

Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan Area

The cities of Washington and Baltimore and their suburbs were combined after the 1990 Census into a Washington-Baltimore Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). Geographical areas that have this federal designation include communities with “a high degree of economic and social integration.” This integration between the Washington and Baltimore areas is evidenced by such indicators as: the joint application to host the Olympic Games, the joint use of the Baltimore/Washington International Airport, and the many Washington area fans who attend the Baltimore Orioles’ games. Nevertheless, the two areas have been experiencing different growth trends in the 1990s.

Perhaps the most dramatic difference between the Washington and Baltimore areas¹ is in population changes. The Washington area popu-

lation over the decade of the 1990s increased 12.4 percent compared to only a 4.6 percent increase for the Baltimore area. As a result, the Baltimore area’s population of 2.5 million in 1999 is only 57 percent of the Washington area population of 4.4 million and is down from 61 percent in 1990. The 22.6 percent population growth in the Northern Virginia suburbs, during the 1990s, accounts for most of the difference. In contrast, the Maryland suburbs of both Washington and Baltimore grew at a much slower rate of 12.9 percent.

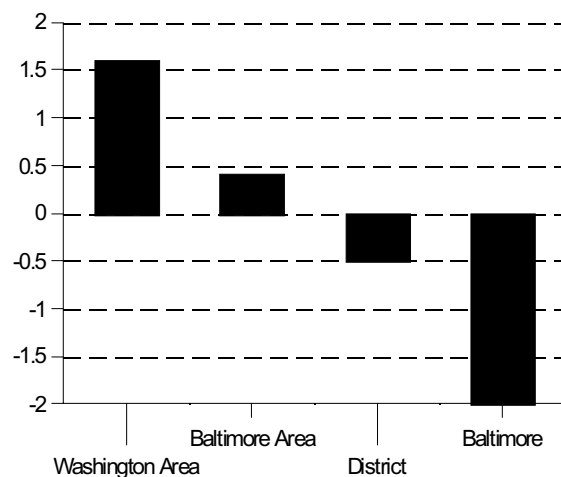
The disparity in growth rates is even more dramatic when the one year population increase from 1998 to 1999 is examined. In the Washington area, population increased 69,854 compared to 10,283 in the Baltimore area. The same resurgence in the late 1990s is apparent when the two central cities are compared. Both the District and Baltimore lost over 14 percent of their population in the 1990s,

Population Change, 1990-1999
 (in thousands)

	1990	1999	Percent Change
District	606.9	519.0	-14.5%
Northern VA	1,493.2	1,830.3	22.6
Suburban MD	<u>1,788.3</u>	<u>2,019.5</u>	<u>12.9</u>
DC Metro. Area	3,888.4	4,368.8	12.4
Baltimore City	736.0	632.7	-14.0
Baltimore Suburbs	<u>1,646.2</u>	<u>1,858.6</u>	<u>12.9</u>
Balt. Metro. Area	2,382.2	2,491.3	4.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Washington-Baltimore CMSA
 Population Percent Change, 1998-99**



but between 1998 and 1999, Baltimore's one year loss rate was 2.0 percent while the District's loss rate slowed to only 0.5 percent.

The diverging trends in population have included a substantial difference in the destination of new foreign immigrants to the Washington and Baltimore areas. Baltimore is a city known for its ethnic neighborhoods resulting from an influx of immigrants in earlier parts of the 20th century. Now, it is Washington that is getting the influx of new foreign immigrants.

Using students with limited English proficiency as a proxy for recent immigrants, the District had 8,286 limited English proficiency students compared to only 564 in Baltimore in 1998. The Washington area had 41,348 students with limited English proficiency, or 9.6 per 1,000 popula-

tion, compared to just 3,530, or 1.4 per 1,000 population in the Baltimore area.

The reason for the robust population and immigrant increase in the Washington area appears to be related to the difference in employment opportunities. From 1990 to 1999, employment increased 12.1 percent in the Washington area, but only 5.4 percent in the Baltimore area. The Virginia suburban employment growth of 27.4 percent far outstripped the increase of the Maryland suburbs in both the Washington and Baltimore areas.

**Washington-Baltimore CMSA
Employment Change, 1990-99**

	1990	1999	Percent
District	686.1	615.8	-10.2%
Northern VA	850.1	1,083.1	27.4
Suburban MD	<u>778.4</u>	<u>888.8</u>	<u>14.2</u>
DC Metro. Area	2,344.5	2,629.1	12.1
Baltimore City	461.5	403.6	-12.5
Baltimore Suburbs	<u>690.1</u>	<u>812.2</u>	<u>17.4</u>
Balt. Metro. Area	1,151.6	1,215.8	5.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Limited English Proficiency Students

	1998	Per 1,000 Population
District	8,286	15.9
Northern VA	20,149	11.3
Suburban MD	<u>13,003</u>	<u>6.5</u>
DC Metro. Area	41,438	9.6
Baltimore City	564	0.9
Baltimore Suburbs	<u>2,966</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Balt. Metro. Area	3,530	1.4

Source: Maryland and Virginia Departments of Education and the D.C. Office of Bilingual Education.

¹As defined in this report, the Washington area includes: the District of Columbia; the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Frederick, Calvert and Charles in Maryland. The Baltimore area consists of the City of Baltimore and the counties of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Carroll, Harford, and Queen Anne in Maryland.