



# THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH AND THE WASHINGTON REGION: A LOOK AT ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

SEPTEMBER 2006

*Welcome to the eighteenth issue in a series of in-depth analyses on member jurisdictions in the Washington region. This newsletter contains economic and demographic data on the City of Falls Church, placed in the context of the Washington region.*

## Population

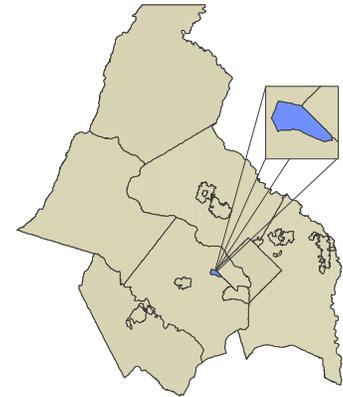
The population of the City of Falls Church, according to the 2000 Census, is 10,377 people. City of Falls Church residents constitute less than **one percent** of the Washington region's 4.5 million people.

Between 2000 and 2030, the City of Falls Church's population is anticipated to grow by **5,000 people**, an increase of **48 percent**, while the region is expected to grow by more than 2 million people or 45 percent.

More than **23 percent** of the population in the City of Falls Church is under 18 years old. This represents a slightly lower proportion of children compared to the regional average of 25 percent.

The City's nearly 1,300 'seniors' age 65 and older account for **12 percent** of the population. This percentage is more than the regional average of nine percent.

Eighty-five percent of the City of Falls Church population is white; seven percent is Asian; and three percent is black or African-American. Less than 900 people—eight percent of the City of Falls Church population—also indicated that they are Hispanic or Latino. Regionally, 56 percent of the population is white; 28 percent is black or African-American; and eight percent is Asian. One out of ten people in the Washington region is Hispanic or Latino.

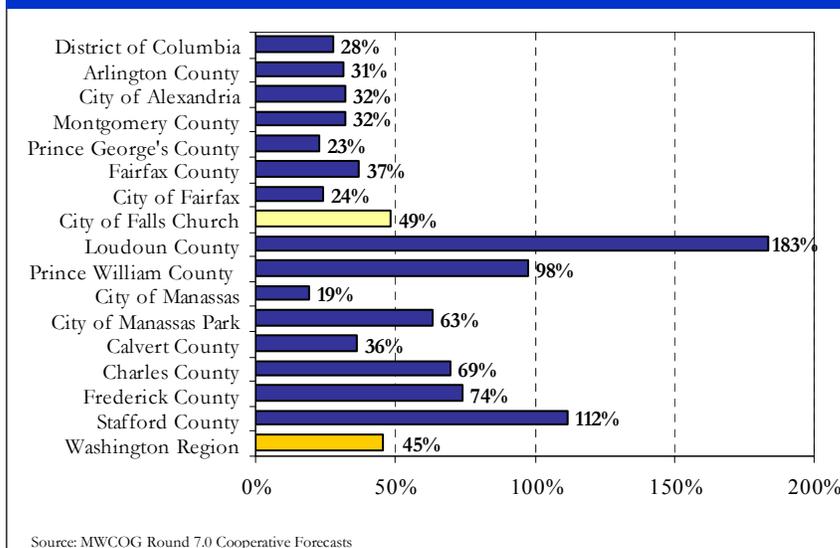


## Land Area

The City of Falls Church covers **2.2 square miles** and comprises less than one percent of the Washington region's land area. The City has a population density of **4,717 people** per square mile. It is more densely populated than the regional average of 1,395 people per square mile.



Percent Population Growth by Jurisdiction  
Forecast 2000–2030



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

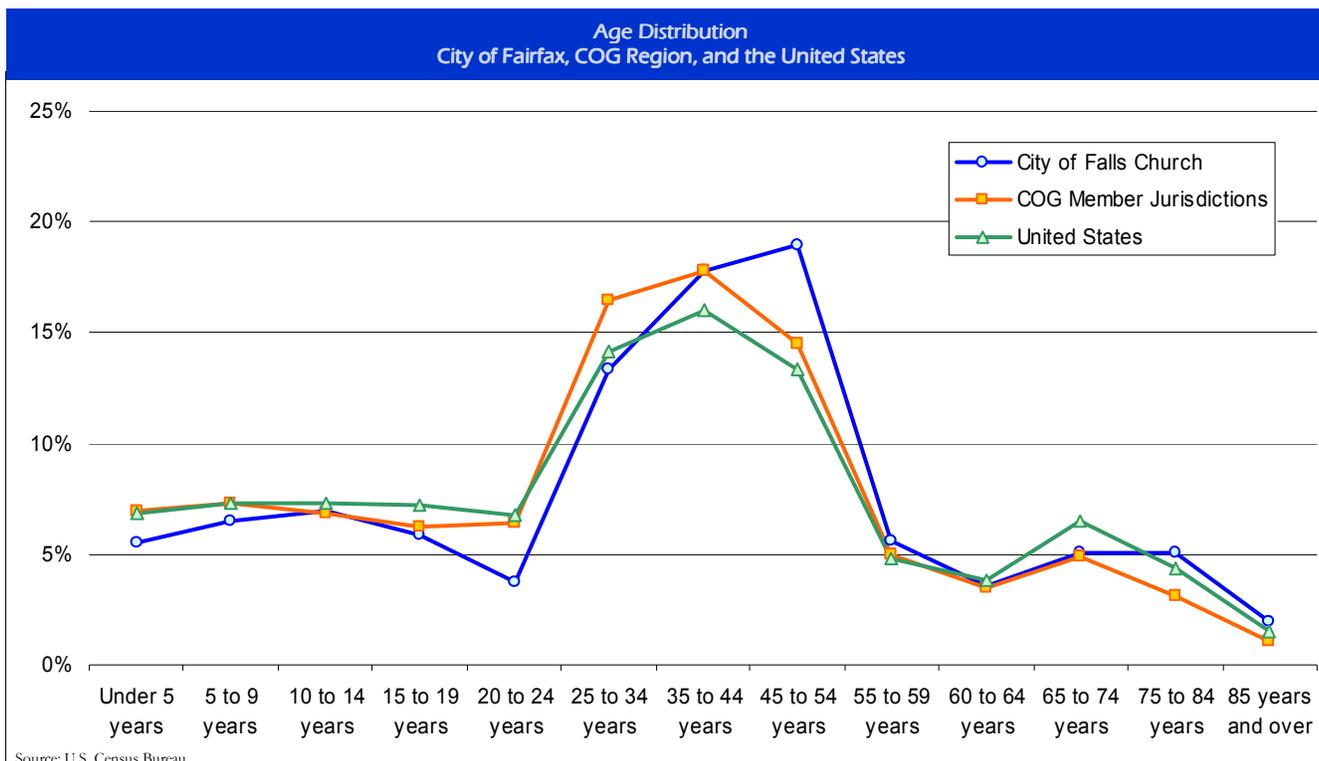
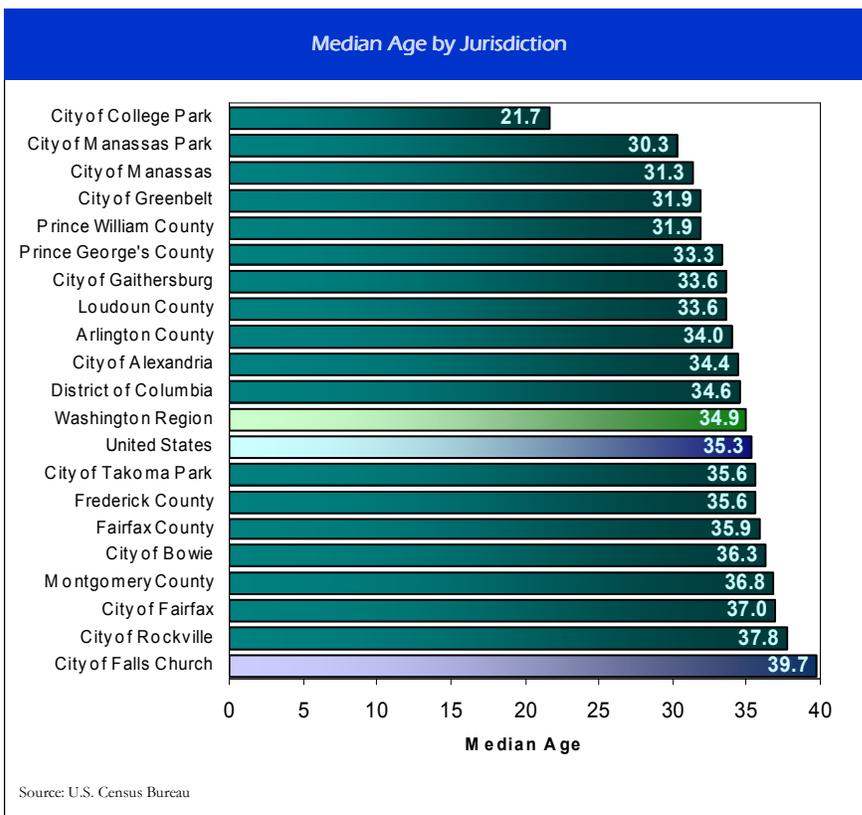
<i>Population and Land Area</i>	1
<i>Population - Age</i>	2
<i>Foreign Born; Education; Residence; and Marital Status</i>	3
<i>Employment; Income; Unemployment; Construction; and Federal Spending</i>	4
<i>Housing; Homes Sales; Commuting; and Vehicle Ownership</i>	5
<i>Commuting Patterns</i>	6



*Population (continued)*

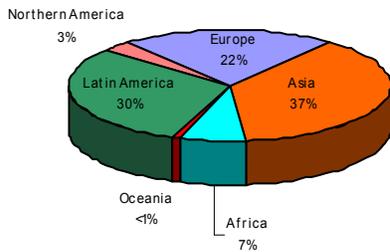
The median age of City of Falls Church residents is 39.7 years, higher than the median age in the Washington region (34.9 years), and the United States (35.3 years.)

Compared to the United States and the Washington region, the City of Falls Church has a lower proportion of young adults between 20 and 24 years old. The City of Falls Church has a higher proportion of people between 45 and 54 years old, when compared to the Washington region and the United States.

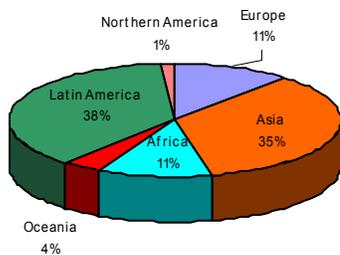




Region of Birth of Foreign Born in the City of Falls Church



Region of Birth of Foreign Born in the Washington Region



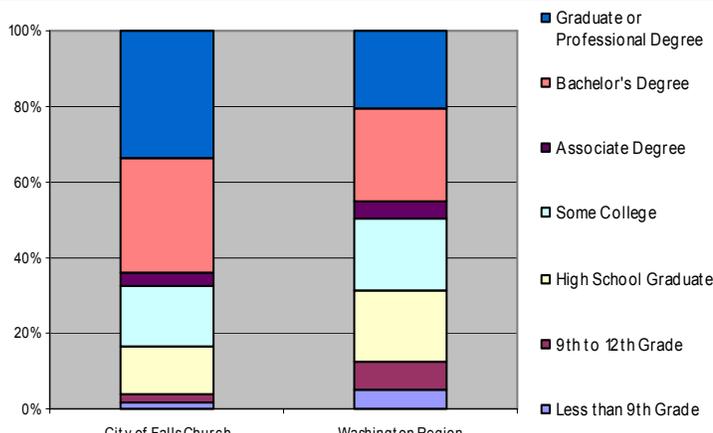
Note: Oceania refers to Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Foreign Born

The City of Falls Church has a lower percentage of foreign born residents compared to other jurisdictions in the Washington region. **Sixteen percent** of the City’s population was born in another country, compared to the regional average of 19 percent. Of the foreign born, 37 percent originate from Asia, 30 percent from Latin America, and 22 percent from Europe.

A variety of foreign languages are spoken by City of Falls Church residents—**19 percent** of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Seven percent speak Spanish, seven percent speak another Indo-European language, and four percent speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.

## Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Education

Nearly **2,700 people** in the City of Falls Church (**26 percent** of the population) are enrolled in school. Seventy-six percent of these enrollees are school age children, and 24 percent are college or graduate students.

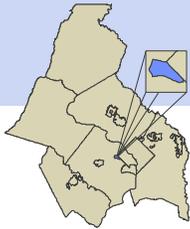
**Sixty-four percent** of Falls Church residents over age 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 45 percent in the Washington region. **Thirty-four percent** of City of Falls Church residents have a graduate or professional degree, compared with 21 percent of the region’s population.

## Marital Status

City of Falls Church residents have a slightly higher rate of marriage— **53 percent** of the population 15 years and older— compared to 52 percent of the region’s population.

## Residence

City of Falls Church residents move or relocate at a rate higher than the regional average. **Forty-five percent** of Falls Church residents moved between 1995 and 2000, compared with 44 percent of the region’s population.



## Employment

Between 2000 and 2030, the City of Falls Church is projected to add **10,800 jobs**, or an increase of **114 percent**. During the same period, the region is expected to add nearly 1.4 million jobs or an increase of approximately 49 percent.

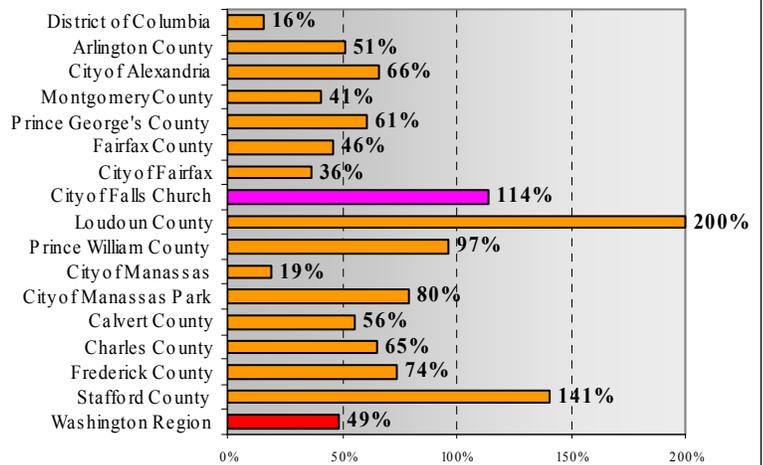
## Income

Fairfax County (including the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church) had a per capita income of **\$53,984** in 2003. The per capita income for the Washington region was \$44,757.

## Unemployment Rate

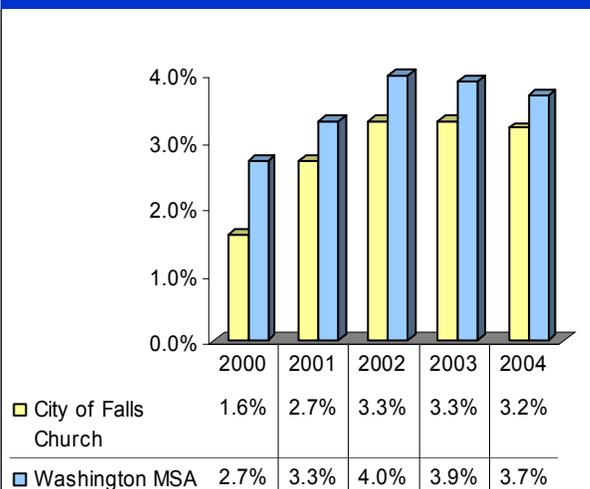
Over the last five years, the City of Falls Church has enjoyed an unemployment rate lower than the regional average. In 2004, the City of Falls Church had an unemployment rate of **3.2 percent**, while the regional unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

Percent Employment Growth by Jurisdiction  
Forecast 2000–2030



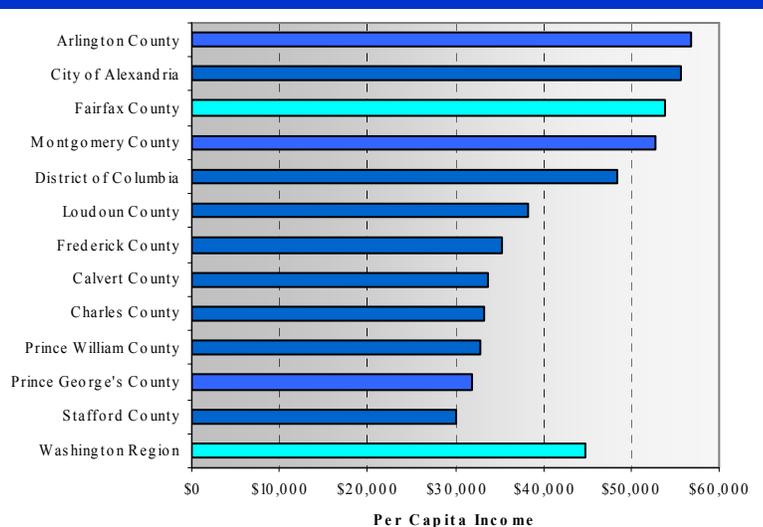
Source: MWCOG Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts

Unemployment Rate 2000 - 2004



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Annual Per Capita Income by Jurisdiction, 2003



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

## Construction

Nearly **241,000 square feet** of commercial development was constructed in the City of Falls Church over the last five years—this represents less than one percent of all commercial development in the Washington region.

## Federal Spending

In Fiscal Year 2003, the City of Falls Church received nearly **\$330.9 million** in salaries and wages from the federal government. This figure represents one percent of the region's federal salaries and wages. The City of Falls Church was home to nearly **\$928.3 million** in federal procurement, capturing two percent of the region's federal contract awards.



## Home Sales

The number of homes sold in the City of Falls Church increased **41 percent** between 2000 and 2004, compared with the regional average of 42 percent. A total of **1,010 homes** were sold in the City of Falls Church during that time period, which is less than one percent of the total home sales in the region.

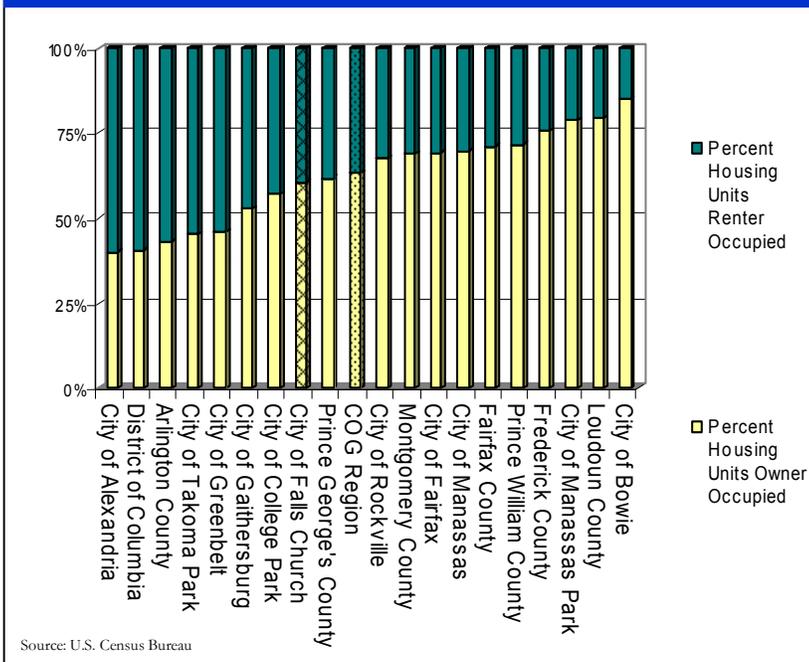
## Housing

The City of Falls Church has the eighth highest percentage of renter-occupied housing in the Washington region. Nearly 1,800, or **39 percent**, of the City of Falls Church housing units are renter-occupied, compared with 38 percent of the Washington region's housing units.

The City of Falls Church residents pay a higher median gross rent than the regional median. In 2000, the median gross rent in the City of Falls Church was **\$965 a month**, \$144 higher than the regional median gross rent of \$821 per month.

The average household size in Falls Church is smaller than the regional average of 2.59 people per household. At **2.31 people per household**, the City of Falls Church has the fifth smallest household size in the Washington region.

Owner-Occupied and Renter-Occupied Housing Units



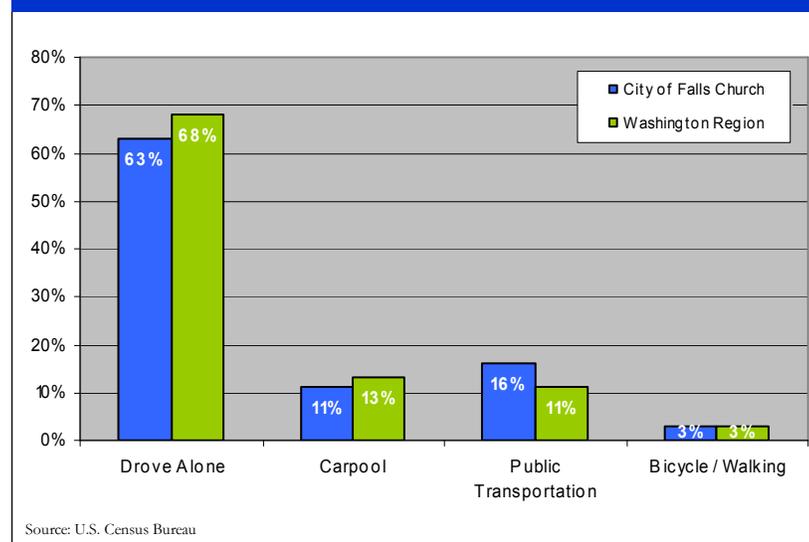
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Commuting

**Sixty-three percent** of Falls Church resident workers commute to work by driving alone, compared with 68 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Sixteen percent** of City of Falls Church resident workers use public transportation, compared with 11 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Eleven percent** of resident workers in the City of Falls Church use carpooling as a means of transportation to their jobs, compared with 13 percent of the region's workers.

**Eighty percent** of City of Falls Church residents commute to work in less than 45 minutes. In comparison, 72 percent of the region's workers have a travel time of less than 45 minutes.

Means of Transportation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Vehicle Ownership

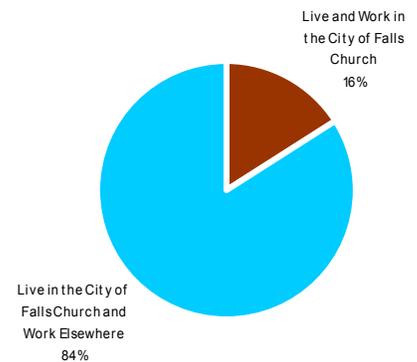
Of the 4,471 occupied housing units in the City of Falls Church, **eight percent** (336 housing units) do not have vehicles. For renter-occupied housing units, approximately **14 percent** do not have vehicles. Eleven percent of the region's occupied housing units and 23 percent of the renter-occupied units do not have vehicles.



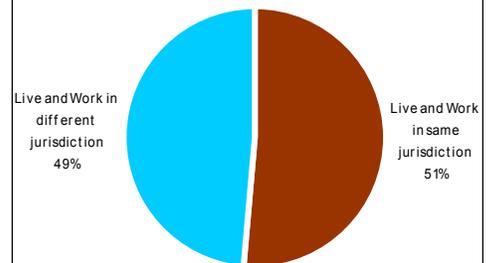
## Commuting Patterns

Of the **8,870** workers employed in the City of Falls Church, 10 percent (929 workers) live in the City of Falls Church. There are **5,853** resident workers in the City of Falls Church. Sixteen percent of the City's resident workers are employed in the City of Falls Church. The largest percentage of residents who commute to jobs located outside the City, work in the District of Columbia (29 percent), followed by Fairfax County (28 percent).

Place of Work for the City of Falls Church Residents



Location of Workers in the COG Region

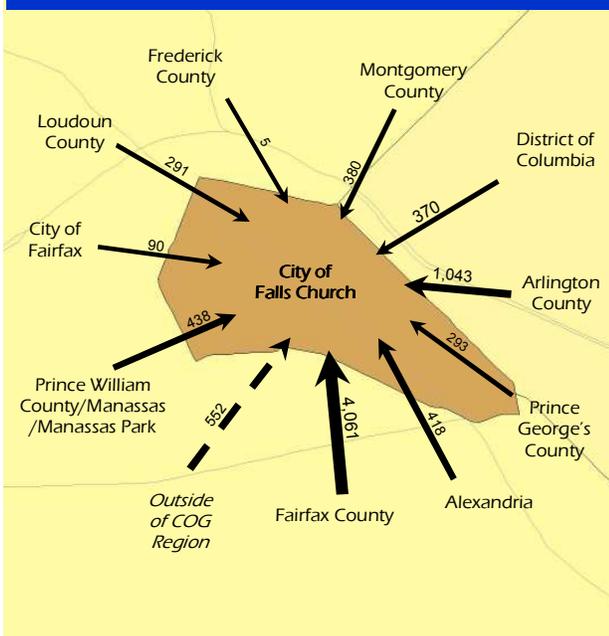


Place of Residence for City of Falls Church's Workforce			Place of Work for City of Falls Church's Residents		
COG Region	Fairfax County	4,061	COG Region	District of Columbia	1,696
	Arlington County	1,043		Fairfax County	1,653
	City of Falls Church	929		City of Falls Church	929
	City of Alexandria	418		Arlington County	837
	Montgomery County	380		City of Alexandria	190
	District of Columbia	370		Montgomery County	186
	Prince William County	355		City of Fairfax	69
	Prince George's County	293		Prince George's County	69
	Loudoun County	291		Loudoun County	64
	City of Fairfax	90		Prince William County	42
	City of Manassas	73		Frederick County	14
	City of Manassas Park	10		City of Manassas	0
	Frederick County	5		City of Manassas Park	0
	Other Virginia Jurisdictions	67		Other Virginia Jurisdictions	10
Outside COG Region	Virginia		Outside COG Region	Virginia	
	King George County	93		King George County	4
	Fauquier County	52		Fauquier County	0
	Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg	38		Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg	0
	Stafford County	23		Culpeper County	0
	Warren County	12		Stafford County	0
	Clarke County	7		Warren County	0
	King George County	7		Clarke County	0
	Culpeper County	6		Other Virginia Jurisdictions	10
	Other Virginia Jurisdictions	67		Other Virginia Jurisdictions	10
Maryland	Baltimore PMSA	66	Maryland	Baltimore PMSA	30
	Charles County	26		Charles County	14
	Calvert County	22		Calvert County	0
	Other Maryland Jurisdictions	5		Other Maryland Jurisdictions	6
	Other Maryland Jurisdictions	5		Other Maryland Jurisdictions	6
Other	Pennsylvania	16	Other	Pennsylvania	5
	West Virginia	62		West Virginia	0
	Elsewhere	57		Elsewhere	35
	Elsewhere	57		Elsewhere	35
<b>Total Jobs</b>			<b>Total Resident Workers</b>		
8,870			5,853		
Live and Work in the City of Falls Church			Live and Work in the City of Falls Church		
929			929		
Work in the City of Falls Church and Live Elsewhere			Live in the City of Falls Church and Work Elsewhere		
7,941			4,924		
<b>Total Jobs</b>			<b>Total Resident Workers</b>		
8,870			5,853		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Place of Residence for the City of Falls Church's Workforce



Place of Work for the City of Falls Church's Residents

