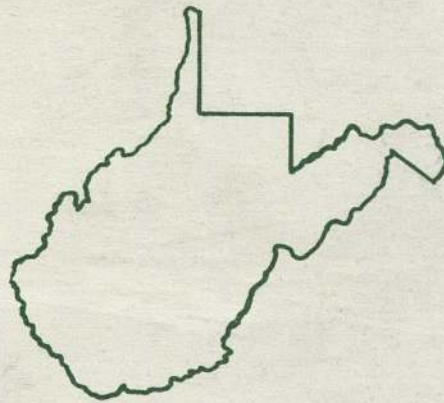


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**A STUDY  
OF  
THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA**



**State Planning Board of West Virginia**

**CHARLESTON**

**1937**



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A STUDY OF  
THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA

PREPARED BY  
S. L. GALLIE, G. E. CONNELL,  
and  
BUSINESS GRIMES.

From data assembled for the State Planning  
Board of West Virginia by a staff supplied  
by the Works Progress Administration.

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## FACTS AND TRENDS

1. Although some scattered regions of what is now West Virginia contained settlers at the time of the Revolutionary War, the state had progressed very little beyond the pioneering stage prior to 1880. The past fifty years have witnessed very rapid development due primarily to the state's natural resources.

2. In 1870 the population of the state was 442,014. By 1930 it had grown to 1,729,205.

3. The increase in numbers of persons was more between 1920 and 1930 than in any previous decade, but the rate of increase had dropped steadily since 1910. Since 1930 the rate of increase has been low, probably not more than one-half that of the preceding decade. It is anticipated that the population of the state will become stationary within twenty years.

4. The distribution of population is unusual. There are southern and northern areas of relatively high density between which there is a wide belt having a low density, and in which the population is decreasing. Discernible political and social differences are apparent between these areas.

5. West Virginia has ten cities each with a population of more than 10,000. Huntington, Charleston, and Wheeling each have approximately 75,000 inhabitants. Thirteen cities have a population between 5,000 and 10,000.

6. In 1930 the state was 28.4 percent urban and 71.6 percent rural. Nearly two-thirds of the rural people lived in small mining communities, or near urban manufacturing centers. Only 25.9 percent lived on farms.

7. The people living in urban and rural non-farm areas have increased in number, and will probably continue to for several decades, but at a slower rate. The strictly rural farm population has declined steadily since 1910, except for a rise between 1930 and 1935. It has started to fall recently and this may be expected to continue for several years.

8. In 1930, 90.4 percent of the state's population were native-white persons. There were 3.0 percent foreign-born whites, and 6.6 percent Negroes. Almost 85 percent of the native-whites and Negroes had been born within the state.

9. The number of persons of foreign birth increased to 1920. Between that year and 1930 the number decreased by almost 10,000. With few exceptions, there has been a decrease in persons of all nationalities. The Czechoslovakian population rose from 1,549 in 1920 to 2,831 in 1930.

10. Of the foreign-born population Italy supplied the largest number in 1930 - 23.3 percent of all foreign-born. The number of Italians had declined more than 5,000 persons, or 30 percent, since 1910, and a continued drop may be expected.

11. The proportion of aliens in West Virginia is high. Only 59 percent of the foreign-born are naturalized. Of the 29,552 living in rural non-farm areas, less than one-half are naturalized citizens.

12. Nearly all of the Negroes live in the southern and northern sections of the state. Seventy-five percent of the total are in the coal fields and manufacturing centers in the southern area. A further increase may be expected from migration from southern states. In 1930 only 688 Negro families, or 3 percent of the state total, lived on farms.

13. By interstate migration West Virginia had a net loss, to 1930, of 90,701 native-white persons, and 10,240 persons of foreign birth. Negroes had gained in population by 49,660 from migration. This is a net loss of 51,281 persons. Nearly one-half of this occurred between 1920 and 1930, and was most evident among the native-white element. Interstate migration is more apparent among young persons.

14. In 1930, 368,577 native-white persons who had been born in West Virginia lived in other states. This is more than one-fourth the total number born in the state and then living. Since 1930 many native West Virginians have returned, due to economic conditions, and many migrants from other states have left the state.

15. The proportion of the state's total population of children under five years of age has decreased from 16.1 percent in 1880 to 12.0 percent in 1930. A less evident decrease continued to age 25. The total of all persons 45 years of age or over has risen from 13.7 percent in 1880 to 18.7 percent in 1930. It is anticipated that these trends will continue.

16. The single year age group having the largest number of individuals in it shifted from infants under one year of age, in both 1900 and 1910, to the 6 to 7 year age group in 1930.

17. The urban element of the population in 1930 had a low proportion of children, and a relatively high number above sixty-five years old.

18. The farm population is composed largely of young people and old people. One-half the entire farm population was under twenty years of age in 1930. There seems to have been an enormous urban trend on the part of the rural farm population for the 20 to 29 age groups before 1930. This trend may be expected to continue.

19. In the rural non-farm element there was a disproportionately high ratio of children under ten years in 1930, and a very low number over age 65.

20. There is a trend toward an equalization of the number of males and females living in the state. In 1910 there were 111.6 males to each 100 females. This ratio had dropped to 108.9 in 1920, and was 106.0 in 1930.

21. Among the native-white element of the urban population there were 9,000 more females than males in 1930. A reverse condition existed in the rural farm group, which had 110.0 males to each 100 females. This seems to indicate an



excess of females over males in the movement from the farms to the cities and towns. The ratio of males to females is decreasing in urban areas, and increasing among the rural farm population.

22. The number of foreign-born males in 1930 was nearly double the number of females. Among the Negro element the males exceeded the females by 112.7 to 100. The proportion of males in both classes has decreased for several decades, and this may be expected to continue.

23. The rural farm had the largest percentage of both single males and females in 1930. The largest ratio of married persons, both male and female, lived in the rural non-farm areas.

24. The foreign-born element had the highest percentage of marriages in 1930. Eighty percent of all foreign-born females were married.

25. The largest proportion of divorced persons in 1930 were the urban females. The number of divorces is increasing, especially among Negroes, which doubled between 1920 and 1930.

26. For many years the rate of births has steadily declined in the state, as in the nation as a whole, and this trend will probably continue. During the economically depressed years, 1931, 1932, and 1933, especially in the latter year, births were much lower than in normal years. In both 1934 and 1935 the rate had risen to 23.35 births per thousand population, which is near the pre-depression normal.

27. The rate of births, from the 1930 census, was highest among the native-white population: namely, 18.0 per 100 married females. Among the Negro element the rate was but 10.0 per 100 married females. This is a significant fact which should continue to effect any increase in the Negro population of the state.

28. The death rate in West Virginia has varied little over several decades, remaining close to 10 deaths per thousand population. It has remained below the rate for the United States. Since the proportion in the older age groups has increased it is significant that the death rate has not risen. A slight rise is to be expected.

29. Deaths from diseases usually considered most fatal decreased with the exception of nervous disorders and diseases affecting the heart. Deaths from these have risen, and there are indications of a more rapid rise.

30. The number of deaths caused by automobile accidents has doubled since 1926 and continues to rise. The rate has now reached the level for the nation.

31. Deaths from other accidents are exceedingly high in the state, the rate being more than double that for the United States. Since 1926 such accidents have resulted in five deaths to one caused by automobiles.

32. Manufacturing, coal mining, and agriculture, each provide employment to almost an equal number of gainful workers, with manufacturing leading. Of 570,459 workers reported in the 1930 census 360,000 were employed in these occupations.

33. Over several decades employment in varied manufacturing has increased steadily to 1930. It declined rapidly in nearly all industries from 1930 to 1933, but by 1936 the total was again up to a five-year average, 1924 to 1929. Some industries employed more workers in 1936 than at any previous time. In manufacturing the trend is upward.

34. Coal mining reached a peak in employment in 1927 with about 125,000 men working. From that year to 1933 there was a steady decline in the number employed, followed by a rise to 1936, in which year 110,000 were employed. It is not probable that the peak of 1927 will be equalled soon.

35. Occupation in agriculture declined from 1910 to 1930, with a temporary rise from 1930 to 1935. A further, though gradual, decline is anticipated.

36. A very high proportion of West Virginia's gainful workers are engaged in classes of employment requiring only a small number of highly trained or skilled persons. Recent changes in economic conditions make this situation one of great concern to the state.

37. Average annual earnings of workers in industry and business were down during the depressed years 1930 to 1935. In many occupations they were near normal by 1936. They remain low in coal mining and in the steel and iron industry.

38. West Virginia does not compare favorably with the United States as a whole in regard to illiteracy. Of the population ten years of age and over 4.8 percent were classed as illiterate in 1930, as compared to the national figure of 4.3 percent. Illiteracy among the foreign-born is exceedingly high, especially those living in non-farm areas.

39. In 1930 the percent total school attendance in the state was slightly under that for the nation. In the age group 16-17 years the state attendance was quite low, only 49.8 percent of the total persons of this age.

40. A larger proportion of the state's population, in each age group, attended school in 1930 than in 1910, but the rate of increase has been less than in the United States as a whole.

41. Among native-white children 7-13 years of age, 97.3 percent of those with foreign or mixed parentage attended school in 1930, as compared with 93.8 percent for those of native parents.

42. Of each 100 pupils who attend the second grade of school 67 enter the eighth grade, and only 25 secure a complete high school education. Of these, 8 enter some university or college, but only 3 continue to the senior year.

43. The proportion of West Virginia families who own their homes has declined from 56.5 percent in 1890 to 45.0 percent in 1930. This is due to a large increase in the number of urban and non-farm families of whom nearly two-thirds live in rented homes. With a further increase in population, this trend may be expected to continue.

## THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA

### INTRODUCTION

This study of the people of West Virginia was undertaken with the purpose of making more accessible some of the facts and trends of the population of the state. Sufficient data have not been readily available to those who have the task of planning and directing our future development.

Statistics pertaining to population may seem dry and uninteresting. However, their study and thoughtful consideration is of extreme importance since the most vital element in any governmental unit is the people of which it is composed. Their problems are the state's problems.

The study has been carried on by the State Planning Board of West Virginia, and supervised by a technical consultant supplied by the National Resources Committee. The accumulation of these data has been made by a staff furnished to the Board by the Works Progress Administration.

Much of the material has been secured from the Federal Census reports. Other data have been found in various state departments, while some have been made available only by making original survey studies.

No claim is made that the work covered by this report is either final or exhaustive. Its purpose is only to present basic facts from which more intensive studies may be developed as may be found advisable and possible. The subject of giving aid to the people of the state who are in distress due to old age, physical and mental handicaps, or related causes, has not been included since the State Department of Public Assistance has made an extensive study of the many serious problems involved.

## BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia, popularly known as "The Panhandle State," was born of the Civil War. Its inhabitants, not being sympathetic with the action of her parent state, Virginia, in the secession of 1861, organized a new commonwealth which was recognized by the Federal Government in 1863 as a separate state.

The native inhabitants of the state are for the most part descendants of Virginia mountaineers, and hardy pioneers from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky.

Because of the ruggedness of West Virginia, especially in her eastern part, where the Allegheny mountains reach altitudes of from 3,000 to nearly 5,000 feet, the settlement of the area within her boundaries was delayed beyond that of neighboring states to the north, south, or west. As early pioneers moved westward from colonial settlements near the Atlantic seaboard they found easier routes to follow, either farther north by way of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, or through less rugged mountains to the south. This accounts for the fact that the state had progressed very little beyond the pioneering stage in her existence prior to the last two decades of the past century.

The past fifty years have witnessed the rapid development of West Virginia and many changes in her people. By far the major portion of this has occurred since 1890. Outstanding among the causes for this development has been the utilization and continuing discovery of her vast store of natural resources. The first of these to be placed on a large commercial basis were the iron and steel, coal, and hardwood timber industries. These were followed by the development of extensive oil, gas, and clay deposits. Recently to these have been added the production of chemicals derived from brines, and from gas and oil. Today West Virginia can most correctly be classified as an industrial state.

Agriculture is of decided importance in West Virginia, although her topography is such that this activity is not of sufficient relative magnitude to classify her primarily as an agricultural state. In a number of counties, however, where no natural resources having commercial value today are present, or, if present, remain undeveloped because of the lack of transportation facilities, agricultural pursuits are the only means of providing a livelihood.

The rough topography of the greater part of the state, and the recent rapid development of natural resources which has resulted in the extensive localization of population in definite areas, present some difficult problems for study. Perhaps no other state has more peculiar or more varied problems.

## NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION

### POPULATION DENSITY

The population of West Virginia in 1930 was 1,729,205. Having a land surface area of 24,022 square miles, her density of population in that year was, therefore, 72.0 persons per square mile. This density is nearly eighty percent greater than that of the entire United States which is 41.3 persons per square mile. Of the forty-eight states West Virginia ranks twenty-seventh in population, and fortieth in area, only eight states being smaller.

Of the several states which border on West Virginia both Kentucky and Virginia now have slightly lower density of population, while Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland each has more than double the number of persons per square mile that she has. In both 1900 and 1910 her population density was lower than that of any of these adjoining states, but since 1900 the rate of increase in population has been the most rapid in West Virginia of any of these six states. These comparative data are shown in Table 1.

#### POPULATION DENSITY PER SQUARE MILE

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1900</u>
West Virginia	72.0	60.9	50.8	39.9
Pennsylvania	214.8	194.5	171.0	140.6
Ohio	163.1	141.4	117.0	102.1
Maryland	164.1	145.8	130.3	119.5
Virginia	60.2	57.4	51.2	46.1
Kentucky	65.1	60.1	57.0	53.4
United States	41.3	35.5	30.9	25.6

TABLE 1

In West Virginia there is an extreme variation in population density between counties. This varies from 13.8 persons in Pendleton County to 674.0 persons in Ohio County. The variations of density within a county are also considerable as between magisterial districts. These range as low as 9.5 per square mile in Pendleton County and to 9,900 per square mile in one district in Ohio County.

### GROWTH OF POPULATION

Prior to 1870 the number of people living in the area now composing West Virginia increased slowly. Since 1870 the rate of population growth in the state has exceeded that for the nation during each decade, with the single exception of the period from 1880 to 1890, when it was slightly lower.

The actual increase in numbers of persons was more between 1920 and 1930 than in any earlier ten year period. However, the percent of increase has dropped decidedly; being 18.1 between 1920 and 1930 as compared with 19.9 between 1910 and 1920, and 25.7 during the preceding decade. Table 2 shows the population increase in West Virginia as compared with the United States.

POPULATION INCREASE IN WEST VIRGINIA AND  
PERCENT INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES

1870 to 1935

<u>W e s t V i r g i n i a</u>		<u>United States</u>		
<u>Census</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>10 Year Increase</u>	<u>% Increase for Decade</u>	<u>% Increase for Decade</u>
1870	442,014	65,326	17.3 %	26.6 %
1880	618,457	176,443	39.9 %	26.0 %
1890	762,794	144,337	23.3 %	25.5 %
1900	958,800	196,006	25.7 %	20.7 %
1910	1,221,119	262,319	27.4 %	21.0 %
1920	1,463,701	242,582	19.9 %	15.4 %
1930	1,729,205	265,504	18.1 %	15.7 %
1935	1,811,455	(82,250 increase in five years. See below.)		

TABLE 2

Computations made from a study of school enumerations as compared with census data show the population of the state in 1935 as being 1,811,455, or an increase in five years of only 82,250 persons. Assuming that this estimate is reasonably accurate, and that this rate of increase will continue to 1940, the population will have risen slightly less than ten percent during the present decade.

**AREAS OF CONCENTRATION**

There are three definite areas of considerable population density in the state. These are readily seen from Map 1, which shows the distribution of both urban and rural population. The larger area is that in the southwestern part of the state, and is bounded roughly by the Teays Valley, and the Kanawha and New Rivers. A second area is the Northern Panhandle, consisting of four counties. The third is in the valley of the Upper Monongahela River, and includes several counties in the north central part of the state.

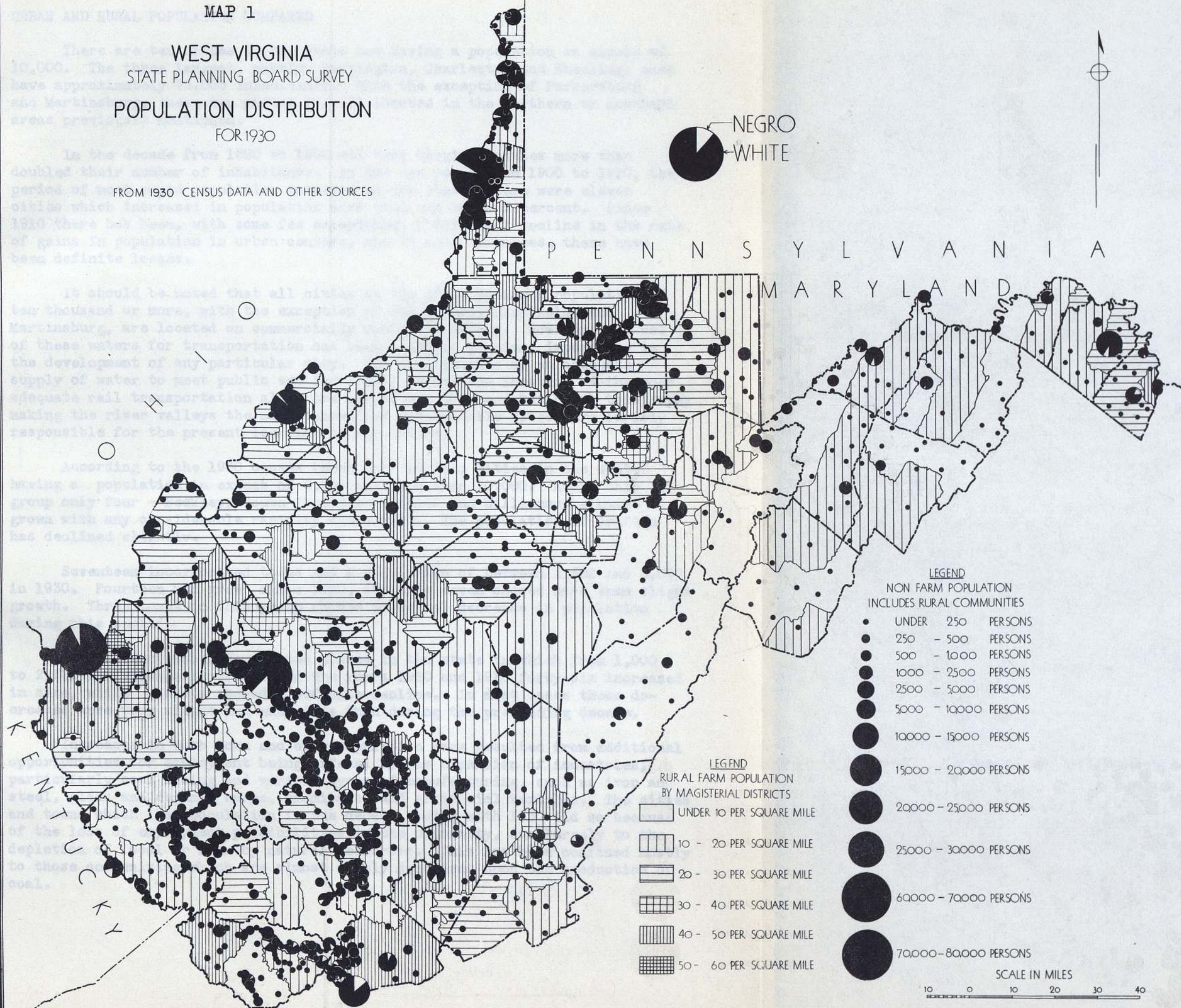
There are two isolated areas of localized concentration outside of these more extended regions. These surround Parkersburg in the western part of the state, and Martinsburg in the Eastern Panhandle.

A study of the map of population distribution shows that between the southern and the two northern areas of relatively dense population, there is a definite and wide gap extending from the Ohio River to the Virginia state line, and northeast with the Allegheny Mountains, in which there are very few towns or cities of appreciable size. Between the southern and the northern areas there is a discernible political and social difference.

MAP 1

WEST VIRGINIA  
STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION  
FOR 1930

FROM 1930 CENSUS DATA AND OTHER SOURCES



## URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION COMPARED

There are ten cities in the state now having a population in excess of 10,000. The three largest, namely, Huntington, Charleston and Wheeling, each have approximately 75,000 inhabitants. With the exception of Parkersburg and Martinsburg, these ten cities are all located in the northern or southern areas previously mentioned.

In the decade from 1890 to 1900 six West Virginia cities more than doubled their number of inhabitants. In the ten years from 1900 to 1910, the period of most rapid population increase in the state, there were eleven cities which increased in population more than one hundred percent. Since 1910 there has been, with some few exceptions, a continual decline in the rate of gains in population in urban centers, and in some instances, there have been definite losses.

It should be noted that all cities in the state having a population of ten thousand or more, with the exception of Clarksburg, Bluefield, and Martinsburg, are located on commercially navigable waters. However, the use of these waters for transportation has been a factor of minor importance in the development of any particular city. The availability of an adequate supply of water to meet public and industrial needs; the location of the most adequate rail transportation along the larger streams; and the rough topography making the river valleys the most convenient and suitable sites, are largely responsible for the present location of our cities.

According to the 1930 census there are thirteen cities in the state having a population in excess of 5,000 and less than 10,000. Among this group only four - Beckley, South Charleston, Welch and Williamson - have grown with any considerable rapidity since 1920. The population of Grafton has declined slightly.

Seventeen incorporated towns had a population of between 2,500 and 5,000 in 1930. Fourteen had grown since 1920, but only seven showed more than slight growth. Three towns in this group showed an actual decrease in population during this period.

Of the sixty-two incorporated places in the state in which from 1,000 to 2,500 individuals live, between the years 1920 and 1930 forty-six increased in size, while sixteen showed a definite decline. In most cases these decreases were very slight and much less than during the preceding decade.

Increases in both town and city population have resulted from additional opportunities for employment being offered by the expansion of industries, particularly coal mining and various types of manufacturing, such as iron and steel, glass and ceramic wares, chemicals, and artificial textiles. The cities and towns which lost population in the decade ending with 1930 did so because of the loss of employment possibilities in the community, due largely to the depletion of local or near-by natural resources. This has been confined mostly to those communities which are almost solely dependent upon the production of coal.



There are a number of towns which range in size from communities of a few families to those having a population of two thousand or more in which those who remain are stranded due to the loss of employment from this cause. In some instances a portion of these workers have been able to secure similar employment near-by, and can retain their residence because of improved road transportation. The families of those workers who have not been so fortunate are only able to exist by the aid of relief employment or state aid, perhaps supplemented by the crops which they can grow from a small tract of usually poor land.

The population of West Virginia is primarily "rural" as defined by the United States Census Bureau. The census of 1930 shows that only 28.4 percent of the people then living in West Virginia are classed as "urban", or "those living in cities or other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more." All others are classed as "rural", and in recent census reports have been divided into two groups, namely: "rural non-farm" or those who, while not living on farms, nevertheless live in territory outside the limits of any city; and "rural farm", which includes all of the remaining rural population.

The distribution of both urban and rural population is shown on Map 1. The cities and towns and their relative population are shown by dots of varying sizes. Crosshatching indicates the density outside of towns and cities.

Since 1900 each census shows a considerable rise in the urban population of the state, while the rural farm population reached a peak in 1910. \* The rural population as a whole has increased steadily, but this has been due to a rather rapid rise in the rural non-farm group. The proportion in this group is much higher in West Virginia than in most states due primarily to the relatively large population in coal mining communities.

Data on the growth of urban and rural population to 1930 is presented in Table 3, and illustrated by Graph 1.

In eight counties of the state which have no cities, namely: Tyler, Pleasants, Doddridge, Ritchie, Gilmer, Wirt, Jackson, and Mason, the rural population has declined each decade since 1900. These compose an area in the western part of the state bordering upon the Ohio River. In five other rural counties there has been a similar decline since 1910. These counties are Lincoln, Putnam, Roane, Wetzel, and Tucker. Four other counties show a decrease in rural population during the decade ending in 1930. Long use of the land for agricultural and grazing purposes has so reduced the natural productivity of the soil that fewer families have been able to derive a satisfactory income from the farm. Improved transportation facilities allowing more competition from other agricultural areas, and increased demands for living expenses, are other factors effecting this decline. Many farm families have either moved from the state or secured employment in some industry.

\* The 1935 Agricultural Census shows a sharp increase of 114,000 in rural farm population. It is probable that much of this will be lost by 1940.

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION COMPARED

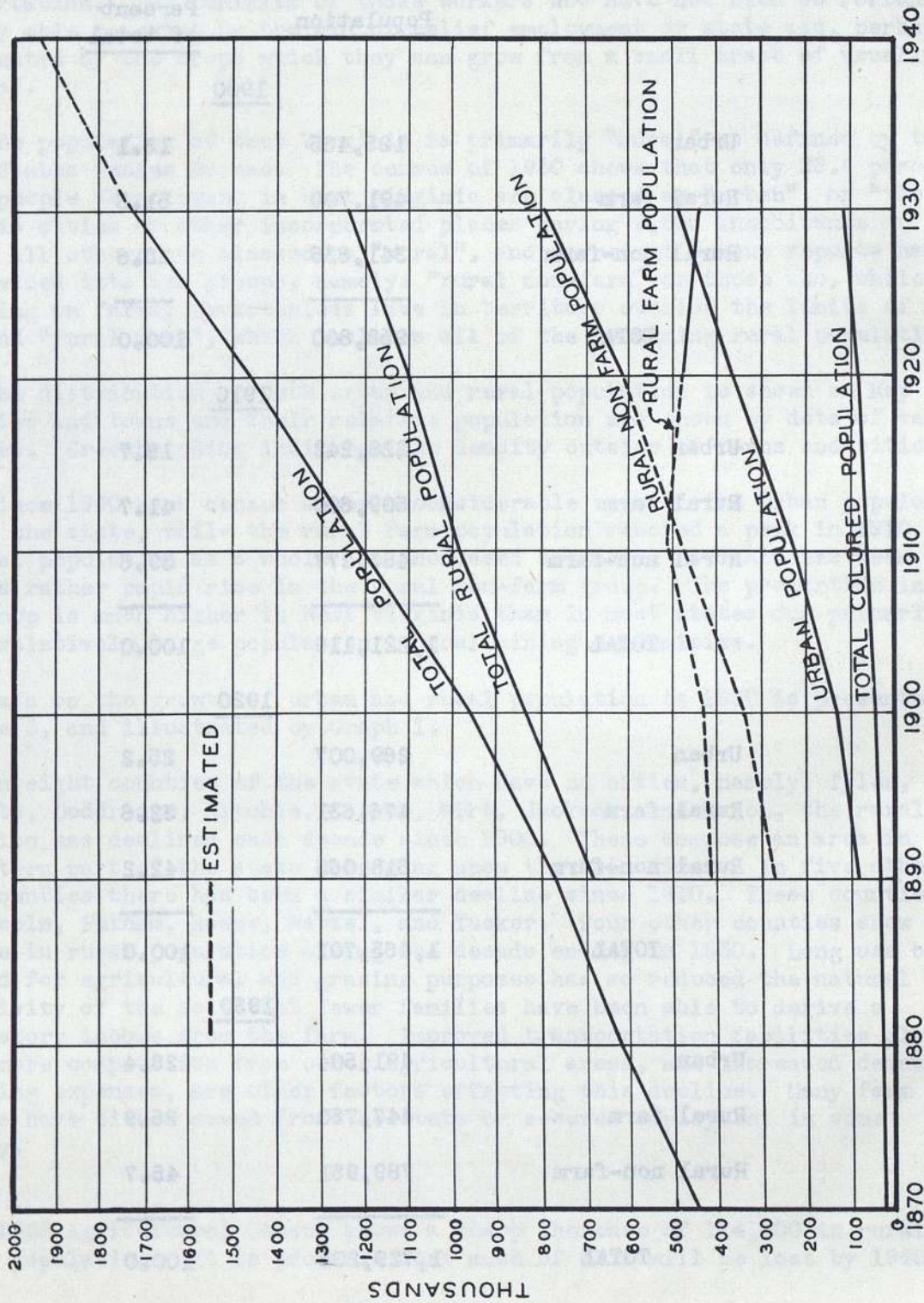
1900 and 1930

Census Data

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent of total</u>
		<u>1900</u>
Urban	125,465	13.1
Rural farm	491,700	51.3
Rural non-farm	341,635	35.6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	958,800	100.0
		<u>1910</u>
Urban	228,242	18.7
Rural farm	509,600	41.7
Rural non-farm	483,277	39.6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1,221,119	100.0
		<u>1920</u>
Urban	269,007	25.2
Rural farm	476,631	32.6
Rural non-farm	618,063	42.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1,463,701	100.0
		<u>1930</u>
Urban	491,504	28.4
Rural farm	447,750	25.9
Rural non-farm	789,951	45.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1,729,205	100.0

TABLE 3

WEST VIRGINIA  
 STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
 COMPARATIVE GROWTH OF POPULATION  
 1890 TO 1930



W.P.A.-N.R.C. - 1937

GRAPH 1

The facts mentioned in the preceding paragraphs relative to the growth of and changes in both urban and rural population are graphically presented by Map 2. The number of inhabitants living in cities and towns of more than 2,500, according to each census taken from 1890 to 1930 is shown by concentric circles. Also the growth or decline in the total rural population of each magisterial district in the state during each decade in this fifty year period is indicated.

A fact not generally known outside the state, or by many within our borders, is that the rural population of West Virginia is high in density throughout more than two-thirds of its area, higher in fact than in most states recognized as being agricultural. This is largely due to two conditions: (1) almost fifty percent of our population are in the rural non-farm class; (2) the size of the average West Virginia farm is less than in most states.

#### RECENT MOVEMENT TO THE FARM

An estimate of the population of the state in 1935 indicates that during the five-year period following 1930 there was a decided movement from mining and manufacturing towns and cities into rural areas. The 1935 Agricultural Census reported an increase of 114,000 persons in West Virginia in the rural farm group. This increase was directly due to a general movement from urban centers during the period of maximum industrial unemployment, and to holding on the farm young people who in more normal times would have left for more attractive employment elsewhere.

#### THE RURAL TOWNS

In general, the small communities of the state may be divided into two major groups, namely: coal mining towns and trade towns. There is a very distinct difference between these.

The mining towns have originated for the most part since 1900, and their location is without regard to any geographic factors other than convenience to some coal mine or group of mines. Usually when these mines are closed, there is no further reason for the town to exist. These towns, and the conditions which create them, constitute a major problem in any consideration of social security.

The trade centers are towns serving the trade needs of limited agricultural and grazing areas. They have existed for a longer time than the mining towns, show little change in size or population, with some exceptions, and represent one of our socially and economically most stable units.

In addition to towns of the type mentioned, there are a few which are dependent, in part, upon small manufacturing establishments.

## COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

The census taken in 1930 shows that 90.4 percent of the people living in West Virginia are native white persons, born in the United States, but not necessarily in West Virginia. Of the remainder 3.0 percent are foreign-born white, and 6.6 percent are Negroes. In that year the number of native-born persons was 1,675,657, including both native-white and Negroes.

Of these native-born, 1,329,981 persons living in West Virginia, or almost 85 percent, were born within her borders. The other native-born population consists of families and individuals who have come into the state from elsewhere in the country. Opportunities in business, and possibilities for employment in coal mining and manufacturing, have been almost the sole reason for their coming. The subject of interstate migration will be considered later in this study.

### THE NATIVE-WHITE POPULATION

The proportion of native white persons in West Virginia is higher than in most states in the eastern part of the country. The ratio of native-white to the total population has risen during the last decade, due to an increase of nearly three hundred thousand persons in this class, and a drop in the number of foreign-born white.

There are twenty counties in the state in which the native white population exceeds ninety-eight percent of the total. Of these, the proportion exceeds ninety-nine percent in thirteen counties. As might be expected, these counties are those having a high ratio of rural farm population.

In most cities and industrial towns the proportion of native white persons has risen slightly for several decades. However, in some towns in coal mining areas the Negro population has increased at the highest rate.

### THE FOREIGN-BORN ELEMENT

There were 51,865 persons of foreign birth living in the state in 1930. This was a decrease of nearly 10,000 from 1920, in which year the number of foreign-born reached a peak.

Approximately eighty percent of the above number are from countries of southern Europe, among which Italy lead with 12,088 in 1930. This is 23.3 percent of the total foreign-born. Poland is second in number, having 10.7 percent; with Hungary and Germany following, having 7.1 and 6.0 percent respectively.

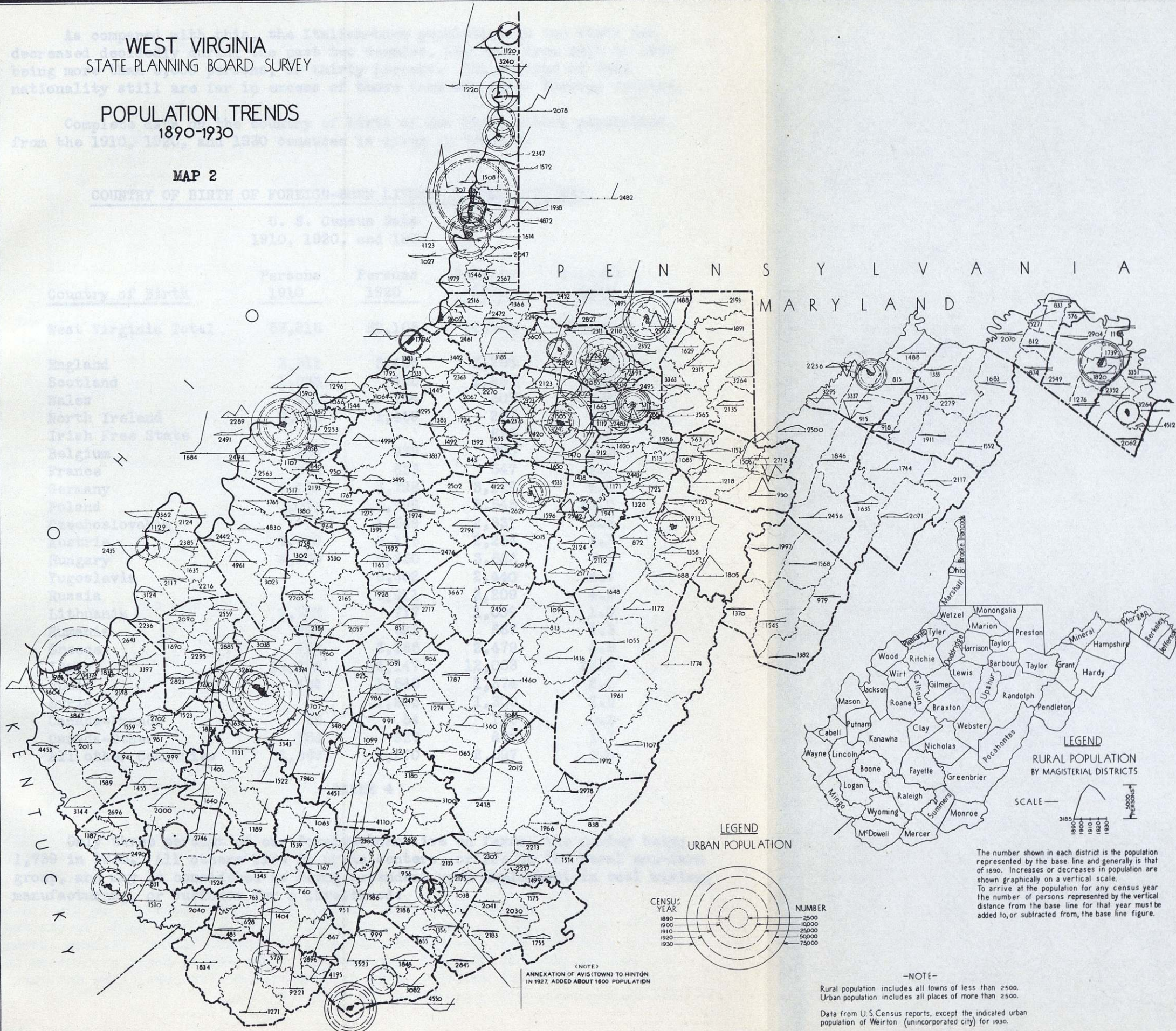
Since 1920 the number of foreign-born from each country has decreased, with the exception of Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Scotland. The number of Czechoslovakians almost doubled between 1920 and 1930, although the number in the latter year was only 2,831.

WEST VIRGINIA  
STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY

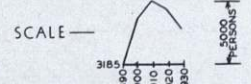
POPULATION TRENDS  
1890-1930

MAP 2

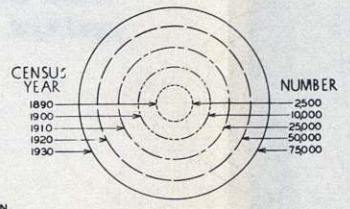
P E N N S Y L V A N I A  
M A R Y L A N D



**LEGEND**  
RURAL POPULATION  
BY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS



**LEGEND**  
URBAN POPULATION



The number shown in each district is the population represented by the base line and generally is that of 1890. Increases or decreases in population are shown graphically on a vertical scale. To arrive at the population for any census year the number of persons represented by the vertical distance from the base line for that year must be added to, or subtracted from, the base line figure.

(NOTE)  
ANNEXATION OF AVIS (TOWN) TO HINTON  
IN 1927, ADDED ABOUT 1800 POPULATION

-NOTE-  
Rural population includes all towns of less than 2500.  
Urban population includes all places of more than 2500.  
Data from U.S. Census reports, except the indicated urban population of Weirton (unincorporated city) for 1930.

As compared with this, the Italian-born population in the state has decreased decidedly during the past two decades, the drop from 1910 to 1930 being more than 5,000 persons, or thirty percent. The persons of this nationality still are far in excess of those from any other foreign country.

Complete data on the country of birth of our foreign-born population from the 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses is given in Table 4.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN-BORN LIVING IN WEST VIRGINIA

<u>Country of Birth</u>	U. S. Census Data 1910, 1920, and 1930			
	<u>Persons 1910</u>	<u>Persons 1920</u>	<u>Persons 1930</u>	<u>Percent 1930</u>
West Virginia Total	57,218	62,105	51,865	100.0
England	3,511	3,435	3,288	6.3
Scotland	1,088	998	1,267	2.4
Wales	880	704	607	1.2
North Ireland	2,292	1,459	222	0.4
Irish Free State			659	1.3
Belgium	800	938	690	1.3
France	535	633	547	1.1
Germany	6,130	3,798	3,129	6.0
Poland	5,074	5,799	5,545	10.7
Czechoslovakia		1,549	2,831	5.5
Austria	5,919	5,115	2,254	4.3
Hungary	5,939	6,260	3,683	7.1
Yugoslavia		2,802	2,440	4.7
Russia		3,911	2,209	4.3
Lithuania	2,707	717	1,009	1.9
Rumania	259	625	667	1.3
Greece	787	3,186	2,479	4.8
Italy	17,292	14,147	12,088	23.3
Spain	464	1,543	1,374	2.6
Syria		1,235	1,300	2.5
Canada-French	88	54	118	0.2
Canada-Other	784	927	862	1.7
All other Countries	2,669	2,270	2,597	5.0

TABLE 4

Only three percent of our foreign-born live on farms, the number being 1,739 in 1930. All others live in urban centers, or are in the rural non-farm group, and may be considered as being dependent upon employment in coal mining, manufacturing, or business for a livelihood.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN-BORN IN WEST VIRGINIA

	1930 Census		
	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural Non-Farm</u>	<u>Rural Farm</u>
Male	11,812	19,979	1,073
Female	8,417	9,573	666
Total	<u>20,229</u>	<u>29,552</u>	<u>1,739</u>

TABLE 5

Nearly one-fifth of the persons of foreign birth in West Virginia live in our five largest cities, namely: Wheeling, Huntington, Charleston, Clarksburg, and Parkersburg. The number in Wheeling alone equals that in the other four cities. This is because foreign-born workers are attracted to iron and steel manufacturing, which is the industry of major importance in Wheeling and the surrounding area.

Of the foreign-born in West Virginia who were twenty-one years old or older, 41.0 percent were aliens, according to the census taken in 1930. This is a much higher ratio than found in any of our bordering states. Pennsylvania, with a foreign-born population more than one million in excess of West Virginia, has a ratio of aliens of only 28.1. Kentucky's population of persons of foreign birth is only 15.5 percent alien.

More than one-half of all persons of foreign birth who live in rural non-farm areas of the state are un-naturalized. Among our larger cities, Wheeling has the highest ratio of aliens with Clarksburg following very closely.

Tables 6 and 7 supply more data on the foreign-born and alien population in West Virginia.

West Virginia's high proportion of un-naturalized citizens can be attributed to no one factor. Perhaps the principal causes are, the lack of public interest in the naturalization of persons of foreign birth, and the high cost of citizenship papers in many cases. It is known that many among our alien population desire citizenship, but in recent years have lacked the necessary money.

#### THE NEGRO CLASS

If the Negro population of West Virginia were dispersed evenly throughout the fifty-five counties, it would approximate 2,000 persons in each one, but the race is very much localized.

Pleasants County reported no Negroes in the 1930 census. In the region in the western part of the state, of which this county is a part, consisting of the seven counties: Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Gilmer, Calhoun, Roane, and Jackson, an area of 2,725 square miles, the combined Negro population is only 103. These are almost equally divided between the rural farm and rural non-farm groups, with none living in urban centers.



FOREIGN-BORN MALES 21 YEARS AND OLDER IN FIVE LARGEST WEST VIRGINIA CITIES

1930 Census

City	Total	Naturalized		First Papers	Alien	Status Unknown
		Number	Percent			
Wheeling	4,860	3,011	61.0	413	1,111	325
Clarksburg	1,703	1,072	62.9	88	433	110
Charleston	1,662	1,142	68.7	134	279	107
Huntington	1,041	698	67.0	76	207	60
Parkersburg	475	338	71.3	41	56	40

TABLE 6

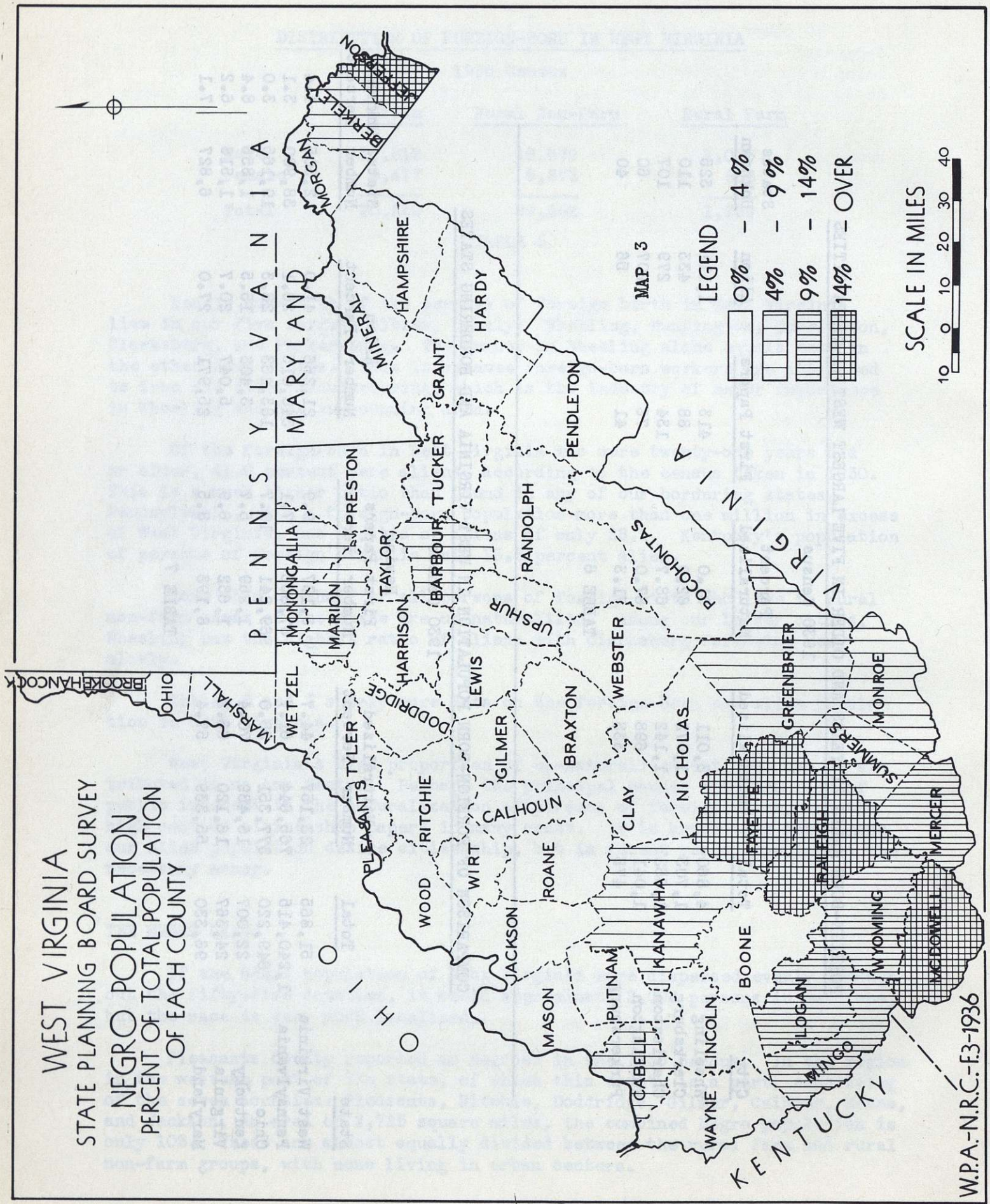
COMPARISON OF FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN WEST VIRGINIA AND BORDERING STATES

1930 Census

State	Total	Naturalized		Having First Papers		Alien		Status Unknown	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
West Virginia	51,865	23,157	44.7	5,137	9.9	21,266	41.0	2,305	4.4
Pennsylvania	1,240,415	765,644	61.7	87,856	7.1	348,015	28.1	38,900	3.1
Ohio	649,220	377,351	58.0	69,241	10.7	183,463	28.3	19,165	3.0
Kentucky	22,007	15,489	70.4	1,259	5.7	3,403	15.5	1,856	8.4
Virginia	24,367	16,120	66.2	1,682	6.9	5,047	20.7	1,518	6.2
Maryland	96,330	55,339	57.4	8,193	8.5	25,971	27.0	6,827	7.1

TABLE 7

WEST VIRGINIA  
STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
NEGRO POPULATION  
PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION  
OF EACH COUNTY



W.P.A.-N.R.C.-F3-1936

As compared to this area having a very sparse Negro population, four southern counties: Kanawha, Fayette, Raleigh, and McDowell, with an equivalent area, contain Negroes numbering 57,952, which is almost exactly fifty percent of the state's total of persons of this race. McDowell County has the greatest number, 22,558, and the highest concentration, namely, 42 Negroes per square mile. Almost seventy-five percent of all those in the state are living in the southern area composed of thirteen counties, containing the Southern West Virginia coal fields, and the manufacturing centers around Charleston and Huntington.

Two smaller areas in the northern part of the state, namely: Harrison, Marion, and Monongalia Counties combined; and the Northern Panhandle, have Negro populations of 9,573 and 5,705 respectively. Jefferson County, which lies east of the Allegheny Mountains and adjoins Virginia and Maryland, has 2,742 Negroes living in it, a large percent of whom are living on farms.

Almost ninety-seven percent of West Virginia's Negro population live either in cities and towns of more than 2,500, or in rural non-farm areas contiguous to these urban communities. This is directly due to the better opportunities for employment which have come with the development of our coal mining and the expansion of varied types of manufacturing.

Of the 26,274 Negro families in the state, only 688 live on farms. One-third of these are in two counties: Jefferson, in the extreme east, and Barbour, in the north-central part, between which this number is almost equally divided. Only eleven other counties report more than twelve Negro farm families living in them. Therefore, in West Virginia this race may be considered almost a negligible factor in our farming and grazing activities.

The number of Negroes, and the ratio of this number to the total state population, has consistently increased for several decades. The proportion has risen from 4.1 per 100 persons in 1870 to 6.6 per 100 in 1930. This increase has been directly due to migration, in a large measure from states further south, since the mortality rate is high and the rate of births low among the people of this race. These latter conditions have probably prevented a much larger increase in our Negro population.

#### INTERSTATE MIGRATION

The movement of large numbers of people in and out of West Virginia during the past several decades, and especially since 1910, denotes a restless effort to better present living conditions, or to find employment. This movement has not been confined to this and neighboring states, but has been quite general throughout the nation. These movements are summarized in Table 9.

Naturally, the movement of West Virginians in largest numbers has been into Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky, which touch her borders. Thousands of our people have moved into these states, and other thousands have come from the same states to take up their residence here. These movements have not been favorable to West Virginia, since they have resulted in a net loss of more than 50,000 persons, as shown by the following figures:

Loss of native-white persons	90,701
Loss of foreign-born persons	10,240
Total	100,941
Gain of Negroes	49,660
Net loss to 1930	51,281

Nearly one-half of the above loss occurred between 1920 and 1930. By far the greater part of this was among the native-white population, and may be attributed to the attractions of good wages and steady employment in industrial and trading centers in other states, which were very much in evidence during this period.

The census of 1930 shows that there were 368,577 native-white persons living in other states who were born in West Virginia. This is nearly one-fourth, or 22.3 percent, of the total number of native-white persons of West Virginia birth then living in the United States. It is a fact that almost one of four children born here leave the state to take up residence elsewhere. The number of West Virginians living in bordering states is as follows:

Ohio	130,363
Pennsylvania	56,644
Virginia	29,767
Maryland	25,997
Kentucky	15,245

Interstate migration has been most evident among young persons and especially among young men. The 1930 census for the state shows a loss of 12,228 persons between the ages 15 and 24, and 12,913 of ages 25 to 34 inclusive, since 1920.

For the past several decades Negroes have been coming into West Virginia from other states in increasing numbers. The average rate of their immigration has been 1,500 per year, but has probably exceeded this number in the past few years. However, the total number of Negro migrants has been fewer into this state than into several near-by states, as may be seen from the following table, which is cumulative to 1930.

STATES RECEIVING HIGHEST TOTALS OF NEGRO MIGRANTS

Census Data

Pennsylvania	239,510	Michigan	129,530
Illinois	223,592	Indiana	57,805
Ohio	177,080	West Virginia	49,660

TABLE 8

Forty-three percent of our Negro population has migrated from other states. Of these, ninety-six percent have come from Virginia, Alabama, and North Carolina, and in numbers in the order named. A few have come from nearly every other state.

Data are not available on the number of persons formerly living in the state who have returned during the several recent years of depressed economic conditions. It is known to be high. It may also be safely assumed that there were many living in West Virginia who returned to their former places of residence in other states.

INTERSTATE MIGRATION OF WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE POPULATION

Census Data - Cumulative to 1930

Census Years	Born in and Living in W. Va.		Born in W. Va. Living in Other States		Percent col. 4 to col. 2		Born in Other States Living in W. Va.		Percent col. 6 to col. 2		Gain or Loss through Interstate Migration	Total Number Native-Born Living in W. Va.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
1910	1,082,284	903,885	178,399	16.5	193,320	17.6	14,921	1,097,205				
1920	1,333,278	1,079,987	253,291	19.0	231,288	17.6	-22,003	1,311,275				
1930	1,651,656	1,283,079	368,577	22.3	277,876	17.8	-90,701	1,560,955				
				<u>NATIVE-WHITE</u>								
1910	36,417	27,160	9,257	25.4	36,573	57.4	27,316	63,733				
1920	45,117	33,347	11,770	26.1	55,226	61.0	40,456	85,573				
1930	64,898	46,834	18,064	27.8	67,724	59.1	49,660	114,558				
				<u>NATIVE-NEGRO</u>								
				<u>TOTAL NATIVE</u>								
1910	1,118,754	931,077	187,677	16.8	229,925	19.8	42,248	1,161,002				
1920	1,378,424	1,113,343	265,081	19.2	283,552	20.3	18,471	1,396,895				
1930	1,716,721	1,329,981	386,740	22.5	345,676	20.6	-41,064	1,675,657				

TABLE 9

## AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

The age and sex composition of the population is a factor of prime importance in determining the social and economic development of any particular region. To a large extent the distribution of age and sex groups shows whether a given population is progressive, that is, likely to increase rapidly in numbers; static, that is, likely to maintain itself at about the same level; or retrogressive, that is, likely to decrease.

### CHANGES IN AGE DISTRIBUTION

The number and percentage of the population in various age groups in West Virginia from 1880 to 1930, by ten year periods, are given in Table 10. Some noteworthy changes in the past five decades are here seen.

In 1880, 16.1 percent of our total population were children under five years of age, but this ratio has decreased until by 1930 the number in this age group was only 12.0 percent of the total. A similar, but less evident, drop in proportion of the total population has occurred in the groups ages 5-14, and ages 15-24. Little change during the past fifty years is seen in the age group 25-34 years.

Among those over 35 years of age, there has been a gradual, but definite, increase in the proportion of persons as compared to the total population of the state. This increase is most apparent in the groups above age 65. Since 1900 the number between ages 65 and 85 has increased almost 40,000, and now constitutes four percent of our entire population. The total of all groups 65 years or over has increased from 19,318 in 1880 to 73,043 in 1930, and in comparison with the entire population has risen from 3.15 percent to 4.21 percent.

A study of census figures for West Virginia giving the age distribution by single years discloses further important facts concerning changes which have taken place. In both 1900 and 1910 infants under one year of age constituted the largest number in any single year group. By 1920 the largest number had shifted to the group between three and four years of age. In 1930 the six to seven year age group had the largest number, while the eight to nine year group was second with almost the same number. This change is primarily due to a definite decrease in the rate of births during this period of thirty years.

### RURAL AND URBAN AGE DISTRIBUTION

A further analysis of our population in 1930 and 1920 is made in Table 11, which shows by five year age groups the distribution by urban, rural non-farm, and rural farm residence. The difference in the age composition of these groups is very striking.

The proportion of all persons under twenty years of age is highest in the rural farm group, in fact, it constitutes one-half of the total population living on farms. Second in proportion of persons under twenty is the rural non-farm group, while the urban population is composed of a decidedly lower percent under

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION - 1880 TO 1930

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF TOTAL

U. S. Census

Age Groups	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Under 5	207,087 12.0%	195,934 13.3%	169,118 13.9%	135,465 14.1%	106,254 13.9%	99,310 16.1%
5 - 14	413,631 23.9	348,519 23.8	279,206 22.9	232,418 24.2	204,649 26.8	168,969 27.3
15 - 24	329,321 19.0	271,153 18.6	246,659 20.2	200,666 20.9	160,752 21.1	124,075 20.1
25 - 34	247,396 14.3	217,406 14.8	195,663 16.0	143,947 15.0	103,058 13.5	82,995 13.4
35 - 44	206,790 11.8	178,251 12.1	139,788 11.5	98,705 10.3	75,078 9.8	57,385 9.3
45 - 54	156,126 9.0	122,713 8.4	90,793 7.4	69,273 7.2	52,373 6.9	40,078 6.5
55 - 64	95,078 5.5	70,799 4.8	55,756 4.6	42,303 4.4	31,951 4.2	25,327 4.1
65 - 74	50,872 2.9	39,655 2.7	30,244 2.5	22,744 2.4	18,553 2.4	13,432 2.2
75 - 84	19,015 1.09	14,268 0.97	10,291 0.84	8,215 0.85	6,517 0.85	5,016 0.81
85 - 89	2,441 0.14	1,688 0.11	1,246 0.10	991 0.10	852 0.11	605 0.10
90 - 94	573 0.033	391 0.026	326 0.027	223 0.023	275 0.036	183 0.030
95 - 99	113 0.006	100 0.007	54 0.004	44 0.004	60 0.008	48 0.007
100	29 0.0016	38 0.0025	31 0.0026	19 0.0020	28 0.0036	34 0.0055
Unknown	733 0.04	2,786 0.19	1,944 0.16	3,787 0.39	2,394 0.31	1,090 0.18
Total Pop.	1,729,205	1,463,701	1,221,119	958,800	762,794	618,547

TABLE 10

## AGE - SEX DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN, RURAL NON-FARM, &amp; RURAL FARM

## POPULATION IN WEST VIRGINIA. PERCENT BY 5-YEAR AGE GROUPS

1930 and 1920 Censuses

Age Groups	URBAN					
	1930			1920		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	9.5	9.0	9.2	10.6	10.6	10.6
5 - 9	10.3	10.0	10.1	9.9	10.0	9.9
10 - 14	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.4	9.2
15 - 19	8.9	10.0	9.5	8.5	9.5	9.0
20 - 24	9.1	10.5	9.8	9.5	10.5	10.0
25 - 29	8.6	9.1	8.8	9.5	9.5	9.5
30 - 34	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.4	8.2	8.3
35 - 39	7.8	7.5	7.7	8.5	7.5	8.0
40 - 44	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.2
45 - 49	6.1	5.5	5.8	6.0	5.1	5.5
50 - 54	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.2
55 - 59	3.7	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.6	2.8
60 - 64	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
65 - 69	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.6
70 - 74	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0
75 and over	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Age Group	RURAL NON-FARM					
	1930			1920		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	13.6	14.5	14.1	14.8	16.5	15.6
5 - 9	13.7	14.6	14.2	12.7	14.3	13.5
10 - 14	10.9	11.7	11.3	9.9	11.4	10.7
15 - 19	9.1	10.2	9.6	8.3	9.5	8.9
20 - 24	8.4	9.6	9.0	9.0	9.8	9.4
25 - 29	7.9	8.4	8.2	9.1	8.8	8.9
30 - 34	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.9	7.0	7.5
35 - 39	7.2	6.0	6.6	8.0	6.2	7.1
40 - 44	5.8	4.6	5.2	5.6	4.4	5.0
45 - 49	4.9	3.8	4.3	4.8	3.4	4.2
50 - 54	3.7	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.5	2.9
55 - 59	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.9
60 - 64	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6
65 - 69	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
70 - 74	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
75 and over	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Age Group	RURAL FARM					
	1930			1920		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	11.0	11.7	11.4	12.4	13.0	12.7
5 - 9	12.8	13.6	13.2	13.3	13.7	13.5
10 - 14	13.0	13.4	13.2	13.5	13.5	13.5
15 - 19	12.4	11.3	11.8	11.4	10.9	11.1
20 - 24	8.2	7.2	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.3
25 - 29	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.9	5.6
30 - 34	4.3	5.0	4.6	4.7	5.5	5.2
35 - 39	4.5	5.4	4.9	5.4	5.8	5.6
40 - 44	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.9
45 - 49	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.9
50 - 54	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.0	4.2
55 - 59	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.0	3.2
60 - 64	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.9
65 - 69	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.2
70 - 74	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.6
75 and over	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 11



this age. Between the ages of 25 and 55 the farm loses its relative strength in the total population, but beyond fifty-five, it exceeds in ratio either the urban or rural non-farm groups. This condition has existed in West Virginia for at least forty years due to a very large number of our young rural people leaving the farm, and perhaps also leaving the state, when they have reached maturity. Our farm families today are composed in a major part of young people and old people. This is not the case in many states having greater agricultural advantages.

The urban group has the lowest proportion of children in it. This group contains a lower percentage of people of advanced years than does the rural farm group, but definitely higher than in the non-farm population. This is probably due in some measure to more healthful living conditions in the urban centers. Also the non-farm population, in a large part, is made up of coal miner's families so recently attracted to the mining towns as to contain few individuals in the old age groups.

#### SEX DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

The number of males and females living in the state in 1930, separated by classes, together with the number of males per one hundred females is shown in Table 12.

SEX DISTRIBUTION BY CLASSES FOR WEST VIRGINIA - 1930

<u>Class</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males per 100 Females</u>
Native-White	795,879	766,535	1,562,414	103.8
Foreign-Born White	32,864	18,656	51,520	176.2
Negroes	60,873	54,020	114,893	112.7
Other Races	255	123	378	207.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>889,871</b>	<b>839,334</b>	<b>1,729,205</b>	<b>106.0</b>

TABLE 12

Considering the entire population of the state the males exceed the females by almost 50,000 persons, which is 106.0 males to each 100 females. This ratio has been steadily declining, as it was 108.9 in 1920 and in 1910 was 111.6. Therefore, the excess of males has dropped almost one-half during the two past decades. This decline, however, has been less evident in the native-white population than among the Negroes or foreign-born white.

The figures given in the preceding table show that less than thirty thousand, or only 60 percent of this excess of males over females, is among our native white population who compose 90 percent of the state's total. A further study of this group discloses a peculiar situation. In our cities and towns of over 2,500 inhabitants the native-white males are not in excess, but are exceeded by the females to the extent of 9,000 women and girls. This raises the total excess of males in rural areas to approximately 38,000, distributed: 21,000 in the rural farm group and 17,000 in the rural non-farm group.

Since the total native-white rural farm population is much less in number than the rural non-farm, the excess of males over females in that group is high, there being 110.0 males living on farms to each 100 females. This may be taken to indicate that women find farm employment less attractive than that offered in cities, since the number of females and males born on farms is about the same.

Among both the foreign-born white and Negroes the excess of males over females is far greater in proportion than among our native-white population. This excess is found largely among those of both classes living in the non-farm industrial and coal mining areas. There are nearly two males for each female in the non-farm group of white persons of foreign birth. Among those of both classes who live either in urban communities or on farms there are more males than females, but the excess is slight. As is the case with our native-white population, the proportion of males over females in both the foreign-born and Negro classes has been decreasing for several decades, showing a tendency toward an equalization of the sexes.

### MARITAL STATUS AND SIZE OF FAMILY

#### MARITAL STATISTICS

Perhaps there is no better way to show the marital composition of the population of West Virginia than by a simple tabulation giving the 1930 census data pertaining to each of our three population groups by marital classification, and comparing these data with those for the United States as a whole. Such data are presented in Table 13.

#### MARITAL CONDITION OF THE POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA - 1930 - BY PERCENT

	<u>United States</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>			
		<u>All Groups</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural Farm</u>	<u>Rural Non-Farm</u>
Males	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	34.1	33.9	32.0	38.7	32.4
Married	60.0	61.0	62.6	56.0	62.8
Widowed	4.6	4.0	3.9	4.6	3.7
Divorced	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.6	0.8
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Females	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	26.4	25.0	27.1	28.1	21.4
Married	61.1	64.6	60.1	63.0	69.2
Widowed	11.1	8.8	10.7	7.8	7.9
Divorced	1.3	1.1	1.7	0.5	0.8
Unknown	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7

TABLE 13

Considering the single persons living in the state, it will be seen that the proportion is slightly lower for each sex than the national averages, and that this is due to the low ratio of those in the non-farm group, especially among females. Also the proportion of single females in each group is much under that of males. The fact that there are a greater number of males, and that females marry at an earlier age than males, accounts for this. Other census data show that in the age group 15 - 19 years, only a very small percentage of males are married as compared to females. After passing age twenty the percentage of both rises rapidly.

West Virginia has a higher ratio of both male and female married persons than the United States as a whole, although this is not true in each of the three groups. The proportion of married males living on farms is low, being only 56.0 percent, while the single males constitute 38.7 percent of the total male farm population.

A reverse condition exists among females living in the non-farm areas of the state where the percentage of married females is 69.2 while the single females only compose 21.4 percent of the total population of this sex. Also in this non-farm group the excess of married females over married males is very apparent. The percentage of marriages is greater in the non-farm group than in either the urban or rural farm groups. There are various factors which contribute to a higher proportion of marriages among these people, the greater part of whom live in the semi-rural mining and industrial centers of our state.

It is generally thought that the proportion of married persons is higher among those living in urban centers than those living on the farm. This is the case with the younger group under thirty years of age, but beyond that age the proportion of marriages is greater among the rural-farm people. This would seem to indicate that many of our rural young men and women do not now marry at an early age, as was common a few generations ago, but postpone the establishment of a home, probably with the thought of finding a more favorable location, with better opportunities, away from the farm.

In West Virginia there are more than twice as many widows as widowers, the former outnumbering the widowed males by 23,975. However, as compared to the entire population of either sex, the percentage of both widows and widowers is less in the state than in the United States as a whole. The excess of widowed females is due to two facts, namely: the rate of re-marriage is higher among males, and the death rate is higher among married men than among married women.

There is very little difference between the number of divorced men and women in this state, since the divorced females outnumber the males by only 417. The fact that divorced men are more inclined to re-marry probably accounts for this difference. In both sex groups the proportion is slightly under that for the nation. The highest percentage of divorced females is in the group between 25 and 35 years of age, while among males the age group 45 to 55 has the largest number. In this state divorces have been increasing among both sexes, but it should be noted that marriages have increased at a rate which is higher.

PERCENT SINGLE AND MARRIED PERSONS IN WEST VIRGINIA  
15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - BY CLASS AND SEX - 1930 CENSUS

	<u>Native- White</u>	<u>Foreign-Born White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
Single Persons			
Males	33.6	26.8	35.7
Females	25.3	8.3	21.1
Married Persons			
Males	61.8	67.0	57.5
Females	65.2	80.0	66.1

TABLE 14

From the data in Table 14 showing the distribution of our single and married population 15 years of age and over by class, and by sex, some interesting facts can be seen. The proportion of foreign-born white and Negro females who are married is much higher than males, and, therefore, the proportion of single females is correspondingly low for both classes. This excess in proportion is no doubt due to the fact that in both classes there are fewer females living in the state than males. Since there are only a little more than one-half as many foreign-born white females as there are males, it can be understood why 80.0 percent of those over 15 years of age are married, and only 8.3 percent are single. Related to this is the fact that 67 percent of the males of foreign birth over 15 years of age are married, which is a considerably higher proportion than among either our native-white or Negro population.

The proportion of divorces is about the same with native-white persons and Negroes, but is definitely lower with white persons of foreign birth, especially among females. Among Negroes divorces have been increasing rapidly, and have doubled between 1920 and 1930.

SIZE OF FAMILY

The average number of persons per family in West Virginia is given in Table 15 for the years 1870 to 1930, inclusive. This shows that there has been a steady decrease in family size during the past sixty years from almost six to only slightly more than four when the last census was made.

AVERAGE SIZE OF WEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES. 1870 - 1930.

<u>Year</u>	<u>All Classes</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>All Classes</u>
1870	5.63	1910	4.90
1880	5.54	1920	4.70
1890	5.43	1930	4.36
1900	5.10		

TABLE 15

The census of 1930 employs the median rather than the mean to compare the size of families by urban or rural place of residence, and by nativity and racial characteristics. The median for all families is 3.95 instead of 4.36, which is the mean, or average.

Table 16 gives the median for urban and rural families separately and by nativity and racial classes. It is seen that the rural farm families are largest in each class, and in each the urban families are smallest. The rural non-farm family size is between these. In each group by place of residence the foreign-born white families are largest, while the size of the Negro families is definitely low.

MEDIAN SIZE OF WEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES  
URBAN AND RURAL, BY CLASSES - 1930

<u>Groups</u>	<u>All Classes</u>	<u>Native-White</u>	<u>Foreign-Born White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
All Families	3.95	3.99	4.34	3.08
Urban	3.47	3.46	4.15	2.90
Rural Non-Farm	4.03	4.10	4.48	3.11
Rural Farm	4.58	4.58	5.00	4.53

TABLE 16

Although the size of West Virginia families has decreased steadily, the median in 1930 for all families was higher than for the entire nation, which was only 3.40. In each separate group the median was higher in this state than in the United States.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION INCREASE

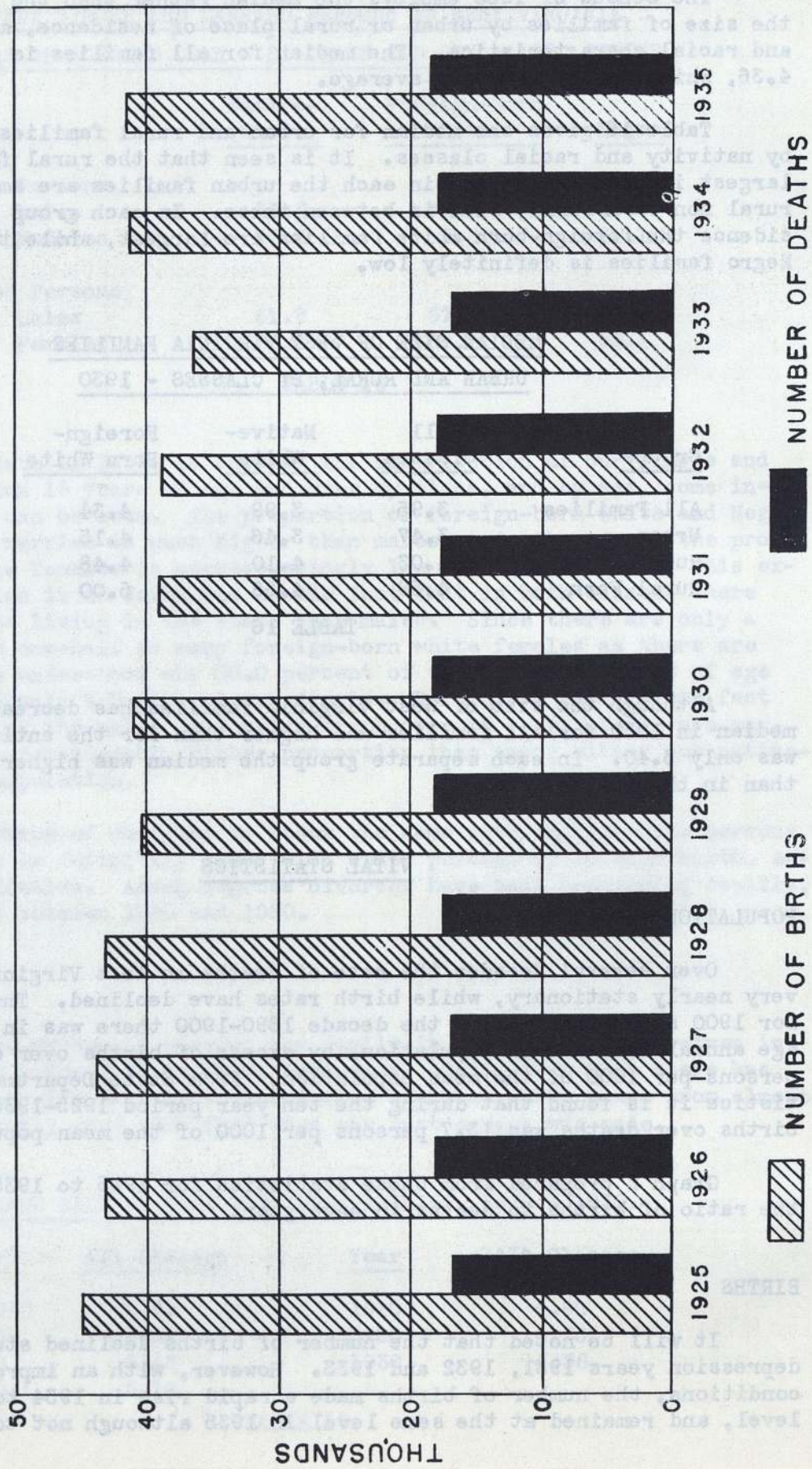
Over several decades the rate of deaths in West Virginia has remained very nearly stationary, while birth rates have declined. The U. S. Census for 1900 shows that during the decade 1890-1900 there was in the state an average annual increase in population, by excess of births over deaths, of 28.4 persons per 1000 of the mean population. From State Department of Health statistics it is found that during the ten year period 1925-1935 the excess of births over deaths was 13.7 persons per 1000 of the mean population.

Graph 2 prepared from these statistics for 1925 to 1935 inclusive shows the ratio of births to deaths in each year.

BIRTHS

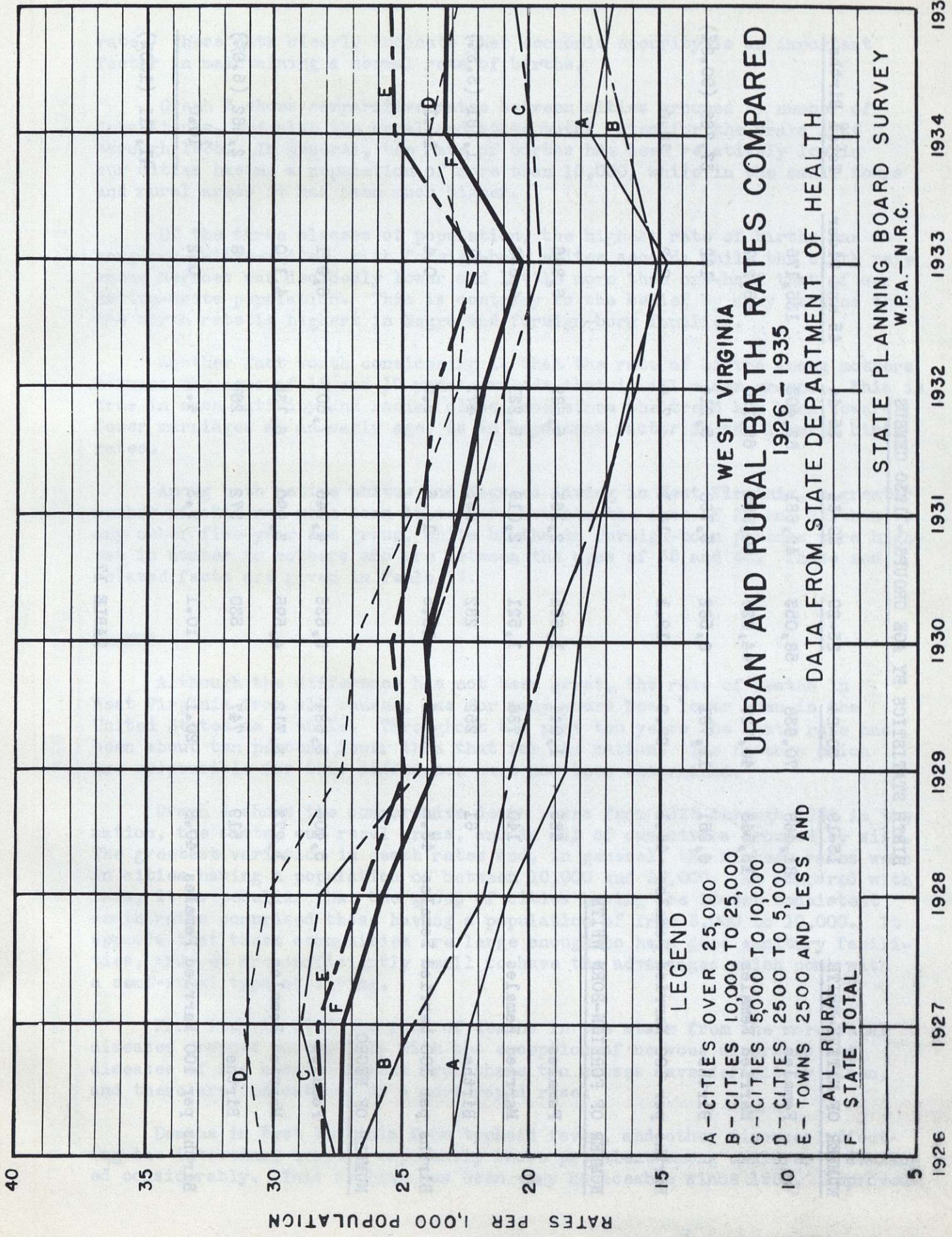
It will be noted that the number of births declined steadily during the depression years 1931, 1932 and 1933. However, with an improvement in economic conditions, the number of births made a rapid rise in 1934 to the pre-depression level, and remained at the same level in 1935 although not to the 1925 to 1928

WEST VIRGINIA  
 STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
 RATIO OF BIRTHS TO DEATHS  
 1925 — 1935



W.P.A.—N.R.C.—1937

GRAPH 2



WEST VIRGINIA  
**URBAN AND RURAL BIRTH RATES COMPARED**  
 1926 - 1935

DATA FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
 W.P.A.-N.R.C.

- LEGEND
- A - CITIES OVER 25,000
  - B - CITIES 10,000 TO 25,000
  - C - CITIES 5,000 TO 10,000
  - D - CITIES 2,500 TO 5,000
  - E - TOWNS 2,500 AND LESS AND ALL RURAL
  - F - STATE TOTAL

GRAPH 3

BIRTH STATISTICS BY AGE GROUPS - 1930 CENSUS

<u>NUMBER OF NATIVE-WHITE</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45 and Older</u>	<u>Total Births</u>
Females	81,468	70,838	58,053	49,681	83,403	135,176	
Married Females	13,548	40,729	44,824	40,852	68,190	85,267	
Births	6,251	11,791	8,582	5,768	5,214	162	37,768 (90.8%)
Births per 100 Married Females	46.1	28.9	19.1	14.1	7.6	0.2	18.0
<u>NUMBER OF FOREIGN-BORN WHITE</u>							
Females	665	1,044	1,694	2,163	5,689	6,866	
Married Females	140	736	1,521	2,019	5,221	4,858	
Births	61	252	282	293	472	21	1,381 (3.5%)
Births per 100 Married Females	43.5	34.2	18.5	14.5	9.0	0.4	14.1
<u>NUMBER OF NEGRO</u>							
Females	5,404	5,684	5,636	4,746	7,607	6,971	
Married Females	1,273	3,712	4,595	3,990	6,135	4,170	
Births	519	747	530	372	286	8	2,462 (5.9%)
Births per 100 Married Females	40.8	20.1	10.1	9.3	4.1	0.2	10.0
							41,611 (100%)

TABLE 17



rate. These data clearly indicate that economic security is an important factor in maintaining a normal rate of births.

Graph 3 shows comparative rates between cities grouped by number of inhabitants, and also the rural and state total rates for the years 1926 through 1935. In general, the rate of births has been relatively low in our cities having a population of more than 10,000, while in the small towns and rural areas it has been much higher.

Of the three classes of population, the highest rate of births was among our native-whites, with foreign-born whites second; while the birth rate among Negroes was decidedly lower and little more than one-half that of our native-white population. This is contrary to the belief by many persons that the birth rate is highest in Negro and foreign-born families.

Another fact worth considering is that the rate of births among mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 years exceeds that in all older groups. This is true in each nativity and racial class, and since the trend has been toward fewer marriages at an early age, is an important factor in the lowered birth rates.

Among both native whites and Negroes living in West Virginia, a greater number of children were born to mothers between the ages of 20 and 25 than to any other five-year age group, while births to foreign-born parents were highest in number to mothers who are between the ages of 35 and 40. These and related facts are given in Table 17.

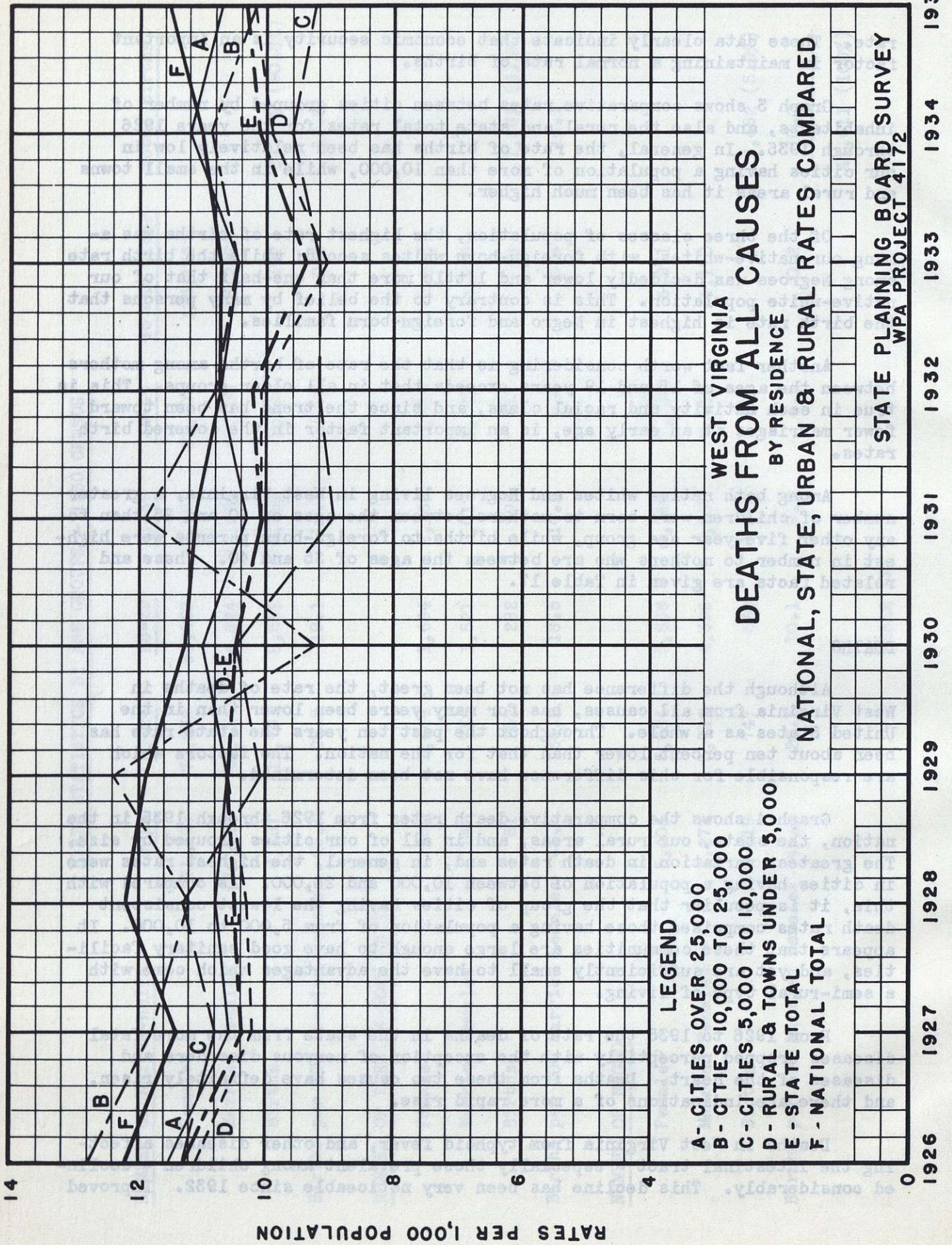
#### DEATHS

Although the difference has not been great, the rate of deaths in West Virginia from all causes, has for many years been lower than in the United States as a whole. Throughout the past ten years the state rate has been about ten percent lower than that for the nation. The factors which are responsible for this difference have not been determined.

Graph 4 shows the comparative death rates from 1926 through 1935 in the nation, the state, our rural areas, and in all of our cities grouped by size. The greatest variation in death rates and, in general, the highest rates were in cities having a population of between 10,000 and 25,000. As compared with this, it is peculiar that the group of cities having the lowest consistent death rates comprised those having a population of from 5,000 to 10,000. It appears that these communities are large enough to have good sanitary facilities, and yet are sufficiently small to have the advantages which come with a semi-rural type of living.

From 1926 to 1935 the rate of deaths in the state from the more fatal diseases dropped perceptibly with the exception of nervous disorders and diseases of the heart. Deaths from these two causes have definitely risen, and there are indications of a more rapid rise.

Deaths in West Virginia from typhoid fever, and other diseases affecting the intestinal tract - especially those prevalent among children - declined considerably. This decline has been very noticeable since 1932. Improved



GRAPH 4

sanitation is probably responsible, and, therefore, it is anticipated that deaths from such causes will remain low. These rates are now very close to those for the nation, whereas they have been considerably higher.

Among infants and children under two years of age deaths have fallen very perceptibly in recent years due to better pre-natal and child care. This has resulted from the establishment of health clinics and county public health nursing services in many parts of the state.

Much publicity has been given to the fact that the automobile is the cause of many deaths, and rightly so. In West Virginia deaths from this cause have doubled since 1926. During this period the rate per 100,000 persons has risen from 14.4 in 1926 to 28.5 in 1935. Automobile death rates in this state have been quite a little under those for the nation until 1935, in which year they were almost identical.

Other than to deaths caused from accidents occurring in the mining of coal, or in manufacturing, little attention has been directed to casualties resulting in death which occur from other causes than automobiles. In West Virginia the number of deaths from other accidental causes has been exceedingly high, and from 1931 through 1935 the rate of such deaths was more than double that for the United States as a whole.

Over the ten year period ending in 1935 there were five deaths from other accidents to each one caused directly, or indirectly, by automobiles. Deaths from these accidents were twice the number resulting from tuberculosis. Accidents in coal mining were not the major cause, either for the high rate, or for the rise in the number of deaths. Such accidents as occur in the home, on the farm, or on the street, appear to be the principal contributing factors.

## OCCUPATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

### DISTRIBUTION

Manufacturing, agriculture, and coal mining gave employment to about 350,000 of the 570,459 persons reported in the 1930 census as gainful workers in West Virginia. These are in the order of the number of workers employed, although they were nearly equal, and as follows:

Manufacturing	122,000
Agriculture	118,000
Coal Mining	110,000

Of the remaining gainful workers, trade employed 58,103; transportation 52,540; domestic and personal service 39,240; and professional service 35,643. These figures show that the persons employed in what are termed productive occupations, those in manufacturing and coal mining far outnumber all others.

On account of the rough topography of the state, and the location of our natural resources, the distribution of occupations is very uneven. Map 4 indicates the distribution of workers in each county by occupation. It clearly shows the variations from county to county in the class of work engaged in, and also the existence of rather clearly defined occupational regions. Those regions which are most apparent are as follows:

REGION OF STATEPREDOMINANT OCCUPATION

Southwest and North Central  
Northern Panhandle  
Monongahela Valley  
Kanawha Valley

Coal Mining  
Iron, Steel, and Clay Products  
Glass and Coal  
Coal Mining and Chemicals

At the beginning of this century manufacturing was a factor of minor importance in providing employment to the people living in West Virginia. The only industry of importance at that time was the manufacture of iron and steel, and their products, which was very active then in the Northern Panhandle, and still is the major source of employment in that area. With the general industrial development which has taken place throughout the country since 1900 West Virginia has taken rapid strides in increasing the number and diversity of her industries, until today, manufacturing is of major importance, and furnishes employment to more workers than any other single occupation.

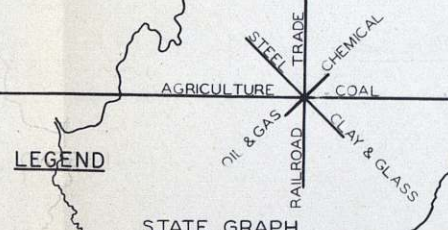
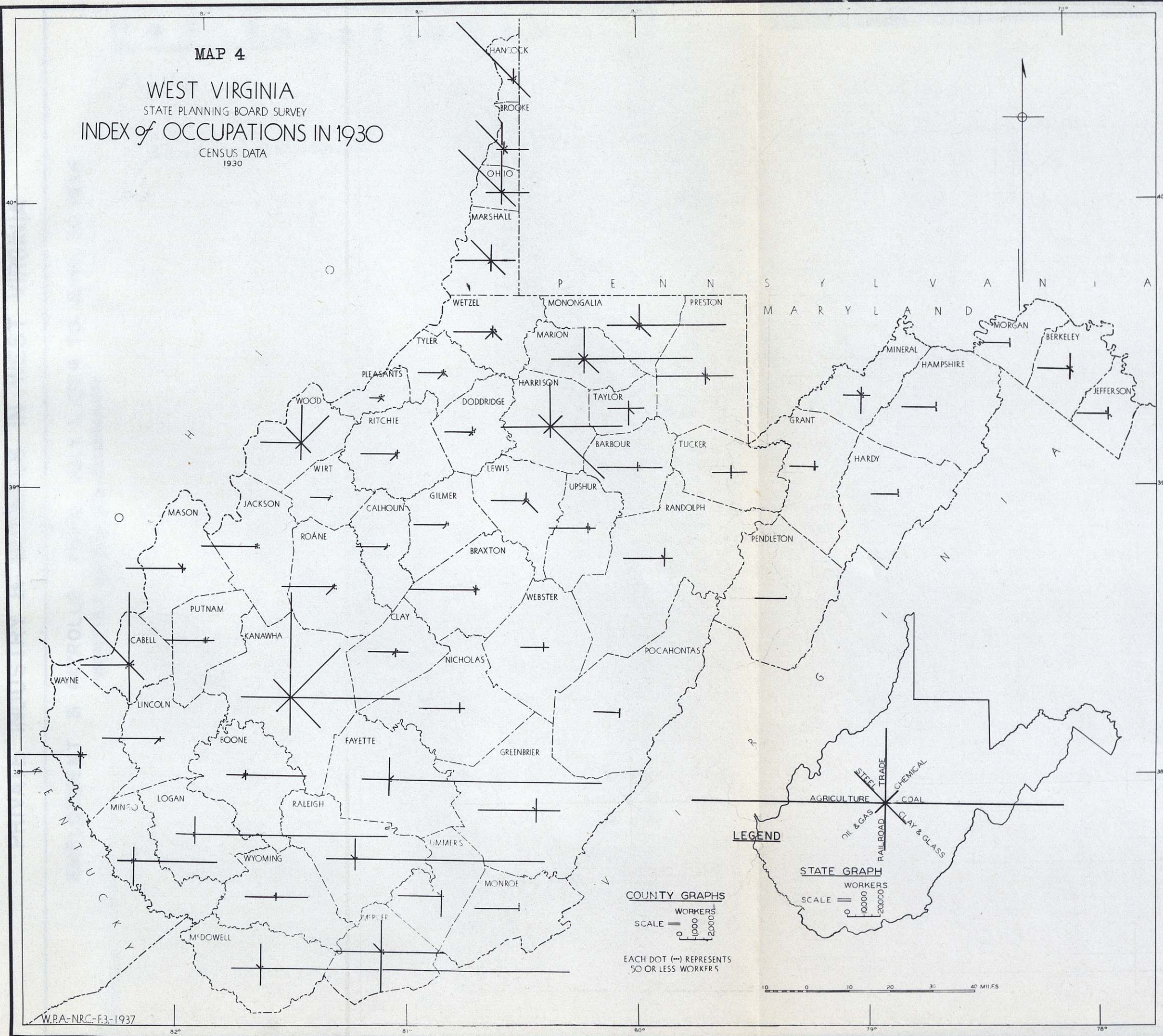
The mining of coal also has grown rapidly since 1900, the number of tons of coal mined during the five year period, 1926 through 1930, having been nearly five times the quantity mined from 1900 through 1905. However, the increase in the number of workers employed in coal mining has not been at the same rate, since improved methods applied to mining, and the mechanization of mines, which has been going forward rapidly in recent years, has materially reduced the amount of labor required to mine and load a ton of coal. A peak was reached in 1927 in the number of men employed in coal mining, in which year nearly 125,000 of our people had employment in this occupation. It is not considered probable that this peak will be equalled soon.

#### A TWELVE YEAR STUDY OF EMPLOYMENT

It was thought advisable to make an original study of occupations and employment in the state over an extended recent period to provide facts which are not available from census data. The information desired was secured from the records of the State Compensation Commission, made from certified and audited payrolls received by them. This study included persons employed in coal mining, all types of manufacturing, and both retail and wholesale businesses. All employers are not subscribers to state compensation, but it is estimated that ninety-five percent of all workers in these occupations are included in the study. Data for a period of twelve years, beginning with July 1, 1924 and ending with June 30, 1936 have been compiled and analyzed.

The summation of these data on the number of persons employed in private industry and business in West Virginia, and the total amount of the wages and salaries paid to them, is shown by Graph 5. It will be seen that both general employment and payrolls reached a "low" in 1933, and since that year have steadily increased, until in 1936 employment had risen to five percent above an average of the five-year period from 1924 to 1929. However, this larger number of persons received in 1936 slightly less than ninety percent in total wages and salaries as compared with the corresponding five-year average. From the line showing population, computed since 1930, it will be seen that the number of people living in the state in 1936 had increased to 114 percent of the number in 1927, and, therefore, more unemployment existed at that time than in the several years prior to the depression.

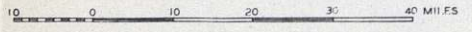
**MAP 4**  
**WEST VIRGINIA**  
 STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY  
**INDEX of OCCUPATIONS IN 1930**  
 CENSUS DATA  
 1930



**COUNTY GRAPHS**

WORKERS  
 SCALE = 0 1000 2000

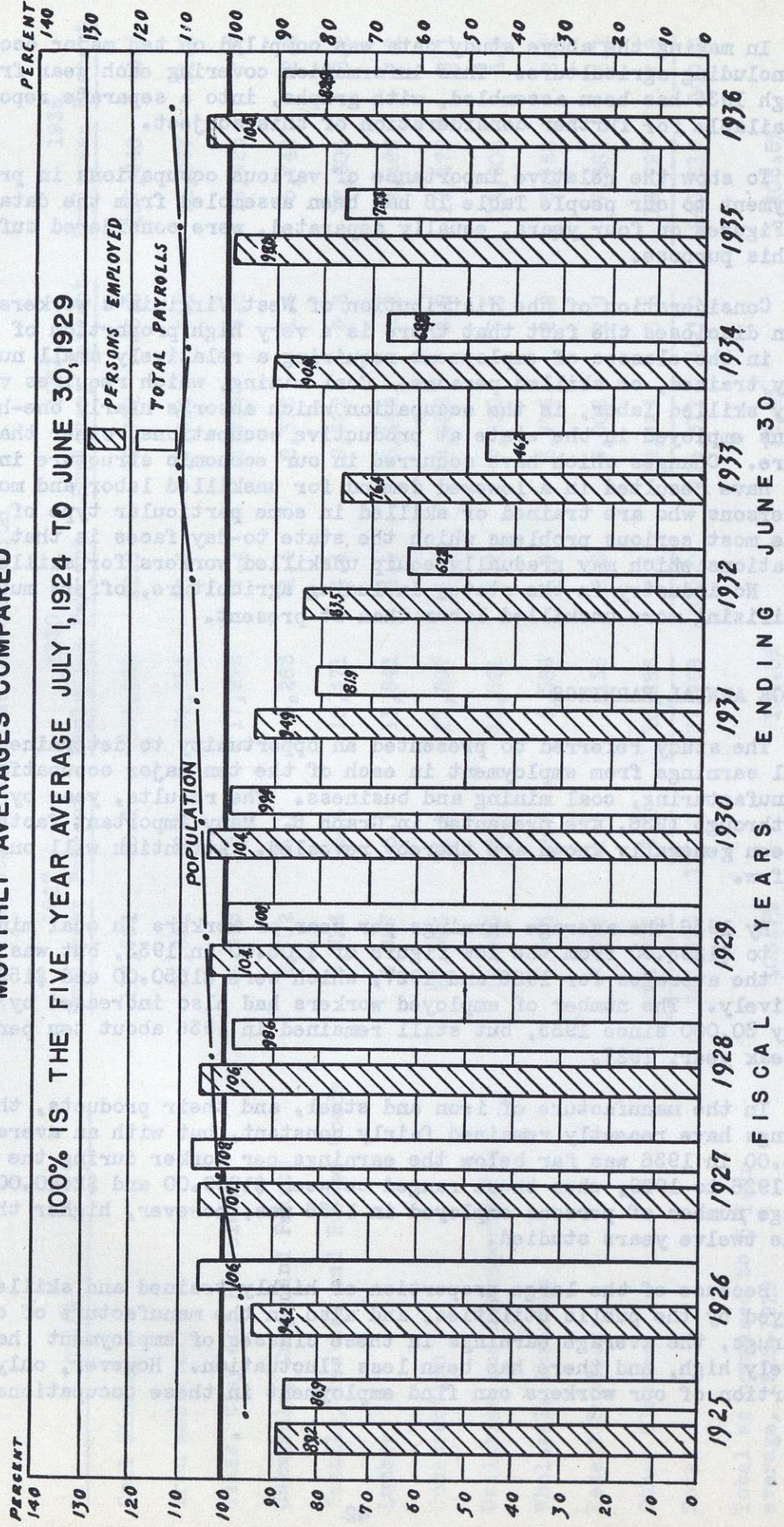
EACH DOT (•) REPRESENTS  
 50 OR LESS WORKERS



# PRIVATE INDUSTRY & BUSINESS IN WEST VIRGINIA

## EMPLOYMENT & PAYROLLS FROM JULY 1, 1924 TO JUNE 30, 1936 MONTHLY AVERAGES COMPARED

100% IS THE FIVE YEAR AVERAGE JULY 1, 1924 TO JUNE 30, 1929



STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY — W.P.A. & N.R.C.  
COMPILED BY

FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30

GRAPH 5

In making the above study data was compiled on ten major occupations, not including agriculture. This information covering each year from 1924 through 1936 has been assembled, with graphs, into a separate report, which is available for further consideration of this subject.

To show the relative importance of various occupations in providing employment to our people Table 18 has been assembled from the data referred to. Figures on four years, equally separated, were considered sufficient for this purpose.

Consideration of the distribution of West Virginia's workers by occupation discloses the fact that there is a very high proportion of them engaged in the classes of employment requiring a relatively small number of highly trained, or skilled persons. Coal mining, which requires very little highly skilled labor, is the occupation which absorbs nearly one-half of all persons employed in the state at productive occupations, other than in agriculture. Changes which have occurred in our economic structure in recent years have resulted in a lowered demand for unskilled labor and more demand for persons who are trained or skilled in some particular type of work. One of the most serious problems which the state to-day faces is that of finding occupations which may gradually equip unskilled workers for skilled types of work. No industry in the state, including agriculture, offers much promise of utilizing more unskilled labor than at present.

#### AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS

The study referred to presented an opportunity to determine the average annual earnings from employment in each of the ten major occupations provided by manufacturing, coal mining and business. The results, year by year, from 1924 through 1936, are presented in Graph 6. Many important facts which have not been generally known are thereby revealed. Attention will only be called to a few.

By 1936 the average earnings per year of workers in coal mining had risen to \$1203.00 from the low figure of \$703.00 in 1933, but was still far below the averages for 1926 and 1927, which were \$1650.00 and \$1596.00 respectively. The number of employed workers had also increased by approximately 30,000 since 1933, but still remained in 1936 about ten percent below the peak year, 1927.

In the manufacture of iron and steel, and their products, the average earnings have recently remained fairly constant, but with an average of \$1365.00 in 1936 was far below the earnings per worker during the peak years from 1926 to 1929, when these ranged between \$1889.00 and \$2440.00. The average number of persons employed in 1936 was, however, higher than in any of the twelve years studied.

Because of the large proportion of highly trained and skilled workers employed by the public utilities, and also in the manufacture of chemicals and drugs, the average earnings in these classes of employment has been relatively high, and there has been less fluctuation. However, only a small proportion of our workers can find employment in these occupations.

OCCUPATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

1927 - 1936

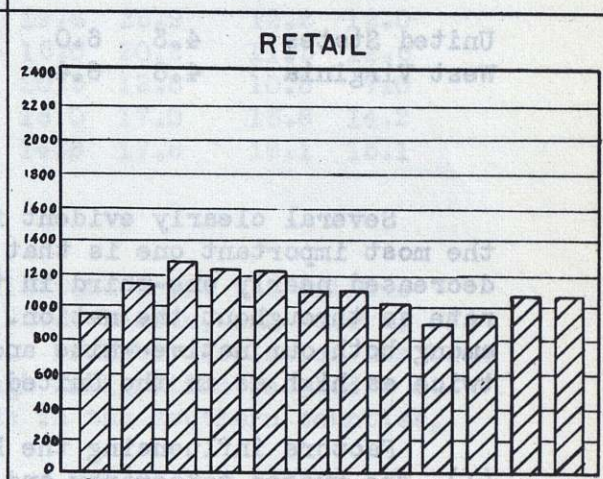
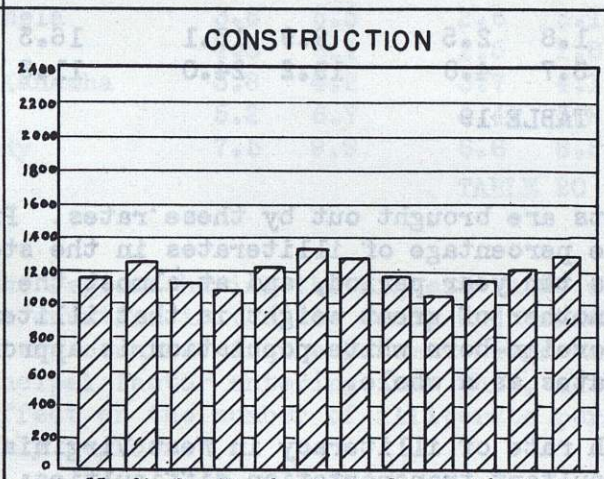
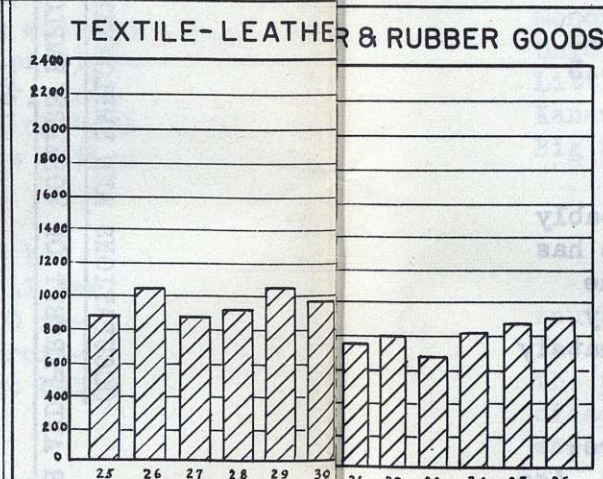
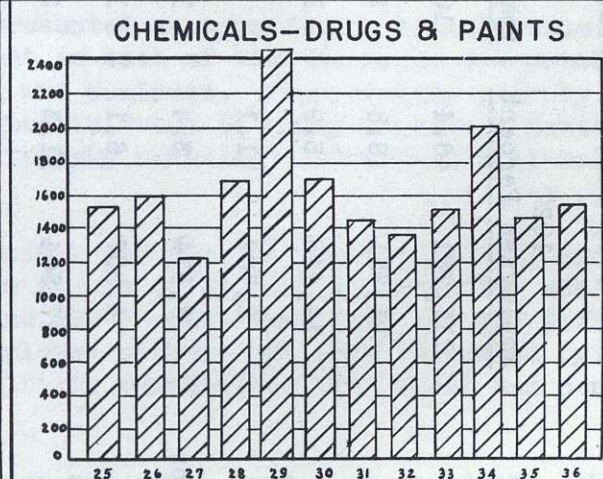
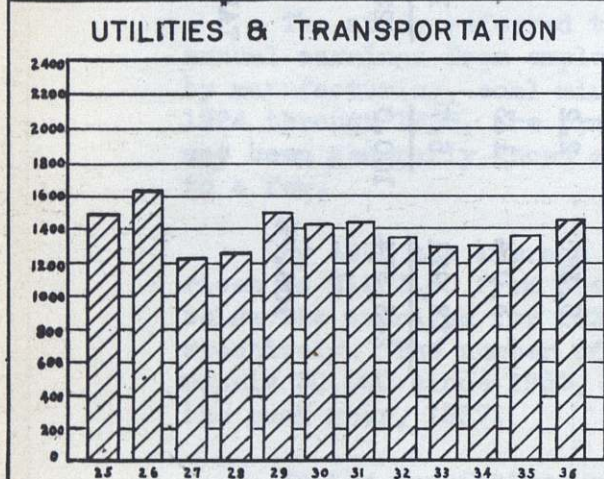
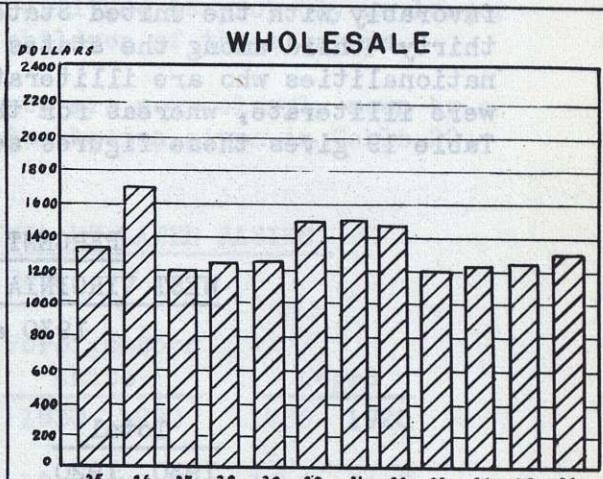
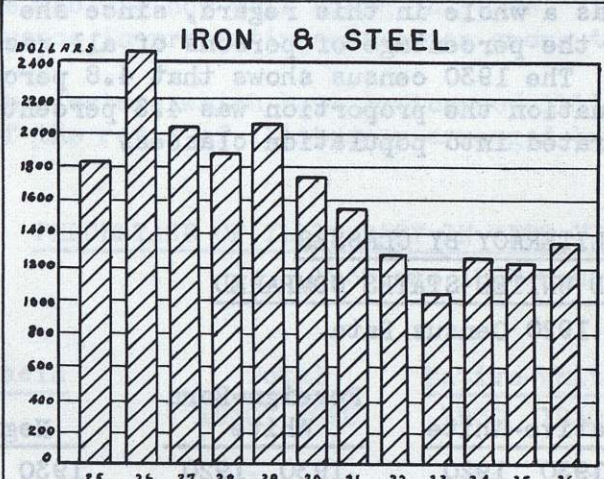
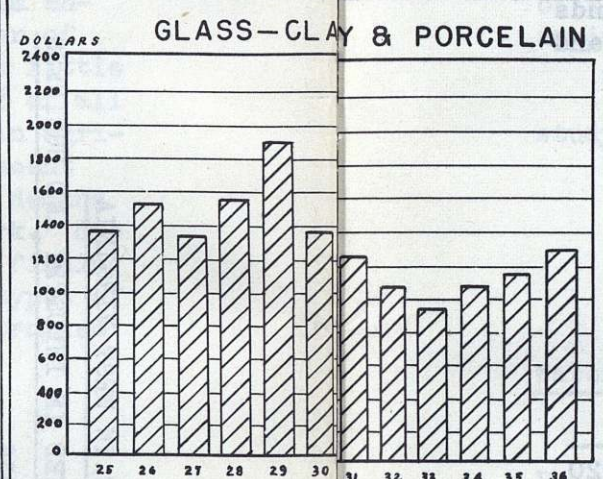
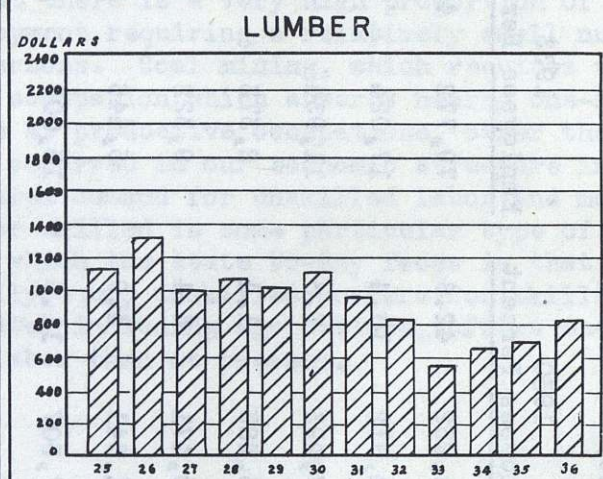
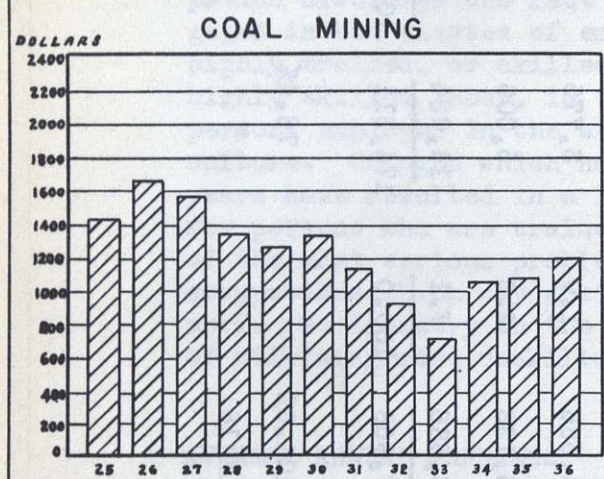
Data from State Compensation Commission

CLASS	1927		1930		1933		1936	
	Employees	Percent	Employees	Percent	Employees	Percent	Employees	Percent
Coal Mining	117,781	48.4	101,932	42.8	79,772	45.8	107,048	44.4
Iron and Steel	21,351	8.8	24,812	10.4	17,024	9.8	26,977	11.2
Glass, Clay and Porcelain	14,445	5.9	17,293	7.3	11,934	6.8	18,425	7.7
Chemicals, Drugs and Paints	2,702	1.1	3,283	1.4	2,373	1.4	5,748	2.4
Textile, Leather and Rubber Goods	8,374	3.4	10,471	4.4	9,322	5.3	12,504	5.2
Lumber	4,957	6.1	11,641	4.9	5,446	3.1	7,466	3.1
Construction	27,504	11.3	27,307	11.5	15,006	8.6	19,479	8.1
Utilities and Transportation	14,030	5.8	13,621	5.7	9,829	5.6	11,606	4.8
Wholesale Business	5,385	2.2	4,586	1.9	3,775	2.2	5,188	2.2
Retail Business	3,074	1.3	6,136	2.6	5,006	2.9	7,381	3.1
Other Classes	13,971	5.7	16,886	7.1	14,824	8.5	18,797	7.8
Total	243,574	100.0	237,968	100.0	174,311	100.0	240,619	100.0
Total as compared to 5-Year average, 1925-1929		106.7%		104.3%		76.4%		105.5%

TABLE 18



## AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS PER EMPLOYEE IN WEST VIRGINIA INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS



COMPILED BY STATE PLANNING BOARD SURVEY — W.R.A. & N.R.C.

GRAPH 6

The low earnings in the lumber industry, and in the production of textiles, leather, and rubber goods is quite apparent. In 1930 the combined number of workers in these industries was about 20,000 persons, of whom about one-third were employed in lumbering.

### ILLITERACY

Illiteracy is defined by the census as the inability to write in any language, regardless of ability to read. West Virginia does not compare favorably with the United States as a whole in this regard, since she stands thirty-third among the states in the percentage of persons of all races and nationalities who are illiterate. The 1930 census shows that 4.8 percent were illiterate, whereas for the nation the proportion was 4.3 percent. Table 19 gives these figures separated into population classes.

PERCENT ILLITERACY BY CLASSES  
WEST VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES COMPARED  
1930 and 1920 Census Data

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Native-White</u>		<u>Foreign-Born White</u>		<u>Negro</u>	
	1930	1920	1930	1920	1930	1920	1930	1920
United States	4.3	6.0	1.8	2.5	9.9	13.1	16.3	22.9
West Virginia	4.8	6.4	3.7	4.8	19.2	24.0	11.3	15.3

TABLE 19

Several clearly evident facts are brought out by these rates. Probably the most important one is that the percentage of illiterates in the state has decreased nearly one-third in this ten year period, and at almost the same rate as throughout the nation. Another of great weight is that illiteracy among both our native-white and foreign-born white population is approximately twice as high as in the United States as a whole.

Factors influencing the high rate of illiteracy in West Virginia are: (1) The rugged topography and resultant transportation difficulties; (2) Age of settlement and development; (3) Foreign and Negro immigration; (4) Local traditions and attitudes. The ill effects of some of these factors have been greatly reduced in recent years, but their influence is apparent among our adult population.

Those areas of the state which are most rugged show a high ratio of illiteracy, thereby indicating the physical difficulties encountered in reaching schools from remote sections, especially during the winter months. Until all-year roads were built into these areas, heavy snows and swollen streams often made regular travel almost impossible. In the more open parts of the state, which were the earliest to be developed, the percentage of illiteracy is more favorable.

The very rapid development of West Virginia's natural resources, especially in the northern and southern areas, led to thousands of illiterate Negroes and foreigners migrating into these parts of the state. A large part of this development took place in remote sections, which for many years had very limited educational opportunities. From the above 1930 census table, it is seen that illiteracy among our foreign-born white population approaches one-fifth of the total in this class, and among Negroes, one in nine are illiterate.

There seems to be justification for the statement that in a few counties on the eastern fringe of the state, old habits and traditions toward the educational needs of the Negroes and poorer whites have left their mark among many of those who are now well along in years. This attitude is probably no longer an influence in preventing education among the children of these groups.

The factors which have influenced illiteracy are very clearly seen by a study of the ratio of illiteracy arranged by water basins given in Table 20.

PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERACY IN WEST VIRGINIA BY WATER BASINS

1930 and 1920 Census Data

<u>Water Basin</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Native-White</u>		<u>Foreign-Born White</u>		<u>Negro</u>	
	1930	1920	1930	1920	1930	1920	1930	1920
Potomac	5.3	6.2	4.8	5.1	12.1	20.5	15.0	24.5
Monongahela	3.8	5.3	2.6	3.1	19.4	25.9	12.2	12.0
Ohio	4.0	6.1	2.5	2.8	15.0	20.2	11.5	12.6
Little Kanawha	3.8	4.2	3.7	4.1	20.5	12.8	10.8	7.0
Kanawha	5.2	6.7	4.4	5.8	18.0	17.0	16.8	14.2
Big Sandy	7.5	9.9	6.6	8.8	14.8	17.8	18.1	15.1

TABLE 20

The regions having the highest ratio of illiteracy are the extreme southern counties in the Big Sandy and Kanawha River basins, and several of the eastern counties in the Potomac River basin. Probably isolation has been the principal factor entering into this, although immigration has had a decided effect on the number of illiterate persons in the southern counties, especially Negroes.

Among our native-white population, those living in the Ohio River basin have the most favorable illiteracy ratio, but this exceeds the ratio of this class for the entire United States. More favorable topography, and earlier development, resulting in a higher proportion of the population having educational advantages, is responsible for less illiteracy in this area. The Monongahela and the Little Kanawha basins show almost as favorable ratios for our native-white population, as the basin of the Ohio River. In general, the causes are the same.

Table 21 is presented to show the distribution of illiteracy among our urban and rural people, and also the distribution by sex and classes.

COMPARISON OF URBAN AND RURAL ILLITERACY IN WEST VIRGINIA  
BY SEX AND CLASS - IN PERCENT

1930 Census. Persons 10 Years Old and Older

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Native-White</u>	<u>Foreign-Born White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
<u>STATE TOTAL</u>				
Male	5.5	4.4	17.5	13.1
Female	4.1	3.3	22.2	9.2
<u>URBAN</u>				
Male	2.6	1.6	12.8	8.0
Female	2.2	1.1	19.2	7.0
<u>RURAL NON-FARM</u>				
Male	7.0	5.1	20.3	14.7
Female	5.2	4.0	24.9	10.0
<u>RURAL FARM</u>				
Male	6.0	5.8	17.8	19.7
Female	4.6	4.5	22.0	15.0

TABLE 21

As would be expected the lowest percentage of illiteracy is among our urban population, which is due to better educational facilities. This condition extends to all population classes, but is particularly evident among native-white persons, with a ratio of 1.6 for males and 1.1 for females.

The highest total ratio is in the rural non-farm group, although the rural farm population shows only a slightly lower proportion of illiteracy.

In each population group, more males than females are illiterate among both our native-whites and Negroes, but the reverse condition exists in our foreign-born white population. This is probably the result of the attitude taken in some foreign countries toward female education.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Census data for 1930, 1920, and 1910 shows that West Virginia ranks very well in school attendance as compared with the United States as a whole. Comparative percentages by age groups are given in Table 22. It is seen that in 1930 the percentage attendance in this state was only slightly under the national figures for each age group, except 16-17 years, where the difference was considerable.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION ATTENDING SCHOOL, BY AGE GROUPS

UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA 1910 - 1930

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>United States</u>			<u>West Virginia</u>		
	1930	1920	1910	1930	1920	1910
7-13	95.3	90.6	86.1	94.1	89.1	87.8
14-15	88.8	79.9	75.0	86.2	82.3	79.7
16-17	57.3	42.9	43.1	49.8	42.3	48.4
18-20	21.4	14.8	15.2	20.3	13.6	18.4

TABLE 22

A larger proportion of our population, in each age group, attended school in 1930 than in 1910. However, it should be noted that these increases have been less than those for the United States, and for the ages 16-20 years have been very slight. Between 1910 and 1920 there was a drop in the proportion attending school at these older ages, but this decrease was more than recovered by 1930. This drop was probably due to many older students leaving school from 1917 to 1919 to enter war service.

In 1910 the percentage of school attendance in each age group was higher in West Virginia than in the nation. The fact that by 1930 the state had fallen behind in each group, indicates that in a number of states there has been an improvement in attendance during this twenty-year period greater than that in West Virginia.

Although ninety percent of the people of our state are native-born white persons, it is considered advisable to present figures on school attendance distribution by nativity and race. The attendance percentages of these elements for ages 7-20 years, and 7-13 years are given in Table 23.

PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION, 7-20 AND 7-13 YEARS OF AGE

ATTENDING SCHOOL, BY NATIVITY AND RACE. 1910-1930

<u>Nativity and Race</u>	<u>7-20 Years</u>			<u>7-13 Years</u>		
	1930	1920	1910	1930	1920	1910
All Classes	73.0	67.9	67.0	94.1	89.1	87.8
Native-White of Native Parents	72.8	68.2	68.9	93.8	89.1	88.2
Native-White of Foreign or Mixed Parents	77.1	73.8	64.6	97.3	90.2	89.4
Foreign-Born	51.1	45.4	24.8	95.9	83.2	72.5
Negro	72.0	61.4	53.5	93.5	88.6	81.2

TABLE 23

All nativity and racial classes showed a higher percentage attending school in 1920 than in 1910, with the single exception of the native-white of native parents. Again in the decade from 1920 to 1930 there was an increase in the percentage of attendance in each class. However, these increases were more evident in the 7-13 years age group.

It is seen that in both 1930 and 1920 a larger proportion of our native-white population of foreign or mixed parentage, in both age groups, attended school than those in any other nativity or racial class. School attendance among native-white children of native parents has fallen behind this class since 1910, and most noticeably between 1920 and 1930.

Since 1910 there has been a decided improvement in school attendance among both our foreign-born white and Negro population. In the group 7-13 years of age the proportion attending school in 1930 was very favorable. The percentage of our foreign-born, in the age group 7-13, who attended school in 1930 was higher than for our native-white population having native parents, being 95.9 percent for the former as compared to 93.8 percent for the native-white. The same year the percentage of Negro attendance in this group was only slightly less, namely, 93.5 percent.

Among the foreign-born the proportion who attended school is not so favorable when those of older years are included, as evidenced by the fact that in the wider age group, 7-20 years, only 51.1 percent of this class attended school in 1930. This, however, is more than double the proportion attending in 1910.

Consideration should be given to the distribution of school attendance between our urban and rural population. It is to be expected that attendance is higher in urban communities because of the ready accessibility of schools, and this is the case. In 1930 there were 96.4 percent of our urban population between ages seven and thirteen years who were in school, as compared with 94.1 percent for all groups. This was a considerable improvement in urban attendance, as the proportion in 1920 was 93.6 percent, and only 91.0 percent in 1910.

Any study of school attendance should give consideration to the number of pupils enrolled at the various levels of education. The data compiled in Table 24 showing the aggregate school enrollment in the state, by grades, in the school year 1934-1935, has been secured from the State Department of Education. This table also shows enrollment in institutions of higher learning in the same year.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA, BY GRADES, AND

ENROLLMENT IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

1934 - 1935

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Pupils</u>	<u>Percentage of First Grade</u>
First	77,177	100.0
Second	50,000	64.8
Third	50,460	65.4
Fourth	50,976	66.0
Fifth	46,775	60.6
Sixth	41,951	54.3
Seventh	36,042	46.7
Eighth	33,449	43.3
Nineth	23,934	31.0
Tenth	18,547	24.0
Eleventh	15,557	20.1
Twelfth	12,678	16.4

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Freshman	3,764	4.9
Sophomore	2,789	3.6
Junior	1,935	2.5
Senior	1,416	1.8

TABLE 24

It is seen that there is a very marked reduction in the second grade enrollment. This is due to a low percentage of promotions from the first grade, which we should normally expect to be at least ninety percent. The number of registered births seven years previous to the school year studied, or in 1927, was 44,857 for the state. Allowing for an increase in our school enrollment due to migration into the state, the actual number of pupils entering the first grade in the fall of 1934 was, therefore, probably around 50,000. This retardation due to failure in promotion is less evident in the grades above the first.

From the second to the sixth grade there is very little change in enrollment, but above the sixth the number enrolled drops decidedly in each grade. The greater part of this is doubtless due to pupils leaving school. Of each 100 enrolled in the second grade only 67 enter the eighth grade; 30 of these do not continue to the tenth grade, and only 25 enter the last year of high school. In other words, only one pupil in four secures a complete high school education.

The proportion of West Virginia high school graduates who secure a higher education is low and not favorable when compared with most of our neighboring states. In both Ohio and Maryland, the percentage is double that of West Virginia. The above data show that less than thirty percent of our students enrolled in the last grade of high school enter any university or college, either in West Virginia, or elsewhere. Further, of those who enter these institutions as freshmen, less than forty percent continue to the senior year. The total of these college seniors is, therefore, less than three percent of the number of pupils who enter the first grade of school.

## TENURE OF HOMES

There is probably no more dependable measure of the stability and general well-being of the people living in any governmental unit than a knowledge of the facts regarding home ownership among the families of which it is composed. A study of census data pertaining to tenure of homes in West Virginia is, therefore, presented here.

Since 1890 there has been a gradual, but steady, decrease in the proportion of our families who own their homes. This has not occurred among families living on farms, where the percent change has been negligible, and home ownership remains high. The decrease has been due to the rapid growth of population in our urban and rural non-farm areas, where the proportion of families living in their own homes is very much lower than is the case with farm families.

Of 76,167 families living on farms in 1890, 56,035 or 73.6 percent owned their homes. This number had only increased to 88,400 by 1930, of which 73.2 percent were home owners. As compared with this, the number of our urban and non-farm families had risen from 64,192 in 1890, or slightly more than the farm families, to 285,437 in 1930, an increase of nearly 450 percent. Only 36.4 out of each one hundred of these owned their homes, both in 1890 and in 1930, the proportion remaining constant. The result was that, whereas, 56.5 percent of all homes in the state were occupied by the owner in 1890, the ratio had dropped to 45.0 percent in 1930. Complete census data by groups and classes is given in Table 25.

It is seen that the proportion of our native-white population in urban and non-farm areas who own their homes has improved slightly during this forty year period, having risen from 36.5 percent in 1890 to 38.1 percent by 1930. However, among this large group consisting of 238,407 families, or approximately sixty-five percent of the state total in 1930, nearly two out of three families occupied rented property. Although the number of both foreign-born and Negro non-farm families owning their homes had decreased during this period, the proportion was lower in 1930 than in 1890 for both classes. In 1930 only 17.6 percent of urban and non-farm Negro group, comprising ninety percent of all Negro families, owned their homes.

Changes in tenure of homes have been very slight among our rural families during the past four decades, either as to the number owned, or their ratio to the rural total. In the native-white class there was an increase from 1890 to 1930 of only 9,666 families who lived in their own homes, which was a rise of less than twenty percent. Since there had not been much increase in the number of rented homes, the ratio remained very nearly constant at about three owned homes to each one rented. The number of both rural foreign-born white and rural Negro families dropped during this period, the foreign-born white group in 1930 being less than one-half that in 1890. Since a larger decrease occurred among those owning homes, the proportion of these families also dropped.



HOME OWNERSHIP AND RENTALS IN WEST VIRGINIA

BY NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND PERCENT

1890 and 1930 Census Data Compared

	All Families (Including a few with Tenure Unknown)		Families in Owned Homes		Families in Rented Homes	
	1890	1930	1890	1930	1890	1930
<u>All Families</u>	140,359	373,941	79,369 56.5%	163,543 45.0%	60,990 43.5%	198,736 55.0%
Native-White	126,583	325,305	73,422 58.0	154,608 47.5	53,161 42.0	165,050 52.5
Foreign-Born White	8,111	22,258	4,476 55.1	9,025 40.5	3,635 44.9	12,911 59.5
Negro	5,655	26,274	1,471 26.0	4,900 18.6	4,184 74.0	20,681 81.4
Other Races	10	104		10 9.6	10 100.0	94 90.4
<u>Urban and Non-Farm Families</u>	64,192	285,437	23,334 36.4	103,793 36.4	40,858 63.6	176,654 63.6
Native-White	53,005	238,407	19,395 36.5	90,915 38.1	33,610 63.5	143,479 61.9
Foreign-Born White	6,378	21,448	2,957 46.4	8,382 39.1	3,421 53.6	12,759 60.9
Negro	4,809	25,582	982 20.5	4,496 17.6	3,827 79.5	20,416 82.4
<u>Farm Families</u>	76,167	88,400	56,035 73.6	64,750 73.2	20,132 26.4	21,988 26.8
Native-White	73,588	86,898	54,027 73.5	62,693 73.3	19,561 26.5	21,571 26.7
Foreign-Born White	1,733	810	1,519 87.6	653 79.4	214 12.4	152 20.6
Negro	846	692	489 87.8	404 58.4	357 12.2	265 41.6

TABLE 25

As the major effects of the recent depression were not felt until after 1930, it is to be expected that many changes in the tenure of homes have occurred since the census of that year was made. There is ample evidence that home-ownership, especially in the urban and non-farm areas, has decreased to a considerable extent, and also that rental tenancy has increased in the rural farm areas.

The 1935 Agricultural Census shows 27,021 farm tenants, - those operating hired or rented land, - as compared with 15,347 in 1930. This is an increase to 25.8 percent of the total number of farms, from 18.6 percent. Temporary movement from urban and mining centers to rural areas is the probable cause for this increase in farm tenancy.

All Families

	1935	1930	%
<u>Farm Families</u>	27,021	15,347	177.3
Urban and Non-	10,192	8,437	120.8
Rural	16,829	6,910	243.5
Native-White	12,583	7,343	171.4
Foreign-born White	8,111	4,476	181.2
Negro	5,883	2,274	258.7
Other Races	1,044	104	1004.8
<u>Farm Families</u>	27,021	15,347	177.3
Urban and Non-	10,192	8,437	120.8
Rural	16,829	6,910	243.5
Native-White	12,583	7,343	171.4
Foreign-born White	8,111	4,476	181.2
Negro	5,883	2,274	258.7
Other Races	1,044	104	1004.8



