



## State and County Population Change

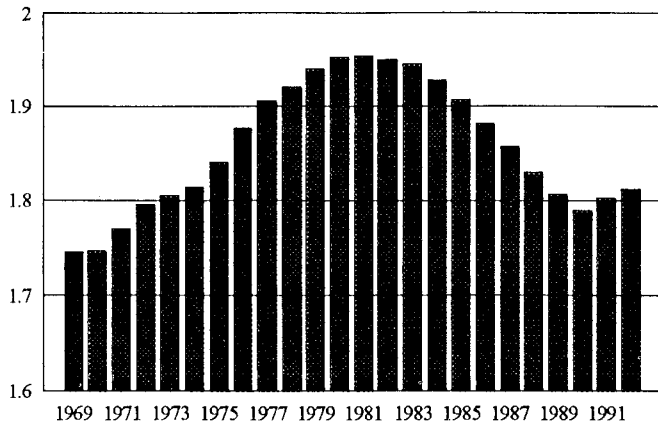
by Andrew M. Isserman

### STATE POPULATION INCREASES 22,000 SINCE 1990; REVERSES 9-YEAR DECLINE

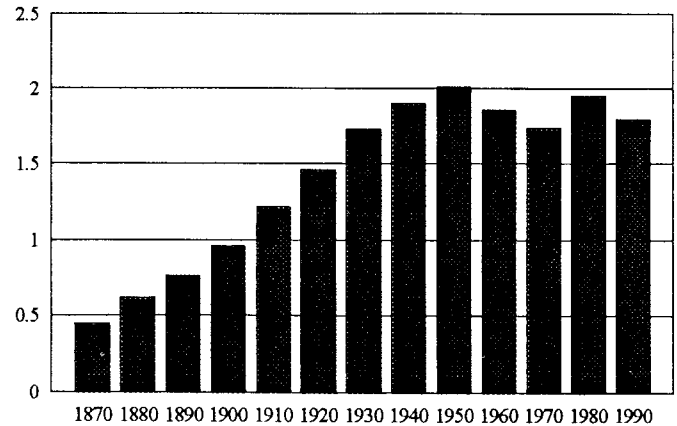
The population of West Virginia has increased for the first time since 1981, according to 1991 and 1992 figures recently released by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Between July 1, 1990, and July 1, 1992, West Virginia gained 22,000 residents. Previous numbers showed gains every year from 1969 through 1981 and declines continuously from 1981 through 1990. The 1992 state population is 1,812,000.

**Long-term trends.** West Virginia gained population every decade from 1870 through 1950. Then it lost population in the 1950s and 1960s, grew in the 1970s, and lost again in the 1980s. The fluctuations between 1950 and 1990 resulted in a net loss of 212,000 residents, or 11 percent of the 1950 population. The estimates for 1991 and 1992 may herald the fourth turnaround in population change since 1950. For more than 40 years now, these alternating ups and downs have been the dominant pattern of West Virginia's population change.

West Virginia Population, 1969-1992 (millions)



West Virginia Population, 1870-1990 (millions)



These numbers are not population counts. They are estimates of the state population. The Census Bureau counts the population only every ten years. The most recent census was held April 1, 1990. The next census will be April 1, 2000. For each year between censuses, the Census Bureau makes estimates of the national, state, and county populations. It uses data collected for administrative purposes by various state and federal agencies. Birth and death certificates, school enrollment reports, vehicle registrations, tax returns, and Medicare records are among the measures used. The Regional Research Institute works with the Census Bureau to collect and analyze these data, conduct research on the statistical methods, and evaluate the estimates. The 1992 population is a preliminary estimate that will be revised next year on the basis of additional data.

*The Regional Research Institute makes population projections and estimates for West Virginia and its 55 counties. The Institute's Demographic Analysis Group studies the determinants and consequences of population change; analyzes, creates, and distributes demographic statistics; conducts research leading to better methods; prepares custom-made population forecasts for regional and local organizations; and informs West Virginians of noteworthy population changes. As the West Virginia member of the Federal-State Cooperative Programs for Population Estimates and Projections, the Institute works with representatives from other states and the U.S. Bureau of the Census to improve data and methods and to provide more accurate and useful demographic information.*

# WEST VIRGINIA DEMOGRAPHIC MONITOR

## 35 COUNTIES NOW GAINING POPULATION; DECLINE SLOWS DOWN ELSEWHERE

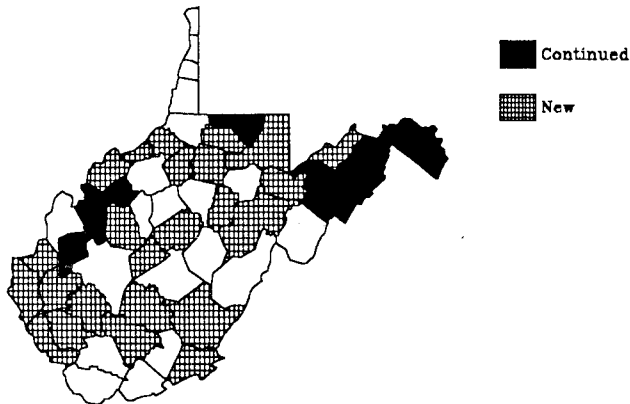
The U.S. Bureau of the Census has released estimates of the populations of all West Virginia counties on July 1, 1991. Those numbers show the recent turnaround, too. Only 11 counties gained population during the 1980s, but 35 counties are increasing now. The leaders are Berkeley County (up 2,100 between the 1990 census and July 1, 1991), Putnam County (up 1,400), Monongalia County (up 1,000), and Jefferson County (up 800). In all four cases these figures mean an acceleration of growth. In addition, 25 counties that declined in the 1980s grew between 1990 and 1991. Seven of them had lost more than 5,000 people in the 1980s: Cabell, Fayette, Harrison, Logan, Marion, Raleigh, and Wood.

Jefferson	+19,000
Monongalia	+15,000
Jackson	+11,000.

Declines of 10,000 or more occurred in:

McDowell	-64,000
Fayette	-34,000
Logan	-34,000
Kanawha	-32,000
Ohio	-21,000
Raleigh	-19,000
Harrison	-16,000
Marion	-14,000
Mingo	-14,000
Cabell	-11,000
Mercer	-10,000.

### Growth, 1990-91



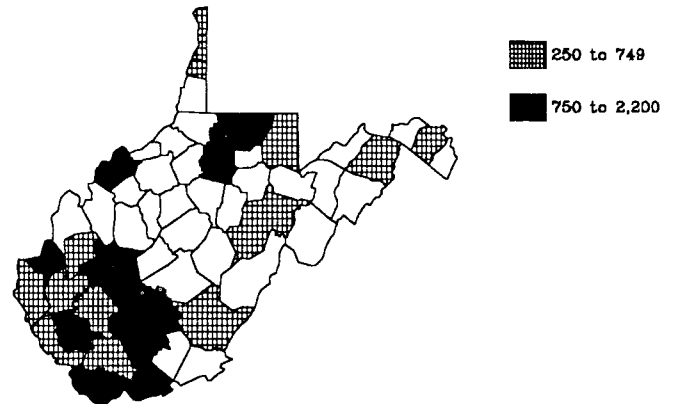
The 20 counties still losing population are unshaded on the map above. The largest losses since 1990 have occurred in McDowell County (down 700 residents), Ohio County (down 500), Marshall County (down 400), and Kanawha County (down 300). Yet, there is good news here, too. Twelve of the 20 declining counties are losing fewer than 50 people per year, and only five counties are losing more than 200 people per year. For many counties the 1991 numbers represent a substantial slowdown of their declines. For example, Kanawha County lost 2,400 people per year on average in the 1980s, but only 200 people per year since 1990. Likewise, McDowell County went from a decline of 1,500 per year to 500 per year, and Ohio County's loss went from 1,000 per year to 400 per year.

The recent changes follow four decades of major alterations in the distribution of population within the state. The counties with the largest gains between 1950 and 1990 are:

Berkeley	+29,000
Putnam	+22,000
Wood	+20,000

An encouraging sign in the 1991 estimates is that only three of these 11 counties are still losing population. The next map shows that major improvements have occurred in the southern part of the state, the northern panhandle, and the Morgantown-Fairmont-Clarksburg I-79 corridor. All shaded counties are doing better than they did in the 1980s by at least 250 people per year. Some like Kanawha, McDowell, and Ohio are losing fewer people. Others like Hancock, Mercer, and Wyoming have moved from decline to almost breaking even, while many like Harrison, Marion, and Raleigh have turned from decline to growth.

### Improvements, 1990-91 vs. 1980-90 (people/year)



The Census Bureau will release its 1992 county population estimates and 1993 state population estimate by December 1993. They will provide the first new evidence regarding the persistence of the demographic improvements reported here. In order to be able to provide more timely population information in the future, the Regional Research Institute is conducting research on a new estimation method. If it proves successful, county population estimates for July will be available by the following January each year.

POPULATION OF WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES

WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY	Counts					Estimate July 1 1991	Changes				
	April 1 1950	April 1 1960	April 1 1970	April 1 1980	April 1 1990		Total 1950-90	Annual 1980-90	Annual 1990-91		
Barbour	19,745	15,474	14,030	16,639	15,699	15,685	(4,046)	(94)	(11)	Census Counts	
Berkeley	30,359	33,791	36,356	46,775	59,253	61,359	28,894	1,248	1,685	1870	442,000
Boone	33,173	28,764	25,118	30,447	25,870	26,153	(7,303)	(458)	226	1880	618,000
Braxton	18,082	15,152	12,666	13,894	12,998	13,092	(5,084)	(90)	75	1890	763,000
Brooke	26,904	28,940	30,443	31,117	26,992	26,925	88	(413)	(54)	1900	959,000
Cabell	108,035	108,202	106,918	106,835	96,827	96,903	(11,208)	(1,001)	61	1910	1,221,000
Calhoun	10,259	7,948	7,046	8,250	7,885	7,847	(2,374)	(37)	(30)	1920	1,464,000
Clay	14,961	11,942	9,330	11,265	9,983	9,985	(4,978)	(128)	2	1930	1,729,000
Doddridge	9,026	6,970	6,389	7,433	6,994	7,093	(2,032)	(44)	79	1940	1,902,000
Fayette	82,443	61,731	49,332	57,863	47,952	48,015	(34,491)	(991)	50	1950	2,006,000
Gilmer	9,746	8,050	7,782	8,334	7,669	7,553	(2,077)	(67)	(93)	1960	1,860,000
Grant	8,756	8,304	8,607	10,210	10,428	10,527	1,672	22	79	1970	1,744,000
Greenbrier	39,295	34,446	32,090	37,665	34,693	35,048	(4,602)	(297)	284	1980	1,950,000
Hampshire	12,577	11,705	11,710	14,867	16,498	17,084	3,921	163	469	1990	1,793,000
Hancock	34,388	39,615	39,749	40,418	35,233	35,218	845	(519)	(12)		
Hardy	10,032	9,308	8,855	10,030	10,977	11,120	945	95	114		
Harrison	85,296	77,856	73,028	77,710	69,371	69,688	(15,925)	(834)	254		
Jackson	15,299	18,541	20,903	25,794	25,938	25,951	10,639	14	10		
Jefferson	17,184	18,665	21,280	30,302	35,926	36,716	18,742	562	632	Census Estimates	
Kanawha	239,629	252,925	229,515	231,414	207,619	207,354	(32,010)	(2,380)	(212)	1969	1,746,000
Lewis	21,074	19,711	17,847	18,813	17,223	17,194	(3,851)	(159)	(23)	1970	1,746,600
Lincoln	22,466	20,267	18,912	23,675	21,382	21,494	(1,084)	(229)	90	1971	1,770,300
Logan	77,391	61,570	46,269	50,679	43,032	43,125	(34,359)	(765)	74	1972	1,796,900
McDowell	98,887	71,359	50,666	49,899	35,233	34,564	(63,654)	(1,467)	(535)	1973	1,805,300
Marion	71,521	63,717	61,356	65,789	57,249	57,461	(14,272)	(854)	170	1974	1,814,000
Marshall	36,893	38,041	37,598	41,608	37,356	37,004	463	(425)	(282)	1975	1,840,500
Mason	23,537	24,459	24,306	27,045	25,178	25,133	1,641	(187)	(36)	1976	1,877,400
Mercer	75,013	68,206	63,206	73,942	64,980	64,882	(10,033)	(896)	(78)	1977	1,905,600
Mineral	22,333	22,354	23,109	27,234	26,697	26,787	4,364	(54)	72	1978	1,920,300
Mingo	47,409	39,742	32,780	37,336	33,739	33,851	(13,670)	(360)	90	1979	1,939,100
Monongalia	60,797	55,617	63,714	75,024	75,509	76,529	14,712	49	816	1980	1,953,100
Monroe	13,123	11,584	11,272	12,873	12,406	12,492	(717)	(47)	69	1981	1,954,100
Morgan	8,276	8,376	8,547	10,711	12,128	12,416	3,852	142	230	1982	1,949,600
Nicholas	27,696	25,414	22,552	28,126	26,775	26,751	(921)	(135)	(19)	1983	1,945,200
Ohio	71,672	68,437	63,439	61,389	50,871	50,416	(20,801)	(1,052)	(364)	1984	1,927,900
Pendleton	9,313	8,093	7,031	7,910	8,054	8,047	(1,259)	14	(6)	1985	1,907,000
Pleasants	6,369	7,124	7,274	8,236	7,546	7,647	1,177	(69)	81	1986	1,882,600
Pocahontas	12,480	10,136	8,870	9,919	9,008	8,950	(3,472)	(91)	(46)	1987	1,857,800
Preston	31,399	27,233	25,455	30,460	29,037	29,200	(2,362)	(142)	130	1988	1,830,500
Putnam	21,021	23,561	27,625	38,181	42,835	44,205	21,814	465	1,096	1989	1,806,600
Raleigh	96,273	77,826	70,080	86,821	76,819	77,102	(19,454)	(1,000)	226	1990	1,790,000
Randolph	30,558	26,349	24,596	28,734	27,803	28,183	(2,755)	(93)	304	1991	1,803,000
Ritchie	12,535	10,877	10,145	11,442	10,233	10,184	(2,302)	(121)	(39)	1992	1,812,000
Roane	18,408	15,720	14,111	15,952	15,120	15,157	(3,288)	(83)	30		
Summers	19,183	15,640	13,213	15,875	14,204	14,173	(4,979)	(167)	(25)		
Taylor	18,422	15,010	13,878	16,584	15,144	15,183	(3,278)	(144)	31		
Tucker	10,600	7,750	7,447	8,675	7,728	7,739	(2,872)	(95)	9		
Tyler	10,535	10,026	9,929	11,320	9,796	9,827	(739)	(152)	25		
Upshur	19,242	18,292	19,092	23,427	22,867	23,064	3,625	(56)	158		
Wayne	38,696	38,977	37,581	46,021	41,636	41,879	2,940	(439)	194		
Webster	17,888	13,719	9,809	12,245	10,729	10,523	(7,159)	(152)	(165)		
Wetzel	20,154	19,347	20,314	21,874	19,258	19,210	(896)	(262)	(38)		
Wirt	5,119	4,391	4,154	4,922	5,192	5,256	73	27	51		
Wood	66,540	78,331	86,818	93,648	86,915	87,060	20,375	(673)	116		
Wyoming	37,540	34,836	30,095	35,993	28,990	28,929	(8,550)	(700)	(49)		

SOURCE: Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University, and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

# WEST VIRGINIA DEMOGRAPHIC MONITOR

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*WEST VIRGINIA DEMOGRAPHIC MONITOR* is published several times per year by the Regional Research Institute to inform West Virginians of demographic changes and newly released population statistics.

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Also available from the Regional Research Institute:

***WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY COUNTY, AGE, AND SEX, 1990-2020, \$18 (or \$20 with all data on computer diskette).***

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