

# Summit Media Broadcasting, LLC

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Sutton, WV 26601

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WDBS 97.1 FM

WSGB 1490 AM

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**RE: DA 05-1076**

**Auction No. 62 Comments**

4-26-05

Federal Communications Commission  
Commission's Secretary Attn.: WTB/ASAD  
Office Of The Secretary

Summit Media Broadcasting, LLC a small West Virginia company is the licensee of radio stations WDBS and WSGB located in Braxton County, West Virginia. We would like to participate in the upcoming FM Auction No. 62 and therefore would like to submit the following comments.

SMB participated in the last FM Auction 37 and found the Simultaneous Multiple-Round Auction Design is not fair to smaller companies who are bidding on one or two channels. This method favors the national well funded groups who have the ability to jump to smaller market channels if they encounter a high bid on a favored larger market channel. This is unfair to both smaller participants and the FCC. This action creates a "resting place" for large bidders till they see how their preferred channel is doing. This may also be a reason for so many auction participants withdrawing their high bid and the FCC having to take back channels and losing bids. SMB went 8 rounds as the high bid and then from nowhere came a bid from a large bidder to knock SMB out. We propose that a limitation be placed on how many standing high bid rounds go by. Namely, if 5 consecutive rounds go by with the same high bidder, with no one else bidding against that high bidder, that the auction for that channel be declared closed and awarded to that high bidder for 5 consecutive rounds. This would make it fair for both small and large companies, they would have to be serious about their choice of bids being placed on channels.

Reference to Stage One and Stage Two bidding eligibility, we suggest that the FCC keep eligibility at 100 percent. What purpose does it serve to have 75% activity in Stage One and 95% activity in Stage Two to maintain a 100% bidding credit. The new proposal requires a mathematics specialist to figure out how to place bids and if you're making a proper minimum bid. The FCC will not benefit monetarily from this idea, only a large well funded company who can hire a math strategy expert will gain an unfair advantage over others. 100% percent needs to remain 100% percent, make your 100% percent valued bid or get out of the auction, it's that simple.

SMB also requests a minimum bid reduction on construction permit FM145 Arnoldsburg, WV to be reduced to the minimum opening bid of \$2,500. Arnoldsburg, WV located in Calhoun County is one of West Virginia's poorest counties. The 2003 population estimate for Calhoun county is 7,294 people, down 3.8% percent from the 2000 census. Calhoun has one of WV's highest unemployment rates and even the local county government has found it difficult to meet it's financial responsibilities during the later part of 2004 and early 2005. The median household income in 1999 was \$21,578. This county is also surrounded by other sparsely populated counties with limited means to support a Class A FM radio station. Please see **Exhibit A** for Calhoun CO Census information. SMB believes that Arnoldsburg, WV falls into the same category as many other FM Construction Permits in Auction 62 that are priced with a minimum opening bid of \$2,500.00 and therefore requests the FCC lowers Construction Permit FM 145 to \$2,500.00. Additional information on WV county data to substantiate income and unemployment figures is located in **Exhibit C**.

SMB also requests a minimum bid reduction on construction permit FM146 Burnsville, WV to be reduced to the minimum opening bid of \$5,000. Burnsville, WV located in Braxton County is also one of West Virginia's poorest counties. The 2003 population estimate for Braxton county is 14,771 people, see **Exhibit B** for Braxton CO. Burnsville is located in a remote part of the county and approximately 20 to 30 miles from the nearest shopping areas and population centers in all directions of Burnsville. The community has only a handful of businesses, a bank branch, two gas stations, two restaurants, a motel, a drug store, an auto parts store, of which only a couple advertise regularly on WDBS a class B FM station in Braxton County and the local newspapers. Although I-79 runs through Burnsville, this area of the state is sparsely populated with little advertising support base. Construction Permit 146 in Burnsville, WV a class A FM station will not cover much of any population centers and therefore the opening bid should be lowered to \$5,000.00. Additional information on WV county data to substantiate income and unemployment figures is located in **Exhibit C**.

SMB also encourages the FCC to continue the new entrant bidding credit as was used in FM auction 37. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
N. Al Sergi - Managing Member  
Summit Media Broadcasting, LLC

# West Virginia QuickFacts

## Calhoun County, West Virginia

People QuickFacts	Calhoun County	West Virginia
Population, 2003 estimate	7,294	1,810,354
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003	-3.8%	0.1%
Population, 2000	7,582	1,808,344
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	-3.8%	0.8%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2000	5.1%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000	22.4%	22.3%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2000	16.7%	15.3%
Female persons, percent, 2000	50.1%	51.4%
White persons, percent, 2000 (a)	98.9%	95.0%
Black or African American persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	3.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.3%	0.2%
Asian persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2000 (a)	Z	Z
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	0.2%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	0.4%	0.9%
White persons, not of Hispanic/Latino origin, percent, 2000	98.6%	94.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2000 (b)	0.6%	0.7%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000 <sup>1</sup> , pct age 5+, 2000	70.1%	63.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	0.6%	1.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	1.8%	2.7%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	62.4%	75.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	9.3%	14.8%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	2,147	410,781
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	38.0	26.2
Housing units, 2002	3,883	852,165
Homeownership rate, 2000	78.9%	75.2%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	3.1%	12.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$46,000	\$72,800
Households, 2000	3,071	736,481
Persons per household, 2000	2.46	2.40
Median household income, 1999	\$21,578	\$29,696
Per capita money income, 1999	\$11,491	\$16,477

Persons below poverty, percent, 1999	25.1%	17.9%
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<b>Business QuickFacts</b>	<b>Calhoun County</b>	<b>West Virginia</b>
Private nonfarm establishments with paid employees, 2001	134	40,439
Private nonfarm employment, 2001	1,046	555,613
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2001	-2.9%	-0.5%
Nonemployer establishments, 2000	552	81,838
Manufacturers shipments, 1997 (\$1000)	NA	18,293,309
Retail sales, 1997 (\$1000)	20,729	14,057,933
Retail sales per capita, 1997	\$2,617	\$7,743
Minority-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	F	3.8%
Women-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	F	27.1%
Housing units authorized by building permits, 2002	X	4,890
Federal funds and grants, 2002 (\$1000)	57,441	13,360,729

<b>Geography QuickFacts</b>	<b>Calhoun County</b>	<b>West Virginia</b>
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	281	24,078
Persons per square mile, 2000	27.0	75.1
Metropolitan Area	None	
FIPS Code	013	54

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.  
 (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data  
 NA: Not available  
 D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information  
 X: Not applicable  
 S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards  
 Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown  
 F: Fewer than 100 firms

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, County Business Patterns, 1997 Economic Census, Minority- and Women-Owned Business, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report, 1997 Census of Governments

Last Revised: Tuesday, 01-Feb-2005 15:50:04 EST

**Census Bureau Links:** . . . . .

## West Virginia QuickFacts

### Braxton County, West Virginia

People QuickFacts	Braxton County	West Virginia
Population, 2003 estimate	14,771	1,810,354
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003	0.5%	0.1%
Population, 2000	14,702	1,808,344
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	13.1%	0.8%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2000	5.3%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000	22.8%	22.3%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2000	15.8%	15.3%
Female persons, percent, 2000	49.4%	51.4%
White persons, percent, 2000 (a)	98.0%	95.0%
Black or African American persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.7%	3.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.3%	0.2%
Asian persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2000 (a)	Z	Z
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	0.2%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	0.7%	0.9%
White persons, not of Hispanic/Latino origin, percent, 2000	97.6%	94.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2000 (b)	0.4%	0.7%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000 <sup>1</sup> , pct age 5+, 2000	66.5%	63.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	0.2%	1.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	1.4%	2.7%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	67.3%	75.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	9.2%	14.8%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	3,938	410,781
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	36.7	26.2
Housing units, 2002	7,437	852,165
Homeownership rate, 2000	78.2%	75.2%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	4.7%	12.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$59,300	\$72,800
Households, 2000	5,771	736,481
Persons per household, 2000	2.46	2.40
Median household income, 1999	\$24,412	\$29,696
Per capita money income, 1999	\$13,349	\$16,477

Persons below poverty, percent, 1999	22.0%	17.9%
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<b>Business QuickFacts</b>	<b>Braxton County</b>	<b>West Virginia</b>
Private nonfarm establishments with paid employees, 2001	328	40,439
Private nonfarm employment, 2001	3,092	555,613
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2001	0.2%	-0.5%
Nonemployer establishments, 2000	661	81,838
Manufacturers shipments, 1997 (\$1000)	NA	18,293,309
Retail sales, 1997 (\$1000)	111,123	14,057,933
Retail sales per capita, 1997	\$8,402	\$7,743
Minority-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	F	3.8%
Women-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	22.6%	27.1%
Housing units authorized by building permits, 2002	1	4,890
Federal funds and grants, 2002 (\$1000)	86,417	13,360,729

<b>Geography QuickFacts</b>	<b>Braxton County</b>	<b>West Virginia</b>
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	513	24,078
Persons per square mile, 2000	28.6	75.1
Metropolitan Area	None	
FIPS Code	007	54

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.  
 (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data  
 NA: Not available  
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 S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards  
 Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown  
 F: Fewer than 100 firms

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, County Business Patterns, 1997 Economic Census, Minority- and Women-Owned Business, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report, 1997 Census of Governments

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# West Virginia Business & Economic

# REVIEW

Volume 9 • February 2003

West Virginia University College of Business and Economics

## West Virginia County Performance

(from the West Virginia 2003 Economic Outlook)

by Brian Osoba, Graduate Research Assistant and  
George Hammond, director, West Virginia Economic Outlook Program

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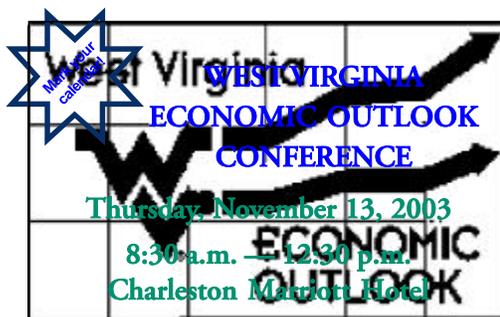
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### NOTE TO OUR READERS:

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We hope you find our format easy to access and read. Please let us know if you see ways to improve it. You can email our editor at: [connie.banta@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:connie.banta@mail.wvu.edu)



### Recent Developments

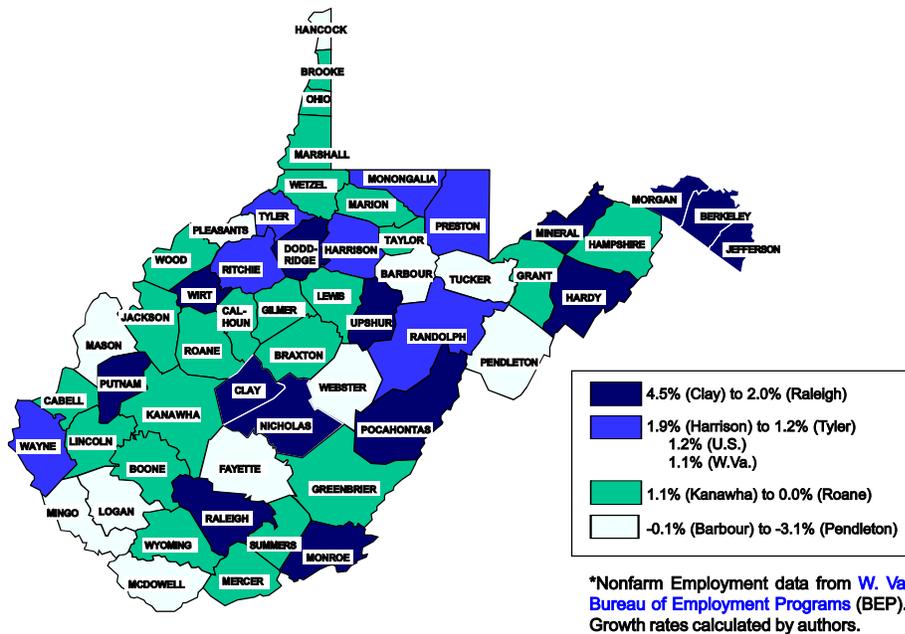
The 1990s revealed dichotomous patterns in West Virginia, especially with regard to economic performance and population demographics. The most apparent examples of these differences are between metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties, as well as between the Eastern Panhandle and most remaining counties.

During the 1990s, metropolitan counties typically enjoyed stronger job growth, lower unemployment and poverty rates, and higher income levels than those of their more rural counterparts. Counties in the Eastern Panhandle enjoyed the same rapid job growth and relatively high living standards as the rest of the state's metropolitan areas. However, they also experienced major influxes of population. Most other urban areas recently have seen more residents migrate out to other states. This is especially true of the counties in the Northern Panhandle, which have seen continuous population losses for more than a decade. Despite lagging behind in economic performance for some time, several rural counties, especially those in the southernmost part of the state, recently have seen some improvements, particularly higher job growth and decreased unemployment rates. It remains to be seen, though, whether these positive developments will continue into the future.

The cluster of West Virginia counties that showed the strongest average annual job growth between 1995 and 2001 were located in the Eastern Panhandle and the easternmost portion of the Potomac Highlands. Berkeley, Hardy, Jefferson,

Mineral, and Morgan counties all beat the national rate of job growth (1.2 percent annually). **Figure 1** displays these findings. The strong job growth in the Eastern Panhandle resulted largely from job gains in printing and publishing, amusement and recreation, services (especially business services and health care), and government. Hardy and Hampshire counties saw large gains in state and local government employment, construction, lumber and wood products and retail trade.

**Figure 1**  
**W. Va. County Average Annual Nonfarm Employment Growth\***  
**1995-2001**



Meanwhile, some of the counties in the southern region—namely Logan, Mingo, and McDowell—lost jobs between 1995 and 2001. Large and (until recently) consistent declines in coal mining employment brought about these overall losses. One positive point was that Logan and McDowell counties each experienced growth in services employment, while Mingo County gained close to 200 jobs in the manufacturing sector (mainly in lumber and wood products). This diversification may just help cushion the impact of further possible declines in mining employment. Boone and Lincoln counties posted positive, but weak, growth in total nonfarm payroll during the same time period. Both counties were also cushioned by gains in services employment.

Among individual counties, Clay, Jefferson, Putnam, and Mineral far surpassed the others with average annual job growth rates each exceeding 3.0 percent. The major driving force behind this growth came from the services sector. The latter three counties also saw retail trade employment expand significantly. On the other hand, Pendleton County's annual average employment loss of 3.1 percent (the largest in the state for this period) was mainly due to the exit of the Hanover Shoe Company. The shutdown of this facility resulted in the disappearance of most of the county's manufacturing jobs. As shown in both **Table 1** and in the above cases, West Virginia's employment exhibited a distinct trend between 1995 and 2001—goods-producing jobs disappeared while service producing jobs flourished.

**Table 1**  
**Nonfarm Payroll Employment Growth and Unemployment Rates**  
**(in percent)**

Nonfarm Employment Average Annual Growth Rates 1995-2001							Unemployment Rates				
Counties	Total	Rank	Goods-Producing		Service-Producing		1990	2000	2001	Change 1990-2000	Change 2000-2001
			Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank					
Barbour	-0.1	45	-5.8	51	1.0	35	12.5	10.3	7.8	-2.2	-2.5
Berkeley	2.2	9	2.7	8	2.1	21	6.3	2.9	3.7	-3.4	0.8
Boone	0.0	43	-1.0	31	0.9	36	9.3	9.7	5.5	0.4	-4.2
Braxton	0.8	28	-0.7	25	1.2	30	13.3	9.9	8.0	-3.4	-1.9
Brooke	0.8	31	-1.6	34	1.9	23	6.3	3.8	4.5	-2.5	0.7
Cabell	0.6	33	-1.7	35	1.1	32	6.5	4.7	4.7	-1.8	0.0
Calhoun	1.0	23	-2.8	40	2.6	13	16.7	16.3	15.4	-0.4	-0.9
Clay	4.5	1	5.4	1	4.2	4	16.1	9.6	7.1	-6.5	-2.5
Doddridge	2.6	6	-4.9	49	4.3	3	7.4	4.6	4.4	-2.8	-0.2
Fayette	-0.2	46	-5.0	50	0.6	42	11.1	8.4	6.7	-2.7	-1.7
Gilmer	0.2	39	2.1	10	-0.4	51	10.9	7.3	5.1	-3.6	-2.2
Grant	0.1	40	2.4	9	-1.4	54	6.9	6.9	5.1	0.0	-1.8
Greenbrier	1.1	22	0.1	18	1.3	29	11.9	7.2	6.2	-4.7	-1.0
Hampshire	1.0	24	1.0	15	1.1	33	9.2	4.2	4.5	-5.0	0.3
Hancock	-1.2	50	-3.2	43	0.6	43	5.6	4.0	3.7	-1.6	-0.3
Hardy	2.3	7	1.0	16	4.3	2	5.7	2.6	2.7	-3.1	0.1
Harrison	1.9	14	-0.9	29	2.4	16	8.6	5.8	5.0	-2.8	-0.8
Jackson	0.5	37	-0.2	22	1.0	34	9.2	6.9	6.0	-2.3	-0.9
Jefferson	3.8	2	-2.3	38	5.3	1	5.6	2.4	2.5	-3.2	0.1
Kanawha	1.1	21	-0.6	24	1.4	27	6.2	4.3	4.0	-1.9	-0.3
Lewis	0.8	30	0.7	17	0.8	39	10.9	6.4	5.9	-4.5	-0.5
Lincoln	0.1	41	1.4	12	-0.1	50	14.1	9.7	8.5	-4.4	-1.2
Logan	-1.4	51	-7.3	53	0.3	46	11.2	9.0	5.5	-2.2	-3.5
Marion	0.6	35	-3.3	45	1.6	24	8.8	6.1	5.4	-2.7	-0.7
Marshall	0.1	42	-0.7	27	0.5	45	7.4	6.1	6.2	-1.3	0.1
Mason	-1.4	52	-7.7	54	0.1	49	8.9	13.0	10.8	4.1	-2.2
McDowell	-1.4	53	-2.4	39	-1.2	53	13.0	11.0	6.9	-2.0	-4.1
Mercer	0.5	38	-0.9	28	0.7	41	8.1	4.5	4.5	-3.6	0.0
Mineral	3.2	4	1.2	14	3.8	5	6.7	6.1	6.2	-0.6	0.1
Mingo	-2.2	54	-3.1	42	-1.7	55	10.7	9.5	6.9	-1.2	-2.6
Monongalia	1.7	17	-4.1	47	2.5	14	6.4	2.4	2.2	-4.0	-0.2
Monroe	2.1	11	1.5	11	2.2	20	9.2	4.3	4.0	-4.9	-0.3
Morgan	2.0	13	-2.2	37	3.0	8	4.7	3.0	3.5	-1.7	0.5
Nicholas	2.3	8	-0.1	20	3.0	7	12.9	8.0	6.0	-4.9	-2.0
Ohio	0.6	36	-0.9	30	0.7	40	5.3	3.6	3.5	-1.7	-0.1
Pendleton	-3.1	55	-23.4	55	2.9	9	5.7	10.1	3.1	4.4	-7.0
Pleasants	-0.3	48	-1.6	33	0.2	48	10.1	7.9	6.8	-2.2	-1.1
Pocahontas	2.2	10	-0.5	23	2.8	10	13.2	7.5	7.3	-5.7	-0.2
Preston	1.5	18	3.3	7	0.9	38	10.0	5.1	4.6	-4.9	-0.5
Putnam	3.2	3	4.7	3	2.8	11	7.0	4.4	3.7	-2.6	-0.7
Raleigh	2.0	12	0.0	19	2.4	17	8.8	6.1	4.2	-2.7	-1.9
Randolph	1.8	15	1.2	13	2.0	22	14.3	6.2	5.9	-8.1	-0.3
Ritchie	1.4	19	3.8	5	-0.6	52	14.0	7.5	8.1	-6.5	0.6
Roane	0.0	44	-3.1	41	1.4	28	15.2	12.5	13.4	-2.7	0.9
Summers	0.6	34	5.3	2	0.3	47	9.6	7.6	6.4	-2.0	-1.2
Taylor	0.8	32	-4.0	46	2.4	15	9.9	5.5	5.5	-4.4	0.0
Tucker	-0.4	49	-4.5	48	0.9	37	12.1	6.6	5.6	-5.5	-1.0
Tyler	1.2	20	-1.3	32	2.7	12	9.9	5.5	5.3	-4.4	-0.2
Upshur	2.8	5	4.2	4	2.3	18	10.7	5.8	5.3	-4.9	-0.5
Wayne	1.8	16	-0.2	21	2.3	19	8.3	5.2	5.6	-3.1	0.4
Webster	-0.3	47	-3.3	44	1.1	31	19.0	8.2	7.3	-10.8	-0.9
Wetzel	1.0	26	3.8	6	0.6	44	10.9	9.0	8.5	-1.9	-0.5
Wirt	1.0	25	-6.3	52	3.7	6	17.4	11.9	10.0	-5.5	-1.9
Wood	0.8	29	-1.9	36	1.6	26	7.0	4.5	4.7	-2.5	0.2
Wyoming	1.0	27	-0.7	26	1.6	25	12.0	8.7	5.8	-3.3	-2.9
West Virginia	1.1	—	-1.1	—	1.7	—	7.9	5.5	4.9	-2.4	-0.6
U.S.	1.2	—	0.3	—	1.4	—	5.6	4.0	4.8	-1.6	0.8

Calculation of ranks and changes by authors. All changes are annual. A rank of 1 indicates the highest growth rate. Source: Employment and unemployment data is from West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs. [http://www.state.wv.us/bep/]

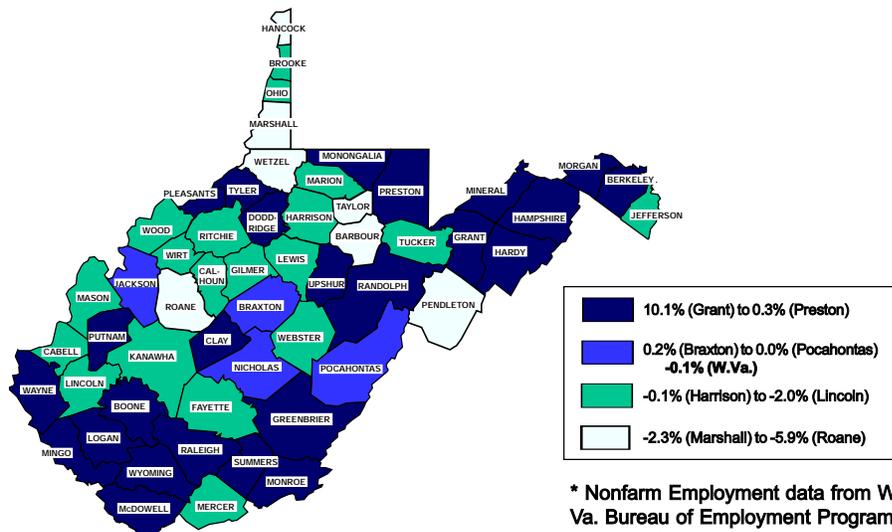
More recently, the southern counties, including Boone, Mingo, Wyoming, McDowell and Logan, have added jobs faster than both the state and the nation. As **Figure 2** shows, between 2000 and 2001 these counties posted job growth between 0.8 percent for Logan County and 5.3 percent for Boone County, compared to 0.2 percent for the U.S. and negative 0.1 percent for West Virginia. This is mostly attributed to increased employment in the coal-mining sector. Boone, Logan, Mingo, and McDowell counties together added nearly 800 coal-mining jobs, an increase of 12.6 percent between 2000 and 2001.

During this same time period, the counties of the Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Highlands added jobs (except for Jefferson County, which actually lost jobs) faster than both the U.S. and West Virginia. Despite its poor performance during the 1990s, Grant County saw job growth between 2000 and 2001 of 10.1 percent. Most of these new jobs were in construction. The worst performing region in the state was the Northern Panhandle, which lost over 1,000 (1.6 percent) of its jobs within this one-year period. Most of these lost jobs were from Hancock County's primary metals industry, and specifically from Weirton Steel Corporation.

In 2001, unemployment rates were highest in the rural center of the state, especially in Calhoun, Roane, Wirt, Ritchie, and Braxton counties. During that year, each of these counties experienced unemployment rates at or above 8.0 percent. This was far above the state and national rates of 4.9 percent and 4.8 percent respectively. Based on their impressive job growth between 2000 and 2001, it is no surprise that the rural southern counties had major decreases in their unemployment rates for the same period of time. Boone, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, and Wyoming counties all saw their respective unemployment rates decrease by at least 2.5 percentage points during this one-year time period. Again, the expansion in coal mining jobs was the major contributor to these sharp declines in the counties' unemployment rates. Unemployment rates are also located in **Table 1**.

As **Figure 3** shows, the metropolitan counties (including Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, and Wood), the counties of both the Northern and Eastern Panhandles, and Monongalia County all had unemployment rates below those of the nation and the state. In fact, Monongalia, Jefferson, and Hardy each had unemployment rates below 3.0 percent. Kanawha County had the highest per capita income in the state of \$28,681 in 2000.

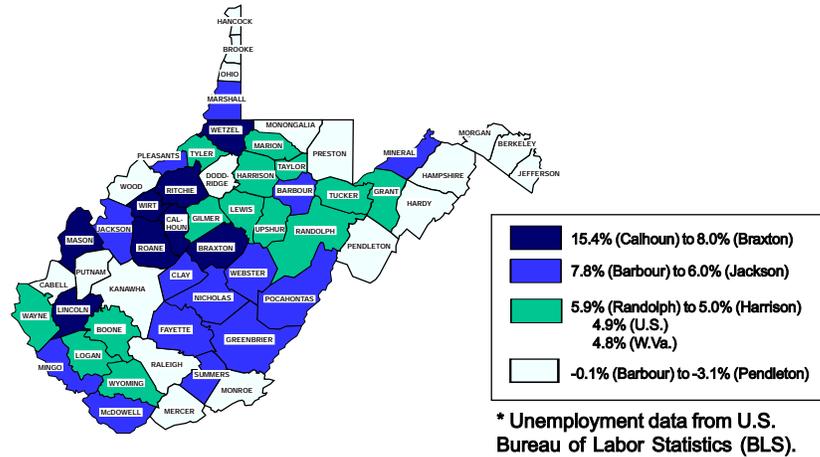
**Figure 2**  
W. Va. County Nonfarm Employment Growth Rates\*  
2000-2001



However, this still trailed the U.S. per capita personal income level of \$29,469. Although Webster County remained last in the state with income of \$14,246 per person, this was a significant increase from its 1990 figure of \$9,098. **Table 2 (next page)** summarizes total and per-capita personal income, as well as annual county personal income growth rates.

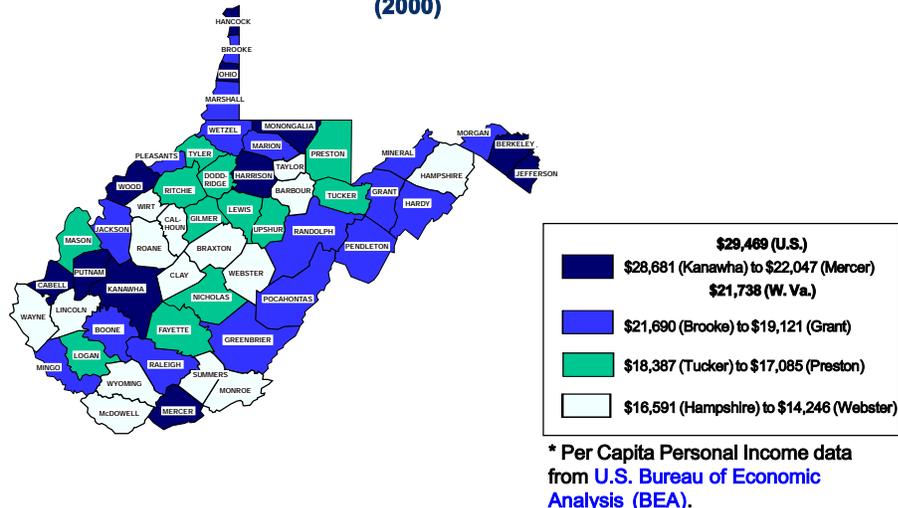
There is certainly a pattern evident in **Figure 4** showing county per capita personal

**Figure 3**  
W. Va. County Unemployment Rates  
2001



income in 2000. Nearly all of the counties exceeding the state per capita income are in fairly urban or metropolitan areas. In fact, all of the counties that are part of a census-designated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) have relatively high levels of income. In contrast, counties considered among the most rural, including Webster, Calhoun, Hampshire, Wirt, and Wyoming, have levels of per capita personal income that are far below the state average.

**Figure 4**  
W. Va. County Per Capita Income\*  
(2000)



**Table 2**  
**W. Va. Personal Income by County**  
**1995-2000**

Counties	Total Personal Income (Millions of Dollars)			Per Capita Personal Income (Dollars per Person)			PCPI Rank	
	1995	2000	Avg. Gr. (%) 1995-2000	1995	2000	Avg. Gr. (%) 1995-2000	Level 2000	Avg. Gr. 1995-2000
Barbour	209.8	253.6	3.9	13,155	16,308	4.4	43	14
Berkeley	1,268.8	1,759.8	6.8	18,905	23,027	4.0	10	25
Boone	451.2	544.3	3.8	17,403	21,348	4.2	14	19
Braxton	187.5	224.3	3.6	13,371	15,244	2.7	48	53
Brooke	468.6	549.8	3.2	17,586	21,690	4.3	12	16
Cabell	1,994.1	2,304.2	2.9	20,222	23,837	3.3	9	47
Calhoun	96.0	114.3	3.5	12,460	15,109	3.9	51	27
Clay	122.3	155.0	4.8	12,003	14,994	4.6	52	13
Doddridge	98.9	131.4	5.8	13,675	17,699	5.3	35	2
Fayette	741.7	856.6	2.9	15,207	18,027	3.5	34	43
Gilmer	105.2	125.1	3.5	14,436	17,456	3.9	38	30
Grant	182.3	215.6	3.4	16,348	19,121	3.2	28	49
Greenbrier	606.6	731.6	3.8	17,237	21,243	4.3	15	17
Hampshire	258.6	337.1	5.4	13,895	16,591	3.6	41	38
Hancock	688.9	787.4	2.7	20,100	24,145	3.7	7	34
Hardy	195.1	246.9	4.8	16,436	19,449	3.4	26	44
Harrison	1,341.1	1,719.4	5.1	19,185	25,080	5.5	4	1
Jackson	444.7	552.0	4.4	16,535	19,688	3.6	24	40
Jefferson	817.4	1,140.6	6.9	20,831	26,879	5.2	3	3
Kanawha	4,815.6	5,727.2	3.5	23,297	28,681	4.2	1	18
Lewis	257.3	308.1	3.7	14,885	18,239	4.1	31	21
Lincoln	265.7	326.1	4.2	12,162	14,736	3.9	53	28
Logan	662.7	683.9	0.6	16,067	18,207	2.5	32	54
Marion	1,038.6	1,171.6	2.4	17,839	20,731	3.1	17	51
Marshall	602.2	709.3	3.3	16,342	20,040	4.2	21	20
Mason	399.6	471.2	3.3	15,584	18,140	3.1	33	50
McDowell	399.4	412.6	0.7	12,745	15,201	3.6	49	39
Mercer	1,183.2	1,387.0	3.2	18,378	22,047	3.7	11	35
Mineral	420.6	525.4	4.6	15,420	19,424	4.7	27	8
Mingo	519.3	552.4	1.2	16,283	19,701	3.9	23	29
Monongalia	1,590.2	1,973.3	4.4	19,753	24,100	4.1	8	24
Monroe	178.4	213.0	3.6	13,160	14,584	2.1	54	55
Morgan	222.6	299.9	6.1	16,339	19,973	4.1	22	22
Nicholas	393.5	485.5	4.3	14,544	18,284	4.7	30	9
Ohio	1,166.9	1,325.4	2.6	23,525	28,009	3.6	2	41
Pendleton	129.7	160.7	4.4	15,739	19,665	4.6	25	12
Pleasants	135.4	159.4	3.3	17,977	21,222	3.4	16	46
Pocahontas	145.4	186.7	5.1	15,896	20,500	5.2	18	4
Preston	417.4	500.7	3.7	14,036	17,085	4.0	40	26
Putnam	952.8	1,287.3	6.2	19,688	24,879	4.8	5	7
Raleigh	1,407.7	1,694.1	3.8	17,864	21,426	3.7	13	36
Randolph	464.3	566.3	4.1	16,238	20,068	4.3	20	15
Ritchie	142.1	181.2	5.0	14,013	17,545	4.6	37	11
Roane	206.2	255.5	4.4	13,533	16,519	4.1	42	23
Summers	175.5	208.1	3.5	12,843	16,097	4.6	44	10
Taylor	202.2	244.6	3.9	12,865	15,192	3.4	50	45
Tucker	117.8	134.2	2.6	15,351	18,387	3.7	29	37
Tyler	141.4	164.0	3.0	14,182	17,113	3.8	39	32
Upshur	321.8	411.2	5.0	13,666	17,568	5.2	36	5
Wayne	598.4	687.5	2.8	13,933	16,028	2.8	45	52
Webster	121.7	138.1	2.6	11,849	14,246	3.8	55	33
Wetzel	319.5	361.4	2.5	17,260	20,463	3.5	19	42
Wirt	69.6	94.1	6.2	12,529	16,022	5.0	46	6
Wood	1,780.4	2,125.5	3.6	20,033	24,185	3.8	6	31
Wyoming	367.4	401.4	1.8	13,346	15,666	3.3	47	48
West Virginia	32,611.3	39,282.6	3.8	17,882	21,738	4.0	—	—
U.S.	6,192,235.0	8,314,032.0	6.1	23,255	29,469	4.9	—	—

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis. The data used in this table can be found on the internet at <<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>>. Calculation of ranks and changes by authors. All changes are annual. A rank of 1 indicates the highest growth rate. Growth rate ranks take into account additional, unpublished significant digits.

In 2000, the counties of the Eastern Panhandle (Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan) had poverty rates that were below the U.S. poverty rate of 12.4 percent. The lowest poverty rate in West Virginia, 9.3 percent, is found in Putnam County. The above four counties were among the fastest growing counties in the state with regard to population during the last decade. Most likely, this population influx is due to the increased job opportunities, and improved quality of life that is available.

On the other hand, the rural counties of Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Roane, and Webster, along with the southwestern coal counties of Boone, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming, all had very high rates of poverty, as they did during the 1990 census. Information on poverty rates and median household income may be found in [Table 3](#). Metropolitan counties with surprisingly high rates of poverty, such as Cabell, and Monongalia, may be able to attribute these high rates to the large proportion of college students that comprise their respective populations.

Jefferson County, with a median income of \$44,374, was the only county in West Virginia in 2000 to exceed the U.S. median income of \$41,994. The state's median income of \$29,696, despite increasing at a faster annual rate (3.6 percent annually since 1990) than the national figure (3.4 percent), still ranked near the bottom among the fifty states. Putnam County's 2000 median household income of \$41,892 grew at an average annual rate of 4.3 percent during the 1990s, placing it within striking distance of the national figure. The other counties in the state fall far short of the U.S. median household income.

As with per capita personal income, counties with the highest median household income levels in 2000 are predominantly urban. (Again, Cabell and Monongalia counties' low household incomes may be due to their large college populations, which tend to exert a downward bias on these figures.) Most counties having the lowest household income levels are rural, such as the southern coal counties and those in the center of the state, like Gilmer, Calhoun, Roane, Clay, Webster, and Braxton. McDowell County's household income of \$16,931 ranked it last among counties, far behind Webster County's \$21,055.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates, West Virginia lost over 6,000 residents between April 2000 and July 2001. Most of this decrease was in the form of out migration to other states. [Table 4](#) shows population characteristics for West Virginia, its counties, and the U.S. About 15 percent of the state's population loss may be attributed to natural increase (the difference between births and deaths), which was negative during this period. The natural increase is largely dependent on a region's age distribution. Counties having a larger proportion of females between the ages of 18 and 45, or the childbearing years, will tend to exhibit a large positive natural increase. Some examples include Berkeley, Jefferson, Mingo, Monongalia, and Putnam counties. Counties with larger proportions of people nearing or in retirement age will tend to have a larger negative natural increase, like Brooke, Hancock, Marion, Ohio, and Summers counties.

The four easternmost counties in the state had the highest total net domestic migration from April 2000 to July 2001, adding nearly 4,600 new residents during that time period. Overall, West Virginia actually lost 5,853 residents to out migration. So, the Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Highlands exert significant influence on population stabilization in the state. The remaining metropolitan counties suffered significant out migration, led by Kanawha, Cabell, Wood, and Monongalia counties, as well as those in the Northern Panhandle. In addition, the southern coal counties also suffered continued population losses to due out migration. It is interesting to note that most of the counties facing the highest levels of in- or out migration border other states. Meanwhile, counties in the center of the state tended to have less extreme changes.

Net international migration measures the difference between the number of people entering West Virginia from abroad and those leaving the state for other countries. Nearly all of the net international migration occurred in metropolitan counties, like Kanawha, Monongalia, Berkeley, Jefferson, Raleigh, Cabell and Wood counties, probably due to the existence of multinational companies or large universities in such counties.

**Table 3**  
**W. Va. Income and Poverty by County**  
**Median Household Income and Percent of Population in Poverty**

Counties	Median Household Income (Dollars per Household)			Median Income Rank		Percent Population in Poverty		Poverty Rank	
	1990	2000	Gr. (%) 1990-2000	Level 2000	Gr. (%) 1990-2000	1990	2000	Level 1990	Level 2000
Barbour	15,607	24,729	4.7	43	4	28.5	22.6	8	13
Berkeley	27,412	38,763	3.5	3	34	12.0	11.5	52	50
Boone	17,073	25,669	4.2	41	19	27.0	22.0	12	14
Braxton	16,359	24,412	4.1	46	23	25.8	22.0	14	15
Brooke	26,500	32,981	2.2	8	55	12.1	11.7	50	49
Cabell	21,255	28,479	3.0	24	48	19.1	19.2	34	26
Calhoun	14,496	21,578	4.1	51	25	32.0	25.1	6	8
Clay	12,855	22,120	5.6	50	2	39.2	27.5	1	5
Doddridge	17,159	26,744	4.5	37	9	23.0	19.8	19	21
Fayette	16,774	24,788	4.0	42	26	24.4	21.7	17	16
Gilmer	14,539	22,857	4.6	48	7	33.5	25.9	5	6
Grant	20,923	28,916	3.3	21	42	15.5	16.3	44	38
Greenbrier	19,411	26,927	3.3	36	41	17.9	18.2	39	31
Hampshire	20,753	31,666	4.3	12	15	18.2	16.3	38	40
Hancock	26,031	33,759	2.6	6	51	11.9	11.1	53	52
Hardy	20,745	31,846	4.4	11	12	14.6	13.1	48	48
Harrison	20,367	30,562	4.1	18	20	17.4	17.2	40	34
Jackson	21,655	32,434	4.1	10	21	20.0	15.2	31	43
Jefferson	30,941	44,374	3.7	1	33	10.6	10.3	55	54
Kanawha	23,999	33,766	3.5	5	36	15.3	14.4	45	45
Lewis	17,972	27,066	4.2	33	18	23.7	19.9	18	19
Lincoln	14,659	22,662	4.5	49	11	33.8	27.9	4	4
Logan	17,942	24,603	3.2	44	44	27.7	24.1	11	10
Marion	20,386	28,626	3.5	22	37	19.0	16.3	35	39
Marshall	22,687	30,989	3.2	14	46	16.0	16.6	43	37
Mason	20,135	27,134	3.0	31	47	22.1	19.9	21	20
McDowell	13,141	16,931	2.6	55	53	37.7	37.7	2	1
Mercer	19,365	26,628	3.2	38	43	20.4	19.7	30	23
Mineral	22,036	31,149	3.5	13	35	14.8	14.7	47	44
Mingo	16,066	21,347	2.9	52	49	30.9	29.7	7	3
Monongalia	22,183	28,625	2.6	23	52	20.6	22.8	28	11
Monroe	18,217	27,575	4.2	27	16	21.0	16.2	27	41
Morgan	24,372	35,016	3.7	4	31	11.0	10.4	54	53
Nicholas	18,116	26,974	4.1	34	24	24.4	19.2	16	27
Ohio	22,489	30,836	3.2	16	45	15.0	15.8	46	42
Pendleton	19,565	30,429	4.5	19	10	17.0	11.4	42	51
Pleasants	20,910	32,736	4.6	9	8	19.4	13.7	33	47
Pocahontas	17,237	26,401	4.4	39	13	21.2	17.1	26	35
Preston	19,940	27,927	3.4	26	38	18.9	18.3	36	30
Putnam	27,405	41,892	4.3	2	14	12.0	9.3	51	55
Raleigh	19,566	28,181	3.7	25	28	19.9	18.5	32	29
Randolph	18,278	27,299	4.1	30	22	21.9	18.0	23	33
Ritchie	17,333	27,332	4.7	29	5	26.0	19.1	13	28
Roane	15,375	24,511	4.8	45	3	28.1	22.6	9	12
Summers	16,457	21,147	2.5	53	54	24.5	24.4	15	9
Taylor	17,963	27,124	4.2	32	17	22.9	20.3	20	17
Tucker	17,949	26,250	3.9	40	27	17.0	18.1	41	32
Tyler	20,360	29,290	3.7	20	30	18.3	16.6	37	36
Upshur	18,739	26,973	3.7	35	29	21.2	20.0	25	18
Wayne	19,688	27,352	3.3	28	39	21.8	19.6	24	25
Webster	13,371	21,055	4.6	54	6	34.8	31.8	3	2
Wetzel	21,545	30,935	3.7	15	32	20.5	19.8	29	22
Wirt	16,951	30,748	6.1	17	1	22.0	19.6	22	24
Wood	25,161	33,285	2.8	7	50	14.1	13.9	49	46
Wyoming	17,248	23,932	3.3	47	40	27.9	25.1	10	7
West Virginia	20,795	29,696	3.6	—	—	19.7	17.9	—	—
U.S.	30,056	41,994	3.4	—	—	13.1	12.4	—	—

Source: Data is from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Bureau of the Census: <<http://www.census.gov>>. Calculation of ranks and changes by authors. All changes are annual. A rank of 1 indicates the highest growth rate.

**Table 4**  
**W. Va. County Population Characteristics**

Counties	Total Population			Population Changes April 2000-July 2001						
	April 1990	April 2000	July 2001	Ann. % Ch. April 1990- April 2000	Ann. % Ch. April 2000- July 2001	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Domestic Migration	Net Intnt'l Migration
Barbour	15,699	15,557	15,514	-0.1	-0.2	204	260	-56	22	0
Berkeley	59,253	75,905	79,202	2.5	3.5	1,206	756	450	2,746	45
Boone	25,870	25,535	25,427	-0.1	-0.3	361	356	5	-108	0
Braxton	12,998	14,702	14,747	1.2	0.2	198	190	8	38	0
Brooke	26,992	25,447	25,117	-0.6	-1.0	309	439	-130	-207	14
Cabell	96,827	96,784	95,682	-0.0	-0.9	1,447	1,574	-127	-1,007	43
Calhoun	7,885	7,582	7,392	-0.4	-2.0	93	136	-43	-149	0
Clay	9,983	10,330	10,324	0.3	-0.0	165	162	3	-3	0
Doddridge	6,994	7,403	7,745	0.6	3.7	94	106	-12	346	0
Fayette	47,952	47,579	47,089	-0.1	-0.8	697	759	-62	-431	16
Gilmer	7,669	7,160	7,120	-0.7	-0.4	86	127	-41	3	0
Grant	10,428	11,299	11,340	0.8	0.3	169	129	40	0	0
Greenbrier	34,693	34,453	34,479	-0.1	0.1	489	544	-55	87	11
Hampshire	16,498	20,203	20,798	2.0	2.3	274	244	30	551	5
Hancock	35,233	32,667	32,258	-0.8	-1.0	396	500	-104	-305	11
Hardy	10,977	12,669	12,740	1.4	0.4	174	181	-7	78	2
Harrison	69,371	68,652	67,989	-0.1	-0.8	1,003	1,160	-157	-497	14
Jackson	25,938	28,000	28,099	0.8	0.3	401	395	6	103	2
Jefferson	35,926	42,190	43,545	1.6	2.6	626	456	170	1,132	35
Kanawha	207,619	200,073	197,338	-0.4	-1.1	3,045	3,235	-190	-2,639	127
Lewis	17,223	16,919	16,897	-0.2	-0.1	222	296	-74	58	0
Lincoln	21,382	22,108	22,316	0.3	0.8	328	282	46	163	2
Logan	43,032	37,710	36,897	-1.3	-1.7	559	647	-88	-739	10
Marion	57,249	56,598	56,373	-0.1	-0.3	752	883	-131	-71	8
Marshall	37,356	35,519	35,171	-0.5	-0.8	428	518	-90	-255	8
Mason	25,178	25,957	26,175	0.3	0.7	369	379	-10	233	3
McDowell	35,233	27,329	26,568	-2.5	-2.2	426	489	-63	-713	2
Mercer	64,980	62,980	62,355	-0.3	-0.8	968	1,009	-41	-581	14
Mineral	26,697	27,078	27,059	0.1	-0.1	375	369	6	-18	7
Mingo	33,739	28,253	27,714	-1.8	-1.5	528	412	116	-665	3
Monongalia	75,509	81,866	81,820	0.8	-0.0	1,054	772	282	-418	118
Monroe	12,406	14,583	14,610	1.6	0.1	162	186	-24	52	1
Morgan	12,128	14,943	15,275	2.1	1.8	175	218	-43	365	2
Nicholas	26,775	26,562	26,420	-0.1	-0.4	335	397	-62	-77	7
Ohio	50,871	47,427	46,750	-0.7	-1.1	634	807	-173	-505	11
Pendleton	8,054	8,196	8,070	0.2	-1.2	109	129	-20	-106	2
Pleasants	7,546	7,514	7,589	-0.0	0.8	122	107	15	62	0
Pocahontas	9,008	9,131	8,996	0.1	-1.2	134	141	-7	-129	1
Preston	29,037	29,334	29,443	0.1	0.3	363	416	-53	170	0
Putnam	42,835	51,589	51,680	1.9	0.1	735	560	175	-83	10
Raleigh	76,819	79,220	78,548	0.3	-0.7	1,085	1,116	-31	-651	32
Randolph	27,803	28,262	28,231	0.2	-0.1	363	406	-43	20	3
Ritchie	10,233	10,343	10,291	0.1	-0.4	121	175	-54	3	0
Roane	15,120	15,446	15,364	0.2	-0.4	194	218	-24	-62	6
Summers	14,204	12,999	12,796	-0.9	-1.3	127	248	-121	-83	6
Taylor	15,144	16,089	16,017	0.6	-0.4	195	221	-26	-40	0
Tucker	7,728	7,321	7,214	-0.5	-1.2	91	123	-32	-74	0
Tyler	9,796	9,592	9,460	-0.2	-1.1	116	145	-29	-101	0
Upshur	22,867	23,404	23,374	0.2	-0.1	309	337	-28	5	5
Wayne	41,636	42,903	42,665	0.3	-0.4	630	568	62	-290	1
Webster	10,729	9,719	9,642	-1.0	-0.6	104	140	-36	-40	0
Wetzel	19,258	17,693	17,395	-0.8	-1.3	255	288	-33	-265	2
Wirt	5,192	5,873	5,935	1.2	0.8	86	63	23	39	0
Wood	86,915	87,986	87,541	0.1	-0.4	1,236	1,246	-10	-427	26
Wyoming	28,990	25,708	25,320	-1.2	-1.2	350	352	-2	-390	
West Virginia	1,793,477	1,808,344	1,801,916	0.1	-0.3	25,477	26,372	-895	-5,853	620
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	284,796,887	1.2	1.0	5,042,426	2,999,064	2,043,362	--	1,339,827

Source: Data is from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Bureau of the Census. <<http://www.census.gov>>. Calculation of ranks and changes by authors. All changes are annual. A rank of 1 indicates the highest growth rate.

## County Differences in Education

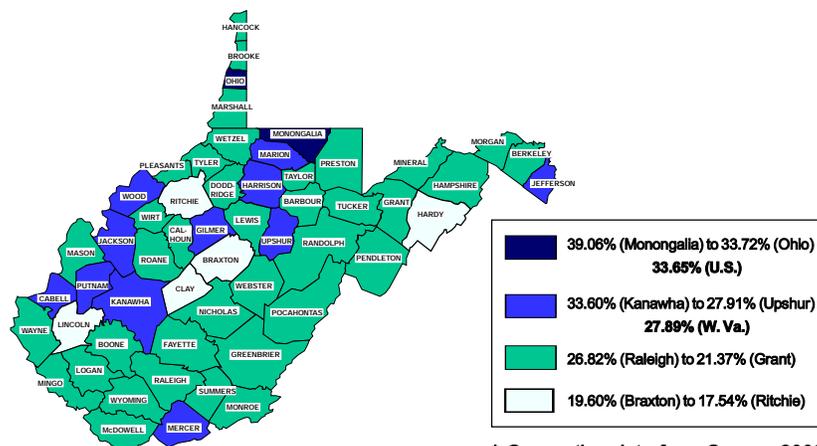
As the target of many recent public policy initiatives, many see education as the key to improving West Virginia's economy. This may seem especially poignant as employment in mining and manufacturing—previously the state's strong points—has continued to decline over the past few decades. The state trails far behind the nation in educational attainment. As with economic indicators, educational indicators also tend to vary depending on a county's level of urbanization. Metropolitan counties tend to have higher rates of educational attainment than non-metropolitan counties. Along with greater rates of educational attainment, metropolitan counties exhibit higher rates of management and professional occupations than non-metropolitan counties. Finally, the urban counties tend to have higher levels of employment in occupations considered to require higher levels of education, such as computers, mathematics, architecture, and engineering.

In 1990, 28.1 percent of Monongalia County's residents aged 25 years and above had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. As **Table 5** shows, this was the only county in West Virginia to exceed the national figure of 20.3 percent. Most counties lagged far behind the national rate of higher educational attainment, ranking West Virginia last among the fifty states with 12.3 percent having a bachelor's degree or above. Populations having the highest levels of education are usually found in metropolitan areas, including Ohio, Jefferson, Wood, Cabell, Putnam, and Kanawha counties. In contrast, counties having the lowest rates of educational attainment were mainly rural.

In 2000, educational attainment rates improved for 52 of the state's 55 counties. Only Doddridge, Tyler, and Morgan counties had a smaller proportion of college graduates in 2000 than in 1990. Several counties made significant improvements, especially Putnam, Jefferson, Ohio, and Monongalia counties, each increasing its proportion of college-educated population by at least four percentage points. Regions making particularly strong gains include the Potomac Highlands and the Northern Panhandle. However, rural counties still tended to trail their urban counterparts with respect to educational attainment. Again, Monongalia County (at 32.4 percent) was the lone county to exceed the national proportion of the population with at least a college degree (24.4 percent).

**Figure 5** shows the percent of each county's population employed in either a management or professional occupation in 2000. These occupations typically require high levels of education and pay higher salaries. Management occupations consist of business managers and financial specialists. Occupations classified as professional include artists, computer programmers, educators, engineers, healthcare practitioners, and legal

**Figure 5**  
W. Va. County Employment in Management & Professional Occupations  
2000



\* Occupation data from Census 2000, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**Table 5**  
**W. Va. County Educational Attainment and Occupational Mix**

Counties	% High School Diploma & above				% Bachelor's Degree & above				Occupation Shares 2000			
	Ann. % Ch.		April 1990- April 2000	Level Rank 2000	1990	2000	Ann. % Ch.		Level Rank 2000	% Occupation		
	1990	2000					April 1990- April 2000	2000		Professional, Mgmt.	Service, Sales	Construction Production
Barbour	59.8	72.7	2.5	29	10.1	11.8	2.0	21	24.6	40.1	35.3	
Berkeley	68.4	77.6	4.1	16	11.9	15.1	5.3	11	25.9	38.8	35.4	
Boone	54.1	64.0	2.2	48	6.4	7.2	1.5	51	21.7	42.2	36.1	
Braxton	56.8	67.3	3.6	44	8.1	9.2	3.1	42	19.6	39.2	41.2	
Brooke	71.6	79.7	1.0	9	12.2	13.4	0.9	16	24.4	41.4	34.2	
Cabell	71.9	80.0	1.2	8	18.9	20.9	1.2	4	30.8	48.6	20.6	
Calhoun	56.3	62.4	1.3	52	6.8	9.3	3.4	41	25.9	34.0	40.0	
Clay	49.4	63.7	3.7	49	4.9	6.2	2.7	49	19.1	41.2	39.8	
Doddridge	64.6	69.4	1.4	42	10.3	10.2	0.5	35	22.0	37.3	40.7	
Fayette	57.1	68.6	2.3	43	8.8	10.7	2.4	31	23.3	46.2	30.5	
Gilmer	56.6	70.0	1.7	40	14.2	17.1	1.4	7	28.4	43.7	27.9	
Grant	60.2	70.8	3.1	37	8.6	11.4	4.3	24	21.4	32.6	46.1	
Greenbrier	63.0	73.4	1.9	27	11.5	13.6	2.1	14	26.0	45.3	28.7	
Hampshire	61.8	71.3	4.1	35	9.0	11.3	5.0	25	21.4	34.3	44.3	
Hancock	72.5	82.9	1.0	4	8.9	11.5	2.3	23	21.4	44.3	34.3	
Hardy	55.3	70.3	4.2	39	7.3	9.4	4.3	40	19.4	34.4	46.2	
Harrison	70.6	78.4	1.2	14	13.5	16.3	2.0	8	29.6	45.1	25.2	
Jackson	65.4	77.4	2.9	17	8.7	12.4	4.9	18	28.5	38.4	33.0	
Jefferson	68.2	79.0	3.8	13	16.2	21.6	5.3	3	33.4	39.4	27.2	
Kanawha	72.4	80.0	0.9	7	17.6	20.6	1.5	5	33.6	45.4	21.0	
Lewis	62.1	73.7	2.0	24	8.2	11.2	3.4	27	24.6	43.8	31.6	
Lincoln	49.1	62.7	3.5	51	4.7	5.9	3.3	54	19.2	43.4	37.4	
Logan	53.4	63.1	1.1	50	6.3	8.8	2.8	45	23.9	43.5	32.6	
Marion	71.4	79.5	1.3	11	12.5	16.0	2.7	9	30.1	43.9	26.0	
Marshall	70.9	79.7	1.0	10	9.7	10.7	0.9	32	22.7	42.1	35.2	
Mason	61.1	72.4	2.5	30	6.8	8.8	3.3	44	22.3	39.7	38.0	
McDowell	42.3	50.0	0.0	55	4.6	5.6	0.4	55	22.4	42.4	35.2	
Mercer	63.1	72.1	1.5	32	11.6	13.8	2.0	12	28.0	44.8	27.2	
Mineral	72.8	80.3	1.7	6	10.4	11.7	1.9	22	22.2	40.9	36.9	
Mingo	50.4	59.6	1.0	53	6.6	7.3	0.3	50	23.8	39.9	36.3	
Monongalia	75.4	83.6	2.2	2	28.1	32.4	2.5	1	39.1	42.3	18.7	
Monroe	62.1	73.7	4.1	25	8.0	8.2	2.6	48	21.6	38.1	40.3	
Morgan	64.8	75.8	4.0	18	11.8	11.2	1.9	28	21.4	37.7	40.9	
Nicholas	61.2	70.0	2.0	41	8.0	9.8	2.7	38	23.8	41.4	34.8	
Ohio	75.1	83.0	0.3	3	18.4	23.1	1.6	2	33.7	45.9	20.4	
Pendleton	60.6	72.0	2.4	33	8.2	10.8	3.5	29	24.8	33.8	41.4	
Pleasants	68.7	79.4	1.8	12	8.5	9.7	1.7	39	21.6	44.6	33.7	
Pocahontas	60.6	70.9	2.1	36	9.7	11.8	2.5	20	25.1	41.8	33.2	
Preston	62.7	74.0	2.4	23	8.3	10.8	3.4	30	21.6	39.8	38.6	
Putnam	73.8	83.8	3.6	1	13.3	19.7	6.4	6	32.8	42.1	25.1	
Raleigh	63.2	72.0	2.2	34	10.7	12.7	2.6	17	26.8	46.1	27.1	
Randolph	65.9	73.5	1.7	26	11.9	13.6	2.0	15	26.1	41.4	32.5	
Ritchie	61.5	73.4	2.3	28	6.0	7.1	2.3	53	17.5	37.7	44.7	
Roane	57.2	66.8	2.2	45	6.6	9.0	3.8	43	23.9	37.8	38.2	
Summers	58.0	65.4	0.7	46	8.5	10.1	1.2	36	23.3	40.4	36.3	
Taylor	66.0	74.7	2.3	21	8.1	11.3	4.5	26	25.1	41.7	33.2	
Tucker	64.0	75.5	1.9	19	8.6	10.6	2.3	33	25.8	40.4	33.8	
Tyler	68.7	75.4	1.4	20	9.0	8.5	-0.2	47	21.9	38.9	39.2	
Upshur	64.3	74.6	2.3	22	12.0	13.8	2.2	13	27.9	39.5	32.6	
Wayne	63.1	70.5	2.0	38	9.0	11.9	3.6	19	25.0	42.9	32.1	
Webster	46.5	58.2	2.0	54	5.6	8.7	4.3	46	22.2	34.8	43.0	
Wetzel	70.1	77.6	0.8	15	10.4	10.4	-0.2	34	22.8	39.0	38.1	
Wirt	66.2	72.4	2.5	31	8.0	9.9	3.7	37	21.9	36.5	41.5	
Wood	73.2	81.4	1.5	5	13.5	15.2	1.7	10	28.8	43.1	28.1	
Wyoming	53.0	64.3	1.8	47	6.2	7.1	1.3	52	24.6	37.8	37.6	
West Virginia	66.0	75.2	1.8	-	12.3	14.8	2.4	-	27.9	42.6	29.5	
United States	75.2	80.4	2.1	-	20.3	24.4	3.2	-	33.6	41.5	24.8	

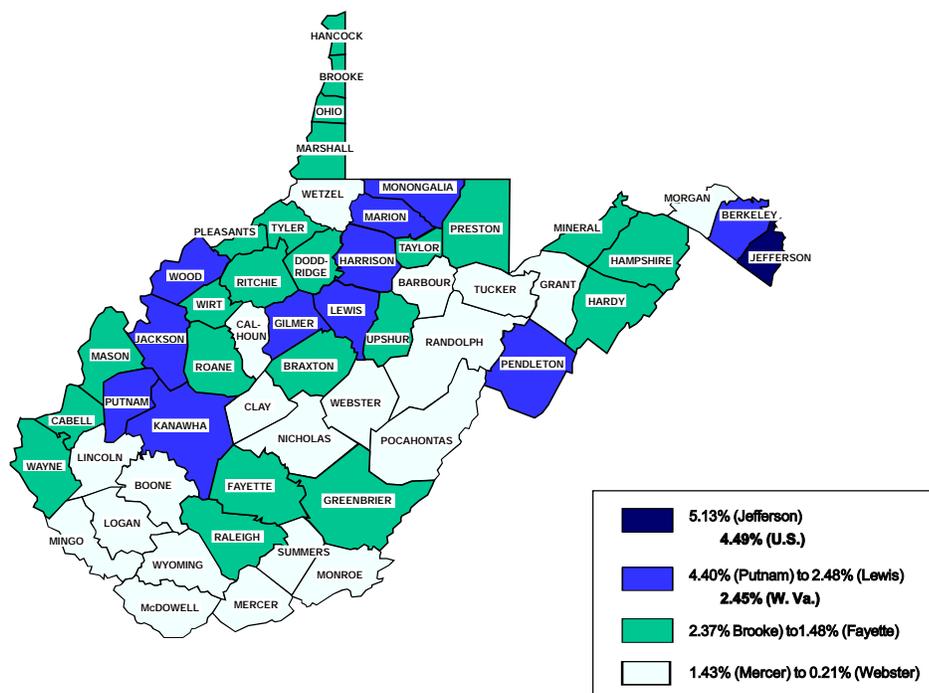
Source: Data is from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Bureau of the Census. <<http://www.census.gov>>. Calculation of ranks and changes by authors. All changes are annual. A rank of 1 indicates the highest growth rate.

and social services providers, for example. Counties having the highest rates of management and professional occupations typically were in urban areas. Rural counties tended to exhibit the lowest employment in these occupations. We previously saw this trend when analyzing educational attainment and per capita income levels.

Between 1990 and 2000, all counties in West Virginia (except for Clay County) experienced an increase in the proportion of their respective populations employed in managerial and professional occupations. In fact, Jefferson and Jackson counties both saw increases of more than ten percentage points. Nationally employment in these occupations rose by more than seven percentage points between 1990 and 2000. However, within West Virginia in 2000, only Monongalia and Ohio counties had higher-than-national rates of their respective working age populations in these higher-paying occupations.

Computer, mathematical, architectural, and engineering occupations are a subset of management and professional occupations. As is observed in **Figure 6**, these “high tech” occupations are also usually found in metropolitan areas. The Eastern Panhandle, I-79 High-Tech Corridor, and the Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area all have much higher proportions of their respective occupational mixes in these areas than their more rural counterparts.

**Figure 6**  
**W. Va. County Percent Employment in Computer, Mathematical, Architectural & Engineering Occupations 2000**



\* Occupation data from Census 2000, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## West Virginia and United States Economic Indicators

	01 Q4	02 Q1	02 Q2	02 Q3	02 Q4	2000	2001	2002
<b>United States</b>								
Real GDP (Bil. \$1996 Chain-Wtd.)	9,248.8	9,363.2	9,392.4	9,485.6	9,503.2	9,191.4	9,214.5	9,436.1
% Change	2.7	5.0	1.3	4.0	0.7	3.8	0.3	2.4
Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) (1982-84=100)*	177.3	177.9	179.8	180.6	181.2	172.2	177.1	179.9
% Change	-1.1	1.4	4.4	1.7	1.3	3.4	2.8	1.6
Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Mil.)	131.1	130.8	130.7	130.8	130.8	131.7	131.9	130.8
% Change	-2.4	-1.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	2.2	0.2	-0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.9	4.0	4.8	5.8
Initial Claims for Unemployment Ins. (Thous.)	439	405	414	404	400	299	407	406
Industrial Production (1997=100)	108.9	109.3	110.5	111.4	110.7	115.3	111.2	110.4
% Change	-5.8	1.4	4.4	3.4	-2.4	4.7	-3.5	-0.7
Capacity Utilization Rate	75.1	75.1	75.7	76.2	75.5	82.7	77.3	75.6
Housing Starts (Mil.)	1,573	1,725	1,667	1,697	1,747	1,573	1,603	1,709
Retail Sales (Bil.\$)	3,254	3,214	3,249	3,307	3,311	3,056	3,169	3,270
% Change	14.2	-4.7	4.4	7.3	0.6	6.6	3.7	3.2
Federal Funds Rate*	2.13	1.73	1.75	1.74	1.44	6.24	3.89	1.67
Ten-Year Treasury Note Rate*	4.77	5.08	5.10	4.26	4.01	6.03	5.02	4.61
<b>West Virginia</b>								
Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Thous.)	733.2	735.6	731.0	727.4	726.5	735.8	735.4	729.9
% Change	-0.5	1.3	-2.5	-1.9	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	-0.7
Mining	23.3	23.3	21.9	20.9	21.0	20.5	22.4	21.8
% Change	2.9	0.0	-21.5	-18.1	2.6	-3.8	9.3	-2.7
Construction	33.6	35.1	34.0	32.4	31.7	33.5	33.8	33.2
% Change	-1.2	18.2	-12.0	-17.6	-7.6	-0.3	0.9	-1.8
Manufacturing	75.5	74.5	73.6	73.5	72.2	80.9	77.4	73.4
% Change	-4.6	-4.9	-4.7	-0.9	-6.9	-0.9	-4.3	-5.2
Trans., Comm. and Public Utilities	36.8	36.9	36.7	36.5	35.7	37.4	37.0	36.4
% Change	-0.4	1.1	-2.2	-2.5	-8.1	-1.8	-1.1	-1.6
Trade	161.4	161.7	159.9	158.9	159.1	164.2	161.6	159.9
% Change	1.7	0.8	-4.5	-2.4	0.6	0.6	-1.6	-1.1
Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	29.7	29.8	29.5	29.5	29.8	29.5	29.5	29.7
% Change	4.6	0.4	-4.0	0.9	4.1	-1.0	0.0	0.7
Services	232.0	234.4	234.7	235.7	234.7	226.8	232.7	234.9
% Change	-2.7	4.3	0.4	1.8	-1.7	4.3	2.6	0.9
Government	140.9	139.9	140.7	140.1	142.3	143.1	141.0	140.6
% Change	1.7	-2.8	2.3	-1.8	6.3	1.6	-1.5	-0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	5.6	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.5	4.9	6.1
Initial Claims for Unemployment Ins. (Thous.)	1,596	1,688	2,128	1,609	1,873	1,561	1,513	1,824
Average Weekly Hours Coal Mining	45.8	43.7	43.4	46.0	48.0	45.1	46.0	45.3
Average Weekly Hours Manufacturing	40.6	40.8	41.2	41.4	40.9	41.3	40.6	41.1
Average Hourly Earnings Coal Mining (\$)	21.23	20.76	20.27	19.95	19.98	19.50	20.36	20.24
% Change	5.7	-8.6	-9.1	-6.1	0.5	0.8	4.4	-0.6
Average Hourly Earnings Manufacturing (\$)	15.15	15.29	15.46	15.46	15.75	14.61	14.98	15.49
% Change	2.2	3.6	4.7	-0.1	7.7	3.7	2.6	3.4
Real Personal Income (Mil. 1996\$)	37,921	38,393	38,364	38,419	n/a	36,786	37,632	n/a
% Change	1.6	5.1	-0.3	0.6	n/a	2.8	2.3	n/a
Wage and Salary	18,383	18,604	18,390	18,367	n/a	17,936	18,243	n/a
% Change	1.2	4.9	-4.5	-0.5	n/a	1.6	1.7	n/a
Other Labor	2,577	2,654	2,672	2,705	n/a	2,448	2,528	n/a
% Change	6.4	12.4	2.8	5.0	n/a	2.9	3.2	n/a
Proprietors	2,508	2,494	2,457	2,476	n/a	2,445	2,482	n/a
% Change	4.1	-2.2	-5.8	3.0	n/a	2.9	1.5	n/a
Dividends, Interest, and Rent	6,594	6,586	6,648	6,597	n/a	6,567	6,639	n/a
% Change	-2.8	-0.5	3.8	-3.1	n/a	7.7	1.1	n/a
Transfer Payments	8,907	9,147	9,238	9,300	n/a	8,383	8,773	n/a
% Change	3.4	11.3	4.0	2.7	n/a	1.9	4.7	n/a
Value of Total Housing Permits (Mil.\$)	418	429	413	410	504	329	384	439
W. Va. Export-Weighted U.S. Dollar (1980=100)*	149.0	151.3	147.3	144.1	144.9	139.1	147.1	146.9
% Change	3.3	6.3	-10.1	-8.2	2.0	4.4	5.8	-0.1

**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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