The Stafford County and Washington Area Economy: Performance and Outlook

Presentation to

Stafford County Economic Forum

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Agenda

• Economic trends in the DC Metro area and Stafford County
• Broad workforce trends
• The federal government’s economic contributions
• A few takeaways
Annual Job Change - Washington MSA

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted), GMU Center for Regional Analysis

September-17
Total: 3,286 K
Annual Job Change – Stafford County

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted), GMU Center for Regional Analysis

Mar 16- Mar 17
+683

Total: 42.9K
Unemployment Rates in the WMSA
By Sub-State Area, 2008-2017

September
4.3 – U.S.
– Stafford Co.
– Wash. DC, MSA
– NVA

Per Capita Income remains flat

- PCI in Stafford County was $51,177 in 2016; Up from $50,200 in 2015.
- This increase was not enough to outpace inflation.
  - Similar trends nationally, statewide.

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, PCI adjusted for 2016 dollars
Population and job growth trends

- Stafford Co. differs from MSA overall in that county employment grew faster than the population.
- *Covered employment only, does not include self-employment*
- For the DC Metro area, population growth has outpaced employment growth since the recession.
- NoVA resembles the metro area

Stafford country continues to attract domestic in-migration

Washington, DC Metro Area

Stafford County

Many Stafford county residents work outside the county

Where people who **work** in Stafford County live

Where people who **live** in Stafford County work
Labor Force Participation

- Lower than NOVA, but still higher than the US, VA, and many neighboring jurisdictions.
- Positive: More people of working age
- Negative: Cost-of-Living requires two incomes
- Declining like the nation as the Boomers retire.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Surveys
• Pop (25+) with at least a 4 year degree consistent with the state.

• Stafford’s educational attainment levels are trending upwards
Employment Composition by Sector
Stafford County, VA
Q3 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Employment Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Activities</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State &amp; Local Government</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; Business Services</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Health Services</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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<td>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Other Services</td>
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<td>Transportation &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information</td>
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Total = 49,319

Source: Emsi Q3 2017
Federal Government
Washington MSA

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted), GMU Center for Regional Analysis

September-17 Total: 365.1K
Federal Employment Trends in Stafford County

• Direct federal employment driven by activities at MCB Quantico, FBI Academy
  • Regionally, Dahlgren (King George Co.) also important.

• Direct employment key, but not the only factor

Stafford County contracting (FY16)

- Stafford Co. received $165 million in federal contracting
- $37.8 Billion in NOVA
- Dept. of Defense account for 81.4 percent of total
  - GSA=8.7 percent
  - DHS=3.1 percent

Source: USASpending.gov; GMU Stephen F. Fuller Institute
Stafford County contracting (FY16)

- Over 30 percent of fed. contracts in the county went to firms doing Arch., eng. & related services.
  - In the DC metro area, this was 3rd.
- Computer systems design and Mgmt., Sci. & Tech. consulting key sectors for contractors
  - While not all fed-related, both industries employ about a 1,000 employees in Stafford
Key takeaways

• Stafford County’s economy mirrors the DC Metro in several key ways:
  • e.g., employment trends, low unemployment).

• Unlike other NoVA jurisdictions, Stafford Co. continues to attract domestic migrants.
  • Over the past decade, the county’s population is becoming more educated.

• In spite of the county’s growth, Per Capita Income remains relatively flat.

• Relative to other parts of NoVA, Stafford County depends less on federal spending, but federal contracting remains an important driver of several high paying industries.
  • e.g., Consulting services, Computer Services
Thank You
Questions

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