

*Appendix A*

# **West Virginia State Profile Brief History**

## **State History**

People have lived in West Virginia for about 12,500 years, the earliest being the Paleo-Indians. Other native American cultures inhabited the area, but by the time the first European settlers arrived, all the Native American villages were gone, and the area was a hunting ground used by many tribes (including the Shawnee, Cherokee, Delaware, and Iroquois). The first white settlement of what is now West Virginia was probably at Mecklenburg (now Shepherdstown) in 1727. In 1731 Morgan Morgan established the first permanent white settlement on Mill Creek in present-day Berkeley County.

West Virginia shares its history with Virginia from 1607 until Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861. Delegates representing western counties formed their own government, which was granted statehood in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln after conditions had been met requiring the gradual emancipation of slaves. West Virginia is the only state to be designated by presidential proclamation. In 1915, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in forming a separate state, West Virginia owed more than \$12 million for “a just proportion of the public debt of the Commonwealth of Virginia.” A check was delivered in 1919, and bonds paid off the remainder in 1939.

West Virginia was a battleground during the Civil War. Although Confederates were unable to control significant regions of western Virginia for considerable periods of time during the war, they were successful in conducting destructive raids. The Eastern Panhandle saw continual fighting. Although it was not originally a part of West Virginia, it was annexed in 1863 because it contained the strategically important Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The divisions caused by the Civil War lasted long afterward. These were usually fought out in political arenas but occasionally developed into violence.

1882 saw the beginning of the now famous Hatfield-McCoy feud along the border region between West Virginia and Kentucky. The feud included many killings, involving the governors of both states in lengthy and heated controversy. The bloodshed of the West Virginia Hatfields and the Kentucky McCoys ended in 1896.

Although coal was discovered on the Coal River in 1742, the growth of the railroads in the second half of the 1800s provided an economical method of transporting quantities of, not only coal, but other available natural resources in West Virginia.

Rapid industrial expansion began after the Civil War, attracting thousands of European immigrants and African Americans into the area. However, it was accompanied by serious labor problems, particularly in coal mines where wages were low and working conditions were dangerous. Mine owners bitterly resisted unionization. Strikes were often associated with serious and extended violence during the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century. Miners' strikes between 1912 and 1921 required the intervention of state and federal troops to quell the violence. Unionization grew after the Great Depression as a result of reforms. The state's chemical industry was founded during World War I when German chemicals were no longer available and was expanded during World War II. Both wars also brought unprecedented boom periods to the mining and steel industries in West Virginia.

Economic conditions improved during the 1960s as federal aid poured into the state and massive efforts were made to attract new industry. In the 1970s, West Virginia's coal-based economy flourished as energy prices rose dramatically; but West Virginia suffered through one of the worst economic periods in its history in the 1980s when energy prices fell.

## *Appendix A/State Profile Brief History*

### **Capital City**

When West Virginia became a state in 1863, the capital was located in Wheeling.

The State Legislature designated Charleston as the capital city in 1870. Kanawha County citizens provided a boat to move all state records to their new home in Charleston.

In 1875, the Legislature voted to return the capital to Wheeling. Although state officials boarded steamers on May 21 to journey to Wheeling, state archives and records did not arrive until late September, causing state government to be at a standstill for four months.

In 1877, the Legislature decided that the citizens would choose between Charleston, Martinsburg, and Clarksburg for a permanent capital location. As a result of the election, it was proclaimed that eight years hence, Charleston would be the government's permanent seat, and state officials again boarded a boat to move from Wheeling to Charleston, towing a barge containing the State records, papers, and library.

### **Capitol Building**

The new capitol opened in May 1885 and served until its destruction by fire on January 3, 1921. For the next six years West Virginia state government was run from a "pasteboard capitol," a temporary structure built hastily in the wake of the fire. Although this structure was also destroyed by fire in 1927, the present capitol was already under construction on the north bank of the Kanawha River.

This new building, designed by Cass Gilbert, was completed in 1932 at a cost of \$10 million. In 1912, Gilbert had designed the world's first skyscraper, the Woolworth Building in New York City. His other works include the state capitols of Arkansas and Minnesota, and the U.S. Treasury Building and the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.



Two-thirds of the capitol interior is made of four different kinds of marble. The rotunda section and two wings provide 535,000 square feet of floor space and house 333 rooms. The exterior of the capitol, built in the classical style, is of buff Indiana limestone. The 293 foot gold dome atop the structure is five feet higher than the dome of the U.S. Capitol and in 1988 was totally gilded in 14 karat gold leaf applied to the copper and lead roof in tiny 3 3/8 inch squares. After undergoing structural repairs, the dome was restored in the fall of 2005 to Gilbert's original two-tone concept of lead gray paint and gold leaf details.

# K–12 Education



West Virginia has 421 public elementary schools and 321 public secondary schools staffed by 24,854 professional personnel and 14,067 service personnel in the current 2009–2010 school year.

In addition, in 2008–2009, there were 4,397 home schools and 115 church-related and other private schools teaching 6,532 and 13,228 students, respectively. (Data for 2009–2010 has not been submitted yet to the West Virginia Department of Education.)

Each county in the state constitutes a school district, and an elected county board of education governs each district. Each board may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

The state Board of Education has revised West Virginia’s Content Standards and Objectives to incorporate 21st century performance skills, including learning and thinking skills; information and communications skills; technology skills; and work place productivity skills. The curriculum improvements align state standards with national and international assessments. The changes are part of West Virginia’s learning plan Global21: Students deserve it. The world demands it. This program is a systemic approach to help West Virginia not only compete globally, but to thrive.

West Virginia’s efforts to improve education were recognized in 2008 with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Practice of the Year Award, which commemorates the nation’s preeminent state-led 21<sup>st</sup> century skills initiatives. The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills cited West Virginia for its Teachers Leadership Institute, which helps teachers develop an understanding of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. West Virginia was also recognized for its Teach 21 Web site that provides educators’ research-based instructional strategies, technology tools, and other resources.

The state also is a leader in early education. West Virginia has been recognized nationally for a state law that requires universal preschool be available to all of the state’s four-year-olds by the 2012–2013 school year. In addition, the state has been singled out for providing better access to preschool programs and dedicating more dollars to the effort than most other states in the country.

## Public School Enrollment Grades PK–12\* Academic Years 2000–2001 through 2009–10

	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Elementary	156,975	155,635	155,144	153,616	152,470	152,969	154,479	155,830	157,520	159,205
Secondary	128,810	126,597	126,447	126,945	126,987	126,819	126,818	125,903	124,388	122,623
<b>Total All Grades</b>	<b>285,785</b>	<b>282,232</b>	<b>281,591</b>	<b>280,561</b>	<b>279,457</b>	<b>279,788</b>	<b>281,297</b>	<b>281,733</b>	<b>281,908</b>	<b>281,828</b>

\* Kindergarten has been added beginning with Academic Year 2006–07.

# Higher Education



## West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities

Academic Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Enrollment (FTE)	61,394	62,877	64,965	66,993	68,657	69,847	71,173	71,252	72,531	76,367
Age 25 or older undergraduate enrollment	16,391	16,852	17,190	17,668	18,236	18,828	19,027	18,864	18,510	21,830
Percent undergraduate 25 and above	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	26%	26%	25%	25%	27%

## Public and Independent Colleges and Universities

Academic Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total certificates and degrees awarded	14,189	14,323	15,176	15,498	16,425	16,781	17,415	17,726	17,477
Certificates and associate's degrees	2,440	2,460	2,703	2,843	3,437	3,289	3,524	3,553	3,520
Bachelor's degrees	8,537	9,032	9,324	9,167	9,535	9,931	10,239	10,450	10,184

### WV ACT composite scores by all test takers

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	N/A	20.3	20.3	20.1	20.3	20.6	20.6	20.7	20.7

## West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities

This information is group data for the nine private, not-for-profit higher education institutions in West Virginia, including Alderson-Broadbudd College in Philippi, Appalachian Bible College in Bradley, Bethany College in Bethany, Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, Mountain State University in Beckley, Ohio Valley University in Vienna, University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, and Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling.

### Enrollment Data

Academic Year	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Student enrollment	9,509	10,441	10,969	10,917	10,813	10,656	11,137	10,256	10,917

### In-State Students

Academic Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Students in-state	6,916	6,710	6,478	6,102	6,212	5,984	6,367
Percentage in-state	60%	58%	60%	64%	61%	58%	59%

### First Generation College Students

Academic Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Percentage	38%	40%	39%	31%	21%	27%

### Number of Graduates

Academic Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total graduates	2,236	2,220	2,264	2,555	2,648	2,661	2,542

# Healthcare



There are approximately 3,800 practicing physicians in West Virginia, as well as over 25,000 active registered nurses, nearly 8,000 active licensed practical nurses, 76 hospitals and medical centers (includes ambulatory surgical centers), 33 primary care centers with 75 satellites for a total of 108 clinical sites, 45 school-based health center sites, and 49 local boards of health serving all 55 counties. There are nine free primary care clinics, and residents can access services in 54 county offices of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

## Health Care Access and Utilization\*

### Hospital Admissions – Rate per 1,000 (WV Rank among 50 states and D.C., 1=high)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
West Virginia	163 (2nd)	164 (2nd)	161 (2nd)	156 (2nd)	158 (2nd)
United States	120	119	119	118	117

### Hospital Emergency Room Visits – Rate per 1,000 (WV Rank among 50 states and D.C., 1=high)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
West Virginia	614 (2nd)	624 (2nd)	642 (1st)	629 (3rd)	647 (2nd)
United States	382	383	387	396	401

### No Health Insurance Coverage –Percent of total population (WV Rank among 50 states and D.C., 1=high)

West Virginia		United States	
2006-2007	2007-2008	2007	2008
13.8% (25th)	14.6% (22nd)	15.3%	15.4%

## Infant Mortality for West Virginia and the U.S.

(Number and rate per 1,000 live births) (\* Preliminary data)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
West Virginia	7.6	7.3	9.1	7.3	7.6	8.1	7.4	7.4	7.7*
United States	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.7*	N/A

## Health Status\*\*

	Year	WV Average	Rank	U.S. Average
Adults with diabetes	2008	12.0%	2	8.3%
Smokers	2008	26.5%	2	18.3%
Obesity	2008	31.9%	3	26.6%
“Fair or poor” health status of residents	2008	24.1%	2	15.0%
Currently diagnosed with asthma	2008	9.6%	9	N/A
Heavy drinking among adults	2008	2.9%	N/A	5.1%
Adults with history of heart attack	2008	7.7%	N/A	4.3%
Adults with history of stroke	2008	4.3%	N/A	2.7%

- The percentage of public high school students who have never smoked cigarettes has nearly doubled, increasing from 25.7% in 2000, to 47.8% in 2009. That is an increase of 86%. Similar results are seen among middle school never-smokers (53.1% in 2000, to 73.1% in 2009).\*\*\*
- The percentage of public high school students who are current smokers (smoked cigarettes one or more days in the past month) has decreased from 38.5% in 2000, to 22.3% in 2009—a decrease of 42%.\*\*\*

\* Source: The Kaiser Family Foundation, statehealthfacts.org

\*\* According to 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFSS) conducted by The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health

\*\*\* According to the West Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey conducted in 2009

## Appendix A/State Profile

# Transportation



### Aviation

West Virginia has 33 public-use airports; of which seven have commercial air service. Air transportation is an integral part of the state's and the nation's transportation system. West Virginia has a rich aviation history and a growing aerospace industry. In West Virginia, aviation represents over \$3.5 billion of the state's gross domestic product and employs over 55,000 people.



### Roads

Traversing mountains, valleys, wild rivers and rolling countryside, there are 38,452 miles of public roads in West Virginia. The state and federally owned roads are maintained by more than 4,500 men and women of the Division of Highways:

- 34,726 miles of state owned highways (including 88 miles of West Virginia Turnpike and 549 miles of Interstate highways)
- 835 miles of federally owned roads
- 2,891 miles of municipally owned roads

Of these public roadways:

- 1,824 miles are included in the National Highway System, 23 miles of which are connectors to other modes of transportation such as airports, trains and buses
- 6,710 are bridges of which 32 percent are more than 100 feet in length
- two are national and eight are state scenic byways



### Drivers

The Division of Motor Vehicles provides 23 regional offices in West Virginia with two remote testing sites. The number of individual drivers' licenses issued as a Class E-Regular or Class D or CDL licenses is 1,289,527. West Virginia's seat belt usage rate for 2009 was 86.9%, while the national average was 84%.



### Public Ports

West Virginia is home to over 400 miles of navigable waterways. The Port of Huntington Tri-State, 199 miles in length, is the largest statistic inland port in America as well as the fourth largest port for tonnage. There are over 300 private industrial facilities located along West Virginia waterways that depend on the low cost advantages of river borne commerce. An inland container port being developed in Prichard (Wayne County) will be one of the first of its kind located in the heart of Appalachia.



### Public Transportation

The Division of Public Transit oversees 18 transit systems that employ 495 full-time and 134 part-time workers. The buses traveled 10,665,073 miles and carried 5,824,833 passengers of which 1,126,844 were elderly or disabled.



### Railroads

Route miles of railroad operated within West Virginia totaled 2,401 at the end of 2009. The state owns 189 miles of railroad of which 80 miles are active freight lines.

## Appendix A/State Profile

# Law Enforcement

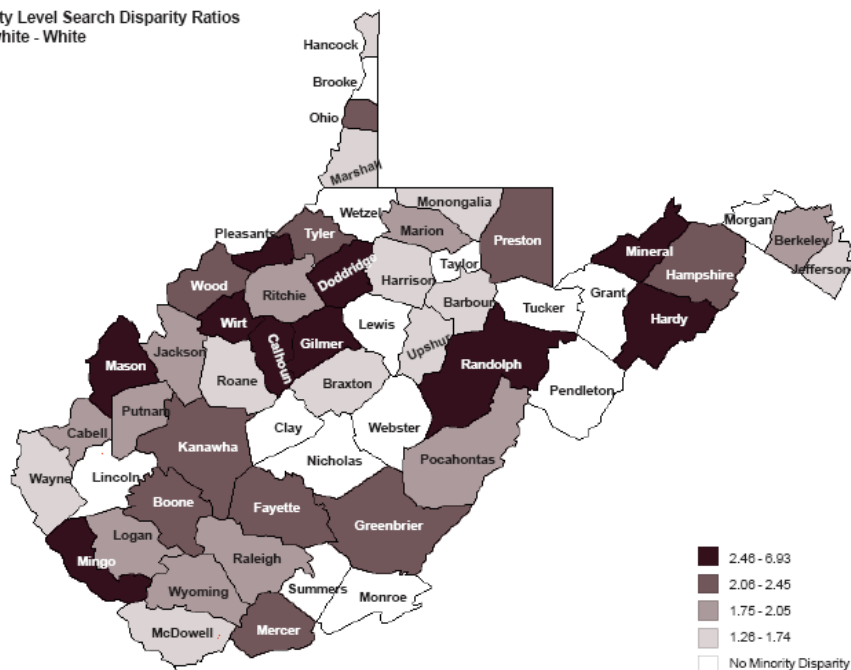


In 2008, there were 170 municipal law enforcement agencies in West Virginia, plus the State Police with 62 detachments, DNR with 55 detachments, 55 sheriff's departments, the State Fire Commission, and 12 higher education campuses with full police powers. There were 3,267 full-time sworn law enforcement officers—3,163 men and 104 women.

Sworn Officers	Male	Female	Total
Municipal officers	1,306	55	1,421
Sheriff's officers	991	28	1,019
State Police	664	20	684
DNR officers	111	0	111
Fire Commission officers	31	1	32
<b>Total officers</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>3,267</b>

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sworn officers per 1,000 residents	1.74	1.75	1.67	1.80

County Level Search Disparity Ratios  
Nonwhite - White



Parole Decisions by Type and Year

Year	Denied	Granted	Total	% Granted
2002	1,414	723	2,137	33.8%
2003	1,483	838	2,321	36.1%
2004	1,625	799	2,424	33.0%
2005	1,516	1,145	2,661	43.0%
2006	1,597	1,194	2,761	43.2%
2007	1,491	1,630	3,121	52.2%

Source: DOC Commitments and Releases Log/WV Parole Board Activity Sheets

Note: The total column represents the sum of all cases in which the outcome was either to grant or deny parole.

## Fire Services



West Virginia has 447 fire departments—419 of these are volunteer fire departments, 12 career departments (fully paid), and 16 are a combination of paid and volunteer. There are approximately 11,147 firefighters—870 paid and 10,277 volunteers.

Many of these fire service personnel make up six distinct regional response teams which are situated throughout the state under the leadership of the State Fire Commission. The regional response teams are comprised of trained members of public safety groups (fire, EMS, law enforcement, etc.) and the private sector for the purpose of mitigating actual or suspected hazardous materials incidents, weapons of mass destruction, and other emergencies across West Virginia.

Fire service members and other emergency services groups are also grouped into eight swift-water rescue teams deployed by the State Fire Commission (under the authority of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety) during disasters involving flooding, water rescue, and water-related fatalities, etc.

Between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, there were 57 fire fatalities across West Virginia, and 86 adults and 10 juveniles were arrested for arson. The State Fire Marshal's Office investigated 970 fires.

From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2009, fire-related incidents totaled 56,005; mutual aid was given at 26,177 fire incidents:

Most Frequent Incident Type	Frequency	Total Dollar Loss
Building fires	11,930	\$478,037,756
Passenger vehicle fire	6,071	\$27,655,334
Structure fire, other (conversion only)	5,653	\$510,283,070
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	4,186	\$393,605
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	3,289	\$525,423,307
Fire, other	3,109	\$18,335,923
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	3,026	\$60,733
Cooking fire, confined to container	2,280	\$673,589
Outside rubbish fire, other	2,268	\$246,584
Natural vegetation fire, other	2,193	\$396,927
Chimney or flue fire, confined	1,825	\$815,087
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	1,598	\$22,163,739
Forest, woods or woodland fire	1,550	\$415,242
Dumpster or other outside trash fire	1,254	\$96,280
Fires in structure other than building	1,049	\$199,539,023
Grass fire	767	\$76,702
Special outside fire, other	629	\$1,452,972
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	483	\$10,618,337
Outside equipment fire	473	\$4,777,900
Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other	314	\$990,439
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment	296	\$20,746,154
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, confined	171	\$1,524,885
Outside storage fire	168	\$2,642,972
Construction or demolition landfill fire	122	\$4,150
Fire in portable building, fixed location	109	\$1,295,700



## Recreation and Culture



Tourism remains a growing sector of the state's economy, and a wealth of recreational and cultural opportunities is available. West Virginia, the third most heavily forested state in the nation, abounds with scenic natural beauty and outdoor sports and activities. People, locally and from around the world come to enjoy skiing, whitewater rafting, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, golfing, wildlife, photography, birding, all-terrain vehicle riding and biking. Visitors also can tour numerous historic sites, journey into an underground coal mine, visit the world's largest moveable radio telescope, spy bald eagles in their natural habitats, and purchase and enjoy West Virginia crafts, arts and cuisine.

From rustic Civilian Conservation Corps era areas with little development to massive modern resorts; from restored logging railroads and company towns to Civil War battlefields; from natural areas with national significance to areas that are primarily day-use local recreational facilities; West Virginia state parks, forests and wildlife management areas are of tremendous variety. West Virginia has 34 state parks, recreational facilities on nine state forests and four wildlife management areas. There are hundreds of miles of walking and multipurpose trails throughout the state park system, as well as two rail trails within its jurisdiction—the Greenbrier River Trail and the North Bend Rail Trail.

The history of West Virginia is richly woven into region of the state—home to more than 200 historic sites and museums—with over 20,000 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These sites illustrate the events, people, and stories of our state. Over 1,000 roadside markers have been erected in West Virginia as part of the Historical Highway Marker program that began in 1937.

The Culture (no longer “Cultural”) Center—the state's ultimate welcome center and official showcase for West Virginia arts, history, and heritage—hosts many exhibits, performances, and lectures. It is home to the Vandalia Festival, the Collegiate Series, the West Virginia Dance Festival, West Virginia's Gift to the World Exhibits, the Juried Quilt Exhibit, and much, much more. In 2009, 93,067 people visited the Culture Center.

Construction began January 2, 2008, for the renovation of the West Virginia State Museum located in the Culture Center at the Capitol Complex in Charleston. The museum occupies 24,000 square feet on the lower level of the center and was dedicated on June 20, 2009. Located on the lower level of the Culture Center, the history of the state is told in the 24,000 square-foot museum through modern educational exhibits that appeals to visitors of all ages. The show path takes visitors on a chronological journey of West Virginia history, using themed settings to highlight pivotal moments. Special effects, narration, surround sound, and dynamic theater lighting provides visitors with the experience of what it was like to be a West Virginian throughout the state's history.

The Culture Center also houses two state agencies. One is the Division of Culture and History, which includes administrative offices, the West Virginia Archives and History section, the Arts section, the Historic Preservation Office, the newly renovated State Museum, and the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater. The other agency is the West Virginia Library Commission.

During 2009, the Archives and History section, which includes the Archives Library, served 31,608 patrons as visitors and by letter and e-mail requests, reference calls, and other means. This library houses 154,701 books, pamphlets, microforms, and state documents (and more than 4,100 pages of state documents printed from electronic files). The state archives contains over 250,000 photographic images, 11,900 linear feet of manuscripts and state government records, 75,035 16mm films (from news media as well as from other collections), 12,100 other audio-visual materials, 25,500 architectural drawings, and 900 cubic feet of special collections.

## *Appendix A/State Profile Recreation and Culture*

The second agency is the Library Commission, made up of the administrative offices, Library Development, Network Services, the Reference Library, and the Regional Library for the Blind. The Library Commission develops library services in all types of libraries throughout West Virginia, of which there are 173 public libraries, 27 academic libraries, and 44 specialty libraries (27 are open to the public).

The public libraries contain 5,689,801 items in print, audio, video, and electronic format and provide public Internet access and access to at least ten on-line databases. Each of the ten databases may include thousands of individual titles available to library users. Last fiscal year, West Virginians visited their public libraries 6,081,791 times, borrowed 7,731,735 items, and used library electronic resources 1,608,829 times. The growth in the use of electronic resources has not diminished the use of traditional library resources since both circulation and electronic use are increasing.

### **Music and Arts**

West Virginia has a rich heritage in music and arts, from traditional Appalachian dance and traditional music, to some of the country's top performers and outstanding performance venues. The 240,000 square-foot Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia in downtown Charleston houses the performing arts, visual arts, and the sciences under one roof—one of the few centers of its kind in the country. The facility is home to the Avampato Discovery Museum and the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. The West Virginia Symphony is the state's premiere orchestra, offering a symphonic series, a pop series, special events series, opera and ballet, touring concerts, and the Montclair String Quartet. The other two symphony orchestras in the state are in Huntington and Wheeling.

Mountain Stage, a production of West Virginia Public Broadcasting, is a series of two-hour specials that presents acts ranging from traditional roots and country music to avant garde rock and jazz. In addition to showcasing both established and emerging artists from the United States, the show has featured artists from all over the world, recording before a live audience at the state Culture Center on Charleston's Capitol complex.

The annual Vandalia Gathering, scheduled over the Memorial Day weekend, attracts hundreds of old-time musicians and music lovers inside and outside the state. Often referred to as a state "family reunion," The Vandalia Gathering brings young performers and veteran musicians together to play for this annual festival. West Virginia hospitality is on display with food, crafts, and the sounds of great traditional music.

For 70 years, the Marshall Artists Series has brought some of the nation's finest performers to Huntington and the luxurious vaudeville-era Keith-Albee Theatre. It is the oldest continuous live arts presentation program in the country. The theater itself is a showpiece that was second only in size to New York's Roxy Theater when it was built in 1928. Today it is restored to its original glory and operated as a performing arts center.

One of the many festivals and fairs scheduled throughout West Virginia, the Augusta Heritage Festival (planned annually the second weekend in August) brings together Cajun, Creole, guitar, blues, swing, Irish, bluegrass, folk arts, old-time, vocal and traditional music and dance, artists and crafts exhibitors, storytellers, singers, dancers, and more.

The Appalachian String Band Festival, held at historic Camp Washington Carver, attracts thousands of campers and day-trippers. This must-attend event brings a wide range of performers from West Virginia, across the country and around the world. This week-long family event held in late July is packed with individual and band performances, flatfoot dancing, square dancing, children's craft projects, impromptu jam sessions, instrument vendors, and good food all in beautiful outdoor setting.

## Major Points of Interest

- ✓ **Appalachian Power Park** — Charleston is home to the West Virginia Power, a Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and is located in the historic East End. It is popular among capital city visitors and baseball fans for its downtown location and open-air feel.
- ✓ **American Mountain Theater in Elkins** — The American Mountain Theater, a 525-seat state-of-the-art music theater in the historic rail yard in Elkins, is the state's first and only "Branson Style" family music, comedy and variety show. A cast of seasoned entertainers treat visitors to country, gospel, bluegrass and patriotic music as well as light-hearted comedic impersonations of popular entertainers. Dance numbers also are included in the show, along with clean family comedy that will leave you feeling fine and totally entertained. The performers bring audiences the freshest sound in the mountains.
- ✓ **Berkeley Springs** — Long before the first Europeans discovered its warm waters, this region was already a famous health spa attracting Native Americans from Canada to the Carolinas. George Washington even slept here. Today, Berkeley Springs offers relaxing spas, unique shops, local arts, and an International Water Tasting Festival.
- ✓ **Cabela's** — As an outfitter for hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities, Cabela's offers a 175,000 square-foot store in Wheeling. It includes a wildlife museum, a television broadcast studio, three freshwater aquariums totaling 55,000 gallons (stocked with fish native to West Virginia), and 25-seat restaurant with park-like seating that overlooks the entire store.
- ✓ **Casino and Racetracks** — Entertainment is a sure bet at West Virginia's racetracks as three of four facilities now offer table games such as blackjack, poker, and roulette. Hancock County's Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort in Chester includes approximately 3,220 slot machines, a year-round thoroughbred racetrack, an upscale hotel with amenities, golf course, fine dining, a theater and events center, and a convention center. Wheeling Island Racetrack and Gaming Center in Wheeling, Ohio County, features a 151-room hotel, more than 2,400 slot machines, a 550-seat showroom, greyhound racing, casual and fine dining restaurants, a food court and gift shop. Kanawha County's Tri-State Racetrack & Gaming Center in Nitro offers table games to complement the already 90,000 square feet of gaming entertainment and 1,800 slots, greyhound racing and dining experiences in the New Orleans-style lounge with live music, a trackside restaurant and snack bars.
- ✓ **Chief Logan Lodge, Hotel and Conference Center** — The newest lodging addition to the West Virginia State Parks system, this facility sits along the heavily traveled Corridor G near Logan. It offers a 75-room lodge with many amenities in place and more in the planning stages. The facility is close to trailheads for the Hatfield-McCoy Trails system.
- ✓ **Civil War Sesquicentennial, Trails and Signage Program** — Steeped in Civil War history, West Virginia is partnering with other states and organizations to commemorate the War's 150th anniversary. A new tourist signage program will mark the location of key Civil War sites and will help interpret West Virginia's unique history. The program is an initiative designed to drive historical tourists, as well as interested families and laymen, to the locations of important Civil War events in several states and it will serve as a cornerstone of sustained promotion of historic events long after the sesquicentennial is over. The program includes erecting interpretive signage at approved locations such as the Droop Mountain Battlefield and the boyhood home of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Sites that participate in the program are included in a mass cross-promotional marketing effort facilitated by Civil Wars Trails Inc. throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Tennessee.

## Appendix A/State Profile Recreation and Culture

✓ **Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences** — Located in the historic East End of Charleston, the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences includes a performance hall, a science and children's interactive museum, a large format film theater, a planetarium and many arts events.

✓ **Coal Heritage Trail** — Visitors and historians can experience life as it was in the coal camps of Appalachia on the Coal Heritage Trail in West Virginia. This scenic byway winds through southern West Virginia's rugged mountains and valleys, which contain remnants of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century coal boom, including the millionaire mansions in Bramwell and the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine.

✓ **The Greenbrier Resort** — The Greenbrier is a AAA Five-Diamond, award-winning resort nestled on 6,500 acres in the scenic Allegheny Mountains in White Sulphur Springs. This world-renowned getaway offers more than 50 activities, including three 18-hole championship golf courses, a golf academy, a gallery of fine shops, and a host of traditional amenities that have distinguished the resort for more than 200 years. Rejuvenated with a \$50 million renovation, The Greenbrier now offers a new level of luxury and includes the Tavern Casino which features 44 slots, blackjack, roulette, and three-card poker to guests only. The Casino at The Greenbrier, opening in Spring 2010, will feature an elegant Monte Carlo style casino with multiple tablegames. In 2010 The Greenbrier Resort will host the newest PGA TOUR event, The Greenbrier Classic.

✓ **Harpers Ferry** — In 1859, John Brown's raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry focused the country's attention on slavery, and many runaway slaves sought refuge in the town during the Civil War. Enjoy ranger-led interpretive walks and activities.

✓ **Hatfield-McCoy Trails and Visitors Center** — The Hatfield-McCoy Trails system draws beginner to expert all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts and thrill seekers for more than 500 miles of the East Coast's biggest and best ATV trails coursing through the mountains of southern West Virginia. The popularity of the new system has resulted in new tourism-related developments near the trailheads, easily accessible after a short drive from Charleston. Big news for fans of the Pinnacle Creek Trail System—a connector trail has opened to the town of Mullens, and you now can ride the trails from Pineville to Mullens. The Hatfield-McCoy Visitors Center on U.S. 119 in Boone County recently opened. In addition to being the first stop for trail riders coming to the area from the north, it will also serve as the Hatfield-McCoy's retail center and the trailhead for the Little Coal River trails.



✓ **Lost World Caverns and Organ Cave** — For the adventurous at heart there is Lost World Caverns. These caverns were once home to the prehistoric cave bear and offer wild caving adventures for those eager to explore the cave's narrow passages away from the normal tour. Organ Cave is less than five miles from Lewisburg and is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest cave in the world. With more than 200 known, yet unexplored passageways, Organ Cave is still largely uncharted territory.

✓ **National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank** — Home of the Green Bank Telescope, the world's largest moveable radio telescope, researchers study the universe through natural radio emissions. In addition, "Catching the Wave" includes interactive exhibits and programs for K-12 students and the general public.

✓ **Oglebay Resort and the Winter Festival of Lights** — Oglebay is a 1,700-acre resort with abundant recreational activities, well-appointed accommodations, a zoo, gardens, three golf courses, downhill ski area, and shops nestled in the hills surrounding Wheeling. Oglebay completed a \$15 million expansion and renovation project to the Wilson

## Appendix A/State Profile Recreation and Culture



Lodge, which included the addition of a new guest wing with 56 deluxe rooms and suites as well as the remodeling of 212 existing rooms at the lodge. Home to America's largest light show, the Winter Festival of Lights covers more than 300 acres. The festival has been listed on the American Bus Association's Top International Event and was recently listed as one of the top 200 events in the country by Discover America.

✓ **Snowshoe Mountain Resort** — Named one of the top ski resorts in the Southeast, Snowshoe Mountain offers a Western-style ski village with first-rate accommodations, specialty shops, gourmet eateries and excellent slopes for a range of skiing experiences. The resort also includes two terrain parks, two terrain gardens, 14 lifts, night skiing and snow tubing. The 1,500-foot drop stands among the biggest verticals in the area. Additionally, a new mid-station to its Western Express lift will allow Snowshoe to open the upper portion of both Cupp Run and Shay's Revenge allowing skiers and snowboarders to access 26 additional acres of terrain in the Western Territory area.

✓ **State Museum and Gift Shop** — The West Virginia State Museum reopened to the public in 2009 following extensive exhibit renovations. Located on the grounds of the state capitol, the museum is located on the lower floor of the Culture Center. The museum is dedicated to inspiring, educating and enriching the lives of the public by instilling a deeper understanding and sense of pride through the collection, preservation and exhibition of diverse cultural and historic traditions focusing on every aspect of West Virginia. On the main floor of the Culture Center is the West Virginia State Museum Shop—1,700 square feet featuring West Virginia artisans products from Tamarack, in addition to souvenirs and collectibles.



✓ **Stonewall Resort** — This resort sits along the shore of the state's second-largest impoundment, Stonewall Jackson Lake, and features an Arnold Palmer-designed championship golf course and clubhouse, lodge, deluxe cottages, houseboat rentals, spa, restaurant and 125-passenger excursion boat for dinner and sightseeing cruises.

✓ **Tamarack** — Tamarack is the nation's first and only statewide collection of handmade craft, art, and cuisine showcasing "The Best of West Virginia" from hand-carved furniture to glass, from pottery to Appalachian quilts, and more. Tamarack offers regional specialty foods and products, as well as performances, craft demonstrations, shopping, theater, art gallery, and food court managed by The Greenbrier.

✓ **West Virginia Scenic Railroads** — West Virginia features more than 80 railroad attractions, including the world-famous Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, the Mountain State Mystery Train and New River Gorge excursions. There are also favorites like the Potomac Eagle excursions, on which passengers enjoy a 90 percent chance of seeing a bald eagle, in addition to the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad. West Virginia is steeped in railroad traditions, and a number of historic facilities mark this heritage.



*(This is by no means a complete list. There are numerous local, state, and national parks, as well as a plethora of fairs and festivals held every year across the state. Information on any of these activities is available by calling the West Virginia Division of Tourism toll-free at 1-800-CALL WVA or connecting to their Web site at <[www.callwva.com](http://www.callwva.com)>. The Web site for West Virginia state parks is <[www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com)>.)*

*Appendix A/State Profile*  
**Form of Government**

West Virginia has a constitutional representative government with three distinct branches.

**Legislative Branch**

Senators are elected to four-year terms with half of the seats up for election every two years. All members of the House of Delegates are up for election every two years. State lawmakers must be United States citizens and eligible to vote. A delegate must be at least 18 years old and a resident of his/her district for one year, while a senator must be at least 25 years old and a resident of the state for five years. If a legislator moves out of his/her district, the seat becomes vacant.

If a vacancy occurs in either house of the Legislature, the governor appoints an individual of the same political party as the departing member to fill the seat until the next general election.

Senatorial districts.....	17
Delegate districts.....	58
Congressional districts .....	3
Members of House of Delegates.....	100
Members of the Senate.....	34

**Executive Branch**

West Virginia’s Constitution provides for six elected officials in the executive branch of government:

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Governor           | Attorney General            |
| Auditor            | Commissioner of Agriculture |
| Secretary of State | Treasurer                   |

A governor is elected for a term of four years. Having served during all or any part of two consecutive terms, he or she is then ineligible for the office of governor during any part of the term immediately following the second of the two consecutive terms. The terms of the other five elected officials are four years without term limitations.

Because West Virginia does not have a lieutenant governor, the next two officials in the line of succession are the senate president and the speaker of the house of delegates.

**Judicial Branch**

As of January 1, 1976, West Virginia created a unified court system, uniting all state courts (except municipal courts) into a single system supervised and administered by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. This system was comprised of only the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit courts, and magistrate courts. However, at the beginning of 2002, family courts were added to the judicial system.

The Supreme Court of Appeals is West Virginia’s highest court and the court of last resort. West Virginia is one of only eleven states with a single appellate court. The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is the busiest appellate court of its type in the United States. There are two terms of the court each year. The five justices are elected in partisan elections to 12-year terms. Justices must have practiced law for at least ten years. The position of chief justice is determined annually by vote of the Court. The Governor appoints justices to fill vacancies.

West Virginia is divided into 31 circuits with 70 circuit judges. A circuit may range in size from one county with seven judges to eleven counties with one judge. Although a circuit is made up of from one to four counties, each county has a courthouse where the circuit judge presides. Circuit judges are elected in partisan elections to eight-year terms and must have practiced law for at least five years. The Governor appoints judges to fill vacancies.

There are 45 family court judges serving 27 family court circuits. Family court judges are elected in partisan elections for eight-year terms.

There are 158 magistrates statewide, with at least two in every county and ten in the largest county. The circuit courts hear appeals of magistrate court cases. Magistrates run for four-year terms in partisan elections and are not required to be lawyers. Circuit judges appoint magistrates to fill vacancies.



# Demographics and Economics

## Population, Income, and Age Calendar Years 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Population</b>										
West Virginia (in thousands)	1,811	1,807	1,801	1,804	1,810	1,812	1,816	1,818	1,812	1,814
Change	-0.22%	-0.22%	-0.33%	0.17%	0.33%	0.11%	0.22%	0.11%	-0.33%	-0.11%
National (in thousands)	279,731	282,193	285,107	287,984	290,850	293,656	296,410	299,398	301,621	304,059
Change	1.15%	0.88%	1.03%	1.01%	1.00%	0.96%	0.94%	1.01%	0.74%	-0.80%
<b>Total Personal Income</b>										
West Virginia (in thousands)	\$37,557	\$39,582	\$41,902	\$43,311	\$43,342	\$45,731	\$47,955	\$51,039	\$53,080	\$55,941
Change	2.28%	5.39%	5.86%	3.36%	0.07%	5.51%	4.86%	6.43%	4.00%	5.39%
National (in billions)	\$7,802	\$8,430	\$8,724	\$8,882	\$9,169	\$9,711	\$10,284	\$10,966	\$11,631	\$12,086
Change	5.11%	8.05%	3.49%	1.81%	3.23%	5.91%	5.90%	6.63%	6.06%	3.91%
<b>Per Capita Personal Income</b>										
West Virginia	\$20,729	\$21,899	\$23,261	\$24,002	\$23,941	\$24,962	\$26,029	\$28,067	\$29,293	\$30,831
Change	2.49%	5.64%	6.22%	3.19%	-0.25%	4.26%	4.27%	7.83%	4.37%	5.25%
National	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,574	\$30,810	\$31,463	\$33,090	\$34,495	\$36,629	\$38,564	\$39,751
Change	3.93%	6.82%	2.44%	0.77%	2.12%	5.17%	4.25%	6.19%	5.28%	3.08%
<b>Median age—West Virginians</b>	38.9	39.0	39.3	39.5	39.9	40.2	40.7	40.7	40.4	40.6

## Government and Largest Private Employers in West Virginia (by Employment Range)

### As of June 30, 2000

Federal Government	22,620
State Government	39,695
Local Government	73,719
1 Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	6,000-9,999
2 Charleston Area Medical Center	3,000-5,999
3 Kroger	3,000-5,999
4 Weirton Steel Corporation	3,000-5,999
5 CSX	3,000-5,999
6 E I DuPont De Nemours and Company	3,000-5,999
7 Hospital Corporation of America, Inc.	3,000-5,999
8 Bell Atlantic	3,000-5,999
9 Union Carbide Corporation	1,000-2,999
10 West Virginia University Hospitals	1,000-2,999

### As of June 30, 2009

Federal Government	23,807
State Government	40,440
Local Government	77,564
1 Wal Mart Associates	10,000-13,000
2 West Virginia United Health System	7,000-9,999
3 Charleston Area Medical Center, Inc.	5,000-6,999
4 Kroger	3,000-4,999
5 American Electric Power	1,000-2,999
6 Eldercare Resources Corporation	1,000-2,999
7 Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	1,000-2,999
8 Consolidated Coal	1,000-2,999
9 St. Mary's Hospital	1,000-2,999
10 Res-Care	1,000-2,999

## Economic Base

The state ranks second in the nation in coal production, and coal is mined in 25 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Annual coal production was 158 million tons in 2008, 56% of which came from underground mines. West Virginia is also a leader in the chemical, steel, aluminum, natural gas, and hardwood lumber industries. The state's diverse economic base includes the energy, plastics, transportation equipment, biomedical technology, and distribution industries. West Virginia is one of the largest producers of natural gas east of the Mississippi River. It has produced significant amounts of natural gas in the Appalachian Basin. Natural gas production in 2007 was 231 billion cubic feet, and oil production in 2008 was 1.6 million barrels.



## *Appendix A/State Profile Demographics and Economics*

West Virginia's 12 million acres of forests are important to the environment and the economy, being the third most forested state in the nation at 78%, trailing only Maine and New Hampshire. Hardwood tree species comprise the majority of the state's forests, with West Virginia having more total hardwood timber volume than any state except Pennsylvania. About 20,000 employees work in the forest products industry, directly and indirectly contributing about \$3.2 billion to the economy. In addition, another \$3 billion is generated by the forests from recreation, hunting, tourism, collection of fruits/nuts/medicinal plants, and other related activities such as the selling of Christmas trees. Eighty-seven percent of West Virginia's forests are owned by 260,000 private landowners. The annual growth of the forests continues to substantially exceed the rate of timber harvesting.

West Virginia has 23,200 primarily family-owned and operated farms, generating over a half-billion dollars worth of products annually. Although the state is ranked 37th in population and 41st in geographical size, it ranks tenth in apple production, 15th in peach production, 14th in turkey production and 16th in broiler chicken production.

State agribusinesses are an expanding element of the state's economy, annually producing approximately \$100 million worth of value-added, West Virginia Grown products. Nearly all of these companies are locally owned and operated, and they inject a large portion of their net revenue back into the local economy in the form of wages and business expenses. West Virginia products are recognized for their high quality and improve the image of the Mountain State across the country and throughout the world. They also dovetail nicely with the state's tourism industry, as research indicates that vacationers seek unique culinary experiences when they travel.

A West Virginia Division of Tourism study released in 2009 shows that travel-related spending by visitors in the state was more than \$4.38 billion in 2008 calendar year, which is an increase of 7.3% from 2007. Visitors who stayed overnight in commercial lodging facilities spent \$1.4 billion on their trips, while day travelers spent \$2.1 billion. Visitor spending in West Virginia directly supported 44,000 jobs with earnings of \$912 million in 2008.

A total of 983,544 various license privileges (fishing, hunting, and trapping) totaling \$16,242,737 was sold in 2008. To date, West Virginia has 41,221 adult lifetime holders and 12,882 infant lifetime holders. A recent study shows they and other wildlife recreationists produce more than \$1.2 billion economic impact each year.

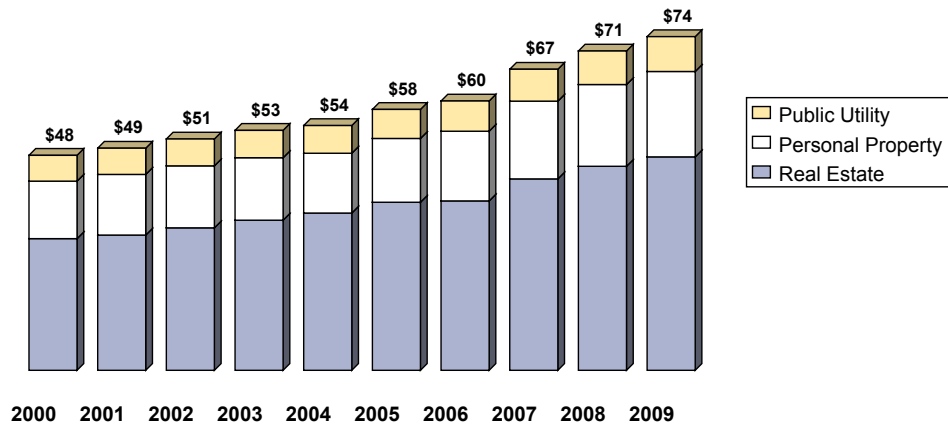
Outdoor-related recreational opportunities provided or regulated by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources have an estimated economic impact of more than \$1.7 billion each year. Those activities include hunting, fishing, state parks and forests, wildlife viewing, whitewater rafting, and recreational boating. These activities make up a major portion of the state's growing tourism industry.

### **Property Values**

Property subject to property tax in West Virginia is to be revalued annually. All properties, with the exception of farms and managed timberland, are to be assessed at 60% of their actual market value. Total assessed valuations for Tax Year 2009 came to \$74.24 billion (see the following chart). The statewide average levy rate for all property was 1.89% of assessed value.

A major portion of the expense of local government units is met from the proceeds of taxes levied upon real and personal property. The property tax is administered by officials of local taxing authorities (municipalities, county school boards, and county governments), as well as by officials of a number of state agencies. Less than one-half of one percent of the property tax collected goes to state government. For example, of property taxes levied for FY 2009, the State received 0.42%, the counties 26.24%, the school boards 66.50% and the municipalities 6.84%.

### West Virginia Taxable Assessed Property Values (In Billions)



Source: Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division

1 The tax on Class I intangibles is being phased out over a six-year period beginning in 1998, when over a 50% reduction in Class I intangible assessments reduced personal property valuations by \$1.0 billion.

## Miscellaneous—State Symbols

### State Flag

The state flag was officially adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1929, by Senate Joint Resolution 18.

Prominently displayed on the pure white field of today's flag and emblazoned in proper colors is a coat of arms, the lower half of which is wreathed by rhododendron, the State Flower. Across the top, lettered on a ribbon, is the constitutional designation "State of West Virginia." The white field is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue, and, for parade purposes, all but the staff side are to be trimmed with gold fringe.



### Great Seal of West Virginia



The great seal of West Virginia, which also is the coat of arms, was adopted by the Legislature on September 26, 1863, and symbolizes the principal pursuits and resources of West Virginia. Described briefly, the obverse side of the seal bears the legend "State of West Virginia," together with the motto, "Montani Semper Liberi" (Mountaineers Are Always Free); a farmer stands to the left and a miner to the right of a large ivy-draped rock bearing the date of the state's admission to the Union. In front of the rock are two hunters' rifles upon which rests a Phrygian cap or "cap of liberty."

Joseph H. Diss Debar, of Doddridge county, designed the state seal in 1863 at the request of the first West Virginia Legislature.

### Official Colors

Old gold and blue were designated as official state colors by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20, adopted by the Legislature on March 8, 1963.

### Official Day

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln approved the Statehood Bill for West Virginia on the condition that it would gradually abolish slavery. West Virginia was proclaimed a state on April 20, 1863, with the bill becoming effective sixty days later on June 20, 1863. "West Virginia Day" became a legal holiday by Chapter 59, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 1927.

### State Songs

"The West Virginia Hills," "This Is My West Virginia," and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home" were designated as the official state songs of West Virginia, each ranking equally with the others in official status, by House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, adopted by the Legislature on February 28, 1963.

Appendix A/State Profile  
Miscellaneous—State Symbols



**State Flower**

The *Rhododendron Maximum*, or “Big Laurel,” was made the official state flower of West Virginia by House Joint Resolution No. 19, adopted by the Legislature on January 29, 1903, following a recommendation by the governor and a vote by the pupils of public schools. The rhododendron is a shrub of the heath family and may be recognized by its large evergreen leaves and delicate pale pink or white bloom, mottled with either red or yellow flecks.

**State Tree**

The sugar maple (*Acer Saccharum*) was made West Virginia’s official tree by House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1949, authorizing a vote by pupils of public schools and civic organizations. It produces an excellent wood for future use as well as maple syrup. A single tree can be 70 to 120 feet high, has a five-lobed leaf and a small wing-shaped pod, and produces two to three pounds of sugar when “sugared off.”

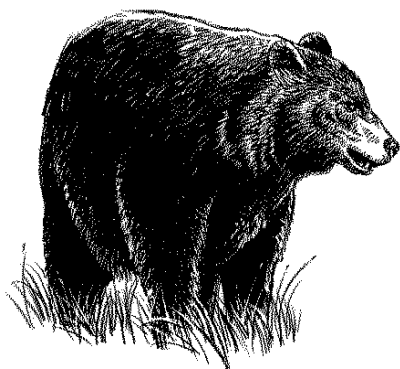


**State Bird**

The cardinal (*Richmondia Cardinalis*) was made West Virginia’s official bird by House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1949, authorizing a vote by pupils of public schools and civic organizations. The male of the species is a rich scarlet with a mask and shading of black, while the young birds and females are a less brilliant color. The adult bird measures approximately eight inches long. It ranges from New York State to the Gulf of Mexico and as far west as Oklahoma.

**State Fish**

The brook trout was designated the state fish by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, adopted in 1973 following a poll of sportsmen who favored the brook trout. The brook trout is a native West Virginia species.



**State Animal**

The black bear (*Euractos Americanus*) was selected as the official state animal of West Virginia by a poll of students, teachers, and sportsmen conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in 1954-55 and officially adopted by the Legislature in 1973 by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6. It is the only species of bear found in the state. While commonly referred to as the “black bear,” its coloring is actually deeply tinted with brown. Its habitat in West Virginia is primarily in the eastern mountain region. A litter usually consists of one or two cubs, rarely three, each weighing about eight ounces at birth. The adult reaches an average maximum weight of 250 pounds.

*Appendix A/State Profile  
Miscellaneous—State Symbols*



**State Fruit**

The Golden Delicious apple was designated as the official state fruit by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7, adopted by the Legislature on February 20, 1995. This apple variety was discovered by Anderson Mullins in Clay County, West Virginia, in 1905. The plain apple had been previously designated as the official state fruit by House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, adopted March 7, 1972.

**State Butterfly**

The monarch butterfly was declared the official butterfly of West Virginia by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, adopted by the Legislature on March 1, 1995.



Photo by Ray Garton

**State Gem**

The state gem, so designated by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, March 10, 1990, is technically not a gemstone, but rather the silicified Mississippian fossil coral *Lithostrotionella*, preserved as the siliceous mineral chalcedony. It is found in the Hillsdale Limestone in portions of Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties and is often cut and polished for jewelry and for display.

**State Soil**

The state soil is Monongahela silt loam, adopted by concurrent resolution in 1997, making West Virginia the twelfth state to have an official state soil.



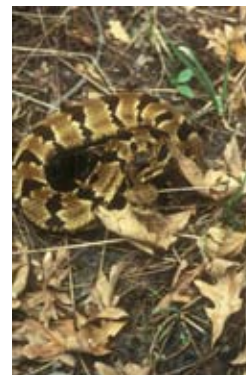
**State Insect**

The honeybee became West Virginia's official state insect in 2002 by the Legislature's Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9. In addition to its flavorful honey, the honeybee pollinates many of the state's most important crops including fruits, vegetables, and grasses. Its activity produces more benefit to the state's economy than any other insect. The honeybee has six legs, four wings, and its coloring ranges from dark yellow to gold with three dark bands on its abdomen.

*Appendix A/State Profile  
Miscellaneous—State Symbols*

### **State Reptile**

The timber rattlesnake was made West Virginia's official reptile by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28, adopted by the Legislature on March 8, 2008. The timber rattlesnake is present throughout the state, and its color and pattern is reminiscent of West Virginia's fauna and flora. It is important to preserve it as both predator and prey in the state's ecology.



### **State Fossil**

The fossil *Megalonyx jeffersonii* was made West Virginia's official fossil by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28, adopted by the Legislature on March 8, 2008. In 1797, President Thomas Jefferson obtained and described fossil bones from a limestone cave in what is now Monroe County. These bones were described in 1799 as the bones of a giant extinct ground sloth by Casper Wistar, who named this new species after President Jefferson. The bones were from the Ice Age or Pleistocene Epoch that lasted from 10,000 to 1.8 million years ago.

### **State Tartan**

On March 6, 2008, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolution 29, designating an adaptation of "West Virginia Shawl" as the official tartan of the state. According to the resolution, a majority of West Virginia's earliest settlers were descendants of Celtic people.

The pattern was designed by Dr. Phillip D. Smith and John A. Grant III. It was recorded by the Scottish Tartan Authority on May 27, 2008, reference number 7631.



The colors were chosen to represent the mountain state as follows:

- Scarlet for the state bird, the cardinal
- Yellow for the fall colors of the state tree, the sugar maple
- Dark blue for the mountain rivers and lakes
- Black for the official state animal, the black bear, and the state's oil and coal
- Green for the state flower, the rhododendron, and the state's mountain meadows
- Azure for the sky above
- White to have all the colors of the United States intertwined with the State of West Virginia

*Appendix A/State Profile  
Miscellaneous—State Symbols*



Photo supplied by the Mineral Information Institute, an affiliate of the SME Foundation

**State Rock**

West Virginia is the second largest bituminous coal producing state in the United States, producing 157,456 short tons of bituminous coal in 2008. In 1742 the first discovery of coal by an European explorer in West Virginia was made by John Peter Salley in the area now near Racine. John Peter Salley, therefore, named the nearby tributary of the Kanawha River (where he observed the coal deposit) as the Coal River. Bituminous coal being found naturally deposited in the vast majority of the 55 counties, the coal industry has evolved into, and has been for many years, an integral part of the economic and social fabric of the state. This resolution was drafted as a result of a petition started by a student from Gilbert High School in Mingo County.

## Miscellaneous—Famous West Virginians

**Randy Barnes** (1966- ) perhaps the world's greatest shot-putter. He holds both the outdoor and indoor world records and was a gold medalist in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He grew up in St. Albans, Kanawha County.

**Pearl Buck** (1892-1973), American novelist, born in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Many of her more than 85 books sympathetically portray China and its people.

**Robert Carlyle Byrd** (1917- ) was elected in 2006 to a ninth consecutive term in the U.S. Senate. He was the majority leader of the Senate from 1977 to 1981 and from 1987 to 1989. Byrd is from Sophia, Raleigh County.

**Bob Denver** (1935-2005 ), who played “Gilligan” on the TV series *Gilligan's Island* and “Maynard G. Krebs” on the TV series *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, lived near Princeton, Mercer County. His wife Dreama is from West Virginia.

**Jennifer Garner** (1972- ) starred in the ABC series *Alias*. She has appeared in films such as *Pearl Harbor*, *Mr. Magoo*, and *Elektra*, been featured in several television films, and had regular roles in television series. She was born in Houston, but grew up in the Charleston area and graduated from George Washington High School.

**Homer H. Hickam, Jr.** (1943- ) is the author of *Rocket Boys: A Memoir*, the story of his life in the little town of Coalwood, McDowell County, that inspired the number one bestseller and award-winning movie *October Sky*.

**Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson** (1824-1863) was a general in the Confederacy during the Civil War and is considered among the most skillful tacticians in military history. He was born in Clarksburg (then Virginia).

**Anna Jarvis** (1864-1948) considered the founder of Mother's Day. Following the death of her own mother in 1905, she began campaigning to have one day a year set aside to honor mothers. In 1914 President Wilson signed a proclamation declaring Mother's Day a holiday. She was born near Grafton, Taylor County.

**Don Jesse Knotts** (1924-2006), television and movie actor, born in Morgantown (Monongalia County) to a farm family he described as “dirt poor.” He attended West Virginia University where he majored in speech, hoping to become a teacher. Knotts played the role of “Barney Fife” on the *Andy Griffith Show*.

**Captain Jon A. McBride** (1943- ) became an astronaut in August 1979 and piloted the Challenger when it was launched on October 5, 1984. He was a Republican candidate for Governor of West Virginia in 1996. McBride was born in Charleston, Kanawha County.

**Kathy Mattea** (1959- ), country music star, born in South Charleston and grew up in Cross Lanes, Kanawha County.

**John Forbes Nash Jr.** (1928- ), described as a mathematical genius who essentially lost 30 years of his life to paranoid schizophrenia and who re-emerged into public glory (once the disease was in remission) to receive the 1994 Nobel Prize in Economics for a brilliant doctoral dissertation begun in 1950 (from *A Beautiful Mind*, a biography of Nash by Sylvia Nasar that inspired a movie of the same name). Nash was born and reared in Bluefield, Mercer County.

**Brad Paisley** (1972- ), Grammy award-winning country music star and 2008 Country Music Association Vocalist of the Year. He was born in Glen Dale, where his father retired as assistant fire chief.

**Mary Lou Retton** (1968- ), gymnast who won four medals in the 1984 Summer Olympics, including the gold in the all-around gymnastics competition. She is from Fairmont, Marion County.

**Jerome Alan “Jerry” West** (1938- ), a professional basketball star for the Los Angeles Lakers, was chosen one of the 50 greatest National Basketball Association basketball players in 1996. He was born in Cabin Creek, Kanawha County.

**Charles Elwood “Chuck” Yeager** (1923- ) became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound in October 1947 and the first person to fly more than twice the speed of sound in December 1953. He was born at Myra in Lincoln County.

*This is just a sampling of the many famous West Virginians. For a more extensive list, visit Jeff Miller's Famous West Virginians page at <<http://jeff560.tripod.com/wv-fam.html>>.*



## Miscellaneous—Interesting Facts



The third-largest diamond ever found in the United States, the “Punch” Jones Diamond, was found near Peterstown, in Monroe County within one-half mile of the Virginia state line. It has been suggested that the diamond actually occurred in rocks in Virginia and that erosion carried it to the West Virginia side of the state line. There are no other likely sites for diamonds in this state.

No other precious gems are known to have been found in West Virginia. Among the few gemstones found in West Virginia are some opal, some types of quartz, and two coal or coal-like minerals which, though softer than most gemstones, are cut, polished, and carved into jewelry.

A variety of the yellow apple, the Golden Delicious, originated in Clay County. The original Grimes Golden Apple Tree was discovered in 1775 near Wellsburg.

The first steamboat was launched by James Rumsey in the Potomac River at New Mecklenburg (Shepherdstown) on December 3, 1787.

On February 14, 1824, at Harpers Ferry, John S. Gallaher published the “Ladies Garland,” one of the first papers in the nation devoted mainly to the interests of women.

One of the first suspension bridges in the world was completed in Wheeling in November 1849.

Bailey Brown, the first Union soldier killed in the Civil War, died on May 22, 1861, at Fetterman, Taylor County.



The first rural free mail delivery began in Charles Town, October 6, 1896, then spread across the United States.

A naval battle was fought in West Virginia waters during the Civil War. United States Navy armored steamers were actively engaged in the Battle of Buffington Island near Ravenswood on July 19, 1863.

Mother’s Day was first observed at Andrews Church in Grafton on May 10, 1908.

Outdoor advertising had its origin in Wheeling about 1908 when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns with the wording: “Treat Yourself to the Best, Chew Mail Pouch.”

West Virginia was the first state to have a sales tax. It became effective July 1, 1921.

Mrs. Minnie Buckingham Harper, a member of the House of Delegates by appointment in 1928, was the first African American woman to become a member of a legislative body in the United States.

West Virginia’s Memorial Tunnel was the first in the nation to be monitored by television. It opened November 8, 1954.

West Virginia was the first state to use new technology to “measure” and store electronically the face and fingertip images of licensed drivers. Because this recorded information is unique to each individual, these images can prevent stolen identity should a driver’s license be lost or taken.

The longest steel arch bridge (1,700 feet) in the United States is the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayette County.

Organ Cave, near Ronceverte, is the third largest cave in the United States and the largest in the state.

## Sources

The information contained in this section has been gathered from a variety of sources, including the following:

West Virginia state government:

West Virginia Legislature

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Division of Energy

Division of Forestry

Division of Natural Resources

Division of Tourism

Geological and Economic Survey

Marketing and Communications

West Virginia Development Office

WorkForce West Virginia

Department of Education

Department of Education and the Arts

Division of Culture and History

Library Commission

Department of Health and Human Resources

Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Division of Criminal Justice

State Fire Commission

West Virginia State Police

Department of Revenue

Tax Division

Department of Transportation

Higher Education Policy Commission

Mineral Information Institute (an affiliate of the SME Foundation in Littleton, Colorado)

West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis and REIS 2008

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration