



The August 2007 report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

State revenue collections higher than expected

West Virginia has just finished its best revenue collection year, without a tax increase, in recent history. The state government's budget year ended June 30 with \$95.6 million more than expected, a 4 percent increase in revenues.

"Getting our financial house in order has paid off tremendously," said Gov. Joe Manchin. "We've had two phenomenal years. We continue to press the need for everyone to be mindful of our five-year forecast in our budget planning, so our state does not overspend and burden future administrations and generations of West Virginians."

State records sixth straight month of record-low unemployment

West Virginia's 4.5 percent unemployment for June was that month's lowest level on record, WORKFORCE West Virginia reported. Employment gains included 1,700 in the hospitality industry, 1,100 in business services and 700 in trade, transportation and utilities, with losses in the service-providing sector and the goods-producing sections. Total unemployment was down 5,500 over the year. West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in June, 0.2 percent lower than the national rate of 4.5 percent.

Wincore opens its doors in Wood County

Wincore Windows and Doors has opened a manufacturing facility in Wood County. Plans call for the company to employ as many as 85 people by the end of 2007. Hiring is now under way through WORKFORCE West Virginia.

Wincore produces custom vinyl-framed windows and doors for replacement and new construction. The 50,000-square-foot facility also houses Legacy Designs, an associated firm specializing in bay and bow windows by Sterling Simonton. The manufacturing plant is just outside of Parkersburg's city limits.

Northrop Grumman plans to hire 50 employees, establish National Work Force Center

Northrop Grumman Corp. intends to establish a National Work Force Center in West Virginia, subject to final assessments and negotiations, the company announced in July. The location assessments are being conducted within the I-79 high technology corridor in north central West Virginia, through Wheeling. Northrop Grumman has described the National Work Force Center as part of a new initiative to provide high-quality, cost-effective technology centers within the United States as an alternative to off-shoring.

The company will hire about 50 new full-time employees in West Virginia to support projects across the country. Initially, Northrop Grumman will fill information technology jobs, with expectations to expand. Northrop Grumman Corporation is a \$30 billion global defense and technology company.

-MORE-

PRC to add 300 jobs to Huntington center

Business solutions provider PRC announced it will add 300 new jobs to its center in Huntington. The new positions include management and customer support positions. PRC's current Huntington work force is about 700. PRC is an outsourced business solutions provider, delivering customer management and sales and marketing services on behalf of leading brands.

Pilot resource program answers questions for small businesses

August 1 marks the beginning for a seven-week pilot program from the West Virginia Small Business Development Center. The new toll-free West Virginia Business Answer Line is designed to enhance delivery of essential services to the state's small businesses. SBDC staff will help callers meet their business needs by answering questions, reviewing available services or directing them to other resources. To reach the new line, call 1-888-982-7232.

Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital named one of Top 25 Most Wireless

Hospitals & Health Networks, a publication of the American Hospital Association, released its annual list of the "100 most wired hospitals and health systems" in July. Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital in Parkersburg, Wood County, is among the Top 25 Most Wireless Hospitals. The listing is based on responses to the Most Wired Survey, which asks how the organizations use information technology to improve care through: safety and quality, customer service, business process, workforce, and public health and safety.

Chesapeake is building field office in Lewis County

Chesapeake Energy Corp. is building a new 25,000-square-foot facility along Interstate 79 in Jane Lew in Lewis County. Construction is scheduled for completion in April 2008. The new building will house 60 Chesapeake employees. Most of those employees now work for Chesapeake in Upshur County, although some new hires are likely, said Scott Rotruck, vice president of corporate development.

BrickStreet makes first surplus payment to state

BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Co. has made its first scheduled payment of \$5.8 million on its outstanding surplus note to the state of West Virginia. The Offices of the Insurance Commissioner received the check in July. The payments will go directly to the benefit of the workers' compensation "Old Fund" to help pay back the system's long-term deficit.

As part of 2005 legislation to privatize West Virginia's workers' compensation system, BrickStreet received a \$200 million surplus note to establish its business practices and begin building adequate reserves to pay claims for injured workers.

-MORE-

Morgantown's Northpointe Plaza to house state's first embroidery store franchise

International embroidery franchise EmbroidMe has opened its first West Virginia store, a 2,400-square-foot "superstore" at Northpointe Plaza in Morgantown. EmbroidMe provides full-service custom embroidery and screen-printing for apparel and promotional products for the both private individuals and business group clients.

Wayne County town gets state DEP loan to upgrade sewer infrastructure

The city of Kenova in Wayne County recently closed on a \$4.6 million loan from the state Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The loan is part of an \$8.3 million project. The funds will be used to separate the town's storm and sanitary sewers and to rehabilitate the sanitary sewers. The project will allow the city to meet its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit requirements. The City of Kenova serves about 3,485 customers in Wayne County. The project is expected to be completed in July 2008.

WVEDA approves funds for two firms

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority gave final approval to the following loans during its July meeting.

- Greenbrier Technical Services, Inc. \$81,260, to buy new manufacturing equipment to be installed in its Ronceverte facility in Greenbrier County. When it was founded in 1989, Greenbrier Technical Services provided electronic repair services to original equipment manufacturers, industrial and commercial customers. Now the company develops mechanical and electronic replacement parts for drive-through units, security systems, ATMs, teller units and audio systems. The company also offers reverse engineering and product design services. Greenbrier Technical is headquartered in Lewisburg.
- Huntington Industrial Corporation, \$1786,574, to purchase a 100,000-square-foot shell building in the HADCO Business Park, Cabell County. The Huntington Industrial Corporation is a private non-profit economic development corporation.

###