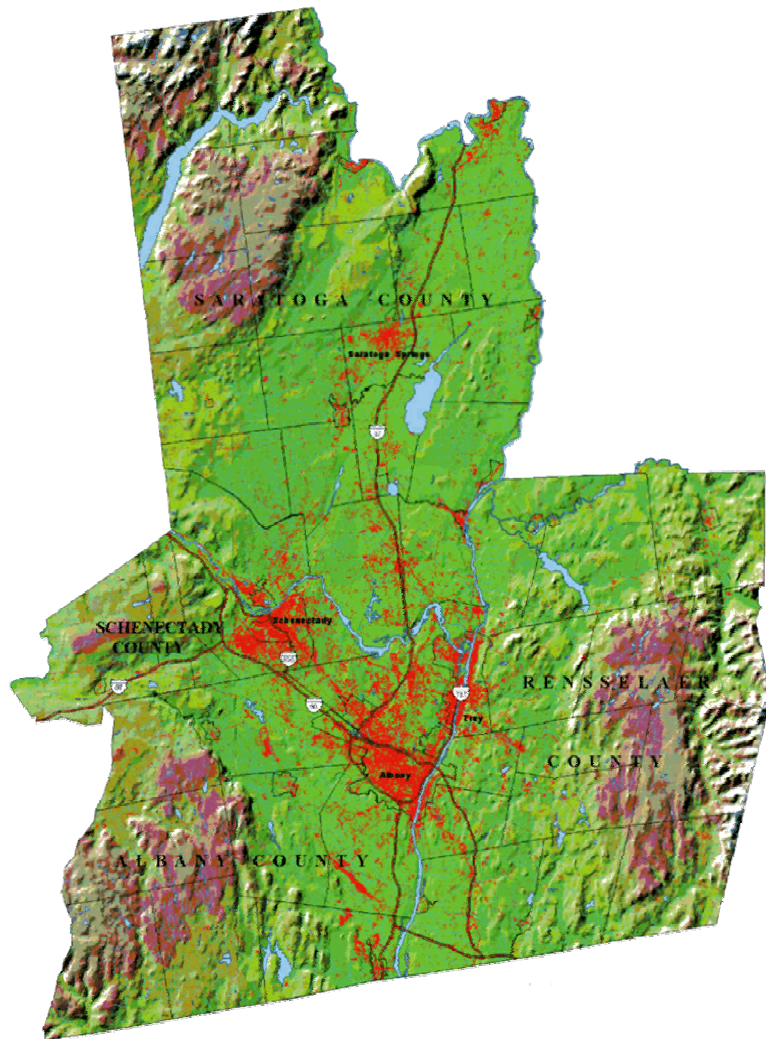


Capital District Regional Indicators Report: 2003

*Benchmarking Progress in
New York's Capital Region*



Report Prepared by
Capital District Regional
Planning Commission

Publication Sponsored by



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Table Of Contents:

Introduction

Health

Healthcare Professionals.....	1.1
Live Births and Teen Pregnancy.....	1.2
Cancer Rates.....	1.3

Environment

Air Quality.....	2.1
Surface Water Quality	2.2
Municipal Water and Sewer Service.....	2.3

Education

Educational Attainment.....	3.1
Public High School Outcomes.....	3.2

Economics

Economic Diversification.....	4.1
Workforce Growth and Employment.....	4.2
Export Activity.....	4.3
Patent Activity.....	4.4
Poverty.....	4.5
Wages and Income vs. Cost of Living.....	4.6

Community Life

Development Activity.....	5.1
Voter Turnout.....	5.2
Regional Recreational Assets.....	5.3
Regional Cultural Assets.....	5.4
Regional Athletic Assets.....	5.5

Safety

Crime	6.1
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	6.2

Transportation

Commuting and Transportation Patterns.....	7.1
Road Conditions.....	7.2
Airport Enplanements.....	7.3

Capital District Regional Indicators

Benchmarking Progress in New York's Capital Region

Introduction

As a part of recent State funding to establish a comprehensive regional database, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) is creating a set of indicators to measure Regional performance in a broad range of subjects. The indicators measure the success and vitality of the Capital District using both timeline measurements as well as comparisons to similar regions around New York State and the Country

This set of regional indicators cover a wide range of categories that are of public interest and concern. They are designed to establish a baseline for continuing efforts to improve the Region. The baselines will allow citizens and community leaders to make decisions and set priorities based on objective information about the Capital District's strengths and weaknesses.

This set of indicators will be used as a basis for a regional dialogue to set goals and objectives for the Capital District's future. Through that dialogue, the list of indicators will be honed to meet the community's needs then objectives and strategies will be set for each indicator.

The indicators track items in seven categories including Health, the Environment, Education, Economics, Community Life, Public Safety, and Transportation. The strength of this comprehensive approach is its broad range of topics and the interrelationships among them.

Due to differences in the available information about each topic, it is impossible to set the same timeline or comparison scale for all of the indicators. As a result, there are variations in the criteria used to judge each indicator. Some indicators are best measured by showing progress over time or comparison to government standards while others are best measured by comparison to state or national averages.

CDRPC is attempting to focus the indicators on the Capital District, which covers Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties. Due to variation in the available data, that is not always possible. To provide consistent data, comparisons between the Capital District and other regions generally utilize data for each region's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The New York Capital District's Metropolitan Statistical Area is a six county region, adding Montgomery and Schoharie Counties to the Capital District.

Capital District Peer Regions

CDRPC has assembled a peer group of metropolitan areas for comparison with New York’s Capital Region. In selecting the peer regions for the Capital District, CDRPC searched for similar state capitals and included the other major Upstate New York metro areas. The other capital regions would be expected to have similarly strong government employment while the other upstate metro areas share similar historical, demographic, geographic, and regulatory characteristics. A description of the selection process for the peer capital regions is listed below.

Selection Criteria for State Capital Regions

The MSA must:

- Have a total population within 40% of the Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA population (between 525,350 and 1,225,816 people).
- Contain a state capital.
- Have less than 1/3 minority population makeup.
- Have between 16% and 24% of the population enrolled in college (20% of the Albany MSA is enrolled in college)

State Capital Regions that Meet the Criteria

- Harrisburg, PA
- Hartford, CT
- Little Rock, AR
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC

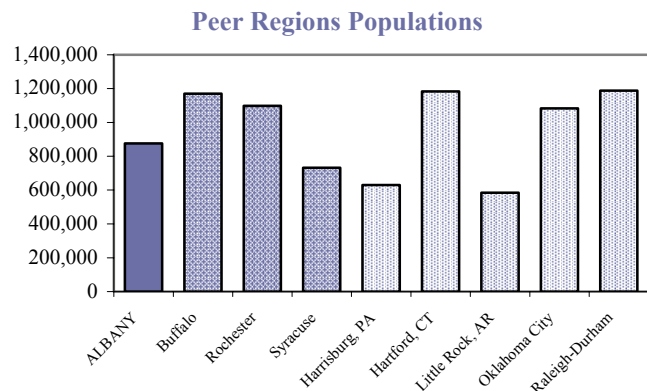
Other Major Upstate Cities Included in the Peer Region Group

- Syracuse
- Rochester
- Buffalo

Background for the Capital District and the Peer Regions

While the peer regions have many similarities, no two regions are the same. Other than the obvious geographic distinctions, there are significant statistical differences in the regions’ characteristics that should be noted when analyzing the Regional Indicators.

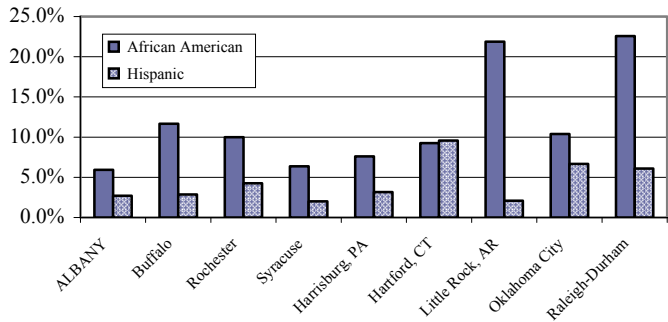
The peer regions range in size from the Little Rock MSA with a population of 583,845, to the Raleigh-Durham MSA’s 1,187,941 residents. The Albany MSA has a population of 875,583. Five of the peer regions have populations greater than 1 million while four, including the Capital District, have fewer.



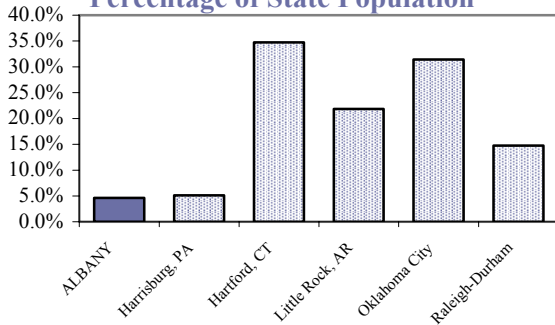
INTRODUCTION

The Albany MSA has the lowest percentage of African Americans and the third lowest percentage of Hispanics of the peer regions. Little Rock and Raleigh-Durham have by far the highest percentage of African-Americans, while Hartford has the largest Hispanic population.

Minorities as a Percentage of MSA Population



Capital MSA Population as a Percentage of State Population



Economically, The Capital District has the largest number of government employees of the peer regions. This is in no small part due to the size of New York State and the comparably small size of the Capital District. The Albany MSA makes up 4.6% of New York State’s population while most of the other peer capital regions have between 15% and 35% of their state’s population. The lone exception is Harrisburg, PA, which has 5.1% of Pennsylvania’s population. A capital MSA that is small compared to the state’s population is more likely to have state government dominate

the region’s economy while a capital MSA with a large percentage of the state’s population would tend to have a more diverse economy.

HEALTH



1.1 Healthcare Professionals

The Importance

The number of physicians and nurses available to provide health care to the Region directly affects patients' ability to access quality, timely healthcare when needed. Chronic shortages of nurses willing to accept the terms of employment have been reported as a nationwide healthcare crisis. Facilities with fewer and overworked physicians and nurses will naturally provide inferior care to fewer people than facilities that are adequately staffed. With medical centers that draw many patients from outside the four-county region, the Capital District's per capita number of nurses and physicians is expected to be higher than the national rate. It should also be noted that nationally, only 58.5% of all Registered Professional Nurses (RPN) were employed full-time in 2000 while 18.3% were not employed as nurses.

About this indicator

This indicator uses data from the New York State Education Department's Division of Professional Licensing Services to track the number of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Registered Professional Nurses, and Licensed Medical Doctors. These numbers do not include other primary care professions, such as Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. For National comparison, the indicator uses American Medical Association data on physicians and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data on nurses.

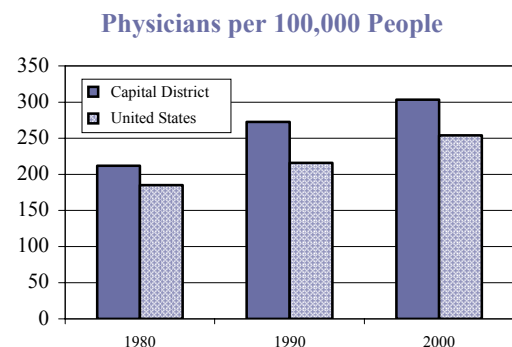
It should be noted that this data records the number of licensed professionals and not the number employed. Due to a lack of consistent data, there is no regional comparison for this indicator.

Sources for this Indicator

- New York State Education Department's Division of Professional Licensing Services
- American Medical Association, *Physician Characteristics and Distribution in the U.S.*
- United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration unpublished data provided to the U.S. Census Bureau for the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*.

Nurses and Physicians in the Capital District

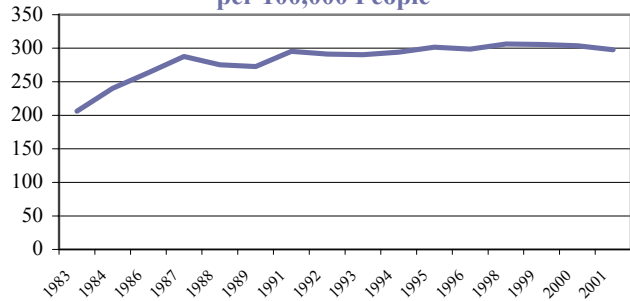
As a medical center for the larger region, the Capital District has a higher per capita number of nurses and physicians than the nation as a whole. During the 1990's, while the National per capita number of nurses and physicians climbed steadily,



1.1 HEALTH

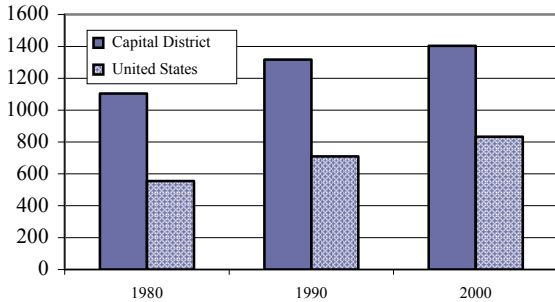
the number of nurses and physicians per Capita in the Capital District peaked and actually began to decline. The number of licensed LPNs and RPNs per 100,000 people declined from 1,830 in 1990 to 1,827 in 2000. The number of Physicians per 100,000 people in the Capital District peaked in 1998 at 306 and declined to 298 in 2001.

Capital District Number of Physicians per 100,000 People

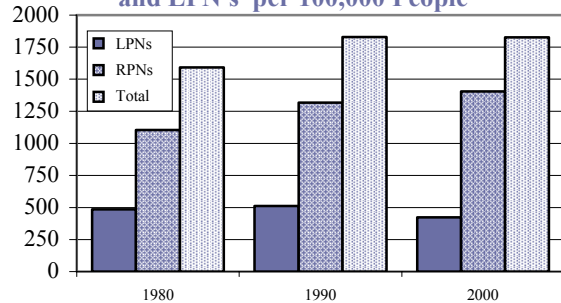


Registered Professional Nurses have higher educational requirements than Licensed Practical Nurses. In the Capital District, the number of RPNs has continued to climb as the number of LPNs has declined, indicating a higher level of training within the nursing profession. The National 3 to 1 ratio of RPNs to LPNs is very close to the Capital District's ratio.

Registered Nurses per 100,000 People



Capital District Number of RPNs and LPN's per 100,000 People



1.2 Live Births and Teen Pregnancy

The Importance

Live births are an important measure of a community's internal growth as well as an important data set for planning educational services. Teen pregnancy is a problem because teenagers are frequently ill prepared to raise children in this society. It is difficult for a teen to continue her education and care for an infant at the same time.

About this indicator

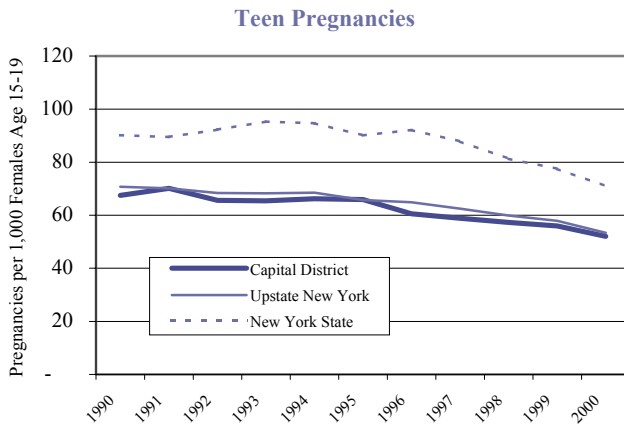
This indicator measures the Capital District's number of live births and teen pregnancy rates based on the New York State Department of Health's Vital Statistics of New York State, published annually.

Sources for this Indicator

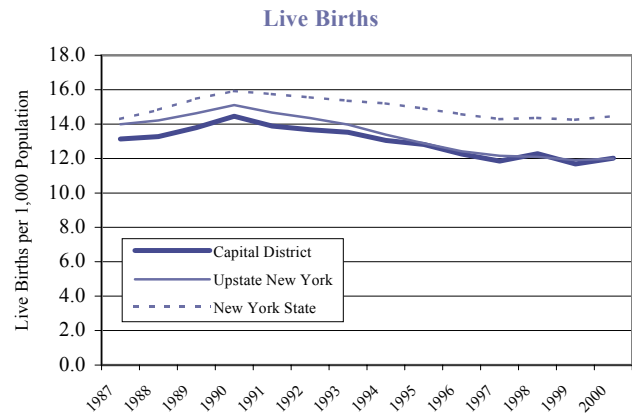
- New York State Department of Health: Vital Statistics of New York State

Teen Pregnancy in the Capital District

Live Births are important for maintaining stable populations in regions without strong growth, such as the Capital District. Live births in the Capital District declined by 14% between 1990 and 2000. Over the same period, the Capital District's number of women of child-bearing age (ages 18-44) declined by 10%.



Sexual responsibility is an essential element of a stable community. Signs that teens are more sexually responsible can be identified by decreases in teen pregnancy rates. Overall the Capital District and Upstate New York follow a similar trend with regard to live births and teen pregnancy. These rates are lower than the entire State though the State has experienced significant reductions in teen pregnancies as well. Decreases in teen pregnancy indicate that teens in the Capital District, as well as New York State, became more sexually responsible during the 1990's.



1.3 Cancer Rates

The Importance

Cancer statistics result from a combination of factors including genetics, lifestyle, availability of quality treatment, and environmental hazards. Behind heart disease, cancer is the second most common cause of death in America. Lung cancer, the most easily preventable cancer, is by far the leading cause of cancer death in America. With 87% of all lung cancer deaths resulting from smoking (American Lung Association) and lung cancer's low survival rate, lung cancer mortality has varied dramatically over the past 50 years. When lung cancer is removed from the cancer statistics, treatment and environmental factors can be identified as larger factors in the remaining mortality. Reductions in cancer rates are an indicator of better treatment, better environmental conditions, and healthier lifestyles.

About this indicator

This indicator measures the Capital District's cancer mortality based on the National Cancer Institute's data on five-year mortality rates between 1950 and 1994 for White Americans and between 1970 and 1994 for African Americans. Accurate African American cancer statistics are not available earlier than 1970. This indicator also uses NYS Department of Health data to compare cancer incidence to cancer mortality in the Capital District. All cancer statistics are maintained on an age-adjusted basis to account for younger or older demographics.

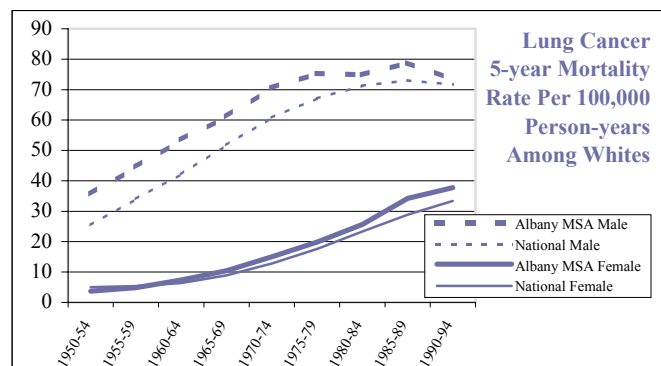
When comparing cancer rates in different geographies, it is important to maintain separate statistics by race and sex. African American cancer mortality rates, for whatever reason, are generally higher than white cancer rates. Women have different cancer rates than men, particularly breast cancer rates. Regions with different demographics will have different incident and mortality rates as a result of these differences.

Sources for this Indicator

- The National Cancer Institute Five-year Mortality Rates.
- New York State Department of Health Cancer Registry Incidence and Mortality by County

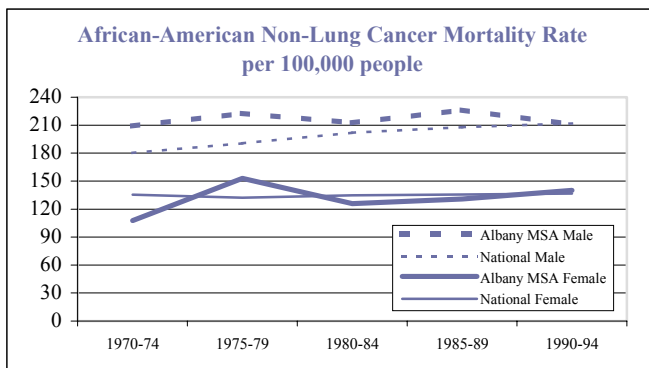
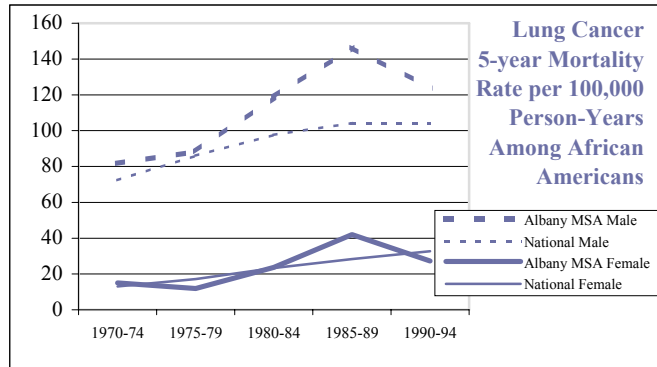
Capital District Cancer Rates

In general, the Capital District's cancer mortality rates have been slightly above the national average. With 87% of lung cancers tied to tobacco use, lung cancer is the most preventable cancer. Capital District lung cancer mortality has been similar to the national trend.

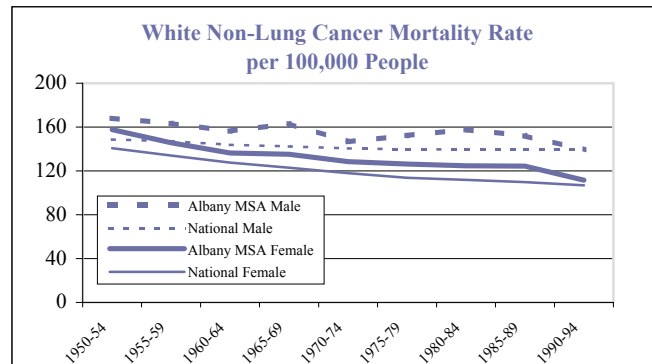


1.3 HEALTH

Male mortality has skyrocketed between the 1950's and the 1980's. Since the peak in the 1980's, male mortality has declined. These changes can be directly attributed to the popularity of smoking in the decades after WWII. The more recent declines in smoking rates have resulted in a decline in male mortality.

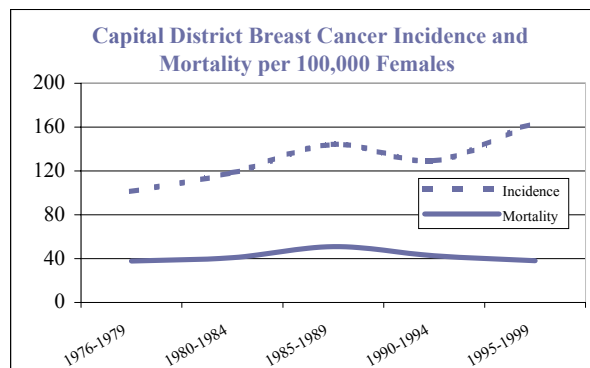
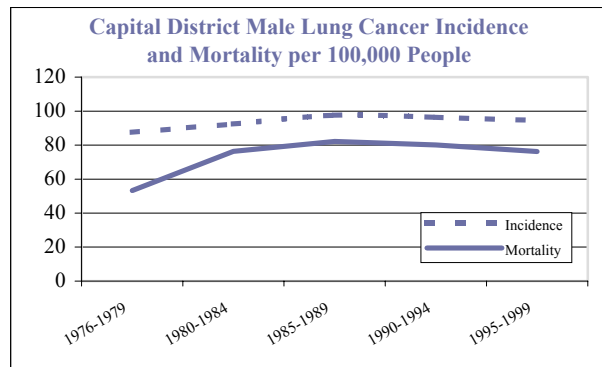
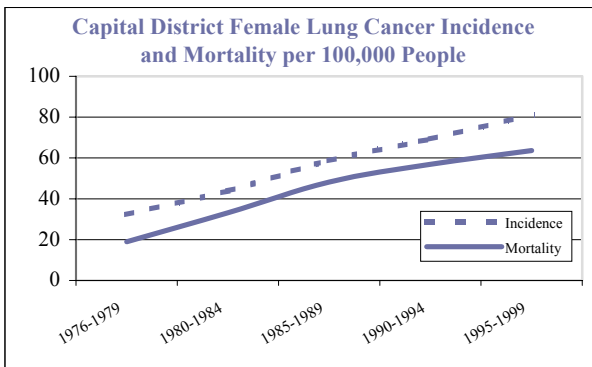
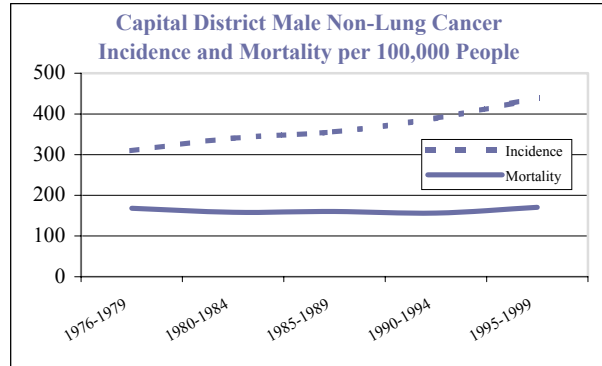
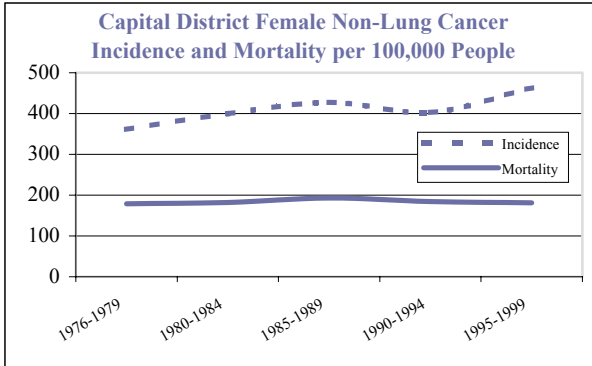


Female lung cancer rates, with the exception of African American women, have continued to climb through the 1990's. During WWII, soldiers were given free cigarettes. As a result, smoking's popularity among women took more time to catch on. Eventually, female lung cancer mortality should level off and, hopefully, start to decline as the male rates have.



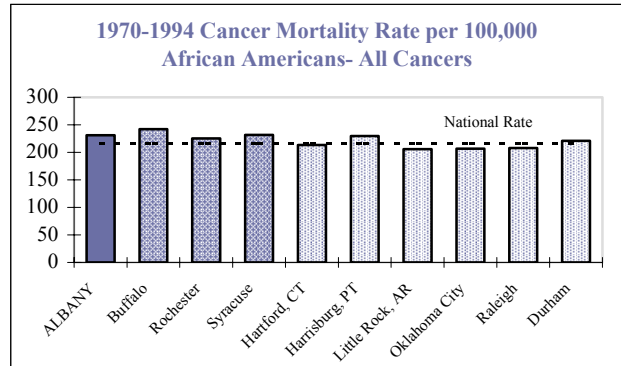
1.3 HEALTH

Lung cancer has an extremely low survival rate. As a result, there is very little difference between the lung cancer incidence and mortality trends. Overall, non-lung cancers have seen mortality rates stay relatively stable while the incidence rates have increased. African American mortality for non-lung cancers has risen slightly since the 1970's, while the rate has declined moderately for Whites. This may indicate increasing environmental, healthcare, or lifestyle disparities between the races.

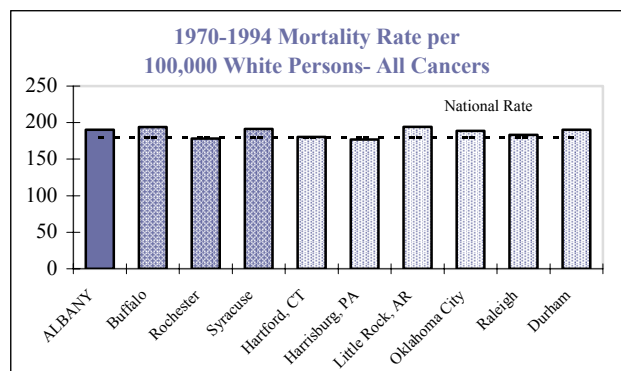


Regional Comparison

Compared with the its peer regions, the Albany MSA’s overall cancer mortality rate is slightly above most other regions for the period between 1970 and 1994. The Albany MSA also exceeds the national rate by approximately 5%.



All of the regions are relatively close to the national cancer mortality rate. Buffalo has the highest rate for both African Americans and whites while Harrisburg has the lowest rate for whites and Little Rock, the lowest for African Americans.



ENVIRONMENT



2.1 Air Quality

The Importance

Local Air quality affects how we live and breathe. Air quality changes on a daily basis. The American Lung Association reports that 75% of Americans who live in areas that are monitored, breathe unhealthy amounts of ozone. Ozone is a powerful respiratory irritant and is the primary ingredient of smog. Particulate matter in the air (fine pieces of dust or soot) can also trigger respiratory illness, and create haze. Although it was previously removed from the list, in September of 2001, the EPA reclassified the Albany MSA as a 1-hour Ozone Non-attainment Area.

About this Indicator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has created the Air Quality Index (AQI) to measure and track the five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act. The five pollutants are: ground level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The AQI has a scale of 0 through 500. Each pollutant is scored daily and the highest score for an individual pollutant is the AQI score for the day. Scores of 0-100 range from Good to Moderate. Scores of 101 to 150 are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups while scores of 151 to 500 are considered Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, and Hazardous.

The CDRPC indicator measures the annual number of days that the Capital Region has an AQI score of greater than 100. In 2001, a new monitoring station was located in Rensselaer County, downwind from the Region's urban centers. The new station has recorded significantly higher pollution levels than the other stations.

Sources for this Indicator

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- American Lung Association
- N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation.

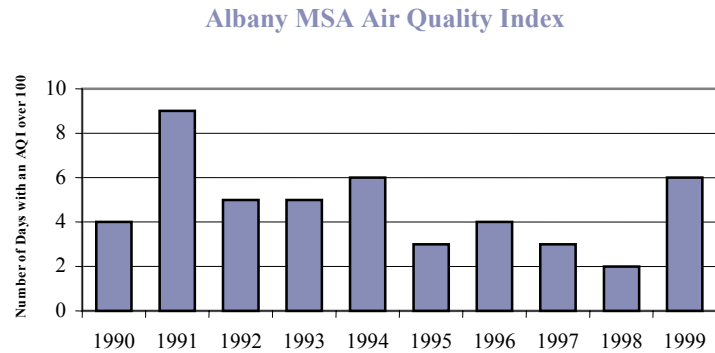
Air Quality in the Capital District

Air Quality depends on numerous factors. The primary factors are weather, local pollution sources, and up-wind pollution sources. Ozone, a respiratory irritant, is formed when pollutants from cars and other sources react chemically in the sunlight. In order to form, ozone requires sunlight and heat. As a result, ozone is a greater concern during the summer months. Carbon monoxide, which reduces the amount of oxygen reaching the body's organs and tissues, is formed when carbon in fuels does not completely burn. Carbon monoxide has its highest concentrations during cold weather because cold weather makes combustion less complete.

Nationally and in the Capital Region, ozone is by far the most frequent cause of an AQI score over 100. Throughout the United States in 2000, ozone accounted for 99% of the AQI scores over 100. That percentage has been increasing since 1991 when it was 93%, indicating success in reducing the other pollutants. In the coming years, smaller particle matter will be measured on a regular basis and the percentage of days that ozone is the AQI pollutant will decline.

2.1 ENVIRONMENT

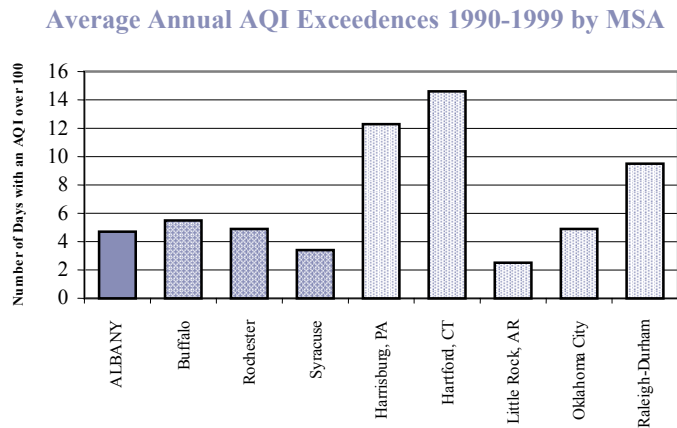
Between 1990 and 1999, the Region's monitoring stations showed the Albany MSA to have relatively few days with an AQI score of 100. The monitoring stations also showed no identifiable pattern of improvement or decline during the ten-year period. A score of 101 to 150 indicates that the air is Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups such as those with respiratory or heart disease.



In its 2000 National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report, the EPA reported that between 1990 and 1999, the concentrations of carbon monoxide, lead, and sulfur dioxide declined significantly nationwide while the concentrations of ozone and particulate matter had no significant pattern. In 2001, the EPA reclassified the Albany MSA as a 1-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. It was previously removed from the list of 127 Nonattainment areas.

The American Lung Association reported that in 2002, the newly installed monitor at Grafton Lake State Park in Rensselaer County recorded 16 days with ozone levels exceeding an AQI score of 100. Sixteen days exceeding an AQI of 100 is more than all of the Region's other monitors combined have shown in any single year. Grafton Lake State Park is directly down-wind of the Region's most urban and highly traveled areas, indicating that air pollution is not distributed evenly over the region. It also shows that air quality is better to the west of the urban centers and that the Region's air quality may not be as healthy as previously indicated. The EPA has not yet released its analysis of the Grafton Lake data.

When compared with the other MSA's in the Peer Group, the Albany MSA fared well over the ten-year period reported by the EPA. With an average of 4.7 AQI days, the Region reported better air quality than all but Syracuse and Little Rock and was far better than Harrisburg and Hartford. Raleigh-Durham had a large number of new monitoring stations installed during this period, which resulted in dramatic increases in the number of AQI scores over 100.



It is uncertain what effect the new monitoring station at Grafton Lake State Park will have on the EPA's AQI reports, but it will most likely result in an increase in AQI days.

2.2 Surface Water Quality

The Importance

Healthy water resources are essential to human health and for maintaining thriving fish, animal, and plant populations. Waterbodies are also an important recreational resource for the community as well as an attraction to visitors. Poor water quality can prevent important recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating. Poor water quality can also have a negative impact on the property values near a waterbody. The quality of a region's surface waters has direct economic, health, and quality of life impacts on the community.

About this Indicator

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Priority Waterbodies List details waterbody conditions throughout New York State including affected uses, pollutants, and sources of pollution. The DEC list of Impaired Waters Requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a list of impaired and or threatened waters that have not achieved state water quality standards using technology-based effluent limitations (point-source pollution limits). The state imposes a limit on the flow of specific pollutants into TMDL waters and creates plans to impose those limits. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) annually publishes fish consumption advisories, another indicator of water quality.

Sources for this Indicator

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of Health

Water Quality in the Capital District

NYSDOH has issued fish consumption advisories for four waterbodies in the four-county Capital District. All of the Capital District advisories are due to PCB contamination. The Hudson River, from Hudson Falls to the Troy Dam, has an advisory recommending that no fish be eaten. South of the Troy Dam, the advisory states that only one serving of specific species can be eaten safely per month and that Shad are limited to once per week. There are advisories prohibiting the consumption of all species from Nassau Lake and its tributary, Valatie Kill. Finally, there is a once-a-month advisory for Brown Trout larger than 14 inches from the Hoosic River.

In 1995, DEC lifted a 19-year ban on recreational fishing on the Hudson River between Troy and Hudson Falls. Only catch and release fishing is permitted.

There are nine waterbody segments in the Capital District that require a TMDL (as part of the 303(d) list). All of the 303(d) waterbodies are impaired due to fish consumption advisories. In six of the segments the advisories are due to PCB contaminated sediment. These are the same waterbodies covered by the NYSDOH advisories. One segment on the Hudson River is due to mercury from atmospheric deposits and two segments on the Hudson are due to both PCB sedimentation and mercury deposits.

2.2 ENVIRONMENT

The 303(d) list is gaining in importance because any construction project that disturbs more than one acre of land will be required to submit a stormwater plan to DEC and receive a permit before starting construction. The permit process will normally take five days. However, if the project's stormwater will flow into a 303(d) waterbody, the permitting process can take up to 60 days.

The Capital District's 2002 303(d) list of Impaired Waters Requiring TMDL is below.

<u>Waterbody/Segment (WI/PWL ID)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Source</u>
Hoosic River (1102-0002)	Rensselaer	PCBs	Contam. Sed.
Hudson River (1101-0002)	Saratoga	PCBs	Contam. Sed.
Hudson River (1101-0040)	Saratoga	PCBs, Mercury	Contam. Sed., Atm. Dep.
Hudson River (1101-0041)	Saratoga	PCBs, Mercury	Contam. Sed., Atm. Dep.
Hudson River (1104-0005)	Saratoga	Mercury	Atm. Dep.
Johnsonville Res. (1102-0003)	Rensselaer	PCBs	Contam. Sed.
Hudson River (1310-0002)	Albany	PCBs	Contam. Sed.
Valatie Kill (1310-0003)	Rensselaer	PCBs	Contam. Sed.
Nassau Lake (1310-001)	Rensselaer	PCBs	Contam. Sed.

The 2002 list was updated from the 1998 303(d) list and no segments were added or removed from the list.

There are 48 waterbody segments on the DEC Priority Waterbodies List (PWL), which are segments where the water quality is impacted or threatened. The source of the pollutant or cause of the problem is known for 31 of the segments. DEC identified a suspected primary source of pollution for the rest of the segments. There are an additional 27 segments with reported impairments that need verification before being added to the PWL.

The following are the known and suspected causes of water quality problems in the Capital District's PWL waterbodies.

Agriculture	Atmospheric Deposition
Combined Sewer Overflow	Construction
Contaminated Sediment	Failed On-Site Septic
Land Fill	Stream Bank Erosion
Storm Sewers	Urban Runoff
Habitat Modification (example: beaver dams impeding lake outflow)	

2.3 Municipal Water and Sewer Service

The Importance

Central Water and Sewer services have an immense impact on development patterns in any region. Development density is very limited without municipal sewer and water. Without sewer and water service, ample room must be provided for septic fields and to keep water wells separated from the septic systems. Sewer systems are particularly important for the creation of major residential subdivisions. At a certain point of density and number of lots, New York State requires that each lot pass a percolation test in front of a Health Department official if the subdivision does not have sewer service. As a result, given the poor septic soils of the Capital District, no major residential subdivisions have been developed since the early 1980's without sewer service.

There are some health advantages to central water systems, as they must maintain minimum standards of water quality for public consumption. Private wells may become contaminated with no warning signs until health problems indicate the contamination.

About this indicator

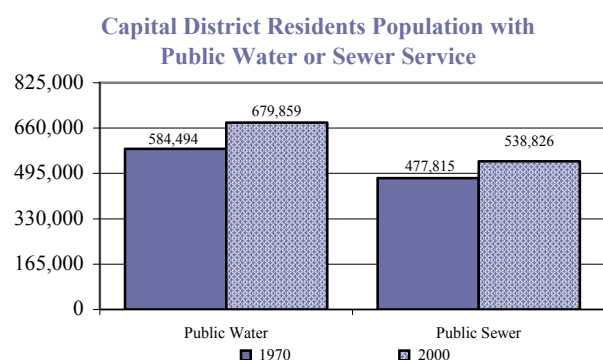
This indicator uses the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water's data to calculate the number of people in the Capital District served by municipal sewer systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Envirofacts database was used to calculate the number of people served by central water service. The 1970 Census collected data on the number of households with central water and sewer service. To provide a historic comparison, the number of persons per household in 1970 is used to estimate the number of people who were served by these services.

Sources for this Indicator

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Descriptive Data of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants in New York State.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts database
- The 1970 United States Census

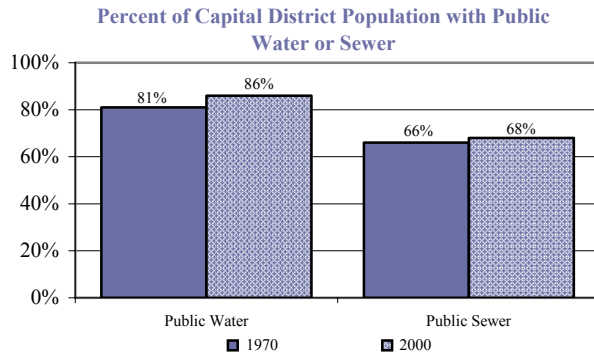
Water and Sewer Service in the Capital District

The growth in the number of people served by central water service in the Capital District has outpaced the population growth. 16% more people are served by public water today than were served in 1970. Over the same period, the Region's population grew by 10%. Considering that the number of persons per



2.3 ENVIRONMENT

household has declined significantly since 1970, a much higher number of households receive water service than in 1970. The percentage of residents receiving water service has grown from 80% in 1970 to 86% in 2000.



The number of people receiving sewer service has also outpaced the population growth, though not by as much as water service. There was a 13% increase in the number of people receiving water service while the percent of people receiving sewer service climbed from 66% in 1970 to 68% today. As with water service, the decline in the number of people per household indicates that there was a more than 13% increase in the number of households served.

EDUCATION



3.1 Educational Attainment

The Importance

Educational Attainment is one measure of a workforce’s skill level. As the American economy continues to move away from traditional low-skill manufacturing jobs, highly educated and flexible workers are essential to attracting high-wage jobs and keeping existing employers well staffed.

High levels of educational attainment also add to the creativity and culture of a metropolitan area, providing the stimulus for creating new industries locally. This creativity also extends outside of economic concerns and provides for a more varied cultural scene and stronger support for arts and entertainment.

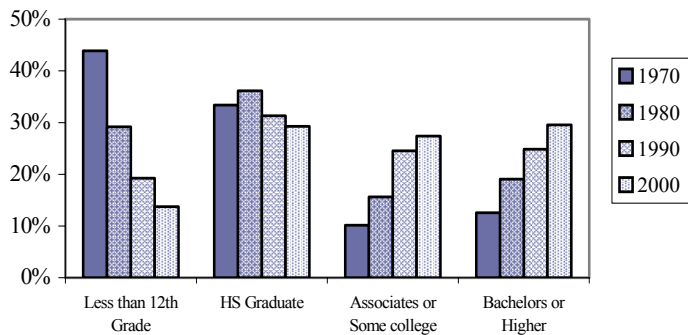
Sources for this Indicator

This indicator uses the data from the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses.

Educational Attainment in the Capital District

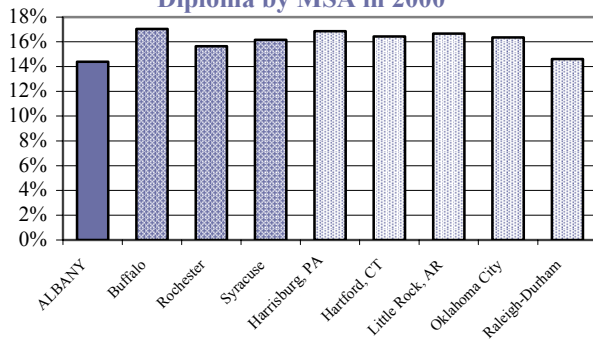
Over the past 30 years, the Capital District’s population has achieved a dramatically higher level of education. The percentage of Capital District residents who have not graduated from high school has dropped considerably since 1970 when nearly one out of two adults did not have a diploma. At the same time, the percentage of adults with college degrees has increased almost as radically. In 2000, 40% of Capital District adults had earned an Associates Degree or higher.

Capital District Adult Educational Attainment



During this shift towards a higher level of education, the number of people with their high school diploma but no college remained fairly constant.

Percent of Adults with No High School Diploma by MSA in 2000

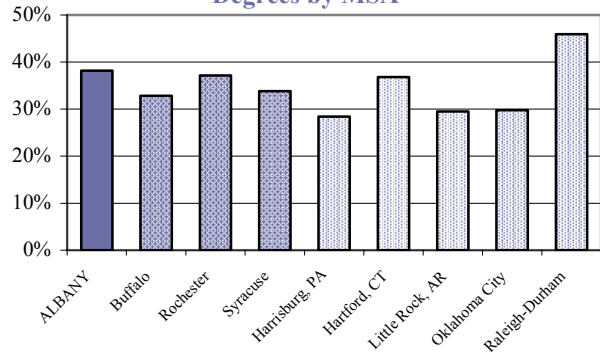


When compared with the other selected metropolitan areas, the Albany MSA has the lowest percentage of undereducated residents with 14.4% of adults lacking a high school diploma. Raleigh-Durham, NC is the second lowest with 14.6%. These two MSA’s also have the highest percentage of college and advanced degrees.

3.1 EDUCATION

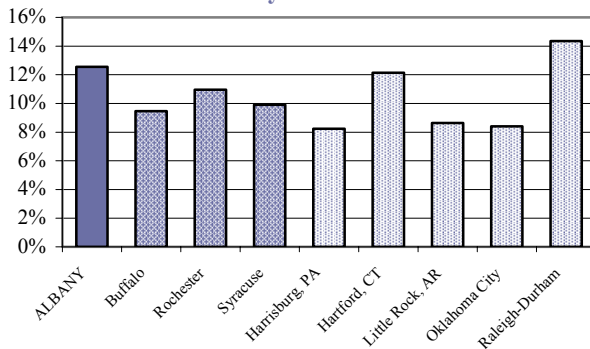
The Albany MSA has a higher percentage of adults with Associates and higher degrees than the other Upstate MSA's and all but one of the capital MSA's. The Region only lags well behind the Raleigh-Durham MSA with its strong technological and educational sectors. Hartford, with its strong finance and insurance sector and Rochester are close behind.

Percent of Adults with Associates or Higher Degrees by MSA



The Albany MSA also has the second highest percentage of adults with advanced degrees. The Region is much closer to Raleigh-Durham in advanced degrees. This is no doubt due to the large number of colleges and universities in the Capital District, as well as a number of technological ventures including GE's research laboratory.

Percent of Adults with Advanced Degrees by MSA



The Capital District has an attractive and well-educated workforce on the higher end of the spectrum. However, there is considerable room for improvement in educating the over 84,000 adults without a basic high school education. Significantly, African Americans in the Capital District are almost twice as likely than the overall population to lack a high school diploma. Not coincidentally, African Americans are also three times as likely to live in poverty.

3.2 Public High School Outcomes

The Importance

High School statistics represent a culmination of the public school systems' efforts. The number of children dropping out of school before graduation without entering a GED program represents the public school system's failure to impart the importance of education on those children. The number of students going on to further their education after high school represents public school children who have recognized the direct relationship between education and successful, fulfilling lives.

About this indicator

This indicator uses annual data from the New York State Education Department, Office of Research Evaluation & Innovation to examine trends in the dropout rate and the percent of graduates going on to college. The State Education Department defines a dropout as a student who left school before graduation for any reason except death and who did not enter another school or high school equivalency preparation program. The dropout rate is the number of annual dropouts divided by total number of 9-12 students for that year.

Students going on to college are defined as high school graduates entering four-year, two year, or other post-secondary institutions. The percent of students going to college is the number going to college divided by the number of graduates.

Due to a lack of consistent data for regions outside New York State, this indicator does not include regional comparisons.

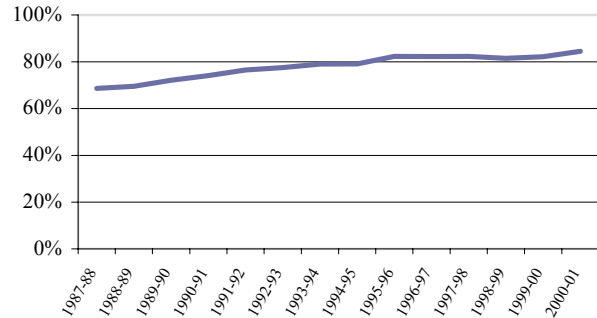
Sources for this Indicator

New York State Education Department, Office of Research Evaluation & Innovation, Public School Data.

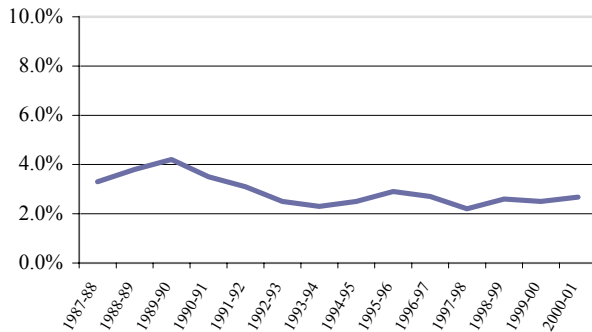
High School results in the Capital District

In 1986, only 69% of the Capital District's high school graduates went on to college. That number has increased consistently each year with the class of 2000 sending more than 85% of its graduates on to college. Only a few, rural school districts are significantly below this mark, while the urban and suburban school districts are all close to or above 85%. The Capital District level of graduates going on to college is well above the statewide average of 80%. The State, like the Capital District has been making consistent progress in the percent of students going on to college.

Percent of Capital District High School Graduates Continuing to College



Capital District Annual High School Dropout Rate



Since the 1991-92 school year, the Capital District's dropout rate has held steady between 2% and 3%, with the low-water mark at 2.2% in 1997-98. The most recent records show that the dropout rate was 2.7% in the 2000-2001 school year. Before 1991-92, the dropout rate was well above 3% and as high as 4.2% in 1989-90. The Region's 2000-01 dropout rate is well below the New York State rate of 3.8%.

ECONOMICS



4.1 Economic Diversification

The Importance:

Maintaining a diversified regional economy is widely viewed to be the best method of succeeding in a constantly changing economic environment. Maintaining a variety of economic base activities (activities that bring in money from outside a region) allows a region to weather the loss of a major industry without destroying other sectors of the economy or disrupting public services.

About this Indicator

By examining the percentage of the workforce employed in each sector of the regional economy, we can come to some approximation of that industry's impact in the regional economy. This is far from an exact measurement. For example, the Capital District employs 47,000 people in educational services but it is also host to approximately 60,000 college students. The impact of the Region's educational services on the Region's economy is significantly greater than just employment in the educational fields. Each industry has different effects on local economies, but the employment figures provide a good estimate of each economic sector's strength.

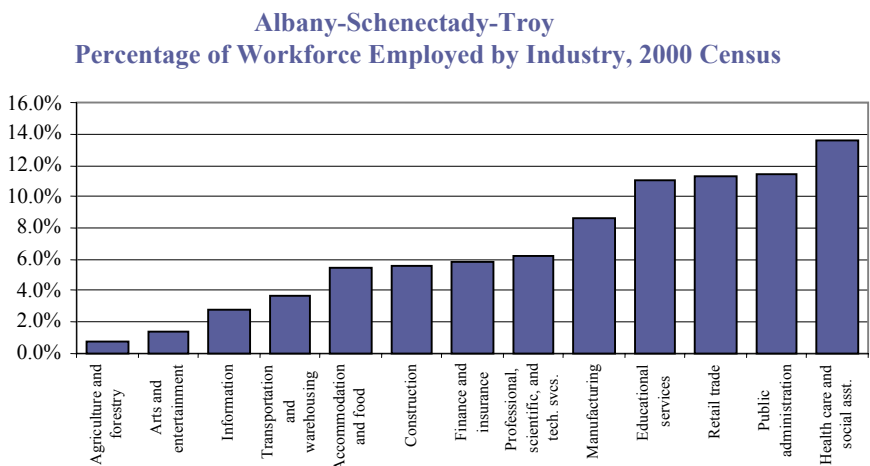
Sources for this Indicator

- This indicator uses the data from the 2000 Census and the NYS Department of Labor.

Employment Diversification in the Capital District

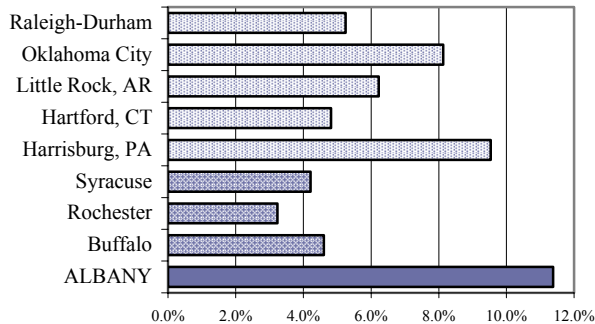
Health care and social assistance is the largest employment sector in the Albany MSA. In the Capital District, health care is partially an economic base activity as the health centers draw patients from the wider region and some programs draw patients nationally.

Public administration, retail services and educational services are the next three largest employers. Retail services, by definition, are not economic base activities. Educational services, like health care, are a mix of basic and non-basic activity. The local school districts and to a certain extent the community colleges provide a service to local residents and utilize local money. The other colleges draw students and funding nationally and provide a significant cash flow for the Region.



4.1 ECONOMICS

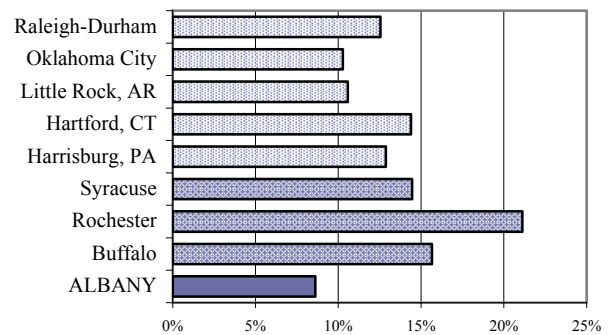
Percent of Workforce Employed in Public Administration by MSA in 1999



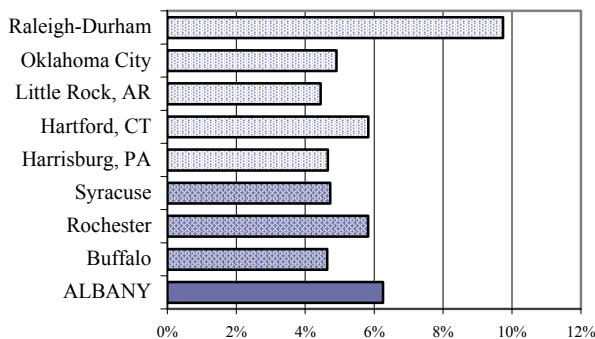
Once the Capital District's largest employment sector, manufacturing still employs over 36,600 people or 9% of the workforce in the Albany MSA. This is the lowest percentage of the peer group MSA's and much lower than the other Upstate MSA's. Loss of manufacturing is a serious concern because it is a purely economic base activity. Manufacturing sells local goods to outside markets and provides a direct cash flow to the Region.

As the Capital of a large state, Albany draws money from the other areas of the state and employs Capital District residents in public administration. Public administration also has the non-basic component of local government. Public administration employs 11% of the Albany MSA workforce. That is higher than any of the capitals in the peer group and almost triples the rate of other Upstate MSA's.

Percent of Workforce Employed in Manufacturing by MSA in 1999



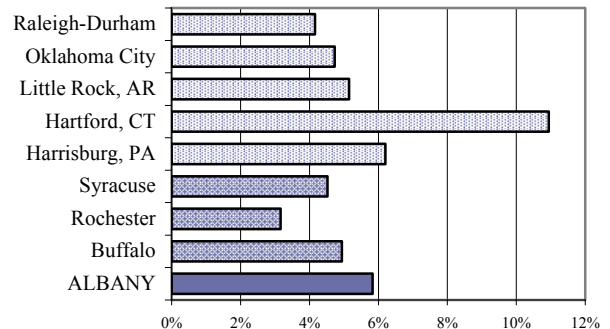
Percent of Workforce Employed in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services by MSA in 1999



The Raleigh-Durham MSA is far ahead of the group with 10% professional, scientific, and technical employment. Hartford has a similar strength in finance and insurance with 11% of its workforce employed in that sector. The Capital District has the third highest finance and insurance employment with 6% of the workforce.

With the exception of Raleigh-Durham, which is home to the Research Triangle, the Capital District's professional, scientific, and technical services are as strong or stronger than the rest of the peer group and Upstate MSA's. With 6% of the workforce employed in this high-paying sector, the Albany MSA matches Rochester and Hartford.

Percent of Workforce Employed in Finance and Insurance by MSA in 1999



4.2 Workforce Growth and Employment

The Importance

The size of the region’s workforce is a measure of a region’s potential productivity while employment rates are a measure of how close a region is to that potential. Employment data over time reveal the health of a region’s economic base. Consistently low unemployment rates indicate a stable economic base and a steady flow of capital into a region.

About this indicator

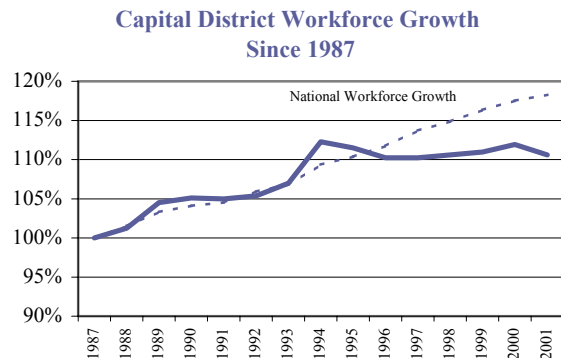
This indicator uses New York State Department of Labor monthly and annual employment and unemployment data to examine workforce trends. It uses 2000 Census data to explore the workforce as compared to the overall population. The indicator also uses 2001 United States Department of Labor annual unemployment data to compare the Albany MSA unemployment with the peer MSA unemployment.

Sources for this Indicator

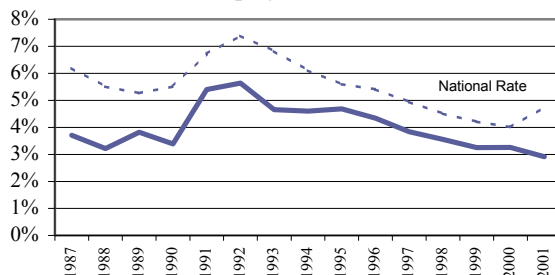
- United States Department of Labor annual unemployment data.
- New York State Department of Labor monthly unemployment data.
- The 2000 United States Census data for employed civilian population 16 years and older.

Employment in the Capital District

The Capital District’s workforce (the total number of reported employed and unemployed persons) has remained nearly unchanged since 1994. This has been a change from an earlier trend when the workforce grew by 12% between 1987 and 1994.



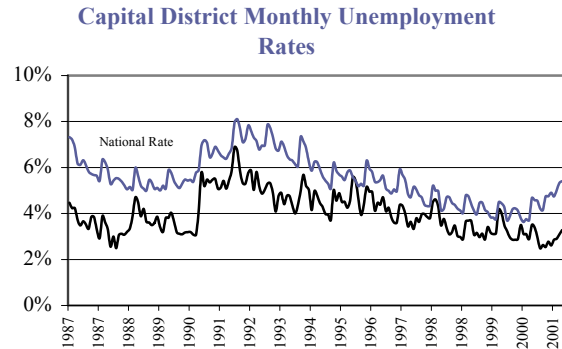
Capital District Annual Average Unemployment Rates



Average annual unemployment in the Region has been well below the National rate for the past 15 years. It hit its peak in 1992 at 5.6% and has dropped consistently since, approaching full employment by hitting 2.9% in 2001.

4.2 ECONOMICS

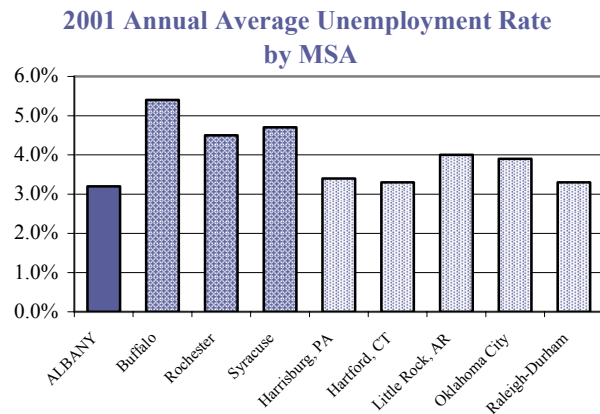
With the exception of 2001 and 2002, unemployment rates in the Region have followed the National trends. Since 2000, the National unemployment rate has risen above 5%. At the same time, the Capital District's unemployment rate has hit a historic low. However, that trend may change with the New York State budget looking at significant shortfalls in 2003.



A little less than half of the Capital District's population is employed. Fifty percent of the Capital District's males and 47% of its women are employed. Nationally, 49% of men and 43% of women are employed. This indicates, as would be expected, that the Capital District has fewer than its share of retirees, and that women in the Capital District are more likely to be employed than the National average.

Regional Comparison

The 2001 unemployment data shows that the Albany MSA has the lowest unemployment rate of the peer regions. The other capital regions also fared well as compared to the National rate and the rates for the other Upstate regions. All the capital regions had unemployment rates of between 3% and 4% while the Nation's rate was 4.8%. Rochester and Syracuse were above 4% while Buffalo was well above 5%.



4.3 Export Activity

The Importance

The exports tracked in this indicator are goods and services exported to other countries by an exporting agent, generally the company exporting the product. While it is not a measure of the Region's overall economic base activities, this is an indicator of the Region's production of goods for which there is an international demand.

Exports, international or domestic, bring money in from outside the Region and constitute the Capital District's economic base activities. Exports provide the capital for all the other economic activity in the Region. Two of the Capital District's primary exports, government and educational services, are not covered in this indicator. People from around the State and the Nation purchase these services through taxes and tuition. While the primary exports of the Capital District are not measured by this indicator, the Region does have a significant international export base.

About this Indicator

All metro area export values in this indicator are from the U.S. Census Bureau's Exporter Location (EL) series. The EL series allocates exports to states and localities based on the location of the exporter of record. The exporter of record is not necessarily the entity that produced the merchandise; hence, the EL series does not furnish complete and reliable data on the production origin of U.S. exports. Typically, the EL data reflect the point of sale, in other words, the marketing origin of exports. For manufacturing establishments that export, the zip code location of the exporter of record is the same as the physical location of the exporter's production about 88 percent of the time (by value). The Origin of Movement series is more commonly used as an indicator of export activity, but it is not compiled at the metro level. Due to changes in exporting procedures, the EL series will be discontinued with the 2002 data.

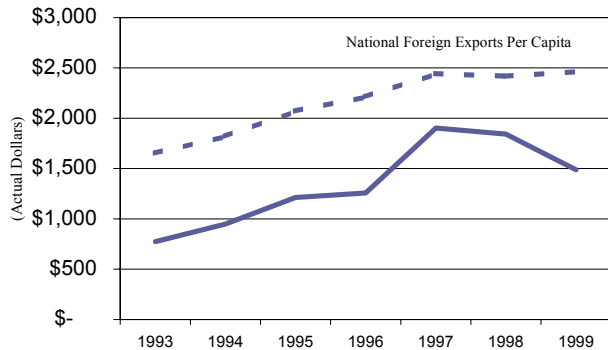
Sources for this Indicator

This indicator uses U.S. Census Bureau's Exporter Location (EL) series, which the Census Bureau began issuing in 1993. The EL series can be found at: <http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/metro/>

Foreign Exports from the Albany MSA

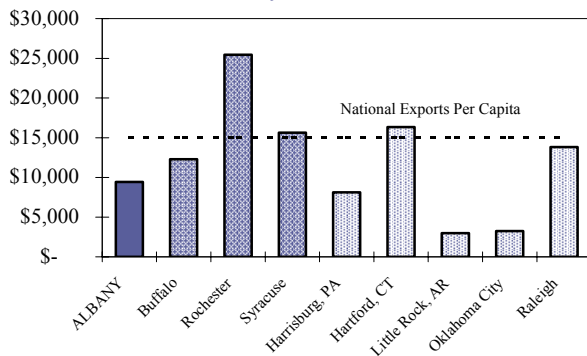
In the five years from 1993 to 1997, the Albany MSA saw foreign exports more than double (in actual dollars) before declining moderately in 1998 and 1999. Over the period between 1993 and 1997, Albany MSA exports increased by 146%, from \$676 million in 1993 to \$1.67 Billion in 1997. Over the same period, the Nation's foreign exports increased by 49%. By 1999, the MSA's exports had declined to \$1.3 billion, still about double the 1993 total.

Foreign Exports Per Capita
Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA



Due to the strong government and educational sectors in the local economy, the Albany MSA foreign exports per person are lower than the National rate. However the Region has been increasing its exports at a much higher percentage rate than the Nation.

1993-1999 Total Foreign Exports Per Capita
by MSA



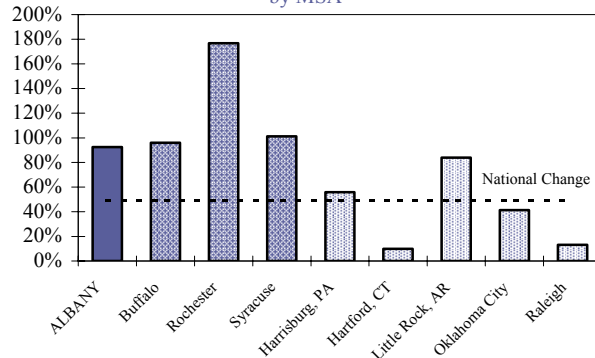
When compared to the peer MSA's, the Albany MSA is in the middle of the capital MSA's while it trails other upstate cities.

Part of the reason is the strength of the Capital District's government and educational sectors. Of all the peer MSA's, as a percentage of the workforce, the Capital District has the smallest manufacturing

employment, the highest government employment, and the second highest professional, scientific, and technical employment of the group.

High employment in the government sector is expected when the size of the State is compared to the size of the Capital District. When the strong government and educational sectors are taken into consideration, the Albany MSA produces reasonably strong levels of foreign exports.

1993-1999 % Change in Foreign Exports
by MSA



4.4 Patent Activity

The Importance

Patent issuances can be used to indicate how innovative a given region is. Each patent issued in a region is equivalent to one innovation that has taken place in the region. While the right to develop the product or production method that is patented can be purchased by other companies throughout the country or world, it still represents a source of revenue and a symbol of research and development advances in the region.

About this Indicator

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provides annual reports of patents issued by the region of origin, as well as by the patent holder. These reports are provided on a yearly basis, however only the years ranging from 1990 to 1999 can be accurately represented due to the unavailability of region of origin data outside of these time periods. In some instances, the time period is further reduced to the years ranging from 1995 to 1999.

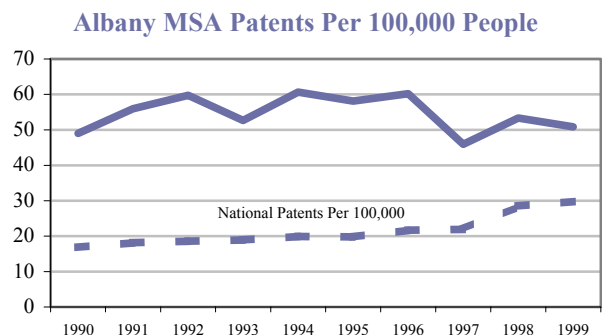
Sources for this Indicator

- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office: [United States Patent Grants By State, County, and Metropolitan Area](#).
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office: [All Technologies Report](#).
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Web Site. Patenting in Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas of the United States
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/masgstc/masg252.htm>

Patent Activity in the Capital District

In the time period from 1990 to 1999 the number of patents granted in the Region fluctuated moderately, but did not change significantly. There were only 16 more patents granted in the region in 1999 than there were in 1990.

The recent trend in the Albany MSA does not follow the trend in the nation. Over ten years, there was very little change in the number of patents originating from the region while nationally there has been a steady increase. This can most likely be attributed to the influence that the General Electric Corporation has on the region. The major patent holder in the region is the General Electric Corporation. If GE's

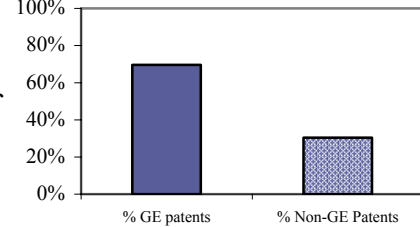


4.4 ECONOMICS

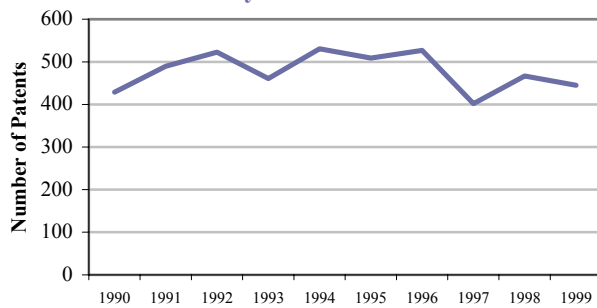
patents were not taken into account, the region would have had a steady increase over the ten years, more closely following the national trend. However, technological innovations within one corporation do not necessarily follow a smooth progression.

If it were not for GE's technological advances, the region would have significantly fewer patents each year. As shown in the table to the right, in the years from 1995 to 1999 the General Electric Corporation generated seventy percent of the Capital District's patents. This also represents a major share of GE patents nationwide with 45% of the patents granted to the General Electric Corporation originating in the Albany MSA.

**Patents Originating in MSA
1995 to 1999**



Albany MSA Patent Grants

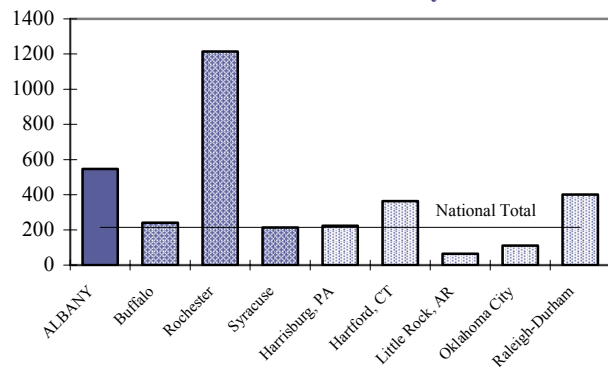


Compared with the peer regions, the Albany MSA has an above average number of patents over the period from 1990 to 1999. With the exception of the Rochester, the Albany MSA has had more patents over ten years than each of the peer regions.

Over the ten-year period of study, there have been a considerable number of patents granted in the region. The role of the

General Electric Corporation is a significant factor and this role will likely increase in the future with the recent announcement that GE is investing millions of dollars worth of renovations into local Research and Development to create the General Electric Global Research Center. In addition to the expansion at GE, International SEMAETCH, a consortium of high tech industries focusing on semi conductor research, is locating a new facility at the University at Albany called SEMATECH North. Tokyo Electron Ltd. has announced their new research facility at the University as well. All these developments bode well for innovation in the Capital District.

**Total Patents per 100,000 People
Between 1990 and 1999 by MSA**



4.5 Poverty

The Importance

In the United States, poverty is usually distributed along age, racial, and geographical lines. Poverty for a family of three in the United States has been designated as a household income of approximately \$14,250 or less per year. Living near or below the poverty line makes almost every aspect of life more difficult.

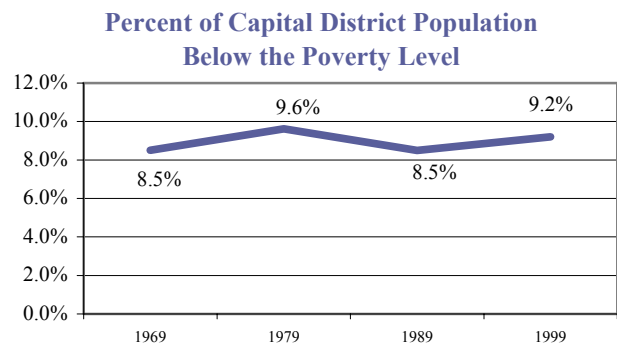
Poverty requires families and individuals to make inhumane decisions about the necessities of life. Financial difficulties have been linked to higher rates of divorce and domestic violence. Those living in or near poverty are constantly confronted with the realities of financial troubles. The location and concentrations of poverty must be recognized before the Region can reduce and eventually eliminate poverty.

Sources for this Indicator

This indicator uses the data from the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses including figures on race, age, and municipality.

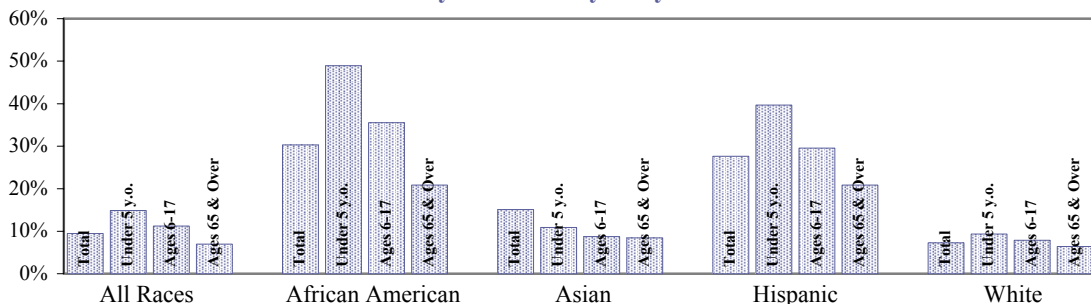
Concentration of Poverty in the Capital District

Approximately 70,500 Capital District residents, or 9% of the population, lived below the poverty line in 1999, a year of great prosperity in the United States. Between 1969 and 1999, the Capital District's poverty rate remained within one percent of the 1999 rate.



The age and racial distributions of poverty in the Albany MSA display significant concentrations of poverty among the minorities and the very young. African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are much more likely to be poor than white non-Hispanics and the Region's population as a whole. The poverty rate for African Americans is 30% while it is 27% for Hispanics.

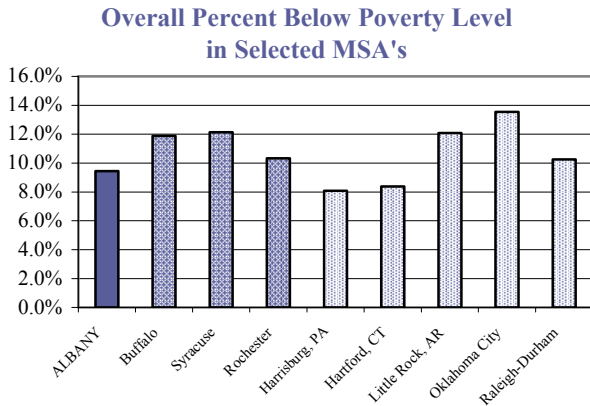
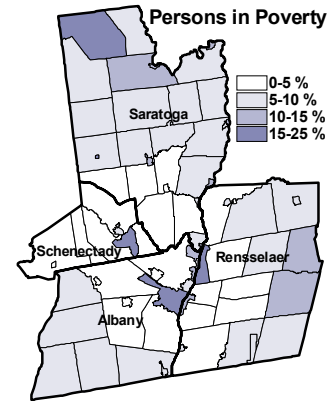
1999 Percent Below Poverty Level
Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA



4.5 ECONOMICS

African American children under the age of five are the Region's most financially distressed race and age group. Almost 50% of these children lived in poverty in 1999. Hispanic children of the same age are a close second with a 40% poverty rate. Interestingly, Asian children are less likely to live in poverty than the rest of the Asian population. Across all races and ethnicities, the elderly are less likely to be poor than the rest of the population.

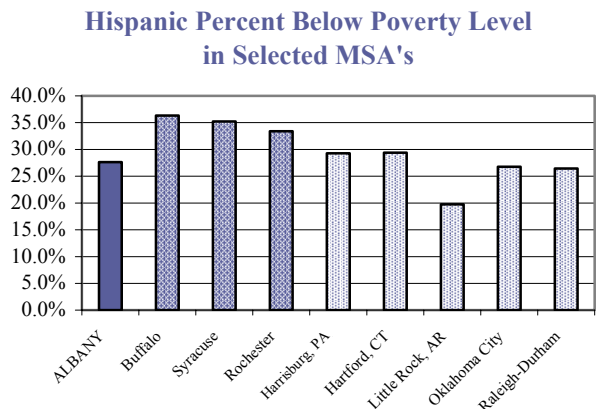
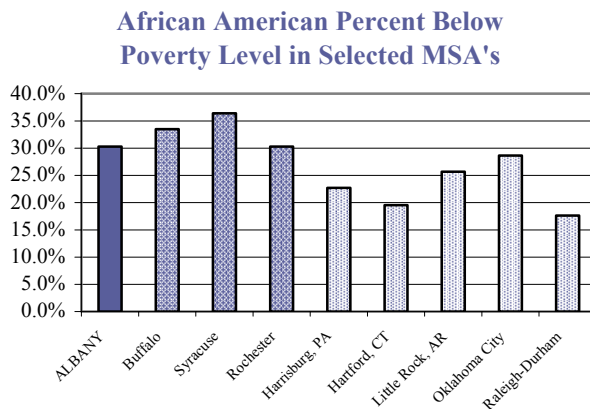
Geographically, the Region's poverty is concentrated in both the older urban municipalities and the remote rural towns. Four towns, all on the edge of the Capital District, have poverty rates greater than 10% while six urban municipalities have rates greater than 10%. Only two municipalities, Albany city and Schenectady city, have poverty rates greater than 20%.



When Compared with other metropolitan areas, the Albany MSA has lower overall poverty rates than the other Upstate New York MSA's. However, the Region falls short of Harrisburg, PA and Hartford CT.

the peer group of capital city regions. Raleigh-Durham, home to the historic "Black Wall Street" has by far the lowest African American poverty rate and the largest African American community in the group. Little Rock, with a smallest Hispanic community also has the lowest poverty rate among Hispanics but has one of the highest overall poverty rates.

The Albany MSA does not fare as well when the poverty levels of minorities are compared. While the Region still has the lowest African American Poverty level of the Upstate MSA's, the Albany MSA has the highest African American poverty level in



4.6 Wages and Income vs. Cost of Living

The Importance

In a democracy, economic success must be measured by the standard of living of the citizens. Wage rates and household income levels, measured over time, are a significant indicator of a community's economic progress. The measurement of income and wages must also be compared to the Region's cost of living in order to reveal whether the Region's residents have improved their standard of living.

By examining both the wage rates and the household income, we may also reveal an indication of whether the Region's residents are working more than one job to maintain their standard of living.

About this Indicator

This indicator examines the standard of living in the Capital District using income and earnings data from the U.S. Census Bureau and private sector weekly wage data from the NYS Dept. of Labor. It also gages the data against the inflation rate, home values, and contract rent rates.

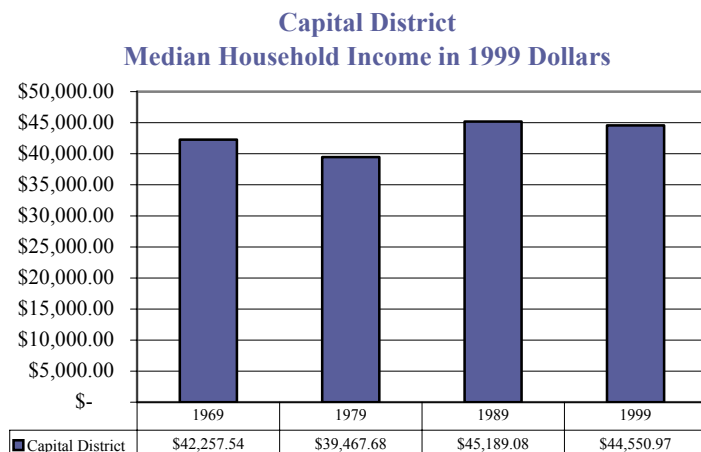
Unfortunately, there are no good measurements comparing the cost of living in different metropolitan areas. American Chambers of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) does publish an annual cost-of-living index comparing metro areas, but their process relies on self-reporting. The accuracy of the ACCRA data is frequently not born out by more precise data sources and common sense.

Sources for this Indicator

- 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses
- NYS Department of Labor.
- Inflation adjustments are made using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

Wages and Income in the Capital District

Household income in the Capital District, adjusted for inflation, has increased moderately since 1969 and 1979. In 1989, Household income had increased significantly over the 1979 level while the 1999 income level was slightly lower than 1989. Considering that the number of persons-per-household in the Capital District has dropped significantly over the past 30 years, these figures may be interpreted as an even larger rise in the Region's median income.

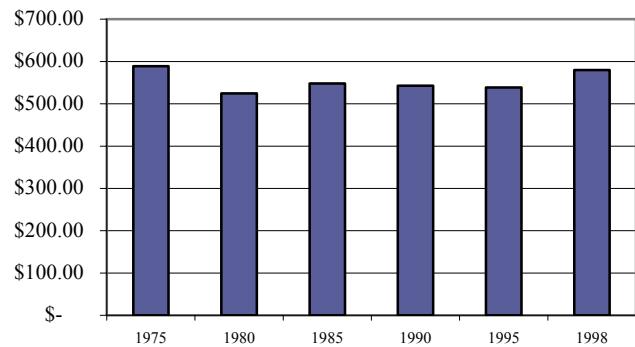


4.6 ECONOMICS

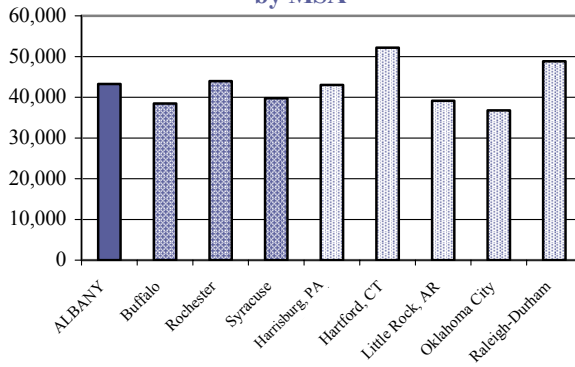
Adjusted for inflation, private sector weekly wages have remained fairly steady in the Capital District since 1975. Although there was an 11% drop in wages during the late 1970's, the Region regained more than half of that drop by 1999.

Compared with its peer group, the Albany MSA's household income only significantly trails Raleigh-Durham and Hartford. It also trails Rochester, but only slightly. It should also be considered that the Albany MSA has the lowest number of persons-per-household in the peer group, meaning that fewer people have to be supported by the household income. Another indication of this trend is that the median individual earnings in the Albany MSA fares much better against the peer group than the median household income.

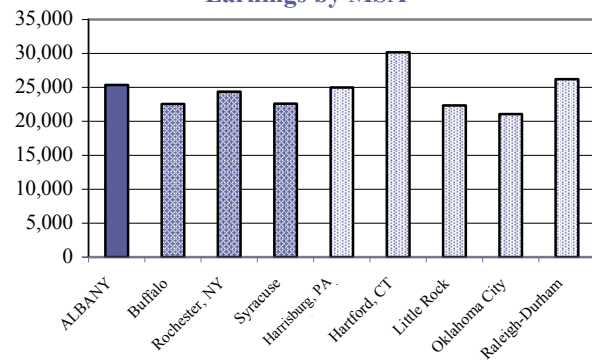
Capital District Average Private Sector Weekly Wages in 1998 Dollars



1999 Median Household Income by MSA

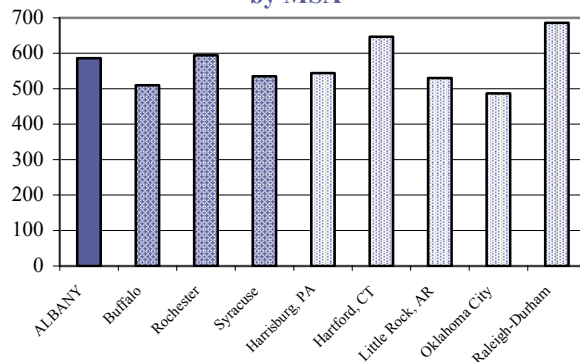


1999 Median Earnings of Those with Earnings by MSA

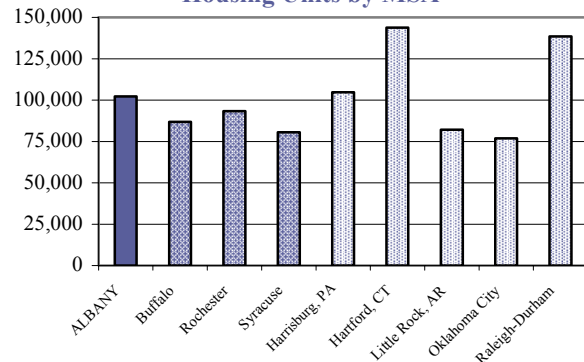


While Raleigh-Durham and Hartford seem considerably more prosperous than the rest of the group, the cost of living in those MSA's may reduce that prosperity. When the median contract rents and home prices are compared with the household incomes, it becomes clear that while Raleigh-Durham and Hartford have higher incomes, their housing costs are much higher than the rest of the group. At the same time, the Albany MSA has reasonable housing costs while maintaining strong income levels.

2000 Median Gross Rent by MSA



2000 Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units by MSA



COMMUNITY LIFE



5.1 Development Activity

The Importance

Development activity can be seen as an indicator of a community's growth and prosperity. As populations grow, households get smaller, and some older housing units are abandoned or demolished, the construction industry meets the residential demands of changing communities. This occurs, of course, if the community has the wealth to support residential and commercial changes. In addition to being a barometer for community growth and wealth, building activity is a measure of a significant sector of the local economy.

About this Indicator

This indicator measures the number of annual housing unit approvals and the per capita number of housing unit approvals for the Capital District, the peer regions, and the United States. Time series are used for the Capital District and the United States while the 2001 statistics are used to compare the Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA with the peer MSA's. This Indicator also uses CDRPC orthophotography land use analysis to measure the scale and location of new development.

Sources for this Indicator

- United States Census Bureau Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction Statistics.
- CDRPC report to the Quality Region Taskforce: Suburban Growth in the Capital Region.

Development Activity in the Capital District

After a building boom during the late 1980's the annual number of new housing units in the Capital District has remained between 2,000 and 3,000 units. In recent years, between 67% (1998) and 86% (1993) of the new housing units were single-family homes. The current level of construction is about twice the level seen during the early 1980's.

Capital District Residential Building Permits



5.1 COMMUNITY LIFE

When compared with the national per capita building rate, the Capital Region has been between 1/2 and 2/3 of the United States building rate. It should be noted that the population of the United States grew by 13% during the 1990's and that the Capital District grew by 2%. In 2000, the United States experienced a 1.0% increase in the number of housing units while the Capital District saw a 0.7% increase. It appears that residential development in the Capital District is outpacing its population growth while the nation has been producing housing at close to the same rate as population growth.

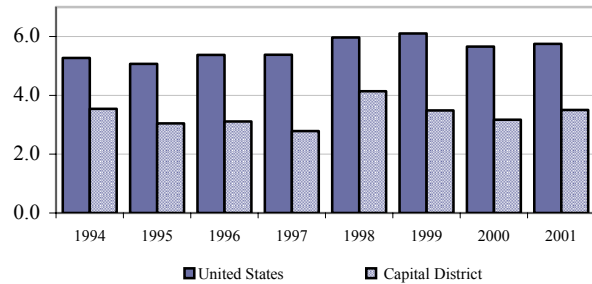
When compared to the peer regions, the Capital District's level of residential development is comparable to the other Northeastern regions while lagging behind the Southern regions, particularly Raleigh-Durham.

There were approximately 10,000 acres of new development in the Capital District between 1986 and 1997 (excluding lawns and re-development). By comparison, the Greater Atlanta Region developed approximately 20,000 new acres each year during the 1990's. In 1986, there were approximately 93,000 acres of developed land in the Capital District. By 1997, that total had increased to 103,000 acres, a 10.8% increase. During the same period, the population of the Capital District increased by approximately 4.2%.

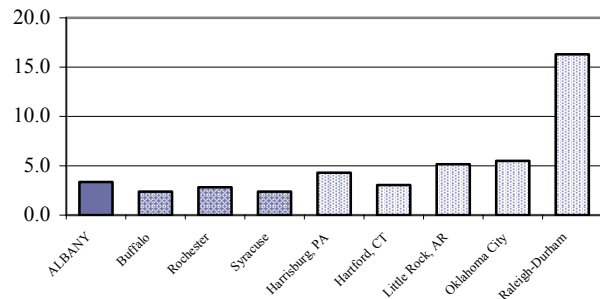
The majority of the Region's residential growth has been spread through the outlying suburban towns adjacent to the central cities and along the Northway corridor. In many cases developments are considerably separated from existing developed areas and employment centers. A number of apartment complexes and townhouses, including senior citizen housing, have also been built in outlying areas. Most of the Region's new retail development has been built for large retail chains and located outside of the central cities. Most of the Region's new industrial and warehouse facilities have occurred in suburban business parks.

There have been some significant urban developments in the Capital District. The downtown areas of the central cities have benefited from the construction of several New York State Government office buildings as well as the MVP building in Downtown Schenectady. Urban property values are on the rise and there have been some significant revitalization efforts in central Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. At the same time, the demand for urban, mixed-use properties in Saratoga Springs continues to exceed the supply. This is evident by the growing city population and the number of new downtown condominium and retail projects.

Annual Housing Units Approved
per 1,000 People



2001 Annual Housing Unit Approvals
per 1,000 people by MSA



5.2 Voter Turnout

The Importance

Voter participation is a cornerstone of democracy. Voter behavior is an indicator of community awareness and public involvement. It also measures the voting public's belief that their votes make a difference. Increasing voter turnout is not simply a matter of getting people to the polls on the first Tuesday in November. It is a process of engaging the public in the political process and creating interest in how government affects and can affect our lives.

About this Indicator

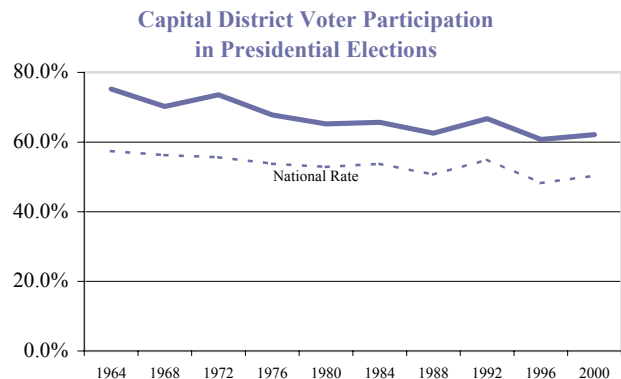
This indicator measures the Capital District's Presidential election and mid-term election voter turnout. It compares the Regional voter turnout to the National voter turnout from 1962 through 2000. Voter turnout is defined as the percent of people of voting age who voted.

Sources for this Indicator

- Statistical Abstract of the United States, US Census Bureau
- New York State Board of Elections

Voter Participation in the Capital District

Although it has dropped significantly since the 1960's, voter participation in the Capital District is still well above the national average. The Capital District's current level of voter participation is well above the National participation rates from the 1960's, indicating a high level of community involvement and strong identification with the functions of government.

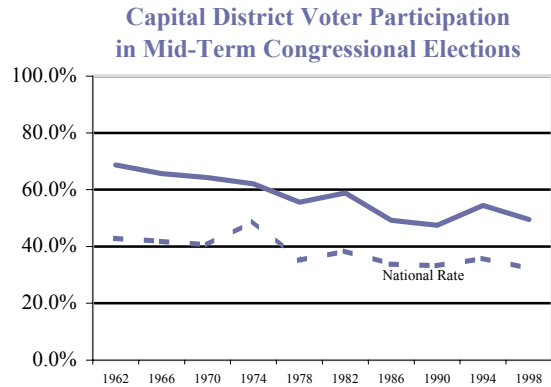


During the 1960's and early 1970's, the Capital District's voter participation was well over 70% in presidential elections. At the same time, nationwide voter participation was below 60%. The Regional voting trends have followed the National trends, staying approximately 10% higher than the National rate. The Capital District's voter participation dropped to almost 60% in 1996 and was slightly higher in 2000. At the same time, the National voting rate dropped to approximately 50% in the past two presidential elections.

5.2 COMMUNITY LIFE

Participation in the mid-term elections has declined significantly more than in the presidential elections. Presidential election turnout in the Capital District dropped from 75% in 1962 to 62% in 2000, a 13% drop. In 1962, 69% of eligible voters voted in the mid-term elections and by 1998, only 49% voted, constituting a 20% drop.

The Nation did not experience the same drop in mid-term voter turnout as the Capital District, although national mid-term participation is so low that it does not have far to drop. National mid-term participation dropped from 43% in 1962 to 32% in 1998. Much like the Presidential elections, the Capital District's current mid-term participation rate is much higher than the national rates from the 1960's.



5.3 Regional Recreational Assets

The Importance

Parks and recreational facilities are essential to the health and well being of a community. They provide for recreation, community gathering, open space in urban environment, and a sense of community identity and ownership. Parks and recreational facilities enhance the quality-of-life for all segments of a community regardless of their means.

Neighborhood parks serve an area within easy walking distance. They provide a community center, open space and some limited recreational facilities to the nearby residents in an urban setting. Community park spaces are larger and provide for broad vistas, vegetation, community gathering, and recreation in urban and suburban environments. Regional parks are similar to community parks with the addition of other features such as hiking, skiing and nature trails, lakes, aquatics, boating, camping, and important natural and historic features.

About this Indicator

This indicator compares the Capital District's state and national park system to regional park planning standards. It also reviews past studies of the Region's neighborhood and community park systems.

Sources for this Indicator

- Each state and national park was contacted for acreage, visitor, and activity information.
- The Capital District Open Space Plan by CDRPC, 1972.
- Urban Land Use Planning by Kaiser, Godschalk, and Chapin

Parks and Recreation in the Capital District

Compared to regional park space standards set out in Urban Land Use Planning, the Capital District has ample regional park space. The State and National Parks in the Capital District contain approximately 15,400 acres, or 19.4 acres per 1,000 people. The regional park space standard is 5 to 10 acres for every 1,000 people.

The Capital District's State Parks provide a full range of activities. With boat launches, including three motor boat launches, ice fishing, beaches and pools, walking/skiing trails, camping and numerous other activities, the State Park system gives the Capital District plenty of regional park space and recreational opportunities.

5.3 COMMUNITY LIFE

State/National Park	Acres	Annual Visitors	Municipality	County
Peebles Island State Park	158	102,000	Waterford	Saratoga
Grafton Lakes State Park	2,357	190,000	Grafton	Rensselaer
Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site	162	19,000	Hoosick Falls	Rensselaer
Cherry Plain State Park	176	30,000	Cherry Plain	Rensselaer
Thompson's Lake State Park/ Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center	300	46,000	East Berne	Albany
Moreau Lake State Park	4,100	280,000	Gansevoort	Saratoga
Saratoga Lake State Boat Launch	5	69,981	Saratoga Springs	Saratoga
Schodack Island State Park and Boat Launch	1,052	50,000	Schodack Landing	Rensselaer
Saratoga Spa State Park	2,200	1,200,000	Saratoga Springs	Saratoga
John Boyd Thacher State Park	1,844	200,000	Voorheesville	Albany
Saratoga National Historic Park/ Saratoga Battlefield	3,000	150,000	Stillwater	Saratoga
State Canal Park and Boat Launch	61	N/A	Waterford	Saratoga
Capital District Total	15,415	2,3362,981		

Capital District Acres of Regional Park Space Per 1,000 People 19 Acres
 Standard Acres of Regional Park Space Per 1,000 People 5 to 10 Acres

The Capital District Open Space Study, conducted in 1972, found that the Capital District has a strong community park system. Since the time of that study, a number of Towns have added significantly to their park space while the population of the region has grown by 10%. It is reasonable to conclude that the Region's community park system is as strong as ever.

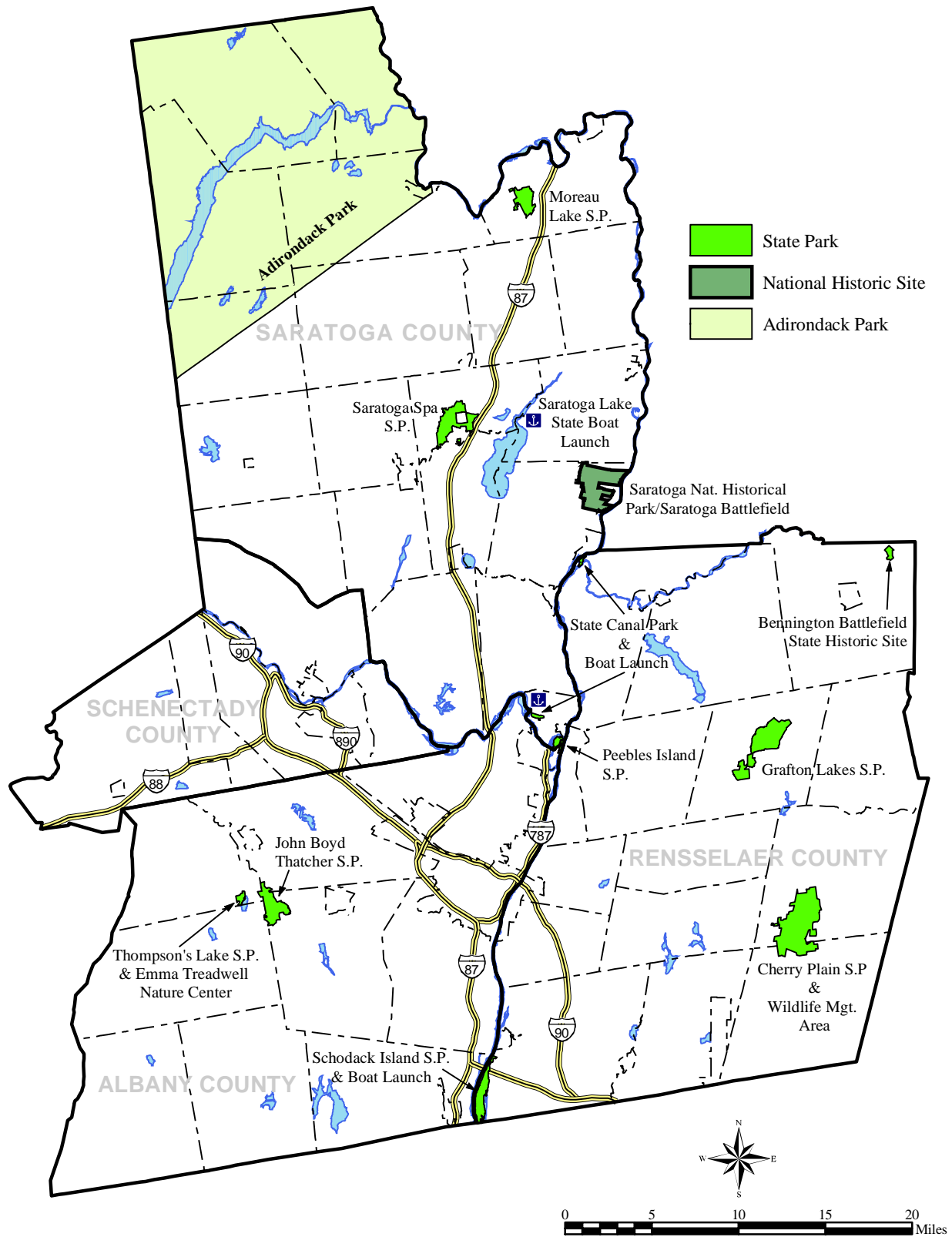
The Open Space Study did, however, find that the Capital District's cities are generally weak in neighborhood parks. While the communities well exceed the standard of 5 to 8 acres of community park space per 1,000 people, most cities are below half of the recommended 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood park space.

The service area of neighborhood parks is a better measure of this need. Neighborhood parks serve a radius of ¼ to ½ mile and there are many residential locations in the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy that are not within a half mile of a park.

Boating in the Capital District

While the Capital District has virtually unlimited resources for canoeing and row boating, the Region also has extensive water bodies for motor boating. Most of the state parks have canoe boat launches in addition to the many Department of Environmental Conservation boat launches and other points of public access to the regions many lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. In the Capital District, there are six large water bodies open to public motor boating. The Hudson River, the Mohawk River, Saratoga Lake, Round Lake, Ballston Lake, and the Great Sacandaga Lake all have public boat launches, although Ballston Lake's public motorboat launch is privately owned.

Capital District Regional Park System



5.4 Regional Cultural Assets

The Importance

The arts enhance the lives of the creator, the spectator, and the community. A thriving atmosphere of creativity makes a region attractive to residents and non-residents alike. Arts are essential to tourism. While they are not always the main attraction, the arts are essential to helping visitors and residents enjoy their time and the events in the Capital District.

Vibrant creative communities have been shown to attract people essential to a strong regional economy. Cultural outlets not only draw people to the region, they provide an excellent stage to put the Region's best face forward.

Sources for this Indicator

- Each organization was contacted.

Performing Arts in the Capital District

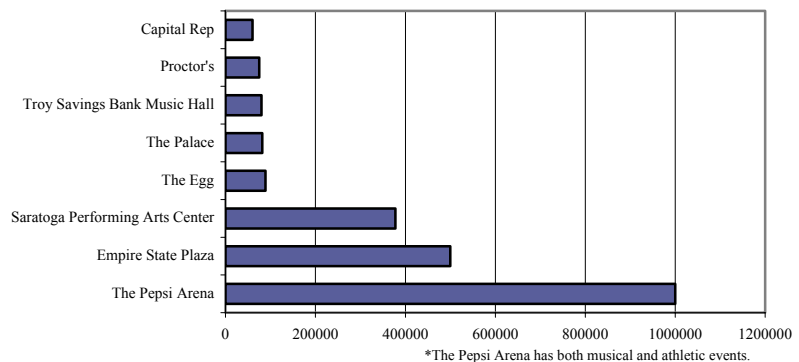
Music

The Capital District offers several fine arts venues. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Proctor's Theater, the Palace Theater, the Egg and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) all offer a variety of fine arts performances throughout the year. Each has its own "claim to fame". The Troy Music Hall is considered to

be one of the most acoustically perfect music halls in the world for classical performance. It, along with the currently under renovation Palace Theater are the home of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, as well as stops for nationally recognized classical, jazz and other fine arts related musical performances. Proctor's Theater in Schenectady New York is a venue for nationally recognized fine arts performances along with The Egg, part of the Empire State Plaza, which is also a distinct element of the Albany City Skyline.

During the summer, two internationally recognized companies take up residency in Saratoga Springs. The New York City Ballet and the Philadelphia Orchestra both perform at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center for three weeks each during the summer.

2001 Approximate Attendance
at Major Area Venues



Theater

In addition to their role with fine arts, The Palace Theater, Proctor’s Theater, and The Egg, as well as the Capital Repertory Theater are all venues for theatrical performances in the Capital District . While the Capital Repertory Theater has its own company, the others are all stopping points for touring theater performances, with Proctor’s serving as the local stopping point for national tours of Broadway Musicals.

Popular Music in the Capital District

Aside from fine arts, there is always a desire for any region to maintain a steady flow of popular music artists through their venues. Several of the already mentioned venues also maintain a schedule of contemporary popular artists. The Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Proctor’s, The Palace Theater, and additionally, The Pepsi Arena all offer a wide variety of concerts. SPAC offering concerts only in the late spring and through the summer, while the other venues offer concerts year round.

Museums, Galleries, and Historic Sites in the Capital District

The Capital District is home to many museums and preserved historical sites. The most visited is the New York State Museum at the State Capital in Albany. The NYS Museum has exhibits on New York’s history, cultures, art, and natural history. It also hosts

Museum/Historic Site	Recent Annual Visitors	Location
New York State Museum	620,000	Albany
The Junior Museum	127,324	Troy
Children’s Museum at Saratoga	60,000	Saratoga Springs
The Schenectady Museum and Planetarium	60,000	Schenectady
Albany Institute of History and Art	45,000	Albany
National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame	45,000	Saratoga Springs
USS Slater	16,000	Albany
Halfmoon Ship	12,000	Albany
Empire State Aerosciences Museum	10,000	Glenville
Schuyler Mansion Historic Site	10,000	Albany
National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame	4,500	Saratoga Springs
Crailo State Historic Site	N/A	Rensselaer

exhibits and traveling exhibits of national and international interest.

The children’s museums in Saratoga Springs and Troy are next on the list along with the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium. Two ships dock on the Hudson River in Albany and allow visitors. The Halfmoon Ship is a replica of the ship Henry Hudson used in his attempt to find the Northwest Passage in the 1500’s. The Halfmoon docks in Albany in the fall and spring for six weeks. The USS Slater, a WWII Destroyer Escort Ship, is docked in Albany from April through November.

5.5 Regional Athletic Assets

The Importance

Regional sporting events unite the area in supporting local teams competing with opponents from other regions. These teams help people identify with the larger regional community and view the community interests as interrelated.

Professional and college athletics also enhance quality of life and make the Capital District more appealing. By holding frequent events and quality teams, the Capital District's colleges and professional sports organizations provide entertainment and recreation accessible to all the Region's residents.

Horse racing at the Saratoga Race Course brings a large amount of tourism to the region during the summer. Similarly, the Pepsi Arena frequently hosts major college tournaments that bring in out-of-town fans. In the past year the Pepsi has hosted the Frozen Four NCAA Hockey Tournament and the "Sweet 16" and "Elite Eight" rounds of the NCAA Div.I East Regional Basketball Championship.

Sources for this Indicator

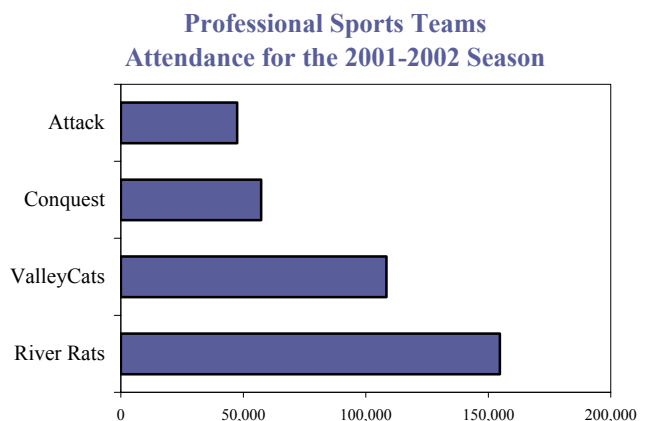
- Each organization was contacted.

Professional Sports

Currently, the region boasts four professional sports teams:

- The Albany River Rats, American Hockey League team and New Jersey Devils affiliate.
- The Albany Conquest, Arena Football 2 League team.
- The Albany Attack, National Lacrosse League team
- The Tri-City ValleyCats, NY-Penn A Minor League Baseball team and Houston Astros affiliate

Each team provides residents and visitors with a different sporting experience and attendance figures for the sports teams show that the diversity is appreciated. Although, looking at the chart, it is easy to assume the Lacrosse team and the Arena Football team are not as popular as Baseball and Hockey, but it is important to note that the Tri-City ValleyCats and the Albany River Rats have a significantly higher number of home games per season than the Conquest and Attack.

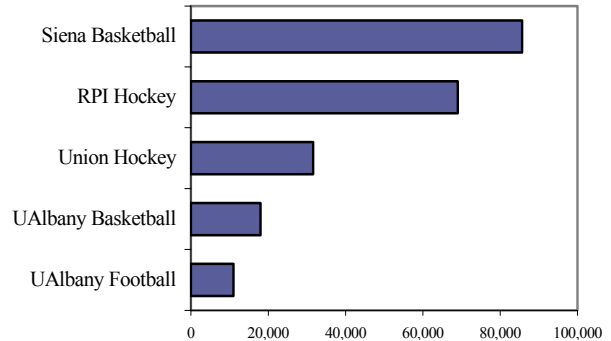


College Sports

The Capital District is also home to several colleges, four of which offer Division I athletics. The Men's basketball team, the Siena Saints are generally considered the local favorites and have, in the past, been contenders in the Final Four, NCAA tournament, and are also members of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) that has their regional playoffs at the Pepsi Arena. The University at Albany has the distinction of being the only entirely Division

I Athletic Program in the region. The most popular sports at U Albany are the Great Dane's Men's Basketball team, America East Conference Members; and the Great Dane's Football Team, Division I AA Northeast Conference Members. Union College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute both offer Division I Eastern Colligate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Hockey Teams, the Engineers at RPI, and the Skating Dutchmen at Union. Also, the 2003 ECAC tournament will be held at the Pepsi Arena, which marks the first time ever that the tournament has taken place in a city other than Lake Placid or Boston. The arena has also been host to the NCAA "Frozen Four" Hockey Finals on two occasions in the past. As you can see in the chart, sports teams are quite popular in the region, the Siena Saints actually have attendance figures that are on the same level as the professional sports teams in the region. Again it is important to realize that although the University at Albany Football attendance numbers seem very low, they are only based on 5 home games, while other sports teams have a much greater amount of home games in their seasons.

NCAA Division I College Sports Teams
Attendance for 2001-2002 Season



Horse Racing

In addition to the several sports teams, the Capital District is also home to one of the premier thoroughbred horse racing facilities in the United States, The Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Spring. The meet has been taking place at the end of the summer since 1863 and offers horse racing and wagering to around one million fans each year. There is also year-around harness racing at the Saratoga Equine Sports Center, which also hosts large music festivals in the summer. There are numerous festivals and events associated with horse racing in Saratoga Springs which add to the quality of life and tourism in the Region.

SAFETY



6.1 Crime

The Importance

Crime, in its various forms, causes both physical and psychological damage to communities. Fear of crime affects development patterns, property values, and social interaction. In addition to creating an atmosphere of fear, crime can also lead to death, injury, and psychological damage. For this reason, it is essential that the facts about crime rates be accurately reported. Sensationalistic reporting that ignores overall crime patterns can exacerbate a climate of fear and lead to irrational community decisions.

About this indicator

This indicator measures the Capital District's annual crime rates over the past 18 years against the National crime rates for the same years. For regional comparisons, this indicator compares the Albany MSA to other Upstate MSA's and to its peer group of similar state capitals. Due to a lack of available data, the regional comparison uses the 2000 Albany MSA data and the 2001 data for the other MSA's. The 2001 Albany MSA data is not yet available while the 2000 National data is not posted by MSA.

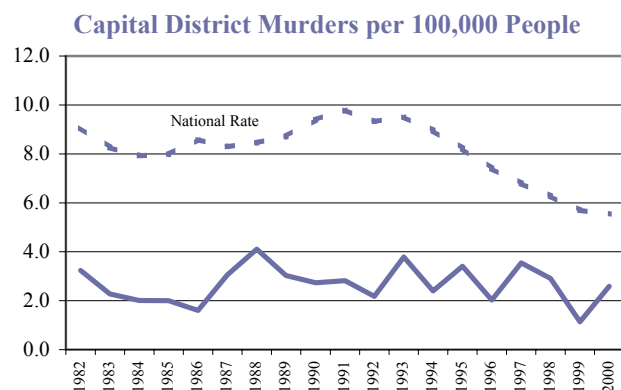
Sources for this Indicator

- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2001 Uniform Crime Report.
- N.Y.S Division of Criminal Justice Uniform Crime and Incident-Based Reporting systems.

Crime in the Capital District

Since 1982, in all the Uniform Crime Report categories, the Capital District has been significantly below the National crime rate, particularly with respect to violent crime and murder.

The number of murders in the Capital District fluctuates significantly from year-to-year, but the murder rate is much lower than the National Rate. Since 1982, the Capital District's Murder rate has been $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the national rate and consistently between 2 and 4 murders per 100,000 people. While the National murder rate fell significantly during the 1990's, there has been much variation, but no up or downward trend in the Capital District's murder rate over the 19-year period. For example, in 1999 there were nine murders in the Capital District while there were 28 and 21 in 1998 and 2000 respectively.



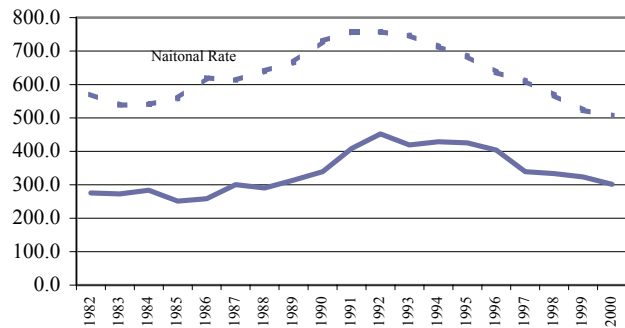
6.1 SAFETY

Like the National violent crime rate, the Capital District's violent crime rate has shown significant improvement during the 1990's. In 2000, the gap between the Region's and the Nation's crime rate was as small as it has been since 1982, and the National rate was still 68% higher than the Capital District rate. Property crime rates in the Capital District declined moderately during the late 1990's but have been fairly consistent since 1982. The National property crime rates declined significantly during the 1990's but were still well above the Region's rate in 2000.

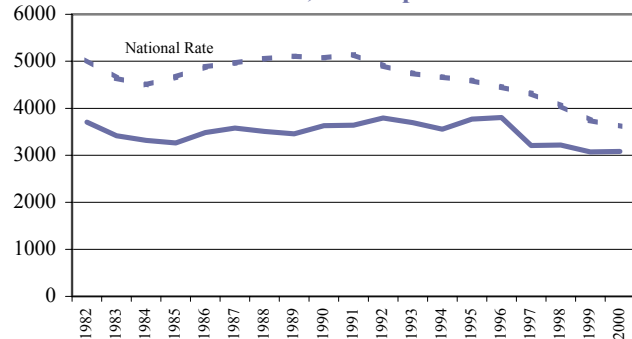
Regional Comparison

Note: Due to limited data availability, the Albany MSA data is from the 2000 Uniform Crime Report Data. The data for the other MSA's is from the 2001 Uniform Crime Report. Nationally, between 2000 and 2001, the murder rate increased by 1.3%, the violent crime rate decreased by 0.4%, and the property crime rate increased by 1.0%.

**Capital District Violent Crimes
Per 100,000 People**

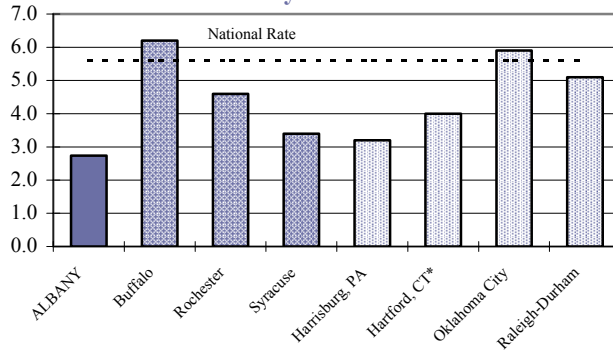


**Capital District Property Crimes
Per 100,000 People**



When compared with other MSAs in upstate New York and the peer group of state capitals, the Albany MSA murder rate is significantly lower than all the other MSA's. Only Buffalo and Oklahoma City had murder rates greater than the National murder rate. The Capital District's highest murder rate since 1992 would still have left the Region with one of the lowest murder rates in the group.

**2001 Murders per 100,000 People
by MSA**



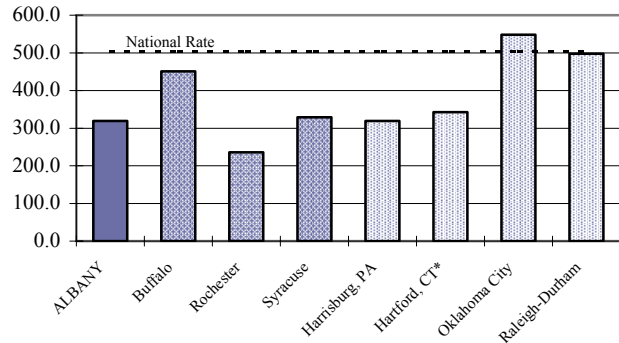
Rochester is the only MSA within the group with a significantly lower violent crime rate than the Albany MSA. Buffalo, Oklahoma City, and Raleigh, which also have higher murder rates, have significantly higher violent crime rates. The other three MSA's have violent crime rates similar to the Albany MSA rate.

6.1 SAFETY

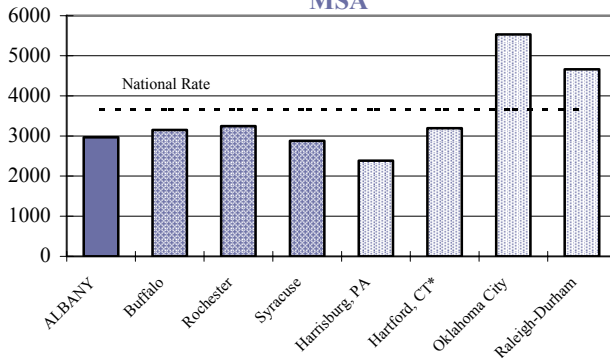
The Albany MSA violent crime rate of 319 reported crimes per 100,000 people indicates that there were approximately 3 violent crimes per every 1,000 people. By comparison, there were 12.5 auto accident injuries per 1,000 people in the Capital District in 2000.

The Albany MSA has approximately the same property crime rate as the other MSA's in the group with the exception of Oklahoma City and Raleigh, which have much higher crime rates in all of the categories. Oklahoma City and Raleigh were also the only MSA's in the group that exceeded the National property crime rate of 3,656 crimes per

2001 Violent Crimes per 100,000 People by MSA



2001 Property Crimes per 100,000 People by MSA



100,000 people. With 2,383 crimes per 100,000 people, Harrisburg, PA has the lowest property crime rate of the group. The Albany MSA property crime rate of 2,967 reported crimes per 100,000 people indicates that there were approximately 3 property crimes per every 100 people.

6.2 Motor Vehicle Accidents

The Importance

Motor Vehicle Accidents have a significant impact on any region. At their worst, they can cause death or lifelong disability. They also produce millions of dollars' worth of damage each year as well as high insurance rates, interference with the flow of goods and people, and added costs to the provision of health care and public services. A smooth, safe transportation network is essential for a healthy region and a healthy regional economy.

About this indicator

The Capital District's traffic accidents are tracked using the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDVM) data annually from 1990 to 2000, the last year for which the data set is available. For each year, the total number of Capital District traffic accidents is compared to the total traffic injuries and fatalities. Due to a 1997 amendment to the Vehicle and Traffic Law, reportable accidents that include a police report and involved only property damage have increased.

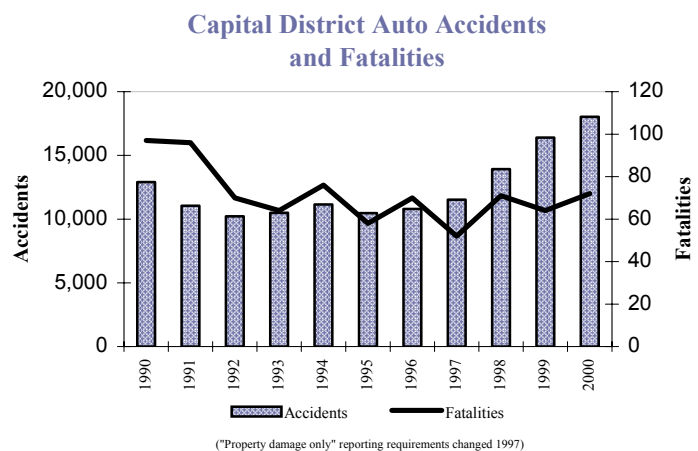
For comparison with other regions, this indicator uses the Fatality Analysis Reporting System data to compare the average number of fatalities per 100,000 people that took place over the eight-year period between 1994 and 2001. The average annual population for each region and the nation was calculated using Census Bureau estimates.

Sources for this Indicator

- The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDVM) annual statistics on reported automobile accidents.
- The Fatality Analysis Reporting System of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) statistical records of automobile accident fatalities.

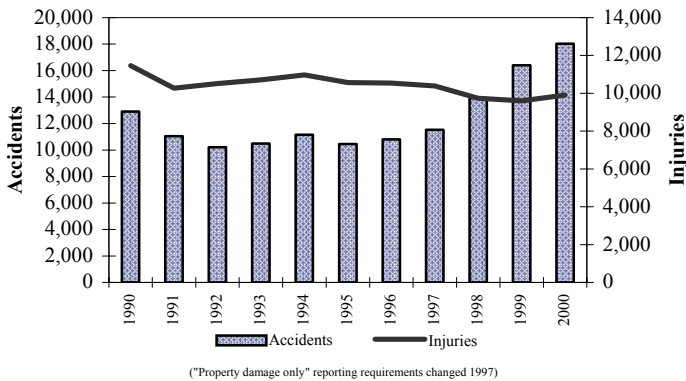
Motor Vehicle Accidents in the Capital District

In the Capital District between the years 1990 and 1997, the number of automobile accidents was relatively stable while there was an overall downward trend in accident fatalities. After the 1997 change in the accident reporting laws, there was a 56% increase in reported auto accidents through 2000. At the same time, the number of accident fatalities changed very little.



6.2 SAFETY

Capital District Auto Accidents and Injuries



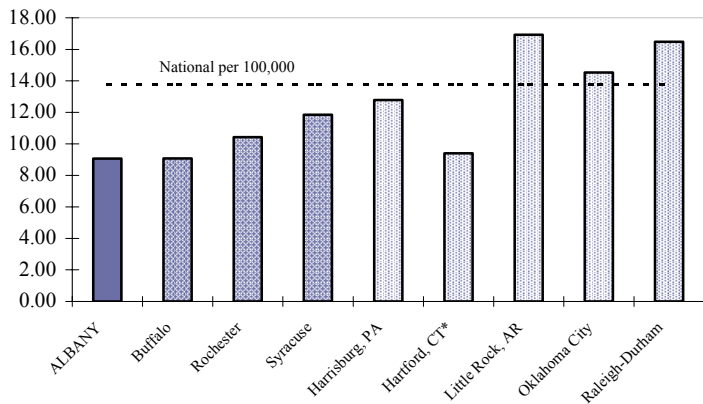
During the same time period, a trend similar to that of accident fatalities took place with injuries sustained as a result of accidents. In fact, while accident fatalities rose slightly from 1997 to 2000, injuries resulting from accidents have continued their downward trend. Although recent data on the number of accidents is indeterminate due to changes in policy, the trends with injuries and fatalities show that auto travel in the region has become safer.

Nationwide Comparison

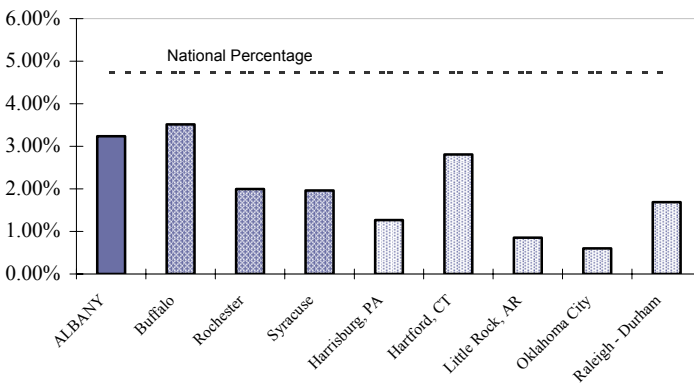
When compared with other MSA's in upstate New York, the Albany MSA has a fatality rate per 100,000 people that is similar to the Buffalo-Niagara MSA and less than both the Rochester and Syracuse fatality rates.

With the exception of the Hartford, CT MSA, the Albany MSA has a significantly lower rate of accident fatalities per 100,000 people than the other MSA's in its peer group. On average, other state capital regions correspond to the national average, and have four or more traffic deaths per 100,000 people than the Albany MSA.

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 residents by MSA



Percent of Workers Using Public Transit by MSA



A possible explanation for the relatively low number of fatalities are that approximately 40% of the Capital District's population lives in cities and villages which are dominated by dense street-grid patterns of development. The street-grid slows traffic and facilitates greater public transit usage. The Capital District boasts a much higher percentage of workers using public transportation as a means to work than most other MSA's aside from Buffalo, NY and Hartford, CT. If we examine the number of accident fatalities that take place in each of the peer MSA's, there is a correlation between larger dense urban centers and lower accident fatality rates.

TRANSPORTATION



7.1 Commuting and Transportation Patterns

The Importance

Our ways and means of moving about has a direct impact on our quality of life and it reflects our development patterns, our social patterns and our use of natural resources. Heavy reliance on motor vehicles can worsen air, water and soil pollution, damage wildlife habitat and consume increasing amounts of nonrenewable resources. Longer commuting times also represent a growing physical gap between home, community, and work.

About this indicator

Using NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the Texas Transportation Institute data, this indicator measures the Capital District's annual highway delay per person due to congestion, and highway Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per highway lane mile. This indicator also uses Census data to examine the Region's methods of traveling to work and the time it takes to get there. Using historic data on what percentage drove alone to work, what percent take transit, and the average amount of time to travel to work, this indicator examines the transportation trends in the Capital District.

Sources for this Indicator

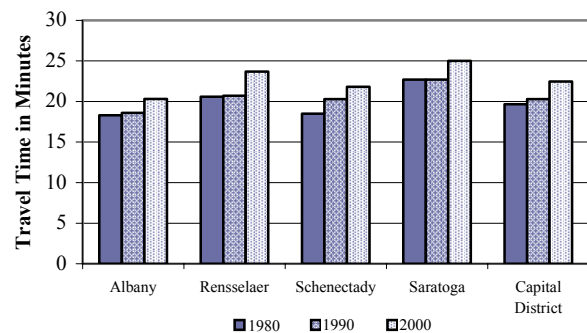
- The 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses.
- New York State Department of Transportation "State Touring Routes" data.
- Texas Transportation Institute Roadway Congestion Factbook.

Commuting and Transportation in the Capital District

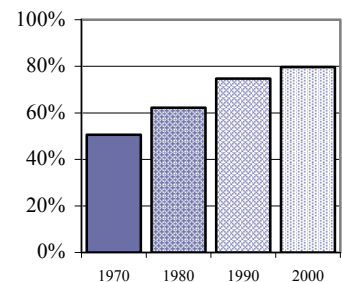
The average travel time to work in the Capital District has increased from just under 20 minutes in 1980 to over 22 minutes in 2000. The vast majority of the increase in travel time occurred during the 1990's.

Since 1970, the percent of workers driving to work alone in the Capital District has risen from 51% to 80%. At the same time, the number of workers carpooling dropped from 29% to 10%. The

Average Travel Time to Work
by County and the Capital District



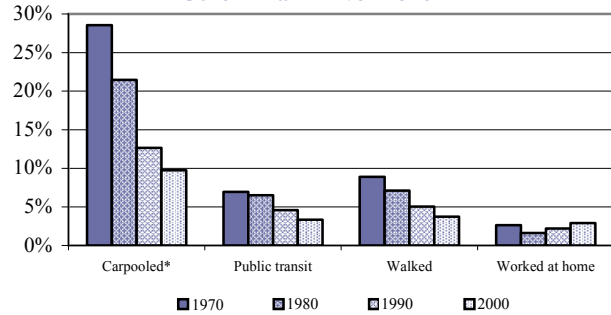
Capital District Percent
Driving to Work Alone



7.1 TRANSPORTATION

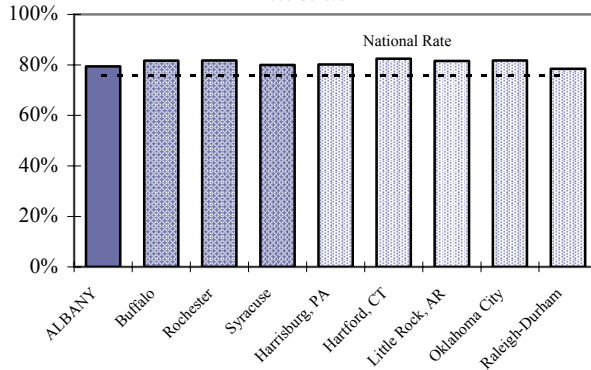
percent of workers using public transportation and walking to work also dropped significantly over the past 30 years. Despite the shift away from public transportation and walking, the primary shift has been away from carpooling to driving alone. This shift can be viewed as a representation of greater prosperity and freedom of movement, but it also inevitably results in more traffic per capita and less personal contact between neighbors and coworkers.

Capital District Means of Travel to Work
Other Than Drive Alone



*1970 Carpool percent estimated based on the number of passengers in private cars.

Workers Driving Alone to Work by MSA
2000 Census

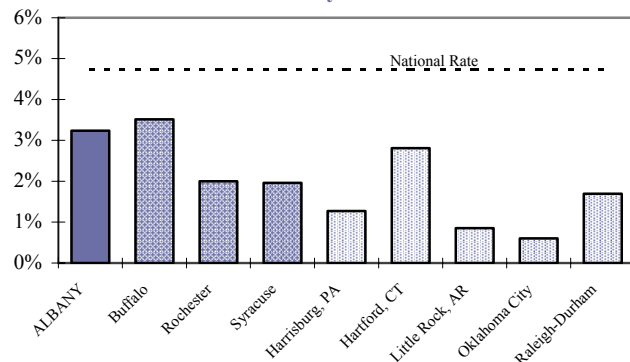


Regional Comparison

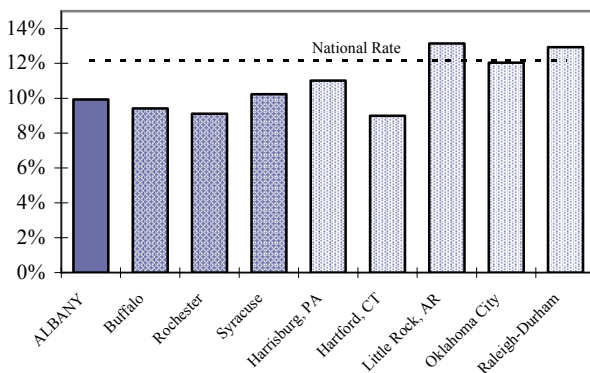
All the regions in the peer group have similar percentages of people who drive to work alone. All are slightly above the national average because the national rate includes major metro areas where public transit is often the best means of commuting.

There are significant differences between the regions in the alternative commuting methods. The Southern regions, Little Rock, Oklahoma City, and Raleigh-Durham, have significantly higher carpooling rates while the Northern regions have higher transit usage and more people walking to work.

Workers Taking Public Transit to Work by MSA



Workers Carpooling to Work by MSA

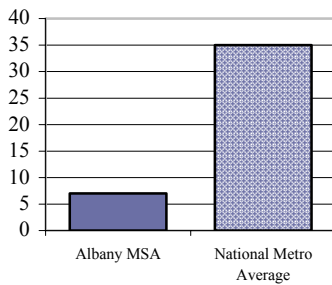


Not being major metropolitan cities, none of the regions is close to the national transit usage rate. However, despite the cold weather, Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, and Harrisburg, all exceed the national rate for walking to work. Walking is more feasible in the older Northern cities with higher population densities. Much of the growth of the Southern regions occurred after the lower density, auto oriented, suburban development patterns took hold.

Highway Capacity

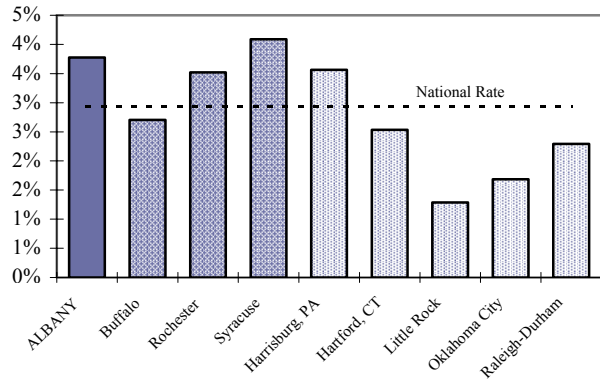
In 1997, the Texas Transportation Institute did a study examining the freeway daily VMT per freeway lane mile as well as the annual hours of delay due to freeway congestion. This study provides a baseline for comparing the Capital District's highway infrastructure and traffic with that of other metro areas. Not all of the other peer regions were included in the study, so Austin, TX was included to fill out the comparisons. The Albany MSA has a little more than half of the national MSA rate for VMT per freeway lane mile.

Annual Hours of Delay per 1,000 Persons



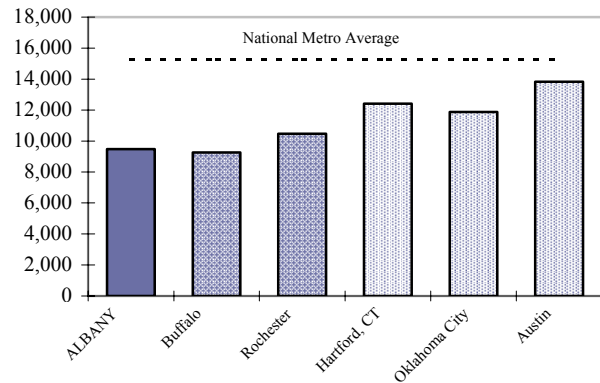
Less traffic per lane results in fewer hours of delay due to congestion. As a matter of fact the national MSA average rate for hours of delay is five times higher than the Albany rate.

Workers Walking to Work by MSA



The Albany MSA has a little more than half of the national MSA rate for VMT per freeway lane mile.

1997 Freeway Daily Vehicle-Miles-Traveled Per Freeway Lane Mile



7.2 Road Conditions

The Importance

Transportation of people and goods is an essential piece of any economy. Roads are our nation's largest and most versatile pathways for the movement of people and goods. Poor roads decrease safety, cause vehicle damage, and delay the smooth flow of traffic. Proper monitoring and preventive maintenance of the road system minimizes disruptions in the flow of people and goods.

About this Indicator

The Capital District Transportation Committee biennially assesses the condition of the Non-State Federal-Aid Roads in the Region. The State Department of Transportation also conducts the same assessment of the State Highway System. Both agencies use a scale of 1 to 10 to score the road conditions. A score of 1-5 indicates that the road segment is in poor condition. A score of 6 shows a road to be in fair condition and a score of 7 or 8 shows a road to be in good condition. Excellent condition rates a score of 9 or 10. A score of five indicates that riding quality is noticeably inferior to new pavements, showing occasional signs of distress. A score of seven shows a road to have a good ride while showing infrequent to occasional signs of deterioration.

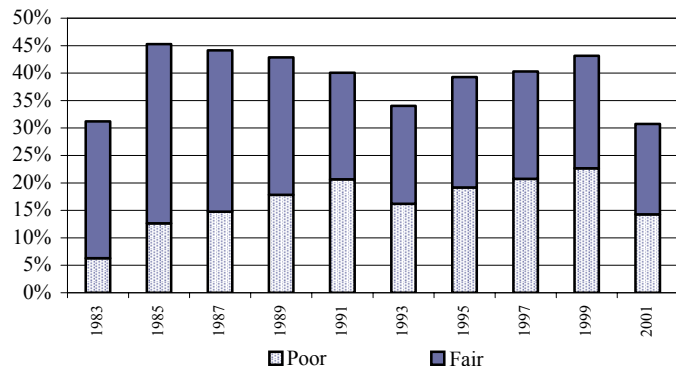
Sources for this Indicator

- The Capital District Transportation Committee
- New York State Department of Transportation.

Road Conditions in the Capital District

The Capital District Transportation Committee surveys and scores over 1350 lane-miles of Non-State Federal-Aid roadway every two years. The percentage of that roadway determined to be in fair or poor condition is displayed in the chart to the right. While there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of poor roadway between 1983 and 1999, the percentage dropped below the 1987 level in 2001. The percentage of fair roadway declined during the 1980's and has held steady since.

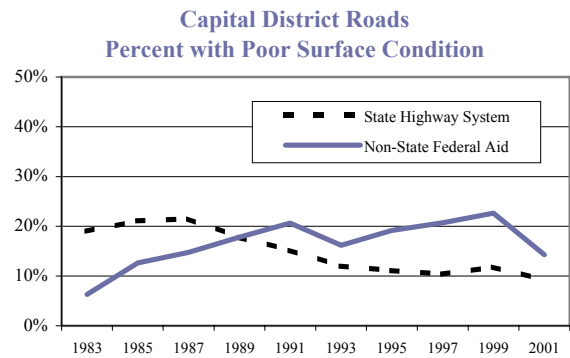
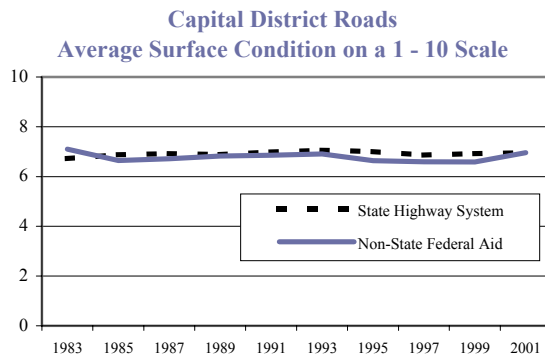
Percent Fair and Poor Surface Condition of Capital District Non-State, Federal-Aid Roads



7.2 TRANSPORTATION

Over the same period that the Non-State roads showed increases in the percentage of roads in poor condition, the Capital District State Highway System had significant declines in that percentage. The percentage of the State Highway System in the Capital District in poor condition declined from over 20% in 1987 to less than 10% in 2001.

While the percentage of the roads in poor condition has fluctuated over the years, the average road conditions in the Capital District have remained very consistent. Both the State Highway System and the Non-State Federal-Aid Roads have remained at an average of approximately seven, on the low end of “good,” for the past 18 years.



7.3 Airport Enplanements

The Importance

An active airport provides easy movement into and out of a region. It also facilitates commerce and makes a region a more attractive business location. In addition, an active airport with affordable fares improves the quality of life by providing more recreational travel opportunities.

The Albany International Airport (AIA) has recently overhauled its facilities and attracted the low-cost carrier, Southwest Airlines. As a result, fares have dropped while the number of cities served by direct flights has increased.

About this Indicator

This indicator measures the annual number of commercial airline enplanements at AIA, at the peer region airports, in New York State, and in the United States. It also measures the effect of the September 11, 2001 attacks on national and regional aviation by comparing 2000 enplanements with 2001 enplanements.

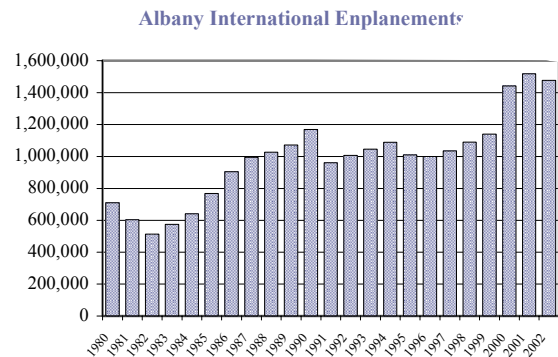
Sources for this Indicator

- Federal Aviation Administration
- New York State Department of Transportation
- Albany International Airport

Air Travel in the Capital District

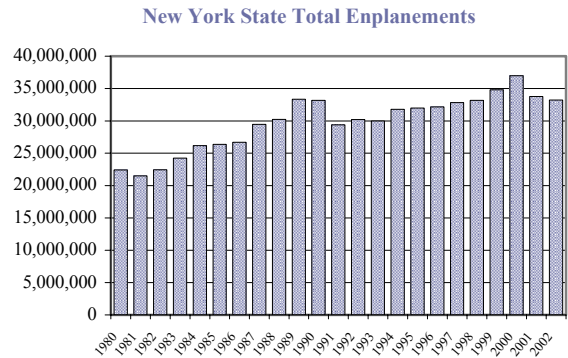
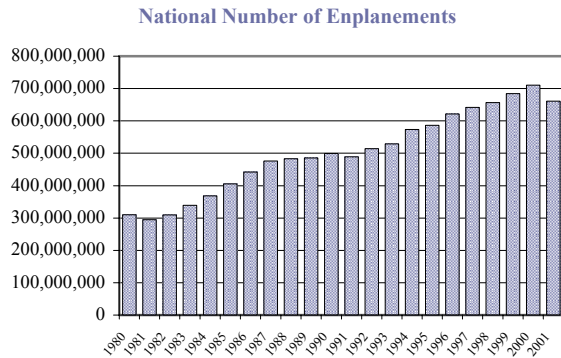
Two recent major changes have affected air travel in the Capital Region. During the 1990's, the Albany International Airport made a complete overhaul to the Airport facilities with new check-in, terminal, and gate facilities. Then, in 2000, Southwest Airlines brought its low-cost service to Albany. This resulted lower fares from all the airlines with service to Albany International Airport.

With the arrival of Southwest Airlines and the completion of the new terminal, enplanements at AIA increased dramatically in 2000. Southwest Airlines arrived at Albany in May of 2000 and provided service for the last seven months of 2000. With just those seven months of Southwest service, enplanements for 2000 were 31% higher than the 1999 level of 1,140,518 enplanements. With eight months of service before the effects of September 11, 2001, enplanements in 2001 were 37% above the 1999 baseline. During the calendar year before September 11, the number of enplanements hit 1,598,938, 44% higher than the 1999 total.



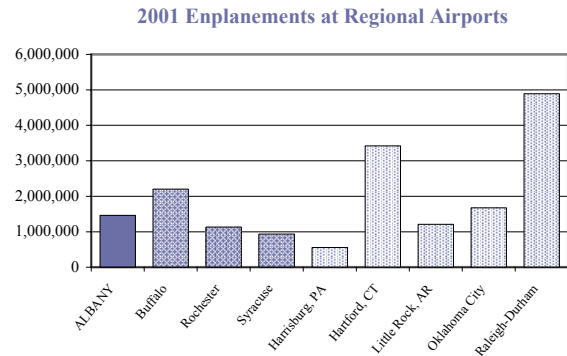
7.3 TRANSPORTATION

With the exception of the past three years, enplanements at the Albany International Airport have followed the State and National trends of increasing during good economic times and retreating moderately during recessions. During the past three years, the arrival of Southwest Airlines has made a considerable impact at the Airport.

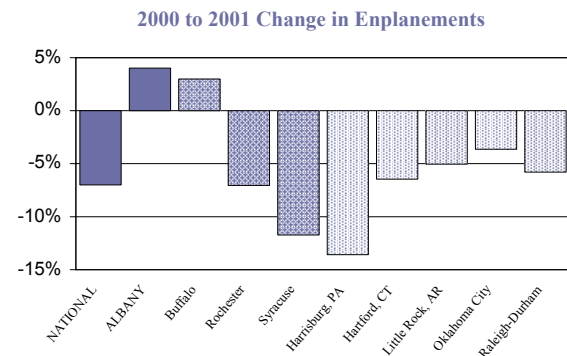


Albany International Airport has less passenger activity than four of the peer regions. While passenger traffic has increased at AIA the Albany MSA does not have other large MSA's within an hour drive of the airport. This helps account for the large number of passengers at the Hartford and Raleigh-Durham airports, which are close to other metropolitan areas.

It is difficult to gage the impact of September 11 on passenger activity at AIA. The Airport did not complete a January to December calendar year with Southwest service before 9/11/01. As a result, we saw more enplanements in 2001 than 2000. However, when the calendar year prior to 9/11/01 is compared to the 2002 enplanements, there is a 7% decline. That level of decline is comparable to the national drop between 2000 and 2001 and previous drops during recessions.



Syracuse showed a significant drop in enplanements between 2000 and 2001. This could be due to the lower fares in Albany attracting people who might otherwise use the Syracuse airport.



Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Four-County Agreement

The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) was established by a joint agreement of the Counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady in 1967 pursuant to the State of New York general municipal law. Its policy board consists of twenty members, five from each county, appointed by respective county legislature. CDRPC receives financial support primarily from annual contributions of the four-member counties and planning grants of the State and Federal governments.

CDRPC's Mission

To study the needs and conditions of the Region and to formulate plans, policies, and recommendations, which will promote coordinated land use and economic development and environmental initiatives for the Capital Region.

CDRPC's Core Programs

- ✓ Comprehensive regional planning and studies pertaining to land use, environment, and public infrastructure
- ✓ Local planning technical assistance
- ✓ Regional Juvenile Secure Detention Facility
- ✓ EDA Economic Development District
- ✓ Grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone #121
- ✓ NYS Data Center Affiliate & Business Information Data Center
- ✓ Regional Geographic Information System
- ✓ Intergovernmental Coordination and Clearinghouse

Capital District Regional Planning Commission

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