Putnam County, West Virginia

Community Profile—2010

PCDA

PUTNAM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, INC.

PUTNAM COUNTY...THE HEART OF ADVANTAGE VALLEY

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Location

Putnam County, West Virginia offers a strategic location midway between West Virginia's two largest metropolitan area. This location has contributed to its rank as one of the fastest growing counties in the state.

Rapid growth of industry, business and population has changed the region to a suburban area. Putnam County still retains its traditional rural flavor but continues to attract even more people and businesses.

Shopping, entertainment and educational facilities are available locally as well as in Huntington and Charleston. The commute to Charleston or Huntington takes only 20-30 minutes.

Blue Ribbon schools, new housing and industry, as well as strategic location, enhance Putnam County's progressive attitude toward development and makes the county a hub of the regional and interstate economies.

Transportation

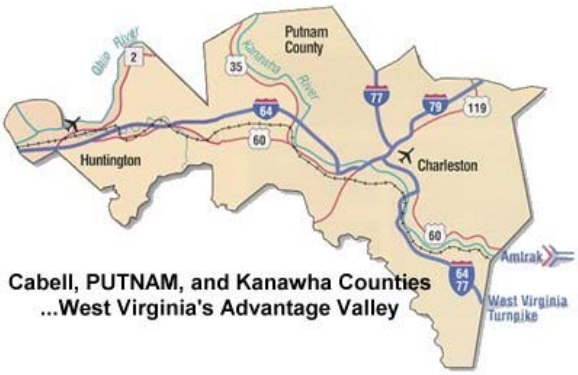
Highways
Interstate Highway 64 passes through the center of Putnam County joining I-77 and I-79 twenty miles west at Charleston, providing direct connections to Lexington, Cleveland, Erie, and Columbus. Other major connectors are U.S. 35 and U.S. 60, WV 34 and WV 62. Upgrading of I-64 and U.S. 35 are currently underway. Portions of the new 4-lane U.S. 35 were opened to traffic in 2009.

Trucking
Forty-six trucking companies serve the area. Twenty of those trucking firms are located in Putnam County. The principal commercial and industrial centers in the nation are served directly or through connecting trucking companies.

Railroads
Putnam County is served by Norfolk Southern and CSX Corporation.

Putnam County Highlights

Population (2008 estimate)	55,488
Labor Force (2008 Average)	27,430
Per Capita Personal Income (2007)	$33,505
Total Personal Income (2007)	$1.838 billion
Annual Average Wage (2008)	$42,015
Median Household Income (2007)	$49,713
Available Business/Industrial Parks	13



Transportation (continued)

Commercial Barge Lines
The Kanawha River runs southeast to northwest through the center of Putnam County. A nine foot navigation channel is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with locks located at London, Marmet, and Winfield. Approximately 30 barge companies pass through the Winfield Locks which recently underwent a $228 million expansion project to double the existing capacity.

Bus Service
Greyhound Bus Lines depots are located in Huntington and Charleston.

Air Service
Airports are located in both Kanawha and Cabell Counties. *Yeager Airport* in Charleston, with runways of 6,302 and 4,750 feet, is served by U.S. Air and three commuter airlines.

Tri-State Airport in Huntington is a primary commercial facility and offers a main runway of 6.517 feet. HTS serves a metropolitan population of over 325,000 people.

Commercial, general aviation, and cargo service are in operation. Charter services are available at both airports, as well as auto rental.

Labor Force

Labor Force

Putnam County serves a labor market area that includes an approximately 60 mile labor drawing area and supplies employees to businesses and manufacturers between Charleston, Huntington and Parkersburg. The following Regional Labor Force information, however, includes only information for Cabell, Putnam and Kanawha Counties.

Regional Labor Force
Cabell, Putnam and Kanawha Counties
Annual Averages 2007

Civilian Labor Force	**163,860**
Total Employment	**157,380**
Total Unemployed	**6,470**
Unemployment Rate (Average)	**3.9%**

Labor Participation Rates

Labor participation rates are also important indicators of a county's economic viability. The most recent figures (2004) supplied by the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs indicated Putnam with a 62.1% participation rate, Cabell reported a 57.9% rate and Kanawha County with 58.6%. Collectively, the three counties average a 59.5% Labor Participation Rate.

Regulatory Training Center

A unique resource, the Center offers State and Federal regulatory compliance training. Safety, environmental protection and hazardous materials classes can be custom designed and instructed to meet the needs of individual companies.

Commuting

When compared to all Americans, West Virginians are more likely to travel outside their home counties to work (26.2 percent compared with a national average of 23.9 percent), according to the West Virginia University Office of Health Services Research, Over 8,000 people commute from Putnam County. Statistics indicate that 57.1% of Putnam County workers commute to another county to work. 2.0% work in another state. These figures relate to an additional 10,607 workers who would be available to work in Putnam County if employment opportunities were available.

Putnam County's Largest Employers:

1. Putnam County Board of Education
2. Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV
3. Rite Aid of West Virginia
4. Babcock & Wilcox Const. Co., Inc.
5. CAMC Teays Valley
6. AEP John Amos Plant
7. Appalachian Power Company
8. U.S Food Service
9. Putnam County Commission
10. Pepsi Bottling Group

Recruiting Experience of "New" Employers

Applicant response was overwhelming for Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia, Inc. that opened an engine plant near Buffalo, WV in November 1998. In 2006, the company celebrated its 10th year in the county.

Nearly 30,000 people applied for the 250 jobs! Operators answered 6,700 calls the first day the company's toll free number to accept applications was open.

American Electric Power (AEP) received 2,500 applications for the original 125 jobs at their new customer service center at Exit 34 in Hurricane, WV.

Conclusion

What this means is ...your company can find employees that offer an extremely desirable rural work ethic while providing Putnam County with the ability to bring county residents "home" to work.

Putnam County Labor + Your Business = Success

Education

Putnam County Public Schools (2009)

Enrollment	9,214
High School Enrollment	2,688
Average Class Size	20.8
Number of Professional Employees	760
% Highly Qualified Teachers	95.7%
Average Salary Contracted Classroom Teachers	$41,859

Private Schools: Calvary Baptist Academy (K-12), Teays Valley Christian School (K-12), Truth & Liberty School (K-12)

Catholic elementary and high schools which serve Putnam County students are located in Kanawha County.

Area Colleges and Universities

West Virginia State College

University of Charleston

Marshall University

Marshall University Graduate College

Health Care and Community Facilities

Health Care

CAMC Teays Valley Hospital is a 68 bed medical-surgical facility. An urgent care clinic also provides treatment. Practitioners include Orthodontics, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Neurology, Chiropractic, Family Medicine, and Obstetrics.

The Putnam County Health Department provides well-clinic services. There are three nursing homes in the county, a birthing clinic, and a hospice program.

The Huntington area has three hospitals with 1,050 beds and Charleston provides four hospital facilities with over 2,000 beds.

The Marshall University School of Medicine and the West Virginia University School of Medicine serves clinics throughout the region.

Community Facilities

Putnam County has an outstanding YMCA program, six swimming pools, a community center, eight football stadiums, and art museum, 33 tennis courts, three golf courses, 10 baseball fields, 13 playgrounds, 3 cinemas and 3 senior centers.

Four public parks also serve the county. Two fitness clubs and state owned facilities are available within a short drive.

The Putnam County Library features five branches with over 87,000 volumes.

Financial Institutions

The County is served by 17 financial institutions with total assets of over $2.2 billion.

Major national banks and locally-owned banking services are available.

Putnam County Tax Information

Property Levies 2008 (includes total of regular, school and all excess levies) Property is assessed at 60% market value. Rates are for each $100 assessed.

Class I property is intangible property, products and agricultural equipment.

Class II property is owner-occupied residential property, agricultural land.

Class III property is commercial property and personal vehicles in unincorporated areas.

Class IV property is the same as Class III, but inside towns.

Personal Income Tax

State income tax is 3% to 6.5% of adjusted gross income, depending on income level. There is no county or city income tax.

Property Levies 2008—Putnam County, WV

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Unincorporated Areas	$005625	$.011250	$.022500	N/A
Bancroft	$.006875	$.013750	N/A	$.027500
Buffalo	$.006846	$.013692	N/A	$.027384
Eleanor	$.006828	$.013656	N/A	$.027312
Hurricane	$.007409	$.014818	N/A	$.029636
Nitro	$.007098	$.014196	N/A	$.028392
Poca	$.006850	$.013700	N/A	$.027400
Winfield	$.006801	$.013602	N/A	$.027204

2008 Total Assessed Valuation: $2,517,914,028 (Real & Personal)

2008 Total Taxable Assessed Valuation: $2,616,454,955 (Real & Personal)

Utilities

Electric Service
Appalachian Power (AEP) is one of the largest investor-owned electric utilities in the country and provides competitive industrial rates 25% below the U.S. average.

Natural Gas Service
Union Oil & Gas, Inc. is the dominant natural gas utility in Putnam County, serving residential, commercial , and industrial customers. Locally owned and operated, Union Oil & Gas has served the natural gas needs of Putnam County for almost 70 years.

Mountaineer Gas Company, a subsidiary of Eastern Energy Corporation, provides service to 180,000 residential customers in 45 counties in West Virginia. Individual rates are $5.87 per mcf, which is the lowest in the state.

Water & Sewage
Water and sewer service is available locally through municipal service. The West Virginia American Water Corporation also provides water service to a large portion of the county.

Telephone
A variety of carriers, including Verizon, offer an advanced network that uses the latest technologies, including 100% digital switching.

More than 40 long distance carriers, including AT&T, MCI, and Sprint.

A wide range of wireless (cellular and digital) telecom services are available throughout Putnam County and the metropolitan area.

Financial Assistance

Local

Putnam County offers financial and technical assistance to new and expanding industry. In the past, the county—through its County Commission and Development Authority has provided complete design and build services to industry.

State

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority (WVEDA) provides direct long-term, fixed asset, low interest loans for industrial projects that will create jobs. WVEDA may participate in up to 45% of costs with a $500,000 limit. Interest is established on a case-by-case basis.

Larger industrial development projects may obtain loans from the State Board of Investments. Rates are based on 13 week Treasury Bill rates for loans from $500,000 to $2 million.

The Capital Access Program makes commercial loans more accessible through credit enhancement.

The Loan Insurance Program can cover a portion of commercial loans that have been conditionally approved by a bank.

The West Virginia Certified Development Corporation (WVCDC) provides long-term, fixed rate loans for small and medium sized firms. The maximum amount is $500,000, not to exceed 40% of a project's fixed assets. Rates are tied to Treasury Bond rates. Funds can be used for land, building and equipment.

Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) may be used to finance plant and capital equipment for expansion or relocation. Each year, $100 million is earmarked for industrial and commercial development.

Tax Credits Against State Taxes are available for business investment, job expansion, revitalization, corporate headquarter relocation, research and development, small business credit, veterans employment, capital company investment, and other expansion or job creation investment.

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