A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Census 2000
Women in the Labor Force

Welcome to the September, 2004 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." This month, the relationship between work and family will be explored. Using the responses from the 2000 US Census, these attributes will be examined in order to create "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." For further information on the demographics of Frederick County, please visit the Demographics Home Page at http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/DemographicsHome.html

"Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our county." (United States Department of Labor, http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm)

In the spirit of Labor Day, this month's demographic focus will be on the relationship between Frederick County resident's jobs and family. Frederick County has participated greatly in the contributions to the economic and social welfare of their municipalities, county, and state. 1 in every 28 people (4%) in Maryland's participating labor force lives in Frederick County. The participating labor force, as defined by the 2000 US Census, are those persons 16 years and over, who were receiving an income from being employed in 1999, either full or part time. Frederick County has the 8th highest participating labor force in the state.

In the County, 73 % of the residents, 16 years and older, were in the labor force in 2000. A little under half of the labor force in Frederick County consists of females (46 %). The trend of more women in the work place has unveiled itself in Frederick County. Since 1980, 26,083 more females have joined the labor force, an increase of 111 % in 20 years (Figure 1).

Frederick County Residents Participating in the Labor Force				
	1980	1990	2000	Increase 1980 to 2000
Males in Labor Force	33,041 (58 %)	46,603 (55 %)	57,478 (54%)	24,437 (74%)
Females in Labor Force	23,590 (42%)	37,650 (45 %)	49,673 (46 %)	26,083 (111 %)
Total in Labor Force	56,631 (100 %)	84,253 (100 %)	107,151 (100 %)	50,520 (89 %)

Figure 1.

Of the 32 census tracts in Frederick County, none of them have fewer than 56 % of the female population participating in the labor force. 1 in every 6 census tracts have more than 70 % of the female population over the age of 16 in the labor force (Figure 2.) The town of New Market has the highest female participation rate of any Census Designated Place (CDP) in Frederick County (75 %). The Village of Rosemont has the lowest participation rate; only 46 % of the female population is in the labor force.

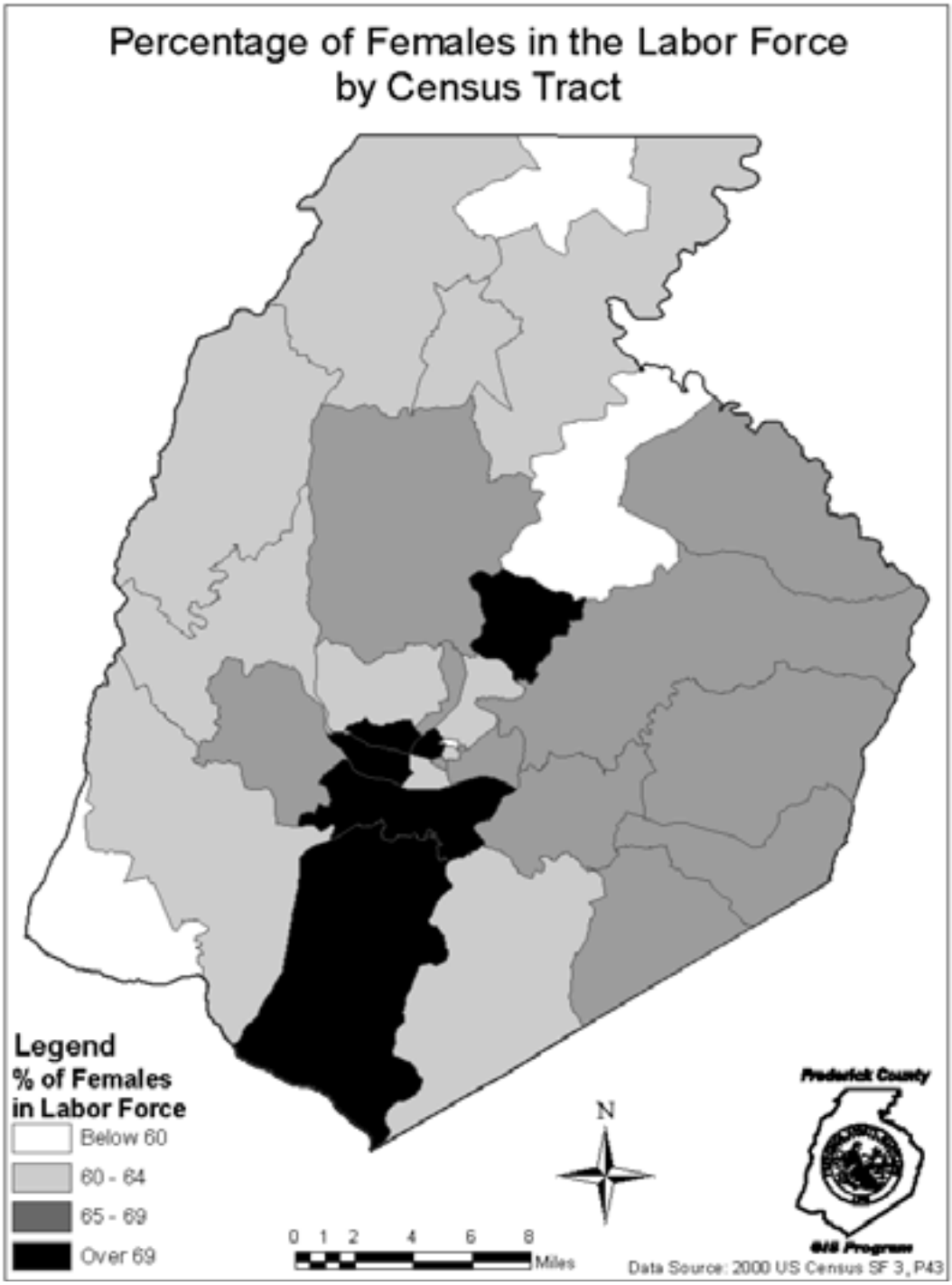

Figure 2.

1 in every 2 women in the labor force has children that are under the age of 18. This has been a growing national trend of the "Working Mother," and Frederick County is no exception. Since 1980, fewer women (percentage of the total population) have children under the age of 6 years old; however, more of these women are working. Usually mothers with school aged children (ages 6 – 17) have more participation in the labor force. In the last 20 years; however, their participation has greatly increased (Figure 3).

Females With Children Under 18 by Labor Force Participation, Frederick County				
	1980	1990	2000	Increase 1980 - 2000
Females with children under the age of 18	16,775 (38 %)	20,792 (35 %)	26,524 (28 %)	9,749 (58 %)
In the labor force	9,728 (58 %)	15,106 (73 %)	22,508 (85 %)	12,780 (131 %)
Females with children under the age of 6	7,272 (17 %)	9,869 (17 %)	11,534 (15 %)	4,262 (59 %)
In the labor force	3,564 (49 %)	6,407 (65 %)	7,518 (65 %)	3,954 (111 %)
Females with children 6-17 years old only	9,503 (22 %)	10,923 (19 %)	14,990 (20 %)	5,487 (58 %)
In the labor force	6,164 (65 %)	8,699 (80 %)	12,150 (81 %)	5,986 (97 %)

Figure 3.

There may be many reasons why more females, especially mothers, have been entering the work force; they may be the only wage holder in the family, or that both parents need to work in order to support the family. Usually it may be assumed that more families have both parents working, this would account for the increased participation of mothers in the labor force. However, this is not the trend we have seen in Frederick County within the past 10 years. Since the 1990 US Census, more families have only 1 parent working. The difference is the increased number of families where the female is the only person working in the home, not the male (Figure 4).

	1990	**2000**
Living with Both Parents	32,472 (84.8 %)	41,959 (81.0 %)
Both Parents in Labor Force	22,223 (68.4 %)	27,636 (65.9 %)
Only One Parent in Labor Force	10,119 (31.2 %)	13,499 (32.2 %)
Father Only in Labor Force	9,824 (30.2 %)	12,503 (29.8 %)
Mother Only in Labor Force	295 (0.9 %)	996 (2.4 %)
Living with One Parent	5,820 (15.2 %)	9,862 (19.0 %)
Father in Labor Force	1,301 (22.4 %)	2,658 (27.0 %)
Mother in Labor Force	3,317 (57.0 %)	5,976 (60.6 %)

Figure 4.

The Frederick County Labor Force has been changing its' dynamic within the past 20 years. More females have been entering the work force as well as mothers. This changing face of the Frederick County employee will affect both our cultural and economic spheres of life.