



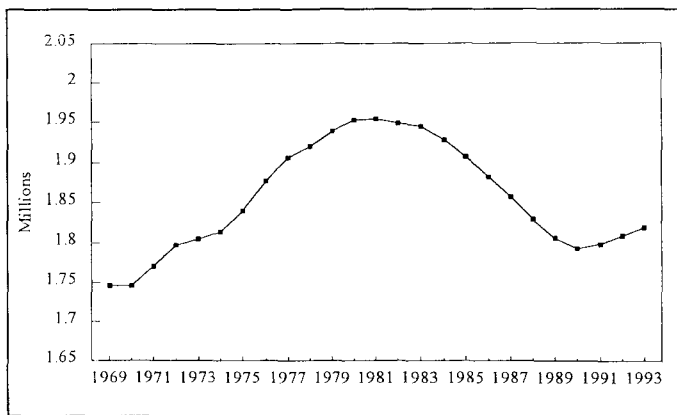
State, County, and City Population Change

by Andrew M. Isserman and David J. Sorenson

THE STATE POPULATION INCREASES AGAIN

West Virginia's population has increased for the third straight year. The state gained 11,000 residents between 1992 and 1993, bringing the total gain since the 1990 census to 27,000 residents. These increases followed continuous declines from 1981 to 1990 and gains every year from 1969 to 1981. The 1993 state population is 1,820,000.

West Virginia Population, 1969-93



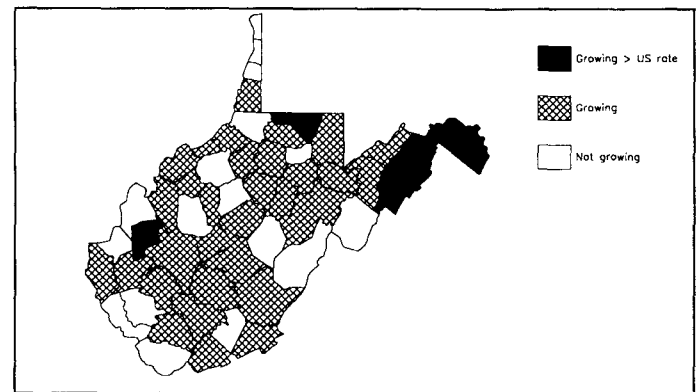
These numbers are estimates made by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in cooperation with the Regional Research Institute. The 1993 population is a preliminary estimate. It will be revised next year on the basis of additional data.

The growth from 1992 to 1993 ranks West Virginia 37th among states in percentage growth and 38th in absolute change. The 11,000 person gain resulted primarily from more people moving into the state than moved out. Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for only 2,000 of the gain. West Virginia ranks last in the rate of natural increase and in absolute natural increase.

MOST COUNTIES GAINING POPULATION

Thirty-eight West Virginia counties grew between 1990 and 1992, the most recent year for which county estimates are now available. Berkeley had the largest increase, 3,800, followed by Putnam with 2,500, Monongalia 2,000, Jefferson 1,700, and Hampshire 1,000. All these counties plus Hardy and Morgan grew faster than the national rate of 1.1 percent a year. Growing counties are shaded in the map below. Of the 17 counties with population declines, eight dropped by fewer than 100 people. Only two decreased by more than 500, McDowell (1,100) and Ohio (700).

County Growth, 1990-92



There was only one change in the rankings among the ten most populous counties. Monongalia moved past Raleigh into fourth place:

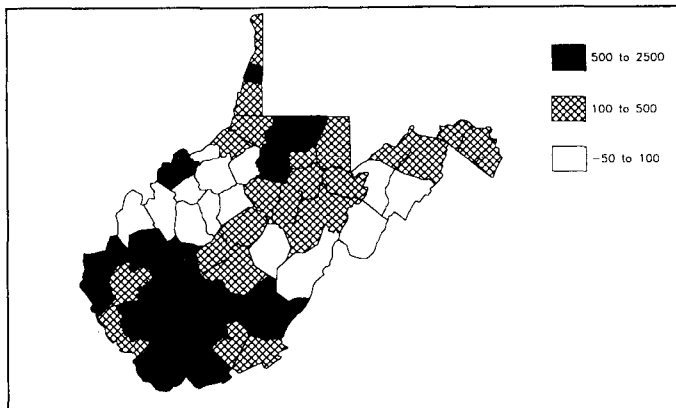
	1992 Population	1990-92 Change
Kanawha	207,769	150
Cabell	96,396	-431
Wood	87,493	578
Monongalia	77,502	1,993
Raleigh	77,394	575

WEST VIRGINIA DEMOGRAPHIC MONITOR

53 COUNTIES DOING BETTER THAN IN 80s

All but two counties are doing better than they did in the 1980s — and the differences are trivial in those two, Gilmer and Pendleton. Some counties accelerated their growth, most turned from decline to growth, and others reduced their declines. The next map shows the major improvements (measured as annual change 1990-92 minus annual change 1980-90). The Eastern Panhandle has primarily accelerating growth, while the Northern Panhandle has dampening decline. Northcentral West Virginia has mostly decline transformed to growth. The I-79 corridor has accelerating growth in Monongalia and growth replacing sizable decline in Marion and Harrison. Southern West Virginia has improved most dramatically, with every county but four now growing.

Improvements, 1990-92 vs. 1980-90 (people/year)



The counties with the largest improvements in annual population change are:

Kanawha	2,400
Raleigh	1,300
Harrison	1,100
Fayette	1,000
Marion	1,000
McDowell	1,000
Mercer	900
Wood	900
Monongalia	800
Wyoming	800
Cabell	800

All but three went from decline in the 1980s to growth. Monongalia, as mentioned previously, grew faster, and McDowell and Cabell sharply reduced their declines.

CITY AND METRO POPULATIONS STABLE

The first city population estimates since the 1990 census show little change in the populations of West Virginia's cities. The largest increases between 1990 and 1992 are in Morgantown and Martinsburg, which gained 800 and 600 people, respectively. At the other extreme, Huntington lost 800, and Wheeling lost 700. The 1990 and 1992 figures for all West Virginia cities with more than 10,000 residents are:

	4/1/90	7/1/92	Change
Charleston	57,287	57,083	-204
Huntington	54,844	54,094	-750
Wheeling	34,882	34,213	-669
Parkersburg	33,862	33,650	-212
Morgantown	25,879	26,679	800
Weirton	22,124	21,883	-241
Fairmont	20,210	20,389	179
Beckley	18,296	18,109	-187
Clarksburg	18,059	17,950	-109
Martinsburg	14,073	14,722	649
South Charleston	13,645	13,607	-38
Bluefield	12,756	12,741	-15
Vienna	10,862	10,970	108
St. Albans	11,194	10,954	-240
Moundsville	10,753	10,827	74

Compared to the three states with similar population levels, West Virginia lacks a large city. Albuquerque, New Mexico, has 398,000 residents, Omaha, Nebraska, 340,000, and Salt Lake City, Utah, 166,000. Ten West Virginia counties, however, are within metropolitan areas that cross state lines.

Other than Washington-Baltimore, the metropolitan areas with West Virginia counties had little population change between 1990 and 1992. Three declined, and three grew less than the national growth rate of 2.6%. Ranked by their 1990-92 growth rates, the areas are:

	1992 Population	Growth Rate
Washington-Baltimore	6,919,572	2.9%
Charleston	253,150	1.1%
Huntington-Ashland	314,875	0.8%
Parkersburg-Marietta	150,259	0.7%
Cumberland	101,523	-0.1%
Wheeling	158,224	-0.7%
Steubenville-Weirton	141,532	-0.7%

POPULATION OF WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES

WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY	Census Counts		Estimates		Changes		Percent Changes		Census Counts
	April 1	April 1	July 1	July 1	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	
	1980	1990	1991	1992	1980-90	1990-92	1980-90	1990-92	
Barbour	16,639	15,699	15,610	15,803	-94	46	-0.6	0.3	Census Counts
Berkeley	46,775	59,253	61,633	63,078	1248	1700	2.4	2.8	1870 442,000
Boone	30,447	25,870	26,066	26,512	-458	285	-1.6	1.1	1880 618,000
Braxton	13,894	12,998	13,081	13,088	-90	40	-0.7	0.3	1890 763,000
Brooke	31,117	26,992	26,961	26,739	-413	-112	-1.4	-0.4	1900 959,000
Cabell	106,835	96,827	96,571	96,396	-1001	-192	-1.0	-0.2	1910 1,221,000
Calhoun	8,250	7,885	7,861	7,935	-37	22	-0.5	0.3	1920 1,464,000
Clay	11,265	9,983	9,970	10,035	-128	23	-1.2	0.2	1930 1,729,000
Doddridge	7,433	6,994	7,081	7,108	-44	51	-0.6	0.7	1940 1,902,000
Fayette	57,863	47,952	47,819	47,979	-991	12	-1.9	0.0	1950 2,006,000
Gilmer	8,334	7,669	7,473	7,495	-67	-77	-0.8	-1.0	1960 1,860,000
Grant	10,210	10,428	10,547	10,672	22	108	0.2	1.0	1970 1,744,000
Greenbrier	37,665	34,693	34,988	35,280	-297	261	-0.8	0.7	1980 1,950,000
Hampshire	14,867	16,498	17,115	17,472	163	433	1.0	2.6	1990 1,793,000
Hancock	40,418	35,233	35,241	35,170	-519	-28	-1.4	-0.1	
Hardy	10,030	10,977	11,176	11,281	95	135	0.9	1.2	
Harrison	77,710	69,371	69,475	70,047	-834	300	-1.1	0.4	
Jackson	25,794	25,938	26,000	26,108	14	76	0.1	0.3	
Jefferson	30,302	35,926	36,918	37,634	562	759	1.7	2.1	Census Estimates
Kanawha	231,414	207,619	207,291	207,769	-2380	67	-1.1	0.0	1969 1,746,000
Lewis	18,813	17,223	17,126	17,298	-159	33	-0.9	0.2	1970 1,746,600
Lincoln	23,675	21,382	21,476	21,686	-229	135	-1.0	0.6	1971 1,770,300
Logan	50,679	43,032	43,103	42,992	-765	-18	-1.6	-0.0	1972 1,796,900
McDowell	49,899	35,233	34,473	34,111	-1467	-499	-3.4	-1.4	1973 1,805,300
Marion	65,789	57,249	57,329	57,549	-854	133	-1.4	0.2	1974 1,814,000
Marshall	41,608	37,356	37,178	37,362	-425	3	-1.1	0.0	1975 1,840,500
Mason	27,045	25,178	25,125	24,914	-187	-117	-0.7	-0.5	1976 1,877,400
Mercer	73,942	64,980	64,779	65,068	-896	39	-1.3	0.1	1977 1,905,600
Mineral	27,234	26,697	26,809	26,973	-54	123	-0.2	0.5	1978 1,920,300
Mingo	37,336	33,739	33,870	33,603	-360	-60	-1.0	-0.2	1979 1,939,100
Monongalia	75,024	75,509	76,116	77,502	49	886	0.1	1.2	1980 1,953,100
Monroe	12,873	12,406	12,458	12,550	-47	64	-0.4	0.5	1981 1,954,100
Morgan	10,711	12,128	12,439	12,780	142	290	1.3	2.4	1982 1,949,600
Nicholas	28,126	26,775	26,748	26,992	-135	96	-0.5	0.4	1983 1,945,200
Ohio	61,389	50,871	50,212	50,166	-1052	-313	-1.9	-0.6	1984 1,927,900
Pendleton	7,910	8,054	8,017	8,006	14	-21	0.2	-0.3	1985 1,907,000
Pleasants	8,236	7,546	7,558	7,549	-69	1	-0.9	0.0	1986 1,882,600
Pocahontas	9,919	9,008	8,908	9,006	-91	-1	-1.0	-0.0	1987 1,857,800
Preston	30,460	29,037	29,241	29,440	-142	179	-0.5	0.6	1988 1,830,500
Putnam	38,181	42,835	44,217	45,381	465	1132	1.2	2.6	1989 1,806,600
Raleigh	86,821	76,819	77,137	77,394	-1000	256	-1.2	0.3	1990 1,793,000
Randolph	28,734	27,803	28,129	28,147	-93	153	-0.3	0.5	1991 1,799,000
Ritchie	11,442	10,233	10,170	10,100	-121	-59	-1.1	-0.6	1992 1,809,000
Roane	15,952	15,120	15,071	15,115	-83	-2	-0.5	-0.0	1993 1,820,000
Summers	15,875	14,204	13,948	14,147	-167	-25	-1.1	-0.2	
Taylor	16,584	15,144	15,158	15,129	-144	-7	-0.9	-0.0	
Tucker	8,675	7,728	7,734	7,766	-95	17	-1.1	0.2	
Tyler	11,320	9,796	9,804	9,825	-152	13	-1.4	0.1	
Upshur	23,427	22,867	23,089	23,031	-56	73	-0.2	0.3	
Wayne	46,021	41,636	41,884	42,007	-439	165	-1.0	0.4	
Webster	12,245	10,729	10,535	10,456	-152	-121	-1.3	-1.1	
Wetzel	21,874	19,258	19,196	19,186	-262	-32	-1.3	-0.2	
Wirt	4,922	5,192	5,229	5,298	27	47	0.5	0.9	
Wood	93,648	86,915	87,104	87,493	-673	257	-0.7	0.3	
Wyoming	35,993	28,990	28,996	29,237	-700	110	-2.1	0.4	

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

WEST VIRGINIA DEMOGRAPHIC MONITOR

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The Regional Research Institute makes population projections and estimates for West Virginia and its 55 counties. It studies the determinants and consequences of population change; analyzes, creates, and distributes demographic statistics; conducts research leading to better methods; and prepares custom-made population forecasts for regional and local organizations. 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.

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WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY COUNTY, AGE, AND SEX, 1990-2020,
\$20 with data on computer diskette.

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