

ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Overview

Established in 1899, Nassau County (the “County”) is the site of some of New York State’s (the “State”) earliest colonial settlements, some of which date to the 1640’s. With a total land area of 287 square miles and a population of over 1.3 million, the County is bordered to the west by the New York City borough of Queens, to the east by Suffolk County, to the north by Long Island Sound and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Together, the northern and southern boundaries of the County comprise nearly 188 miles of scenic coastline. The County includes 3 towns, 2 cities, 64 incorporated villages, 56 school districts and various special districts that provide fire protection, water supply and other services. Land uses within the County are predominantly single-family residential, commercial and industrial.

Population

Table 1 below shows the County’s population from 1970 to 2010. The County’s population has experienced two major growth periods over the past 100 years, reaching a peak of 1,428,080 residents in 1970. Between 1970 and 1990, the County’s population decreased 10% to 1,287,348 residents. By 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the County’s population had increased by 5.4% (from 1990) to 1,357,429 residents. In 2010, population in the County remained fairly constant at 1,339,532.

TABLE 1

COUNTY POPULATION, 1970-2010

2010	1,339,532
2000	1,336,073
1990	1,287,348
1980	1,321,582
1970	1,428,080

SOURCES: U.S. Census Decennial; U.S. Census 2010

Economic Indicators

Median Household Income

As shown in Table 2, the County’s estimated median household income was \$92,450 in 2010, significantly higher than those of the State (\$55,233) and the United States as a whole (\$51,425). Moreover, the County has a smaller percentage of families below the poverty level (3.2%) than the State (10.5%) and the United States (9.9%).

TABLE 2
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE COUNTY
IN COMPARISON TO THE STATE AND THE U.S., 2010

<u>Area</u>	<u>Median Household Income</u>	<u>Families Below Poverty (%)</u>
County	\$92,450	3.2
State	55,233	10.5
United States	51,425	9.9

SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2010 American Community Survey

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) represents changes in prices of a typical market basket of all goods and services that are purchased by households over time and is used to gauge the level of inflation. The CPI includes user fees such as water and sewer service and sales and excise taxes paid by the consumer, but does not include income taxes and investment items such as stocks, bonds, and life insurance. Annual totals and increases in the CPI for both the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (“CMSA”) and U.S. cities between the years 2002 and 2010 are shown in Table 3 below.⁽¹⁾

As indicated in Table 3 below, prices in the CMSA rose by 1.73% in 2010. The 2010 U.S. city average percentage increase was 1.68%.

TABLE 3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, 2002-2010

<u>Year</u>	<u>U.S. City Average (1,000s)</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>	<u>NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA (1,000s)</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
2010	218.1	1.68%	240.9	1.73%
2009	214.5	-.37%	236.8	.42%
2008	215.3	3.8%	235.8	3.9%
2007	207.3	2.8%	226.9	2.8%
2006	201.6	3.2%	220.7	3.8%
2005	195.3	3.4%	212.7	3.9%
2004	188.9	2.7%	204.8	3.5%
2003	184.0	2.3%	197.8	3.1%
2002	179.9	1.6%	191.9	2.6%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

⁽¹⁾ Throughout this document references are made to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s definitions of metropolitan areas that are applied to U.S. Census Bureau data. These areas include Metropolitan Statistical Areas (“MSAs”), Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (“CMSAs”) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (“PMSAs”). An MSA is a county or group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city with a population of 50,000 or more, or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a metropolitan population of at least 100,000. An MSA with a population of one million or more and which meets various internal economic and social requirements is termed a CMSA, consisting of two or more major components, each of which is recognized as a PMSA. For example, the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA is part of the New York-Northern New Jersey – Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA.

Retail Sales and Business Activity

The County is served by six major regional shopping centers: Broadway Mall in Hicksville, Roosevelt Field in Garden City, Green Acres Mall in Valley Stream, Americana Manhasset in Manhasset, Sunrise Mall in Massapequa, and the Simon Mall at the Source in Westbury. According to the International Council of Shopping Centers, a global trade association of the shopping center industry, these regional malls have a total of 7,370,000 square feet of gross leaseable area.

The County boasts a wide range of nationally recognized retailers that provide goods and services, including home furnishing stores, supermarkets and gourmet food markets, electronic stores, and bookstores. Major retailers in the County include Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, Lord & Taylor, Nordstrom’s, Macy’s, Sears, JC Penney, Marshalls, Old Navy, Kohl’s and Target. Commercial outlet stores in the County include, but are not limited to, Costco, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Best Buy. In addition, there are designer boutique shops and specialty department stores such as Brooks Brothers, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren and Prada, and jewelers such as Tiffany & Co., Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels.

Based on the 2007 Economic Census, Retail Trade, the County ranked second in the State to New York County (Manhattan) in retail sales (see Table 4).

TABLE 4

**RETAIL SALES ACTIVITY RANKED BY COUNTY IN THE STATE
(in thousands)**

	2007 Rank	2007 Retail Sales	2002 Rank	2002 Retail Sales
New York (Manhattan)	1	38,797,518	1	\$26,431,688
Nassau	2	24,312,618	2	20,048,923
Suffolk	3	23,319,943	3	18,884,440
Kings	4	15,431,858	6	11,397,935
Queens	5	14,587,146	5	11,733,654
Westchester	6	14,205,055	4	12,055,687
Erie	7	11,217,146	7	10,053,437
Monroe	8	8,496,065	8	7,612,733
Onondaga	9	6,363,051	9	5,451,227
Orange*	10	5,729,216		N/A

*Orange County was not among top ten in 2002.

SOURCE: 2007 Economic Census, Retail Trade

Employment

Table 5 compares employment totals and unemployment rates in the County to adjoining municipalities, the State and the United States. The County had a workforce of approximately 638,400 employees in 2010. The unemployment rate in the County remained at 7.1% in 2010. 2010 marked the fourteenth consecutive year in which the County’s unemployment rate was less than or equal to Suffolk County (7.6%), and less than New York City (9.3%), the State (8.6%), and the United States (9.6%).

TABLE 5
ANNUAL AVERAGE
EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)
AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%), 2001-2010

Year	Nassau County		Suffolk County		New York City		New York State		United States	
	Employ- ment	Unemployment- Rate	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate
2010	638.4	7.1	726.7	7.6	3,625	9.3	8,553	8.6	148,250	9.6
2009	642.4	7.1	731.2	7.4	3,633	9.5	8,556	8.4	139,877	9.3
2008	665.7	4.7	757.9	5.0	3,719	5.4	8,793	5.3	145,362	5.8
2007	670.0	3.7	758.2	3.9	3,684	4.9	8,734	4.5	146,047	4.6
2006	668.3	3.8	753.9	4.0	3,630	5.0	8,618	4.6	144,427	4.6
2005	662.1	4.1	745.9	4.2	3,540	5.8	8,537	5.0	141,730	5.1
2004	655.1	4.5	734.8	4.7	3,469	7.1	8,465	5.8	139,252	5.5
2003	649.1	4.7	723.8	4.8	3,413	8.3	8,410	6.4	137,736	6.0
2002	649.5	4.7	717.9	4.7	3,429	8.0	8,462	6.2	136,485	5.8
2001	651.3	3.7	714.6	3.8	3,452	6.1	8,595	4.9	136,933	4.7

SOURCES: Compiled by the County from: New York State Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Key Employment Trends

As indicated in Table 6, the annual average employment in non-farm jobs by industry for the year 2010 in the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA showed no appreciable change. The Manufacturing, the Trade, Transportation and Utilities, and the Financial Activities industries fell to their lowest points in this decade. Eighty-nine percent of jobs within the PMSA are in service producing industries.

TABLE 6
ANNUAL AVERAGE
NASSAU-SUFFOLK EMPLOYMENT,
NON-FARM, BY BUSINESS SECTOR
2001-2010
(in thousands)

Nassau-Suffolk Employment by Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Goods Producing										
Natural Resources	62.4	64.3	64.4	66.4	66.7	69.8	72.0	73.1	65.0	60.8
Construction & Mining										
Manufacturing	98.9	92.1	88.4	88.2	86.9	85.9	83.8	81.3	75.1	73.0
Total Employment Goods Producing	161.2	156.4	152.8	154.6	153.6	155.7	155.8	154.4	140.1	133.8
Service Producing										
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	271.4	267.3	270.4	271.3	270.9	270.7	273.7	272.4	257.2	256.2
Financial Activities	81.9	82.2	82.7	83.4	81.6	80.4	79.2	75.0	70.8	69.8
Information	32.9	32.5	29.1	28.9	29.4	29.2	27.9	27.1	27.3	25.4
Educational & Health Services	184.4	191.2	196.8	200.7	203.0	206.2	210.8	215.7	220.6	225.8
Leisure & Hospitality	88.8	90.1	92.5	95.7	95.8	97.5	99.2	99.4	98.4	100.9
Other Services	49.7	50.1	50.7	51.4	51.9	51.9	52.7	53.6	52.7	52.9
Professional & Business Services	158.5	154.1	153.4	159.7	159.8	158.6	164.2	163.1	153.6	152.8
Government	194.1	196.3	198.9	196.9	198.7	198.7	202.1	203.2	206.7	208.9
Total Employment Service Producing	1,061.7	1,063.7	1,074.6	1,087.9	1,091.0	1,093.2	1,109.6	1,109.5	1,087.2	1,092.6
Total Non-Farm	1,222.9	1,220.1	1,227.3	1,242.6	1,244.6	1,248.9	1,265.6	1,264.0	1,227.4	1,226.5

SOURCE: New York State Department of Labor
Note: Totals may not equal the sum of the entries due to rounding.

Table 7 compares the employment shares by business sector and industry in the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA to the United States. The percentage of jobs within each category is fairly consistent with national figures. Nationwide, 14% of jobs were in the goods producing sector compared to 11% in the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA.

TABLE 7

PERCENTAGE OF NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT
BY BUSINESS SECTOR, 2010

BUSINESS SECTOR	Nassau-Suffolk PMSA (%)	United States (%)
GOODS PRODUCING		
Natural Resources*, Construction & Mining	5	5
Manufacturing	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Goods Producing	11	14
SERVICE PROVIDING** OR SERVICE PRODUCING*		
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	21	22
Financial Activities* or Finance, Insurance & Real Estate**	6	6
Assorted Services	45	44
Government	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Total Service Providing / Producing	89	89

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

SOURCES: Compiled by the County from: New York State Department of Labor (Nassau-Suffolk PMSA) and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (United States).

*Nassau-Suffolk PMSA

**United States

Major County Employers

Table 8 below shows the major commercial and industrial employers headquartered in the County.

TABLE 8

MAJOR COUNTY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS, 2010

Company	Type of Business	Employees
North Shore – LIJ Health Systems	Health Care	38,000 *
Cablevision Systems Corp.	Cable and pay television	20,105
Pall Corporation	Industrial Equipment	10,600
Winthrop Healthcare Systems	Health Care	5,100
Alcott Group	Professional employers organization	4,900
Broadridge Financial	Data Processing	4,850
Reader's Digest	Publishing	4,700
Systemax, Inc.	Computers & related products	4,452
Griffon Corp.	Specialty building products	4,100
National Envelope	Envelope manufacturer	4,000

SOURCES: Compiled by the County from Crain's Book of Lists 2010; * North Shore – LIJ Medical System Human Resources Center.

Construction Activity

Table 9 below is a composite list of construction activity in the County for residential, business, industrial and public buildings for the years 2001 through 2009. Overall construction activity has been uneven since 2001, reaching its high point in 2008 with 1,893 permits issued, falling to 472 in 2009. This is by far the lowest figure in a decade and may be a consequence of incomplete data.

TABLE 9
COUNTY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, 2001 - 2009

Year	Single-Family Dwellings	Other Housing Units*	Business Buildings	Industrial Buildings	Public Buildings	Total
2009	334	111	21	1	5	472
2008	822	1,049	18	0	4	1,893
2007	737	85	20	3	4	849
2006	1,414	161	30	4	4	1,613
2005	1,197	238	37	1	3	1,476
2004	735	442	23	4	8	1,212
2003	635	343	23	2	8	1,011
2002	740	245	24	2	5	1,016
2001	688	301	30	21	16	1,056
Totals	7,302	2,975	226	38	57	10,598

SOURCE: 2001 – 2009 Nassau County Planning Commission Building Permits reports.

* Other housing units includes two-family, multi-family dwellings and conversions.

Table 10 below shows the number and estimated dollar value of building permits issued for Class 4 property in the County for the years 2005 through 2009. Class 4 property includes commercial, industrial, institutional buildings and vacant land. As indicated in the table, there were 27 building permits issued for Class 4 properties in 2009.

TABLE 10
NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED,
CLASS 4 PROPERTY, 2005-2009

Year	Number of Permits Issued	Estimated Value of Permits
2009	27	N/A
2008	20	N/A
2007	27	\$13,129,100
2006	38	59,862,365
2005	41	29,535,410

SOURCE: Nassau County Planning Commission.

According to information provided by CB Richard Ellis, there were 11.4 million square feet of office space in Class A buildings in the County at the end of 2010. These buildings had a 12.6% vacancy rate. There was no new Class A or B construction during 2010.

Housing

New residential construction activity in the County declined appreciably between 2008 and 2009. The value of new residential construction decreased by 58%, as shown in Table 11.

TABLE 11
COUNTY NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Year	Value of New Residential Construction (in thousands)	No. of New Dwelling Units By Building Permit
2009	\$156,870	445
2008	374,000	1,871
2007	272,576	822
2006	368,875	1,452
2005	373,879	1,435
2004	293,642	1,177
2003	195,435	978
2002	222,722	985
2001	229,464	989

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Statistics Division-Building Permit Branch based on estimate and imputation (2002-2009); figures from US Census Bureau; Construction Statistics Division-Building Permit Branch based on estimate and imputation. New York State Association of Realtors provided residential price information.

Table 12 shows the breakdown of new housing units by type and size.

TABLE 12
NUMBER OF COUNTY NEW RESIDENTIAL HOUSING UNITS
AUTHORIZED BY BUILDING PERMIT BY SIZE CATEGORY

<u>Year</u>	<u>1 Family</u>	<u>2 Family</u>	<u>3-4 Family</u>	<u>5 or more Family</u>	<u>Total</u>
2009	334	8	3	100	445
2008	822	6	3	1,040	1,871
2007	737	18	4	63	822
2006	1,291	38	4	119	1,452
2005	1,197	44	7	187	1,435
2004	735	68	0	374	1,177
2003	635	44	8	291	978
2002	740	30	3	212	985
2001	688	32	4	265	989

SOURCES: Data from the Nassau County Building Activity Reports.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of housing units in the County increased from 446,292 in 1990 to 458,151 in 2000. The number of housing units remained fairly constant through the next decade, reaching 458,626 in 2009. The County had a higher percentage of owner-occupied units (83.1%) than the State (56%) and the nation (67%) as a whole.

Table 13 shows County existing home sales. In 2010, the annual median sales price rose by 2.41% while the number of homes sold remained fairly constant.

TABLE 13

COUNTY EXISTING HOME SALES, 2001-2010

Year	Median Sales Price	No. of Homes Sold
2010	\$425,000	7,661
2009	415,000	7,710
2008	455,000	7,410
2007	490,000	8,778
2006	490,000	9,435
2005	489,000	10,343
2004	440,000	10,111
2003	395,000	8,646
2002	350,000	8,654
2001	290,000	7,545

SOURCES: Compiled by the County from: Multiple Listing Service of Long Island Inc., 2001-2005; New York State Association of Realtors, 2006-2010

Transportation

MTA Long Island Bus ("MTALIB"), a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (the "MTA"), operates the County's bus system pursuant to agreement. It is the County's principal public surface transit provider and the third largest suburban bus system in the United States. Operating a network of 48 routes, the MTALIB provides transit service for most of the County as well as parts of eastern Queens and western Suffolk County. This includes service across the Queens-Nassau line to subway and bus stations in Flushing, Far Rockaway and Jamaica. The density of MTALIB's route network conforms to the development pattern of the County. MTALIB operates approximately 285 fixed route buses and 93 para-transit vehicles. MTALIB has an average ridership of 103,000 passengers each weekday and serves 96 communities, 46 Long Island Rail Road stations, most area colleges and universities, as well as employment centers and shopping malls. In April 2011, the MTA board of directors voted to terminate the MTA's contract to operate the County's bus system, which has been operated through MTALIB, effective at the end of 2011. The County's selection process undertaken for the location of a vendor to operate the system after such termination is in its final stages. The County expects to announce a selected vendor shortly.

The Long Island Rail Road (the "LIRR") is the largest and busiest commuter railroad in the United States, carrying approximately 81 million projected passengers in 2011. On an average weekday, the LIRR carries about 287,000 passengers.

The LIRR provides train service for the entire County. Its infrastructure includes 381 route miles of track, 296 at-grade-crossings, and 124 stations on 11 branch lines. These branches provide service through the County to eastern destinations in Suffolk County and western destinations of Penn Station in Manhattan, Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, as well as Jamaica and Hunters Point/Long Island City in Queens. Completion of the East Side Access project, which began tunneling work in 2007, will add a new hub in Grand Central Terminal, bringing LIRR customers directly to Manhattan's East Side. On weekdays, about 70% of the system's passenger trips occur during morning and evening peak travel periods.

Through its capital program, the LIRR has renovated Jamaica Station (Queens) and the mezzanine at Jamaica providing links to the subway and the AirTrain to John F. Kennedy International Airport ("JFK").

A major project completed in 2006 was the \$45 million intermodal center at Mineola that provides easy access to parking and seamless transfers to seven local bus lines operated by MTA MTA. The center has more than 700 parking spaces in a four-level garage, two elevators that connect to the station platforms, and a pedestrian overpass that connects the north and south sides of the station.

Other important projects are the continual maintenance of tracks, ties, and switches and renovations underway at numerous stations. The LIRR also is currently installing a fiber-optic communications system for greater safety and is consolidating antiquated control towers into one modern center at Jamaica Station. Traditionally serving a Manhattan-bound market, the LIRR has undertaken extensive efforts to augment its reverse-commute and off-peak service to meet the needs of businesses in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The County highway system consists of over 4,000 miles of paved roads that include parkways, highways, major arteries, collector streets, and local streets, which are operated and maintained by different levels of government. The eight major east-west roadways that provide direct through service to New York City and Suffolk County are: Northern Boulevard, Long Island Expressway, Northern State Parkway, Jericho Turnpike, Hempstead Turnpike, Southern State Parkway, Sunrise Highway, and Merrick Road.

The County is located within close proximity to JFK and LaGuardia Airport ("LaGuardia"), both located in Queens County, and to Islip Long Island MacArthur Airport ("Islip MacArthur"), located in Suffolk County. JFK and LaGuardia are easily accessible to County residents by all major east-west roadways as well as airport shuttle service. The AirTrain service, a light rail system connecting Jamaica Station in Queens to JFK, opened in early 2004. Islip MacArthur is accessible by the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway, as well as the LIRR.

To help eliminate delays, congestion, and trouble spots on its highway network, the County receives federal and state funding through the federal Transportation Improvement Program ("TIP"), and is a voting member of the Nassau-Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee. The TIP is a compilation of transportation improvement projects, such as preserving and upgrading bridges, and highways and making system-wide capacity and safety improvements scheduled to take place during a five-year period. Work will begin in early 2011 on an updated TIP for 2012 - 2015. The current TIP covers the years 2011-2015.

Utility Services

Electrical service is provided to the County by the Long Island Power Authority ("LIPA"), which became Long Island's non-profit electric utility in 1998. LIPA's electric system, which serves 1.1 million customers, is operated by National Grid, the largest investor-owned electric generator in the State. National Grid, which is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeast United States, also provides gas distribution in the County. The incorporated villages of Freeport and Rockville Centre operate their own electrical generation plants.

LIPA's governing legislation requires the utility to make payments in lieu of taxes ("PILOTS") to municipalities and school districts commensurate with property taxes that would have been received by each jurisdiction from the Long Island Lighting Company ("LILCO"), the County's former provider of electrical service. LIPA is also required to make PILOTS for certain State and local taxes which would

otherwise have been imposed on LILCO. Numerous private companies in the County provide telephone service.

Health and Hospital Facilities

Rated among the best health and hospital facilities in the country, twelve hospitals located in the County provide 4,349 certified hospital beds. In addition, according to the New York State Board of Professions, the County is served by 9,500 licensed medical doctors, 2,017 dentists, 6,100 chiropractors, 338 podiatrists, and 21,043 registered nurses. The North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System is the County's largest health care employer (approximately 38,000 employees). The North Shore University Hospital is the recipient of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Codman Award, the first health system to attain this distinction. The Codman Award recognizes excellence in performance measurement.

Other hospitals of note in the County include the Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, the Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, and Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre.

Media

The daily newspaper Newsday is circulated in the County and Suffolk and Queens Counties. Approximately 77 weekly newspapers cover news and events in the County. Some of these focus on events in specific towns, villages and communities, and others focus on niche industries, such as Long Island Business News – a 57-year-old publication that covers both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The County is home to two broadcast television stations, Channels 21 and 57, and receives nine additional VHF and UHF stations. In addition, News 12 provides local news coverage (on cable only). Cable programming is available throughout the County via Cablevision Systems Corp., and provides access to channels with a local focus. Satellite programming and service by Verizon is also available in the County.

Because of its proximity to New York City, events in the County attract regular coverage in New York City newspapers such as the New York Times, the Daily News, and the New York Post. Radio coverage includes nine County-based stations and 52 regional and neighboring stations that consider the County as part of their listening area.

Educational Facilities

There are 56 school districts in the County, with a total enrollment of 264,485 students according to the State Education Department. Individual school boards and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are the primary managers of these school districts and provide services such as career training for high-school students and adults, special education, alternative schools, technology education and teacher training. Various public and private organizations manage the County's other educational facilities. The County's non-public schools, which are located in a number of municipalities, provide education in the State Regents program as well as in special and technical programs.

Many County public schools have received national recognition. A 2010 Newsweek magazine article cited five County high schools among the top 100 public high schools in the nation.

Over 138,000 students attend County colleges and universities, some of which are highly specialized and have garnered nationwide attention for their programs. These institutions include: Long Island University/C.W. Post College, Adelphi University, Hofstra University, New York Institute of Technology, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Nassau Community College, Webb Institute, Molloy College, and the State University of New York/Old Westbury.

Colleges and universities in the County promote cross-disciplinary research, technology development and an integrated curriculum to prepare students for the growing bioscience industry. Undergraduate and graduate level programs available throughout the County's institutions of higher learning specialize in fields such as biology, chemistry, biochemistry, engineering, and physical sciences in courses such as bioengineering, biotechnology and pharmacology.

Recreational and Cultural Facilities

The County has numerous recreational and cultural facilities. One of the most popular destinations among the County's parks and beaches is the 2,413-acre Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh. With approximately six to seven million visitors annually, Jones Beach State Park features a six-mile ocean beachfront, a two-mile boardwalk, and the 11,200-seat Jones Beach Theater performing arts center, which attracts world-class musical acts. There are dozens of other public beaches located along both the Atlantic Ocean and the Long Island Sound shorelines. In addition, the County is home to the 930-acre Eisenhower Park in the Town of Hempstead, Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, and numerous small local parks and campgrounds which offer a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities.

On a national level, the County is home to many high profile professional sporting events and teams. The Bethpage Golf Course, located in Bethpage State Park, hosted the 2002 U.S. Open and the 2009 U.S. Open. Belmont Racetrack, located in Elmont, is home to the Belmont Stakes, the third race in horse racing's prestigious Triple Crown. The Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale is home to the four-time Stanley Cup Champion New York Islanders of the National Hockey League. Eisenhower Park's 80,000 square foot Aquatic Center is the largest pool in the Northern Hemisphere.

In terms of cultural and historic resources, the County boasts eleven museums, including the County-owned Cradle of Aviation Museum and the Long Island Children's Museum in Garden City, as well as historic sites such as Old Bethpage Village and Theodore Roosevelt's estate at Sagamore Hill in Cove Neck.

In an effort to preserve open space and natural and scenic resources for additional recreational opportunities, in 2003 the County created the Open Space Fund, which receives 5% of the proceeds from County land sales for open space land acquisition purposes.

Water Service and Sanitary Sewer Facilities

There are 48 public water suppliers in the County providing water service to over 90% of the County's residents. Approximately 3,550 residents of the less densely populated northern sections of the County draw their water from private wells.

The natural geology of the County yields three major aquifers situated atop bedrock. These aquifers serve the County with fresh water and are continuously recharged by precipitation.

The County's population remained essentially stable throughout the 1990s, exhibiting only a small increase of about 3.8 percent. The small increase in population had a negligible effect on water

demand in the County. The sizable fluctuations in annual public water demand are a result of hot and dry weather patterns during the summer months.

Public water supply withdrawal during the base pumping months remained rather consistent during the 2000 – 2003 period at approximately 142 million gallons per day (mgd). During peak pumping months in late spring and summer, pumping can increase considerably and is quite variable in response to weather conditions. The annual water demand between 2000 – 2003 ranged from 185 mgd to 200 mgd during the peak pumping period.

Recharge of the groundwater system has increased from 332 mgd to 341 mgd as a result of the County's storm water recharge basins capturing storm water for aquifer recharge. Based upon the peak months' average, this leaves a daily recharge surplus of between 141 to 156 million gallons. This recharge surplus ensures ample amounts of fresh water for the future. Furthermore, proposed developments and redevelopments within the County are required to retain all storm water on site. This requirement will ensure that the aquifer continues to be recharged.

The County Department of Public Works maintains and operates the County's sewerage and water resources facilities. In 2003, upon the approval of the County Legislature, state legislation created a single, County-wide sewer and storm water resources district, replacing the County's prior three sewage disposal districts and 27 sewage collection districts.

Most sewage collected in the County's sewer system is treated at either the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant ("Bay Park") in East Rockaway or the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant ("Cedar Creek") located in Wantagh. Sewage collected within the area corresponding to the former County sewage collection district of Lido Beach is processed at the City of Long Beach's sewage treatment plant.

In 2008, the County assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Glen Cove Water Pollution Control Facility, sewage pumping stations, and the collection system piping. In 2008, inter-municipal agreements were entered into with each of the Village of Lawrence and the Village of Cedarhurst to consolidate each village's sewer system into the County's sewer system.

Six villages in the County (Freeport, Garden City, Hempstead, Mineola, Rockville Centre and Roslyn) and the city of Long Beach own and operate their own sewage collection systems which discharge sewage to the County's disposal system. The sewage collected by these systems is processed at one of the County-operated sewage treatment plants, either Bay Park or Cedar Creek. In addition, there are several sewage collection systems and treatment plants within the County that are operated by other governmental agencies or special districts.

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