

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

PURPOSE

Demographics is the statistical study of population trends based upon data such as housing age and size, household size and age distribution of occupants, school enrollment, density, and income. The population and demographic characteristics of Culpeper County are important because these statistics reveal much about the direction that the County should take with respect to the need for county services, recreation, education, health care, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency services, solid waste, utilities and other county-wide services. Demographic analysis provides important information to private sector decision-makers who are considering locating or expanding commercial or industrial enterprises within the county. Population and demographic changes are also important for county officials in assessing land use plans and policies and potential changes. This chapter examines the changes, which have occurred from 2000 to 2013 in terms of population growth and characteristics such as age, sex, education and race, including population projection into the future. Finally, this analysis formulates a population planning range to assess the County’s ability to provide services in an efficient and effective manner.

The United States Census Bureau provides the most up to date, Culpeper County specific demographics data available. [US Census Bureau-www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
Quick Link: [Culpeper County Quick Facts](#)

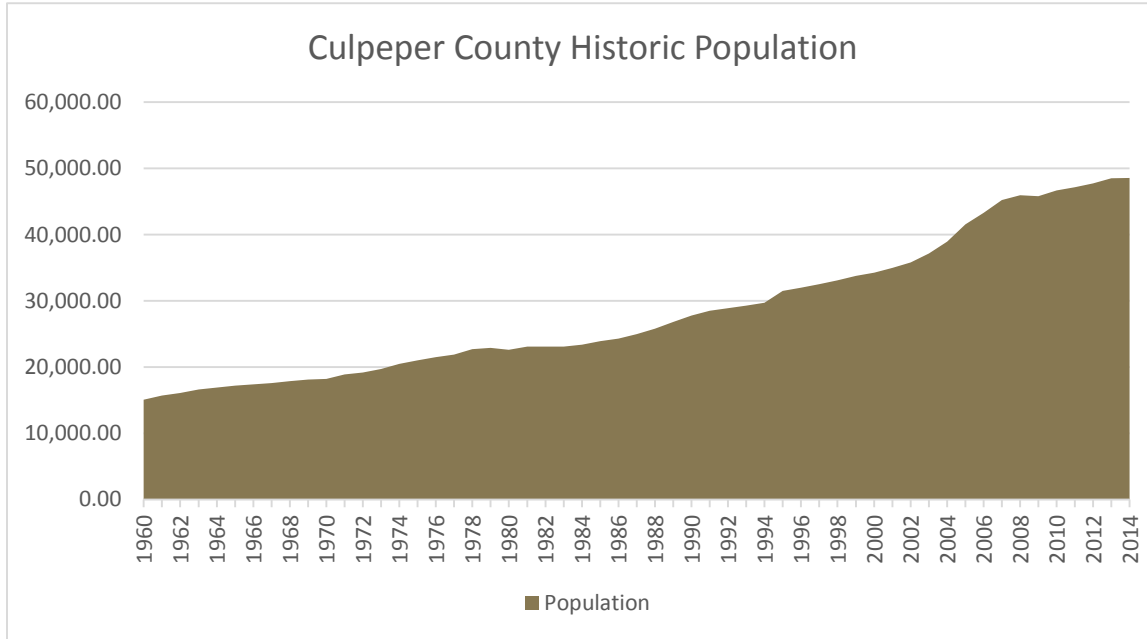
CURRENT POPULATION

TOWN & COUNTY POPULATION		2010-2013			
US CENSUS ESTIMATES	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Town	16,697	16,797	16,881	17,145	
County	30,110	30,514	30,908	31,361	
Total	46,807	47,311	47,789	48,506	48,558

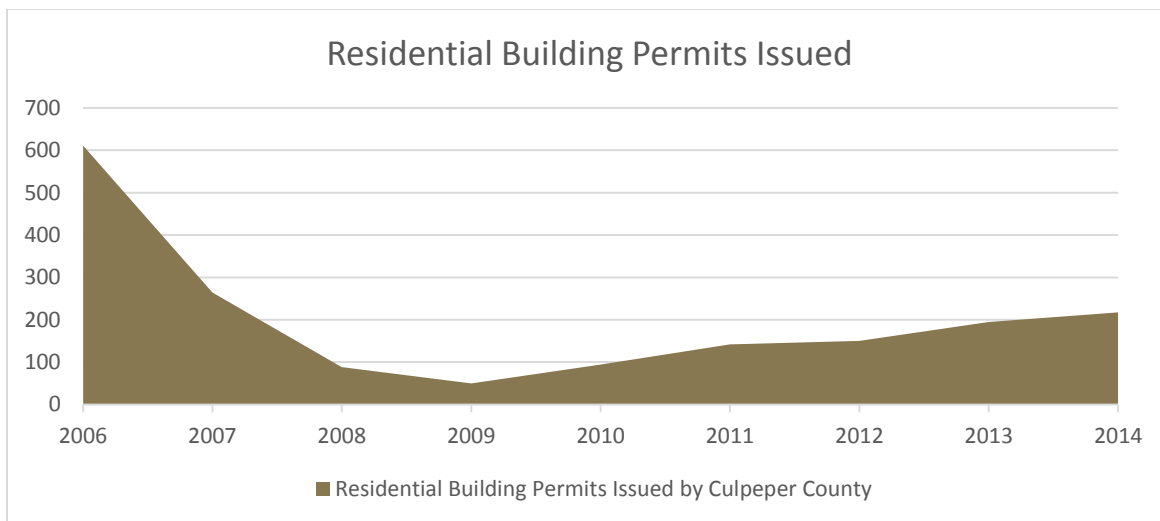
*Published on January 27, 2015 by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Demographics Research Group www.coopercenter.org/demographics/

“A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers.” – Plato

POPULATION TRENDS



Culpeper County has historically experienced moderate yearly growth as shown on the above chart. From 1920 to 2000 the average annual growth rate was 2.3%. The most significant exception to the trend was the increased growth rate from 2000-2006 which peaked at over 6% annual growth. Population has never declined with the exception of years 2008 and 2009, when Culpeper County experienced a decrease in population from 45,975 in 2008 to 45,825 the following year. This decrease in population was due to the economic recession which lasted from early 2007 to mid-2012. Housing starts decreased significantly during this time, with only 50 residential permits issued in 2009. The chart below shows a modest growth rate in new residential construction following the recession.



POPULATION PROJECTIONS

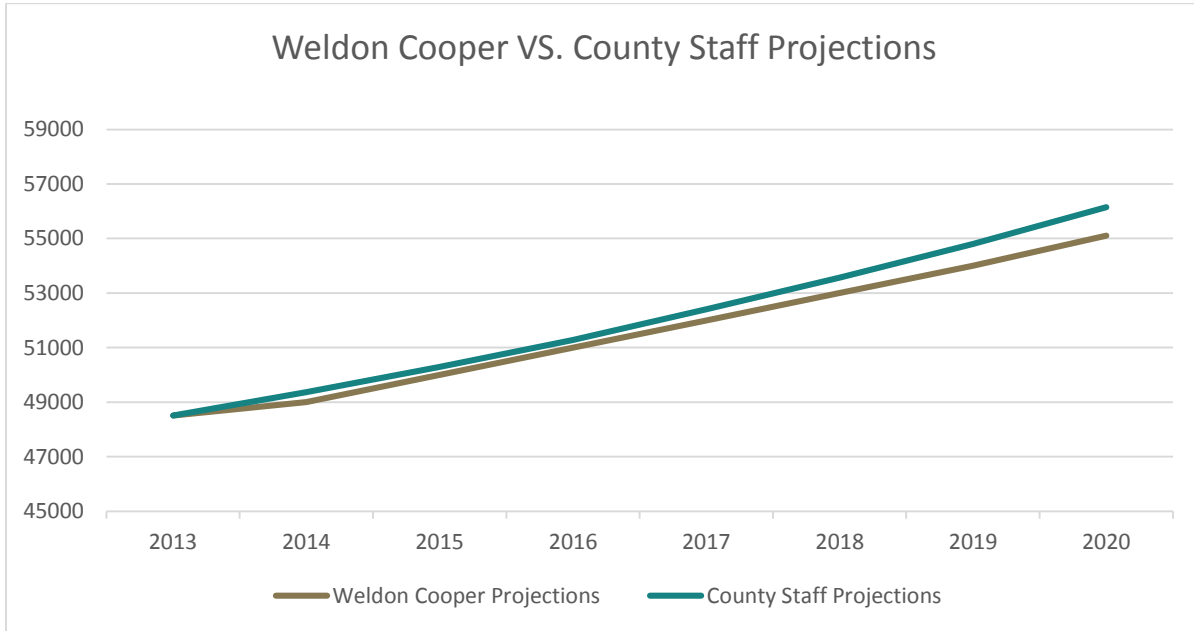
Population projections attempt to identify the expected size of the population. Projections are used to plan needed services, apply for grants, and justify public and private investments.

Three different projections (years 2020, 2030, and 2040) are presented in the following table. Under contract with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Weldon Cooper Center’s Demographics Research Group produced detailed population projections for 2020, 2030, and 2040 for Virginia, its 134 localities, 22 Planning Districts and large towns (population 5,000 or more).

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS				
2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
34,262	46,807	55,102	63,614	72,835

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, provided by the Weldon Cooper Center

There are many methodologies and scenarios for projecting population growth. A 2.3% growth rate in the 1990’s gave way to an annual rate of well over 4% from 2000 to 2006 in Culpeper County. From 2010 through 2014 Culpeper County has begun to experience a recovery period with a slower growth rate, between 1% and 1.9% annually. It is expected that 2015 through 2020, on average, will continue at an annual growth rate close to 2%. The long term projected growth rate for 2020-2040 is expected to average 1.5% annually.



Understanding the characteristics of the county’s population, and examining how those characteristics are changing or are expected to change over time, is vital to planning ahead for the future needs of that population.

POPULATION GROWTH

Natural Increase Versus Net Migration

Population growth occurs partly through what demographers call “natural increase”, when the number of births exceeds the number of deaths. Between 2010 and 2013, Virginia gained 128,550 citizens through natural increase.

Population also changes as a result of people moving in and out of the state. Between 2010 and 2013, Virginia netted a total of 130,831 residents from migration.

For the past four decades, the majority of population growth in Culpeper County has resulted from in-migration. Population growth resulting from in-migration is likely to continue and will most likely constitute a substantial portion of population increase. This increase derives from several factors:

1. The continuing suburbanization of the Washington, DC metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).
2. The trend of locating major employers just outside the Washington DC, Northern Virginia MSA.
3. The increased development in the Northern Virginia Region.
4. As employment opportunities in the Washington Metropolitan area increase, and home prices increase, commuting remains a viable option.

Natural Increase Versus Net Migration	2010-2013	
	VIRGINIA	CULPEPER COUNTY
2013 Population Est.	8,260,405	48,223
2010 Population	8,001,024	46,689
Change	259,381 (3.2%)	1,534 (3.3%)
Due to Natural Increase	128,550	824
Due to Net Migration	130,831	710

*Published on January 27, 2014 by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics Research Group, www.coopercenter.org/demographics/

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE 2012		
RACE	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	46,894	100%
White	36,090	77%
Black	7,027	15%
Hispanic or Latino	4,121	8.8%
Asian	793	1.7%
American Indian	393	0.8%
Two or more races	1,574	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

POPULATION BY AGE & SEX

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE & SEX 2012		
AGE AND SEX	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	46,894	100%
Male	23,600	50.3%
Female	23,294	49.7%
Under 5 years	3,221	6.9%
5 to 9 years	3,674	7.8%
10 to 14 years	3,161	6.7%
15 to 19 years	3,072	6.6%
20 to 24 years	2,478	5.3%
25 to 34 years	5,929	12.6%
35 to 44 years	6,772	14.4%
45 to 54 years	7,332	15.6%
55 to 59 years	2,941	6.3%
60 to 64 years	2,677	5.7%
65 to 74 years	3,328	7.1%
75 to 84 years	1,651	3.5%
85 years and over	658	1.4%
Median age (years)	37.9	
18 years and over:	34,914	74.5%
Male	17,681	50.6%
Female	17,233	49.4%
65 years and over	5,637	12%
Male	2,598	46.1%
Female	3,039	53.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Since the 2008-2009 school year, Culpeper County Public Schools have gained 693 new students. A total growth of 9.6 percent in 5 years.

CULPEPER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND PROJECTIONS						
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
7,215	7,434	7,503	7,612	7,732	7,908	8,055

Source: Culpeper County Public Schools

*Does not reflect students in 12 preschool classes (approx. 150 students per year)

CULPEPER COUNTY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2012 (Public and Private)	
	ESTIMATE
TOTAL POPULATION ENROLLED	11,613
Nursery school, preschool	760
Kindergarten	794
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	5,167
High School (grades 9-12)	2,669
College or graduate school	1,973

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

CULPEPER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2012	
Population, ages 25 to 64 years	25,651
Less than high school graduate	3,612
High school graduate	8,701
Some collage or associate’s degree	7,463
Bachelor’s degree or higher	5,875

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Culpeper County Census Page](#)

[2012 American Community Survey](#)

[Families and Households- 2010 Census](#)

[Virginia Population Projections- Virginia Employment Commission](#)

[Culpeper Community Profile- Virginia Employment Commission](#)