

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

## 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**.*

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.

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

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.

- 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.