A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County 2005 Estimates for Incorporated Places

Welcome to the July, 2006 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." The US Census Bureau has recently released estimates for incorporated places like towns, villages, and cities. This month the population estimate updates will be discussed. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/Demographics.htm

The state of Maryland has 156 incorporated places. According to the 2005 US Census population estimates the incorporated places of Maryland range from 18 people in Port Tobacco Village to 635,815 in Baltimore City. The five incorporated places with the highest population in Maryland are:

1. Baltimore City 635,815
2. Frederick City 57,907
3. Gaithersburg 57,698
4. Rockville 57,402
5. Bowie 53,878

The incorporated places with the lowest population in Maryland are:

1. Port Tobacco Village 18
2. Eagle Harbor 58
3. Eldorado 59
4. Brookview 64
5. Luke 76

Since the 2000 US Census, 117 places in Maryland gained population while 39 incorporated places lost population. Rockville had the highest increase in population with 21% or an increase of 10,014. After Rockville the highest increase in population occurred in Frederick City (5,140), Gaithersburg (5,085), Bowie (3,609), and Elkton (2,573). Baltimore City had the highest decrease in population, where 15,339 people or –2% left the city within the past 5 years. After Baltimore the places with the greatest decrease in population were Cumberland (-603), Pocomoke (-189), Ocean City (-124), and Snow Hill (-86).

Frederick County has 12 of Maryland's 156 incorporated places (Figure 1). The most heavily populated place in Frederick County is Frederick City. In 2005, they were estimated to have 57,907 people. The next largest place in the County is Thurmont with 6,036 people. This is a significant difference in the top two places in the County. If the population living in all of the incorporated places, except for Frederick City, were added together they would equal 33,853. This is just over half of the population living in Frederick City. 1 in every 2.4 residents of Frederick County lives in an incorporated place.

Frederick City, Mount Airy, Thurmont, Walkersville, and Brunswick are all within the top 50 fastest growing places in Maryland. In 2003 and 2004, Frederick City lost its' ranking as the second largest city in Maryland. In 2003, Gaithersburg out populated Frederick City by 894 people. In 2004, Frederick City became the fourth largest city in Maryland, losing out to Gaithersburg by 875 people and Rockville by 13 people. However, with the new 2005 estimates, Frederick City has regained its' status as the second largest city with Gaithersburg trailing by 209 people and Rockville by 505 people.

The Incorporated Places of Frederick County

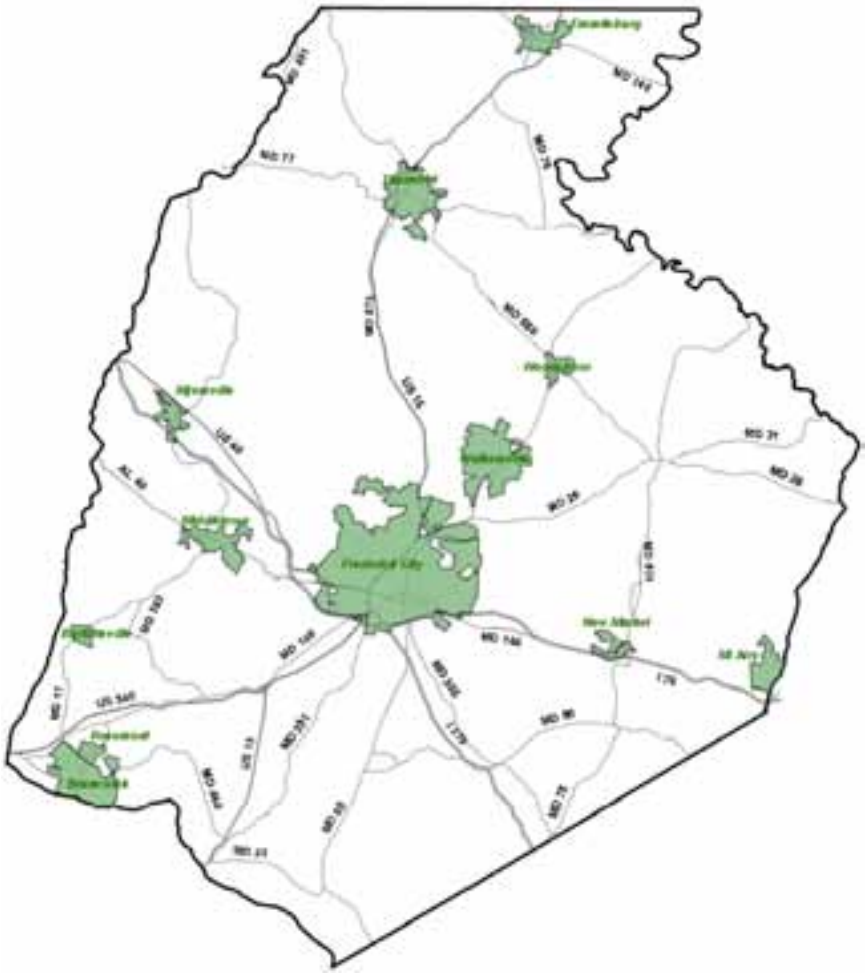

Figure 1.

Within the past 5 years all of the incorporated places in Frederick County have increased their population. In terms of number of people, the fastest growth was in Frederick City (4,782) and the slowest growth occurred in Burkittsville (14). However, in regards to percentage the greatest increase was in Mount Airy, Frederick City, and New Market. Due to Mount Airy being in two counties, makes this one of the greatest areas of growth in the County. Actually the majority of the growth that has occurred in Mount Airy within the past 5 years has all been on the Carroll County side of Mount Airy.

Hence, it really did not have the greatest amount of increase within Frederick County (Figure2).

Population Estimates for the Incorporated Places of Frederick County July 1, 2005 – July 1, 2000							
Incorporated Place	**Population Estimates**						**Change July 1, 2000 to 2005**
	July 1, 2005	**July 1, 2004**	**July 1, 2003**	**July 1, 2002**	**July 1, 2001**	**July 1, 2000**	
Brunswick	5,242	5,214	5,172	5,093	4,990	4,932	310 (5.9%)
Burkittsville	186	184	182	179	175	172	14 (7.5%)
Emmitsburg	2,369	2,375	2,384	2,309	2,246	2,246	123 (5.2%)
Frederick City	57,907	57,028	56,148	56,061	54,461	53,125	4,782 (8.3%)
Middletown	2,860	2,843	2,818	2,772	2,711	2,675	185 (6.5%)
Mount Airy	8,375	8,193	7,870	7,620	7,031	6,534	1,841 (22.0%)
Myersville	1,509	1,498	1,484	1,458	1,426	1,407	102 (6.8%)
New Market	463	460	455	446	436	428	35 (7.6%)
Rosemont	308	306	303	297	290	285	23 (7.5%)
Thurmont	6,036	5,999	5,947	5,849	5,723	5,648	388 (6.4%)
Walkersville	5,593	5,555	5,501	5,405	5,284	5,207	386 (6.9%)
Woodsboro	912	906	897	881	861	849	63 (6.9%)

Figure 2.

The incorporated places will continue to increase within Frederick County. In 2005, Frederick County was the fourth fastest growing county in the state and Frederick City was the second fastest growing place in Maryland. With water restrictions lifted and other future development plans, a slowing down in the growth does not seem to be in the near future of the places within Frederick County.