

# NOTES ON DATA SOURCES AND PRESENTATION

## Counties

The data for each county are presented on a summary page, showing a map of the county and the aggregate data for the entire county. Additional columns show the relation of each data item to the state average and the ranking of the county. Detailed information on the municipalities and coterminous\* school districts that make up the county is presented in pages following the county page.

## Communities and School Districts

Data for municipalities and coterminous\* school districts making up each county are shown in three tables following the summary page for each county:

- Table A – Basic Community Data
- Table B – Municipal Government and School District Data
- Table C – Election Data

In addition to the summary page and the three tables for each county, several numbered tables and pages provide the following:

- Table 1A – Members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation
- Table 1B – Members of the Legislature
- Table 2 – Highest, Lowest, and State Average Data by Legislative District
- Table 3 – Highest, Lowest, and State Average Data by County
- Table 4 – Highest, Lowest, and State Average Data by Congressional District
- Table 5 – Congressional District Composition
- Tables 6A and 6B – Regional and Consolidated School District Data
- Table 7 – Trends in State Average Data and Highest and Lowest Legislative Districts.
- State Totals – A Summary Page of State Totals and Averages

## Data Repeated in Tables A, B and C

### Type of Municipality

The municipality type –city, town, borough, township, or village – is shown as the municipality was established through legislative action or, in the case of a few places, as it has been changed locally in recent years by utilizing a general name-change statute.

### Legislative and Congressional District

The legislative and congressional district within which the community is located.

## Table A – Basic Community Data

### Population

- (a) The total Census population as of April 1, 2010.
- (b) The total population on July 1, 2013 as estimated by the New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- (c) The percentage population change between 2010 and 2013.
- (d) Land area of the community in square miles, rounded to the nearest tenth of a mile, as reported by the Bureau of the Census.
- (e) The 2013 population density, calculated by dividing the 2013 estimated population by the area in square miles.
- (f) The percentage African-American population in 2010.
- (g) The percentage Asian population in 2010.
- (h) The percentage Hispanic population in 2010. Hispanic is an ethnic, not a racial, designation. Thus, a Hispanic person may be of any race, and it is not valid to add together the figures for African-American and Hispanic persons.
- (i) The percentage of the 2010 population aged 0-5.
- (j) The percentage of the 2010 population aged 65 or over.
- (k) The percentage of population 25 years and over who have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher, based on the 2008-2012 period estimate of the American Community Survey.
- (l) The percentage of the population born outside the United States, based on the 2008-2012 period estimate of the American Community Survey.

### Poverty

### TANF

- (a) The number of children aged 5-17 years receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in the municipality, reported by the Bureau of Research and Statistics, Division of Family Development, New Jersey Department of Human Services, as of January 2014.
- (b) Children supported by TANF as of January 2014 as a percentage of the 2013 total estimated population.

### SNAP

- (a) The number of persons receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits reported by the Bureau of Research and Statistics, Division of Family Development, New Jersey Department of Human Services, as of January 2014.
- (b) SNAP beneficiaries as of January 2014 as a percentage of the 2013 total estimated population.

### Crimes

- (a) The number of violent crimes in the municipality of occurrence, reported in the 2012 Uniform Crime Report, as included in Table 8 - Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (b) Same for non-violent crimes.

\* Data for regional and consolidated school districts that are not coterminous with a municipality are found in Tables 6A and 6B.

## Employment

- (a) Average number of residents in the workforce in 2013, as reported by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Labor Planning and Analysis, as of March 2014.
- (b) Average annual number of unemployed workers in 2013.
- (c) Average annual number of unemployed workers in 2013 as a percentage of the 2013 workforce.

## Housing

- (a) The percentage of home ownership in 2010. The number of owner-occupied units as a percentage of the total number of occupied units, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.
- (b) The 2008-2012 estimated Median Gross Rent reported by the American Community Survey for counties, municipalities, and congressional districts. Estimated for legislative districts by weighting municipal medians in proportion to the 2010 number of renter-occupied housing units in each municipality.
- (c) New residential building permits, from the New Jersey Construction reporter, 2013 Annual Report. The total number of new residential units authorized for construction in 2013.
- (d) New residential certificates of occupancy issued in 2013, from the New Jersey Construction reporter, 2013 Annual Report.

## Table B – Municipal Government and School District Data

### Municipal Government Data

#### Municipal Budget per Capita

Calculated by adding the Municipal Tax Levy (Col.12CiiA), the levy for Municipal Open Space (Col. 12CiiB), the levy for Municipal Libraries (Col.12CiiC) and the Total of Miscellaneous Revenues for Support of the Local Municipal Budget (Col.14D), and dividing by the 2013 estimated population from the 2013 abstract of ratables for each county, as reported by the Division of Taxation, New Jersey Department of the Treasury.

#### Percentage Residential

Calculated by dividing the total assessed value of residential property by the total assessed value of all property as reported by the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and multiplying by 100.

#### Average Residential Property Value

Calculated from 2013 sales data gathered in the sales ratio study of the Local Property and Public Utility Branch of the Division of Taxation in the New Jersey Department of the Treasury by dividing the total assessed value of residential property by the assessed/true value ratio and by the number of residential properties.

#### Per Capita Property Tax Base

Calculated by dividing the 2013 equalized valuation, as amended by the State Tax Court and reported by the Division of Taxation, by the 2013 estimated population. Equalized Valuation is an estimate of the true value of all taxable property.

#### Equalized Property Tax Rates

Equalized, or true value, tax rates calculated for each community by dividing the following tax levies

by the municipality's equalized valuation, listed in the 2013 abstract of ratables for each county, as reported by the Division of Taxation, New Jersey Department of the Treasury:

**County (CG) Tax Rate** – Net County Taxes Apportioned Less State Aid (Col.12A5), plus Net County Library Taxes (Col.12Ba), plus Net County Health Service Taxes Apportioned (Col. 12Bb), plus County Open Space Taxes Apportioned (Col.12Bc).

**Municipal (MG) Tax Rate** - Taxes for Municipal Budget (Col.12CiiA), plus Municipal Open Space Budget (Col. 12CiiB), plus Municipal Library Budget (Col.12CiiC).

**School (SD) Tax Rate** – Taxes for District School (Col.12CiiA), plus Regional, Consolidated & Joint Schools (Col.12CiiB), and Local School (Col.12CiiC).

**Rebates (REB) Tax Rate** – State PTR tax rebates, paid in 2013 based on 2011 tax returns, are divided by the equalized valuation and shown as a negative tax rate.

**Net Tax Rate** – The net tax rate is the sum of the four above tax rates.

### Personal Income per Taxpayer plus Dependents

Total personal income reported for 2011 has been divided by the number of 2011 taxpayers plus the number of their reported dependents; all data are from the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

### Estimated Property Tax as a Percentage of Total Personal Income

The 2011 total property tax levied for county, municipal, and school purposes according to the county abstracts of ratables, has been multiplied by the percentage that assessments on residential, apartment and farm homestead property is reported by the Division of Local Government Services to form a total assessed value, to eliminate taxes paid by other classes of property. This figure has been multiplied by the percentage of dwelling units found to be occupied by the Bureau of the Census in 2010, to adjust for absentee ownership, particularly of seasonal properties. The resulting estimated property tax paid only by residents of the municipality has been further reduced by the amount of tax rebates reported by the Department of the Treasury to be paid to residents, and this net tax levy has been divided by the total 2011 personal income of the residents and shown as a percentage.

### Municipal Credit Ratings

The following ratings have been assigned to municipal obligations by Moody's Investors' Service.

Aaa – Highest Quality	B – Speculative, subject to high credit risk
Aa – High Quality	Caa – Poor Standing
A – Upper Medium Grade	Ca – Highly Speculative
Baa – Medium Grade	C – Poor Prospects, typically in default
Ba – Medium Grade	

Moody's appends numerical modifiers of 1, 2 or 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

## School District Data

All school data are from the New Jersey Department of Education or are based on DOE data.

### District Factor Group (DFG)

The New Jersey Department of Education classified all school districts according to their socioeconomic status (SES) into one of eight District Factor groups, ranging from Group A (lowest SES) to Group J (highest SES) based on the 2000 Census.

### Grade Pattern

Grade pattern shown is the grade pattern of schools operated by the district. K indicates Kindergarten. Pre-Kindergarten grades are not shown.

### School Test Scores

Shown is the percentage of pupils taking the State test at the 4th, 8th and 11th grade levels who have scored either “Proficient” and “Advanced Proficient” in Language or Mathematics.

### High School Graduation Rate

The Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate shows the number of 2013 graduates divided by the number of 2009 entering freshmen, plus transfers in and minus transfers out, expressed as a percentage of the entering class.

### Resident School Enrollment

The number of enrolled pupils resident within the school district in October 2013, including those sent on a tuition basis to other school districts. Pupils in State institutions have not been included in the enrollment shown here.

### School Budget per Pupil

The school budget for 2013-14 is an approximation of the revenue side of the budget. It is the sum of the general fund tax levy of the district and all State formula aid. Local miscellaneous revenues, budgeted general fund balance, extraordinary special education aid, federal aid, school building aid, debt service tax levy and tuition received are not included. The 2013-14 budget has been divided by the 2013 resident enrollment.

### Wealth Ratios

Wealth ratios describe the relative wealth of the school district in two ways:

**EVPP**-The 2013 equalized valuation of the district has been divided by the 2013 resident enrollment to find the amount of taxable property per pupil. This figure has been divided by the state average equalized valuation of \$855,257.

**PIPP**-The 2011 total personal income of the residents of the school district has been divided by the 2013 resident enrollment to find the total personal income per pupil. This figure has been divided by the state average personal income per pupil of \$223,055.

A ratio above 1.000 indicates a relative wealth above the state average; a ratio below 1.000 indicates a below-average level of wealth.

## State Aid Percentage

The sum of all State formula aid included in the school district budget has been divided by the total school budget to find the percentage of State aid used in the 2013-14 school district budget.

## Special School Arrangements

Shown are the arrangements made for resident pupils where a school district coterminous with the municipality does not operate a full range of grades. These may consist of membership in regional, consolidated, or merged district or arrangements to send pupils to some other district on a tuition basis. Multiple arrangements may exist; only the most important are shown here.

## Table C – Election Data

### Total Registered Voters

Total registered voters as of the General Election of 2013 are shown as reported by the Division of Elections in the Department of State.

### Registered Voters as a Percentage of Population

The number of 2013 registered voters is shown as a percentage of the 2013 estimated population.

### Political Affiliation

Percentage Democratic / Percentage Republican

The political affiliation of registered voters, where it has been declared, has been obtained through a survey of county superintendents of election or county boards of election. The percentage of voters declaring in each party is shown.

### Election Results

Actual votes cast for candidates of the major parties are shown.

In reporting percentages of the vote cast for party candidates on county, legislative district and congressional district summary pages, if there was no party candidate for a particular office, dummy votes have been estimated and inserted to provide a more valid estimate of the political complexion of the county or district.

## Municipal Forms of Government

All data has been gathered via survey to each County Board of Elections administered by the Rutgers Center for Government Services.

### Form of Municipal Government

The form of government is shown as of January 2013. The form of government is the same as the type of municipality (city, town, borough, township, or village), unless the municipality has utilized one of the optional charter laws available — the Commission Government Act, the 1923 Municipal Manager Act, or one of the four forms under the Optional Municipal Charter Law: the mayor-council form (OMCL:M-C), the council-manager form (OMCL:C-M), the small municipality form (OMCL:SM), or the mayor-council-administrator form (OMCL:M-C-A) — or it has received a special charter from the Legislature.

**Elected Municipal Officers**

The title and number of the elected governing body officers depend on the form of government. Included are mayors, commissioners, councilmen or councilwomen (council.), township committeemen or committeewomen (committee.), aldermen or alderwomen (alder.), and village trustees.

**Municipal Election Pattern**

The pattern of elections is either all at-large, all from wards, or a combination of wards and at-large. The number of wards is shown.

**Municipal Governing Body Terms of Office**

Terms of office run for 2, 3, or 4 years and may be staggered (stag.) or run concurrently (concur.) for all members of the governing body, depending upon the form of government. Although the mayor in the borough form and in the OMCL: SM form sometimes is considered a member of the governing body, only the 3-year staggered terms of council members are listed here.

**Type of Municipal Election**

The type of election describes the political nature of the election: either partisan elections, in which candidates are nominated in the party primary and elected in the November general election; or non-partisan, in which candidates run without party designation either in May or at the November general election.

**Special Municipal Powers**

The availability of certain powers of direct voter participation depends upon the form of government and local action to adopt these powers. Shown here is information on Initiative (Init.), the power of the voters to propose ordinances and adopt them by referendum if the governing body fails to act, and Referendum (Ref.), the power of the voters to prevent an ordinance from becoming effective until they have had a chance to approve or disapprove of it in a referendum.