

# A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Employment

Welcome to the January 2007 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County” where we will explore the employment information given in the 2005 release of the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey is intended to replace the long form from the decennial census. The data will be released annually. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/Demographics.htm>

According to the American Community Survey, Frederick County experienced a 15% increase in the participation of the labor force from 2000 to 2005. The labor force is the segment of the population that is of working age, or persons 16 years and older. However, not everyone 16 and older actively participates in the labor force. This may be for various reasons such as retirement, disability, or a lack of need.

The 2005 estimate of the population 16 and older in Frederick County was 165,302. This is a 12 % increase from 2000, when there were 147,144 residents 16 and older. With this increase in population of the working age residents, comes an increase in the participation or nonparticipation in the labor force. In 2005, 74% of the population 16 and older participated in the labor force. Either actively looking for employment or currently employed. This is only a slight increase in the labor force participation rate from 2000, when 73% of the population 16 and older were looking for employment or currently employed

The segment of the labor force, which is looking for employment, is considered to be unemployed. There were 3,924 residents in Frederick County that were unemployed in 2005. This is 635 more people or a 19% increase in unemployment in the County since 2000. The unemployment rate in 2005 is 3.2% while in 2000 this was slightly lower at 3.1% (see Figure 1.)

<b>Labor Force Statistics Frederick County 2000 to 2005</b>			
	2000	2005	Change 2000 - 2005
Population 16 and older	147,144 (100%)	165,302 (100%)	18,158 (12.4%)
In labor force	107,151 (72.8%)	123,010 (74.4%)	15,859 (14.8%)
Employed (of civilian labor force)	102,856 (96.9%)	118,057 (96.8%)	15,201 (14.8%)
Unemployed (of civilian labor force)	3,289 (3.1%)	3,924 (3.2%)	635 (19.3%)
Not in labor force	39,993 (27.2%)	42,292 (25.6%)	2,299 (5.7%)

Figure 1.

According to the American Community Survey, most of the employed citizens, 21,133 or 18%, of Frederick County work in the Educational services, health care, and social assistance industry. The top three industry's that Frederick County's labor force participate in are

1. Educational services, health care, and social assistance - 21,133 or 18%
2. Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services - 19,950 or 17%
3. Retail trade – 12,641 or 11%

The industry with the least amount of participation from Frederick County's labor force is agricultural, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining; only 1,410 or 1% of residents are employed in this industry. The three industries that have the least amount of Frederick County's labor force participating in them are:

1. Agricultural, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining - 1,410 or 1%
2. Wholesale trade – 2,798 or 2%
3. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities – 2,962 or 3%

From 2000 to 2005, the industry that had the strongest growth was Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services. There was an increase of 6,862 or 53% more workers in this industry within the past 5 years. The second strongest increase occurred in the Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service industry, with a 43 % increase. The third highest increase occurred in the Public administration industry, where there was a 40 % increase in the number of workers. There was a loss of Frederick County workers in four industries. These four industries were:

1. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-811 or -22%)
2. Information (-593 or -15%)
3. Manufacturing (-541 or -6%)
4. Construction (-228 or -2%)

The employment information given in both the American Community Survey and the US Decennial Census should be used as tools to view the larger demographic picture of Frederick County. The data that is distributed from the Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing and the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics more accurately portray the economic status of an area. These statistics are released much more frequently than the data from the United States Census Bureau. Please view the [Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing](#) or the [United State Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) websites for further employment information for Frederick County or the state of Maryland.