

C. POPULATION

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Describe changes in population and household characteristics of the Town of Machiasport and compare them with similar changes and patterns occurring in the region and the State;
2. Determine how population trends will influence the future demand for housing, land, and community facilities; and
3. Predict, for the next ten years, the size and significant characteristics of the population of Machiasport, and compare with similar projections for the region, and the State.

FINDINGS

The year round population in Machiasport was 1160 in 2000, a decrease of 0.5% since 1990. Overall, Machiasport's population has remained stable since 1980. The State Planning Office anticipates that Machiasport will experience little or no population growth over the next ten to 15 years. The total projected year-round population for Machiasport by 2020 is 1131. If present trends continue, the expected decline in year-round population will be off-set by an expected increase in the number (and percent) of seasonal summer residents. The town estimates that the seasonal population may equal for 50% to 60% of the year-round population by 2020. Machiasport also saw an increase in the number of household during the 1990's, despite declining population. If current trends continue, Machiasport can expect more than the 40 additional year-round households by 2020.

Median household income in Machiasport is lower than the state average, but higher than in Washington County and many surrounding communities. Machiasport saw rapid growth in median household income during the 1980's, followed by less robust growth in median household income during the 1990's. There is now a lower percentage of very low income earnings (those earning less than \$15,000) than in Washington County as whole; but greater than the statewide average. At the same time, Machiasport has a significantly lower percent of households earning more than \$50,000. This income distribution is indicative of a population composed largely of working class families; and speaks to demand for workforce housing in Machiasport.

MIGRATION ANALYSIS

During the last decade of the 20th century Machiasport's population declined by 6 persons (Census). This decrease is quite small. The population decrease in Machiasport would have been greater, though, if not for in migration. During the 1990's, Machiasport recorded 108 deaths and only 79 births. As such, the population decrease recorded in Machiasport during the 1990's conceals a net in-migration of 29 persons – equal to 2.5% of the 2000 population.

It should also be noted that census methodology undercounts seasonal residents, who are likely to be at their other residence when the Census occurs on April 1. The Town believes that seasonal residents account for a significant and growing percent of the Town’s population. With an ever extending “shoulder season,” the demand that seasonal resident place on municipal services is likewise increasing.

The method of calculating net migration is shown in the formula below.

- A. 1990 Census Population = 1,160
- B. Line A plus the number of births to Machiasport residents 1990-2000 (79) = 1,239
- C. Line C minus the number of deaths of Machiasport residents 1990-2000 (108) = 1,131
- D. 2000 Census Population minus Line C to attain net in-migration = 29 persons

POPULATION STATISTICS

Population and Growth Rates

The following table shows the year-round population and growth rate by decade in Machiasport, Washington County and Maine since 1890. The population of Machiasport peaked in the 1880s, as occurred elsewhere in Washington County. The overall trend since 1900 (population: 1,437) is one of decline with a significant up tick in the 1970’s followed by relative stability since then.

By and large, local trends in population mirror trends for the state and county. It is noteworthy that Machiasport saw a more significant population increase during the 1970’s (in percentage terms) than either the state or county.

Table C-1 POPULATION AND GROWTH RATES

Year	Machiasport		Washington County		Maine	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
2000	1160	-0.5%	33,941	-3.87%	1,274,923	3.83%
1990	1166	5.2%	35,308	0.99%	1,227,928	9.18%
1980	1108	27.4%	34,963	17.09%	1,124,660	13.37%
1970	870	-11.2%	29,859	-9.27%	992,048	2.35%
1960	980	25.5%	32,908	-6.48%	969,265	6.07%
1950	781	-4.5%	35,187	-6.83%	913,774	7.85%
1940	818	-3.9%	37,767	-0.16%	847,226	6.25%
1930	851	-23.8%	37,826	-9.31%	797,423	3.83%
1920	1117	-8.3%	41,709	-2.79%	768,014	3.45%
1910	1218	0.0%	42,905	-5.14%	742,371	6.90%
1900	1218	-15.2%	45,232	1.7%	694,466	5.0%
1890	1437	-6.1%	44,482	-	661,087	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Over the last decade from 1990 to 2000, Machiasport saw very slight population decline. This mirrors what happened in the nearby communities. Resident population in Machiasport decreased between 1990 and 2000 in Machiasport, Washington County and some neighboring communities including Machias and Cutler. Population grew slightly in East Machias and

Whiting but by larger percentages (though a similar number of people: ~ 30) in Northfield and Roque Bluffs.

Table C-2 GROWTH RATE, MACHIASPORT & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

	1990	2000	% growth
Machias	2569	2353	-8.4%
Cutler	779	623	-20.3%
East Machias	1218	1298	6.6%
Machiasport	1166	1160	-0.5%
Marshfield	461	494	7.2%
Northfield	99	131	32.3%
Roque Bluffs	234	264	12.8%
Whiting	407	430	5.65%
Washington County	35,308	33,941	-3.87 %
State	1,227,928	1,274,923	3.83 %

Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census

Population Forecast

Not surprisingly, population projections, based on past trends (provided by the State Planning Office) are for relatively flat or minor resident population growth through 2020. As the table and chart below depict, the State Planning Office predicts that the population of Machiasport will remain relatively stable with a slight increase through 2005 balanced by slight declines thereafter. The population is projected to decline slightly to 1,131 individuals in 2020.

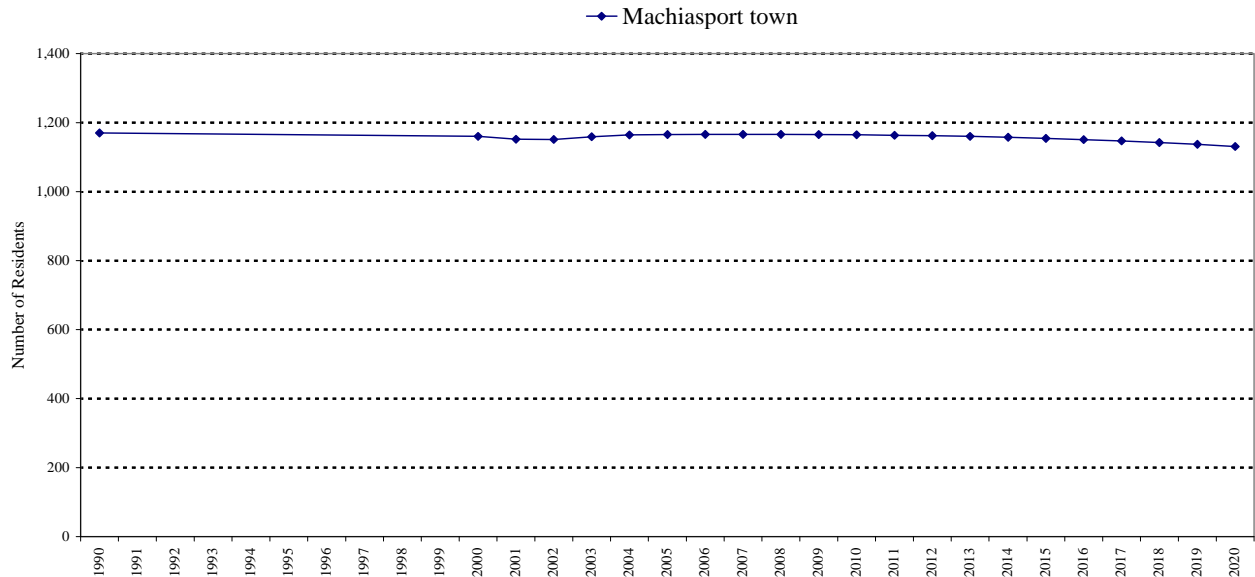
Table C-3 POPULATION PROJECTION

	Machiasport	
Year	Number	% Change
2020	1131	-2.0%
2015	1154	-0.9%
2010	1165	0.0%
2005	1165	0.4%
2000	1160	

Source: State Planning Office

The 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 numbers were projected by the State Planning Office and the 2000 information is an actual number from the U.S. Census.

1990 to 2000 Population Trend & Projected 2000 to 2020 Population Trend



Source: Maine State Planning Office

The following analysis compares the analysis above provided by SPO with both a rate of growth calculation and linear regression analysis (Table C-4). Because of the low projected rate of growth in population, rate of growth calculations and linear regression analysis show similar results over the projected timeframe. The analyses that best reflect the SPO projection are those that base their estimates on the rate of population growth in Machiasport for the 20-year period between 1990 and 2000.

Table C-4 LINEAR REGRESSION AND GROWTH PER YEAR POPULATION PREDICTIONS

Timeframe on which prediction is based	Average Growth Per Year (Non-Compounded)	Machiasport Population Predictions for the year 2020	
		Using Average Growth Per Year (Compounded)	Using Simple Linear Regression
1980-2000	0.002%	1214	1216
1990-2000	0.001%	1172	1172

Source: WCCOG projected from U.S. Census figures.

Ultimately, changes in economic activity and land use, including new year-round residential development, will determine actual population growth over the next ten years. Continued in-migration of retirees and mid- to late-career professionals may in fact off-set the decline in elderly residents as a percent of Machiasport’s population that is projected by cohort survival analysis. Equally, out-migration of young adults would likely result in reduced fertility rates of the 20-year forecast period. Taking into account the relative merits of various population projections, it is fair to say that a modest population increase is most likely to occur over the next ten- to fifteen-year period.

SEASONAL POPULATION

As a scenic, coastal community, seasonal development has an impact on our community. There are no state or federal statistics on seasonal population for Machiasport. Since there are few short-term lodging options in town, Machiasport's seasonal population is comprised of largely of seasonal summer residents.

One estimate of the seasonal summer population can be arrived at through analysis of seasonal housing. During the 1990's, the overall number of households in Machiasport increased (4.82%), a reflection of more single heads of households and "empty nest" households. At the same time, the number of housing units increased even more rapidly (8.3%). The rise in the number of housing units was buoyed by a relatively rapid increase in the number of seasonal home (17.4%) over the same time period. If that trend is extended into the future Machiasport could expect as many as 95 seasonal homes by 2010 and 112 seasonal homes by 2020 – nearly twice as many as existed in 2000 (69 units according to Census figures).¹

The average household size for Machiasport residents is 2.46 persons (see Table C-8). If the average household size for seasonal residents is the same, approximately 200 additional persons may reside in Machiasport seasonally. That is equal to approximately 20% of Machiasport's year-round population.

Based on projected growth in seasonal home development, the seasonal population could increase to as many as 275 seasonal residents by 2020, may equal 25% of the projected population. The town estimates, based on recent subdivision activity and anecdotal evidence regarding the conversion of year-round to seasonal use that the seasonal population may in fact equal between 50% and 60% of the year-round population by 2020.

Seasonal residents and visitors staying in short term rental accommodations increase demands on local services; these issues are examined in the chapter on Economics and Employment. It is anticipated that seasonal residents who choose to stay year round will account for some of the future increases in population. More information on household composition and on the housing stock is presented in the housing section of this plan.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The following statistics from the 2000 Census compare population by age groups for the Town of Machiasport, the county and the state.

¹ Recent subdivision activity seems to indicate that projected growth in seasonal home development based on historical data may underestimate the actual rate of growth in seasonal home development.

Table C-5 POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 2000

Age Group	Machiasport		Washington County		Maine	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	46	4.0%	1727	5.1%	70726	5.5%
5 to 9 years	67	5.8%	2176	6.4%	83022	6.5%
10 to 14 years	79	6.8%	2363	7.0%	92252	7.2%
15 to 19 years	71	6.1%	2403	7.1%	89485	7.0%
20 to 24 years	75	6.5%	1813	5.3%	69656	5.5%
25 to 34 years	167	14.4%	3812	11.2%	157617	12.4%
35 to 44 years	205	17.7%	5114	15.1%	212980	16.7%
45 to 54 years	172	14.8%	5048	14.9%	192596	15.1%
55 to 59 years	60	5.2%	1960	5.8%	68490	5.4%
60 to 64 years	56	4.8%	1669	4.9%	54697	4.3%
65 to 74 years	100	8.6%	3085	9.1%	96196	7.5%
75 years and over	62	5.3%	2771	8.2%	87206	6.8%
Median age (years)	38.4	NA	40.5	NA	38.6	NA

Source: 2000 Census

Machiasport has slightly lower percentages of young residents and older residents than both the county and the state. By contrast a greater percentage of Machiasport residents are in their 20's and 30's than is true for the county and the state. The percentage of Machiasport residents over the age of 65 is comparable to state and county levels. As a result Machiasport's median age in 2000 was lower than the median age for both Washington County and the state as a whole.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Average household size in Machiasport is greater than in Machias, but comparable to other surrounding communities. It is marginally higher than in the County as a whole and the State. Between 1990 and 2000, the average household size in Machiasport went down 8.21% indicating the presence of more households with fewer or no children. This decrease mirrored the County trend, but was faster than the statewide rate of decline in household size. Compared to surrounding communities, the rate of decrease in Machiasport's average household size fell in the middle; households in Whitneyville and East Machias saw less decrease in average household size; while Machias and Marshfield saw higher rates of decrease; and the decline in average household size in Roque Bluffs was nearly identical (see Table C-6). Given the increase in median age, it is likely that many of these households are 'empty nests' in which the children have grown up and moved out of Machiasport or households in which childless singles or couples moved into Machiasport.

Table C-6 HOUSEHOLD SIZE & PERCENT GROWTH

Average Household Size and Growth Rate		1980	1990	2000
Machiasport	Household Size	2.92	2.68	2.46
	% growth	-	-8.22%	-8.21%
East Machias	Household Size	2.72	2.60	2.40
	% growth	-	-4%	-7.69%
Machias	Household Size	2.64	2.31	2.10
	% growth	-	-13%	-9.09%
Marshfield	Household Size	3.08	2.78	2.52
	% growth	-	-9.74%	-9.35%
Roque Bluffs	Household Size	2.9	2.44	2.24
	% growth	-	-15.86%	-8.2%
Whitneyville	Household Size	2.91	2.54	2.50
	% growth	-	-12.71%	-1.57%
Washington County	Household Size	2.86	2.55	2.34
	% growth	-	-11	-8.2 %
State	Household Size	2.85	2.56	2.39
	% growth	-	-10	-6.6 %

Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census

While the average household size in Machiasport declined between 1990 and 2000, the total number of households grew by 4.82% - this despite a 0.5% *decline* in population over the same time period. This trend – a small population occupying a greater number of households – is in line with state and county trends as well as the trend in surrounding communities, all of which added households between 1990 and 2000. Among surrounding town, most saw more rapid growth in the number of household during the 1990's than Machiasport; the rate of growth for household was slower only in Machias.

Extrapolating the annual growth rate in the number of households from the 1990's, Machiasport can expect to accommodate 20 new household by 2010 and 41 new household by 2020, exclusive of second home development (Table C-7). If Machiasport adds new housing in proportion to the decline in household size and average household size continues to decline at its 1990's rate, Machiasport could expect as many as 20 new year-round households by 2010 and 43 new households in order to accommodate its projected population in 2020. Due to growth in seasonal resident, the expected growth in total household is even greater over the same time period. Therefore, despite a relatively stable population, growth in the number of households has potential to raise new fiscal, land use, and transportation issues for the Town of Machiasport over the next 10 to 15 years.

Table C-7 PROJECTED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

<i>Based on Annual Growth in Number of Households, 1990-2000</i>	
2000	413
2010	433
2020	455

Source: WCCOG, based on 2000 Census figures

Table C-8 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

		1980	1990	2000
Machiasport	Number	376	394	413
	% growth	-	4.79%	4.82%
Machias	Number	823	943	939
	% growth	-	14.58%	-0.42%
East Machias	Number	453	469	540
	% growth	-	3.53%	15.14%
Marshfield	Number	135	166	196
	% growth	-	22.96%	18.07%
Roque Bluffs	Number	84	96	118
	% growth	-	14.29%	22.92%
Whitneyville	Number	86	95	105
	% growth	-	10.47%	10.53%
Washington County	Number	12,222	13,418	14,118
	% growth	-	10%	5.2%
State	Number	395,184	465,312	518,200
	% growth	-	18%	11.3%

Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Table C-9 shows the median household income for 1979, 1989 and 1999 for Machiasport, surrounding communities, Washington County, and the State. Median household income in Machiasport was higher in 1999 than in the Washington County generally; it was also higher than all but two nearby towns (Whitneyville and Marshfield). Over the 20 year period between 1980 and 2000, median household income in Machiasport grew more quickly than the State and County average; however, during the 1990's growth in Machiasport's median household income was less robust than the State and County averages. As a result, Machiasport's median household income remains at only 79% of the State level.

Table C-9 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME & GROWTH PER YEAR: 1989 & 1999

	1979	1989	1999	Growth per year 80-00	Growth per year 90-00
Machiasport	\$9,569	\$24,412	\$29,531	10.43%	2.10%
East Machias	\$11,431	\$21,094	\$28,073	7.28%	3.31%
Marshfield	\$15,588	\$33,250	\$36,458	6.69%	0.96%
Machias	\$11,916	\$19,406	\$24,318	5.20%	2.53%
Roque Bluffs	\$8,846	\$21,875	\$21,500	7.15%	-0.17%
Whitneyville	\$12,768	\$18,750	\$30,000	6.75%	6.00%
Washington County	\$10,443	\$19,993	\$25,869	7.39%	2.94%
State of Maine	\$13,816	\$27,854	\$37,592	8.60%	3.50%

Source: U. S. Bureau of Census

Table C-10 shows the distribution of households by income category. Machiasport has a smaller proportion of household earnings below \$25,000 compared to the county, but a greater proportion as compared to the State. Machiasport also has a significantly lower proportion of household earning more than \$50,000 as compared with the State, though the percentage for households earning \$50,000 or more is comparable the County as a whole. Compared to surrounding communities, Machiasport has a lower proportion of households earning more than \$50,000 than Machias, Marshfield, and Whitneyville; and it has a greater proportion of household earning less than \$15,000 than nearby communities with the exceptions of Machias and Roque Bluffs.

Table C-11 DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 1999

Household Income	Machias		E. Machias		Machiasport		Marshfield		Roque Bluffs		Whitneyville		Wash. Co.		Maine	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
\$0-\$14,999	105	21.2%	57	14.8%	42	15.5%	12	7.9%	29	31.5%	2	3.5%	1,784	19.2%	34,165	10.0%
\$15,000-\$24,999	60	12.1%	71	18.4%	49	18.1%	27	17.8%	10	10.9%	10	17.5%	1,697	18.2%	41,479	12.1%
\$25,000-\$34,999	75	15.2%	81	21.0%	49	18.1%	25	16.4%	15	16.3%	13	22.8%	1,619	17.4%	42,672	12.5%
\$35,000-\$49,999	103	20.8%	95	24.6%	64	23.6%	39	25.7%	16	17.4%	5	8.8%	1,723	18.5%	69,045	20.2%
\$50,000 or more	152	30.7%	85	22.0%	67	24.7%	49	32.2%	22	23.9%	27	47.4%	2,482	26.7%	150,070	43.8%

Source: U. S. Census

FINDINGS OF PREVIOUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & EXISTING POLICIES

Relative to population and demographics, the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Town of Machiasport in 1996 found a rapid rate of growth in population. The 1996 Comprehensive Plan notes that the population of Machiasport in 1990 was similar to Washington County as a whole in many respects; and the 586% of persons in Machiasport had low to moderate incomes. There was no projected increase in the number of school aged children.

The 1996 Comprehensive Plan made no policy recommendations relative to population and demographics. A complete list of the policy recommendation from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in *Appendix B: Executive Summary of the Town of Machiasport Comprehensive Plan, 1996*. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Office.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Given the importance of understanding, planning for and meeting the needs of current and future residents, the town has developed the following policies and implementation strategies to monitor its population.

Goal: Machiasport will use complete and current information about its population when making administrative and policy decisions.			
Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Machiasport will monitor the size, characteristics and distribution of its population.	In conjunction with the Washington County Council of Governments, the designated census information center for Washington County, the town will gather all available population estimates, census data and other information concerning the number and characteristics of the town's population.	Selectmen; School Board	Immediate