



Existing Conditions and Needs



The Regional Existing Conditions and Needs Chapter presents data from the 2010 US Census and other sources to help explain where we are as a region in terms of growth rates, age, income, economy, environment, and to describe where we live and work. This Chapter also summarizes some of the needs and opportunities that people in the region identified as part of our extensive public outreach efforts conducted throughout the course of developing this plan.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	2	Opportunities	23
Demographic Trends.....	3	Transportation Choices.....	25
Population	3	Travel Mode Share	25
Net Migration.....	5	Commute Times	25
Projected Population Changes	6	Needs	25
Population by Age	6	Opportunities	26
Minorities	7	Natural Resource Functions and Quality	27
Population below Poverty Level	10	Natural Resource Co-Occurrence.....	27
Limited English Proficiency.....	11	Parks and Open Space	29
School Enrollment	11	Beach Closures	29
Needs	12	FEMA Declared Disasters 1973-2013	30
Opportunities	13	Total FEMA Relief Funds.....	30
Traditional Settlement Patterns.....	14	Energy Consumption	31
Needs	17	Needs	31
Opportunities	17	Opportunities	31
Housing Choices	18	Community and Economic Vitality	32
Regional Housing Unit Supply	20	Working Age Population, Age 25-34	32
Median Household Income	21	Workforce Age and Municipality.....	33
Home Prices	21	Employment Participation Rates	34
Proximity to Major Employers.....	22	Educational Attainment	34
Needs	23	Jobs by Industry.....	35
		Needs	36
		Opportunities	36
		Appendix A: Detailed Tables	38

Introduction

The Regional Existing Conditions and Needs Chapter presents data from the 2010 US Census and other sources to help explain where we are as a region in terms of growth rates, age, income, economy, environment, and to describe where we live and work. This Chapter also summarizes some of the needs and opportunities that people in the region identified as part of our extensive public outreach efforts conducted throughout the course of developing this plan.

Two of the most significant issues facing the region are the significant increase of those 65 and older as a percent of total population, and a much-slowed growth rate. The population projections shown in this Chapter indicate that the age 65 and over cohort, which is currently about 12 percent of the region's population, will double by 2040 to about 25 percent. Compared with the high rates of growth the region experienced in the 1960's through 1980's, the region grew very slowly over the past decade. Projections indicate that the waves of high impact growth we saw in the past have subsided and annual increases going forward will be very low.

As a region, we will need to develop and implement strategies to address the issues that accompany an aging workforce by taking measures to attract younger professionals and families to the region.

Overall, we have the infrastructure to accomplish this. The Nashua region already benefits from a culturally diverse and highly educated population which makes this an attractive location for businesses. Most residents aged 25 and older have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which surpasses the percentages of both the state and nation. And, although our population is aging and will inevitably increase demand for certain consumer resources, the population still boasts a large number of highly educated working age individuals that are providing much of the capital the state needs in order to continue increasing economic growth. (Johnson, 2012)

The data presented here is the basic demographic data for the region and is heavily referenced in the other chapters of the Regional Plan. Additional data and more in-depth analysis can be found in each individual topic Chapter.

Demographic Trends

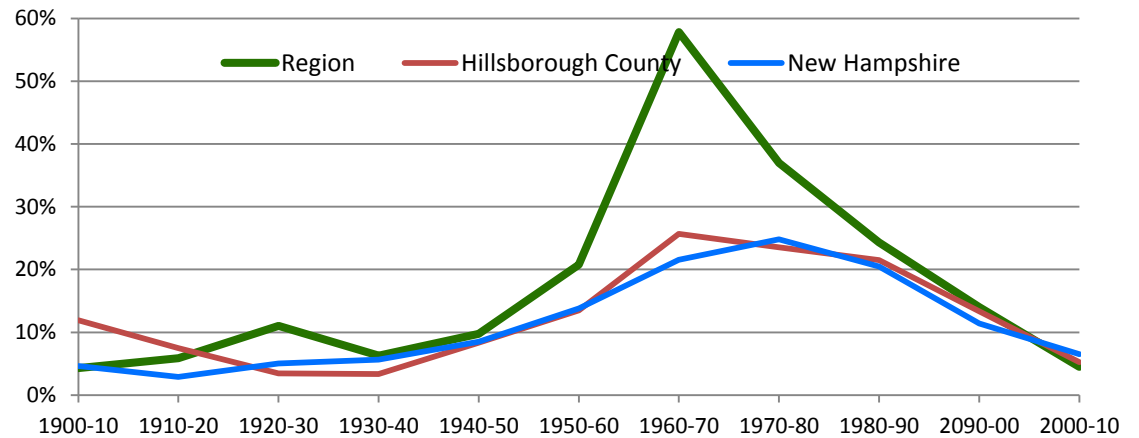
Our population growth rate has slowed significantly.

Population

Census data shows that the Nashua region experienced rapid growth in population and housing in the last four decades of the 20th century, and in the first decade of the 21st century saw a decline in those growth rates.

Peak growth for the region occurred from 1980-1990, a 24.3% increase. This follows the growth trend originating in the Boston Metro area over the past century that radiated northward. The region's little to no population gain is a trend that can be seen statewide. New Hampshire gained 80,700 residents from 2000-2010, which is its smallest population gain since the 1960's. (Johnson, 2012 p.3)

Figure 1.1: Percent Change in Census Population



Source: U.S. Census 2010

The region's population grew over 57% between 1960 and 1970 but only 4.5% between 2000 and 2010, as shown in Table 1.1.

2010 Census data shows that for the first time in nearly 100 years, the region's growth rate was lower than that of either Hillsborough County or the State's.

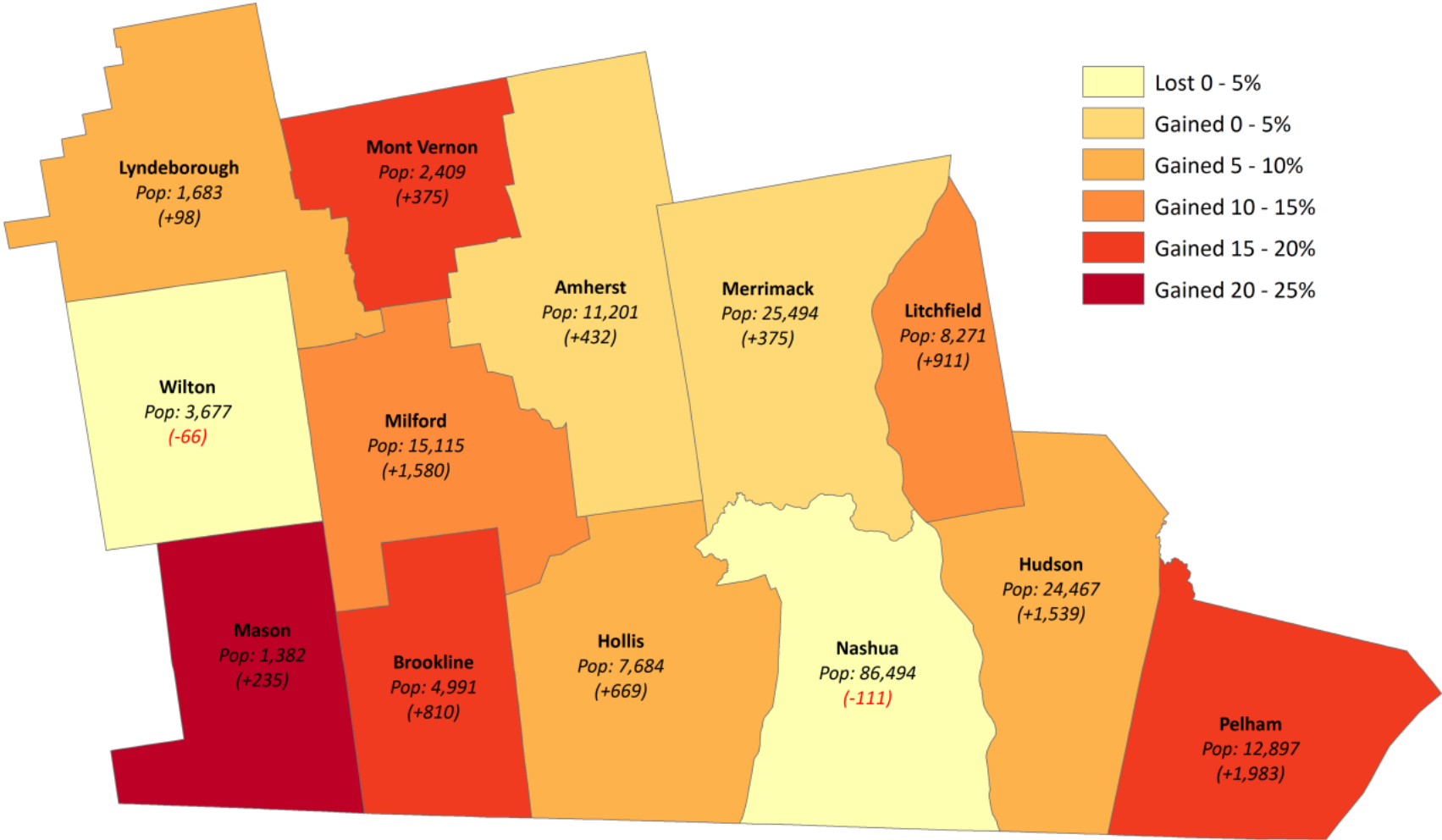
Additionally, between 2000 and 2010, the City of Nashua, the region's largest community, lost population for the first time since 1900. The City's total population decreased by 111 persons between 2000 and 2010 after experiencing an increase of nearly 7,000 people between 1990 and 2000 and nearly 11,800 between 1980 and 1990.

Table 1.1: Historic Population and Annual Growth Rates

Area	Population				Percent Change			Annual % Growth			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	1980 - 1990	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	1980 - 1990	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	1960-2010
NRPC Region	138,881	172,690	196,935	205,765	24.3%	14.0%	4.5%	2.2%	1.3%	0.4%	2.35%
Hillsborough County	276,608	336,073	380,841	400,721	21.5%	13.3%	5.2%	2.0%	1.3%	0.5%	1.63%
Statewide	920,475	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,316,470	20.5%	11.4%	6.5%	1.9%	1.1%	0.6%	1.56%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Map 1: Population Change 2000 to 2010



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

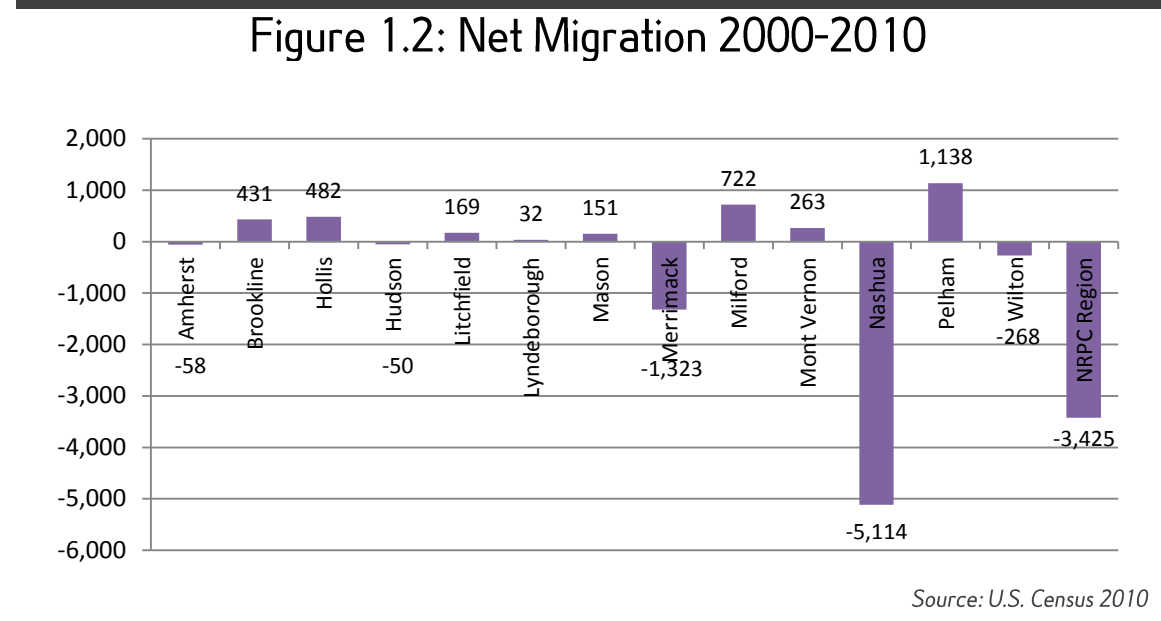
In the last fifty years, the City of Nashua's population has shrunk from 61% of the region's total population to 42%. Mason had the greatest percent growth followed by Brookline, Pelham, and Mont Vernon, all gaining 10% or more in population.

Net Migration

Net migration is the measure of the number of persons that move into a community minus those that move out. It should not be confused with total population change, which accounts for all changes to the population including births, deaths and net migration.

Net migration helps communities to zoom in and discern what share of their population gain, or loss, is due to personal preferences and whether the community is able to attract new residents. People moving into the region in the past decade settled in communities such as Brookline, Hollis, Milford and Pelham rather than Nashua and Merrimack, both of which saw a net loss of people moving out.

Population growth in New Hampshire from 1970-2000 can be contributed to a high number of in-migration from other states. This historical influx has slowed and the downward trend can be seen both regionally



and statewide. Net migration into the region is either stagnant or declining.

The City of Nashua lost over 5,000 persons due to net-out migration, persons moving out of the City to other communities or states. Despite the City's loss of over 5,000 persons moving out, the total population only shrank by 111 persons due to natural births. Pelham and Milford saw the greatest gains in the Region with 1,138 and 722 new residents moving to their Towns.

Nashua's net migration loss drove down the overall Region's net migration, a loss of nearly 3,500 persons overall. However, the

region's total population increased by 8,830 persons due to natural population change with births outweighing deaths, as opposed to in-migration which used to be a steady source of population gain in past decades. (Johnson, 2012 p.8)

Our population is aging, families are having fewer children, and we are becoming more diverse.

than double, to 25%, by 2040. These projections are on target with nationwide trends that are showing immense growth in the 65 and older population in the coming decade.

Population by Age

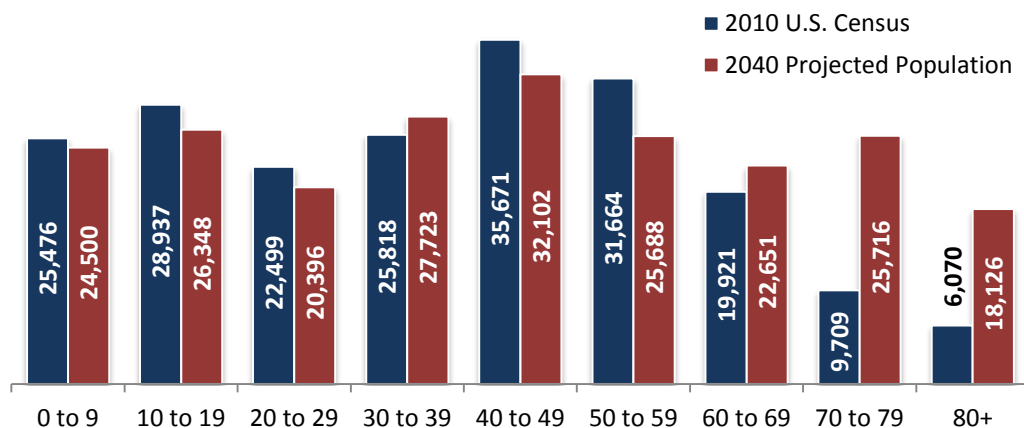
The 45 to 64 age group is the fastest growing and represents the “baby boomers” born between 1946 and 1964. Population aged 20 to 44, according to 2010 US Census data, represents 31.5% of total population in the region. Those aged 45 and above represent over ten percent more at 42%.

Nationally, those aged 20-44 represent 33.6% of the population while those 45 and over represent 39.7%. Since there was no significant out-migration during the 1990’s where the region fell behind the nation by over 1% for approximately one decade, an explanation for the deficit in young adults can be attributed to stagnant or declining birth rates. (Johnson, 2012 p.11)

Projected Population Changes

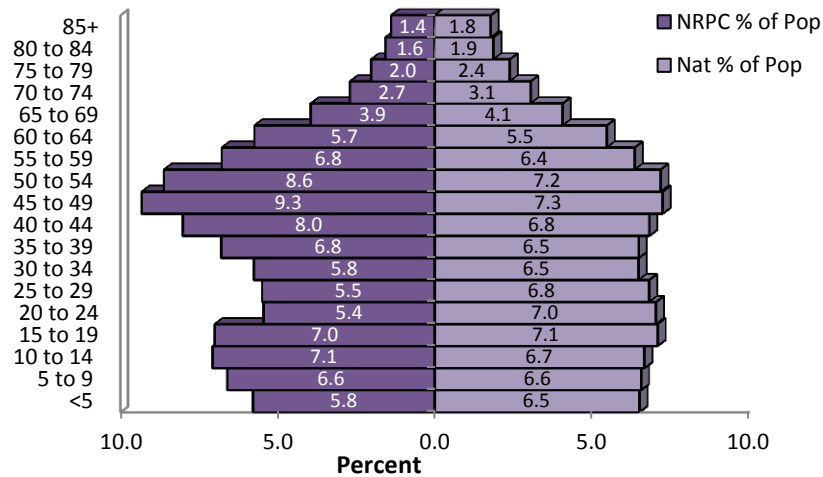
The percent of the population age 19 and under decreased since 1990 in all communities except Brookline. Similarly, the percentage of the population aged 20 to 44 is declining while the population between ages 45 and 64 is increasing across all Nashua region communities. NRPC population projections estimate that the percentage of the region’s 65 and over population will more

Figure 1.3: Population by Age - 2010 to 2040 Comparison



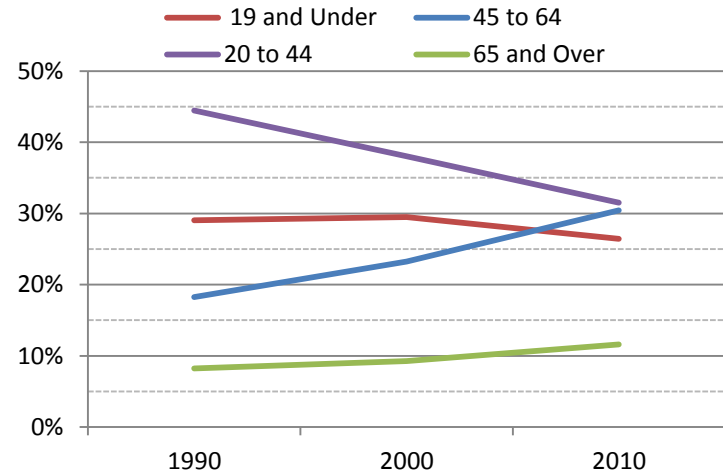
Sources: U.S. Census 2010; NRPC

Figure 1.4: Percent of Total Population by Age Compared to the Nation



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Figure 1.5: % of Regional Population by Age Group



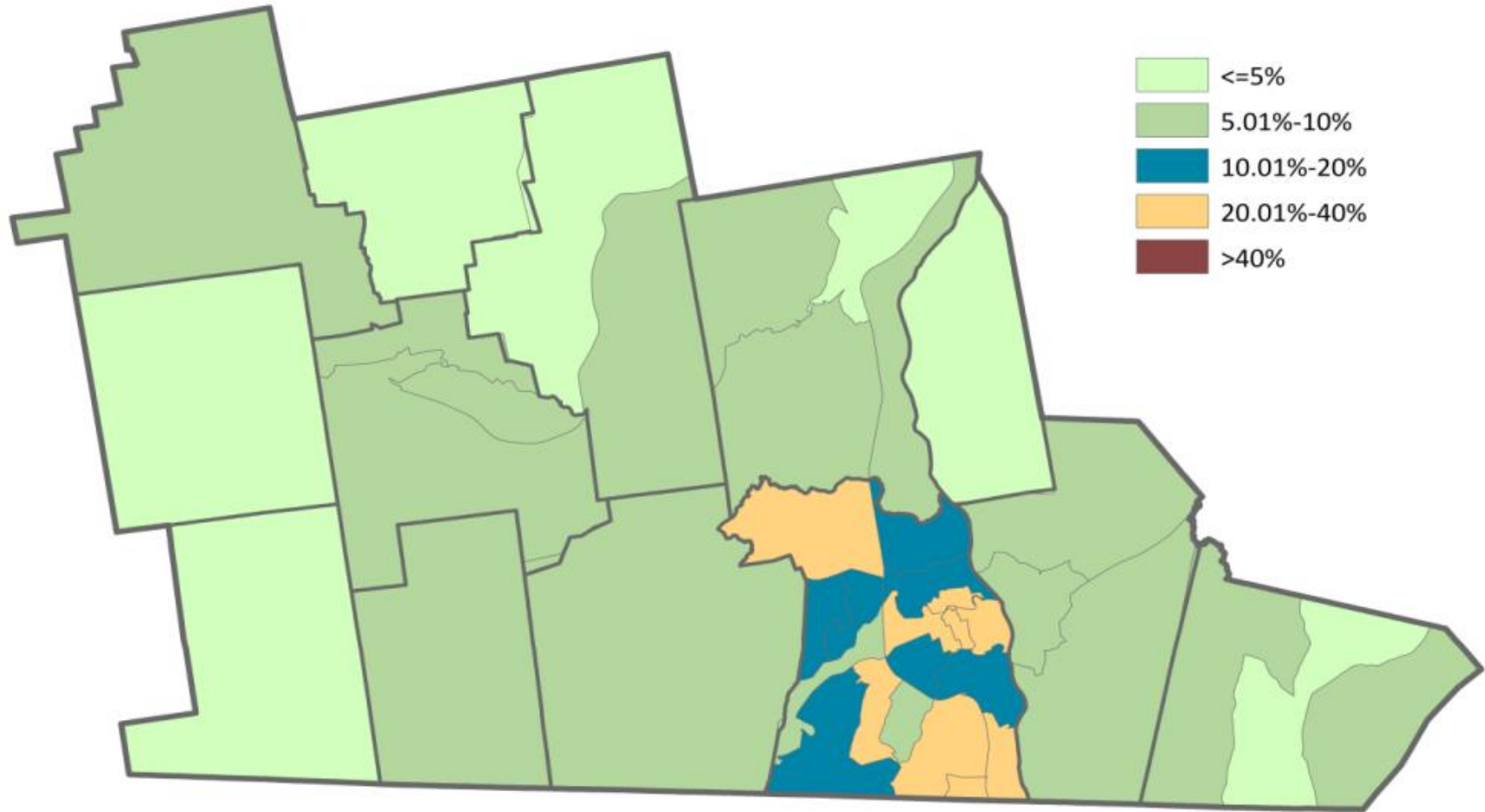
Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000, 2010

Minorities

In the last decade, minorities have accounted for approximately 50% of New Hampshire’s population growth. Although minority populations are growing, they remain spatially concentrated in just a few areas. Minorities represent a significant part of the population in the Concord-Manchester-Nashua corridor. (Johnson, 2012 p.17)

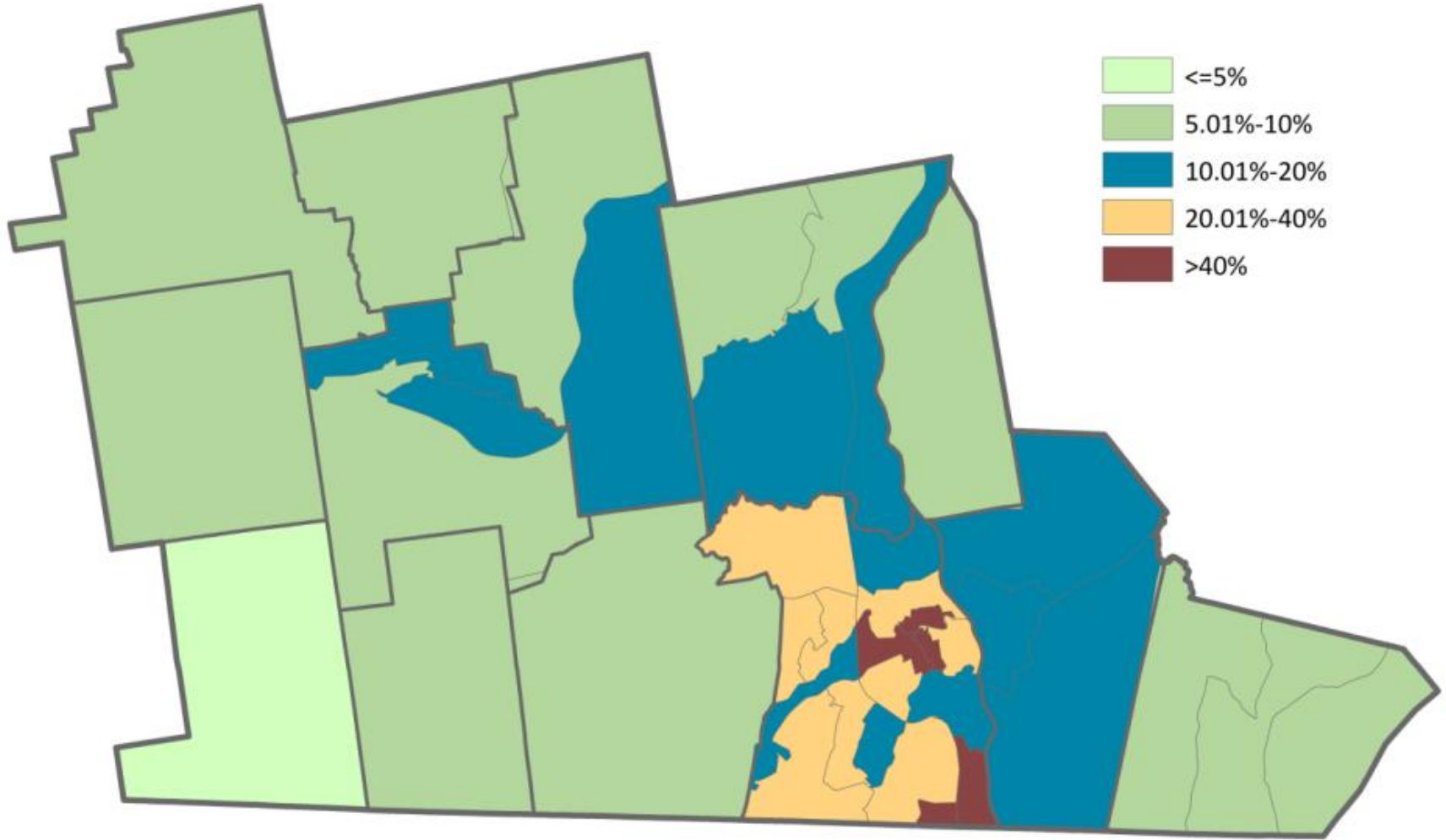
White non-Hispanic youths in the region have decreased by -12.8% (37,000 people), while we have seen an increase of almost 15,000 minority children, a 72% increase when compared to previous minority population totals.

Map 2: Minorities as a Percent of Population



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Map 2: Percent of Children that are Minorities



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

We are relatively well-off and have excellent educational opportunities but there are small pockets of poverty and linguistic isolation.

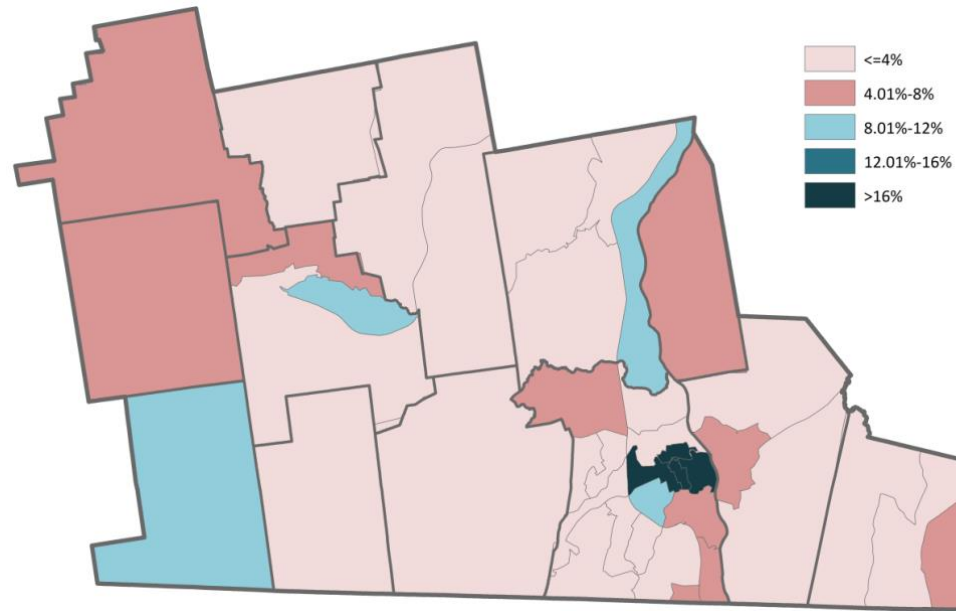
Population below Poverty Level

Across the Nashua region, 6.2% of our residents live below the poverty level, and 6.9% of all families with children are living in poverty. The portion of residents who are Black or African American living below the poverty line is 18.4%, second to Hispanics or Latinos who rank highest in the region at 22.6%.

We can attribute our low poverty levels to a combination of high education levels and high median incomes which keeps poverty levels and child poverty rates at some of the lowest in the country. (Johnson, 2012 p.18)

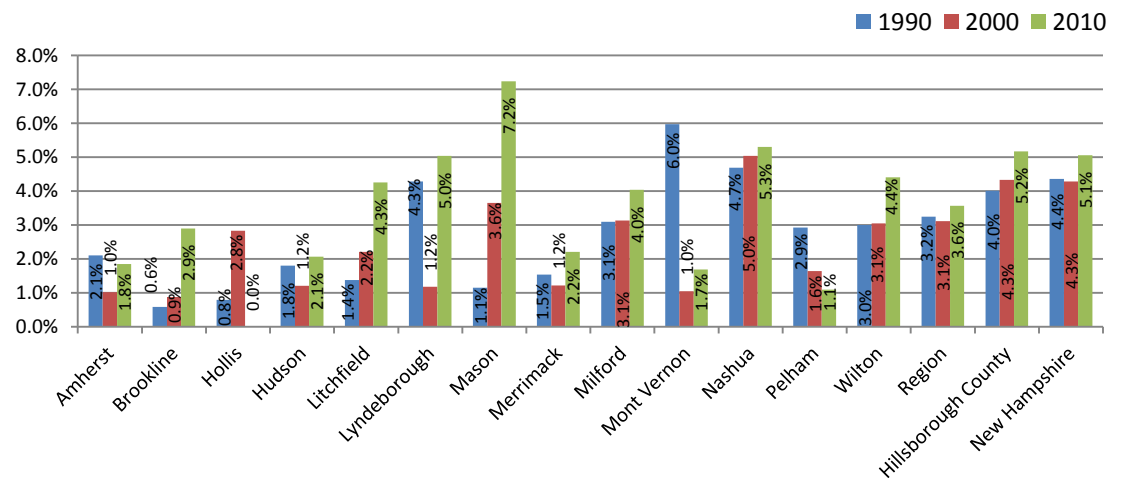
The majority of the region has less than 4% of families in poverty, but there are some places with poverty rates between 4%-7%. Mason currently has the highest number of families below the poverty level at 7.2%, in contrast with the Town of Hollis which had 0% in 2010.

Map 4: Population Below Poverty Level



Source: US Census, 2007-2011 American Community Survey

Figure 1.6: Percent of Families below the Poverty Level



Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010, U.S. Census 1990,2000

Higher levels of poverty likely stem from a low level of education and income. However, there are pockets of high child poverty in the Concord-Manchester-Nashua corridor where educational attainment and income levels are high and in some cases twice that of the state as a whole. (Johnson, 2012 p.19)

Limited English Proficiency

Regionally, 1.8% of the population does not speak English at all or cannot speak it well. Residents 65 and older have the highest rates of individuals with limited English proficiency at 2.4%. About 2% of those aged 18-64 have limited proficiency, and just over 1% of 5-17 year olds are limited. Proficiency levels

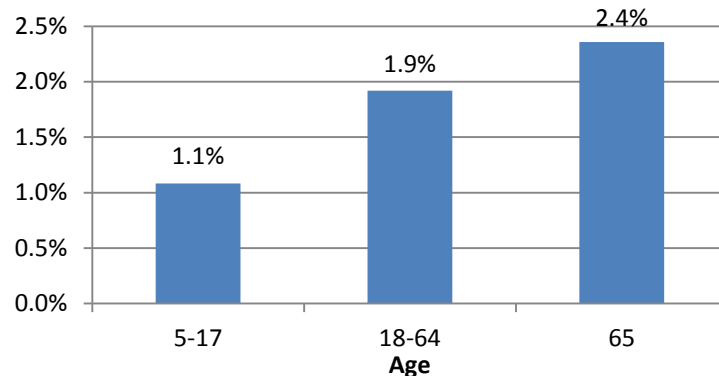
increase in younger populations sometimes creating a language barrier between children, their elders, and school administrators. The majority of those who are not proficient in English speak Spanish as their native language; European languages follow by less than half.

School Enrollment

School enrollment has seen a modest increase in kindergarten children from 2005 to 2010. Since 2010, the total population aged 0-10 has declined by over 3,000 so the increase in kindergarten enrollment is likely related to the mandate beginning in New Hampshire in September of 2009 and not

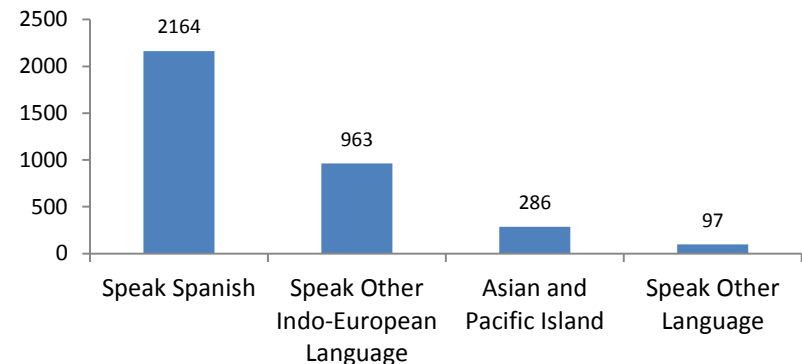
higher fertility rates. Before the mandate, New Hampshire already had over 90% of children enrolled in kindergarten. Overall, enrollment for elementary, middle, and high schools continues to decrease.

Figure 1.7 Percent of Population with Limited English Proficiency



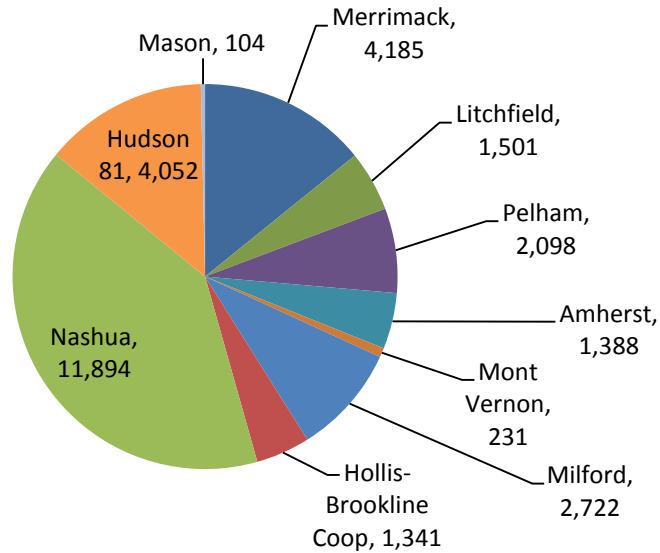
Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012

Figure 1.8 Those that speak English not well or not at All



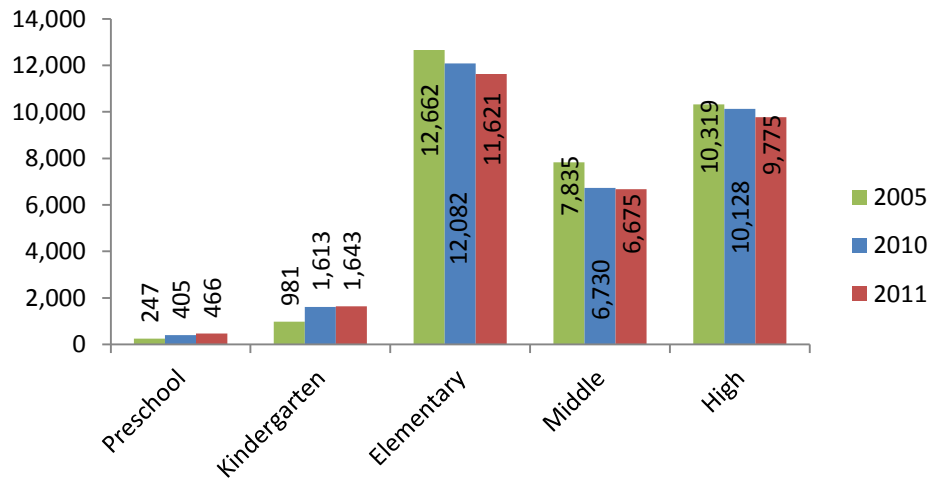
Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012

Figure 1.10: Total School Enrollment 2012



Source: NH Department of Education

Figure 1.9: Enrollment Change Over Time



Source: NH Department of Education

Needs

The 2010 Census data indicate that a larger share of the total population is aging and projections confirm the trend into the future. It is likely the region will experience a need for more affordable services and amenities for seniors, whether they chose to age in place or relocate, to meet the demands of the changing demographic. Some seniors we interviewed in the region said they would like to see more walkable communities where they have access to amenities such as primary care physicians, groceries, and shopping, while others wanted to age in place but worried about having adequate transportation services to meet their needs.

The Region has many attributes that are suitable for both young and old, and keeping the young adult population here is a growing concern. There are a large number of educated young adults that are migrating to other regions and States upon college graduation. Ensuring that there are enough quality job opportunities is critical in the short term to retaining or attracting a younger workforce. Declining youth populations and school enrollments will only exacerbate the shortage of young adults in the region that will needed to fill vacant jobs

in future years as the baby boomers start to retire.

Though the region is generally well educated and incomes are typically high, there are still pockets of poverty. There is a strong base of organizations in the region dedicated to help through community service centers such as the soup kitchen and SHARE. However, there is always additional need and opportunities for collaboration to meet the needs of the region's lowest income residents.

Opportunities

Analyzing demographic data in the region helps to define where improvements are most necessary to meet the needs of shifting population change. Rethinking the way downtowns are regarded could help attract young adults back to the region with affordable housing and a variety of choices in nightlife and activities. Having safe and walkable downtowns is a characteristic that will attract both retirees and young professionals to the region. There has been an out-migration of young people in the region, and fostering conditions that attract new businesses could help reverse this trend. There is an opportunity to market the region's quality of life, agricultural resources,

and growing arts and cultural community to attract new business and create opportunities.

There are opportunities to recognize the diversity present in the region adding to our quality of life. Recently, The Gate City Initiative has been formed to help refugee integration in the City of Nashua. They held their first annual symposium in fall of 2013. Groups such as this help bring together refugee, immigrant, and non-immigrant people to discuss pressing needs, issues and help work out solutions to help new American residents acclimate to a new community.

Traditional Settlement Patterns

We enjoy a high quality of life due to the mix of our urban, suburban and rural land use patterns.

The Nashua Region has a diverse mix of land uses, including abundant natural resources. Land use variety is one of the biggest draws for families that choose to move here. The region provides a balanced mix of urban, suburban and rural communities and neighborhoods placing residents an hour or less from cities, mountains, and beaches.

The Region's communities thrive on great community centers and residential neighborhoods that are safe and friendly with a range of housing options for all demographics. The region boasts a high quality of life and cities including Nashua scored within the top 100 places on Smart Growth America's sprawl indicator scale. Almost a quarter of the region's population lives within one half mile of the local downtown or community center making many of the region's downtowns accessible by way of foot or bike travel.

Nearly half of the region is designated as residential use (44%). Vacant or undeveloped

land covers 25% of the region, recreational and open space represents 15%, and the rest is evenly split among municipal buildings, water, and other industrial and commercial uses. It is worth noting that water only covers one percent of our region. The Nashua region has the least amount of surface waters of the nine regional planning regions.

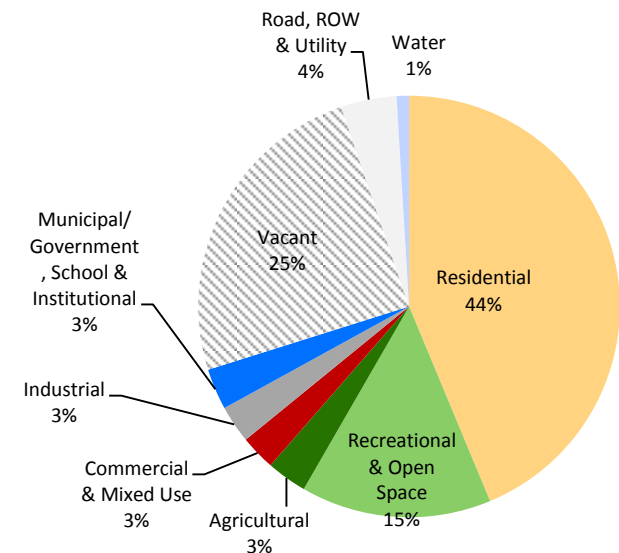
A 2014 Smart Growth America report measures sprawl across American metropolitan areas and counties. The index score is broken out into four categories that create a composite score based on density, land use mix, activity centering, and street connectivity.

The Manchester-Nashua area ranked 69th out of 221 metropolitan areas nationally with a total composite index score of 112.19. The region scored highest in activity centering, which acknowledges our traditional New England pattern of development of walkable downtowns surrounded by rural areas which include many recreation options. The region's lowest score was 89.28 for street connectivity. This reflects the varied topography of our landscape where

waterways and hills and are natural impediments to road connectivity in the region.

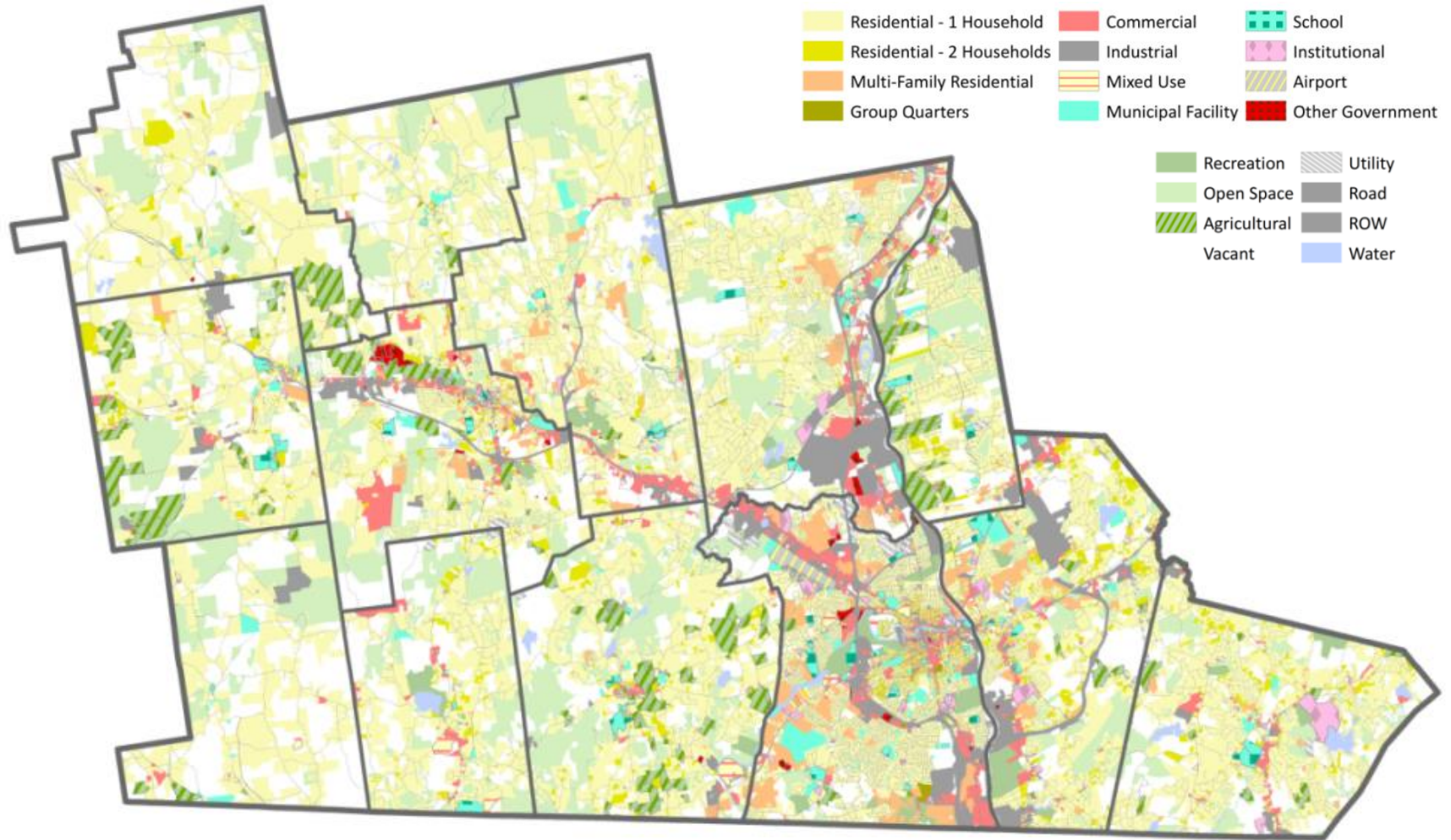
Out of the three New Hampshire counties included in the study, Hillsborough County had the highest scores and ranked higher than both Strafford and Rockingham counties in all four categories. This reflects that the County is home to two of New Hampshire's largest most compact cities, Manchester and Nashua. (Ewing & Hamidi, 2014)

Figure 2.1: Generalized Land Use (Percent of Total Area)



Source: NRPC, 2011

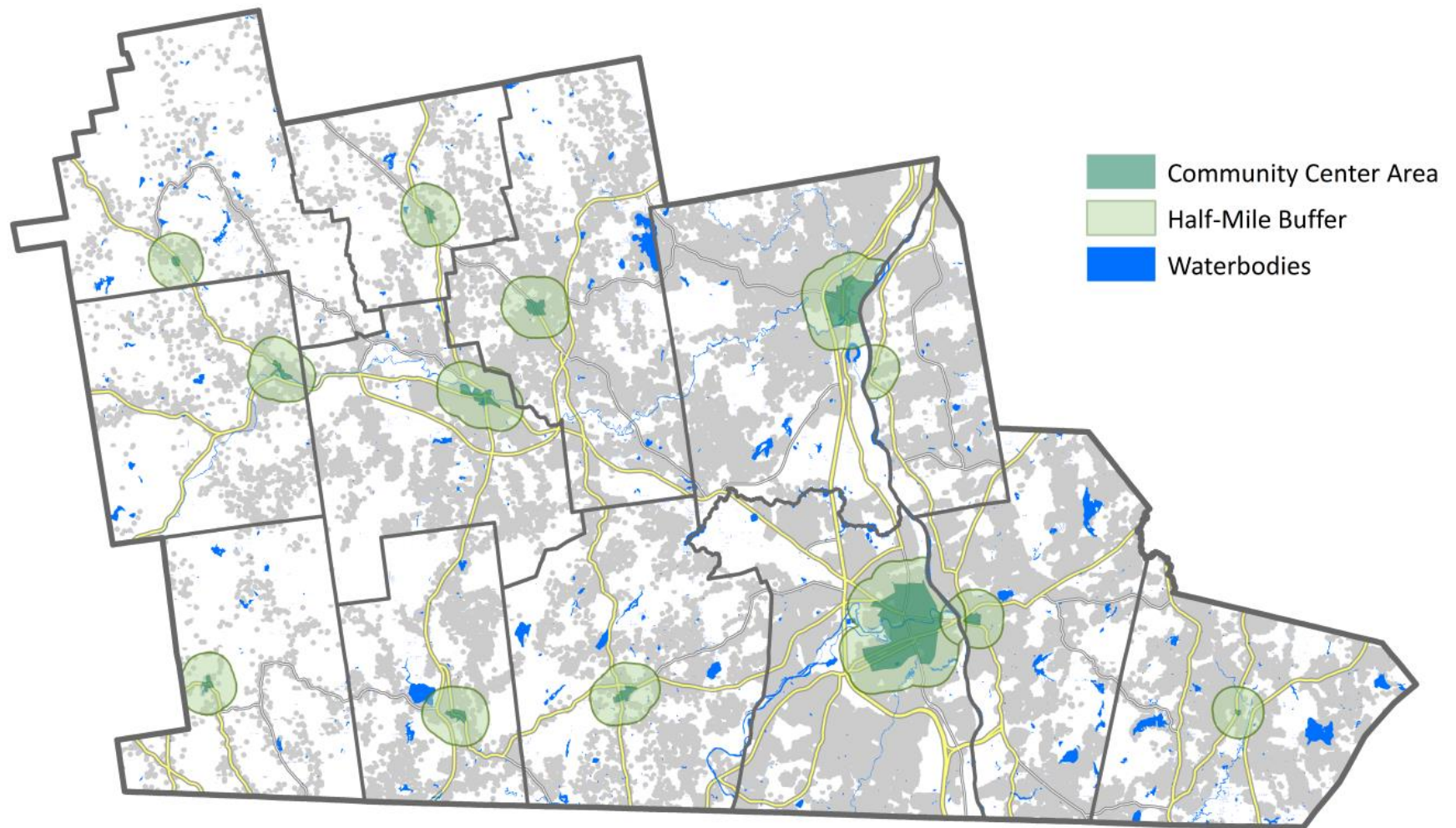
Map 5: Generalized Land Use Map



Note: Land uses derived from a combination of assessing data interpretation and field surveys and, as parcel-based data, are meant to be general in nature. Classification and calculated acreages based on Town assessing data from March 2011. Not to be used as a substitute for land cover.

Source:(NRPC, 2011)

Map 6: Population within one half mile of Community Centers



Data taken from both the 2000 and 2010 Census illustrates the portion of each community that lives within one half mile of the community center. Twenty-four percent of the 2000 population lived within one half mile of the community center area which decreased to about 23% in 2010. Housing units within one half mile of a community center totaled 25% in 2010, a slight decrease from 2000 when about 26.5% of households were within the community center.

Source: (U.S. Census & GRANIT, 2006, 2010)

Needs

The region's diverse land use mix is highly valued by residents; as such there is a need for continued maintenance and investment in keeping this asset intact for future generations. Residents would like to see more investments in maintaining our quality school systems. Investment in affordable primary and higher education choices has often been cited as a benefit to attracting younger families.

Younger residents in the region noted a need for expanded commercial and entertainment opportunities within a walkable neighborhood; a great draw for attracting a younger workforce. Regardless of age, residents in the region were strongly interested in seeing more restaurants in their community centers but acknowledged that without the necessary water infrastructure this might be challenging.

Water bodies in the region are considered assets and are underutilized according to some residents who would like to see more investment in waterfront community centers, boat and swimming access points, and recreation services. More outdoor recreation options support healthy and active lifestyles. Residents in the region often noted an

interest in expanding the existing bicycle and pedestrian trail network that would serve to expand recreational opportunities, protect natural resources, and expand transportation alternatives and connectivity.

Opportunities

Aging water infrastructure could be addressed by identifying cost-effective measures to upgrade infrastructure that can withstand changing conditions. Strategic investments and expansions could enable communities to bolster economic development opportunities through a carefully planned approach.

Water Infrastructure investments coupled with promoting walkable, accessible, and historically sensitive downtowns creates an opportunity to use the essential New England charm to the Region's advantage while promoting in-migration and economic vitality. This would maintain rural character which is one of the most important things residents look for in the Region. Finding opportunities to work together regionally will increase quality job growth and have a positive impact on future growth and development.

Housing Choices

Although predominantly single family, there is a broad range of options for housing, but the rate of new housing development has decreased significantly.

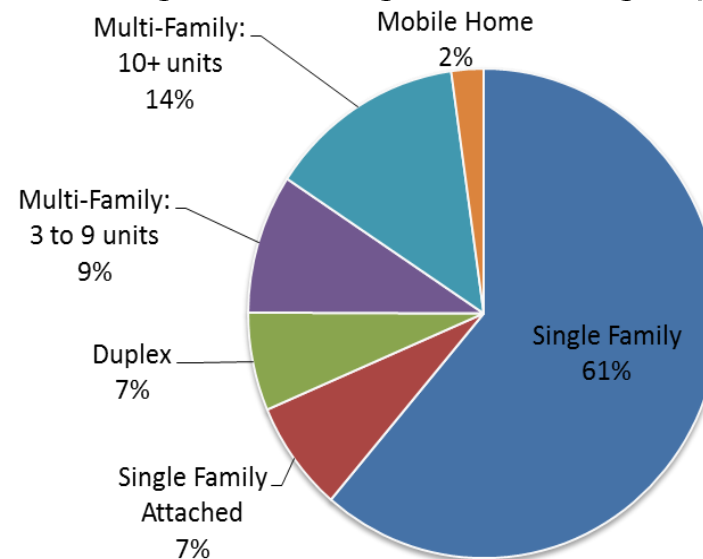
Residents like living in proximity to the Manchester-Boston Regional airport, rural and agricultural areas, job opportunities, and retail shopping areas. The region boasts some of the most diverse housing options in the State. While more than half of all housing in the Nashua Region is single family homes, over a third of all homes are condominiums or two- or multi-family homes.

Across the region, 61% of the housing stock is single family homes and 23% of the housing stock is multifamily residences, 70% of which are concentrated in the city of Nashua. Most of the multi-family housing stock is located near major roadways and most dense in the southeastern half of the region.

The recent recession has rendered home purchase prices generally more affordable, particularly given relatively high incomes in

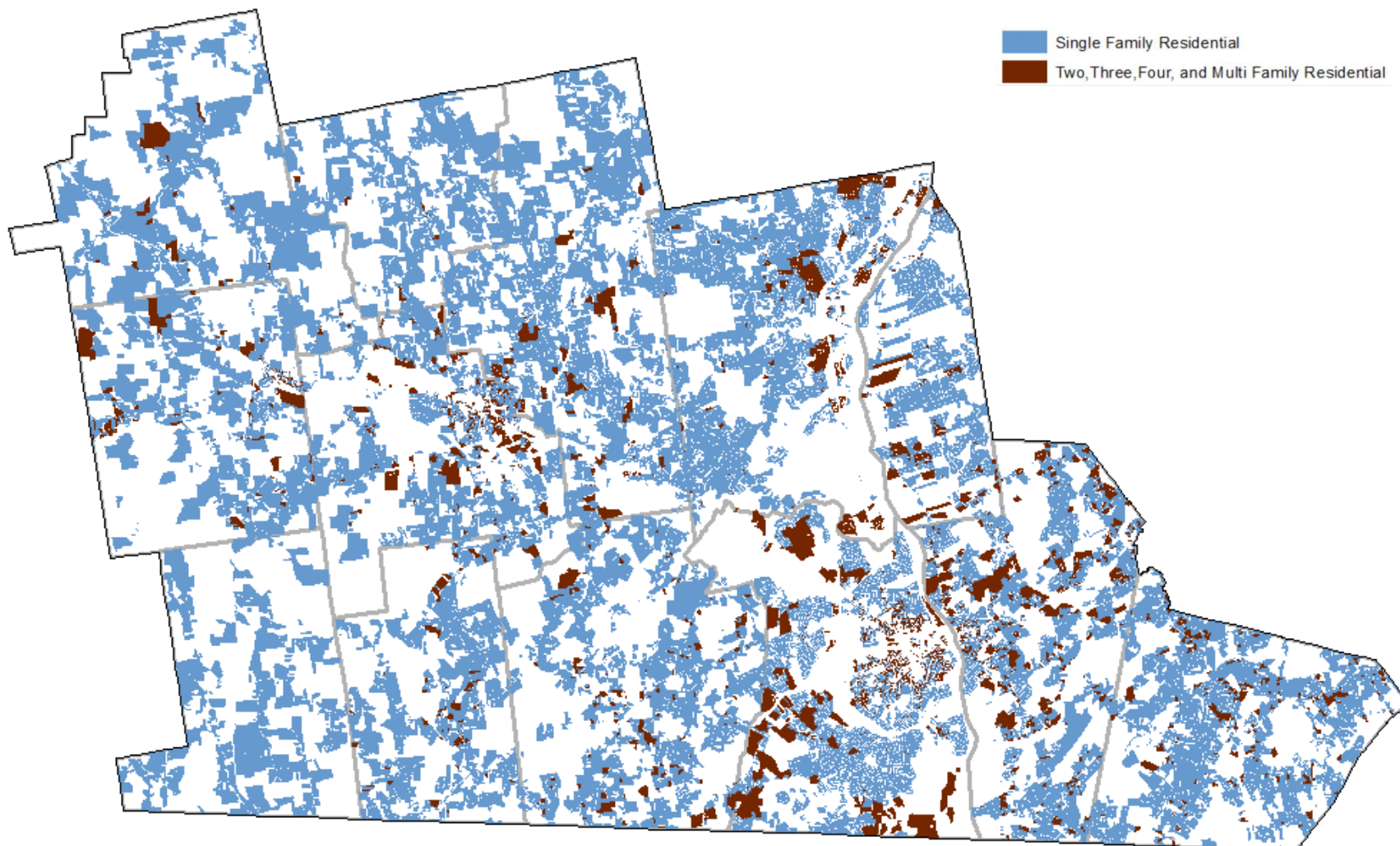
the region. Rental housing, however, remained unaffected by the recession and steadily increased. Generally, the region's most affordable housing options are well located in proximity to transportation and employment opportunities. The Region has impressive resources related to home-buying, financial help, and credit maintenance, which will help with new homebuyers as well as providing opportunities to meet the needs of new residents and multi-generational homes.

Figure 3.1: Regional Housing Supply, 2010



Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Map 7: Home Types



Note: Land uses derived from a combination of assessing data interpretation and field surveys and, as parcel-based data, are meant to be general in nature. Classification and calculated acreages based on Town assessing data from March 2011. Not to be used as a substitute for land cover.

Source:(NRPC, 2011)

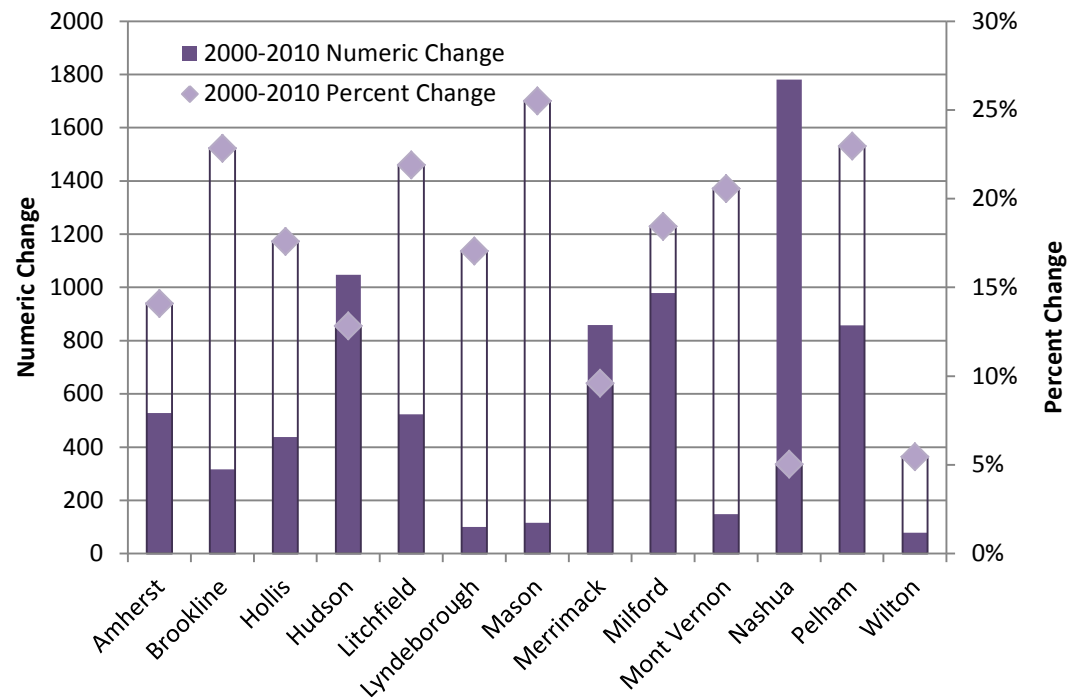
Regional Housing Unit Supply

The solid purple bars represent numeric change in housing stock, from 2000 to 2010 and the diamonds show total percent change. The largest amount of change in actual number of housing units was in the City of Nashua, which was only a 5% change in total housing stock.

The least amount of numeric change can be seen in Wilton, Mason, Lyndeborough, and Mont Vernon which are all under 200 units. Percent changes are relative to each municipality's 2000 housing unit supply explaining why Mason has the highest percent increase of housing units at about 25%.

The rate of building new houses in the region went down in every municipality from 2005-2010. Hollis, Milford, and Mont Vernon all saw 80% less new construction in the latter half of the decade, while Nashua has the least amount of decline at 33.5%.

Figure 3.2: 2000-2010 Change in Housing Units



Source: U.S. Census 2010

High household incomes and current low home purchase prices result in more affordable housing choices, but this is not universal for all households and communities.

Median Household Income

Median household income in the region when compared by tenure shows a significant difference. Amherst shows the highest median household income at almost \$120,000 for owners while the median renter earnings are around \$76,000, a third less than those who own homes.

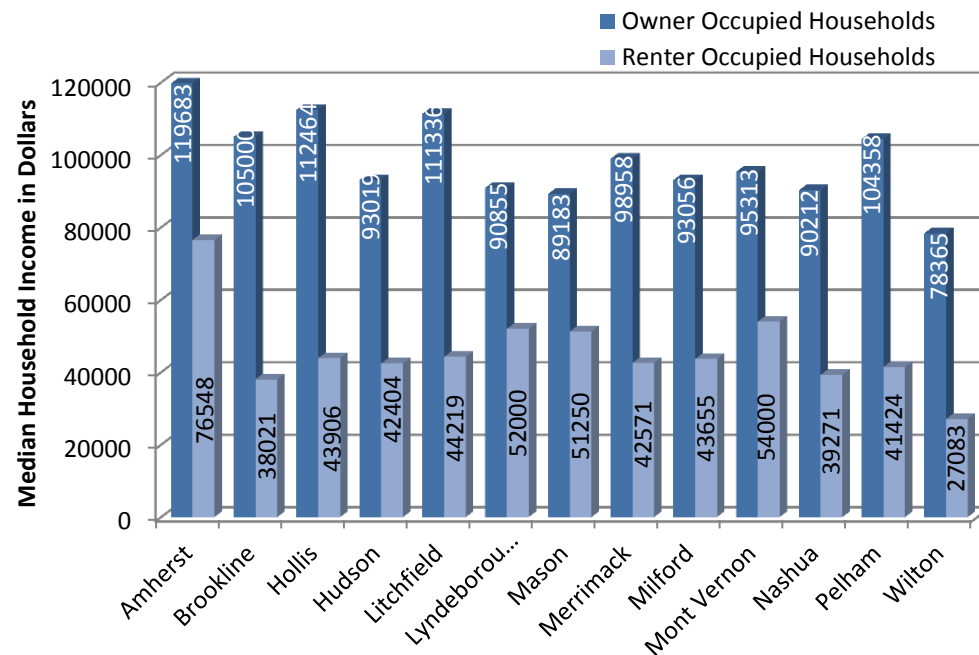
The Town of Wilton has the lowest income rates for both renters and owners. Residents of Wilton who own their homes make approximately \$78,000 while their renters are making less than half at near \$27,000 per household. Renters in nine out of the thirteen towns make less than half of their homeowner counterparts.

Home Prices

Median purchase price has both increased and decreased in the past two decades. From 1990 to 2002 rates were climbing slowly and then plateaued into 2003, then rose rapidly for a few years following the Great Recession and have been declining since 2008. In 1990

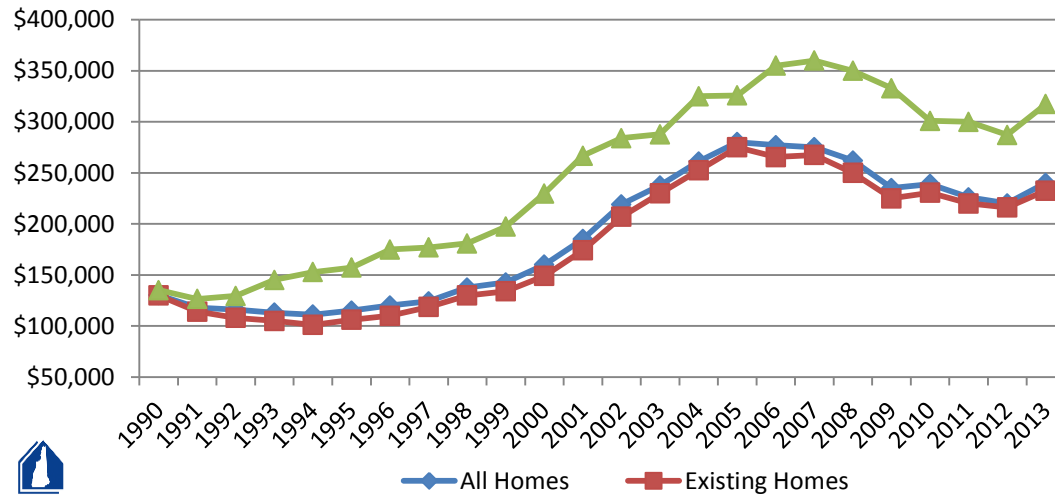
the median home purchase price for all homes in the region was approximately \$125,000. Prices reached their peak in 2005 more than doubling to \$275,000. The latest figures for 2013 show a median price of \$240,000 slightly up from the 2012.

Figure 3.3: Median Household Income for Owners and Renters



Source: U.S. Census 2010, ACS

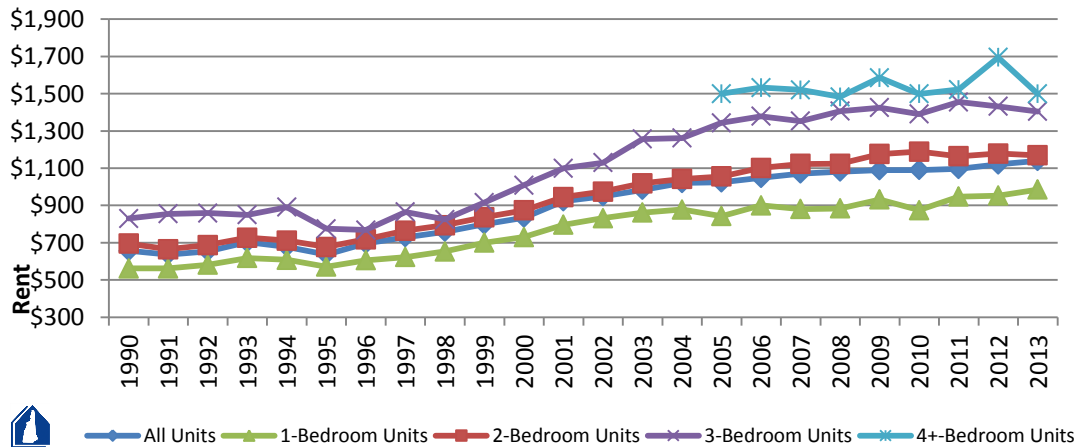
Figure 3.4: Median Purchase Price of Primary Homes



Source: NHHFA

Unlike purchase prices, rents across the region have remained largely unaffected by the Great Recession. Median gross rental cost has been climbing since 1998. In 1990, all units were averaging approximately \$650 per month, and in 2013 the average was nearly \$1200. Rent has almost doubled in cost for the average unit in the past two decades. Three bedroom units are slightly above \$1,400 per month and Nashua has the highest rental rates in the state of New Hampshire.

Figure 3.5: Median Gross Rental Cost

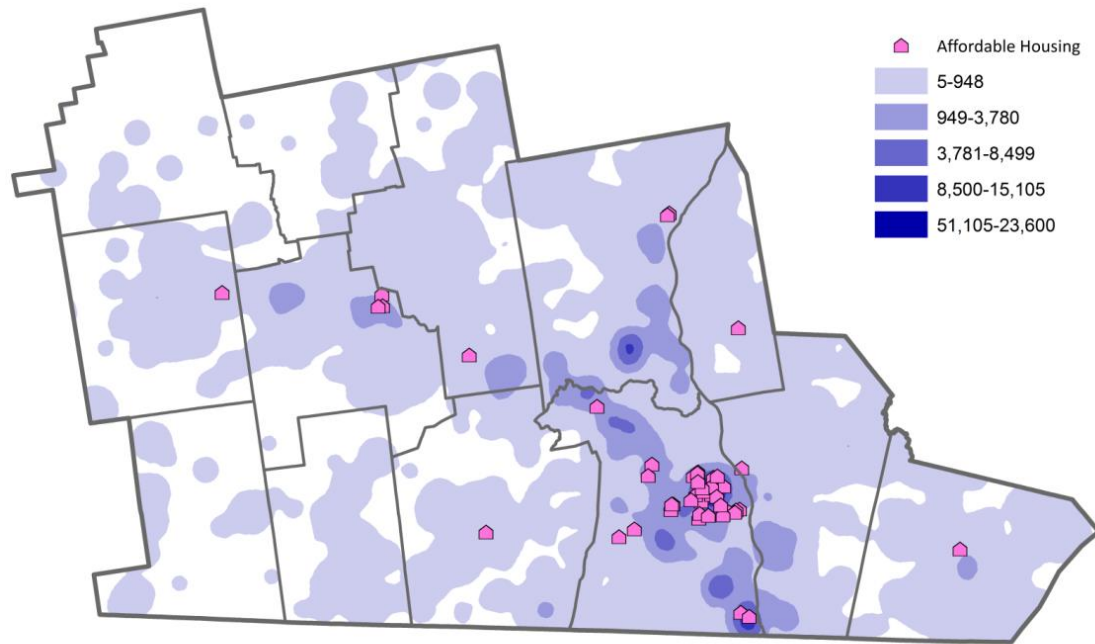


Source: NHHFA

Proximity to Major Employers

The greatest density of affordable housing is in the City of Nashua, where the population for the region is also the densest. Wilton, Milford, Amherst, Hollis, Merrimack, Litchfield, Hudson, and Pelham have small concentrations of affordable housing typically near areas of high employment density. There is an exception in the Town of Merrimack where the affordable housing area is located just north of the employment center.

Map 8: Assisted Housing Units Near Major Employers



Source: (NHHFA, US Census Bureau 2010)

Needs

Community members we heard from believe we have great economic stability and that housing is relatively affordable in the region. However, we also heard that to further future economic development, there needs to be a range of housing options affordable

to the full income spectrum. The topic of affordable housing stock was paralleled by residents saying there is a need to ensure that land use regulations are flexible enough to support affordable housing, should provide new incentives for mixed-use development, and allow for a range of housing types such as accessory apartments.

Many residents are particularly concerned about their young adult children who, despite the region's relative affordability, cannot find housing near the communities where they grew up. These young adults often share housing to afford rent. Similarly, families in the region are looking for flexible solutions to provide smaller in-law apartments for their elderly family members. An inherent need in the region is to attract a younger demographic since the population is aging at a rate that will likely not be replaced once baby boomers reach retirement age.

Opportunities

Generally, income varies across the region, and although overall it is higher than the national average, this is not true of every individual community and should be considered when planning for new development. There is a strong network of organizations within the region that can help residents with first time home-buyer education, foreclosure counselling, financial help, and credit maintenance, which will help with new homebuyers as well as providing opportunities to meet the needs of new residents.

Given that the region and state are shifting from a high growth to a lower growth paradigm, there is an opportunity to evaluate housing development and regulatory impacts. Future demand may be met through simple modifications to allow for flexibility and adaptability as well as an opportunity to create more desirable and affordable rental units near downtowns. Housing design standards can create more aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods resulting in a more attractive living space.

Transportation Choices

We depend on our automobiles to get around and our commute times exceed the National average.

Transportation choices provide residents with options to safely and efficiently get where they need to go, whether it is walking, biking, public transit, or carpool. Outside of the City of Nashua, choice in the region is largely limited to the private automobile. In the western part of the region, the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative's Blue Bus provides a valuable transit option to seniors and the disabled for non-emergency medical trips and limited shopping.

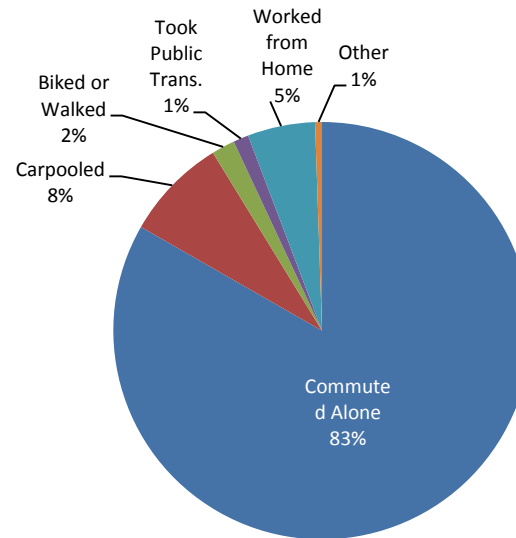
Travel Mode Share

While about 67% of workers who live in the region stay within the region or within in Hillsborough County, nearly a quarter of the workers are employed outside of New Hampshire, a number that has stayed relatively constant over the last twenty years.

Public transportation availability is limited in the Nashua region, and only 1.1% of the region's workers use it - mostly in Nashua, which is served by the Nashua Transit

System. NTS provides an essential service for those who do not drive or have no access to an automobile to get to school, work and shopping. In addition to the City transit system, residents find it is relatively easy to get to Boston and other hubs using the Boston Express bus service.

Figure 4.1: Commute Mode



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Commute Times

Commuters in the Nashua Region travel about a half hour to their places of employment. Not surprisingly, communities with close access to the F.E. Everett Turnpike,

NH 101 and US 3 corridors tend to have the shorter commute.

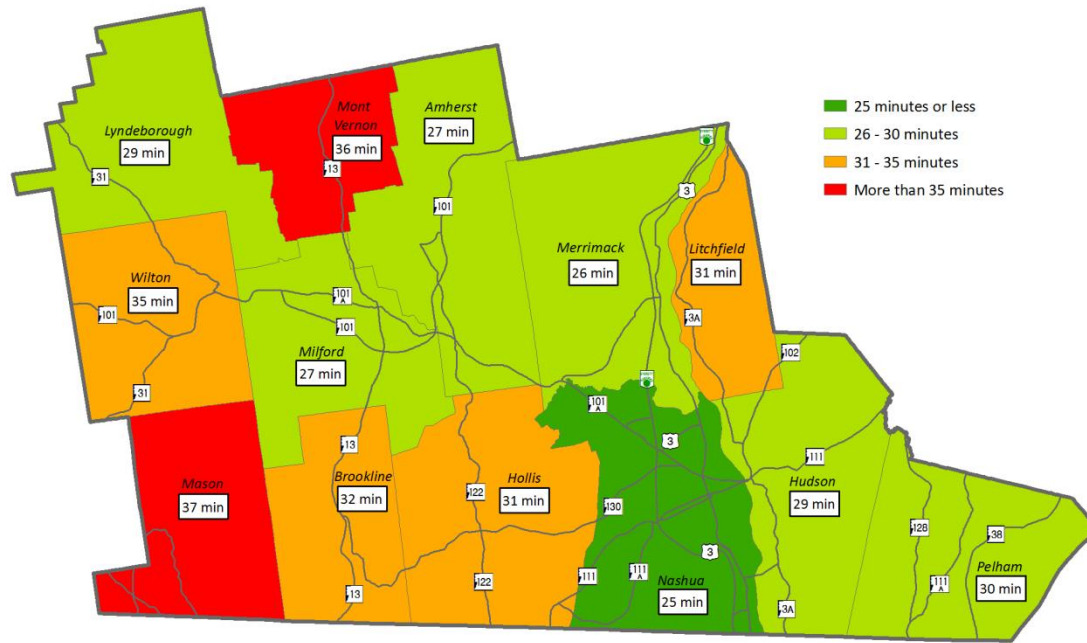
Commute times within the region are slightly higher than those for the rest of Hillsborough County or the State, which coincides with the higher rates of workers in the Region who travel outside of New Hampshire for their jobs, primarily working in the congested Boston Metropolitan Area. Commute times have increased by about 3.5 minutes over the last twenty years, which is consistent with county and statewide trends.

Needs

Residents in the NRPC region are highly automobile dependent and east-west travel routes are limited. Ride sharing programs and affordable, convenient public transportation options could help alleviate some of the flow of traffic through the region. While generally congestion levels are low, traffic on route 101A is sometimes very high. Lack of passenger rail and freight rail as well as Merrimack River bridge crossings has some residents concerned. Most residents think that passenger rail to Boston and other hubs would benefit the region economically.

Other needs in the Nashua region include a sustainable transportation funding source, investments in alternative travel modes,

Map 9: Average Regional Commute Times



Source: ACS, 2010

Investing time in researching technology to better manage traffic is an opportunity for the region to maintain and manage current roadways. Residents have shown their interest and support in creating new bike paths, which promotes sustainable travel modes and would help decrease the automobile dependency that currently exists.

As prices increase for car ownership and preferences change, alternative travel options are going to be vital in attracting new residents to the Region. New development of bridges over the Merrimack River could help ease congestion and create more ways to connect to other parts of the State.

more flexible land use, and better coordination between transportation and utility providers. Residents said connectivity in the region is good and they can run errands in relatively short trips but there is a need for more mixed-use development and an improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Opportunities

Most commonly, residents would like to see additional transportation options to Boston, and other cities in New Hampshire. Having this option of travel could lessen congestion levels and bring in economic benefits to the region and surrounding communities.

Natural Resource Functions and Quality

We value our high quality water resources, habitat, and forest lands but aging septic infrastructure and nutrient loading pose a threat to them.

The Nashua Region’s unique environment encompasses several natural features from rolling hills to rivers and valleys. The geography of our landscape is home to snow covered winters, scenic vistas, and a plethora of recreational opportunities. Communities and residents value high-quality aquifers, and drinking and surface waters. Communities have passed regulations to protect the vital water supplies in the region. At the same time, the region’s infrastructure is aging. The maintenance or replacement of existing infrastructure provides a great opportunity for revitalization to maintain rural character while incorporating new technology.

Residents love the abundance of recreation opportunities in the region and beautiful natural landscapes that encompass their homes and neighborhoods. The natural features of the environment draws many people to reside here where they are less

than an hour from the beach, mountains, lakes, rivers, and outdoor trails. Residents also highly value opportunities to promote energy efficiency, and would like to see more environmentally friendly development in the future.

Natural Resource Co-Occurrence

Natural resources in the region include water supply lands, flood storage lands, productive soils, wildlife habitat, forest blocks, wetlands and riparian areas. Map 10 indicates where these natural resources are overlapping in the region, the greater the co-occurrence the more valuable the natural resource quality. Much of the natural resource co-occurrence in the region follows major water sources such as the Merrimack and Souhegan Rivers. These areas are shown in yellow and orange.

Dark green indicates an occurrence of only one resource while red indicates the highest number of resources in an area. The richest natural resource lands are located in towns just north-west of Nashua. The area with the highest co-occurrence is also populated by population densities ranging from <250 people per square mile, to 1000-2,500 people per square mile. This is roughly the area where Nashua, Hollis, Merrimack, and Amherst meet. The most densely populated

area in downtown Nashua along the Merrimack River is home to a valuable overlap of resources as well. (Nashua Regional Planning Commission, 2006)

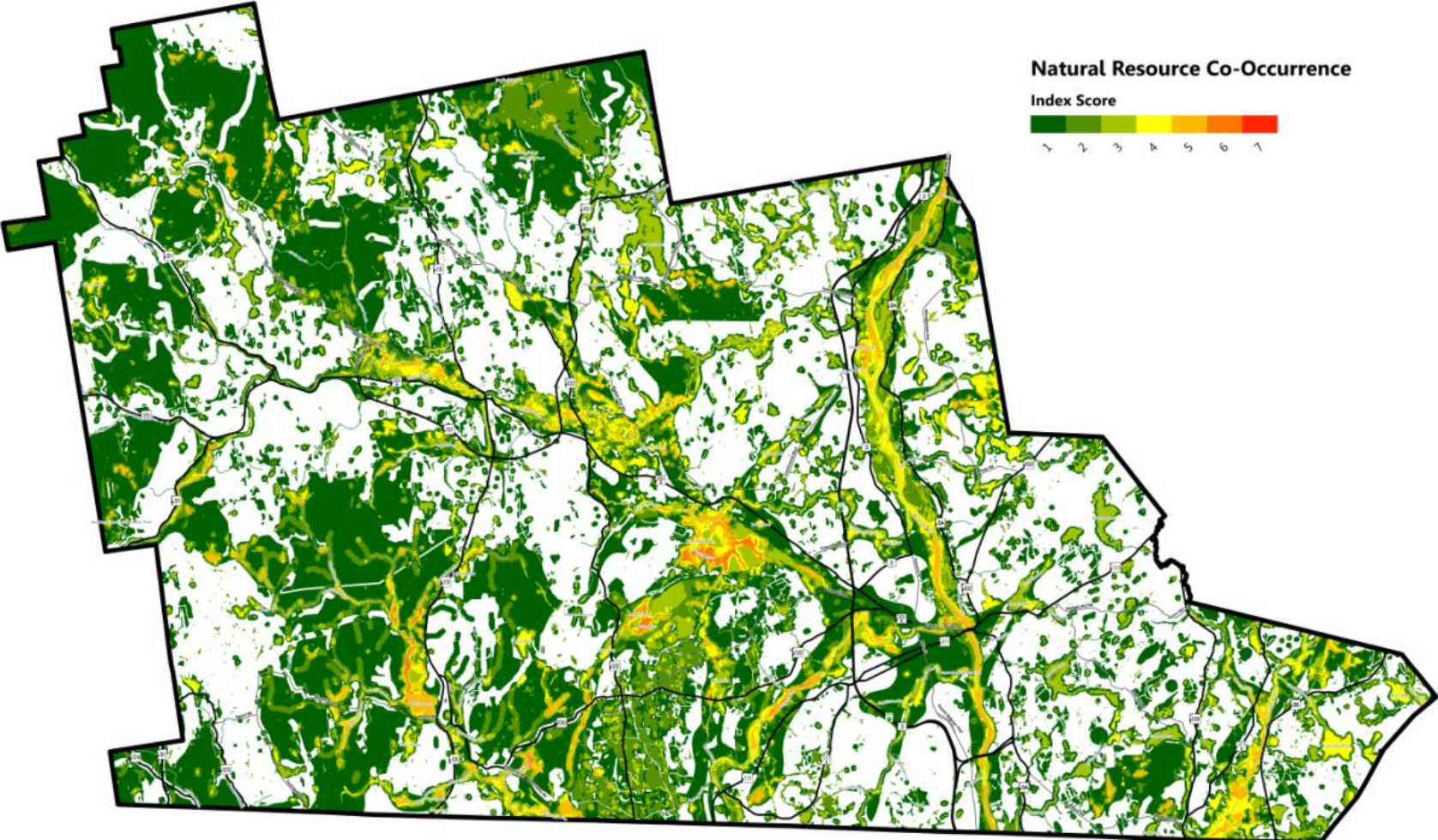
Table 2.1: Co-Occurrence of Natural Features

Co-Occurring Layers	Total Acres
0	91,186.1
1	72,268.4
2	24,943.8
3	15,765.6
4	11,292.9
5	5,276.0
6	665.7
7	1.4

Table 2.2: Natural Features Acreages

Individual Layer	Total Acres
Riparian & Shoreland	49,748.2
Prime Wetlands	19,741.9
Water Supply Lands	24,252.4
Flood Storage Lands	29,966.2
Productive Soils	19,540.5
Forest Blocks	48,657.4
Important Wildlife Habitats	33,793.3

Map 10: Natural Resource Co-Occurrence



There are only 1.4 acres in the region where all seven resources are overlapping, compared to 91,186 acres where none overlap. Riparian shore land covers the most area in the region totaling 49,748 acres, followed by forest blocks at 48,657. The resource covering the least amount of the region is prime wetlands totaling almost 20,000 acres, succeeded by productive soils totaling a mere 500 acres less.

Source:(Nashua Regional Planning Commission, 2006)

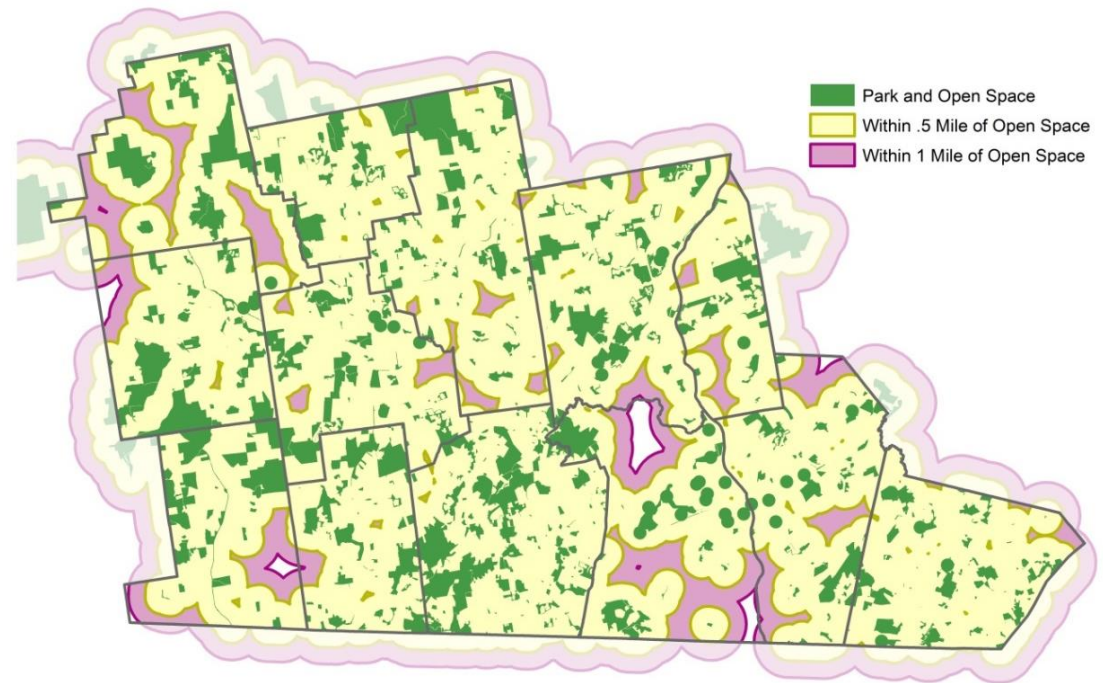
Parks and Open Space

Close proximity to a park or open space is vital for promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Based on the map above, 65% of the region's population is within .5 mile to a park, open space or other outdoor recreation area.

Beach Closures

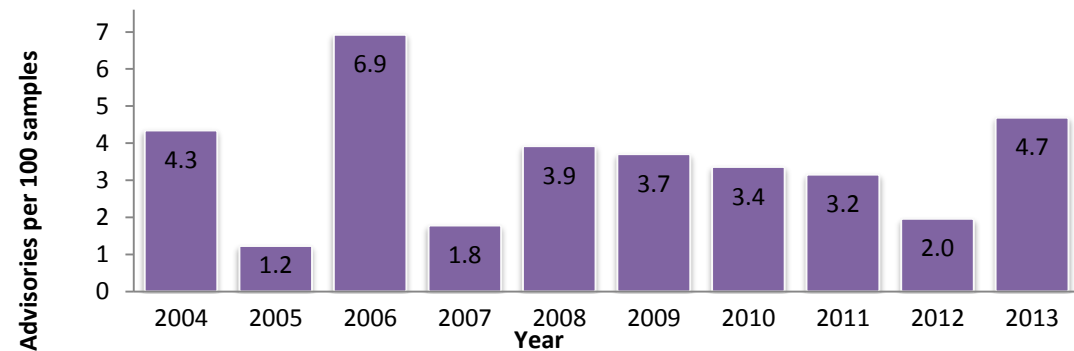
Beach closures, an impediment to swimming in the region, are determined by high chlorophyll a from cyanobacteria blooms and E. coli contamination. Pet waste and leaky septic systems leach nutrients and harmful bacteria such as E.coli and infect the water system contributing to potential beach closures. Contaminated waters not only affect swimmers' health, but reduce dissolved oxygen necessary for aquatic and wildlife. This issue is projected to increase and cause additional problems with rising summer temperatures and an increase in flooding events. (DES, 2010)

Map 11: Proximity to Parks and Open Space



Source: NRPC, GRANIT, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 5.3: Yearly Beach Advisories



Source: NH Department of Environmental Services 2013

We have seen significant changes in the frequency of storms over the last 40 years and this trend is projected to continue.

FEMA Declared Disasters 1973-2013

Severe storms in New Hampshire account for the highest declared disasters in New Hampshire, twice the amount than snow storms in the same period.

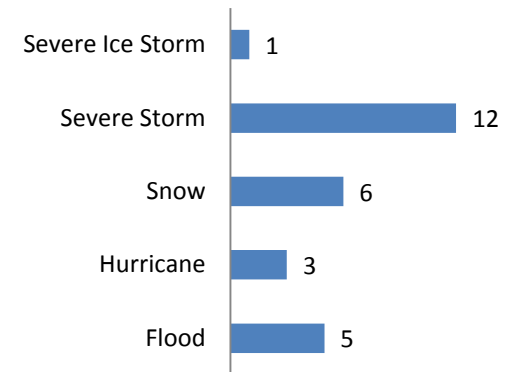
Severe storms are those that cause a substantial amount of damage but cannot be solely classified as just a hurricane, flood, ice storm, or snowstorm. This could mean a mixture of disasters occur simultaneously such as in August of 2013 with tornadoes and flooding.

Two of the three hurricanes in New Hampshire took place over the span of two years. From 2011-2012 New Hampshire was first hit by Tropical Storm Irene followed in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy. The third hurricane, which occurred in 2005 is listed due to Katrina evacuee's being relocated to the Region. New Hampshire's severe storms have historically and frequently included ice storms, flooding, high winds, heavy rains, and extreme blizzards. (FEMA, 2013)

Total FEMA Relief Funds

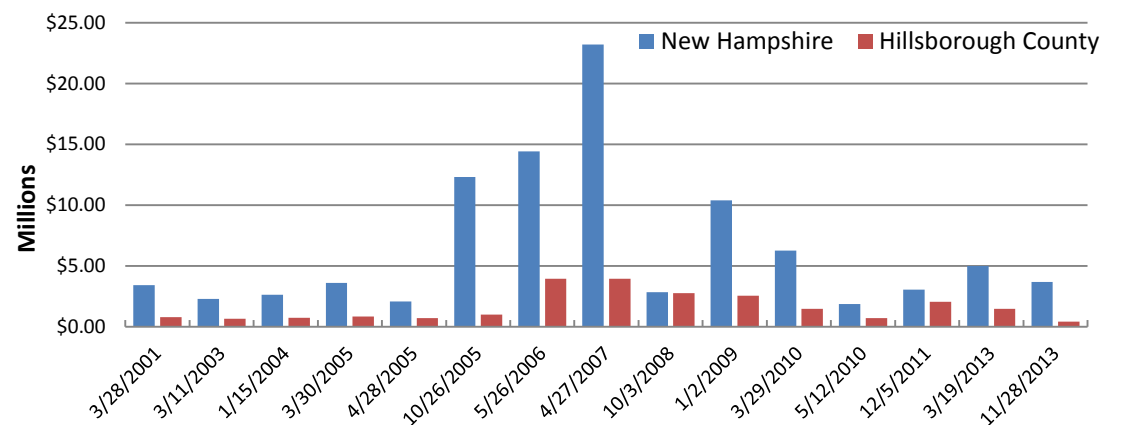
The past twelve years of FEMA data for Hillsborough County demonstrate a significant increase in spending on major disasters and emergency declared events. The first part of the decade remains steady with the largest spending occurring in 2006 (Mother's Day Flood) and 2007 (Patriots Day Storm), followed by a gradual decline until 2011. The Hillsborough County trends are synchronous with the rest of the state.

Figure 5.1: NH Disasters by Type 1973-2013



Source: FEMA, 2013

2001-2013 Total FEMA Relief Funds

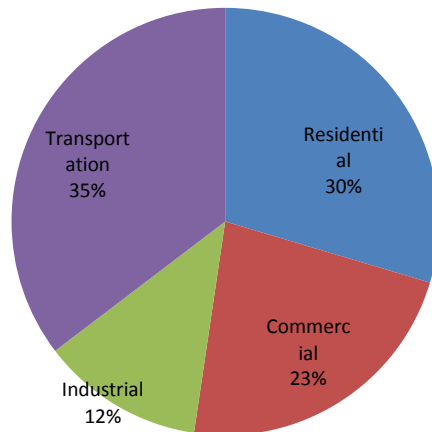


Source: FEMA, 2013

Energy Consumption

The transportation sector comprises a third of total energy consumption in the state. Possibilities for the high consumption include: a combination of lack of transportation infrastructure or rail systems, and the importing of goods to those non-coastal and northern municipalities. The second highest energy user is residential, which is a result of the aging housing supply. Homes that are not properly weatherized, or of the reality that homes in New Hampshire still run on oil heat results in a large consumption fossil fuels. (NH ELM I, 2013)

Figure 5.2: New Hampshire Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector 2011



Source: NH ELM I, 2013

Needs

The abundance of natural resources in the region is highly valued by residents. Because areas of high co-occurrence are in the vicinity of development, communities are likely going to see more conflicts and will need to make strategic choices for maintaining the high quality of the environment that we currently enjoy. Many residents would like to see more recreation options on the waterfronts, including the Merrimack River, however, the need for additional recreational opportunities needs to be balanced with preserving the resource.

Energy efficiency is one of the most important energy reduction strategies for reducing residential energy use. The residential sector is the second highest energy consumer which is due to aging housing infrastructure and poor construction. As oil prices rise, it is important to ensure that homes that are energy efficient to reduce heating and cooling costs. Energy efficient homes also benefit air quality as homes require less heating and cooling or switch to renewable energy sources.

Opportunities

There are many opportunities to improve and maintain existing resources in the Region. Communities can use the NRPC build out analysis to review what patterns of land use might look like in the future under current zoning regulations. Land use regulations can be reviewed to determine if changes are necessary to preserve and protect natural resources.

The majority of residents in the region rely on private well systems. Public health officials are an available resource to explore for opportunities to test wells.

The State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) can be used for local water treatment plans and potentially to build energy improvements into existing planned upgrades.

Community and Economic Vitality

We have a strong, diverse economy, but our workforce is aging and the current supply of younger workers is limited.

High median incomes, low poverty rates, low overall tax burdens, high levels of educational attainment, and low unemployment rates help make the region's economy an attractive one to invest in. Residents think the region is a generally safe place to live and raise a family and most feel comfortable here.

Every municipality in the region recognizes its town center as the heart of its civic and community activities and some municipalities provide a diverse selection of residential, commercial and recreational options. Community organizations, including Chambers of Commerce, Rotaries, and scores of community improvement groups, enhance both the region's economy and its quality of life.

More than 38 percent of residents of the region possess at least a bachelor's degree. This is significantly higher than the state and

national averages of 33.4 percent and 28.5 percent respectively. Moving forward, maintaining this training edge presents a powerful incentive to employers to locate in the region.

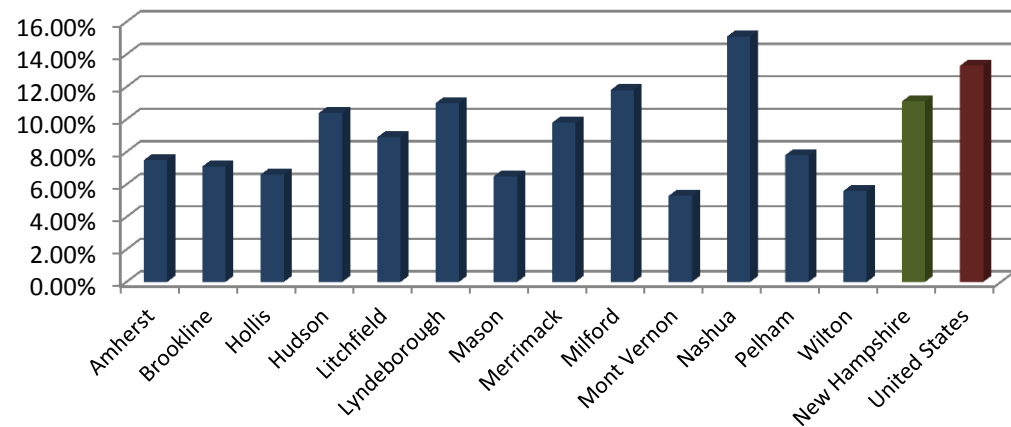
Despite the region's many economic advantages, there are challenges on the horizon. Slow growth and an aging workforce represent a significant challenge to the viability of the region's economy. Ensuring young workers remain in the area and are able to replace retiring workers is a pressing need in the region.

Working Age Population, Age 25-34

The U.S. Department of Labor categorizes individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 as representing the prime working age population.

In the Nashua Region, 116,762 residents, or 56.7% fall within this age group. Approximately 31.5% of residents are under age 25, while 11.8% are over age 65. In 2010, 19.5% of all workers nationwide were over the age of 55. Only three Nashua Region communities, Hudson, Litchfield, and Nashua, boasted a smaller share of workers in this age group.

Figure 6.1: Share of Population Age 25-34



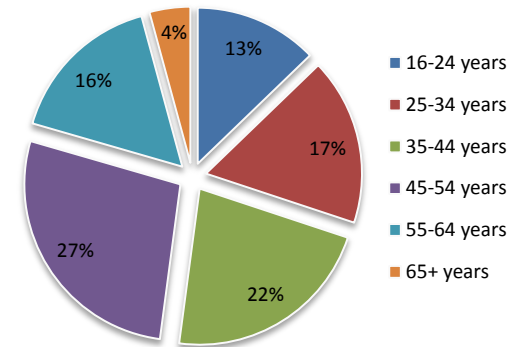
Source: U.S. Census 2010

Workforce Age and Municipality

The New Hampshire Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau projects that total employment in the Nashua Region will grow by approximately 10,200 individuals between 2010 and 2020. The Bureau projects that most industrial sectors will experience employment growth, though much of that growth will be concentrated in a few industries. These industries include construction (26.2% growth rate), professional and technical services (25.5%), and health care and social assistance (23.7%). The Bureau also projects that a few industries will experience employment

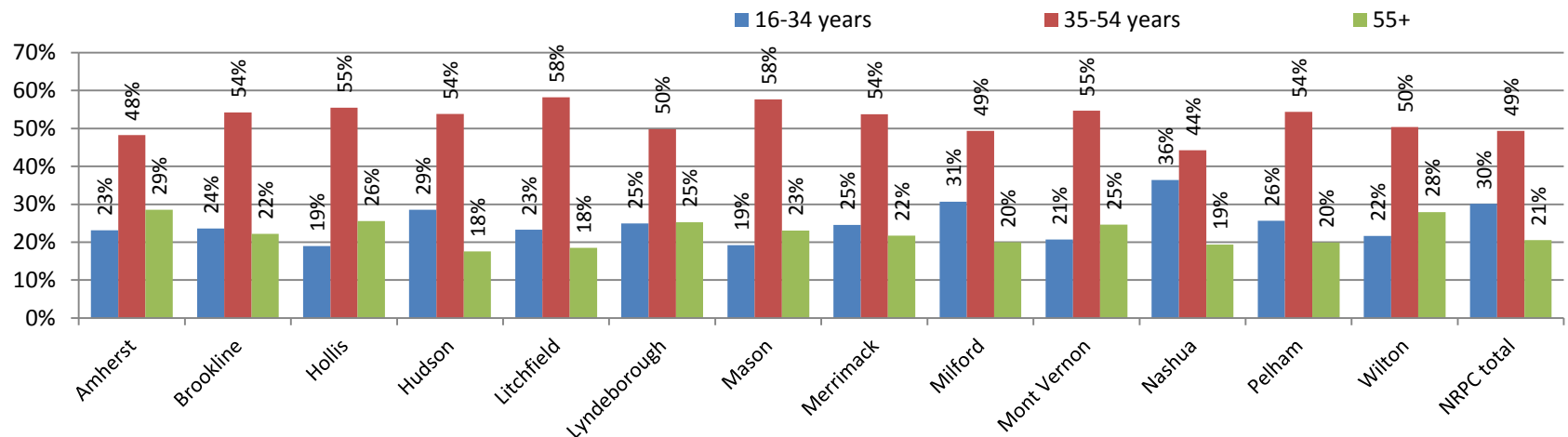
declines or remain static. These industries include utilities (-6.8%), manufacturing (-2.2%) and transportation and warehousing (0.3%).

Figure 6.3: % of Population in The Workforce by Age



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Figure 6.2: Individuals in Workforce by Age and Municipality



U.S. Census 2010

Our low unemployment rates, high educational attainment and median income levels provide a significant economic advantage relative to other regions.

Employment Participation Rates

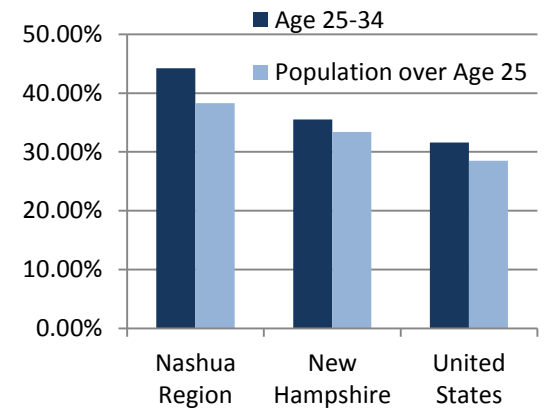
Since 2000 unemployment rates have been climbing and in 2012 were higher than the previous decade in all of the communities in the Nashua region. Pelham currently has the highest rate of unemployment (7.3%) while also having one of the highest household

incomes, and rates of net migration. Lyndeborough has the lowest rate of unemployment at 4.2%.

Educational Attainment

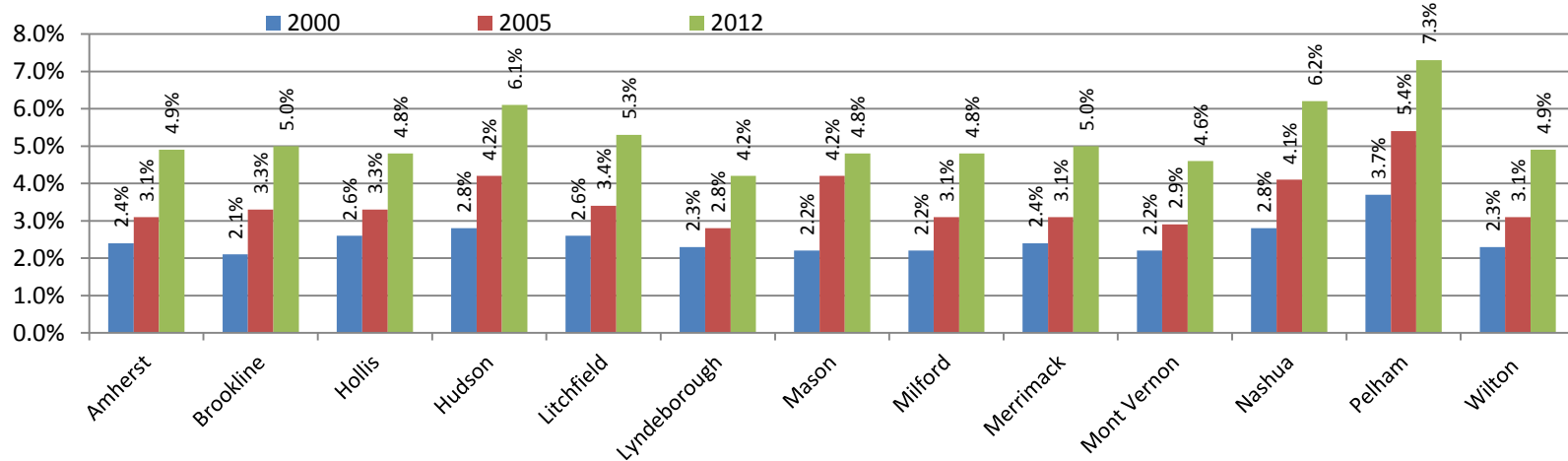
One of the greatest strengths of the region's economy is the highly skilled nature of its labor force. All thirteen communities have a majority of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher and nine are higher than the State. The percentages range from the lowest in the Town of Pelham at 29.6%, to the highest which include Amherst and Hollis at just over 60%.

Figure 6.5: Population with a 4-Year Degree



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Figure 6.4: Unemployment Rate Comparison



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Those in the Nashua region aged 25-34 are more likely to have a bachelor’s degree or higher than both the state and nation, with 44.2% of the population having higher education degrees. The rate of bachelor’s degrees across the state is 35.5% while the nation is at 31.6%.

We are strong in the manufacturing, retail, and health sectors, and diversified with strong footholds in other high paying industries.

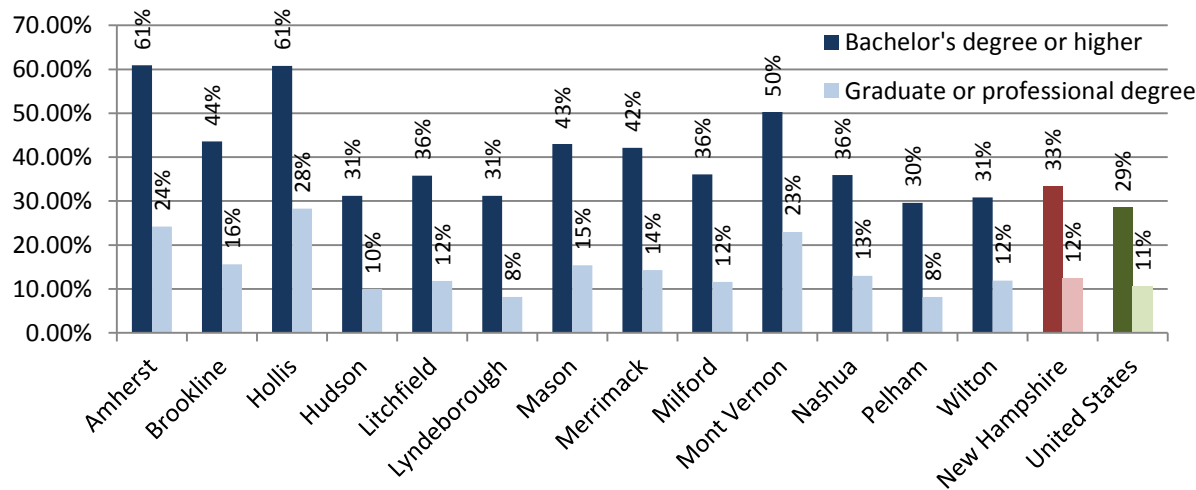
Jobs by Industry

The region’s employment base is relatively diversified with the three largest industries in the consisting of manufacturing, retail trade, and health care and social assistance. Together they make up 43% of the total

industry for the region.

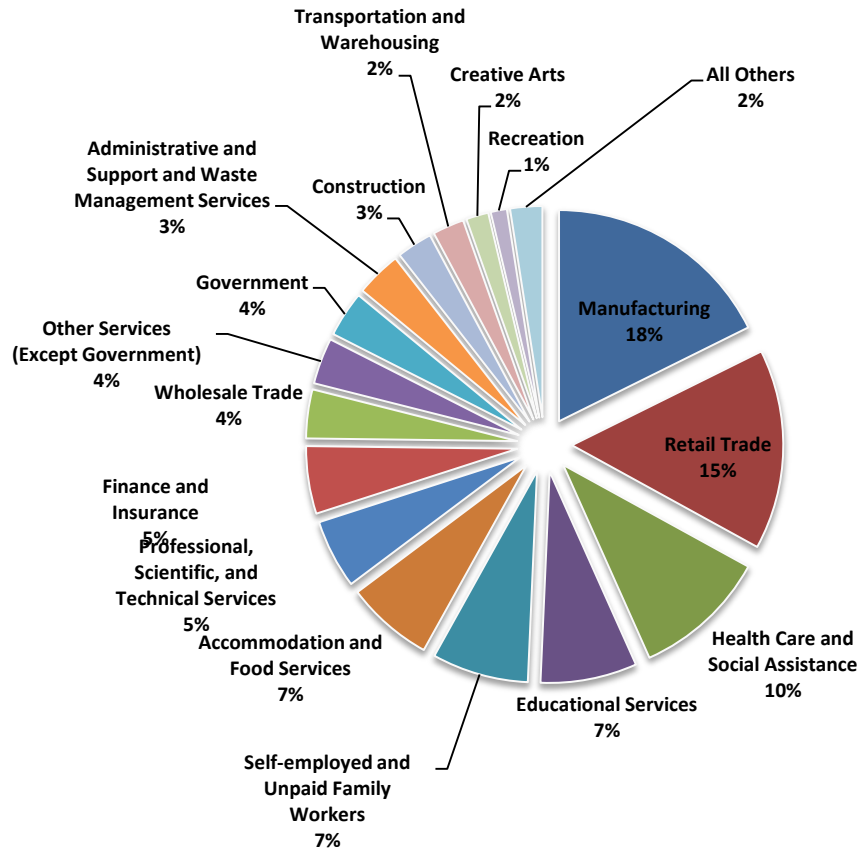
Manufacturing takes the lead with 18% of the share followed by retail trade and then health care. The smallest industry in the region is recreation, totaling only one percent of jobs, contrary to the region’s vast natural resources and green space. Included in the second largest bracket of industries are the self-employed or unpaid family workers. The self-employed make up small business in the region.

Figure 6.6: Educational Attainment Levels by Municipality
Population Age 25 and Over



Source: U.S. Census 2010

Figure 6.7: Jobs by Industry in the NRPC Region



Source: NRPC 2010

Needs

Certain aspects of the New England quintessential town are what draw people to live here. Rural character was cited as one of the most important traits of the region.

Preserving the small town feel with easy access to urban amenities connections is key to the future success of the region.

Residents felt that economic development should augment, and not detract from, the

region’s high quality of life. In addition, we need to provide opportunities to support creative fields within the economy.

Some residents appeared to focus more on the importance of investments in infrastructure, including downtown amenities, broadband and commuter rail, in attracting economic development to the region.

Lack of quality housing options in some of the downtown areas, especially in the City of Nashua is an issue, and more residents would like to see affordable places to live downtown. Other residents cited the need for more parks and open space that fuel recreation and promote healthy lifestyles will help kids stay active and promote outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles.

Opportunities

Commuter rail is an investment that many residents support and believe would bring new capital and jobs into our local communities while satisfying the transportation needs of many residents.

Investments in transit and bike path systems, east-west travel options, and renovations to old infrastructure could enhance the region’s rural character.

A major impediment of growth in the region are outdated zoning and land use regulations. Updating regulations to allow for more flexibility and to help expand the region's existing infrastructure could potentially attract young professionals to the Region and help fill the aging population gap.

More venues to host large events could start bringing communities together and utilize the beautiful waterfront and green space that the region has.

Options for NRPC to help facilitate community vitality and economic growth include hiring an events planner, helping towns mitigate major corridor issues, developing transportation plans for major corridors, developing a sidewalk and bicycle master plan for the region, coordinating a regional economic development committee; holding workshops and seminars, assisting in coordination of local farmer's markets, and drafting a regional economic development plan.

Appendix A: Detailed Tables

Table A1.1: Regional, County and State Population, 1960 – 2010 (part 1)

Community	Population Totals						Numeric Change in Population				
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010
Amherst	2,051	4,605	8,243	9,068	10,769	11,201	2,554	3,638	825	1,701	432
Brookline	795	1,167	1,766	2,410	4,181	4,991	372	599	644	1,771	810
Hollis	1,720	2,616	4,679	5,705	7,015	7,684	896	2,063	1,026	1,310	669
Hudson	5,876	10,638	14,022	19,530	22,928	24,467	4,762	3,384	5,508	3,398	1,539
Litchfield	721	1,420	4,150	5,516	7,360	8,271	699	2,730	1,366	1,844	911
Lyndeborough	594	789	1,070	1,294	1,585	1,683	195	281	224	291	98
Mason	349	518	792	1,212	1,147	1,382	169	274	420	-65	235
Merrimack	2,989	8,595	15,406	22,156	25,119	25,494	5,606	6,811	6,750	2,963	375
Milford	4,863	6,622	8,685	11,795	13,535	15,115	1,759	2,063	3,110	1,740	1,580
Mont Vernon	585	906	1,444	1,812	2,034	2,409	321	538	368	222	375
Nashua	39,096	55,820	67,865	79,662	86,605	86,494	16,724	12,045	11,797	6,943	-111
Pelham	2,605	5,408	8,090	9,408	10,914	12,897	2,803	2,682	1,318	1,506	1,983
Wilton	2,025	2,276	2,669	3,122	3,743	3,677	251	393	453	621	-66
NRPC Region	64,269	101,380	138,881	172,690	196,935	205,765	37,111	37,501	33,809	24,245	8,830
Hillsborough County	178,161	223,941	276,608	336,073	380,841	400,721	45,780	52,667	59,465	44,768	19,880
Statewide	606,400	737,579	920,475	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,316,470	131,179	182,896	188,777	126,534	80,684

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Table A1.1: Regional, County and State Population, 1960 – 2010 (part2)

Community	Percent Change in Population					Annual Percent Growth					
	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	1960-2010
Amherst	124.5%	79.0%	10.0%	18.8%	4.0%	8.4%	6.0%	1.0%	1.7%	0.4%	3.45%
Brookline	46.8%	51.3%	36.5%	73.5%	19.4%	3.9%	4.2%	3.2%	5.7%	1.8%	3.74%
Hollis	52.1%	78.9%	21.9%	23.0%	9.5%	4.3%	6.0%	2.0%	2.1%	0.9%	3.04%
Hudson	81.0%	31.8%	39.3%	17.4%	6.7%	6.1%	2.8%	3.4%	1.6%	0.7%	2.89%
Litchfield	96.9%	192.3%	32.9%	33.4%	12.4%	7.0%	11.3%	2.9%	2.9%	1.2%	5.00%
Lyndeborough	32.8%	35.6%	20.9%	22.5%	6.2%	2.9%	3.1%	1.9%	2.0%	0.6%	2.10%
Mason	48.4%	52.9%	53.0%	-5.4%	20.5%	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%	-0.5%	1.9%	2.79%
Merrimack	187.6%	79.2%	43.8%	13.4%	1.5%	11.1%	6.0%	3.7%	1.3%	0.1%	4.38%
Milford	36.2%	31.2%	35.8%	14.8%	11.7%	3.1%	2.7%	3.1%	1.4%	1.1%	2.29%
Mont Vernon	54.9%	59.4%	25.5%	12.3%	18.4%	4.5%	4.8%	2.3%	1.2%	1.7%	2.87%
Nashua	42.8%	21.6%	17.4%	8.7%	-0.1%	3.6%	2.0%	1.6%	0.8%	-0.01%	1.60%
Pelham	107.6%	49.6%	16.3%	16.0%	18.2%	7.6%	4.1%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	3.25%
Wilton	12.4%	17.3%	17.0%	19.9%	-1.8%	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%	-0.2%	1.20%
NRPC Region	57.7%	37.0%	24.3%	14.0%	4.5%	4.7%	3.2%	2.2%	1.3%	0.4%	2.35%
Hillsborough County	25.7%	23.5%	21.5%	13.3%	5.2%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	1.3%	0.5%	1.63%
Statewide	21.6%	24.8%	20.5%	11.4%	6.5%	2.0%	2.2%	1.9%	1.1%	0.6%	1.56%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Community	% of Region's Population					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Amherst	3.19%	4.54%	5.94%	5.25%	5.47%	5.44%
Brookline	1.24%	1.15%	1.27%	1.40%	2.12%	2.43%
Hollis	2.68%	2.58%	3.37%	3.30%	3.56%	3.73%
Hudson	9.14%	10.49%	10.10%	11.31%	11.64%	11.89%
Litchfield	1.12%	1.40%	2.99%	3.19%	3.74%	4.02%
Lyndeborough	0.92%	0.78%	0.77%	0.75%	0.80%	0.82%
Mason	0.54%	0.51%	0.57%	0.70%	0.58%	0.67%
Merrimack	4.65%	8.48%	11.09%	12.83%	12.75%	12.39%
Milford	7.57%	6.53%	6.25%	6.83%	6.87%	7.35%
Mont Vernon	0.91%	0.89%	1.04%	1.05%	1.03%	1.17%
Nashua	60.83%	55.06%	48.87%	46.13%	43.98%	42.04%
Pelham	4.05%	5.33%	5.83%	5.45%	5.54%	6.27%
Wilton	3.15%	2.25%	1.92%	1.81%	1.90%	1.79%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Table A1.3: Regional Population by Age Cohort Trends, 1990 - 2010

Community	19 and Under				20 to 44				45 to 64				65 and Over			
	1990	2000	2010	Δ 90-10	1990	2000	2010	Δ 90-10	1990	2000	2010	Δ 90-10	1990	2000	2010	Δ 90-10
Amherst	31.7%	34.0%	28.2%	-3.5%	36.5%	29.7%	22.9%	-13.6%	25.8%	29.0%	36.4%	10.5%	5.9%	7.3%	12.5%	6.6%
Brookline	30.9%	35.6%	33.6%	2.8%	45.9%	37.8%	26.7%	-19.2%	16.3%	21.6%	33.1%	16.7%	6.8%	5.0%	6.6%	-0.3%
Hollis	29.5%	31.4%	27.3%	-2.3%	37.9%	30.5%	19.6%	-18.3%	23.9%	29.8%	39.2%	15.3%	8.6%	8.3%	14.0%	5.3%
Hudson	30.0%	30.2%	27.4%	-2.6%	45.9%	39.6%	32.3%	-13.6%	17.7%	22.3%	29.7%	12.0%	6.5%	7.9%	10.6%	4.1%
Litchfield	36.1%	35.4%	30.2%	-5.9%	47.7%	41.2%	29.4%	-18.2%	13.1%	19.9%	32.0%	18.9%	3.1%	3.5%	8.4%	5.3%
Lyndeborough	32.1%	28.8%	22.8%	-9.3%	41.0%	37.0%	27.3%	-13.6%	18.9%	27.3%	36.8%	18.0%	8.0%	6.9%	13.0%	5.0%
Mason	29.7%	26.4%	23.6%	-6.1%	44.6%	36.4%	26.8%	-17.7%	18.3%	28.8%	39.9%	21.6%	7.4%	8.5%	9.7%	2.3%
Merrimack	32.0%	31.2%	26.6%	-5.4%	46.0%	37.8%	30.4%	-15.6%	17.3%	24.7%	32.7%	15.4%	4.7%	6.4%	10.3%	5.6%
Milford	28.9%	29.9%	27.4%	-1.5%	45.4%	38.9%	32.4%	-12.9%	15.5%	21.5%	28.3%	12.8%	10.3%	9.6%	11.9%	1.6%
Mont Vernon	32.3%	31.8%	29.3%	-2.9%	39.8%	33.1%	24.4%	-15.4%	19.9%	26.0%	36.1%	16.2%	8.1%	9.1%	10.2%	2.1%
Nashua	26.6%	27.0%	24.7%	-1.9%	45.2%	39.2%	34.8%	-10.4%	18.0%	22.2%	27.8%	9.8%	10.1%	11.6%	12.7%	2.5%
Pelham	32.1%	31.0%	28.4%	-3.7%	41.7%	38.0%	29.6%	-12.1%	19.8%	23.2%	31.5%	11.7%	6.5%	7.8%	10.5%	4.1%
Wilton	30.0%	29.0%	25.4%	-4.6%	41.9%	34.9%	29.1%	-12.9%	17.7%	25.2%	33.6%	16.0%	10.4%	10.8%	11.9%	1.5%
NRPC Region	29.0%	29.5%	26.4%	-2.6%	44.5%	38.0%	31.5%	-13.0%	18.2%	23.2%	30.4%	12.2%	8.2%	9.3%	11.6%	3.4%
Hillsborough County	28.5%	28.7%	26.0%	-2.5%	43.6%	38.0%	32.7%	-11.0%	17.6%	22.6%	29.4%	11.8%	10.2%	10.6%	11.9%	1.6%
New Hampshire	28.3%	27.8%	24.7%	-3.5%	42.4%	36.4%	31.0%	-11.4%	18.1%	23.8%	30.7%	12.6%	11.3%	12.0%	13.5%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Community	2000					2010				
	Housing Units			Occupied Units		Housing Units			Occupied Units	
	Total	Occupied	Vacant	Owned	Rented	Total	Occupied	Vacant	Owned	Rented
Amherst	3,752	95.7%	4.3%	92.4%	7.6%	4,280	94.9%	5.1%	90.8%	9.2%
Brookline	1,384	97.0%	3.0%	92.0%	8.0%	1,700	95.9%	4.1%	92.3%	7.7%
Hollis	2,491	98.0%	2.0%	92.7%	7.3%	2,929	96.0%	4.0%	91.9%	8.1%
Hudson	8,165	98.4%	1.6%	77.8%	22.2%	9,212	96.6%	3.4%	80.3%	19.7%
Litchfield	2,389	98.7%	1.3%	87.4%	12.6%	2,912	97.1%	2.9%	89.4%	10.6%
Lyndeborough	587	95.4%	4.6%	87.9%	12.1%	687	93.6%	6.4%	87.4%	12.6%
Mason	455	95.2%	4.8%	95.2%	4.8%	571	92.6%	7.4%	92.4%	7.6%
Merrimack	8,959	98.6%	1.4%	86.1%	13.9%	9,818	96.8%	3.2%	87.6%	12.4%
Milford	5,316	97.8%	2.2%	63.3%	36.7%	6,295	94.2%	5.8%	65.0%	35.0%
Mont Vernon	720	96.3%	3.8%	92.2%	7.8%	868	96.5%	3.5%	92.5%	7.5%
Nashua	35,387	97.8%	2.2%	56.9%	43.1%	37,168	94.3%	5.7%	59.0%	41.0%
Pelham	3,740	96.4%	3.6%	85.6%	14.4%	4,598	94.8%	5.2%	87.1%	12.9%
Wilton	1,451	97.2%	2.8%	74.6%	25.4%	1,530	92.7%	7.3%	76.6%	23.4%
NRPC Region	74,796	97.7%	2.3%	70.3%	29.7%	82,568	95.1%	4.9%	72.6%	27.4%
Hillsborough County	149,961	96.3%	3.7%	64.9%	35.1%	166,053	93.6%	6.4%	66.9%	33.1%
New Hampshire	547,024	86.8%	13.2%	69.7%	30.3%	614,754	84.4%	15.6%	71.0%	29.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Table A1.5: Regional Households and Families, 2000 - 2010

Community	Total # Households			Average HH Size			Total # Family Households*			Average Family Size		
	2000	2010	Δ 00-10	2000	2010	Δ 00-10	2000	2010	Δ 00-10	2000	2010	Δ 00-10
Amherst	3,590	4,063	13.2%	3.00	2.76	-0.24	3,067	3,322	8.3%	3.26	3.06	-0.20
Brookline	1,343	1,631	21.4%	3.11	3.06	-0.05	1,147	1,380	20.3%	3.36	3.31	-0.05
Hollis	2,440	2,811	15.2%	2.88	2.73	-0.15	2,024	2,265	11.9%	3.16	3.05	-0.11
Hudson	8,034	8,900	10.8%	2.83	2.73	-0.10	6,261	6,683	6.7%	3.17	3.13	-0.04
Litchfield	2,357	2,828	20.0%	3.12	2.92	-0.20	2,031	2,308	13.6%	3.35	3.22	-0.13
Lyndeborough	560	643	14.8%	2.83	2.62	-0.21	420	493	17.4%	3.20	2.89	-0.31
Mason	433	529	22.2%	2.65	2.61	-0.04	328	403	22.9%	3.02	2.96	-0.06
Merrimack	8,832	9,503	7.6%	2.84	2.67	-0.17	6,982	7,150	2.4%	3.19	3.06	-0.13
Milford	5,201	5,929	14.0%	2.58	2.53	-0.05	3,549	4,004	12.8%	3.11	3.04	-0.07
Mont Vernon	693	838	20.9%	2.90	2.87	-0.03	576	686	19.1%	3.17	3.18	0.01
Nashua	34,614	35,044	1.2%	2.46	2.42	-0.04	22,083	21,876	-0.9%	3.05	3.01	-0.04
Pelham	3,606	4,357	20.8%	3.03	2.96	-0.07	2,983	3,540	18.7%	3.33	3.28	-0.05
Wilton	1,410	1,418	0.6%	2.65	2.59	-0.06	1,023	1,015	-0.8%	3.06	3.02	-0.04
NRPC Region	73,113	78,494	7.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	52,474	55,125	5.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hillsborough County	144,455	155,466	7.6%	2.58	2.53	-0.05	98,855	103,959	5.2%	3.10	3.05	-0.05
New Hampshire	474,606	518,973	9.3%	2.53	2.46	-0.07	323,651	344,197	6.3%	3.03	2.96	-0.07

*"Family households" consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Table A1.6: Regional Household Type, 2000 - 2010								
Community	2000				2010			
	Households with Kids under 18				Households with Kids under 18			
	Total	Husband & Wife	Male Householder	Female Householder	Total	Husband & Wife	Male Householder	Female Householder
Amherst	48.6%	89.7%	3.4%	6.9%	37.7%	83.7%	4.9%	11.4%
Brookline	53.9%	88.0%	4.0%	8.0%	48.7%	85.5%	3.9%	10.6%
Hollis	43.6%	88.6%	3.4%	8.0%	37.4%	87.3%	4.2%	8.6%
Hudson	43.7%	79.2%	7.1%	13.7%	38.5%	75.1%	8.5%	16.4%
Litchfield	56.0%	85.7%	4.8%	9.6%	44.4%	80.0%	7.5%	12.5%
Lyndeborough	40.7%	83.8%	7.5%	8.8%	30.3%	75.4%	6.7%	17.9%
Mason	33.5%	83.4%	8.3%	8.3%	29.1%	82.5%	6.5%	11.0%
Merrimack	44.2%	82.3%	5.4%	12.3%	36.7%	78.3%	7.1%	14.6%
Milford	39.2%	74.1%	7.9%	18.0%	35.7%	69.7%	10.4%	20.0%
Mont Vernon	45.7%	84.9%	7.3%	7.9%	38.8%	85.8%	4.0%	10.2%
Nashua	33.5%	70.4%	8.5%	21.1%	31.1%	65.7%	9.7%	24.6%
Pelham	46.8%	84.8%	4.9%	10.3%	41.5%	83.3%	5.9%	10.9%
Wilton	38.3%	77.2%	5.9%	16.9%	33.1%	70.4%	10.9%	18.7%
NRPC Region	39.4%	77.6%	6.8%	15.6%	35.1%	73.5%	8.2%	18.4%
Hillsborough County	37.2%	74.7%	7.6%	17.7%	33.5%	69.7%	9.2%	21.1%
New Hampshire	35.5%	74.0%	8.1%	17.9%	31.0%	69.5%	9.9%	20.6%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Town	% Families below Poverty Level in previous 12 months			% Individuals below Poverty Level in previous 12 months		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Amherst	2.1%	1.0%	1.8%	2.3%	1.9%	2.8%
Brookline	0.6%	0.9%	2.9%	1.5%	0.8%	3.1%
Hollis	0.8%	2.8%	0.0%	1.4%	2.6%	0.6%
Hudson	1.8%	1.2%	2.1%	2.9%	2.3%	3.4%
Litchfield	1.4%	2.2%	4.3%	2.0%	2.1%	4.9%
Lyndeborough	4.3%	1.2%	5.0%	6.9%	3.3%	5.8%
Mason	1.1%	3.6%	7.2%	1.9%	3.4%	7.5%
Merrimack	1.5%	1.2%	2.2%	2.3%	1.9%	2.8%
Milford	3.1%	3.1%	4.0%	5.1%	5.2%	6.1%
Mont Vernon	6.0%	1.0%	1.7%	6.8%	2.0%	2.5%
Nashua	4.7%	5.0%	5.3%	6.5%	6.8%	7.3%
Pelham	2.9%	1.6%	1.1%	3.7%	3.0%	2.5%
Wilton	3.0%	3.1%	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	5.6%
NRPC Region	3.2%	3.1%	3.6%	4.6%	4.4%	5.1%
Hillsborough County	4.0%	4.3%	5.2%	5.9%	6.3%	7.2%
New Hampshire	4.4%	4.3%	5.1%	6.4%	6.5%	7.8%

Source: 1990 and 2000 data is from the US Census (long form) for those decades; 2010 data is from the 2006 - 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

Table A1.8 Regional Race and Ethnicity, 1990 - 2010

Community	Race						Ethnicity					
	White			Non-White			Hispanic*			Non-Hispanic		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Amherst	98.7%	97.0%	95.8%	1.3%	3.0%	4.2%	0.8%	1.0%	1.9%	99.2%	99.0%	98.1%
Brookline	98.7%	97.9%	96.5%	1.3%	2.1%	3.5%	0.8%	0.9%	2.0%	99.2%	99.1%	98.0%
Hollis	98.1%	96.6%	95.2%	1.9%	3.4%	4.8%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	99.4%	99.1%	98.8%
Hudson	98.0%	96.3%	93.0%	2.0%	3.7%	7.0%	1.1%	1.6%	2.9%	98.9%	98.4%	97.1%
Litchfield	98.7%	97.7%	96.4%	1.3%	2.3%	3.6%	0.9%	0.8%	2.0%	99.1%	99.2%	98.0%
Lyndeborough	99.5%	98.2%	94.7%	0.5%	1.8%	5.3%	0.4%	1.6%	1.6%	99.6%	98.4%	98.4%
Mason	98.8%	98.1%	98.3%	1.2%	1.9%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%	1.1%	99.4%	99.0%	98.9%
Merrimack	97.6%	96.6%	95.0%	2.4%	3.4%	5.0%	1.0%	1.1%	2.1%	99.0%	98.9%	97.9%
Milford	98.2%	96.8%	94.8%	1.8%	3.2%	5.2%	0.6%	1.2%	2.2%	99.4%	98.8%	97.8%
Mont Vernon	99.4%	98.6%	97.3%	0.6%	1.4%	2.7%	0.2%	0.5%	1.5%	99.8%	99.5%	98.5%
Nashua	95.2%	89.2%	83.4%	4.8%	10.8%	16.6%	3.0%	6.2%	9.8%	97.0%	93.8%	90.2%
Pelham	98.4%	97.3%	96.0%	1.6%	2.7%	4.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.9%	99.0%	99.0%	98.1%
Wilton	98.5%	97.6%	97.1%	1.5%	2.4%	2.9%	0.2%	0.8%	1.4%	99.8%	99.2%	98.6%
NRPC Region	96.8%	93.5%	90.2%	3.2%	6.5%	9.8%	1.8%	3.4%	5.4%	98.2%	96.6%	94.6%
Hillsborough County	97.2%	93.9%	90.4%	2.8%	6.1%	9.6%	1.7%	3.2%	5.3%	98.3%	96.8%	94.7%
New Hampshire	98.0%	96.0%	93.9%	2.0%	4.0%	6.1%	1.0%	1.7%	2.8%	99.0%	98.3%	97.2%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Note: In the 2010 Census, “Hispanic or Latino” refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. There were three changes to the Hispanic origin question for the 2010 Census. First, the wording of the question changed from “Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?” in 2000 to “Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?” in 2010. Second, in 2000, the question provided an instruction, “Mark the ‘No’ box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.” The 2010 Census question provided no specific instruction for non-Hispanic respondents. Third, in 2010, the “Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin” category provided examples of six Hispanic origin groups (Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on) and instructed respondents to “print origin.” In 2000, no Hispanic origin examples were given.

Table A1.9: Regional Ability to Speak English, 1990 - 2010

Community	Speak Only English			Speak English well or very well			Speak English not well or not at all		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Amherst	94.2%	95.2%	94.7%	5.7%	4.4%	4.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%
Brookline	94.9%	96.9%	96.6%	4.5%	3.0%	2.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%
Hollis	95.3%	92.9%	94.5%	4.7%	6.8%	5.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
Hudson	90.9%	91.9%	88.7%	8.4%	7.9%	10.4%	0.6%	0.2%	0.9%
Litchfield	94.3%	94.1%	97.9%	5.6%	5.6%	1.8%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Lyndeborough	93.4%	94.4%	97.3%	6.5%	5.6%	2.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Mason	95.7%	93.6%	95.4%	3.5%	6.4%	4.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Merrimack	93.3%	93.7%	92.7%	6.2%	5.8%	6.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Milford	95.5%	93.6%	90.9%	4.1%	5.3%	7.3%	0.4%	1.0%	1.8%
Mont Vernon	94.8%	97.0%	95.0%	5.2%	2.8%	4.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.9%
Nashua	84.9%	83.2%	80.1%	13.3%	14.3%	17.0%	1.7%	2.6%	2.9%
Pelham	90.8%	92.5%	91.2%	8.6%	7.1%	8.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Wilton	96.2%	95.5%	94.1%	3.3%	3.6%	5.9%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%
NRPC Region	89.4%	89.0%	87.2%	9.5%	9.6%	11.1%	1.0%	1.4%	1.7%
Hillsborough County	87.3%	87.3%	87.2%	11.6%	10.9%	10.9%	1.1%	1.7%	1.9%
New Hampshire	91.3%	91.7%	92.0%	7.9%	7.4%	7.1%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%

Source: 1990 and 2000 data is from the US Census (long form) for those decades; 2010 data is from the 2006 - 2010 ACS

Table A1.10: Regional Place of Work, 2000 - 2010

Community	Total Workers 16 Years and Older		Worked in Community Residence		Worked in Hillsborough County but outside of Community Residence		Worked in New Hampshire but outside of Hillsborough County		Worked outside of New Hampshire	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Amherst	5,372	5,652	23%	28%	54%	52%	6%	5%	17%	15%
Brookline	2,114	2,692	15%	17%	57%	55%	3%	2%	25%	27%
Hollis	3,454	3,741	15%	23%	51%	47%	3%	3%	30%	27%
Hudson	12,666	12,694	22%	19%	37%	38%	7%	9%	34%	35%
Litchfield	4,027	4,330	6%	10%	60%	48%	12%	19%	22%	23%
Lyndeborough	876	800	11%	14%	72%	73%	6%	5%	11%	9%
Mason	640	728	16%	13%	48%	52%	3%	6%	34%	30%
Merrimack	14,346	14,204	24%	27%	53%	47%	7%	7%	16%	18%
Milford	7,551	8,438	34%	30%	51%	53%	4%	6%	11%	11%
Mont Vernon	1,069	1,256	11%	17%	70%	64%	6%	7%	12%	13%
Nashua	44,972	45,450	47%	45%	22%	22%	4%	5%	26%	28%
Pelham	5,721	6,924	14%	20%	15%	13%	16%	14%	55%	54%
Wilton	2,037	1,753	21%	20%	65%	61%	5%	6%	9%	13%
NRPC Region	104,845	108,662	32%	32%	37%	35%	6%	7%	25%	26%
Hillsborough County	198,868	208,769	36%	35%	35%	34%	11%	14%	17%	18%
New Hampshire	638,565	677,579	33%	32%	34%	33%	18%	19%	16%	16%

Source: 2000 data is from the US Census (long form) for those decades; 2010 data is from the 2006 - 2010 ACS

Table A1.11: Regional Mode of Transportation to Work, 2010

Community	Total Workers 16+ Years	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Trans.	Taxicab	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Walked	Other	Worked from Home
Amherst	5,652	79.4%	4.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.2%	0.2%	13.6%
Brookline	2,692	85.1%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4%	1.2%	0.0%	7.1%
Hollis	3,741	88.0%	1.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	1.7%	6.7%
Hudson	12,694	88.4%	5.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%	2.9%
Litchfield	4,330	88.2%	5.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	0.4%	1.2%	0.3%	3.4%
Lyndeborough	800	86.8%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	5.4%
Mason	728	82.7%	8.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	5.8%
Merrimack	14,204	87.0%	6.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	5.0%
Milford	8,438	80.4%	12.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	1.6%	0.9%	4.6%
Mont Vernon	1,256	80.7%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	10.7%
Nashua	45,450	79.9%	9.8%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.7%	0.4%	4.7%
Pelham	6,924	86.3%	5.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.0%	0.4%	5.7%
Wilton	1,753	81.5%	8.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.9%	6.8%
NRPC Region	108,662	83.1%	8.0%	1.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	1.6%	0.5%	5.2%
Hillsborough County	208,769	82.8%	8.2%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.1%	0.5%	5.0%
New Hampshire	677,579	81.5%	8.2%	0.7%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	3.2%	0.7%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census 2010