Readsboro’s economy was historically based on the wood industry. The village once housed a chair factory, paper mill, and pulp mill, all served by a railroad.

Currently, 36% of land in Readsboro is owned by the Green Mountain National Forest.

Road classifications (miles) VTrans 2017:
- Class I: 0.53
- Class 2: 1.97
- Class 3: 33.79
- Class 4: 6.79

The population of Readsboro declined from 805 to 763 people between 2000 and 2010, a decrease of 5%.

In 2010, the median age of the town was 49, up eight years from 2000. Bennington County’s median age was slightly younger at 45.1 years. See Reference 1 on page 4 for population distribution by age group.
Since 1990, seasonal housing as a percentage of total housing in Readsboro has fluctuated, but overall has decreased by only 5% during that twenty year span. In 2010, seasonal housing accounted for 25.0% of all housing, 23.4% in 2000, and 29.7% in 1990.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal/Recreational</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Housing for Seasonal Use</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2000 to 2010, the number of housing units in Readsboro rose from 466 to 469, a 0.6% increase, while total households rose from 321 to 336, a 4.7% increase.

The median gross monthly rent for the period 2008-2012 was $525. In comparison, Bennington County’s median gross monthly rent was $796.

What is a household?

“A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters”.

(U.S. Census Bureau)
An estimated 18.2% of the town’s population was below the poverty level in the period 2012-2016, an increase from the 2008-2012 period where it was 13.0%. In comparison, 14.0% of individuals were below the poverty level in Windham County, and 13.9% in Bennington County, in the period 2012-2016.

The median estimated household income for the period 2012-2016 decreased from 2012 to $35,521. To compare Readsboro’s median income with neighboring towns, see Reference 2 on page 4.

The Readsboro workforce diversified from the 2008-2012 period to the 2012-2016 period as more residents became employed in the arts and entertainment and information sectors. Previously, predominant employment was in education, health and social care, retail trade, and construction.

During the period 2012-2016, 26.5% of Readsboro residents worked in Readsboro, including the 2.7% of residents that worked at home. See Reference 3 on page 4 for details on travel, and Reference 4 for details on Readsboro’s household vehicle ownership.
Sources

MAPS: Windham Regional Commission GIS Service Center


INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

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