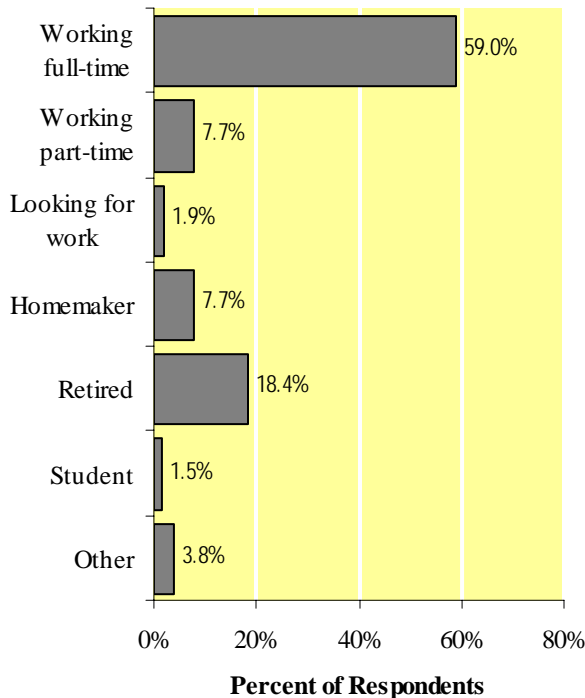


## CHAPTER 7: Employment and Commuting

### Employment Status and Location

The majority of respondents to the survey are currently employed and most work full-time (59.0% full-time vs. 7.7% part-time). There are also a substantial number (18.4%) of retired persons living in Spotsylvania County. Figure 7.1 provides a full breakdown of employment status. Males, those with at least a college degree, and respondents without children in the home are more likely to be employed.

**Figure 7.1: Employment Status**



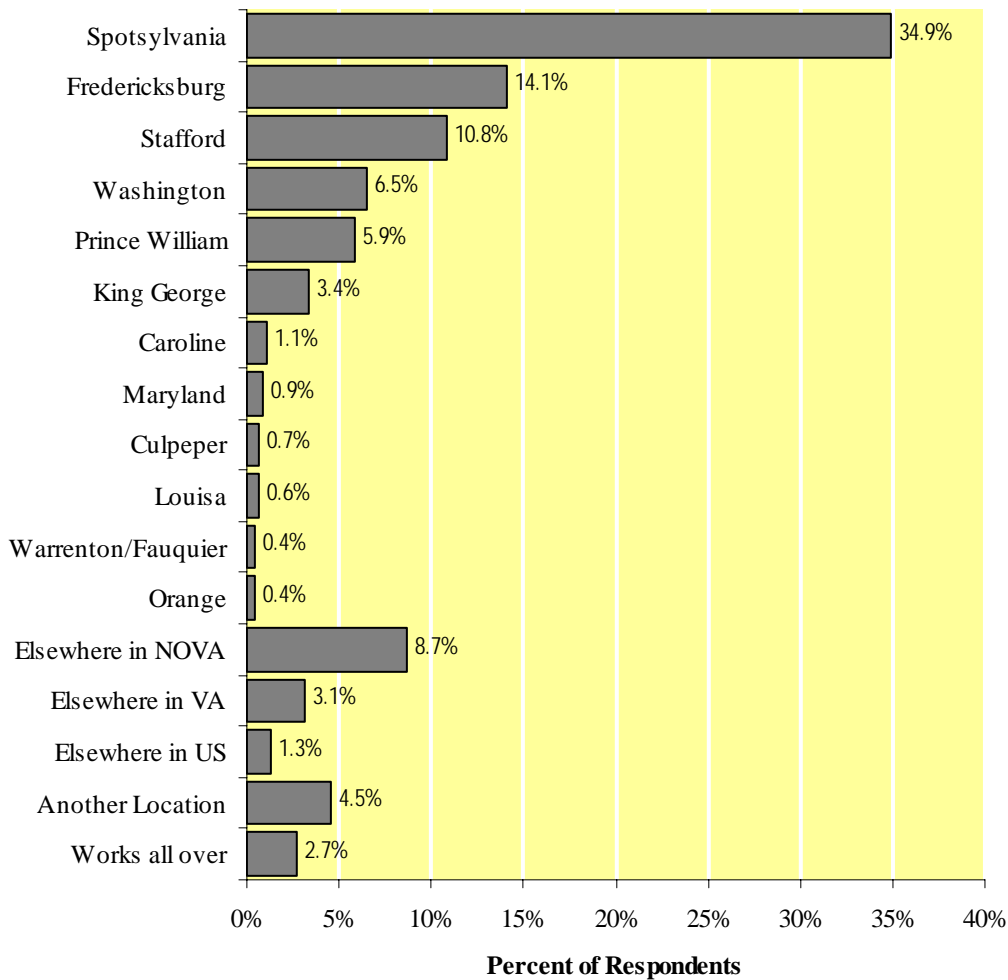
Of those who are currently employed, only slightly more than a third (34.9%) work in Spotsylvania County. Fredericksburg (14.1%), Stafford County (10.8%), Washington, DC (6.5%), and Prince William County (5.9%) are all common locations of

non-Spotsylvania employment. An additional 8.7 percent also work elsewhere in Northern Virginia. Figure 7.2 provides a full breakdown of employment locations.

Those who have only lived in Spotsylvania a short time (2 years or less) are much more likely to work outside of the County than long-time residents (20 or more years), with approximately 80 percent of the short-term residents working in other areas compared to only 40 percent of long-term residents. Only a third of homeowners actually work in Spotsylvania, whereas 43.8 percent of renters say they do. Less than a third of those employed full-time have jobs in Spotsylvania whereas over two-thirds of those with part-time jobs work in the County. Almost half of the employed females in our sample said their place of employment is within the County, whereas 75 percent of males work outside the area. The majority of respondents with higher paying jobs (those with household income of \$75,000 or more) choose to travel outside of Spotsylvania for work, whereas 56.4 percent of those with incomes of less than \$35,000 have jobs in the County. Those who are college educated are also more likely to commute to another area for their job, with less than a third possessing employment in the County, compared to 55.9 percent of those with less than a high school education and 41.5 percent of those with only a high school diploma. Finally, approximately a third of those aged 27 to 64 are employed within the County, whereas over half of those aged 18 to 25 and almost 75 percent of those aged 65 or older who are employed actually work in Spotsylvania.

There are also significant differences in employment location based on voting district. Over 40 percent of those living in the Livingston, Berkeley and Salem voting districts work within Spotsylvania County, whereas over 75 percent of Lee Hill residents commute outside the County for their jobs. In addition, 38 percent of the Battlefield voting district and 36.8 percent of Courtland residents work in the County.

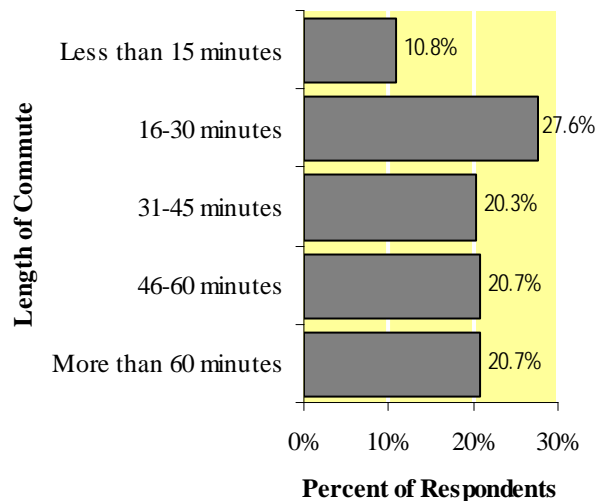
**Figure 7.2: Location of Employment**



**Commuting**

With almost two-thirds (65.1%) of respondents working outside of the County, commute times are significant for most employed Spotsylvania citizens. Those who are employed outside of Spotsylvania County were asked to report how long it takes them to get to work (one way). Approximately 90 percent (89.2%) report having to travel sixteen minutes or more to get to their place of employment and the median commute time is 45 minutes (Figure 7.3).<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 7.3: Commute Times**



<sup>7</sup> Only those respondents who work outside of Spotsylvania County were asked to report the length of their commute. These findings do thus not include the commute times of those working within Spotsylvania County.

As one would expect, those demographic subgroups that are more likely to work outside of Spotsylvania County are also those who have sig-

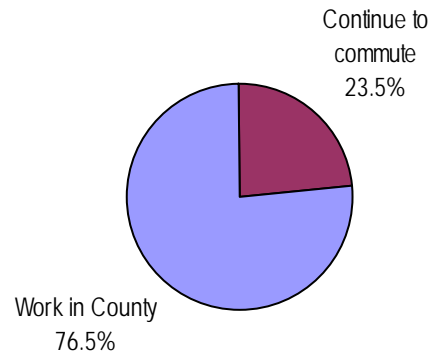
nificantly longer commute times. Residents within the voting districts of Chancellor and Battlefield have the longest average commute times, 58 minutes and 54 minutes respectively. The voting districts with the shortest average commute times include Berkeley and Courtland, with an average of 43 minutes.

We asked those respondents who work outside of Spotsylvania:

*“If jobs similar to your current position were available in Spotsylvania County would you prefer to continue to commute, or work in the County?”*

Not surprisingly, residents of Spotsylvania would prefer to work where they live as opposed to commuting. More than three-quarters (76.5%) said that they would prefer to work in the County rather than commute, if jobs similar to their current position were available within Spotsylvania County (Figure 7.4). Almost all of those with the longest commute times indicated they would prefer to work in Spotsylvania versus commute, whereas only 44.1 percent of those who have to commute 15 minutes or less say they would prefer to work in Spotsylvania.

**Figure 7.4: Preference to Commute vs. Work in Spotsylvania**



### Summary

In conclusion, the majority of the survey respondents are employed, but many must travel significant distances for their jobs, many of which are not even within the County. Most would prefer to work in Spotsylvania rather than commute, and it is notable that the data indicates it is the professional type jobs<sup>8</sup> that are most scarce in Spotsylvania. In Chapter 3, bringing higher paying jobs to Spotsylvania County was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of goals for the County to work toward, and these findings support the need for efforts to do so.

<sup>8</sup> Professional jobs being defined as those requiring at least a four-year college degree, are full-time, and are higher paying, based on total household income data.