



Lunenburg, Vermont Community Profile

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Town of Lunenburg Community Narrative

The town of Lunenburg was chartered in 1763 and lies within Essex County in Vermont’s scenic Northeast Kingdom. Rolling hills and lush forestland dominate Lunenburg’s landscape. The town is situated about 30 miles East of Saint Johnsbury, VT via U.S. Route 2 and is bounded to the East by the Connecticut River and New Hampshire boundary.

Lunenburg is reflective of the quintessential Vermont small town, featuring a general store, a library, an historic church, and a village common in the heart of town. Lunenburg’s history and present reality place an emphasis on agriculture and working with the land, with many working crop and livestock farms and maple sugarhouses dotting the town’s countryside. Lunenburg residents seemingly pride themselves on living a “simple country life” (Town of Lunenburg, Vermont, 2024).

Lunenburg’s population at the 2020 census was 1,246, making it the most populated town in Essex County, which is Vermont and New England’s least populated county. Lunenburg itself comprises the villages of Gilman, South Lunenburg, and West Lunenburg.

Source: [Town of Lunenburg, Vermont](#).

Civics

Year Incorporated or Chartered	1763
Type of Entity	Town
County	Essex
Regional Planning Commission	Northeastern Vermont Development Association
Regional Development Corporation	Northeastern Vermont Development Association

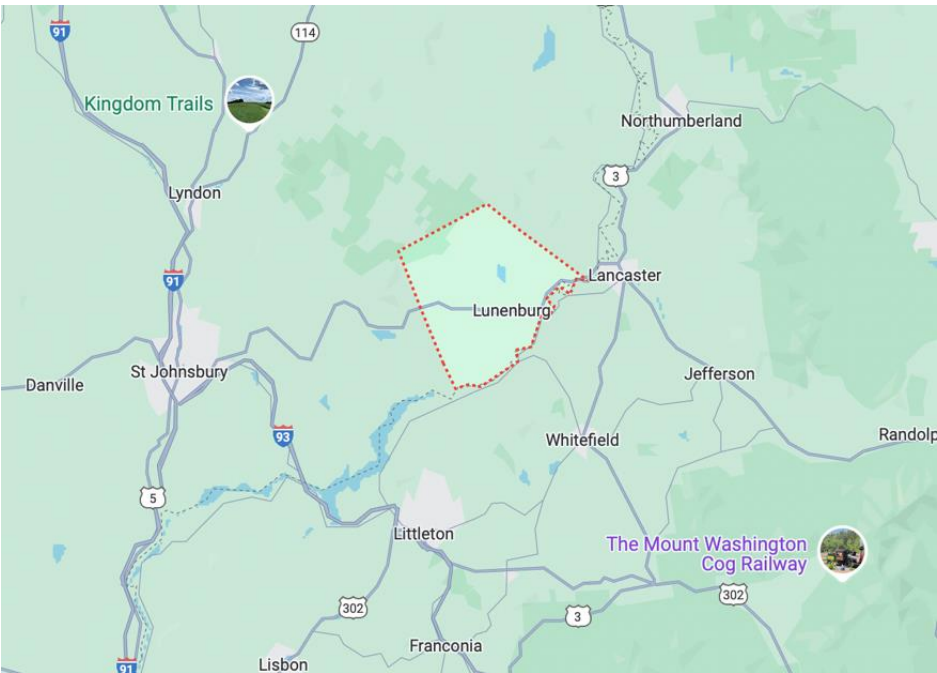


Figure 1. Lunenburg, Vermont.

Population and Demographics

The following section provides a comparative look at several high-level population demographics including age, race and ethnicity, disability status, income and poverty levels for the town of Lunenburg, Essex County, and the State of Vermont over time. These sample-based data come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Each five-year period is considered as a point in time.

Table 1. Recent population change in Lunenburg, VT

	2008-2012	2013-2017	2018-2022
Population	1,437	1,255	1,426
Absolute Change	x	-182	171
Percent Change from prior period	x	-12.7%	13.6%

Source: [US Census Bureau](#).

Table 2 displays Lunenburg's changing population over the last 100 years. Lunenburg has experienced variable rates of population change over time, though the percentage population change must be considered in the context of Lunenburg's relatively small population.

Table 2. Population of Lunenburg, VT: 1920-2020 Decennial Census.

Year	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	1,048	1,400	1,374	1,299	1,237	1,061	1,138	1,176	1,315	1,302	1,246
Absolute Change	x	352	-26	-75	-62	-176	77	38	139	-13	-56
% Change	x	33.6%	-1.9%	-5.5%	-4.8%	-14.2%	7.3%	3.3%	11.8%	-1.0%	-4.3%

Source: [Vermont's Census State Data Center](#).

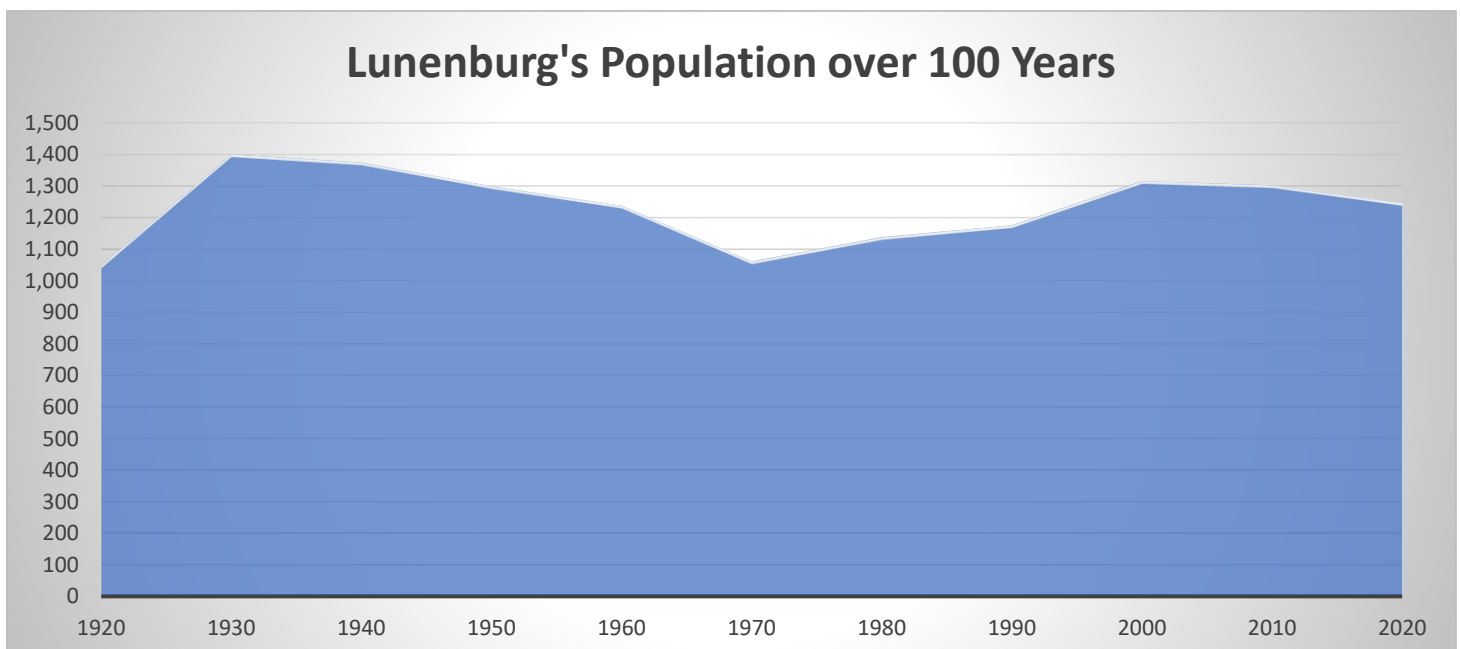


Figure 2. Population change in Lunenburg, VT. Source: [US Census Bureau](#).

Selected Demographics

Table 3 displays the shifts in population and age across Lunenburg, Essex County, and the State of Vermont over ten years, between the 2008-2012 and 2018-2022 points in time. Lunenburg experienced an increase in median age over this period as well as a decrease in its youth population like Essex County and the State.

Table 3. Population and Age

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total Population	1,437	1,426	6,316	5,976	625,498	643,816
Median Age (years)	41.6	48.3	46.7	51.6	41.7	42.9
Percent Under 18 Years of Age	21.1%	19.6%	19.3%	17.1%	20.6%	18.1%
Percent 65 Years of Age and Over	15.4%	21.7%	19.5%	26.6%	14.7%	20.3%

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

In table 4, racial and ethnic demographics for Lunenburg, Essex County, and the State of Vermont are provided.

Table 4. Race and Ethnicity

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total Population	1,437	1,426	6,316	5,976	625,498	643,816
White alone- not Hispanic or Latino	96.1	96.0	96.4	94.0	94.2	91.4
Black or African American	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.3	1.5	2.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.7	1.8	1.3	2.5	1.2	1.4
Asian	0.5	1.8	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Some Other Race	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.4	2.1
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	0.0	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.5	2.1

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Table 5 takes a comparative look at people with disabilities in contrast to the greater population. Lunenburg, Essex County, and Vermont all saw increases in residents identifying as having a disability, particularly in Lunenburg and Essex County

Table 5. Disability Status

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,437	1,426	6,316	5,974	619,339	637,608
Percent with any Disability	18.7	28.5	18.7	22.9	13.3	14.5

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Table 6. Veteran Status

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total civilian population over 18 years	1,134	1,146	5,097	4,951	496,608	525,893
Percent Veterans	14.3	9.8	14.8	10.4	10.2	6.5

Source: [US Census Bureau](#)

Income and Poverty

In table 7, Lunenburg, Essex County, and Vermont all experienced increases in household income. Lunenburg lags behind the County and State in median household income and median family income.

Table 7. Income

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Median Household Income	\$34,659	\$52,639	\$37,214	\$55,247	\$54,168	\$74,014
Median Family Income	\$43,917	\$60,789	\$45,617	\$65,481	\$67,274	\$97,153

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Table 8 displays the changes in poverty status in Lunenburg, Essex County and the State of Vermont. Between the 2008-2012 and 2018-2022 reporting periods Essex County and Vermont's poverty rates decreased, while Lunenburg's increased.

Lunenburg youth under 18 years of age are far more likely to be in poverty now, compared with ten years ago, and those over 65 years of age are less likely to be in poverty now than in the previous reporting period.

Data for populations with small numbers will have higher margins of error (not reported here) and data may be suppressed for very small populations (-).

Table 8. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months.

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total Percent of Population Below Poverty Level	15.4	19.4	15.1	13.2	11.6	10.4
Under 18 years of age	21.6	46.4	21.2	20.6	14.4	11.3
65 years of age and over	12.7	5.2	9.7	7.9	7.7	8.0
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	15.6	18.3	14.9	12.5	11.1	9.8
Black or African American alone	54.5	-	38.2	0.0	28.7	22.3
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	-	0.0	100.0	0.0	26.2	20.9
Asian alone	0.0	92.3	36.8	63.6	16.0	20.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	-	-	-	-	8.9	4.9
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	-	0.0	11.1	46.7	14.1	15.6

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Employment

This section includes information about labor force participation in 2008-2012 and 2018-2022 and unemployment rates between 2013 and 2023 for Lunenburg, Essex County and Vermont.

Table 9. Labor Force Participation- Percent in the Labor Force

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Population 16 years and over	61.1	51.6	61.0	54.9	68.3	64.9
Black or African American	0.0	-	45.0	0.0	65.2	74.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	-	100.0	100.0	69.7	57.9	55.4
Asian	40.0	100.0	57.9	77.3	65.4	66.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	86.3	56.9
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	-	0.0	23.3	65.0	71.5	73.6
White alone- not Hispanic or Latino	61.0	50.9	61.2	55.2	68.4	64.6

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Table 10. Average Annual Unemployment Rates (not seasonally adjusted)

Year	Lunenburg	Essex County	Vermont
2023	2.5	2.9	2.0
2022	2.3	3.5	2.3
2021	5.3	5.1	3.6
2020	8.8	7.6	5.6
2019	2.5	2.8	2.1
2018	2.4	3.4	2.5
2017	3.4	4.6	3.0
2016	3.2	4.8	3.1
2015	4.1	5.7	3.5
2014	4.3	6.0	4.0
2013	4.9	6.7	4.4

Source: [Vermont Department of Labor Economic & Labor Market Information.](#)

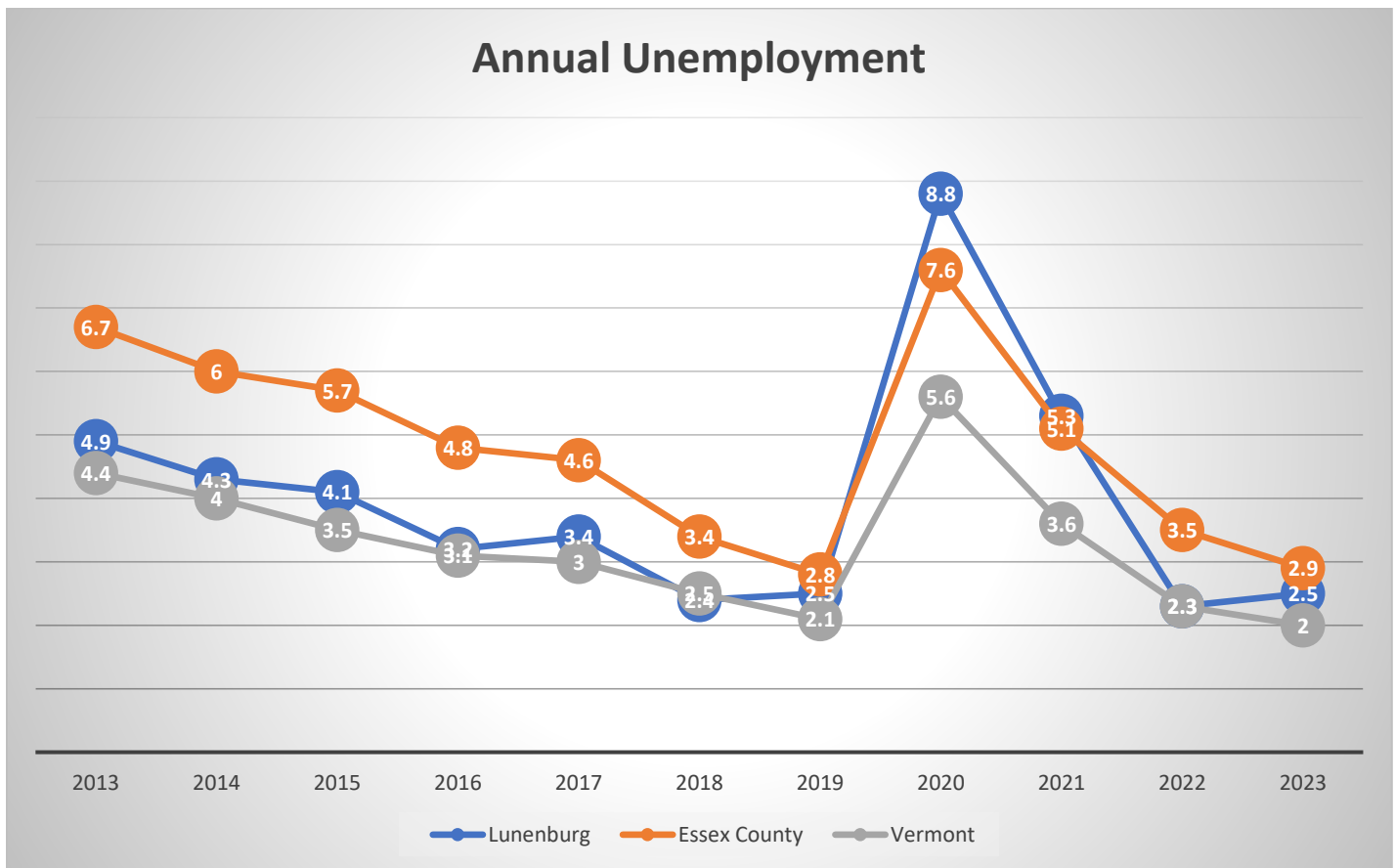


Figure 3. Average Annual Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted).

Table 11 provides a breakdown of employment by industry for the town of Lunenburg, Essex County and Vermont overall, and describes the typical pattern of greatest industry employment in educational services and health care and social assistance. Educational services, and health care and social assistance are typically the employment sectors with the greatest percentage of workers among all sectors.

Table 10. Employment by Industry

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Employed Population 16 Years and Over	662	514	2,870	2,628	327,499	337,211
Percent Employment by Industry						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	2.7	5.3	4.7	4.7	2.7	2.6
Construction	10.7	7.8	9.7	10.0	7.5	7.3
Manufacturing	13.1	12.8	16.3	9.6	10.7	10.2
Wholesale trade	0.9	4.1	0.9	2.2	2.4	1.7
Retail trade	15.4	14.4	14.7	13.6	11.8	11.5
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.3	6.4	4.1	6.1	3.4	3.1
Information and finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	7.6	5.1	5.0	4.3	7.0	6.6
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	5.0	3.7	3.8	4.3	8.6	9.3
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	25.8	19.5	25.3	22.8	27.3	28.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	4.5	8.4	5.6	11.3	9.1	9.5
Other services, except public administration	7.3	5.1	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.6
Public administration	3.6	7.6	5.3	7.4	4.8	4.9

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Education

Lunenburg, like the county and state, is experiencing a decrease in the percent of the population that has less than a ninth-grade education and the percent of the population with less than a high school degree. Lunenburg has experienced a recent increase in the percentage of its population with high school degrees, unlike the County and State. All places have seen an overall increase in the 25+ population that is a high school graduate or higher.

Table 12. Educational Attainment

	Lunenburg	Essex County	Vermont
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	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total Population 25 Years and Older	1,021	1,083	4,686	4,562	431,581	459,033
Less than 9 th grade	5.6	3.0	7.2	2.7	3.0	1.8
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	12.0	10.0	9.5	8.4	5.7	4.0
High school graduate and equivalent	44.7	48.0	43.8	43.1	31.2	27.6
Some college, no degree	16.9	17.9	16.2	18.0	17.2	16.3
Associate's degree	8.5	7.7	7.9	7.6	8.6	8.6
Bachelor's degree	11.1	8.2	11.4	11.3	20.7	24.3
Graduate or professional degree	1.2	5.3	4.1	8.9	13.5	17.4
High school graduate or higher	82.4	87.1	83.4	88.9	91.3	94.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	12.2	13.5	15.5	20.2	34.2	41.7

Source: [US Census Bureau](#).

Housing

Tables 13 and 14 provide information regarding housing availability in Lunenburg, Essex County, and Vermont, and the associated costs of housing, including the values of homes and monthly ownership and rent costs.

Table 13. Housing Occupancy

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Total Number of Housing Units	815	777	5,020	4,905	322,243	335,138
Percent Occupied Housing Units	75.0	71.7	58.4	54.4	79.7	79.3
Percent Vacant Housing Units	25.0	28.3	43.6	45.6	20.3	20.7

Percent Owner Occupied	79.2	82.9	82.5	83.7	71.2	72.7
Percent Renter Occupied	20.8	17.1	17.5	16.3	28.8	27.3
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.2
Rental Vacancy Rate	6.6	0.0	4.8	6.8	5.8	3.8

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Table 14. Housing Costs

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units	\$100,500	\$142,900	\$123,300	\$151,200	\$215,800	\$272,400
Median Selected Monthly Ownership Cost with Mortgage	\$1,061	\$1,298	\$1,037	\$1,401	\$1,544	\$1,822
Median Gross Rent of Occupied Units Paying Rent	\$705	\$1,057	\$652	\$911	\$864	\$1,149

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

The next table provides data on housing affordability based on the percentage of renter and owner households paying more than 35% of their income toward housing expenses. In the most recent data period (2018-2022), Lunenburg experienced an increase in the percentage of households paying 35% or more of their income on monthly owner or renter costs, unlike the State which experienced a decrease. Essex County experienced an increase in the percentage of households paying 35% or more of their income on monthly renter costs, but a decrease in monthly renter costs.

Table 15. Housing Affordability

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Percent of Housing Units with a Mortgage with Monthly Owner Costs of 35% or More	18.8	26.0	29.4	33.7	27.9	21.7
Percent of Housing Units with Monthly Renter Costs of 35% or More	48.6	56.7	52.8	35.1	41.6	40.6

Source: [US Census Bureau.](#)

Workforce Transportation

By and large, workers in Lunenburg, Essex County, and the State of Vermont drive themselves to work alone. Lunenburg and Essex County recently experienced a decrease in the percentage of people carpooling. The shift in workers working from home in County and State between the five-year periods of 2008-2012 and 2018-2022 may be due to shifts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, Lunenburg workers worked from home less through the COVID period than before- perhaps due to the types of work. Lunenburg workers are also now spending less time traveling to work, on average than before the COVID period. The remainder of this section provides insight into the commuter shed, highlighting workforce commuting flows within the region.

Table 16. Transportation and Commuting

	Lunenburg		Essex County		Vermont	
	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022	2008-2012	2018-2022
Workers 16 Years of Age and Over	630	485	2,785	2,566	319,359	330,614
Drove to work alone	80.0	86.0	76.8	78.5	74.0	71.6
Carpooled to work	10.0	9.7	11.9	9.3	10.2	8.2
Took public transportation	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.9
Walked	1.0	2.3	5.2	4.4	5.9	4.5
Worked at home	4.3	2.1	4.6	7.1	7.1	13.2
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.7	25.7	27.0	27.1	22.1	23.3

Source: [US Census Bureau](#).

The next tables provide insight into Lunenburg's commuting characteristics, including where people who live in Lunenburg work, and where people who work in Lunenburg live. These data are derived from multiple sources, do not represent all types of jobs and should be used to understand commuter flow patterns generally.

Table 17. Commuting Characteristics: Part- and Full-Time Jobs Worked at by Lunenburg Residents*

2021	Count	Percent
Jobs filled by Lunenburg residents	444	100.0
Worker lives in town and works outside town	431	97.1
Worker lives in town and works in town	13	2.9

Source: Census Bureau- [OnTheMap](#) *These data will not match other Census data as they are derived from multiple data sets.

Table 18. Commuting Characteristics: Part- and Full-Time Jobs in Lunenburg*

2021	Count	Percent
Jobs in Lunenburg	64	100.0
Worker lives outside town and works in town	51	79.7
Worker lives in town and works in town	13	20.3

Source: Census Bureau- [OnTheMap](#) *These data will not match other Census data as they are derived from multiple data sets.

The graphs and charts below provide a regional snapshot of commuting flows in and out of Essex County

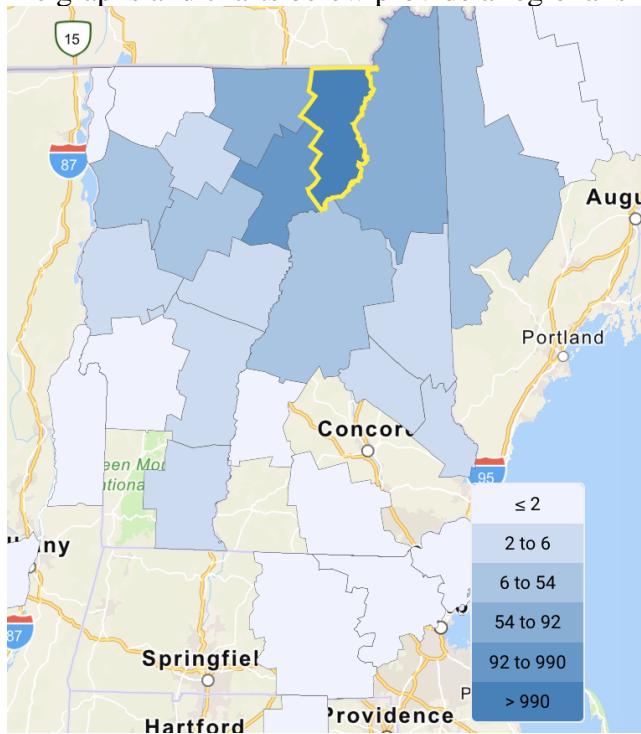


Figure 4. Commuter Shed into Essex County, VT.

Table 19. Workers in Essex County, and Where They Live

Region	Commuters
Essex County, Vermont	991
Caledonia County, Vermont	92
Coos County, New Hampshire	74
Orleans County, Vermont	54
Grafton County, New Hampshire	18
Washington County, Vermont	17
Chittenden County, Vermont	8
Oxford County, Maine	7
Windsor County, Vermont	6
Lamoille County, Vermont	4

Source: Chmura’s JobsEQ, Essex County Commuter-shed Data, 2024.

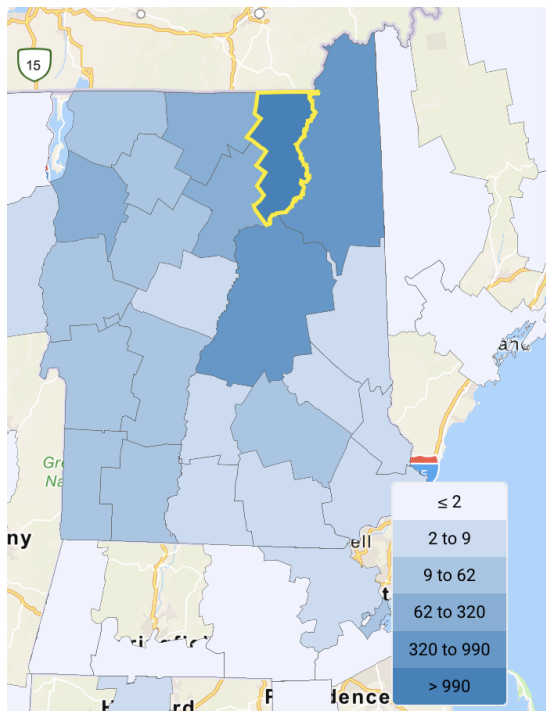


Figure 5. Commuter Shed out of Essex County, VT

Table 20. Residents of Essex County, VT and Where They Work

Region	Commuters
Essex County, Vermont	991
Coos County, New Hampshire	572
Grafton County, New Hampshire	320
Caledonia County, Vermont	288
Orleans County, Vermont	136
Unknown Or Undefined, Vermont	67
Chittenden County, Vermont	63
Washington County, Vermont	38
Windsor County, Vermont	31
Franklin County, Vermont	27

Source: Chmura’s JobsEQ, Essex County Commuter-Shed, 2024.

The IRS migrations dataset shows the amount of domestic taxpayer migration among all states, MSAs, and counties in the United States. The source and design of this taxpayer-based dataset excludes certain groups of

people and thus does not represent the entire population, but rather is a good indicator of migrating workers within the labor force.

Table 21 displays the inbound and outbound migrations for twenty counties to and from Essex County, VT in 2021, indicating the number of adults who relocated either to or from Essex County. Most relocations were to neighboring counties, either in Vermont or New Hampshire.

Table 21. Inbound and Outbound Migrations in Essex County, VT in 2021.

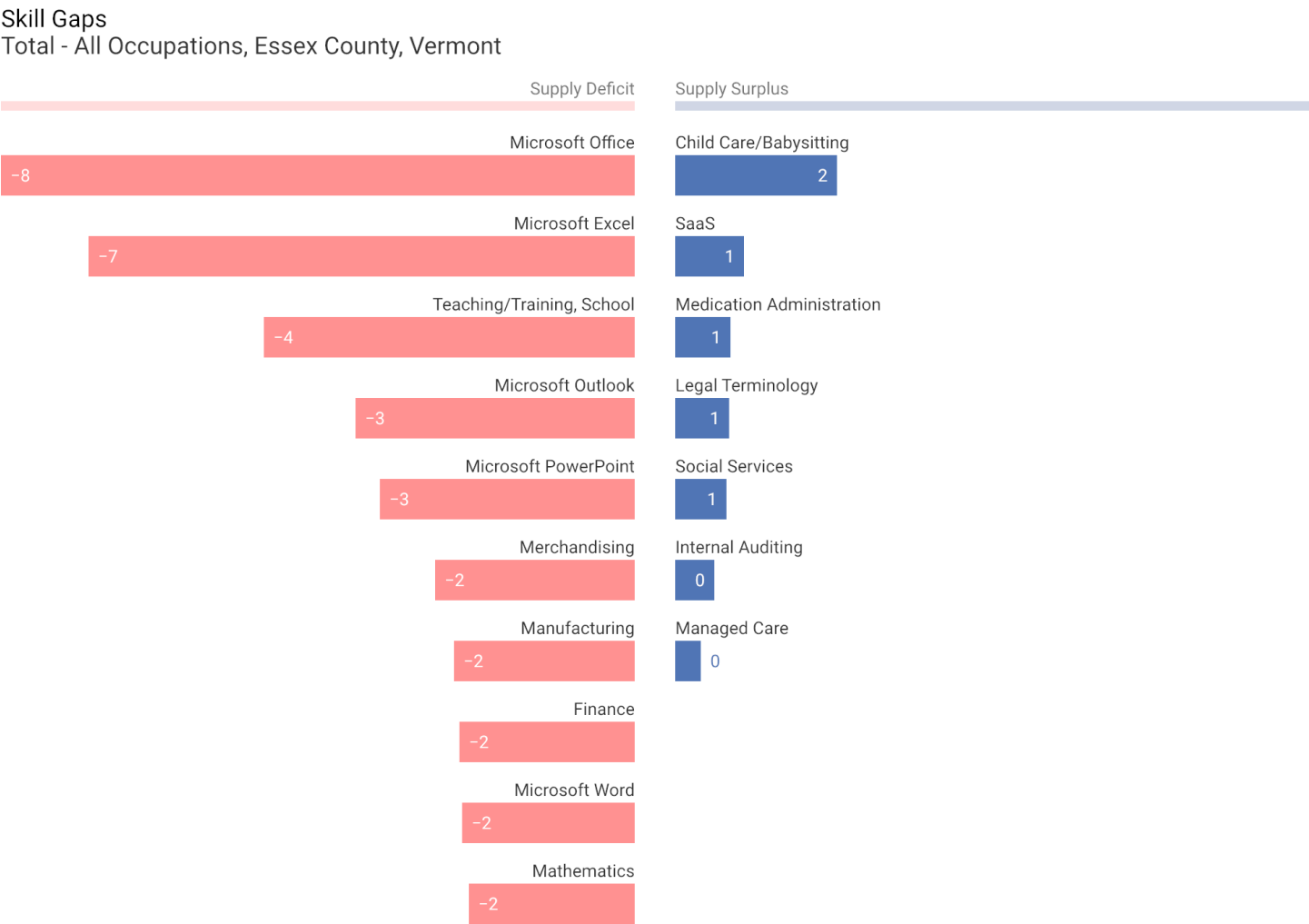
County	Inbound Migrations	Outbound Migrations	Net Migrations
Caledonia County, VT	63	73	(10)
Coos County, NH	50	47	3
Orleans County, VT	45	40	4
Hartford County, CT	11	5	6
Maricopa County, AZ	10	0	9
Windsor County, VT	9	1	8
Washington County, VT	7	0	7
Barnstable County, MA	7	0	7
Franklin County, VT	6	0	6
Mercer County, NJ	6	0	6
Los Angeles County, CA	6	3	2
Harris County, TX	5	0	5
Middlesex County, MA	5	6	(2)
Chittenden County, VT	4	0	4
Addison County, VT	3	0	3
Orange County, VT	3	0	3
Berkshire County, MA	3	0	3

Note. Retrieved from Lightcast: IRS Migrations, Essex County, VT: 2024.

Workforce Development

In considering workforce development in Essex County, an assessment of the skills in high demand and high surplus offers insight into directions that training and economic development can take. In Essex County, Vermont, there is high demand for Microsoft Office suite, Teaching/Training, and merchandising. In Vermont,

the primary high-demand skills include merchandising, the Microsoft office suite, Salesforce, and Certified Nursing Assistant certifications.



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q1; openings and candidate sample compiled in July 2022

Figure 6. Skill and Certification Gaps in Essex County, VT. Retrieved from Chmura’s JobsEQ, Skill Gaps, 2024.

Job posting analytics provide real-time information into the jobs being hired for in each region based on data scraped from job posting sites. In Essex County, VT, in the last five years (September 2019- September 2024), there have been 850 unique job postings. Further insight into the content is provided below:

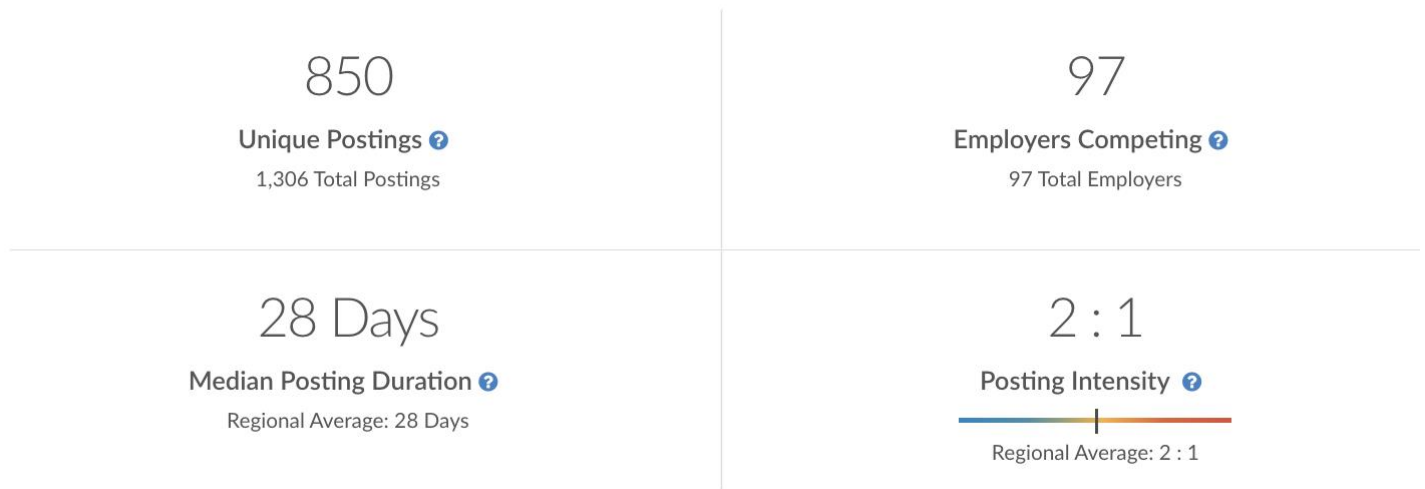


Figure 7. Job Posting Analytics Overview, retrieved from Lightcast, 2024.

The top companies targeting Essex County’s workforce includes Northern Counties Health Care, Ethan Allen Global, and Canaan Schools. Since this is a five-year retrospective, some of these businesses may have changed or gone out of business. A breakdown of the top companies targeting their hiring in Lamoille County, VT is provided below:

Company	Total/Unique (Sep 2019 - Sep 2024)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
Northern Counties Health Care	86 / 67	1 : 1	n/a
Ethan Allen Global	96 / 64	2 : 1	33 days
Canaan Schools	61 / 53	1 : 1	31 days
Concord School	79 / 49	2 : 1	29 days
Dollar General	40 / 34	1 : 1	20 days
Brighton Elementary School	56 / 33	2 : 1	45 days
CareInHomes	29 / 28	1 : 1	19 days
Powerback	27 / 23	1 : 1	6 days
Ethan Allen	40 / 20	2 : 1	33 days
Nomad Health	20 / 19	1 : 1	36 days

Figure 8. Top Companies Hiring in Essex County, VT. Retrieved from Lightcast, 2024.

The top posted occupations indicated the roles in highest demand being targeted towards the workforce in Essex County, VT. Registered nurses, home health and personal care aides, and teaching assistants make up the highest concentration of occupations being sought after in the region.




















Occupation (SOC)	Total/Unique (Sep 2019 - Sep 2024)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
 Registered Nurses	170 / 85	2 : 1 	32 days
 Home Health and Personal Care Aides	41 / 33	1 : 1 	19 days
 Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	36 / 23	2 : 1 	31 days
 Child, Family, and School Social Workers	38 / 22	2 : 1 	26 days
 Speech-Language Pathologists	24 / 22	1 : 1 	6 days
 Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	43 / 21	2 : 1 	31 days
 Helpers--Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers	31 / 21	1 : 1 	17 days
 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	30 / 21	1 : 1 	19 days
 Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	37 / 20	2 : 1 	27 days
 Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	27 / 19	1 : 1 	45 days

Figure 9. Top Occupations Being Hired for in Essex County, VT. Retrieved from Lightcast, 2024.