

From an Agricultural to Industrial Virginia

Virginia's economy changed during the early twentieth century. It became difficult to make money agriculturally because old systems of farming were no longer working and crop prices were low. Therefore, many people moved from rural areas, or country land to urban areas, or cities, for economic opportunities.



Virginia's cities began to grow rapidly because of the technology developments in transportation, railroads, roads, and streetcars. Coal mining spurred the growth of Virginia's towns and cities as people moved from the countryside to find jobs.

People have moved to Virginia from many other states and nations. During the 20th century, Northern Virginia experienced growth due to increases in the number of federal jobs located in the region. In the late 20th century and the early 21st century, Northern Virginia and the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region have grown due to computer technology.