

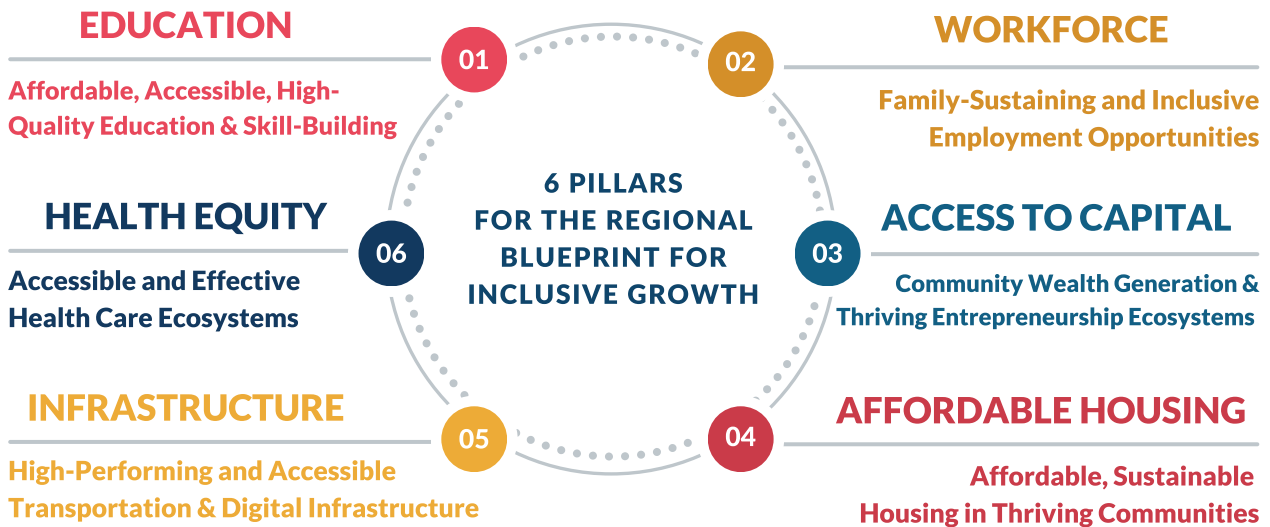
Inclusive Growth Dashboard

Interactive Tool for Economic Growth & Inclusion



Overview

The Inclusive Growth Dashboard presents data on 45 metrics that track economic performance and inclusive growth across the Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond metro areas. It serves as a resource for understanding the region's economic landscape and informing policies, programs, and investments that can lead to better outcomes for all the region's residents. The Dashboard mirrors the Inclusive Growth Blueprint, a 10-year roadmap for the region to close equity gaps in six key areas – workforce, education, access to capital, housing, infrastructure, and health.



Goals



Track progress on efforts to improve economic competitiveness and close equity gaps outlined in the Partnership's Regional Blueprint for Inclusive Growth.



Create a foundational knowledge base and dynamic resource to inform and motivate action among the region's stakeholders.



Illustrate the region's inclusive growth journey through user-friendly data synopses and race and gender-disaggregated metrics where possible.

What Makes It Unique

45 Indicators

100+ Data Viewpoints



Provides data specific to our region, with Baltimore-Richmond-DC MSA comparisons

Top-Line Insights: What the Data Tells Us



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: New housing construction declined the past two years in a row despite persistently high demand. The region constructed 2,300 fewer housing units between 2023 and 2024 – a decline that follows an even larger drop in the year prior. Since 2020, median housing costs have risen by an average of 15% across the region's metro areas, pushing people out of the region in search of a lower cost of living.

WORKFORCE: The region's high cost of living is a significant headwind to attracting and retaining residents, particularly families with young children. The cost of childcare for two children surpasses 40% of median household income in Baltimore City and Washington, DC – the highest in the area. Across the region, it would take a quarter of the median household's income to cover childcare costs, on average.



EDUCATION: For the first time, more than half of adults across the region have a bachelor's degree or higher, but racial gaps persist. In metro Washington, 55% of residents hold a postsecondary degree – surpassing many other highly educated metro areas, such as Boston and San Francisco. That compares with 44% in metro Baltimore and 42% in metro Richmond. Yet racial gaps persist, with a 23-percentage-point gap between Black and white residents across the region and a 30-percentage-point gap for the Hispanic population.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Ridership on public transportation continues to rebound strongly across the region, already surpassing pre-pandemic levels in Richmond. Transit ridership in Richmond was 28% higher than before the pandemic, even as usage across most other major cities continues to recover. Total rail and bus ridership on Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) reached 78% of pre-pandemic levels in 2024, while ridership on Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) services reached 76%.



ACCESS TO CAPITAL: Black and Hispanic residents make up a disproportionately smaller share of business owners relative to their presence in the workforce, but minority entrepreneurs have led new business formation in recent years. Across the region, small business owners are less likely to be Black or Hispanic than their share of the workforce would suggest. In metro Richmond, for instance, racial minorities make up 39% of workers yet own only 29% of businesses. But minority entrepreneurs are playing an outsized role in leading a recent surge in new business formation, with the number of new establishments growing by 25% across the region since 2020.

HEALTH EQUITY: The share of the region's households receiving federal nutrition assistance ticked up in recent years, reversing declines recorded prior to the pandemic. In metro Baltimore, nearly 11% of households relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to receive benefits that supplement their grocery budget in 2024. The share was 9.9% in metro Richmond and 7.8% in metro Washington.



Have questions or comments? Contact Daniel Newman:
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