



The Research Bureau

# Worcester's Demographic Trends: 2010 Census

Report 13-01  
February 2013



**WORCESTER'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS: 2010 CENSUS**

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Picture on front page by N. Wayne Hansen

Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Worcester\\_Massachusetts.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Worcester_Massachusetts.jpg)

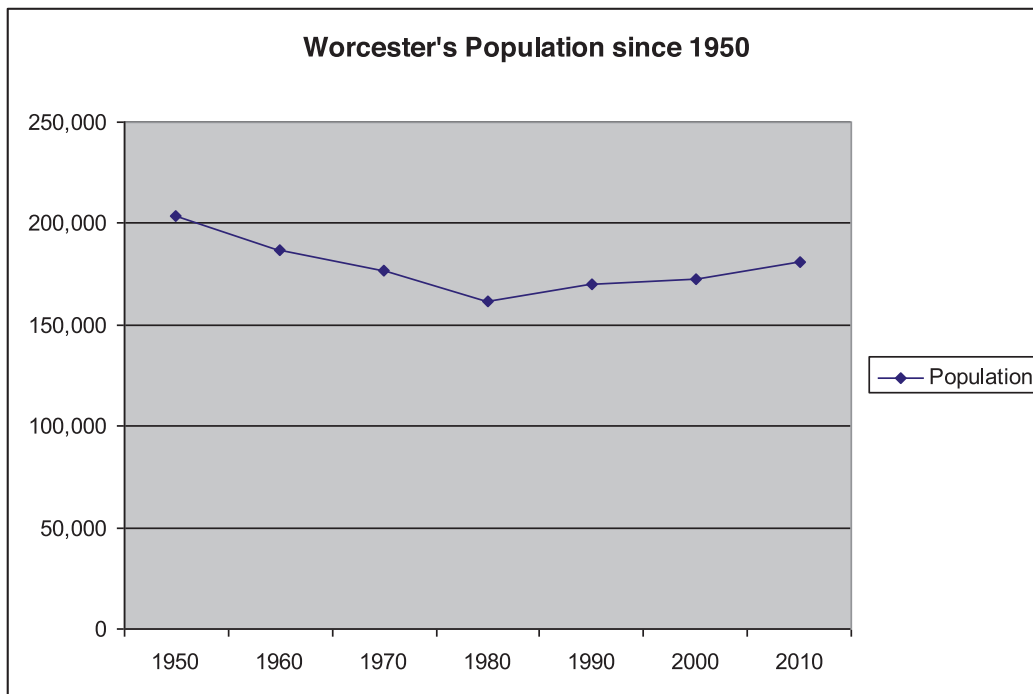
Pictures in report provided by City of Worcester/Warren.

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

## GROWTH

### WORCESTER'S POPULATION FROM 1950 TO 2010

Year	Population	% Change
1950	203,486	Not applicable
1960	186,587	-8.3%
1970	176,572	-5.4%
1980	161,799	-8.4%
1990	169,759	4.9%
2000	172,648	1.7%
2010	181,045	4.9%



In 1980 Worcester's population reached its lowest point in second half of the twentieth century. Between 1980 and 2010, the population increased by almost 20,000, or 11.9%.

## U.S. MIDSIZE CITIES AND POPULATION CHANGE 2010 CENSUS

Cities	2000	2010	Population change	Rate of Growth
Albany	95,658	97,856	2,198	2.297%
Bridgeport	139,529	144,229	4,700	3.37%
Chattanooga	155,554	167,674	12,120	7.79%
Dayton	166,179	141,527	-24,652	-14.83%
Des Moines	198,682	203,433	4,751	2.39%
Grand Rapids	197,800	188,040	-9,760	-4.93%
Hartford	121,578	124,775	3,197	2.63%
Lowell	105,167	106,519	1,352	1.29%
Manchester	107,006	109,565	2,559	2.39%
New Haven	123,626	129,779	6,153	4.98%
Portland	64,249	66,194	1,945	3.03%
Providence	173,618	178,042	4,424	2.55%
Springfield	152,082	153,060	978	0.64%
Syracuse	147,306	145,170	-2,136	-1.45%
WORCESTER	172,648	181,045	8,397	4.86%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Compared to selected cities of similar size in the United States with emphasis on the New England region, Worcester had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of population growth between 2000 and 2010. In New England, Worcester had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of growth. Boston's population growth was 4.83%, slightly less than Worcester's.

## HOUSING UNITS AND AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Total Housing Units		Rate of Growth	
2000	2010		
70,723	79,030	11.75%	

Average Household Size			
2000		2010	
Total:	2.41	Total:	2.38
Owner Occupied	2.57	Owner Occupied	2.55
Renter Occupied	2.28	Renter Occupied	2.24

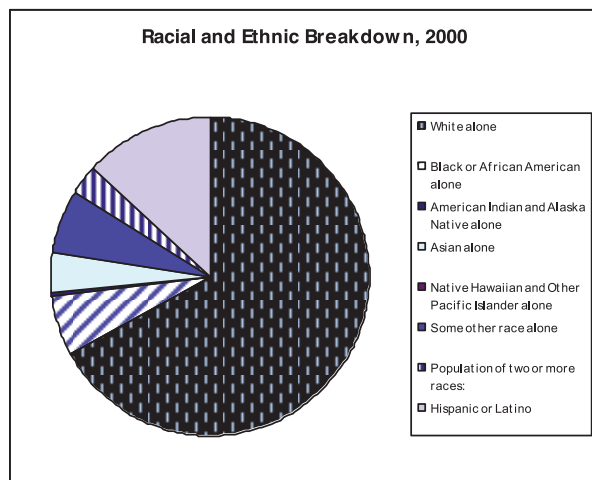
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Since 2000, Worcester has added 8,307 housing units, an increase of 11.75%. At the same time the average size of households has decreased by 1%.

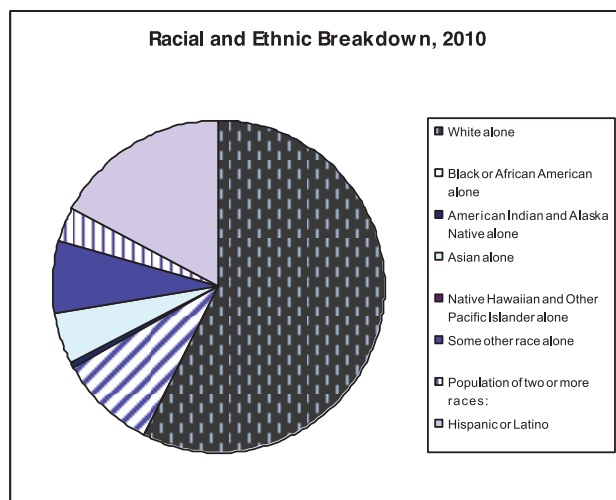
## DIVERSITY

### RACIAL AND ETHNIC BREAKDOWN FOR WORCESTER'S POPULATION 2000-2010

	2000	2010	Percentage Change
Total:	172,648	181,045	4.86%
White alone	133,124	125,706	-5.57%
Black or African American alone	11,892	21,056	77.06%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	769	755	-1.82%
Asian alone	8,402	11,034	31.33%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	96	85	-11.46%
Some other race alone	12504	15195	21.52%
Population of two or more races	5861	7214	23.08%
Hispanic or Latino	26155	37818	44.59%



Worcester's racial breakdown has changed since 2000. The number of people who identify as white has decreased by 5.57%, while the number of people who identify as African American has increased by more than 77% and the Asian population has increased by 31%. The Latino population has increased by almost 45%.<sup>1</sup>

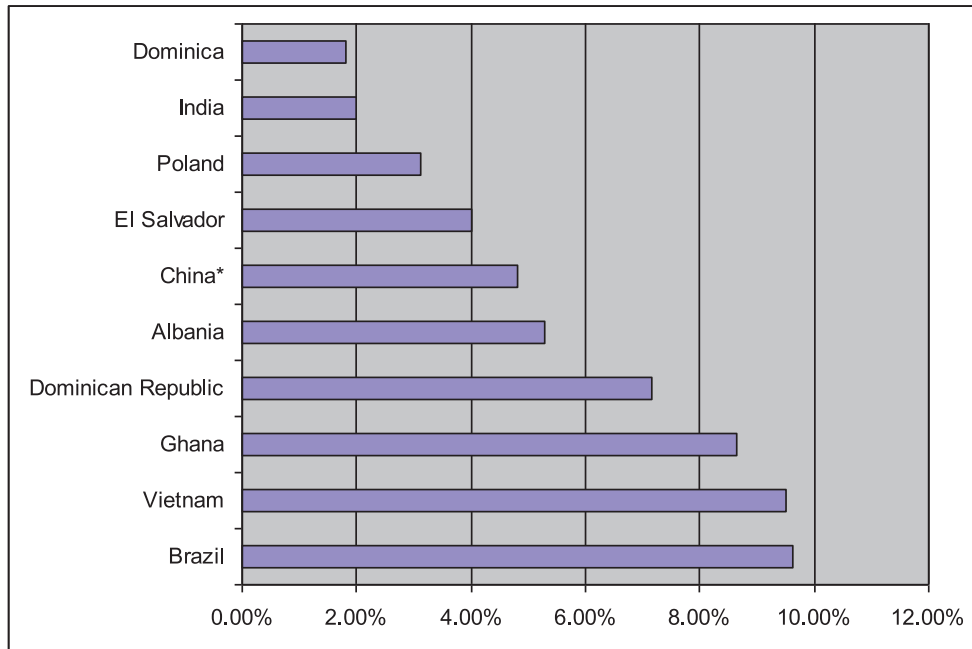


Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey and 2000 Census

<sup>1</sup> For a description of how the Census defines Hispanic or Latino origin, please see: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR WORCESTER'S FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION 2010

Total	35,304	100.00%
Brazil	3,401	9.63%
Vietnam	3,356	9.51%
Ghana	3,049	8.64%
Dominican Republic	2,526	7.15%
Albania	1,864	5.28%
China <sup>2</sup>	1,701	4.82%
El Salvador	1,416	4.01%
Poland	1,101	3.12%
India	706	2.00%
Dominica	636	1.80%

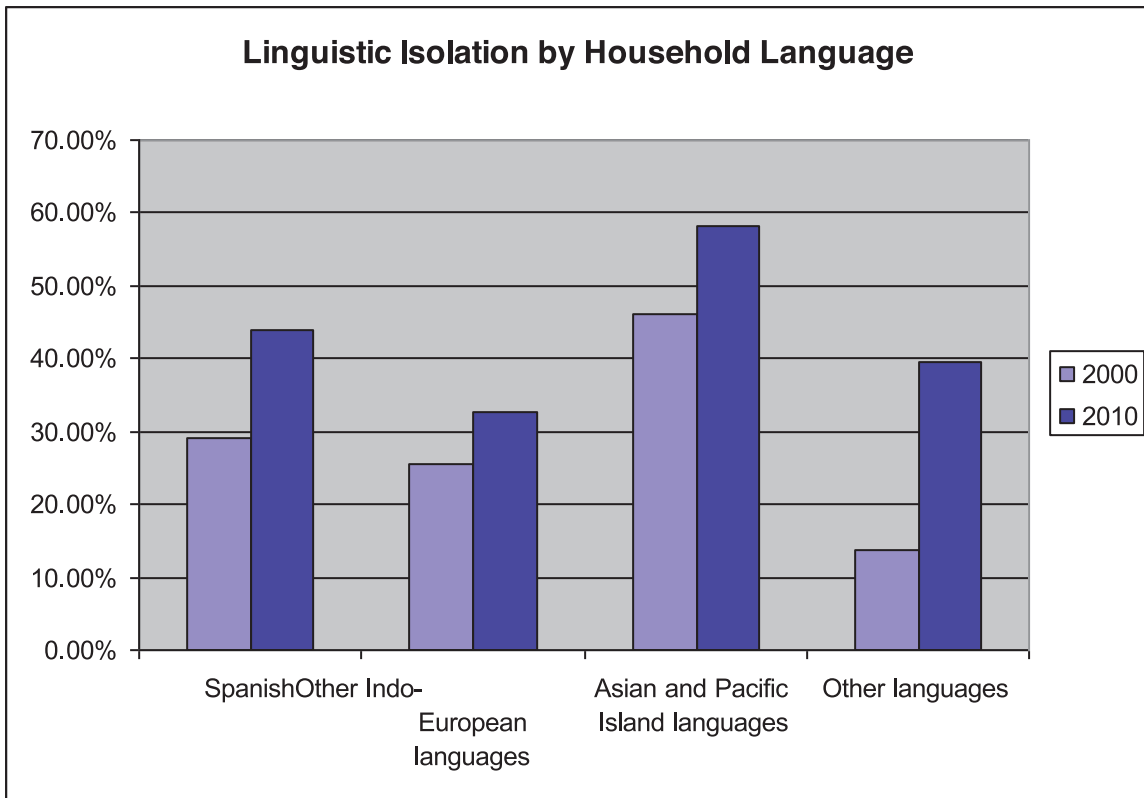


Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Currently the largest numbers of immigrants in Worcester are from Brazil, Vietnam, and Ghana.

<sup>2</sup> "China" includes Hong Kong and Taiwan.

### LINGUISTIC ISOLATION<sup>3</sup>



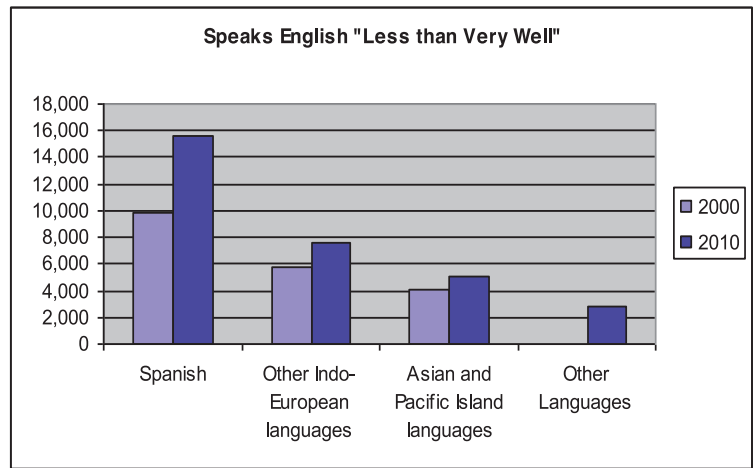
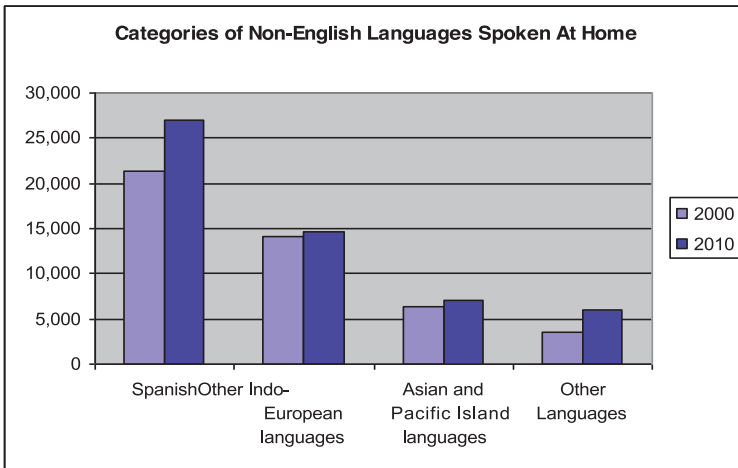
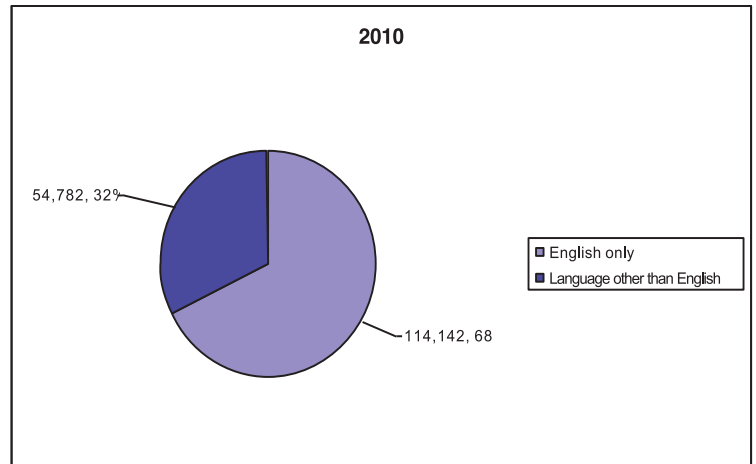
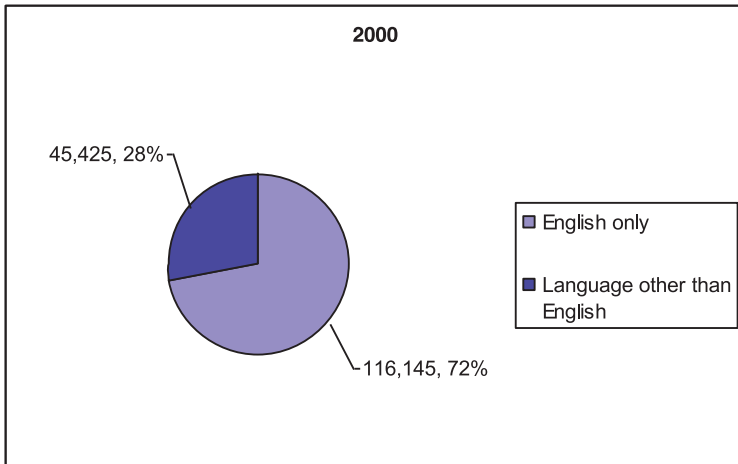
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey and 2000 US Census Summary File 3

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of linguistically isolated households increased for all languages spoken in Worcester.

<sup>3</sup> The Census Bureau defines a linguistically isolated household as one in which all members of the household 14-years old and over have at least some difficulty speaking English.



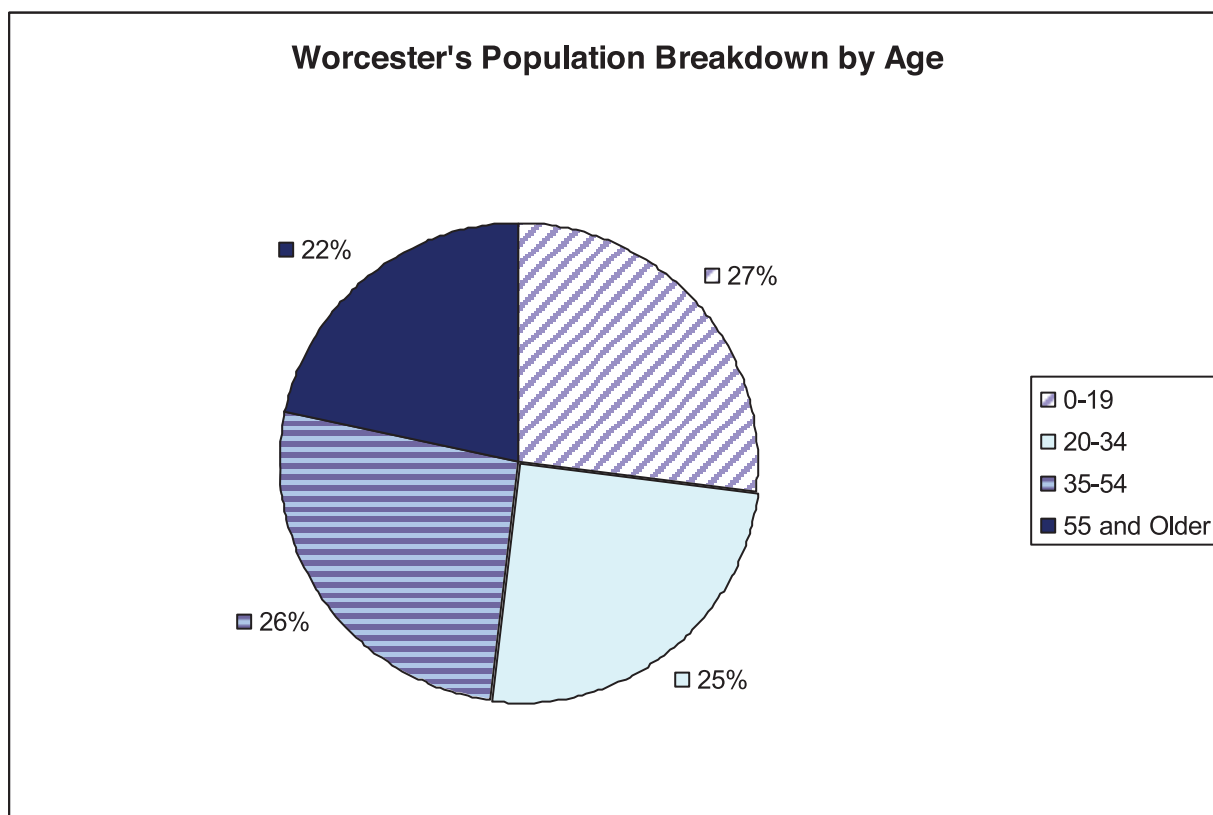
## Language Spoken at Home by Population Age 5+



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Since 2000, the number of households speaking a language other than English has increased by 20.6% (9,357 people). Spanish households have increased by the greatest number: 26%, or 5,583. The greatest percentage increase has been in the category of "other languages": 68% or 2,419. There has also been an increase in the number of people who speak English "Less than Very Well".

## BREAKDOWN OF WORCESTER'S POPULATION<sup>4</sup> BY AGE



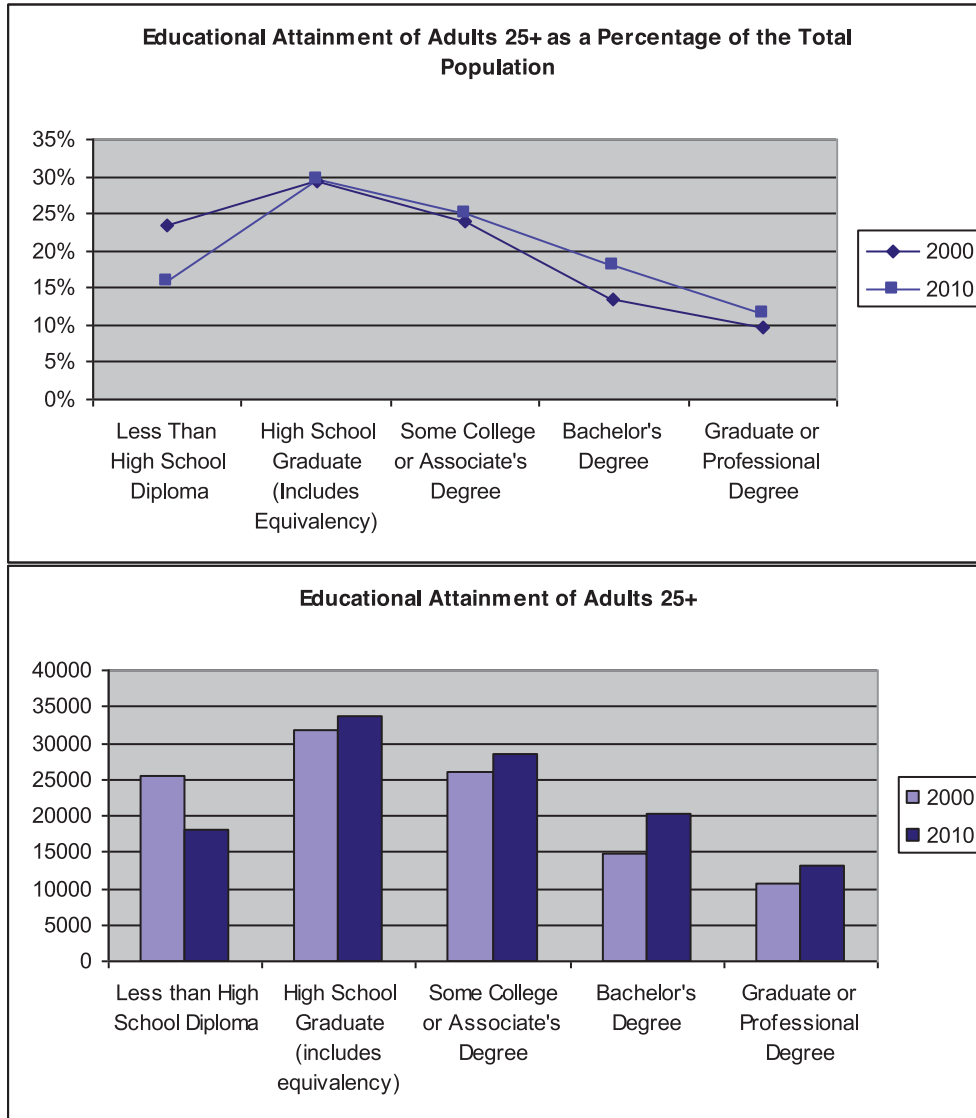
Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 US Census

City	20-34 Year Olds	Percentage of Total Population	Total Population
Worcester	45,634	25.20%	181,045
Boston	216,213	35%	617,594
Bridgeport	36,234	25.12%	144,229
Hartford	32,633	26%	124,775
New Haven	40,035	30.85%	129,779
Providence	53,347	29.96%	178,042
Springfield	33,886	22.14%	153,060

A slight majority of Worcester's population is under 34 years of age. Worcester has the third-highest population of 20-34 year olds of the major cities in New England.

<sup>4</sup> The total count for the population includes college students living on-campus and in off-campus residences. As defined here (<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/how-we-count.php>) college students are counted at their "usual residence" which is where they eat and sleep a majority of the time.

## EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION 2000 AND 2010



Source:

Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey and 2000 US Census Summary File 3

US

Between 2000 and 2010 the number of adults aged 25+ who have less than a high-school diploma decreased by 28.92%. Adults in the same age group have seen an overall increase in their level of education, with the number of high-school graduates increasing by 5.35%, with bachelor's degrees increasing by 38.34%, and with graduate or professional degrees increasing by 23.31%.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION OF CITIES IN NEW ENGLAND BY BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER (25 YEARS AND OLDER)

Educational Attainment, Age 25+	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Worcester	18.10%	11.50%	29.60%
Boston	23.42%	19.10%	43%
Bridgeport	10.50%	5.40%	15.90%
Hartford	8.40%	4.90%	13.30%
New Haven	14%	17.40%	31.40%
Providence	15.90%	13.10%	29%
Springfield	10.60%	6.30%	16.90%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Among the largest cities in New England, Worcester has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of adults with a Bachelor's degree. Worcester also has more than 35,000 college students enrolled in its colleges and universities as reported by the Colleges of the Worcester Consortium.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF 25-34 YEAR OLDS

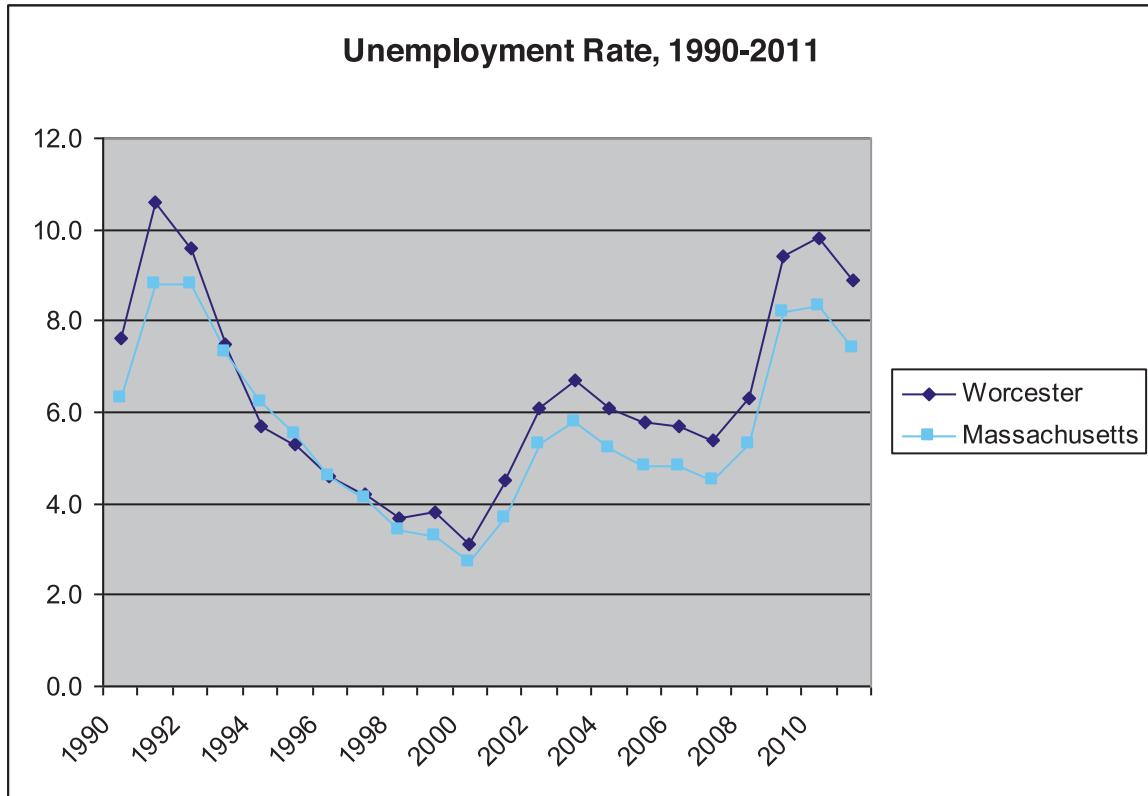
City	High School Graduate or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Worcester	87.80%	39.30%
Boston	92.80%	60.60%
Bridgeport	80%	18.30%
Hartford	75.10%	17.50%
New Haven	85.60%	44.00%
Providence	78.80%	35.70%
Springfield	81.70%	19.20%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Among the largest cities in New England, Worcester has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of 25-34 year olds who have High School diplomas or higher and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest percentage of the same age group with Bachelor's Degrees or higher.

# SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

## WORCESTER'S HISTORIC UNEMPLOYMENT TREND

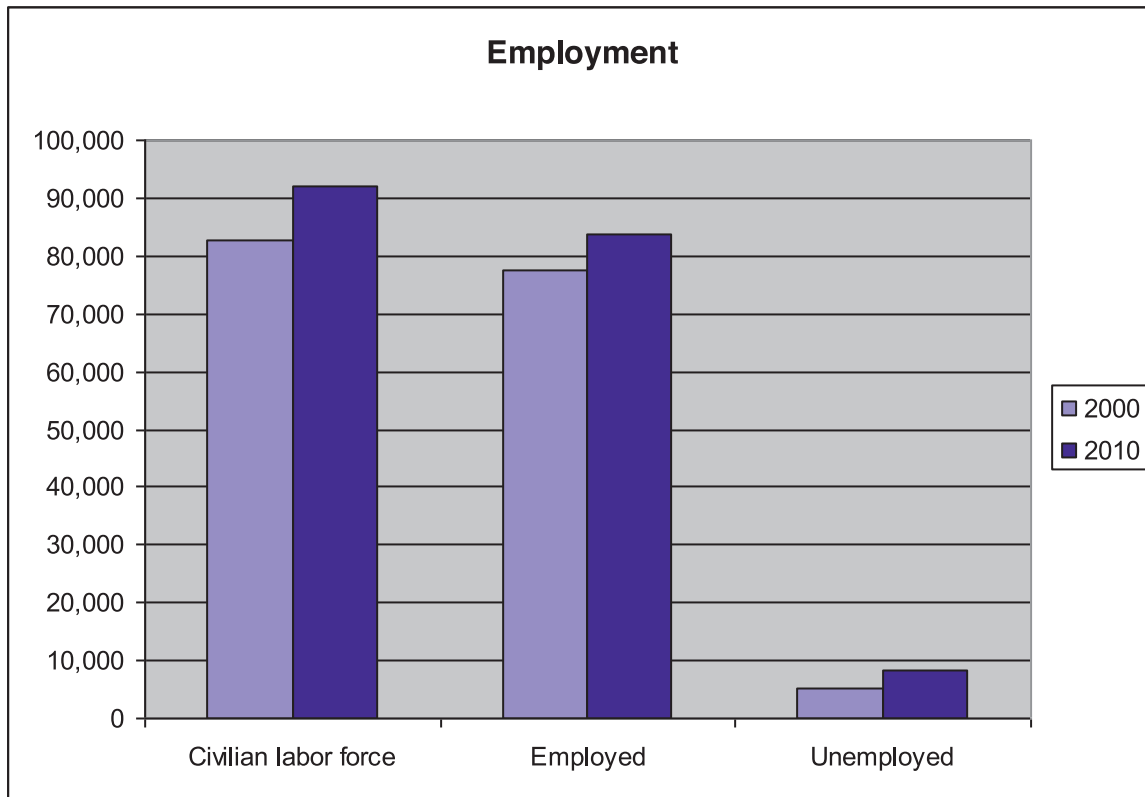


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

	2009	2010	2011
Worcester	9.4	9.8	8.9
Massachusetts	8.2	8.3	7.4

The average unemployment rate for Worcester has been higher than Massachusetts' state average for most of the last 20 years, although there were several years in the 1990's when the unemployment rates were the same.

## WORCESTER'S EMPLOYMENT (Age 16+)



Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey and 2000 US Census Summary File 3

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of persons in Worcester's civilian labor force increased by 11.22%, or 9,276.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See note on page 16 regarding the definitions of labor force, number of employed persons, and number of unemployed persons.

## WORCESTER'S LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

### RACE/AGE/GENDER 2010

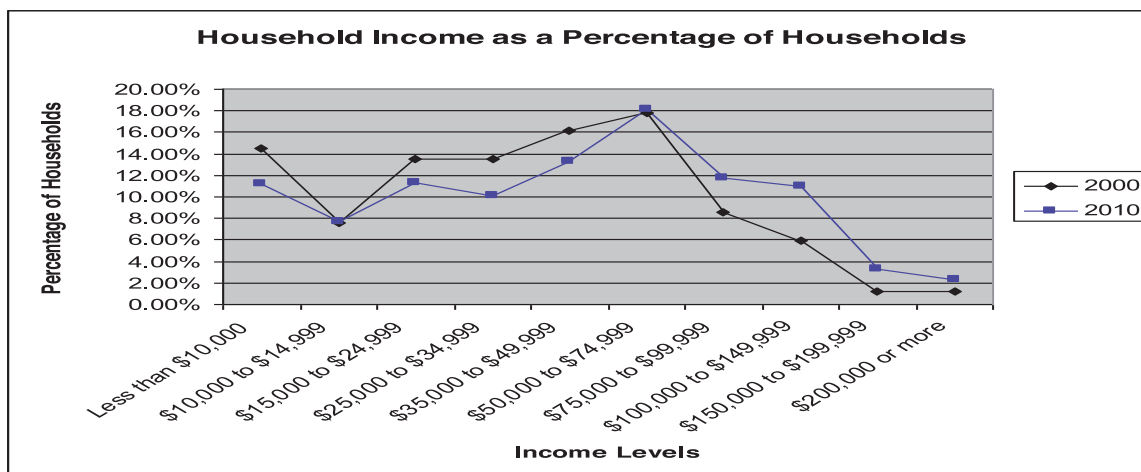
Subject	Worcester city, Massachusetts			
	Total Estimate	In labor force Estimate	Employed Estimate	Unemployment rate Estimate
<b>Population 16 years and over</b>	145,521	63.20%	57.50%	8.90%
<b>AGE</b>				
16 to 19 years	14,509	40.90%	30.10%	26.30%
20 to 24 years	17,027	65.90%	56.50%	14.00%
25 to 44 years	50,514	81.10%	74.90%	7.50%
45 to 54 years	24,023	82.30%	77.10%	6.30%
55 to 64 years	17,032	65.90%	61.80%	6.20%
65 to 74 years	9,948	23.40%	23.00%	2.10%
75 years and over	12,468	4.60%	4.40%	3.00%
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>				
One race	142,686	63.30%	57.60%	8.90%
White	115,639	62.30%	57.10%	8.40%
Black or African American	13,558	69.70%	63.40%	9.00%
American Indian and Alaska Native	364	59.30%	48.10%	19.00%
Asian	7,903	66.00%	59.20%	10.30%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	174	77.00%	67.80%	11.90%
Some other race	5,048	63.00%	52.60%	16.60%
Two or more races	2,835	61.40%	53.70%	12.60%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	23,802	59.30%	49.90%	15.80%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	98,998	63.00%	58.20%	7.40%
<b>Population 20 to 64 years</b>	108,596	76.60%	70.50%	7.90%
<b>SEX</b>				
Male	52,859	81.40%	74.40%	8.50%
Female	55,737	72.10%	66.80%	7.30%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The unemployment rate among age groups is highest for those between the ages of 16 and 19 at 26.3%. Among racial groups, unemployment is highest for American Indian and Alaska Natives at 19%, followed by those of Hispanic or Latino origin at 15.8%. The unemployment rate among men, 8.5%, is higher than among women, 7.3%.

## WORCESTER'S HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household Income 2000 (1999 Dollars)	Estimated # of Households	Percent
Households	67,083	100%
Less than \$10,000	9,744	14.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5,126	7.6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	9,059	13.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9,058	13.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	10,830	16.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11,965	17.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5,771	8.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	3,931	5.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	800	1.2%
\$200,000 or more	799	1.2%
Household Income 2010 (2010 Dollars)	Estimate	Percent
Total households	70,441	100.00%
Less than \$10,000	7,879	11.19%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5,386	7.65%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7,936	11.27%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7,130	10.12%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9,402	13.35%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12,740	18.09%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8,274	11.75%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	7,751	11.00%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,344	3.33%
\$200,000 or more	1,599	2.27%



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census Summary File 3 and 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of households making \$49,999 or less decreased by 13.9%, while all households making \$50,000 or more increased by 40.6%. There has been little to no change in the number of households making \$10,000 to \$14,999 and \$50,000 to \$74,999 between 2000 and 2010.



## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN REPORT

1. US CENSUS: The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute federal funds to states and local communities. For the 2010 Census, approximately 74 percent of households returned their census forms by mail; the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States.
2. AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides data every year -- giving communities current information to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. Since ACS uses sample sizes each year, there is a large margin of error for each data point. However, five-year data are an aggregate of the data collected, and thus have a smaller margin of error than shorter-term reports.
3. UNEMPLOYMENT TERMS (from the Bureau of Labor Statistics)
  - a. **Employed**: People are employed if they did any work for pay or profit during the week they are surveyed, if they did at least 15 hours of unpaid work at a family owned enterprise, operated by someone in their household, and if they were temporarily absent from their regular jobs because of temporary illness, vacation, industrial disputes, or various personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for their time off or not.
  - b. **Unemployed**: People are counted as unemployed if they did not work for pay or profit during the survey week, made at least one active attempt to find a job in the previous four weeks, and were currently available for work (minus temporary illness). They are also counted as unemployed even if they are actively seeking employment but are currently waiting for a call back from a job from which they were temporarily laid off.
  - c. **Not in the Labor Force**: People who are neither employed nor unemployed are considered to not be in the labor force. For example, someone who does not have a job and has not made an active effort to search for one in the past four weeks is counted as not in the labor force. (An active effort includes responding to ads, filling out applications, placing phone calls, etc. Just looking at classified ads in the newspaper does not count.)
  - d. All people who are counted as employed or unemployed are considered to be a part of the Civilian Labor Force. The Civilian Labor Force does not include people on active duty in the Armed Forces or anyone under the age of 16.

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*The Research Bureau serves the public interest of the Greater Worcester region by conducting independent, non-partisan research and analysis of public policy issues to promote informed public debate and decision-making.*



## The Research Bureau

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