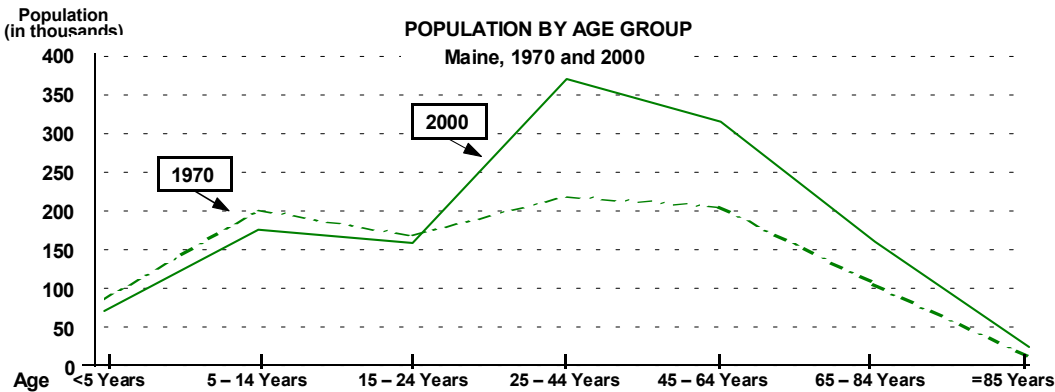


CHANGES IN POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Maine: 1970 - 2000

- ➔ In the 30 years since the 1970 census, Maine's population has grown by more than a quarter million residents, from 992,048 residents in 1970 to 1,274,923 residents in 2000. This represented a 28% increase in population; nationwide, there was a 38% increase in that period.
- ➔ Not only has Maine's population changed in size, it has changed in composition as well. In 1970, Maine's children and young adults (residents from birth to age 25) made up nearly half of the population (46%) – the same proportion that was observed nationally. By 2000, that proportion had diminished to 32% in Maine and to 35% nationwide.
- ➔ The greatest shift in Maine's population occurred with residents age 25 – 64; their numbers grew by more than 260,000 individuals. With that increase in numbers, by 2000, that segment of the population accounted for more than half (54%) of Maine's residents.



- ➔ Although they represented just 2% of the state's population in 2000, the segment of the population represented by Maine's oldest residents, those 85 years old or older, more than doubled in size from fewer than 10,000 residents in 1970 to more than 23,000 residents in 2000. Nationwide, this segment of the population tripled in size.
- ➔ From 1970 to 2000, the median age of Maine residents increased from 29 to 39 years old while nationally it rose from age 28 to 35.
- ➔ Only one Maine county had fewer residents in 2000 than it did in 1970; Aroostook county began the period with 92,463 residents, but by 2000, there were 73,938 – a 20% population loss (18,525 residents).
- ➔ With the exceptions of Aroostook and Piscataquis counties, all other Maine counties experienced double digit population growth over the three decades. The population of York county grew by 67%, the greatest growth experienced by any county, followed by Lincoln county with 64% population growth.

Notes: National data and 2000 data for Maine are from the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau. Historical data for Maine are from the files of the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics. Full citations are available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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