The village’s population has grown slowly since 2000. During that time, the percent of the village’s population identifying as White has dropped by 13% while the share of residents identifying as Asian and “other” has increased. Only a small number of residents were not born in the U.S. Nearly 70% of residents are of working age (20-64), higher than in most other UAA communities.

Data Notes

Population by Race & Ethnicity – The “Other” category includes Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, those who checked “Other” on the Census, and individuals with two or more races.

Place of Birth – The category of individuals who were born abroad and are not U.S. citizens includes both legal immigrants (with green cards, student visas, etc.) and undocumented immigrants. The U.S. Census does not ask individuals about their immigration status.
Housing Analysis
A majority of the village’s housing stock is composed of renter-occupied units. Large majorities of renters and owners are not “cost burdened” (paying more than 30% of their income towards housing), making Highland Falls one of the most affordable UAA communities. The village also has an exceptionally low vacancy rate. Inflation-adjusted home values in Highland Falls have risen by 22% since 2000, compared to 32% in Orange County. Nearly half of all homes (48%) are worth between $200,000 - $299,999, while 32% are worth less than $200,000. Nearly 80% of housing units are more than 50 years old and just 8% were built since 1990.

Data Notes
INCOME & POVERTY

Income & Poverty Analysis
Since 2000, the village’s median household income has risen by 28% when accounting for inflation, while the county’s has fallen by 1%. The share of households receiving SNAP benefits has fallen by more than 50% since 2010. Over a third of households earn over $100,000 while 34% of households earn less than $50,000.

Data Notes
Median Household Income – 2000 figures adjusted for inflation using CPI inflation tables from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Households Below the Poverty Line – The federal poverty line is adjusted on a yearly basis and varies by household size. As of 2015, the poverty line for a family of four was $24,250. Households Receiving SNAP – SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps). To qualify for SNAP, a household must have an income below 130% of the poverty line.
Economy Analysis
“Education services, health care and social assistance” is by far the largest employment sector for village residents, and the share of residents who work in that sector has more than doubled since 2010. Only 14% of Highland Falls residents work in the village, but 72% work in Orange County. The average commute time of 20 minutes is among the shortest of any UAA community. 80% of residents commute alone by car, while just 5% take public transit and 7% walk to work.

Data Notes
Employment – Data on unemployment comes from American Community Survey, which reports data by municipality. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is a common source for national unemployment rate data but does not report data at the municipal level.

Employment by Industry Among Village Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing &amp; hunting, and mining</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; warehousing and utilities</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; insurance, and real estate &amp; rental &amp; leasing</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, &amp; management, &amp; administrative &amp; waste mgmt. services</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services, except public administration</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Means of Travel to Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Travel</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drove Alone</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transit</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpoled</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Place of Work & Commute Time

% of residents who work in Highland Falls | 14%
% of residents who work in Orange County | 72%
Average Commute Time | 20 Minutes

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Employment (Age 16 and Over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Not in Labor Force</th>
<th>Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey, US Decennial Census
Dollars and Cents Analysis
The village’s budget has been under the Tax Cap each year since 2013. Village property taxes are only 25% of the $9,014 tax bill on a median-price home. Highland Falls has 26 full time and 23 part time employees. Employee benefits account for one fifth of the budget.

Data Notes
Municipal Finances – The NY Tax Cap law restricts schools and local governments from raising the property tax levy by more than 2% without a supermajority vote of the local governing body.
Municipal Employees – Employees were counted as part time if they earned less than $30,000 in 2016 and full time if they earned over $30,000. “General” employees are non-police/fire employees.
Municipal Revenues and Expenditures – Categories are determined by the Comptroller’s Office. “Proceeds of Debt” revenue comes from sale of bonds and is not a recurring yearly source of revenue.
Education Analysis
The Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District serves the Village of Highland Falls, Town of Highlands, and high school students from the Garrison School District in Putnam County. The graduation rate is 90% and the CCR rate (see below) has steadily increased. Reading and math SAT scores are the highest of any UAA district. 66% of graduating seniors plan to attend a four year college. Among all village residents, 48% have an associate’s degree or higher, while only 7% lack a high school diploma.

Data Notes
Expenditures per Pupil – Adjusted for inflation using CPI inflation tables from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness – College/Career Readiness (CCR), also known as Aspirational Performance Measure, is a statistic created by NY State to track high school graduates’ ability to succeed in college or the workforce. CCR is based on a student’s Regents scores and was introduced in the 09-10 school year. 2015-16 data is not yet available.
Student Characteristics – Students are eligible for free school lunch if their family’s income is below 130% of the poverty line and reduced price lunch if their family’s income is below 185% of the poverty line. English Language Learners are students who have been classified as not proficient in English and require additional instruction.

Average SAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score (800 max)</th>
<th>Rank Among 23 UAA districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Education Level of Village Residents

Graduate or Professional Degree: 15%
Bachelor’s Degree: 22%
Associate’s Degree: 11%
Some College, No Degree: 23%
High School Diploma or GED: 24%
Less than High School Graduate: 7%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Expenditures Per Pupil

Source: New York State Department of Education (Infl. Adjusted)
Post-Graduation Plans of Graduating High School Seniors

- 4-Year College: 66%
- 2-Year College: 7%
- Military: 11%
- Employment: 7%
- Other: 9%

Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Highland Falls School District Enrollment

Source: New York State Department of Education

Student to Teacher Ratio

11 : 1

Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Race & Ethnicity of Students

- White: 63%
- Hispanic: 19%
- Black: 12%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 4%

Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness

Source: New York State Department of Education

Student Characteristics

Source: New York State Department of Education
**Health Analysis**
Most of the village is within a 15 minute walk of a supermarket. 41% of students in the public school district were overweight or obese. Over 95% of village residents have health insurance.

**Data Notes**
- **County Health Ranking** – Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation releases a health ranking for every county in the U.S. These rankings are based on dozens of key health metrics.
- **Access to Quality Food** – The US Dept. of Agriculture defines census tracts as food deserts if the tracts have high poverty and low access to food. Pattern analyzed GIS data to find supermarket walktimes.
- **Childhood Obesity** – These categories are mutually exclusive. Obese individuals are not also counted as overweight.

**Access to Quality Food**

**Childhood Obesity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Overweight</th>
<th>Obese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: USDA Food Access Research Atlas (2015); Pattern GIS analysis

**Number of Births**

Source: New York State Department of Health

**Health Insurance Rate**

Source: 2015 American Community Survey
**Quality of Life Analysis**

The village has only one large park within its boundaries (Roe Park) but has easy access to thousands of acres of parkland within a short drive, including Bear Mountain, Harriman, and Storm King State Parks, and Black Rock Forest. Other nearby amenities include Fort Montgomery State Historic Site, and the campus of West Point Military Academy which includes a popular military history museum, the Eisenhower Hall Theater, and Michie Stadium, home of the Army Black Knights football team.

**Crime data for Highland Falls was unavailable in five of the last ten years, making it impossible to create a readable graph. The data that is available suggests that the village’s violent crime rate, already low in 1990, has declined to nearly zero while the property crime rate seems to have risen somewhat since 2009, although it remains well below the level seen in the early 1990s. The property crimes tracked are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The violent crimes tracked are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.**

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**About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress**

Pattern is a half-century old not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy, and research organization whose mission is to promote regional, balanced, and sustainable solutions that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. To learn more about Pattern and the UAA, visit our website: [www.pattern-for-progress.org](http://www.pattern-for-progress.org).