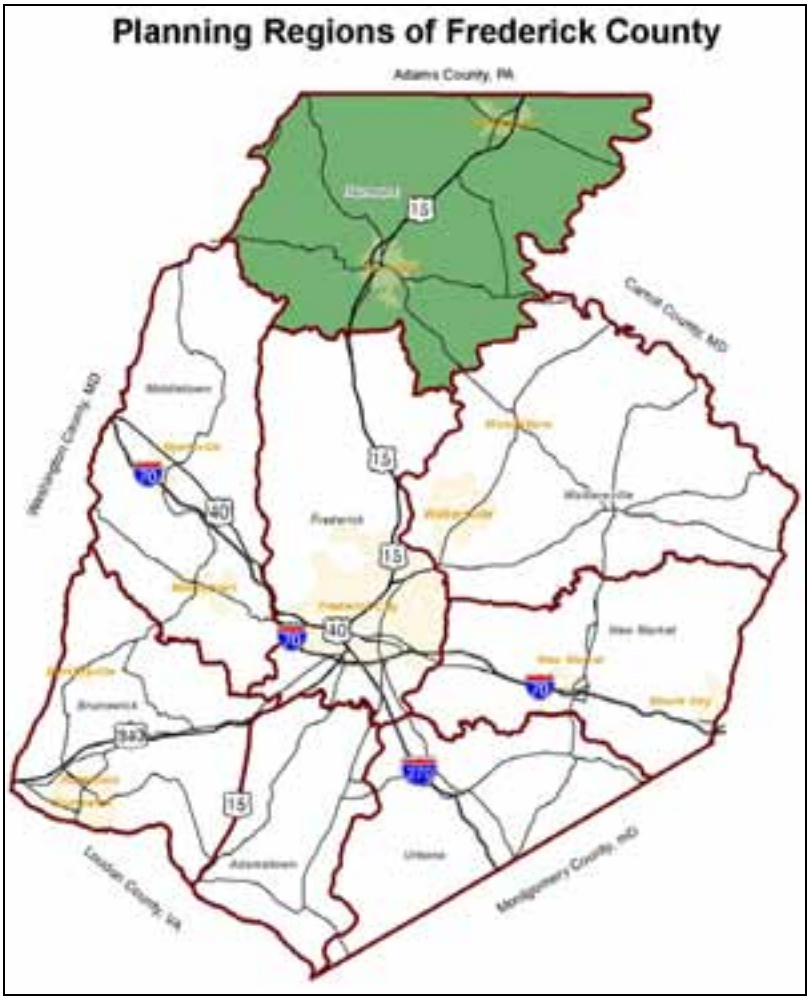
A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Thurmont Planning Region Profile

Welcome to the October, 2006 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." The Thurmont Planning Region comprehensive planning update is about to kick off. In its' honor, this month's article will focus on the 2000 SF3 and 1990 STF3 census tract data. The planning region boundaries changed on September 25th, 2006, to more closely match a census tract, wherever possible, for future consistency and continuity in data collection. 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 Thurmont Planning Region is located in the northern portion of Frederick County. The northern most boundary of the region is the Pennsylvania state line. To the East and West the region borders Carroll and Washington counties. To the southern extent the Monocracy River, Hunting Creek, and Ridenour Road separate this region from the Middletown, Frederick, and Walkersville planning regions.



As of 2006, the Frederick County Planning Division estimates that the Thurmont Planning Region has 19,466 people and a population density of 160 people per square mile. Geographically, the Thurmont Region is the largest in the County; however, population wise it is fifth. According to the US Census from 1990 to 2000 the population of the Thurmont Region increased by 15%, going from 15,027 people to 17,267.

The general demographic characteristics did not change substantially from 1990 to 2000. The male segment of the population grew slightly less (0.4%) than the female segment. In 2000, for every 100 female residents there were 96 male residents in the region. The population under the age of 5 grew by 14%, while the segment of the population over the age of 65 grew by 23%. School aged children (ages 5 to 18) rose by 21% or 504 children.

From 1990 to 2000, there was a change in the racial classifications given on the census forms. Due to this it is somewhat difficult to make a direct correlation between these two decades. However, it does seem that like the County as a whole, Thurmont is becoming a more diverse region. From 1990 to 2000, there was only an increase of 12% of White Alone in the region, while the Black/African American segment of the population grew by 76%. The racial classifications that saw the most increase in this region were Some Other Race Alone (589%) and Asian Pacific Islander (262%). Part of the large increase may be due to the different reporting methods from the 1990 and 2000 US Census.

Even with the increase in different races in the region, in regards to other areas of Frederick County the Thurmont Planning Region is the least diverse. It has the second highest percentage of White Alone population (96%) and the second lowest percentage of the population claiming Black/African American (2%). It does have the lowest percentage of Hispanic population (0.7%) in the County; however, from 1990 to 2000 there was an increase in this segment of the population of 165% or 76 people. The Thurmont Region claims the second lowest percentage of the population that is foreign born (1.5%) and the lowest percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home (2.1%).

In regards to the economic characteristics, the Thurmont Planning Region has the lowest percentage of workers in the County. Only 66% of the population 16 and older, are in the labor force. However, this region does have the highest percentage of workers living in and working in the County (75%) and the second lowest commuting time. With the low rate of labor force participation, this region has the second lowest percentage of people below the poverty level. From 1990 to 2000, the number of people below the poverty line rose by 14.2%. The median household income in 2000 was $48,495 and the median family income was $55,131. These represent the second lowest level of income in the County.

The Thurmont Planning Region is the fifth most populace region in Frederick County. Due to the large geographic size of the region the population density is the lowest in the County. This region is becoming more diverse; however, it is not on par with the racial diversity found throughout the other planning regions in Frederick County. Due to the low participation in the labor force the economic conditions found in the Thurmont Region are much lower than the County average.

Thurmont Planning Region
Demographic Profile

	1990		2000		Change 1990 to 2000	
General Characteristics	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Total Population	15,027		17,267	100.0%	2,240	14.9%
Population Density (persons per square mile)	123.6	x	142.0	x	18.4	x
Male	7,408	49.3%	8,498	49.2%	1,090	14.7%
Female	7,619	50.7%	8,769	50.8%	1,150	15.1%
Under 5 Years	913	6.1%	1,040	6.0%	127	13.9%
5 to 18 Years Old	2,412	16.1%	2,916	16.9%	504	20.9%
18 Years and Over	11,702	77.9%	13,147	76.1%	1,445	12.3%
65 Years and Over	1,705	11.3%	2,096	12.1%	391	22.9%
White Alone	14,769	98.3%	16,507	95.6%	1,738	11.8%
Black or African American Alone	190	1.3%	334	1.9%	144	75.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	25	0.2%	29	0.2%	4	16.0%
Asian and Pacific Islander	34	0.2%	123	0.7%	89	261.8%
Some Other Race Alone	9	0.1%	62	0.4%	53	588.9%
2 or More Races	NA	NA	212	1.2%	NA	NA
Hispanic or Latino	46	0.3%	122	0.7%	76	165.2%
Social Characteristics						
High School Graduate or Higher	6,315	69.6%	9,056	82.3%	2,741	43.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,248	13.8%	2,034	18.5%	786	63.0%
Foreign Born	101	0.7%	267	1.5%	166	164.4%
Never Married	4,003	32.6%	3,797	27.2%	-206	-5.1%
Now Married	6,944	56.5%	8,424	60.3%	1,480	21.3%
Widowed/Divorced	1,346	10.9%	1,753	12.5%	407	30.2%
Speak a Language Other Than English at Home	270	1.9%	339	2.1%	69	25.6%
Household Characteristics						
Households	4,869	100.0%	5,831	100.0%	962	19.8%
Family Households	3,863	79.3%	4,466	76.6%	603	15.6%
Married-Couple Family Households	3,195	82.7%	3,649	81.7%	454	14.2%
Married-Couple Families with Own Children Under 18	1,483	46.4%	1,602	43.9%	119	8.0%
Male Householders (No Wife Present)	173	4.5%	288	6.4%	115	66.5%
Male Householders With Own Children Under 18	85	49.1%	175	60.8%	90	105.9%
Female Householders (No Wife Present)	495	12.8%	529	11.8%	34	6.9%
Female Householders With Own Children Under 18	217	43.8%	331	62.6%	114	52.5%
NonFamily Households	1,006	20.7%	1,365	23.4%	359	35.7%

Economic Characteristics						
Workers	7,611	62.9%	9,006	65.7%	784	10.3%
Live and Work in Frederick County	5,856	76.9%	6,334	75.4%	478	8.2%
Travel More Than 30 Minutes to Work	2,440	32.1%	3,419	40.7%	979	40.1%
Travel More Than 90 Minutes to Work	190	2.5%	362	4.3%	172	90.5%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	945	6.3%	1,079	6.9%	134	14.2%
Averaged Median Household Income	$33,335	x	$48,495	x	$15,161	45.5%
Averaged Median Family Income	$37,073	x	$55,131	x	$18,058	48.7%
Housing Characteristics						
Total Housing Units	5,023	100.0%	6,063	100.0%	1,040	20.7%
Occupied Housing Units	4,795	95.5%	5,788	95.5%	993	20.7%
Vacant Housing Units	228	4.5%	275	4.5%	47	20.6%
Owner-occupied Housing Units	3,398	70.9%	4,339	75.0%	941	27.7%
Renter-occupied Housing Units	1,397	29.1%	1,449	23.9%	52	3.7%