

## **CHAPTER 2: About the County**

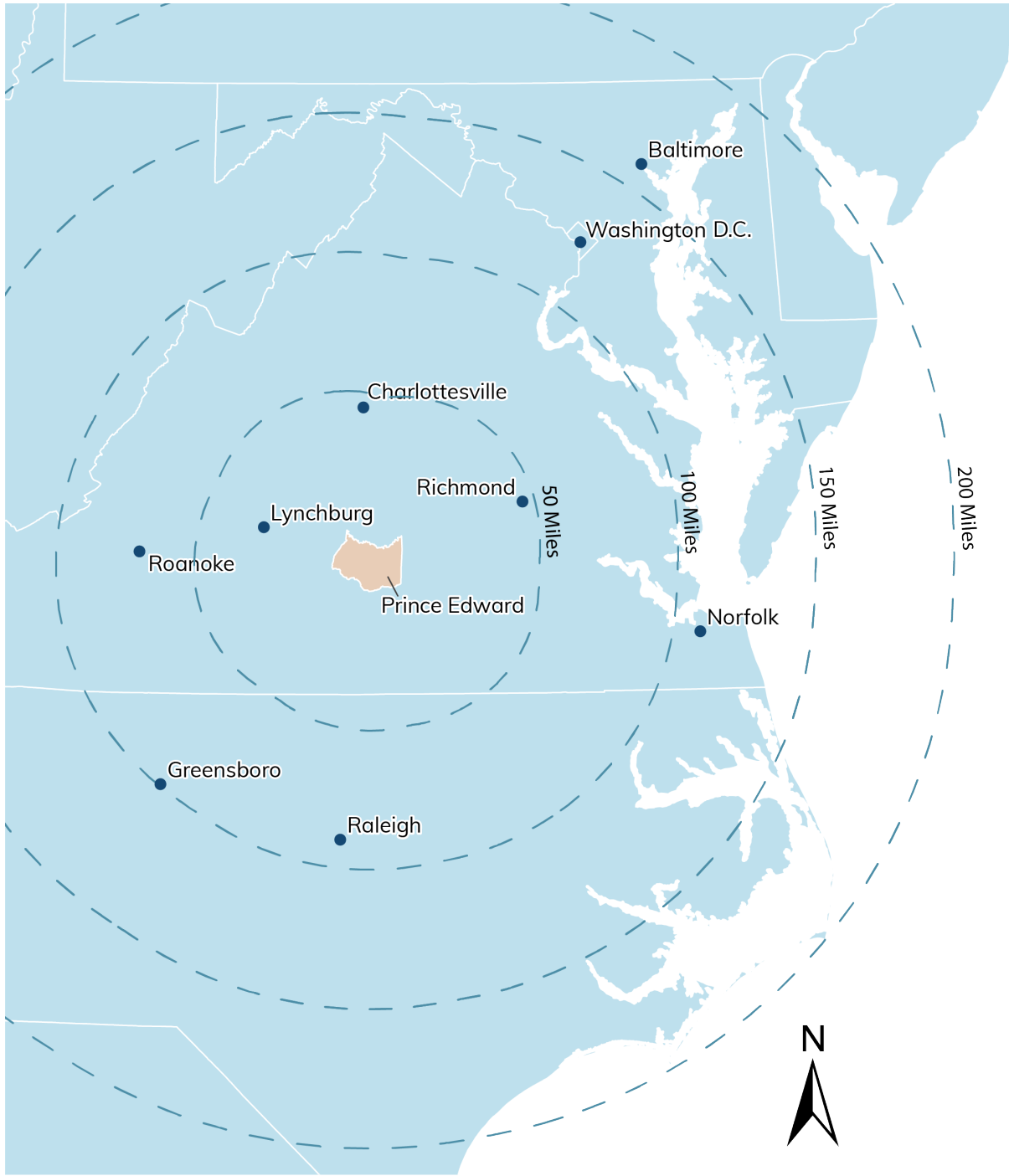


## ABOUT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Prince Edward County is centrally located between Roanoke and Lynchburg to the west, Charlottesville to the north, and Richmond to the northeast, with primary access provided by Routes 15, 360, and 460. Originally formed in 1754 from Amelia County, Prince Edward County was named for Prince Edward, second son of Frederick, Prince of Wales.

The County's history is rich and complex, marked by significant Civil War battles, a student-led civil rights movement, and challenges during the early days of desegregation. Agriculture and higher education, anchored by the continuous operation of Hampden-Sydney College since 1775 and Longwood University since 1839, form the backbone of the County's economy. However, the community faces common rural challenges, including population decreases, affordable housing shortages, inflation, and a lack of living wage jobs. County demographic data reveals disparities compared to state averages, highlighting the need for improvement in poverty rates, household income, education levels, and public health indicators.

Today's challenges will be met with the dedication to make tomorrow bright for all of our residents, businesses, and community organizations. To achieve this goal, today's assets and challenges must be understood with a clear vision and a plan to move forward. Several important questions guide Prince Edward County as we make our way forward. How do we provide for and prepare our children and youth to thrive and achieve their goals? How do we provide for our adult population so that they can learn new skills, gain better employment, improve their health and literacy, and thrive here in Prince Edward? How do we attract professionals and families to live in and serve our community as the next generation of long-term residents? This Plan, *PEC2045: Forward Together*, provides the roadmap to answer these questions.

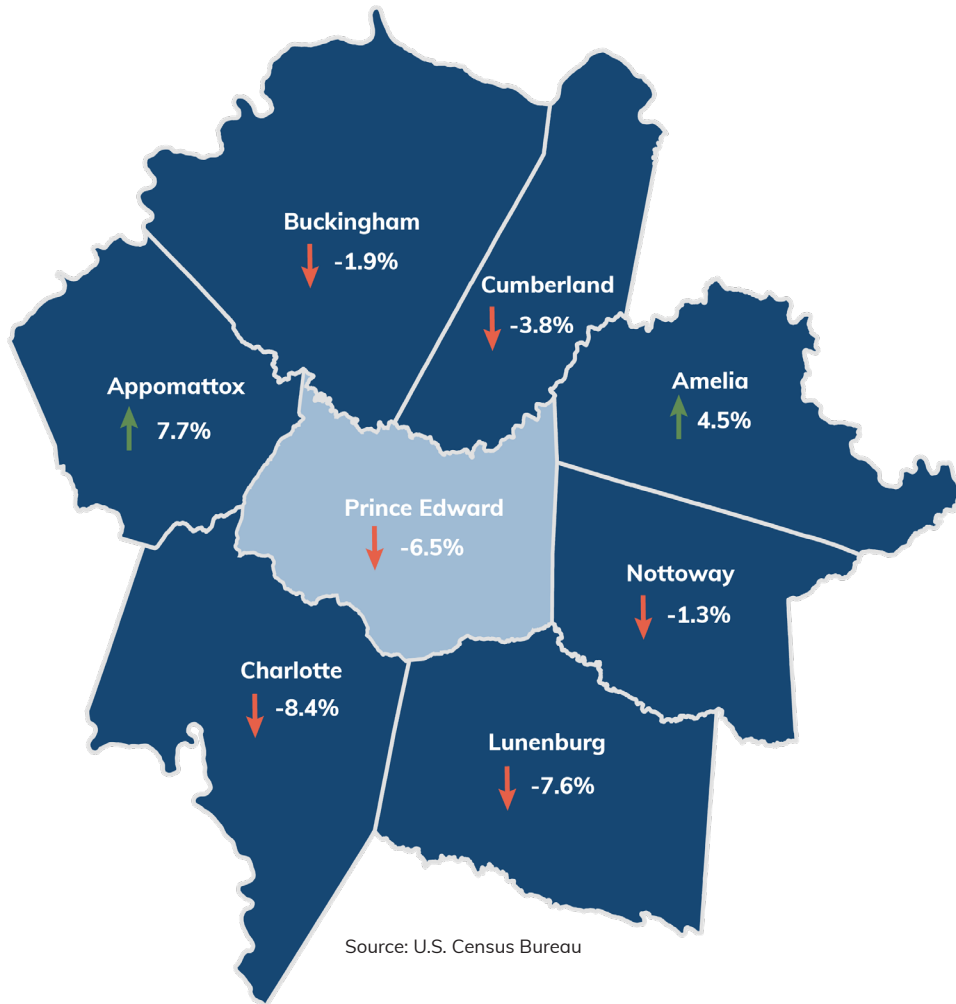


## GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION

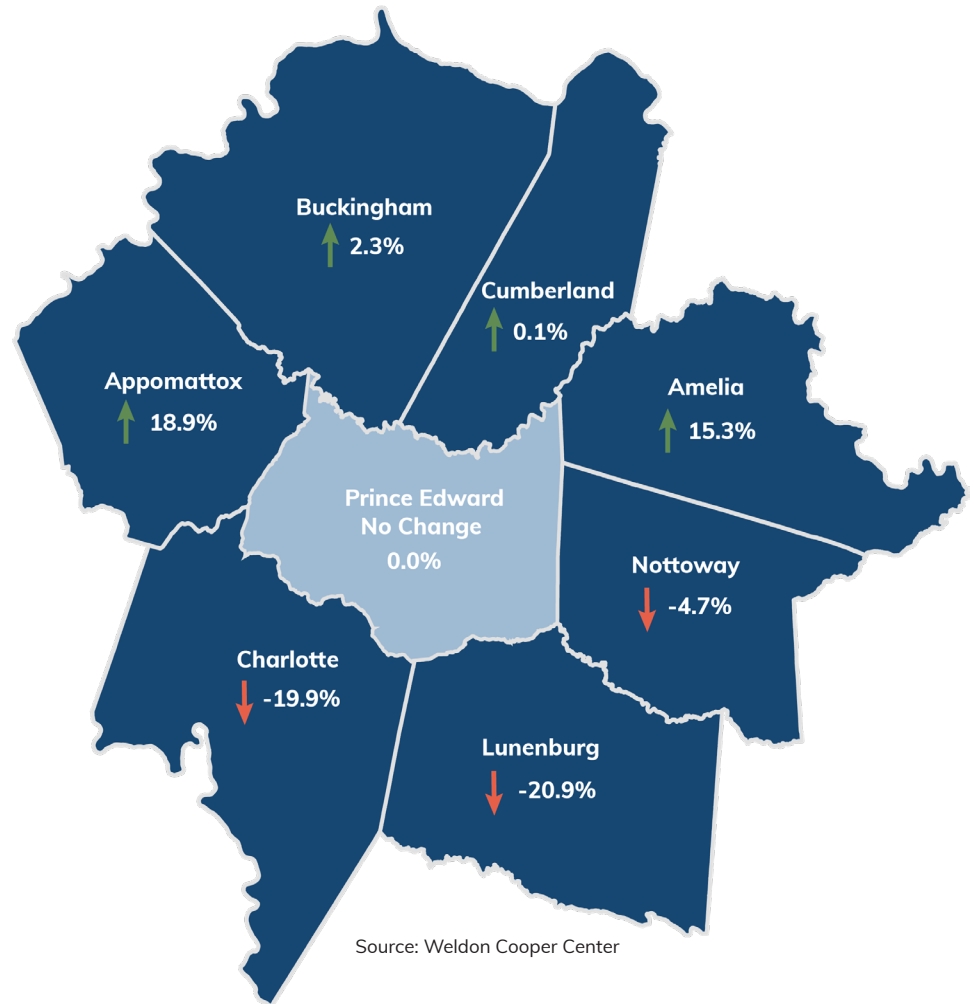
Prince Edward County is 354 square miles in area with an average density of 62 people per square mile. Centrally located in the heart of Virginia, Prince Edward County is 50 miles southeast of Lynchburg, 68 miles south of Charlottesville, 72 miles southwest of Richmond, and 146 miles northwest of Norfolk.

# REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

Regional Population Change, 2010-2020

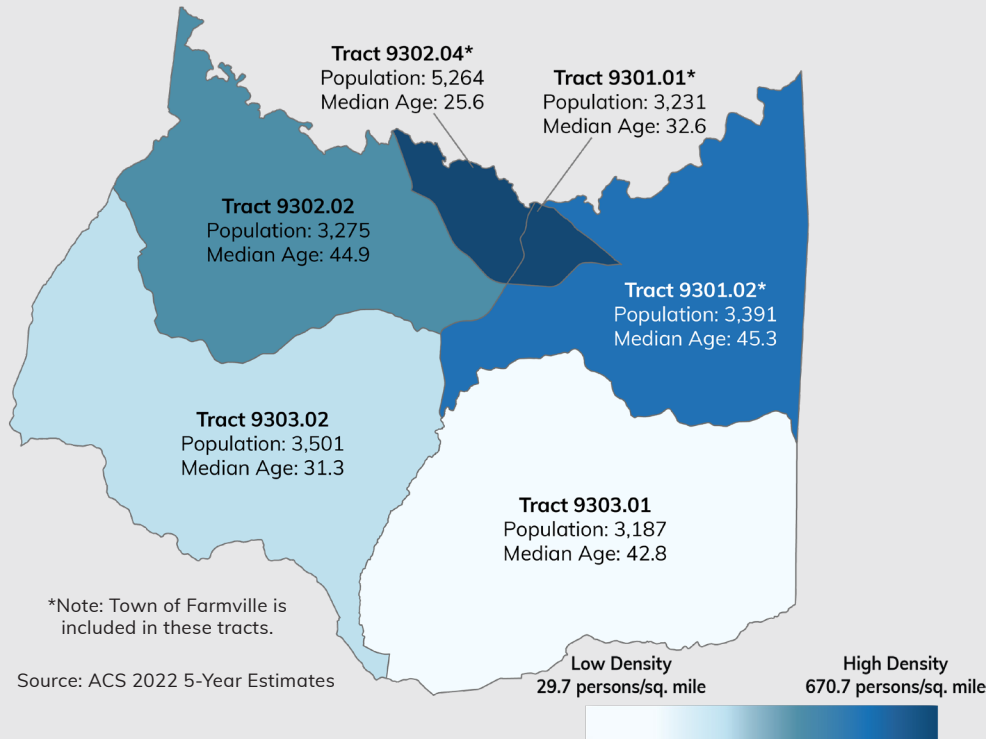


Regional Population Projections, 2020-2050

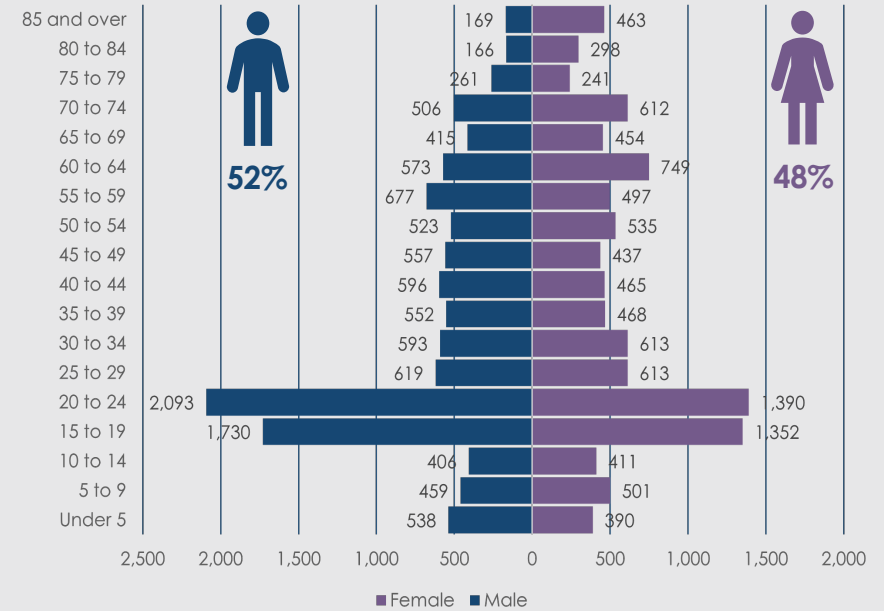


# PRINCE EDWARD AT A GLANCE

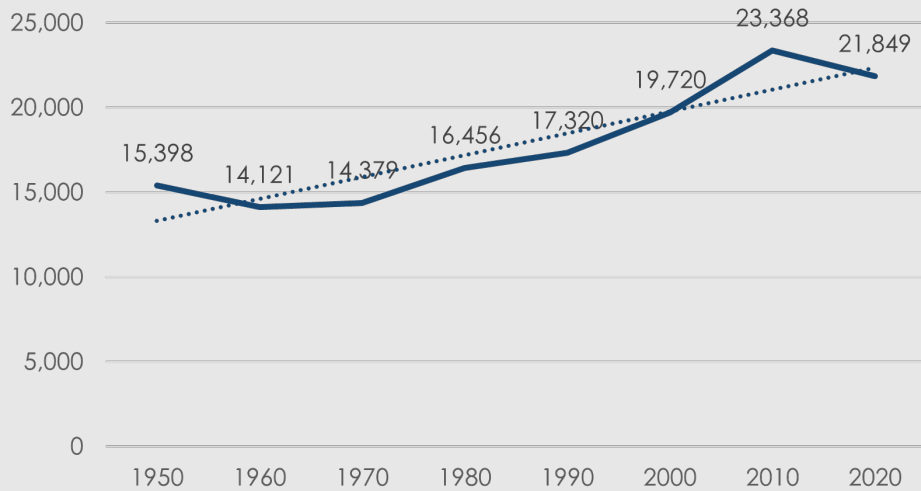
## PEOPLE AND POPULATION



## Age and Gender

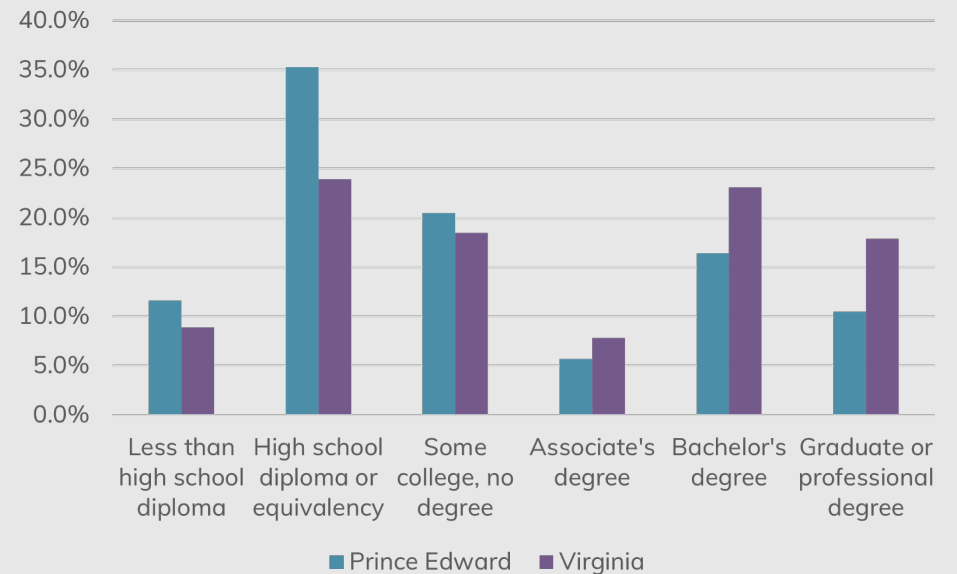


## Historic Population Trends



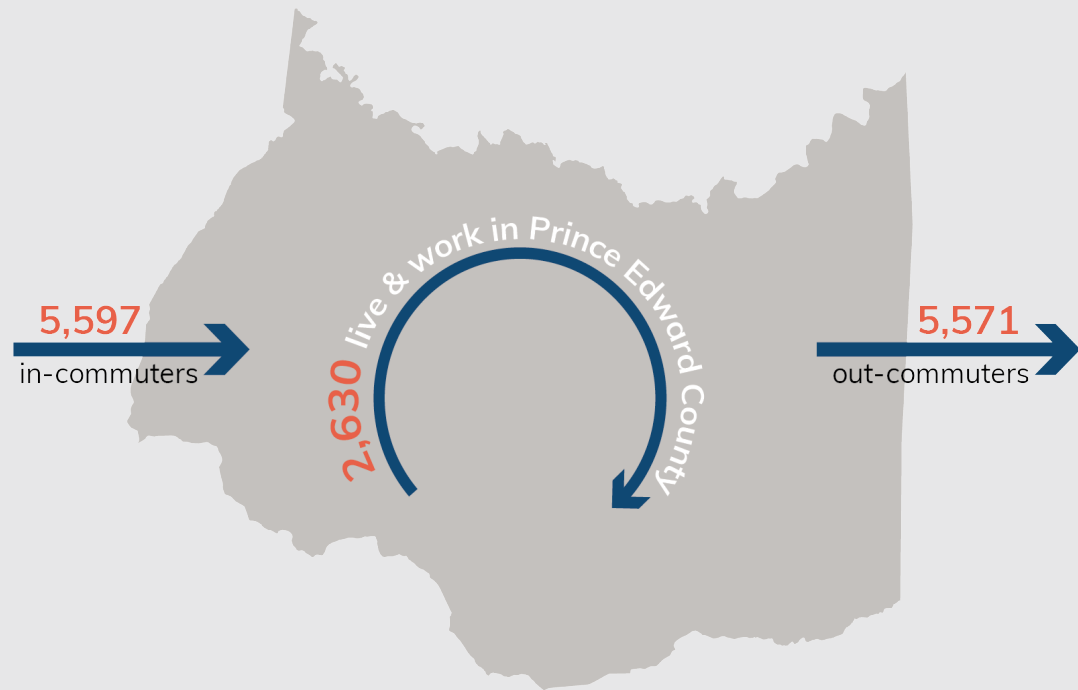
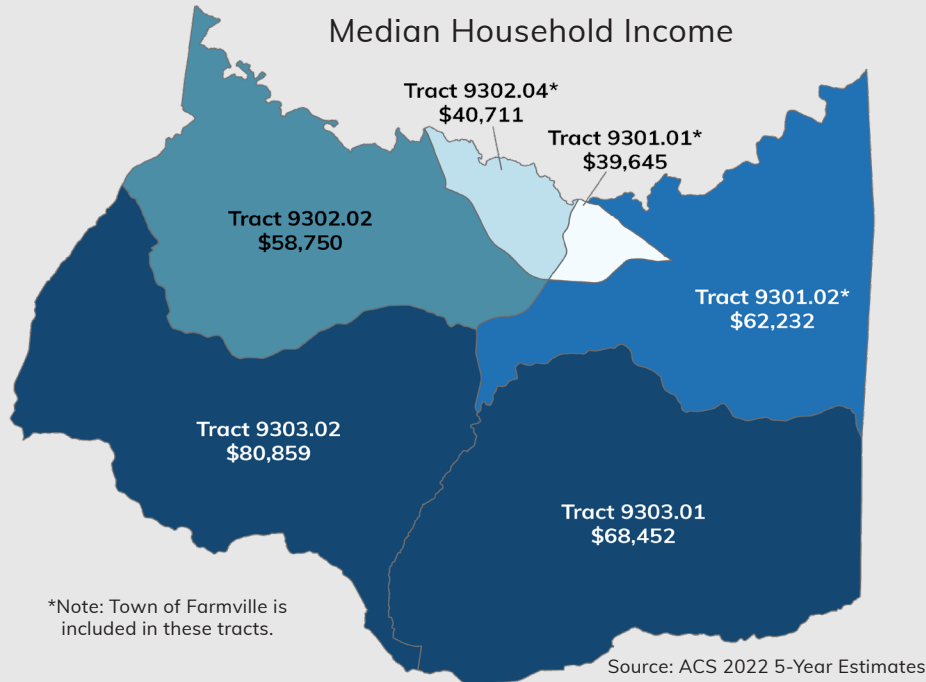
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Educational Attainment



Source: ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates

# ECONOMY



**46%**  
Workforce  
Participation Rate

**4.1%**  
Unemployment  
Rate

**Median Income**  
**\$57,304**  
Prince Edward County  
**\$87,249**  
Virginia

**18%**  
Residents Below  
Poverty Level

Source: ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates

## How Does Prince Edward get to work?

**73%**  
Drive alone

**14%**  
Carpool

**1%**  
Public transit

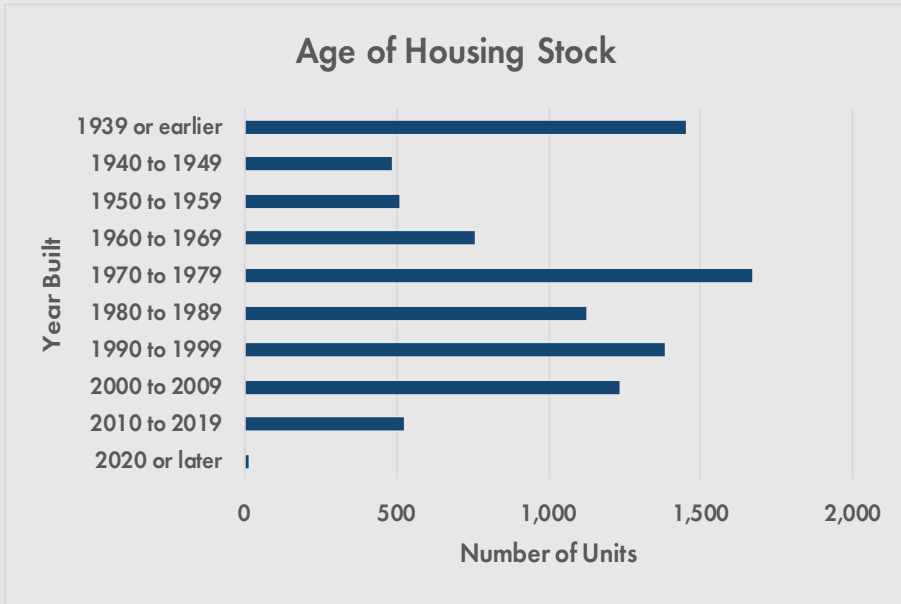
**4%**  
Walk

**6%**  
Work from home

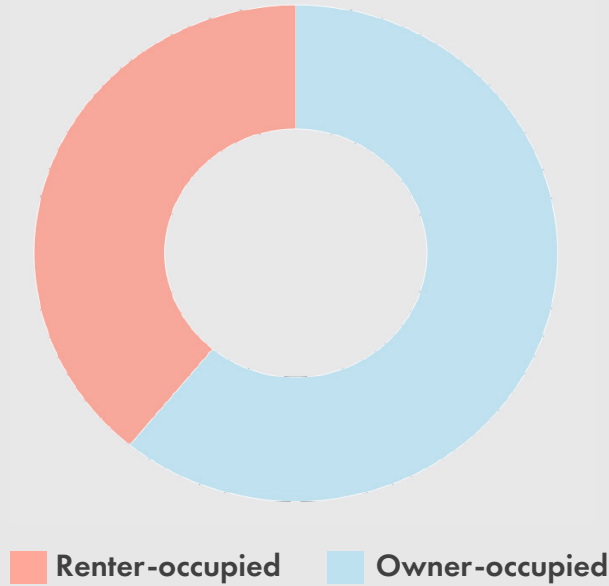
**25.1 minutes**  
Average Commute Time

# PRINCE EDWARD AT A GLANCE

## HOUSING



### Housing Tenure



**9,153**

**Housing Units**



**7,416**

**Households**



**2.25**

**People per Household**



**75.1%**

**Households with Broadband Access**



### Cost Burdened

**19.5%**

Owners

**51.7%**

Renters



### Gross Rent

**\$909**

Prince Edward County

**\$1,440**

Virginia



### Vacancy Rate

**1.5%**

Homeowners

**2.6%**

Rentals



### Median Home Value

**\$193,400**

Prince Edward County

**\$339,800**

Virginia

## NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



15

Properties on the National Register of Historic Places



14,902

Acres of public recreation areas



88° | 67°  
July Average High/Low (°F)

Source: NOAA



50° | 30°  
December Average High/Low (°F)

Source: NOAA



Land Cover Type	Acres	%
Forest	143,920	64%
Pasture	30,863	14%
Trees	11,805	5%
Harvested/Disturbed Forest	10,559	5%
Wetlands	9,897	4%
Turf/Grass	7,939	4%
Impervious Surface	4,319	2%
Cropland	2,719	1%
Open Water	2,358	1%
Shrub/Scrub	1,975	1%
Barren	93	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>226,447</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Virginia Geographic Information Network

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES



1  
Community Hospital

116  
Beds



7  
Convenience Centers



1  
Landfill



7  
Volunteer Fire Departments



## OUR VISION

*Prince Edward County is a progressive, diverse, and inclusive community committed to educational excellence, innovative economic development opportunities, diversified healthcare, and preservation of its natural assets for a high quality of life for all residents.*

## KEY THEMES



**Community  
Wellness**



**Academic  
Excellence**



**Livability**



**Prosperity**



**Environmental  
Stewardship**

# PLAN ELEMENTS AND GOALS

## Natural & Cultural Resources

Chapter

3

Hold for goal statement

## Community Facilities & Services

Chapter

6

Hold for goal statement

## Housing

Chapter

4

Hold for goal statement

## Transportation

Chapter

7

Hold for goal statement

## Economic Development

Chapter

5

Hold for goal statement

## Land Use

Chapter

8

Hold for goal statement