

## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

### Introduction

An important goal of the municipal comprehensive plan is to relate the demographics of a community with its economy, development, housing and environment. Most of the chapters and the recommendations of this plan are dependent upon or strongly influenced by the size and composition of the current and forecasted population. The planning period for this comprehensive plan is ten years.

### State Goal

*None required.*

### Analyses

*(1) Is the rate of population change expected to continue as in the past, or to slow down or speed up? What are the implications of this change?*

Union's historical population peaked in 1850 at 1,972 persons and declined in 1930 to 1,060. In 1990, the population rose again to 1,989 and has increased since then to total an estimated 2,290 in 2014 and 2,284 in 2015. The State projects that Union's population will decline to 2,221 persons in 2027. For planning purposes, the Town is forecast to have up to 2,300 year round residents by 2027. This will allow the Town the time to better plan for future development, and may serve to limit pressure on local government to expand services.

*(2) What will be the likely demand for housing and municipal and school services to accommodate the change in population and demographics, both as a result of overall change and as a result of change among different age groups?*

The median age of Union and Knox County residents is increasing. In 2000, Union's median age was 40.2, and has since risen to an estimated 49.7 in 2014. The Knox County median age increased from 41.4 in 2000 to an estimated 47.1 in 2014. An age distribution table is shown in the Condition and Trends section below. From 2000 to 2014, Union gained population in these age groups: 55-84. The Town lost population in these age groups: under 5 to 54 and 85+. The data suggest that young people and families with young children have left the community, while older individuals have decided to remain or move into Union. There is variation however within the age groups, so that some young adults may continue to stay in the area if they are able to support themselves, and older persons may choose to move into multiunit housing and assisted living facilities located within larger communities like Rockland and Waldoboro.

It is possible that if the declining average household size trend continues, which in 2014 was estimated at 2.29 persons for the Town down from 2.74 in 1990, there will be more housing being built than would normally be expected based solely upon the total projected year round population and to meet seasonal (vacation) housing demand. Some existing housing may be modified for elderly residents who wish to stay in their homes, while more accessible new

housing is likely to be built for and marketed to persons with age-related physical limitations. See the Housing Chapter for more information including projected housing demand.

The needs for municipal services might change to reflect the aging of the population, for example, home wellness checks, improved street lighting and signage. Other services geared toward the young might see less demand, for example, youth recreation. The school district encompasses several communities. Since Knox County has seen an aging of its population, it is possible that school enrollments will not increase and could decline. See the Public Facilities and Services Chapter for more information.

*(3) Does your community have a significant seasonal population, is the nature of that population changing? What is the community's dependence on seasonal visitors?*

Union has a sizable seasonal population. The Census estimated in 2013 that the Town had 182 units of housing that was for seasonal use, out of 1,139 total housing units. In 2014, the Census estimated that 192 units of housing were for seasonal use, out of 1,170 total units. The average family size for the United States was 3.26 in 2013 and 3.23 in 2014. Accordingly, Union's seasonal housing might accommodate an additional 594 to 620 persons. The Town has two lodging facilities (inns, bed and breakfast establishments) with an estimated six rooms in total. Some persons rent out their homes, for which no official data is available. The Union Fair, which is held annually in Union, attracts approximately 50,000 visitors during one week in August. Several other events have large attendance. A notable portion of the regional economy depends on tourism, and so residents employed in that sector depend on seasonal visitors. See the Economy and Employment Chapter for more information.

*(4) If your community is a service center or has a major employer, are additional efforts required to serve a daytime population that is larger than its resident population?*

Union is not a regional service center community, as defined by the State. The Census estimated the Town's labor force was 1,166 in 2014. Of those, an estimated 212 Union residents worked within the Town. The majority of the Town's labor force commutes to work places in other communities. The Town's daytime population is not larger than the resident population. Many businesses in Union employ just a few people each. See the Economy and Employment Chapter for more information.

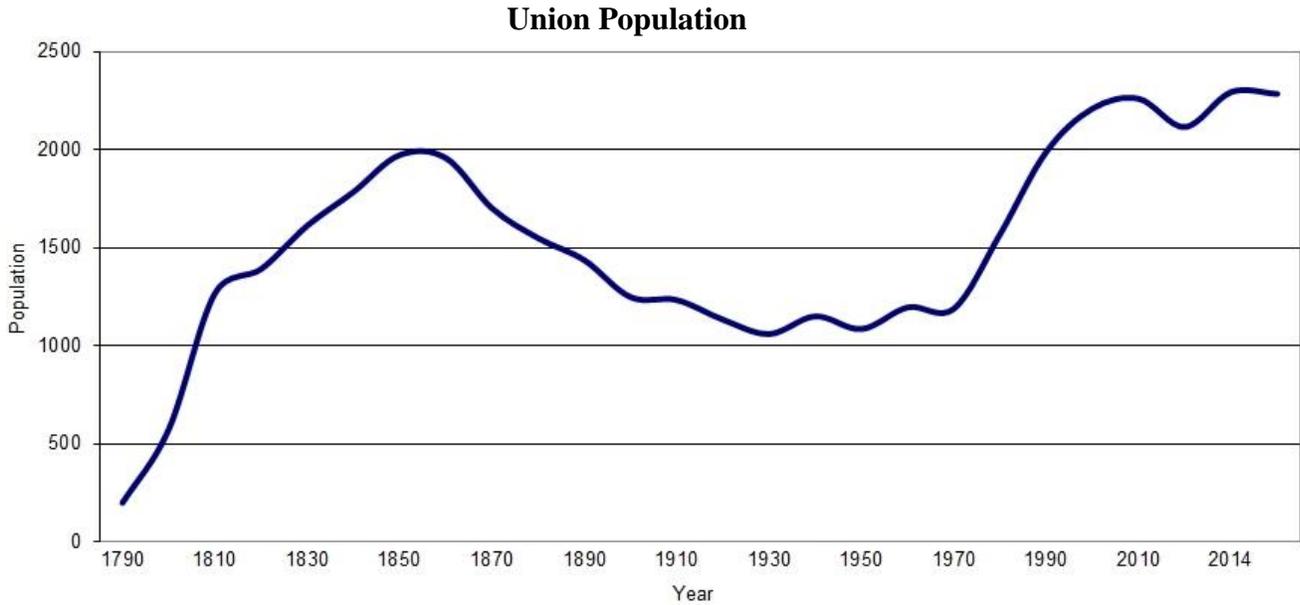
**Conditions and Trends**

*(1) The community’s Comprehensive Planning Population and Demographic Data Set (including relevant local, regional, and statewide data) prepared and provided to the community by the Office or its designee.*

Union was incorporated in 1786. The first decennial census year, 1790, showed the Town’s population as 199. Union’s population rose to 1,972 in 1850 and declined to 1,060 in 1930. Since then the population has risen to 2,259 in 2010 and an estimated 2,290 in 2014 and 2,284 in 2015. Projections by the State indicate a small decline is possible to 2,221 in 2027 and 2,193 in 2032.

Year	Total Population					
	Union		Knox County		Maine	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
1790	199				96,540	
1800	573	187.9%			151,719	57.2%
1810	1,266	120.9%			228,705	50.7%
1820	1,391	9.9%			298,335	30.4%
1830	1,612	15.9%			399,455	33.9%
1840	1,784	10.7%			501,793	25.6%
1850	1,972	10.5%			583,169	16.2%
1860	1,957	-0.8%	32,716		628,279	7.7%
1870	1,701	-13.1%	30,823	-5.8%	626,915	-0.2%
1880	1,548	-9.0%	32,863	6.6%	648,936	3.5%
1890	1,436	-7.2%	31,473	-4.2%	661,086	1.9%
1900	1,248	-13.1%	30,406	-3.4%	694,466	5.0%
1910	1,233	-1.2%	28,981	-4.7%	742,371	6.9%
1920	1,133	-8.1%	26,245	-9.4%	768,014	3.5%
1930	1,060	-6.4%	27,693	5.5%	797,423	3.8%
1940	1,150	8.5%	27,191	-1.8%	847,226	6.2%
1950	1,085	-5.7%	28,121	3.4%	913,774	7.9%
1960	1,196	10.2%	28,575	1.6%	969,000	6.0%
1970	1,189	-0.6%	29,013	1.5%	994,000	2.6%
1980	1,569	32.0%	32,941	13.5%	1,124,660	13.1%
1990	1,989	26.8%	36,310	10.2%	1,227,928	9.2%
2000	2,209	11.1%	39,618	9.1%	1,274,923	3.8%
2010	2,259	2.3%	39,736	0.3%	1,328,361	4.2%
2013 Est.	2,115	-6.4%	39,588	-0.4%	1,328,702	0.0%
2014 Est.	2,290	8.3%	39,653	0.2%	1,328,535	0.0%
2015 Est.	2,284	-0.3%	39,455	-0.5%	1,328,028	0.0%
2022 Proj.	2,238	-2.0%	39,323	-0.3%	1,324,705	-0.3%
2027 Proj.	2,221	-0.8%	38,985	-0.9%	1,315,840	-0.7%
2032 Proj.	2,193	-1.3%	38,464	-1.3%	1,300,166	-1.2%

Sources: US Census for 1850-2010, American Community Survey for 2013 and 2014, Claritas for 2015, and Maine Governor's Office of Policy and Management for 2022, 2027 and 2030



Sources: US Census 1850-2010, American Community Survey 2013-2014, Claritas 2015

For planning purposes in this comprehensive plan, the Town is forecast to have up to 2,300 year-round residents by 2027.

Union was part of Lincoln County before Knox County was founded in 1860. Knox County is forecast to decrease modestly in population by 2027 and 2032.

The total number of births to Union residents was greater than the number of deaths from 2000 to 2014. Of the change in population (+81 persons from 2000 to 2014), 13 was due to natural change and 68 was due to in-migration.

<b>Union Vitals – Net Migration</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
2000	24	23
2001	24	30
2002	25	26
2003	27	16
2004	27	18
2005	20	26
2006	27	27
2007	22	19
2008	19	23
2009	25	24
2010	17	21
2011	18	18
2012	25	24
2013	26	28
2014	22	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>Natural Change</b>	<b>+13</b>	
<b>Net Migration</b>	<b>+68</b>	

Source: Maine Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, 2015

Overall, the population has increased in Union since 2000. In the Town, those aged 55-84 have increased in number, while those under 5 to 54 and 85+ have decreased in number. For Knox County, growth was seen in groups aged 20 to 59 and 65 to 84. The median age of Union residents has increased by 9.5 years since 2000. Statewide, the median age was 38.6 in 2000 and it increased by 12.7% (4.9 years) to 43.5 in 2014.

Population by Age Estimates	Union				Knox County			
	2000	2010	2014	% Change	2000	2010	2014	% Change
Under 5 years	124	98	85	-31.5%	2,082	1,921	1,744	-16.2%
5 to 9 years	126	118	107	-15.1%	2,383	2,097	1,954	-18.0%
10 to 14 years	188	135	90	-52.1%	2,762	2,297	2,334	-15.5%
15 to 19 years	150	137	76	-49.3%	2,437	2,135	2,110	-13.4%
20 to 24 years	87	92	83	-4.6%	1,691	1,763	1,823	7.8%
25 to 34 years	247	204	208	-15.8%	2,180	4,025	4,066	86.5%
35 to 44 years	375	300	268	-28.5%	2,475	4,949	4,728	91.0%
45 to 54 years	399	408	385	-3.5%	2,894	6,421	5,980	106.6%
55 to 59 years	114	212	213	86.8%	3,316	3,409	3,455	4.2%
60 to 64 years	102	184	181	77.5%	3,348	3,125	3,238	-3.3%
65 to 74 years	166	209	245	47.6%	3,056	3,983	4,532	48.3%
75 to 84 years	95	115	126	32.6%	2,232	2,465	2,439	9.3%
85 years +	36	47	23	-36.1%	1,930	1,146	1,250	-35.2%
Median Age	40.2	45.6	49.7	23.6%	41.4	46.2	47.1	13.8%

Source: US Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2010-2014)

Union and Knox County have a similar proportion of residents with high school degrees. The Town has a lower proportion of residents with a bachelor’s degree than Knox County. See the Public Facilities and Services Chapter for enrollment figures in area schools.

Educational Attainment of the population aged 25 and older	Union		Knox County		Maine	
	2000	2014	2000	2014	2000	2014
Less than 9th grade	37	34	1,001	607	47,183	30,319
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	135	83	2,544	1,376	80,105	52,066
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	593	677	10,306	10,550	314,600	318,017
Some college, no degree	328	280	5,353	5,670	165,111	190,372
Associate degree	128	157	1,676	2,384	63,934	88,305
Bachelor's degree	226	274	4,833	6,079	129,992	173,294
Graduate or professional degree	93	144	2,590	3,022	68,968	95,586
% High School Graduate or Higher	88.8%	92.9%	87.5%	93.3%	85.4%	91.3%
% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	20.7%	25.3%	26.2%	30.7%	22.9%	28.4%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2010-2014

The average household size has decreased in Union, Knox County, and statewide. This trend is due to several factors: a lower proportion of married couples, fewer children per family, and more people living alone longer. Declines in average household size can result in more growth

of the housing stock even when population growth is nominal. See the Housing Chapter for more information.

<b>Average Household Size</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Knox County</b>	<b>Maine</b>
1990	2.74	2.45	2.56
2000	2.51	2.31	2.39
2010	2.30	2.22	2.32
2013 Est.	2.31	2.28	2.33
2014 Est.	2.29	2.26	2.34
% Change	-16.4%	-7.8%	-8.6%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2009-2013, 2010-2014

***Policies***

*None required.*

***Strategies***

*None required.*

Note: Policies and strategies (recommendations) are found in the other chapters of this comprehensive plan.