

New River/Mount Rogers



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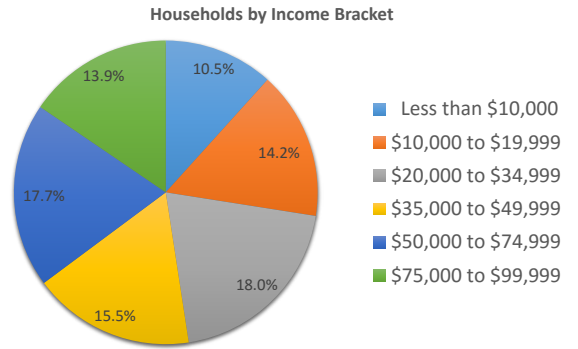
New River Mount Rogers Quarterly Workforce Report (2016 Q1)

Prepared by The Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development
April 2016

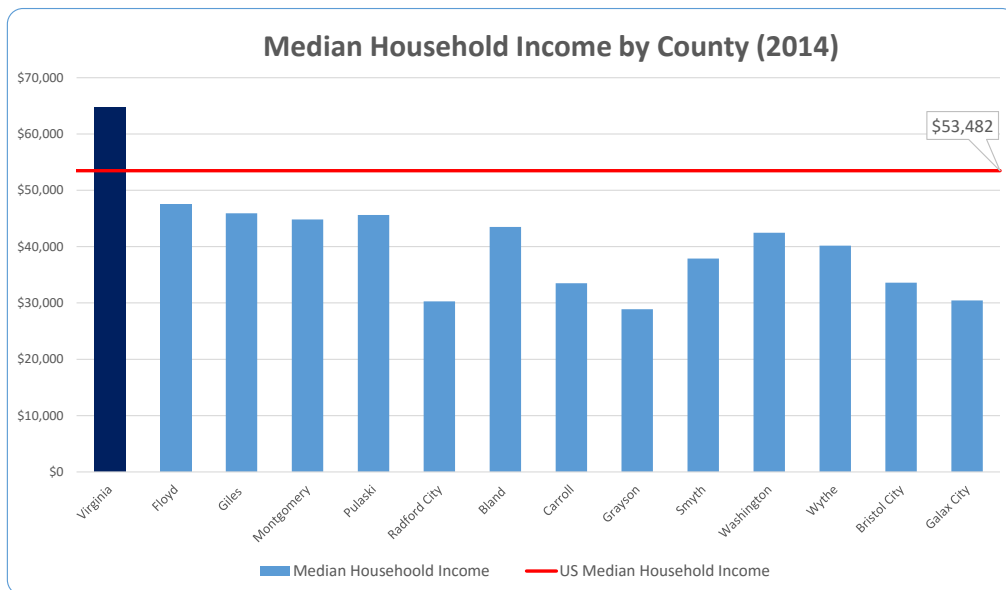
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The New River Mount Rogers Workforce Quarterly is produced by the Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development on behalf of the New River Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board (WDB). These reports analyze and present regional labor supply and demand data to inform the public of the evolving workforce landscape. Note the data presented in this report is the most up-to-date data available.

Total 2016 population in the New River Mount Rogers (NRMR) Workforce Area is approximately 373,701, showing a stable population count since 2010.



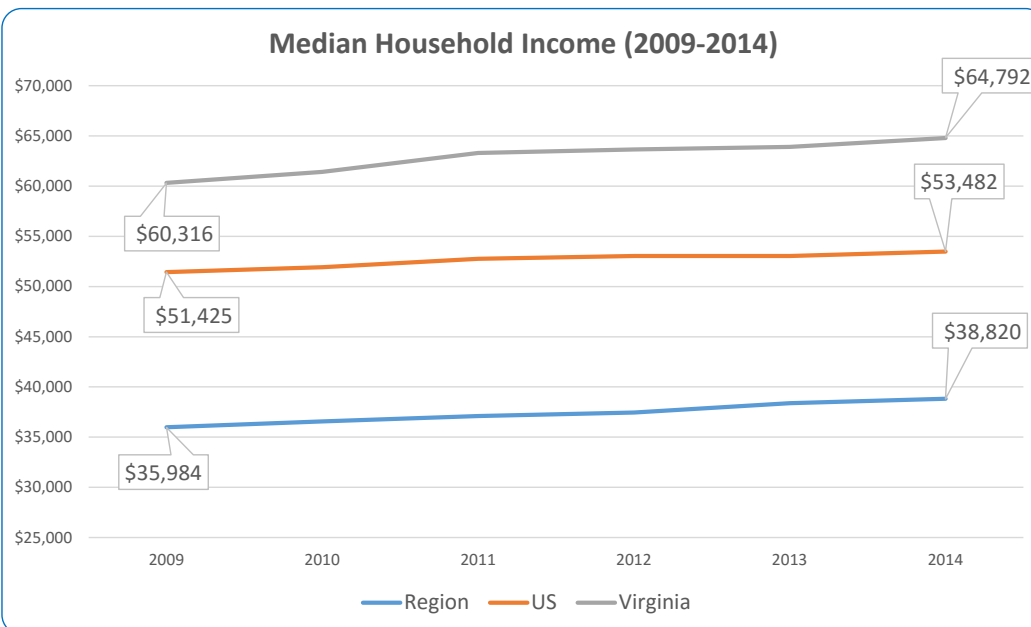
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2014 Five-Years Estimate



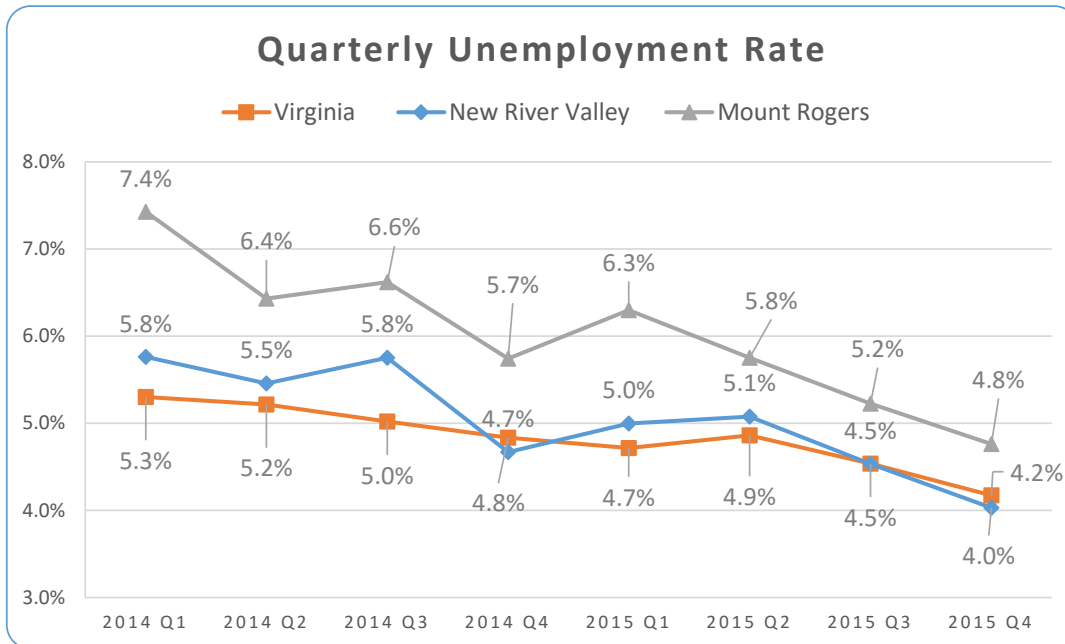
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2014 Five-Years Estimate

Median household income for the NRMR region has grown on par with the rest of Virginia since 2009. When seen separately, median income in the New River Valley has grown even faster than Virginia, 10.8% compared to 7.4%.

Meanwhile, the Mount Roger region median income has grown more slowly, at 3.5%. According to Bureau of Economic Analysis, per capita personal income for the region is approximate \$33,852 or 74% of the national average (2014).

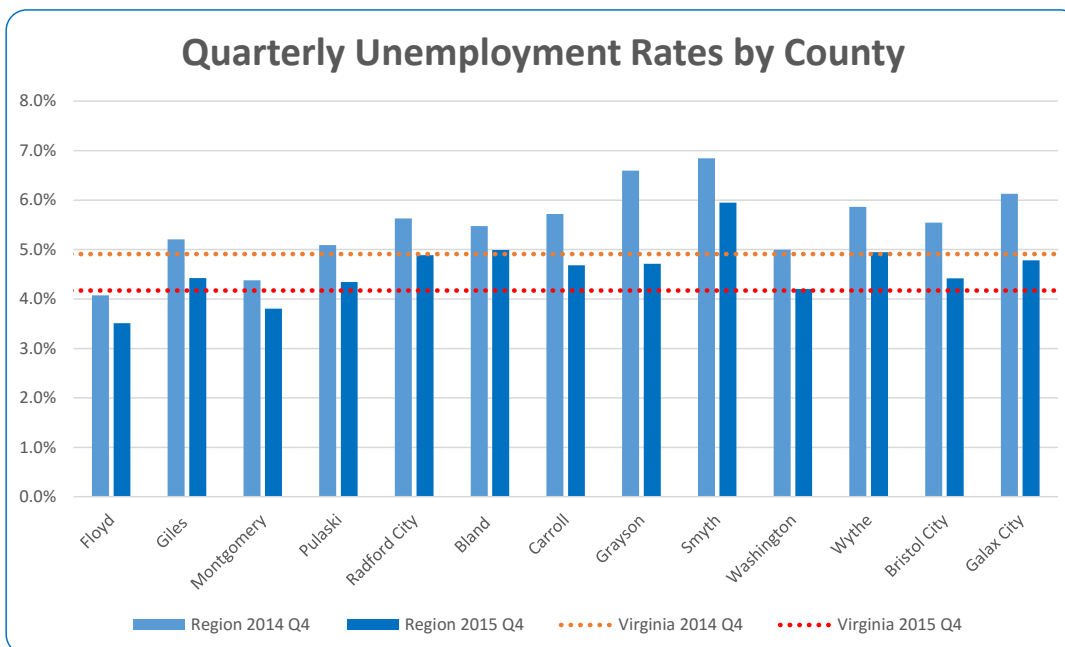


Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2014 Five-Years Estimate

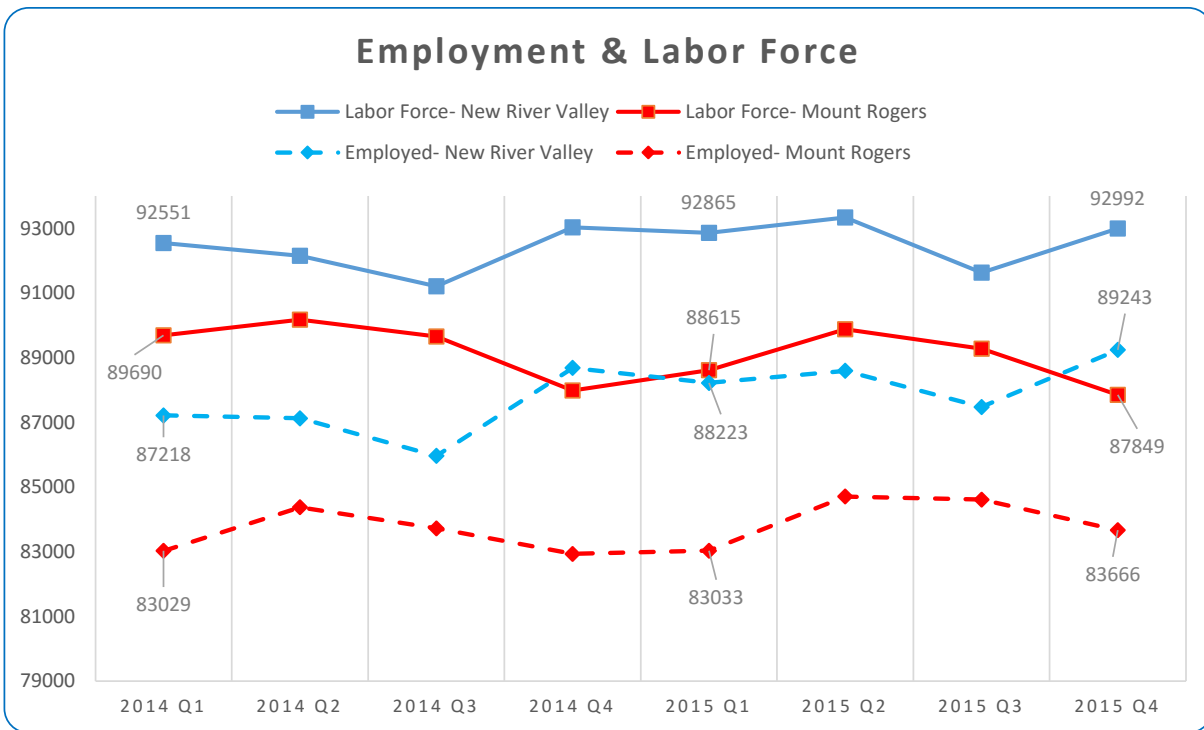


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Unemployment remains at or below the U.S. average. Most unemployed workers are from the government sector, manufacturing, have no previous work experience, or are from an unspecified industry. In December 2015, Volvo announced it would lay off 734 workers, adding to the 230 jobs lost by the Ball Corp closure in Bristol by May 2016. This past year has also shown potential employment gains. In 2015 until now, the region has had 21 official opening and expansion announcements predicting over 1,080 new jobs. These include firms like Utility Trailer Manufacturing in Smyth County, Qore Systems and Bristol Compressors Intl in Washington County, and Oak Hall Industries in Grayson County.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force comprises all people who are employed and all who are looking for employment. As this graph shows, employment is gradually increasing while number of people in the labor force are gradually decreasing. Such trends substantively decrease the unemployment rate. The decreasing labor force may be due to the growing number of retirees (baby boomers) and perhaps a small number of discouraged workers no longer looking for work.

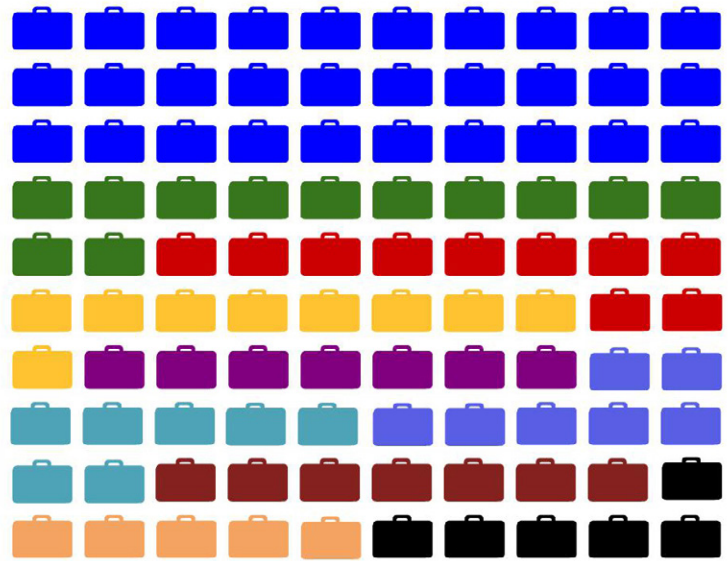
Top 10 Industries by Employment

Industry	2014 Jobs	2015 Jobs	Change in Jobs (2014-2015)	% Change	2015 Earnings Per Worker
Government	31,376	31,547	171	1%	\$54,215
Manufacturing	25,792	26,928	1,136	4%	\$59,540
Retail Trade	17,932	18,228	296	2%	\$25,887
Health Care and Social Assistance	14,750	15,149	398	3%	\$45,164
Accommodation and Food Services	13,636	13,674	38	0%	\$15,804
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	4,595	4,761	165	4%	\$27,728
Construction	4,581	4,744	163	4%	\$46,328
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,147	4,118	-29	-1%	\$64,214
Transportation and Warehousing	3,108	3,220	112	4%	\$42,624
Wholesale Trade	3,074	3,059	-16	-1%	\$49,238

Source: Emsi Analyst. 2015.3. Class of Worker.QCEW

Top 10 Manufacturing Occupations by Employment

-  Team Assemblers (2657 Employees, \$14.80/hr)
-  Machinists (1090 Employees, \$19.34/hr)
-  First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers (910 Employees, \$26.24/hr)
-  Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers (761 Employees, \$14.84/hr)
-  Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other (638 Employees, \$14.84 /hr)
-  Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (627 Employees, \$17.66/hr)
-  Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers (620 Employees, \$15.87/hr)
-  Maintenance and Repair Workers, General (601 Employees, \$15.89/hr)
-  Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers (513 Employees, \$10.89/hr)
-  Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators (511 Employees, \$20.20/hr)



Source: Emsi Analyst. 2015.3. Class of Worker.QCEW

Fastest Growing Manufacturing Occupations

Occupation	2014 Jobs	2015 Jobs	% Change	2014 Median Hourly Earnings
Team Assemblers	2,567	2,770	8%	\$14.80
Machinists	1,112	1,159	4%	\$19.34
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	642	687	7%	\$17.66
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	965	1,006	4%	\$26.24
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	662	694	5%	\$15.87
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	719	750	4%	\$15.11
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	323	346	7%	\$11.22
Helpers--Production Workers	441	463	5%	\$13.05
Production Workers, All Other	283	304	7%	\$12.49
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	278	296	7%	\$25.02

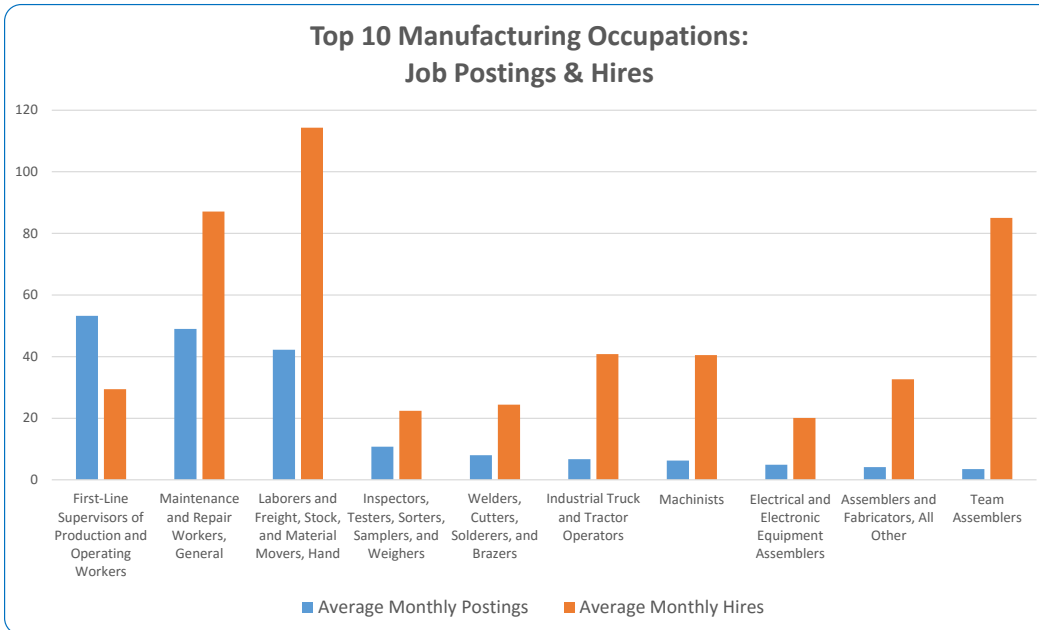
Source: Emsi Analyst. 2015.3. Class of Worker.QCEW

Manufacturing Establishments by County

County	# of Establishments
Floyd	23
Giles	15
Montgomery	62
Pulaski	42
Radford City	16
Bland	13
Carroll	22
Grayson	17
Smyth	38
Washington	72
Wythe	47
Bristol City	21
Galax City	16
Total	404

Source: Emsi Analyst. 2015.3. Class of Worker.QCEW

Since 2010, manufacturing jobs increased 14.3%, significantly faster than Virginia’s growth of 3.4%. Many of its top employing subsectors—including motor vehicles and parts, electrical equipment, furniture, plastics, resin and synthetic rubbers and fibers, and chemical products—show more than 30% job increases since 2010. Notably, their 5 highest growth occupations are mostly middle-skilled jobs: Automotive Technicians and Repairers, Bus and Truck Mechanics, Welders, and Machinists. Among the top manufacturing employers in the region today are Hutchinson Sealing Systems, Volvo Trucks, Utility Trailer Mfg, General Dynamics Armament, and Vaughn-Bassett Furniture.



Source: Emsi Analyst. 2015.3. Class of Worker.QCEW

By comparing average individual job postings (or number of openings advertised) with average monthly hires, we see that manufacturers do not heavily recruit for most position openings. This suggests a ready supply of qualified workers, and/or that employers likely hire those who have worked for them previously or locate prospects through word of mouth. Manufacturers experience the most difficulty in finding qualified First-Line Supervisors, Maintenance and Repair Workers, and Laborers and Movers.



Volvo, one of the region’s largest employers, has laid off more than 500 employees since February 2016. The NRMR WDB and others see this layoff as an opportunity to conceive of reemployment strategies and ways of better aligning industry needs with workforce development activities. Already the NRMR region has begun to identify skillsets of regional workers that can be transferred with minimal retraining to sister and first cousin occupations. Skills range from knowledge of safety and machinery to effective time management and responsibility. Skillsets for Team Assemblers, for instance, may be transferred to Solders and Brazers, or Packaging and Filling Machine Operators. Focusing on skills can help workforce partners operate more flexibly and adapt more easily to industry change. Skillsets for respective occupations are identified by talking with local employers and learning their needs. Thus, as one part of a regional strategy, the NRMR WDB is engaging companies to develop coalitions of industry employers and service organization to collaborate and better communicate their needs—whether they’re worker skillsets or other service needs.

For more information, contact Marty Holliday at marty.holliday@nrmrwib.org or 540-633-6764.

Professional Certification for Manufacturing

In addition to the manufacturing-related educational programs, the region's community colleges offer professional certifications such as ...

Virginia Highlands Community College

Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI)

- Manufacturing Technician (Level 1)
- Manufacturing Specialist

New River Community College

American Welding Society (AWS)

- Certified Welder
- Certified Welding Instructor
- Certified Welding Inspector
- Certified Welding Supervisor

National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc. (NIMS)

- Turning Operations: Turning Between Centers (Machining Level 1)
- Turning Operations: Turning Chucking Skills
- Manual Milling Skills 1
- Drill Press Skills 1
- Grinding Skills 1
- Job Planning, Benchwork and Layout
- Measurement, Materials and Safety

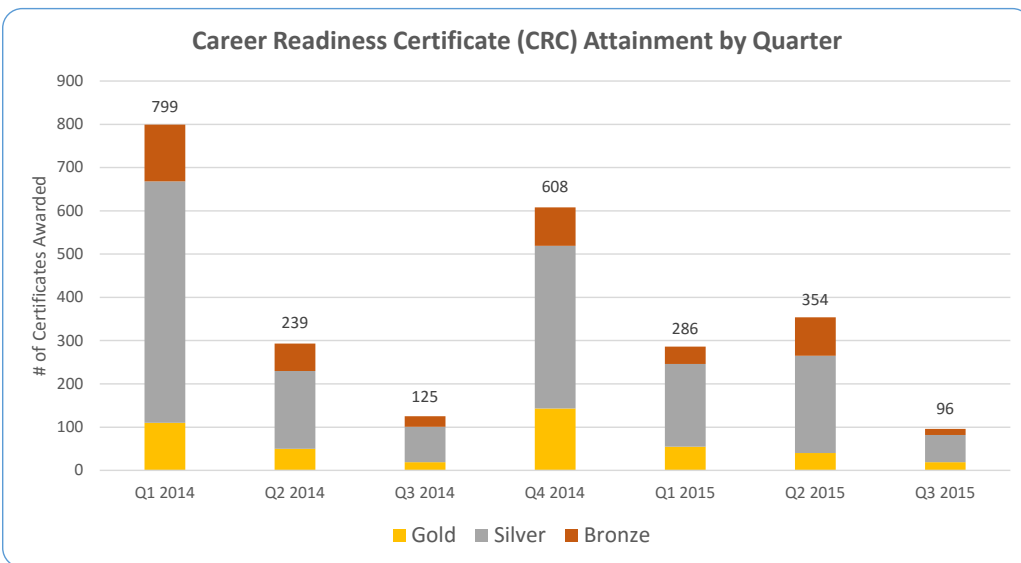
Wytheville Community College

American Welding Society (AWS)

- Gas Metal Arc Welding

Up and Coming Certifications

- Manufacturing Technology 1
- Siemens Level 1
- National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certifications



Career readiness certificates (CRCs) are administered through Virginia's Community College System (VCCS) to help employers select and hire well-trained employees. CRCs certify that a worker has employable skills in three work related areas: applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information. Bronze, Silver, and Gold CRCs signify that a recipient has skills for approximately 30%, 65%, and 90% of jobs, respectively.

Source: Virginia Community Colleges, CRC Data for Virginia

for More Information Please Contact:

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