

# Harrison County Labor Market Summary

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College of Business and Economics  
West Virginia University  
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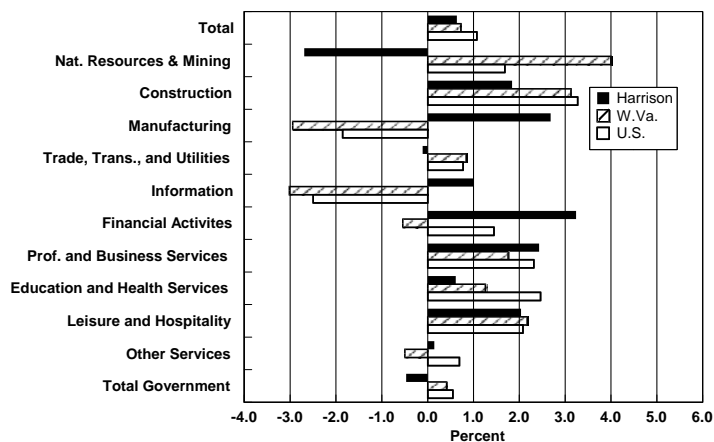
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by  
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This summary provides an overview of the current labor market performance of Harrison County, the state of West Virginia, and the U.S. Table 1 below contains summary data for the county, the Harrison County labor market area, nearby metropolitan and micropolitan areas, the state, and the nation.<sup>1</sup> Data summarized in this document (and detailed in the associated Excel database) include job growth and wages by industry, the unemployment rate and labor force participation, population growth and demographics, educational attainment, job turnover by industry, and commuting patterns.

Harrison County added 1,035 jobs during the 2002-2007 period, according to data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.<sup>2</sup> As Figure 1 shows, that translates into an average annual rate of growth of 0.6 percent per year, which was just below the state rate of 0.7 percent, but fell far short of the national average rate of 1.1 percent per year (during the 2002-2006 period). National data for 2007 has not yet been released. Rapid job growth was posted by financial activities; manufacturing; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and construction. Strong gains in manufacturing employment in the county contrast with huge job losses for the state and the nation and reflect growth in the aerospace sector during the past five years. Professional and business services reflects the high-tech sector of the local economy (including engineers and computer programmers), as well as lawyers, accountants and call center jobs. Leisure and hospitality job growth reflects gains in hotels and restaurants, as well as the gaming sector of the local economy. Construction job growth reflects both increased residential and nonresidential activity in the county (new United Hospital Center construction, as well as activity at Charles Pointe).

**Figure 1**  
**Annual Job Growth**  
**Harrison County, W.Va. and the U.S.**  
**2002-2007**



\*Annual job growth is based on covered employment and wages.  
\*\*U.S. job growth is based on growth from 2002-2006

<sup>1</sup> The Harrison County labor market area includes those counties which meet a 1.0 percent commuting threshold (either in or out) with Harrison County. The labor market area thus includes Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Taylor, and Upshur counties. Preston County is also included due to its tight commuting ties with Monongalia County.

<sup>2</sup> Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages differs slightly from nonfarm payroll employment estimates used in the Harrison County Outlook.

The Harrison County employment mix is heavily weighted toward the government sector, with 11.5 percent of county jobs in the federal government sector, compared to 3.2 percent for West Virginia. The national share in 2006 was 2.0 percent. This concentration of jobs reflects the location of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Center in the county, as well as the Veterans Administration Hospital. Manufacturing remains an important sector of the local economy, with aerospace activity accounting for a large number of jobs. Indeed, Pratt and Whitney and Bombardier both rank in the top 10 employers in the county. Education and health care is also a large employer in the county accounting for 15.0 percent of total jobs. This reflects in part the location of United Hospital Center in the county.

Solid job gains in the county during the past five years have been accompanied by solid gains in annual wages. Indeed, average annual wages per worker in the county grew by 3.8 percent per year during the past five years, exceeding the state rate of 3.5 percent and the national rate of 3.7 percent per year (during the 2002-2006 period).<sup>3</sup> Average annual wages in Harrison County hit \$34,986 in 2007, compared to \$34,001 for West Virginia. The highest paying industries in Harrison County in 2007 were the federal government (\$61,250); natural resources and mining (\$60,258); and manufacturing (\$48,792). Keep in mind that annual wage data excludes fringe benefits.

Steady job gains, combined with population losses, have driven the county's unemployment rate down from 5.9 percent in 2002 to 4.2 percent in 2007. The county's unemployment rate in 2007 was below the state and national rates of 4.6 percent. In 2006, the estimated county labor force participation rate was 58.3 percent in 2006, which is above the West Virginia rate (55.7 percent), but well below the national rate of 65.2 percent. The Harrison County labor force participation rate for males (69.2 percent) is far above the female participation rate of 48.7 percent.

Harrison County population declined by 259 residents from 2000-2007, which translates into an annual percent change of -0.1 percent. That is similar to the rough population stability posted by the state, but is well below the 1.0 percent per year growth of the nation. Likewise, the Harrison County labor force has declined by 0.3 percent per year, so far this decade. However, not all counties nearby have posted labor force declines, as Barbour, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Upshur have seen some labor force growth so far this decade.

One important measure of labor market performance is the job turnover rate. This is computed by summing the number of job accessions and job separations per quarter, dividing this sum by two, and then dividing by the number of jobs. According to new data released by U.S. Census Bureau, the county's overall turnover rate is 8.9 percent, which is below the state average of 9.7 percent, the Marion County average of 10.8 percent and the Morgantown metropolitan statistical area average of 10.1 percent. This suggests that employment tenure is a bit more stable in Harrison County than it is for nearby labor market areas.

Harrison County posted a college attainment rate (Bachelor's degree or better) of 18.9 percent in 2006, which exceeds the state rate of 16.5 percent, but falls short of the national rate of 27.0 percent and the Monongalia County rate of 34.0 percent. The high school attainment rate (percent of residents age 25 and older with at least a high school degree) for Harrison County hit 85.4 percent in 2006, exceeding the state (81.0 percent) and national (84.1) rates.

Harrison County's median age, at 41.3 years in 2006, exceeded the state average (40.7 years), the national average (36.4 years), and the Monongalia County average (31.0 years). The median age is the age which splits the area's population in half, with half the population above the median and half the population below the median.

The value of construction starts (measured by FW Dodge) in Harrison County rocketed up to \$246.2 million in 2007, more than quadruple the 2006 level. This reflects rising levels for both nonresidential and infrastructure projects, but by far the largest increase was posted by nonresidential activity. This reflects the start of construction on the new United Hospital Center facility.

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<sup>3</sup> National data for 2007 has not yet been released.

**Table 1**  
**Summary Data for Harrison County**

	Harrison County	Harrison Labor Market Area	Clarksburg MicroSA	Fairmont MicroSA	Morgantown MSA	W.Va.	U.S.
Nonfarm Jobs (2007)*	33,063	132,494	37,136	20,797	57,025	708,313	^133,833,834
Annual Job Growth (2002-2007, %)	0.64	1.55	2.80	1.33	2.60	0.72	^1.07
Average Annual Wage Per Worker (2007)	\$34,986	\$33,441	\$33,970	\$34,130	\$34,121	\$34,001	^\$42,535
Job Turnover Rate (Four Qtr. Avg., %)**	8.9	--	8.8	10.8	10.1	9.7	--
Unemployment Rate (2007, %)	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	3.3	4.6	4.6
Labor Force Participation Rate (2006, %)**	58.3	--	--	--	57.4	55.7	65.2
Population (2007)	68,309	322,371	91,688	56,728	117,770	1,812,035	301,621,157
Annual Population Growth (2000-2007, %)	-0.05	0.30	-0.06	0.06	0.82	0.04	0.96
Median Age (2006)	41.3	--	--	--	33.8	40.7	36.4
Share of residents with:							
Bachelors Degree or More (2006, %)^	18.9	--	--	--	27.6	16.5	27.0
Associates Degree or More (2006, %)^	25.6	--	--	--	31.9	22.3	34.4
High School Degree or More (2006, %)^	85.4	--	--	--	84.6	81.0	84.1
Per Capita Personal Income (2006)	\$31,333	\$28,412	\$28,995	\$28,738	\$30,011	\$28,206	\$36,714

\*Quarterly Covered Employment and Wages (QCEW)

\*\*Per quarter, from second quarter 2006 to second quarter 2007.

\*\*\*Ages 16+, including institutionalized population

^percent of population age 25 and older.

^^Data for jobs and average annual wage is from 2006. Annual job growth is calculated from 2002-2006

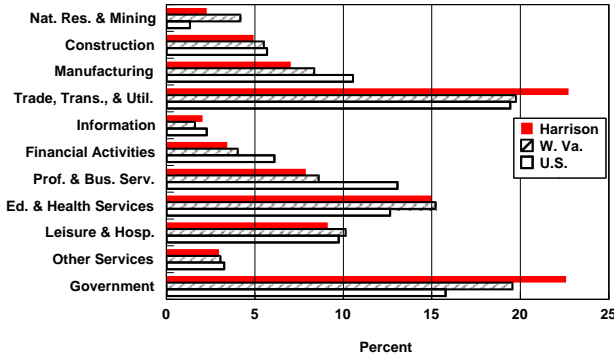
Harrison Labor Market Area contains Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, and Upshur counties

Clarksburg MicroSA includes Doddridge, Harrison, and Taylor counties

Fairmont MicroSA includes only Marion County

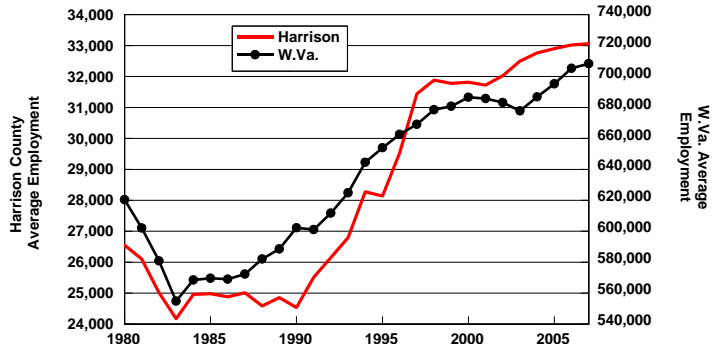
Morgantown MSA includes Monongalia and Preston counties

**Nonfarm Employment Shares 2007**  
**Harrison County, W.Va., and U.S.**



Source: Employment and Wages, Workforce WV  
\*U.S. data is for 2006

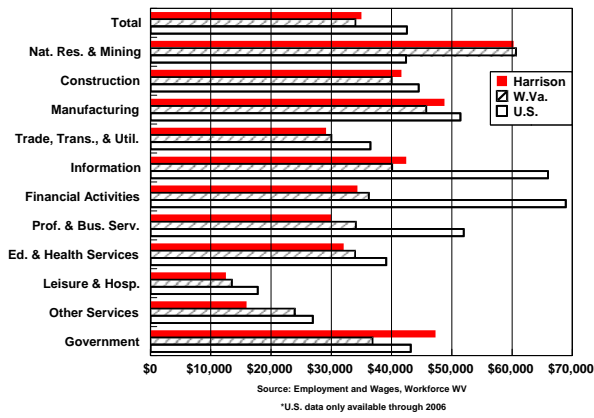
**Employment Trends in**  
**Harrison County and W.Va.**



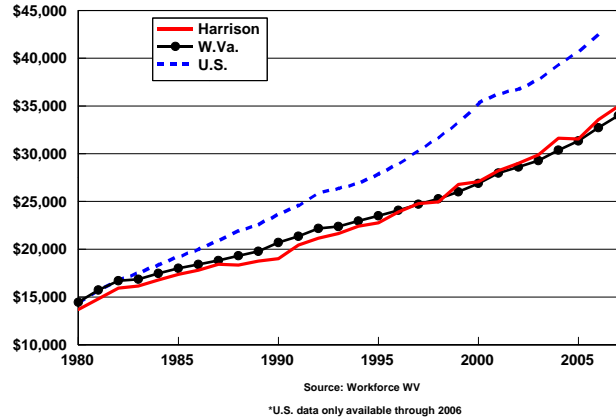
Source: Employment and Wages, Workforce WV

- Government accounted for 22.6 percent of Harrison County employment in 2007, a larger portion of the employment mix than the 2006 national average of 15.8 percent.
- The high percentage of government employment is due to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Center, which is the largest employer in the county.
- Manufacturing employment in Harrison County was boosted greatly by Bombardier Aerotech Inc. and Pratt and Whitney Engine Services Inc., which are both top ten employers.
- The education and health services industry accounted for 15.0 percent of employment in the county. This sector includes United Hospital Centers Inc., a top ten employer.
- The trade, transportation, and utilities industry was the county's largest private sector employer in 2007, employing 22.7 percent of all workers. Two of this industry's employers, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Dominion Transmission Inc., are in the county's top ten.
- Harrison County nonfarm employment has averaged an annual growth rate of 1.31 percent since 1983, which is slightly higher than the average West Virginia rate of 1.00 percent.

**Annual Wages per Worker 2007  
Harrison County, W.Va., and U.S.**

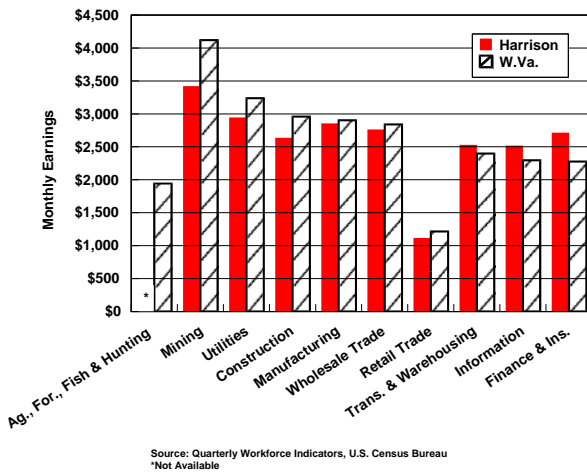


**Total Wages per Worker in  
Harrison County, W.Va., and U.S.**

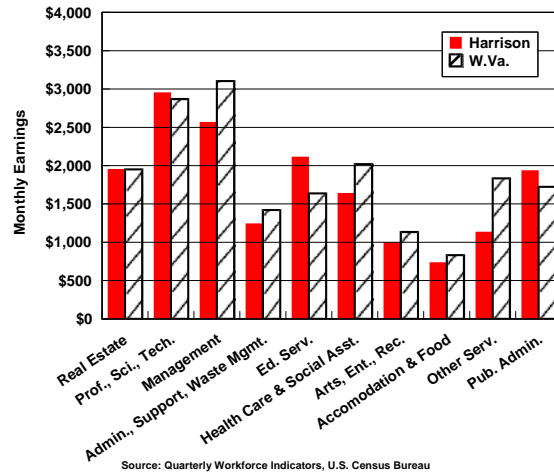


- Annual wages in Harrison County were below the U.S. level in every sector except government and natural resources and mining in 2007.
- Since 1980, total Harrison County wages per worker have grown at an average of 3.5 percent per year. This is higher than the average wage growth of West Virginia (3.2 percent), but lower than the national average (4.3 percent).
- In 2007, the annual average wage per worker in Harrison County was \$34,986. This is 2.8 percent higher than the West Virginia (\$34,001) level, but 17.7 percent lower than the 2006 U.S. average (\$42,535).

**Average New Hire Earnings  
Harrison County and W.Va.  
Average from 2006Q2 to 2007Q2**

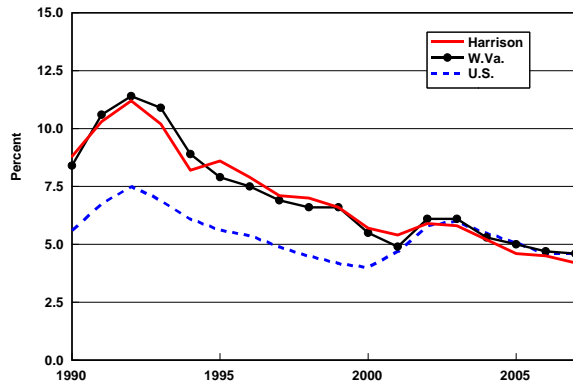


**Average New Hire Earnings  
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Average from 2006Q2 to 2007Q2**



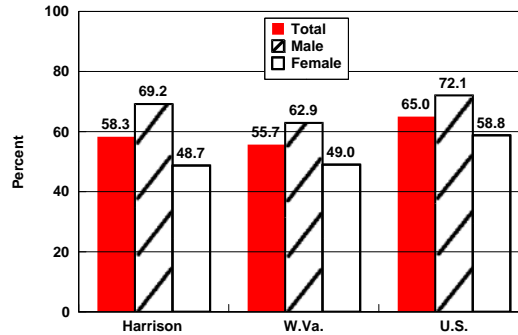
- For all industries, Harrison County new hire earnings were \$1,814.00 per month on average during the second quarter of 2006 to second quarter of 2007 period. That was below the West Virginia average of \$1,961.75.
- Average new hire earnings in Harrison County were above the state level in educational services, public administration, transportation and warehousing, information, finance and insurance, and professional, scientific, and technical services.

**Unemployment Rate Trends in Harrison County, W.Va., and U.S.**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Workforce WV

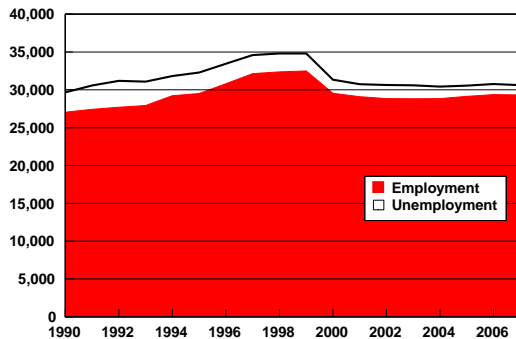
**Labor Force Participation Rates American Community Survey 2006**



Population age 16+, including institutionalized population

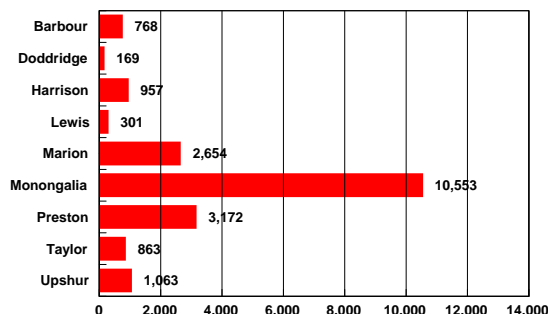
- In 2007, the Harrison County unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, well below the West Virginia (4.6 percent) and U.S. (4.6 percent) rates.
- Since 2002, Harrison County's unemployment rate has dropped 1.7 percent, from 5.9 percent to 4.2 percent.
- In 2006, Harrison County's labor force participation rate of 58.3 percent was higher than the state average of 55.7, but 6.9 percentage points lower than the national average of 65.2. Both male and female participation rates in Harrison County follow the same pattern.
- In Harrison County, the labor force participation rate for males is 20.5 percentage points higher than females in 2006. This labor force participation trend is similar to West Virginia (13.9 percentage points higher for males) and the U.S. (13.3 percentage points higher for males).

**Harrison County Employment and Unemployment**



Source: Workforce WV

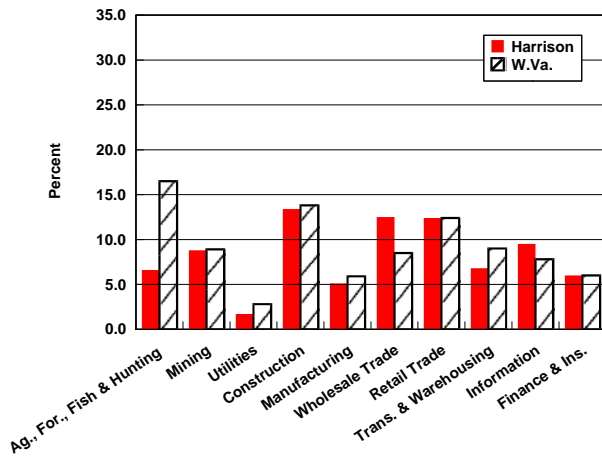
**Harrison Labor Market Area Labor Force Growth by County 1990-2007**



Source: Workforce WV

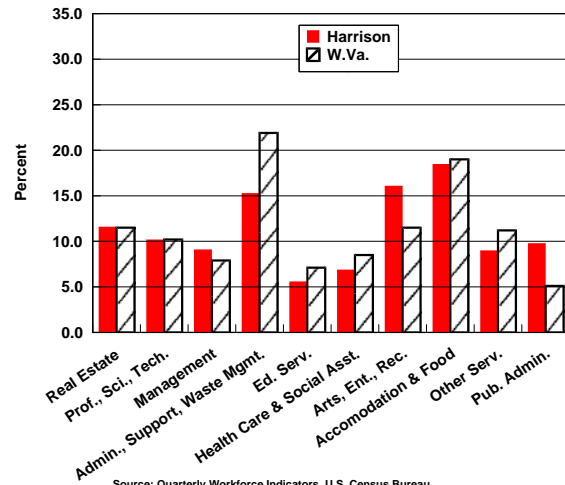
- The labor force includes both employed residents, as well as unemployed residents who are actively seeking work.
- Harrison County's labor force hit its high point in 1999 (34,817), but settled back to 30,619 by 2007.
- Growth in Harrison County's labor force has accounted for only 4.67 percent of the increase in the Harrison Labor Market Area, but 48.2 percent of growth in the Clarksburg MicroSA.
- The Harrison County labor market area includes those counties which meet a 1.0 percent commuting threshold (either in or out) with Harrison County. Preston County is also included due to its tight commuting ties with Monongalia County.

**Turnover Rates  
Harrison County and W.Va.**  
Average from 2006Q2 to 2007Q2



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, U.S. Census Bureau

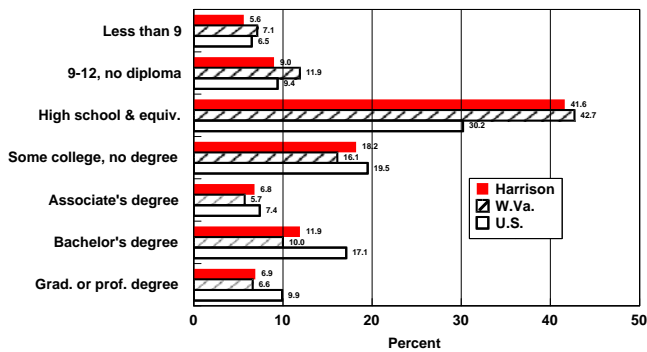
**Turnover Rates  
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Average from 2006Q2 to 2007Q2



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, U.S. Census Bureau

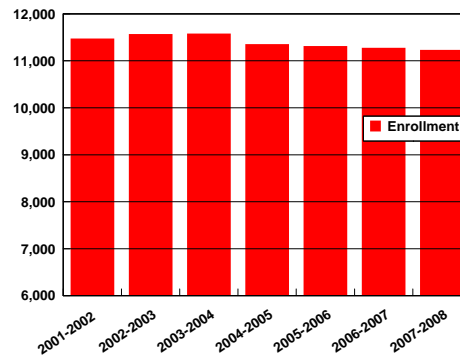
- Across all industries, the turnover rate in Harrison County (8.9 percent) is lower than the state average (9.7 percent)
- Harrison County recorded the highest turnover rates in accommodation and food; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and administrative, support, and waste management. Turnover rates were lowest in utilities and manufacturing.
- The turnover rate is computed by summing the number of job accessions and job separations per quarter, dividing the sum by two, then dividing by the number of jobs.

**Educational Attainment  
American Community Survey 2006**



Persons 25 years of age and older, excluding those living in group quarters

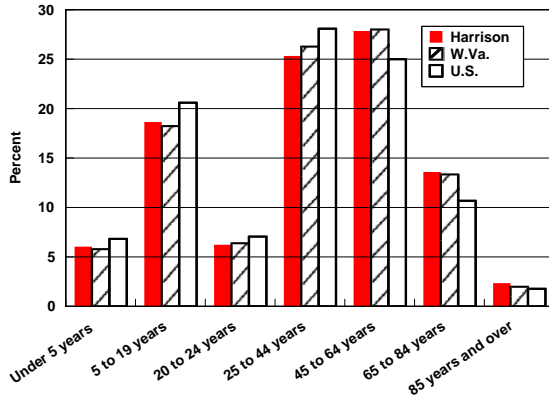
**Harrison County School Enrollment**



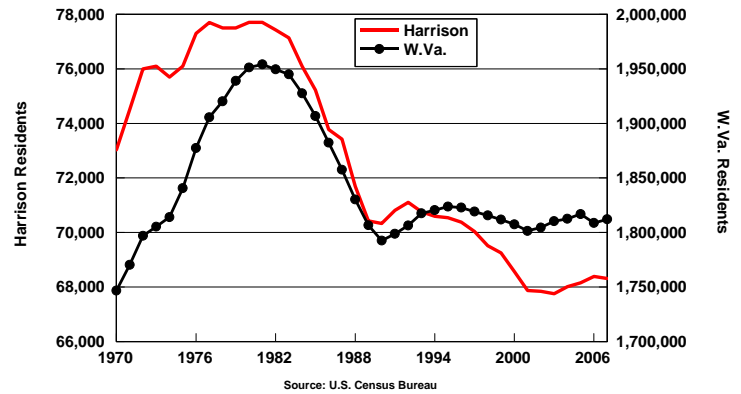
Source: West Virginia Department of Education

- In 2006, 85.4 percent of Harrison County residents had at least a high school education. This is higher than the West Virginia (81.0 percent) and U.S. averages (84.1 percent).
- In 2006, 18.9 percent of Harrison County residents had a Bachelor's Degree or higher level of education.
- In the 2007-2008 school year, Harrison County schools had a total enrollment of 11,235 students.
- Since, 2001-2002, enrollment has fallen by 242 students.

**Population Age Distribution  
Census Bureau 2006 Estimates**

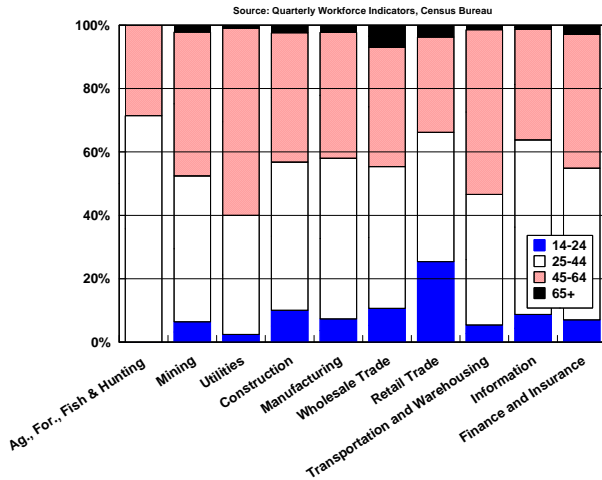


**Population Trends in  
Harrison County and W.Va.**

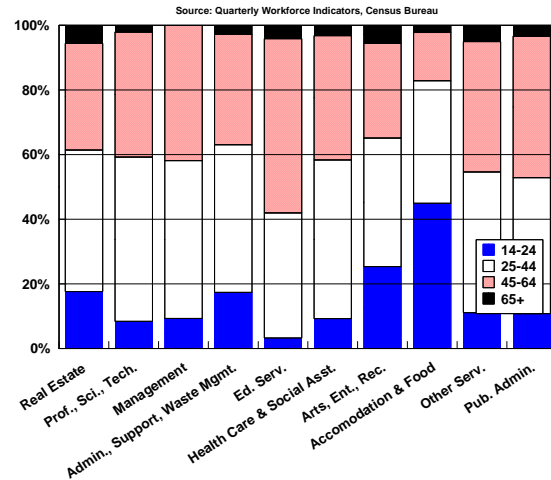


- Harrison County had a higher percentage of residents age 45-64 (27.8 percent) than the U.S. (25.0 percent) in 2006, although the share was lower than the West Virginia average (28.0 percent). Also, the percentage of Harrison County residents age 65-84 (13.6 percent) and age 85 and older (2.3 percent) are both higher than the West Virginia and U.S. averages.
- Since 2000, the population of Harrison County has decreased at an average rate of 0.05 percent per year. The population of West Virginia has grown at an average rate of 0.04 percent in the same time period, while the U.S. has grown at a rate of 0.96 percent per year.

**Harrison County Shares Of Industry  
Employment By Age Group**  
Average of 2006Q3-2007Q2

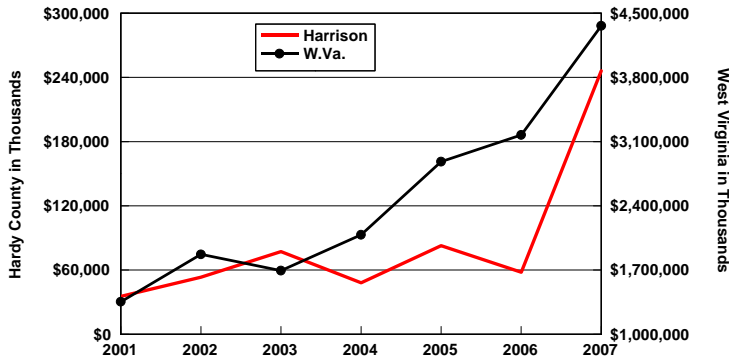


**Harrison County Shares Of Industry  
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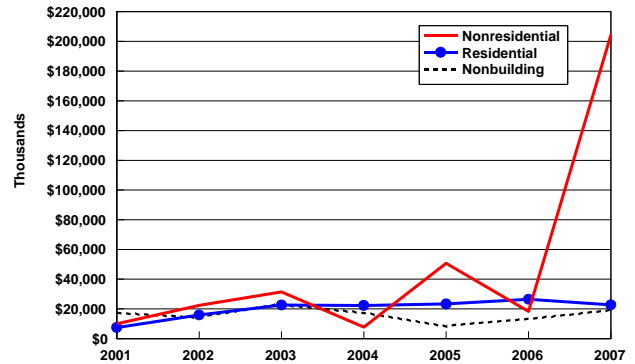


- The three industries with the highest percentage of workers under the age of 24 are accommodation and food (44.9 percent); retail trade (25.4 percent); and arts, entertainment, and recreation (25.3 percent).
- In the utilities industry, 59.0 percent of workers are between the ages of 45 and 64.
- Only 3.4 percent of all workers in Harrison County are age 65 or older.
- In the education services industry, 58.0 percent of all workers are age 45 and older.
- The wholesale trade industry has the largest percentage of workers (7.0 percent) over the age of 64.

**Harrison County and W.Va.  
Total Value of Construction Starts**  
F.W. Dodge



**Harrison County, W.Va.  
Value of Construction Starts by Type**  
F.W. Dodge



- Of Harrison County's \$246.2 million of new construction starts in 2007, 83.0 percent comes from nonresidential activity. This reflects the new United Hospital Center facility.
- From 2001 to 2003, residential construction more than tripled in Harrison County, from \$7.5 million to \$22.6 million. Residential activity has remained near that level during the 2004-2007 period.
- Nonbuilding construction hit a four-year high of \$19.1 million in 2007, up from \$8.6 million in 2005.

**Top Commuting Destinations for Harrison County Residents, 2000**  
Counties with 1.0 percent or more

Work County	Number of Employed Residents Traveling to Work County	As a Percentage of Harrison County Employed Residents
Harrison County, WV	23,114	83.6
Marion County, WV	1,651	6.0
Monongalia County, WV	553	2.0
Lewis County, WV	449	1.6
Taylor County, WV	378	1.4
Upshur County, WV	345	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,646</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Top Commuting Sources for Harrison County Jobs, 2000**  
Counties with 1.0 percent or more

Residence County	Number of Workers Traveling From Residence County	As a Percentage of Harrison County Workers
Harrison County, WV	23,114	70.4
Marion County, WV	3,031	9.2
Taylor County, WV	1,614	4.9
Doddridge County, WV	1,067	3.2
Lewis County, WV	852	2.6
Barbour County, WV	687	2.1
Monongalia County, WV	674	2.1
Upshur County, WV	640	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,847</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Journey-To-Work & Migration Statistics Branch, Census 2000.  
Tabulation by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, West Virginia University

- According to the Census 2000 data, 4,532 Harrison County residents commute to work outside the county, while 9,733 workers commute into the county for work. This means that Harrison County is a net importer of labor.
- Of all employed Harrison County residents, 83.6 percent work inside the county.

**Top 10 Largest Employers in Harrison County  
March 2007**

Rank	Company Name
1	US Department of Justice (FBI)
2	Harrison County Board of Education
3	United Hospital Center, Inc.
4	Veterans Administration Hospital
5	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
6	Pratt and Whitney Engine Services, Inc.
7	Bombardier Aerotech, Inc.
8	Dominion Transmission, Inc.
9	Mountain State Auto Auction, Inc.
10	West Virginia Department of Highways

Source: Workforce WV

**Industrial, Business, and Technology Parks in Harrison County**

Name	City	Miles to Highway	Total Acreage
Harrison County Business and Technology Centre	Clarksburg	0.3	750.0
Meadowbrook Business Park	Clarksburg	3.5	55.0
Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex	Bridgeport	0.0	160.0
White Oaks	Bridgeport	0.0	255.0
Charles Pointe	Bridgeport	0.3	1700.0

Source: West Virginia Development Office

- The FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Center is the largest employer in the county in March 2007.
- Harrison County has the highest percentage of employment in the federal government sector in the region.
- Federal government accounted for 11.5 percent of non-farm jobs in Harrison County in 2006, far above the state average of 3.2 percent