



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

March 25, 2011

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

**The U.S. Census Bureau released the official 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File**, which details 2010 Census population totals and demographic characteristics specific to Maine. These data provide the first look at population counts for small areas and will be used to redraw federal, state, and local legislative districts under Public Law 94-171.

Data for Maine show that the five most populous cities and their 2010 Census counts are: Portland, 66,194; Lewiston, 36,592; Bangor, 33,039; South Portland, 25,002; and Auburn, 23,055. Portland grew by 3.0 percent since the 2000 Census. Lewiston grew by 2.5 percent, Bangor grew by 5.0 percent, South Portland grew by 7.2 percent, and Auburn decreased by 0.6 percent.

The largest county is Cumberland, with a population of 281,674. Its population grew by 6.0 percent since 2000. The other counties in the top five include York, with a population of 197,131 (increase of 5.6 percent); Penobscot, 153,923 (increase of 6.2 percent); Kennebec, 122,151 (increase of 4.3 percent); and Androscoggin, 107,702 (increase of 3.8 percent).

The redistricting file consists of detailed tables showing the population by race, including six single race groups and 57 multiple race groups, the population 18 years and over, and counts of housing units and their occupancy status. [Click here](#) to see highlights of this information.

Data for individual municipalities is available in the [Economics and Demographics data tool](#). Additional data and statistical resources will be posted in coming months.  
**CONTACT: Thomas Merrill at 624-6208 or [thomas.merrill@maine.gov](mailto:thomas.merrill@maine.gov).**

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference**, organized by the Maine Resource Recovery Association, will be held this April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Point Lookout in Northport. This is the only statewide conference dedicated to solid waste management and recycling activities. There will be over two dozen exhibitors showing the latest in equipment and services aimed at assisting municipal and private solid waste programs. Speakers include Brian Flaherty, of Nestle Waters North America (Poland Spring) and other notables in the solid waste industry. Two days of training and educational opportunities await attendees. For more information: [www.mrra.net/](http://www.mrra.net/). The State Planning Office, Waste Management and Recycling Program, is again a major sponsor of this conference.

**Contact: George MacDonald at 624-6245 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)**

### **York and Cumberland counties Develop MOUs for FEMA Risk Map Program.**

SPO's floodplain staff continues to work with York and Cumberland county communities to develop memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so that they can get new flood maps. The finalized MOU's will form the basis for floodplain mapping in York and Cumberland counties during the Risk MAP program being initiated by FEMA.

Forty-two of the 57 communities have either submitted MOU's for consideration or are in the process of drafting their MOU's. We are confident that within the next week or so all participating communities will have submitted one. This begins a negotiation process with FEMA. FEMA will review the MOU's and respond to the communities requests.

So far virtually all of the communities have asked FEMA to work on developing new topographic data and to re-delineate floodplains using that data. This request is very important to mapping in Maine since approximately 70% of the floodplains are not based on scientific studies using accurate topographic data. In addition many coastal communities are requesting FEMA to include more transects for modeling coastal flood hazards as well as providing better mapping of "primary frontal dunes" and their relationship to flood zones.

**CONTACT: Joseph Young at 624-6234 or [joseph.young@maine.gov](mailto:joseph.young@maine.gov)**

## **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**“Service as a Strategy,” the Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) 2010 Annual Report was recently released.** The report provides a summary of results and an overview of major MCCS activities for 2010. The following are excerpts from the report highlighting MCCS achievements:

- MCCS became co-chair of the Donations Coordination Team with MEMA. As part of the team, MCCS is charged with deploying Volunteer Reception Centers during times of disaster.
- AmeriCorps proves again to be conduit by which young and educate individuals come to Maine. 45% of AmeriCorps members move to Maine to serve. 73% of those individuals are college graduates and 80% of them are under the age of 30. 35% of these members stay in Maine after their term of service.
- MCCS received \$1,734,400 in federal and private funding. 78% was granted to organizations to address critical community needs.

A special feature of this year’s report is the summary of accomplishments related to the MCCS 2006–2009 strategic plan. To read all the accomplishments of 2010 please visit [www.maineservicecommission.gov](http://www.maineservicecommission.gov).

**CONTACT:** Rochelle Runge at 624–6241 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)

## **GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY**

**First Drop in Heating Oil Prices since November 2010.** The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly heating oil survey on Monday, March 21, 2011 and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$3.66 per gallon, a one cent decrease from last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$4.07 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 925 gallons a year is \$3.04 per gallon. On March 21, the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined petroleum product prices, including heating oil was \$102.79.

**CONTACT:** Jeffrey Marks at 287–8927 or [Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov)