

Section 3.

Business and Infrastructure Resources

History of Business and Employment in Poultney

The first slate quarry in Poultney was opened on the farm of Daniel Hooker in North Poultney in 1851. The land is located about three miles north of Poultney village and a mile or so south of the historic "Eagle Quarry" site. The slate was described in 1875 as being of "Number one" quality, often finding a market in England. Marbleizing of slate, a chemical process involving polish, converted the slate into an exact semblance of the most beautiful of the foreign and domestic marbles and was also made to imitate rosewood, mahogany and ash. Eagle Slate Company was the first to create this process within the Poultney town limits. In 1875, when the History of Poultney was published, there were a number of quarries in operation in addition to Hooker's Eagle Quarry, including the quarries of L.C. Spaulding, Griffith R. Jones, Gardner Parker, Globe Slate Company, Robert Jones Quarry, William E. Williams, Lloyd & Co., Lloyd, Owens & Co., Williams, Jones & Co., and John M. Jones (Poultney Historical Society, 2002).

The region once had a trolley that connected it to the village of Poultney, which was known as West Poultney, where slate was exported through the Delaware & Hudson railway to regions throughout the world. Several variations of slate colors can be found in North Poultney including shades of gray, green and purple.

In the mid-19th century, cheese production in Vermont was transformed from a cottage industry to a factory-based industry, and Poultney was quick to follow this trend. In 1854, shortly after Vermont's first cheese factory opened in nearby Wells, a factory was opened in Poultney. The town's cheese industry thrived, yet was never as prominent as its current apple production, which is one of the largest in the state. Despite these agricultural efforts, employment in Poultney has moved away from agriculture, as depicted in Table. 3.1.

Table 3.1—Poultney Employment Characteristics

Top Five Industries, 2000 (employed persons 16 years and over)		
Educational Services	24.5%	
Manufacturing	16.1%	
Retail Trade	12.4%	
Health Care and Social Assistance	10.0%	
Construction	7.2%	
	Poultney Town	Rutland County
Unemployment Rate, 2001	3.6%	4.1%
Annual Average Employment, 2001	1,184	29,186

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>

Property Values

Table 3.2 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 3.2– Poultney Property Valuation & Taxation

Average Residential Value (on less than 6 acres), 1999	\$85,477
Total Value of Grand List, 2000	
Effective Property Tax Rate (rate per \$100), 1998	1.86%

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

Poultney lies on VT Route 30, south of Route 4, and about 20 miles southwest of Rutland. Poultney is also roughly two-thirds of the way between Interstate 91, which runs down the eastern side of Vermont, and Interstate 87, which runs through New York parallel to the border with Vermont.

Table 3.3 depicts several indicators reflecting transportation in Poultney, 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 3.3– Poultney Town Local Transportation Behavior

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for State Highways, 2000	30,401
Total Number of Accidents, 1997	2
Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 1997	0
Percent Population who Work in Town of Residence, 1990	37.1%
Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000	1,193
Commuters who Carpool, 1990	106
Commuters who use Public Transit, 1990	5

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

[Table of Contents](#)

Next: [Social Capital](#)

Previous: [Human Resources](#)