

Warren County Relocation Package



**AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED
LICENSEE OF LONG & FOSTER**

Long & Foster/Webber & Associates, Realtors®
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INTRODUCTION

LONG & FOSTER/WEBBER & ASSOCIATES is a growing, vibrant real estate firm. Long & Foster/Webber & Associates is one of the largest offices in the Blue Ridge Association of Realtors area. We currently have a staff of 50 Associates. Among these are one Associate Broker, 5 Associates with the hard earned GRI (Graduate Realtors Institute) designation, one CRB (Certified Residential Broker) designation, 2 CRS (Certified Residential Specialist), 3 SRES (Senior Housing Specialist) and 6 ABR (Accredited Buyer Representative) designations. We also have 14 agents whom are multi-state licensed.

We are highly visible in the real estate community, having won virtually every award available from our Association. We have staff that has served on the local Association's Board of Directors and has held every office through the Association's presidency. Our sales staff has won Salesperson of the Year Award, Rookie of the Year Award, Realtor of the Year and Ethics Awards. In some of these categories, we have multiple winners. The agents of Long & Foster/Webber & Associates are community oriented. We work for the Chamber of Commerce, and act as volunteers in almost every charity, including raising money for Habitat for Humanity.

As a business entity, we are clearly leaders. Our relocation package is second to none. Our agents come from, and work with, all walks of life. We are highly trained and continue our education through weekly sessions. We have extensive backgrounds in relocation.

Long & Foster/Webber & Associates is located at 1001 Berryville Avenue. Berryville Avenue, which becomes Route 7 East, is among the heaviest traveled routes in the City of Winchester. We operate from a two thousand seven hundred square foot modern office building built and designed as a real estate office. Our one-story, ground level location makes our visibility and image second to none, and the ground floor, front door parking and handicapped accessed facility makes the convenience for our customers and clients unparalleled.

GOVERNMENT

The Mayor, Town Council and members of the Town staff welcome you to the Town of Front Royal. Incorporated on November 15, 1788 as a fifty-acre town, Front Royal now consists of more than 9 square miles of land containing approximately 14,000 citizens. From a municipal government standpoint Front Royal operates as if it were a medium sized city. The Town itself continues to maintain a quaint, small town atmosphere.

County of Warren	Town of Front Royal
County Offices P.O. Box 908 636-4600	Town Hall P.O. Box 1560 635-8007

County Government: Chairman/Board/Administrator
Sheriff Dept: Sheriff and 24 Road Deputies

Front Royal Government: Mayor/Council/Manager
Police Dept. Personnel: Chief and 28 Full Time Officers
The County and the Town of Front Royal have Planning Commissions, Zoning Regulations, and Industrial Site Plan approval.

Fire and Rescue Personnel: 4 paid & 207 Volunteers within 9 companies.

Equipment: 19 Pumper Trucks, 4 Attack Pumpers, 7 Brush Trucks, 4 Tankers, 2 Ladder Trucks, 9 Ambulances, 3 Mobile Units, 2 Boats, 1 Heavy Crash Truck.

Fire Protection Classification: ISO-5 Front Royal; ISO-9 County

TAXES

Tax Notes:

- * Companies pay either county or city taxes.
- * Towns provide additional community services over those available, as well as tax assessment for those in unincorporated areas of the counties.
- * Water & Sewer service rates outside town limits are generally higher.
- * Nominal Real Estate rates per \$100 of assessed value for 2000 are listed for general comparison.
- * Real Estate is assessed at fair market value.
- * Assessment methods for Personal Property and Machinery and Tools depend on the jurisdiction.
- * Tax rates in the Northern Shenandoah Valley tend to be lower than other areas of Virginia offering comparable services.
- * Differences in rates effect differing levels of services and tax base.

Tax Year 2000: Nominal Rates per \$100 Assessed Value

Jurisdiction	Real Estate	Personal Property	Machinery & Tools
Clarke Co.	.74	4.00	1.25
Berryville	.989	1.00*	.90*
Boyce	.07*	.60*	1.25*
Frederick Co.	.525	4.20	2.00
Middletown	.065*	1.25*	n/a
Stephens City	.076*	1.00*	.50*
Page Co.	.74	3.00	2.00
Luray	.25*	.40*	.40*
Shenandoah	.28*	.33*	.33*
Stanley	.16*	.45*	.45*
Shenandoah Co.	.68	2.86	2.86
Edinburg	.185*	.75*	.75*
Mt. Jackson	.19*	.75*	n/a
New Market	.15*	.80*	380*
Strasburg	.22*	1.11*	.86*
Toms Brook	.10*	.50*	.50*
Woodstock	.19*	.90*	.90*
Warren Co.	.79	3.15	2.25
Front Royal	.13*	.60*	.60*
City of Winchester	.69	4.50	1.20

* Add-on Taxes

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CABLE TV:

Adelphia Cable Communications (800) 835-4949
Direct TV (800) 531-5000

ELECTRICITY:

Town of Front Royal (540) 635-7799
Allegheny Power (Warren County) (800) 255-3443

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Virginia Employment Commission 540-636-6161
VA Workers Compensation 1-800-367-8600
Atwork Personnel Services 540-636-7500
Manpower 540-631-9138
AES Corporation Services 1-800-832-6561
Cabrey Associates, LLC 1-540-436-8468

HEATING FUEL:

Amerigas Propane (800) 237-1320, (540) 635-3556
Columbia Propane Inc. (800) 897-9979, (540) 869-7788
H.N. Funkhouser & Co. (540) 636-8000
Quarles Petroleum Inc. (540) 635-2166
Valley Discount Fuel Co. (800) 279-2566, (540) 635-4028

NEWSPAPERS:

Warren Sentinel 540-635-4174
(Thursdays)
Northern Virginia Daily 540-636-6188
(Monday-Saturday)
Winchester Star 540-667-3220
(Monday-Saturday)

POST OFFICE:

Front Royal (540) 635-4540
Linden (540) 636-9936
Bentonville (540) 635-3225

STATISTICAL/DEMOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission 540-635-4146

TELEPHONE/INTERNET:

Embarq Communications 1-800-786-6272
Verizon 1-800-695-6955
Shentel Internet (800) 768-5220

VEHICLE TAXES AND TAGS:

County Sticker (540) 635-2215
(Treasurer's Office)

Town Sticker (540) 635-7799
(Town of Front Royal)

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (540) 635-1454
(Department of Motor Vehicles)

VOTER REGISTRATION:

Warren County Registrar 540-635-4327
(Warren County Court House)

WATER:

Town of Front Royal (540) 635-7799
Smeltzer's Water Services (800) 962-7374

HEALTH

Winchester Medical Center (WMC) serves the Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland tri-state area providing complete health care. The WMC is owned and operated by the Valley Health System. The WMC features their Heart Center, which was ranked as one of the top 100 in the nation, a Cancer Center, and an Inpatient/Outpatient Rehab Center.

Active Medical Staff of: 226
Patient Beds: 405

Warren Memorial Hospital located in Front Royal, Virginia is a sister hospital to WMC as they are owned and operated by Valley Health Systems. Warren Memorial offers a Woman's Care Center and a 40 bed Nursing Home as part of the hospital's facilities.

Active Medical Staff of: 46
Patient Beds: 81

Shenandoah Memorial Hospital is located in Woodstock, Virginia and provides primary health care to Shenandoah County. Shenandoah Memorial Hospital features their Family Centered Maternity Ward, Intensive/Coronary Care Unit and Ambulatory Surgery.

Active Medical Staff of: 30
Patient Beds: 81

Page Memorial Hospital is located in Luray, Virginia and provides primary health care to the immediate surrounding area of Page County.

Active Medical Staff of: 12
Patient Beds: 54

VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia provides quality medical care for veterans in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Emergency airlift is available by Pegasus to the University of Virginia Medical Center, which is the one of the top 100 Hospitals in the Nation according to HCIA-SACHS INSTITUTE.

CLIMATE

Warren County's climate is characterized by mild winters and warm, humid summers.

Winter daytime temperatures are usually in the 40's with nighttime lows in the 20's.

During the summer, daytime highs are usually in the 80's with nighttime lows around 60 degrees.

PRECIPITATION

The average annual precipitation in Warren County is 40 inches and snowfall averages 21 inches annually. The mean date of the last spring freeze is April 26 and the mean date of the first fall freeze is October 13, making the average growing season around 170 days.

Prevailing winds are from the south-southwest direction at an average velocity of 10 mph.

TOPOGRAPHY

Warren County is bounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the Massanutten Mountains on the west. The Blue Ridge Mountains are the highest, averaging 2,700 feet above sea level throughout the County. The lowest elevations are found in the north (1,925 feet at the Clarke County line) and the highest in the south (3,460 feet at the Page County line). The Massanutten Mountains average 2,000 feet above sea level with the highest elevations in the north (2,106 feet on Signal Knob) and lowest in the south (1,860 feet at the Page County line). These two mountain ridges visually dominate the landscape within the County, looming 1,000 to 2,900 feet over the central lowland. Topography in these mountainous parts includes steep-walled valleys with fast flowing streams and wooded slopes.

POPULATION

Population, 2002	
Town of Front Royal	County of Warren
13,000	30,600

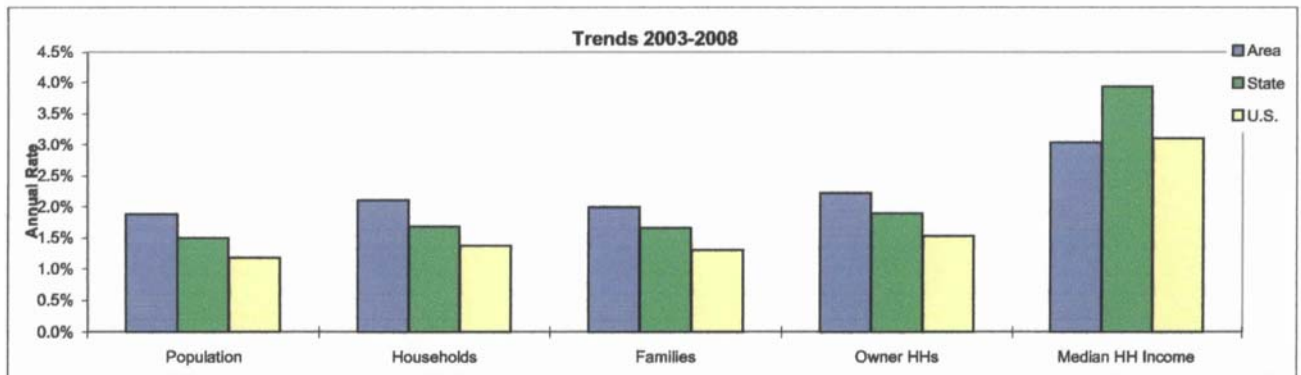
Census2000 Population By Age Front Royal 0-10 miles Source: ESRI 2003		Warren County - Snapshot Source: ESRI 2003				
<5	6.6%		2003 Front Royal 0-10 Miles	2008 Forecast Front Royal 0-10 Miles	2003 Front Royal 0-25 Miles	2008 Forecast Front Royal 0-25 Miles
5-14	14.7%					
15-19	6.6%	Population	56,255	61,776	197,586	216,777
20-24	5.7%	Households	21,499	23,85	77,735	86,370
25-34	12.6%	Families	15,228	16,807	54,291	60,024
35-44	17.0%	Median Age	37.4	38.9	39.2	41.1
45-64	25.1%	Per Capita Income	\$23,133	\$28,209	\$26,499	\$33,668

65-74	6.5%	Median Household Income	\$48,695	\$56,571	\$49,344	\$58,763
75-84	4.0%	Average Household Income	\$59,873	\$72,375	\$66,865	\$84,046
85+	1.2%	Average Household Size	2.58	2.56	2.51	2.48
Median Age	37.4	<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. ESRI forecasts for 2003 and 2008.</i>				

I-66 & US 522
 Front Royal, VA
 0-10 Miles

Site Type: Circle

Latitude: 38.961080
 Longitude: -78.192670
 Radius in Miles: 10.00



Source: ESRI

CHURCHES/RELIGION

- Over 210 Protestant Churches
- Six Catholic Churches
- Two Jewish Synagogues located in Winchester and Harrisonburg
- Two Mormon Churches located in Frederick County and Front Royal
- Unitarian and Unity Churches in Frederick County

TEMPORARY LODGING

BED & BREAKFASTS

Fairview House
Phone: 540-635-3588

Killahevin Bed & Breakfast Inn
Phone: 636-7335

Lackawanna Bed & Breakfast
Phone: 636-7945

Tanglewood
Phone: 635-1411

Woodward House on Manor Grade
Phone: 540-635-7010

CABINS

Beau Ridge Cabins
Phone: 540-636-4856

Big Meadows Lodge
Phone: 1-800-999-4714

Linger on the Shenandoah
Phone: 635-6642

Sky Haven
Phone: 540-635-1915

INNS

Wayside Inn, Since 1797
Phone: 540-869-1797

MOTELS

Blue Ridge Motel
Phone: 636-7200

Hampton Inn, Front Royal
Phone: 540-635-1882

Bluemont Inn
Phone: 635-9447

Scottish Inns
Phone: 540-636-6168

Budget Inn
Phone: 540-635-2196

Quality Inn
540-635-3161

SHOPPING

Front Royal is one of those towns where shopping is still a delight. From small, locally owned uptown specialty shops featuring locally made merchandise to large nationally known names in area shopping centers, the merchants are friendly and the service is courteous and reliable.

You can find just about anything you want in Front Royal and Warren County. Choose that special accessory for your favorite outfit or pick up a family heirloom or work of art. This is shopping that is leisurely and fun.

If your taste runs more cosmopolitan, you're only an hour away from the exclusive shops of the DC area with their "one of the kind" selection and designer labels. Spend an afternoon shopping in the city and top it off with dinner at a world-class restaurant, then head back to the quiet beauty of Warren County.

Living here offers you the best of both worlds! This is just one of the many amenities you'll enjoy when you call Front Royal home.

TRANSPORTATION

Since the days when trails from Manassas and Chester Gaps met at LeHewtown (now Front Royal), this area has been at the center of travel activity. Centrally located at the northernmost entrance of the Shenandoah National Park's beautiful Skyline Drive, Front Royal is just 70 miles from Washington, DC and at the intersection of Interstate Highways 66 and 81. This means easy shipment of goods to a variety of markets and easy access to other parts of the state and country for Front Royal residents.

Evidence of the transportation hub that Front Royal and Warren County have become is the location of a UPS regional distribution center here. The county is also home to the state's only inland shipping port facility. The Virginia Inland Port (VIP), located on Routes 340/522 in Warren County, is an inter-modal container transfer facility operated by the Virginia Port Authority.

This 160-acre facility brings cargo over 200 miles close to inland markets without sacrificing quick, easy access to the ocean. The VIP is located close to both Interstates 81 and 66, on the main line of the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Cargo is transferred directly from the VIP ports of Hampton Roads, and vice versa, by rail. The VIP provides a cost-effective alternative to barging from northern feeder ports. This facility saves shippers, shipping lines and trucking company's time and money in handling cargo.

Southern Railway and Norfolk & Western Railway provide freight service to and from the county, shipping locally produced goods cross-country. The local airport boasts a 3,000+-foot runway and complete airport services. Additionally, Dulles International Airport is less than an hour's drive to the east. Washington National Airport and Baltimore-Washington International Airport are close by as well. There is a regional commercial airport located in nearby Winchester with full flight facilities.

It is easy to see why this area has always been well suited for manufacturing and shipping goods to other parts of the country.

Local Airports:

Front Royal – Warren County
Luray Caverns Airport
New Market Airport
Winchester Regional Airport (Customs Service; Parallel taxiway; and Terminal)

Commercial/International Airport Services:

Baltimore-Washington International Airport
Dulles International Airport
Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
Shenandoah Valley Airport in Rockingham County (Served by United Express and US Air Express)

Bus Service:

Greyhound (Charter Bus Services)
Richards Bus Lines, Inc. (Charter Bus Services)
Schrock Tour and Charter Service
Winchester Public Transit

Motor Freight:

ABF Freight Systems, Inc.
American Freightways
Athey Trucking
Bowman Trucking
CF Motor Freight
Con-Way Southern Express
Dayton Transport Corp.
Estes Express Lines
Gale International
Hahn Transportation
Hepner Trucking
Mason & Dixon Terminal
Old Dominion
Overnite Transportation
RiteWay Express
Shamrock Distribution
Simbeck, Inc.
Trans. Serv. Associates, Inc.
Wako Services
Wilson Trucking Corp.

SCHOOLS

Warren County Public Schools (2005-2006)				
	Schools	Grades	Staff	Enrolled
Primary	5	K-5		2276
Middle School	1	6-7		798
Jr. High School	1	8-9		920
High School Grades 10-12	1	10-12		1179
TOTAL	8		750	5173

Staff

328 Teachers/Counselors/Librarians
 12 Central Office Administrators
 8 Principals
 18 Other Professional Staff
 325 Classified Support Staff

Total Operating Budget = \$35.9 million:
 71% Instruction
 3% Administration/Attendance/Health
 5% Transportation
 10% Operations/Maintenance
 4% Food Service
 7% Debt Service
 Average Per Pupil Expenditure for Instruction:
 \$5,021.50

Warren County High School Statistics:

87% of students plan to further their education
 beyond high school
 34% of students receive advanced studies diploma
 Dropout rate = 1.8% (State = 2.02%)

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS

A.S. Rhodes Elementary

224 W. Strasburg Rd.
540-635-4556

Leslie Fox Keyser Elementary

1015 E. Stonewall Dr.
540-635-3125

Ressie Jeffries Elementary

320 E. Criser Rd.
540-636-6824

E. Wilson Morrison Elementary

40 Crescent St.
540-635-4188

Hilda J. Barbour Elementary

290 Westminster Drive
540-622-8090

Warren County Middle School

600 W. 15th St.
540-635-2194

Warren County Junior High

155 Westminster Drive
540-636-3199

Warren County High School

240 Luray Ave.
540-635-2194

Alternative Education Program

Criser Rd.
540-636-2400

Special Services

Criser Rd.
540-635-5587

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Randolph-Macon Academy

201 Academy Drive.
540-636-5200

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Christendom College, 2101 Shenandoah Shores Rd. 540-636-9000

Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown 540-869-1120

Shenandoah University, Winchester 540-665-4500

PRESCHOOLS & KINDERGARDEN

Valley Road Baptist Church (540) 635 - 3094 RR 737 Front Royal,
VA 22630

Today's Child Pre School (540) 635 - 2062 115 Luray Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630

Royal Christian Academy and Pre School (540) 636 - 7940 1111 North
Shenandoah Avenue Front Royal, VA 22630

Nazarene Little Darlings (540) 636 - 2881 1107 Monroe Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630

Angels Korner (540) 635 - 9787 517 Braxton Road Front Royal,
VA 22630

Kids Place (540) 635 - 3999 606 Massanutten Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630

Little Sheep School & Preschool (540) 635 - 8202 1340 Old
Winchester Pike Front Royal, VA 22630

Meadowland Learning Center (540) 635 - 6630 Front Royal, VA 22630

Mountain Laurel Montessori School (540) 636 - 4257 155 Biggs Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630

LIBRARIES

Handley Public Library, City of Winchester
Estimated Volume: 87,000

Mary Jane & James Bowman Library, Stephens City
Estimated Volume: 55,200

Clarke County Library, Berryville
Estimated Volume: 16,600

Samuels Public Library, Front Royal
Estimated Volume: 80,000

Lord Fairfax Community College Library, Middletown
Estimated Volume: 56,811

Alson B. Smith Library, Shenandoah University, City of Winchester
Estimated Volume: 272,000

Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg
Estimated Volume: 70,000

Page County Public Library, Luray
Estimated Volume: 45,000

Rockingham Regional Library, Harrisonburg
Estimated Volume: 140,000

*Through the Northern Shenandoah Valley Library Network, links the collections of Shenandoah University, Lord Fairfax Community College, Samuels Public Library and Warren County High School.

RECREATION

Tourism is big business in Front Royal and Warren County -- and with good reason. The natural beauty of the area coupled with its accessibility by highway make for great vacationing and sightseeing.

Civil War Attractions:

Belle Boyd Cottage/Warren Heritage Society
Cedar Creek Battlefield Visitors Center
National Cemetery
Hupp's Hill Battlefield Park & Study Center

Regional Attractions:

Appalachian Trail
State Arboretum of Virginia – Blandy Farms
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Northern Virginia 4-H Center
Shenandoah National Park/Skyline Drive
Shenandoah River/Andy Guest State Park

Caverns:

Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill
Endless Caverns
Luray Caverns
Shenandoah Caverns
Skyline Caverns

Golf Courses:

Bowling Green Country Club
Bryce Resort Golf Club
Carpers Valley Golf Club
Front Royal Country Club
Jackson's Chase at Pine Hills Golf Club
Shenandoah Valley Golf Club

Sporting Facilities:

Bryce Mountain Ski Resort
Charles Town Race Track
Lake Arrowhead
Lake Frederick
Shenandoah River Outfitters
Summit Point Raceway
Winchester Speedway
Marriott Ranch

Festivals:

Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival
Shenandoah Valley Music Festival

*For more information, please call the Chamber of Commerce (540-635-5788)

LABOR FORCE

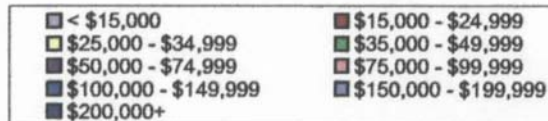
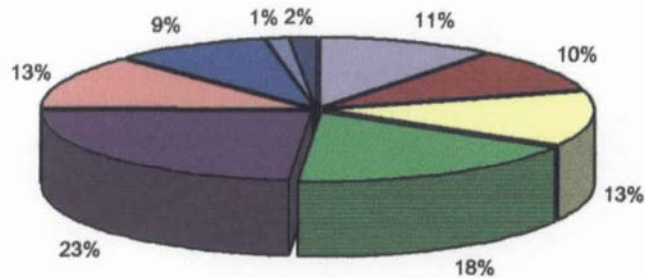
Employment & Wages By Industry 4th Quarter, 2001

Industry	Annual Avg. Employment	Avg. Weekly Wage
Agriculture	137	\$581
Construction	759	\$622
Manufacturing (Durable)	407	\$633
Manufacturing (Nondurable)	515	\$934
Services	2,723	\$485
Government (Local)	1,320	\$511
Transportation	609	\$654
Trade	472	\$680
Retail Trade	2,429	\$374
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	264	\$544

Virginia is a right-to-work state.

(Source: Virginia Employment Commission)

2003 Household Income



Virginia Employment Commission: www.VAemploy.com

Year	Month	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
2004	June	16,990	16,464	526	3.1
2004	May	16,693	16,221	472	2.8
2004	April	16,581	16,159	422	2.5
2004	March	16,508	16,066	442	2.7
2004	February	16,483	15,951	495	3.0
2004	January	16,483	15,888	595	3.6
2003	December	16,175	15,731	444	2.7
2003	November	16,226	15,742	484	3.0
2003	October	16,188	15,666	522	3.2
2003	September	16,254	15,639	615	3.8
2003	August	16,425	15,833	592	3.6
2003	July	16,678	15,990	688	4.1
2003	June	16,454	15,776	678	4.1
Virginia Employment Commission, www.VAemploy.com					

<p>Warren County Workforce Survey May 2003 Total Civilian Labor Force = 16,300 12, 150 Between ages of 22 and 54</p>
<p>Commuting Labor Force = 6,270 persons ages 22 to 54 53% = Male; 47% = Female 60% with some college or degrees</p>
<p>8.4% of people (1,020) of Warren County are unemployed or actively seeking work</p>
<p>78% of commuters would consider employment within Warren County for similar jobs relating to their present employment</p>

25% of commuters would consider a new job in Warren County for \$15.17/hour or less

25% of commuters with most qualified experience levels would command more than \$25.00/hour

Destinations:

29% = Fairfax

15% = Outside Region

14% = Frederick County

12% = Prince William County

7% = Loudoun County

Commuter Areas of Endeavor:

17% = Government

15% = Private Industry

14% = Construction/Contractor

7% = Technology

7% Medical/Healthcare Services

Commuter Work Experience:

48% Office, Customer Service, Hospitality

42% Government/Education

37% Computer Operations

35% Warehouse/Distribution/Transportation

Underemployed Workforce = 6,370 (under/unemployed)

43% = Male; 57% = Female

Additional 5,000 in workforce pool would be available to change jobs

25% would take a new job for \$12.17/hour or less

25% most qualified would command more than \$23.75/hour

Underemployed possess the following skills and experience:

Manufacturing, Assembly, Fabrication & Industrial Operations;

Office, Computer and "White Collar";

Distribution or Transportation Operations;

Sales and Customer service.

Technical/Professional Certifications/Licenses of Underemployed Residents:

17% = Medical

11% = Computer

9% = Teaching

29% Other (Inspector, Food Preparation, Millwright, Technical Photographer)

Survey conducted by:

The Pathfinders, Dallas, Texas

HISTORY

The history of Warren County begins with the American Indians between 11,000 and 12,000 years ago. The site of the oldest known permanent habitations in the eastern United States is located in the County along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

White men first appeared in the Shenandoah Valley in the mid-1600's. Warren County was first settled around 1730. Many of the County's early settlers were Scots-Irish and English Quakers.

Warren County was situated at the intersection of land and water trade routes. Supplies and manufactured goods came through the Blue Ridge Mountains through Chester and Manassas Gaps. At the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, much of the early agricultural produce of the Valley was loaded onto barges for shipment to the coastal ports. The Town of Front Royal was eventually established at that river port in 1788.

Leadership and military manpower were the major resources supplied by Warren County and other Shenandoah Valley communities during the Revolutionary War. Pig iron, grain, leather, flour meat, fruit vegetables, and lumber were other valuable resources furnished to the Colonial cause.

Warren County began to boom in the early 1800's. The wars in Europe created a need for breadstuffs and brought a quick change from a tobacco-oriented economy to the raising of wheat.

The County was officially founded in 1836. It was formed from parts of Frederick and Shenandoah Counties. Front Royal has been the county seat from the beginning. In 1840, Warren County had a population of 5,627, one-fourth of which were slaves.

The first railroad made its way into the Shenandoah Valley in 1854 by way of the Manassas Gap and Front Royal

Warren County was of strategic importance during the Civil War because of its agricultural productivity, its transportation links with Winchester to the north, and its links with eastern Virginia by way of the roads through Chester and Manassas Gaps and the vital Manassas Gap Railroad.

The Battle of Front Royal, on May 23, 1862, was one of the Battles in General Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign. In that battle, confederate forces defeated 1,000 Union soldiers to capture a military supply depot, the Manassas Gap Railroad, and the strategic bridges over the two forks of the Shenandoah River at Riverton.

The Civil War destroyed most of the buildings in Warren County, but the soil could still be farmed and the County soon began to attract investors to develop local natural resources. By the 1890's, the County had again erupted in a flurry of activity. An enormous vineyard had been started near Front Royal, and iron, copper, and manganese were discovered within the County. Lime works had been founded in Riverton in 1869. Manufacturing also soon expanded, with sumac, tanning, and leather industries regaining the importance they had previously known. Other industries included tinning and cigar production. By 1900, Warren County's population had reached 8,837.

The two most important changes in Warren County during the 20th century have been the construction of two large manufacturing plants and the growth of tourism.

In 1937, construction began on the American Viscose manufacturing facility. This chemical-textile plant in Front Royal was at one time the world's largest producer of rayon. The U.S. Government operated the plant during World War II, producing materials to aid the war effort. FMC, Inc. purchased the facility and operated it into the mid 1970's. An FMC management team, led by Mr. John Gregg executed one of the first leveraged buyouts in the United States. The new company was named Avtex Fibers-Front Royal, Inc.

The rayon plant was the economic mainstay of this community for several decades. It was the largest employer within the region for over 20 years. Several major layoffs decreased the workforce from approximately 1300 in 1988 to 468 at the plant's closing in November 1989.

In 1980, a division of the DuPont Corporation was established in Cedarville near Front Royal. Paints for the secondary automotive market are manufactured at this facility. In 1989, with the closing of Avtex Fibers, DuPont became Warren County's largest employer.

Since 1994, the Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority has successfully recruited manufacturing, distribution, hospitality and technology companies for an investment of more than \$180 million and the creation of 1,400 new jobs.

Warren County has long attracted tourists and seasonal residents, who have come to the area because of its climate, accessibility to major cities, and scenic beauty. Major tourist attractions include the Shenandoah National Park, the Skyline Drive, the Shenandoah River and the Skyline Caverns.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone Services:

Local:

Adelphia
Intelos
Sprint
Shenandoah Telephone Co.
Verizon

Long Distance:

Equal Access for All of District Region

Internet Providers:

Adelphia Power Link
Shentel Internet Access
Visual Link, Inc.

Newspapers:

Daily:

Daily News Record
Northern Virginia Daily The Richmond Times Dispatch
The Washington Post
The Winchester Star

Weekly:

Clarke Courier
Page News and Courier
Shenandoah Valley Herald
The Warren Sentinel
The Free Press

Monthly:

Quad State Business Journal

Radio Stations:

91.3, Winchester
92.5, Winchester
93.7, Woodstock
95.3, Front Royal
96.9, Mt. Jackson
102.5, Winchester
104.9, Berryville
105.5, Berryville
1400 (AM), Winchester