 420 counties in the Region.

The ACS five-year estimates for 2011-2015 represent concepts that are fundamentally different from those associated with data from the decennial census. While the main function of the census is to provide *counts* of people for congressional apportionment and legislative redistricting, the primary purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing *characteristics* of the U.S. population. Moreover, while the decennial census provides a "snapshot" of the U.S. population once every 10 years, the ACS has been described as a "moving video image" that is continually updated. Finally, while the census provides "point in time" estimates designed to approximate an area's characteristics on a specific date, the ACS provides "period" estimates that represent data collected over a period of time. The five-year estimates in this chartbook, therefore, are data collected over the five-year (or 60-month) period from January 2011 through December 2015. These ACS estimates are *not* averages of monthly or annual values, but rather an *aggregation* of data collected over the five-year period.

For areas with consistent population characteristics throughout the calendar year, ACS period estimates might not differ much from those that would result from a point-in-time survey like the decennial census. However, ACS period estimates might be noticeably different from point-in-time estimates for areas with seasonal populations or those that experience a natural disaster such as a hurricane. For example, a resort community in the upper Midwest might be dominated by locals in the winter months and by temporary workers and tourists in the summer months, with a corresponding decrease in employment rates during the winter and increase in these rates during the summer. In such a community, the ACS period estimate of the percent of persons in the labor force, which is based on data across the entire calendar year, would likely be higher than a decennial census point-in-time estimate from April 1.

And with two non-overlapping five-year periods (2011-2015 and 2006-2010), we can study trends in the data. However, the Census Bureau recommends caution in some instances, due to the changes in question wording and the coding of responses. And in some years, the ACS has added or removed certain questions. For example, the ACS added a new question on health insurance in 2008, which was the same year that a new set of questions on disability status replaced the ones asked in previous years. As a result, 2006-2010 data for these two items are not available to measure trends. More information about comparing the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 ACS data is available on the Web page, <u>"Comparing 2006-2010 ACS 5-year and 2011-2015 ACS 5-year"</u>, through the Census Bureau's website.

While ACS five-year data are needed to provide reliable estimates for areas with small populations, they can make it difficult to track trends in these areas. The 2006-2010 ACS data illustrate this problem, as they are for a time period that covers three distinct periods of economic activity: the years immediately preceding the "Great Recession" of December 2007 through June 2009; the recession itself, and the 18 months of economic recovery that followed the downturn. Since the 2006-2010 ACS pools data from all three periods, it smooths out the extreme variations in economic measures that would be evident in annual data from this five-year period.

This year's chartbook also includes two reference maps—one of the five Appalachian subregions, and one of the five rural-urban county types. Both the subregions and county types are referenced throughout the report. These maps are in Appendix A.

CHAPTER 1: POPULATION BASICS

Table 1.1: Population, Land Area, and Population Density in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| Denuistion Land Area and Density | Population, | Change Since | 2006-2010 | Land Area | Population per Square Mile of | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Population, Land Area, and Density | 2011-2015 | Number | Percent | (Square Miles) | Land Area, 2011-2015 | |
| United States | 316,515,021 | + 12,549,749 | + 4.1 | 3,531,905 | 89.6 | |
| Appalachian Region | 25,417,532 | + 415,186 | + 1.7 | 204,452 | 124.3 | |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 8,336,272 | - 51,520 | - 0.6 | 56,980 | 146.3 | |
| North Central Appalachia | 2,425,882 | + 20,113 | + 0.8 | 29,337 | 82.7 | |
| Central Appalachia | 1,900,772 | - 14,200 | - 0.7 | 29,773 | 63.8 | |
| South Central Appalachia | 4,777,566 | + 123,586 | + 2.7 | 34,997 | 136.5 | |
| Southern Appalachia | 7,977,040 | + 337,207 | + 4.4 | 53,365 | 149.5 | |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 5,963,130 | + 199,860 | + 3.5 | 18,815 | 316.9 | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 10,733,709 | + 228,785 | + 2.2 | 54,302 | 197.7 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 2,201,683 | - 5,677 | - 0.3 | 25,382 | 86.7 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,981,497 | + 4,789 | + 0.1 | 58,591 | 68.0 | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 2,537,513 | - 12,571 | - 0.5 | 47,363 | 53.6 | |
| Alabama | 4,830,620 | + 117,969 | + 2.5 | 50,645 | 95.4 | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 3,092,319 | + 71,466 | + 2.4 | 25,763 | 120.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,738,301 | + 46,503 | + 2.7 | 24,882 | 69.9 | |
| Georgia | 10,006,693 | + 537,878 | + 5.7 | 57,513 | 174.0 | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 3,047,462 | + 199,001 | + 7.0 | 11,378 | 267.8 | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 6,959,231 | + 338,877 | + 5.1 | 46,135 | 150.8 | |
| Kentucky | 4,397,353 | + 111,525 | + 2.6 | 39,486 | 111.4 | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 1,178,147 | - 4,492 | - 0.4 | 18,231 | 64.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 3,219,206 | + 116,017 | + 3.7 | 21,256 | 151.4 | |
| Maryland | 5,930,538 | + 234,115 | + 4.1 | 9,707 | 611.0 | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 252,632 | + 1,520 | + 0.6 | 1,529 | 165.2 | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 5,677,906 | + 232,595 | + 4.3 | 8,178 | 694.3 | |
| Mississippi | 2,988,081 | + 46,090 | + 1.6 | 46,923 | 63.7 | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 628,965 | + 2,431 | + 0.4 | 12,400 | 50.7 | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 2,359,116 | + 43,659 | + 1.9 | 34,523 | 68.3 | |
| New York | 19,673,174 | + 443,422 | + 2.3 | 47,126 | 417. | |
| Appalachian New York | 1,055,972 | - 12,073 | - 1.1 | 11,681 | 90.4 | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 18,617,202 | + 455,495 | + 2.5 | 35,445 | 525.2 | |
| North Carolina | 9,845,333 | + 574,155 | + 6.2 | 48,618 | 202.5 | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,716,912 | + 43,621 | + 2.6 | 11,887 | 144.4 | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 8,128,421 | + 530,534 | + 7.0 | 36,731 | 221.3 | |
| Ohio | 11,575,977 | + 63,546 | + 0.6 | 40,861 | 283.3 | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 2,023,656 | - 22,166 | - 1.1 | 15,978 | 126.7 | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 9,552,321 | + 85,712 | + 0.9 | 24,882 | 383.9 | |
| Pennsylvania | 12,779,559 | + 166,854 | + 1.3 | 44,743 | 285.6 | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,770,892 | - 16,354 | - 0.3 | 36,444 | 158.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 7,008,667 | + 183,208 | + 2.7 | 8,298 | 844.6 | |
| South Carolina | 4,777,576 | + 266,148 | + 5.9 | 30,061 | 158.9 | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | | + 64,309 | + 5.6 | | 316.0 | |
| | 1,208,294 | + 201,839 | + 5.6 + 6.0 | 3,824 26,237 | 136.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina Tennessee | 3,569,282 6,499,615 | + 201,839 | + 4.2 | 41,235 | 130.0 | |
| | , , | + 204,047 + 81,757 | | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,827,183 | | + 3.0 | 20,119 | 140. | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 3,672,432 | + 182,890 | + 5.2 | 21,116 | 173.9 | |
| | 8,256,630 | + 414,876 | + 5.3 | 39,490 | 209. 1 | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 763,678 | - 4,452 | - 0.6 | 11,179 | 68.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 7,492,952 | + 419,328 | + 5.9 + 0.6 | 28,311 | 264.7 | |

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Figure 1.1: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015



Map Title: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Of the 316.5 million persons in the United States during the period from 2011-2015, 25.4 million lived in the Appalachian Region. Yet the population of the Region's 420 counties varied greatly. On one hand, two-thirds of the counties had populations of fewer than 50,000 people, and 126 counties had fewer than 20,000 residents. On the other hand, pockets of the Appalachian population lived in large and mid-sized metropolitan areas, including Pittsburgh, Birmingham, and the Atlanta suburbs. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (where Pittsburgh is located) had 1.2 million residents. It is important to note that the Appalachian population has continued to grow; the most recent population estimates indicated that the Region had more than 25.5 million residents in 2015 (out of 321.4 million nationwide), compared to 25.2 million in the 2010 Census.





Map Title: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

The Appalachian Region's population grew less than 2 percent between the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 periods, less than half the national average. And demographic change was even slower in much of Appalachia—in fact, the Appalachian sections of Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have actually lost population since 2006-2010. Those five states alone had 127 of the 223 Appalachian counties that lost residents between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. On the other hand, 43 counties in Appalachia grew at or above the national rate between the two intervals. Nearly half of these counties were in Southern Appalachia, which was the only subregion where the rate of population growth exceeded the national average. Population growth was particularly high in the Appalachian parts of Georgia and South Carolina, with increases of 7 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively.



Figure 1.3: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

Map Title: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

While Appalachia's population density was noticeably greater than the United States as a whole over the 2011-2015 period, just two-fifths of the Region's counties had population concentrations at or above the national average. Most of the high-density counties were in metropolitan areas, both large (Pittsburgh, Birmingham, suburban Atlanta) and small (Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee).

CHAPTER 2: AGE

Table 2.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Age Group, 2011-2015

| | Total | | Percent of | Population | | Median | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Population by Age Group | Population, 2011-2015 | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and over | Age (Years) | |
| United States | 316,515,021 | 23.3 | 9.9 | 52.7 | 14.1 | 37.6 | |
| Appalachian Region | 25,417,532 | 21.8 | 9.7 | 52.2 | 16.3 | 40.5 | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 8,336,272 | 20.2 | 10.0 | 52.0 | 17.7 | 42.2 | |
| North Central Appalachia | 2,425,882 | 21.4 | 9.6 | 52.5 | 16.5 | 40.9 | |
| Central Appalachia | 1,900,772 | 21.8 | 8.8 | 53.0 | 16.4 | 41.2 | |
| South Central Appalachia | 4,777,566 | 20.8 | 9.9 | 51.5 | 17.8 | 41.5 | |
| Southern Appalachia | 7,977,040 | 24.2 | 9.6 | 52.4 | 13.8 | 37.9 | |
| County Types | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 5,963,130 | 23.2 | 8.8 | 53.7 | 14.3 | 39.2 | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 10,733,709 | 21.3 | 10.4 | 51.9 | 16.3 | 40.2 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 2,201,683 | 21.8 | 9.9 | 51.4 | 16.9 | 41.0 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,981,497 | 21.1 | 9.0 | 51.6 | 18.4 | 42.5 | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 2,537,513 | 21.5 | 9.9 | 51.3 | 17.2 | 41.1 | |
| Alabama | 4,830,620 | 23.0 | 9.9 | 52.2 | 14.9 | 38.4 | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 3,092,319 | 22.8 | 9.6 | 52.7 | 14.9 | 38.9 | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,738,301 | 23.4 | 10.5 | 51.2 | 14.9 | 37.6 | |
| Georgia | 10,006,693 | 24.9 | 10.1 | 53.1 | 11.9 | 35.9 | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 3,047,462 | 26.2 | 8.9 | 52.9 | 12.0 | 36.8 | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 6,959,231 | 24.3 | 10.7 | 53.1 | 11.9 | 35.6 | |
| Kentucky | 4,397,353 | 23.1 | 9.7 | 52.8 | 14.4 | 38.5 | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 1,178,147 | 22.3 | 9.3 | 52.7 | 15.7 | 40.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 3,219,206 | 23.4 | 9.8 | 52.9 | 13.9 | 37.8 | |
| Maryland | 5,930,538 | 22.7 | 9.5 | 54.4 | 13.3 | 38.2 | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 252,632 | 20.8 | 9.7 | 52.8 | 16.8 | 41.1 | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 5,677,906 | 22.8 | 9.5 | 54.5 | 13.2 | 38.1 | |
| Mississippi | 2,988,081 | 24.6 | 10.4 | 51.1 | 13.9 | 36.5 | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 628,965 | 23.9 | 11.1 | 49.9 | 15.1 | 37.6 | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 2,359,116 | 24.8 | 10.2 | 51.4 | 13.6 | 36.4 | |
| New York | 19,673,174 | 21.6 | 10.2 | 54.0 | 14.3 | 38.1 | |
| Appalachian New York | 1,055,972 | 20.2 | 13.2 | 49.8 | 16.8 | 40.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 18,617,202 | 21.7 | 9.9 | 54.2 | 14.2 | 38.1 | |
| North Carolina | 9,845,333 | 23.2 | 9.9 | 52.6 | 14.2 | 38.0 | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,716,912 | 20.7 | 9.3 | 51.6 | 18.4 | 42.2 | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 8,128,421 | 23.7 | 10.1 | 52.8 | 13.4 | 37.2 | |
| Ohio | 11,575,977 | 22.9 | 9.5 | 52.0 52.4 | 15.1 | 39.2 | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 2,023,656 | 22.2 | 9.0 | 52.0 | 16.8 | 41.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 9,552,321 | 23.1 | 9.6 | 52.5 | 14.7 | 38.8 | |
| Pennsylvania | 12,779,559 | 23.1 | 9.0 9.7 | 52.5 52.7 | 14.7 | 40.5 | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,770,892 | 19.8 | 9.8 | 52.4 | 17.9 | 42.5 | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 7,008,667 | 22.5 | 9.0 9.7 | 52.4 | 17.3 | 38.9 | |
| South Carolina | 4,777,576 | 22.5 22.6 | 9.7 10.2 | 52.0 52.0 | 15.0 15.2 | 38.6 | |
| | | | | 51.7 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 1,208,294 | 23.1 22.5 | 10.2 10.1 | 51.7 | 15.0 15.3 | 38.5 38.6 | |
| Tennessee | 3,569,282 6,499,615 | 22.5 23.0 | 9.6 | 52.1 52.8 | 15.3 14.6 | 38.4 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,827,183 | 21.3 | 9.4 | 52.0 | 17.3 | 41.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 3,672,432 | 24.3 | 9.8 | 53.4 | 12.5 | 36.4 | |
| Virginia | 8,256,630 | 22.6 | 10.0 | 54.1 | 13.3 | 37.6 | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 763,678 | 19.0 | 11.8 | 50.9 | 18.3 | 42.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 7,492,952 | 22.9 | 9.8 | 54.4 | 12.8 | 37.3 | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 1,851,420 | 20.7 | 9.2 | 52.9 | 17.2 | 41.8 | |

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 2.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Over the 2011-2015 period, the share of children and youth under age 18 in the Appalachian population was slightly below the national average of 23.3 percent. And the share was actually less than 20 percent in 107 of the Region's 420 counties, most of which were outside metropolitan areas, with concentrations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Yet in another 86 Appalachian counties, the share of children under age 18 matched or exceeded the national average. Most of these counties were in Southern Appalachia, with concentrations in Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Among the states, the Appalachian portions of Georgia and Mississippi were the only two in the Region where the under-18 percentage was greater than that of the nation as a whole—although the share in South Carolina was close, at 23.1 percent.



Figure 2.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Although the share of young adults (ages 18 to 24) in Appalachia roughly equaled the national average in the 2011-2015 period, there were great variations within the Region. For example, persons in this age group made up at least 15 percent of the population in 24 counties. Nearly all of these counties are home to colleges and universities such as Penn State University (Centre County, Pennsylvania); Ohio University (Athens County, Ohio); and Clemson University (Pickens County, South Carolina). In contrast, 18-to-24-year-olds made up less than 7.5 percent of the population in 103 Appalachian counties. Of the counties in this latter group, 74 were outside metropolitan areas and 26 were in the most rural counties—both of which suggest a possible lack of opportunities in these communities for youth making the transition to adulthood.



Figure 2.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, 2011-2015

In both the United States and Appalachia, adults in the prime working ages (ages 25 to 64) made up a slight majority of all residents in the 2011-2015 period. In 159 of the 420 Appalachian counties, the percentage of persons in this age group matched or exceeded the national average. But there were 58 counties in the Region (47 of which were outside metropolitan areas) where 25-to-64-year-olds made up less than half of the population. Many of these counties--such as Watauga County, North Carolina, home to Appalachian State University—house colleges and universities (and thus had a high share of their populations in the 18-to-24 age range.)

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 2.4: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The share of residents ages 65 and over in the Appalachian Region exceeded the national average by two percentage points during the 2011-2015 period. Moreover, the percentage of persons in this age group matched or exceeded the U.S. share in 378 of the 420 Appalachian counties—and the overall Region share (16.3 percent) in 294 of them. In fact, older persons made up at least 20 percent of the population in 60 Appalachian counties, more than four-fifths of which were outside metropolitan areas. In contrast, most of the 42 Appalachian counties with older population shares below the national average were either in metro areas or home to colleges and universities. With the large baby boom cohorts moving into this age group, the share of residents ages 65 and over will continue to increase over the coming years in both Appalachia and the nation.

Figure 2.5: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015



Map Title: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

At 40.5 years, the median age of the Appalachian population was nearly three years older than that of the United States as a whole during the 2011-2015 period. Indeed, the median age of the population (the point at which half the population is older and half is younger) was at least 40 years in three-fourths of the Region's counties. And in 75 counties—58 of which were outside metro areas—the median age was at least 45 years. Of the 37 counties with populations whose median age was younger than the national median, 23 were in Southern Appalachia—the only subregion where the overall age structure roughly resembled that of the nation. (Appalachian Georgia alone had 13 of these counties.) As the U.S. and Appalachian populations grow older, median age will almost certainly continue to rise in most of the Region's counties—with the possible exception of counties where a college or university is a major presence (such as Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, home to the University of Alabama).

Table 2.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percenta | Change in | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Population by Age Group | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and over | Median Age (Years) |
| United States | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | + 1.4 | + 0.7 |
| Appalachian Region | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.6 | + 1.5 | + 1.1 |
| Subregions | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 1.1 | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | + 1.1 | + 1.0 |
| North Central Appalachia | - 0.7 | + 0.0 | - 0.8 | + 1.5 | + 1.0 |
| Central Appalachia | - 0.8 | + 0.1 | - 1.0 | + 1.7 | + 1.3 |
| South Central Appalachia | - 0.9 | + 0.2 | - 1.3 | + 2.0 | + 1.2 |
| Southern Appalachia | - 1.0 | + 0.2 | - 0.8 | + 1.6 | + 1.2 |
| County Types | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.4 | + 1.2 | + 1.0 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.7 | + 1.5 | + 1.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 1.2 | + 0.0 | - 0.5 | + 1.7 | + 1.4 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 1.0 | + 0.3 | - 1.1 | + 1.9 | + 1.3 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.0 | + 0.1 | - 1.0 | + 1.7 | + 1.2 |
| Alabama | - 1.0 | - 0.1 | - 0.3 | + 1.4 | + 0.9 |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 0.9 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | + 1.4 | + 1.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 1.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | + 1.5 | + 0.7 |
| Georgia | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | - 0.6 | + 1.6 | + 0.9 |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 1.1 | + 0.3 | - 1.2 | + 2.0 | + 1.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.2 | + 0.0 | - 0.4 | + 1.5 | + 0.8 |
| Kentucky | - 0.7 | + 0.1 | - 0.8 | + 1.3 | + 0.8 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 0.8 | + 0.1 | - 0.9 | + 1.6 | + 1.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 0.7 | + 0.1 | - 0.6 | + 1.2 | + 0.6 |
| Maryland | - 1.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | + 1.4 | + 0.6 |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 0.9 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | + 1.3 | + 1.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 1.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | + 1.5 | + 0.7 |
| Mississippi | - 1.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | + 1.3 | + 0.7 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.1 | + 0.4 | - 0.6 | + 1.3 | + 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.1 | - 0.2 | + 0.0 | + 1.4 | + 0.9 |
| New York | - 1.2 | + 0.1 | + 0.1 | + 1.0 | + 0.4 |
| Appalachian New York | - 1.4 | + 0.5 | - 0.6 | + 1.5 | + 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 1.2 | + 0.0 | + 0.1 | + 1.0 | + 0.5 |
| North Carolina | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.8 | + 1.6 | + 0.9 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.1 | + 0.2 | - 1.3 | + 2.1 | + 1.3 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.0 | + 0.1 | - 0.8 | + 1.6 | + 0.9 |
| Ohio | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.9 |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 1.2 | + 0.0 | - 0.4 | + 1.5 | + 1.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.9 |
| Pennsylvania | - 1.1 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | + 1.0 | + 0.7 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.2 | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | + 1.0 | + 1.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | + 1.1 | + 0.7 |
| South Carolina | - 1.1 | + 0.0 | - 0.9 | + 2.0 | + 1.2 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 0.8 | + 0.2 | - 1.0 | + 1.6 | + 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.1 | - 0.2 | - 0.8 | + 2.2 | + 1.2 |
| Tennessee | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.8 | + 1.5 | + 0.8 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 0.9 | + 0.2 | - 1.3 | + 1.9 | + 1.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 0.4 | + 1.2 | + 0.7 |
| Virginia | - 0.9 | - 0.1 | - 0.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.4 |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 0.9 | + 0.1 | - 1.1 | + 1.9 | + 1.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 1.0 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | + 1.4 | + 0.5 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 0.5 | + 0.0 | - 1.0 | + 1.4 | + 0.3 |

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

TRENDS IN AGE

- Like the United States as a whole, Appalachia's population has gotten older between the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 periods (see Table 2.2). And it's been aging more noticeably than the national population in that time: The median age of the Region's population (the point at which half the population is older and half is younger) has risen by more than a year between these two periods to 40.5 years. By comparison, the U.S. median age has risen by just less than a year.
- Some parts of the Appalachian Region are aging faster than others. For example, the median age rose 1.4 years in Appalachian Ohio and 1.3 years in Appalachian North Carolina between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, to 41.3 years and 42.2 years, respectively. And the median age in Appalachian counties outside metropolitan areas has risen slightly faster than in the Region's metropolitan counties. Yet among all Appalachian subregions and county types, as well as in the Appalachian portions of nearly every state in the Region, the median age is increasing faster than the national average.
- In both the United States and Appalachia, the aging of the population has come largely at the expense of younger age groups. For example, the share of the population under age 18 is about one percentage point lower in 2011-2015 than it was in 2006-2010. Similarly, the share ages 25 to 64 has fallen by less than half a percentage point in Appalachia, particularly as older members of the baby boom cohorts move into the "65 and over" age category. Between the two periods, the share of residents in the older age group increased 1.5 percentage points in the Region.
- While much of Appalachia is "aging in place" (particularly with the aging of the baby boom cohorts), the migration of some older residents to retirement destinations is a factor behind the aging of some parts of the Region. For example, several Appalachian counties where the median age is at least 45 years have been designated as "retirement" counties by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CHAPTER 3: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

Table 3.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2011-2015

| | Total | | Percent of Population Minority | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Population by Race and Hispanic Origin | Total Population, 2011-2015 | White Alone, Not Hispanic | Total | Black Alone, Not Hispanic | Hispanic or Latino | Other, Not Hispanic |
| United States | 316,515,021 | 62.3 | 37.7 | 12.3 | 17.1 | 8.3 |
| Appalachian Region | 25,417,532 | 82.5 | 17.5 | 9.4 | 4.6 | 3.5 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 8,336,272 | 88.7 | 11.3 | 5.2 | 2.8 | 3.3 |
| North Central Appalachia | 2,425,882 | 92.8 | 7.2 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 2.9 |
| Central Appalachia | 1,900,772 | 95.0 | 5.0 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| South Central Appalachia | 4,777,566 | 84.8 | 15.2 | 7.0 | 4.9 | 3.3 |
| Southern Appalachia | 7,977,040 | 68.7 | 31.3 | 18.9 | 7.9 | 4.4 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 5,963,130 | 73.6 | 26.4 | 15.1 | 6.1 | 5.2 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 10,733,709 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 9.3 | 5.1 | 3.5 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 2,201,683 | 88.6 | 11.4 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 2.7 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,981,497 | 89.9 | 10.1 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.4 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 2,537,513 | 88.6 | 11.4 | 7.6 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Alabama | 4,830,620 | 66.3 | 33.7 | 26.3 | 4.0 | 3.4 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 3,092,319 | 70.3 | 29.7 | 22.0 | 4.5 | 3.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,738,301 | 59.3 | 40.7 | 34.0 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Georgia | 10,006,693 | 54.6 | 45.4 | 30.5 | 9.1 | 5.8 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 3,047,462 | 66.1 | 33.9 | 14.2 | 13.2 | 6.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 6,959,231 | 49.5 | 50.5 | 37.7 | 7.4 | 5.4 |
| Kentucky | 4,397,353 | 85.6 | 14.4 | 7.8 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 1,178,147 | 95.0 | 5.0 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 3,219,206 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 10.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Maryland | 5,930,538 | 53.0 | 47.0 | 29.1 | 9.0 | 8.9 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 252,632 | 85.1 | 14.9 | 8.1 | 3.0 | 3.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 5,677,906 | 51.6 | 48.4 | 30.0 | 9.3 | 9.2 |
| Mississippi | 2,988,081 | 57.4 | 42.6 | 37.2 | 2.9 | 2.5 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 628,965 | 64.1 | 35.9 | 31.6 | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 2,359,116 | 55.6 | 44.4 | 38.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| New York | 19,673,174 | 56.8 | 43.2 | 14.4 | 18.4 | 10.4 |
| Appalachian New York | 1,055,972 | 89.1 | 10.9 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 4.8 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 18,617,202 | 54.9 | 45.1 | 15.1 | 19.3 | 4.0 |
| North Carolina | 9,845,333 | 64.2 | 35.8 | 21.2 | 8.8 | 5.8 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,716,912 | 80.5 | 19.5 | 8.7 | 7.2 | 3.6 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 8,128,421 | 60.8 | 39.2 | 23.8 | 9.2 | 6.2 |
| Ohio | 11,575,977 | 80.3 | 19.7 | 12.0 | 3.4 | 4.3 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 2,023,656 | 91.4 | 8.6 | 4.2 | 1.8 | 2.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 9,552,321 | 77.9 | 22.1 | 13.7 | 3.7 | 4.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 12,779,559 | 78.1 | 22.1 | 10.5 | 6.4 | 5.0 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,770,892 | 88.6 | 21.9 11.4 | 5.4 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 7,008,667 | 69.5 | 30.5 | 14.8 | 2.0 9.3 | 5.2 6.4 |
| South Carolina | 4,777,576 | 63.9 | 30.3 36.1 | 27.3 | 5.3 | 3.5 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | | 73.6 | 26.4 | 16.6 | 6.2 | 3.5 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 1,208,294 3,569,282 | 73.6 60.6 | 26.4 39.4 | 30.9 | 6.2 5.0 | 3.5 |
| Tennessee | 6,499,615 | 74.7 | 39.4 25.3 | 30.9 16.7 | 5.0 4.9 | 3.5 3.7 |
| | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,827,183 | 87.9 | 12.1 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 3,672,432 | 64.6 | 35.4 | 25.4 | 5.9 | 4.1 |
| Virginia | 8,256,630 | 63.4 | 36.6 | 18.9 | 8.6 | 9.1 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 763,678 | 89.5 | 10.5 | 5.5 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 7,492,952 | 60.8 | 39.2 | 20.3 | 9.2 | 9.7 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 1,851,420 | 92.5 | 7.5 | 3.3 | 1.4 | 2.8 |

Note: "Other" includes these racial groups: (a) American Indian and Alaska Native alone; (b) Asian alone; (c) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; (d) Some other race alone; and (e) Two or more races.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 3.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Minority, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Minority, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The Appalachian Region is significantly less racially and ethnically diverse than the United States as a whole, and most parts of the Region have remained far below the national average in their minority populations. In almost two-thirds of Appalachian counties, minorities (defined as anyone who identifies with a racial or ethnic group *other than* "white alone, not Hispanic") made up less than 10 percent of the population during the 2011-2015 period. There were just 22 counties—all but one in Southern Appalachia and more than half in Mississippi alone—where minorities' share of the population matched or exceeded the national average of nearly 38 percent.



Figure 3.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

While non-Hispanic African Americans have remained the largest single minority group in Appalachia during the 2011-2015 period, their share of the Region's total population was still lower than in the United States as a whole. Within the Region, the largest proportions were in Southern Appalachia—the only subregion where blacks' share of the population exceeded the national average. Southern Appalachia also had 51 of the Region's 58 counties where the black share of the population matched or surpassed that of the nation—as well as 27 of the 30 where at least one in four residents was African American. At the other end of the spectrum, persons who were "black alone, not Hispanic" accounted for less than 5 percent of the residents in nearly three-fourths of Appalachian counties.



Figure 3.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Although Hispanics are now the United States' largest minority group, they made up only one in 25 residents in the Appalachian Region during the 2011-2015 period. The county patterns reflect this fact, as Hispanics were at least 5 percent of the population in just 64 of Appalachia's 420 counties, all but nine of which were in Southern and South Central Appalachia. Moreover, just three Appalachian counties (Gwinnett, Hall, and Whitfield—all in Georgia) had Latino population shares that matched or exceeded the national average.

Table 3.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Minority | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Population by Race and Hispanic Origin | White Alone, Not Hispanic | Total | Black Alone, Not Hispanic | Hispanic or Latino | Other, Not Hispanic | | | | |
| United States | - 2.4 | + 2.4 | + 0.1 | + 1.4 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Appalachian Region | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | + 0.4 | + 0.8 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | + 0.2 | + 0.6 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | + 0.1 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Central Appalachia | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | + 0.1 | + 0.4 | + 0.2 | | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.1 | + 0.7 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | - 2.3 | + 2.3 | + 0.6 | + 0.9 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | + 0.8 | + 0.9 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | + 0.3 | + 0.8 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.3 | | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.0 | + 1.0 | + 0.2 | + 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | | |
| Alabama | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | + 0.3 | + 0.6 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.4 | + 0.6 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 1.0 | + 1.0 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.4 | | | | |
| Georgia | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 0.5 | + 0.8 | + 1.0 | | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 3.6 | + 3.6 | + 1.5 | + 1.2 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | + 0.2 | + 0.7 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Kentucky | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.2 | + 0.6 | + 0.7 | | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | + 0.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.2 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.8 | | | | |
| Maryland | - 2.8 | + 2.8 | + 0.2 | + 1.5 | + 1.1 | | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 0.6 | + 0.6 | + 1.1 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 2.8 | + 2.8 | + 0.1 | + 1.5 | + 1.2 | | | | |
| Mississippi | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 0.3 | | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 0.3 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 0.3 | | | | |
| New York | - 2.4 | + 2.4 | - 0.1 | + 1.3 | + 1.2 | | | | |
| Appalachian New York | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | + 0.7 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 2.4 | + 2.4 | - 0.1 | + 1.4 | + 1.1 | | | | |
| North Carolina | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | + 0.0 | + 1.0 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | + 0.1 | + 0.9 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | - 0.1 | + 1.1 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Ohio | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.0 | + 0.5 | + 0.8 | | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 0.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.5 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| Pennsylvania | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 0.1 | + 1.2 | + 0.8 | | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | + 0.2 | + 0.6 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 2.5 | + 2.5 | + 0.0 | + 1.5 | + 0.9 | | | | |
| South Carolina | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | + 0.2 | + 0.9 | + 0.4 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 1.0 | + 0.9 | + 0.4 | | | | |
| Tennessee | - 0.2 | + 1.5 | + 0.2 | + 0.0 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.2 | + 0.7 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | + 0.1 | + 0.8 | + 0.6 | | | | |
| Virginia | - 2.3 | + 1.4 | - 0.4 | + 1.3 | + 0.0 | | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 1.2 | + 2.3 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 1.4 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 1.2 | + 1.2 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.6 + 1.4 | | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.5 + 0.1 | + 1.3 + 0.3 | + 1.4 | | | | |

Note: "Other" includes these racial groups: (a) American Indian and Alaska Native alone; (b) Asian alone; (c) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; (d) Some other race alone; and (e) Two or more races.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Figure 3.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Black Alone, not Hispanic, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Although African Americans' share of the U.S. population barely budged between the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 periods, their share of the Appalachian population rose nearly half a percentage point, from 9 percent to 9.4 percent. And there were 32 counties—with both large and small African American concentrations—where blacks' share of the population increased by at least one percentage point. Yet in about one-third of Appalachia's 420 counties, the African American share of the population has either stayed the same or decreased.

Figure 3.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region That Is Hispanic or Latino, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose by almost a full percentage point between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015—although this increase was barely more than half the national average between the two periods. Still, there were 30 counties (14 of which were in either Georgia or Alabama) where the Hispanic share of the population grew at or above the national rate. Opportunities in industries such as poultry processing (in DeKalb and Franklin counties in Alabama) and construction (in the counties surrounding Atlanta)—as well as in creating small businesses—have been cited as possible factors fueling this growth.

TRENDS IN RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

- The Appalachian Region has become more racially and ethnically diverse since 2006-2010. Between that period and 2011-2015, the share of the population that is minority (defined as anyone who identifies with a racial or ethnic group *other than* "white alone, not Hispanic") has risen almost two percentage points to 17.5 percent (see Tables 3.1 and 3.2). The pace of the increased diversity, however, is not as great as that of the nation as a whole, where the increase was nearly two and a half percentage points across the two periods.
- Within the Region, the greatest increase in racial diversity is occurring in Southern Appalachia and counties that are part of large metropolitan areas (1 million population or more). Since the 2006-2010 period, minorities' share of the population in those two areas has risen more than two percentage points. And Appalachian Georgia has grown even faster: The minority share of the population has increased nearly four percentage points since 2006-2010. Not surprisingly, these three areas have minority concentrations in 2011-2015 that come close to the national minority share of 38 percent (31 percent for Southern Appalachia, 26 percent for counties in large metros, and 34 percent for Appalachian Georgia).
- Although African Americans comprise the largest minority group in Appalachia, Hispanics have fueled much (if not most) of the minority increase. The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose almost a full percentage point between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015—twice the increase for the Region's African American share. The increase in the Latino population may be associated with employment opportunities in such industries as poultry processing and construction, as well as in the creation of small businesses. As with the overall minority population, Southern Appalachia, large metropolitan areas, and Appalachian Georgia had the greatest increases in both the black and Latino shares of the total population.

CHAPTER 4: HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

Table 4.1: Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| Housing Occupancy and Tenure | Total Number of Housing | Number of Occupied | Percent Housing | | Percent of Housing | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Housing Occupancy and Tenure | Units | Housing Units | Occupied | Vacant | Owner- Occupied | Renter- Occupied |
| United States | 133,351,840 | 116,926,305 | 87.7 | 12.3 | 63.9 | 36.1 |
| Appalachian Region | 11,590,695 | 9,884,708 | 85.3 | 14.7 | 70.5 | 29.5 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 3,922,927 | 3,349,857 | 85.4 | 14.6 | 70.7 | 29.3 |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,119,097 | 949,650 | 84.9 | 15.1 | 72.0 | 28.0 |
| Central Appalachia | 882,747 | 743,518 | 84.2 | 15.8 | 72.4 | 27.6 |
| South Central Appalachia | 2,278,451 | 1,914,576 | 84.0 | 16.0 | 69.2 | 30.8 |
| Southern Appalachia | 3,387,473 | 2,927,107 | 86.4 | 13.6 | 70.0 | 30.0 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 2,551,476 | 2,271,067 | 89.0 | 11.0 | 70.4 | 29.6 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 4,813,137 | 4,203,653 | 87.3 | 12.7 | 68.9 | 31.1 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 1,025,677 | 853,125 | 83.2 | 16.8 | 71.5 | 28.5 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 1,950,205 | 1,567,988 | 80.4 | 19.6 | 73.1 | 26.9 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,250,200 | 988,875 | 79.1 | 20.9 | 72.4 | 27.6 |
| Alabama | 2,199,329 | 1,848,325 | 84.0 | 16.0 | 68.7 | 31.3 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 1,393,760 | 1,188,743 | 85.3 | 14.7 | 70.2 | 29.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 805,569 | 659,582 | 81.9 | 18.1 | 66.0 | 34.0 |
| Georgia | 4,133,065 | 3,574,362 | 86.5 | 13.5 | 63.3 | 36.7 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 1,190,243 | 1,041,096 | 87.5 | 12.5 | 70.4 | 29.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 2,942,822 | 2,533,266 | 86.1 | 13.9 | 60.4 | 39.6 |
| Kentucky | 1,944,495 | 1,708,499 | 87.9 | 10.0 | 67.2 | 32.8 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 539,625 | 457,587 | 84.8 | 15.2 | 70.9 | 29.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 1,404,870 | 1,250,912 | 89.0 | 11.0 | 65.9 | 34.1 |
| Maryland | 2,410,256 | 2,166,389 | 89.9 | 10.1 | 66.8 | 33.2 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 113,395 | 96,254 | 84.9 | 15.1 | 66.8 | 33.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 2,296,861 | 2,070,135 | 90.1 | 9.9 | 66.8 | 33.2 |
| Mississippi | 1,289,704 | 1,096,593 | 85.0 | 15.0 | 68.4 | 31.6 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 280,130 | 237,766 | 84.9 | 15.0 | 70.6 | 29.4 |
| | 1,009,574 | 858,827 | 85.1 | 14.9 | 67.8 | 29.4 32.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi New York | 8,171,725 | 7,262,279 | 88.9 | 14.9 | 53.6 | 32.2 46.4 |
| | | | | | | |
| Appalachian New York | 509,072 | 417,724 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 69.1 | 30.9 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 7,662,653 | 6,844,555 | 89.3 | 10.7 | 52.7 | 47.3 |
| North Carolina | 4,417,210 | 3,775,581 | 85.5 | 14.5 | 65.1 | 34.9 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 863,310 | 690,373 | 80.0 | 20.0 | 69.3 | 30.7 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 3,553,900 | 3,085,208 | 86.8 | 13.2 | 64.2 | 35.8 |
| Ohio | 5,140,902 | 4,585,084 | 89.2 | 10.8 | 66.3 | 33.7 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 902,362 | 792,442 | 87.8 | 12.2 | 71.3 | 28.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 4,238,540 | 3,792,642 | 89.5 | 10.5 | 65.3 | 34.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 5,585,611 | 4,958,859 | 88.8 | 11.2 | 69.2 | 30.8 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 2,724,802 | 2,328,695 | 85.5 | 14.5 | 71.1 | 28.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 2,860,809 | 2,630,164 | 91.9 | 8.1 | 67.5 | 32.5 |
| South Carolina | 2,174,319 | 1,815,094 | 83.5 | 16.5 | 68.6 | 31.4 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 523,340 | 459,502 | 87.8 | 12.2 | 68.5 | 31.5 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 1,650,979 | 1,355,592 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 68.6 | 31.4 |
| Tennessee | 2,854,542 | 2,504,556 | 87.7 | 12.3 | 66.8 | 33.2 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 1,300,994 | 1,127,131 | 86.6 | 13.4 | 69.6 | 30.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 1,553,548 | 1,377,425 | 88.7 | 11.3 | 64.4 | 35.6 |
| Virginia | 3,423,291 | 3,062,783 | 89.5 | 10.5 | 66.2 | 33.8 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 365,678 | 306,505 | 83.8 | 16.2 | 71.1 | 28.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 3,057,613 | 2,756,278 | 90.1 | 9.9 | 65.6 | 34.4 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 883,984 | 740,890 | 83.8 | 16.2 | 72.5 | 27.5 |

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 4.1: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Although the home occupancy rate during the 2011-2015 period was slightly lower in Appalachia than in the United States as a whole, there were 95 counties in the Region that had occupancy rates matching or exceeding the national average. And while they were scattered throughout the Region, 70 of these counties were in metropolitan areas, such as Pittsburgh, the Atlanta and Birmingham suburbs, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Conversely, less than four-fifths of housing units were occupied in 118 Appalachian counties—all but 19 of which lay outside metropolitan areas.



Figure 4.2: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

One in seven housing units in Appalachia were vacant during the 2011-2015 period, compared to one in eight for the nation as a whole. Vacancy rates varied within the Region, however. While 119 of the 420 Appalachian counties (100 of which were outside metropolitan areas) had vacancy rates at or above 20 percent, another 94 counties (mostly in metro areas) had rates below the national average. It is important to note that in 160 of the 326 Appalachian counties with vacancy rates of 12.3 percent or more, at least one-third of the vacant units were designated for seasonal or occasional use—suggesting significant recreational, resort, or retirement activity in the community. Examples of such areas include the Great Smoky Mountains along the North Carolina-Tennessee border, the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia (Greenbrier County), and the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.3: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Homeownership was more common in the Appalachian Region than in the rest of the country in the 2011-2015 period. In all but 20 counties, the share of owner-occupied housing units matched or exceeded the national average. Indeed, the homeownership rate was at least 75 percent in 177 of Appalachia's 420 counties, scattered throughout the Region. It is important to note that in some areas, the high homeownership rates might be related to low levels of economic and residential mobility, as well as the older age structure of the Appalachian population.



Figure 4.4: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The share of renter-occupied housing units during the 2011-2015 period was well below the national average throughout Appalachia; in fact, it was less than 25 percent in 175 of the Region's 420 counties. Among the 21 Appalachian counties where the share of renter-occupied units matched or exceeded the national average, most are home to colleges or universities, where students make up a fairly sizeable share of the population. Examples of these counties include Centre County, Pennsylvania (Penn State University); Monongalia County, West Virginia (West Virginia University); and Oktibbeha County, Mississippi (Mississippi State University).

Table 4.2: Percentage Point Change in Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| Housing Occupancy and Tenure | Percentage Point C Total Housi Housing | ing Units | Percentage Point Occupied Ho Housin | |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | Occupied | Vacant | Owner-Occupied | Renter-Occupied |
| United States | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | - 2.7 | + 2.7 |
| Appalachian Region | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |
| Subregions | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | - 1.6 | + 1.6 |
| North Central Appalachia | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |
| Central Appalachia | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | - 1.7 | + 1.7 |
| South Central Appalachia | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | - 2.5 | + 2.5 |
| Southern Appalachia | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | - 2.7 | + 2.7 |
| County Types | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 2.7 | + 2.7 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 2.3 | + 2.3 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.7 | + 1.7 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | - 1.6 | + 1.6 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.0 | + 1.0 | - 1.6 | + 1.6 |
| Alabama | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 2.4 | + 2.4 |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 3.0 | + 3.0 |
| Georgia | + 0.2 | - 0.2 | - 3.9 | + 3.9 |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | - 3.7 | + 3.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 4.0 | + 4.0 |
| Kentucky | + 0.2 | - 0.2 | - 2.7 | + 2.7 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | + 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 2.2 | + 2.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 2.8 | + 2.8 |
| Maryland | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 2.2 | + 2.2 |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 1.0 | + 1.0 | - 2.3 | + 2.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 2.2 | + 2.2 |
| Mississippi | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | - 2.4 | + 2.4 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | - 1.7 | + 1.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi New York | - 1.1 - 0.6 | + 1.1 + 0.6 | - 2.6 - 1.6 | + 2.6 + 1.6 |
| Appalachian New York | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 1.0 - 1.0 | + 1.0 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 0.6 | + 1.7 + 0.6 | - 1.0 - 1.6 | + 1.0 |
| North Carolina | - 0.8 - 0.2 | + 0.8 | - 1.8 - 3.0 | + 1.0 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 0.2 | + 1.8 | - 2.8 | + 3.0 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 2.9 | + 2.9 |
| Ohio | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 2.9 | + 2.9 |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | - 2.4 | + 2.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 2.9 | + 2.9 |
| Pennsylvania | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | - 1.8 | + 1.8 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | - 1.5 | + 1.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |
| South Carolina | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 1.3 | + 1.3 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | - 1.0 | + 1.0 |
| Tennessee | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | - 2.8 | + 2.8 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | - 2.3 | + 2.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | - 3.2 | + 3.2 |
| Virginia | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 2.7 | + 2.7 |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | - 1.5 | + 1.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 2.8 | + 2.8 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | - 2.1 | + 2.1 |

Note: Since occupied units and vacant units sum to the total number of housing units, the sum of the percentage point changes for the two categories will equal zero. The same principle holds for the sum of the percentage point changes for owner-occupied units and renter-occupied units, since these two categories sum to the total number of occupied housing units.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Appalachia's home occupancy rate in 2011-2015 was more than half a percentage point lower than it was in 2006-2010, a greater decline than the nation as a whole. While this might reflect the effects of the Great Recession, other factors may also be at play. For example, severe weather events like the "Super Outbreak" of tornadoes that swept through parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee in April 2011, caused extreme structural damage and displaced families and (in some cases) entire communities. In 154 Appalachian counties, however, the occupancy rate stayed the same or increased between the two periods, and the rate rose at least two percentage points in 61 of these counties. Kentucky had 23 of the 61 counties in the latter group; indeed, in that state's Appalachian section, the occupancy rate increased nearly a full percentage point during the period.

Figure 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, the percentage of vacant housing units rose 0.6 percentage points in Appalachia, while it barely increased in the nation as a whole. The increase likewise matched or exceeded the U.S. average in 266 of the Region's 420 counties. While this at least partly suggests the failure of occupancy rates to return to pre-recessionary levels, another possible factor could be an increase in the share of vacant units that were designed for seasonal or occasional use (which would suggest significant recreational or retirement activity, such as in much of Appalachian North Carolina). In 139 of the 266 Appalachian counties where overall vacancy rates rose at or above the national average, the percentage of vacant units designed for seasonal use also increased.





Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

The share of owner-occupied housing units fell by two percentage points in the Appalachian Region between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. The decline was even greater for the nation, as well as in 146 Appalachian counties where homeownership rates fell by at least 2.7 percentage points (the national average). Still, there were 104 counties in the Region—80 of which were outside metropolitan areas—where homeownership either stayed the same or increased during the period. While these 104 counties were scattered throughout Appalachia, 55 of them were in four states—Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. (West Virginia alone had 17 of these counties.)

Figure 4.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Although the share of renter-occupied housing units didn't increase as much in Appalachia as it did nationwide between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, there were variations within the Region. In 146 Appalachian counties, for example, the increases in rental rates matched or exceeded the national average. More than half of the counties in this group were in South Central and Southern Appalachia; in Georgia's Appalachian section alone, the share increased almost four percentage points. Conversely, the percentage of units occupied by renters either stayed the same or decreased in 103 counties.

TRENDS IN HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

- At just over 85 percent in 2011-2015, Appalachia's home occupancy rate is 0.6 percentage points lower than it was in 2006-2010 (see Tables 4.1 and 4.2). This decrease was present among all subregions except Central Appalachia, all county types except the ones in large metropolitan areas, and the Appalachian portions of every state except Kentucky and South Carolina. And although the dip suggests that occupancy rates have not yet returned to pre-recession levels, other factors might be at play—for example, the displacement caused by severe weather events like the April 2011 Super Outbreak of tornadoes that devastated parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.
- Among the subregions, the occupancy rate declined 1.4 percentage points in South Central Appalachia, while it stayed the same in Central Appalachia. And occupancy rates rose nearly half a percentage point in large metropolitan areas while decreasing among other county types. And in Kentucky's Appalachian counties, occupancy rates rose by nearly a full percentage point.
- One factor behind the decline in Appalachia's occupancy rates from 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 might be an increase in the percentage of vacant units that were designed for seasonal or occasional use. Between the two periods, the share of such units rose nearly two percentage points in Appalachia— and almost three points nationwide.
- Homeownership rates in Appalachia fell two percentage points between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. Among subregions, the declines were greatest in South Central and Southern Appalachia, while there was an urban/rural pattern among county types (with the drop in homeownership being greatest among counties in large metropolitan areas). As with the drop in the occupancy rate, the decrease in homeownership partly suggests the continued effects of the 2007-2009 recession and the slow economic recovery that has followed.
CHAPTER 5: EDUCATION

Table 5.1: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| | Total | | Percent of F | Population Ages 2 | 25 and Over | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Population Ages 25 and Over, 2011-2015 | | High School Diploma or More | | | | |
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | | Less than High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | |
| United States | 211,462,522 | 13.3 | 86.7 | 48.8 | 8.1 | 29.8 | |
| Appalachian Region | 17,406,203 | 14.5 | 85.5 | 54.7 | 8.2 | 22.6 | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 5,816,582 | 10.3 | 89.7 | 56.9 | 9.1 | 23.6 | |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,674,941 | 14.3 | 85.7 | 59.0 | 7.5 | 19.3 | |
| Central Appalachia | 1,319,117 | 23.4 | 76.6 | 57.0 | 6.3 | 13. | |
| South Central Appalachia | 3,312,336 | 15.6 | 84.4 | 53.3 | 7.9 | 23.2 | |
| Southern Appalachia | 5,283,227 | 16.3 | 83.7 | 51.3 | 7.9 | 24. | |
| County Types | 0,200,221 | 10.0 | 00.7 | 01.0 | 1.5 | 27. | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 4,056,868 | 10.8 | 89.2 | 50.8 | 8.6 | 29.8 | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 7,321,490 | 13.6 | 86.4 | 54.2 | 8.1 | 23.0 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | | 16.0 | 84.0 | 54.2 59.0 | 8.4 | 24.0 | |
| | 1,503,593 | | 84.0 82.6 | | | 15.9 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 2,785,352 | 17.4 | | 58.9 | 7.8 | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,738,900 | 21.0 | 79.0 | 55.9 | 7.5 | 15.0 | |
| Alabama | 3,239,351 | 15.7 | 84.3 | 53.0 | 7.8 | 23. | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 2,090,452 | 15.7 | 84.3 | 52.5 | 7.7 | 24.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,148,899 | 15.8 | 84.2 | 53.9 | 7.8 | 22.0 | |
| Georgia | 6,500,205 | 14.6 | 85.4 | 49.4 | 7.2 | 28.8 | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 1,978,116 | 16.2 | 83.8 | 50.3 | 7.5 | 26.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 4,522,089 | 13.9 | 86.1 | 49.0 | 7.0 | 30. | |
| Kentucky | 2,955,216 | 15.8 | 84.2 | 54.4 | 7.5 | 22.3 | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 805,733 | 23.4 | 76.6 | 56.1 | 6.5 | 14.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 2,149,483 | 13.0 | 87.0 | 53.8 | 7.9 | 25.4 | |
| Maryland | 4,018,459 | 10.6 | 89.4 | 45.1 | 6.4 | 37.9 | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 175,692 | 12.6 | 87.4 | 60.2 | 8.1 | 19.1 | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 3,842,767 | 10.5 | 89.5 | 44.4 | 6.3 | 38.8 | |
| Mississippi | 1,940,365 | 17.7 | 82.3 | 53.1 | 8.6 | 20.7 | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 408,823 | 20.8 | 79.2 | 53.4 | 8.5 | 17.4 | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 1,531,542 | 16.8 | 83.2 | 53.0 | 8.6 | 21. | |
| New York | 13,435,795 | 14.4 | 85.6 | 42.9 | 8.5 | 34.2 | |
| Appalachian New York | 703,251 | 10.5 | 89.5 | 52.5 | 12.0 | 25.0 | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 12,732,544 | 14.6 | 85.4 | 42.4 | 8.3 | 34.7 | |
| North Carolina | 6,582,301 | 14.2 | 85.8 | 48.5 | 9.0 | 28.4 | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,200,961 | 15.7 | 84.3 | 50.4 | 9.1 | 24.9 | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 5,381,340 | 13.9 | 86.1 | 48.1 | 8.9 | 29.1 | |
| Ohio | 7,817,508 | 10.9 | 89.1 | 54.8 | 8.2 | 26.1 | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 1,391,706 | 13.7 | 86.3 | 61.2 | 8.4 | 16.7 | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 6,425,802 | 10.3 | 89.7 | 53.4 | 8.2 | 28.1 | |
| Pennsylvania | 8,814,112 | 10.8 | 89.2 | 52.7 | 7.9 | 28.0 | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 4,059,387 | 9.7 | 90.3 | 56.3 | 9.0 | 25.1 | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 4,754,725 | 11.7 | 88.3 | 49.6 | 7.0 | 31.0 | |
| South Carolina | 3,210,007 | 14.4 | 85.6 | 50.8 | 8.9 | 25. | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 805,836 | 15.7 | 84.3 | 49.7 | 9.1 | 25. | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 2,404,171 | 14.0 | 86.0 | 49.7 51.1 | 8.9 | 25. | |
| Tennessee | 4,380,036 | 14.0 14.5 | 85.5 | 51.1 54.0 | 6.6 | 20.0 | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 4,380,036 1,959,646 | | | | | | |
| | | 16.2 | 83.8 | 55.7 | 6.8 | 21.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 2,420,390 | 13.2 | 86.8 | 52.6 | 6.4 | 27.9 | |
| Virginia | 5,566,373 | 11.7 | 88.3 | 44.8 | 7.3 | 36. | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 528,482 | 18.5 | 81.5 | 53.9 | 8.4 | 19.3 | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 5,037,891 | 10.9 | 89.1 | 43.8 | 7.1 | 38. | |

| | | Percent of Population Ages 25-64 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | Total Population | an selection | | High School Diploma or More | | | | |
| | Ages 25-64, 2011-2015 | Less than High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | | |
| United States | 166,847,045 | 11.8 | 88.2 | 48.1 | 8.8 | 31.3 | | |
| Appalachian Region | 13,261,421 | 12.0 | 88.0 | 54.3 | 9.4 | 24.3 | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 4,337,228 | 8.0 | 92.0 | 55.1 | 10.8 | 26.1 | | |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,274,290 | 11.3 | 88.7 | 59.1 | 8.7 | 20.9 | | |
| Central Appalachia | 1,007,108 | 18.4 | 81.6 | 60.1 | 7.5 | 14.1 | | |
| South Central Appalachia | 2,462,680 | 12.8 | 87.2 | 53.8 | 9.1 | 24.4 | | |
| Southern Appalachia | 4,180,115 | 14.4 | 85.6 | 51.0 | 8.8 | 25.8 | | |
| County Types | 1,100,110 | | 00.0 | 01.0 | 0.0 | 20.0 | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 3,201,710 | 9.0 | 91.0 | 48.9 | 9.7 | 32.4 | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 5,573,005 | 11.4 | 88.6 | 53.7 | 9.3 | 25.7 | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 1,131,906 | 13.4 | 86.6 | 59.2 | 9.9 9.9 | 17.6 | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 2,052,771 | 13.4 | 85.7 | 59.2 59.9 | 9.9 9.2 | 16.6 | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,302,029 | 14.3 | 82.7 | 59.9 57.6 | 9.2 8.8 | 16.3 | | |
| | | 13.7 | 86.3 | 57.8 52.9 | | 24.7 | | |
| Alabama | 2,520,025 | | | 52.9 52.2 | 8.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 1,629,287 | 13.7 | 86.3 | | 8.7 | 25.5 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 890,738 | 13.6 | 86.4 | 54.2 | 8.8 | 23.4 | | |
| Georgia | 5,309,738 | 12.9 | 87.1 | 49.1 | 7.8 | 30.2 | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 1,612,714 | 14.7 | 85.3 | 49.8 | 8.2 | 27.3 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 3,697,024 | 12.1 | 87.9 | 48.8 | 7.6 | 31.5 | | |
| Kentucky | 2,322,241 | 12.7 | 87.3 | 54.9 | 8.6 | 23.9 | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 620,775 | 18.6 | 81.4 | 58.9 | 7.6 | 14.9 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 1,701,466 | 10.5 | 89.5 | 53.5 | 8.9 | 27.1 | | |
| Maryland | 3,227,308 | 9.1 | 90.9 | 44.5 | 6.9 | 39.6 | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 133,286 | 10.4 | 89.6 | 59.8 | 9.4 | 20.5 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 3,094,022 | 9.0 | 91.0 | 43.8 | 6.8 | 40.4 | | |
| Mississippi | 1,525,532 | 15.3 | 84.7 | 53.6 | 9.7 | 21.4 | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 313,810 | 17.9 | 82.1 | 54.3 | 9.9 | 18.0 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 1,211,722 | 14.6 | 85.4 | 53.5 | 9.7 | 22.2 | | |
| New York | 10,615,360 | 12.3 | 87.7 | 41.7 | 9.4 | 36.6 | | |
| Appalachian New York | 526,100 | 8.6 | 91.4 | 51.4 | 13.6 | 26.4 | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 10,089,260 | 12.5 | 87.5 | 41.2 | 9.2 | 37.1 | | |
| North Carolina | 5,181,109 | 12.3 | 87.7 | 47.9 | 9.8 | 30.0 | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 885,456 | 13.6 | 86.4 | 50.4 | 10.4 | 25.6 | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 4,295,653 | 12.1 | 87.9 | 47.4 | 9.7 | 30.8 | | |
| Ohio | 6,070,227 | 8.9 | 91.1 | 53.6 | 9.4 | 28.1 | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 1,052,001 | 11.4 | 88.6 | 60.6 | 10.0 | 18.1 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 5,018,226 | 8.3 | 91.7 | 52.1 | 9.3 | 30.2 | | |
| Pennsylvania | 6,729,726 | 8.5 | 91.5 | 51.0 | 9.1 | 31.4 | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 3,025,947 | 7.2 | 92.8 | 54.2 | 10.6 | 28.0 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 3,703,779 | 9.5 | 90.5 | 48.4 | 7.9 | 34.2 | | |
| South Carolina | 2,483,228 | 12.4 | 87.6 | 51.1 | 9.8 | 26.7 | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 624,304 | 13.3 | 86.7 | 49.8 | 10.1 | 26.8 | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 1,858,924 | 12.0 | 88.0 | 51.6 | 9.7 | 26.7 | | |
| Tennessee | 3,429,711 | 11.9 | 88.1 | 54.2 | 7.3 | 26.6 | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 1,469,939 | 12.9 | 87.1 | 56.8 | 7.8 | 20.0 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 1,409,939 | 12.9 | 88.9 | 52.3 | 7.0 | 22.0 | | |
| Virginia | 4,464,712 | 9.5 | 90.9 | 52.5 44.2 | 7.0 7.9 | 29.0 38.4 | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 4,464,712 388,990 | 9.5 13.5 | 90.5 86.5 | 44.2 55.5 | 7.9 9.7 | | | |
| | | | 86.5 90.9 | | | 21.2 40.0 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia West Virginia (entire state) | 4,075,722 978,812 | 9.1 11.8 | 90.9 88.2 | 43.2 59.6 | 7.7 7.7 | 40.0 20.9 | | |

Table 5.3: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| | Total | Percent of Population Ages 65 and Over | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Population | | High School Diploma or More | | | | | | |
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | Ages 65 and Over, 2011-2015 | Less than High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | | | |
| United States | 44,615,477 | 19.0 | 81.0 | 51.7 | 5.1 | 24.1 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | 4,144,782 | 22.6 | 77.4 | 55.9 | 4.3 | 17.2 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 1,479,354 | 17.2 | 82.8 | 62.0 | 4.3 | 16.4 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | 400,651 | 23.9 | 76.1 | 58.6 | 3.5 | 14.0 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | 312,009 | 39.6 | 60.4 | 47.1 | 2.6 | 10.7 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | 849,656 | 23.8 | 76.2 | 51.9 | 4.7 | 19.6 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,103,112 | 23.5 | 76.5 | 52.4 | 4.7 | 19.4 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 855,158 | 17.4 | 82.6 | 57.7 | 4.6 | 20.3 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,748,485 | 20.9 | 79.1 | 55.8 | 4.5 | 18.8 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 371,687 | 23.8 | 76.2 | 58.3 | 4.1 | 13.8 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 732,581 | 26.3 | 73.7 | 56.1 | 3.9 | 13.7 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 436,871 | 32.0 | 68.0 | 50.8 | 3.7 | 13.6 | | | |
| Alabama | 719,326 | 23.0 | 77.0 | 53.4 | 4.4 | 19.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 461,165 | 22.8 | 77.2 | 53.7 | 4.4 | 19.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 258,161 | 23.4 | 76.6 | 52.8 | 4.3 | 19.5 | | | |
| Georgia | 1,190,467 | 22.0 | 78.0 | 51.1 | 4.4 | 22.6 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 365,402 | 22.4 | 77.6 | 52.8 | 4.7 | 20.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 825,065 | 21.8 | 78.2 | 50.3 | 4.3 | 23.6 | | | |
| Kentucky | 632,975 | 27.5 | 72.5 | 52.4 | 3.5 | 16.6 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 184,958 | 39.8 | 60.2 | 46.5 | 2.6 | 11.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 448,017 | 22.4 | 77.6 | 54.8 | 3.9 | 18.9 | | | |
| Maryland | 791,151 | 17.0 | 83.0 | 47.7 | 4.4 | 30.9 | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 42,406 | 19.7 | 80.3 | 61.5 | 4.1 | 14.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 748,745 | 16.9 | 83.1 | 46.9 | 4.4 | 31.8 | | | |
| Mississippi | 414,833 | 26.4 | 73.6 | 51.1 | 4.3 | 18.1 | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 95,013 | 30.3 | 69.7 | 50.4 | 3.9 | 15.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 319,820 | 25.3 | 74.7 | 51.3 | 4.5 | 18.9 | | | |
| New York | 2,820,435 | 22.1 | 77.9 | 47.4 | 5.2 | 25.3 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | 177,151 | 16.2 | 83.8 | 55.8 | 7.1 | 20.9 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 2,643,284 | 22.5 | 77.5 | 46.8 | 5.1 | 25.6 | | | |
| North Carolina | 1,401,192 | 21.1 | 78.9 | 50.7 | 5.7 | 22.5 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 315,505 | 21.4 | 78.6 | 50.5 | 5.4 | 22.7 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 1,085,687 | 21.0 | 79.0 | 50.8 | 5.8 | 22.4 | | | |
| Ohio | 1,747,281 | 17.8 | 82.2 | 59.0 | 4.2 | 19.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 339,705 | 21.0 | 79.0 | 63.0 | 3.5 | 12.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 1,407,576 | 17.1 | 82.9 | 58.1 | 4.3 | 20.6 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | 2,084,386 | 18.2 | 81.8 | 58.0 | 4.1 | 19.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 1,033,440 | 17.0 | 83.0 | 62.4 | 4.0 | 16.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 1,050,946 | 19.5 | 80.5 | 53.7 | 4.1 | 22.7 | | | |
| South Carolina | 726,779 | 21.5 | 78.5 | 49.6 | 5.9 | 22.9 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 181,532 | 23.8 | 76.2 | 49.3 | 5.8 | 21.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 545,247 | 20.8 | 79.2 | 49.8 | 6.0 | 23.5 | | | |
| Tennessee | 950,325 | 24.1 | 75.9 | 53.1 | 3.7 | 19.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 489,707 | 25.8 | 74.2 | 52.6 | 4.0 | 17.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 460,618 | 22.3 | 77.7 | 53.7 | 3.5 | 20.5 | | | |
| Virginia | 1,101,661 | 20.3 | 79.7 | 46.9 | 4.8 | 28.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 139,492 | 32.2 | 67.8 | 49.2 | 4.7 | 13.9 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 962,169 | 18.6 | 81.4 | 46.6 | 4.8 | 30.0 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 319,306 | 25.0 | 75.0 | 57.9 | 3.3 | 13.8 | | | |

Figure 5.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Although the share of Appalachian adults with at least a high school diploma was slightly below the national average over the 2011-2015 period, it matched or exceeded the national share in 119 counties in the Region—103 of which were either in Northern Appalachia or in metropolitan areas. The rates were especially high in the Appalachian sections of Pennsylvania and New York, where the share of adults who had completed high school was 90 percent and 89 percent, respectively. Yet in 58 counties, less than three-fourths of adults had completed high school; all but three of those counties were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia, and 52 were outside metropolitan areas. More than half of these 58 counties were in Kentucky alone; just 77 percent of adults in the state's Appalachian counties had a high school diploma or more in 2011-2015.

Figure 5.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2011-2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

During the 2011-2015 period, 55 percent of adults in the Appalachian Region had a high school diploma, but no postsecondary degree (including an associate's degree). And the share was at least 60 percent in a full one-third (140) of the Region's 420 counties—most of them in three states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Many of these adults had attended college but did not graduate, while others acquired vocational training. Conversely, many of the adults outside of this group did earn an associate's or bachelor's degree, while others never even finished high school.

Figure 5.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The share of adults with a bachelor's degree or more was seven percentage points lower in Appalachia during the 2011-2015 period than in the nation as a whole. Indeed, the rate was lower than the national average in 399 of the Region's 420 counties. In fact, less than one in five residents ages 25 and over were graduates of a four-year college or university in 324 Appalachian counties. And in 38 counties—nearly all of which were either outside metropolitan areas or in Central Appalachia—the share was less than one in 10. The 21 counties where the percentage of college graduates matched or surpassed the national average were mostly either in metro areas (e.g., Pittsburgh and Birmingham) or home to a college or university (such as Knox County, Tennessee, where the University of Tennessee is located).

Figure 5.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In 2011-2015, the percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in the Appalachian Region with at least a high school diploma was almost at the national average of just over 88 percent, and the share matched or exceeded the national rate in 140 counties. Slightly more than half of these counties were in metropolitan areas, and most were in Northern or North Central Appalachia. Nearly half of these counties were in New York or Pennsylvania; the share of working-age adults with a high school diploma or more exceeded 90 percent in both states. At the other end of the spectrum, less than three-fourths of working-age adults had finished high school in 14 Appalachian counties. Almost all of these counties were in Kentucky alone.

Figure 5.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Just 24 percent of Appalachia's working-age population had a bachelor's degree or more in 2011-2015—seven percentage points lower than the U.S. average of 31 percent. This is a striking indicator of the lower educational level of the Appalachian workforce. Indeed, just 14 percent of working-age adults in Central Appalachia had a bachelor's degree, as did only 16 percent of residents of rural Appalachian counties that were not adjacent to metro areas. There were only 22 Appalachian counties—all either in metro areas (e.g., suburban Atlanta) or home to a four-year college or university (such as Tompkins County, New York, home to Cornell University and Ithaca College)—where the share of working-age adults ages 25 to 64 with at least a bachelor's degree matched or exceeded the national average. In contrast, less than one in 10 adults had a four-year degree in 28 counties. Of the counties in this latter group, 23 were outside metropolitan areas, suggesting a lack of employment opportunities for college-educated adults.

Figure 5.6: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

While nearly one in four older Americans (ages 65 and over) had at least a bachelor's degree in 2011-2015, less than one in 10 older adults had one in 111 of Appalachia's 420 counties. (And in most of these counties, less than two-thirds of older adults had completed high school.) Three-fourths of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and two-fifths were in Central Appalachia—Kentucky alone had one-fourth of these counties. Yet in 35 Appalachian counties, the share of older adults with a four-year degree was at or above the national average. These were either counties in metropolitan areas (like suburban Atlanta), counties that had a college or university (such as Montgomery County, Virginia, home to Virginia Tech and Radford University), or counties with significant retirement or seasonal activity (the latter suggested by the fact that much of their vacant housing is for seasonal or occasional use—such as Rabun, Towns, and Union counties in Georgia, home of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest).

Table 5.4: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in theAppalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 25 and Over | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Less than | | High School Diploma or More | | | | | |
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | | | |
| United States | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 0.8 | + 0.6 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | - 0.1 | + 0.9 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 1.0 | + 0.8 | + 2.0 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | - 2.8 | + 2.8 | - 0.5 | + 1.3 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | - 4.6 | + 4.6 | + 2.8 | + 0.7 | + 1.2 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | - 2.9 | + 2.9 | + 0.4 | + 0.7 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | + 0.1 | + 0.8 | + 1.7 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 1.2 | + 0.7 | + 2.2 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 2.5 | + 2.5 | - 0.2 | + 0.7 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | + 0.3 | + 1.0 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 3.0 | + 3.0 | + 0.8 | + 0.9 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 3.9 | + 3.9 | + 1.5 | + 1.1 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Alabama | - 2.9 | + 2.9 | + 0.2 | + 0.9 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 2.8 | + 2.8 | + 0.1 | + 0.9 | + 1.7 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 3.0 | + 3.0 | + 0.4 | + 0.8 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Georgia | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 0.3 | + 0.6 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 2.1 | + 2.1 | - 0.1 | + 0.7 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 0.4 | + 0.7 | + 1.7 | | | |
| Kentucky | - 3.2 | + 3.2 | + 0.4 | + 0.9 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 4.8 | + 4.8 | + 2.8 | + 0.9 | + 1.2 | | | |
| | - 4.8 | + 4.0 | - 0.5 | + 0.9 | + 1.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky Maryland | - 2.5 | + 2.5 | - 0.5 - 0.6 | + 0.9 | + 2.1 | | | |
| | - 1.8 | | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | | + 3.4 | + 1.7 - 0.7 | + 0.3 + 0.1 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 1.6 - 2.7 | + 1.6 | - 0.7 + 0.5 | | + 2.2 | | | |
| Mississippi | | + 2.7 | | + 1.0 | + 1.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 3.3 | + 3.3 | + 0.6 | + 1.4 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | + 0.5 | + 0.8 | + 1.1 | | | |
| New York | - 1.2 | + 1.2 | - 1.2 | + 0.3 | + 2.1 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.5 | + 0.7 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 1.2 | + 1.2 | - 1.2 | + 0.3 | + 2.1 | | | |
| North Carolina | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.6 | + 0.7 | + 2.3 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | + 2.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | + 2.2 | | | |
| Ohio | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 1.2 | + 0.9 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 0.9 | + 1.5 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 1.2 | + 0.8 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | - 1.0 | + 0.6 | + 2.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 1.2 | + 0.9 | + 2.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 0.8 | + 0.4 | + 2.0 | | | |
| South Carolina | - 2.6 | + 2.6 | + 0.0 | + 0.6 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 2.7 | + 2.7 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 2.5 | + 2.5 | - 0.1 | + 0.7 | + 1.9 | | | |
| Tennessee | - 3.0 | + 3.0 | + 0.2 | + 0.6 | + 2.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 3.3 | + 3.3 | + 1.0 | + 0.8 | + 1.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 2.7 | + 2.7 | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | + 2.8 | | | |
| Virginia | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.8 | + 0.6 | + 2.5 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 4.4 | + 4.4 | + 1.7 | + 0.5 | + 2.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 1.1 | + 0.6 | + 2.4 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 3.1 | + 3.1 | + 0.3 | + 0.8 | + 1.9 | | | |

Table 5.5: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 25-64 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | Less than | | High School Diploma or More | | | | | |
| | High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | | | |
| United States | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | - 1.0 | + 0.4 | + 1.5 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | - 1.0 | + 0.9 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.9 | + 0.8 | + 1.7 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 1.6 | + 1.4 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | - 3.8 | + 3.8 | + 2.2 | + 0.8 | + 0.9 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 0.4 | + 0.7 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | - 0.7 | + 0.8 | + 1.4 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 2.0 | + 0.7 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | - 0.9 | + 0.7 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.4 | + 1.1 | + 1.0 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | - 0.1 | + 1.0 | + 0.9 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 2.8 | + 2.8 | + 0.6 | + 1.2 | + 1.0 | | | |
| Alabama | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 0.5 | + 0.8 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.7 | + 0.9 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 0.2 | + 0.8 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Georgia | - 1.2 | + 1.2 | - 0.7 | + 0.6 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | - 0.6 | + 0.8 | + 1.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.2 | + 1.2 | - 0.8 | + 0.6 | + 1.4 | | | |
| Kentucky | - 2.1 | + 2.1 | - 0.5 | + 1.0 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 3.9 | + 3.9 | + 1.9 | + 0.9 | + 1.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.4 | + 1.4 | - 1.4 | + 0.9 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Maryland | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 0.9 | + 0.0 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | + 0.5 | + 0.2 | + 1.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 1.0 | + 0.0 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Mississippi | - 1.8 | + 1.8 | - 0.1 | + 1.0 | + 0.9 | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 2.2 | + 2.2 | - 0.3 | + 1.6 | + 1.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | + 0.1 | + 0.9 | + 0.7 | | | |
| New York | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.3 | + 0.1 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 0.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.4 | + 0.1 | + 1.8 | | | |
| North Carolina | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | - 1.3 | + 0.5 | + 2.1 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | - 1.4 | + 0.7 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | - 1.3 | + 0.5 | + 2.1 | | | |
| Ohio | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | - 1.9 | + 0.9 | + 1.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | - 2.0 | + 1.7 | + 1.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | - 1.8 | + 0.7 | + 1.8 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.9 | + 0.5 | + 2.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 2.3 | + 0.8 | + 2.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | - 1.5 | + 0.4 | + 1.7 | | | |
| South Carolina | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.5 | + 0.6 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 1.7 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | + 1.6 | | | |
| Tennessee | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 0.6 | + 0.5 | + 2.1 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 2.5 | + 2.5 | + 0.4 | + 0.9 | + 1.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 1.3 | + 0.4 | + 2.6 | | | |
| Virginia | - 1.7 | + 1.7 | - 1.2 | + 0.6 | + 2.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 3.5 | + 3.5 | + 0.9 | + 0.2 | + 2.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | - 1.2 | + 0.6 | + 2.1 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 2.0 | + 2.0 | - 0.8 | + 0.9 | + 1.9 | | | |

Table 5.6: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in theAppalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 65 and Over | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Education (Highest Level Attained) | Less than | | High School Diploma or More | | | | | |
| | High School Diploma | Total | H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree | Associate's Degree | Bachelor's Degree or More | | | |
| United States | - 5.3 | + 5.3 | + 0.1 | + 1.2 | + 4.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | - 7.4 | + 7.4 | + 2.6 | + 1.3 | + 3.4 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 6.5 | + 6.5 | + 1.6 | + 1.3 | + 3.5 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | - 7.5 | + 7.5 | + 3.6 | + 1.2 | + 2.6 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | - 9.9 | + 9.9 | + 6.6 | + 0.8 | + 2.5 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | - 7.7 | + 7.7 | + 3.2 | + 1.3 | + 3.2 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | - 8.2 | + 8.2 | + 3.0 | + 1.4 | + 3.8 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 7.0 | + 7.0 | + 1.2 | + 1.5 | + 4.3 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 7.0 | + 7.0 | + 2.1 | + 1.3 | + 3.6 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 7.2 | + 7.2 | + 2.8 | + 1.4 | + 3.0 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 8.0 | + 8.0 | + 4.2 | + 1.3 | + 2.5 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 8.9 | + 8.9 | + 5.2 | + 1.1 | + 2.7 | | | |
| Alabama | - 8.2 | + 8.2 | + 3.0 | + 1.4 | + 3.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 8.6 | + 8.6 | + 3.3 | + 1.5 | + 3.8 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 7.5 | + 7.5 | + 2.5 | + 1.1 | + 3.9 | | | |
| Georgia | - 7.2 | + 7.2 | + 2.2 | + 0.9 | + 4.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 8.1 | + 8.1 | + 2.2 | + 1.2 | + 4.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 6.9 | + 6.9 | + 1.9 | + 0.8 | + 4.0 | | | |
| Kentucky | - 9.0 | + 0.9 + 9.0 | + 4.2 | + 1.1 | + 4.2 | | | |
| - | - 10.4 | + 10.4 | + 7.0 | + 0.9 | + 3.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 10.4 | + 10.4 + 8.2 | + 7.0 | + 0.9 | + 2.4 + 4.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky Maryland | - 6.0 | + 6.2 | + 0.5 | + 1.2 | + 4.1 | | | |
| - | - 0.0 - 9.1 | | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | | + 9.1 | + 5.7 | + 0.9 | + 2.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 5.8 - 7.4 | + 5.8 | + 0.3 + 3.2 | + 0.7 | + 4.8 + 3.1 | | | |
| Mississippi | | + 7.4 | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 8.3 | + 8.3 | + 4.4 | + 1.5 | + 2.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 7.1 | + 7.1 | + 2.8 | + 1.0 | + 3.2 | | | |
| New York | - 4.1 | + 4.1 | - 1.1 | + 1.3 | + 3.9 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | - 4.7 | + 4.7 | - 1.3 | + 1.8 | + 4.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 4.0 | + 4.0 | - 1.1 | + 1.3 | + 3.8 | | | |
| North Carolina | - 7.3 | + 7.3 | + 2.0 | + 1.4 | + 3.8 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 7.0 | + 7.0 | + 1.8 | + 1.4 | + 3.8 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 7.4 | + 7.4 | + 2.1 | + 1.5 | + 3.8 | | | |
| Ohio | - 6.1 | + 6.1 | + 1.2 | + 1.4 | + 3.5 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 7.1 | + 7.1 | + 2.8 | + 1.5 | + 2.9 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 5.7 | + 5.7 | + 0.9 | + 1.3 | + 3.6 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | - 6.5 | + 6.5 | + 1.5 | + 1.2 | + 3.9 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 6.5 | + 6.5 | + 1.7 | + 1.2 | + 3.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 6.5 | + 6.5 | + 1.5 | + 1.0 | + 4.0 | | | |
| South Carolina | - 7.3 | + 7.3 | + 2.4 | + 1.3 | + 3.5 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 7.3 | + 7.3 | + 2.0 | + 1.2 | + 4.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 7.3 | + 7.3 | + 2.7 | + 1.4 | + 3.3 | | | |
| Tennessee | - 8.1 | + 8.1 | + 3.3 | + 0.9 | + 3.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 8.0 | + 8.0 | + 3.9 | + 1.1 | + 3.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 8.2 | + 8.2 | + 2.8 | + 0.9 | + 4.5 | | | |
| Virginia | - 6.2 | + 6.2 | + 0.3 | + 1.2 | + 4.6 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 9.4 | + 9.4 | + 4.9 | + 2.0 | + 2.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 5.5 | + 5.5 | - 0.3 | + 1.1 | + 4.7 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 7.8 | + 7.8 | + 4.3 | + 0.9 | + 2.6 | | | |



Figure 5.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Since the 2006-2010 period, the share of Appalachian adults who have completed high school or more has increased nearly three percentage points. This rise, which is close to a full percentage point above the national average, has continued a longstanding trend in the Region. And that increase has been even greater in some places: The share of adults with at least a high school diploma rose by more than four percentage points in the Appalachian counties of Kentucky and Virginia. In 94 Appalachian counties—mostly in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia—the share of adults with a high school diploma or more rose by at least five percentage points (almost three times the national average) between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. In two-thirds of these 94 counties, however, less than 80 percent of adult residents have completed high school.

Figure 5.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Although the percentage of Appalachian adults with at least a bachelor's degree is considerably lower than the national average, that share has been increasing. Both in Appalachia and nationwide, it was nearly two percentage points higher in 2011-2015 than it was in 2006-2010, suggesting a continued trend toward greater educational attainment among cohorts entering this age group. And in 166 of the Region's 420 counties (scattered throughout the Region), the increased share matched or exceeded the national average. Conversely, the share of adults with at least a four-year degree either remained the same or decreased in 75 counties. While counties in the latter group were likewise spread throughout the Region, nearly three-fourths of them were outside metropolitan areas.

Table 5.7: Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015

| | Total | Percent of | ee or More | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) | Population Ages 25 and Over With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2011-2015 | Science and Engineering | Science- and Engineering- Related Fields | Business | Education | Arts, Humanities, and Other |
| United States | 62,952,272 | 34.7 | 9.2 | 20.5 | 13.2 | 22.5 |
| Appalachian Region | 3,933,571 | 30.5 | 10.6 | 20.3 | 18.3 | 20.3 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 1,374,048 | 31.4 | 11.1 | 18.2 | 18.8 | 20.4 |
| North Central Appalachia | 322,719 | 28.5 | 12.4 | 18.6 | 21.1 | 19.6 |
| Central Appalachia | 175,614 | 26.0 | 11.9 | 16.0 | 27.6 | 18.4 |
| South Central Appalachia | 768,041 | 31.8 | 10.3 | 18.9 | 16.8 | 22.2 |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,293,149 | 29.9 | 9.5 | 24.3 | 16.8 | 19.4 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 1,210,960 | 31.6 | 10.0 | 23.8 | 14.5 | 20.0 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,759,266 | 31.9 | 10.6 | 19.5 | 17.2 | 20.8 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 250,293 | 26.3 | 11.5 | 17.5 | 24.8 | 20.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 441,729 | 27.7 | 11.4 | 17.5 | 24.0 | 19.4 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 271,323 | 25.7 | 10.9 | 16.7 | 27.1 | 19.6 |
| Alabama | 761,650 | 29.1 | 10.2 | 23.4 | 17.8 | 19.5 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 502,562 | 29.8 | 10.0 | 23.9 | 16.8 | 19.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 259,088 | 27.8 | 10.7 | 22.5 | 19.6 | 19.4 |
| Georgia | 1,873,484 | 31.9 | 8.7 | 24.6 | 13.8 | 21.0 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 513,901 | 30.3 | 9.2 | 26.0 | 15.5 | 19.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 1,359,583 | 32.6 | 8.5 | 24.1 | 13.1 | 21.7 |
| Kentucky | 658,944 | 29.2 | 11.1 | 19.9 | 17.6 | 22.1 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 113,117 | 24.8 | 12.0 | 14.9 | 28.3 | 19.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 545,827 | 30.1 | 10.9 | 21.0 | 15.4 | 22.6 |
| Maryland | 1,522,970 | 40.9 | 8.4 | 18.3 | 10.3 | 22.0 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 33,493 | 32.7 | 9.4 | 17.6 | 19.1 | 21.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 1,489,477 | 41.1 | 8.4 | 18.4 | 10.2 | 22.1 |
| Mississippi | 401,000 | 24.9 | 11.9 | 21.8 | 22.4 | 19.0 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 71,075 | 23.0 | 10.9 | 20.8 | 26.8 | 18.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 329,925 | 25.4 | 12.2 | 22.0 | 21.4 | 19.1 |
| New York | 4,596,124 | 34.2 | 8.6 | 18.9 | 11.8 | 26.5 |
| Appalachian New York | 175,680 | 36.3 | 9.4 | 12.5 | 18.9 | 22.9 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 4,420,444 | 34.1 | 8.6 | 19.2 | 11.6 | 26.7 |
| North Carolina | 1,866,765 | 34.0 | 9.1 | 20.4 | 13.8 | 22.8 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 298,470 | 31.1 | 10.4 | 17.4 | 16.3 | 24.8 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 1,568,295 | 34.5 | 8.8 | 20.9 | 13.3 | 22.4 |
| Ohio | 2,040,028 | 30.7 | 10.5 | 21.6 | 16.7 | 20.4 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 233,102 | 25.5 | 13.1 | 19.0 | 23.4 | 19.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 1,806,926 | 31.4 | 10.2 | 21.9 | 15.9 | 20.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 2,522,037 | 33.2 | 10.2 | 19.8 | 15.6 | 21.2 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 1,018,335 | 31.5 | 11.2 | 19.0 | 18.1 | 20.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 1,503,702 | 34.3 | 9.5 | 20.4 | 13.9 | 21.9 |
| South Carolina | 829,540 | 31.9 | 8.6 | 22.4 | 15.9 | 21.1 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 205,611 | 31.8 | 8.9 | 22.3 | 16.4 | 20.6 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 623,929 | 32.0 | 8.6 | 22.5 | 15.7 | 21.3 |
| Tennessee | 1,092,276 | 29.9 | 9.9 | 22.7 | 15.7 | 21.8 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 417,508 | 31.3 | 10.7 | 20.5 | 17.8 | 19.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 674,768 | 29.1 | 9.4 | 24.0 | 14.4 | 23.0 |
| Virginia | 2,022,217 | 40.4 | 7.4 | 19.0 | 10.0 | 23.2 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 102,044 | 35.2 | 9.3 | 16.4 | 17.5 | 21.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 1,920,173 | 40.7 | 7.3 | 19.2 | 9.6 | 23.3 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 248,673 | 28.5 | 12.4 | 18.9 | 21.0 | 19.2 |

Note: Examples of "Science- and Engineering-Related Fields" include nursing, architecture, and mathematics teacher education.

Figure 5.9: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2011-2015



Map Title: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Among the 3.9 million adults in the Appalachian Region with a bachelor's degree or more, 31 percent held a degree in the science and engineering field—slightly lower than the national share of 35 percent. But there was much variation within the Region. In 38 Appalachian counties, for example, the share of BA/BS holders with science and engineering degrees matched or exceeded the national average. Yet in another 58 counties in the Region, less than one-fifth of adult college graduates had a science and engineering degree. Science and engineering jobs are becoming increasingly important in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy. The field of science and engineering includes the following detailed fields and majors: computers, mathematics, and statistics; biological, agricultural, and environmental sciences; physical and related science; psychology; social sciences; and engineering.

TRENDS IN EDUCATION

- Since the 2006-2010 period, the share of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with at least a high school diploma has risen nearly three percentage points, to 85 percent in 2011-2015 (see Tables 5.1 and 5.4). The increase is a full percentage point greater than the national average, placing the Region's high school completion prevalence almost equal to that of the country. Most of this increase is due to the rising share of adults attaining a bachelor's degree or more.
- Within the Region, the high school completion prevalence increased the most in Central Appalachia (an improvement of 4.6 percentage points) and in Appalachia's most rural counties (an increase of almost four points). With these improvements, the share of adults completing high school in these areas has surpassed 75 percent as of 2011-2015. The Appalachian sections of Kentucky and Virginia had the largest increases among the states—more than four percentage points each.
- The share of adults in the Region with at least a bachelor's degree also has increased since 2006-2010—in this case, by nearly two percentage points to 23 percent. The increase has been greatest in Northern, North Central, and South Central Appalachia, in metropolitan areas, and in the Appalachian portions of North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In Central Appalachia, the Region's most rural counties, and in Appalachian Kentucky, the improvement has been smaller.
- The pattern of improvement among working-age adults ages 25 to 64 has been similar to that for all adults, except that the overall improvement was about 1.5 percentage points for both high school and college completion (see Table 5.5). Central Appalachia, Appalachian Kentucky and Virginia, and the Region's most rural counties still had the greatest improvement in the share with at least a high school diploma. With the exception of Appalachian Virginia, these geographic areas (along with Appalachian New York) showed the smallest gains in the share with a bachelor's degree.
- The greatest improvement since 2006-2010 has been among adults ages 65 and over. The share of older adults in Appalachia with at least a high school diploma has risen seven percentage points; the share with at least a bachelor's degree has increased more than three points (see Table 5.6). Possible factors fueling this increase include both the influx of younger, more educated cohorts into the older ages, and the arrival of well-educated older adults moving into the Region upon retirement. Within Appalachia's subregions, county types, and states, the patterns of improvement that were present among working-age adults generally held among older adults as well. (In Appalachian Kentucky, for example, the share of older adults with at least a high school diploma rose more than 10 percentage points, while the share with a bachelor's degree or more only increased a little more than two points.)
- Even with the improvements cited above, however, it is important to note that regardless of age, the prevalence of four-year college completion among adults remains well below the U.S. average in many parts of the Region (see Tables 5.1 through 5.3). For example, the percentage of persons ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or more was at least 10 percentage points below the national share in the Appalachian sections of six states (Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia).

CHAPTER 6: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 6.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment | Total Number of Civilian Persons | Total Persons Ages Labor F | | Employment Rate (Pct. of Civ. | Unemployment Rate (Pct. of Civ. |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Ages 25-64 | Number | Percent | Labor Force) | Labor Force) |
| United States | 166,221,336 | 128,628,176 | 77.4 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| Appalachian Region | 13,249,550 | 9,633,971 | 72.7 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| Subregions | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 4,334,729 | 3,272,321 | 75.5 | 93.9 | 6.1 |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,273,464 | 879,297 | 69.0 | 93.3 | 6.7 |
| Central Appalachia | 1,006,540 | 599,257 | 59.5 | 91.4 | 8.6 |
| South Central Appalachia | 2,459,887 | 1,793,358 | 72.9 | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| Southern Appalachia | 4,174,930 | 3,089,738 | 74.0 | 92.7 | 7.3 |
| County Types | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 3,199,205 | 2,481,557 | 77.6 | 93.6 | 6.4 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 5,567,188 | 4,104,766 | 73.7 | 93.2 | 6.8 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 1,131,110 | 798,249 | 70.6 | 92.6 | 7.4 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 2,051,333 | 1,409,752 | 68.7 | 92.9 | 7.1 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,300,714 | 839,647 | 64.6 | 92.1 | 7.9 |
| Alabama | 2,509,959 | 1,792,354 | 71.4 | 92.5 | 7.5 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 1,627,075 | 1,168,048 | 71.8 | 92.8 | 7.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 882,884 | 624,306 | 70.7 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| Georgia | 5,279,820 | 3,987,643 | 75.5 | 92.1 | 7.9 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 1,611,190 | 1,235,977 | 76.7 | 92.8 | 7.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 3,668,630 | 2,751,666 | 75.0 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| Kentucky | 2,313,938 | 1,651,423 | 71.4 | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 620,439 | 371,248 | 59.8 | 91.1 | 8.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 1,693,499 | 1,280,175 | 75.6 | 93.5 | 6.5 |
| Maryland | 3,209,593 | 2,632,406 | 82.0 | 93.9 | 6.1 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 133,078 | 96,971 | 72.9 | 92.8 | 7.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 3,076,515 | 2,535,435 | 82.4 | 93.9 | 6.1 |
| Mississippi | 1,519,861 | 1,083,225 | 71.3 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 312,902 | 220,846 | 70.6 | 92.0 | 8.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 1,206,959 | 862,379 | 71.5 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| New York | 10,602,049 | 8,294,305 | 78.2 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| Appalachian New York | 525,855 | 397,066 | 75.5 | 93.8 | 6.2 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 10,076,194 | 7,897,239 | 78.4 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| North Carolina | 5,131,946 | 3,920,330 | 76.4 | 92.3 | 7.7 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 884,515 | 649,167 | 73.4 | 92.5 | 7.5 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 4,247,431 | 3,271,163 | 77.0 | 92.3 | 7.7 |
| Ohio | 6,063,678 | 4,684,078 | 77.2 | 93.3 | 6.7 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 1,051,525 | 750,560 | 71.4 | 92.9 | 7.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 5,012,153 | 3,933,518 | 78.5 | 93.4 | 6.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 6,725,436 | 5,252,618 | 78.1 | 93.5 | 6.5 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 3,024,256 | 2,302,627 | 76.1 | 94.0 | 6.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 3,701,180 | 2,949,991 | 79.7 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| South Carolina | 2,467,956 | 1,840,389 | 74.6 | 92.2 | 7.8 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 623,763 | 464,867 | 74.5 | 92.9 | 7.1 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 1,844,193 | 1,375,522 | 74.6 | 92.0 | 8.0 |
| Tennessee | 3,415,800 | 2,536,637 | 74.3 | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 1,468,452 | 1,050,339 | 71.5 | 92.9 | 7.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 1,947,348 | 1,486,298 | 76.3 | 93.1 | 6.9 |
| Virginia | 4,392,879 | 3,488,677 | 79.4 | 94.8 | 5.2 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 388,393 | 266,174 | 68.5 | 93.7 | 6.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 4,004,486 | 3,222,503 | 80.5 | 94.9 | 5.1 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 978,107 | 660,081 | 67.5 | 93.5 | 6.5 |





Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In the 2011-2015 period, 73 percent of Appalachia's civilian population in the prime working ages (ages 25 to 64) were in the civilian labor force, slightly below the U.S. average of 77 percent. In 34 Appalachian counties (26 of which were in metropolitan areas), the share was at or above the national average, yet there were 55 counties where less than 60 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds were in the civilian labor force. Nearly all the counties in the latter group were outside of metropolitan areas, and 41 were in Central Appalachia. Indeed, just 60 percent of working-age residents in Central Appalachia and 65 percent of those in the most isolated rural areas were in the labor force. And there are indications of a possible connection between educational attainment and labor force participation. For example, in 29 of the 34 counties where labor force participation levels were at or above the national rate, the share of working-age adults with at least a high school diploma also matched or exceeded the U.S. average.

Figure 6.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015



Map Title: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The employment rate in Appalachia among members of the civilian labor force ages 25 to 64 was identical to the national rate during the 2011-2015 period. Although there were only slight differences among subregions and urban/rural county types, there was some variation at the county level. In nearly half of Appalachian counties, the employment rate matched or exceeded the national average, with 41 counties having employment rates of 95 percent or greater. (Two states, Pennsylvania and Virginia, accounted for 21 of those 41 counties.) Yet in 54 counties in the Region (48 of which were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia), employment among 25-to-64-year-olds was less than 90 percent, which suggests that these areas may not have fully recovered economically from the recent recession. Four-fifths of the counties in the latter group were outside metropolitan areas.

Figure 6.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015



Map Title: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Unemployment in the Appalachian Region among persons ages 25 to 64 matched the national average of 6.9 percent during the 2011-2015 period. Within Appalachia, the jobless rate was at least 10 percent in 54 counties—42 of which were outside metropolitan areas and 48 of which were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. Conversely, the unemployment rate was less than 5 percent in 39 other counties, with 29 of these located in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia—the states whose Appalachian sections had the lowest jobless levels. (All of West Virginia lies in Appalachia.) There are indications of a connection between unemployment and educational attainment: In 52 of the 54 Appalachian counties with double-digit unemployment, the share of 25-to-64-year-olds with at least a high school diploma was below the national average; in 27 of these counties, the share was less than four-fifths.

| Table 6.2: Percentage Point Change in Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons |
|---|
| Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 |

| | Percentage Point Change | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment | Labor Force Participation Rate | Employment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force) | Unemployment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force) | | | |
| United States | - 0.6 | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | - 1.1 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 0.7 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | - 1.1 | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | - 1.4 | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | - 1.6 | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | - 1.4 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 0.6 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 1.1 | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 2.1 | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 2.0 | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.1 | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | | | |
| Alabama | - 1.6 | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 1.6 | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 1.5 | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | | | |
| Georgia | - 1.5 | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 1.6 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.5 | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | | | |
| Kentucky | - 0.6 | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.4 | - 1.3 | + 1.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 0.6 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | | | |
| Maryland | - 0.3 | - 1.0 | + 1.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 1.3 | - 1.5 | + 1.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 0.3 | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | | | |
| Mississippi | - 0.9 | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 0.6 | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 0.9 | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | | | |
| New York | + 0.2 | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | - 1.8 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | + 0.3 | - 0.8 | + 0.8 | | | |
| North Carolina | - 1.0 | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 2.2 | - 0.6 | + 0.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 0.8 | - 0.5 | + 0.5 | | | |
| Ohio | - 1.1 | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 1.3 | + 0.6 | - 0.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 1.0 | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | - 0.2 | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.4 | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 0.1 | - 1.1 | + 1.1 | | | |
| South Carolina | - 0.8 | - 0.2 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 0.9 | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 0.9 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | | | |
| Tennessee | - 1.0 | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.3 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 0.9 | + 0.2 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Virginia | + 0.0 | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 1.1 | - 0.3 | + 0.3 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | + 0.1 | - 0.7 | + 0.7 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 0.7 | - 0.9 | + 0.9 | | | |

Figure 6.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, the labor force participation rate among civilians ages 25 to 64 fell by just over a full percentage point in the Appalachian Region, compared with 0.6 percentage points for the nation as a whole. The decline was present in most of the Region—two in three Appalachian counties had labor force rate decreases greater than or equal to the U.S. average. And in 47 counties (mostly in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia), the labor force participation rate among working-age adults was at least five percentage points lower than in 2006-2010. But participation rates did increase in some parts of Appalachia; in fact, there were 39 counties in the Region where the share of adults in the labor force rose by at least two percentage points. More than half of the counties in this latter group were in three states—Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Figure 6.5: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Unemployment among civilian labor force participants rose by about half a percentage point between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, both in Appalachia and nationwide. Indeed, the unemployment rate rose by at least 0.5 percentage points in nearly half of the Region's 420 counties, and by at least two points in 89 of them. (Most of these counties were in North Central, Central, and Southern Appalachia.) Given that the 2006-2010 period includes years prior to the "Great Recession" of 2007-2009, and that the 2011-2015 period covers the recession's aftermath, this suggests that employment has not yet fully recovered from the economic downturn. There were some pockets of recovery, however: In 85 Appalachian counties, the unemployment rate in 2011-2015 was at least a full percentage point lower than it was in 2006-2010.

TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Among working-age adults (ages 25 to 64), Appalachia's labor force participation rate in 2011-2015 was nearly 73 percent, more than a full percentage point lower than its rate in 2006-2010 (see Tables 6.1 and 6.2). The decline was even greater in South Central Appalachia (where the labor force participation rate fell 1.6 percentage points) and nonmetropolitan counties bordering metro areas (where the rates fell two percentage points).
- Within the civilian labor force, the employment rate in Appalachia was slightly more than 93 percent, which was about half a percentage point lower than the employment rate in 2006-2010. Among the subregions, the size of the decline was similar—ranging from a negligible dip in Northern Appalachia to a 1.3 percentage point decline in Central Appalachia. Elsewhere in the Region, the employment rate fell nearly a full percentage point (0.8 points) among the most rural Appalachian counties. The greatest variation was among the states: Employment increased slightly in Appalachian Ohio and South Carolina, stayed the same in Mississippi, and fell by more than a full percentage point in both Kentucky's and Maryland's Appalachian counties.
- As Appalachia's employment rate fell between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, its unemployment rate rose. The Region's unemployment rate of 6.9 percent in the later period is nearly half a percentage point above its rate from the earlier period.
- The lower labor force and employment rates in 2011-2015 for both Appalachia and the United States (and thus the higher unemployment rates) suggest that labor force and employment levels may not yet have rebounded from the economic downturn of 2007-2009.

CHAPTER 7: INCOME AND POVERTY

Table 7.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015

| Income | Household Inco (2015 D | | Family Incom (2015 D | Per Capita Income, | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| income | Mean HH Income | Median HH Income | Mean Family Income | Median Family Income | 2011-2015 (2015 Dollars) |
| United States | 75,558 | 53,889 | 88,153 | 66,011 | 28,930 |
| Appalachian Region | 60,525 | 44,744 | 71,740 | 56,520 | 24,302 |
| Subregions | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 63,137 | 47,883 | 76,100 | 61,182 | 26,053 |
| North Central Appalachia | 57,621 | 43,063 | 68,397 | 54,767 | 23,408 |
| Central Appalachia | 47,534 | 34,105 | 56,075 | 43,584 | 19,21 |
| South Central Appalachia | 57,709 | 41,843 | 68,862 | 53,267 | 23,83 |
| Southern Appalachia | 63,620 | 47,152 | 73,861 | 57,633 | 24,23 |
| County Types | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 72,032 | 54,385 | 84,862 | 67,337 | 28,24 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 61,240 | 45,355 | 73,266 | 57,830 | 24,77 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 54,110 | 41,259 | 63,683 | 51,638 | 21,64 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 52,776 | 39,974 | 61,919 | 49,976 | 21,49 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 48,884 | 35,908 | 57,741 | 45,541 | 19,75 |
| Alabama | 60,511 | 43,623 | 71,994 | 55,341 | 24,09 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 62,309 | 44,985 | 73,901 | 57,062 | 24,81 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 57,271 | 41,586 | 68,461 | 53,280 | 22,80 |
| Georgia | 69,010 | 49,620 | 79,648 | 59,410 | 25,73 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 69,185 | 53,182 | 77,557 | 61,256 | 24,60 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 68,939 | 48,139 | 80,625 | 58,664 | 26,23 |
| Kentucky | 60,031 | 43,740 | 71,153 | 55,367 | 24,06 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 46,798 | 33,492 | 55,167 | 42,901 | 18,78 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 64,871 | 48,225 | 77,249 | 61,035 | 25,99 |
| Maryland | 97,801 | 74,551 | 113,668 | 90,089 | 36,89 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 64,921 | 49,806 | 76,819 | 62,511 | 25,29 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 99,330 | 76,164 | 115,349 | 92,143 | 37,41 |
| Mississippi | 54,906 | 39,665 | 64,296 | 49,274 | 21,05 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 49,865 | 36,449 | 58,573 | 45,634 | 19,60 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 56,301 | 40,655 | 65,877 | 50,422 | 21,44 |
| New York | 86,825 | 59,269 | 100,948 | 71,913 | 33,23 |
| Appalachian New York | 61,364 | 47,101 | 74,114 | 60,620 | 24,92 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 88,379 | 60,354 | 102,530 | 73,068 | 33,70 |
| North Carolina | 65,338 | 46,868 | 77,040 | 57,856 | 25,92 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 56,723 | 41,327 | 67,714 | 52,498 | 23,58 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 67,266 | 48,392 | 79,076 | 59,445 | 26,41 |
| Ohio | 66,409 | 49,429 | 79,891 | 62,817 | 26,95 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 56,503 | 43,411 | 66,729 | 54,997 | 22,74 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 68,479 | 50,909 | 82,776 | 65,309 | 27,84 |
| Pennsylvania | 73,175 | 53,599 | 87,959 | 68,158 | 29,29 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 65,013 | 49,160 | 78,619 | 62,961 | 26,95 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 80,401 | 58,761 | 96,034 | 73,927 | 31,21 |
| South Carolina | 61,987 | 45,483 | 72,700 | 56,343 | 24,60 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 61,520 | 45,180 | 72,563 | 57,070 | 24,21 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 62,146 | 45,626 | 72,747 | 56,541 | 24,73 |
| Tennessee | 63,339 | 45,219 | 74,677 | 56,110 | 25,22 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 57,634 | 41,411 | 68,285 | 52,467 | 23,61 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 68,006 | 48,902 | 79,935 | 59,976 | 26,46 |
| Virginia | 88,955 | 65,015 | 102,966 | 78,390 | 34,15 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 54,352 | 39,769 | 65,795 | 51,708 | 22,61 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 92,803 | 69,178 | 106,943 | 82,833 | 35,32 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 56,425 | 41,751 | 67,421 | 52,866 | 23,45 |



Figure 7.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015

Map Title: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In the 2011-2015 period, the mean income of Appalachian households was \$60,525, just 80 percent of the U.S. average (\$75,558). In just 10 of the Region's counties (all of which were in metropolitan areas), average household income matched or exceeded that of the nation as a whole. And in only 65 other counties (49 of which were in metros), mean household income matched or surpassed the Appalachian average. In contrast, mean household income was less than \$45,000 in 66 counties—60 of which were outside metro areas, and 40 of which were in Central Appalachia (32 in Kentucky alone).



Figure 7.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015

Map Title: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

At \$44,744, median household income in Appalachia (the level at which half the households have higher incomes and the other half have lower incomes) was 83 percent that of the United States (\$53,889) during the 2011-2015 period. There were 21 counties in the Region (all of which were in metropolitan areas) that had household incomes at or above the national median, while another 77 had incomes at or above the regional median. On the other hand, 97 counties in the Region had median household incomes below \$35,000—87 of which were outside metro areas and 53 of which were in Central Appalachia. This distribution is not surprising: median household income was \$35,908 for the most rural counties and \$34,105 for Central Appalachia. It is useful to note that the income levels displayed here reflect income received in the years following the end of the 2007-2009 economic downturn.



Figure 7.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015

Map Title: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In just 15 Appalachian counties (all but one of which were in metropolitan areas), the average income of families matched or surpassed the U.S. mean of \$88,153 for the 2011-2015 period. And there were only an additional 56 counties (44 of which were part of metro areas) where mean family income was equal to or greater than the average for the Appalachian Region (\$71,740). In contrast, mean family income was less than \$55,000 in 100 Appalachian counties. All but 11 of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, while more than half were in Central Appalachia and 38 were in Kentucky alone. Overall, mean family income over the 2011-2015 period was less than \$64,000 for each of the three nonmetro county types, just \$56,075 for Central Appalachia, and \$55,167 for Appalachian Kentucky.



Figure 7.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015

Map Title: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In 25 Appalachian counties—all of which were in metro areas—median family income (the level where half of all families have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) matched or exceeded the U.S. median of \$66,011 during the 2011-2015 period. In another 67 counties (41 of which were in metros), median income was at or above the median for families in the Appalachian Region (\$56,520). In contrast, median family income was less than \$45,000 in 115 counties. Of the counties in this latter group, almost half were rural counties not adjacent to a metro area (median family income in those counties as a whole was \$45,541), and 38 were in Appalachian Kentucky (where median family income was \$42,901). It is important to note that the 2011-2015 period covers a period of relatively slow economic recovery following the recession of 2007-2009.





Map Title: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

At \$24,302, per capita income in the Appalachian Region was 84 percent that of the U.S. average of \$28,930 during the 2011-2015 period. And there was considerable variation within the Region. Per capita income was the same or higher than the national average in 15 Appalachian counties, including Pittsburgh, suburban Atlanta, and Clermont County, Ohio (which is part of metropolitan Cincinnati). In 63 other counties, per capita income was at or above the regional average; while nearly half of these were in Northern Appalachia, there were pockets in the South Central and Southern subregions. Yet in 142 Appalachian counties, per capita income was less than \$20,000. As with other income measures, most of the counties with the highest per capita incomes were in metro areas, while the ones with the lowest were disproportionately in rural areas, particularly in Central Appalachia. Indeed, per capita income in 2011-2015 was only \$19,759 in the most rural Appalachian counties as a whole, and just \$19,216 in Central Appalachia.

Table 7.2: Change in Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| Income | Percent Change Income (In 20 | | Percent Char Income (in 2 | Percent Change in Per | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Mean HH Income | Median HH Income | Mean Family Income | Median Family Income | Capita Income (In 2015 Dollars) |
| United States | - 1.9 | - 4.5 | - 1.6 | - 3.6 | - 2.6 |
| Appalachian Region | - 1.4 | - 3.2 | - 1.1 | - 2.3 | - 1.4 |
| Subregions | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | + 1.2 | + 0.1 | + 1.9 | + 0.8 | + 2.2 |
| North Central Appalachia | + 0.6 | - 1.2 | + 0.8 | - 0.2 | + 0.8 |
| Central Appalachia | - 1.0 | - 2.8 | - 0.8 | - 2.1 | - 0.8 |
| South Central Appalachia | - 2.7 | - 5.0 | - 2.5 | - 4.1 | - 3.1 |
| Southern Appalachia | - 4.1 | - 5.3 | - 4.0 | - 5.1 | - 4.9 |
| County Types | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 2.1 | - 2.9 | - 2.0 | - 2.6 | - 2.5 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 1.8 | - 3.6 | - 1.3 | - 2.9 | - 2.1 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 0.6 | - 3.0 | + 0.1 | - 1.5 | + 0.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 0.2 | - 2.3 | - 0.3 | - 1.9 | + 1.8 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.6 | - 1.5 | - 1.5 | - 1.5 | - 1.6 |
| Alabama | - 3.5 | - 4.6 | - 3.0 | - 3.7 | - 3.6 |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 3.8 | - 4.9 | - 3.6 | - 4.1 | - 4.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 2.8 | - 3.9 | - 1.9 | - 2.1 | - 2.7 |
| Georgia | - 4.7 | - 7.5 | - 4.5 | - 7.0 | - 5.8 |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 5.4 | - 7.2 | - 5.1 | - 7.1 | - 6.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 4.4 | - 7.7 | - 4.2 | - 7.1 | - 5.4 |
| Kentucky | - 1.4 | - 3.2 | - 1.1 | - 2.1 | - 1.7 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 2.7 | - 2.3 | - 2.8 | - 1.4 | - 2.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.1 | - 2.6 | - 0.7 | - 2.0 | - 1.9 |
| Maryland | - 1.6 | - 2.9 | - 2.0 | - 2.6 | - 2.6 |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 3.1 | - 4.0 | - 3.2 | - 4.4 | - 5.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 1.6 | - 2.8 | - 2.0 | - 2.7 | - 2.6 |
| Mississippi | - 3.8 | - 3.7 | - 3.1 | - 3.6 | - 3.0 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.5 | - 1.0 | - 1.6 | - 1.9 | - 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 4.3 | - 4.9 | - 3.5 | - 4.3 | - 3.6 |
| New York | - 0.6 | - 1.9 | - 0.3 | - 1.9 | - 1.2 |
| Appalachian New York | - 0.6 | - 2.8 | + 0.7 | + 0.0 | - 0.5 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 0.7 | - 2.6 | - 0.4 | - 2.2 | - 1.3 |
| North Carolina | - 2.7 | - 5.4 | - 2.4 | - 5.2 | - 3.6 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 4.9 | - 6.8 | - 4.6 | - 6.5 | - 5.4 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 2.4 | - 4.9 | - 2.1 | - 4.9 | - 3.4 |
| Ohio | - 1.8 | - 4.0 | - 0.9 | - 3.2 | - 1.3 |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 1.0 | - 2.6 | - 0.2 | - 0.6 | - 0.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 2.0 | - 4.3 | - 1.1 | - 3.1 | - 1.5 |
| Pennsylvania | + 0.0 | - 2.2 | + 0.3 | - 1.1 | - 0.4 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | + 2.0 | + 1.3 | + 2.5 | + 1.7 | + 3.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.4 | - 4.2 | - 1.5 | - 3.8 | - 2.4 |
| South Carolina | - 3.3 | - 4.8 | - 3.3 | - 4.4 | - 3.5 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 3.4 | - 5.0 | - 3.7 | - 4.4 | - 4.4 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 3.2 | - 4.7 | - 3.2 | - 4.2 | - 3.1 |
| Tennessee | - 1.6 | - 4.0 | - 1.5 | - 3.1 | - 2.2 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.7 | - 4.3 | - 1.9 | - 3.1 | - 2.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.7 | - 3.2 | - 1.3 | - 3.4 | - 2.1 |
| Virginia | - 0.9 | - 2.6 | - 1.0 | - 1.9 | - 2.3 |
| Appalachian Virginia | + 1.7 | - 2.8 | + 3.4 | - 0.4 | + 2.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 1.3 | - 2.6 | - 1.6 | - 2.2 | - 2.8 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | + 1.6 | + 0.1 | + 2.0 | - 0.5 | + 1.6 |





Map Title: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2015 Dollars), 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Adjusting for inflation, the median income for Appalachian households (the level where half of all households have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) was 3 percent lower in 2011-2015 than it was in 2006-2010, suggesting that incomes have not yet fully recovered from the recent economic downturn. While the decline was not as steep in Appalachia as in the nation as a whole, that was not the case in much of the Region: In 170 counties, real median household income fell at or above the national rate; the decline was at least 10 percent in 52 counties. Most of the counties with the sharpest declines were in South Central or Southern Appalachia. On a brighter note, however, there were 143 Appalachian counties where median household income actually rose between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. While half of these counties were in Northern and North Central Appalachia, the rest were scattered throughout the Region.

| Table 7.3: Number of Persons in t | he Appalachian Region in | Poverty, by Age Group, 2011-2015 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | |

| | All Ages | | | Ages 18-64 | | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Poverty Status | | Under Age 18 | Total | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | |
| United States | 47,749,043 | 15,760,766 | 27,929,918 | 7,070,659 | 20,859,259 | 4,058,359 |
| Appalachian Region | 4,219,279 | 1,324,825 | 2,511,394 | 608,124 | 1,903,270 | 383,060 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 1,163,596 | 352,630 | 697,371 | 187,809 | 509,562 | 113,595 |
| North Central Appalachia | 421,638 | 123,614 | 262,165 | 64,899 | 197,266 | 35,859 |
| Central Appalachia | 449,533 | 135,257 | 269,905 | 49,056 | 220,849 | 44,371 |
| South Central Appalachia | 849,493 | 252,981 | 515,551 | 134,027 | 381,524 | 80,961 |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,335,019 | 460,343 | 766,402 | 172,333 | 594,069 | 108,274 |
| County Types | ,,. | , | , - | , | , | , |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 799,903 | 264,161 | 466,119 | 103,087 | 363,032 | 69,623 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,751,722 | 542,909 | 1,059,361 | 285,578 | 773,783 | 149,452 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 407,752 | 130,303 | 241,210 | 58,682 | 182,528 | 36,239 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 708,138 | 220,938 | 413,459 | 84,788 | 328,671 | 73,741 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 551,764 | 166,514 | 331,245 | 75,989 | 255,256 | 54,005 |
| Alabama | 887,260 | 299,077 | 513,170 | 125,712 | 387,458 | 75,013 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 531,115 | 179,414 | 306,396 | 69,696 | 236,700 | 45,305 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 356,145 | 119,663 | 206,774 | 56,016 | 150,758 | 29,708 |
| Georgia | 1,788,947 | 638,884 | 1,027,361 | 248,226 | 779,135 | 122,702 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 461,383 | 166,180 | 261,450 | 50,253 | 211,197 | 33,753 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 1,327,564 | 472,704 | 765,911 | 197,973 | 567,938 | 88,949 |
| Kentucky | 805,841 | 259,193 | 476,074 | 109,806 | 366,268 | 70,574 |
| - | 293,236 | 239,193 88,048 | 176,376 | 34,029 | 142,347 | 28,812 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | | - | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 512,605 | 171,145 176,322 | 299,698 343,050 | 75,777 81,655 | 223,921 261,395 | 41,762 57,43 3 |
| Maryland | 576,805 | | | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 33,636 | 10,730 | 19,453 | 4,871 | 14,582 | 3,453 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 543,169 | 165,592 | 323,597 | 76,784 | 246,813 | 53,980 |
| Mississippi | 651,545 | 230,604 | 365,966 | 90,006 | 275,960 | 54,97 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 139,237 | 47,339 | 79,652 | 22,490 | 57,162 | 12,246 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 512,308 | 183,265 | 286,314 | 67,516 | 218,798 | 42,729 |
| New York | 3,005,943 | 929,921 | 1,762,879 | 402,037 | 1,360,842 | 313,143 |
| Appalachian New York | 168,049 | 48,111 | 107,116 | 35,398 | 71,718 | 12,822 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 2,837,894 | 881,810 | 1,655,763 | 366,639 | 1,289,124 | 300,32 |
| North Carolina | 1,667,465 | 557,005 | 976,882 | 245,865 | 731,017 | 133,578 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 313,335 | 96,311 | 187,299 | 45,648 | 141,651 | 29,725 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 1,354,130 | 460,694 | 789,583 | 200,217 | 589,366 | 103,853 |
| Ohio | 1,775,836 | 595,193 | 1,046,761 | 264,287 | 782,474 | 133,882 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 348,278 | 114,968 | 204,657 | 44,414 | 160,243 | 28,653 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 1,427,558 | 480,225 | 842,104 | 219,873 | 622,231 | 105,229 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,666,569 | 515,473 | 988,026 | 254,485 | 733,541 | 163,070 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 757,187 | 222,998 | 454,490 | 124,712 | 329,778 | 79,699 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 909,382 | 292,475 | 533,536 | 129,773 | 403,763 | 83,371 |
| South Carolina | 830,901 | 279,791 | 481,367 | 117,900 | 363,467 | 69,743 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 203,284 | 67,410 | 118,904 | 29,894 | 89,010 | 16,970 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 627,617 | 212,381 | 362,463 | 88,006 | 274,457 | 52,773 |
| Tennessee | 1,117,594 | 375,770 | 649,164 | 152,471 | 496,693 | 92,660 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 508,665 | 155,369 | 304,311 | 69,825 | 234,486 | 48,985 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 608,929 | 220,401 | 344,853 | 82,646 | 262,207 | 43,67 |
| Virginia | 921,822 | 280,144 | 560,471 | 154,795 | 405,676 | 81,207 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 138,490 | 34,510 | 89,700 | 29,395 | 60,305 | 14,280 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 783,332 | 245,634 | 470,771 | 125,400 | 345,371 | 66,927 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 323,384 | 93,437 | 201,590 | 47,499 | 154,091 | 28,357 |

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2015, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$24,036. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

| Poverty Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-64 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | | | Total | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and Over |
| United States | 15.5 | 21.7 | 14.5 | 25.1 | 12.7 | 9.4 |
| Appalachian Region | 17.1 | 24.4 | 16.5 | 28.3 | 14.6 | 9.5 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 14.5 | 21.4 | 14.1 | 27.3 | 12.0 | 8.0 |
| North Central Appalachia | 18.0 | 24.5 | 18.0 | 31.8 | 15.8 | 9.3 |
| Central Appalachia | 24.4 | 33.4 | 23.8 | 32.2 | 22.5 | 14.7 |
| South Central Appalachia | 18.3 | 25.9 | 18.1 | 32.9 | 15.7 | 9.8 |
| Southern Appalachia | 17.1 | 24.2 | 15.9 | 24.8 | 14.4 | 10.1 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 13.7 | 19.4 | 12.7 | 21.4 | 11.4 | 8.4 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 16.9 | 24.1 | 16.5 | 30.0 | 14.1 | 8.8 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 19.2 | 27.7 | 18.7 | 31.3 | 16.5 | 10.1 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 18.4 | 26.9 | 17.8 | 27.2 | 16.4 | 10.1 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 22.6 | 31.2 | 22.3 | 35.4 | 20.1 | 12.8 |
| Alabama | 18.8 | 27.3 | 17.6 | 28.9 | 15.6 | 12.0 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 17.6 | 25.8 | 16.4 | 26.0 | 14.7 | 10.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 21.0 | 23.8 | 10.4 | 33.7 | 14.7 | 11.8 |
| Georgia | 18.4 | 26.0 | 16.8 | 27.5 | 14.9 | 10.6 |
| | 15.4 | 20.0 | 14.1 | 19.4 | 14.9 | 9.4 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 15.4 | 28.3 | 14.1 | 30.7 | 15.2 | 9.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia Kentucky | 18.7 | 26.3 26.1 | 18.0 17.9 | 29.0 | 15.7 16.1 | 11.6 |
| , , | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 25.8 | 34.3 | 25.1 | 34.9 | 23.5 | 16.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 16.4 | 23.2 | 15.3 | 27.0 | 13.4 | 9.7 |
| Maryland | 10.0 | 13.3 | 9.3 | 16.3 | 8.2 | 7.5 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 14.3 | 21.0 | 13.5 | 23.4 | 11.8 | 8.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 9.8 | 13.0 | 9.1 | 16.0 | 8.0 | 7.4 |
| Mississippi | 22.5 | 31.8 | 20.7 | 32.9 | 18.5 | 13.7 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 22.8 | 32.0 | 21.5 | 36.7 | 18.4 | 13.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 22.5 | 31.8 | 20.5 | 31.8 | 18.5 | 13.8 |
| New York | 15.7 | 22.2 | 14.4 | 23.0 | 12.9 | 11.5 |
| Appalachian New York | 16.8 | 23.2 | 17.3 | 35.3 | 13.8 | 7.5 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 15.6 | 22.2 | 14.2 | 22.2 | 12.9 | 11.8 |
| North Carolina | 17.4 | 24.7 | 16.3 | 28.6 | 14.3 | 9.8 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 18.7 | 27.5 | 18.4 | 32.7 | 16.2 | 9.7 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 17.1 | 24.2 | 15.9 | 27.8 | 13.9 | 9.9 |
| Ohio | 15.8 | 22.8 | 15.0 | 27.0 | 13.1 | 8.0 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 17.8 | 26.1 | 17.2 | 27.1 | 15.6 | 8.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 15.3 | 22.1 | 14.6 | 27.0 | 12.5 | 7.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 13.5 | 19.2 | 12.9 | 24.3 | 11.1 | 8.1 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 13.6 | 19.8 | 13.3 | 26.6 | 11.1 | 8.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 13.3 | 18.8 | 12.5 | 22.4 | 11.0 | 8.3 |
| South Carolina | 17.9 | 26.3 | 16.8 | 28.2 | 14.9 | 9.8 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 17.3 | 24.6 | 16.4 | 28.3 | 14.4 | 9.6 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 18.1 | 26.9 | 17.0 | 28.1 | 15.0 | 9.9 |
| Tennessee | 17.6 | 25.6 | 16.4 | 27.0 | 14.7 | 10.0 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 18.5 | 26.3 | 18.0 | 29.5 | 16.1 | 10.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 17.0 | 25.1 | 15.3 | 25.2 | 13.6 | 9.8 |
| Virginia | 11.5 | 15.2 | 11.0 | 22.1 | 9.2 | 7.6 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 19.0 | 24.2 | 19.8 | 40.9 | 15.9 | 10.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 10.8 | 14.5 | 10.1 | 20.0 | 8.6 | 7.1 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 18.0 | 25.1 | 18.1 | 31.2 | 16.0 | 9.1 |

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2015, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$24,036. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Figure 7.7: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Over the 2011-2015 period, 17 percent of Appalachian residents lived below the poverty level (income below \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children in 2015)—close to two percentage points above the U.S. average. But there is a great deal of variation within the Region: In 174 counties, at least 20 percent of persons were poor, yet in another 102 counties the poverty rate was lower than the national average. And there was a geographic and urban/rural pattern: Four-fifths of the counties with poverty rates at or above 20 percent were outside metropolitan areas, and they were overwhelmingly in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. In contrast, the counties where poverty stood below the U.S. rate were mostly in Northern Appalachia and in metropolitan areas.


Figure 7.8: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Child poverty in the Appalachian Region exceeded 24 percent in 2011-2015—nearly three percentage points above the national rate. And the problem is even more acute in some parts of Appalachia. In 154 counties, at least 30 percent of children under age 18 lived below the poverty level (income below \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children in 2015). These counties were primarily outside metropolitan areas, and many were in the most isolated rural areas. Central Appalachia was home to 61 of the counties with the highest poverty rates, while most of the rest were in South Central and Southern Appalachia. However, there were 103 counties (primarily in Northern Appalachia and in metropolitan areas) where child poverty rates were below the national average. Indeed, 15 of the 19 Appalachian counties where child poverty was less than 15 percent were in metro areas, and eight were in Northern Appalachia.



Figure 7.9: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Though at slightly lower levels, the poverty pattern among adults ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region mirrored that for the overall population in the 2011-2015 period. Nearly 17 percent of Appalachian residents in this age group were below poverty (income of less than \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children in 2015), and this rate was two percentage points above the U.S. average. Within the Region, there were rural/urban and geographic patterns of poverty concentration. Of the 149 counties where at least one in five 18-to-64-year-olds was poor, 125 were outside metropolitan areas; 127 were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia; and 46 were in Kentucky alone. Conversely, all but a handful of the counties with rates below the national average were either in metro areas or in Northern Appalachia.



Figure 7.10: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The poverty rate for older residents of Appalachia was just under 10 percent in 2011-2015, only slightly above the national average. Yet the rate was actually lower than the national average in 154 counties, almost half of which were in Northern Appalachia alone. But as with other age groups, poverty was especially prevalent among the senior population in Appalachian Kentucky, where nearly one in six older residents was poor in 2011-2015. Moreover, the state had more than half of Appalachia's 71 counties where the poverty rate among seniors was at least 15 percent. (Determined by a series of income thresholds based on family size and composition, the poverty level in 2015 was \$14,326 for a family of two adults headed by someone age 65 and over.)

Table 7.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons in Poverty | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Poverty Status | | | | Ages 18-64 | | | | | | |
| | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Total | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and Over | | | | |
| United States | + 1.7 | + 2.5 | + 1.9 | + 1.8 | + 2.0 | - 0.1 | | | | |
| Appalachian Region | + 1.5 | + 2.9 | + 1.8 | + 1.2 | + 1.9 | - 1.0 | | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | + 1.0 | + 2.1 | + 1.3 | + 0.7 | + 1.4 | - 0.6 | | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | + 1.0 | + 1.4 | + 1.6 | + 0.5 | + 1.8 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Central Appalachia | + 1.4 | + 3.0 | + 2.2 | + 1.5 | + 2.2 | - 2.5 | | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | + 1.9 | + 3.4 | + 2.5 | + 2.8 | + 2.4 | - 0.9 | | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | + 1.9 | + 3.5 | + 2.1 | + 1.0 | + 2.2 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | + 1.8 | + 3.2 | + 1.8 | + 1.1 | + 1.9 | - 0.5 | | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | + 1.6 | + 3.0 | + 2.0 | + 0.7 | + 2.1 | - 0.7 | | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | + 1.7 | + 3.2 | + 2.2 | + 1.6 | + 2.3 | - 0.8 | | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | + 1.1 | + 2.4 | + 1.6 | + 1.8 | + 1.6 | - 1.5 | | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | + 1.1 | + 2.0 | + 2.0 | + 2.9 | + 1.8 | - 2.2 | | | | |
| Alabama | + 1.7 | + 3.1 | + 2.1 | + 2.2 | + 2.1 | - 0.9 | | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | + 1.8 | + 3.8 | + 1.9 | + 1.1 | + 2.0 | - 0.8 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | + 1.5 | + 1.6 | + 2.5 | + 4.0 | + 2.1 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Georgia | + 2.7 | + 4.5 | + 2.9 | + 2.2 | + 2.9 | - 1.2 | | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | + 2.4 | + 4.0 | + 2.5 | + 0.8 | + 2.6 | - 1.4 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | + 2.8 | + 4.7 | + 3.1 | + 3.0 | + 3.1 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Kentucky | + 1.2 | + 1.8 | + 1.7 | + 0.9 | + 1.8 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | + 1.4 | + 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 2.1 | + 2.1 | - 2.4 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | + 1.3 | + 1.7 | + 1.6 | + 0.6 | + 1.8 | - 0.4 | | | | |
| Maryland | + 1.4 | + 2.4 | + 1.5 | + 0.2 | + 1.7 | - 0.4 | | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | + 2.5 | + 5.2 | + 2.4 | + 3.3 | + 2.2 | - 0.6 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | + 1.4 | + 2.3 | + 1.4 | + 0.1 | + 1.6 | - 0.4 | | | | |
| Mississippi | + 1.3 | + 1.5 | + 2.0 | + 2.0 | + 2.1 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | + 0.1 | - 0.3 | + 1.3 | + 2.0 | + 1.0 | - 3.1 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | + 1.7 | + 2.0 | + 2.2 | + 2.0 | + 2.4 | - 0.5 | | | | |
| New York | + 1.5 | + 2.3 | + 1.8 | + 1.8 | + 1.7 | + 0.0 | | | | |
| Appalachian New York | + 1.8 | + 3.0 | + 2.5 | + 1.8 | + 2.4 | - 1.0 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | + 1.5 | + 2.3 | + 1.7 | + 1.8 | + 1.7 | + 0.1 | | | | |
| North Carolina | + 1.9 | + 3.1 | + 2.2 | + 1.9 | + 2.2 | - 0.9 | | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | + 2.6 | + 5.1 | + 3.2 | + 4.1 | + 3.1 | - 1.1 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | + 1.7 | + 2.7 | + 2.0 | + 1.4 | + 2.1 | - 0.8 | | | | |
| Ohio | + 1.6 | + 2.6 | + 1.9 | + 1.8 | + 2.0 | - 0.3 | | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | + 1.4 | + 2.4 | + 1.9 | + 1.1 | + 2.0 | - 0.6 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | + 1.6 | + 2.7 | + 2.0 | + 1.9 | + 1.9 | - 0.2 | | | | |
| Pennsylvania | + 1.1 | + 1.9 | + 1.4 | + 0.6 | + 1.6 | - 0.5 | | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | + 0.8 | + 1.7 | + 1.2 | + 0.3 | + 1.2 | - 0.6 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | + 1.3 | + 2.1 | + 1.5 | + 0.8 | + 1.8 | - 0.3 | | | | |
| South Carolina | + 1.5 | + 3.0 | + 2.0 | + 1.8 | + 2.0 | - 1.4 | | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | + 2.1 | + 3.6 | + 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 2.1 | - 0.1 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | + 1.3 | + 2.8 | + 2.0 | + 1.6 | + 1.9 | - 1.9 | | | | |
| Tennessee | + 1.1 | + 2.2 | + 1.5 | + 0.5 | + 1.7 | - 1.5 | | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | + 1.6 | + 2.9 | + 2.0 | + 1.4 | + 2.0 | - 1.0 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | + 0.8 | + 1.6 | + 1.3 | - 0.1 | + 1.4 | - 1.8 | | | | |
| Virginia | + 1.2 | + 1.8 | + 1.5 | + 1.6 | + 1.5 | - 0.8 | | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | + 1.5 | + 1.8 | + 2.4 | + 3.5 | + 2.0 | - 1.4 | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | + 1.3 | + 1.9 | + 1.5 | + 1.4 | + 1.5 | - 0.8 | | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | + 0.6 | + 1.3 | + 1.2 | - 0.3 | + 1.4 | - 1.4 | | | | |

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2015, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$24,036. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Figure 7.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living below the poverty level (income of less than \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children in 2015) increased about 1.5 percentage points between the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 periods, slightly less than in the nation as a whole. Yet the rise in poverty was larger in much of the Region: In 184 of Appalachia's 420 counties, the percentage point increase in the poverty rate was at or above the national average. Although scattered throughout the Region, half of these counties were in South Central or Southern Appalachia. There was some good news in that 123 counties had poverty rates that either decreased or stayed the same between the two periods. Still, the overall picture suggests that in the aftermath of the Great Recession, poverty rates in many areas have not yet fallen back to pre-recession levels.

TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY

- Adjusting for inflation, income levels in the Appalachian Region have fallen since the 2006-2010 period (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2).
 - Mean household income fell 1.4 percent to \$60,525 in 2011-2015. (All monetary figures are in 2015 dollars.)
 - Median household income (the level where half of all households have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) fell 3 percent to \$47,744.
 - Mean family income was down 1 percent to \$71,740.
 - Median family income (the level where half of all families have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) was down 2 percent to \$56,520.
 - Per capita income fell 1 percent to \$24,302.
- Yet the declines in income since 2006-2010 were not as severe in Appalachia as they were in the United States as a whole. (For example, median household income in the U.S. fell nearly 5 percent—more than a full percentage point more than in Appalachia.)
- Within the Appalachian Region, the declines in income were greatest in South Central and Southern Appalachia—and for each income measure, the drops were sharper than the national average. In contrast, some income measures actually rose in the other subregions. (For example, mean household and family income increased slightly in Northern and North Central Appalachia, even after adjusting for inflation.) Among the county types, counties in metropolitan areas had the greatest income declines—although the decreases were below the national average for the median income measures.
- Since 2006-2010, the share of Appalachian residents in poverty (incomes below \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children in 2015) has risen 1.5 percentage points to 17.1 percent in 2011-2015 (see Tables 7.4 and 7.5). Poverty increased in all subregions and among all county types, with the greatest increases occurring in South Central and Southern Appalachia. The rise in poverty rates was especially high in the Appalachian portions of Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina: Poverty increased more than two percentage points in each state.
- The increase in poverty was felt in every age group under age 65: Child poverty in Appalachia rose almost three percentage points (to 24 percent), and poverty among working-age adults increased nearly two percentage points. (And the overall patterns among subregions and county types generally held for both groups.) Although the rise in poverty among young adults (ages 18 to 24) was less than the national average, it was significantly higher in parts of Appalachia. The poverty rate for young adults increased almost three percentage points in Southern Appalachia and the Region's rural counties. And in the Appalachian sections of Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia, the share of 18-to-24-year-olds in poverty was more than three percentage points higher in 2010-2015 than in 2006-2010. (The increase exceeded four percentage points in Appalachian North Carolina.)
- Yet poverty rates actually fell a full percentage point for older residents (ages 65 and over) between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, and this decline was evident throughout the Appalachian Region. (Central Appalachia, the region's most rural areas, and the Appalachian portions of Kentucky and Mississippi had the biggest drops in the poverty rate for older persons.)
- Overall, the income and poverty trends in the Appalachian Region since 2006-2010 suggest that, for the most part, income and poverty levels have not yet returned to pre-recession levels—which in turn may highlight how slow the recovery has been.

CHAPTER 8: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Table 8.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2011-2015

| Health Insurance Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| United States | 40,446,231 | 4,756,380 | 6,550,794 | 28,725,272 | 413,785 |
| Appalachian Region | 3,003,026 | 315,359 | 481,137 | 2,189,360 | 17,170 |
| Subregions | .,,. | , | - , - | , , | , - |
| Northern Appalachia | 706,630 | 90,430 | 108,634 | 501,851 | 5,715 |
| North Central Appalachia | 265,346 | 21,647 | 45,031 | 197,602 | 1,066 |
| Central Appalachia | 241,014 | 21,115 | 41,241 | 177,776 | 882 |
| South Central Appalachia | 628,050 | 55,708 | 98,887 | 470,892 | 2,563 |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,161,986 | 126,459 | 187,344 | 841,239 | 6,944 |
| County Types | 1,101,000 | 120,100 | 101,011 | 011,200 | 0,011 |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 670,893 | 75,046 | 101,462 | 489,178 | 5,207 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,223,509 | 114,648 | 200,181 | 902,434 | 6,246 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 264,199 | 33,668 | 41,933 | 187,416 | 1,182 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 501,343 | 54,010 | 78,297 | 366,261 | 2,775 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 343,082 | 37,987 | 59,264 | 244,071 | 1,760 |
| Alabama | 601,159 | - | 106,993 | 445,817 | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 371,944 | 45,500 | 63,199 | | 2,849 1,663 |
| | | 28,317 | , | 278,765 | - |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 229,215 | 17,183 | 43,794 | 167,052 | 1,186 |
| Georgia | 1,680,015 | 205,200 | 277,445 | 1,184,707 | 12,663 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 525,709 | 70,817 | 78,807 | 371,645 | 4,440 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 1,154,306 | 134,383 | 198,638 | 813,062 | 8,223 |
| Kentucky | 490,262 | 53,065 | 86,162 | 349,050 | 1,985 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 150,844 | 14,024 | 27,125 | 109,114 | 581 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 339,418 | 39,041 | 59,037 | 239,936 | 1,404 |
| Maryland | 523,072 | 52,573 | 76,482 | 384,201 | 9,816 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 19,898 | 2,228 | 2,901 | 14,507 | 262 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 503,174 | 50,345 | 73,581 | 369,694 | 9,554 |
| Mississippi | 462,187 | 48,809 | 87,392 | 324,497 | 1,489 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 92,641 | 7,767 | 18,534 | 66,151 | 189 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 369,546 | 41,042 | 68,858 | 258,346 | 1,300 |
| New York | 1,877,051 | 152,678 | 275,043 | 1,422,110 | 27,220 |
| Appalachian New York | 80,272 | 12,126 | 13,505 | 54,053 | 588 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 1,796,779 | 140,552 | 261,538 | 1,368,057 | 26,632 |
| North Carolina | 1,390,162 | 140,018 | 219,792 | 1,022,814 | 7,538 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 252,880 | 22,403 | 39,023 | 190,387 | 1,067 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 1,137,282 | 117,615 | 180,769 | 832,427 | 6,471 |
| Ohio | 1,108,605 | 133,174 | 172,333 | 794,561 | 8,537 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 226,816 | 32,231 | 34,619 | 158,021 | 1,945 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 881,789 | 100,943 | 137,714 | 636,540 | 6,592 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,106,674 | 135,836 | 169,897 | 790,416 | 10,525 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 460,560 | 52,735 | 70,804 | 333,657 | 3,364 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 646,114 | 83,101 | 99,093 | 456,759 | 7,161 |
| South Carolina | 680,185 | 70,056 | 107,951 | 498,421 | 3,757 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 171,692 | 19,558 | 26,804 | 124,678 | 652 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 508,493 | 50,498 | 81,147 | 373,743 | 3,105 |
| Tennessee | 819,113 | 77,854 | 126,831 | 610,099 | 4,329 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 351,617 | 30,322 | 54,240 | 265,653 | 1,402 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 467,496 | 47,532 | 72,591 | 344,446 | 2,927 |
| Virginia | 916,040 | 102,291 | 145,820 | 657,249 | 10,680 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 89,374 | 7,860 | 15,920 | 65,245 | 349 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 826,666 | 94,431 | 129,900 | 592,004 | 10,331 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - | | | | 668 |
| west virginia (entire state) | 208,779 | 14,971 | 35,656 | 157,484 | 800 |

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

| Health Insurance Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-24 | Ages 25-64 | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| United States | 13.0 | 6.5 | 21.4 | 17.5 | 1.0 |
| Appalachian Region | 12.0 | 5.7 | 19.8 | 16.8 | 0.4 |
| Subregions | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 8.7 | 5.4 | 13.3 | 11.8 | 0.4 |
| North Central Appalachia | 11.1 | 4.2 | 19.7 | 15.8 | 0.3 |
| Central Appalachia | 13.0 | 5.1 | 25.0 | 18.1 | 0.3 |
| South Central Appalachia | 13.3 | 5.6 | 21.2 | 19.3 | 0.3 |
| Southern Appalachia | 14.7 | 6.6 | 24.9 | 20.4 | 0.6 |
| County Types | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 11.4 | 5.4 | 19.5 | 15.4 | 0.6 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 11.6 | 5.0 | 18.1 | 16.5 | 0.4 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 12.3 | 7.0 | 19.7 | 17.0 | 0.3 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 12.9 | 6.5 | 22.5 | 18.3 | 0.4 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 13.8 | 7.0 | 24.0 | 19.2 | 0.4 |
| Alabama | 12.7 | 4.1 | 22.8 | 18.0 | 0.4 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 12.2 | 4.0 | 21.6 | 17.4 | 0.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 13.5 | 4.2 | 24.8 | 19.3 | 0.5 |
| Georgia | 17.1 | 8.2 | 28.5 | 22.8 | 1.1 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 17.4 | 8.9 | 29.3 | 23.3 | 1.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 17.0 | 7.9 | 28.1 | 22.6 | 1.0 |
| Kentucky | 11.4 | 5.2 | 20.8 | 15.3 | 0.3 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 13.1 | 5.4 | 25.0 | 18.0 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 10.7 | 5.2 | 19.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| Maryland | 9.0 | 3.9 | 14.0 | 12.1 | 1.3 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 8.3 | 4.3 | 12.8 | 11.7 | 0.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 9.0 | 3.9 | 14.1 | 12.1 | 1.3 |
| Mississippi | 15.8 | 6.7 | 29.1 | 21.8 | 0.4 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 15.0 | 5.2 | 27.0 | 21.4 | 0.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 16.1 | 7.0 | 29.8 | 22.0 | 0.4 |
| New York | 9.7 | 3.6 | 14.1 | 13.5 | 1.0 |
| Appalachian New York | 7.7 | 5.7 | 9.8 | 10.4 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 9.8 | 3.5 | 14.4 | 13.7 | 1.0 |
| North Carolina | 14.4 | 6.1 | 23.5 | 20.2 | 0.6 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 14.9 | 6.3 | 24.7 | 21.7 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 14.3 | 6.1 | 23.3 | 19.8 | 0.6 |
| Ohio | 9.7 | 5.0 | 15.9 | 13.3 | 0.5 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 11.4 | 7.2 | 19.5 | 15.4 | 0.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 9.4 | 4.6 | 15.2 | 12.8 | 0.5 |
| Pennsylvania | 8.8 | 5.0 | 13.9 | 11.9 | 0.5 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 8.2 | 4.6 | 12.8 | 11.3 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 9.3 | 5.3 | 14.8 | 12.4 | 0.7 |
| South Carolina | 14.5 | 6.5 | 23.4 | 20.5 | 0.5 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 14.3 | 7.0 | 21.9 | 20.2 | 0.4 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 14.6 | 6.3 | 24.0 | 20.6 | 0.6 |
| Tennessee | 12.8 | 5.2 | 20.7 | 18.1 | 0.5 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 12.6 | 5.0 | 20.7 | 18.3 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 13.0 | 5.3 | 20.6 | 17.9 | 0.7 |
| Virginia | 11.4 | 5.5 | 18.8 | 15.2 | 1.0 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 12.0 | 5.4 | 18.2 | 17.2 | 0.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 11.3 | 5.5 | 18.9 | 15.0 | 1.1 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 11.5 | 3.9 | 21.1 | 16.4 | 0.2 |

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 8.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Just over 3 million persons in the Appalachian Region were without any kind of health insurance coverage in the 2011-2015 period—a figure representing 12 percent of Appalachia's residents. Although the percentage for the Region is slightly lower than the U.S. share of 13 percent, almost half of the 420 Appalachian counties had non-coverage rates that matched or exceeded the national average. In seven Appalachian counties (including four in Georgia and two in North Carolina), at least one in five residents were not covered by insurance. Indeed, 17 percent of residents in Appalachian Georgia were not covered by health insurance. At the other end of the spectrum, 77 counties had uninsured rates below 10 percent, and 50 of these were in either New York or Pennsylvania—the states with the lowest percentages of uninsured residents in Appalachia.

Figure 8.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Just under 6 percent of Appalachia's children under age 18 were uninsured during 2011-2015, nearly a percentage point below the national average. But the rate varied throughout the Region. On one hand, 202 counties had non-coverage rates under 5 percent; these were spread geographically throughout the Region. Conversely, at least one in 10 children lacked health insurance in 41 other counties. All but a handful of counties in the latter group were outside metropolitan areas, and nearly half were in South Central or Southern Appalachia—with eight in Georgia alone.

Figure 8.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 24 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 24 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Lack of health insurance coverage was highest among young adults—one-fifth of Appalachian residents ages 18 to 24 were uninsured during the 2011-2015 period. Although Appalachia's rate as a whole was slightly lower than the national average, the non-coverage problem was especially prevalent in much of Central and Southern Appalachia, as well as in the Region's most rural counties: In each of these three areas, one in four young adults was without coverage. This situation was especially dire in 114 counties, where non-coverage rates among 18-to-24-year-olds were 30 percent or higher. Among these counties, 98 were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia, and 86 were outside metropolitan areas. In contrast, there were 68 Appalachian counties where less than 15 percent of young adults had no health insurance; all but a handful of these were in Northern Appalachia, in metro areas, and/or had a four-year college or university within their boundaries.

Figure 8.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In 2011-2015, 17 percent of Appalachia's working-age population were not covered by health insurance. While this rate was slightly below that for the nation, there was great variation within the Region. For example, more than one-fifth of 25-to-64-year-olds in the Appalachian sections of Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina were uninsured; the former three states accounted for 26 of the 33 counties with non-coverage rates of at least 25 percent for this age group. By comparison, there were 106 Appalachian counties where less than 15 percent of working-age residents were not insured; two-thirds of the counties in this latter group were in Northern Appalachia.

CHAPTER 9: DISABILITY STATUS

Table 9.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2011-2015

| | | | | Ages 18-64 | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Disability Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Total | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | Ages 65 and Over | |
| United States | 38,601,898 | 3,013,318 | 19,985,588 | 4,218,974 | 15,766,614 | 15,602,992 | |
| Appalachian Region | 3,982,267 | 269,296 | 2,146,802 | 400,549 | 1,746,253 | 1,566,169 | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 1,211,191 | 91,184 | 614,455 | 124,131 | 490,324 | 505,552 | |
| North Central Appalachia | 432,717 | 28,976 | 240,830 | 44,978 | 195,852 | 162,911 | |
| Central Appalachia | 435,261 | 24,903 | 260,009 | 41,940 | 218,069 | 150,349 | |
| South Central Appalachia | 783,078 | 48,316 | 415,692 | 74,171 | 341,521 | 319,070 | |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,120,020 | 75,917 | 615,816 | 115,329 | 500,487 | 428,287 | |
| County Types | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 753,738 | 56,493 | 400,373 | 78,625 | 321,748 | 296,872 | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,636,425 | 111,033 | 875,469 | 169,968 | 705,501 | 649,923 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 361,236 | 25,492 | 195,942 | 35,615 | 160,327 | 139,802 | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 726,522 | 46,544 | 390,224 | 68,794 | 321,430 | 289,754 | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 504,346 | 29,734 | 284,794 | 47,547 | 237,247 | 189,818 | |
| Alabama | 772,482 | 51,827 | 427,176 | 80,818 | 346,358 | 293,479 | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 489,046 | 30,776 | 271,738 | 50,610 | 221,128 | 186,532 | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 283,436 | 21,051 | 155,438 | 30,208 | 125,230 | 106,947 | |
| Georgia | 1,197,714 | 96,107 | 664,355 | 135,404 | 528,951 | 437,252 | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 349,733 | 27,290 | 190,381 | 37,543 | 152,838 | 132,062 | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 847,981 | 68,817 | 473,974 | 97,861 | 376,113 | 305,190 | |
| Kentucky | 734,126 | 55,512 | 421,172 | 81,284 | 339,888 | 257,442 | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 266,587 | 16,610 | 160,683 | 27,103 | 133,580 | 89,294 | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 467,539 | 38,902 | 260,489 | 54,181 | 206,308 | 168,148 | |
| | 610,989 | 50,420 | 312,042 | 67,290 | 200,308 244,752 | 248,527 | |
| Maryland | 38,086 | 3,394 | 20,536 | 4,580 | - | 14,156 | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 572,903 | 3,394 47,026 | 20,556 | 4,580 | 15,956 228,796 | 234,371 | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland Mississippi | 477,699 | 33,439 | 291,500 265,291 | 49,106 | 228,790 216,185 | 178,969 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 109,884 | 6,062 | 61,716 | 10,286 | 51,430 | 42,106 | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 367,815 | 27,377 | 203,575 | 38,820 | 164,755 | 136,863 | |
| New York | 2,159,439 | 159,565 | 1,075,396 | 227,218 | 848,178 | 924,478 | |
| Appalachian New York | 148,267 | 12,150 | 78,073 | 18,145 | 59,928 | 58,044 | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 2,011,172 | 147,415 | 997,323 | 209,073 | 788,250 | 866,434 | |
| North Carolina | 1,307,306 | 101,170 | 697,807 | 136,958 | 560,849 | 508,329 | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 262,657 | 16,904 | 133,887 | 23,540 | 110,347 | 111,866 | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 1,044,649 | 84,266 | 563,920 | 113,418 | 450,502 | 396,463 | |
| Ohio | 1,550,962 | 130,246 | 828,400 | 169,878 | 658,522 | 592,316 | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 322,827 | 23,855 | 177,016 | 32,685 | 144,331 | 121,956 | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 1,228,135 | 106,391 | 651,384 | 137,193 | 514,191 | 470,360 | |
| Pennsylvania | 1,696,250 | 138,758 | 862,720 | 185,554 | 677,166 | 694,772 | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 835,524 | 62,617 | 417,040 | 83,613 | 333,427 | 355,867 | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 860,726 | 76,141 | 445,680 | 101,941 | 343,739 | 338,905 | |
| South Carolina | 672,911 | 46,570 | 361,775 | 67,173 | 294,602 | 264,566 | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 171,357 | 11,789 | 91,981 | 16,890 | 75,091 | 67,587 | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 501,554 | 34,781 | 269,794 | 50,283 | 219,511 | 196,979 | |
| Tennessee | 979,250 | 67,736 | 544,262 | 104,303 | 439,959 | 367,252 | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 497,366 | 30,321 | 273,220 | 47,989 | 225,231 | 193,825 | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 481,884 | 37,415 | 271,042 | 56,314 | 214,728 | 173,427 | |
| Virginia | 897,300 | 69,094 | 464,695 | 98,785 | 365,910 | 363,511 | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 137,284 | 6,406 | 74,435 | 12,654 | 61,781 | 56,443 | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 760,016 | 62,688 | 390,260 | 86,131 | 304,129 | 307,068 | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 353,649 | 21,122 | 196,096 | 34,911 | 161,185 | 136,431 | |

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. The disability universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

| Table 9.2: Percent of Persons in th | e Appalachian Region V | Vith a Disability, by Age | Group, 2011-2015 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | | |

| Disability Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Total | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| United States | 12.4 | 4.1 | 10.3 | 5.8 | 12.9 | 36.0 |
| Appalachian Region | 15.9 | 4.9 | 13.9 | 7.5 | 17.3 | 39.0 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 14.8 | 5.4 | 12.1 | 7.1 | 14.8 | 35.6 |
| North Central Appalachia | 18.2 | 5.6 | 16.3 | 8.9 | 20.2 | 42.0 |
| Central Appalachia | 23.4 | 6.0 | 22.7 | 11.2 | 28.3 | 49.8 |
| South Central Appalachia | 16.6 | 4.9 | 14.3 | 7.4 | 18.0 | 38.7 |
| Southern Appalachia | 14.2 | 3.9 | 12.6 | 6.6 | 15.9 | 39.8 |
| County Types | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 1010 | 0010 |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 12.8 | 4.1 | 10.8 | 6.2 | 13.3 | 35.7 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 15.5 | 4.9 | 13.3 | 7.2 | 16.7 | 38.4 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 16.8 | 5.3 | 14.9 | 7.9 | 18.5 | 39.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 18.6 | 5.6 | 14.5 | 9.0 | 20.3 | 40.9 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 20.3 | 5.5 | 18.8 | 9.0 9.1 | 20.3 | 40.9 |
| Alabama | 16.3 | 4.7 | 14.5 | 9.1 7.5 | 23.9 18.5 | 43.1 42.0 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 16.1 | 4.7 | 14.3 | 7.3 | 18.2 | 42.0 41.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 16.1 | 4.4 5.2 | 14.3 | 7.4 | 10.2 | 41.0 |
| Georgia | 12.2 | | 14.9 10.8 | 5.9 | 19.2 | |
| | | 3.9 | | | | 37.7 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 11.6 | 3.4 | 10.2 | 5.8 | 12.5 | 36.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 12.5 | 4.1 | 11.0 | 5.9 | 14.2 | 38.1 |
| Kentucky | 17.0 | 5.5 | 15.7 | 8.5 | 19.7 | 42.2 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 23.1 | 6.3 | 22.5 | 11.2 | 28.3 | 50.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 14.8 | 5.2 | 13.2 | 7.5 | 16.4 | 38.9 |
| Maryland | 10.5 | 3.7 | 8.4 | 5.0 | 10.3 | 32.4 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 16.0 | 6.5 | 14.0 | 9.2 | 16.6 | 35.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 10.2 | 3.6 | 8.2 | 4.9 | 10.0 | 32.2 |
| Mississippi | 16.4 | 4.6 | 14.9 | 7.3 | 19.4 | 44.6 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 17.7 | 4.1 | 16.3 | 7.2 | 21.8 | 45.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 16.0 | 4.7 | 14.5 | 7.3 | 18.8 | 44.2 |
| New York | 11.1 | 3.8 | 8.6 | 4.8 | 11.0 | 33.9 |
| Appalachian New York | 14.3 | 5.7 | 11.9 | 7.2 | 14.8 | 34.2 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 10.9 | 3.7 | 8.5 | 4.7 | 10.7 | 33.9 |
| North Carolina | 13.5 | 4.4 | 11.6 | 6.3 | 14.6 | 37.4 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 15.5 | 4.8 | 13.0 | 6.8 | 16.1 | 36.6 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 13.1 | 4.4 | 11.3 | 6.3 | 14.2 | 37.6 |
| Ohio | 13.6 | 4.9 | 11.7 | 6.8 | 14.4 | 35.3 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 16.3 | 5.3 | 14.7 | 8.2 | 17.9 | 37.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 13.0 | 4.8 | 11.1 | 6.5 | 13.7 | 34.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 13.5 | 5.1 | 11.0 | 6.6 | 13.4 | 34.7 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 14.8 | 5.5 | 11.9 | 6.9 | 14.5 | 35.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 12.4 | 4.8 | 10.3 | 6.4 | 12.5 | 33.6 |
| South Carolina | 14.4 | 4.3 | 12.5 | 6.4 | 16.0 | 37.3 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 14.3 | 4.2 | 12.4 | 6.2 | 16.0 | 38.1 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 14.4 | 4.3 | 12.5 | 6.4 | 16.0 | 37.0 |
| Tennessee | 15.3 | 4.5 | 13.7 | 7.2 | 17.3 | 39.8 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 17.8 | 5.0 | 15.9 | 8.2 | 20.0 | 40.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 13.4 | 4.2 | 11.9 | 6.6 | 15.1 | 38.8 |
| Virginia | 11.2 | 4.2 | 9.1 | 5.3 | 11.3 | 33.8 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 18.4 | 4.4 | 15.9 | 7.5 | 20.6 | 41.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 10.4 | 4.4 3.7 | 8.4 | 7.5 5.1 | 20.8 | 32.7 |
| | 10.4 | J./ | 0.4 | | 10.4 | JZ./ |

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. The disability universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.





Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In the 2011-2015 period, about one in six Appalachian residents reported having a disability, which the ACS defines as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. Disability prevalence is particularly high in some parts of the Region; the rate was 20 percent or more in 147 counties, two-fifths of which were in Appalachia's most rural counties (where the overall disability rate was 20 percent). Kentucky and West Virginia—the two states with the highest levels of disability in the Region—combined for nearly half of the 147 counties. Appalachia's relatively high disability rate corresponds to the population's older age structure: In 134 of the counties with the highest disability prevalence levels, at least 15 percent of the residents were age 65 or older.



Figure 9.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

At almost 5 percent, the prevalence of disability among children under age 18 in Appalachia was slightly higher than the national average during the 2011-2015 period. But there was variation within the Region. For example, the rate was at least 7.5 percent in 51 counties, 39 of which were outside metropolitan areas. In 110 other counties, however, the disability prevalence was below the national average of just over 4 percent. Nearly two-thirds of the counties in the latter group were in South Central and Southern Appalachia. In fact, at just under 4 percent, Southern Appalachia was the only subregion where the disability rate among the under-18 population was below the national average.



Figure 9.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In the 2011-2015 period, approximately one in seven adults ages 18 to 64 in Appalachia reported a disability, compared with about one in 10 in the nation as a whole. Disability prevalence was particularly high in some parts of the Region: In Central Appalachia, for example, more than one-fifth of working-age adults had a disability. Indeed, Central Appalachia had 56 of the 96 Appalachian counties where the disability rate among 18-to-64-year-olds was 20 percent or higher. Central Appalachia's historic reliance on mining and related resource-based industries, as well as Appalachia's relatively high rates of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, may be associated with the subregion's high disability prevalence.



Figure 9.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Two-fifths of adults ages 65 and over in the Appalachian Region reported a disability in the 2011-2015 period, slightly higher than the national share. And the prevalence was even greater in some parts of the Region: Nearly half of the older residents of Central Appalachia—and half of older persons in Appalachian Kentucky—had at least one disability. Indeed, Central Appalachia had 41 of the 63 counties where at least half of older residents reported a disability. (Kentucky alone had 26 of these counties.) And there are signs that disabled adults in the Region may be aging in place: In 47 of these 63 counties, the share of working-age adults with a disability was at or above 20 percent—almost twice the national average. Yet there are 81 other Appalachian counties where the disability rate for the older population was actually lower than the national average. Nearly all of these low-prevalence counties were in Northern, South Central, and Southern Appalachia.

CHAPTER 10: MIGRATION

Table 10.1: Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2011-2015

| | | Percent of Population Ages 1 and Over | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|---|-----|------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Mobility Status in the Last Year | Total Population | Did Not | Mo | ved from a Different Residence in the Past Year | | | | | |
| | Ages 1 and Over, 2011-2015 | Move in Past Year | | Within the County | | Outside the Co Within the | Outside the | | |
| | | | | - | | State | State | | |
| United States | 312,784,059 | 85.1 | 14.9 | 8.8 | 6.1 | 3.2 | 2.9 | | |
| Appalachian Region | 25,149,244 | 86.8 | 13.2 | 7.5 | 5.6 | 3.3 | 2.4 | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 8,256,059 | 87.6 | 12.4 | 7.5 | 4.9 | 2.8 | 2.1 | | |
| North Central Appalachia | 2,401,083 | 87.5 | 12.5 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | | |
| Central Appalachia | 1,880,759 | 87.8 | 12.2 | 6.8 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 1.9 | | |
| South Central Appalachia | 4,728,562 | 86.1 | 13.9 | 7.7 | 6.3 | 3.6 | 2.7 | | |
| Southern Appalachia | 7,882,781 | 86.0 | 14.0 | 7.9 | 6.1 | 3.6 | 2.5 | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 5,895,846 | 87.1 | 12.9 | 7.4 | 5.5 | 3.2 | 2.3 | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 10,622,239 | 86.0 | 14.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 3.2 | 2.8 | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 2,179,486 | 87.0 | 13.0 | 7.8 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 1.7 | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,941,200 | 88.2 | 11.8 | 6.7 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 1.9 | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 2,510,473 | 87.5 | 12.5 | 6.9 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 1.9 | | |
| Alabama | 4,774,581 | 85.3 | 14.7 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 3.2 | 2.6 | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | 3,056,763 | 85.7 | 14.3 | 8.6 | 5.7 | 3.4 | 2.3 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,717,818 | 84.5 | 15.5 | 9.4 | 6.1 | 2.9 | 3.2 | | |
| Georgia | 9,883,302 | 84.0 | 16.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 4.7 | 3.3 | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | 3,010,538 | 86.8 | 13.2 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 4.0 | 2.5 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 6,872,764 | 82.7 | 17.3 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 5.0 | 3.7 | | |
| Kentucky | 4,344,914 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 8.6 | 6.6 | 3.8 | 2.9 | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 1,165,121 | 86.9 | 13.1 | 7.4 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 1.8 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 3,179,793 | 83.9 | 16.1 | 9.1 | 7.0 | 3.7 | 3.3 | | |
| Maryland | 5,861,210 | 86.6 | 13.4 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 2.7 | 3.4 | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | 249,956 | 86.0 | 14.0 | 8.3 | 5.7 | 3.1 | 2.7 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 5,611,254 | 86.7 | 13.3 | 7.2 | 6.2 | 2.7 | 3.5 | | |
| Mississippi | 2,953,205 | 86.1 | 13.9 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 3.7 | 2.7 | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 621,775 | 86.0 | 14.0 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 3.8 | 2.1 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 2,331,430 | 86.1 | 13.9 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 3.7 | 2.8 | | |
| New York | 19,451,274 | 89.1 | 10.9 | 6.3 | 4.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | | |
| Appalachian New York | 1,045,638 | 85.4 | 14.6 | 8.5 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 2.5 | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 18,405,636 | 89.3 | 10.7 | 6.2 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 2.1 | | |
| North Carolina | 9,732,283 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 8.4 | 6.9 | 3.5 | 3.4 | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,700,873 | 86.8 | 13.2 | 7.3 | 5.9 | 3.4 | 2.5 | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 8,031,410 | 84.3 | 15.7 | 8.6 | 7.1 | 3.6 | 3.5 | | |
| Ohio | 11,446,837 | 85.3 | 14.7 | 9.4 | 5.4 | 3.3 | 2.1 | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | 2,002,927 | 87.6 | 12.4 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 1.8 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 9,443,910 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 9.8 | 5.5 | 3.3 | 2.2 | | |
| Pennsylvania | 12,643,406 | 88.0 | 12.0 | 7.2 | 4.8 | 2.6 | 2.3 | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,716,041 | 87.9 | 12.1 | 7.3 | 4.8 | 2.7 | 2.0 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 6,927,365 | 88.0 | 12.0 | 7.1 | 4.8 | 2.4 | 2.5 | | |
| South Carolina | 4,723,298 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 8.4 | 7.0 | 3.1 | 3.9 | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 1,193,705 | 85.0 | 15.0 | 8.8 | 6.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 3,529,593 | 84.6 | 15.4 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 3.2 | 4.1 | | |
| Tennessee | 6,422,999 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 9.0 | 6.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,796,608 | 86.1 | 13.9 | 7.9 | 6.0 | 3.3 | 2.7 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 3,626,391 | 83.6 | 16.4 | 9.9 | 6.5 | 2.9 | 3.6 | | |
| Virginia | 8,155,620 | 84.4 | 15.6 | 6.7 | 8.9 | 4.9 | 4.0 | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | 756,057 | 86.0 | 14.0 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 4.6 | 2.8 | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 7,399,563 | 84.2 | 15.8 | 6.7 | 9.1 | 5.0 | 4.1 | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 1,833,242 | 88.2 | 11.8 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 2.6 | 2.8 | | |

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Figure 10.1: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Residential mobility in Appalachia was below the national average, as well as in all subregions and county types. In fact, the percentage of residents who moved in the past year only matched or exceeded the U.S. average in 61 of the Region's counties—37 of which were in South Central or Southern Appalachia. Most also were either counties in metropolitan areas, counties that housed a four-year college or university, or rural counties that were likely retirement or recreational destinations. Yet in 118 Appalachian counties, less than 10 percent of the residents had moved in the previous 12 months; almost three-fourths of these counties were outside metro areas.

Figure 10.2: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

While people in Appalachia were slightly less likely to have migrated from outside their county of residence in the 2011-2015 period than Americans as a whole, residents in 130 of the Region's counties had migration rates at or above the national average. These counties were scattered throughout Appalachia and were distributed across all urban/rural types. In 202 counties, however, less than 5 percent of the residents had migrated from another county. Almost three-fourths of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and more than one-third of those nonmetro counties were rural counties not adjacent to a metro area.

Figure 10.3: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2011-2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

The share of people in the Appalachian Region who had migrated from outside their state of residence was 2.4 percent in the 2011-2015 period, compared with 2.9 percent of all Americans. Yet in 79 of Appalachia's 420 counties, out-of-state migration levels were at or above the U.S. average. Most of these counties were in Southern and South Central Appalachia, and almost half were in metropolitan areas. In contrast, there were 243 counties in the Region where less than 2 percent of residents had come from out of state. Almost three-fourths of the counties in this latter group were outside metropolitan areas.

Table 10.2: Percentage Point Change in Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| | | Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 1 and Over | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Mobility Status in the Last Year | Did Not | Moved from a Different Residence in the Past Year Outside the County | | | | | | | |
| | Move in Past Year | | Within the County | | Within the State | Outside the State | | | |
| United States | + 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 0.6 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| Appalachian Region | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.6 | - 0.3 | + 0.0 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| North Central Appalachia | + 1.0 | - 1.0 | - 0.7 | - 0.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Central Appalachia | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 0.6 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | - 0.2 | | | |
| South Central Appalachia | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.7 | - 0.1 | + 0.2 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Southern Appalachia | + 1.6 | - 1.6 | - 1.0 | - 0.6 | - 0.2 | - 0.3 | | | |
| County Types | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | + 1.1 | - 1.1 | - 0.8 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.6 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | + 1.2 | - 1.2 | - 0.6 | - 0.6 | - 0.4 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | + 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 0.5 | - 0.3 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 0.4 | + 0.0 | + 0.2 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Alabama | + 1.0 | - 1.0 | - 0.5 | - 0.6 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Appalachian Alabama | + 1.3 | - 1.3 | - 0.8 | - 0.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | + 0.6 | - 0.6 | + 0.1 | - 0.7 | - 0.1 | - 0.5 | | | |
| Georgia | + 1.7 | - 1.7 | - 0.9 | - 0.8 | - 0.3 | - 0.5 | | | |
| Appalachian Georgia | + 2.4 | - 2.4 | - 1.5 | - 1.0 | - 0.5 | - 0.5 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | + 1.2 | - 1.2 | - 0.6 | - 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Kentucky | + 0.7 | - 0.7 | - 0.5 | - 0.3 | + 0.1 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Kentucky | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 0.5 | + 0.1 | + 0.5 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.4 | - 0.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Maryland | + 0.7 | - 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 0.7 | - 0.3 | - 0.4 | | | |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | + 0.6 | - 0.6 | + 0.1 | - 0.6 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.1 | - 0.6 | - 0.3 | - 0.3 | | | |
| Mississippi | + 1.8 | - 1.8 | - 1.3 | - 0.5 | - 0.2 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Mississippi | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | + 0.0 | - 0.3 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | + 2.1 | - 2.1 | - 1.6 | - 0.5 | - 0.2 | - 0.3 | | | |
| New York | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.6 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | + 0.0 | | | |
| Appalachian New York | + 0.5 | - 0.5 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | - 0.3 | + 0.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian New York | + 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.7 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| North Carolina | + 1.3 | - 1.3 | - 0.7 | - 0.6 | - 0.1 | - 0.5 | | | |
| Appalachian North Carolina | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.4 | + 0.1 | + 0.3 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | + 1.6 | - 1.6 | - 0.8 | - 0.8 | - 0.1 | - 0.7 | | | |
| Ohio | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.4 | + 0.2 | + 0.0 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Ohio | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.4 | + 0.1 | + 0.0 | + 0.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | + 0.2 | - 0.2 | - 0.4 | + 0.2 | + 0.0 | + 0.2 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | + 0.6 | - 0.6 | - 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | + 0.5 | - 0.5 | - 0.2 | - 0.3 | - 0.2 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | + 0.6 | - 0.6 | - 0.4 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | + 0.0 | | | |
| South Carolina | + 0.4 | - 0.4 | + 0.0 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| Appalachian South Carolina | + 0.4 | - 0.4 - 1.5 | - 1.2 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | + 1.5 | + 0.0 | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | + 0.0 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Tennessee | + 0.0 | - 0.9 | - 0.9 | + 0.0 | + 0.0 | - 0.2 | | | |
| Appalachian Tennessee | + 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 0.1 | + 0.1 | - 0.1 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | + 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 0.9 - 0.9 | - 0.1 + 0.0 | + 0.2 | - 0.3 + 0.1 | | | |
| Virginia | + 0.9 | - 0.9 - 0.6 | - 0.9 + 0.0 | + 0.0 - 0.6 | + 0.0 - 0.3 | + 0.1 - 0.3 | | | |
| Appalachian Virginia | + 0.0 | - 0.6 - 1.1 | + 0.0 - 0.8 | - 0.6 - 0.4 | - 0.3 - 0.3 | - 0.3 + 0.0 | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | + 1.1 + 0.5 | - 1.1 - 0.5 | - 0.8 + 0.1 | - 0.4 - 0.5 | - 0.3 - 0.2 | + 0.0 - 0.4 | | | |
| West Virginia (entire state) | + 0.5 | - 0.5 - 0.6 | + 0.1 - 0.5 | - 0.5 - 0.2 | + 0.2 | - 0.4 - 0.2 | | | |

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Figure 10.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

Both in Appalachia and the nation as a whole, the share of individuals migrating from outside their county of residence declined three-tenths of a percentage point between the 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 periods. The decrease was most prevalent in North Central and Southern Appalachia, and was greater than or equal to the national average in 190 counties in the Region. By contrast, the percentage remained the same in Appalachia's most rural counties and actually increased in Central Appalachia. Of the 184 counties where migration shares rose, 57 were in rural areas and 47 were in Central Appalachia.

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

- Like Americans as a whole, Appalachian residents were slightly less mobile in 2011-2015 than they were in 2006-2010. Between the two periods, the share of persons in the Region who had moved from a different residence in the past year decreased by almost a full percentage point to 13 percent in 2011-2015 (see Tables 10.1 and 10.2). Similarly, a slightly lower share of residents migrated from outside their county and their state of residence in 2011-2015 than in 2006-2010. (In both of the latter instances, the share dropped by less than half a percentage point.)
- Within the Region, the decline in residential mobility was greatest in Southern and North Central Appalachia, where the share of residents who had moved in the previous year fell by a full percentage point or more between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. Still, all subregions and county types saw lower shares of their populations move in the later period than in the earlier one. One possible factor might lie in the rise of unemployment and the housing crisis during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. With relatively low educational attainment levels and relatively high homeownership in the Region, many Appalachian residents who lost their jobs might not have been able to sell their homes to move to another area with more employment opportunities.

CHAPTER 11: VETERAN STATUS

Table 11.1: Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, 2011-2015

| | | Civilian P | opulation | | Per | cent Who | Are Vetera | ans |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Veteran Status | Ages 18 and Over | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | Ages 65 and Over | Ages 18 and Over | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | Ages 65 and Over |
| United States | 241,816,698 | 73,487,106 | 123,714,115 | 44,615,477 | 8.3 | 2.3 | 7.3 | 21.0 |
| Appalachian Region | 19,863,402 | 5,491,251 | 10,227,369 | 4,144,782 | 9.3 | 2.2 | 8.1 | 21.9 |
| Subregions | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 6,649,402 | 1,801,905 | 3,368,143 | 1,479,354 | 9.9 | 2.2 | 8.2 | 23.2 |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,906,803 | 520,978 | 985,174 | 400,651 | 10.1 | 2.4 | 9.1 | 22.5 |
| Central Appalachia | 1,486,208 | 388,669 | 785,530 | 312,009 | 8.0 | 1.9 | 6.9 | 18.4 |
| South Central Appalachia | 3,781,482 | 1,017,966 | 1,913,860 | 849,656 | 9.5 | 2.2 | 8.1 | 21. |
| Southern Appalachia | 6,039,507 | 1,761,733 | 3,174,662 | 1,103,112 | 8.7 | 2.2 | 7.9 | 21.2 |
| County Types | | | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 4,578,743 | 1,282,386 | 2,441,199 | 855,158 | 8.8 | 2.0 | 7.6 | 22.3 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 8,435,173 | 2,411,502 | 4,275,186 | 1,748,485 | 9.6 | 2.2 | 8.6 | 22.4 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 1,719,716 | 464,284 | 883,745 | 371,687 | 9.7 | 2.1 | 8.5 | 21.9 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,140,423 | 792,881 | 1,614,961 | 732,581 | 9.9 | 2.5 | 8.1 | 21.8 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,989,347 | 540,198 | 1,012,278 | 436,871 | 8.3 | 2.1 | 6.8 | 19.5 |
| Alabama | 3,705,690 | 1,093,260 | 1,893,104 | 719,326 | 9.8 | 2.7 | 9.4 | 21.0 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 2,384,910 | 693,197 | 1,230,548 | 461,165 | 9.3 | 2.4 | 8.7 | 21.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,320,780 | 400,063 | 662,556 | 258,161 | 10.6 | 3.3 | 10.6 | 22.2 |
| Georgia | 7,466,582 | 2,345,109 | 3,931,006 | 1,190,467 | 9.0 | 2.6 | 9.0 | 21.4 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 2,248,617 | 650,859 | 1,232,356 | 365,402 | 8.1 | 1.8 | 7.4 | 21.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 5,217,965 | 1,694,250 | 2,698,650 | 825,065 | 9.4 | 2.9 | 9.8 | 21.3 |
| Kentucky | 3,366,540 | 980,766 | 1,752,799 | 632,975 | 8.8 | 2.5 | 8.2 | 20.4 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 915,257 | 248,942 | 481,357 | 184,958 | 7.7 | 1.9 | 6.8 | 18.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 2,451,283 | 731,824 | 1,271,442 | 448,017 | 9.3 | 2.7 | 8.8 | 21.4 |
| Maryland | 4,555,597 | 1,359,262 | 2,405,184 | 791,151 | 8.9 | 2.8 | 8.3 | 20. |
| Appalachian Maryland | 199,976 | 55,650 | 101,920 | 42,406 | 10.3 | 2.5 | 9.6 | 22.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 4,355,621 | 1,303,612 | 2,303,264 | 748,745 | 8.8 | 2.8 | 8.3 | 20.8 |
| Mississippi | 2,241,286 | 691,917 | 1,134,536 | 414,833 | 8.2 | 2.5 | 7.7 | 19.3 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 477,303 | 144,443 | 237,847 | 95,013 | 7.4 | 2.2 | 6.4 | 17.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 1,763,983 | 547,474 | 896,689 | 319,820 | 8.5 | 2.5 | 8.1 | 19.8 |
| New York | 15,397,847 | 4,771,186 | 7,806,226 | 2,820,435 | 5.4 | 1.2 | 4.1 | 15.8 |
| Appalachian New York | 842,269 | 256,040 | 409,078 | 177,151 | 9.4 | 2.2 | 8.3 | 22.2 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 14,555,578 | 4,515,146 | 7,397,148 | 2,643,284 | 5.2 | 1.2 | 3.9 | 15.4 |
| North Carolina | 7,478,600 | 2,190,308 | 3,887,100 | 1,401,192 | 9.3 | 2.9 | 8.7 | 20.9 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,360,439 | 352,658 | 692,276 | 315,505 | 9.4 | 2.1 | 7.7 | 21.4 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 6,118,161 | 1,837,650 | 3,194,824 | 1,085,687 | 9.3 | 3.1 | 8.9 | 20.8 |
| Ohio | 8,911,658 | 2,550,533 | 4,613,844 | 1,747,281 | 9.1 | 2.1 | 8.0 | 21.8 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 1,573,005 | 411,485 | 821,815 | 339,705 | 10.0 | 2.1 | 8.8 | 22.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 7,338,653 | 2,139,048 | 3,792,029 | 1,407,576 | 8.8 | 2.1 | 7.9 | 21.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 10,052,453 | 2,849,717 | 5,118,350 | 2,084,386 | 8.7 | 1.9 | 7.0 | 22.0 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 4,623,693 | 1,246,457 | 2,343,796 | 1,033,440 | 9.9 | 2.2 | 8.0 | 23.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,428,760 | 1,603,260 | 2,774,554 | 1,050,946 | 7.6 | 1.6 | 6.2 | 20.7 |
| South Carolina | 3,665,349 | 1,074,995 | 1,863,575 | 726,779 | 10.3 | 3.2 | 9.8 | 22.4 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 928,677 | 273,234 | 473,911 | 181,532 | 9.0 | 2.2 | 7.8 | 22.0 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 2,736,672 | 801,761 | 1,389,664 | 545,247 | 10.8 | 3.5 | 10.4 | 22.5 |
| Tennessee | 4,989,249 | 1,464,739 | 2,574,185 | 950,325 | 9.3 | 2.6 | 8.6 | 21.3 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,223,282 | 595,731 | 1,137,844 | 489,707 | 9.8 | 2.3 | 8.5 | 21.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 2,765,967 | 869,008 | 1,436,341 | 460,618 | 8.9 | 2.8 | 8.8 | 20.8 |
| Virginia | 6,281,984 | 1,904,418 | 3,275,905 | 1,101,661 | 11.2 | 4.4 | 11.3 | 22.8 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 617,739 | 173,638 | 304,609 | 139,492 | 8.3 | 1.7 | 6.9 | 19.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 5,664,245 | 1,730,780 | 2,971,296 | 962,169 | 11.6 | 4.6 | 11.8 | 23.3 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 1,468,235 | 388,917 | 760,012 | 319,306 | 10.2 | 2.5 | 9.0 | 20.0 |

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

| | Civilian Po | pulation Ages | 8 and Over | Percer | nt Who Are Ve | terans |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Veteran Status | Both Sexes | Males | Females | Both Sexes | Males | Females |
| United States | 241,816,698 | 117,201,081 | 124,615,617 | 8.3 | 15.8 | 1.3 |
| Appalachian Region | 19,863,402 | 9,637,692 | 10,225,710 | 9.3 | 18.1 | 1.1 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 6,649,402 | 3,249,512 | 3,399,890 | 9.9 | 19.1 | 1.1 |
| North Central Appalachia | 1,906,803 | 936,243 | 970,560 | 10.1 | 19.4 | 1.1 |
| Central Appalachia | 1,486,208 | 728,943 | 757,265 | 8.0 | 15.5 | 0.7 |
| South Central Appalachia | 3,781,482 | 1,822,529 | 1,958,953 | 9.5 | 18.6 | 1.2 |
| Southern Appalachia | 6,039,507 | 2,900,465 | 3,139,042 | 8.7 | 16.8 | 1.2 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 4,578,743 | 2,197,276 | 2,381,467 | 8.8 | 17.1 | 1.1 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 8,435,173 | 4,081,809 | 4,353,364 | 9.6 | 18.6 | 1.2 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 1,719,716 | 846,888 | 872,828 | 9.7 | 18.5 | 1.1 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 3,140,423 | 1,537,839 | 1,602,584 | 9.9 | 19.1 | 1.0 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 1,989,347 | 973,880 | 1,015,467 | 8.3 | 16.0 | 0.9 |
| Alabama | 3,705,690 | 1,762,757 | 1,942,933 | 9.8 | 18.9 | 1.5 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 2,384,910 | 1,139,070 | 1,245,840 | 9.3 | 18.1 | 1.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 1,320,780 | 623,687 | 697,093 | 10.6 | 20.4 | 1.9 |
| Georgia | 7,466,582 | 3,570,384 | 3,896,198 | 9.0 | 16.8 | 1.9 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 2,248,617 | 1,088,565 | 1,160,052 | 8.1 | 15.5 | 1.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 5,217,965 | 2,481,819 | 2,736,146 | 9.4 | 17.3 | 2.1 |
| Kentucky | 3,366,540 | 1,629,634 | 1,736,906 | 8.8 | 17.0 | 1.2 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 915,257 | 447,512 | 467,745 | 7.7 | 14.9 | 0.8 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 2,451,283 | 1,182,122 | 1,269,161 | 9.3 | 17.8 | 1.3 |
| Maryland | 4,555,597 | 2,164,162 | 2,391,435 | 8.9 | 16.5 | 1.9 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 199,976 | 101,838 | 98,138 | 10.3 | 18.7 | 1.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 4,355,621 | 2,062,324 | 2,293,297 | 8.8 | 16.4 | 2.0 |
| Mississippi | 2,241,286 | 1,066,983 | 1,174,303 | 8.2 | 15.9 | 1.3 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 477,303 | 227,340 | 249,963 | 7.4 | 14.4 | 1.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 1,763,983 | 839,643 | 924,340 | 8.5 | 16.3 | 1.4 |
| New York | 15,397,847 | 7,346,398 | 8,051,449 | 5.4 | 10.6 | 0.6 |
| Appalachian New York | 842,269 | 412,545 | 429,724 | 9.4 | 17.9 | 1.2 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 14,555,578 | 6,933,853 | 7,621,725 | 5.2 | 10.2 | 0.6 |
| North Carolina | 7,478,600 | 3,555,073 | 3,923,527 | 9.3 | 17.8 | 1.6 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 1,360,439 | 652,407 | 708,032 | 9.4 | 18.4 | 1.1 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 6,118,161 | 2,902,666 | 3,215,495 | 9.3 | 17.6 | 1.1 |
| Ohio | 8,911,658 | 4,296,974 | 4,614,684 | 9.1 | 17.6 | 1.1 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 1,573,005 | 770,085 | 802,920 | 10.0 | 19.6 | 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 7,338,653 | 3,526,889 | 3,811,764 | 8.8 | 17.1 | 1.2 |
| Pennsylvania | 10,052,453 | 4,847,440 | 5,205,013 | 8.7 | 16.9 | 1.0 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 4,623,693 | 2,257,528 | 2,366,165 | 9.9 | 10.3 | 1.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 5,428,760 | 2,589,912 | 2,838,848 | 7.6 | 15.0 | 1.0 |
| South Carolina | 3,665,349 | 1,746,945 | 1,918,404 | 10.3 | 19.8 | 1.0 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 928,677 | 445,490 | 483,187 | 9.0 | 17.6 | 1.0 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 2,736,672 | 1,301,455 | 1,435,217 | 9.0 10.8 | 20.5 | 2.0 |
| Tennessee | 4,989,249 | 2,390,481 | 2,598,768 | 9.3 | 20.5 17.8 | 2.0 1.4 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 2,223,282 | 1,072,364 | 1,150,918 | 9.3 9.8 | 17.0 | 1.4 1.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 2,765,967 | 1,318,117 | 1,447,850 | 8.9 | 16.9 | 1.6 |
| Virginia | 6,281,984 | 3,016,056 | 3,265,928 | 11.2 | 20.5 | 2.7 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 617,739 | 305,524 | 312,215 | 8.3 | 16.0 | 0.9 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 5,664,245 | 2,710,532 | 2,953,713 | 11.6 | 21.0 | 2.9 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 1,468,235 | 717,424 | 750,811 | 10.2 | 19.8 | 1.1 |

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Figure 11.1: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In 2011-2015, a little more than 9 percent of adult civilians in the Appalachian Region were veterans—men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. While slightly higher than the national average, there was considerable variation throughout the Region. In 145 Appalachian counties, for example, at least one in 10 civilian residents were veterans. Most of the counties with the highest share of veterans were in Northern and North Central Appalachia, although there were pockets of high concentration further south. In contrast, the veteran prevalence rate was lower than the national average in 107 counties; nearly half the counties in this group were in Central Appalachia—and 37 of them were in Kentucky alone. Another 20 of these counties were in Appalachian Mississippi—the Region's only other state besides Kentucky where veterans were less than 8 percent of adult civilians.



Figure 11.2: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Military veterans accounted for just 2.2 percent of Appalachia's young adult (ages 18-34) civilian population in the 2011-2015 period, compared to 2.3 percent for the nation as a whole. Yet in 184 of the Region's 420 counties, the prevalence was at or above the national rate. In fact, there were 10 Appalachian counties where at least 5 percent of 18-to-34-year-old civilians were veterans. Most veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan fall in this age group.



Figure 11.3: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, 8 percent of civilians ages 35 to 64 were military veterans in 2011-2015, slightly above the U.S. rate of just over 7 percent. The prevalence was even higher in some counties: In 40 of them, veterans comprised at least one-tenth of 35-to-64-year-old civilian residents. More than half of these counties were in Northern and North Central Appalachia, although there were also pockets of concentration in the South Central and Southern subregions. Yet the veteran prevalence rate was lower than the national average in 154 counties; all but a handful of these were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. Most veterans of the 1991 Gulf War fall in this age group, as do the youngest Vietnam veterans.



Figure 11.4: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015

Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2011-2015 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

In 2011-2015, more than one-fifth of Appalachia's older civilian residents were military veterans—most of whom served during World War II and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Yet there is some variation within the Region. For example, at least 25 percent of older civilians were veterans in 31 counties. Most counties in this group were in Northern and North Central Appalachia. By contrast, there were 21 counties where veterans comprised less than 15 percent of the older civilian residents. Kentucky had 13 of the counties in this latter group; veterans were just 18 percent of older civilians in the state's Appalachian section. (Among the states, only Appalachian Mississippi had a lower share.)

Table 11.3: Percentage Point Change in Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group and Gender, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

| Veteran Status | Percentage Point Change in Share of Adults Who Are Veterans | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| | Total, Ages | | By Age Group | | By Gender | |
| | 18 and Over | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | Ages 65 and Over | Males | Females |
| United States | - 1.6 | - 0.3 | - 2.4 | - 2.6 | - 3.3 | + 0.0 |
| Appalachian Region | - 1.7 | - 0.3 | - 2.6 | - 2.1 | - 3.3 | - 0.1 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | - 1.8 | - 0.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.4 | - 3.9 | - 0.1 |
| North Central Appalachia | - 1.6 | - 0.6 | - 2.4 | - 2.1 | - 3.2 | - 0.1 |
| Central Appalachia | - 1.4 | - 0.6 | - 2.2 | - 1.7 | - 2.8 | - 0.2 |
| South Central Appalachia | - 1.6 | - 0.1 | - 2.8 | - 1.7 | - 3.2 | + 0.0 |
| Southern Appalachia | - 1.5 | - 0.3 | - 2.6 | - 1.8 | - 3.0 | - 0.1 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | - 1.6 | - 0.5 | - 2.5 | - 2.3 | - 3.4 | - 0.2 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | - 1.6 | - 0.4 | - 2.5 | - 2.1 | - 3.4 | + 0.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | - 1.6 | - 0.3 | - 2.7 | - 2.0 | - 3.4 | + 0.0 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | - 1.5 | + 0.0 | - 2.7 | - 1.9 | - 3.2 | - 0.1 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | - 1.6 | - 0.4 | - 2.7 | - 1.9 | - 3.4 | + 0.0 |
| Alabama | - 1.6 | - 0.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.2 | - 3.5 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Alabama | - 1.8 | - 0.2 | - 2.9 | - 2.2 | - 3.5 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | - 1.5 | - 0.7 | - 2.1 | - 2.0 | - 3.3 | + 0.0 |
| Georgia | - 1.2 | - 0.3 | - 2.2 | - 1.5 | - 2.5 | + 0.1 |
| Appalachian Georgia | - 1.3 | - 0.6 | - 2.4 | - 1.3 | - 2.4 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | - 1.2 | - 0.2 | - 2.1 | - 1.7 | - 2.6 | + 0.0 |
| Kentucky | - 1.4 | - 0.3 | - 2.3 | - 1.6 | - 2.8 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.3 | - 0.5 | - 2.0 | - 1.5 | - 2.6 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | - 1.4 | - 0.3 | - 2.3 | - 1.6 | - 2.9 | - 0.1 |
| Maryland | - 1.7 | - 0.6 | - 2.3 | - 3.0 | - 3.6 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Maryland | - 1.6 | - 0.7 | - 1.7 | - 3.0 | - 3.6 | + 0.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | - 1.7 | - 0.6 | - 2.3 | - 3.0 | - 3.6 | - 0.1 |
| Mississippi | - 1.6 | - 0.3 | - 2.4 | - 2.3 | - 3.1 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.4 | - 0.2 | - 2.4 | - 2.0 | - 3.4 | + 0.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | - 1.5 | - 0.5 | - 2.3 | - 2.3 | - 3.1 | - 0.2 |
| New York | - 1.5 | - 0.2 | - 2.1 | - 3.1 | - 3.2 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian New York | - 1.8 | - 0.1 | - 2.9 | - 2.7 | - 3.8 | + 0.0 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | - 1.5 | - 0.2 | - 2.0 | - 3.1 | - 3.1 | - 0.1 |
| North Carolina | - 1.5 | - 0.2 | - 2.5 | - 1.9 | - 3.0 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.5 | + 0.1 | - 2.7 | - 2.0 | - 3.2 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | - 1.4 | - 0.3 | - 2.5 | - 1.9 | - 3.0 | + 0.0 |
| Ohio | - 1.6 | - 0.3 | - 2.6 | - 2.4 | - 3.4 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Ohio | - 1.6 | - 0.4 | - 2.5 | - 1.8 | - 3.1 | - 0.2 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | - 1.7 | - 0.3 | - 2.6 | - 2.5 | - 3.6 | + 0.0 |
| Pennsylvania | - 1.9 | - 0.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.8 | - 4.0 | - 0.1 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.9 | - 0.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.6 | - 4.0 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | - 1.9 | - 0.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.9 | - 3.9 | + 0.0 |
| South Carolina | - 1.5 | - 0.2 | - 2.4 | - 2.3 | - 3.1 | + 0.1 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.4 | - 0.3 | - 2.6 | - 1.9 | - 2.8 | - 0.2 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | - 1.5 | - 0.2 | - 2.4 | - 2.5 | - 3.2 | + 0.1 |
| Tennessee | - 1.4 | - 0.1 | - 2.6 | - 1.7 | - 3.0 | + 0.0 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.3 | - 0.1 | - 2.6 | - 1.4 | - 2.9 | + 0.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | - 1.4 | - 0.1 | - 2.4 | - 1.9 | - 3.1 | + 0.1 |
| Virginia | - 1.6 | - 0.5 | - 2.2 | - 2.3 | - 3.2 | + 0.0 |
| Appalachian Virginia | - 2.1 | - 0.9 | - 2.9 | - 2.8 | - 4.1 | - 0.1 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | - 1.4 | - 0.6 | - 2.1 | - 2.2 | - 3.2 | + 0.0 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | - 1.6 | - 0.6 | - 2.4 | - 2.0 | - 3.2 | - 0.1 |

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.





Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachia's adult civilians who were military veterans was almost two percentage points lower in the 2011-2015 period than it was in 2006-2010. And although the magnitude of the decrease varied little among the subregions, county types, and the Appalachian versus non-Appalachian portions of the 13 states, there was some variation at the county level. In 84 Appalachian counties, for example (spread throughout the Region), veterans' share of the population fell by at least 2.5 percentage points. Yet the share actually rose in 27 counties—21 of which were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. Veterans were at least 10 percent of the civilian population in more than half of the counties where the share increased, compared to just one-fourth of the counties with the largest decreases.

TRENDS IN VETERAN STATUS

- In Appalachia, the share of adult civilians who were military veterans declined more than a full percentage point between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, falling to just above 9 percent (see Tables 11.1 and 11.3). There was little difference in the decrease among the subregions, county types, and the Appalachian versus non-Appalachian portions of the 13 states.
- The decrease in veteran status was more pronounced among middle-aged and older civilians than among younger ones. While the share of veterans fell less than half a percentage point among younger civilians ages 18 to 34, it declined more than two percentage points among civilians ages 35 and over. As veteran status is more prevalent among older residents than younger ones, the movement of cohorts with lower prevalence rates into older ages accounts for much of the decline. (Mortality among the oldest veterans also is a factor, particularly in the decline among persons ages 65 and over.)
- Not surprisingly, the decreased share in veteran status among men has fueled the overall decrease. The share of adult men in the Appalachian Region who were veterans fell three percentage points between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, while the share among women barely dropped. Of course, men remain far more likely than women to be military veterans—the respective rates in Appalachia were 18 percent and 1 percent (see Table 11.2).

APPENDIX A: REFERENCE MAPS

Figure A.1: Appalachian Subregions



Map Title: Appalachian Subregions

Data Source: Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Appalachian Region covers 205,000 square miles and includes all of West Virginia and portions of 12 other states from New York to Mississippi. The 420 counties of the Region are grouped into five subregions, based on similarities in economic and demographic characteristics and geographic location.

Figure A.2: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region



Map Title: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region Data Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2013 Urban Influence Codes condensed by ARC.

While Appalachia is a distinct part of the United States, the Region is far from homogeneous, including both rural counties and major metropolitan areas such as Pittsburgh, Birmingham, and parts of suburban Atlanta. This map shows the rural-urban type for each Appalachian county.