

## LONG ISLAND INDEX 2007 HIGHLIGHTS



### ECONOMY

Long Island's economy continues to grow but shows signs of weakness.

- Annual average wages are growing at a slower rate than in the U.S. and are now only 5% higher than U.S. average.
- The top 10% of households account for 31% of the total household income on Long Island and the bottom 60% of households account for 32% of the total household income.
- Long Island is experiencing the greatest growth in the lowest paying jobs and a decline in the highest paying jobs.
- Long Island firms receive almost no venture capital or federal R&D funds.

**Small firms dominate.**

- 88% of Long Island firms have fewer than 30 employees and many new firms with a small number of employees are being created.



### OUR COMMUNITIES

Most Long Island downtown business centers have low vacancy rates (average is 7.3%).

Long Island continues to diversify, age and lose young adults as housing affordability worsens.

- 21% of the population reports having a very difficult time paying rent or mortgage—up from 7% in 2003.
- Only 17% of housing units on Long Island are rental—compared to Westchester's 38%.



### HEALTH

Long Island has high quality health care, but not all Long Islanders have access.

- Long Islanders have very different health risks depending on economic factors and the community where they live.
- 43% of inpatient health care is paid by Medicare.



### EDUCATION

Overall Long Island students excel but marked disparities persist in areas of concentrated poverty.

- Long Island students far surpass statewide results in completing Regents Diploma requirements (86% for Long Island vs. 69% for New York State) and in high school graduation rates (90% for Long Island vs. 80% for New York State).
- The difference in high school graduation rates between low-poverty and high-poverty schools is 20%.
- The gap between low-poverty and high-poverty schools is declining for the 4th Grade English Language Arts test and is increasing for the 8th Grade Mathematics test.
- There are schools in areas of concentrated poverty where the number of children receiving free lunch exceeds 50%.
- Students with Limited English Proficiency are growing markedly in high-poverty schools.



### OUR ENVIRONMENT

Between 2000 and 2005 Long Island preserved land at a rate of 2,200 acres per year.

Air quality is considered “good” two out of every three days.



### GOVERNANCE

Bond ratings remain high for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Property taxes as a share of personal income were 18% higher than the state average.



### **LONG ISLAND INDEX WEBSITE**

The *Long Island Index* website has been redesigned to make it easier to find detailed information about the Long Island region. Need a graph for a report or presentation? Want more information about Long Island's economy? Interested to see how far we've come in preserving land? Go to [www.longislandindex.org](http://www.longislandindex.org) and select the "Indicator Overview" option on the top navigation bar or go directly to one of the six indicator topics: Economy, Communities, Health, Education, Environment, and Governance. Once you're there, select a goal, find the indicator, read the data, download the graph. Or, do your own analysis and form your own conclusions using actual data from the *Index*.

Also available on the site: Surveys and Special Analyses. Both can be found from the top navigation bar.

If you would like to see prior *Index* reports, learn more about the history of the *Long Island Index* project or about indicator projects in general, select an option from the left navigation. Find the complete news coverage of *Index* topics that you are interested in by going to "Press & Media." Sign up to receive automatic updates about the *Index* or even take an online survey.

### **"WHAT EVERY LONG ISLANDER SHOULD KNOW"**

This series of articles examining aspects of life on Long Island, based on information from the *Long Island Index* is written by Rauch Foundation President, Nancy Rauch Douzinas. Read current and back issues on our site.

### **CHECK BACK SOON**

More is coming soon! Check back frequently to find updated community and school profiles, information about our essay contest for high school students, or our next Special Analysis report.