

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Community Profile

OVERVIEW

Alexandria is an independent City in Northern Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. Rich in history and diversity, Alexandria is nationally recognized as one of the best places to live and do business on the east coast.



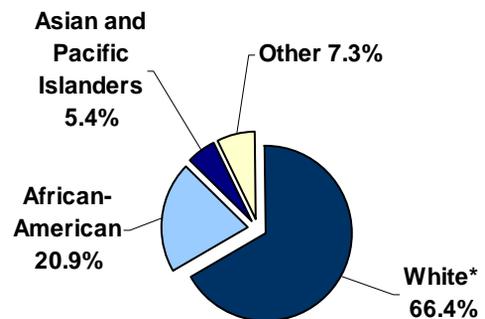
Alexandria was established on May 11, 1749 by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly, and was later incorporated in 1779. The City was named after its landowners, the Alexanders. The charter, which currently governs the City, was adopted in 1922.

As illustrated in the chart to the right, Alexandria is home to a diverse population, which is expected to increase to 145,113 in calendar year 2011.

The per capita income is projected to be \$72,636 for FY 2011. The last official estimate by the Bureau of Economic Analysis showed Alexandria per capita income at \$70,362 in CY 2007, which makes it first in the Washington region and 12th among all counties in the nation. There are a total of 70,541 households, with an average size of 2.04 persons per unit.

Race and Ethnicity

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey



**13.0% of Alexandrians are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (of any race)*

GOVERNANCE

In 1921, the overwhelming majority of Alexandrians voted, by referendum, to implement the Council-Manager form of city government. As a result, legislative authority and responsibility are centralized in the elected City Council, while administrative authority resides with the City Manager.



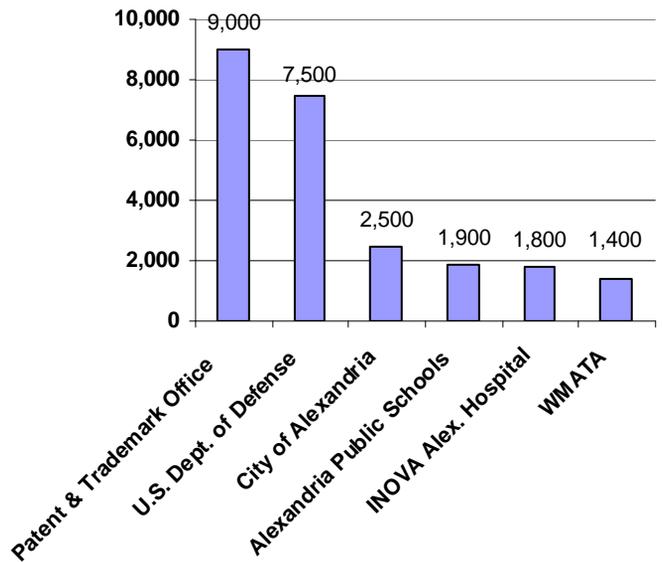
The City Council (current city council pictured above) is comprised of the Mayor and six at-large Council Members who are responsible for appointing the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney. The City Manager serves as the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for the daily operations of the City.

The City of Alexandria also has a strong commitment to citizen participation, which is evidenced by the 76 citizen boards and commissions established by City Council. These bodies compose a formal system through which citizens can advise City Council on major issues. Boards and commissions are responsible to City Council, and appointments are made by Council at their regular legislative meetings.

ECONOMY

Alexandria is home to over 8,000 thriving businesses and organizations, which includes a large concentration of technology companies, the fourth-largest concentration of professional associations in the country, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), and a tourism industry that hosts nearly two million visitors a year. The chart to the right displays the City's largest employers.

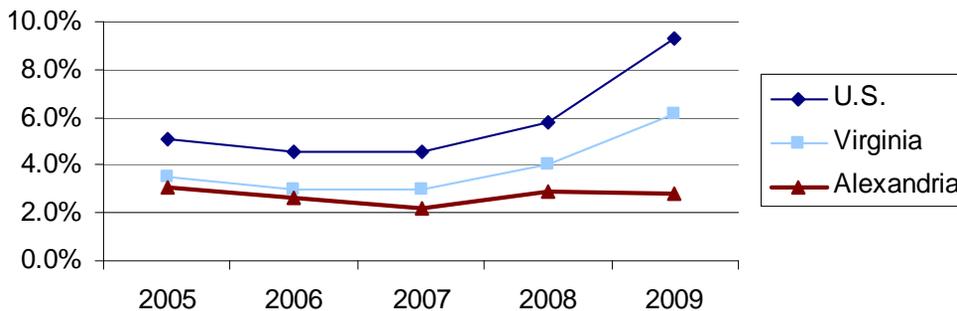
Largest Employers



In 2009 Alexandria's unemployment rate was among the lowest in the nation at 2.8 percent, while Virginia's rate is 6.1 percent and the national rate is 9.3 percent (displayed in the graph below).

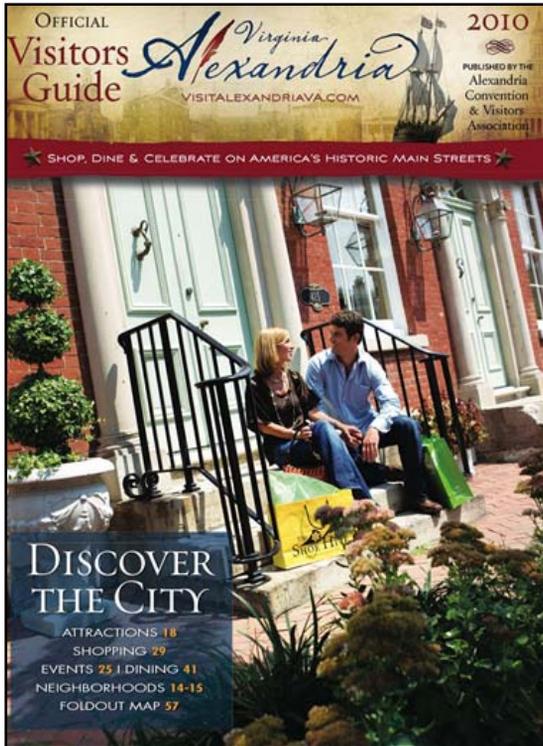
Unemployment Rate

(Source: BLS, seasonally adjusted yearly average)



There are approximately 20 million square feet of office space and over 6 million square feet of retail space existing in the City today. As of December 2009, the office space vacancy rate was 16.3 percent, while Northern Virginia's rate was 16.3 percent and the Washington, D.C. Metro Area's rate was 15.4 percent. For 2009, total retail sales in the City equaled \$2.2 billion.

TOURISM



As the most visited destination in Northern Virginia, Alexandria enjoys about 2 million visitors annually. The City offers an array of historic and cultural attractions including many historic homes, churches, businesses and museums.

The tourism industry supports 25 hotels with 4,688 rooms within the City of Alexandria. For FY 2009, the average occupancy rate was 52 percent. For the same time period, the average daily rate for hotel rooms in the City was \$156.

Seven of the premier historic sites in Alexandria, including the Black History Museum, the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Park, Friendship Firehouse (pictured), Gadsby's Tavern, the Lyceum, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum are owned and operated by the City of Alexandria. During FY 2009 136,500 residents and tourists visited these historic sites.



HOUSING

The City of Alexandria has several affordable housing programs in order to assist low to moderate income individuals with home purchases. Initiatives include the Moderate Income Homeownership Program and the Housing Counseling Program. In addition, the City provides relocation counseling to those seeking suitable rentals in the City.

The City assists non-profit housing groups, as well as the City Housing Authority, by providing loans to preserve or expand multi-family rental housing. In the area of new development, the City often receives voluntary developer paid contributions of cash or units in order to provide new affordable rental or ownership units.

The number of housing units in Alexandria is 74,774, which includes 21,870 single-family units, 18,247 condominium units, 33,467 rental apartments, and 1,150 public housing and public housing replacement units. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2006-2008 American Community Survey), approximately 49 percent of housing units are owned and 51 percent are rented.

RECREATION AND PARKS

The City of Alexandria contains 955.9 acres of public parks and open space, resulting in a per capita total of about 7 acres per 1,000 residents.

There are 35 playground areas, 7 swimming pools, 16 gymnasiums, 24 outdoor basketball courts, 34 tennis courts, 45 athletic fields, 8 neighborhood recreation centers, 1 nature center, and 1 adult/arts activity center.

In recent years the City has adopted an Open Space Plan and has been actively acquiring property for new or expanded parks, as well as regaining open space as an element of new development projects.



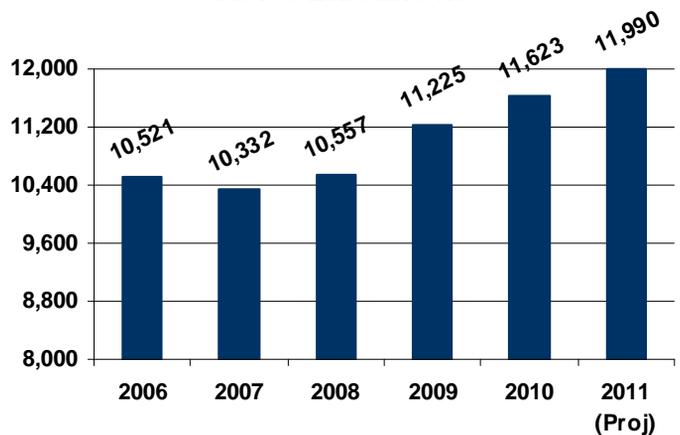
EDUCATION

The Alexandria City Public School System provides elementary and secondary education for the City's youth. It currently has one high school (T.C. Williams High School pictured), one ninth grade school, one Alternative high school, two middle schools, and 13 elementary schools.

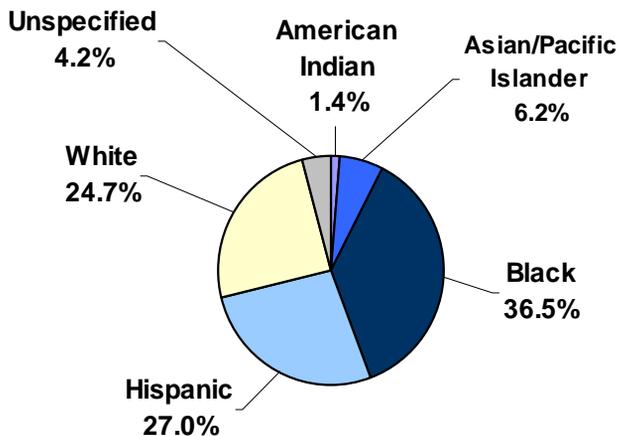


The number of students expected for the 2010-2011 school year is 11,990, which represents a 14% increase in public school enrollment since 2006.

ACPS Enrollment



ACPS Student Profile FY 2010



Alexandria City Public Schools is one of the most diverse school systems in the country. Students come from more than 80 different countries, and speak more than 60 languages. Students are economically diverse, but all are rich in that the residents of Alexandria are dedicated to ensuring that each and every student achieves success.

TRANSPORTATION

The City has an extensive transportation system. Passenger rail service is provided by Amtrak and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). There is also an extensive public transportation system, which includes Alexandria's local bus system (DASH), one regional Metro bus system, the Fairfax County REX service and Metrorail subway service (4 stations and 2 lines).



Domestic and international air service is provided by Ronald Reagan National Airport, just 5 minutes away from downtown Alexandria, Dulles International Airport, located 33 miles away from the City, and Baltimore / Washington International airport, located 38.5 miles away. All major domestic and international carriers service these airports.



In 2008, the City began a free trolley service between the waterfront and the King Street Metro Station. This service focuses on providing residents and visitors access to the popular King Street corridor. Since its inception, the King Street Trolley has transported over a million residents and visitors.



Community Profile

Housing	2009	2008
Total Housing Units.....	74,774	74,333
Type of Single-Family Housing		
Detached... ..	9,115	9,122
Semi-Detached.....	5,601	5,465
Rowhouse.....	6,207	6,342
Condo Townhouse.....	960	943
Total Single-Family.....	21,883	21,870
Condominium Units.....	18,247	18,274
Rental Apartments.....	33,467	31,066
Public Housing and Public Housing		
Replacement Units.....	1,150	1,150
Average Assessed Value of		
Single Family Homes.....	\$637,154	\$656,984
Average Assessed Value of		
Condominiums.....	\$301,718	\$326,026
Average Market Rents		
Efficiency.....	\$1,012	\$966
1 Bedroom Apartment.....	\$1,284	\$1,249
2 Bedroom Apartment.....	\$1,700	\$1,604
3 Bedroom Apartment.....	\$1,844	\$1,738

Communications

Television:

All major networks plus cable

Local Newspapers:

Alexandria Gazette Packet (weekly)

Regional Newspapers:

Washington Post, Washington Times, Washington

Examiner

Radio:

50 major and minor radio stations in metropolitan area

Miles of Streets, Sidewalks and Alleys

Streets:

Paved - Lane Miles..... 514

Unpaved 0.17

Sidewalks 321.2

Alleys, Paved..... 20.56

Utilities

ElectricDominion Virginia Power

Gas.....Washington Gas

Water Virginia - American Water Company

Sewer..... Alexandria Sanitation Authority

Cable Comcast Communications

Public Recreation

Acreage..... 955.90

Facilities:

Playground Areas 35

Swimming Pools..... 7

Gymnasiums..... 16

Basketball Courts (outdoor)..... 24

Tennis Courts 34

Playing Fields 45

Medical Facilities

Hospital:

INOVA Alexandria Hospital..... 318

Nursing Homes:

Goodwin House..... 80

Hermitage Retirement Community.....204

Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center307

Washington House55

Integrated Health Services of Northern Virginia.....111

Libraries

Central Library 1

Full service branches 3

Local History – Special Collections 1

Education

Primary Schools:

Elementary 13

Middle 2

Ninth Grade Center 1

High School..... 1

Secondary Training Educational Program..... 1

Parochial and Private Schools 11

Higher Education:

Located within the City are the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia-Community College, Regent University, and the Episcopal Theological Seminary. Nearby institutions include George Mason, George Washington, American, Catholic, Georgetown, and Howard Universities.

Financial Institutions

Commercial Banks 14

Credit Unions 10

Hotels and Motels

Hotels and Motels..... 26

Total Rooms 4,688