

A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Census 2000 Labor Force

Welcome to the March, 2004 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” This month, Labor Force characteristics will be explored. An important note is that the information presented in the 2000 US Census is from the prior year or 1999. Using the responses from the 2000 US Census, these attributes will be examined in order to create “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.”

According to the 2000 US Census, the Labor Force is defined as persons 16 years and over. The Participating Labor Force, are those persons 16 years and over, who were receiving an income from being employed in 1999, either full or part time. The Labor Force statistics presented in the US Census are directly related to the dynamics and trends of a region’s age, economics, and societal ideals.

From 1980 to 1990, there was a significant gain in the Participating Labor Force of Frederick County, from 66.9 % in 1980 to 73.6 % in 1990. Since 1990, however, this participation rate has dropped slightly to 72.8% (Figure 1).

Labor Force Status For Frederick County 1980 To 2000					
	1980	1990	2000	Change 1980 To 1990	Change 1990 To 2000
Persons 16 Years and Over	84,432	114,419	147,144	+36%	+29%
In Labor Force	56,444	84,253	107,151	+48%	+27%
Percent in Labor Force	66.9%	73.6%	72.8%		
Civilian Labor Force	55,521	83,121	106,213	+50%	+28%
Employed	53,521	80,833	103,331	+51%	+28%
Unemployed	2,229	2,288	2,882	+3%	+26%
Percent Unemployed	4.2%	2.8%	2.7%		
Armed Forces	N/A	1,132	1,006	N/A	-11%
Not in Labor Force	27,988	30,166	39,993	+8%	+33%
Data Source: US Census & Maryland Department of Labor					

Figure 1.

Age seems to be a factor in the correlation between the Labor Force and its’ participates within Frederick County (Figure 2). The top three Census Designated Places in Frederick County that have the highest Labor Force participation percentage are 1) Ballenger Creek 79 %, 2) New Market 78 %, and 3) Discovery-Spring Ridge 77 %. These areas also have some of the lowest median ages and percentage of persons 65 and over within Frederick County. The three lowest percentage of Labor Force participates are 1) Rosemont 54 %, 2) Emmitsburg 60 %, and 3) Burnswick 66 %. These three Census Designated Places have some of the highest median age levels and percentage of persons 65 and older within the County.

Census Designated Places	% participating in Labor Force	Median Age	% of the population 65 years and over
Ballenger Creek	79 %	31 years old	7 %
New Market	78 %	38 years old	6 %
Discovery-Spring Garden	77 %	34 years old	5 %
Brunswick	66 %	35 years old	11 %
Emmitsburg	60 %	37 years old	21 %
Rosemont	54 %	46 years old	24 %

Figure 2.

Economic trends also play a large part in the ratio of the Labor Force and its' participates. If employment trends have declined, there are fewer jobs available and less people with the ability to participate in the Labor Force. The number of jobs within Frederick County had drastically increased between the decades of 1980 to 2000. The number of jobs increased a total of 59,131 from 1980 to 2000. This is an average annual increase of 2,957 jobs per year. During these decades a peak occurred. The current projection from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has this drastic increase slowly leveling out with in the next 26 years (Figure 3). During this increase in employment in the 1980s and 1990s, there was also an increase in the Participating Labor Force in Frederick County of 49 % (Figure 1).

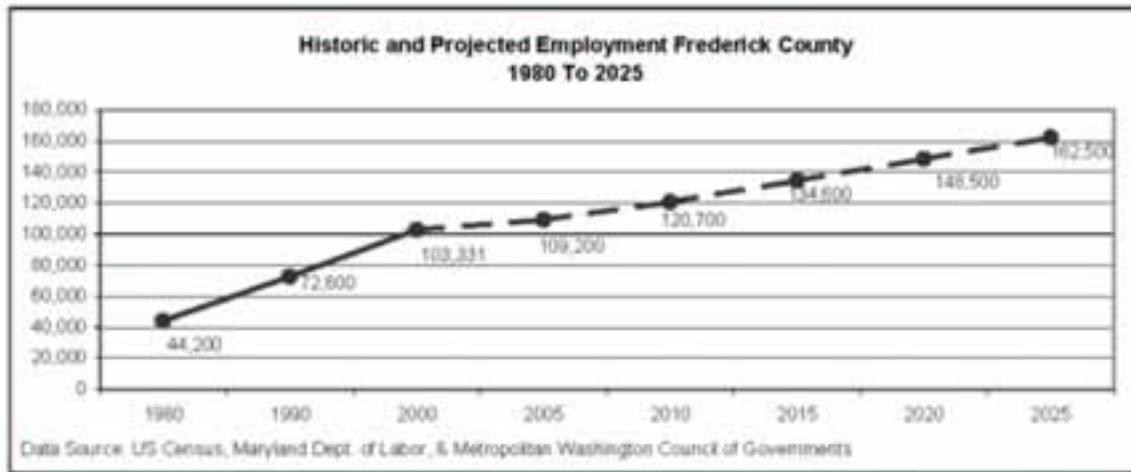


Figure 3.

Social characteristics and trends also play a role in the Participating Labor Force. Since the 1980s, the divorce rate has increased in Frederick County (Figure 4) and there are more single parent families. With a higher divorce rate there will be more people entering the Labor Force to support their families (Figure 5).

Divorce and Participating Labor Force Statistics Frederick County 1980 – 2000		
Year	Percentage of the Population in Participating Labor Force	Percentage of the Population Divorced
1980	67 %	4 %
1990	74 %	6 %
2000	73 %	8 %

Figure 4.

Census Designated Places	% participating in Labor Force	% of the population divorced
Ballenger Creek	79 %	10 %
New Market	78 %	12 %
Discovery-Spring Garden	77 %	9 %
Brunswick	66 %	8 %
Emmitsburg	60 %	7 %
Rosemont	54 %	6 %
Frederick County	73 %	8 %

Figure 5.

The Labor Force statistics can help us to understand how our county is changing and what the future will bring. The Labor Force and its' participation rate are powerful planning tools and economic indicators. With these changing dynamics of Frederick County it appears that the Labor Force has reached its peak increase and will steadily continue to rise throughout the next 30 years. Jobs will increase and participation in the Labor Force will continue to increase but at a slower rate then pervious decades. This projection will hold true if the same age, economic, and social trends continue to happen within the County.