
INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

Waldoboro was incorporated in 1773. By the period of 1837-80 its population had grown to 4,569. This growth was fueled by a prosperous lumber industry, a booming shipbuilding industry, profitable fishing, and a sustainable agriculture. During the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century there were as many as 37 lumber mills in Waldoboro at one time. By 1837 one third of all Maine tonnage was built here. One tenth of the U.S. tonnage was Maine built and the first five-masted schooner was built here in 1888. At one point, half of Maine's fishing fleet operated out of Friendship, Cushing, Bremen, and Waldoboro harvesting cod, mackerel, lobsters and clams. As late as 1950 there were 90 poultry farms in Bremen and Waldoboro alone. The Medomak Canning Company operated seasonally until 1985, employing up to 120 people. Overcut forest, overfished waters, farmed-out land, high costs, and developing competition led to a general decline, and by 1920-40 Waldoboro's population had dropped by half. According to the 1990 census it has just regained its former size with a reported population of 4,601 and a population density of 64 per square mile, up from 55 in 1980 (U.S. Census). One purpose of this plan is to provide the thought, foresight and planning to see that Waldoboro's future is one of steady economic growth.

Geographically, Waldoboro is situated in mid-coast Maine 15 miles west of Rockland, 66 miles east of Portland and 28 miles south of Augusta. Route One used to run through the village, but a bypass which skirts the village itself was built in 1933. The village still has ready access to Route One. Route 32 with direct access to Augusta bisects the town. The Maine Coast Railroad runs west to east, providing easy access, and the Medomak River bisects the town north and south. The town consists of 73 square miles, one of the larger towns in the region, including many miles of coastline, acres of forest and abundant open fields. It is fully served by a system of well maintained roads giving ready access to all parts of the town.

POPULATION

Waldoboro's population as of 1990 was 4,601, up 15% from its 1980 population of 3,985. Lincoln County increased 18% to 30,357, Knox County increased 10.23% to 36,310, while the State of Maine grew 9% during that same period. Predications of population growth or decline are risky at best, but consistent growth since 1990 would indicate, absent any unforeseen economic catastrophe, that some growth may be predicted for the foreseeable future.

Table I
Population

Year	Waldoboro	Lincoln County	Knox County	State of Maine
1980	3,985	25,691	32,941	1,124,660
1990	4,601	30,357	36,310	1,227,928
2000	5,446	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	5,750	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census

The Office of Vital Statistics estimated the 1992 Waldoboro population as 4,765, a growth rate of 3.5% in two years. The 1994 population could be estimated at 4,932 if that growth rate continued. The population for A.D. 2000 would be 5,449 if the growth rate remains the same.

If the population is already approximately 5,000 by unofficial estimates, and if the growth rate is 15% in ten years, then the figure for 2005 could be 5,750.

Perhaps more interesting, for the last 10 years, Waldoboro's growth rate has been 1 2/3 that of the state as a whole, indicating that Waldoboro is in one of the faster growing areas of the state.

Age distribution of the population is perhaps more meaningful than the gross numbers. Table II provides such a breakdown. During the last 10 years Waldoboro's greatest growth was in the 18-44 bracket, 23%, while its over 65 bracket grew only 12%. The percentage in each age group seems a statistically normal breakdown. The statistics also show that 84% of residents over 18 are of employable age and can be considered potential workers.

The age groups by percent of the total population for Waldoboro in 1990 were as follows: Under 18: 27%; 18 - 44: 37%; 45 - 64: 20%; and 65+: 16%. Median age for Waldoboro in 1990 was 35.2 and median age for Lincoln County was 37.4. (Source: U.S. Census, Maine Office of Vital Statistics)

Table II
Age Distribution

Age Group	Waldoboro		Lincoln County		Knox County		State of Maine	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
< 18	1,186	1,253 (+ 6%)	7,125	7,639 (+ 7%)	4,650	8,864 (+90%)	322,162	309,300 (- 4%)
18-44	1,394	1,717 (+23%)	9,165	11,235 (+23%)	5,515	14,071(+155%)	442,151	523,283 (+18%)
45-64	776	925 (+19%)	5,345	6,459 (+21%)	3,636	7,207 (+98%)	219,431	232,185 (+ 6%)
65+	629	706 (+12%)	4,056	5,024 (+24%)	3,206	6,168 (+92%)	140,916	163,160 (+16%)
Total	3,985	4,601 (+15%)	25,691	30,357 (+18%)	17,010	36,310 (+113%)	1,124,660	1,227,928(+ 9%)

Source: U.S. Census

Table III shows a breakdown of population by sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

Table III
Ethnic Characteristics

	Total	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Waldoboro	4,601	2,224	2,377	4,586	3	12	8
Lincoln County	30,357	14,787	15,570	30,185	23	126	149
Knox County	36,310	17,603	18,707	36,039	56	142	265

Source: Summary of State of Maine Census

The school age group (5-17) and the young adult group (18-24) decreased 8.1 and 12.5 percent respectively between the 1980 and 1990 census counts. The aging of the baby boomers resulted in the largest change, both numerically (97,056) and proportionally (32.2%) in age group (25-44). The increase, which was considerably less than expected, in the elderly population (65+) was 15.9 percent. The age group (85+) increased 29.3 percent between 1980 and 1990.

The number of households in Maine increased (17.7%), which was almost double the rate of increase in population. The number of housing structures consisting of a single housing unit increased 18 percent between 1980 and 1990. Structures containing 2 to 4 housing units decreased 6.7 percent. The number of mobile homes increased 65.6 percent between 1980 and 1990.

There were four counties with a population growth almost double the average growth of 9.1 percent for the state. They were Lincoln, York, Sagadahoc, and Waldo.

Table IV

Census Data

	1860	1900	1970	1980	1970-1980	1990	1980-1990
Waldoboro	4,569	3,145	3,146	3,985	(+27%)	4,601	(+15%)
Friendship	770	814	834	1000	(+20%)	1,099	(+10%)
Union	1,958	1,248	1,189	1,569	(+32%)	1,989	(+27%)
Warren	2,321	2,069	1,864	2,566	(+38%)	3,138	(+22%)
Washington	1,662	1,019	723	954	(+32%)	1,186	(+24%)

(Source: U.S. Census)

Waldoboro's unemployment rate is shown in Table V. Waldoboro's rate of 7.7% is only slightly higher than the State rate for the same time. Since we are considering, relatively speaking, very small numbers, percentages are probably not meaningful except in a very general way. Several observations should be made however. Employment or employment fluctuations at Waldoboro's largest employer; OSRAM Sylvania, (195 employees of which only 50 are residents), or at any other single industry, can have a huge effect on Waldoboro's rate. Conversely, a 7% rate translates to roughly 143 employees, few enough so that unemployment could be significantly altered or eliminated by minor industry changes.

Table V

Percentage Unemployment For Ages 16 and Over

	1980	1990
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Waldoboro	7.0%	7.7%
Lincoln County		6.3%
Knox County	7.3%	7.2%
State of Maine	6.9%	6.6%

(Source: U.S. Census)

Table VI shows migration patterns for Knox and Lincoln Counties and for Waldoboro, 1990-1992.

Table VI

Estimated Population By Age Group

County	1990 Census	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Total	0-4	5-17	18-44	45-64	65+
Lincoln	30,357	163	82	30,602	1,893	5,554	11,320	6,717	5,108
Knox	36,310	97	353	36,760	2,250	6,563	14,005	7,625	6,417
State of Maine	1,227,928	13,188	-4,768	1,236,348	63,262	223,277	519,431	242,260	168,118

(Source: Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Data, Research & Vital Statistics (6/1994))

Table VII

Estimated Total Population and By Age Group On 7/1/92

Minor Civil Division	1990 Census	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Total	0-4	5-17	18-44	45-64	65+
LINCOLN COUNTY	30,357	163	82	30,602	1,893	5,564	11,320	6,717	5,108
Alna	571	9	0	580	37	101	230	134	78
Boothbay	2,548	1	-56	2,593	161	431	951	643	407
Boothbay Harbor	2,347	-14	-49	2,284	127	322	779	545	511
Bremen	674	-14	-14	646	23	115	210	144	154
Bristol	2,326	-1	-49	2,276	108	376	787	519	486
Damariscotta	1,811	11	-2	1,820	87	294	569	393	477
Dresden	1,332	29	-1	1,360	95	270	571	289	135
Edgecomb	993	7	-1	999	55	187	374	231	152
Jefferson	2,111	32	59	2,202	134	452	876	464	276
Monhegan	88	0	-2	86	5	12	33	22	14
Newcastle	1,538	-11	-1	1,526	102	259	539	315	311
Nobleboro	1,455	22	40	1,517	116	259	583	352	207
Somerville	458	-3	12	467	30	108	212	81	36
South Bristol	825	-4	-17	804	36	120	253	198	197
Southport	645	-2	-14	629	31	83	194	150	171
Waldoboro	4,601	36	128	4,765	339	939	1,738	1,014	735
Westport	663	7	-1	669	47	107	266	154	95
Whitefield	1,931	20	53	2,004	139	454	808	357	246
Wiscasset	3,339	38	-3	3,374	221	675	1,347	712	419
Hibberts Gore									
U	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Source: Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Data, Research & Vital Statistics (6/1994)