

# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

## General

- The County is composed of six County Board Districts which lie in nine townships.
- The County Board is the governing body of the County, comprised of 18 members, with three members elected from each district, and a County Board Chairperson, who is elected at large.
- The Chairman of the County Board is Robert J. Schillerstrom, who was elected to a second four-year term in late 2002.
- Also holding elected offices of County government are the following County officials: Auditor, Circuit Court Clerk, Coroner, County Clerk, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State's Attorney and Treasurer.
- The County provides a broad range of services including a court system, police protection, jail operation and maintenance, youth detention, health and welfare services, a convalescent center for the elderly and disabled, code enforcement, highway construction and maintenance, sewer and water service, and building inspection and planning services.
- DuPage County, including the Health Department, had approximately 3,010 full-time and 58 part-time employees as of November 30, 2004.
- There are numerous governmental units located within the boundaries of the County, each of which
  - is separately incorporated and derives its power and authority under the laws of the State of Illinois,
  - has an independent tax levy or revenue source,
  - maintains its own financial records and accounts and
  - is authorized to issue debt obligations.Although the taxing units share tax bases to some extent, they are separate entities with separate financial circumstances.

## Geography

- DuPage County is located 20 miles west of the City of Chicago in northeastern Illinois, and is part of the Chicago metropolitan area which encompasses 332.1 square miles.
- Originally a part of neighboring Cook County, DuPage County was separated from Cook County by legislative act on February 28, 1839.
- In 1850, DuPage County was organized into nine townships and today is home to 39 municipalities.
- The County Seat of DuPage is the City of Wheaton.
- Located at the hub of the nation's mail, air, freight and trucking systems, the County is home to a variety of industries.
- A growing high tech research and development corridor stretches the width of the County, flanked on the east by Argonne National Laboratory and on the west by Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

## Geography Cont'd

- Exhibit I is an area map that depicts several infrastructure and business attributes of DuPage County.
- The highway system in the County includes six major expressways.
- The three major commuter rail lines run east and west through the County.
- Two major airports, O'Hare International Airport and DuPage County Airport (the third busiest in Illinois).

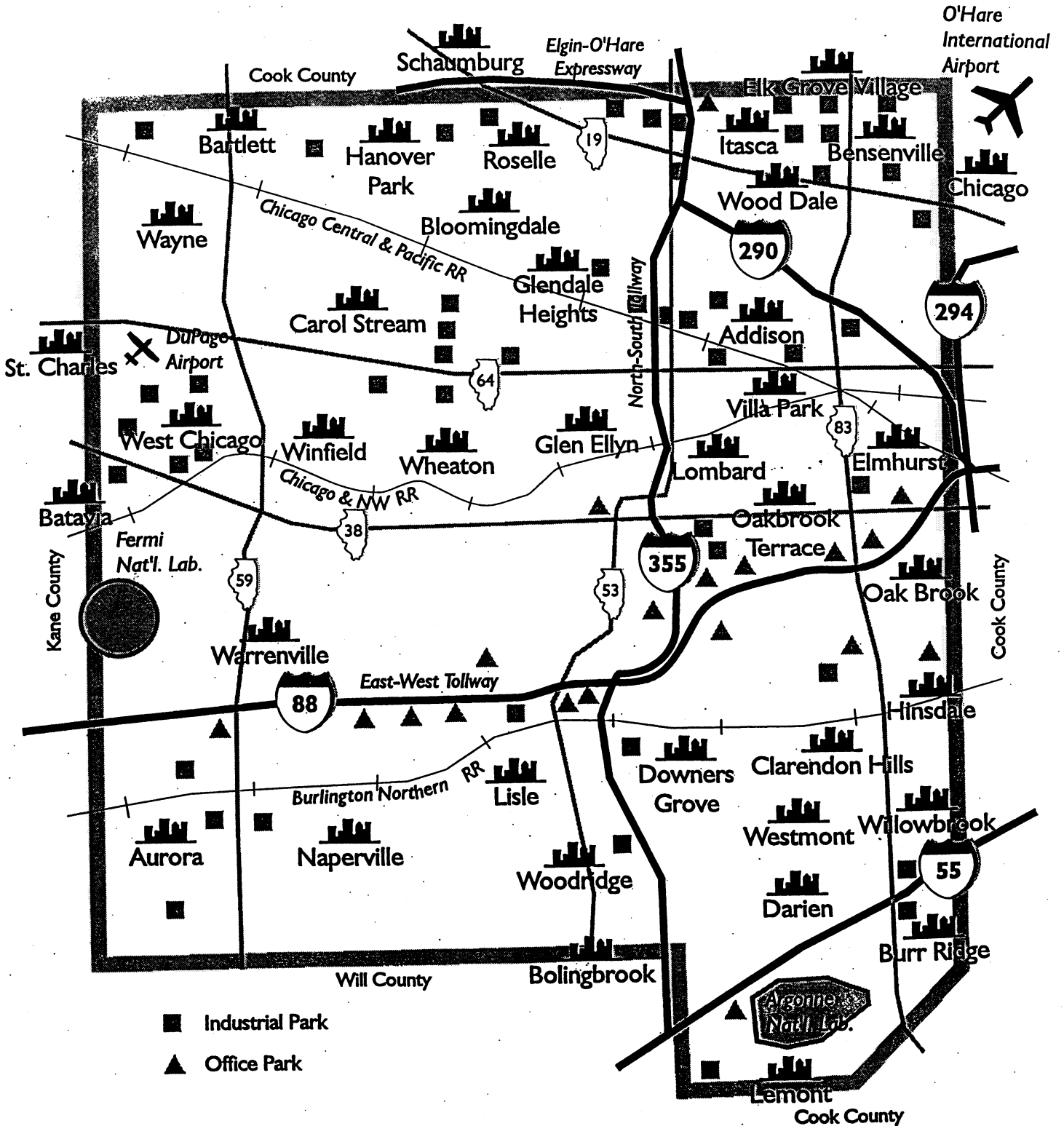
## Population

- DuPage County is the second most populous county in the State of Illinois.
- The County's 2003 estimated population is 925,188.
- The population density in 2000 was 2.723 persons per square mile, up 14% from 2,340 in 1990.
- DuPage County has 13% of its 2000 population over 65 years of age, and 28% under 18.
- 2.6% of the 2000 population was at poverty level.

## Employment

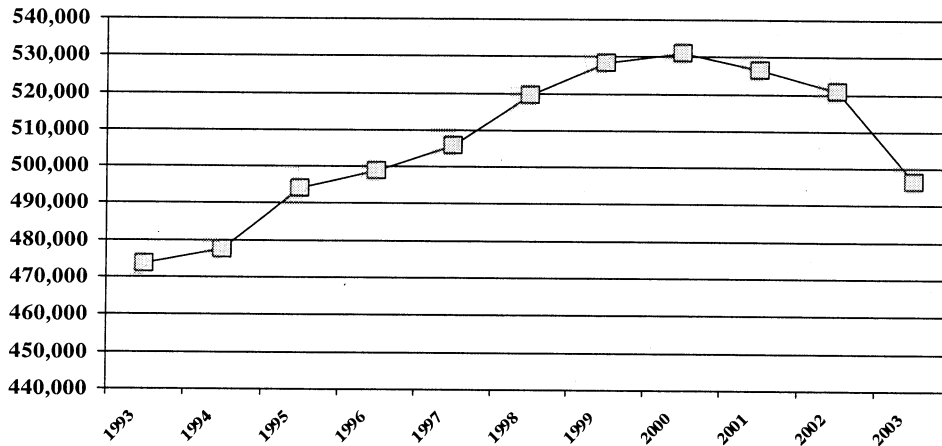
- The County is home to more than 100 active industrial parks and more than 30,000 businesses, and well over 600,000 jobs.
- The County has a very diverse economic base, comprised of construction and manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, service sectors, and research. See Exhibit II.
- Two major national research facilities, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory, have approximately 6,400 employees.
- Exhibit III shows the major employment sectors for the County by industry.

# DuPage County Attributes



# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

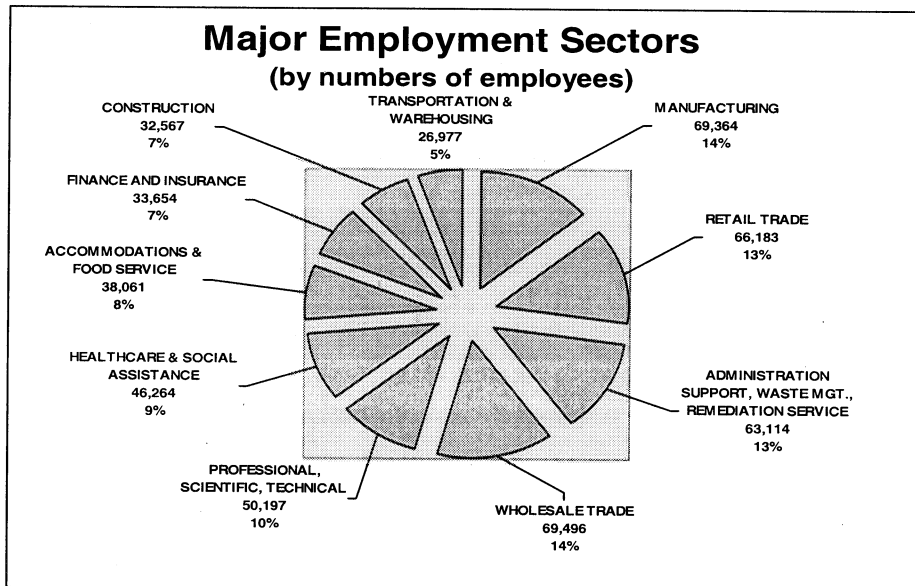
Exhibit II Dupage County Work Force Employment  
1994 - 2003



Information provided by the DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning.

Exhibit III

Major employment sectors for the County by industry and number of employees are as follows:



Information provided by the DuPage County Economic & Development Office.

# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

## Unemployment

- Historically, the County's unemployment rate has been consistently lower than the State of Illinois, and the United States' rates.
- The diverse workforce and employment base has contributed to a lower unemployment rate.
- Exhibit IV shows the historical unemployment rates:

Exhibit IV  
DuPage County, Illinois  
Historical Unemployment Rates  
1996 – 2002

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
								(As of August)
DuPage	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%	3.8%	5.1%	5.2%	4.8%
Illinois	4.7%	4.5%	4.3%	4.5%	5.4%	6.5%	6.7%	6.3%
U.S.	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.2%	4.8%	5.8%	5.7%	5.7%

Information provided from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

## Income Statistics

- DuPage County has historically led a relatively high per capita household income measurement, when compared to other United States Counties. This is a significant economic attribute for a County that is over 900,000 in population.
- DuPage County ranks 20<sup>th</sup> among all U.S. counties with a median household income of \$67,959. The U.S. figure is \$42,148 and Illinois is \$46,435.

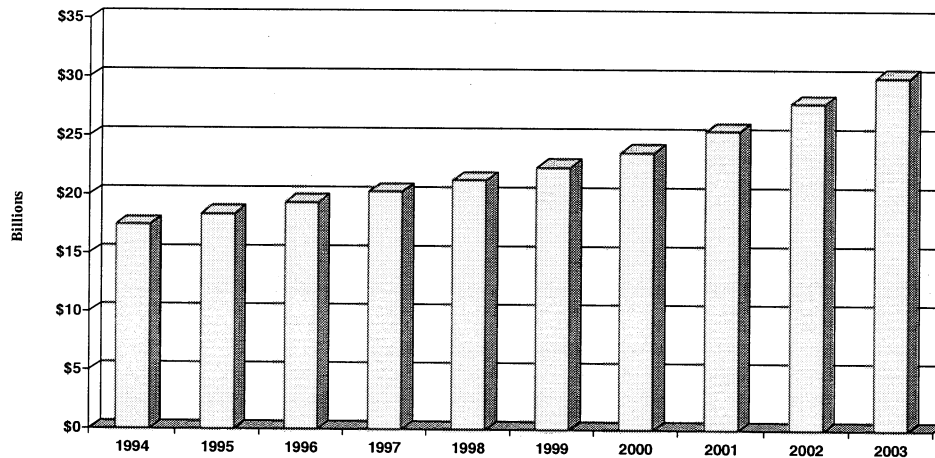
# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

## Taxation

- State and local government taxation, per capita, in Illinois and DuPage County is relatively low when compared to other high-population geographic areas.
- The sales tax rate, depending on the specific jurisdiction, ranges from 6 ¼% to 8%.
- Individual and corporate income tax is 3% and 4.8% respectively. Corporations continue to pay a 2.5% replacement tax (replaces property tax on personal property).
- Property is assessed at 33% of market value.
- Exhibit V represents represents growth in county assessed property value.

## Exhibit V

DuPage County, Illinois  
Real and Railroad Assessed Property Value  
1994 – 2003



Information provided by from the DuPage County Clerk's Office.

## DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

### Taxation Cont'd

- Prices of DuPage County homes in year 2000 were at a median of \$178,750 and an average of \$218,260 as published by the DuPage Realtors Association of the Western Suburbs.
- The 2000 Census reflects that 76.5% of households in DuPage County own their own home, an increase of 20% over 1990 figures.

### Retail Sales / Sales Tax

- Sales tax is the largest revenue component for DuPage County's General Fund.
- A county-wide ¼ cent sales tax was approved by the County Board for the first time in 1986.
- Exhibit VI is a historical display of sales tax collections.

### Exhibit VI

#### DuPage County Gross Sales Tax Revenue History

Fiscal Year	1¢	1/4¢	County Total
1991	\$4,227,302	\$20,085,115	\$24,312,417
1992	\$3,653,379	\$20,847,570	\$24,500,949
1993	\$4,078,611	\$23,591,841	\$27,670,452
1994	\$4,486,870	\$25,400,887	\$29,887,757
1995	\$4,498,553	\$27,095,611	\$31,594,164
1996	\$4,470,856	\$28,594,471	\$33,065,327
1997	\$4,956,968	\$30,685,094	\$35,642,062
1998	\$5,262,521	\$32,996,317	\$38,258,838
1999	\$5,748,680	\$34,840,747	\$40,589,427
2000	\$6,170,229	\$36,337,687	\$42,507,916
2001	\$5,857,505	\$36,135,154	\$41,992,659
2002	\$5,128,718	\$35,585,765	\$40,714,483
2003	\$4,689,607	\$34,273,080	\$38,962,687
2004	\$5,513,175	\$35,493,303	\$41,006,478

Information provided by the DuPage County Treasurer's Office.

# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

## Education

- A highly educated and skilled community is a key element of DuPage County's prosperity.
- A recent study commissioned by Metropolis 2020 indicated that 86% of DuPage County students read at a level higher than the national average.
- At the same time, the majority of County school test score averages were substantially above Illinois and National levels.
- More than 90% of the population has a high school diploma.
- High school graduation rates are 91% compared to 81% for the state as a whole.
- Related to higher education, the County has 14 private and public colleges, including one of the largest community colleges in the U.S.
- There are 43 local school districts comprised of primary and secondary school systems, with 32 public libraries.
- 40.2% of DuPage County's population with either an Associate, Bachelor's, Graduate or Professional degree, as compared with the Illinois average of 25.3%.
- 10.5% of the population has a Graduate or Professional degree, and 23% have a Bachelor's degree.

## Open Space

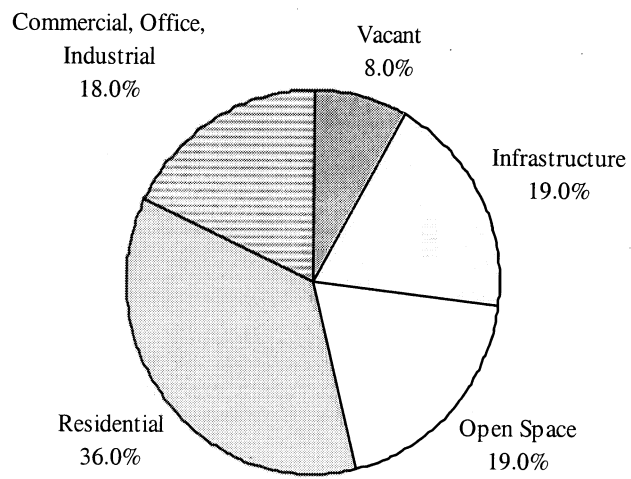
- The County's third largest land use is open space.
- More than forty thousand acres are either owned by the Forest Preserve District or local park districts and other large protected open space including the Morton Arboretum.
- The open space per capita of DuPage County is more than twice the national standard.
- The Illinois Prairie Path is a walking/biking trail following an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The path stretches from Cook County on the east to the Fox River on the west.
- In 2002, the County had a total of 282 miles of bikeways.
- There are more than 50 preserve areas, comprising of 23,000 acres owned by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. Several Forest Preserve bond issues have been sold after referendums to increase open space were approved.
- There are 46 golf courses located within the County.
- Wetland acreage grew from 10,860 acres in 1998 to 21,726 acres in 2002.
- The distribution of land use is presented on Exhibit VII.



# DUPAGE COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

Exhibit VII

## DuPage County, Illinois Distribution of Land Enhances Quality of Life 2000



Information provided by the DuPage County Economic & Development Department.