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## Livingston County Summary\*

### General Overview

Livingston County, formed from parts of Genesee and Ontario counties in 1821, is home to some of the region's most picturesque Finger Lakes landscapes, as well as the highly ranked liberal arts college SUNY Geneseo.

Letchworth State Park, popularly referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the East", is a 14,000-acre destination that boasts a diverse range of terrain, hiking trails, and other outdoor activities.

In 2017, Letchworth was voted USA Today Reader's Choice for "Best Attraction in New York State".

Livingston County has had growth in some sectors of the economy and falling crime rates over the past decade, despite the economic downturn caused by the recession of 2008. Livingston maintained a high graduation rate in 2018 at 88%, but once again, performance on state tests was mixed. The teen pregnancy rate in the county was the lowest in the region at 1%. Livingston had the lowest mortality rate in the region.

### Demographic Overview

Livingston County experienced a comparatively small population change in 2017 with a decrease of 1.3%. This is in contrast to a 0.9% increase for the region, 4.6% for the state, and 15.7% for the nation. In 2017, Livingston was home to 63,799 residents, or about 5% of the total regional population.

Similar to other counties in the upstate region, Livingston County has an aging population:

- Between 2000 and 2013-17, the number of residents younger than 20 years declined 16%, and the 20-to-39 range declined 12%.
- The number of adults 85+ increased 54%, greater than the 36% for the region, 43% for the state, and 48% in the nation.
- The 40-to-59 age group was the largest in the county, accounting for 28% of the county's population.
- The 60-84 age group grew by 54% from 2000 to 2013-17, well above the region, state, and every other county besides Ontario.

Despite an increase in the number of Hispanic and Asian residents, Livingston County remains predominately white:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, the Hispanic population grew by 59% and the Asian population grew by 30%. Over the same period, the white population decreased 1%, and the African American population declined by 5%.
- Whites made up 94% of the population in 2013-17, while African Americans and Hispanics each had a share of 3%.

*\*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit [actrochester.org/all-indicators](http://actrochester.org/all-indicators) for updates.*

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### Community Vitality

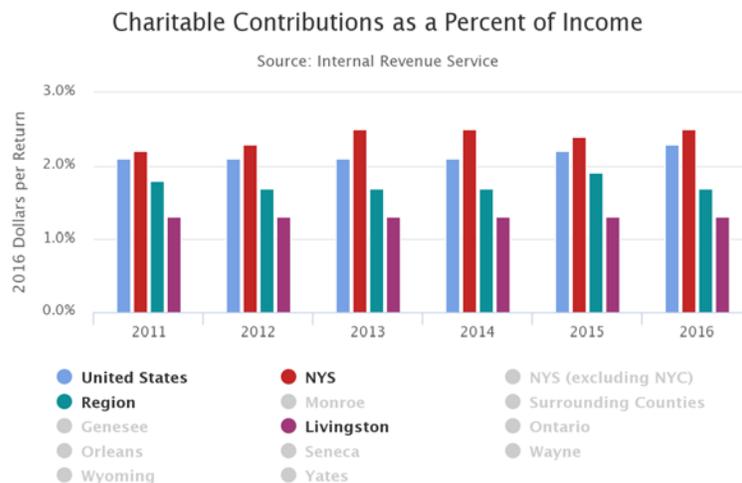
Livingston County attracted less tourism spending per capita than all other counties in the region besides Orleans and Wayne. In 2017, tourism spending amounted to \$827 per resident, for a countywide total of approximately \$53 million. In percentage terms, this was a 27% increase from 2005 levels. Livingston’s 2017 rate was below the region (\$1,368) and state excluding NYC (\$2,089).

In 2017, only one county, Wayne, had lower recreational spending per resident than Livingston (\$22). Livingston spent less than a third of the region’s rate (\$76), and far less than the state excluding New York City (\$184). Livingston’s recreational spending in 2017 was on par with 2005.

In 2017, voter registration in Livingston County (79%) was below the regional rate (81%), but was on par with the state rate.

In the 2016 presidential election, voter turnout was 58%, a higher rate in Livingston than the 2012 presidential elections but on par with 2008. Livingston County had a higher rate of voter turnout than the state (50%) and nation (55%), but was on par with the region. Livingston’s turnout rate for the 2014 midterm elections was 36%, the lowest of the past four midterm elections, but still above the state (25%) and region (35%).

In 2016, residents in Livingston County gave 1.3% of their income to benefit charitable causes, a stabilized rate since 2011. The county did however increase its total contribution amount by 8% since 2011, the second highest increase in the region.



Livingston County's registered library borrowers was the second lowest in the region:

- In 2016, 40% of residents of Livingston's county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (57%) and region (63%), and every county in the region except Wyoming.
- The number of library visits have more than doubled since 2000, a much bigger increase than the state, region, and all counties in the region in that timeframe.

In 2013-17, Livingston had a lower share of households without a vehicle (8%) than the nation (9%), as well as the region and the state excluding New York City (both 10%). Though Livingston's rate increased 2 points from 2000, it has remained relatively low and on par with many other regional counties.

### **Children and Youth**

From 2000 to 2016, the share of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester decreased by 1 point to 79%. It currently stands above the state (77%) and regional (80%) rates.

While not as severe as the state, nation, and region, the child poverty rate in Livingston County has risen from 10% in 2000 to 18% in 2013-17:

- Livingston's rate increase of 8 points from 2000 to 2013-17 was a larger increase than the state (1 point), nation (3), region (6), and every other county in the region except for Genesee and Ontario.

Single parent families have also been on the rise in Livingston:

- The proportion of families raised by single parents rose by 8 points from 28% in 2000 to 36% in 2013-17, equal to the increase in the region but greater than the state and national increase of 3 and 5 points, respectively.
- In 2013-17, Livingston's rate was on par with the state (also 36%), and similar to the nation (34%), but lower than the region (39%).

In 2017, Livingston had an increase in its rate of foster care admissions:

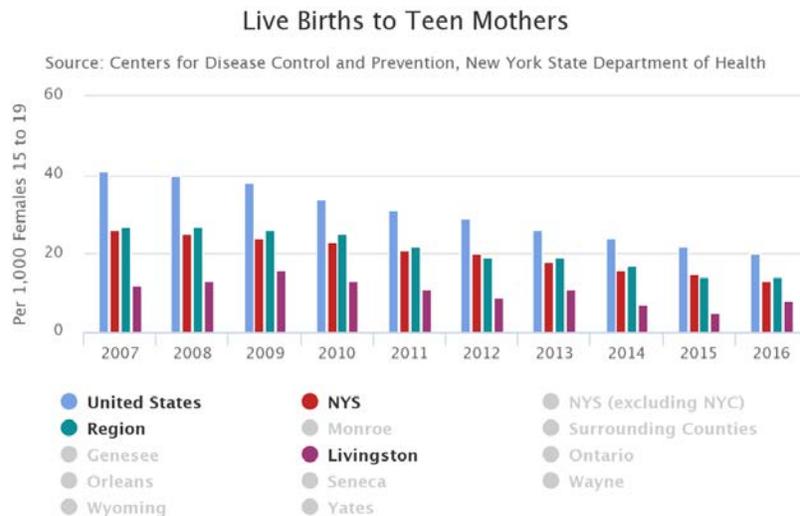
- Livingston's rate in 2017 was 2.9 admissions per 1,000 children – higher than both the state (2.0) and region (2.1).
- The rate – partly due to the small number of total admissions – has fluctuated substantially over the years since 2000. The total number of admissions is currently the same as its total in 2000 (33), the current rate per 1,000 children is higher than it was in 2000 (2.2). This compares to stagnant or dropped rates for the region, state and most surrounding counties over the same timeframe.

Livingston's rate of child abuse and neglect in 2016 (21 per 1,000 children) was higher than the state and region but lower than all of the counties in the region except Wyoming and Monroe. The rate has increased by 40% since 2000, above the regional increase of 29%.

The proportion of babies born with low birth weights has remained steady – between 5% and 7% - between 2000 and 2016. A 1.7-point increase was seen from 2000 to 2016, bringing the rate of low-weight births in Livingston to 7%. This rate is on par with the region (7%), but remains lower than the state and the nation (both 8%).

In 2016, Livingston County had among the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the region (1%). In the years since 2000 – during which the rate fell by 67% - Livingston’s rate has consistently been below the state, region, and most other counties in the region.

Livingston County also had among the lowest teen birth rates in the region. In 2016, there were 8 live births per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years old in the county, much lower than the regional (14), statewide (13) and national (20) rates, and a 62% decrease from Livingston’s rate in 2000 (21).



## Economy

Livingston’s unemployment rate increased in 2017, though it was still well below its peak of 8.4% in 2009:

- Unemployment jumped from 4.9% in 2007 to a high of 8.4% in 2009, but has since returned to 5.1% in 2017. The total increase from 2000 to 2017 was 24%, more than the statewide and national increases, but less than that of the region.
- Livingston’s rate in 2017 was similar to the region (5%) and most other individual counties.

Livingston experienced the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest job growth rate in the region in 2017. The rate more than doubled since 2016, and increased by 38% since 2002:

- Livingston saw a 1.1% increase in total jobs from 2016 to 2017, higher than the region (0.50%) but less than the state and nation (both 1.4%).
- Livingston’s total number of jobs fell less in the Manufacturing sector (9%) compared to the nation (21%), state (34%), and region (36%).

- Livingston grew more than the state, nation, and region in the Construction, and more than the region in the Education, and Financial Activities sectors.
- Livingston's Information sector jobs grew modestly (9%) from 2001 to 2017, in stark contrast to double-digit declines in the state, nation, region, and every other county in the region.
- The largest decline of job growth in Livingston was seen in Professional and Business Services (38%), in contrast to gains of 16% for the state, 27% for the state and 31% for the nation.

Average salaries in Livingston County have grown at a rate that lags behind the nation, state and many other counties:

- The average salary, adjusted for inflation, grew by 6% from 2000 to 2017, lower than the statewide and national rates (both 10%).
- Livingston's average salary in 2017 was \$38,793, well below the state (\$70,538), and nation (\$55,375).

## **Education**

Livingston County has made significant progress in prekindergarten participation, but still lags behind the state and region:

- Livingston County's prekindergarten participation increased dramatically from 4% in 2001 to 35% in 2017. The county's increase of 31 points was lower than the state and region (37 and 33 points).
- Livingston's rate of participation was lower than the state (52%) and the region (44%) in 2017.

Passing rates for the Common-Core aligned tests were generally lower than the state and the region in math:

- Livingston's 41% pass rate in 2018 for 3rd grade English was lower than the state and region, meanwhile the 3rd grade Math passing rate of 49% was below the state, but above the region.
- Livingston had a 40% passing rate for both 8th grade English and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math. In 2018, the English rate was about level with the region (41%), but fell below the state (48%). Meanwhile the Math rate was lower than both the region and the state (45% and 48% respectively).

Livingston students passed Common Core-aligned Regents tests at higher rates than the state and region, with 84% passing English and 88% passing Common Core Algebra 1 in 2018:

- We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2018 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2018, 19% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English or Math exams.

Livingston had a high graduation rate in 2018 at 88%; this is an increase of 3 points from 2008. The graduation rate in 2018 was above the state (83%) and region (85%).

Less adults attended college in Livingston County than the state and region:

- In 2013-17, 56% of adults had attended at least some college, below the state and national rates of 60% and the regional rate of 62%.
- Livingston's most educated – those with a bachelor's degree or higher – made up just 24% of the population, as compared to 31% for the nation, 35% for the state, and 32% for the region.

Per-student spending on education (this includes instruction, administration, transportation, etc.) has risen by 54% since 2000 to \$21,953 in 2017. This was below the region (\$22,208) and the state (\$24,712).

In 2017, Livingston County spent \$15,059 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student's classroom experience), similar to the region (\$15,778), but below the state (\$18,604). Livingston's instructional spending per student has increased 49% since 2000, more than the region (43%), but much less than the state (60%).

## **Economic Security**

Livingston has seen its median income drop since 2000:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, Livingston's median income fell by 13% to \$53,654 compared to national and statewide decreases of 7% and 2%, respectively. Within the region, only Wayne and Monroe counties had larger decreases in their income over that period.
- Livingston's median income in 2013-17 was below the national (\$57,652), state (\$62,765), and regional (\$54,972) levels. However, these income trends varied from 2007-11 when Livingston's median household income was slightly higher than the nation but lower than the state.

Livingston's poverty rate has increased steadily since 2000:

- In 2013-17, the poverty rate in Livingston was 15%, on par with the state and nation, and above the region (14%).
- The total increase of 5 points since 2000 was above the national, state, and regional increases.

The percentage of people receiving temporary assistance has increased a half point from 2001 to 2017, more than the state and the region:

- Every county in the region (besides Monroe and Wyoming) saw an increase in their rates from 2001 to 2017, but Livingston's increase was among the largest (31%).
- For comparison, over that period, the state and regional rates decreased 0.8 and 0.5 points respectively.
- Livingston's rate of 2.1% in 2017 is lower than the state and region but higher than many of the counties surrounding Monroe.

The rate of disengaged youth in Livingston County was 7% for 2013-17, slightly higher than the region (6%), and about half of the region’s counties, but on par with the nation and state (both 7%).

In 2013-17, 14% of households in Livingston County participated in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This rate was 4 points higher than 2008-12, the largest increase in the region and more than the increases seen on the national and statewide levels (both 2 points).

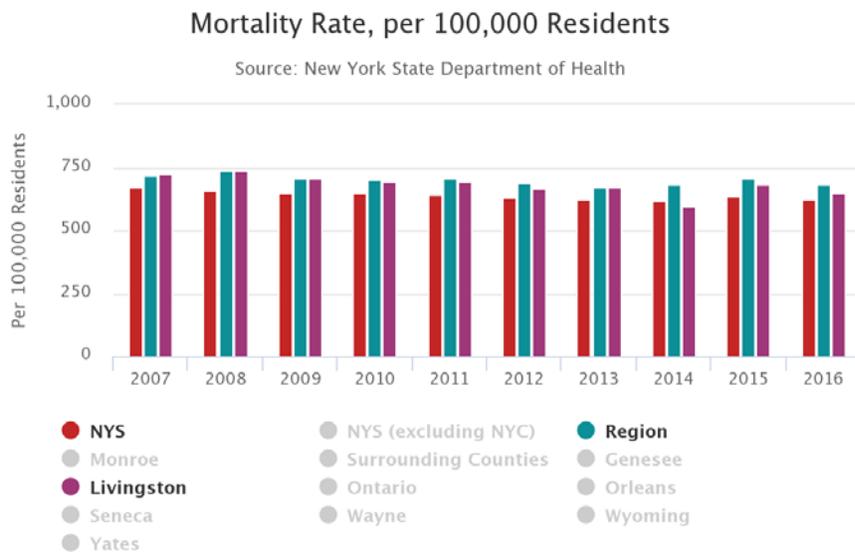
## Health

The rate of uninsured have fallen, and is lower than the state and nation:

- In 2016, 5% of Livingston residents were uninsured, well below the national (10%) and state (7%) rates and on par with the region.
- Livingston’s rate has fallen by 6 points from 2008, in-line with rate decreases in the nation, state and region.

Livingston had the lowest mortality rate of all individual counties, and decreased more than the region and state:

- In 2016, the mortality rate was 645 per 100,000 residents, above the state rate of 624, however, below the regional rate of 685.
- The rate fell by 28% from 2000 to 2016, a steeper drop than in the region, state and any county in the region.



In 2017, Livingston County reported one of the lowest rates of gonorrhea cases in the region. At 2 reported cases per 10,000 residents, Livingston’s rate was much lower than the region and the state (both 17 per 10,000 residents), and was also half the rate it experienced in 2000.

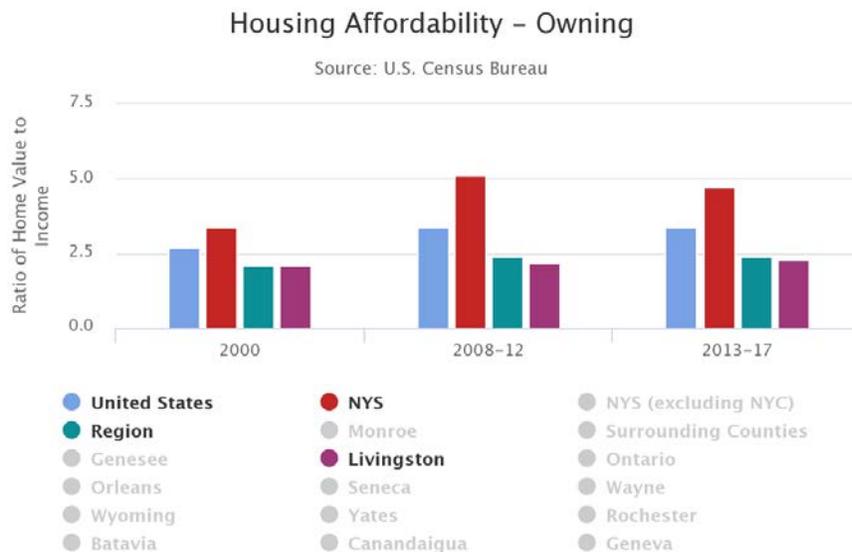
## Housing

Median home values decreased slightly in Livingston, in contrast to large increases for state and the nation:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, the median home value in Livingston dropped 2% from \$126,974 to \$125,000. This compares to an 18% increase nationally and a 35% increase statewide during the same period.
- The regional median and most county medians fell slightly from 2000 to 2013-17.
- In 2013-17, the median home value in Livingston (\$125,000) was lower than the median value in the region (\$133,156), state (\$293,000), and the nation (\$193,500).

Housing is particularly affordable in Livingston:

- Despite rising by 10% since 2000, in 2013-17 Livingston had a 2.3 ratio of median home value to median household income (which is a measure of housing affordability).
- Livingston's ratio was similar to the region (2.4), but notably lower than the state (4.7) and nation (3.4).
- The ratio rose less in Livingston from 2000 to 2013-17 than it did in the nation (26%), state (38%), and region (14%).



The median rent in Livingston County has fallen by 5% since 2000. In 2013-17, the median rent was \$755, compared to \$982 nationally, \$1,194 for the state, and \$827 for the region.

The share of household income that went to rent was 35% in 2013-17, slightly above the national rate (32%) but below the state (36%) and regional (34%) figures. Like in many regional counties, the state, and nation, Livingston's rate rose from 2000 to 2013-17.

In 2013-17, Livingston’s homeownership rate was 73%, similar to rates in surrounding counties, but higher than the rates for the state (54%), nation (64%) and region (68%).

The rate of vacant housing units was 11% in Livingston County for 2013-17, a 38% increase from 2000:

- This increase surpasses that of all other counties in the region, as well as the nationwide increase (33%) and the regional increase (25%) for that same period. However, it is lower than the increase experienced by the state (50%).
- Livingston’s vacant housing rate is higher than the region as a whole (10%), but lower the state and nation (both also 12%).

## Public Safety

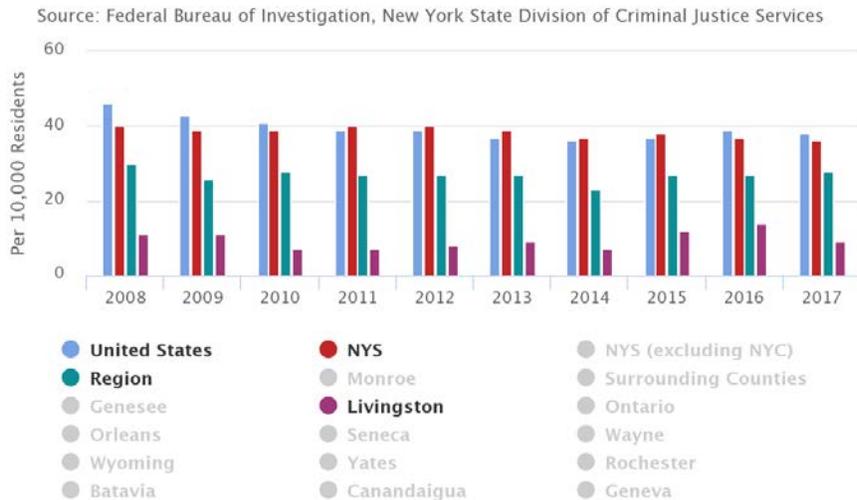
Serious crimes have fallen and remain relatively low in Livingston:

- From 2000 to 2017, the rate of serious crimes in the region dropped 47% - more than the nation, region and the state to 127 per 10,000 residents.
- In 2017, Livingston’s rate was below the national rate of 275, the state rate of 182, and the regional rate of 214.

Livingston reported the lowest violent crime rate in the region for 2017:

- The rate of 9 per 10,000 residents in 2017 was a 36% decrease from 2000, similar to the statewide decrease (35%), and a greater decrease than the nation (25%). Livingston’s drop in violent crime was in contrast to the region that saw an increase of 22% for this period.
- 2017 saw a drop of 5 reported violent crime incidents per 10,000 residents in the county, five times greater of a decrease than the region, state or nation (all that dropped 1 per 10,000 residents).

## Violent Crimes



Livingston County had approximately 202 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2017. Arrests in the county decreased 10% from 2000 (224), and was greater than the region (198) and the state (226).

Livingston County had an incarceration rate of approximately 20 per 10,000 residents in 2017, the second highest in the region after Seneca (23), and higher than the state (12) and the region (14). Incarcerations in Livingston for 2017 were 42% higher than in 2000 making it one of the few counties in the region to experience an increase during this period (the others being Genesee, 31%, and Seneca, 53%).

*To learn more about our cities, counties and region, visit <https://actrochester.org/>.*