

2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

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 expanded 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 and what changes might need to be made to land use plans and the policies used in guiding the development of the County with respect to land use. This chapter examines the changes, which have occurred from 1970 to 2000 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 economical manner.

POPULATION TRENDS

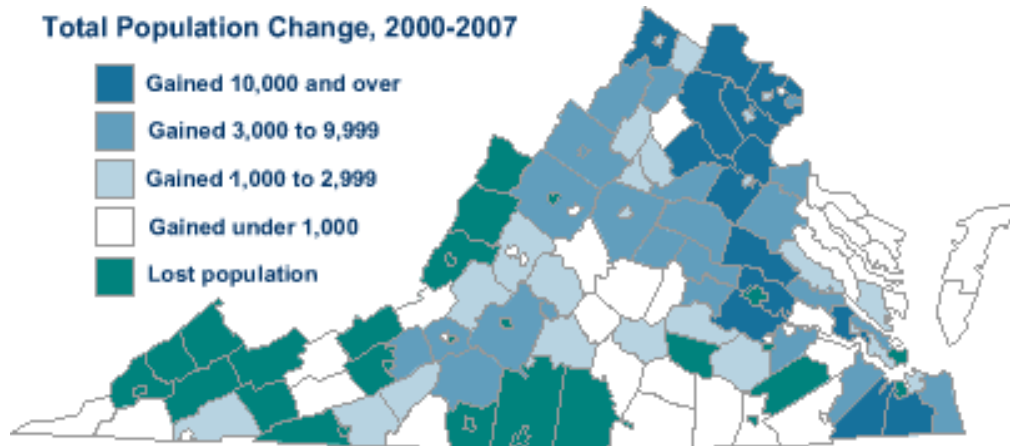
As shown in the following table, "Culpeper County Historic Population Trends," the population change was minimal until the 1950's when the County population began to expand. The growth rate that began in the 1950's has continued and accelerated since the 2000 Census, tapering off only in the past few years. While population trends continue to increase, the rate is significantly less than what was seen in the earlier half of this decade.

CULPEPER COUNTY HISTORIC POULATION TRENDS								
1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
13,306	13,365	13,242	15,088	18,218	22,620	27,791	34,262	*48,164

Source: US Census Bureau

*Staff Projection

In 1993, the United States Office of Management and Budget determined that Fauquier, Culpeper and Clarke Counties met the statistical criteria to be included in the Washington DC/ Northern Virginia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Growth in surrounding counties varied significantly from low growth to exponential growth as shown in the map and figures below.



Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Virginia’s population reached 7.7 million on July 1, 2007, increasing by more than 633,000 new residents since the 2000 Census. The Commonwealth has the 12th largest population in the nation. While Virginia’s population continues to increase annually, the growth rate has declined in recent years.

The pattern of population change in Virginia is dramatically uneven throughout the state. A relatively small number of very fast growing localities in and around Virginia’s three major metropolitan areas fuel the Commonwealth’s population increases.

The 10 Highest & Lowest Growth Rates 2000-2007			
Loudoun	62.5%	Buchanan	-11.9%
Manassas	35.6%	Covington	-6.9%
Culpeper	32.8%	Petersburg	-6.4%
Spotsylvania	32.6%	Danville	-6.2%
Prince Wm	32.5%	Highland	-6.0%
King George	32.2%	Martinsville	-5.2%
Stafford	30.2%	Henry	-4.6%
Fluvanna	30.0%	Grayson	-4.1%
James City	28.3%	Staunton	-3.8%
Suffolk	27.5%	Dickenson	-3.6%

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

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. Since 2000, Virginia gained 324,000 citizens through natural increase.

Population also changes as a result of people moving in and out of the state. Since 2000, Virginia netted a total of 315,000 residents from migration, split almost equally between those moving to the Commonwealth from other states and from other countries.

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 constitute the substantial majority of population increase. This increase derives from several factors:

1. The continuing suburbanization of the metropolitan Washington, DC statistical region.
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, commuting remains a viable option.

Natural Increase Versus Net Migration	2000-2008	
	VIRGINIA	CULPEPER COUNTY
* 2008 Population Est.	7,769,089	47,517
2007 Population Est.	7,698,775	46,719
2006 Population Est.	7,640,249	44,557
2000 Population Est.	7,079,030	34,262
Change	690,059 (9.7%)	11,243 (38.7%)
Due to Natural Increase	379,982 (5.4%)	2,067 (6%)
Due to Net Migration	310,078 (4.4%)	11,188 (32.7%)

*Population Estimates for Virginia, Localities, Planning Districts, & Metropolitan Areas: Final 2006 & 2007, Provisional 2008
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics & Workforce Section, www.coopercenter.org/demographics/

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE 2007		
RACE	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	43,945	100%
White	32,603	74.2%
Black	6,987	15.9%
Hispanic or Latino	2,924	6.7%
Asian	437	1.0%
American Indian	64	0.1%
Two or more races	930	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey

POPULATION BY AGE & SEX

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE & SEX 2007		
AGE AND SEX	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	43,945	100%
Male	22,362	50.9%
Female	21,583	49.1%
Under 5 years	3,126	7.1%
5 to 9 years	2,788	6.3%
10 to 14 years	3,094	7.0%
15 to 19 years	2,982	6.8%
20 to 24 years	2,617	6.0%
25 to 34 years	7,007	15.9%
35 to 44 years	7,231	16.5%
45 to 54 years	6,042	13.7%
55 to 59 years	2,335	5.3%
60 to 64 years	1,868	4.3%
65 to 74 years	2,592	5.9%
75 to 84 years	1,587	3.6%
85 years and over	676	1.5%
Median age (years)	35.6	
18 years and over:	33,067	100%
Male	16,835	38.3%
Female	16,232	36.9%
65 years and over	4,855	100%

Male	2,160	4.9%
Female	2,695	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey

TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

CULPEPER COUNTY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2007		
	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION ENROLLED	10,074	100%
Nursery school, preschool	706	7.0%
Kindergarten	549	5.4%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	4,638	46.0%
High School (grades 9-12)	2,335	23.2%
College or graduate school	1,846	18.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey

CURRENT POPULATION

CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION 2005-2009					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
U.S Census Bureau	41,893	44,097	45,594	46,203	46,502
Weldon Cooper Center	42,537	44,557	46,719	47,717	47,938

TOWN & COUNTY POPULATION 2005-2009					
Weldon Cooper Center	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Town	11,860	12,832	13,461	13,977	
County	30,677	31,725	33,258	33,740	
Total	42,537	44,557	46,719	47,717	47,938

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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. Three different projections are set forth in the following table. There are many methodologies and scenarios for projecting population growth, it is not an exact science. The staff projection is based upon the knowledge that a steady 2.3% growth rate in the 1990's gave way to an annual rate of well over 4% from 2000 to 2006; and that both tracked housing permits. More recently, growth has fallen precipitously. It is expected that 2010 – 2015 will be a recovery period with a slower growth rate, and that 2015 – 2030, on average, will return to a more rapid pace.

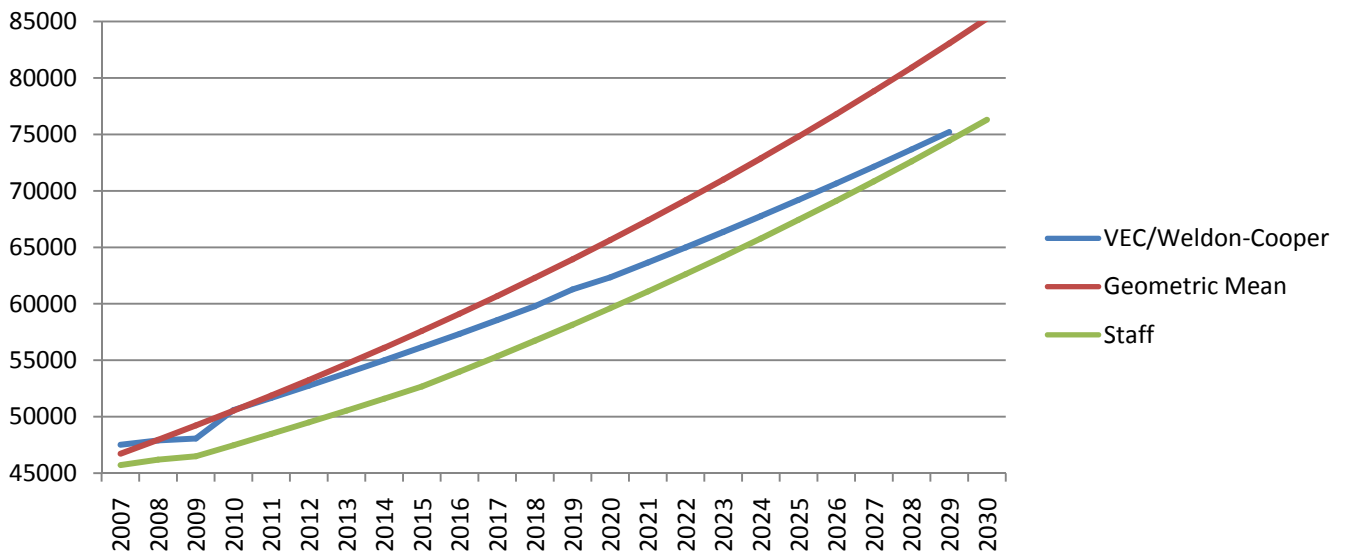
CULPEPER COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS				
SOURCE	2010	2015	2020	2030
Geometric Mean*	50,532	57,592	65,639	85,261
VEC/Weldon-Cooper**	48,074	-	61,275	75,221
Staff***	47,479	52,678	59,601	76,294

*Average growth rate since 1970, 2.65% per year

** Figures distributed by Virginia Workforce Connection

*** Starting from the U.S. Census Bureau 2009 population estimate of 46,502, projects an annual growth rate of 2.1% through the year 2015 and 2.5% from 2015-2030

POTENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH RATES



1% Per Year	2010	2020	2030
Population	47,108	52,037	57,481
2% Per Year	2010	2020	2030
Population	48,522	59,148	72,101
3% Per Year	2010	2020	2030
Population	49,963	67,146	90,238

ANALYSIS ON AGING COMMUNITY

Within the next several years, the first of Virginia's "baby boom" generation will reach 65 years of age. Within the next two decades, that generation will range in age from 65 to 85, resulting in a population shift in which one in every five Virginians will be a senior citizen.

The increasing size of Virginia's older population has not escaped the attention of the members of the General Assembly's Senate Finance Committee. In August, demographers from the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service responded to the legislators' request to brief the Health and Human Resources subcommittee on characteristics of older Virginians. That report, and other related analysis, is summarized in the latest edition of Stat Chat, the center's digest of facts about demographic topics of current interest.

Working with U.S. Census Bureau data and projections, the Cooper Center's professionals find that Virginia's population age 65 and over is expected to double to 1.8 million by 2030. While older Virginians currently make up 12 percent of the commonwealth's population, 19 percent of the state's population will be in this age range by 2030. The largest concentrations of older Virginians are found in the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore.

"While large numbers of older citizens may be present in Virginia's cities, high concentrations of seniors are found in many rural counties, accounting for special challenges for local governments and service providers," (Susan Perrone, Cooper Center, researcher for the data analysis).

The report also highlights other characteristics of this population and their lives in the Commonwealth:

- The population is almost evenly divided by gender up to age 65. Among those 85 and older, women outnumber men 2.5 to 1.
- Widows and widowers make up 33 percent of the population 65 and older; and 70 percent of the population 85 and older.
- Two-thirds of all older Virginians live in family households with others related by marriage, birth or adoption, and 5 percent live in 'group quarters' (such as nursing homes and Alzheimer centers). Of Virginians 85 and older, 18 percent live in these facilities.
- Almost all of the elderly have health insurance coverage, primarily through Medicare.
- The U.S. population as a whole is aging rapidly for two reasons: 1) Baby Boomers born between 1946 and 1964 are now becoming 65 and older, and 2) people are living longer. Virginia is following this trend.
- While the percentage of the population that is 65 and older will grow by seven percentage points in the next 20 years, the actual number of senior Virginians is expected to double. It is critical that lawmakers and those involved with elder care be aware of these trends so they have the necessary resources and programs in place to handle this rapid change in the population.

