



# HSC Statistical Brief

## A Look at West Virginia's Population by Decade, 1950-2000 Brief No. 8

West Virginia's population in 1950 exceeded two million for the first and only time in the state's history. Fifty years later, in 2000, the population was slightly over 1.8 million. That's a loss of about 200,000 people from the Mountain State over five decades. Or is it?

Migration, both in and out of the state, plays a large role in population differences from year to year, or census to census, along with resident births and deaths. Let's look at some actual numbers from 1950 to 2000. According to the census, the state's actual population in 1950 was 2,005,053. Over the next 50 years, 1,553,966 babies were born to state residents while 953,674 West Virginians died. This would result in a "natural increase," i.e., an excess of births over deaths, in the population of 600,292.

So the question remains: Just how many people has West Virginia lost?

Assuming that nobody either moved into or away from West Virginia from 1950 until 2000, adding the natural increase to the 1950 population would result in a total of 2,605,345 people in 2000. That, however, hasn't happened. The Mountain State's 2000 census population was 1,808,344. That means 797,001 people have actually been lost to out-migration over the past five decades ( $2,005,053 + 600,292 - 1,808,344 = 797,001$ ). In other words, West Virginia has lost an average of 15,940 residents per year, 1,328 citizens per month, 307 per week, and 44 per day. Imagine two people packing up and leaving the state almost every hour of every day, and that would best describe West Virginia's migration over the years.

Overall, 17 of the 55 counties in West Virginia have a larger population now than they had 50 years ago. However, only seven of these counties actually posted an increase from in-migration: Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Hampshire, and Hardy counties in the Eastern Panhandle and Putnam and Jackson counties. Jackson, Jefferson, and Putnam counties have been the most consistent as far as growth resulting from migration is concerned, gaining in four of the five decades. On the other side of the ledger, five counties (McDowell, Logan, Kanawha, Ohio, and Hancock) experienced a loss

due to out-migration in each of the past decades. (Tables 1-6 at the end of this brief detail county populations from 1950-2000.)

Let's look at how the state fared during each of these decades:

**The Fifties (1950-1960)** Over half of the Mountain State's overall loss from out-migration during the 50-year period occurred during this decade. Even though the absolute loss from 1950 to 1960 was just 144,632 (2,005,053 to 1,860,421), there were 463,936 births to residents compared with 171,308 deaths, a natural increase of 292,628 West Virginians. Using the above formula -- (1950 population) + (natural increase) - (1960 population) -- yields a net migration loss of 437,260. The only two counties that experienced a gain in population from in-migration were Jackson and Wood. The counties that suffered the most proportionately from out-migration were McDowell, Logan, Webster, Fayette, and Clay.

**The Sixties (1960-1970)** The population continued to drop during the sixties although not as drastically as during the fifties. From 1960-70, the population went from 1,860,421 to 1,744,237, a difference of 116,184. There were 336,171 births and 189,886 deaths, which yielded a natural increase of 146,285. Thus, West Virginia lost 262,469 people to out-migration. Putnam, Monongalia, Jefferson, and Jackson were the only counties to experience a net migration growth; the counties that suffered the greatest losses were (again) McDowell, Webster, Logan, Clay, and Mingo.

**The Seventies (1970-1980)** Finally . . . an increase in population. Not only did West Virginia experience an increase in population but also an upswing in net migration as well. The Mountain State's population rose by a total of 205,407, from 1,744,237 to 1,949,644. With the 290,799 births and 196,110 deaths (a natural increase of 94,989) contributing to the growth, West Virginia ended up with a net migration increase of 110,718 during this span. All but six counties (McDowell, Ohio, Kanawha, Hancock, Cabell, and Logan, in that order) gained population from in-migration during this time frame. The counties that experienced the highest growth by percentage were Jefferson, Putnam, Morgan, Berkeley, and Hampshire.

**The Eighties (1980-1990)** What looked like a prosperous trend during the seventies was reversed during this decade. West Virginia dropped from 1,949,644 to 1,793,477 residents, a difference of 156,167. There were 248,563 births and 194,018 deaths, a natural increase of 54,545. Overall, West Virginia lost 210,712 people to out-migration. Counter to the seventies, all but six counties lost people due to out-migration during this period. The counties that gained were Berkeley, Morgan, Jefferson, Hardy, Hampshire, and Putnam. McDowell County continued to have the greatest proportional loss, followed by Wyoming, Logan, Boone, and Fayette counties.

**The Nineties (1990-2000)** This was the "good news/bad news" decade. First, the good news . . . the population and net migration both increased. A total of 14,867 people were added to the population, which jumped from 1,793,477 to 1,808,344. Most of this gain, however, was attributable to the natural increase (214,497 births minus 202,352 deaths equals 12,145). The net

migration was 2,722. Thirty-one counties increased in net migration; the top five by percentage were Morgan, Berkeley, Hampshire, Monroe, and Putnam. The five counties with the largest percentage decrease were McDowell, Mingo, Logan, Wyoming, and Wetzel.

And now for the bad news . . .

West Virginia's birth rate is shrinking rapidly. The state averaged over 46,000 births per year in the 1950s, compared with only 17,000 deaths. As time went by, resident deaths increased slightly. Births, on the other hand, have dropped substantially, from an annual average of almost 33,600 in the sixties, to 29,000 in the seventies, under 25,000 in the eighties, and just 21,400 in the nineties. West Virginia has, in fact, actually experienced more resident deaths than births every year since 1997, the first state to have a natural *decrease*.

So this brief answers our question: Just how many people has West Virginia lost? A future statistical brief will address the shift in age groups that has resulted in West Virginia having the oldest population in the nation. Much of the state's out-migration has been younger people who have been forced to move away to find work in other regions because of fewer economic opportunities in the Mountain State. They marry and raise their families elsewhere. Then, after they retire, many West Virginians come back home to enjoy life in the Mountain State. The "Graying of America" has already started in West Virginia.

**Table 1**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1950-1960**

County	1950 Census Population	1950- 1959 Births	1950- 1959 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	1960 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	19,247	3,554	1,765	1,789	15,474	-5,562	-28.9%	44
Berkeley	30,359	7,056	3,277	3,779	33,791	-347	-1.1%	4
Boone	33,173	8,265	2,085	6,180	28,764	-10,589	-31.9%	46
Braxton	18,082	3,853	1,614	2,239	15,152	-5,169	-28.6%	43
Brooke	26,904	6,102	2,416	3,686	28,940	-1,650	-6.1%	8
Cabell	108,035	25,496	10,240	15,256	108,202	-15,089	-14.0%	17
Calhoun	10,259	1,857	827	1,030	7,948	-3,341	-32.6%	47
Clay	14,961	3,839	946	2,893	11,942	-5,912	-39.5%	51
Doddridge	9,026	1,364	908	456	6,970	-2,512	-27.8%	41
Fayette	82,443	18,261	6,256	12,005	61,731	-32,717	-39.7%	52
Gilmer	9,746	1,541	839	702	8,050	-2,398	-24.6%	33
Grant	8,756	2,096	730	1,366	8,304	-1,818	-20.8%	28
Greenbrier	39,295	8,927	3,499	5,428	34,446	-10,277	-26.2%	36
Hampshire	12,577	2,329	1,197	1,132	11,705	-2,004	-15.9%	20
Hancock	34,388	9,676	2,898	6,778	39,615	-1,551	-4.5%	6
Hardy	10,032	2,061	902	1,159	9,308	-1,883	-18.8%	22
Harrison	85,296	17,684	7,891	9,793	77,856	-17,233	-20.2%	24
Jackson	15,299	3,440	1,443	1,997	18,541	1,245	8.1%	1
Jefferson	17,184	4,311	2,005	2,306	18,665	-825	-4.8%	7
Kanawha	239,629	64,870	18,982	45,888	252,925	-32,592	-13.6%	16
Lewis	21,074	3,718	2,248	1,470	19,711	-2,833	-13.4%	15
Lincoln	22,466	5,531	1,685	3,846	20,267	-6,045	-26.9%	39
Logan	77,391	20,669	5,170	15,499	61,570	-31,320	-40.5%	54
McDowell	98,887	24,858	6,846	18,012	71,359	-45,540	-46.1%	55
Marion	71,521	13,686	6,727	6,959	63,717	-14,763	-20.6%	27
Marshall	36,893	7,307	3,496	3,811	38,041	-2,663	-7.2%	9
Mason	23,537	5,419	2,012	3,407	24,459	-2,485	-10.6%	11
Mercer	75,013	17,082	6,500	10,582	68,206	-17,389	-23.2%	32
Mineral	22,333	4,738	2,212	2,526	22,354	-2,505	-11.2%	12
Mingo	47,409	13,474	3,292	10,182	39,742	-17,849	-37.6%	50
Monongalia	60,797	12,818	5,043	7,775	55,617	-12,955	-21.3%	29
Monroe	13,123	2,365	1,232	1,133	11,584	-2,672	-20.4%	26
Morgan	8,276	2,063	946	1,117	8,376	-1,017	-12.3%	13
Nicholas	27,696	7,092	2,114	4,978	25,414	-7,260	-26.2%	37
Ohio	71,672	15,895	8,238	7,657	68,437	-10,892	-15.2%	18
Pendleton	9,313	1,650	766	884	8,093	-2,104	-22.6%	30
Pleasants	6,369	1,463	678	785	7,124	-30	-0.5%	3
Pocahontas	12,480	2,154	1,133	1,021	10,136	-3,365	-27.0%	40
Preston	31,399	6,803	2,593	4,210	27,233	-8,376	-26.7%	38
Putnam	21,021	4,650	1,642	3,008	23,561	-468	-2.2%	5
Raleigh	96,273	21,815	6,495	15,320	77,826	-33,767	-35.1%	49
Randolph	30,557	6,269	2,665	3,604	26,349	-7,812	-25.6%	34
Ritchie	12,535	2,181	1,448	733	10,877	-2,391	-19.1%	23
Roane	18,408	3,094	1,549	1,545	15,720	-4,233	-23.0%	31
Summers	19,183	3,705	1,821	1,884	15,640	-5,427	-28.3%	42
Taylor	18,422	3,268	1,943	1,325	15,010	-4,737	-25.7%	35
Tucker	10,600	1,725	1,027	698	7,750	-3,548	-33.5%	48
Tyler	10,535	1,716	1,164	552	10,026	-1,061	-10.1%	10
Upshur	19,242	4,242	2,024	2,218	18,292	-3,168	-16.5%	21
Wayne	38,696	8,213	2,850	5,363	38,977	-5,082	-13.1%	14
Webster	17,888	4,185	1,237	2,948	13,719	-7,117	-39.8%	53
Wetzel	20,154	4,346	2,043	2,303	19,347	-3,110	-15.4%	19
Wirt	5,119	844	535	309	4,391	-1,037	-20.3%	25
Wood	66,540	17,957	7,129	10,828	78,331	963	1.4%	2
Wyoming	37,540	10,359	2,085	8,274	34,836	-10,978	-29.2%	45
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>2,005,053</b>	<b>463,936</b>	<b>171,308</b>	<b>292,628</b>	<b>1,860,421</b>	<b>-437,260</b>	<b>-21.8%</b>	

**Table 2**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1960-1970**

County	1960 Census Population	1960- 1969 Births	1960- 1969 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	1970 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	15,474	2,628	1,893	735	14,030	-2,179	-14.1%	34
Berkeley	33,791	6,865	3,996	2,869	36,356	-304	-0.9%	6
Boone	28,764	4,819	2,367	2,452	25,118	-6,098	-21.2%	46
Braxton	15,152	2,543	1,726	817	12,666	-3,303	-21.8%	48
Brooke	28,940	5,197	2,670	2,527	29,685	-1,782	-6.2%	14
Cabell	108,202	20,033	11,512	8,521	106,918	-9,805	-9.1%	21
Calhoun	7,948	1,420	874	546	7,046	-1,448	-18.2%	44
Clay	11,942	2,209	1,007	1,202	9,330	-3,814	-31.9%	52
Doddridge	6,970	1,033	944	89	6,389	-670	-9.6%	25
Fayette	61,731	9,539	6,671	2,868	49,332	-15,267	-24.7%	50
Gilmer	8,050	1,439	922	517	7,782	-785	-9.8%	26
Grant	8,304	1,811	894	917	8,607	-614	-7.4%	16
Greenbrier	34,446	6,221	3,629	2,592	32,090	-4,948	-14.4%	35
Hampshire	11,705	2,109	1,391	718	11,710	-713	-6.1%	12
Hancock	39,615	7,682	3,558	4,124	39,749	-3,990	-10.1%	27
Hardy	9,308	1,614	1,001	613	8,855	-1,066	-11.5%	29
Harrison	77,856	13,384	9,104	4,280	73,028	-9,108	-11.7%	30
Jackson	18,541	3,949	1,748	2,201	20,903	161	0.9%	4
Jefferson	18,665	4,266	2,203	2,063	21,280	552	3.0%	3
Kanawha	252,925	46,398	21,837	24,561	229,515	-47,971	-19.0%	45
Lewis	19,711	3,173	2,411	762	17,847	-2,626	-13.3%	32
Lincoln	20,267	4,200	1,946	2,254	18,912	-3,609	-17.8%	42
Logan	61,570	10,882	5,007	5,875	46,269	-21,176	-34.4%	53
McDowell	71,359	12,614	6,340	6,274	50,666	-26,967	-37.8%	55
Marion	63,717	10,576	7,522	3,054	61,356	-5,415	-8.5%	18
Marshall	38,041	6,591	3,986	2,605	37,598	-3,048	-8.0%	17
Mason	24,459	4,377	2,244	2,133	24,306	-2,286	-9.3%	23
Mercer	68,206	11,722	7,567	4,155	63,206	-9,155	-13.4%	33
Mineral	22,354	4,721	2,495	2,226	23,109	-1,471	-6.6%	15
Mingo	39,742	7,920	3,635	4,285	32,780	-11,247	-28.3%	51
Monongalia	55,617	10,127	5,416	4,711	63,714	3,386	6.1%	2
Monroe	11,584	1,756	1,357	399	11,272	-711	-6.1%	13
Morgan	8,376	1,553	979	574	8,547	-403	-4.8%	8
Nicholas	25,414	4,823	2,293	2,530	22,552	-5,392	-21.2%	47
Ohio	68,437	11,880	8,825	3,055	64,197	-7,295	-10.7%	28
Pendleton	8,093	1,168	860	308	7,031	-1,370	-16.9%	41
Pleasants	7,124	1,279	748	531	7,274	-381	-5.3%	11
Pocahontas	10,136	1,674	1,243	431	8,870	-1,697	-16.7%	40
Preston	27,233	5,128	2,767	2,361	25,455	-4,139	-15.2%	38
Putnam	23,561	4,256	1,979	2,277	27,625	1,787	7.6%	1
Raleigh	77,826	12,615	7,651	4,964	70,080	-12,710	-16.3%	39
Randolph	26,349	5,070	2,988	2,082	24,596	-3,835	-14.6%	36
Ritchie	10,877	1,752	1,515	237	10,145	-969	-8.9%	20
Roane	15,720	2,405	1,655	750	14,111	-2,359	-15.0%	37
Summers	15,640	2,367	1,949	418	13,213	-2,845	-18.2%	43
Taylor	15,010	2,282	1,979	303	13,878	-1,435	-9.6%	24
Tucker	7,750	1,392	1,022	370	7,447	-673	-8.7%	19
Tyler	10,026	1,731	1,306	425	9,929	-522	-5.2%	9
Upshur	18,292	3,365	2,146	1,219	19,092	-419	-2.3%	7
Wayne	38,977	6,933	3,258	3,675	37,581	-5,071	-13.0%	31
Webster	13,719	2,596	1,364	1,232	9,809	-5,142	-37.5%	54
Wetzel	19,347	4,194	2,214	1,980	20,314	-1,013	-5.2%	10
Wirt	4,391	746	578	168	4,154	-405	-9.2%	22
Wood	78,331	16,951	8,289	8,662	86,818	-175	-0.2%	5
Wyoming	34,836	6,193	2,405	3,788	30,095	-8,529	-24.5%	49
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>1,860,421</b>	<b>336,171</b>	<b>189,886</b>	<b>146,285</b>	<b>1,744,237</b>	<b>-262,469</b>	<b>-14.1%</b>	

**Table 3**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1970-1980**

County	1970 Census Population	1970- 1979 Births	1970- 1979 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	1980 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	14,030	2,306	1,852	454	16,639	2,155	15.4%	15
Berkeley	36,356	6,531	4,185	2,346	46,775	8,073	22.2%	4
Boone	25,118	5,156	2,755	2,401	30,447	2,928	11.7%	29
Braxton	12,666	1,965	1,586	379	13,894	849	6.7%	39
Brooke	29,685	4,054	2,642	1,412	31,117	20	0.1%	49
Cabell	106,918	16,432	12,428	4,004	106,835	-4,087	-3.8%	51
Calhoun	7,046	1,239	949	290	8,250	914	13.0%	23
Clay	9,330	1,780	1,117	663	11,265	1,272	13.6%	20
Doddridge	6,389	957	886	71	7,433	973	15.2%	16
Fayette	49,332	8,801	6,817	1,984	57,863	6,547	13.3%	22
Gilmer	7,782	1,134	819	315	8,334	237	3.0%	46
Grant	8,607	1,474	909	565	10,210	1,038	12.1%	27
Greenbrier	32,090	5,033	3,991	1,042	37,665	4,533	14.1%	19
Hampshire	11,710	1,952	1,386	566	14,867	2,591	22.1%	5
Hancock	39,749	5,909	3,619	2,290	40,418	-1,621	-4.1%	52
Hardy	8,855	1,311	973	338	10,030	837	9.5%	36
Harrison	73,028	11,323	9,125	2,198	77,710	2,484	3.4%	45
Jackson	20,903	3,271	1,843	1,428	25,794	3,463	16.6%	13
Jefferson	21,280	3,636	2,426	1,210	30,302	7,812	36.7%	1
Kanawha	229,515	35,222	23,522	11,700	231,414	-9,801	-4.3%	53
Lewis	17,847	2,681	2,407	274	18,813	692	3.9%	43
Lincoln	18,912	3,783	2,173	1,610	23,675	3,153	16.7%	11
Logan	46,269	9,737	5,089	4,648	50,679	-238	-0.5%	50
McDowell	50,666	10,511	5,716	4,795	49,899	-5,562	-11.0%	55
Marion	61,356	9,439	7,706	1,733	65,789	2,700	4.4%	42
Marshall	37,598	6,116	3,967	2,149	41,608	1,861	4.9%	40
Mason	24,306	4,033	2,389	1,644	27,045	1,095	4.5%	41
Mercer	63,206	10,941	7,527	3,414	73,942	7,322	11.6%	30
Mineral	23,109	3,953	2,543	1,410	27,234	2,715	11.7%	28
Mingo	32,780	7,189	3,819	3,370	37,336	1,186	3.6%	44
Monongalia	63,714	9,640	5,587	4,053	75,024	7,257	11.4%	31
Monroe	11,272	1,668	1,437	231	12,873	1,370	12.2%	24
Morgan	8,547	1,309	1,050	259	10,711	1,905	22.3%	3
Nicholas	22,552	4,457	2,453	2,004	28,126	3,570	15.8%	14
Ohio	64,197	8,560	8,177	383	61,389	-3,191	-5.0%	54
Pendleton	7,031	1,073	925	148	7,910	731	10.4%	34
Pleasants	7,274	1,103	758	345	8,236	617	8.5%	37
Pocahontas	8,870	1,227	1,249	-22	9,919	1,071	12.1%	26
Preston	25,455	4,458	2,863	1,595	30,460	3,410	13.4%	21
Putnam	27,625	4,884	2,459	2,425	38,181	8,131	29.4%	2
Raleigh	70,080	13,471	8,829	4,642	86,821	12,099	17.3%	8
Randolph	24,596	4,070	2,911	1,159	28,734	2,979	12.1%	25
Ritchie	10,145	1,601	1,391	210	11,442	1,087	10.7%	33
Roane	14,111	2,270	1,779	491	15,952	1,350	9.6%	35
Summers	13,213	2,183	1,988	195	15,875	2,467	18.7%	7
Taylor	13,878	2,302	1,908	394	16,584	2,312	16.7%	12
Tucker	7,447	1,147	1,009	138	8,675	1,090	14.6%	18
Tyler	9,929	1,541	1,234	307	11,320	1,084	10.9%	32
Upshur	19,092	3,266	2,135	1,131	23,427	3,204	16.8%	10
Wayne	37,581	6,401	3,498	2,903	46,021	5,537	14.7%	17
Webster	9,809	1,889	1,322	567	12,245	1,869	19.1%	6
Wetzel	20,314	3,387	2,226	1,161	21,874	399	2.0%	47
Wirt	4,154	646	581	65	4,922	703	16.9%	9
Wood	86,818	13,938	8,543	5,395	93,648	1,435	1.7%	48
Wyoming	30,095	6,439	2,632	3,807	35,993	2,091	6.9%	38
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>1,744,237</b>	<b>290,799</b>	<b>196,110</b>	<b>94,689</b>	<b>1,949,644</b>	<b>110,718</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	

**Table 4**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1980-1990**

County	1980 Census Population	1980- 1989 Births	1980- 1989 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	1990 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	16,639	2,142	1,770	372	15,699	-1,312	-7.9%	16
Berkeley	46,775	7,725	4,929	2,796	59,253	9,682	20.7%	1
Boone	30,447	3,753	2,776	977	25,870	-5,554	-18.2%	52
Braxton	13,894	1,881	1,678	203	12,998	-1,099	-7.9%	17
Brooke	31,117	3,025	2,912	113	26,992	-4,238	-13.6%	40
Cabell	106,835	12,763	11,740	1,023	96,827	-11,031	-10.3%	27
Calhoun	8,250	1,217	898	319	7,885	-684	-8.3%	19
Clay	11,265	1,729	1,044	685	9,983	-1,967	-17.5%	50
Doddridge	7,433	908	751	157	6,994	-596	-8.0%	18
Fayette	57,863	6,983	6,490	493	47,952	-10,404	-18.0%	51
Gilmer	8,334	1,089	818	271	7,669	-936	-11.2%	33
Grant	10,210	1,277	926	351	10,428	-133	-1.3%	8
Greenbrier	37,665	4,514	4,259	255	34,693	-3,227	-8.6%	21
Hampshire	14,867	2,100	1,487	613	16,498	1,018	6.8%	5
Hancock	40,418	4,223	3,758	465	35,233	-5,650	-14.0%	43
Hardy	10,030	1,282	1,087	195	10,977	752	7.5%	4
Harrison	77,710	10,017	8,809	1,208	69,371	-9,547	-12.3%	35
Jackson	25,794	3,506	2,291	1,215	25,938	-1,071	-4.2%	11
Jefferson	30,302	4,996	2,882	2,114	35,926	3,510	11.6%	3
Kanawha	231,414	29,108	23,155	5,953	207,619	-29,748	-12.9%	36
Lewis	18,813	2,385	2,221	164	17,223	-1,754	-9.3%	24
Lincoln	23,675	3,271	2,142	1,129	21,382	-3,422	-14.5%	44
Logan	50,679	6,575	4,663	1,912	43,032	-9,559	-18.9%	53
McDowell	49,899	6,775	4,781	1,994	35,233	-16,660	-33.4%	55
Marion	65,789	7,542	7,034	508	57,249	-9,048	-13.8%	41
Marshall	41,608	4,942	3,809	1,133	37,356	-5,385	-12.9%	37
Mason	27,045	3,451	2,709	742	25,178	-2,609	-9.6%	26
Mercer	73,942	8,920	7,567	1,353	64,980	-10,315	-14.0%	42
Mineral	27,234	3,532	2,759	773	26,697	-1,310	-4.8%	12
Mingo	37,336	5,993	3,557	2,436	33,739	-6,033	-16.2%	48
Monongalia	75,024	9,239	5,639	3,600	75,509	-3,115	-4.2%	10
Monroe	12,873	1,667	1,412	255	12,406	-722	-5.6%	13
Morgan	10,711	1,305	1,222	83	12,128	1,334	12.5%	2
Nicholas	28,126	3,788	2,489	1,299	26,775	-2,650	-9.4%	25
Ohio	61,389	6,908	7,204	-296	50,871	-10,222	-16.7%	49
Pendleton	7,910	1,104	817	287	8,054	-143	-1.8%	9
Pleasants	8,236	980	735	245	7,546	-935	-11.4%	34
Pocahontas	9,919	1,171	1,214	-43	9,008	-868	-8.8%	22
Preston	30,460	4,292	2,947	1,345	29,037	-2,768	-9.1%	23
Putnam	38,181	5,514	2,850	2,664	42,835	1,990	5.2%	6
Raleigh	86,821	10,390	8,693	1,697	76,819	-11,699	-13.5%	38
Randolph	28,734	3,923	2,979	944	27,803	-1,875	-6.5%	14
Ritchie	11,442	1,361	1,340	21	10,233	-1,230	-10.7%	29
Roane	15,952	2,173	1,678	495	15,120	-1,327	-8.3%	20
Summers	15,875	1,778	1,728	50	14,204	-1,721	-10.8%	31
Taylor	16,584	2,166	1,795	371	15,144	-1,811	-10.9%	32
Tucker	8,675	979	1,023	-44	7,728	-903	-10.4%	28
Tyler	11,320	1,371	1,155	216	9,796	-1,740	-15.4%	46
Upshur	23,427	3,288	2,232	1,056	22,867	-1,616	-6.9%	15
Wayne	46,021	5,657	3,838	1,819	41,636	-6,204	-13.5%	39
Webster	12,245	1,642	1,205	437	10,729	-1,953	-15.9%	47
Wetzel	21,874	2,925	2,191	734	19,258	-3,350	-15.3%	45
Wirt	4,922	764	481	283	5,192	-13	-0.3%	7
Wood	93,648	12,133	8,744	3,389	86,915	-10,122	-10.8%	30
Wyoming	35,993	4,421	2,705	1,716	28,990	-8,719	-24.2%	54
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>1,949,644</b>	<b>248,563</b>	<b>194,018</b>	<b>54,545</b>	<b>1,793,477</b>	<b>-210,712</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>	

**Table 5**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1990-2000**

County	1990 Census Population	1990- 1999 Births	1990- 1999 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	2000 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	15,699	1,787	1,868	-81	15,557	-61	-0.4%	33
Berkeley	59,253	9,205	5,851	3,354	75,905	13,298	22.4%	2
Boone	25,870	3,262	2,717	545	25,535	-880	-3.4%	41
Braxton	12,998	1,551	1,583	-32	14,702	1,736	13.4%	7
Brooke	26,992	2,640	3,051	-411	25,447	-1,134	-4.2%	43
Cabell	96,827	11,794	11,939	-145	96,784	102	0.1%	29
Calhoun	7,885	819	932	-113	7,582	-190	-2.4%	39
Clay	9,983	1,321	1,155	166	10,330	181	1.8%	21
Doddridge	6,994	820	772	48	7,403	361	5.2%	13
Fayette	47,952	5,772	6,306	-534	47,579	161	0.3%	27
Gilmer	7,669	735	851	-116	7,160	-393	-5.1%	48
Grant	10,428	1,376	1,096	280	11,299	591	5.7%	12
Greenbrier	34,693	3,938	4,501	-563	34,453	323	0.9%	25
Hampshire	16,498	2,309	1,750	559	20,203	3,146	19.1%	3
Hancock	35,233	3,476	3,876	-400	32,667	-2,166	-6.1%	49
Hardy	10,977	1,431	1,285	146	12,669	1,546	14.1%	6
Harrison	69,371	8,606	8,927	-321	68,652	-398	-0.6%	35
Jackson	25,938	3,128	2,786	342	28,000	1,720	6.6%	11
Jefferson	35,926	5,090	3,266	1,824	42,190	4,440	12.4%	8
Kanawha	207,619	25,302	24,108	1,194	200,073	-8,740	-4.2%	44
Lewis	17,223	1,992	2,212	-220	16,919	-84	-0.5%	34
Lincoln	21,382	2,831	2,272	559	22,108	167	0.8%	26
Logan	43,032	5,030	4,745	285	37,710	-5,607	-13.0%	53
McDowell	35,233	3,939	4,255	-316	27,329	-7,588	-21.5%	55
Marion	57,249	6,467	7,147	-680	56,598	29	0.1%	30
Marshall	37,356	3,988	4,027	-39	35,519	-1,798	-4.8%	46
Mason	25,178	2,911	3,007	-96	25,957	875	3.5%	16
Mercer	64,980	7,992	7,985	7	62,980	-2,007	-3.1%	40
Mineral	26,697	3,154	2,823	331	27,078	50	0.2%	28
Mingo	33,739	4,458	3,378	1,080	28,253	-6,566	-19.5%	54
Monongalia	75,509	8,729	5,823	2,906	81,866	3,451	4.6%	14
Monroe	12,406	1,384	1,416	-32	14,583	2,209	17.8%	4
Morgan	12,128	1,463	1,431	32	14,943	2,783	22.9%	1
Nicholas	26,775	2,982	2,880	102	26,562	-315	-1.2%	37
Ohio	50,871	5,678	6,637	-959	47,427	-2,485	-4.9%	47
Pendleton	8,054	904	931	-27	8,196	169	2.1%	20
Pleasants	7,546	869	806	63	7,514	-95	-1.3%	38
Pocahontas	9,008	1,003	1,167	-164	9,131	287	3.2%	18
Preston	29,037	3,383	3,096	287	29,334	10	0.0%	31
Putnam	42,835	5,733	3,842	1,891	51,589	6,863	16.0%	5
Raleigh	76,819	8,814	9,080	-266	79,220	2,667	3.5%	17
Randolph	27,803	3,283	3,126	157	28,262	302	1.1%	24
Ritchie	10,233	1,100	1,369	-269	10,343	379	3.7%	15
Roane	15,120	1,688	1,740	-52	15,446	378	2.5%	19
Summers	14,204	1,225	1,820	-595	12,999	-610	-4.3%	45
Taylor	15,144	1,652	1,829	-177	16,089	1,122	7.4%	10
Tucker	7,728	808	930	-122	7,321	-285	-3.7%	42
Tyler	9,796	1,032	1,122	-90	9,592	-114	-1.2%	36
Upshur	22,867	2,684	2,495	189	23,404	348	1.5%	22
Wayne	41,636	5,074	4,334	740	42,903	527	1.3%	23
Webster	10,729	1,134	1,238	-104	9,719	-906	-8.4%	50
Wetzel	19,258	2,285	2,220	65	17,693	-1,630	-8.5%	51
Wirt	5,192	636	523	113	5,873	568	10.9%	9
Wood	86,915	10,758	9,359	1,399	87,986	-328	-0.4%	32
Wyoming	28,990	3,072	2,667	405	25,708	-3,687	-12.7%	52
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>1,793,477</b>	<b>214,497</b>	<b>202,352</b>	<b>12,145</b>	<b>1,808,344</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	



**Table 6**  
**Births, Deaths, Natural Increase or Decrease, and Net Migration**  
**West Virginia Population by County, 1950-2000**

County	1950 Census Population	1950- 1999 Births	1950- 1999 Deaths	Natural Increase or Decrease	2000 Census Population	Net Migration	Pct.	Rank
Barbour	19,247	12,417	9,148	3,269	15,557	-6,959	-36.2%	29
Berkeley	30,359	37,382	22,238	15,144	75,905	30,402	100.1%	1
Boone	33,173	25,255	12,700	12,555	25,535	-20,193	-60.9%	48
Braxton	18,082	11,793	8,187	3,606	14,702	-6,986	-38.6%	34
Brooke	26,904	21,018	13,691	7,327	25,447	-8,784	-32.6%	25
Cabell	108,035	86,518	57,859	28,659	96,784	-39,910	-36.9%	31
Calhoun	10,259	6,552	4,480	2,072	7,582	-4,749	-46.3%	45
Clay	14,961	10,878	5,269	5,609	10,330	-10,240	-68.4%	50
Doddridge	9,026	5,082	4,261	821	7,403	-2,444	-27.1%	21
Fayette	82,443	49,356	32,540	16,816	47,579	-51,680	-62.7%	49
Gilmer	9,746	5,938	4,249	1,689	7,160	-4,275	-43.9%	43
Grant	8,756	8,034	4,555	3,479	11,299	-936	-10.7%	12
Greenbrier	39,295	28,633	19,879	8,754	34,453	-13,596	-34.6%	28
Hampshire	12,577	10,799	7,211	3,588	20,203	4,038	32.1%	6
Hancock	34,388	30,966	17,709	13,257	32,667	-14,978	-43.6%	42
Hardy	10,032	7,699	5,248	2,451	12,669	186	1.9%	7
Harrison	85,296	61,014	43,856	17,158	68,652	-33,802	-39.6%	35
Jackson	15,299	17,294	10,111	7,183	28,000	5,518	36.1%	5
Jefferson	17,184	22,299	12,782	9,517	42,190	15,489	90.1%	2
Kanawha	239,629	200,900	111,604	89,296	200,073	-128,852	-53.8%	47
Lewis	21,074	13,949	11,499	2,450	16,919	-6,605	-31.3%	24
Lincoln	22,466	19,616	10,218	9,398	22,108	-9,756	-43.4%	40
Logan	77,391	52,893	24,674	28,219	37,710	-67,900	-87.7%	54
McDowell	98,887	58,697	27,938	30,759	27,329	-102,317	-103.5%	55
Marion	71,521	47,710	36,136	11,574	56,598	-26,497	-37.0%	32
Marshall	36,893	28,944	19,285	9,659	35,519	-11,033	-29.9%	23
Mason	23,537	20,191	12,361	7,830	25,957	-5,410	-23.0%	17
Mercer	75,013	56,657	37,146	19,511	62,980	-31,544	-42.1%	37
Mineral	22,333	20,098	12,832	7,266	27,078	-2,521	-11.3%	13
Mingo	47,409	39,034	17,681	21,353	28,253	-40,509	-85.4%	53
Monongalia	60,797	50,553	27,508	23,045	81,866	-1,976	-3.3%	8
Monroe	13,123	8,840	6,854	1,986	14,583	-526	-4.0%	10
Morgan	8,276	7,693	5,628	2,065	14,943	4,602	55.6%	4
Nicholas	27,696	23,142	12,229	10,913	26,562	-12,047	-43.5%	41
Ohio	71,672	48,921	39,081	9,840	47,427	-34,085	-47.6%	46
Pendleton	9,313	5,899	4,299	1,600	8,196	-2,717	-29.2%	22
Pleasants	6,369	5,694	3,725	1,969	7,514	-824	-12.9%	15
Pocahontas	12,480	7,229	6,006	1,223	9,131	-4,572	-36.6%	30
Preston	31,399	24,064	14,266	9,798	29,334	-11,863	-37.8%	33
Putnam	21,021	25,037	12,772	12,265	51,589	18,303	87.1%	3
Raleigh	96,273	67,105	40,748	26,357	79,220	-43,410	-45.1%	44
Randolph	30,557	22,615	14,669	7,946	28,262	-10,241	-33.5%	26
Ritchie	12,535	7,995	7,063	932	10,343	-3,124	-24.9%	19
Roane	18,408	11,630	8,401	3,229	15,446	-6,191	-33.6%	27
Summers	19,183	11,258	9,306	1,952	12,999	-8,136	-42.4%	38
Taylor	18,422	11,670	9,454	2,216	16,089	-4,549	-24.7%	18
Tucker	10,600	6,051	5,011	1,040	7,321	-4,319	-40.7%	36
Tyler	10,535	7,391	5,981	1,410	9,592	-2,353	-22.3%	16
Upshur	19,242	16,845	11,032	5,813	23,404	-1,651	-8.6%	11
Wayne	38,696	32,278	17,778	14,500	42,903	-10,293	-26.6%	20
Webster	17,888	11,446	6,366	5,080	9,719	-13,249	-74.1%	51
Wetzel	20,154	17,137	10,894	6,243	17,693	-8,704	-43.2%	39
Wirt	5,119	3,636	2,698	938	5,873	-184	-3.6%	9
Wood	66,540	71,737	42,064	29,673	87,986	-8,227	-12.4%	14
Wyoming	37,540	30,484	12,494	17,990	25,708	-29,822	-79.4%	52
<b>WV Total</b>	<b>2,005,053</b>	<b>1,553,966</b>	<b>953,674</b>	<b>600,292</b>	<b>1,808,344</b>	<b>-797,001</b>	<b>-39.7%</b>	