

## SUBREGIONAL FREIGHT PROFILE

# Sussex 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 140,779, Sussex is the 17th most populated County in the State of New Jersey and 11th in the NJTPA region. Since 2000, Sussex County's population has declined, despite modest growth statewide. The County's median household income is higher than that of the State overall. Between 2010 and 2018, inflation-adjusted median income declined by about \$3,100, compared to \$4,000 statewide.

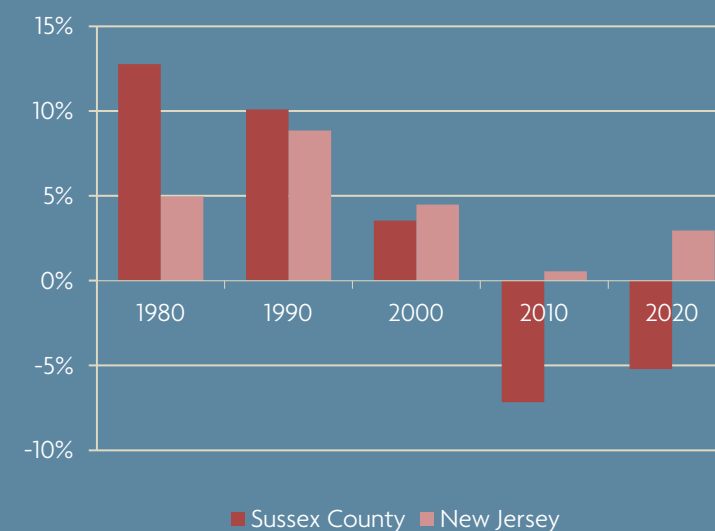
Sussex County is home to:

- 140,779 people
- Nearly 3,500 businesses that employ 37,900 people; about 32 percent of these jobs are in industry sectors that are highly dependent on freight movement
- About 11.9 million tons of domestic freight shipped or received annually
- Approximately 1.4 million e-commerce packages delivered annually
- Interstate, State, and County highways used by tens of thousands of trucks every day
- New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad service

# Highlights

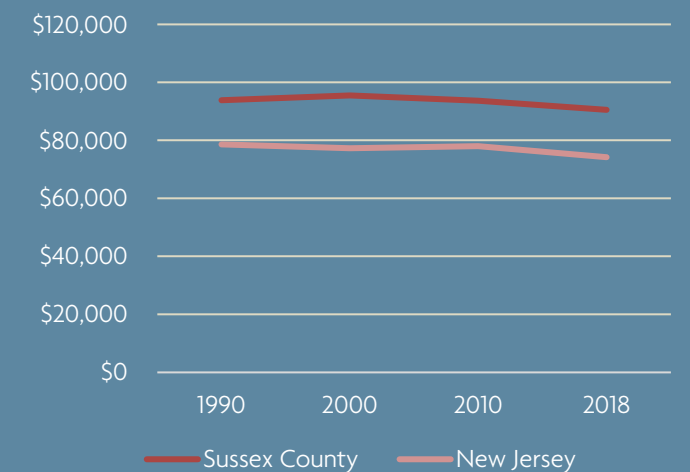
### Population Growth by Decade

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



### Median Household Income, Constant 2018 Dollars

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## EMPLOYMENT

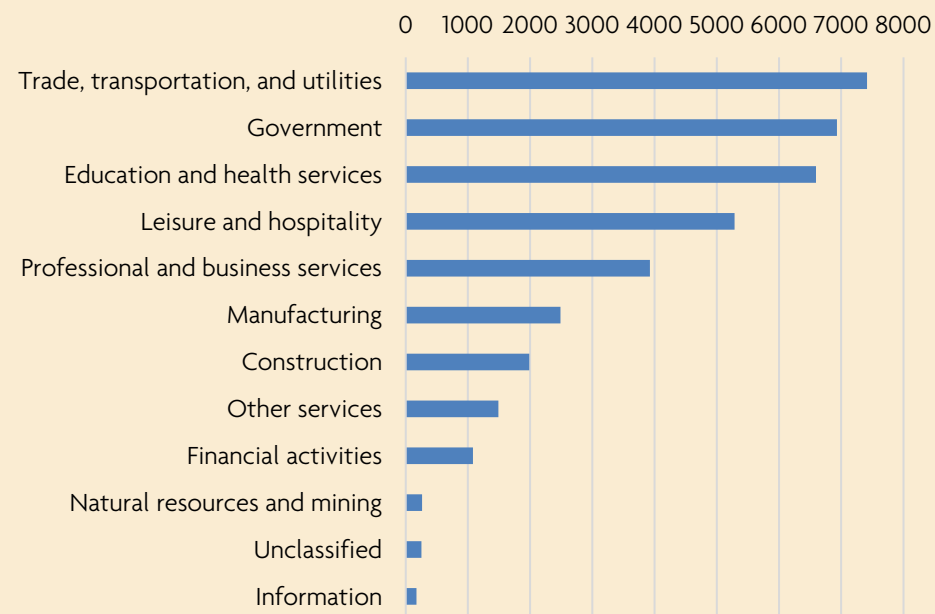
The County's economy employs 37,900 people in close to 3,500 establishments. About 32 percent are employed in "freight-intensive" industries, such as construction, manufacturing, mining and extraction, retail trade, wholesale trade, and logistics. About 68 percent are employed in industries that may generate freight but are less dependent on freight movement.

## FREIGHT FLOWS

In 2020, an estimated 11.9 million tons of domestic freight will move into, out of, or within Sussex County, by all modes of transportation (truck, rail, pipeline, water, and air). This figure includes commodities moving into or out of Sussex 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).

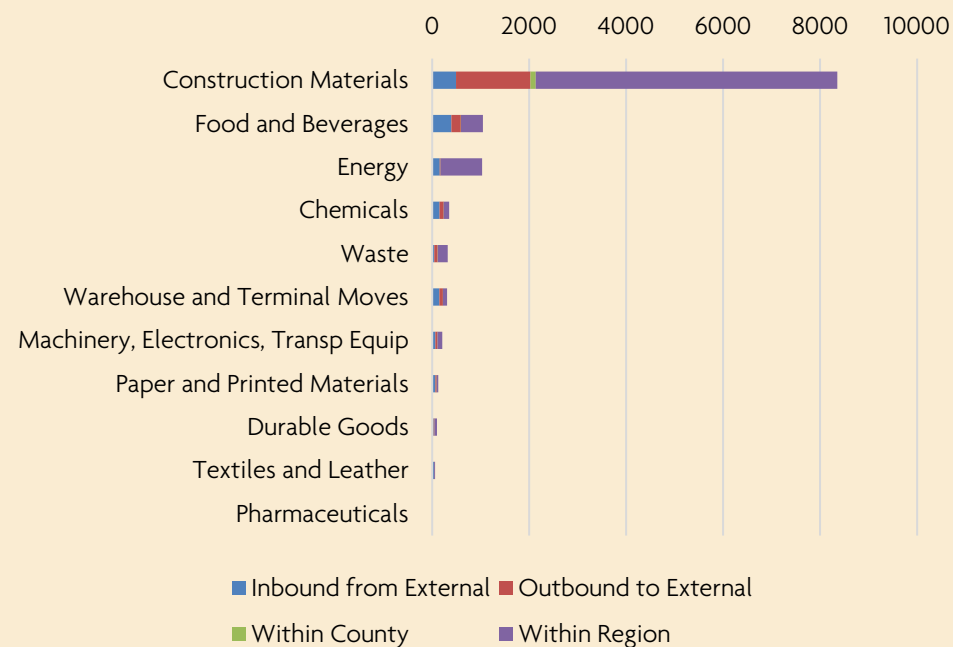
For domestic tonnage with an origin and/or destination in the County, about 70 percent consists of construction materials, most of which travel between Sussex County and locations in the NJTPA region. Other leading commodities in Sussex County include moves of food and beverages, energy products, chemicals, waste, and mixed or unspecified freight from warehouses or terminals.

## Employment by Industry, 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

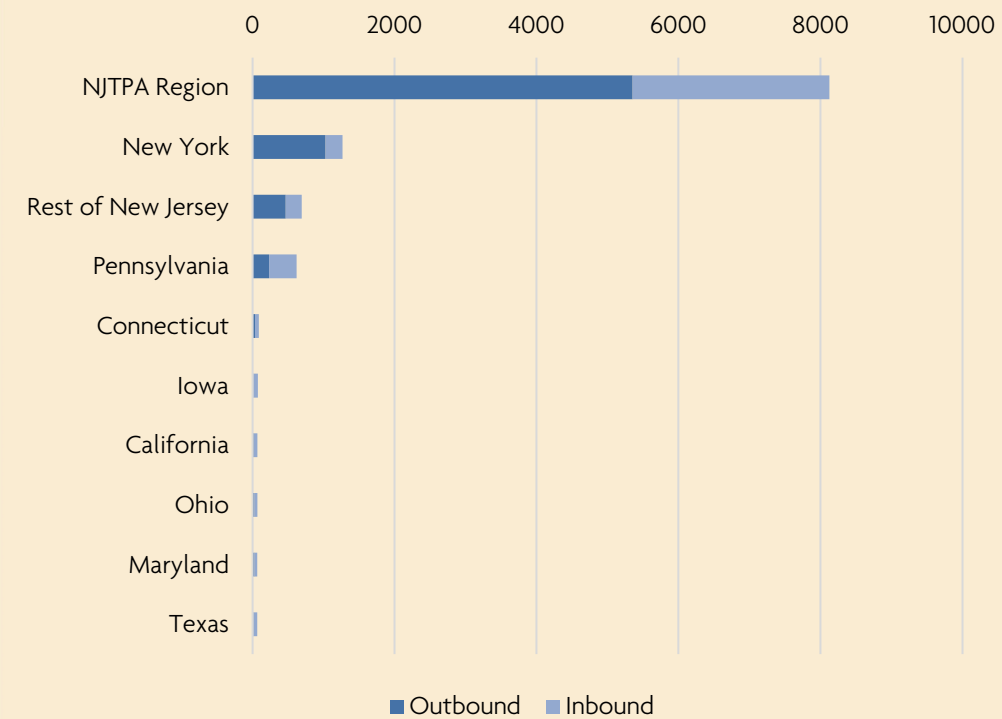
## Thousands of Tons by Commodity by Direction, 2020



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

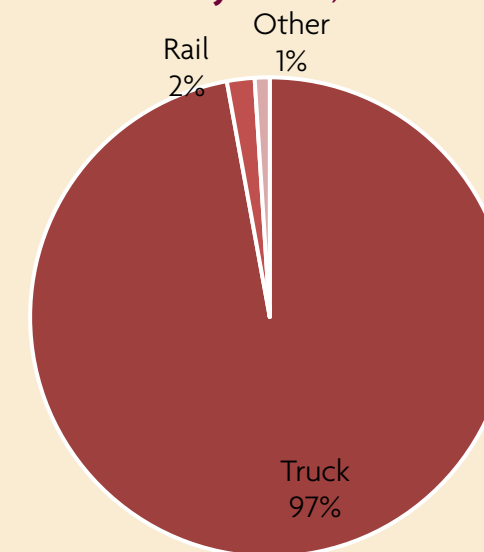
**E-commerce has a growing presence in the retail landscape. Some of the freight shipments described in this profile include goods that are ultimately delivered to consumers who shop online. In 2019, about 1.4 million e-commerce shipments containing 1.9 million items were delivered to consumers in Sussex 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

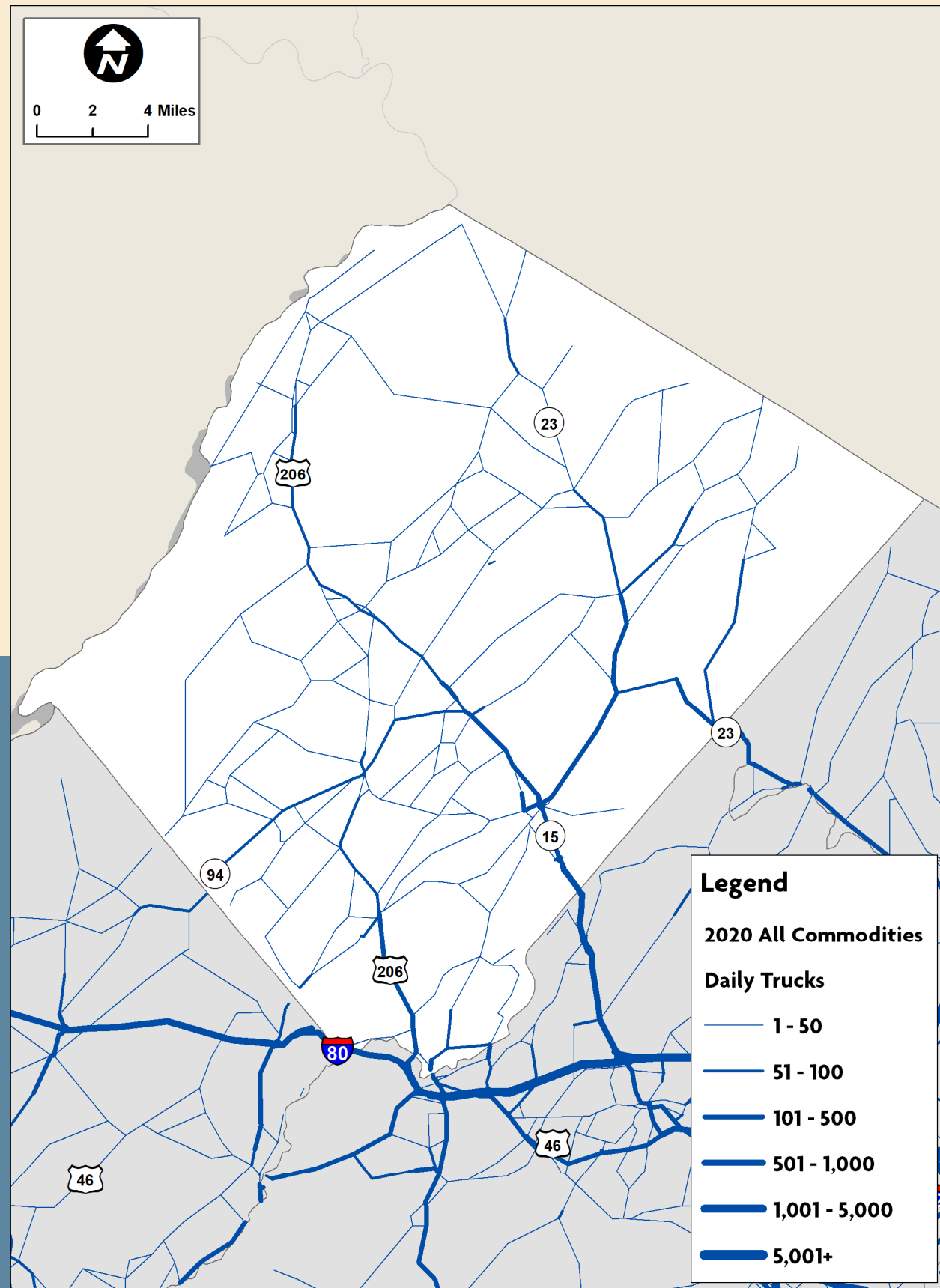
Sussex County's major trading partners are, not surprisingly, its neighbors. As illustrated to the left, locations in the NJTPA region are the greatest origins of inbound freight and destinations for outbound freight. Much of the outbound freight is construction material originating in Sussex County. New York, the portions of New Jersey outside the NJTPA region, and Pennsylvania and are also among the top origins and destinations for freight traded with Sussex 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 Sussex County, 97 percent travels by truck, 2 percent by rail, and 1 percent by other modes.

## Highway Network Utilization, 2020



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

## HIGHWAY NETWORK UTILIZATION

Sussex 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.

Nearly 4,000 commodity trucks per day travel on Interstate 80 in each direction. Portions of Route 15 carry about 2,000 commodity trucks per day in each direction. A segment of Route 23 in Hardyston and Route 206 in Andover carry about 400 commodity trucks each 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.

Large facilities in the production category are located in Newton and Hamburg. Sales facilities are located in and around Newton and Hampton Township, Sparta, and Franklin. A rail transload facility near Sparta and agricultural lands throughout the County also generate freight.

## Top 5 Business Establishments in Freight-Generating Industry Sectors, by Size

Company	Square Footage	Municipality	Business Type
Thorlabs	150,000	Newton	Production
Lowe's	150,000	Hampton Township	Sales
Home Depot	150,000	Newton	Sales
Walmart	150,000	Hampton Township	Sales
ShopRite	72,000	Byram Township	Sales

Source: Infogroup, 2019; CoStar, 2015

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



# Business Square Footage by Industry Type

**Legend**

**Square Feet Occupied**

**Production**

- 0 - 24,999
- 25,000 - 49,999
- 50,000 - 249,999
- 250,000 +

**Logistics**

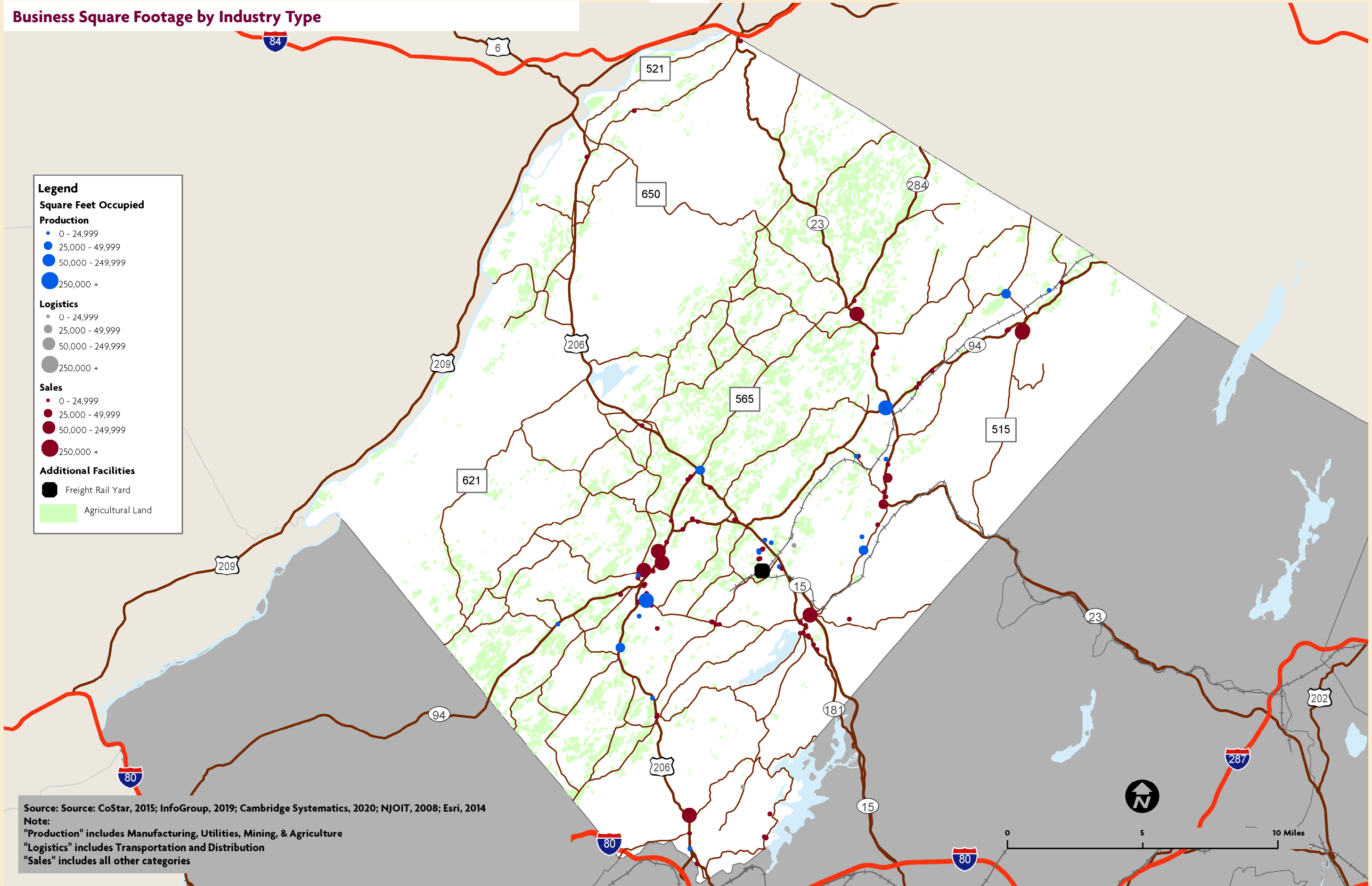
- 0 - 24,999
- 25,000 - 49,999
- 50,000 - 249,999
- 250,000 +

**Sales**

- 0 - 24,999
- 25,000 - 49,999
- 50,000 - 249,999
- 250,000 +

**Additional Facilities**

- Freight Rail Yard
- Agricultural Land



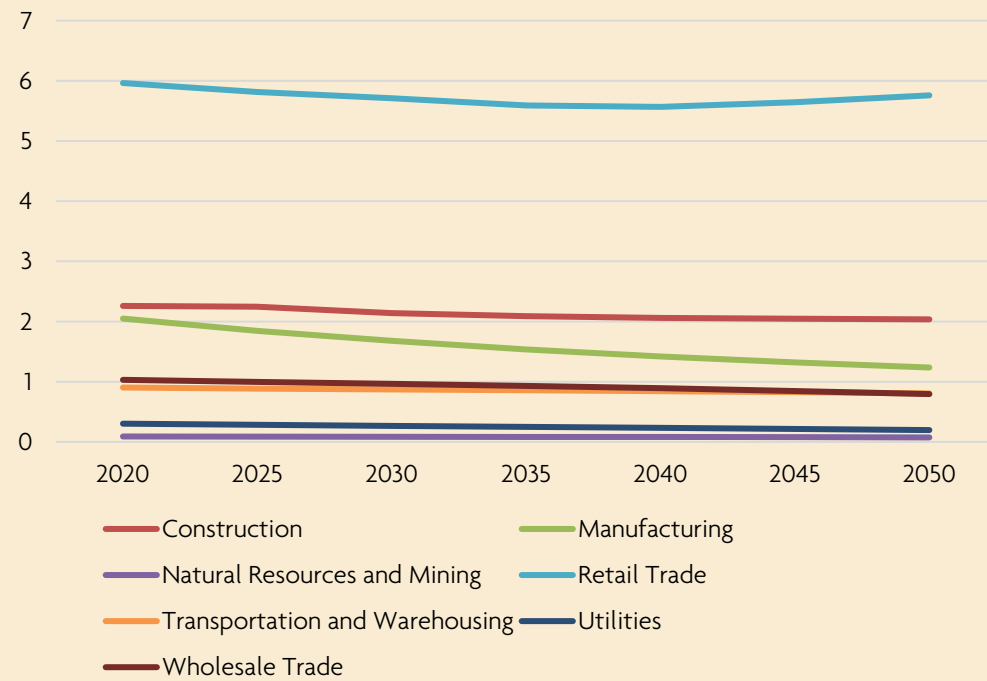
Source: Source: CoStar, 2015; InfoGroup, 2019; Cambridge Systematics, 2020; NJOIT, 2008; Esri, 2014

Note:  
 "Production" includes Manufacturing, Utilities, Mining, & Agriculture  
 "Logistics" includes Transportation and Distribution  
 "Sales" includes all other categories

## EMPLOYMENT FORECAST

Employment in freight-intensive industries is expected to decrease by about 13 percent during the forecast period. The manufacturing, utilities, and wholesale trade sectors are expected to experience the greatest reductions in employment. Retail trade and construction employment is expected to decrease by less than 10 percent (9 percent and 3 percent, respectively) between 2020 and 2050.

### Forecasted Employment in Freight-Generating Industry Sectors, 2020-2050 (Thousands of Jobs)



Source: Moody's, 2020

## Commodity Flow Forecast, 2020-2050

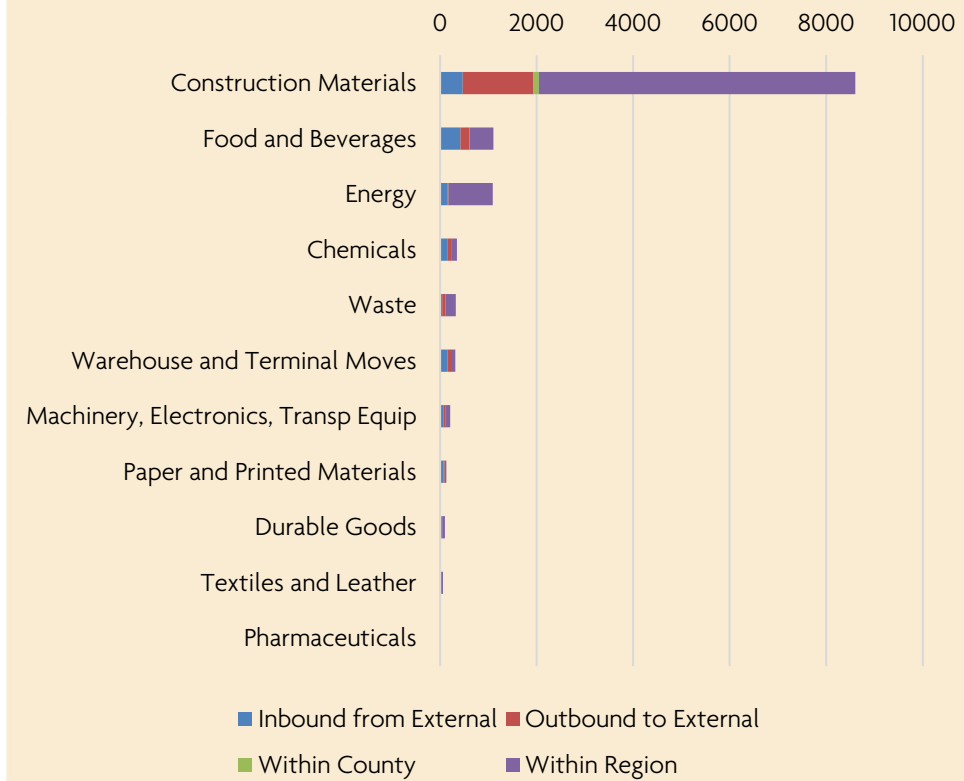
By 2050, commodity flows into, out of, and within Sussex County are expected to have increased by about 5 percent, from 11.9 million tons to 12.3 million tons (a difference of about 400,000 tons). Construction materials is expected to remain the number one commodity transported by tonnage, followed by food and beverages and energy products. Machinery, electronics, and transportation equipment, food and beverages, and warehouse and terminal moves 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	351	350	1,365	1,360	0%	0%
Construction Materials	8,357	8,602	1,407	1,377	3%	-2%
Durable Goods	101	100	1,057	1,035	-1%	-2%
Energy	1,032	1,092	953	1,011	6%	6%
Food and Beverages	1,046	1,105	2,023	2,102	6%	4%
Machinery, Electronics, Transp Equip	209	210	2,296	2,297	1%	0%
Paper and Printed Materials	126	132	244	275	5%	13%
Pharmaceuticals	14	13	677	653	-4%	-4%
Textiles and Leather	60	63	559	589	5%	5%
Warehouse and Terminal Moves	307	318	1,699	1,809	4%	6%
Waste	321	327	73	73	2%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,925</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>12,353</b>	<b>12,580</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</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

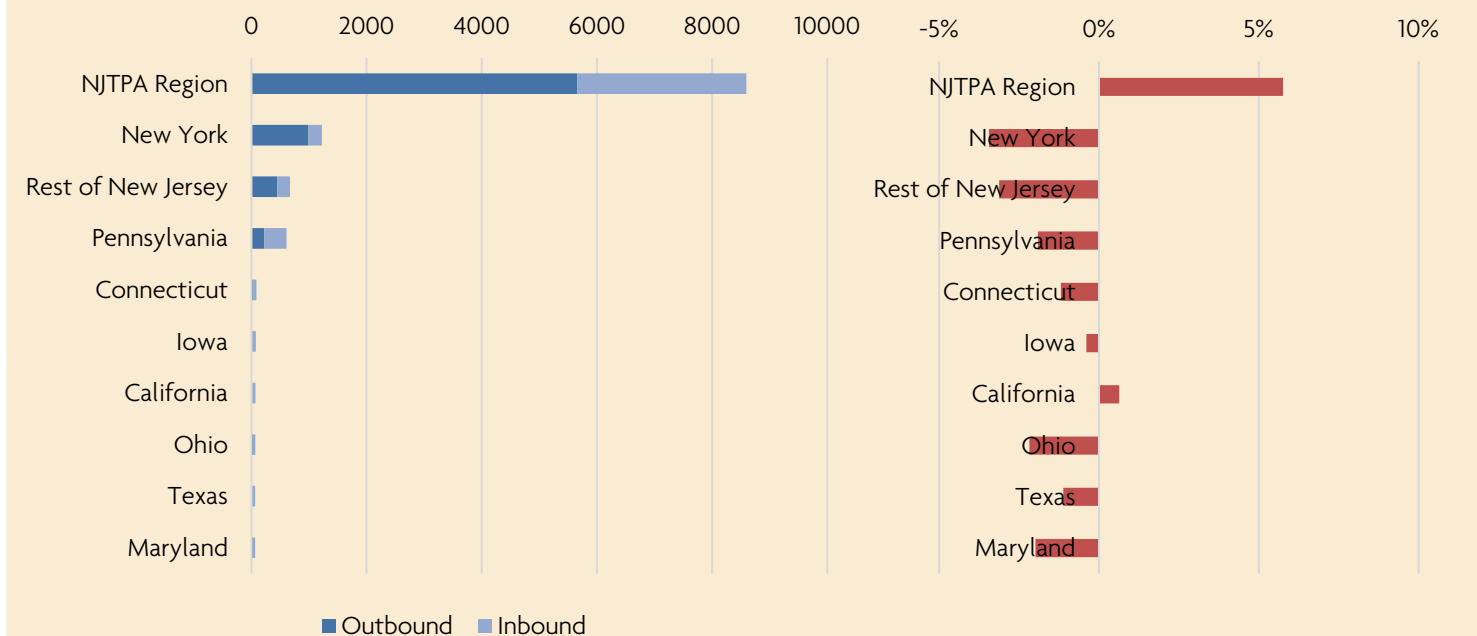
## COMMODITY VOLUMES AND DIRECTION

The directional movement of shipments containing the top 10 commodities are expected to remain nearly constant as well. In 2050, like 2020, most construction materials moves will be within the NJTPA region. Intraregional moves are expected to remain the predominant travel pattern across many of the other commodity bundles as well.

## FUTURE TRADING PARTNERS

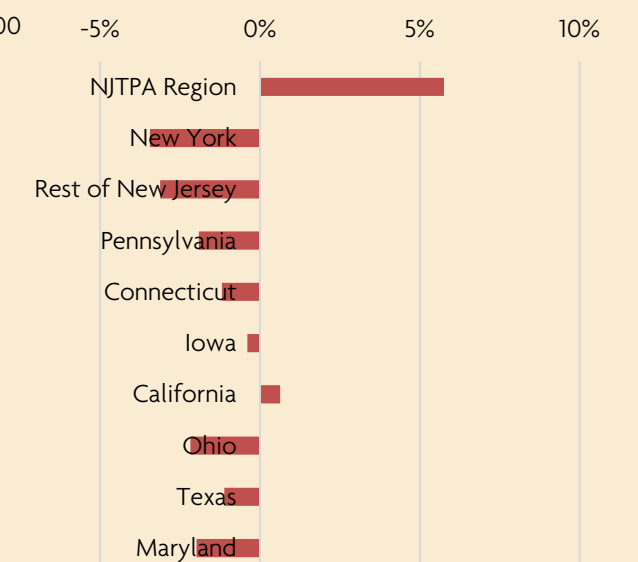
Sussex County's largest trading partners will continue to be other counties in the NJTPA region, followed by New York, portions of New Jersey outside the NJTPA region, and Pennsylvania. Growth in Sussex County's overall freight tonnage is expected to be driven by growth in trade with other NJTPA counties.

## Thousands of Tons by Domestic Trading Partner, 2050



Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

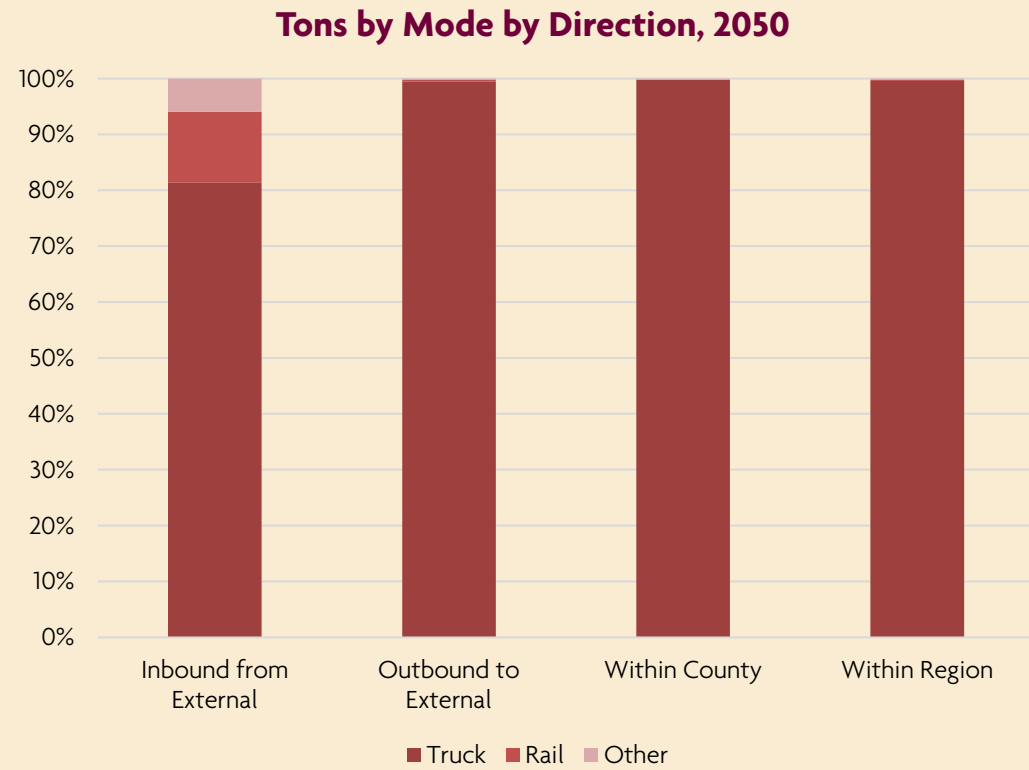
## Growth, 2020-2050



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 97 percent of all freight tons, while rail is expected to move 2 percent and other modes are expected to carry about 1 percent. Rail is expected to move 13 percent of inbound tonnage, and truck will carry about 99 percent of intracounty and intraregional freight moves.



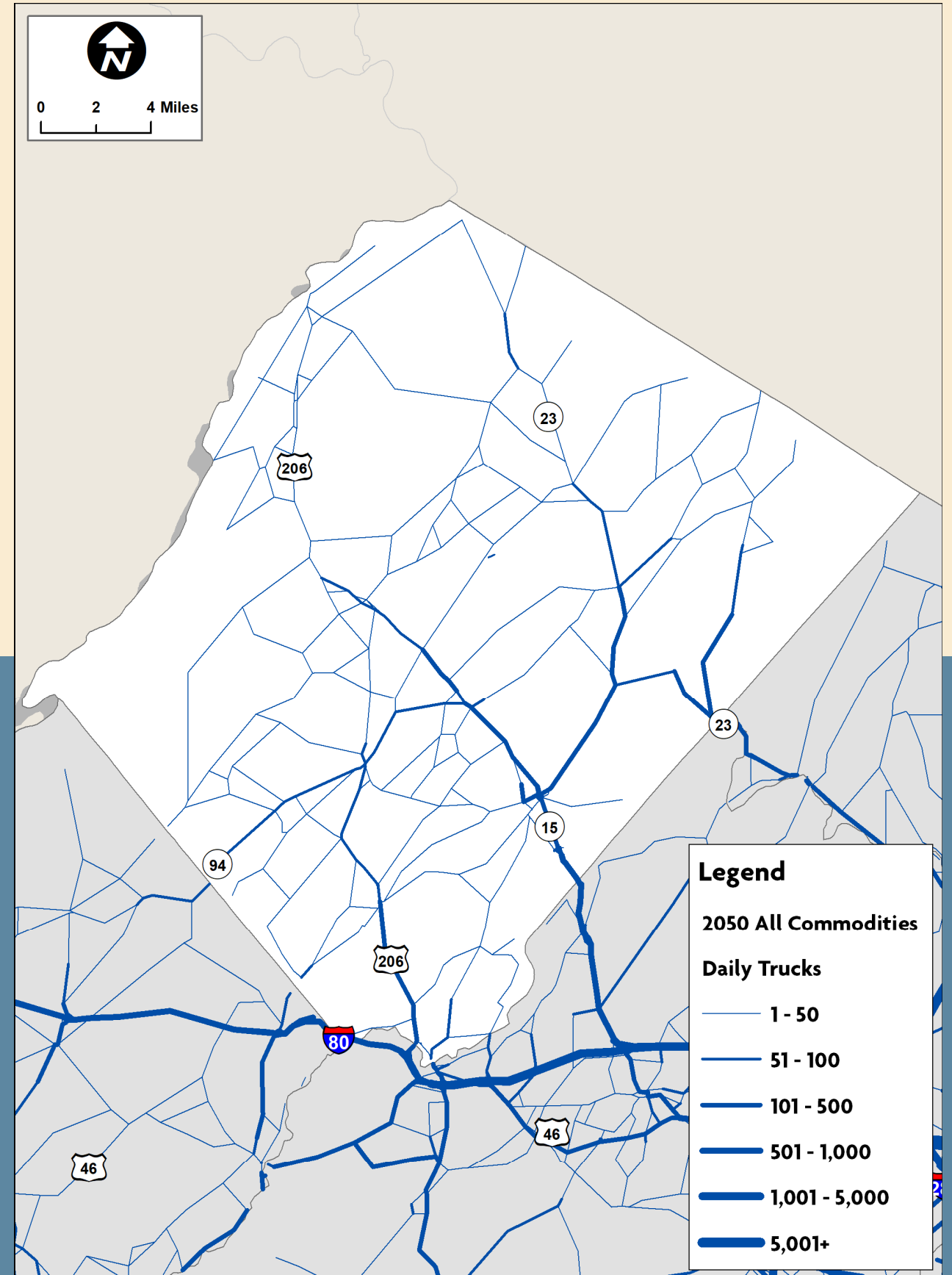
Source: NJTPA Freight Forecasting Tool, 2020

### Future Highway Network Utilization

In 2050, Sussex 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 80 are expected to increase by up to 400 per day in each direction between 2020 and 2050. Commodity truck volumes on Route 15 could increase by 200 per day in each direction by 2050. Increases in commodity truck volumes on Routes 23 and 206 are expected to be under 100 additional truck trips in each direction each day.

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

Sussex County’s representative on the NJTPA Board of Trustees is County Freeholder Joshua L. Hertzberg.

## 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.