

Another factor that may have contributed to the dip was the natural decrease in births due to the trend at that time of smaller families, and the increased use of birth control. The halting of growth in River Vale during the 1980-1990 decade coincided with a similar trend in the Region and County. The Region and County actually lost population in the two decades between 1970-1990. The Township's population continued to climb after 1990, and the 2000 Census shows a population of 9,449, which is a slight increase from the 1990 Census with 9,410 persons. This increase corresponds with a significant amount of residential building permits (77) being authorized in the year 2000 alone. 2000 is the year with the highest number of authorized building permits, as contrasted with only six such permits in 1990. Table 1 below illustrates the population changes of the Township, Region and County.

Table 1: Historic Population 1940-2010

Year	River Vale	% Change	Pascack Valley	% Change	Bergen County	% Change
1940	1112	-	21,516	-	409,646	-
1950	1699	52.8	26,872	24.9	539,139	31.6
1960	5616	230.5	54,951	104.5	780,255	44.7
1970	8883	58.2	75,108	36.7	897,148	15.0
1980	9489	6.8	71,803	-4.4	845,385	-5.8
1990	9410	-0.8	68,335	-4.8	825,380	-2.4
2000	9449	0.4	70,056	2.5	884,118	7.1
2005*	9063	-4.1	66,717	-4.8	895,040	1.2
2010*	8629	-4.8	66,112	-0.9	891,599	-0.4

\* Denotes projections from NJTPA

Source: US Census

According to The New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) projection for 2005, the Township's population will decrease to 9063; and for 2010 it is expected to fall further to 8629. Peter Kortright (the Division Director for Master Planning for the Bergen County Department of Planning and Economic Development) however, disagrees with these projections. He states the projections are a statistical anomaly and do not reflect reality, based on the number of building permits the county has been recording for the Township. One of the factors he reasoned which may contribute to the projected decline in the future population is the gradual aging of the Baby Boomers. But otherwise, the Township is expected to have an increase in its population.

Regardless of the trends in population growth the Township takes, future population will be determined largely as a result of the capacity of land in River Vale and Township development policies as expressed in the Plan.

### 4.3 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Certain population characteristics, such as age and gender, may help forecast the needs to better accommodate the residents of the Township. For example, a large young population may indicate a need to expand school facilities while an aging population may indicate a need to add senior housing and senior-oriented recreational activities. The following chart shows the age characteristics by sex in the Township.