

I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION

A. County Profile

Roane County was created in 1801 from Knox County and Indian lands. The county is named in honor Archibald Roane (1760-1819), a 1796 Constitutional Convention delegate, Superior Court of Law and Equity judge, Supreme Court judge, and governor of Tennessee. Roane County lies in the great valley of the Tennessee River, is 354 square miles in land area, and has a population density of 1,308 persons per square mile. The 1998 estimated population is 49,447 and the projected year 2000 population is 50,007. Roane County is bordered by Morgan County to the North; McMinn and Meigs County to the South; Cumberland County to the West. The county is located 30 miles west of Knoxville and is easily accessible. Though the county is centrally located near major metropolitan areas and within 500 miles of 75% of major U. S. markets, it still contains a small town way of life.

Roane County within in the past 10 years has had 17 new plants locate in the county and the county has seen almost 30 expansions exceeding \$70,000,000 in capital investment. The county is very diverse in its tourist opportunities, it is laced with a network of rivers – the Tennessee, the Clinch, and the Emory. Watts Bar Lake, a 39,000-area reservoir of the Tennessee River, is the center of Roane’s water – rich recreation area. Also, Roane County has a rich heritage of Victorian and pre-Civil War Mansions listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With a healthy economy, a rich heritage and diverse recreation opportunities Roane County may be just what you are looking for.

Roane County Community Profile

Location

Region: East Tennessee
Square Miles: 354
Distance from Knoxville: 30 miles

Population (1995 est.)

County: 47,227
Male: 22,744
Female: 24,483
Minority: 3.8%

Cities/Towns

Harriman City
Kingston City, County Seat
Oak Ridge City (Part)
Oliver Springs Town (Part)
Rockwood City

Education

Roane County School District
Harriman City School System
Roane State Community College

Climate

Annual Average Temperature: 57°
Annual Average Precipitation: 49”
Elevation: 875’ above Sea Level

Natural Resources

Minerals: Iron Ore, Coal, Silica, Clay, Gravel
Timber: Hardwood, Softwood, Yellow Pine, Oak, Hickory, and mixed

Roane County Selected Economic Indicators

Labor Force Estimates

Total Labor Force: 29,133
Unemployment: 1,669 (5.1% of labor force)
Unemployment Rate: 5.8

Tax Structure

County Property Tax Rate per \$100: \$3.18

Per Capita Income (1994): \$17,525