

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in Belknap County, New Hampshire. The town is built on a peninsula or a narrow strip of land, with a large body of water (likely the Atlantic Ocean) to the right. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

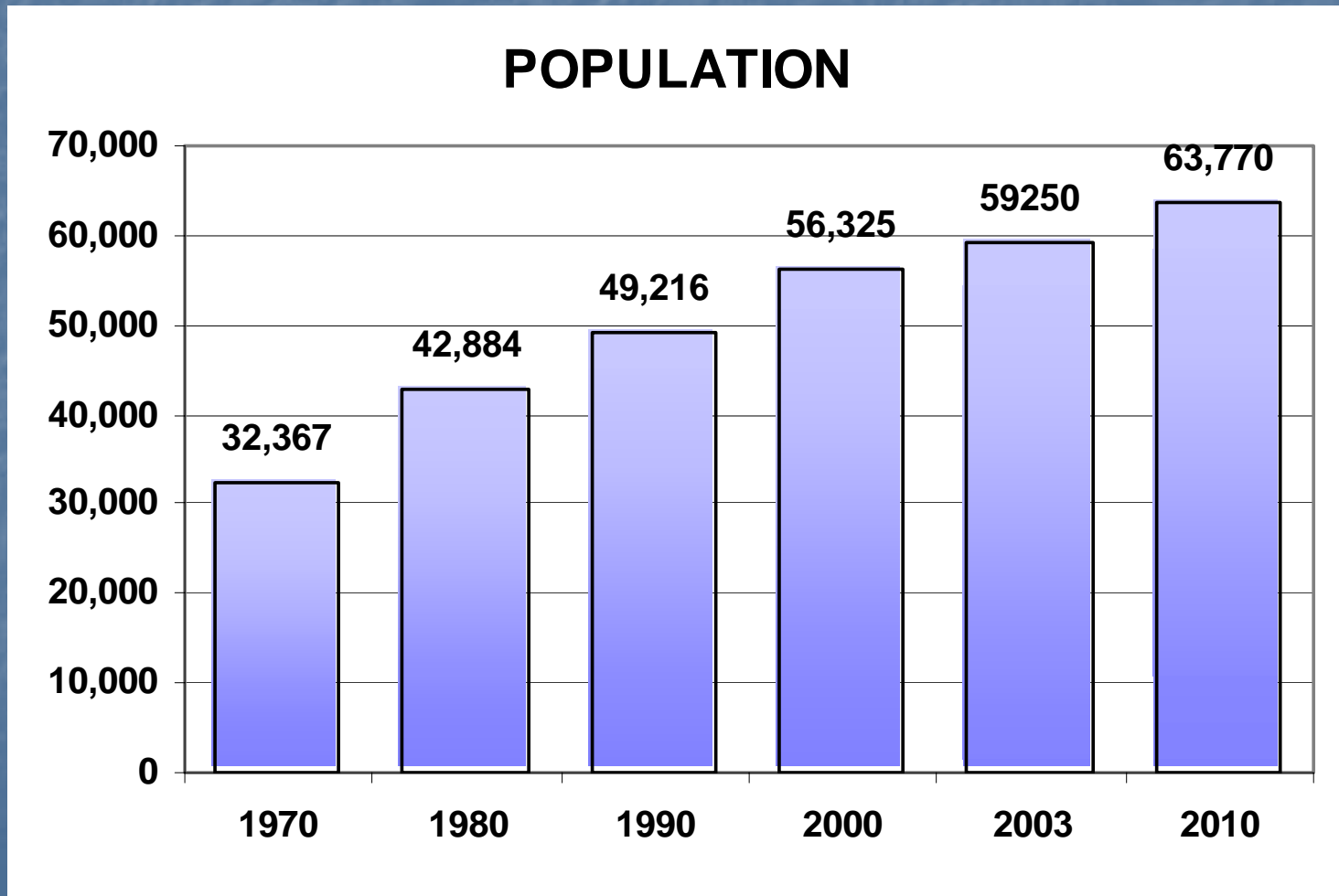
Belknap County Families: An Economic Perspective

Russ Thibeault

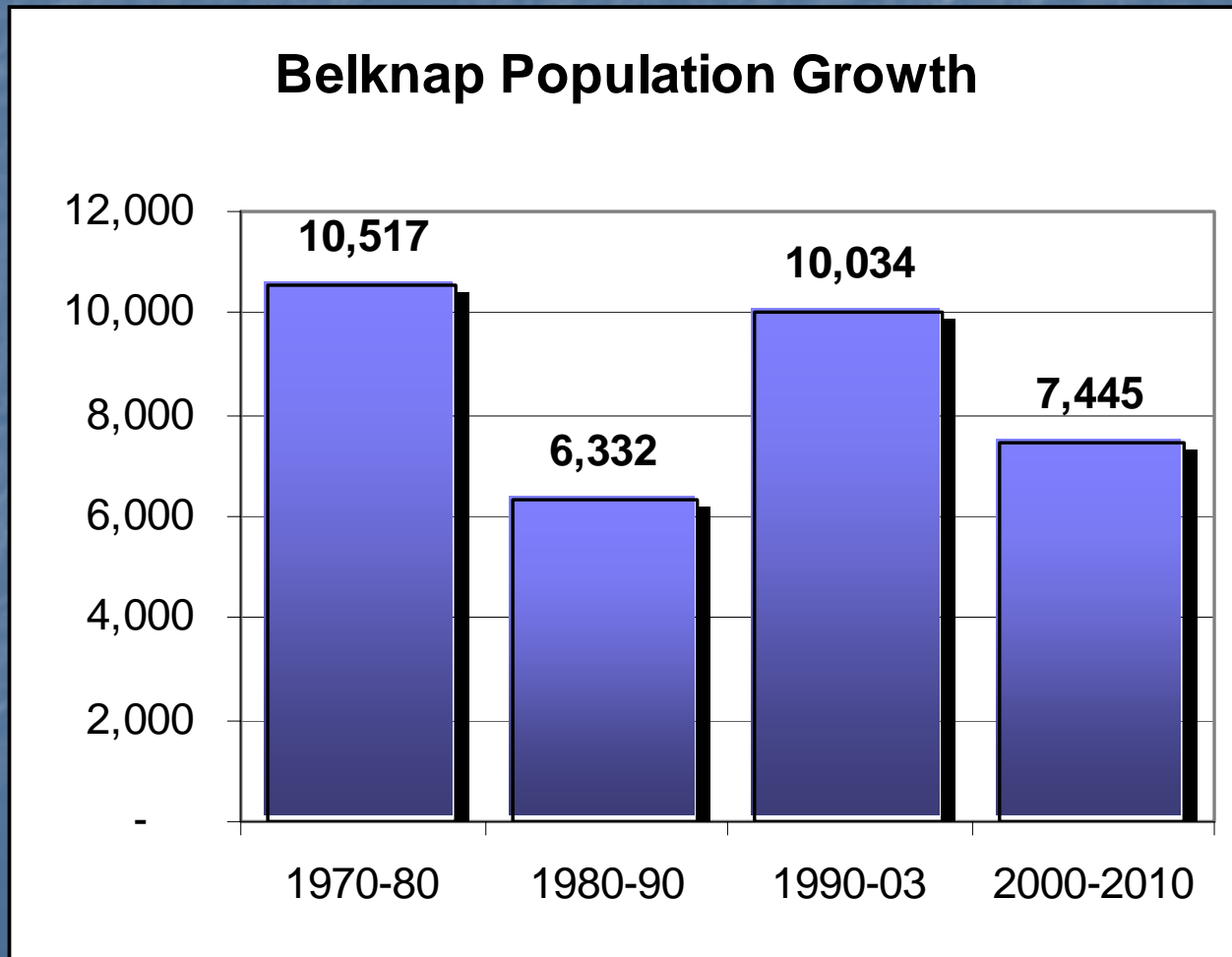
Applied Economic Research

January 2005

Belknap County Population Now is 59,250

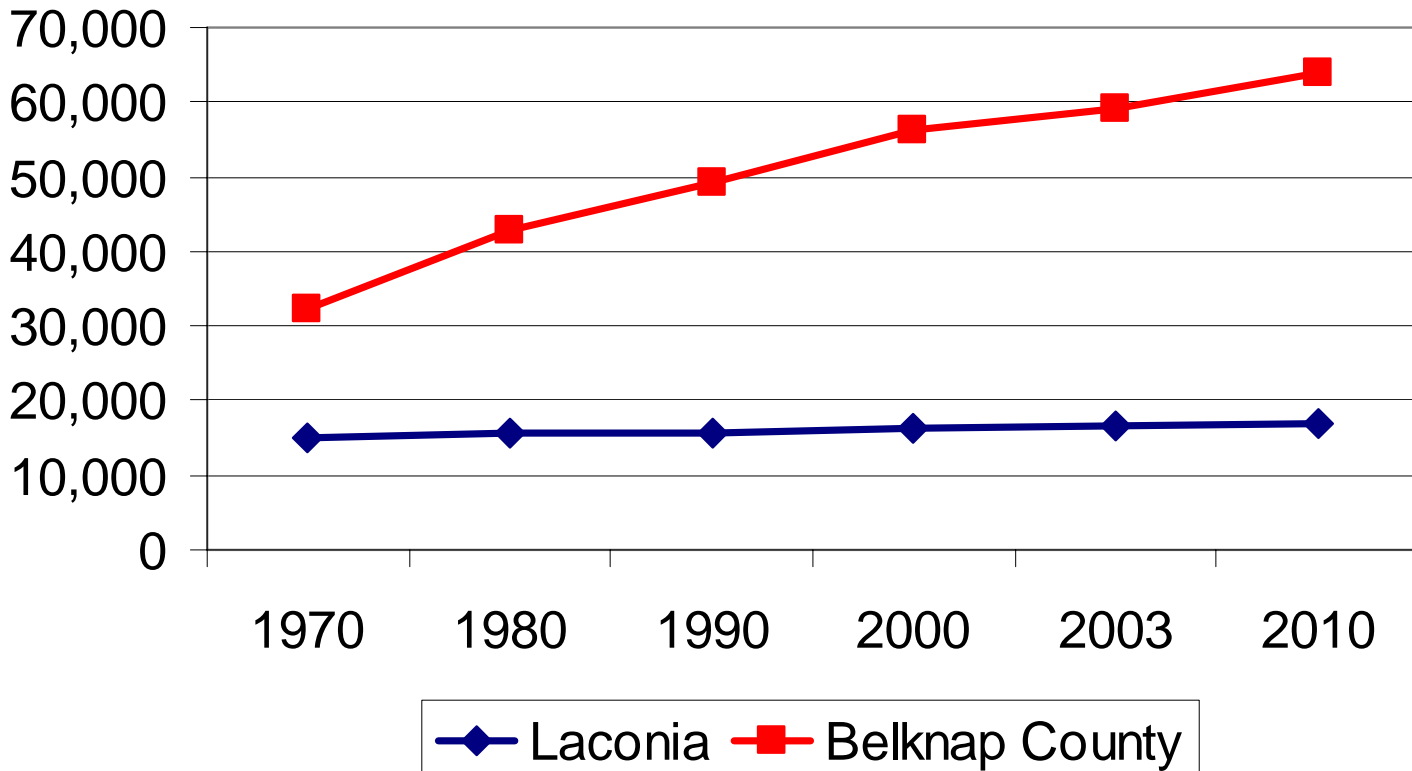


Belknap Added 10,000 New Residents Between 1990 and 2003

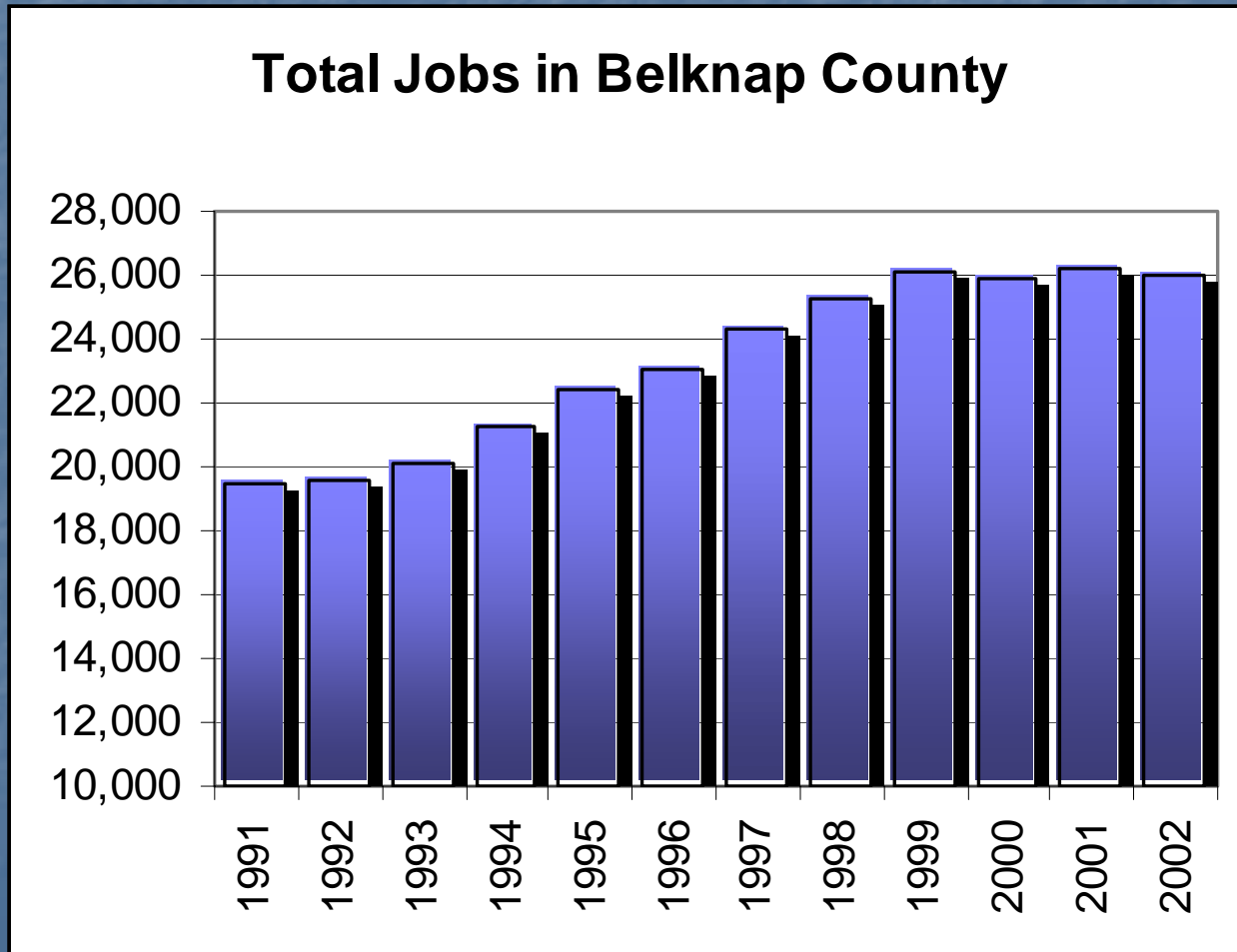


Laconia's Growth Slower Than County's

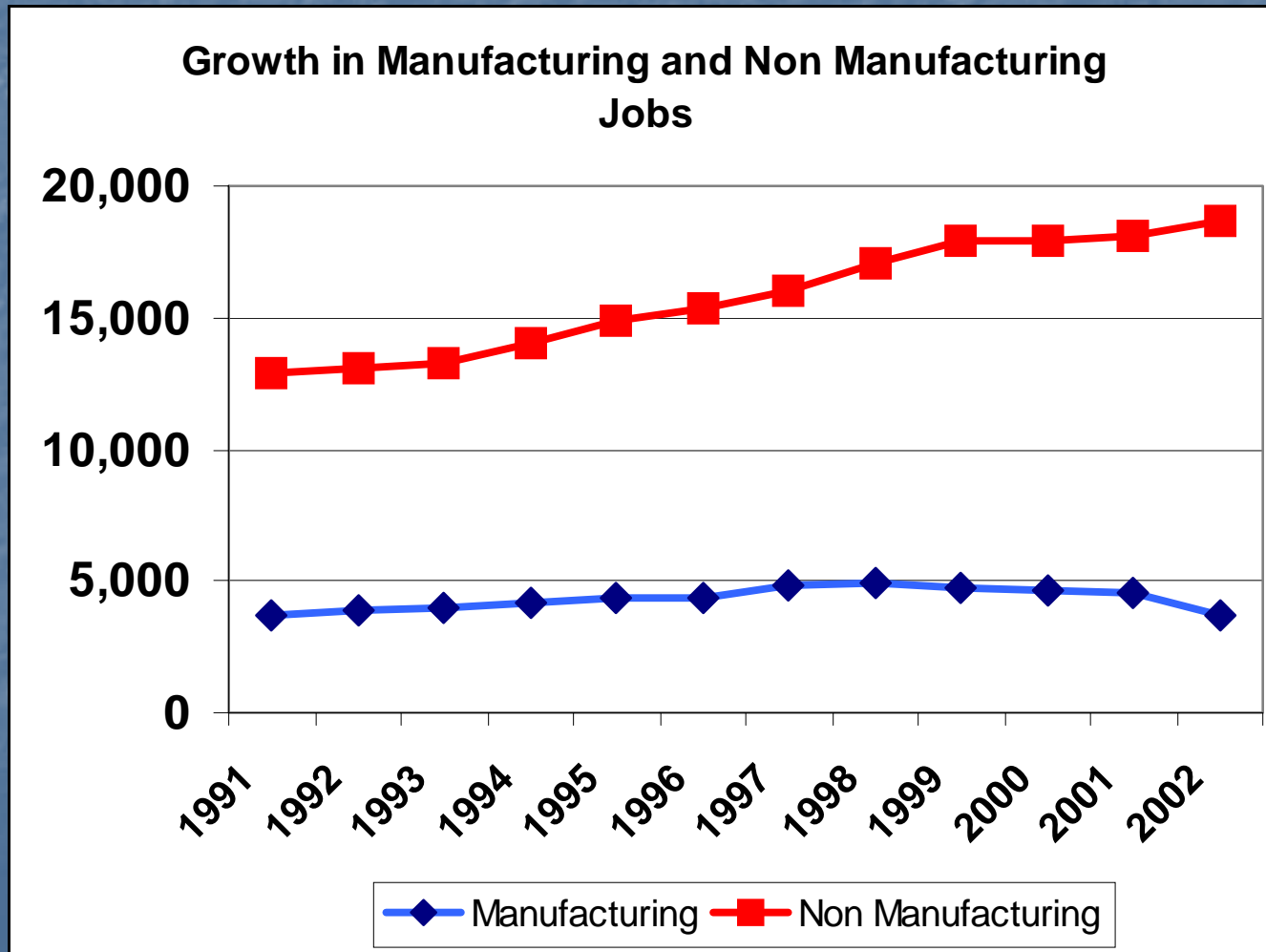
Population Trends and Projections



County Adds 6,000 New Jobs



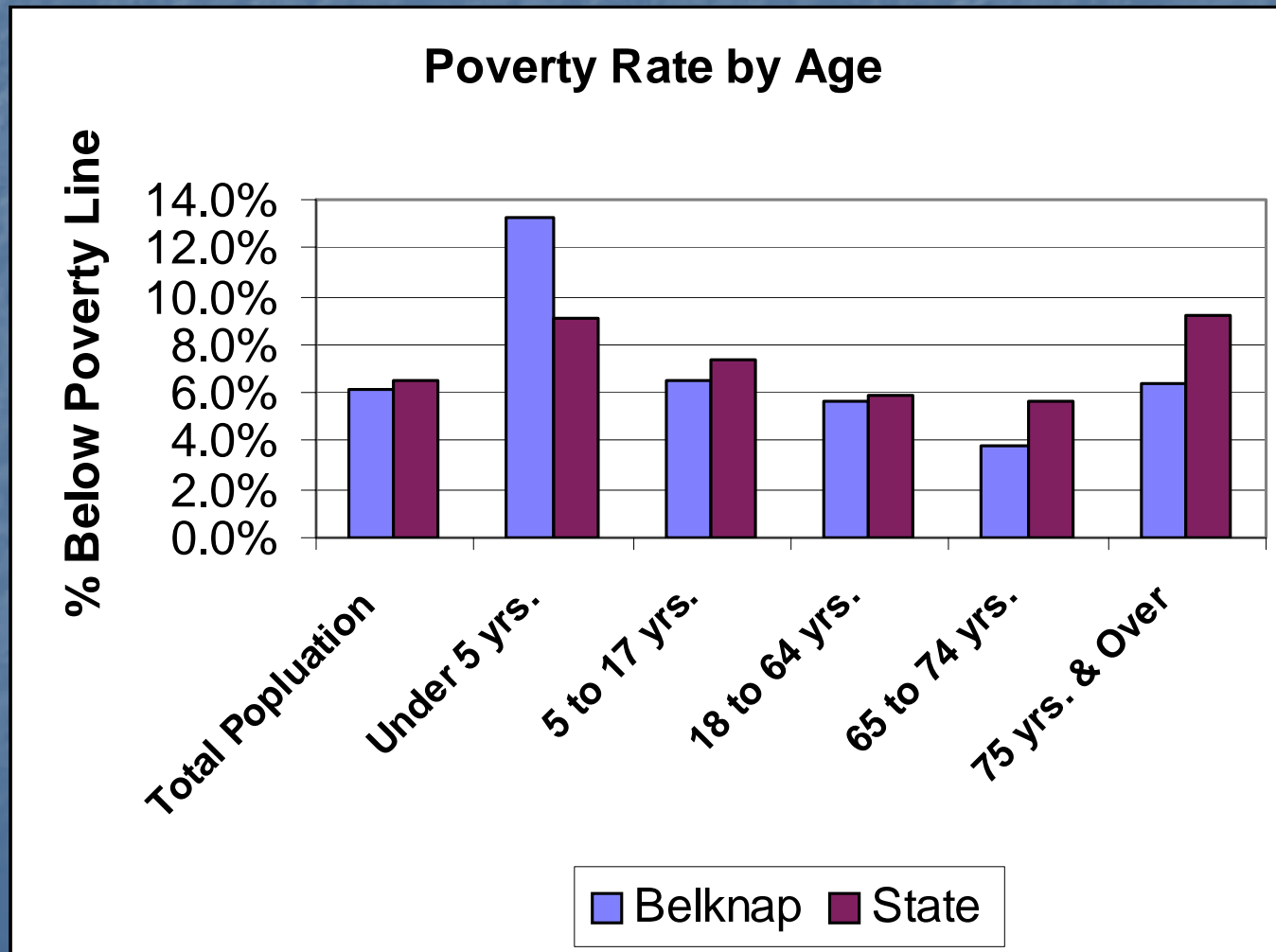
Growth Is in Retail and Service Jobs



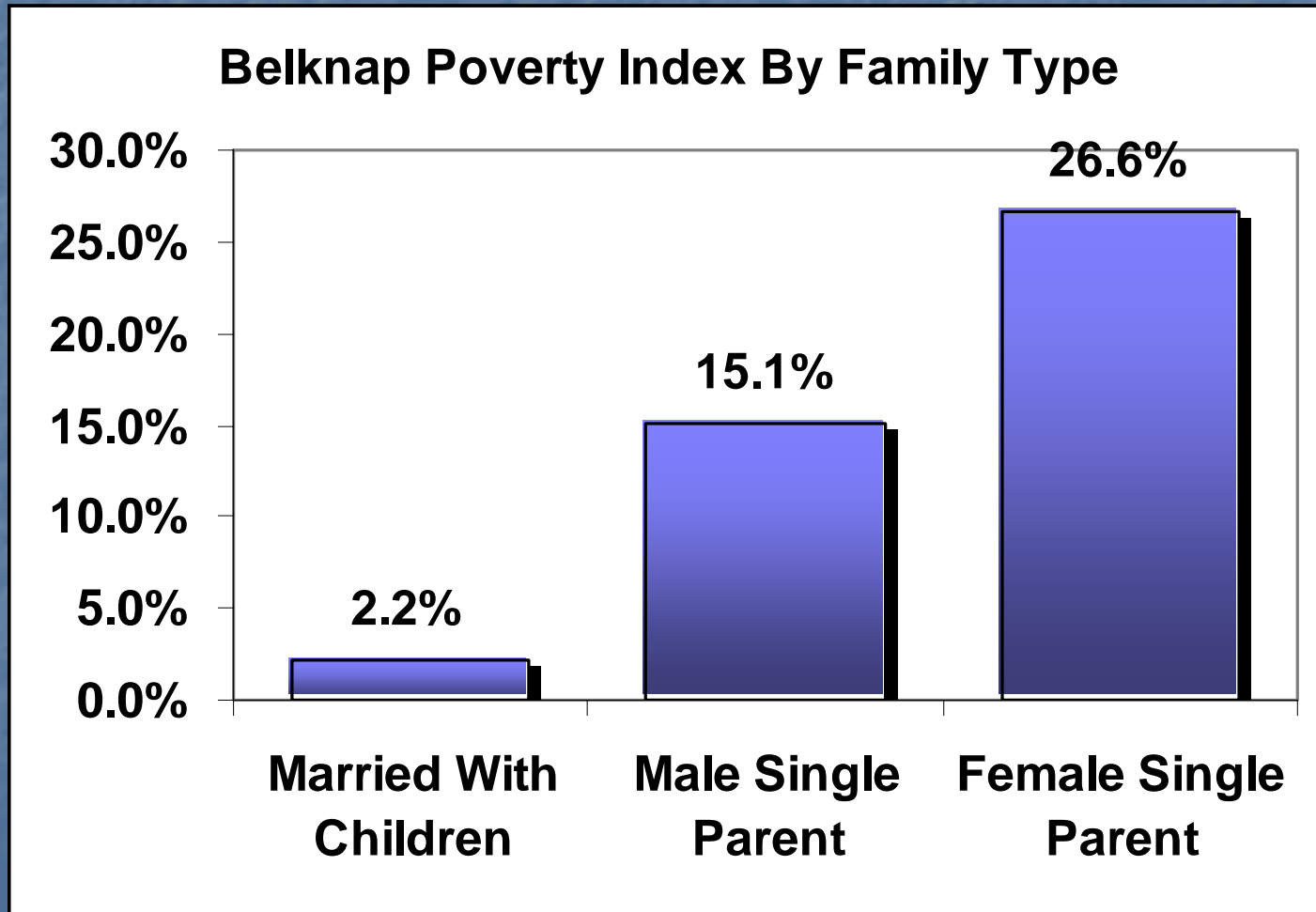
Character of Growth Affects Families



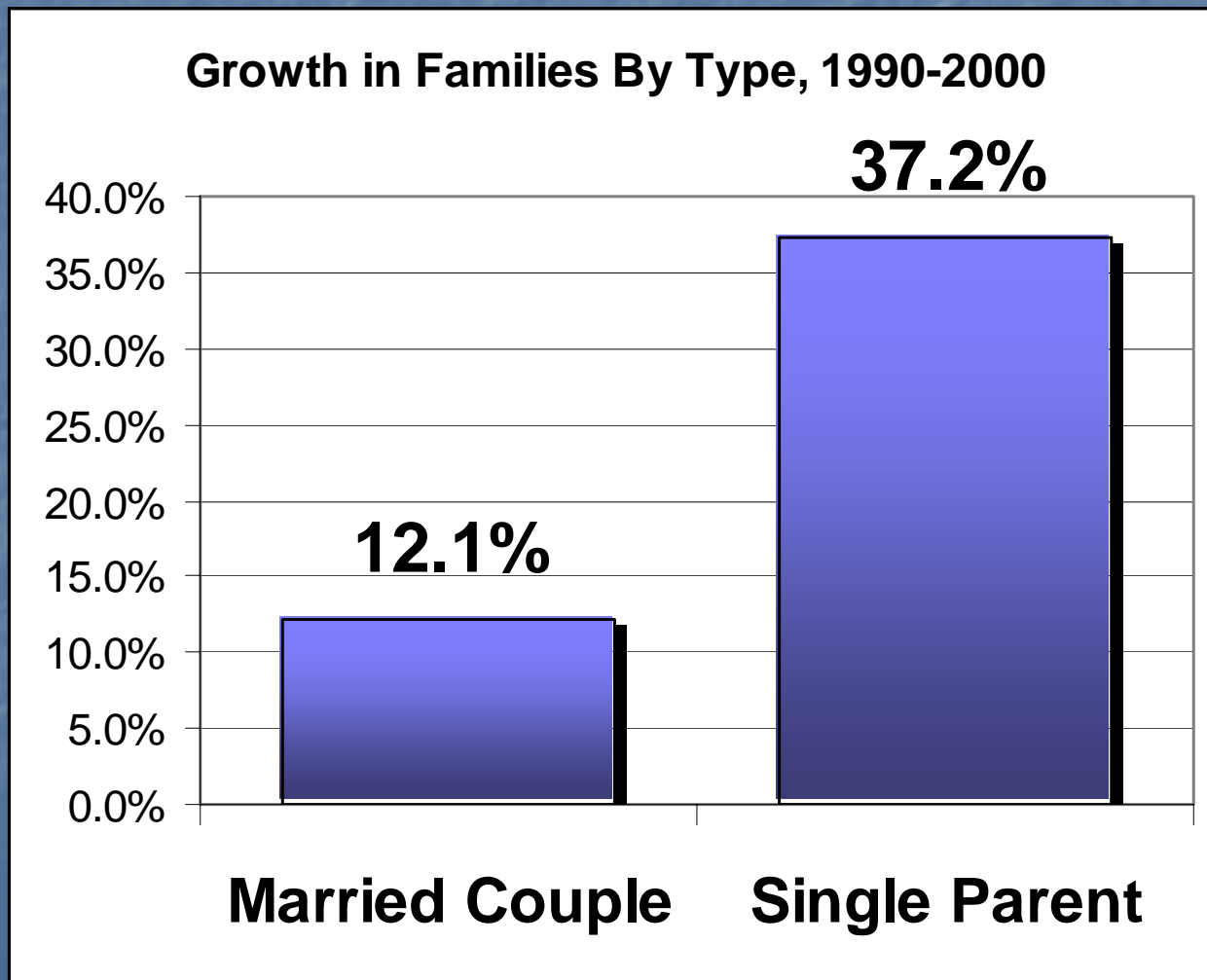
Slightly Lower Overall Poverty Rate, But Higher Rate Among Children



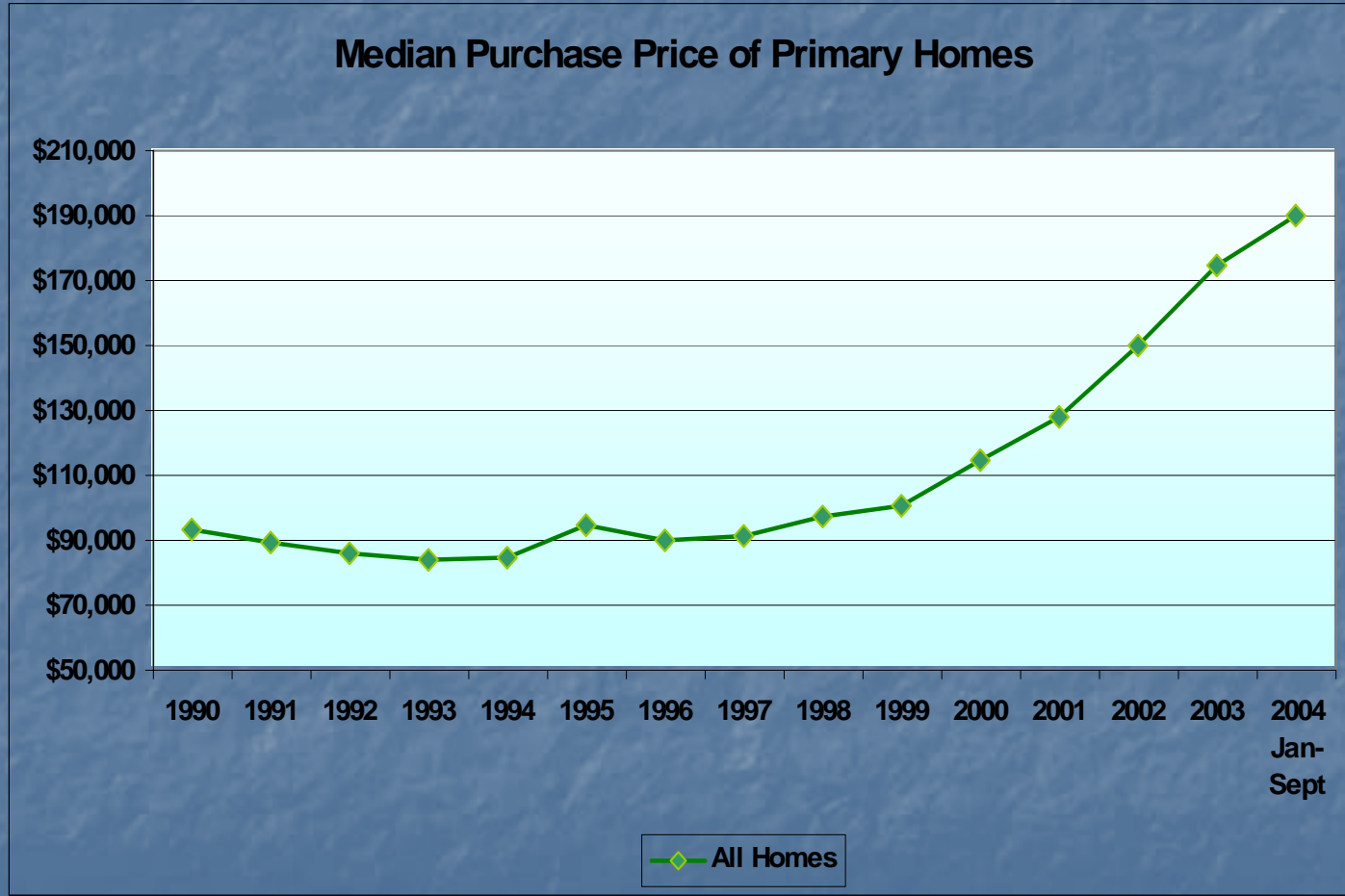
Our Troubled Families



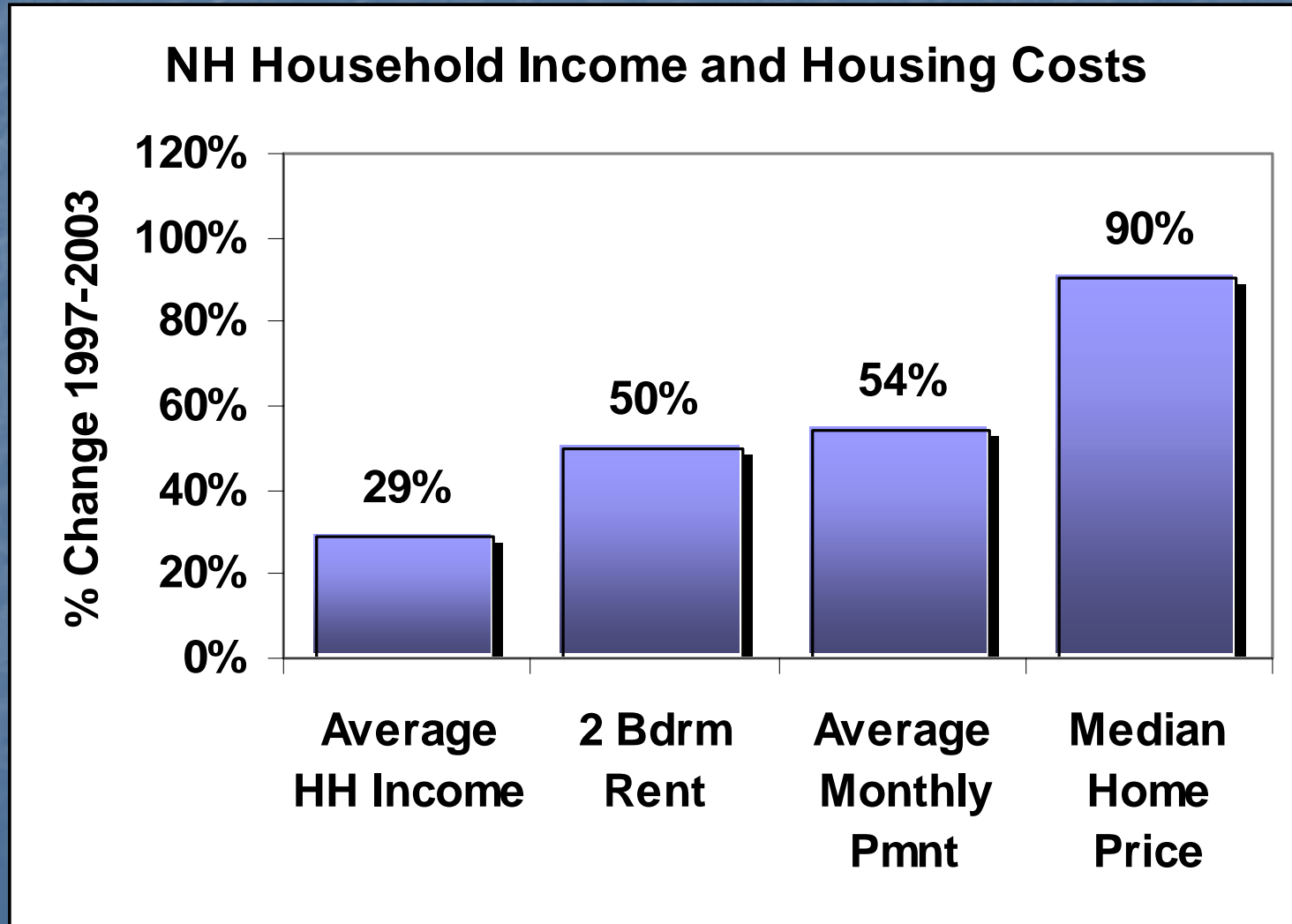
Single Parent Households are Mushrooming



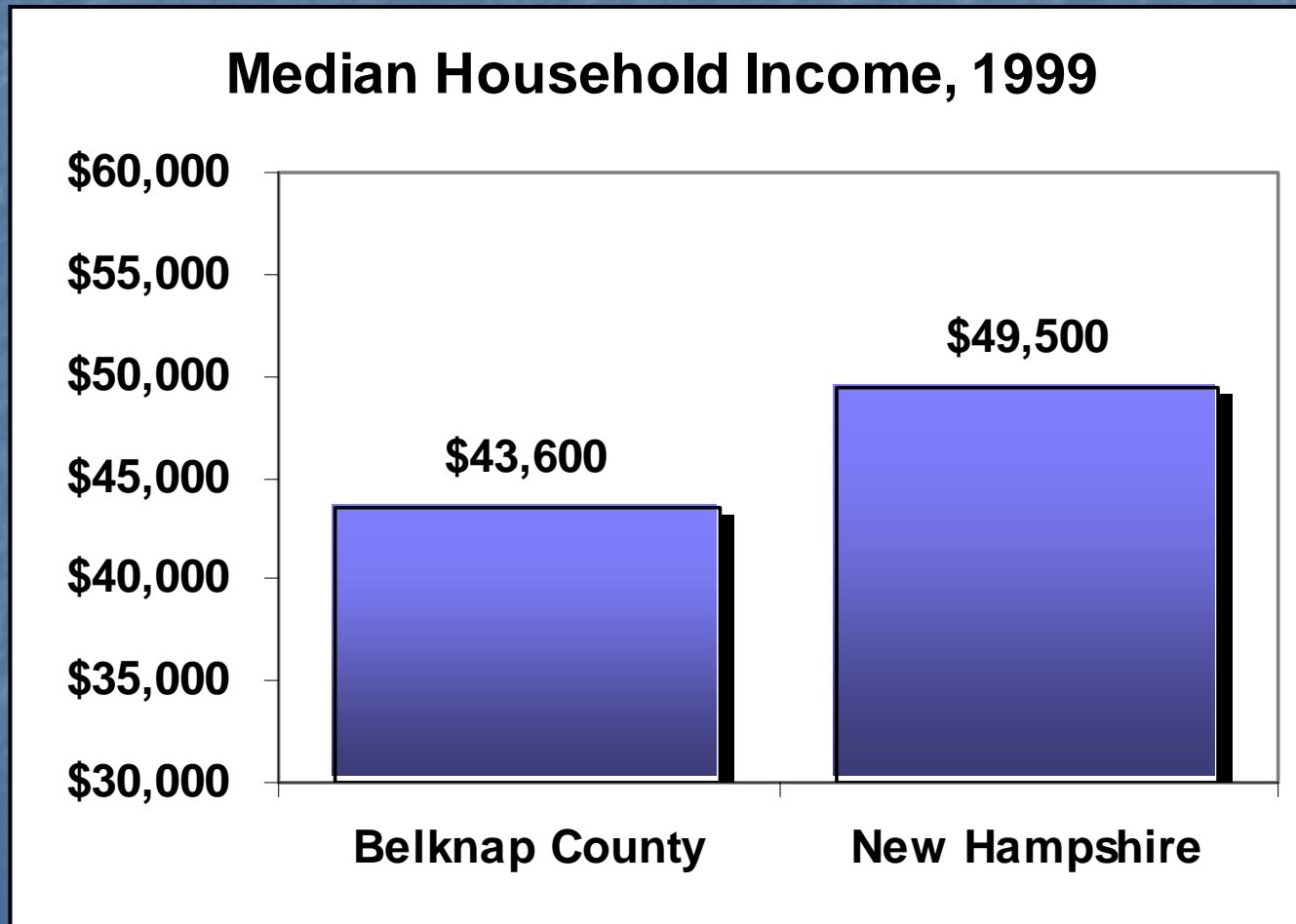
Home Prices Double Since 1998



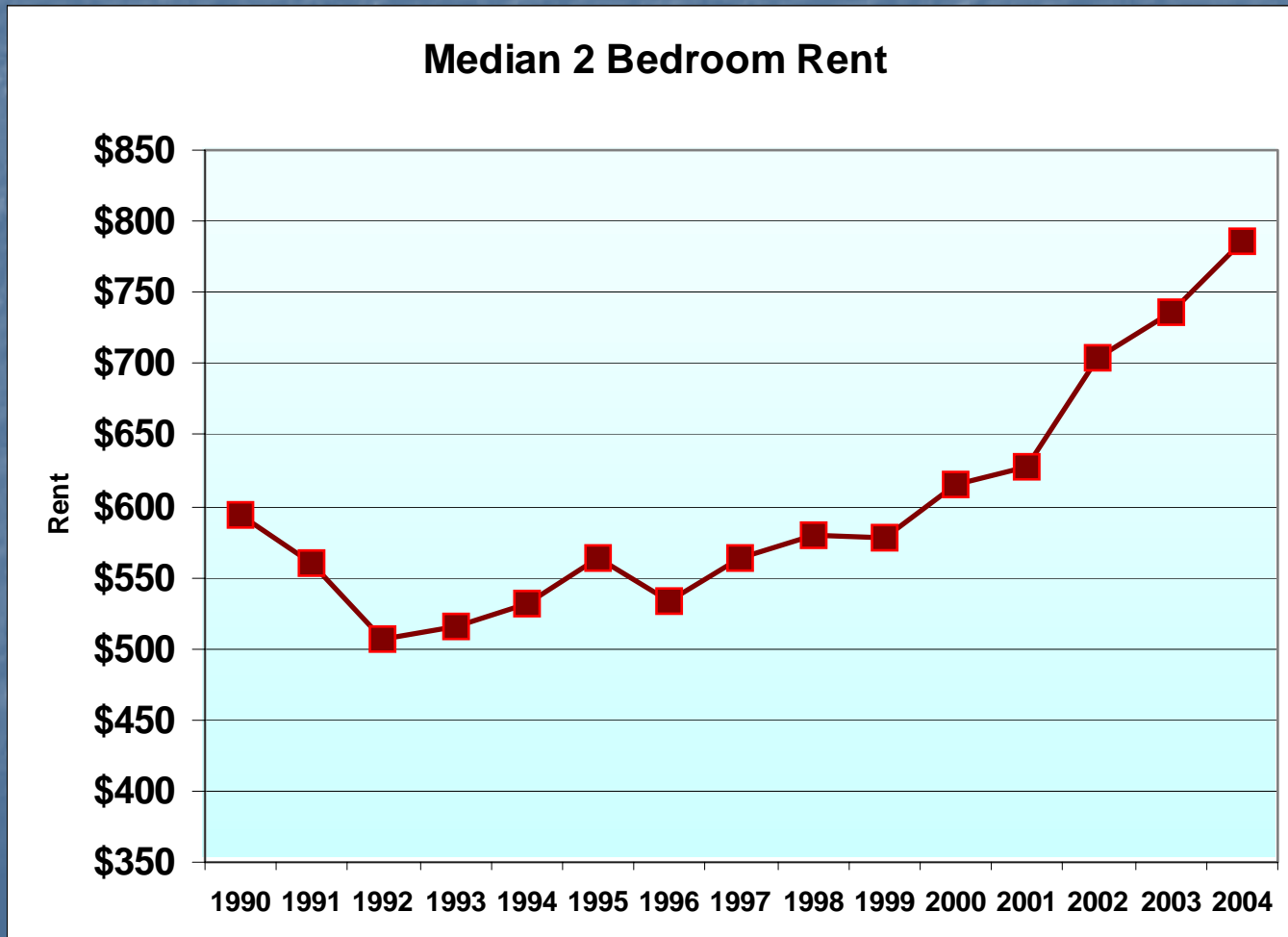
Housing is Less Affordable



Because of Job Quality, Our Incomes are Lower Than State's

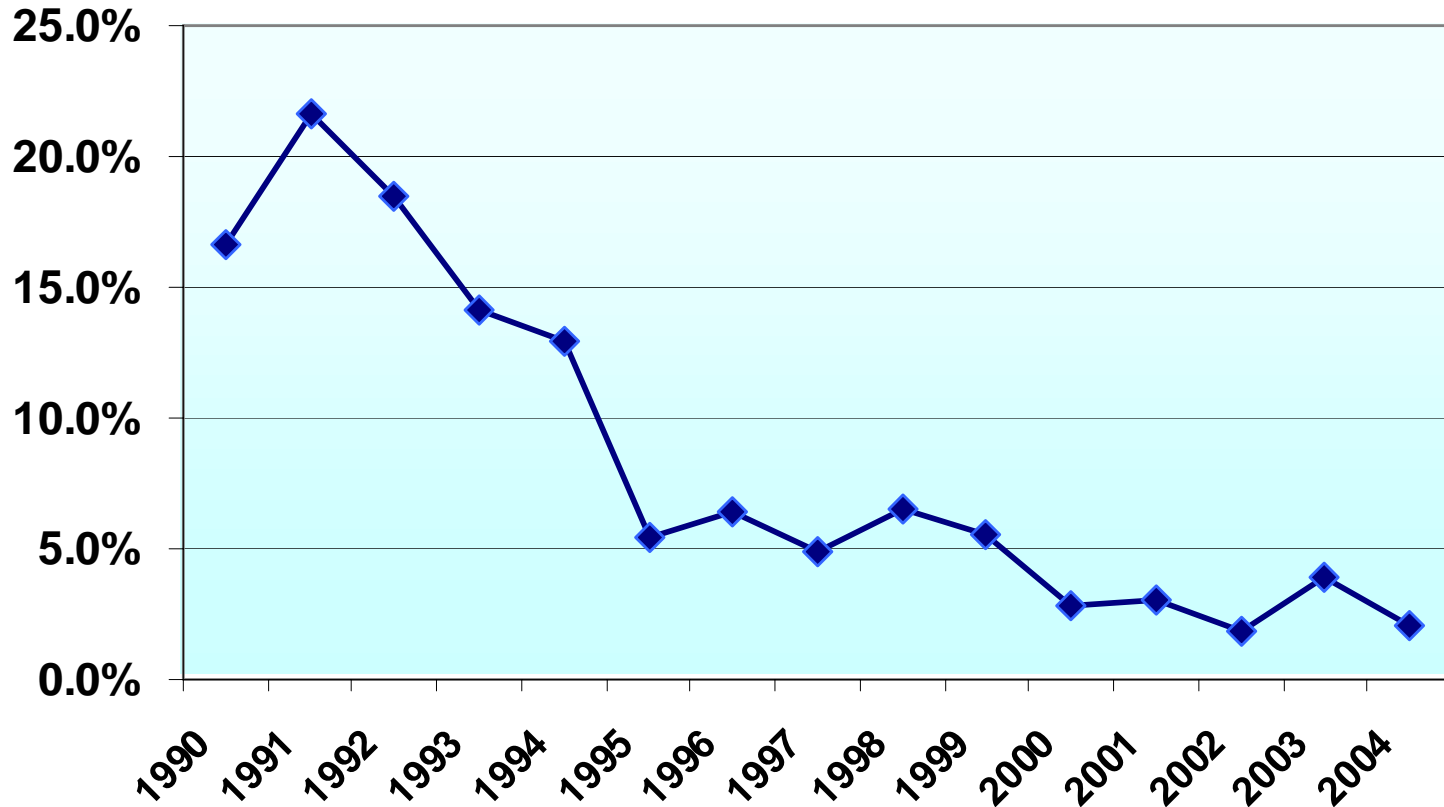


Median 2 Bedroom Rent is Now \$800



If You Can Find One To Rent

Rental Vacancy Rate



So What?

- County's growth figures are very positive
- BUT: *QUALITY* of economic growth is a problem
 - Jobs added have been in lower paying categories, with fewer benefits
- Very difficult to "make it" on one paycheck
 - Single parent households are stressed-out
- Cost of housing is taking a larger chunk out of family income
 - Rising energy costs add to the bite

The Good News

- Red Sox Will Win the World Series Again!!!

The Bad News

- It Will Take Them 86 Years, Again!

About Russ Thibeault

- Russ Thibeault is the President of Applied Economic Research, an economic and real estate consulting firm he founded in Laconia, NH in 1976. Thibeault's firm offers economic consulting, real estate market research, financial feasibility, appraisal and general real estate counseling services. Clients include government agencies, financial institutions, developers, and investors. He has completed assignments in over 30 states.
- Russ is a frequent commentator on Marketplace, the Savvy Traveler, and Living on Earth, programs that air on public radio stations nation-wide. Russ has been quoted in a number of national publications including *Forbes*, the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and the *Washington Post*. He has appeared on CNN, ABC Nightline, the MacNeil Lehrer News Hour, ABC World News, Irish Television, Japanese Public Television and the BBC World Television Services.
- Russ and his wife Patty live in Laconia and are the parents of four grown sons.

- More -



Russell W Thibeault

Principal

Applied Economic Research

109 Court Street

Laconia, NH 03246

Tel: (603)524-1484

FAX: (603)528-6848

russwt@metrocast.net