

# BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

## Brief Economic Facts

Fall 2009

Berkeley County, West Virginia is one of the nation's fastest growing counties and for good reason. We provide profitable opportunities...for business, for workers, and for families. Berkeley County's strategic location and quick access to a full range of major transportation facilities has resulted in Berkeley County becoming a prime location for industry. Many national and international companies such as General Motors, Quebecor Printing, Quad/Graphics, Ecolab and Orgill saw the advantages of locating their operations in Berkeley County. These companies and many more have discovered the vast opportunities that Berkeley County holds and chose to grow with us.

We are just over 90 minutes from Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, which are two of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas. Berkeley County offers a wide variety of reasonably priced sites for industrial, commercial and residential development.

In Berkeley County, we still take pride in a job well done. The old-fashioned American work ethic is alive and well. Thanks to our impressive collection of learning institutions, we are home to a well-educated and dedicated workforce. With over 40 percent of our available labor force commuting an average of 28 minutes each way, we have a talented pool of workers that would prefer to work closer to home, spending less time on the road and more time with their families. A supportive business community already exists in Berkeley County, with both large corporations and smaller family-owned businesses. Berkeley County is home to a number of businesses in the aviation, printing, manufacturing, transportation, healthcare and military operations industries. The Berkeley County Development Authority can help link you with many outstanding assistance programs in the county, state, and federal agencies available to West Virginia businesses. The West Virginia Economic Development Authority administers a program that provides for debt and equity venture capital investment to small business. Call the Berkeley County Development Authority to discuss local tax incentive packages and financing packages through local banks.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat – Martinsburg  
 County Government - County Administrator and 3 Commissioners  
 Martinsburg Government - City Manager, Mayor, and 7 Councilmen  
 Elevation - 457' at the Eastern Regional Airport  
 Land Area – 321 square miles



### LOCATION

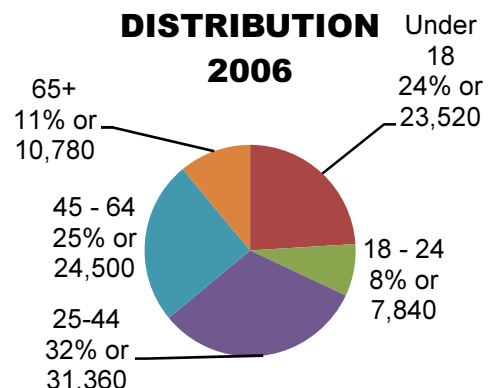
Distance from Martinsburg To:

Atlanta, GA	657 miles
Baltimore, MD	94 miles
Boston, MA	630 miles
Detroit, MI	434 miles
Hagerstown, MD	18 miles
New York, NY	264 miles
Philadelphia, PA	190 miles
Richmond, VA	170 miles
Washington, D.C.	92 miles

### POPULATION

#### DISTRIBUTION

2006



<b>MAJOR EMPLOYERS</b>		<b># of</b>
<b>Employer</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Employees</b>
MAAX Aker Plastics Bathroom Sector	Fiberglass products	140
Berkeley County Government		287
Berkeley County Schools	Education	2014
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms	Records/Computing	400
City Hospital, Inc.	Health Services	1017
East Ridge Health Systems	Sheltered Workshop & Services	197
Enterprise Computing Center	Income Tax Computer Ctr.	900
Essroc (Capitol Cement Corp.)*	Cement	186
General Motors, Corp.	Parts Distribution	130
Guardian Fiberglass, Inc.	Fiberglass insulation	185
Martinsburg City Government		165
The Morning/Sunday Journal	Daily Newspaper	168
Orgill, Inc.	Hardware distribution	375
Quad/Graphics, Inc	Magazines, catalogs, color in	850
Quebecor World Printing	Bookbinding	199
Regional Education Service Agency VIII	Assists school systems of the region	400
U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Ctr	Licensing, Recordkeeping	220
U.S. Coast Guard Operations		
System Center	Computer Center	500
Veterans Administration Center	Health Care	1,583

### LABOR FORCE DATA (June 2009)

Civilian Labor Force	45,360
Total Employment	40,830
Total Unemployment	4,530
Unemployment Rate	10.8
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>29,440</b>
Goods Producing	600
Construction	1,551
Manufacturing	1,893
Service Providing	26,440
Trade, Transportation And Utilities	5,571
Wholesale Trade	928
Retail Trade	3,838
Trans. And Warehousing	718
Information	1,525
Financial Activities	1,043
Professional And Business Services	2,740
Education & Health Services	3,554
Leisure And Hospitality	2,864
Other Services	631
Total Government	8,012
Federal Government	30587
State Government	622
Local Government	3,809

### AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

2008

Average Employment*	29,771
Average Annual Wage	\$ 35,932
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 691
Total Wages	\$ 1,076,378,992

\*workers covered by unemployment insurance and unemployment compensation for federal employees

### EDUCATION

Enrollment in Berkeley County's schools follows:

	<u># Of</u>	<u>Students Enrolled</u>	
	<u>Schools</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
Elementary	20	8,289	8436
Middle	5	3,794	3895
High Schools	3	<u>4,785</u>	<u>4883</u>
<b>Total</b>		16,868	17,214

### POST-SECONDARY

Shepherd University  
 Blue Ridge Community & Technical College  
 Mountain State University  
 James Rumsey Technical Institute  
 Valley College of Technology

## TAX RATES

**Personal Income Tax** - The city and county do not have income taxes. For the State Income Tax, a graduated scale of rates is applied to taxable income of all residents, individuals, estates and trusts and on the West Virginia income of nonresidents.

**Sales Tax** - State, 6%, No local sales tax

**Real Estate Taxes** - Tax law mandates that all property be reassessed every three years; and, that the assessment be at 60 percent of market value. Recent tax rates: Class II Owner occupied residential in rural areas = \$1.2030 per \$100 of assessed value. Class II Owner occupied residential in Martinsburg = \$1.4902 per \$100 of assessed value\*. Class III Non-residential real estate in rural areas = \$2.4060 per \$100 of assessed value. Class IV Non-residential real estate and personal property in Martinsburg = 2.9804 per \$100 of assessed value\*.

**Tax Credits** - West Virginia offers a Super Tax Credit or a Small Business Credit for companies making a capital investment and creating jobs in the state. Small businesses creating a minimum of 10 jobs can receive a credit of 30% of their qualified investment. Larger companies creating 50 to 1,000 jobs can receive tax credits from 50% to 90% of their qualified investments. West Virginia also has available additional tax incentive programs, such as the Freeport Tax Exemption. This allows warehoused goods in transit to an out of state destination to be exempt from local ad Valorem Property Tax.

\*Reflects combined city and county rates.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

West Virginia offers up to \$2,000 per employee for training costs through the Governor's Guaranteed Work force Training Program. While not for wage reimbursement, actual costs of training are covered. West Virginia guarantees that the workers trained through this program will meet the employer's requirements, or that training will continue until the employee does

## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Berkeley County offers a variety of industrial and commercial office space. There are approximately 21 industrial parks in the County which are concentrated in the Martinsburg area. Several of these parks have I-81 frontage or are within a half mile of I-81. For example, Tabler Station Business Park is within a half mile of I-81 (with rail access) and has 326 acres ready for development. Cumbo Yard Park has frontage on I-81 (with rail access) and has 300 acres ready for development. Price per acre ranges from \$55,000 to \$125,000.

## CLIMATE

Winter Temperature	21°F
Summer Temperature	87°F
Average Annual Temperature	53°F
Rain Fall (inches)	36
Snow Fall (inches)	23

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** Allegheny Power  
**Natural Gas:** Mountaineer Gas  
**Sewage Treatment:** City of Martinsburg, Berkeley County PSSD  
**Water:** City of Martinsburg, Berkeley County PSWD  
**Water Sources:** Deep Wells, Quarry, Springs, Potomac River

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways Serving Area:** I-81, I-70, US-11, WV-9, WV-45, WV-51

**Railroads:** Amtrak, CSX, MARC (2 commuter trains to Washington Union Station and 3 returning trains each day), Winchester & Western

**Bus Service:** Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (PanTran -local service)

**Airports:** Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport (MRB), easy access to Dulles International Airport (IAD), Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), Reagan National Airport (DCA) and Washington County Airport (HGR).

## COMMUNICATIONS

Newspapers: Martinsburg Morning/Sunday Journal, Hagerstown Morning Herald/Daily Mail and Washington Post - all carrier delivered  
Overnight Packages: Airborne, Federal Express, UPS, USPS, and DHL  
Post Office Services: 7 Post Offices  
Radio Stations: WKMZ, WEPM, WYII, WRNR in Martinsburg  
Telecommunications: Verizon; with direct dial digital service, high speed transmission for computer operations and an established fiber optics network. Points of Presence (POP's) for AT&T, MCI and U.S. Sprint  
Television Stations: 15 TV stations received and 1 cable company

## MEDICAL

City Hospital, Inc. - has 260 licensed beds. There are 102 physician associate members on staff with 24 consulting physicians. The hospital offers a wide variety of community wellness programs, sports medicine center, cardiac rehabilitation, and hospice in addition to regular comprehensive medical-surgical departments, emergency room, etc.

The Veterans Administration Medical Center has 99 medical, surgical and psychiatry beds; a 148-bed nursing home; and 312-bed domiciliary. There are approximately 62 full-time staff doctors to service the Center.

The Berkeley County Health Department has a part-time health officer, four nurses and five sanitarians. The Eastern Panhandle Mental Health Center opened in 1975 in downtown Martinsburg.

There are three area nursing homes: Care Haven, Heartland of Martinsburg, and Canterbury of Shepherdstown. Also available in the Martinsburg area are two assisted living communities: Lily of the Valley Personal Care Home (specializes in Alzheimer's care), and Balanced Care's Outlook Pointe.

For more economic development information, please contact Stephen L. Christian at:

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