ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

January 1991

Arlington County is an urban county of about 26 square miles located directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. There are no incorporated towns or cities within Arlington’s boundaries. Arlington was originally part of the ten-mile square surveyed in 1791 for the Nation’s Capital. In response to requests from local residents, in 1846 the U.S. Congress returned the portion of the District of Columbia on the west bank of the Potomac River to the Commonwealth of Virginia. This area was known as Alexandria City and Alexandria County until 1920 when the County portion was renamed Arlington County.

Arlington’s location in the center of the Washington metropolitan region, just five minutes from Washington by car or Metrorail, has made the County a highly desirable business and residential location. Arlington has maintained high-quality residential neighborhoods while supporting well-managed growth. High-density commercial and residential development is focused around Metro stations in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and the Jefferson Davis corridor which includes Pentagon City and Crystal City.

Arlington is both a residential community and an employment center. The County had a population of 171,200 and was home to 219,800 jobs as of January 1, 1991. These figures represent a population increase of about 12 percent and an increase in employment of nearly 55 percent over 1980 levels.

Arlington’s office market generated nearly 16 million square feet of new office space between 1980 and 1990, greatly expanding the County’s tax base. As of January 1990, Arlington’s real property tax base was evenly divided between commercial and residential properties, enabling the County to maintain a tax rate of $0.765 per $100 of assessed value, the lowest property tax rate in the Washington region.

An additional $19,000 square feet of office space will be added in 1991 to the current inventory of 29.5 million square feet. This space will be in the Courthouse Metro station area and on Route 50. In 1990, 1.1 million square feet of office space was absorbed, resulting in a year-end vacancy rate of 10.3%.

The PROFILE is published by the Data Analysis and Research Staff of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development in cooperation with the Economic Development Division.

For further information on the PROFILE and other demographic and development data and publications, please contact the Comprehensive Planning Section at (703) 359-3525.

**PLANNING DIVISION PUBLICATIONS**
- General Land Use Plan (map)
- Sector Plans: Courthouse, Clarendon, Virginia Square, Ballston (reference only),contain policy guidelines for future land use, zoning and urban design,
- Development in the METRO Corridors:
- Development profiles by METRO station area, maps and tables of all approved developments including project name, address, size, height and parking space.
- Information Reports. Topics include: Population estimates, Consumer Price Index, Round 4 Forecasts of Population, Households and Employment, Demographic Trends, Development Capacity in Metro Corridors, Cost of Living,
- Residential, Office and Commercial Construction Reports.

For further information on economic development, site location assistance and business services please contact the Economic Development Division at (703) 359-3520.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION PUBLICATIONS**
- Economic Development Update, Quarterly Newsletter.
- Profile of New Commercial Development
- Available Office/Retail/Industrial Space.
- Principal Employers, Listing.
- House and Restaurant Guide.
- Arlington Meeting Planners Guide.
- Office Building Directory.
- Shopping Centers in Arlington, VA.