

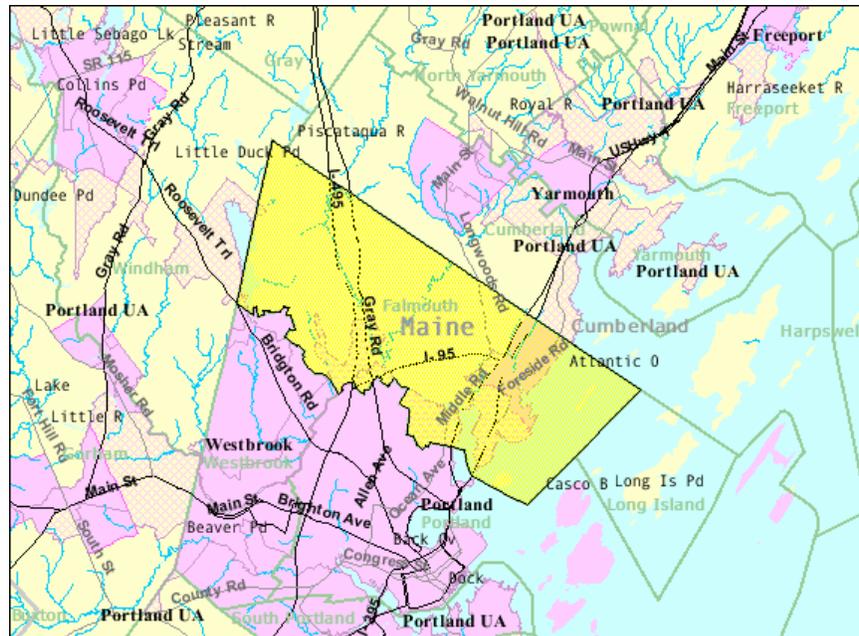
FALMOUTH, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Falmouth is located in Cumberland County, Maine (43.73° N, 70.24° W) and is in the Portland metro area (Town of Falmouth 2007). The town is nine miles long and four miles wide (Falmouth Memorial Library 2007). Falmouth sits on Casco Bay (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Falmouth, ME (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Falmouth was settled by European decedents in the 1600s and was first recognized as a town in 1658. It was named after a small village in Cornwall, England, being the origin of many of the original settlers. The original boundaries of the town cover the areas which are now Westbrook, Cape Elizabeth, South Portland, and Portland. The first areas to become independent from Falmouth were Cape Elizabeth and South Portland broke away in 1765, later Portland broke away in 1785, and Westbrook in 1814. In 1718 the town was incorporated into the State of Massachusetts. Later, when Maine seceded, it was recognized as the 46th Town in the newly established state. The current Town Hall was built in 1899 and has seen many renovations during its more than 100 years (Town of Falmouth 2007). Falmouth has a manmade

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: "Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov."

causeway leading out to Mackworth Island, which is a bird sanctuary with a hiking trail and views of the town (State of Maine 2007). This property is part of the [Maine Department of Conservation](#), Bureau of Public Lands, Public Reserved Lands.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000), Falmouth had a total population of 10,310, up 35.5% from the reported population of 7,610 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.6% were males and 52.4% were females. The median age was 40.7 years and 71.0% of the population was 21 years or older while 18.5% was 62 or older.

The population structure of Falmouth (Figure 1) shows the most populous age group for both men and women is the 40-49 year old grouping; there was a significant drop off in the population between 20-29 years old for both men and women, possibly reflecting people of that age grouping going to college.

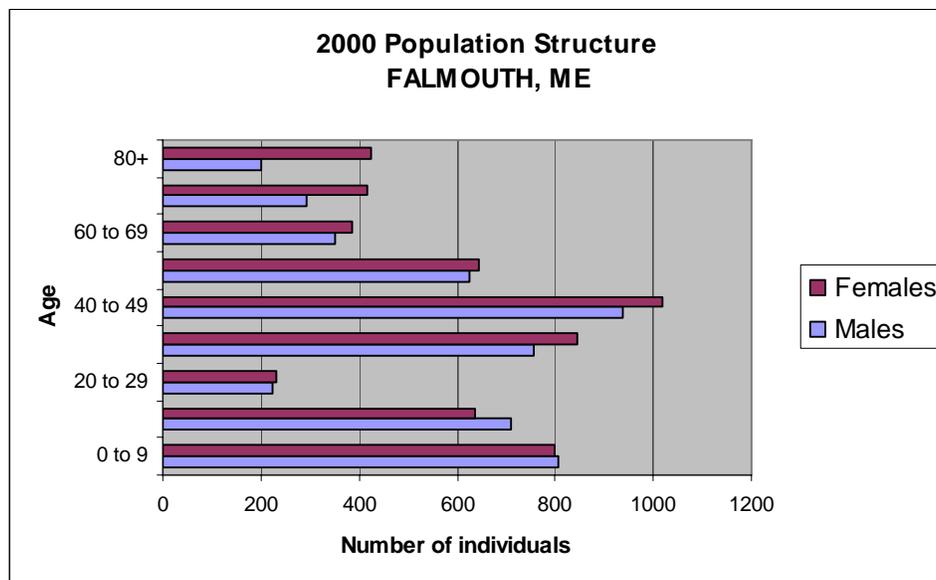


Figure 1. Falmouth's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (98.3%), with 0.2% of residents black or African American, 1.2% Asian, 0.1% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.5% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (25.6%), Irish (20.6%), French (10.3%), German (8.9%) and Italian (8.8%). With regard to region of birth, 56.7% were born in Maine, 40.7% were born in a different state and 2.2% were born outside of the US (including 1.4% who were not United States citizens).

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

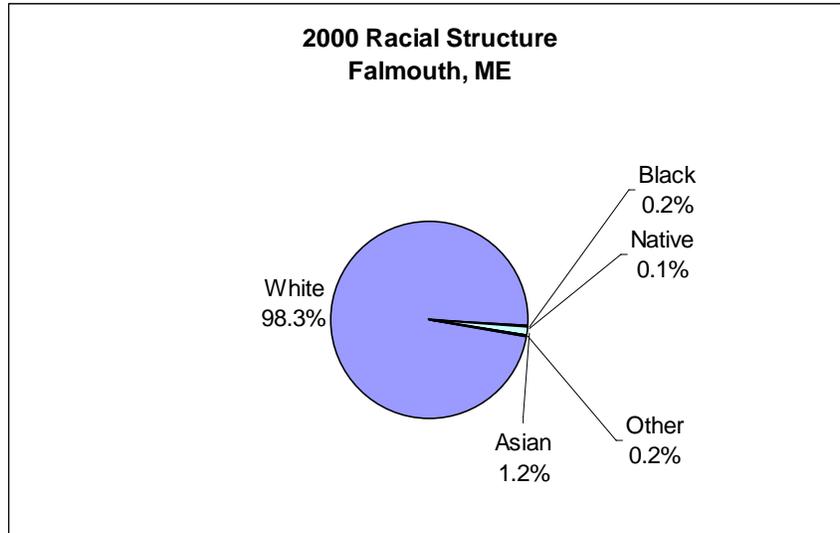


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

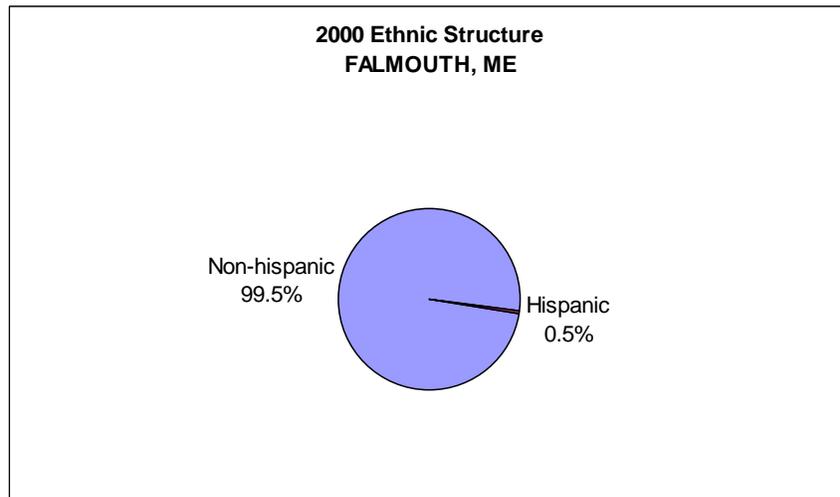


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 96.7% of the population, only English is spoken in the home, leaving 3.3% in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and including 0.3% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 95.5% were high school graduates or higher and 53.2% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 1.3% did not reach ninth grade, 3.2% attended some high school but did not graduate, 17.7% completed high school, 17.7% had some college with no degree, 6.9% received an associate's degree, 32.4% earned a bachelor's degree, and 20.8% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religions with the highest number of congregations in Cumberland County was Catholic with 31 congregations and 61,495 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (33 with 10,160 adherents), and Jewish (4 with 6,000 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 24.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Falmouth is a rapidly growing community, with a number of new commercial developments and a concern about loss of open space. Falmouth has seen considerable growth in residential properties. The Town has responded by recently adopting a robust wetlands protection ordinance, which might include vernal pool protection based on State guidelines if it is passed.⁴

In 2006, the State of Maine passed the [Working Waterfront Tax Law](#), to address the problem of working waterfront property being heavily taxed based on its projected market value. The goal of this tax is “to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land and to prevent the conversion of working waterfront land to other uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes of property taxation.” The law requires the tax assessor to value the property based on what it is worth as working waterfront land, rather than what its market value would be if it were sold and converted to residential or other uses (State of Maine 2007a).

Cultural attributes

Falmouth is primarily a residential community; there are however several museums in Portland. They include the [Maine Historical Society](#) and the [Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. and Museum](#). There is also the [Portland Museum of Art](#), [Maine College of Art](#), and the [Portland Harbor Museum](#) in South Portland.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 63.9% (4,938 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.6% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 62.2% were employed.

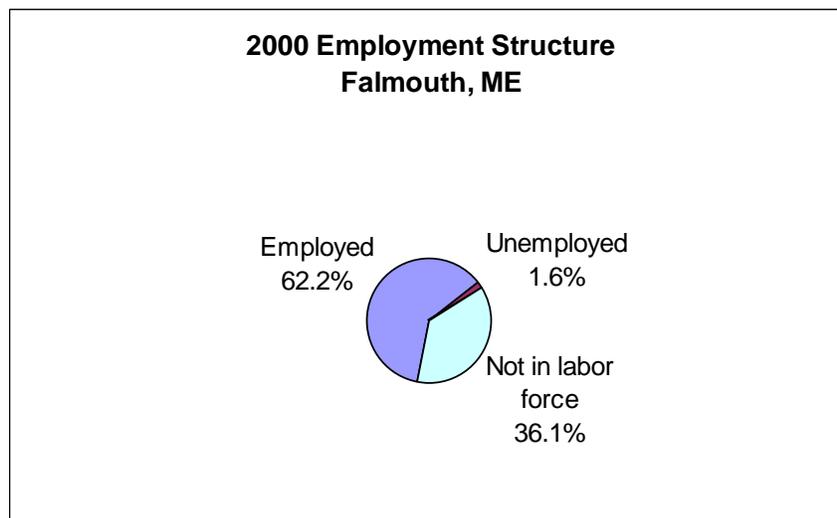


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

⁴ Community review Comments, Jon Kachmar, Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Division, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, October 18, 2007

⁵ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 22 positions or 0.5% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 550 positions or 11.4% of jobs. Education, health and social services (20.6%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (16.1%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (13.5%), and retail trade (11.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Falmouth was \$66,855 (up from \$44,863 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$24,793. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 35.4% more per year than females.

The average family in Falmouth consists of 2.56 persons. With respect to poverty, 1.8% of families (down from 3.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 3.7% of individuals earn below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239-35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 13.0% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Falmouth had a total of 4,169 housing units of which 94.7% were occupied and 81.1% were detached one unit homes. Close to one quarter (24.9%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, vans, RVs, etc. accounted for 0.4% of housing units; 77.9% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$215,500. Of vacant housing units, 2.9% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 16.7% were renter occupied.

Government

Falmouth has a council-manager form of government, established in 1962. The town manager is responsible for the daily responsibilities as prescribed in the town charter. The seven council members, who are elected at large, also have responsibilities as stated in the town charter (Town of Falmouth 2007).

Fishery involvement in government

Falmouth has a Harbor/Waterfront Committee which meets regularly, as well as a Shellfish Committee which meets with the Harbor Committee (Town of Falmouth 2007). The Shellfish Committee meets biannually and is appointed by the Town Council.⁶ Falmouth also has a harbor master. The office of the [US Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program](#) is located in Falmouth. The project is focused on protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitat in the area.

Institutional

Fishing associations

[The Maine Lobsterman's Association](#) is located just south of Portland in Scarborough. The Maine Lobstermen's Association was founded in 1954, and works to protect the lobster resource and the lobstermen's way of life. The association was founded by lobstermen with a goal of empowering Maine's lobster industry by representing lobstermen with a united front. The MLA is the largest commercial fishing industry group on the east coast, and represents the interests of 1200 lobstermen.

⁶ Community Review Comments, Kevin Cady, Harbormaster, 271 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, ME 04105, October 3, 2007

Fishing assistance centers

There is a Fisheries Assistance Center located in Portland. The center offers aid to fishermen and their families on a variety of issues (US Environmental Protection Agency 1995).

[The Working Waterfront Coalition](#) is a statewide collaboration of various industry associations, non-profits, and government agencies with the goal to support Maine's working waterfronts. [The Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#), administered by the Department of Marine Resources, provides money to applicants such as municipalities, fishing co-ops, private commercial fisheries businesses and more, ranging from \$7,000 to \$475,000. The intention of the program is to preserve commercial fisheries working waterfronts and to help secure property for these businesses. As of December 2007, the \$2 million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and fisheries in six towns. Voters approved an additional \$3 million to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing-related organizations

[The Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#) is located in nearby Portland. The organization focuses on marine research and education and provides services to grade schools as well as public lecture series. [The Maine Fishermen's Forum](#) was founded in 1976, and its goal is to provide continuous opportunities to educate the public and the fishing industry about marine resource issues and fisheries, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and decision making. The Forum also holds an annual three day event which focuses awareness on issues that affect the commercial fishing industry.

Physical

Falmouth is located about six miles north of Portland and about the same distance south of Cumberland on the Atlantic Ocean. Interstates 95 and 295 as well as routes 9, 26, and 100 bisect the town. In addition, a rail line runs from Portland. Falmouth's Harbor is fed by a river, which runs through the town. The nearest airport is the Portland International Jetport in Portland (MapQuest 2007).

Falmouth has a public boat launch at the municipal Town Landing, where residents may park with the purchase of a parking pass (Town of Falmouth 2007). There are [several marinas](#), boat yards, and a yacht club in Falmouth; the town offers one of the largest anchorages in Maine (Town of Falmouth 2007). There is only one marina in Falmouth, which is [Handy Boat Service](#), located in Falmouth Fireside. There are no slips anywhere in Falmouth and all boats are kept on moorings. The Town Landing offers an access point for mooring holders, as does Handy Boat Service and the Portland Yacht Club, but both are private membership organizations.⁷ Commercial fishermen in Falmouth likely rely on infrastructure in Portland.

⁷ Community review Comments, Jon Kachmar, Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Division, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, October 18, 2007

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

Falmouth has a relatively small level of commercial fishing. There were no landings listed here in 1997-1999, and small amounts in 2000-2002. In 2004, however, the value of landings was the highest of the ten year time frame given. The value of species landed in 1997-2006 was relatively evenly distributed among lobster and “other” species, with lesser values for largemouth groundfish and monkfish (Table 1). Interestingly, the only years in which there were any values listed for home ported vessels were 1997-1999, the three years when there were no landings within Falmouth. Overall, the number of home ported vessels seems to have increased, from a low of five in 1998 and 1999 to a high of eleven in 2006. The number of vessels with owners living in Falmouth was higher, and increased from a low of six in 1998 to a high of fifteen in 2005 (Table 2). This indicates that some vessels which fish elsewhere, probably out of Portland, have owners living in Falmouth. The Harbormaster indicated that there were 25 commercial fishing vessels home ported in Falmouth, with four vessels considered “recreational” lobster fishing vessels in October 2007.⁹

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other ¹⁰	2
Largemouth Groundfish ¹¹	3
Monkfish	4

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

⁸ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

⁹ Community Review Comments, Kevin Cady, Harbormaster, 271 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, ME 04105, October 3, 2007

¹⁰ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹¹ Largemouth Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year¹²

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	8	9
1998	5	8
1999	5	6
2000	6	7
2001	6	7
2002	6	11
2003	8	13
2004	10	12
2005	9	15
2006	11	14

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹³)

Recreational

Shell fishing and clamming licenses are available through the town clerk's office. Fishing licenses are available through a link on the town website (Town of Falmouth 2007). There does not seem to be any sport fishing or charter vessels directly out of Falmouth but there are many out of [Portland](#) which is only 5.8 miles away. There is a sail catamaran for charter that operates out of Falmouth Foreside and takes parties out for day and evening sails.¹⁴

Subsistence

There is evidence that the Penobscot Indian Nation still practices subsistence fishing but it is unclear as to what extent (Natural Resources Council of Maine 2005).

FUTURE

Falmouth is currently planning to create more affordable housing which will be built by a non-profit work force. In doing this the town hopes to increase the diversity of housing in Falmouth and enable better living for its current and future residents (Town of Falmouth 2007).

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¹² Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹³ The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

¹⁴ Community review Comments, Jon Kachmar, Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Division, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, October 18, 2007

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