*P*opulation Characteristics

*F*indings

❖ *Population increased 78% over the 1970's but in following decades the increases have been slowing with 10% increase from 2000-2010, and an estimated 5% increase from 2010-2019.*

❖ *Population increase is now almost equally caused by in-migration (people moving into Poland) as it is due to natural increase (more births than deaths). Both in-migration and natural increase have decreased in the last decade.*

❖ *As population increased, the average household size has decreased and more adults are living alone including those over the age of 65, requiring more housing units to house the same number of people.*

*I*ntroduction

Population trends and characteristics are a product of several factors. They include local and regional employment opportunities, the availability of housing in varying price ranges, the community's natural and social attributes and family ties. By looking at population characteristics, trends and forecasts, Poland can be prepared for population change, anticipate future demands for community services and land use changes.

Population and Household Characteristics: 1990-2018

General Population Characteristics	1990	2000	2010	2018 estimated
Total Population	4,342	4,866	5,376	5,552
Male Population	2,246	2,467	2,690	2,853
Female Population	2,096	2,399	2,686	2,699
Median Age	33.0	38.5	43.4	46.0
Total Households	1,515	1,845	2,140	2,315
Family* Households	1,229	1,437	1,581	1,508
Married Couple Family Households	1,059	1,196	1,275	1,272
Nonfamily Households	286	408	559	807
Nonfamily Households Living Alone	220	297	396	506

Households with children (under 18)	624	693	674	548
Single-Person Household 65 years +	79	103	137	245
Average Household Size	2.80	2.63	2.49	2.40

Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 Census and 2018 American Community Survey

*Family is defined aa a group of two people or more related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

Population Trends

The resident population of Poland grew from 2,015 in 1970 to 5,376 in 2010 - a 167% increase. Over that period, the decade of the 1970's saw the greatest increase in population, at 78%. The 80's, 90's and 2000's had 21% , 12% and 10 % increases respectively and it is estimated that the 10's had a 5% increase. The population growth in Poland has been similar to other fast growing communities in the region, with only Raymond, Otisfield, Casco, and Minot seeing similar increases over 100% between 1970-2010. Many of these communities saw their bigger increases in earlier decades like Poland. In 2000-2010, Casco grew 8%, Otisfield grew 2%, and Raymond grew 3% while Minot grew 16% and New Gloucester grew by 15%.

Past projections and those included in the last Comprehensive Plan for 2004-2020 anticipated the fast growth of the 1990's and early 2000's would continue, but the population increase for Poland was much more modest than projected.

Projections for 2019 show a declining growth regionally for the period 2010 -2019 with Otisfield, Raymond and Minot all growing at less than 2%, and Casco and New Gloucester growing similar to Poland both at 5%. Androscoggin County's growth slowed to just under 4% from 2000-2010 and was projected to have been less than one percent from 2010-2019.

Recent anecdotal evidence (2019-2020 real estate market) shows a tight housing market made tighter with housing in other counties, primarily Cumberland and York, becoming extreme in its unaffordability for many residents. Towns in Androscoggin County are among those being sought as more affordable alternatives by buyers. It is too soon to know if that will only impact existing housing prices or whether it will also result in more home construction and subsequent population increase in the region and possibly Poland.

Regional Population Change: 1970 – 2019 (estimated)

Town	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1970-2010	2019 Estimated
Poland	**2,015**	**3,578** 78% increase	**4,342** 21% increase	**4,866** 12% increase	**5,376** 10% increase	**167%**	*5,647 5% increase estimated*
Auburn	24,151	23,128	24,309	23,203	23,055	4.5%	23,414
Casco	1,256	2,243	3,018	3,469	3,742	198%	3,928
Mech. Falls	2,193	2,616	2,919	3,138	3,031	38%	2,979
Minot	920	1,630	1,160	2,250	2,610	184%	2,586
New Gloucester	2,811	3,180	3,916	4,803	5,542	97%	5,812

Otisfield	589	897	1,136	1,560	1,770	201%	1,806
Oxford	1,892	3,143	3,705	3,960	4,110	117%	4,096
Raymond	1,328	2,251	3,311	4,299	4,436	234%	4,523
Andro. Co.	91,279	99,657	105,259	103,793	107,702	18%	108,277
Oxford Co.	43,457	48,968	52,602	54,755	57,833	33%	57,975

Source: U.S. Census. The 2019 data is an estimated population based on the American Community Survey which is less accurate than the decennial census; the decennial census data for 2020 wasn't available prior to the adoption date of this plan.

Population change as the result of people moving into Poland is in-migration, whereas natural increase in population is derived from the number of births minus the number of deaths over a specific period. From 2011-2019 the natural increase in population has averaged thirteen per year; 55 births per year and 42 deaths. If the 2019 estimated population is correct, this indicates that people moving into Poland have accounted for at bit more than half of the population increase (56%) over the past 10 years, while natural increase accounts for a bit less than half (44%) of the increase. In prior decades, in migration was a greater factor in growth than was natural increase.

Births and Deaths: 2011-2019

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
2011	52	47	5
2012	51	35	16
2013	50	35	15
2014	58	48	10
2015	65	45	20
2016	50	39	11
2017	61	38	23
2018	56	47	9
2019	53	43	10
Total	496	377	119

Source: State of Maine Division of Public Health Systems & Town of Poland

Age Distribution

Based on available US Census information, Poland's total population in 2010 was older than Androscoggin County and the State. The median age of Poland residents is increasing. The below chart

shows age trends – which age groups are gaining, which are losing. Since the overall population increased by 24%, any age group gaining more than 24% is on the increase; those gaining less are shrinking.

Age Distribution: 1990-2010

Age Group	1990 % of total	2000 % of total	2010 % of total	20 year change
Population	4,333	4,866	5,376	1,043 24.1%
Median Age	33.0	38.5	43.4	10.4 31.5%
Under 5 years old	324	284	276	-48 -14.8%
5-14 years old	705	718	682	-23 -3.3%
15-19 years and older	375	344	347	-28 -7.5%
20-24 years old	244	161	199	-45 -18.4%
25-44 years old	1,540	1,536	1,333	-207 -13.4%
45-54 years old	438	843	1,038	600 137%
55-59 years old	216	292	461	245 113.4%
60-64 years old	139	201	382	243 174.8%
65 years and older	348	487	658	310 89.1%

Source: U.S. Census

Age Distribution Comparison: 2010

	Poland	Androscoggin County	State of Maine	United States
Under 5	5.1%	6.4%	5.2%	6.5%
5-17	17.1%	16.2%	15.5%	17.4%
18-24	5.7%	9.3%	8.7%	9.9%
25-44	24.8%	25.4%	23.8%	26.6%
45-64	35%	28.6%	31%	26.4%
65+	12.3%	14%	15.9%	13%
Median Age	43.4	39.8	42.7	37.2

Source: U.S. Census

*E*ducational Attainment

According to the 2018 American Community Survey, Poland had a higher percentage than Androscoggin County of its population 25 years of age and older with high school completion and some college, and with similar associate degree completion. This level of education is likely reflected in the higher median household income of those that live in Poland.

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 years and older): 2018 estimate

Educational Attainment	Poland	Androscoggin County
No diploma	5.3%	9.7%
High School Graduate or Equivalency	47.0%	36.5%
Some college, no degree	25.8%	20.6%
Associate Degree	9.3%	10.9%
Bachelor's Degree	9.9%	14.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	2.7%	7.4%

Source: American Community Survey Estimate

*O*ccupation of Residents

Note to C-Plan Update Committee:
Census occupation categories have changed from earlier years and it is now a much shorter list. I am still tracking down a definition of these categories and need to write this summary still.

Employment and Occupation: 2018

Occupation	Poland		Androscoggin County	
	# of Workers	*% of Total*	*# of Workers*	*% of Total*
Civilian employed persons 16 years and over	2,959		54,039	
Management, business, science, and arts	769	26%	18,309	33.8%
Service occupations	529	17.9%	10,370	19.2%
Sales and office occupations	726	24.5%	12,260	22.7%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	409	13.8%	5,049	9.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving	526	17.8%	8,051	14.9%

Source: American Community Survey

Income

Poland's 2018 median household income was above that of Androscoggin County and the state. In 2018 the largest number of households (27%) was in the $50,000 to $74,999 income bracket. This is likely the reflection of two worker households. Roughly two and a half percent of families in Poland had incomes in 2018 that were below the poverty level.

Discussion for Committee: What data in below table to include? I had help from someone at the state as I couldn't track down the data online due to changes with federal websites. Do we want to include this data? I can have them pull county data as well and look back in 2000 to fill in the missing data if you want it included.

General Income Data for Androscoggin County and Poland: 2018 estimate

	Androscoggin 2018	Androscoggin 2000	Poland 2018	Poland 2000
Per capita income	$27,231	$18,734	$29,065	$22,346
Median household income	$51,412	$35,793	$63,750	$47,824
Female full-time median earnings		$22,366	$32,512	$23,926
Male full-time median earnings		$31,622	$48,165	$33,284
Persons below poverty level		11.1%	5.8%	3.4%
Families below poverty level	8.8%	7.5%	2.6%	1.8%
People 65+ below poverty level		11.0%	0%	4.7%

Females below poverty level		8.2%	
Males below poverty level		3.5%	

Source: 2000 Census, 2018 ACS

Median Household Income Comparison: 2018

Location	Median Income	Location	Median Income
State of Maine	$55,425	Androscoggin County	$51,412
Poland	**$63,750**	Auburn	$48,924
Casco	$68,480	Mechanic Falls	$56,169
Minot	$73,036	New Gloucester	$70,081
Otisfield	$58,936	Oxford	$49,702
Raymond	$72,257		

Source: American Community Survey

Household Income Ranges: 2018 (estimated)

	Households	Families	Married-couple Families	Nonfamily Households
Number	2,315	1,508	1,272	807
Less than $10,000	2.7%	1.1%	0.0%	7.7%
$10,000 to $14,999	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
$15,000 to $24,999	9.3%	3.3%	3.1%	19.8%
$25,000 to $34,999	9.8%	11.8%	11.6%	9.8%
$35,000 to $49,999	13.7%	8.0%	7.1%	20.4%
$50,000 to $74,999	26.9%	33.5%	32.8%	17.1%
$75,000 to $99,999	16.2%	21.0%	20.2%	5.9%
$100,000 to $149,99	10.4%	11.8%	14.0%	6.8%
$150,000 to $199,999	4.7%	6.1%	7.2%	2.0%

$200,000 or more	3.8%	3.4%	4.1%	2.7%
Median income	$63,750	$69,191	$72,738	$36,467
Mean (Average) income	$70,787	$79,271	N/A	$50,694

Source: American Community Survey

Seasonal Population

THIS SECTION NEEDS UPDATING

Current Plan Says: *(Seasonal summer population is a significant factor in Poland's population characteristics. The land surrounding the Town's lakes and ponds have long been the site of seasonal dwellings and second homes. In 2000 there were as many as 420 second or seasonal homes. There are several campgrounds with approximately 305 RV and camping sites. At this time, all camping facilities have reached their maximum capacity, and growth is not expected in the near future." (Source of figure: Town Assessor, 02/08/07.) In addition, the boys and girls summer camps add a significant number to Poland's summer population including the campers themselves, staff and parents that visit. It is estimated that at peak periods in the summer months, seasonal population approaches 3,000.)*

Population Projections

Anticipating population change is an integral part of the comprehensive planning process. Depending on future population characteristics, various community needs and facilities can be identified. It should be understood, however, that predicting population at the town level with great accuracy is difficult.

Population change is the result of two primary factors; natural increase and migration. Natural increase is derived from the number of births minus the number of deaths over a specific period. Migration is the number of persons moving into or out of a community over a period of time. Poland's natural increase in population is still a factor in growth, but migration of people into town continues to be a bigger factor.

The 2036 year-round population projection prepared by State of Maine Office of Policy & Management for Poland is approximately 6,272. Factors that will contribute to population trends include changes in the local and regional economies that create or displace jobs, energy cost and housing costs. These factors cannot be determined with any reliability and will require watching.

For the purposes of the comprehensive plan, it is expected that the 2036 year-round resident population for Poland will be in the range of 5,900 – 6,300.

Comparative Population Projections: 2021 - 2036

	2010 Decennial	2021	2026	2031	2036	% Change (2010 – 2036)

Auburn	*23,055*	23,105	23,248	23,301	23,286	1%
Casco	*3,742*	3,970	4,049	4,113	4,161	11.2%
Mechanic Falls	*3,031*	2,978	2,968	2,946	2,915	-3.8%
Minot	*2,610*	2,579	2,575	2,560	2,538	-2.8%
New Gloucester	*5,542*	5,784	5,852	5,895	5,916	6.7%
Otisfield	*1,770*	1,730	1,707	1,682	1,652	-6.7%
Oxford	*4,110*	3,946	3,864	3,778	3,680	-10.5%
Poland	***5,376***	**5,746**	**5,942**	**6,116**	**6,272**	**16.7%**
Raymond	*4,436*	4,504	4,499	4,475	4,433	-.07%
Androscoggin Co.	*107,702*	107,968	108,579	108,770	108,643	0.9%
State of Maine	*1,328,361*	1,335,260	1,340,463	1,341,046	1,337,568	0.7%

Source: Maine Office of State Economist