Population Density, Housing Availability and, Commute Times

Regional Comparisons Among New London-Norwich, CT; Norfolk-Newport News, VA; and Jacksonville, Fl
The Challenge

As Congress contemplates a second round of military base realignments and closures, this presentation centers on maps I developed to support arguments for keeping the US Submarine Base in Groton operating in favor of consolidating the facility to the base in Newport News, VA or King’s Bay, GA near Jacksonville, FL.
The Regions

Since the US Census Bureau defines its geographies on the basis of population, expanding the compact Norwich-New London, CT-Westerly, RI core [city] based statistical area or CBSA square mileage permits comparison of population density, housing availability, and commute times with the more expansive Norfolk-Newport News, VA and Jacksonville, FL-Kings Bay, GA CBSA’s.
Building the Region

- The Norwich-New London, CT-Westerly, RI CBSA covers just over 800 square miles compared to Norfolk-Newport News’s 2,900 and Jacksonville’s 3,400.
- Adding Census blocks adjacent to the Norwich-New London CBSA brings its population and area to within five percent of Norfolk’s and 20% of Jacksonville’s.
- The expanded New London CBSA’s population varies from the southern regions by about 20%.
Building the Region Part 2

• Census tracts appended to the Norwich-New London CBSA come from five Connecticut counties:
  – Windham -- Middlesex
  – Tolland -- New Haven
  – Hartford

• . . . and Rhode Island counties of Providence, Kent, and Washington
Retrieving Data

• The US Census Bureau provides ESRI shape files of geographies including places and census tracts.
• MapInfo TAB files translated from shape files contain geographic and attribute data. Data copied from the Census Bureau Web site into an Excel Spreadsheet then are used to populate fields in the TAB file.
## Populating Data Fields

- From Census.gov:

Norwich-New London, CT Metro Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>13,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For rent:</td>
<td>2,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented, not occupied:</td>
<td>979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For sale only:</td>
<td>1,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold, not occupied:</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use:</td>
<td>5,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For migrant workers:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vacant:</td>
<td>3,215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Populating Data Fields

- To Excel

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Populating Data Fields

- To MapInfo TAB
Graphics

• Labels describing regions by population and land area in square miles.

• Color coded—or what cartographers call chloropleth—maps show population density in persons per square mile by region.
Elements

• From the map of New England, mid-Atlantic, and southeastern states we can see where the CBSA’s are located relative to each other.

• The inset maps on the right allow us to compare population densities.
Housing Availability

• The US Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder found on the Census.gov Web site contains data on housing characteristics:

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?fpt=table
General Housing Characteristics

• From the General Housing Characteristics file—called Summary File or SF 1—I extracted these data for comparison:

  Total units
  – Total vacant
  – For rent
  – For sale only
  – Rented or sold, not occupied

-- Seasonal
-- For migrant wrkrs
-- Other vacant
Graphics

- Pie charts show the type of availability and their proportions among each region’s housing units.
- Color codes show the volume and proportion of vacant units by region.
Commute Times

• As a quality of life measure, the time commuters spend on the journey to work can have a significant impact on leisure time:

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_3YRB08603&prodType=table
Travel Time to Work

• From the American Community Survey, the three-year average estimated journey to work times can be called into a table in five-minute increments up to sixty minutes.

• To keep the graphics simple, I reduced the number of travel time intervals to four:
  – Up to 30 minutes
  – 30 to 44 minutes
  -- 30 to 44 minutes
  -- 60 minutes or longer
Graphics

• Pie charts display the four categories of travel to work times from which we see that Norwich-New London commuters are more likely to spend less than a half hour getting to work while commuters in Jacksonville are most likely to have a 30- to 45-minute commute.

• Chloropleth maps display total commuters for each CBSA.
Commuting Times (avg)

- Up to 30 Minutes
- 30 to 44 Minutes
- 45 to 59 Minutes
- 60 Minutes or More

Norwich-New London CBSA expanded for land area and population compatibility with Norfolk-Newport News and Jacksonville CBSA.

CBSA Commuters
- Jacksonville FL: 515,551
- Norwich-New London: 505,531
- Norwich-New London, CT-Ri: 142,248

City of More Than 125,000

US Submarine Base

Connecticut Department of Labor
Office of Research and Information
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