

Housing Profile: Wellfleet

Key Demographic and Economic Information

POPULATION	HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	HOUSING UNITS	MEDIAN HOME SALES PRICE (2022)	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2022)	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RATE
4,352	1,975	2.19	4,862	\$850,000	\$97,396	\$6.83 (FY24)

The Town of Wellfleet has an estimated year-round population of just over 4,350 residents. It is bordered by Truro on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Eastham on the south, and Cape Cod Bay on the west. A significant amount of land within the town is in Cape Cod National Seashore. About 57% of homes in the town are seasonal, which is significantly higher than the region as a whole (36%). The Town of Wellfleet contains one Community Activity Center within its boundaries.

Wellfleet by Age



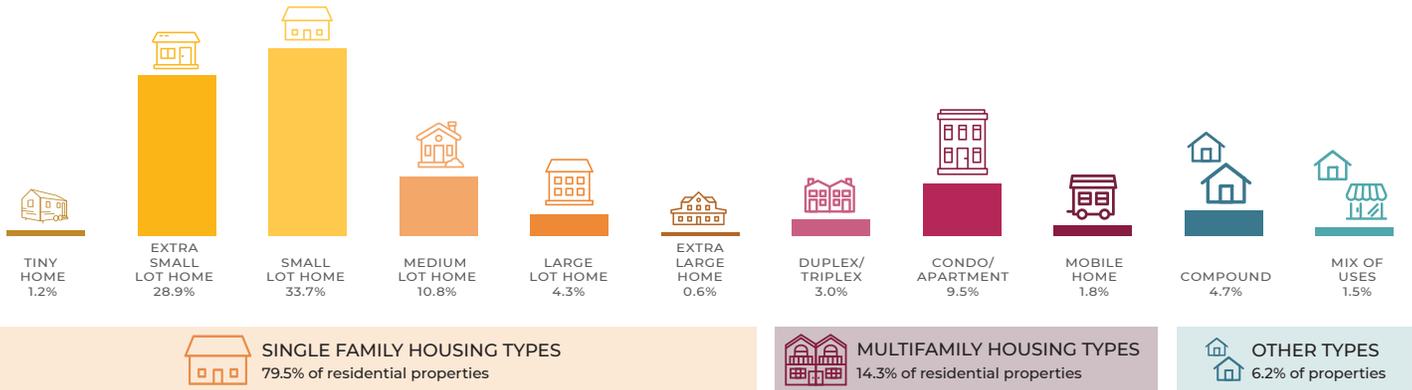
Wellfleet by Race



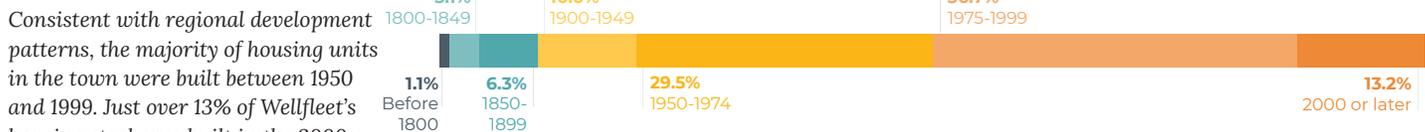
(American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-year Estimates; Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors; Massachusetts Department of Revenue)

Current Housing Stock

The Cape Cod Commission conducted a housing typology study using local assessors' data and state class property codes. The graph below shows the distribution of various types of residences using this data, which differs slightly from American Community Survey counts. In Wellfleet, about 80% of residential properties are single family homes; over 14% are multifamily properties. Most condominiums in Wellfleet are former units in seasonal cottage colonies and are restricted to seasonal use. Slightly over 6% are other types of properties. Other properties may be a single home or may be multifamily homes such as compounds, which may include multiple houses on one parcel occupied by different households or a single family home with a guest house. Mix of uses are properties that have at least one residence on them but also have some sort of other use such as agricultural or commercial. For more information on the housing typology and categories visit: ccom.link/ht



Housing Stock by Year Built



(Assessors' data and CCC housing typology analysis)

Owners and Renters

There are roughly 2,000 year-round occupied housing units in Wellfleet; of these, 86% are owner-occupied and 14% are renter-occupied. (ACS 2022 5-year Estimates)



Seasonality

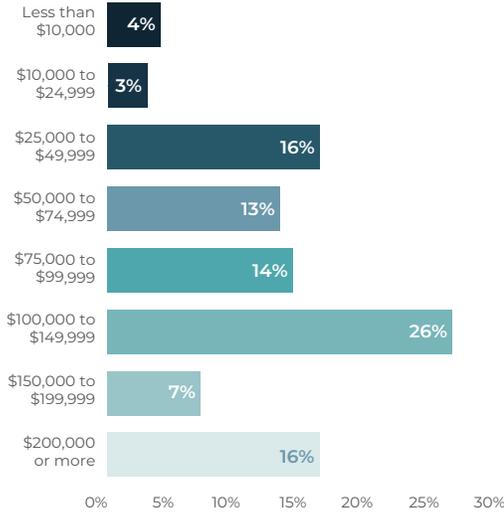
Almost 60% of all housing units in Wellfleet are used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. (ACS 2022 5-year Estimates)



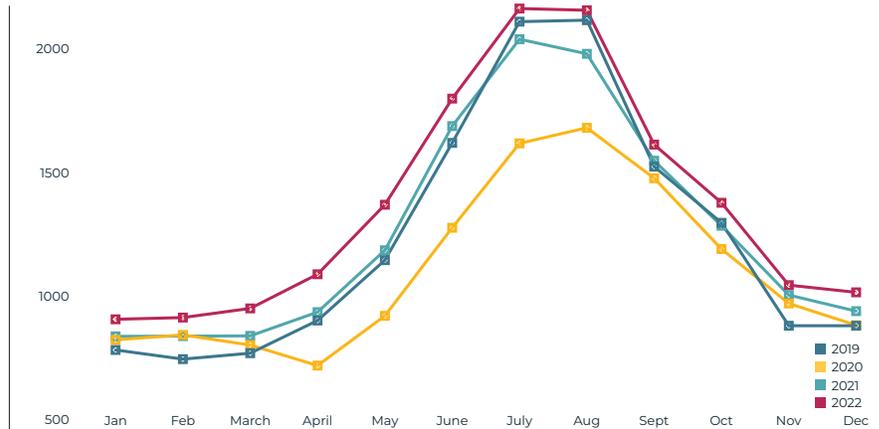
Wages, Employment, and Housing Affordability

Households per Income Bracket

(ACS 2022 5-year Estimates)



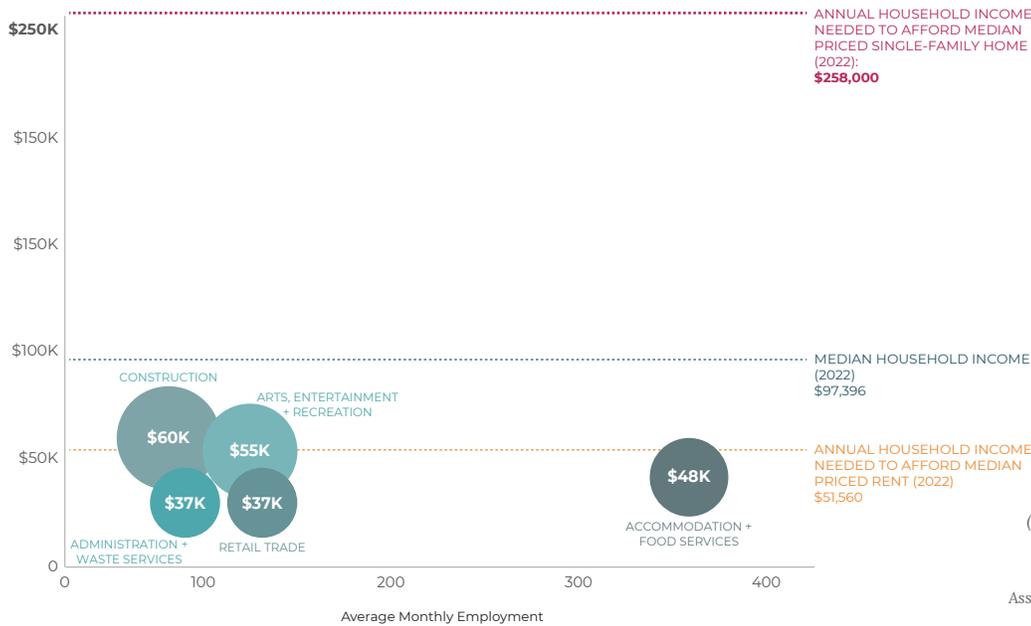
Employment by Month



Employment in Wellfleet can be highly seasonal; even more so than the region. In 2019 employment nearly tripled in August compared to the low in February. Due to the pandemic, 2020 patterns were significantly different, but in 2021 started to return to pre-pandemic levels and trends which continued into 2022.

(MA Labor Market Information, ES-202 data)

Housing Affordability



In 2021 the median price for a home for sale in Wellfleet was \$759,000.

In 2022, prices increased to a median home sales price of \$850,000, a 12% increase.

Average wages in the town's largest industries by employment fall well below what is needed to affordably purchase a home at median sales prices (affordably purchase means a household spends 30% or less on housing costs). While the median gross rent, according to the American Community Survey, is more affordable, availability of year-round rental housing is very limited.

(Annual income refers to a household's earnings, while annual wage refers to an individual's earnings. Data: Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors; 2022 ACS 5-Yr Estimates; 2022 Cape Cod Housing Needs Assessment; MA Labor Market Information, ES-202 data)

Affordable Housing Units

The Massachusetts Subsidized Housing Inventory is used to measure a community's stock of low- or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law, which encourages communities to have 10% of their housing stock be affordable for low- to moderate-income households. While housing developed under Chapter 40B is eligible for inclusion on the inventory, other types of housing also qualify to count toward a community's affordable housing stock.

SUBSIDIZED HOUSING INVENTORY UNITS

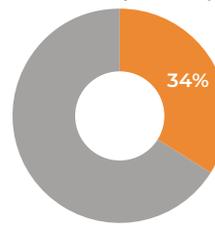


2% of housing units

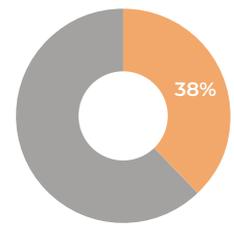
(Numbers are from EOHLC as of June 29, 2023 and subject to change)

Housing Cost Burdened

A household is considered cost burdened when housing costs exceed more than 30% of monthly income. (ACS 2022 5-year Estimates)



... of owner households in Wellfleet spend 30% or more of income on housing costs



... of renter households in Wellfleet spend 30% or more of income on housing costs

Community Activity Centers

Community Activity Centers are areas with a concentration of business activity, community activity, and a compact built environment that may be suitable for additional housing and a mix of uses at a scale that fits in with the community's character. The vision for these areas is to accommodate these uses in a walkable, vibrant area, preserve historic buildings, and to provide diverse services, shopping, recreation, civic spaces, housing, and job opportunities, with adequate infrastructure and pedestrian amenities to support development. The Cape Cod Commission identified seventeen Community Activity Centers across the region. Wellfleet has one identified Community Activity Center in downtown Wellfleet.



Wellfleet



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER AREA (ACRES)

459



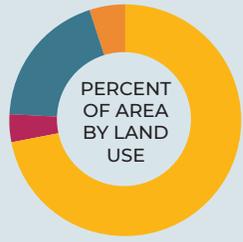
ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS

519



ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS (PER ACRE)

1.1



PERCENT OF AREA BY LAND USE

- Residential **72%**
- Commercial **4%**
- Tax Exempt **19%**
- Multiple Uses **5%**

The Wellfleet Community Activity Center is focused around Main Street north of Wellfleet Harbor and the commercial uses there. It is surrounded primarily by residential land uses, which comprise the vast majority of the Community Activity Center area in terms of land use.

Zoning



Accessory Dwelling Unit by Right

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a secondary housing unit on a single-family residential lot. ADUs can include over-garage units, carriage houses, or in-house apartments, and may provide more affordable housing options.

ALLOWED



Multifamily Housing by Right

Multifamily zoning by right makes the ability to develop multifamily units in certain districts of a town easier, supporting an expanded and diversified housing stock.

NOT ALLOWED

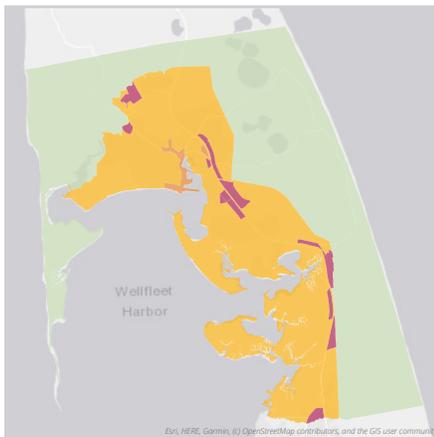


Inclusionary Zoning Policy

Inclusionary zoning requires developers to designate a percentage of the units in certain projects as available to lower to moderate income households.

Note: Wellfleet allows for a higher density cluster subdivision if a certain percentage of units are deed restricted affordable; it is not required.

NOT ADOPTED



Zoning Districts

Different from most Cape towns, the majority of Wellfleet is zoned for conservation uses, as can be seen in the map and the graph. This is reflective of the large amount of land in the town in Cape Cod National Seashore. These zoning categories are broad and do not capture the many nuances of the specific zoning regulations for each district, nor do they include overlay districts, but help to provide a summary of the distribution of land available for certain types of uses throughout town.



- Residential **39%**
- Commercial **2%**
- Mixed Use **1%**
- Conservation **58%**