West Virginia

Introduction

This profile report provides updated statistics and trends for West Virginia. The most recent classifications of core based statistical areas, November 2007, are utilized throughout the report in comparisons of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. This report includes updated data on population trends and racial and ethnic composition of the population (2007), updated estimates of county poverty rates (2007), county unemployment rates (2007), and per capita income data (2006). The report also includes some new indicators of entrepreneurship, classifications of health professional shortage areas, and infant mortality rates.

Metro and Nonmetro Counties

Based on county Core Based Statistical Area classifications, there are 21 metropolitan counties in West Virginia, 8 micropolitan counties, and 26 noncore counties. Based on population estimates for 2007, 55 percent of West Virginia residents live in metropolitan areas, 20 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 25 percent live in noncore areas.

![Map showing Core Based Statistical Area Classifications, 2007](image-url)
Population Change

Since the 2000 Census, population increased 7.2 percent in the U.S., and 0.2 percent in West Virginia. Within West Virginia, the metropolitan areas grew, while both micropolitan and noncore areas experienced population loss during the time period. From 2006 to 2007, the U.S. population grew by one percent, while the West Virginia population increased by 0.2 percent.

From 2000 to 2007, 36 counties in West Virginia lost population, 13 metro and 23 nonmetro counties. From 2006 to 2007, 27 West Virginia counties lost population, 9 metropolitan and 18 nonmetropolitan counties. During both time periods, the fastest growth was in Berkeley County, part of the Hagerstown-Martinsburg Metropolitan Area.

### Percent Change in Population

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micropolitan</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncore</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population

The racial composition of the population is shown in the bar chart to the right. It is important to note that the population of any given race includes those of Hispanic ethnicity. Each racial category presented in the chart includes both Hispanics and non-Hispanics of that race. The population of West Virginia is 94.6 percent white, and is also 1.1 percent Hispanic.

Per Capita Income

Per capita income in West Virginia has lagged behind the national income over the past decade. In 2006 per capita income was $36,714 in the U.S. and $28,206 in West Virginia.
The metro-nonmetro per capita income gap in West Virginia has also persisted over the past 10 years. In 2006, nonmetropolitan per capita income was 85 percent of metro per capita income in West Virginia. The per capita income in nonmetro areas was about $4,400 less than in metro areas ($25,746 compared to $30,193).

Within West Virginia, per capita income ranged from $18,110 in Clay County to $36,879 in Kanawha County.
Unemployment

The 2007 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in both the U.S. and in West Virginia. 34 counties in West Virginia had unemployment rates higher than the U.S. average, and the majority of these counties were nonmetropolitan. Three counties, all nonmetro, experienced unemployment rates more than 1 ½ times the U.S. rate in 2007.

Poverty

Poverty estimates for 2007 show that the poverty rate in the U.S. was 13 percent, compared to 17.1 percent in West Virginia. Within West Virginia, poverty rates ranged from 8.3 percent in Jefferson County to 34.7 percent in McDowell County. 17 counties in West Virginia had poverty rates over 20 percent in 2007.
Entrepreneurship Indicators

Entrepreneurship plays a key role in the economic development of communities, but entrepreneurship is a difficult concept to measure. Four indicators of entrepreneurship are presented here: (1) nonfarm proprietors as a proportion of total nonfarm employment and (2) microenterprise employment (calculated as the number of self employed individuals plus the number of employees in establishments with less than 5 employees) as a proportion of total nonfarm employment; (3) income per nonfarm proprietor; and (4) nonfarm proprietors income as a proportion of county total personal income.

Nationally, nonfarm proprietor employment accounts for 18.8 percent of total nonfarm employment. In West Virginia, this figure is 16.9 percent, and within West Virginia, this figure ranges from 4.1 percent to 46.2 percent.

Microenterprise employment represents 17.7 percent of U.S nonfarm employment and 15.5 percent of West Virginia nonfarm employment. Within West Virginia, this ranges from 10.2 percent to 33.9 percent.
Average income per proprietor in the U.S was $29,950, compared to $22,779 in West Virginia. Within West Virginia, this ranged from $10,739 per proprietor to $47,486 per proprietor.

Nationally, nonfarm proprietors income accounted for 9 percent of total personal income. In West Virginia, this figure was 6.8 percent, and ranged from 2.4 percent to 13.6 percent in West Virginia counties.
Health Professional Shortage Areas

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated for primary medical care, dentists, and mental health professionals. The designations are made by the Bureau of Health Professions within the Department of Health and Human Services. The maps below present the status of counties as being whole or in part designated as part of an HPSA.

Within West Virginia, 44 counties were either whole or in part designated as a primary care HPSA, 39 counties were designated whole or part of a dental care HPSA, and 39 counties were designated whole or in part of a mental health care HPSA.
Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rates are a 5 year average of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate is 6.9 for the U.S. and 7.7 for West Virginia. 36 counties in West Virginia had an infant mortality rate higher than the U.S. average, and 2 counties had a rate more than twice the national average.
Data Sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System
http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics
http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm

Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
Area Resource File
http://www.arfsys.com/

U.S. Census Bureau

Population Estimates
http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Classifications
http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html

Nonemployer Statistics
http://www.census.gov/epcd/nonemployer/

County Business Patterns
http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/index.html

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/saipe.html

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Visit the RUPRI website at

http://www.rupri.org
Make Your Own Maps with the CARES/RUPRI Interactive Map Room

A national level interactive mapping application jointly developed by the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES) and RUPRI is available at

http://ims2.missouri.edu/step1.AOI/WestVirginialist.asp

This three step map-making process allows you to select from over 500 GIS layers and create custom maps for your West Virginia or the whole U.S.

Step 1: In the first step, select your West Virginia of interest or the whole U.S.

Step 2: Select the indicators you would like to see mapped. Included are over 500 data layers, including demographic and economic indicators, health and human services indicators, health and education facility locations, emergency preparedness, and many others. We are working constantly to keep these data sets as up to date as possible.

Step 3: Verify your selections and make your map.

Once you have created your map, you can utilize a variety of tools to analyze or modify your map image, and you may print your map or download it to use in your own reports and presentations. The help section includes a series of frequently asked questions and a website help section that explains each tool available in the toolbar.