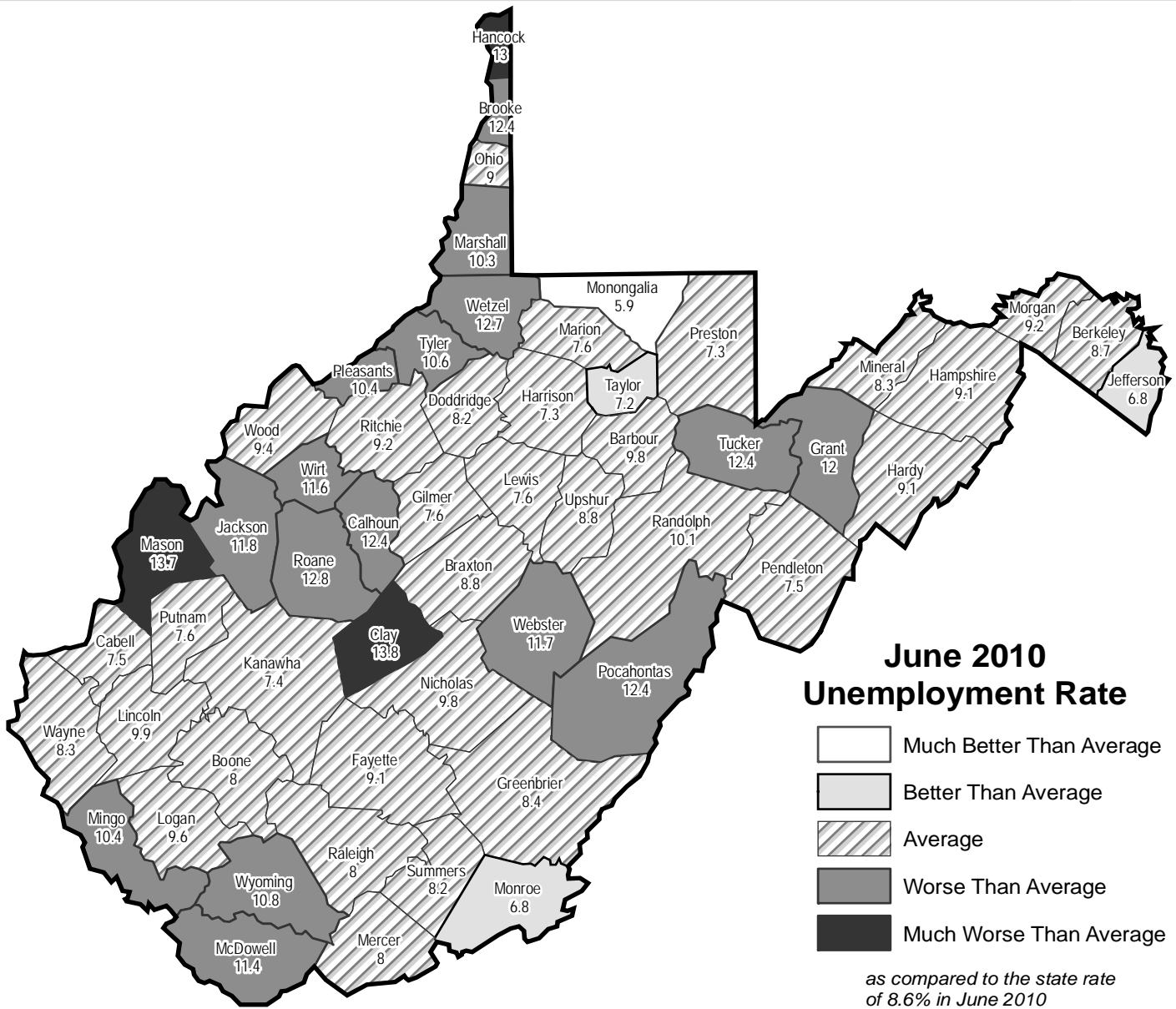


COUNTY EMPHASIS



West Virginia's unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.6 percent in June 2010. Less than half of all counties reported increasing unemployment rates as well. The number of counties recording an unemployment rate considered much worse than average when compared to the state rate dropped sharply. This group included Hancock (13.0), Mason (13.7), and Clay (13.8).

The number of counties recording an unemployment rate considered better than average when compared to the state rate declined slightly. This group included Taylor (7.2), Jefferson (6.8), and Monroe (6.8). Once again, Monongalia (5.9) was the sole county reporting an unemployment rate considered much better than average when compare to the state rate.