Considerations of Scale and Other Community Attributes in Vermont Community Development.

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Vermont Population in Context

Springfield, MA

Las Vegas, NV
Approximately one quarter of Vermont’s Population resides in just one County.

160,000 people here
VT has just eight towns with Populations over 10,000 (about 3% of all towns)

VT has 92 towns with populations under 1,000 (about a third of all towns)

Vermont’s average town population is about 2,500 residents.
Thank You
The Genuine Progress Indicator (and “other measures”)
An act relating to the genuine progress indicator

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the genuine progress indicator ("GPI") is to measure the state of Vermont’s economic, environmental, and societal well-being as a supplement to the measurement derived from the gross state product and other existing statistical measurements.

(b) Definition. The GPI is an estimate of the net contributions of economic activity to the well-being and long-term prosperity of our state’s citizens, calculated through adjustments to gross state product that account for positive and negative economic, environmental, and social attributes of economic development.

(c) Intent. It is the intent of the general assembly that once established and tested, the GPI will assist state government in decision-making by providing an additional basis for budgetary decisions, including outcomes-based budgeting; by measuring progress in the application of policy and programs; and by serving as a tool to identify public policy priorities, including other measures such as human rights.
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• US & other national studies
• Vermont/Maryland method
• Executive action (MD)
  Legislative action (VT)
• State GPI coalition
• 50-state GPI study
• GPI 2.0
Annual Updates
VT/MD Method
2012-2018

Vermont GSP v. GPI per capita

Mean annual GSP change = 2.2%
Mean annual GPI change = 0.6%

- 43%
MISSION:
Improve the economic well-being and quality of life of Vermonters while maintaining our natural resources and community values.

OVERARCHING GOAL:
... not only grow jobs and wages and increase our Gross Domestic Product, but also to improve the Genuine Progress Indicator – a measure that takes into account economic, social and natural assets and impacts — by 5% over baseline over the next five years.
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DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS
Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist

KATE RAWORTH

"I read this book with the excitement that the people of his day must have read John Maynard Keynes's General Theory. It is brilliant, thrilling and revolutionary." George Monbiot
Biophysical Boundaries Transgressed versus Social Thresholds Achieved by Nation

Thanks to Mr. GPI, Eric Zencey
Mapping Vermont from Above

Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne
Mapping Vermont from Above

Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne
Insights from Migration Research for Vermont Legislators

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vlrootsmigration.org
Increase or decrease of individuals in age category

Vermont Population Change by Age Category

2010-2017

Age in years (five year categories)
Why Leavers Leave Vermont:
Jobs, the Cost of Living, a Cold Climate and a Lack of Diversity

No reason for leaving dominates the leavers’ responses.

- I can earn more money outside VT (35%)
- My work is outside VT (30%)
- VT’s cost of living is too high (24%)
- VT’s cold weather is intolerable (21%)
- I prefer to live in an area with greater cultural diversity (20%)

Gender and Educational Attainment Matter
Why Returnees Come Home

More than forty percent of all Returnees reported they moved back because:

I enjoy Vermont’s landscape (43%)
I missed Vermont’s culture and community (42%)
I missed my family (56%)

12% said they moved back to Vermont for a new job opportunity
Why Stayers Choose Vermont

More than half of all Stayers reported they stayed in Vermont because:

- I enjoy Vermont’s landscape (66%)
- I stayed to live near family (62%)
- I appreciate Vermont’s culture and community (50%)

32% said they stayed because their work is in Vermont
Do we craft demographic policies based on:

• Why stayers leave for other places?
• The factors that draw Vermonters back?
• The attributes that keep people in Vermont?