

# St Johnsbury, Vermont Community Profile



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

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

This data profile relies on the following data sources:

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

Additional data sourced from:

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

## **About the Center for Rural Studies**

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

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[www.uvm.edu/crs](http://www.uvm.edu/crs)

802-656-0321

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## Introduction

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### *Geography:*

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

### *A brief History:*

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

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

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

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

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

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## Civics

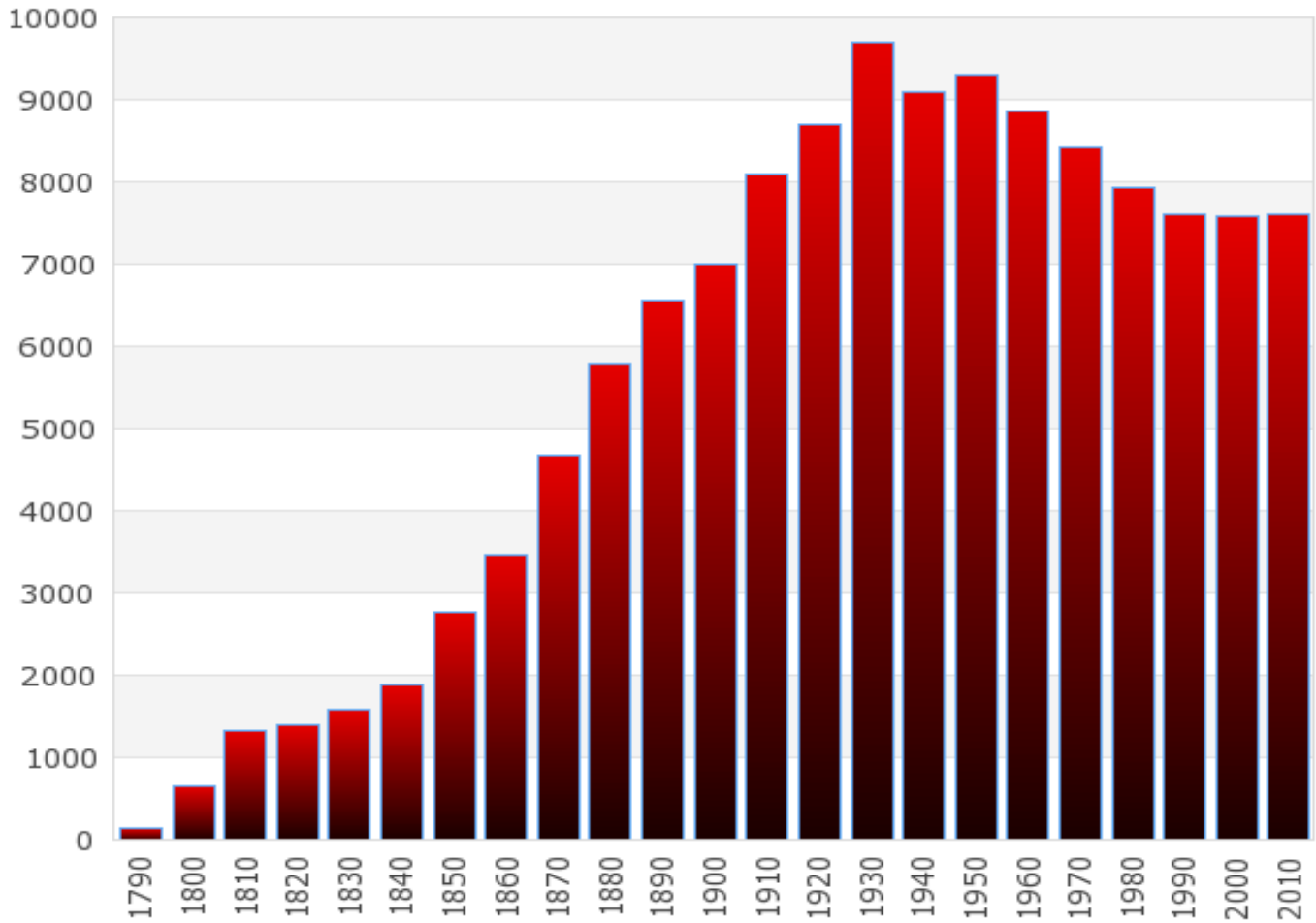
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Year Town Incorporated or Chartered	1790
Type of Entity	Town
County	Caledonia

Source: Vermont Indicators Online: Civics & Planning

**Population**

**Population over time**



Source: Decennial Census data retrieved from Vermont Indicators Online

**Population Change**

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

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

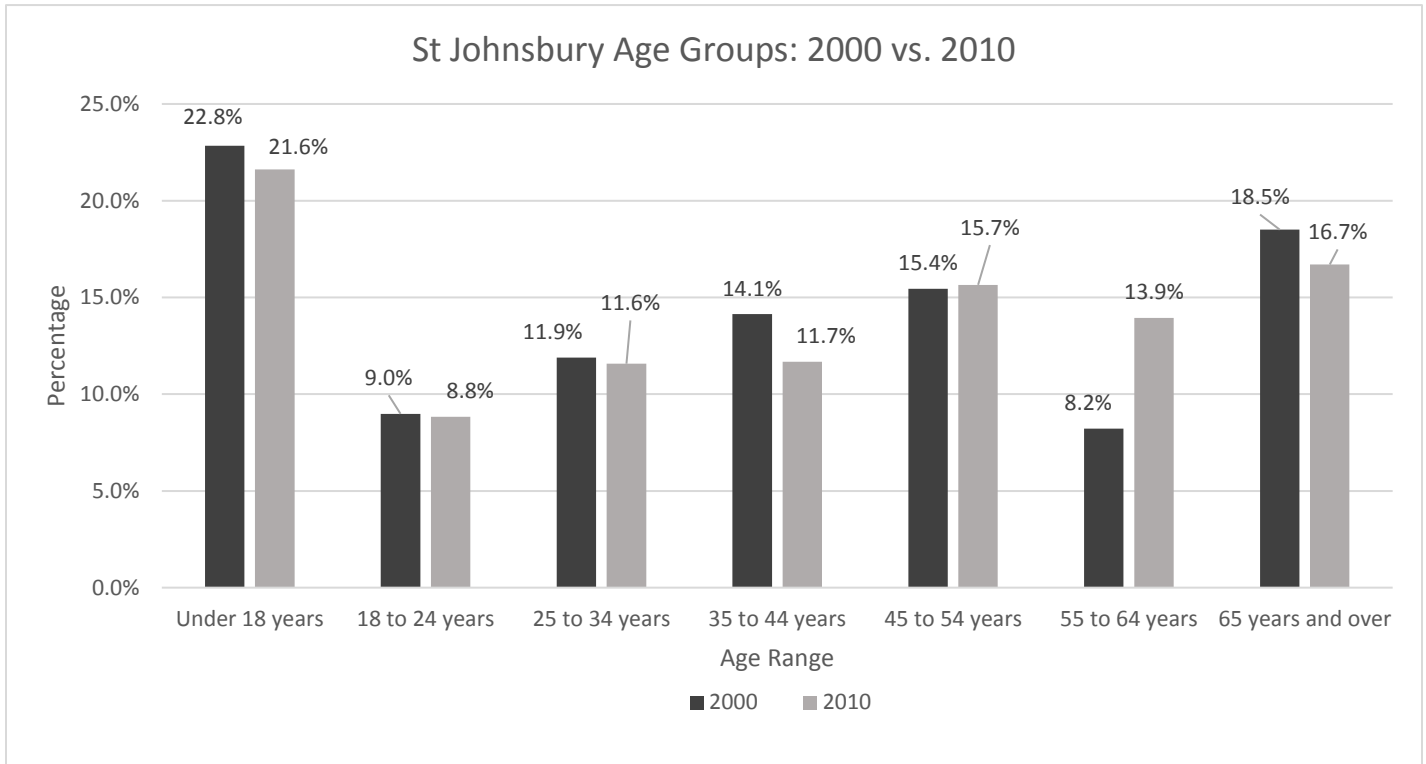
**Median Age**

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

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

**Age categories: 2000 & 2010**



Source: 2000 & 2010 Decennial Census

**Nativity**

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

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

**Disabled Populations**

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

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

**Veteran Populations**

	St. Johnsbury	Caledonia County	Vermont
Total Veterans	599	2,654	48,456
PERIOD OF SERVICE (as a percentage of total veterans)			
Gulf War (2002 or later) veterans	7.3%	7.6%	7.4%

Gulf War (1990 to 2001) veterans	9.7%	11.5%	10.9%
Vietnam era veterans	39.7%	38.7%	37.0%
Korean War veterans	15.0%	15.1%	11.5%
World War II veterans	10.4%	8.1%	8.9%

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

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### Income & Poverty

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#### Median Household Income

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2009-20113 American Community Survey

#### Poverty Status (Individuals)

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2009-20113 American Community Survey

#### SNAP Benefits (Food Stamps)

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

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

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

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### Labor Force

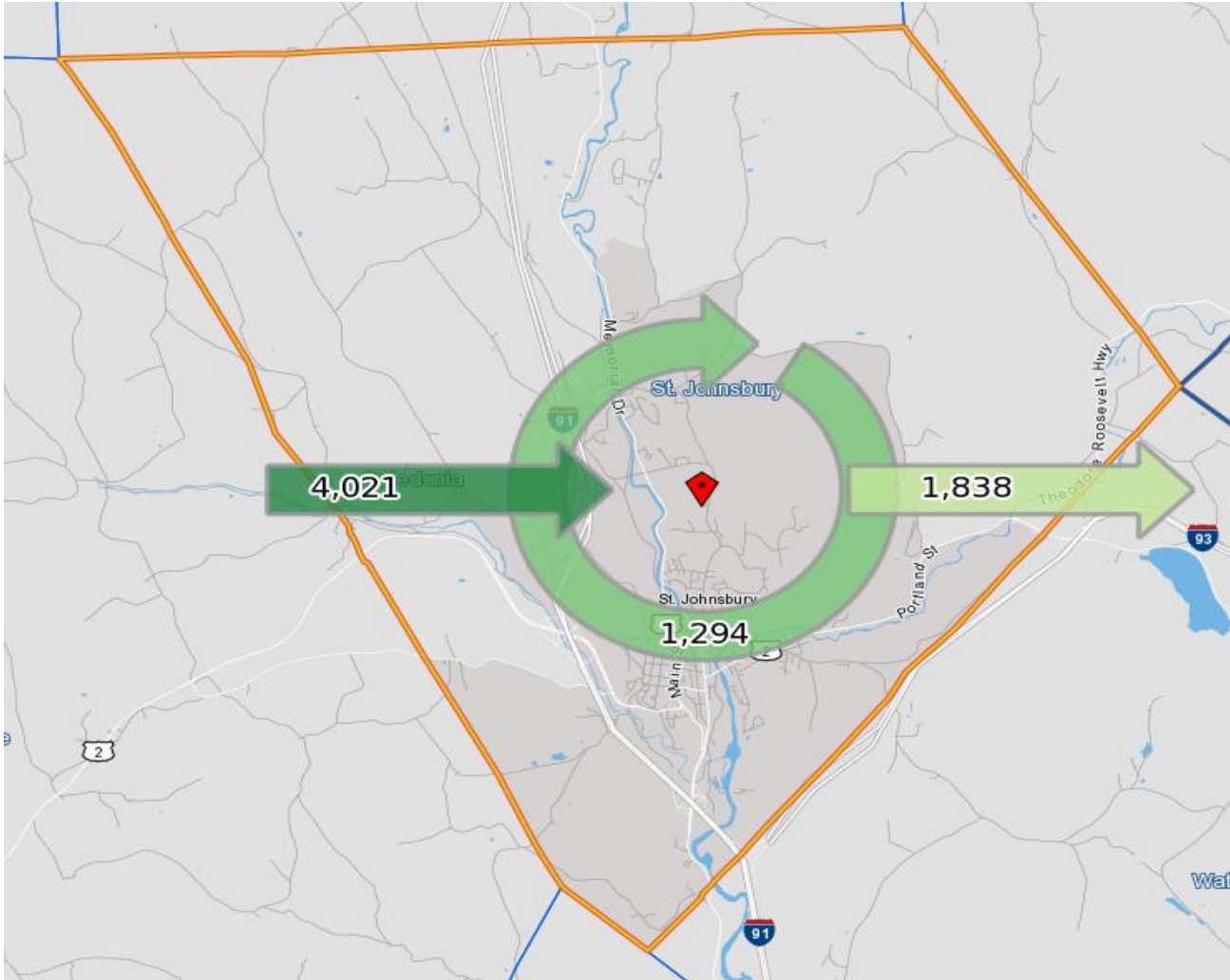
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#### Percent of population over 16 years of age in the Labor Force

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

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

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



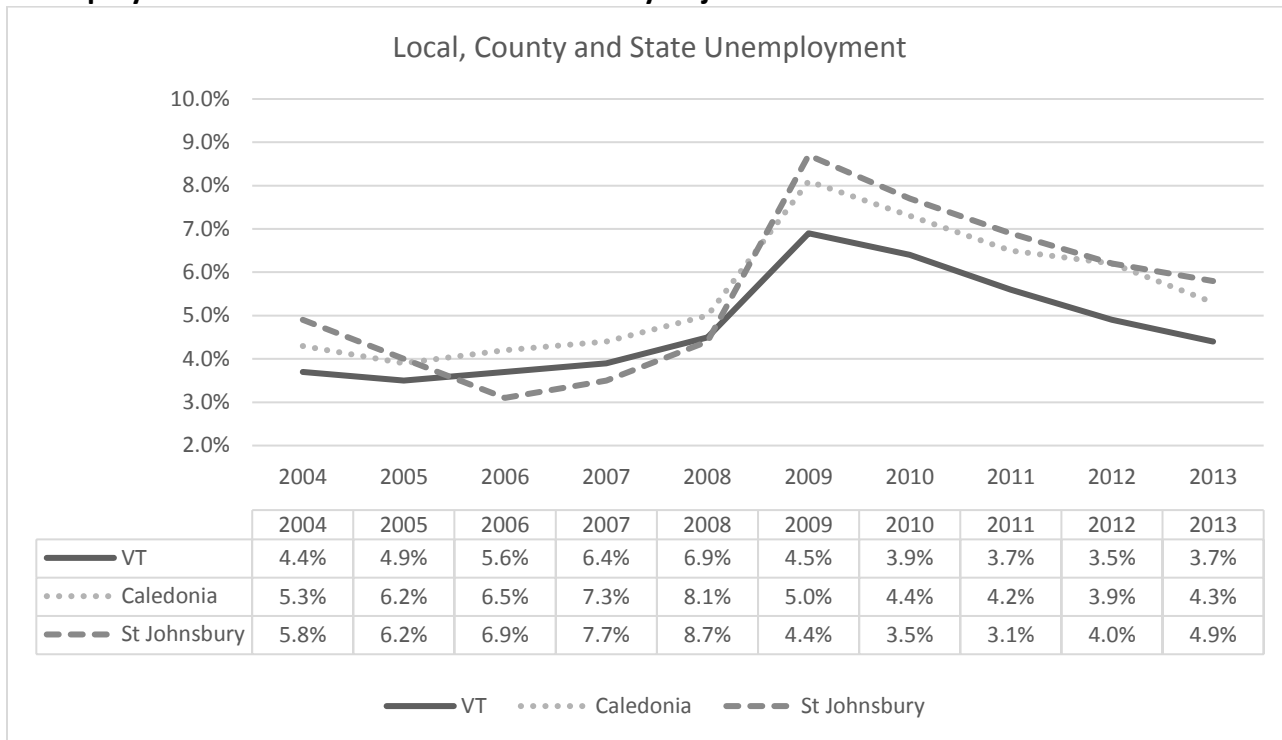
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies - onthemap.ces.census.gov

**2011 Inflow/Outflow Job Counts – All Jobs**

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

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

### Unemployment Rate 2004-2013 – Not Seasonally Adjusted\*



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

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

Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector	2002		2011		VT 2011
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	12	0.3%	23	0.7%	0.8%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	3	0.1%	4	0.1%	0.2%
Utilities	21	0.6%	6	0.2%	0.7%
Construction	147	4.3%	132	4.2%	4.5%
Manufacturing	562	16.3%	395	12.6%	10.7%
Wholesale Trade	91	2.6%	66	2.1%	3.3%
Retail Trade	459	13.3%	413	13.2%	12.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	113	3.3%	81	2.6%	2.6%
Information	81	2.3%	62	2.0%	1.9%
Finance and Insurance	125	3.6%	104	3.3%	3.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	25	0.7%	24	0.8%	1.0%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	121	3.5%	156	5.0%	5.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	0.0%	4	0.1%	0.5%
Admin & Support, Waste Mngmt and Remediation	66	1.9%	88	2.8%	3.2%
Educational Services	430	12.4%	426	13.6%	13.5%

Health Care and Social Assistance	598	17.3%	593	18.9%	17.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	42	1.2%	48	1.5%	1.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	273	7.9%	239	7.6%	9.7%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	103	3.0%	100	3.2%	2.9%
Public Administration	185	5.3%	168	5.4%	5.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies



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

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

Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies

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## Education

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### School Enrollment: 2003 and 2008- 2012

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

Source: Vermont Agency of Education - [http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data\\_2011\\_2012\\_Public\\_School\\_Enrollment.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data_2011_2012_Public_School_Enrollment.pdf)

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

## Educational Attainment

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

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

## Housing

### Housing Characteristics

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

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

### Home Values (Owner occupied units)

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

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

## Housing Costs

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

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

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### Transportation

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

#### Transportation to Work (Workers 16 years and over)

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

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