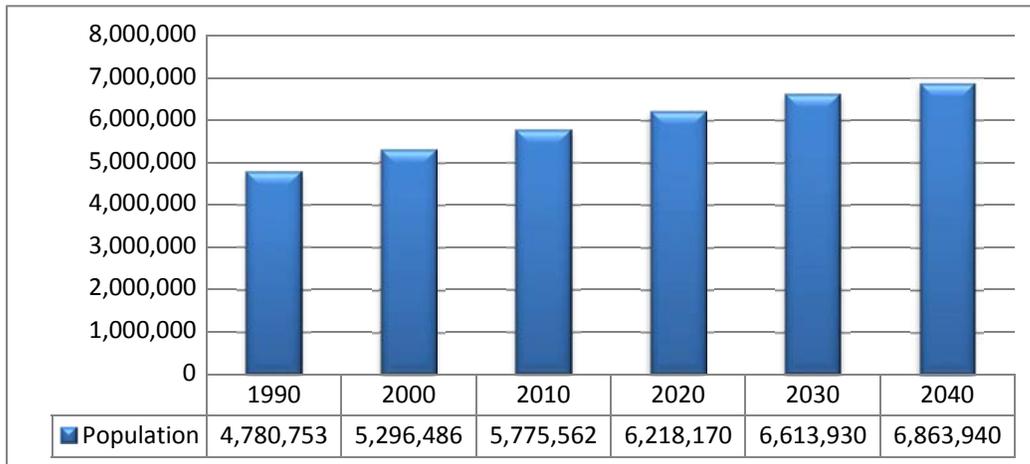


Population Projections

The population in the State of Maryland is projected to continue to rise over the next 30 years, although not as quickly as it did from 1990 to 2000 (1.08 percent average annual growth), or from 2000 to 2010 (.87 percent average annual growth). According to the U.S. Census, the population in 2000 was 5,296,486, and in 2010, it was 5,775,562. As shown in **Figure 13**, The Maryland Department of Planning projections to 2040 estimate that the State of Maryland will reach 6,863,940 residents by 2040.

Maryland’s population is forecast to grow by 18.8 percent in the next 30 years from 2010 to 2040, adding over 1,088,378 new residents.

Figure 13: State of Maryland Population Forecast (1990 - 2040)



Source: Maryland Department of Planning

Age Distribution

As part of the population trend analysis, it is useful to examine age distribution in the State of Maryland as a whole as well as in each of the planning areas. A comparison of the planning areas is illustrated in **Figure 14**.

- The largest age cohorts in the Western (42.1%), Central (42.6%), and Southern Regions (43.6%) are in the 25-54 age range, close to the state-wide percentage of 40.0. The Eastern Region’s percentage in this age range dropping to 37.8.
- The Eastern Region, however, holds the greatest number of residents in the “over 55” age range, at 30.4 percent, while the “over 55” population in the other regions is in the 22 to 26 percent range, approaching the state-wide population of 26.4 in the “over 50” age cohort.