



Northern Border Regional Commission



NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2024

To Determine Categories of Distress within the
Northern Border Regional Commission Service Area

2024

Photo courtesy of The Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP)

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Acknowledgements

Data collection provided by contractor: Dr. Daniel Lee, Plymouth State University
Data organized by the Northern Border Regional Commission

About The NBRC

Authorized by Congress in 2008 (**40 U.S.C., Subtitle V**), and first appropriated by Congress in 2010, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a Federal-State partnership modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission. The NBRC was created to provide infrastructure and economic development assistance to projects in counties that have varying degrees of economic and demographic distress.

Authority and oversight functions of the NBRC are shared by five Members: The Federal Government, represented by the Federal Co-Chair, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, represented by the Governors of those States. NBRC investments and policies are approved by the vote of the Federal Co-Chair and the collective vote of the majority of State Governors.

As a Federal-State partnership, the NBRC enjoys a strong network of State economic development leaders who provide guidance and support for NBRC programs. Such support also helps NBRC staff maintain knowledge of local conditions throughout its extensive service area.

The NBRC partnership is also aided by Local Development Districts, which serve multiple functions: Technical assistance to grantees; assistance with identifying sources of complementary funds; and administration of NBRC grant funds.

The staff of the NBRC are a permanent, non-partisan administrative structure, charged with implementation of the strategic vision of the Members, including NBRC's grant programs.

Overview

By statute, the NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress within its region:

- To have reliable and timely data that can inform NBRC leadership as they create and improve economic and infrastructure funding programs,
- To create a benchmark in which annual compilations of economic and demographic data can be compared to the NBRC's strategic goals,
- To identify whether or not the NBRC can provide grants to projects within a county,
- Level of match required by grant applicants for projects,
- To assist States as they develop their own economic and community development programs, and
- To provide publicly available information so local decision makers can prioritize their economic and community development strategies.

Federal law (**40 U.S.C., Subtitle V, §15702**) states that, ‘**distressed**’ counties are those that, “have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” and “are the most severely and persistently economic distressed and underdeveloped.” The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in counties falling within this designation. The maximum percent of a “distressed” project that can be funded by the NBRC is **80%**.

‘**Transitional**’ counties “have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” or “are economically distressed and underdeveloped.” The maximum percent of a “transitional” project that can be funded by the NBRC is **50%**.

‘**Attainment**’ counties are those that are neither ‘distressed’ nor ‘transitional.’ The NBRC is not allowed to fund projects within an attainment county unless the project is within an ‘isolated area of distress,’ or has been granted a significant benefit waiver. Isolated areas of distress are “areas [municipalities] that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.”

Because poverty, unemployment, and outmigration are only parts of an economic situation, the NBRC has adopted categories above and beyond those directed by statute. These “Secondary Distress Categories” provide a more in-depth survey of the NBRC’s service area as well as greater opportunities to gauge the success of the NBRC’s programs over time. These include: Educational Attainment (bachelor’s degree or higher), Household Income, and Seasonal Home Ownership.

Geographies

The NBRC region includes the following counties:

- **Maine:** The counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington
- **New Hampshire:** The counties of Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, and Sullivan
- **New York:** The counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Yates
- **Vermont:** All counties within Vermont

Data Collected

Data that is collected and priorities given to the data

1. “Primary” Distress Categories:
 - a) Percent of population below the poverty level
 - b) Unemployment rate
 - c) Percent change in population
2. “Secondary” Distress Categories:
 - a) Percent of population with a bachelor’s degree or higher
 - b) Median household income
 - c) Percent of secondary and/or seasonal homes

MAINE

Assessment of Distress in Maine for FY 2024

Distressed Counties

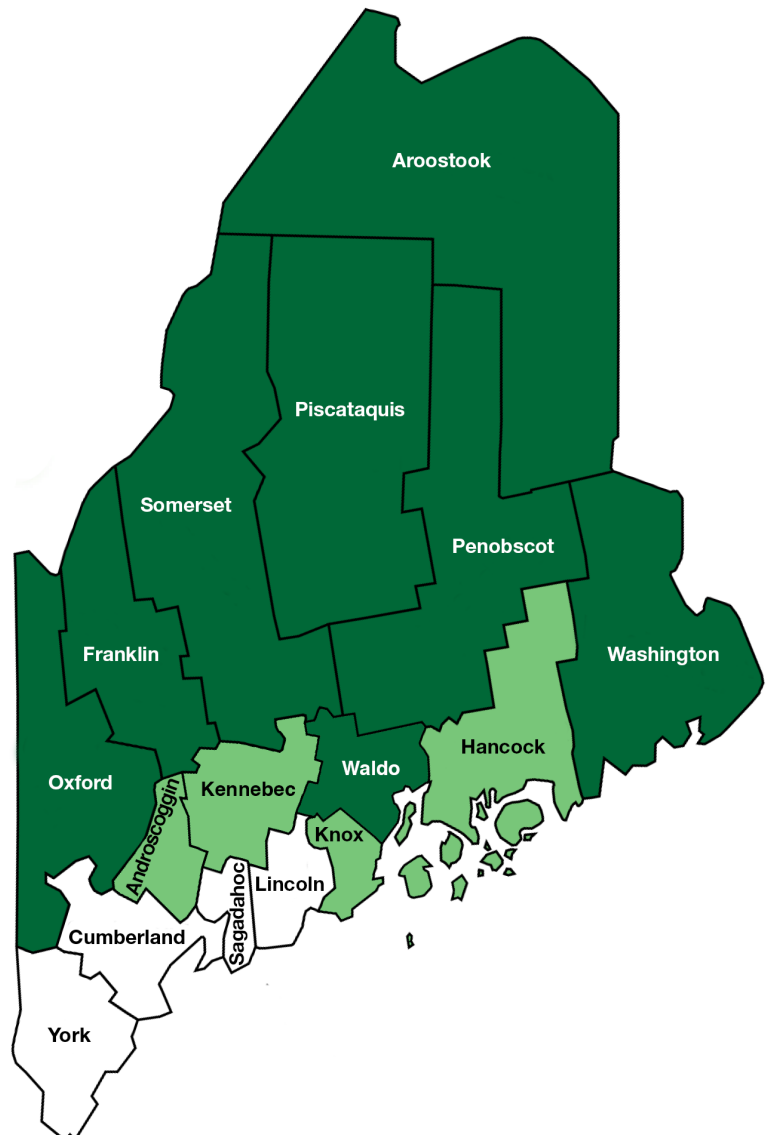
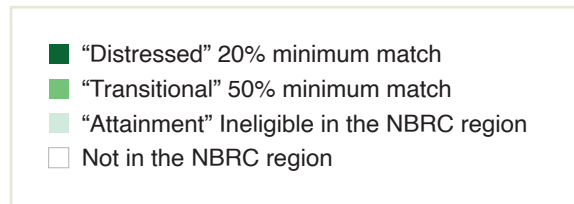
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis,
Somerset, Waldo, Washington

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Androscoggin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox

Attainment Counties¹

None



¹ An award may not be made to a project unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has been approved for a Significant Benefit Waiver.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Assessment of Distress in New Hampshire for FY 2024

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Cheshire, Coös, Sullivan

Transitional Counties

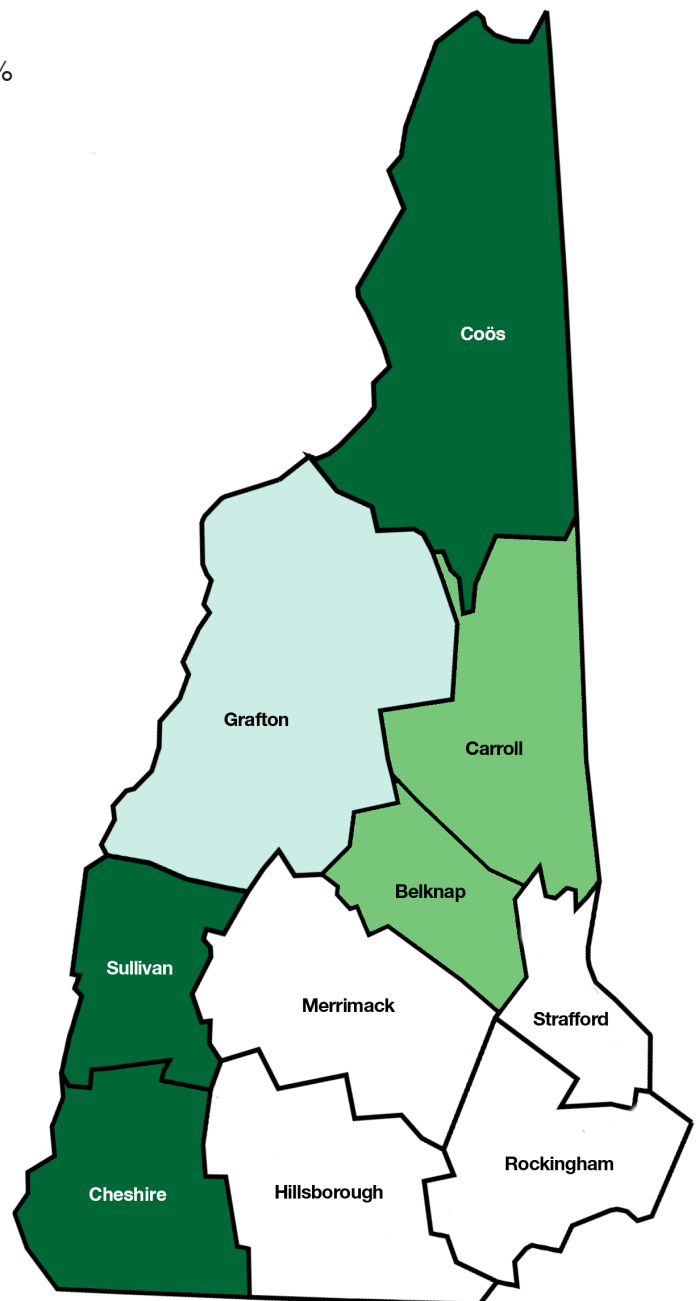
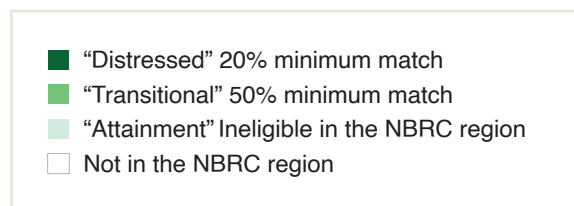
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Belknap, Carroll

Attainment Counties¹

Grafton

Isolated Areas of Distress or has been granted a Significant Benefit Waiver (see page 12)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50% (see list in “New Hampshire Isolated Areas of Distress” table at the end of this document)



¹ An award may not be made to a project unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has been approved for a Significant Benefit Waiver.

NEW YORK

Assessment of Distress in New York for FY 2024

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Yates

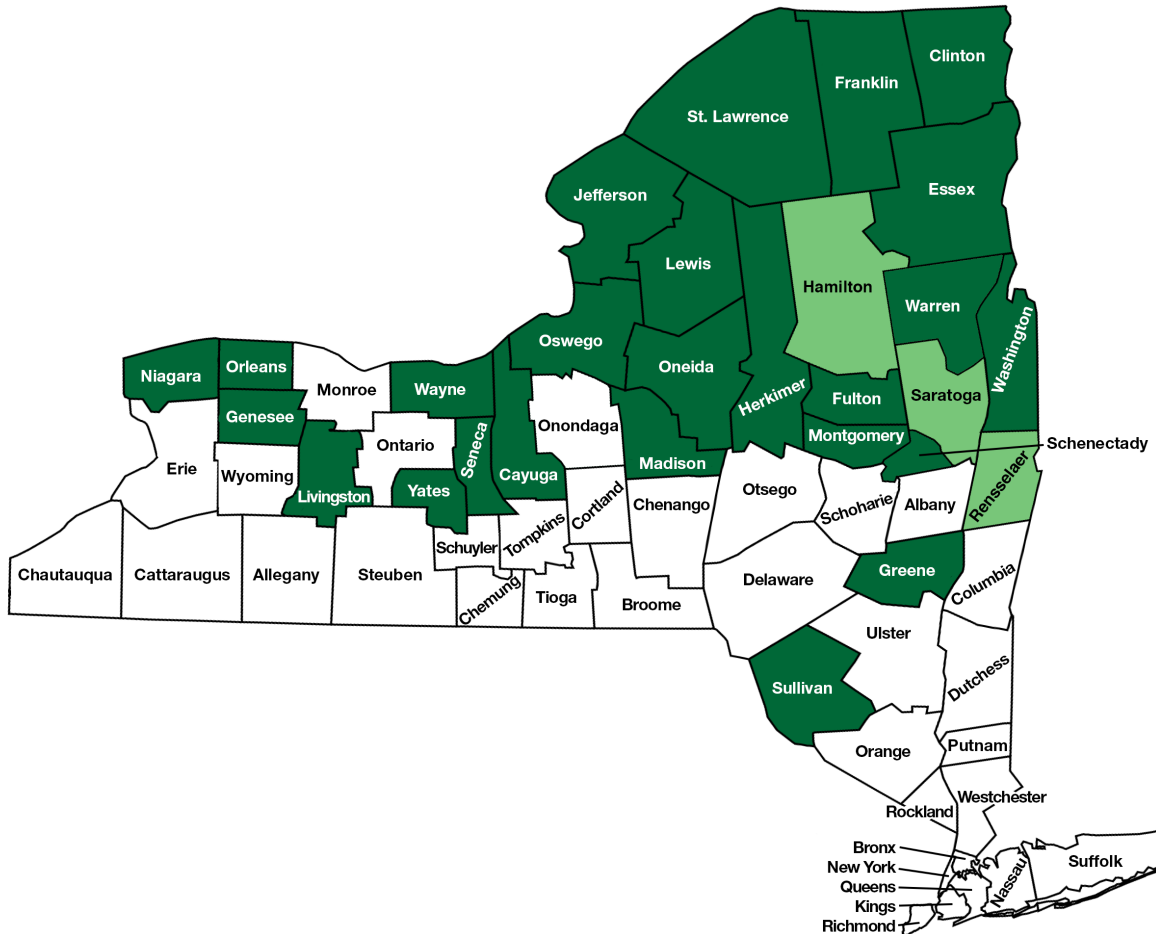
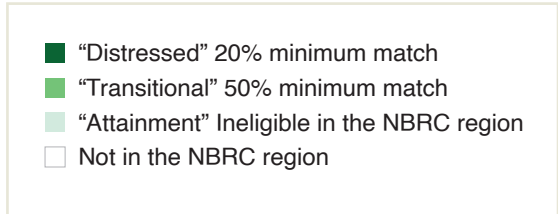
Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Hamilton, Rensselaer, and Saratoga

Attainment Counties¹

None



¹ An award may not be made to a project unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has been approved for a Significant Benefit Waiver.

VERMONT

Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2024

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Rutland

Transitional Counties

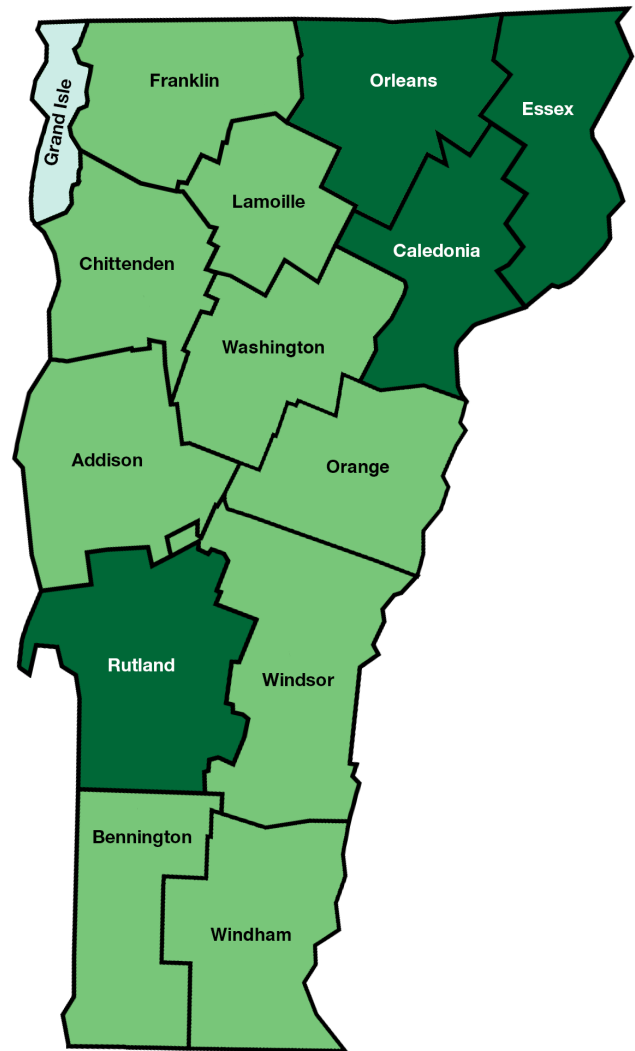
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin,
Lamoille, Orange, Washington, Windham
and Windsor

Attainment County¹

Grand Isle

Isolated Areas of Distress (see page 15)

Percent of match required for NBRC
award: 50% (see list in “Vermont
Isolated Areas of Distress” table at the
end of this document)



- “Distressed” 20% minimum match
- “Transitional” 50% minimum match
- “Attainment” Ineligible in the NBRC region
- Not in the NBRC region

¹ An award may not be made to a project unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has been approved for a Significant Benefit Waiver.

Maine County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)

Percent Below Poverty Level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change In Population (2,3)
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Secondary Distress Categories

Percent Bachelor's Degree Or Higher (2)	Median Household Income (2)	Seasonal Home % (2)
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Distressed Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Transitional County At least ONE factor from EITHER of the criteria categories.	Attainment Counties No measures of distress.
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United States	12.6	5.5	7.5
NBRC Region	11.4	4.6	0.6
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%

	33.7	\$69,021	3.6
	31.6	\$66,475	13.5
Criteria compared to is	< US	< US	< NBRC Region

Androscoggin County	11.9	4.7	2.4
Aroostook County	14.5	6.2	-6.8
Franklin County	11.9	5.1	-3.9
Hancock County	10.3	4.1	1.8
Kennebec County	12.0	4.2	1.1
Knox County	9.3	3.7	1.4
Oxford County	14.0	5.7	-0.1
Penobscot County	13.8	4.5	-0.8
Piscataquis County	16.0	5.5	-4.3
Somerset County	17.9	4.8	-3.5
Waldo County	13.0	5.1	2.3
Washington County	18.7	7.4	-6.1

	22.9	\$59,287	2.7
	20.3	\$47,278	15.3
	28.1	\$53,607	34.4
	35.5	\$60,354	33.3
	29.7	\$58,097	9.9
	36.3	\$63,399	20.6
	21.1	\$51,384	30.1
	30.0	\$55,125	8.1
	20.3	\$46,948	44.2
	19.9	\$47,488	22.0
	32.9	\$59,880	15.2
	24.0	\$46,689	26.6

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(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V

(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2017-2021)

(3) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2007-2011)

New Hampshire County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)

	Percent Below Poverty Level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change In Population (2,3)
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Secondary Distress Categories

	Percent Bachelor's Degree Or Higher (2)	Median Household Income (2)	Seasonal Home % (2)
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Distressed Counties	Transitional County	Attainment Counties
At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	At least ONE factor from EITHER of the criteria categories.	No measures of distress.

United States	12.6	5.5	7.5
NBRC Region	11.4	4.6	0.6
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%

	33.7	\$69,021	3.6
	31.6	\$66,475	13.5
	< US	< US	< NBRC Region

Belknap County	8.0	3.6	5.4
Carroll County	7.8	5.7	4.5
Cheshire County	9.8	3.6	-1.1
Coos County	10.9	4.5	-5.6
Grafton County	9.4	3.0	2.6
Sullivan County	12.5	2.9	-1.3

	31.2	\$75,035	29.7
	37.4	\$70,873	41.3
	33.1	\$69,360	9.5
	20.0	\$52,054	25.3
	42.6	\$73,755	27.4
	29.6	\$64,587	20.1

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(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V
 (2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2017-2021)
 (3) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2007-2011)

New Hampshire Isolated Areas of Distress

GRAFTON COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Ashland town	24.4	1.3	56.9
Bath town	7.3	6.7	28.1
Bridgewater town	12.0	2.4	-3.1
Canaan town	8.8	3.5	-1.5
Dorchester town	18.0	6.6	47.4
Ellsworth town	0.0	5.9	-48.7
Enfield town	12.2	0.6	-2.3
Franconia town	6.6	5.8	-21.1
Grafton town	9.7	4.4	-15.1
Groton town	4.4	1.6	-2.9
Haverhill town	5.9	1.3	-1.7
Hebron town	16.2	5.1	32.7
Landaff town	16.8	13.9	-10.5
Lisbon town	8.1	6.9	3.3
Littleton town	19.1	6.8	1.0
Lyman town	6.3	9.7	5.0
Lyme town	2.4	5.2	-15.0
Monroe town	3.7	6.1	-16.6
Piermont town	3.9	5.5	-17.4
Plymouth town	13.2	4.1	-3.8
Rumney town	6.8	1.6	-22.1
Waterville Valley town	0.0	0.0	-53.7

Vermont County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)

Percent Below Poverty Level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change In Population (2,3)
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Secondary Distress Categories

Percent Bachelor's Degree Or Higher (2)	Median Household Income (2)	Seasonal Home % (2)
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Distressed Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Transitional County At least ONE factor from EITHER of the criteria categories.	Attainment Counties No measures of distress.
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United States	12.6	5.5	7.5
NBRC Region	11.4	4.6	0.6

33.7	\$69,021	3.6
31.6	\$66,475	13.5

Criteria compared to is

> US

> US

< 0%

< US

< US

< NBRC
Region

Addison County	7.0	4.1	1.3
Bennington County	11.3	4.4	0.4
Caledonia County	12.6	3.6	-2.6
Chittenden County	11.3	3.8	7.6
Essex County	14.7	5.5	-6.0
Franklin County	9.4	3.6	4.3
Grand Isle County	6.5	4.1	2.7
Lamoille County	10.5	3.9	7.0
Orange County	9.5	3.1	0.9
Orleans County	10.4	5.9	0.3
Rutland County	10.5	4.3	-2.1
Washington County	10.0	3.1	0.3
Windham County	13.4	4.7	3.2
Windsor County	9.1	3.6	1.4

42.3	\$77,978	10.9
38.5	\$63,448	24.5
30.9	\$55,159	14.3
54.1	\$81,957	3.2
19.9	\$48,194	36.7
27.3	\$68,476	9.9
42.4	\$85,154	38.2
42.5	\$66,016	16.3
34.2	\$67,906	11.6
27.3	\$58,037	24.7
32.1	\$59,751	18.5
44.0	\$70,128	12.9
40.9	\$59,195	30.3
40.2	\$63,787	22.1

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(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V

(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2017-2021)

(3) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Estimate, 2007-2011)

Vermont Isolated Areas of Distress

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Alburgh town	6.8	3.2	-4.7
North Hero town	6.7	8.9	40.3
South Hero town	4.8	6.8	-15.8