

FY 2016

Adopted Budget Plan



Trends and Demographics

Trends and Demographics

HOUSEHOLD TAX ANALYSES

The following analyses illustrate the impact of selected County taxes on the "typical" household from FY 2010 to FY 2016. This period provides five years of actual data, estimates for FY 2015 based on year-to-date experience, and projections for FY 2016. Historical dollar amounts are converted to FY 2016 dollar equivalents for comparison purposes using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington-Baltimore area. The Washington metropolitan area has experienced average annual inflation of 2.3 percent from FY 2010 to FY 2014. Projections for inflation in FY 2015 and FY 2016 are based on a forecast of 1.5 percent in FY 2015 and 2.3 percent in FY 2016 using forecasts from the Congressional Budget Office.

HOUSEHOLD TAXATION TRENDS: SELECTED CATEGORIES FY 2010 - FY 2016

The charts on the following pages show the trends in selected taxes (Real Estate Taxes, Personal Property Taxes, Sales Taxes and Consumer Utility Taxes) paid by the "typical" household in Fairfax County. The Real Estate Tax analysis includes the adopted FY 2016 Real Estate tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. It is important to note that the following data are not intended to depict a comprehensive picture of a household's total tax burden in Fairfax County.

The "typical" household in Fairfax County is projected to pay \$6,466.06 in selected County General Fund taxes in FY 2016, \$53.17 more than in FY 2015 after adjusting for inflation. From FY 2010 to FY 2016, the inflation adjusted County taxes paid by the "typical" household have increased \$289.36. Note that taxes paid in FY 2010 through FY 2016 reflect the Commonwealth's Personal Property Tax Relief Act, which reduces an individual's Personal Property Tax liability on vehicles valued up to \$20,000 (see the section entitled "Personal Property Tax per Typical Household" for more information.)

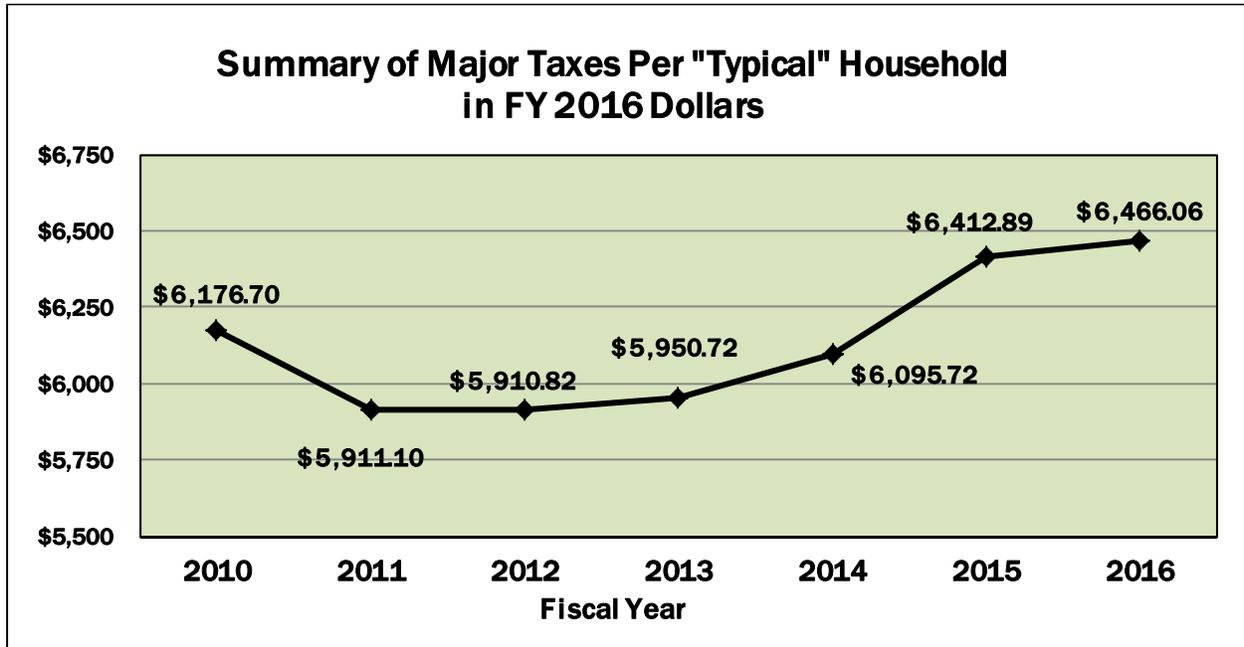
Summary of Major Taxes Per "Typical" Household

	Number of Households	Real Estate Tax In FY 2016 Dollars	Personal Property Tax In FY 2016 Dollars ¹	Sales Tax In FY 2016 Dollars	Consumer Utility Tax In FY 2016 Dollars	Total Taxes In FY 2016 Dollars ¹
FY 2010	386,100	\$5,405.09	\$266.75	\$439.62	\$65.24	\$6,176.70
FY 2011	394,127	\$5,155.06	\$265.67	\$428.48	\$61.89	\$5,911.10
FY 2012	398,700	\$5,129.10	\$283.06	\$439.44	\$59.22	\$5,910.82
FY 2013	399,500	\$5,106.81	\$343.66	\$441.05	\$59.20	\$5,950.72
FY 2014	401,000	\$5,265.68	\$342.63	\$428.44	\$58.97	\$6,095.72
FY 2015²	402,900	\$5,576.98	\$343.67	\$434.42	\$57.82	\$6,412.89
FY 2016²	404,900	\$5,636.40	\$339.20	\$434.22	\$56.24	\$6,466.06

¹ Personal Property Taxes paid incorporate reductions in Personal Property Tax bills sent to citizens under the state's Personal Property Tax Relief program. The reductions were 70.0 percent in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, 68.0 percent in FY 2012, 63.0 percent in both FY 2013 and FY 2014 and 62.0 percent in FY 2015. The reduction in FY 2016 is set at 62.0 percent. The difference in revenue will be paid to the County by the Commonwealth.

² Estimated.

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Real Estate Tax Per "Typical" Household

	Mean Assessed Value of Residential Property	Tax Rate per \$100	Tax per Household	Tax per Household in FY 2016 Dollars
FY 2010	\$457,898	\$1.04	\$4,762.14	\$5,405.09
FY 2011	\$433,409	\$1.09	\$4,724.16	\$5,155.06
FY 2012	\$445,533	\$1.07	\$4,767.20	\$5,129.10
FY 2013	\$449,964	\$1.075	\$4,837.11	\$5,106.81
FY 2014	\$467,394	\$1.085	\$5,071.22	\$5,265.68
FY 2015¹	\$500,146	\$1.090	\$5,451.59	\$5,576.98
FY 2016¹	\$517,101	\$1.090	\$5,636.40	\$5,636.40

¹ Estimated.

As shown in the preceding table, Real Estate Taxes per "typical" household are projected to increase \$184.81 between FY 2015 and FY 2016 to \$5,636.40, not adjusting for inflation. This increase is the result of the 3.39 percent increase in the mean assessed value of residential properties within the County and no change in the General Fund Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value.

Since FY 2010, Real Estate Taxes have increased \$874.26, or an average annual increase of 2.8 percent per year, not adjusting for inflation. Adjusted for inflation, Real Estate Taxes per "typical" household are \$231.31 more than in FY 2010, an average annual increase of 0.7 percent.

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Personal Property Tax Per "Typical" Household

	Personal Property Taxes Attributed to Individuals	Number of Households	Tax per Household	Tax per Household in FY 2016 Dollars	After PPTRA	
					Adjusted Tax per Household ¹	Adjusted Tax per Household in FY 2016 Dollars ¹
FY 2010	\$302,475,782	386,100	\$783.41	\$889.18	\$235.02	\$266.75
FY 2011	\$319,851,985	394,127	\$811.55	\$885.57	\$243.46	\$265.67
FY 2012	\$327,790,000	398,700	\$822.15	\$884.56	\$263.09	\$283.06
FY 2013	\$351,467,917	399,500	\$879.77	\$928.82	\$325.51	\$343.66
FY 2014	\$357,621,289	401,000	\$891.82	\$926.02	\$329.97	\$342.63
FY 2015²	\$356,193,566	402,900	\$884.07	\$904.40	\$335.95	\$343.67
FY 2016²	\$361,426,489	404,900	\$892.63	\$892.63	\$339.20	\$339.20

¹ Personal Property Taxes paid incorporate reductions in Personal Property Tax bills sent to citizens under the state's Personal Property Tax Relief program. The reductions were 70.0 percent in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, 68.0 percent in FY 2012, 63.0 percent in both FY 2013 and FY 2014 and 62.0 percent in FY 2015. The reduction in FY 2016 is set at 62.0 percent. The difference in revenue will be paid to the County by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

² Estimated.

Personal Property Taxes paid by the "typical" household are shown in the preceding chart. Personal Property Taxes paid reflect the Commonwealth of Virginia's Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA), which reduces an individual's Personal Property Tax payment. In FY 2007, statewide reimbursements were capped at \$950 million, with each locality receiving a percentage allocation from this fixed amount determined by the locality's share of statewide tax year 2004 collections. Each year, County staff must determine the reimbursement percentage based on the County's fixed reimbursement of \$211.3 million and an estimate of the number and value of vehicles that will be eligible for tax relief. As the number and value of vehicles in the County vary, the percentage attributed to the state will fluctuate. Based on a County staff analysis, the effective state reimbursement percentage was 67.00 percent in FY 2008, 68.50 percent in FY 2009, 70.00 percent in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, 68.00 percent in FY 2012, 63.00 in both FY 2013 and FY 2014. The FY 2015 reimbursement percentage declined to 62.00 percent and remains at this level in FY 2016.

The tax per household analysis shown above assumes that the "typical" household's vehicle(s) are valued at \$20,000 or less in order to qualify for a reduction under the PPTRA. Personal Property Taxes per "typical" household are projected to increase \$3.25 between FY 2015 and FY 2016 to \$339.20 based on a 62.00 percent state share. The FY 2016 Personal Property Tax per "typical" household is \$104.18 higher than what was paid in FY 2010, not adjusting for inflation. When adjustments are made for inflation, the "typical" household is projected to pay \$72.45 more in FY 2016 than FY 2010. There have been no changes to the Personal Property Tax rate of \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed value for individuals during the FY 2010 to FY 2016 period, except for mobile homes and boats which are taxed at the prevailing Real Estate Tax rate each fiscal year.

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The FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan also includes an annual Vehicle Registration Fee on motor vehicles. The fee will be levied at \$33 for passenger vehicles that weigh 4,000 pounds or less and \$38 on passenger vehicles that weight more than 4,000 pounds. The fee for motorcycles is \$18. This fee was levied prior to FY 2007 at \$25 for all passenger vehicles regardless of weight and at \$18 for motorcycles.

Sales Tax Per "Typical" Household

	Total Sales Tax	Number of Households	Tax per Household	Tax per Household in FY 2016 Dollars
FY 2010	\$149,547,338	386,100	\$387.33	\$439.62
FY 2011	\$154,757,415	394,127	\$392.66	\$428.48
FY 2012	\$162,839,599	398,700	\$408.43	\$439.44
FY 2013	\$166,893,847	399,500	\$417.76	\$441.05
FY 2014	\$165,459,545	401,000	\$412.62	\$428.44
FY 2015¹	\$171,089,575	402,900	\$424.65	\$434.42
FY 2016¹	\$175,815,535	404,900	\$434.22	\$434.22

¹ Estimated.

As shown in the table above, FY 2016 Sales Tax paid per household is estimated to be \$434.22 or \$46.89 more than FY 2010, not adjusting for inflation. This represents an average annual increase of 1.9 percent since FY 2010. Adjusting for inflation, Sales Tax paid per household declined \$5.40 during this period.

Because this analysis assumes all Sales Taxes are paid by individuals living in Fairfax County, the impact on the typical household is somewhat overstated. A segment of the County's Sales Tax revenues are paid by businesses and non-residents who either work in the County or are visiting. As the County becomes more of a major employment hub in the region, the contribution of non-residents to the County's Sales Tax revenues will continue to expand.

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Consumer Utility Taxes - Gas & Electric Per "Typical" Household

	Total Consumer Utility Taxes Paid by Residential Consumers	Number of Households	Tax per Household	Tax per Household in FY 2016 Dollars
FY 2010	\$22,192,306	386,100	\$57.48	\$65.24
FY 2011	\$22,355,408	394,127	\$56.72	\$61.89
FY 2012	\$21,943,780	398,700	\$55.04	\$59.22
FY 2013	\$22,399,854	399,500	\$56.07	\$59.20
FY 2014	\$22,771,865	401,000	\$56.79	\$58.97
FY 2015¹	\$22,771,865	402,900	\$56.52	\$57.82
FY 2016¹	\$22,771,865	404,900	\$56.24	\$56.24

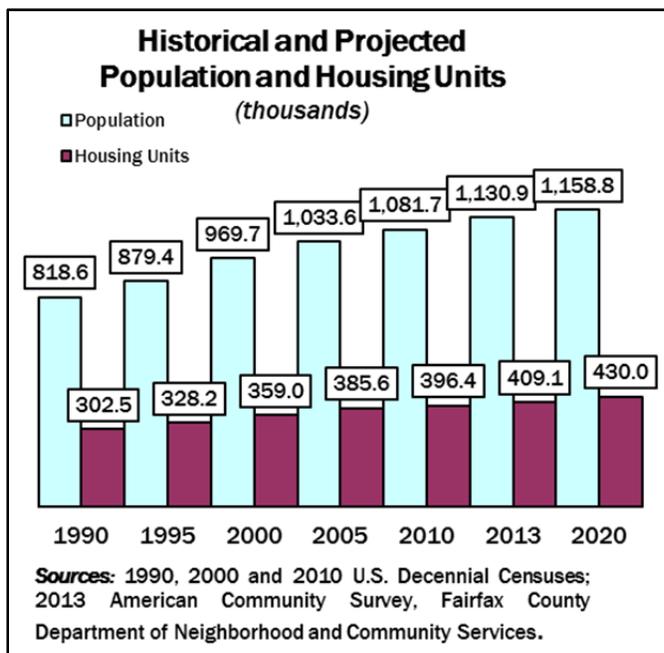
Based on data from the utility companies, it is estimated that residential consumers pay approximately 43.0 percent of the Electric Taxes and 73.0 percent of the Gas Taxes received by the County. Utility Taxes per household have remained relatively stable from FY 2010 through FY 2016. In FY 2016, the "typical" household will pay an estimated \$56.24 in Consumer Utility Taxes, \$1.24 less than in FY 2010, without adjusting for inflation. From FY 2010 to FY 2016, the "typical" household has experienced an average annual decrease of 2.4 percent, or \$9.00 over the period, adjusted for inflation.

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DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Demographic trends strongly influence Fairfax County's budget. Changing demographics or population characteristics affect both the cost of government services provided, as well as tax revenues. The descriptions and charts contained in this section provide some examples of how various demographic trends affect the Fairfax County budget. Although these trends are discussed separately, the interactions between these demographic trends ultimately influence the direction of expenditures and revenues. While certain demographic trends may suggest reduced expenditures in a program area, other demographic trends may increase program expenditures at the same time. The following information is based on the most recent data available at the time of publication.

Population and Housing

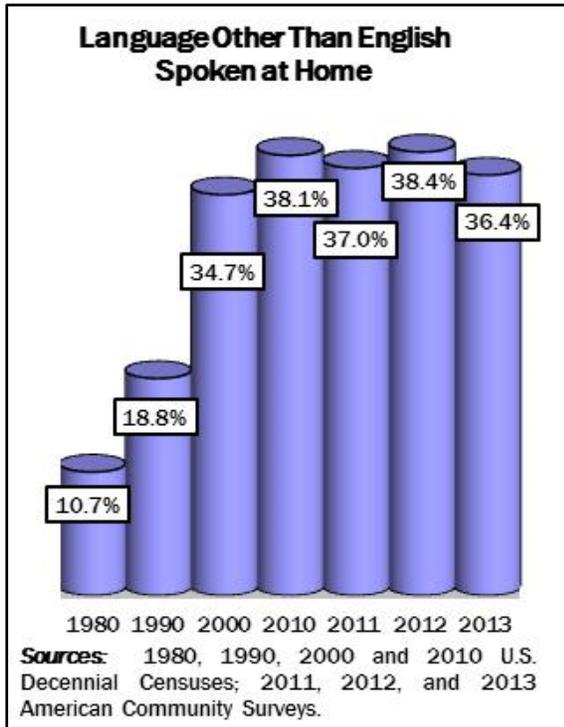


Some of the strongest demographic influences on Fairfax County expenditures and revenues are those associated with the growth in total population and housing units. From 1990 to 2000, the County added over 151,100 residents. Growth moderated during the 1990s and the County's population expanded by 150,000 residents. This increase in Fairfax County's population between 1990 and 2000 is comparable to adding more than the entire population of the City of Alexandria to the County. The County's population growth decelerated, adding 112,000 residents between 2000 and 2010. Based on the 2013 American Community Survey, Fairfax County had a population of 1,130,924 residents in 2013. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Fairfax County is expected to increase over 77,100 residents to 1,158,800.

Between 1990 and 2000, housing units grew 18.7 percent, just slightly above population growth of 18.5 percent. From 2000 to 2010, this trend reversed, with population growth at 11.5 percent, surpassing housing unit growth of 10.4 percent. From 2010 to 2020, population and housing units are anticipated to grow 7.1 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. Many County programs, such as fire prevention, transit, water and sewer, are impacted by the number of housing units. Other program areas such as libraries, recreation, and schools, are impacted more by the growth in population.

Trends and Demographics

Cultural Diversity

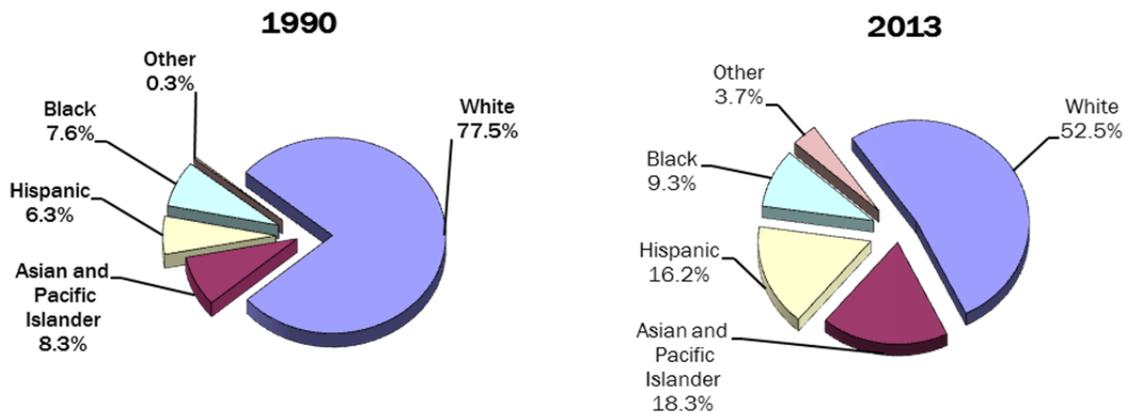


Fairfax County’s population is rich in diversity. Based on the 2013 American Community Survey, the number of persons speaking a language other than English at home is estimated to be approximately 383,700 residents, or 36.4 percent of the County’s population age five years or older. In 1980, less than 11 percent of residents age five years or older spoke a language other than English at home. This percentage rose to nearly 19 percent in 1990. By 2000, it was 34.7 percent. The most frequently spoken languages other than English include Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese.

These language trends affect many County programs. For example, the Fairfax County Public Schools have experienced rapid growth in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs. Between FY 2000 and FY 2014, total public school membership increased 19.0 percent, while ESOL enrollment grew 131.7 percent. Also, general government services such as the courts, police, fire and emergency medical services, as well as human service programs and tax related

programs are impacted by the County’s cultural and language diversity. The County continues to develop various means to effectively communicate with residents for whom English is not their native language.

Racial/ Ethnic Composition



Sources: 1990 U.S. Decennial Census and 2013 American Community Survey.

In 1990, racial and ethnic minorities comprised less than a quarter of Fairfax County’s population. In 2013, over 47 percent of County’s population consisted of ethnic minorities. The two fastest growing groups are Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders, which have both more than doubled their share of the County’s population between 1990 and 2013. These two minority groups are anticipated to remain the County’s most rapidly expanding racial or ethnic groups during the next five years. As the County’s population continues to become more diverse, the number of persons speaking a language other than English at home is anticipated to continue to grow and impact a wide range of services provided by the County.

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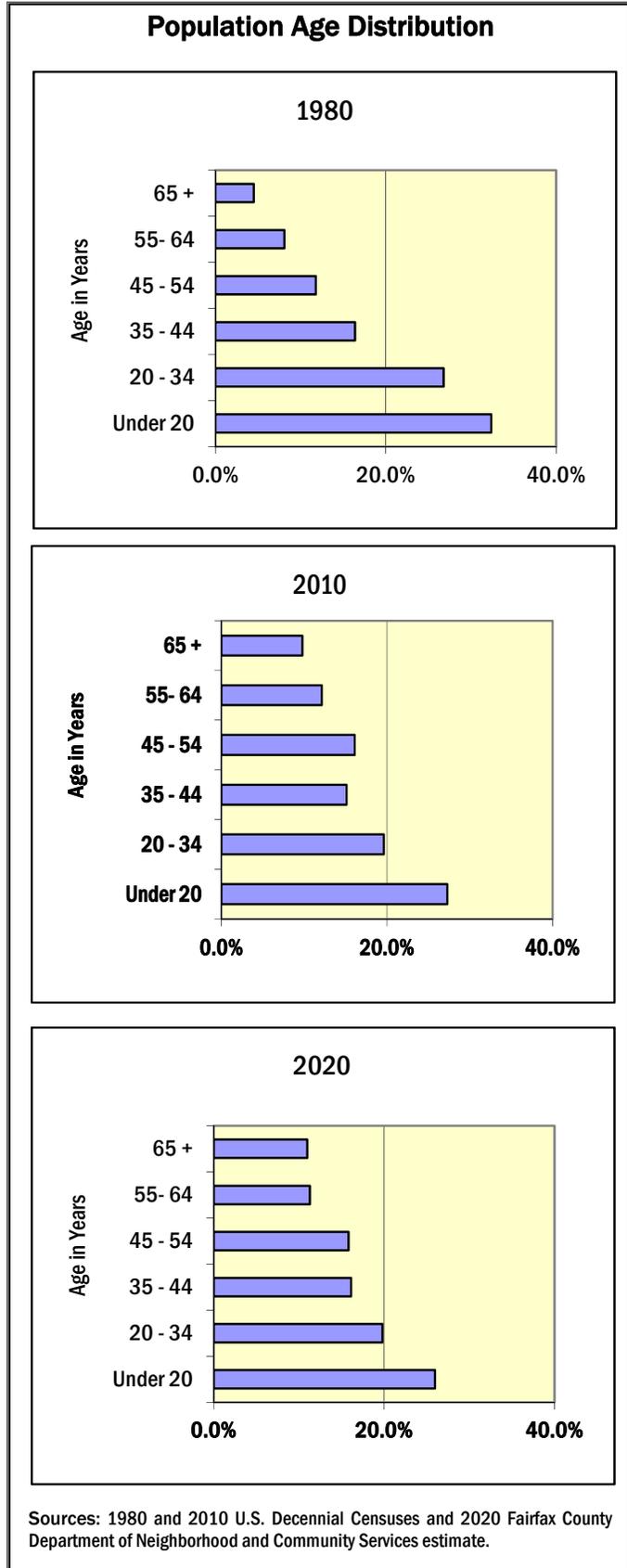
Population Age Distribution

Fairfax County’s population has grown steadily older since 1980. Between 1980 and 2010, the percentage of children age 19 years and younger became a smaller proportion of the total population, dropping from 32.4 percent to 26.4 percent in 2010. It is anticipated that this trend will remain steady through 2020, with the percentage of those 19 years old and younger remaining at 26.4 percent.

The number of adults age 45 to 54 years expanded rapidly between 1980 and 2010, as the first “baby boomers” began to enter into their fifties. This age group’s sharp growth trend will begin to reverse between 2010 and 2020, as the final “baby boomers” enter this age group and the oldest of the “baby boom” generation move to the next age group.

Between 1980 and 2010, the seniors’ population, those age 65 years and older, more than doubled in size and was the fastest growing segment of County residents. This age group is expected to continue increasing in size, with its share of the population reaching 13.7 percent by 2020.

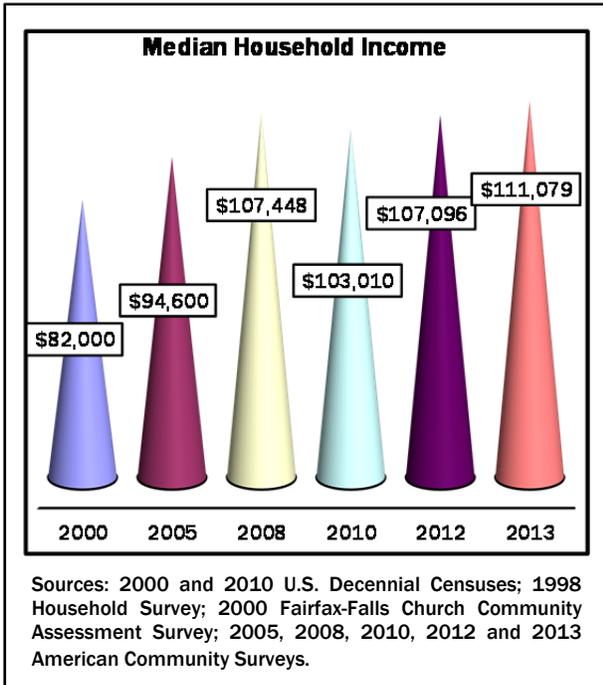
The age distribution of Fairfax County’s population greatly impacts the demand and, therefore, the costs of providing many local government services. For example, the number, location, and size of school and day care facilities are directly affected by the number and proportion of children. Transportation expenditures for both street maintenance and public transportation are influenced by the number and proportion of driving age adults and their work locations. The growing number of persons age 65 years and older will influence expenditures for programs such as adult day care, senior centers, and health care.



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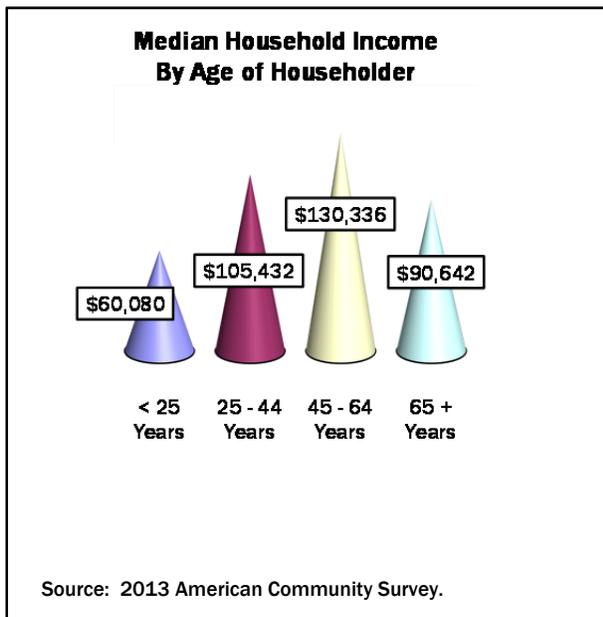
Public safety programs also are impacted by age demographics. Crime rates, for example, are highest among persons age 15 to 34. In addition, the youngest and the oldest drivers have the greatest probability of being involved in traffic accidents.

Household Income



The median household income in Fairfax County was \$111,079 in 2013, the third highest in the nation for counties with a population of 250,000 or more after neighboring Loudoun County in Virginia and Howard County in Maryland. Fairfax County's 2013 median household income increased 3.7 percent over 2012. Consequently, households in Fairfax County had slightly higher disposable income to spend or save. Since 2000, median household income in the County has risen at a rate of 2.4 percent per year.

Income growth does not directly impact Fairfax County tax revenues because localities in Virginia do not tax income; however, revenues are indirectly affected because changes in income impact the County's economic health. Tax categories affected by income include Sales Tax receipts, Residential Real Estate Taxes and Personal Property Taxes.



Incomes peak among persons aged 45 to 64 years, who are in their prime earning years. As the number of households headed by this age group is projected to shrink during the next 10 years, various tax revenues may be impacted. Sales Tax revenues, for instance, may experience more modest growth. The median income for heads of households between the ages of 45 and 64 was \$130,336 in 2013.

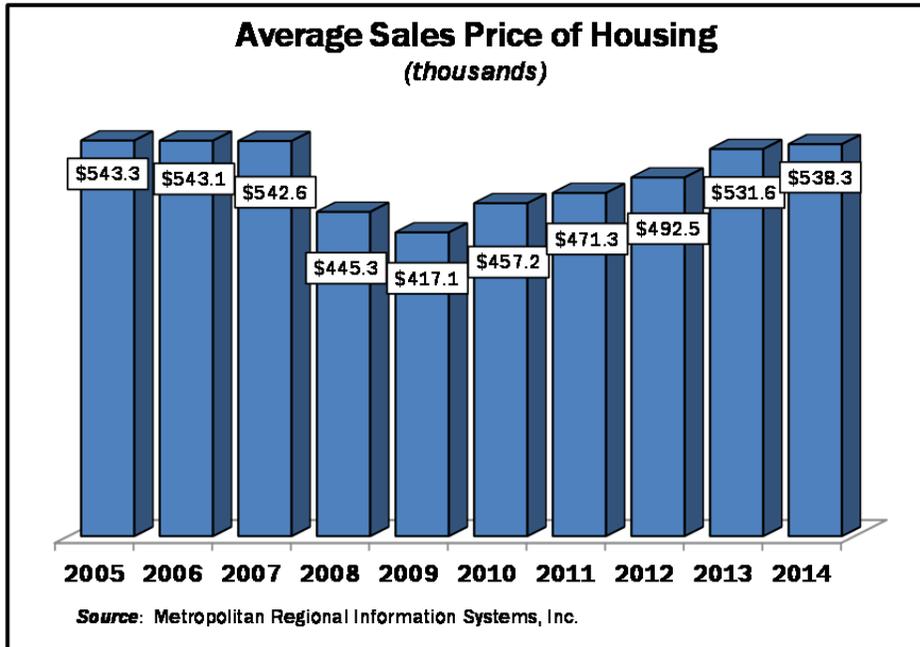
The median household income of people age 65 or older drops to \$90,642. A population containing a larger number of seniors, age 65 and older, will put downward pressure on tax revenues. These senior households are typically on a fixed income and have less discretionary money to spend. In addition, persons in this age group own fewer motor vehicles and may qualify for Real Estate Tax Relief.

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ECONOMIC TRENDS

Housing Market

In FY 2016, Real Estate Tax revenue is projected to comprise more than 63 percent of all General Fund Revenues and residential properties make up the majority of the value of the Real Estate Tax base. As a result, the changes in the residential housing market have a very significant impact on Fairfax County's revenues.

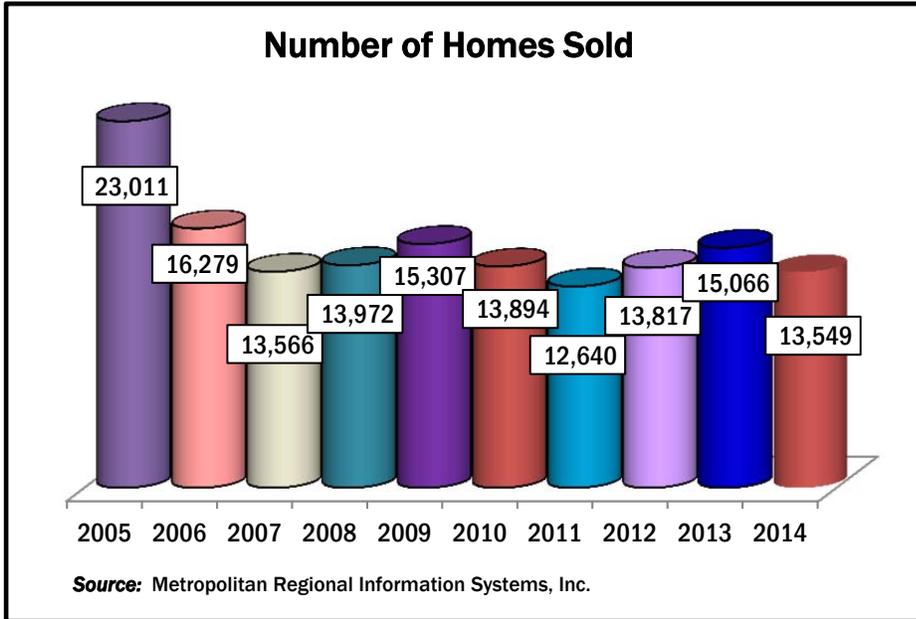


Average Sales Price of Housing

Based on data from the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc. (MRIS), the average sales price for all types of homes sold in Fairfax County increased a modest 1.3 percent in 2014 to \$538,280 from \$531,567 in 2013. While this marks the fifth consecutive annual increase in prices, the average 2014 price has still not reached its

previous peak value achieved in 2005. Due to the recession, homes prices fell each year from 2006 through 2009. Since 2009, the average sales price of housing has risen 29.1 percent.

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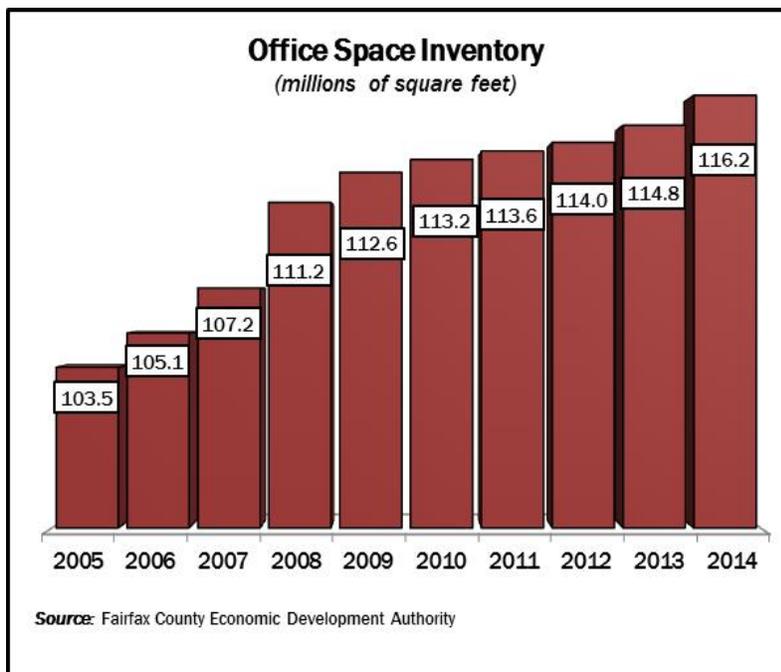
Homes Sold in Fairfax County

Based on data from MRIS, 13,549 homes were sold in Fairfax County during 2014, a 10.1 percent decline from the 15,066 sold in 2013. The number of homes sold peaked in 2004, when 25,717 homes were sold and hit a nine-year low of 12,640 in 2011. Including 2014, the number of homes sold has averaged 14,144

over the past three years. The average days on the market for active residential real estate listings in Fairfax County was 45 days for all of 2014 – 8 days longer than the 2013 level of 37 days.

Office Market

Business activity has an effect on Real Estate Taxes, business Personal Property Tax revenues and Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) revenues. Business expansion also influences expenditures for water and sewer services, transportation improvements, police and fire services, and refuse disposal. According to the Economic Development Authority, the commercial real estate market exhibited mixed signals during 2014.



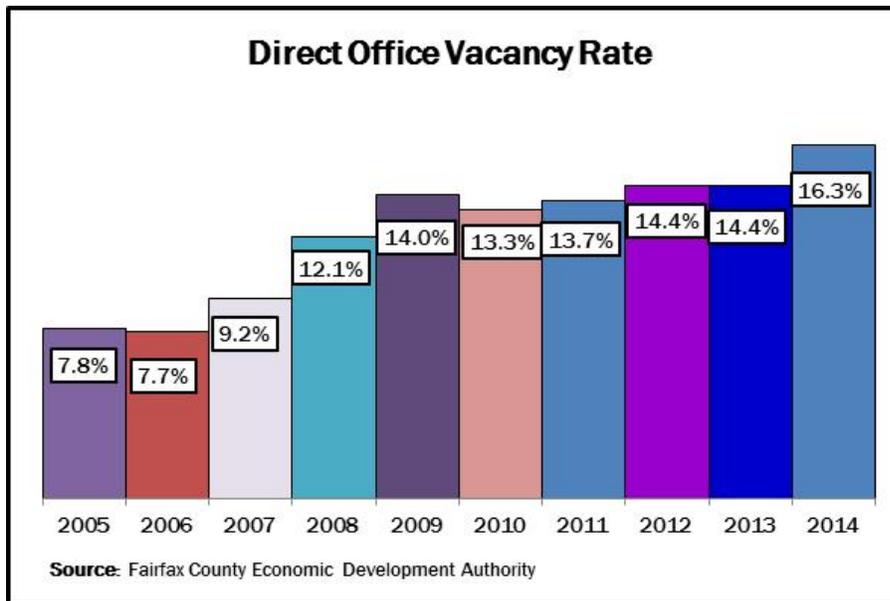
Office Space Inventory

The largest component of non-residential space in the County is office space. The office space inventory reached 116.2 million square feet at the end of 2014, an increase of 1.4 million square feet over 2013. Since 2005, the total inventory of office space in Fairfax County has risen 12.7 million square feet. As of year-end 2014, nine buildings with nearly 2.5 million square feet of space were under construction in the County. More than half of the new office space under construction is speculative development. The interest in speculative development reflects

confidence in the Fairfax County office market; however, as vacancy rates are elevated in historical terms,

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there could be concern that this space will not be easily leased. Speculative development has been focused along Metro's Silver Line in Tysons and Reston, as well as in the southeastern portion of the County around the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.



Office Vacancy Rates

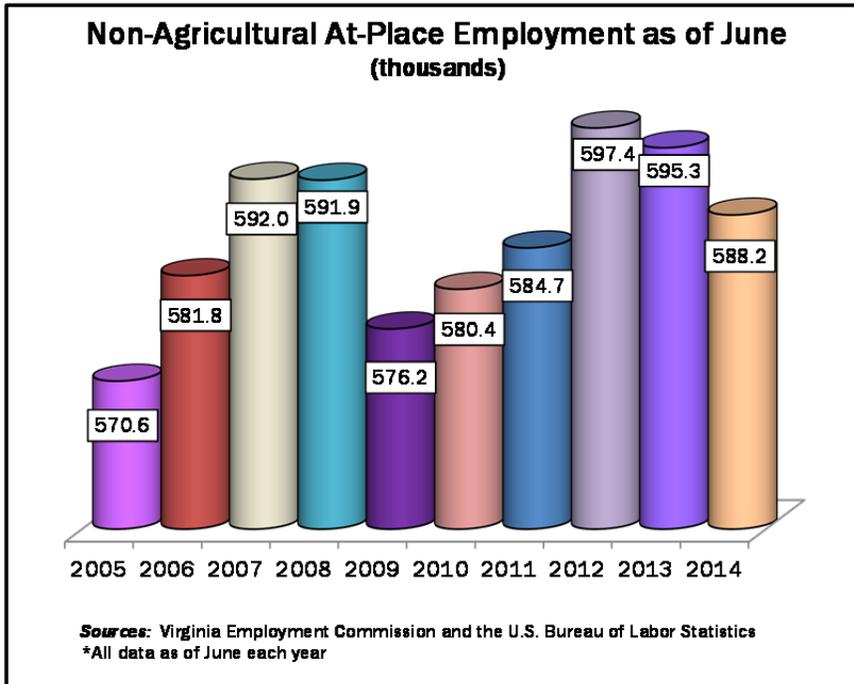
The increase in the inventory of office space and softer demand for space resulted in an increase in the office vacancy rate in 2014. The direct office vacancy rate rose from 14.4 percent in 2013 to 16.3 percent in 2014. This is the highest office vacancy rate since 1991 when the rate was 16.8 percent. Including sublet space, the overall

office vacancy rate as of year-end 2014 was 17.7 percent, up one percentage point from the 16.7 percent recorded as of year-end 2013. New office deliveries exceeded 1.5 million square feet in eight buildings during 2014. This compares to approximately 1.0 million square feet delivered in 2013. Vacancy rates are anticipated to remain high through 2015 due to combination of additional new space and sluggish economic conditions. Total office leasing activity in 2014 was 9.8 million square feet, down from a three-year high of 12.3 million square feet in 2013. The majority of the leasing activity in 2014 involved renewals and consolidations.

Employment

Employment serves as a gauge of the number of jobs created by businesses located in Fairfax County. Growth in both employment and the number of businesses generate increased tax revenues and additional expenditures for Fairfax County. Unemployment rates show the strength of the Fairfax County economy by indicating how many Fairfax County residents are actively seeking but are unable to obtain employment.

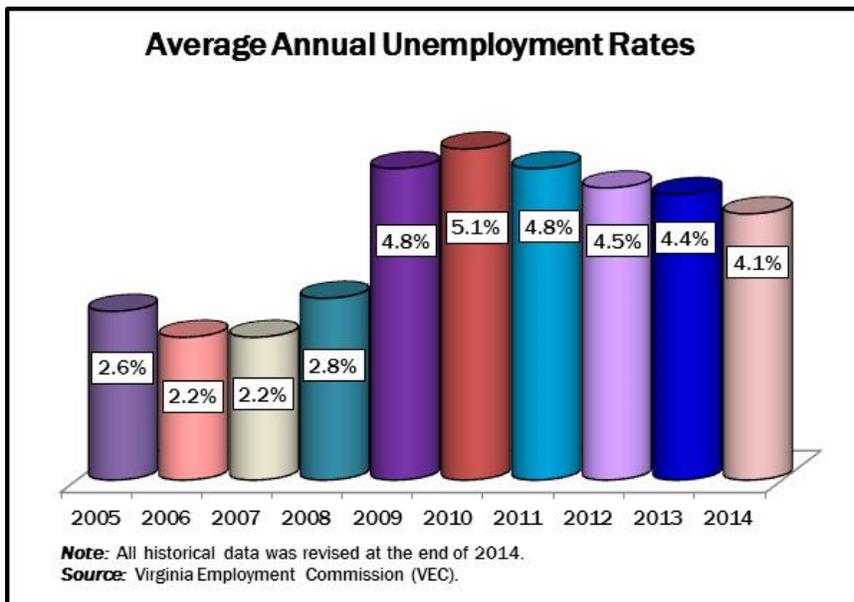
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At-Place Employment

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of jobs in Fairfax County expanded at a rate of over 3.7 percent per year from 2005 to 2008. Due to the recession, 2009 employment in the County dropped by 15,700 jobs, a decline of 2.7 percent. Jobs in the County expanded at modest rates of 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent in 2010 and 2011, respectively. In 2012, employment growth rose by 12,700 jobs, or 2.2 percent and the number of jobs exceeded its pre-recession peak.

However, job losses occurred in 2013 and 2014 primarily due to federal spending cuts that reduced federal employment and professional and business services employment. Employment fell a modest 0.3 percent in 2013. As of June 2014, the estimated number of non-agricultural jobs in the County totals 588,150. This represents a decrease of approximately 7,200 jobs from 2013, a drop of 1.2 percent.



Unemployment Rates

During the last decade, residents of Fairfax County have experienced low unemployment rates even during economic recessions. Mainly driven by an increase in federal procurement spending, the unemployment rate was extremely low—2.6 percent or below from 2005 through 2007. Due to the economic downturn, the average unemployment rate in 2008 increased to 2.8 percent. Job losses accelerated

in 2009 and the average unemployment rate rose two percentage points to 4.8 percent. In 2010, the unemployment rate rose again to 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate has fallen each year since 2010. In 2014, the unemployment rate of 4.1 percent was the lowest in six years.