



Northern Border Regional Commission



NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2022

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

MARCH 2022

Photo courtesy of the State of Vermont.

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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

Created by the US Congress in 2008, the NBRC is a Federal-State partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

The NBRC partnership is led by the governors of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York, as well as a Federal Co-chair, who is appointed by the President. Local oversight is provided through multi-county local development districts.

While Congress allowed the NBRC considerable flexibility in the types of areas in which to focus, the NBRC has created a Five-Year Strategic Plan that emphasizes three goals related to Infrastructure, Business and Entrepreneurial growth, and Leadership and Community Capacity.

More information on the NBRC can be found at www.nbrc.gov

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 new- and perfect existing- 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 Five Year Plan 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 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, Washington, Warren, 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 2022

Distressed Counties

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

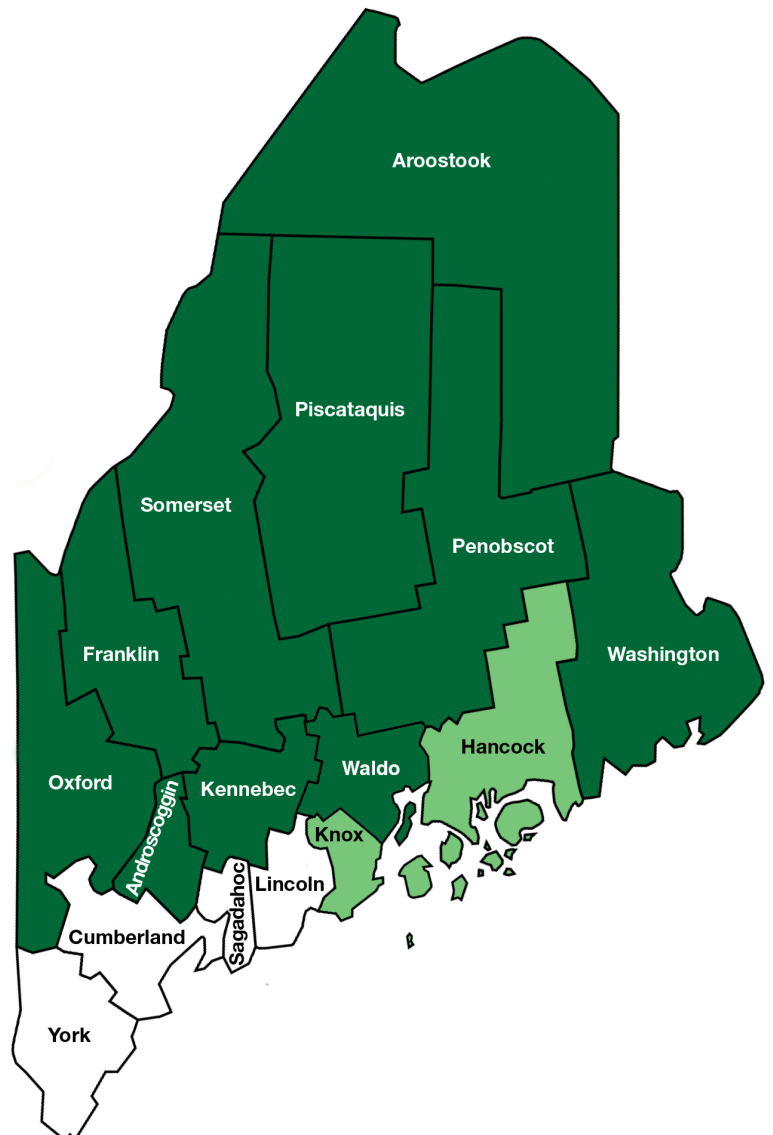
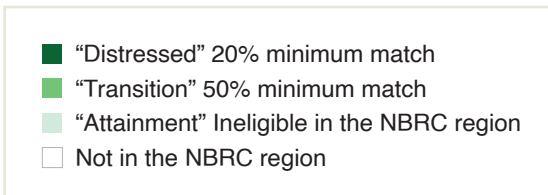
Transitional Counties

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

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an
Isolated Area of Distress: None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Assessment of Distress in New Hampshire for FY 2022

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Coös, Sullivan

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

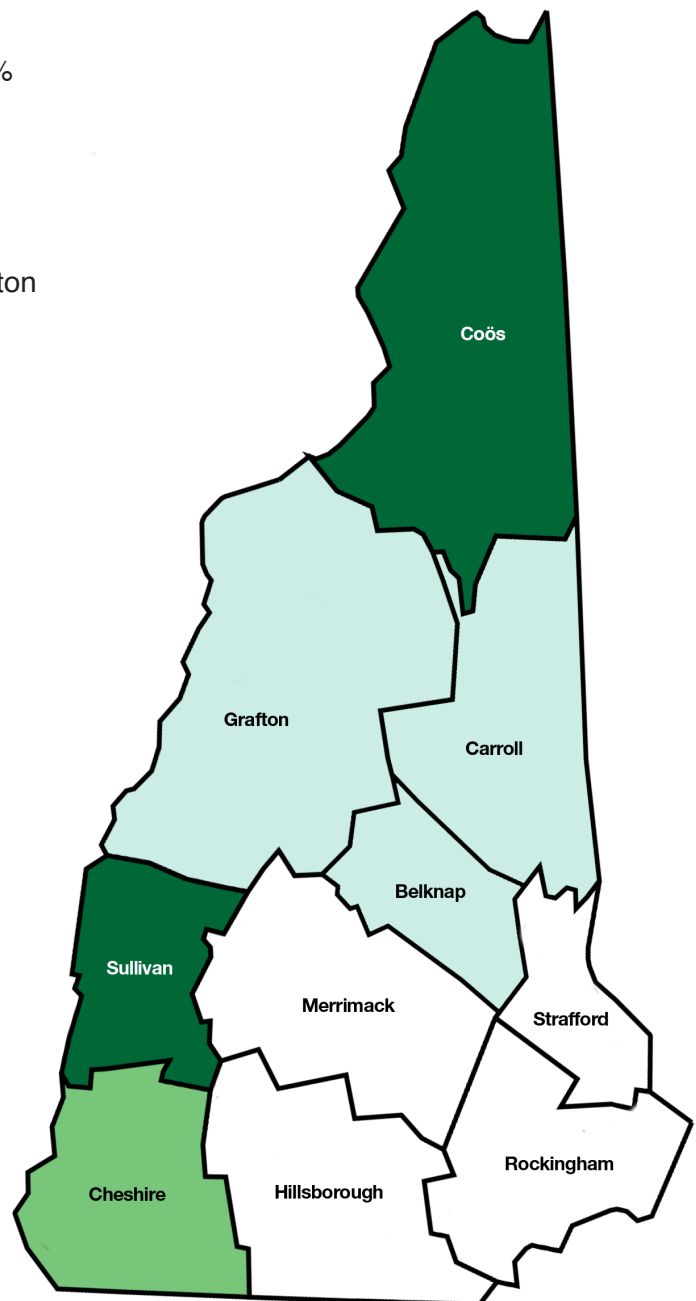
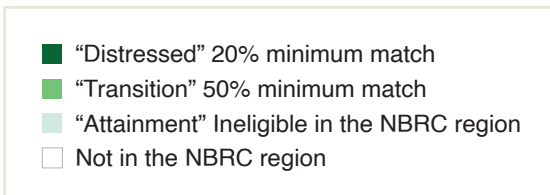
Cheshire

Attainment Counties

Cannot award unless the project is within an
Isolated Area of Distress: Belknap, Carroll, Grafton

Isolated Areas of Distress (see pages 11-12)

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



NEW YORK

Assessment of Distress in New York for FY 2022

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

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

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

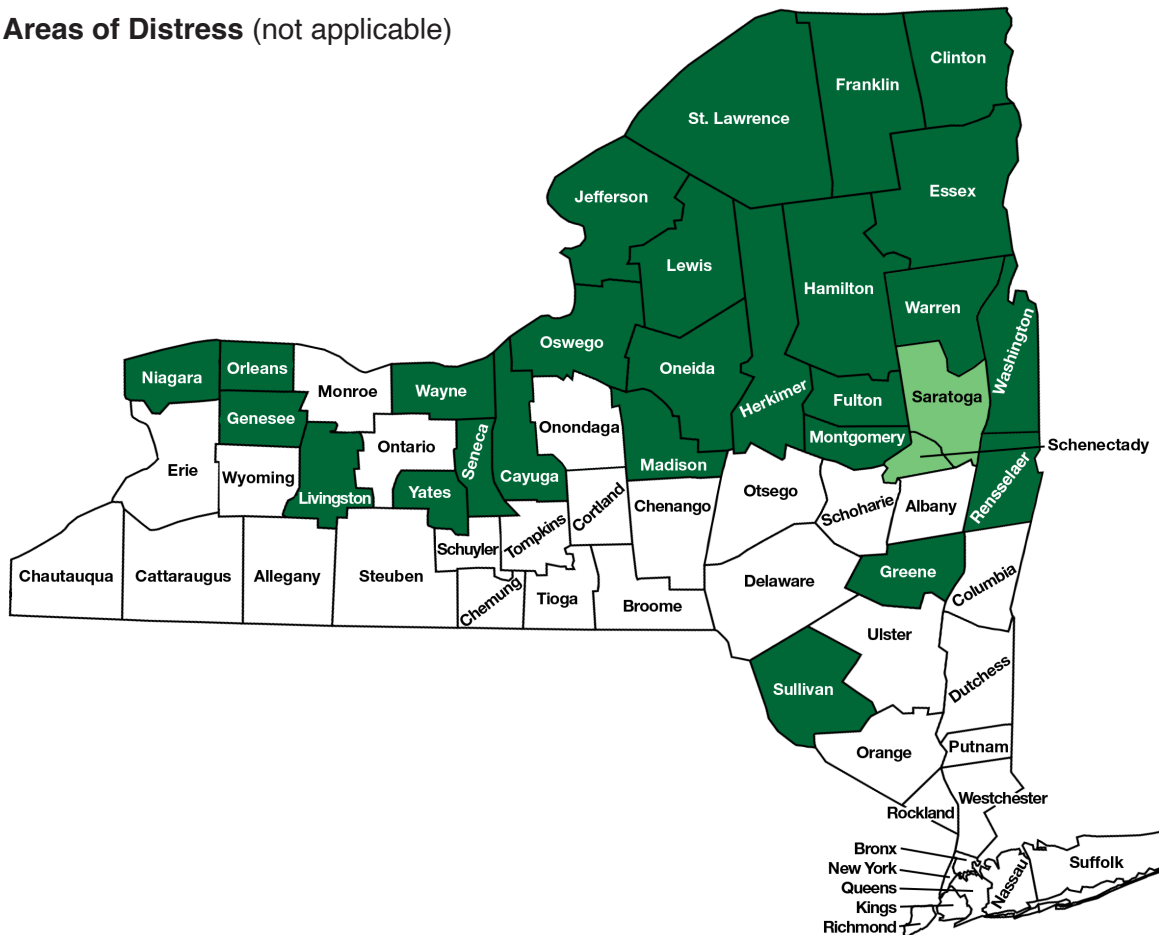
Saratoga, Schenectady

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress: None

- "Distressed" 20% minimum match
- "Transition" 50% minimum match
- "Attainment" Ineligible in the NBRC region
- Not in the NBRC region

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



VERMONT

Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2022

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Orleans, Rutland,
Washington, and Windham

Transitional Counties

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

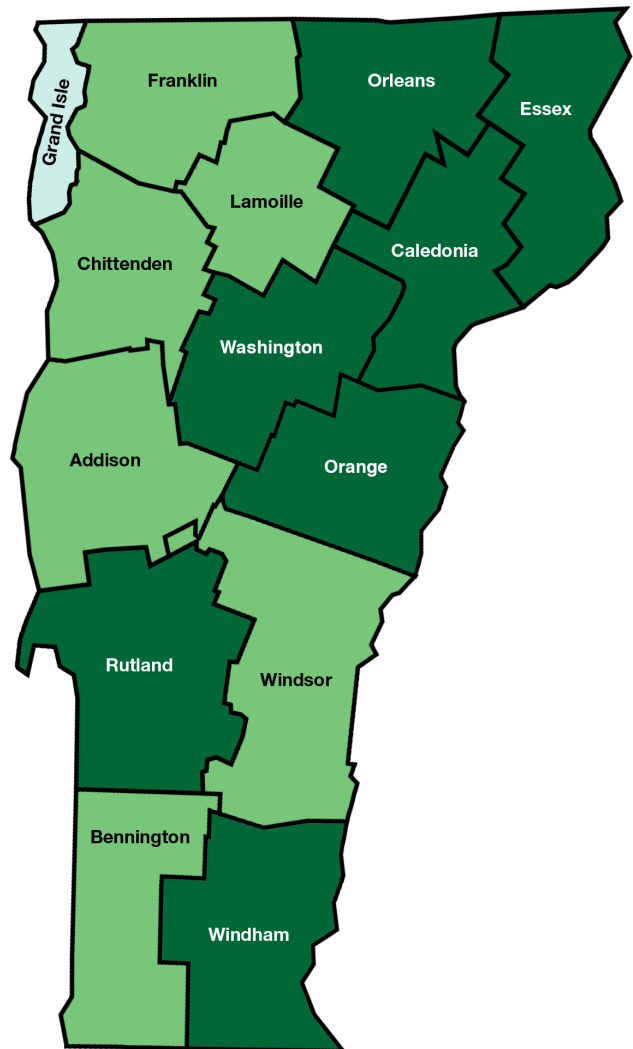
Attainment County

Cannot award unless the project is
within an Isolated Area of Distress:
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
- “Transition” 50% minimum match
- “Attainment” Ineligible in the NBRC region
- Not in the NBRC region



Maine County- level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)		
Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)
13.4	5.3	5.2
12.1	4.5	-0.80
> US	> US	< 0%

Secondary Distress Categories		
Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	Seasonal Home % (3)
32.1	\$62,843	3.5
29.8	\$60,344	13.6
< US	< US	< NBRC Region

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	13.4	5.3	5.2
NBRC Region	12.1	4.5	-0.80

Criteria compared to is > US > US < 0%

Androscoggin County	11.8	3.9	-0.1
Aroostook County	16.1	5	-5.7
Franklin County	11.5	5.8	-2.6
Hancock County	10.8	4.1	0.3
Kennebec County	12.8	4	-0.3
Knox County	9.9	3.1	0.1
Oxford County	15.1	5.5	-0.5
Penobscot County	14.8	5	-1.4
Piscataquis County	18.5	6.3	-4.0
Somerset County	20.4	6.6	-3.3
Waldo County	13.5	5.5	1.9
Washington County	18.9	7	-4.2

22.8	\$53,509	2.9
19.2	\$41,123	13.7
24.8	\$51,422	33.1
34.1	\$57,178	32.7
28.1	\$55,365	10.1
33.5	\$57,751	20.3
19.2	\$49,204	25.3
27.7	\$50,808	8.4
18.4	\$40,890	41.7
16.5	\$44,256	21.4
31.4	\$51,931	17.0
22	\$41,347	27.5

✓		
✓		
✓		
✓	✓	
✓	✓	
✓		
✓		
✓		
✓		
✓		
✓		

(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V
 (2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2015-2019)
 (3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

New Hampshire County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)

Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)
13.4	5.3	5.2
12.1	4.5	-0.80

Secondary Distress Categories

Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	Seasonal Home % (3)
32.1	\$62,843	3.5
29.8	\$60,344	13.6

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.
✓	✓	✓
✓		✓
	✓	
		✓
✓		
✓		✓

United States

NBRC Region

Criteria compared to is

> US

> US

< 0%

< US

< US

< NBRC Region

Belknap County

Carroll County

Cheshire County

Coös County

Grafton County

Sullivan County

8.6

9

9

12.5

9.6

11.7

3.9

3

3.4

5.5

2.9

2.9

1.3

0.7

-1.4

-4.0

0.7

-1.5

32.6

34.3

33.1

18.2

40.6

28.1

\$69,447

\$63,153

\$64,751

\$47,117

\$63,389

\$61,312

28.0

42.2

7.9

25.7

24.2

12.8

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

(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2015-2019)

(3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

New Hampshire Isolated Areas of Distress

BELKNAP COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Alton town	2.3	6.4	1.0
Belmont town	9.5	3.1	-0.6
Center Harbor town	6.5	0	-3.6
Gilmanston town	11.9	5.3	-1.0
New Hampton town	8.8	5.8	3.7
Sanbornton town	3.8	9	0.6
Tilton town	8.4	2.2	-0.4

CARROLL COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Albany town	11.6	5.1	-4.4
Bartlett town	6.7	4.2	-0.5
Brookfield town	3.1	6.7	12.8
Conway town	14.8	2.1	0.1
Eaton town	8.3	1.9	-32.6
Freedom town	6.4	4.5	-9.4
Ossipee town	12.5	5.6	-0.3
Tuftonboro town	5.9	3.8	-7.3
Wakefield town	6.2	2.6	-0.6

New Hampshire Isolated Areas of Distress

GRAFTON COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Ashland town	19.8	1.2	-2.8
Bath town	1.5	6.2	-14.4
Campton town	6.9	1.1	-1.3
Dorchester town	9.2	6.7	13.0
Ellsworth town	0	4.3	-10.8
Enfield town	4	1.6	-0.8
Franconia town	2	5.3	-2.6
Grafton town	9.5	7	1.6
Groton town	9.4	2.5	-21.8
Haverhill town	7.6	3.3	-2.0
Hebron town	8.9	5.3	-10.8
Landaff town	18	10.3	19.5
Lincoln town	8.9	0	-43.1
Lisbon town	13.2	7.7	9.8
Littleton town	20.2	3.1	-0.2
Lyman town	5.8	6.4	22.5
Orange town	6.8	5.4	-20.2
Piermont town	3	5.4	9.9
Plymouth town	13.5	7	-3.4
Rumney town	13.6	2.8	2.0
Warren town	7.9	5.2	-3.3
Waterville Valley town	0	0	-24.7
Wentworth town	9.4	1.1	-1.9
Woodstock town	5.7	0	-18.0

New York County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories ⁽¹⁾		
Percent below poverty level ⁽²⁾	Unemployment Rate ⁽²⁾	Percent Change in Population ⁽²⁾
13.4	5.3	5.2
12.1	4.5	-0.80
> US	> US	< 0%

Secondary Distress Categories		
Percent bachelor's degree or higher ⁽²⁾	Median household income ⁽²⁾	Seasonal Home % ⁽³⁾
32.1	\$62,843	3.5
29.8	\$60,344	13.6
< US	< US	< NBRC Region

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	13.4	5.3	5.2	32.1	\$62,843	3.5
NBRC Region	12.1	4.5	-0.80	29.8	\$60,344	13.6
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region

Cayuga County	12.1	4.5	-3.3	22.6	\$58,377	7.9	✓
Clinton County	15	4.4	-1.9	22.9	\$56,365	6.2	✓
Essex County	9.9	5	-4.9	26.8	\$56,763	29.9	✓
Franklin County	17.8	7	-2.2	19.1	\$50,407	17.5	✓
Fulton County	14.9	5.1	-3.4	18.2	\$50,482	13.7	✓
Genesee County	10.9	4.1	-3.8	22.3	\$60,524	1.1	✓
Greene County	14	3.9	-3.7	22.1	\$53,601	23.2	✓
Hamilton County	9.9	3.6	-6.6	16.8	\$58,675	71.1	✓
Herkimer County	13.6	5.9	-3.8	21.5	\$54,646	14.1	✓
Jefferson County	14	6.2	-2.9	22.2	\$52,685	18.7	✓
Lewis County	13.5	4.8	-1.9	18.4	\$54,524	25.2	✓
Livingston County	13.2	3.5	-2.8	26.5	\$59,510	4.8	✓
Madison County	9.8	4	-3.0	26.2	\$61,633	6.8	✓
Montgomery County	19.8	6.6	-1.8	17.8	\$49,462	1.4	✓
Niagara County	13.5	5	-2.6	24.6	\$55,522	1.1	✓
Oneida County	15.5	4.6	-2.1	25.7	\$56,027	3.3	✓
Orleans County	13.7	5.4	-4.6	16.2	\$52,620	5.8	✓
Oswego County	17	6.9	-3.1	19	\$55,967	7.0	✓
Rensselaer County	11.7	4.7	-0.2	32	\$68,991	2.1	✓
St. Lawrence County	17.9	7.4	-2.7	23.8	\$50,940	14.5	✓
Saratoga County	5.8	3.5	4.1	41.4	\$84,291	5.6	✓
Schenectady County	11.4	6.6	0.1	32.1	\$65,499	0.6	✓
Seneca County	12.2	3.6	-2.4	21.1	\$54,545	9.9	✓
Sullivan County	15.2	7.5	-3.1	24.8	\$57,426	29.2	✓
Warren County	9.5	4	-2.2	31.3	\$61,024	22.2	✓
Washington County	11.3	4.8	-2.5	20.5	\$57,258	10.0	✓
Wayne County	11.6	5.1	-3.5	22.6	\$59,449	4.5	✓
Yates County	11.9	4.1	-1.3	25.2	\$56,563	24.0	✓

(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V
 (2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2015-2019)
 (3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Vermont County-level Distress Analysis

	Primary Distress Categories (1)		Secondary Distress Categories			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.
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)	Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)			
United States	13.4	5.3	5.2	32.1	\$62,843	3.5		
NBRC Region	12.1	4.5	-0.80	29.8	\$60,344	13.6		
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region		
Addison County	7.2	3.9	0.2	39.6	\$68,825	10.9		
Bennington County	10.9	3.6	-3.7	36.2	\$56,183	20.5	✓	
Caledonia County	12.6	3.5	-3.2	29	\$50,563	14.9	✓	
Chittenden County	12.1	3.5	3.9	51.3	\$73,647	2.7	✓	
Essex County	13.4	3.9	-1.7	16.2	\$44,349	38.4	✓	
Franklin County	8.6	3.7	2.9	24.1	\$65,485	9.4	✓	
Grand Isle County	7.5	4.2	0.7	39.8	\$71,587	36.4	✓	✓
Lamoille County	13.6	3.7	3.4	38.2	\$64,003	17.3	✓	
Orange County	9.7	3.7	-0.1	29.1	\$60,925	14.5	✓	
Orleans County	13.1	4.2	-1.2	21.5	\$49,168	24.4	✓	
Rutland County	10.1	3.1	-4.5	30.8	\$56,139	17.1	✓	
Washington County	10.6	3.2	-2.0	41.8	\$62,791	11.5	✓	
Windham County	13.7	4.2	-3.8	38.1	\$51,985	30.7	✓	
Windsor County	9.2	3.8	-2.5	38.2	\$60,987	21.7	✓	

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

(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2015-2019)

(3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Vermont Isolated Areas of Distress

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Isle La Motte town	14.1	8.3	-10.6
North Hero town	8.7	6	17.8