



Housing Profile: Falmouth

Key Demographic and Economic Information

POPULATION	HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	HOUSING UNITS	MEDIAN HOME SALES PRICE (2023)	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2023)	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RATE
32,841	14,596	2.22	22,156	\$750,000	\$92,862	\$6.28 (FY24)

The Town of Falmouth has an estimated year-round population of just over 32,800 residents, the second largest town in the region in terms of year-round population. It is bordered by Bourne and Sandwich on the north, Vineyard Sound on the south, Buzzards Bay on the west, and Mashpee on the east. About 30% of homes in the town are seasonal, which is slightly lower than the region as a whole (34%). The Town of Falmouth includes two Community Activity Centers within its boundaries: Falmouth and Woods Hole.

Falmouth by Age



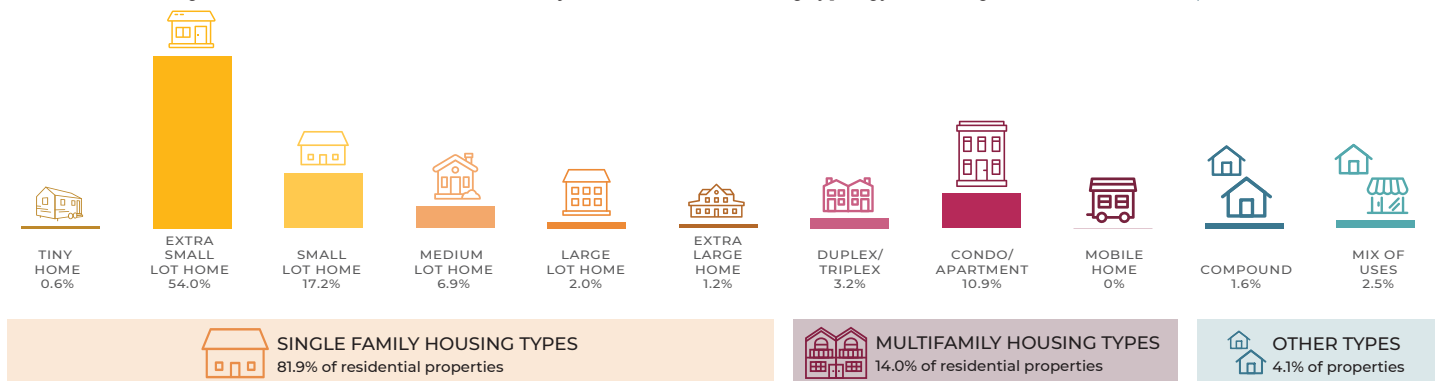
Falmouth by Race



(American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-year Estimates; Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors; Massachusetts Department of Revenue)

Current Housing Stock

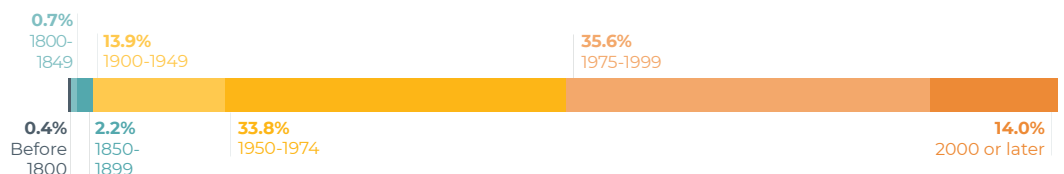
The Cape Cod Commission conducted a housing typology study using local assessors' data and state class property codes. The graph below shows the distribution of various types of residences using this data, which differs slightly from American Community Survey counts. In Falmouth, about 82% of residential properties are single-family homes; 14% are multifamily properties. The remaining 4.1% 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

Like the region, the vast majority of housing units in the town were built between 1950 and 1999. About 14% of homes have been built in the 2000s.

(Assessors' data and CCC housing typology analysis)



Owners and Renters

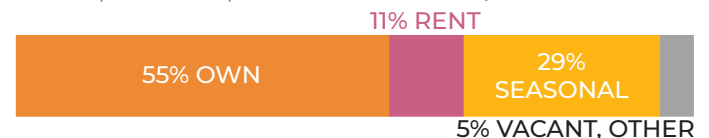
There are nearly 14,600 year-round occupied housing units in Falmouth; of these, 83% are owner-occupied and 17% are renter-occupied.

(ACS 2023 5-year Estimates)



Seasonality

Just under one-third of all housing units in Falmouth are used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. (ACS 2023 5-year Estimates)

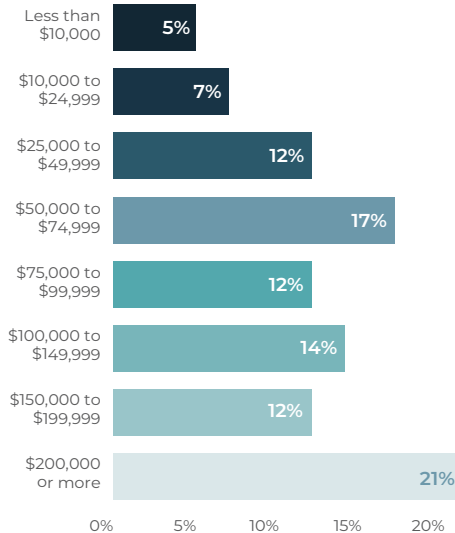




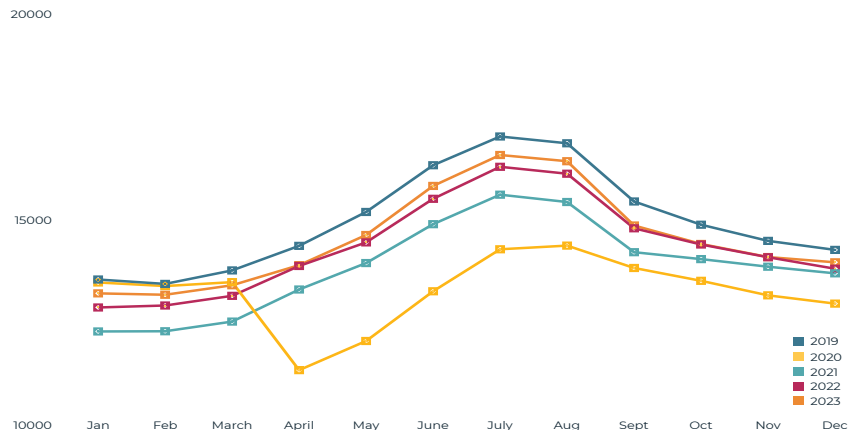
Wages, Employment, and Housing Affordability

Households per Income Bracket

(ACS 2023 5-year Estimates)

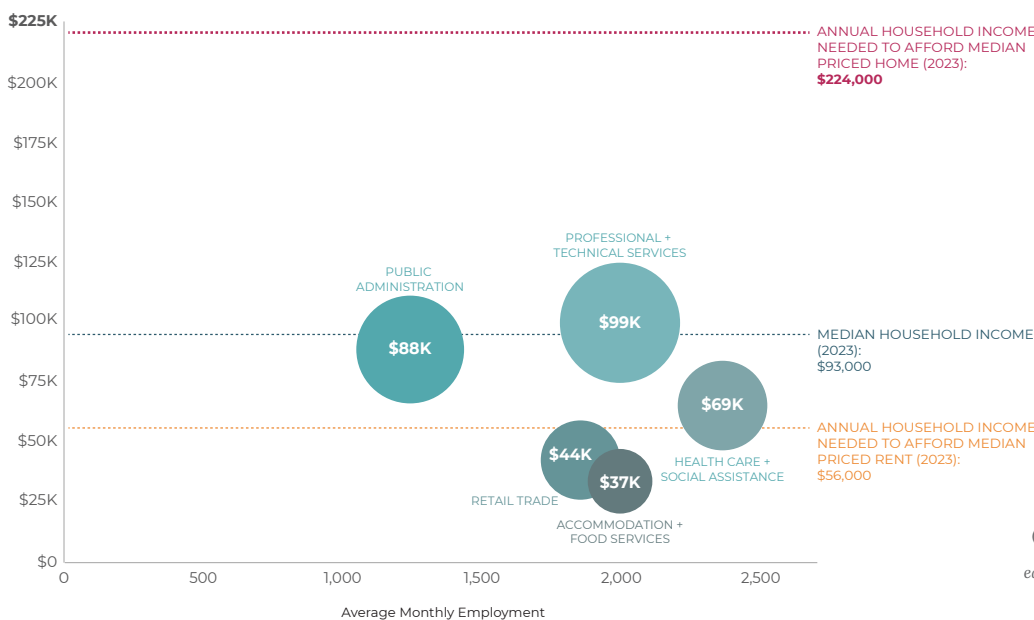


Employment by Month



Like much of the region, employment in Falmouth can be highly seasonal. In 2019, employment peaked in July at 27% more than 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 through 2022 and into 2023. (MA Labor Market Information, ES-202 data)

Housing Affordability



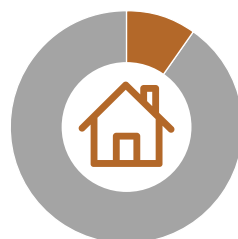
In 2022 the median price for a home for sale in Falmouth was \$705,000. In 2023, prices increased to a median home sales price of \$750,000, a 6% increase. Average wages in the town's largest industries by employment fall well below what is needed to affordably purchase a home at median sales prices (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 income from all sources, while annual wage refers to an individual's earnings from employment. Data: Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors; 2023 ACS 5-Yr Estimates; MA Department of Economic Research, 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

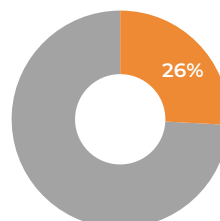


9.95% of housing units

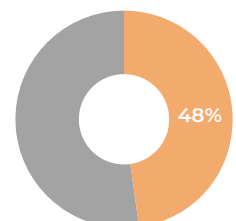
(Numbers are from EOHLC as of January 7, 2025 and subject to change)

Housing Cost Burdened

A household is considered cost burdened when housing costs exceed more than 30% of monthly income. (ACS 2023 5-year Estimates)



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

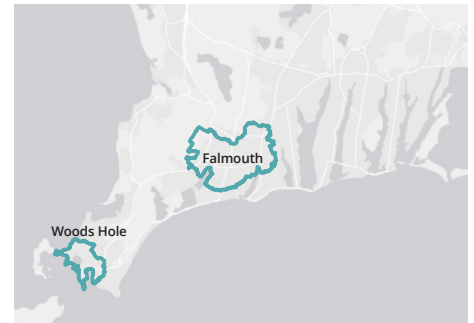


... of renter households in Falmouth spend 30% or more of income on housing costs

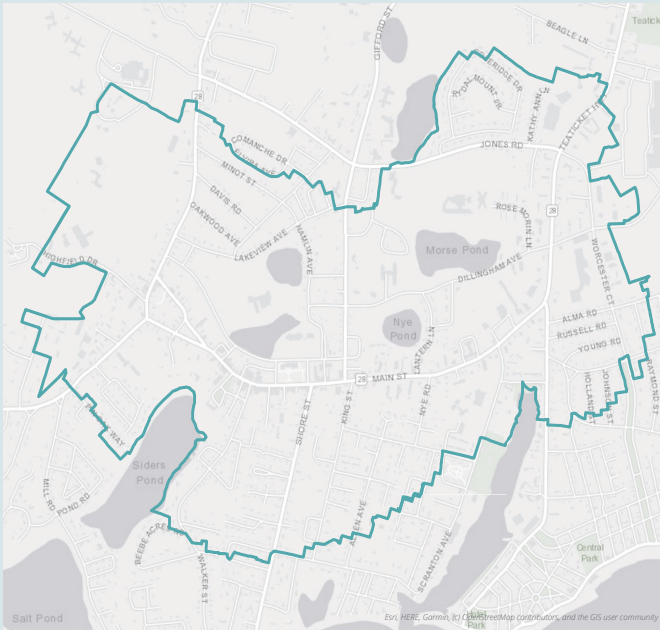


Community Activity Centers

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. Falmouth has two identified Community Activity Centers, one in downtown Falmouth and one in Woods Hole.



Falmouth



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER AREA (ACRES)

951



ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS

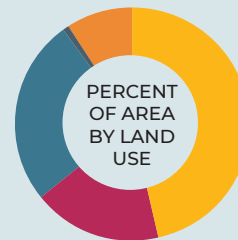
1,369



ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS (PER ACRE)

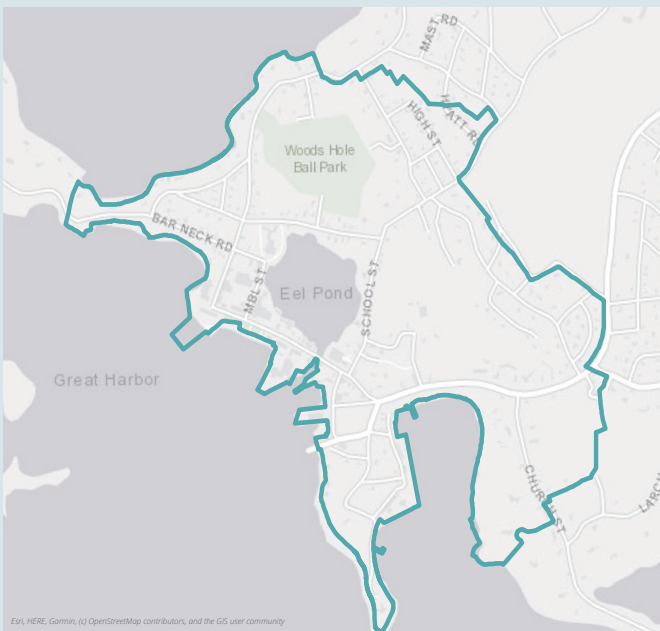
1.4

The Falmouth Community Activity Center is focused around Route 28 in downtown Falmouth and the commercial uses there. It is surrounded primarily by developed residential land, which comprises much of the Community Activity Center area in terms of land use.



- Residential **47%**
 - Commercial **18%**
 - Tax Exempt **26%**
 - Industrial **1%**
 - Multiple Uses **9%**
- Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Woods Hole



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER AREA (ACRES)

262



ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS

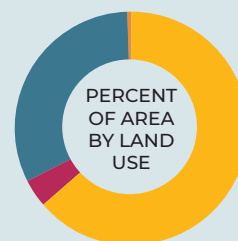
328



ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS (PER ACRE)

1.3

The Woods Hole Community Activity Center is focused around Water Street northeast of Great Harbor and the institutional and commercial uses there. It is surrounded primarily by residentially developed land, which comprises the majority of the Community Activity Center area in terms of land use.

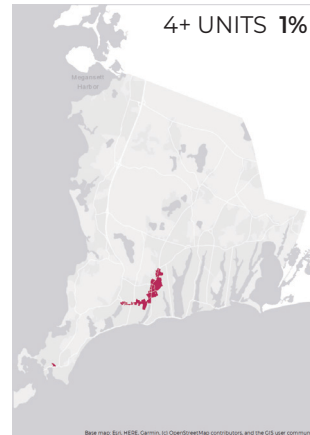
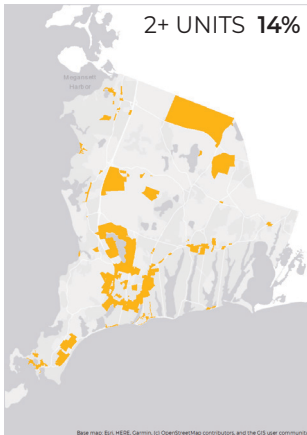


- Residential **64%**
 - Commercial **4%**
 - Tax Exempt **32%**
 - Multiple Uses **0.4%**
- Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding



Zoning

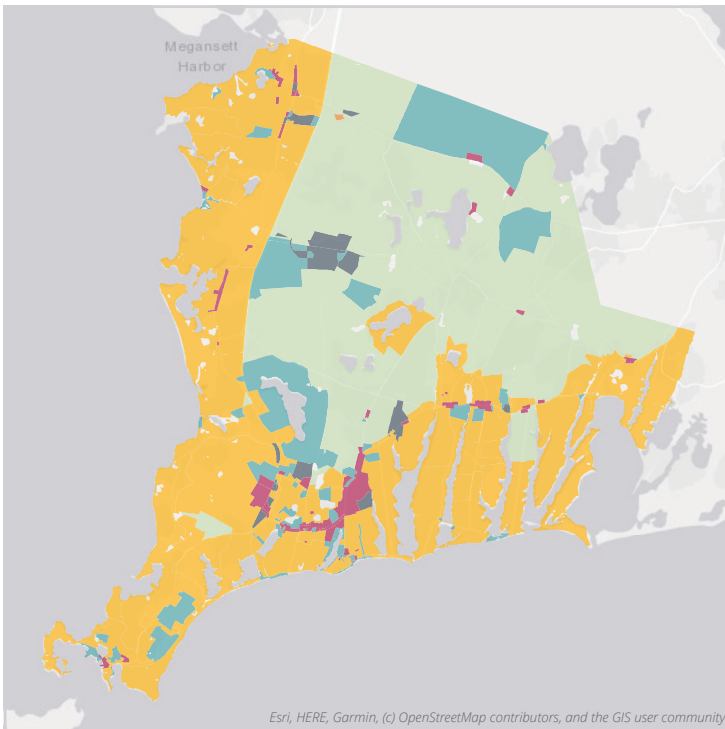
The amount of land zoned to allow multifamily housing developments varies by town, but generally follows a similar pattern as the region: most Cape towns prohibit or require special permit authorization for multifamily housing development and limit it to a small portion of town, while allowing for detached, single-family homes by-right throughout the community. The following maps are the result of a town-by-town analysis of land zoned to allow multifamily housing developments by-right (not including accessory dwelling units). Falmouth has several parts of town where two units are allowed by-right, and in part of the downtown area and a very small part of Woods Hole three or more units are allowed by-right.



Inclusionary Zoning Policy

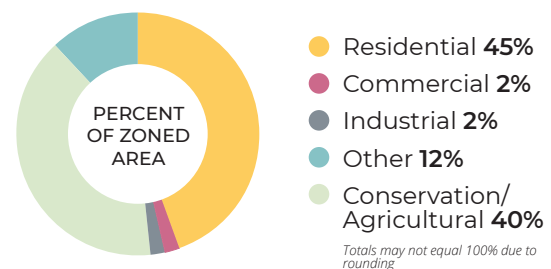
Inclusionary zoning requires developers to designate a percentage of the units in certain projects as available to lower and moderate income households.

☒ NOT ADOPTED



Zoning Districts

As with most Cape towns, much of the town is zoned for residential uses, as can be seen in the map and the graph. Falmouth also has a significant amount of land in agricultural zoning districts. 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.



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The Town Housing Profiles have been created as a data resource by the Cape Cod Commission. Explore more data related to housing, demographics, and the economy at datacapecod.org.

CAPECODCOMMISSION.ORG • DATACAPECOD.ORG