

Carroll County Commuter Survey

Prepared by

Matthew Kachura **The Jacob France Institute**

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Executive Summary

In an effort to collect information on the commuting habits of Carroll County residents, the Carroll County Department of Economic Development retained the Jacob France Institute of the University of Baltimore to conduct a survey of Carroll County residents. The Jacob France Institute developed and implemented a phone survey, to collect information on the commuting habits, occupation, education level, and other related labor force characteristics of 807 Carroll County residents.

According to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), the Carroll County labor force was comprised of 84,264 workers in 2001. The survey respondents were randomly selected from Carroll County residents and represent 0.01% of the Carroll County labor force. The survey results are a random, valid sample of the Carroll County workforce +/- 3.4%.

Location of Employment

- Of those persons that are employed outside of their home, **62% work outside of Carroll County**. The major destinations for out-of-county commuters are Baltimore County (20%) and Baltimore City (13%).
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of persons employed outside of their home work in Carroll County, with the most frequent locations of employment being Westminster (50%), Hampstead (10%), Eldersburg (9%), and Sykesville (7%).

Commuting Habits

- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Carroll County residents surveyed who work outside of their home commute to their job by car.
- Forty-five percent (45%) of Carroll residents surveyed that work outside of the home responded that their 1-way commute to work is 1 to 19 miles, 38% responded that it is 20 to 39 miles, and 17% responded that it is 40 miles or more.
- Of those Carroll residents that work outside of the home, 28% indicated that their round-trip commute to work takes up to 30 minutes daily, 27% responded that it takes 30 minutes to an hour, and 45% indicated that it takes an hour or more daily.
- Of those persons that commute to work, 78% responded that they are satisfied with their commute to work and 21% indicated that they are not satisfied with their commute to work.

Telecommuting

- Nineteen percent (19%) of surveyed Carroll residents who work outside of their home have the option to telecommute. Of these persons, 61% telecommute to their jobs.
- Of the persons who do not have the option to telecommute, 35% would like to have the option to telecommute to their jobs.

Occupation and Industry of Employment

- Fifteen percent (15%) of Carroll County residents that were surveyed responded that they are self-employed and 5% indicated that they consider themselves to be employed in the biotechnology industry.
- The most frequent occupations held by Carroll residents who work in Carroll County included Sales and related occupations (12%), Education, training and library occupations (12%), Personal care and service occupations (8%), Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (7%), and Management occupations (7%).
- The most frequent occupations held by Carroll residents who work outside of Carroll County included Management occupations (12%), Computer and mathematical occupations (11%), Business and financial operations occupations (11%), Sales and related occupations (9%), and Architecture and engineering occupations (8%).
- The most frequently cited industries in which surveyed Carroll County residents are employed in are services (28%), government (19%), construction (10%), manufacturing (10%), retail trade (10%), and finance, insurance and real estate (10%).

Educational Attainment

- Twenty-three percent (23%) of surveyed Carroll residents have a high school degree, 6% have a technical or vocational degree, 23% have taken some college classes, 8% have an Associates degree, 24% have a Bachelor's degree, 13% have a Masters degree, and 5% have a professional degree.
- According to the United States Bureau of the Census, 32% of Maryland residents over 25 years old have a Bachelor's degree or higher in 2000. The percentage of Carroll residents that were surveyed having a Bachelor's degree or higher is 41% indicating that Carroll residents are generally more educated than the average Maryland resident.
- Forty-six percent (46%) of Carroll residents that work outside of the County have a Bachelor's degree or higher as compared to 36% of Carroll residents that work in Carroll County.
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of surveyed Carroll residents hold special licenses or certifications that are required by their occupation.

Employment Opportunities in Carroll County

- When Carroll County residents who worked outside of the County were asked if they would consider changing employers if a position having similar pay and responsibilities were available in the County, 62% responded that they would change employers.
- Forty-five percent (45%) responded that Carroll County has sufficient employment opportunities and 55% responded that the County does not have sufficient employment opportunities.

Gross Income of Carroll Residents

- Eleven percent (11%) of respondents earned less than \$20,000 annually, while over half (54%) earned from \$20,000 to \$59,999 and 34% earned over \$60,000 annually.
- Out-of-county commuters had higher incomes than that of residents that worked in Carroll County. For instance, nearly double the percentage of persons that make over \$80,000 annually work outside of Carroll County (22%) as compared to those persons who work in Carroll County (12%).

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Carroll County Commuter Survey

Introduction and Project Description

In an effort to collect information on the commuting habits of Carroll County residents, the Carroll County Department of Economic Development retained the Jacob France Institute of the University of Baltimore to conduct a survey of 800 Carroll County residents. The Jacob France Institute developed and implemented a phone survey to collect information on the commuting habits, occupation, education level, and other related labor force characteristics of 807 Carroll County residents.

According to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), the Carroll County labor force was comprised of 84,264 workers in 2001. The survey respondents were randomly selected from Carroll County residents the survey results represent a random, valid sample of the Carroll County workforce +/- 3.4%.

Location of Employment

Table 1 shows that of the 807 persons surveyed who reside in Carroll County, 10% work in their home and 90% work in locations outside of their home.

Table 1
Do You Work At Home or Outside of the Home

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	807	
At Home	78	9.7%
Outside of the Home	729	90.3%

Of those persons that work outside of their home, 38% work in Carroll County and **62% work outside of Carroll County** (see Table 2). Ninety-seven percent (97%) of all persons surveyed in Carroll County work within Maryland. Forty-four percent (44%) of survey respondents work in Carroll County, 19% work in Baltimore County, 12% work in Baltimore City, 7% work in Anne Arundel County, and 6% work in Howard County. One percent (1%) of persons surveyed each work in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. (see Table 3).

Table 2
Of Persons Working Outside of the Home,
Do You Work in Carroll County

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	
No Response	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	729	
Yes	277	38.0%
No	452	62.0%

Table 3
State and County That Carroll Residents Work

			Respondent	s Working	
	All Resp	All Respondents		Outside Home	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Responses	807		729		
No Response	0	0.0%	0	0	
Total Valid Responses	807		729		
Maryland	784	97.1%	706	96.8%	
Anne Arundel	54	6.7%	54	7.4%	
Baltimore City	98	12.1%	98	13.4%	
Baltimore County	149	18.5%	149	20.4%	
Carroll	355	44.0%	277	38.0%	
Frederick	26	3.2%	26	3.6%	
Harford	3	0.4%	3	0.4%	
Howard	50	6.2%	50	6.9%	
Montgomery	33	4.1%	33	4.5%	
Prince George's	16	2.0%	16	2.2%	
Pennsylvania	8	1.0%	8	1.1%	
Virginia	7	0.9%	7	1.0%	
Washington, D.C.	8	1.0%	8	1.1%	

With 38% of the persons surveyed that work outside of their home employed within Carroll County, it is important to note where in the County that they work (see Table 4). Half (50%) of the persons who work in Carroll County are employed in Westminster, 10% work in Hampstead, 9% work in Eldersburg, 7% work in Syskesville, 5% work in Finksburg, and 3% work in Taneytown. Other locations cited by respondents in Carroll County were Union Bridge, Mt. Airy, and Manchester.

Table 4
Where in Carroll County do you Work

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	355	
No Response	78	22.0%
Total Valid Responses	277	
Westminster	137	49.5%
Hampstead	27	9.7%
Eldersburg	26	9.4%
Sykesville	20	7.2%
Finksburg	13	4.7%
Taneytown	8	2.9%
Other	46	16.6%

Commuting Habits

Table 5 shows the primary means of commuting to work for persons who work outside of their home is by car (95%), with 2% using a combination of travel means, and less than 1% each using the bus and the train.

Table 5
How Do You Commute to Your Job

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	
No Response	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	729	
Car	695	95.3%
Bus	4	0.5%
Train	2	0.3%
Combination of Methods	15	2.1%
Other Methods of Travel	13	1.8%

With 90% of persons surveyed working outside of their home, survey respondents were asked the distance of their one-way commute to their job (Table 6). Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents indicated that their one-way commute is from 1 to 9 miles, 21% indicated that their commute is from 10 to 19 miles, 21% responded that their commute is from 20 to 29 miles, 17% responded that their commute is from 30 to 39

miles, 9% responded that their commute is from 40 to 49 miles, and 8% responded that their one-way commute to their work is over 50 miles.

Table 6
How Many Miles is Your 1-Way Commute to Work

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	TOTOGIA
No Response/Don't Know	7	1.0%
-		
Total Valid Responses	722	
1 to 9 Miles	173	24.0%
10 to 19 Miles	153	21.2%
20 to 29 Miles	153	21.2%
30 to 39 Miles	124	17.2%
40 to 49 Miles	62	8.6%
Over 50 Miles	57	7.9%

Knowing the distance of the commute made by Carroll County residents each day is only one part of the required information on commuting patterns. Survey respondents were also asked how long it takes to commute to work each day (see Table 7). Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents indicated that their commute takes less than 15 minutes, 15% responded that their commute takes from 15 to 30 minutes, 27% responded that their commute takes from 1 to 2 hours, and 10% responded that their commute takes over 2 hours each day.

Table 7
What is the Length of Time it Takes for Your Roundtrip Commute

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	
No Response/Don't Know	4	0.5%
Total Valid Responses	725	
Less than 15 Minutes	95	13.1%
15 to 30 Minutes	108	14.9%
30 Minutes to 1 Hour	196	27.0%
1 to 2 Hours	255	35.2%
Over 2 Hours	71	9.8%

Carroll County residents that worked outside of the home were asked to indicate their overall level of satisfaction with their commute to work (see Table 8). Seventy-eight percent (78%) of persons surveyed indicated that they are satisfied with their

commute to work while 21% are not satisfied with their commute to work. Forty-three percent (43%) of the persons who worked outside of their home were very satisfied with their commute to work.

Table 8
How Satisfied are You
With Your Commute to Work

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	
No Response/Don't Know	11	0.1%
Total Valid Responses	728	
Very Satisfied	315	43.3%
Somewhat Satisfied	252	34.6%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	97	13.3%
Very Dissatisfied	64	8.8%

Telecommuting

Table 9 shows that 19% of the Carroll County residents that were surveyed who work outside of their home have the option to telecommute. Of those persons who have the option to telecommute, 61% of them do telecommute to their jobs (see Table 10). Monthly, 26% of persons telecommute less than 10 hours, 23% telecommute 10 to 19 hours, 14% telecommute 20 to 29 hours, 12% telecommute 30 to 39 hours, and 26% telecommute 40 or more hours per month (see Table 11).

Table 9
In Your Job,
Do You Have the Option to Telecommute

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	729	
No Response/Don't Know	1	0.1%
Total Valid Responses	728	
Yes	137	18.8%
No	591	81.2%

Table 10

If You Have the Option to Telecommute,
Do You Currently Telecommute

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	137	
No Response/Don't Know	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	137	
Yes	84	61.3%
No	53	38.7%

Table 11 How Many Hours Per Month Do You Telecommute

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	137	
No Response/Don't Know	59	43.1%
Total Valid Responses	78	
Less than 10 Hours	20	25.6%
10 to 19 Hours	18	23.1%
20 to 29 Hours	11	14.1%
30 to 39 Hours	9	11.5%
40 or More Hours	20	25.6%

Of those persons who do not have the option to telecommute, 35% would like to have the option to telecommute and 65% would not like to have the option to telecommute (see Table 12). The reasons that residents provided as to why they do not want to telecommute ranged from having to meet with clients daily, to that their job required them to travel, to expressing that they like having to go to an office location, to that they did not have a computer at their home.

Table 12 If You Do Not Telecommute, **Would You Like the Option to Telecommute**

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	591	
No Response/Don't Know	14	2.4%
Total Valid Responses	577	
Yes	202	35.0%
No	375	65.0%

Occupation and Industry of Employment

A core goal of this survey was to collect information on the occupation and industry of employment of County residents. Carroll County is a major commuter county sending workers to both the Washington Suburbs and Baltimore area. According to the 1990 United States Census, (data from the 2000 Census has not yet been released) 70% of Carroll County residents that are 16 years or older commute to their jobs. Identifying the occupation and industry of employment for County residents provides important information that the County could use to identify businesses interested in accessing the highly educated pool of labor that resides in the County. Carroll County residents that responded indicated that they worked in positions that required a high level of education or certification and possessed a strong base of occupational skills.

Table 13 shows that 15% of Carroll County residents that were surveyed responded that they are self-employed. In Table 14, 5% of all respondents stated that they work in occupations considered to be in the biotechnology industry. Compared to the State of Maryland, a greater percentage of persons that work in the biotechnology field reside in Carroll County. Across the State, the percentage of persons that are employed in the biotechnology industry is 0.3% of total private employment in 2000¹.

¹ It is important to note that the 0.3% biotechnology industry employment figure is for employment by the businesses classified by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's (DLLR) Maryland High Technology Report, while these figures represent self reported industry of employment. The DLLR biotechnology employment figure does not include the High Technology Research sector in which many biotechnology companies are classified. Furthermore, the self reported "biotechnology industry" of employment could include biotechnology-related occupations employed in the health care or other sectors of the economy.

Table 13
Are you Self-Employed

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response/Refused	1	0.1%
Total Valid Responses	806	
Yes	117	14.5%
No	689	85.5%

Table 14
Is Your Occupation Considered to be in the Biotechnology Industry

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response/Refused	4	0.5%
Total Valid Responses	803	
Yes	40	5.0%
No	763	95.0%

Carroll County residents that were surveyed were additionally asked to provide their occupation and a description of their occupation. From this information, the occupations were coded into the major occupational codes established by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/oes/2000/oes_md.htm) (see Table 15). Of the valid and coded responses, the most frequent occupations held by Carroll residents included: Sales and related occupations (11%), Management occupations (10%), Business and financial operations occupations (9%), Education, training and library occupations (8%), Computer and mathematical occupations (8%), Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (7%), Office and administrative support occupations (6%), and Architecture and engineering occupations (5%). These positions indicate that the County has a highly skilled and educated workforce that could meet the needs of new or expanding businesses.

When looking at those residents surveyed that are employed within Carroll County and those residents that are employed outside of the County, some variations in occupation are seen. The most frequent occupations held by Carroll residents who work in Carroll County include: Sales and related occupations (12%), Education, training and library occupations (12%), Personal care and service occupations (8%), Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (7%), and Management occupations (7%). The most frequent occupations held by Carroll residents who work outside of Carroll County

include: Management occupations (12%), Computer and mathematical occupations (11%), Business and financial operations occupations (11%), Sales and related occupations (9%), and Architecture and engineering occupations (8%). While there is similarity in the occupational employment between those persons that work in the County and those persons that work outside of the County, more persons working outside of Carroll County are employed in technical and supervisory occupations.

Table 15
Occupational Classifications of Surveved Carroll County Residents

			Persons who Work		Persons who Work	
	All Pe	All Persons		in Carroll County		f Carroll
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807		355		452	
No Response/Refused	6	0.7%	3	0.8%	3	0.7%
Unclassifiable	87	10.8%	36	10.1%	51	11.3%
Total Valid Responses	714		316		398	
Sales and Related Occupations	75	10.5%	39	12.3%	36	9.0%
Management	69	9.7%	21	6.6%	48	12.1%
Business and Financial Operations	61	8.5%	19	6.0%	42	10.6%
Education, Training and Library	58	8.1%	38	12.0%	20	5.0%
Computer and Mathematical	57	8.0%	14	4.4%	43	10.8%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	48	6.7%	22	7.0%	26	6.5%
Office and Administrative Support	43	6.0%	20	6.3%	23	5.8%
Architecture and Engineering	38	5.3%	7	2.2%	31	7.8%
Production Occupations	35	4.9%	13	4.1%	22	5.5%
Personal Care and Service	33	4.6%	24	7.6%	9	2.3%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	30	4.2%	11	3.5%	19	4.8%
Construction and Extraction	29	4.1%	13	4.1%	16	4.0%
Transportation and Material Moving	29	4.1%	15	4.7%	14	3.5%
Healthcare Support	19	2.7%	10	3.2%	9	2.3%
Food Preparation and Serving	19	2.7%	13	4.1%	6	1.5%
Legal	17	2.4%	6	1.9%	11	2.8%
Protective Service	16	2.2%	4	1.3%	12	3.0%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	14	2.0%	10	3.2%	4	1.0%
Community and Social Services	10	1.4%	8	2.5%	2	0.5%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8	1.1%	6	1.9%	2	0.5%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	5	0.7%	3	0.9%	2	0.5%
Life, Physical and Social Science	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%

It is also important to identify the industry of employment for Carroll County residents (see Table 16). Twenty-eight percent (28%) of survey respondents work in services, 19% work for the government, 10% work each in construction, manufacturing, retail trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate, and 9% work in transportation, communications, and public utilities. Six percent (6%) work in wholesale trade and no persons interviewed work in the mining industry.

Table 16 What Industry are You Employed By

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response/Don't Know	176	21.8%
Total Valid Responses	631	
Mining	0	0.0%
Construction	62	9.8%
Manufacturing	61	9.7%
Wholesale Trade	37	5.9%
Retail Trade	61	9.7%
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	57	9.0%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	62	9.8%
Services	174	27.6%
Government	117	18.5%

Educational Attainment

Survey respondents were also asked to provide the highest level of education that they have completed (see Table 17). Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents have a high school degree or a GED, 6% have a technical or vocational degree, 23% have some college credits, 8% have an Associates degree, 24% have a Bachelor's degree, 13% have a Masters degree, and 5 % have a professional degree. According to the United States Bureau of the Census, 32% of Maryland residents over 25 years old have a Bachelor's degree or higher in 2000. The percentage of Carroll residents that were surveyed having a Bachelor's degree or higher is 41% indicating that Carroll residents are generally more educated than the average Maryland resident.

When the level of educational attainment is analyzed by where the Carroll County residents are employed, it can be seen that persons having a higher level of education tended to work outside of Carroll County. While 41% of Carroll residents have at least a Bachelor's degree, 46% of Carroll residents that work outside of Carroll County have a Bachelor's degree or higher as compared to 36% of Carroll residents that work in Carroll County.

Table 17
What is the Highest Level of Education that You Have Completed

	All Pe	ersons	Persons who Work in Carroll County		Persons who Work Outside of Carroll	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807		355		452	
No Response/Don't Know	2	0.2%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	805		353		452	
High School/GED	181	22.5%	102	28.9%	79	17.5%
Technical or Vocational	45	5.6%	16	4.5%	29	6.4%
Some College	184	22.9%	87	24.6%	97	21.5%
Associate Degree	62	7.7%	21	5.9%	41	9.1%
Bachelor's Degree	194	24.1%	69	19.5%	125	27.7%
Masters Degree	101	12.5%	39	11.0%	62	13.7%
Professional Degree	38	4.7%	19	5.4%	19	4.2%

Besides their educational degree, persons in a variety of industries and occupations hold specialized licenses or certifications for their occupation. Table 18 shows that 37% of respondents hold specialized licenses or certificates and 63% do not. Of those persons who do have specialized licenses or certifications, 19% are medical related, 11% are teaching related, 8% are business related, 6% are specialized drivers licenses (such as a commercial drivers license), 5% are computer related, and 3% are legal related (see Table 19).

Table 18
Do You Hold any Special Licenses or Certifications
Required by Your Occupation

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response/Don't Know	0	0.0%
Total Valid Responses	807	
Yes	298	36.9%
No	509	63.1%

Table 19
Types of Licenses or Certifications
Required by Survey Respondents Occupation

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	298	
No Response/Don't Know	3	1.0%
Total Valid Responses	295	
Medical	55	18.6%
Teaching	33	11.2%
Business	23	7.8%
Commercial Drivers License	19	6.4%
Computer	14	4.7%
Legal	10	3.4%
Social Worker	2	0.7%
Real Estate	2	0.7%
Other	137	46.4%

Employment Opportunities in Carroll County

When Carroll County residents who worked outside of the County were asked if they would consider changing employers if a position having similar pay and responsibilities were available in the County, 62% responded that they would change employers (See Table 20). Twenty-six percent (26%) of residents responded that they would not change employers and 12% were unsure. Of those residents that would not change employers, the primary reasons that they provided as to why they would not change employers ranged from they enjoy where they are employed, to benefit issues, to being close to their retirement at their current employer.

Table 20
If a Position Having Similar Pav and Responsibilities
Were Available in Carroll County, Would You be Willing
to Change Employers

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	452	
No Response/Don't Know	3	0.7%
Total Valid Responses	449	
Yes	276	61.5%
No	118	26.3%
Maybe, It Depends	55	12.2%

Carroll County residents that were surveyed were asked if they feel that Carroll County has sufficient employment opportunities for persons in their profession (see Table 21). Forty-five percent (45%) responded that Carroll County does have sufficient employment opportunities and 55% responded that the County does not have sufficient employment opportunities.

Table 21

Do You Think that Carroll County has Sufficient Employment

Opportunities for Persons in Your Profession

	Number	Percent
Total Responses	807	
No Response/Don't Know	65	8.1%
Total Valid Responses	742	
Yes	333	44.9%
No	409	55.1%

Gross Income of Carroll Residents

Table 22 shows the average gross annual income for Carroll County residents that were surveyed. Eleven percent (11%) of respondents earned less than \$20,000 annually, while over half (54%) earned from \$20,000 to \$59,999 and 34% earned over \$60,000 annually.

When comparing those persons that work in Carroll County to those persons that work outside of Carroll, those persons that earning higher levels of income tended to be employed outside of the County. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of persons that work in Carroll County earn less than \$40,000 compared to 23% of persons that are employed outside of the County. Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents that works in Carroll

County earn over \$40,000 and 77% of persons employed outside of the County earn over \$40,000. Nearly double the percentage of persons that make over \$80,000 annually work outside of Carroll County (22%) as compared to those persons who work in Carroll County (12%).

Table 22
Which of the Following Best Describes Your Gross Annual Income

	411.5		Persons who Work		Persons who Work		
	All Pe	rsons	in Carroll	County	Outside of	Outside of Carroll	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Responses	807		355		452		
No Response/Don't Know	83	10.3%	41	11.5%	42	9.3%	
Total Valid Responses	724		314		410		
Less than \$20,000	79	10.9%	69	22.0%	10	2.4%	
From \$20,000 to \$39,999	199	27.5%	115	36.6%	84	20.5%	
From \$40,000 to \$59,999	193	26.7%	61	19.4%	132	32.2%	
From \$60,000 to \$79,999	125	17.3%	32	10.2%	93	22.7%	
Over \$80,000	128	17.7%	37	11.8%	91	22.2%	

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