

# POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The population and demographic characteristics of Franklin County are important because these statistics reveal much about the direction that the County is headed with respect to the need for new or expanded County services, recreation, education, health care, and other services. The analysis also provides important information to private sector decision-makers who are considering locating or expanding commercial or industrial enterprises within the County. Population and demographic changes also are important in assessing land use and what changes might need to be made to land use plans and the policies used in guiding the development of the County in respect to land use.

The 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update's assessment is also important because there has been considerable growth in the County since the preparation and adoption of the County's 1995 Comprehensive Plan. Data from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census of Population will be presented and analyzed. The following sections examine the changes which have occurred from 1980 to 2000 in terms of population growth and characteristics such as age, sex, education, and race.

## Population Trends

As shown in the following table, entitled "Historic Population Trends in Franklin County," the population growth in Franklin County has been variable and sporadic in nature since 1900. During the first sixty years of the century, the County's population remained virtually static. In fact, there was a difference of only 28 persons in Franklin County's 1900 population and its 1960 population. During the 1930's and 1940's, agricultural mechanization and World War II contributed to the cyclical nature of the population. Beginning in the late 1950's and accelerating in the 1960's, industrial development in the Rocky Mount area began the transformation of the County from primarily an agriculturally-based economy to a more diverse, balanced economy with more strength in commercial and industrial sectors.

The development of Smith Mountain Lake in the 1960's also had an impact on the population growth in Franklin County. Recreation-oriented businesses such as boating and restaurants were constructed or enlarged. Beginning in the mid-1970's, second home development began in the Smith Mountain Lake area and has continued virtually unabated to date. Since about 1980, multi-family (or condominium) development has occurred on or near the lake near the Scruggs Community. Residential development induced by growth in the Roanoke Urban Area has taken place in the northern and northeastern portions of Franklin County.

The growth trend that continued in the County in the 1960's has continued and accelerated since 1970. According to U.S. Census figures, the County had significant population increases in recent decades of: 26.9 percent increase from 1970 to 1980; 10.7 percent increase from 1980 to 1990; and 19.6 percent increase from 1990 to 2000; over the entire period from 1970 to 2000 the County added 19,123 persons and grew by 67.9 percent. The most recent Census estimate of persons in the County was 49,841 in

2004, compared to year 2000 population of 47,286 for a 5.4 percent increase in the four year period.

### Historic Population Trends in Franklin County

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Franklin County	26,480	26,283	24,337	25,804	24,560	25,925	28,163	35,740	39,549	47,286
Rocky Mount (1)	967	1,076	1,339	1,366	1,432	1,412	4,002	4,198	4,098	4,565
Boones Mill (1)	(2)	(2)	352	377	335	371	363	337	239	285

(1) The Towns of Rocky Mount & Boones Mill population figures are included in the population totals for the County.

(2) Data not available.

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population 1910-2000.

Another useful way to illustrate Franklin County's growth is to compare it to the population growth for surrounding counties and the State of Virginia for the period 1980-2000 as shown in the following table.

The following information documents that, next to Bedford County, Franklin County had the highest change in population both percentagewise and numerically during the two decades 1980-2000. The Roanoke County growth rate at 8.1 percent in comparison to neighboring localities indicates that, while the Roanoke area is developing economically, it is losing some residential development to adjacent areas such as Bedford, Botetourt, and Franklin Counties. Commuting data in the Economy and Transportation sections of this plan tends to verify this assumption.

### Population Growth Franklin County and Surrounding Counties 1980, 1990, & 2000

County	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change '80-'90	Percent Change '90-'00
Franklin	35,740	39,549	47,286	10.7	19.6
Floyd	11,563	12,005	13,874	3.8	15.6
Henry	57,654	56,942	57,930	-1.2	1.7
Pittsylvania	66,147	55,655	61,745	-15.9	10.9
Bedford	34,927	45,656	60,371	30.7	32.2
Roanoke	72,945	79,332	85,778	8.8	8.1
Patrick	17,047	17,473	19,407	2.5	11.1
Total	296,023	306,612	346,391	3.6	13.0
Virginia	5,346,818	6,187,358	7,078,515	15.7	14.4

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990, & 2000.

As previously noted, during the fifties and sixties, there was a trend towards urbanization in Franklin County. Basically, the rural districts of the County were losing population to those districts in which the affairs of commerce, industry, and government were concentrated. To adjust for the movement of people within the County, the election districts were redrawn in 1991 and 2001 to create districts with as equal populations as possible. As of today, there are seven election and magisterial districts in Franklin

County as indicated on the following map entitled "Voting Districts and Precincts." The table below is a breakdown of population by election districts from 1991 to 2001.

**Franklin County  
Population of Election Districts After 2001 Redistricting**

	1991	2001	% Change '91-'01
Blackwater District	5,164	6,656	28.9
Blue Ridge District	5,315	6,481	21.9
Boone District	5,569	6,887	23.7
Gills Creek District*	7,254	6,932	-4.4
Rocky Mount District	4,955	6,847	38.2
Snow Creek District	5,255	6,561	24.9
Union Hall District	6,037	6,922	14.7

\*NOTE: The decline in this district is a result of the 2001 redistricting.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The following table illustrates the population change from 1990 to 2000 using the current (2001 redistricted) election district boundaries to determine growth. The population in the "2000" column is from the most recent Census (2000); the "1990" column reflects the 1990 Census population as comparison using the current (2001) election districts.

**Franklin County  
Population Change of Election Districts from 1990-2000  
(Before 2001 Redistricting)**

	1990	2000	% Change '90-'00
Blackwater District	5,406	6,656	23.1
Blue Ridge District	6,053	6,481	7.1
Boone District	5,721	6,887	20.4
Gills Creek District	4,648	6,932	49.1
Rocky Mount District	7,019	6,847	-2.5
Snow Creek District	5,614	6,561	16.9
Union Hall District	5,088	6,922	36.0

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Racial Characteristics

The racial composition of Franklin County has been examined in the following tables. The population changes for whites and non-whites are shown, with percentage and actual numerical changes indicated.

Racial characteristics data for the entire County indicates that, from 1980 to 1990, the number of whites increased by 12.1 percent while the number of non-whites decreased by 3.6 percent. It is also important to note that from 1980 to 1990 the non-white population decreased from 12.3 percent of the total population to 10.7 percent of the total. Of the 3,809 increase in population from 1980 to 1990, 99.6 percent (or 3,792 persons) were white.

During the following decade, 1990-2000, the numerical gap widened between black and white as the black population only increased from 4,231 to 4,420. The white population increased by 19.7 percent (from 35,142 in 1990 to 42,063 in 2000), while the black population only increased by 4.5 percent. Blacks made up 10.7 percent of the County's total population in 1990, but only 9.3 percent of the 2000 total population.

#### **Population Count by Race: 1980-2000**

	Total Population	White	Black
1980	35,740	31,350	4,390
% of Total	100.0	87.7	12.3
1990	39,549	35,142	4,231
% of Total	100.0	88.9	10.7
<i>% Change 1980-90</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>-3.6</i>
2000	47,286	42,063	4,420
% of Total	100.0	89.0	9.3
<i>% Change 1990-2000</i>	<i>19.6</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>4.5</i>

SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

## **Population by Age and Sex**

The information in this section is an analysis of the age and sex of the population of Franklin County for the period 1980-2000. Age groupings are bracketed in the following charts, entitled "Age, Race, Sex Characteristics--1980-2000," for ease of comparison.

The population of Franklin County aged substantially from 1980 to 1990. In 1980, the population age 0 to 14 comprised 21.7 percent of the total population. In 1990, this percentage had decreased to 18.8 percent. In 2000, this age group remained stable at 18.4 percent, with only a slight decrease. Viewed another way, the median age of the County's population increased from 30.5 years in 1980 to 35.1 years in 1990 and 39.7 years in 2000.

**Pre-school Population -- Under 5 years, by Race, Sex**

	***** All Races *****			***** White *****			***** Black *****		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1980	2,284	1,153	1,131	1,938	977	961	346	176	170
1990	2,465	1,229	1,236	2,133	1,072	1,061	318	150	168
% Chg	7.9	6.6	9.3	10.1	9.7	10.4	-8.1	-14.8	-1.2
2000	2,569	1,309	1,260	2,196	1,106	1,090	264	139	125
% Chg	4.2	6.5	1.9	3.0	3.2	2.7	-17.0	-7.3	-25.6

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

**School Age Population -- 5 years to 14 years old, by Race, Sex**

	***** All Races *****			***** White *****			***** Black *****		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1980	5,475	2,804	2,671	4,649	2,419	2,230	826	385	441
1990	4,977	2,527	2,450	4,284	2,182	2,102	661	334	327
% Chg	-9.1	-9.9	-8.3	-7.9	-9.8	-5.7	-20.0	-13.2	-25.9
2000	6,150	3,045	3,105	5,312	2,637	2,675	679	332	347
% Chg	23.6	20.5	26.7	24.0	20.9	27.3	2.7	-0.6	6.1

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census.

**High School-Working Age Population--15 years to 54 years old, by Race, Sex**

	***** All Races *****			***** White *****			***** Black *****		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1980	20,748	10,541	10,207	18,264	9,327	8,937	2,484	1,214	1,270
1990	22,999	11,616	11,383	20,433	10,369	10,064	2,453	1,200	1,253
% Chg	10.8	10.2	11.5	11.9	11.2	12.6	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3
2000	26,161	13,117	13,044	23,127	11,591	11,536	2,577	1,298	1,279
% Chg	13.7	12.9	14.6	13.2	11.8	14.6	5.1	8.2	2.1

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**Pre-retirement Age Population -- 55 years to 64 years old, by Race, Sex**

	***** All Races *****			***** White *****			***** Black *****		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1980	3,350	1,629	1,721	2,998	1,461	1,537	352	168	184
1990	3,940	1,934	2,006	3,614	1,783	1,831	317	145	172
% Chg	17.6	18.7	16.6	20.5	22.0	19.1	-10.0	-13.7	-6.5
2000	5,641	2,820	2,821	5,229	2,619	2,610	378	189	189
% Chg	43.2	45.8	40.6	44.7	46.9	42.5	19.2	30.3	9.9

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census.

**Retired-Elderly Population -- 65 years old and over, by Race, Sex**

	***** All Races *****			***** White *****			***** Black *****		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1980	3,883	1,733	2,150	3,501	1,548	1,953	382	185	197
1990	5,168	2,228	2,940	4,678	2,013	2,665	482	211	271
% Chg	33.1	28.6	36.7	33.6	30.0	36.5	26.2	14.1	37.6
2000	6,765	3,015	3,750	6,199	2,769	3,430	522	227	295
% Chg	30.9	35.3	27.6	32.5	37.6	28.7	8.3	7.6	8.9

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census.

Unlike most jurisdictions, Franklin County actually had an increase in its preschool population of 7.9 percent, according to the 1990 Census, and 4.2 percent increase in 2000. This has important implications for the future of Franklin County with regard to school facility needs, housing, community facilities, and future population growth.

The 5-to-14 age group showed a population increase of 23.6 percent from 1990 to 2000. This, as is the case with the preschool age group, has important implications for future development in the County when this segment of the population reaches childbearing age. Among the working age group--ages 15-to-54 years, the increase was a 13.7 percent overall. According to the 2000 Census, the largest number of Franklin County residents were between 40 and 44 years of age. As the population is projected to continue aging overall, this implies a growing need for facilities and services oriented to adults including recreation, health services, jobs, library facilities, and housing.

The two age groups, 55-to-64 and 65-and-over, increased 43.2 percent and 30.9 percent, respectively, over the decade from 1990-2000. Untypically, the ratio of females to males in these two age groups was much closer to 1 to 1 than one might anticipate. The ratio of females to males in 1980 was 1.06 to 1.0 for Franklin County in the 55-to-64 age group in comparison to the 1990 ratio of 1.04 to 1.0 and 1.0 to 1.0 in 2000. In the

65-and-over age group, the 1980 ratio was 1.24 to 1.0 in comparison to the 1990 ratio of 1.32 to 1.0 and back to 1.24 to 1.0 in 2000. Retirement couples moving to the County may have had an impact on the male-female balance for the older age groups.

In summarizing the age/sex data for the County, several observations can be made. First, Franklin County's population increase in the groups 5-to-14 years of age and over 15 years of age has offset the low growth found in the 0-to-4 age group from 1980 thru 2000. Secondly, the County is aging substantially when examining the population of the pre-retirement age group (55-64), which increased considerably over the past decade by 43.2 percent. Third, the influx of husband-wife retirees in the older age groups may have kept the female/male ratio closer to 1 to 1 than it might otherwise be. Finally, the age groups below 15 years of age grew slowly from 1980 to 1990 and began a strong rebound from 1990 to 2000. However, this does imply a continuing demand for education, recreation, and other services needed by a youthful population. Other jurisdictions in the region have shown steeper declines in these age groups.

Because of the changes in population noted, the County's services and facility development decisions must consider the needs of a middle-age working adult population and an aging population. Careful monitoring of future school censuses should also be undertaken, since the preschool and youth population increased; school system management and facility development plans are the primary areas subject to impact.

## Marital Status

Trends in marital status are important because they can affect the natural population increase in the County. In the absence of more instantaneous changes such as significant and rapid in-migration, marital status can impact housing needs, available labor supply, school-age population, and the like. The following table lists the marital status of persons in 1980, 1990 and 2000.

**Marital Status: 1980-2000**  
Persons 15 Years Old and Over

	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widows
1980	7,026	17,299	576	1,098	1,982
1990	7,251	19,705	785	2,105	2,261
% Change	3.2	13.9	36.3	91.7	14.1
2000	7,227	24,233	1,069	3,278	2,738
% Change	-0.3	23.0	36.2	55.7	21.1

SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population.

The information from the preceding table shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of persons in each of the marital status categories from 1980 to 2000 with the exception of single persons which had a slight decrease. However, when

data indicating the percentage of the total population in each category is examined, it is found that most of the percentage change from 1980 to 1990 is due to the significant population increase in the County. However, the percentage increases in divorces and separations at 91.7 percent and 36.3 percent are quite extraordinary. If the single individuals do not re-marry or delay remarriage, there will be an affect in the County's rate of natural increase--the magnitude of which cannot be predicted. In-migration to the County over the decade of the 1980's did help to mitigate the effect of marriage dissolutions.

By 1990, the percentage change in 'married' (14.0 percent) and 'single' (3.2 percent) had experienced a drastic slowdown effect. However, the impact is lightened by the across-the-board slowdown in 'separated,' 'divorced,' and 'widows.' Franklin County reached a 1990 high of 19,705 married and 2,105 divorced. In 2000, the number of married and divorced again reached a record high of 24,233 and 3,278, respectively.

Marital status by sex trends is significant in larger geographic areas because of implications for future births, housing needs, school needs, and the like. The following table reveals some special needs caused by the predominance of one sex in a particular category.

**Marital Status by Sex: 2000**  
Persons 15 Years Old and Over

	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widows	TOTAL
Male	4,167	12,054	575	1,674	485	18,955
Female	<u>3,060</u>	<u>12,179</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>1,604</u>	<u>2,253</u>	<u>19,590</u>
TOTAL	7,227	24,233	1,069	3,278	2,738	38,545
% Grand Total	18.7	62.9	2.8	8.5	7.1	100.0

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000.

The information from the preceding table shows that, with the exception of singles, there has been a significant numerical increase in all marital status categories as would be expected with the County's overall increase in population. The most significant numerical increase has been in the married category. The married category represents 62.9 percent of the grand total population 15 years and over. The second largest category is 'single' with 4,167 males and 3,060 females for a total of 7,227 (18.7 percent of the grand total population). 'Widows' is the most unbalanced category with 2,253 females--over 4 times the 485 males.

## Family Characteristics

From 1980 to 1990, the number of families in Franklin County grew from 9,764 to 11,450--a 17.3 percent increase. The number of families increased to 13,928 in 2000--a 21.6 percent increase over 1990. The following table presents data on the total number of families, married couple families, and families with a female head of household. Each of these three categories is further divided by families with children under 18 years and



families with children under 6 years of age. However, this does not include the number of families with a male head of household and no wife present.

### Family Types by Presence of Own Children 1980-2000

	1980	1990	% Change	2000	% Change
Total Number of Family Households	9,764	11,450	17.3	13,928	21.6
With own children under 18 years	4,763	4,965	4.2	5,525	11.3
With own children under 6 years	1,968	1,978	0.5	1,255	-36.6
Married-Couple Families	8,434	9,529	13.0	11,405	19.7
With own children under 18 years	4,187	4,259	1.7	4,177	-1.9
With own children under 6 years	1,846	1,786	-3.3	940	-47.4
Female Householder (No Husband)	1,200	1,311	9.3	1,778	35.6
With own children under 18 years	450	509	13.1	967	90.0
With own children under 6 years	116	139	19.8	222	59.7

NOTE: Definitions of Household: A household in general includes all the persons occupying a housing unit. A family household includes a family plus any non-relatives living with the family in the dwelling unit. A non-family household is a dwelling unit occupied by a householder living alone or only with persons not related to him or her. Persons in group quarters are not considered as in households but are included with persons in households for purpose of tabulation.

SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

Information from the preceding table indicates that, on a countywide basis, there has been an increase in the total number of children. This is especially true in the female-headed households. The increase in this category is attributed to the increased divorce rate among Franklin County residents creating more numerous mother-and-children combination households. There was a decrease in the number of children in traditional married-couple households which is a somewhat negative trend for the County. However, overall there was some growth in the number of children for all types of families.

It is apparent from information in the preceding table that there tends to be a moderate increase in the number of children in families to support future family development and provide future workers for the labor market in Franklin County. Discounting in-migration, which has been considerable in Franklin County, it appears that family composition characteristics will not be a deterrent to future growth in the County.

## Household Characteristics—County

Although the number of households in the County experienced a 23.8 percent increase over the decade from 1980 to 1990, this was lower than the 29.4 percent increase from 1990 to 2000, which further demonstrates the County's continued growth. While it is important that the number of households actually increased over both decades, it is also important to examine some of the components of the change in household composition from 1980 to 2000 as shown in the following table.

## Persons in Households 1980-2000

	1980	1990	% Change	2000	% Change
Persons in Households	34,261	37,947	10.8	46,240	21.9
Family Households:					
Head of household--male	8,564	9,996	16.7	12,150	21.5
Head of household--female	1,200	1,311	9.3	1,778	35.6
Spouse of head of household	8,434	9,529	13.0	11,405	19.7
Children of head of household	11,990	11,958	-0.3	12,410	3.8
Other relative of head	1,641	934	-43.1	1,856	98.7
Non-relatives	360	871	141.9	1,606	84.4
Non-family Households:					
Householder--male	795	1,523	91.6	2,480	62.8
Householder--female	1,277	1,825	42.9	2,555	40.0
Persons in Group Quarters	1,479	1,602	8.3	1,046	-34.7

NOTE: Definitions of Household: A household in general includes all the persons occupying a housing unit. A family household includes a family plus any non-relatives living with the family in the dwelling unit. A non-family household is a dwelling unit occupied by a householder living alone or only with persons not related to him or her. Persons in group quarters are not considered as in households but are included with persons in households for purpose of tabulation.

SOURCE: Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

When examining the components of the preceding table, one significant fact emerges: percentagewise, the female head of the family household showed a large increase at 35.6 percent. This undoubtedly was due to the increased divorce rate which has been discussed previously in this document. Non-family households also had a very large increase percentagewise—due to divorce and widowhood rates increasing during the last three decades.

During the decade (1980-1990), the total number of persons in households experienced a modest growth from 34,261 in 1980 to 37,947 in 1990 – a 10.8 percent change. However, the number of children of heads of households experienced a slight 0.3 percent decline. The drop in this particular category could be attributed to divorce and widowhood rates increasing over the 1980-1990 decade; this category experienced a 3.8 percent increase in the second decade (1990-2000).

A contributing factor to the continued increase in non-family households through 2000, householder—male (a 62.8 percent increase from 1990 to 2000), and householder—female (40.0 percent increase from 1990 to 2000) could be a combination of divorced men and women living alone after divorce occurred and increasing numbers of elderly men and women living alone; in addition, recent studies have identified more persons choosing to live alone and never marrying or marrying late in life.

## Population Projections

Comprehensive planning efforts should include population and demographic analysis and study such as that in the preceding sections of this plan chapter. These plan elements are linked to other factors requiring review and analysis such as housing, land use, and economic conditions in the County. A basic question not answered in the foregoing sections is the question of future changes in the County in regard to population growth. Population growth is a key factor in planning for the future—regardless of whether the County experiences declines, stagnation, moderate growth, or high population growth. Declines or stagnant growth projections would require curtailment in any ambitious facility plans that were predicated on meeting the needs of an expanding population. Conversely, a projection of high growth in the County or sections of the County would require consideration of a more aggressive facility and services plan on the part of the elected officials in regard to the affected areas.

Population projections and the other information presented in this chapter are of technical value to agencies, departments of government, consultants, private firms, industry, and developers who have direct roles in the future development of the County. For example, projections are useful in sizing facilities of all types including water and sewer systems, new housing developments, new shopping centers and other commercial ventures, recreation facilities, health facilities, and many other people-related facilities. The demographic data and analyses presented earlier are useful in conjunction with the population projections in targeting services to particular groups which may have specific needs.

In the spring of 2003, the Virginia Employment Commission set forth population projections for Franklin County and all other jurisdictions across the state. Section 60.2-113 of the Code of Virginia mandates the Virginia Employment Commission to produce short- and long-range population projections. The projections are to serve as common reference points in the planning and development of state agency programs and facilities. Furthermore, they are to be used as guidelines by all Executive Branch agencies, the General Assembly, boards, and commissions in preparing required plans, programs, and budget requests.

The population projections presented in this section represent conditional forecasts of the future. The projections are the most probable occurrences based upon current information and a specific set of assumptions about the future.

These projections are not intended to be optimal growth trends to constrain an area. They are meant to provide insight to the user as to what could occur in the absence of any major change in policy. The projections should also serve as common reference points in the planning, development, and implementation of state agency programs and facilities.

Like any other population projections, these projections are characterized by differing degrees of reliability. Generally, smaller areas have a greater probability of error and longer projection periods are less accurate. Therefore, projections for 2010 are considered to be more reliable than those for 2020, and projections for the state and planning districts are considered to be more reliable than individual county and city figures.

The following table displays the population forecasts for Franklin County as developed by the Virginia Employment Commission:

**Population Projections  
Franklin County**

Actual 2000	2010	% Change	2020	% Change
47,286	53,200	12.5	58,800	10.5

SOURCE: Virginia Employment Commission, 2003.

The latest state projections show 12.5 percent and 10.5 percent projected population increases for the periods from 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020, respectively. According to these projections, Franklin County is expected to experience moderate growth at a rate greater than the rate of growth for the Commonwealth of Virginia in aggregate over the two-decade period. In addition, the County's rate of population growth exceeds the rates for many other counties in the state through the year 2020; the County is expected to grow faster than any other county in the West Piedmont Planning District.

Assuming that the state projection is correct, the County must expect to have continued demands for existing services and facilities and demands to raise the levels of services qualitatively and quantitatively along with new or expanded infrastructure facilities needed in providing certain services.

**Population and Demographic Analysis Summary**

- At a 19.6 percent increase from 1990-2000, the County had substantial growth compared to many of the other counties in the western part of the state. In population projections released by the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget in 1993, the County was projected to continue to grow, though at declining rates, through the year 2000. During the five year period from 1995-2000 growth was projected to be 5.2 percent, while from 2000-2010 growth is projected to be 12.5 percent. However, Census data revealed that the actual growth from 1990 to 2000 at a rate of 19.6 percent was actually much greater than had been projected by the Department of Planning and Budget.
- Population projections released by the Virginia Employment Commission in 2003 projects a 12.5 percent population increase in the County from 2000-2010 and a 10.5 percent increase from 2010-2020. The County's rate of population growth exceeds the rates for many other counties in the state through the year 2020, and the County is expected to grow faster than any other county in the West Piedmont Planning District.
- Like many other localities, growth in the preschool and school-age population was not great with a 7.9 percent increase from 1980-1990 and 4.2 percent from 1990-

2000. However, the County did have increases in these age brackets while other nearby jurisdictions actually had declines. The stabilization of school population should benefit the County in respect to expenditures for school facilities. Shifts in population will require some consideration of realigning school districts in the area or expansions at schools facing overcrowding problems in the area while closing other schools.

- The school age population bracket (ages 5 to 14) experienced a 9.1 percent decline from 1980-1990. However, this age bracket had a substantial increase of 23.6 percent from 1990-2000.
- The age brackets including high school and working age, pre-retirement age, and retirement age persons each increased significantly from 1980-1990 and also 1990-2000. As previously stated, this implies a growing need for facilities and services oriented to adults including recreation, health services, jobs, library facilities, and housing. It is important to note, however, that while each of these age brackets increased over the 1990-2000 period, the greatest increase is reflected in the pre-retirement age population at a rate of 43.2 percent versus 17.6 from 1980-1990.
- The pre-retirement age bracket, which includes persons ages 55 to 64 years, had the largest percentage (43.2 percent) increase from 1990-2000. This can have a significant implication on the types of services to be provided by the County as these individuals prepare for and enter retirement in the near future.
- The County exhibited high percentage increases in the numbers of separated and divorced persons from 1980 to 2000. This type of change often implies an increase in housing needs because additional households are often created.
- The number of households in the County grew by 23.8 percent from 1980 to 1990, and by 29.4 percent from 1990 to 2000. This implies increasing needs for housing, for domestic goods and services of a commercial nature, and for utility-type services.