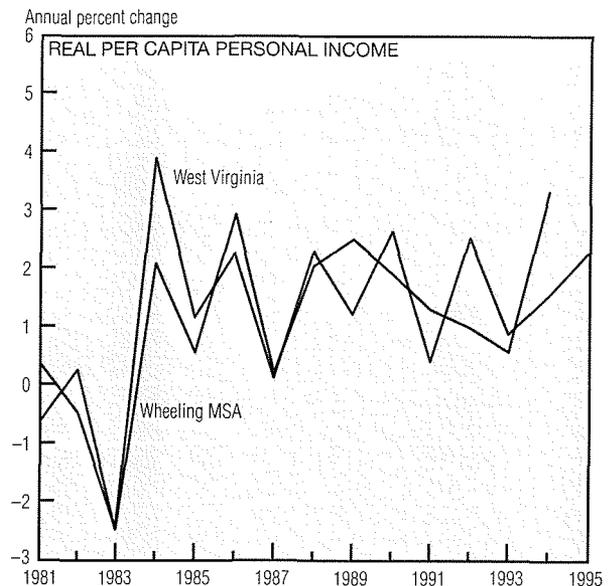
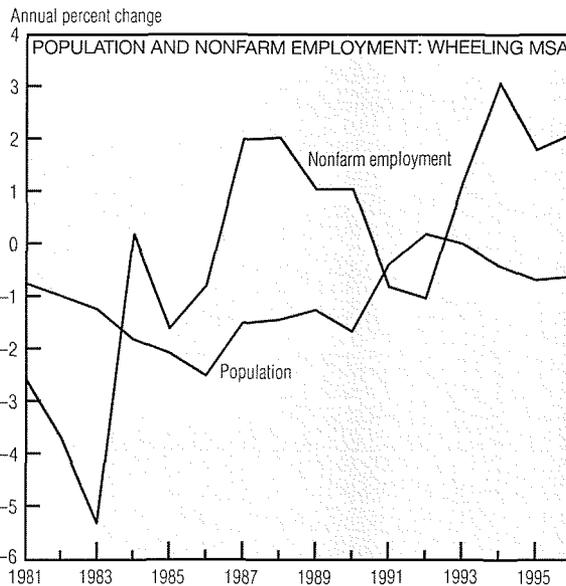
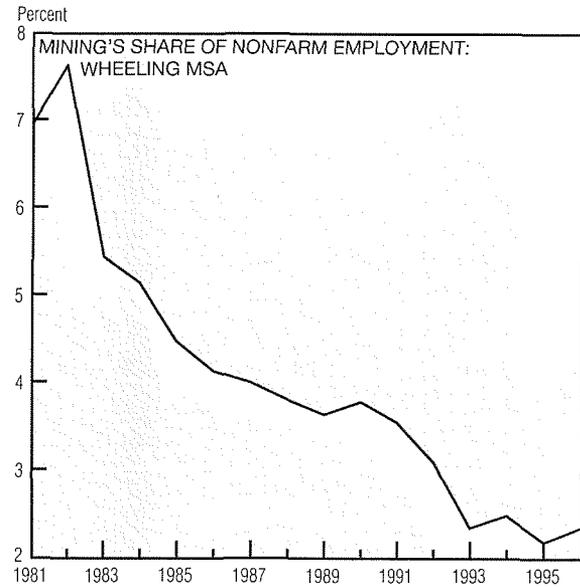


## Regional Update: Wheeling, W. Va.

	Wheeling MSA		West Virginia		U.S.	
	1986	1996	1986	1996	1986	1996
Mining	4.1	2.3	6.8	3.7	0.8	0.5
Construction	3.1	3.6	3.8	4.9	4.8	4.5
Manufacturing	12.2	9.6	14.5	11.7	19.1	15.4
Durables	5.7	3.5	8.2	6.9	11.3	9.0
Nondurables	6.5	6.1	6.3	4.8	7.8	6.4
TPU <sup>a</sup>	5.5	4.9	6.2	5.6	5.3	5.2
Trade	26.7	25.2	22.9	22.9	23.8	23.5
FIRE <sup>b</sup>	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.9	6.3	5.8
Services	27.3	34.0	20.3	27.4	23.1	28.8
Government	16.5	16.1	21.6	19.9	16.8	16.3



a. Transportation and public utilities.

b. Finance, insurance, and real estate.

NOTE: The Wheeling Metropolitan Statistical Area comprises Belmont County, Ohio; Marshall County, W. Va.; and Ohio County, W. Va.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; and West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs.

The coal mining industry—historically a predominant feature of the Wheeling, W. Va., area—is becoming an increasingly less important part of its economic landscape. Between 1986 and 1996, mining employment in the city and its environs declined at an average annual rate of 4.4%. Manufacturing jobs also shrank (about 1.1% per year) and now account for less than 10% of the area's total nonfarm employment.

Despite the downturns in mining and manufacturing, Wheeling's total

nonfarm employment increased about 1.3% annually over the last decade. Service industry employment, led by the area's expanding medical facilities, accounted for a large part of the overall gain. Service-sector payrolls now represent 34% of the area's total employment, compared to 27.3% in 1986.

While more jobs have become available, Wheeling's population has declined over the last 10 years, the result of a net outmigration of workers and a relatively slow rate of fam-

ily expansion. In 1990, about 18% of the area's residents were over the age of 65, compared to 12% nationwide.

Still, the city and its surrounding communities have experienced strong income growth. Since 1993, real per capita personal income has risen at an average rate of about 3.3% per year, more than a percentage point above the state average. Although the region's unemployment rate is still relatively high, it has been receding in recent years and is approaching the national average.