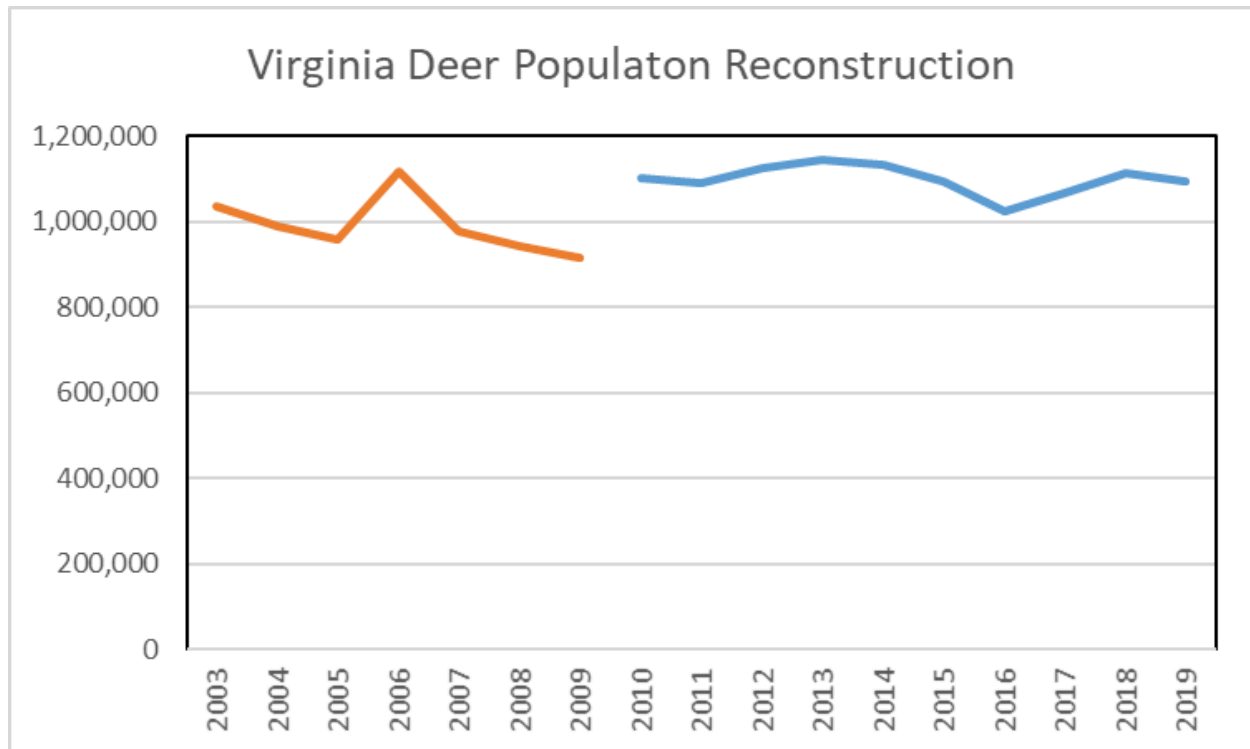


Virginia Deer Population Estimates 2000 to 2022

This explanation from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources in February, 2023

“The graph below updates the figure in the deer management plan, but please note that a change in buck age structure methodology several years ago, that affected population estimates from 2010 forward, has resulted in higher population estimates.”



Source for next graph is the [2015-2024 Deer Plan](#).

Note: The annual deer kill from the hunt was virtually unchanged from 2017 to 2021,

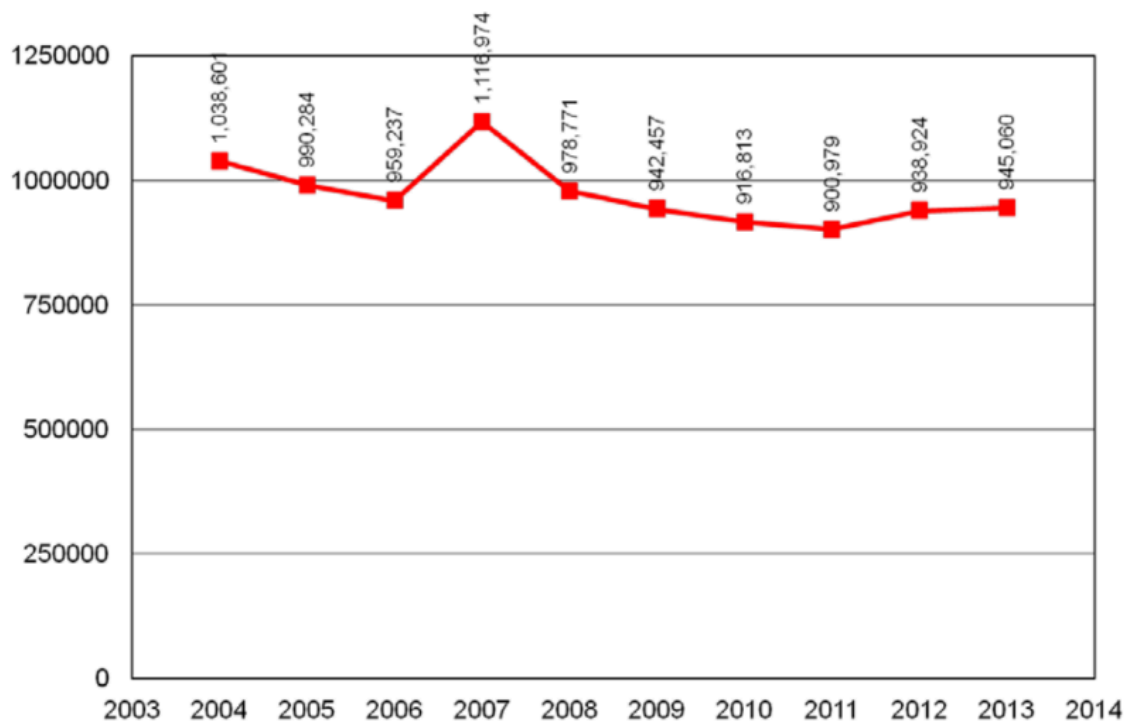


Figure 22. Virginia estimated prehunt deer herd population reconstruction, 2004-2013.

Year	New Estimate from Top Graph	Old Estimate 2015 Deer Plan	Population Estimate from Buck Kill	Deer Kill Source 1997 to 2014	Buck Kill	Outdoor Life Estimate
1997			879,000	198,561	115,986	
1998			822,000	179,027	108,453	
1999			884,000	190,043	116,612	
2000			846,000	187,878	114,077	
2001			981,000	215,872	132,216	
2002			931,000	214,847	125,427	
2003	1,032,000			237,035	138,975	
2004	987,000	1,038,601		221,492		
2005	967,000	990,284		215,082		
2006	1,110,000	959,237		223,775		
2007	975,000	1,116,974		242,792		

2008	937,000	978,771		256,382		
2009	912,000	942,457		259,147		
2010	1,097,000	916,813*		222,074		
2011	1,087,000	900,979		233,104		
2012	1,122,000	938,924		215,241		
2013	1,143,000	945,060		244,440		
2014	1,130,000			192,186		
2015	1,090,000			209,197		
2016	1,022,000			180,121		
2017	1,065,000			189,730		
2018	1,110,000			190,636	108,581	840,000
2019	1,090,000			206,976	114,715	
2020			1,094,000	208,131	115,168	1,083,000
2021			1,022,000	190,582	107,611	1,270,000
2022			981,000	184,968	103,276	
2023			1,100,000	206,586	118,750	
2024			1,065,000	205,759	114,922	

The formula to estimate was revised in 2010 leading to a 20 percent increase in the deer population for that year. Previous years are similar except for 2006

Outdoor Life, Deer Hunting Season 2021 Forecast: A State-By-State Guide

BY BRIAN LOVETT | UPDATED AUG 17, 2021 10:34 AM

Virginia. Species: Whitetail. Estimated population: 1.27 million

Fall 2020-'21 harvest: 209,356

Overall outlook: Matt Knox, deer project coordinator with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, says the state's deer population is relatively stable [the magazine is reporting a 51 percent increase in the population from 2018 to 2021]

Outdoor Life, 2020 Deer Hunting Season Forecast By Brian Lovett

August 12, 2020

Virginia Species: Whitetails. Estimated population: 1.083 million. The state's deer numbers should be very similar to those of previous years,

Outdoor Life, 2018 Deer Hunting Forecast By Brian Lovett August 30, 2018

Virginia Species: Whitetail. Estimated population: 840,000. Fall 2017-18 harvest: 190,623. Overall outlook: "A major increase or decrease in the statewide deer kill from last fall is not expected"

Source		
Year	National Deer Association	Virginia Deer Survey
2007*	238,000	
2013		158,937
2016	239,563	
2017	200,000	
2018		
2019		
2020	200,876	

*NDA report for 2018 indicates about 200,000 deer hunters in Virginia for 2017, down 16% from 2007. The 2007 number is estimated as a percent of 2017.

2013 Hunters, Source Virginia 2013-14 Hunter Survey Report

Archer Deer	