



NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2021

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

March, 2021

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Acknowledgements

Data collection provided by contractor: Dr. Daniel Lee, Plymouth State University

Data organized by the Northern Border Regional Commission

1. 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

2. 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 is 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.

3. 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, Coos, 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

4. 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
 - d) Change in unemployment rate¹
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

¹ For 2021, the NBRC added “change in unemployment rate” to the “Primary” category of distress variables. This variable allowed the Commission to account for changes in unemployment by County due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maine

5. Assessment of Distress in Maine for FY 2021

Distressed Counties

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

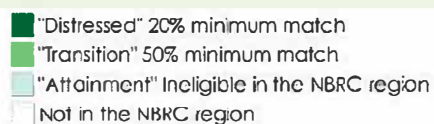
Transitional Counties

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

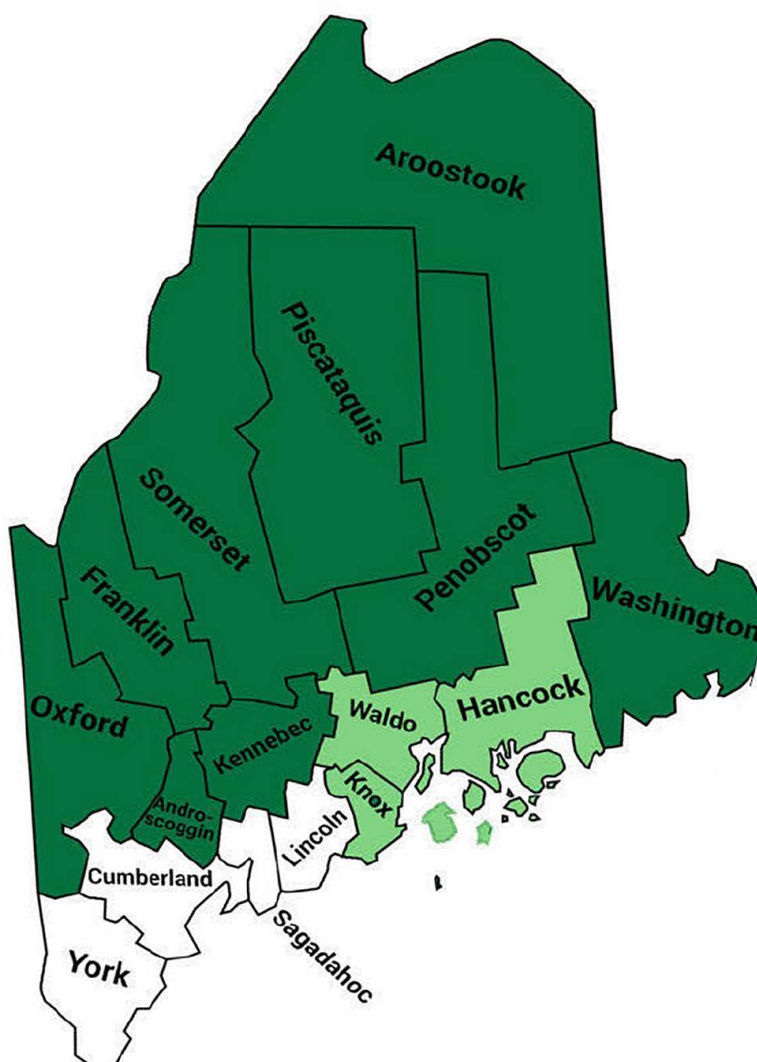
Attainment Counties (not applicable)

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

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



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New Hampshire

6. Assessment of Distress in New Hampshire for FY 2021

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Coös, Sullivan

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire

Attainment Counties

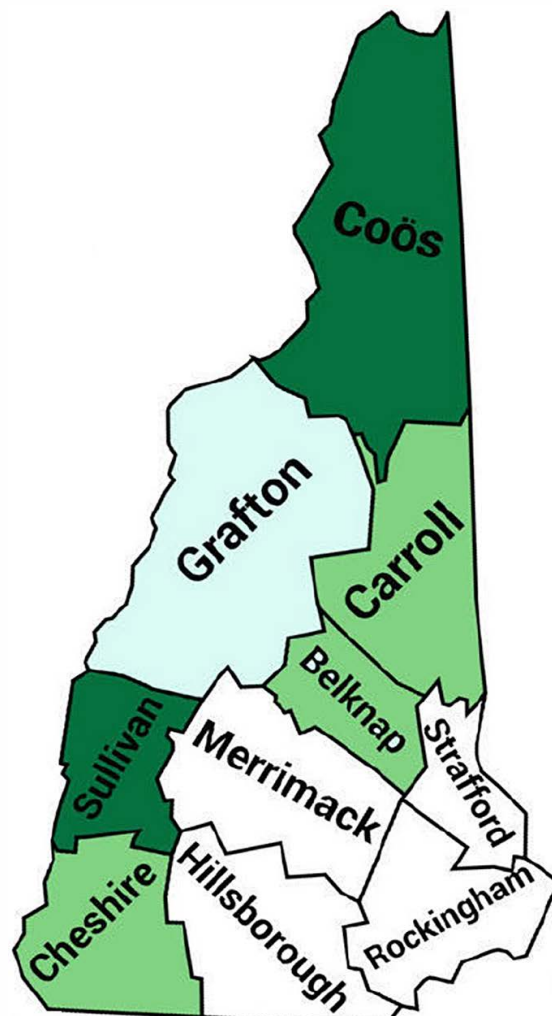
Cannot award unless the project is
within an Isolated Area of Distress:

Grafton

Isolated Areas of Distress (See P. 7)

Percent of match required for NBRC
award: 50% (see list in "New Hampshire
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



New York

7. Assessment of Distress in New York for FY 2021

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, St. Lawrence, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, and Yates

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Rensselaer, Saratoga

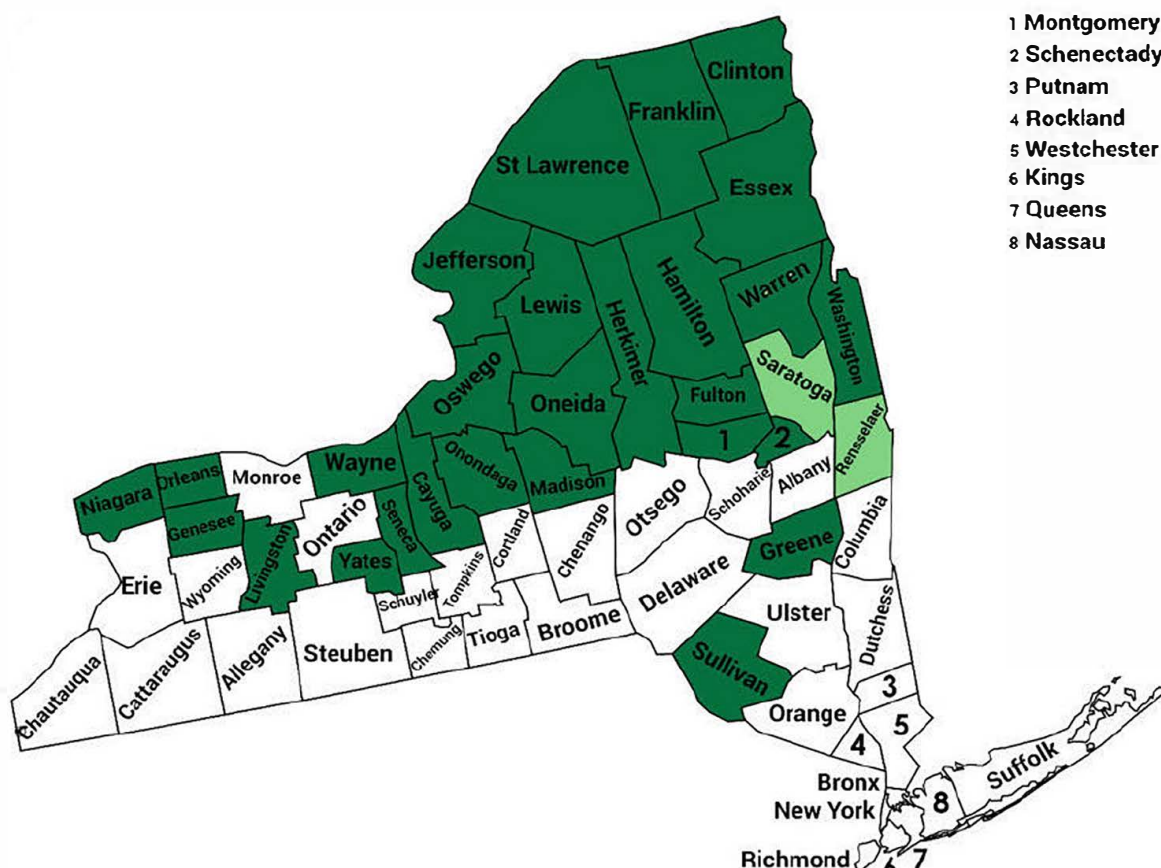
Attainment Counties (not applicable)

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

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
None

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



Vermont

8. Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2021

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for

NBRC award: 20%

Caledonia, Essex, Orleans,

Rutland, and Windham

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for

NBRC award: 50%

Addison, Bennington,

Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle,

Lamoille, Orange, Washington,

and Windsor

Attainment Counties (not

applicable)

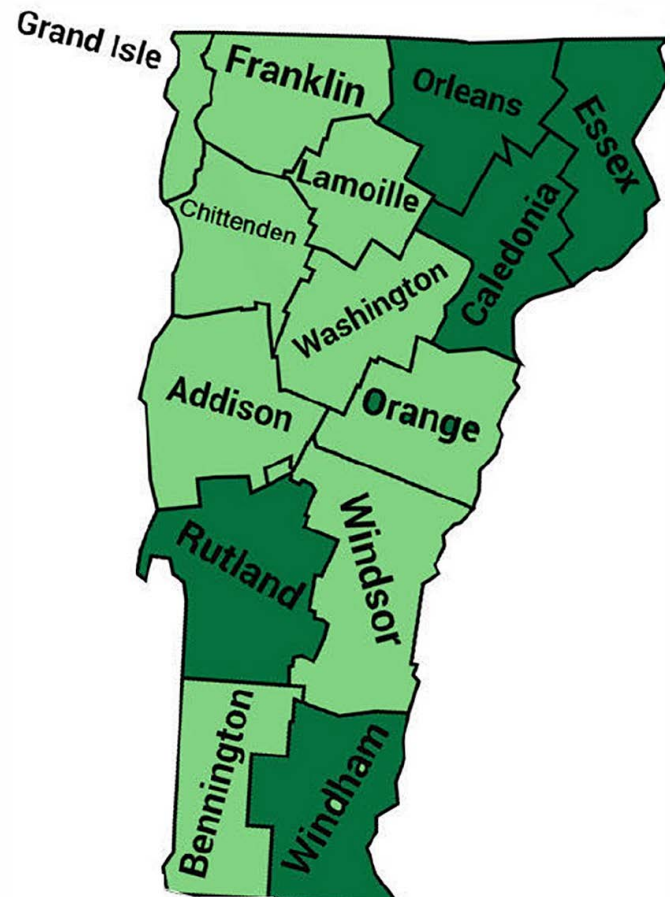
Not eligible, unless designated as an

Isolated Area of Distress: None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not

applicable)

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



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Maine County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)			
Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)	Pandemic Change in Unemployment Rate (4)

United States	14.1	5.9	4.6	5.9
NBRC Region	12.9	5.2	-1.10	

Criteria compared to is > US > US < 0% > US

Androscoggin County	13.2	4.6	-0.2	4.4
Aroostook County	17.2	5.1	-5.0	2.2
Franklin County	12.2	5.7	-2.4	4.0
Hancock County	11.2	4.7	0.2	3.8
Kennebec County	13.3	4.9	-0.5	3.5
Knox County	10.9	4.2	0.2	4.1
Oxford County	15.9	6	-0.9	5.3
Penobscot County	15.7	5.5	-1.4	3.7
Piscataquis County	19.2	7.7	-3.7	3.2
Somerset County	19.3	8.6	-2.9	4.0
Waldo County	13.9	5.6	1.6	3.4
Washington County	18.5	7	-3.5	2.8

Secondary Distress Categories			
Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	Seasonal Home % (3)	

31.5	\$60,293	3.5	
27.9	\$57,147	13.8	

< US < US < NBRC Region

22.2	\$51,412	2.9	
18.9	\$39,824	13.7	
25.4	\$48,053	33.1	
32.3	\$53,068	32.7	
27.1	\$52,929	10.1	
31	\$55,402	20.3	
19	\$47,275	25.3	
27.1	\$49,374	8.4	
18.3	\$39,470	41.7	
16.5	\$42,491	21.4	
29.6	\$51,564	17.0	
20.8	\$41,384	27.5	

Distressed Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Transitional Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Attainment Counties No measures of distress.
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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 Average, 2014-2018)
(3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010
(4) Source: US Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

New Hampshire County-level Distress Analysis

Primary Distress Categories (1)

Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemployment Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)	Pandemic Change in Unemployment Rate (4)
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Secondary Distress Categories

Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	Seasonal Home % (3)
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Distressed Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Transitional Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Attainment Counties No measures of distress.
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United States	14.1	5.9	4.6	5.9	31.5	\$60,293	3.5
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NBRC Region	12.9	5.2	-1.10		27.9	\$57,147	13.8
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Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	> US	< US	< US	< NBRC Region
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Belknap County	8.7	4.7	0.9	6.3
Carrroll County	9.6	3.6	0.0	7.5
Cheshire County	9.9	3.8	-1.1	4.7
Cobb's County	12.8	5.6	-3.1	6.7
Grafton County	9.9	3.4	0.8	5.0
Sullivan County	10.8	3.7	-1.4	4.2

	32.4	\$68,368	28.0
	33.6	\$61,116	42.2
	32.6	\$63,057	7.9
	18.1	\$45,696	25.7
	40.5	\$63,153	24.2
	26.8	\$60,780	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, 2010-2014)
(3) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010
(4) Source: US Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

New Hampshire Isolated Areas of
Distress (all towns are in Grafton
County)

Municipality	Percent Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Percent Change in Population
Alexandria town	11.4	6.8	24.3
Ashland town	16.4	4.7	3.2
Bath town	6.1	5.3	-15.1
Bridgewater town	8.8	6.4	11.3
Campton town	4.6	0.8	-0.6
Ellsworth town	1.6	0	-26.5
Enfield town	4.2	1.6	-0.3
Franconia town	3.3	4.9	-7.2
Grafton town	8.4	9.4	-9.0
Groton town	15.7	2.9	-10.6
Haverhill town	8.1	3.4	-1.7
Hebron town	9.5	5.2	-3.7
Landaff town	19.6	12.8	8.4
Lincoln town	11.5	0.8	-26.1
Lisbon town	11.6	8.6	2.3
Littleton town	18.9	3.8	0
Livermore town	NA	NA	NA
Lyme town	2.6	1.5	-2.0
Orange town	6.9	5.2	-25.1
Plymouth town	13	6.1	-3.7
Warren town	18.2	7.8	8.1
Waterville Valley town	0	0	-25.9
Wentworth town	11.5	1.2	-3.8
Woodstock town	8.1	1	-20.4

Secondary Distress Categories	Median household income (2)	Seasonal Home % (3)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)		

Primary Distress Categories ⁽¹⁾			
Percent below poverty level ⁽²⁾	Unemployment Rate ⁽²⁾	Percent Change in Population ⁽²⁾	Pandemic Change in Unemployment Rate ⁽⁴⁾

	12.9	5.2	-1.10	27.9	\$57,147	13.8
NBRC Region						
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region

[illegible]

(4) Source: US Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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 Counties At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category.	Attainment Counties No measures of distress.
	Percent below poverty level ⁽²⁾	Unemployment Rate ⁽²⁾	Percent Change in Population ⁽³⁾	Pandemic Change in Unemployment Rate ⁽⁵⁾	Percent bachelor's degree or higher ⁽²⁾	Median household income ⁽²⁾	Seasonal Home % ⁽⁴⁾			
United States	14.1	5.9	4.6	5.9	31.5	\$60,293	3.5			
NBRC Region	12.9	5.2	-1.10		27.9	\$57,147	13.8			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	> US	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			
Addison County	7.7	4.3	0.3	3.6	36.7	\$65,093	10.9		✓	
Bennington County	11.3	4.3	-3.2	5.5	35.7	\$53,040	20.5		✓	
Caledonia County	12.3	3.7	-2.6	4.5	28.1	\$49,348	14.9	✓		
Chittenden County	11.8	3.7	3.5	4.7	50.7	\$69,896	2.7		✓	
Essex County	14.6	4.5	-1.6	5.0	15.6	\$41,045	38.4	✓		
Franklin County	7.7	4.2	2.7	4.7	23.7	\$64,258	9.4		✓	
Grand Isle County	7.6	4.7	-0.1	5.1	39.2	\$69,583	36.4		✓	
Lamoille County	14.5	4.1	3.2	7.8	37.3	\$60,365	17.3		✓	
Orange County	10.8	4.5	0.0	3.6	29.1	\$60,159	14.5		✓	
Orleans County	14	4.5	-1.2	5.95	21.6	\$47,915	24.4	✓		
Rutland County	10.7	3.8	-3.8	6.4	30.3	\$54,973	17.1	✓		
Washington County	11.4	3.5	-1.8	4.3	41.5	\$62,108	11.5		✓	
Windham County	13.4	5.4	-3.1	5.91	38.6	\$52,659	30.7	✓		
Windsor County	10	4.1	-2.2	4.9	36.3	\$58,303	21.7		✓	

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

(2-3) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2010-2014)

(4) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010

(5) Source: US Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics