Chapter 3 – Population and Demographics

Introduction
Population analyses and projections influence many planning decisions from helping determine the type and amount of public facilities and services the County will need to identifying the appropriate housing needs of future populations. Additionally, population projections and demographics may also be used to identify many other potential planning problems of a local or regional nature before they occur.

Although the total number of people in the County is increasing modestly, the character of the population is undergoing significant change. Noteworthy among these changes are the overall aging of the population and the increasing diversity of the population.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide population and demographic information as well as an analysis of the County’s changing population. The chapter is broken up into three sections:

Section 1 – Population Counts
This section documents the historical U.S. Census population counts for Fauquier County in addition to including information on current population estimates and future projections from the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to Fauquier County include the Towns of Warrenton, Remington, and The Plains.

Section 2 – Analysis of Population Change
By comparing the population counts of the past, present, and predicted future, a set of trends regarding population change can be identified. This section provides an overview of these major trends of population change within Fauquier County.

Section 3 – Population Demographics
This section details some of the most important demographic characteristics of the County’s current population.
Section 1 – Population Counts of Past, Present, and Future

Historical Populations

Although Fauquier County was incorporated in 1759, the first documented population count occurred with the first U.S. Census in 1790 when the County’s population was 17,892. Over the following 160 years, the County’s population encountered both periods of growth and decline but had increased to only 21,248 in 1950 (see Figure PD-1).

![Figure PD-1: Fauquier County Population](image)

The County has seen varied levels of growth since 1950, ranging from 9.6% growth during the 1960’s to 36.1% growth and 25.8% growth in the 1970’s and 1980’s respectively. The periods of rapid growth slowed significantly in the 1990’s and 2000’s. In 2000, the County’s population was 55,139, a 13.1% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census figure of 48,741. The 2000’s saw similar growth when in 2010 the County’s population was recorded at 65,203, an 18.3% increase from the 2000 U.S. Census count (see Table PD-1).
### Table PD-1: Fauquier County’s Growth 1960-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percent Increase (over previous decade)</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate (for previous decade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>24,066</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>26,375</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>0.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>35,889</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>48,741</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>55,139</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>65,203</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State, Regional, and Local Populations

Between 2000 and 2010, the State of Virginia grew by almost one million residents; an increase of 13% for a total population of 8,001,024. The annual growth rate for the State over that time period was 1.2%. According to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, over half of this growth occurred in Northern Virginia.

Much of the growth in Northern Virginia can be attributed to the region’s close proximity to the nation’s capital. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (MSA) (Figure PD-2), which includes the District of Columbia and 21 localities from Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia (including Fauquier County), grew by 16.4% over the decade between the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census; a growth rate of 1.5% annually. This outpaces the growth experienced by many other major U.S. metropolitan areas including New York, Los Angeles, and Boston.
The majority of the growth within the Washington, D.C. MSA came from the 15 Northern Virginia localities. Out of the total increase of 785,987 persons over the ten year period, 64.4% of the growth, or 506,387 persons, came from Northern Virginia.

The County’s growth over the past decade, 18.3% from 2000 to 2010, outpaces the growth of the Washington MSA as a whole (16.4%) as well as neighboring Clarke (10.9%) and Rappahannock Counties (5.6%). However, all other neighboring county jurisdictions, including Warren (19.0%), Loudoun (84.1%), Prince William (43.2%), Stafford (39.5%), and Culpeper (36.3%), grew at faster rates than Fauquier County.

The incorporated areas of Fauquier County saw a wide range of growth and decline from 2000 to 2010. The Town of Warrenton was the only incorporated area to grow, with a 44.1% increase since 2000. Both the Town of Remington and the Town of The Plains declined in population with -4.2% and -18.4% respectively. However, the percentages of decline mask what are only
small changes in numerical population; the Town of Remington lost 26 persons while the Town of The Plains lost 49 persons.

Table PD-2 summarizes the state, regional, and local population trends from 2000 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>8,001,024</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C. MSA</td>
<td>5,582,170</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>1.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fauquier County</td>
<td>65,203</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Warrenton</td>
<td>9,611</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>3.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Remington</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
<td>-0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of The Plains</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
<td>-2.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarke County</td>
<td>14,034</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culpeper County</td>
<td>46,689</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>3.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun County</td>
<td>312,311</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
<td>6.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince William County</td>
<td>402,002</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>3.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rappahannock County</td>
<td>7,373</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stafford County</td>
<td>128,961</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Fauquier County Community Development; U.S. Census Bureau

Between 2000 and 2010, Fauquier County grew by 10,064 residents. 28.5% of this growth occurred within the incorporated areas of the County (Towns of Warrenton, Remington, and The Plains), while 71.5% came from the unincorporated areas (Fauquier County’s planning jurisdiction). In total, 16% of County residents lived in an incorporated area (Towns of Warrenton, Remington, and The Plains) in 2010, while 84% lived in unincorporated areas (Fauquier County’s planning jurisdiction).

The 2010 population, as visualized in a dot density map where 1 dot equals 1 person, can be seen in Figure PD-3. The areas along the U.S. Highway 15/29 corridor, including Remington, Bealeton, Opal, Warrenton, and New Baltimore, show the largest concentrations of population in the County. Marshall also shows a pocket of significant density in Northern Fauquier County north of Interstate-66. Aggregated by 2010 Census Tracts, the population density (as seen in Figure PD-4) varies from a low of approximately 25 people per square mile in Northern Fauquier County to a high of approximately 555 people per square mile in Central Fauquier County.
Population Estimates

For a more detailed analysis of past and current populations, the County uses intercensal population estimates, estimates calculated for the years between the decennial U.S. Census counts. Intercensal population estimates use a variety of observed data, such as births, deaths, and residential construction, to determine changes in population over previous years. The official estimates for Fauquier County come from the Demographics & Workforce Group at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Their methodology, which can be found online at [www.coopercenter.org](http://www.coopercenter.org), achieves on average an error of less than 3%. The estimates are calculated for July 1st of every year and published the following January.

As of July 1, 2012, Fauquier County’s population was estimated to be 66,134. This represents a 1.4% increase over the April 1, 2010 U.S. Census figure.

The County’s annual population growth rate has risen significantly in recent history. From 1970 to 1996, growth in population was less than 0.5% annually. Beginning in 1997, annual growth has varied from a minimum of 0.43% in 2005-2006 to a maximum of 2.75% in 2000-2001 and 2003-2004. On average, the population growth rate since 1997 has over tripled the prior status quo to approximately 1.8% annually. However, since 2010, the population growth in the County has remained steady at approximately 0.5% annually.

An in-depth look at the County’s growth over the past 13 years is provided in Table PD-3. Population growth rates since 1970 are visualized in Figure PD-5.
### Table PD-3: Fauquier County Population Estimates 2000-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population Estimate</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2012</td>
<td>66,131</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2011</td>
<td>65,780</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2010</td>
<td>65,460</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2009</td>
<td>64,497</td>
<td>-0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2008</td>
<td>64,594</td>
<td>1.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2007</td>
<td>63,789</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2006</td>
<td>62,450</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2005</td>
<td>62,184</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2004</td>
<td>60,678</td>
<td>2.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2003</td>
<td>59,056</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2002</td>
<td>58,074</td>
<td>1.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2001</td>
<td>57,062</td>
<td>2.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2000</td>
<td>55,534</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service*

### Figure PD-5: Fauquier County Growth Rates

*Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service*

**Population Projections**

Population projections differ from population estimates in that they rely solely on previous trends to calculate population. Because of the uncertainty of future variables that can affect population, population projections are much less accurate than population estimates. However,
they do play an important role in planning as they provide a good general guide for what is likely to occur in the future.

The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service provides the official population projections for Fauquier County and the State of Virginia as established in §15.2-2223.1 of the Code of Virginia. Their methodology, which can be found online at www.coopercenter.org, has a documented error of plus or minus 6% for 10 year projections, 15% for twenty year projections, and 24% for thirty year projections.

The projections show the County’s population growing between now and 2040, however at slower rates than seen in previous decades. The projected annual growth rate over this time period also decreases with each decade, starting with the projected 1.28% annual growth in the 2010s and decreasing to 1.10% growth annually during the 2030s.

Table PD-4 contains the population projections up to the year 2040 for Fauquier County.

Figure PD-6 shows the projections along with previous U.S. Census trends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Projected Population</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>65,203*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>74,118</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>1.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>83,312</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>1.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>93,028</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau; Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
Figure PD-6: Fauquier County Census Populations with Projections

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
Section 2 – Analysis of Population Change

An Increasing Population

Population change occurs via two mechanisms; natural increase and net migration. Natural increase is defined as the number of births minus the number of deaths. Net migration is defined as the number of people who have moved into an area minus the number of people who have moved out of the same area over the same time period. For Fauquier County, the period between the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census showed both positive natural increase (more births than deaths) as well as positive net migration (more people moving in than moving out). The positive levels of both natural increase and net migration led to an overall positive change in population over this time period.

Net Migration

Fauquier County’s population change is largely made up of positive net migration, the result of large numbers of people moving into the County from areas outside of the County. Several factors likely play a role in bringing people to the County. Among these are high quality of life, increases in local and regional employment opportunities, as well as lower costs of living as compared to other jurisdictions located closer to the heart of the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Natural Increase

Growth from natural increase accounts for slightly less than one-third of all population growth within the County. The two components of natural increase, births and deaths, are largely influenced by total population figures and the age of the population. In general, higher populations lead to more births (due to more females of child-bearing age) as well more deaths (due in part to larger levels of elder populations).

Table PD-5 summarizes the components of population change from 2000 to 2010.
### Table PD-5: Components of Population Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decennial Census Count</th>
<th>April 1, 2000 - April 1, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numeric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Apr-00</td>
<td>55,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Apr-10</td>
<td>65,203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

The addition of more than 10,000 new residents to Fauquier County has most visibly created physical impacts on the county by increasing the number of residential units. The growth in new residential units occurred in both rural and service district areas. Continued population growth in Fauquier County, especially growth via net migration, will lead to further increases in the number of residential dwelling units. Commercial and infrastructure growth are also generally associated with residential growth as more residents need more infrastructure and business to support them.

Figure PD-7 visualizes where the growth in residential dwelling units has occurred throughout Fauquier County between 2001 and 2010.
**Figure PD-7: Residential Unit Growth**

Dwellings Built in Fauquier County, VA
Before 2001 and 2001-2010

How to interpret this map?

These symbols are proportionate, which means they have been sized in proportion to the number of dwelling units estimated on each parcel. The legend gives examples of sizes that represent 1, 10, and 100 units.

Source Data:
Dwelling Data: Planning Office, May 2011
Roads: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
Parcel: GIS Department, May 2011
An Aging Population

The aging of the Baby Boomer generation has caused an overall shift in the population’s age distribution as seen in Figures PD-10 and PD-11. The population pyramids visually depict the shift in the population’s age as the most prevalent bulge (the Baby Boomer generation) moves upward on the graphs. Comparisons of the previous two U.S. Census counts as well as comparisons with projected population counts provide a good visual depiction of the population’s aging.

Statistically, the aging of the population can be seen in the increasing median age of Fauquier County residents. The increase can be attributed to multiple factors but is predominately fueled by the aging of the Baby Boomers in conjunction with increases in the life expectancy. In 1960, the life expectancy in the U.S. was just less than 70 years of age. Over the course of the next fifty years, the life expectancy has grown to almost 79 years of age.

As of the 2010 U.S. Census, the County’s median age was 41.3 years. This represents a significant increase over previous decades, for example the 1980 U.S. Census figure of 30.5 years. Future projections indicate that there will be a continued increase in the median age of the County population.

The sections that follow highlight the changes in two important population segments; the school aged population and the older population within the County.

School Age Population

Although the relative percentage of school aged children to the population as a whole is decreasing, the actual number of school aged children continues to increase. In 2000, 12,544 persons (22.7% of the County population) were between the ages of 5 and 19. By 2010, this number had increased to 14,157 persons (21.7% of the County population). Even though these figures do not necessarily mirror the enrollment for Fauquier County Public Schools, they provide an accurate proxy showing the trends for school enrollment within the County. Actual enrollment for Fauquier County Public Schools ranges from approximately 75% to 80% of the school aged population figures noted previously. Many of the remaining 20% to 25% are likely to either attend private school, be home schooled, or have graduated or not yet begun school.
Future projections by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service show a continuation of the trends from the past decade. In 2020, the projected school aged population increases to 14,736, while the relative percentage to the population as a whole decreases to 19.9%. Projections for 2030 show an increase to 15,853 school aged persons and a continued decrease in the relative percentage of the population as a whole to 19.0%.

Continued increases in the school aged population could require expansions of current educational facilities, since some are near capacity, as well as age appropriate parks and other community facilities. For a more detailed discussion on projections for Fauquier County Public Schools, see Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Table PD-6 summarizes the school aged population figures and estimates from 2000 to 2030. Figure PD-8 visually depicts where the school aged populations live within the county. The densest concentrations occur in the areas surrounding Warrenton and New Baltimore in Central Fauquier County as well as Bealeton/Remington in Southern Fauquier County. Using population density as a proxy for locational preference, it can be assumed that future school aged populations will move to these areas of density within the County. Therefore, these are likely the areas in which future educational facilities, parks, and other community facilities for children will be needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>10,454</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>12,544</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>14,157</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>14,736*</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>15,853*</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; *Projection by Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
Older Populations

Older populations are among the fastest growing population segments in Fauquier County, growing at rates higher than school aged populations and the total population in general. In 2000, approximately 28% of the population was 50 years of age or older and approximately 11% were 65 years of age or older. By 2010, these numbers jumped to approximately 35% being 50 years of age or older and 13% being 65 years of age or older. According to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service projections, in 2030 approximately 40% will be 50 years of age or older and approximately 22% will be 65 years of age or older.

As the older populations in Fauquier County continue to grow, there will be an increased need for a variety of age appropriate housing options, healthcare, transportation options, and other community facilities to support their differing lifestyles.

Table PD-7 summarizes the older population figures and estimates from 2000 to 2030. Figure PD-9 shows the density of Fauquier County’s population over 65. The most dense concentrations occur in Central Fauquier County in the areas from Warrenton to the County’s eastern border. By assuming population density equals locational preference, these areas are likely to accommodate a large percentage of future growth within this population segment. Therefore, it can be assumed that the areas of current density will be those in need of future age appropriate improvements to the built environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population (Age 50+)</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate (Age 50+)</th>
<th>Population (Age 65+)</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate (Age 65+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>10,955</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,379</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15,629</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>5,789</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>22,640</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>8,289</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>30,350*</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>12,731*</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>33,567*</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>18,398*</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; *Projection by Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Figures PD-10 and PD-11 show the population pyramids for the 2000 Census and the 2020 Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service projections as they both compare to the 2010 Census.
Figure PD-10: Population Pyramids for Fauquier County – 2000 and 2010 Comparison

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Figure PD-11: Population Pyramids for Fauquier County – 2010 and 2020 Comparison

Population - Census 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population - 2020 Projection

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
**Growing Diversity**

In addition to growing in numbers and growing older, Fauquier County is also growing more racially and ethnically diverse; a trend that can be seen throughout the United States. Since 2000, both White and African American population percentages have decreased due to large increases in the populations reporting Asian or Some Other Race. Those reporting White as their race accounted for 85.3% of the 2010 population, a decrease of 3.1% from 2000. The African American population accounted for 8.2% of the population, a decrease from 8.8% in 2000. Populations reporting Asian or Some Other Race grew by 0.7% and 1.8% respectively. However, even as Fauquier County grows more racially diverse, it still remains significantly less diverse than the State of Virginia and the United States as a whole.

The full breakdown of Fauquier County’s 2010 minority population as compared to 2000 is seen in Figure PD-12. Comparisons between Fauquier County, the State of Virginia, and the United States can be seen in Figure PD-13.

![Figure PD-12: Breakdown of Minority Population](source: U.S. Census Bureau)
The growing diversity in Fauquier County is also fueled by significant increases in the percentages of the population reporting Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Since 2000, this percentage has increased from 2.0% to 6.4% in 2010. Although the County is growing more ethnically diverse, it also remains less diverse than the State of Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Comparisons of ethnicity for Fauquier County, the State of Virginia, and the United States can be seen in Figure PD-14.
One of the statistics most often used to compare the diversity of different populations is the Diversity Index. The Diversity Index is calculated by the probability that two people from the same area will be from different racial or ethnic groups. For Fauquier County, the 2010 Diversity Index is 35.4. In other words, two people selected at random have a 35.4% probability of having differing racial or ethnic backgrounds. Comparisons to the State of Virginia, the United States, and many neighboring counties show that Fauquier County’s population is less diverse both racially and ethnically.

The Diversity Index comparisons of these geographies are detailed in Figure PD-15.

![Figure PD-15: Comparisons of Diversity Index (2010)](image_url)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2012 population estimates from the U.S. Census indicate that Fauquier County’s diversity has increased since the 2010 Census and is now estimated to have a Diversity Index of 37. Additional projections for 2020, 2030, and 2040, provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, show a consistent trend of increased diversity for Fauquier County and the State of Virginia as a whole.

The spatial distribution of the minority population in 2010 by census tract is displayed in Figure PD-16. The percentage of the population in the minority varies from a low of 5% to a high of 22%. The average percentage minority for all census tracts is approximately 15%.
Figure PD-16: 2010 Minority Population
07/11/2013

Percent Minority Population
- 6% - 10%
- 11% - 13%
- 14% - 17%
- 18% - 19%
- 20% - 22%

N

0 2.5 5
Miles

Paris
Markham
Hume
Orlean
Warrenton
Opal
Bealeton
Remington
Midland
Galverton
New Baltimore
Culbert
Sumerduck
Morrisville
Section 3 – Population Demographics

Household Characteristics

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a household as all people living together in a housing unit. A housing unit can be a house, apartment, mobile home, or any other group of room(s) that serve as a separate living quarter; a separate living quarter is one in which occupants live separately from other people in a building. Households can be further broken down into family households and nonfamily households. A family household consists of a householder and at least one other person related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Conversely, a nonfamily household consists of a householder living alone or with others unrelated by blood, marriage, or adoption.

In 2010, there were 23,658 households in Fauquier County. 74% (17,598) of these households were defined as family households, while the remaining 26% (6,060) were defined as nonfamily households. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of households grew by 19% (from 19,842 according to the 2000 U.S. Census) while the percentages of family and nonfamily households shifted from their 2000 figures of approximately 76% family households and 24% nonfamily households. The shift in the ratio of family to nonfamily households is a continuation of a trend since 1990 when family households accounted for 80% of all households and nonfamily households accounted for 20%.

The trend of shifting ratios from family to nonfamily households can be described, in part, by the increasing trend of people living alone. This includes people who choose to live alone as well as those who live alone due to the death of a spouse, which is increasing due to our aging population. In 2010, 20.4% of households consisted of individuals living alone, an increase from 2000 and 1990 Census counts of 18.7% and 15.3% respectively.

Associated with the increasing prevalence of householders living alone is the overall decrease in household size. In 2010, the average household size was 2.74 persons. This represents a decrease from previous Census figures of 2.75 in 2000 and 2.89 in 1990. Other factors influencing average household size are the economy and shifting notions of what constitutes an ideal family. Because of the economic recession of the late 2000’s and early 2010’s, individuals are waiting longer to make big life decisions such as marriage and having children and are thus living alone or living without children longer. Additionally, Gallup polls show that U.S. adults
no longer view larger families (3+ children) as ideal. Rather, the majority of U.S. adults believe an ideal family is made up of 2 or less children.

Conversely, two trends that can potentially raise the average household size are the nationally recognized trend of an increase in multigenerational housing as well as the nationally and locally recognized trend of increased racial and ethnic diversity. In 2010, 4.7% (1,121) of Fauquier County households were considered multigenerational meaning that three or more family generations live together in one housing unit. No current estimates or prior counts exist for multigenerational housing in Fauquier County, but nationally it is a recognized that the number of these households is increasing. The demand for these types of households is likely to necessitate or increase pressure to change the Zoning Ordinance regarding accessory dwelling units.

Increasing diversity in the County can lead to an increase in average household size as minority races and ethnicities tend to have higher household sizes. Average household size by race and ethnicity in 2010 for Fauquier County varied from a high of over 4 persons per household for those claiming Some Other Race or Hispanic origin to a low of 2.7 for White households.

The number of households from past U.S. Census counts as well as projections for future households can be found in Figure PD-17. Future household projections in this figure are calculated based on the projected population counts from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and on the assumption that the household size for these future projections will remain at the current 2.74 persons per household. Any future decrease in household size will increase the number of projected households for future years, while an increase in household size would decrease the projected number of households.
**Figure PD-17: Fauquier County Households**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and Fauquier County Community Development*

**Income and Poverty**

The Washington, DC Metropolitan Area is home to 6 of the top 10 highest income counties in the United States according to the 2011 American Community Survey. Fauquier County, ranked 8th, had a median household income of $93,762. Other regional counties to make the top ten were Loudoun (1st), Fairfax (2nd), Arlington (3rd), and Prince William (7th) Counties in Virginia and Montgomery County (10th) in Maryland.

Also in 2011, 47.7% of Fauquier County households had incomes of a least $100,000. 22% of households had incomes of less than $50,000 and 7.2% of households had incomes of less than $25,000. Therefore, the often highly perceived levels of wealth mask a wide range of household incomes.

Job earnings were the main source of household income in 2011 and were reported for over 85% of the County households. Additionally, almost 30% of households received income from social security and almost 25% received income from retirement accounts.
In total, 3.6% of the County’s population fell below the official poverty level for 2011 including 1.6% of children under 18 and 4.1% of adults 65 years and older.

Poverty figures from the 2007 American Community Survey and the 2000 U.S. Census indicate that poverty levels have decreased from 5.6% and 5.4% of the County’s population respectively.

Figure PD-18 shows the median household income by census tract for Fauquier County. The map shows the greatest areas of wealth are in the central portions of the County as well as the northwestern portions of the County. Figure PD-19 shows the areas with the highest concentrations of families below the poverty line. The area surrounding Orlean and moving to the northeast corner of the County have the highest percentage of families in poverty, with as many as 8% of families or more below the poverty line.
Educational Attainment

Fauquier County resident’s (aged 25 years and older) educational attainment has risen significantly since 2000. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 84.5% of the population had a high school education or higher and 27.1% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. In 2011, the American Community Survey showed increases to 91.8% for the population with at least a high school education and 34.9% for those with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

The full breakdown of educational attainment in 2011 for Fauquier County’s population 25 years of age or older can be seen in Figure PD-20.

Figure PD-20: Educational Attainment of Fauquier County Residents (25 years and older)

Source: 2011 American Community Survey
Employment

In 2011, 35,414 Fauquier County residents were employed in the workforce, with an approximately even split between male (49.9%) and female (50.1%) workers. This accounts for 68.8% of the County’s total eligible workforce aged 16 years and over (53,225 total eligible workers).

The top industries by employment (# of workers) within Fauquier County are Government (4,416), Retail Trade (2,883), Health Care and Social Assistance (2,738), Construction (2,081), and Accommodation and Food Services (2,017). Although they only account for a small percentage of the County’s jobs, the Agriculture, Horse, and Wine industries are among the most visible industries within the County. These industries cover much of the County’s countryside and add to the natural beauty of Fauquier County while employing over 500 workers.

The majority of Fauquier County workers, 76.5% in 2011, commuted outside of the county for work. The remaining 23.5% of people both lived and worked within the County. The top three destinations for out-commuting workers were Fairfax County (20% of workers), Prince William County (11% of workers), and Loudoun County (7% of workers). These three destinations, however, only account for 38% of the out-commuting traffic.

The average travel time to work for Fauquier County residents was approximately 40.0 minutes in 2011, longer than the Washington MSA as a whole (33.8) and significantly longer than the State of Virginia as a whole (27.3). The mean travel time of 40.0 minutes in 2011 is up from prior figures of 36.4 minutes and 36.8 minutes in 2007 and 2000 respectively.

In 2011, most residents (36.6%) drove between 25 to 50 miles one-way to work. The majority of State and Washington MSA residents during this time generally drove 10 miles or less to work. The full breakdown of Fauquier County workers and their travel distances to work can be seen in Figure PD-21.
Most Fauquier residents used their personal automobiles for their work commute (79.1%). Only a small percentage of residents carpool (11.7%) or use other means of travel (7.8%) for their work commute. These figures are similar to those found for the State as a whole and the MSA, although residents of the MSA are much more likely to use public transportation due to a much more extensive transit network closer to the nation’s capital.

In 2011, 11,938 workers commuted to work in Fauquier County from other jurisdictions. The top three origins of in-commuters were Culpeper County (18.2% of workers), Prince William County (14.3% of workers), and Fairfax County (8.0% of workers), although these origins account for only 40.5% of the total in-commuters.

Fauquier County’s unemployment rates have consistently been lower than those found in Virginia and the United States as a whole. In 2012, Fauquier County’s unemployment rate was 4.7% whereas Virginia and the United States had unemployment rates of 5.9% and 8.1% respectively. July 2013 estimates by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics have Fauquier County reporting a 4.6% unemployment rate as compared to Virginia’s 5.8% and the United States’ 7.7%.

The County’s unemployment rates since 2002 are graphed in Figure PD-22. The rates for Fauquier County mirror the trends of Virginia and the United States as a whole but remain consistently 3 points less than the United States as a whole and 1 point less than the State of Virginia as a whole.
Geographic Mobility

In 2011, 89% of Fauquier County residents were living in the same place as they were one year prior. Of the remaining 11%, of County residents, 2.5% moved from a different residence within Fauquier County, 6.7% moved to their current residence from a different county within the State of Virginia, 1.8% moved from a different state, and 0.4% came from abroad.

Geographic mobility in 2007 was similar to that in 2011, although a larger percentage of residents moved within the County and less came from outside of the County.

Nativity and Language Spoken at Home

Most of Fauquier County’s population is native to the United States, with almost 93% born in the U.S. and almost 53% born in the State of Virginia. Approximately 6% of the County population is foreign born and half of that (3%) are not U.S. citizens.

Over 91% of households speak only English at home. Of the almost 9% that do not speak English, approximately 5.5% speak Spanish, 2% speak other Indo-European languages, and 1% speak Asian and Pacific Islander languages. Out of the households that speak a language other than English, approximately half speak English less than “very well.”