

Section 3.

Business and Infrastructure Resources

History of Business and Employment in Enosburgh

Enosburgh's agricultural history has mirrored that of the rest of the state over time. In the early settlement days one of the larger cash crops in the area was potash. The ashes of lumber being cleared to create fields was shipped north on Lake Champlain and along trail networks into Canada to be sold and used in the commercial wool industry. After technological advances in the industry made potash unnecessary, farmers turned to alternative means to get by. In Enosburgh wool became a large part of the local economy, though production levels never mirrored that of the rest of the state. In 1850 there were a reported 1,681 sheep on 149 farms. As the price of wool began to drop drastically, so too did wool production in Enosburgh. By 1880 there were only 44 sheep reported left. Dairy was fast becoming the new "boom" industry.

By the mid 1800s cheese production in Vermont was transformed from a cottage industry to a factory-based industry, and Enosburgh was following this trend. The late 1880s found St. Albans and the surrounding areas being dubbed "The Buttermilk of America". At this time in history creameries were sprouting up all over Vermont, St. Albans, and even Enosburgh. In fact, Enosburgh became home to several creameries and dairy production facilities throughout the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. Rail lines were built right through Enosburgh with the express purpose of picking up dairy products to be shipped directly down to the Boston and New York markets.

During the late 1880's another thriving industry was developing in Enosburgh. The Kendall company was mass-producing its Spavin cure for horses as well as other products for livestock and farmers. The Woodward family, located in eastern Enosburgh produced the Green Mountain Salve for cuts, bruises, and rheumatism. At least two other local producers were known to have been profitably involved in this industry in the 1880s.

Enosburgh Employment Information

Despite its revered agrarian past, employment in contemporary Franklin County follows regional trends. Please consider the data depicted in Table 3.1 which depicts employment in just the top five categories in Enosburgh and Franklin County. Employment in agriculture (and for that matter, all of the "extractive, primary activity areas of the economy) is in decline. The growth areas are in the service sector, indicating an increase in commuting, and obviously, ever closer ties to the national economy.

Table 3.1—Enosburgh and Franklin County Employment Characteristics

Top Five Industries, 2000 (employed persons 16 years and over)		
	Enosburgh	Franklin County
Manufacturing	276	5,362
Educational, Health and Social Services	263	4,464
Retail Trade	141	2,635
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Mining	109	1,607 (Construction)
Public Administration	90	1,549
Unemployment Rate, 2001	7.4%	4.2%
Annual Average Employment, 2001	1,087	15,207

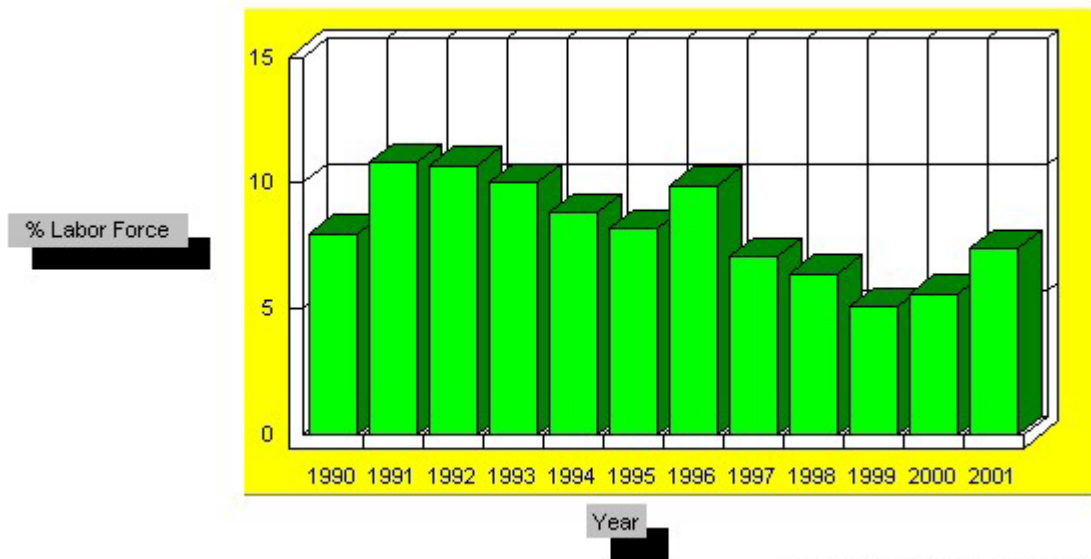
Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*.

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 3.2 - ENOSBURG - Annual Average Unemployment Rate, 1990-2001



<http://www.cfxgraphicsserver.com> (bulld b2)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ENOSBURG	8.0	10.8	10.7	10.0	8.8	8.2	9.9	7.1	6.4	5.1	5.6	7.4

Property Values

Table 3.3 shows average residential value, the Grand List and the Effective Property Tax Rate. These data are not strictly comparable with other census indicators here and are collected by the state Tax Department.

Table 3.3—Enosburgh Property Valuation & Taxation

Average Residential Value R-1 Equalized, (on less than 6 acres), 1999	\$73,204
Effective Property Tax Rate (rate per \$100), 2001	\$1.87
Grand List Value	\$939,236

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Vermont Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review. 1998-2000

Transportation

The Village of Enosburg Falls lies along the intersection of VT Routes 108 and 105. The approximate travel distance from Enosburg Falls to Saint Albans and Interstate 89 is 18 miles making Saint Albans the closest city destination. From Enosburg Falls South through Saint Albans onto Interstate 89 to Burlington is around 45 miles. The distance from Enosburg Falls, North to the Canadian Border on Route 108 is approximately 8 miles. The distance from Enosburgh to Montreal, Quebec is approximately 70 miles making Montreal a relatively close major international destination.

Table 3.4 (next page) depicts several indicators reflecting transportation in Enosburgh, but strictly comparable data is only now in the process of being released by Census 2000 and/or assimilated into the Center for Rural Studies databases. We will be eager to see the changes in these indicators over the decade.

Table 3.4– Enosburgh Town Local Transportation Behavior

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for State Highways, 2000	34,586
Total Number of Accidents, 1997	3
Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 1997	0
Percent Population who Work in Town of Residence	NA
Percent Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000	70.3%
Percent Commuters who Carpool, 1990	19%
Percent Commuters who use Public Transit, 1990	0%

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>