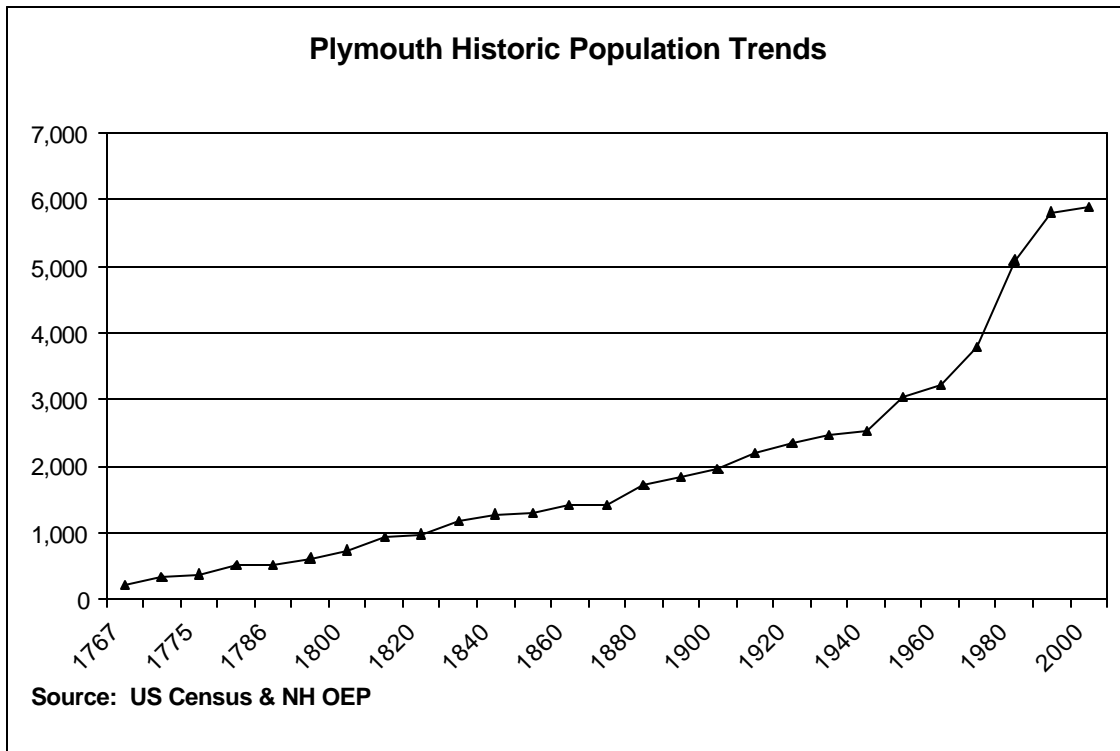


DRAFT
PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY PROFILE
OCTOBER 5, 2004

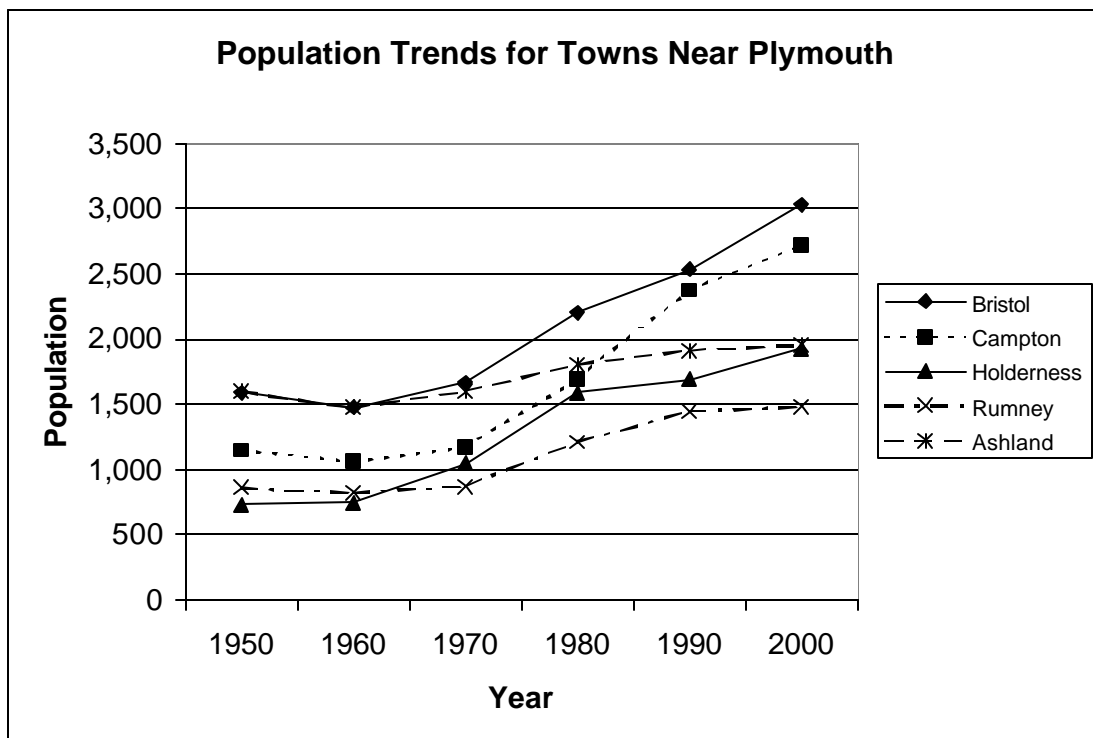
1. Historical Population Trends

Unlike many communities in New England, Plymouth did not have a spike in population in the 19th century and a decline when many New Englanders headed west in search of better soils and a higher quality of life. Since data was first recorded, Plymouth has seen a steady rise in population. The greatest rate of growth occurred between 1960 and 1980 when Plymouth's population increased by 50%. Since 1980, population has continued to grow at a steady rate with some leveling off in the last decade of the 20th century. According to the US Census, Plymouth's population reached 5,892 in 2000, a 1.4% increase from 1990.

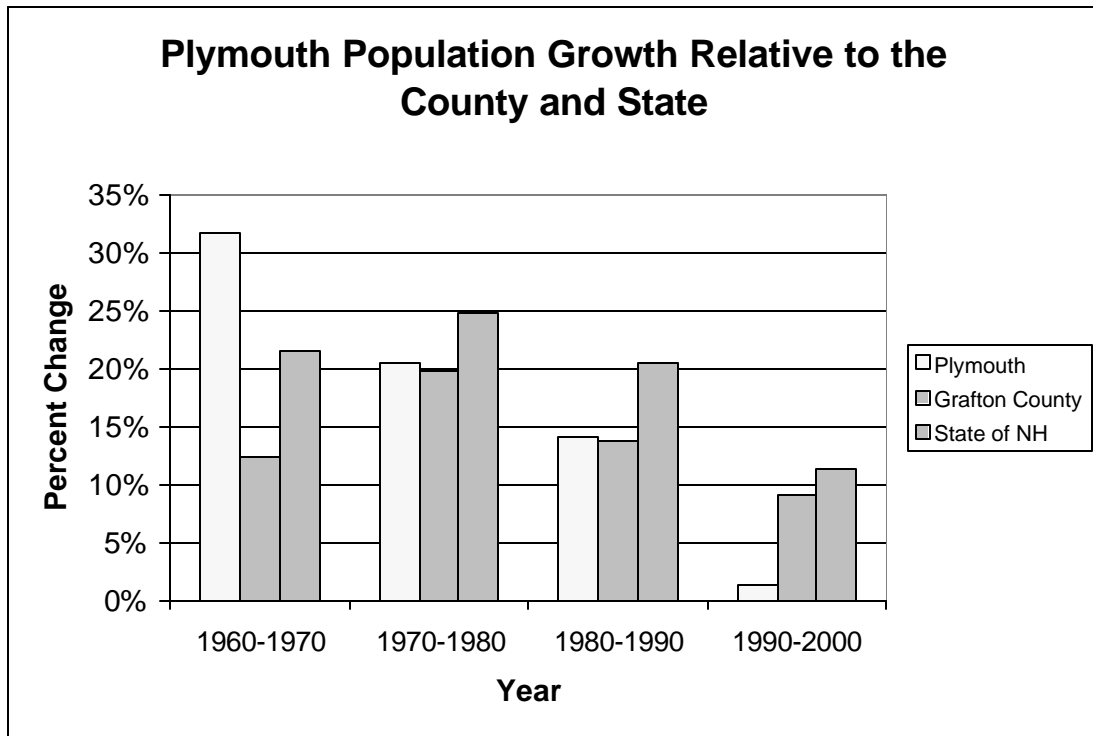


Communities with more than 500 residents surrounding Plymouth have shown similar rates of growth in the last five decades. Generally experiencing a steady rise in population without the leveling off experienced by Plymouth in the last decade of the 20th century.

- Holderness experienced the fastest growth in the 1970s with a 51% increase population with Campton close behind at 45% growth in the decade since 1970.
- Campton also was the fastest growing town in the region during the 1980s with an increase of 40% (from 1,694 people to 2,377).
- Population growth slowed significantly from 1990 to 2000 in the area, with rates of growth in Plymouth, Ashland and Rumney decreasing from double digits to single digit increases, 1.4%, 2.1% and 2.4% respectively.
- Communities of Bristol, Campton and Holderness continued to see increases in population growth during the 1990s, exceeding the rates of the county (9.1%) and the state (11.4%), with rates 13.9% respectively.
- Plymouth’s rate of population increase during the 1990s was the slowest in the immediate vicinity.



Plymouth's population growth relative to Grafton County and the state mirrors the trends noted above, including a decrease in the rate of population growth for the past two decades from 1980 to 2000. After rapid growth during the 1960s and 70s, Plymouth's rate of population growth has lagged behind that of the county and state, especially in the 10 years since 1990.



2. Natural Increase and Migration

The two components of population change are migration and natural increase. Migration refers to the number of people moving into and out of town. Natural increase is the number of births less deaths. Plymouth's *natural population increase* (the number of births less deaths) during the 1990s was consistently positive with the exception of 1997. It appears as though the natural increase of 128 persons exceeded the actual increase of 81 people, which would indicate some migration out of town to other communities during that period. It has been noted in recent studies that Town Reports document a significantly fewer number of births and deaths than the NH Bureau of Health Statistics [*numbers need to be confirmed*].

Births, Deaths, and Population Change Plymouth Residents 1990- 2003				
Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Change	Total Population
1990	55	26	29	5,811
1991	44	40	4	
1992	35	33	2	
1993	47	43	4	
1994	46	41	5	
1995	42	35	7	
1996	29	25	4	
1997	36	42	-6	
1998	51	26	25	
1999	54	31	23	
2000	55	24	31	5,892
2001	48	21	27	
2002	31	28	3	
2003	31	21	10	

Source: NH Bureau of Health Statistics 1990-2001, Plymouth Town Reports 2002-2003

3. Household Size

Plymouth's household size continues to decrease from 3.1 people per household in 1970 to 2.54 in 1990 and to 2.49 in 2000. This decline is generally consistent with Grafton County, state and national trends. Census data show that until recently the mean number of persons per household had been a bit higher in the state than in Plymouth and the county, but Plymouth's household size has remained steady in the past decade while Grafton County and the state continue to decline.

Mean Number of Persons Per Occupied Year-Round Housing Unit (Household Size) Plymouth, Grafton County and New Hampshire				
Area	1970 Mean	1980 Mean	1990 Mean	2000 Mean
Plymouth	3.00	2.60	2.54	2.49
Grafton County	2.90	2.60	2.51	2.38
New Hampshire	3.10	2.75	2.62	2.53

Source: US Census

4. Population Density

The total number of people per square mile in Plymouth in 2000 was the highest of the towns in the immediate vicinity, with only Bristol and Bridgewater coming close. There are 209 people per square mile in Plymouth with 28.2 square miles of land area. Bristol is the next most densely populated adjacent town with 177 people per square mile. The population density of the county is about one-quarter of Plymouth's while the overall state is approximately two-thirds as dense as Plymouth.

5. Age Distribution

Understanding the age composition of a community is vital in planning for future facility and service needs. A change in the school-age population, for example, may indicate a need for new or expanded school. With more children not only are more classrooms needed, but pressure is placed on recreational facilities and programs. Likewise, a shift to a more elderly population would require development of a different range and type of services and facilities. Shifts in age distribution, moreover, reflect changes in household characteristics resulting in different demands on housing.

The 2000 US Census data show a slight increase in the number of people living in town in the last decade with very minimal changes in the age composition of the town's population. This is unusual as across the state as well as nationwide, the percentage of the senior population is increasing [*table still needs to be added to illustrate these changes*].

6. University Population

Since the University population is such a large proportion of the town's residents, this population component deserves consideration. Founded in 1870, Plymouth State University (PSU) grew from a normal school to a small teachers college to a university of 3,500 full time and 1,500 part-time students. Between 1969 to 2004, the full-time student enrollment increased by nearly 84%. Since 1950 the US Census has included permanent residents and students.

Although some data is available concerning the residence of PSU, at this time it is not comprehensive. [*discussions with PSU required*] The following table presents the information received to date:

Plymouth Population and PSU Enrollment 1930-2003						
Year	On-Campus Resident	Off-Campus Resident	Commuter	Total Enrolled	Change	Plymouth
1930						2,470
1940						2,533
1950						3,039
1960						3,210
1970				1,907		4,228
1980	1,521	967	276	2,764	44.9%	5,094
1985	1,730	1,145	325	3,200	15.8%	
1990	2,013	1,115	276	3,404	6.4%	5,811
1995	1,923	996	695	3,614	6.2%	
1996	2,655	1,677		4,332	19.9%	
1997	2,569	1,659		4,228	-2.4%	
1998	2,393	1,597		3,990	-5.6%	
1999	2,372	1,525		3,897	-2.3%	
2000	2,518	1,522		4,040	3.7%	5,892
2001	2,738	1,680		4,418	9.4%	
2002	2,793	1,836		4,629	4.8%	
2003	3,068	1,842		4,910	6.1%	

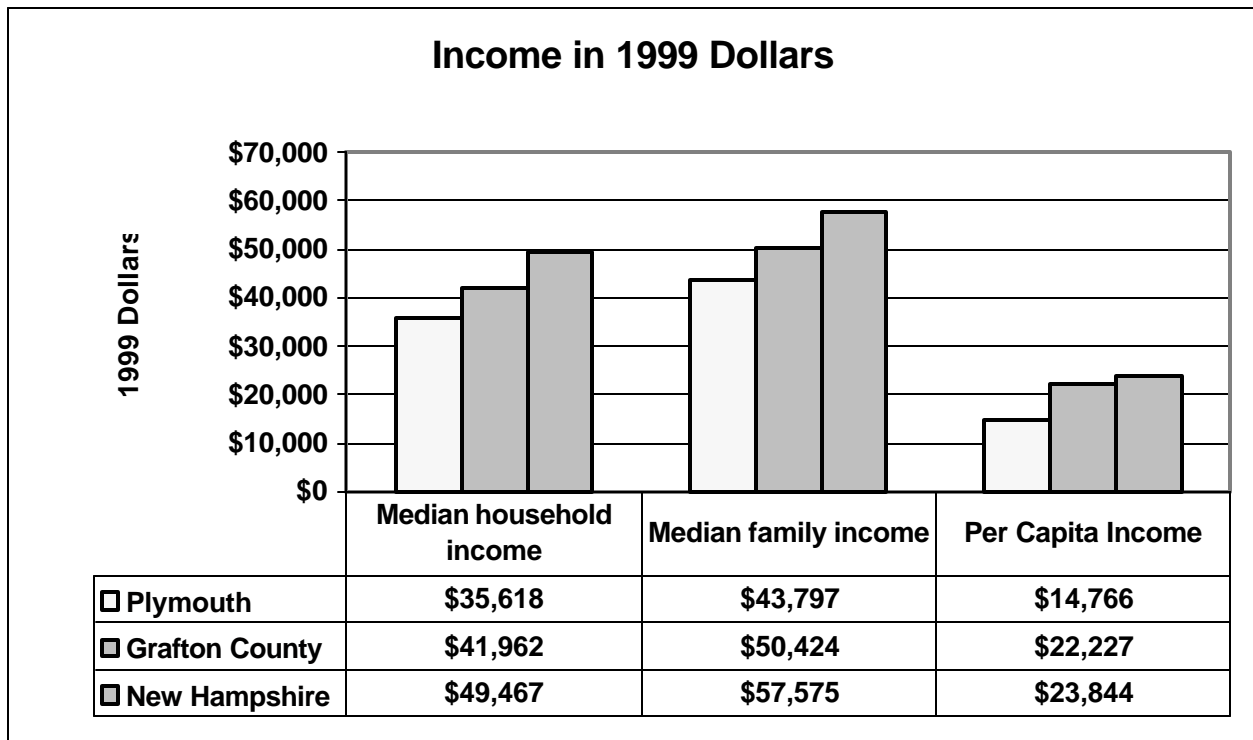
Source: Plymouth State University, Office of Institutional Research 10/03 & 9/98 Master Plan, US Census

7. Educational Attainment

Plymouth's population by New Hampshire standards is very well educated. More than 90% of Plymouth residents 25 years and older have graduated from high school and 41% with a Bachelor's degree or better (compared 87% and 28% respectively statewide). In 2002-2003, the most recent year for which data is available, 82% [*number needs to be verified*] of graduates from Pemi-Baker Regional High School were college bound (compared with 54% statewide).

8. Income Levels

Plymouth is a modest income community. Median household and family incomes in Plymouth are slightly lower than in the county and more so in the state, although per-capita incomes are slightly lower than in the county. This may be due to the composition of households in Plymouth, the greater percentage of students, and *[other thoughts?]*

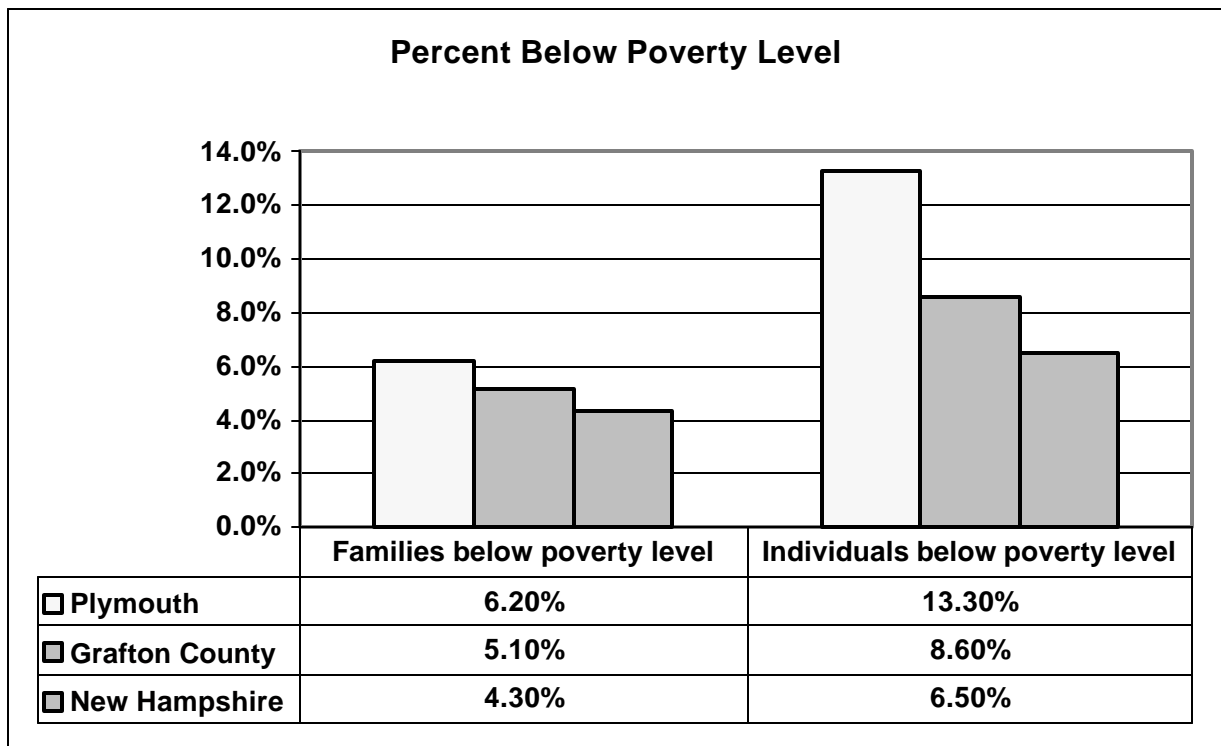


9. Poverty Level

Plymouth’s population is characterized by a greater rate of poverty than the county and state as a whole, which is consistent with other college communities and regional service centers. It is likely that the high proportion of Plymouth residents living below the poverty level in the age category 18-64 may be due to the students with low income but with some financial support from their parents or with little income of their own.

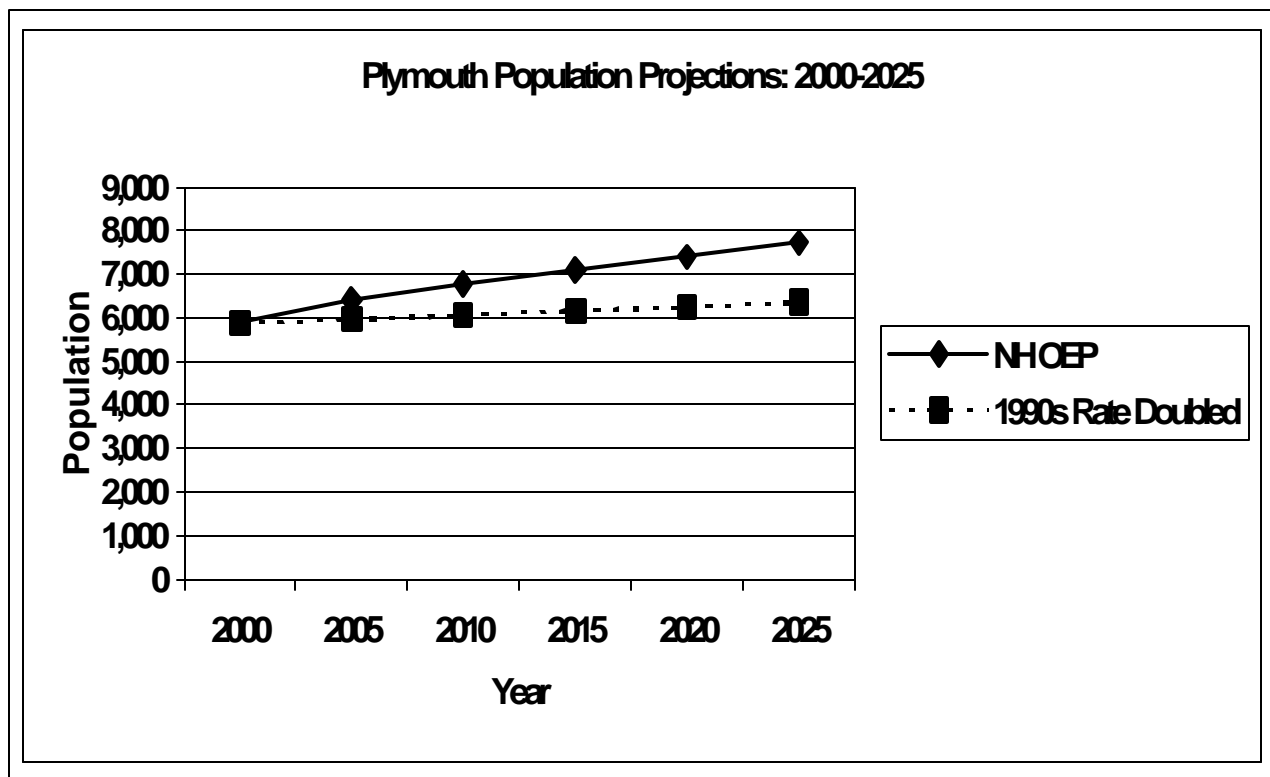
Poverty Status by Age Groups Plymouth, Grafton County & New Hampshire 1999						
	Plymouth		Grafton County		New Hampshire	
Age	# of Poverty Persons	%	# of Poverty Persons	%	# of Poverty Persons	%
Under 18	102	13.0%	1,489	23.0%	22,028	28.1%
18 - 64	640	81.5%	4,214	65.2%	46,510	59.2%
65-75	43	5.5%	759	11.7%	9,992	12.7%
Total Persons	785		6,462		78,530	

Note: 553 of the 640 persons are in the 18 - 24 age group
Source: US Census



10. Population Projections

According to population projections prepared by both the New Hampshire Office of Energy Planning, Plymouth’s population is projected to increase by 30% by 2025 (an increase of 1,828 people) at a steady rate. Using the rate of population increase that occurred between 1990 and 2000 (1.4%) every 5 years through 2025 (noted on the graph as "1990s Rate doubled"), the projected increase is only 8% or 470 people through 2025.



[Additional projections need to be developed incorporating data from Plymouth State University, Spaulding Hospital and other significant employers in the area.]