

St Johnsbury, Vermont Community Profile



**Prepared for the Vermont Council on Rural Development's St. Johnsbury Community Visit
April 2015**

What follows is a collection of indicators and information about the community and its residents that are meant to inform the Vermont Council on Rural Development community visit.

This data profile relies on the following data sources:

- the US Census Bureau's American FactFinder – <http://factfinder2.census.gov>
- the Vermont Dept. of Labor's Labor Force & Unemployment site – www.vtlmi.info/labforce.cfm
- the Local Employment Dynamics site – <http://lehd.ces.census.gov/led/>

Additional data sourced from:

- Town of St. Johnsbury official government site - stjvt.com
- The Vermont Encyclopedia – Duffy, Hand & Orth- eds.
- Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce site - <http://www.nekchamber.com/>
- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium website - <http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org/>
- Fairbanks Scales site - <http://www.fairbanks.com/company/history.cfm>
- Maple Groves Farms of Vermont site - http://maplegrove.com/content_about.asp
- Connecticut River Byway site - <http://ctriverbyways.org/byways/itinerary-2>

About the Center for Rural Studies

The Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont is a nonprofit, fee-for-service research and resource center that works with people and communities to address social, economic, and resource-based challenges. A part of the University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences since 1978, CRS supports the research and teaching missions of the university through its work in applied research, community outreach, program evaluation, and consulting services. CRS is also the US Census Bureau's State Data Center for Vermont.

Prepared by Mike Fife, Jenna Banning & Michael Moser

www.uvm.edu/crs

802-656-0321

Introduction

Geography:

Saint Johnsbury, also known locally as St. J., is the shire town (county seat) of Caledonia County, and the largest town, by population, in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). St. Johnsbury is approximately 48 miles south of the Canadian border and 10 miles northwest of the Connecticut River which forms the border between Vermont and New Hampshire. Two of Vermont's three interstate highways meet just south of St. Johnsbury, with Route 91 intersecting Route 93 at its northern terminus. Routes 2 and 5 also lead into St. Johnsbury from the West and South of the state, respectively. These highways provide transportation for travel and commerce within the region, and help make St. Johnsbury an economic hub in the NEK.

A brief History:

Originally granted as part of New Hampshire in 1760, the town was re-granted by Vermont in 1786 under the name of Dunmore. The name was changed in 1790 to St. Johnsbury.

The 1800s and early 1900s brought great manufacturing growth to the town. A railroad was built during the mid-1850s, connecting St. Johnsbury to markets from Montreal to Boston, and for a while, St. Johnsbury was known internationally for three major products: measuring scales, maple syrup candy, and bowling candlepins. Dozens of passenger trains passed through the town daily, and there was a vibrant community of mill and industrial workers as well as a thriving commercial district.

Fairbanks Scales was the largest scale-making company in the world in the 1940s. While the finance, marketing, and executive offices have been moved to Missouri, the company still operates a manufacturing plant in St. Johnsbury, and the Fairbanks family legacy is still felt in the town through the St. Johnsbury Academy, a private high school founded by the Fairbanks family in 1842, and the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, founded in 1889 and home to VPR's Eye on the Sky and Vermont's only public planetarium.

Maple Grove Farms, the largest pure maple syrup packer in the United States and largest manufacturer of Maple Candies in the world was founded in 1915 and is still based in St. Johnsbury.

St. Johnsbury served as a regional rail hub until as late as the mid 1990's when extensive flooding ended use of the rail lines served by St. J. The old Canadian Pacific railroad depot, a part of the St. J. rail yard built during the late 1800s, is currently used by the Rural Community Transportation system and other businesses. The rail lines feeding into St. J. are currently being converted into the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. This endeavor will create the most extensive recreational trail network in New England by connecting St. J. to Swanton, VT via converted rail line.

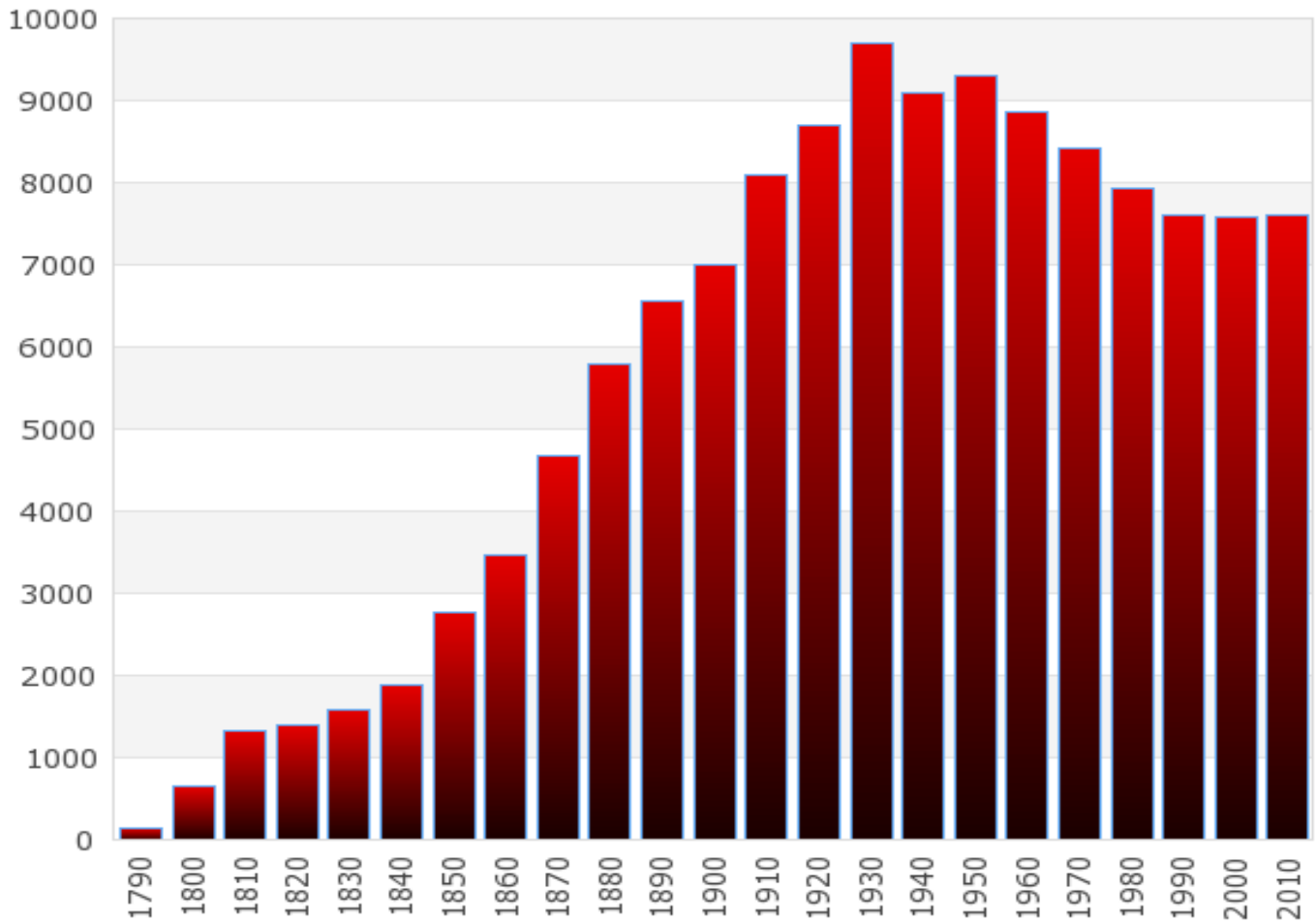
Civics

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Year Town Incorporated or Chartered | 1790 |
| Type of Entity | Town |
| County | Caledonia |
| Regional Planning Commission | Northeastern VT Development Association |

Source: Vermont Indicators Online: Civics & Planning

Population

Population over time



Population Change

| St. Johnsbury | | St. Johnsbury % of Caledonia | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| 7,571 | 7,596 | 25% | 24% | 29,702 | 31,157 | 608,827 | 625,904 |

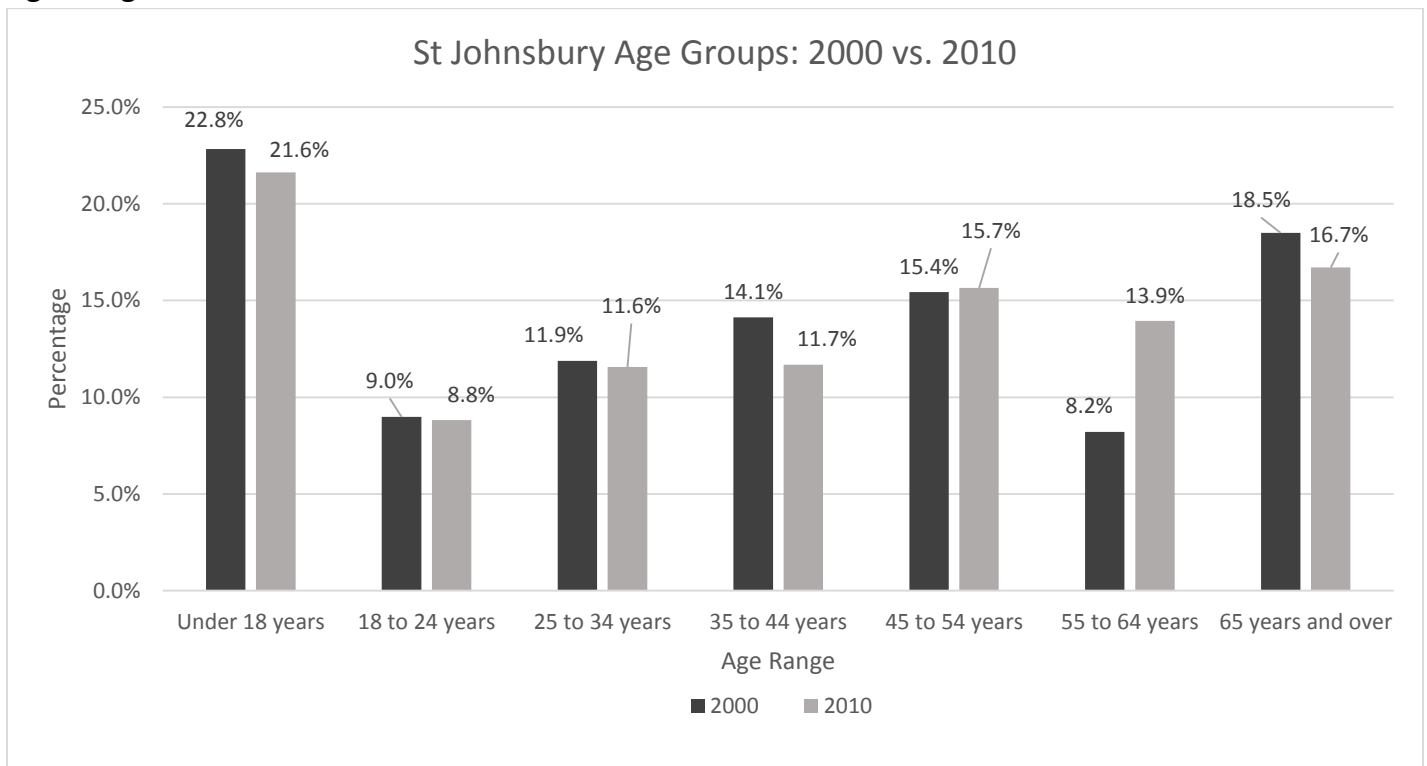
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Median Age

| St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| 39.5 | 43.1 | 38.5 | 42.5 | 37.7 | 42.0 |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Age categories: 2000 & 2010



Source: 2000 & 2010 Decennial Census

Nativity

Of St. Johnsbury residents, 43.1% are native to Vermont. This compares to 38.5% in Caledonia County and 35.7% across the state.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Disabled Populations

| | St. Johnsbury | Caledonia County | Vermont |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Disability Status of Total Non-Institutionalized Population | 19.7% | 17.5% | 13.3% |
| Population Under 5 | 0.0% | 0.9% | 1.3% |
| Population 5-17 Years of Age | 14.6% | 10.0% | 7.1% |
| Population 18-64 Years of Age | 13.6% | 14.9% | 11.1% |
| Population 65+ | 52.4% | 41.2% | 37.7% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Veteran Populations

| | St. Johnsbury | Caledonia County | Vermont |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Total Veterans | 599 | 2,654 | 48,456 |
| PERIOD OF SERVICE (as a percentage of total veterans) | | | |
| Gulf War (2002 or later) veterans | 7.3% | 7.6% | 7.4% |
| Gulf War (1990 to 2001) veterans | 9.7% | 11.5% | 10.9% |
| Vietnam era veterans | 39.7% | 38.7% | 37.0% |
| Korean War veterans | 15.0% | 15.1% | 11.5% |
| World War II veterans | 10.4% | 8.1% | 8.9% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Income & Poverty

Median Household Income

| St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| \$29,269 | \$37,184 | \$34,800 | \$45,395 | \$40,856 | \$54,267 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Poverty Status (Individuals)

| St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| 14.7% | 15.6% | 12.3% | 14.1% | 9.4% | 11.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2009-2013 American Community Survey

SNAP Benefits (Food Stamps)

| St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2005-2009 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2005-2009 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2005-2009 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| 20.0% | 23.4% | 12.4% | 17.2% | 9.1% | 13.4% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 and 2005-2009 American Community Survey Estimates

Note: These data come from two five year estimates with one overlapping year.

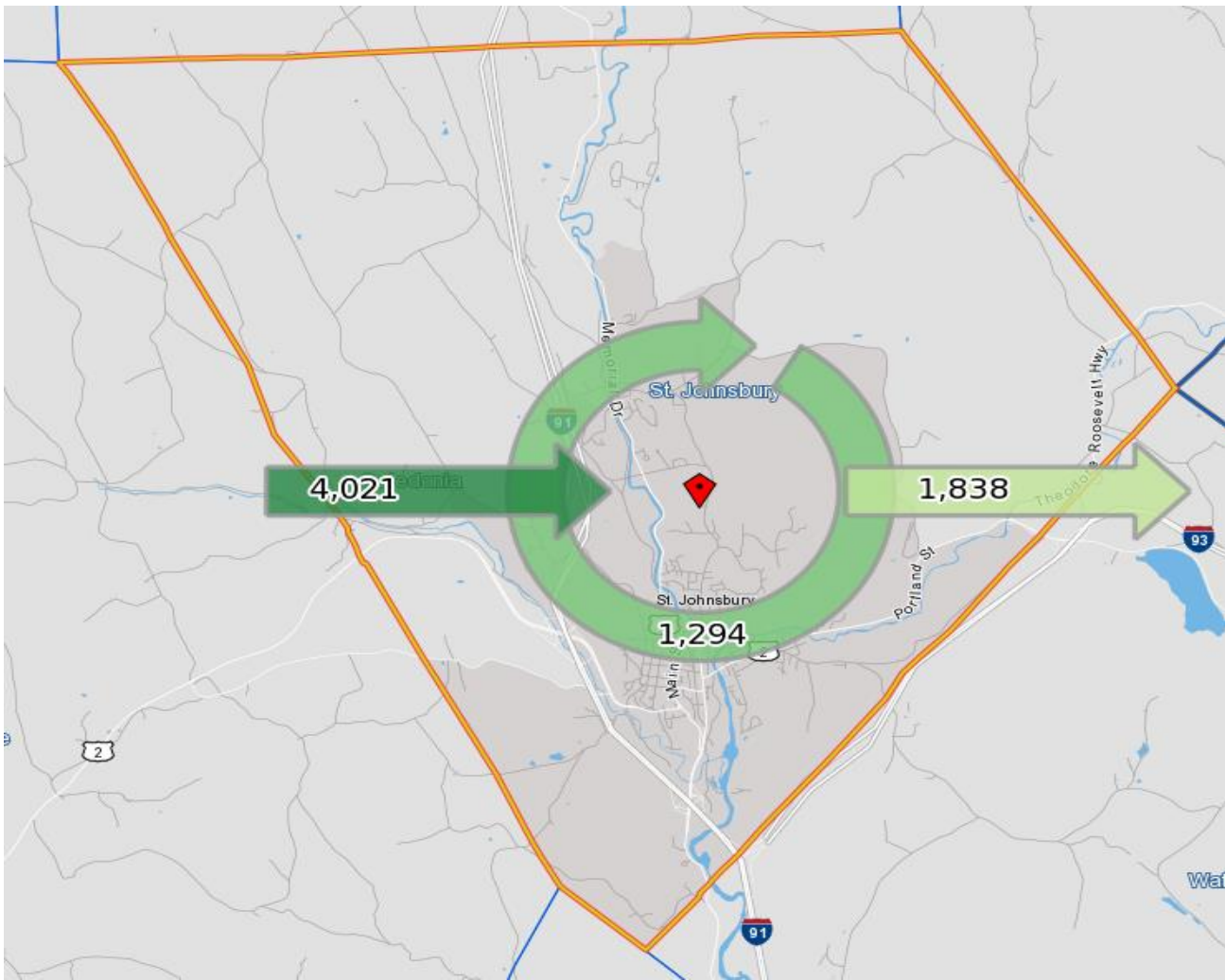
Labor Force

Percent of population over 16 years of age in the Labor Force

| St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| 61.8% | 62.8% | 67.1% | 65.5% | 69.3% | 67.6% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey

St Johnsbury Labor Force, 2011 Inflow/Outflow (All Jobs):



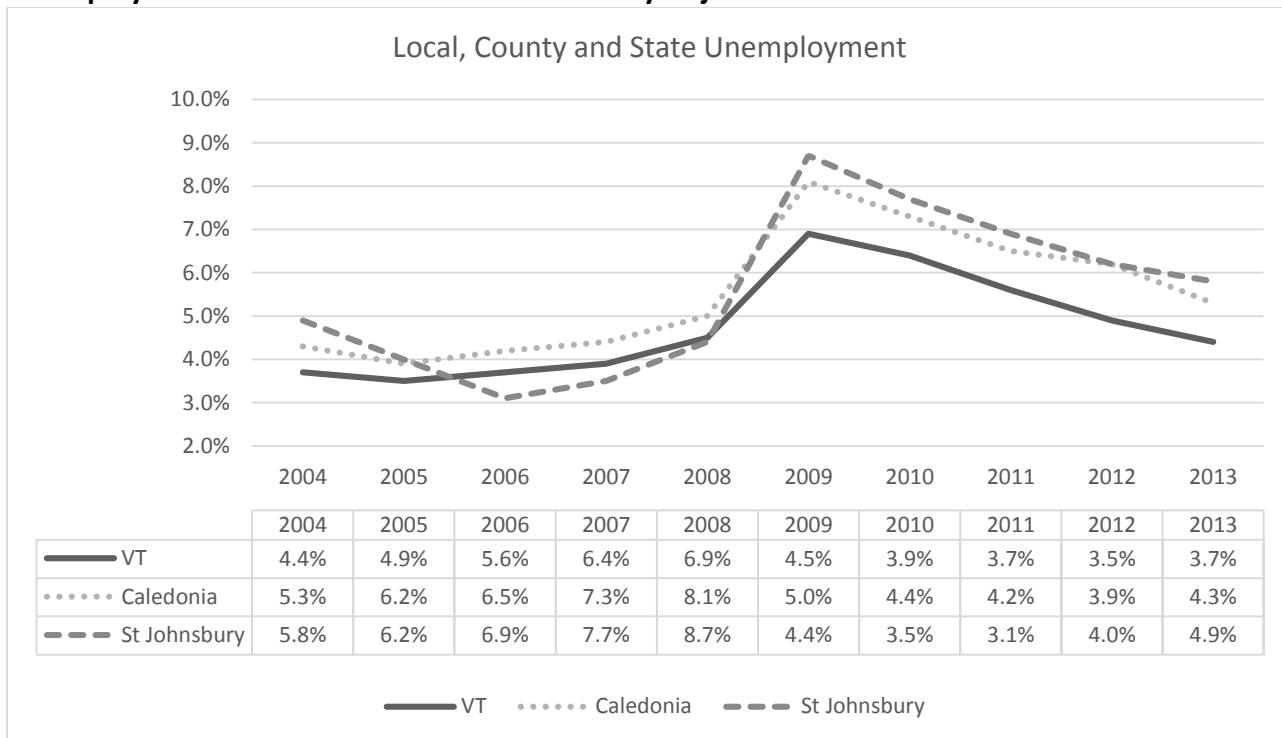
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies - onthemap.ces.census.gov

2011 Inflow/Outflow Job Counts – All Jobs

| | 2002 | | 2011 | |
|--|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Count | Share | Count | Share |
| Employed in St. Johnsbury Town | 5,680 | 100.0% | 5,315 | 100.0% |
| Employed in St. Johnsbury but Living Outside | 3,759 | 66.2% | 4,021 | 75.7% |
| Employed and Living in St. Johnsbury Town | 1,921 | 33.8% | 1,294 | 24.3% |
| Living in St. Johnsbury | 3,458 | 100.0% | 3,132 | 100.0% |
| Living in St. Johnsbury but Employed Outside | 1,537 | 44.4% | 1,838 | 58.7% |
| Living and Employed in St. Johnsbury | 1,921 | 55.6% | 1,294 | 41.3% |

Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies - onthemap.ces.census.gov

Unemployment Rate 2004-2013 – Not Seasonally Adjusted*



Source: Vermont Department of Labor * Seasonally adjusted data not available below state level of geography

Jobs in St. Johnsbury by Industry Sector, 2002 & 2011 – All Jobs

| Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector | 2002 | | 2011 | | VT 2011 |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 12 | 0.3% | 23 | 0.7% | 0.8% |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 3 | 0.1% | 4 | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Utilities | 21 | 0.6% | 6 | 0.2% | 0.7% |
| Construction | 147 | 4.3% | 132 | 4.2% | 4.5% |
| Manufacturing | 562 | 16.3% | 395 | 12.6% | 10.7% |
| Wholesale Trade | 91 | 2.6% | 66 | 2.1% | 3.3% |
| Retail Trade | 459 | 13.3% | 413 | 13.2% | 12.5% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 113 | 3.3% | 81 | 2.6% | 2.6% |
| Information | 81 | 2.3% | 62 | 2.0% | 1.9% |
| Finance and Insurance | 125 | 3.6% | 104 | 3.3% | 3.1% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 25 | 0.7% | 24 | 0.8% | 1.0% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 121 | 3.5% | 156 | 5.0% | 5.0% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1 | 0.0% | 4 | 0.1% | 0.5% |
| Admin & Support, Waste Mngmt and Remediation | 66 | 1.9% | 88 | 2.8% | 3.2% |
| Educational Services | 430 | 12.4% | 426 | 13.6% | 13.5% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 598 | 17.3% | 593 | 18.9% | 17.2% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 42 | 1.2% | 48 | 1.5% | 1.3% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 273 | 7.9% | 239 | 7.6% | 9.7% |
| Other Services (excluding Public Administration) | 103 | 3.0% | 100 | 3.2% | 2.9% |
| Public Administration | 185 | 5.3% | 168 | 5.4% | 5.4% |

Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies

Industry Sectors in Which St. Johnsbury Residents Work, 2002 & 2011 – All Jobs

| Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector | 2002 | | 2011 | | VT 2011 |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 0 | 0.0% | 5 | 0.1% | 0.8% |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 8 | 0.1% | 20 | 0.4% | 0.2% |
| Utilities | 16 | 0.3% | 8 | 0.2% | 0.6% |
| Construction | 221 | 3.9% | 171 | 3.2% | 4.4% |
| Manufacturing | 1,004 | 17.7% | 723 | 13.6% | 10.5% |
| Wholesale Trade | 123 | 2.2% | 103 | 1.9% | 3.3% |
| Retail Trade | 873 | 15.4% | 804 | 15.1% | 12.7% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 182 | 3.2% | 169 | 3.2% | 2.5% |
| Information | 161 | 2.8% | 136 | 2.6% | 1.9% |
| Finance and Insurance | 213 | 3.8% | 199 | 3.7% | 3.1% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 44 | 0.8% | 37 | 0.7% | 1.0% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 228 | 4.0% | 295 | 5.6% | 5.0% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 3 | 0.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 0.5% |
| Admin & Support, Waste Mngmt & Remediation | 89 | 1.6% | 156 | 2.9% | 3.2% |
| Educational Services | 476 | 8.4% | 553 | 10.4% | 13.9% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 1,198 | 21.1% | 1,240 | 23.3% | 17.3% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 82 | 1.4% | 46 | 0.9% | 1.3% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 300 | 5.3% | 272 | 5.1% | 9.2% |
| Other Services (excluding Public Administration) | 192 | 3.4% | 124 | 2.3% | 2.9% |
| Public Administration | 267 | 4.7% | 254 | 4.8% | 5.4% |

Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies

Education

School Enrollment: 2003 and 2008- 2012

| | 2003 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pre K – 8 th Grade | 686 | 708 | 712 | 690 | 654 | 659 |
| High School (St. Johnsbury Academy) | 974 | 987 | 1003 | 962 | 916 | 937 |

Source: Vermont Agency of Education - http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data_2011_2012_Public_School_Enrollment.pdf

St. Johnsbury Academy, a private high school and boarding school for students from around the world, was founded in 1842 by the Fairbanks family. Students from the area may attend the school through an agreement set between the Academy and the town in 1874.

Educational Attainment

| | St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | 2000 | 2009-2013 | 2000 | 2009-2013 | 2000 | 2009-2013 |
| Total population 25 years and over | 5,150 | 5,437 | 19,596 | 21,514 | 404,223 | 433,401 |
| Less than 9th grade | 9.1% | 2.3% | 7.1% | 3.7% | 5.1% | 3.0% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 11.6% | 7.3% | 10.3% | 6.5% | 8.4% | 5.6% |
| High school graduate or equivalent | 36.7% | 32.3% | 37.6% | 35.7% | 32.4% | 30.8% |
| Some college, no degree | 16.9% | 20.2% | 16.1% | 18.1% | 16.9% | 17.3% |
| Associate's degree | 6.5% | 9.0% | 6.4% | 9.4% | 7.7% | 8.5% |
| Bachelor's degree | 13.2% | 17.4% | 14.6% | 15.9% | 18.3% | 21.0% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 6.9% | 11.4% | 7.9% | 10.7% | 11.1% | 13.8% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Housing

Housing Characteristics

| | St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| Total Housing Units | 3,482 | 3,780 | 14,504 | 15,943 | 294,382 | 322,915 |
| Owner occupied percent of all occupied housing | 56.4% | 58.8% | 72.9% | 73.4% | 70.6% | 71.0% |
| Renter occupied percent of all occupied housing | 43.6% | 41.2% | 27.1% | 26.6% | 29.4% | 29.0% |
| Vacant percent of all housing | 8.2% | 11.5% | 19.6% | 21.7% | 18.3% | 20.4% |
| Rental Vacancy Rate | 6.9% | 7.4% | 7.2% | 6.3% | 4.2% | 5.6% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey Estimates

Home Values (Owner occupied units)

| | St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| Median HH Value: Owner Occupied | \$81,200 | \$161,500 | \$83,100 | \$164,300 | \$111,500 | \$216,800 |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 2000 Census

Housing Costs

| | St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| Households with a mortgage... percent with housing costs above 35% of income | 20.6% | 24.9% | 16.9% | 27.2% | 16.2% | 27.3% |
| Renter Households... percent with housing costs at or above 35% of income | 28.3% | 56.0% | 26.9% | 48.1% | 29.5% | 41.5% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey Estimates, 2000 Census

Transportation

St. Johnsbury serves as a gateway to the Northeast Kingdom region with US Routes 91 and 93 and State Routes 2 and 5 intersecting and leading into the town.

Transportation to Work (Workers 16 years and over)

| | St. Johnsbury | | Caledonia County | | Vermont | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS | 2000 | 2009-2013 ACS |
| Percent Driving Alone | 74.4% | 69.2% | 75.7% | 75.7% | 75.2% | 74.5% |
| Percent Using Public Transportation | 0.4% | 1.1% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.7% | 1.2% |
| Percent Carpooling | 12.3% | 13.0% | 12.2% | 10.8% | 11.9% | 10.0% |
| Percent Working From Home | 3.8% | 4.4% | 6.6% | 7.4% | 5.7% | 7.1% |
| Average Travel Time to Work | 17.5 min | 19.2 min | 22.2 min | 23.1 min | 21.6 min | 22.2 min |
| Workers with Travel Time of 60 Minutes or More | 4.4% | 9.1% | 6.8% | 7.8% | 5% | 5.3% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey