Births are calculated at 11.9/1,000 residents. Deaths are 10.8/1,000 residents. The state has a 2.85% high school drop out rate. This is comparable to the US average. Twenty two percent of the residents in the appropriate age range attend college. Holders of bachelor degrees or higher comprise 12.3%. The median family income is \$25,602. Those earning less than \$25,000 comprise 57.8% of the population. Households earning \$25,000-34,999 comprise 15.1% of the population. Those households earning \$35,000-49,000 comprise 14.6% of the population. Nine percent of the households earn \$50,000-74,999. Household earnings of \$75,000 or more comprise 3.6% of the population.

The total work force decreased 1.4% from 1980 - 1990. The total work force is 744,032 people. The unemployment rate in 1990 was 9.6%. This has dropped since then, but is still above the national average. The per capita income is \$13,744.

The wholesale and retail trade comprises 21.7% of the employed, followed by the manufacturing sector at 14.9%, health services at 9.9%, finance/insurance/real estate at 4.5%, and public administration at 4.4% of those employed. Agriculture represents only 1.9% of those employed.

The rural population, low population density, and mountainous geography have necessitated smaller hospitals and clinics. As expected, the number of physicians and their density is lower. The 1990 census showed 3,086 physicians statewide. This is 172 physicians/100,000 population. Physician density increases in the cities such as Charleston, the state capital, and Morgantown, sit of West Virginia University (WVU) Medical College. The WVU campus, hospital and medical college have undergone complete renovation and expansion within the last three years. As of 1990, there were 461 hospital beds/100,000 population statewide.

As of 1990, there were 370,321 Social Security beneficiaries. This 206.5/1,000 residents. Due to the heavy mining and chemical industry, an assumption can be made that a significant portion of these are Black Lung beneficiaries.

Geography

The capital of West Virginia (WV) is Charleston, located in Kananwha County. Charleston is one of the largest cities at 57,287 residents (1990). The city is a manufacturing and distribution center for the nearby coal, petroleum, natural gas, salt, and timber industries. The major manufacturing industries are glass, metals, and chemicals.

Monongalia County is the home of Morgantown. The 1990 population was 25,879. Economically, medical/health services are important to the region. The major industrials produced locally are textiles, glass, metals, and chemicals. Agriculture, coal mining, and stone quarrying are conducted locally. West Virginia University is located here.