

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

A Great Place to Work and Live



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 facts, figures and superlatives about Fairfax County and its business and residential communities. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcountyeda.org.

Business Community

- Fairfax County is home to eight Fortune 500 company headquarters: Booz Allen Hamilton, Capital One Financial, CSC, Freddie Mac, General Dynamics, Hilton Worldwide, Northrop Grumman and NVR. (*Fortune*)
- More than 94 percent of the companies in Fairfax County are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Forty-seven companies based in Fairfax County have 1,000 or more employees and 92 companies have at least 500 employees. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- U.S. government contracts totaling \$22.8 billion were awarded to Fairfax County companies in fiscal year 2015. That accounted for 5 percent of all federal procurement contracts—more than 46 states and Washington, D.C. (*Federal Procurement Data System*)
- Fairfax County accounts for 47 percent of federal contract dollars awarded in Virginia. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is headquarters for nearly 300 trade associations and professional societies. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County is home to more than 400 foreign-owned firms, more than any other jurisdiction in the Washington area. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Twelve of Inc. magazine’s 500 fastest-growing, privately-owned companies are located in Fairfax County, which also has 125 firms on the Inc. 5000 list. (*Inc. magazine*)
- Fairfax County dominated Washington Business Journal’s 2015 list of the 50 fastest-growing companies in the Washington area with 28 total. Those included the top three (Greensmith Energy Management Systems, Itility LLC, The RSR Co.) and seven of the top 10. (*Washington Business Journal*)
- Fairfax County is home to the largest number of minority-owned businesses in Virginia, with those businesses accounting for 41 percent of all businesses in the county (*U.S. Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners*)
- Three Fairfax County-based companies are on Black Enterprise magazine’s list of the 100 largest black-owned firms. (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

Technology

- More than 8,400 technology firms, which directly account for more than 148,000 employees, are located in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Fairfax County has the second-largest concentration of technology jobs of any major U.S. market. (*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- Thirty-one of the 100 largest government IT contractors are based in Fairfax County or have U.S. headquarters in the county. (*Washington Technology*)

Real Estate

- With 116.2 million square feet of office space (and 60 million more in the development pipeline), 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 United States, trailing only Orange County, California. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Tysons Corner, Fairfax County’s largest business district, has 27 million square feet of office space and is home to the Fortune 500 headquarters of Booz Allen Hamilton, Capital One Financial, Freddie Mac and Hilton Worldwide. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- The Dulles Corridor (Tysons Corner to Washington Dulles International Airport) houses about 63 percent of Fairfax County’s commercial office space. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- Tysons Corner Center is the largest mall in the Washington, D.C. area with more than 300 stores and restaurants. It is visited by 22 million people annually. (*Tysons Corner Center*)

Demographics

- With a median household income of \$110,674 in 2014, Fairfax County ranks second in the nation among large U.S. counties. (*U.S. Census American Community Survey*)
- Fairfax County is home to nearly 42,000 woman-owned firms (more than any other locality in Virginia), accounting for 36 percent of all Fairfax County businesses. Sales and receipts from those businesses exceed \$8.4 billion. (*U.S. Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners*)

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8300 Boone Boulevard, Suite 450, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 • 703-790-0600 • info@fceda.org • www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org

- According to the 2014 U.S. Census, 60.3 percent of adults in Fairfax County possess a bachelor's degree or higher and 91.5 percent of county residents are high school graduates. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)
- Fairfax County has added more than 6,800 business establishments since 2000. (*U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns*)
- 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*)
- Washington Dulles International Airport has 139 gates, serving 35 airlines and offering daily nonstop service to more than 125 destinations around the world. The airport served 21.7 million passengers in 2015, including a record 7.2 million international passengers. International traffic has experienced 12 consecutive years of growth at Dulles. (*Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority*)

Fairfax County

- Since its founding in 1964, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority has worked with more than 3,500 companies that added more than 230,000 jobs and leased more 71 million square feet of office space in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- The Fairfax County government ranks first in the nation when it comes to using technology to improve services and boost efficiency. (*Center for Digital Content and National Association of Counties*)
- Fairfax County has triple-A bond ratings from Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Investors Service. Only 39 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 seven marketing offices worldwide: In addition to its local headquarters, the FCEDA has representatives in Bangalore, London, Los Angeles, Munich, Seoul and Tel Aviv. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- About 86 percent of Fairfax County's new office space under construction is within a quarter-mile of Metro stations. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)

Education

- Fairfax County Public Schools is the 10th largest school district in the country with nearly 187,000 students and 196 schools and centers. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- More than 130 private and parochial (K-12) schools are located in Fairfax County. (*Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- According to U.S. News & World Report's 2015 rankings, 11 of Virginia's top 15 high schools are in Fairfax County. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (ranked third among 21,000 public schools nationally) is joined in the state's top four by Langley H.S., W.T. Woodson H.S. and McLean H.S. (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- Two hundred and thirty-seven Fairfax County Public Schools students were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists for 2016 by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- Seventy-four percent of high school graduates in Fairfax County schools attend some form of post-secondary education, and 92.9 percent of county high school students graduated on-time. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- Fairfax County Public School's SAT average of 1669 far exceeded the state (1533) and national (1490) averages in 2015. (*Fairfax County Public Schools*)
- 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. Some 60 colleges and universities operate in the Washington area (*Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*)
- 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. (*George Mason University*)
- George Mason University is the largest institution of higher education in the state with almost 39,000 students. (*George Mason University*)
- Community College Week magazine ranked Northern Virginia Community College the top producer of associate degrees in computer and information sciences and second in the number of two-year degrees and business degrees granted. (*Northern Virginia Community College*)

Quality of Life

- U.S. News & World Report ranked Inova Fairfax Hospital the No. 1 hospital in the Washington, D.C., area, as well as one of "America's Best Hospitals." The hospital is nationally ranked in gynecology and cited by U.S. News for excellence in cancer care, heart surgery and neurosurgery. Inova Fairfax boasts the only Level 1 trauma center in northern Virginia and the 226-bed Inova Children's Hospital. (*Inova Health System*)
- The Fairfax County Public Library is the largest free library system in Virginia with more than 2.3 million items available for checkout by some 5 million visitors a year. (*Fairfax County Public Library*)
- Fairfax County has nearly 30,000 acres of county or regional public parkland that includes nine recreation centers, five nature centers and nine public golf courses. The 2,277-acre Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, located along the Potomac River, is the first national refuge established for bald eagles. (*Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Fairfax County Park Authority, Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge*)
- The National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is on the grounds of Washington Dulles International Airport. The museum is home to the "Enola Gay" Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird and space shuttle "Enterprise," among thousands of artifacts. (*Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center*)
- Wolf Trap, 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, 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*)

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