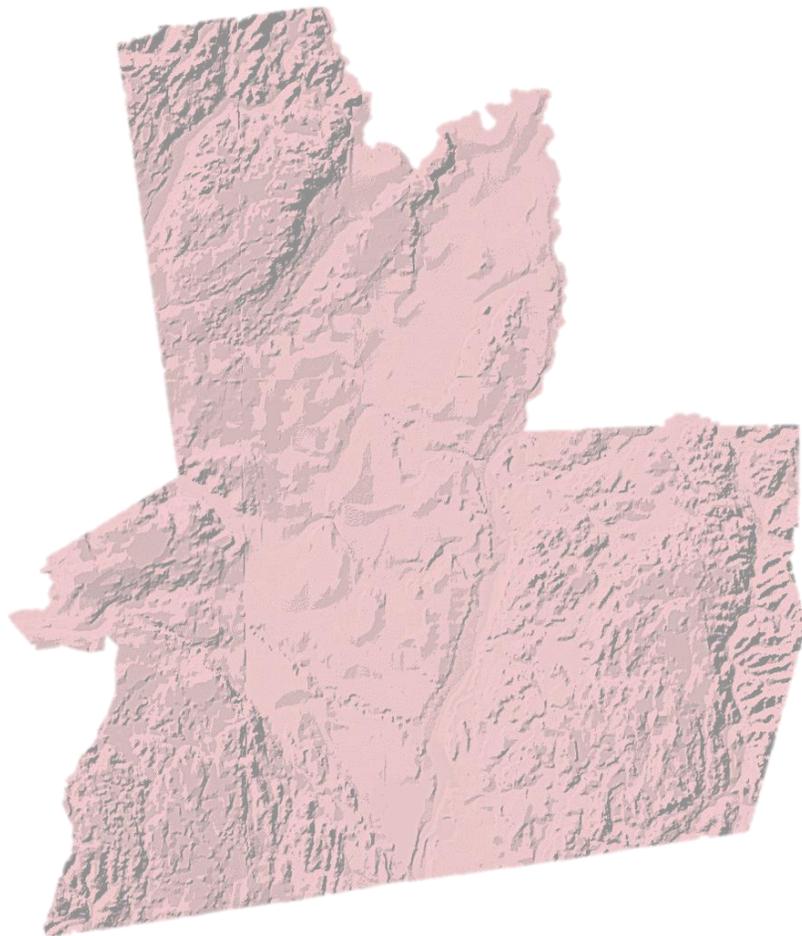


Capital Region Statistical Report

September 2015



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About the Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Our Mission

The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) is a regional planning and resource center serving Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties. CDRPC provides objective analysis of data, trends, opportunities, and challenges relevant to the Region's economic development and planning communities. CDRPC serves the best interests of the public and private sectors by promoting intergovernmental cooperation; communicating, collaborating, and facilitating regional initiatives; and sharing information and fostering dialogues on solutions to regional problems.

Our History

CDRPC was established as a regional planning board in 1967 by a cooperative agreement among the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady. Its original purpose was to perform and support comprehensive planning work, including surveys, planning services, technical services, and the formulation of plans and policies to promote sound and coordinated development of the entire Region. Over time, the mission of the Planning Commission evolved in response to changes in the Region's needs, funding sources, organizational structures, and information technology. While continuing to provide a wide variety of comprehensive planning services, CDRPC has also assumed the functions of Data and Information Center, Economic Development District, Foreign-Trade Zone Administrator, Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, and Water Quality Manager.



Forward

The *Capital Region Statistical Report* is an update to the *Tech Valley Trends- A Basis for Civic Change* report prepared in 2009 which was a collaborative effort among a number of regional partners in the Capital Region. This updated report was assembled by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission with contributions from the Capital District Transportation Committee. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report including CDRPC's interns Bryan Jackson and Kimberly Moshier who provided enormous assistance in the preparation of the Report.

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Executive Summary

In 2009, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission and its regional partners assembled *Tech Valley Trends: A Basis for Civic Change* to provide a better understanding of the characteristics of New York State's Capital Region. *Tech Valley Trends* was commissioned in response to the emergence of high tech industries within the region and the formation of New York State's Tech Valley. This report has been updated to reflect the most recent data available for many of the categories included in the original report.

Capital Region Statistical Report identifies indicators for eight different categories: Social Welfare; Education; Housing; Economics; Transportation; Environment; Recreation, Arts, and Culture; and Public Safety. For each of these categories the 2009 Report provided a vision statement reflecting the ideals and goals that the Region hoped to achieve. These vision statements serve as the basis for monitoring progress over time to assure a sustainable future and opportunities for all the residents in the Capital Region regardless of where they live and their socioeconomic status.

Vision Statements

1. Social Welfare

Promote diversity and fairness to ensure community well-being and an enhanced social environment; ensure equal access to opportunities and services to all residents of the Capital Region.

2. Education

Ensure a comprehensive, inclusive education system that guarantees equal access to high-quality education and learning opportunities. This includes requirements to ensure competency; accommodates the workforce needs of the Region; incorporates early childhood, traditional and technical training; professional trades training/ retraining; as well as adult and re-entry education.

3. Housing

Ensure access to affordable housing across all communities to meet present and prospective housing needs, with particular attention to provisions for low and moderate income housing, workforce housing, and accessibility to public transportation and employment centers.

4. Economics

Build a sustainable and diverse regional economy based on innovation and adaptability to volatile global demands to ensure living wage jobs in all sectors in order to raise the standard of living for all Capital Region residents.

5. Transportation

Plan, create, and manage an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably; more thoroughly link transportation and land use planning.

6. Environment

Promote strategies and institute measures to improve and maintain a healthy ecosystem as well as a safe, appealing, and functional environment in order to enhance the quality of life of all residents and to maximize the enjoyment of the region's built and natural resources.

7. Recreation, Arts, and Culture

Protect and improve the quality of parks, historic, cultural, and artistic venues and resources throughout the region; promote and expand their availability to ensure access to a variety of well-maintained, affordable, and enjoyable cultural and artistic enrichment opportunities and recreational, leisure, and entertainment activities.

8. Public Safety

Enhance the desirability of the region by proactively providing adequate public safety and emergency response services and facilities that contribute to the overall sense of safety, equal justice, and confidence of the public.

Indicator Summary

- Over the last decade, the percentage of people living in poverty has grown across the Capital Region with the greatest part of this increase being children in the region's cities.
- The Capital Region's urban schools are struggling to close the achievement gap. Despite similar rates of attendance, students in urban schools lag behind their counterparts in suburban and rural schools in terms of test scores and graduation rates. Simultaneously, urban students have a higher rate of economic stress with 70% recorded as economically disadvantaged.
- As housing values have begun to rebound from the recession, the number of residents who are cost-burdened by their homes (whether rented or owned) has jumped significantly, indicating that finding housing for families of a variety of incomes is becoming an economic strain for residents.
- While the Region has seen the job market grow since 2000, the growth in salaries has not kept pace in many sectors of the economy. This is a trend that is repeated nationwide. Even as the economy recovers from the Great Recession, salaries have remained flat when adjusted for inflation. With the job market improving, however, workers may find it easier to change jobs; this could exert pressure on companies to raise wages in order to attract/retain quality staff.
- Though driving alone still remains by far the most common mode of travel, bus use has increased steadily with CDTA recording record ridership. With improvements to existing services and expansions of CDTA's BusPlus service, this trend is expected to continue.
- The Region has experienced a decline in the number of Air Quality Non-Attainment days which are days when the air quality could impact those with vulnerable respiratory systems. Since 2009, the Region has not recorded more than 10 days annually, recording zero days in both 2013 and 2014.
- There are many arts, cultural, and recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors to the Capital Region. Public support, however, for these organizations has decreased in recent years. Meanwhile, attendance at the Region's state parks has increased dramatically since 2004.
- Regionally, violent and property crimes have declined from 2009 through 2013. Of the Region's major cities, the City of Albany enjoyed the most significant decline in violent crimes, declining from just over 10 crimes per 1,000 residents to 8 crimes per 1,000 residents. Conversely the City of Schenectady has struggled more than the other cities to reel in the violent crime rate, recording 17 violent crimes per 1,000 residents in 2013.

Introduction

Mission Statement

Create a community Progress Report with key indicators of the quality of life, community well-being, and long-term sustainability in the Capital Region.

Definition

Community Indicators or metrics are measurements that provide information about past and current trends. They are quantitative measurements of the quality of community life that reflect the interplay between social, environmental, and economic factors affecting the region's well-being. The indicators reflect a combination of idealism and pragmatism that, when taken together, provide a roadmap for the regional community showing where we have been, where we are now, and what areas need attention to achieve our mission and vision.

The *Capital Region Statistical Report* provides a baseline to track measurements of success in the Capital Region. These measurements will provide policy makers with the tangible evidence necessary in order to skillfully guide the Region into the future.

Report Objectives

This report focuses on the human side of economic development and includes indicators reflecting key social equity, economic, and environmental factors affecting the community's well-being and long-term sustainability. The report is designed to provide an ongoing analysis of the state of the region by:

- Providing a focus on critical needs, encouraging discussion of solutions, and tracking progress toward achieving sustainability;
- Creating a basis for tracking positive and negative trends; and
- Assisting community leaders in making decisions that affect outcomes in the community.

The indicators are explicitly designed to compare the community to itself but not to evaluate the Capital Region against the progress of other regions, the state, or the nation. In addition, the data provides only numerical indicators of selected demographic and social data that can have perceived impacts on the region's quality of life. Some important dimensions may be omitted because quantitative measurements are not available. Finally, the indicators by themselves do not explain why trends move as they do or what should be done to make improvements. Rather, they provide quantitative data to generate partnerships and encourage collaboration to improve trends.

Indicator Selection Criteria

Indicator selection is not a one-time proposition, just as creating a healthy and sustainable community is not a short-term project, it takes decades if not generations to accomplish. The indicators need to be treated as a living report card that will be adjusted over time as the community learns how to apply this tool.

The indicators chosen for inclusion are meant to serve as a guide for the overall selection in order to help satisfy some of the following criteria¹:

¹ Phillips, Rhonda; *Community Indicators*; Planning Advisory Service Report Number 517; American Planning Association

- **Relevant.** Data must exist that is relevant to the geographic area. The indicator tells something about the system you need to know, and is meaningful to the community.
- **Valid.** Understandable rationales exist for using the specific indicator and for drawing general conclusions from it. Is the indicator well-grounded and founded in fact? Can it be supported, defended, and justified?
- **Credible.** Does the data source for each indicator help reinforce credibility or detract from it?
- **Measurable.** A practical method of data collection or measurement must be possible.
- **Consistent and Reliable.** The data for the indicator needs to be reliably researched over time.
- **Comparable.** Sufficiently general that communities can be compared to one another.
- **Understandable.** A community indicator is only as useful as its interpretation and use by the stakeholders in the community.
- **Leading.** Good “leading” indicators forewarn you, whenever possible, of developing problems well before they become dangerous or impossible to solve.
- **Compelling, Interesting, and Exciting.** Indicators that communicate information that resonates with their intended audience(s). Also, interest by the press to publicize the indicator.
- **Accessibility and Affordability.** How easily can the data be obtained and how much does it cost to accomplish this work cost effectively and efficiently?

Demographic Trends in the Capital Region

Drawing on the data from the decennial census and updated data from the *American Community Survey* (ACS), the following is a statistical overview of the Capital Region. The data sets and narrative that follow describe changes in the region’s population, racial and Hispanic origin, age distribution, and household type. Population projections prepared by CDRPC are also included in this section.

The Capital Region is located in east central New York at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Encompassing a total land area of approximately 2,200 square miles; the core of the Capital Region is comprised of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties. Centrally located in the northeast United States, the Capital Region is 150 miles north of New York City, 190 miles south of Montreal, 165 miles west of Boston, and 290 miles east of Buffalo.

The Capital Region consists of 79 total communities including the four central cities: Albany (the capital of New York State), Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy. While the 79 communities of the Capital Region exist as independent entities, the close proximity among the four central cities and the area’s strong transportation network have made it possible for a vibrant, interdependent region to emerge.

Population

The July 1, 2014 combined population of the four counties was estimated at 848,601, an increase of 10,634 (1.3%) since 2010. As noted in Table 1, each county has experienced growth when compared to both 2000 and 2010. From 2000 to 2014, Saratoga County experienced 12.1% growth, almost double that of second place Schenectady County.

Table 1. County Population Trends

	2000	2010	July 1, 2014	Change from 2000 to 2014	Change from 2010 to 2014
Capital Region	794,293	837,967	848,601	6.8%	1.3%
Albany County	294,565	304,204	308,171	4.6%	1.3%
Rensselaer County	152,538	159,429	159,774	4.7%	0.2%
Saratoga County	200,635	219,607	224,921	12.1%	2.4%
Schenectady County	146,555	154,727	155,735	6.3%	0.7%

With the release of the 2010 Census, the Region experienced a reversal of declining populations in the region’s cities. In every Census from 1950 to 2000, the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy all recorded declining populations. The 2010 Census reversed this trend revealing modest and healthy growth across these cities. While one Census does not make a trend, it was an important factor for revitalizing our Region’s legacy cities.

Table 2. City Population Trends

	1950	2000	2010	July 1, 2014	Change 1950-2000	Change 2000-'10	Change 2010 -'14
Capital Region	531,249	794,293	837,967	848,601	49.5%	5.5%	1.3%
Albany	134,995	94,301	97,856	98,566	-30.1%	3.8%	0.7%
Saratoga Springs	13,705	26,186	26,565	27,436	91.1%	1.5%	3.3%
Schenectady	87,549	61,821	66,135	65,936	-29.4%	7.0%	-0.3%
Troy	72,311	49,170	50,129	49,910	-32.0%	2.0%	-0.4%

Race and Hispanic Origin

While the population is primarily white (84.2% in 2014), the Region has seen the percentage of non-white and Hispanic populations grow dramatically. As illustrated in Table 3, population growth in the Asian community was strongest, increasing 21.6% from 2010 to 2014. Concurrently, the white population experienced a slight decline during the period, declining .4%. Persons of Hispanic Origin also increased substantially at nearly 19%.

Table 3. Trends in Race and Hispanic Origins

	2010	July 1, 2014	Percent Change
White	717,376	714,292	-0.4%
Black	70,792	75,624	6.8%
Asian	28,216	34,316	21.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,548	3,051	19.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	495	597	20.6%
Two or more races	18,540	20,721	11.8%
Total	837,967	848,601	1.3%
Hispanic Origin*	35,103	41,735	18.9%

*Hispanic Origin is not a racial category; Persons of Hispanic Origin are included in one of the listed racial categories

Household Characteristics

Since 1970, there have been significant changes in household types in the Capital Region with an increasing number of single parent and non-family households. In addition, there has been a decrease in the percentage of married couples with children under the age of 18.

Table 4. Trends in Household Demographics

	1970		2010	
	Households	Percent	Households	Percent
Married Couple w/Child	86,260	37.4%	61,024	17.8%
Single Parent w/Child	9,815	4.3%	31,128	9.1%
Married w/o child	69,575	30.2%	92,970	27.2%
Other Family w/o child	14,990	6.5%	24,299	7.1%
Non Family	49,840	21.6%	132,714	38.8%
Total	230,480	100.0%	342,135	100.0%

Population Projections

CDRPC prepares population projections for each of the counties and municipalities across the Region. These numbers reflect trends evidenced by population estimates released by the Census Bureau, local building permit data, school enrollment data, migration data from the Internal Revenue Service, and birth-death information from the New York State Department of Health. Through 2040, the region’s population is projected to increase by 7% with Saratoga County continuing to experience the largest population increase at a projected rate double the regional projection. The cities of Albany and Schenectady are projected to continue to see modest growth through 2030 while the City of Troy is projected to remain flat or decrease modestly.

Table 5. CDRPC Municipal Population Projections

Population Projections	2010	2020	2030	2040	Percent Change 2010-40
Capital Region	837,967	864,426	888,073	896,451	7.0%
Albany County	304,204	309,730	316,018	317,709	4.4%
<i>City of Albany</i>	97,856	98,187	99,040	98,640	0.8%
Rensselaer County	159,429	161,744	163,685	164,643	3.3%
<i>City of Troy</i>	50,129	50,098	50,065	50,032	-0.2%
Saratoga County	219,607	234,358	246,253	251,049	14.3%
<i>Saratoga Springs</i>	26,586	27,862	29,027	28,555	7.4%
Schenectady County	154,727	158,594	162,117	163,050	5.4%
<i>City of Schenectady</i>	66,135	68,223	68,211	66,852	1.1%

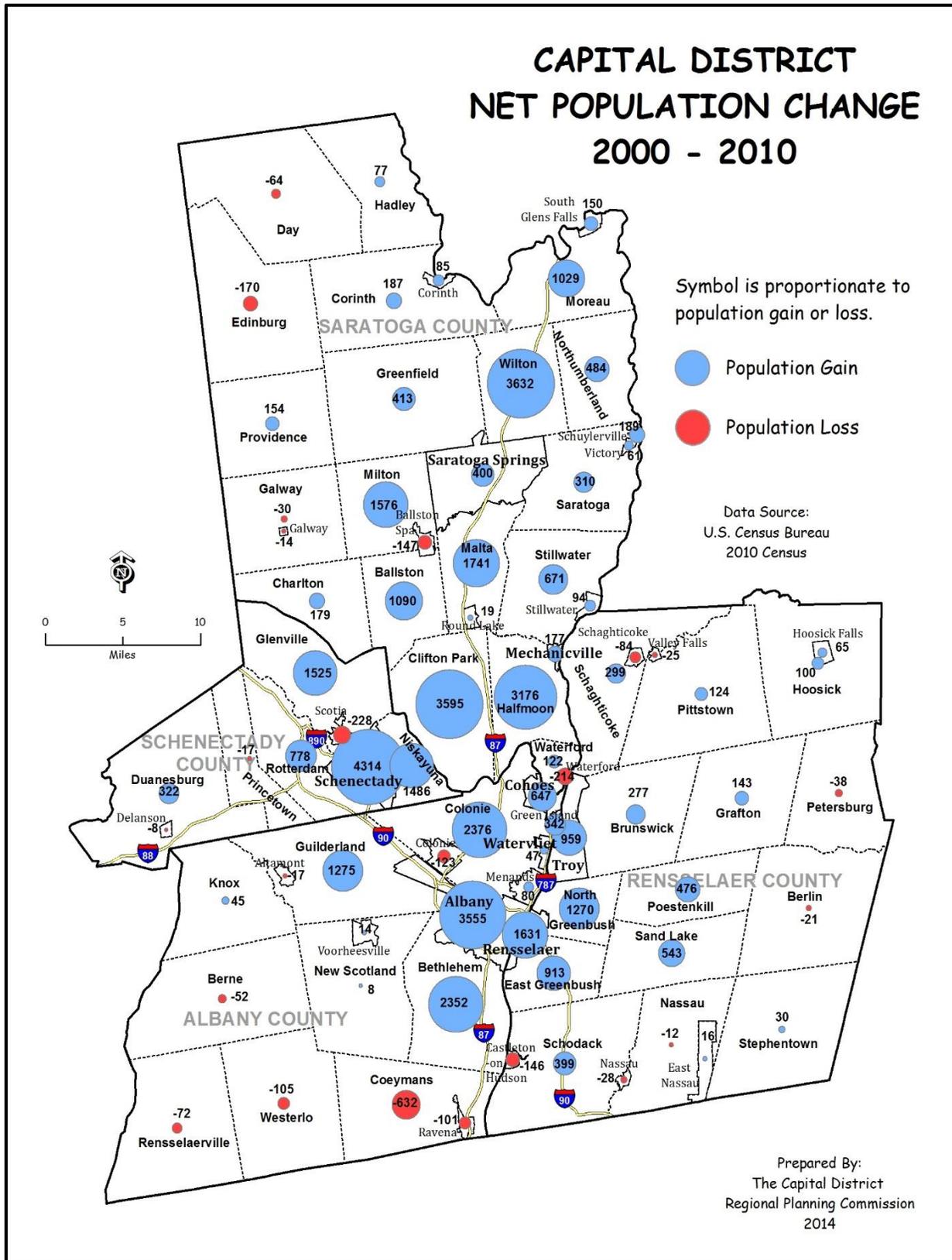
Table 6, illustrating the Region’s projected distribution of population by age cohorts, indicates that the share of the population 65 years and older will increase from 14% in 2010 to 22.2% in 2030 before declining slightly to 22.0% by 2040.

Table 6. CDRPC Age Cohort Projections

	2010	2020	2030	2040
Under 5	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%
5 to 14	12.0%	11.4%	10.9%	11.2%
15 to 24	14.8%	13.3%	12.9%	12.7%
25 to 34	12.2%	13.2%	12.0%	12.0%
35 to 44	13.0%	12.1%	13.3%	12.5%
45 to 54	15.7%	12.7%	11.8%	13.3%
55 to 64	12.9%	14.5%	11.7%	11.2%
65 to 74	7.1%	10.8%	12.0%	10.2%
75 and Over	6.9%	6.8%	10.2%	11.8%

Figure 1 shows the individual municipalities of the Capital Region and the population change experienced between the 2000 and 2010 Census. The majority of the municipalities experienced population growth with predominately only the more rural areas and several villages in the region experiencing a population decline. The suburban communities continued to experience population gains while the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, for the first time since 1950, experienced a decade to decade population increase.

Figure 1. Capital District Population Change 2000-10



1. Social Welfare

Vision Statement:

Promote diversity and fairness to assure community well-being and an enhanced social environment; ensure equal access to opportunities and services to all residents of the Capital Region.

Indicators:

- 1.1 Median Household Income
- 1.2 Households by Income Range; 2000
- 1.3 Households by Income Range; 2009-13
- 1.4 Percent of Households by Income Range and Race & Hispanic Origin
- 1.5 Overall Poverty Rate
- 1.6 Poverty Rate by Age Group
- 1.7 Teen Pregnancy

Summary:

- The 2009-13 median household income for the Capital Region was \$61,178.
- In 2009-13, 59.2% of households in the Capital Region earned \$50,000 or more annually.
- In 2009-13, one in five households in the Capital Region earned less than \$25,000 annually (19.6%).
- 41.9% of African-American households in the Region report earning less than \$25,000 annually, more than twice the regional average.
- In 2009-13 11.4% of the Capital Region's residents reported living below the poverty line.
- The cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy have significant populations of children living in poverty. This high percentage of students living in poverty is likely to further exacerbate already stressed resources.
- Pregnancy rates among young women aged 15-17 declined significantly between 2003 and 2012 across all four counties.

1.1 Median Household Income

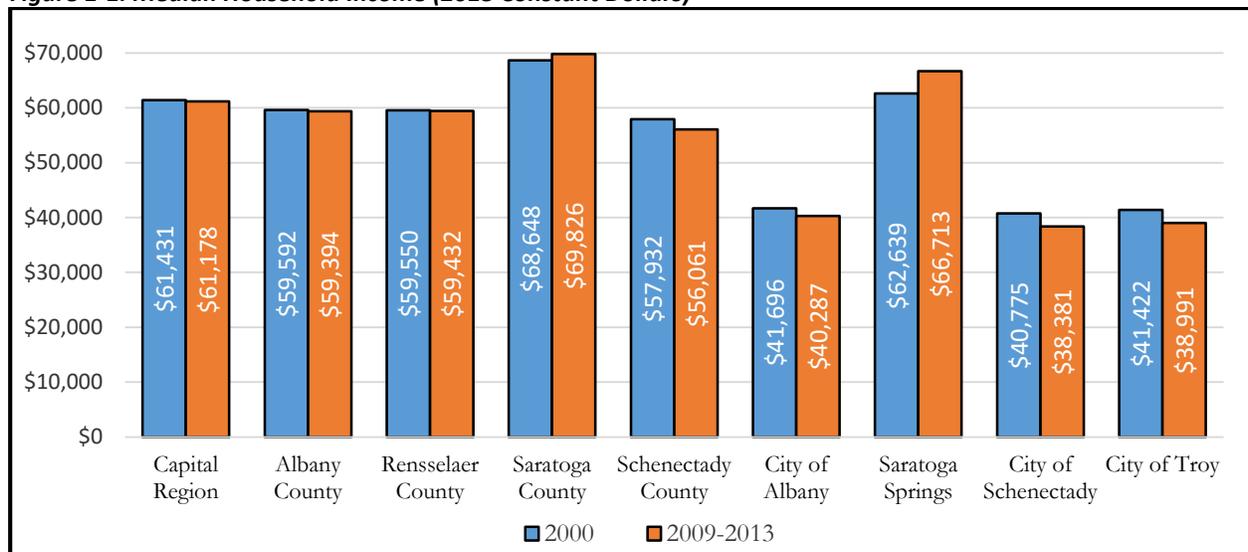
Definition:

The median household income represents the mid-point in which half of the measured households have a greater income and half a lower income. Median household income is often considered a preferable indicator of income than the average income- median income reduces the influence of outlying incomes to more accurately reflect income.

Significance:

The median household income is one of the best tools available to understand income levels in a region. Geographies with higher median incomes are likely to have higher home values, higher educational attainment levels, and lower levels of unemployment. Incomes are held at 2013 constant dollars in order to best compare income over time.

Figure 1-1. Median Household Income (2013 Constant Dollars)



Data Highlights:

- Between 2000 and 2009-13, median income (in constant dollars) remained virtually unchanged in the Capital Region.
- Saratoga County had the highest median household income of the four counties in both 2000 and 2009-13.
- The median household income in the cities of Schenectady and Troy each declined by almost 6% from 2000 to 2009-13, whereas the City of Albany declined by more than 3%, and Saratoga Springs increased by almost 7%.

1.2 Households by Income Range; 2000

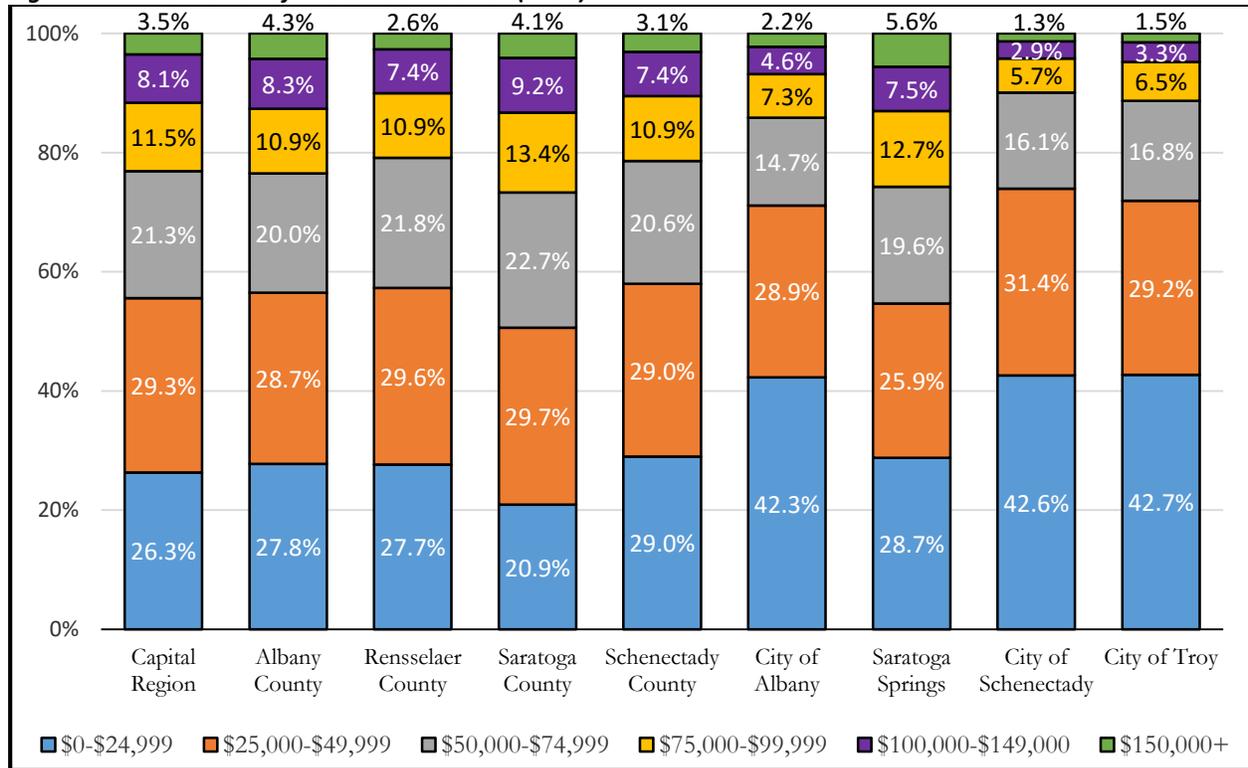
Definition:

The percentage of households in predetermined income ranges, listed by county and selected cities. The data from the 2000 Census is not held in 2013 constant dollars.

Significance:

An equitable income distribution is a key component of a regionally successful economy. Urban households are often disproportionately affected by lower incomes.

Figure 1-2. Distribution of Household Incomes (2000)



Data Highlights:

- In 2000, Saratoga Springs had a much larger percentage of high-income (\$100,000+) households than the three other selected cities, and a much smaller percentage of low-income (<\$25,000) households.
- Among the counties, Schenectady County had the highest percentage of low-income households (29%) in 2000.
- The Cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy had a much higher percentage of households with income less than \$25,000 than the Capital Region or any of the four counties.

1.3 Household by Income Range; 2009-13

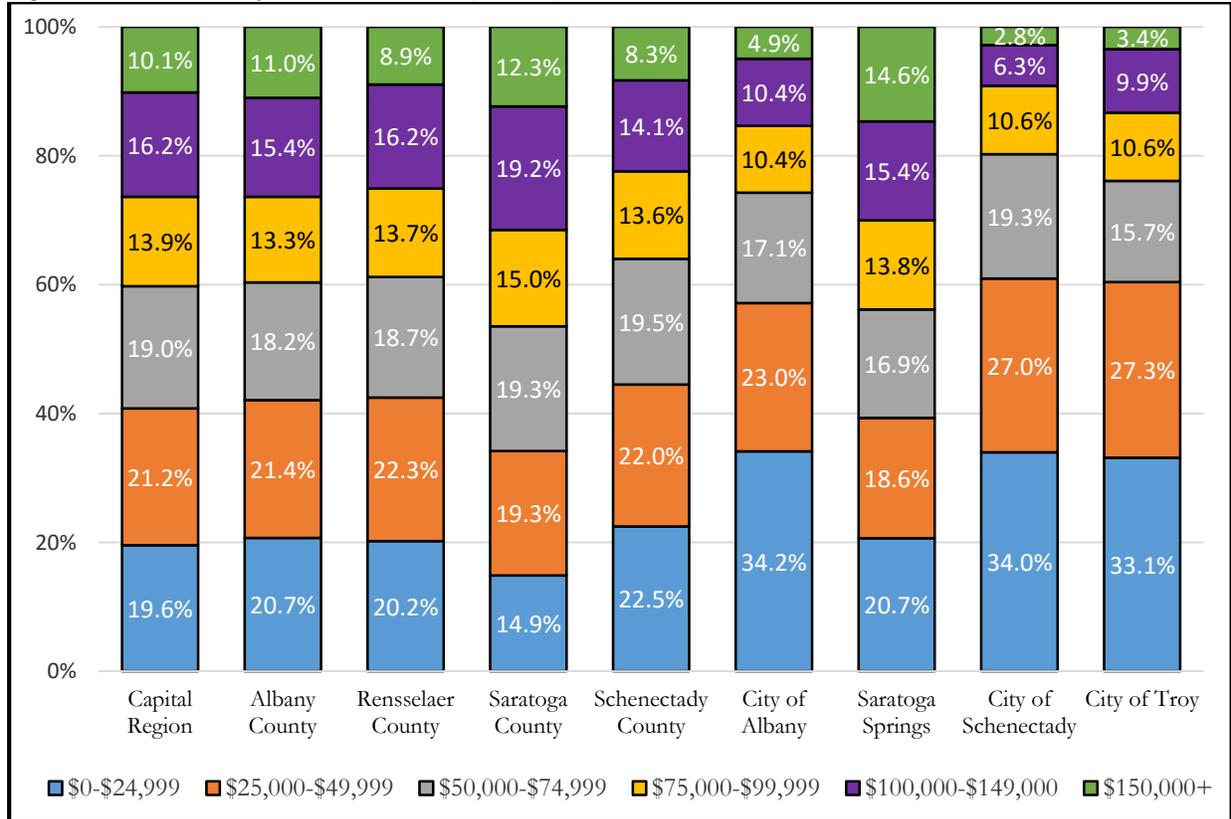
Definition:

The percentage of households in predetermined income ranges, listed by county and selected cities.

Significance:

An equitable income distribution is a key component of a regionally successful economy. Urban households are often disproportionately affected by lower incomes.

Figure 1-3. Distribution of Household Incomes (2009-13)



Data Highlights:

- In 2009-13, Saratoga County had the highest share of high-income (\$100,000+) households of the four counties (31.5%), as well as the lowest share of low-income (<\$25,000) households (14.9%).
- In 2009-13, Schenectady County had the highest percentage of low-income households (22.5%) of the four counties, as well as the lowest percentage of high-income households (22.4%).
- Among the cities, Albany, Schenectady, and Troy had comparable percentages of low-income residents. Similar to 2000, the Cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy had a much higher percent of households with income less than \$25,000 than the Capital Region or any of the four counties

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2009-13 American Community Survey (B19001 series, Household Income in the Past 12 Months).

1.4 Percent of Households by Income Range and Race & Hispanic Origin

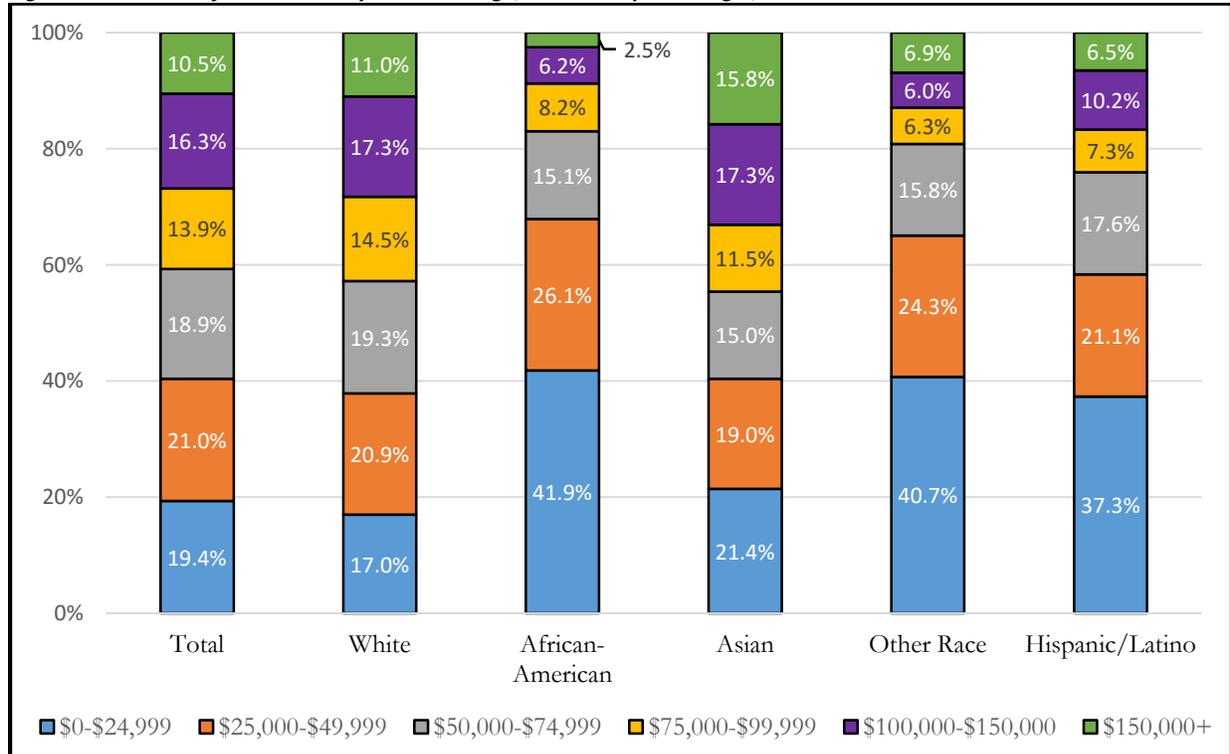
Definition:

The percentage of households in predetermined income ranges with householders of a specific race.

Significance:

The distribution of income can differ greatly across racial lines. Racial wealth inequality occurs throughout the US, and the Capital Region is no exception. Income is one portion of the wealth equation, though not the largest, and is a key factor in reducing economic inequality. The 5-year ACS provides the most reliable and up-to-date data in regards to household income.

Figure 1-4. Percent of Households by Income Range, Race & Hispanic Origin; 2009-13



Data Highlights:

- Asian households reported the greatest percentage of households earning \$150,000+ annually at 15.8%. Furthermore, a total of 33.1% of Asian households reported earning \$100,000 or more annually.
- African American households earning less than \$25,000 annually were over twice the percentage of White or Asian households in the same tier. Economic benefits from an improving economy have struggled to reach many members of this community.

1.5 Overall Poverty Rate

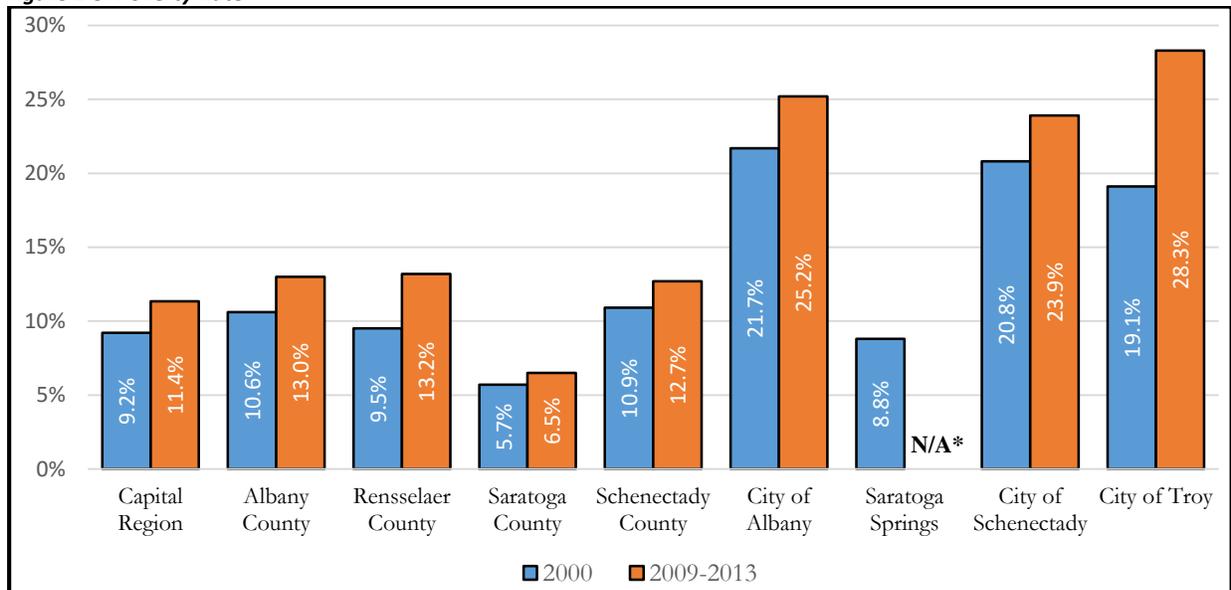
Definition:

The percentage of people living below the poverty threshold. The poverty threshold is measured against the size of a household, so that a larger family has a higher income threshold before being considered below the poverty threshold. This section aggregates all of the households that are considered below the poverty threshold.

Significance:

The overall poverty rate measures the percentage of the population considered to have too little income to meet basic needs. Poverty has a significant impact on the quality of life of those directly and indirectly affected by it. Families and individuals living below the poverty threshold are faced with persistent financial challenges, and are forced to make difficult decisions about the necessities of life.

Figure 1-5. Poverty Rate



*Margin of error greater than 10%

Data Highlights:

- Between 2000 and 2009-13, the poverty rate increased in each of the four counties and cities in the Region. Overall, the Region experienced a 24% increase in the poverty rate.
- Of the four counties, Rensselaer County had the highest overall poverty level in 2009-13; Saratoga County had the lowest poverty rate.
- The City of Troy’s overall poverty rate was the highest of the selected cities for the 2009-13 period; in 2000, the city with the highest poverty rate was Albany.
- Between 2000 and 2009-13, Troy experienced a 48% increase in the rate of poverty among its residents.

1.6 Poverty Rate by Age Group

Definition:

The percentage of the population, by age cohort, considered to have too little income to meet basic needs.

Significance:

Children who live in poverty are more likely than others to go without necessary food, be retained in grade, and drop out of school. The elderly who live in poverty may struggle to pay for such things as quality nutrition, satisfactory housing, and proper medical care.

Figure 1-6. Poverty Rate by Age Cohort; 2009-13

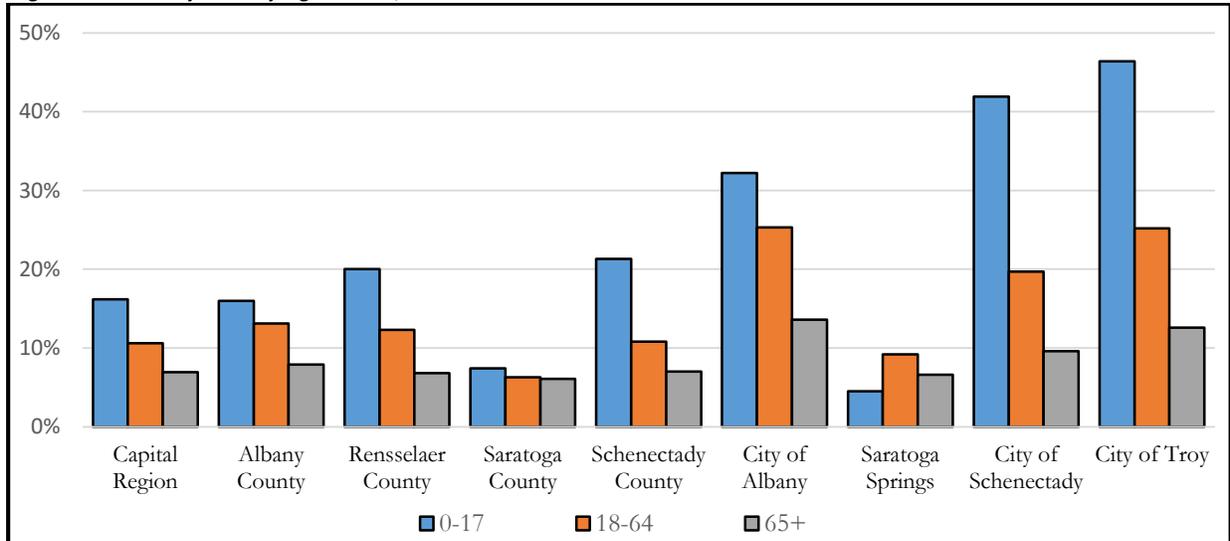


Table 1-1. Poverty Rate by Age Cohort; 2009-13

	0-17	18-64	65+
Capital Region	16.2%	10.6%	7.0%
Albany County	16.0%	13.1%	7.9%
Rensselaer County	20.0%	12.3%	6.8%
Saratoga County	7.4%	6.3%	6.1%
Schenectady County	21.3%	10.8%	7.0%
City of Albany	32.2%	25.3%	13.6%
Saratoga Springs	4.5%	9.2%	6.6%
City of Schenectady	41.9%	19.7%	9.6%
City of Troy	46.4%	25.2%	12.6%

Data Highlights:

- Overall, relatively few elderly adults (7%) live in poverty in the Capital Region.
- The percentage of children in poverty region-wide is more than twice the percentage of children living in poverty in Saratoga County. Schenectady County had the highest percentage of children living in poverty at more than 1 in 5 children.
- Almost half (46.4%) of the children in the City of Troy live in poverty while in the City of Schenectady 41.9% are in poverty, and in the City of Albany, 32.2% children live in poverty. Saratoga Springs has the lowest poverty rate among children at 4.5%.

1.7 Teen Pregnancy

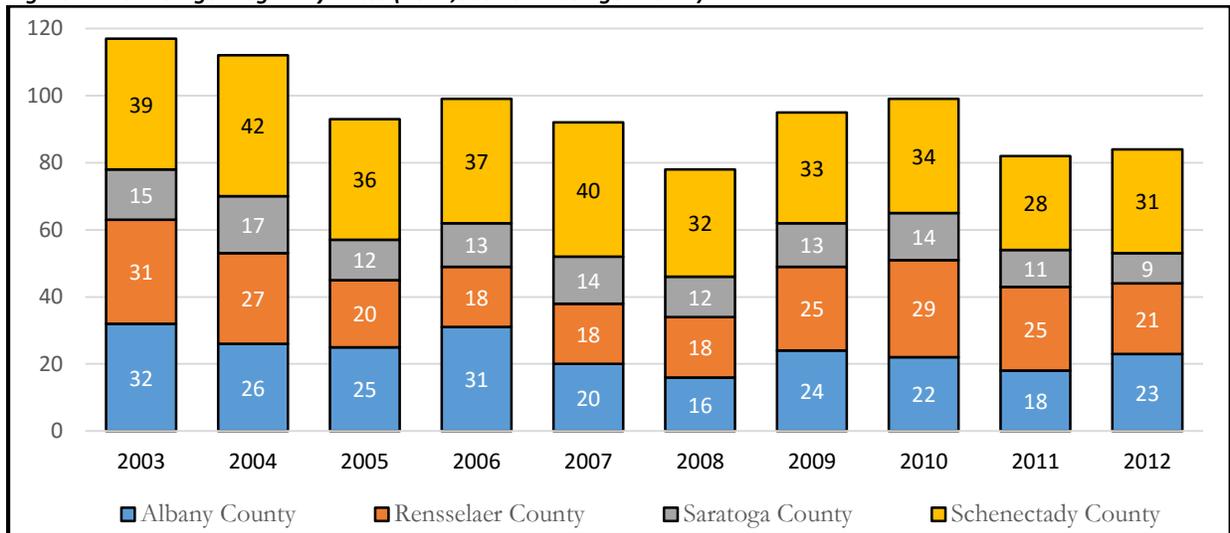
Definition:

Pregnancies are the sum of the number of live births, reported induced terminations of pregnancies, and reported fetal deaths of all gestations. The adolescent pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Significance:

Teen pregnancy has far-reaching impacts on young women, the extended family, and any children resulting from the pregnancy. Teen mothers are more likely to live in poverty and less likely than their peers to finish high school. Their children are more likely to experience poor health, behavioral difficulties, and neglect than children of older mothers.

Figure 1-7. Underage Pregnancy Rates (Per 1,000 Females aged 15-17)



Data Highlights:

- Between 2003 and 2008, the pregnancy rate among young women aged 15-17 declined across all four counties of the Capital Region. Since 2008 the rate has fluctuated annually in the four counties for females aged 15-17 but remain below the 2003 rates in each of the counties.
- Between 2003 and 2012, Saratoga County experienced the greatest decrease in teen pregnancy rates (40%), followed by Rensselaer (32%), Albany (28%), and Schenectady (20%).

2. Education

Vision Statement:

Assure a comprehensive, inclusive education system that guarantees equal access to high-quality education and learning opportunities, includes requirements to ensure competency, accommodates the workforce needs of the region, and incorporates early childhood, traditional and technical training, professional trades training and retraining, and adult and re-entry education.

Indicators:

- 2.1 Educational Attainment; 2009-13
- 2.2 Students Scoring an 85 or Higher on Regents Exams (2013-14)
- 2.3 Percentage Rate of Economically Disadvantaged Students (2013-14)
- 2.4 Median Attendance Rates
- 2.5 High School 4-Year Graduation Rates (2013-14)

Summary:

- For the 2009-13 period, the percentage of the population with an Associate's Degree or greater in the Capital Region was 46.2%.
- Students from urban schools trailed their peers from suburban and rural schools in terms of percentage scoring an 85 or higher on the Comprehensive English and Integrated Algebra Regents. 26% of students from urban schools scored an 85 on the Comprehensive English Regents compared to 52% from suburban and 39% from rural schools. Results from the Integrated Algebra Regents show that only 11% of students in urban schools scored an 85 or above while 32% and 26% of students in suburban and rural schools, respectively scored an 85 or above.
- Urban schools disproportionately contain a high percentage of students from economically disadvantaged households. 70% of the students in urban schools are classified as economically disadvantaged. While percentages in suburban and rural schools are much lower, their rates are still high; 26% of students in suburban schools, and 31% in rural schools are classified as economically disadvantaged.
- Attendance rates among urban, suburban, and rural schools showed little variation. When compared over two five-year intervals, the attendance rates remained stable across the three school types.
- The median graduation rates in urban schools for the 2013-14 school year was 76%, but varied greatly among school districts. Suburban and rural districts recorded strong graduation rates of 91% and 90% respectively with minimal variation.

Note- Not included in this report are statistics regarding the Common Core standards that have recently been implemented in the region's schools. Due to the evolving nature of the new standards more time is needed to evaluate their inclusion in a regional assessment. In the 2014-15 school, year more than 20% of students opted out of taking the math exam in 67 school districts while another 20% opted out of the English exam in 46 school districts.² Until such time that the concerns surrounding Common Core are resolved it is premature to include the test results in a regional assessment.

² Rogers, Megan; *Here are the opt-out rates on Common Core exams at the Albany-area school districts*; Albany Business Review. August 12, 2015.

2.1 Educational Attainment 2009-13

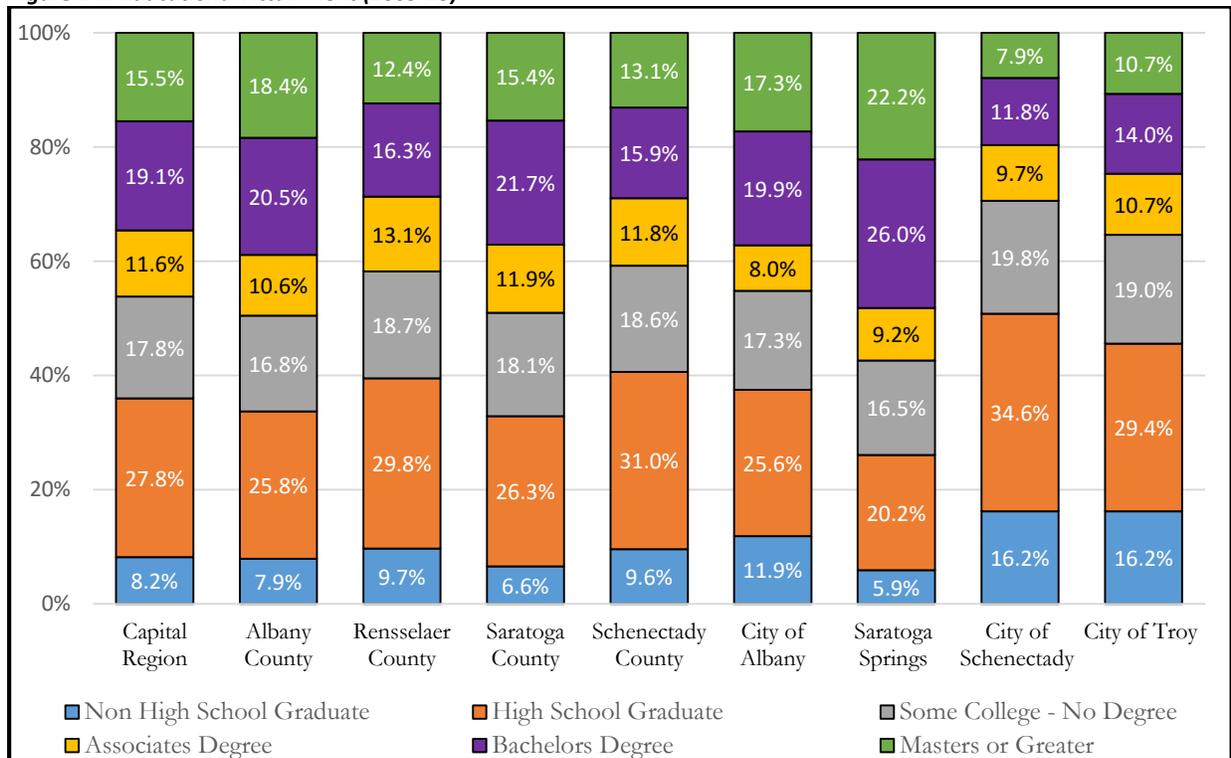
Definition:

The percentage of adults age 25 and over and the highest level of education achieved. Non High School Graduate indicates a lack of high school or equivalency diploma; High School Graduates indicates a high school or equivalency diploma; Some College indicates those who attended college but did not earn a degree; Masters or Greater indicates holders of Master’s Degrees, Doctorates, and/or other advanced degrees (JD, MD, etc.).

Significance:

A skilled and educated workforce is a critical factor of success in today’s competitive global economy. The availability of educated and skilled employees is essential to attract quality jobs, and can help foster innovation and increase productivity for existing employers.

Figure 2-1. Educational Attainment (2009-13)



Data Highlights:

- 46.2% of the Region has an Associate’s Degree or greater. Among the four counties there is a slight variation in the percentage of the population with an Associate’s Degree or higher ranging from 40.8% in Schenectady County to 49.5% in Albany County.
- The core cities show a greater degree of variation when comparing the population with a college degree. 57.4% of those living in Saratoga Springs over the age of 25 have at least an Associate’s Degree, while in the City of Schenectady 29.4% have the same level of educational attainment.

2.2 Students Scoring an 85 or Higher on Regents Exams

Definition:

Regents Exams are achievement tests that are aligned with New York State’s learning standards. Regents exams provide schools with a basis for evaluating the quality of instruction and learning that has taken place. The exams also provide students, parents, counselors, administrators, college admissions officers, and employers with objective and easily understood achievement information for use in making education and vocational decisions. These exams are designed for general education students taking high school level classes.

Significance:

Students that achieve an 85 or higher on their Regents exam have demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter. Furthermore, strong test scores can help influence access to higher education by making a student more attractive to colleges and universities. Achievement gaps between school districts can negatively impact the opportunities for students in low performing schools. Students from urban schools often achieve lower scores than their peers outside of urban areas, and thus have limited options if they choose to pursue higher education.

Figure 2-2. Median Percentage of Students Scoring an 85 or Higher in Comprehensive English (2013-14 School Year)

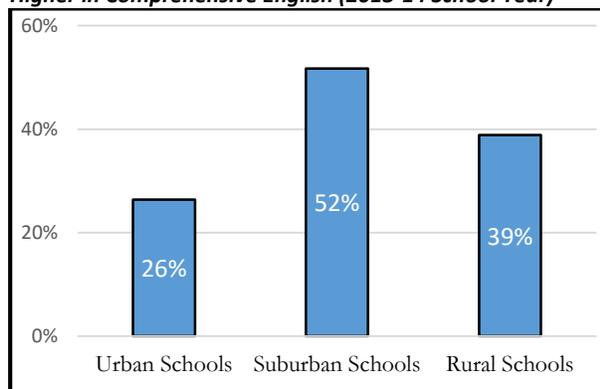
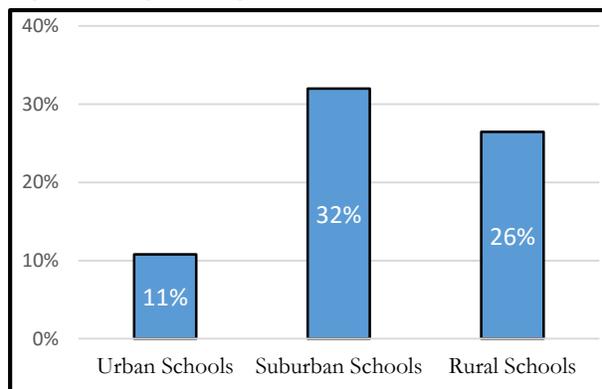


Figure 2-3. Median Percentage of Students Scoring an 85 or Higher in Integrated Algebra (2013-14 School Year)



Note: Urban Schools include- Albany, Coboes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Waterliet. Suburban Schools include- Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon, and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include- Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duaneburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- The percentage of students in Urban Schools scoring an 85 or higher on their Comprehensive English Regents was 26%. More than half of the students taking the Comprehensive English Regents in suburban schools achieved an 85 or higher.
- The percentage of students in urban schools scoring an 85 or higher on their Integrated Algebra Regents was only 11%, versus 32% and 26% in suburban and rural schools, respectively. Overall, the percentage of students scoring an 85 or higher in Integrated Algebra was lower than the scores for Comprehensive English.
- This achievement gap between urban, suburban, and rural schools contributes towards economic and social stratification by contributing towards a parent’s decision to raise children within a high performing district. Schools that struggle to meet educational standards face penalties and reorganization from the state with the hope of improving performance.

2.3 Percentage Rate of Economically Disadvantaged Students

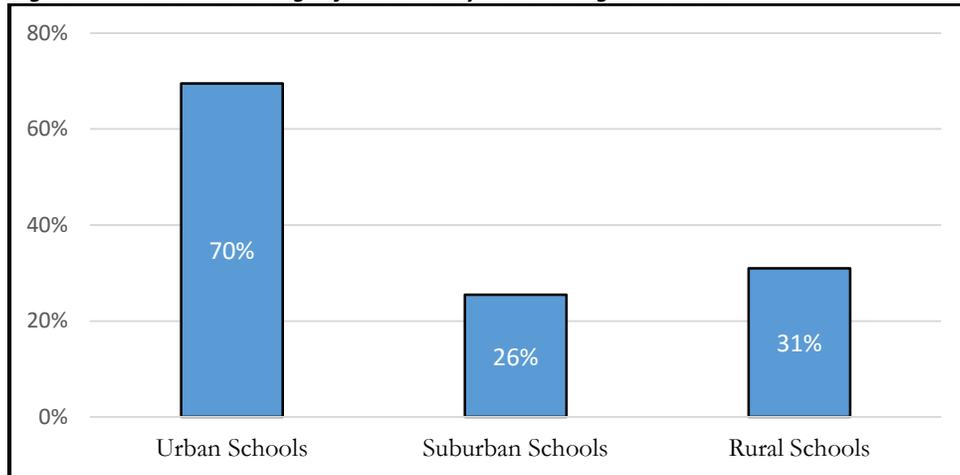
Definition:

Economically disadvantaged students are those who participate in, or whose family, participates in economic assistance programs, such as the free or reduced-price lunch programs, Social Security Insurance (SSI), Food Stamps, Foster Care, Refugee Assistance (case or medical assistance), Earned Income Tax Credit, Home Energy Assistance Program, Safety Net Assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or Family Assistance. If one student in a family is identified as low income, all students from that household may be identified as low income. By utilizing the median percentage, a more accurate understanding can be achieved due to de-emphasizing extremely high or low rates that may be outliers.

Significance:

Studies show that low household income and student performance are linked, as the percentage of economically distressed students increases, overall student performance decreases. While income is not the only factor determining the performance of a school and its students, it is the best predictor of average student performance. The higher the concentration of economically disadvantaged children within a school district, the more measureable the impacts on student performance.

Figure 2-2. Median Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students



Note: Urban Schools include- Albany, Coboes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Waterliet. Suburban Schools include- Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon, and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include- Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duaneburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- The median percentage of students in urban schools considered economically disadvantaged was extremely high at 70%.
- While the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in suburban and rural schools appears healthier in comparison to urban schools, the rates are still high. More than 1 in 4 students in a suburban school are economically disadvantaged, while almost 1 in 3 students in a rural school are economically disadvantaged.
- The higher rates of economically disadvantaged students in urban schools and low test scores are not a coincidence. The most vulnerable students are concentrated in the region’s urban schools.

2.4 Median Attendance Rates

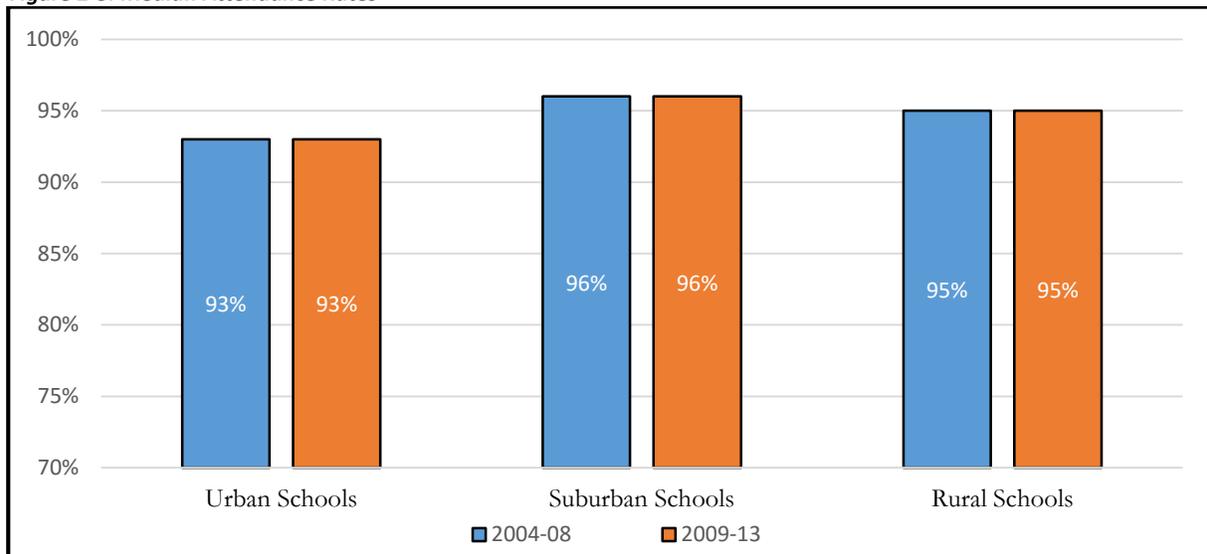
Definition:

The annual attendance rate is determined by dividing the school district’s total attendance by the total possible attendance for a school year.

Significance:

Students who attend school consistently tend to be more disciplined, more likely to complete high school, and have higher rates of achievement. Frequent absences make it more difficult for the student to keep up with the class and pose a serious challenge to the teacher’s ability to instruct the class. Additionally, repeated absences starting as early as kindergarten have been linked to adolescent delinquency and high school dropouts.

Figure 2-3. Median Attendance Rates



Note: Urban Schools include- Albany, Coboes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Waterliet. Suburban Schools include- Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon and Wyanetskill. Rural Schools include- Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duaneburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- There is very little deviation in attendance rates among the urban, suburban, and rural schools. Furthermore, attendance rates across the three classifications have remained remarkably stable during two consecutive five-year time periods.
- Within Urban Schools there is little deviation. Despite the challenges facing the Albany, Schenectady, and Troy City School Districts, it does not appear that attendance rates play a significant role. When compared to Saratoga Spring CSD, the other three districts compare favorably.
- No individual school district recorded an average attendance rate lower than 91% over the entire 10 year time span.

2.5 High School 4-Year Graduation Rates (2013-14 school year)

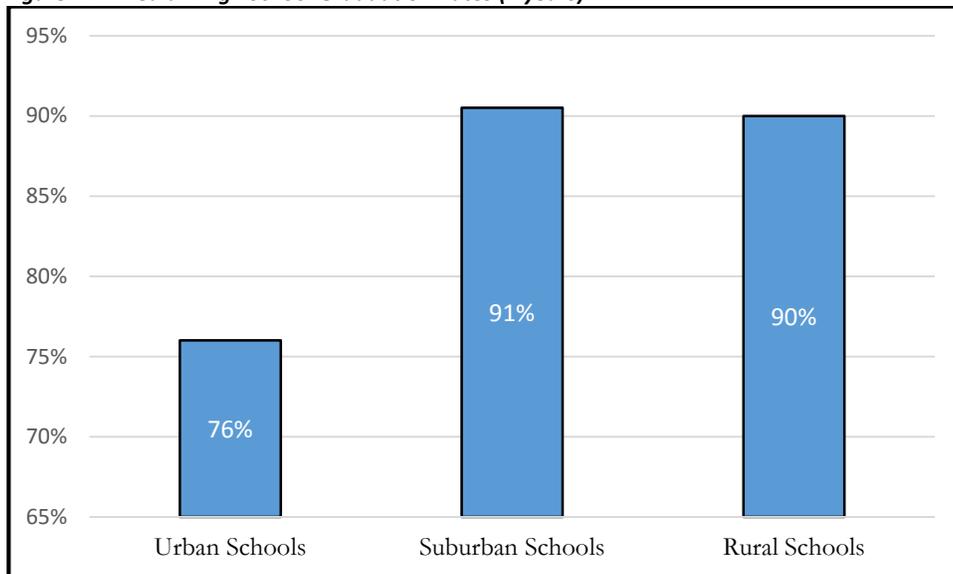
Definition:

The median percentage of students graduating with either a Local or Regents diploma by August 31st, four years after entering 9th grade. Therefore, a student who started 9th grade in the Fall of 2010 and completed high school by August 31st, 2014 would be considered a four-year graduate. By utilizing the median, a more accurate understanding can be achieved due to de-emphasizing extremely high or low rates that may be outliers.

Significance:

A high school diploma is necessary to be competitive in today’s global economy; those without have higher unemployment rates and earn less when employed than high school graduates. Achieving a high school diploma also allows for easier access to higher education which further improves a graduate’s earning potential.

Figure 2-4. Median High School Graduation Rates (4 years)



Note: Urban Schools include- Albany, Coboes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Waterliet. Suburban Schools include- Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mobonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include- Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duaneburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- Urban schools recorded a median graduation rate of 76%, 16.5% lower than the graduation rates for suburban schools.
- While suburban and rural school’s graduation rates varied only slightly among the individual districts, the urban schools had a greater degree of variation. Albany CSD reported a graduation rate of 54% while Saratoga Springs reported a 90% graduation rate.

3. Housing

Vision Statement:

Ensure access to affordable housing across all communities to meet present and prospective housing needs, with particular attention to provisions for low and moderate income housing, workforce housing, and accessibility to public transportation and employment centers.

Indicators:

- 3.1 Housing Tenure
- 3.2 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for All Incomes
- 3.3 Homeowner Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for All Incomes
- 3.4 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000
- 3.5 Homeowner Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000
- 3.6 Median Sales Prices of Homes
- 3.7 Building Permit Issuances

Summary:

- Region wide homeownership remained steady at 64% between 2000 and 2010. The cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, however, all saw their homeownership rates decline slightly.
- In the Capital Region, 48% of all renters were cost burdened in 2009-13. Schenectady County and the City of Albany had the highest percentages of cost burdened renters at 53.6% and 55% respectively.
- 24.7% of homeowners in the Capital Region were cost burdened in 2009-13. Rensselaer County had the highest cost burden among the Counties (26.4%) and the City of Schenectady recorded the highest percentages of cost burdened homeowners for the selected cities (32.7%).
- In 2009-13, three out of every four renter households with gross household income less than \$35,000 annually were cost burdened by their rent in the Capital Region.
- In 2009-13, more than 65% of all homeowner households with gross household income less than \$35,000 annually are cost burdened in the Capital Region.
- Regionally, the median sale price of homes has declined significantly since 2007. From 2007 through 2011 the median sale price of a home in the Capital Region in constant 2013 dollars declined 17.4%. The counties have followed a similar trend with all experiencing recent lows for median sale prices in 2011. Since 2011 Albany County has seen a slight improvement in the median sale price, while Rensselaer and Saratoga saw their median sale price stabilize. Meanwhile, Schenectady County saw the median sale price continue to decline.
- New trends in residential development have manifested themselves in changing proportions of residential building permit issuances. Between 2011 and 2014, the Region has averaged 939 multi-family building permits annually; this represents 46.4% of all of the permits issued. From 2007 through 2010 the Region's average number of multi-family building permits issued annually was 590, representing just 30.5% of all of the building permits issued. This reverses a historical trend that has been more favorable to building permit issuances for single family homes.

3.1 Housing Tenure

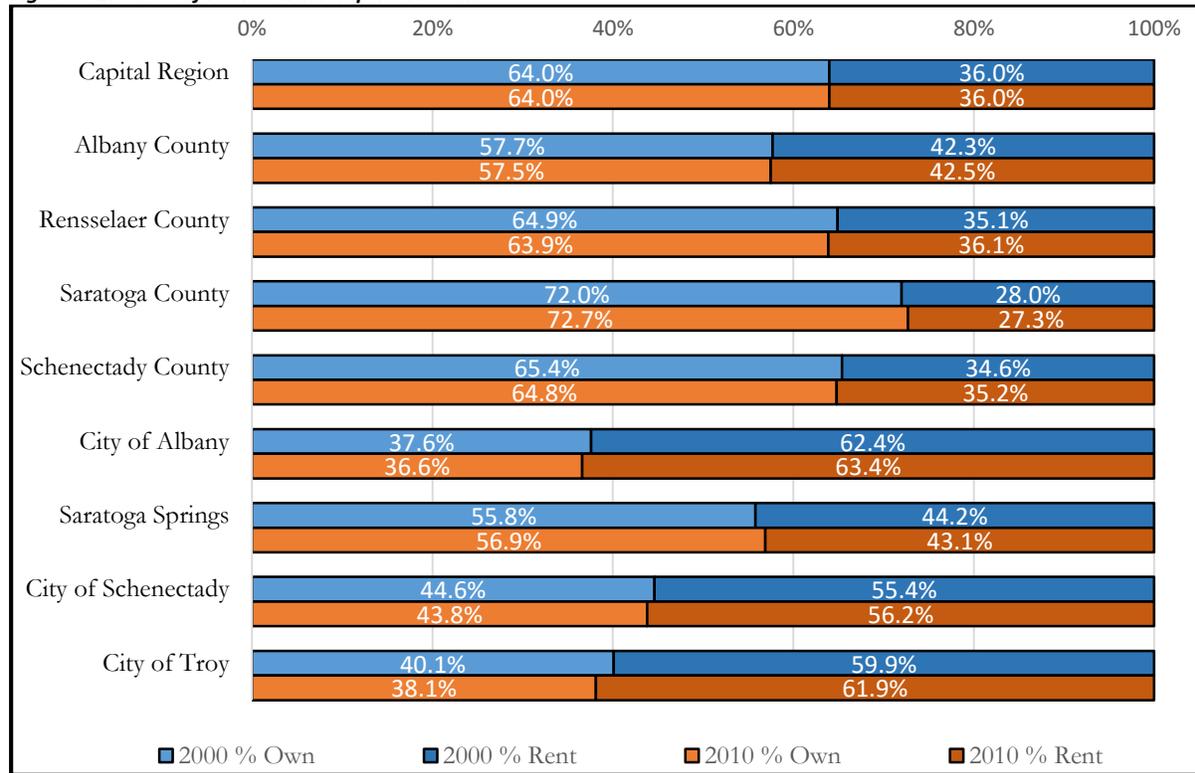
Definition:

The percent of occupied housing units that are rented or owner-occupied.

Significance:

Americans tend to place a high value on owning a home, and historically government policies have supported this goal. Homeownership provides a variety of benefits to individuals and the community, including improving neighborhood stability. Further, a high homeownership rate indicates that the housing stock is affordable and in acceptable condition.

Figure 3-1. Rates of Homeownership vs. Rentals



Data Highlights:

- Overall, rates of homeownership remained steady across the Capital Region from 2000 to 2010 at 64.0%.
- Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady counties each had a slight drop in homeownership rates while Saratoga County experienced a slight increase between 2000 and 2010.
- Among the counties, in 2010, Saratoga County had the highest percentage of owner occupied housing units at 72.7% and among the major cities Saratoga Springs had the highest rates of owner-occupied housing units at 56.9%.
- Of the four cities, Troy saw the greatest increase in renter occupied housing units (3%) between 2000 and 2010.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census (QT-H2, Tenure, Household Size, and Age of Householder).

3.2 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for All Incomes

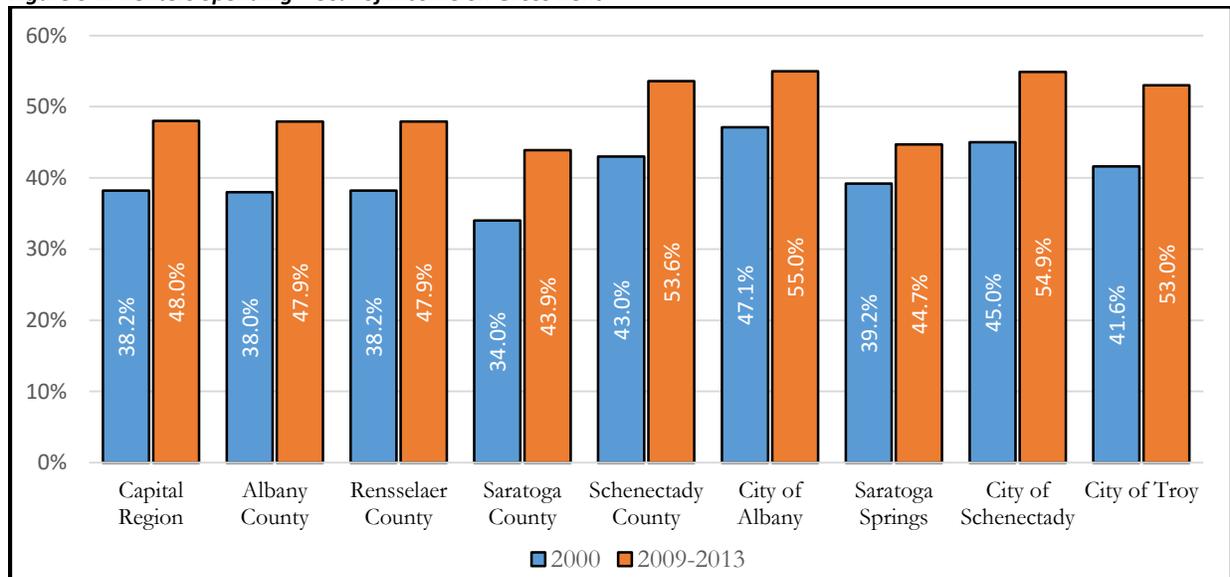
Definition:

The percent of renter households spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities if paid by the renter. The 2000 Census and 2009-13 ACS data should be compared with caution since, due to a limited sample size, the 2009-13 ACS has margins of error higher than 10%.

Significance:

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income on housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Figure 3-2. Renters Spending > 30% of Income on Gross Rent



Data Highlights:

- 48% of the Region’s renters were cost-burdened in 2009-13.
- Since 2000, the percentage of cost-burdened renters in the Capital Region has increased across all four counties and the selected cities.
- In 2009-13 Saratoga County had the lowest percentage (43.9%) of renters cost burdened by rent. Schenectady County had the highest percentage at 53.6%

3.3 Homeowner Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for All Incomes

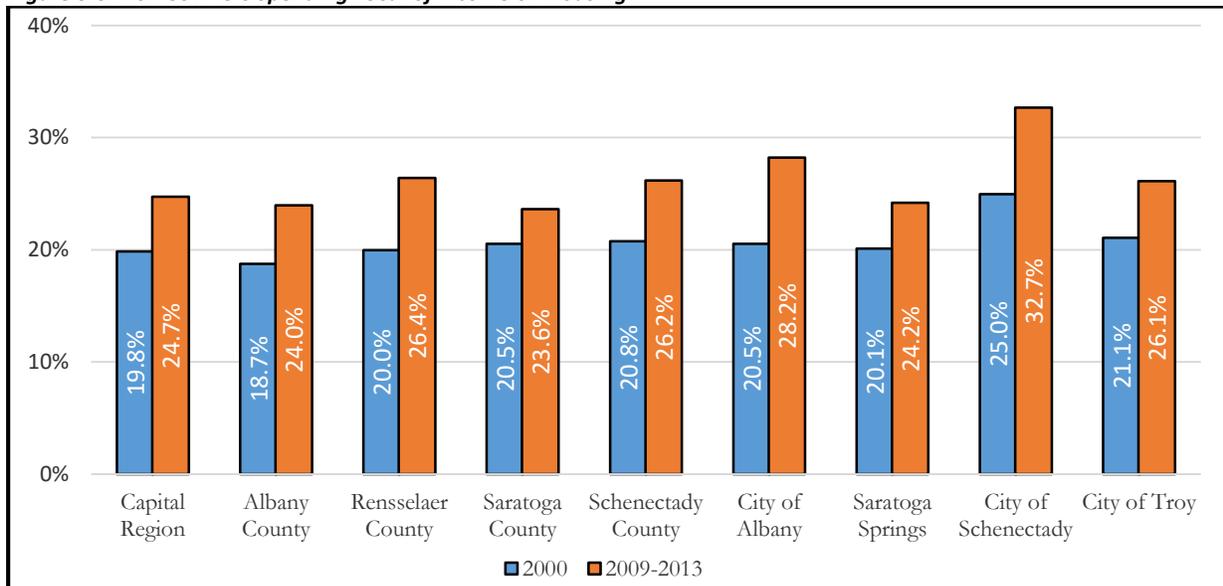
Definition:

The percentage of homeowner households spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. The 2000 Census and 2009-13 ACS data should be compared with caution, since due to the sample size, the 2009-13 ACS has margins of error greater than 10%.

Significance:

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Figure 3-3. Homeowners Spending >30% of Income on Housing



Data Highlights:

- Across the Capital Region, 24.7% of homeowners were cost-burdened in 2009-13. In 2000, 19.8% of homeowners were cost-burdened.
- Since 2000, the percentage of cost-burdened homeowners has increased across all four counties and the selected cities.
- In 2009-13, Rensselaer County had the highest cost burden among the Counties (26.4%) and the City of Schenectady had the highest percentage of cost-burdened homeowners among the four selected cities at 32.7%

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2000 Census (QT-H16, Household Income in 1999 by Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1999) and 2009-13 American Community Survey (DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics).

3.4 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000

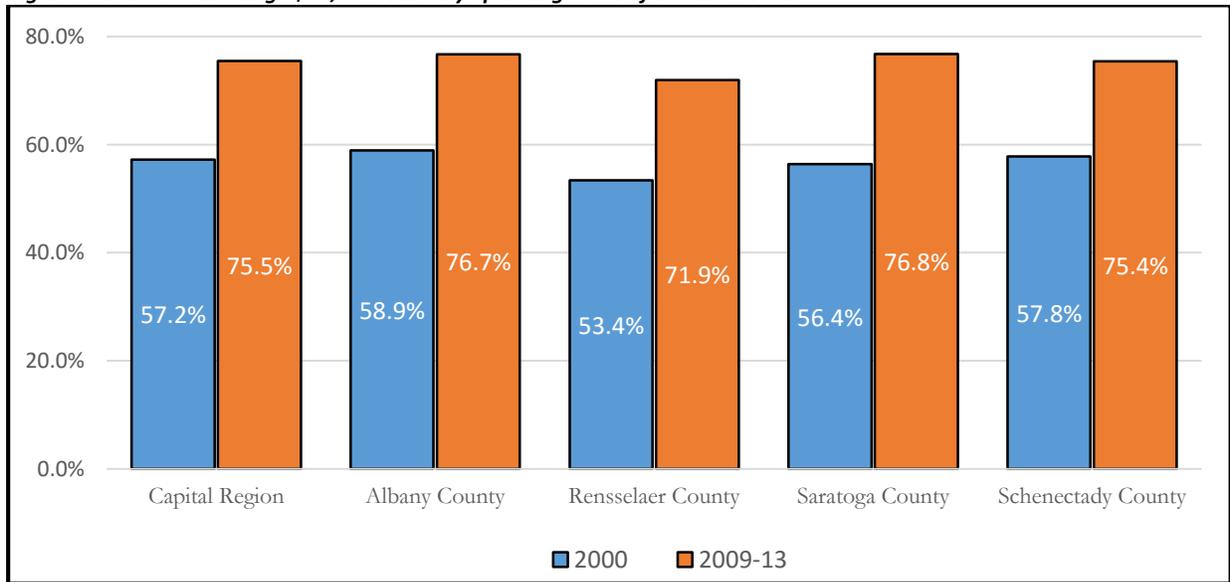
Definition:

The percentage of renter households with an income of less than \$35,000 spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities if paid by the renter. The 2000 Census and 2009-13 ACS data should be compared with caution since, due to a limited sample size, the 2009-13 ACS has margins of error higher than 10%.

Significance:

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Figure 3-4. Renters Earning <\$35,000 Annually Spending >30% of Income on Rent*



**Note- The cities of Albany, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy were not included due to high margins of error*

Data Highlights:

- Region-wide, in 2009-13, three out of every four low-income renter households spent over 30% of their total household income on rent.
- Since 2000, the percentage of cost-burdened low income renters in the Capital Region has increased across all four counties.
- In the 2009-13 study period, Saratoga County had the highest percentage of cost-burdened low-income renters at 76.8% followed by Albany County at 76.7%.

3.5 Homeowner Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000

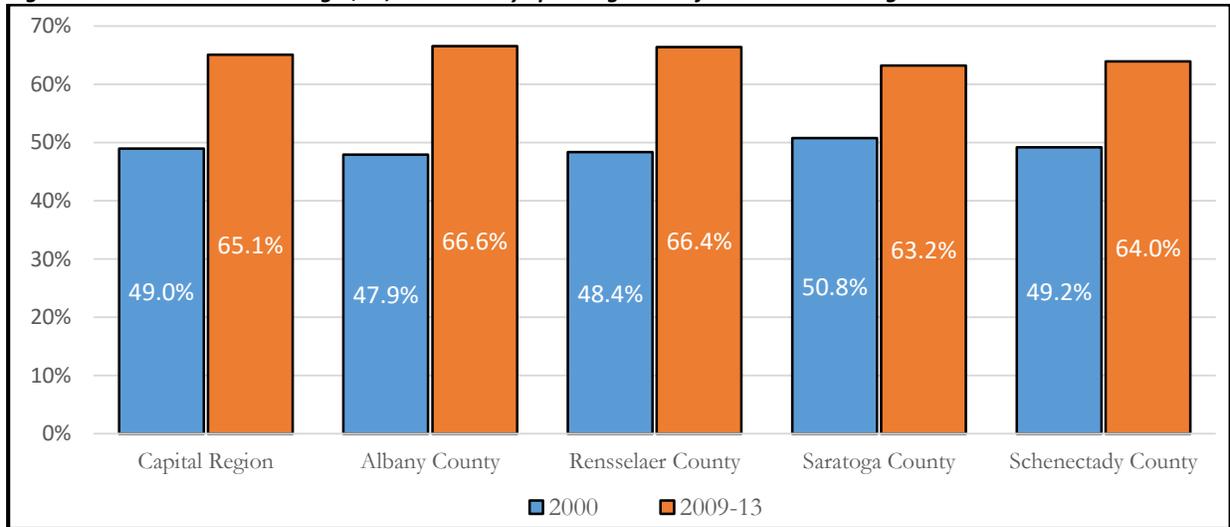
Definition:

The percentage of homeowner households with an income of less than \$35,000 spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. The 2000 Census and 2009-2013 ACS data should be compared with caution since, due to a limited sample size, the 2009-13 ACS has margins of error higher than 10%.

Significance:

This indicator addresses housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Figure 3-5. Homeowners Earning <\$35,000 Annually Spending >30% of Income on Housing*



*Note- The cities of Albany, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy were not included due to high margins of error

Data Highlights:

- The number of cost-burdened lower income homeowners across the Capital Region increased 33% between the 2000 and 2009-13 study periods. Whereas in 2000, approximately every 1 out of 2 lower income homeowners were cost burdened, in 2009-13, it was nearly 2 out of every 3 households.
- Whereas Saratoga County had the highest percentage of cost-burdened low-income homeowners of the four counties in 2000, in 2009-13 it had the lowest. Albany County has the highest as of 2009-13, followed closely by Rensselaer County.

3.6 Median Sale Prices of Homes

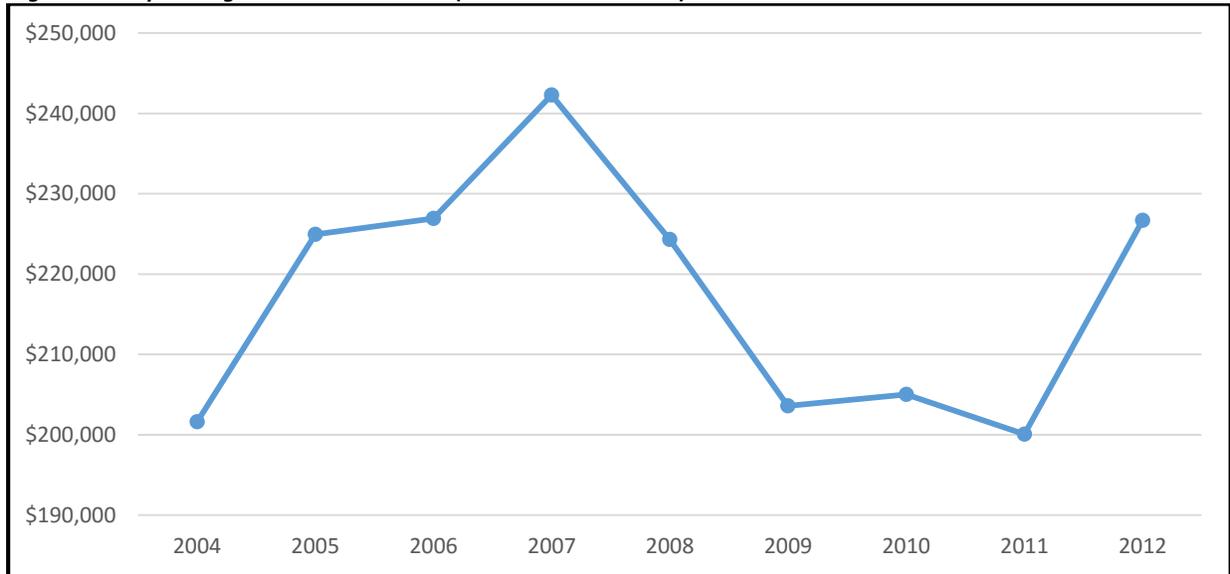
Definition:

The median sales price for homes from 2004 to 2013. Values are held in 2013 constant dollars in order to provide a more accurate year-to-year comparison. Due to changes in data collection, data at the regional level is not available for 2013.

Significance:

The economic recession of 2008-09 saw a national collapse of the housing market. Some regions of the country have fared better than others in recovering the value lost in the period. A home is the single largest investment that most people make in their lives, and dramatic changes to a home’s value directly impacts the economic health of the owner, and community.

Figure 3-6. Capital Region Median Sale Price (2013 Constant Dollars)



Data Highlights:

- Region-wide the median home sale price declined 17.4% from 2007 through 2011. 2012 saw a 13.3% rebound in sale prices.
- From 2007 through 2011 prices declined in all four counties with Rensselaer County declining the most at 22.9%. Saratoga County, long the most stable of the four counties, experienced a 14% decline in prices.
- Prices have been slow to recover as the housing market continues along a tepid recovery. The counties have experienced an uneven recovery since 2011; Albany County has seen prices increase by 1.7%, while Schenectady County has seen prices continue decline 2.3%. Rensselaer and Saratoga counties, meanwhile, saw prices stabilize.

Table 3-1. Municipal Median Home Sale Price (2013 Constant Dollars)

	2007	2009	2011	2013
Capital Region	\$242,302	\$203,602	\$200,063	N/A
Albany County	\$216,894	\$217,067	\$201,506	\$205,000
Rensselaer County	\$220,749	\$182,427	\$170,299	\$169,500
Saratoga County	\$303,328	\$260,610	\$260,925	\$262,000
Schenectady County	\$177,238	\$165,596	\$163,788	\$160,000

3.7 Building Permit Issuances

Definition:

The number of housing unit approvals, by year.

Significance:

Residential building activity can be an indicator of a community’s growth and prosperity: when a community has sufficient wealth, the construction industry can meet changing residential demands with ease. In addition to being a barometer for community growth and wealth, building activity is a measure of the vitality of a sector of the local economy.

Figure 3-7. Capital Region Residential Building Permits (units)

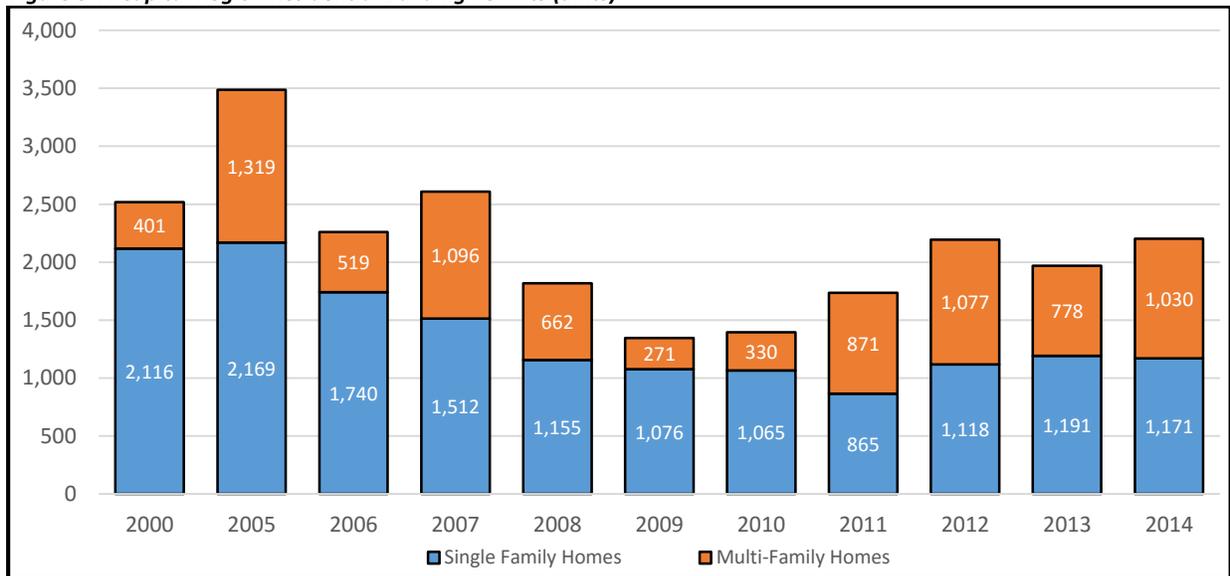


Table 3-2. Municipal Residential Building Permits (units)

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Capital Region	2,517	3,488	2,259	2,608	1,817	1,347	1,395	1,736	2,195	1,969	2,201
Albany County	735	850	525	447	676	274	321	360	461	616	775
Rensselaer County	380	896	510	300	248	252	332	155	296	251	241
Saratoga County	1,152	1,379	237	1,243	735	667	612	1,098	1,180	1,009	957
Schenectady County	250	363	987	618	158	154	130	123	258	93	228
City of Albany	84	185	31	48	327	25	39	23	46	85	79
Saratoga Springs	208	309	167	96	91	32	61	241	227	163	198
City of Schenectady	3	6	5	4	3	15	10	7	7	0	2
City of Troy	57	73	53	14	20	11	9	4	110	71	12

Data Highlights:

- While single family homes represent the majority of new building units, since 2011, permits for multifamily units have composed a larger minority of the new units receiving permits.
- New home construction bottomed out in 2009 and 2010. By 2013 new construction was at pre-recession levels but had not returned to 2007 levels.

4. Economics

Vision Statement:

Build a sustainable and diverse regional economy based on innovation and adaptability to volatile global demands to ensure living wage jobs in all sectors in order to raise the living standards for all the Capital Region's residents.

Indicators:

- 4.1 Labor Force Participation
- 4.2 Unemployment Rates
- 4.3 Employment by Sector
- 4.4 Average Pay by Sector
- 4.5 Relationship of Average Salary to Employment Growth by Sector
- 4.6 Business Establishments
- 4.7 Cargo Tonnage at Port of Albany

Summary:

- In 2009-13, the labor force participation rate region wide was more than 66%. In New York State, the labor force participation was 64%, equal to national rates.
- The regional unemployment rate in 2014 was 5.2%, continuing the trend of declining unemployment rates. In New York State, the unemployment rate was 6.3%, and in the US it was 6.2%.
- Together, Government (22.2%), Health Care & Social Assistance (14.5%), and Retail Trade (11.6%) account for nearly 50% of Capital Region employment.
- 7 of 19 employment sectors saw real wages decline from 2000 to 2013. Employees in these sectors saw their incomes lose ground when compared to inflation.
- Educational Services saw an employment increase of 46% from 2000 through 2013, despite average salaries declining 12% during the same period.
- Growth in the number of business establishments occurred in all four counties between 2000 and 2012, with most of this growth occurring between 2000 and 2005. Between 2005 and 2012, only Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties experienced an increase in the number of business establishments.
- Port of Albany's total annual cargo tonnage has continued to see steady recovery since the 2008 recession.

4.1 Labor Force Participation

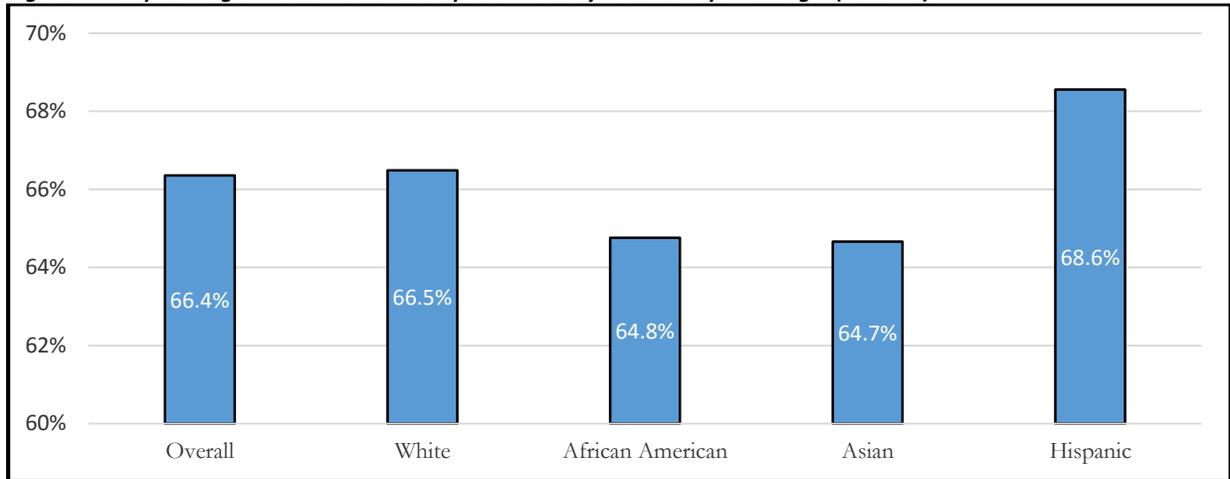
Definition:

The percentage of labor force participation, by race and Hispanic origin. Labor force participation includes those who are employed or unemployed but looking for a job, and is expressed as a percentage of the total labor force.

Significance:

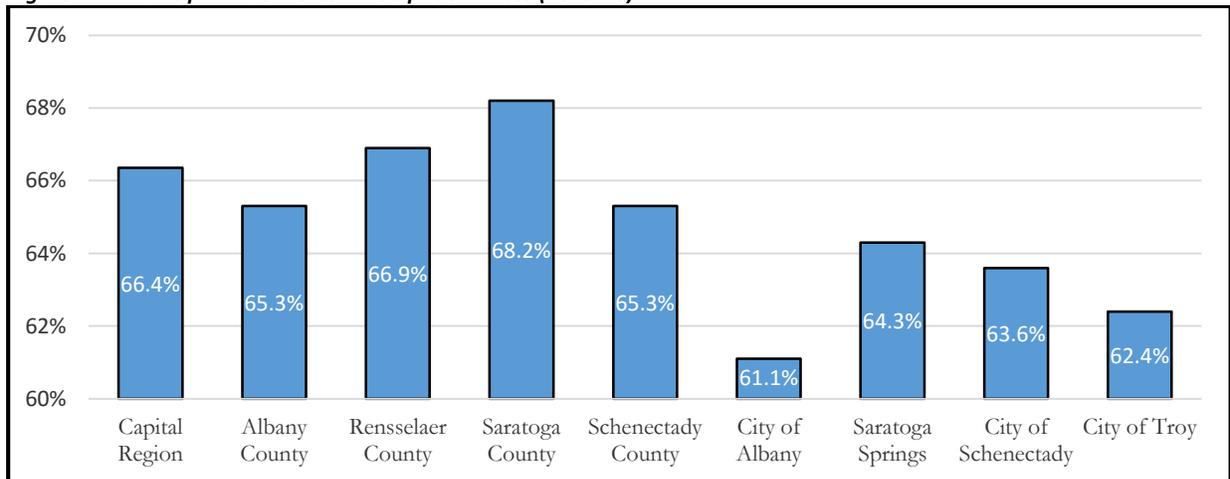
Labor force participation rates are a measure of an individual’s ability and willingness to work outside the home. It includes individuals who are working and those who are actively looking for work as defined by the Department of Labor.

Figure 4-1. Capital Region Labor Force Participation Rate by Race & Hispanic Origin (2009-13)



Note: Other race groups are not included due to high margins of error.

Figure 4-2. Municipal Labor Force Participation Rates (2009-13)



Data Highlights:

- The City of Albany lags behind the rest of the region in terms of labor force participation. Regionally, the labor force participation is 66.4%.
- Those of Hispanic origins have the highest percentage of participation in the work force.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2009-13 American Community Survey (S2301, Employment Status).

4.2 Unemployment Rates

Definition:

The percentage of unemployed people as a percentage of the total labor force. Civilian unemployment includes individuals who were not working, but were able, available, and actively looking for work. The total labor force includes civilians 16 years or older who are not in institutions such as prisons, mental hospitals, or nursing homes. Rates represent the annual average.

Significance:

Unemployment rates function as a rough measurement of local economic conditions, and can indicate the availability of employment opportunities. Unemployment may lead to individual difficulties in meeting financial obligations as well as a loss in health benefits. It can also affect a community as a whole, both via unemployment insurance costs and via lost revenues for local businesses.

Figure 4-3. Capital Region Unemployment Rates

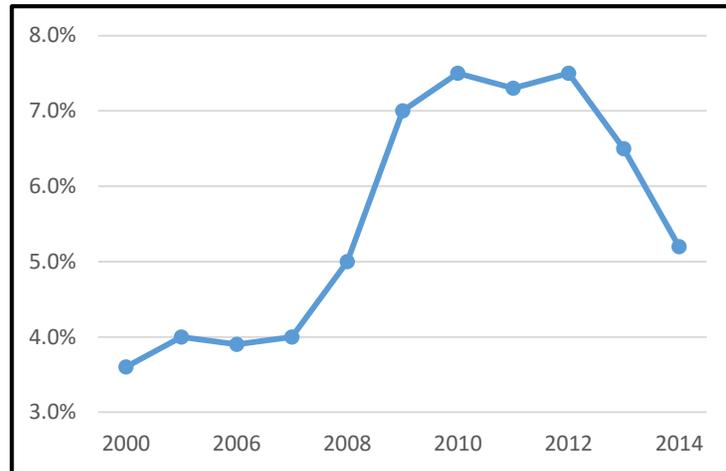


Table 4-1. Municipal Unemployment Rates

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Capital Region	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	4.0%	5.0%	7.0%	7.5%	7.3%	7.5%	6.5%	5.2%
Albany County	3.4%	3.9%	3.8%	3.9%	4.9%	6.8%	7.0%	6.9%	7.1%	6.1%	4.9%
Rensselaer County	3.6%	4.2%	4.1%	4.3%	5.2%	7.4%	7.8%	7.6%	7.7%	6.7%	5.3%
Saratoga County	3.3%	3.6%	3.5%	3.7%	4.6%	6.3%	6.9%	6.7%	6.8%	5.8%	4.6%
Schenectady County	3.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.1%	5.1%	7.3%	7.6%	7.5%	7.7%	6.7%	5.4%
City of Albany	3.7%	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%	5.7%	7.9%	8.2%	8.2%	8.4%	7.1%	5.8%
Saratoga Springs	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	3.5%	4.3%	5.8%	6.9%	7.1%	7.0%	5.7%	4.6%
City of Schenectady	4.0%	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%	6.3%	9.1%	9.4%	9.2%	9.6%	8.2%	6.6%
City of Troy	4.3%	5.1%	5.1%	5.4%	6.4%	9.0%	9.4%	9.5%	9.7%	8.3%	6.7%

Data Highlights:

- The economic recession is reflected in the elevated unemployment rates from 2009 to 12. Though a recovery is in progress, regional unemployment rates are still above where they were from 2000 to 2007.
- The four counties have experienced similar recoveries from high unemployment during the recession, with Saratoga County reporting the lowest unemployment rate of 4.6% and Schenectady reporting the highest at 5.4% in 2014.
- The cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy experienced the sharpest rise in unemployment and have experienced a shallower recovery as unemployment persists at higher rates than the corresponding county.

4.3 Employment by Sector

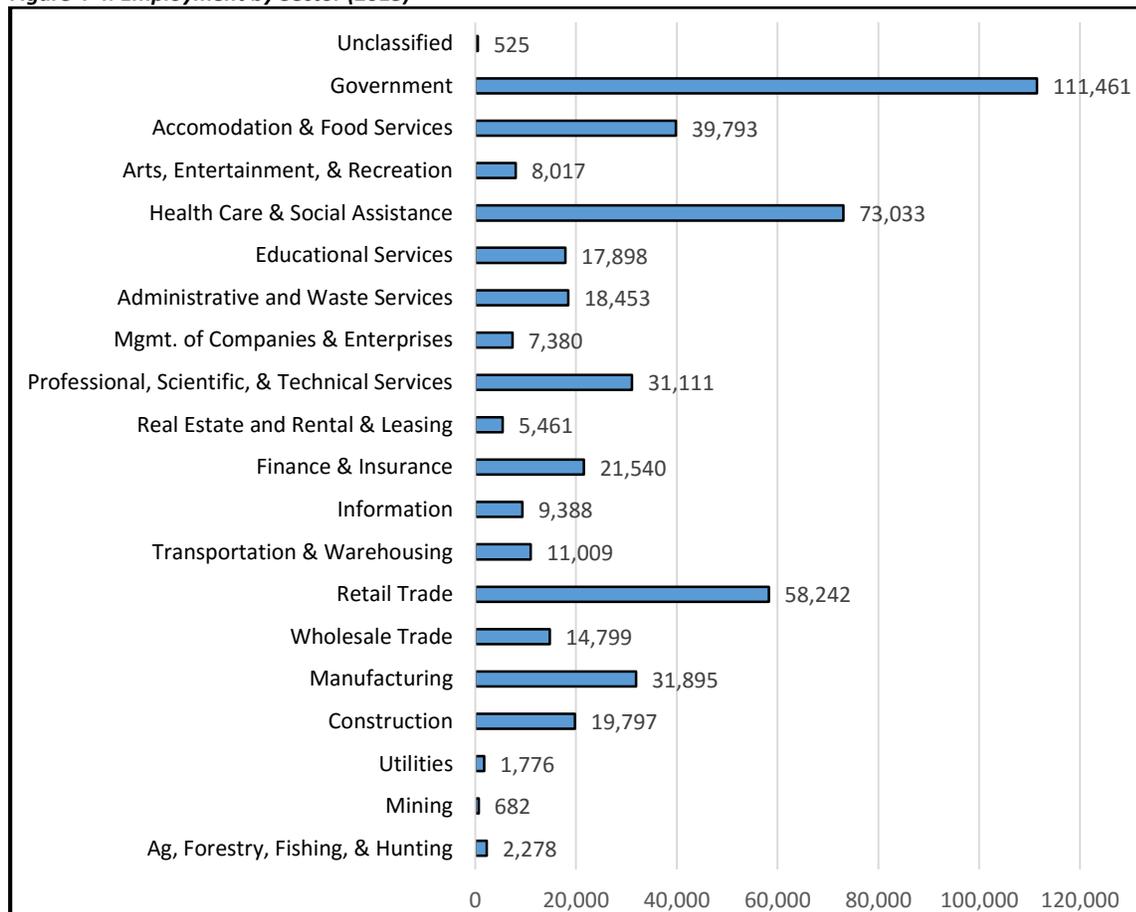
Definition:

The percentage of workers employed by various sectors of the economy. The data includes only workers covered by unemployment insurance laws. Employment by sector data is collected by place of work, and is based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

Significance:

Building and maintaining a diverse regional economy is one of the best methods to remain competitive in today’s global economy. A diverse economy provides options for employment, and can help protect the Region from ill effects of the loss of a major industry.

Figure 4-4. Employment by Sector (2013)



Data Highlights:

- Total employment across all industries in the Capital Region for 2013 was 502,399.
- The three largest employment sectors in the Capital Region are Government, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Retail Trade. Together, they account for 48.3% of all employment in the region. Of these, Government accounts for 22.2% of all employment, Health Care & Social Assistance for 14.5%, and Retail Trade for 11.6% of employment.

4.4 Average Pay by Sector

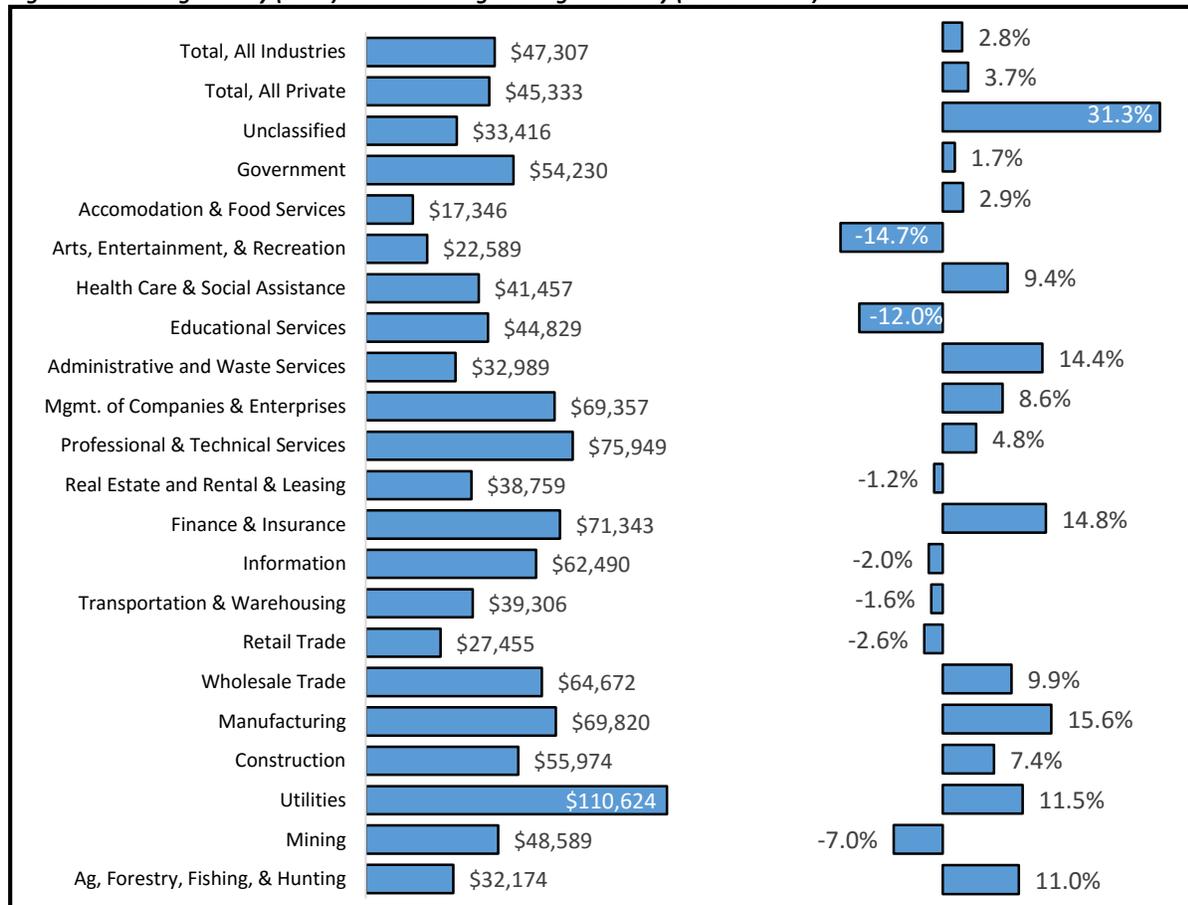
Definition:

The average pay by economic sector, adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2013 constant dollars. The data include only workers covered by unemployment insurance laws. Some data is suppressed by the New York State Department of Labor when there are very few workers in a category. Wages by sector data is collected at the place of work, and is based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

Significance:

Wages are an important indicator of a region’s economic health. Increases in pay can buoy an economy, while decreases can have the opposite effect. Wages by sector provide an idea of how much employees of various industries share in regional prosperity. Additionally, data over time indicates how well wages adjust to inflation.

Figure 4-5. Average Salary (2013) and Percentage Change in Salary (2000 to 2013)



Data Highlights:

- The average annual salary in 2000 was \$33,153, which equates to \$46,015 in 2013 constant dollars. Compared to the actual salary of \$47,307, the average salary increased 2.8% during the 13 year period.
- The Utilities sector had the highest average pay of all sectors in both 2000 (\$99,191) and 2013 (\$110,624).

4.5 Relationship of Average Salary to Employment Growth by Sector

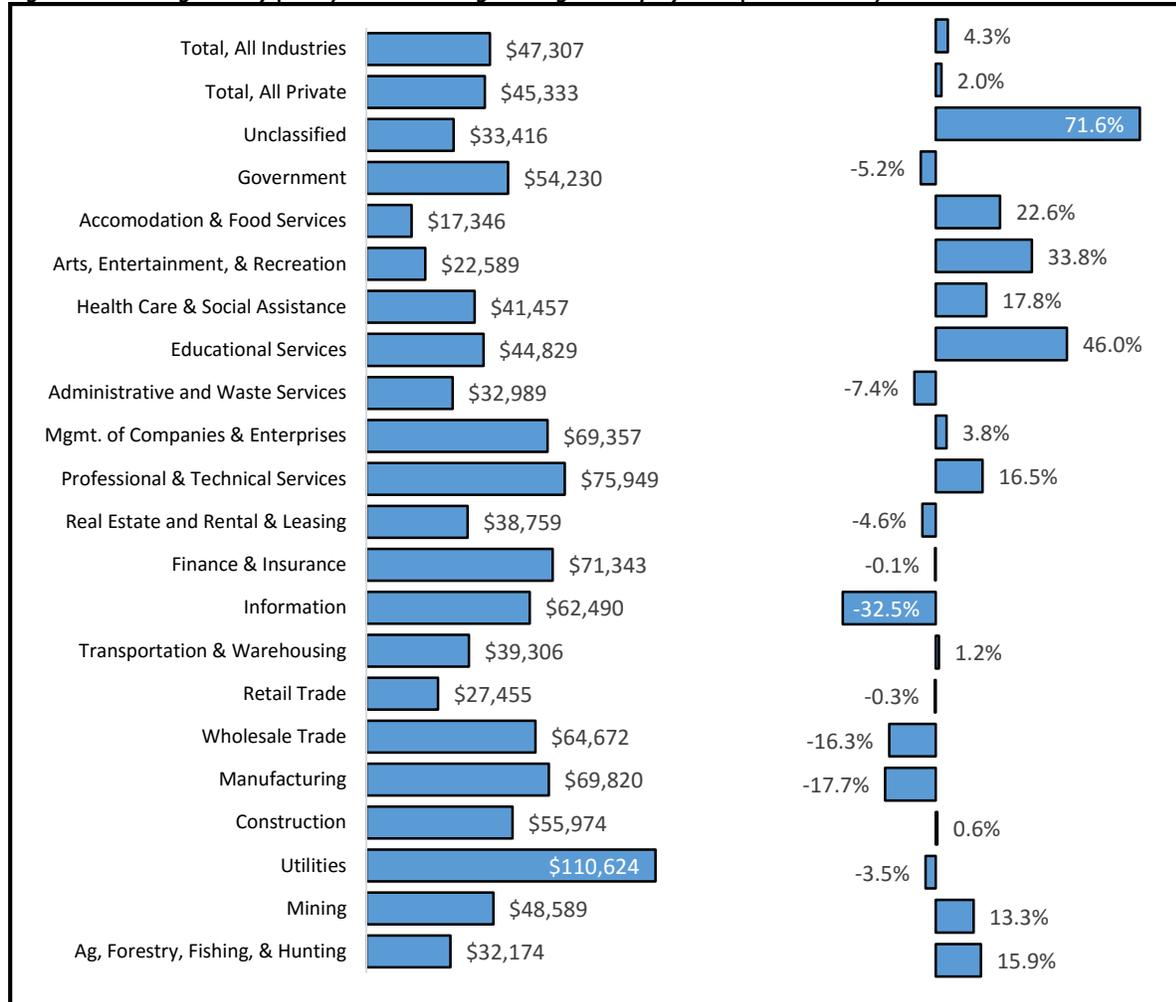
Definition:

The average salary per employment sector compared to the growth of that sector from 2000-13.

Significance:

Employment growth in sectors with a higher average pay can indicate that more higher-paying jobs have opened up. This can increase the opportunities for workers to share in regional economic prosperity.

Figure 4-6. Average Salary (2013) and Percentage Change in Employment (2000 to 2013)



Data Highlights:

- Government employment, one of the largest industries in the Region, has seen a 5.2% decline since 2000. This is largely attributed to attempts to lower the cost of government during the economic recession.
- Educational Services saw employment increase by 46% from 2000 through 2013, the largest increase of any classified industry. Conversely, this growth in employment took place during a time when the average salary declined 12% from 2000 to 2013.

4.6 Business Establishments

Definition:

The number of business establishments is derived from quarterly reports filed by employers covered under New York State’s Unemployment Insurance Law. A business establishment is defined as a physical location at which business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed. It is not necessarily identical with a company or enterprise, which may consist of one establishment or more.

Significance:

The number of business establishments in all industries is an indicator of the business climate of the region. Large numbers of business establishments can increase employment opportunities, and can be a sign of a healthy business environment.

Figure 4-7. Number of Business Establishments

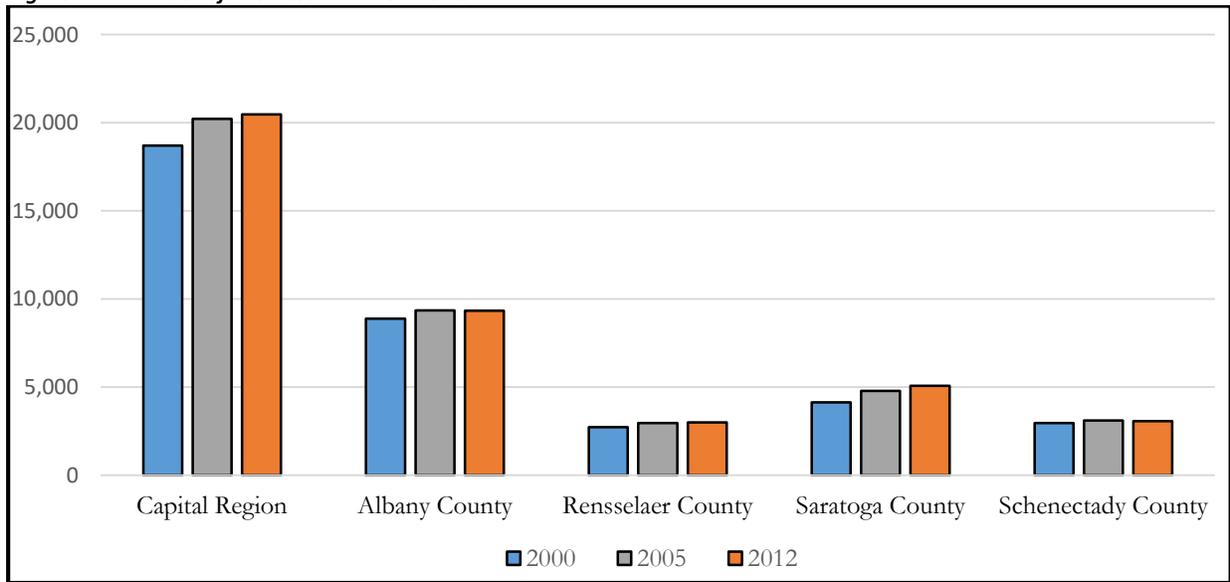


Table 4-2. Number of Establishments from 2000-12 & 2005-12

	2000	2005	2012	2000-12 % Change	2005-12 % Change
Capital Region	18,705	20,215	20,476	9.5%	1.3%
Albany County	8,876	9,362	9,335	5.2%	-0.3%
Rensselaer County	2,730	2,962	2,992	9.6%	1.0%
Saratoga County	4,137	4,785	5,079	22.8%	6.1%
Schenectady County	2,962	3,106	3,070	3.6%	-1.2%

Data Highlights:

- Between 2000 and 2012, an increase in the number of business establishments occurred in all four counties in the Capital Region; Region wide, the overall increase between 2000 and 2012 was 9.5%.
- Across all four counties, business growth occurred primarily between 2000 and 2005; the number of business establishments in the Capital Region between 2005 and 2012 grew by only 1.3%.

4.7 Cargo Tonnage at Port of Albany

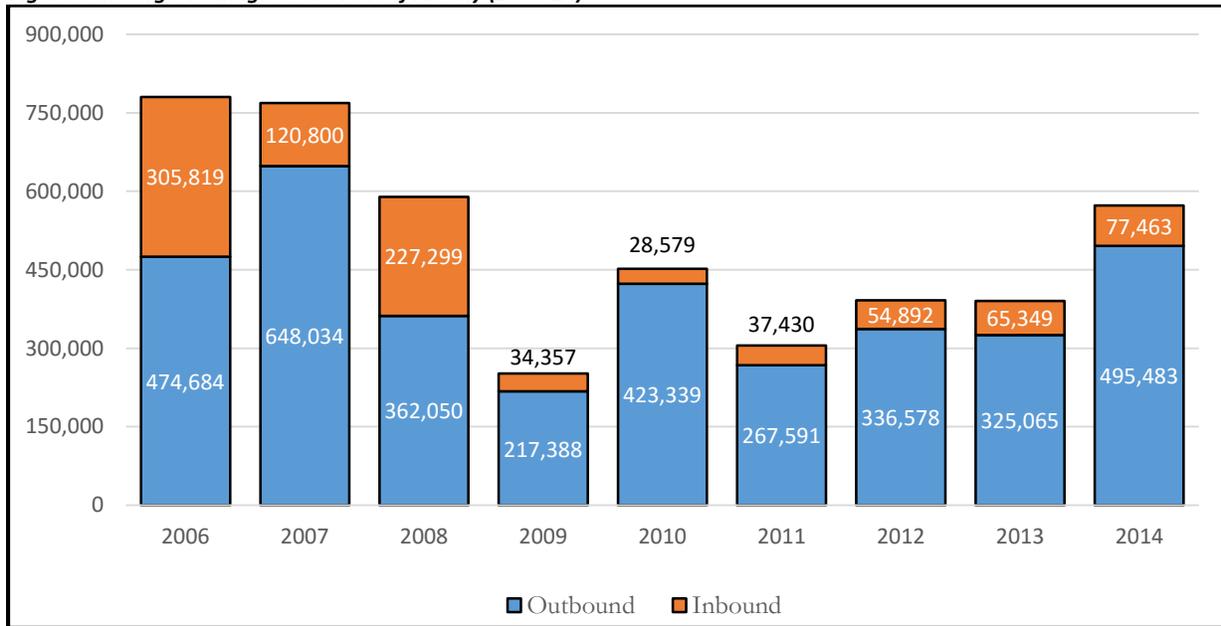
Definition:

Total cargo tonnage handled at the Port of Albany, has been organized by inbound and outbound cargo.

Significance:

The Port of Albany is a year-round, deep-water inland port. The Hudson River channel leading to the Port is 600 feet wide from New York City to Kingston and 400 feet wide to Albany, widening at bends. A turning basin, located on the Rensselaer side of the river, is 700 feet wide and 1,200 feet long. The channel depth is 32 feet in soft material and 34 feet in rock, to a point just north of the Port property.

Figure 4-8. Cargo Tonnage at the Port of Albany (2006-14)



Data Highlights:

- Both inbound and outbound cargo tonnage at the Port of Albany decreased precipitously after 2007 due to the recession.
- Other than a brief pickup of outbound tonnage in 2010, recovery since the 2009 low of 251,745 total tons has been steady.
- 2014 saw a significant increase in cargo activity at the Port, primarily due to a strong wheat crop and exports of electrical generating equipment from General Electric.

5. Transportation

Vision Statement:

Plan, create, and manage an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably; more thoroughly link transportation and land use planning.

Indicators:

- 5.1 Mode to Work
- 5.2 Travel Time to Work
- 5.3 Household Vehicle Availability
- 5.4 Ridership on CDTA
- 5.5 Miles of Critically Congestion
- 5.6 Capital Region Road Infrastructure
- 5.7 Mileage of Multi-Use Trails on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network
- 5.8 Vehicle Crashes
- 5.9 Albany Airport Enplanements

Summary:

- The most common mode used to commute to work in the Capital Region is driving alone.
- The average commute time across the region decreased slightly between the 2000 and 2009-13 study periods.
- Average vehicle availability has increased slightly, from 1.5 to 1.6 vehicles available per household between 2000 and 2009-13.
- After a brief decline in 2010, ridership on CDTA services has surpassed its previous 2009 peak in 2014, to over 16 million passengers during the course of the year.
- Between 2007 and 2012, miles of critical congestion across the Capital Region decreased 6.5%.
- The total percentage of fair and poor-rated bridges in the Capital Region has decreased slightly in 2013 for the first time since 2001.
- Between 2009 and 2014, miles of constructed multi-use trails increased significantly in both Albany and Saratoga counties, but were unchanged in Schenectady and Rensselaer counties.
- The number of both fatal and personal injury crashes has decreased significantly both across the Capital Region as a whole, and in each of the four counties in the last 13 years, from 7,096 to 5,255 – a decrease of over 25%.
- Enplanements at Albany International Airport has continued to decline in recent years; this trend was observed elsewhere in the country in airports of similar size and activity.

5.1 Mode to Work

Definition:

The Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households to indicate the “mode to work” for each worker residing in the household. Respondents were instructed to indicate the mode used for most of the distance if this person usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip.

Significance:

Mode to work provides a snapshot of how people generally travel to and from work on a given day. While driving alone can be a measure of affluence and independence, it also shows how much an area is dependent on the automobile for making trips. In addition, a high percentage of drive alone trips can be an indicator of congestion and greenhouse gas pollution. However, a healthy proportion of transit trips to work can signify a positive image of transit service, availability, and effectiveness. More transit ridership also equates with less pollution and congestion.

Table 5-1. Mode of Transportation to Work (2009-13)

	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Transit	Walked	Other
Capital Region	80.4%	7.8%	3.1%	3.6%	5.1%
Albany County	78.3%	7.5%	5.0%	4.3%	4.9%
Rensselaer County	80.0%	8.2%	2.5%	4.6%	4.7%
Saratoga County	83.1%	7.9%	0.9%	2.1%	6.0%
Schenectady County	81.0%	7.7%	3.4%	3.4%	4.5%
City of Albany	64.9%	7.5%	12.6%	9.9%	5.1%
Saratoga Springs	71.5%	7.7%	1.5%	10.6%	8.7%
City of Schenectady	73.0%	8.8%	7.9%	6.0%	4.3%
City of Troy	66.4%	10.2%	6.2%	12.6%	4.6%

Data Highlights:

- Driving alone is, by far, the most often used method of transportation to work, both in the Capital Region as a whole and in each of the counties and cities individually. Land use patterns, ample parking, and relatively uncongested highways, have all contributed to this trend.
- Using transit or walking to work is much more common in the region’s cities; in particular, in the City of Albany.
- Walking is the second most popular mode of transportation in the City of Troy, the only area in the Region that reports walking second to driving alone.
- Roughly one in every eight workers takes public transit to work in the City of Albany, compared to one in 33 across the Capital Region.
- The cities of Albany and Troy present the most successful regional examples of walking and public transit accessibility; 22.5% of trips to work in Albany and 18.8% in Troy are taken without the use of a personal vehicle.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2009-13 American Community Survey (DP03, Selected Economic Characteristics).

5.2 Travel Time to Work

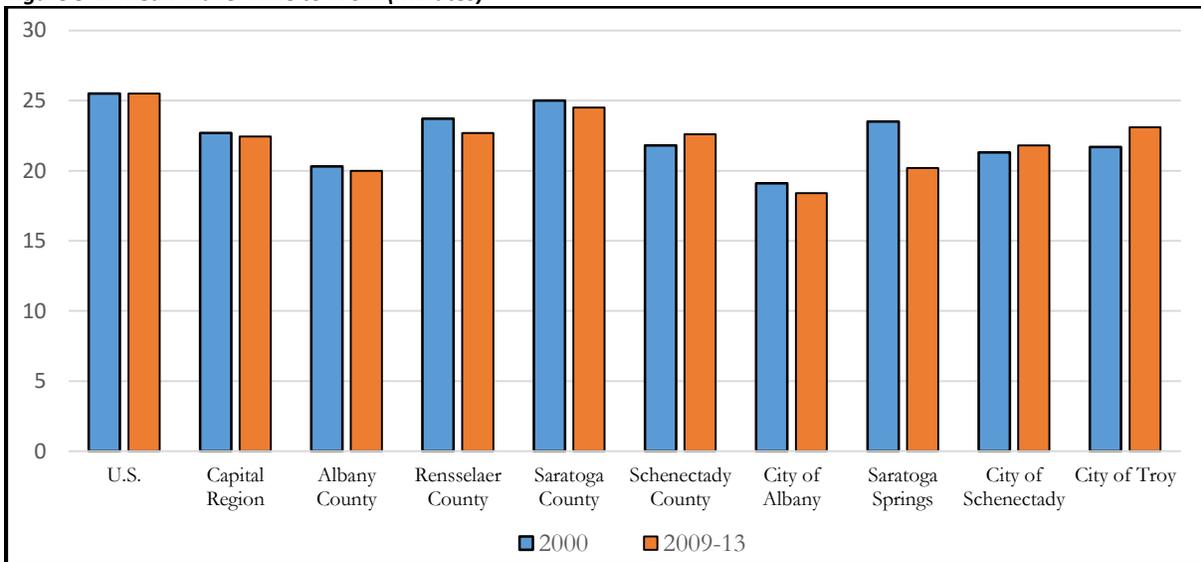
Definition:

The 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households to indicate the “travel time to work” for workers aged 16 and above residing in a household, for the week prior to completion of the Census form.

Significance:

American workers are spending more time than ever commuting to work. In both 2000 and the 2009-13 study period, the national average travel time to work was 25.5 minutes. Statistics are similar for the Capital Region. Travel time is largely unproductive, wasted time in-between “real” activities. The small overall decrease in travel time across the Capital Region may signify a shift in lifestyle preferences to living closer to work.

Figure 5-1. Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)



Data Highlights:

- The average commute time across the Capital Region has historically been somewhat lower than the national average; this trend has continued between the 2000 and 2009-13 study periods.
- Saratoga County residents have the longest commute time while residents in Albany County have the shortest commute time to their place of employment.
- Overall, average commute time has been reduced across the region; the only county that experienced an increase in commute time was Schenectady.
- Saratoga Springs saw a 14% decrease in average commute time; the most significant change across all four cities.

5.3 Household Vehicle Availability

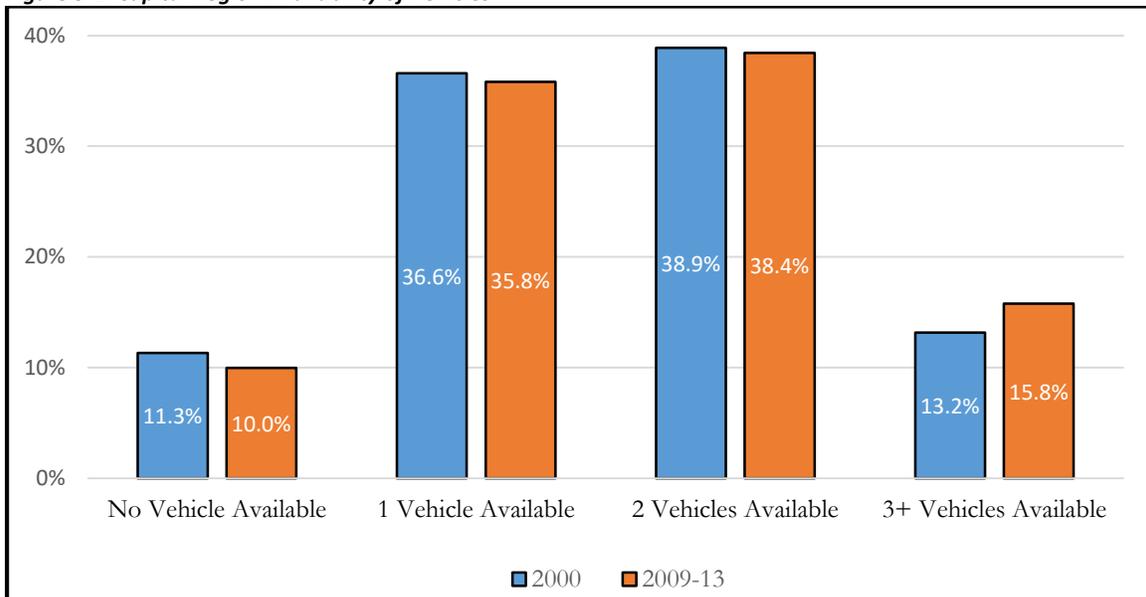
Definition:

The 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households: How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household? The responses to this question are not quite the same as registered vehicles per household, since a company car or relative’s vehicle would be counted in the Census definition.

Significance:

There are a number of factors pushing the increase in households with at least one vehicle. There is an increase in longevity of the auto fleet, creating a large stock of viable used vehicles available at lower cost. The increasing affordability of cars means more low-income households can own one. Decentralized development and sprawl also increase the need for a car to work and shop. Higher levels of vehicle availability, however, add to congestion and air pollution.

Figure 5-2. Capital Region Availability of Vehicles



Data Highlights:

- A slight decrease in the households reporting one or two vehicles was offset by the number of households reporting three or more vehicles, resulting in a higher average number of vehicles per household in 2009-13 (1.6) than in 2000 (1.5).
- The region has maintained its dependence on vehicles, with only 10% of all households in the Region not having an access to a vehicle.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; 2009-13 American Community Survey (DP02, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States and DP04, Selected Housing Characteristics), and 2000 Census (DP-1, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics and DP-4, Profile of Selected Housing Characteristics).

5.4 CDTA Ridership

Definition:

CDTA counts the number of passengers that board each bus daily through the use of Automatic Passenger Count electronic technology. Every time a fare is paid or a pass swiped, the ridership count is increased by one.

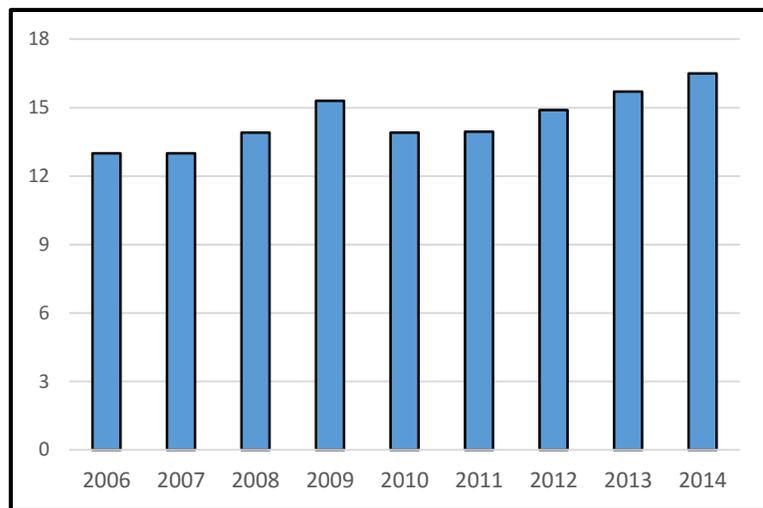
Significance:

CDTA plays a vital role in enhancing quality of life. It provides basic mobility and expanded opportunities to people without access to a car, provides broader transportation choices to people with cars, and allows reduced travel times and road congestion in major transportation corridors. It also facilitates economic growth and development, while supporting environmentally sustainable and safe communities.

Data Highlights:

- Ridership has increased on CDTA services for four consecutive years, and is on pace to increase for a fifth. In fiscal year 2013-14, CDTA set a 30-year record for ridership with nearly 16.5 million boardings. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, CDTA expects to exceed 17 million boardings, which will set an all-time record.

Figure 5-3. CDTA Ridership (Millions)



- A key contributor to ridership increases has been the implementation of universal access agreements with local colleges, universities, and employers. CDTA now has agreements with twelve partners including nearly every college and university in the Capital Region, and continues to expand this program.
- In the past four years, CDTA has implemented several route restructuring initiatives, all of which have grown ridership. Local services were restructured in Schenectady County in 2010, and in Albany County in 2011 and 2012. The Northway Xpress commuter service was restructured in 2012. In each case, ridership on the restructured routes increased by 15% or more.
- In 2011, CDTA launched the BusPlus Red Line, on New York Route 5 between Downtown Albany and Downtown Schenectady. BusPlus uses limited-stop service, improved waiting areas, and intelligent traffic infrastructure to speed and improve the transit riding experience. This project has increased ridership on the corridor by more than 20%.
- Two more BusPlus lines are currently in the planning stages and expected to be implemented by 2020. The Purple Line, or Washington-Western, will connect Downtown Albany with the Harriman Campus, UAlbany Uptown Campus, and Crossgates Mall, with a bus-only transitway through the Harriman and UAlbany campuses and a transit center at the Crossgates Mall terminus. The Blue Line, or River Corridor, will travel between the Port of Albany and North Troy via Downtown Albany, Watervliet, and Downtown Troy, with branches to Cohoes and Waterford.

5.5 Miles of Critical Congestion

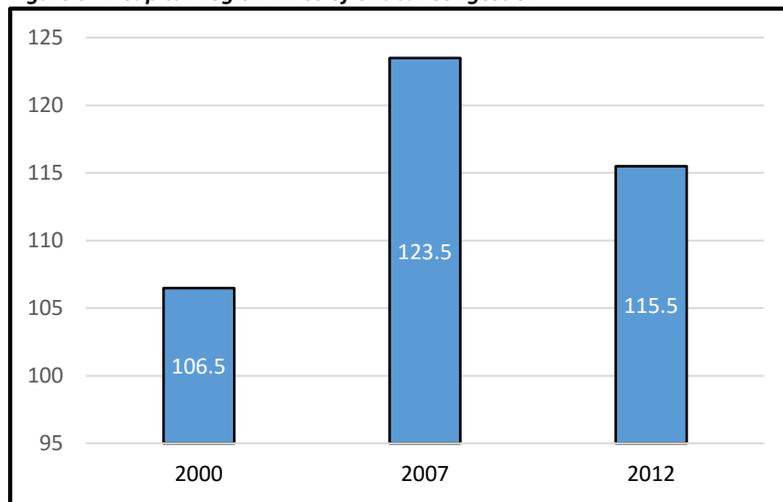
Definition:

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) has defined critical congestion based on the severity of congestion. Several measures of congestion have been developed; one is “excess vehicle hours of delay”, which is based on estimates of driving time in congestion versus driving time in free flow traffic. Another measure is the ratio of delay to vehicle miles of travel. This measure was used to estimate the number of miles of critical congestion in 2000, 2007 and 2012.

Significance:

Congestion can impact a region by snarling roadways, interfering with on-time delivery and wasting productive hours. As a non-productive activity for most people, congestion reduces regional economic health. Delays related to congestion may result in late arrivals for employment, meetings, and education, resulting in lost business, disciplinary action, or other personal losses. Wasted fuel from increased idling and driving in congested traffic increases air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions.

Figure 5-4. Capital Region Miles of Critical Congestion



Highlights:

- Critical congestion miles increased between 2000 and 2007 due to traffic growth before decreasing between 2007 and 2012.
- The decrease can be attributed as a result of a number of important projects including the Slingerlands Bypass Extension, Northway Exit 6 Reconstruction, Implementation of CDTA’s BusPlus Service, Relocation of Maxwell Road, Curry

Road/Carman Road roundabouts, Route 4/Route 151 roundabouts, Fuller Road/Washington Ave roundabouts, Congress Street reconstruction, and a new Travel demand management program.

- Demographic shifts from 2000 to 2012 likely contributed towards the decrease in critical miles of congestion. From 2000 to 2010 the region saw the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy add population for the first time in half a century. This would suggest that as people decide to live closer to the urban core the reliance upon driving could be alleviated.
- In general, the total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) declined from 2007 to 2012. Aside from demographic shifts it is also likely that increased fuel prices influenced demand for driving. As gas prices decline it is unclear if the decline in VMT will continue.

5.6 Capital Region Road Infrastructure

Definition:

New York State Department of Transportation and CDTC conduct regular surveys to gauge the condition of the region’s road network. These survey’s include NYS highways, parkways, federal-aid, non-federal-aid, and non-state roads and highways.

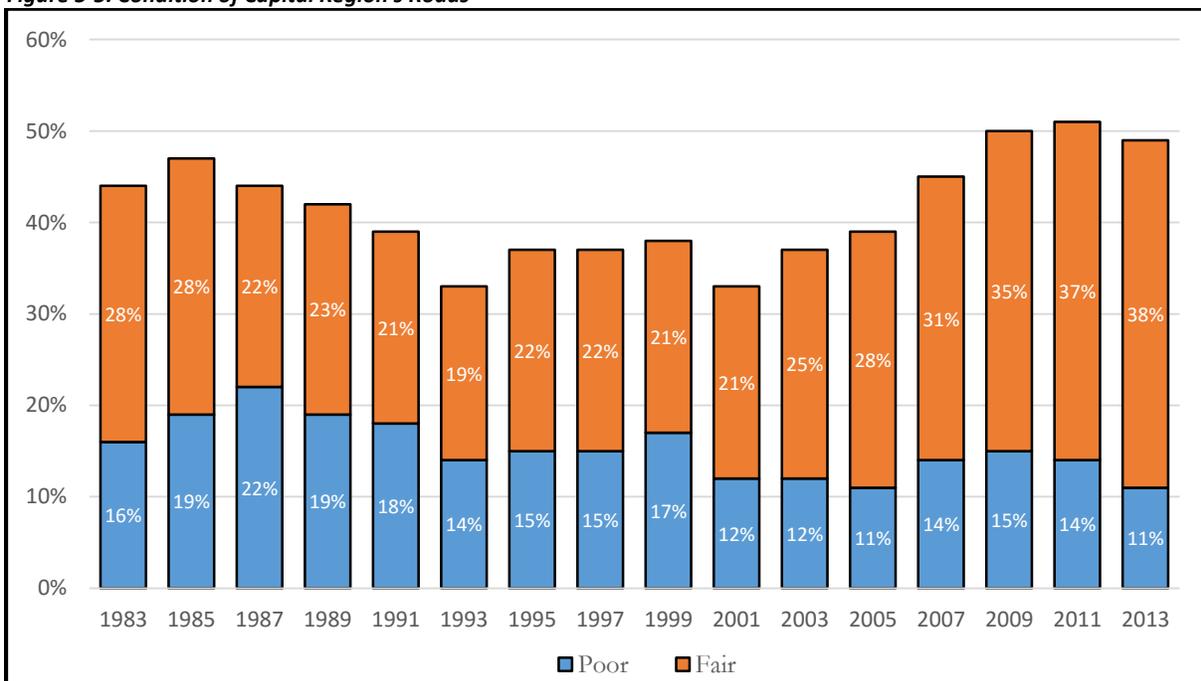
Significance:

The condition of the region’s roads has a direct impact on economic and quality of life indicators. With today’s tight infrastructure budgets, the condition of the road network is under stress. Roads rated “Fair” or “Poor” need maintenance to prevent them from causing damage to vehicles and impacting economic activity.

There are 1,087 bridges in the Capital Region. While the majority are owned and maintained by NYSDOT and Thruway Authority, the region’s counties, cities, villages, and towns are responsible for 376 of these structures. Based on 2013 inspection reports, 355 bridges (about 33 percent of all bridges) are structurally or functionally deficient. Unsafe bridges are flagged, and are either repaired or closed immediately.

Continued lack of long term funding from the Federal Government will ensure that infrastructure will continue to be stressed and fall behind on repairs.

Figure 5-5. Condition of Capital Region's Roads



Highlights:

- In 2007 45% of the Region’s roads were rated either “fair” or “poor”. In 2013 that percentage had increased to 49%.
- Between 2007 and 2013 roads rated as in “poor” condition decreased from 14% to 11%. Conversely, roads rated in “fair” conditions increased from 31% to 38%.

5.7 Mileage of Multi-Use Trails on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network

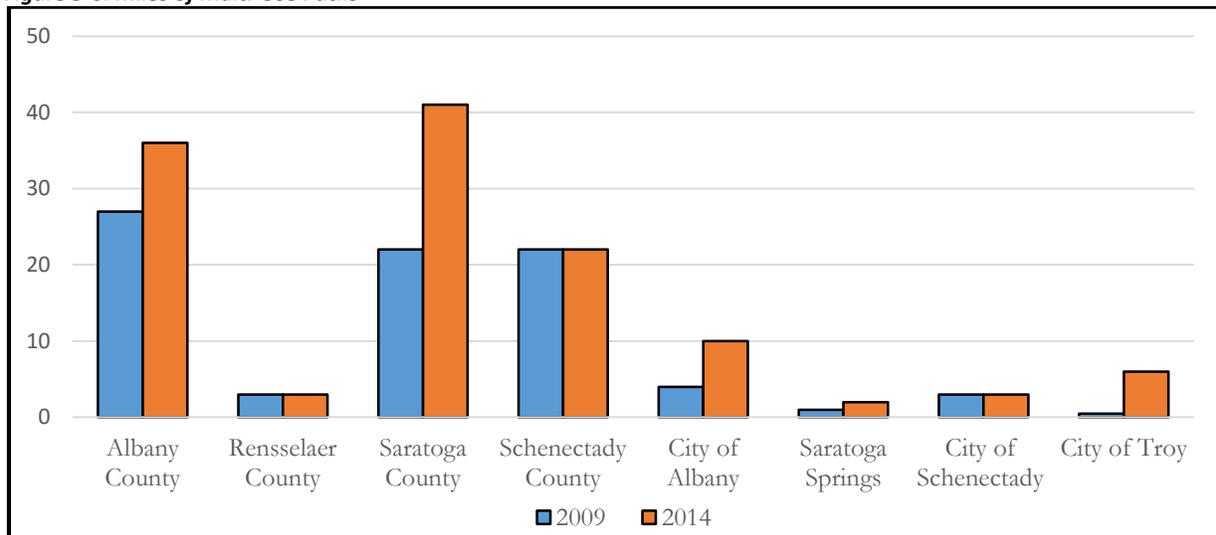
Definition:

A multi-use trail allows walking, bicycling, rollerblading and skating. On-road bicycle routes, nature trails, and/or hiking trails are not included in this definition as they are not considered multi-use. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network is defined by the Capital District Transportation Committee as a network of roads and paths that connect the four counties with each other through safer, more welcoming routes. The connectivity of multi-use trails is an integral part of the Priority Network. The Priority Network helps to identify desirable bicycle and pedestrian travel corridors, provides a “model” to get a sense of the magnitude of resource needs at the regional level, serves as an official plan for bicycle and pedestrian travel, offers a starting point for local planning, and lends additional legitimacy to cycling and walking.

Significance:

Bicycling and walking are not just leisure activities; they are viable modes of transportation and mobility for many people throughout the Capital District. Most people agree that walking and bicycling help reduce pollution, traffic delays, and fuel usage. The benefits of walking and bicycling do not end there. In addition to enhancing quality of life measures, walking and bicycling have proven to provide important and much needed health benefits, as well as having a positive impact on economic development.

Figure 5-6. Miles of Multi-Use Paths



Data Highlights:

- The Region’s 102 miles of multi-use paths constitute about 18 percent of the Priority Network. Major trails include the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail (Albany and Schenectady Counties), the Zim Smith Trail (Saratoga County), and the Uncle Sam Bikeway (Rensselaer County).
- The 42-miles Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail is considered the ‘spine’ of the Capital Region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and hosts approximately 241,000 individual user sessions per year.
- The increase in the Region’s multi-use path system mileage by almost 40% since 2009 is partly due to a more robust GIS Trail Data Inventory, specifically for facilities located within Saratoga County. However, it also demonstrates a commitment in funding the growth of a regional network.

5.8 Vehicle Crashes

Definition:

New York State motor vehicle crash data is compiled annually by the DMV from the reports submitted by police agencies and motorists. Vehicle crashes are defined as vehicle-to-vehicle impacts, vehicle-to-roadside structure impacts, vehicle-to-bicycle impacts, and vehicle-to-pedestrian impacts. Fatal crashes include crashes when deaths occur within thirty days following injury in a motor vehicle crash. Personal injury crashes include crashes where one or more occupants receive medical treatment as a result of the crash.

Significance:

The goal of New York State’s Statewide Highway Safety Program is to prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives, and reduce the severity of injuries suffered in crashes. Vehicle crashes are caused by many factors – weather, driver inexperience, inattention, alcohol consumption, and others. No matter the cause, the impacts are far-reaching.

Figure 5-6. Non-Fatal Automobile Accidents

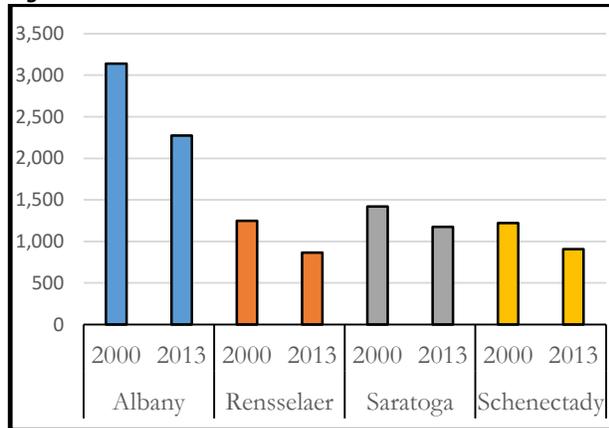


Figure 5-7. Fatal Automobile Accidents

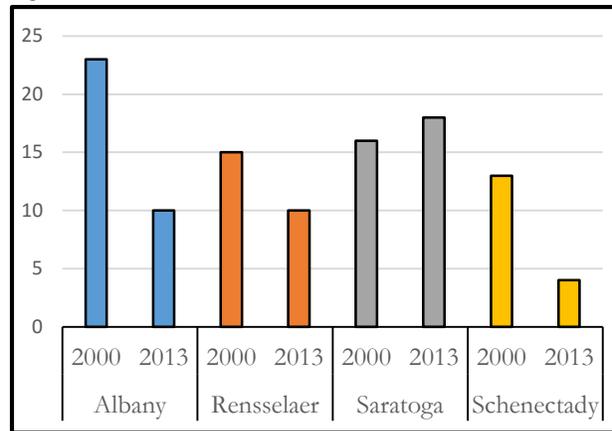


Table 5-2. Accidents Rate Involving Injuries and/or Fatalities

	New York State		Albany		Rensselaer		Saratoga		Schenectady	
	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013
Fatality & Injury Rate per 10,000 Population	N/A	86.7	151.2	98.6	118.5	179.5	102.4	207.8	113.3	196.0
Fatality & Injury Rate per 10,000 Licensed Drivers	N/A	149.1	233.2	149.3	171.7	257.5	138.0	268.7	150.7	270.0

Data Highlights:

- Over the last 13 years, the number of fatal and personal injury crashes has decreased by 26% in the Capital Region, from 7,096 to 5,255.
- In the last 13 years in the Capital Region, fatal crashes have decreased by 37% (from 67 to 42) and personal injury crashes have decreased by 26% (from 7,029 to 5,213).
- Saratoga County was the only county among the four that experienced an increase in the number of fatal accidents between 2000 and 2013.
- In 2013, the Capital Region accounted for 4% of all fatal crashes and 4% of personal injury crashes in New York State.

5.9 Albany Airport Enplanements

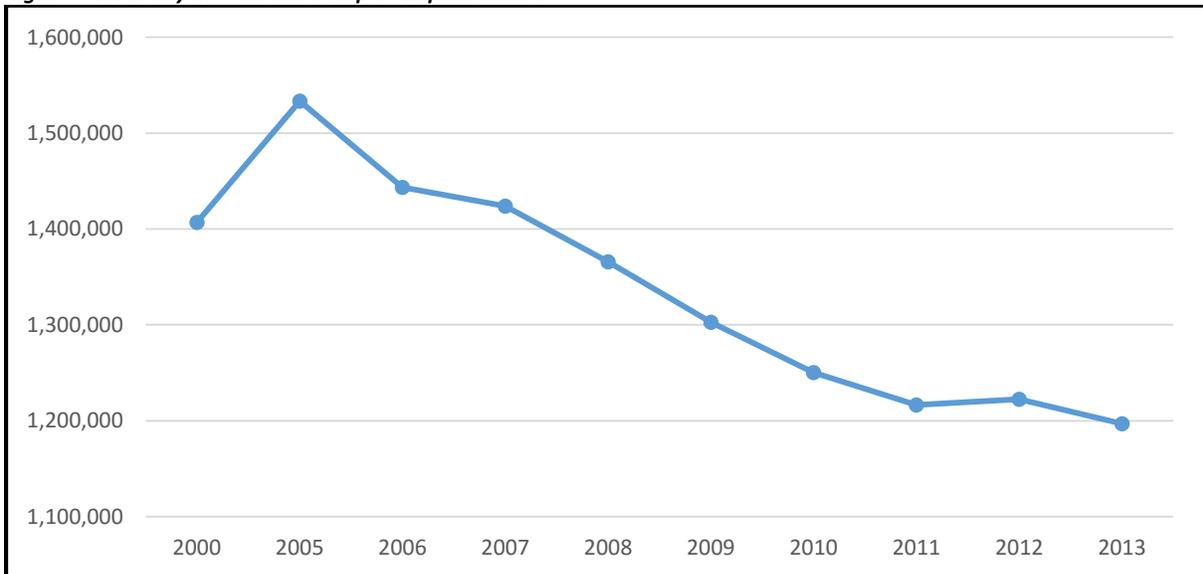
Definition:

An enplanement is defined as a revenue passenger boarding an aircraft. The Albany International Airport (AIA) is the major air center for the Capital Region, Northeastern New York, and Western New England. In 2013, Albany International Airport was served by Air Canada, AirTran, American Eagle, Cape Air, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, and US Airways.

Significance:

An active airport provides easy movement into and out of a region. It also facilitates commerce and makes a region a more attractive business location. In addition, an active airport with affordable fares improves the quality of life by providing more recreational travel opportunities. In 2000, Southwest Airlines brought its low-cost service to Albany. This resulted in lower fares from all the airlines with service to Albany International Airport.

Figure 5-7. Albany International Airport Enplanements



Data Highlights:

- Compared to other international airports of similar size (specifically Norfolk, Richmond, and Tulsa International), Albany International’s trend of reduced enplanements since 2005 appears typical.
- Jet Blue is expected to begin service from the airport in 2016, adding new routes and more competition to better serve the region’s fliers. Also, in the summer of 2015, Southwest Airlines is expected to launch a direct flight from Albany to Denver.

6. Environment

Vision Statement:

Promote strategies and institute measures to improve and maintain a healthy ecosystem as well as a safe, appealing, and functionally built environment in order to enhance the quality of life of all residents and to maximize the enjoyment of the region's built and natural resources.

Indicators:

6.1 Air Quality Non-Attainment Days

6.2 Capital Region's Impaired Waterbodies

Summary:

- Air quality non-attainment days in the Capital Region have fallen over the last decade. Schenectady and Rensselaer counties have both reported no non-attainment air quality days since 2011 and 2012, respectively.
- The Capital Region is home to numerous impaired waterbodies, which impact their ability to positively impact the region. Impaired waterbodies are occasionally unsafe for recreation, and may require expensive remediation.

6.1 Air Quality Non-Attainment Days

Definition:

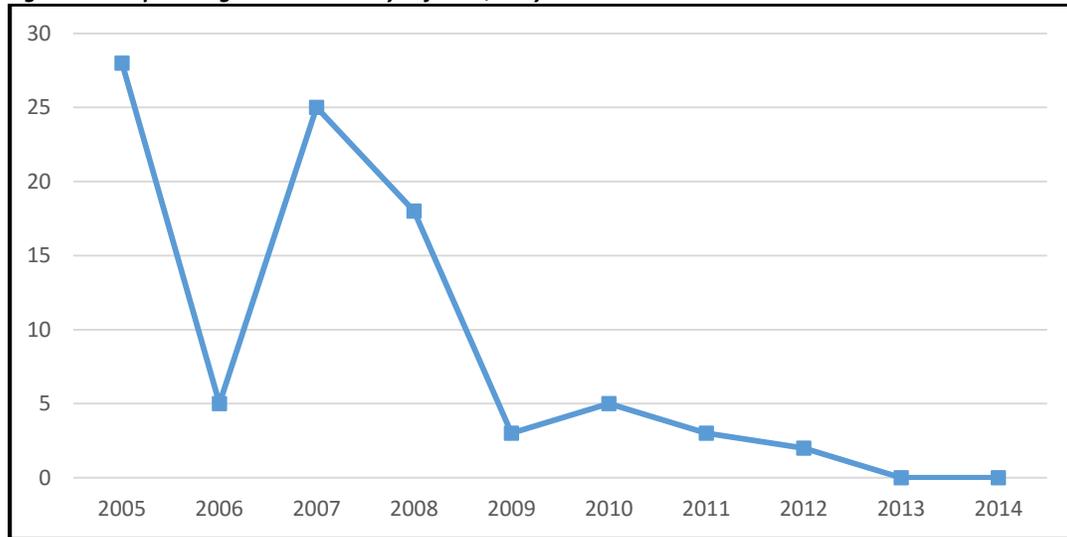
Total days that the Air Quality Index (AQI) is greater than 100 (a measure, developed by the EPA, of the concentration of pollutants in the air). An AQI of 101-150 is “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG),” 151-200 is “Unhealthy,” and 201+ is “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous.” At no point in the study period has any county in the Capital Region reported an AQI greater than 200.

Significance:

Clean, safe air is necessary for a high quality of life. The Environmental Protection Agency monitors the Air Quality Index, a nationally standardized measure of air quality in relation to its effects on health. Five major air pollutants are measured: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Unhealthy air quality first affects sensitive groups such as children, asthmatics, and the elderly, and as the levels of pollutants rise, everyone may feel health effects.

Ground-level ozone, the leading pollutant on a majority of days, is formed when emissions from power plants, vehicles, etc. react with heat and sunlight. Particularly warm years usually bring higher levels of ground-level ozone to urban and suburban areas, but it can be carried hundreds of miles by wind to affect rural environs. It damages vegetation and ecosystems, can cause and exacerbate breathing difficulties, and can even damage man-made materials.

Figure 6-1. Capital Region's Annual Days of Air Quality Non-Attainment



Data Highlights:

- Rensselaer County has not reported an air quality non-attainment day since 2012, and Schenectady County has not reported since 2011.
- The last time any county in the Capital Region had more than five USG or poorer air quality days in a single year was in 2008.
- There have been no documented days with an air quality rating of “Unhealthy” or lower across the four counties since 2005.

6.2 Capital Region’s Impaired Waterbodies

Definition:

The Environmental Protection Agency defines an “Impaired Waterbody” as “A waterbody (i.e., stream tributaries, lakes, waterbody segments) with chronic or recurring monitored violations of the applicable numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria”. These are waters that are too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet the water quality standards set by the State.

Significance:

Under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, States are required to compile lists of impaired waterbodies and report the reasons for impairment. Impaired waterbodies negatively contribute to health, safety, quality of life, tourism, economic, and other issues. Declaring a waterbody as impaired allows for the development of appropriate strategies to repair the damage and reduce the offending pollutants.

Table 6-1. Capital Region Impaired Waterbodies

Albany County	• Ann Lee (Shakers) Pond, Stump Pond	• Minor tribs to West of Hudson	•Watervliet Reservoir
	• Krum Kill, Upper, and tribs	• Hudson River	
	• Patroon Creek and tribs	• Basic Creek Reservoir	
Rensselaer County	• Nassau Lake	• Schaghticoke Reservoir	•Dyken Pond
	• Snyders Lake	• Valatie Kill and tribs	•Burdens Lake
	• Hoosic River and tribs	• Dunham Reservoir	
Saratoga County	• Dwaas Kill and tribs	• Bullhead Pond	•Lake Lonely
	• Ballston Lake	• Upper Hudson, Main Stem	•Upper Hudson, Main Stem
	• Tribs to Lake Lonely	• Round Lake	•Great Sacandaga Lake
Schenectady County	• Collins Lake	• Minor tribs to Mohawk River	
	• Mariaville Lake	• Collins Lake	
	• Duane Lake		

Data Highlights:

- The Hudson River is a major regional asset and is an impaired waterbody due, in part, to the Region’s Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) systems. These systems are designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. During heavy rainfall the wastewater volume in a combined sewer system can exceed the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant, thus discharging directly into the Hudson River. In order to meet compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, \$136 million of upgrades will be put into the CSOs over the next 15 years. This will help alleviate some of the contaminant issues in the Hudson River.
- Much of the Region’s issue with impaired waterbodies can be traced back to the industrialization of the region around the turn of the 20th century. Other contributing factors are agriculture bi-products, and increased impervious surface as the region develops into previously undeveloped areas.

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7. Recreation, Arts, and Culture

Vision Statement:

Protect and improve the quality of parks, historic, cultural, and artistic venues and resources throughout the region; promote and expand their availability to ensure access to a variety of well-maintained, affordable, and enjoyable cultural and artistic enrichment opportunities and recreational, leisure, and entertainment activities.

Indicators:

- 7.1 Acres of Parkland
- 7.2 State Park Attendance
- 7.3 Library Usage
- 7.4 Library Internet Availability
- 7.5 Financial Support of Arts and Cultural Organizations
- 7.6 National Register Listings

Summary:

- Overall, the Capital Region has 49,854 acres of DEC-managed parkland.
- In the last decade, park attendance in the Capital Region has risen over 150%.
- Total library circulation has grown 23.3% between 2005 and 2012 across the Capital Region.
- The number of publically accessible internet terminals in the Capital Region increased significantly between 2005 and 2010, and continued to rise slightly through 2012.
- Government support of arts and cultural organizations in the Capital Region declined 56.7% between 2005 and 2012. Public support declined 7.5% as well, while program revenue increased 1.8%.
- The Capital Region has 454 listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

7.1 Acres of Parkland

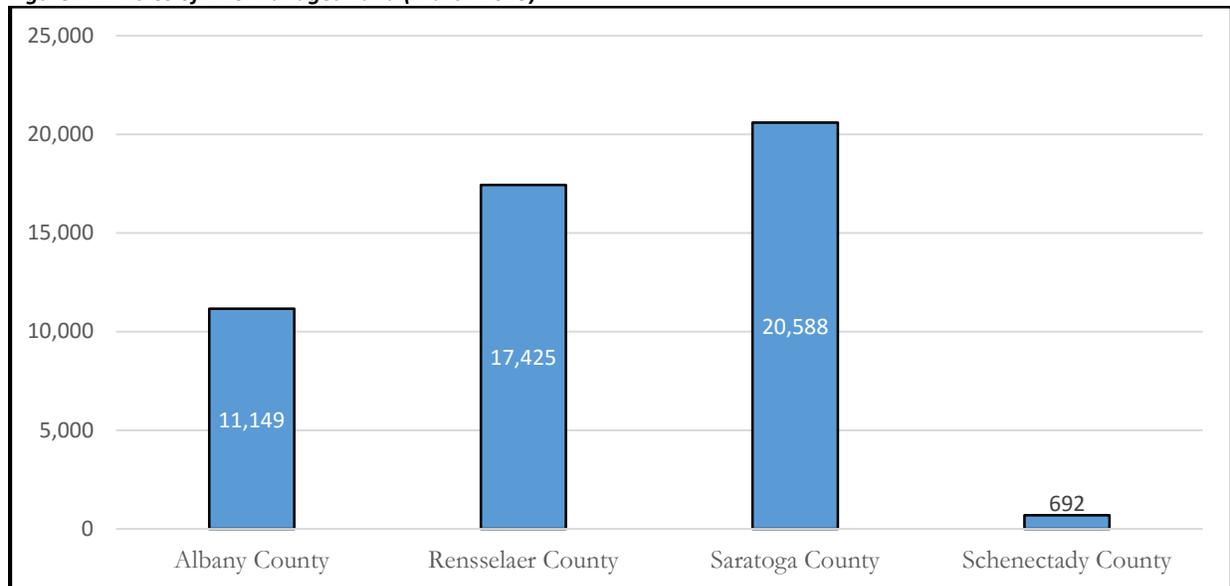
Definition:

Federal and State parks, wildlife management areas, state forests, forest preserves, education centers, and conservation easements are included in this indicator. Privately held preserves and open space, county parks, and municipal parks are not included.

Significance:

The Capital Region’s state and federal parkland assets range from beaches to cliffs to sites of regional and national historic significance. The region’s park systems provide extensive and diverse year-round opportunities for passive and active recreation. The breadth of activities available at regional parks allows all residents to enjoy the area’s natural and historic beauty, and the region benefits greatly from access to these resources. The amount of parkland available in a region indicates the willingness of the state and federal governments to set aside resources specifically for recreation and conservation.

Figure 7-1. Acres of DEC Managed Land (March 2015)



Data Highlights:

- Overall, the Capital Region has 49,854 acres of DEC-managed parkland.
- Saratoga County has the greatest amount of DEC-managed land of all four counties, but is also the most rural. Schenectady County, with the least, is also the smallest of the counties, and largely urbanized.
- In addition to the types of land mentioned above, DEC manages easements on approximately 29,250 acres of timber lands in Saratoga County. These easements represent narrow corridors where the public is allowed on certain trails, mostly snowmobile trails, but is not allowed off trail. The easements represent about 10-15 additional acres, the trails being roughly 20 feet wide and having a total length of five to seven miles.

7.2 State Park Attendance

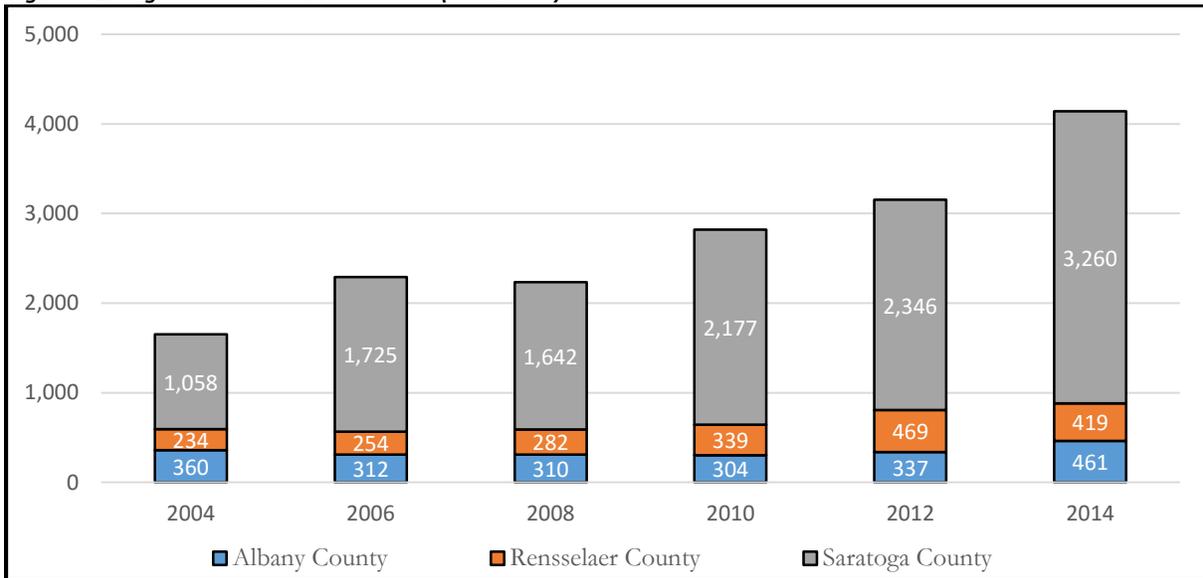
Definition:

The total annual estimated attendance at selected state parks within Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties. Schenectady County has no state parks, only a state forest, for which attendance data is not collected. Albany County’s parks include: Schuyler Mansion; Thompson Lake State Park; and John Boyd Thacher State Park. Rensselaer County’s state parks include, Bennington Battlefield; Cherry Plain State Park, Crailo, Grafton Lakes State Park, and Schodack Island. Saratoga County is composed of Grants Cottage, Peebles Island, Saratoga Lake Boat Launch, and Saratoga Springs State Park.

Significance:

The high-quality facilities available in the Capital Region attract large numbers of visitors, from both the region and throughout the northeast. Parks and open space play a major part in promoting healthy lifestyles for residents and visitors, provide low-cost physical activity and educational opportunities, and allow children to connect with nature. They can also have environmental benefits, boosting air and water quality and providing wildlife habitat. Visitors to state parks can also be important contributors to local economies.

Figure 7-2. Regional State Park Attendance (Thousands)



Data Highlights:

- Attendance in the Capital Region’s state parks has increased dramatically in the last decade (150.6%). Between 2012 and 2014 total attendance for the Region increased by almost a million people.
- The greatest increase in attendance occurred in Saratoga County, increasing 208.1% between 2004 and 2014.
- Between 2004 and 2014 Albany County experienced a 28.1% increase in estimated attendance. During that same period, Rensselaer County saw a 79.3% increase in attendance.

7.3 Library Usage

Definition:

The total resources circulated by public libraries, by county. These resources include books, videotapes, audiotapes, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other materials.

Significance:

Public libraries provide opportunities for residents to enjoy free use of books, videotapes, audiotapes, CDs, DVDs, the internet, and other materials. The Capital Region is home to 41 library systems. Three systems – the cities of Albany and Troy, and Schenectady County – are large enough to have multiple branches, bringing the total number of libraries to 54. The City and County of Schenectady share a library system.

Figure 7-3. Capital Region Library Circulation (Thousands)

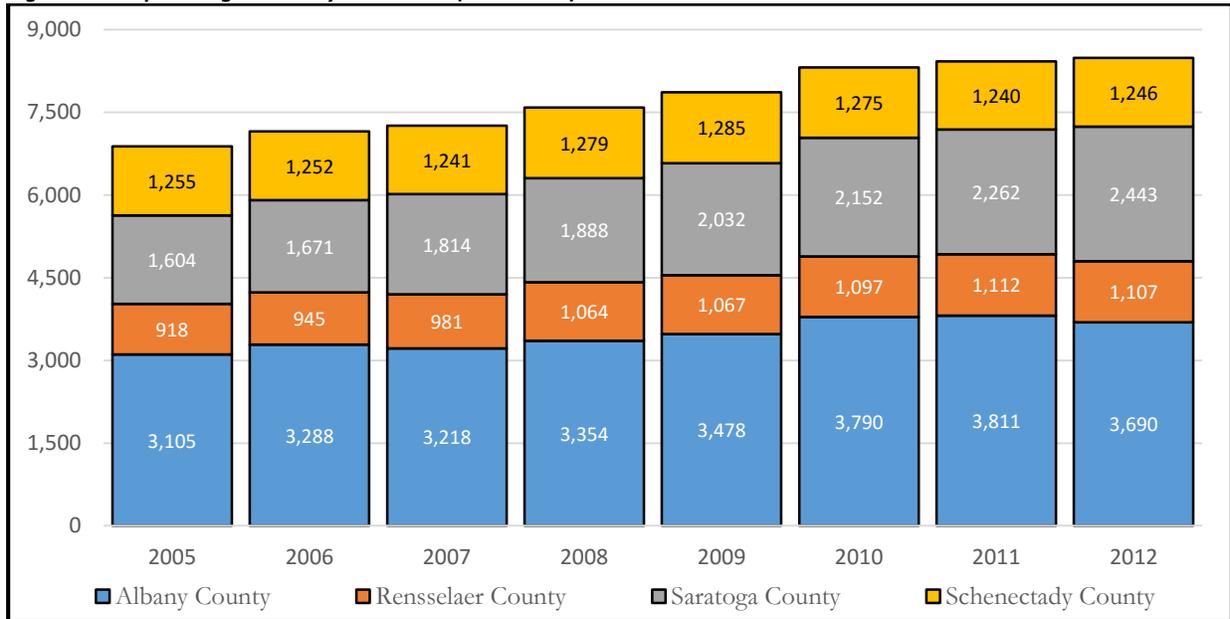


Table 7-1. City Library System Circulation

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change 05-12
City of Albany	991,442	1,111,134	1,013,576	1,053,629	1,039,329	1,323,552	1,331,578	1,271,227	28.2%
Saratoga Springs	661,098	667,144	666,591	690,702	752,413	825,362	873,451	959,513	45.1%
City of Troy	186,964	192,837	185,661	217,515	193,964	222,392	278,453	269,129	43.9%

Data Highlights:

- Library circulation increased 23.3% across the Capital Region from 2005 to 2012. The county with the largest increase was Saratoga, which experienced a 52.3% jump in circulation.
- Among the three city library systems, Saratoga Springs had the largest increase between 2005 and 2012 followed closely by the City of Troy. The City of Albany had the largest circulation among the three cities.

7.4 Library Internet Availability

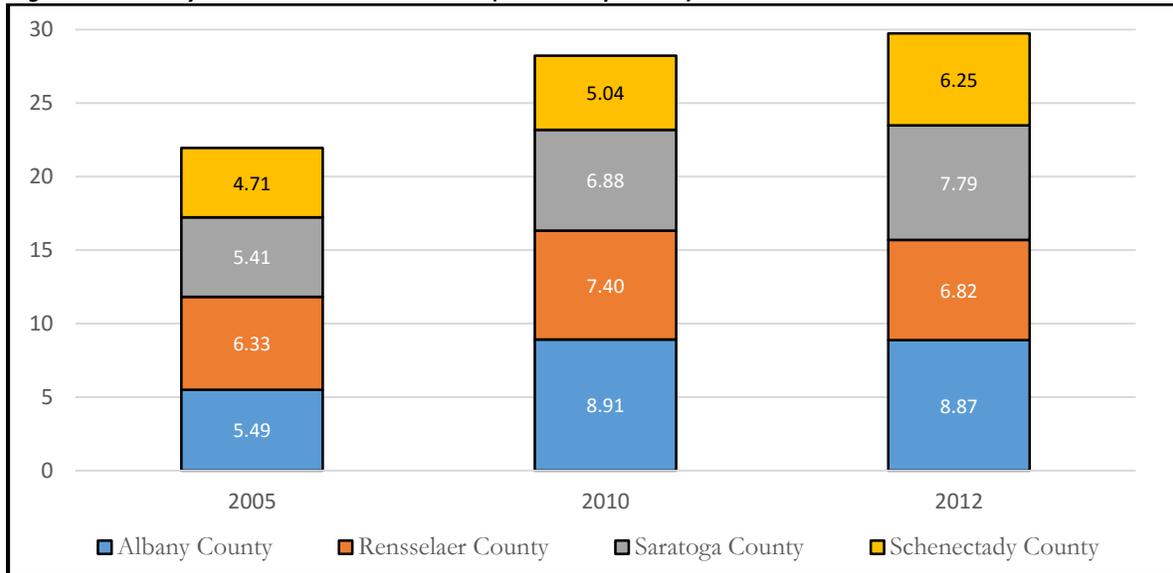
Definition:

The number of internet terminals available for public use in a library.

Significance:

Library internet terminals are helpful for those who may not have internet access at home, and are used by a wide range of library patrons. For students doing research, or job seekers sending out resumes, these terminals are indispensable. Public libraries are a key player in efforts to provide equitable access to the internet, helping to bridge the digital divide for those who may not have internet access at home. The city and county of Schenectady share a library system.

Figure 7-4. Publicly Available Internet Terminals (Per 100 Population)



Data Highlights:

- The number of internet-accessible computer terminals across the Capital Region jumped significantly between 2005 and 2010.
- Growth between 2010 and 2012 occurred largely in the Saratoga and Schenectady Counties Public Library systems.

Table 7-2. Total Publicly Available Internet Terminals

	2005	2010	2012
Capital Region	431	618	650
Albany County	154	271	271
Rensselaer County	95	118	109
Saratoga County	114	151	173
Schenectady County	68	78	97

7.5 Financial Support of Arts and Cultural Organizations

Definition:

There are 18 selected arts and cultural non-profit organizations in the region that have filed 990PF forms with the IRS. The following types of organizations are represented: arts councils, historic/preservation organizations, museums/galleries, and performing arts organizations. The organizations include: Saratoga County Arts Council; Arts Center of the Capital Region; USS Slater; Old Songs, Inc.; Historic Albany Foundation; Rensselaer County Historical Society; Albany Institute of History and Art; Children’s Museum at Saratoga; Children’s Museum of Science and Technology; National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame; National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame; New York State Museum; Saratoga Auto Museum; The Schenectady Museum and Planetarium; Albany Symphony Orchestra; Capital Rep; Palace Theater; Saratoga Performing Arts Center; and Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

There are three main sources of revenue for arts and cultural organizations: program revenue (tickets, admissions, etc.); governmental support (local, state, and federal grants, not including government contracts); and public support (memberships, individual donations, and corporate or foundation grants).

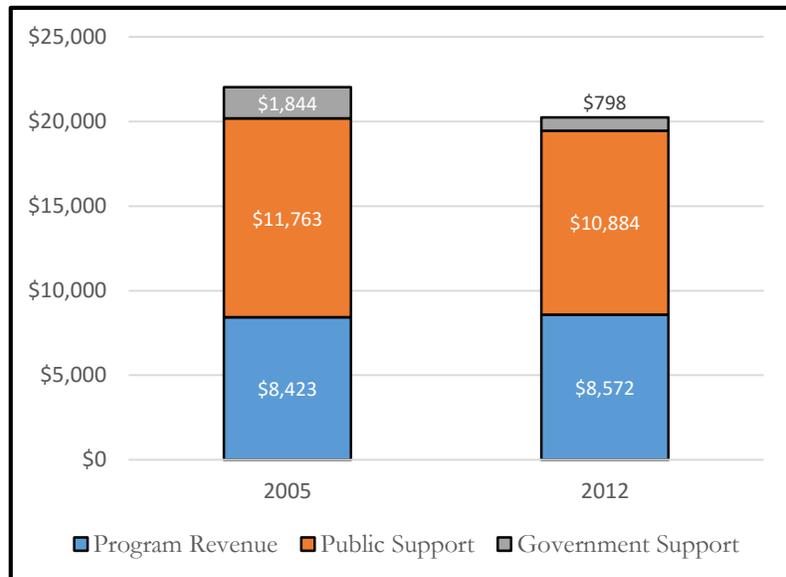
Significance:

Financial support of arts and cultural organizations indicates the level of interest taken by the community and government in such organizations. The long-term success of these providers of arts and cultural opportunities depends upon their ability to attract and maintain community investment. Government support may fluctuate strongly from year to year, depending upon grant cycles and policy changes. Additionally, public support may fluctuate depending on fundraising cycles.

Data Highlights:

- While program revenues have risen slightly by 1.8% between 2005 and 2012, both public and governmental support has fallen between the two studied years.
- Public support has fallen by 7.5%, accounting for a difference of \$878,671.
- Though representing the smallest percentage of revenue sources, government support declined precipitously between the two studied years: 56.7%, or over \$1 million.

Figure 7-5. Sources of Revenue for Capital Region Arts & Cultural Organizations (Thousands)



7.6 National Register Listings

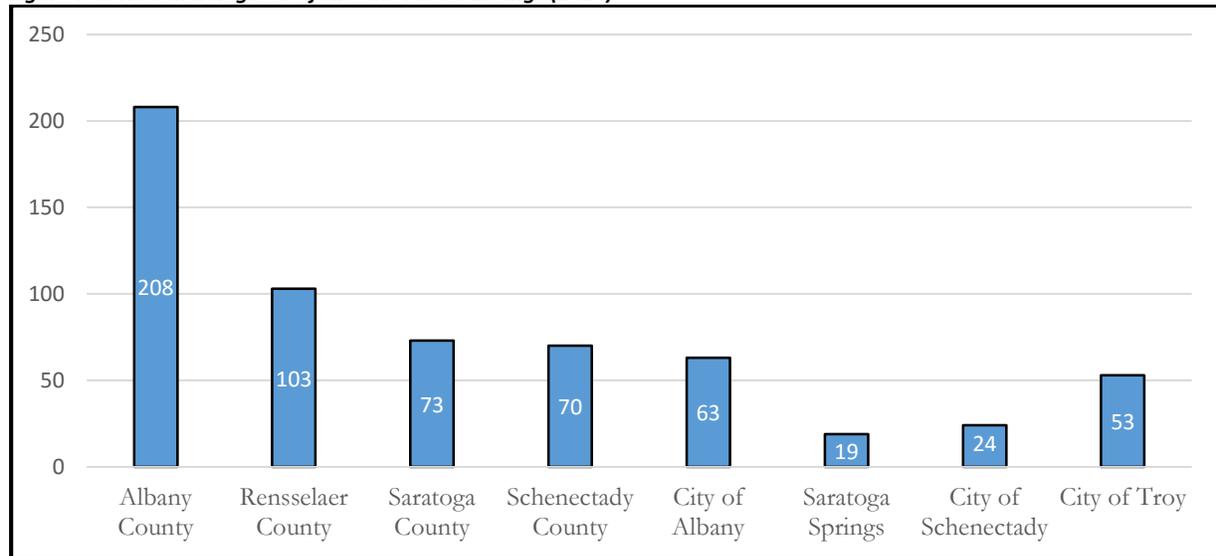
Definition:

The number of historic buildings and districts listed in the US Department of the Interior’s National Register of Historic Places. City listings are included in the county totals. The National Register of Historic Places is in the process of updating their database; while New York State has not fully been digitized the Register states that all records are current through late September 2014.

Significance:

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources. A National Register listing provides opportunities for federal preservation grants and tax credits, as well as alternatives to International Building Code safety codes. It also provides New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit opportunities.

Figure 7-6. National Register of Historic Places Listings (2014)



Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region has 454 listings on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Albany County and the City of Albany have the largest number of listings out of the four selected counties and cities, respectively.
- Schenectady County has the fewest listings of the four counties, while Saratoga Springs has the fewest listings out of the four selected cities.

8. Public Safety

Vision Statement:

Enhance the desirability of the Region by proactively providing adequate public safety and emergency response services and facilities that contribute to the overall sense of safety, equal justice, and confidence of the public.

Indicators:

- 8.1 Violent Crime Reports
- 8.2 Property Crime Reports
- 8.3 Drug Offenses

Summary:

- Violent crime decreased 11.7% across the Capital Region from 2009 to 2013.
- Property crime decreased 8.3% across the Region during the same time period.
- The Capital Region has seen a 15.5% increase in the number of drug-related arrests between 2000 and 2014.

8.1 Violent Crime Reports

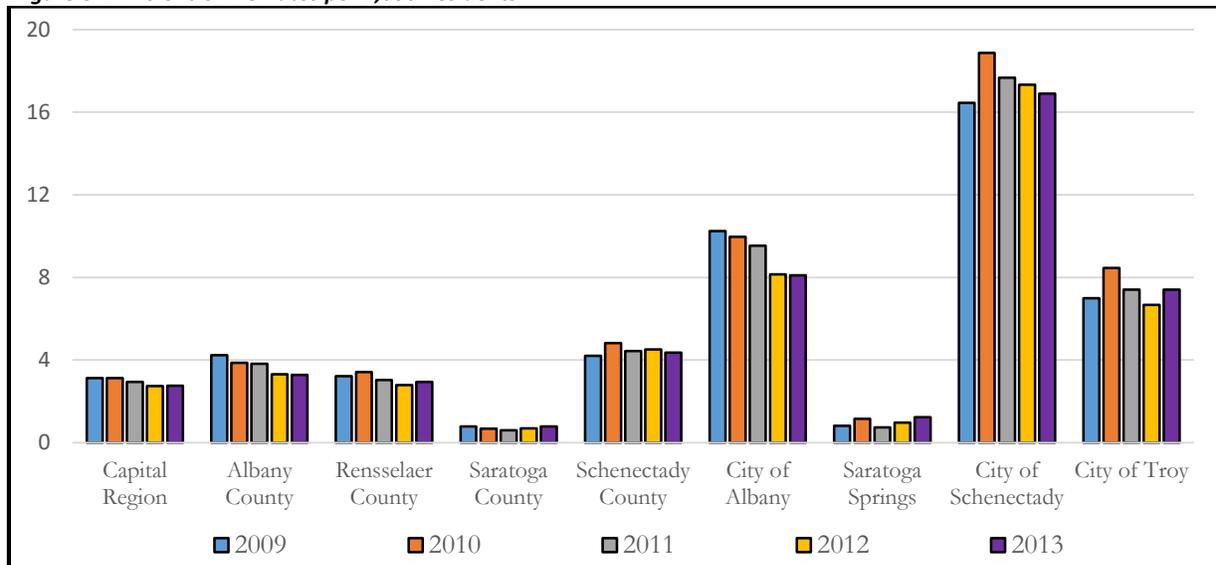
Definition:

The rate of reported serious crimes defined as Part I violent crimes, per 1,000 residents. Part I crimes are defined by the FBI for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and are recorded by law enforcement agencies in Uniform Crime Reports. Part I violent crimes include: murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Significance:

Crime statistics are basic indicators of public safety. Violent crime not only affects victims and witnesses; it can also have a psychological negative effect on the general public’s sense of personal and neighborhood safety. Lowering crime rates can have a positive effect on social connections and the appeal of a community. Not all crimes are reported. Rape, in particular, is severely underreported. According to the US Department of Justice National Crime Victimization Survey, only 32 out of every 100 rapes are reported to police.

Figure 8-1. Violent Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents



Data Highlights:

- Between 2009 and 2013, the Capital Region saw a decrease in violent crime of 11.7%.
- During the same period, the city of Albany saw a 20.9% decrease in violent crime. Albany County as a whole experienced a 22.3% decrease.
- The City of Schenectady’s violent crime rate is noticeably higher than that of the other three cities. In 2013 Schenectady recorded twice as many violent crimes as the City of Albany after adjusting for population size.

8.2 Property Crime Reports

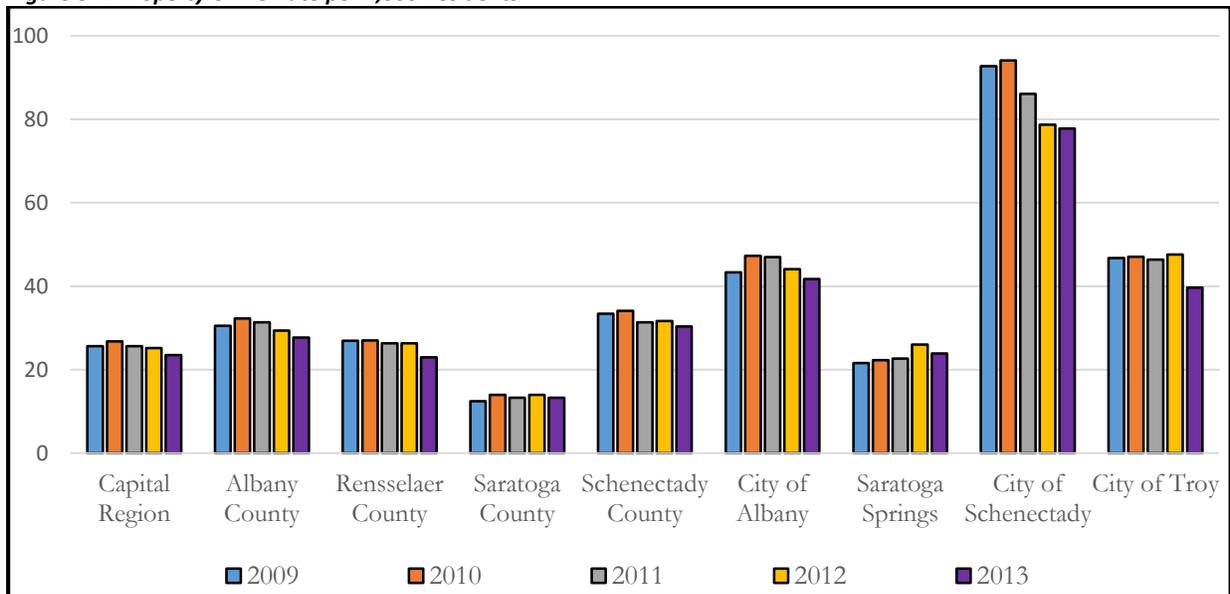
Definition:

The rate of reported serious crimes defined as Part I property crimes, per 1,000 residents. Part I property crimes are defined by the FBI for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and are recorded by law enforcement agencies with Uniform Crime Reports. Part I property crimes include: burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Significance:

Property crimes can result in financial loss and higher homeowners, renters, and automobile insurance rates. Though property crime does not involve violence directly against individuals, it can have a profound impact on the sense of personal and neighborhood security. Lowering property crime rates can have a positive effect on the appeal of the community as a place to live and work.

Figure 8-2. Property Crime Rate per 1,000 Residents



Data Highlights:

- Overall, the Capital Region saw a decrease of 8% in property crime between 2009 and 2013.
- The county with the greatest decrease was Rensselaer, where the rate was reduced by 15%.
- Among the cities, Schenectady saw the greatest decrease: 16%.
- Both Saratoga County and Saratoga Springs saw an increase in property crime since 2009; 7% for the county and 11% for the city.

8.3 Drug Offenses

Definition:

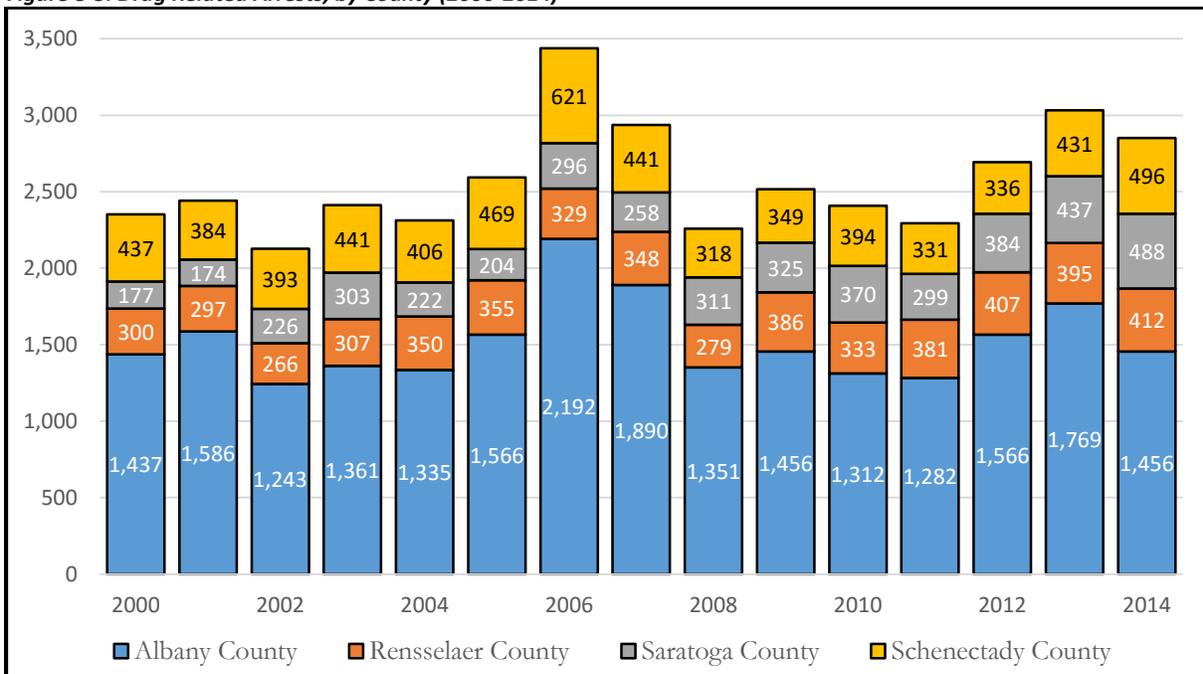
Drug-related arrests include all arrests where a drug offense was the most serious charge in the arrest event, including controlled substance and marijuana offenses. A hierarchy whose first factor is the class of the offense determines the most serious charge.

Significance:

Illicit drug use and other drug-related activity can have far-reaching social, economic, and physical consequences. The effects of illicit drug use reach past the individual drug user to their families, neighborhoods, and communities. Additionally, the sale and use of drugs can be a factor in both violent and property crimes.

It bears noting that not all crimes result in arrests; arrest statistics are also affected by changing political and social philosophy as well as law enforcement staffing levels and focus.

Figure 8-3. Drug Related Arrests, by County (2000-2014)



Data Highlights:

- From 2000 through 2014, drug related arrests in the Capital Region have fluctuated but have steadily increased, peaking in 2006 before dropping through 2011 followed by another increase to 2013. Albany County continuously contributes the highest number of drug related arrests.
- Saratoga County experienced the greatest increase in drug-related arrests: 175.7% between 2000 and 2014
- No county saw a decrease of drug-related arrests, but Albany County had the smallest increase (1%) while Schenectady and Rensselaer counties had increases of 14% and 37% respectively between 2000 and 2014..

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