

# Appendix 3: Regional Trends

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VISION 2030: SHAPING OUR REGION'S TRENDS TOGETHER  
**FINAL REPORT**

**PREPARED BY**

ACP – VISIONING & PLANNING

JANUARY 2003

## Regional Trends

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Vision 2030: Shaping Our Region's Future Together is an 18 month process to reach a consensus on a clear, consistent and realistic vision of the Baltimore region's future.

In a visioning process, current trends represent a starting point for discussion. The outcome of the vision will be strategic recommendations for policies that will affect those trends and uncover the region's potential.

The current trends summary is based on data from a variety of sources, including but not limited to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Regional Economic Indicators Report for 2000, Census 2000 and the Maryland Department of Planning.

The findings show that the region is making gains in some key areas. For example, air quality is improving, the Chesapeake Bay's health is improving, and crime rates are decreasing. However, the findings also show that the region is still facing difficult challenges. Census 2000 showed that Baltimore City is losing population, and the majority of the region's poor residents still live within the City and older suburban areas. Growth rates in the outer suburbs are increasing, and in some cases at rates far higher than the rest of the nation. And low-density residential development is still the dominant land use pattern in these areas.

The following section summarizes a number of the key findings.

## Population

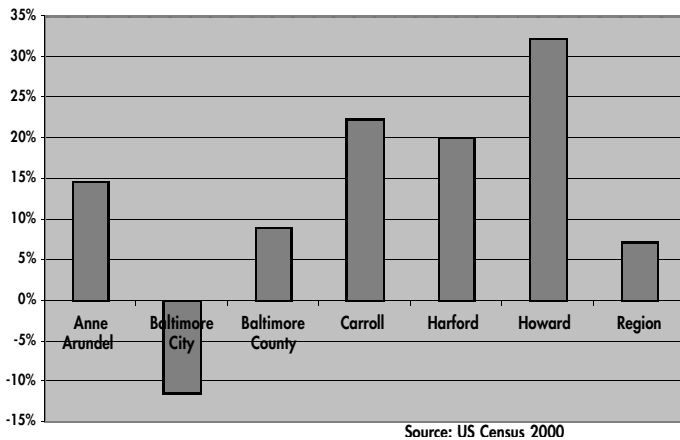
The region's population is increasing, but at a slower rate than the state and nation. From 1990 to 1998 the region gained population at a rate of four percent, while the state's population increased by seven percent and the nation's by eight (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition).

Baltimore City is losing population and the suburbs are gaining, some at rates far beyond national averages. According to figures from Census 2000, from 1990 to 2000 Howard County experienced the greatest population gain at 32 percent, while Carroll County was second with an increase of 22 percent (see Table 1). Baltimore City saw its population drop by 12 percent. The number of households in the region increased 10 percent from 1990 to 2000, while Howard County saw a 39 percent increase in its number of households, which is three times the national growth rate.

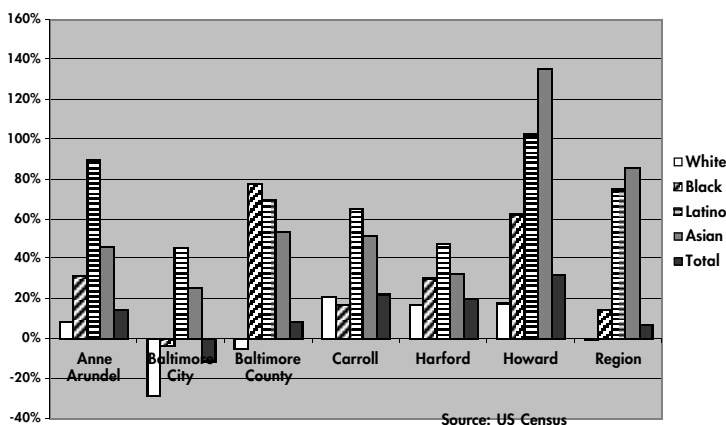
The racial composition of the region is changing, but at a slower pace than the nation. The white population of the region remained stable from 1990 to 2000 (it dropped by .2 percent). The black population increased by 15 percent (90,665 people). The Latino population increased by 75 percent (21,792 people). The Asian population increased by 86 percent (31,722 people). However, as shown in Table 2, the population changes varied from county to county. The number of whites and blacks in Baltimore City decreased from 1990 to 2000, although the Asian and Latino populations increased. The number of whites in Baltimore County also decreased, although the number of blacks there increased significantly (77 percent, or 66,149 people). Despite large

increases in the Latino and Asian population in several counties, particularly Anne Arundel and Howard, the percentage of the region's population that is Latino or Asian is lower than that of the rest of the country. The country's Latino population makes up 12.5 percent of the country's population (two percent in the region) and the Asian population comprises 3.6 percent (2.7 percent in the region).

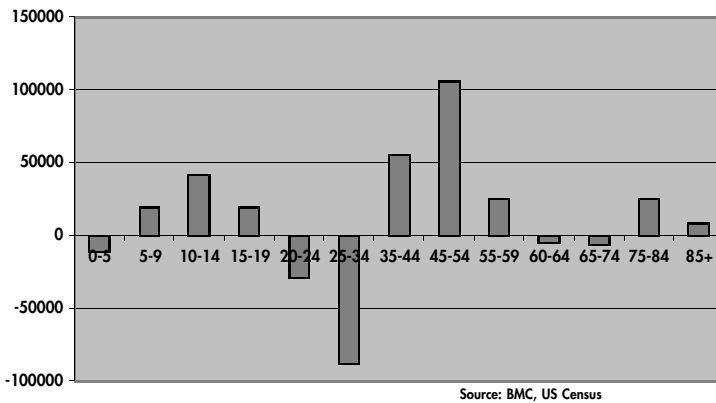
**Table 1. Population Change in the Baltimore Region 1990-2000**



**Table 2: Population Change by Race, 1990-2000**



**Table 3: Population change by age group in the Baltimore Region, 1990-2000**



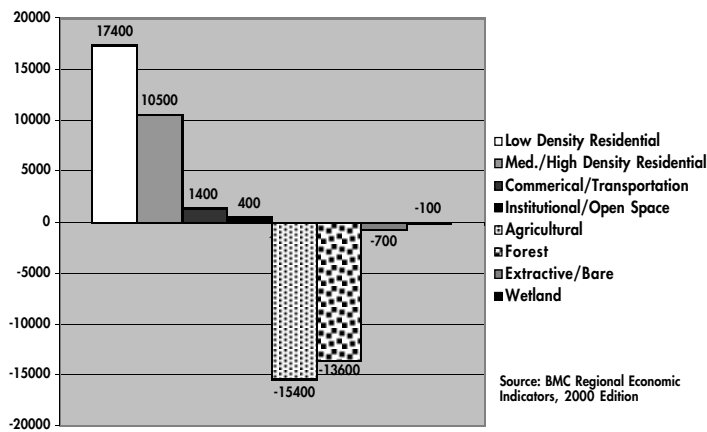
There has been a decrease in the number of 20 to 34 year olds in the region. The number of people in this age group has declined by 20 percent in the nineties, or 87,105 people (see Table 3). Baltimore City lost 44,633 of its 25 to 34 year olds, a decline of 32 percent. This trend is affecting the labor force supply in the region. The large increase in 45 to 54 year olds will also have an affect on the elder care system in the upcoming years.

The number of female-headed households has increased in all parts of the region, except Baltimore City. The region saw a 20 percent increase in the number of female-headed

households from 1990 to 2000. While the City saw a five percent decline, the number of households headed by women increased by over 40 percent in the suburban counties. Howard County had a 61 percent increase. However, households headed by women still make up only eight percent of the region's households.

### Environment

**Table 4: Change in Number of Acres Consumed by Use in the Baltimore Region, 1990-1997**



As low and medium density residential development increase in the region, the amount of agricultural and forest land decreases. Table 4 shows a direct correlation between the increase in the number of acres consumed by residential development and the number agricultural and forest acres lost.

The number of acres developed is decreasing, but low-density residential development is increasing. The number of acres of land developed between 1990 and 1997 decreased compared with the years 1985 to 1990, although low-density sprawl has increased. In 1973, low-density residential development accounted for 27

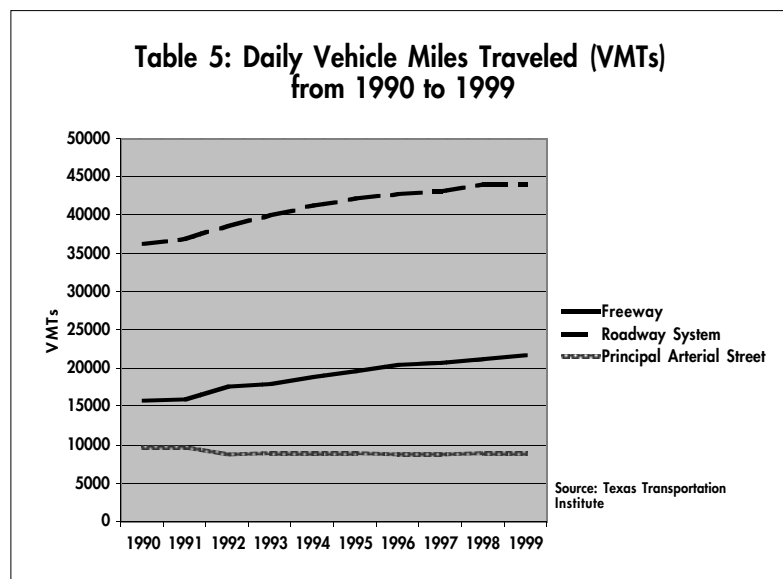
percent of the region's developed land. During the 1990 to 1997 period, low-density residential development accounted for 58 percent of all new development (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition).

Air quality is improving. In 1999 the region had 11 ozone violation days, one more than in 1990 and five more than in 1998. However,

maximum one-hour ozone levels in the region are lower than in the 1980's by an average of 16 percent. In addition, between 1990 and 1999, the nitrogen dioxide level dropped 0.2 percent, the sulfur dioxide level dropped by 30.4 percent, and the inhalable particulate level declined by 5.9 percent since 1990, and dropped by 33.3 percent between 1980 and 1999 (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition).

*The Chesapeake Bay's health is improving, although slowly.* On an overall health index of 1 to 100, the Chesapeake Bay ranks at 28 for the year 2000, which is the same for 1999. The goal is to reach 70 by 2050. The lowest health index of the Chesapeake Bay was 23, in 1983 (Chesapeake Bay Foundation).

### Transportation



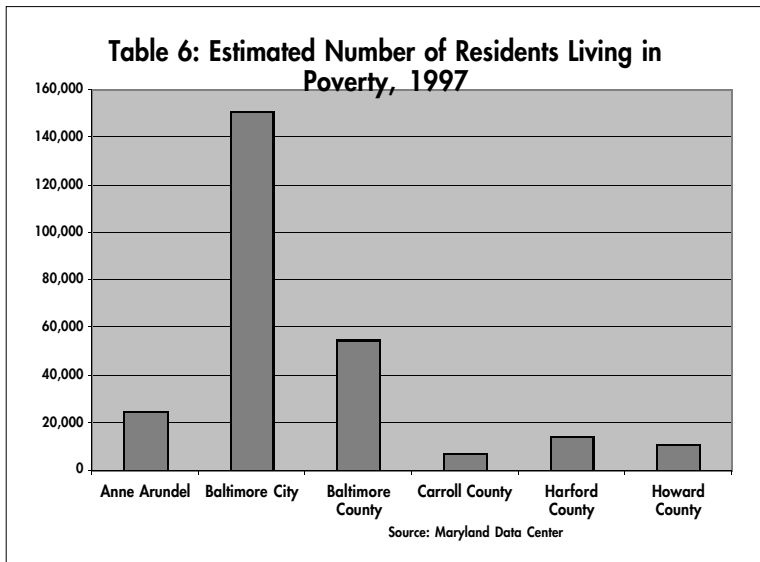
*Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is increasing, although congestion in the region is still low compared to the rest of the country.*

As shown in Table 5, daily VMT for the entire regional roadway system increased by 7,760 miles from 1990 to 1998, a 21 percent increase (Texas Transportation Institute Mobility Study, 2000). This increase is five times the rate of population growth for the region during the same period. However, the region ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation for congestion levels. The annual delay due to traffic congestion per capita is 31 hours, compared to 56 hours per year in Los Angeles, 46 hours per year in Washington D.C, and 26 hours per year in

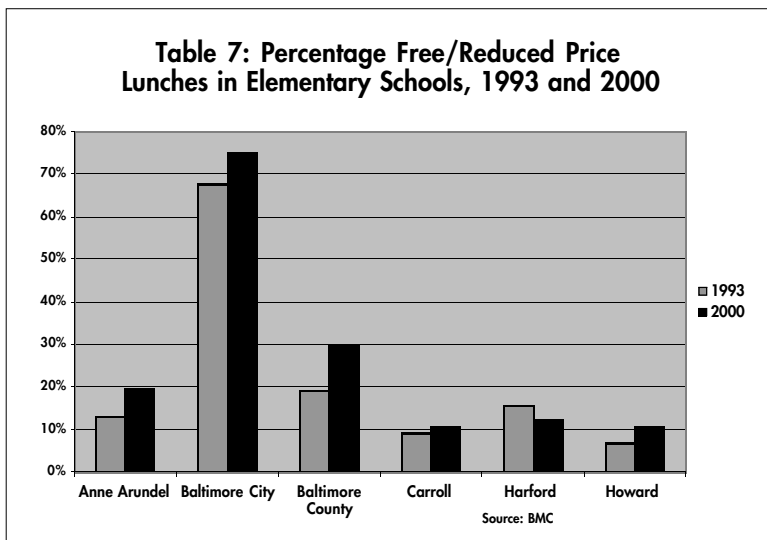
Philadelphia. (*Easing the Burden*, Surface Transportation Policy Project, 2001)

*Bus and rail use is increasing, too.* From 1990 to 1998 total bus and rail ridership in the region increase by 15 percent, from 81 million to 93 million, although still has not reached 1980 levels, when 102 million riders traveled by bus or rail. (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition). Sixteen percent of workers in the region (889,650 workers) do not drive to work, the same percentage as Seattle. In St. Louis, only 8.4 percent of workers travel to work by means other than a car, while 23.8 percent do in Austin, TX and 12.6 percent in Los Angeles (Surface Transportation Policy Project).

## Social Equity



*Baltimore City is home to a majority of the region's poor.* Baltimore City is home to 57.5 percent of the region's population living in poverty (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition). As shown in Table 6, in 1997 Baltimore City's poverty rate was the highest in the region at 23.7 percent (150,937 people). Baltimore County had 54,891 people (7.6 percent of the county's residents) living in poverty, while Carroll County had the lowest number of poor residents, 7,320 (4.9 percent). As shown in Table 7, from 1993 to 2000, the percentage of free and reduced price lunches increased in all counties except Harford. In 2000, 75 percent of school lunches in Baltimore City and 30 percent in Baltimore County were free or reduced price, up from 68 and 19 percent, respectively, in 1993.



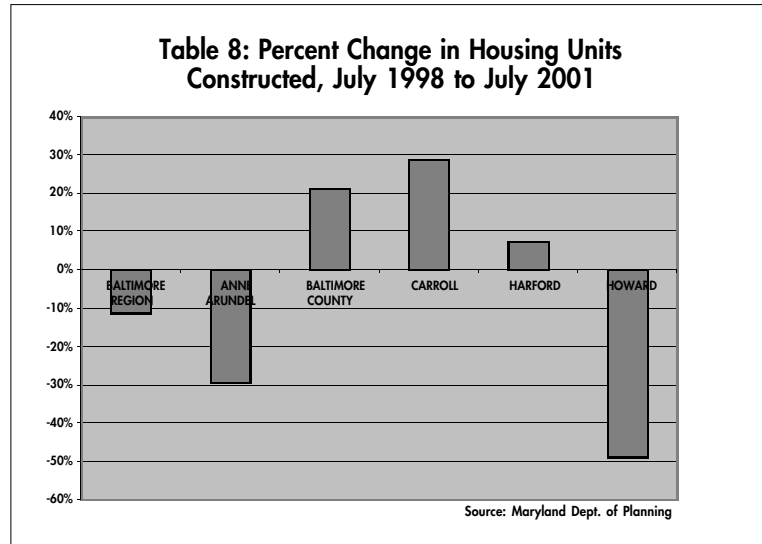
*Illegal drug use is increasing in the region.* According to the national drug treatment organization Drug Strategies, from 1990 to 1999, the number of heroin overdose deaths nearly tripled in Baltimore City and increased five-fold in the five counties. Intravenous drug use accounted for 60 percent of new AIDS cases in Baltimore City in 1999, compared to 33 percent in the rest of Maryland and 26 percent nationally.

*The crime rate is decreasing.* From 1990-1998, the region's crime rate dropped by nine percent, which was greater than the state's eight percent reduction. The nation's crime rate decreased by 21 percent during the same period (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition). Violent crime in Baltimore City declined by 16 percent in the first half of 2001 compared to the first half of 2000 (www.WBALChannel.com).

## Economic Development

*Job growth is declining in Baltimore City and increasing in the suburbs.* From 1990-1997, Baltimore City lost 51,200 jobs, a 10 percent decline. Its share of the region's employment fell from 37 percent to 32 percent in the same period. During the same period, employment in the suburban counties increased by 10 percent. Howard County had the highest increase

at 30 percent. Employment in Carroll County grew by 17.5 percent; Harford County by 14.5 percent; Anne Arundel County by six percent; and, Baltimore County by five percent. (Baltimore Metropolitan Council, *Regional Economic Indicators*, 2000 edition)



*Housing construction is declining in the region, but still growing in some of the outer suburbs.* Between 1990-1998, regional housing construction declined by five percent, while Howard County saw a 73.1 percent increase in the construction of new housing. However, as shown in Table 8, from July 1998 to July 2001, new housing construction in Howard County declined by 48.8 percent, a decrease in 701 units in the three-year period. The number of new units constructed in the region declined as well, by 11.4 percent (776 units). During the same period, construction in Baltimore County increased 21.3 percent (297 units), and 28.8 percent in

Carroll County (166 units). (Maryland Department of Planning)

High tech employment in the region increased by 4.8 percent from 1995 to 1999. Total high tech output increased by 12.6 percent in the same period. The communications equipment field saw the highest growth, increasing output by 151 percent. (Milken Institute, *Knowledge Value Added Cities in the Digital Age*, February 2001)