

Trends Alert April 18, 2003

July 2002 Population Estimates Show That Region Has Passed the Five Million Mark – Now the 4th Largest PMSA

The U.S. Bureau of the Census released July 1, 2002 population estimates by county on April 17th. The estimates show that the region continues to grow in population and gained 238,900 persons (4.9%) from the 2000 Census date to July 1 of 2002, and the region's total population as of July 2002 stood at 5,162,000.

The jurisdiction with the fastest rate of growth over the 2-year period was Loudoun County which grew by 20.3%, followed by Spotsylvania (13.5%), Stafford (13.4%) and Prince William County (11.1%).

The jurisdiction with the largest amount of growth was Montgomery County which added 36,815 people, followed by Loudoun County (34,455), Prince George's county (31,569), Prince William County (31,079) and Fairfax County (27,831).

The gains in Spotsylvania and Stafford put each county over the 100,000 mark with 102,570 and 104,823 respectively. The gains in Fairfax County put it at just shy of the one million mark as of 7/1/02 at 997,580. At the rate Fairfax grew since the Census, the county would have passed the one million mark in September of last fall. Montgomery County was at 910,156 last July and would reach the one million mark in 2008 if it continues to grow at the same rate.

The growth in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs of the Washington area accounted for significant portions of the gains in each state's total growth. The Northern Virginia portion of the PMSA grew by 134,875, which represents 63 percent of the total population increase in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Maryland jurisdictions in the PMSA grew by a total of 97,069 – 60 percent Maryland's total growth. Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia grew by a combined 8,093 persons while the state lost 6,471 over the 2-year period.

As of the 2000 Census the Washington PMSA trailed the Philadelphia PMSA by 177,778 persons. The July 1, 2002 Census estimates put Philadelphia at 5,149,098 (+ 48,167) and the Washington PMSA at 5,162,029 (+238,876).

On the following page are the estimates for all jurisdictions in the PMSA.

Jurisdiction	Census 2000 Population	Estimated July 1, 2002 Population	Change	Per Cent Change
District of Columbia	572,059	570,898	(1,161)	-0.2%
Calvert	74,563	80,906	6,343	8.5%
Charles	120,546	129,040	8,494	7.0%
Frederick	195,277	209,125	13,848	7.1%
Montgomery	873,341	910,156	36,815	4.2%
Prince George's	801,515	833,084	31,569	3.9%
Maryland Part of PMSA	2,065,242	2,162,311	97,069	4.7%
Arlington	189,453	189,927	474	0.3%
Clarke	12,652	13,290	638	5.0%
Culpeper	34,262	36,893	2,631	7.7%
Fairfax	969,749	997,580	27,831	2.9%
Fauquier	55,139	59,245	4,106	7.4%
King George	16,803	17,657	854	5.1%
Loudoun	169,599	204,054	34,455	20.3%
Prince William	280,813	311,892	31,079	11.1%
Spotsylvania	90,395	102,570	12,175	13.5%
Stafford	92,446	104,823	12,377	13.4%
Warren	31,584	32,910	1,326	4.2%
Alexandria city	128,283	130,804	2,521	2.0%
Fairfax city	21,498	22,055	557	2.6%
Falls Church city	10,377	10,659	282	2.7%
Fredericksburg city	19,279	20,076	797	4.1%
Manassas city	35,135	37,288	2,153	6.1%
Manassas Park city	10,290	10,909	619	6.0%
Virginia Part of PMSA	2,167,757	2,302,632	134,875	6.2%
Berkeley	75,905	81,262	5,357	7.1%
Jefferson	42,190	44,926	2,736	6.5%
West Va Part of PMSA	118,095	126,188	8,093	6.9%
Washington PMSA	4,923,153	5,162,029	238,876	4.9%
Virginia	7,078,515	7,293,542	215,027	3.0%
Maryland	5,296,486	5,458,137	161,651	3.1%
West Virginia	1,808,344	1,801,873	(6,471)	-0.4%

Source: County Estimates By US Bureau of the Census, Released 4/17/03
Center for Regional Analysis, GMU

