

## VS.10 VIRGINIA’S GOVERNMENT, GEOGRAPHY, AND ECONOMICS – 2020 UPDATE

### STANDARD VS.10A

#### THREE BRANCHES OF VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT

*Virginia state government is made up of **three parts (branches)** that ensure Virginia laws agree with the **state constitution**.*



**Virginia General Assembly**

The government of Virginia is divided into three branches.

- The **General Assembly** is the **legislative** branch of the Virginia government that makes state laws. It is divided into two parts—the **Senate** and the **House of Delegates**.
- The **governor** heads the **executive branch** of the state government. The executive branch makes sure that state laws are **carried out**.
- The **judicial branch** is the state’s court system.
  - The judicial branch decides cases about people accused of **breaking the law** and whether or not a law agrees with **Virginia’s constitution**

### STANDARD VS.10B PRODUCTS & INDUSTRIES

*Available **resources** (natural, human and capital), as well as **geography**, are major factors in what is produced in the state.*

*Major **products and industries** change over time as people and businesses buy different goods and services*

**Selected examples of products and industries important to Virginia’s economy**

Top **products and services** for Virginia include:

- Architectural or engineering services
- Banking and lending
- Computer programming or systems design
- Food products

- Shipbuilding

The **service industry** is important to Virginia’s economy. Virginians earn income through jobs in

- Private health care, computer programming or systems design, and engineering.
- Government services including operation of public schools, hospitals and military bases.

**Manufacturing** (making goods on a large scale using machinery) is also a top industry. Top manufactured products in Virginia include:

- Ships
- Tobacco products
- Beverages (such as soft drinks)
- Chemical goods
- Motor vehicle parts and trucks

**Fertile soil** and a favorable **climate** make **agriculture** an important industry in Virginia.

- Chickens (broilers), beef, milk, turkeys, and hogs are Virginia’s leading livestock products.
- Soybeans, corn, tobacco, tomatoes, apples, and peanuts are among Virginia’s leading cash crops.
  - **Tobacco**, once the basis of Virginia’s economy, has been **replaced by livestock** and livestock products as the state’s most valuable source of agricultural income.



**Livestock has replaced tobacco as leader in Virginia’s agricultural income**

Historically, the success of **Appalachian coalfields** is due to the expansion of railroads that transport coal to piers in Tidewater for shipment to both domestic and international markets.



Deep water ports on the Chesapeake Bay used for shipbuilding & fishing

Access to **deep water ports** and proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean make shipbuilding, fishing, crabbing and oyster harvests possible.

- Today, coal is less crucial to Virginia's economy as businesses and individuals shift to **other sources of energy**.

## STANDARD VS.10c TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY

*Advances in **transportation, communications, and technology** have facilitated **migration** and led to **economic development** in Virginia.*

*Industries in Virginia produce goods and services used throughout the United States and the world*

Virginia's **transportation system** (highways, railroads, and air transportation) moves raw materials to factories and finished products to markets.

- Virginia exports **agricultural and manufactured** products, including tobacco, poultry, coal, and large ships.

Virginia has a large number of **communications** and other **technology** industries.

**Tourism** is a major part of Virginia's economy.

Because many **federal workers** live and/or work in Virginia, the federal government has a significant impact on Virginia's economy.

Virginia has **increased trade relationships** with other countries.