



# Housing Needs + Market Analysis

Sussex County, Delaware May 2019





# **Key Findings**

This housing needs and market analysis examines the demographic, economic, and market trends that drive current and future demand for housing in Sussex County. This report is the first deliverable in the Housing Opportunities and Market Evaluation that is being prepared by LSA Planning in collaboration with County staff. The results in this report, as well those in the 2018 update to the Comprehensive Plan, will provide a framework for a housing strategy that promotes housing choice and economic vitality for Sussex County residents and its workforce. The following are key findings in this report:

- Sussex County has experienced steady population growth in recent years and is growing faster than both Kent County and New Castle County. The primary driver of the population growth has been among adults older than 65. While there has been some growth in households with children, Sussex County is not attracting families the same way as it has retirees. If trends continue, more Sussex County residents will rely on fewer working-age residents to support the local economy.
- > Household size has declined slightly with more households living without children, including 24% of households who live alone. These changing household dynamics will impact the demand for certain housing types, implying the need for smaller homes.
- In recent years, the fastest growing income group has been households with incomes above \$150,000. At the same time, there has been a decline in the number of households that earn less than \$20,000. Higher-earning households can put upward pressure on home prices and rents that make housing unattainable for lower-income households.
- The Sussex County economy is highly dependent on tourist-supporting industries, including the Accommodations and Food Services and Retail Trade sectors. Jobs in these sectors account for 31% of total employment in the County alone. However, pay is typically lower on average (\$20,000s and below) and workers in these sectors face limited affordable housing choices in the County.
- > Health Care and Social Assistance is another large and growing industry in Sussex County with higher wages (\$50,000s) on average than jobs in the tourism industry. While wages are somewhat higher, there is a range of lower-wage occupations (e.g. home health aides, administrative) that suggest a growing need for lower-priced homes to accommodate growth in this sector.
- > Manufacturing has declined in the last several years, but is still one of Sussex County's largest economic drivers, largely attributed to agricultural-supporting manufacturing. Poultry processing and farm workers earn low wages (at or slightly higher than minimum wage) and face significant hurdles accessing affordable transportation options.
- > Sussex County has a relatively high homeownership rate that remained fairly stable even during the housing market downturn. Although homeownership rates have increased in the last few

years, rates among younger households (i.e. under age 45) are substantially lower than the countywide homeownership rate.

- > The number of lower-cost homes—with rents and prices that are affordable to nearly half of Sussex County's workforce—has either declined or is not growing as quickly as higher-cost housing.
  - In the for-sale market, homes valued less than \$300,000 make up less of the owneroccupied homes, declining from 68% in 2012 to 56% in 2017. During the same period of time, homes valued over \$400,000 are increasing and representing a larger portion of the housing stock, representing 26% of owner-occupied homes, up 10% since 2012.
  - In the rental market, median gross rent in the County has risen 10% since 2012 with the greatest increases among units priced between \$1,000 and \$1,500. While Western Sussex County has lower median rents than Eastern Sussex County, the median rent in Western Sussex County has increased at a faster rate in the last several years than it has in the Eastern part of the County.
  - Manufactured housing can be a source of lower-cost housing, but makes up less of a share of the total housing stock than it did several years ago, given the growth in detached, single-family housing development.
- The seasonal population in Sussex County creates a unique housing market with a substantial number of units that are occupied on a seasonal basis. Nearly 50,000 housing units are considered "vacant" without a year-round occupant. The vast majority (nearly 42,000) of these units are vacant for seasonal use and located in Eastern Sussex County. High seasonal vacancy can limit the supply of housing available to residents who live in the community year-round, contributing to upward pressure on rents and home values.
- While Eastern Sussex County's median home values rose 3% between 2012 and 2017, Western Sussex County's home values declined 6%. Western Sussex County has a higher rate of "other vacant" units that is, housing units that may be vacated for a variety of reasons, but many times related to homes in such disrepair that the home is uninhabitable. The number of units vacant for "other" reasons has been steadily growing over the last several years (nearly 5,000 homes are vacant for "other reasons"), and more than half of the "other vacancy" is located in Western Sussex County.
- About 30% of all Sussex County households 48% of renters and 26% of homeowners- are housing cost burdened, spending 30% or more of their income each month on housing costs. Spending a disproportionate share of income towards housing can leave too little for other necessities like food, health care, and transportation.
- Housing and transportation data suggest that many households move further away from neighborhoods near jobs, services, and other amenities in order to afford housing. In doing so, some households will spend a disproportionately higher amount on transportation costs, outweighing any savings gained from living in lower-cost areas in the County. The average Sussex

County household spends 30% of their income on housing costs. With transportation factored in, households spend 56% on average for both housing and transportation.

Population projections suggest that Sussex County will gain approximately 17,500 net new households between 2020 and 2050. The County will need to plan for housing affordable at a range of incomes, including 3,935 units affordable to households earning less than 50% of the area median income (AMI) and 2,938 units for households that earn between 50-80% AMI.

### **Summary of Conclusions**

The results from this analysis of population, employment, and affordability trends, as well as the State's projections of new households, suggest three conclusions that will shape a housing strategy for Sussex County:

- First, cost-burden data suggest that many individuals and families are unable to afford a home without spending a disproportionately high share of their income on housing and transportation. There is a need for more housing affordable to working individuals and families, particularly among households in lower-wage jobs.
- Second, Sussex County's population and real estate growth is projected to continue over the next decade at nearly the same rates as they have in the last few years. There is an immediate need to identify obstacles (e.g. financial, regulatory) that have limited the supply of housing affordable to its workforce.
- > Third, the market may be able to better meet demands of housing for higher-income households; but in order to ensure that low- and moderate-wage working individuals and families can find housing they can afford, Sussex County should consider proactive financing and regulatory strategies consistent with housing market and economic conditions. The appropriate regulatory framework and incentives can allow for the private market to deliver more diverse housing options.

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# **Key Definitions**

**Affordable Housing** – Housing costs makes up 30 percent or less of the household income. For renters, housing costs include monthly gross rent plus renter-paid utilities. For owner households, housing costs include payments for mortgages, debts on the property, real estate taxes, insurance on the property, and utilities).

**Center for Neighborhood Technology Housing + Transportation Index** – An index that incorporates transportation costs into the equation of housing affordability. The affordability benchmark used by the index is 45 percent of household income used on housing costs and transportation costs combined.

**Eastern Sussex County** – Communities located along the 113 corridor (except for Georgetown), beach communities, and communities east of 113.

**Gross Rent** – The contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else).

**Home Investment Partnerships Program** – A federal program- often in partnership with a local nonprofit- to fund the building, acquisition, or rehab of affordable housing for rent or homeownership. The federal government gives grants to Participating Jurisdictions who direct the funds in grant or loan form to community partners.

**Household** – A household includes all the persons who are current residents of a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

**Housing Cost Burdened** – Households who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

**Housing Tenure** – The financial arrangements under which a household occupies all or part of a housing unit. The most common types of tenure are ownership and rental.

**Housing Unit** – A house, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants do not live and eat with other persons in the structure and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. Housing units may be permanently occupied, seasonally occupied or vacant.

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program** – Often referred to as the LIHTC program, this is an indirect federal subsidy created to incentivize private developers and investors to finance the construction and rehabilitation of low-income housing.

**Multifamily housing** – Based strictly on design, multifamily housing is a structure that has more than one residential unit, which are typically on multiple floors. The data presented in this report includes structures with 3 or more residential units. This is split further between small multifamily housing (3-19 units) and larger multifamily housing (20+ units).

# **Key Definitions**

**Severely housing cost burdened** – Households who pay more than 50 percent of their income for housing.

Western Sussex County – Communities located along route 13, the Town of Georgetown, and communities between 113 and route 13.

**Workforce Housing** – Housing affordable to any individual with a job or any household with a working member.

**United States Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Services** – Offers federal grants, loans, and loan guarantees for single- and multi-family housing as well as community facilities in rural communities.

### About the Data Used in this Report

The data reported in this Housing Needs Assessment and Market Analysis come primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The Census Bureau collects data from a sample of residents every year. Unless otherwise noted, in this report, we summarize data from the 2017 ACS, which are statistics collected in 2017 and it is the latest data available.

# Introduction

Sussex County is facing challenges to ensure there is sufficient housing supply to meet the needs of its growing population and its workforce. Proximity to the beach and other outdoor attractions, low real estate taxes, and high quality of life has attracted retirees, higher-earning households, and a growing seasonal use of the available housing stock. These changes have fueled growth in the real estate market and the hospitality and health industries. High seasonal vacancy and the number of second homes on the market restrict the supply of houses available to year-round households, contributing to the increase in housing prices. Sussex County's population growth has put upward pressure on market prices for both rentals and for-sale homes, leaving many housing options unaffordable to Sussex County's year-round residents and workforce.

Housing affordability is critical to developing and expanding a community's workforce, and can promote economic diversity and vitality. In addition, when residents are able to afford decent and safe housing, communities are more resilient and better able to bounce back from impacts related to periods of economic downturn or a natural disaster event.

While many communities across the United States face housing affordability issues, there are many unique characteristics about Sussex County that will impact a strategic housing plan, including:

- Its status as a retirement community
- The size of the second-home market
- Seasonal population flows
- A concentration of tourist-supporting employment
- A concentration of agricultural employment
- Location of jobs, and
- Physical land restrictions (i.e. wetlands, State-protected land)

This Housing Needs and Market Analysis summarizes demographic, household, employment, and housing market conditions for the County, and includes an assessment of current housing gaps and projections of future housing demand for the County. Finally, the report also offers a small set of preliminary, high-level recommendations for the County, which will inform a more thorough economic feasibility analysis and policy recommendations.

The 2018 Sussex County Comprehensive Plan and the 2014 Delaware Housing Needs Assessment provides important baseline information about the County. This report builds on and expands these reports in four key ways:

• Updating demographic, economic and housing market data with the most recent data available for Sussex County;

• Adding analysis on key demographic factors that shape the demand for housing specifically in Sussex County;

• Providing more detailed analysis of the local economy and the link between job growth and housing needs, with additional data on commuting, wages and occupations; and

• Evaluating the findings from the State's housing demand forecasts based on an in-depth review of demographic, economic and housing market conditions in Sussex County.

As part of the Sussex County Housing Opportunities and Market Evaluation initiative, specific policy and regulatory recommendations will be developed and compared with the recommendations in both of these key reports.

# **Demographic Trends**

### **Resident Population**

In 2017, Sussex County was home to an estimated 225,322 permanent, full-time residents. Since 2012, the County has experienced rapid population growth, with a net gain of 22,016 residents. For over a decade, Sussex County has been the fastest growing county throughout the region, including the State of Delaware and bordering Maryland counties. From 2012 to 2017, Sussex County's population growth rate (10%) was double the population growth rate for the state of Delaware overall. Approximately one out of every four residents (23%) in Delaware lives in Sussex County, the second largest county in terms of population in the State. Population projections up to 2050 indicate that Sussex County will continue to grow at faster rates than the State.

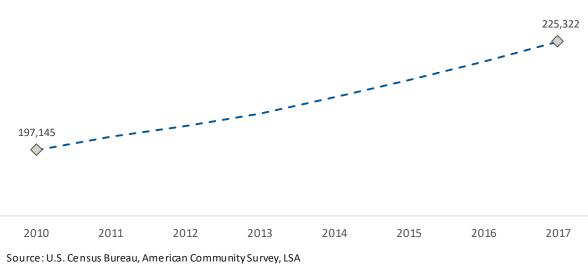


Figure 1. Population, Sussex County, 2010 to 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

### Age Composition

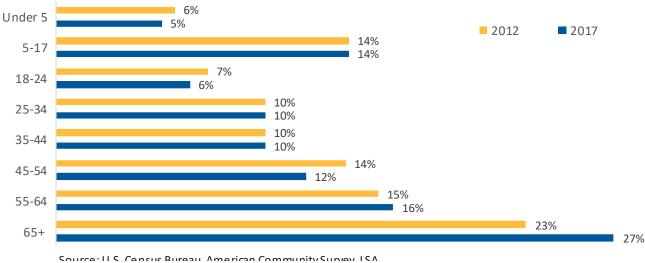
Sussex County has a growing older adult population with a growth rate that has been outpacing population increases for other age groups. Since 2012, there was a net gain of 14,533 residents age 65 and older, which accounts for two-thirds of the Sussex County five-year population growth. In 2017, an estimated 27% of the County's population was 65 or older. The largest spike in growth has been among the 65 to 74-year-old age group, increasing by 36% over that time period. Given the large Baby Boomer population and the attractiveness of the County to retirees, the older adult population in Sussex County

will likely continue to grow and account for an even larger share of the County's population in the years to come.

A surge in the number of older adults can result in a higher demand for all types of senior housing, including age-restricted independent living, assisted living communities and skilled nursing facilities, as well as increased demand for health care services and assistance to enable aging in place.

Over the past five years, the numbers of young adults and children have increased, but much of the growth in the younger population has been concentrated in Eastern Sussex County. The Cape Henlopen and Indian River School Districts have expanded to accommodate the growth in families with school-aged children, while communities in Western Sussex are declining or not growing as quickly.<sup>1</sup>

Because the older adult population is growing at much faster rates, the younger population is slowly becoming a smaller proportion of the population. A slower growing young population can result in a smaller labor force in the upcoming years, particularly as more residents in Sussex County are reaching retirement age. A shrinking labor force can slow local economic growth, making it harder for businesses to locate and/or expand.





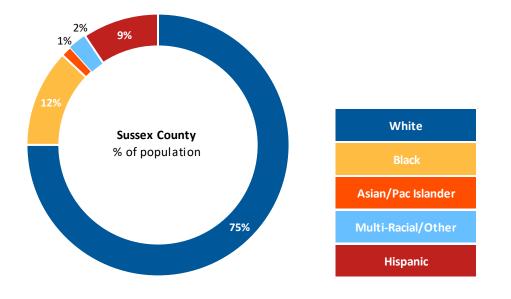
### **Race and Ethnicity**

Sussex County's racial composition is predominantly White, with an increasingly growing Hispanic community. As of 2017, Sussex County has the highest share of White residents (75%) compared to New Castle County (57%), Kent County (62%), and the state of Delaware as a whole (62%). Caroline County and Worcester County, Maryland share very similar White and Black racial composition with Sussex County. The Black population makes up the second largest racial group in the County (12%), followed by Hispanic population (9%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sussex County Office of Planning and Zoning.

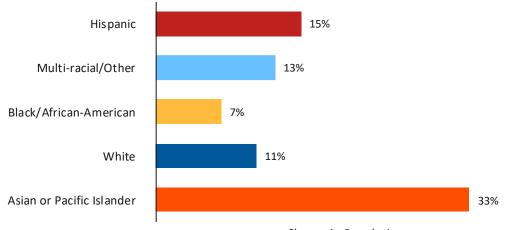
White residents have consistently made up at Eastern three out of every four residents; however, Sussex County's racial and ethnic makeup is slowly diversifying. Most growth in minorities has been among the Hispanic population, which increased by 2,794 residents between 2012 and 2017. The Black population grew by 1,743 residents during the same period of time. The Asian or Pacific Islander population increased by 33% between 2012 and 2017; however, this group makes up less than 2% of Sussex County's total population.





Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA





Change in Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

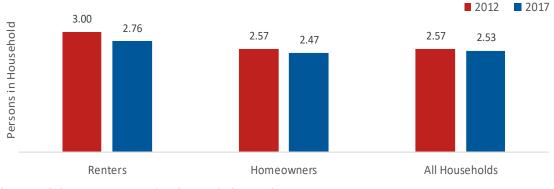
# Households

In 2017, there was a total of 88,029 households in Sussex County. Nearly one out of every four households in Delaware is within Sussex County. From 2012 to 2017, Sussex County has had a net gain of 10,034 households, outpacing household growth in Kent and New Castle counties.

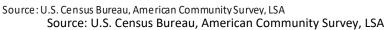
### **Household Size**

While the population has increased, the average household size in the County has declined. Between 2012 and 2017, the average household size in the County decreased slightly from 2.57 to 2.53, following a similar trend as Kent County. New Castle County, however, has had an increase in the average household size.

Sussex County has seen the average household size of homeowners and renters fall in the past five years, by .1 and .24, respectively. The biggest drop in average household size occurred among renters. This decline could be related to a number of factors – families who were renting may have purchased a home and/or more people living alone became renters.



#### Figure 5. Average Household Size, Sussex County, 2012 and 2017



### Household Composition

The composition of households and families is changing in Sussex County. The largest shift has occurred among households without children, mostly attributed to the retiree population. The number of married-couple households without children has increased faster than other households (increasing by 38%, or about 10,700 additional households, between 2012 and 2017). Married-couple households without children make up 44% of total households in the County. The increase in the share of adults living without children is reflective of national household changes as the growing Baby Boomers become "empty nesters" at the same time as young adults are waiting longer to marry and have children.

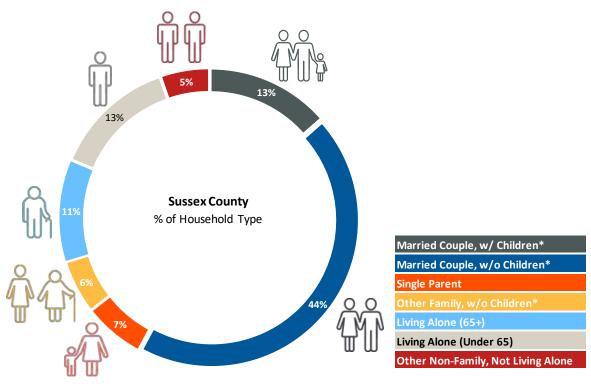
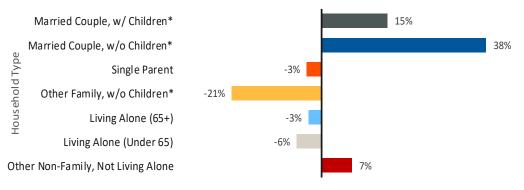


Figure 6. Percent of Households by Household Composition, Sussex County, 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

Around one out of every five households has one or more children, including married couples with children (11,877 households) and single-parent households (5,831 households). The number of married couples with children has increased 15% between 2012 and 2017, but remained at 13% of total households in the County. From 2007 to 2012, the number of single-parent households dropped by 17%, and declined another 3% between 2012 and 2017.





Change in Household Compositon

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

In 2017, about one in every four households (24%) in Sussex County was an individual living alone, including 11% (9,698) who are older than 65. This is a slightly higher share than in Kent County (9%) and New Castle County (10%). Between 2007 and 2012, the number of adults older than 65 living alone increased by 47%, a rate of growth faster than overall household growth. This number, however, has dropped 3% in in the last several years.

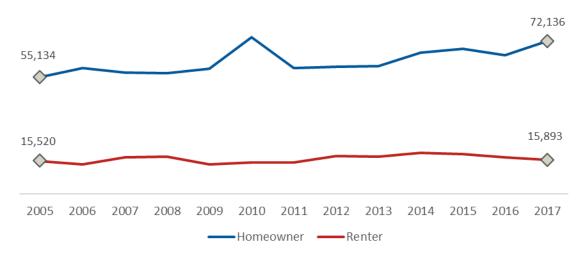
Adults living alone who are younger than 65 (13% of the households) are more prevalent in both Kent County (16%) and New Castle County (20%).

Other non-family households, including roommates, unmarried partners, or caregivers, account for 5% of all households. Although the number of non-family households has been growing the last few years, these households have consistently represented about 5% of total households in the County.

### **Housing Tenure**

Homeowners have historically made up the majority of the households in Sussex County. Even at its lowest point during the recession in 2008, the homeownership rate was over 75%. Since then, rates slightly fluctuated year to year, but on average the homeownership rate in the County has hovered around 79%. The largest change over time occurred between 2010 and 2014, when the homeownership rate dropped 6 percentage points, from 83%, but rates have since slowly inched up each year to 82% in 2017.

Sussex County's homeownership rate is higher than it is statewide (70%), including over 10 percentage points higher than Kent County (70%) and 16 percentage points higher than New Castle County (66%). It is also higher than most of the bordering Maryland counties and the nationwide rate (64%). Worcester County – home to beach communities and environmentally protected land - has a higher homeownership rate (80%) that more closely resembles Sussex County.





Homeowners are generally older than renters; more than half (54%) of homeowners are over 60 years old with roughly one out of every four (27%) homeowners between the ages of 65 and 74 years. This age group also has the highest homeownership rate (93%) out of any age group, though most age

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

groups over 45 have homeownership rates higher than the County rate. As older adults move from their community (e.g. downsize, move closer to family, die), the homes that they once occupied would provide additional supply to other households. While this would loosen the market for potential buyers, younger generations may have different housing preferences.

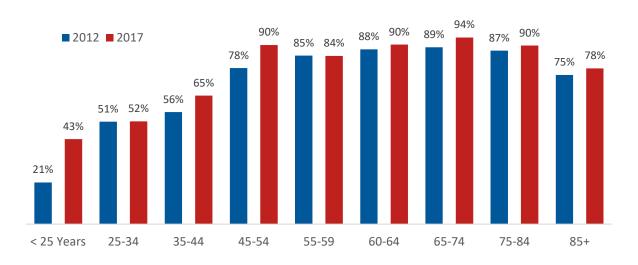


Figure 9. Homeownership Rates by Age of Household Head, Sussex County, 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

The high and stable countywide homeownership rate is influenced by a few factors: the large proportion of older adults, who are more likely to own homes; the relative affordability to retirees relocating from more expensive areas; and limited housing choice beyond single-family homes, which are more likely to be occupied by homeowners.

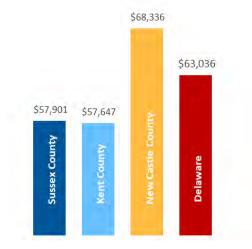
### Household Income

Sussex County's median household income was estimated at \$57,901 in 2017, lower than New Castle County (\$68,336) and the state of Delaware (\$63,036), but similar to Kent County (\$57,647) and the U.S. median (\$57,652). When comparing to neighboring Maryland counties, Sussex County's median household income is higher with the exception of Worcester County (\$59,458).

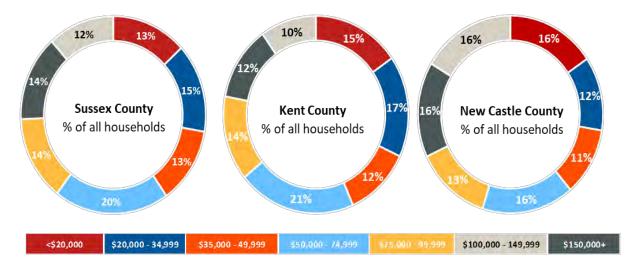
There is a relatively even spread of household income within Sussex County. In 2017, one out of every five households (20%) had an annual income that between \$75,000 and \$99,999. This share range of income is also seen in Kent County (21%), while New Castle County (16%) is not as large.

Over the past five years, there has been a shift in the distribution of household incomes in Sussex County. There has been a soaring number of households with incomes greater than or equal to \$50,000 and a decline in the number of households





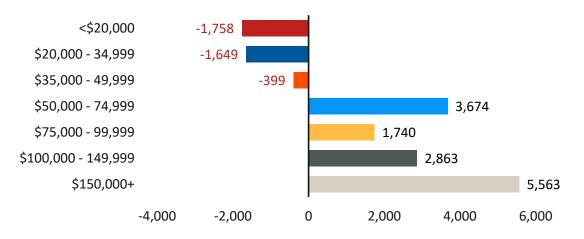
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA with incomes under \$50,000. For example, the number of households with incomes of \$150,000 or higher has more than doubled (119%) between 2012 and 2017. These high-income households account for more than half (55%) of the total household growth during this time period and now make up 12% of all households in the County. During the same time period, the number of households with incomes below \$20,000 declined by 13%.



#### Figure 11. Households by Households Income, Sussex, Kent and New Castle Counties, 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

Figure 12. Change in Number of Households by Household Income, Sussex County, 2012-2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

This boom in higher-income households can have a significant impact on the local housing market, with the potential to raise home and rental unit prices over time, leading to growing affordability concerns for low- and moderate-income households. Despite the increasing number of high-income households, households making under \$20,000 (approximately 11,571 households) still comprise a significant share of Sussex County households (13%).

Over the last several years, median household income in Eastern Sussex County grew faster than it did in Western Sussex County, contributing to greater income inequality across the County. In 2012, median income in Eastern Sussex County was \$56,220, \$7,534 higher than in Western Sussex County (\$48,686). Between 2012 and 2017, median income in Eastern Sussex County increased 13% to \$63,305 while Western Sussex's median income increased by just 7% to \$52,237.<sup>2</sup> Although household incomes grew on both sides of the County, household incomes in Eastern Sussex are growing at a much faster rate, contributing to a higher household income gap of \$11,068.

# **Homeless Population**

According to 2018 Point-In-Time Count conducted by Housing Alliance Delaware, over 1,000 individuals and families across the state are considered homeless, including 989 who are living in emergency shelter or transitional housing, and another 93 who are unsheltered living in places not meant for human habitation (i.e. sleeping in the streets or in cars). About one out of every three (35%) households have children and 65 adults (6% of all homeless in Delaware) are Veterans.<sup>3</sup>

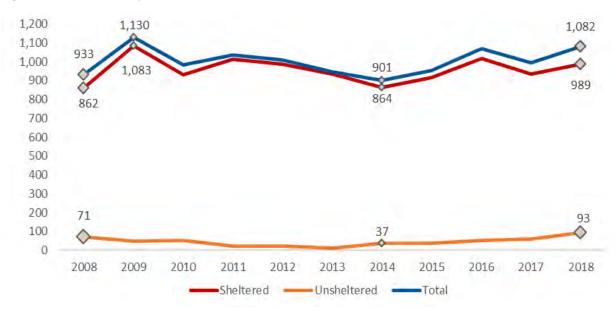


Figure 13. Homeless Population Trends in Delaware, 2008 - 2018

Source: HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs, 2008-2018 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations

The State provides temporary supports for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including year-round emergency shelter, weather-related emergency shelter,<sup>4</sup> emergency overflow vouchers for motels, and medium-term stay transitional housing, where a person experiencing homelessness can stay

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U.S Census Bureau. 5-year American Community Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Housing Alliance Delaware (2018). The State of Housing and Homelessness in the First State 2018. Wilmington, DE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Code Purple Sanctuaries in Delaware provide low/no barrier access to shelter when the temperature drops below a locally determined level.

for up to 24 months. As of 2018, the State had 818 emergency beds available, including 629 year-round, 18 seasonal, and 171 overflow vouchers. In addition, the State had 488 transitional beds.<sup>5</sup>

According to Housing Alliance Delaware, 118 homeless live within Sussex County compared to 247 who live in Kent County and 717 who live in New Castle County. Homelessness in Delaware has increased by 20% since 2014, steadily increasing to a number nearly as high as its 10-year peak during the recession in 2009. Sussex County's homeless population, however, has hovered between 114 and 118 between 2015 and 2018, with an increase to 137 in 2017.

Housing Alliance Delaware, the State's Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, tracks homelessness and reports the information to the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the federal CoC Homeless Assistance Program.

Homelessness data are typically obtained through two methods; as a point-in-time (PIT) count at the end of January each year, and a housing-inventory-count (HIC) which is a point-in-time inventory of beds/units that are in use in homeless shelters. While these methods are nationally accepted and allows communities to track the occurrence of homelessness over time, this is one snapshot during one of the coldest days of the year.

This methodology does not capture the full extent of homelessness in communities, particularly in Sussex County, which has a higher than average seasonal population and attracts more people during the warmer months. It also does not count individuals and families who may be precariously housed and are at-risk of homelessness – very low-income populations, households paying a disproportionate amount of income towards housing costs, frequent moving for economic reasons, living in substandard housing or overcrowded conditions, or "couch surfing." Any number of catalyzing events - a healthcare crisis, domestic violence, or job loss- can land residents at the shelter door. As a result, the homelessness situation in Sussex County is much broader than the PIT count suggests.

# **Employment**

In 2018, approximately 18% of jobs in the State of Delaware were in Sussex County. This is a slightly higher share than in Kent County (15%) but a far lesser share than New Castle County (65%). There has been fairly steady job growth in the County over the past few years (averaging between 2,400 to 2,800 new jobs each year); however, the employment growth is largely attributable to sectors with relatively lower average wages. More workers live in Sussex County than there are jobs – approximately 40% of the local workforce leaves the County for employment opportunities elsewhere, indicating a slight imbalance between jobs and the residents in the labor market. There are nearly 82,000 jobs located in Sussex County and approximately 18,000 employees commute into Sussex County from other places.

### Jobs

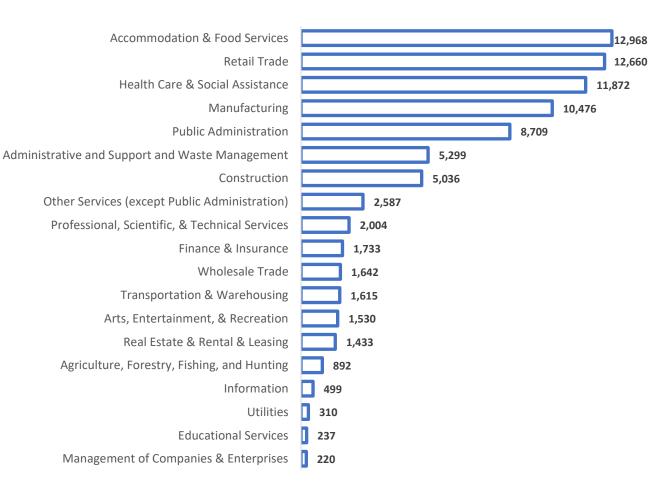
As of 2018, Sussex County had an estimated 81,722 jobs, of which nearly 60% are in one of four main industries: Retail Trade (16%), Accommodations and Food Services (15%), Health Care and Social Assistance (15%) and Manufacturing (13%), which includes poultry processing and other jobs related to Sussex County's agriculture industry. These four industries have consistently made up the largest

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2018). *HUD 2018 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs, Housing Inventory Count Report.* Washington, DC.

portions of Sussex County's job base since the early 2000s, with Manufacturing and Retail Trade accounting for slightly less over the years, and Health Care and Accommodation and Food Services making up slightly more year after year.

Sussex County's economy has seen a resurgence since the economic recession when the County lost approximately 2,000 jobs between 2007 and 2012. Since 2012, the number of jobs has increased by about 3% annually (12,119 jobs), which is about 40% higher than both New Castle and Kent counties during the same period of time. Sussex County not only gained back the number of jobs lost during the economic downturn, but increased its employment base by 14% since 2007, more than twice as much as growth experienced statewide (6%).

#### Figure 14. Total Number of Jobs by Industry, Sussex County, 2018



#### Total Number of Jobs = 81,722

Source: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Agriculture Jobs); LSA

More than half of the job growth, however, has largely been isolated to a handful of industries that, on average, have lower wages. Sussex County gained more Accommodation and Food Services jobs than any other industry (29% of the job growth). An estimated 11% of job growth has been in the Retail Trade industry. When the economy is performing well, as it has in the last few years, more people spend more of their discretionary income on dining out, shopping, and travelling. Both industries are particularly volatile, growing and declining with the rise and fall of the market.

Most other jobs added in Sussex County were in industries that generally support the growing population, including Administrative and Support and Waste Management (21% of the job growth), Construction (12% of the job growth), and Health Care and Social Assistance (17% of the job growth). As an industry, Health Care and Social Assistance has higher average wages than the County average, though there are many low-wage home health aides, administrative support staff, and others in the field, who earn less than the County average wages.

Similarly, wages among aeronautical and pharmaceutical companies skew the average Manufacturing wage data. Manufacturing jobs that support Sussex County's agricultural industry (i.e. food processing) earn lower wages. For many in the poultry industry, wages are only slightly higher than the State's minimum wage.

### Wages

The 2018 average wage in Sussex County was \$40,509, up by 18% since 2012. While wages have risen and the average wage is currently higher than the national average (\$32,397)<sup>6</sup>, Sussex County's average wage is lower than both Kent (\$43,809) and New Castle (\$63,917) counties, and is 40% lower than the State's average wage (\$56,842). Workers in lower-wage jobs in Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services earn 40-50% less than the average worker in the County, and workers in these two sectors represent nearly one-third of the workforce. This lower-wage segment of the economy is 10% higher in Sussex County than in the State as a whole. Two other main industries in the County--Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance—however, earn higher than the County's average wage, at 12% and 33% more, respectively.

Wage levels are an important indicator of housing demand from the County's workforce if they opt to both live and work in Sussex County. The wage data suggests that roughly 37% of the workers in Sussex County could only afford rents between \$500 and \$750 each month (if they were the only person in their household working). If workers in Sussex County were looking to be homebuyers, the wage data suggests roughly one out of every three employees could afford sales price ranges between \$140,000 and \$200,000 (if they had two workers in their household in the same industry). These are hypothetical assumptions, and can be applied in a variety of ways, but provide an overall approximation of housing price and rent ranges that are affordable to many Sussex County workers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> U.S. Census, 2017 1 Yr. American Community Survey

		Avg.	Affordable Rent	Affordable Homeownership
	No. Jobs	Wage	Level*	Level**
Accommodation & Food Services	12,968	\$20,582	\$515	\$144,074
Retail Trade	12,660	\$28,025	\$701	\$196,175
Health Care & Social Assistance	11,872	\$54,092	\$1,352	\$378,644
Manufacturing	10,476	\$45,242	\$1,131	\$316,694
Public Administration***	8,709	\$48,101	\$1,203	\$336,707
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	5,299	\$32,956	\$824	\$230,692
Construction	5,036	\$49,107	\$1,228	\$343,749
Other Services (except Public Administration) ****	2,587	\$30,023	\$751	\$210,161
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2,004	\$67,645	\$1,691	\$473,515
Finance & Insurance	1,733	\$63,527	\$1,588	\$444,689
Wholesale Trade	1,642	\$62,363	\$1,559	\$436,541
Transportation & Warehousing	1,615	\$42,074	\$1,052	\$294,518
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	1,530	\$22,127	\$553	\$154,889
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,433	\$43,871	\$1,097	\$307,097
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	892	\$35,253	\$881	\$246,771
Information	499	\$64,884	\$1,622	\$454,188
Utilities	310	\$105,591	\$2,640	\$739,137
Educational Services	237	\$27,866	\$697	\$195,062
Management of Companies & Enterprises	220	\$156,318	\$3,908	\$1,094,226

Total	81,722	\$40,509	\$1,013	\$283,563
Sources: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Censor	us of Employ	ment & Wag	es, U.S.	

Bureau of Labor Statistics, LSA

\*Rent affordable to one worker at 30% of Gross Salary

\*\*Home affordable to two workers at 3.5 times gross pay

\*\*\*Includes local, state, and federal employees, including teachers and first responders

\*\*\*\*Includes services not provided under the Bureau of Labor Statistics classification system, including funeral care, pet care, dry cleaning and laundry, temporary parking services, advocacy work, dating services, and machinery repair, among others.

### **Commuting Patterns**

Based on 2015 On the Map data from the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly three out of four jobs (72%) in Sussex County are held by residents of the County, with the balance (approximately 18,000 workers) held by in-commuters. About 10% of workers commute from Kent County, 4% commute from New Castle County, 4% commute from Wicomico County, and 10% commute from various other locations outside of the County.

Among Sussex County's working residents, approximately 40% commute each day to other jurisdictions, including Kent (12%), Wicomico (9%), and New Castle (5%) Counties, and 13% commute to various other locations.

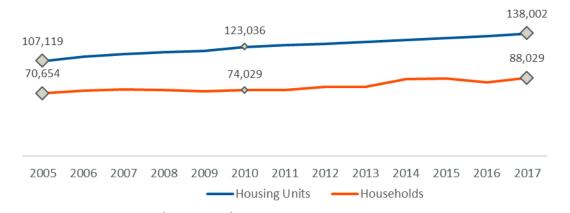
Within the County, there are key employment hubs – Seaford, Georgetown, Milford, Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, Millsboro, and Selbyville- to which residents are commuting for work. No one town has a significant portion of jobs, and not all jobs within the towns are taken by residents within the municipal boundaries. While most employees of Sussex County also live there, this data suggests significant cross-commuting among Sussex County residents who also work in the County. Given the large and growing

number of jobs in the tourism-supporting industries that are located near the beach, there is likely a significant number of Western to Eastern commutes occurring that will continue to increase as these industries grow.

# **Housing Market Conditions**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were an estimated 138,002 housing units in Sussex County in 2017. In the seven years between 2010 and 2017, the number of housing units increased by 15,000, accounting for 56% of the housing unit growth in the State. More than one-third (49,980 housing units) of the housing stock, however, is "vacant" without a regular, year-round occupant.<sup>7</sup> This is a much higher rate than both statewide (17%) and nationwide (5%).

Figure 15. Households and Housing Units, Sussex County, 2005 to 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

The vast majority (84%) of vacant units are seasonal – units that are "intended for occupancy only during certain seasons of the year." Seasonal vacancy has increased over the last five years, with an increase of over 4,200 units, up by 5% since 2012, and coincides with a reduction in empty for-sale and for-rent units on the market. Over 40,000 seasonal units are located in Eastern Sussex, close to the beach, retail, and other outdoor attractions.<sup>8</sup> Of the 227 units that are vacant in Western Sussex, just 25% of are for seasonal use (56 units).

Another 10% of vacancy is related to "other vacancy" – units that may be vacated for a variety of reasons, but oftentimes it is related to homes in such disrepair that they may be uninhabitable or undergoing renovation. The number of "other vacancy" units increased by an estimated 729 units since 2012. More than half of all "other vacancy" is located in Western Sussex, and accounts for more than 61% of vacant units in Western Sussex (139 units).<sup>9</sup>

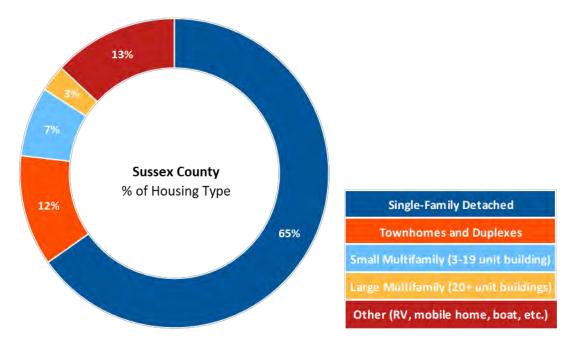
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Occupied Housing Units" with a year-round homeowner or renter and "households" are used interchangeably.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 5-year American Community Survey. Census-tract-level data is not available in the 1-Year dataset.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 5-year American Community Survey.

### **Housing Types**

The vast majority of the housing stock in Sussex County is single-family homes, of which 65% are detached and another 12% are attached townhomes or duplexes. Single-family homes account for the greatest growth of net new units over the last five years, and both homeowners and renters are more likely to live in detached, single-family homes than any other form of housing. In the last few years, that number, however, has declined for renters by an estimated 1,345 households, which coincides with both an increasing seasonal vacancy and increasing homeownership rate during the same period of time. Given these trends, single-family homes that were once long-term rentals may have been sold and are now occupied by new homeowners or they may have been converted to short-term, seasonal housing.



#### Figure 16. Housing Units by Housing Type, Sussex County, 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

Similarly, more homeowners are occupying units in small, multi-family buildings (buildings with less than 20 units) than they were a few years ago, while the number of renters living in multifamily housing declined. Condo owners who rented their homes to longer-term tenants may now be renting for seasonal use, which coincides with the increase in seasonally vacant housing. Or, they may have sold their home, which is now occupied by a homeowner. Still, about one in four renters live in small multi-family buildings, and they are more likely to live there than homeowners.

Mobile or manufactured homes represent 12% of the housing stock in Sussex County and can be a lowcost option for households with modest means. Manufactured housing, however, is the only form of housing that has consistently been in decline, both in absolute numbers and as a share in the total housing stock.

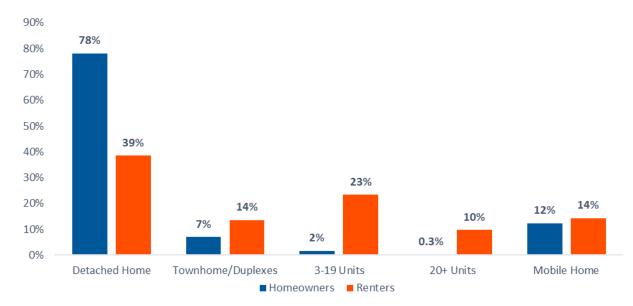
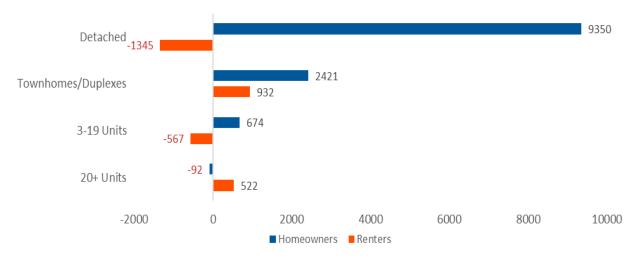


Figure 17. Housing Units by Occupied Housing Type and Tenure, Sussex County, 2017

Note: 'Other' housing (i.e. Boat, RV, Van) was not reported as it is not statistically significant for either homeowners or renters. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

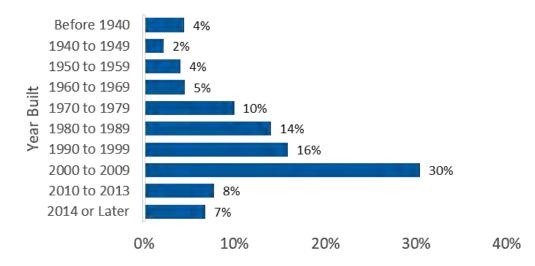




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA \*Manufactured housing was omitted due to its high margin of error.

### Age of Structure

Sussex County's housing stock is relatively new. Nearly half of the housing stock in the County was built after the turn of the 21st century, accounting for 51% of all housing stock built in Delaware since 2000. Construction was particularly productive between 2000 and 2009, when 30% of all homes in the County were built to accommodate the 25% growth in population during this same time period. About 20% of the County's housing stock was built between 1980 and 2000 and the rest (25%) was built prior to 1980.



#### Figure 19. Housing Units by Year Built, Sussex County, 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

### Housing Quality

Although Sussex County's housing stock is relatively new, many homes are in need of significant repair. Across the County, there are more than 4,000 occupied substandard housing units (about 5% of occupied housing), defined as "homes that are occupied but in unlivable conditions or homes that are occupied and in disrepair."<sup>10</sup> Among these units, 3,209 are estimated to be owner-occupied and 888 are estimated to be renter-occupied. In addition, the Community Development and Housing Department reports over 1,000 households on a waiting list for rehabilitation assistance.<sup>11</sup>

As part of a targeted field study conducted by the Community Development and Housing Department across certain submarkets, Sussex County assessed the exterior of properties across 14 communities. They evaluated whether the property appeared in good condition, in need of some repair, in need of major repairs, or uninhabitable. An estimated 216 homes (37%) were in need of major repairs (e.g. new roof, new siding, new windows, or some structural work). According to a community survey as part of the same study, residents reported "Home Repair" as a top priority, followed by "Water Quality/Testing." <sup>12</sup>

### **Rental Market**

Bucking a trend in the rest of the state and region, the number of rental units in Sussex County has declined in recent years. As of 2017, there were an estimated 15,893 occupied rental units in the County, which was 2,047 fewer than in 2012. This decline coincides with the increase in the homeownership rate from 77% to 82% and a reduction in rental vacancy from 1,762 to 761 units during

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Housing Chapter, 2018 Sussex County Comprehensive Plan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> <u>https://sussexcountyde.gov/community-development-block-grant-progress</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Sussex County (2016). *Impacted Communities Study*. Communities surveyed include Cedar Creek, Concord, Cool Spring, Coverdale, Diamond Acres, Dog Patch, Greentop, Lucas Development, Mount Joy, New Hope/S. Old State Road, Pinetown, Polly Branch, Possum Point, and West Rehoboth.

the same period of time. It is likely that owners who had previously been renting their single-family home sold the property, or the owner may have converted the long-term rental into short-term, seasonal housing.

	Income Limit: 1 person/Family of 4	Efficiency	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR
2017 Median Gross Rent		\$539	\$575	\$1,024	\$1,055
Maximum Allowable Rents*					
60% AMI	\$30,300/ \$43,260	\$757	\$811	\$973	\$1,125
50% AMI	\$25,250/ \$36,050	\$637	\$683	\$820	\$946
30% AMI	\$15,150/ \$21,630	\$382	\$409	\$492	\$568

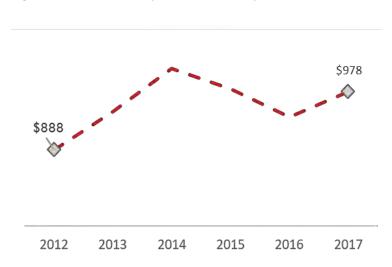
#### Table 2. Median and Affordable Rents by Bedroom Size

Source: Median Rent - 2017 1-year American Community Survey (Table B25031). Affordable Rent/Income- Novogradac Rent and Income Limit Calculator, 2019

\*Under Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program

Note: Current dollars are NOT adjusted for inflation

Under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, landlords are required to rent units to households that earn 60% of the area median income (AMI) or less. Maximum allowable rents are set by the federal government based upon household size and income. Median gross rent is not much different than maximum allowable rents restricted to lower-income households, which suggests that the market is delivering many rental units consistent with what would be affordable to households earning 60% AMI.



#### Figure 20. Sussex County Median Monthly Rent, 2012-2017

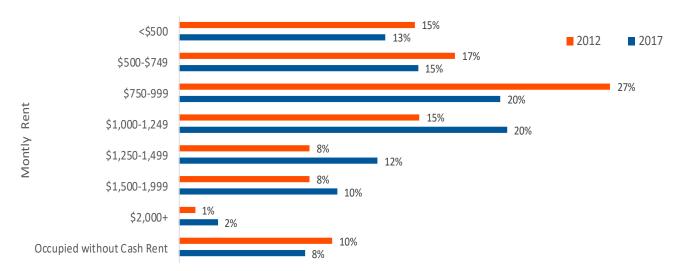
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA Note: Median rents are in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation. In most cases, median rents are slightly less than rents allowable under this program. Only at 30% AMI is there a significant gap in the market countywide.

Rents in the County have risen 10% since 2012. During the same time, median income among renters increased by 18% (from \$30,257 in 2012 to \$35,999 in 2017). The influx of higher-income residents will continue to put upward pressure on market rents.

Following a national trend, the number of low-cost rental units with monthly gross rent of less than \$750 declined between 2012 and 2017. In 2012, 32% of all rental units rented for less than \$750; by 2017, that share had decreased to 28%. At the same time, the County gained more than 300 rental units with a

monthly gross rent of at least \$1,500. In 2017, an estimated 12% of rental units rented for \$1,500 or more, up from 9% in 2012.

Rentals in Eastern Sussex County are more expensive than in Western Sussex County, but rents have risen more quickly since 2012 in Western Sussex. In 2017, the median rent in Eastern Sussex County was \$1,075, up 1% since 2012. In Western Sussex County, the 2017 median rent was \$861, up 6% since 2012.<sup>13</sup>



#### Figure 20. Change in Rental Units by Rent, Sussex County, 2012 to 2017

### **Subsidized Housing**

Some lower-cost rental units have been created in Sussex County through federal public subsidy programs. According to the National Housing Preservation Database, 3,165 rental units (across 78 properties) receive federal assistance.<sup>14</sup> These units represent 20% of the total occupied rental stock in Sussex County and 42% of the lower-rent units under \$1,000. More than half (56%) of subsidized rental units are located in Western Sussex County, including 44% located in one of two jurisdictions: Seaford and Laurel.

In exchange for public assistance, owners agree to rent units to households with low incomes and to charge rents that are no more than a specified amount. Rent restrictions are calculated annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development based off of an area's median income and household size. Owners must comply with affordability requirements that can last up to 30 years, or more in some cases. Once the affordability period is over, owners may convert their properties to market-rate units.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 5-year American Community Survey, LSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Most properties are funded using the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Department of Housing and Urban Development's Home Investment Partnership Program, or Section 8 program, as well as programs from the United States Department of Agriculture. In most cases, properties use a combination of funding sources as part of their financing structure.

Jurisdiction	Units	% of Subsidized Housing	Jurisdiction	Units	% of Subsidized Units
Seaford	701	22.1%	Milton	150	4.7%
Laurel	698	22.1%	Delmar	136	4.3%
Millsboro	384	12.1%	Rehoboth	105	3.3%
Lewes	256	8.1%	Selbyville	75	2.4%
Georgetown	241	7.6%	Blades	33	1.0%
Bridgeville	176	5.6%	Greenwood	28	0.9%
Milford	162	5.1%	Harbeson	20	0.6%

#### Table 3. Percentage of Subsidized Housing in Sussex County by Jurisdictions

Source: National Housing Preservation Database, Accessed 5/10/2019

Ownership among subsidized units in Sussex County is mixed – some property owners are missionoriented owners and will likely pursue financing strategies leading up to their expiring contract that will preserve these low-rent units as long-term affordable housing. Others are profit-driven investors and owners who may be incentivized, particularly in submarkets experiencing upward market pressure, to increase rents, convert units to condos unaffordable to tenants, or sell the property.

Most units will remain affordable in the next decade; however, 18% of subsidized rental units in the County will reach the end of their subsidy contracts and affordability restrictions in the next ten years, including 256 units within five years.

Prior to 2025	2025-2029	2030-2039	2040 and Later	No Expiration**	Total
256	303	1,598	958	50	3,165
8%	10%	50%	30%	2%	100%

#### Table 4. Subsidized Units by Expiring Affordability\*

Source: National Housing Preservation Database, Accessed 5/10/2019

\*Latest expiration date used where multiple subsidies exist

\*\*Public Housing managed by Delaware State Housing Authority

### **Evictions**

In 2016, 848 renters in Sussex County were evicted from their homes. Evictions are landlord-initiated, involuntary moves towards renters that can happen for a number of reasons, including damage to the rental property, having more people living in the unit than is allowable, or breaks rules stated in the tenant's lease agreement. Most evictions, however, happen when tenants cannot or do not pay their rent.15

Sussex County's eviction rate is lower than both Kent County (6.05%) and New Castle County (5.07%), but greater than it is nationwide (2.34%). After a spike to nearly 7% during the recession in 2009,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Eviction Lab (2019). Understanding Eviction in Kent County, Sussex County, and New Castle County, Delaware. Princeton University: Princeton, New Jersey.

eviction rates have declined year after year to 4.25%, though that decrease coincides with a decline in the number of renter-occupied units.

Eviction filings – an attempt to evict tenants– are much higher. In 2016 alone, nearly 3,000 evictions were filed in Sussex County.<sup>16</sup> Since a spike in filings in 2010, the eviction filing rate has remained over 15%. When tenants are informed of their hearings, some voluntarily vacate the units before their trial date, even if the judge may have ruled in their favor. If the tenant shows up to court, they are oftentimes alone and not represented by counsel.

These filings, however, only represent a formal court-ordered eviction process. Informal evictions – a landlord telling a family to leave, changing locks, or threatening to call the police or immigration- would not be reflected in the formal eviction filing process.

Evictions can have devastating, ripple effects to families. Legal evictions that come with a court record can prevent families from relocating to safe, decent housing since many landlords screen for recent evictions. Research from the Eviction Lab at Princeton University has shown that evictions can lead to job loss, cause children to change schools, impact a person's mental health, and can be a contributor of poverty. Research also suggests that low-income women, particularly minorities and victims and families of domestic violence, are at higher risk for eviction. This type of family instability can have broader communitywide impacts, including more challenges in public schools, greater demand for public services, more homelessness, and less community sustainability.

### **For-Sale Market**

According to a review of listings on Zillow, there are approximately 3,600 homes for-sale in Sussex County at the beginning of May 2019. Nearly 80% of homes for sale are single-family detached homes followed by townhomes (10%), condos/apartments (10%) and 60 manufactured homes. One out of five homes listed are priced at least \$500,000, including 213 that are listed over \$1,000,000. The vast majority of these higher-priced homes are concentrated in the coastal towns of Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, Bethany Beach, and Fenwick Island.

About one-third of the homes listed for sale were under \$300,000, including 13% under \$200,000. Lower-cost homes currently on the market were scattered across the County, mostly just east of Route 113, as well as some concentrated in communities surrounding Seaford and Laurel.

House Type	< \$200k	\$200k - \$299K	\$300k- \$399k	\$400k-\$499k	\$500K +	Total
Single-Family Detached	354	561	832	425	643	2,815
Townhome	45	98	144	38	43	368
Condo/apartment	31	127	82	44	79	363
Manufactured Home	53	6	-	-	1	60
Total	483	792	1,058	507	766	3,606
% of Total	13%	22%	29%	14%	21%	100%

#### Table 5. Home Listings as of May 2019, Sussex County

Source: Zillow.com, accessed 5/6/2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> It is possible that there were multiple filings for one unit.

While the for-sale market is spread across multiple price points, many working households in Sussex County do not earn enough to buy a home from this available offering. A household with two full-time workers earning the median wage in sectors such as Farming, Accommodation and Food Services, Retail Trade, Educational Services, or Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation have household incomes that could allow them to purchase a home priced less than \$200,000. About a third (34%) of the employment base in Sussex County have household incomes in this range, compared to 13% of the homes listed for sale. Only about 8% of the employment base could afford homes higher than \$400,000; homes in this price range represent 35% of the homes currently listed for sale.

While these listings are a point-in-time snapshot of the for-sale market, data from the U.S. Census Bureau show the median home value increasing (from \$226,100 in 2012 to \$276,800 in 2017) and the availability of for-sale housing affordable to the County's workforce has been declining in the last several years. In 2012, homes valued below \$300,000 were 68% of the total owner-occupied units, 12% higher than they were in 2017. During the same period of time, homes valued over \$400,000 increased by 9% and now make up about one in every four (26%) homes.

The increase in home values has been driven largely by the increase in new housing production in Eastern Sussex County. Eastern Sussex's median home values rose 3% from \$302,343 in 2012 to \$312,029. In Western Sussex County, home values declined 6% since 2012 to \$195,969.<sup>17</sup>

### **New Construction**

There were 19,233 new housing units in Sussex County<sup>18</sup> approved by building permits between 2012 and 2018.<sup>19</sup> This growth represents half of the State's new housing units approved during this time period. Between 2012 and 2016, total building permits averaged 2,400 units per year, which is about 400 units higher than the annual average household growth during the same time period. In 2017, the unit count rose to over 3,000, and in 2018 jumped over 4,055 units approved. Roughly nine out of every 10 units (89%) are single-family homes, including townhomes.

New construction since 2012 has primarily been at mid-range price points between \$300,000 and \$400,000, based off of a review of homes currently listed on the market. One-third of homes built since 2012 are currently selling over \$400,000, out of reach for many working households in Sussex County. Just 3% of newer homes listed for sale are priced less than \$200,000.

Housing Price	Number Units	% For- Sale
< \$200,000	44	3%
\$200,000 - \$299,999	374	23%
\$300,000 - \$399,000	685	42%
\$400,000 - \$499,999	316	19%
\$500,000 +	216	13%
Total	1,635	100%

#### Table 6. New homes Listed (built 2012 and later) by Sales Price

Source: www.zillow.com, accessed 5/23/2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 5-Year American Community Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Includes both Municipalities and the Unincorporated County

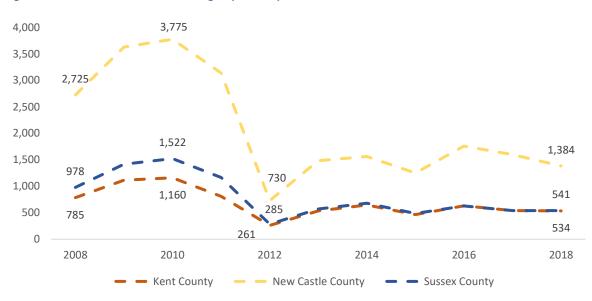
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Delaware State Housing Authority, Housing Production Report, Delaware Building Permits, Sussex County Planning and Zoning (CY 2018)

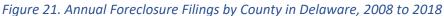
### **Foreclosures**

According to RealtyTrac, the State of Delaware has the third highest foreclosure rate in the country. One out of every 1,249 homes are in some form of the foreclosure process compared to one out of every 2,433 homes nationally. Within the State, Kent County has the most homes in some stage of foreclosure (one in every 869 homes), followed by New Castle County (one in every 1,270 homes), and Sussex County (one in every 1,564 homes).<sup>20</sup>

After recovering from the recession, the number of foreclosures in Sussex County has generally been rising, and has almost doubled from its lowest point in 2012 (285 foreclosures) to 541 foreclosures reported in 2018.

Foreclosures can have major ripple effects to neighborhoods and communities, including reducing property values, increasing demand for rental housing, increasing physical deterioration, and increased strain on local governments and public assistance. In addition, the financial insecurity from damaged credit and the personal and family stress that comes with housing instability have serious, long-term consequences for households experiencing foreclosure.





Source: Delaware State Housing Authority

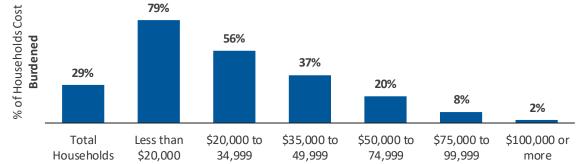
# **Housing Affordability**

Housing affordability is traditionally measured by comparing home and rent prices to income of residents and workers. Households spending a higher proportion of income towards housing are considered "cost burdened." For renters, cost burden is calculated as monthly gross rent plus renter-paid utilities as a percentage of monthly household income. For owner households, cost burden is calculated as a percentage of monthly owner costs (payments for mortgages, debts on the property, real estate taxes, insurance on the property, and utilities) as a percentage of monthly household income.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>RealtyTrac (2019). *Foreclosure Rates in the U.S., April 2019* Accessed 5/26/19 from <u>www.realtytrac.com/statsandtrends/foreclosuretrends/</u>

Spending a disproportionately high share of income on housing can leave too little for other necessities like food, health care, and transportation. Households burdened by high housing costs also contribute less towards retirement or education and have little money to spend on non-essential goods and services in their communities, which can dampen the local economy. As a rule of thumb, households that spend between 30% and 50% of their monthly gross income on housing are considered "moderately cost-burdened" and households that spend more than 50% of their monthly income are considered "severely housing cost burdened."

In 2017, an estimated 24,167 (29% of all households) were cost burdened in Sussex County, including 10,680 households who were severely cost burdened (13% of all households). Households with less resources are more likely to spend a disproportionately high amount of their income towards housing costs. Communities located in and around the coast as well as those West of Seaford have greater cost-burden rates than the overall County rate.





An expanded measure of affordability adds transportation costs, recognizing that when individuals and families move further away from neighborhoods near jobs, services, or other amenities in order to afford housing, the savings on housing costs can be lost in terms of increased transportation costs. According to the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) Housing + Transportation (H+T) Index, when transportation is factored into housing affordability, the typical household in Sussex County spends 56% of their income on housing and transportation. This number is 11 percentage points higher than the industry standard, which assumes households should not spend more than 45% of their income on both housing and transportation.

Transportation costs have a clear impact on overall affordability, particularly in communities located in central and southwestern Sussex County. For example, communities surrounding Laurel and Georgetown have average housing cost-burden rates of less than 30%. Accounting for transportation costs, average cost-burden rates are now between 45% and 54% and, in some communities, between 54% and 66%.

Source : U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, LSA

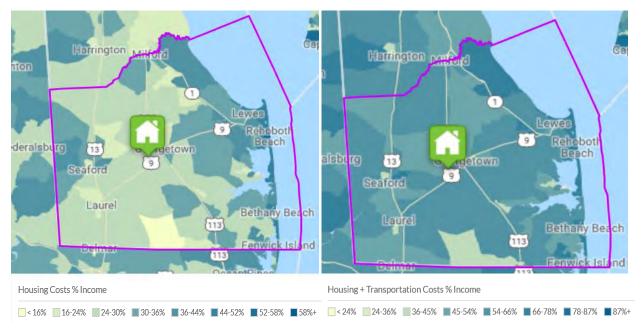


Figure 23. Housing and Housing + Transportation Cost Burden, Sussex County, 2017 Update

Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology, Housing + Transportation Index. Index uses 2015 American Community Survey Data and 2014 Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics data.

### **Cost-burden Characteristics**

Detailed household data are available for households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, but not households spending more than 45% on housing plus transportation. The following analyses highlight some of the characteristics of Sussex County's cost-burdened households.

- Renters in Sussex County are more likely than homeowners to be cost burdened. In 2017, 48% (6,891) of all renters in the County were cost burdened, spending over 30% of their income on housing. This includes 3,170 (21% of all renters) who were paying more than 50% of their income towards rent. Cost burden among renters is higher for single parents (52%) and adults living alone (46) than other household types.
- Hispanic and Black households are more likely than White households to be renters, including cost-burdened renters. While the homeownership rate among White households (83%) is consistent with the County rate (82%), only about half (51%) of Hispanic households are homeowners and 57% of Black households are homeowners. An estimated 62% of Hispanic renters (1,511 households) are cost burdened and 42% of Black renters (1,638 households) are cost-burdened, compared to 37% of White renters and 38% of renters of all other races.
- About one out of every four homeowners is cost burdened. An estimated 18,261 homeowners (26% of all homeowners) are cost-burdened. This number includes 8,297 (12% of all homeowners) who were paying more than 50% of their income towards housing costs.
- Some homeowners who own their home free and clear are cost burdened. There are 27,922 homeowners (41% of total homeowners) living without a mortgage; yet, 12% (3,457) pay more than 30% of their income towards housing. This represents 22% of all cost-burdened

homeowners in the County. Homeowners experiencing cost burden without a mortgage likely reflects the cost of lot rent from manufactured housing parks, high Homeowners' Association Fees, and/or property taxes. Another contributor may be high homeowners' insurance policies, given many communities' proximity to the ocean and their risk for flooding or other serious impacts from natural disasters. These cost-burdened homeowners often include individuals and couples living on fixed incomes. Over 80% of all cost-burdened households without a mortgage are older than 55 (2,876 households).

- Lower-income households face greater challenges finding housing they can afford than middle-income and higher-income households. Households with incomes less than \$35,000 are more likely to be cost-burdened than higher-income households, and they are particularly more likely to pay more than 50% of their income towards housing. Two out of every three households who earn less than \$35,000 are cost-burdened. Of the 10,680 households who are severely cost-burdened, 85% earn less than \$35,000. Households who earn less than \$35,000 may be single, full-time workers in Accommodation and Food Services and Retail Services (represents over 30% of the employment base), farming, or a senior or person with disabilities living on Social Security.
- While more money helps, many other working households are still cost burdened. An estimated 37% of households who earn between \$35,000 and \$50,000 are cost burdened (4,726). This represents about one in five cost-burdened households, including 27% of the households moderately cost burdened paying between 30% 50% of income towards housing. Households with two income-earners in Poultry Processing, Retail Services, Accommodation and Food Services, or Arts and Entertainment may fall within this category. Approximately one-third of the jobs in Sussex County jobs in manufacturing, property management, construction, or local government also earn incomes within this category.

# **Workforce Housing Needs**

### **Current Housing Needs**

The rate of housing cost burden in the County has declined since 2012. While promising, the housing stock in the County still does not meet the needs of all its residents, evidenced by the 24,167 households who spend a disproportionately high share of their income on housing costs. When transportation costs are factored in, Sussex County residents spend on average 56% of their income on housing costs plus transportation.

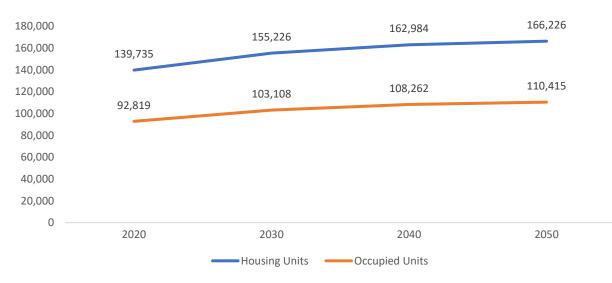
Given the large portion of the population who work in relatively lower-wage jobs and support Sussex County's tourism industry, retail sector, and agricultural industry, there is significant need for rental housing with monthly rents (plus utilities) under \$1,000. According to a report by Housing Alliance Delaware, minimum-wage employees would need to work 84 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Sussex County, which equates to more than two full-time jobs. For single parents or families with one income-earner, this is even more of a challenge. Renters would need to earn \$17.31 per hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.<sup>21</sup>

In addition, nearly half (44%) of the Sussex County workforce earn incomes that could only afford to buy homes priced below \$250,000, assuming two workers in the industry spend 3.5 times their annual income on a home. Currently, only one-quarter of the homes on the market are listed under \$250,000.<sup>22</sup>

The need is particularly great for households who can afford homes under \$200,000. One-third of the workforce in Sussex County earn incomes that could afford no more than a \$200,000 home, but only 13% of for-sale market is listed for under \$200,000.

#### **Future Housing Needs**

The Delaware Population Consortium projects that Sussex County will continue to grow, but at a slower rate than in the last several years. Between 2020 and 2050, the number of housing units in the County is expected to increase by over 26,000. The Consortium also projects 8,894 vacant housing units during this same time, after applying a constant vacancy rate of 34%. Accounting for this projected vacancy, Sussex County is expected to gain 17,597 net new households over the next 30 years, a somewhat slower growth rate than the last several years.



#### Figure 24. Projection, Total Housing Units and Occupied Housing Units, Sussex County, 2020 - 2050

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium, Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050, LSA

These forecasts are a starting place for assessing future housing demand and planning for housing affordable to all income groups in the County. Based on today's income data from the latest Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, 22% (3,935 units) of future available housing units built should be affordable to households earning less than 50% of the area median income (AMI) in order to adequately accommodate future household growth. In today's dollars, this amounts to rents and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 2018 Report, The State of Housing and Homelessness in the First State, Housing Alliance Delaware

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Using a review of listings on May 6, 2019.

utilities less than \$631 for a single person living alone and \$900 for a family of four. This includes 1,698 extremely low-income households who will need housing affordable to someone who earns \$15,150 for one person in today's dollars and who could only afford to spend about \$379 or less towards rent and utilities.

	2020-2030	2030-2040	2040-2050	2020-2050
Net New Units	15,491	7,758	3,242	26,491
Vacancy	5,201	2,605	1,088	8,894
Net New Households	10,290	5,153	2,154	17,597
Needed Units by AMI*				
< 30% AMI	993	497	208	1,698
30-50% AMI	1,308	655	274	2,237
50-80% AMI	1,718	860	360	2,938
80-100% AMI	1,122	562	235	1,918
> 100% AMI	5,149	2,579	1,078	8,806
Total	10,290	5,153	2,154	17,597

#### Table 7. Housing Demand by Income Group, Sussex County, 2020 to 2050

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Vacancy Projection, 2015 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, LSA

\*Multiplied percent of households at each AMI from today's latest data with net new household projection during each decade.

Another 17% (2,938 units) of the future housing stock should be affordable to households earning between 50% and 80% AMI. In today's dollars, this amounts to no more than \$40,400 for one person or \$57,680 for a family of four. A single person could afford a rental up to \$1,000 and a family of four could afford to purchase a home priced \$200,000 or less.

#### Table 8. Housing Affordability by Income

	Si	Single-Person Household										
	Income	Rent*	Mortgage**									
< 30% AMI	< \$15,150	< \$379	< \$53,025									
30-50% AMI	\$15,150 - \$25,250	\$379 - \$631	\$53,029 - \$88,375									
50-80% AMI	\$25,250 - \$40,400	\$631 - \$1,010	\$88,375 - 141,400									
80-100% AMI	\$40,400 - \$50,500	\$1,010 - \$1,263	\$141,400 - \$176,750									

		Family of 4	
	Income	Rent*	Mortgage**
< 30% AMI	< \$21,630	< \$540	< \$75,705
30-50% AMI	\$21,630 - \$36,050	\$540 - \$901	\$75,705 - \$126,175
50-80% AMI	\$36,050 - \$57,680	\$901 - \$1,442	\$126,175 - \$201,880
80- 100% AMI	\$57,680 - \$72,100	\$1,442 - \$1,803	\$201,880 - \$252,350

Sources: 2019 HUD Income Limits, Novogradac Income and Rent Limit Calculator; LSA

\*Rent, utilities affordable at 30% of Gross Salary

\*\* Mortgage affordable at 3.5 times gross household income

If trends continue as they have over the last few years, the number of net new households would be larger than reflected in the forecast and the need for housing affordable and available to lower-income households would be greater. For example, between 2010 and 2017, the number of housing units in the County increased by an average 2,142 each year; and in 2018 alone, the County approved permits for over 4,000 new units to be built in the next few years. Between 2020 and 2030, the Consortium projects that housing units will increase by an average 1,549 each year, and will slow by half that between 2030 and 2040.

Housing vacancy- largely due to seasonal homes- is trending slightly higher than the Consortium's projections. In the last couple of years, vacant units represent a share of the total housing stock that is 2 to 3 percentage points higher than the Consortium's 34% constant share. If the share of vacant units remains at its current 36% or trends even higher, the number of available units would be reduced, which would increase housing prices for those who live in the County year-round.

Many factors can influence the unit production and household growth among various income groups – land use strategies that promote (or discourage) housing development, policies that restrict (or encourage) seasonal properties that limit supply for those who live in the County year-round, and policies that encourage (or discourage) job growth are a few examples.

## Conclusion

Sussex County is a growing community, a vibrant tourist destination and an increasingly popular retirement location. The increased demand for homes in the County, particularly among new, higher-income households, is shifting prices for both rental and for-sale homes higher. In addition, the large and growing older adult population and large number of households living without children will increase demand for smaller homes with accessible features. While many households have found lower-cost housing in Western Sussex, transportation and housing data suggest that the savings is lost from added transportation costs getting to and from work.

Development that promotes economic diversity may decrease sprawl, lessen traffic congestion, and decrease public investment towards infrastructure, and can reduce issues often associated with the concentration of poverty. The ability to attract new residents and visitors is dependent on the ability for workers at all income levels to afford housing that is appropriately-sized and located in the County.

The results from this analysis of population, employment, and affordability trends as well as the State's projections of new households suggest three broad conclusions that will shape a housing strategy for Sussex County:

First, cost-burden data suggest that many individuals and families are unable to afford a home without spending a disproportionate amount of their income towards housing and transportation. There is a need for more housing that is affordable to working individuals and families, particularly among households in lower-wage jobs.

- > Second, Sussex County's population and real estate growth is projected to continue over the next decade at nearly the same rates as it has in the last few years. There is an immediate need to identify obstacles (e.g. financial, regulatory) that have limited the supply of housing affordable to its workforce.
- > Third, the market may be able to better meet demands of housing for higher-income households; but in order to ensure that low- and moderate-wage working individuals and families can find housing they can afford, Sussex County will need to pursue proactive financing and regulatory strategies that are consistent with housing market and economic conditions in the County.





### APPENDIX

# Housing Needs + Market Analysis

Sussex County, Delaware May 2019



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#### Population by Age Group

Sussex County, Delaware

Population											Pct. Change
Age	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2010-2017
Under 5	9,009	10,477	11,487	11,569	11,554	11,353	11,324	11,232	11,342	11,372	-1.0%
5-17	26,296	25,936	28,820	29,034	29,212	29,312	29,789	30,450	30,845	31,106	7.9%
18-24	10,950	13,400	14,366	14,430	14,755	14,791	14,838	14,586	14,404	14,410	0.3%
25-34	17,811	20,420	20,656	21,169	21,328	21,567	21,830	22,419	22,842	23,298	12.8%
35-44	23,425	24,017	22,219	21,560	21,276	21,173	21,226	21,213	21,299	21,627	-2.7%
45-54	21,312	24,509	28,390	28,366	28,153	27,724	27,398	27,299	27,116	26,929	-5.1%
55-64	18,813	21,453	30,134	31,310	31,345	31,978	32,956	33,996	35,159	36,364	20.7%
65-74	17,091	18,285	24,259	25,507	27,600	29,651	31,510	33,404	35,504	37,645	55.2%
75-84	9,362	11,718	12,669	13,188	13,530	14,119	14,821	15,414	16,179	17,005	34.2%
85+	2,569	2,896	4,145	4,320	4,553	4,810	4,984	5,175	5,403	5,566	34.3%
Total Population	156,638	173,111	197,145	200,453	203,306	206,478	210,676	215,188	220,093	225,322	13.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

Population Projections						Pct. Change
Select Jurisdictions	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050	2015-2050
Sussex County, DE	215,402	235,396	255,143	268,180	277,871	22.5%
Seaford, DE	7,186	8,039	9,177	10,356	11,666	38.4%
Georgetown, DE	6,723	7,578	8,714	9,915	11,273	40.4%
Millsboro, DE	4,018	4,536	5,223	5,950	6,775	40.7%
Laurel, DE	3,984	4,488	5,158	5,864	6,662	40.2%
Lewes, DE	2,855	3,199	3,658	4,136	4,668	38.8%
New Castle, County DE	555,115	571,165	596,221	606,346	606,162	8.4%
Kent County, DE	175,412	183,242	193,601	201,639	210,671	16.7%
Delaware	945,929	989,803	1,044,965	1,076,165	1,094,704	13.6%

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Population Projections Place 2015 ACS Population Estimates and 2020-2050

#### **Population Change**

Select Jurisdictions

Population									Pct. Change
Select Jurisdictions	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2010-2017
Sussex County, DE	197,145	200,453	203,306	206,478	210,676	215,188	220,093	225,322	14.3%
Seaford, DE	6,928	7,007	7,092	7,186	7,312	7,445	7,592	7,750	11.9%
Georgetown, DE	6,422	6,537	6,624	6,723	6,850	6,986	7,135	7,291	13.5%
Millsboro, DE	3,877	3,907	3,960	4,018	4,096	4,177	4,266	4,365	12.6%
Laurel, DE	3,708	3,879	3,929	3,984	4,059	4,140	4,227	4,320	16.5%
Lewes, DE	2,747	2,782	2,816	2,855	2,906	2,963	3,020	3,083	12.2%
Kent County, DE	162,310	165,149	167,442	169,150	171,664	173,332	174,754	176,824	8.9%
New Castle Couny, DE	538,479	542,282	546,120	549,486	552,465	555,587	557,851	559,793	4.0%
Delaware	897,934	907,884	916,868	925,114	934,805	944,107	952,698	961,939	7.1%
Caroline County, MD	33,066	32,898	32,643	32,666	32,558	32,620	32,887	33,193	0.4%
Dorchester County, MD	32,618	32,700	32,475	32,575	32,513	32,411	32,267	32,162	-1.4%
Wicomico County, MD	98,733	100,110	100,597	100,957	101,546	102,058	102,585	102,923	4.2%
Worcester County, MD	51,454	51,505	51,579	51,555	51,581	51,455	51,514	51,690	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017 Population Estimates

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

Sussex County, DE

Population by Race									Pct. Change
Race and Hispanic Origin	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2010-2017
Non-Hispanic	180,191	182,710	184,987	187,714	191,428	195,419	199,687	204,209	13.3%
White	149,289	151,135	152,869	155,140	158,080	161,445	165,092	169,037	13.2%
Black/African-American	24,643	25,034	25,320	25,605	26,037	26,481	26,760	27,063	9.8%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,045	2164	2,241	2,301	2,497	2,642	2,808	2,980	45.7%
Multi-racial/Other	4,214	4377	4,557	4,668	4,814	4,851	5,027	5,129	21.7%
Hispanic	16,954	17,743	18,319	18,764	19,248	19,769	20,406	21,113	24.5%
Total Population	197,145	200,453	203,306	206,478	210,676	215,188	220,093	225,322	14.3%

#### Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2017

Select Jurisdictions

Race and Hispanic Origin	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle Couny, DE	Delaware	Caroline County, MD	Dorchester County, MD	Wicomico County, MD	Worcester County, MD
Non-Hispanic	204,209	164,121	504,070	872,400	30,703	30,356	97,400	49,889
White	169,037	109,126	321,097	599,260	25,039	20,209	64,576	41,375
Black/African-American	27,063	44,160	137,747	208,970	4,541	9,009	26,901	6,732
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,980	4,218	32,250	39,448	316	397	3,270	793
Multi-racial/Other	5,129	6,617	12,976	24,722	807	741	2,653	989
Multi-racial/Other	21,113	12,703	55,723	89,539	2,490	1,806	5,523	1,801
Total Population	225,322	176,824	559,793	961,939	33,193	32,162	102,923	51,690

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

Share of Total								
Race and Hispanic Origin	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle Couny, DE	Delaware	Caroline County, MD	Dorchester County, MD	Wicomico County, MD	Worcester County, MD
Non-Hispanic	90.6%	92.8%	90.0%	90.7%	92.5%	94.4%	94.6%	96.5%
White	75.0%	61.7%	57.4%	62.3%	75.4%	62.8%	62.7%	80.0%
Black/African-American	12.0%	25.0%	24.6%	21.7%	13.7%	28.0%	26.1%	13.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.3%	2.4%	5.8%	4.1%	1.0%	1.2%	3.2%	1.5%
Multi-racial/Other	2.3%	3.7%	2.3%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.6%	1.9%
Hispanic	9.4%	7.2%	10.0%	9.3%	7.5%	5.6%	5.4%	3.5%
Total Population	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

#### Residential Mobility of the Population, 2017

Sussex County, DE

NI -	
NO.	Pct.
198,958	89.1%
24,444	10.9%
12,159	5.4%
1858	0.8%
10,096	4.5%
331	0.1%
223,402	100.0%
	24,444 12,159 1858 10,096 331

#### Tenure by Age of Head of Household

Sussex County, DE

	Total Households			Но	Homeowners			Renters			Homeownership Rate		
Age	2000	2012	2017	2000	2012	2017	2000	2012	2017	2000	2012	2017	
Under 25	2,070	956	995	739	200	425	1,331	756	570	35.7%	20.9%	42.7%	
25-34	7,739	7,499	9,690	4,712	3 <i>,</i> 855	5,001	3,027	3,644	4,689	60.9%	51.4%	51.6%	
35-44	12,159	9,801	10,846	9,277	5,510	6,998	2,882	4,291	3,848	76.3%	56.2%	64.5%	
45-54	11,660	14,614	12,240	9,717	11,443	11,006	1,943	3,171	1,234	83.3%	78.3%	89.9%	
55-64	10,667	16,928	19,534	9,602	14,571	17,154	1,065	2,357	2,380	90.0%	86.1%	87.8%	
65+	18,282	28,197	34,724	16,437	24,476	31,552	1,845	3,721	3,172	89.9%	86.8%	90.9%	
Total Households	62,577	77,995	88,029	50,484	60,055	72,136	12,093	17,940	15,893	80.7%	77.0%	81.9%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

Share of Total	Tota	l Househo	ds	Нс	meowners	5		Renters	
Age	2000	2012	2017	2000	2012	2017	2000	2012	2017
Under 25	3.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.5%	0.3%	0.6%	11.0%	4.2%	3.6%
25-34	12.4%	9.6%	11.0%	9.3%	6.4%	6.9%	25.0%	20.3%	29.5%
35-44	19.4%	12.6%	12.3%	18.4%	9.2%	9.7%	23.8%	23.9%	24.2%
45-54	18.6%	18.7%	13.9%	19.2%	19.1%	15.3%	16.1%	17.7%	7.8%
55-64	17.0%	21.7%	22.2%	19.0%	24.3%	23.8%	8.8%	13.1%	15.0%
65+	29.2%	36.2%	39.4%	32.6%	40.8%	43.7%	15.3%	20.7%	20.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

#### Median Household Income, 2012-2017 (Adjusted Dollars)

Select Jurisdictions

	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle Couny, DE	Delaware	Caroline County, MD	Dorchester County, MD	Wicomico County, MD	Worcester County, MD
Median Household Income	57,901	57,647	68,336	63,036	52,469	50,532	54,493	59,458

#### Household Income (Adjusted Dollars)

Sussex County, DE

	2012	2017	Percent
Household Income	(2012 \$s)	(2017 \$s)	Change
<\$20,000	13,329	11,571	-13.2%
\$20,000 - 34,999	14,486	12,837	-11.4%
\$35,000 - 49,999	11,443	11,044	-3.5%
\$50,000 - 74,999	14,053	17,727	26.1%
\$75,000 - 99,999	10,504	12,244	16.6%
\$100,000 - 149,999	9,512	12,375	30.1%
\$150,000+	4,668	10,231	119.2%
Total Households	77,995	88,029	12.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

Share of Total		
	2012	2017
Household Income	(2012 \$s)	(2017 \$s)
<\$20,000	17.1%	13.1%
\$20,000 - 34,999	18.6%	14.6%
\$35,000 - 49,999	14.7%	12.5%
\$50,000 - 74,999	18.0%	20.1%
\$75,000 - 99,999	13.5%	13.9%
\$100,000 - 149,999	12.2%	14.1%
\$150,000+	6.0%	11.6%
Total Households	100.0%	100.0%

#### Households by Household Income, 2017 (in 2017 \$s)

Selected Jurisdictions

Household Income	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle County, DE
<\$20,000	11,571	9,753	31,896
\$20,000 - 34,999	12,837	10,576	24,981
\$35,000 - 49,999	11,044	7,369	23,042
\$50,000 - 74,999	17,727	13,173	33,130
\$75,000 - 99,999	12,244	8,888	27,092
\$100,000 - 149,999	12,375	7,807	32,133
\$150,000+	10,231	6,241	33,827
Total Households	88,029	63,807	206,101

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

#### Share of Total

Household Income	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle County, DE
<\$20,000	13.1%	15.3%	15.5%
\$20,000 - 34,999	14.6%	16.6%	12.1%
\$35,000 - 49,999	12.5%	11.5%	11.2%
\$50,000 - 74,999	20.1%	20.6%	16.1%
\$75,000 - 99,999	13.9%	13.9%	13.1%
\$100,000 - 149,999	14.1%	12.2%	15.6%
\$150,000+	11.6%	9.8%	16.4%
Total Households	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

#### Households by Household Type

Sussex County, DE

Households				Pct. C	hange
Household Type	2007	2012	2017	2007-2012	2012-2017
Married Couple, w/ Children*	11,705	10,314	11,877	-11.9%	15.2%
Married Couple, w/o Children*	26,931	28,324	39,033	5.2%	37.8%
Single Parent	7,286	6,034	5,831	-17.2%	-3.4%
Other Family, w/o Children*	6,064	6,455	5,127	6.4%	-20.6%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	6,809	9,997	9,698	46.8%	-3.0%
Living Alone (Under 65)	11,896	12,518	11,806	5.2%	-5.7%
Other Non-Family, Not Living Alone	4,024	4,353	4,657	8.2%	7.0%
Total Households	74,715	77,995	88,029	4.4%	12.9%

\*Own children

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, Tables S1101

Share of Total			
Household Type	2007	2012	2017
Married Couple, w/ Children*	15.7%	13.2%	13.5%
Married Couple, w/o Children*	36.0%	36.3%	44.3%
Single Parent	9.8%	7.7%	6.6%
Other Family, w/o Children*	8.1%	8.3%	5.8%
Living Alone (65+)	9.1%	12.8%	11.02%
Living Alone (Under 65)	15.9%	16.0%	13.41%
Other Non-Family, Not Living Alone	5.4%	5.6%	5.3%
Total Households	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\*Own children

#### Average Household Size by Tenure, 2017

Select Jurisdictions

Sussex County Average Household Size	2012	2017
Homeowners	2.57	2.47
Renters	3.00	2.76
Total Household Size	2.57	2.53

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, Table B25010

Average Household Size	2012	2017
Sussex County, DE	2.57	2.53
Kent County, DE	2.73	2.69
New Castle County,DE	2.61	2.63
Delaware	2.62	2.62

Year Moved into Current Home by Age of Household Head, 2017 Sussex County, DE

	Age o	Age of Household Head				
Year	Under 35	35 to 64	65 and Older			
2015 or later	5,047	9500	6154			
2010 to 2014	4,145	10,688	6,033			
2000 to 2009	1,386	14,903	11,550			
1990 to 1999	19	4659	4,742			
1980 to 1989	88	2047	2,501			
1979 or earlier	0	823	3,744			
Total Households	10,685	42,620	34,724			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

Share of Total Age of Household Head				
Year	Under 35	35 to 64	65 and Older	
2015 or later	47.2%	22.3%	17.7%	
2010 to 2014	38.8%	25.1%	17.4%	
2000 to 2009	13.0%	35.0%	33.3%	
1990 to 1999	0.2%	10.9%	13.7%	
1980 to 1989	0.8%	4.8%	7.2%	
1979 or earlier	0.0%	1.9%	10.8%	
Total Households	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

#### **Homeless Population Trends**

Delaware

Homeless Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sheltered	862	1,083	930	1,013	986	936	864	916	1,019	936	989
Unsheltered	71	47	52	22	22	10	37	37	51	58	93
Total	933	1,130	982	1,035	1,008	946	901	953	1,070	994	1,082

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program, 2008-2018 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations

#### Average Monthy Employment, Jobs by Sector

Job Located in Sussex County, DE

Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector						Annual Pct	Annual Pct
Sector	2002	2007	2012	2017	2018	2002-2007	2012-2018
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	692	739	840	*	892 *	4.3%	1.2%
Mining, Quarrying, And Oil and Gas Extraction	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Utilities	339	383	353	328	310	0.8%	-2.4%
Construction	4,538	5,552	3,527	4,732	5,036	4.5%	8.6%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	11,308	13,074	10,506	9 <i>,</i> 886	10,476	3.1%	-0.1%
Wholesale Trade	1,196	1,406	1,423	1,721	1,642	3.5%	3.1%
Retail Trade	10,993	11,271	11,284	12,479	12,660	0.5%	2.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,344	1,920	1,289	1,532	1,615	8.6%	5.1%
Information	506	515	474	498	499	0.4%	1.1%
Finance & Insurance	2,628	1,648	1,838	1,741	1,733	-7.5%	-1.1%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,463	2,052	1,645	1,392	1,433	8.1%	-2.6%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	1,211	1,549	1,595	1,883	2,004	5.6%	5.1%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*	*	173	224	220	*	5.4%
Admin and Support and Waste Management	2,389	2,655	2,760	4,826	5,299	2.2%	18.4%
Educational Services	73	173	156	220	237	27.4%	10.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	6,853	8,151	9,874	12,022	11,872	3.8%	4.0%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	771	913	1,085	1,460	1,530	3.7%	8.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	7,927	8,607	9,470	12,228	12,968	1.7%	7.4%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,151	2,370	2,401	2,564	2,587	2.0%	1.5%
Public Administration	6,009	7,659	8,018	8,672	8,709	5.5%	1.7%
<b>Fotal</b>	62,391	70,637	68,711	78,408	81,722	2.6%	3.8%

Note: \* Indicates non-releasable data, 2018 Agriculture data obtianed from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

#### Average Monthy Employment, Jobs by Sector

Job Located in Sussex County, DE

Share of Total					
Sector	2002	2007	2012	2017	2018
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	*	1.1%
Mining, Quarrying, And Oil and Gas Extraction	*	*	*	*	*
Utilities	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Construction	7.3%	7.9%	5.1%	6.0%	6.2%
Manufacturing	18.1%	18.5%	15.3%	12.6%	12.8%
Wholesale Trade	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.0%
Retail Trade	17.6%	16.0%	16.4%	15.9%	15.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	2.2%	2.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Information	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Finance and Insurance	4.2%	2.3%	2.7%	2.2%	2.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2.3%	2.9%	2.4%	1.8%	1.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	*	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Admin and Support and Waste Management	3.8%	3.8%	4.0%	6.2%	6.5%
Educational Services	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.0%	11.5%	14.4%	15.3%	14.5%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	12.7%	12.2%	13.8%	15.6%	15.9%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%
Public Administration	9.6%	10.8%	11.7%	11.1%	10.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: \* Indicates non-releasable data

Source: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

#### Average Annual Wages by Sector

Job Located in Sussex County, DE

Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector						Annual Pct	Annual Pct	Annual Pct
Sector	2002	2007	2012	2017	2018	2002-2007	2007-2012	2012-2018
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$ 27,319	\$ 34,264	\$ 31,403	*	\$ 35,253	5.1%	-1.7%	2.5%
Mining, Quarrying, And Oil and Gas Extraction	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Utilities	\$ 60,549	\$ 77,710	\$ 91,646	\$100,769	\$105,591	5.7%	3.6%	3.0%
Construction	\$ 28,698	\$ 36,925	\$ 39,196	\$ 47,685	\$ 49,107	5.7%	1.2%	5.1%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	\$ 28,937	\$ 38,848	\$ 36,858	\$ 43,739	\$ 45,242	6.9%	-1.0%	4.5%
Wholesale Trade	\$ 36,207	\$ 45,156	\$ 52,320	\$ 59,251	\$ 62,363	4.9%	3.2%	3.8%
Retail Trade	\$ 20,401	\$ 24,769	\$ 24,228	\$ 27,423	\$ 28,025	4.3%	-0.4%	3.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	\$ 30,177	\$ 31,737	\$ 34,940	\$ 38,964	\$ 42,074	1.0%	2.0%	4.1%
Information	\$ 32,072	\$ 40,132	\$ 42,539	\$ 56,810	\$ 64,884	5.0%	1.2%	10.5%
Finance & Insurance	\$ 35,031	\$ 38,589	\$ 49,757	\$ 63,752	\$ 63,527	2.0%	5.8%	5.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$ 29,739	\$ 34,859	\$ 33,472	\$ 41,568	\$ 43,871	3.4%	-0.8%	6.2%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	\$ 41,595	\$ 49,340	\$ 51,807	\$ 65,618	\$ 67,645	3.7%	1.0%	6.1%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*	*	\$ 112,248	\$150,228	\$156,318	*	*	7.9%
Admin and Support and Waste Management	\$ 16,276	\$ 22,973	\$ 26,975	\$ 32,274	\$ 32,956	8.2%	3.5%	4.4%
Educational Services	\$ 23,620	\$ 20,911	\$ 23,407	\$ 28,424	\$ 27,866	-2.3%	2.4%	3.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$ 32,549	\$ 41,379	\$ 46,890	\$ 52,514	\$ 54,092	5.4%	2.7%	3.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$ 16,917	\$ 20,485	\$ 21,653	\$ 21,634	\$ 22,127	4.2%	1.1%	0.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$ 13,824	\$ 16,356	\$ 17,105	\$ 20,233	\$ 20,582	3.7%	0.9%	4.1%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$ 19,476	\$ 22,546	\$ 25,032	\$ 29,255	\$ 30,023	3.2%	2.2%	4.0%
Public Administration	\$ 35,322	\$ 39,330	\$ 42,096	\$ 46,254	\$ 48,387	2.3%	1.4%	2.0%
Weighted Average Wage	\$ 26,518	\$ 32,968	\$ 34,493	\$ 39,498	\$ 40,471	4.9%	0.9%	3.5%

Note: \* Indicates non-releasable data, 2018 Agriculture data obtianed from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

#### Average Annual Wage, 2017

Select Jurisdictions

Average Wage	2017
Sussex County	\$39 <i>,</i> 498
Kent County	\$42,541
New Castle County	\$62,891
Delaware	\$55 <i>,</i> 856

Source: Delaware Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

#### Place of Residence for Workers, 2015

Select Jurisdictions

Place of Work	Sussex Co	unty, DE	Kent Co	unty, DE	New Castle County, DE		
Place of Residence by County	# of Workers	Share of Workers	# of Workers	Share of Workers	# of Workers	Share of Workers	
Sussex County, DE	45,719	71.8%	8,919	17.7%	7,025	2.6%	
Kent County, DE	6,463	10.2%	36,787	72.9%	14,776	5.4%	
New Castle County, DE	2,668	4.2%	8 <i>,</i> 035	15.9%	184,902	68.1%	
Wicomico County, MD	2,582	4.1%	224	0.4%			
Other (RV, mobile home, boat,	1,352	2.1%					
Caroline County, MD	549	0.9%	549	1.1%			
Dorchester County, MD	434	0.7%					
Queen Anne's County, MD	270	0.4%	353	0.7%			
Somerset County, MD	235	0.4%					
Talbot County, MD	235	0.4%					
Cecil County, MD			580	1.1%	10,360	3.8%	
Delaware County, PA			293	0.6%	10,799	4.0%	
Chester County, PA			281	0.6%	15,793	5.8%	
Kent County, MD			237	0.5%			
Philadelphia County, PA					3,918	1.4%	
Gloucester County, NJ					3,556	1.3%	
Salem County, NJ					3,389	1.2%	
Montgomery County, PA					1,943	0.7%	
All other locations	3,160	5.0%	3,108	6.2%	15,093	5.6%	
Total	63,667	100.0%	50,447	100.0%	271,554	100.0%	

Place of Work	Sussex County, DE				
Place of Residence by City	# of Workers	Share of Workers			
Seaford City, DE	1,755	2.8%			
Georgetown town, DE	1,618	2.5%			
Milford City, DE	1,407	2.2%			
Dover City, DE	1,033	1.6%			
Millsboro town, DE	987	1.6%			
Sailsbury City, MD	880	1.4%			
Laurel town, DE	787	1.2%			
Milton town, DE	716	1.1%			
Lewes City, DE	595	0.9%			
Long Neck CDP, DE	463	0.7%			
All other locations	53,426	83.9%			
Total	63,667	100.0%			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, On The Map

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, On The Map

#### Place of Work for Residents, 2015

Select Jurisdictions

Place of Residence	Sussex Co	Sussex County, DE		Kent County, DE		e County, E	Place of Residence	Sussex County, I	
Place of Work by County	# of Workers	Share of Workers	# of Workers	Share of Workers	# of Workers	Share of Workers	Place of Work by City	# of Workers	Share of Workers
Sussex County, DE	45,719	60.3%	6,463	10.0%	2,582	1.1%	Seaford City, DE	4,918	6.5%
Kent County, DE	8,919	11.8%	36,787	56.8%	8,035	3.3%	Georgetown, DE	4,623	6.1%
Wicomico County, MD	7,025	9.3%		0.0%		0.0%	Milford City, DE	3,321	4.4%
New Castle County, DE	4,053	5.3%	14,776	22.8%	184,902	76.4%	Lewes City, DE	3,289	4.3%
Other (RV, mobile home,	1,885	2.5%		0.0%			Dover City, DE	3,069	4.0%
Caroline County, MD	757	1.0%	432	0.7%		0.0%	Sailsbury City, MD	2,518	3.3%
Dorchester County MD	631	0.8%		0.0%		0.0%	Millsboro town, DE	1,837	2.4%
Anne Arundel County, MD	573	0.8%	272	0.4%		0.0%	Rehoboth Beach, DE	1,742	2.3%
Somerset County, MD	538	0.7%		0.0%		0.0%	Selbyville town, DE	1,647	2.2%
Talbot County, MD	393	0.5%		0.0%			Wilmington City, DE	1,409	1.9%
Philadelphia County, PA			392	0.6%	6,765	2.8%	Camden town, DE		0.0%
Kent County, MD			373	0.6%			Middletown, DE		0.0%
Queen Anne's County, MD			272	0.4%			Harrington City, DE		0.0%
Cecil County, MD			269	0.4%	4,425	1.8%	All other locations	47,487	62.6%
Baltimore County, MD			255	0.4%			Total	75,860	100.0%
Delaware County, PA					8,406	3.5%	Source: U.S. Census Bureau, On	The Map	
Chester County, PA					7,508	3.1%			
Montgomery County, PA					2,741	1.1%			
Salem County, NJ					1,556	0.6%			
Gloucester County, NJ					1,117	0.5%			
All other locations	5,367	7.1%	4,504	7.0%	13,890	5.7%			
Total	75,860	100.0%	64,795	100.0%	241,927	100.0%			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, On The Map

#### Mode of Commute to Work

Select Jurisdictions

Mode	Sussex County	Delaware
Drove alone	81,460	353,445
Carpooled	7,536	30,680
Public Transportation	414	9,598
Bicycled	292	1,566
Walked	725	9,566
Other	1,190	3,698
Worked at Home	6,570	22,227
Total	98,187	430,780

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

Share of Total	Sussex County	Delaware
Drove alone	82.96%	82.05%
Carpooled	7.68%	7.12%
Public Transportation	0.42%	2.23%
Bicycled	0.30%	0.36%
Walked	0.74%	2.22%
Other	1.21%	0.86%
Worked at Home	6.69%	5.16%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

#### **Housing Units**

Select Jurisdictions

lousing Units										Pct. Change	Pct. Change
	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2000-2010	2010-2017
Sussex County, DE	93,070	123,036	124,869	126,330	128,219	130,595	132,813	135,236	138,002	32.2%	12.2%
Kent County, DE	50,481	65,338	66,273	66,871	67,653	68,467	69,395	70,403	71,620	29.4%	9.6%
New Castle Couny, DE	199,521	217,511	217,794	217,989	218,686	219,608	220,950	222,097	223,250	9.0%	2.6%
Delaware	343,072	405,885	408,936	411,190	414,558	418,670	423,158	427,736	432,872	18.3%	6.6%
Caroline County, MD	12,028	13,482	13,527	13,527	13,527	13,539	13,543	13,558	13,626	12.1%	1.19
Dorchester County, MD	14,681	16,554	16,678	16,690	16,731	16,725	16,712	16,708	16,766	12.8%	1.3%
Wicomico County, MD	34,401	41,192	41,287	41,313	41,557	42,172	42,251	42,301	42,417	19.7%	3.0%
Worcester County, MD	47,360	55,749	55,764	55,798	55,812	55,858	55,962	56,133	56,327	17.7%	1.09

Source: Annual Estimates of Housing Units for the United States, Regions, Divisions, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

Iousing Units Projections										Pct. Change
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2010-2050
Sussex County, DE	123,036	131,435	139,735	148,390	155,226	159,956	162,984	164,727	166,226	26.5%
Kent County, DE	65,338	68,693	73,198	77,681	81,643	85,026	87,824	90,190	92,275	34.3%
New Castle Couny, DE	217,511	221,606	229,117	238,583	245,907	251,493	254,853	256,448	255,933	15.5%
Delaware	405,885	421,734	442,050	464,654	482,776	496,475	505,661	511,365	514,434	22.0%

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050

#### **Housing Tenure**

Sussex County, DE

	201	.0	201	.2	201	.7	2012-2017		
Tenure	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change	
Renter-Occupied	14,725	16.6%	17,940	23.0%	15,893	18.1%	-2,047	-11.4%	
Owner-Occupied	74,029	83.4%	60,055	77.0%	72,136	81.9%	12,081	20.1%	
Total Occupied Units	88,754	100.0%	77,995	100.0%	88,029	100.0%	10,034	12.9%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25003

Tenure	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Renter-Occupied	15,520	13,975	17,287	17,454	13,915	14,725	14,826	17,940	17,432	19,492	18,628	17,304	15,893
Owner-Occupied	55,134	59,422	57,428	57,092	59,092	74,029	59,379	60,055	60,419	66,777	68,677	65 <i>,</i> 547	72,136
Total Occupied Units	70,654	73,397	74,715	74,546	73,007	88,754	74,205	77,995	77,851	86,269	87,305	82,851	88,029

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25003

Tenure Share	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Renter-Occupied	22.0%	19.0%	23.1%	23.4%	19.1%	16.6%	20.0%	23.0%	22.4%	22.6%	21.3%	20.9%	18.1%
Owner-Occupied	78.0%	81.0%	76.9%	76.6%	80.9%	83.4%	80.0%	77.0%	77.6%	77.4%	78.7%	79.1%	81.9%

#### Housing Type

Sussex County, DE

	201	.0	201	.2	201	7	201	2-2017
Туре	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change
Single-Family Detached	76,069	61.7%	77,989	62.0%	90,114	65.3%	12,125	15.5%
Single-Family Attached/Townhomes*	10,794	8.7%	11,203	8.9%	16,042	11.6%	4,839	43.2%
Small Multifamily (3-19 unit building)	9,022	7.3%	10,012	8.0%	10,020	7.3%	8	0.1%
Large Multifamily (20+ unit buildings)	2,774	2.2%	3,749	3.0%	3,803	2.8%	54	1.4%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	24,714	20.0%	22,747	18.1%	18,030	13.1%	-4,717	-20.7%
Total Units	123,373	100.0%	125,700	100.0%	138,009	100.0%	12,309	9.8%

\*Includes attached homes and duplexes

\*Mobile homes had a +/-2,368 margin of error for 2017

#### Housing Units by Gross Rent

Renter-Occupied Units

Sussex County, DE

	201	.0	201	2	201	7	201	2-2017
Gross Rent	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change
<\$500	1,991	13.5%	2,616	14.6%	2,039	12.8%	-577	-22.1%
\$500-\$749	2,519	17.1%	3,068	17.1%	2,355	14.8%	-713	-23.2%
\$750-999	3,226	21.9%	4,797	26.7%	3,163	19.9%	-1,634	-34.1%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	2,820	19.2%	2,681	14.9%	3,219	20.3%	538	20.1%
\$1,250-1,499	1,291	8.8%	1,453	8.1%	1,947	12.3%	494	34.0%
\$1,500-1,999	937	6.4%	1,446	8.1%	1,557	9.8%	111	7.7%
\$2,000+	203	1.4%	181	1.0%	379	2.4%	198	109.4%
Occupied without Cash Rent	1,738	11.8%	1,698	9.5%	1,234	7.8%	-464	-27.3%
Total Renter-Occupied Housing Units	14,725	100.0%	17,940	100.0%	15,893	100.0%	-2,047	-11.4%

#### Housing Units by Home Value

**Owner-Occupied Units** 

Sussex County, DE

	201	.0	201	2	201	7	201	2-2017
Home Value	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change
<\$100,000	9,687	16.3%	9,586	17.1%	7,481	10.4%	-2,105	-22.0%
\$100,000-199,999	12,416	20.9%	11,626	20.7%	13,584	18.8%	1,958	16.8%
\$200,000-299,999	15,319	25.8%	16,797	29.9%	19,276	26.7%	2,479	14.8%
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)*	10,257	17.3%	8,745	15.6%	12,832	17.8%	4,087	46.7%
\$400,000-499,999	4,100	6.9%	4,108	7.3%	8,321	11.5%	4,213	102.6%
\$500,000-\$999,999	5,487	9.3%	3,920	7.0%	8,095	11.2%	4,175	106.5%
\$1,000,000+	2,038	3.4%	1,406	2.5%	2,547	3.5%	1,141	81.2%
Total Owner-Occupied Housing Units	59,304	100.0%	56,188	100.0%	72,136	100.0%	15,948	28.4%

#### **Approved Building Permits**

Sussex County, DE

								Pct. Change
Housing Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2012 - 2018
Single-Family Units	1,746	2,138	2,085	2,169	2,399	2,727	3,834	17,098
Multi-Family Units	258	336	210	260	399	451	221	2,135
Total Units	2,004	2,474	2,295	2,429	2,798	3,178	4,055	19,233

Source: Delaware State Housing Authority, Housing Production Report, Delaware Building Permits, Sussex County (CY 2018)

#### Housing Units by Year Built, 2017

Select Jurisdictions

Year Built	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle Couny, DE	Delaware
2014 or Later	9,345	3,292	5,630	18,267
2010 to 2013	10,677	4,043	4,779	19,499
2000 to 2009	42,012	16,945	23,329	82,286
1990 to 1999	21,915	13,032	28,855	63,802
1980 to 1989	19,337	10,169	26,995	56,501
Other (RV, mobile home, boat, etc.)	13,738	9,495	30,288	53,521
1960 to 1969	6,250	3,923	31,239	41,412
1950 to 1959	5,519	4,204	31,677	41,400
1940 to 1949	3,065	2,719	15,909	21,693
Before 1940	6,151	3,797	24,524	34,472
Total Housing Units	138,009	71,619	223,225	432,853

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25034

Share of Total				
Year Built	Sussex County, DE	Kent County, DE	New Castle Couny, DE	Delaware
2014 or Later	6.8%	4.6%	2.5%	4.2%
2010 to 2013	7.7%	5.6%	2.1%	4.5%
2000 to 2009	30.4%	23.7%	10.5%	19.0%
1990 to 1999	15.9%	18.2%	12.9%	14.7%
1980 to 1989	14.0%	14.2%	12.1%	13.1%
1970 to 1979	10.0%	13.3%	13.6%	12.4%
1960 to 1969	4.5%	5.5%	14.0%	9.6%
1950 to 1959	4.0%	5.9%	14.2%	9.6%
1940 to 1949	2.2%	3.8%	7.1%	5.0%
Before 1940	4.5%	5.3%	11.0%	8.0%
Total Housing Units	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

#### Vacancy Housing Units

Sussex County, DE

Vacant Housing Units	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
For rent	1,850	1,318	1,427	1,045	1,681	1,974	933	1,762	2,323	1,316	1,396	1,095	761
Rented, not occupied	399	380	204	582	417	439	85	154	237	60	53	131	28
For sale only	2,291	2,921	3,524	3,321	3,727	3,988	3,054	3,426	1,888	1,902	2,093	2,056	2,297
Sold, not occupied	125	710	687	392	739	188	476	547	187	444	204	162	413
Seasonal	29,342	29,832	31,431	33,660	35,685	38,614	40,467	37,554	39,267	36,565	36,518	42,732	41,783
Migrant Worker	-	-	125	-	55	251	296	293	-	72	-	-	-
Other	2,458	3,048	2,427	3,036	3,075	3,890	5,586	3,969	4,822	3,820	3,866	4,394	4,698
Total	36,465	38,209	39,825	42,036	45,379	49,344	50,897	47,705	48,724	44,179	44,130	50,570	49,980

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25024

Share of Total													
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
For rent	5.1%	3.4%	3.6%	2.5%	3.7%	4.0%	1.8%	3.7%	4.8%	3.0%	3.2%	2.2%	1.5%
Rented, not occupied	1.1%	1.0%	0.5%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
For sale only	6.3%	7.6%	8.8%	7.9%	8.2%	8.1%	6.0%	7.2%	3.9%	4.3%	4.7%	4.1%	4.6%
Sold, not occupied	0.3%	1.9%	1.7%	0.9%	1.6%	0.4%	0.9%	1.1%	0.4%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%
Seasonal	80.5%	78.1%	78.9%	80.1%	78.6%	78.3%	79.5%	78.7%	80.6%	82.8%	82.8%	84.5%	83.6%
Migrant	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	6.7%	8.0%	6.1%	7.2%	6.8%	7.9%	11.0%	8.3%	9.9%	8.6%	8.8%	8.7%	9.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

#### **Seasonal Population Projections For Housing Units**

Sussex County, DE

Vacant Unit Projections	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Rent/Sale	5,514	3,489	3,709	3,939	4,121	4,246	4,326	4,373	4,413
Seasonal	34,770	36,518	38,824	41,229	43,128	44,442	45,283	45,768	46,184
Other	3,384	4,123	4,383	4,655	4,869	5,018	5,113	5,167	5,214
Total	43,668	44,130	46,916	49,823	52,118	53,706	54,722	55,308	55,811

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050

Share of Total	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Rent/Sale	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Seasonal	79.6%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%	82.8%
Other	7.7%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050

Housing Vacant Units Projections P												
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2010-2050		
Sussex County, DE	43,668	44,130	46,917	49,823	52,118	53,706	54,723	55,308	55,811	26.5%		
Kent County, DE	5,060	6,216	5,669	6,016	6,323	6,585	6,801	6,985	7,146	15.0%		
New Castle Couny, DE	14,860	18,793	15,653	16,300	16,800	17,182	17,411	17,520	17,485	-7.0%		
Delaware	63,588	69,139	68,239	72,139	75,241	77,473	78,935	79,813	80,442	16.3%		

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050

Housing Units	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Housing Units	139,735	148,390	155,226	159,956	162,984	164,727	166,226
Vacant Housing Units	46,917	49,823	52,118	53,706	54,723	55,308	55,811
Total Households	92,818	98,567	103,108	106,250	108,261	109,419	110,415

Source: The Delaware Population Consortium Seasonal Population Projections 2020-2050

#### Renter Households by Housing Type

Sussex County, DE

Renter Household Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Married-Couple Family	4,287	3 <i>,</i> 356	5,016	5,224	3 <i>,</i> 936	3 <i>,</i> 454	3,211	4,573	5 <i>,</i> 572	6,248	5,448	4,780	4,913
Other Family*	5,087	4,839	5,777	5,467	3 <i>,</i> 953	5 <i>,</i> 336	5,740	5,668	5,622	6,023	4,419	5,072	4,174
Living Alone	5,141	4,396	5,164	5,155	3 <i>,</i> 807	4,781	4,255	6,511	4,269	6,375	7,734	6,070	4,877
Nonfamily Household	1,005	1,384	1,330	1,608	2,219	1,154	1,620	1,188	1,969	846	1,027	1,382	1,929
Total Units	15,520	13,975	17,287	17,454	13,915	14,725	14,826	17,940	17,432	19,492	18,628	17,304	15,893

\*Other Family has no spouse present

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25011

Source: U.S. Census Bureau	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Married-Couple Family	27.6%	24.0%	29.0%	29.9%	28.3%	23.5%	21.7%	25.5%	32.0%	32.1%	29.2%	27.6%	30.9%
Other Family	32.8%	34.6%	33.4%	31.3%	28.4%	36.2%	38.7%	31.6%	32.3%	30.9%	23.7%	29.3%	26.3%
Living Alone	33.1%	31.5%	29.9%	29.5%	27.4%	32.5%	28.7%	36.3%	24.5%	32.7%	41.5%	35.1%	30.7%
Nonfamily Household	6.5%	9.9%	7.7%	9.2%	15.9%	7.8%	10.9%	6.6%	11.3%	4.3%	5.5%	8.0%	12.1%
Total Units	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### **Owner Households by Housing Type**

Sussex County, DE

Owner Household Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Married-Couple Family	31,708	34,489	33,620	31,739	34,645	34,362	33,362	34,065	35,279	37,973	40,661	39,306	45,997
Other Family*	6,747	6,831	7,573	7,569	5,706	7,378	7,702	6,821	7,767	9,753	7,604	6,970	6,784
Living Alone	14,021	14,454	13,542	13,976	15,506	14,513	15,319	16,005	14,127	16,149	16,553	16,273	16,627
Nonfamily Household	2,658	3,648	2,693	3,808	3,235	3,051	2,996	3,164	3,246	2,902	3,859	2,998	2,728
Total Units	55,134	59,422	57,428	57,092	59,092	59,304	59,379	60,055	60,419	66,777	68,677	65,547	72,136

\*Other Family has no spouse present

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25011

Source: U.S. Census Bureau	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Married-Couple Family	57.5%	58.0%	58.5%	55.6%	58.6%	57.9%	56.2%	56.7%	58.4%	56.9%	59.2%	60.0%	63.8%
Other Family	12.2%	11.5%	13.2%	13.3%	9.7%	12.4%	13.0%	11.4%	12.9%	14.6%	11.1%	10.6%	9.4%
Living Alone	25.4%	24.3%	23.6%	24.5%	26.2%	24.5%	25.8%	26.7%	23.4%	24.2%	24.1%	24.8%	23.0%
Nonfamily Household	4.8%	6.1%	4.7%	6.7%	5.5%	5.1%	5.0%	5.3%	5.4%	4.3%	5.6%	4.6%	3.8%
Total Units	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25011

# Tenure by Household Type

Sussex County, DE

	Renters		Owr	ners	Total			
Household Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	% Renters	% Owners	
Married-Couple Family	4,913	30.9%	45 <i>,</i> 997	63.8%	50,910	9.7%	90.3%	
Other Family*	4,174	26.3%	6,784	9.4%	10,958	38.1%	61.9%	
Living Alone	4,877	30.7%	16,627	23.0%	21,504	22.7%	77.3%	
Nonfamily Household	1,929	12.1%	2,728	3.8%	4,657	41.4%	58.6%	
Total Units	15,893	100.0%	72,136	100.0%	88,030	18.1%	81.9%	

\*Other Family has no spouse present

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25011

#### Tenure by Age of Householder

Sussex County, DE

	20:	12	20	17	201	.2-2017		20	12	20:	17	201	2-2017
Owner Occupied	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change	<b>Renter Occupied</b>	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Change	Pct. Change
< 25 Years	200	0.3%	425	0.6%	225	112.5%	< 25 Years	756	4.2%	570	3.6%	-186	-24.6%
25-34	3 <i>,</i> 855	6.4%	5,001	6.9%	1,146	29.7%	25-34	3,644	20.3%	4,689	29.5%	1,045	28.7%
35-44	5,510	9.2%	6,998	9.7%	1,488	27.0%	35-44	4,291	23.9%	3,848	24.2%	-443	-10.3%
45-54	11,443	19.1%	11,006	15.3%	-437	-3.8%	45-54	3,171	17.7%	1,234	7.8%	-1,937	-61.1%
55-59	7,609	12.7%	6,771	9.4%	-838	-11.0%	55-59	1,386	7.7%	1,246	7.8%	-140	-10.1%
60-64	6,962	11.6%	10,383	14.4%	3,421	49.1%	60-64	971	5.4%	1,134	7.1%	163	16.8%
65-74	14,953	24.9%	19,235	26.7%	4,282	28.6%	65-74	1,889	10.5%	1,294	8.1%	-595	-31.5%
Sc 75-84	7,287	12.1%	9,557	13.2%	2,270	31.2%	75-84	1,081	6.0%	1,106	7.0%	25	2.3%
85+	2,236	3.7%	2,760	3.8%	524	23.4%	85+	751	4.2%	772	4.9%	21	2.8%
Total Homeowners	60,055	100.0%	72,136	100.0%	12,081	20.1%	Total Renters	17,940	100.0%	15,893	100.0%	-2,047	-11.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25007

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25007

Share of Homeowners by Age Group	Total Households	% Homeowners in 2012	% Homeowners (2017)
< 25 Years	995	20.9%	42.7%
25-34	9,690	51.4%	51.6%
35-44	10,846	56.2%	64.5%
45-54	12,240	78.3%	89.9%
55-59	8,017	84.6%	84.5%
60-64	11,517	87.8%	90.2%
65-74	20,529	88.8%	93.7%
75-84	10,663	87.1%	89.6%
85+	3,532	74.9%	78.1%
<b>Total Homeowners</b>	88,029	77.0%	81.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25007

### Delaware Annual Foreclosure Filings

Select Jurisdictions

Select Jurisdictions	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Kent County, DE	785	1,115	1,160	809	261	535	646	466	630	541	534
New Castle County, DE	2,725	3,627	3,775	3,137	730	1,484	1,562	1,249	1,758	1,597	1,384
Sussex County, DE	978	1,415	1,522	1,166	285	572	680	485	627	542	541
Total	4,488	6,157	6,457	5,112	1,276	2,591	2,888	2,200	3,015	2,680	2,459

Source: Delaware State Housing Authority, Delaware Annual Foreclosure Filings (2008 - 2018 Year to Date)

#### Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income

Owner Households

Sussex County, DE

Owner Households	2012	2017
<30%	36,359	53,351
30-49%	9,812	9,964
50%+	8,230	8,297
Total Owner Households	54,401	71,612

\*added housing units with a mortgage and without mortgage

\*did not include 524 units for 2017 and 536 units for 2012 listed as 'Not computed"

Source: U.S. Census Burea, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25087

Share of Owner Households	2012	2017
<30%	66.8%	74.5%
30-49%	18.0%	13.9%
50%+	15.1%	11.6%
Total Owner Households	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Burea, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25087

#### Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income

Renter Households

Sussex County, DE

Renter Households	2012	2017
<30%	7,756	7,629
30-49%	4,287	3,721
50%+	3,947	3,170
Total Renter Households	15,990	14,520

\*did not include 1373 units for 2017 and 1950 units for 2012 listed as 'Not computed"

Source: U.S. Census Burea, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25070

Share of Renter Households	2012	2017
<30%	48.5%	52.5%
30-49%	26.8%	25.6%
50%+	24.7%	21.8%
Total Renter Households	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Burea, 1-Year American Community Survey, Table B25070

### Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income by Household Income, 2012-2017 (2017 \$s)

All Households

Sussex County, DE

All Households	Total Households		<30	%	30-4	9%	50%+	
Household Income	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than \$20,000	9,783	11.7%	2,023	3.4%	1,731	12.8%	6,029	56.5%
\$20,000 to 34,999	12,258	14.7%	5,451	9.2%	3,774	28.0%	3,033	28.4%
\$35,000 to 49,999	12,752	15.3%	8,026	13.6%	3,673	27.2%	1,053	9.9%
Other (RV, mobile home, t	16,790	20.1%	13,359	22.6%	2,984	22.1%	447	4.2%
\$75,000 to 99,999	11,999	14.4%	10,980	18.5%	907	6.7%	112	1.0%
\$100,000 or more	19,804	23.7%	19,380	32.7%	418	3.1%	6	0.1%
Total Households	83,386	100.0%	59,219	100.0%	13,487	100.0%	10,680	100.0%

\*An estimated 2936 is not computed

Source: U.S. Census Burea, 5-Year American Community Survey, Tables B25074 and B25095

# Homeownership Rate by Race

Select Jurisdictions

	Sussex County,	Kent County,	New Castle
Race/Ethnicity of Household Head	DE	DE	County, DE
White	83.4%	76.2%	77.9%
Black	57.4%	54.7%	51.3%
Asian	71.9%	64.7%	55.9%
Other/2+ races	68.8%	53.6%	54.9%
Hispanic	50.6%	53.1%	43.4%
Total	78.5%	69.3%	68.0%
Black-White Homeownership Gap	-26.0%	-21.5%	-26.6%

# Cost Burden Among Renter Households

Select Jurisdictions

Race/Ethnicity of Household Head	Sussex County, DE		Kent County, DE		New Castle County, DE	
Severely cost burdened	3,752	20.2%	4,281	22.0%	13,920	21.5%
Total cost burdened	7,646	41.1%	8,886	45.7%	28,711	44.3%
Total renter households	18,594	100.0%	19,443	100.0%	64,857	100.0%

**Cost Burden Among Renter Households by Race/Ethnicity of Head of Household** Sussex County, DE

Race/Ethnicity of Head of	Total Renter	Cost Burden	Pct. Cost Burden	
Household	Household	Renters		
White	11,649	4,265	36.6%	
Black	3,890	1,638	42.1%	
Asian	216	47	21.8%	
Other/2+ races	389	185	47.6%	
Hispanic	2,450	1,511	61.7%	
Total	18,594	7,646	41.1%	

### Cost Burden Among Renter Households by Household Type

Sussex County, DE

	Total Renter	Cost Burden	Pct. Cost
Household Type	Household	Renters	Burden
Married Couple w/ Kids	2,903	1,216	41.9%
Married Couple w/o Kids	2,857	491	17.2%
Other Family Households*	5,140	2,687	52.3%
Living Alone	5,953	2,706	45.5%
Other Non-Family Households	1,741	546	31.4%
Total	18,594	7,646	41.1%

\* Single Parents

# Cost Burden Among Renter Households by Age of Household Head

Sussex County, DE

	Total Renter	Cost Burden	Pct. Cost	
Age of Household Head	Household	Renters	Burden	
>25	938	197	21.0%	
25-34	4,824	2,200	45.6%	
35-44	3,922	2,082	53.1%	
45-54	2,994	944	31.5%	
55-64	2,230	679	30.4%	
65+	3,686	1,544	41.9%	
Total	18,594	7,646	41.1%	