



## Update from the 2010 Census

### Population Change in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area

The population of the Washington DC metropolitan area grew by 16.4 percent between 2000 and 2010, increasing from 4.80 million in 2000 to 5.58 million in 2010. (The Washington DC metropolitan area is defined as the District of Columbia, plus 21 counties and independent cities in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.) The region’s growth rate was faster than the U.S. growth rate, as well the growth rates in Maryland and Virginia. The Washington DC metropolitan area grew faster than many other large metro areas, including New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami and Boston. However, Dallas, Houston and Atlanta all experienced faster population growth between 2000 and 2010.

The Washington area suburbs gained population faster than the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia outpaced Suburban Maryland in terms of population growth. The District of Columbia grew by about 5 percent while the population of Suburban Maryland grew by 12 percent and Northern Virginia grew by 24 percent.

#### Washington Metro Area Jurisdictions

**Core:** District of Columbia, Arlington, Alexandria

**Inner Suburbs:** Montgomery, Prince George’s, Fairfax (including cities)

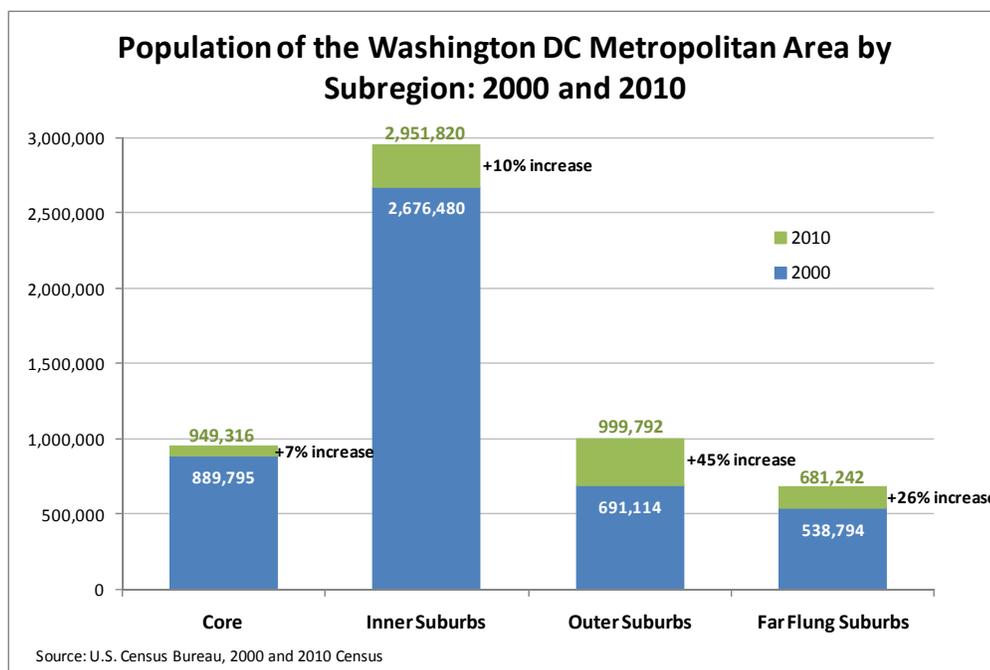
**Outer Suburbs:** Frederick, Loudoun, Prince William (including cities)

**Far Flung Suburbs:** Calvert, Charles, Clarke, Fauquier, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Jefferson

Two main trends in the region were evident from the 2010 Census data—1) on-going population suburbanization and 2) dramatic changes to the racial and ethnic make-up of the population.

#### Suburbanization

Between 2000 and 2010, the population of the District of Columbia increased for the first time in decades. However, in general the Washington region was characterized by rapid growth



in the outer suburban jurisdictions. While the region grew by about 16 percent over the decade, the number of people in the Outer Suburbs (see box) increased by 45 percent. Loudoun County nearly doubled its population between 2000 and 2010, adding more than 140,000 people. In 2000, nearly 75 percent of the region’s population was located in the Core or Inner Suburbs. In 2010, that share had dropped to 70 percent.

**Racial/Ethnic Change**

The white population in the District of Columbia increased by about 32 percent between 2000 and 2010, while the black population declined. The white population also increased in Loudoun County and the outer suburban jurisdictions of Northern Virginia. However, in most of the suburbs, population growth was fueled primarily by growth of the minority, particularly Hispanics and Asians. The largest suburban jurisdictions either lost white population or gained white population at a slower rate than they gained non-whites. Montgomery County’s white population declined by nearly 41,000 over the decade and Fairfax County’s white population fell by about 34,000. In Loudoun County, the white population increased by 44 percent between 2000 and 2010; however, the Hispanic population nearly quadrupled and the Asian population increased by a factor of five.

In 2000, the Washington DC metropolitan area was majority white with 55 percent of the population non-Hispanic white. By 2010, there was no racial majority in the Washington area. The non-Hispanic white population had dropped to 49 percent of the region’s overall population.

Between 2000 and 2010, the region added about 58,000 non-Hispanic whites. At the same time, the population of Hispanics grew by more than 341,000 and the Asian population grew by more than 186,000. The number of people who indicated they were of some other race or more than one race increased by nearly 45,000.

The racial and ethnic changes reflect trends occurring across the nation. It is estimated that by 2040, minorities will make up a majority of the U.S. population. In 2010, the Washington DC metropolitan area joined other places in the U.S. such as Dallas, Houston and New York as majority minority regions.

**Population by Race/Hispanic Origin: 2000 - 2010**

*Washington DC Metropolitan Area*

	2000		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%
White	2,653,239	55.3	2,711,258	48.6
Black	1,253,825	26.1	1,409,473	25.2
Asian	327,476	6.8	513,919	9.2
Other*	131,955	2.8	176,725	3.2
Hispanic	429,688	9.0	770,795	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,796,183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,582,170</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: White, black, Asian and other races are all non-Hispanic.

\*Includes other races, as well as persons who indicated two or more races.

**GMU Center for Regional Analysis**

The principal mission of the Center for Regional Analysis is to provide research and analytical services to local governments, businesses and other stakeholders in the Washington region focusing on economic, demographic, transportation, housing and fiscal trends and forecasts.

The Center for Regional Analysis has become the “go-to” organization for economic, demographic and housing data and analysis within the Washington and Baltimore regions and is cited locally and nationally as the source of information for the media, research scholars, and investors interested in understanding the Washington area’s economy. The Center posts research reports, presentations, data and other information its website ([policy-cra.gmu.edu](http://policy-cra.gmu.edu))

**Updates from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey**

The Center for Regional Analysis will issue periodic reports on demographic and economic topics based on newly released data from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides detailed data every year about states, metropolitan areas, counties and cities. More information about the 2010

## Washington DC Metropolitan Area Population by Jurisdiction: 2000 and 2010

Jurisdiction	2000	2010	Change	Percent Change
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>572,059</b>	<b>601,723</b>	<b>29,664</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Arlington	189,453	207,627	18,174	9.6
Clarke	12,652	14,034	1,382	10.9
Fairfax	969,749	1,081,726	111,977	11.5
Fauquier	55,139	65,203	10,064	18.3
Loudoun	169,599	312,311	142,712	84.1
Prince William	280,813	402,002	121,189	43.2
Spotsylvania	90,395	122,397	32,002	35.4
Stafford	92,446	128,961	36,515	39.5
Warren	31,584	37,575	5,991	19.0
Alexandria	128,283	139,966	11,683	9.1
Fairfax City	21,498	22,565	1,067	5.0
Falls Church	10,377	12,332	1,955	18.8
Fredericksburg	19,279	24,286	5,007	26.0
Manassas	35,135	37,821	2,686	7.6
Manassas Park	10,290	14,273	3,983	38.7
<b>Northern Virginia Total</b>	<b>2,116,692</b>	<b>2,623,079</b>	<b>506,387</b>	<b>23.9</b>
Calvert	74,563	88,737	14,174	19.0
Charles	120,546	146,551	26,005	21.6
Frederick	195,277	233,385	38,108	19.5
Montgomery	873,341	971,777	98,436	11.3
Prince George's	801,515	863,420	61,905	7.7
<b>Suburban Maryland Total</b>	<b>2,065,242</b>	<b>2,303,870</b>	<b>238,628</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Jefferson County, WV	42,190	53,498	11,308	26.8
<b>Washington Metro Area</b>	<b>4,796,183</b>	<b>5,582,170</b>	<b>785,987</b>	<b>16.4</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census