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West Virginia
Business & Economic
REVIEW

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The Tortoise Economy
For now, the state grows, but falls further behind

The 1990s have drawn to a close, and the economic results for the state are mixed. There is ample evidence of improvement in the state economy during the decade compared to the 1980s. The state economy is now under power and moving forward. However, there is also plenty of room for concern about the state's economic performance, especially during the last half of the 1990s. In particular, as Table 1 shows, while the state economy expanded during the 1990s, it did so at a slower rate than the nation for nearly all major indicators.

Growing slower than the national economy need not be a fact of life in West Virginia. The state has grown faster than the national economy on occasion, for instance during the 1970s and the early 1990s. Gradual progress toward industrial diversification and continuing investment in infrastructure and education have improved the fundamental building blocks needed for economic growth, but the state remains vulnerable to economic difficulties arising from several large, high-paying industries. It still faces infrastructure challenges and the state's residents still score low in terms of educational attainment.

Data for 2000 so far reinforce concerns about slowing growth. Job growth so far this year has continued to be low, with employment generally about 1.0 percent above year-ago levels. Further, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has continued its downward slide, remaining below 6.0 percent during the January to August period. This, combined with sluggish job growth, suggests that the state is still losing residents to faster growing metropolitan areas in other states.

Goods-producing jobs have slowed their rate of descent during 2000, but growth in service producing sectors has decelerated, producing weak overall job gains. Coal mining employment has stabilized at just over 16,000 jobs, with similar stability in coal production so far this year (after declines during 1999). Construction employment has continued to drop, while manufacturing employment has been fairly stable so far this year (with some weakness in the nondurable manufacturing sector). Service-producing job gains have decelerated during 2000, with markedly slower gains in services. Business services job growth has slowed so far this year, as has growth in social services and membership organizations.

The outlook calls for the state economy to continue on its current, slow growth path, if the national economy avoids recession. As Table 1 shows, state job growth is forecast to average less than

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Review Wins National Award

The *West Virginia Business & Economic Review* has been recognized with the top award in the newsletter category by the Association for University Business and Economic Research, a professional association of business and economic research organizations.

Lynn Reinke, director of Communications at the WVU College of Business and Economics, accepted the award at the annual convention in Chicago in October.

"We're especially pleased to win this award because the *Review* has research articles written by faculty, staff and students," Reinke said. "We know our readers like what they read, so it's rewarding to be recognized by our peers at other research universities."

Table 1

W. Va. and U.S. Economic Growth
Annual Growth Rates

	1990-1999		1999-2001	
	W.Va.	U.S.	W.Va.	U.S.
Job Growth	1.6	1.8	0.7	1.5
Real Per Capita Income Growth	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.8
Population Growth	0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.0
Real Gross State Product Growth*	2.5	3.2	1.8	4.4
Unemployment Rate Change	-0.2	-0.2	-0.9	0.1

* U.S. growth rates are for real gross domestic product. Real gross state product for W.Va. for 1999 is forecast data.

1.0 percent per year during the 1999-2001 period. In addition, state growth is forecast to fall short of national gains for nearly all major macroeconomic indicators. Overall, the outlook calls for the state economy to continue to gradually improve, but to fall further behind the nation.

Job growth in West Virginia will be concentrated in service-producing sectors, including services; finance, insurance, and real estate; trade; and government. However, gains in these sectors are likely to be slower than in the past. Leading the pack in terms of job gains will be services sectors, like business services, travel-related services, and engineering and management services.

Goods-producing jobs are forecast to continue to fall, with losses concentrated in coal mining. Manufacturing job losses are expected to be less severe in the state than nationally. The forecast calls for lumber and wood products, transportation equipment (auto and aircraft parts), and printing and publishing to generate net job gains during the forecast. Chemical products, which is the state's largest manufacturing industry, is forecast to continue to lose jobs as the industry faces stiff competitive pressures.

Coal mining is forecast to continue losing jobs during the 2000-2005 period as the industry faces a myriad of competitive challenges, both from coal produced in the western U.S. and coal produced internationally. Further, environmental concerns related to water and air quality create additional uncertainty regarding the future performance of this industry in the state.

The WVU Bureau of Business and Economic Research is currently engaged in a study, as part of the overall programmatic Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by federal and state authorities, which will analyze the impact on the state economy of several different scenarios regarding proposed changes in mountaintop mining and valley fill practices. However, until the legal issues are resolved, the outlook for coal mining jobs will be unusually uncertain.

Further, restructuring and environmental regulations affecting electric power generation (for instance, the Kyoto Protocol) may also impact job growth in the utilities sector, while international competitive pressures in the steel industry may push the steel industry toward greater-than-expected job cutbacks during the forecast.

In addition to these homegrown risks to the baseline forecast, the risk of a national recession clouds the state's future. A national recession during the next few years would generate a state downturn as well, with overall job losses and a strong increase in unemployment. Further, with state growth already expected to be weak during the next two years, it is possible that a strong U.S. slowdown (but no recession) could tip the state into a recession.

Need more information? *The West Virginia Economic Outlook 2001* contains the nitty-gritty details regarding the state's current performance and the forecast for the next five years. Further, the publication examines regional economic performance and contains the latest county data on labor market conditions, personal income and poverty, and population. The publication includes an in-depth discussion of the state's economic performance compared to our surrounding states and the nation during the 1990s. Prefer a graphical look at the state economy? The *Outlook 2001*describes the state economy using easy-to-read charts for all the major indicators, and, finally, the publication also analyses West Virginia Economic Outlook forecast accuracy.

George W. Hammond, Ph.D.
Director, West Virginia Economic Outlook

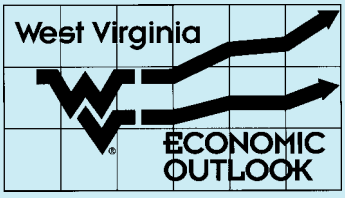
Miss the Outlook Conference?

Don't worry: you can still keep up with the latest analysis and forecasts for the state economy. The *West Virginia Economic Outlook 2001* is designed to give you an exact picture of where the state economy is at the moment and discusses the possibilities for the future.

This 50 page publication includes:

- Executive Summary
- West Virginia Outlook
- Risks
- West Virginia County Performance
- West Virginia in Perspective
- Charting the West Virginia Economy
- Evaluating West Virginia Economic Outlook Forecasts
- National Outlook
- Appendix

To purchase the *West Virginia Economic Outlook 2001* ($15 plus 6% tax for WVa. residents) please contact Linda Moore by phone at (304) 293-7534 or by email at linda.moore@mail.wvu.edu.



Size Matters: The Metropolitan Difference

Part of the reason that West Virginia consistently ranks near the bottom of the U.S. income distribution is that the state has a relatively large share of residents living in nonmetropolitan counties. Nationwide, metropolitan counties tend to have higher levels of income per capita and lower rates of unemployment than do nonmetropolitan counties. Further, the larger the metropolitan area, the higher the levels of per capita income we tend to observe. Part of this trend toward higher income levels in metropolitan areas can be attributed to higher costs of living generally found in those areas. However, this does not account for the entire difference. Metropolitan areas have some real economic advantages over their nonmetropolitan competitors.

A large part of the metropolitan advantage boils down to the benefits of large, densely populated areas. Such areas create the opportunity to capitalize on economies of scale in production, encourage greater variety in goods and services for sale, help to spread the risk of industry-specific economic problems, and create an atmosphere for the creative exchange of ideas among competitors and collaborators. Obviously, there are costs to being large as well, such as congestion effects (traffic congestion and other types of bottlenecks), increased crime, and other costs. However, the economic data reflect a clear trend toward higher income and lower unemployment rates in metropolitan areas.

As a practical matter, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines a metropolitan area as a group of counties that together form a cohesive economic unit around a city or urbanized area of a certain size. A metropolitan area is constructed around a central county (or counties) containing a city with at least 50,000 residents or an urbanized area (with at least 50,000 residents) with a total metropolitan population with at least 100,000 residents in 1990. Other counties are added to the metropolitan area if they have strong economic links with the central county (or counties). These economic links are often observed through commuting patterns.

The OMB currently defines several different kinds of metropolitan areas. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are relatively freestanding metropolitan areas that are typically surrounded by nonmetropolitan counties.

However, if a metropolitan area has more than one million residents, then Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) may be defined within it. A PMSA consists of a group of counties that are more tightly integrated with each other than they are with the other counties in the metropolitan area. Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas are contained within an associated Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA).

An example is useful here, so let's consider the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area. This is a huge multi-county region that has well over one million residents and so is a candidate for CMSA/PMSA status. The general idea is to determine whether the overall Washington/Baltimore area has two or more sub-regions that are very internally integrated. The OMB has concluded that the counties making up the Baltimore metropolitan area are very well integrated with one another (there is a lot of commuting between these counties). Similarly, the counties making up the Washington metropolitan area are also very tightly integrated with one another. In addition, the commuting (and other economic) links

Coming Soon: Micropolitans?

The current metropolitan area definitions and standards have evolved over time and will continue to gradually change. The OMB is currently re-evaluating the metropolitan area standards and has proposed major changes. These proposed changes are summarized on the web at the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Project (MASRP) site: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/masrp.html>. In the broadest possible terms, the proposed standards will revolve around Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs), which will include counties (or groups of counties) designated as metropolitan or micropolitan areas. Micropolitan areas need at least one core, urbanized area of between 10,000 and 49,999 residents, while metropolitan areas need at least one urbanized area with 50,000 residents or more.

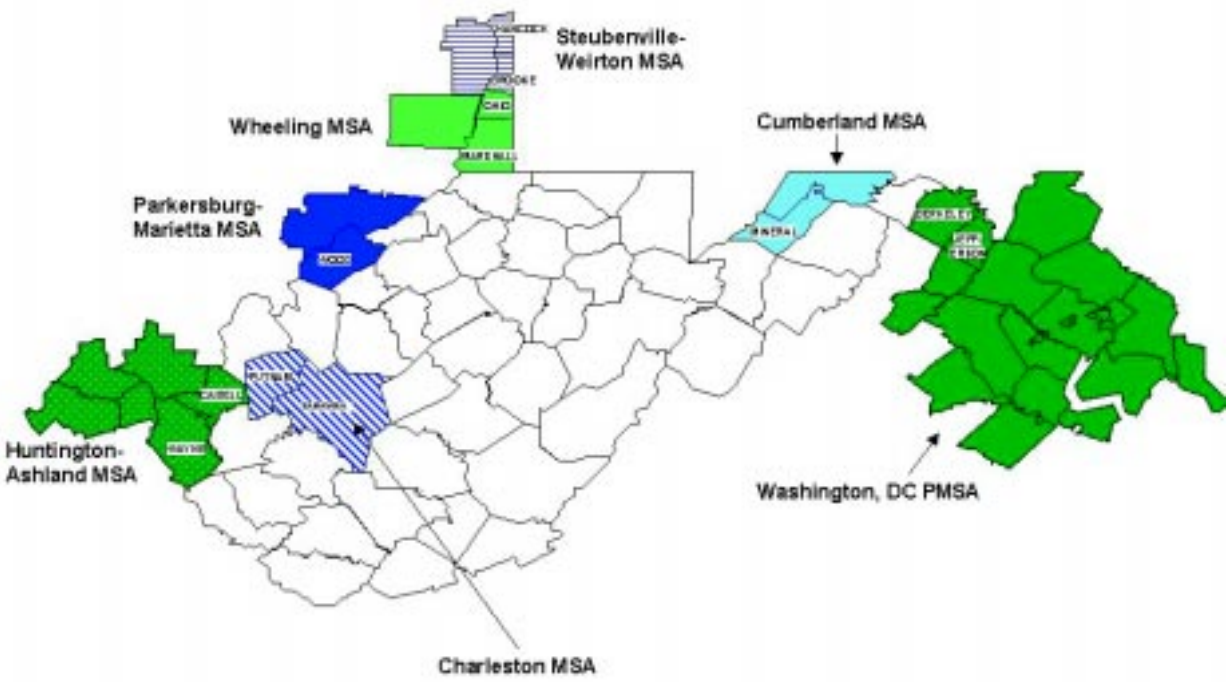
Under these standards, nearly all U.S. residents would live in either metropolitan or micropolitan areas. Outlying counties may be included in the micropolitan/metropolitan area if commuting connections are significant. Further, micropolitan/metropolitan areas with moderate commuting connections may be designated as Combined Areas (CAs). Components of Combined Areas will retain separate micropolitan/metropolitan designations.

Draft designations for metropolitan and micropolitan areas (based on data from the 1990 Census) are available on the web site. According to these draft results, West Virginia would still include all or part of seven metropolitan areas, with some differences in the counties included. In addition, there would now be six micropolitan areas: Morgantown (Monongalia County), Martinsburg (Berkeley County), Fairmont (Marion County), Clarksburg (Harrison and Doddridge counties), Bluefield (Mercer County), and Beckley (Raleigh County). Preliminary Combined Areas include Morgantown-Fairmont (Monongalia and Marion counties), a wider Washington area (including Hagerstown and Fredericksburg), and Parkersburg-Marietta (including Wood and Wirt counties in West Virginia and Washington County, Ohio).

Further, data from the 2000 Census may impact metropolitan/micropolitan area definitions. Keep in mind: at this point these are proposed changes to standards.

Figure 1

West Virginia's Metropolitan Counties



between the Baltimore metropolitan area and the Washington metropolitan area are not as strong as the respective internal links. Thus, we have the Baltimore PMSA and the Washington PMSA, which together make up the Washington-Baltimore CMSA.

Finally, New England County Metropolitan Statistical Areas (NECMAs) are defined for several states in New England. Traditionally, New England MSAs are defined by cities and towns, not counties. In order to convert these metropolitan areas to a county-based definition, the OMB created NECMAs.

Sizing Up WestVirginia's Metropolitan Statistical Areas

West Virginia currently includes one entire metropolitan statistical area (MSA), parts of five others, and two counties of one CMSA/PMSA. Figure 1 shows how these MSAs are distributed across the state. Four MSAs are located along the Ohio River, on the western border of the state. The Charleston MSA is in south central West Virginia, the Cumberland MSA is in northeastern West Virginia, and two of the three counties in the Eastern Panhandle are included in the Washington PMSA.

A glance at the map reinforces the fact that West Virginia contains just one entire MSA, and a relatively small one at that. Indeed, with full and part-time employment in 1998 of 158,000, the Charleston MSA ranked 167th out of 318 MSAs (and PMSAs) in the nation. For comparison, the largest metropolitan area in the nation in 1998 was the Los Angeles-Long Beach PMSA (with employment of 5.3 million) and the smallest was the Enid, Oklahoma MSA (with employment of 35,500).

In terms of employment in 1998, the Washington PMSA was by far the largest of the metropolitan areas with a component county in the state. The Huntington MSA (which extends into Kentucky and Ohio) is similar in size to Charleston, followed by Parkersburg, Wheeling, and Steubenville-Weirton. The smallest MSA with a component county in the state was the Cumberland MSA (which includes Allegany County, Maryland).

Table 1 summarizes the economic performance of West Virginia's metropolitan areas during the 1990s. As the table shows, most of the metropolitan areas in the state ranked below the median in terms of per capita personal income in 1998. The Washington PMSA registered the highest per capita personal income in 1998 (ranked 14th in the nation) of any metropolitan area in the state, followed by Charleston (ranked 126th), Parkersburg (ranked 238th), Wheeling (ranked 270th), Steubenville-Weirton (ranked 295th), Huntington (ranked 299th), and Cumberland (ranked 300th).

While metropolitan areas located in the state have relatively low levels of per capita personal income compared to metropolitan areas in other states, growth has been closer to the national average. In fact, per capita personal income growth in the Charleston MSA exceeded both the state and national average during the 1990-1998 period.

Charleston was also the fastest growing metropolitan area in the state in terms of full and part-time employment, recording an average annual growth rate of 2.1 percent per year. Employment growth in Charleston was also faster than the comparable state and national rates during the 1990-1998 period.

The Washington PMSA had by far the lowest unemployment rate of any metropolitan area with a component county in the state in 1999 (2.6 percent). This was far below the state (6.6 percent) and

national averages (4.2 percent). Charleston recorded the next lowest rate (4.7 percent), followed by Wheeling, Parkersburg, Steubenville-Weirton, Huntington, and Cumberland.

Population growth in West Virginia's metropolitan areas has been flat during the 1990s, with Cumberland, Steubenville-Weirton, and Wheeling posting outright population losses, according to preliminary estimates. The Washington PMSA was the only metropolitan area with a component county in the state to post population gains during the 1990s, and those gains have come at a faster rate than nationally.

Metropolitan vs. Nonmetropolitan West Virginia Counties

Metropolitan statistical areas often cross state boundaries. Indeed, all but one of West Virginia's metropolitan areas contains at least one out-of-state county. Table 1 also contains data for West Virginia (P)MSA component counties and compares that data to West Virginia counties that are not currently part of metropolitan areas. As the table shows, per capita personal income for West Virginia counties that are part of metropolitan areas far exceeds that for counties that are not part of metropolitan areas. In fact, the income gap in 1998 between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties in the state was 22.5 percent (using metropolitan per capita income as the base). A similar pattern holds nationally, but the gap between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties is even larger (at 29.1 percent in 1998).

Thus, part of the reason that West Virginia consistently ranks near the bottom of the U.S. income distribution is that the state has a relatively large share of residents living in nonmetropolitan counties, which tend to be poorer than metropolitan counties. Indeed, in 1998, 58 percent of West Virginia's residents lived in nonmetropolitan counties, compared to just 20 percent nationally.

But that is not the entire story, because per capita personal income in West Virginia's nonmetropolitan counties ($18,002 in 1998) was also well below the national average for nonmetropolitan counties ($20,478). West Virginia's nonmetropolitan counties are relatively poor even when compared to nonmetropolitan counties in other states.

Compounding the problem is the fact that the state's metropolitan counties also register relatively low levels of per capita personal income compared to metropolitan counties located in other states. In 1998, per capita personal income in West Virginia's metropolitan counties was $23,217, compared to national income per metropolitan county resident of $28,872. Indeed, the income gap in 1998 was larger for the state's metropolitan counties (20 percent) than it was for the state's nonmetropolitan counties (12 percent).

George W. Hammond, Ph.D.
Director, West Virginia Economic Outlook

Table 1

Economic Performance of West Virginia's Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	Per Capita Personal Income			Full & Part-Time Employment	Unemploy. Rate	Population	
	$ per Person 1998	Rank vs. Similar** 1998	Ann. Gr.% 1990-1998	Ann. Gr. % 1990-1998	Ann. Avg.% 1999	Residents 1999	Ann. Gr.% 1990-1999
Metropolitan Statistical Areas							
Charleston MSA	25,745	126	4.5	2.1	4.7	251,199	0.0
Cumberland MSA	19,776	300	3.8	0.5	7.1	98,231	-0.4
Huntington MSA	19,804	299	3.7	1.1	6.7	312,447	-0.0
Parkersburg MSA	22,304	238	4.2	1.3	5.6	149,366	0.0
Steubenville-Weirton MSA	20,224	295	3.2	0.1	6.6	133,292	-0.7
Washington PMSA	36,043	14	3.8	1.1	2.6	4,739,999	1.3
Wheeling MSA	21,348	270	3.8	1.2	5.2	153,946	-0.4
Metropolitan* Counties in W.Va.	23,217	49	4.2	1.6	4.9	757,461	0.1
Nonmetropolitan Counties in W.Va.	18,002	45	4.1	1.3	8.0	1,049,467	0.1
West Virginia	20,185	49	4.2	1.4	6.6	1,806,928	0.1
U.S.	27,203	—	4.2	1.8	4.2	272,690,813	1.0

Per capita income data is from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Total full & part-time employment is from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Unemployment rate data is from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Population data is from the U.S. Census Bureau.

* Counties which are part of an MSA.

** (P)MSAs are ranked compared to other (P)MSAs. Metropolitan counties in W.Va. are compared to metropolitan counties in other states. Similar comparisons are made for nonmetropolitan counties.

Levels of Poverty in the U.S. and in West Virginia

Based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates released in November 2000

Figure 1

Percent of Each State's Population Below Poverty: 1997

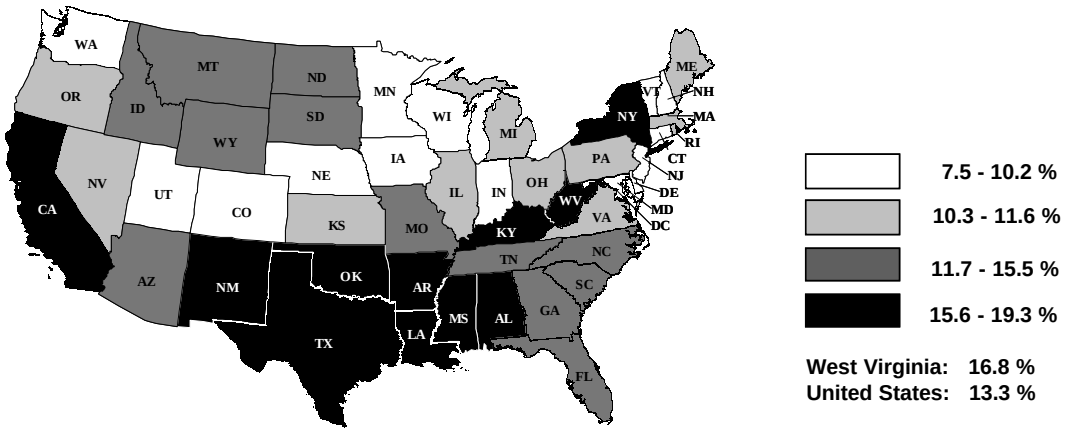


Table 1

1997 Poverty Estimates for States

State	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty	State	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
Alabama	700,944	16.2	Montana	135,691	15.5
Alaska	68,409	11.2	Nebraska	158,962	9.6
Arizona	720,713	15.5	Nevada	186,345	10.7
Arkansas	442,856	17.5	New Hampshire	87,975	7.5
California	5,195,477	16.0	New Jersey	749,198	9.3
Colorado	403,410	10.2	New Mexico	333,913	19.3
Connecticut	291,242	8.9	New York	2,814,460	15.6
Delaware	73,868	10.0	North Carolina	940,547	12.6
District of Columbia	96,253	19.3	North Dakota	78,461	12.5
Florida	2,129,825	14.4	Ohio	1,223,791	11.0
Georgia	1,113,562	14.7	Oklahoma	536,804	16.3
Hawaii	130,644	11.1	Oregon	379,506	11.6
Idaho	159,237	13.0	Pennsylvania	1,297,614	10.9
Illinois	1,353,506	11.3	Rhode Island	108,836	11.2
Indiana	583,055	9.9	South Carolina	569,045	14.9
Iowa	280,797	9.9	South Dakota	100,537	14.0
Kansas	283,038	10.9	Tennessee	734,108	13.6
Kentucky	624,219	16.0	Texas	3,259,559	16.7
Louisiana	793,472	18.4	Utah	210,783	10.0
Maine	132,809	10.7	Vermont	56,967	9.7
Maryland	484,987	9.5	Virginia	782,827	11.6
Massachusetts	649,293	10.7	Washington	579,789	10.2
Michigan	1,127,886	11.5	West Virginia	302,521	16.8
Minnesota	417,797	8.9	Wisconsin	478,698	9.2
Mississippi	494,044	18.1	Wyoming	57,421	12.0
Missouri	658,159	12.2	**United States**	**35,573,858**	**13.3**

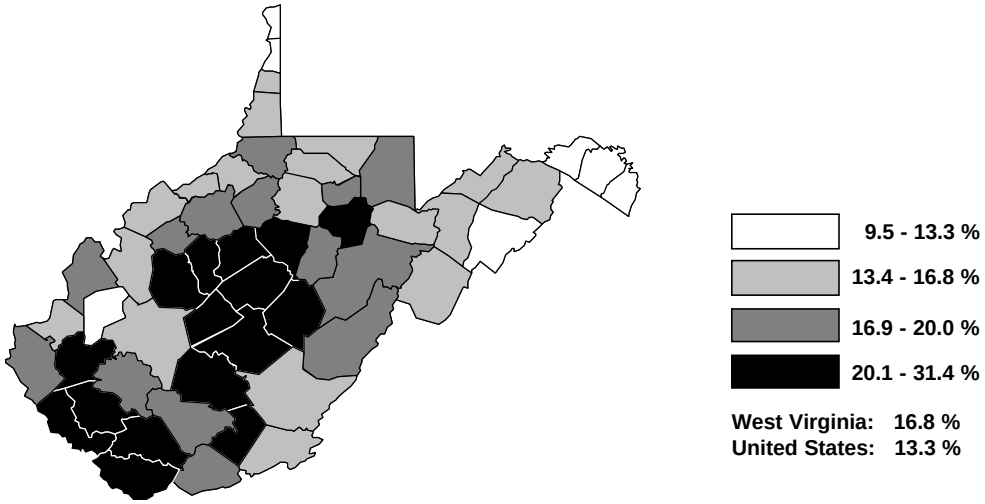
Table 2

1997 Poverty Estimates for W. Va. Counties

County	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty	County	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
Barbour	3,437	21.4	Mineral	3,867	14.3
Berkeley	7,943	11.2	Mingo	8,030	24.9
Boone	5,237	19.7	Monongalia	10,470	14.4
Braxton	2,872	21.5	Monroe	2,108	15.9
Brooke	2,971	11.6	Morgan	1,683	12.2
Cabell	14,989	16.2	Nicholas	5,594	20.1
Calhoun	1,945	24.2	Ohio	6,326	13.5
Clay	2,872	26.8	Pendleton	1,081	13.4
Doddridge	1,463	19.2	Pleasants	1,066	14.3
Fayette	9,981	21.2	Pocahontas	1,585	17.5
Gilmer	1,713	25.0	Preston	5,324	17.8
Grant	1,507	13.6	Putnam	4,902	9.5
Greenbrier	5,755	16.2	Raleigh	13,852	17.4
Hampshire	3,072	16.0	Randolph	5,025	18.3
Hancock	4,047	11.8	Ritchie	1,908	18.3
Hardy	1,548	12.9	Roane	3,386	21.9
Harrison	11,571	16.4	Summers	3,190	24.2
Jackson	4,308	15.3	Taylor	2,942	19.4
Jefferson	4,058	10.0	Tucker	1,159	15.3
Kanawha	29,057	14.3	Tyler	1,512	15.3
Lewis	3,551	20.2	Upshur	4,487	19.9
Lincoln	5,604	24.9	Wayne	7,906	18.6
Logan	9,552	23.0	Webster	2,943	28.5
McDowell	9,509	31.4	Wetzel	3,228	17.6
Marion	8,833	15.7	Wirt	1,098	18.9
Marshall	5,428	15.3	Wood	12,112	13.9
Mason	4,482	17.2	Wyoming	6,370	23.0
Mercer	12,060	19.0	**West Virginia**	**302,521**	**16.8**

Figure 2

Percent of Each County's Population Below Poverty: 1997



An Update on Census 2000

Constitutional Mandate

The mandate for the census comes from Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States of America:

> *Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers….The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct.*

The first census was conducted in 1790. Two centuries later, Census 2000 marks the twenty-first census taken. Starting with the 1920 census, its use for taxation was dropped because of the 16th Amendment authorizing an income tax. Today, as it did 200 years ago, the census will provide us with the information needed to establish fair representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Census is also used to redraw the boundaries of state legislative and local voting districts and to give us a wealth of data that will benefit the nation's citizens.

From Quill Pen to Silicon

Census 2000 will be the most computerized census to date, from data interpretation to publishing the data on the Internet and in record time. Today's census participants will most likely have their results published on the Web with less intervention from human readers or data input workers than in the past. Lockheed-Martin Mission Systems has assembled the computer systems that will read the Census 2000 forms. Called the Data Capture System 2000, it translates pencil or pen marks made by hand into computer-readable alphanumeric information in a fraction of the time needed in past censuses.

Who Uses Census Data?

The Census provides assistance to community leaders for infrastructure planning, business and scientific research, demographic trends and many other decisions that require an accurate measure of the community. The uses for census data are only limited by the imagination.

Census information is used in the planning and upgrading of highways, locating new schools, identifying pools of skilled workers, and locating business resources to utilize those workers. Such things as the need for new community centers for youth or senior citizens are justified by studying the census results. Nonprofit and charitable organizations use the census data to estimate likely volunteers and focus resources where they are most needed. For example, after Hurricane Andrew demolished entire neighborhoods in Florida in 1992, census data reconstructed maps and numbers of missing persons for the rescue personnel on scene.

Census data can help minimize financial and business risks and help identify business opportunity. Businesses use the census to determine whether a market exits for their goods or services through studying such data as population numbers, income levels, breakdowns by age, sex, race, home owners vs. renters, education, and occupation. The need for new offices, malls, distribution centers, and other expansion proposals can be shown to be viable by census data. The census provides an accurate picture of the local business landscape in facts and numbers.

Data Collected

In addition to collecting data for reapportionment and redistricting, Census 2000 will also provide information on:

- Number of persons
- Families and households
- Age and Gender
- Race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry
- Language spoken at home
- Income and poverty
- Education and school enrollment
- Employment
- Citizenship
- Vehicles available and commuting
- Disability
- Homeownership status
- Vacancy
- Rent and value of housing
- Housing costs and mortgage status
- Age and type of structure
- Plumbing and kitchen facilities
- House heating fuel

W.Va. Response Rate Lower Than Nation

Nearly 7 of 10 homes in the United States filled out and returned a Census 2000 questionnaire for a final response rate of 67 percent, 2 percentage points over the rate for the 1990 census, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. West Virginia's response rate was 64 percent. To see how other states fared visit www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2000/cn57.html.

Census Geographies

Census data will be available for geographic areas ranging from the U.S. as a whole down to blocks (though not all data are summarized at the block level). Geographic units include:

- The nation
- 4 Regions (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West)
- 9 Divisions (New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, East North Central, West North Central, West South Central, Mountain, and Pacific)
- States (all 50 plus D.C. and Puerto Rico)
- Congressional Districts
- Counties
- Cities, towns, and townships
- Census tracts
- Block groups
- Blocks
- American Indian and Alaskan Native Areas

The Census Bureau has specific definitions for each of these Census Geographies, some of which are discussed briefly below.

Census blocks are areas bounded on all sides by visible features (such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks) and by invisible boundaries (such as city, town, township, and county limits; property lines; and short, imaginary extensions of streets and roads). Generally, census blocks are small in area—a block bounded by city streets, for example. However, census blocks in remote areas may comprise many square miles and be quite irregular in shape. *Block groups* (BGs) are the next level above census blocks in the geographic hierarchy. A BG is a cluster of census blocks that is a subdivision of a census tract.

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county delineated by local participants as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program. Census tracts generally have between 1,500 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people. (Counties with fewer people have a single census tract.) When first delineated, census tracts are designed to be homogeneous with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. The spatial size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement.

Places include census-designated places, consolidated cities, and incorporated places. Each place is assigned a five-digit Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code, based on the alphabetical order of the place name within each state.

Congressional districts (CDs) are the 435 areas from which people are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After the apportionment of congressional seats among the states, based on census population counts, each state is responsible for establishing CDs for the purpose of electing representatives. Each CD is to be as equal in population to all other CDs in the state as practicable.

More in depth census geography descriptions can be found on the web at http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/c2kproducts.html.

Where Can I Get This Material?

Not all Census products will be available at once. Table 1 (next page) presents the schedule of expected release dates for the various Census 2000 data products. The product name is in bold followed by a description of it and initials for the format in which the data will be available. The column labeled "Lowest Level Geography" indicates the smallest Census Geography that this product covers.

There are many sources for Census 2000 data in both CD-ROM and in print, but the quickest and most convenient at any time will be through the Internet (http://www.census.gov). This year the Census Bureau has added "The American FactFinder" to its website. This will provide immediate access to publications and summary data, and help users create custom tabulations and generate maps while online. CD-ROMs of census results will become available for release at the dates listed in Table 1 and can be obtained from the Census Bureau or an affiliate data center like the Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Hard copy reports will also become available for each state and for the nation.

Since1978, the State Data Center (SDC) program has helped disseminate census materials and assistance to university researchers, business planners and government administration in each state. The Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC) Program shares SDC services with local government, academic, and other organizations that directly serve businesses. West Virginia is a member of the Detroit Region, as are Michigan and Ohio. The home page for the Detroit Administrative Region is at http://www.census.gov/rodet/www.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at WVU is a member of the BIDC program and is a West Virginia data center. For a charge, the Bureau can provide printouts, extracts, and software for accessing and downloading Census data, CD-ROM products and services, online data services, newsletters, technical journals, and Census maps. The Bureau web site is at http://www.bber.wvu.edu. Questions concerning census data can be directed to chris.condon@mail.wvu.edu.

Chris Condon
Data Base Specialist

Table 1

Planned Release Dates for Census 2000 Data

Planned Release Date *(Revised: 12/7/00)*	100-Percent Data Products	Format: I–Internet CD–CDRom D–DVD P-Paper	Lowest Level Geography
MAR - APR 2001	**Census 2000 Redistricting Data Summary File** State population counts for legislative redistricting.	I, CD, D	Blocks
JUNE - SEPT 2001	**Demographic Profile** Population totals and selected population and housing characteristics in a single table.	I, CD, D, P	Places Census tracts (I)
JUNE - SEPT 2001	**Congressional District Demographic Profile** Population totals and selected population and housing characteristics in a single table for Congressional Districts only.	I, CD, D, P	Congressional Districts of the 106th Congress
JULY 2001	**Race and Hispanic or Latino Summary File on CD-ROM**	CD	Places
States: JUNE - SEPT 2001 **Advance national:** NOV - DEC 2001 **Final national:** MAY - JUL 2002	**Summary File 1 (SF 1):** 1. Population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino. 2. Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. 3. Selected population and housing characteristics. [Urban/rural data are on the final national file. This is the only difference from the advance national file.]	I, CD, D	 Blocks Census tracts Blocks/Census tracts
States: SEPT - DEC 2001 **Advance national:** MAR - APR 2002 **Final national:** JUNE - JULY 2002	**Summary File 2 (SF 2):** Population and housing characteristics iterated for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. [Urban/rural data are on the final national file. This is the only difference from the advance national file.]	I, CD, D	Census tracts
States: APR - DEC 2001 **National:** NOV 2001 - APR 2002	**Quick Tables** Table shells with population and housing characteristics where the user can specify a geographic area and a population group.	I	Census tracts
States: APR 2001- JAN 2002 **National:** DEC 2001 - AUG 2002	**Geographic Comparison Tables** Population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas (e.g., all counties in a state).	I	Places
SEPT - DEC 2001 *(Release subject to policy decisions on access and confidentiality.)*	**Advanced Query Function** User specifies contents of tabulations from full microdata file. Includes safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units.	I	User defined down to block groups
JAN - NOV 2002	**Summary Populations and Housing Characteristics**	I, P	Places
2003	**Population and Housing Unit Totals**	I, P	Places

West Virginia and United States Economic Indicators

	99 Q3	99 Q4	00 Q1	00 Q2	00 Q3	1997	1998	1999
United States								
Real GDP (Bil. $1996 Chain-Wtd.)	8,905.8	9,084.1	9,191.8	9,318.9	9,382.2	8,159.5	8,515.7	8,875.8
% Change	5.7	8.3	4.8	5.6	2.7	4.4	4.4	4.2
Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) (1982-84=100)*	167.2	168.3	169.9	171.7	173.1	160.5	163.0	166.6
% Change	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.3	3.2	2.3	1.6	2.2
Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Mil.)	129.1	129.8	130.6	131.6	131.6	122.7	125.8	128.8
% Change	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.9	0.2	2.6	2.6	2.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.5	4.2
Initial Claims for Unemployment Ins. (Thous.)	293	286	276	288	306	320	316	296
Industrial Production (1992=100)	137.7	139.5	141.7	144.5	145.8	127.0	132.4	137.0
% Change	4.8	5.3	6.5	8.2	3.7	6.3	4.3	3.5
Capacity Utilization Rate	80.7	81.0	81.5	82.3	82.4	83.3	81.8	80.6
Housing Starts (Mil.)	1.663	1.689	1.732	1.605	1.527	1.475	1.621	1.676
Retail Sales (Bil.$)	3,029	3,098	3,196	3,212	3,257	2,497	2,613	2,746
% Change	9.8	9.3	13.3	2.0	5.7	4.7	5.1	9.1
Federal Funds Rate*	5.09	5.31	5.68	6.27	6.52	5.46	5.35	4.97
Thirty-Year Treasury Bond Rate*	6.04	6.25	6.30	5.98	5.80	6.61	5.58	5.87
West Virginia								
Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Thous.)	723.6	727.3	730.2	736.5	730.8	707.8	719.2	725.7
% Change	-1.2	2.0	1.6	3.5	-3.1	1.3	1.6	0.9
Mining	20.9	21.0	20.9	21.2	21.3	24.6	23.7	21.4
% Change	-10.7	2.6	-1.9	5.9	1.9	-4.7	-3.7	-9.7
Construction	32.8	33.1	33.6	33.2	32.8	34.9	34.2	33.5
% Change	-7.0	3.3	6.6	-5.1	-4.7	1.5	-2.0	-2.0
Manufacturing	81.4	82.1	82.7	81.9	81.5	81.6	82.4	81.7
% Change	1.0	3.7	2.8	-3.8	-1.6	-0.4	1.0	-0.8
Trans., Comm. and Public Utilities	38.3	38.4	38.2	37.9	36.8	38.9	38.4	38.2
% Change	0.0	1.4	-2.7	-2.4	-11.4	-1.0	-1.3	-0.5
Trade	162.5	163.1	163.6	164.3	165.2	161.7	162.6	162.9
% Change	-2.1	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.3	0.9	0.6	0.2
Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	29.7	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.7	28.2	28.7	29.8
% Change	-1.8	-1.8	-0.4	0.0	1.4	3.3	1.8	3.8
Services	217.3	219.7	221.5	222.3	222.0	198.9	208.3	217.1
% Change	1.4	4.4	3.3	1.5	-0.5	4.1	4.7	4.2
Government	140.7	140.2	140.2	146.1	141.4	139.1	140.8	141.1
% Change	-2.7	-1.2	-0.1	17.9	-12.2	0.3	1.2	0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.2	6.9	6.6	6.6
Initial Claims for Unemployment Ins. (Thous.)	1.353	1.506	1.439	1.509	1.522	1.617	1.625	1.579
Average Weekly Hours Coal Mining	43.3	42.9	44.1	44.5	45.1	44.9	44.4	43.4
Average Weekly Hours Manufacturing	41.8	41.9	41.9	41.4	41.2	41.7	41.6	41.6
Average Hourly Earnings Coal Mining ($)	19.48	19.40	19.34	19.44	19.76	19.73	19.73	19.35
% Change	4.1	-1.8	-1.3	2.1	6.9	-1.8	0.0	-1.9
Average Hourly Earnings Manufacturing ($)	14.20	14.30	14.35	14.51	14.71	13.16	13.70	14.09
% Change	7.5	2.9	1.4	4.5	5.5	1.5	4.2	2.8
Real Personal Income (Mil. 1996$)	36,241	36,458	36,328	36,683	n/a	34,529	35,600	36,131
% Change	2.7	2.4	-1.4	4.0	n/a	2.3	3.1	1.5
Wage and Salary	17,738	17,827	17,534	17,752	n/a	16,957	17,397	17,646
% Change	3.4	2.0	-6.4	5.1	n/a	1.5	2.6	1.4
Other Labor	2,359	2,352	2,329	2,344	n/a	2,353	2,377	2,362
% Change	-0.8	-1.2	-3.8	2.6	n/a	-3.3	1.0	-0.6
Proprietors	2,225	2,252	2,281	2,283	n/a	2,075	2,172	2,226
% Change	0.7	5.1	5.2	0.4	n/a	6.9	4.7	2.5
Dividends, Interest, and Rent	6,614	6,742	6,813	6,876	n/a	5,962	6,324	6,575
% Change	6.8	8.0	4.3	3.8	n/a	3.0	6.1	4.0
Transfer Payments	8,171	8,148	8,180	8,245	n/a	8,187	8,232	8,186
% Change	-1.0	-1.1	1.6	3.2	n/a	2.3	0.6	-0.6
Value of Total Housing Permits (Mil.$)	352	427	363	300	283	291	327	382
W.Va. Export-Weighted U.S. Dollar (1980=100)*	137.7	136.6	139.6	144.3	147.1	127.2	136.7	136.7
% Change	-0.9	-3.0	9.2	14.1	8.0	9.3	7.4	0.0

Notes: West Virginia average weekly hours, average hourly earnings, and initial claims for unemployment insurance data are obtained from the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs and seasonally adjusted using seasonal factors derived by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research. West Virginia employment and the state unemployment rate are seasonally adjusted by the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs. Personal income data are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding. All percent changes are measured from the previous period and expressed as annual rates. Value of total housing permits data are from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

* Not Seasonally Adjusted.

n/a=not available.

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New County Data Available

The latest economic data for every county and metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in West Virginia is now available in the 12th Edition of the *County Data Profiles* series.

Each *Profile* presents data on personal income, earnings, employment, population, and agriculture, and also includes an overview with graphs and maps, a one-year and a ten-year summary for each area and summary data on personal income, employment, earnings, proprietor's income, and average earnings per job.The data in the *Profiles* now run from 1977 through 1998.

The *Profiles* can be ordered in book, computer diskette, or CD-ROM format. Each book/diskette profile costs $15 ($12 for orders of 10 or more). The best value is a complete set of 65 profiles ($150 for diskettes or CDs or $350 for books). One user's guide will be provided free with each order (additional user's guides are $5 each). West Virginia residents must pay 6 percent sales tax. For more information or to order, call (304)293-7534 or e-mail: Linda.Moore@mail.wvu.edu.

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