

E. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

Pembroke and Perry have traditionally relied on fishing and forestry for their livelihood. Lumber exports and ship building were major sources of income and wealth in the 1800s. Fishing especially sardine packing, became a major industry by the end of the nineteenth century, peaking during World War II and declining afterward. Important sources of income for many today include lobstering and clamming, tipping and wreath making, paper manufacture, aquaculture and small manufacturing. Residents are primarily dependent upon jobs in the nearby service centers of Eastport, Calais and Machias as well as on other sources of income including self-employment.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan examines several economic indicators, such as employment, labor force, income, and sales to assess the economic health of the community. The goal of the section is to develop policies which promote an economic climate in both towns that improves job opportunities for local residents and encourages overall economic well-being.

Pembroke and Perry Business and Employment Today

Forestry remains a viable economic activity in the town but large tracts of land are changing hands. The largest employer actually located in each town is the school and there are many small businesses in both towns providing a range of automotive, home improvement/repair and personal services. Over two-thirds of working residents find employment in nearby centers – see Table E-1. While the number of Perry residents who work in their own town has remained stable the number of Pembroke residents working in their own town dropped by about half between 1990 and 2000. More recent data on workplace relative to residence is not available.

Table E-1 WORKPLACE OF PEMBROKE AND PERRY RESIDENTS IN 1990 AND 2000

Workplace	Pembroke		Perry	
	Count of Residents 1990	Count of Residents 2000	Count of Residents 1990	Count of Residents 2000
Baileyville	38	41	23	16
Calais	30	51	33	55
Eastport	47	59	99	96
Lubec	5	9	3	0
Machias	7	39	14	19
Pembroke	120	64	5	2
Perry	2	12	95	98
Other Washington County Towns	5	34	7	15
Other locations	6	10	9	14

US Census 1990 and 2000

EMPLOYERS

The State of Maine Department of Labor reports that there are 26 local employers in the town of Pembroke and 27 local employers in the town of Perry. The Pembroke and Perry Comprehensive Plan Update committees have added many local employers to the data provided by the Department of Labor. The list of employers describes many self-employed and home-based businesses particularly in farming-, fishing-, construction-, and forestry-based businesses. The actual number of employees is usually at the lower end of the range noted. Employment may be higher than noted during peak times for seasonal businesses.

Table E-2 LOCAL EMPLOYERS IN PEMBROKE

Employers in Pembroke	Industry/Type of Business	Approx # or range of Employees
Pembroke Elementary School	Elementary and Secondary Schools	20 to 49
Crossroads Motel & Restaurant	Eating Places; Limited Service Restaurants (not currently open)	10 to 19
Morgan's Irving	Grocery Stores; Eating Places; Gasoline Service Stations; Convenience Stores; Limited-Service Restaurants	10 to 19
Transportation Department	Regulation and Administration of Transportation; Transportation Program Administration	10 to 19
Atlantic Shellfish	Fish and Seafoods; Fish and Seafood Merchant Wholesalers	5 to 9
Johnson's Mobil Mart	Gas Station, Grocery Stores; Convenience Stores	5 to 9
US Post Office	United States Postal Service	5 to 9
Coastal Plumbing	Plumbing and heating	1 to 4
A Simonsen & Son Construction	Roofing, Siding, and Sheet Metal Work	1 to 4
American Legion	Civic Social, and Fraternal Organizations	1 to 4
Curtis Service Center and Auto Parts	General Automotive Repair Shops and Parts Supply	1 to 4
Riverview Auto	General Auto repair shop	1 to 4
Home Appliance SVC	Electrical and Electronic Repair Shops; Appliance Repair and Maintenance	1 to 4
Leighton Fuel Inc.	Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning	1 to 4
Leighton's Plumbing and Heating	Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning	1 to 4
Morgan's Irving Convenience Store	Gas station; convenience store	1 to 4
Pembroke Library	Libraries and Archives	1 to 4
Pembroke Town Office	Legislative Bodies	1 to 4
Time Warner Cable Inc.	Cable and other Pay Television Service	1 to 4
Rainbow Motel	Hotels and Motels	1 to 4
St. John Catholic Church	religious organization	1 to 4
Grace Christian Chapel	religious organization	1 to 4
Pembroke United Methodist Church	religious organization	1 to 4
First Baptist Church of Pembroke	religious organization	1 to 4
Branden Brown	trucking	1 to 4
Richard Curtis	trucking	1 to 4

Employers in Pembroke	Industry/Type of Business	Approx # or range of Employees
Pembroke Sawmill	Saw mill	1 to 4
Gordon Ganong	trucking	1 to 4
Danny Curtis	trucking	1 to 4
Ohio Brook Disposal	Trash disposal	1 to 4
Morgan Construction	construction	1 to 4
Editorial East	Editing Services	1 to 4
Gretchen Gordon	Freelance Editorial Services	1 to 4

Table E-3 LOCAL EMPLOYERS IN PERRY

Employers in Perry	Industry/Type of Business	Approx # or range of Employees
Perry Fire Department	Fire Protection	20 to 49
Hastings Electric	Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring and Equipment Wholesalers	10 to 19
New Friendly Restaurant Inc.	Eating Places, Limited Service Restaurants	10 to 19
Perry Elementary School	Elementary and Secondary Schools	10 to 19
Little River Veterinary Clinic	Veterinary Services	5 to 9
Maine Indian Education	Schools and Educational Services, Education Support Services	5 to 9
Passamaquoddy Head Start	Child Day Care Services	5 to 9
Pleasant Point Public Works	Highway and Street Construction	5 to 9
Quoddy Trail Moccasin Co	Miscellaneous Apparel and Accessory, All other leather good manufacturing	5 to 9
Strawberry Patch	Variety Stores	5 to 9
Adventure Golf	Miniature gold; kayak rental	1 to 4
Carroll Duffy, Susanne	Offices and Clinics of Health Practitioners	1 to 4
Turner Signs	Signs and Advertising Specialties, Sign Manufacturing	1 to 4
Eastwind Farm	Animal Specialty Services, Support Activities for Animal Production	1 to 4
Forty Fifth Parallel	Merchandise Stores	1 to 4
Guisinger Photography	Photographic Studios, Portrait	1 to 4
Gulf of Maine Co	Heavy Construction, Site Preparation Workers	1 to 4
Lorings Auto Body Shop	Top, Body, and Upholstery Repair Shops, Automotive Body and Interior Repair	1 to 4
Municipal Building	Legislative Bodies	1 to 4
Newcomb's Gun & Saddle Shop	Miscellaneous Apparel and Accessory, other clothing stores	1 to 4
Omega Development Group	Business Services, All other information services	1 to 4
Passamaquoddy Air Quality	Unclassified	1 to 4
Passamaquoddy Water District	Miscellaneous Food Stores	1 to 4
Peaceful Relations Domestic	Unclassified	1 to 4
Perry Bible Fellowship	Religious Organizations	1 to 4
Perry Farmers' Union	Miscellaneous General Merchandise Stores	1 to 4
Boyden Lake Creative Products	Fresh farm and evergreen products and crafts	1 to 4
Morrison Manufacturing, Inc.	Plastic welding, machine shop, custom marine fabrication, certified TIG & MIG welding of stainless and aluminum	1 to 4
Special Scents Wildflower	Greenhouse, plants, seedlings, dried flower arrangement workshops	1 to 4

Employers in Perry	Industry/Type of Business	Approx # or range of Employees
Farm		
Brewster Construction	construction, demolition, landscaping, septic installation	1 to 4
Sunset Cove Originals	Paintings and fine art photography	1 to 4
Scythe Supply	Agricultural tools: scythe and sharpening equipment	1 to 4
Fine Artist	Home renovations; furniture making	1 to 4
Moose Island Quilting	Specialty sewing;	1 to 4
Blueberry Point Chef	Specialty foods; cooking classes	1 to 4
ATA Tanning	Beauty and self care salon	1 to 4
Mungy Gear	sewing classes, sewn creations? hats, jackets	1 to 4
Downeast Coastal Arts & Crafts	acrylic paintings, crafts	1 to 4
Ricker Electric	Electrical services	1 to 4
Eastern Maine Images	Photography	1 to 4
Quoddy Laser	laser etching	1 to 4
Gulf of Maine Seafood	Food and marine organism production	1 to 4
Mainely Smoked Salmon	Food and food processing	1 to 4
Porcupine Signs	Sign making	1 to 4
Polar Treat	Ice cream and take-out food	1 to 4
Downeast Strategies	consulting	1 to 4
North Perry United Methodist Church	religious organization	1 to 4
Perry Congregational Church	religious organization	1 to 4
Scrappin' by the Bay	Scrapbooking	1 to 4
Susan's Designs in Perry, Maine	Clothing; crafts	1 to 4
Bishops Tree Farm	Forestry and farming	1 to 4
Otis Cottages	Hospitality	1 to 4
Kendall Farm Cottages	Hospitality	1 to 4
Pottle Tree Farm	Forestry and farming	1 to 4
The Red Sleigh	Artisans and Edibles	1 to 4
Ingersol's Machine Shop	Welding; machining	1 to 4

Source: Maine Department of Labor, 2005, Pembroke and Perry Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, 2009

Recent Economic Trends

Pembroke and Perry are increasingly serving as bedroom communities for neighboring employment centers of Eastport, Baileyville and Calais. Residents of Pembroke in particular are traveling to more far reaching corners of the county and the state to find employment. Some of this movement reflects additional travel and some reflects the location of home offices and the ability to work from home in a variety of telecommuting or shift work arrangements.

Properties formerly used seasonally are being converted to year round residences and new year-round construction is occurring as well. This trend supports employment in construction, well drilling, site work, landscaping, caretaking and other services.

There are more visitors and seasonal residents in both towns and they are staying longer than in the past. For much of the economic base, seasonal fluctuations of employment are significant for

businesses in commercial fishing, blueberry harvesting and wreath brush production. Self-employed individuals often have several jobs over several seasons and are not the same as those employed in traditional wage employment.

Recent closures of the Louisiana Pacific plant and the closure and re-opening of the Domtar mill, both in Woodland, affected residents in both towns. Responses to these shifts vary and include retraining, returning to school, taking early retirement and doing other related work. Some younger workers are leaving the area but many of all ages remain. Many are simply travelling further for employment and working several jobs.

There are three proposals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in the region, in Calais, Robbinston and Pleasant Point. Two of these (Robbinston and Calais) are going through the state and federal review process and the third (Pleasant Point) has the option to re-open the review process. Opinions are polarized as to the desirability and viability of these proposals as expressed by the Public Survey and many articles and letters to the editor in the local newspapers. Proponents see these terminals as vehicles for providing employment, tax base, energy, and infrastructure while opponents view them as incompatible with a regional economy based on tourism and natural beauty as well as posing too great a risk to public safety. The siting and regulation of such energy facilities is governed by state and federal law. The extent of local authority that can be exerted through land use controls is limited. This issue is discussed further in the Land Use chapter.

Regional Economy

Pembroke and Perry are tied into the regional economy of Washington and Hancock counties. Both towns rely on service center communities like Eastport, Calais, Machias and, to some extent, Bangor for the majority of goods and services used by residents. As a result fluctuations in the region's economy directly affect the economy of both towns.

Traditionally, Washington County has been one of the most depressed counties in New England. Nearby in recent years, portions of Waldo County and Southwest Penobscot County have experienced deeper economic depression as a result of the closure of traditional manufacturing industries in those areas. Washington County continues as an economically depressed area because of its distance from other sections of the State, and reliance on a seasonal economy (blueberries, wreaths and Christmas trees, fishing and clamming, wood harvesting, etc.).

Pembroke and Perry are part of the Calais Labor Market Area¹. According to the Eastern Maine Economic Strategy, prepared by the Eastern Maine Development Corporation in 2002, the Calais Labor Market Area (LMA) lost population in the last 20 years (-9.7% 1980-2000; -7.3% 1990-2000). This decline was greatest among two age groups - the school aged, and those aged 25-44 - who could contribute to the regional economy now and in the future. This out migration is reflected in drastically declining school enrollment figures in Washington County (-26.2%) as well as an increase in the dependency ratio within households. The dependency ratio is a figure

1 Note that the Calais Labor Market Area (LMA) boundaries were adjusted in 2005 as a result of Census information about commuting patterns. The information summarized here refers to the former LMA boundaries.

that essentially adds the elder and youth population together and then divides that sum by those of working age. It is a rough measure of a community's ability to generate income to support its needs. The ultimate impact of this decline in a working age population is a poverty rate in the Calais LMA of 16.9% in 2001 representing an increase of 1.5% since 1990.

Economic sectors in the Calais LMA that saw the largest growth in employment from 1998-2000 were Eating and Drinking Places, Educational Services and Food Stores. All three saw employment growth of greater than 10%, however average weekly wages were low (less than \$378/week). There are three sectors with high wages (greater than \$492/week) including Lumber and Wood Products, Paper and Allied Products and Trucking and Warehousing; however all three experienced stable or declining growth in employment. Likewise the Health Services sector has moderate wages (between \$379 and \$491/week) but experienced stable or declining growth in employment. Two other sectors, Automotive Dealers and Service Stations and General Merchandise Stores have low wages and are also experiencing stable or declining growth in employment.

As already noted many Pembroke and Perry residents commute to jobs located in surrounding communities. With a mean travel time to work of 28.2 minutes for Pembroke residents and 20.7 for Perry residents most are traveling further than the Washington County average (19.2 minutes). In Pembroke commuting times have increased in the past decade (mean commuting time to work in 1990 was 21.5 minutes in Pembroke) but remained essentially the same in Perry (mean commuting time to work in 1990 was 21.3 minutes in Perry). At the time of the 2000 Census some workers commuted to Eastport to work in the salmon industry and at the Gates plant. Neither was in operation in 1990 nor are they in operation in 2005.

According to the 2000 Census, the workforce in both towns overwhelmingly commutes by private vehicle. The second the largest segment of the workforce commutes by carpools, the third largest walks to work or works at home. The higher amount of carpooling in Pembroke appears to reflect the wider range of employment areas to which residents commute.

Table E-4 COMMUTING TO WORK: 2000

COMMUTING TO WORK – 2000	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	319		315		13,743	
Drove alone	250	78.4	259	82.2	10,444	76.0
In carpools	53	16.6	28	8.9	1,657	12.1
Using public transportation	0	0	n/a	n/a	64	0.5
Using other means	2	0.6	4	1.3	162	1.2
Walked	0	0	0	0	722	5.3
Worked at home	14	4.4	24	7.6	694	5.0
Mean Travel time to work (minutes)	28.2	--	20.7	--	19.2	--

Source: US Census

Some of the major Washington County regional employers are shown in Table E-5.

Table E-5 REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Business	Industry	Location	Approx. # of Employees (or range of employees)
Domtar (formerly Georgia Pacific)	Paper Mill	Baileyville	~300
Calais Regional Hospital	General Medical and Surgical Hospital	Calais	203
Atlantic Rehab and Nursing Cent	General Medical	Calais	75
Calais School Dept.	Public School	Calais	136
Thomas Di Cenzo, Inc.	General Contractors	Calais	100-249
Eastern Maine Electric Co-op	Electric Services	Calais	100-249
Calais Children's Project	Groups Homes and Counseling	Calais	100-249
Calais IGA	Grocery Store	Calais	50-99
Washington County Community College	College	Calais	50-99
Wal-Mart	Dept. Store	Calais	181
Shop 'N Save	Grocery Store	Calais	100-249
Mardens	Dept. Store	Calais	50-100
Department of Homeland Security	Border Patrol, Immigration, Customs, Security	Calais	50-100
Eastport Port Authority, Federal Marine Terminals, Northeastern Longshoreman's Association	Marine Port	Eastport	85
City of Eastport	Municipal / School Department	Eastport	84
Creative Apparel	Clothing Manufacture	Eastport	77
Heritage Salmon	Aquaculture	Eastport	70
USCG Search & Rescue	National Security	Eastport	24
Tex Shield	Clothing Manufacture	Eastport	20
Eastport Nursing Home	Skilled Nursing Facility	Eastport	20
Eastport Healthcare, Inc	Medical Facility	Eastport	20

Business	Industry	Location	Approx. # of Employees (or range of employees)
Marine Technology Center	Jr College & Technical Institute	Eastport	13
Cooke Aquaculture USA	Sea Farming	Eastport	50-75
R&M IGA Foodliner	Grocery Store	Eastport	10
Worcester Wreath	Crafts	Harrington	136
Down East Community Hospital	General Medical and Surgical Hospital	Machias	249
Machias School Dept.	Public School	Machias	137
Regional Medical Center in Lubec	General Medical and Surgical Hospital	Lubec	50-99
School Union 107	Public Schools	Baileyville	100-249
Maine Wild Blueberry Co	Food Processing	Machias	100-249
Marshall's Health Care Facility	Skilled Nursing Care	Machias	250-999
Shop 'N Save	Grocery Store	Machias	100-249
University of Maine at Machias	University	Machias	163
Wymans	Agriculture, Food Processing	Cherryfield	58
Cherryfield Foods	Agriculture, Food Processing	Cherryfield	125
Narraguagus Bay Health Care	Skilled Nursing Care Facilities	Milbridge	100-249
Dorr Lobster Co.	Seafood	Milbridge	100-249
Sunrise County Evergreens	Manufacturing Industries	Milbridge	100-249

Source: Maine Dept. of Labor (4th Quarter of 2000), and Maine 2001 Manufacturing Guide; input from Pembroke and Perry Comprehensive Plan Committee and local research, 2005

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The labor force is defined as all persons who are either employed or are receiving unemployment compensation. Table E-6 shows census data for those aged 16 and above who are in or out of the workforce for Pembroke, Perry and Washington County. In 2000 Pembroke had a higher percentage and Perry a lower percentage of residents not in the workforce than in the county.

Table E-6 LABOR FORCE STATUS: 2000

Labor Force Status: 2000	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons 16 years and over	711	100	610	100	27,214	100.0
In labor force	378	53.2	369	60.5	15,500	57.0
Civilian labor force	378	53.2	369	60.5	15,354	56.4
Employed	335	47.1	317	52	14,042	51.6
Unemployed (% of Civilian Labor Force)	43	6	52	8.50	1,312	8.5
Armed Forces	0	0	0	0	146	0.5
Not in labor force	333	46.8	241	39.5	11,714	43.0

Source: US Census

More recent data on unemployment is available at the town, labor market area and county level.

The unemployment rate in both towns has increased since the last census. It has stayed nearly 5 points higher in Perry than in Pembroke between 2004 and 2008 and both towns are higher than in Washington County, the Calais Labor Market Area, and in Maine – see Table E-7. Actual unemployment is likely higher given many who are discouraged from working, or applying for unemployment benefits or whose benefits are exhausted. Others may also work in the underground economy and have unreported income.

Table E-7 UNEMPLOYMENT IN PEMBROKE, PERRY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE AND CALAIS LABOR MARKET AREA 2004-2008

	Pembroke (%)	Perry (%)	Washington County (%)	Maine (%)	Calais LMA (%)
2008	10.4	15.3	8.5	5.4	9.8
2007	10	12.2	7.6	4.6	8.8
2006	10.5	15.9	7.6	4.6	8.3
2005	12.5	15.4	8.5	4.9	9.7
2004	10.2	14.7	7.6	4.6	8.6

Source: Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Survey. 2009

The employed population for Pembroke, Perry and Washington County is described in Table E-8 by industry. The top two sectors of employment for both towns are ‘Education, health and social services’ and ‘Manufacturing’. In Pembroke there are two sectors sharing the third highest proportion of employment ‘Retail trade’ and ‘Construction’. Whereas in Perry the third highest sector of employment is ‘Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, mining’. Washington County as a whole is supported by the same top two sectors in order of economic importance: ‘Education, health and social services’, ‘Manufacturing’ but, like in Perry, the third most important sector is ‘Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, mining’.

Manufacturing jobs have historically provided a base for Washington County residents. But the entire manufacturing sector has declined steadily over the past three decades throughout the nation, the region, and the town.

Table E-7 EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS: 2000

Employment Characteristics: 2000	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
INDUSTRY						
Employed persons 16 years and over	335	100	317	100	14,042	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, mining	19	5.7	45	14.2	1,531	10.9
Construction	35	10.4	25	7.9	944	6.7
Manufacturing	68	20.3	45	14.2	1,968	14.0
Wholesale trade	2	0.6	0	0	384	2.7
Retail trade	35	10.4	39	12.3	1,521	10.8
Transportation, warehousing, utilities info	17	5.1	17	5.4	581	4.1
Information	15	4.5	0	0	146	1.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	9	2.7	9	2.8	433	3.1
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	12	3.6	14	4.4	438	3.1
Education, health and social services	81	24.2	71	22.4	3,694	26.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	3	0.9	15	4.7	779	5.5
Other services (except public administration)	14	4.2	15	4.7	642	4.6
Public administration	25	7.5	22	6.9	981	7.0
CLASS OF WORKER						
Private wage and salary workers	223	66.6	202	63.7	9,225	65.7
Government workers	76	22.7	61	19.2	2,882	20.5
Self-employed workers	36	10.7	52	16.4	1,886	13.4
Unpaid family workers	0	0	2	0.6	49	0.3

Source: US Census

There are many residents in both towns with wage-based employment who earn additional income through seasonal self-employment. The number of self-employed workers in the Census likely undercounts those in this category. The lack of public transportation in rural areas inhibits employment for many residents living at or near the poverty level. Residents of larger service centers can more readily walk or carpool to work. Without a car, most residents of Pembroke and Perry would not be able to get to work, and when unemployed or underemployed in a minimum wage job, some cannot maintain a vehicle particularly for severe winter conditions.

INCOME

Median household income in Pembroke increased considerably (40.64%) between 1989 and 1999 though it did not surpass the median household income of the county. Median household income in Perry increased as well (7.32%) but it was already higher than the County median in 1989 and continued to surpass the County median in 2000. Neither town rose as high as the statewide median income in the 1989-1999 period. The median household income projection for 2015, based on linear regression, is for a slight decline in median income in Perry and a sharper rise in median income in Pembroke. However, other economic factors such as available

employment in nearby regional centers is of greater reliability in projecting income levels than a regression analysis of past trends.

Table E-8 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	U.S. Census			Forecast ²
	1979	1989	1999	2015 Projection
Pembroke	\$9,707	\$16,613	\$23,365	\$37,493
Perry	\$9,143	\$25,893	\$27,788	\$26,816
Washington County	\$10,443	\$19,967	\$25,869	\$36,984
Maine	\$13,816	\$27,896	\$37,240	\$61,534

Source: U.S. Census

Table E-9 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE

	1979-1989	1989-1999
Pembroke	71.1%	40.64%
Perry	183.2%	7.32%
Washington County	91.20%	29.6%
Maine	101.91%	33.5%

Source: U.S. Census

Both the median household income and the per capita income in Pembroke is lower than in the County as a whole, a reflection of the high number of low to moderate income families. While the median household income for Perry is higher than that for Washington County, the per capita income in Perry is only slightly higher than in Washington County indicating the presence of a high number of dependants per household.

² *2015 Estimates are based on a twenty-year period (1980-2000 or 1979-1999) using linear regression analysis. These estimates are not based on percent growth per year (% GPY). Longer trend analysis should be conducted for comparison and to provide a range of possible projections that might better account for unique local circumstances.

Table E-10 INCOME IN 1999: 2000 CENSUS

	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Households	378	100	321	100	14,119	100.0
Less than \$10,000	71	18.8	51	15.9	2,515	17.8
\$10,000 to \$14,999	47	12.4	47	14.6	1,745	12.4
\$15,000 to \$24,999	88	23.3	39	12.1	2,579	18.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	54	14.3	53	16.5	2,156	15.3
\$35,000 to \$49,999	43	11.4	52	16.2	1,833	13.0
\$50,000 to \$74,999	54	14.3	50	15.6	668	4.7
\$75,000 to \$99,999	18	4.8	12	3.7	318	2.3
\$100,000 to \$149,999	3	0.8	12	3.7	74	0.5
\$150,000 or more	0	0	5	1.5	120	0.8
Median household income (dollars)	23,365	-	27,788	-	25,869	-
Per capita income (dollars)	12,382	-	14,285	-	14,119	-

Source: U.S. Census

Sources of income for residents of both towns come primarily from wages and salaries with a comparable contribution of retirement income compared to Washington County as a whole. Wage and salary income includes total earnings received for work performed, i.e. wages, salary, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned before tax deductions were made. Wage and salary employment is a broad measure of economic well-being but does not indicate whether the jobs are of good quality. In the 2000 Census, 10.7% of Pembroke residents and 16.4% of Perry report self-employment income compared to 13.4% in the county as a whole (see Table E-7). However, as indicated above self-employment in both towns is likely higher than what is reported in the Census.

A comparable number of residents in Pembroke both towns collect social security income (34.7%) than do residents of the county (34%) but fewer numbers of Perry residents (26.2%) collect Social Security income. Social Security income includes Social Security pensions, survivor's benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration, prior to deductions for medical insurance and railroad retirement insurance from the U.S. Government. There are proportionately fewer residents of both towns receiving public assistance than in the County. Public assistance income includes payments made by Federal or State welfare agencies to low-income persons who are 65 years or older, blind, or disabled; receive aid to families with dependent children; or general assistance. In sum, the income types for both towns show a higher percentage of wage and salary income and, except for Social Security income in Pembroke, fewer residents on public assistance than is seen for the county as a whole.

Table E-11 INCOME TYPE IN 1999

Income Type in 1999 (Households often have more than one source of income, as seen here)	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Households	378	100	321	100	14,119	100
With wage and salary income	273	72.2	238	74.1	10,162	72.0
With Social Security Income	131	34.7	84	26.2	4,795	34.0
With Supplemental Security income	20	5.3	10	3.1	949	6.7
With public assistance income	16	4.2	15	4.7	910	6.4
With retirement income	44	11.6	28	8.7	2,382	16.9

Source: U.S. Census

In 2000, the average poverty threshold for a family of four persons was \$17,050 in the contiguous 48 states (U.S. DHHS). The Bureau of Census income criteria to determine poverty status consist of several thresholds including family size and number of family members under 18 years of age. There were 39 families in Pembroke and 36 families in Perry with incomes below the poverty level in 2000.

Table E-12 POVERTY STATUS IN 1999

Poverty Status in 1999	Pembroke		Perry		Washington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Below poverty level						
Individuals	181	20.7	139	17.5	6,272	19.0
Persons 18 years and over	133	19.5	102	17.6	4,524	17.8
Persons 65 years and over	53	30.1	25	32.5	1,076	19.2
Families	39	14.6	36	15.9	1,319	14.2
With related children under 18 years	20	18	22	18	861	20.3
With related children under 5 years	6	17.1	9	19.1	312	23.5

Source: U.S. Census

SALES

The Maine Revenue Services does not provide information on taxable sales disaggregated for each retail sector at the municipal level when there are fewer than 6 establishments within one sector. This is common in small towns such as Pembroke and Perry. As a result Auto/Transportation reported in Pembroke and Restaurant/Lodging is reported in Perry in 2000 when there were more establishments but is not reported in 2006. The first three individual sectors are not reported in either year in Table E-11 even though there are indeed some businesses operating in those sectors

All figures in Table E-11 are in real dollars, not adjusted for inflation and represent only taxable sales. The Business Operating sector represents operations that consume large amounts of fuel. The very large increase in sales between 2000 and 2006 in Perry is indicative of the significant increase in the cost of fuel during the 2000-2006 period. Both towns had an overall decrease in total consumer sales for the period of 2000 to 2006. Consumer sales constituted about 96 percent of total taxable sales for both towns in 2006, the same proportion as throughout the County.

Table E-13 TAXABLE SALES IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

Selected Retail Sectors	Washington County			Pembroke			Perry		
	Annual Total Sales 2000	Annual Total Sales 2006	2000-2006 % Chg	Annual Total Sales 2000	Annual Total Sales 2006	2000-2006 % Chg	Annual Total Sales 2000	Annual Total Sales 2006	2000-2006 % Chg
Building Supplies	22,453.1	36,481.3	62.5%	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	--
Food Store	34,172.0	34,374.1	0.6%	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	--
General Merchandise	50,521.9	56,617.5	12.1%	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	--
Auto Transportation	27,441.6	29,767.2	8.5%	715	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--
Restaurant/Lodging	23,379.3	29,605.8	26.6%	96	57	-40.6%	244	n/a	n/a
Total Consumer Sales	168,674.0	201,218.3	19.3%	3012	2637	-12.5%	1795	1755	-2.2%
Other Retail	10,706.1	14,372.4	34.2%	22	14	-36.4%	285	92	-67.7%
Business Operating	13,713.9	20,018.2	46.0%	140.4	108.2	-22.9%	1.2	69.3	5675.0%
Total Taxable Sales	182,387.9	221,236.5	46.0%	3152.7	2744.5	-12.9%	1795.3	1823.9	1.6%

Source: Maine Revenue Service 2007

Below are the definitions of each retail sector:

Consumer Retail Sales:	Total taxable retail sales to consumers.
Total Retail Sales:	Includes Consumer Retail Sales plus special types of sales and rentals to businesses where the tax is paid directly by the buyer (such as commercial or industrial oil purchase).
Building Supply:	Durable equipment sales, contractors' sales, hardware stores and lumberyards.

Food Stores:	All food stores from large supermarkets to small corner food stores. The values here are snacks and non-food items only, since food intended for home consumption is not taxed.
General Merchandise:	In this sales group are stores carrying lines generally carried in large department stores. These include clothing, furniture, shoes, radio-TV, household durable goods, home furnishing, etc.
Other Retail:	This group includes a wide selection of taxable sales not covered elsewhere. Examples are dry good stores, drug stores, jewelry stores, sporting good stores, antique dealers, morticians, bookstores, photo supply stores, gift shops, etc.
Auto Transportation:	This sales group includes all transportation related retail outlets. Included are auto dealers, auto parts, aircraft dealers, motorboat dealers, automobile rental, etc.
Restaurant/Lodging:	All stores selling prepared food for immediate consumption. The Lodging group includes only rental tax.

PUBLIC OPINION

In the public survey conducted in the summer of 2007 support in both towns for a regional airport was mixed presumably because no specific site is currently proposed. Support was clearer for small scale specialty production than for large scale industrial facilities or an industrial park. Opinions on liquefied natural gas facilities were polarized with many in Perry expressing disfavor. However public referenda in Perry suggest that residents are more equally divided in their opinions.

Home based businesses in both towns were especially supported as were providing an opportunity for some retail and professional business uses. Likewise small retail and creative economy businesses favored. “Big box” stores were not favored by most respondents.

Likewise respondents in both towns favor multi-unit housing for assisted living and visitors but have mixed opinions on a large scale operation like a resort or hotel. Opinions on outdoor recreation business development in both towns were consistently favorable. Opinions on a racino were mixed, small farming was strongly supported while more intensive and often unsightly operations were strongly disfavored.

SUMMARY

Pembroke and Perry are small communities primarily dependant on regional sources of employment. Most residents rely on wage and salary income and retirees compose a comparable part of the population to the county as a whole. The top two sectors of employment for both towns are 'Education, health and social services' and 'Manufacturing'. In Pembroke there are two sectors sharing the third highest proportion of employment 'Retail trade' and 'Construction', whereas in Perry the third highest sector of employment is 'Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, mining'.

Both the median household income and the per capita income in Pembroke is lower than in the County as a whole, a reflection of the high number of low to moderate income families. While the median household income for Perry is higher than that for Washington County, the per capita income in Perry is only slightly higher than in Washington County indicating the presence of a high number of dependants per household.

With an aging population, the size of the workforce continues to decrease. Living in a rural area limits employment opportunities and increases the costs of commuting to the service centers where many of the newly created jobs are located. Local government should strive to encourage and maintain development that will better employ residents. Growth needs to be channeled to areas of town capable of handling development while incurring minimal cost to the municipality.