

Housing and New Hampshire's Economy

Ben Frost, Director of Legal and Public Affairs New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority January 13, 2017



The Housing Environment

- Significant economic and demographic shifts
 - The state is growing much more slowly than in the past
 - Younger residents improving job prospects but...
 - high levels of student debt,
 - delaying household formation, and
 - unsure of the benefits of homeownership vs. mobility.
 - Seniors will occupy a growing proportion of the State's housing
 - Not the largest, but the fastest growing, and they want to age-in-place as long as possible, but...
 - Service needs

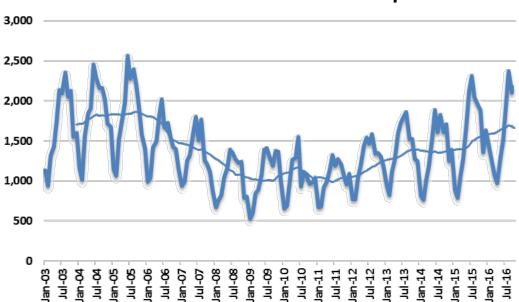


The Housing Environment

- Current housing supply is poorly aligned with preferences of both older and younger age groups
 - Mismatch between smaller household sizes and larger homes, not near urban amenities and services
 - Lack of rental units
 - Retrospective land use regulations, are not geared towards evolving market needs.
- Regional differences are more evident
 - North vs. South



MLS Closed Sales In New Hampshire

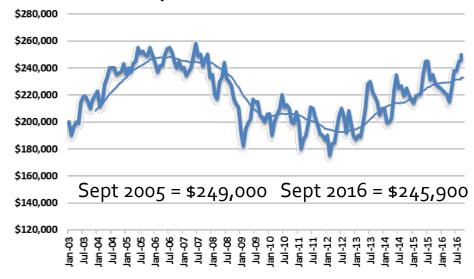


Sales Volume has been rising

At 2,099, Sept 2016 sales were 7.7% above the prior year.

Median Prices have reached the peak from the early 2000's

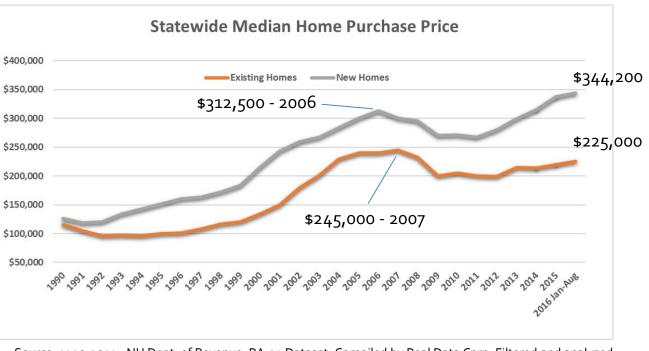
New Hampshire MLS Median Sale Price





New vs. Existing Homes

A lack of new single family construction



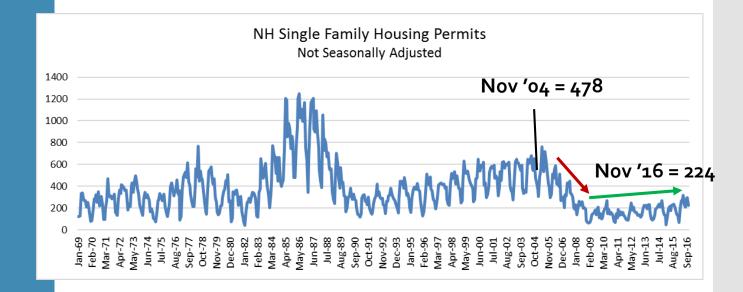
Source: 1990-2014 - NH Dept. of Revenue, PA-34 Dataset, Compiled by Real Data Corp. Filtered and analyzed by New Hampshire Housing. 2015-16 - The Warren Group. Filtered and analyzed by New Hampshire Housing.

- The gap between new and existing has grown. New is now 53% higher than existing, but...
- New home sales are only 2.5% of the market.
- New Home sales in the Northeast are down 25.8% from last year*.



^{*}Source: Mortgage News Daily.

Single family building permits show improvement but remain low.

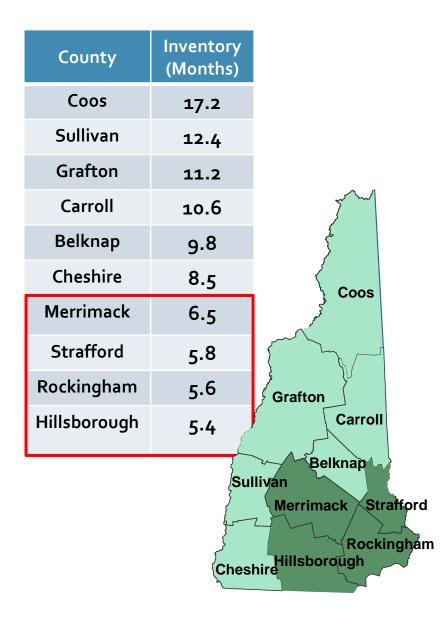


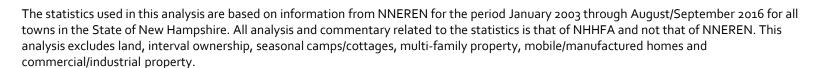


MLS Housing Inventory



An inventory shortage in Southern markets, especially below \$300,000



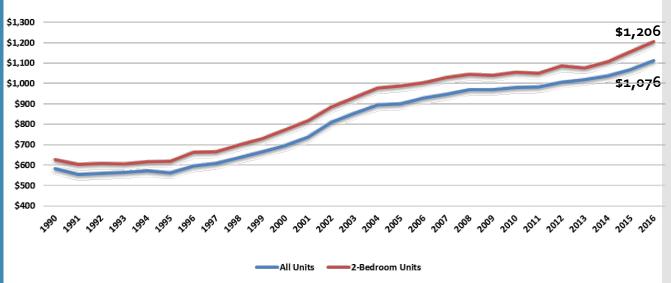




Rental costs continue to climb

12% in the last three years

Statewide Median Gross Rental Cost



Results of New Hampshire Housing's 2016 Residential Rental Cost Survey are consistent with those found on a national level.

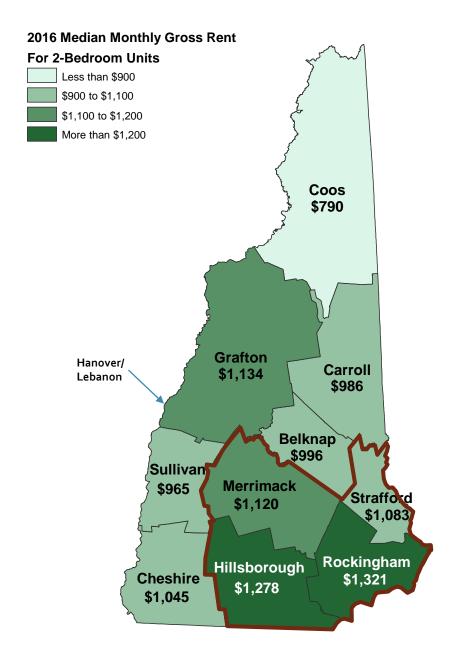


Highest Rents are closest to the Boston labor market

77% of all rental units are located in Hillsborough, Rockingham, Merrimack and Strafford Counties

For 2016, no rental cost increases in most rural counties (except Grafton – Hanover/Lebanon)

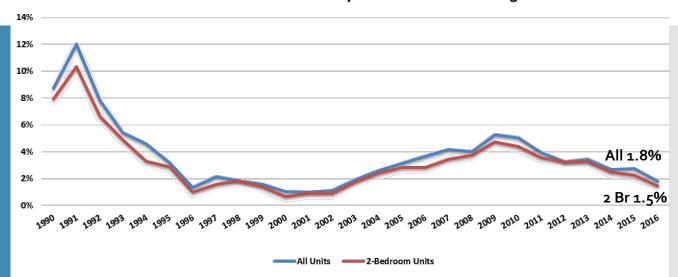
Monthly Median Gross Rental Cost

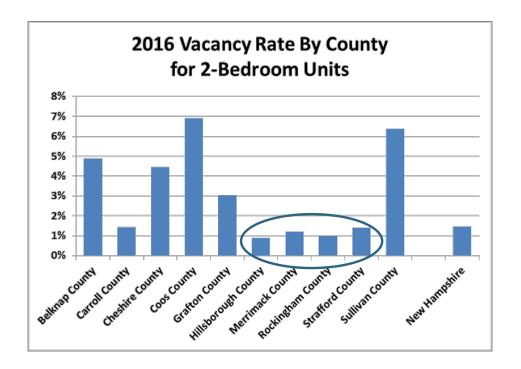




Statewide Vacancy Rate of Rental Housing

Vacancy is the lowest since 2002







Percent of Units in 2016 Rental Cost Survey Affordable at Selected Household Income Thresholds

120% 97.6% 100% 83.2% 80% 60% 40% 30.3% 20% 11.2% 2.1% 0.2% 0.0% 0% \$24.506 \$32,675 \$40,844 \$61,266 \$81,688 \$12.253 \$20,422 or 80% 100% 200% 30% 60% 50% 150% of Statewide Median Renter Income

Affordability

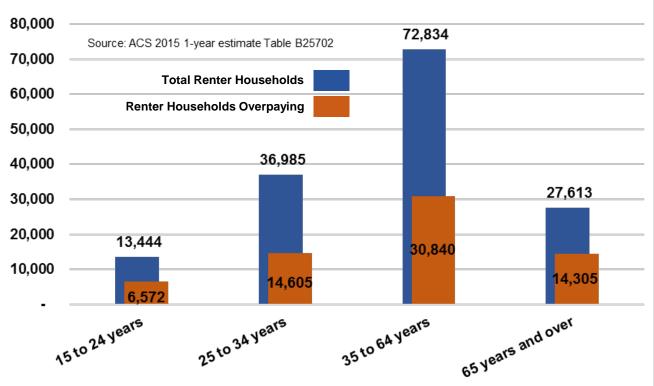
Half of all households in rental units earn less than \$40,800 per year and the percentage of market rate units that are affordable to them is low.



44% of the state's renter households are overpaying

That's 66,300 of New Hampshire's 150,900 renter households

Renter Households By Age Group and Those Paying 30% or More of Household Income for Housing



Overpayment affects all age categories.



Critical Affordable Housing Needs

- Recognition that <u>housing is a component of economic</u> <u>infrastructure</u>
 - Will the shortage of affordable housing constrain the State's economic growth (<3% unemployment rate, very low rental vacancy rate and decreasing purchase inventory)?
- Support for "Housing Friendly" local regulatory policies
 - Good design that is fiscally responsible Smart Growth
 - Encourage/incent housing with a range of prices Housing Choice
 - Continue education and a reduction in personal, community and official resistance to housing development
- Increased rental housing construction
- More new single family "Starter" homes
- Housing for Special Needs Populations
 - Recovery housing
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - Chronically homeless
 - Housing First
 - Seniors with service needs
 - Veterans with service needs

