

SPENCER VAN BUREN COUNTY

2025 COMMUNITY DATA PROFILE



QUICK FACTS

County Seat	Spencer
Year Incorporated	1846
Land Area in Square Miles (County)	273
Water Area in Square Miles (County)	1
Latitude	N35° 44.85'
Longitude	W85° 28.00'
Elevation	1,820'
Market Region	Cookeville
Distance From Nashville	94 miles
Distance From Chattanooga	60 miles
Time Zone	Central
City Website	www.cityofspencertn.com
County Website	www.vanburencountyttn.com
Additional Incorporated Cities within the County	None
Unincorporated Cities	None

POPULATION

	City	County
2020 (Census)	1,462	6,168
2024 Population	1,421	6,500
2024 Median Age	47.0	47.0
2029 Population Projection	1,391	6,755
Annual Growth Rate (2024-2029 Projected)	-0.43%	0.77%

Source: ESRI

CLIMATE

Annual Average Temperature	55.35° F
Average High Temperature	66.8° F
Average Low Temperature	43.9° F
Annual Average Precipitation	55.61"
Annual Average Snowfall	0"
Prevailing Winds	Southwest
Mean Length of Freeze-Free Period (days)	180-220

TAX STRUCTURE

LOCAL	City	County
Property Taxes (2024)		
• Rate per \$100 value	\$0.00	\$2.40
Ratio of Assessment		
• Residential and Farm	25%	25%
• Commercial/Industrial	40%	40%
• Personal (Equipment)	30%	30%
Total Local Assessment (2023)	\$0.00	\$167,538,248
Hotel-Motel Tax (Distribution: General Fund, City of Spencer)		
7%		
Motor Vehicle Wheel Tax Rate		\$0.00

Source: Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Property Assessments
Source: County Technical Assistance Service, UTIP

STATE

Sales Tax
• 4% tax on food and food ingredients
• 7% on all other tangible personal property unless specifically exempted
Local Sales Tax Rate
• 2.75%
Local and State Sales Tax Collected (FY2024)
• \$3,961,068
Income Tax
• Personal: Repealed beginning January 1, 2021
• Corporate Excise Tax: 6.5% of Tennessee taxable income
• Franchise Tax: .25% of the greater of the Tennessee portion of net worth or the book value of real and tangible property in Tennessee. The minimum tax is \$100
• Unemployment Tax: New employers is typically 2.7% (based on occupation) of first \$7,000

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

EDUCATION

District Name	Van Buren County
Type of Public School System	County
District Grades Served	Pre-K-12
Number of Schools	2
Number of Classroom Teachers	55
Student to Teacher Ratio	13:1
Additional Staff	14
Total Number of Students	712
Number of Private Schools	0
Total Number of Students	0
Number of Teachers	0

Number of High School Graduates (2024)	59
Graduation Rate	98.3%
Educational Attainment with a Degree (Adults Age 25+)	19.6%

Source: Tennessee Department of Education

REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (within 30 miles)

- Tennessee Technological Center McMinnville
- Motlow State Community College McMinnville
- Tennessee Tech University Cookeville
- TN College of Applied Technology Crossville

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

FastTrack Job Training Assistance Program Available	Yes
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Source: Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNING BODY

City	Mayor and Aldermen Meets last Thursday of Month at 5:30 p.m. Municipal Building
County	Mayor and County Commissioners Meets monthly at 6:00 p.m. Administration Building

Fire Department

- Full-time fire fighters in city 0
- City volunteers 12
- Full-time fire fighters in county 0
- County volunteers 70
- Fire stations in city 1
- City fire trucks 2
- Fire stations in county 7
- County fire trucks 26
(includes tankers, rescue, truck, etc.)

Law Enforcement

- Full-time police officers in city 2
- Full-time police officers in county & sheriff 9
- City patrol cars 3
- County patrol cars 13

	City	County
Insurance Rating	8	9
Zoning Regulations	Yes	No
Planning Commission	Yes	Yes
Industrial Development Corp.	No	No

TRANSPORTATION

AIR SERVICE

Nearest General Aviation	Upper Cumberland Regional (Sparta, TN)
Location Identifier	SRB
Distance from Spencer	28 miles
Runway Length	6,005 feet and 6,705 feet
Surface	Asphalt
Lighting	HIRL/PAPI
Fuel	100LL/Jet A
Repairs	Major
Storage	Hangar, Tie Down
Transportation	Taxi, Rental and Courtesy Car
Nearest Commercial Service	Nashville International Airport
Location Identifier	BNA
Distance from Spencer	100 miles

Nashville International Airport (BNA) serves approximately 17 million total passengers annually. BNA is currently served by 22 major carriers, including international carriers. BNA offers 585+ daily flights and provides nonstop air service to more than 101 destinations.

HIGHWAYS

U.S. Highways	30 & 111
State Highways	
Nearest Interstate	44 miles to I-24; 28 miles to I-40

COMMON CARRIERS

Air Freight Companies	None
Motor Freight Companies	None
Terminal Facilities	None
Bus Services	
Inter-City	No
Local	No
Carrier Service	No (Greyhound, Cookeville, TN)

RAILROADS SERVED BY

Caney Fork & Western and Nashville Eastern Railroad

NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS

River	Tennessee River
Channel Depth	11 feet
Nearest Port Facility	Chattanooga
Miles from Port	60

COMMUNICATIONS

Newspapers	The Tennessean Chattanooga Sparta Expositor
Telephone Companies	Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Coop.
Radio Stations	7 local
Television Networks	ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS
Cable Service Available	Yes
Channels	67
Provider	Ben Lomand Connect and Charter Communications
Internet Service Available	Yes
Provider	Ben Lomand Connect and Charter Communications
Fiber Optics Available	Yes
Provider	Ben Lomand Connect and Charter Communications

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Health Care

Doctors	2
Dentists	0
Hospitals	0
Beds	0
Clinics	2
Nursing Homes	1
Beds	70
Retirement Homes	0
Beds	0
Residential Care/ Assisted Living	0
Beds	0
Full Service Pharmacy	1

Religious Organizations

Protestant	24
Catholic	0
Jehovah's Witness	0
Seventh Day Adventist	1
Latter Day Saints	1
Other	

Day Care Centers

Day Care Centers	0
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Day Care Homes

Day Care Homes	0
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Recreation

Libraries	1
Parks	2
Golf Courses (Public & Private)	2
Swimming Pools (Public & Private)	3
Country Clubs	0
Theater	0
Bowling Alleys	0

Hotels & Motels

Rooms	19
Bed & Breakfasts	0

Largest Meeting Room

Capacity	300
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Restaurants

Restaurants	8
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Other

Fall Creek Falls (30 cabins; 85 rooms)	
Rocky River Cabins	32

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks:	Total Number of Institutions	1
	Total Number of Offices	1
	Deposits	69,000,000
Credit Unions:	Total Number of Branches	0
	Total Number of Offices	0
	Deposits	0.00
Countywide Combined Deposits		\$69,000,000

(Deposits for June 30, 2024)

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and National Credit Union Administration

INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Service	Location	Distance (Miles)
Tool & Die	McMinnville	
Heat Treating	Local	
Foundry	McMinnville	
Heavy Hardware	McMinnville	
Sheet Metal	McMinnville	
Lubricants	Sparta	
Welding Supplies		
Abrasives		
Other:		
Van Buren Co. Solid Waste	Local	
Sullivan's Disposal	Local	
BDS	Local	

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

2024 ANNUAL AVERAGES (AGE 16+)

Labor Force	County	Labor Market Area*
Population	5,281	150,602
Employed	2,678	78,198
Unemployed	140	3,584
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.4%

*Drive Time: 45 minute radius from Spencer (County seat)

Source: ESRI

2024 EMPLOYED POPULATION (AGE 16+) BY INDUSTRY

Agriculture/Mining	4.1%
Construction	6.8%
Manufacturing	24.3%
Wholesale Trade	1.3%
Retail Trade	8.4%
Transportation/Utilities	4.1%
Information	0.9%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	3.2%
Services	35.9%
Public Administration	10.8%

Source: ESRI

MANUFACTURING IN AREA (Annual Averages 2023)

Number of Units	10
Ann. Avg. Employment	155
Ann. Avg. Weekly Wage	\$1,069

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Year	2024
Amount	\$26,470

Source: ESRI

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Year	2024
Amount	\$48,955

Source: ESRI

AVERAGE HOME SALES

Year	2023
Number of Homes Sold	87
Average Cost	\$308,191
2024 Median Home Value	\$174,705

Source: Tennessee Housing Development Agency

RETAIL SALES

Year	2023
Amount	\$20,800,165

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

NATURAL RESOURCES

Minerals: Crushed stone

Timber: Oak and Hickory

AGRICULTURAL

Crops: Hay and tobacco

Livestock: Cattle

UTILITIES

WATER

Water Supplier	Warren County Utility District
Phone	931.946.7923
Source	Spencer impounded reservoir and Caney Fork River
Capacity	1,250,000 GPD
Current Consumption	400,000 GPD
Storage Capacity	1,000,000 Gallons

SEWER

Sewer Provider	Warren County Utility District
Phone	931.946.7923
Type of Treatment	
Capacity	250,000 GPD
Current Usage	
City Sewer Coverage	100%
Storm Sewer Coverage	N/A
Solid Waste Disposal Type	Contracted

ELECTRICITY

Source Company	Tennessee Valley Authority
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LOCAL POWER COMPANY (City and County)

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative

General Manager	Jason Cloud
Local Address	Post Office Box 432 430 Spring Street Spencer, Tennessee 38585
Phone	931.946.7575
Outages	931.946.7579
Website	www.caneyforkec.com

LOCAL GAS COMPANY (City and County)

Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District

Executive VP/CEO	Mike Davidson
Local Address	453 N. Spring Street Sparta, Tennessee 38583
Phone	931.836.2825
Website	www.mtng.com
Source Company	East TN Natural Gas Company
Fuel Oil Suppliers	
Suppliers of LP Gas	3

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURERS/DISTRIBUTION

Firm	Product or Service	Total Employees	Union	Phone Number
Acument Global Technologies	Fasteners & auto specialty parts	115	None	931.946.2291
Fall Creek Falls	State Park	113	None	423.881.5298
SunKote Plastic Coating Corp.	Plastic coating	15	None	931.946.3271

For information on industrial sites and available industrial buildings contact:

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MTIDA represents the Local Electric Power and Natural Gas Distributors located in the 40 county region of Middle Tennessee.

The information contained herein was obtained from sources we consider reliable. We can not be responsible, however, for errors or change in information.