

A. POPULATION

1. Purpose

Population is one of the most basic elements of a comprehensive plan. In order to understand the town's current and future needs, a detailed examination of population characteristics is necessary. For example, the age structure of the population will affect the need for additional school space. This section aims to:

- a. describe Orland's recent population trends;
- b. discuss how these trends relate to and contrast with those in Hancock County and the state; and
- c. review likely future population trends.

2. Key Findings and Issues

Orland's year-round population increased by about 26 percent in the 1970s and at a 10 percent rate during the 1980s. Preliminary estimates for the 1990s indicate a 15 percent rate of growth. The estimated 1994 population is 1,909 and the town is projected to have a population of 2,224 by the year 2005.

While the town as a whole has been growing, the school-aged portion of population actually decreased between 1970 and 1990. The fastest growing age group was those 65 years and over. The next fastest were those between the ages of 45 and 64. The town thus appears to be attracting more persons of retirement and pre-retirement ages.

3. Public Opinion Survey and Community Workshop Results

About 44 percent of respondents said that the population should stay the same, 33 percent said it should increase and 6 percent said it should decrease. While 23 percent said that population growth was a problem, 53 percent said it was not a problem.

4. Historical Trends

Like many coastal Maine towns, Orland's population decreased during the second half of the 19th century (the historical context of these changes is discussed in Chapter K, Historical and Archaeological Resources). In fact, Orland's year-round population continued to decrease until 1930 when it had only 891 residents, compared to 1,787 in 1860. Since then, the town has experienced steady population growth, with the largest increase occurring from 1970-1980 when the town gained 338 residents, a 26 percent growth rate. Year-round population increased by 160 residents, or 9.7 percent, between 1980 and 1990. According to estimates by the Department of Human Services Office of Data and Statistics, Orland's population increased by nearly 6 percent from 1990 to 1994, with 1,909 residents estimated for 1994. Therefore, it is predicted that Orland will continue to experience a steady population growth. Population projections are discussed in more detail in Section 7 of this chapter (see

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Table A.1 and Figure A.1 and A.2).

Despite the slowdown of year-round population growth from the rates which occurred during the 1980's, the town's population has reached an historic high, surpassing 1860 population figures by 122 residents. Although the current year-round population is similar to its mid-nineteenth century levels, the impact of these residents on the town is more pronounced. First, as will be discussed in Section 5C of this chapter, average household sizes are smaller than they were, meaning that more homes have been built to accommodate the same population (see Table A.3). Second, it is more expensive to provide municipal services to these homes, which means a greater impact on the tax base. Third, these population figures do not include Orland's seasonal residents.

Table A.1				
Historical Year-Round Population Trends				
Orland and Hancock County				
Year	Orland	% change	Hancock Cty	% change
1860	1,787	--	37,379	--
1870	1,701	-4.8%	36,360	-2.7%
1880	1,689	-0.7%	37,975	4.4%
1890	1,390	-17.7%	37,016	-2.5%
1900	1,251	-10.0%	37,039	0.1%
1910	1,224	-2.2%	35,515	-4.1%
1920	910	-25.7%	30,457	-14.2%
1930	891	-2.1%	30,760	1.0%
1940	1,051	18.0%	32,388	5.3%
1950	1,155	9.9%	32,083	-0.9%
1960	1,195	3.5%	30,812	-4.0%
1970	1,307	9.4%	34,505	12.0%
1980	1,645	25.9%	41,781	21.1%
1990	1,805	9.7%	46,948	12.4%
1994	1,909	5.8%	48,837	4.0%
2000	2,081	15.3%*	50,344	7.2%*
2005	2,224	6.9%	51,600	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Historical Records; 1994 figures Dept of Human Services, Office of Data and Statistics
 *Percentage change from 1990-2000

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5. Current Conditions

a. Age Characteristics

The change in age distribution in Orland between 1970 and 1990 is shown in Table A.2. Overall, the median age increased from 31.1 in 1980 to 35.5 in 1990. There was an 18 percent increase in the number of pre-school-aged children over the 20-year period, while the number of school-aged children decreased by 21 percent between 1970 and 1990. This trend is significant since school costs are a major component of the municipal budget. Enrollment trends are discussed further in the Public Services and Facilities chapter (Chapter E).

Table A.2
Age Distribution Orland and Hancock County: 1970, 1980, 1990

	Years of Age	1970	% of total	1980	% of total	% change '70-'80	1990	% of total	% change '80-'90	% change '70-'90
O R L A N D	0-4	98	7.5%	119	7.2%	21.4%	116	6.4%	-2.5%	18.4%
	5-17	447	34.2%	348	21.2%	-22.1%	352	19.5%	1.2%	-21.3%
	18-44	389	29.8%	661	40.2%	69.9%	725	40.2%	9.7%	86.4%
	45-64	263	20.1%	360	21.9%	36.9%	400	22.2%	11.1%	52.1%
	65 +	110	8.4%	157	9.5%	42.7%	212	11.7%	35.0%	92.7%
	Orland Total	1,307	100%	1,645	100%	25.9%	1,805	100%	9.7%	38.1%
H A N C O C K C O U N T Y	0-4	2,652	7.7%	2,610	6.2%	-1.6%	3,205	6.8%	22.8%	20.9%
	5-17	8,491	24.5%	8,409	20.1%	-1.0%	8,130	17.3%	-3.3%	-4.3%
	18-44	10,912	31.5%	15,865	38.0%	45.4%	19,057	40.6%	20.1%	74.6%
	45-64	7,596	22.0%	8,465	20.3%	11.4%	9,401	20.0%	11.1%	23.8%
	65 +	4,939	14.3%	6,432	15.4%	30.2%	7,155	15.2%	11.2%	44.9%
	Hancock County Total	34,590	100%	41,781	100%	20.8%	46,948	100%	12.4%	35.7%

Source: U.S. Census 1970-1990

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There has been a consistent increase in 18-44 age group over the 20 year period. As of 1990, this group accounted for about 40 percent of the total population, compared to only 30 percent in 1970. This increase may be significant because 18-44 year olds are in their prime child-bearing years. This could lead to future increases in school enrollment. Overall, the proportion of young adults in Orland is consistent with that of Hancock County as a whole.

There was a less significant increase of those in the 45 to 64 age group from 1970-1990. In 1990, this group comprised 22 percent of Orland's year round population compared to 20 percent for Hancock County. This group constitutes the pre-retirement group, and are less likely to have school-aged children.

The 65 years and older group experienced the fastest growth rate, increasing almost 93% from 1970-1990. In 1990 this group accounted for 12 percent of Orland's population. Despite the substantial increase in the number of Orland's senior citizens, this group represents a lower percentage of the total population than county average of 15 percent.

b. Educational Attainment

The US Census tracks the educational attainment of persons aged 25 years and older. According to the 1990 Census, there were 1,197 persons in this age group. Of this group, about 81 percent of Orland residents were high school graduates or higher, compared to about 83 percent for Hancock County. Approximately 17 percent of this age group had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to a 21.4 percent rate for the county. Thus, educational attainment levels in Orland are only slightly less than those of Hancock County.

c. Household Size

According to the 1990 Census, Orland's median household size was 2.65, compared to 2.48 for Hancock County. In 1980, average household size in Orland was 2.77, compared to 2.62 in Hancock County as a whole (see Table A.3). In recent years household sizes in Orland have remained above the Hancock County average.

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Table A.3 Change in Household Size, Orland and Hancock County					
		1970	1980	1990	2005*
Orland	# households	376	594	670	829
	# persons per household	3.48	2.77	2.65	2.65
Hancock County	# households	11,334	15,442	18,342	20,202
	# persons per household	2.97	2.62	2.48	2.48

Source: U.S. Census;
 * Year 2005 estimates for # of households are extrapolations obtained using the following formula: (pop projection for 2005 - persons living group quarters ÷ persons per household)
Both the # persons per household and persons living in group quarters (Orland 28, Hancock Cty 1,499) are assumed to have leveled off at 1990 levels

Household sizes in both Orland and Hancock County have shown a steady decrease between 1970 and 1990, which is consistent with national trends caused by factors such as higher divorce rates and the tendency for families to have fewer children. Household size, however, appears to have leveled off at the current size. Smaller household sizes mean that more units of housing are needed for a given number of residents than was once the case. It is expected that further decreases in household size will be minimal.

d. Income

According to the 1990 Census, Orland's 1989 median household income¹ was \$30,726. This is higher than the county median of \$25,247 and the state median of \$27,854. There was a less noticeable gap in 1979 when Orland's median income was \$13,333 compared to \$12,146 for the county and \$13,816 for the state. According to the 1990 Census, Orland has the fifth highest median income in Hancock County (Table A.4).

¹ Median household income represents the middle value of the income distribution. Exactly one half of the incomes fall above this value, and one half fall below this value.

Table A.4 Towns in Hancock County with a 1990 Median Household Income of at Least \$30,000			
Rank	Town	Population	Median Household Income
1	Castine	1,161	\$35,104
2	Dedham	1,229	\$32,237
3	Mount Desert	1,899	\$31,109
4	Otis	355	\$31,094
5	Orland	1,805	\$30,726
6	Lamoine	1,311	\$30,625
7	Great Pond	59	\$30,417
8	Verona	515	\$30,000
Source: US Census 1990			

These figures indicate that economic conditions in Orland have been improving. For example, the town's 17.4 percent poverty rate in 1979 had dropped to 9 percent by 1989. Hancock County had a 10 percent poverty rate in 1989. Poverty is thus slightly less of a problem in Orland than in Hancock County.

The various age groups in 1989 had different poverty rates. For persons eighteen years and older the rate was 8.9 percent, compared to a 9.3 percent rate for related children under eighteen. About 5.9 percent of those related children under age five lived in poverty compared to 10.4 percent of children aged 5-17. The highest poverty rate, 10.8 percent, was for those 65 years and older. Poverty would appear to be the greatest problem for senior citizens. Thus, this is the group that may have the greatest need for human services programs.

e. Other Information

The 1990 Census figures indicate a low rate of mobility among Orland residents. About 65 percent of those aged five or older had lived in the same house in 1985, compared to 57 percent for Hancock County. About 89 percent had lived in Maine, 18.9 percent had lived in a different county or state. Similarly, 18.8 percent of Hancock County had lived in a different county or state. Therefore, Orland residents have approximately the same level of mobility as the county as a whole.

6. Seasonal Population

The 1990 Census identified 336 housing units for seasonal, recreational or occasional use. Assuming a household size of one and a half to two times the year-round average, Orland could conceivably gain anywhere from 1,336 to 1,780 additional residents during the summer. This number, however, probably overstates the summer population, since many of these second homes are owned by year-round residents. This is especially the case around the various ponds and rivers. However, at least a portion of the second homes are owned by non-residents. Unfortunately, there is no reliable way to estimate how many, and therefore an accurate estimate of peak summer population cannot be made. If assumed, for general planning purposes, that only half of the second homes (336) are owned by people from out-of-town, the additional summer resident population would be between 625 and 835.

7. Projected Population

Small town populations are very difficult to project because there are a large number of factors affecting growth and decline. Any estimate must be considered general and should be revised at least every 5 years as more up-to-date projections become available from the Maine Department of Human Services.

While Orland grew by 26 percent between 1970 and 1980, it grew by only 9.7 percent between 1980 and 1990, which was considerably slower than Hancock County's 12.4 percent growth rate during the 1980's. From 1990 to 1994, Orland grew 5.8 percent, which is slightly higher than the 4 percent growth experienced in Hancock County during this same period. Given this steady population growth, which accompanied the relatively slow economy of the first part of the 1990's, it is probable that Orland's year-round population will continue to increase by at least one percent each year, and perhaps as much as 1.5 percent each year. This would give the town a population estimated between 2,119 to 2,224 by the year 2005. In 1993, the Maine State Planning Office projected Hancock County's population to be 51,600 in 2005 compared to 48,837 in 1994.

The Maine Department of Transportation projects that the town's population will be between 2,276 to 2,418 by the year 2015. These numbers were developed for estimating future transportation needs and will be revised periodically. Given the population increase experienced during the early 1990's, these projections appear to be low.