#### Industrial Land Use Trends

Anita Morrison Partners for Economic Solutions October 31, 2013

# Industrial Land Uses

#### Production

- Bakeries, coffee roasters, printers, woodworking, custom furniture
- Distribution
- Repair
  - Auto repair
  - Appliance repair





# Industrial Land Uses

#### Contractors

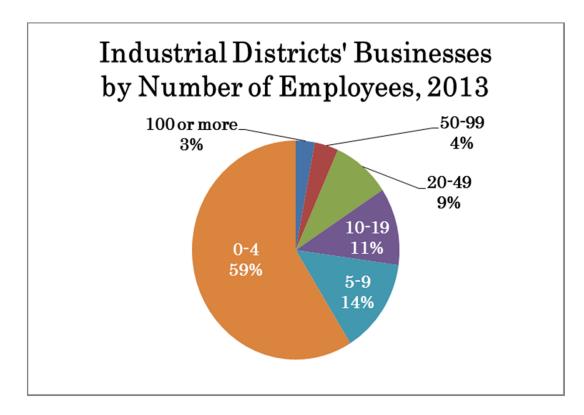
- Landscapers
- Home improvement contractors
- Retail
  - Countertops, carpets
- Entertainment
  - Gymnastics
  - Paintball







- Entrepreneurs and small businesses
  - Arts and arts-related



Convenient access to repair and other services





Entry-level and vocational jobs







- Public sector operational needs
- Tax revenues





## Zoning Issues for Industrial Districts

- Market pressure to convert use
- Speculation raises land values
- Residential encroachment impedes operations

# Industrial vs. Flex Space

- Industrial
  - Warehouse/ distribution
  - Manufacturing

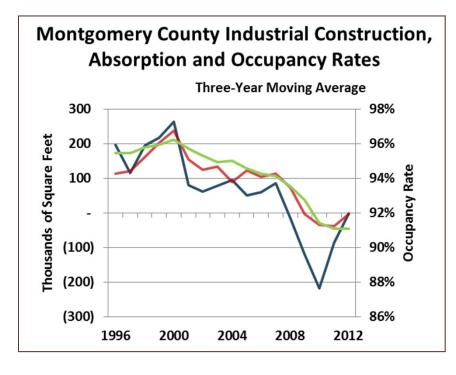


#### • Flex

- Office in front
- Warehouse, assembly in back
- Labs



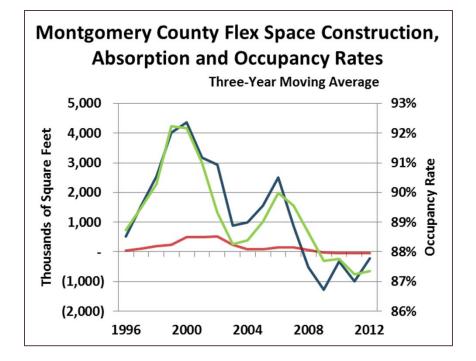
## **Space Trends**





#### Major declines in

- Construction pace
- Absorption pace
- Occupancy rate



# Industrial Space-Current Conditions

	Industrial	Flex
Total Inventory (Sq. Ft.)	14,306,000	11,701,000
Occupied Space	13,196,000	10,331,000
Percent Occupied	92.0%	87.6%
Annual Absorption		
1993-2002	141,000	247,000
2003-2012	-2,000	-6,000
Rent (\$/Sq. Ft. NNN)	\$11.22	\$14.14

- Absorption was greatly affected by the Great Recession; now recovering
- Low occupancy rates relative to healthy rate of 92% to 95%

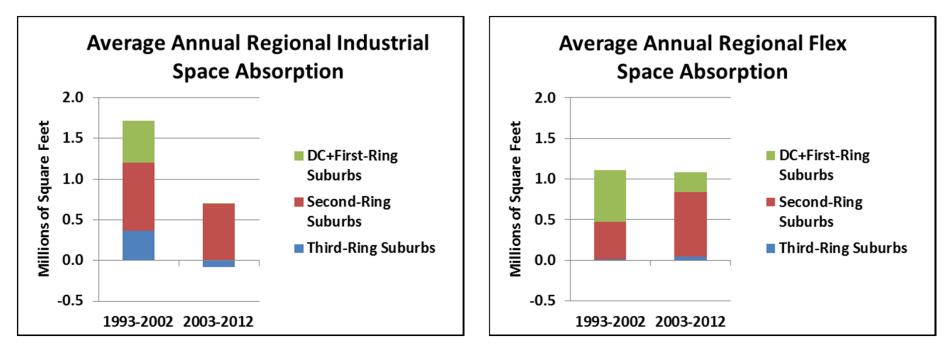
# Industrial and Flex Rents

Jurisdiction	Industrial Rent	Flex Rent
Montgomery County	\$11.22	\$14.61
Prince George's County	\$6.60	\$9.01
Frederick County	\$5.72	\$11.22
Fairfax County	\$8.97	\$12.89
Arlington County	\$11.44	\$21.90
City of Alexandria	\$9.75	\$13.95
District of Columbia	\$10.52	\$12.21

Third Quarter 2013 triple net rents per square foot, excluding utilities, taxes, insurance and maintenance.

 Montgomery County rental rates are higher than those of all competitive jurisdictions, except Arlington County 12

# **Regional Industrial Trends**

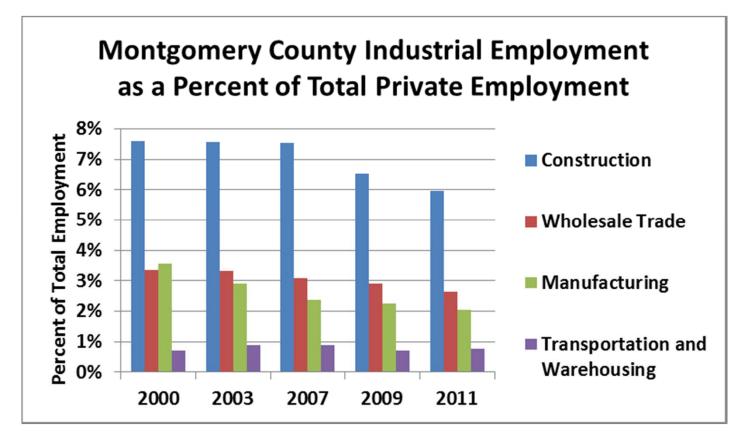


- Last decade saw a major shift to second-ring suburbs
  - Charles, Frederick, Loudoun, Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park
- Away from DC and first-ring suburbs
  - Montgomery, DC, Prince George's, Fairfax County, Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax City and Falls Church

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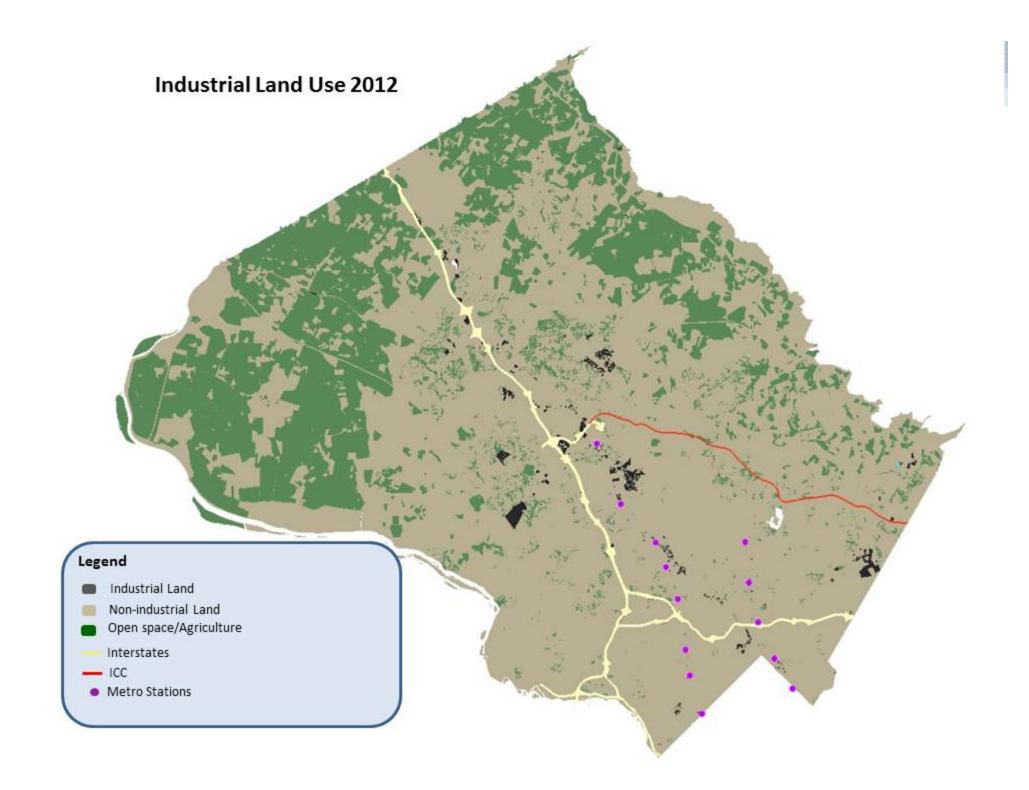
## **Employment Trends**

 PDR industries under-represented in Montgomery County and regional economies



# Need for Industrial Space

- Declining industrial employment does not eliminate the need to preserve industrial land
  - Lower employee densities
  - Shifts among subsectors and businesses
  - Replacement of obsolete space
  - Locational mismatch
  - Shifts of flex space to retail showrooms and office uses
  - County facility needs



## Industrial Land Use Trends

- From 1993 to 2012, 144 properties with industrial uses changed to a commercial or residential use
- 566 acres removed from the industrial inventory
  - Almost one-quarter of all industrial land

#### Industrial Properties Converted to Other Uses 1993-2012

#### Legend

- Industrial Land
  Non-industrial Land
  Open space/Agriculture
  Interstates
  - mierstate
- ICC
- Metro Stations

- No need to expand the supply of industrially zoned land county-wide
- Important to preserve existing industrial space in each of the county's major subareas
- Maintain well-dispersed "pods" of industrial land for services to residents, businesses and agencies
- Maintain an adequate supply of municipal support service sites

- Resist industrial land rezoning, particularly down-county sites and sites near other industry
- Restrict uses to industrial-type operations not well suited to commercial or employment zones
  - Higher-value uses will push up land values and push out industrial uses
- Allow some limited support retail and services

- Land within one-half mile of Metro stations should be reserved for higher-density uses
- Quarry land can be transitioned to other more intensive uses without negative economic impacts due to limited need for land zoned for heavy industry

# Key Zoning Area Issues

- Brookville Road area in Lyttonsville
- Howard Avenue in Kensington
- Parklawn/Twinbrook
- Critical to providing convenient access for customers

# Protections in the Zoning Rewrite

- Only educational uses are trade, artistic and technical schools
- Retail/service uses
  - Building and food service supply
  - Home design and furnishings
  - Computer programming and software sales
  - Wholesale trade to industrial and commercial users
- No hotels
- Excludes live/work in Industrial Light, Industrial Moderate and Industrial Heavy zones

# Protections in the Zoning Rewrite

- Limits ancillary retail/service, office and restaurant use to 35 percent of the mapped FAR
  - Allows for hybrid operations (e.g., office, warehouse, sales and production)
  - Provides on-site amenities for industrial users and a better mixed-use environment
- Allows large recreational and entertainment facilities up to 1,000 persons

# **Buffering Provisions**

- 30- to 50-foot landscaped buffer between industrial and residential uses
- Tough on smaller sites
- Zoning does allow for alternative compliance methods

- Any rezonings should consider impacts on existing businesses
- Rezone close in time to anticipated development to avoid speculation
- 50-foot height limit is compatible with needs of modern warehousing
- FARs of 1.0 to 2.5 greatly exceed what is likely to be developed

# Conclusion

- County is well served with industrial land given the nature of the local economy
- Good stewardship of the county's resources demands an optimal mix of land and development
- Recognize the role played by industrial districts
- Protect remaining industrial land in developed portions of the county