

## **STATE GOAL**

There is no specific state goal that addresses population; however, all other goals depend on an understanding of population and demographic data for the municipality and region.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Milo's past, present and future projected population trends are important factors to consider in relation to its future. The intent of this section is to analyze selected socio-economic characteristics of Milo's year-round population (hereinafter referred to as population) to provide a basis for future growth management decisions. An important goal of a comprehensive plan is to provide for a productive relationship between the future population and important community resources. Accordingly, most phases of the Comprehensive Plan are either dependent upon, or strongly influenced by, the size and composition of the Town's future population.

## **TOTAL POPULATION AND GROWTH RATES**

Milo was known as Township 3, Range 7 of Waldo Patent in Penobscot County (after 1838, Piscataquis County). The Town's first settlement can be traced back to the early 1800s along the banks of the Town's major rivers: The Piscataquis, Pleasant and Sebec, which provided farmland and means of transportation. In 1820, the Township became a plantation with a population of 97 people and incorporated on January 27, 1823. By 1850, Milo had a population of 932 people and entered the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with 2,556 residents. The boom in population is related to two firms that would long dominate the Town's economy moving into Town. First, the American Thread Company established a wooden spool operation in 1902, providing 220 new jobs followed by the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad who moved its car building and repairing shops to Milo Junction (Derby). The Depression in 1929 signaled the beginning of the end of Milo's growth. The 1930-1940 decade was characterized by a gain of 88 people for a total of 3,000 people followed by a slow, but steady decline as the Depression wore on. The Post-World War II education boom resulted in many local young adults relocating to metropolitan areas.

Only two industries from the boom days remained by 1970, American Thread Company, who continued to resist the growing trend toward plastic spools as the birchwood product remained reliable and the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, who continued its car shop operation though it had discontinued ownership of the homes on First and Second Streets in 1958. Although the 1960s marked economic decline for Milo, Dexter Shoe Company built a new plant on Outer Park Street in 1966. In 1975, Dexter Shoe expanded, two new supermarket buildings were constructed and a small spurt occurred in home construction. American Thread Company announced the closing of its wooden spool operation in 1976. A replacement industry was found with Basketville Corporation - a basket and novelty manufacturing and retailing firm based in Vermont. Basketville created a new company called Milo Woodcrafters, Inc. and began basket-making operations in two former school buildings in June 1976. They located a retail store at the American Thread mill for further sale of wood novelties.

During the 1980s Diamond International, which had briefly operated a sawmill during the late 1950s, returned with a modern chipping facility to serve its Old Town paper mill. In addition,

the O&R Lumber Company expanded its sawmill operation west of Derby and the Bangor and Aroostook increased its production. At least ten businesses either initiated operation or expanded their present facilities.

Since 1990, Guilford of Maine, and the largest employment sector, the paper, lumber and wood industry, has cut nearly 250 jobs. In addition, the downsizing of Great Northern Paper and the closing of Dexter Shoe resulted in a significant loss of additional jobs. The decline of the manufacturing of durable goods in the area significantly impacted Milo's residents, as well as the Dover-Foxcroft LMA and the County as a whole. JSI Sore Fixtures, Inc. relocated its expanding operations to Milo in 2000. In October 2001, Bangor and Aroostook Railroad was involuntarily placed in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection. In October of 2002, the bankruptcy court approved a deal in which Rail World, Inc. proposed to purchase 835 miles of tracks, facilities and real estate from the B&A System for \$50 million. Rail World formed a new company, called Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, which intends to revitalize the system. In September 2002, Rail World, Inc. announced that it concluded an agreement to buy two Canadian Pacific Railway lines, linking the B&A System with two lines in northern Vermont.

The information shown in the following table (Table 1) shows the population and growth rate in Milo for each decade since 1830.

Table 1

<b>TOWN OF MILO HISTORIC POPULATION</b>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>
1830	381	
1840	756	98.43%
1850	932	23.28%
1860	959	2.90%
1870	938	-2.19%
1880	934	-0.43%
1890	1029	10.17%
1900	1,150	11.76%
1910	2,556	122.26%
1920	2,894	13.22%
1930	2,912	0.62%
1940	3,000	3.02%
1950	2,898	-3.40%
1960	2,756	-4.90%
1970	2,572	-6.68%
1980	2,624	2.02%
1990	2,600	-0.91%
2000	2,383	-8.35%

Source: Fogler Library Maine Census Data – <http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.asp>

## **POPULATION GROWTH – COMPARATIVE TRENDS**

Milo's population has been decreasing and is expected to continue decreasing through 2010, as projected by the State Planning Office. Dover-Foxcroft, one of Piscataquis County's two Service Centers, is experiencing similar rates of population decline. Neighboring Brownville is experiencing an even greater rate of decline, while Sebec, a community which 21.9 percent of the housing stock is classified as seasonal, recreational or occasional use, is experiencing population increases which are expected to continue through 2015. The population for Piscataquis County as a whole has also been experiencing similar decreases and is projected to continue decreasing through 2010.

Table 2

<b>POPULATION LEVELS AND RATES OF CHANGE</b>							
	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005 Projection</b>	<b>2010 Projection</b>	<b>2015 Projection</b>
<b>Milo</b>	2,572	2,624	2,600	2,383	2,263	2,203	2,245
Rate of Change		2.02%	-0.91%	-8.35%	-5.04%	-2.65%	1.91%
<b>Brownville</b>	1,490	1,545	1,506	1,259	1,157	1,112	1,114
Rate of Change		3.69%	-2.52%	-16.40%	-8.10%	-3.89%	0.18%
<b>Sebec</b>	325	469	554	612	648	679	704
Rate of Change		44.31%	18.12%	10.47%	5.88%	4.78%	3.68%
<b>Dover-Foxcroft</b>	4,178	4,323	4,657	4,211	4,001	3,907	3,962
Rate of Change		3.47%	7.73%	-9.58%	-4.99%	-2.35%	1.41%
<b>Piscataquis County</b>	16,285	17,634	18,653	17,235	15,806	15,626	15,953
Rate of Change		8.30%	5.80%	-7.60%	-8.29%	-1.14%	2.09%
<b>State of Maine</b>	993,663	1,124,660	1,227,928	1,274,928	1,300,000	1,330,117	1,371,022
Rate of Change		13.20%	9.10%	3.80%	1.97%	2.32%	3.08%

Source: Fogler Library Maine Census Data – <http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.asp>  
 U.S. Census Bureau  
 Projections: State Planning Office

## **SEASONAL POPULATION**

The 2000 Census reports that Milo has 53 housing units (4.4% of the total housing stock) used for seasonal, recreational or occasional use. Using an estimate of three persons per seasonal dwelling unit, it is estimated that Milo's 2000 seasonal population is 159 people.

## **GROUP QUARTERS**

According to the 2000 Census, none of the Town's population is living in group quarters.

## **MIGRATION PATTERNS**

Maine's population is mobile. The Maine State Planning Office (SPO) reports that, on average, 40 percent of the State's residents move at least once during a five-year period. Such population shifts will affect a rural community like Milo. Net migration is defined as the number of people that Milo has gained or lost after factoring out the actual number of births and deaths. The Town of Milo experienced an out-migration of 194 people, or 7.46 percent of the population from 1990 to 2000.

Table 3

<b>MIGRATION PATTERNS</b>						
	<b>Population</b>		<b>Intercensal</b>		<b>Net Migration</b>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Milo	2,383	2,600	313	336	(194)	(7.46)%
Piscataquis County	17,235	18,653	1,820	2,108	(1,130)	(6.06)%
State of Maine	1,274,923	1,227,928	148,158	116,087	14,924	1.22%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maine Department of Data, Research and Vital Statistics  
 Net Migration = 2000 Population – (1990 Population + (Intercensal Births – Intercensal Deaths))

## **POPULATION BY AGE GROUP**

Demographic changes affect many aspects of a community's economy and overall well-being and is very influential on society. Demographic changes affect income, consumer expenditures, the labor force, demand for education at all levels, demand for human resources, and state revenues and expenses.

Although the number of youths in the United States has increased, the State of Maine's population under 18 years old is shrinking. In Milo, the population under 5 years old decreased by more than 25 percent from 1990 to 2000 and is projected to continue decreasing through 2015. The school-aged population (5 to 18 years old) also decreased by more than 7 percent from 1990 to 2000. This trend of decreasing school-aged children could be a warning sign of school closings and/or consolidations in some regions and labor shortages that will hinder economic growth in our future. In order to have a sufficient and economically viable entry-level work force, it is important for the young adult population (18-29) to be maintained and properly trained. The young adult population (18-29) in Milo decreased by more than 28 percent from 1990 to 2000. The closing of Dexter Shoe and Great Northern Paper directly affected the Town's population. The population may have been left with no alternative but to leave Milo in their search for gainful employment. The 30 to 44 years old population brings more than dollars to economy. Generally, this segment of the population participates actively in the workforce, purchases homes, start businesses and have children enrolled in school. Milo's 30-44 year old population has decreased less than one percent from 1990 to 2000, and is projected to decrease an additional 8.4 percent through 2015. Peak earning years for workers happens between the ages of 45 and 64, making it very important economically for a community to maintain that population segment. Milo's 45 to 64 year old population decreased 1.75 percent from 1990 to 2000 and is projected to stay somewhat steady through 2015. Maine has one of the oldest populations in the United States. The senior population in Maine as a whole has grown rapidly and is projected to continue increasing, causing communities to shift special services and public support to meet the needs of the elderly, which is quite challenging in rural communities where services are not always readily available. Milo's 65-79 year old population decreased by almost 9 percent during the 1990s. The only age group with increasing populations in Milo is the population 80 years or older.

Because the elderly population is increasing and the working age population is decreasing, there will be more of a demand on services for the elderly and less of a demand for services for children and young adults.

Table 4

POPULATION BY AGE												
	Milo				Piscataquis County				State of Maine			
	1990	2000	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	1990	2000	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	1990	2000	2010 Projection	2015 Projection
0-4	174	129	121	120	1,122	783	746	752	86,471	70,047	72,043	73,041
5-17	477	442	351	355	3,618	3,040	2,296	2,300	221,667	228,196	199,393	204,145
18-29	396	285	281	260	2,471	1,726	1,691	1,568	221,016	175,475	189,784	178,802
30-44	513	510	445	467	4,132	3,495	2,778	2,877	299,626	295,688	261,676	274,751
45-64	573	563	568	552	3,705	4,457	5,249	5,218	231,462	315,946	408,070	411,622
65-79	366	334	304	358	2,233	2,094	1,975	2,345	123,736	134,352	155,493	187,337
80+	111	126	133	133	743	835	891	893	41,011	50,595	58,631	59,375
<b>Total</b>	2,610	2,389	2,203	2,245	18,024	16,430	15,626	15,953	1,225,259	1,270,299	1,330,117	1,371,022
Median age	36.7	40.8			36.6	42.1			33.9	38.6		

Source: Maine State Planning Office

Note: State Planning Office totals differ from the U.S. Census Bureau

Table 5

PERCENT OF CHANGE IN POPULATION BY AGE 1990-2000			
	Milo	Piscataquis County	State of Maine
0-4	-25.86%	-30.21%	-18.99%
5-17	-7.34%	-15.98%	-18.99%
18-29	-28.03%	-30.15%	-20.61%
30-44	-0.58%	-15.42%	-1.31%
45-64	-1.75%	20.30%	36.50%
65-79	-8.74%	-6.22%	8.58%
80+	13.51%	12.38%	23.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-8.47%</b>	<b>-8.84%</b>	<b>3.68%</b>

Source: Maine State Planning Office

## MILO POPULATION BY GENDER

As shown in the table below, Milo's population is made up of more females than males.

Table 6

POPULATION BY GENDER TOWN OF MILO					
Year	Female	%	Male	%	Total
2000	1,265	53.09%	1,118	46.92%	2,383
1990	1,353	52.04%	1,247	47.96%	2,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## HOUSEHOLDS

In Tables 7 and 8, the household size and number of households with rates of change for the Town of Milo, Brownville, Sebec, Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis County and the State of Maine are presented. The decrease in average household size can be attributed to the decreasing young adult population, increasing elderly population, and single person households becoming more common.

Table 7

<b>AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND RATE OF CHANGE</b>						
	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005 Projection</b>	<b>2010 Projection</b>	<b>2015 Projection</b>
Milo	2.76	2.50	2.33	2.21	2.11	2.00
Rate of Change		-9.42%	-6.80%	-5.15%	-4.52%	-5.21%
Brownville	2.73	2.55	2.28	2.18	2.07	1.96
Rate of Change		-6.59%	-10.59%	-4.39%	-5.05%	-5.31%
Sebec	3.09	2.72	2.55	2.38	2.24	2.11
Rate of Change		-11.97	-6.25	-6.67	-5.88	-5.80
Dover-Foxcroft	2.80	2.64	2.52	2.45	2.38	2.31
Rate of Change		-5.71	-4.55	-2.78	-2.86	-2.94
Piscataquis County	2.80	2.56	2.34	2.22	2.10	1.99
Rate of Change		-8.57%	-8.59%	-5.13%	-5.41%	-5.24%
State of Maine	2.75	2.56	2.39	2.30	2.21	2.12
Rate of Change		-6.91%	-6.64%	-3.77%	-3.91%	-4.07%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

Projections: Based on a 20-year period using linear regression analysis

The number of households in Milo decreased from 1990 to 2000, at a similar rate of Dover-Foxcroft. The Town of Brownville showed a larger decrease in households, while neighboring Sebec had a significant increase in the number of households. Piscataquis County as a whole showed a only a slight increase in households.

Table 8

<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RATE OF CHANGE</b>						
	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005 Projection</b>	<b>2010 Projection</b>	<b>2015 Projection</b>
Milo	952	1,040	1,021	1,056	1,073	1,091
Rate of Change		9.24%	-1.83%	3.43%	1.61%	1.68%
Brownville	566	591	558	566	564	562
Rate of Change		4.42%	-5.58%	1.43	-.35	-.35
Sebec	152	204	242	267	289	312
Rate of Change		25.49%	18.63%	10.33%	8.24%	7.96%
Dover-Foxcroft	1,542	1,699	1,668	1,731	1,762	1,794
Rate of Change		10.18%	-1.82%	3.78%	1.79%	1.82%
Piscataquis County	6,290	7,194	7,278	7,662	7,909	8,156
Rate of Change		14.37%	1.17%	5.28%	3.22%	3.12%
State of Maine	395,184	465,312	518,200	551,827	582,581	613,335
Rate of Change		17.75%	11.37%	6.49%	5.57%	5.28%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

Projections: Based on a 20-year period using linear regression analysis

## **EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS**

Educational attainment is a community planning issue based on the premise that meeting the academic requirements of specific programs better prepares a labor force to function at a more productive level. As the economic environment has grown more complex over the years, there has been a corresponding increase of educational expectations and aspirations. At one time, an

eighth grade education was considered sufficient. Today a high school diploma is considered a minimum level of achievement. However, the means to a more earning potential has, for a very long time, been reserved for those with a college education. No other social indicators suggest quality of life and overall well being more than educational attainment. It is the single most important factor in predicting how well we prosper over the years. Culture, aspirations, economic opportunities, family, community institutions and activities influence educational attainment.

The upward trend in education attainment levels of individuals age 25 and over reflect the increasing emphasis placed on higher education. This trend shows up in Maine as it does elsewhere in the United States; although overall, Maine shows a slightly higher number of persons with at least a high school diploma and slightly less with college degrees than the United States as a whole. This is due more to the nature of the economy in Maine rather than any lack of interest in higher education. Since people generally attend college as a way of ensuring greater economic opportunity, the tendency is to migrate to places where the opportunities are the greatest. The same economic influence accounts for differences among the counties and municipalities of the state as well. Rural counties and towns some distance from job centers tend to have lower levels of educational attainment because economic opportunity is usually found elsewhere. Rural communities within commuting distance of job centers and coastal retirement areas tend to have higher levels because economic success allows the flexibility of residential choice.

The table below shows that the Town of Milo has a slightly lower percentage of both high school and college graduates than the County and State. This again, can be contributed to the lack of professional employment opportunities in the Town, and the region. Local opinion indicates there is a lack of professional services in the area (medical, dental, financial, plumbing, electrical services, etc.). It is essential for the school system to assist in fostering entrepreneurialship in youth by encouraging a higher level of ambition and creativity of students. It is essential that the value of education is impressed upon students and a solid work ethic and understanding of accountability is instilled.

Table 9

<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>						
<b>Persons 25 years old and over</b>						
	<b>High School Graduate</b>			<b>4 Years or More of College</b>		
	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Milo	67.3%	81.9%	76.8%	7.4%	16.2%	10.3%
Piscataquis County	65.4%	75.4%	80.3%	8.3%	12.3%	13.3%
State of Maine	68.7%	78.8%	85.4%	14.4%	18.8%	22.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Because there is a recognized need to educate and continue educating the adult population, the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) was one of the prime organizers in an effort to bring a higher education facility to Piscataquis County. After listening to business leaders, PCEDC realized that the County needed an education facility that could offer both college level classes for residents as well as customized workforce development training to meet the needs of our businesses. Because of these needs, the PCEDC and other allies (including the

University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System) organized a successful effort to get State funding for a center. Because of this team effort, the Penquis Higher Education Center (PHEC) was formed. The \$1.5 million Center is located at the former Mayo Elementary School in Dover-Foxcroft. It offers convenient and economical higher education in a variety of selected fields including: Business Management, Computer Technologies, Early Childhood Education, Health Care, Manufacturing Technologies, Trade & Technical Occupations, and general Workforce Development skills.

The Center also provides student services including: Academic advising, including degree information and course selections; Admissions information; Registration services; College preparatory courses; Developmental education, including study skills and adult education referrals; and Specialized training programs.