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Population Change in West Virginia, 1900 - 1955--

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Population Estimates, Natural Increase, and Net Migration for the Counties

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETIN 401 MAY 1957

THE AUTHOR

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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics H. R. Varney, Director Morgantown

Population Change in West Virginia, 1900-1955--

Population Estimates, Natural Increase, and Net Migration for the Counties

Leonard M. Sizer

West Virginia has recorded gains in population with each census from 1900 to 1950, though the rate of gain has decreased each decade, as is indicated in Table 1.

Contraction of the local division of the loc		
Year	Papulatian	Percentage af change
1900	958,800	
1910	1,221,119	27.4
1920	1,413,701	19.9
1930	1,729,205	18.1
1940	1,901,974	10.0
1950	2,005,552	5.4

Table 1. Papulation of West Virginia, 1900–1950, and Percentage of Change from Previous Decade.*

*United States Census of Population 1950, Vol. 1, Chapter 1, Tables 6 & 7.

During the five-year period since 1950, information' released periodically by the Census Bureau indicates that West Virginia's population, as a whole, is declining. Previous census returns indicated that many

¹United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Population Estimates, P-25, No. 125, November 8, 1956; No. 129, Jonuary 20, 1956; No. 145, October 19, 1956.

Table 2. Population Estimates, July 1,* 1955, and Components of Population Change for West Virginia Counties, April 1, 1950 to July 1, 1955.

Civilian Estimated Intract Netrol Net Net loss to Percentage ur 19,745 18,454 1,182 -2,266 207 -6,54 lev 33,359 32,060 1,288 + 3 290 +5.60 lev 33,173 32,513 3,874 -1,138 396 -5.64 ne 19,745 18,454 1,328 + 1,338 396 +5.60 no 33,173 33,513 3,513 3,513 3,584 -1,138 396 +5.60 no 10,082 1,328 + 1,338 396 -5.09 -4.50 no 10,252 1,328 + 1,338 396 -5.06 +5.60 no 10,252 1,9788 + 1,338 366 -5.60 +5.20 no 10,252 10,252 1,372 886 -10.29 -5.68 no 10,252 10,373 + 2.29 1386 +6.53 -4.50	-			Ċ	C ju chi Cl	eouor	
Vy Pepulation April 1, 1950 Pepulation July 1, 1955 Natural Increase Net Migration Net loss to armed forces of change 19,745 v 30,359 July 1, 1955 Increase Migration Arel loss to armed forces 19,745 v 30,359 35,513 3,874 1,182 -2,266 207 -6,54 v 30,359 32,066 1,7556 1,528 -1,138 396 +7.05 18,082 17,556 1,528 -1,865 18,93 396 +7.05 18,082 10,522 17,556 1,528 -1,865 18,93 396 +7.05 19,097 10,522 15,443 1,097 -1,222 183 +2.29 9,746 8,097 7,879 1,097 -1,222 88 +0.63 9,746 8,097 7,879 -1,172 88 -1,029 87 8,077 7,879 1,097 -1,172 88 -1,029 17.204 8,755 38,617 <t< th=""><th></th><th>Civilian</th><th>Estimated</th><th>5</th><th></th><th>-</th><th>Percentage</th></t<>		Civilian	Estimated	5		-	Percentage
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γ 30,359 32,060 1,288 + 3 290 +5.60 33,173 35,513 3,874 -1,138 396 -7.05 18,082 17,556 1,528 -1,138 396 -7.05 18,082 17,556 1,528 -1,865 189 -2.91 18,082 10,252 10,252 1,7556 1,528 -4.59 10,522 10,252 15,463 1,097 -1,223 334 +2.04 9,026 8,097 331 -1,172 88 -4.59 -4.59 9,746 8,793 331 -1,172 88 -10.22 8.45 -1,223 8.76 -4.59 9,746 8,756 8,793 3,457 -3,713 12,669 8.76 -2.01 8,756 8,756 8,775 3,457 -3,713 12,669 -4.56 10,032 8,575 8,766 -9,361 -7,218 8.64 -2.172 8,756 <td< td=""><td></td><td>10 745</td><td>18 454</td><td>1 182</td><td>-2.266</td><td>207</td><td>-6.54</td></td<>		10 745	18 454	1 182	-2.266	207	-6.54
γ $33,173$ $35,513$ $3,874$ $-1,138$ 396 $+7.05$ $18,082$ $17,556$ $1,528$ $1,528$ $-1,865$ 189 -2.91 $18,082$ $17,556$ $1,375$ $-1,953$ 348 $+6.53$ $26,904$ $28,660$ $1,875$ $-1,955$ $3,48$ $+6.53$ $10,222$ $19,788$ $8,543$ $-1,953$ 99 -4.59 $14,961$ $15,463$ $1,097$ $-1,222$ 887 -6.081 $9,746$ $8,970$ $8,970$ 331 $-1,172$ 887 -6.87 $9,746$ $8,775$ $38,617$ $7,879$ $-12,069$ 876 -6.87 $8,756$ $38,617$ $7,877$ -901 867 -901 867 -6.177 $8,756$ $38,617$ $3,457$ $-3,713$ $12,662$ $-17,28$ -1022 $10,0032$ $92,757$ $38,617$ $3,457$ $-3,713$ 422 -1		30 350	32,060	1.288	۳ +	290	+5.60
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26,002 $28,600$ $1,875$ $+$ 229 348 $+6.53$ $10,252$ $9,788$ 681 $-1,953$ $-5,092$ $1,204$ $+2.08$ $10,252$ $9,788$ 681 $-1,953$ -999 -4.59 $10,252$ $9,788$ 681 $-1,953$ 999 -4.59 $9,026$ $8,097$ 3331 $-11,172$ 888 -10.29 $9,756$ $8,077$ $7,879$ $-12,066$ 876 -8.67 $9,756$ $8,775$ 806 -901 86 -10.29 $8,756$ $8,775$ 806 -901 86 -10.29 $10,0022$ $9,757$ $6,05$ -802 -8.48 -10.28 $10,0022$ $9,757$ $5,864$ $-7,311$ 422 -1.72 $10,0022$ $9,757$ $5,864$ $-7,311$ 422 -1.72 $10,0022$ $9,757$ $5,864$ $-7,311$ $122,406$ <t< td=""><td></td><td>18 087</td><td>17 556</td><td>1.528</td><td>-1,865</td><td>189</td><td>-2.91</td></t<>		18 087	17 556	1.528	-1,865	189	-2.91
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n 10,222 9,788 681 -1,953 99 -4,59 age 9,026 15,463 1,097 -1,222 183 +3.36 age 9,026 15,463 1,097 -1,222 183 +3.36 age 9,026 8,097 331 -1,172 88 -6.87 9,746 8,756 8,757 7,879 -1,118 136 -6.87 8,756 8,756 8,75 366 -901 86 -2.07 8,756 38,617 3,457 -3,713 422 -1,72 86 9,2755 366 -902 366 -902 86 -2.07 8,296 8,563 3,616 + 52 367 -4.92 17.72 n 15,299 15,392 3,616 + 52 367 -4.92 10,032 9,757 5,645 -7,381 805 -2.72 865 -2.27 n 15,299 15,392 <t< td=""><td></td><td>108 035</td><td>110.282</td><td>8,543</td><td>-5,092</td><td>1,204</td><td>+2.08</td></t<>		108 035	110.282	8,543	-5,092	1,204	+2.08
Jac $1,7,61$ $15,463$ $1,097$ $-1,222$ 183 $+3.35$ Jac $9,026$ $8,097$ 331 $-1,172$ 88 $-1,336$ $9,746$ $8,920$ 331 $-1,172$ 88 $-1,029$ 876 -6.87 $9,746$ $8,920$ 3066 -90118 136 -8.48 -1029 $8,756$ $8,775$ 3666 -90118 1366 -2.07 $8,756$ $38,575$ $33,616$ $+326$ -1027 -8.48 $12,477$ $12,662$ $33,616$ $+322$ -1122 126 -2.07 $10,0022$ $37,689$ $3,616$ $+522$ $-3,713$ 422 -1.72 $10,0022$ $37,689$ $3,616$ $+522$ -172 -172 $10,0022$ $82,794$ $17,232$ $12,864$ -2.73 -2.74 $10,0022$ $9,757$ $5,864$ -7.381 8055 -2.74 -2.74	5	10 252	9.788	681	-1,953	66	-4.59
def $9,026$ $8,097$ 331 $-1,172$ 88 -10.29 $9,746$ $8,970$ $7,879$ $-12,669$ 876 -6.81 $9,746$ $8,975$ $8,970$ 428 $-1,118$ 136 -6.81 $9,746$ $8,975$ $8,970$ 428 $-1,118$ 136 -6.81 $8,756$ $8,575$ 806 -901 876 -6.01 $8,756$ $8,575$ 806 -7.01 28.46 -2.07 $12,477$ $12,662$ $3,457$ $-3,713$ 422 -6.81 $12,477$ $12,662$ $3,616$ -492 -1.72 $11,437$ $37,388$ $3,616$ $-3,733$ 422 -1.72 $10,022$ $9,794$ $5,864$ $-7,381$ 805 -2.74 $11,17,124$ $1,5,392$ $1,216$ $-7,381$ 805 -2.72 10 $23,529$ $249,961$ $26,684$ $-7,381$	=	14 961	15.463	1.097	-1,222	183	+3.36
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rier $8/756$ $8/575$ 806 -901 86 -2.07 rier $39,295$ $38,617$ $3,457$ $-3,713$ 422 -1.72 hire $31,388$ $37,616$ $+ 52$ 367 -2.07 $31,388$ $37,616$ $+ 52$ 367 -2.20 $31,388$ $9,757$ $5,616$ $+ 322$ 128 $+.68$ $37,338$ $9,757$ $5,616$ $- 322$ 128 $+22$ -1.72 $31,0032$ $9,757$ $5,864$ $-7,381$ 128 $+22$ -1.72 367 -2.738 $-7,381$ 108 -2.72 -2.72 361 $-7,381$ $17,272$ $1,716$ 123 -2.13 361 $-7,381$ $-7,381$ -805 -2.72 361 $-7,381$ $-7,381$ -805 -2.12 361 $-7,381$ $-7,381$ -805 -2.13 361	13	9.746	8,920	428	-1,118	136	-8.48
rier $39,295$ $38,617$ $3,457$ $-3,713$ 422 -1.72 hire $12,477$ $12,662$ 705 -492 128 $+.68$ 12,477 $12,662$ 705 -492 128 $+.68$ 12,477 $12,662$ $3,616$ $+.52$ 367 $+9.60$ 10,032 $9,757$ 605 832 108 2.74 n $15,299$ $15,299$ $15,232$ 361 -7.321 108 -2.72 n $17,194$ $17,273$ $1,216$ 938 108 -2.72 n $17,194$ $17,273$ $1,216$ 938 189 $+.61$ n $23,629$ $249,961$ $26,848$ $-13,926$ $2,580$ $+.31$ n $21,074$ $20,625$ 881 $-1,150$ 189 $+.52$ n $22,466$ $23,912$ $26,848$ $-1,150$ 180 -2.13		8.756	8,575	806	106 -	86	-2.07
inte $12,477$ $12,662$ 705 -492 128 $+.68$ $34,388$ $37,689$ $3,616$ $+.52$ 367 $+9.60$ $34,388$ $37,689$ $3,616$ $+.52$ 367 $+9.60$ $10,032$ $9,757$ 605 -7381 805 -2.74 $85,296$ $82,974$ $5,864$ $-7,381$ 805 -2.72 $17,1299$ $17,239$ $1,7216$ -725 143 -2.74 $17,1299$ $17,232$ $1,216$ -938 189 -5.72 $17,124$ $21,074$ $20,625$ 881 $-1,150$ 189 $+.52$ 10 $22,4966$ $22,912$ $22,283$ $-1,150$ 180 -2.13 10 $22,2466$ $22,912$ $2,2283$ $-1,150$ 180 -2.13 10 $22,392$ $21,074$ $20,625$ -6566 -6.44 10 982 $-1,150$ -5	rier	39.295	38,617	3,457	-3,713	422	-1.72
33,388 $37,689$ $3,616$ $+$ 52 367 $+9.60$ $10,032$ $9,757$ 605 $ 832$ $77,689$ $3,616$ $+$ 52 367 $+9.60$ $10,032$ $9,757$ 605 $ 832$ 108 -2.74 $10,17,184$ $17,213$ $1,216$ $ 725$ 143 $+$ 61 $17,184$ $17,213$ $1,216$ $ 938$ -2.72 143 $+$ 61 $17,184$ $17,213$ $1,216$ $ 938$ -2.73 $+$ 61 $17,014$ $20,625$ 881 $-11,50$ 189 $+.51$ $+.51$ $17,074$ $20,625$ 881 $-11,50$ 180 -2.13 $17,327$ $17,326$ $2,580$ -4.31 -5.71 -5.66 $+6.44$ $10,73$ $23,656$ $-14,893$ 953 -8.13 -5.13 -5.13	dire	12,477	12,662	705	- 492	128	+ .68
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		34,388	37,689	3,616	+ 52	367	+9.60
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	-	10.032	9,757	605	- 832	108	-2.74
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	5	85.296	82,974	5,864	-7,381	805	-2.72
initial 17,134 17,273 1,216 - 938 189 + -22 ho 233,629 249,961 26,848 -13,926 2,580 + -33 ho 233,629 249,961 26,848 -13,926 2,580 +4.31 n 21,074 20,625 881 -1,150 180 -2.13 n 22,466 23,912 2,283 -1,150 180 -2.13 n 22,466 23,912 2,283 -1,44,893 953 -8.13 n 77,391 71,101 2,2556 -14,4893 953 -8.13 n 98 27,302 1,955 -17,424 1,056 -6.57		15,299	15,392	361	- 725	143	+ .61
Ind 233,629 249,961 26,848 -13,926 2,580 +4.31 n 21,074 20,625 881 -1,150 180 -2.13 n 22,466 23,912 2,283 -1,150 180 -2.13 n 22,466 23,912 2,283 -1,150 180 -2.13 n 22,466 23,912 2,283 -1,44,893 956 -6.44 n 77,391 71,101 2,556 -14,4893 953 -8.13 n 98.887 97.302 1,955 -17,424 1,056 -6.57	-	17,184	17.273	1,216	- 938	189	+ .52
21,074 20,625 881 -1,150 180 -2.13 21,074 20,625 881 -1,150 180 -2.13 7,391 23,912 2,283 - 571 266 +6.44 77,391 71,101 2,556 -14,893 953 -8.13 98 97,392 11,985 -17,424 1,056 -6.57	5 4	233 629	249.961	26,848	-13,926	2,580	+4.31
n 22,466 23,912 2,283 - 571 266 +6.44 77,391 71,101 2,556 -14,893 953 -8.13 -8.13 99,392 11.985 -17,424 1,056 -6.57	2	21 074	20.625	881	-1,150	180	-2.13
77,391 71,101 2,556 -14,893 953 -8.13 all 98 887 97,392 11,985 -17,424 1,056 -6.57	c	22.466	23,912	2,283	- 571	266	+6.44
		162,77	71,101	2,556	-14,893	953	-8.13
	110	08 887	97,397	11.985	-17.424	1,056	-6.57

10.1-	-2.35	+3.74	-4.47	+3.96	+ .01	+2.18	-3.75	-2.10	+9.56	-5.78	-2.36	+16.40	-4.00	-5.14	-9.08	-1.52	-8.77	-6.44	-16.23	-3.23	-2.41	+4.68	-4.00	-3.28	-1.39	+4.36	+10.15	73
	240	552	1,131	136	84	315	673	106	62	123	352	242	1,052	381	103	189	207	180	88	60	233	407	191	178	48	601	444	22,000
	-1,751	-4,250	-6,084	- 62	- 556	-2,149	-6,992	- 688	+ 239	-1,403	-2,940	+1,967	-12,464	-3,609	-1,489	-1,130	-2,573	-1,965	-2,113	- 569	-1,633	- 903	-2,247	-1,839	- 187	-2,044	- 684	-168,454
	1,467	6,575	4,499	718	641	2,067	4,274	598	432	805	2,551	1,723	9,662	2,418	454	1,039	1,097	959	481	319	1,403	3,123	1,733	1,355	164	5,547	4,938	175,796
	21,809	49,182	58,081	13,643	8,277	28,299	68,981	9,117	6,978	11,759	30,658	24,469	92,419	28,986	11,397	18,128	17,500	17,236	8,880	10,195	18,779	40,509	17,172	19,492	5,048	69,442	41,350	1,990,894
and and a second	22,333	47,402	60,797	13,123	8,276	27,626	71,672	9,313	6,369	12,480	31,399	21,021	96,273	30,558	12,535	18,408	19,183	18,422	10,600	10,535	19,242	38,696	17,888	20,154	5,119	66,540	37,540	2,005,552
	Mineral	Mingo	Monongalia	Monroe	Mor gan	Nicholas	Ohio	Pendleton	Pleasants	Pocahontas	Preston	Putnam	Raleigh	Randolph	Ritchie	Roane	Summers	Toylor	Tucker	Tyler	Upshur	Wayne	Webster	Wetzel	Wirt	Wood	Wyoming	Total

*July 1 date's used because of the completness and availability of school enrollment figures as of that date which are used in calculating net migration. Likewise, vital statistics are complete for the previous year as of that date. rural areas of the State have shown smaller populations with each successive census since 1900, even though the State as a whole was increasing in population.

The interplay of forces which has affected West Virginia's farm population has been concisely stated by Armentrout and Johnson as follows:

"With the exception of the Shenandoah River Valley, The South Branch Valley, the Greenbrier Valley, and the highest plateau section north of the Greenbrier Valley, practically all of the state has had an agricultural development more or less incidental to the development of the lumber, oil, gas, and coal industries. While major improvements were being made in the agriculture of the nation from 1880 to 1920, the agriculture in much of West Virginia was largely in a state of arrested development. The influx of populations caused by the lumber, oil and gas industries and the subsequent decline in these industries has tended to leave a larger population dependent upon agriculture than otherwise might have been the case if the land had been settled originally only for agricultural purposes. Land has been devoted to agricultural uses even where the probable income was small, because the income from lumber, oil and gas made up the difference. With a relatively small income remaining from these sources today, the occupants of the land in many sections are forced to get along on the limited income possible from agriculture alone. This has led to land uses not entirely consistent with conservation of soil or with good timber or pasture management. There is a tremendous pressure of population on the land, and low-income farmers abound."2

The situation described, together with developments within the coal industry, a drop in coal consumption, and mechanization of mining, have caused a lessening in employment opportunities within the State, resulting in a drop in the total population.

Since the 1920 census, West Virginia has depended upon an excess of births over deaths for its population increase, while, at the same time, witnessing a net out-migration.3 Only recently has this stream of outmigration exceeded the total natural increase for the State as a whole.

Some have viewed with alarm West Virginia's population loss, whereas others, though expressing regret, have indicated that under the existing circumstances the State could now take better care of those who remained. Until West Virginin is able to share more intensely in industrial development, as is a lively possibility, population loss is likely to continue.

²W. W. Armentrout and T. D. Johnson, Types of Faming in West Virginia, West Virginia University Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 292, August, 1939, p. 5. ¹Calculated from successive United States Census data.

POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR JULY 1, 1955

Table 2 contains the estimates of the July 1, 1955, population for West Virginia by counties. These estimates are calculations and not census figures. The estimates are derived from the 1950 census, vital statistics, and school enrollment figures by a technique which the Bureau of Census has formulated for small areas-that is, counties, cities, and netropolitan areas.

West Virginia school enrollment figures are generally available for he county units only. Unless other and less reliable techniques would be used, population estimates for small areas other than counties would be possible only as school enrollment figures can be made to correspond o the appropriate geographic units.

STIMATING PROCEDURES

The estimates in Table 2 are made by use of the following proceures:*

The natural increase figures recorded by the Bureau of Vital Stastics, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, are vised for under-registration of births with an adjustment for the perentage of white and non-white in the 1950 population.

The net migration figure is based upon the school enrollment figes for 1955 adjusted by the relationship of the school enrollment of 950 to the age cohort 7 1/4 to 14 1/4 and compared with the age cohort 1/4 to 9 1/4 of the 1950 census adjusted for underenumeration of lower re groups and for survival.

This relationship between school enrollment and appropriate age hort is then adjusted so as to he related to the migration of all age oups. The factor 0.94 is the figure which the Bureau of the Census s discovered to be the one most accurately expressing the relationship tween this particular school enrollment—age cohort and the total popution.

The 0.94 factor is then multiplied by the 1950 census figures, adsted for underenumeration of younger ages, for births occurring 1950 to 55, and for loss to the armed forces.

The product is the net migration for the specific area concerned. e net loss to the armed forces has been apportioned to the counties on basis of the county's proportion of 20- to 24-year-old males to the

or a more complete account of the procedures see United States Bureau of the Census, rent Population Reports, Population Estimates: Illustrative Example of a Method of unating the Current Population of Sub-Divisions of the United States, No. 133, March 1956, p. 25.

State's total of this age group. The estimated population for July 1. 1955, is the sum of the 1950 civilian population, plus the natural increase, (plus or minus) the net migration, less the net loss to the armed forces. No adjustment needed to be made for increased military personne located within the State since there are no major military installations in West Virginia. In considering the accuracy of the estimate of the population for any county, the method used could properly be examined in th light of variations in migration which do not fit the patterns implied i the use of the 0.94 factor between the school enrollment-appropriate ag cohort and the total net migration.

SOME REASONS FOR POPULATION CHANGE

Among the factors in population change which may be used to eplain the changes in evidence are: (1) a continuing decline in the numb of persons engaged in agriculture, supplemented by some consideration of a better man-land ratio having been achieved in the light of techn logical developments and shifts within agriculture as commercial ente prises; (2) the decline in the number of persons employed in mining, the closing of exhausted mines and the opening of new ones, and the differential advantages of certain mining areas for coal shipments abroad a to industrial areas; (3) the continuing suburban developments which cro county and state boundaries; (4) the beginning of or continuing industri developments.

A field survey is planned for the summer of 1957 to study the fluence of population change and migration upon rural community li. The field survey is expected to indicate if population gains or loss have continued among a selected list of communities which lost or gain more than ten per cent between 1940 and 1950. Factors which seem relate to these population changes will be studied.