

# Community Profile

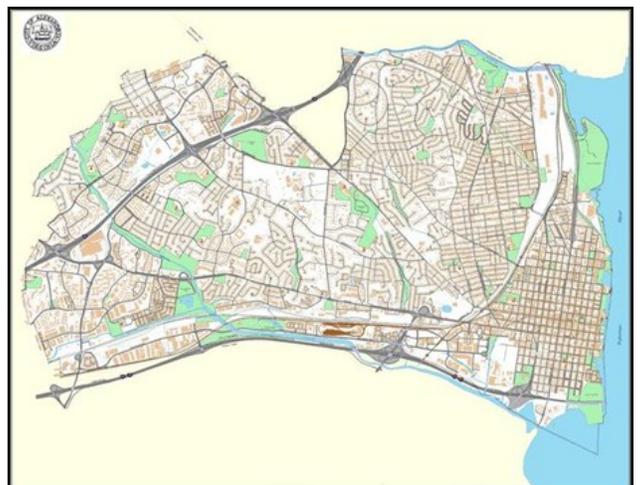


## OVERVIEW

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 Alexander's. The charter, which currently governs the City, was adopted in 1922.

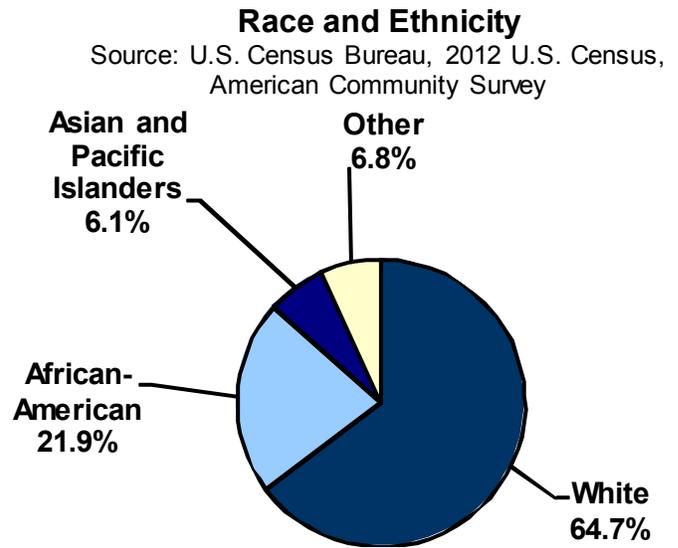


# Community Profile



As illustrated in the chart to the right, Alexandria is home to a diverse population. According to the 2012 American Community Survey, Alexandria's population has grown by 9.5% since the 2010 Census and is now 146,294.

The 2012 American Community Survey estimated Alexandria's median household income at \$81,160. There are a total of 73,307 households according to the 2012 American Community Survey, with an average size of 2.22 persons per unit.





## 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.



Council Members from Left to Right: Timothy B. Lovain, John Taylor Chapman, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg (seated), Paul C. Smedberg, Mayor William D. Euille (seated), Justin M. Wilson, and Redella S. "Del" Pepper.

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. As a result, City Council has established 85 different citizen boards and commissions. 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.

# Community Profile



## ECONOMY

Alexandria is home to over 12,000 thriving businesses and organizations, which include 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 3.3 million visitors and brings in over \$700 million in visitor spending each year. The chart to the right displays the City's largest employers.

**Employers with 1,000+ Employees:**

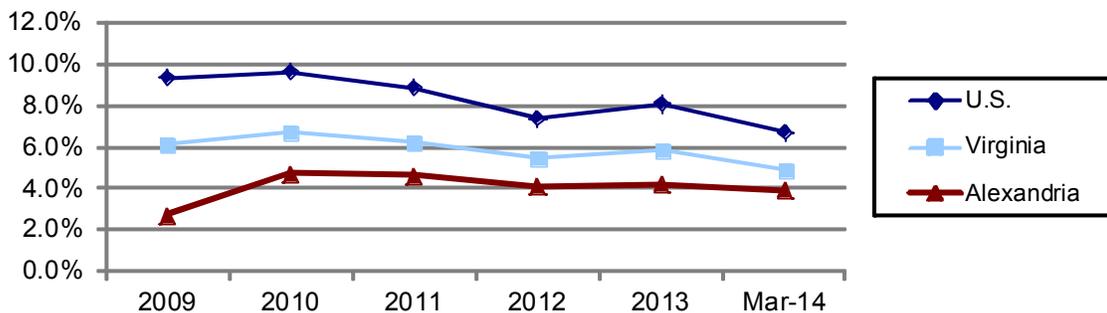
- U.S. Department of Commerce (PTO)
- U.S. Department of Defense
- City of Alexandria
- Alexandria Public Schools
- The Alexandria Hospital
- ABM Janitorial Services M Inc.
- CNA Corporation
- Gali Service Industries

**Employers with 500 – 999 Employees:**

- WMATA
- NOVA Community College
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Alexandria's unemployment continues to decline and as of March 2014 the rate had decreased to 3.9 percent. Alexandria's rate continues to fall below Virginia's rate of 4.9 percent and the national rate of 6.7 percent as shown in the graph below.

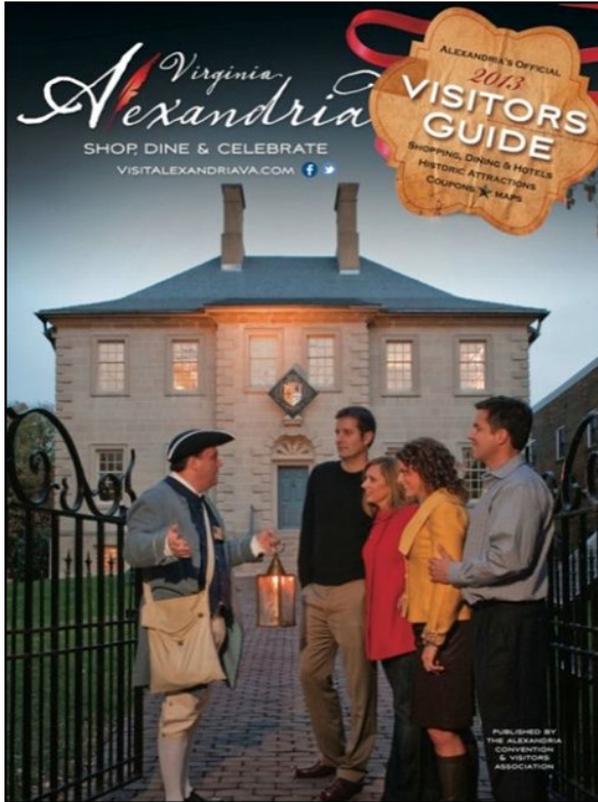
**Unemployment Rate**  
(Source: BLS, seasonally adjusted yearly average)



Approximately 22 million square feet of office space and over 11 million square feet of retail space exist in the City today. As of December 2013, the office space vacancy rate was 15.6 percent, while Northern Virginia's rate was 15.2 percent and the Washington, D.C. Metro Area's rate was 12.9 percent. For 2013, total retail sales in the City equaled \$2.55 billion.



## TOURISM



Alexandria’s rich history and cosmopolitan scene attracts more than 3.3 million visitors annually. Visitor spending totaled \$739 million in 2012 an increase of 3.9%. This generated \$23.7 million in city tax revenue, the sixth highest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Acclaimed for its enviable quality of life, Alexandria boasts a variety of historic sites, a vibrant arts scene, the Potomac River Waterfront and offers eateries helmed by award-winning chefs, a shopping scene of unique boutiques with carefully selected collections, and an array of accommodations to meet every need.

The tourism industry supports 24 hotels with 4,493 rooms within the City of Alexandria supporting 6158 jobs with a payroll of \$122 million. For FY 2013, the average occupancy rate was 69.2 percent. For the same time period, the average daily rate for hotel rooms in the City was \$142.

The City of Alexandria owns and operates 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. During FY 2013, 179,682 residents and tourists visited these historic sites. The American Alliance of Museums recently designated Alexandria as one of eight municipal “Accredited Museum Systems” in the United States.





## HOUSING

The City of Alexandria has several housing programs to assist low-to-moderate income households with home purchases, home rehabilitation and accessibility improvements. In addition, the City provides conciliation of complaints from tenants and landlords concerning rental housing issues, information and counseling for persons seeking suitable rentals in the city, and administers a fair housing testing program.

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

The number of housing units in Alexandria is 73,307 (2012 U.S. Census, American Community Survey Census), which includes 22,568 single-family units, 19,710 condominium units, 29,879 rental apartments, and 1,150 public housing and public housing replacement units. According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, approximately 40 percent of housing units are owned and 60 percent are rented.

## RECREATION AND PARKS

The City of Alexandria contains 974 acres of public parks and open space, equating to a per capita total of about 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

In 2003, the City 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 and conservation easements on private property.

There are 37 playground areas, 4 swimming pools, 16 gymnasiums, 21 outdoor basketball courts, 38 tennis courts, 52 athletic fields, 8 neighborhood recreation centers, 1 nature center, and 1 adult/arts activity center.



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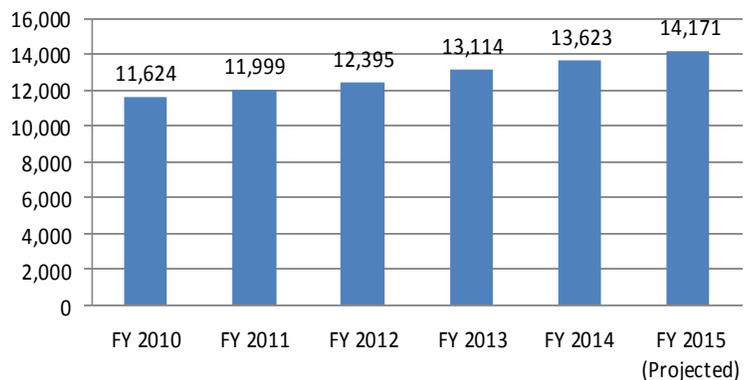


The Alexandria City Public School System provides elementary and secondary education for the City's youth. It currently has one high school (T.C. Williams High School pictured) with a separate campus for ninth grade, one alternative high school, two middle schools, and thirteen elementary schools.

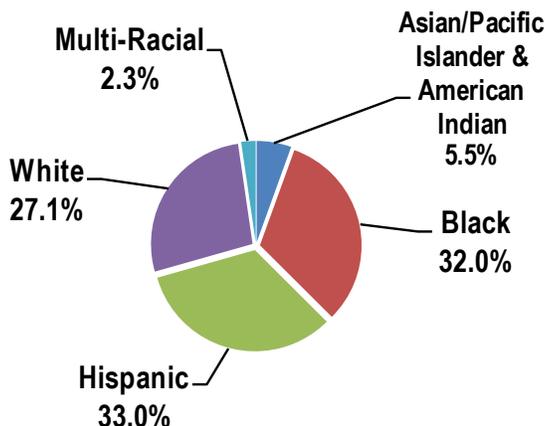


The number of students enrolled for the FY 2014 school year is 13,623, which represents about a 8.5% increase in public school enrollment since 2009.

## ACPS Student Enrollment



## ACPS Student Profile FY 2013



Alexandria City Public Schools is one of the most economically and racially diverse school systems in the country. Students come from more than 128 different countries, and speak more than 103 native languages. The high value placed on education in the community is shown by the involvement of citizens in Alexandria schools.

# Community Profile



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 (BWI) airport is 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 more than two million residents and visitors.

