

## SUBREGIONAL FREIGHT PROFILE

# Hunterdon County

### ABOUT THIS PROFILE

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) has developed a set of alternative freight forecasts to support transportation, land use, and economic development decisions. This Freight Profile is an update to a previous version published in 2012, and offers a snapshot of key metrics – Economy and Land Uses, Freight Flows, and Freight Transportation Networks in 2020 and in the forecast year, 2050.

### ECONOMY AND LAND USES

With a 2018 population of 124,714, Hunterdon ranks 12th among the 13 NJTPA counties in population. The county's median household income is the 2nd highest in the NJTPA region. Between 2010 and 2018, Hunterdon County's median household income increased by about \$220, after adjusting for inflation.

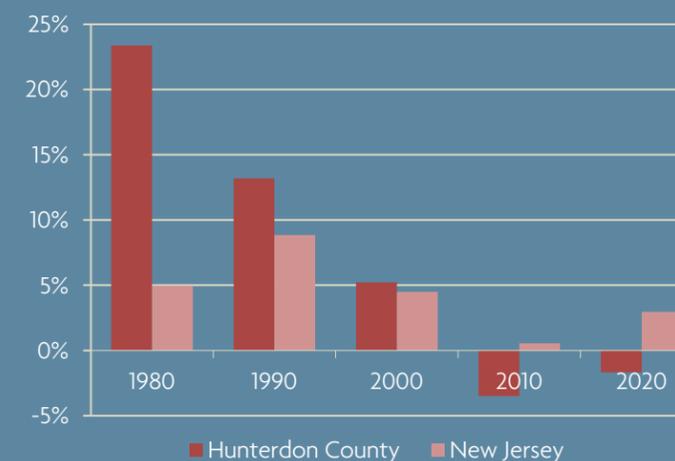
Hunterdon County is home to:

- 124,714 people
- More than 4,000 businesses that employ 48,000 people; about 32 percent of these jobs are in industry sectors that are highly dependent on freight movement
- About 10.1 million tons of domestic freight shipped or received annually
- More than 1.7 million e-commerce packages delivered annually
- Interstate, State, and County highways used by tens of thousands of trucks every day
- The Norfolk Southern Lehigh Line and several secondary freight rail lines

# Highlights

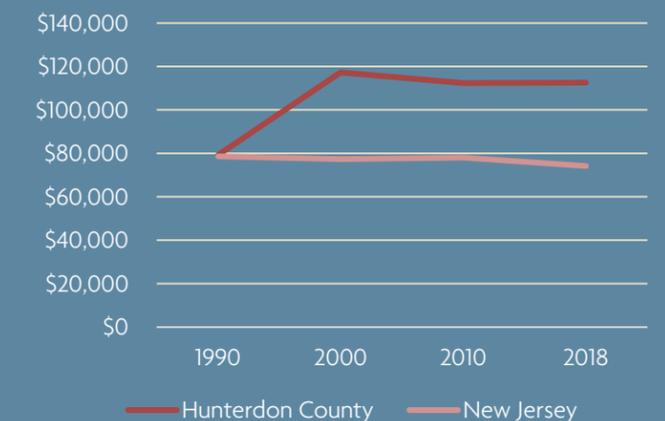
### Population Growth by Decade

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



### Median Household Income, Constant 2018 Dollars

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## EMPLOYMENT

The County's economy employs 48,000 people in more than 4,000 establishments. About 32 percent are employed in "freight-intensive" industries, such as construction, manufacturing, mining and extraction, retail trade, wholesale trade, and logistics. About 68 percent are employed in industries that may generate freight but are less dependent on freight movement.

## FREIGHT FLOWS

In 2020, an estimated 10.1 million tons of domestic freight will move into, out of, or within Hunterdon County, by all modes of transportation (truck, rail, water, pipelines, and air). This figure includes commodities moving into or out of Hunterdon County, but excludes pass-through tonnage. (The movement of international cargo to and from seaports, airports, and border crossings is captured and counted as domestic tonnage).

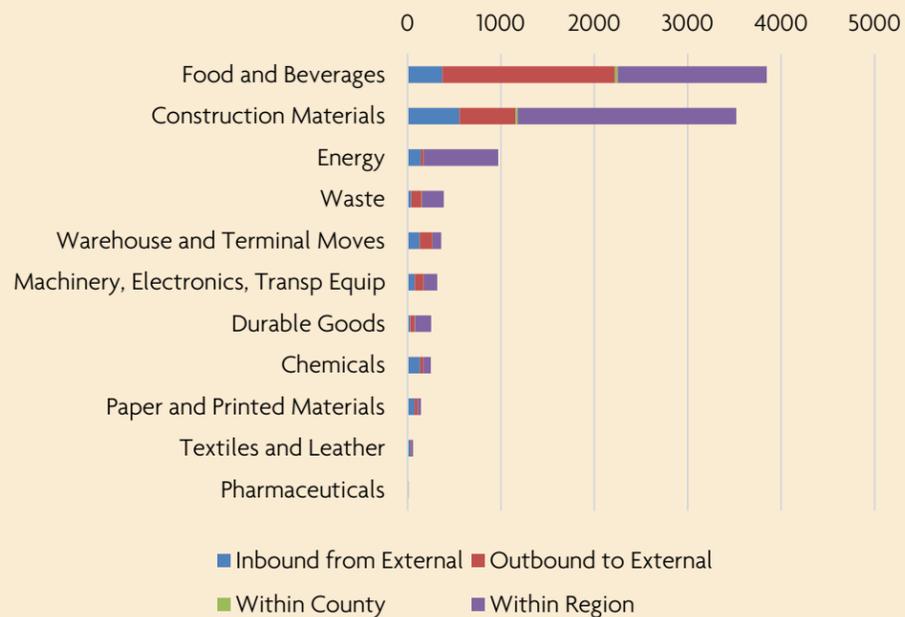
For domestic tonnage with an origin and/or destination in the County, around 38 percent consists of food and beverages, close to half of which traveled outbound from Hunterdon County to locations outside the NJTPA region. Other leading commodities in Hunterdon County include moves of construction materials, energy products, waste, and movement of mixed or unspecified freight from warehouses and/or terminals.

### Employment by Industry, 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Thousands of Tons by Commodity by Direction, 2020



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

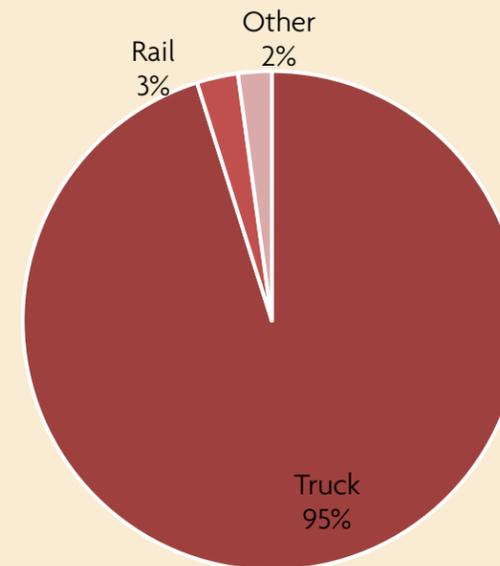
**E-commerce has a growing presence in the retail landscape. Some of the freight shipments described in this profile include goods that are ultimately delivered to consumers who shop online. In 2019, about 1.7 million e-commerce shipments containing 2.4 million items were delivered to consumers in Hunterdon County.**

### Thousands of Tons by Domestic Trading Partner, 2020



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

### Tons by Mode, 2020



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

## TRADING PARTNERS

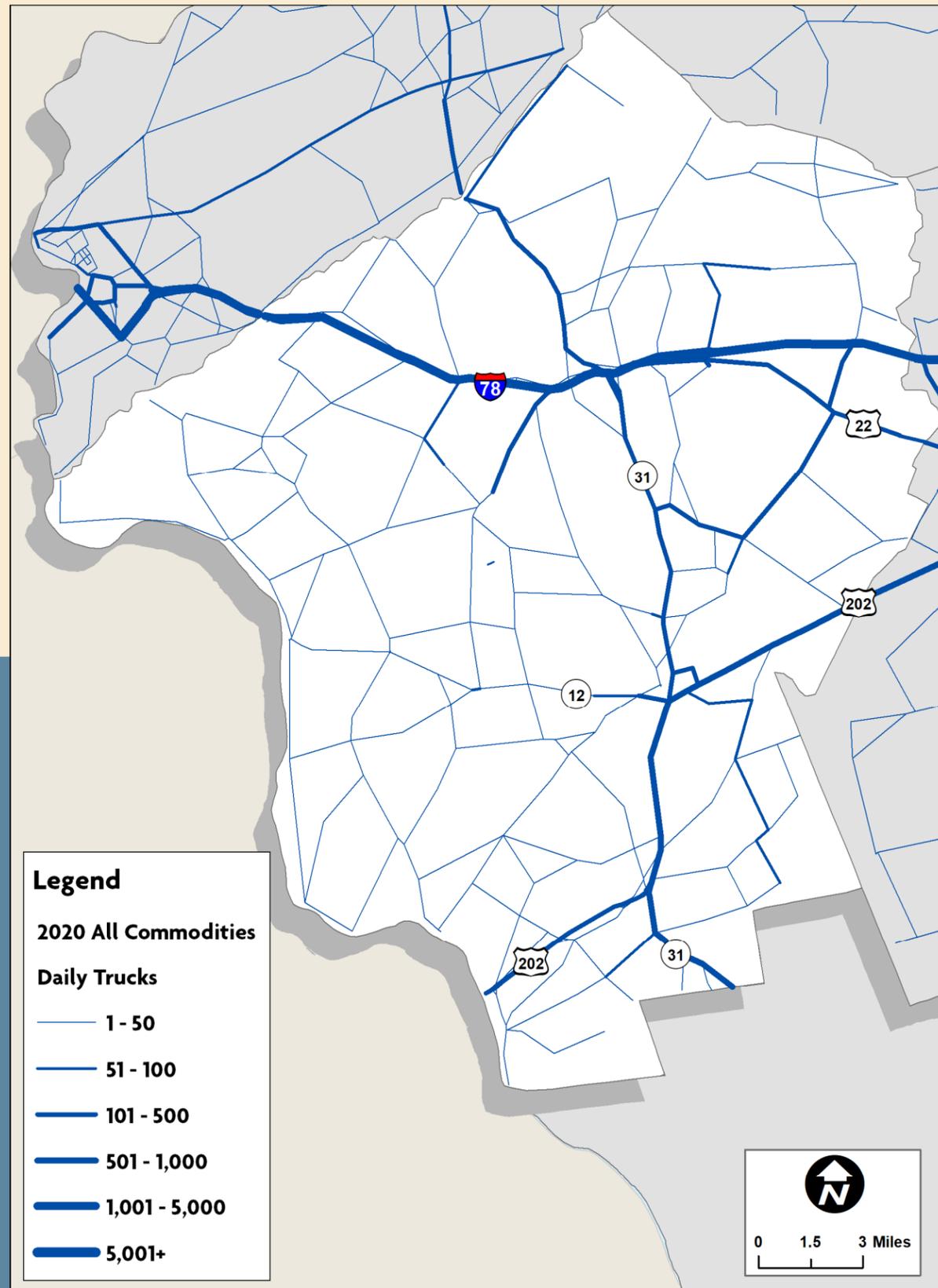
Hunterdon County's major trading partners are, not surprisingly, its neighbors. As illustrated to the left, locations in the NJTPA region are the greatest origins of inbound freight and destinations for outbound freight. New York, Pennsylvania, and the portions of New Jersey outside the NJTPA region are also among the top origins and destinations for freight traded with Hunterdon County.

## FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

Freight can be handled by truck, rail, pipelines, air, or water. The choice of mode depends on a variety of factors, including: length of trip (rail and air are more competitive at longer distances), commodity type (rail and water are more competitive for heavy materials, and pipelines are suited for moving energy products), time sensitivity (truck and air are most competitive), need for door-to-door service (trucking is needed unless the customer has a dock or rail connection).

For domestic freight traveling to, from, or within Hunterdon County, 95 percent travels by truck, 3 percent by rail, and 2 percent by other modes.

## Highway Network Utilization, 2020



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020; NJRTM-E, 2019; NJOIT, 2008; Esri, 2014

## HIGHWAY NETWORK UTILIZATION

Hunterdon County's highway network serves to connect its major freight activity centers with key trading partners elsewhere in the County, in the State of New Jersey, in other parts of North America, and – via international seaports and airports – the world.

Not all trucks on the road are carrying freight. Some are moving empty. Others are providing municipal services (waste transfer, utility services, etc.) or commercial services (contractors, lumber, landscapers, etc.).

The map on the previous page illustrates the flows of commodity trucks, or trucks loaded with freight, on the highway network.

Interstate 78, which runs the length of the County, accommodates more than 5,500 commodity trucks in each direction each day. Portions of Route 202 and Route 31 carry between 500 and 1,000 commodity trucks per day in each direction.

## BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

The map on the next page illustrates the locations of facilities that ship, handle, or receive freight, including:

- Production facilities such as manufacturing businesses or mining and quarrying facilities where goods are produced or raw materials are extracted;
- Logistics facilities, including warehousing and transportation facilities through which goods are distributed; and
- Sales, including retail, services, and institutional establishments where goods are sold.

The largest cluster of business establishments in the production and sales categories is in Flemington. The Route 22 corridor contains large freight-handling business establishments or small groups of establishments between Readington and Hampton. There is also agricultural land covering much of the County that generates freight.

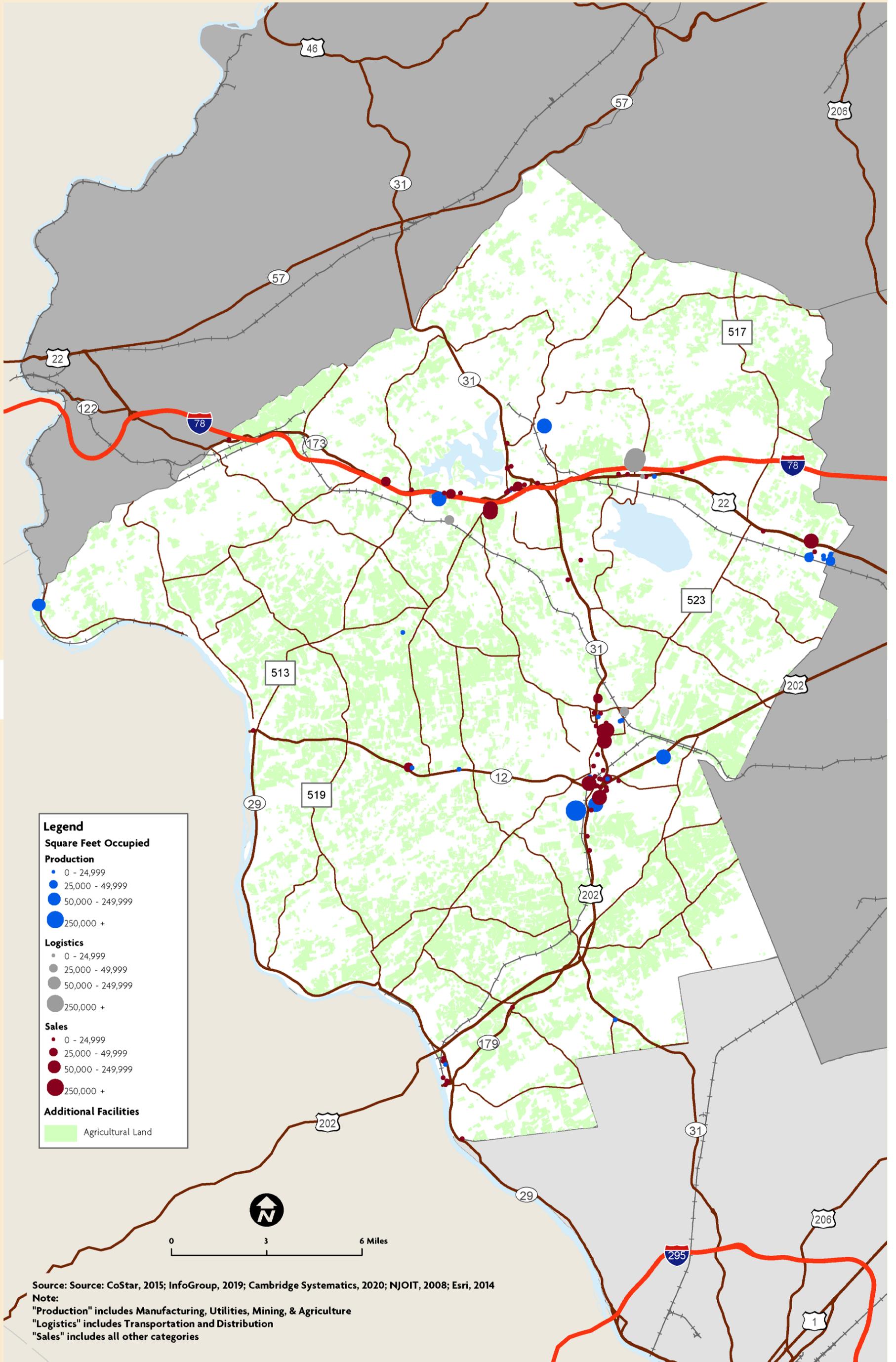
## Top 6 Business Establishments in Freight-Generating Industry Sectors, by Size

Company	Square Footage	Municipality	Business Type
Johanna Farms	500,000	Raritan Township	Production
JNJ Warehousing & Distribution	363,000	Lebanon	Logistics
Safavieh	345,000	Clinton Township	Logistics
Custom Alloy Corporation	150,000	High Bridge	Production
Georgia-Pacific	150,000	Milford	Production
3M	150,000	Raritan Township	Production

Source: Infogroup, 2019; CoStar, 2015

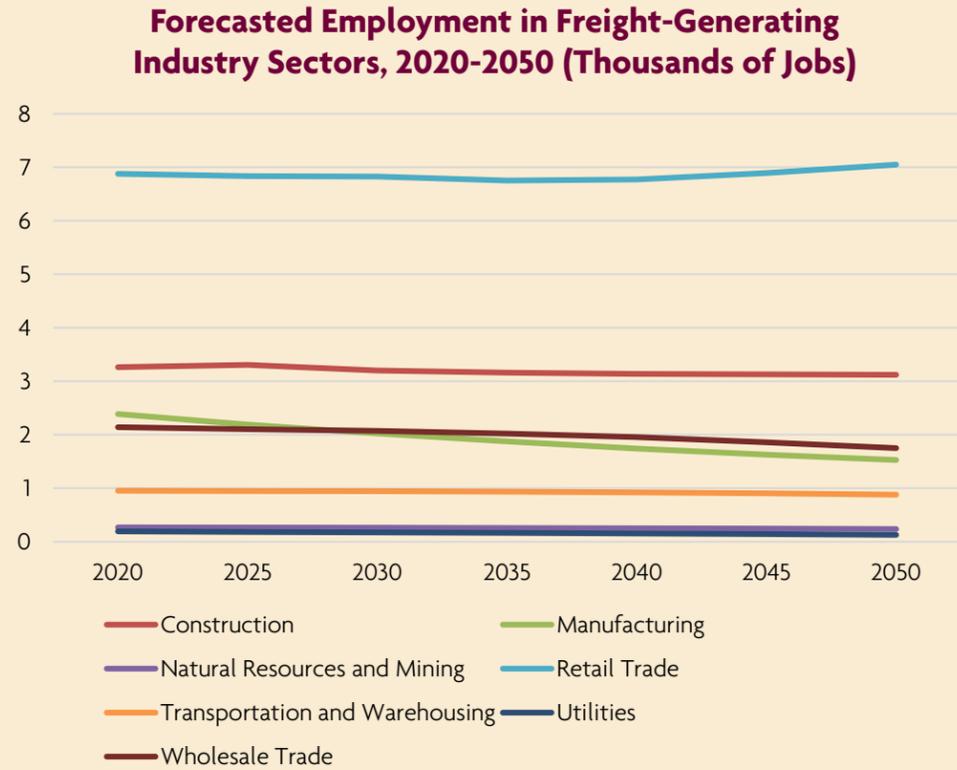
Note: Some companies may have multiple locations in the county and/or region.

# Business Square Footage by Industry Type



### EMPLOYMENT FORECAST

Employment in freight-intensive industries is expected to decrease by about 9 percent during the forecast period. The manufacturing, utilities, and wholesale trade sectors are expected to experience the greatest reductions in employment. Retail trade employment, however, is expected to increase by 2 percent between 2020 and 2050.



Source: Moody's, 2020

### Commodity Flow Forecast, 2020-2050

By 2050, commodity flows into, out of, and within Hunterdon County are expected to have increased by about 6 percent, from 10.1 million tons to 10.7 million tons (a difference of about 700,000 tons). Food and beverages is expected to remain the number one commodity transported by tonnage, followed by construction materials and energy products. Food and beverages and machinery, electronics, and transportation equipment are the top commodity bundles by value of goods and are expected to remain the top two bundles by value through 2050.

Commodity Bundle	2020 Tons (thousands)	2050 Tons (thousands)	2020 Value (millions \$)	2050 Value (millions \$)	Change in Tons	Change in Value
Chemicals	249	262	970	1,020	5%	5%
Construction Materials	3,520	3,662	1,708	1,744	4%	2%
Durable Goods	254	264	1,044	1,082	4%	4%
Energy	970	1,051	893	970	8%	9%
Food and Beverages	3,846	4,127	7,712	8,179	7%	6%
Machinery, Electronics, Transp Equip	318	333	4,258	4,420	5%	4%
Paper and Printed Materials	144	169	328	431	17%	31%
Pharmaceuticals	13	14	618	629	2%	2%
Textiles and Leather	59	65	534	586	9%	10%
Warehouse and Terminal Moves	361	389	1,948	2,156	8%	11%
Waste	389	409	104	108	5%	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,123</b>	<b>10,744</b>	<b>20,118</b>	<b>21,326</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>

Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

Note: Commodities assigned a value of \$0 indicate the absence of sales or commercial value

### Thousands of Tons by Commodity by Direction, 2050



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

### COMMODITY VOLUMES AND DIRECTION

The directional movement of shipments containing the top 10 commodities are expected to remain nearly constant as well. In 2050, like 2020, about half of the food and beverage flows will move outbound from Hunterdon County to locations outside the NJTPA region. Intraregional moves are expected to remain the predominant travel pattern across most of the other commodity bundles.

### FUTURE TRADING PARTNERS

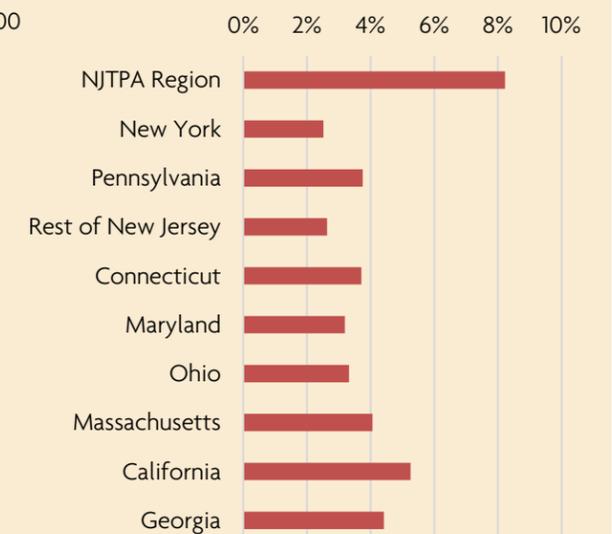
Hunterdon County's largest trading partners will continue to be other counties in the NJTPA region, followed by New York, Pennsylvania, and portions of New Jersey outside the NJTPA region. Between 2020 to 2050, the volume of trade with the NJTPA region and with the State of California is expected to grow at a greater rate (8% and 5%, respectively) than the volume of trade with other top trading partners

### Thousands of Tons by Domestic Trading Partner, 2050



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

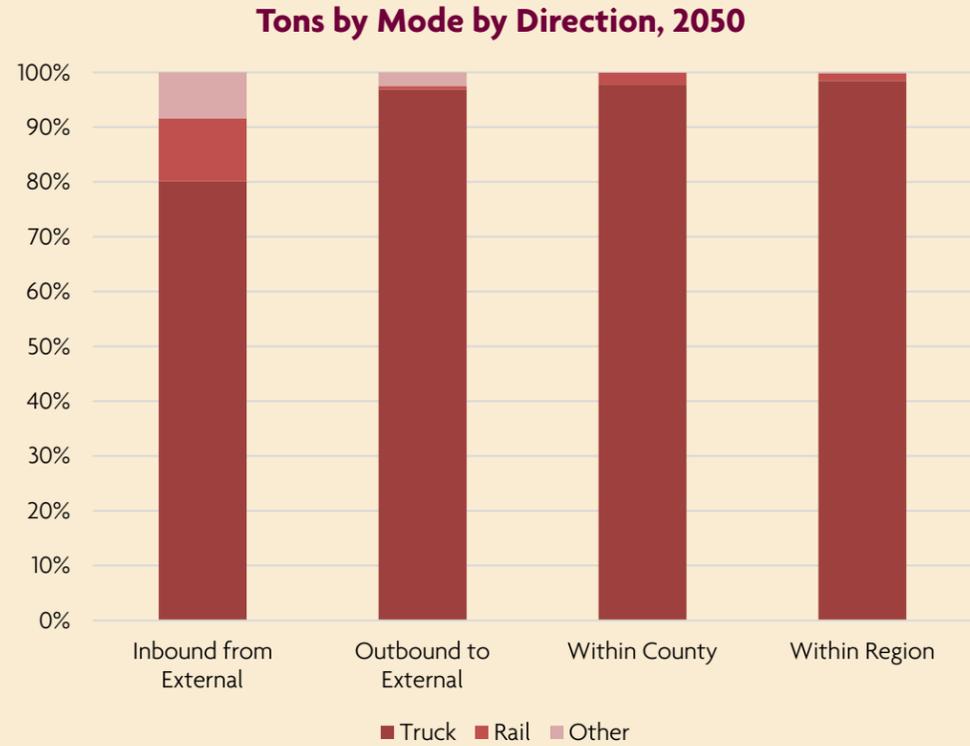
### Growth, 2020-2050



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

### FUTURE MODE UTILIZATION

The forecast anticipates that freight mode splits in 2050 will be similar to 2020 mode splits. Trucks are expected to carry 95 percent of all freight tons, while rail is expected to move 3 percent and other modes are expected to carry about 2 percent. Rail is expected to move 11 percent of inbound tonnage, and truck will carry about 99 percent of intracounty and intraregional freight moves.



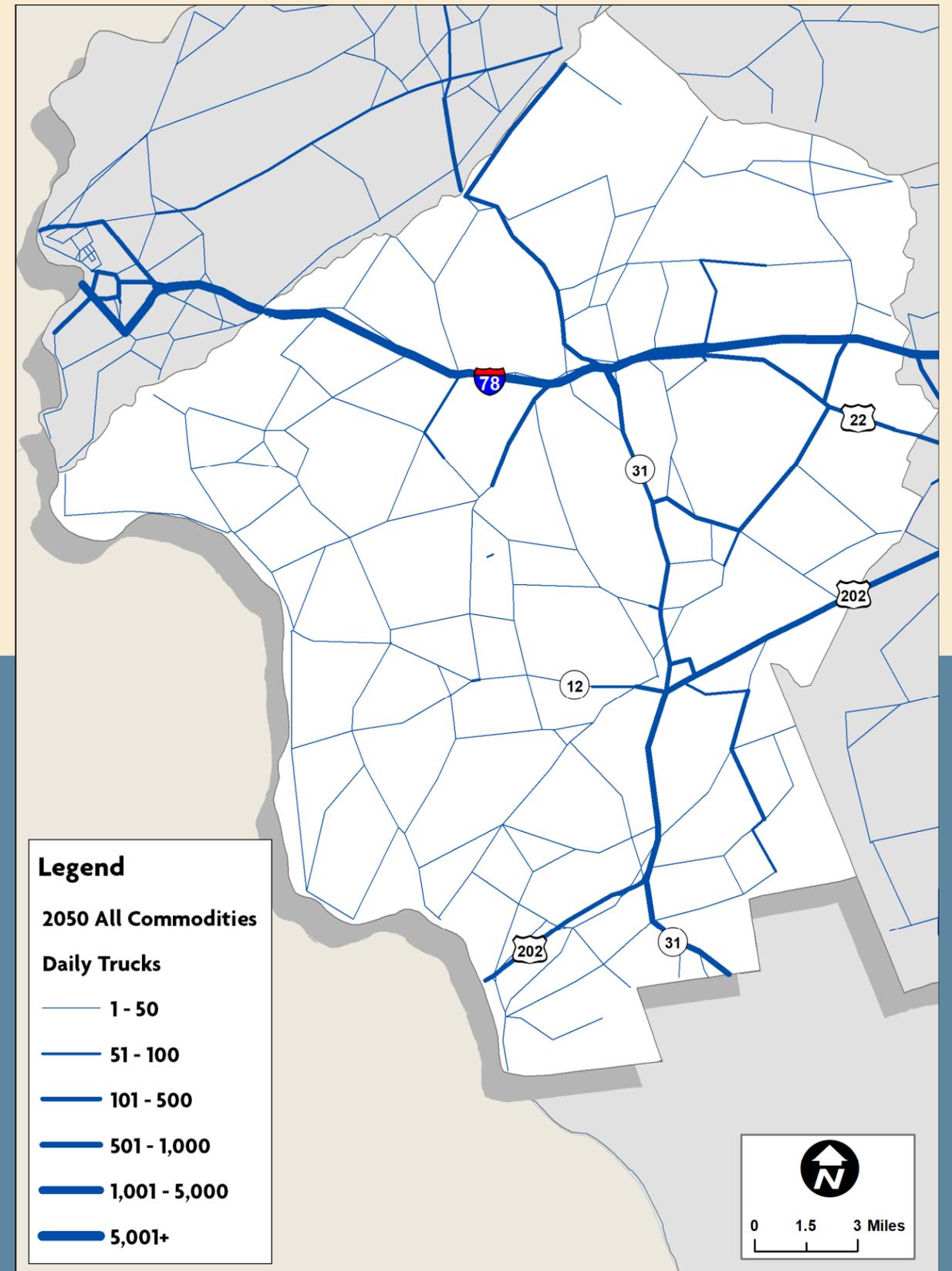
Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

### Future Highway Network Utilization

In 2050, Hunterdon County's highway network is expected to remain the primary conveyor of freight into, out of, within and through the County. The number of commodity trucks traveling on Interstate 78 is expected to increase by about 400 trucks per day in each direction between 2020 and 2050. Portions of Routes 202 and 31 are expected to see numeric increases of between 100-200 daily trucks in each direction during the forecast period.

The map on Page 11 illustrates the projected commodity truck volumes in 2050 on highways in Hunterdon County.

### Highway Network Utilization, 2050



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020; NJRTM-E, 2019; NJOIT, 2008; Esri, 2014.

## ABOUT THE NJTPA

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization for 6.7 million people in the 13-county northern New Jersey region. Each year, the NJTPA oversees the investment of more than \$1 billion in federal funding for transportation projects and provides a forum for interagency cooperation and public input into funding decisions. It also sponsors and conducts studies, assists county planning agencies and monitors compliance with national air quality goals.

The NJTPA Board of Trustees includes 15 local elected officials, including one representative from each of the 13 northern New Jersey counties –

Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren – as well as from the cities of Newark and Jersey City. The Board also includes the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the Executive Director of NJ TRANSIT, the Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, a Governor's Representative and a Citizens' Representative appointed by the Governor.

Hunterdon County's representative on the NJTPA Board of Trustees is County Freeholder Matthew Holt.

## ABOUT THE STUDY

Conditions in the goods movement industry have changed over the last several years. The 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study developed updated information on current and projected freight demand through 2050 for the NJTPA to use in its freight planning activities. This effort built on two previous NJTPA freight planning studies: the 2040 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study (completed in 2012) and the Regional Freight Commodity Profiles Study (completed in 2015).

This study helps identify locations with concentrations of goods movement activity and where they will occur in the future; the types of commodities that are and will be moving through the region; and where strategic investments should be considered to support economic growth and enhance regional resiliency. The results of this work will serve as background for the NJTPA's next Long Range Transportation Plan as well as freight planning and subregional planning studies.

**For further information,** please contact Jakub Rowinski, NJTPA Project Manager, at [jrowinski@njtpa.org](mailto:jrowinski@njtpa.org).

This Freight Profile is one of a series of profiles, covering the 13 counties of the NJTPA region, the City of Newark, Jersey City, and the region as a whole.

This document was prepared by the NJTPA with funding from the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. The NJTPA is solely responsible for its contents.