

## **A. POPULATION**

### **1. Purpose**

In order to understand Castine's current and future needs it is important to review population trends. The purpose of this section is to accomplish the following:

- A. Review population trends since 1990; and
- B. Project future population growth.

### **2. Key Findings and Issues Taken Verbatim from the 1995 Plan**

*There are three basic components to Castine's population: year-round residents, Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) students, and seasonal residents and visitors. While the U.S. Census data show that Castine's total population has decreased, there was a minor increase in the number of year-round residents during the 1980's. The number of second home residents increased by an estimated 65 percent between 1970 and 1990. A very slow growth is projected for year-round residents, while an increasing off-campus student population will continue to affect the town.*

### **3. Key Findings and Issues**

According to the U.S. Census and other sources, the town's total population increased by 17 percent between 1990 and 2005, to an estimated total of 1353. While no specific household population figures are available for 2005, the year-round household population (which excludes those living in group quarters) increased by about 10 per cent between 1990 and 2000, to 804. Since this figure includes Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) students who are unable to live in the dormitories owing to the expansion of MMA, the number of non-student residents has actually decreased rather than increased. Trends indicate that this decrease will continue.

### **4. Trends Since 1990**

As seen in Table A.1, the population of the various age groups changed at different rates between 1990 and 2005. There was a 20 percent decrease in the 5-17 age group. The fastest rate of increase (37 per cent) was for those between 45 and 64, from 178 to 243. When added to those aged 65 or over, the combined group increased 27 per cent between 1990 and 2005, from 346 to 428.

The largest numerical increase occurred in the 18-44 group, from 684 to 807, again generated by the growth in the MMA student population. The result was

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that although Hancock County's median age increased from 35.8 to 40.7 between 1990 and 2000, Castine's median age appears to have decreased from 24.6 years to 23.8 in in the same period (more recent data is not yet available).

Thus, if one counts MMA, Castine has the lowest median age in Hancock County. Without MMA, Castine may well have the highest median age. Details on the MMA population are discussed below.

Table A.1 shows the decline in K-12 school-age population as of 2005, which is indicative of the challenges families of childbearing years face living in Castine. This topic will be discussed further in Chapter C – Housing, and in Chapter E – Public Services and Facilities.

| <b>Age Group</b>     | <b>1990<br/>Number</b> | <b>1990<br/>Per cent</b> | <b>2005<br/>Number</b> | <b>2005<br/>Per cent</b> | <b>Numeric<br/>Change<br/>90-05</b> | <b>Per cent<br/>Change<br/>90-05</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>0-4</b>           | 26                     | 2.2                      | 34                     | 2.5                      | 8                                   | 31                                   |
| <b>5-17</b>          | 105                    | 9.0                      | 84                     | 6.2                      | -21                                 | -20                                  |
| <b>18-44</b>         | 684                    | 59.0                     | 807                    | 59.6                     | 123                                 | 18                                   |
| <b>45-64</b>         | 178                    | 15.3                     | 243                    | 18.0                     | 65                                  | 37                                   |
| <b>65 &amp; over</b> | 168                    | 14.5                     | 185                    | 13.7                     | 17                                  | 10                                   |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1161</b>            | <b>100</b>               | <b>1353</b>            | <b>100</b>               | <b>192</b>                          | <b>17</b>                            |

SOURCE: U.S. Census and Maine State Housing Authority (for 2005)

The average number of persons per household in Castine decreased from 2.24 in 1990 to 2.16 in 2000. During this same period, household sizes in Hancock County decreased from 2.48 to 2.31. It would seem that Castine has a smaller household size than the county as a whole. Since 2000, however, the number of students living off campus has probably raised this figure. Household sizes are important in determining how many homes will be needed for a given level of population. A smaller household size means that more homes will be needed for the same number of people.

There have been changes in other population statistics as well. In 2000 Castine had the second highest median household income in Hancock County (after Dedham). In 1990 the town had a median household income of \$35,104, which was 139 percent of the county median household income of \$25,247. By 2000, Castine's median household income had increased to \$46,250, but this had fallen to about 129 percent of the county median income of \$35,811.

Median household income is calculated by locating the mid-point between the richest and poorest households (not including MMA students). Figured this way,

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Castine's median household income is \$46,250, or about 30% *more* than Ellsworth's (\$35,936).

Median household income should not be confused with per capita income. The latter is determined by dividing the total income by the total population, including those in group quarters, such as MMA students. The result in the year 2000 yielded a Castine per capita income of \$20,078, which is barely 3% above the state's average and 5% less than Ellsworth's (\$21,049).

Unfortunately, eligibility for federal and state assistance through grants is measured not on per capita income but on median household income.

Poverty has increased. Castine had a 9.6 percent poverty rate in 1990, compared to 10 per cent for Hancock County. By 2000, the town poverty rate was 12 per cent, compared to 7.1 per cent for the county. The poverty rate data are for the household population only, and do not include the population in group quarters.

Since 1990 there has been little change in the ethnic proportions in Castine. Like the state and the county, in 1990 Castine was 98 percent Caucasian, compared to 97.1 percent in 2000. The racial breakdown in 2000 included 0.7 per cent each for Asians, African-Americans and multi-racial.

## **5. Seasonal Population**

It is very difficult to estimate a town's seasonal population. There are several sources of population that affect a town's seasonal fluctuations. First, there are people who reside in seasonal dwellings and their houseguests. Second, there are people who rent houses for a week or more, who take rooms at the three inns in town, or who are occupants of MMA dormitories for short-term events and similar lodgings. Third, there are day visitors. As of summer 2008 there were 47 inn rooms available, down from 63 rooms owing to the purchase of one inn for a private home.

The Academy residence hall is occupied during the summer conference season, from the last week in May through the second week in August. Within that time there are usually 3 weeks of about 300 residents at the larger conferences. For the rest of the summer there are between 5 and 100 attendees in the residence hall.

To summarize, Castine is different from most coastal Maine communities, and its seasonal population is affected by many factors. The seasonal influx is partly balanced by the departure of MMA students during the summer, but this

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departure is in turn offset by conference attendees using the dormitories. The combination of factors makes it very difficult to estimate a peak population.

## 6. Projected Population

There is no reliable way to project population for a small town such as Castine. Some general statistical models can be used, however. The State Planning Office (SPO) has developed year-round population projections for all towns in the state through 2020. The figures for Hancock County and Castine are shown on Table A.2. As seen, Hancock County as a whole has considerable growth potential. This is consistent with recent trends of a high in-migration rate.

| <b>Unit of Government</b>        | <b>2000</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2020</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Group Quarters Population</b> | 539         | 539         | 539         |
| <b>Household Population Only</b> | 804         | 827         | 815         |
| <b>Castine Total</b>             | 1,343       | 1,366       | 1,354       |
| <b>Hancock County</b>            | 51,791      | 56,523      | 59,730      |

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: refer to text for discussion of limitations of data; they include both household and group quarters population.  
SOURCE: State Planning Office web site

Castine's population is projected to remain virtually unchanged between 2000 and 2020. However, these figures assume no change in MMA's enrollment. (N.B: The actual number of students was 609, not the 539 reported on Table A.2.)

Table A.3 illustrates the future population trend of the Town when the growth of MMA is factored in. Note that the overall population grows while the household population declines.

| <b>Population Components</b>              | <b>1980</b>  | <b>1990</b>  | <b>2000</b>  | <b>2005</b>  |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Castine Household Population <sup>2</sup> | 696          | 711          | 702          | 677          |
| MMA Students Living in Town               | 5            | 20           | 102          | 137          |
| MMA Students Group Quarters               | <u>603</u>   | <u>430</u>   | <u>549</u>   | <u>609</u>   |
| <b>Total Castine Population</b>           | <b>1,304</b> | <b>1,161</b> | <b>1,353</b> | <b>1,423</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Note: Population data based on US Census and MMA student estimates.  
<sup>2</sup>Note: Castine Household Population is US Census Data less the estimated students living in Castine homes and apartments (MMA Students Living in Town).

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**TO DO:**

**Impact of decrease in year-rounders**

**Impact of decline in economic activity**

**Impact on volunteers**

**Impact on Adams school**

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