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### **West Virginia's massive April manufactured home shipments showing puts state in the black**

CHARLESTON -- West Virginia shook of its economic lethargy to snatch seventh place nationally for the strongest increase in the number of manufactured homes shipped into any state in April, according to the latest Economic Report issued by the Manufactured Housing Institute of Arlington, Va. April's count is MHI's latest mostly statistical report for how the industry is doing.

Shipments are a strong indicator of how sales are going in a state.

The impressive shipment increase for West Virginia for the month wiped out negative figures for the first three months and put the state strongly on the positive statistical side for the year.

April was the first positive month for West Virginia shipments this year, the first time those shipments exceeded the number shipped for the comparable month in 2013.

A total of 108 homes were shipped to West Virginia in April 2014 compared to 80 for April the year before. It amounted to a 35 percent increase, while the South Atlantic region as a whole and to which West Virginia belongs, had an increase of 8.2 percent. The South Atlantic region comprises eight states. It includes seven states along the Atlantic seaboard from Delaware to Florida and the Mountain State.

Home shipments are up 6.4 percent nationally through April when compared to the first one-third of 2013. April's showing allowed West Virginia to almost match that U.S. statistic.

April's showing meant that 299 homes have been shipped into West Virginia for the first four months of this year, compared to 282 at the same time last year, leaving West Virginia ahead 6 percent overall for this year. The figure is all the more startling since West Virginia had been down 5.4 percent at the end of the first quarter of this year when compared to the national average.

West Virginia joins Florida, Virginia and Georgia on the positive side in the South Atlantic region a third of the way through the year. Still behind in comparable shipments are Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina in this region.

With 1.9 percent of the U.S. share, West Virginia ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in national shipments for April.

To look at the full report, click on to the MHI site. The user name then is wvhousinginst and the password is ireland