West Virginia: A 20th Century Perspective on Population Change

Brian Lego

Bureau of Business and Economic Research
College of Business and Economics
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6025
Morgantown, WV 26506-6025

December 1999

West Virginia: A 20th Century Perspective on Population Change

As we approach the beginning of a new century, we should first take a step back and look at how the past 100 years have shaped West Virginia's demographic makeup. As the 20th Century began, West Virginia's population was quite small, registering a total of 959,000 residents. However, increases in coal and timber production prompted a dramatic increase in the number of persons migrating into the state in search of employment. As a result, West Virginia's resident population skyrocketed until 1950, at which point the state's population reached its highest mark at 2,006,000. As Table 1 shows, West Virginia's total population change from 1900 to 1950 (109.1%) outpaced that of the entire U.S. (98.6%) as well as all of the surrounding states, which include Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

While West Virginia's population grew nearly every year during the first half of the century, the second half has been quite different in that there have been several periods of population growth and decline. In fact, West Virginia's total population declined by 9.7%, whereas the U.S. and surrounding states gained residents, during the 1950-1998 period. According to Figure 1, between 1951 and 1970, there were only three years (1958, 1959 and 1964) in which West Virginia's population did not decline. West Virginia lost 262,000 residents from 1951-1970. Following this period of substantial population losses, West Virginia experienced a resurgence in population during the 1971-1981 time period. Over this span of ten years, West Virginia experienced positive population growth in each year, eventually gaining 184,000 residents, or approximately 80% of the total residents lost between 1951 and 1970. These impressive gains in population were primarily guided by the "Energy Crisis." As some areas in the United States suffered due to increased energy prices, areas rich in energy-related resources experienced increases in population and employment. Overall, West Virginia's population increased by 10.4% from 1971 to 1981.

Table 1
## Population of W.Va., U.S., and Surrounding States: 1900-1998

Year	Ky.	Md.	Oh.	Pa.	Va.	W.Va.	U.S.
1900	2,147,174	1,188,044	4,157,545	6,302,115	1,854,184	**958,800**	76,212,168
1950	2,944,806	2,343,001	7,946,627	10,498,012	3,318,680	**2,005,552**	151,325,798
1990	3,685,296	4,781,468	10,847,115	11,881,643	6,187,358	**1,793,477**	248,709,873
1998	3,936,499	5,134,808	11,209,493	12,001,451	6,791,345	**1,811,156**	270,298,524
1900-1950 Growth	37.1%	97.2%	91.1%	66.6%	79.0%	**109.2%**	98.6%
1950-1998 Growth	33.7%	119.2%	41.1%	14.3%	104.6%	**-9.7%**	78.6%

By late 1982, however, the good times ended and West Virginia fell victim to a deep global recession and a restructuring of the coal mining industry and several key manufacturing industries. In February 1983, West Virginia's unemployment peaked at a rate of almost 20%, leaving many West Virginians with relatively few job options. As a result, the state experienced its worst decade of population decline. This is evidenced by the fact that in 1990 West Virginia had 156,000 fewer residents than in 1980, yielding an 8% decline in total population.

In 1998, West Virginia's resident population was estimated at 1,811,000. Although that is approximately 18,000 residents above the 1990 Census count, the state's population declined for three consecutive years through 1998. West Virginia's population has increased at a slower pace than the nation's (1.1% vs. 8.4%) thus far during the 1990s.

Figure 1
W.Va. and U.S. Year-to-Year Population Growth: 1900-1998
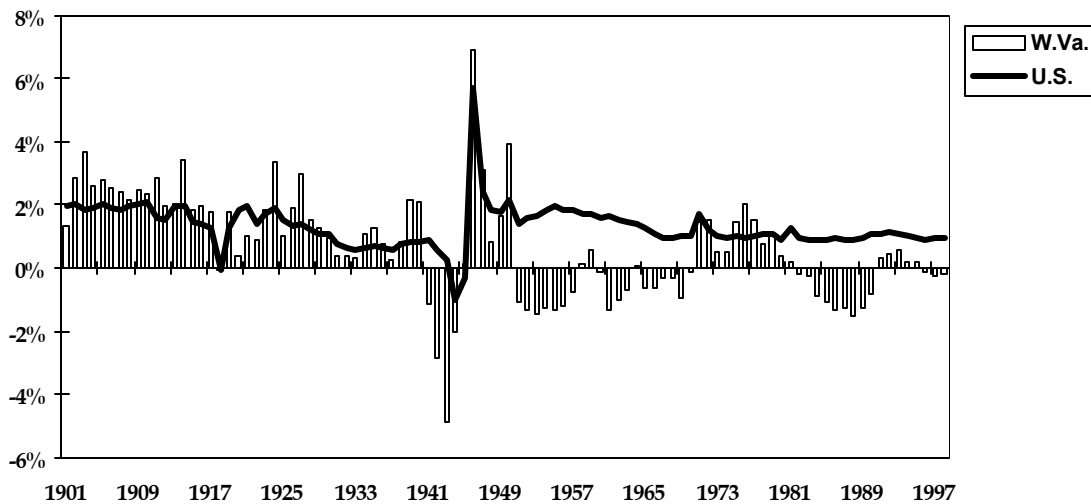
Although West Virginia's total resident population has changed quite dramatically over the course of the century, an even greater change has occurred in the state's age composition. One way to examine these changes in a region's age composition is through a population pyramid. A population pyramid is a useful way to graphically represent a population's age and sex characteristics. The pyramid also makes it much easier to compare age and sex compositions of different time periods for different geographic regions. Population pyramids display age data vertically, generally by 5-year age cohorts up to 75 years and over. Each horizontal bar represents the percent of the total population in that specific age group. The shapes of population pyramids are quite useful because they provide insight into the relative changes in age composition, fertility, mortality and migration.

Figure 2 uses population pyramids to compare the relative age and sex distribution of West Virginia and the United States at specific points in the 20th Century. In 1900, West Virginia and the United States had very similar triangular distributions, indicating a growing population and a high birth rate, patterns that are more reflective of less-developed countries. West Virginia, however, had a noticeably larger percent of its total population in the lower age groups. Consequently, the median age for West Virginia in 1900 was nearly three years younger than the United States (20.3 compared to 22.9).

By 1950, a noticeable shift had occurred in the population makeup of West Virginia and the United States. Although both the state and nation were in the midst of the post-war "baby boom," West Virginia's total population remained more heavily concentrated in the lower age groups. The U.S. distribution became much less triangular than West Virginia's due to bulges in the middle age groups, indicating that the U.S. had widened the median age gap. Indeed, West Virginia's 1950 median age of 26.3 was nearly four years younger than that of the United States (30.2).

Compared to 1900 and 1950, the population pyramid for 1998 has a substantially different distribution for both West Virginia and the United States. The distributions are no longer triangular for either region due to bulges in the 35-39, 40-44, and 75 + age groups, as well as smaller horizontal bars in the lower age groups. The shapes of these distributions indicate several aspects of each region's population. First of all, the overall shape of the distribution suggests that the population in West Virginia and the United States are older than in 1900 and 1950. Secondly, the smaller horizontal bars in the lower age group indicate a declining birth rate in both regions. Third, since states are sensitive to domestic migration trends whereas nations are not, a comparison of sequential decennial censuses may provide information about past migration patterns. Although not displayed, the pyramids for 1980 and 1990 contain relatively more persons in the 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 age groups than 1998. This decrease indicates possible selective economic outmigration of West Virginia's working-age population.

Figure 2
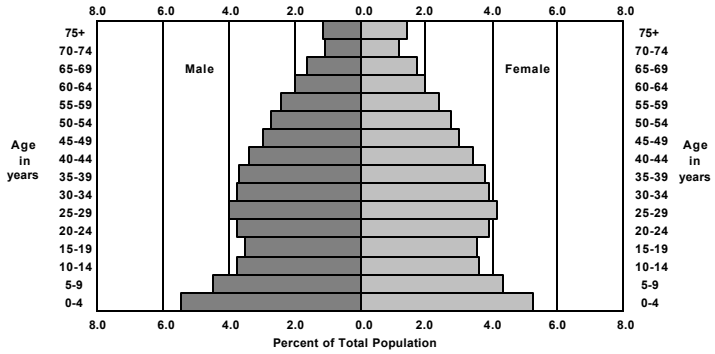## W.Va. and U.S. Population Distribution: 1900, 1950, and 1998

United States Population Distribution
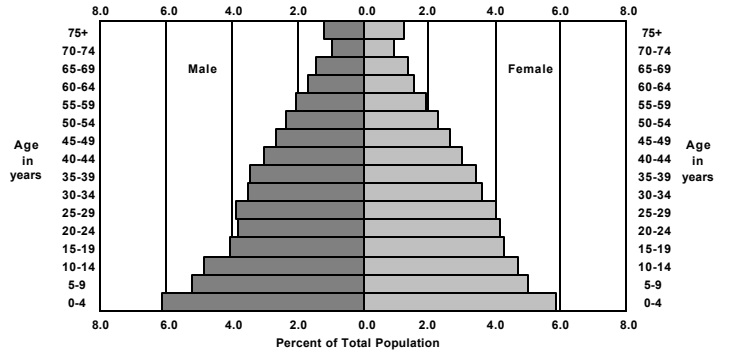by Age and Sex: 1900
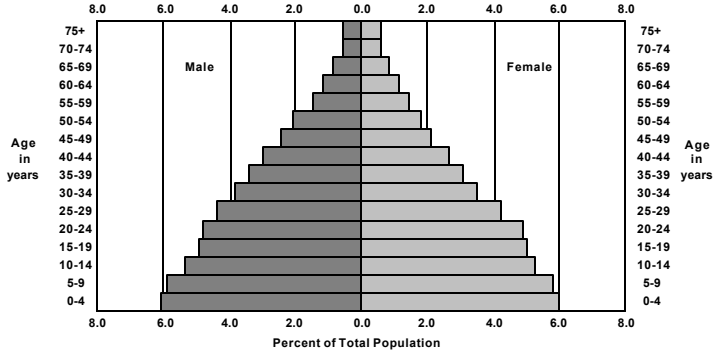
West Virginia Population Distribution
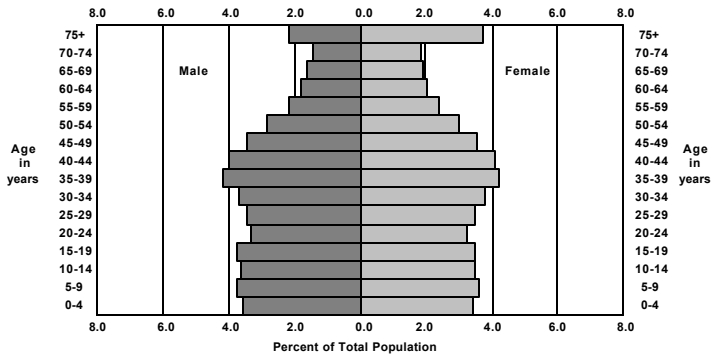by Age and Sex: 1900
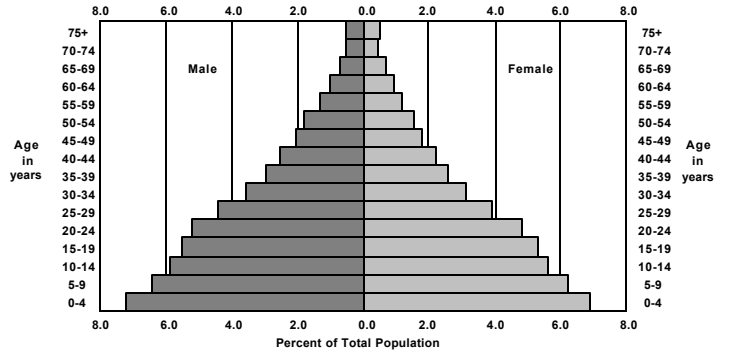
United States Population Distribution
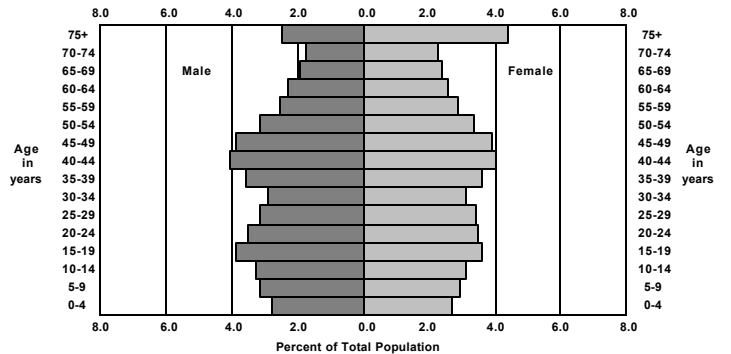by Age and Sex: 1950

West Virginia Population Distribution
by Age and Sex: 1950

United States Population Distribution
by Age and Sex: 1998

West Virginia Population Distribution
by Age and Sex: 1998

3

Another important feature of the 1998 pyramids is that a greater percentage of persons 75 years and over are women. This illustrates the known fact that women have a longer life expectancy than men. Finally, while both West Virginia and the U.S. have larger bulges in the middle age groups than in previous years, West Virginia has a greater proportion of its total population (48%) above the age of 40 compared to the U.S. (42%). As a result, the median age for West Virginia is the highest in the nation at 38.6, and is more than three years older than U.S. median age (35.2).

Population growth is rarely distributed in an even pattern across all geographic regions in the United States, and West Virginia's counties have experienced substantial differences in the gains (and losses) to their respective populations. According to Table 2, eighteen counties in West Virginia have at least doubled in total resident population during the 1900-1998 time period. Thirteen counties, however, have actually lost residents during this same period. As Figure 3 shows, population losses have generally been centralized to one region that runs from the Mid Ohio River Valley counties down into Central West Virginia. The remaining 24 counties are quite dispersed in their levels of population growth, ranging from zero (Lewis, Monroe, Ohio, and Taylor counties) to 0.67% average annualized growth (Morgan County) from 1900-1998. Berkeley County, though, has been the only county to increase in total resident population in each decennial census of the 20th Century.

Just as West Virginia's population growth has been quite dynamic during the 20th Century, the state's counties have undergone distinct periods of growth and decline. From 1900-1920, ten counties at least doubled their resident populations. Logan county's population, for example, increased from 6,955 to 41,006 (9.3% annually) over this twenty-year period. In addition, McDowell County's population increased from 18,747 to 68,751, or 6.7% annually. Overall, the six-county Southwestern region (Lincoln, McDowell, Boone, Wyoming, Logan, and Mingo counties) increased from 69,069 to 185,818 (5.1%

Figure 3
Average Annual Population Growth
by County: 1900-1998
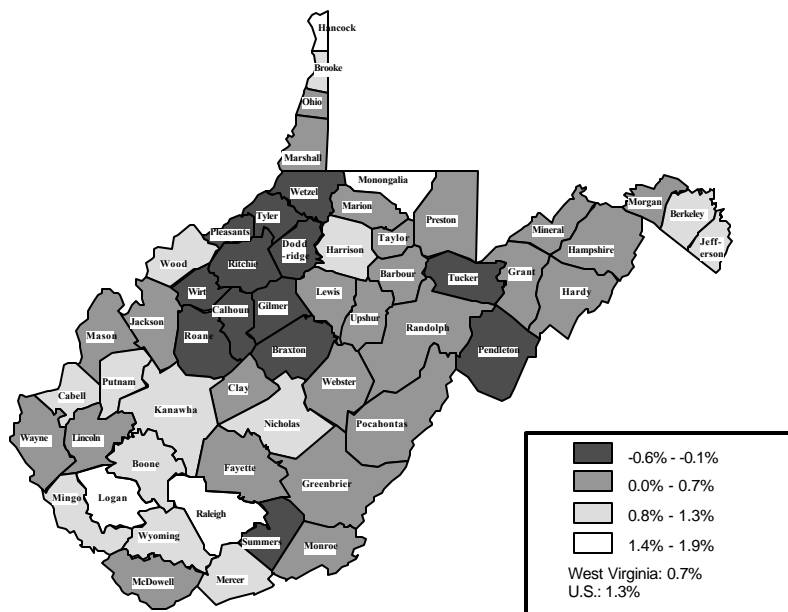
Table 2
Population Estimates by County: 1900-1998

| Area | Number | | | | | | | | | | | Percent Change | |
	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1998	1990-98	1900-98
West Virginia	958,800	1,221,119	1,463,701	1,729,205	1,901,974	2,005,552	1,860,421	1,744,237	1,949,644	1,793,477	1,811,156	1%	89%
Counties:													
Barbour	14,198	15,858	18,028	18,628	19,869	19,745	15,474	14,030	16,639	15,699	16,152	3%	14%
Berkeley	19,469	21,999	24,554	28,030	29,016	30,359	33,791	36,356	46,775	59,253	70,970	20%	265%
Boone	8,194	10,331	15,319	24,586	28,556	33,173	28,764	25,118	30,447	25,870	26,118	1%	219%
Braxton	18,904	23,023	23,973	22,579	21,658	18,082	15,152	12,666	13,894	12,998	13,185	1%	-30%
Brooke	7,219	11,098	16,527	24,663	25,513	26,904	28,940	29,685	31,117	26,992	26,004	-4%	260%
Cabell	29,252	46,685	65,746	90,786	97,459	108,035	108,202	106,918	106,835	96,827	94,273	-3%	222%
Calhoun	10,266	11,258	10,268	10,866	12,455	10,259	7,948	7,046	8,250	7,885	7,940	1%	-23%
Clay	8,248	10,233	11,486	13,125	15,206	14,961	11,942	9,330	11,265	9,983	10,530	5%	28%
Doddridge	13,689	12,672	11,976	10,488	10,923	9,026	6,970	6,389	7,433	6,994	7,554	8%	-45%
Fayette	31,987	51,903	60,377	72,050	80,628	82,443	61,731	49,332	57,863	47,952	47,930	0%	50%
Gilmer	11,762	11,379	10,668	10,641	12,046	9,746	8,050	7,782	8,334	7,669	7,130	-7%	-39%
Grant	7,275	7,838	8,993	8,441	8,805	8,756	8,304	8,607	10,210	10,428	11,098	6%	53%
Greenbrier	20,683	24,833	26,242	35,878	38,520	39,295	34,446	32,090	37,665	34,693	35,383	2%	71%
Hampshire	11,806	11,694	11,713	11,836	12,974	12,577	11,705	11,710	14,867	16,498	19,041	15%	61%
Hancock	6,693	10,465	19,975	28,511	31,572	34,388	39,615	39,749	40,418	35,233	33,973	-4%	408%
Hardy	8,449	9,163	9,601	9,816	10,813	10,032	9,308	8,855	10,030	10,977	11,829	8%	40%
Harrison	27,690	48,381	74,793	78,567	82,911	85,296	77,856	73,028	77,710	69,371	70,891	2%	156%
Jackson	22,987	20,956	18,658	16,124	16,598	15,299	18,541	20,903	25,794	25,938	27,972	8%	22%
Jefferson	15,935	15,889	15,729	15,780	16,762	17,184	18,665	21,280	30,302	35,926	41,368	15%	160%
Kanawha	54,696	81,457	119,650	157,667	195,619	239,629	252,925	229,515	231,414	207,619	202,011	-3%	269%
Lewis	16,980	18,281	20,455	21,794	22,271	21,074	19,711	17,847	18,813	17,223	17,427	1%	3%
Lincoln	15,434	20,491	19,378	19,156	22,886	22,466	20,267	18,912	23,675	21,382	22,192	4%	44%
Logan	6,955	14,476	41,006	58,534	67,768	77,391	61,570	46,269	50,679	43,032	41,080	-5%	491%
Marion	32,430	42,794	54,571	66,655	68,683	71,521	63,717	61,356	65,789	57,249	56,318	-2%	74%
Marshall	26,444	32,388	33,681	39,831	40,189	36,893	38,041	37,598	41,608	37,356	35,441	-5%	34%
Mason	24,142	23,019	21,459	20,788	22,270	23,537	24,459	24,306	27,045	25,178	25,869	3%	7%
McDowell	18,747	47,856	68,571	90,479	94,354	98,887	71,359	50,666	49,899	35,233	29,916	-15%	60%
Mercer	23,023	38,371	49,558	61,323	68,289	75,013	68,206	63,206	73,942	64,980	63,794	-2%	177%
Mineral	12,883	16,674	19,849	20,084	22,215	22,333	22,354	23,109	27,234	26,697	26,737	0%	108%
Mingo	11,359	19,431	26,364	38,319	40,802	47,409	39,742	32,780	37,336	33,739	31,926	-5%	181%
Monongalia	19,049	24,334	33,618	50,083	51,252	60,797	55,617	63,714	75,024	75,509	77,505	3%	307%
Monroe	13,130	13,055	13,141	11,949	13,577	13,123	11,584	11,272	12,873	12,406	13,205	6%	1%
Morgan	7,294	7,848	8,357	8,406	8,743	8,276	8,376	8,547	10,711	12,128	13,640	12%	87%
Nicholas	11,403	17,699	20,717	20,686	24,070	27,696	25,414	22,552	28,126	26,775	27,595	3%	142%
Ohio	48,024	57,572	62,892	72,077	73,115	71,672	68,437	64,197	61,389	50,871	48,287	-5%	1%
Pendleton	9,167	9,349	9,652	9,660	10,884	9,313	8,093	7,031	7,910	8,054	8,062	0%	-12%
Pleasants	9,345	8,074	7,379	6,545	6,692	6,369	7,124	7,274	8,236	7,546	7,421	-2%	-21%
Pocahontas	8,572	14,740	15,002	14,555	13,906	12,480	10,136	8,870	9,919	9,008	9,268	3%	8%
Preston	22,727	26,341	27,996	29,043	30,416	31,399	27,233	25,455	30,460	29,037	29,811	3%	31%
Putnam	17,330	18,587	17,531	16,737	19,511	21,021	23,561	27,625	38,181	42,835	51,164	19%	195%
Raleigh	12,436	25,633	42,482	68,072	86,687	96,273	77,826	70,080	86,821	76,819	79,066	3%	536%
Randolph	17,670	26,028	26,804	25,049	30,259	30,558	26,349	24,596	28,734	27,803	28,658	3%	62%
Ritchie	18,901	17,875	16,506	15,594	15,389	12,535	10,877	10,145	11,442	10,233	10,356	1%	-45%
Roane	19,852	21,543	20,129	19,478	20,787	18,408	15,720	14,111	15,952	15,120	15,342	1%	-23%
Summers	16,265	18,420	19,092	20,468	20,409	19,183	15,640	13,213	15,875	14,204	13,146	-7%	-19%
Taylor	14,978	16,554	18,742	19,114	19,919	18,422	15,010	13,878	16,584	15,144	15,326	1%	2%
Tucker	13,433	18,675	16,791	13,374	13,173	10,600	7,750	7,447	8,675	7,728	7,631	-1%	-43%
Tyler	18,252	16,211	14,186	12,785	12,559	10,535	10,026	9,929	11,320	9,796	9,835	0%	-46%
Upshur	14,696	16,629	17,851	17,944	18,360	19,242	18,292	19,092	23,427	22,867	23,526	3%	60%
Wayne	23,619	24,081	26,012	31,206	35,566	38,696	38,977	37,581	46,021	41,636	41,957	1%	78%
Webster	8,862	9,680	11,562	14,216	18,080	17,888	13,719	9,809	12,245	10,729	10,230	-5%	15%
Wetzel	22,880	23,855	23,069	22,334	22,342	20,154	19,347	20,314	21,874	19,258	18,256	-5%	-20%
Wirt	10,284	9,047	7,536	6,358	6,475	5,119	4,391	4,154	4,922	5,192	5,669	9%	-45%
Wood	34,452	38,001	42,306	56,521	62,399	66,540	78,331	86,818	93,648	86,915	86,768	0%	152%
Wyoming	8,380	10,392	15,180	20,926	29,774	37,540	34,836	30,095	35,993	28,990	27,380	-6%	227%

annually) and accounted for 23% of the state's net population growth during the 1900-1920 time period. During the next twenty-year period (1920-40), most counties in the state sustained relatively high levels of population growth. Eighteen counties outpaced the state's net population growth (2.1% annually) during this period, with five of the six Southwestern counties achieving this goal. As in the previous period, these six counties contributed to a substantial proportion (22%) of the state's net population growth. However, population gains were not isolated to this region during these early-century periods. Raleigh County, for example, increased its population from 12,436 in 1900 to 86,687 in 1940, yielding a 5.0% average annual growth rate, ranking second to Logan County's increase from 6,955 to 67,768 (5.9% annually).

The next two periods, 1940-1960 and 1960-1970, were periods of general population decline. Although West Virginia and several counties reached their peak populations for the century in 1950, both periods were marked by widespread decline in which the state's total population decreased, and nearly 40 counties lost residents or experienced near-zero population growth. Although, seven counties gained residents in these two periods, only four counties (Jackson, Jefferson, Putnam, and Wood counties) managed to sustain average annual population growth above 1.0% in both periods.

The 1970s were a time of relative prosperity for nearly all counties in West Virginia. Thirty-eight counties outpaced the state's average annual growth rate of 1.1% from 1970-1980, and seven of these counties more than doubled the state's growth rate. In addition, nine counties contributed to nearly half of the state's net population growth during the 1970-1980 time period. While the 1970s were good, the 1980s were not so kind to rural areas such as West Virginia. Although the state experienced its worst decade of population decline during the 1980s (-0.83% annually), many counties lost an even more substantial proportion of the residents they had gained only years earlier. Twenty-six counties suffered population declines of more than 1.0% percent per year. Furthermore, by 1990, Fayette, McDowell, and

Figure 4
Average Annual Population Growth
by County: 1990-1998
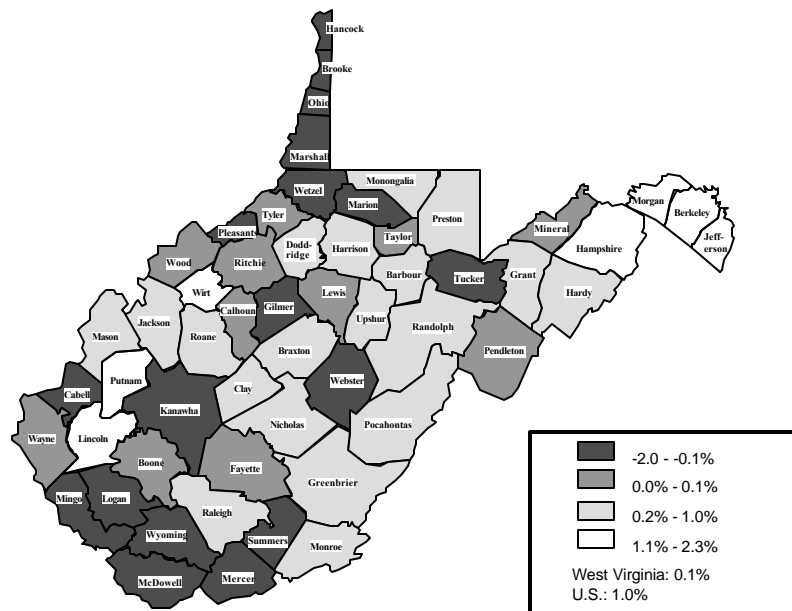
Ohio counties dipped to their lowest population counts since 1900. The news was not bad for all regions in the state, however. Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Putnam, and Hampshire counties posted average annual population growth of at least 1.0% from 1980-1990.

While West Virginia's population was greatly diminished during the 1980s, the 1990s have been a period of moderate population gains. Net population growth from 1990-1998 was 17,679. As in the previous decade, the Eastern Panhandle counties, Putnam County, and Hampshire County led the state in net population growth. Together, these five counties gained 30,278 residents, while the balance of the state lost 12,599 residents. Kanawha and McDowell counties ranked last in net population growth by losing 5,608 and 5,317 residents, respectively. In terms of total population growth, Berkeley County has been the fastest growing county since 1990, while Putnam, Hampshire, Jefferson, and Morgan round out the top five. Counties losing residents at the fastest rate during this decade are McDowell, Summers, Gilmer, Wyoming, and Mingo. Figure 3 suggests that population losses have occurred primarily in the Southwestern region and the Northern Panhandle. These two areas have lost residents primarily due to declines in coal mining and steel manufacturing employment, respectively. West Virginia's two largest counties, Kanawha and Cabell, have lost residents during the 1990s. These losses can be attributed to the shrinking populations of Charleston and Huntington, respectively. Overall, out of West Virginia's ten largest cities in 1998, only Morgantown and Martinsburg have gained residents since 1990.

Table 3 shows the ten largest and smallest counties in West Virginia for selected decennial censuses as well as for 1998. Although Kanawha County has remained the state's largest county throughout the 20th century, the counties rounding out the ten largest have changed dramatically. For example, Ohio County was prospering at the beginning of the century. Wheeling was the state's largest city with 38,878 total residents. In fact, Wheeling was the 97th largest city in the United States in 1900.

Table 3
Population of the Ten Largest West Virginia Counties: 1900-1998

1900		1950		1990		1998	
Kanawha	54,696	Kanawha	239,629	Kanawha	207,619	Kanawha	202,011
Ohio	48,024	Cabell	108,035	Cabell	96,827	Cabell	94,273
Wood	34,452	McDowell	98,887	Wood	86,915	Wood	86,768
Marion	32,430	Raleigh	96,273	Raleigh	76,819	Raleigh	79,066
Fayette	31,987	Harrison	85,296	Monongalia	75,509	Monongalia	77,505
Cabell	29,252	Fayette	82,443	Harrison	69,371	Berkeley	70,970
Harrison	27,690	Logan	77,391	Mercer	64,980	Harrison	70,891
Marshall	26,444	Mercer	75,013	Berkeley	59,253	Mercer	63,794
Mason	24,142	Ohio	71,672	Marion	57,249	Marion	56,318
Wayne	23,619	Marion	71,521	Ohio	50,871	Putnam	51,164

Population of the Ten Smallest West Virginia Counties: 1900-1998

1900		1950		1990		1998	
Hancock	6,693	Wirt	5,119	Wirt	5,192	Wirt	5,669
Logan	6,955	Pleasants	6,369	Doddridge	6,994	Gilmer	7,130
Brooke	7,219	Morgan	8,276	Pleasants	7,546	Pleasants	7,421
Grant	7,275	Grant	8,756	Gilmer	7,669	Doddridge	7,554
Morgan	7,294	Doddridge	9,026	Tucker	7,728	Tucker	7,631
Boone	8,194	Pendleton	9,313	Calhoun	7,885	Calhoun	7,940
Clay	8,248	Gilmer	9,746	Pendleton	8,054	Pendleton	8,062
Wyoming	8,380	Hardy	10,032	Pocahontas	9,008	Pocahontas	9,268
Hardy	8,449	Calhoun	10,259	Tyler	9,796	Tyler	9,835
Pocahontas	8,572	Tyler	10,535	Clay	9,983	Webster	10,230

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau; Population of Counties by Decennial Census, 1900-1990
    and Population Estimates Division: < http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html >

Overall, Ohio County had 48,024 residents in 1900, which placed it second behind Kanawha County. Ohio fell progressively lower and lower in the rankings until 1998, at which point it was no longer in the top ten. Somewhat similar examples are Fayette and McDowell counties. Fayette County consistently held the ranking of fifth or sixth most populous county until 1960, at which point it fell to tenth, retaining that ranking until Berkeley County replaced it in 1990. McDowell County, on the other hand, skyrocketed to third by 1920 and remained in that position until 1960. Continuous declines in coal mining employment caused many residents to migrate out of McDowell County. Consequently, by 1970 Monongalia County replaced McDowell in the top ten.

Table 4
Population of West Virginia's Ten Largest Cities: 1900-1998

1900		1950		1990		1998	
Wheeling	38,878	Huntington	86,353	Charleston	57,287	Charleston	55,056
Huntington	11,923	Charleston	73,501	Huntington	54,844	Huntington	52,571
Parkersburg	11,703	Wheeling	58,891	Wheeling	34,882	Wheeling	32,541
Charleston	11,099	Clarksburg	32,014	Parkersburg	33,862	Parkersburg	31,715
Martinsburg	7,564	Parkersburg	29,684	Morgantown	25,879	Morgantown	26,751
Fairmont	5,655	Fairmont	29,346	Weirton	22,124	Weirton	21,206
Grafton	5,650	Morgantown	25,525	Fairmont	20,210	Fairmont	19,088
Moundsville	5,362	Weirton	24,005	Beckley	18,274	Beckley	18,187
Bluefield	4,644	Bluefield	21,506	Clarksburg	17,970	Clarksburg	17,011
Clarksburg	4,050	Beckley	19,397	Martinsburg	14,073	Martinsburg	15,049

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau; 1900, 1950, and 1990 U.S. Census of Population,
   *and Population Estimates Division: <**http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html**>*

The ten smallest counties by total population have changed even more dramatically than the largest ones. No county remains ranked as one of the ten smallest over the 20th century. Additionally, Wirt County maintained the same ranking for the longest period of time (1940-1998). A more interesting fact, however, is that Logan is the only county that appears on both lists–it was the second smallest in 1900 and tenth largest in 1940. Of the ten smallest counties in 1998, Wirt, Pleasants, Pendleton, Gilmer, and Doddridge have fewer residents in 1998 than in 1900.

Overall, West Virginia has undergone significant changes over the course of the 20th century. Although the population is now almost twice as large as it was when the century began, the population continues to become progressively older–a trend that will likely continue into the next century. While the state's demographic makeup has changed significantly this century, West Virginia's counties have experienced more notable periods of growth and decline. On one hand, regions such as the southern coalfields experienced explosive population growth during the first half of the century, but are now struggling to maintain current population levels. Simultaneously, regions such as the Potomac Highlands, the Eastern Panhandle, and Putnam County are experiencing seemingly unbounded population growth and appear to be headed for even stronger gains as we enter the next century.

Table 5

W.Va. and U.S. Population Distribution by Age Groups: 1900, 1950, and 1998

Age Group	Thousands of Persons						Percent of Total Population					
	United States			West Virginia			United States			West Virginia		
	1998	1950	1900	1998	1950	1900	1998	1950	1900	1998	1950	1900
Under 5 years	18,966	16,243	9,189	99	240	134	7.0	10.7	12.1	5.5	12.0	14.0
5 to 9 years	19,920	13,262	8,889	110	205	122	7.4	8.8	11.7	6.1	10.2	12.7
10 to 14 years	19,241	11,167	8,092	116	191	111	7.1	7.4	10.6	6.4	9.5	11.6
15 to 19 years	19,539	10,671	7,570	135	166	104	7.2	7.1	9.9	7.5	8.3	10.8
20 to 24 years	17,674	11,549	7,361	127	159	97	6.5	7.6	9.7	7.0	7.9	10.1
25 to 29 years	18,588	12,305	6,562	119	159	80	6.9	8.1	8.6	6.6	7.9	8.3
30 to 34 years	20,186	11,572	5,581	110	142	64	7.5	7.6	7.3	6.1	7.1	6.7
35 to 39 years	22,625	11,294	4,984	129	138	53	8.4	7.5	6.5	7.1	6.9	5.5
40 to 44 years	21,894	10,240	4,261	146	122	46	8.1	6.8	5.6	8.1	6.1	4.8
45 to 49 years	18,859	9,101	3,463	141	106	37	7.0	6.0	4.5	7.8	5.3	3.9
50 to 54 years	15,725	8,295	2,948	118	93	32	5.8	5.5	3.9	6.5	4.6	3.3
55 to 59 years	12,406	7,252	2,214	98	79	24	4.6	4.8	2.9	5.4	3.9	2.5
60 to 64 years	10,269	6,074	1,795	88	66	18	3.8	4.0	2.4	4.9	3.3	1.9
65 to 69 years	9,593	5,013	1,304	77	57	13	3.5	3.3	1.7	4.3	2.8	1.4
70 to 74 years	8,801	3,419	885	72	39	9	3.3	2.3	1.2	4.0	1.9	0.9
75 years and over	16,005	3,862	895	125	43	9	5.9	2.6	1.2	6.9	2.1	0.9
Total Population	**270,298**	**151,326**	**76,212**	**1,811**	**2,005**	**959**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Median Age	**35.2**	**30.2**	**22.9**	**38.6**	**26.3**	**20.3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau; Population of Counties by Decennial Census, 1900-1990 and Population Estimates Division

*Internet site: < **http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/statepop.html** >*

Table 6
Percent Rural Population by State: 1900-1990

Area	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
UNITED STATES	60.4%	54.4%	48.8%	43.9%	43.5%	36.0%	30.1%	26.4%	26.3%	24.8%
Alabama	88.1%	82.7%	78.3%	71.9%	69.8%	56.2%	45.2%	41.4%	40.0%	39.6%
Alaska	75.5%	90.5%	94.4%	86.8%	76.0%	73.4%	62.1%	43.1%	35.7%	32.5%
Arizona	84.1%	69.0%	63.9%	65.6%	65.2%	44.5%	25.5%	20.4%	16.2%	12.5%
Arkansas	91.5%	87.1%	83.4%	79.4%	77.8%	67.0%	57.2%	50.0%	48.4%	46.5%
California	47.7%	38.2%	32.1%	26.7%	29.0%	19.3%	13.6%	9.1%	8.7%	7.4%
Colorado	51.7%	49.7%	51.8%	49.8%	47.4%	37.3%	26.3%	21.5%	19.4%	17.6%
Connecticut	40.1%	34.4%	32.2%	29.6%	32.2%	22.4%	21.7%	21.6%	21.2%	20.9%
Delaware	53.6%	52.0%	45.8%	48.3%	47.7%	37.4%	34.4%	27.8%	29.4%	27.0%
District of Columbia	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Florida	79.7%	70.9%	63.5%	48.3%	44.9%	34.5%	26.1%	18.3%	15.7%	15.2%
Georgia	84.4%	79.4%	74.9%	69.2%	65.6%	54.7%	44.7%	39.7%	37.6%	36.8%
Hawaii	74.5%	69.3%	63.9%	46.3%	37.5%	31.0%	23.5%	16.9%	13.5%	11.0%
Idaho	93.8%	78.5%	72.4%	70.9%	66.3%	57.1%	52.5%	45.9%	46.0%	42.6%
Illinois	45.7%	38.3%	32.1%	26.1%	26.4%	22.4%	19.3%	16.8%	16.7%	15.4%
Indiana	65.7%	57.6%	49.4%	44.5%	44.9%	40.1%	37.6%	35.1%	35.8%	35.1%
Iowa	74.4%	69.4%	63.6%	60.4%	57.3%	52.3%	47.0%	42.8%	41.4%	39.4%
Kansas	77.6%	70.9%	65.2%	61.2%	58.1%	47.9%	39.0%	33.9%	33.3%	30.9%
Kentucky	78.2%	75.7%	73.8%	69.4%	70.2%	63.2%	55.5%	47.7%	49.1%	48.2%
Louisiana	73.5%	70.0%	65.1%	60.3%	58.5%	45.2%	36.7%	33.5%	31.4%	31.9%
Maine	66.5%	64.7%	61.0%	59.7%	59.5%	48.3%	48.7%	49.2%	52.5%	55.4%
Maryland	50.2%	49.2%	40.0%	40.2%	40.7%	31.0%	27.3%	23.4%	19.7%	18.7%
Massachusetts	14.0%	11.0%	10.0%	9.8%	10.6%	15.6%	16.4%	15.4%	16.2%	15.7%
Michigan	60.7%	52.8%	38.9%	31.8%	34.3%	29.3%	26.6%	26.0%	29.3%	29.5%
Minnesota	65.9%	59.0%	55.9%	51.0%	50.2%	45.5%	37.8%	33.5%	33.1%	30.1%
Mississippi	92.3%	88.5%	86.6%	83.1%	80.2%	72.1%	62.3%	55.5%	52.7%	52.9%
Missouri	63.7%	57.7%	53.4%	48.8%	48.2%	38.5%	33.4%	29.9%	31.9%	31.3%
Montana	65.3%	64.5%	68.7%	66.3%	62.2%	56.3%	49.8%	46.6%	47.1%	47.5%
Nebraska	76.3%	73.9%	68.7%	64.7%	60.9%	53.1%	45.7%	38.5%	37.1%	33.9%
Nevada	83.0%	83.7%	80.3%	62.2%	60.7%	42.8%	29.6%	19.1%	14.7%	11.7%
New Hampshire	53.3%	48.2%	43.5%	41.3%	42.4%	42.5%	41.7%	43.6%	47.8%	49.0%
New Jersey	29.4%	23.6%	20.1%	17.4%	18.4%	13.4%	11.4%	11.1%	11.0%	10.6%
New Mexico	86.0%	85.8%	82.0%	74.8%	66.8%	49.8%	34.1%	30.2%	27.9%	27.0%
New York	27.1%	21.1%	17.3%	16.4%	17.2%	14.5%	14.6%	14.3%	15.4%	15.7%
North Carolina	90.1%	85.6%	80.8%	74.5%	72.7%	66.3%	60.5%	54.5%	52.0%	49.6%
North Dakota	92.7%	89.0%	86.4%	83.4%	79.4%	73.4%	64.8%	55.7%	51.2%	46.7%
Ohio	51.9%	44.1%	36.2%	32.2%	33.2%	29.8%	26.6%	24.7%	26.7%	25.9%
Oklahoma	92.6%	80.8%	73.5%	65.7%	62.4%	49.0%	37.1%	32.0%	32.7%	32.3%
Oregon	67.8%	54.4%	50.2%	48.7%	51.2%	46.1%	37.8%	32.9%	32.1%	29.5%
Pennsylvania	45.3%	39.6%	34.9%	32.2%	33.5%	29.5%	28.4%	28.5%	30.7%	31.1%
Rhode Island	11.7%	9.0%	8.1%	7.6%	8.4%	15.7%	13.6%	12.9%	13.0%	14.0%
South Carolina	87.2%	85.2%	82.5%	78.7%	75.5%	63.3%	58.8%	51.7%	45.9%	45.4%
South Dakota	89.8%	86.9%	84.0%	81.1%	75.4%	66.8%	60.7%	55.4%	53.6%	50.0%
Tennessee	83.8%	79.8%	73.9%	65.7%	64.8%	55.9%	47.7%	40.9%	39.6%	39.1%
Texas	82.9%	75.9%	67.6%	59.0%	54.6%	37.3%	25.0%	20.3%	20.4%	19.7%
Utah	61.9%	53.7%	52.0%	47.6%	44.5%	34.7%	25.1%	19.6%	15.6%	13.0%
Vermont	77.9%	72.2%	68.8%	67.0%	65.7%	63.6%	61.5%	67.8%	66.2%	67.8%
Virginia	81.7%	76.9%	70.8%	67.6%	64.7%	53.0%	44.4%	36.8%	34.0%	30.6%
Washington	59.2%	47.0%	45.2%	43.4%	46.9%	36.8%	31.9%	26.6%	26.5%	23.6%
West Virginia	86.9%	81.3%	74.8%	71.6%	71.9%	65.4%	61.8%	60.9%	63.8%	63.9%
Wisconsin	61.8%	57.0%	52.7%	47.1%	46.5%	42.1%	36.2%	34.1%	35.8%	34.3%
Wyoming	71.2%	70.4%	70.6%	68.9%	62.7%	50.2%	43.2%	39.5%	37.3%	35.0%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau; Population of Counties by Decennial Census, 1900-1990