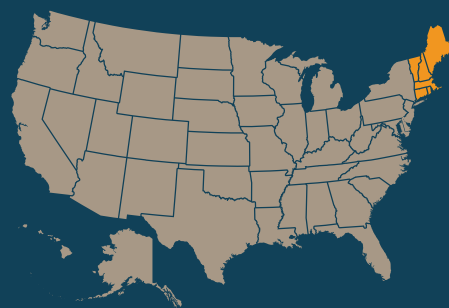


LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

REGIONAL PROFILE SERIES

US Census Geographic Division: New England



With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and Michigan State University (MSU)'s Center for Regional Food Systems conducted a 2015 survey of local government activity around food systems. The survey sought to understand how local government policies, programs, plans, and other activities support food production, processing, distribution, access, or disposal. The survey was distributed to all counties and to all municipalities that are in ICMA's database, which generally includes those with populations of at least 2,500.

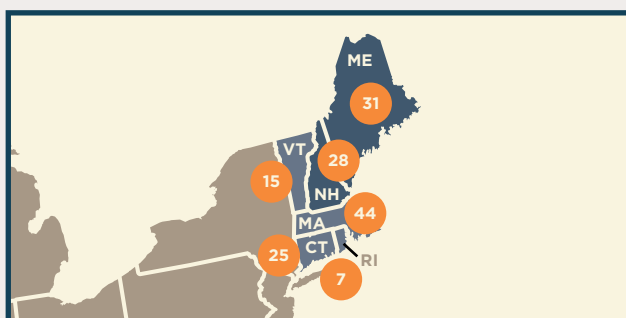
This series of briefings summarizes responses according to the nine geographic divisions as¹ defined by the US Census Bureau and provides complementary information from additional secondary data sources.

About the Region²

New England, comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont occupies 62,689 square miles of land in the northern United States on its east coast and contributes approximately one trillion USD to the country's GDP. The region's 14.6 million residents account for 4.6% of the country's total population and are approximately 77% Caucasian, 6% African American, 10% Hispanic, and 4% Asian. Most are high school graduates (90%) and more than a third (37.4%) hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

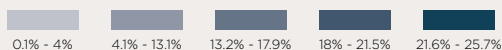
The region faces an unemployment rate of 7.6% which is lower than the national rate at 8.3%. The region's median household income is highest in the country at \$64,697 and is accompanied by the lowest poverty rate in the country at 11.5%. Its main industries are health care and social assistance, and retail trade. With just 10% of the region's land taken up by farms only 0.7% of the civilian workforce works in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industries.

Responses to 2015 ICMA-MSU Food Systems Survey



LEGEND

Survey response rate



= Total responses to survey

¹ Note that while the Census defines "regions" as aggregated divisions/larger groups of states, we use the terms division and region interchangeably in this series.

² All demographic data from US Census, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, and US Bureau of Economic Analysis

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For more information: www.icma.org/food-system-profiles | www.foodsystems.msu.edu

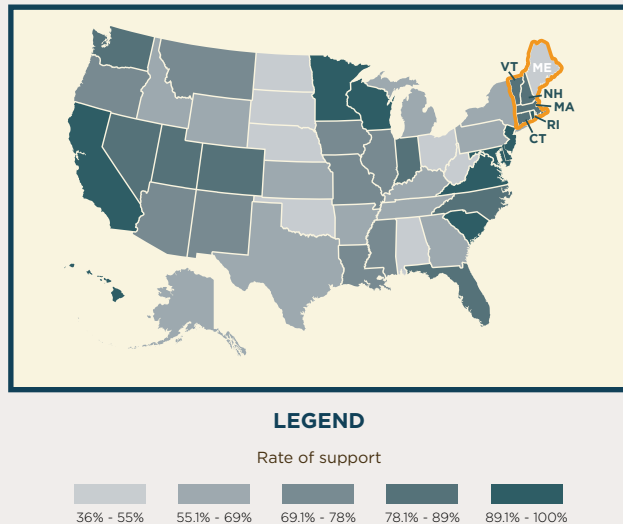
Published March 2018

Overall Measures of Food Systems Support

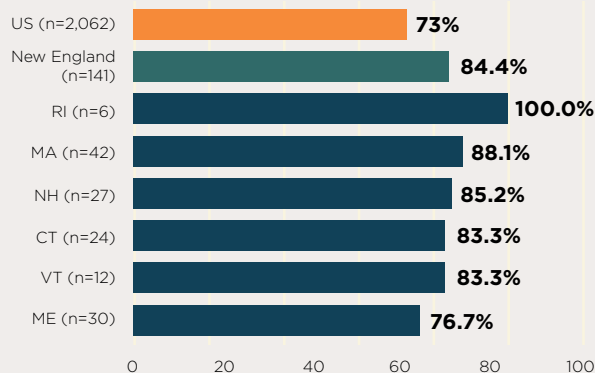
While local governments may not necessarily consider food systems among their core responsibilities, there are innumerable opportunities for them to influence—intentionally or not—how food is produced, processed, distributed, accessed, and disposed in a community. Our survey included a list of 24 example activities local governments could support, such as farmers markets or other types of food retail, emergency food provision, agricultural or food-related economic development, or initiatives around health (see the subsequent “data by theme” discussion in this brief for the full set of activities). 73% of total local governments responding to this section of the survey indicated they support at least one, and an average of 3.44 of the 24 specific activities via policy, program, or matter of practice.

In the New England region generally, local governments were more likely to support food systems activities. All states exceeded the national rate of support for at least one activity. The average number of activities supported by responding local governments in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island exceeded the national average while those in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont fell below. Local governments in Connecticut support the highest average number of activities (6.42) in the region but have the second lowest rate of support for at least one activity, tied with Vermont at 83.3% (again, still above the national rate). 100% of local governments in Rhode Island indicated support for at least one activity and support the next highest the average number of activities (4.83).

Rate of Local Governments Reporting Support for any Food Activity, 2015



Percentage of Local Governments Supporting Any Food Systems Activity



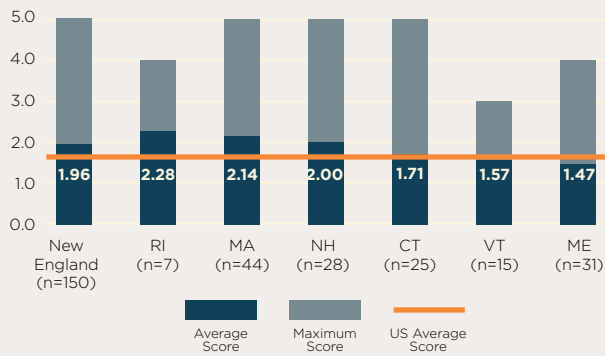
Average, Maximum Number of Food Activities Supported by Local Governments, 2015

| | AVG NUMBER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED | MAX NUMBER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| US (n=2,062) | 3.44 | 24 |
| New England (n=141) | 4.08 | 19 |
| CT (n=24) | 6.42 | 19 |
| RI (n=6) | 4.83 | 11 |
| MA (n=42) | 4.48 | 13 |
| ME (n=30) | 3.17 | 11 |
| NH (n=27) | 3.04 | 8 |
| VT (n=12) | 2.25 | 5 |

We calculated an overall measurement, the **Support Score**, on a scale of 0-5 based on the local government’s responses indicating various forms of support for local food activities:

- Food systems are addressed in an official plan or strategy, such as a master plan, economic development plan, strategic plan, or other specific type (1 point)
- The local government participates in some form in a food council, commission or coalition (1 point)
- Local government staff provides at least informal, ad hoc support to local food efforts in the community or region (1 point)
- The local government provides policy or programmatic support to any of the 24 specific food systems activities included in our survey (up to 2 points, scaled to the total number of activities supported)

Average, Maximum Support Scores

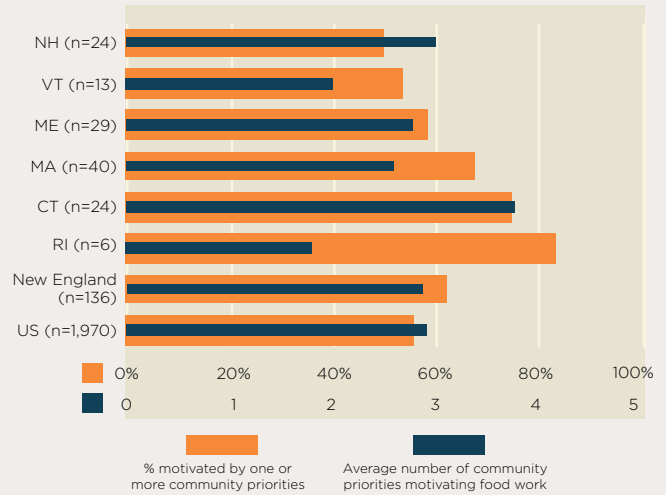


The average Support Score for the region and most of its states exceeds the national average of 1.69, except for Maine and Vermont which fall below. The light green bars in the chart indicate the maximum score observed in each state and the region.

Local Government Motivations, Departments Responsible for Food Activity

Nationally, 56% of local governments associated their food-related plans, policies, and/or programs with at least one, and an average of 2.9 community priorities such as public health, community development, and economic development. This suggests that a majority of responding local governments see food as a topic that cuts across multiple community interests. In all New England states except New Hampshire, and Vermont, local governments were even more likely to connect food work with another priority, but the average number of priorities varied quite a bit across the region. Connecticut local governments associated food with an average of 3.8 priorities, whereas Rhode Island local governments reported an average of about half as many (1.8). Though the latter sample size is admittedly small, it does suggest that those local governments view food as a more singular issue. 55% of local governments nationwide and 70% in the New England region also indicated at least one municipal department had responsibility for food related programs or policies.

Extent of Motivation to Address Food



The thick bars in this chart represent the rate of local governments in each state that indicated a motivation to address food issues. The thin bars indicate the average number of community priorities that local governments in each state linked to food systems.

| | US | NE |
|---|-----|-----|
| % local gov'ts where at least one dep't responsible for food programs or policies | 55% | 70% |

IN PRACTICE

The City of Lewiston, Maine (2015 population: 36,356) achieved the maximum support score of 5. The externally-coordinated Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn provided leadership to a multi-year community food assessment and coordinates efforts to decrease food insecurity in the region. The city is a partner and has provided in-kind support, small Community Development Block Grants, and property donations. Lewiston also supports regional agriculture via planning and zoning efforts, including in coordination with the regional Council of Governments, and is plugged in to new farmer development activities in the region, including for immigrant and refugee populations.

DATA BY THEME

The following section contains primary and secondary data related to three thematic areas: community health and security, production and infrastructure, and economic development.

Within each theme, we developed an index reflecting the extent of local government support reported for related specific activities included in our survey. The specific activities included are listed under each theme; note that several appear in multiple themes (farmers markets, the most common activity supported overall, are included in all three). Average and maximum scores are provided for each index.



THEME: Community Health & Security ¹³⁴

| SECONDARY INDICATORS | US | NE | CT | MA | ME | NH | RI | VT |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| % adults who are overweight or obese, 2015 ³ | 64.5% | n/a | 61.6% | 59.7% | 66.5% | 63.6% | 62.7% | 59.9% |
| % households receiving food stamps/ SNAP, 2015 ⁴ | 13.2% | 12.7% | 12.1% | 12.5% | 17.1% | 8.0% | 15.9% | 13.7% |
| % household-level food insecurity and very low food security, average 2013-15 ⁵ | 13.7% | n/a | 13.1% | 9.7% | 15.8% | 10.1% | 11.8% | 11.4% |
| % children in households that were food insecure at some point during the year, 2014 ⁶ | 20% | 16.5% | 20.1% | 13.6% | 22.8% | 16.8% | 15.0% | 14.0% |
| Estimated Children's Participation Rate in National School Lunch Program, 2015 ⁷ | 40.4% | 30.2% | 29.2% | 31.6% | 32.9% | 20.3% | 34.1% | 31.6% |

Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Establishing groceries in underserved areas
- Encouraging healthy food in corner stores
- Expanding acceptance of food assistance benefits
- Expanding purchasing power of food assistance benefits
- Providing healthy food in government facilities
- Promoting healthy eating, obesity prevention
- Restrictions on unhealthy food
- Emergency food provision
- Surplus food donation
- Providing land for community gardens
- Providing water for community gardens

5

³ Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts

⁴ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

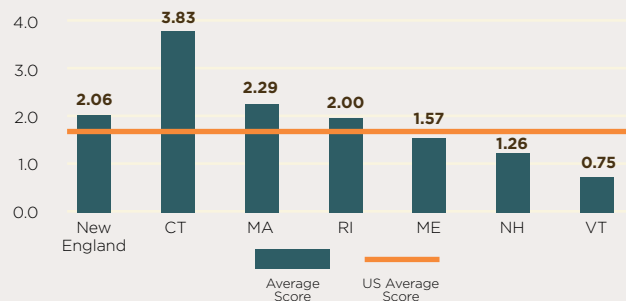
⁵ USDA Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2013, 2014, and 2015 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements

⁶ Annie E. Casey National Kids Count Database

⁷ Calculated using USDA Food and Nutrition Service and US Census data

Scores

A maximum score of 12 is possible for this index and the national average is 1.67. The region overall scores above the national average despite Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont scoring below. Connecticut scores significantly higher at 3.83 while Vermont score significantly lower at .75.



IN PRACTICE

Several New England local governments cited specific forms of support to food pantries or food banks. As just some examples: the Town of Essex, Vermont (2015 population: 20,419) provides a financial subsidy; the Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts (2015 population: 25,505) provides free space; the Town of Bethlehem, New Hampshire (2015 population: 2,551) provides staffing; and the Town of Belgrade, Maine (2015 population: 3,157) helped to relocate a pantry serving two communities into an improved, ADA-compliant facility.



THEME: Production & Infrastructure

12345

| SECONDARY INDICATORS | US | NE | CT | MA | ME | NH | RI | VT |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Land in square miles, 2010 ⁸ | 3,531,905 | 62,689 | 4,842 | 7,800 | 30,843 | 8,953 | 1,034 | 9,217 |
| Number of farms, 2016 ⁹ | 2,060,000 | 34,940 | 6,000 | 59,600 | 7,800 | 8,200 | 1,240 | 7,300 |
| % land in farms, 2012 | 40.3% | 10% | 14.2% | 10.4% | 7.3% | 8.2% | 10.6% | 21.2% |
| Civilian workforce 16 years and over by industry: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 2015 ¹⁰ | 2.0% | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 2.7% | 0.8% | 0.4% | 2.4% |
| % of principal farm operators classified as "beginning famers" (<10 years of operation), 2012 ¹¹ | 22.1% | 22.5% | 26.5% | 27.0% | 33.1% | 26.9% | 39.0% | 28.6% |
| Market value of agricultural products directly sold for human consumption, 2012 ¹² | \$1.3 billion | n/a | \$30.4 million | \$47.9 million | \$24.7 million | \$20.3 million | \$6.2 million | \$27.4 million |

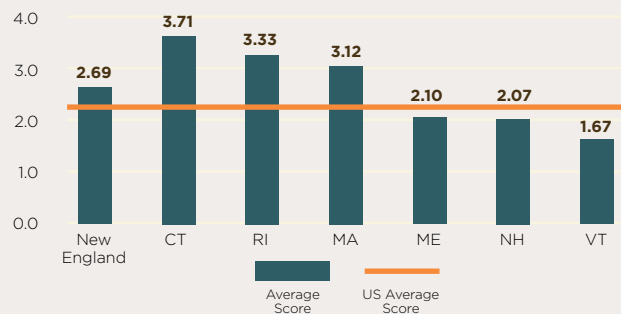
Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Providing land for community gardens
- Providing water for community gardens
- Encouraging green roofs, edible landscaping
- Farmland preservation
- Support for value-added processing
- Promoting composting
- Keeping of residential/urban livestock
- Allowing sales at farm stands, gardens, etc.
- Creating/operating food hubs
- Encouraging food trucks, mobile vending, pop-up food businesses

Scores

A maximum score of 11 is possible for this index, and the national average is 2.18. Half of the region's states score above and half score below. Connecticut's average of 3.71 is among the top five states nationally.



IN PRACTICE

The Town of Killingsworth, Connecticut (2015 population: 6,490) purchased the 130+ acre Parmelee Farm property in 2000, intending to develop into a recreational complex. Instead, the establishment of a community garden onsite catalyzed additional programming and preservation of the farm and its features as a natural and cultural amenity. The site now hosts a farmers market and maintains a Shared Harvest Garden, run by volunteers, that distributes free produce to the community. Parmelee Farm is currently listed on the State Register of Historic Places and oversight is provided by the Parmelee Farm Steering Committee, an advisory body to the Board of Selectmen. For more information, see: <http://parmeleefarm.org/>.

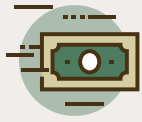
8 US Census Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing database

9 National Agricultural Statistics Service

10 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

11 Calculated using Census of Agriculture data, National Agricultural Statistics Service

12 Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service



THEME: Economic Development ¹²³⁴

| SECONDARY INDICATORS | US | NE | CT | MA | ME | NH | RI | VT |
|--|--------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------------------|--------|---------|
| Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2015 Inflation-adjusted dollars), 2015 ¹³ | 53,889 | 64,697 | 70,331 | 68,563 | 49,331 | 66,779 | 56,852 | 55,176 |
| People whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level, 2015 ¹⁴ | 15.5% | 11.5% | 10.5% | 11.6% | 13.9% | 8.9% | 14.2% | 11.5% |
| Unemployment rate, 2015 ¹⁵ | 8.3% | 7.6% | 8.8% | 7.6% | 6.8% | 5.8% | 8.5% | 5.5% |
| State minimum wage, 1/1/17 ¹⁶ | \$7.25 | n/a | \$10.10 | \$11.00 | \$9.00 | Repealed by HB 133 (2011) | \$9.60 | \$10.00 |

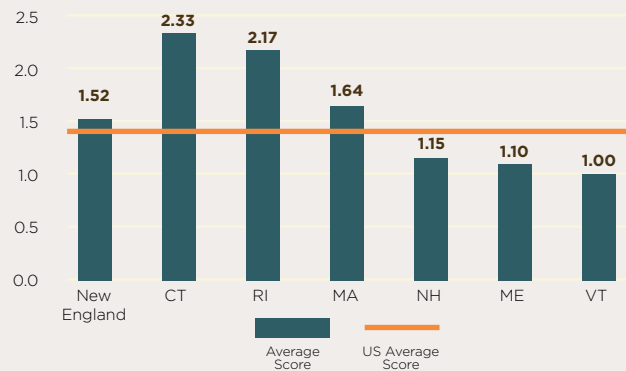
Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Buying local in government facilities
- Allowing sales at farm stands, gardens, etc.
- Creating/operating food hubs
- Food-related job creation
- Promoting agri- or food tourism
- Farmland preservation
- Support for value-added processing
- Encouraging food trucks, mobile vending, pop-up food businesses
- Food-related brownfield redevelopment

Scores

A maximum score of 10 is possible for this index, and the national average is 1.42. The region overall scores above the national average despite Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont scoring below. Connecticut and Rhode Island score significantly higher.



IN PRACTICE

The city of Shelton, Connecticut (2015 population: 40,783) has helped to grow its local food system and advance smart growth through brownfield redevelopment. The local farmers market operates on a site originally used as part of the city's canal system, and later used as a parking lot for decades. The Shelton Economic Development Corporation and the city leveraged a combination of local, state and federal funding that enabled successful, simultaneous cleanup of the site and construction of a 3000-square foot permanent building and outdoor market space. Fifteen jobs were created through this redevelopment effort. For more information, see: https://archive.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/web/pdf/shelton_ct_r1_ss.pdf and <http://www.sheltonctfarmersmarket.com/>.

13 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

14 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

15 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

16 National Conference of State Legislatures, from US Department of Labor and state web sites