

Highlights from American 2011 Community Survey Data for Alexandria

The Department of Planning and Zoning has completed an analysis ([link](#)) of the most recent American Community Survey, the Census Bureau's annual look at the City's demographic and economic characteristics. Among the findings:

- **Population increases, but probably not as much as estimated:** The Census Bureau estimates the City of Alexandria's 2011 population as 144,301. This estimate appears to be too high since the City's 2010 population was 139,966 and there was very limited residential development in the year that followed. A more reasonable estimate of the City's 2011 population is between 140,500 and 141,500.
- **Survey shows increase in children 0-5:** The City's population that is under 5 years of age rose in 2011 to 7.4 percent of the total population, up from 7.1 percent in 2010. The survey estimates that the share from age 5 to 9 fell to 4.8 percent in 2011 from 5.4 percent in 2010. The fact that enrollment in Alexandria's public elementary schools has increased significantly since 2010 indicates that the actual share of population in the 5-9 age group is probably higher than indicated by this estimate, and is likely to have increased since 2010.
- **Share of Alexandrians who are 65+ declines:** The share of Alexandria's population 65 and older fell to 8.7 percent in 2011 from 9.1 percent in 2010. The share in this age group continues to be low compared to that in other age groups in the City and to the 2011 national share of 13.3 percent for the over-65 population.
- **Income and earnings are up:** The City's median household income was estimated at \$82,748 in 2011, up from \$80,293 in 2010. Nationally, Alexandria ranks 26th for median household income, and even more highly for per capita income because of our small household size. Alexandria also ranks highly (4th in the nation among counties and independent cities) for median resident worker earnings (earnings includes wages, salary, bonuses, tips and other income related to employment).
- **Drive-alone commuting is down, thanks to walking, carpooling and working at home:** Walking, carpooling and working at home have kept single-occupant vehicle (SOV) commuting down relative to the number in 2000 in spite of the recent decline in use of public transportation. In 2011, 60.8 percent of workers living in Alexandria commuted by SOV, compared to 63.3 percent in 2007 and 62.8 percent in 2000.
- **Working at home percentage has doubled since 2007:** The percentage of Alexandria residents working at home has grown substantially to 6.2 percent of workers in 2011 from 3.1 percent in 2007. Teleworking is one reason why the square footage of office space per worker is shrinking. Other reasons include a movement away from cubicles to shared space and flexible work schedules that reduce the amount of time an employee is in the office.

The full [report](#) has been posted on the City's website.