

# virginia

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DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE 2009



## Executive Summary: Looking Forward

Virginia's population is growing and changing. It reached 7.77 million in 2008, maintaining the Commonwealth's position as the 12th largest state in the country with an annual growth rate of about 1.12 percent since 2000. According to the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, three critical trends will shape Virginia's population over the next few decades: selective decentralization, an aging population, and increasing racial and ethnic diversity.

**Selective decentralization will increase.** People are moving away from the state's central cities and counties to the surrounding suburbs and exurbs. As a result, the number of metropolitan areas is expected to increase, and the boundaries of existing metro areas are expected to expand. Rural counties adjacent to metro areas are likely to experience significant population growth as space and affordable housing become harder to obtain in the urban core areas. Counties with significant quality-of-life advantages, those with access to urban amenities (either their own or nearby), and those with a diversified, service-based economy are particularly prone to rapid growth.

**The population will continue to age.** The average age of the population will increase as the baby boom generation enters retirement age. By 2030, nearly one in every five Virginians is projected to be 65 years or older. This population will be predominantly female, as women have a longer life expectancy than men. As the baby boomers age, the percentage of older workers will increase as will the average age of the labor force.

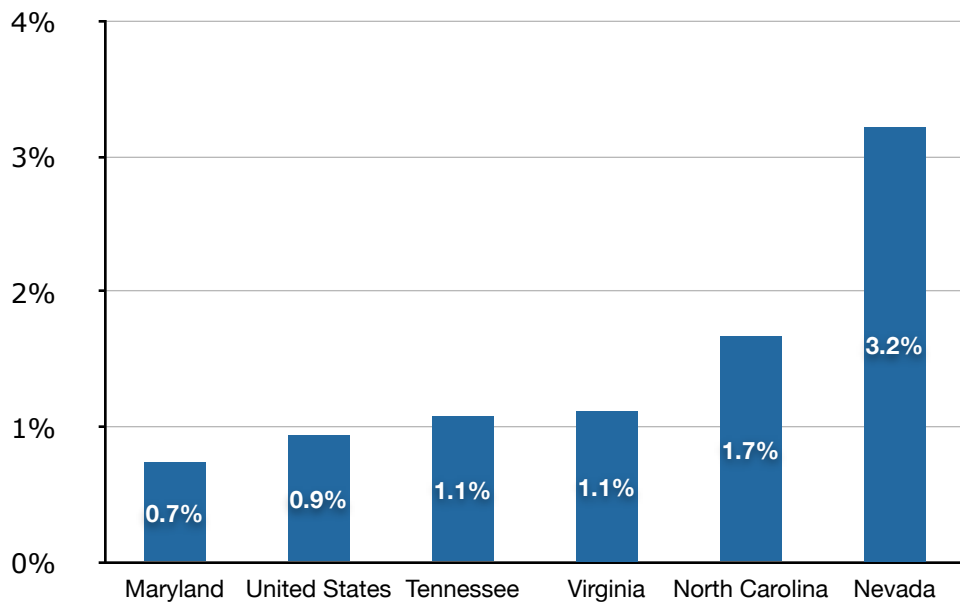
**Racial and ethnic diversity will increase.** Rising immigration and births to immigrant parents and racially mixed couples will increase our racial and ethnic diversity. While non-Hispanic Whites will continue to be the majority of Virginia's population in the next few decades, the proportion of Asians and Hispanics will grow.

# Population

Virginia's population reached 7.77 million in 2008, maintaining the Commonwealth's position as the 12th most populous state in the country. Although growth slowed in each of the past two years, the Commonwealth's 1.12 percent annual growth rate between 2000 and 2008 was 15th highest among the states – and higher than the nation's rate of 0.94 percent (Fig. 1). Virginia's growth was faster than Maryland's rate of .74 percent and Tennessee's rate of 1.08 percent, but slower than North Carolina's average annual rate of 1.67 percent. Nevada had the highest growth rate in the country at 3.22 percent.

**Figure 1**

**Average Annual Population Growth, 2000 to 2008**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2008

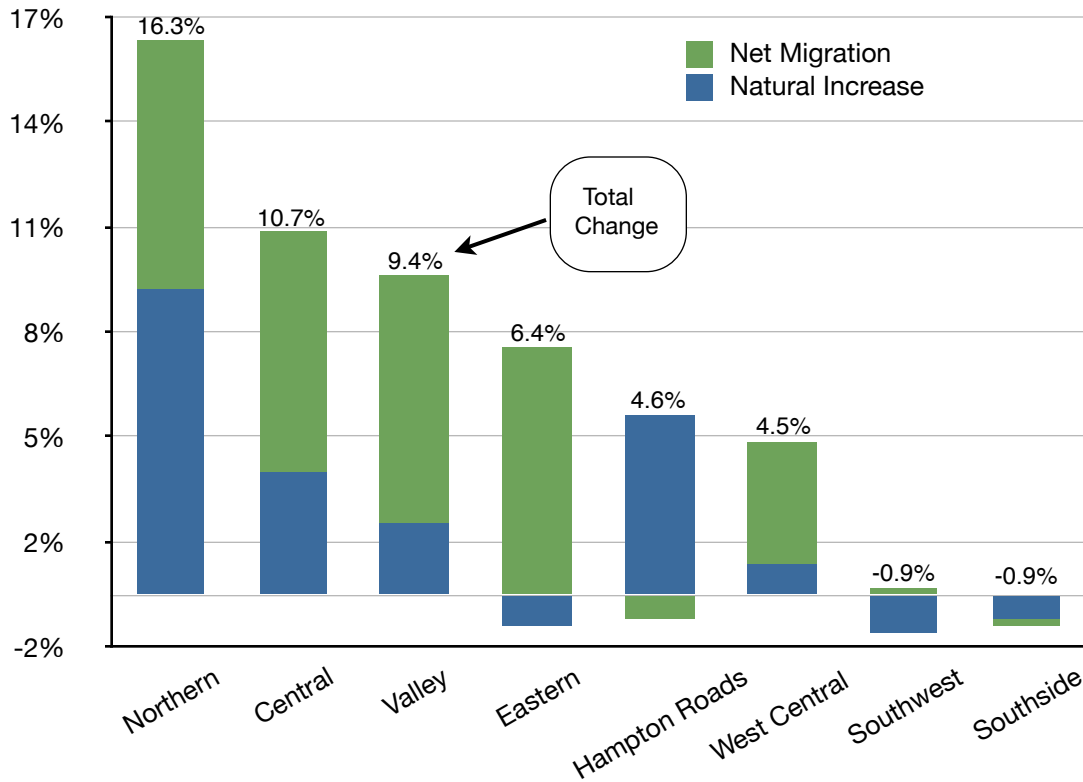
The state's 11 metropolitan areas contained about 86 percent of the total population in 2007, and almost 69 percent of all Virginians lived in just three metropolitan areas: Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Beach. These three metropolitan areas accounted for more than 82 percent of state population growth from 2000 to 2007. In addition, counties grew faster than cities, with counties accounting for 89 percent of total growth. The percentage of Virginians living in counties increased from 67 percent in 2000 to 69 percent in 2007.

About 52 percent of growth came from natural increase – higher rates of birth than death. The Northern, Central, and Valley regions had the highest overall percentage gains in population. The

Southside and Southwest regions lost population (Fig. 2). In addition, the Northern (54 percent), Central (23 percent), and Hampton Roads (11 percent) regions, mirroring the metropolitan area data, accounted for almost 89 percent of the total population growth in Virginia between 2000 and 2007. Appendix A lists the localities included in each of the Council-defined regions.

**Figure 2**

**Population Changes by Type and Virginia Region, 2000 to 2007**



Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, UVA; Staff Analysis, Council on Virginia’s Future

There were also dramatic growth differences within regions between faster-growing metropolitan counties, cities, and rural localities. Table 1 lists the localities with the largest gains and losses (in terms of both percentage and numbers of individuals) between 2000 and 2007.

Interestingly enough, more people moved out of Virginia’s two largest localities – Fairfax County and Virginia Beach City – than moved in between 2000 and 2007. Both localities gained population because the excess of births over deaths exceeded the number of individuals who moved away.

**Table 1**

<b>Largest Population Gains and Losses by Locality, 2000 to 2007</b>			
<b>Percent Increase since 2000</b>		<b>Population Increase over 2000</b>	
Loudoun	62.5%	Loudoun	105,997
Manassas Park	35.6%	Prince William	91,126
Culpeper	32.8%	Fairfax	42,763
Spotsylvania	32.6%	Chesterfield	38,818
Prince William	32.5%	Spotsylvania	29,512
King George	32.2%	Stafford	27,941
Stafford	30.2%	Henrico	27,488
Fluvanna	30.0%	Suffolk	17,532
James City	28.3%	Chesapeake	17,384
Suffolk	27.5%	Frederick	13,740
<b>Percent Drop since 2000</b>		<b>Population Lost since 2000</b>	
Dickenson	-3.6%	Staunton	-916
Staunton	-3.8%	Roanoke City	-1,407
Grayson	-4.1%	Wise	-1,435
Henry	-4.6%	Tazewell	-1,603
Martinsville	-5.2%	Portsmouth	-2,022
Highland	-6.0%	Petersburg	-2,152
Danville	-6.2%	Richmond City	-2,490
Petersburg	-6.4%	Henry	-2,651
Covington	-6.9%	Danville	-3,026
Buchanan	-11.9%	Buchanan	-3,206
<b>Percent Increase by Category</b>		<b>Population Gain by Category</b>	
Counties	12.0%	Counties	565,705
Cities	2.9%	Cities	67,356
Virginia	8.9%	Virginia	633,061

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Workforce and Demographics Section, UVA; Staff analysis, Council on Virginia's Future, 2008.

In 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau projected that Virginia would be the 12th fastest growing state between 2010 and 2030, with Virginia's total population expected to reach about 9.8 million.

## Mobility and Migration

Mobility and migration have been important elements of Virginia's growth in recent years. For instance:

- About 48 percent of Virginia's 2000 population was born in another state or nation.

- Almost 335,000 people moved into Virginia in the twelve months prior to July 1, 2007. (However, the number of Virginians moving out of state was not reported in the 2007 American Community Survey). Individuals coming from abroad accounted for about 61,000 of that total.
- By 2007, there were more than 794,000 foreign-born Virginians, an increase from about 570,000 in Virginia in 2000. As shown in Table 2, these new Virginians migrated here from all over the world. The mix of immigrants in Virginia and Maryland included a higher percentage of Asians compared to both the national average and rates in North Carolina and Tennessee. North Carolina and Tennessee had higher rates of Hispanic in-migration.

**Table 2**

	<b>United States</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>Maryland</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>Tennessee</b>
Foreign-born population (excluding population born at sea)	38,059,555	794,246	694,590	629,947	249,472
<b>Asia</b>	26.8%	39.8%	32.8%	19.8%	26.4%
<b>Latin America</b>	53.6%	36.0%	36.7%	59.7%	48.3%
<b>Europe</b>	13.1%	12.0%	12.7%	11.5%	15.0%
<b>Africa</b>	3.7%	10.0%	16.1%	6.1%	6.9%
<b>Other</b>	2.8%	2.3%	1.7%	2.9%	3.5%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Based on data from the 2000 Census, the top five states for net relocations to Virginia from other states were:

- New York 223,780
- Washington, DC 150,000
- Pennsylvania 146,550
- West Virginia 78,350
- New Jersey 65,720

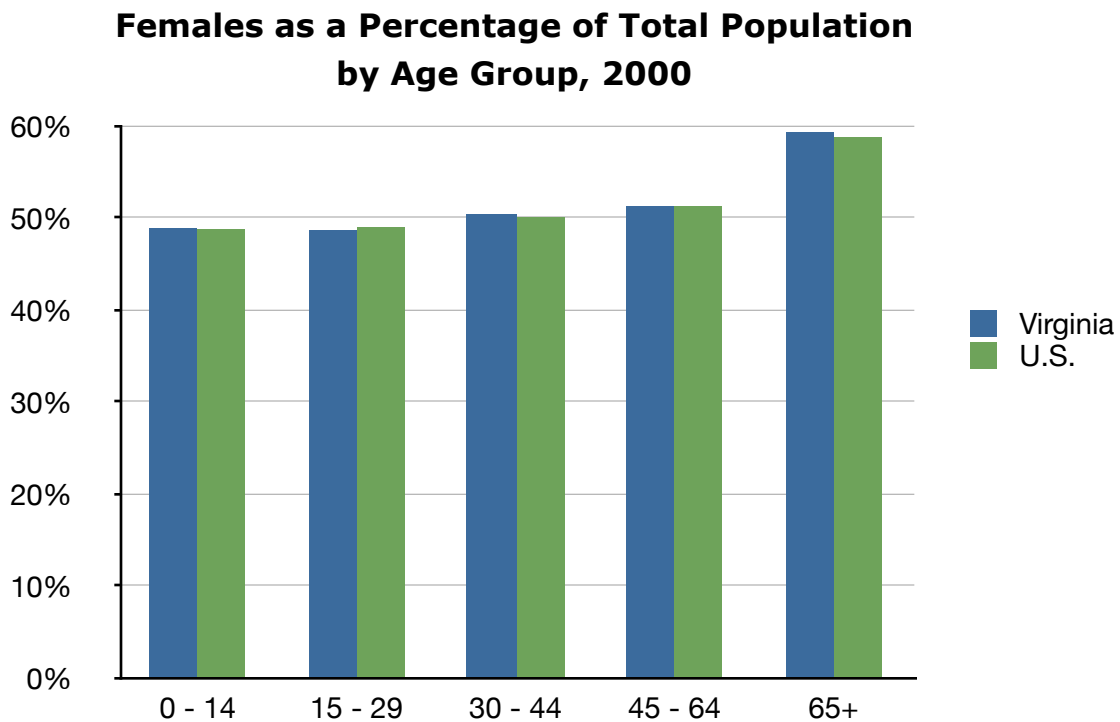
New residents from other states tend to be younger and better educated and to earn more than native Virginians. Immigrants tend to be younger but are divided between the less- and better-educated population segments.

## Age and Gender

The makeup of Virginia's population -- 50.94 percent female in 2000 -- roughly matched the percentage for female population in the country, which was 50.95 percent. (According to the 2007 American Community Survey, females accounted for 50.9 percent of Virginia's population in 2007, but the female percentage for the nation had declined somewhat to 50.7 percent).

The median age of Virginia's female population was 36.8 years in 2000, compared to the national median of 36.5. The distribution of females as a percentage of the total by age group also mirrors the national makeup. As shown in Figure 3, males exceed females in the younger age groups, but females begin to exceed the male population in the 35-to-39 age group and increase during later years.

**Figure 3**

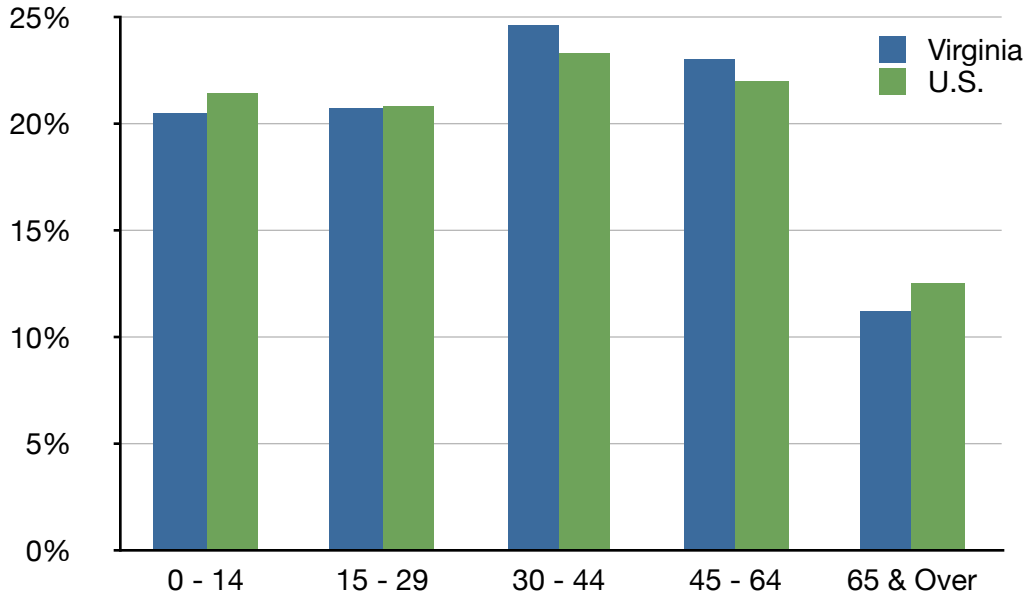


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The median age for males was 34.5 years in Virginia in 2000 and 34 years for the U.S. However, the percentage of the total population 65 years and older for the U.S. (12 percent) was higher than Virginia's total, which was 11.2 percent and the 43rd lowest in the country. Figure 4 suggests that the reason might be that Virginia, as a relatively faster growing state, has been particularly successful at attracting working-age professionals.

**Figure 4**

**Percent of Total Population by Age Group, 2000**

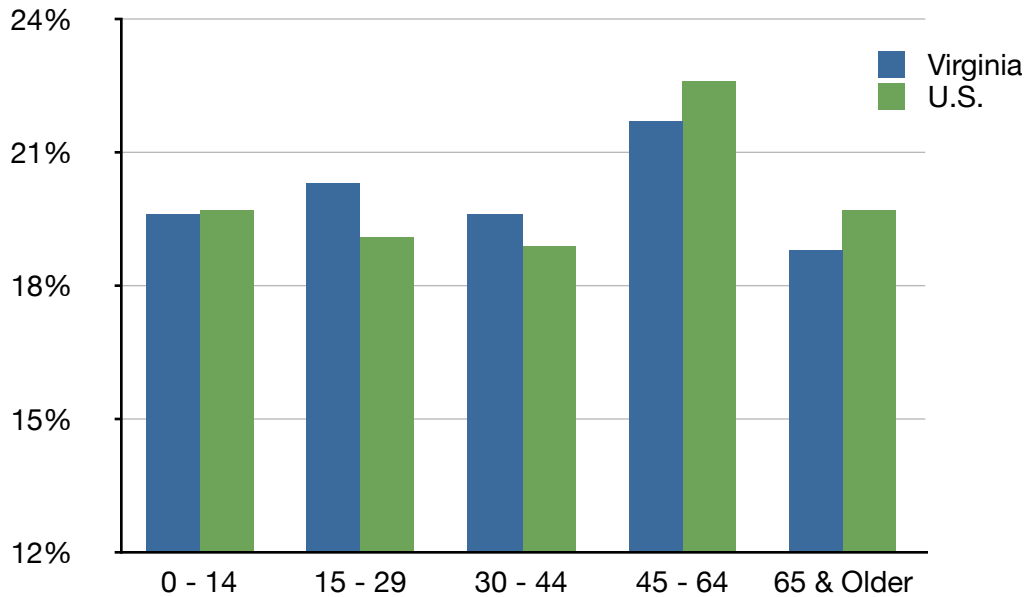


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2005

Virginia’s population, like most states and the nation, is expected to get older over the next few decades. The Census Bureau predicts that the median age for females in Virginia will increase by 2.4 years to 39.2 by 2030. The median age for males in Virginia is expected to increase by only 1.9 years to reach 36.4. For the U.S., median ages will reach 40.3 for females, an increase of 3.6 years, and 37.7 for males, an increase of 3.7 years. Again, and as Figure 5 demonstrates, Virginia’s projected growth is expected to help it “age” slower than the nation as a whole.

**Figure 5**

### Projected Total Population by Age Group, 2030

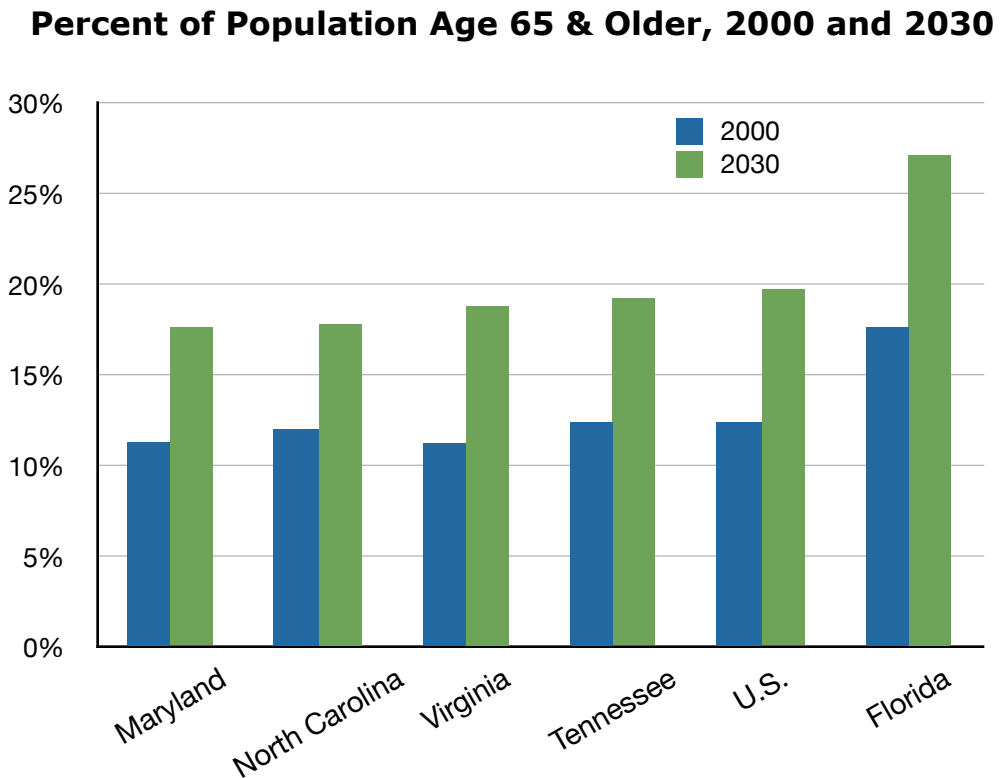


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2005

Nevertheless, the 65 and over population will grow significantly over the next two decades. In Virginia, males 65 and up will increase by 144 percent, while the number of females over 65 will increase by 125 percent. Even so, females over 65 will outnumber males by almost 35 percent, or 1.1 million to .79 million. In addition, the population that is over 74 is expected to increase by more than 500,000 people in Virginia. Interestingly, the Census Bureau projects that females will make up 51.4 percent of Virginia's population in 2030, up from 50.95 percent in 2000. But for the U.S. as a whole, the percent of the female population will drop from 50.94 percent to 50.89 percent.

As shown in Figure 6, the growth of Virginia's population 65 and over is in line with nearby states and is expected to grow from 11.2 percent in 2000 to about 18.8 percent in 2030 -- the 36th lowest rate in the country. Florida is projected to have the highest rate (27.1 percent), while Maryland (17.6 percent) and North Carolina (17.8 percent) are projected to have lower rates than Virginia.

Figure 6



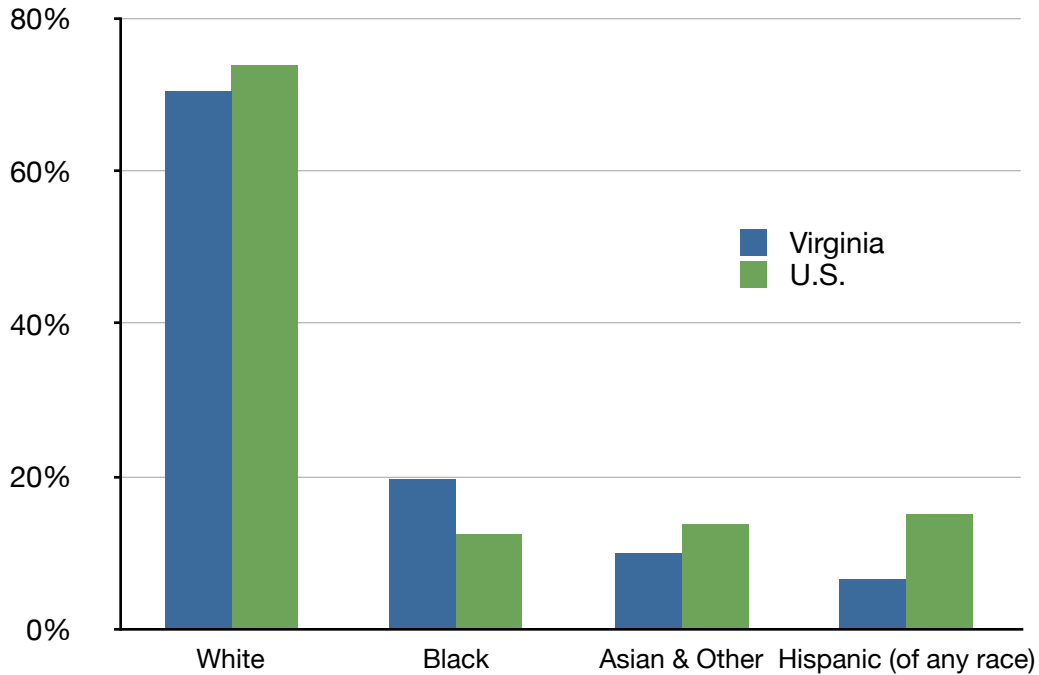
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2005

## Race and Ethnicity

Virginia is not only growing older, it is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. While the relatively rapid growth of the larger minority groups mirrors what is happening in other parts of the country, Virginia's mix of minorities is somewhat different from national averages (Fig. 7). In 2007, for people reporting one race alone, 70.4 percent were White, 19.6 percent were Black or African American, and 4.8 percent were Asian. The proportion of Black or African American was significantly higher than the national average of 12.4 percent.

**Figure 7**

**Percent of Total Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2007**



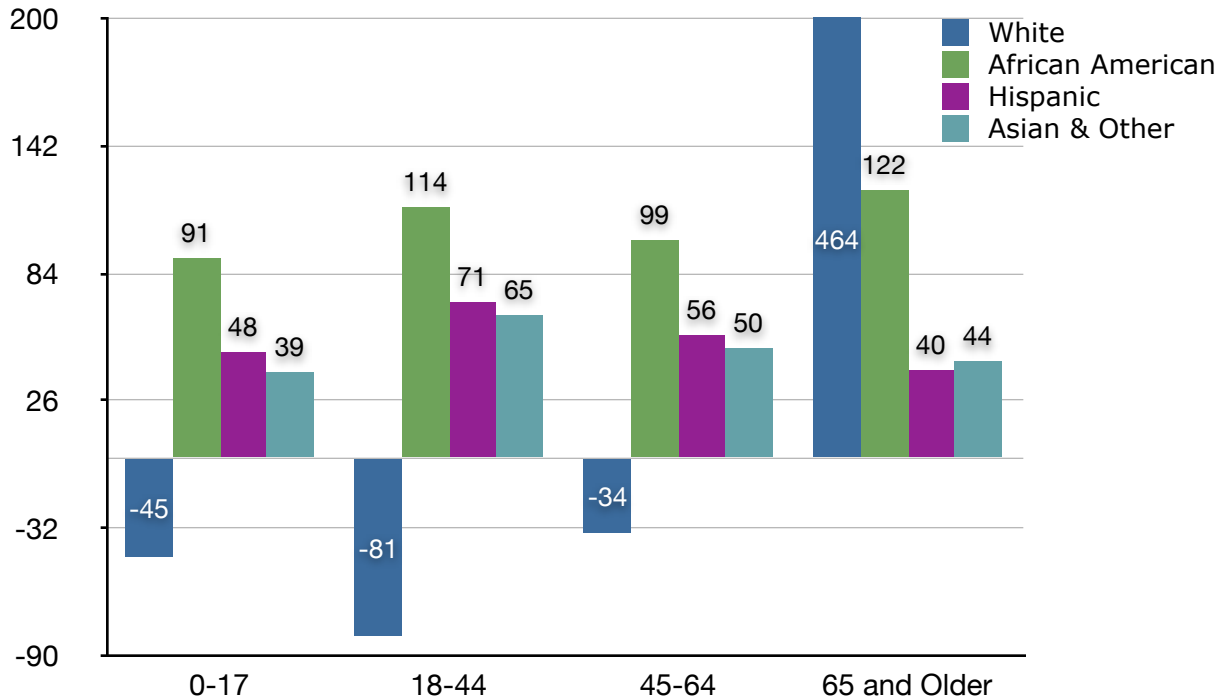
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

According to the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, people of Hispanic origin are those who identify their heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth for themselves, their parents, or their ancestors as “Spanish,” “Hispanic,” or “Latino.” Further, the Census Bureau states that people of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The proportion of Hispanics in Virginia (6.5 percent) was significantly lower than the national average of 15.1 percent (Fig. 7).

Virginia’s minority populations will continue to increase and will constitute a growing proportion of the total population. In particular, as Figure 8 demonstrates, minorities will represent a growing fraction of the under-65 population. For instance, between 2005 and 2025, Virginia’s White population is expected to grow by 304,000, but this is created by large growth in Virginia’s 65 and over White population of 464,000 but a net decrease of 160,000 Whites under the age of 65.

Figure 8

### Projected Population Changes in Thousands for Virginia, 2005 - 2025, by Race/Ethnicity and Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Educational Attainment

In many respects, Virginia’s K-16 education system and the educational attainment of its working-age adults are the envy of many other states and nations. Some of the highlights include:

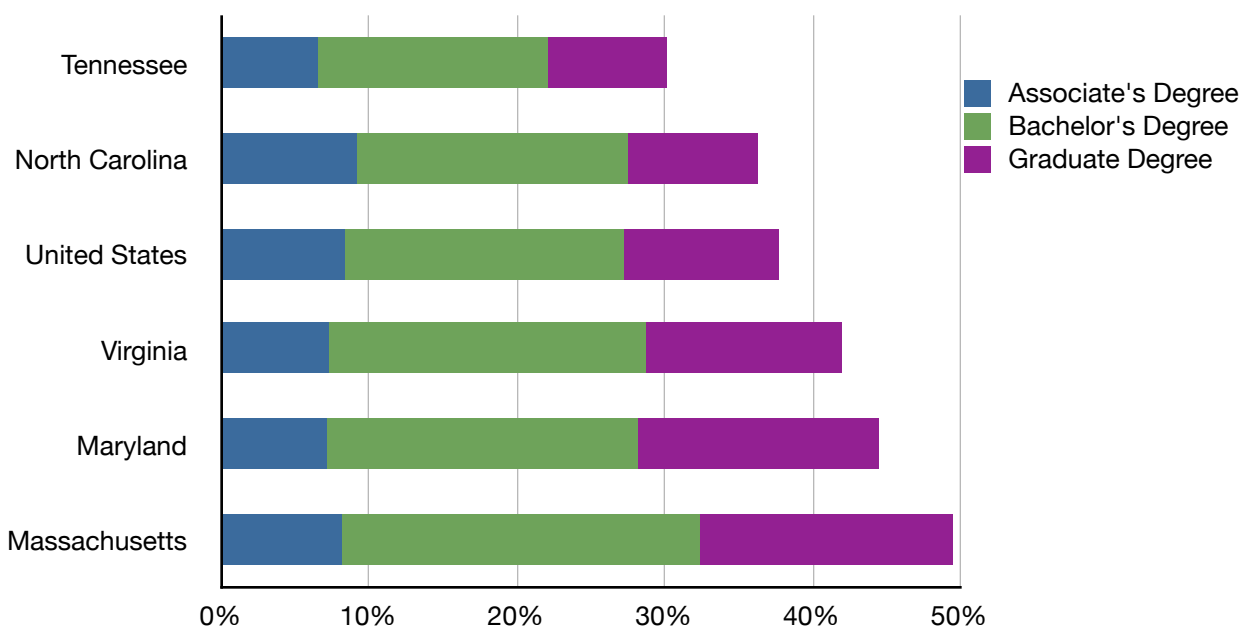
In 2007, among adults 25 to 64, Virginia ranked (Fig. 9):

- Fourth for the percentage of adults with an advanced degree,
- Sixth among the states for the percentage of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree, and
- Twelfth for the percentage of adults with an associate’s degree or higher.

In 2008, Virginia’s high school graduation rate was fourth highest among the 18 states using a new, more accurate measurement methodology that will be deployed across the country over the next few years.

Figure 9

### Working Age Adults with a Degree, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

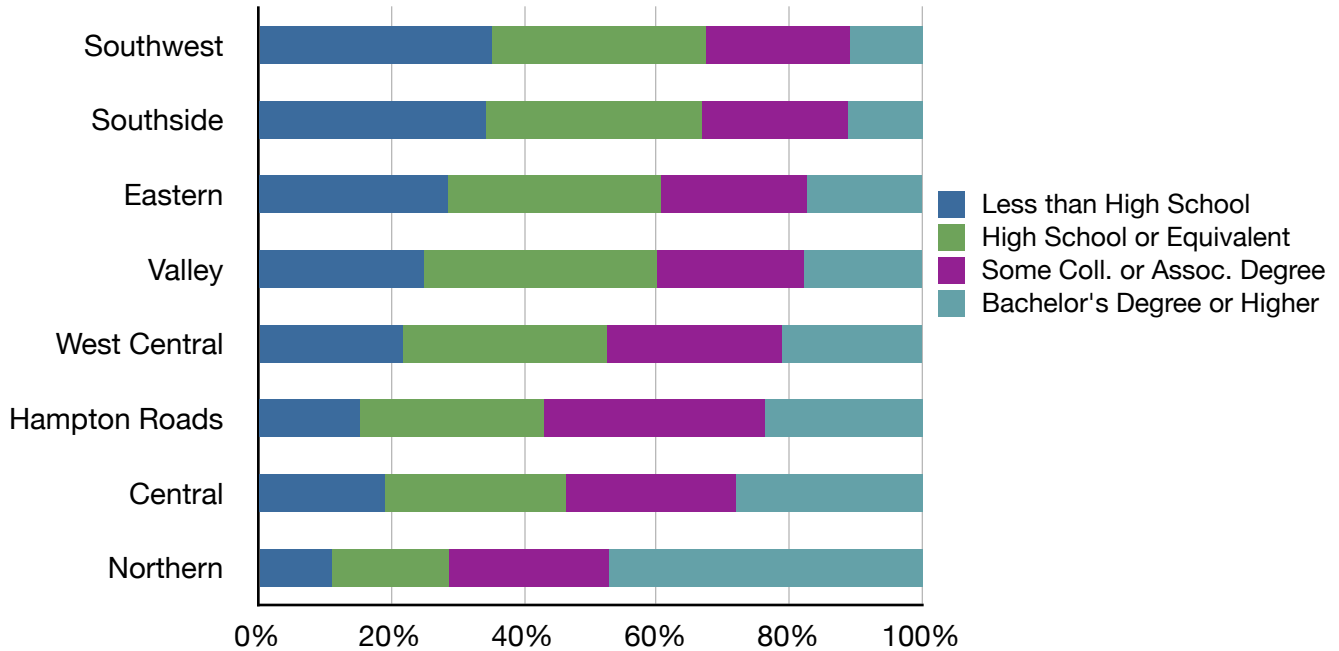
Virginia's vibrant economy and exceptional quality of life have helped the state attract some of the best and brightest from around the world:

- In 2005 alone, about 17,500 more adults with at least an associate's degree moved into Virginia than moved out.
- More than 75 percent of adults, 25 to 64 years old, living in Virginia in 2007 with at least a bachelor's degree were born outside of Virginia.
- Virginia's foreign-born population grew by more than 220,000 people between 2000 and 2007, reaching a total of almost 795,000. For adults 25 and older, almost 40 percent of those had a bachelor's degree or better, compared with about 33 percent for the native-born adult population.

However, there are opportunities for improvement. For instance, Virginia has the 23rd highest percentage of adults 25 to 64 without a high school diploma or equivalent in the nation. In addition, Virginia is a large and diverse state, with a broad mix of declining inner urban areas, dynamic metropolitan regions, and slower-growing, often rural, smaller cities, towns, and counties. Most statewide averages fail to tell the full story of Virginia's progress. As shown in Figure 10, education attainment varies dramatically across Virginia's regions, and, while each region improved between 1990 and 2000, most regions lag significantly behind the attainment levels seen in Northern Virginia.

Figure 10

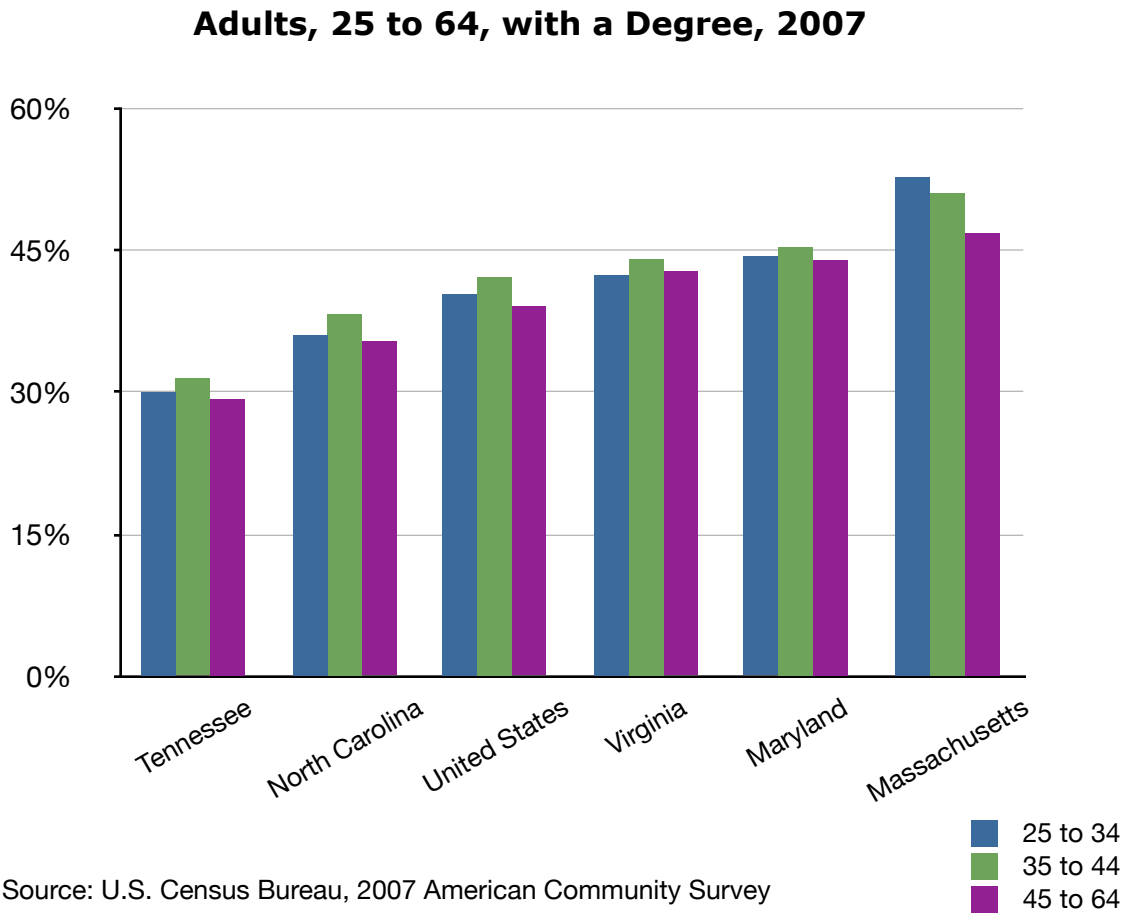
### Educational Attainment by Region, Adults 25 and Older, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

While Virginia's education picture is good relative to its current key competitors, the picture for the future is less clear. Virginia is one of 24 states in which the younger adult cohort is less educated than an older generation of workers: In 2007, 36.5 percent of Virginia adults aged 35 to 44 had attained a bachelor's degree or higher; however, only 35.2 percent of adults 25 to 34 had attained at least a bachelor's degree (Fig. 11). In addition, Virginia's national rank for the percent of adults with an associate's degree or higher is declining for its younger workers. For the percent of adults with at least an associate's degree in 2007, Virginia was 8th for adults aged 45 to 64; 11th for those aged 35 to 44; and 14th for adults aged 25 to 34 years.

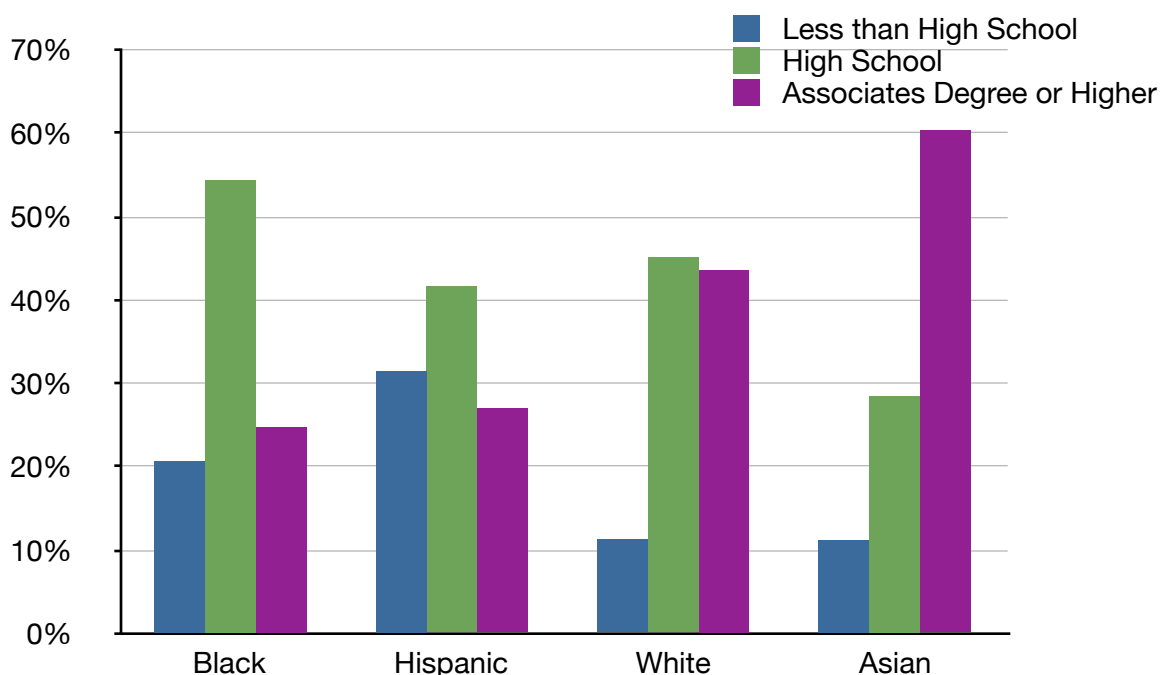
**Figure 11**



Many Virginians are being left behind when it comes to college education. According to an estimate developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, of 100 Virginia high school freshmen, only 25 will receive a college degree within three to six years. Finally, as shown in Figure 12, higher education attainment rates vary significantly by race or ethnicity.

**Figure 12**

### **Educational Attainment in Virginia, Percent of Adults 25 & Older by Race & Ethnicity, 2007**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

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## **Industry and Occupations**

Virginia’s mix of industries differs somewhat from both the national distribution and the makeup of some of its peer states (Table 3). The state’s proximity to Washington, DC, and the heavy military presence are two factors influencing this mix. Key differences are:

- Virginia relies less heavily on manufacturing (8.1 percent of civilian employment, 16 years and older) than the U.S. (11.3 percent), North Carolina (13.6 percent), or Tennessee (14.9 percent), but more so than Maryland (5.2 percent).
- Virginia (13.9 percent) and Maryland (14.0 percent) rely more heavily on professional, scientific, and management and related services than do North Carolina (9.3 percent), Tennessee (8.4 percent), or the country as a whole (10.3 percent).
- Similarly, because of their proximity to Washington, DC, Virginia (9.1 percent) and Maryland (10.8 percent) rely more heavily on public administration than do North Carolina (4.1 percent), Tennessee (4.1 percent), or the country as a whole (4.7 percent).
- Finally, armed forces jobs are particularly important to Virginia’s economy, accounting for approximately 110,000 jobs in 2007.

**Table 3**

Industry Classification	United States	Virginia	Maryland	North Carolina	Tennessee
Civilian Employed Population, 16 and over (000s)	142,588	3,791	2,848	4,228	2,848
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.8%	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	1.2%
Construction	7.7%	8.1%	7.9%	9.0%	7.7%
Manufacturing	11.3%	8.1%	5.2%	13.6%	14.9%
Wholesale trade	3.2%	2.2%	2.4%	3.0%	3.2%
Retail trade	11.4%	11.0%	10.2%	11.7%	12.1%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.6%	6.5%
Information	2.5%	2.7%	2.8%	2.0%	2.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	7.2%	6.9%	7.1%	6.7%	6.1%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	10.3%	13.9%	14.0%	9.3%	8.4%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	21.2%	19.7%	21.8%	21.8%	20.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	8.8%	7.6%	7.5%	8.2%	8.1%
Other services (except public administration)	4.8%	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%	5.2%
Public administration	4.7%	9.1%	10.8%	4.1%	4.1%
Also of interest . . .					
Armed forces as % of total employed population 16 and over	0.66%	2.82%	0.92%	1.81%	0.51%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

The 2007 American Community Survey also includes estimates of the mix of occupations in the various states. Given their industrial mix, Virginia and Maryland tend to have a higher concentration of management and professional jobs and a lower concentration of production, transportation, and material moving occupations (Table 4).

**Table 4**

Occupations	United States	Virginia	Maryland	North Carolina	Tennessee
Civilian Employed Population, 16 and over (000s)	142,588	3,791	2,848	4,228	2,848
Management, professional, and related occupations	34.6%	40.5%	42.8%	33.8%	30.2%
Service occupations	16.7%	15.2%	15.6%	15.8%	16.1%
Sales and office occupations	25.6%	24.1%	24.6%	24.4%	26.2%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%
Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations	9.7%	9.8%	9.0%	10.8%	10.0%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	12.7%	10.0%	7.8%	14.4%	17.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Additional information on a wide range of economic data – income, employment and unemployment rates, poverty, business startups, etc. – is available at [VaPerforms.virginia.gov](http://VaPerforms.virginia.gov).

## Miscellaneous

A few other data points help tell Virginia’s story:

- The percentage of Virginians five years and older with a disability of any type was 13.6 percent (or almost 950,000 people) in 2007; this was higher than Maryland’s 13.1 percent but lower than the nation (14.9 percent), North Carolina (16.6 percent), or Tennessee (18.6 percent).
- More than 13.1 percent of Virginia’s civilian population 18 years and over are veterans. This is more than two full percentage points higher than the national average or that of Maryland, North Carolina, or Tennessee.
- Owner-occupied housing units accounted for 69.5 percent of Virginia’s 2,932,234 housing units in 2007. This is above the national average of 67.2 percent but similar to Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
- The average household size of an owner-occupied unit was 2.62; it was 2.37 for renter-occupied units.
- About 6.1 percent of Virginia’s households had no car available, compared with 8.7 percent for the nation and 8.9 percent in Maryland.

**Appendix A: Localities by Region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Cities</b>		<b>Counties</b>		
<b>Central</b>	Charlottesville Colonial Heights Hopewell Petersburg Richmond		Albemarle Amelia Buckingham Caroline Charles City Chesterfield Culpeper Cumberland Dinwiddie	Fluvanna Goochland Greene Hanover Henrico King and Queen King William Louisa	Madison Nelson New Kent Orange Powhatan Prince George Rappahannock Sussex
<b>Eastern</b>			Accomack Essex King George	Lancaster Middlesex Northampton	Northumberland Richmond Westmoreland
<b>Northern</b>	Alexandria Fairfax Falls Church	Manassas Manassas Park Fredericksburg	Arlington Clarke Fairfax	Fauquier Loudoun Prince William	Stafford Spotsylvania Warren
<b>Southside</b>	Emporia Danville Martinsville		Brunswick Greensville Nottoway Lunenburg	Patrick Henry Pittsylvania Halifax	Charlotte Prince Edward Mecklenburg Southampton
<b>Southwest</b>	Bristol Galax Norton		Bland Buchanan Carroll Lee Scott	Wise Russell Dickenson Smyth Wythe	Grayson Tazewell Floyd Washington
<b>Hampton Roads</b>	Chesapeake Franklin Hampton Newport News Norfolk	Poquoson Portsmouth Suffolk Virginia Beach Williamsburg	Gloucester Isle of Wight James City York Mathews	Surry	
<b>Valley</b>	Winchester Harrisonburg Staunton Lexington	Waynesboro Buena Vista Covington	Alleghany Bath Augusta Rockbridge	Rockingham Page Shenandoah Frederick	Highland
<b>West Central</b>	Bedford Lynchburg Roanoke Salem	Radford	Amherst Appomattox Bedford Campbell	Botetourt Craig Franklin Roanoke	Pulaski Montgomery Giles

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## COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

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