

**Northampton Community Indicator
Final Report**

Prepared by:
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
March 2006

Northampton Community Indicator Final Report



PURPOSE

In 2003, the city of Northampton hired the PVPC to prepare a summary of various community health indicators as part of the city's pre-planning for their E.O. 418 funded community development plan. This document is an update of the original document based on more recent data.

The original design of the community health indicators project was to replicate a study completed by the planning office in Devens, MA, and published in the AICP Planner's Casebook—supplemented by a series of indicators proposed by Norm Krumholz in an editorial response to the Devens article. Indicators help a community to understand its strengths and weaknesses in order to create a better tomorrow.

For the purposes of this report, Northampton identified eight categories of indicators: economic, education, environment, health, housing, poverty, social, and transportation. The following is a summary of the results of the updated community indicator study. In general, Northampton rated well in the areas of employment, retail trade, education, the environment, health, poverty, and social indicators. Northampton received lower ratings in the areas of wages, housing, and transportation.

Community Profile

The City of Northampton is situated between the Connecticut River and the foothills of the Berkshires 20 miles north of Springfield. It is bordered by Easthampton on the south, Westhampton on the west, Williamsburg and Hatfield on the north, and separated by the Connecticut River from Hadley on the east. Northampton is 43 miles east of Pittsfield; 93 miles west of Boston; 30 miles north of New Haven, Connecticut; and 151 miles from New York City.



Northampton offers a sophisticated rural lifestyle rich in cultural, artistic, academic, and business resources. Northampton features one of the most vibrant downtown centers in New England and was named “Number One Best Small Arts Town in America” by author John Villani and is recognized as one of the top 25 Arts Destinations in the nation by AmericanStyle magazine.

Residents see Northampton as both traditional and innovative. Several village centers provide focal points for outlying residential areas while the downtown is alive days and evenings with a wide selection of restaurants, coffee and ice-cream shops, theaters including the only municipally owned theater in the state, clubs featuring an array of music, street musicians and a Center for the Arts. All of this provides a perfect atmosphere for strolling. The city also offers strong municipal programs in education,



recreation, public safety and public works. It is known for its energy efficiency program and its initiative to improve handicap access to downtown establishments.

The community has a strong and diverse economic base consisting of a mixture of traditional operations (wire protrusion, plastic molding) and innovative ones (production of heat sensing devices) and a large institutional base which includes county services and two hospitals. Northampton is also home to Smith College and is strongly influenced by Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College and the University of Massachusetts as part of the five-college system in the region. The superb quality of life in Northampton contributes to its strong economic base with growing manufacturing, technology and service sectors. The local labor force is diverse, well educated and highly skilled.

The vibrant small city atmosphere of the community is enhanced by rich natural resources, which include the Connecticut River, agricultural and conservation lands and the Acadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Residents believe Northampton has a rich history and are confident in its future which will be built on its diverse population base, solid economic base and abundant resources.

(Information from Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and the City of Northampton)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Demographics

Northampton has a population of 28,930 people, which is a decrease from a population of 29,289 in 1990. Northampton's population decreased 2.31 percent from 1970 to 2000. Since 1990, the population has decreased 1.06 percent. The population density is 850 people per square mile and is denser than 230 out of 351 communities in Massachusetts. Northampton has a comparable, yet slightly lower, population density than the Town of Greenfield. The community is 90% white which is a slight decrease from the 1990 figure. On the other hand, all other race categories saw a slight increase in population during this time. Lastly, Northampton has a total of 19,966 registered voters of which there are 47.5% Democrats, 5.6% Republicans, and 46.9% other parties (MA Department of Revenue, 2004).

| | Northampton Current | Northampton 1990 | Commonwealth Current |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Population | 28,930 | 29,289 | 6,416,505 |
| Total Households | 11,880 | 11,164 | 2,443,580 |
| Median Age | 37 | 30 to 34 | 37 |
| Median Household Income | \$41,808 | \$41,954 | \$50,502 |
| Per Capita Income | \$24,022 | \$19,2443 | \$25,952 |

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2004 Population Estimates

| General Population | 1990 | 2000 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Total population | 29,289 | 28,978 |
| % of state total | 0.49% | 0.46% |
| Decrease in last decade | | -311 |
| % change in last decade | | -1.06% |
| Total under age 18 | 5,079 | 4,917 |
| % under age 18 | 17.34% | 16.97% |

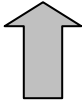
*All information compiled from
Commonwealth of Massachusetts sources

| Racial characteristics | 1990 | 2000 |
|--|---------|--------|
| Total white | 26,693 | 26,083 |
| White % of population | 91.14% | 90.01% |
| Total black | 490 | 602 |
| Black % of population | 1.67% | 2.08% |
| Total Asian | 827 * | 906 |
| Asian % of population | 2.82% * | 3.13% |
| Total Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | -- | 15 |
| Hawaiian/PI % of population | -- | 0.05% |
| Total American Indian/Eskimo | 49 | 86 |
| Am. Indian/Eskimo % of population | 0.17% | 0.30% |
| Total Other | 29 | 697 |
| Other % of population | 0.10% | 2.41% |
| Total multi-racial | -- | 589 |
| Multi-racial % of population | -- | 2.03% |

* Includes Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander

| Hispanic/Latino (of any race) | 1990 | 2000 |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Total Hispanic/Latino | 1,201 | 1,518 |
| Hispanic/Latino % of population | 4.10% | 5.24% |

Residents were asked to identify whether they are Hispanic or Latino in a question separate from that which asked their race.



Employment

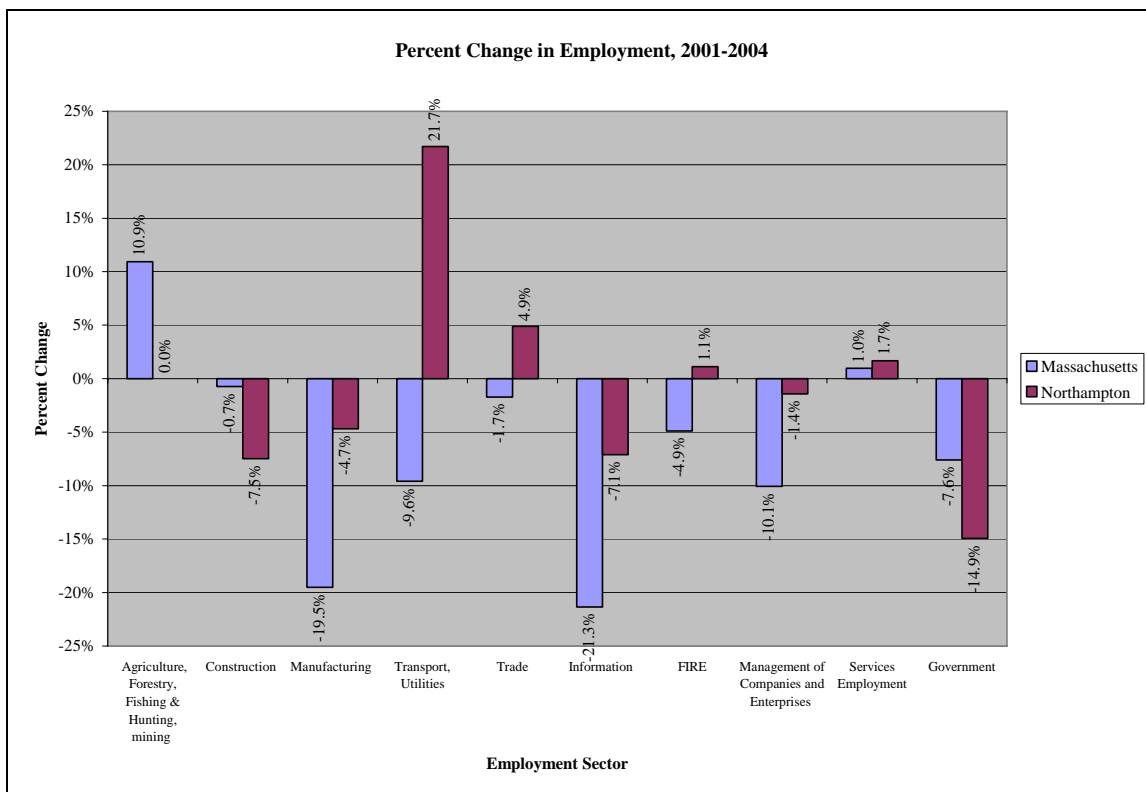
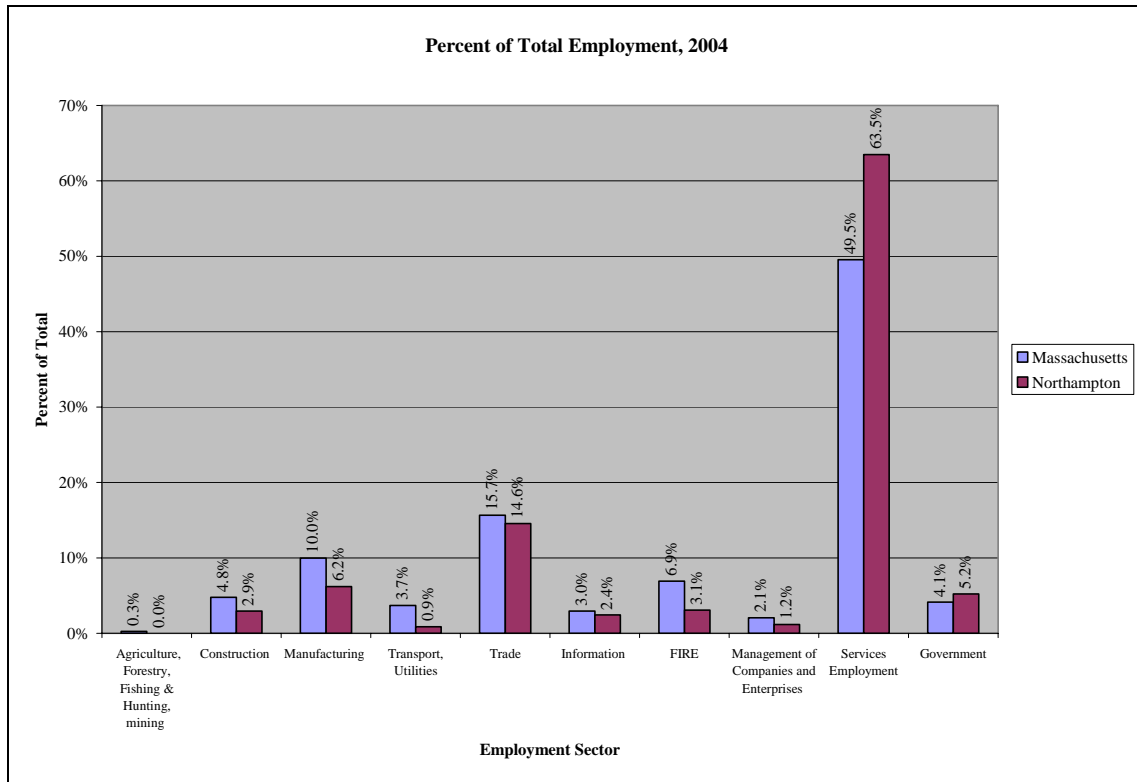
According to November 2005 figures, Northampton has an unemployment rate of 3.4%, which is a lower rate than 255 of the 351 towns in Massachusetts and is lower than the unemployment rate of the State of Massachusetts at 4.4%. However, the unemployment rate in Northampton has increased since the first Community Indicator report in 2003 by 0.9%. The sector with the highest number of employees is the service sector which includes health care and education (63.5%). It also employs a higher percentage than the State. The next highest is retail/whole trade at 14.6%, which is 8.7% less than the total employment in Northampton in this sector in 2000. Northampton continues to see a decline in the number of people employed in the government, manufacturing, construction, information and management sectors between 2001 and 2004. Only the construction and government sectors are doing worse than the state average; all other sectors fair better than the Commonwealth as a whole. The percentages of people who are self-employed, work from home, and are part time continue to be greater than the State.

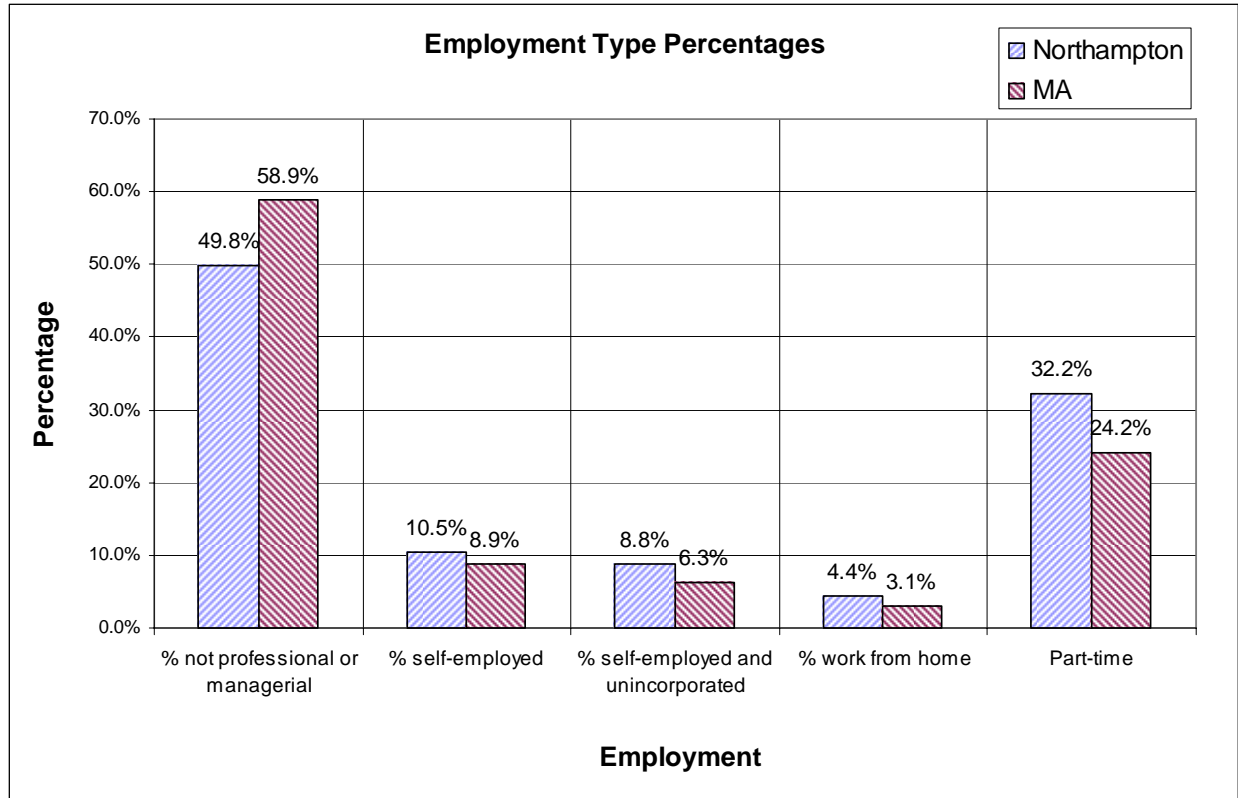
| Year | Community | Labor force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment rate |
|------|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1999 | Northampton | 15,852 | 15,480 | 372 | 2.3 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,355,324 | 3,245,761 | 109,563 | 3.3 |
| 2000 | Northampton | 17,119 | 16,777 | 342 | 2 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,366,582 | 3,276,737 | 89,845 | 2.7 |
| 2001 | Northampton | 17,154 | 16,726 | 428 | 2.5 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,400,624 | 3,274,561 | 126,063 | 3.7 |
| 2002 | Northampton | 17,298 | 16,742 | 556 | 3.2 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,427,900 | 3,247,094 | 180,806 | 5.3 |
| 2003 | Northampton | 17,248 | 16,581 | 667 | 3.9 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,413,782 | 3,215,624 | 198,158 | 5.8 |
| 2004 | Northampton | 17,259 | 16,623 | 636 | 3.7 |
| | Massachusetts | 3,393,122 | 3,219,487 | 173,635 | 5.1 |

| Sector | EMPLOYEES | PERCENT |
|---|---------------|---------|
| Services (Includes Health Care & Education) | 11,233 | 63.5 |
| Retail/Wholesale Trade | 2,577 | 14.6 |
| Manufacturing | 1,099 | 6.2 |
| Public Administration | 923 | 5.2 |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate | 546 | 3.1 |
| Construction | 519 | 2.9 |
| Information | 431 | 2.4 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 208 | 1.2 |
| Transportation, Communication, Public Utilities | 157 | 0.9 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing | 0 | 0 |
| Average Annual Wage | \$35,071 | |
| Total Annual Payroll | \$620,587,458 | |

Massachusetts Division of Career Services and Division of Unemployment Assistance, 2004 ES-202 Data

| Description | NORTHAMPTON | | | COMPARISON | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Employment | Percent of Employment | Average Weekly Wages | Percent of MA Employment | Northampton Wages as a Percent of MA |
| Total, All Industries | 17,695 | | \$674 | 0.6% | 71.6% |
| Finance and Insurance | 421 | 2.4% | \$946 | 0.2% | 47.9% |
| Professional and Technical Services | 503 | 2.8% | \$797 | 0.2% | 51.9% |
| Utilities | 67 | 0.4% | \$1,428 | 0.5% | 99.0% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 208 | 1.2% | \$613 | 0.3% | 42.6% |
| Information | 431 | 2.4% | \$748 | 0.5% | 55.8% |
| Wholesale Trade | 254 | 1.4% | \$841 | 0.2% | 65.3% |
| Manufacturing | 1,099 | 6.2% | \$1,021 | 0.4% | 87.2% |
| Construction | 519 | 2.9% | \$877 | 0.3% | 88.6% |
| Public Administration | 923 | 5.2% | \$1,018 | 0.7% | 103.8% |
| Mining | 0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 125 | 0.7% | \$501 | 0.3% | 54.3% |
| Educational Services | 2,673 | 15.1% | \$767 | 0.9% | 89.3% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 90 | 0.5% | \$734 | 0.1% | 88.3% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 4,765 | 26.9% | \$736 | 1.1% | 91.9% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting | 0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Administrative and Waste Services | 333 | 1.9% | \$492 | 0.2% | 77.5% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 328 | 1.9% | \$300 | 0.6% | 53.5% |
| Retail Trade | 2,323 | 13.1% | \$458 | 0.7% | 88.1% |
| Other Services, Ex. Public Admin | 730 | 4.1% | \$405 | 0.6% | 81.2% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 1,901 | 10.7% | \$290 | 0.8% | 87.1% |



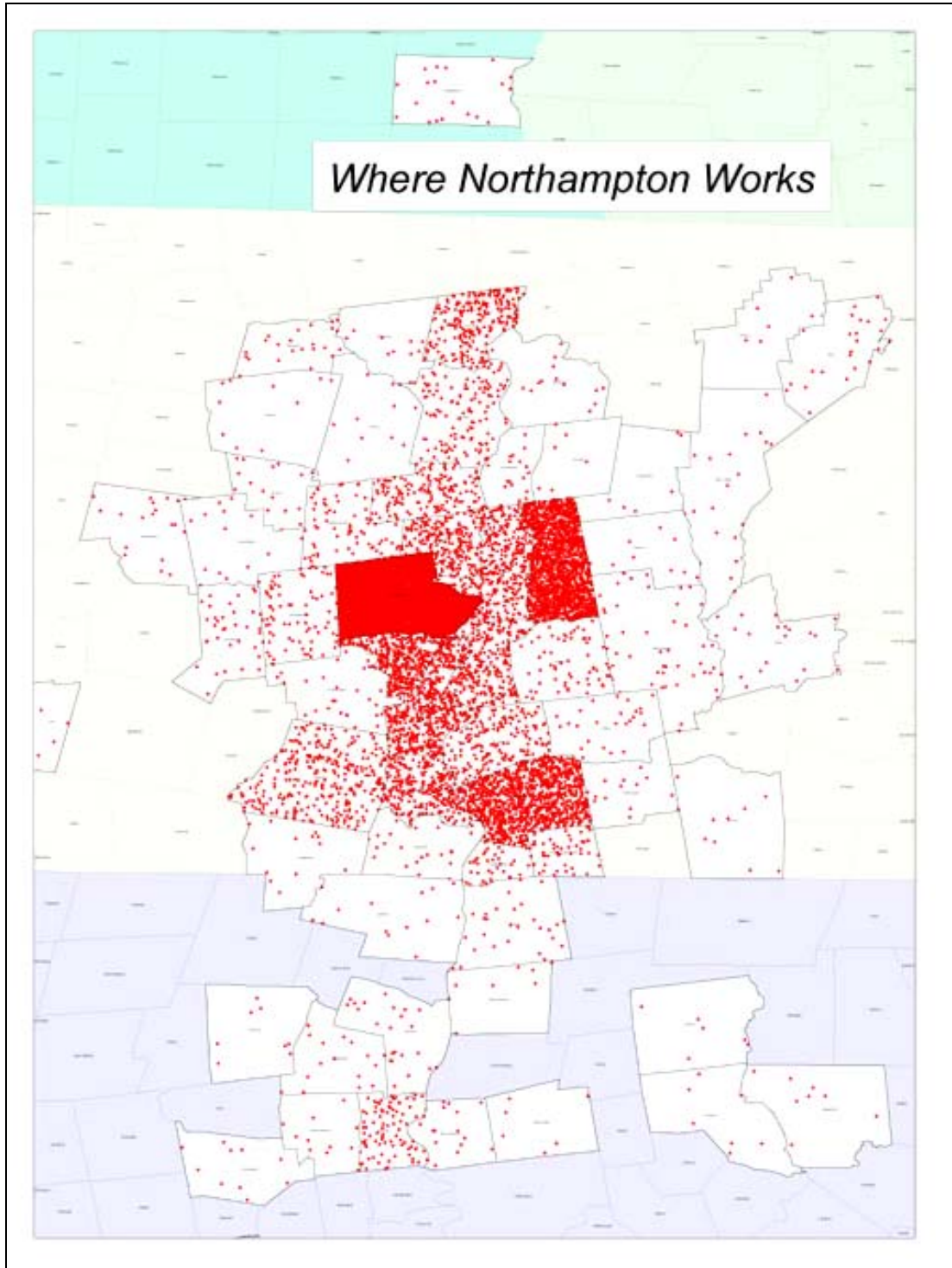


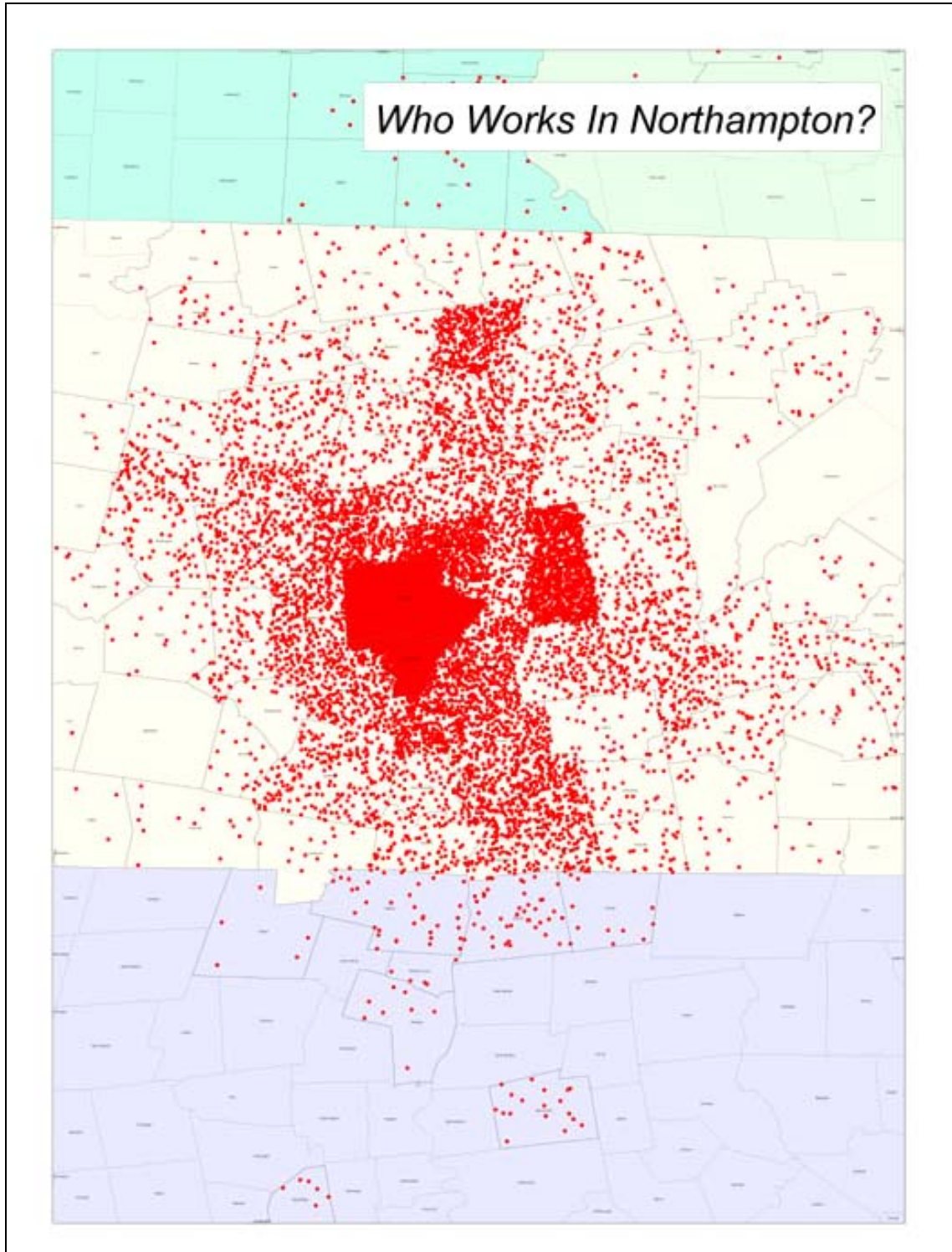
Labor Force Data

| | |
|--|---------|
| Labor Force (2004) | 17,259 |
| Workforce Pull Within 45 mins. Travel Time | 414,115 |
| Northampton residents working in Northampton | 61% |
| Unemployment Rate (2004) | 3.7% |

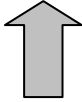
Massachusetts Division of Career Services and Division of Unemployment Assistance; U.S. Census Bureau, Census Transportation Planning Package (2000)

The maps on the following pages show where Northampton residents work and where Northampton workers reside. After Northampton itself, the highest concentration of residents works in Amherst—home to the University of Massachusetts, the region’s largest employer. Most Northampton workers live in the city or nearby—in Easthampton, Hatfield and Amherst.

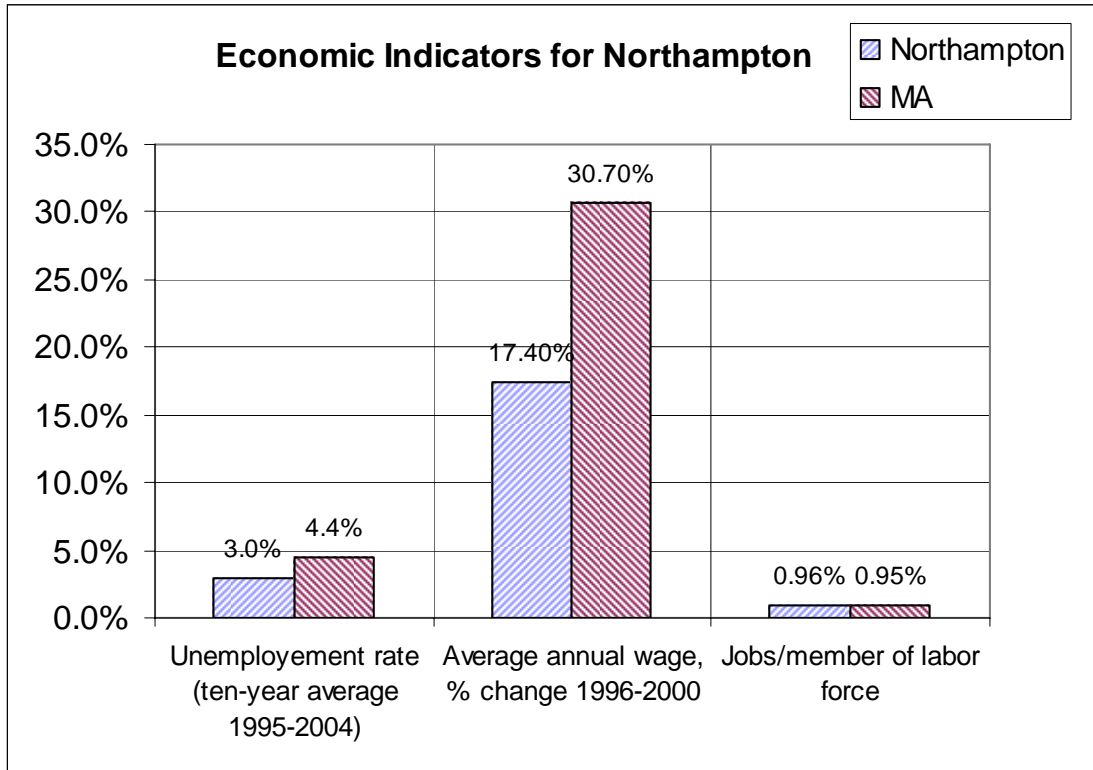




Wages



The average annual wage in Northampton is \$35,071 whereas for the state it is \$48,934. The percent change from 2001 to 2004 in the average annual wage was 8.8% for the state and 15.8% for Northampton.



Average Hourly Earnings

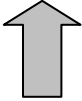
| | 2001 (in 2004\$) | 2004 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Manufacturing | \$22.09 | \$25.52 |
| Durable Goods | \$23.29 | \$30.40 |
| Fabricated Metal Products | \$19.03 | \$20.28 |
| Nondurable Goods | \$19.81 | \$14.85 |
| Computer & Electronics | \$28.88 | \$42.10 |
| Electronic Instrument | N/A | \$43.80 |
| Furniture Related | \$24.08 | \$21.00 |
| Retail Trade | \$11.27 | \$11.45 |
| Education & Health Services | \$16.86 | \$18.68 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | \$7.33 | \$7.30 |

Massachusetts Division of Career Services and Division of Unemployment Assistance, 2004
 ES-202 Data

Commercial/Industrial Base

Industrial: 2,212,942 square feet
Commercial: 4,120,267 square feet
Total C/I Building Space: 6,333,209 square feet

Retail Trade



Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers employ the second highest number of employees and have the highest total sales with \$144 million. Food and Beverage employs the greatest number of employees (654) and has the second highest total sales in Northampton. The largest number of retail businesses in the City is in the category of Clothing & Accessories with 33 businesses. Retail sales per capita were higher for Northampton with \$15,072 compared to \$11,511 for the State.

2002 Economic Census

| Retail Category | # of Businesses | Total Employees | Total Sales |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers | 21 | 335 | \$144 million |
| Furniture & Home Furnishings | 8 | 38 | \$6.3 million |
| Electronics, Appliance & Camera | 14 | 65 | \$8.9 million |
| Building Materials & Garden Supplies | 10 | 75 | \$21.6 million |
| Food & Beverage | 29 | 654 | \$98.9 million |
| Health & Personal Care | 8 | 118 | \$22.9 million |
| Gasoline Stations | 15 | 100 | \$25.6 million |
| Clothing & Accessories | 33 | 203 | \$23.1 million |
| Sporting Goods, Book, Periodical & Music | 20 | 146 | \$13.5 million |
| General Merchandise | 5 | D | D |
| Miscellaneous (office supplies, stationery, gifts, used merchandise, Art, etc.) | 23 | D | D |

* U.S. Census Bureau

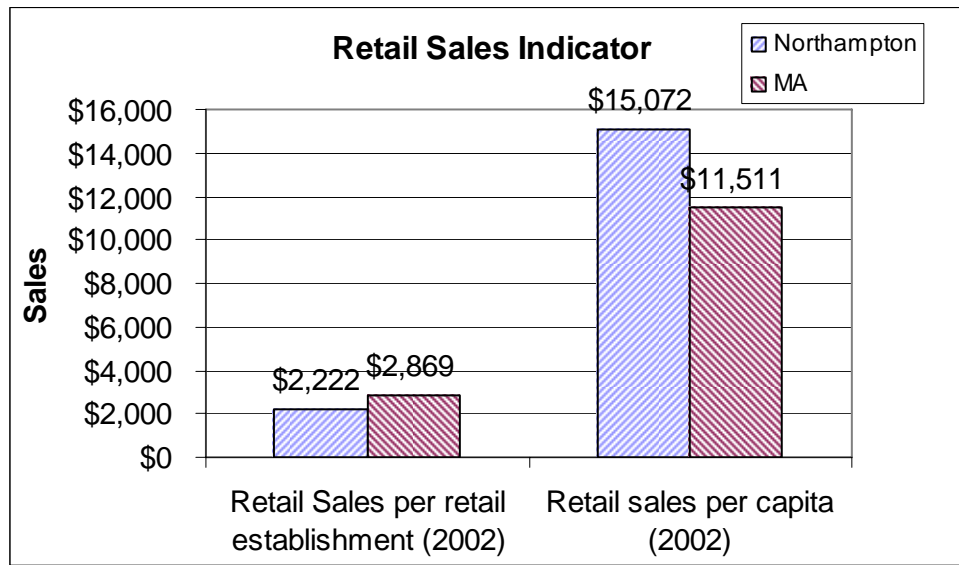
D = Withheld to avoid disclosing data about individual stores.

Compiled by Economic Development Coordinator, Mayor's Office, March 2002

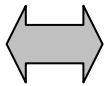
Economic Clusters of Northampton

| Description | NORTHAMPTON | | | COMPARISON | |
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Source: Massachusetts Division of Career Services and Division of Unemployment Assistance ES-202



Property Tax Rate & Assessed Value



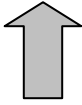
The City had a single tax rate of \$12.85 in fiscal year 2005, with the rate falling to \$11.73 in fiscal year 2006. For Fiscal Year 2006, the average single-family property tax bill is \$3,189, an increase of 34.6% since Fiscal Year 1995 (after adjusted for inflation). Home values have appreciated 58.8% percent since 1995, from \$171,186 in FY 1995 to \$271,890 in FY 2006 (based on average assessed values of single-family properties in Northampton). The total value of all single-family property was assessed in 2006 at \$1,489,685,050.

Average Single Family Tax Bill (2004\$)

| Fiscal Year | Average Single Family Tax Bill | | Percent Change | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Northampton | Massachusetts | Northampton | Massachusetts |
| 2000 | \$2,674 | \$3,096 | | |
| 2001 | \$2,911 | \$3,177 | 8.85% | 2.63% |
| 2002 | \$2,945 | \$3,321 | 1.20% | 4.53% |
| 2003 | \$2,976 | \$3,435 | 1.04% | 3.42% |
| 2004 | \$3,052 | \$3,533 | 2.53% | 2.86% |
| 2005 | \$3,079 | \$3,588 | 0.90% | 1.56% |

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services

EDUCATION INDICATORS



In addition to an outstanding public educational system, Northampton has a wide variety of libraries and museums available to its residents. They include the Botanic Garden of Smith College, Lyman Plant House, Calvin Coolidge Memorial Room, Forbes Library, Historic Northampton, and the Smith College Museum of Art.

School enrollment in the Northampton Public Schools fell by 2.2% between the 93-94 school year and the 04-05 school year. The Northampton school district spends about \$7,609 per student (data from FY 2003) and in FY2004, Northampton spent \$24,284,483 on education out of all municipal expenditures totaling \$57,568,432.

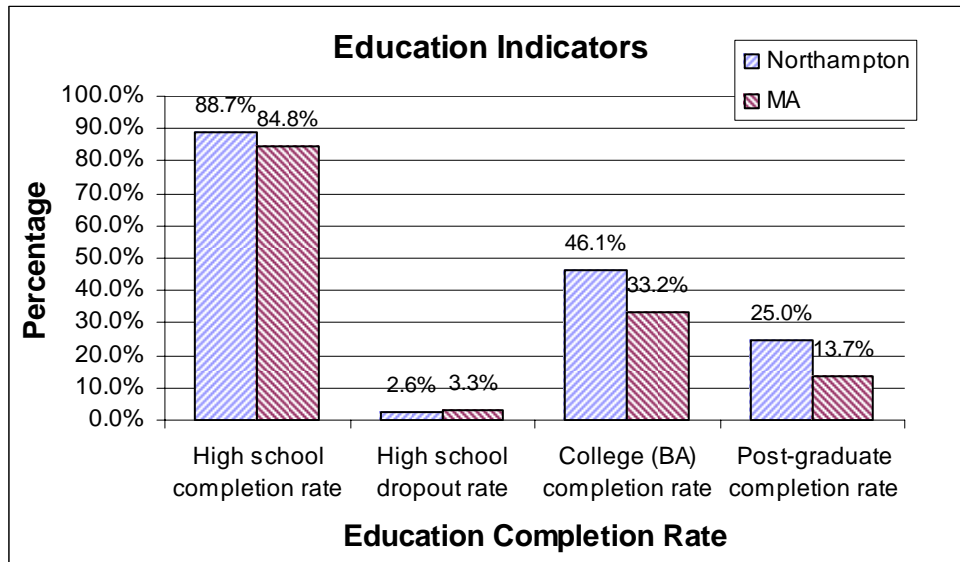
Northampton-Smith Vocational High School – Public School District (grades 9-12)

| Dropout/Attendance/Exclusions | | | Plans of High School Graduates - '03-'04 | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------|--|---------------|------------|
| | District | State | Plan | % of District | % of State |
| Dropout Rate (%) – '03-'04 | 5.2 | 3.7 | Four Year College | 8 | 57 |
| Attendance Rate (%) - '03-'04 | 92.5 | 94.1 | Two Year College | 40 | 20 |
| Student Exclusion Per 1000 – '03-'04 | --- | --- | Work | 48 | 12 |
| | | | Technology - '03-'04 | | |
| | | | | District | State |
| | | | Students per Computer | 3.7 | 4.8 |
| | | | Classrooms on the Internet (%) | 100 | 95.5 |

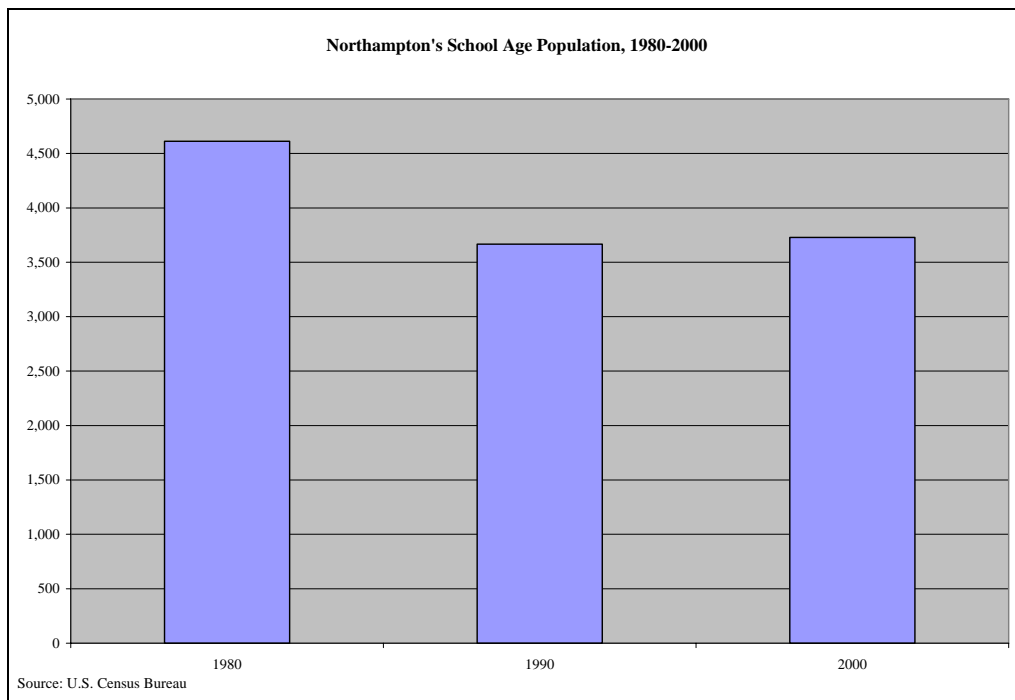
Northampton – Public School District (grades PK-12)

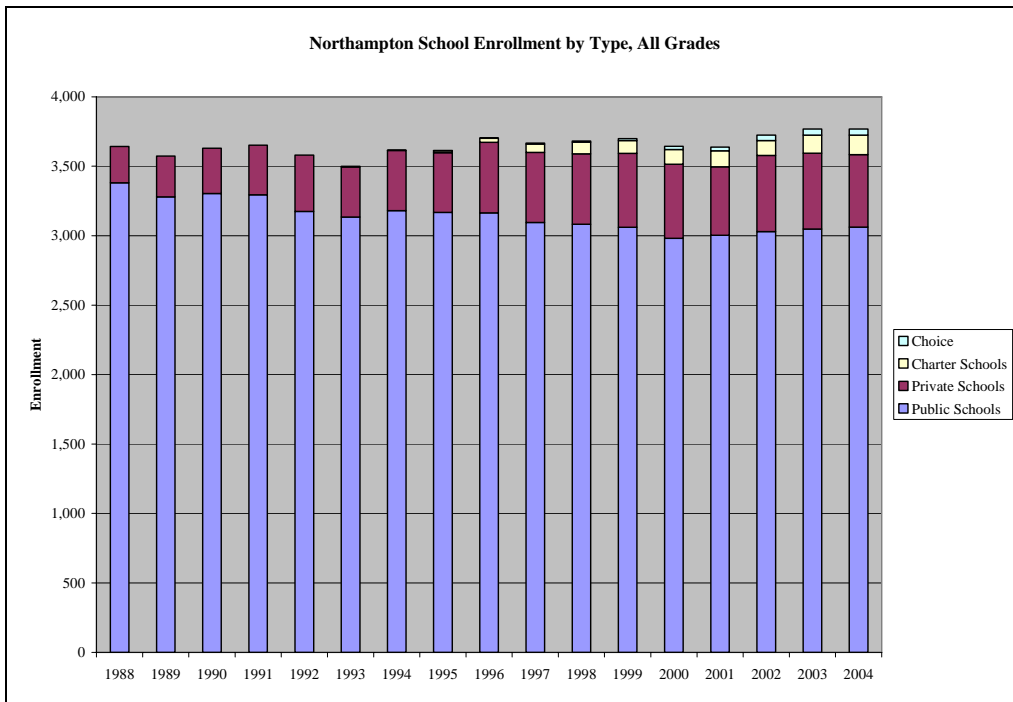
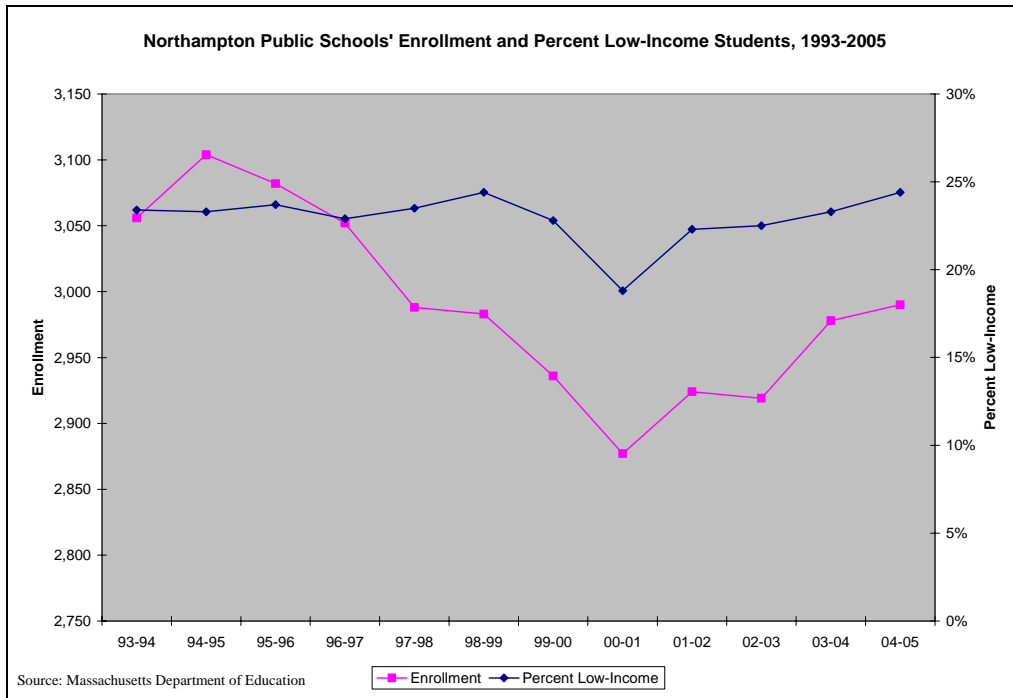
| Dropout/Attendance/Exclusions | | | Plans of High School Graduates – '03-'04 | | |
|---|----------|-------|--|---------------|------------|
| | District | State | Plan | % of District | % of State |
| Dropout Rate (%) – '03-'04 | 3.0 | 3.7 | Four Year College | 66 | 57 |
| Attendance Rate (%) – '03-'04 | 95.3 | 94.1 | Two Year College | 15 | 20 |
| Student Exclusion Rate per 1000 – '03-'04 | --- | --- | Work | 8 | 12 |
| | | | Technology – '03-'04 | | |
| | | | | District | State |
| | | | Students per Computer | 10.0 | 4.8 |
| | | | Classrooms on the Internet (%) | 100.4 | 95.5 |

An analysis of Northampton residents aged 25 and older shows a high school completion rate in Northampton of 88.7% with a high school drop out rate of 2.6%. The drop-out rate for students in the school year 2003-2004 was 3% compared with a rate of 3.7% for the Commonwealth. 46.1% of the population 25 years and older have completed a Bachelor's degree or higher. Both the college (BA) completion rate and Post-graduate completion rate are higher for Northampton compared to the State. Northampton fares better than the State of Massachusetts in all education indicator categories.



2000, 2003 U.S. Census for population 25 years and older





| Year | | | | | Private Schools | | | Charter Schools | | | Public Choice | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----|------|-----------------|-----|------|---------------|-----|------|
| | Elementary K-6 | J.F.K 7-8 | N.H.S. 9-12 | Smith Voc 9-12 | K-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 | K-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 | K-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
| 1988 | 1,765 | 512 | 926 | 179 | 204 | 17 | 40 | | | | | | |
| 1989 | 1,788 | 473 | 877 | 141 | 220 | 20 | 54 | | | | | | |
| 1990 | 1,843 | 485 | 844 | 132 | 243 | 22 | 61 | | | | | | |
| 1991 | 1,837 | 491 | 822 | 145 | 262 | 22 | 73 | | | | | | |
| 1992 | 1,709 | 523 | 811 | 131 | 294 | 34 | 79 | | | | | | |
| 1993 | 1,707 | 540 | 746 | 141 | 259 | 34 | 68 | | | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 1994 | 1,697 | 565 | 780 | 139 | 318 | 36 | 78 | | | | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 1995 | 1,664 | 547 | 792 | 165 | 295 | 37 | 98 | 14 | | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1996 | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | 9-12 | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
| 1996 | 1,421 | 749 | 814 | 180 | 295 | 97 | 116 | 24 | | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| *1997 | 1,413 | 706 +7 | 777 + 8 | 185 | 295 | 94 | 115 | 38 | | 22 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 1998 | 1,381 | 718 + 21 | 766 + 21 | 175 | 299 | 95 | 114 | 53 | | 31 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| 1999 | 1,334 | 746 + 30 | 721 + 37 | 192 | 295 | 103 | 134 | 55 | | 38 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| 2000 | 1,249 | 778 + 21 | 723 + 48 | 163 | 300 | 98 | 135 | 54 | 14 | 38 | 10 | 5 | 8 |
| **2001 | 1,218 + 32 | 765 + 19 | 770 + 63 | 137 | 277 | 95 | 120 | 56 | 24 | 36 | 6 | 6 | 14 |
| 2002 | 1,178 + 64 | 750 + 24 | 797 + 79 | 138 | 302 | 117 | 129 | 53 | 19 | 35 | 12 | 8 | 19 |
| 2003 | 1,177 + 98 | 687 + 40 | 862 + 68 | 115 | 310 | 109 | 128 | 53 | 23 | 54 | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| 2004 | 1,153 + 112 | 723 + 43 | 836 + 70 | 125 | 297 | 108 | 116 | 52 | 34 | 55 | 17 | 4 | 24 |

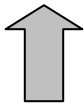
Enrollment numbers for the Northampton Public Schools are based on October 1 Enrollments

Enrollment numbers for Private, Charter, and Other Public Schools are based on January 1 Enrollments

***1997 was the first year the Northampton Public Schools began accepting non-resident students at the middle school and high school**

****2001 was the first year the Northampton Public Schools began accepting non-resident students at the elementary schools**

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS



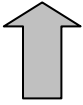
Northampton currently has an open space and recreation plan which was last updated in 2005. Based on data from MassGIS, the city contains 2,960 acres of permanently protected land, or approximately 13% of the total acres in the city. In addition, there are 426 acres of land under limited protection, meaning lands that are owned by a municipality and therefore are not fully protected. Finally, about 19.5% of the city is registered as land under Chapter 61, for a total of almost 4,500 acres.

| Level of Protection | Northampton | % of Total Land Area | Commonwealth | % of Total Land Area |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Permanently Protected | 2,960 acres | 13% | 1,117,028.74 acres | 21.5% |
| Limited Protection | 426 acres | 1.86% | 80,622.01 acres | 1.5% |
| Chapter 61 | 4,477.70 acres | 19.5% | 293,272.18 acres | 5.6% |
| APR | 360 acres | 1.6% | 61,368.84 acres | 1.2% |

The capacity of the city’s landfills is adequate and the percentage of solid waste that is recycled is much higher for Northampton (48%) than for the State (34%).

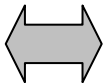
The city of Northampton is a leader in the Commonwealth with respect to residents signing up for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Choice program—an option available to Massachusetts residents living in communities that do not have municipal utilities. Ratepayers pay extra to assure purchase of renewable energy. The City of Northampton earned over \$50,000 in matching funds from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative thanks to the more than 3% of Northampton residents who signed up for Clean Energy Choice. The city is using these matching funds to install a 10kW solar photovoltaic array on the JFK middle school. The city has also hired Ameresco to tap the energy potential of the municipal landfill and is building a Leeds certified Senior Center with a geothermal heating system located within walking distance of downtown. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System[®] is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

HEALTH INDICATORS



Northampton has several health care facilities in its vicinity. It has two hospitals, Cooley Dickinson Hospital and the VA Medical Center. Northampton also has numerous long term care facilities which are: Hampshire County Ltcf, Linda Manor Extended Care Facility, New Medico Snc Pioneer Valley, Northampton Nursing Home Inc, and Pine Rest Nursing Home. Hampshire County Hospice, Inc provides hospice service to Northampton residents. Four rest homes, Florence Rest Home, Lathrop Home for Aged Women, River Valley Rest Home, and Rockridge/Laurel Park, are located in Northampton.

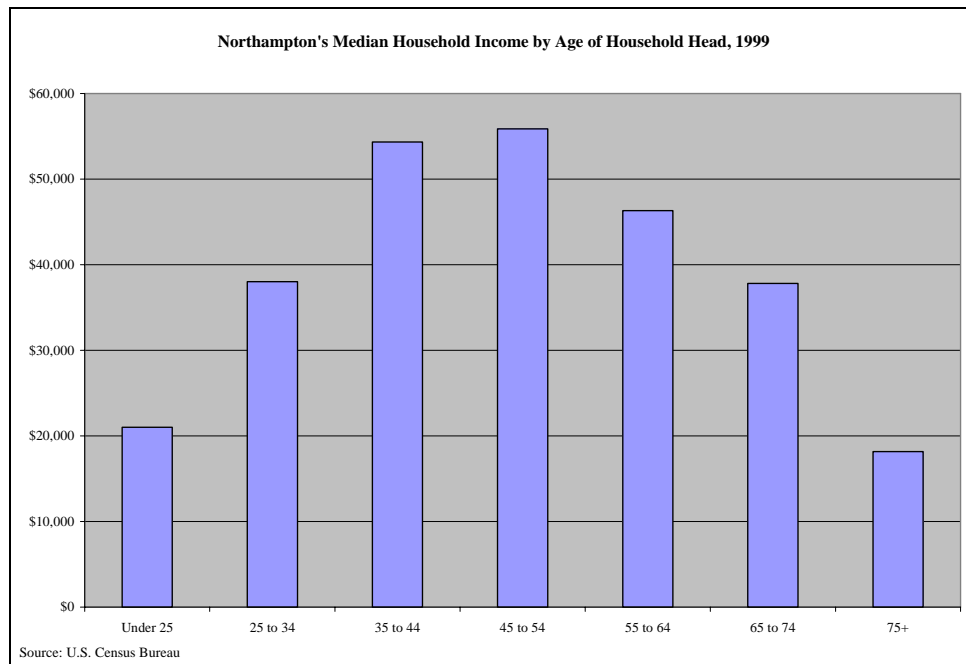
Consequently, the percent of mothers with adequate prenatal care was greater in Northampton than the State, with almost 86.3% of mothers receiving adequate care. Infant mortality (deaths per 1,000) is 0 for Northampton versus 3.8 for the entire State. The total alcohol related hospital discharges per 100,000 people were higher for Northampton, and the state was slightly higher for chronic disease-related deaths.



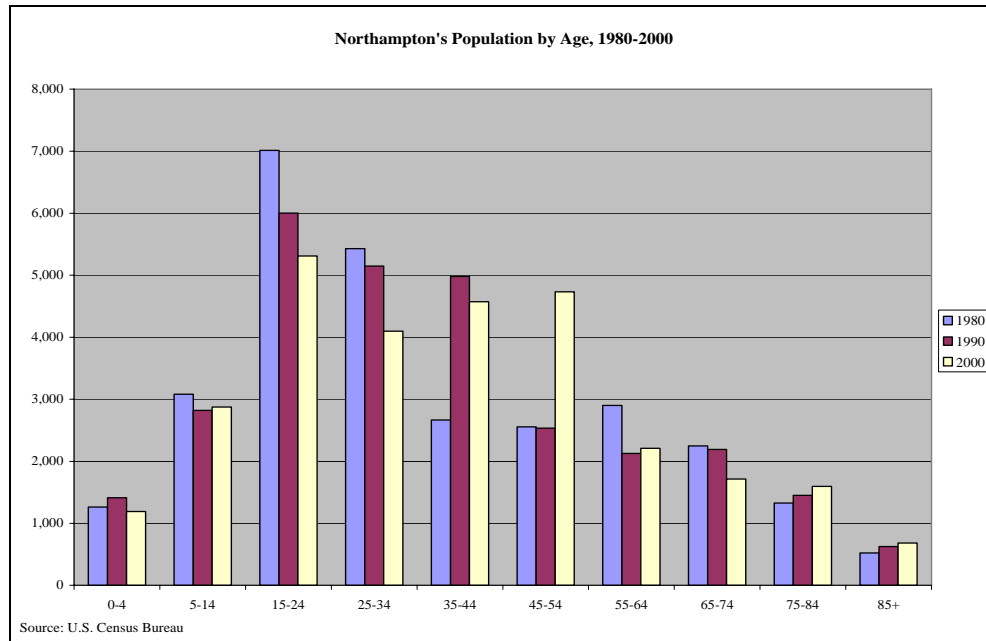
HOUSING INDICATORS

Income Levels of Northampton Residents

The economy of Northampton has grown in the decades since 1970. Not surprisingly, during this same time period the population of middle-aged residents (generally higher wage earners) has increased, while the population of young and older residents has declined. Income levels are the highest within the growing 35-54 age group, with a median household income of approximately \$55,000, compared to \$38,036 for Northampton residents between the ages of 25-34.



According to data from the 2000 Census, the resident population in the 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups decreased between the years 1980-2000, a decline of 24% for both of these age groups. Other age groups that have decreased are the elder populations, with a 23% drop in population for the 55 to 64 and the 65 to 74 age groups. The 35-44 and 45-54 age groups have increased substantially over the same twenty year period. Between the years 1980 and 2000, Northampton residents between the ages of 45-54 increased by 85%, while the 35-44 age bracket increased by 71%.



Northampton's Population and Number of Households, 1950-2000

| Year | Population | Households | People per Household* |
|------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1950 | 29,603 | | |
| 1960 | 30,058 | | |
| 1970 | 29,664 | | |
| 1980 | 29,286 | 10,235 | 2.86 |
| 1990 | 29,289 | 11,164 | 2.62 |
| 2000 | 28,978 | 11,863 | 2.44 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

* This should not be confused with average family or household size as this is based on total population, some of which does not live in households.

According to the 2000 Census there are 12,405 total housing units within Northampton. Single-family detached homes make up 5,726 units, or 46% of the total housing units, with duplex and multi-family units accounting for 49% of the total units in the City. The majority of these units (45.4%) were built in the year 1939 or earlier. Only 5.6% of the housing stock was built between 1990 and 2000.

According to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. Table B looks at how various age groups who currently live in Northampton define housing affordability based on 30% of average monthly income.

Housing Affordability by Age Group

| Age Group | Population | % of Population | Gross Annual Income | Monthly Income | 30% payment |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total | 28,978 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 15 to 24 | 5,310 | 18% | \$21,009 | \$1,575 | \$525 |
| 25 to 34 | 4,098 | 14% | \$38,036 | \$3,170 | \$951 |
| 35 to 44 | 4,573 | 16% | \$54,355 | \$4,530 | \$1,358 |
| 45 to 54 | 4,731 | 16% | \$55,887 | \$4,657 | \$1,397 |
| 55 to 64 | 2,209 | 8% | \$46,321 | \$3,860 | \$1,158 |
| 65 to 74 | 1,716 | 6% | \$37,819 | \$3,152 | \$945 |
| 75+ | 1,595 | 6% | \$18,173 | \$1,514 | \$454 |

Source: 2000 US Census

According to the 2000 US Census, the median household income in Northampton is \$41,808. Table C shows that almost half (48%) of the households in Northampton have incomes below the median household income, at \$40,000 annual household income. According to the federal definition of affordability, these households can only afford housing units where rent and utilities cost less than \$1,000 per month, or 30% of monthly income. Based on a survey of advertised rental units in December 2005, out of a total of 13 two-bedroom apartments available in Northampton, nine apartments (70%) were listed with monthly rents under \$1000, with the average listing price at \$900. It is important to note that most of these apartments did not include utilities in the cost of the rental price, which could increase the monthly rate above the \$1000 threshold (especially with the rising price of heating and electricity).

Northampton Household Income, 1999

| Total Household income | Number of Households (Year Round & Occupied) | % of total households | 30% monthly income |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Total | 11,863 | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | 1,246 | 11% | |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 816 | 7% | |
| \$15,000 to \$19,999 | 559 | 5% | \$375 - \$500 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999 | 728 | 6% | |
| \$25,000 to \$29,999 | 697 | 6% | \$625 - \$750 |
| \$30,000 to \$34,999 | 829 | 7% | |
| \$35,000 to \$39,999 | 708 | (48%) 6% | \$875 - \$1000 |
| \$40,000 to \$44,999 | 813 | 7% | |
| \$45,000 to \$49,999 | 479 | 4% | |
| \$50,000 to \$59,999 | 1,166 | (21%) 10% | \$1250 - \$1500 |
| \$60,000 to \$74,999 | 1,351 | 11% | |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 1,076 | (20%) 9% | \$1875 - \$2500 |
| \$100,000 to \$124,999 | 568 | 5% | |
| \$125,000 to \$149,999 | 342 | 3% | |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 223 | 2% | |
| \$200,000 or more | 262 | 2% | |

Source: US Census, 2000

Affordable homes to purchase in Northampton are more difficult to find than affordable rental units. Based on anecdotal evidence confirmed by first-time homebuyer counselors for the Valley CDC and HAP, many young people want to live in Northampton but no longer even hope to find an affordable home. Data obtained through advisory realtors from the Multiple Listing Service shows that of the 191 houses sold from January 1 to December 8, 2005, the median sale price of a single-family home is \$289,900. This is 10% higher than the median price in the previous year and 14% higher than 2003. At this price, currently no homes are affordable to a household in or below the median household income, which according to Table C, is 48% of the city's population. The year 2000 was the last year a household that earned the median household income could afford to purchase a home in Northampton.

Table D is structured to illustrate house prices that the median income household can afford versus what the City-assessors records show is the average price of single-family homes in Northampton. The third example is representative of the average cost of a home sold using listings by the MLS.

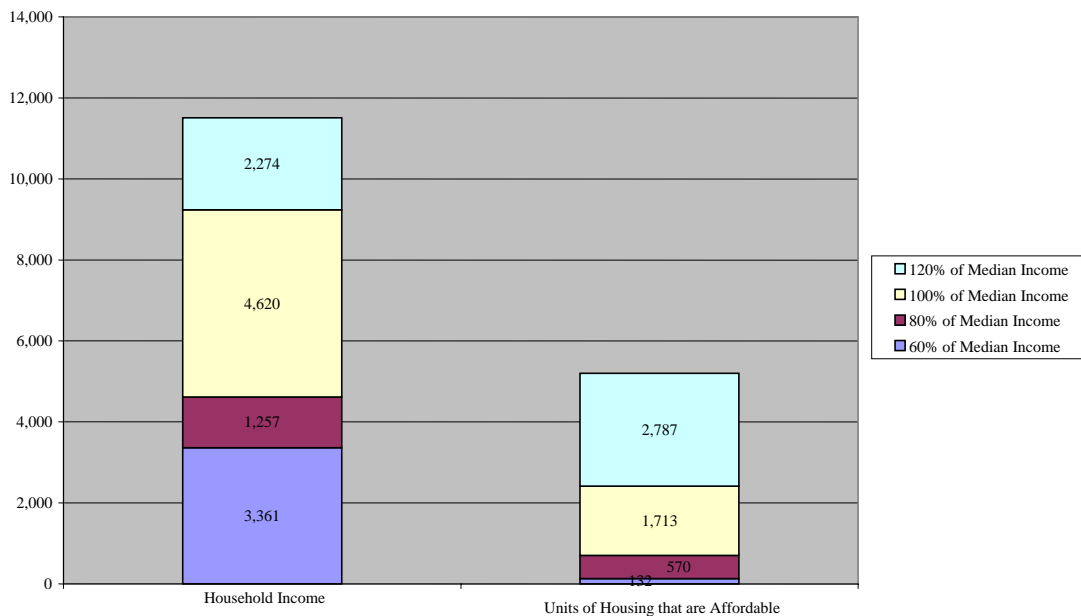
Household Affordability

| | House #1 | House #2 The average assessed value | House #3 The average market price |
|--|---|---|---|
| Purchase Price | \$123,002 | 270,408 | 289,900 |
| Downpayment @5% | 5,850 | 13,550 | 14,500 |
| Mortgage Amount | 117,152 | 256,858 | 276,293 |
| Principal & Interest | 740 | 1,624 | 1,745 |
| Taxes & Insurance | 206 | 464 | 486 |
| Total Monthly Housing Costs | \$1,028 | 2,255 | 2,426 |
| HOUSEHOLD INCOME REQUIRED TO PURCHASE * | \$41,808 (MEDIAN INCOME) | \$82,000 | \$88,000 |

*Assumes monthly debt of \$400 and interest rate of 6.5% for 30 years.

Another way to analyze housing affordability in Northampton is to compare the number of households, sorted by their median income, with the number of units of housing available for that cost. This information is summarized in the chart below. In all categories, except the top earners—at 120% of median income, there are many more households than there are houses: 3,361 households earn 60% of the median income, but only 132 houses are available in the 60% median income bracket. Similarly, 1,257 households earn 80% of the median income but there are only 570 houses available in this price range. Even households that earn 100% of the median income far outnumber the houses priced at that range: 4,620 households versus 1,713 houses.

Income/Housing Affordability Gap



Comparing the number of households by percent of median household income with the number of affordable housing units for that income, 2000
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

In addition to having unaffordable houses to purchase and limited rental units, the city of Northampton also has very low vacancy rates. The city has a consistent vacancy rate of less than 5% for rental apartments and houses for sale; however anecdotal evidence indicates that housing and especially rental vacancy rates started to increase in 2005. Competition for rental housing comes from the number of retired or elderly people on fixed incomes (12%), combined with the number of people who live alone (37%), and full-time students or younger workers in lower-wage retail, restaurant or service jobs who share rent with others.

As a result of low vacancy rates, there is tremendous competition for rental units, even though the city has a high percentage of rental units, as compared to the Commonwealth as a whole. Currently, 46.5% of the total housing stock in Northampton is renter-occupied housing units, approximately 5,525 units. Statewide, only 38.3% of all housing in Massachusetts was renter occupied units. However, despite having a high percent of rental units available, the city's vacancy rate of 3.4% is on par with the Commonwealth as a whole, which has a vacancy rate of 3.5%.

In addition, according to the 2000 census, 10.7% of the total households, or 1,276 households including rental units, are headed by persons over 65 years of age. If we subtract the number of renters over the age of 65 (796), from this total we might conclude that 480 homes could be owned by persons over the age of 65. This is approximately 8.3% of the total single family housing stock in Northampton.

The Warren Group, a private real estate data company, reports sales of single-family homes and condo units. Since 2002, both types of real estate show price increases at 63% in 2005. Based on building permits reported by HUD and on file at the Northampton Building Department the supply of new single family homes has increased by 25 units in 2002, 47 units in 2003 and 2004. This is relatively low production when compared to similar-sized communities in the region. Table E compares the number of building permits in 2002-2004 for Northampton and other communities in the region.

Total Number of Residential Building Permits, New Housing Units

| Community | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Northampton | 26 | 18 | 40 | 47 | 63 | N/A |
| Agawam | 55 | 50 | 56 | 71 | 53 | 40 |
| Amherst | 44 | 37 | 37 | 36 | 31 | N/A |
| Belchertown | 87 | 99 | 96 | 123 | 114 | 93 |
| Easthampton | 31 | 55 | 54 | 17 | 55 | 95 |
| Hadley | 9 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 10 | N/A |
| South Hadley | 26 | 17 | 56 | 28 | 36 | 44 |
| Southwick | 55 | 54 | 72 | 57 | 67 | 47 |

Source: SOCDs Building Permits Database

The city is a leader in the region for dedication of restricted affordable housing units. Northampton has reached the 10% threshold determined by the state Chapter 40B legislations, and dedicates 11.84% of its units to restricted affordable housing units. These restricted units are generally available to families whose income is 80% below the median family income,

depending on the state and federal funding source. As determined by HUD, the median family income for the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, which Northampton is a part of, is \$61,5000. Table F presents the income eligibility for restricted affordable housing units for Northampton residents, based on the number of family members in the household, and at 30%, 50%, and 80% of median family income.

Income Eligibility for Subsidized and Restricted Affordable Housing Units

| % of Median | 1 person | 2 person | 3 person | 4 person | 5 person | 6 person | 7 person | 8 person |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30% | \$13,300 | \$15,200 | \$17,100 | \$19,000 | \$20,500 | \$22,050 | \$23,500 | \$25,050 |
| 50% | \$22,150 | \$25,300 | \$28,450 | \$31,650 | \$34,150 | \$36,700 | \$39,200 | \$41,750 |
| 80% | \$35,450 | \$40,500 | \$45,600 | \$50,650 | \$54,700 | \$58,750 | \$62,800 | \$66,850 |

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development

According to the Northampton Housing Partnership, the City has a total of 1,454 affordable housing units at 32 different project areas. All of these projects were “friendly” 40B projects, and built without a Comprehensive Permit. Of the 32 project areas, 29 are rental properties (1,417 units), one is ownership (21 units) and, two are a mix of rental and ownership (16 units). In addition, a total of 69 units will have the restricted affordability status expire before the year 2010. More recently, two affordable housing projects have been built with comprehensive permits, and another two projects are under design and construction. All of these recent projects were “friendly” comprehensive permits working with the city and neighborhood.

Income levels of Northampton Workers

Despite limited population growth in Northampton since 1990, the city had a 6.5% increase in the number of new firms who have located here between 2001 and 2004, according to the MA Division of Employment and Training. Labor force data shows 17,259 total jobs were located in Northampton as of the year 2002. The Journey to Work data shows the number of Northampton residents who work is 14,435, with 8,270 of these workers, or 57% of the working Northampton population remaining in the city to work. These Northampton residents account for 48% of the workers in the city. This means that 8,989 (52%) of the total jobs available in Northampton are filled by workers who do not live in the city.

One of the major employers in the city is non-profit organizations. Data from the Urban Institute and National Center for Charitable Statistics in the year 2002 show that 219 nonprofit organizations were headquartered in Northampton, the largest number of non-profits located in any city in the Pioneer Valley region except Springfield. According to Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training, other major employment sectors in Northampton include Health Care and Social Assistance (26.9%), Educational Services (15.1%), Retail Trade (13.1%) and Accommodation and Food Services (10.7%) all which have average annual wages below \$40,000 a year. In addition, the percent of employment on these economic clusters are higher than the state percentages; however, the weekly wages are at about 90% of the state weekly wage for these same clusters.

These trends might explain why the average annual wage in Northampton is \$35,071, compared to the Massachusetts state average wage of \$48,934. Lower wages and higher concentrations of low wage industries may explain lower wages for those working in Northampton; however, the lower median income is a regional dynamic. Cost of living in western Massachusetts is lower than the rest of the state, therefore wages in this region will also be lower. Also, the high percentage (32.2%) of part-time employment, defined as jobs that are less than 35 hours per week, may also explain the lower annual wage.

As a result, the average annual wage in Northampton in 2004 is less than what is needed for two full-time workers to access homeownership in the city. As shown in Table D, the annual median household income needed to purchase a house at the average selling price in Northampton is \$88,000. Based on the data, a two-person household both employed in Northampton and making the average annual wage of \$35,071 could not afford a median priced home in Northampton. However, this same two-person household may be able to rent if they both contribute 30% of their monthly income to housing. A worker in Northampton who is making \$35,071 would be able to contribute a maximum of \$876 a month, or 30% of their income to housing. Considering the average rental price for a two-bedroom apartment in Northampton is around \$1000, a two-person household each working at this level could well afford to rent, including utilities.

Housing Gap Analysis

The data show that the population of younger residents, primarily between the ages of 15-34, has dropped significantly over the past 20 years, possibly as a result of increased housing prices. Currently, the 15-34 age group on average can pay less than \$1000 a month toward housing costs, based on their Gross Annual Income. This statement is also true for elderly populations in Northampton, 65 to 74 year olds, who can also pay less than \$1000 a month towards housing. Rental properties are available for these populations; however a low vacancy rate in the city prevents these residents from “upgrading” to a new location. If renters need to move from their existing apartment, there are few options available.

Housing stock is also limited in Northampton, and expensive, compared to the median household income of \$41,808. Currently, in order to purchase a home at the current market rate of \$289,900, a household income of \$88,000 is required at an interest rate of 6.5% over 30 years. Currently, only 21% of the total households in Northampton have a household income over \$88,000 and would be able to afford to move. In addition, most people who work in Northampton live outside the city, probably due in part to the cost of housing. With the average annual wage of \$35,071, many workers cannot afford to buy a home in Northampton, but most likely can afford to rent at least a one or two bedroom apartment.

Currently, only a small percentage of the working population can afford to live here. Competition for rental housing from the elderly, students and single people is surely an issue. If these trends continue, the demographics of the city may change, with the younger and elder populations continuing to decrease, and the wealthier 45-64 age group increasing. As stated earlier in the report, the 45-54 age group has increased by 85% over the past 20 years – this may

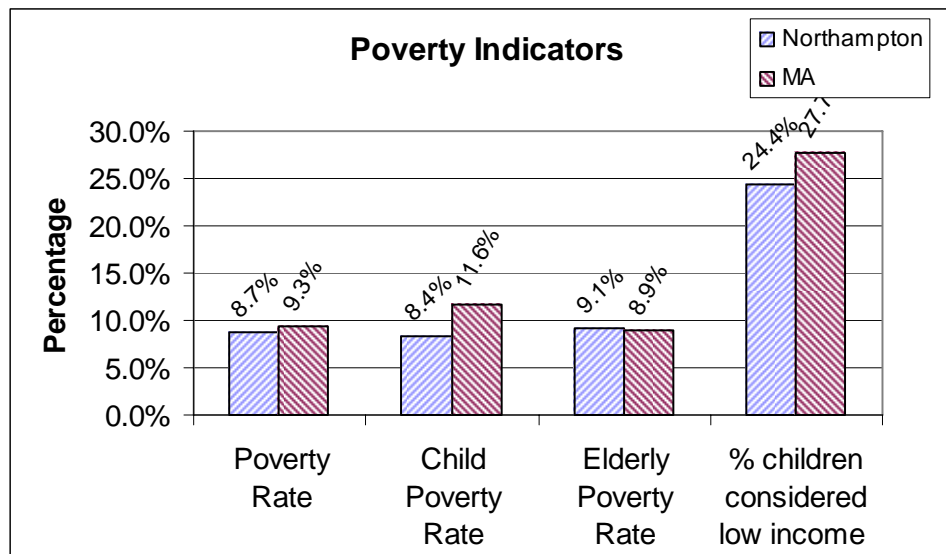
be a result of an aging baby boomer population; however, currently, this is the population that can most afford to live in Northampton.

Our analysis shows that the City's total available housing stock is inadequate for Northampton to keep its population growth in balance with its jobs growth. The City is unable to produce the number of new housing units needed to meet the needs of the service-based, lower-wage labor force compared to other towns. On a positive note, however, when compared to towns of similar size in the region, Northampton demonstrates a commitment to accommodate people of all income levels, and there is greater diversity of housing as evidenced by the fact that the number of attached housing units nearly equal the number of single-family detached units and rental opportunities are nearly equal to ownership in number of units.

POVERTY INDICATORS



Northampton's poverty rate is 8.7%, which is lower than that of the State. The child poverty rate is also lower but the elderly poverty rate is slightly higher than the State's. The percent of school children eligible for free or reduced price lunch and the number of participants in the WIC Programs were lower for Northampton. In general, Northampton's poverty rates are very similar to State levels.

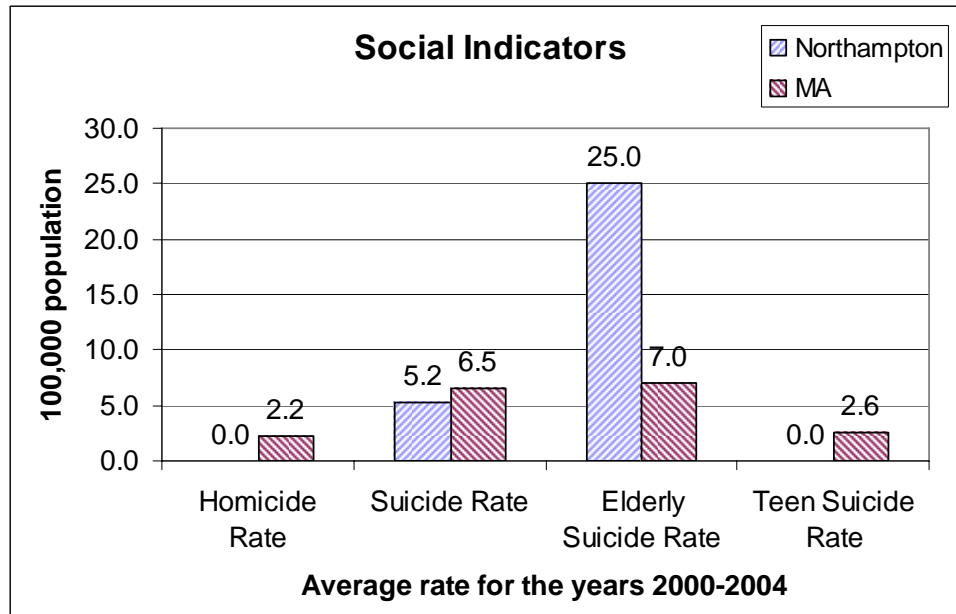


SOCIAL INDICATORS



The percentage of individuals over 16 who are not employed is 33.9% versus 36.8% in the State. The homicide rate per 100,000 persons (average of 2000 through 2004) was less for Northampton. The suicide rate per 100,000 persons (average of 2000 through 2004) was 5.2, which is lower than the State's rate of 6.5. However, the suicide rate of elders (over 64) per 100,000 elders was substantially higher than the state. The number of child abuse cases (both alleged and verified) is less than State levels. Northampton crime rate, between 1992 and 2002,

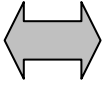
fell by 10.6% (43.2 crimes per 1,000 people to 38.6 crimes per 1,000 people). The violent crime rate fell from 6.2 crimes per 1,000 people to 5.9 crimes per 1,000 people, a drop of 4.8%.



| CRIME STATISTICS | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Rates per 1,000 people | | |
| | 1992 | 2002 |
| Murders: | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Rapes: | 0.685 | 0.632 |
| Robberies: | 0.685 | 0.632 |
| Aggravated assaults: | 4.80 | 4.76 |
| Burglaries: | 7.26 | 5.24 |
| Larcenies: | 24.62 | 24.69 |
| Motor vehicle thefts: | 5.10 | 2.83 |

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development

TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS

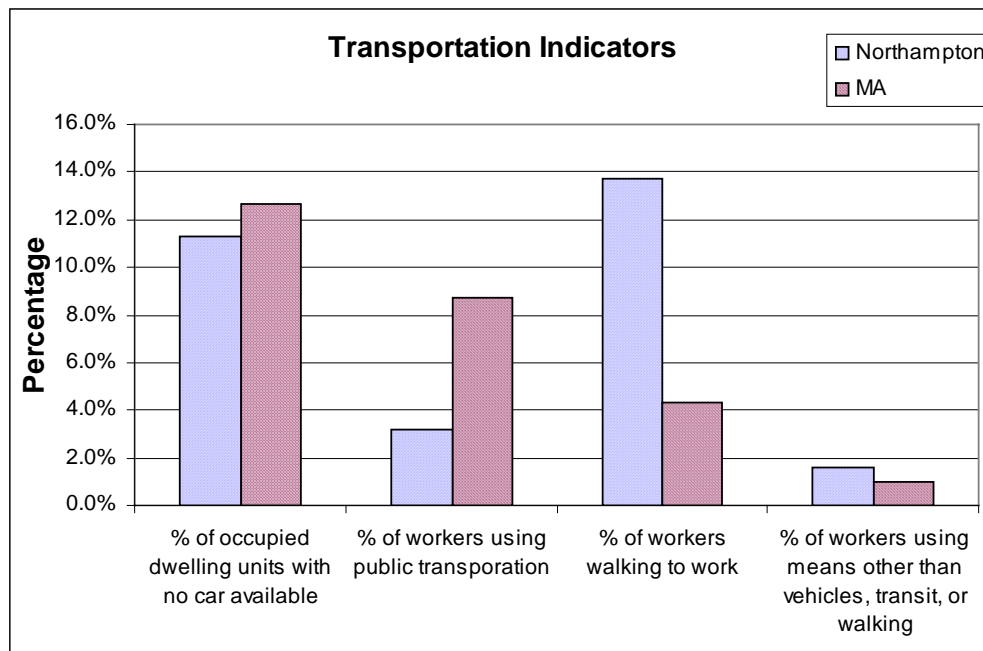


Northampton is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

The principal highways are U.S. Route 5 and Interstate Route 91, which runs N-S across the state, the State Route 9 running E-W. Amtrak offers daily bus service between Burlington, Vermont, and Springfield, Massachusetts, that connects up to its Springfield-Washington rail service. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway.

Northampton is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA), which provides fixed route service, and offers para-transit service to Springfield, Worcester, Boston, and Hartford. The Franklin Transit Authority also has a bus service that runs from Greenfield to Northampton. Vermont Transit Lines connects to Greenfield, Brattleboro, VT and points north, and to Holyoke, Springfield and Hartford, CT. Peter Pan Bus Lines also offers direct service to 56 destinations, including Boston, New York City, Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. In addition, Peter Pan offers service to Logan Airport from Northampton 7 days a week, and connects from Springfield to Hartford and Bradley Airport, and to Kennedy and Laguardia Airports in New York City.

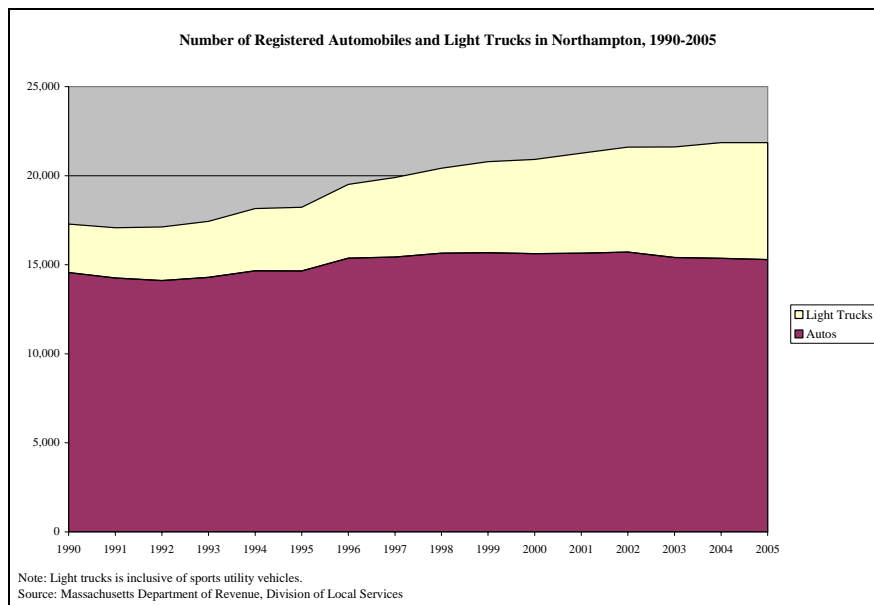
Northampton Airport, previously known as LaFleur Airport, is a General Aviation (GA) facility located 1 mile northeast of Northampton, has a 3,506-foot by 50-foot asphalt runway. This airport has been in continuous operation since its inception in 1929.



The percent of workers walking to work for Northampton was 13.7%, which is significantly greater than the percentage for the State of Massachusetts. On the other hand, less people use public transportation to get to work and the percent of occupied dwelling units with no car available is less than the State percentage.

Northampton Registered Cars and Trucks 1990-2005

| Year | Autos | Trailers | Light Trucks | Heavy Trucks | Motor Cycles | Other | Total | Average Age |
|------|--------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| 1990 | 14,556 | 744 | 2,733 | 363 | 69 | 743 | 19,208 | |
| 1991 | 14,259 | 736 | 2,820 | 317 | 61 | 609 | 18,802 | |
| 1992 | 14,110 | 751 | 3,016 | 294 | 132 | 492 | 18,795 | |
| 1993 | 14,295 | 716 | 3,139 | 286 | 146 | 413 | 18,995 | 7.39 |
| 1994 | 14,660 | 716 | 3,495 | 297 | 180 | 362 | 19,710 | 7.60 |
| 1995 | 14,653 | 719 | 3,578 | 300 | 175 | 331 | 19,756 | 7.66 |
| 1996 | 15,373 | 810 | 4,141 | 311 | 235 | 271 | 21,141 | 8.25 |
| 1997 | 15,438 | 825 | 4,463 | 351 | 365 | 266 | 21,708 | 8.57 |
| 1998 | 15,650 | 839 | 4,767 | 329 | 304 | 250 | 22,139 | 8.85 |
| 1999 | 15,680 | 856 | 5,101 | 366 | 420 | 262 | 22,685 | 9.00 |
| 2000 | 15,629 | 882 | 5,282 | 340 | 335 | 261 | 22,729 | 9.11 |
| 2001 | 15,649 | 901 | 5,617 | 323 | 336 | 249 | 23,075 | 9.20 |
| 2002 | 15,710 | 916 | 5,896 | 349 | 463 | 246 | 23,580 | 9.40 |
| 2003 | 15,405 | 969 | 6,210 | 379 | 384 | 241 | 23,588 | 9.46 |
| 2004 | 15,366 | 1,152 | 6,492 | 386 | 580 | 244 | 24,220 | 9.46 |
| 2005 | 15,286 | 1,251 | 6,571 | 402 | 611 | 246 | 24,367 | 9.21 |



CONCLUSIONS

It is useful to examine a set of agreed upon indicators to assess Northampton's status with respect to the rest of the Commonwealth and to the city itself over time. As noted, the city is doing well in most areas, but especially in the areas of wages for workers, affordable housing and mixed transportation options, there is room for improvement.

Northampton Community Indicators
December 21, 2005

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>North- ampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| Economic Indicators | | | | | | |
| Percentage of workers not employed in professional or managerial jobs | 49.8% | 58.9% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf | Every ten years |
| Unemployment rate (ten-year average 1995-2004) | 3.0% | 4.4% | + | 1995-2004 | Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm | Monthly |
| Average annual wage | \$35,071 | \$48,934 | - | 2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Average annual wages in the private sector | \$33,184 | \$49,229 | - | 2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Retail sales per retail establishment (\$000) | \$2,222 | \$2,869 | - | 2002 | U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census www.census.gov | Every five years |
| Retail payroll as a percent of retail sales | 10.9% | 10.7% | + | 2002 | U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census www.census.gov | Every five years |
| Retail sales per capita | \$15,072 | \$11,511 | + | 2002 | U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census www.census.gov | Every five years |
| Commercial percent of the total tax base | 15.1% | 18.4% | - | 2005 | MA Department of Revenue | Annual |
| Industrial percent of the total tax base | 3.2% | 5.5% | - | 2005 | MA Department of Revenue | Annual |
| Average annual wage, percent change 2001-2004 | +15.8% | +8.8% | - | 2001 to 2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training www.detma.org/lmi/local | Annual |
| Part-time employment as a percent of total employment (less than 35 hours per week) | 32.2% | 24.2% | ? | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Percent of workers self-employed | 10.5% | 8.9% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |

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| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>North- ampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| Percent of workers self-employed and unincorporated | 8.8% | 6.3% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Percent of persons working from home | 4.4% | 3.1% | ? | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Jobs per member of the labor force | 0.96 | 0.95 | + | 2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Percent change in number of firms, 2001-2004 | +6.5% | +9.9% | - | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Mining employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | 0.0% 0.0% | +10.9% 0.3% | - | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Construction employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | -7.5% 2.9% | -0.7% 4.8% | - | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | +1.1% 3.1% | -4.9% 6.9% | + | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Government employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | -14.9% 5.2% | -7.6% 4.1% | - | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Manufacturing employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | -4.7% 6.21% | -19.5% 9.98% | + | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Services employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | +1.7% 63.5% | +1.0% 49.5% | + | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Trade employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total employment in 2004) | +4.9% 14.6% | -1.7% 15.7% | + | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |
| Transportation, communications, and utilities employment (% change 2001-2004 / % of total | +21.7% 0.9% | -9.6% 3.7% | + | 2001-2004 | MA Division of Employment and Training, ES-202 | Annual |

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| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Northampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| employment in 2004) | | | | | | |
| Information | -7.1% 2.4% | -21.3% 3.0% | + | | | |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | -1.4% 1.2% | -10.1% 2.1% | + | | | |
| Education Indicators | | | | | | |
| High school completion rate | 88.7% | 84.8% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| High school dropout rate | 2.6% | 3.3% | + | 2003 | MA Department of Education | Annual |
| College (BA) completion rate | 46.1% | 33.2 | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Post-graduate completion rate | 25.0% | 13.7% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Environmental Indicators | | | | | | |
| Size of wildlife habitat areas (acres per capita) | 2243 acres | ? | | 2000 | OSRP | ? |
| Open Space and Recreation Plan in place? | Yes | varies | = | 2000 | Northampton Planning Dept | Every 5 years |
| Percentage capacity of landfills | Adequate to 2007 | Need 2 million tons capacity by 2005 | + | 2000 | Board of Health 413/587-1214 note: have applied for permit to expand 50,000 acres to make it last for +15 years. Karen Bouquillon, Solid Waste Coordinator 587-1284 and www.mass.gov | Unknown |
| Percentage of solid waste recycled- Residential | 54% | ? | ? | CY2004 | MA DEP, Municipal Recycling database, db.state.ma.us/dep/asppage1.asp | Unknown |

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| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>North- ampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| | | | | | Board of Health | |
| Water quality in ground waters | | | | | DPW-Paulette Kuzdeba 587-1570 ext 307 | |
| Watershed water quality index | | | | | DPW-Paulette Kuzdeba 587-1570 ext 307 | |
| Kilowatts of electricity consumed per 1,000 square feet of developed space | | | | | Mass Electric Pamela Fournier 582-7575 Not readily available | |
| Therms of natural gas consumed per 1,000 square feet of developed space | | | | | Baystate Gas Brian Errante 413/781-9200 x2212 not readily available | |
| Water consumption vs. supply | | | | | DPW-Paulette Kuzdeba 587-1570 ext 307 | |
| Health Indicators | | | | | | |
| Percent of mothers with adequate prenatal care | 86.3% | 79.9% | + | 2004 | MA Dept. of Public Health, MassCHIP database, Vital Records Download software at http://masschip.state.ma.us/ | Annual |
| Total chronic disease-related deaths per 100,000 population | 800.8 | 807.6 | + | 2004 | MA Dept. of Public Health, MassCHIP Instant topics, found at: www.masschip.state.ma.us/instanttopics | Annual |
| Alcohol related hospital discharges per 100,000 people | 705.8 | 369.8 | - | 2003 | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 births (four-year average of 2000-2003) | 0 | 3.8 | + | 2000-2003 | MassCHIP | Annual |
| Housing Indicators | | | | | | |
| Percentage of renter occupied dwellings | 46.5% | 38.3% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf | Every ten years |
| Housing cost burden (median household | 28.9% | 27.2% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau | Every ten |

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| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Northampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--|--|
| income as a percent of median home value) | | | | | | years |
| Affordable housing (Chapter 40B) as a percent of housing units | 11.8 % | 9.3% | + | 2005 | MA Department of Housing and Community Development www.state.ma.us/dhcd/default.htm | Annual |
| Homeowner vacancy rate | 0.4% | 0.7% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Rental vacancy rate | 3.4% | 3.5% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Poverty Indicators | | | | | | |
| Poverty rate | 8.7% | 9.3% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau; or, U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf or http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saibe/stcty/estimate.html | Every ten years or every three to four years |
| Child poverty rate | 8.4% | 11.6% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau | Every ten years |
| Elder poverty rate | 9.1% | 8.9% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau | Every ten years |
| WIC Program Participation per 1,000 population | 9.5 | 19.5 | + | 2003 | MassCHIP Database | Bi-annual |
| Percent of school children considered low income | 24.4% | 27.7% | + | 2004-2005 | MA Department of Education Profiles.doe.mass.edu/home.asp | Annual |
| Social Indicators | | | | | | |
| Percentage of households that are headed by a woman | 10.1% | 11.9% | ? | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf | Every ten years |
| Percentage of individuals over 16 who are not employed | 33.9% | 36.8% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf | Every ten years |

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| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>North- ampton</i> | <i>MA</i> | <i>+/-</i> | <i>As of</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|------------|--|---|------------------|
| Homicide rate per 100,000 persons (average of 2000 through 2004) | 0.0 | 2.2 | + | 2000-2004 | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Elderly (over 64) suicide rate per 100,000 elders (average of 2000 through 2004) | 25.0 | 7.0 | - | 2000-2004 | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Teen suicide rate (10-19) per 100,000 teens (average of 2000 through 2004) | 0.0 | 2.6 | + | 2000-2004 | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Suicide rate per 100,000 persons (average of 2000 through 2004) | 5.2 | 6.5 | - | 2000-2004 | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Alleged cases of child abuse per 1,000 children | 61.2 | 63.5 | + | 1997 *not currently available by municipality | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Verified cases of child abuse per 1,000 children | 14.4 | 18.3 | + | 1997 *not currently available by municipality | MassCHIP Database | Annual |
| Dependant children per family | 1.68 | 1.85 | ? | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Number of arts or cultural events/performances at public sites | 500/yr | ? | ? | 2004 | Arts Council estimates at least one/day—open to the public—suggest avg. of 500/year. 413/587-1269 Peter Lowitt suggests going with this number as Northampton clearly is unusual in this regard. Devens, by comparison had 3! | Annual |
| Number of public recreational events | 200 progs/yr | ? | ? | 2004 | City Rec Dept. 413/587-1040 Anne-Marie Moggio, Asst Dir. 200 programs/annually: swimming, camp, for adults and children etc. Outdoor beach—in use all summer long. 12 ball fields—all used when available by children and adults—Spring to Fall. | Annual |

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| Transportation Indicators | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---|------|---|-----------------|
| Percentage of occupied dwelling units with no car available | 11.3% | 12.7% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau http://censtats.census.gov/data/MA/1602546330.pdf | Every ten years |
| Road conditions-level of service (average of pavement conditions index) | 73 | ? | | ? | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Northampton Transportation Plan | Annual |
| Percent of workers using public transportation | 3.2% | 8.7% | - | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau Northampton average daily ridership = 3,658 (2001) | Every ten years |
| Percent of workers walking to work | 13.7% | 4.3% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |
| Percent of workers using means other than vehicles, transit, or walking | 1.6% | 1.0% | + | 2000 | U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov | Every ten years |

