



**“I truly believe that we need to take every opportunity that we can to continue connecting West Virginia to the outside world. And increasing access to broadband, through a project of this magnitude, is the perfect way to do that.”**

— Gov. Jim Justice, Nov. 2019, at the groundbreaking for Facebook’s New River Project that will install broadband infrastructure from Virginia to Ohio

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# West Virginia

**Pop. (2019):** 1,895,632  
**Median household income (2019):** \$43,672  
**Credit Rating:** AA-/Stable

**Pop. growth 2019–2024:** 0.08%  
**Median age (2019):** 43  
**Right-to-work state:** Yes

## Legislative Update

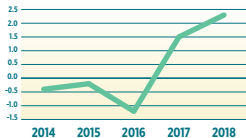
A new law establishes the WV Invests Grant Initiative, a “last dollar in” program that means students who qualify first use federal and state grant awards to pay for their education at community and technical colleges in the state, then WV Invests grants cover the remaining costs for tuition and fees.

Three measures signed into law in March incentivize job creation by coal companies, in part via coal severance tax rebates.

After passing education legislation that allows the establishment of charter schools in the state, officials in November were still hashing out rules defining and governing them, opening policy recommendations for public comment. Charter schools will not open in West Virginia until fall 2021 at the earliest.

The West Virginia DOT reported that 541 projects — worth \$385.1 million and spanning 1,185 miles in all 55 counties — have been completed through the state’s two-year-old Roads To Prosperity program, with a total of \$1.1 billion in projects scheduled to be completed or underway by the end of 2019.

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



**2018 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$71,481.4**



**23<sup>rd</sup>**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2019–2020: -1



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

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: **211,695**



**20<sup>th</sup>**

Number of NCRCS: **68,594** | Percent Improvement 2019–2020: **1.68%**



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

2019 Workers’ Comp Index Rate: **1.01**



**38<sup>th</sup>**

Industrial power cost per kWh: **\$5.96**



**11<sup>th</sup>**

Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2004–2018: **105.0%**