

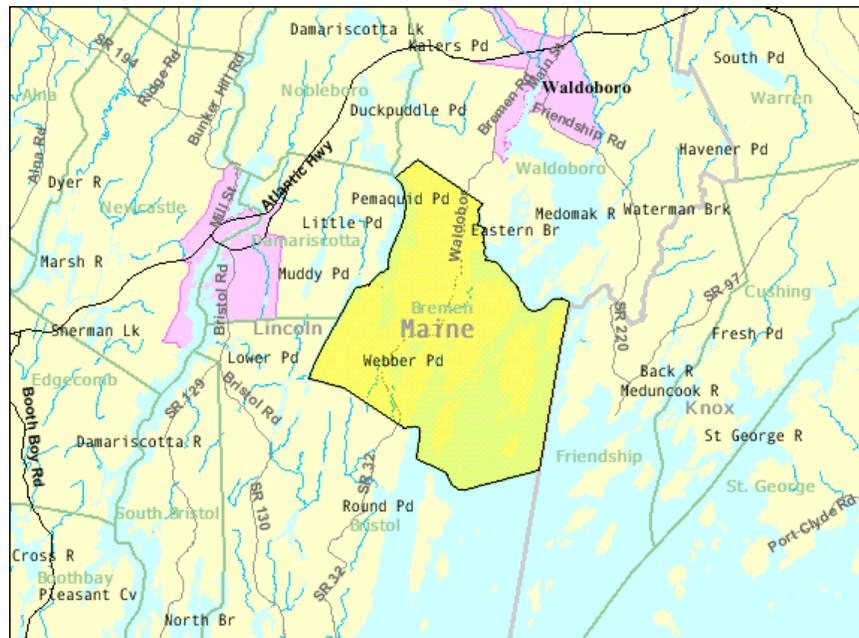
BREMEN, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Bremen (44.00°N, 69.43°W) is located in Lincoln County in southeastern Maine (USGS 2008). Bremen sits on Muscongus Bay (State of Maine 2004).



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

Historical/Background

William Hilton of Plymouth, Massachusetts was the first European settler to this area, arriving 1735 with his family. Soon after their settlement, they were driven off by Native Americans, but were able to return in 1745 after the end of the war (Varney 1886). A number of Germans migrated to this area during the mid-18th century after being misled into believing a prosperous city existed here in the middle of the wilderness (State of Maine 2004). The town of Bremen was named after the German city of the same name. Originally called Broad Cove (Lincoln County 2006), Bremen was incorporated in 1828, and on three separate occasions, in 1830, 1853, and 1856, traded land with neighboring Waldoboro. In 1929, Bremen acquired Cow Island in Muscongus Bay, south of Bremen Long Island (State of Maine 2004). Bremen includes the villages of Broad Bay, Medomak, and Muscongus, and the island of Bremen Long Island

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.”

(Lincoln County 2006). Boat building was an important industry in Bremen for many years; in 1903 there were 22 sloops being built on Bremen Long Island (Pleasant Valley Nautical LLC 2006). The Medomak River, which flows by Bremen, is a native word meaning “place of many alewives” (Perry 2004).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Bremen had a total population of 782, up 17.2% from the reported population of 667 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.1% were female and 50.9% were male. The median age for Bremen in 2000 was 46.4 years and 76.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 23.0% of the population was 62 or older.

The age structure in Bremen (Figure 1) showed a severe drop in the ages of 20-29, but almost doubled in the 50-59 age group. This may have shown an out migration after high school followed by a return home in the middle to later years.

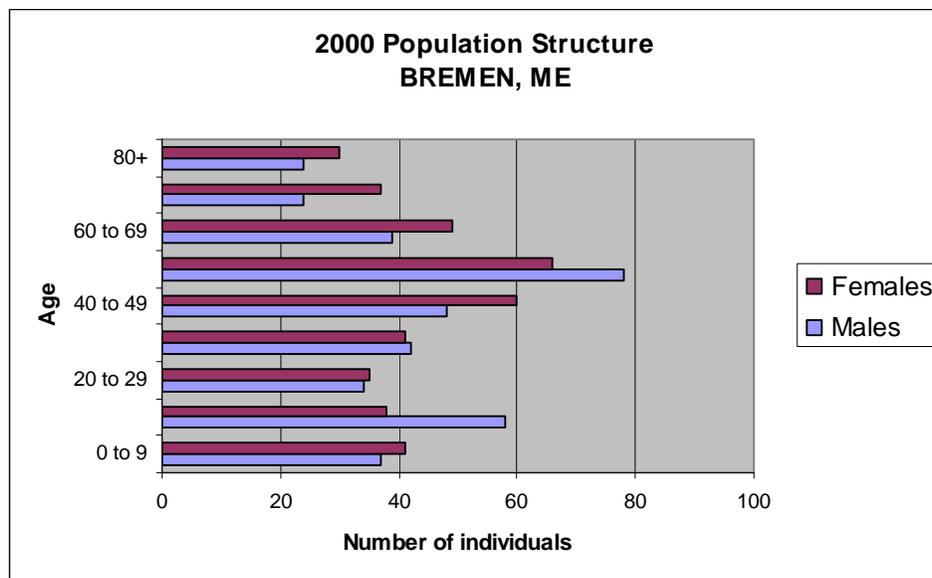


Figure 1. Bremen's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Bremen was white (98.3%), with 0.8% black or African American, 0.6% Native American, 0.3% Asian, and no residents Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.3% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of European ancestries including the following: English (28.8%), Irish (15.9%), German (14.3%), and Scottish (6.5%). With regard to region of birth, 43.5% were born in Maine, 50.6% were born in a different state, and 4.6% were born outside of the US (including 0.5% who were not US 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.

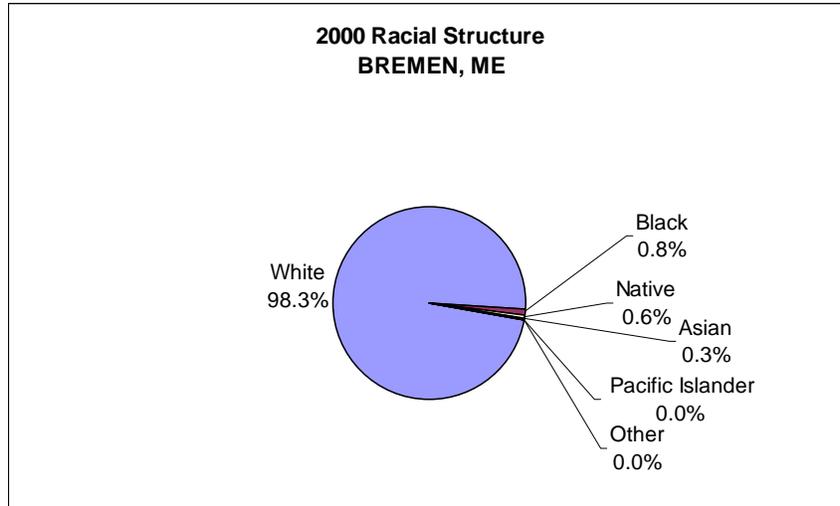


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

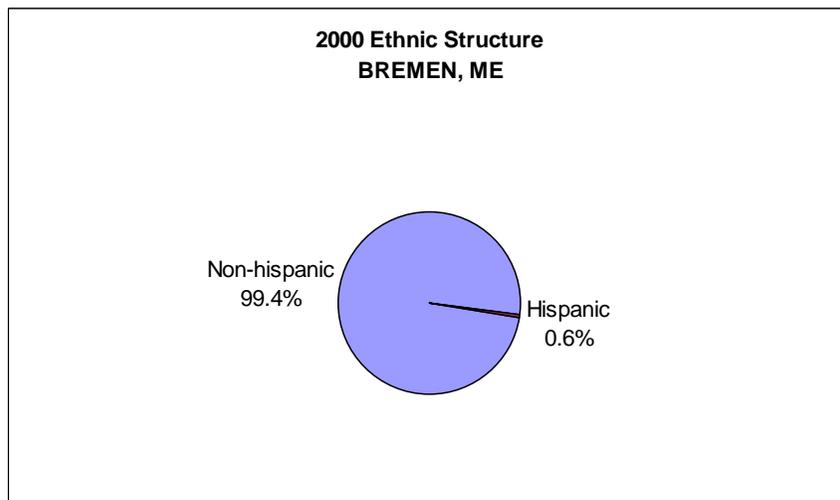


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 98.4% of the population 5 years old and higher, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 1.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 87.5% were high school graduates or higher and 26.7% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.7% did not reach ninth grade, 9.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 34.8% completed high school, 20.2% had some college with no degree, 5.8% received an associate’s degree, 16.0% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 10.7% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations in Lincoln County was the United Church of Christ, with 8 congregations and 1,104 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist Church (8 with 1,100 adherents), American Baptist USA (7 with 775 adherents), Episcopal Church (4 with 952 adherents), and Catholic (3 with 2,730 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 55.0% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

A developer and resident of Bremen has purchased about one third of Bremen Long Island, and intends to develop a subdivision on the island. This plan has met with some resistance from residents, despite the developer's intentions to build an environmentally-friendly development and to preserve much of the island's undeveloped land. After concern about building a dock on the waterfront, the developer agreed to financially assist Bremen's Lobster Co-op in exchange for shorefront access. He also agreed to scale back the development, and not to build a marina on the mainland (Cartwright 2006).

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 2005).

There are three working waterfront docks and numerous lobster traps in Hockomock Channel, which is becoming increasingly crowded, sometimes causing conflicts among boats. Shellfishing in Hockomock Channel is currently prohibited because of non-point source pollution; clam flats at Bremen Long Island were recently reopened after being closed for ten years. Development is increasing in the community, and there is concern that this will cause increasing pollution, further affecting the clam beds (Colbert 2006).

Cultural attributes

Although there are no museums located in Bremen, the Maine Fishermen's Museum is located nearby in Pemaquid Point, ME. Bremen hosts a Blessing of the Fleet, which was conducted for the fourth year in a row in 2006 (Wilson 2006). Bremen also holds an annual Bremen Country Fair (Lincoln County News 2006).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Bremen has an aquaculture facility located here, Muscongus Bay Aquaculture, which is working to develop a shellfish producer value added program (MTI 2004). The economy in Lincoln County is a mix of traditional industries, including fishing, lobstering, boat building, forestry, and agriculture, and newer industries such as nuclear power, the service industry, and tourism, giving the community with a strong and stable economic present and future (Lincoln County 2006).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 54.2% (351 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.0% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 52.2% were employed.

⁴ 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.

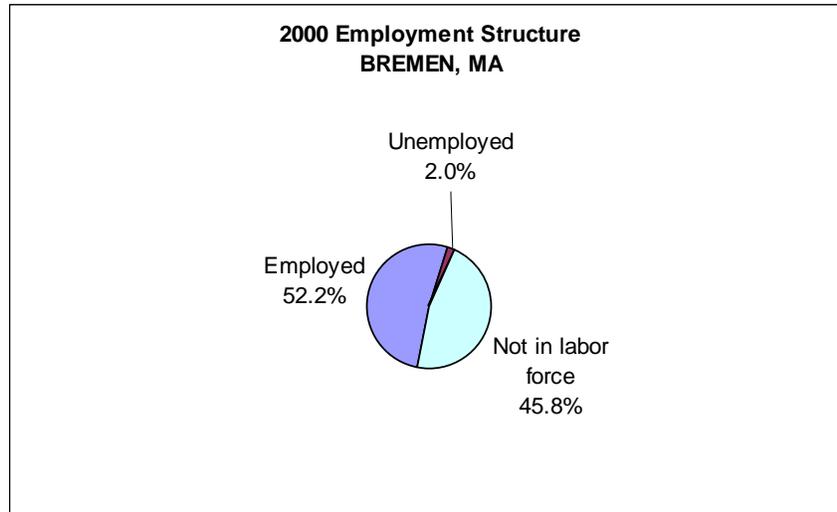


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 20 positions or 5.9% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 59 positions or 17.5% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (26.0%), manufacturing (16.3%), and retail trade (16.0%), were the primary industries.

Median household income in Bremen was \$36,167 (up 36.8% from \$26,447 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$29,869. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 28.2% more per year than females.

The average family in Bremen consisted of 2.76 persons. With respect to poverty, 8.3% of families (up slightly from 8.0% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 10.5% of individuals were below the US 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 200a). In 2000, 38.9% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Bremen had a total of 600 housing units of which 54.8% were occupied and 91.8% were detached one unit homes. Just over one quarter (26.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 4.8% of the total housing units; 89.8% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$132,900. Of vacant housing units, 92.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 9.8% were renter occupied.

Government

Bremen has a selectmen/town meeting style of government (State of Maine 2004).

Fishery involvement in government

The town of Bremen has a Harbor Committee and a harbor master (Colbert 2006).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (MLA) 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.

Fishing assistance centers

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 (State of Maine 2005a). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing related organizations

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

The town of Bremen is located at the meeting of the Medomace (Medomak) River and Muscongus Bay. It sits on Route 32 and is the primary town on Keene Neck (State of Maine 2004). It is bordered by Waldoboro to the Northeast, Bristol to the South, and Damariscotta to the West (Lincoln County 2006). Bremen is 24 miles from Rockland, 34 miles from Brunswick, and 59 miles from Portland. The closest airport to Bremen is the Knox County Regional Airport in Rockland.

Much of the fishing fleet is found in Bremen's Hockomock Channel. Broad Cove Marine, which has a boat ramp, is also found here (Colbert 2006).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁵

Commercial

The Bremen Lobster Pound Co-op is located on Bremen Long Island (Cartwright 2006). Fishermen unload their catch at one of three working waterfront docks in Hockomock Channel;

⁵ 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.

Maine Fresh Lobster Dock, Medomak Shellfish, and the Bremen Coop. “Bremen lobstermen haul about 3,000,000 pounds of lobster annually, at a value of \$6 million,” according to the town’s comprehensive plan (Colbert 2006).

Like many communities in Maine, the most valuable species landed in Bremen is lobster, followed by “Other” (which includes soft clams and bluefin tuna) (see Table 1). The overall landings for Bremen show a generally increasing trend, reaching a peak in 2006. The number of vessels home ported in Bremen was variable during the ten year time period, with a high of 17 in 2003 and a low of just ten the following year. The number of vessels with owners living in Bremen followed the same trend as home ported vessels (see Table 2). The level of home port fishing was drastically different from the level of landings in the community. The landings in Bremen were less than a third of home port fishing in 1997, but in most subsequent years the landings were more than an order of magnitude greater than the level of home port fishing. The one exception was in 2005, when the level of landings declined considerably, falling below the level of home port fishing.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other⁶	2
Largemesh Groundfish⁷	3
Monkfish	4
Scallop	5
Skate	6

(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.)

Vessels by Year⁸

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	15	12
1998	12	14
1999	11	9
2000	12	9
2001	12	11
2002	15	13
2003	17	15
2004	10	8
2005	13	11
2006	14	11

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence⁹)

⁶ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group.

⁷ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

⁸ 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.

Recreational

Information on recreational fishing in Bremen is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Bremen is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

There are many indications that growth is coming to Bremen, and that this area will experience much of the growth seen in southern areas of Maine. This causes residents to be concerned about the impact of growth on the town's working waterfront (Colbert 2006).

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⁹ 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.

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