

Mount Vernon



**Gerald W. "Gerry" Hyland**

*Board of Supervisors, Mt. Vernon District*

*2511 Parkers Lane*

*Alexandria, VA 22306*

*Telephone (703) 780-7518*

*Fax: (703) 780-1491*

November 10, 2008,

Dear Constituents:

I would like to share the following information with you regarding your South County community over the last month.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at anytime by dialing 703-780-7518 or via e-mail at [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Attached Documents

1. Elections and Budget Email. November 5, 2008.
2. Precinct Boundaries and Preparation for 2011 Reapportionment. November 10, 2008.
3. FY2009 Budget and FY 2010 Forecast Update. October 14, 2008.
4. Fairfax County Economic Index. October 2008.
5. Voting Results in South County.

County Calendar – November/December 2008

- o November 14/24 – Lines of Business FY 2010 Review. Government Center Conference Rooms.
- o November 20, 2008 – Board of Supervisors Meeting
- o November 24 – PAC Meeting regarding Laurel Hill Adaptive Re-use. 7:00pm Laurel Hill Club House.
- o December 8 – Board of Supervisor Meeting
- o December 9 – South County Federation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Recognition of Marcia Hanson at the Lorton Arts Foundation.

## Howard, Thomas C.

---

**From:** Griffin, Anthony H.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2008 3:47 PM  
**To:** All Fairfax County  
**Subject:** Elections and Budget

Thanks to all employees and volunteers who spent many long hours supporting the election process. Unofficial election returns are available on the county's Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/returns.htm>

Preliminary returns indicate that Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerald E. Connolly has been elected to Congress to represent Virginia's 11th District. The State Board of Elections will meet on November 24, 2008 to ascertain the results of the election.

You may be wondering about the process that will be followed to fill the vacancy this will create on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Virginia law generally provides that the Board of Supervisors shall petition the Circuit Court for an order to conduct a special election to fill any vacancy on the Board.

Some of you may remember that a similar situation occurred years ago when Chairman Tom Davis won election to Congress on November 8, 1994. Chairman Davis then resigned from the Board to take his seat in Congress, and the County held a special election to fill that vacancy on February 7, 1995. Supervisor Kate Hanley won that special election, and she resigned as the Providence District Supervisor to become Chairman. Following her resignation, another special election was held on March 28, 1995 to fill that vacancy, and Gerry Connolly won that election and became Providence District Supervisor.

We can expect a similar special election process to fill this vacancy on the Board, and if a sitting member of the Board is elected as Chairman, then we should expect another special election to fill the second vacancy.

On a different subject, I wrote you last month about steps that we need to take to respond to the national economic situation, which has produced a projected revenue shortfall in the current year's budget. As follow-up and to provide additional information to you, here is a link to a memo that I sent to the Board of Supervisors outlining the specific actions to be taken to adjust the FY 2009 budget: <http://infoweb.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/budget/fy09.htm>

If you have any questions about the furlough day scheduled for Jan. 2, 2009, there is a comprehensive Q&A on the furlough found on the [Infoweb](#). Questions and inquiries about the furlough day can be e-mailed to [HRExpress@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:HRExpress@fairfaxcounty.gov).



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2008

**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**FROM:** Rokey W. Suleman II  
General Registrar

**SUBJECT:** Precinct Boundaries and Preparation for 2011 Reapportionment

In accordance with Va. Code § 24.2-307, I am providing notice to the Board that the number of voters who voted in the presidential election exceeded 4,000 in the following precincts:

Hunter Mill District	237 McNair Precinct	Voter Turnout: 4,482
Mount Vernon District	628 Laurel Hill Precinct	Voter Turnout: 4,490
Springfield District	849 Newgate Precinct	Voter Turnout: 4,173

Va. Code § 24.2-307 requires the local governing body to adjust any such precinct boundaries within six months so that the redrawn or new precinct(s) will have no more than 5,000 voters. The 2008 General Assembly also passed legislation, however, that prohibits changes to precinct boundaries beginning February 1, 2009, and extending through May 15, 2011. Precinct changes must be done by ordinance and adoption of any such ordinance will require public notice. Accordingly, my office is working with the County Executive's Office and other appropriate staff to prepare suitable Board Items to authorize and adopt such precinct changes by the statutory deadline. We now anticipate that County staff will request the Board to authorize a public hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance to implement the necessary precinct splits on December 8, 2008. We also expect to recommend that such a hearing be scheduled on January 12, 2009.

Because of the potential for one or more special elections in early 2009, I am recommending that the polling places for the "split" precincts temporarily remain in the same buildings as the original precincts. The precinct boundary freeze will not prohibit future polling places moves when the new "Coppermine" and "Laurel Hill" Elementary Schools are opened next year. Early next week, we will send proposed precinct boundaries for your consideration.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or concerns.

### Attachment

CC: Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive  
Catherine A. Chianese, Assistant County Executive  
Electoral Board  
Michael Long, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Erin C. Ward, Assistant County Attorney

---

**Office of Elections**  
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 323  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0081  
Phone: (703) 222-0776 FAX: (703) 324-2205 TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)  
E-Mail: [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov/eb) WEB: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb)

## Virginia Election Laws, Title 24.2

### § 24.2-307. Requirements for county and city precincts.

The governing body of each county and city shall establish by ordinance as many precincts as it deems necessary. Each governing body is authorized to increase or decrease the number of precincts and alter precinct boundaries subject to the requirements of this chapter.

At the time any precinct is established, it shall have no more than 5,000 registered voters. The general registrar shall notify the governing body whenever the number of voters who voted in a precinct in an election for President of the United States exceeds 4,000. Within six months of receiving the notice, the governing body shall proceed to revise the precinct boundaries, and any newly established or redrawn precinct shall have no more than 5,000 registered voters.

At the time any precinct is established, each precinct in a county shall have no fewer than 100 registered voters and each precinct in a city shall have no fewer than 500 registered voters.

Each precinct shall be wholly contained within any election district used for the election of one or more members of the governing body or school board for the county or city.

The governing body shall establish by ordinance one polling place for each precinct.

(Code 1950, §§ 24-45, 24-46; 1954, c. 375; 1956, c. 378; 1962, cc. 185, 536; 1970, c. 462, §§ 24.1-36, 24.1-37; 1971, Ex. Sess., c. 119; 1976, c. 616; 1977, c. 30; 1978, c. 778; 1980, c. 639; 1992, c. 445; 1993, c. 641; 1999, c. 515.)

### § 24.2-309.2. Election precincts; prohibiting precinct changes for specified period of time.

No county, city, or town shall create, divide, abolish, or consolidate any precincts, or otherwise change the boundaries of any precinct, effective during the period from February 1, 2009, to May 15, 2011, except as (i) provided by law upon a change in the boundaries of the county, city, or town, (ii) the result of a court order, (iii) the result of a change in the form of government, or (iv) the result of an increase or decrease in the number of local election districts other than at-large districts. Any ordinance required to comply with the requirements of § 24.2-307 shall be adopted on or before February 1, 2009.

If a change in the boundaries of a precinct is required pursuant to clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) above, the county, city, or town shall comply with the applicable requirements of law, including §§ 24.2-304.3 and 30-264, and send copies of the ordered or enacted changes to the State Board of Elections and the Division of Legislative Services.

This section shall not prohibit any county, city, or town from adopting an ordinance revising precinct boundaries or submitting that ordinance to the United States Department of Justice in accordance with § 5 of the United States Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, after January 1, 2011. However, no revisions in precinct boundaries shall be implemented in the conduct of elections prior to May 15, 2011.

(2008, c. 112.)



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 14, 2008

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Anthony H. Griffin  
County Executive

AHG

**SUBJECT:** FY 2009 Budget and FY 2010 Forecast Update

Consistent with the Board's concern about the County's budget, staff has been reviewing FY 2009 revenue projections as a result of the national economic crisis that has been evolving over the past several weeks. The impact of the stock market deterioration and banking crisis has crippled consumer confidence. As a result, consumers are not spending and the impact on County revenues is becoming evident in FY 2009. Based on first quarter data, a projected FY 2009 revenue shortfall of approximately \$58 million is projected.

The revised forecast includes the following changes:

- **Recordation/Deed of Conveyances Taxes:** A reduction of \$14 million from FY 2009 estimates is a result of the continued decline in the housing market, exacerbated by the current credit crunch. Our original estimate assumed no growth over FY 2008 receipts. However, year to date receipts have actually declined significantly.
- **Business, Professional, and Occupational License Tax (BPOL):** A reduction of \$12 million in BPOL tax receipts is estimated based on projected business and sales activity. BPOL taxes are filed and paid annually in March and as such, we are reliant on revenue modeling for our projections at this time.
- **Sales Tax:** The growth in FY 2008 sales tax receipts was just 1.1 percent. Our models are projecting a decline of two percent in FY 2009 sales tax revenues from the FY 2008 level and anecdotal projections for holiday sales are dismal. As a result, the FY 2009 forecast for sales tax has been reduced by approximately \$11 million.
- **Building and Inspection Fees:** Receipts in this category are projected to be down approximately 15 percent in FY 2009, resulting in a reduction of approximately \$4 million.
- **Other major categories:** Delinquent collections, driven in part by high collection rates in previous years and current year refunds, are projected to be down \$5.5 million. County Clerk Fees, partially generated on the sale of real property, are down \$2 million. Bank Franchise Fee revenue, Transient Occupancy Tax receipts and

Communication Sales and Use taxes are also projected to be lower than anticipated previously.

- State Revenue: Governor Kaine recently announced FY 2009 State spending reductions including reductions in aid to localities. Based on very limited information, it appears that the County will experience additional reductions in state aid.

In total, FY 2009 revenues are projected to be down \$58.2 million, a decrease of 1.75 percent from the FY 2009 Adopted Budget Plan and in line with state and national trends.

### **Recommendations**

In order to address the estimated revenue shortfall, I am recommending a number of measures to be put in place immediately. Actual budget adjustments will be included as part of the *FY 2009 Third Quarter Review*; however, action is required now to generate the resources necessary to balance the budget.

#### Actions Include:

1. Agency salary budgets will be reduced by an additional two percent. This reduction, on top of the four percent reduction included in the FY 2009 Adopted Budget Plan, and the one percent recently announced in September will effectively decrease agency personnel budgets by seven percent on top of their traditional vacancy rate. The vacancy rate varies by agency based on historical turnover but it averages three percent. It is likely that agency directors will need to freeze most, if not all, unoccupied positions, filling only those most essential to service requirements. I will inform the Board of significant service impacts as a result of this reduction.
2. All non-essential and non-certification travel and training will be canceled. All capital equipment spending, not already in the procurement process, will be eliminated.
3. All General Fund paydown capital project spending will be reviewed. I anticipate having to delay and terminate a substantial portion of capital projects in the pipeline in order to generate substantial savings necessary to address this revenue shortfall.
4. I will be recommending to the Board of Supervisors at least one furlough day for County employees, the first to be scheduled for January 2, 2009. It should be noted that there are three paydays in January as a result of the calendar so the impact on employees will be mitigated somewhat. Essential services in public safety and our other 24/7 operations will not be impacted by this furlough.

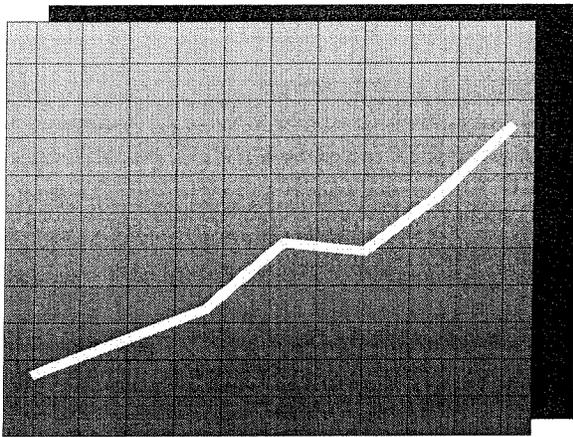
5. I have suspended all vehicle replacements scheduled for FY2009. This action, which will delay planned replacement of County vehicles, including those used in public safety agencies will provide a one time savings by extending the life of these vehicles by one year. Further replacement deferral will result in increased maintenance costs.
6. I will be recommending that the Board of Supervisors consider a partial withdrawal from the County's Revenue Stabilization fund to close the gap between savings generated from the above actions and the actual revenue shortfall. As the Board is aware, the current Revenue Stabilization Policy permits a withdrawal when General Fund revenue is decreased 1.5 percent from the current estimate. In addition, the policy limits the withdrawal to one half of the reserve and required accompanying spending reductions. Our current forecast, as a result of the severe economic downturn, marks the first time these conditions have been met since the creation of the fund in 1999.

I am aware that many of the recommended actions are unprecedented and will have significant impacts on County agencies' ability to provide services. However, due to the national economic crisis faced by all local jurisdictions, immediate action must be taken. In addition, the furlough of County employees for even one day is not an action I consider lightly. Clearly, this is not business as usual for the County but the economic events of the last several months have been unmatched and I am not optimistic about substantial gains over the next two quarters.

Fairfax County, as an AAA rated jurisdiction, has a history of strong financial management and taking the actions necessary to responsibly deal with the realities of the financial situation. The Board's prudence of establishing the Revenue Stabilization Fund is one example. I am concerned about the use of the fund as we enter a period of economic uncertainty and we will need to carefully examine how to expeditiously replenish the fund in future years. I believe that the measures outlined above will provide the Board with the resources necessary to continue to provide essential services, however, some services will be impacted and I will provide updates to the Board as I have more information.

Finally, based on the revised FY 2009 projections, it is clear that FY 2010 revenue estimates will also need to be re-examined and reduced. Without significantly changing projected growth rates but using the FY 2009 revised estimates as a base, FY 2010 revenues would be \$50 to \$60 million less than originally forecasted. As a result, the County's FY 2010 projected deficit could approach \$500 million. Staff will be reviewing these FY 2010 projections and will provide an update to the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible

cc: Jack D. Dale, Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools  
Edward L. Long, Jr., Deputy County Executive  
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive  
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive  
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
Susan W. Datta, Director, Department of Management and Budget  
Senior Management Team



# Fairfax County Economic Index

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 5

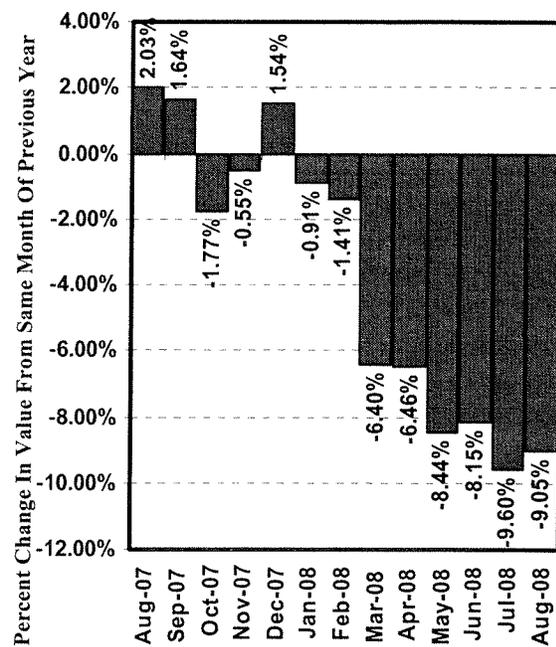
OCTOBER 2008

## Economy Slow But Steady In August Outlook Remains Weak Into 2009

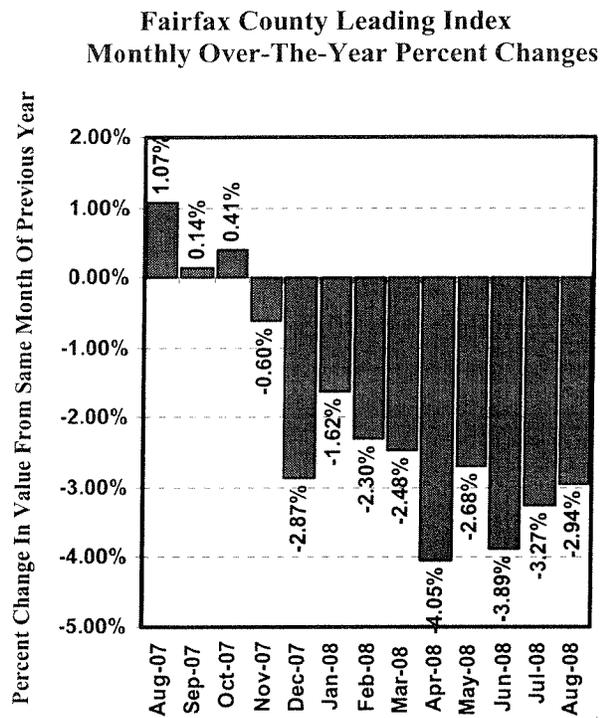
The **Fairfax County Coincident Index**, which represents the current state of the County's economy, increased to 124.37 from July's revised value of 124.25 for a small gain of 0.10 percent. This was the Index's first increase following six consecutive month-to-month losses since its peak in January. On a monthly over-the-year basis, the Coincident Index continues to lag, falling below its same-month 2007 level by 9.05 percent. The monthly over-the-year loss in August was its eighth consecutive decline and tenth decrease in twelve months. In August, two of the Index's four components contributed to its increase over July.

- Sales tax revenues, adjusted for inflation and seasonal variation, increased for the second time in three months; and,
- Transient occupancy tax collections, adjusted for inflation and seasonal variation, increased for the second month in a row and the third time in four months; while,
- Total employment was lower (on a seasonally adjusted basis) for the seventh consecutive month; and,
- Consumer confidence (in the present) fell for the fifth time in six months.

Fairfax County Coincident Index  
Monthly Over-The-Year Percent Changes



Source: Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University



Source: Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University

The **Fairfax County Leading Index**, which is designed to forecast the performance of the County's economy nine to twelve months in advance, increased to 117.92 in August for a gain of 0.13 percent. This was the Index's second monthly gain in a row and sixth gain in eight months. However, on a monthly over-the-year basis, the Index has declined ten consecutive months, falling 2.94 percent below its same-month value in August 2007. In August, two of the Index's four indicators contributed to its gain over July.

- Consumer expectations (consumer confidence six months hence) increased for the second consecutive month following five monthly decreases; and,
- Automobile registrations were up sharply, more than offsetting their decline in July, and have grown in two of the last three months; while,
- Residential building permits declined in August after registering a strong gain in July; and,

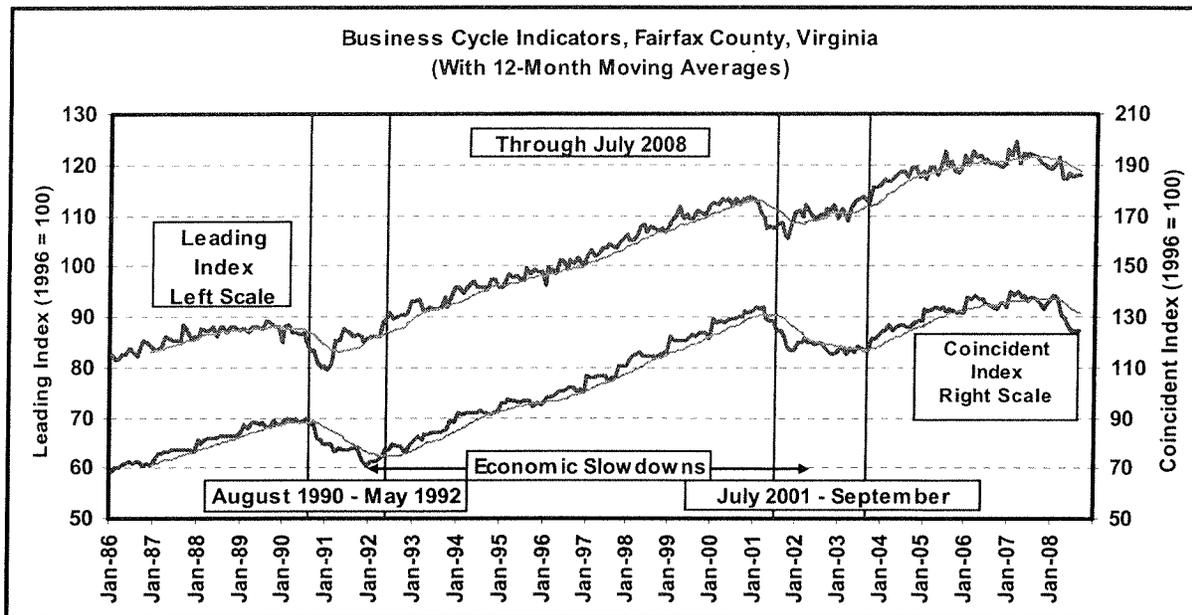
- Initial claims for unemployment insurance increased (worsened) on a seasonally adjusted basis for the third consecutive month.

The Fairfax County economy continued to grow slowly in August extending the trend that dates back to the fourth quarter of 2007. This slowdown at the County level is paralleling the national downturn but continues to be cushioned from the full impact of the negative forces that appear to be driving the national economy into recession. While both the Leading Index and Co-incident Index are tracking below same-month 2007 levels, their performances in August showed signs of underlying strength common to the Washington area economy that have protected it from past recessions. Still, the Washington area and Fairfax County economies are feeling the down-

## CURRENT CONDITIONS

The outlook for the U.S. economy has taken a turn for the worse since August and forecasts are now pointing to a three quarter recession spanning the second half of 2008 and at least the first quarter of 2009. While this downturn is not expected to be severe by historic standards, it could easily extend further into 2009. The recovery in 2010 is projected to be slow as the lingering effects of the downturn, especially rising unemployment and high consumer debt, will act to counter the positive forces that would ordinarily drive the expansion that is expected to start in mid-2009. The damage done to consumers and business investors by the meltdown in the financial sector and the loss of confidence and trust in the essential institutions supporting the economy will impact Fairfax County's economy along with every other local economy in the nation. These effects will be countered by Fairfax County's underlying strengths—especially its large federal contractor base and highly educated resident work force.

The consequences of the national economic slowdown have resulted in the County's economy growing more slowly each month over the year. Job growth has slowed every month starting in February and unemployment is growing. Still, the labor market conditions remain good compared to most other local economies. In August, the



Source: Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University

County's job base was 4,478 larger than in August 2007, a gain of 0.76 percent. Employment among County residents, regardless of place of work, was up 1.2 percent or by 3,774 workers over the past twelve months. Still, the number of residents seeking work has grown. In August, unemployment in the County was 3.2 percent, still low but much higher than in August 2007 when it stood at 2.1 percent. This difference represents an additional 6,913 unemployed residents.

While the economy has been slowing down over the year, there have been a few positive signs the last several months. Hotel taxes revenues have been up in three of the last four months and sales tax revenues have also been higher in two of the last three months. Auto registrations (sales) rebounded in August and were also up sharply in June. Consumer confidence that had been trending down for many months, also turned around. Much of this progress was likely derailed by the September and October meltdown of the world banking system and performance measures in coming months are likely to reflect more severe declines. Still, the August data for Fairfax County are in-

## NEAR-TERM OUTLOOK

The Fairfax County Leading Index has increased on a month-to-month basis in July and August, although continues to track lower than in

2007. This pattern of performance could be pointing to a turn around in the economy by spring of 2009 although the timing will be governed by national conditions that could prolong or slow its recovery.

Renewed residential construction will be a primary driver of the local economy's recovery. The inventory of unsold houses in the County has declined over the year although it is not yet at an equilibrium level. Still, there are signs that the housing market is stabilizing and increasing demand for new construction will emerge in 2009. When this occurs will depend largely on consumer confidence and the ability and willingness of financial institutions to make mortgage loans. These conditions are likely to be in place by the second quarter of 2009.

With continuing job growth and relatively low unemployment in the County, consumer spending will begin to accelerate once consumers feel confident that the economy will recover and that the worst of the downturn is over. After the Presidential election and once the effects of the federal government's intervention in the financial markets show results, consumer confidence should strengthen. The convergence of these favorable conditions point to the County's recovery in early 2009 although the pace of recovery will depend on conditions beyond the County's influence.

## Fairfax County, Virginia Economic Indicators Current and Previous Months

Economic Indicator	Estimates			Percent Change	
	Aug-08 Prelim.	Jul-08 Final	Aug-07 Final	Jul-08 to Aug-08	Aug-07 to Aug-08
<b>Fairfax County Business Cycle Indicators</b>					
Coincident Index (1996 = 100)	124.37	124.25	136.74	0.10	-9.05
Leading Index (1996 = 100)	117.92	117.77	121.49	0.13	-2.94
<b>Fairfax County Coincident Index Components</b>					
Estimated Total Wage & Salary Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	591,220	591,790	586,742	-0.10	0.76
<i>Estimated Total Wage &amp; Salary Employment (Unadjusted)</i>	590,522	592,270	586,049	-0.30	0.76
Transient Occupancy Tax (\$'000=1987, Seasonally Adjusted)	702	694	858	1.28	-18.17
<i>Transient Occupancy Tax (\$'000=Current)</i>	1,441	1,476	1,683	-2.37	-14.37
Sales Tax Receipts (\$'000=1987, Seasonally Adjusted)	8,935	8,372	9,539	6.72	-6.33
<i>Sales Tax Receipts (\$'000=Current, Unadjusted)</i>	13,063	12,702	12,987	2.84	0.59
South Atlantic Consumer Confidence	61.9	64.7	140.8	-4.33	-56.04
<b>Fairfax County Leading Index Components</b>					
New Automobile Registrations (Seasonally Adjusted)	4,831	3,704	4,528	30.42	6.69
<i>Automobile Registrations (Unadjusted)</i>	5,421	4,160	5,081	30.31	6.69
Initial Unemployment Claims (Preliminary, Seasonally Adjusted)	1,310	1,242	1,157	5.45	13.21
<i>Initial Unemployment Claims (Preliminary, Unadjusted)</i>	1,219	1,260	1,077	-3.25	13.21
Building Permits, Total Number of Units (Seasonally Adjusted)	52	160	155	-67.32	-66.29
<i>Building Permits, Total Number of Units (Unadjusted)</i>	59	182	175	-67.58	-66.29
South Atlantic Consumer Expectations	51.8	45.9	98.0	12.85	-47.14
<b>Fairfax County Labor Force</b>					
Total Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)	599,141	600,811	585,582	-0.28	2.32
<i>Total Labor Force (Unadjusted)</i>	604,769	612,257	591,082	-1.22	2.32
Employed Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)	579,863	581,391	573,142	-0.26	1.17
<i>Employed Labor Force (Unadjusted)</i>	584,411	592,402	577,637	-1.35	1.17
Unemployed Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)	19,278	19,420	12,440	-0.73	54.97
<i>Unemployed Labor Force (Unadjusted)</i>	20,358	19,855	13,445	2.53	51.42
Unemployment Rate (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)	3.2%	3.2%	2.1%	-	-
<i>Unemployment Rate (Percent, Unadjusted)</i>	3.4%	3.2%	2.3%	-	-

Note: Initial Claims are inverted prior to inclusion in the leading index; that is, an increase in claims results in a decrease in the index and visa versa. Unadjusted data (italics) and Fairfax County Labor Force data are not included in either index but are shown for informational purposes. All percent changes are calculated from unrounded data. Wage and salary employment estimates exclude Fairfax City and Falls Church.

Prepared by:  
Center for Regional Analysis  
George Mason University  
<http://www.cra-gmu.org>

We are on the web at:  
[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/economic/economic\\_index.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/economic/economic_index.htm)

Inquiries should be directed to:

The Fairfax County  
Department of Management and Budget  
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 561  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0074  
(703) 324-2391 or  
1-800-828-1120 (TDY)

