In 2021, a significant portion of both full and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. However, a large number of both full and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits.

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages
Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can’t afford the essentials. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can’t afford the essentials.

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Prince William County
As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While 2010 was a period when employment and the stock market were improving for some households, especially 2018, 2019, and 2020, when the economy was strong and households had a larger above the ALICE Threshold.

The Labor Landscape in Challenging for ALICE Workers
A small pool of workers at 2+ years since Prince William County became more engaged and a larger number were entering jobs (2021). However, a significant portion of full-time and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits.