



FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON REGION: A LOOK AT ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

JANUARY 2006

In Focus: Fairfax County

Welcome to the second issue in a series of in-depth analyses on member jurisdictions in the Washington region. This newsletter contains economic and demographic data on Fairfax County, placed in the context of the Washington region.

Population

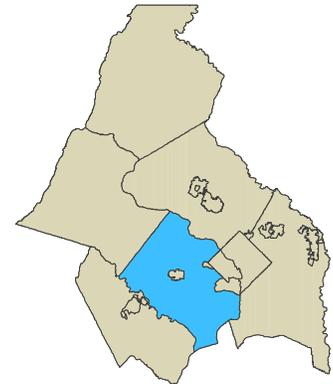
The population of Fairfax County, according to the 2000 Census, is 969,000 people. Fairfax residents contribute **21 percent** of the Washington region's 4.5 million people.

Between 2000 and 2030, Fairfax County's population is anticipated to grow by **361,900 people**, an increase of **37.4 percent**, while the region is expected to grow by more than 2 million people or 45.2 percent.

More than **25 percent** of the population in Fairfax County is under 18 years old. This percentage of children is the same as in the Washington region as a whole.

The County's nearly 77,000 'seniors,' age 65 years and older, make up **eight percent** of Fairfax County residents. This percentage is slightly less than the regional average of nine percent.

Seventy percent of Fairfax County's population is white; nine percent is black or African-American; and 13 percent is Asian. Nearly 107,000 people—11 percent of Fairfax County's 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.

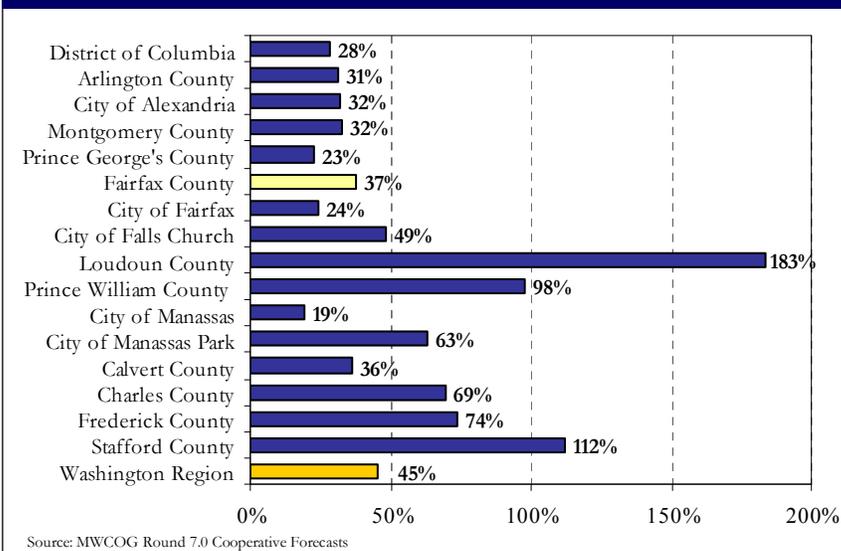


Land Area

Fairfax County covers **395 square miles**, and comprises **13 percent** of the Washington region's land area. The County has a population density of more than **2,450 people** per square mile, 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:

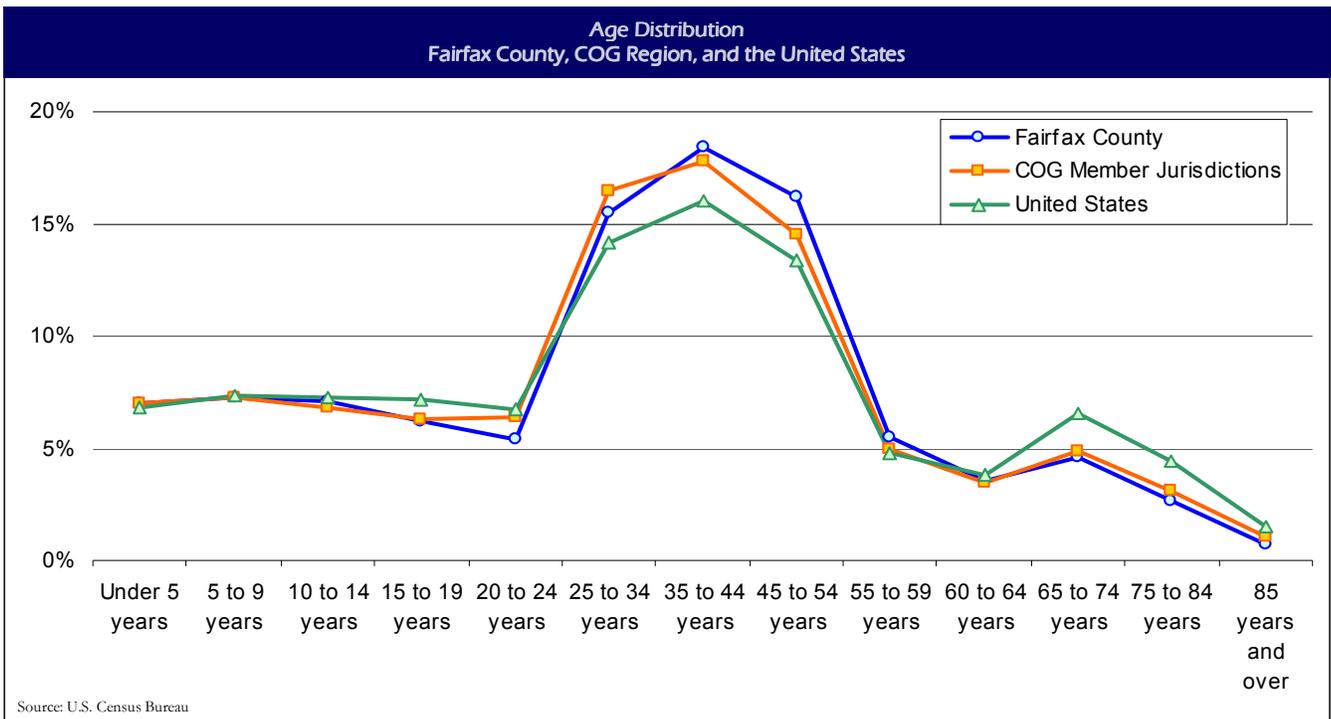
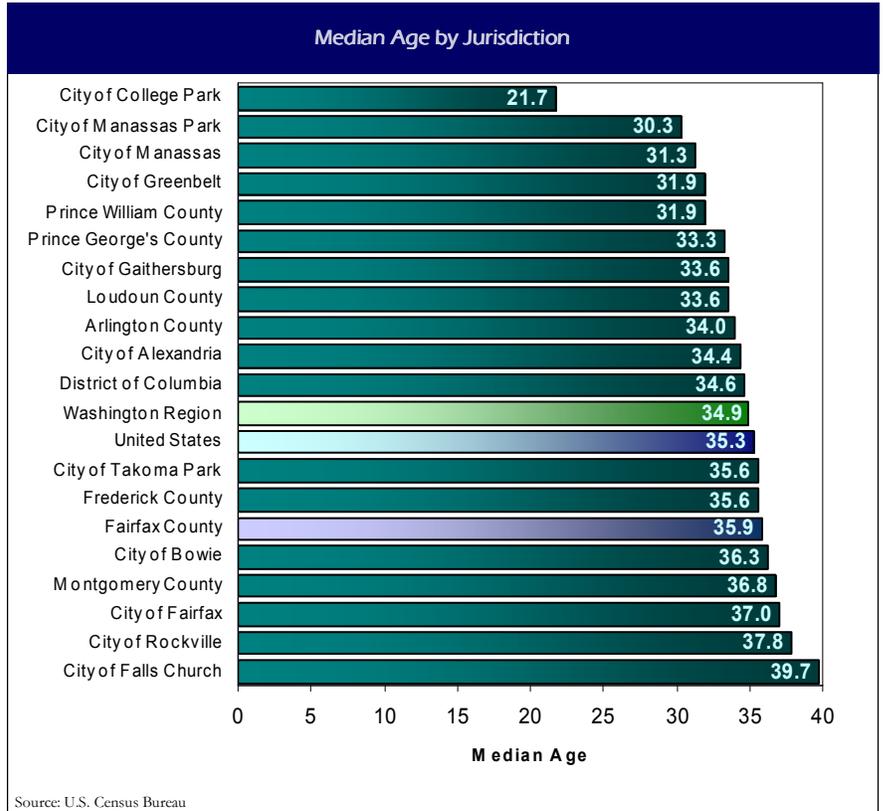
<i>Population and Land Area</i>	1
<i>Population - Age</i>	2
<i>Foreign Born; Education; Residence; and Marital Status</i>	3
<i>Employment; Income; Unemployment; Construction; and Federal Spending</i>	4
<i>Housing; Homes Sales; Commuting; and Vehicle Ownership</i>	5
<i>Commuting Patterns</i>	6

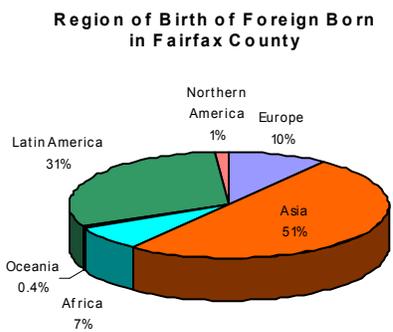


Population (continued)

The median age of Fairfax County residents is 35.9 years, slightly older than the median age in the Washington region (34.9 years), and the United States (35.3 years.)

The age distribution of Fairfax County closely mirrors that of the Washington region. Compared to the United States, Fairfax County has a slightly higher percentage of people who are 35 to 54 years old. Fairfax County also tends to have a slightly lower proportion of ‘seniors,’ those 65 years and older, when compared to the United States.





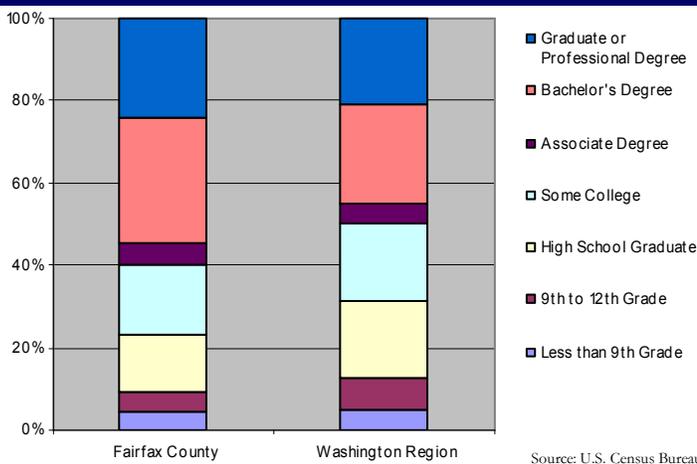
Note: Oceania refers to Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Foreign Born

Fairfax County has a higher percentage of foreign born residents compared to other jurisdictions in the Washington region. **Twenty-five percent** of the County’s population was born in another country, compared to the regional average of 19 percent. Of the foreign born, more than **half** (51 percent) originate from Asia.

A variety of foreign languages are spoken by Fairfax County residents—**30 percent** of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Eleven percent of Fairfax County residents speak Spanish, and nine percent speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.

Educational Attainment



Education

Nearly **266,000 people** in Fairfax County (**27 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.

Fairfax County ranks third in the region with the number of residents who have a bachelor’s degree or higher (55 percent compared to 45 percent in the Washington region.) **Twenty-four percent** of Fairfax County residents over age 25 have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 21 percent of the region’s population.

Marital Status

Fairfax County residents have a higher rate of marriage—**60 percent** of the population 15 years and older— compared to 52 percent of the region’s population.

Residence

Fairfax County residents move or relocate at a rate slightly less than the regional average. **Forty-three percent** of Fairfax County residents moved between 1995 and 2000, compared to 44 percent of the region’s population.



Employment

Between 2000 and 2030, Fairfax County is projected to add nearly **268,000 jobs** or an increase of more than **46 percent**. During the same period, the region is expected to add nearly 1.4 million jobs or an increase of approximately 49 percent.

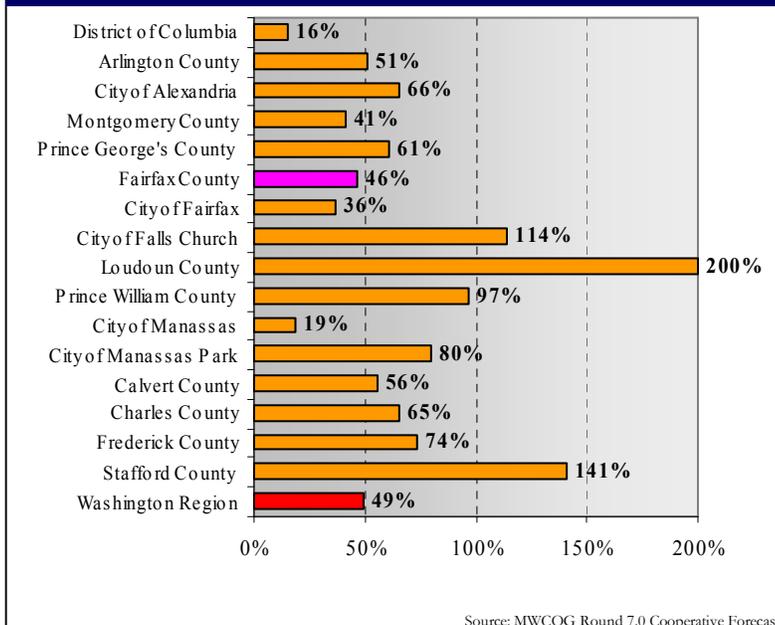
Income

Fairfax County had the third-highest per capita income in the region at **\$53,984** in 2003. The per capita income for the Washington region at the same time was \$44,757.

Unemployment Rate

Over the last five years, Fairfax County has enjoyed an unemployment rate lower than the regional average. In 2004, Fairfax County had an unemployment rate of **2.7 percent**, while the regional unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

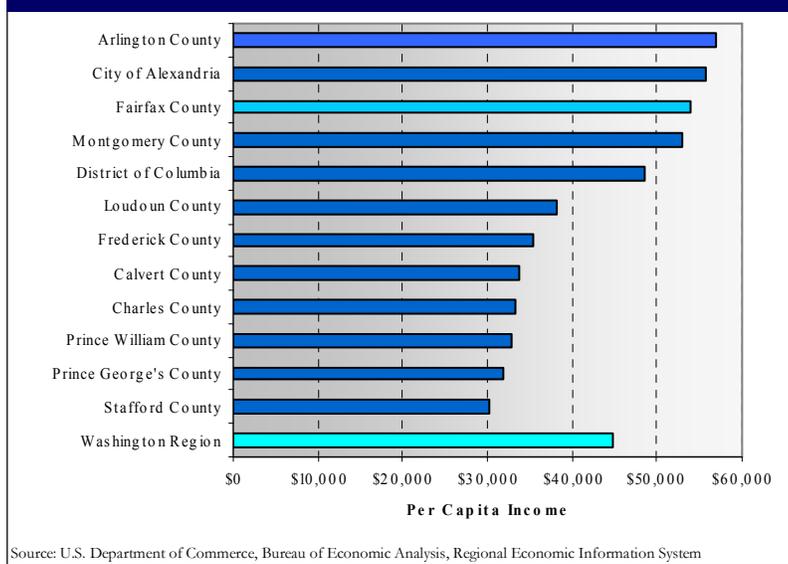
Percent Employment Growth by Jurisdiction
Forecast 2000–2030



Unemployment Rate 2000 - 2004



Annual Per Capita Income by Jurisdiction, 2003



Construction

Nearly **31.7 million square feet** of commercial development was constructed in Fairfax County over the last five years. This represents more than 18 percent of all commercial development in the Washington region.

Federal Spending

In Fiscal Year 2003, Fairfax County received more than **\$1.2 billion** in salaries and wages from the federal government. This figure represents approximately four percent of the region's federal salaries and wages. Fairfax County was home to more than **\$10.3 billion** in federal procurement, capturing 23 percent of the region's federal contract awards.



Home Sales

The number of homes sold in Fairfax County increased **29 percent** between 2000 and 2004, compared to the regional average of 42 percent. A total of **113,316 homes** were sold in Fairfax County during that time period, which is approximately 24 percent of the total home sales in the region.

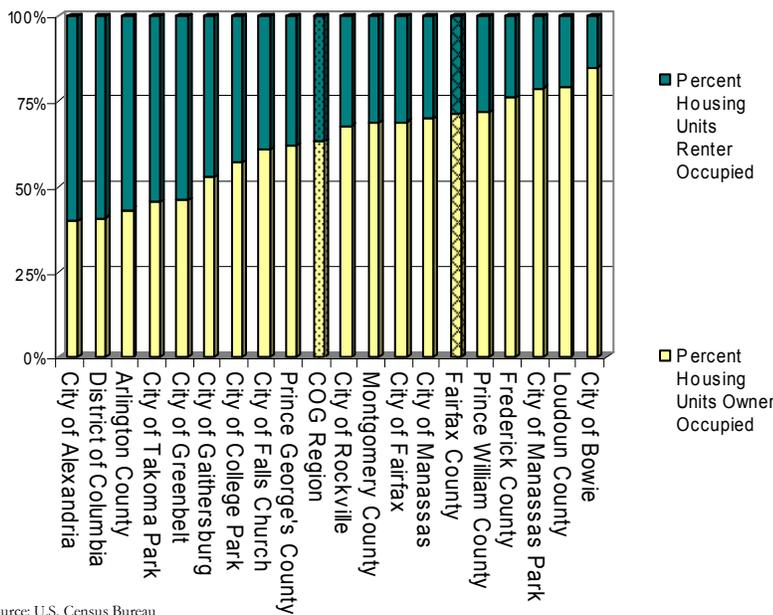
Housing

Fairfax County tends to have a higher percentage of owner-occupied housing than the Washington region. Nearly 249,000, or **71 percent**, of Fairfax County's housing units are owner-occupied, making Fairfax the jurisdiction with the sixth highest percentage of owner-occupied units in the region.

Fairfax County residents pay a higher median gross rent than the regional median. In 2000, the median gross rent in Fairfax County was **\$998 a month**, \$177 higher than the regional median gross rent of \$821 per month.

The average household size in Fairfax County is slightly larger than the regional average of 2.59 people per household. At **2.74 people per household**, Fairfax has the fifth highest household size in the Washington region, tied with the City of Bowie and Prince George's County.

Owner-Occupied and Renter-Occupied Housing Units



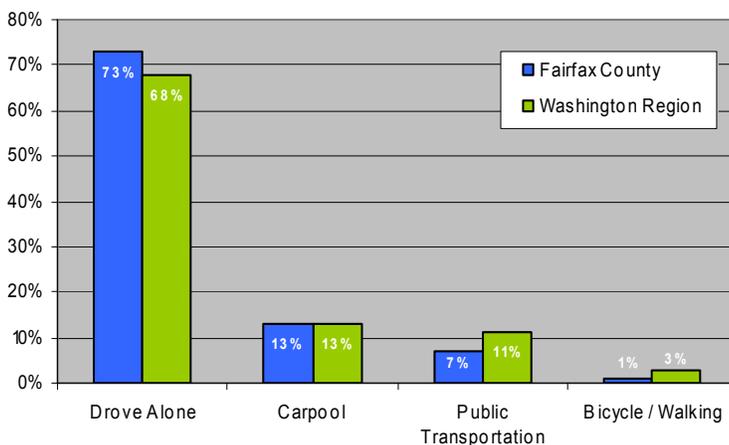
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Commuting

Nearly **three-quarters** of Fairfax County resident workers commute to work by driving alone, compared to 68 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Seven percent** of Fairfax County's resident workers use public transportation, compared to 11 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Thirteen percent** of resident workers of both Fairfax County and the Washington region use carpooling as a means of transportation to their jobs.

Seventy-three percent of Fairfax County 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

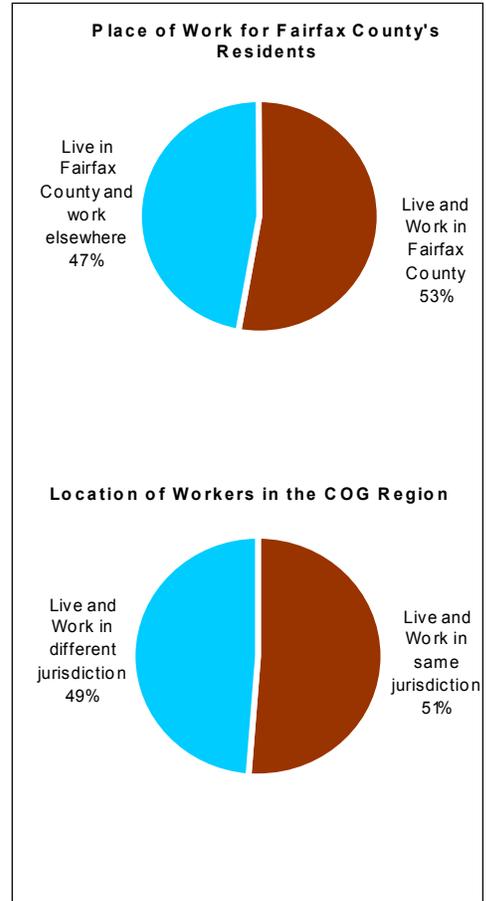
Vehicle Ownership

Of the 350,714 occupied housing units in Fairfax County, **four percent** (14,207 housing units) do not have vehicles. For renter-occupied housing units, approximately **nine 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 **506,272** workers employed in Fairfax County, 55 percent (278,064 workers) live in Fairfax County. There are **527,464** resident workers in Fairfax County. The majority of Fairfax County's resident workers (53 percent) work in the county. The largest percentage of residents who commute outside the County, work in the District of Columbia (17 percent), followed by Arlington County (nine percent).



Place of Residence for Fairfax County's Workforce		Place of Work for Fairfax County's Residents		
COG Region	Fairfax County	278,064	Fairfax County	278,064
	Prince William County	44,322	District of Columbia	88,908
	Loudoun County	35,933	Arlington County	48,670
	Montgomery County	22,148	City of Alexandria	27,641
	Arlington County	20,476	Montgomery County	16,943
	Prince George's County	18,258	Loudoun County	16,420
	City of Alexandria	14,643	City of Fairfax	15,741
	District of Columbia	12,244	Prince George's County	9,594
	City of Manassas	5,145	Prince William County	7,013
	City of Fairfax	4,964	City of Falls Church	4,061
	City of Manassas Park	1,964	City of Manassas	1,937
	Frederick County	1,786	City of Manassas Park	334
	City of Falls Church	1,653	Frederick County	213
	Stafford County	7,249	Fauquier County	680
Fauquier County	5,499	Stafford County	587	
Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg	3,638	Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg	218	
Warren County	2,246	Warren County	177	
Culpeper County	1,560	Culpeper County	98	
Clarke County	789	King George County	91	
King George County	191	Clarke County	44	
Other Virginia Jurisdictions	5,782	Other Virginia Jurisdictions	2,389	
Baltimore PMSA	5,983	Baltimore PMSA	2,512	
Charles County	2,475	Charles County	491	
Calvert County	866	Calvert County	60	
Other Maryland Jurisdictions	736	Other Maryland Jurisdictions	224	
West Virginia	2,001	Pennsylvania	361	
Pennsylvania	822	West Virginia	73	
Elsewhere	4,835	Elsewhere	3,920	
Total Jobs	506,272	Total Resident Workers	527,464	
Live and Work in Fairfax County	278,064	Live and Work in Fairfax County	278,064	
Work in Fairfax County and Live Elsewhere	228,208	Live in Fairfax County and work elsewhere	249,400	
Total Jobs	506,272	Total Resident Workers	527,464	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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