



**"Tourism needs to be a cornerstone of our economy, and it's great to see it growing again."**

— Gov. Jim Justice, September 2018, on the news that West Virginia tourism spending grew by nearly 4 percent, after dropping by 14 percent over the previous five years

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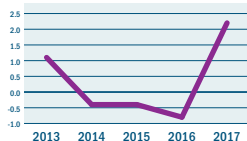
**Westvirginia.gov**

# West Virginia

**Pop. (2018):** 1,895,717  
**Median household income:** \$43,555  
**Credit Rating:** AA-/Stable

**Pop. growth 2018–2023:** 0.15%  
**Median age:** 43  
**Right-to-work state:** Yes

**GDP**  
**40<sup>th</sup>**



**2017 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$70,564.7**

## Legislative Update

- A measure legalized sports wagering, with the first weekend of betting taking place in September and netting the state around \$29,000.
- A new law eliminates the state film tax credit.
- After signing two executive orders establishing a regulatory moratorium and regulatory review, Gov. Justice in April signed another one expediting the process for all permits and prioritizing permits for projects of critical economic concern.
- Gov. Justice in July created a Blue Ribbon Commission to review, study and assess the current state of four-year higher education institutions in West Virginia.
- An October release said that, since October 2017, when voters approved the Roads to Prosperity road and bridge improvement program, 286 projects costing \$98.7 million and covering 691 miles have been completed, with another seven projects totaling more than \$352 million in various stages of work.



**19<sup>th</sup>**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2018-2019: **+1**



**42<sup>nd</sup>**

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: **\$210,259**



**40<sup>th</sup>**

Number of NCRCs: **67,458** | Percent Improvement 2017-2018: **2.4%**



**4<sup>th</sup>**

2018 Workers' Comp Index Rate: **1.01**



**16<sup>th</sup>**

Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **6.29**



**43<sup>rd</sup>**

Fiscal Condition Index Rank