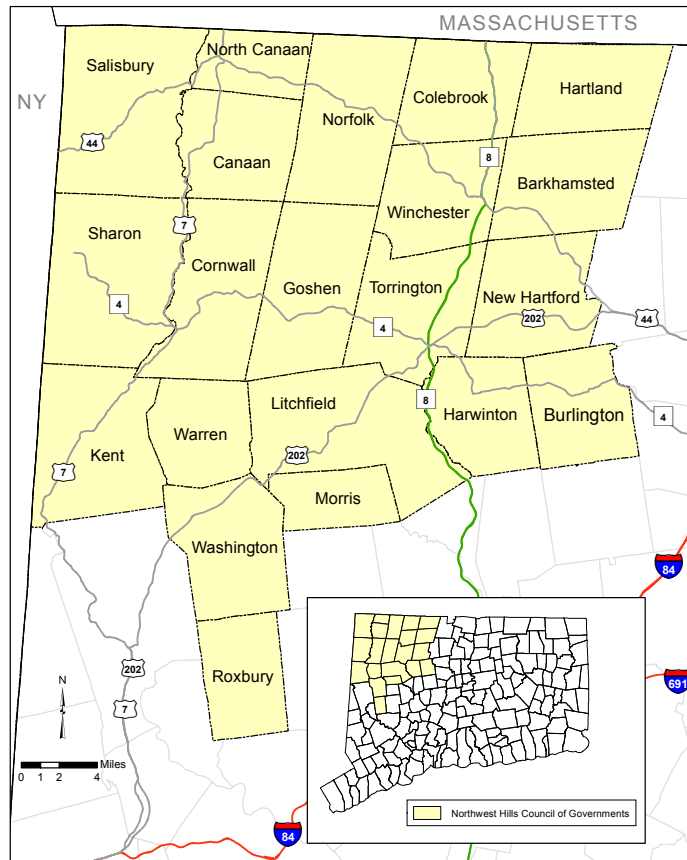


DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

**POPULATION & ECONOMIC TRENDS
IN
THE NORTHWEST HILLS REGION
OF CONNECTICUT**



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Last revised: October 2, 2014

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POPULATION & ECONOMIC TRENDS IN THE NORTHWEST HILLS REGION OF CONNECTICUT

This report presents information on recent changes in population and the economy in Connecticut's Northwest Hills region and the 21 cities and towns within the region. The map on the preceding page shows the communities that are included in the region and the major roads that traverse it, as well as the region's location within the state.

THE REGION'S TWO POPULATIONS

A significant feature of the Northwest Hills is that there are two different and significant components of the region's population:

- By far the largest portion of this report focuses on the people who live in the region on a year-round basis. This group is referred to in the report as the "Resident" population.
- In addition, there is another population -- often referred to as "weekenders" -- composed of people who live in the region mostly during the warmer months of the year and who are usually permanent residents of places outside it. This group is described in the report as the "Seasonal" population.

[The Seasonal population is much smaller in numbers than the Resident population, but it is growing much faster. It constitutes a significant element in the economy of many regional towns](#) as well as in other aspects of regional life.

The Resident Population

Table 1 presents US Census data for 2000 and 2010 for the Resident population in each of the region's 21 municipalities and in the region as a whole. Significant features of the decade's changes include:

- Resident population grew from 110,000 to about 115,000 persons in the decade. This increase of 5,200 persons resulted in a growth rate of 4.7 percent over the decade.
- The region's growth rate was about the same as that of the State of Connecticut as a whole (4.9 percent) but it was much slower than the

growth rate in the United States as a whole, where the population grew twice as fast (9.7 percent).

- The region's slower growth rate was largely the result of net outmigration of about 4,000 persons over the decade, or about four percent of the region's Resident population in 2000.

Table 1				
Resident Population*, Northwest Hills Region, 2000 and 2010				
	A	B	C	D
Town or CITY	2000 Resident Population	2010 Resident Population	2000-2010 Change in Resident Population	2000-2010 Percent Change in Resident Population
Barkhamsted	3,494	3,799	305	8.7%
Burlington	8,190	9,301	1,111	13.6%
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,081	1,212	131	12.1%
Colebrook	1,471	1,485	14	1.0%
Cornwall	1,434	1,420	-14	-1.0%
Goshen	2,697	2,976	279	10.3%
Hartland	2,012	2,114	102	5.1%
Harwinton	5,283	5,642	359	6.8%
Kent	2,858	2,979	121	4.2%
Liitchfield	8,316	8,466	150	1.8%
Morris	2,301	2,388	87	3.8%
New Hartford	6,088	6,970	882	14.5%
Norfolk	1,660	1,709	49	3.0%
North Canaan	3,350	3,315	-35	-1.0%
Roxbury	2,419	2,262	-157	-6.5%
Salisbury	3,977	3,741	-236	-5.9%
Sharon	2,968	2,782	-186	-6.3%
TORRINGTON	35,202	36,383	1,181	3.4%
Warren	1,254	1,461	207	16.5%
Washington	3,596	3,578	-18	-0.5%
Winchester	10,664	11,242	578	5.4%
Northwest Hills Region	110,032	115,225	5,193	4.7%
Sources US Census;				
* The term "Resident Population" is used to describe what is termed in the US Census as "Total Population".				

The Seasonal Population

- Seasonal residents are not counted directly in the US Census of Population that is carried out in April of decennial years. The only clear trace of the Seasonal population in the census comes from the count of housing units listed as “vacant but seasonally occupied”. In order to estimate the number of Seasonal residents, the number of such seasonal housing units was multiplied by an average of 2.5 persons per household. The result of this calculation is shown in Table 2.

The region's Seasonal population is estimated to have grown from less than 10,000 to nearly 12,500 in the 2000-2010 decade. This was a relatively rapid growth rate of more than one-fourth, more than five times as fast as growth in the region's Resident population during the same period.

Table 2				
Seasonal Population*, Northwest Hills Region, 2000 and 2010				
	A	B	C	
Town or CITY	2000 Estimated Seasonal Population	2010 Estimated Seasonal Population	2000-2010 Seasonal Population Change	2000-2010 Percent Change in Seasonal Population
Barkhamsted	170	205	35	21%
Burlington	18	153	135	771%
Canaan (Falls Village)	323	38	90	28%
Colebrook	170	215	45	26%
Cornwall	568	778	210	37%
Goshen	933	965	33	3%
Hartland	100	90	-10	-10%
Harwinton	43	93	50	118%
Kent	663	768	105	16%
Liitchfield	503	650	148	29%
Morris	563	673	110	20%
New Hartford	220	605	385	175%
Norfolk	430	478	48	11%
North Canaan	125	170	45	36%
Roxbury	125	408	0	0%
Salisbury	1,375	1,760	385	28%
Sharon	708	930	223	31%
TORRINGTON	1,075	1,023	-52	-5%
Warren	330	415	85	26%
Washington	708	1,143	435	61%
Winchester	715	915	200	28%
Northwest Hills Region	9,860	12,470	2,610	26%
Sources: Estimated on basis of 2.5 persons per seasonally-occupied housing unit.				
* The term "Seasonal" is used to describe people who live in the region part of the year but are counted as residents of communities outside the region in the US Census.				

Using the count of seasonal housing units as the basis for estimating Seasonal population indicates that there were very rapid rates of growth in the Seasonal populations in the towns of Burlington, Harwinton and New Hartford.

Table 3 shows the geographic distribution of both Resident and Seasonal populations within the region's 19 towns and two cities from 2000 to 2010.

Table 3				
Resident, Seasonal and Total Population, Northwest Hills Region, 2010				
	A	B	C	
Town or CITY	2010 Resident Population	2010 Seasonal Population	2010 Total Population	Seasonal Population as a Percent of the Total
Barkhamsted	3,799	205	4,004	5%
Burlington	9,301	153	9,454	2%
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,212	38	1,250	3%
Colebrook	1,485	215	1,700	13%
Cornwall	1,420	778	2,198	35%
Goshen	2,976	965	3,941	24%
Hartland	2,114	90	2,204	4%
Harwinton	5,642	93	5,735	2%
Kent	2,979	768	3,747	20%
Liitchfield	8,466	650	9,116	7%
Morris	2,388	673	3,061	22%
New Hartford	6,970	605	7,575	8%
Norfolk	1,709	478	2,187	22%
North Canaan	3,315	170	3,485	5%
Roxbury	2,262	408	2,670	15%
Salisbury	3,741	1,760	5,501	32%
Sharon	2,782	930	3,712	25%
TORRINGTON	36,383	1,023	37,406	3%
Warren	1,461	415	1,876	22%
Washington	3,578	1,143	4,721	24%
Winchester	11,242	915	12,157	8%
Regional Total	115,225	12,265	127,490	10%
Source: US Census (column A) and estimates as shown in Table 2.				

Table 4 on the following page summarizes the change in population during the 2000-2010 decade for each of the region's 21 communities and the region as a whole. As noted above, Seasonal population is estimated to have increased much faster than Resident population. The result was that net growth in the region's Total population over the decade was six percent.

[Six of the region's communities lost Resident population during the decade: Cornwall, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon and Washington.](#)

In contrast, all regional communities gained Seasonal population except for Roxbury. The largest increases in the number of “weekenders” took place in Washington, New Hartford, Salisbury, Sharon, Cornwall, and Winchester.

Table 4				
Change in Resident, Seasonal and Total Population, Northwest Hills Region, 2000-2010				
	A	B	C	
Town or CITY	2000-2010 Change in Resident Population	2000-2010 Change in Seasonal Population	2000-2010 Change in Total Population	
Barkhamsted	305	35	340	
Burlington	1,111	135	1,246	
Canaan (Falls Village)	131	90	221	
Colebrook	14	45	59	
Cornwall	-14	210	196	
Goshen	279	33	312	
Hartland	102	10	112	
Harwinton	359	50	409	
Kent	121	105	226	
Liitchfield	150	148	298	
Morris	87	110	197	
New Hartford	882	385	1,267	
Norfolk	49	48	97	
North Canaan	-35	45	10	
Roxbury	-157	0	-157	
Salisbury	-236	385	149	
Sharon	-186	223	37	
TORRINGTON	1,181	53	1,234	
Warren	207	85	292	
Washington	-18	435	417	
Winchester	578	200	778	
Regional Total	5,193	2,703	7,896	
Source: US Census (column A); estimates as shown in Table 2 (column B).				

Age Distribution

Data on the age distribution of the region’s Resident population, based on the 2000 and 2010 Censuses, is shown in Tables 5 and 6. These tables present information on three major age categories – children and youth, working age

adults and the elderly -- for each of the 21 municipalities and for the region as a whole.

No comparable data is available on the age composition or related characteristics of the region's Seasonal population.

Table 5				
Resident Population by Age Groups, Northwest Hills Region, 2000				
	A	B	C	D
Town or CITY	2000 Resident Population*	2000 Under 18 Years of Age	2000 18 to 64 years of age	2000 65 Years and Over
Barkhamsted	3,494	873	2,268	353
Burlington	8,190	2,313	5,279	598
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,081	255	672	154
Colebrook	1,471	361	903	207
Cornwall	1,434	350	832	252
Goshen	2,697	613	1,674	410
Hartland	2,012	550	1,248	214
Harwinton	5,283	1,324	3,270	689
Kent	2,858	653	1,697	508
Liitchfield	8,316	2,096	4,807	1,413
Morris	2,301	565	1,409	327
New Hartford	6,088	1,639	3,906	543
Norfolk	1,660	393	1,038	229
North Canaan	3,350	780	1,933	637
Roxbury	2,136	486	1,355	295
Salisbury	3,977	892	2,226	859
Sharon	2,968	633	1,713	622
TORRINGTON	35,202	8,111	20,908	6,183
Warren	1,254	284	783	187
Washington	3,596	876	2,151	569
Winchester	10,654	2,474	6,554	1,626
Regional Total	110,022	26,521	66,626	16,875
Percent of Total	100%	24.1%	60.6%	15.3%
Source: US Census				
* The term "Resident Population" is used to describe what is termed in the US Census as "Total Population ".				

Table 6				
Resident Population by Age Groups, Northwest Hills Region, 2010				
	A	B	C	D
Town or CITY	2010 Resident Population*	2010 Under 18 Years of Age	2010 18-64 Years of Age	2010 65 Years and Older
Barkhamsted	3,799	890	2,391	518
Burlington	9,301	2,205	6,139	957
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,212	262	738	212
Colebrook	1,485	313	947	225
Cornwall	1,420	279	844	297
Goshen	2,976	615	1,844	517
Hartland	2,114	468	1,360	286
Harwinton	5,642	1,285	3,451	906
Kent	2,979	565	1,781	633
Liitchfield	8,466	1,787	5,021	1,658
Morris	2,388	484	1,533	371
New Hartford	6,970	1,632	4,667	671
Norfolk	1,709	361	1,033	315
North Canaan	3,315	688	2,000	627
Roxbury	2,262	436	1,393	433
Salisbury	3,741	618	2,110	1,013
Sharon	2,782	450	1,664	668
TORRINGTON	36,383	7,659	22,864	5,860
Warren	1,461	314	872	275
Washington	3,578	673	2,170	735
Winchester	11,242	2,298	7,161	1,783
Regional Total	115,225	24,282	72,852	18,091
Percent of Total	100%	21.1%	63.2%	15.7%
Source: US Census				
* The term "Resident Population" is used to describe what is termed in the US Census as "Total Population".				

The decade-long changes between these two tables are then summarized in Table 7. Some significant features of these changes include:

- [The total size of the youngest group -- children and youth below 18 years of age -- fell by over 2,200 during the decade](#), a decline of more than eight percent. This pattern of decline in the youngest age category was widespread: only four of the region's cities and towns were recorded as experiencing gains in the below-18 age group – Barkhamsted, Falls Village, Goshen and Warren.

Table 7						
Change in Resident Population by Age Groups, Northwest Hills Region, 2000 to 2010						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Town or CITY	2000-2010 Change in Youth Below 18	Percent Change in Youth	2000-2010 Change in Adults Ages 18-64	Percent Change in Adults	2000-2010 Change in Elderly Ages 65+,	Percent Change in Elderly
Barkhamsted	17	1.9%	123	5.4%	165	46.7%
Burlington	-108	-4.7%	860	16.3%	359	60.0%
Canaan (Falls Village)	7	2.7%	66	9.8%	58	37.7%
Colebrook	-48	-13.3%	44	4.9%	18	8.7%
Cornwall	-71	-20.3%	12	1.4%	45	17.9%
Goshen	2	0.3%	170	10.2%	107	26.1%
Hartland	-82	-14.9%	112	9.0%	72	33.6%
Harwinton	-39	-2.9%	181	5.5%	217	31.5%
Kent	-88	-13.5%	84	4.9%	125	24.6%
Liitchfield	-309	-14.7%	214	4.5%	245	17.3%
Morris	-81	-14.3%	124	8.8%	44	13.5%
New Hartford	-7	-0.4%	761	19.5%	128	23.6%
Norfolk	-32	-8.1%	-5	-0.5%	86	37.6%
North Canaan	-92	-11.8%	67	3.5%	-10	-1.6%
Roxbury	-50	-10.3%	38	2.8%	138	46.8%
Salisbury	-274	-30.7%	-116	-5.2%	154	17.9%
Sharon	-183	-28.9%	-49	-2.9%	46	7.4%
TORRINGTON	-452	-5.6%	1956	9.4%	-323	-5.2%
Warren	30	10.6%	89	11.4%	88	47.1%
Washington	-203	-23.2%	19	0.9%	166	29.2%
Winchester	-176	-7.1%	607	9.3%	157	9.7%
Regional Total	-2,239	-8.4%	6,226	9.3%	1,216	7.2%
Source: US Census						

- The middle-aged group, ages 18 to 64, rose by more than 6,000, over nine percent. This group, often described as “working age” adults, is the largest of the region’s three age categories, accounting for three-fifths of the total Resident population. Most municipalities in the region shared in the pattern of gain although three towns -- Norfolk, Salisbury and Sharon -- did see their working age population fall.
- The oldest group -- aged 65 and older -- increased over the decade, rising about 1,200, or seven percent. Only two municipalities experienced population losses among their seniors: North Canaan and Torrington. The decline recorded in the number of Torrington seniors appears especially sharp, resulting in a loss of more than 300 seniors from the number the city recorded ten years earlier.

These decade-long changes in the three major age groups are summarized in Table 8 for the region as a whole. Part A of the table shows the different patterns of change: the youngest age group shrank in absolute terms while the two other age groups grew. Part B of Table 8 shows this same shift in terms of each age group’s share of the regional population: the youngest age group’s share of the total Resident population declined, the working age group’s share expanded and the elderly share remained at about the same level.

Table 8				
Change in Resident Population by Age Groups, Northwest Hills Region, 2000 to 2010				
A. Population	A	B	C	D
Year	Total Resident Population*	Children and Youth Under 18	Working Age Adults 18-64	Seniors 65 and Older
2000	110,022	26,521	66,626	16,875
2010	115,225	24,282	72,852	18,091
Change, 2000-2010	5,203	-2,239	6,226	1,216
Percentage Change, 2000-2010	4.7%	-8.4%	9.3%	7.2%
B. Share of Population	A	B	C	D
Year	Total Resident Population*	Under 18	18-64	65 and Older
2000	100.0%	24.1%	60.6%	15.3%
2010	100.0%	21.1%	63.2%	15.7%
Percentage Change in Share, 2000-2010	n/a	-3.0%	2.7%	0.4%
Source: 2000 US Census				
* The term "Resident Population" is used to describe what is termed "Total Population" in the US Census .				

Hispanic Population

[The Northwest Hills region includes a significant and growing number of residents with Hispanic or Latino origins.](#) The regional communities with the largest number of residents of Hispanic origin are the city of Torrington and the towns of Winchester, Burlington and North Canaan.

As of 2014, the American Community Survey estimated that Torrington's population included 3,193 persons of Hispanic origin, or about nine percent of the total. Winchester's population that year included 1,588 Hispanics, or five percent of the total. Other towns with substantial Hispanic populations were Burlington (246) and North Canaan (195) Together, these four municipalities accounted for four-fifths of the region's total number of Hispanics. The other one-fifth were widely distributed among the 17 other regional communities with every town having some residents of Hispanic origin.

THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

This section describes some of the significant strengths and shortcomings of the Northwest Hills regional economy.

Income

Median and mean incomes for each of the region's 21 municipalities are shown in Table 9. This data is drawn from the American Community Survey's annual

Table 9			
Income in the Past 12 Months, Northwest Hills Region, 2008-2012			
Town or CITY	Median Annual Income for Households	Mean (Average) Annual Income for Households	
Barkhamsted	84,861	97,921	
Burlington	106,756	114,081	
Cannan (Falls Village)	58,021	72,530	
Colebrook	71,691	100,062	
Cornwall	78,021	114,476	
Goshen	74,333	95,845	
Hartland	91,875	104,020	
Harwinton	89,429	117,744	
Kent	66,641	110,161	
Litchfield	84,063	107,502	
Morris	53,773	66,679	
New Hartford	85,598	97,629	
Norfolk	78,214	103,958	
North Canaan	45,962	59,707	
Roxbury	97,031	141,912	
Salisbury	65,625	112,233	
Sharon	76,117	108,179	
TORRINGTON	50,548	64,351	
Warren	96,250	131,968	
Washington	75,865	123,000	
Winchester	60,694	70,194	
Total	75,779	100,674	
Source: American Community Survey			
Note: The ACS is based on a small statistical sample and thus the results may vary from those in the 2010 Census.			

sampling from 2008 to 2012 and, in reality, may not be nearly as precise as appears in the table because the size of the sample is quite small.

Median income is the income of the household located halfway between those with more income and those with less. The region's median household income of \$75,779 was significantly higher than that of Connecticut as a whole (\$65,519) as well as that of the entire nation (\$53,034). As can be seen from the table, however, Torrington and several regional towns had median incomes below those of the state.

Mean – or average – household income tends to be higher than the median figures due to the effect of persons with very substantial income. The mean household income of \$100,674 in the Northeast Hills region is above that of the state as a whole (\$97,051) and is substantially higher than that of the nation ((\$73,034). Roxbury's mean income of \$141,912 was tops for the region.

Employment

The overall level of employment within the Northwest Hills region held fairly steady in the 18 years from 1994 to 2012, as shown in Table 10. As might be expected, Torrington, as the region's largest community, is also the one with most jobs, accounting for 42 percent of the total. [The number of jobs recorded in Torrington declined by nearly five percent](#) in the years recorded in the table. Winchester and Litchfield, with more than three thousand jobs each, are the region's other major centers of employment. Of the two, [Litchfield gained in employment over the 18 years while Winchester lost jobs.](#)

Table 10
Employment within the Northwest Hills Region, 1994 to 2012

Town or CITY	1994	2003	2012	Percent Change, 1994-2012
Barkhamsted	610	605	1,145	87.7%
Burlington	840	1,157	875	4.2%
Cannan (Falls Village)	820	886	813	-0.9%
Colebrook	100	217	*	*
Cornwall	380	468	430	13.2%
Goshen	430	426	393	-8.6%
Hartland	160	134	145	-9.4%
Harwinton	480	570	580	20.8%
Kent	990	1,242	1,304	31.7%
Litchfield	3,100	3,347	3,319	7.1%
Morris	270	343	463	71.5%
New Hartford	1,480	1,546	1,447	-2.2%
Norfolk	390	400	324	-16.9%
North Canaan	1,820	1,872	1,872	2.9%
Roxbury	240	285	331	37.9%
Salisbury	2,040	2,079	1,928	-5.5%
Sharon	1,260	1,140	1,231	-2.3%
TORRINGTON	16,310	15,702	15,537	-4.7%
Warren	90	140	145	61.1%
Washington	1,380	1,540	1,549	12.2%
Winchester	4,420	3,674	3,432	-22.4%
Total	37,610	37,773	37,263	-0.9%

Sources: ConnDOT Series 27 Land Use Projections;
Connecticut Economic Resource Center for 1994, 2003 and 2012;
* 2012 data not available for Colebrook.

Another aspect of regional employment is shown in Table 11: Journey To Work Trips. More than two-thirds of daily trips from home to workplace are made to destinations outside the Northwest Hills region. Virtually all of these outside-the-region trips are made to sites elsewhere in Connecticut. The only location outside the region with enough daily trips to be recorded was Manhattan. For trips that

both began and terminated within the region, [Torrington was the primary destination. Nearly 60 percent of all local trips were headed there.](#)

Table 11
Journey To Work Trips, Northwest Hills Region, 2003-2011

Destination of Trips	2003 Home to Work Trips	2011 Home to Work Trips	2011 Share of Total Trips
Northwest Hills Region:			
Torrington	9,670	8,547	17%
Litchfield	2,020	1,932	4%
Winchester	1,831	1,930	4%
New Hartford	884	1,148	2%
North Canaan	1,250	1,038	2%
Subtotal, Northwest Hills	15,655	14,595	29%
Elsewhere in CT	32,476	35,839	70%
Manhattan	343	644	1%
Total	48,474	51,078	100%

Source: US Census "On the Map" website

Poverty

The American Community Survey conducts periodic samples of the population to track the level of poverty. In 2010, the Census Bureau's definition of poverty was an income of less than \$14,216 for a household of two people. Using that definition, the ACS found that [one in every 14 households \(7.2 percent\) in the Northwest hills region was living in poverty](#), as shown in Table 12. The rate was highest in Cornwall, Kent and Torrington, where it was substantially higher than the regional average. This finding suggests that the data produced by the ACS sampling process needs to be used with caution because of the small size of the sample involved.

Table 12			
Population in Poverty, Northeast Hills Region, 2008-2012			
	A	B	C
Town or CITY	2000 Resident Population	2008-2012 Population Below Poverty Level	Percent of Population Below Poverty Level
Barkhamsted	3,494	23	0.7%
Burlington	8,190	19	0.2%
Cannan (Falls Village)	1,081	81	7.5%
Colebrook	1,471	49	3.3%
Cornwall	1,434	172	12.0%
Goshen	2,697	233	8.6%
Hartland	2,012	130	6.5%
Harwinton	5,283	258	4.9%
Kent	2,858	293	10.3%
Litchfield	8,316	563	6.8%
Morris	2,301	139	6.0%
New Hartford	6,088	220	3.6%
Norfolk	1,660	99	6.0%
North Canaan	3,350	324	9.7%
Roxbury	2,419	59	2.4%
Salisbury	3,977	158	4.0%
Sharon	2,968	163	5.5%
TORRINGTON	35,202	3,993	11.3%
Warren	1,254	98	7.8%
Washington	3,596	232	6.5%
Winchester	10,664	602	5.6%
Total	110,032	7,908	7.2%
Source: US Census (2010 Population) and American Community Survey (2008-2012 Population below Poverty level)			

Federal aid to low-income mothers and children provides an alternative measure of poverty. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) replaced most earlier Federal public assistance programs. As shown in Table 13, the proportion of SNAP recipients in the population of the Northwest Hills region (7.3 percent) was almost exactly the same as its ACS-estimated poverty rate of 7.2 percent. There were, however, significant differences in the distribution of SNAP recipients within the region. While Torrington's rate of SNAP dependency was substantially higher (13.6 percent) the SNAP figures for Cornwall and Kent were significantly lower (3.2 and 3.6 percent, respectively).

Table 13				
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)				
Recipients, June 2014, Northwestern Hills Region				
	A	B	C	D
Town or CITY	Resident Population, 2010	Number of SNAP Cases	Number of SNAP Recipients	SNAP Recipients as a Percent of Resident Population
Barkhamsted	3,799	66	122	3.2%
Burlington	9,301	87	164	1.8%
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,212	51	78	6.4%
Colebrook	1,485	14	29	2.0%
Cornwall	1,420	24	45	3.2%
Goshen	2,976	51	78	2.6%
Hartland	2,114	25	47	2.2%
Harwinton	5,642	99	190	3.4%
Kent	2,979	65	107	3.6%
Liitchfield	8,466	179	308	3.6%
Morris	2,388	48	84	3.5%
New Hartford	6,970	112	190	2.7%
Norfolk	1,709	42	66	3.9%
North Canaan	3,315	96	157	4.7%
Roxbury	2,262	26	40	1.8%
Salisbury	3,741	59	104	2.8%
Sharon	2,782	88	125	4.5%
TORRINGTON	36,383	2,914	4,959	13.6%
Warren	1,461	11	26	1.8%
Washington	3,578	47	84	2.3%
Winchester	11,242	766	1,391	12.4%
Northwest Hills Region	115,225	4,870	8,394	7.3%
Sources: Resident population from US Census; SNAP data from CT Department of Social Services				
[Note: published SNAP data for Canaan and North Canaan have been switched.]				

PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE POPULATION

Projecting the future is difficult, largely because many factors can cause past patterns to change, either modestly or substantially. Assuming that recent trends continue, however, the future population of the Northeast Hills region can be projected with reasonable certainty.

Table 14 contains projections of how the Resident and Seasonal populations are likely to change in the decade and a half between 2010 and 2025. The projections for Resident population in 2025 were prepared by the CT State Data Center while the projection of Seasonal population is based on a straight-line extrapolation of the trend between 2000 and 2010.

Table 14				
Projection of Population Change, Northwest Hills Region, 2000-2025				
	A	B	C	
Year	Resident Population	Seasonal Population	Total Population	
2000	110,032	10,143	120,175	
2010	115,225	12,265	127,490	
2025 Projection	117,804	18,250	136,054	
Projected Average Annual Change, 2010 to 2025	170	360	530	
Sources: Resident population for 2000 and 2010 from US Census; 2025 Resident Population projection from CT State Data Center; 2025 projection for Seasonal population based on straight-line extension of the 2000-2010 trend.				

The projections of the Resident component of the region’s population suggest that growth in the number of year-round residents will be markedly slower over the next 15 years than it was in the decade from 2000 to 2010. This slowing is likely to be the combined result of two factors:

- Net natural increase, or the difference between the number of births and deaths, appears likely to decline as the Region’s birth rate falls and the death rate rises due to the overall aging of the population; and
- Net outmigration from the Northwest Hills region to other parts of the state and nation appears likely to continue, although the pace will largely depend on relative economic conditions here and elsewhere.

The combined result of these factors is that the region’s Resident population in 2025 is projected to be about 118,000 persons, only 2.3 percent higher than it was in 2010.

Assuming that the Seasonal population continues to increase at the same pace it did during the 2000-2010 decade, it would nearly double from its 2000 level and rise by nearly half again over its 2010 level. [The net result would be an increase to more than 18,000 Seasonal residents by the year 2025.](#)

The combined result of these two factors is that the region’s Total population in 2025 would be about 136,000 \, an increase of 6.6 percent over 2010. Nearly

two-thirds of the projected population gain over the fifteen-year period is attributable to the growing number of Seasonal Residents. [Only about one-third of the growth would be due to increase in the Resident population while the remaining two-thirds of regional population growth would be attributable to rising numbers of seasonal residents.](#)

Table 15				
Population Projection by Municipalities, Northwest Hills Region, 2010 to 2025				
	A	B	C	D
Town or CITY	2010 Resident Population	2025 Projected Resident Population	2010-2025 Projected Change in Resident Population	2010-2025 Percent Change in Resident Population
Barkhamsted	3,799	3,963	164	4%
Burlington	9,301	10,068	767	8%
Canaan (Falls Village)	1,212	1,208	-4	0%
Colebrook	1,485	1,440	-45	-3%
Cornwall	1,420	1,266	-154	-11%
Goshen	2,976	3,242	266	9%
Hartland	2,114	2,012	-102	-5%
Harwinton	5,642	5,785	143	3%
Kent	2,979	2,920	-59	-2%
Litchfield	8,466	8,296	-170	-2%
Morris	2,388	2,483	95	4%
New Hartford	6,970	7,772	802	12%
Norfolk	1,709	1,676	-33	-2%
North Canaan	3,315	3,331	16	0%
Roxbury	2,262	2,306	44	2%
Salisbury	3,741	3,236	-505	-13%
Sharon	2,782	2,375	-407	-15%
TORRINGTON	36,383	37,688	1,305	4%
Warren	1,461	1,630	169	12%
Washington	3,578	3,297	-281	-8%
Winchester	11,242	11,810	568	5%
Northwest Hills Region	115,225	117,804	2,579	2%

Source: 2010 from US Census; 2025 projections from the CT State Data Center.

Table 15 presents projections for 2025 for each of the 21 towns and cities in the region prepared by the CT State Data Center. These projections suggest that:

- Only four towns are likely to see growth of at least eight percent in the 15-year period: Burlington, Goshen, New Hartford and Warren. Even these four, however, are unlikely to match the national rate of growth.

- Nine towns are expected to experience population decline from 2010 to 2025: Colebrook, Cornwall, Hartland, Kent, Litchfield, Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon and Washington. Three of these towns – Cornwall, Salisbury and Sharon – are projected to experience declines of more than ten percent each.
- The region's two cities – Torrington and Winchester – which together contained 41 percent of the region's total population in 2010, are projected to account for a slightly higher share (42 percent) of the total in 2025.

[These projections for individual towns or cities should be viewed with considerable caution.](#) Forecasts for communities as small as most of those in the region can be substantially affected by unpredictable factors.

Sources of Data

Much of the data in this text and the attached tables comes from the US Censuses of 2000 and 2010. The Census Bureau's American Community Survey, a statistical sample of the population carried out in the years between decennial censuses, was also the source of much data. Because the ACS is based on a very small statistical sample, some of its data may be of questionable reliability with respect to communities as small as most of those in the Northwest Hills region. Where the ACS has been used in this report it was largely because it was the only reasonably current data available.

Data also came from the CT Health Department, the CT Department of Social Services, the CT Department of Transportation and the CT Economic Resource Center. Projections of likely Resident population changes to the year 2025 were drawn from publications of the Connecticut State Data Center.

Analysis of the data and any conclusions presented in this memorandum are the sole responsibility of the author.