

**Overview**

The Katahdin Region\* has experienced significant socioeconomic change over the past few years and citizens are actively exploring opportunities to make the region a more resilient and robust place to live, work, and play. Collating and comparing socioeconomic indicators is a well-regarded approach to both developing a ‘snapshot’ of the current state of a community, but also assessing whether an area is making positive strides in terms of social and economic development. This handout presents several socioeconomic indicators for the greater Katahdin Region, and compares many of them over time as well as to Penobscot and Aroostook Counties, Maine and the United States. These indicators can help provide insight on where the area may be succeeding as well as opportunities for improvement.

**Regional Comparison of Key Indicators**

The Katahdin Region has faced significant socio-economic changes in recent years and lags the two counties it is located in, the state, and the country in many key indicators. Between 2000 and 2017, the region has experienced a 12.2% decline in population, and with a median age of 52.6 years, Katahdin’s residents are older than the other areas of comparison. In 2017, the region’s unemployment rate was approximately 8%, and only 47% of the residents aged 16 and older were participating in the labor force. However, the Katahdin Region’s estimated poverty rates are relatively low, which can be partially attributed to low housing values compared to household income and a high proportion of retirees in the area who may be living of social security and other savings. A detailed list of indicators for each municipality in the region is presented on the back page.

<b>Indicator (source<sup>^</sup>)</b>	<b>Katahdin Region</b>	<b>Penobscot County</b>	<b>Aroostook County</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>USA</b>
Change in Population, 2010-2017 (1,2)	-3.0%	-1.1%	-4.2%	0.1%	4.0%
Change in Population, 2000-2017 (1,2)	-12.2%	-0.4%	-4.9%	0.2%	5.6%
Median Age (2)	52.6	41.8	47.2	44.3	37.8
Education: high school graduate or higher (2)	88%	91.4%	87.6%	92.1%	87.3%
Education: bachelor’s degree or higher (2)	11.4%	26.2%	18.5%	30.3%	30.9%
Median Household (HH) Income (2)	\$35,501	\$47,886	\$39,021	\$53,024	\$57,652
Labor Force Participation Rate (2)	46.6%	61%	55%	63%	63%
Unemployment Rate (3)	7.8%	3.3%	4.6%	2.7%	4.4%
Mean work commute (minutes) (2)	23	23	18	24	26
People below poverty level: Total (2)	14.8%	15.9%	17.5%	12.9%	14.6%
People below poverty level: Under 18 (2)	16.7%	19.2%	22.1%	16.7%	20.3%
People below poverty level: 65 and older (2)	9.1%	8.1%	12.9%	8.8%	9.3%
Median house age (2)	1961	1973	1972	1973	1976
Median housing value (2)	\$69,874	\$137,900	\$97,000	\$179,900	\$193,500
Property Tax Rate (4)	29.3	18.6	17.8	N/A	N/A

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<sup>\*</sup> For the purpose of this study, the Katahdin Region includes Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Stacyville, Sherman, Patten, Mount Chase, and Island Falls

<sup>^</sup> 1) US Census Bureau, Decennial Census; 2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates; 3) Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information; 4) Maine Revenue Service, Property Tax Division

### Katahdin Region Socioeconomic Indicators by Municipality, 2017

Indicator (source)	Millinocket		East Millinocket		Medway		Sherman		Stacyville		Patten		Mount Chase		Island Falls		Katahdin Region	
	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)	2017 estimate	2000-2017 change (%)
Population (1,2)	4,346	-16%	1,785	-2%	1,099	-26%	949	1%	427	5%	892	-20%	211	-15%	843	6%	10,552	-12%
Population under 20 years (1,2)	13%	-44%	19%	-25%	20%	-28%	24%	-8%	10%	-65%	22%	-6%	19%	-10%	16%	-32%	24%	-2%
Population 65 and older (1,2)	29%	50%	25%	17%	17%	63%	18%	5%	32%	88%	36%	82%	37%	141%	27%	49%	18%	-1%
Median Age (1,2)	54.2	22%	48.9	13%	47.7	21%	52.3	23%	48.8	19%	55.8	27%	54.4	17%	56.6	33%	52.6	22%
Educational Attainment: High school or higher (1,2)	87%	3%	93%	6%	89%	13%	89%	6%	86%	22%	86%	10%	90%	21%	87%	5%	88%	6%
Educational Attainment: Bachelor's or higher (1,2)	11.00%	-8%	11.60%	-20%	7.00%	3%	14.40%	82%	7.30%	-37%	15.80%	119%	8.50%	-35%	18.90%	62%	11.40%	4%
Median Household Income (1,2)	\$32,333	-20%	\$37,542	-19%	\$39,773	-14%	\$41,467	9%	\$31,625	-14%	\$35,750	-3%	\$33,750	-8%	\$37,361	0%	\$35,501	-14%
Household (HH) with Social Security (1,2)	57%	35%	47%	29%	42%	36%	51%	64%	39%	-2%	43%	16%	64%	76%	56%	44%	51%	34%
HH with Retirement income (1,2)	26%	24%	22%	4%	21%	44%	23%	62%	13%	-17%	14%	-8%	25%	3%	29%	73%	23%	23%
Civilian employed population 16 years and over (1,2)	1,631	-20%	644	-10%	373	-39%	381	4%	158	15%	389	-22%	74	-36%	279	-22%	3,929	-19%
Total Labor Force Participation Rate (1,2)	45%	-11%	48%	-6%	45%	-18%	49%	-7%	53%	-2%	50%	-12%	43%	-24%	43%	-29%	47%	-11%
Male Labor Force Participation Rate (1,2)	15%	-73%	48%	-12%	45%	-29%	49%	-22%	53%	-22%	50%	-23%	43%	-26%	43%	-38%	34%	-43%
Female Labor Force Participation Rate (1,2)	43%	-6%	45%	-7%	40%	-12%	40%	-5%	52%	23%	54%	9%	56%	2%	36%	-31%	44%	-6%
Unemployment Rate (3)	6.5%	10%	9.7%	162%	12.9%	119%	4.8%	-20%	13.7%	76%	5.1%	16%	2.6%	4%	8.2%	61%	7.8%	45%
Mean commuting time (1,2)	23	67%	20	54%	26	36%	26	-23%	21	-2%	18	2%	34	28%	22	4%	23	33%
People below poverty level: Total (1,2)	10.1%	-32%	19.7%	46%	17.6%	53%	16.0%	19%	26.0%	47%	15.5%	-13%	21.3%	-22%	15.5%	9%	14.8%	1%
People below poverty level: Under 18 (1,2)	N/A	N/A	30.6%	38%	40.6%	227%	28.4%	74%	22.6%	-1%	29.3%	27%	50.0%	229%	3.9%	-80%	16.7%	-14%
People below poverty level: 65 years and older(1,2)	9.3%	-25%	12.4%	110%	1.6%	-86%	3.6%	-75%	9.1%	-5%	5.4%	-67%	11.7%	-73%	20.5%	77%	9.1%	-26%
Median Housing Value	\$63,800	-14%	\$55,700	-28%	\$70,414	-23%	\$91,900	14%	\$71,400	-10%	\$84,600	17%	\$115,600	38%	\$77,900	12%	\$69,874	-9%
Housing occupancy rate (1,2)	79%	-8%	91%	2%	80%	-11%	77%	-8%	71%	-3%	73%	-14%	34%	-24%	53%	-12%	77%	-8%
Property Tax Rate <sup>1</sup> (4)	32.3	41%	33.5	98%	28.7	32%	24	36%	25	36%	27.3	43%	16.9	3%	22.9	13%	29.3	42%
Municipal Valuation <sup>1</sup> (mil) (4)	163	-48%	65	-65%	59	2%	42	23%	19	-53%	41	11%	36	56%	68	27%	493	-34%

<sup>1</sup>Tax rate and municipal valuation estimated changes from 2006 – 2017/18