

Memo



To: Jonathan Slason, RSG
From: Robert A. Chase and John M. Dellipriscoli, *Economic & Policy Resources*
Date: October 7, 2016
Re: Initial Chittenden County Population Forecast Estimates

The attached is an initial population forecast for Chittenden County. The initial forecast is derived statistically from the June 2016 Vermont Statewide Population Consensus Forecast—Legislative Joint Fiscal Office–Shumlin Administration that was employed in the most recent VTrans Long-Range Transportation Plan update. As such, the Chittenden County population forecast has not been judgmentally modified, nor have any “add-factors” (for external factors or developments) been applied to the straight statistical algorithm. The County forecast employed a statistical shares approach, where trended shares were applied to the statewide consensus forecasts in total and by age grouping. These two approaches were then brought to convergence to produce the results in the table below.

The data in the table indicate that the total population in Chittenden County is expected to grow at a very moderate pace, expanding from an estimated 161,382 people in 2015 to 169,537 people in 2040 – an average annual rate of 0.20%. This rate of growth is similar, but slightly higher, than the trend forecasted at the state level, with the total resident population of the State of Vermont expected to expand at an average annual rate of 0.17% during the same period. The Chittenden County population projections attached to the memo show the breakdown across age cohorts, indicating similar moderate growth trends, though showing a slight decline in population in the aged 20 - 24 years and aged 25 - 44 years age cohorts from 2015 to 2040.

The driving age population in Chittenden County (which is defined to include residents aged 16 – 84 years) as a share of its total county population is projected to increase slightly, by approximately 0.4 percentage points in 2040 relative to 2015. The same driving age cohort at the state level is expected to reduce its share of the total population by almost three percentage points by 2040. The county level growth in residents in driving age population appears to be the result of added residents in the older age cohorts as the county’s population ages, with the addition of almost 16,000 residents in the aged 45 – 64 years and aged over 65 years cohorts from 2015 to 2040. The contrast in the growth in share of total population composed of eligible drivers between the state and Chittenden County shows that while on the whole the population is expected to grow older on average over the 2015-2040 period, Chittenden County appears to be able to offset the population that is no longer able to drive with in-migrants and younger residents reaching the age where they are eligible to drive.

Population--Chittenden County									
Calendar Year	Total Population	Total Over 65 Years	Total Under 65 Years	Total 0-4 Years	Total 5-19 Years	Total 20-24 Years	Total 25-44 Years	Total 45-64 Years	Driving Age Population 16-84 Years
2015	161,382	22,049	139,333	7,976	29,738	18,117	40,556	42,946	131,041
2020	163,569	30,271	133,298	7,066	30,264	14,915	32,729	48,325	133,838
2025	165,326	30,479	134,847	7,159	30,653	15,398	33,149	48,487	135,143
2030	166,837	30,266	136,570	7,248	30,975	15,577	33,133	49,639	136,267
2035	168,175	30,162	138,013	7,338	31,229	15,706	33,393	50,347	137,241
2040	169,537	30,230	139,307	7,410	31,527	15,806	33,807	50,757	138,286

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Population--State of Vermont -- Consensus Population Forecast--Legislative Joint Fiscal Office-Adminstration. June 2016.									
Calendar Year	Total Population	Total Over 65 Years	Total Under 65 Years	Total 0-4 Years	Total 5-19 Years	Total 20-24 Years	Total 25-44 Years	Total 45-64 Years	Driving Age Population 16-84 Years
2015	626,042	109,893	516,149	30,408	110,275	47,168	142,298	186,000	506,969
2020	633,337	130,399	502,939	31,248	106,814	43,414	149,150	172,312	513,103
2025	639,122	150,149	488,973	31,434	106,316	41,590	154,134	155,499	516,632
2030	644,123	164,754	479,368	31,091	106,866	40,751	155,486	145,175	515,045
2035	648,644	169,407	479,237	30,405	108,659	40,375	156,131	143,667	512,027
2040	653,458	166,954	486,504	30,297	109,001	42,117	151,709	153,380	510,076

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