

West Virginia Facts



PROXIMITY TO CUSTOMER: Centrally located, West Virginia is within overnight trucking distance of more than 60 percent of the U.S. population and more than a third of the Canadian population.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS: An affordable cost of living, low cost electricity and a competitive tax structure translate into an overall low cost of doing business.

WORK FORCE: West Virginia's work force has earned a reputation for dedication and loyalty as well as for low absenteeism.

ECONOMIC CLUSTERS: West Virginia's economy includes traditional and emerging sectors such as chemicals, plastics, automotive, biometrics, cancer and Alzheimer's research, aerospace, printing, conventional and alternative energy production, food processing and wood products.

PERSONAL SERVICE: West Virginia is big enough to offer every business advantage but small enough to provide personal attention.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING SUPPORT: The state's training programs offer competitive and customized job training and educational funding to accommodate companies' needs.

QUALITY OF LIFE: The beauty and diversity of its landscapes, rich history and classic charm make the state a comfortable home. Residents benefit from an affordable cost of living, low property taxes, a high rate of home ownership and a crime rate among the lowest in the nation.

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West Virginia - *Open for Business*

SERVICES

- One team of investment professionals provides project support from start to finish with multilingual capabilities and experience in finance, law and business.
- Market research and partnership matching.
- Location/site selection assistance.
- Assistance throughout the environmental permitting process and other regulatory permitting.
- Coordination of federal, state and local incentives to maximize available resources.
- Referral and coordination with local governments, utilities and business partners in tax, audit, accounting, law, technology, construction, engineering or other professions as required.
- Direct access to West Virginia's leadership, including Governor Joe Manchin.

RESOURCES

TAX CREDITS: West Virginia offers competitive tax credits to reduce business taxes.

PROPERTY TAXES: Property taxes are remarkably below the U.S. average.

FINANCING: West Virginia Economic Development Authority offers flexible financing at low-interest rates. In addition, federal tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds could be arranged.

TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT: The Governor's Guaranteed Workforce Program provides training funds for every job created. This funding can be used for training costs in the state or associated with sending West Virginia-based employees to other locations for training. The state job service offers free recruitment and screening to all employers.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Additional funding options are available to address specific company needs.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONES: West Virginia has six general purpose foreign trade zones and one sub zone that may offer cost savings on the import of components and raw materials.

A STATE IS JUDGED BY THE COMPANIES THAT IT KEEPS:

Toyota, Bayer, Sogefi, DuPont, NGK Spark Plug, Dow Chemical and many others, chose West Virginia because of its location, resources, work force and outstanding services.

