The Upper Cumberland region is home to a workforce, ample access to transportation corridors, low tax and regulatory environments, and a highly educated and skillful labor force ready to help industries grow.

### Regional Affiliates

The Upper Cumberland Development Corporation has a unique and effective network of regional and local partners, all committed to building a regional economic development strategy.

- **TVA Development Corporation**: TVA Development Corporation is a regional development arm of Tennessee Valley Authority responsible for continuing TVA’s role as a major employer and economic driver.
- **USDA Rural Development**: The USDA Rural Development (RD) is a creative loan and grant programs with existing employers.
- **Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (ECD)**: The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (ECD) is focused on strategies and methods designed to increase access to skilled and qualified workers.

### Regional Strategies

- **Tech-REDI**: The Technology Development Institute is a resource to govern-ment and community leaders interested in the STEM field.
- **Tennessee Technology Centers**: The Upper Cumberland Development Institute at TTU. TECH-REDI is a resource to govern-ment and community leaders interested in the STEM field.
- **Regional Entrepreneurial Development Institute (REDI)**: ECD  staff and other partners will work together to survey existing programs with existing employers.
- **Startup Tennessee**: Action Item #1: Recruit regional Infrastructure

### Regional Projects

- **LENOIR COUNTY**: The county is home to a work-force, ample access to transportation corridors, low tax and regulatory environments, and a highly educated and skillful labor force ready to help industries grow.
- **Wildflower**: The county is home to a work-force, ample access to transportation corridors, low tax and regulatory environments, and a highly educated and skillful labor force ready to help industries grow.

### Regional Partners

- **USDA Rural Development**: The USDA Rural Development (RD) is a creative loan and grant programs with existing employers.
- **TVA Development Corporation**: TVA Development Corporation is a regional development arm of Tennessee Valley Authority responsible for continuing TVA’s role as a major employer and economic driver.
- **Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (ECD)**: The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (ECD) is focused on strategies and methods designed to increase access to skilled and qualified workers.

### Regional Funding

- **Traditional Funding Guidelines**: Grants and direct access to technical assistance.
- **Short-Term Micro-Funding**: Considered to be one of the country’s foremost

### Regional Infrastructure

- **Chattanooga Metropolitan, Knoxville McGhee Tyson and Nashville International**
- **Riverport**

### Regional Population

- **Upper Cumberland**: 338,158
- **Cannon**: 13,801
- **Cumberland**: 56,053
- **DeKalb**: 18,723
- **Fentress**: 17,959
- **Jackson**: 11,638
- **Macon**: 22,248
- **Overton**: 22,083
- **Pickett**: 5,077
- **Putnam**: 72,321
- **Smith**: 19,166
- **Van Buren**: 5,548
- **Warren**: 39,839
- **White**: 25,841

### Regional Education

- **High School Graduation Rate**: Above 75%
- **Bachelor’s degree or Higher**: Above 13%

### Regional Labor Force

- **Available Labor**: 157,110
- **Unemployment Rate**: 9.2%
- **Average Private Sector Annual Income**: $30,421

### Regional Transportation

- **Nearest Public Riverport**: Chattanooga Metropolitan, Knoxville McGhee Tyson and Nashville International
- **Nearest Commercial Airport**: I-40

### Regional Accessibility

- **Direct Access to I-40**: 22 miles to access I-24
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 36 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 13 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 35 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 19 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 41 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 28 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 21 miles to access I-24
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 33 miles to access I-40
- **Direct Access to I-40**: 16 miles to access I-40

### Source

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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**UPPER CUMBERLAND TENNESSEE AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Upper Cumberland</td>
<td>338,158</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
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<td>39.2</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>10,070</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>$29,629</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17,959</td>
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<td>69.9%</td>
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<td>Van Buren</td>
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<td>2,420</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>39,839</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development