

2015 Year in Review- Economic Indicators

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COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

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Introduction

Purpose

Economic Indicator reports provide an overview of the health and economic prosperity of focus areas. The purpose of this indicator report, is to provide community leaders and agency program development personnel with economic data by locality. Agencies and community leaders may use economic indicator reports for grant applications, making program decisions, or grant funding allocations. Community groups may also find economic indicators such as these useful when studying and assessing specific phenomenon areas.

Localities

This report provides data on economic indicators for the communities of Alleghany County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Roanoke County, the City of Roanoke, Salem and the state of Virginia. The characteristics of these areas range from the urban City of Roanoke to the rural Alleghany County. The localities featured in this report are also included in the jurisdictions of many planning groups/organizations. These planning groups may have a different purpose or target populations to serve; however, the jurisdictions in which they provide services are similar.

Indicators

The secondary data collected for this report contain both lead indicators and lag indicators. Lead indicators are those that typically change *before* the economy changes as a whole. This means that they are short term in predictions and are typically used to predict future trends. An example of a lead indicator is the number of new startup firms. Lag indicators are the second type of indicators included in this report. Economic lag indicators typically change *after* the economy changes and are therefore useful in conveying long term trends such as income and unemployment rates.¹

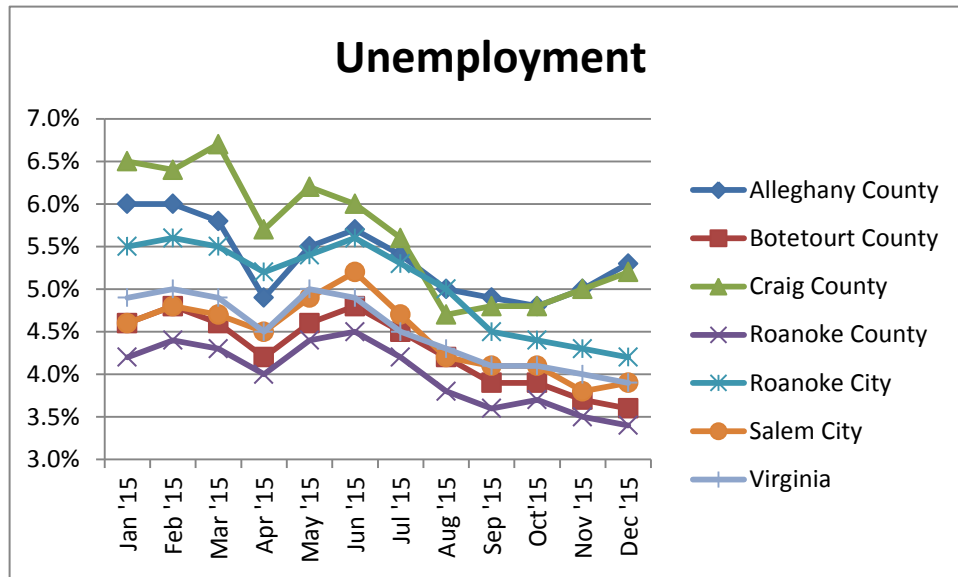
The indicators included in this report are: unemployment rates, unemployment insurance payments unemployment insurance claims by age groups, number of new startup firms, number of SNAP recipients, number of TANF recipients, and 2-1-1 calls with identified needs over the course of one year. Each indicator has a definition, brief analysis and data presented in tables and graphs. Data sources for this report include: The Virginia Labor Market Information (LMI), Virginia Department of Social Services and 2-1-1.

¹ http://wtwealthmanagement.com/documents/pdf/WTWealth_2014-07_MajorLeadingList.pdf

Unemployment

(<http://www.virginialmi.com>)

Unemployment Rates	Jan '15	Feb '15	Mar '15	Apr '15	May '15	Jun '15	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Oct'15	Nov '15	Dec '15
Alleghany County	6.0%	6.0%	5.8%	4.9%	5.5%	5.7%	5.4%	5.0%	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	5.3%
Botetourt County	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.2%	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%	4.2%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.6%
Craig County	6.5%	6.4%	6.7%	5.7%	6.2%	6.0%	5.6%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%	5.2%
Roanoke County	4.2%	4.4%	4.3%	4.0%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Roanoke City	5.5%	5.6%	5.5%	5.2%	5.4%	5.6%	5.3%	5.0%	4.5%	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%
Salem City	4.6%	4.8%	4.7%	4.5%	4.9%	5.2%	4.7%	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%	3.8%	3.9%
Virginia	4.9%	5.0%	4.9%	4.5%	5.0%	5.0%	4.7%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%



Unemployment Rate: The number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force.



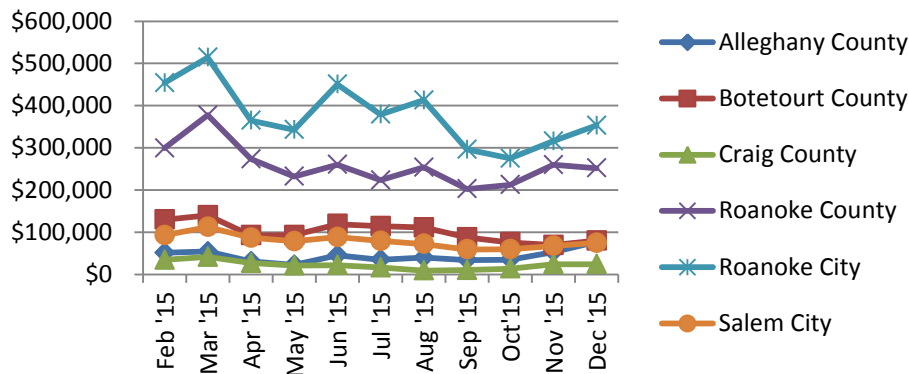
The graph shows that the counties of Craig and Alleghany had a higher unemployment rate than the state average each month in 2015. The localities of Roanoke County, Salem City, and Botetourt County remained lower than the state average consistently through 2015.

Unemployment Insurance Payments

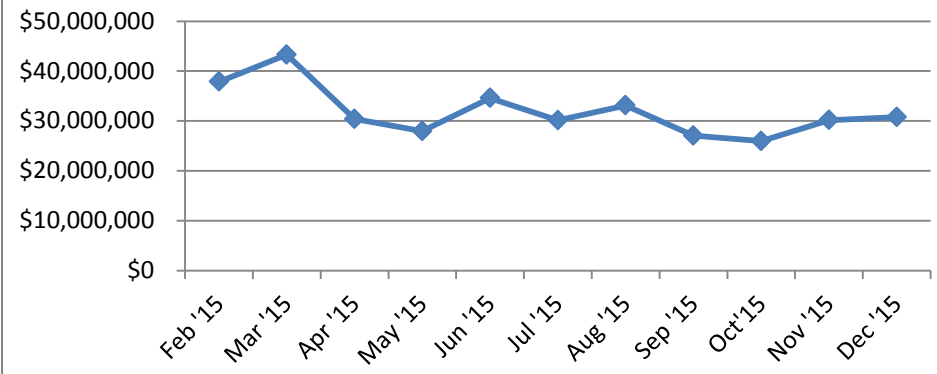
(<http://www.virginialmi.com>)

Unemployment Insurance											
	Feb '15	Mar '15	Apr '15	May '15	Jun '15	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Oct'15	Nov '15	Dec '15
Alleghany County	\$51,213	\$54,176	\$30,453	\$22,212	\$45,264	\$34,841	\$39,843	\$33,865	\$34,558	\$52,872	\$76,934
Botetourt County	\$129,580	\$139,957	\$92,553	\$92,619	\$118,890	\$114,024	\$111,078	\$87,407	\$75,612	\$69,417	\$79,964
Craig County	\$34,484	\$41,349	\$26,831	\$20,557	\$21,657	\$16,032	\$8,973	\$9,977	\$13,611	\$24,122	\$24,121
Roanoke County	\$299,074	\$377,168	\$273,407	\$232,013	\$260,076	\$223,295	\$253,697	\$202,555	\$212,166	\$259,492	\$251,672
Roanoke City	\$454,043	\$514,322	\$364,577	\$342,918	\$450,580	\$379,092	\$413,053	\$296,044	\$274,652	\$315,835	\$352,829
Salem City	\$92,701	\$112,088	\$86,611	\$78,421	\$88,372	\$79,262	\$71,952	\$59,111	\$59,395	\$67,301	\$74,496
Virginia	\$37,857,657	\$43,288,405	\$30,399,717	\$27,960,737	\$34,597,061	\$30,135,402	\$33,126,995	\$27,056,818	\$25,959,114	\$30,148,966	\$30,759,228

Unemployment Insurance Benefits



Virginia



The City of Roanoke and Roanoke County have higher rates of unemployment insurance benefits payments in 2015 than any other locality examined. The trend across all included localities and the state, is an increase in payments during February and March compared to the rest of the year.

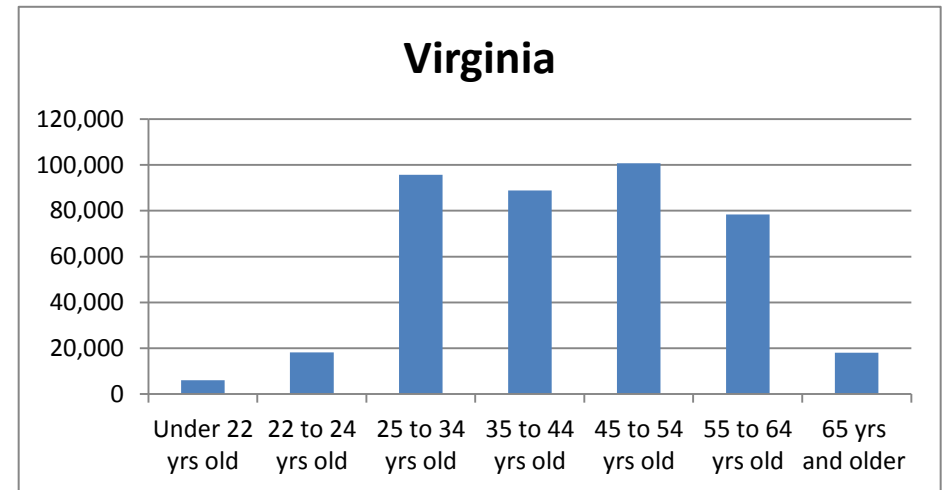
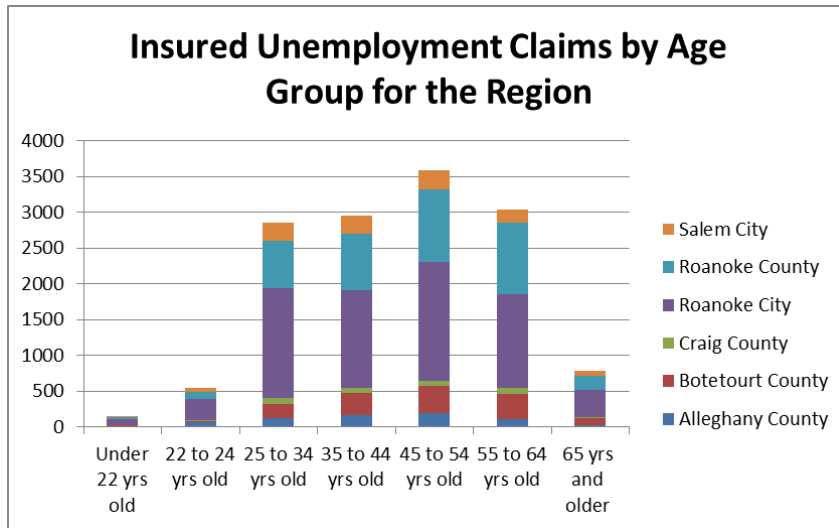
*January 2015 data is not available

Unemployment Insurance: A program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers to be used for the payment of unemployment insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond the workers' control. Unemployment insurance replaces a part of the worker's wages loss if he or she becomes eligible for payments.

Insured Unemployment Claims

<http://www.virginialmi.com>

Age Range	2015 Area Totals						
	Alleghany County	Botetourt County	Craig County	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem City	Virginia
Under 22 yrs old	16	5	1	85	32	8	6,120
22 to 24 yrs old	64	26	11	290	101	60	18,216
25 to 34 yrs old	120	200	87	1539	652	260	95,708
35 to 44 yrs old	172	300	77	1363	781	264	88,816
45 to 54 yrs old	191	388	73	1649	1012	275	100,668
55 to 64 yrs old	111	358	75	1313	992	185	78,404
65 yrs and older	23	103	10	377	204	65	17,987



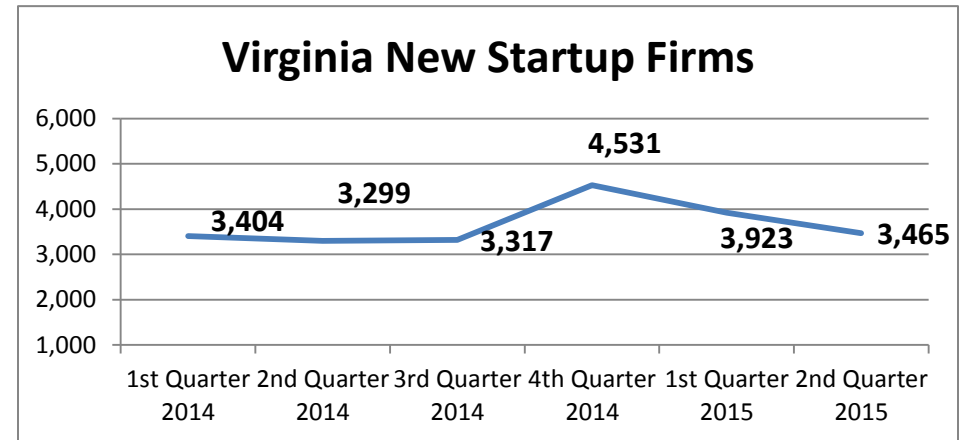
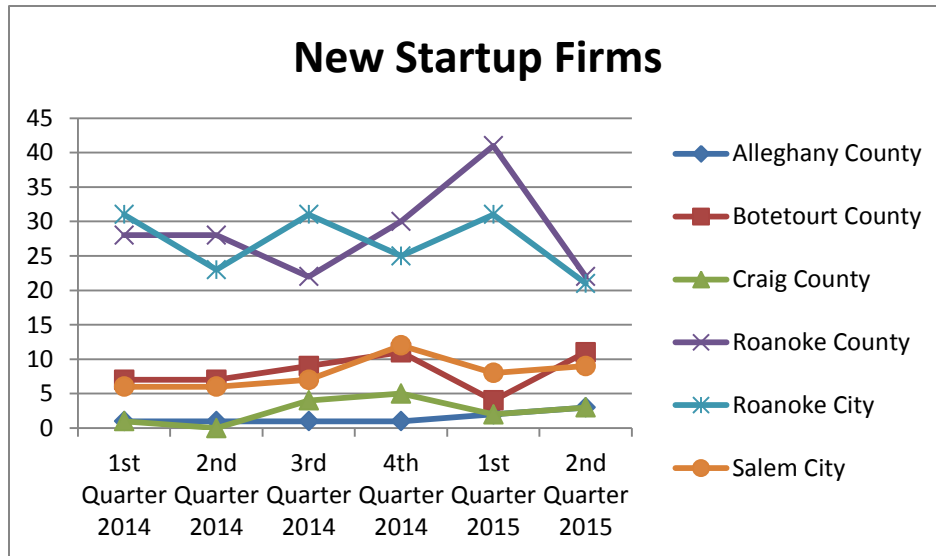
Insured Unemployment Claims were highest in the City of Roanoke. The age range of 45 to 54 years old was the highest reported age group for insured unemployment claims. These trends for the age groups are consistent with the Virginia age groups rates.

Insured Unemployment Claims: Unemployment insurance often only pays workers about half of what they were earning at their previous job to help encourage them to seek re-employment. The former employee often must continually prove that he or she has been actively searching for a job as a condition of continuing to receive unemployment insurance.

New Startup Firms

(<http://www.virginialmi.com>)

	1st Quarter 2014	2nd Quarter 2014	3rd Quarter 2014	4th Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015
Alleghany County	1	1	1	1	2	3
Botetourt County	7	7	9	11	4	11
Craig County	1	0	4	5	2	3
Roanoke County	31	23	31	25	31	21
Roanoke City	28	28	22	30	41	22
Salem City	6	6	7	12	8	9
Virginia	3,404	3,299	3,317	4,531	3,923	3,465



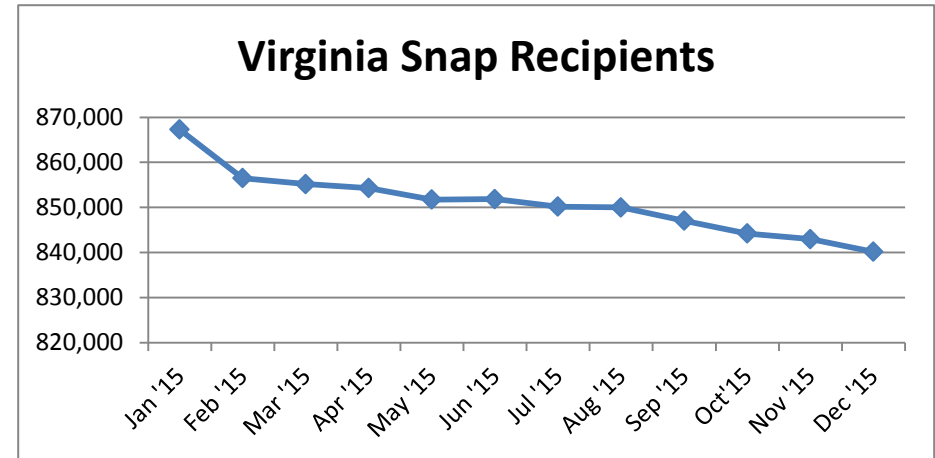
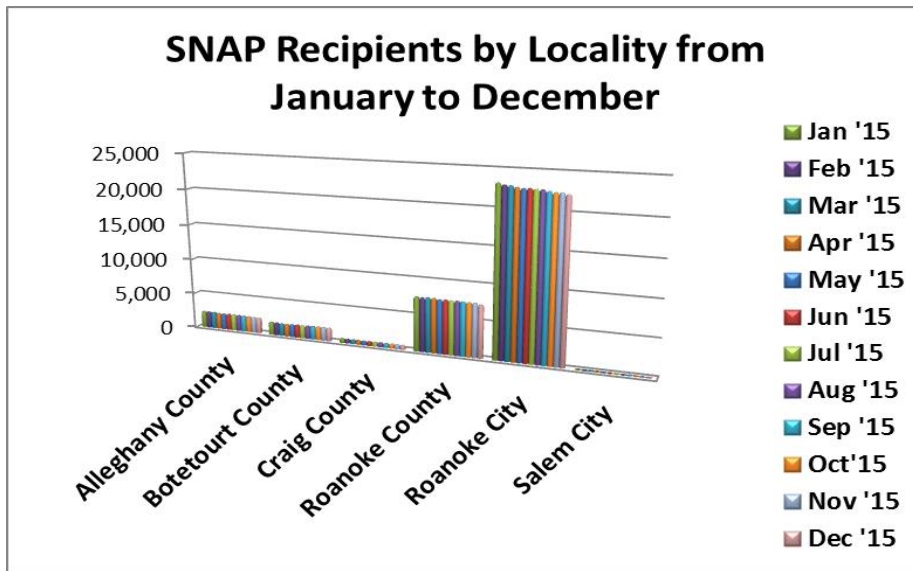
The localities of Roanoke City and Roanoke County have the highest reported rates of new startup firms from the 1st quarter of 2014 to the 2nd quarter of 2015. The rate of new startup firms was steady in the beginning of 2014 with the highest average reported in the 4th quarter of that year.

- The following criteria was used to define new startup firms:
- 1.) Setup and liability date both occurred during 3rd Quarter (July, August, September) 2015
 - 2.) Establishment had no predecessor UI Account Number
 - 3.) Private Ownership
 - 4.) Average employment is less than 250
 - 5.) For multi-unit establishments, the parent company must also meet the above criteria.

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Recipients

(<http://www.dss.virginia.gov>)

SNAP Recipients	Jan '15	Feb '15	Mar '15	Apr '15	May '15	Jun '15	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Oct '15	Nov '15	Dec '15
Alleghany County	2,333	2,331	2,342	2,288	2,245	2,279	2,285	2,280	2,268	2,254	2,236	2,241
Botetourt County	1,833	1,800	1,763	1,773	1,801	1,820	1,806	1,852	1,871	1,897	1,893	1,884
Craig County	594	553	596	593	588	588	604	600	606	615	610	602
Roanoke County	7,589	7,516	7,599	7,587	7,475	7,516	7,495	7,516	7,509	7,473	7,469	7,321
Roanoke City	23,228	23,000	22,955	22,786	22,680	22,745	22,695	22,668	22,518	22,410	22,443	22,253
Salem City	0	3	3	9	9	0	0	0	2	4	4	7
Virginia	867,297	856,500	855,200	854,306	851,735	851,860	850,187	850,011	847,063	844,204	842,957	840,152



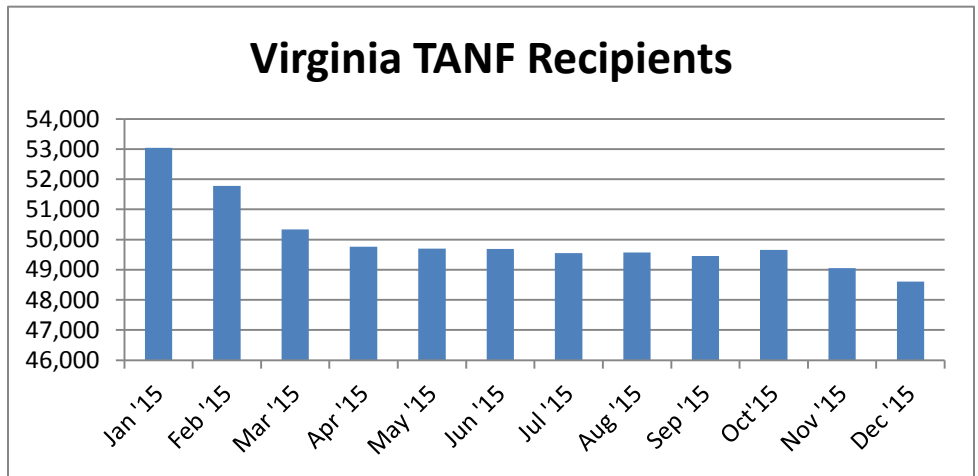
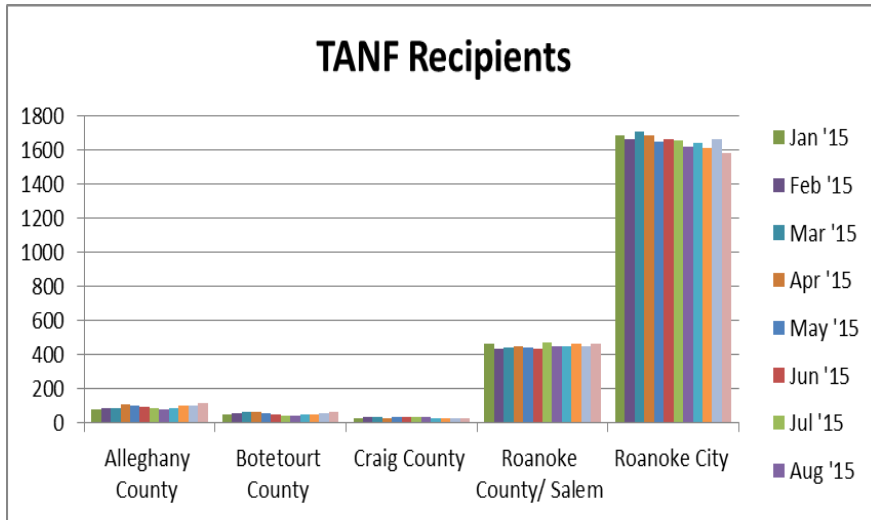
SNAP: a federal nutrition program that helps you stretch your food budget and buy healthy food. SNAP benefits can be used to purchase food at grocery stores, convenience stores, and some farmers' markets and co-op food programs.

The top 3 localities reporting number of persons receiving SNAP benefits in 2015 are Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Alleghany County. The City of Roanoke had trends similar to the state of Virginia. Both had a steady decrease in number of recipients throughout 2015.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Recipients

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov>

TANF Recipients	Jan '15	Feb '15	Mar '15	Apr '15	May '15	Jun '15	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Oct '15	Nov '15	Dec '15
Alleghany County	82	86	87	109	102	98	90	83	85	99	101	116
Botetourt County	54	59	63	63	57	50	47	47	54	53	60	62
Craig County	31	35	37	31	34	37	36	35	27	25	28	29
Roanoke County/ Salem	467	438	441	451	444	432	470	453	453	462	453	464
Roanoke City	1,683	1,665	1,705	1,688	1,651	1,662	1,658	1,621	1,643	1,612	1,665	1,582
Virginia	53,039	51,774	50,338	49,759	49,698	49,691	49,552	49,574	49,454	49,660	49,056	48,602



TANF recipients are the highest in the areas of Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Alleghany County for 2015. TANF recipients in Virginia had the highest numbers reported in January of 2015 with a decrease in the months of February through October.

The TANF program provides eligible families with a monthly cash payment to meet their basic needs. For a child to be eligible, must be:

- a) Under age 18, or if 18, will graduate from high school before age 19,
- b) Going to school regularly if between the ages of five and 18,
- c) Living with a parent or other relative,
- d) A U.S. citizen or an eligible immigrant

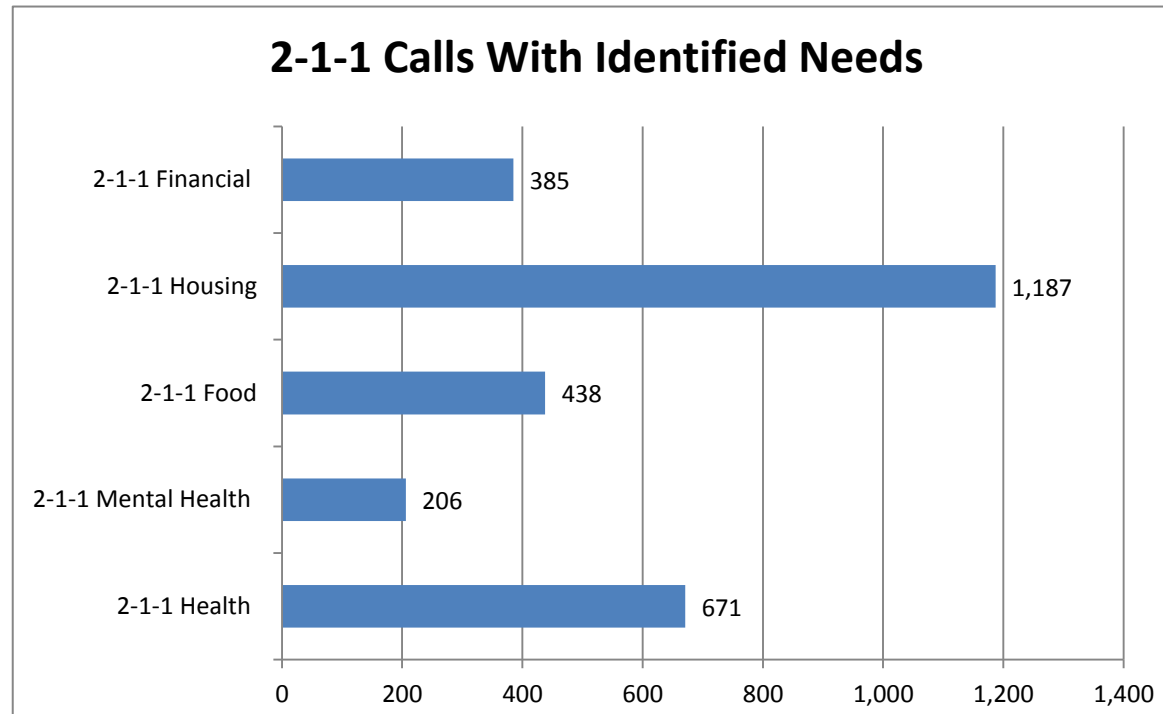
2-1-1 Calls and Identified Needs

211 Caller Needs	Jan 1, 2015 to Mar 31, 2015	Apr 1, 2015 to Jun 30, 2015	Jul 1, 2015 to Sep 31, 2015	Oct 1, 2015 to Dec 1, 2015
Alleghany County				
Income Support/Assistance	2	1	0	0
Housing	5	0	1	0
Food	0	4	0	2
Mental Health/Addictions	0	0	0	0
Healthcare	1	1	0	0
Botetourt County				
Income Support/Assistance	5	2	0	2
Housing	4	4	5	1
Food	4	4	2	3
Mental Health/Addictions	0	1	2	1
Healthcare	2	5	2	6
Craig County				
Income Support/Assistance	3	1	0	0
Housing	1	0	3	0
Food	0	0	1	0
Mental Health/Addictions	0	0	1	0
Healthcare	1	1	2	0
Roanoke County				
Income Support/Assistance	15	11	10	4
Housing	31	50	44	33
Food	8	20	21	26
Mental Health/Addictions	13	10	7	7
Healthcare	36	31	27	32
Roanoke City				
Income Support/Assistance	113	68	69	53
Housing	248	266	228	170
Food	83	61	74	100
Mental Health/Addictions	45	32	35	39
Healthcare	138	97	116	109
Salem				
Income Support/Assistance	12	5	3	6
Housing	21	29	21	22
Food	5	7	5	8
Mental Health/Addictions	3	4	2	4
Healthcare	21	11	18	14

2-1-1 Calls With Identified Needs (cont.)

<http://211.getcare.com>

(Alleghany County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Roanoke County, The City of Roanoke and Salem)



The largest number of calls placed to 2-1-1 during 2015 was in reference to housing needs. The second highest need is for Healthcare with Mental Health being the lowest.

Identified Need: The identified need focuses on the main reason why the caller is requesting 2-1-1 information. A caller may receive many referrals to local services. The locality is based on the caller's location.