

Chapter 3. Overview of Long Island

Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce general characteristics of the Long Island subregion (one of three subregions within the NYMTC region) and its two counties to give some context to the information on public transportation and community transportation services that is included in Chapter 4.

First, a general profile of the subregion is presented and discussed. This is followed by general profiles for the two counties. Each profile documents population and population growth, land area, population density, and general demographic characteristics such as age, income and employment. For the general profile of the subregion, tables are broken down by county. For the general profile of the counties, tables are broken down by municipality. A more detailed look at the demographic characteristics of older adults, persons with disabilities, and low income populations is presented at the beginning of Chapter 5.

Profile of Long Island

Overview

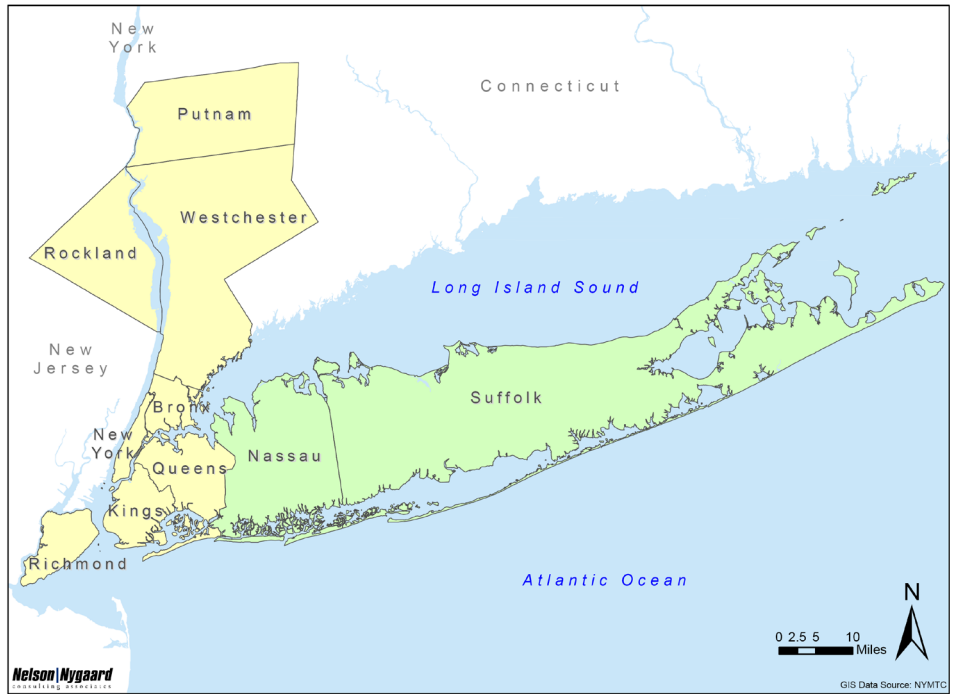
Long Island is the largest island adjoining the continental United States, stretching 118 miles from Montauk in the east to the Hudson River in the west. The Long Island and Block Island sounds provide the northern border, with the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south.

An excerpt from the web site of the Long Island Index provides a detailed description of Long Island's interesting governance:

Long Island's governance structure, shaped over centuries, consists of 901 different entities including two cities, two counties, 13 towns, 95 villages, and many other special purpose units including water, fire, library and 127 school districts, each with its own taxing authority. Nassau County has three townships: Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay; and two cities, Long Beach and Glen Cove. The county is made up of 126 municipal corporations including 64 different villages, 56 school districts and 19 legislative districts. Suffolk County has ten townships: Huntington, Babylon, Islip, Smithtown, Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southampton, Southold, East Hampton and Shelter Island. There are 113 municipal corporations, including 31 villages, 71 school districts, and 18 legislative bodies.

Each town and village has an elected board that passes local legislation impacting their community. In addition to the number of towns and villages, there are two Indian reservations located in Suffolk County, Poospatuck and Shinnecock.

Figure 3-1 Long Island Subregion



Area

Long Island’s total area is approximately 2,800 square miles; but over 1,600 of that is water. Suffolk County is much larger than Nassau County, covering 912 square miles of land area, while the total land area of Nassau County is 287 square miles. Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, and Hempstead, in Nassau County, are the largest towns on Long Island, covering 259 square miles and 120 square miles, respectively. Long Beach, in Nassau County, is the smallest municipality in either of the counties, covering only two square miles of land area. Figure 3-2 below lists the total area and land area for the Long Island subregion.

Figure 3-2 Long Island Subregion Area by County

| | Total Area (Sq. Miles) | Land Area (Sq. Miles) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nassau County | 453 | 287 |
| Suffolk County | 2,373 | 912 |
| Long Island | 2,826 | 1,199 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population and Population Growth

Population counts for Long Island date back to 1790 for Suffolk County and 1900 for Nassau County. Combined total population for the two counties did not reach one million until after 1950. Figure 3-3 below provides detail on the population changes in both counties, and for Long Island.

Figure 3-3 Long Island Population History

| | 1950 Pop. | 1960 Pop. | 1970 Pop. | 1980 Pop. | 1990 Pop. | 2000 Pop. |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Nassau County | 672,765 | 1,300,171 | 1,428,838 | 1,321,582 | 1,287,348 | 1,334,544 |
| Suffolk County | 276,129 | 666,784 | 1,127,030 | 1,284,231 | 1,321,864 | 1,419,369 |
| Long Island | 948,894 | 1,966,955 | 2,555,868 | 2,605,813 | 2,609,212 | 2,753,913 |

Source: US Census; US Department of Commerce

Between 1950 and 1960, the population in Nassau County doubled and in Suffolk County, the population almost tripled. Between 1960 and 1970, the population grew again, though at a slightly slower rate. After 1970, the total population in Nassau County fell slightly, from 1,428,838 in 1970 to 1,321,582 in 1980, to 1,287,348 in 1990. In Suffolk County, the population increased from 1,127,030 in 1970 to 1,321,864 in 1990.

As of the 2000 Census, total population for the Long Island subregion was approximately 2.7 million. This figure is almost evenly divided among Nassau and Suffolk counties. In Nassau County, there were about 1.3 million people and in Suffolk County, about 1.4 million. The Town of Hempstead in Nassau County was the most populated of all the municipalities, with 755,924 people. Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, was the second most populated, with almost 450,000 people. Shelter Island was the least populated by far of any town or city on Long Island, with only 2,228 residents.

According to Census Bureau estimates, the population on Long Island grew by only 1.5 percent from 2000 to 2006, less than both the state average (1.7 percent) and the national average (7.2 percent). Population in Nassau County decreased, but by less than one percent. The towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead in Nassau County both experienced a decrease in population. In Hempstead, the population shrank by over six percent. In Suffolk County, the population grew, but only by 3.5 percent, very similar to the growth experienced in New York City (3.3 percent). Smithtown experienced the lowest rate of growth, less than one percent, and Huntington experienced the highest growth rate, almost seven percent. Figure 3-4 below shows the change in population for Long Island.

Figure 3-4 Long Island Subregion Population and Population Change by County

| | 2000 Population | 2006 Population | Change | % Change |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Nassau County | 1,334,544 | 1,325,662 | (8,882) | (0.7%) |
| Suffolk County | 1,419,369 | 1,469,715 | 50,346 | 3.5% |
| Long Island | 2,753,913 | 2,795,377 | 41,464 | 1.5% |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

There is an important caveat to these 2006 estimates. For the following year's estimates, Nassau County disputed the original Census Bureau's 2007 population findings. The county believes that the Census undercounted population by 50,000. Population estimates for Long Island for 2007, developed by the Nassau County Planning Department, were recently accepted by the Census

Bureau. In Nassau County, the population is estimated to be 1,353,061 and in Suffolk County, 1,511,732. Data from 2006 is still used here in the analysis, since it is available by town.

Population Density

As shown in Figure 3-5, Long Island’s overall population density is approximately 2,300 persons per square mile. Nassau County is the geographically smaller of the counties and also the densest. There are 4,650 persons per square mile in Nassau County. In contrast, there are 1,556 persons per square mile in Suffolk County.

Figure 3-5 Long Island Subregion Population Density by County

| | 2000 Population | Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | Density (Persons per Sq. Mi.) |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nassau County | 1,334,544 | 287 | 4,650 |
| Suffolk County | 1,419,369 | 912 | 1,556 |
| Long Island | 2,753,913 | 1,199 | 2,297 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population Age Distribution

The average age of Long Islanders is approximately 37 years old. Figure 3-6 shows age distribution by county. Overall, older adults (65 and older) make up 13 percent of the total population. In Nassau County, 15 percent of residents are older, while in Suffolk County, the percentage is only slightly lower at 12 percent. The percentage of older adults statewide is 13 percent.

Percentages of children under the age of 18 and adults age 18 to 64 are similarly spread. Overall, children make up 25 percent of the population on Long Island; 25 percent in Nassau County and 26 percent in Suffolk County. By municipality, the percentage ranges from 18 to 27 percent. Adults age 18 to 64 comprise 61 percent of the population of Long Island overall, 60 percent in Nassau County, and 62 percent in Suffolk County. This age group makes up no less than 55 percent of the total population in any city or town on Long Island.

Figure 3-6 Long Island Subregion Age Distribution by County

| | | Under 18 | 18 - 64 | 65 and Over |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Nassau County | Population | 329,079 | 804,624 | 200,841 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 60% | 15% |
| Suffolk County | Population | 370,081 | 881,730 | 167,558 |
| | Percentage | 26% | 62% | 12% |
| Long Island | Population | 699,160 | 1,686,354 | 368,399 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 61% | 13% |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Income

Median household income in both Long Island counties is higher than both the state median (\$43,393) and the national median (\$41,994). In Nassau County, the median household income is \$72,030 and in Suffolk County, \$65,288.³ Consequently, just over 135,000 or only 15 percent of the households on Long Island are considered low income, which is lower than the national average of 20 percent.

Employment

Unemployment rates on Long Island have risen and fallen over the past few years, though they are still lower than the national and state averages—3.6 percent in Nassau County and 3.8 percent in Suffolk County in 2007, while the national average for the same year was 4.6 percent and the state average was 4.5 percent. When compared to other New York counties, Nassau and Suffolk counties also have among the lowest unemployment rates in the state. Of the 62 counties in New York, Nassau County has the third lowest unemployment rate and Suffolk County, the eighth.

Private sector employment on Long Island grew by nine percent between 1998 and 2007, although it decreased by two percent between 2006 and 2007. According to data obtained from Empire State Development, about 20 percent of workers from the Long Island subregion are employed in Professional and Related fields, 17 percent in Administrative Support, and 15 percent in Management or Business. Jobs in the Service or Sales industries each also make up more than ten percent of the workforce. Technicians, and workers in Production, Transportation, Construction, and Farm, Fishing, and Forestry fields each make up less than ten percent of the total workforce from Long Island. Over the past five years, the greatest employment growth has been seen in the Education and Health Services fields, growing by 17 percent and 25 percent, respectively, during the five year period.

³ In 1999 dollars. In 2006, these figures are estimated at \$85,994 and \$76,847 in Nassau and Suffolk counties, respectively.

General Profile of Nassau County

Overview

Nassau County lies on the western half of Long Island, bordered by Suffolk County to the east and Queens County to the west. Within the county's 287 square miles of land are the cities of Glen Cove and Long Beach, the towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay, and over 100 unincorporated areas. Together, the cities and towns encompass 64 villages and 53 hamlets.

Figure 3-7 Nassau County with in the NYMTC Region

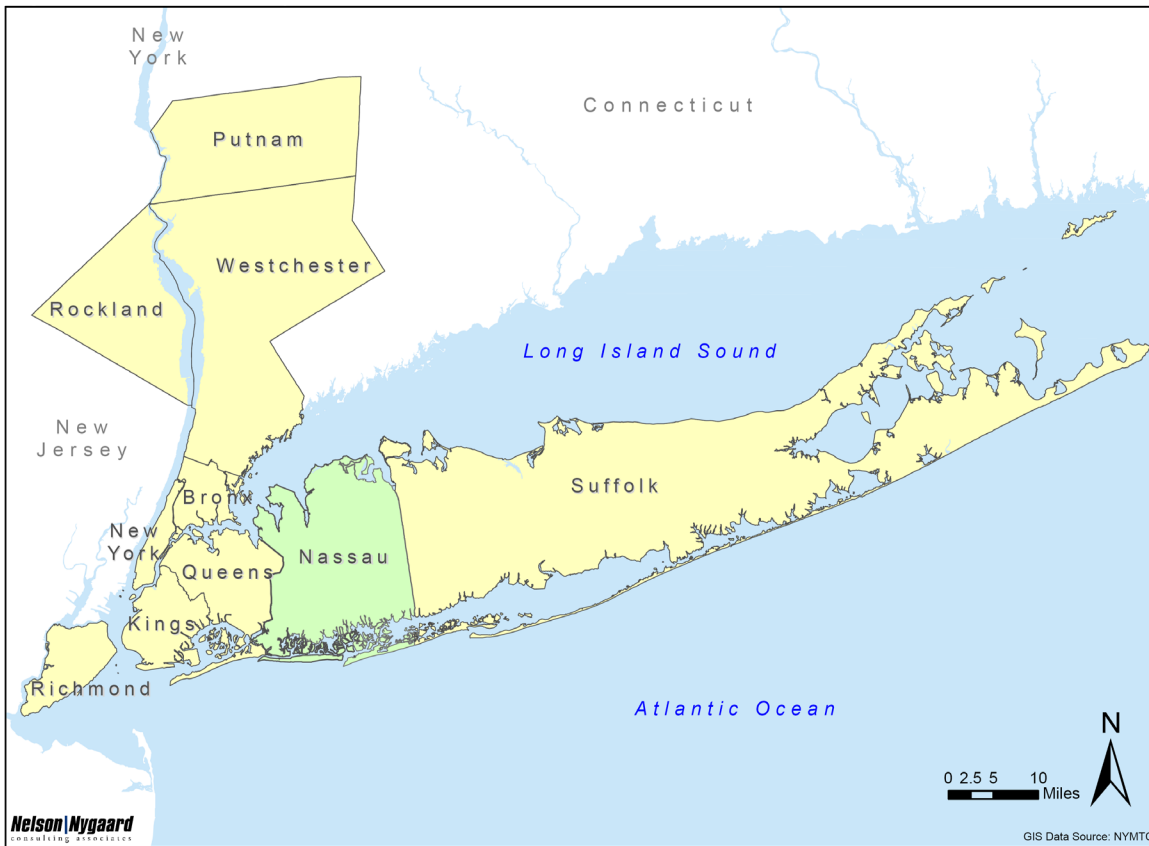
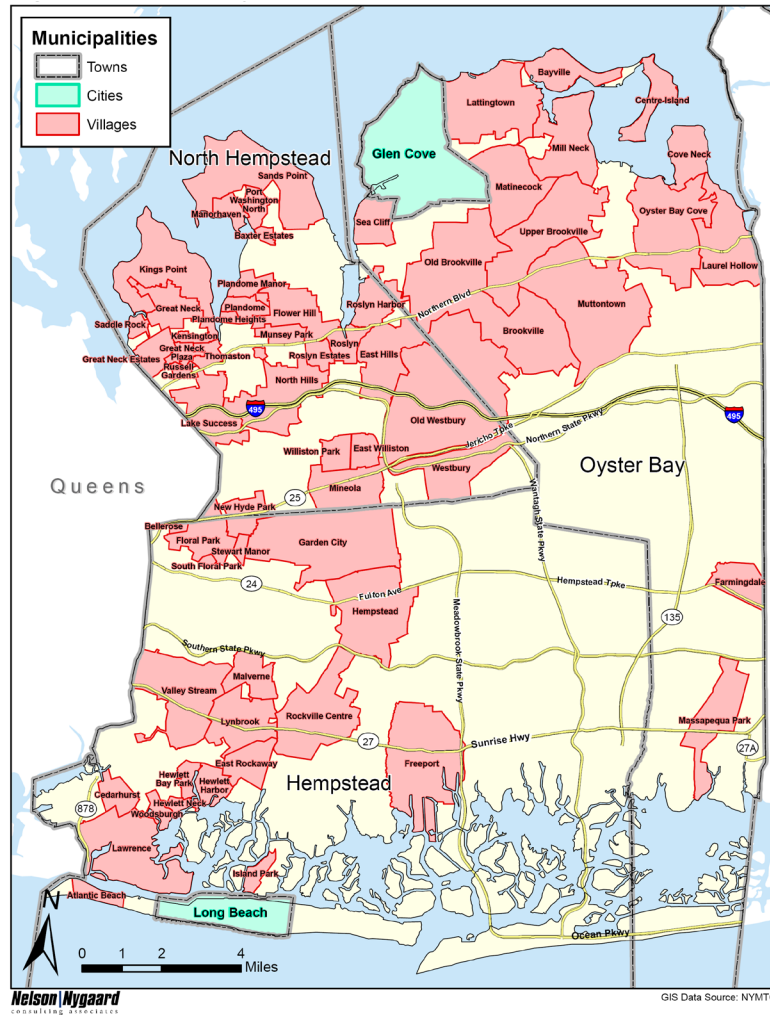


Figure 3-8 Nassau County Detail



Eight major roadways serve Nassau County, running east to west. Starting on the North Shore and going south: NY 25A, Northern Boulevard, runs from Suffolk County to the Queensboro Bridge in Long Island City in Queens.

NY 25, Jericho Turnpike, runs from Suffolk County over the Queensboro Bridge into Manhattan. Interstate 495, the Long Island Expressway, runs from Suffolk County into Manhattan via the Midtown Tunnel in Long Island.

The Northern State Parkway runs from Suffolk County and becomes the Grand Central Parkway as it enters Queens.

NY 24, Hempstead Turnpike, runs from NY 110 in Suffolk County through the center of Nassau County and into Jamaica Avenue in Queens Village.

The Southern State Parkway runs from Suffolk County into the Cross Island and Laurelton Parkways as it enters Queens.

NY 27, Sunrise Highway, begins in Suffolk County and continues into Queens and Brooklyn.

Finally, Merrick Road begins at the Suffolk County line and runs west to Rockville Centre, where it crosses NY 27, Sunrise Highway, and continues west, northwest into, Queens, terminating at Hillside Avenue, in the Jamaica section of Queens.

In addition, three major roadways serve Nassau County from north to south. Starting from east to west: NY 135, the Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway, runs from NY 25, Jericho Turnpike, in the north to Merrick Road, in the south.

The Wantagh State Parkway runs from the Northern State Parkway in Westbury to Jones Beach on the Atlantic Ocean.

Paralleling the Wantagh State Parkway to the west, the Meadowbrook State Parkway runs from the Northern State Parkway in Carle Place to Jones Beach State Park.

MTA Long Island Bus and the City of Long Beach provide fixed-route bus service in Nassau County, with several routes traveling to Queens and western Suffolk County. Daily rail service is operated by MTA Long Island Rail Road. In addition, several demand-response alternatives are available to residents of Nassau County.

Area

Nassau County is the smaller of the two counties in the Long Island subregion, covering 287 square miles of land area. The Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay are the largest municipalities in Nassau County, covering 120 and 104 square miles of land, respectively. The City of Long Beach, encompassing only two square miles of land, is the smallest of the Nassau County municipalities, and also the smallest city on all of Long Island. Figure 3-9 below provides greater detail on the area of cities and towns in Nassau County.

Figure 3-9 Nassau County Area by Municipality

| | Total Area (Sq. Miles) | Land Area (Sq. Miles) |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| City of Glen Cove | 19 | 7 |
| Town of Hempstead | 191 | 120 |
| City of Long Beach | 4 | 2 |
| Town of North Hempstead | 69 | 54 |
| Town of Oyster Bay | 169 | 104 |
| Nassau County | 453 | 287 |

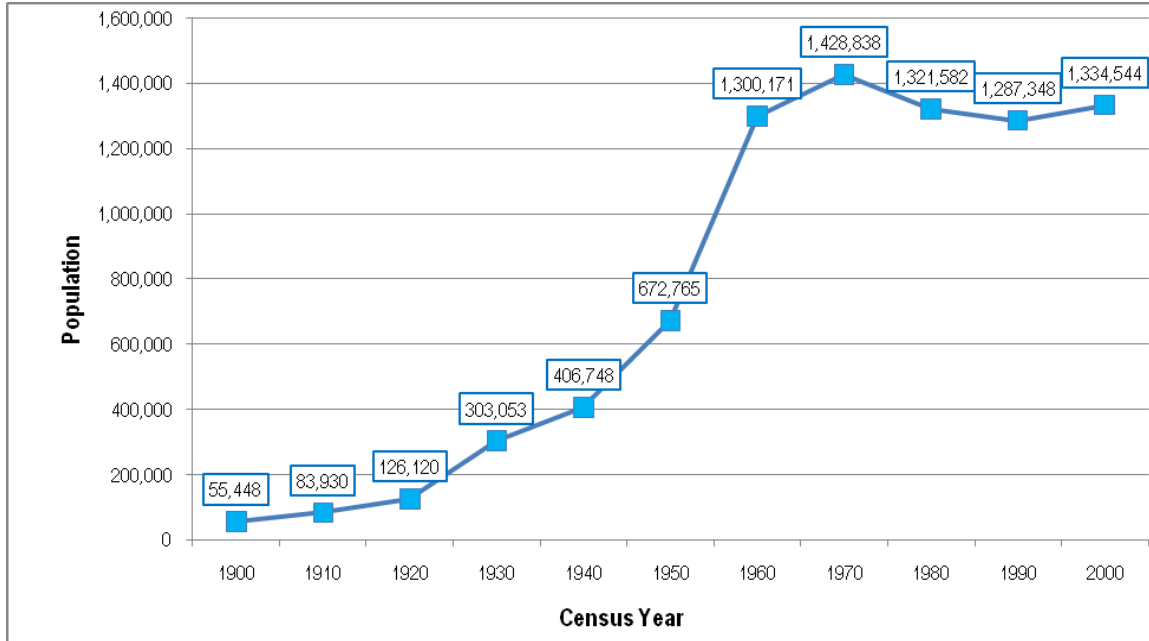
Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population and Population Growth

Population records have been kept in Nassau County since 1900. At the time of the first population count in June of 1900, the population of Nassau County was just over 55,000. From 1900 to 1910 and then again between 1910 and 1920, county population doubled. Between 1920 and 1930, the population grew by 140 percent, from 126,120 to 303,053. From 1930 to

1940, population growth slowed to 34 percent, but then it grew by 65 percent during the next decade (1940-1950), and 93 percent during the decade after that (1950 to 1960). After 1960, population growth in Nassau County slowed considerably, to less than 10 percent from 1960 to 1970, before the population began to decline each decade until the year 2000.

Figure 3-10 Nassau County Population by Year



Source: US Census; US Department of Commerce

As of the 2000 Census, there were about 1.3 million people in Nassau County, an increase of almost four percent over the population during the previous decade. The Town of Hempstead is the most populated of all the municipalities in Nassau County and on Long Island, with 751,102 people (as of 2006), although this figure shows a six percent decline in population since 2000. North Hempstead also experienced a decline in population between 2000 and 2006, though at a much lower rate than Hempstead. Figure 3-11 below shows the population and population change for each of the municipalities in Nassau County. The 2006 estimates from the US Census Bureau are not available for Glen Cove or Long Beach.

Figure 3-11 Nassau County Population and Population Change by Municipality

| | 2000 Population | 2006 Population | Change | % Change |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| City of Glen Cove | 26,622 | n/a | | |
| Town of Hempstead | 755,924 | 751,102 | (4,822) | (6.4%) |
| City of Long Beach | 35,462 | n/a | | |
| Town of North Hempstead | 222,611 | 218,186 | (4,425) | (1.9%) |
| Town of Oyster Bay | 293,925 | 299,635 | 5,710 | 1.9% |
| Nassau County | 1,334,544 | 1,325,662 | (8,882) | (0.7%) |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population Density

As shown in Figure 3-12, population density in Nassau County as of the year 2000 was 4,650 persons per square mile of land area. This figure is significantly higher than persons per square mile for both the state of New York (402 persons per square mile) and the United States (80 persons per square mile). The City of Long Beach is the densest municipality in Nassau County, with more than 17,731 persons per square mile. However, at two square miles, Long Beach is also the smallest municipality, in terms of land area, on Long Island. Hempstead is the second densest area in Nassau County, with 6,299 persons per square mile. The remaining cities and towns in Nassau County have near or fewer than 4,000 persons per square mile each.

Figure 3-12 Nassau County Population Density by Municipality

| | 2000 Population | Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | Density (Persons per Sq. Mi.) |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| City of Glen Cove | 26,622 | 7 | 3,803 |
| Town of Hempstead | 755,924 | 120 | 6,299 |
| City of Long Beach | 35,462 | 2 | 17,731 |
| Town of North Hempstead | 222,611 | 54 | 4,122 |
| Town of Oyster Bay | 293,925 | 104 | 2,826 |
| Nassau County | 1,334,544 | 287 | 4,650 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population Age Distribution

The median age of Nassau County residents was 38.5 in the year 2000. This is only slightly higher than the median age of New Yorkers (35.9). In Nassau County, persons in this age group, 18 – 64, made up 60 percent of the total population. Similarly, when broken down by municipality, persons age 18 – 64 made up between 60 and 65 percent of the total population of each city or town. Children under the age of 18 comprised between 20 and 25 percent of the total population in Nassau County, and in each city or town.

Older adults, those ages 65 and older, made up 15 percent of the population of Nassau County. Glen Cove had the highest proportion of older adults, with 18 percent of its population over the age of 65. In Hempstead, 106,463 or 14 percent of residents were older; the lowest percentage among Nassau County municipalities.

Figure 3-13 Nassau County Age Distribution by Municipality

| | | Under 18 | 18 - 64 | 65 and Over |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| City of Glen Cove | Population | 5,643 | 16,320 | 4,659 |
| | Percentage | 21% | 61% | 18% |
| Town of Hempstead | Population | 192,351 | 457,110 | 106,463 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 60% | 14% |
| City of Long Beach | Population | 6,577 | 22,974 | 5,911 |
| | Percentage | 19% | 65% | 17% |
| Town of North Hempstead | Population | 52,425 | 133,151 | 37,035 |
| | Percentage | 24% | 60% | 17% |
| Town of Oyster Bay | Population | 72,083 | 175,069 | 46,773 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 60% | 16% |
| Nassau County | Population | 329,079 | 804,624 | 200,841 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 60% | 15% |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population of Persons with Disabilities

Figure 3-14 shows the percentage and density of persons with disabilities in Nassau County. As shown, almost 15 percent of persons (over the age of five) in Nassau County reported a disability in the 2000 Census. Most of the municipalities in Nassau County are similar in terms of the percentage of population with a disability, with the exception of Long Beach. Long Beach has the highest share of residents with disabilities in Nassau County—7,172 individuals, or 20 percent. Similarly, Long Beach has the highest density of persons with disabilities – 3,586 persons with disabilities per square mile.

Figure 3-14 Percentage and Density of Persons with Disabilities in Nassau County, by Municipality

| | Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | 2000 Population | Total Persons with Disabilities (Age 5+) | % of Population | Density of Persons with Disabilities |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| City of Glen Cove | 7 | 26,622 | 4,052 | 15.22% | 579 |
| Town of Hempstead | 120 | 755,924 | 116,208 | 15.37% | 968 |
| City of Long Beach | 2 | 35,462 | 7,172 | 20.22% | 3,586 |
| Town of North Hempstead | 54 | 222,611 | 31,375 | 14.09% | 581 |
| Town of Oyster Bay | 104 | 293,925 | 37,279 | 12.68% | 358 |
| Nassau County | 287 | 1,334,544 | 196,086 | 14.69% | 683 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Income

In 2006, median household income in Nassau County was \$85,994. The state median income for the same year was \$51,384 and the national, \$48,451. In 2000, median household income in Nassau County was \$72,030. Only 64,483 or 14.4 percent of households in Nassau County had annual incomes under \$25,000. In Glen Cove and Long Beach, low income households made up about 19.6 percent of households, while Oyster Bay had the lowest proportion, with 11.75 percent. Hempstead and North Hempstead fall in between those communities, with approximately 15 and 13 percent of households considered to have low income, respectively. Statewide, 30 percent of households had low income in the year 2000.

Figure 3-15 Percentage and Density of Low Income Households in Nassau County, by Municipality

| | Total Households | Low Income Households (< \$25,000) | % Low Income Households | Density of Low Income Households |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| City of Glen Cove | 9,456 | 1,862 | 19.69% | 266 |
| Town of Hempstead | 247,131 | 37,937 | 15.35% | 316 |
| City of Long Beach | 14,938 | 2,929 | 19.61% | 1,464 |
| Town of North Hempstead | 76,880 | 10,073 | 13.10% | 187 |
| City of Oyster Bay | 99,398 | 11,682 | 11.75% | 112 |
| Nassau County | 447,803 | 64,483 | 14.40% | 225 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Employment

In 2007, there was an average of 672,745 employees working in Nassau County. At 3.6 percent unemployment, the unemployment rate there was lower than the state (4.6) and national (4.5) rates. Of the 62 counties in New York, only two other counties, Putnam and Tompkins, experienced lower unemployment than Nassau County.

Employment data estimated by occupation and industry for the year 2006, at the county level, is available from the U.S Census Bureau. In 2006, a large majority of Nassau County residents were employed in either Management, Professional, and Related occupations (42 percent) or Sales and Office occupations (29 percent), together making up 71 percent of the workforce. Service occupations made up a significantly smaller portion of the workforce, 14 percent, while occupations in Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance and Production, Transportation, and Material Moving each made up another seven percent of the workforce in Nassau County. Workers in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry made up less than one percent.

General Profile of Suffolk County

Overview

Suffolk County is the easternmost county in New York, bordered by the Long Island and Block Island sounds to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, and Nassau County to the west. The county is unique in that a portion of its land mass is situated on two peninsulas, the North Fork and the South Fork, divided by a series of bays and sounds, including Great South Bay, Gardiners Bay, Napeague Bay, Sag Harbor Bay, Noyack Bay, Southold Bay, Shelter Island Sound, Little Peconic Bay, Great Peconic Bay, and Flanders Bay. Orient Point is the easternmost point on the North Fork and Montauk is its counterpoint on the South Fork.

Suffolk County is divided into ten towns: Babylon, Brookhaven, East Hampton, Huntington, Islip, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Smithtown, Southampton, and Southold, and each town contains numerous villages. In addition, there are two Indian reservations in Suffolk County: Poospatuck and Shinnecock.

Suffolk County is served by eight major roadways running from east to west. Each of the forks is served by a single primary roadway. Beginning on the North Shore, NY 25A runs from Calverton to Smithtown, co-aligns with NY 25 through Smithtown, then diverges from NY 25, west of Smithtown and travels west into Nassau County.

NY 25, the Jericho Turnpike, begins in Orient Point and travels west to Nassau County.

NY 347, Nesconset Highway, is major artery that begins at the diverge with NY 454 Veterans Highway. NY 347 Nesconset Highway begins where it merges with the Northern State Parkway and is co-aligned with NY 454. Approximately two miles east of the Northern State Parkway, NY 347 diverges from NY 454 and travels northeast to merge with NY 25A in Port Jefferson Station.

NY 454 Veterans Highway diverges from NY 25 in Commack and continues southeast to Patchogue. Interstate 495, the Long Island Expressway, is the major traffic artery of Long Island, it begins at CR 58, Old Country Road, in Riverhead and continues west through central Suffolk County into Nassau County.

The Southern State Parkway runs from Heckscher State Park into Nassau County.

NY 27 runs from Montauk Point and becomes CR 39 in Southampton. As CR 39 approaches the Shinnecock Canal, it becomes NY 27 again which is an expressway all the way west to Lindenhurst where it reverts to a major arterial and then enters Nassau County.

Montauk Highway begins at Tuckahoe Road, just west of the Village of Southampton. Montauk Highway extends west to Nassau County. Between the Shinnecock Hills and Patchogue it is CR 80. Between Patchogue and Oakdale it is called CR 85 and briefly merges with NY 27 in Oakdale. Shortly after the merge, NY 27A diverges from NY 27 and continues west into Nassau County.

Suffolk County is served by seven major north-south arterials.

Starting in the west, NY 110 runs between Huntington Harbor in the north to NY 27A in Amityville in the south.

NY 231 runs from NY 25 in Dix Hills to NY 27A in Babylon.

The Sunken Meadow State Parkway runs from Sunken Meadow State Park down to the Southern State Parkway.

Traveling one exit west on the Southern State Parkway from the Sagtikos Parkway, the Robert Moses Parkway begins and connects the Southern State Parkway to ocean beaches at Robert Moses State Park. NY 111 runs from NY 25 in Smithtown to NY 27A in Islip.

CR 97-Nichols Road runs from NY 25A in Stony Brook to CR 85 Montauk Highway in Bayport.

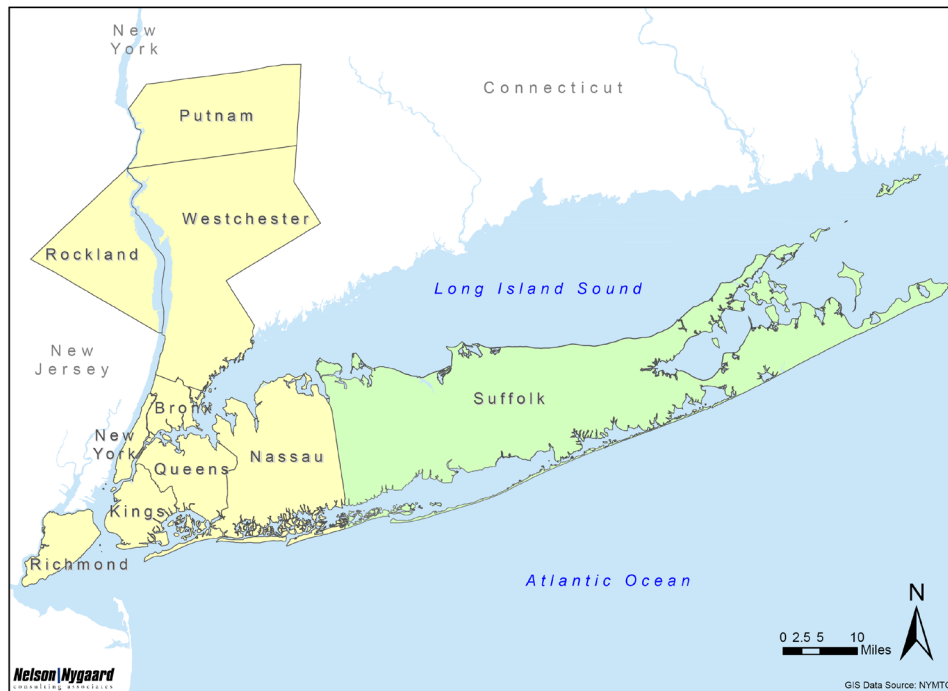
CR 83 runs from NY 25A in Mount Sinai to CR 80 Main Street in Patchogue. NY 112 runs from NY 25A in Port Jefferson Station to CR 80 Main Street in Patchogue.

CR 46-William Floyd Parkway runs from NY 25A in Shoreham to Smith Point County Park on the Atlantic Ocean.

Finally, NY 114 begins in Greenport on the North Fork of Suffolk County, crosses to Shelter Island on North Ferry, and traverses Shelter Island where it crosses over to Northaven on the South Fork using South Ferry. NY 114 continues southeast terminating at NY 27 in East Hampton.

Suffolk County Transit (SCT) and Huntington Area Rapid Transit (HART) provide fixed-route bus service in Suffolk County. Daily rail service is operated by MTA Long Island Rail Road. In addition, a number of demand-response alternatives are available to residents of Suffolk County.

Figure 3-16 Suffolk County within the NYMTC Region



Area

Suffolk County is much larger geographically than its neighbor to the west. From the Nassau County border to Montauk Point, Suffolk County stretches 86 miles. With 912 square miles of land area, Suffolk County makes up 76 percent of the land mass of Long Island. The town of Brookhaven is the largest town in Suffolk County, encompassing 259 square miles. Both the Shinnecock and Poospatuck reservations are significantly smaller than any of the municipalities in Suffolk County, encircling only about one square mile in land area each.

Figure 3-17 Suffolk County Detail

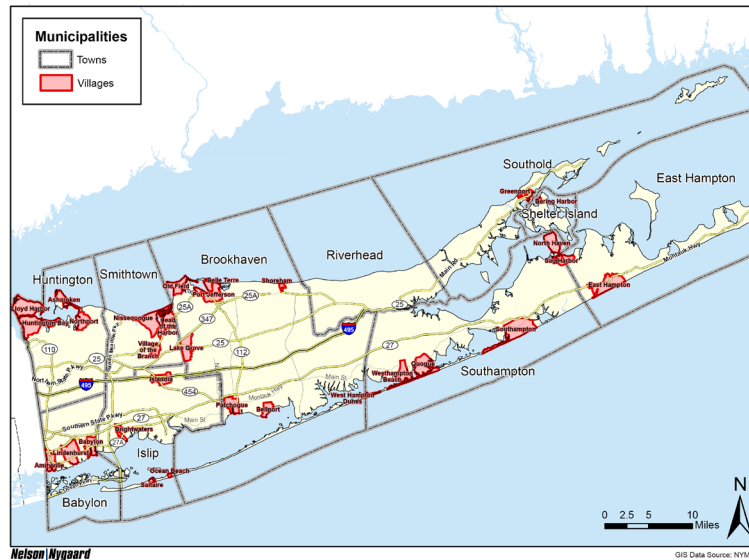


Figure 3-18 Suffolk County Area by Municipality

| | Total Area (Sq. Miles) | Land Area (Sq. Miles) |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Town of Babylon | 114 | 52 |
| Town of Brookhaven | 532 | 259 |
| Town of East Hampton | 386 | 74 |
| Town of Huntington | 137 | 94 |
| Town of Islip | 163 | 105 |
| Poospatuck Reservation | 0.09 | 0.09 |
| Town of Riverhead | 201 | 67 |
| Town of Shelter Island | 27 | 12 |
| Shinnecock Reservation | 1 | 1 |
| Town of Smithtown | 111 | 54 |
| Town of Southampton | 296 | 139 |
| Town of Southold | 404 | 54 |
| Suffolk County | 2,373 | 912 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population and Population Growth

The US Census Bureau estimates the population of Suffolk County as of 2006 as 1,469,715 persons. This is up about 3.5 percent from the counted 2000 population, 1,419,369. Population figures have been available for Suffolk County since the year 1790. Since then, population has grown every decade by an average of 26 percent. However, between 1950 and 1970, the County experienced a huge jump in population, growing almost 145 percent between 1950 and 1960 and 69 percent between 1960 and 1970. Since then, population growth has not been more than 15 percent per decade, with an average growth rate of seven percent. However, this is still significantly higher than the average growth rate for the state of New York, 1.7 percent.

Estimates of 2006 population counts are available for five towns in Suffolk County and are presented in Figure 3-19 below. As shown, the Town of Huntington has experienced population growth higher than the county overall, while other municipalities have grown at a lower rate.

Figure 3-19 Suffolk County Population and Population Change by Municipality

| | 2000 Population | 2006 Population | Change | % Change |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Town of Babylon | 211,792 | 218,910 | 7,118 | 3.3% |
| Town of Brookhaven | 448,248 | 467,441 | 19,193 | 4.3% |
| Town of East Hampton | 19,719 | n/a | | |
| Town of Huntington | 195,289 | 208,638 | 13,349 | 6.8% |
| Town of Islip | 322,612 | 326,506 | 3,894 | 1.2% |
| Poospatuck Reservation | 271 | n/a | | |
| Town of Riverhead | 27,680 | n/a | | |
| Town of Shelter Island | 2,228 | n/a | | |
| Shinnecock Reservation | 504 | n/a | | |
| Town of Smithtown | 115,715 | 116,745 | 1,030 | 0.9% |
| Town of Southampton | 54,712 | n/a | | |
| Town of Southold | 20,599 | n/a | | |
| Suffolk County | 1,419,369 | 1,469,715 | 50,346 | 3.5% |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population Density

Suffolk County is much less densely populated than Nassau County, but still much more so than the state of New York as a whole. In the year 2000, there were 1,556 persons per square mile of land area in Suffolk County, 2,297 persons per square mile on all of Long Island, and 402 persons per square mile in the state of New York. The Town of Babylon was the densest municipality, with 4,073 persons per square mile, on 52 square miles of land. Islip and the Poospatuck Reservation each contained more than 3,000 persons per square mile; Huntington and Smithtown more than 2,000 persons per square mile; and Brookhaven more than 1,500 persons per square mile. East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Shinnecock Reservation, Southampton, and Southold each had less than 500 persons per square mile. Figure 3-20 provides an overview of the same information.

Figure 3-20 Suffolk County Population Density by Municipality

| | 2000 Population | Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | Density (Persons per Sq. Mi.) |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Town of Babylon | 211,792 | 52 | 4,073 |
| Town of Brookhaven | 448,248 | 259 | 1,731 |
| Town of East Hampton | 19,719 | 74 | 266 |
| Town of Huntington | 195,289 | 94 | 2,078 |
| Town of Islip | 322,612 | 105 | 3,073 |
| Poospatuck Reservation | 271 | 0.09 | 3,011 |
| Town of Riverhead | 27,680 | 67 | 413 |
| Town of Shelter Island | 2,228 | 12 | 186 |
| Shinnecock Reservation | 504 | 1.31 | 385 |
| Town of Smithtown | 115,715 | 54 | 2,143 |
| Town of Southampton | 54,712 | 139 | 394 |
| Town of Southold | 20,599 | 54 | 382 |
| Suffolk County | 1,419,369 | 912 | 1,556 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population Age Distribution

The median age of residents of the state of New York in the year 2000 was 35.9. In Suffolk County, the median age was similar, 36.5. In 2000, children under the age of 18 made up 26 percent of the total population of Suffolk County and adults age 18 – 64 made up 62 percent.

Older adults comprised 12 percent of the population of Suffolk County, although those results were somewhat skewed by outlying communities. Older adults were 29 percent of the total population on Shelter Island and 23 percent in the Town of Southold. Conversely, only six percent of the population of the Poospatuck Reservation was over the age of 65. Figure 3-21 below provides greater detail.

Figure 3-21 Suffolk County Age Distribution by Municipality

| | | Under 18 | 18 - 64 | 65 and Over |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Town of Babylon | Population | 55,139 | 130,369 | 26,284 |
| | Percentage | 26% | 62% | 12% |
| Town of Brookhaven | Population | 119,621 | 283,227 | 45,400 |
| | Percentage | 27% | 63% | 10% |
| Town of East Hampton | Population | 4,188 | 12,260 | 3,271 |
| | Percentage | 21% | 62% | 17% |
| Town of Huntington | Population | 49,719 | 120,060 | 25,510 |
| | Percentage | 25% | 61% | 13% |
| Town of Islip | Population | 88,305 | 202,436 | 31,871 |
| | Percentage | 27% | 63% | 10% |
| Poospatuck Reservation | Population | 99 | 156 | 16 |
| | Percentage | 37% | 58% | 6% |
| Town of Riverhead | Population | 6,372 | 16,201 | 5,107 |
| | Percentage | 23% | 59% | 18% |
| Town of Shelter Island | Population | 404 | 1,186 | 638 |
| | Percentage | 18% | 53% | 29% |
| Shinnecock Reservation | Population | 157 | 277 | 70 |
| | Percentage | 31% | 55% | 14% |
| Town of Smithtown | Population | 30,091 | 70,072 | 15,552 |
| | Percentage | 26% | 61% | 13% |
| Town of Southampton | Population | 11,565 | 34,064 | 9,083 |
| | Percentage | 21% | 62% | 17% |
| Town of Southold | Population | 4,421 | 11,422 | 4,756 |
| | Percentage | 21% | 55% | 23% |
| Suffolk County | Population | 370,081 | 881,730 | 167,558 |
| | Percentage | 26% | 62% | 12% |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Population of Persons with Disabilities

As shown in Figure 3-22, there were 214,085 persons (15 percent) over the age of five with a disability in Suffolk County in the year 2000. In Babylon, Riverhead, and Shelter Island, more than 18 percent of residents had a disability. Interestingly, Babylon and Shelter Island were also the municipalities with the highest and lowest densities (respectively) of persons with disabilities. In Babylon, there were 721 persons with disabilities per square mile. On Shelter Island, there were only 43 persons with disabilities per square mile.

Figure 3-22 Percentage and Density of Persons with Disabilities in Suffolk County by Municipality

| | Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | 2000 Population | Total Disabilities (Age 5+) | % of Population | Density of Persons with Disabilities |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Town of Babylon | 52 | 211,792 | 37,481 | 17.7% | 721 |
| Town of Brookhaven | 259 | 448,248 | 65,056 | 14.51% | 232 |
| Town of East Hampton | 74 | 19,719 | 3,716 | 18.84% | 50 |
| Town of Huntington | 94 | 195,289 | 23,475 | 12.02% | 250 |
| Town of Islip | 105 | 322,612 | 52,416 | 16.25% | 499 |
| Poospatuck Reservation | 0.09 | 271 | 28 | 10.33% | 311 |
| Town of Riverhead | 67 | 27,680 | 5,335 | 19.27% | 80 |
| Town of Shelter Island | 12 | 2,228 | 520 | 23.34% | 43 |
| Shinnecock Reservation | 1.31 | 504 | 70 | 13.89% | 53 |
| Town of Smithtown | 54 | 115,715 | 14,204 | 12.27% | 263 |
| Town of Southampton | 139 | 54,712 | 8,448 | 15.44% | 61 |
| Town of Southold | 54 | 20,599 | 3,336 | 16.99% | 62 |
| Suffolk County | 912 | 1,419,369 | 214,085 | 15.08% | 235 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Income

At \$86,993, median income in Suffolk County was significantly higher than both the state (\$51,384) and national (\$48,451) medians for the year 2006. In 2000, median income was slightly lower at \$72,112, but still higher than both the state and national median incomes. In that year, only 15.28 percent of households in Suffolk County were considered to have low income, almost half the state figure of 30 percent. The percentage of low income households as a portion of the total population is extremely high on the Poospatuck and Shinnecock reservations; 61 and 63 percent, respectively. Riverhead has the next highest share of low income households with 26.21 percent. Between 20 and 25 percent of households in East Hampton, Southampton, and Southold have low income. Huntington and Smithtown have the lowest percentage of low-income populations in Suffolk County with 11.08 percent and 11.17 percent, respectively.

Figure 3-23 below provides detailed information on the percentage and density of low income households in Suffolk County.

Figure 3-23 Percentage and Density of Low Income Households in Suffolk County by Municipality

| | Total Households | Low Income Households (< \$25,000) | % Low Income Households | Density of Low Income Households |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Town of Babylon | 69,026 | 11,765 | 17.04% | 226 |
| Town of Brookhaven | 146,904 | 22,305 | 15.18% | 86 |
| Town of East Hampton | 8,112 | 1,831 | 22.57% | 25 |
| Town of Huntington | 65,958 | 7,308 | 11.08% | 78 |
| Town of Islip | 98,973 | 14,511 | 14.66% | 138 |
| Poospatuck Reservation | 93 | 57 | 61.29% | 633 |
| Town of Riverhead | 10,773 | 2,824 | 26.21% | 42 |
| Town of Shelter Island | 997 | 213 | 21.36% | 18 |
| Shinnecock Reservation | 238 | 150 | 63.03% | 115 |
| Town of Smithtown | 38,503 | 4,302 | 11.17% | 80 |
| Town of Southampton | 21,482 | 4,394 | 20.45% | 32 |
| Town of Southold | 8,476 | 2,087 | 24.62% | 39 |
| Suffolk County | 469,535 | 71,747 | 15.28% | 79 |

Source: US Census (2000); figures are rounded estimates

Employment

Employment data estimated by occupation and industry for the year 2006, at the county level, is available from the US Census Bureau. In that year, there were 722,788 members of the workforce living in Suffolk County. The majority of Suffolk County residents were employed in either Management, Professional, and Related occupations (36 percent) or Sales and Office occupations (28 percent). Service occupations made up 16 percent of the workforce, while occupations in Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance and Production, Transportation, and Material Moving each made up another ten percent of the workforce in Suffolk County. Workers in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry made up less than one percent.

By industry, the majority of the Suffolk County workforce, 24 percent, worked in Education, Health, and Social Services. The Retail sector had the second highest share, at 12 percent and Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services industries comprised 11 percent of professions. No other industry accounted for more than 10 percent of employment of Suffolk County residents.