

New Hampshire ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Spring has sprung!

May 2019

Housing in New Hampshire - 2017

Spring is typically viewed as a time of new beginnings. It also marks the beginning of peak residential moving season, which usually begins in April and ends in September. It is estimated that 80 percent of residential moves occur during the peak season.¹ What housing options are available in New Hampshire?

According to the American Community Survey,² there was a larger share of New Hampshire's housing stock built prior to 1940 than was built since 2000. That indicates a significant share of housing units in the state are fairly old - roughly one of every five units are 80 years old or older, compared to one of every eight

units nationally. However, all the of New England states have larger shares of housing units that were built during this period than during more recent periods. That may be attributable in part to New England states being among the original states founded in the nation.

The share of New Hampshire housing stock built in the 1940s and 1950s is significantly smaller than the nation, 10.7 percent compared to 15.3 percent, and is second smallest share in the New England region. The share of New Hampshire's housing stock built between 1980 and 1999, at 29.7 percent, was highest among all other New England

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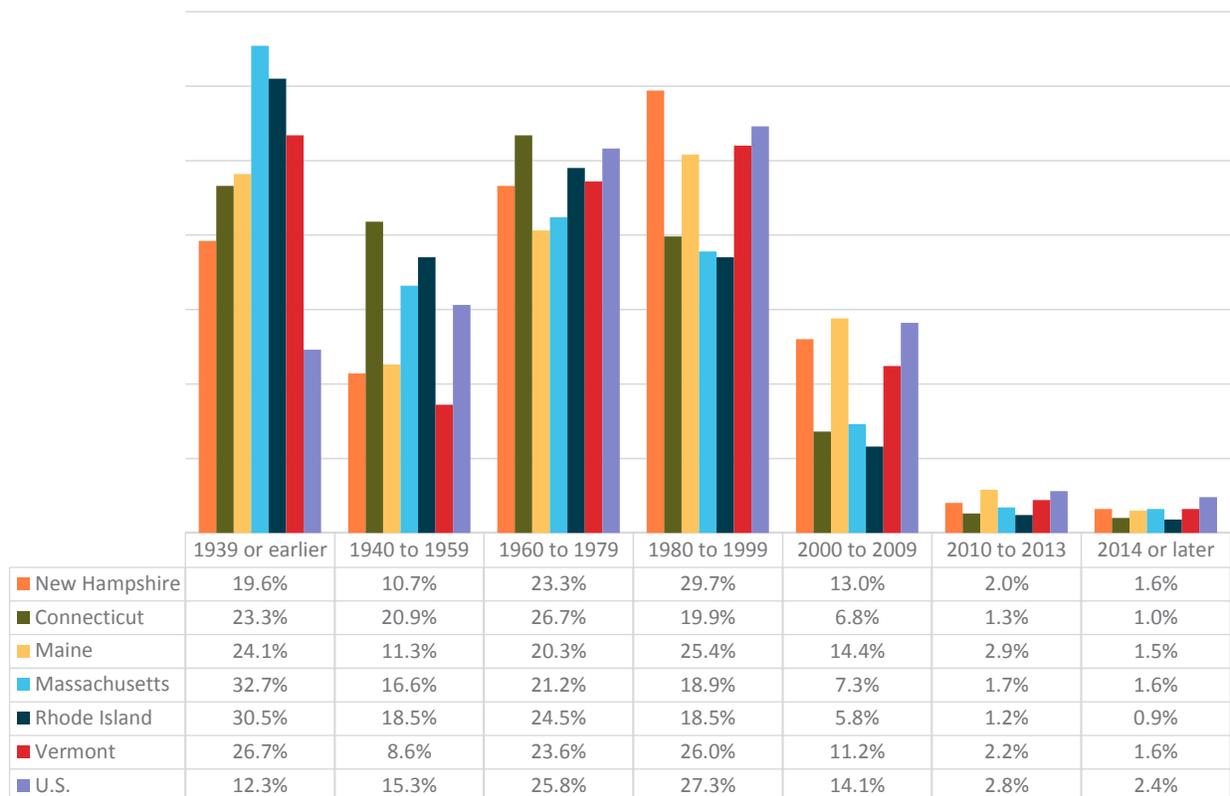
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Comparison of Time Periods Housing Structures Were Built



Source: 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

¹ Moving Labor. Knowledge Base. <http://help.movinglabor.com/start/peak-moving-season>

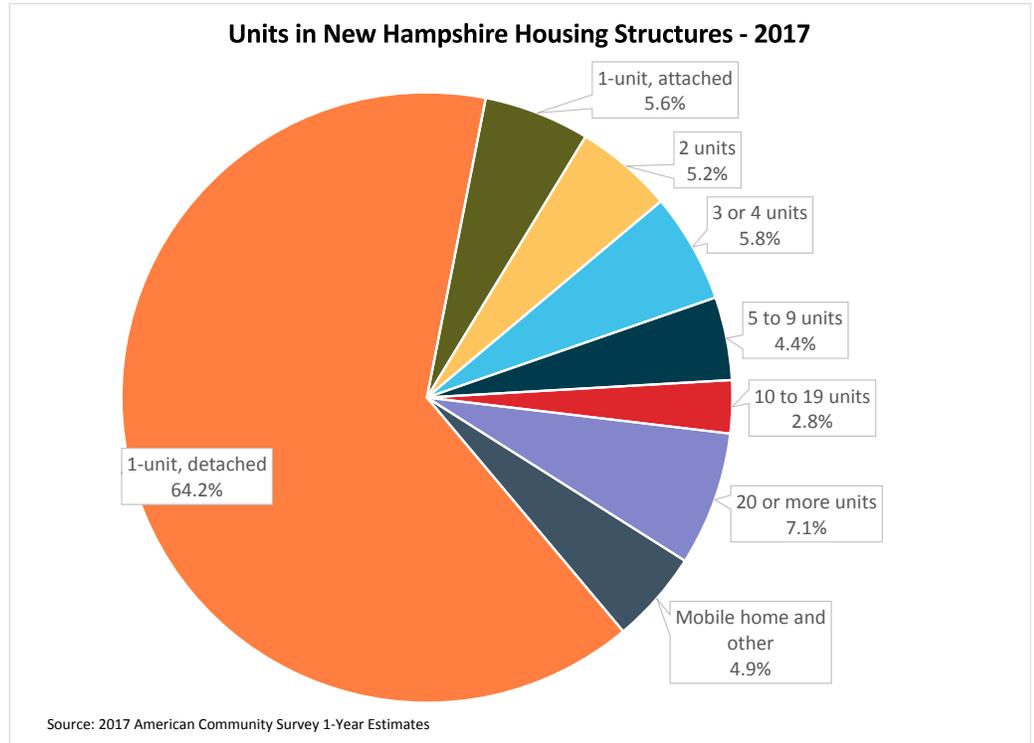
² US Census Bureau. 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table CP04: Comparative Housing Characteristics

states and the nation, and that was the only period that New Hampshire's share surpassed the other areas.

Data on housing stock include the number of housing units within each structure. New Hampshire has a larger share of housing structures with four or fewer units than the national average. Among housing structures in New Hampshire, 64.2 percent were single unit detached, and another 5.6 percent were single unit attached.³ The volume of single unit structures in New Hampshire was a full percentage point higher than that of the nation. Likewise, the shares of two-unit and three- or four-unit structures in New Hampshire, combined, exceeded the national average by three percentage points. At the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had a smaller share of housing stock with ten or more units than the national average, with 9.9 percent in New Hampshire versus 13.3 percent nationally.

Home Heating Fuel

As of 2017, there were 528,700 occupied housing units in New Hampshire, and housing data includes the type of heating

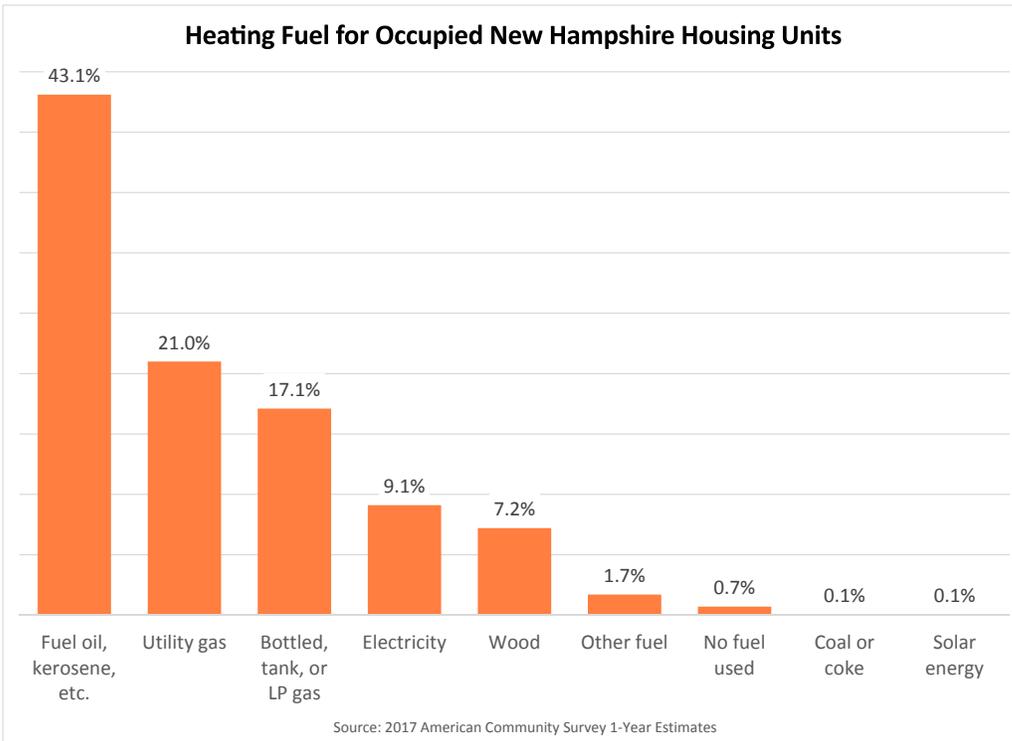


fuel for those occupied housing units. Unlike many other regions of the country, access to utility natural gas in New Hampshire is relatively new and mostly restricted to the southern portion of the state. That, in part, may explain why the largest portion of homes, over 40 percent, used fuel oil or kerosene as the primary heating fuel. Utility gas was the primary heating fuel for another

20 percent of homes, followed closely by 17 percent of homes using bottled, tank, or LP gas as the primary heating fuel. Electricity was the type of heating fuel for nine percent of occupied homes, and wood provided heat for another seven percent. Less than three percent of occupied homes used some other type of heating fuel, and less than one percent did not use heating fuel.

The type of heating fuel used differed among the counties. Fuel oil or kerosene was the most frequently used primary heating fuel in all counties, with the exception of Hillsborough County. Coös, Cheshire and Belknap counties had the highest shares of homes using fuel oil or kerosene as the primary heating fuel.

In Hillsborough County, the share of homes using utility gas for heating fuel edged out the share using fuel oil or



³ An attached single unit house includes row houses (sometimes called townhouses), double houses, or houses attached to nonresidential structures, each house is a separate, attached structure if the dividing or common wall goes from ground to roof. Census Bureau: ACS Data Definitions – Units I Structure http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/virtual_disk_library/index.cgi/4291881/FID1867/acs_html/html/meth_doc/datadef/units.htm

kerosene. Four southern counties, Rockingham, Hillsborough, Strafford and Merrimack, which together accounted for about 73 percent of both housing units and population in New Hampshire, also had the highest shares of homes heating with utility gas.

While not as widespread as fuel oil or kerosene, the use of bottled, tank, or LP gas was fairly common across all counties. The highest shares were in Carroll, Grafton and Sullivan counties, each with more than 20 percent of occupied homes using bottled, tank, or LP gas as the primary heating fuel.

In less populated counties, more occupied homes used wood as the primary heating fuel than electricity. The share of homes using wood for heating fuel was larger than the share using electricity in all but Rockingham, Hillsborough, and Strafford counties. The share of homes using wood versus electricity as a primary heating fuel was a virtual tie in Merrimack County

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