

5. ECONOMY

Raymond and the Lakes Region

Raymond's economy can be viewed in terms of the trends occurring in the Lakes Region. The Lakes Region includes the towns of Raymond, Bridgton, Casco, Naples and Windham. Based on the Lake Region Economic Indicators Report, prepared by the Maine Development Foundation and the Lake Region Development Council, 33,000 people live in the six-town lake region. The six towns include a land area of 233 square miles and they are located in close proximity to Sebago Lake. All have access to Route 302 which provides access to the Portland area as well as areas to the west.

According to the report, there are 850 businesses in the region and "(t)he economy in the lake region is a mixture of traditional and emerging industries. The new economy, one based in the information age, technology and the distribution of services, now comprises a major part of the region's employment base and will only continue to grow. In 2000, the largest percentage of jobs – 38% - was in the services industry. Manufacturing, a traditional industry, still plays an important part in the economy. As of 2000, 13% of the region's employment opportunities were in the manufacturing industry."

"Tourism and related services also comprise a large part of the region's economy. Graced with beautiful lakes, framed by the western Maine mountain ranges and boasting a rich heritage, the region is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and people wanting to experience Maine at its best. Boating, fishing, miles of snowmobile trails and hiking trails make the region an ideal summer or winter destination."

"The future of the region's economy depends on developing and promoting a balance between traditional values and growing the economy in keeping with those values. Many factors will influence this future, including the business climate of the region, the education levels of the local population and workforce, the region's infrastructure, the health of its environment and the variety of local communities."

Report Highlights. Other highlights of the Lake Region Economic Indicators Report include the following:

- Self employment. The six towns of the Lake Region all report higher percentages of households with self-employment income than Maine or Cumberland County.
- Service vs. manufacturing jobs. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of jobs available in the service industry increased 34.5%, while the number of manufacturing jobs declined 12%.
- Seasonal employment. In 2000, the entire lakes region employed 8.2% more people (an average of 11,297 jobs) in the summer than on an annual basis (an average of 10,440 jobs).

Commercial property. Since 1994, the percent of property valued as commercial in the Lake Region has remained relatively stagnant at around 14% to 15% of total valuations. Commercial valuations in Raymond increased the most of any lake region towns between 1994 and 1999 – from 14% to 18%.

Employment

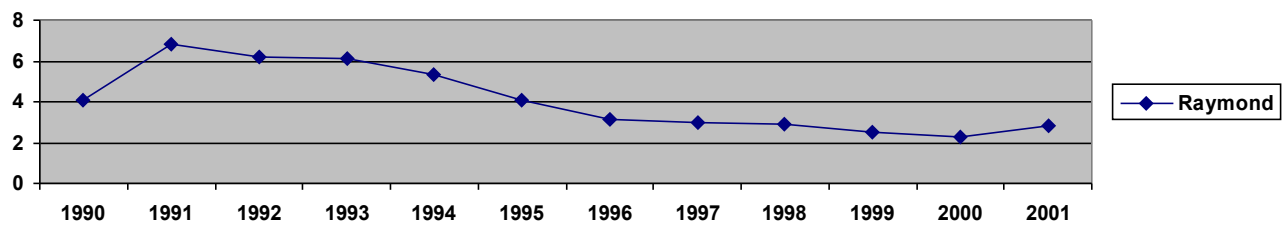
The Town of Raymond is not a major employment center, but is primarily a residential community with a number of small businesses. Most Raymond residents work outside the community. The Town's labor force (made up of Raymond residents) is comparable in size to that of Casco and New Gloucester. Table 1 provides an overall summary of the employment picture for Raymond, the Lake Region communities, several other adjacent communities, Cumberland County and the State of Maine for the year 2001. Raymond had a labor force of 2,066 people, of whom 2,009 were employed and 57 were unemployed. Raymond's overall unemployment rate was 2.8%, which was one of the lower rates of all jurisdictions shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary Of Employment, Unemployment – 2001				
	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lake Region Towns				
Raymond	2,066	2,009	57	2.8
Bridgton	2,118	2,027	91	4.3
Casco	1,755	1,711	44	2.5
Harrison	1,190	1,141	49	4.1
Naples	1,755	1,679	76	4.3
Windham	8,378	8,185	193	2.3
Other Towns				
Gray	4,055	3,963	92	2.3
New Gloucester	2,103	2,028	75	3.6
Poland	2,899	2,768	131	4.5
Cumberland Co.	145,580	142,200	3,380	3.4
Maine	683,900	656,800	27,100	4.0

Source: Maine Department of Labor

Raymond's unemployment rate was relatively high during the early 1990's, but has generally been declining since 1992 (there was a small increase in 2001). The change in Raymond's unemployment rate is shown in the following chart.

Raymond Unemployment Over Time



Place of Employment

Table 2 shows where Raymond residents 16 years of age and older worked in 1990, and where the people live who work in Raymond (similar data is not yet available for 2000). Approximately 85% of the workforce was employed outside the Town – a situation which hasn't changed much in recent years. The largest number of commuters were employed in Portland. The large number of Raymond residents commuting to work elsewhere has contributed to worsening traffic problems along Route 302. Of the total work force employed in Raymond, 28% came from Raymond, 14% came from Windham, and 10% came from Casco.

Table 2
Place Of Employment – 1990

Place of Work – Raymond Residents			Residence of People Working in Raymond		
	#	%		#	%
Raymond	233	15	Raymond	233	28
Portland	443	28	Windham	116	14
Windham	248	16	Casco	83	10
Westbrook	107	7	Naples	74	9
Gray	56	3	Gray	44	5
South Portland	52	3	Bridgton	41	5
Gorham	50	3	Paris	28	3
Casco	44	3	Standish	25	3
Lewiston	30	2	Poland	24	3
Scarborough	28	2	Other	175	21
Auburn	26	2	Total	843	101
Bridgton	25	2			
Rumford	25	2			
Yarmouth	23	1			
Standish	22	1			
Other	178	11			
Total	1,590	101			

Source: 1990 Census

Employment by Industry

Table 3 contains a breakdown of the labor force by industry for Raymond, Cumberland County and the State of Maine as reflected in the 2000 Census. The largest employment categories in Raymond are manufacturing (398 jobs), retail trade (354), professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management services (223) and education, health and social services (531). Data from the Census indicates a larger work force (2,379) than the Maine Department of Labor (2,066) because Census data covers all workers, while the Maine Department of Labor excludes certain categories of workers such as agricultural workers.

**Table 3
Labor Force Employment By Industry – 2000**

	Raymond		Cumb. County		State	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	44	1.8	1,366	1.0	16,087	2.6
Construction	187	7.9	7,647	5.5	42,906	6.9
Manufacturing	398	16.7	13,453	9.7	88,885	14.2
Wholesale trade	46	1.9	5,372	3.9	21,470	3.4
Retail trade	354	14.9	20,335	14.7	84,412	13.5
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	46	1.9	5,404	3.9	26,857	4.3
Information	26	1.1	5,058	3.6	15,294	2.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, renting/leasing	161	6.8	13,590	9.8	38,449	6.2
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management services	223	9.4	13,756	9.9	43,074	6.9
Education, health and social services	531	22.3	30,854	22.3	144,918	23.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services	146	6.1	10,727	7.7	44,606	7.1
Other services (except public administration)	142	6.0	6,183	4.5	29,182	4.7
Public administration	75	3.2	4,867	3.5	27,871	4.5
Total	2,379	100.0	138,612	100.0	624,011	100

Source: 2000 Census

Employment by Occupation

Table 4 contains an occupational breakdown for Raymond, Cumberland County and the State of Maine as reflected in the 2000 Census. The occupational breakdown of Raymond's workers indicates a much higher percentage of workers in the management, professional and related occupations (42.5%) than at the County or State level, and a much lower percentage in sales and office occupations (21.0%).

**Table 4
Labor Force Employment By Occupation - 2000**

	Raymond		Cumberland Co.		State	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Management, professional and related occupations	1,012	42.5	53,750	38.8	196,862	31.5
Service occupations	328	13.8	19,660	14.2	95,601	15.3
Sales and office occupations	500	21.0	39,108	28.2	161,480	25.9
Farming, fishing and forestry occupations	7	0.3	865	0.6	10,338	1.7
Construction, extraction and maintenance occupations	248	10.4	9,911	7.2	64,064	10.3
Production, transportation and material moving occupations	284	11.9	15,318	11.1	95,666	15.3
Total	2,379	99.9	138,612	100.1	624,011	100

Source: 2000 Census

Taxable Retail Sales

Taxable retail sales tax information provides a way of measuring the commercial economy of a given area. According to State averages, consumers spend about 46.5 percent of their income on taxable consumer goods (the remainder is spent on such things as housing, food and services). Table 5 shows total taxable sales for Raymond, several comparison communities, Cumberland County and the State for the years 1996 through 2001. Table 5 shows that total taxable sales in Raymond have grown at a faster pace (61%) than any other jurisdiction shown except New Gloucester (65%). The large level of taxable sales in Windham reflects its prominent role as the major shopping area for the Lakes Region.

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 5 Total Taxable Sales, 1996 – 2001 In thousands of dollars</p>							
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change 1996-01
Lake Region							
Raymond	14,512	15,107	18,120	19,627	22,074	23,300	61
Bridgton	24,799	27,904	31,770	34,710	34,750	34,760	40
Casco	17,048	16,822	18,187	23,776	23,366	23,644	39
Harrison	3,912	3,697	4,000	4,035	4,492	4,017	3
Naples	15,287	15,963	19,151	19,416	21,568	22,853	49
Windham	114,970	118,788	134,041	152,361	167,396	172,513	50
Other Towns							
Gray	28,576	30,028	32,194	36,024	35,950	39,558	38
New Glou.	5,761	5,925	7,340	8,582	9,489	9,526	65
Cumb. Co	2,967,356	3,119,013	3,342,086	3,649,738	3,805,897	3,836,639	29
Maine	10,915,793	11,323,942	12,418,326	13,453,151	13,889,531	14,169,084	30

Source: Maine State Planning Office

Major Industrial Employers

Raymond currently has three major industrial employers. It should be noted that Dielectric has increased its employees by 180% since 1991 while Sabre Yachts had lost 8% of its employees. The newest industry in town is Chipco (Embedtech). Since the 1991 plan the town has lost several small industrial employers.

Local Businesses

Table 6 lists numbers of businesses registered with the town by type as of August 2002. A more comprehensive list can be found at the town's web site, www.raymondmaine.org.

Table 6	
Summary of Local Business Types	
BUSINESS TYPE	NUMBER
<u>Accommodations</u>	
Apartments	1
Campgrounds	1
Camps, Summer	8
Motel and Cottage Rentals	6
Sub-total	16
<u>Entertainment</u>	
Bowling Centers	1
Restaurants	5
Sub-total	6
<u>Personal Service</u>	
Banks	1
Barber Shops	1
Beauty Shops	2
Church	2
Counseling	1
Day Nursery	2
Financial Services	1
Physicians	2
Veterinarian/Animal Boarding	2
Sub-total	14
<u>Professional Services</u>	
Advertising	1
Agricultural Commercial	3
Appraisers	1
Attorneys	2
Audio Services/Recording Studios	1
Business Forms/Ad Specialties/Copiers	2
Business Services NEC	1
Computer Training and Repair	2
Consultants, Business	2
Consultants, Food	1
Consultant, Land	1
Electronic Equipment	1
Engine Repair	1
Environmental Services	1
Graphic Design/Multimedia	2
Insurance Adjuster	1
Insurance Agencies	1
Insurance Appraisers	1
Interior Design	1

Landscaping/Lawn Maintenance	4
Laundries & Dry Cleaning	1
Meat Packers	1
Moving & Storage	1
Nurseries/Garden Center	1
Picture Framing	1
Property and Camp Maintenance/Remodeling/Roofing	1
Real Estate Brokers/Agents	1
Sub-total	37
<u>Retail</u>	
Antiques	1
Bait Shops	2
Candles	1
Canopies	1
Convenience Stores/Sandwiches/Ice Cream	5
Fine Arts/Gallery	2
Floor Coverings	2
General	1
Gift Shops/Handcrafts	2
Glass Dealers	1
Grocers	2
Hardware/Equipment Rentals	1
Equipment	1
Seafood Market	1
Signs	1
Sporting Goods	1
Sub-total	25
<u>Trades</u>	
Carpentry/Cabinetry/Woodworking	4
Contractors, Building	3
Contractors, Electrical	2
Contractors, Excavating	5
Contractors, General	2
Contractors, Mason	1
Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning	3
Home Inspection	1
Plumbing	1
Sub-total	22
<u>Vehicle Services</u>	
Automobile & Truck Dealers	0
Automobile Parts & Supplies	0
Automobile/RV Repair & Service	2
Boat Building/Restoration	1
Boat Lifts	
Sub-total	3
Total Businesses	123