## Population, Age, & Race

### 2011-15 vs 2000 Population Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011-15</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3,794</td>
<td>3,099</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householders living alone</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents living in families</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with someone &lt; 18</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with someone &gt; 65</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median age for those living in Sterling is 36.4 years old, 4.0 years younger than CT’s median age of 40.4 years old.

### Race and Ethnicity: Sterling

<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>85</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3,487</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Multi-Race</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connecticut is becoming increasingly diverse. Between 2010 and 2015, the nonwhite population increased from 28% to 31%. In Sterling, 92% of residents are white, while 8% are nonwhite.

### Household Income

Sterling’s annual median household income in 2015 was $71,696, 2% more than Connecticut’s median household income of $70,331. It is 21% more than Windham County’s median household income of $59,392. Sterling’s median household income ranks 123 (1=highest, 169=lowest) among CT’s 169 municipalities.

### Median Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sterling</td>
<td>$71,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windham County</td>
<td>$59,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>$70,331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aging of the Population

Sterling 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 Sterling, the projected decrease is 2%. Meanwhile the 65+ population for Sterling is projected to increase by 60%.

### Age Cohorts - 2015, 2030 Population Projections: Sterling

[Chart showing population projections for different age cohorts in 2015 and 2030 for Sterling.]
Characteristics of Housing Stock

Tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sterling</th>
<th>Windham County</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,274</td>
<td>49,176</td>
<td>1,491,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-Occupied</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>31,184</td>
<td>906,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-Occupied</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>13,092</td>
<td>446,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>139,203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey

Sterling saw its number of housing units increase by 7% from 2000 to 2015. Renters live in 11% of Sterling’s housing stock, compared to 27% for Windham 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 Sterling, 95% of occupied homes are single-family, 3% are multifamily (2+ units in structure), and 2% are mobile homes. Renters live in 58% of Sterling’s 36 multifamily homes, and owners occupy 91% of its 1,174 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 Sterling, 19% of the housing stock was built prior to 1939, 9% was built between 1940 and 1969 and the remaining 72% 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 73% of homes in Sterling have 3 or more bedrooms, while 27% 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.

Tenure by Year Structure Built: Sterling

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939 or earlier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940 to 1949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 to 1959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 to 1969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970 to 1979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 to 1989</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 to 1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 to 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 or Later</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey

Housing Units by Number of Bedrooms

Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Bedrooms</th>
<th>Sterling</th>
<th>Windham County</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 BRs</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 BRs</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+ BRs</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend

- Owner-Occupied
- Renter-Occupied
- Vacant

Source: 2011-15 American Community Survey
### Affordability

Across CT, 50% of renters and 32% of owners spend more than 30% of their income on housing. In Sterling, 28% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, while 36% 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 Sterling, 88% of homes were valued under $150,000 in 2000, compared to 20% now. The median home value in Sterling is now $208,800, an increase of 78% since 2000.

### Gross Rent

According to 2011-15 American Community Survey data, 36% of Sterling’s 143 rental units have a gross rent over $1,000 per month and 5% have a gross rent under $750 per month.

### Housing Costs & Income

**Owner Households: Sterling**

The average homeowner household in Sterling has a median income of $78,750.

- **Households with a Mortgage**
  - Median Income: $82,902
  - Median Monthly Owner Costs: $1,857

- **Households w/out a Mortgage**
  - Median Income: $65,515
  - Median Monthly Owner Costs: $570

**Renter Occupied**

- **Spending <30%**: 62 homes (5%)
- **Spending >=30%**: 40 homes (3%)
- **Not computed**: 41 homes (3%)

**Source:** 2011-15 American Community Survey

**Renter Households: Sterling**

- **Spending <30%**
  - Median Income: $50,179
  - 30% less than the median income of all households.
  - 25% of income spent on rent.

**Rental Units by Gross Rent: Sterling**

- **$0-$499**
- **$500-$999**
- **$1,000-$1,499**
- **$1,500 or more**
- **No rent**

**Source:** 2011-2015 American Community Survey

In Connecticut, incomes among those who own their homes tend to be much higher than incomes for renter households. However, incomes for owners who no longer pay a mortgage also tend to be lower than for those paying a mortgage, as those no longer paying a mortgage may be retired and living on fixed incomes.

**Source:** 2010-14 American Community Survey
Housing Wage

2017 Housing Wage: Sterling

$18.06

Sterling is included in the Windham County 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.

Grand List

Real Property Grand List Values, 2008-16: Sterling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Real Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$276,386,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$188,802,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Change, 2008-16: -32%

Connecticut housing prices declined precipitously after the 2008 financial crisis and have not rebounded to pre-crisis levels, particularly in municipalities - 113 of 169 - where housing stock is dominated by single-family homes. Across the state, 152 municipalities have seen either no change in real property grand lists, or declines, forcing most to raise mill rates, reduce services, or both.

Source: CT Office of Policy and Management

Building Permits by Year, 1990-2016:

Sterling

Source: CT Department of Economic and Community Development

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 Sterling in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assisted Units Counted in 2016 Appeals List: Sterling</th>
<th>Calculation of % of Total Units Assisted: Sterling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Governmentally Assisted Units</td>
<td>40 ÷ 1,511 = 2.6% (Total Assisted Units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Tenant Rental Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 CHFA/USDA Mortgages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 0 Deed Restricted Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Total Assisted Units</td>
<td></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.
Sterling, unlike most of Connecticut’s municipalities, has a modest median household income, relatively 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 Sterling 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 Sterling, where the $71,696 median household income is slightly higher than the statewide median of $70,331, 28% of the town’s renters and 36% of its homeowners spend 30% or more of their income on housing.

Sterling 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 2% from 2020 to 2030. At the same time, its population is getting much older, with a projected increase of 60% 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. Sterling is one of 118 Connecticut municipalities with single-family homes dominating its housing stock (95%) and little modest or multifamily housing to offer (27% units are 0-2 bedrooms, compared to 42% statewide), mostly because many of those towns built the bulk of their homes after 1970 (72% in Sterling) 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 Sterling declined significantly by 32% 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 Sterling, 3% of the homes are affordable, according to the state’s 2016 Affordable Housing Appeals List.
Data Sources & Notes

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⇒ 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
  B25119 - Median Household Income The Past 12 Months (In 2014 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) By Tenure, Universe: Occupied Housing Units More Information, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Note: Some towns were excluded from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey because their margin of error was too large. In these cases, data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey was used instead.
⇒ Aging of Population

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⇒ 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).

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⇒ 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
  B25119 Median Household Income The Past 12 Months (In 2014 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) By Tenure, Universe: Occupied housing units, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
• 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.

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⇒ 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