



Rural Virginia's Incomes Are Falling Behind

- There are many ways to define rural. Three common ones are 1) areas outside the Census Bureau's Metropolitan Statistical Areas; 2) Areas with relatively low population; and 3) Areas with relative few service firms like repair businesses, CPAs, lawyers, copy centers, and so forth.
- By all three definitions, per capita incomes in rural areas of the Commonwealth are falling behind the urban areas at increasing rates.
- Average per capita income in urban counties is about \$10,000 higher than the rural counties.
- 87 percent of all the personal income growth in Virginia in 1998 occurred in counties that are within the metropolitan areas.
- According to the most recent State of the South report, nine out of every ten new jobs created in Virginia in the last 20 years has been in the Crescent from Northern Virginia through Richmond and into the Tidewater area.
- The changing income situation in rural Virginia is illustrated in “The Continuing Story of Rural Virginia” at www.rvpc.vt.edu