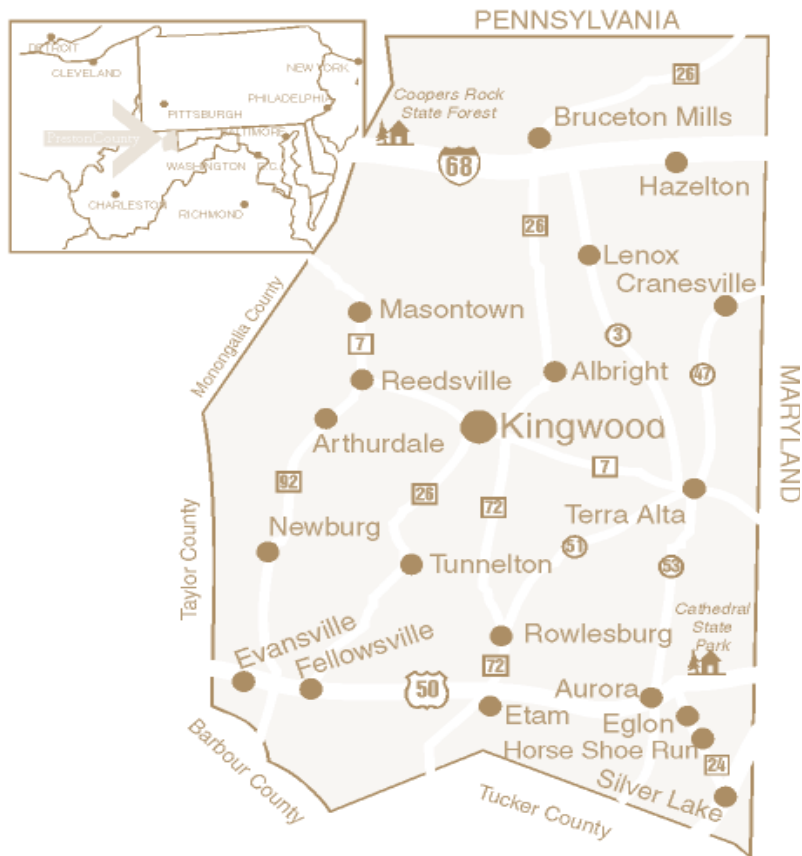


# PRESTON COUNTY

## 2009

# COMMUNITY

# PROFILE



*Prepared by the Preston County Economic Development Authority*

[www.prestonwv.com](http://www.prestonwv.com)

*February 2009*

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# PRESTON COUNTY

## OVERVIEW

Preston County is a great place to call home. We have the advantages of being near a major research university, including quality health care at rates 20% below the national average, and access to cutting-edge technology for keeping our businesses and our children competitive. We also have only a short drive to the cultural opportunities found in larger metropolitan areas such as Morgantown, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Washington, DC.

Preston County has all the benefits that living in a rural county affords, including reasonably priced homes and land, friendly people, beautiful scenery, and a wealth of recreational opportunities. For 30 years, West Virginia has claimed one of the lowest crime rate in the nation, and Preston County proudly maintains one of the lowest crime rates in West Virginia. People here are honest and hard working.

We are ready to provide you with a welcome home here in Preston County, and we would be happy to host you for a visit. Come and see for yourself why you should locate in Preston County.

## LOCATION

<u>Nearby Metropolitan Areas</u>	<u>Distance in Miles</u>
Pittsburgh, PA	98
Charleston, WV	181
Baltimore, MD	224
Washington, DC	226
Cleveland, OH	227
Columbus, OH	230
New York, NY	384
Charlotte, NC	398
Chicago, IL	539
Toronto, Canada	412

## POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	ACTUAL INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
1970	25,511	-	-
1980	30,503	4,992	19.6
1990	29,037	(1,466)	(4.8)
1995*	29,897	860	2.9
2000	29,334	(563)	(1.9)
2001*	29,443	109	0.4
2002*	29,273	(170)	(0.6)
2003*	29,768	495	1.69
2004*	29,856	88	0.29
2005*	30,115	259	0.88
2006*	30,131	16	0.05
2007*	30,254	123	0.41

\* Estimated

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

### Population by Age Group – 2000

	ACTUAL POPULATION	% OF TOTAL POPULATION
Under 5 years	1,634	5.6
5 to 19 years	6,063	20.7
20 to 24 years	1,519	5.4
25 to 34 years	3,622	12.3
35 to 44 years	4,529	15.4
45 to 54 years	4,431	15.1
55 to 59 years	1,657	5.6
60 to 64 years	1,421	4.8
65 years and over	4,386	14.9

**CLIMATE**

**Monthly Average Temperatures**

January	High 35	Low 16
July	High 80	Low 57

**Average Annual Precipitation**

46.6 inches

**Average Annual Snowfall**

50-130 inches (depending on elevation)

**Prevailing Winds**

Westerly

**GOVERNMENT**

<b>Type of Government:</b>	City:	Mayor and 5 Council Members
	County:	3 Commissioners
<b>Law Enforcement:</b>	City:	13 officers
	County Sheriff:	13 officers
	State Police:	5 officers

**LODGING & RETAIL OUTLETS**

<b>Number of hotels/motels:</b>	4
Total rooms:	135
<b>Number of Shopping Centers:</b>	1
<b>Number of Department Stores:</b>	4

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

<b>Banks:</b>	3 –Clear Mountain Bank, BB&T, WesBanco
<b>Savings &amp; Loan:</b>	no
<b>Credit Unions:</b>	2—Preston Federal Credit Union, United Federal Credit Union
<b>Industrial Plant Financing Available:</b>	yes

## CHURCHES

<b>Protestant:</b>	67
<b>Catholic:</b>	6
<b>Jewish:</b>	0
<b>Other:</b>	2

## CIVIC CLUBS

There are over 15 civic clubs in Preston County.

## EDUCATION

### Public School Capacity and Enrollment

School	Grades	Location	Capacity	2008-2009 Enrollment	Change from prev. year
Aurora Elementary	K-6	Aurora	500	109	-23
Bruceton School	K-8	Bruceton Mills	650	511	+22
Fellowsville Elementary	K-5	Fellowsville	175	112	+6
Kingwood Elementary	K-5	Kingwood	1090	580	-25
Rowlesburg School	K-8	Rowlesburg	415	160	+13
Tunnelton/ Denver	K-5	Tunnelton	265	198	-7
Terra Alta/ East Preston	K-8	Terra Alta	693	430	-19
Valley Elementary	K-5	Arthurdale	700	480	+28
Central Preston Middle	6-8	Kingwood	820	288	+2
South Preston Middle	6-8	Tunnelton	400	162	-15
West Preston Middle	6-8	Masontown	611	230	-
Preston High School	9-12	Kingwood	1958	1319	-9
<b>Total</b>			<b>8277</b>	<b>4579</b>	<b>-26</b>

## EDUCATION Cont'd

Note: Capacity Figures do not include the new addition at Preston High School or the new addition at Valley Elementary School.

Source: Preston County Board of Education, May 2005

### **Nearby Colleges and Universities**

West Virginia University	Morgantown, WV
Fairmont State University	Fairmont, WV
Potomac State College of WVU	Keyser, WV
Alderson-Broaddus College	Philippi, WV
West Virginia Wesleyan College	Buckhannon, WV
Salem International University	Salem, WV
Frostburg State College	Frostburg, MD
Garrett Community College	Oakland, MD

Note: Fairmont State University also offers some evening classes at Preston High School.

## LIBRARIES

<b>Libraries:</b>	2
<b>Total Number of Volumes:</b>	88,452

## HEALTH CARE

<b>Hospitals:</b>	1
Beds:	25
<b>Clinics:</b>	5
<b>Dentists:</b>	6
<b>Doctors:</b>	20

Preston Memorial Hospital, located in Kingwood, is a critical care Hospital licensed for 25 beds (11 acute care, 4 obstetric, and 10 skilled nursing beds) and provides 24-hour emergency care. Additional areas of specialization include cardiac monitoring, nuclear medicine and mammography. Several specialists come to Preston Memorial to see patients during the week. Additional medical facilities are available in Morgantown. Monongalia General Hospital maintains 214 beds and Ruby Memorial Hospital maintains 376 beds. Ruby Memorial has the only Level 1 trauma center in the state.

## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

### Housing Characteristics – 2000

Total Housing Units	13,444
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	9,585
Percent Owner-Occupied	83.0
Median Value	\$44,000
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	1,959
Percent Renter-Occupied	17.0
Median Monthly Rent	\$250
Vacant Housing Units	1,900
Percent Vacant	14.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census

## RECREATIONAL & CULTURAL FACILITIES

### Recreational Facilities

<b>Bowling:</b>	1
<b>Public Pools:</b>	2
<b>Tennis Courts:</b>	10
<b>Basketball Courts:</b>	21
<b>Playgrounds:</b>	22
<b>Country Clubs:</b>	1
<b>Golf Courses:</b>	2
<b>Fitness Centers:</b>	2
<b>Parks:</b>	
State:	2
Local:	6

**Other Recreational & Cultural Facilities**

- Alpine Lake Resort & Conference Center
- Preston Country Club
- Community Parks and Recreation
- Preston County Historical Society Museum
- Arthurdale Heritage
- Whitewater on the Cheat

**UTILITIES & SERVICES**

**Electricity:** Allegheny Energy

**Water:** City of Kingwood

Source: Cheat River

Maximum Load Capacity: 1,296,000 GPD

Peak Load: 500,000

Present Load: 450,000 gal.

**Sewers:** City of Kingwood

Storm Sewer: yes – coverage 40%

Sanitary Sewer: yes– coverage 100%

Treatment Plant Type: Rotating Biological

Contractor Capacity: 660,000 GPD

Present Load: 60%

**Solid Waste Disposal:** City of Kingwood & 2 private companies

**Natural Gas:**

Gas Supplier: Columbia Gas

Gas Distributor: Mountaineer Gas

**Other Fuels:**

Coal Source(s): 5 local wholesalers

Fuel Oil Distributor(s): 5 local vendor

LP Gas Distributor(s): 3 local vendors

## COMMUNICATIONS

<b>Newspapers:</b>	Preston County Journal (weekly) Preston County News (weekly) The Dominion Post (daily)
<b>Radio Stations:</b>	WFSP am/fm WKMM am/fm
<b>Television Stations:</b>	WBOY & WDTV – Clarksburg (50 miles) WNPB – Morgantown (25 miles) KDKA, WPGH, WPXI, WQED & WTAE – Pittsburgh (90 miles)
<b>Cable Television:</b>	Atlantic Broadband – 40+ channels digital cable and internet available
<b>Telephone Service:</b>	Verizon, Frontier
<b>Telegraph Service:</b>	Western Union
<b>Post Offices:</b>	13
<b>Internet Providers</b>	

## ECONOMIC INDICATOR

### Per Capita Income

Year	Preston County	% Change	West Virginia	% Change	United States	% Change
1996	\$14,142	1.98	\$18,566	3.65	\$24,651	4.62
1997	\$14,334	1.36	\$19,406	4.52	\$25,924	5.16
1998	\$15,183	5.92	\$20,185	4.01	\$27,203	4.93
1999	\$15,855	4.43	\$20,888	3.48	\$28,518	4.83
2000	\$17,085	7.76	\$21,738	4.07	\$29,469	3.33
2001	\$17,898	4.76	\$22,862	5.17	\$30,413	3.20
2002	\$20,315	13.50	\$23,841	4.29	\$30,804	1.29
2003	\$20,984	3.29	\$24,542	4	\$31,472	2.17
2004	\$22,041	5.04	\$25,792	5.09	\$33,050	5.01
2005	\$23,313	5.6	\$28,206	6.3	\$34,471	4.12
2006	\$25,020	6.82	\$28,206	-	\$36,714	6.11

## LABOR ANALYSIS

### Labor Force Trends

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Actual Increase	Percent Increase
1980	12,424	-	-
1985	12,352	(72)	(0.6)
1990	12,132	(220)	(1.8)
2000	13,410	900	7.2
2001	13,390	(20)	(.15)
2002	13,590	200	1.5
2003	13,900	310	2.28
2004	14,060	160	1.15
2005	14,390	330	2.34
2006	15,260	870	6.05
2007	15,250	(10)	(0.07)

### Unemployment Trends

Year	Actual Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1985	1,820	14.7%
1990	1,210	10.0%
1995	1,060	8.4%
2000	750	5.6%
2001	690	5.1%
2002	810	6.0%
2003	840	6.0%
2004	720	5.1%
2005	650	4.5%
2006	630	4.1%
2007	640	4.2%
2008	640	4.1%

Source: West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, Office of Labor and Economic Research.

## TRANSPORTATION

<b>Highways serving area:</b>	I68, US 50, US 219, WV 7, WV 26 WV 72, WV 92
<b>Distance to nearest interchange:</b>	I-68 interchanges at Bruceton Mills and Hazelton
<b>Railroads:</b>	CSX
<b>Motor Freight Carriers:</b>	(Miles distance)
ABF Freight System, Inc.	40 miles
CCX	60
Consolidated Freightways	40
Kingwood Trucking	Kingwood
Overnight	40
Roadway Express	40
Pitt-Ohio	90
PJAX	20
Tri-State Express	40
Yellow Freight	40
<b>Air Service:</b>	Morgantown Municipal Airport – 25 miles
Runway Length:	Primary: 5,199 ft. Secondary: 2,997 ft.
Surface:	Asphalt
Commercial Service:	US Air Express
Alternate:	Pittsburgh International Airport – 98 miles
<b>Public Intercity Transit Service:</b>	yes
<b>Parcel Service:</b>	Federal Express, Fed EX Ground, DHL, UPS, US Postal Service
<b>Waterways:</b>	The Monongahela River is the nearest navigable river with a 9 foot channel depth.
<b>Port Facilities:</b>	None

## TAXES

### Owner-occupied Houses (Class II)

	Total Rate/\$100	Asses. Ratio**	Effective Rate/\$100
Kingwood	\$1.06*	.60	\$0.64*
Tunnelton, Masontown, Reedsville, Newburg, Rowlesburg, Terra Alta, Albright, Bruceton	\$0.99*	.60	\$0.60*
Brandonville	\$0.91*	.60	\$0.55*
County (unincorporated)	\$0.75*	.60	\$0.45*

### Commercial Real Property (Class III & IV)

	Total Rate/\$100	Asses. Ratio**	Effective Rate/\$100
Kingwood	\$2.24*	.60	\$1.35*
Tunnelton, Masontown, Reedsville, Newburg, Rowlesburg, Terra Alta, Albright, Bruceton	\$1.99*	.60	\$1.20*
Brandonville	\$1.83*	.60	\$1.10*
County (unincorporated)	\$1.50*	.60	\$0.90*

\*- rounded off to the nearest cent

\*\* - Assessed value is 60% of market value

### State Taxes

Type	Rate
Corporate Net Income	8.5%
Consumer Sales/Use	6%
Food	4%
Intangibles	\$0.81/\$100
Individual Income	3%-6.5%
Gasoline	20.50 cents/gallon

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

### 2008

Preston County Board of Education  
Department of Justice  
Kingwood Mining Company, LLC  
Preston Memorial Hospital  
WalMart Associates, Inc.  
Matthews International (WV) Corporation  
Hopemont State Hospital  
CW Wright Construction Company, Inc.  
Allegheny Wood Products, Inc.  
Heartland Employment Services, Inc.

## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The Economic Opportunity Tax Credit is one of West Virginia's best bonuses, and one of the most liberal tax credits available nationally. Through the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit, qualified businesses that create 20 new jobs or more can offset up to 80 percent of its corporate net income, B & O tax, business franchise taxes, and personal income tax (on flow-through business profits only) over a ten year period. This tax credit also contains provisions for corporate headquarters relocation credit and small business credit entitlements. Fewer jobs are required for these credits. Each program's value to a prospective business is calculated as a function of the number of jobs created and the magnitude of the proposed capital investment.

The Manufacturing Investment Credit is made available to manufacturers making qualified capital investments in a West Virginia Industrial facility. The credit is up to 5% of qualified investment over 10 years to offset up to 50% of business franchise tax, severance tax and corporation net income tax. Job creation is not required for this tax credit.

Other tax credits and exemptions include the Strategic Research and Development Tax Credit, the Warehouse "Freeport" Tax Exemption, and Special Property Valuation Statutes.

If you have questions concerning West Virginia State taxes, please contact the WV Department of Tax & Revenue ([www.state.wv.us/taxdiv](http://www.state.wv.us/taxdiv)) at (304) 558-3333 or toll-free in WV at 1-800-982-8297.

## AVAILABLE SITES

### Available Industrial Sites

Site	Size (acres)
Borgman Coal—Borgman	375
Preston County Farm—Kingwood	246
Marrara Brothers Irona Industrial Site	125
Valley Industrial Park—Reedsville	120
Pres-Mon Holding Site—Hazelton	79
Wilhelm Farm – Bruceton Mills	72
Taz Hardwoods Industrial Site—Hazelton	33
Pres-Mon Land Site—Hazelton	21
Northpointe Business & Industry Park – Hazelton	28
Grape Thicket Site—Kingwood	18

### Available Buildings

Buildings	Size (Sq. Ft.)
Coastal Lumber Dimension Mill	63,550
Penmarva Building	32,800
Albright School	15,487
Volk Building	6,000
Howesville Building	4,000
Mountain Top Health Building	1,000

### Available Commercial Property

Site	Size (Acres)
Pointe Plaza	7.5

## MORE INFORMATION

**For Additional Information Contact:**

Roberta Baylor, PCED, Executive Director  
Preston County Economic Development Authority  
330 East Main Street, Suite 100  
Kingwood, WV 26537  
(304) 329-2299 – phone  
(304) 329-6215 – fax  
[robertabaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:robertabaylor@hotmail.com) or [pceda@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:pceda@atlanticbbn.net)

**For further information on Morgantown contact:**

Don Reinke, CEcD  
Morgantown Area Economic Partnership  
Morgantown Enterprise Center  
955 Hartman Run Rd., Suite 200  
P.O. Box 188  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0188  
(304) 296-6684 – phone  
(304) 296-6689 – fax  
[info@morgantown.org](mailto:info@morgantown.org)

**For Specific Market &/or Economic Information Contact:**

The Bureau for Business & Economic Research of WVU at (304) 293-5837

**For Specific City Information Contact:**

Albright	(304) 329-1895
Bruceton Mills	(304) 379-3171
Kingwood	(304) 329-1225
Masontown	(304) 864-5555
Newburg	(304) 892-3341
Reedsville	(304) 864-3437
Rowlesburg	(304) 454-2441
Terra Alta	(304) 789-6664
Tunnelton	(304) 568-2992