07

LONG ISLAND INDEX

Long Island Index

Working Together in New Ways for Long Island's Future

The *Index* is a status report on the Long Island region that aims to engage the larger Long Island community in thinking about the region's future and to be a catalyst for corrective action.

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Note to readers:
You will find our full Appendix including sources and methodology on our website, www.longislandindex.org.

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about the index

Good Information Presented in a Neutral Manner Can Move Policy

About the Index

The *Long Island Index* is a project that gathers and publishes data on the Long Island region. Our operating principle is: "Good information presented in a neutral manner can move policy."

The *Index* does not advocate specific policies. Instead, our goal is to be a catalyst for action, by engaging the community in thinking about our region and its future.

Specifically, the *Index* seeks to:

- Measure where we are and show trends over time
- Encourage regional thinking
- Compare our situation with other similar regions
- Increase awareness of issues and an understanding of their interrelatedness
- Inspire Long Islanders to work together in new ways to achieve shared goals

The governing board of the *Long Island Index* is the Advisory Committee, composed of leaders from Long Island's business, labor, academic and nonprofit sectors.

The Rauch Foundation acts as the convener of the Advisory Committee and the financial underwriter of the project. Initially funded for a three year period, the Foundation has since decided to continue the project.

What Are Indicators?

Indicators are facts that help show how a region is doing, the way the unemployment rate helps show the health of the economy. Measuring these kinds of data helps communities:

- Identify existing conditions
- Measure progress toward goals
- Mobilize action to improve the region

How to Use the Index

Each *Long Island Index* is centered on the following components:

(1) We define 11 **goals** to measure the region. The goals span six major areas of investigation: economy, our communities, health, education, our environment, and governance.

(2) Next, there are **key findings.** These are the indicators, specific measures of how we are doing. Example: The largest industry cluster on Long Island is Health with more than 150,000 employees. The findings are presented through both written and graphic analyses.

(3) Next is, **"Why is this important?"** This explains why the indicator is a good measure of progress toward a particular goal.

(4) **"How are we doing?"** puts the information in context.

Discontent rises as traditional Long Island strengths wane.

Long Island is without doubt a desirable place to live. Fully 82% rate it a "Good" or "Excellent" place. Long Islanders prize the region's natural beauty, amenities and services. Even our greatest woe—the high cost of housing—ironically demonstrates by the law of supply and demand Long Island's attractiveness.

But there are currents of dissatisfaction that are strong—and growing.

- Since 2002 there has been a steady decline in the number of Long Islanders who say things are heading in the right direction: from 57% to 48%.
- More Long Islanders are finding it hard to pay their mortgages, and more are receiving food stamps.
- More consider it likely that they will soon move away: from 45% in 2004 to 54% in 2006.

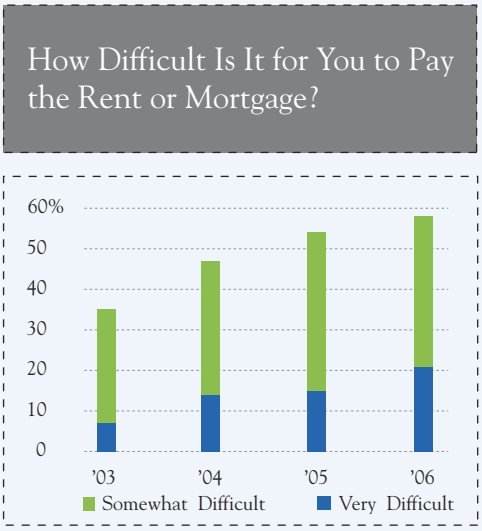
Long Islanders' troubles are intertwined with trends in our region's economy. The following pages shine a light on Long Islanders' discontents and the conditions that underlie them.

Our biggest problem: unaffordability.

The image of our region as a "wealthy suburb" is far from reality for a growing number of Long Islanders, who are struggling to keep up with high and rising costs.

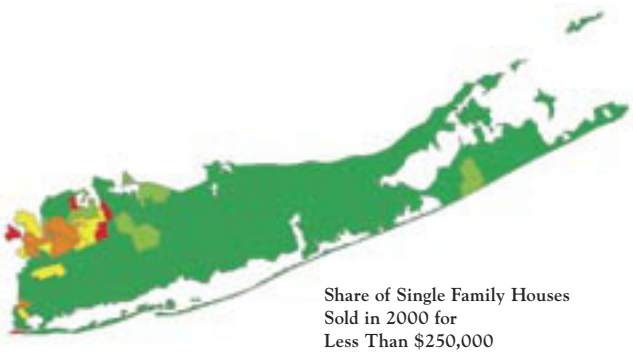
- Houses are beyond the reach of many families. (See map at right.) Condos, co-ops and rentals don't come close to meeting the demand.
- For those who do own homes, high mortgages are compounded by high taxes. Taxes are considered a "Very" or "Extremely" serious problem by 84% of Long Islanders.
- More and more families are having trouble paying their mortgage or rent. In 2006, 58% found it either "Very" or "Somewhat" difficult.
- High costs are largely responsible for Long Island's worrisome "brain drain." Fifty-four percent of Long Islanders, and 69% of those aged 18–34 consider it "Somewhat" or "Very" likely that they will move away within the next five years.

introduction

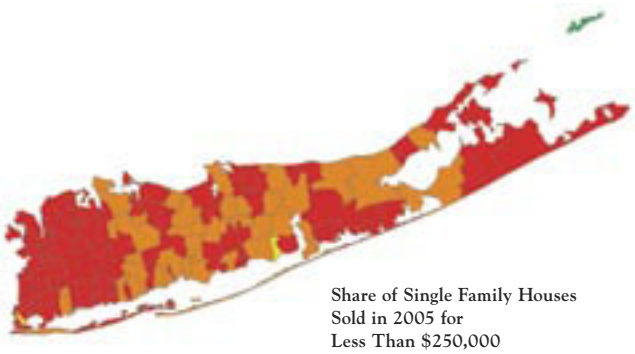


One in every five of our neighbors finds it "Very Difficult" to pay the rent or mortgage. That's three times what it was three years ago.

In 2000, you could buy a house for $250,000. Five years later, there were few to be found.



Share of Single Family Houses Sold in 2000 for Less Than $250,000

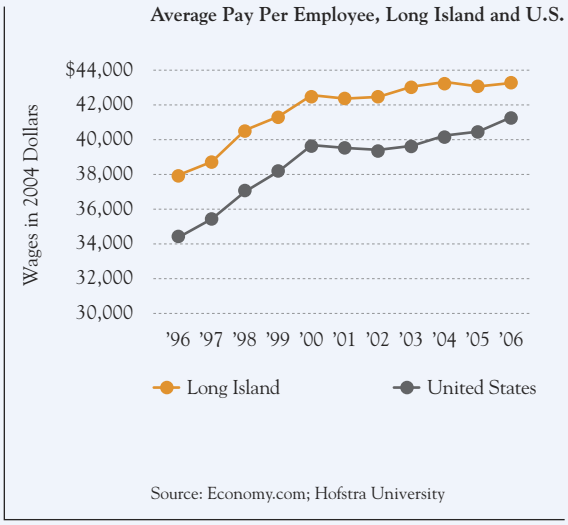


Share of Single Family Houses Sold in 2005 for Less Than $250,000

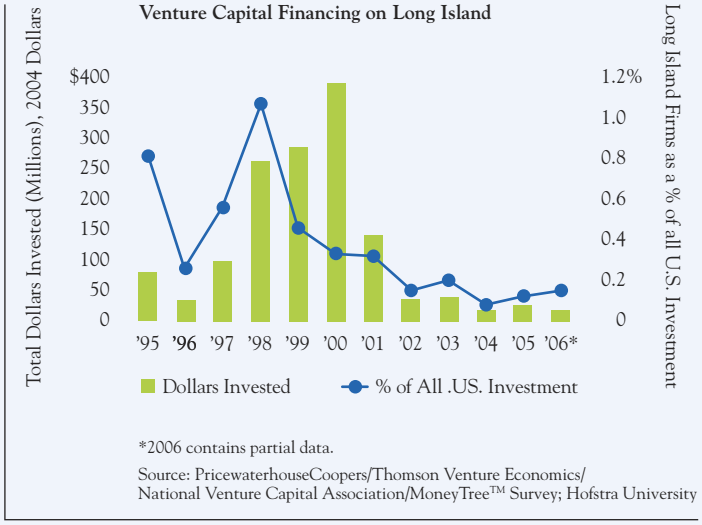
None | .01% to 5% | 5.01% to 10% | 10.01% to 15% | More than 15%

A house priced 2.5 times household income is considered affordable. Long Island's median household income is $84,378.

Source: Long Island Profiles of Brightwaters, NY, (www.LIProfiles.com), provided data on housing prices; map created by RPA.



Ten years ago, Long Island wages were 16% higher than the U.S. average. Now they are only 5% higher.



Loss of venture capital investment is a sign of a less innovative economy.

Losing our advantage.

In the past, Long Island's high cost of living was offset by high incomes. Now our income advantage is disappearing, pushing some families near the breaking point.

- Average wages have grown a total of less than 2% since 2000; since 2003 they have been virtually stagnant.
- Lower-income families have been hardest hit. From 1996 to 2005, household income for the bottom tenth actually fell, by 1%. Incomes for the top tenth rose 12%.
- Jobs have grown somewhat: an average of 1.4% per year from 1996 to 2006. The problem is that jobs are growing fastest in our lowest-paying industries. High-paying industries, such as technical manufacturing and information services, are shrinking.
- More and more people are falling behind. The number of Long Islanders receiving food stamps increased 20% from 2000 to 2003 (latest U.S. government figures).

What a healthy economy needs: innovation.

Innovation is the spark that fires a region's economy. In decades past, Long Island's technological leadership fanned a wave of prosperity.

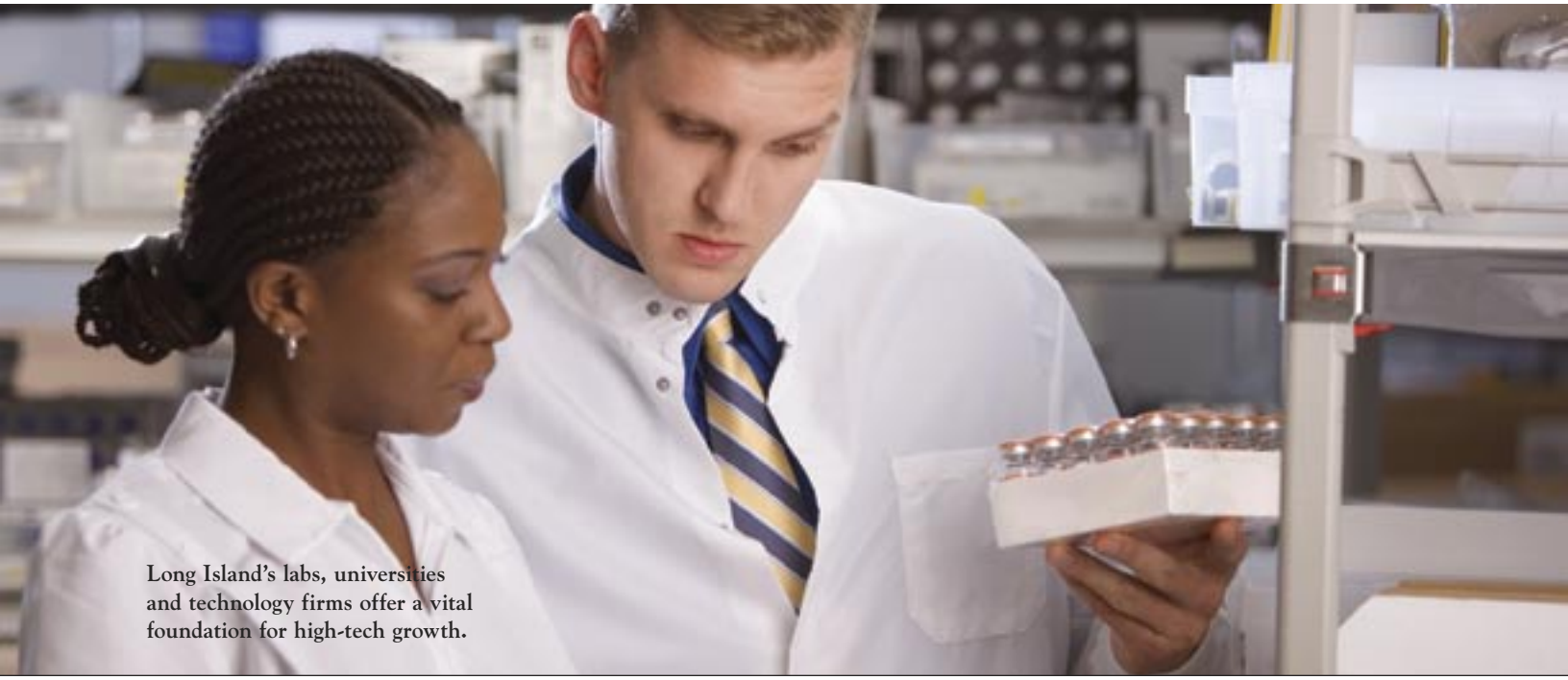
Today, high technology is even more critical to economic success. According to one major study, 65% of a region's relative growth depends on the strength of its high-tech industry.

Unfortunately, on Long Island for the past decade at least, the fires of innovation have grown cold:

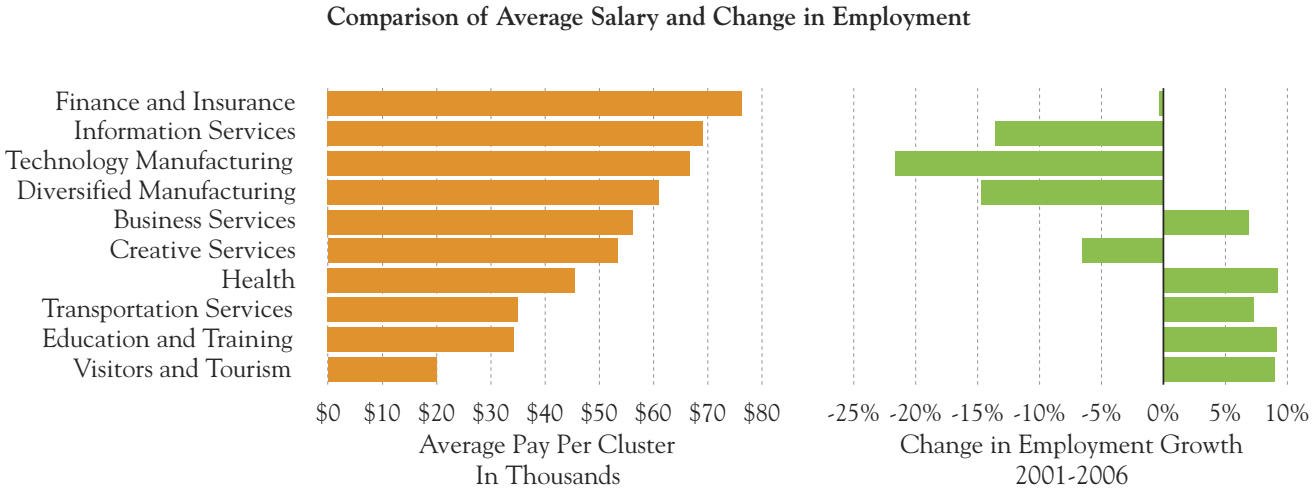
- For the five years from 1997 to 2001, venture capital investment in Long Island firms averaged $236 million. For the five years since then, that average has plummeted to $28 million.
- From 1995 to 2005, federal research and development investment in Long Island universities, labs and businesses fell 42%.

Reversing these trends is essential if we are to stop the region's loss of good-paying jobs.

introduction



Long Island's labs, universities and technology firms offer a vital foundation for high-tech growth.



Job growth is taking place in lower-paying industries. High-paying industries are stagnant or shrinking.

High-Tech Development Factors

	Inception	Growth	Fortification
Public Policy			
Tax Incentives	●●●	●	
Public Investment	●	●●	
Commercialization of Ideas	●	●●	●●
Comparative Location Benchmarking			
Cost Factors	●●●		
Research Institutions	●●●	●●●	●●●
Skilled or Educated Labor Force	●●	●●●	●●●
Transportation Center	●		
Proximity to Supplies & Markets	●●	●	●
Social Infrastructure Developments			
Attending Changing Needs		●●	●●●
Re-education & Training Facilities		●●●	●
Establishing Trade Groups & Affiliations		●●●	●●●
Housing, Zoning, & Quality of Life	●●	●●	●●●

●●● Critical ●● Very Important ● Important

Source: *America's High-Tech Economy: Growth, Development, and Risks for Metropolitan Areas*, Milken Institute

KEY FACTORS IN HIGH-TECH GROWTH.

Innovation doesn't just happen. It arises, like anything else, when conditions are right. Those conditions—the essential factors in the development of high-tech economies—have been identified in a careful study by the Milken Institute.

Indisputably the most important of these factors is the presence of research institutions in a region. That's good news for Long Island, with its world-class research labs and respected universities. A second critical factor is the availability of an educated work force—another Long Island strength.

Because high-tech firms depend so much on human capital, another factor has emerged as critical: quality of life. To attract talent, a region must be a place where people want to live. And so today, from Boston to Silicon Valley, regional alliances are seeking to spur economic growth by addressing quality-of-life issues such as housing, traffic and the cost of living.

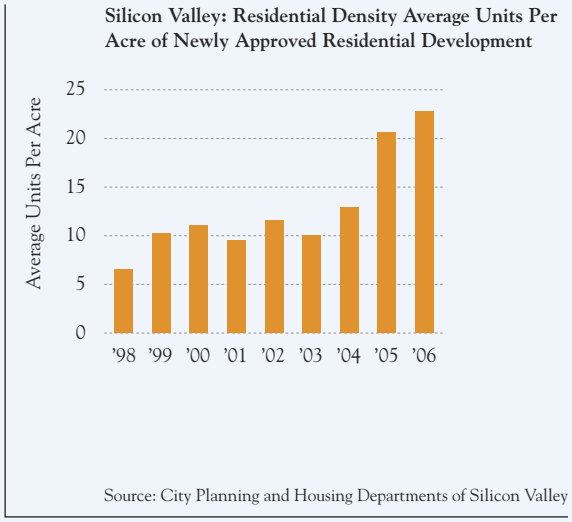
Long Island, like every region, has its strengths and weaknesses.

Housing options. This may be our most urgent need. Single-family homes are out of reach for median-income households, and rentals are too scarce.

Vibrant centers. Mixed-use town centers are magnets for the "creative class." You can feel the pulse of activity in places like Huntington and Long Beach.

Transportation. Traffic virtually tied with taxes as the thing residents dislike most about living on Long Island. Here, as in other regions, the search is on for alternatives to our sprawl-induced reliance on cars.

Open space and environmental protection. Long Island's environment is its fortune. Residents rank access to ocean, beaches, parks and open space as the best thing about living here.



To maintain its pre-eminence as a high-tech region, a regional alliance in Silicon Valley has promoted lower cost, higher-density housing and the creation of walkable, mixed-use communities. In seven years the average density of new development more than tripled. In 2005, nearly 40% of all new development was located within ¼-mile of transit facilities.

Prospects for change.

Taken as a whole, Long Island's story has been a success story. But our continued success is now in doubt. We face significant problems, which yearly grow worse.

Solving these problems is no simple task. In many cases, solutions have yet to be invented. Mature suburbs are a new phenomenon: no trail has yet been blazed.

Across the country, new ideas are being tried, for all regions seek similar goals. To create the conditions businesses need to thrive. To provide housing for all. To make taxes less burdensome and government services more efficient and equitable.

It is a shared quest, but with a competitive edge. In an era of easy mobility, a region defers change at its peril.

Polls indicate that the Long Island public is receptive to new approaches, even in such areas as taxation and regional governance.

Turning new ideas into reality, however, will take a level of cooperation unprecedented in a region whose development has been marked by fractionated government and lack of coordinated planning. Long Island has yet to form the kind of collaborative alliance, established in other regions, which brings stakeholders together in pursuit of regional goals.

Action also will require leadership—from individuals with the vision and the drive to help marshal the forces, public and private, necessary for change. Long Island boasts a proud history of personal leadership. Never have we needed it more.

Economy

Goal #1—Growth and Prosperity

Our economy grows at rates that result in an improved quality of life for all.

INDICATOR:

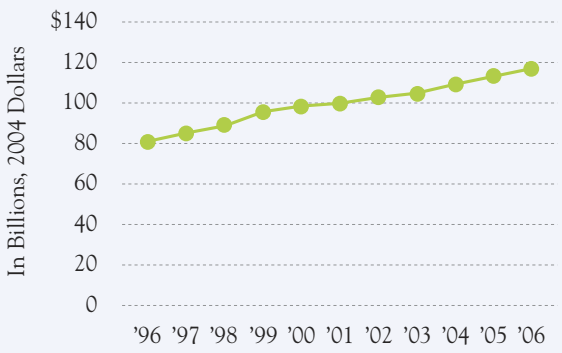
Gross Domestic Product/Gross Metropolitan Product

Long Island's economy continues to grow.

Why is this important?

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the extent of economic activity within a defined geographical region or within a sector of a defined economic region. When referencing a defined metropolitan area it is sometimes referred to as the Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP). Essentially the GDP/GMP measures the economic output of a region and can be used to compare overall economic activities across regions, or the contributions of various sectors.

Gross Metropolitan Product for Long Island



Includes private sector, non-farm/fishing/hunting/private household employment. Excludes government sectors.

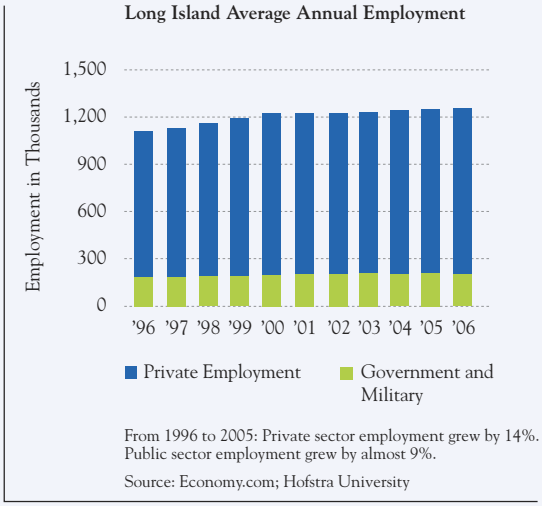
Source: Economy.com; Hofstra University

How are we doing?

In 2006, the total private sector GDP for Long Island was about $117 billion, up from about $113 billion in 2005. Overall, Long Island's economy has grown by 44% from 1996 to 2006 (43% if the public sector is included). The trend has been relatively consistent at just over 4% per year. Consistent growth in GDP on Long Island indicates an expanding economy.

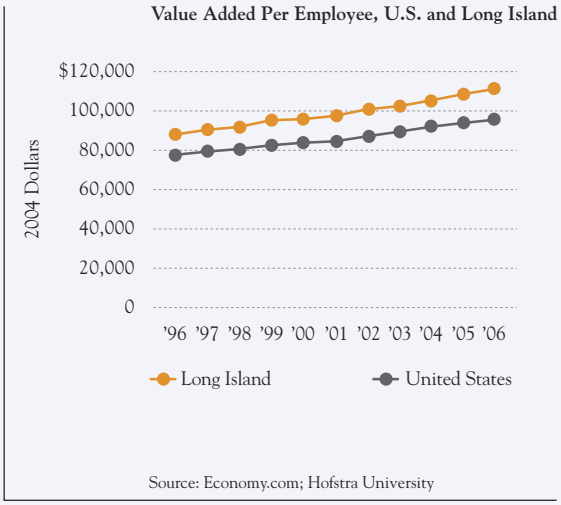
What does "2004 Dollars" mean?

The purchasing power of a dollar changes over time. If the items we buy generally cost more today than they did ten years ago, then one dollar today is worth less than a single dollar was back then. Therefore, it is necessary to adjust for that in order to create a common scale when we compare dollar values (e.g., when comparing wages) over several years. By picking a single year as the standard (say, 2004), dollars from earlier years can be "inflated" using the Consumer Price Index in order to estimate what those earlier dollars would be able to buy in 2004. Similarly, dollars from later years can be "deflated" to what their purchasing power would have been in 2004. By converting all values to the same scale it is much easier to detect the presence or absence of any trends over time (e.g., are wages actually rising, falling or staying the same?).



From 1996 to 2005: Private sector employment grew by 14%. Public sector employment grew by almost 9%.

Source: Economy.com; Hofstra University



Source: Economy.com; Hofstra University

INDICATOR:
Employment Trends

Overall employment growth continues but at a slower pace.

Why is this important?

Job gains or losses measure regional economic vitality. This chart shows annual average private non-farm employment, government and military, and total employment on Long Island during the past eleven years.

How are we doing?

Long Island's overall private sector employment grew by about 14% between 1996 and 2006 compared to the national figure of 13%. That reflects an average annual increase of 1.4% and an absolute increase of about 150,000 jobs. More recently, the overall job growth from 2005 to 2006 was less than that (1%).

INDICATOR:
Trends in Productivity

Productivity continues to rise on Long Island as it does for the U.S. as a whole.

Why is this important?

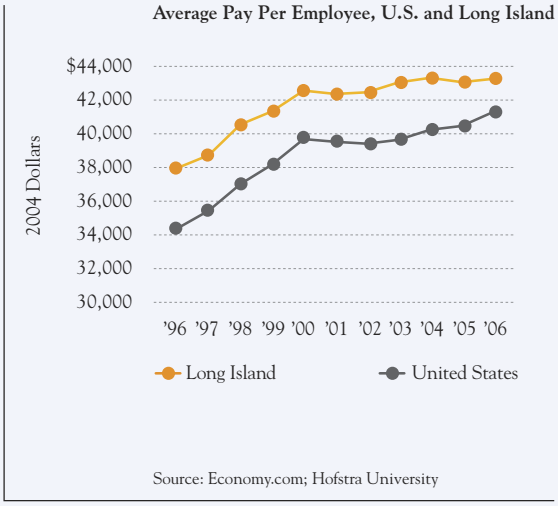
Value added per employee is a proxy measure of productivity. It is a widely used measure that assesses the amount of economic output within a region or sector that can be attributed to each employee. An increase in employee productivity is important because it is often associated with greater economic efficiencies in production that, in turn, can lead to greater profit, economic expansion, and/or higher wages.

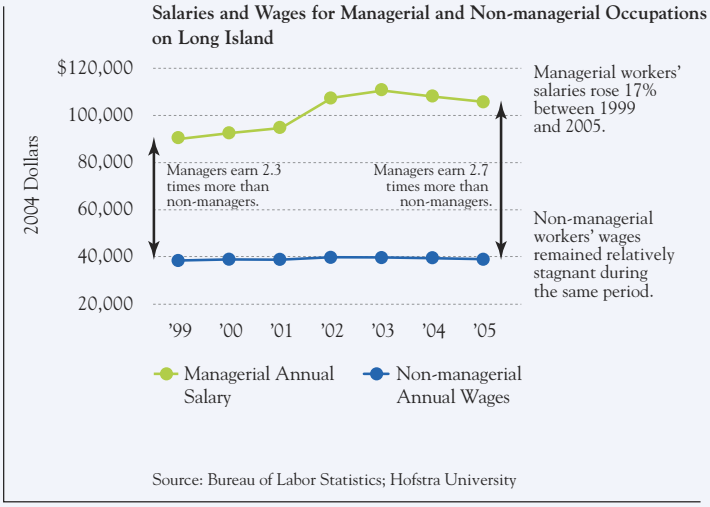
How are we doing?

Between 1996 and 2006 value added per employee rose 26% on Long Island, compared to 23% nationally.

In 2006, value added per employee on LI was 16% higher than that for the U.S. economy as a whole ($111,173 versus $95,528).

Overall, productivity has been increasing steadily on Long Island, 2.4% from 2005–2006, at a rate commensurate with the U.S. economy as a whole.





INDICATOR:

Growth in Wages over the Past 10 Years

Growth in U.S. wages outpaces Long Island.

Why is this important?

Average pay per employee is a basic measure of the economy's health. Increasing or decreasing inflation-adjusted pay per employee reflects the relative economic vitality of Long Island. It does not, however, assess whether the returns of economic activity are being distributed equally throughout the workforce.

How are we doing?

Average pay per employee on Long Island increased 14% from 1996 to 2006 compared to the U.S. which rose 20%. This shows that the U.S. economy has grown faster than that of Long Island.

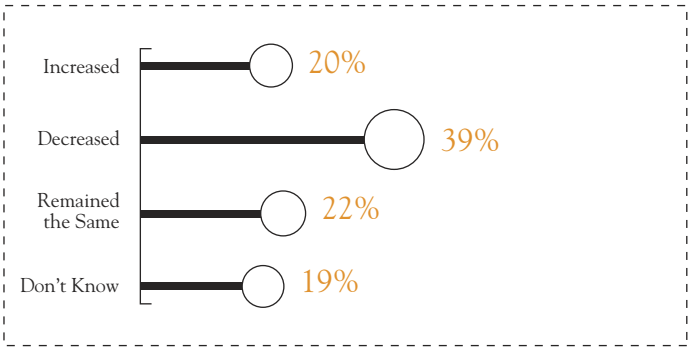
The bulk of Long Island's increase occurred between 1996 and 2000 (12%). Between 2000 and 2006, the inflation-adjusted average pay per employee only rose 2%. Pay per employee has been virtually stagnant since 2003.

From 1999 to 2005, productivity increased a total of 14%. The trends for managerial salaries and non-managerial salaries and wages were very different. The gap between the two groups increased 29% during this period.

This indicates that the benefits of increasing productivity are not being shared equally. As productivity has increased, the benefits have generally accrued to managerial employees.

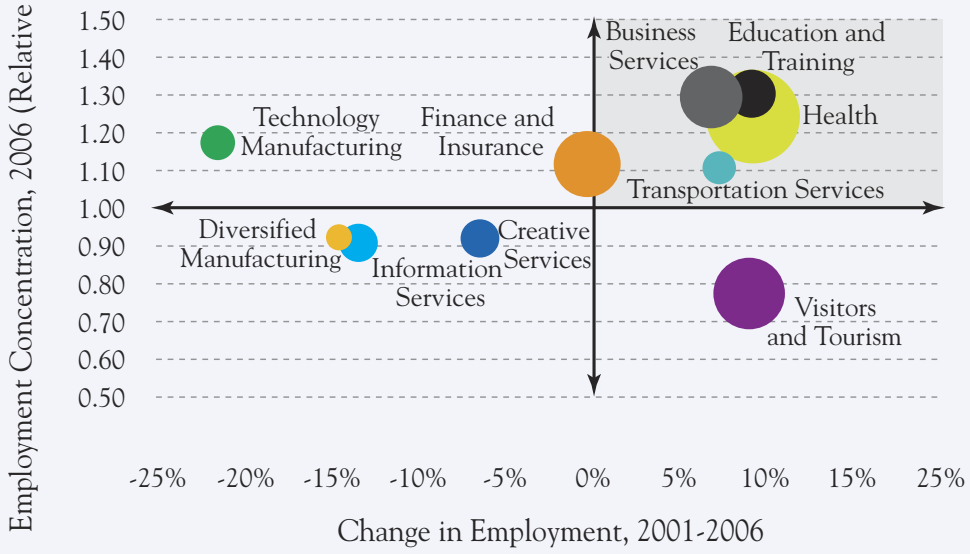
What People in the Region Are Saying

Would you say that the quality of jobs in terms of benefits, wages and security in your county compared to FIVE years ago has increased, decreased, or remained the same?



Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Major Industrial Clusters in Long Island's Economy

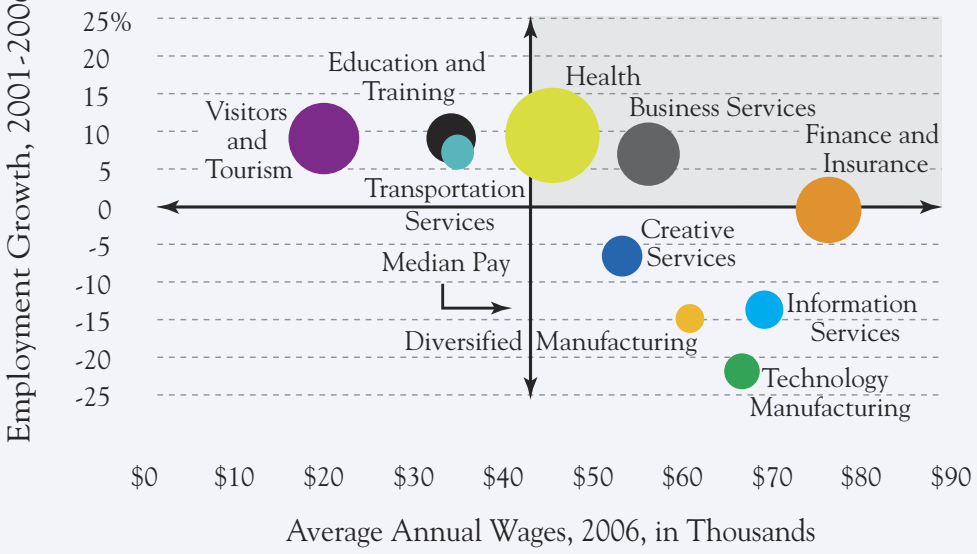


How to Read This Chart

↑ Higher concentration ← Decreasing employees	↑ Higher concentration → Increasing employees
↓ Lower concentration ← Decreasing employees	↓ Lower concentration → Increasing employees

Bubble size represents cluster's employment concentration in Long Island's economy.
Source: Economy.com; Hofstra University

Wages, Employment Growth and Employment Concentration by Clusters, Long Island



How to Read This Chart

↑ Increasing employees ← Declining wages	↑ Increasing employees → Growing wages
↓ Decreasing employees ← Declining wages	↓ Decreasing employees → Growing wages

Size of bubble reflects 2006 Employment Concentration.
Source: Economy.com; Hofstra University

INDICATOR:

Industry Clusters

Health, Business Services and Education and Training clusters grew the fastest over the past five years.

Why is this important?

Long Island's industry clusters make up approximately 42% of the employment base. An industry cluster is a geographic concentration of interdependent firms in related industries and includes a significant number of companies that sell their products and services outside the region.

The first bubble chart illustrates three key dimensions of Long Island's industry cluster:

- The cluster's employment concentration relative to the nation (vertical axis).

  Employment concentration measures the percentage of employment on Long Island compared to the same cluster, nationally.

  A concentration greater than one indicates that Long Island has relatively more employment in that sector as compared to the national economy as a whole.
- Change in employment from 2001 to 2006 (horizontal axis).
- Employment size in 2006 (size of circle). Average annual employment shows the size of the cluster.

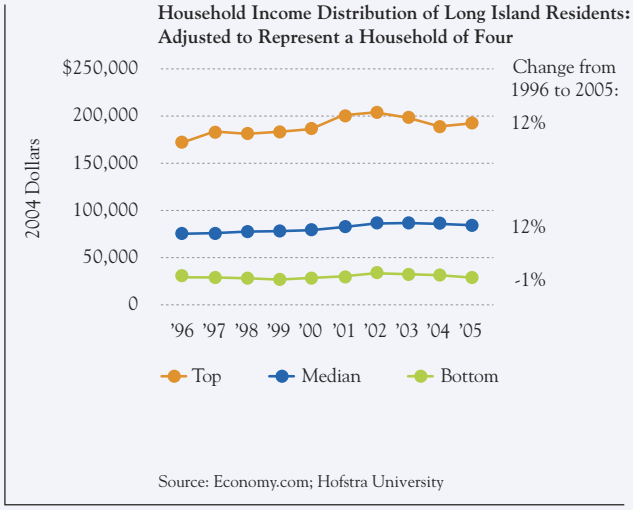
The second bubble chart illustrates key dimensions of Long Island's industry clusters in relationship to wages and employment growth from 2001 to 2006.

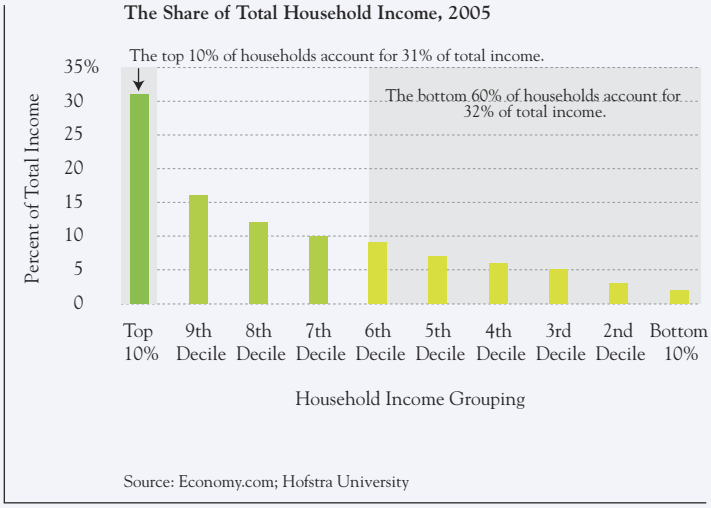
On each chart, the upper right hand quadrant represents those clusters with the most positive growth in concentration and employment (first chart) or employment and wages (second chart).

How are we doing?

Reading the two charts in relationship to each other, a critically important trend becomes apparent. Employment opportunities tend to be increasing in sectors of the economy that pay relatively lower wages and salaries, and declining in those sectors that generally offer higher wages and salaries.

- The first chart shows that the most concentrated clusters relative to the U.S. are Education & Training, Business Services, and Health. These three sectors also experienced the greatest growth between 2001 and 2006. The second chart indicates that these three clusters straddle the median wage divide—those in Education & Training earn below the median (on average, $34,156), Health is just above the divide (on average, $45,508), Business Services does the best (on average $56,163).
- The first chart indicates that Visitors and Tourism was among the fastest growing cluster during the 2001–2006 period (a 9% rise). This cluster is still less concentrated than the national average (hence it is on the lower half of the chart). But the second chart shows that while employment is growing, this is the *lowest* paying cluster on Long Island. Annual wages for workers in the Visitors and Tourism cluster averages $19,908.
- For Long Island, those clusters yielding the highest average pay tend to be both the smaller sectors and those that have experienced employment declines between 2001 and 2006 (Technical Manufacturing employment fell 22%, Diversified Manufacturing fell 15%, Creative Services, and Information Services—see first chart). Traditionally, the manufacturing sectors are those that provide higher pay for hourly wage earners (see second chart, lower right quadrant).
- Finance and Insurance employs about 75,000 employees or 6% of total employment, and is about 11% more concentrated on Long Island than nationally. Employment in this cluster was relatively stable, showing a very slight decline of .3%. That is relevant because it is the sector with the highest average pay per employee on Long Island ($76,270).





INDICATOR:

Household Income Distribution

Household income for the top 10% continues to grow while the bottom 10% declines.

Why is this important?

This measure shows how Long Island's standard of living among households at different income levels has changed from year to year. It tracks the income of a representative four-person household. The first chart plots the household income of the top 10%, the median and the bottom 10% of the income distribution. The second chart shows the percentage of total household income accounted for by each 10% of households. Household income includes income from wages, investments, Social Security and welfare payments for all people residing in a household.

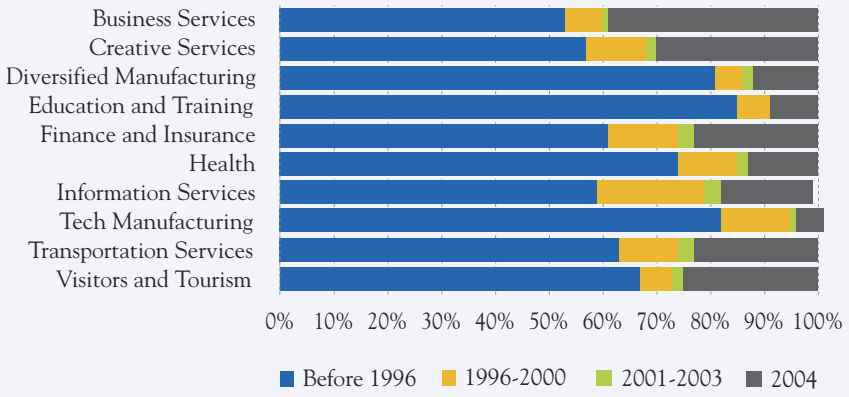
How are we doing?

Looking at the long-term trend from 1996 to 2005, real incomes for households in the bottom 10% dropped one percent and real incomes for households at the top 10% rose by 12%.

These patterns indicate a widening of income inequality on Long Island.

Among the approximately 1,000,000 households on Long Island, the top 10% earn a total income that is about equal to the total income earned by the bottom 60% of the households.

Cluster Firms by Start Date and Founding Period



Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Kauffman Financial and Business Research Database (4-17-2006)

Goal #2—Supportive Business Environment

Long Island provides a business friendly environment for companies to grow.

INDICATOR:

Business Vitality

Long Island is creating many new firms with a small number of employees.

Why is this important?

Business vitality is a core component for growing and sustaining a region's economic viability. The dynamics of firm starts and closures are complex and stimulate an economy's innovative and adaptive capacities.

Although historical firm data offer the best resource for tracking a region's business dynamics, much can be learned from a detailed snapshot, or point-in-time analysis, of a region's business mix. Understanding the patterns of business starts and employment shares by firm age, firm size, and other characteristics of the firms currently in business provides some indication of broader trends in the region.

How are we doing?

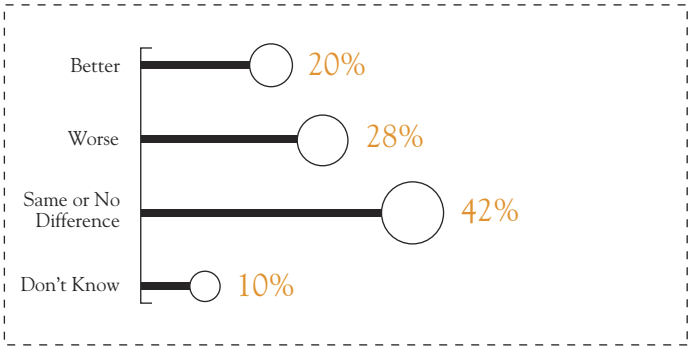
The most recently available snapshot of Long Island's business data, from 2004, indicates that 88% of the region's firms have fewer than 30 employees. Almost half (48%) have fewer than five employees.

Looking at a subset of Long Island's economy, the ten clusters discussed earlier, most of these businesses were founded before 1996 but a large share has emerged since 2000.

Typically firms begin small, and half of Long Island's smallest businesses, firms with fewer than five employees, are very new firms founded in 2004. Nonetheless, the region's newest firms are observed in all size categories.

What People in the Region Are Saying

Do you think that a year from now the economy of your county will be better, worse, or the same as now?



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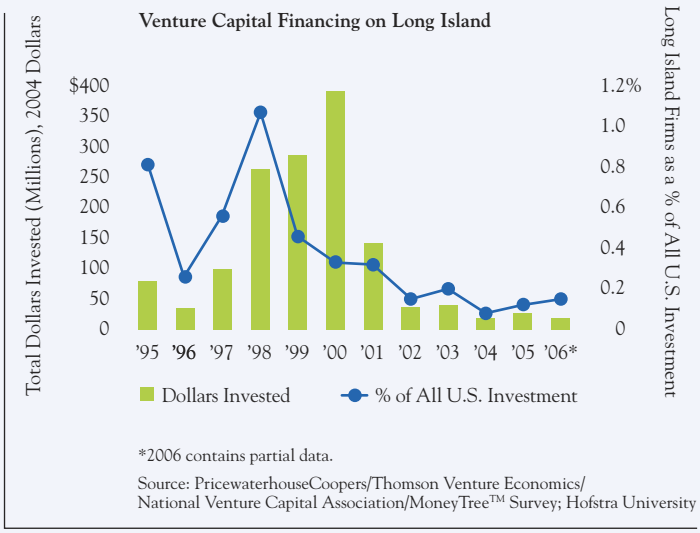


Goal #3—Innovative Economy

Our economy incubates, supports and retains companies.

INDICATOR:

Venture Capital Financing

Long Island firms receive almost no venture capital.

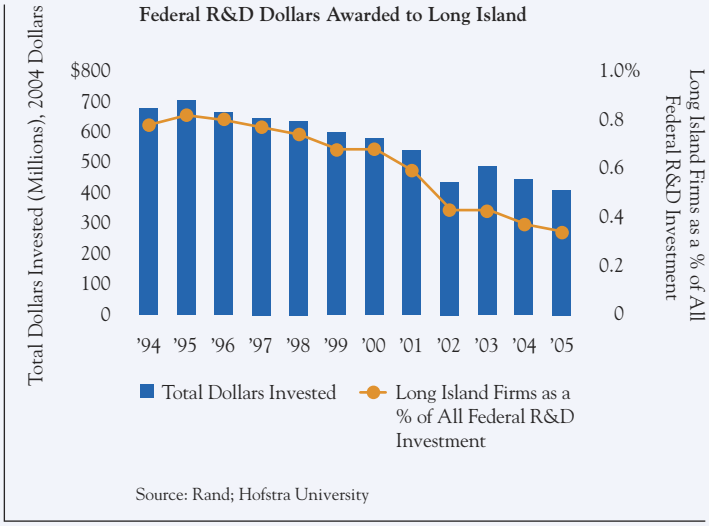
Why is this important?

New venture capital investment is an indicator of innovation and dynamism within the economy. Venture capitalists generally seek to invest in new enterprises that have a potential for strong growth. Typically, only firms with potential for exceptionally high rates of growth over a five to ten year period will attract venture capital. Thus, a high rate of venture capitalist investment suggests a changing and dynamic economy with relatively new enterprises entering the scene. A lower rate of venture capitalist investment suggests a less dynamic mix of economic enterprises in the regional economy.

How are we doing?

Since 2002, venture capitalist investment in Long Island firms has ranged between $400 million and almost $20 million (partial data from 2006). As a percentage of total venture capital investment in U.S. firms, there has been a slight increase over the last three years (from .08% to .15% of total U.S. investment).

Top Sectors for Venture Capital Investment	Total for 1995–2006, In Millions, 2004 Dollars	% of Long Island Funding	% of U.S. Funding
Telecommunications	$329	23.0%	0.63%
Industrial/Energy	$240	16.8%	1.82%
Media and Entertainment	$228	16.0%	0.70%
Electronics/Instrumentation	$146	10.2%	3.34%
Software	$132	9.2%	0.15%
Healthcare Services	$ 78	5.4%	0.85%



INDICATOR:

Research and Development Investment

Long Island firms receive almost no federal R&D dollars.

Why is this important?

Federal R&D investment in Long Island's universities, labs and private sector helps to drive regional innovation. Federal R&D dollars support the development of technologies that create economic benefits for the regions in which they are developed and for the nation as a whole. According to RAND, "Specific federal R&D activities are often deeply rooted in the communities in which they are conducted. Such activities attract new businesses to these areas, thereby stimulating local economies and improving the quality of local schools. High-technology start-up companies often co-locate with Federal laboratories and major federally-funded R&D activities at universities."

How are we doing?

In 2005, Long Island received $436 million in R&D funding from various agencies of the federal government. That represents a .04% decline in funding from 2004. Funding has declined relatively steadily from 1995. The decline in the actual amount of dollars is mirrored by a decline in the percent of total federal R&D funding that goes to Long Island.

The Department of Energy is by far the largest provider of R&D funds to Long Island ($219 million in 2005), followed by the Department of Health and Human Services ($99 million) and the Department of Defense ($76 million).

What are the key characteristics of a vibrant downtown center?

Physical characteristics

Pedestrian friendly environment

Clean, well-maintained streets and sidewalks

Incorporation of trees, shrubs, flowers, planters as part of the landscape

Traffic "calming" features that force drivers to slow down through the town center

Availability of public restroom facilities

Street furniture, such as benches, lighting, garbage cans

Good lighting

Directional signage (where can I park, where is the town hall, etc.)

Easy access to adequate parking facilities, frequent and reliable public transportation, bike paths/bike racks for bike riders

Open space: public green space, shoreline

Preservation of historic character including historic sites and reuse of existing buildings, maintenance of a consistent scale

Outdoor cafes, ice cream parlors, water fountains, etc. that draw patrons outside, increase pedestrian traffic and create a gathering place

Attractive store fronts which allow for window-shopping

Businesses

A continuous line of storefronts closely clustered together with few gaps between the buildings and roughly in line with each other.

Variety of businesses including:

- Retail and non-retail stores and services
- Unique, one-of-a-kind or "Mom and Pop" shops
- Basic necessities such as food stores, drug stores
- Quality restaurants

Low commercial vacancy rates

Organizations that conserve/grow the community

Business Improvement District's (BID's), community groups and municipal agencies which focus on development of the downtown; Chamber of Commerce or other business development organizations

Design review boards, landmark commissions, historical societies (organizations working to preserve elements of the historic community)

Conservation and environmental groups

Resources

Availability of a community center that provides diverse services and acts as a gathering place (examples: library, town hall, community theatre, etc.)

Availability of cultural venues in addition to movie theatres (examples: theatres for concerts/plays/lectures, museums)

Regular series of ongoing outdoor festivals and community celebrations including a progression of events throughout the year

Community bulletin boards and other centralized information sources and publications; directional signage

Other

Good police support and a feeling of safety throughout the town with good lighting, directional signage, activities drawing people

Inclusion of a range of housing choices in the downtown area (such as: higher density housing, affordable housing, artist lofts, etc.)

Inclusion of new store owners, especially minorities and new immigrants, into the business community

A note about this list: Compiled through meetings with numerous planners, community groups, historical preservationists and others, this list is meant as a guideline, listing the key components that everyone agreed was important. It is not exhaustive. Nor does every vibrant community contain each and every one of these characteristics. What makes communities interesting is the way they develop their own unique identity.

Our Communities

Goal #4—Vibrant Communities

We create exciting communities and downtown centers that offer people a wide choice of places to live, work and play.

INDICATOR:

Downtown Business Centers

Most community downtown business centers have low vacancy rates.

Why is this important?

A "sense of place" is a key component of a community that helps to create a strong bond among residents. What creates a community where this bond is strongly felt and people are motivated to work together to enhance or improve their town? This year, the *Long Island Index* focused on one component of creating this type of vibrant community—the downtown business center. There are many other factors that are critically important as well—schools, religious organizations, community groups, among others. But the center is what draws people together regardless of age, religious background, or any other factor. A vibrant downtown creates a strong economic base for the local merchants; it gives people a place to shop for different goods and services; it gives neighbors a chance to meet and talk. It creates a town's identity and develops a strong connection for residents to feel a part of a larger community. Two components to measure a business downtown's vibrancy are: vacancy rates and ratio of retail to service-oriented stores.

Central Business District

Nassau County	Total Stores & Offices	% Vacant	% Retail	% Service
Baldwin	131	8%	44%	49%
Bellmore	98	3%	48%	49%
Bethpage	109	6%	39%	55%
Cedarhurst	172	7%	79%	14%
East Rockaway	40	5%	53%	43%
Elmont	62	5%	47%	48%
Farmingdale	129	8%	48%	44%
Floral Park	55	7%	44%	49%
Franklin Square	290	7%	48%	46%
Freeport	216	6%	53%	40%
Garden City	152	7%	47%	46%
Glen Cove	145	12%	41%	47%
Glen Head	65	6%	43%	51%
Great Neck	469	9%	51%	40%
Hempstead	382	12%	53%	35%
Hewlett	121	5%	50%	45%
Hicksville	201	9%	55%	36%
Inwood	26	4%	31%	65%
Island Park	61	10%	30%	61%
Lawrence	43	5%	67%	28%
Locust Valley	100	3%	49%	48%
Long Beach	201	4%	54%	42%
Lynbrook	128	13%	57%	30%
Malverne	54	6%	46%	48%
Manhasset	125	6%	41%	54%
Massapequa	80	9%	29%	63%
Merrick	102	2%	49%	49%
Mineola	127	6%	42%	52%
New Hyde Park	148	11%	43%	46%
Oceanside	89	8%	54%	38%
Oyster Bay	138	14%	36%	51%
Port Washington	251	9%	45%	46%
Rockville Centre	299	6%	56%	38%
Roslyn	77	9%	45%	45%
Seaford	138	3%	48%	49%
Syosset	97	0%	36%	64%
Valley Stream	161	13%	45%	42%
Wantagh	81	5%	36%	59%
Westbury	184	10%	30%	59%
Williston Park	213	3%	60%	37%
Woodmere	69	7%	59%	33%

Suffolk County	Total Stores & Offices	% Vacant	% Retail	% Service
Amagansett	47	2%	66%	32%
Amityville	147	12%	35%	53%
Babylon	199	5%	53%	42%
Bay Shore	201	21%	30%	49%
Bayport	18	22%	17%	61%
Bellport	52	6%	54%	40%
Brentwood	43	2%	28%	70%
Bridgehampton	67	1%	63%	36%
Brightwaters	32	13%	28%	59%
Center Moriches	55	2%	45%	53%
Centerport	21	10%	38%	52%
Central Islip	42	5%	38%	57%
Cold Spring Harbor	45	0%	64%	36%
Copiague	46	0%	59%	41%
Cutchogue	18	0%	50%	50%
Deer Park	56	7%	50%	43%
East Hampton	154	3%	77%	19%
East Hampton North	14	0%	71%	29%
East Islip	60	5%	33%	62%
East Moriches	18	0%	44%	56%
East Northport	97	13%	35%	52%
East Patchogue	31	13%	45%	42%
East Quogue	25	4%	56%	40%
Eastport	32	0%	69%	31%
Farmingville	20	10%	40%	50%
Greenlawn	54	2%	52%	46%
Greenport	134	4%	72%	25%
Halesite	17	12%	47%	41%
Hampton Bays	47	2%	45%	53%
Huntington	348	6%	64%	30%
Huntington Station	138	10%	35%	55%
Islip	101	7%	46%	48%
Islip Terrace	23	9%	43%	48%
Kings Park	64	5%	45%	50%
Lake Ronkonkoma	77	13%	38%	49%
Lindenhurst	140	6%	44%	50%
Mastic Beach	40	28%	35%	38%
Mattituck	30	7%	47%	47%
Melville	17	0%	59%	41%
Montauk	73	3%	73%	25%
North Babylon	26	12%	54%	35%
North Lindenhurst	17	24%	24%	53%
Northport	106	1%	58%	42%
Patchogue	179	15%	42%	42%
Port Jefferson	152	5%	72%	24%
Port Jefferson Station	46	13%	50%	37%
Quogue	25	0%	40%	60%
Riverhead	143	10%	49%	41%
Rocky Point	38	18%	37%	45%
Sag Harbor	137	4%	67%	29%
Saint James	41	7%	49%	44%
Sayville	115	3%	64%	32%
Setauket-E Set	16	13%	44%	44%
Shelter Island Heights	30	7%	63%	30%
Smithtown	124	10%	43%	48%
Southampton	262	4%	68%	28%
Southold	32	3%	59%	38%
Stony Brook	27	0%	67%	33%
Water Mill	40	3%	53%	45%
West Babylon	37	3%	54%	43%
West Islip	20	0%	50%	50%
West Sayville	22	14%	27%	59%
Westhampton Beach	117	4%	55%	41%
Wyandanch	43	16%	49%	35%

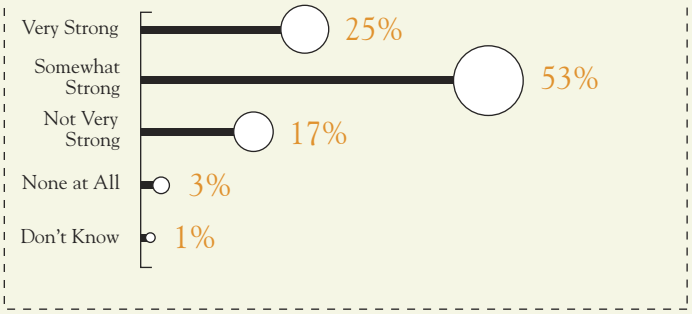
Note:
Data on Nassau communities was collected by staff from the Rauch Foundation and Middle Country Public Library, September–October 2006. This is not an exhaustive list of every Nassau downtown business community. The list contains the same communities included in the Long Island Regional Planning Board's study of vacancy rates completed for Nassau County in 1982, *Commercial Development Analyses*. Their report was the last time vacancy rates were measured for Nassau.

Data on Suffolk communities was collected by the Suffolk County Department of Planning, http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/planning/retail2006.pdf, published 2006.

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

What People in the Region Are Saying

How strong a sense of community do you feel there is on Long Island? Is it:



Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

How are we doing?

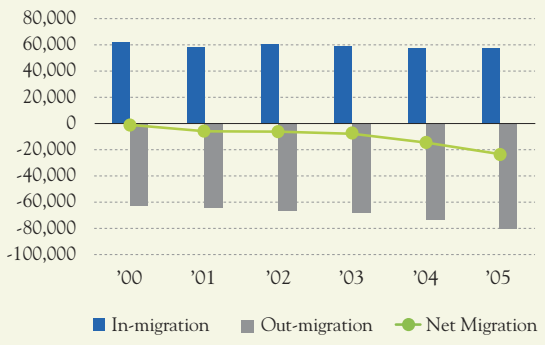
A downtown or central business district is "that portion of a community that contains the traditional 'main street' business core of a community. Concentrated retail and service activity dominates the downtown area, but a mix of office, residential and institutional uses may also be found. Stores are usually individually owned and managed, and the majority of the buildings are sited close to public roads. On-street parking is often supplemented by off-street parking located behind the stores and in municipal parking lots."[1]

While there is tremendous variability in the vacancy rates across the region, from a low of 0% in Syosset and several Suffolk villages to a high of 28% in Mastic Beach, the average hovers around 7.3% which is comparable to the national retail vacancy rate.

The breakdown of retail to service-oriented stores has been shifting over the past 20 years. Previously Long Island had a higher number of retail stores (this includes grocery stores, restaurants, drug stores, clothes stores, etc.) than service-oriented stores (such as doctor's offices, banks, car repair shops, insurance offices, nail salons, etc.). Today there has been a growth in service-oriented stores over retail ones which in some cases can lead to a town feeling less vibrant because there are fewer opportunities for neighbors to shop and gather locally.

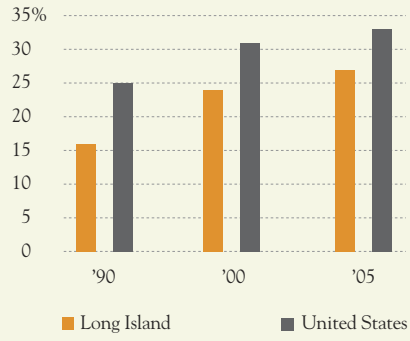
[1]See: Suffolk County Department of Planning, http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/planning/retail2006.pdf

Migration Between Long Island and the Rest of the U.S.



Source: Internal Revenue Service

Share of Population That Is Black, Hispanic or Asian



Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census of Population, 2005 American Community Survey

INDICATOR:
Long Island's Changing Population

Long Island's population continues to diversify and lose young adults in the key 20–34 year old demographic.

Why is this important?

The level of population growth is a fundamental benchmark of how attractive Long Island is as a place to live. New residents require more housing and services, but can also add to the vibrancy of growing communities, increase sales for local businesses and provide additional tax revenues. Increasing diversity can provide a cultural richness that many people value, but can also add to social tensions. In addition, some economists have found that workforce diversity leads to a stronger regional economy.

How are we doing?

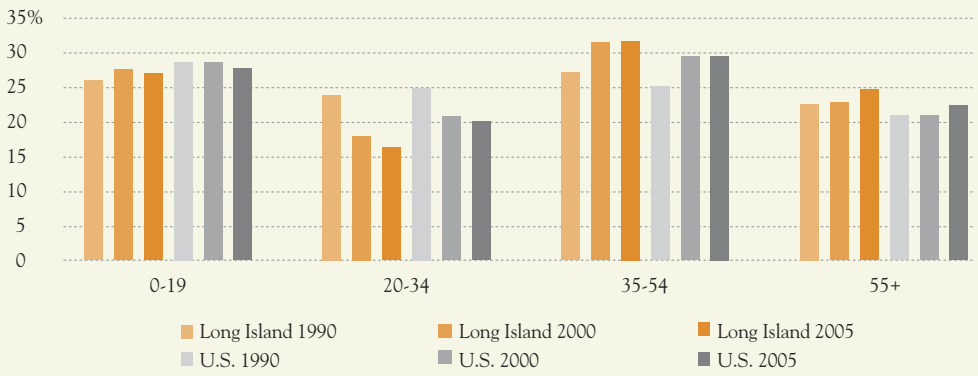
In the last five years, the size of Long Island's population has remained virtually unchanged at 2.75 million people. Although the 2005 estimates from the U.S. Census are not as reliable as the actual counts in 1990 and 2000 and need to be interpreted cautiously, it appears that the modest growth that the Island experienced in the 1990s has leveled off. This constancy in the size of the population, however, masks substantial changes in the make-up of Long Island's population.

- While Suffolk continues to grow, Nassau is losing population.
- While 275,000 people moved to the Island from other parts of the United States in the last five years, about 300,000 residents have moved out of the two counties resulting in a negative net migration.
- The population continues to age, with more people over 55 and fewer in their 20s and early 30s.

Since 2000, the number of people leaving Long Island has exceeded the number coming at a growing rate each year. Particularly in the last two years, the number of out-migrants has grown from 68,000 in 2003 to 81,000 in 2005, while the number of in-migrants decreased slightly from 60,000 to 57,000.

The high cost of housing and taxes is a likely cause of increasing out-migration, but so is a growing retirement age population. Other than New York State, Florida is the destination for the greatest number of out-migrants. Every year about twice the number of people moved from New York City, particularly from Queens, to Long Island than

Change in Population by Age Comparing Long Island with U.S.



Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census of Population, 2005 American Community Survey

vice versa. Interestingly, more people move from Long Island to other suburban parts of the New York metropolitan area than move in the reverse direction.

Whether people are moving to or from Long Island, they earn far less on average than those who remain in the same location from year to year. This may be because young adults and retiring individuals are both more likely to move and earn less than those in their prime earning years. People moving to the Island make slightly more than people who leave—a median $36,000 compared to $34,800 in Nassau and $32,400 compared to $29,900 in Suffolk.

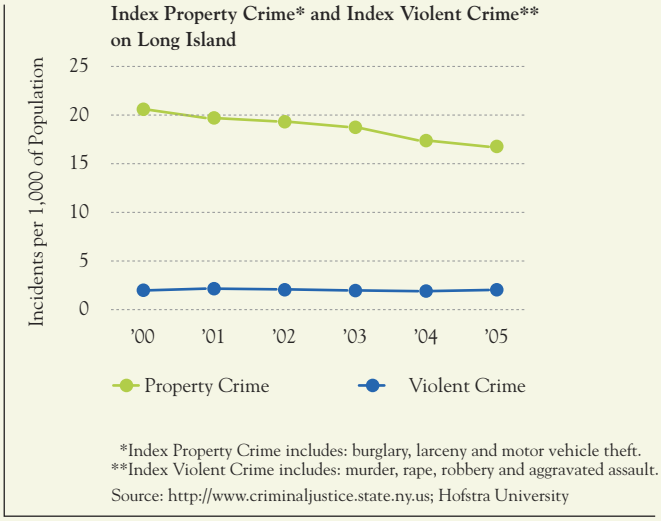
Although there has been an increase in domestic out-migration from Long Island, immigration from overseas continues to bolster Long Island's population. Although there is no reliable data on the total number of people who immigrate directly to Long Island each year, the number of foreign born residents in Nassau and Suffolk has increased from 14.4% in 2000 to 16.1% in 2005.

Persons Becoming Legal Permanent Residents in 2005

Profile		Country of Birth	
Total	13,522	India	1,334
Male	45%	El Salvador	1,245
Female	55%	Dominican Republic	711
Age		Colombia	685
Under 18	20%	Jamaica	595
18–34	36%	China	592
35–54	31%	Philippines	537
Over 55	13%	Ecuador	512
Marital Status		Pakistan	502
Single	39%	Haiti	456
Married	57%	Poland	417
Other or Unknown	5%	All Others	5,936

Source: U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services

Foreign-born residents can be naturalized citizens, those legally admitted as permanent or temporary residents, or persons who entered illegally or stayed past their permitted time period. A profile for legal permanent residents in 2005 shows the diversity of this population. The group includes more working age adults than the domestic-born population, particularly in the 20–34 age group. The majority are married. No one or two country-of-origin



*Index Property Crime includes: burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.
**Index Violent Crime includes: murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.
Source: http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us; Hofstra University

predominates, but most come from the Caribbean, South and Central America, and Asia.

Based on U.S. Census data, Long Island's population continues to become more racially and culturally diverse. This mirrors trends in other suburban parts of the New York metropolitan area, and is largely the result of increasing immigration from Asia and Central and South America.

Along with the United States, Long Island's population continues to get older. The aging of the "baby boom" generation, longer life expectancy and lower birth rates all add to this trend. Since 2000, those over 55 increased from 23% to 25% of Long Island's population, while those 20–34 decreased from 18% to 16%. Part of the decrease in the 20–34 group is a result of the "baby bust" phenomenon of relatively few births in the 1970s. However, since the decline was greater on Long Island than in the United States, part is due to local factors, possibly the effects of the high cost of living on young adults that have not entered their peak earning years.

INDICATOR:

Trends in Property and Violent Crimes

Crime remains low.

Why is this important?

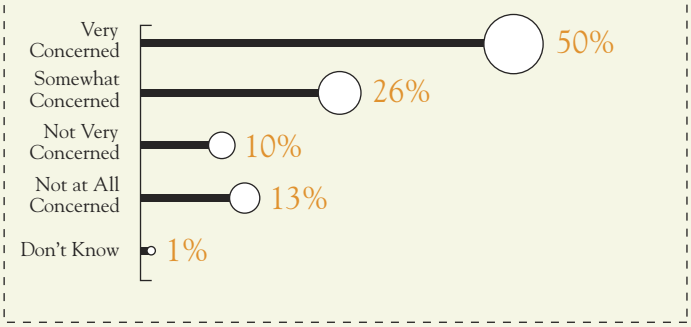
The level of crime in our communities directly impacts our quality of life and sense of well-being. Even if you are safe from direct harm, crime still has an impact. As a nation, we spend billions annually caring for gunshot victims, abused children, or victims of fraud. Community bonds and trust are often broken as a result of crime and violence. By developing programs that build strong, viable economies and effective crime prevention, communities can work together to keep crime low and foster a strong sense of community.

How are we doing?

Over the last 5 years, Long Island has experienced a relatively steady decrease in property crime rates. Between 2000 and 2005, property crime on Long Island declined by 17%. Violent crime has remained relatively stable during this period. In 2005, the most prevalent types of crime were larceny (12.67 incidents per 1,000 of population), and burglary (2.51 incidents per 1,000 of population).

What People in the Region Are Saying

How concerned are you that the high cost of housing will force members of your family to move out of your county?



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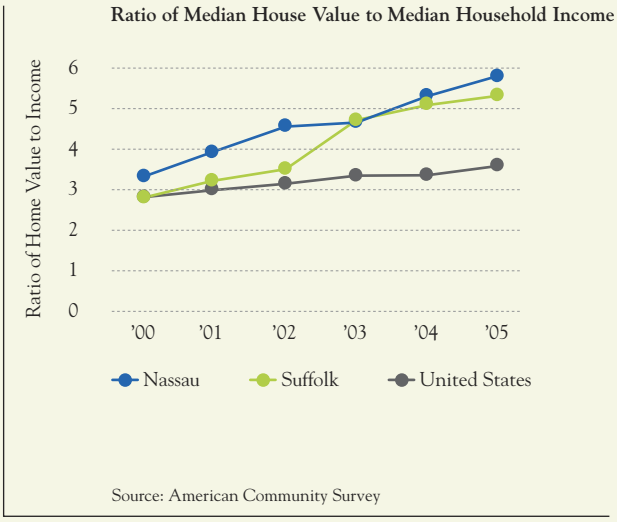


Goal #5—Affordable Homes

We generate housing options that are affordable to people of all ages and income levels.

In this section we measure availability and affordability of three different kinds of housing options: purchase of private homes, rentals, subsidized housing. Looking at all three options gives us insights into how families at different income levels are faring in the current market.

INDICATOR:

Housing Affordability

Housing affordability worsens particularly for households earning less than $100,000.

Why is this important?

As housing costs represent a growing share of the household budget on Long Island, housing affordability becomes an issue for everyone including homeowners, renters, those entering the labor market, middle-income families and employers. From one perspective, rising housing costs are a sign that Long Island continues to be a place where people desire to live. However, higher housing costs deplete the quality of life on Long Island for the many families struggling with rent and house payments and make it difficult for employers to recruit and retain workers. Over time, the limited supply of lower cost housing can change the cultural, demographic and economic character of the region. Increasing housing cost burdens make it harder for longtime residents to stay, and for the adult children of residents to start their families in the region.

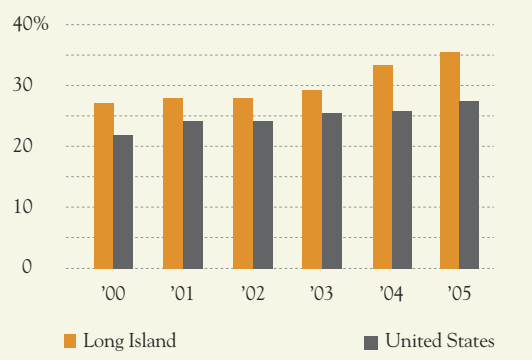
How are we doing?

Housing prices have skyrocketed across the U.S. and the last eight years have seen an unprecedented rise in sale prices. The impact on Long Island has been dramatic.

According to Fannie Mae, a home is considered affordable if the purchase price is no more than 2.5 times the buyer's annual household income. Over the past several years as the housing market has dramatically increased in value, this ratio has grown as well. Since 2000, both Nassau and Suffolk have eclipsed the U.S. by a wide margin.

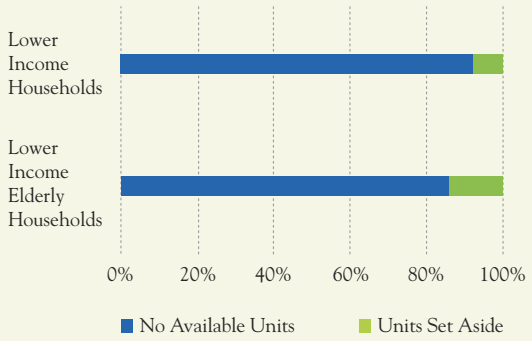
The growing disparity between housing values and income is also reflected in the measurement of housing cost burden. In 2005, an all-time high number of Long Island households had a high housing cost burden. More than a third of the

Share of Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



Source: American Community Survey

Estimated Availability of Income Targeted Housing Compared to Potential Need



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey, http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/ny.cfm

households—renters and homeowners—paid more than 35% of their income for housing costs.

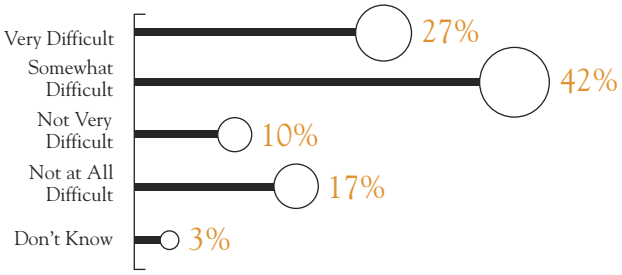
In terms of housing supply, the number of lower-cost houses continued decreasing and the number of very high-cost houses increased. In 2000 there was a closer relationship between the number of homes sold in different price brackets and the related income that could afford these homes. By 2006, the relationship is significantly skewed. For example, almost 70% of households on Long Island earn less than $100,000. In 2000, over 60% of the homes sold were affordable to this income bracket. By 2006, less than 2% of the single family homes sold were affordable for these families.

Housing Set Aside for Lower Income Households

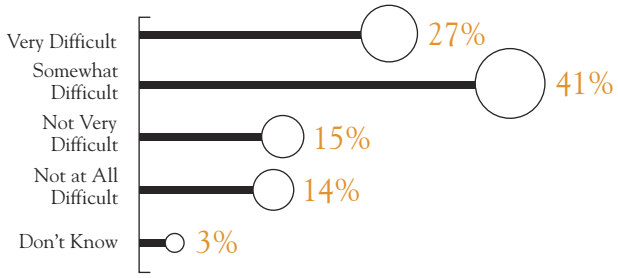
Housing units set aside for lower income families include housing subsidized by federal resources, such as the landlord-based Section 8 program and low income housing tax credits, as well as units subsidized by local resources. In 2005, this comprised about 1.6% of Long Island's housing stock or 16,000 units. While

What People in the Region Are Saying

In an average month, how difficult is it for you and your family living with you to pay the rent or mortgage? Would you say it is:

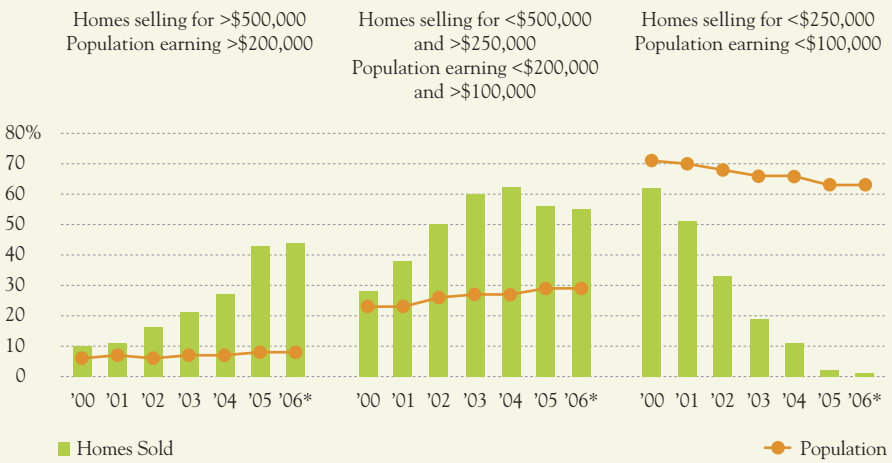


People Earning < $35,000



People Earning $35,000-$70,000

Comparison of Home Selling Price to Population Earning Specified Incomes



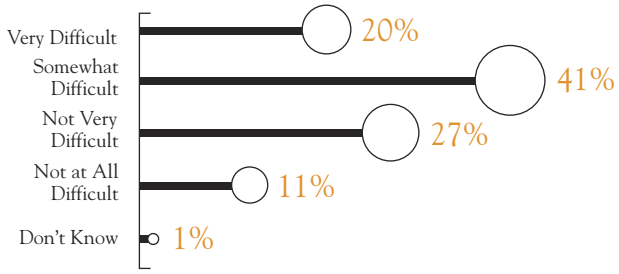
*Includes January-June 2006 only

Source: Long Island Profiles of Brightwaters, NY, (www.LIProfiles.com), provided data on housing prices; calculations done by RPA

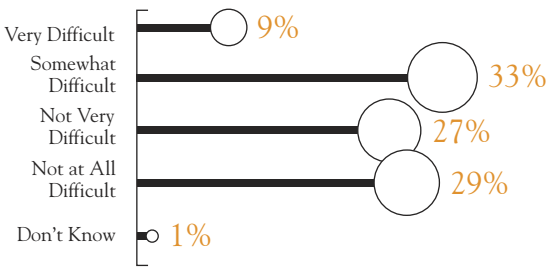
the exact number of households eligible for these units is not known, in 2005, 16% of all Long Island households, or 147,700 separate households, earned less than $30,000. Of the 147,700 low income households, 79,200 were elderly households and 68,500 were families. Of the 16,000 income targeted units in 2005, approximately 10,000 were set aside for elderly and/or disabled population and 6,000 for low income families. Though eligibility guidelines for different programs vary, the sheer difference between supply and potential demand indicates a large unmet need.

The Rental Market

Only 17% of the housing units on Long Island are rentals, a much lower percentage than other areas of the country or other neighboring counties—Westchester is 38%, Rockland County is 26%, Bergen County, NJ is 32%. Like the rest of Long Island's housing market, high rents are increasingly more common. One-third of rental units cost $1,500 per month or more in 2005, up from only 11% five years prior. The Office of the State Comptroller describes Nassau County as having the second-highest rents in the State (behind Westchester County), and the 14th highest in the U.S.



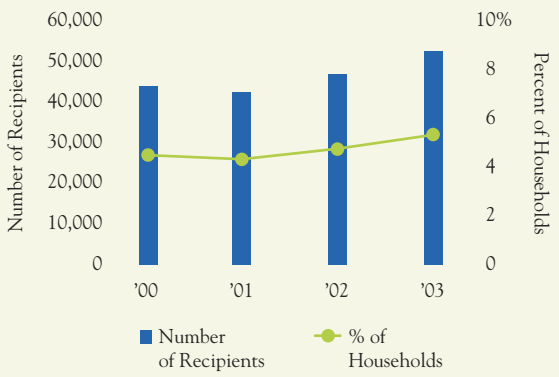
People Earning $70,000-$110,000



People Earning > $110,000

Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Food Stamp Recipients: Number of Recipients and Percent Total



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area & Income Poverty Estimates; Hofstra University

Goal #6—Safety Net

We assure that people are provided with basic necessities such as food and shelter.

INDICATOR:

Hunger

More Long Islanders need food stamps.

Why is this important?

The existence of a growing population of people without reliable access to adequate nutritious food is a major national concern. The Food Stamp Program is a nationally funded program that gives low-income families secure access to nutritious foods. In 2004, approximately 8.4% of U.S. households participated in the Food Stamp Program. Most food stamp recipients are children and the elderly.

How are we doing?

On Long Island, the number of food stamp recipients increased 20% between 2000 and 2003 (the latest figures reported by the federal government). Declining wages for low-income households is one important contributor to increased reliance on food stamps.

Long Island's Cost of Self-Sufficiency

Note: All Costs and Wage Data as of 2000

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + preschooler	Adult + schoolage + teenager	Adult + infant + preschooler + schoolage	2 Adults + infant + preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler + schoolage	2 Adults + infant + preschooler + schoolage
Housing	934	1,139	1,139	1,139	1,585	1,139	1,139	1,585
Child Care	0	779	844	520	2,143	1,624	1,364	2,143
Food	164	241	249	429	437	466	511	564
Transportation	185	190	190	190	190	364	364	364
Health Care	125	283	261	308	324	358	336	378
Miscellaneous	141	263	268	259	468	395	371	503
Taxes	425	762	786	668	2,064	1,248	1,006	1,983
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	(40)	(40)	(40)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	(42)	(42)	(83)	(125)	(83)	(83)	(125)
Monthly Self-Sufficiency Wage	$ 1,973	$ 3,576	$ 3,657	$ 3,389	$ 7,007	$ 5,429	$ 4,928	$ 7,316
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	$23,675	$42,911	$43,883	$40,663	$84,080	$65,150	$59,135	$87,789
Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage	$ 11.21	$ 20.32	$ 20.78	$ 19.25	$ 39.81	$ 15.42	$ 14.00	$ 20.78
						Note: Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage Is PER ADULT		

Source: Pearce, Diana and Jennifer Brooks, "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York," September 2000, New York State Self-Sufficiency Standard Steering Committee.

INDICATOR:

Cost of Self-Sufficiency

Long Island's cost of self-sufficiency is high.

Why is this important?

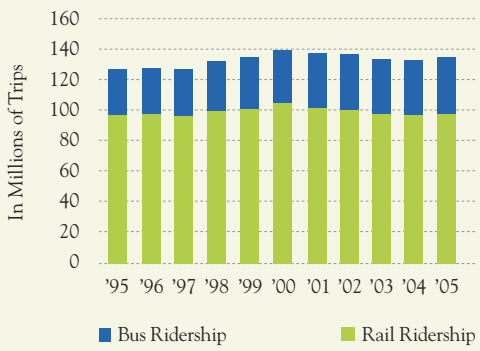
The Self-Sufficiency Standard measures how much income is needed for a family to adequately meet their basic needs. The Standard uses a no-frills budget that would allow a family to meet their basic needs: rent, food, child care, transportation, health care, taxes, and miscellaneous expenses. No provision is made for long-term needs: retirement savings, college tuition, purchase of a new car, emergency expenses.

How are we doing?

Long Island is an expensive place to live. As of January 1, 2007, New York State's minimum wage increased to $7.15 but a single adult living alone needs to earn at least $11.21 an hour (based on 2000 data for expenses) in order to meet their basic bills; a single adult with an infant and preschooler needs to earn at least $28.66 an hour. Since many families do not earn sufficient wages to cover their bills, alternate options must be found—child care arrangements with friends and/or family, sharing housing, skimping on health care or food, working multiple jobs. But given the wide gap between minimum wage and the cost of self-sufficiency on Long Island, many families live on the financial edge and even a small unexpected expense can wreck havoc on their lives.

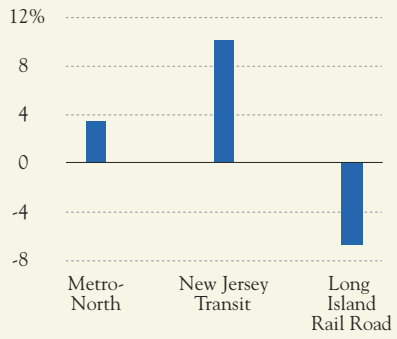
Check our website, www.longislandindex.org, for the Self-Sufficiency Standard for 70 different family compositions. Updated data will be available soon and will be posted on our website.

Transit Ridership on Long Island



Source: National Transit Database, Annual Unlinked Passenger Trips, 2005

Change in Ridership on New York Region Commuter Rail Lines, 2000-2005



Source: National Transit Database, Annual Unlinked Passenger Trips, 2005

Goal #7—Transportation

We increase mobility by investing in an integrated, regional transportation system and by encouraging creative problem solving to find transportation alternatives.

INDICATOR:

Transit Ridership

Long Island is behind its peers in rail ridership.

Why is this important?

Increased transit ridership helps reduce traffic congestion by taking motor vehicles off the road. An efficient transit system can provide quicker access to jobs, reduce air pollution and help to improve the overall livability of our communities.

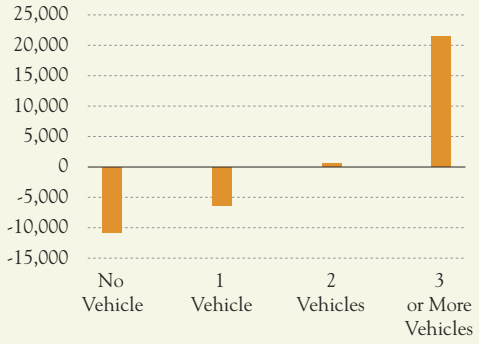
How are we doing?

Ridership on both the Long Island Rail Road and Nassau and Suffolk bus systems increased by 2% in 2005 but is still below its recent peak in 2000.

In contrast to Long Island, transit ridership in other parts of the New York metropolitan area has increased since 2000. While the reasons are not completely clear, the areas served by New Jersey Transit and Metro North have experienced stronger population growth than Long Island and have more capacity for both reverse commutes from New York City and intra-suburban trips, which have grown much faster than commutes into Manhattan. For example, a third track on Metro North's Harlem line, combined with discounted reverse commute fares, have contributed to ridership growth in the northern suburbs of New York City. In New Jersey, Midtown Direct Service greatly reduced travel times to Manhattan and increased ridership from much of the state.

Strikingly, 29% of Long Islanders reported that their commute to work each day has increased over the past year compared to 6% who reported a shorter commute.

Change in Number of Long Island Households Owning 0, 1, 2 or More Vehicles, 2000-2005



Source: U.S. 2000 Census of Population, 2005 American Community Survey

INDICATOR:

Auto Ownership

There are more cars per household.

Why is this important?

Owning more cars, like owning a larger house, can be a sign of rising incomes and increasing affluence. However, studies have shown that the more motor vehicles people own, the more they drive, leading to more congestion and longer commutes for everyone. This is because much of the increase in road congestion comes from discretionary trips for shopping, entertainment and other purposes, not just commuting to work. While owning multiple cars can lead to congestion and longer commutes, not owning a car can be a hardship because of insufficient public transit options.

How are we doing?

In the last five years, Long Island added 21,000 more households that owned 3 or more motor vehicles, while the number of households owning 1 vehicle or less declined. This continues a long-term trend of higher auto ownership. Almost 25% of all households on Long Island own 3 or more vehicles, and another 44% own two. About 50,000 households, 5% of all households, do not own a car.

Health

Goal #8—Healthy People

All people have access to quality affordable health care that focuses on disease and illness prevention.

INDICATOR:

Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) Condition Hospital Discharges

After a period of steady growth, ACS discharges show a slight decline.

Why is this important?

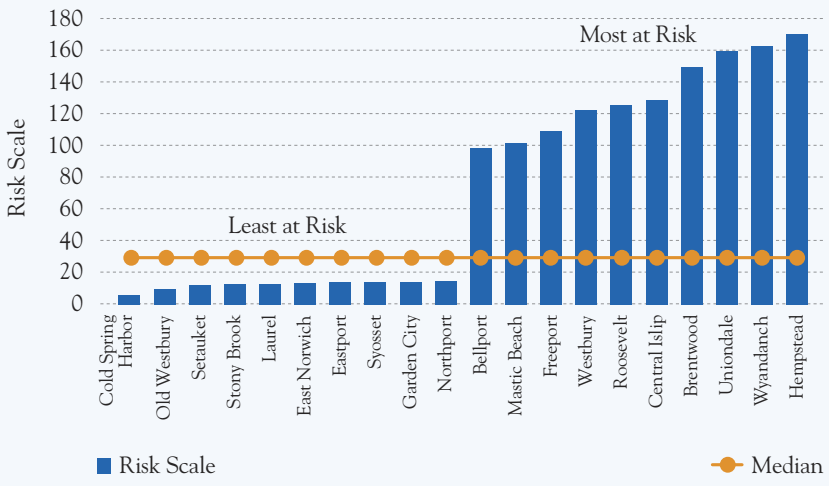
Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) conditions represent medical problems that could have been prevented altogether or at least treated without hospitalization, like lung and ear infections, adult asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes. Not treating these conditions early on can lead to emergency room visits and hospital admissions which are among the most expensive forms of medical treatment.

People often utilize emergency rooms for ACS conditions when they do not have access to or cannot afford regular preventive medical services. Having to hospitalize people for conditions that would not have required it if early detection and treatment had been possible adds enormously to overall healthcare costs.

How are we doing?

The number of ACS hospital discharges rose 21% between 1997 and 2005.

Health Risk Scale by Long Island Community*



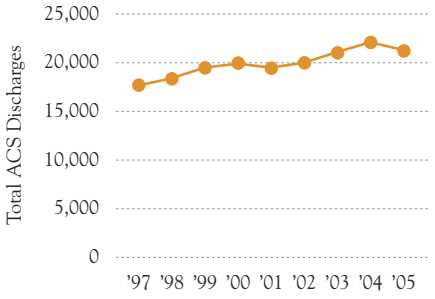
*Scale is sum of ACS and Medicaid/uninsured per 1,000 residents.

Source: North Shore-LIJ Health System Office of Strategic Planning and Program Development; Hofstra University

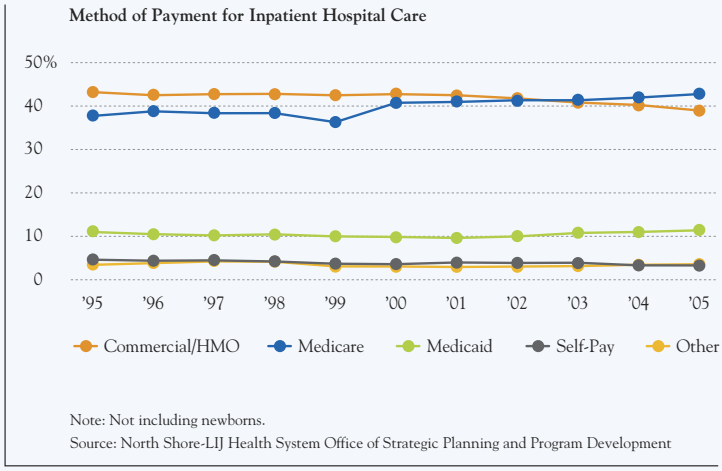
ACS hospitalizations relate to economic factors. In general, those who are poorer and those less likely to have medical insurance, use emergency rooms for ACS conditions. This is evident at the community level, as well. Those Long Island communities with higher rates of Medicaid and uninsured hospitalizations tend to also have higher rates of ACS hospitalizations.

The health-risk scale combines the rate of ACS hospital discharges and the rate of Medicaid/uninsured hospitalizations for each zip code associated with Long Island communities. High scores on the scale indicate that a greater proportion of a community's residents have been hospitalized on the basis of an ACS condition and either relied on Medicaid or had no insurance coverage for their hospital stay. Low scores indicate that a small proportion of a community's residents have been hospitalized on the basis of an ACS condition and used Medicaid or had no insurance coverage.

Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) Condition Hospital Discharges, Long Island



Source: North Shore-LIJ Health System Office of Strategic Planning and Program Development



INDICATOR:

Paying for Hospital Care

Commercial/HMO coverage decreases while Medicare coverage grows.

Why is this important?

Healthcare costs are a major factor in almost every household budget. Costs associated with a single hospital stay may quickly wipe out savings and move people into debt. Thus, having some reliable and comfortable way of covering major medical costs is an important element in preserving our quality of life.

How are we doing?

Ten years ago, 43% of all hospital care admissions were covered by commercial insurance or HMO policies, and 37.7% were covered by Medicare. Today, these numbers are practically reversed and only 39% of all hospital care admissions were covered by commercial insurance or HMO policies, and 43% were covered by Medicare. Other methods of payment remain virtually unchanged.

Education

Goal #9—Educational Readiness

All students are prepared to learn at each stage of the educational pipeline.

INDICATOR:

Poverty Index

While overall poverty levels on Long Island are low, there are concentrated areas where the number of children receiving free lunch exceeds 50%.

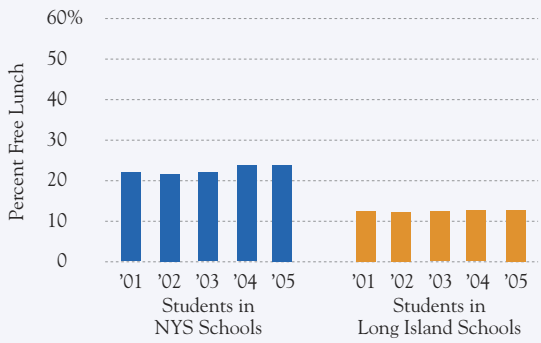
Why is this important?

Scholarly research shows that poverty is the most significant factor in determining how a child will perform in school. A child's own family income is central, but it is not the whole story. The socioeconomic status of the community in which a child lives and goes to school is also important. Concentrated poverty—where many families in a certain area are poor—is far more disadvantageous than individual poverty alone.

A common measure of school poverty is the percentage of students in a school who are federally defined as eligible for free lunch. Using percent free lunch, schools can be thought of as "high" and "low" poverty. In "high-poverty schools" many students receive free lunch and thus poverty is highly concentrated. In "low-poverty schools," few students receive free lunch.[1]

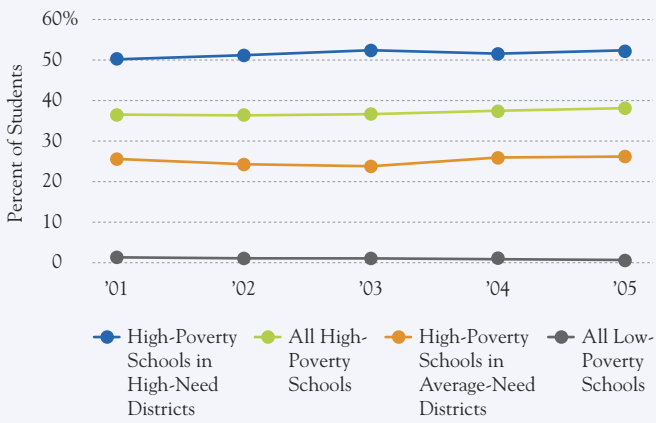
[1]To identify high-poverty and low-poverty schools on Long Island, all schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties were ranked based on the 2005 percent of students in that school who receive free lunch. Then, the 25% of schools with the highest percent free lunch were identified as "high poverty" and the 25% of schools with the least percent free lunch were defined as "low poverty." This approach yielded the following categories:
High-Poverty Schools: 25% of Long Island schools with highest percent free lunch (percent free lunch > 15.99%)
Low-Poverty Schools: 25% of Long Island schools with lowest percent free lunch (percent free lunch < 1.87%)
Middle-Poverty Schools: The remaining 50% of Long Island schools

Percent of Students Receiving Free Lunch in New York State and Long Island Schools



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

School Poverty and District Need on Long Island: Percent of Students Eligible for Free Lunch



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

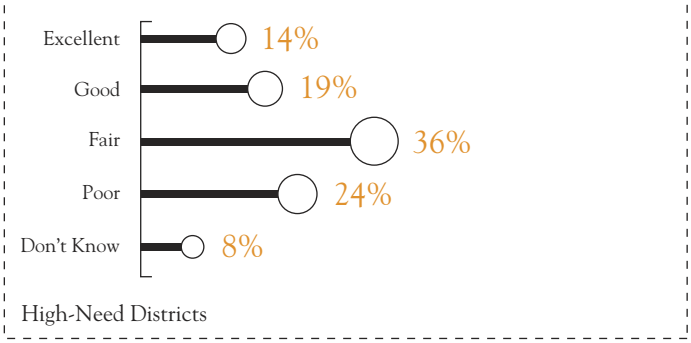
In addition, New York State assesses the economic situation at the district level in terms of the discrepancy between "need" and "resource capacity." School districts are thus classified as "low need," "average-need," and "high-need." Low-need districts are rich in resources and can provide their students with state-of-the-art learning facilities, technology, and faculty. High-need districts are resource-starved and students do not have the same opportunities available to them.

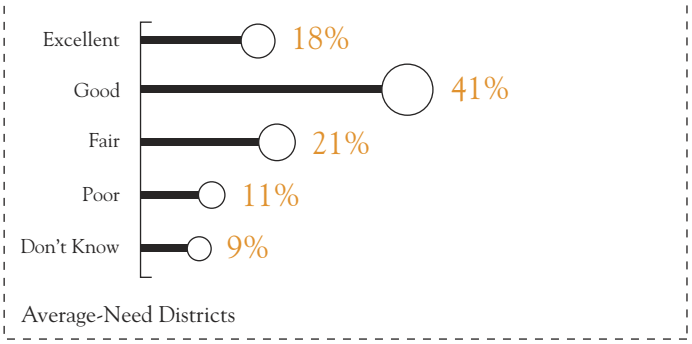
The distinction between "district-level need" and "school-level poverty" allows us to consider the *layering of disadvantage*. Individual schools can be high- or low-poverty (based on the percentage of students receiving free lunch), but they are also embedded in school districts that vary with respect to resource need.

It should be noted that while there are high-poverty schools in average-need districts, there are no high-poverty schools in low-need districts on Long Island.

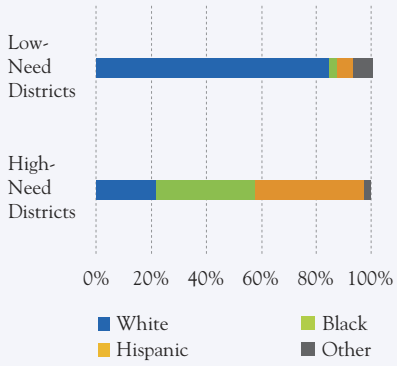
What People in the Region Are Saying

How would you rate the quality of the local public schools?



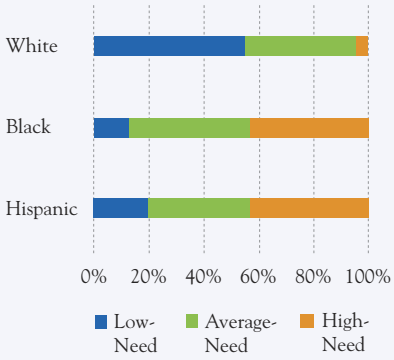


Race-Ethnicity of Long Island Students Who Attend Low-Need and High-Need Districts, 2005



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

Percent of White, Black, Hispanic Students Attending Low-Need, Average-Need and High-Need Districts, 2005



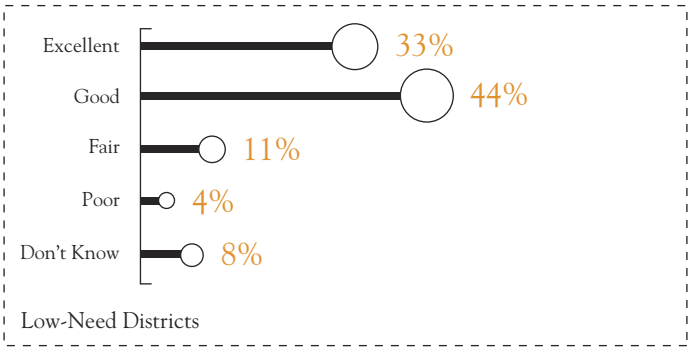
Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

How are we doing?

Across the United States poverty is increasing and, while less severe, Long Island is no exception. In 2005, almost 13% of students in Long Island schools received free lunch. This represents a five-year high. The trend for New York State is more dramatic with NYS schools averaging almost 24% free lunch in 2005.

On Long Island, there are large disparities in the concentration of poverty. Since 2001, low-poverty schools have experienced a decrease in the percent of students receiving free lunch while all others have had an increase. Thus, the gap between "rich" and "poor" in our schools is widening.

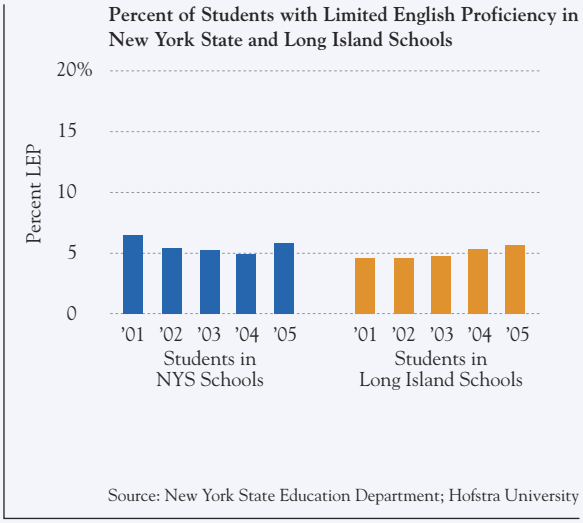
Adding district need to the picture shows just how great the disparities are. High-poverty schools in high-need districts had a free lunch rate twice that of high-poverty schools in average-need districts.

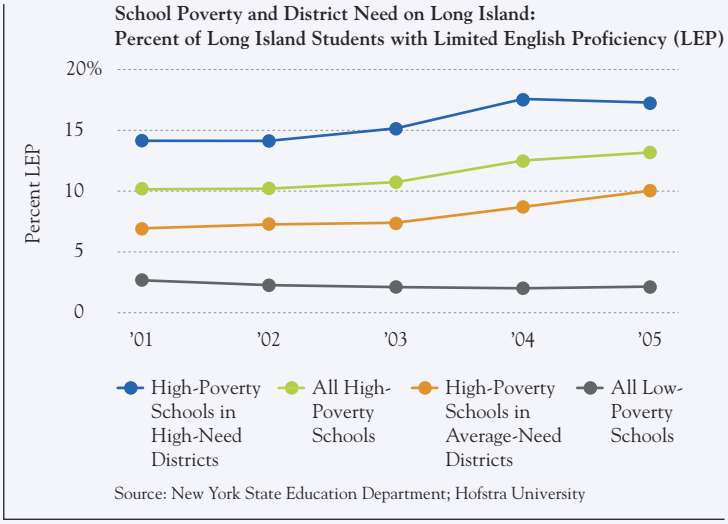


Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Historically, racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, particularly Blacks and Hispanics, have suffered most from disproportionate funding of education. These minorities are over-represented among the poor and thus are over-represented in poor schools and needy districts. This creates a cycle in which those who need quality education most to raise their future socioeconomic status tend to go to resource-poor schools, thereby further handicapping already disadvantaged groups of people.

The vast majority of Long Island students—86% in 2005—attend low- and average-need districts. Only 14% of all Long Island students attend high-need districts. There are, however, extremely large racial and ethnic differences: 76% of all students in high-need districts are Black and Hispanic. Moreover, the percentage of Black and Hispanic students who are schooled in high-need districts is ten times the percentage of white students who are schooled in high-need districts. Given that education is the central factor for upward mobility in our society, this situation predisposes racial and ethnic minorities to further disadvantage, which in the long run is a societal cost shared by everyone alike.





INDICATOR:

Percent of Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The number of LEP students is growing markedly in high-poverty schools.

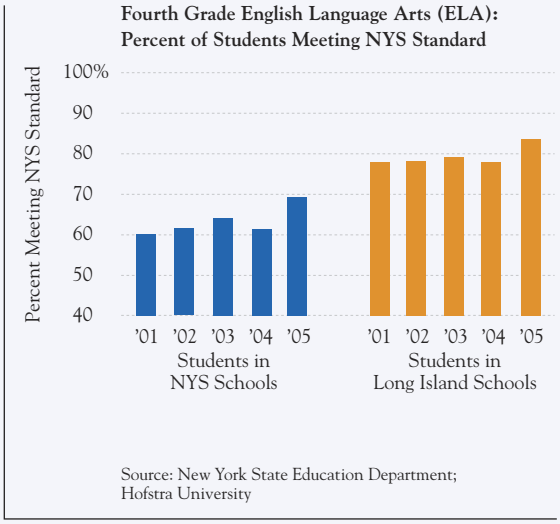
Why is this important?

Like poverty, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) is an indicator of students at risk of performing poorly in school. It also reflects Long Island's changing population and the resulting increase in disparity across schools and districts. As the percent of LEP students increases, schools must dedicate more resources to address this need resulting in fewer funds available for other programs.

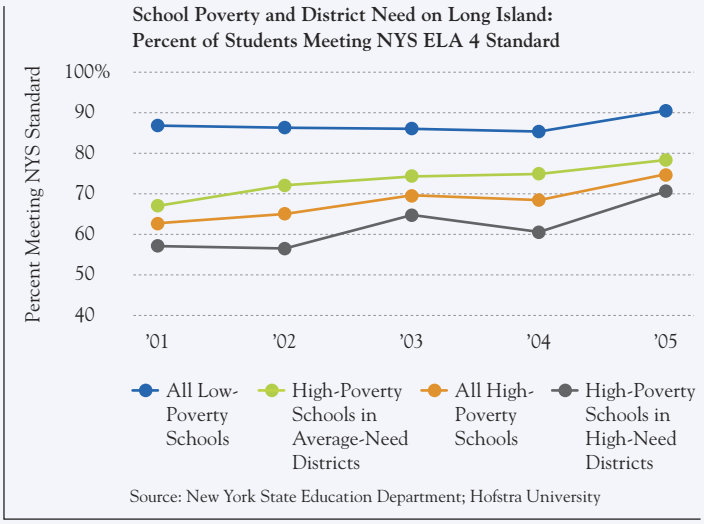
How are we doing?

Long Island schools are experiencing steady growth in the number of LEP students. On average, 5.6% of the students have limited English proficiency.

Low-poverty schools on Long Island average very few LEP students while high-poverty schools show marked increases. Comparing high-poverty schools in average- and high-need districts, we see the double disadvantage of being in a poor school in a high-need district. Since poverty and limited English proficiency are both risk factors for poor academic performance, poor schools in high-need districts have multiple, overlapping obstacles. They have the neediest students—poor and struggling with English—and the fewest resources with which to address these obstacles.



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

INDICATOR:

Performance Tests

Long Island schools perform well on the 4th Grade English Language Arts performance test and the gap between low-poverty and high-poverty schools is declining.

8th Grade Math performance test results exceed New York State but the gap between low-poverty and high-poverty schools has grown.

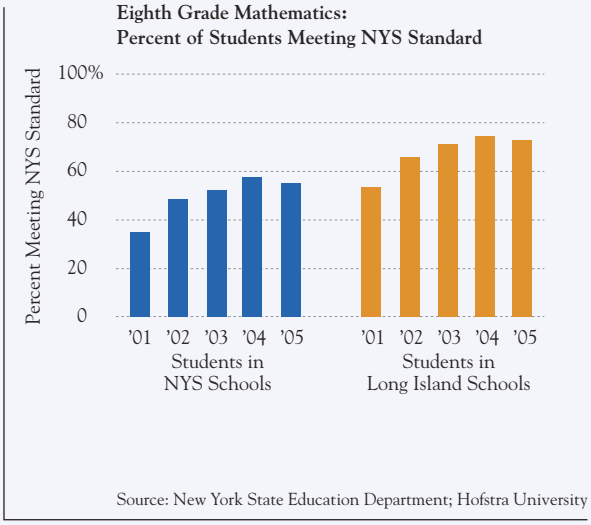
Why is this important?

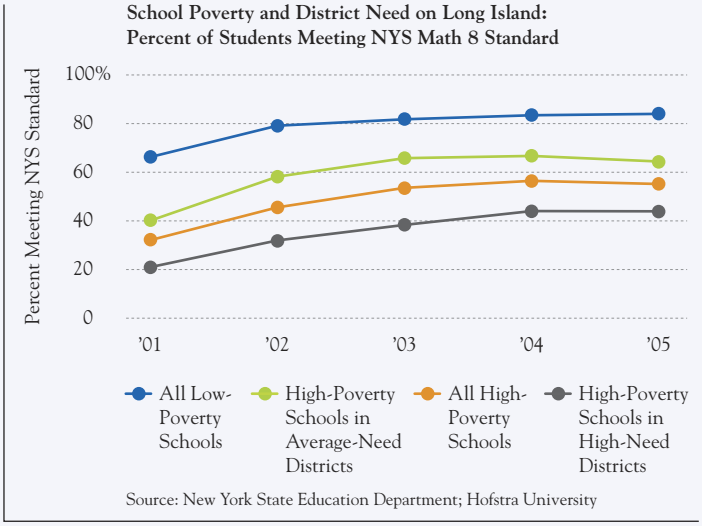
According to the NYS Education Department, the Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA) exam and the Grade 8 Mathematics exam reflect benchmarks that identify those students who are on target to pass, and those who may have difficulty passing, the English and Mathematics Regents Exams when they reach high school. These are part of the requirements for graduating with NYS's "Regents Diploma."

How are we doing?

Overall, Long Island students perform exceedingly well on performance tests reflecting the excellent educational infrastructure that has been developed across most of the region. The average for 4th grade English Language Arts 2005 performance tests across all 127 school districts shows 84% of the students meet state standards, compared to New York State overall where the scores are 69%.

However, when we calculate the scores based on level of poverty, we find wide gaps in achievement. Schools with low poverty rates have 90% of their students meeting state standards. Schools where there is high poverty have lower scores—75% of the students meet state standards. But when you factor in the location of the school within the district once again you find that those students in high-poverty schools located in average-need districts do better than high-poverty schools located in high-poverty districts.

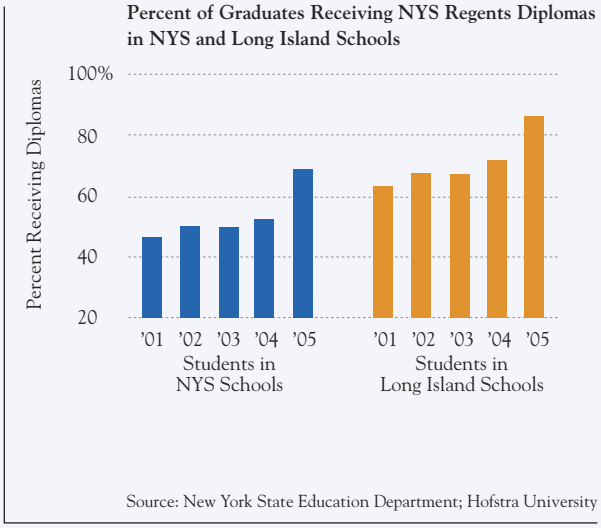


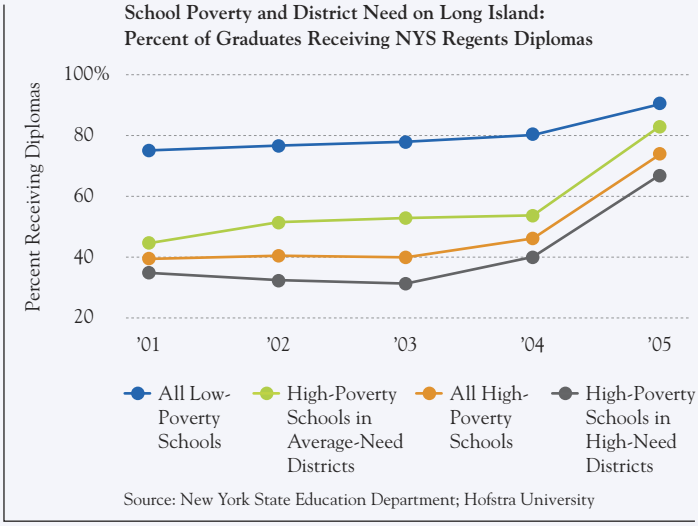


In 2005, however, there was a substantial gain realized across the board by all schools in New York State and Long Island.

8th Grade Math performance in New York State and Long Island schools showed steady improvement through 2004, but there was a small dip in 2005.

As has often been noted, it is harder to maintain educational achievements as children continue to move through the system. On the 8th Grade Math Performance test, the gap between low-poverty schools and high-poverty schools has not only been widening since 2003, but low-poverty schools are doing better while high-poverty schools are doing worse. The most depressed outcomes are for high-poverty schools in high-need districts.





INDICATOR:

Percentage of Graduates Receiving New York State's Regents Diploma and Percentage of 2005 Graduates Receiving New York State's Advanced Regents Diploma

Overall Long Island's students far surpass New York State in completing the requirements for the Regents Diploma. With the elimination of the local diploma, the gap between low-poverty and high-poverty schools receiving Regents Diplomas was significantly improved in 2005.

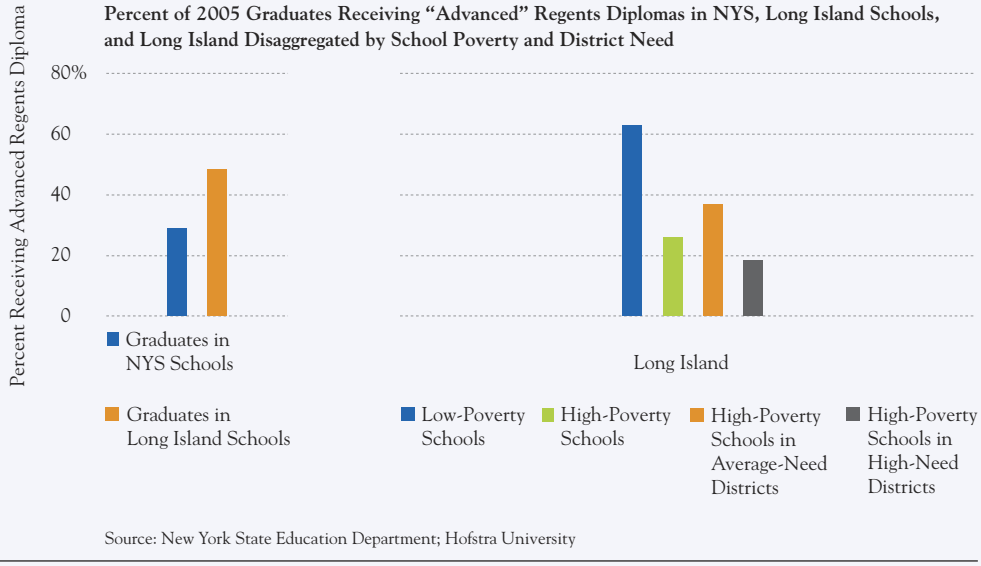
Why is this important?

Before 2005, New York State offered its mainstream high school graduates two types of diplomas, the "Local Diploma" and the more prestigious "Regents Diploma." Receipt of a Regents Diploma represents mastery of demanding academic skills and shows that the graduate is ready for higher education in America's most selective colleges. In 2005, New York State added an even more rigorous diploma option, the "Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation," indicating that the student had completed additional Math, Science and Foreign Language Regents level courses. An indication of school efficacy, then, is the percentage of graduates who receive the Regents Diploma and, beginning in 2005, the percentage who receive the Advanced Regents Diploma.

How are we doing?

Since 2001, the percentage of Long Island graduates receiving a Regents Diploma has grown steadily, with the biggest gains coming in 2005, when 86% of all diplomas were Regents Diplomas. Considering the influence of school poverty and district need on diploma type, there are some encouraging signs. While high-poverty schools, especially those in high-need districts, receive the fewest Regents Diplomas the gap between low-poverty schools and high-poverty schools narrowed substantially in 2005. Much of this change results from New York State's requirement to make the Regents Diploma the standard by 2005 and the elimination of the local diploma.

Percent of 2005 Graduates Receiving "Advanced" Regents Diplomas in NYS, Long Island Schools, and Long Island Disaggregated by School Poverty and District Need



Source: New York State Education Department; Hofstra University

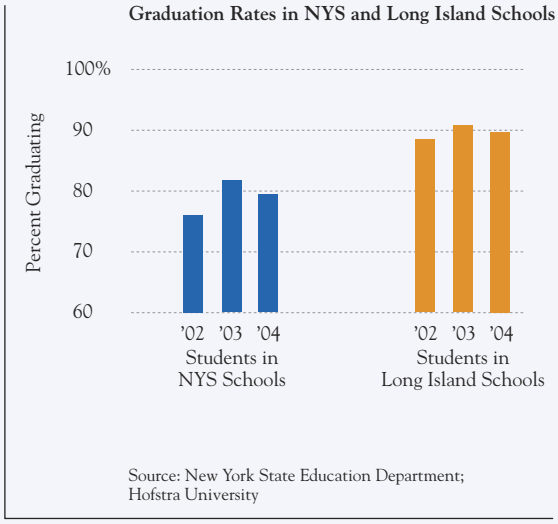
Students receiving the Advanced Regents diploma—based on only one year's worth of data—show just how wide the gap is at this stage. In 2005, 49% of all diplomas awarded in Long Island schools were Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation. On average, Long Island graduates have the requisite skills to be successful in post-secondary education. While low-poverty schools saw over 60% of the students completing high school with the Advanced Designation, in high-poverty schools in high-poverty districts, the percentage drops to 18%.

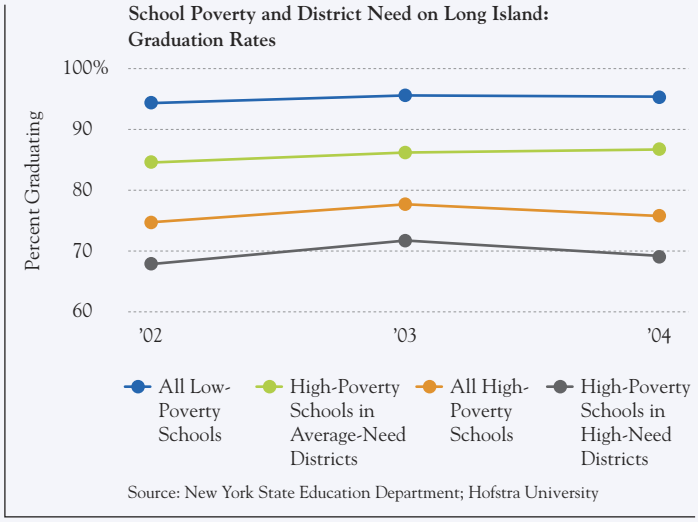
INDICATOR:
Graduation Rates

Overall graduation rates are high but students in high-poverty schools lag in completing requirements within the four years measured by the State.

Why is this important?

While it is common to consider graduation rates, and we report them here, we caution against placing too much emphasis on them. Graduation rates measure the percentage of a "cohort" that completes high school in the standard four years or less. This shows how quickly students move through high school. But in an age of increasing academic standards amid efforts to deter "social promotion", the time taken to master rigorous skills is less important than the actual mastery of those skills. Still graduation rates are a measure of school accountability. Students should not unnecessarily remain in high school and they should be moved along as efficiently as possible.





How are we doing?

Currently, New York State's *School Report Cards* report graduation rates for only 2002–2004. During this three-year period, 2003 saw the highest graduation rates, with almost 91% of students graduating in the allotted four years.

Looking at graduation rates by school poverty and district need, the layering of disadvantage is apparent. Over the three-year period, low-poverty schools have maintained approximately a 95% graduation rate. In 2004, students in high-poverty schools in high-need districts graduated at a rate of 69%. On the other hand, high-poverty schools in average-need districts fared much better, showing a graduation rate of 87%. High-poverty schools in high-need districts fare the worst. It is precisely those students at the greatest risk who may need more time to complete New York's increasingly rigorous curriculum. However, students who require more time to complete their coursework also place additional demands on the district's resources.

Photo by JM Johnson

Our Environment

Goal #10—Natural Resource Conservation

We promote the conservation and efficient use of the region's natural resources.

INDICATOR:

Air Quality

Air Quality is considered "good" two out of every three days.

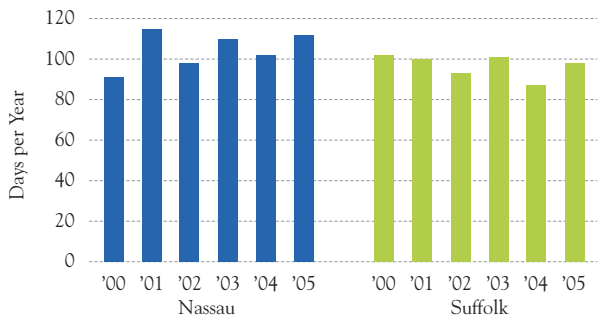
Why is this important?

Air quality contributes to our overall health and quality of life. It is particularly important for people with respiratory health problems, such as asthma. Poor air quality can be caused by a combination of auto, bus and truck emissions, industrial pollution and weather. The most comprehensive air quality indicator is the number of days that did not meet the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency for their composite air quality index. The index monitors several pollutants and grades each day as Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy or Hazardous.

How are we doing?

Air quality is rated "Good" in both Nassau and Suffolk counties at least two out of every three days. However, the other third of the year, air quality is only considered moderately acceptable. On these days, there may be a moderate health concern for people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. On rare occasions,

Days per Year When the Air Quality Index Is Not Considered GOOD



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index

the air is considered unhealthy for the general population. This occurred once over the last six years in Nassau and 13 times in Suffolk.

INDICATOR:

Water Quality

Pollutant runoff has led to high levels of impaired waterways.

Why is this important?

Clean water is vital not only for safe drinking water but also for fishing, recreation and natural beauty. As an island whose beaches, bays and estuaries are an important part of our quality of life, these attributes are particularly important. Water quality reporting under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is one means of measuring the quality of both fresh and salt surface waters. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation uses these standards to identify waters that are impaired for several uses, such as drinking, fishing, shell fishing or swimming, and places these on a "Priority Waterbodies List (PWL)." Placement on the list does not mean that all uses are impaired, or that any are necessarily prohibited. But it does indicate problems that need to be monitored and addressed.

How are we doing?

As of June 1, 2006, Long Island had 24 miles of rivers and streams, 524 acres of lakes and ponds, and 82,000 acres of ocean waters that were listed as impaired by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. More of the impaired waters were in Nassau County, where denser population and commercial development leads to more runoff of pollutants. From 2004–2006, 26 acres of lakes and ponds and 5,400 acres of estuary waters had improved sufficiently to be taken off the list of impaired water bodies. However, waters that were not listed as impaired have not been reassessed since 2004, so it is not known if additional water bodies have become impaired in the last two years.

Atlantic Ocean/Long Island Sound Drainage Basin Data as of 2004

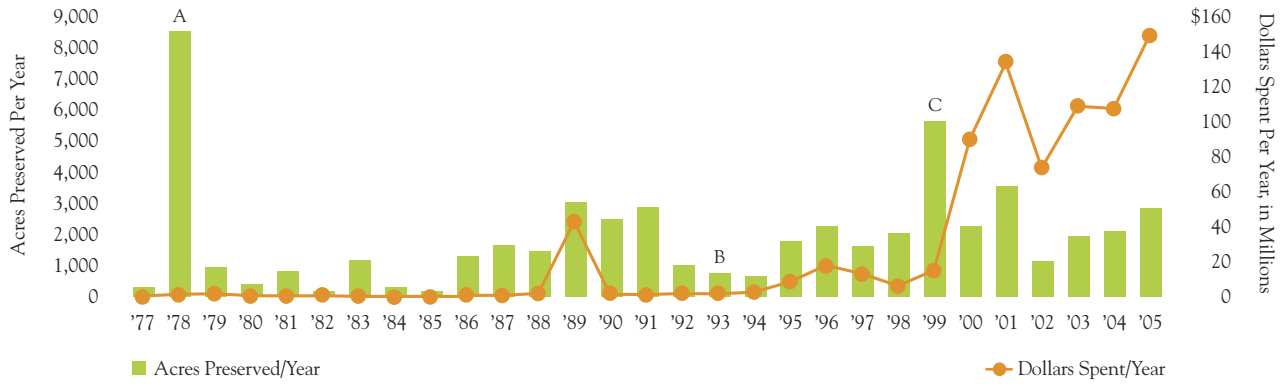
	Total Area	Area of Priority Waterbodies List (PWL)	PWL as a % of Total Area
Rivers/Streams	552 Miles	242 Miles	44%
Lakes/Ponds	6,728 Acres	3,576 Acres	53%
Estuary Waters	905,934 Acres	798,828 Acres	88%

The Nature Conservancy

Long Island's Last Stand - Proposed Land Protection Map

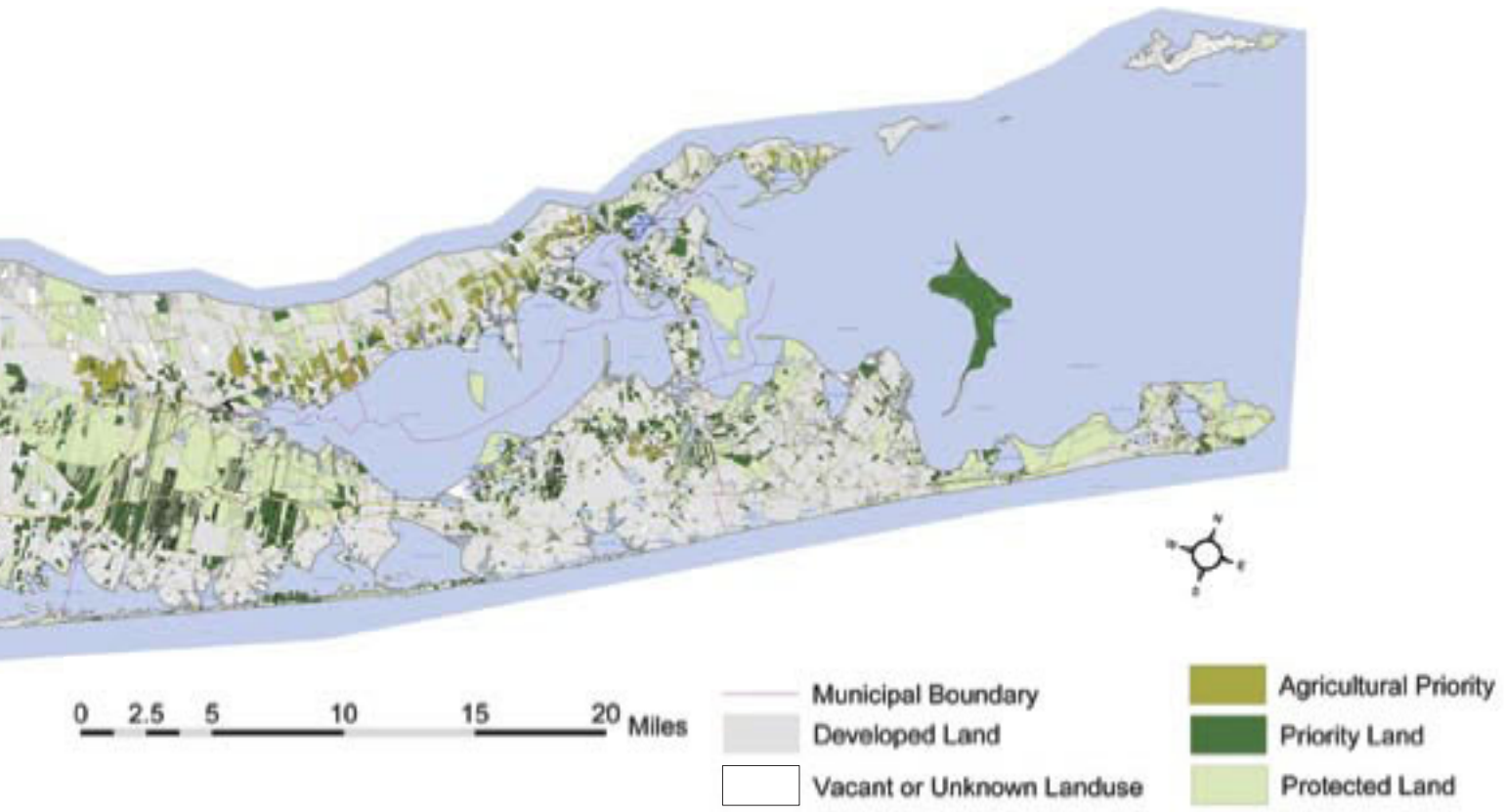
Long Island's Last Stand

Long Island Land Preservation



A 1978 – New York State purchase of RCA and Sarnoff Properties
B 1993 – Passage of Pine Barrens Preservation Act
C 1999 – Passage of East End Towns Community Preservation Funds

Sources: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Suffolk County Planning Department, Town of Brookhaven, Town of East Hampton, Town of Huntington, Town of Riverhead, Town of Shelter Island, Town of Southampton, Town of Southold



INDICATOR:

Land Preservation

A national leader in land preservation efforts, Long Island is still falling short of its goals.

Why is this important?

Land preservation is important on Long Island for reasons both environmental and economic. Preserved lands protect the Island's drinking water, provide critical habitat for wildlife, ensure the viability of the Island's farming industry and maintain the strength of its tourism sector.

How are we doing?

Over the past thirty years, New York State, Suffolk County and numerous towns across the Island cumulatively expended over $780 million for the preservation of over 55,000 of Long Island's approximately one million acres.* With experts forecasting the Island's final build-out to take place within the next decade, the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) *2006* plan calls for the preservation of 25,000 acres of environmentally sensitive open space and 12,000 acres of working farmland before that time. These goals would leave the Island with 92,147 acres of preserved land, roughly ⅒th of its total land mass, at the time of final build out.

Between 2000 and 2005, Long Island preserved land at a rate of just over 2,200 acres a year. If that rate were maintained, it would take 16½ years to accomplish the above stated goals. To reach those goals within the next 5 years, land would have to be preserved at the rate of 7,400 acres a year.

*Since 2004, over $355 million has been raised by both counties and several towns for preservation efforts. See appendix for details.

Photo by JM Johnson

Governance

Goal #11—Managing for Results

Long Island's counties, towns, villages, and other jurisdictions manage their costs and provide quality local and regional services.

INDICATOR:

Balance of Payment

With higher than average personal wealth, Long Island pays more in taxes than it receives.

Why is this important?

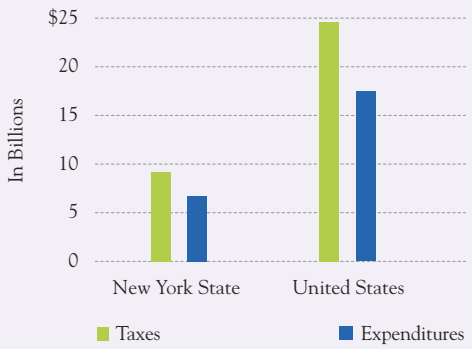
"Balance of Payments" measures how much Long Islanders pay in taxes to the state and federal governments versus how much they receive in government expenditures, either in direct payments to individuals, aid to county and local governments, or state or federally provided services. When used in conjunction with other information, such as income levels and local needs, it can help determine if Long Island is receiving its fair share of expenditures for taxes paid.

How are we doing?

Since the source and destination of many taxes and expenditures must be estimated, the balance of payments should be considered an "order of magnitude" approximation. For state revenues and expenditures, less than half of the required data comes from published reports. For federal allocations, expenditures are reported by the U.S. Census, but revenues must be estimated from a number of sources. Different assumptions or estimating techniques can lead to significantly different calculations[1].

[1]A full explanation of data sources and methods can be found in the Appendix.

Estimated Taxes Paid and Expenditures Received by Long Island, 2003



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Tax Foundation, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York State Office of the State Comptroller, New York State Division of the Budget, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, State University of New York

Still, available data in conjunction with our estimates indicate that residents of Nassau and Suffolk pay considerably more in taxes than they receive in payments or services from either New York State or the federal government. In 2003, the last year with complete data sets available, Long Islanders paid $9.2 billion in state taxes compared to receiving $6.7 billion in expenditures. The difference in federal taxes and payments is even greater: $24.5 billion paid in taxes compared to $17.4 billion received in expenditures.

A look at the components of these revenues provides a partial explanation. Long Island has 15% of the state's population but 20% of its personal income. This additional wealth translates into higher taxes, especially income taxes. This difference is magnified at the national level, since New York State as a whole has incomes that are higher than the national average, so the state itself has a balance of payments "deficit" with Washington.

The question of what constitutes a "fair" allocation is even more complicated. Both our federal and state tax systems have long been predicated on the principal that those with higher incomes should pay a higher share of taxes, and those with greater needs should receive a larger share of expenditures. But where to draw the line is a question that has been debated for as long as the nation has debated who should be taxed and how revenues should be spent.

Standard and Poor's					
Nassau			Suffolk		
Date	Rating	Change	Date	Rating	Change
Sep '04	A-	↑	Oct '06	AA-	—
Nov '03	BBB+	↑	May '06	AA-	↑
Mar '03	BBB	↑	Apr '96	BBB+	↑
Jun '99	BBB-	↑	Oct '91	BBB	↑
Moody's					
Apr '06	A3	—	Oct '06	Aa3	↑
Sep '04	A3	↑	May '06	A1	—
Nov '03	Baa1	↑	May '05	A1	↑
Feb '03	Baa2	↑	Oct '04	A2	—

Source: Moody's, Standard & Poor's; Hofstra University

Key to Agency Ratings		Investment Quality
Moody's	Standard and Poor's	
Aaa	AAA	Highest
Aa	AA	
A	A	
Baa	BBB	
Ba, B	BB, B	
Ca, C	CC, C	
D	D	Lowest

S&P uses "+" or "-" to indicate strength or weakness.
Moody's uses 1, 2, or 3, with 1 being the highest.

INDICATOR:

BOND RATING

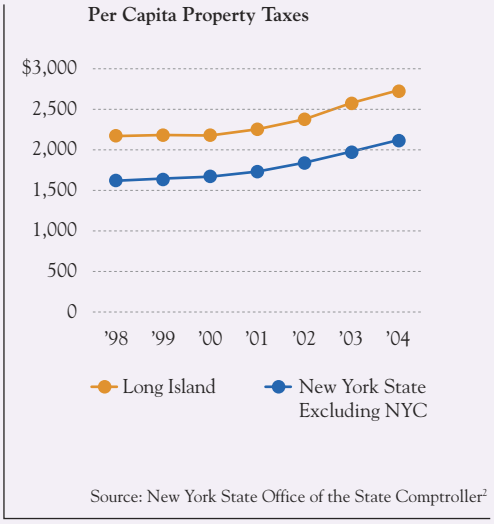
Bond ratings continue to remain high for both Nassau and Suffolk.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The credit rating agencies are a nationally recognized measure of municipal financial strength and have been used extensively by individual and institutional investors as a benchmark for the purchase of municipal bonds. The credit rating of a local government entity is a critical building block in its financial structure. Poor ratings increase the cost of borrowing money, be it for capital projects or refinancing existing debt, because they are one of the key factors determining how much interest the counties must pay to borrow money. Good ratings lower the interest local governments must offer when issuing bonds for new projects or for refinancing existing debt.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

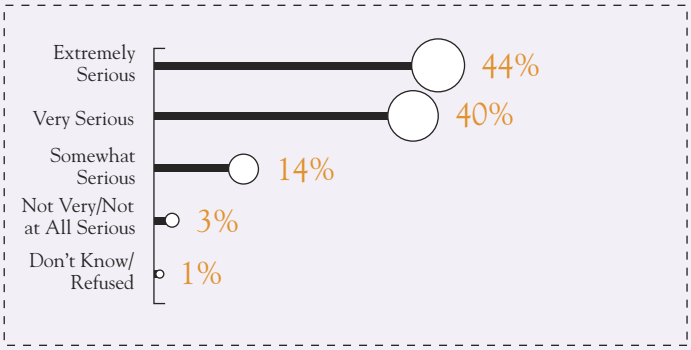
Both Nassau and Suffolk counties have experienced improvement in their bond ratings in recent years. Nassau's ratings have been stable since 2004. Suffolk improved its rating by Moody's in 2006. Both Moody's and Standard and Poor's give Suffolk County their fourth-highest rating.



Source: New York State Office of the State Comptroller[2]

What People in the Region Are Saying

In your view, how serious a problem are high property taxes in your county?



Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

INDICATOR:

Per Capita Property Taxes

Long Island pays significantly higher property taxes than most other areas of New York State.

Why is this important?

Property taxes affect disposable income, cost of living and the overall affordability of a region. Because they are the primary source of local revenue, they also affect other decisions by municipalities, counties and school districts. To keep their property taxes down, there is a preference for development that will pay a lot of property taxes, such as office and retail activity, while residential development is discouraged because it is perceived as adding to the tax burden.

How are we doing?

Starting in 2000, Long Island property taxes have increased much faster than inflation as home values have skyrocketed. Since taxes are based on property values, higher home values result in increased property taxes even if tax rates remain unchanged.

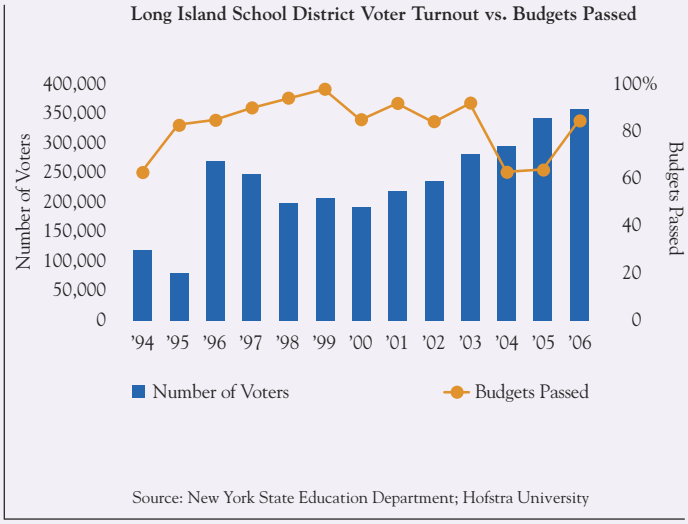
[2]Because New York City funds local services through a combination of income taxes and other sources that are not used by other local governments, its property taxes are not a fair comparison with other parts of the state.

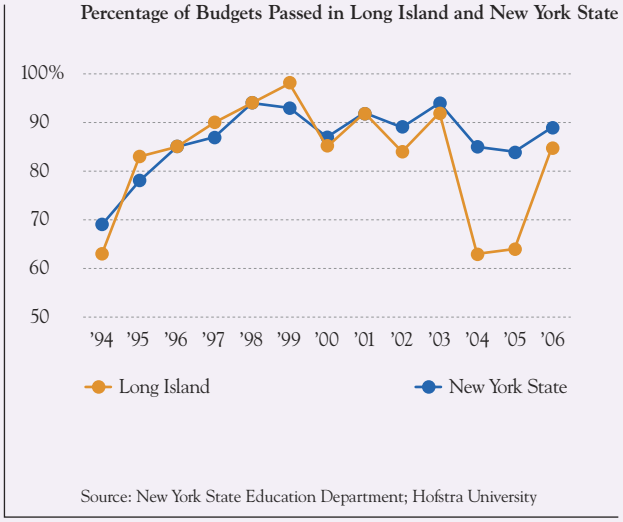
Measuring Tax Burden—Three Methods			
Method	Definition	Findings for 2005	Explanation
Taxes Per Person	Typically used as a way to compare regions, per capita rates show the dollar amounts that Long Islanders pay in contrast to other state residents.	Long Island's property taxes per person were ***65% higher*** than other parts of New York State outside of New York City.	Long Island's tax burden looks extraordinarily higher than other parts of the state. But using this measurement does not take into account two other critical factors: property values and ability to pay.
Full Value Tax Rate	Full value tax rates (also known as "property taxes as a share of property values") show the comparison between taxes and property wealth.	Full value tax rate for Long Island was actually ***15% lower*** than the state average.	When property values are high, this measure makes property taxes appear to be more affordable especially in a region like Long Island. But it does not take into consideration the fact that housing costs (taxes and mortgages) are higher, often resulting in taxpayer stress, and residents may feel "house rich but income poor."
Share of Personal Income	Comparing property taxes to personal income measures the taxpayers' ability to pay and is the most commonly used indicator of tax burden across states.	Property taxes as a share of personal income were ***18% higher*** than the state average.[3]	The tax burden on property-owners in suburban downstate counties including Long Island is relatively higher by this measure because it captures the disparity between rapidly rising property values and associated taxes compared to income that has not increased at the same rate.

Property tax burdens can be calculated in a number of ways, and the relative burden on Long Island can look very different depending on the measure used. The three standard methods used to understand the impact on taxpayers are summarized in the chart above.

The New York State Comptroller has pointed out that rapidly rising property values, and the taxes associated with them, are a major cause of rising housing cost burdens, and rising property values do not always translate into an increasing ability to pay higher taxes. Given this, taxes relative to personal income is a better method to understand tax burden since it shows the relationship between property taxes and the means to pay them. Even with Long Island's high average incomes, taxes per $1,000 of personal income are still higher than in comparable areas of the state.

[3]These calculations were taken from data in *Property Taxes in New York State*, Office of the New York State Comptroller, April 2006. The report also contains a fuller explanation of the different measures of tax burdens.





INDICATOR:

School Budget Votes

Voter turnout continues to increase; number of budgets passed on the first vote returns to the 85% mark.

Why is this important?

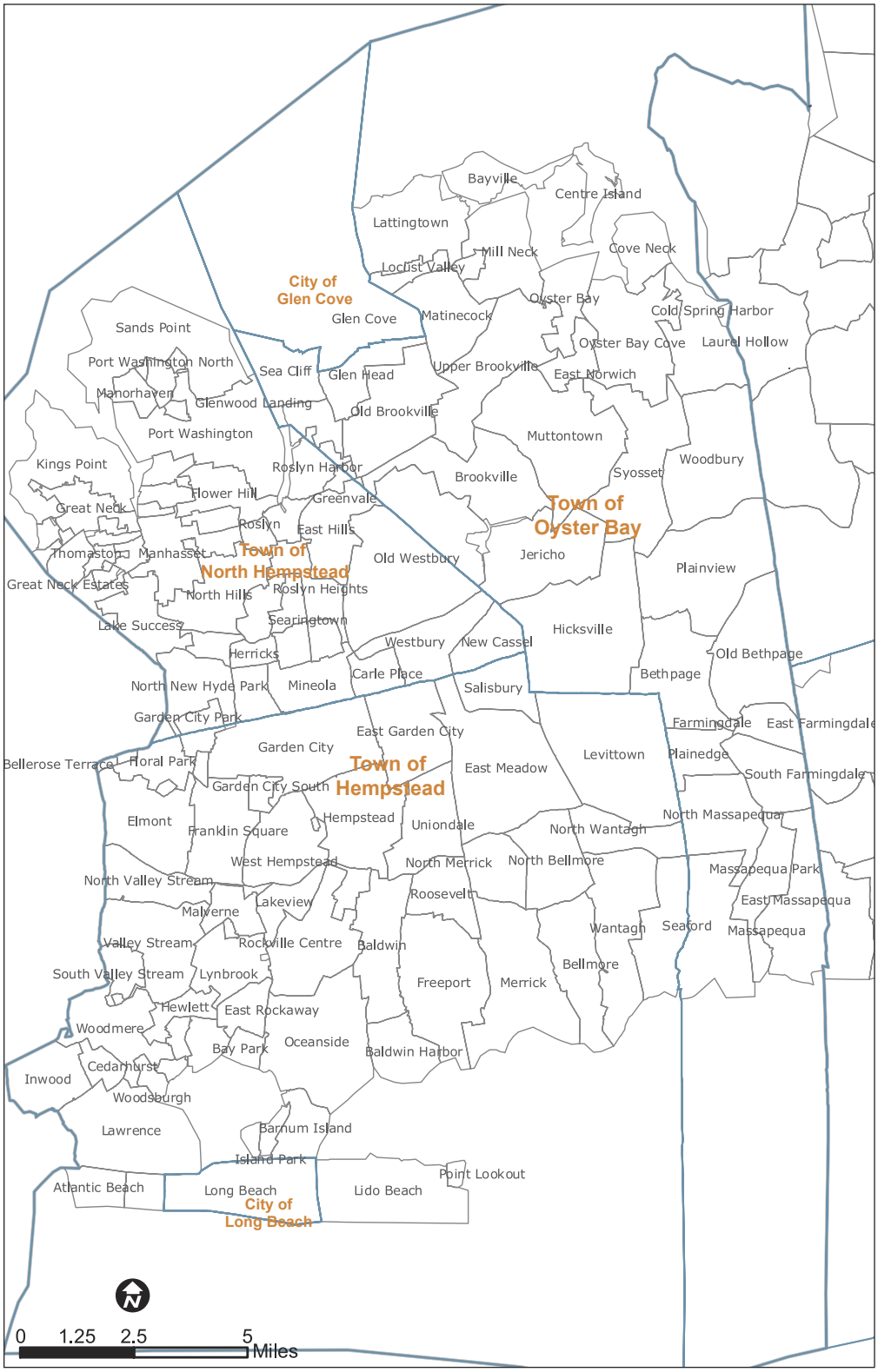
Over 60% of property taxes on Long Island go toward funding local public schools. The public school budget is one of the very few opportunities for residents to have a direct input each year on the taxes that they pay. Voting for or against the school budget is thus an obvious expression of how property owners in a community feel about how their education-related tax dollars are being managed. In a broader sense, votes on school budgets can reflect a wider public sentiment about the overall tax burden at the local level.

How are we doing?

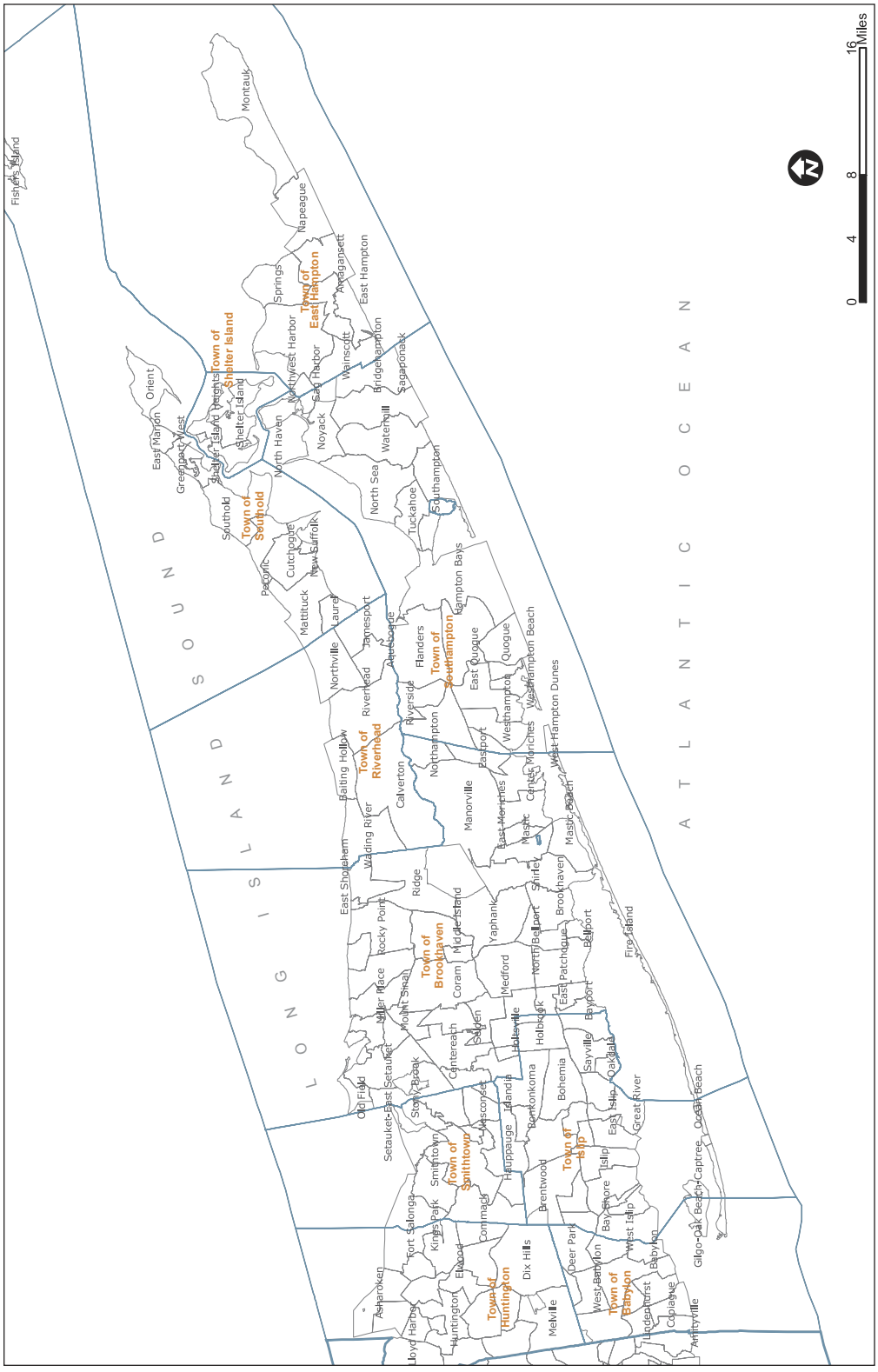
In 2004 only 63% of school budgets passed.[4] In 2005 the figure was 64%. In the prior five years, the average passing rate was 90%. The extreme drop in 2004 and 2005 may have been partly attributed to several well-publicized scandals involving mismanagement of school district funds but was also likely an expression of the public's dismay over the increase in their overall tax burden. The vote in 2006 returned to a more usual 85% passage rate. Except for the 2004 and 2005 votes, between 1994 and 2006, the rate of budgets passing on Long Island followed a pattern that is very similar to New York State as a whole.

[4]All data on votes for school budgets applies to the first vote only.

NASSAU COUNTY CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES AND HAMLETS



SUFFOLK COUNTY TOWNS, VILLAGES AND HAMLETS



LONG ISLAND INDEX WEBSITE

The ***Long Island Index*** website has been redesigned to make it easier to find detailed information about the Long Island region. Need a graph for a report or presentation? Want more information about Long Island's economy? Interested to see how far we've come in preserving land? Go to www.longislandindex.org and select the "Indicator Overview" option on the top navigation bar or go directly to one of the six indicator topics: Economy, Communities, Health, Education, Environment, and Governance. Once you're there, select a goal, find the indicator, read the data, download the graph. Or, do your own analysis and form your own conclusions using actual data from the *Index*.

Also available on the site: Surveys and Special Analyses. Both can be found from the top navigation bar.

If you would like to see prior *Index* reports, learn more about the history of the *Long Island Index* project or about indicator projects in general, select an option from the left navigation. Find the complete news coverage of *Index* topics that you are interested in by going to "Press & Media." Sign up to receive automatic updates about the *Index* or even take an online survey.

"WHAT EVERY LONG ISLANDER SHOULD KNOW"

This series of articles examining aspects of life on Long Island, based on information from the *Long Island Index* is written by Rauch Foundation President, Nancy Rauch Douzinas. Read current and back issues on our site.

CHECK BACK SOON

More is coming soon! Check back frequently to find updated community and school profiles, information about our essay contest for high school students, or our next Special Analysis report.

Notes

Notes

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TOWN OF OYSTER BAY
TOWN OF RIVERHEAD
TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND
TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
TOWN OF SOUTHOLD
WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (WOW)

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"Working Together in New Ways for Long Island's Future"

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