



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE WASHINGTON REGION: A LOOK AT ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

MARCH 2006

In Focus: District of Columbia

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

## Population

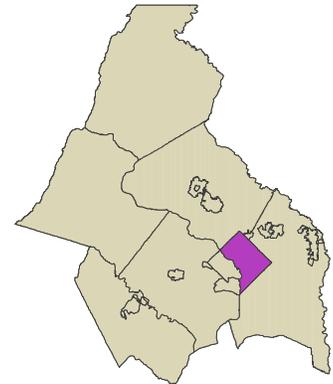
The population of the District of Columbia, according to the 2000 Census, is 572,059 people. The District's residents constitute **13 percent** of the Washington region's 4.5 million people.

Between 2000 and 2030, the District of Columbia's population is anticipated to grow by more than **160,000 people**, an increase of **28 percent**, while the region is expected to grow by more than 2 million people or 45 percent.

**Twenty percent** of the population in the District of Columbia is under 18 years old. This represents a lower proportion of children compared to the regional average of 25 percent.

The District of Columbia's nearly 70,000 'seniors' age 65 and older account for **twelve percent** of the population. The District has the third highest local share of seniors in the region, higher than the regional average of nine percent.

Sixty percent of the District of Columbia's population is black or African-American; 31 percent is white; and three percent is Asian. Nearly 45,000 people—eight percent of the District of Columbia'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.

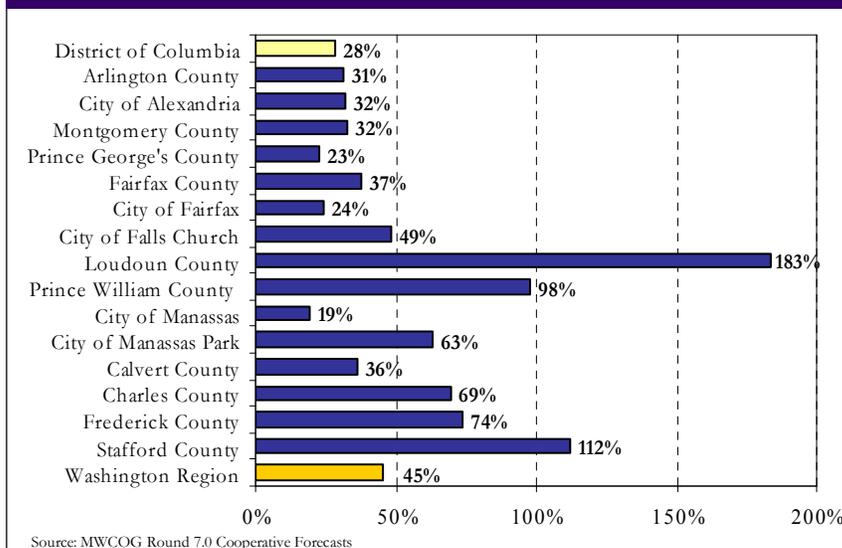


## Land Area

The District of Columbia covers **61 square miles** and comprises **two percent** of the Washington region's land area. The District has a population density of more than **9,378 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:

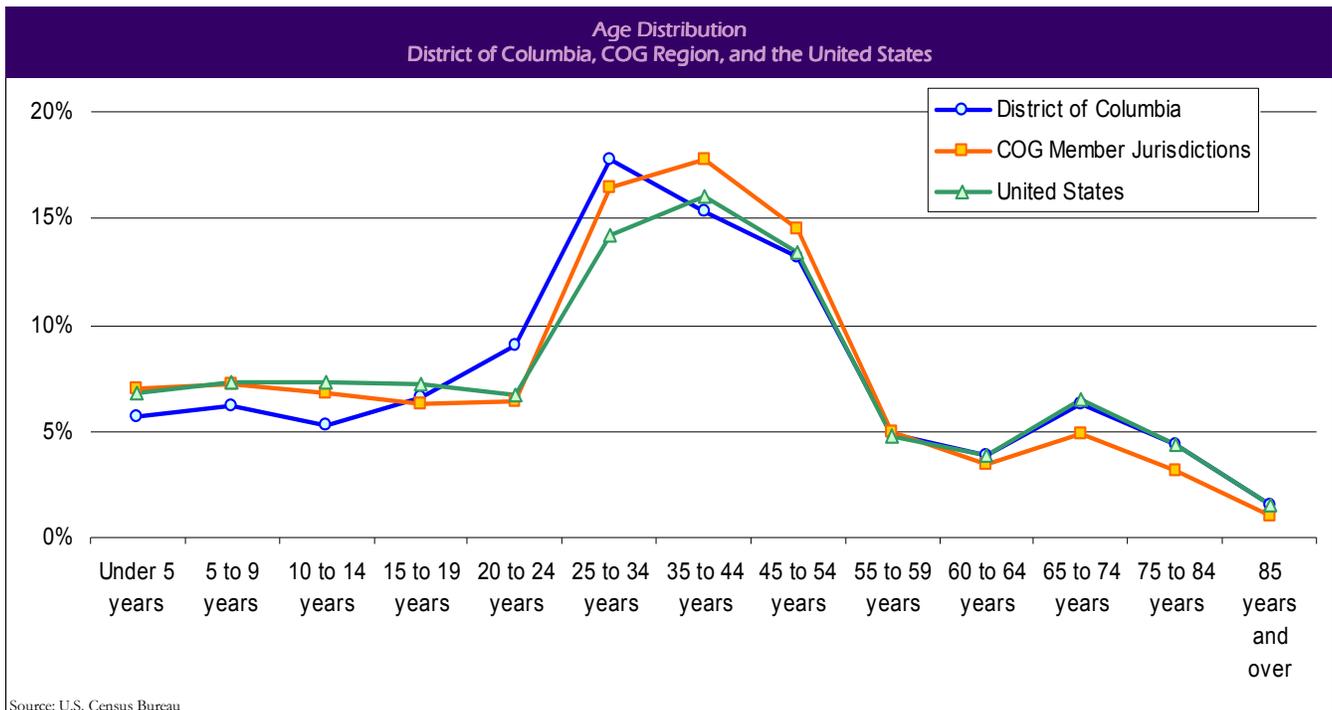
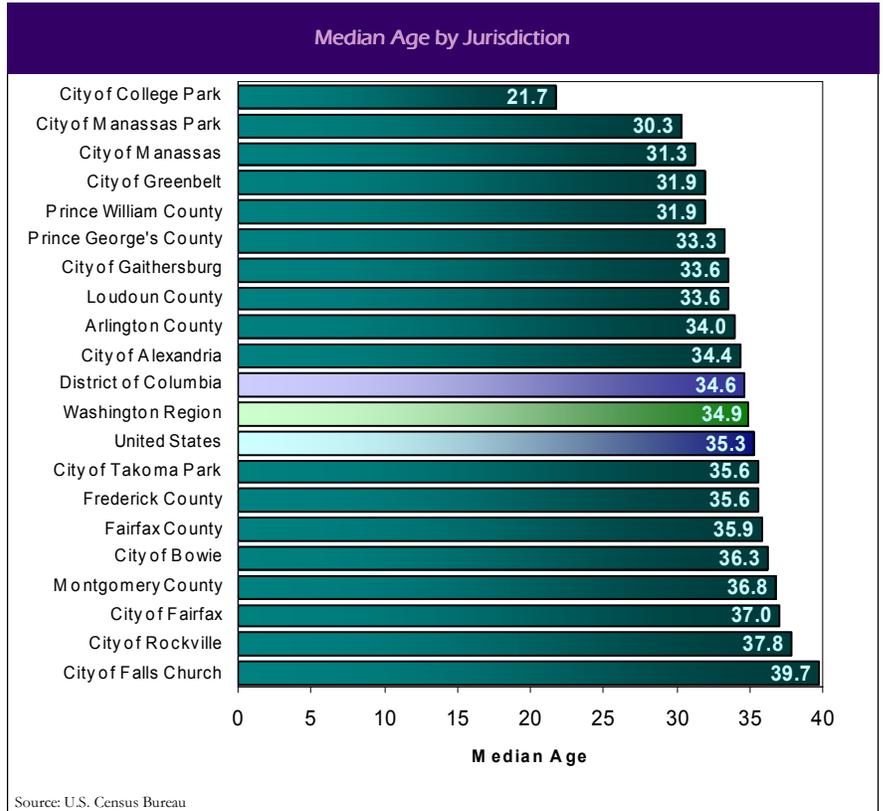
|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Population and Land Area</i>   | 1 |
| <i>Population - Age</i>   | 2 |
| <i>Foreign Born; Education; Residence; and Marital Status</i>               | 3 |
| <i>Employment; Income; Unemployment; Construction; and Federal Spending</i> | 4 |
| <i>Housing; Homes Sales; Commuting;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



*Population (continued)*

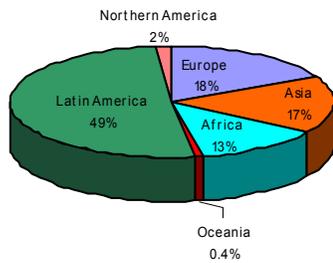
The median age of District of Columbia residents is 34.6 years, slightly younger than the median age in the Washington region (34.9 years), and the United States (35.3 years.)

Compared to the United States and the Washington region, the District of Columbia has a lower proportion of children under 15 years old. The District of Columbia also has a higher percentage of young adults, when compared to the United States. **Twenty-seven percent** of District residents are between 20 and 34 years old.

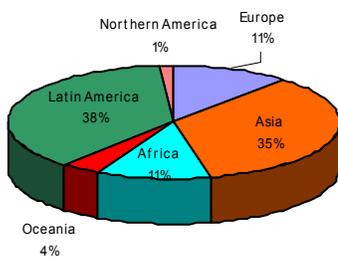




Region of Birth of Foreign Born in the District of Columbia



Region of Birth of Foreign Born in the Washington Region



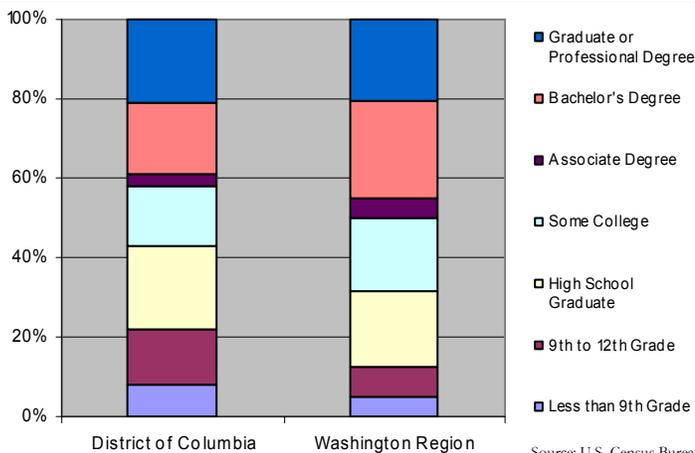
Note: Oceania refers to Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Foreign Born

The District of Columbia has a lower percentage of foreign born residents compared to other jurisdictions in the Washington region. **Thirteen percent** of the District's population was born in another country, compared to the regional average of 19 percent. Of the foreign born, nearly **half** originate from Latin America, 18 percent from Europe, 17 percent from Asia, and 13 percent from Africa.

A variety of foreign languages are spoken by District of Columbia residents—**17 percent** of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Nine percent of District residents speak Spanish, four percent speak another Indo-European language, and two percent speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.

## Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Education

More than **157,000 people** in the District of Columbia (**28 percent** of the population) are enrolled in school. Sixty-two percent of these enrollees are school age children, and 38 percent are college or graduate students.

**Thirty-nine percent** of the District of Columbia residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 45 percent in the Washington region. **Twenty-one percent** of the District's residents have a graduate or professional degree. This percentage is the same for the Washington region as a whole.

## Marital Status

The District of Columbia has the region's second highest percentage of 'singles' (those never married, as defined by the Census Bureau)— **48 percent** of the population 15 years and older— compared to 32 percent of the region's population.

## Residence

District of Columbia residents move or relocate at a rate more than the regional average. **Half** of the District's residents moved between 1995 and 2000, compared with 44 percent of the region's population.



## Employment

Between 2000 and 2030, the District of Columbia is projected to add **116,400 jobs**, or an increase of **16 percent**. During the same period, the region is expected to add nearly 1.4 million jobs or an increase of approximately 49 percent.

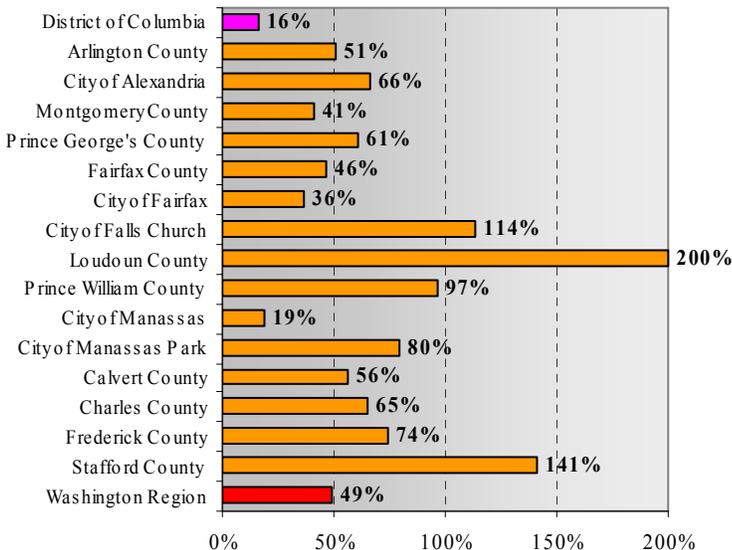
## Income

The District of Columbia had a per capita income of **\$48,446** in 2003. The per capita income for the Washington region was \$44,757.

## Unemployment Rate

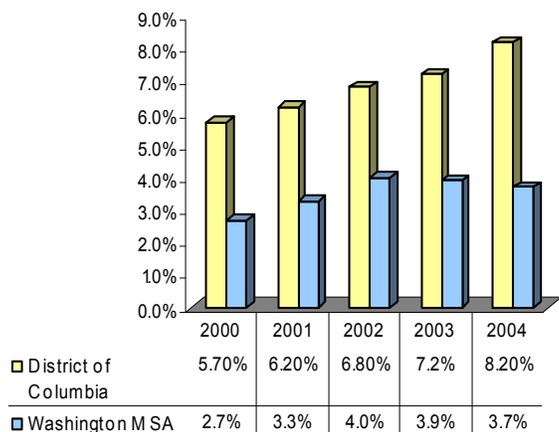
Over the last five years, the District of Columbia experienced an unemployment rate higher than the regional average. In 2004, the District of Columbia had an unemployment rate of **8.2 percent**, while the regional unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

Percent Employment Growth by Jurisdiction  
Forecast 2000–2030



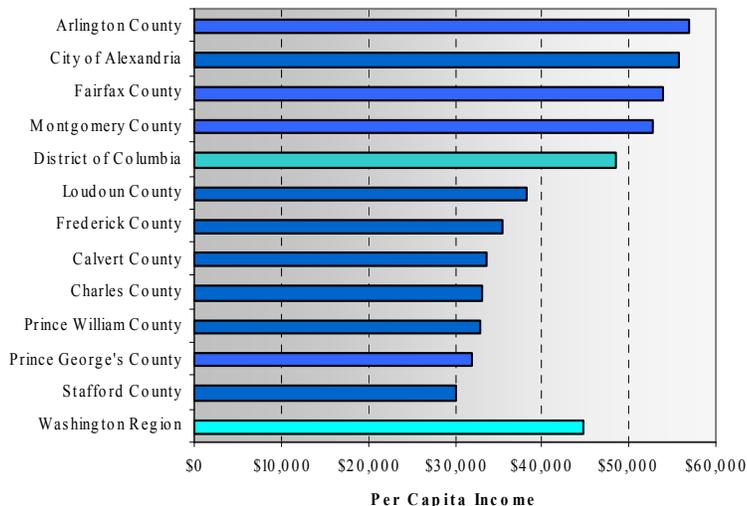
Source: MWCOG Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts

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

More than **30.5 million square feet** of commercial development was constructed in the District of Columbia over the last five years—this represents 18 percent of all commercial development in the Washington region.

## Federal Spending

In Fiscal Year 2003, the District of Columbia received more than **\$14.8 billion** in salaries and wages from the federal government. This figure represents approximately 54 percent of the region's federal salaries and wages. The District of Columbia was home to more than **\$11.4 billion** in federal procurement, capturing 26 percent of the region's federal contract awards.



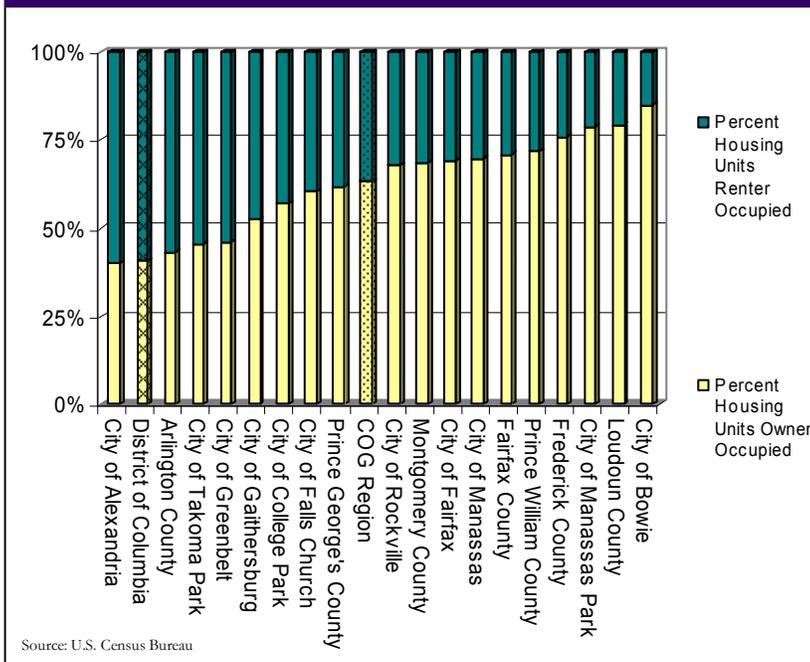
## Home Sales

The number of homes sold in the District of Columbia increased **19 percent** between 2000 and 2004, compared with the regional average of 42 percent. A total of **41,368 homes** were sold in the District during that time period, which is approximately nine percent of the total home sales in the region.

## Housing

The District of Columbia has the second highest percentage of renter-occupied housing in the Washington region. More than 147,000, or **59 percent**, of the District's housing units are renter-occupied, compared with 38 percent of the Washington region's housing units.

Owner-Occupied and Renter-Occupied Housing Units



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

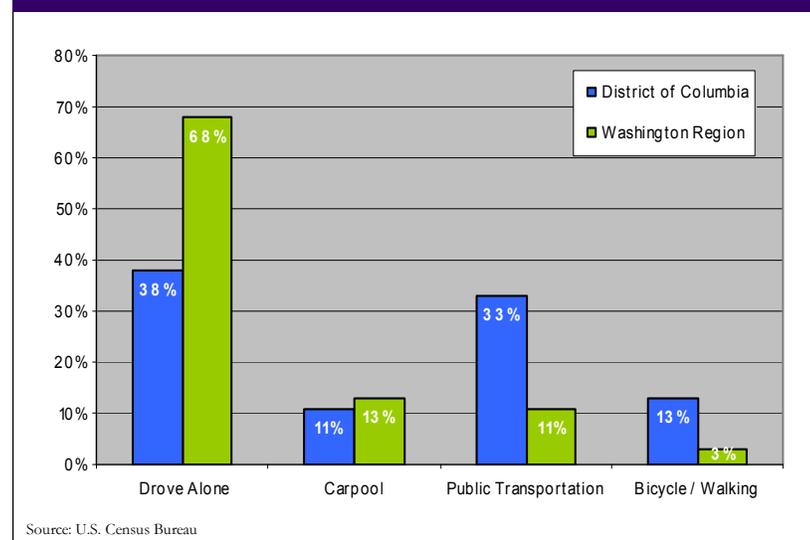
District of Columbia residents pay a lower median gross rent than the regional median. In 2000, the median gross rent in the District of Columbia was **\$618 a month**, \$203 lower than the regional median gross rent of \$821 per month.

The average household size in the District of Columbia is smaller than the regional average of 2.59 people per household. At **2.16 people per household**, the District of Columbia has the third lowest household size in the Washington region.

## Commuting

**Thirty-eight percent** of District of Columbia resident workers commute to work by driving alone, compared with 68 percent of the Washington region's workers. **One-third** of the District's resident workers use public transportation, compared with 11 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Thirteen percent** of resident workers of the District of Columbia bicycle or walk to their jobs, compared with three percent of the region's workers.

Means of Transportation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Seventy-eight percent** of District of Columbia 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.

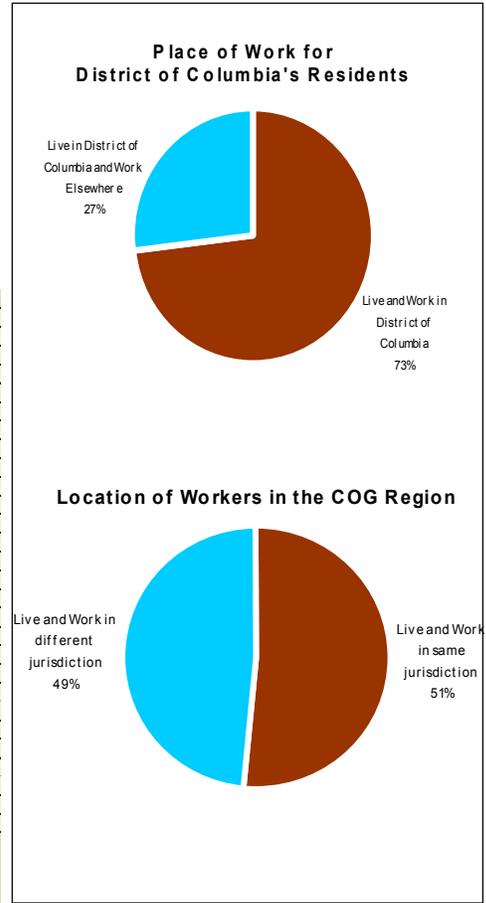
## Vehicle Ownership

Of the 248,338 occupied housing units in the District of Columbia, **37 percent** (91,699 housing units) do not have vehicles. For renter-occupied housing units, approximately **half** 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 **671,678** workers employed in the District of Columbia, 28 percent (190,566 workers) live in the District. Nineteen percent of workers employed in the District commute from Prince George's County, followed by Montgomery County (15 percent), and Fairfax County (13 percent). There are **260,884** resident workers in the District of Columbia. Seventy-three percent of the District of Columbia's resident workers are employed in the District.



| Place of Residence for District of Columbia's Workforce |                              |                               | Place of Work for District of Columbia's Residents |                |       |  |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------|-------|--|
| COG Region  | District of Columbia         | 190,566                       | District of Columbia                               | 190,566        |       |  |
|   | Prince George's County       | 126,138                       | Montgomery County                                  | 19,509         |       |  |
|   | Montgomery County            | 99,672                        | Prince George's County                             | 13,655         |       |  |
|   | Fairfax County               | 88,908                        | Fairfax County                                     | 12,244         |       |  |
|   | Arlington County             | 42,263                        | Arlington County                                   | 12,164         |       |  |
|   | City of Alexandria           | 23,292                        | City of Alexandria                                 | 4,040          |       |  |
|   | Prince William County        | 15,368                        | Loudoun County                                     | 761            |       |  |
|   | Loudoun County               | 5,843                         | City of Fairfax                                    | 453            |       |  |
|   | Frederick County             | 3,025                         | City of Falls Church                               | 370            |       |  |
|   | City of Falls Church         | 1,696                         | Prince William County                              | 348            |       |  |
|   | City of Fairfax              | 1,631                         | Frederick County                                   | 121            |       |  |
|   | City of Manassas             | 864                           | City of Manassas                                   | 100            |       |  |
|   | City of Manassas Park        | 311                           | City of Manassas Park                              | 71             |       |  |
|   | Outside COG Region           |                               | Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg                        | 98             |       |  |
| Virginia  | Stafford County              | 3,310                         | Fauquier County                                    | 59             |       |  |
|   | Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg  | 2,494                         | Warren County                                      | 54             |       |  |
|   | Fauquier County              | 1,139                         | Stafford County                                    | 51             |       |  |
|   | Warren County                | 376                           | Culpeper County                                    | 22             |       |  |
|   | Culpeper County              | 260                           | King George County                                 | 21             |       |  |
|   | King George County           | 242                           | Clarke County                                      | 0              |       |  |
|   | Clarke County                | 156                           | Other Virginia Jurisdictions                       | 327            |       |  |
|   | Other Virginia Jurisdictions | 3,100                         | Baltimore PMSA                                     | 2,659          |       |  |
|   | Maryland                     | Baltimore PMSA                | 33,035   | Charles County | 277   |  |
|   |                              | Charles County                | 10,785   | Calvert County | 59    |  |
| Calvert County  |                              | 3,967                         | Other Maryland Jurisdictions                       | 170            |       |  |
| Other Maryland Jurisdictions                            |                              | 2,857                         | Pennsylvania                                       | 251            |       |  |
| Other   |                              | Pennsylvania                  | 1,032  | West Virginia  | 49    |  |
|   |                              | West Virginia                 | 1,350  | Elsewhere      | 2,385 |  |
|   |                              | Elsewhere                     | 7,998  |                |       |  |
| <b>Total Jobs</b>                                       |                              | <b>671,678</b>                | <b>Total Resident Workers</b>                      | <b>260,884</b> |       |  |
| Live and Work in District of Columbia                   |                              | 190,566                       | Live and Work in District of Columbia              | 190,566        |       |  |
| Work in District of Columbia and Live Elsew             |                              | 481,112                       | Live in District of Columbia and Work Elsewh       | 70,318         |       |  |
| <b>Total Jobs</b>                                       | <b>671,678</b>               | <b>Total Resident Workers</b> | <b>260,884</b>                                     |                |       |  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

