

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Fact Sheet



Fairfax County—a thriving business center located just west of the nation’s capital—is a great place to live, work and do business. This fact sheet presents a summary of up-to-date facts, figures and superlatives about Fairfax County and its business and residential communities. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcountyeda.org.

The Business Community

- Fairfax County is the Washington metropolitan area’s private-sector job leader and a major hub for regional economic activity, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- Fairfax County is home to nine Fortune 500 company headquarters: Booz Allen Hamilton, Capital One Financial, CSC, Freddie Mac, Gannett, General Dynamics, NII Holdings, Northrop Grumman and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). (*Fortune*)
- More than 90 percent of the companies in Fairfax County are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Forty-five non-retail companies have 1,000 or more employees based in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- More than \$24 billion in U.S. government contracts were awarded to Fairfax County companies in fiscal year 2010. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)
- Fairfax County accounts for 41 percent of contract dollars awarded in Virginia. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is headquarters to 300+ trade associations and professional societies. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is home to more than 370 foreign-owned firms from 40 countries, more than any other jurisdiction in the Washington area. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Working Mother magazine named Booz Allen Hamilton and Capital One Financial as two of the nation’s 100 best companies for working mothers. (*Working Mother Magazine*)
- Twenty-six of Inc. magazine’s 500 fastest-growing private companies are located in Fairfax County. (*Inc. magazine*)
- Four Fairfax County-based companies are on Black Enterprise magazine’s list of the 100 largest black-owned firms. (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)
- Ten Fairfax County-based companies are on Hispanic Business magazine’s list of the 500 largest Hispanic-owned firms. (*Hispanic Business Magazine*)

Technology

- More than 6,700 technology firms, which directly employ more than 144,000 people, are located in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Twenty-four of the top 50 largest technology employers in the Washington, D.C., region are in Fairfax County. (*Washington Business Journal*)
- Thirteen of the 25 largest telecommunications employers in the Washington area are headquartered in Fairfax County. (*Washington Business Journal*)
- Fourteen Fairfax County companies are on Deloitte’s Technology Fast 500 list. (*Deloitte*)

Real Estate

- With 113 million square feet of office space, Fairfax County is the largest commercial office market in metropolitan Washington, D.C., and the largest office space market in Virginia. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is the second-largest suburban office market in the U.S. after Orange County, Calif. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Tysons Corner, Fairfax County’s “downtown,” has 26.6 million square feet of office space and is home to the headquarters of Booz Allen Hamilton, Capital One Financial, Freddie Mac, Gannett Corporation and Science Applications International Corporation. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Tysons Corner Center is the largest mall in the Washington area and the sixth largest mall in the U.S. It has more than 300 stores, over 2.4 million square feet of space and more than 22 million shoppers per year. (*Tysons Corner Center*)
- Reston has 19.7 million square feet of office space and is home to the headquarters of NII Holdings. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Merrifield has 10.3 million square feet of office space and is home to the headquarters of CSC, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)

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Demographics

- With a 2010 median family income of \$122,189, Fairfax County ranks second in the nation among large U.S. counties. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)
- Fairfax County is home to 34,242 woman-owned firms, which is more than any other locality in Virginia. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Sales and receipts for all Fairfax County woman-owned businesses totaled more than \$5.8 billion, representing 19 percent of sales and receipts earned by woman-owned firms in Virginia. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fifty-eight percent of persons 25 and older in Fairfax County have a college degree, one of the highest percentages in the United States. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)
- Fairfax County has added more than 15,000 business establishments and nearly 198,000 jobs since 1990. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)

Fairfax County

- Fairfax County is consistently one of the top 10 digital governments in the United States among counties with more than 500,000 residents. (*Center for Digital Government*)
- Fairfax County has triple-A bond ratings from Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Investors Service. Only 37 counties in the U.S. received triple-A ratings from all three investor services. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is the only U.S. county with six marketing offices worldwide: Bangalore, London, Los Angeles, Munich, Seoul and Tel Aviv. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)

Quality of Life

- Money Magazine named Herndon and Oakton among its top 100 places to live in America. (*Money Magazine*)
- Inova Fairfax Hospital was named one of "America's Best Hospitals" by U.S. News and World Report. The highly respected list cited Inova's excellence in the following specialties: heart and heart surgery, gynecology and digestive disorders. The Inova Translational Medicine Institute researches personalized medicine and the customization of healthcare to individual patients. (*Inova Health System*)
- The Fairfax County Public Library is the largest free library system in the Commonwealth of Virginia with more than 2.6 million items available for checkout by patrons. (*Fairfax County Public Library*)
- Fairfax County has 24,000 acres of county or regional public parkland that includes eight recreation centers, five nature centers, working farm and mill, equestrian trails and golf courses. (*Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority/Fairfax County Park Authority*)

- The National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is located near Washington Dulles International Airport. The museum is home to the "Enola Gay," Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest jet in the world and space shuttle "Enterprise." (*Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center*)
- Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, America's only national park for the performing arts, is located in Fairfax County. (*Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts*)
- George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, located along the banks of the Potomac River, is one of the most popular private homes in America, with more than 1 million visitors annually. (*Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens*)
- Gunston Hall was the home of George Mason, author of the Virginia Constitution and the Virginia Declaration of Rights—the basis of the U.S. Bill of Rights. (*Gunston Hall*)
- Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge was the first national refuge established for bald eagles. The 2,000-acre park is located along the banks of the Potomac River. (*Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge*)
- Washington Dulles International Airport offers daily nonstop service to 82 U.S. cities and 48 international locations. (*Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority*)

Education

- Fairfax County Public Schools is the 11th largest school division in the country with more than 177,000 students and 196 schools and centers. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- Two hundred thirty-four Fairfax County Public Schools students were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for 2011. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- 94.5 percent of high school graduates in Fairfax County schools attend some form of post-secondary education. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- Fairfax County Public School's SAT average of 1654 exceeds state and national averages. (*Fairfax County Public School*)
- Campuses of three major universities (George Mason University, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech) and two campuses of the largest community college in the state (Northern Virginia Community College) are located in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs*)
- George Mason University was the first university in the U.S. to offer a graduate degree in bio-defense and the first to offer a Ph.D. in conflict resolution, information technology, and bioinformatics. It is also the largest institution of higher education in the state. (*George Mason University*)
- Community College Week magazine ranked Northern Virginia Community College the top producer of associate degrees in computer and information sciences and the second in both the number of two-year degrees and business degrees granted. (*Northern Virginia Community College*)

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