Population, Age, & Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>5,460</td>
<td>4,971</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Householders living alone</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>2,063</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Residents living in families</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>Households with someone &lt;18</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Households with someone &gt; 65</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median age for those living in Columbia is 48.1 years old, 7.7 years older than CT’s median age of 40.4 years old.

Race and Ethnicity: Columbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial and Ethnic Groups</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4,688</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Multi-Race</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connecticut is becoming increasingly diverse. Between 2010 and 2015, the nonwhite population increased from 28% to 31%. In Columbia, 86% of residents are white, while 14% are nonwhite.

Household Income

Columbia’s annual median household income in 2015 was $89,986, 28% more than Connecticut’s median household income of $70,331. It is 13% more than Tolland County’s median household income of $79,626. Columbia’s median household income ranks 58 (1=highest, 169=lowest) among CT’s 169 municipalities.

Aging of the Population

Columbia is one of the 116 Connecticut municipalities projected to see a drop in their school-age population between 2020 and 2030. Many municipalities will see declines over 15%. In Columbia, the projected decrease is 5%. Meanwhile the 65+ population for Columbia is projected to increase by 21%.
### Characteristics of Housing Stock

#### Tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Columbia</th>
<th>Tolland County</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,159</td>
<td>58,383</td>
<td>1,491,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-Occupied</td>
<td>1,751</td>
<td>39,880</td>
<td>906,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-Occupied</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>14,587</td>
<td>446,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3,916</td>
<td>139,203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey*

Columbia saw its number of housing units increase by 9% from 2000 to 2015. Renters live in 14% of Columbia’s housing stock, compared to 25% for Tolland County and 30% for Connecticut.

#### Units in Structure

Overall, 66% of CT’s occupied housing stock is comprised of single-family housing, while 33% is multifamily housing (≥2 units in structure) and 1% is mobile homes.

In Columbia, 91% of occupied homes are single-family, 9% are multifamily (≥2 units in structure), and 0% are mobile homes. Renters live in 100% of Columbia’s 177 multifamily homes, and owners occupy 94% of its 1,871 single-family homes.

#### Year Built

CT’s housing stock varies in age, with 22% built before 1939, 36% built from 1940 to 1969 and 42% built from 1970 on.

In Columbia, 13% of the housing stock was built prior to 1939, 27% was built between 1940 and 1969 and the remaining 61% was built after 1970. Shifting demographics indicate that housing built from 1970 on may not meet the needs of CT’s current and future residents.

#### Bedrooms

A majority of homes in CT have 3 or more bedrooms, with 37% having 3 bedrooms and 22% having 4 or more. 42% of the homes in the state have 2 or fewer bedrooms.

Over 80% of homes in Columbia have 3 or more bedrooms, while 20% have 2 or fewer bedrooms. Towns and cities that have larger homes with more bedrooms offer fewer housing options for younger workers or downsizing Baby Boomers.

---

*Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey*
Housing Costs for Owners and Renters

Affordability

Across CT, 50% of renters and 32% of owners spend more than 30% of their income on housing. In Columbia, 48% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, while 21% of owners do the same. Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing may have little left over for necessities such as transportation, food, health care, etc.

Home Value

The value of homes in Connecticut has risen significantly over the last 15 years, putting home ownership out of reach for many middle-class households. In Columbia, 44% of homes were valued under $150,000 in 2000, compared to 9% now. The median home value in Columbia is now $241,900, an increase of 49% since 2000.

Gross Rent

According to 2011-15 American Community Survey data, 68% of Columbia’s 312 rental units have a gross rent over $1,000 per month and 27% have a gross rent under $750 per month.

Rental Units by Gross Rent: Columbia

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Housing Costs & Income

Owner Households: Columbia

The average homeowner household in Columbia has a median income of $96,623.

- Median Income: $107,099
- Median Monthly Owner Costs: $1,729

Renter Households: Columbia

Median Income Renter Households = $52,545

42% less than the median income of all households.

- Median Gross Rent = $1,136
- 26% of income spent on rent
- 74% of income for all other expenses.

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey
Housing Wage

2017 Housing Wage: Columbia

$23.31

Columbia is included in the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford Metro Area.

Each year, the National Low Income Housing Coalition calculates the “housing wage,” the hourly wage needed for a household to afford a typical 2-bedroom apartment in metro areas throughout the United States.

Connecticut’s housing costs are typically high, ranking #8 in 2017 with a housing wage of $24.72.

Building Permits

Connecticut saw a sharp decline in building permits following the crash of the housing market in the mid-2000s. As the housing market slowly recovers, statewide building permits have increased by small amounts since 2011, with permits for multifamily units at levels not seen for a decade. Building permits issued, however, remain well below the levels seen in the 1980s and 1990s.

Affordable Housing Appeals List

Each year the CT Department Of Housing surveys municipalities in the state to determine the number of affordable units each has. The data is compiled for the Affordable Housing Appeals List. The following housing units are counted as affordable in Columbia in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assisted Units Counted in 2016 Appeals List:</th>
<th>Calculation of % of Total Units Assisted:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Columbia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Columbia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Governmentally Assisted Units</td>
<td>98 ÷ 2,308 = 4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tenant Rental Assistance</td>
<td>Total Assisted Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 CHFA/USDA Mortgages</td>
<td>2,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 0 Deed Restricted Units</td>
<td>Units Assisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98 Total Assisted Units</td>
<td>Total Units, 2010 Census</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Housing Data Profiles are produced by the Partnership for Strong Communities.

For more details about the information presented or to use any of the graphics in the Housing Data Profiles, please contact: Charles Patton, Senior Policy Analyst, charles@pschousing.org.
Analysis of Housing Conditions

Key Stats

Population
5,460

Households
2,063

Projected Change in Population from 2020-2030
5-19 Year Olds: -5%
65+ Year Old: 21%

Median Household Income
All Households: $89,986
Owners: $96,623
Renters: $52,545

Housing Units
Total Units: 2,159
Owner-Occupied: 81%
Renter-Occupied: 14%
Vacant: 4%

Single-Family/Multifamily
Single Family: 91%
Multifamily: 9%

Median Home Value
$241,900

Median Gross Rent
$1,136

Households Spending 30% or More on Housing
All Households: 25%
Owners: 21%
Renters: 48%

Housing Built 1970 or Later
61%

2016 Affordable Housing Appeals List
Assisted Units: 4%

% Change in Total Real Property, 2008-2016
-12%

Columbia’s Housing Data Profile:
The Story Behind the Numbers

Columbia, like most of Connecticut’s municipalities, has a relatively high median household income, high housing costs, few units for teachers, nurses, electricians, firefighters and town workers, and a narrow range of housing choices for Baby Boomers seeking to downsize and Millennials and young families seeking to move to town.

Housing remains expensive in Columbia relative to the median household income. Statewide, 50% of renters and 32% of homeowners spend 30% or more of their household incomes on housing. In Columbia, where the $89,986 median household income is higher than the statewide median of $70,331, 48% of the town’s renters and 21% of its homeowners spend 30% or more of their income on housing.

Columbia is one of the many Connecticut municipalities that could see a decline in school enrollment through 2030 because of a projected decline in school-age (5-19) population of 5% from 2020 to 2030. At the same time, its population is getting much older, with a projected increase of 21% in the 65+ population from 2020 to 2030, potentially leading to the need for smaller, denser, more affordable homes closer to the town center, services and, if possible, transit connections.

While the number of renting households in Connecticut has increased from 30% to 35% since 2007, many towns are ill-prepared to accommodate the needs of renters. Columbia is one of 118 Connecticut municipalities with single-family homes dominating its housing stock (91%) and little modest or multifamily housing to offer (20% units are 0-2 bedrooms, compared to 42% statewide), mostly because many of those towns built the bulk of their homes after 1970 (61% in Columbia) to accommodate the needs of new Baby Boomer families then in their 20s.

Now in their 60s, those families are seeking more modest homes. But their attempts to sell are being met by few offers because few young families can afford to move to those towns, flattening median sales prices and stunting the growth of Grand Lists – the towns’ total value of real property – and thus property tax revenues needed to pay for increasingly expensive services. From 2008 through 2016 (latest OPM figures), 150 towns experienced negative growth in real property values, 2 had no growth and 7 had only slight growth of 2 percent or less. The total real property Grand List in Columbia declined significantly by 12% from 2008 through 2016.

Across the state, 138 of the 169 municipalities have affordable homes totaling less than 10% of their housing stock. These are the kinds of homes increasingly sought by young professionals, families, town workers, downsizing Baby Boomers and others. In Columbia, 4% of the homes are affordable, according to the state’s 2016 Affordable Housing Appeals List.
Data Sources & Notes

Page 1

- Populations, Age, & Race
  - DP-1 - Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data
  - DP02 - Selected Social Characteristics In The United States, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
  - DP05 - ACS Demographic And Housing Estimates, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Note: Due to rounding throughout the profile, some results may not appear to correspond with the values in tables, charts and text.

- Age & Income
  - Median Household Income

- Aging of Population

Page 2

- Tenure, Units in Structure, Year Built, Bedrooms
  - DP04 - Selected Housing Characteristics, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Tenure note: Universe is all housing units. Total housing stock includes vacant units.

- Units in Structure notes: Multifamily includes all units with 2+ units in structure. Does not include boats, RVs, vans, etc. Universe is occupied housing units (does not include vacant units).

Page 3

- Affordability
  - DP04 - Selected Housing Characteristics, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Note: Percent income spent on housing costs is not calculated for some households, noted in chart as “Not computed.”

- Home Value
  - B25075 - Value, Universe: Owner-occupied housing units, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Gross Rent
  - DP04 - Selected Housing Characteristics, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Housing Costs & Income
  - Median Household Income by Tenure
  - Median Household Income for Owner-Occupied Households by Mortgage Status
  - Median Monthly Housing Costs by Mortgage Status, Median Gross Rent
    - DP04 - Selected Housing Characteristics, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Note: Median Gross Rent data suppressed for some geographies by Census Bureau, reasons for suppression may vary.

Page 4

- Housing Wage
  - Out of Reach 2017, 2-Bedroom Housing Wage, National Low Income Housing Coalition

- Grand Lists
  - Total Grand Lists by Town, 2008 and 2014, CT Office of Policy and Management

- Building Permits
  - Connecticut New Housing Authorizations in 2016, Construction Report: Housing Production & Permits, CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development

- Affordable Housing Appeals List
  - 2016 Affordable Housing Appeals List, CT Dept. of Housing