



Housing Profile: Orleans

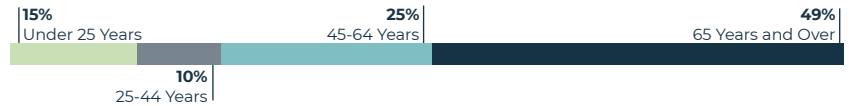
Key Demographic and Economic Information

POPULATION	HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	HOUSING UNITS	MEDIAN HOME SALES PRICE (2024)	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2024)	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RATE
6,415	3,144	2.01	5,802	\$970,000	\$102,335	\$6.24 (FY25)

The Town of Orleans has an estimated year-round population of just over 6,400 residents. It is bordered by Eastham on the north, Pleasant Bay and Harwich on the south, Brewster and Cape Cod Bay on the west, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. About 43% of homes in the town are seasonal, which is higher than the region as a whole (33%). The Town of Orleans includes one Community Activity Center within its boundaries. It is one of the oldest towns in the region, with a median age of 64.7 years; nearly 9 years older than the region's median age of 55.4.

(American Community Survey (ACS) 2024 5-year Estimates; Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors; Massachusetts Department of Revenue; Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding)

Orleans by Age

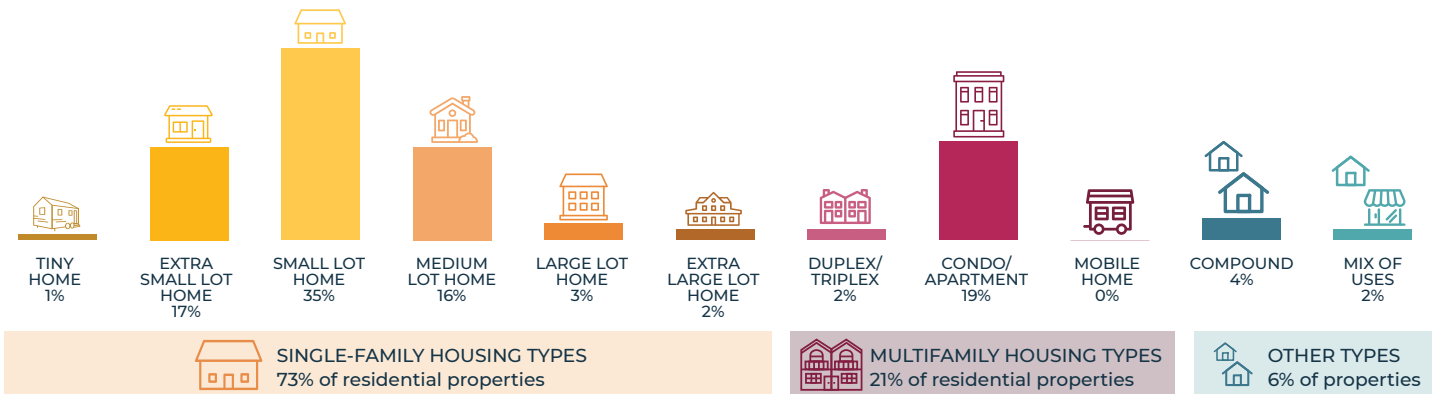


Orleans by Race



Current Housing Stock

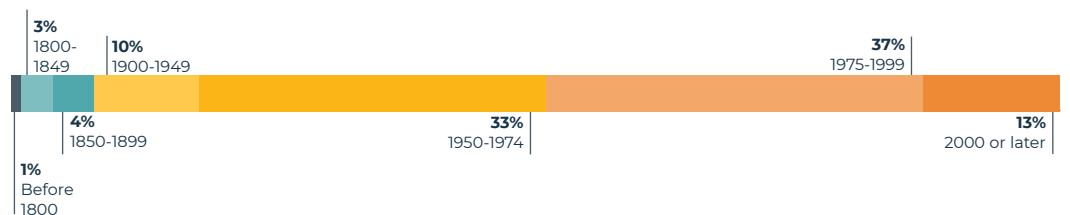
The Cape Cod Commission conducted a housing typology study using local assessors' data and state class property codes. The graph below shows the distribution of various types of residences using this data, which differs slightly from American Community Survey counts. In Orleans, about 73% of residential properties are single-family homes; 21% are multifamily properties. About 6% 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: www.cccom.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 13% of Orleans's housing stock was built since 2000.

(Assessors' data and CCC housing typology analysis)



Owners and Renters

There are slightly over 3,100 year-round occupied housing units in Orleans; of these, 81% are owner-occupied and 19% are renter-occupied. (ACS 2024 5-year Estimates)



Seasonality

About 43% of all housing units in Orleans are used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. (ACS 2024 5-year Estimates)

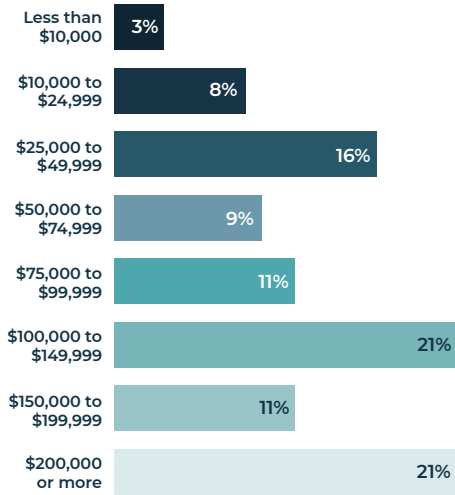




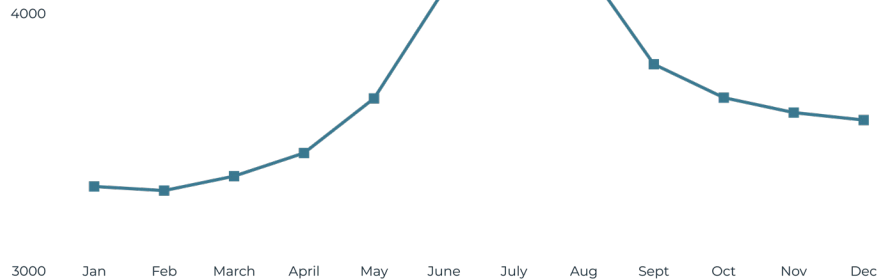
Wages, Employment, and Housing Affordability

Households per Income Bracket

(ACS 2024 5-year Estimates)



Employment by Month



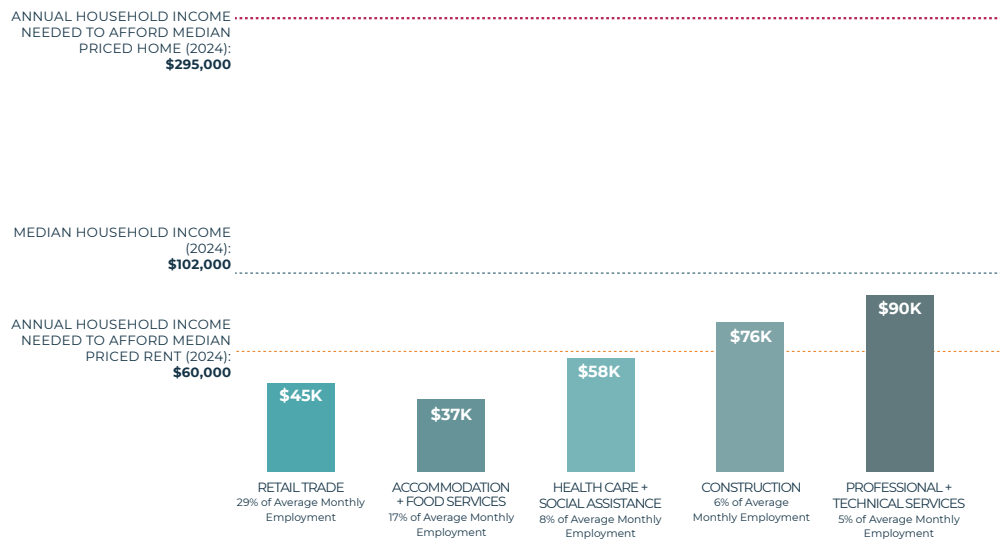
Like much of the region, employment in Orleans is highly seasonal. In 2019 employment peaked in July at 35% more than the low in March. Due to the pandemic, 2020 patterns were significantly different, but in 2021 started to return to pre-pandemic levels and trends which continued through 2022, 2023, and into 2024. (MA Labor Market Information, ES-202 data)

Housing Affordability

In 2024 the median price for a home was \$970,000, an 8% increase. In 2025 it decreased somewhat to \$955,500. 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 up to 30% of income 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; 2024 ACS 5-Yr Estimates; MA Department of Economic Research, ES-202 data)

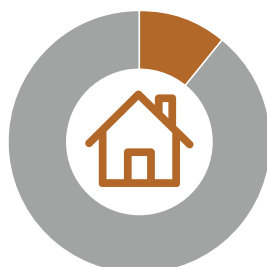
AVERAGE WAGES FOR THE TOP INDUSTRIES BY EMPLOYMENT COMPARED WITH MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND INCOME NEEDED TO AFFORDABLY BUY OR RENT A HOME



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.

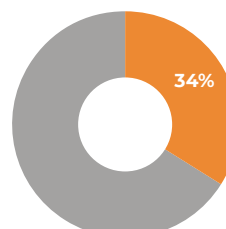
SUBSIDIZED HOUSING INVENTORY UNITS



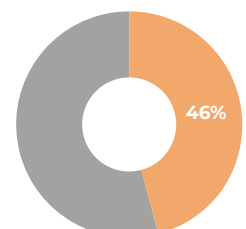
(Numbers are from EOHLC as of September 30, 2025 and subject to change)

Housing Cost Burdened

A household is considered cost burdened when housing costs exceed 30% of monthly income. (ACS 2024 5-year Estimates)



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

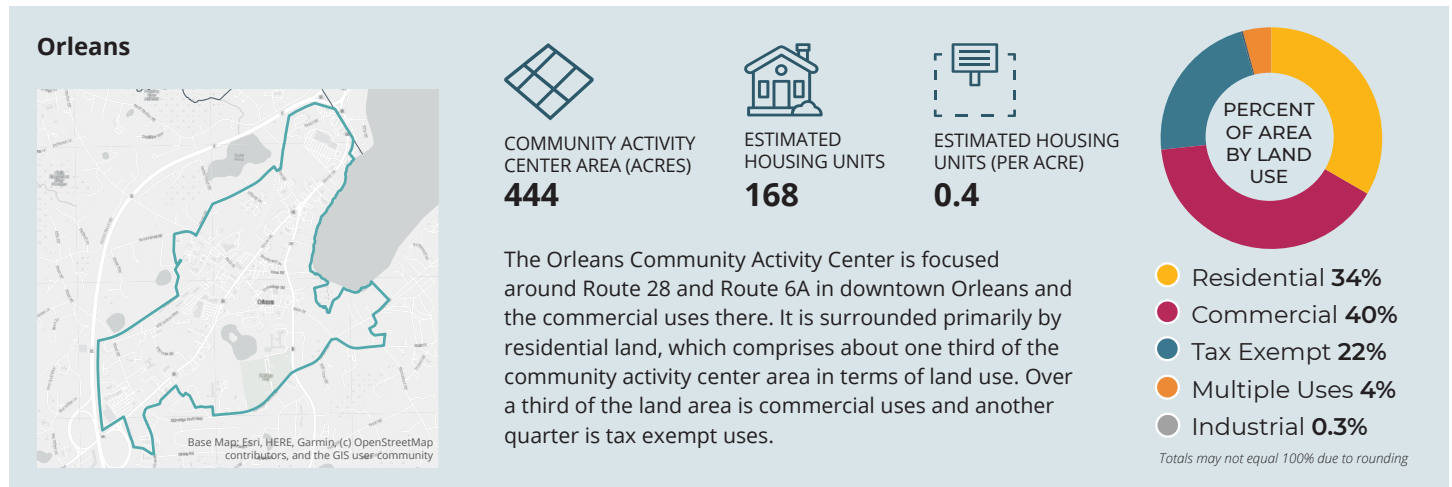


...of renter households in Orleans spend 30% or more of income on housing costs



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 sixteen Community Activity Centers across the region. Orleans has one identified Community Activity Center.



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 multi-family 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 upland land zoned to allow multifamily housing developments by-right (not including accessory dwelling units). Orleans allows two or more units by-right through much of town and three or more units by-right in the downtown area. A new housing overlay district allows multiple units downtown if some are restricted for year-round housing.

