# West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Economic Summary | Central Vermont—Washington County page 1

# **Demographics**

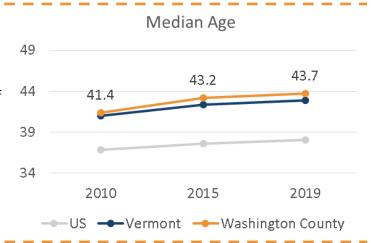
#### **Population and Age**

Washington County currently contains an estimated 58,409 residents.

This represents a 1.9% decrease since 2010 and 9% of the total state population.

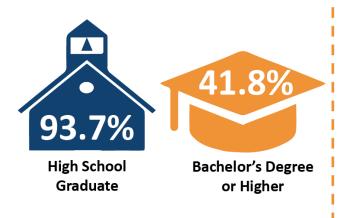
The population is aging over time, and is on average older than the state and US, with a median age of 43.7.

[US Census American Community Survey 2010 - 2019]



#### **Education Levels**

Educational attainment is high with over 41% of the population over 25 holding a bachelor's degree, and 18.3% with a graduate or professional degree.

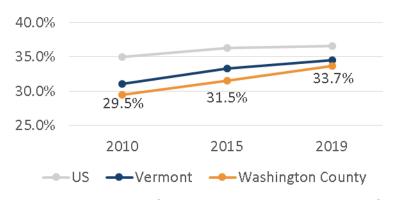


[US Census American Community Survey 2019]

#### **Labor Force Participation**

33.7% of the population over 16 is not in the labor force. This rate has increased slightly over the past decade, though there are lower rates of people not in the labor force (higher labor force participation) than across the State and US.

# Percent of Population over 16 Not in Labor Force

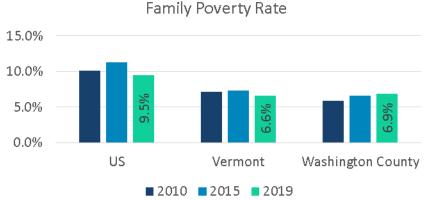


[US Census American Community Survey]

# **Poverty Rate**

In Washington County, the poverty rate is below the US average, but has increased since 2010 to 6.9%. Additionally, 33% of families have less than livable earnings (estimated at incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty line).

[US Census American Community Survey]



# Local Economy

#### **Top Employment Sectors**

[Vermont Department of Labor 2019]

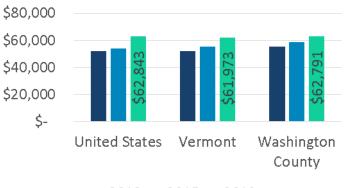
As the capital region, 22.9% of all employment in Washington County is in Government positions.

1	2	3	4	5
Education and Health Services	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Public Administration	Professional and Business Services	Leisure and Hospitality
8,766 employees	5,846 employees	3,888 employees	3,614 employees	3,400 employees
26.0% total	17.3% total	11.5% total	10.7% total	10.1% total
covered	covered	covered	covered	covered
employment	employment	employment	employment	employment

#### **Median Income**

Median household income in Washington County is \$62,791, similar to the State at \$61,973, and rising over time.

#### Median Household Income



**■**2010 **■**2015 **■**2019

Median household income ranges across the 23 towns in Central Vermont.

#### Highest Median Household Income by Town:

- Middlesex —\$82,868
- Waitsfield —\$81,898
- Moretown—\$79,375

#### **Lowest Median Household Income by Town:**

- Barre City—\$38,142
- Cabot-\$46,031
- Plainfield—\$50,000

[US Census American Community Survey]

#### **Forested Lands**

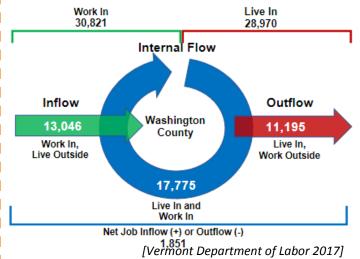
38% of the land in Washington County is enrolled in Current Use for forested parcels. It has very low concentrations of Agriculture,



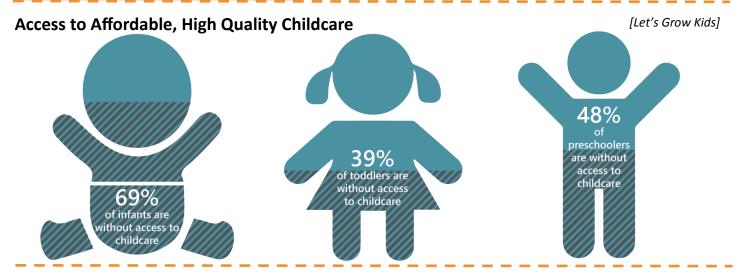
Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (-0.6 percentage points lower than the state share) .

# Commuting patterns

61% of employed residents stay in Washington County for work. 16% of residents commute to jobs in Chittenden County. There is a net inflow of 1,851 jobs, mainly from Chittenden and Orange counties.

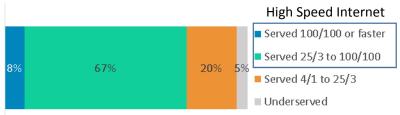


# Infrastructure and Services



## **High Speed Internet**

25% of Washington County residents do not have access to high speed internet. Vermont ranks 48th in the nation for broadband access.



[Vermont Department of Public Service, 2019]

#### **Housing Cost Burden**

43% of renters and 29% of homeowners with mortgages are cost burdened, spending over 30% of income on housing.



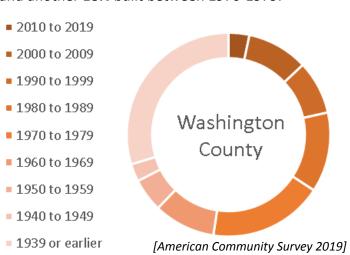
#### **Median Home Value**

Median home value is well above the national average but slightly below the state at \$226,900. This has increased since 2010, when values were \$197,600.

Median Home Value

## **Age of Housing Stock**

Housing in Washington County is older than national averages, with 30% of all structures built before 1939, and another 18% built between 1970-1979.



# Vermont \$227,700 United States \$217,500

[American Community Survey 2019]

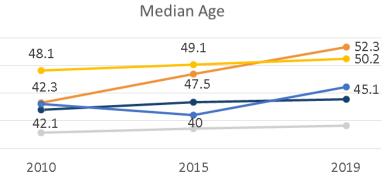
# **Demographics**

#### **Population and Age**

The three towns in Orange County that are part of Central Vermont—Orange, Washington and Williamstown—contains an estimated 5,653 residents. This represents a 3% increase since 2010.

The population is aging over time, and is on average older than the state and US, with a median age in Orange Town in 2019 of 52.3

[US Census American Community Survey 2010 - 2019]



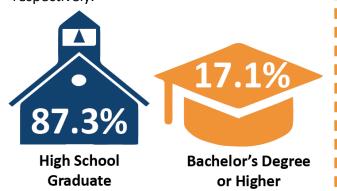
─Orange Town

→ Washington Town → Williamstown Town

**→**Vermont

#### **Education Levels**

Educational attainment is lower in the three towns in Orange County that are part of Central Vermont. 87% of the population over 25 is a High School Graduate, and 17.1% holds a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to Vermont rates of 92.7% and 38.0% respectively.

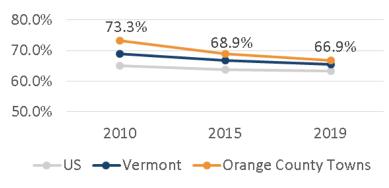


[US Census American Community Survey 2019]

#### **Labor Force Participation**

66.9% of the population over 16 is not in the labor force. This rate has decreased over the past decade, though there are higher rates of people in the labor force than across the State and US.

# Labor Force Participation - Percent of Population over 16

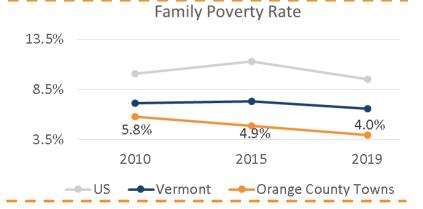


[US Census American Community Survey]

# **Poverty Rate**

In Orange, Washington and Williamstown Towns, the poverty rate is below the US average. Additionally, 34% of families have less than livable earnings (estimated at incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty line).

[US Census American Community Survey]



# Local Economy

# **Top Employment Sectors**

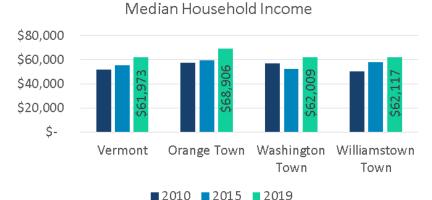
[Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020 Q1]

Top employment Sectors, by NAICS sector, for the Central Vermont WIB, which includes the three towns in Orange County.

1	2	3	4	5
Health Care and Social Assistance	Public Administration	Retail Trade	Educational Services	Accommodation and Food Services
6,414 employees	5,846 employees	3,888 employees	3,614 employees	3,400 employees
17.2% total employment	11.9% total employment	11.5% total employment	9.5% total employment	8.8% total employment

#### **Median Income**

In 2019, Median Household Income in Orange Town is \$68,906; Washington Town is \$62,791; and Williamstown is \$62,791. Median Household Income is slightly higher than the State at \$61,973, and rising over time.



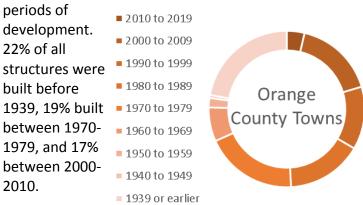
# Infrastructure and Services

#### **Housing Cost Burden**

43% of renters and 29% of homeowners with mortgages are cost burdened, spending over 30% of income on housing.

#### **Age of Housing Stock**

Housing in Orange, Washington and Williamstown Towns is older than national averages, with distinct



[American Community Survey 2019]

#### **Median Home Value**

Median home value is for owner-occupied units is below the state at \$226,900. The median home value of in Orange and Williamstown have increased 17% and 10% respectively, but values have decreased 5% in Washington Town.

