

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2008

---

**ISSUE:** Receipt of the City's Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ending July 31, 2008. This report is informational in nature and will not be docketed for City Council action. The August report will be docketed for the September 23 Council Meeting.

### **MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **ECONOMY AND REVENUES**

Due to accounting standards, most taxes collected in July are counted as revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008.

For June 2008, the average residential sales price in Alexandria decreased 4.75 percent compared to an average 20 percent drop in Northern Virginia.

Early indications of FY 2008 year-end results show revenues slightly exceeded projections and expenditures were slightly less than projections. Pre-audit FY 2008 year-end results will be reported to Council in the next monthly financial report.

#### **EXPENDITURES**

**Human Services:** Expenditures reflect first quarter payments to community organizations and some contractors who provide services to the City.

**Non-Departmental:** As planned in the first step in addressing the City's long-term unfunded liabilities for retiree health and life insurance as budgeted, a transfer of \$5.6 million was made to the Other Post Employment Benefit Trust Fund (OPEB), where it will be invested.

**DISCUSSION:** This report provides financial information on revenues and expenditures of the General Fund for the month of July 2008. This report presents revenues and expenditures for the same period for fiscal year (FY) 2008 for comparative purposes (Attachments 1 and 2), and also provides charts of selected economic indicators (Attachment 3). As discussed in Attachment 4, property tax collections through August 15, 2008, and collections of most other local taxes through the end of August 2008 are counted as revenues of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, and will be reported in the City's audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008.

While the accounting for FY 2008 revenues and expenditures is not complete, it appears that FY 2008 revenues slightly exceeded projections with real estate, personal property, meals sales taxes, and interest earnings outperforming expectations. Sales taxes and business license taxes underperformed expectations. The Schools also report their expenditures were less than budget. The FY 2008 positive ending position of both the City and the Schools will help buffer potential poor revenue performance (including possible further State aid reductions) in FY 2009, as well as assist in financing FY 2010, which is likely to be a difficult budget year for State and local governments in this region and across the country.

**ECONOMY:** The City's economy, as measured by tax receipts, continued to slow in the second half of FY 2008. However, when compared to many regions of the United States, the City's economy remains very sound. The City's economy is influenced by regional and national economic cycles, is in a transitional phase in the economic cycle and bears careful watching. The City's unemployment rate, although higher than last year, remained at a relatively low 2.4 percent. The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) increased 5.0 percent from May 2007 to May 2008. The City's office vacancy rate increased from 5.2 percent to 7.1 percent as of March 31, 2008. This compares to first quarter office vacancy rates of 13.2 percent for Northern Virginia and 11.4 percent for the entire D.C. metropolitan area.

On the residential real estate sales front, data continues to show a slower residential sales market. Real estate sales for the first six months of 2008 showed a decline of 27 percent from the first six months of 2007. For the month of June 2008, the average residential sales price in Alexandria decreased by 4.75 percent.<sup>1</sup> This compares to an average sales price drop of 20 percent in Northern Virginia for June. The average sales price in Alexandria decreased over the first six months of 2008 by 5.42 percent.<sup>1</sup> The City's residential market continues to show some signs of weakness in both residential single-family and condominium markets, but remains stronger than outside the Beltway locations. While the residential market has been weak in 2008, sale prices have not dropped precipitously. Home sale prices on average are running close to January 2008 assessments. While single-family homes (detached, semi-detached, and townhouses) are not declining substantially in value overall, the condominium market continues to show a downward trend.

For 2009 (which affects FY 2009), this means that 56 percent of the City's real estate tax base may show a slight decline in total numbers. How the 44 percent commercial balance of the City's real estate tax base fares over the upcoming months will determine if the City's real estate tax base declines slightly for 2009. In particular, capitalization rates may increase, which will put downward pressure on commercial assessments. Since the City budgeted a zero increase in

<sup>1</sup> Reflects removal of newly constructed or converted condominium units and townhouses, as well as the \$4.8 million sale of 617 S. Lee St.

the real property tax base for 2009, a single digit decrease in the real property tax base is possible but manageable for 2009. Staff will continue to closely monitor revenues and report to Council through the Monthly Financial Report.

## REVENUES

As of July 31, 2008, actual General Fund revenues totaled \$1.6 million, which is \$0.3 million below FY 2008 revenues of \$1.9 million for the same time period last year. As discussed in Attachment 4, most taxes and revenues collected in July are counted as revenues of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008.

**Real Property:** Real property is assessed as of January 1 and assessment notices are mailed to property owners in February. Real estate taxes are billed in early May after Council sets the tax rate. Real estate taxes are billed and payable in two installments. The first tax bill is mailed in May and is payable by June 15. The second tax bill is mailed in October and is payable by November 15.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage change
*	\$293.6 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Personal Property:** Personal property tax revenue consists of two sources: individual personal property (primarily vehicles), and business personal property (includes motor vehicles, machinery, computers, and furniture). Business personal property taxes are assessed based on property owned as of January 1 and returns must be filed by May 1. Tax bills are then prepared based on the personal property tax rates set by Council in May. Personal property tax bills are prepared during a two-month period ending July 15 based on the personal property tax rate set by Council in May. Tax bills are mailed to taxpayers in late August and are due on October 5. The State's share of the local personal property tax payment for FY 2009 remains capped at \$23.6 million. This amount covers approximately 69 percent of most taxpayers' bills, which is the same rate that was provided last year.

	FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage change
Vehicles	*	\$18.0 million	-	-	-
Business - Equipments and Machinery	*	15.7 million	-	-	-
State Reimbursement	*	23.6 million	-	-	-
Total	*	\$57.3 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Sales and Use Tax:** Businesses remit sales tax to the Commonwealth within 30 days of the end of the month in which sales occurred. The Commonwealth wires the City's portion of the sales tax approximately one month later.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage change
*	\$24.0 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Consumer Utility Taxes:** Consumer utility taxes are collected by the utility companies one month after billing and are remitted to the City the following month.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$10.7 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Communications Tax:** Businesses remit the communication tax to the Commonwealth within 30 days of the end of the month in which the service occurred. The Commonwealth wires the City's portion of the communication tax one month later.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$13.0 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Business License Taxes:** The City's business license tax is due March 1, 2009. These collections are counted and analyzed in March. Most collections prior to March represent collections from taxpayers who pay on a quarterly basis.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$33.5 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Transient Lodging Taxes:** Transient lodging taxes are remitted to the City within one month after collections.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$11.5 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Restaurant Meals Taxes:** Meals and alcoholic beverage taxes are due to the City within 30 days of the month the sales occurred.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$15.0 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Cigarette Taxes:** Businesses remit cigarette tax revenue to the Northern Virginia Cigarette Board. This revenue is then forwarded to the City approximately 30 days after the end of the month in which the sales occurred.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$2.7 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Real Estate Recordation Taxes:** Real estate recordation tax revenues are collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and remitted to the City the following month.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$4.8 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Admissions Tax:** The admissions taxes are remitted to the City within one month after collections.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$1.0 million	-	-	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Licenses and Permits:** Increased revenue in this category reflects budgeted increased permits and fees.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change
*	\$6.2	\$0.4	\$0.5	34.2%

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Charges for Services:** Revenues in this category include refuse user charges, ambulance fees, clerk fees and parking meter receipts.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change Year-to-Date
*	\$14.5 million	\$0.3 million	\$0.3 million	-

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**Revenue from Use of Money & Property:** Revenues in this category include interest on investments, parking garage/lot fees and rental of property income. The City earned 2.82 percent on an annualized basis on its investments during July, compared to 5.12 percent last year.

FY 2008 Actuals	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2008 Year-to-Date	FY 2009 Year-to-Date	Percentage Change Year-to-Date
*	\$6.0 million	\$0.4 million	\$0.9 million	(125.0%)

\*Included when FY 2008 CAFR is completed

**EXPENDITURES (Attachment 2):** As of July 31, 2008, actual General Fund expenditures totaled \$35.9 million, an increase of \$6.9 million, or 2.4 percent, above expenditures for the same period last year. The Approved General Fund Budget is 2.4 percent higher than FY 2008 amended budget. The FY 2009 budget includes an appropriation of \$5.6 million for Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) obligations for retiree health and life insurance. As indicated in Attachment 4, this report reflects actual cash disbursements through July 31, 2008.

Most City expenditure payments are made on a level basis during the year. There are some payments, however that are made either at one time at the beginning of the year, or on a different basis, such as quarterly. The City makes the following types of payments on an other than level basis:

**Equipment Replacement Fund:** Every year, the City separately accumulates funds to replace major equipment items such as police cars and fire apparatus. The allocation of these funds is included in the budget of individual departments and is moved to a separate fund at the beginning of the year. Since these funds accumulate over several years, the fund is used to make the purchase once there are sufficient funds accumulated. This allows departments to fund the purchase over the life of the equipment instead of all at one time. These annual equipment replacement allocations are recognized as expenditures in this report at the time the transfer is made at the beginning of the year.

Of the \$4.8 million in total equipment replacement transfers in FY 2009, the following departments have equipment replacement funds large enough to impact their General Fund expenditure patterns at the beginning of the year:

1. Police - \$1.6 million
2. T&ES - \$0.6 million
3. Fire - \$1.3 million

**Contributory Payments:** The City makes some payments, such as contributions to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), on a quarterly basis. Since these payments are made less frequent than monthly, expenditures reported in this monthly financial report may be higher than average in those months when the payments are made. This financial report includes the following non-monthly payments:

Judicial Administration: This category includes quarterly contribution payments to judicial organizations such as Peumensend Creek Regional Jail and the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy.

Other Planning and Economic Development Activities: This category includes quarterly contribution payments to community agencies such as the Alexandria Small Business Development Center and bi-annual payments to the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association.

Transit Subsidies: This category includes payments in the quarter for the City's major transit programs including the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Other Education Activities: This category includes quarterly contribution payments to the Northern Virginia Community College.

**Personnel:** Expenditures-to-date represent budgeted tuition assistance payments to City employees.

**Recreation:** Expenditures reflect seasonal employee costs incurred during the summer.

**Schools:** School expenditure data will be provided by the School Administration in the October financial report, following the first month of school operations. The City will provide 78 percent of the estimated funds required to operate the City schools in FY 2008.

**Human Services:** Expenditures reflect payments to community organizations and contractors who provide services.

**Grant Accounting and Cash Matches:** To comply with many federal and State grant awards, the City's share funding is transferred from the General Fund to the Special Revenue Fund at the end of the fiscal year. Because the City share for most grants is not finalized until the funds are spent, departments set aside, but do not expend, City grant funds until the end of the fiscal year. This ensures that the City maximizes the use of federal and State funding before spending City funds. Most City funds not used for grants by the end of the year are returned to the City.

**Non-Departmental Expenditures:** General Fund expenditures in this category reflect the City's contributions to OPEB, the public safety pension plan, senior citizens' rent relief and payment for the City's liability insurance. The increase from the prior year represents a budgeted payment of \$5.6 million made to the OPEB Trust Fund, where it will be invested. Some pension contributions are made at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 - Comparative Statement of Revenues

Attachment 2 - Comparative Statement of Expenditures & Transfers by Function

Attachment 3 - Selected Economic Indicators

Attachment 4 – Explanation of Modified Accrual Accounting

**STAFF:**

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Laura B. Triggs, Acting Director of Finance

Ray Welch, Acting Comptroller

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUES**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR THE PERIODS ENDING JULY 31, 2008 AND JULY 31 2007**

	FY2009 APPROVED BUDGET	FY2009 REVENUES THRU 07/31/08	% OF BUDGET	FY2008 REVENUES THRU 07/31/07
<b>General Property Taxes</b>				
Real Property Taxes.....	\$ 293,600,498	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Personal Property Taxes.....	33,700,000	-	0.0%	-
Penalties and Interest.....	1,770,000	-	0.0%	-
<b>Total General Property Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 329,070,498</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Local Taxes</b>				
Local Sales and Use Taxes.....	\$ 24,000,000	-	0.0%	\$ -
Consumer Utility Taxes.....	10,700,000	-	0.0%	-
Communication Sales and Use Taxes.....	13,000,000	-	0.0%	-
Business License Taxes.....	33,513,000	-	0.0%	-
Transient Lodging Taxes.....	11,500,000	-	0.0%	-
Restaurant Meals Tax.....	15,000,000	-	0.0%	-
Tobacco Taxes.....	2,700,000	-	0.0%	-
Motor Vehicle License Tax.....	3,200,000	50,895	1.6%	45,676
Real Estate Recordation.....	4,800,000	-	0.0%	-
Admissions Tax.....	1,000,000	-	0.0%	-
Cell Phone Tax.....	-	-	-	-
Other Local Taxes.....	2,080,000	-	0.0%	-
<b>Total Other Local Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 121,493,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,895</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$ 45,676</b>
<b>Intergovernmental Revenues</b>				
Revenue from the Federal Government.....	\$ 7,223,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Personal Property Tax Relief from the Commonwealth.....	23,578,531	-	0.0%	-
Revenue from the Commonwealth.....	21,986,481	-	0.0%	-
<b>Total Intergovernmental Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 52,788,012</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Governmental Revenues And Transfers In</b>				
Fines and Forfeitures.....	\$ 4,755,300	\$ 318,759	6.7%	\$ 239,238
Licenses and Permits.....	6,157,000	517,066	8.4%	385,250
Charges for City Services.....	14,473,877	256,113	1.8%	274,746
Revenue from Use of Money & Property.....	6,000,000	368,439	6.1%	898,711
Other Revenue.....	616,750	88,876	14.4%	92,665
Transfer from Other Funds.....	2,023,910	-	0.0%	-
<b>Total Other Governmental Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 34,026,837</b>	<b>\$ 1,549,253</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>\$ 1,890,610</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 537,378,347</b>	<b>\$ 1,600,148</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>\$ 1,936,286</b>
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b>				
General Fund.....	8,800,000	-	0.0%	-
Reappropriation of FY 2008 Encumbrances And Other Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	-	0.0%	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 546,178,347</b>	<b>\$ 1,600,148</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>\$ 1,936,286</b>

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS BY FUNCTION  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE PERIODS ENDING JULY 31, 2008 AND JULY 31, 2007**

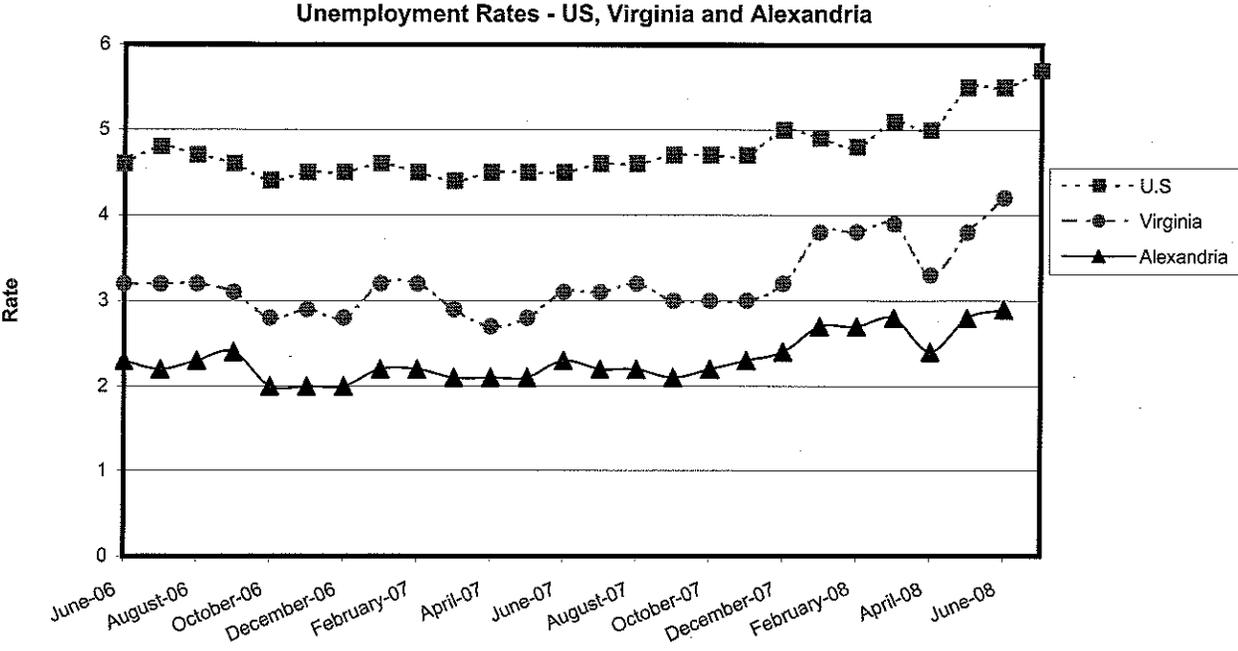
FUNCTION	FY2009	FY2009	% OF	FY2008
	APPROVED BUDGET	EXPENDITURES THRU 07/31/08		BUDGET
Legislative & Executive.....	\$ 7,287,745	\$ 590,819	8.1%	\$ 444,537
Judicial Administration.....	\$ 38,851,475	\$ 4,054,373	10.4%	\$ 3,581,689
<b>Staff Agencies</b>				
Information Technology Services.....	\$ 7,342,566	\$ 573,661	7.8%	\$ 618,314
Management & Budget.....	1,183,001	99,326	8.4%	87,956
Finance.....	9,833,109	714,595	7.3%	641,073
Real Estate Assessment.....	1,635,473	139,769	8.5%	128,960
Personnel.....	3,421,143	352,873	10.3%	325,379
Planning & Zoning.....	5,923,408	426,436	7.2%	365,953
Economic Development Activities.....	3,422,182	802,396	23.4%	1,115,879
City Attorney.....	3,341,753	161,067	4.8%	161,829
Registrar.....	1,275,383	114,786	9.0%	112,831
General Services.....	13,125,647	574,446	4.4%	689,848
Total Staff Agencies	\$ 50,503,665	\$ 3,959,355	7.8%	\$ 4,248,022
<b>Operating Agencies</b>				
Transportation & Environmental Services.....	\$ 29,242,032	\$ 2,001,331	6.8%	\$ 2,113,724
Fire.....	39,142,446	4,135,690	10.6%	3,466,305
Police.....	53,502,272	5,557,472	10.4%	5,316,611
Transit Subsidies.....	8,680,745	2,311,278	26.6%	2,267,442
Mental Health/Mental Retardation/ Substance Abuse.....	540,038	157,244	29.1%	152,093
Health.....	7,960,099	439,083	5.5%	414,924
Human Services.....	12,531,604	1,984,295	15.8%	2,072,839
Historic Resources.....	2,913,392	249,445	8.6%	201,150
Recreation.....	21,044,635	2,096,502	10.0%	2,063,488
Total Operating Agencies	\$ 175,557,263	\$ 18,932,340	10.8%	\$ 18,068,576
<b>Education</b>				
Schools.....	\$ 167,953,749	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Other Educational Activities.....	12,004	3,001	25.0%	3,100
Total Education	\$ 167,965,753	\$ 3,001	0.0%	\$ 3,100
<b>Capital, Debt Service and Miscellaneous</b>				
Debt Service.....	\$ 33,640,327	\$ 776,070	2.3%	\$ 815,070
Non-Departmental.....	14,409,749	6,182,551	42.9%	522,982
Cash Capital.....	4,917,687	-	0.0%	-
Contingent Reserves.....	-	-	-	-
Total Capital, Debt Service and Miscellaneous	\$ 52,967,763	\$ 6,958,621	13.1%	\$ 1,338,052
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 493,133,664	\$ 34,498,509	7.0%	\$ 27,683,976
<b>Cash Match (Mental Health/Mental Retardation/ Substance Abuse, Human Services and Library and Transfers to the Special Revenue Fund)...</b>				
	33,941,733		0.0%	-
Transfer to Housing.....	3,830,815	139,965	3.7%	112,685
Transfer to Library.....	7,205,135	598,026	8.3%	591,061
Transfer to DASH.....	8,067,000	667,071	8.3%	624,611
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS	\$ 546,178,347	\$ 35,903,571	6.6%	\$ 29,012,333

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

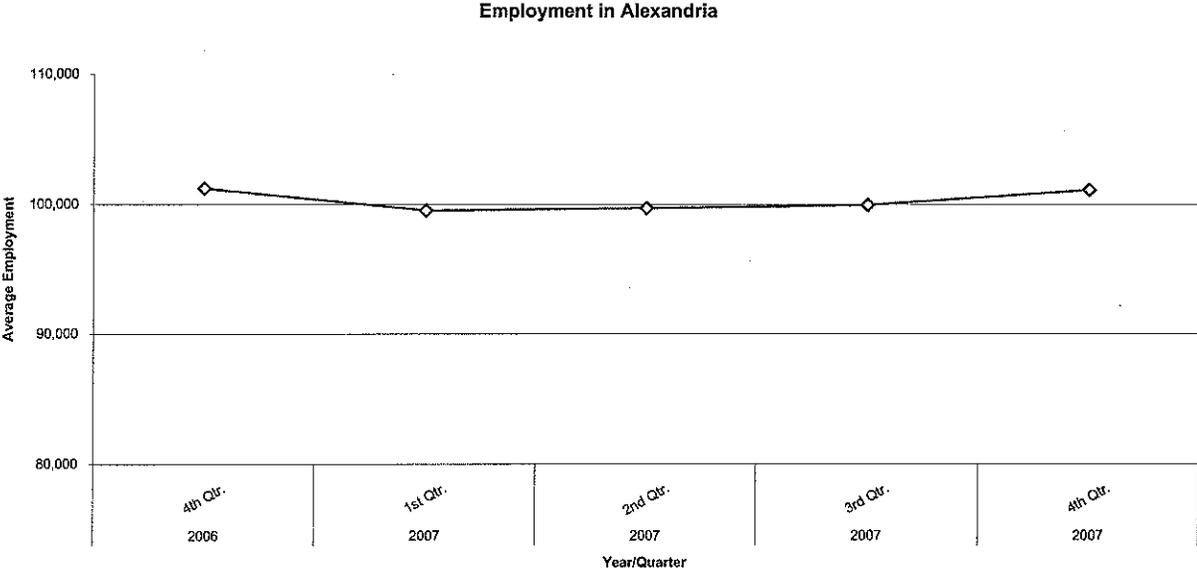
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<b><u>Consumer Price Index (CPI-U)</u></b> <b>for the Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV Area</b> (As of May 31, 2008) (Source: Published bi-monthly by United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)	139.6	133.0	+5.0%
<b><u>Unemployment Rates</u></b> <b>Alexandria</b> (As of June 30, 2008)	2.9%	2.3%	+26%
<b>Virginia</b> (As of June 30, 2008) (Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as adjusted)	4.2%	3.1%	+35%
<b><u>United States</u></b> (As of July 31, 2008) (Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)	5.7%	4.6%	+24%
<b><u>Interest Rates</u></b> (As of July 31, 2008)			
<b>Prime Rate</b>	5.0%	8.25%	-39%
<b>Federal Funds Rate</b> (Source: NY Federal Reserve Bank)	2.01%	5.26%	-62%
<b><u>New Business Licenses</u></b> (During July 2008) (Source: Finance Department, Business Tax Branch)	86	70	+23%
<b><u>Office Vacancy Rates</u></b> (As of March 31, 2008)			
<b>Alexandria</b>	7.1%	12.2%	-42%
<b>Northern Virginia</b>	13.2%	12.9%	+3%
<b>Washington DC Metro Area</b> (Source: Grubb & Ellis)	11.4%	11.1%	-2%
<b><u>New Commercial Construction</u></b> (As of July 31, 2008)			
<b>Number of New Building Permits</b>	1	-	-
<b>Value of New Building Permits</b> (Source: Fire Department Code Enforcement Bureau)	\$7.9 million	-	-
<b><u>Residential Real Estate Indicators<sup>1</sup></u></b> (YTD ending June 30, 2008)			
<b>Residential Dwelling Units Sold</b>	874	1,246	-29.9%
<b>Average Residential Sales Price</b> (Source: Department of Real Estate Assessments)	\$471,336	\$498,324	-5.4%

<sup>1</sup> Reflects removal of newly constructed or converted condominium units as well as the \$4.8 million sale of 617 S. Lee St.

**City of Alexandria  
Selected Economic Indicators**



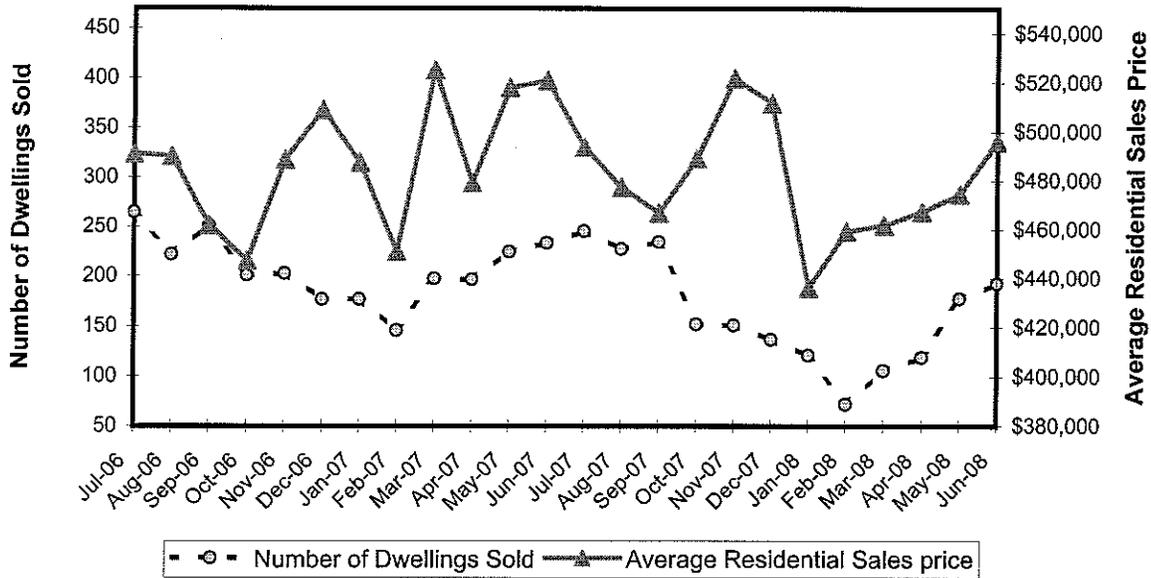
Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (as revised by BLS)



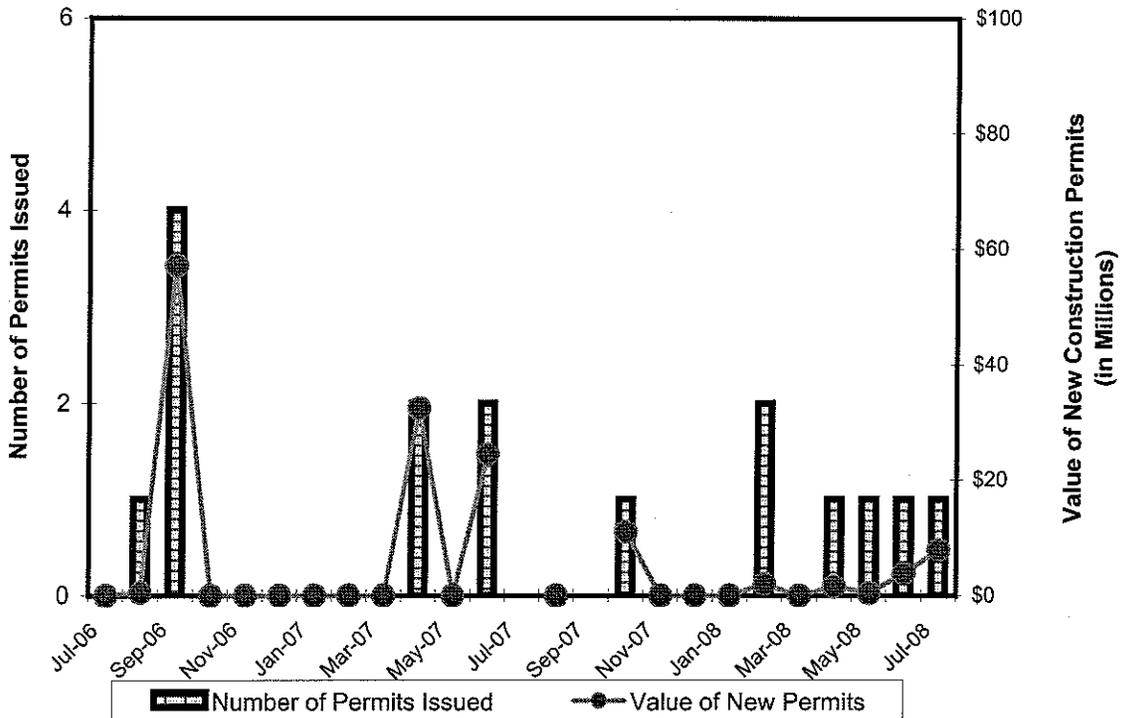
Source: Virginia Employment Commission, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

City of Alexandria  
Selected Economic Indicators

Selected Residential Real Estate Indicators

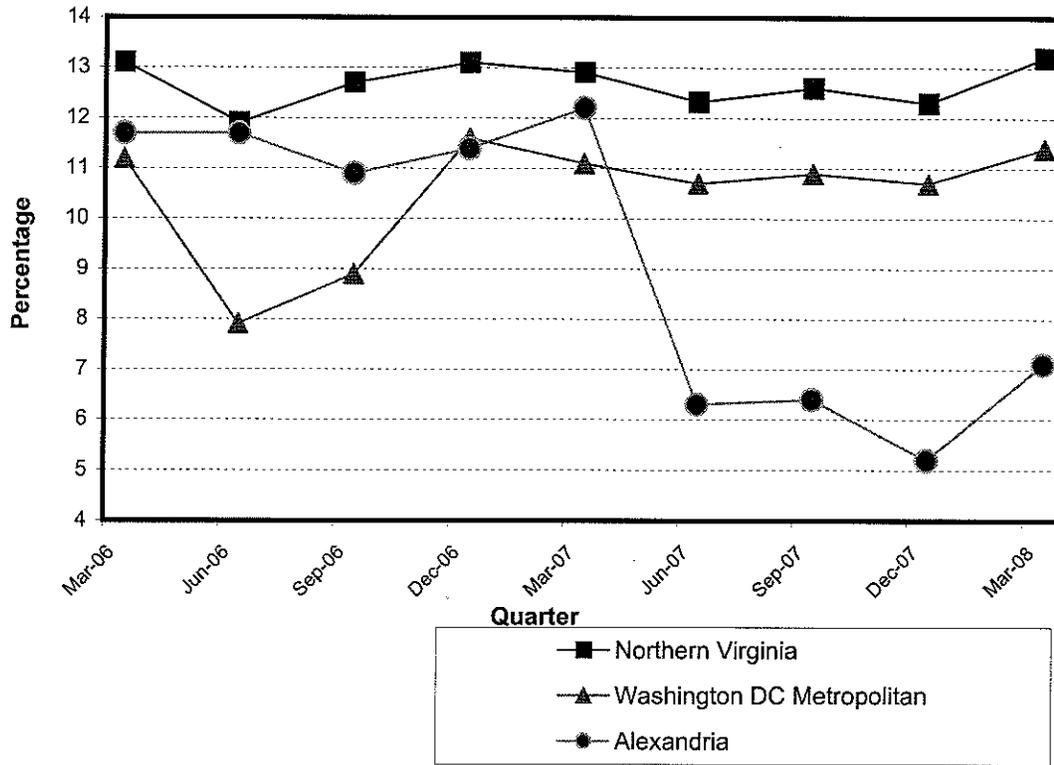


Alexandria New Commercial Construction  
Number of Permits and  
Value of New Construction Permits

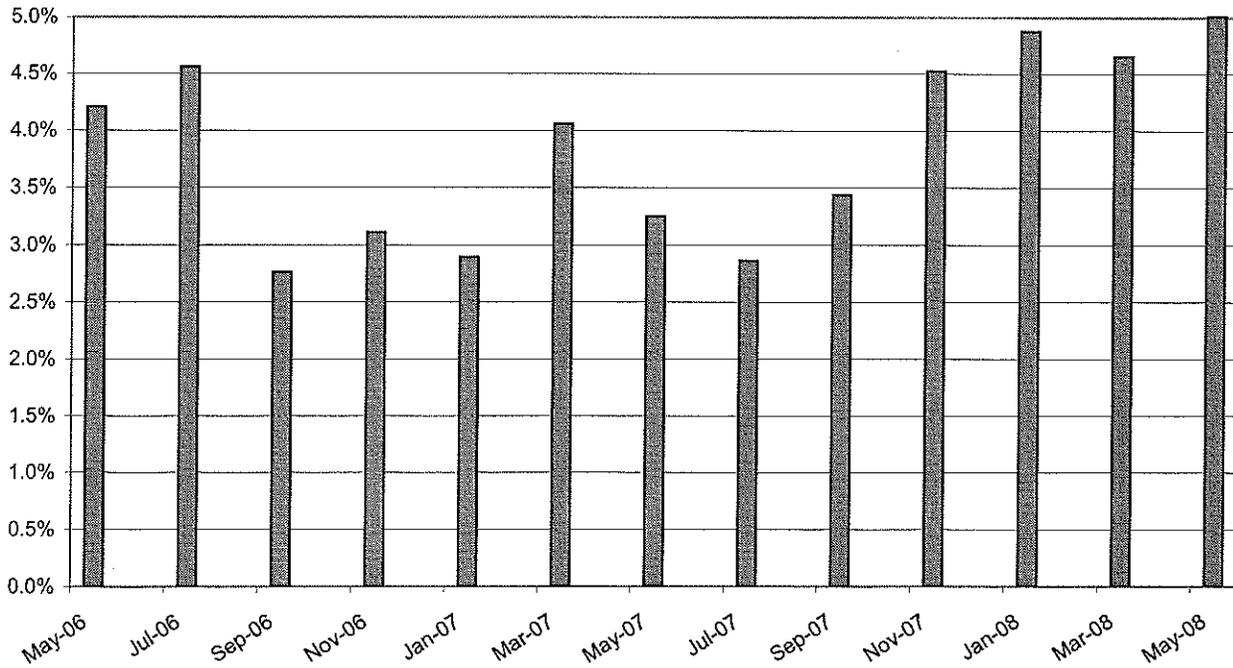


**City of Alexandria  
Selected Economic Indicators**

Office Vacancy Rates

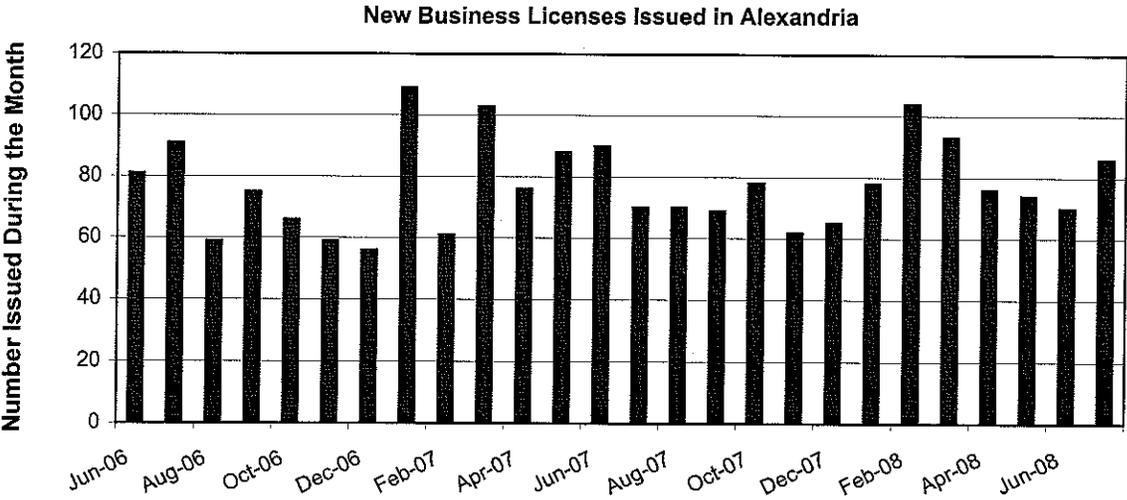


Twelve Month Annualized Percentage Change in Consumer Price Index  
Washington/Baltimore



Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

City of Alexandria  
Selected Economic Indicators



## EXPLANATION OF MODIFIED ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING

In accordance with accounting and reporting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia (APA), revenues collected by the City's agents before June 30, 2008, but not actually received by the City until July or August, are counted or accrued as FY 2008 revenues. These accrued revenues will include:

- Sales Tax collected by merchants in May and June, forwarded to the Commonwealth in June and July and remitted to the City in July and August;
- Consumer Utility Tax billed by the utility companies in May and June, collected by the utility companies in June and July and remitted to the City in July and August;
- Communication Tax billed by the applicable companies in May and June, collected by the utility companies in June and July and remitted to the City in July and August;
- Transient Lodging Tax revenue collected by Alexandria hotels in June and remitted to the City in July;
- Restaurant Meals Tax revenue collected by Alexandria restaurants in June and remitted to the City in July;
- Tobacco Tax revenue collected by the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board in June and remitted to the City in July;
- Real Estate Recordation Tax revenue collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in June and remitted to the City in July;
- Admissions Tax revenue collected by Alexandria merchants in June and remitted to the City in July.

The GASB also requires the City to recognize certain General Fund revenues when they are "measurable and available." Tax revenues are deemed to be "measurable" when they are levied, and the APA has defined "available" to include tax collections within 45 days of the fiscal year end. Accordingly, fiscal year end revenues in the following categories will eventually include collections through August 15:

- real property tax
- personal property tax
- property tax penalties and interest payments, and
- business license tax

Expenditures in this report reflect actual cash disbursements through June 30, 2008. In accordance with accounting and reporting requirements established by the GASB and the APA, bills for goods and services received before June 30, 2008, but not paid before June 30, 2008, are considered expenditures for FY 2008 and later, when paid, will be treated as FY 2008 expenditures.