

## Balancing Economic Development Opportunities

Anne Arundel County's economy is one of the strongest in Maryland. This vibrant economy is driven by the following combination of elements:

- ⊕ A diverse, world class business community with strong emphasis on technology that interacts with regional, national, and global markets;
- ⊕ Excellent transportation connections to regional, national, and global markets;
- ⊕ A world class workforce of highly educated and highly skilled people; and
- ⊕ The Chesapeake Bay shoreline, Historic Annapolis, the Naval Academy and many scenic waterfront areas that make Anne Arundel County an attractive location for residents and visitors alike.

The County's strong economy is evidenced by its continued strong job growth. The County has consistently been gaining an average of 5,000 new jobs per year. Between 1990 and 2000, employment in the County grew by 18% from approximately 252,000 jobs to nearly 298,000 jobs; representing one of the strongest job growth rates in the Baltimore region. The County gained an additional 21,000 jobs between 2000 and 2005, and job growth is expected to continue over the next two decades, with 22,000 new jobs expected to locate in the County by 2015 as a direct result of BRAC.

Of course, the current downturn in the national economy will potentially impact job growth in the greater Baltimore-Washington area including Anne Arundel County. Currently the impact in the central Maryland region has not been as significant as in other parts of the country, though short term effects are difficult to predict. For the purposes of long range planning, it is assumed that the economy will stabilize over the next few years and that economic growth will continue over the long term.

Current employment in Anne Arundel County is distributed over a wide range of industrial sectors. Sectors such as aerospace and defense, science and technology, health care, manufacturing, wholesale trade, support services and construction have led business growth in the County since the year 2000. The technology sector, for example, grew by 11% between 2000 and 2005 and employs over 18,000 people. This sector will continue to grow along with other defense-driven industry due to the location of Fort Meade, the

