



2024 ThinkTennessee State of Our Counties Dashboard

All Metrics: Polk County

Polk County – All Metrics



This report summarizes all 104 metrics for Polk County. All data was compiled by Think Tennessee from the sources listed.

Metric	Value in Polk County	County Rank	Value in Average TN County	Difference from Average	Description	Source
Economy						
Seniors Living in Poverty	9.0%	#26	11.0%	-2.0%	The percentage of adults aged 65 and older below the federal poverty line.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Women Living in Poverty	14.4%	#24	17.7%	-3.3%	The percentage of women below the federal poverty line.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Poverty	11.6%	#13	16.1%	-4.5%	The percentage of people who had incomes below the federal poverty line.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Unemployment	3.7%	#51	3.7%	0.0%	The percentage of the labor force who are unemployed.	U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Employment Growth	11.6%	#66	19.6%	-8.0%	The percent change in the count of jobs between 2010 and 2022, both full-time and part-time.	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Population Growth	0.4%	#78	1.2%	-0.8%	The percent change in population between 2021 and 2022.	U.S. Census Bureau, via Tennessee State Data Center
GDP Growth	12.6%	#4	3.6%	+9.0%	The percent change in GDP between 2021 and 2022.	U.S. Department of Commerce
Households Receiving Food Stamps	13.8%	#42	14.5%	-0.7%	The percentage of households receiving food stamps.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
African American Households Receiving Food Stamps	0.0%	#1	22.6%	-22.6%	The percentage of African American households receiving food stamps.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Hispanic/Latino Households Receiving Food Stamps	5.1%	#25	15.2%	-10.1%	The percentage of Hispanic or Latino households receiving food stamps.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Households with Seniors Receiving Food Stamps	11.0%	#45	11.7%	-0.7%	The percentage of households with at least one resident at or over the age of 60 receiving food stamps.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Cost of Living	\$70,610	#71	\$69,367	+\$1,234	The annual cost of living for a family budget for a two-parent, two-child family, including housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, taxes, and other necessities.	Economic Policy Institute
Median Household Income	\$49,446	#49	\$51,734	-\$2,288	The annual median income of all persons living in a household 15 years and older.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Average Wages & Salaries	\$39,195	#88	\$48,422	-\$9,227	The average annual wage of employees received from employers for the provision of labor services.	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Income Inequality	0.46	#68	0.4516	+0.01	The extent to which the distribution of income among individuals and households deviates from perfectly equal distribution (with 0 representing perfect equality)	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Labor Force Participation Gap	17.7%	#92	8.4%	+9.3%	The difference between men and women's labor force participation rates.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Overall Debt	34.0%	#47	33.6%	+0.4%	The share of people with a credit bureau record who have any debt in collections.	Urban Institute
Medical Debt in Collections	20.9%	#52	20.2%	+0.7%	The share of people with a credit bureau record who have medical debt in	Urban Institute

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collections.						
Student Loan Holders in Default	9.3%	#36	9.8%	-0.5%	The share of people with any student loan debt who have student loan debt in collections/default.	Urban Institute
Auto/Retail Loan Delinquency Rate	3.0%	#9	5.0%	-2.0%	The share of people with an auto loan or lease or a retail installment loan who are 60 or more days delinquent.	Urban Institute
Debt to Income Ratio	3.44	#83	2.36	+3.42	The amount of debt individuals have relative to their annual income.	US Federal Reserve
Wage Gap	82.1%	#30	78.4%	+3.7%	Women's median earnings as a percentage of men's median earnings.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Median Credit Score	675	#55	683	-8	The median credit score, out of a range of 300 to 850, of people with a credit bureau record.	Urban Institute
Bankruptcy Rate	353 per 100k	#85	228 per 100k	+125 per 100k	The rate of nonbusiness bankruptcy filings per 100,000 residents.	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Children						
Children in Poverty	14.4%	#14	22.0%	-7.6%	The share of persons under 18 below the federal poverty level.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Households with Children Receiving Food Stamps	24.8%	#53	23.9%	+0.9%	The percentage of households with children under 18 receiving food stamps.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Child Care Cost Burden	23.0%	#24	24.3%	-1.3%	Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Uninsured Children	6.8%	#76	4.9%	+1.9%	The percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Youth Obesity	41.9%	#39	42.5%	-0.6%	The prevalence of overweight or obese students in Tennessee public schools.	Tennessee Department of Education
Child Care Centers	7.26 per 1k	#73	9 for every 1k	-1.74 per 1k	The number of child care centers per 1,000 population under 5 years old.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Disconnected Youth	5.2%	#26	8.7%	-3.5%	The share of teens and young adults ages 16-19 who are neither working nor in school.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Children in Single-Parent Households	29.4%	#75	25.1%	+4.3%	The percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Children in Food-Insecure Households	10.4%	#18	13.5%	-3.1%	The percentage of children under age 18 living in households, where in the past year, there was an uncertainty of having, or an inability to acquire, enough food because of insufficient money or other resources.	Feeding America - Map the Meal Gap
Children Receiving Public Assistance	32.5%	#63	29.7%	+2.8%	The percentage of children 18 and under in households who recieved Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the previous 12 months.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Health						
Uninsured Rate	13.7%	#93	9.3%	+4.4%	The percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Black Uninsured Rate	78.3%	#91	15.2%	+63.1%	The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance who are African American.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Hispanic/Latino Uninsured Rate	47.0%	#89	24.8%	+22.2%	The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance who are of Hispanic or Latino origin.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Low-Income Uninsured	30.7%	#93	19.0%	+11.7%	The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance with incomes below the federal poverty level.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Women Uninsured Rate	13.5%	#91	9.0%	+4.5%	The percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance who are women.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Adult Obesity	38.0%	#43	37.6%	+0.4%	The percentage of the adult population (ages 18 and up) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Adults Who Smoke	25.1%	#48	24.6%	+0.5%	The percentage of adults who are current smokers.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Adults with Diabetes	11.3%	#28	11.7%	-0.4%	The percentage of adults aged 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings

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Fatal Drug Overdoses	NA per 100k		62 per 100k	+NA per 100k	The number of deaths due to drug injury of any intent (unintentional, suicide, homicide or undetermined) per 100,000 residents.	Tennessee Department of Health
Opioid Prescriptions	949 per 1k	#75	807 per 1k	+142 per 1k	The prescriptions rate per 1,000 residents who filled opioid for pain and benzodiazepine prescriptions.	Tennessee Department of Health
Mental Health Providers	8,888 to 1	#86	2,570 to 1	+6,318 to 1	There is 1 mental health provider for every X residents.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Primary Care Physicians	2,104 to 1	#30	3,360 to 1	-1,256 to 1	There is 1 primary care physician for every X residents.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Life Expectancy	73.7	#60	74 years	-0.3	The average number of years a person can expect to live.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Low Birthweight	9.0%	#37	8.8%	+0.2%	The percent of lives births with low birthweight (<2,500 grams).	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Teen Births	41 per 1k	#81	32 per 1k	+9 per 1k	The number of births per 1,000 population ages 15-19.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Poor Mental Health	20.1%	#54	19.7%	+0.4%	The percent of adults ages 18 and up who reported 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.	Center for Disease Control
Housing						
Housing Unit Growth	9.9%	#20	6.1%	+3.8%	The percent change in the total number of housing units from 2010 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Home Ownership Growth	2.7%	#26	1.3%	+1.4%	The percent change in the total number of owner-occupied households from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Renter Cost Burdened	42.7%	#43	43.5%	-0.8%	The percentage of occupied units paying rent whose gross rent as a percentage of household income is greater than or equal to 30 percent.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Home Ownership Cost Burdened	28.1%	#10	34.4%	-6.3%	The percentage of owner occupied housing units, both with and without a mortgage, whose monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income is greater than or equal to 30 percent.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Housing Cost Burdened	17.8%	#4	23.4%	-5.6%	The percentage of occupied housing units, both renters and homeowners, whose housing expenditures are greater than or equal to 30% of their household income.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Change in Median Rent	0.9%	#3	25.1%	-24.2%	The percent change in the cost of median rent from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Average Home Sale Price	\$254,568	#47	\$270,884	-\$16,316	The average home sale price for the total number of home sales in 2022.	Tennessee Housing Development Agency
New Home Sales	4.0%	#71	12.2%	-8.2%	The percentage of total home sales that are new homes.	Tennessee Housing Development Agency
Age of Housing Stock	74.3%	#36	74.6%	-0.3%	The percentage of a county's total housing stock built before 2000.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Affordability of a Two-Bedroom Rental Unit	\$37,240	#67	\$35,778	+\$1,462	The annual income necessary to afford a two-bedroom rental home at the Fair Market Rent.	National Low-Income Housing Coalition
Work Hours Needed to Afford a Two-Bedroom Rental Unit	98.78	#67	95 hours per week	+3.78	A renter earning the minimum wage in Tennessee (\$7.25) must work this many hours per week to afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.	National Low-Income Housing Coalition
Ownership Growth - African Americans	NA%		4.8%	+NA%	The percent change in housing units occupied by African American owners from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Ownership Growth - Hispanic/Latinos	81.5%	#26	93.9%	-12.4%	The percent change in housing units occupied by owners of Hispanic or Latino origin from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Renter Growth - African Americans	20.0%		28.6%	-8.6%	The percent change in rental housing units rented by African Americans from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Renter Growth - Hispanic/Latinos	56.8%		75.0%	-18.2%	The percent change in rental housing units rented by people of Hispanic or Latino origin from 2017 to 2022.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Criminal Justice & the Courts						

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Incarceration Rate	1,589 per 100k	#62	1434 per 100k	+155 per 100k	The incarceration rate per 100,000 residents ages 15 to 64.	Vera Institute for Justice
Crime Rate	66.59 per 1k	#82	46.49 per 1k	+19.69 per 1k	The number of overall crimes per 1,000 residents.	Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
Firearm Fatalities	24 per 100k	#77	18.6 per 100k	+5.4 per 100k	The number of deaths due to firearms per 100,000 residents.	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Prison Capacity	83.9%	#46	84.7%	-0.8%	Of the currently populated jail facilities, the percent of total bed capacity occupied by inmates.	Tennessee Department of Correction
Elections & Civic Life						
Voter Registration (Midterm Election - 2022)	101.1%	#3	84.8%	+16.3%	The reported percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote in 2022.	US Election Assistance Commission
Registered Voter Turnout (Midterm Election - 2022)	34.1%	#85	39.3%	-5.2%	The reported percentage of registered citizens voting in 2022.	US Election Assistance Commission
Eligible Voter Turnout (Midterm Election - 2022)	34.5%	#36	33.3%	+1.2%	The reported percentage of eligible, voting-age citizens voting in 2022.	US Election Assistance Commission
Voter Registration (Presidential Election - 2020)	104.2%	#3	84.5%	+19.7%	The reported percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote in 2022.	US Election Assistance Commission
Registered Voter Turnout (Presidential Election - 2020)	60.0%	#92	69.3%	-9.3%	The reported percentage of registered citizens voting in 2020.	US Election Assistance Commission
Eligible Voter Turnout (Presidential Election - 2020)	62.5%	#19	58.6%	+3.9%	The reported percentage of eligible, voting-age citizens voting in 2020.	US Election Assistance Commission
In-Person Election Day Voter Participation	66.5%	#4	53.5%	+13.0%	The percentage of voters who cast a ballot at a physical location on Election Day and whose ballot was counted.	US Election Assistance Commission
In-Person Early Voting Turnout	31.5%	#92	44.0%	-12.5%	The percentage of voters who cast a ballot at a physical polling location or election office before Election Day and whose ballot was counted.	US Election Assistance Commission
Provisional Ballots Rejected	3		20	-17	The number of provisional ballots cast in the 2022 election that were rejected.	US Election Assistance Commission
New Poll Workers	2.2%		9.5%	-7.3%	The percentage of poll workers who assisted with Election Day voting and/or early voting who were new.	US Election Assistance Commission
Election Day Polling Stations to Voters Ratio	1 to 358.89	#54	1 to 398	1 to -39.11	In the 2022 Election, there was 1 polling place for X Election Day voters.	US Election Assistance Commission
Nonprofit Giving	\$190	#50	\$392	-\$201.93	Contributions per capita to 501©3 organizations, educational non-profits, and foundations.	Urban Institute
Education						
Public School Teacher Salary	\$53,723	#48	\$54,790	-\$1,067	The average annual public school teacher salary.	Tennessee Education Association
High School Graduation Rate	89.4%	#27	86.7%	+2.7%	The percentage of students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.	Tennessee Department of Education
High School Graduation Rate - Black, Hispanic, or Native American Students	NA%		83.1%	+NA%	The percentage of Black, Hispanic, and Native American students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.	Tennessee Department of Education
High School Graduation Rate - Economically Disadvantaged Students	76.8%	#69	79.8%	-3.0%	The percentage of economically disadvantaged students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.	Tennessee Department of Education
High School Graduation Rate - Students with Disabilities	56.3%	#14	39.8%	+16.5%	The percentage of students with disabilities who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.	Tennessee Department of Education
Third Grade Reading Proficiency	36.8%	#57	38.2%	-1.4%	The percentage of students in a 3rd grade ELA who met or exceeded the reading requirements for the 2023 TCAP.	Tennessee Department of Education
Post High School Educational Attainment	25.2%	#42	26.5%	-1.3%	The percentage of the total population age 25 and up who has obtained an associate's degree or higher.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates

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Infrastructure & Mobility						
Average Commute to Work	30	#64	27.8 minutes	+2.2	The mean travel time to work, in minutes, of workers 16 years and over who did not work at home.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Residents Commuting to Work Outside the County of Residence	51.0%	#75	39.0%	+12.0%	The percentage of workers 16 years and over who worked outside their county of residence.	US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates
Fatal Crash Rate	0.37 per 1k	#78	0.28 per 1k	+0.09 per 1k	The crash rate per 1,000 residents that resulted in a fatality.	Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security
Injury Crash Rate	6.58 per 1k	#65	6.07 per 1k	+0.5 per 1k	The crash rate per 1,000 residents that resulted in an injury.	Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security
Deficient Bridges	8.9%	#87	4.4%	+4.5%	The share of bridges in poor or critical condition as a percentage of total inventory.	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Road Quality	26.7%	#46	31.7%	-5.0%	The share of pavement roughness in fair or poor condition as a percentage of total inventory.	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Broadband Access	16.5%	#61	15.4%	+1.1%	The percentage of people living in census blocks without access to fixed broadband services at 25/3 Mbps or higher	Federal Communications Commission
Gigabyte Internet Availability	1.9%	#75	33.8%	-31.9%	The percentage of people living in census blocks with access to download speeds of 1 gigabyte (GB) or higher.	Federal Communications Commission
Number of Internet Providers	1		1	0	The number of fixed broadband providers offering service to consumers at 25/3 Mbps or higher advertised speeds available to the 50th percentile of the population.	Federal Communications Commission
Rural Broadband Access	83.5%	#47	79.5%	+4.0%	The percentage of people living in rural census blocks with access to fixed broadband service at 25/3 Mbps or higher	Federal Communications Commission
Environment & Energy						
Renewable Energy Production	158.4	#8	52 MW	+106.4	The total net summer capacity in megawatts generated by renewable energy infrastructure.	US Energy Information Administration Atlas
Air Pollution	7.9	#66	7.7 PM2.5	+0.2	The average daily density amounty of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5)	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings
Flood Risk	17.8%	#78	13.0%	+4.8%	The percentage of properties likely at risk of floods occurring in the next thirty years from tides, rain, riverine and storm surges.	First Street Foundation
Fire Risk	37.8%	#81	13.9%	+23.9%	The percentage of properties likely at risk of wildfire exposure due to causes from fire fuels, weather, human influence, and fire movements.	First Street Foundation
Average Annual Energy Cost	\$1,983	#78	\$1,847	+\$136	The average annual household expenditure for energy, based on household monthly expenditures for electricity, gas, and other fuels.	US Department of Energy
Household Energy Burden	3.1%	#65	2.9%	+0.2%	The percentage of annual household income spent on energy-related expenditures.	US Department of Energy