

VISIONING FORUM

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Public Kick-Off | April 3, 2025

TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
AmpUp!
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Stantec

Tonight’s Agenda



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Purpose
3. Comprehensive Plan Process
4. Current Conditions & Trends
5. Hearing From You

AmpUp! Comprehensive Plan Update Advisory Committee

Tristan Roubenoff, Chair

Eugene Benson

Angelique Bradford

Grant Cook

Rachel Dunham

Rebecca Gruber

Molly Hargrove

Lillian Hartman

Ann LeRoyer

Julie McNulty

Cheryl Miller

Arthur Prokosch

Stephen Revilak

Paul Selker

Rachel Weil

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

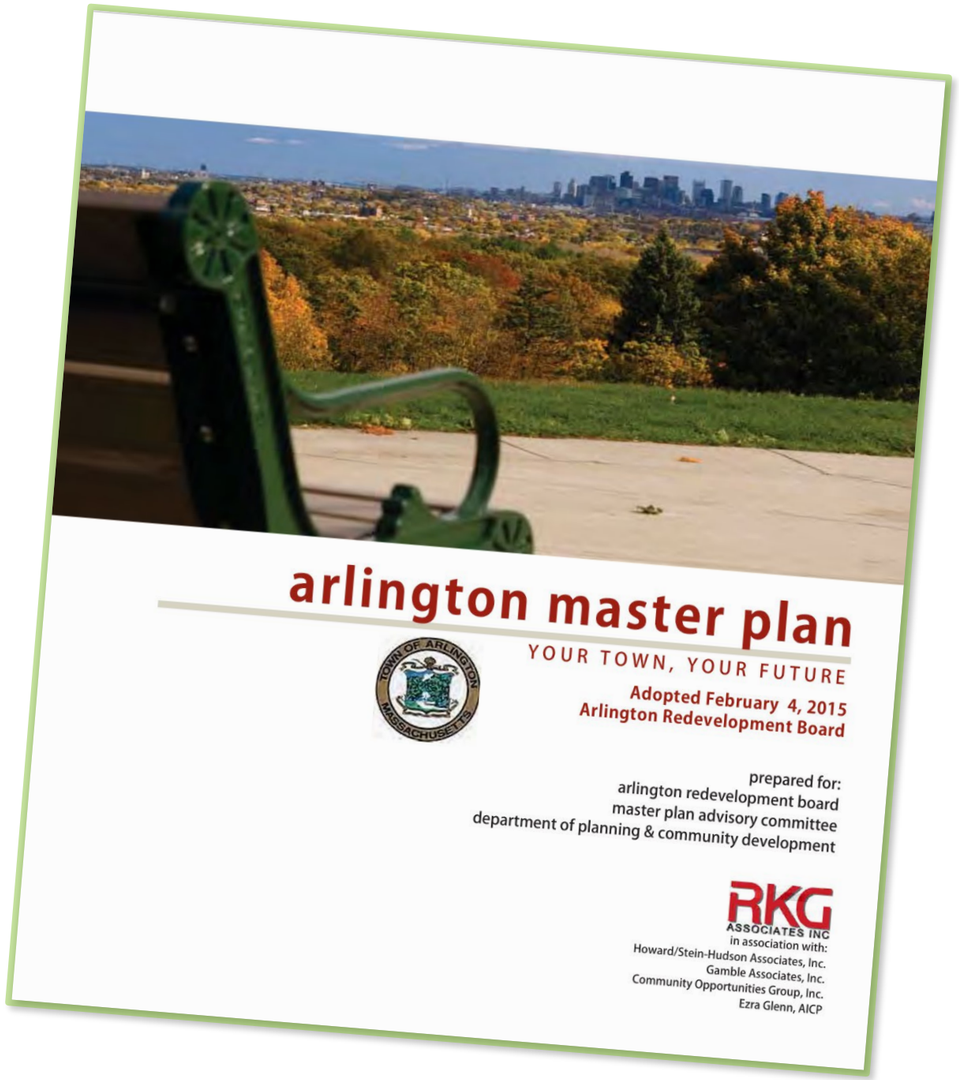
AmpUp!

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

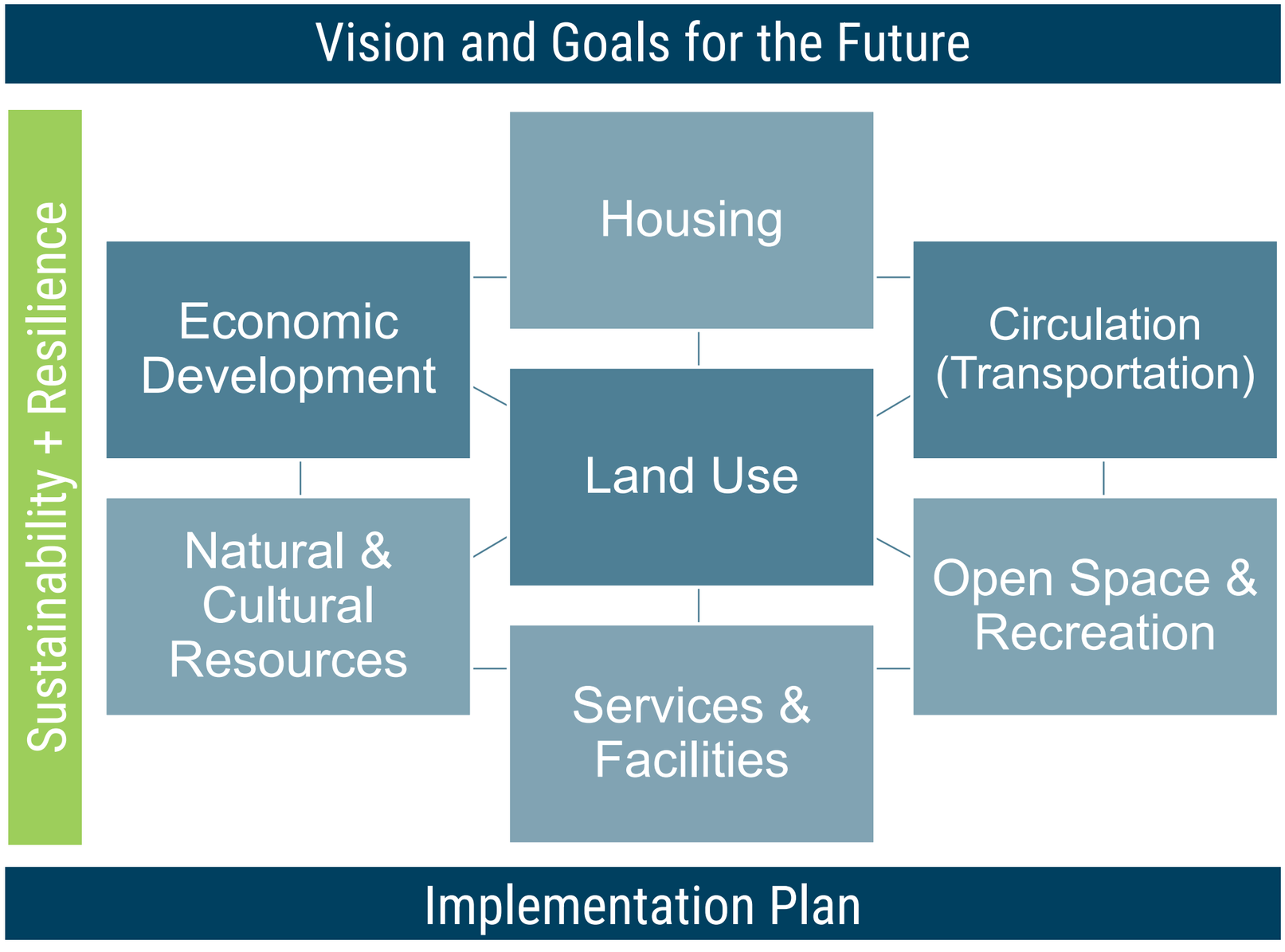
// PURPOSE

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- A **blueprint** to guide local government in achieving the community's vision.
- Provides a **basis for decision-making** about long-term physical development.



What's included in a Comprehensive Plan?



How is a Comprehensive Plan Used?

- Informs Town **budgeting and decision-making**
- Tracking tool to **measure progress over time**
- **Basis for zoning changes** to reflect desired future land use



Why Plan Now?

- Current plan was adopted in 2015 – **much has changed since then**
- Revisit and update a shared community vision for the Town's future
- Develop strategies that address the next phase of Arlington's evolution



// COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS

Phases of Community Engagement

Visioning Forum

Plan Development Workshops

Draft Plan Open House







Create a Shared Vision

Residents, business owners, students, and others share their ideas to inform the community's vision for the future of Arlington.



Identify Goals & Strategies

Identify shared priorities, evaluate alternatives, and define clear strategies to achieve Town's goals.



Develop an Implementation Plan

Establish an action plan for implementation.
Review the complete draft plan with the public prior to formal public hearings.



Online Participation

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE AND STAY INFORMED

Share with neighbors and friends to participate when it's convenient.

- Interactive map and visioning survey
- Latest project news and upcoming meetings/events
- Past presentations and project documents

Pop-Up Events

TALK TO US AT LOCAL EVENTS

Arlington Comprehensive Plan Update team members will attend local events to chat with people and share information:

- Planning process information and website link
- Brief survey or other input opportunities
- Through the spring and summer







// CURRENT CONDITIONS & TRENDS

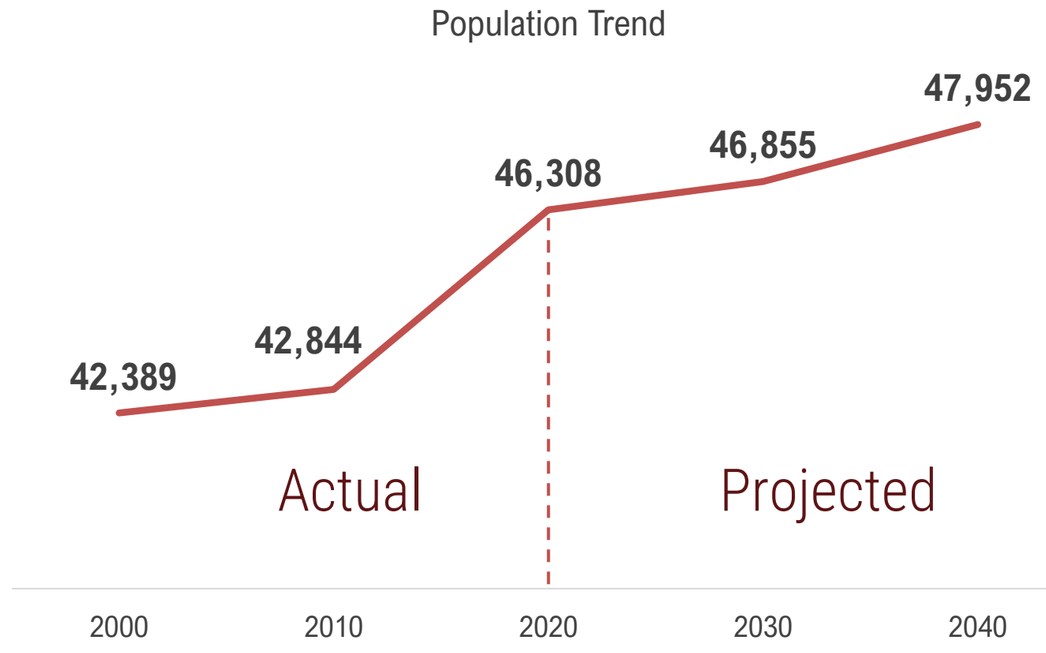
Building on Recent Plans

- 2024 Exploring an Affordable Housing Overlay
- 2024 Mass Ave/Appleton Safety and Accessibility Improvement Project
- 2023 MBTA Communities
- 2023 Electrification & Air Quality Master Plan
- 2023 Community Equity Audit
- 2023 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey
- 2022 Public Land Management Plan
- 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan
- 2022 Housing Production Plan
- 2021 Net Zero Action Plan
- 2021 Connect Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan
- 2021 Fair Housing Action Plan
- 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 2019 Broadway Corridor Report
- 2019 Mill Brook Corridor Report
- 2019 Arlington Heights Neighborhood Action Plan
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan
- 2017 Arts and Culture Plan
- 2015 Master Plan

….and <u>many</u> more!

Arlington's population is growing, but potentially at a slower rate in future

- The population of Arlington grew by 8% in past 10 years and is projected to continue growing.
- Future growth is projected to be slower.

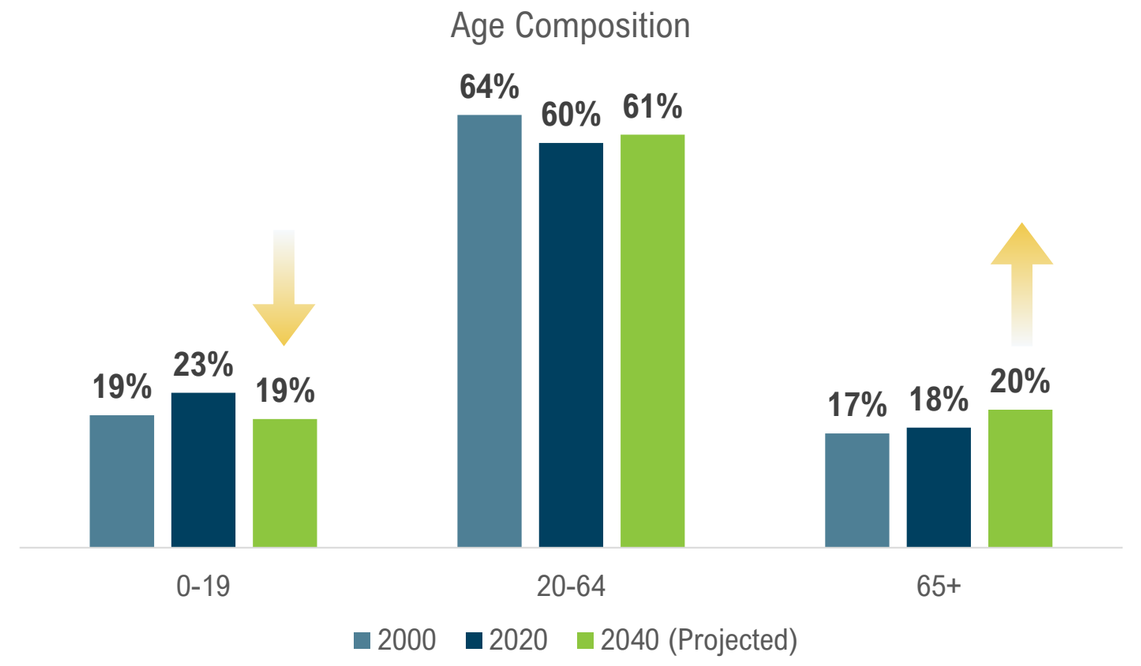


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data, UMass Donahue Institute V2024 Population Projections

DEMOGRAPHICS

Share of population age 65+ likely to continue increasing, while proportion under 19 may decrease

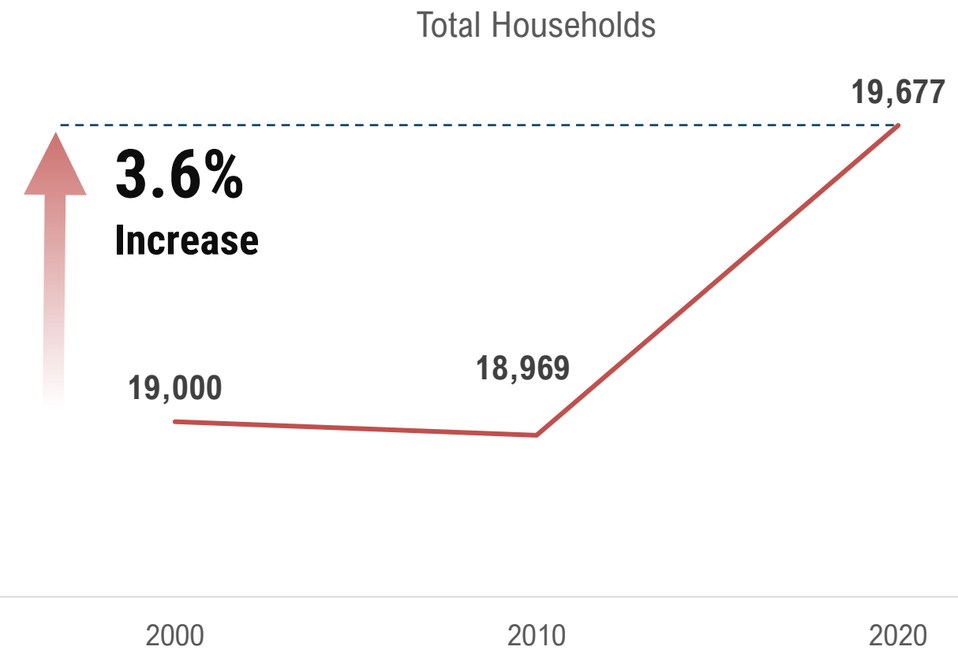
- Population age 65+ years is growing.
- Population under 19 years has increased over last 10 years but is projected to decrease again.
- Share of adults age 20-64 years will remain relatively the same.

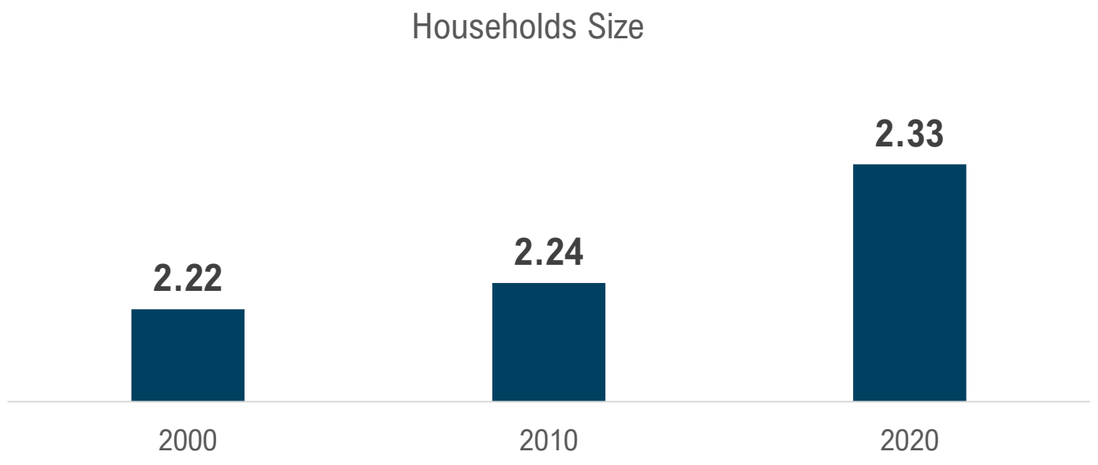


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data, UMass Donahue Institute V2024 Population Projections

Arlington’s total households and average household size have increased

- Total households have increased by 3.6% over last 20 years.
- Average household size increased by 5%.





Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data,

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total family households have been increasing

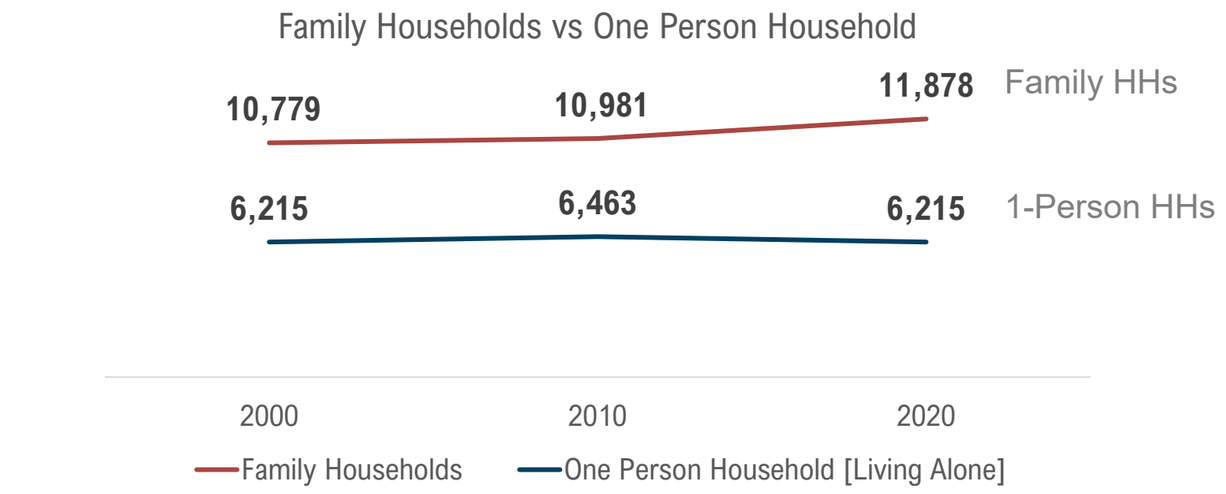
- Total family households increased 8% since 2010.
- About one-third of households have own children <18 years old, up almost 7% from 2010.
- About 30% of households include someone 65 years or older.
- Nearly one-third of households (32%) are living alone.

61% Family Households

31% Households with children <18 years

29% Householders older than 65 years

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022



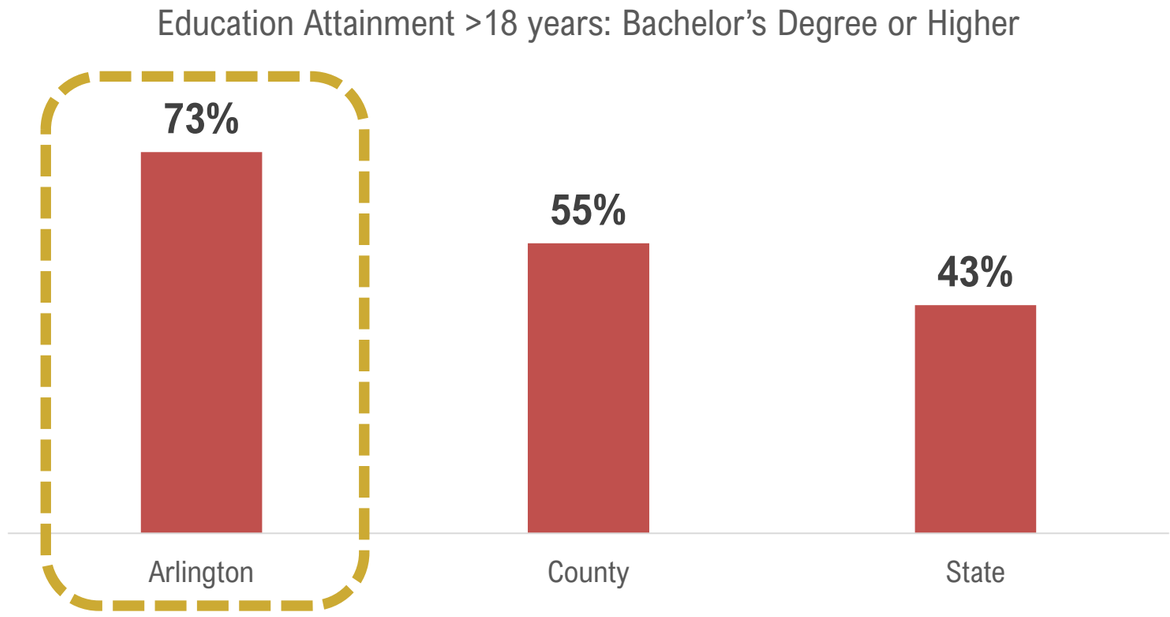
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data, American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022

DEMOGRAPHICS

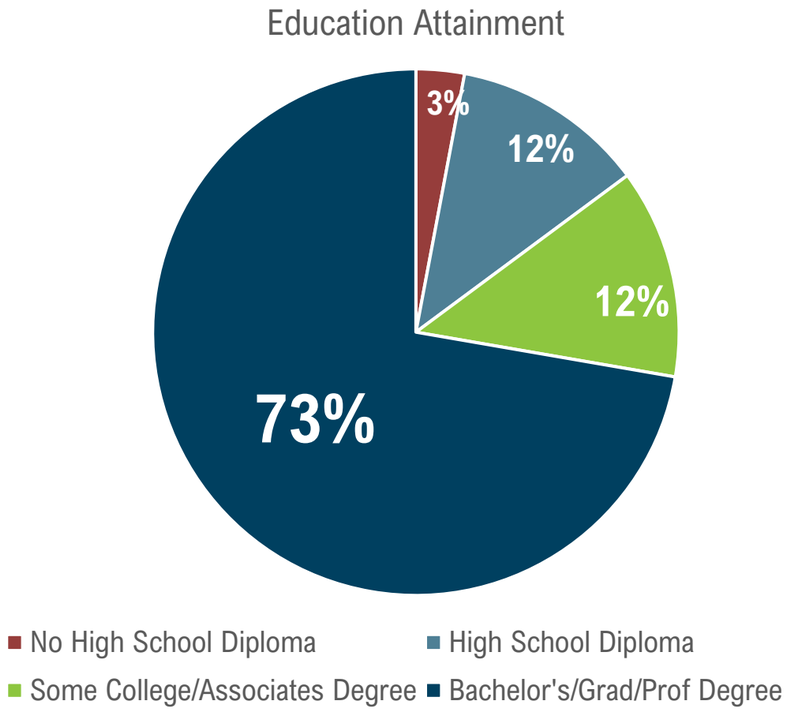
73% of Arlington's residents aged 18+ hold a bachelor's degree or higher

- Higher education attainment in Arlington is significantly higher than that of the county and the state.

- 73% of residents age 18+ have a bachelor's degree or higher. Over 40% hold a graduate or professional degree.



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Yr 2023

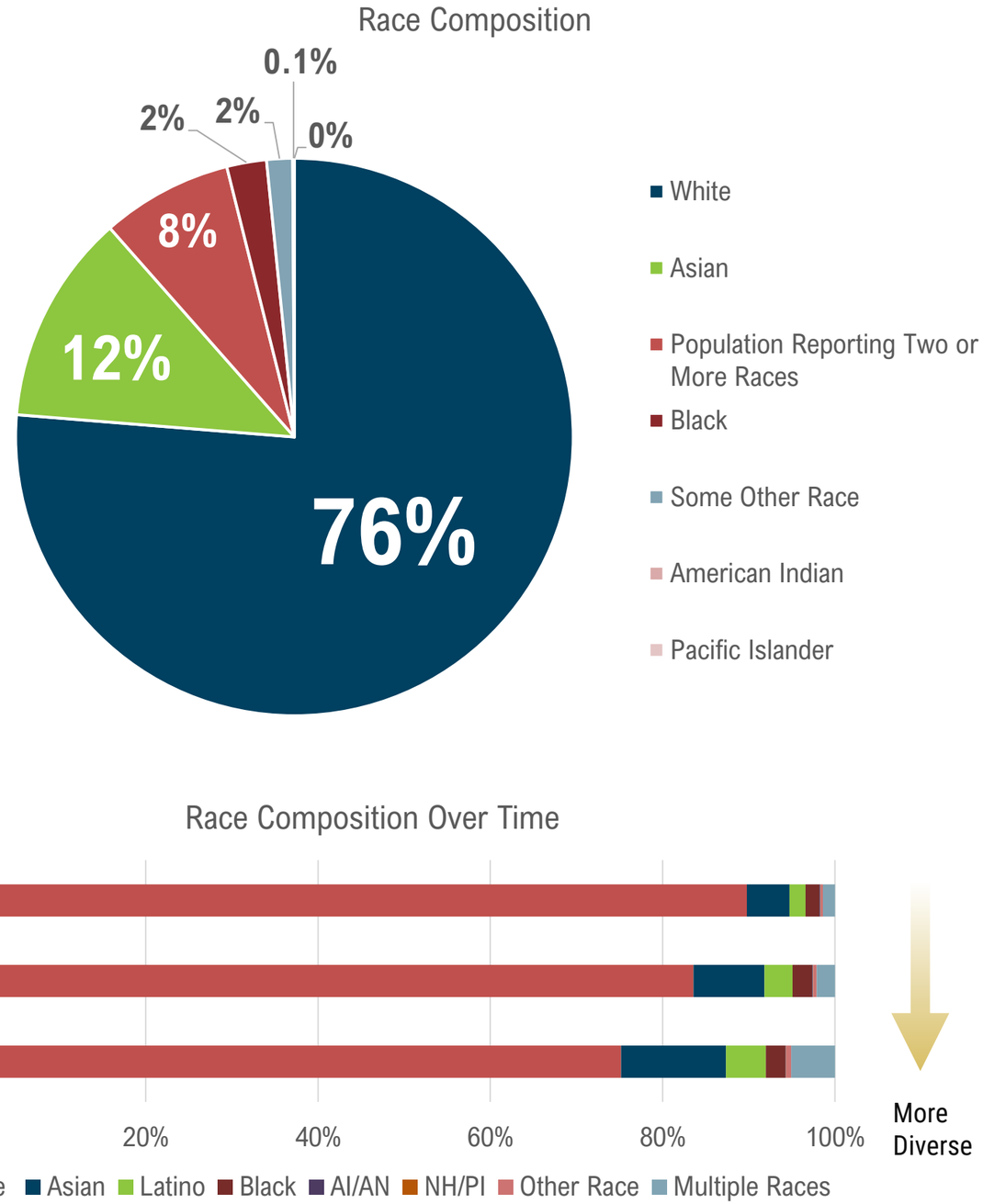


Source American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Yr 2023

Arlington is becoming more diverse

- Majority (76%) of Arlington residents identify as white, but this share has decreased by 8.5% since 2000.

- Share of community members that identify as Asian, Latino, and multiple races has increased.

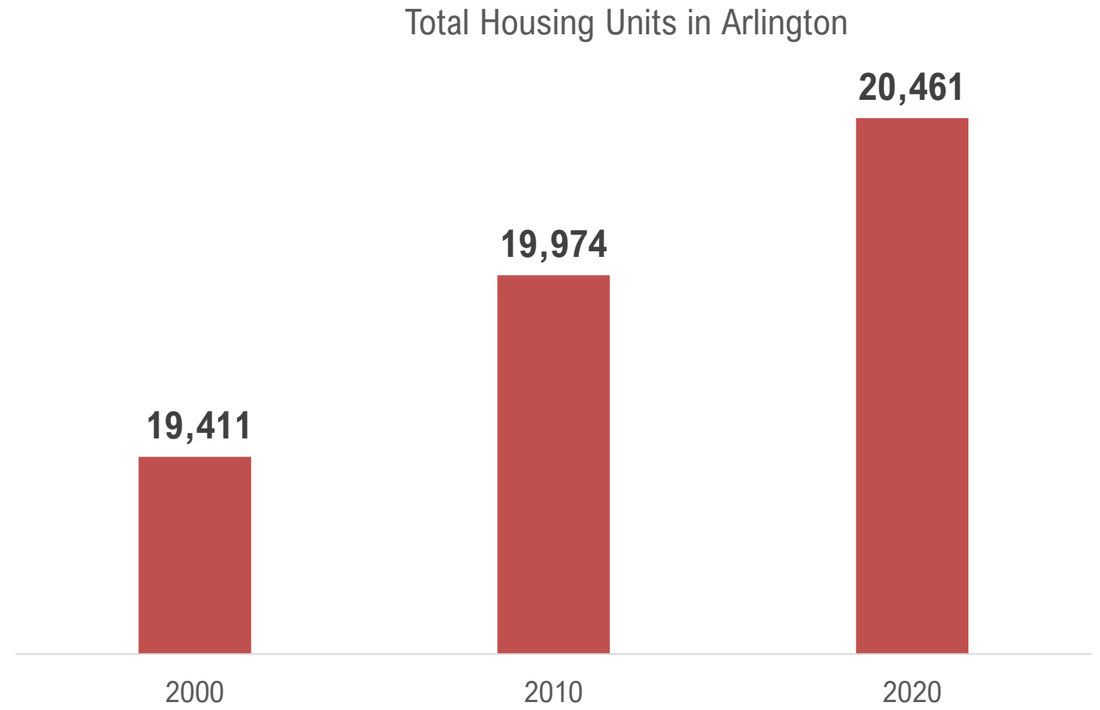


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data

Arlington’s housing stock has grown

- Arlington’s total housing stock has grown by 5% since 2000, about 500 units every decade.

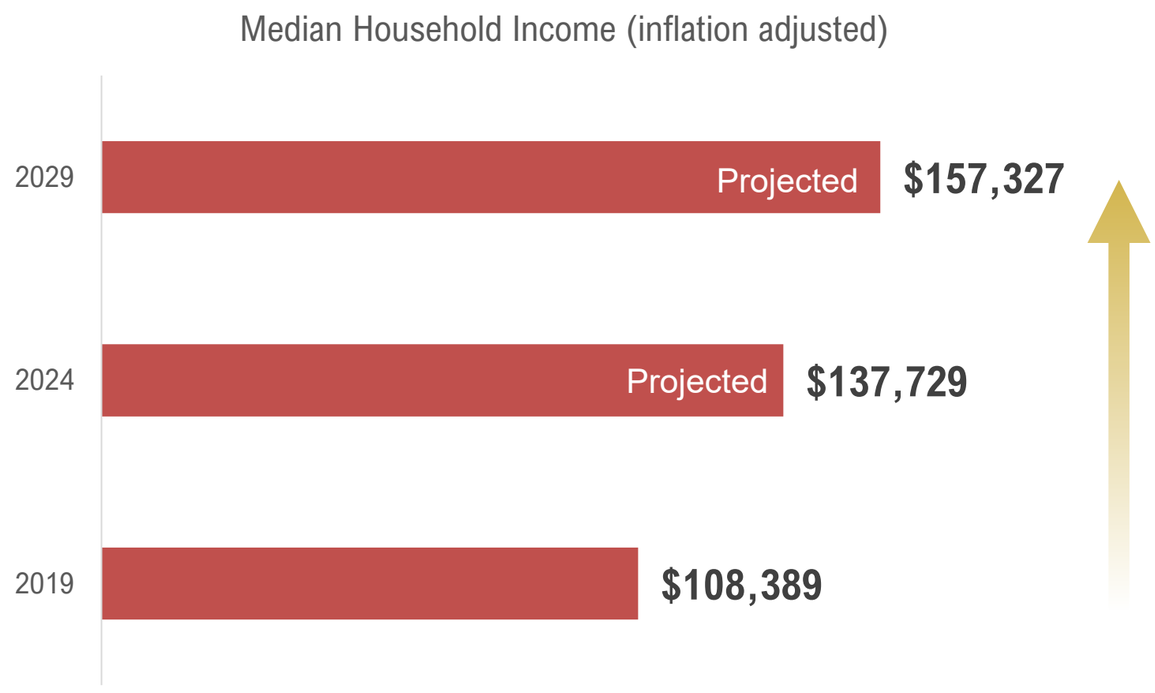
- Rate of increase is lower than Middlesex County which saw a 14% increase.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau 2020 decennial Census data

Arlington’s median household income is increasing

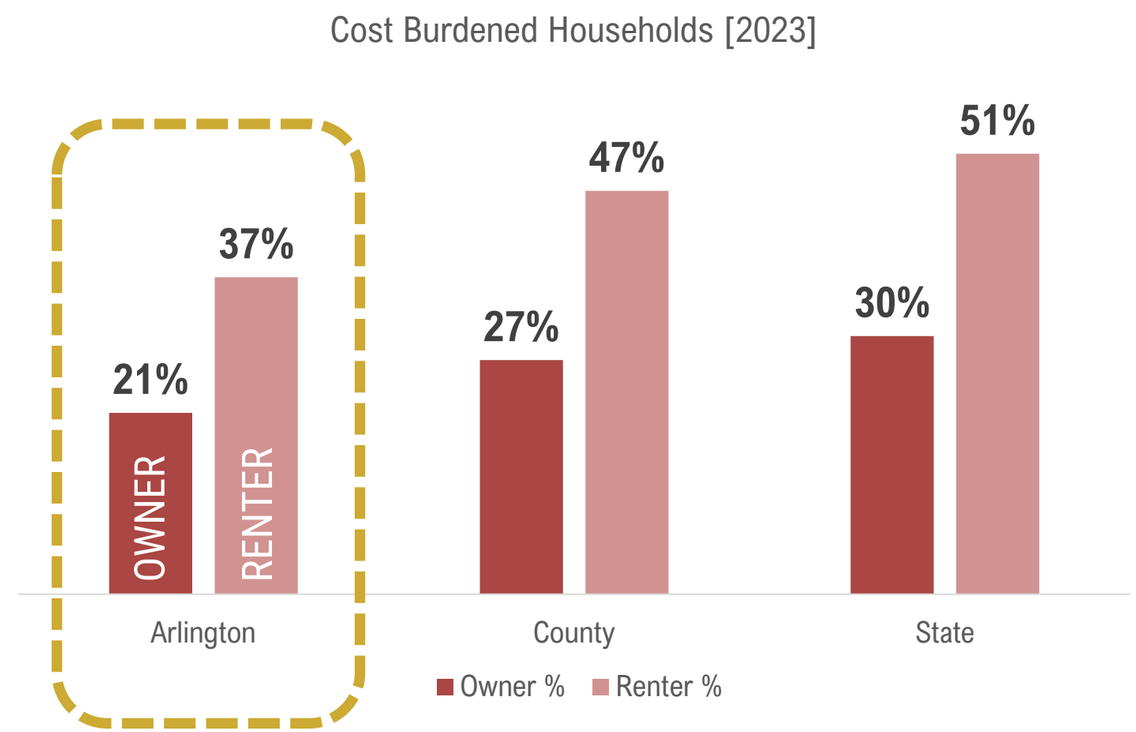
- The median household income in Arlington increased by 17% in just 5 years and is projected to continue to increase by 14% in the next 5 years.



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019, Esri forecasts for 2024 and 2029

A greater proportion of Arlington renters are cost-burdened* than homeowners

- One-fifth of homeowners and over one-third of renters are cost-burdened.
- Share of cost-burdened renters and owners in Arlington is less than that of Middlesex County and the State.



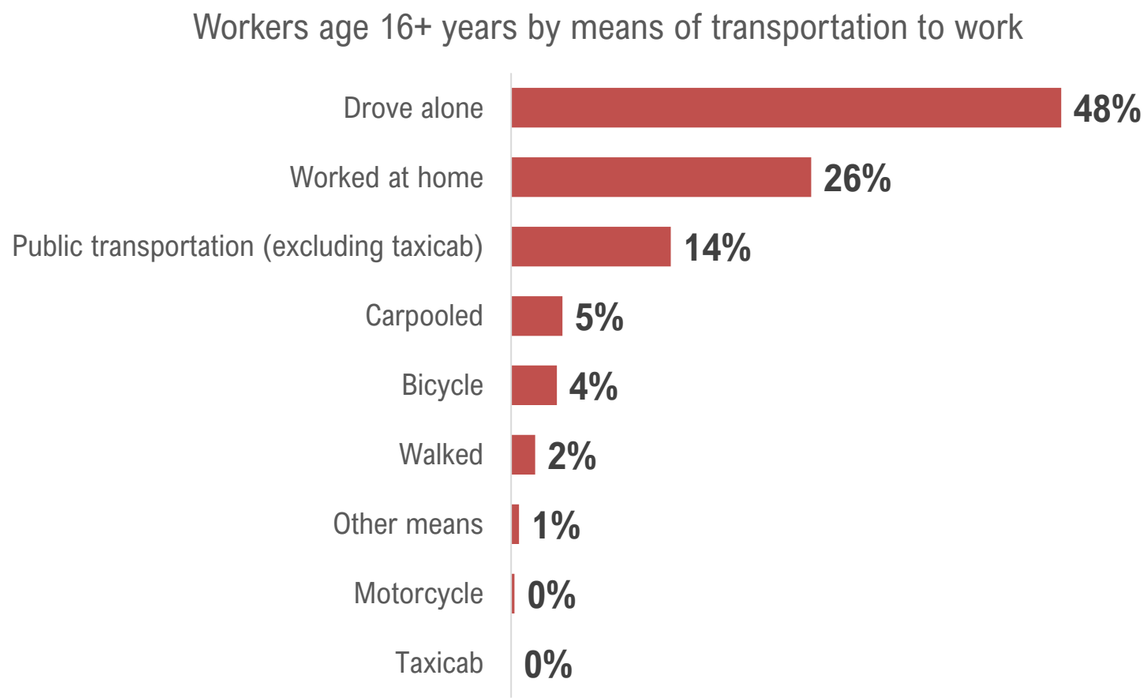
Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 5 YR 2023

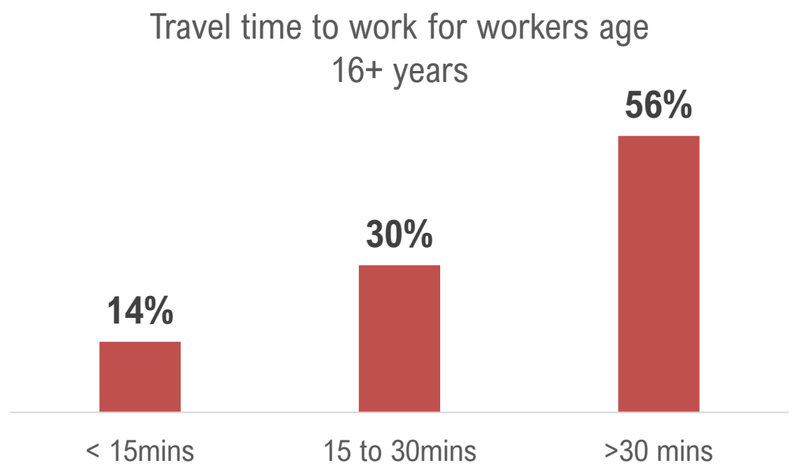
*Cost-burdened = Paying more than 30% of household income on housing costs.

TRANSPORTATION

Majority of workers 16+ drive to work; about one-fourth work from home

- Over 25% of residents work from home, up over 400% from 2010.
- 14% commute to work via public transportation and 6% walk or bike to work.

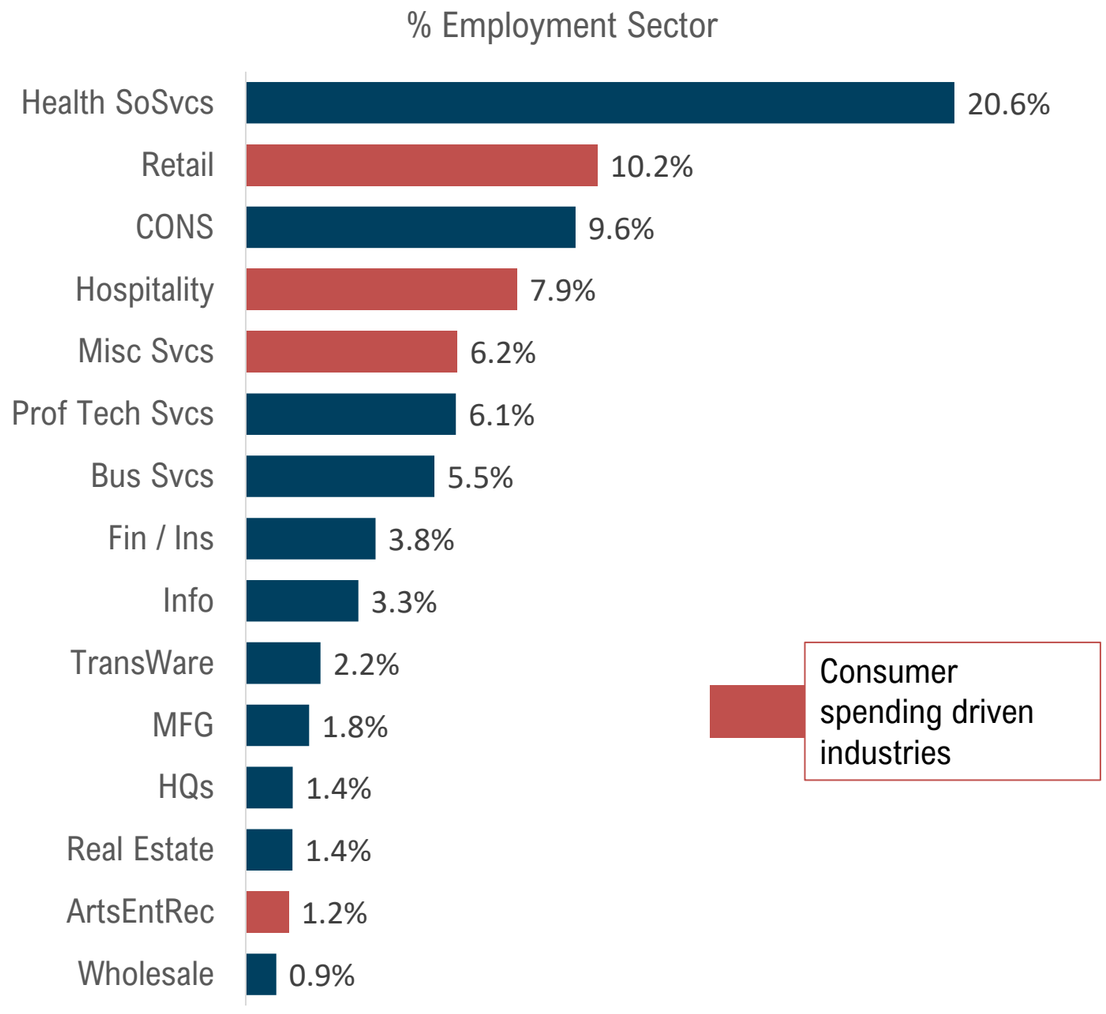




Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022

One quarter of Arlington's employment base is driven by consumer spending

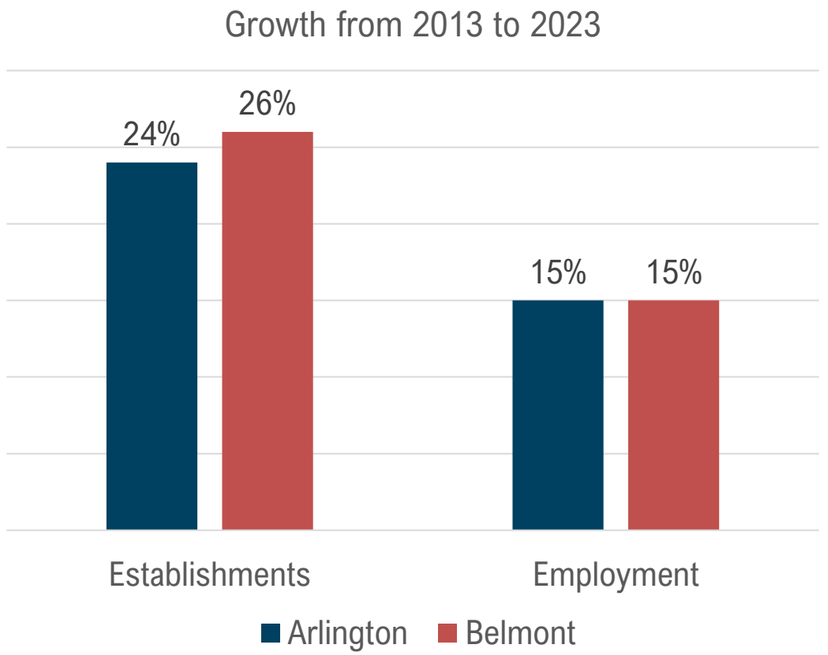
- 1,280 local business establishments.
- Outside of healthcare and social services, no sector dominates in Arlington.
- 25% of employment base is driven by consumer spending.



Source: Mass Labor Market ES202 data

Arlington's economy has been slightly growing

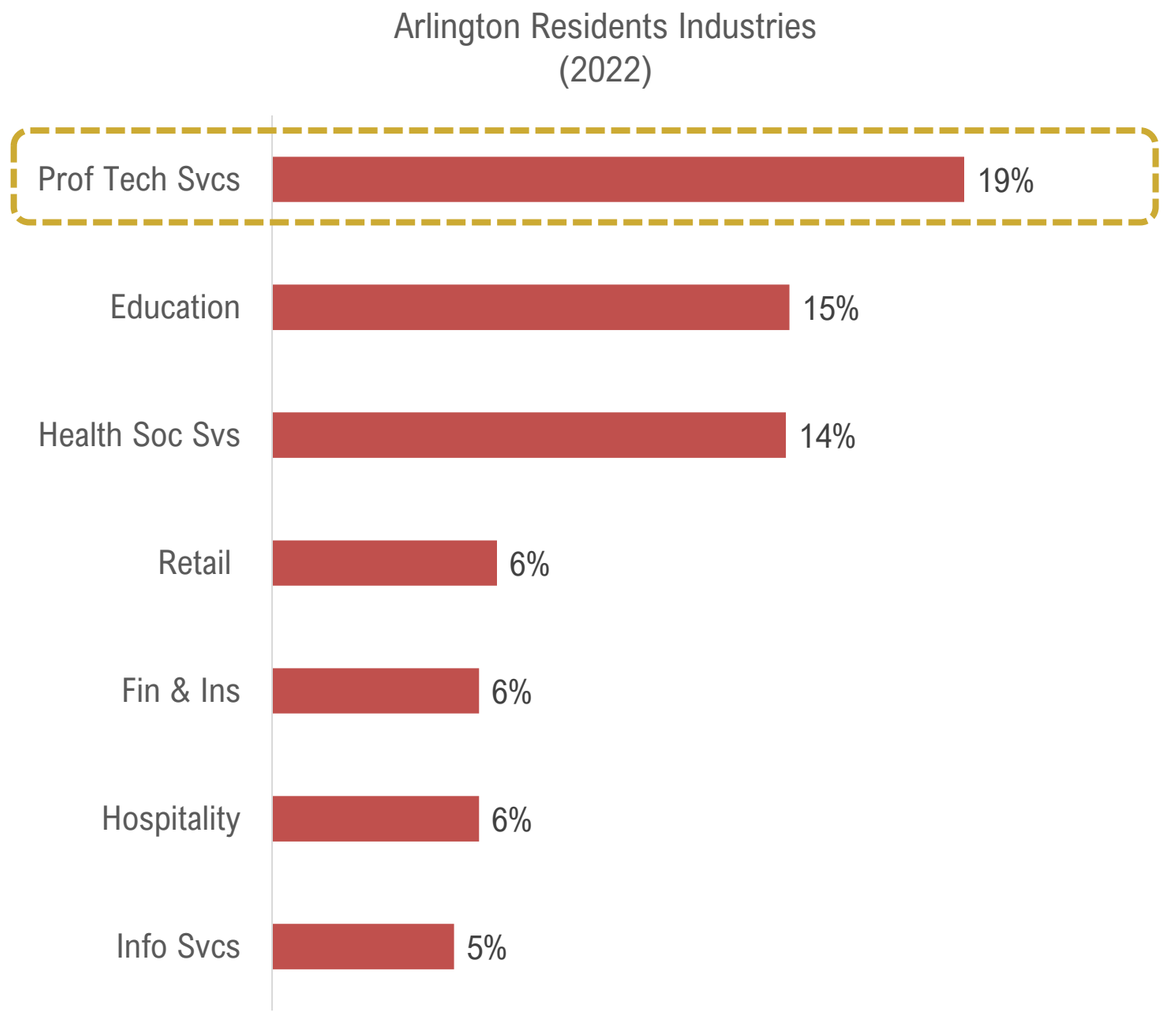
- 250 new businesses and 1,300+ employees added since 2013.
- Largest growth in professional and technical services sector – 67% increase since 2013.
- Health care and social services also grew by 17%.



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022, Esri (2024), Esri-Data Axle (2024), Esri-U.S. BLS (2024),

Most jobs in Arlington are filled by commuters

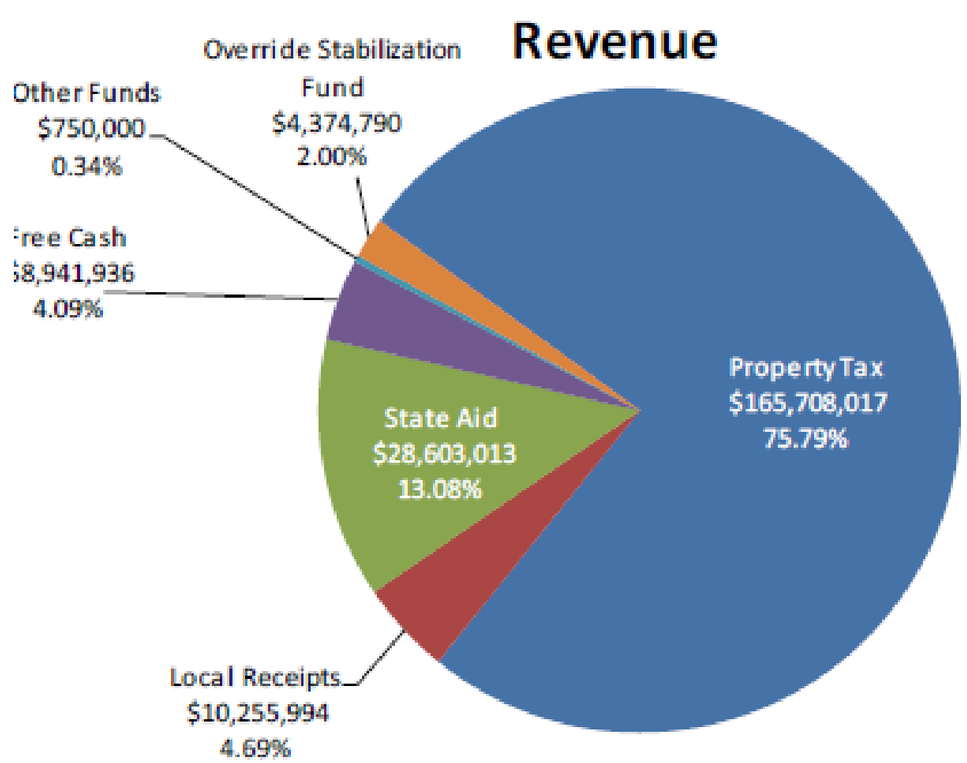
- 93% of Arlington residents commute out of Arlington for work.
- 83% of local jobs are filled by people from outside Arlington.
- Flow of workers is driven by mismatch in jobs available in Arlington vs. types of jobs residents hold.
  - More residents work in professional and technical services sector than jobs available locally.



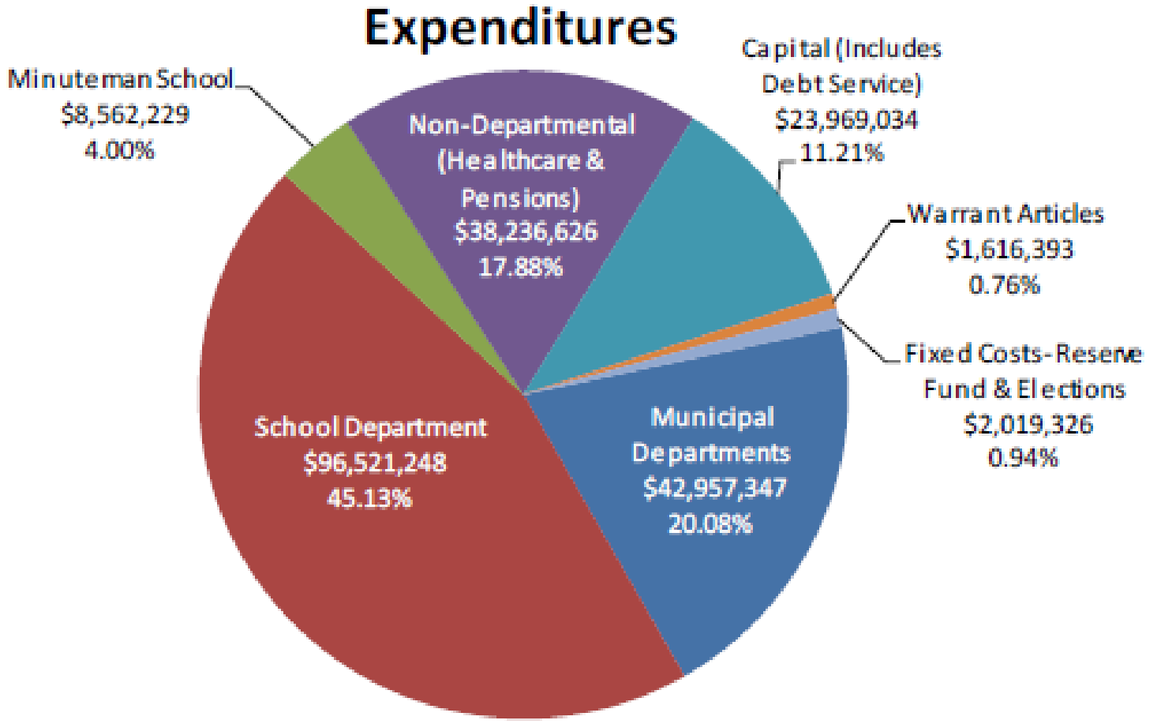
Source: http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/

Arlington's Revenue vs. Expenditure

Property tax is largest revenue source



School Department generates largest expense



Fiscal Year 2025

Total $218,633,750

Source: 2023 Annual Report

// HEARING FROM YOU

Hearing from You

Tonight's discussion

We need your input to inform a community vision for the future of Arlington

- 40-45 minutes of small group discussions followed by report-backs
- Headline from 2035, best places and places to improve, shared priorities
- An online survey will be available for those who could not attend tonight



Hearing from You

What would you like Arlington to be like in 2035?

Write a brief social media post or newspaper headline from the future on the individual worksheets (5 minutes)

Briefly share your headline with your table (10 minutes)

Hearing from You

Where are the best places and places most in need of change?

Talk around your table and use the table map, dot stickers, and sticky notes to identify and describe:

- Up to 5 great places in Arlington, what they are, and why.
- Up to 5 places that need improvement or changes and why. How can these areas better meet the needs of Arlington in the future?

(15-20 minutes)



Hearing from You

What are 5 shared priorities for the future of Arlington?

Talk around your table and identify five (5) shared priorities for the future. These can be:

- General topics to address (housing, economy, etc.)
- Specific issues to explore during the planning process
- Places within Arlington (industrial areas, open spaces, downtown, etc.)

(10-15 minutes)



Hearing from You

What priorities did each table identify?

A representative from each table will briefly share the group's 5 shared priorities so everyone can hear what others thought. (20 minutes)



Hearing from You

Please leave all written materials on the tables

What we hear will be used to develop a **draft vision statement and goals** for the future of Arlington

- Ideas on the individual worksheets and table maps will be summarized.
- Input from the online survey will be added to tonight's.

Hearing from You

Tell your neighbors and friends!

1. Take the visioning survey on the project website
2. Use the interactive map to identify more places you love or want to see change
3. Look for the project team at events this spring and summer

AmpUp! Arlington Comprehensive Plan project website:

https://engagestantec.com/arlington-comp-plan

THANK YOU!