

3 POPULATION

3.1 Population Trends

As of the 2010 Census the Town’s population was 2,591. A more recent estimate by the American Community Survey in 2015 shows this holding steady at 2,594. Between 2000 and 2010, the population of St. George increased 0.4% compared to Knox County’s 0.3% increase and the State’s 4.2% increase during the same period.

The population of St. George rose dramatically in the early 1800’s, as shipbuilding became the major enterprise in town. Peaks in population during the 1800’s occurred as the ship building industry brought waves of immigrants in from various European countries. The population declines from its all-time high in 1880 through 1920, as shipbuilding disappeared in most coastal Maine towns. The population rose sharply between 1920 and 1930 when the quarry industry brought stonecutter immigrants. These individuals moved out of the area after 1930 to work, many in Boston, and the population declined to a low of 1482 in 1950. St. George’s population increased gradually between 1950 and 1970. Since then, migration has caused the Town’s population to increase rapidly until 2000 when the population increase has started to slow and remain steady.

Total year-round population figures for the Town of St. George are shown in **Table 3-1** below which also illustrates the Town’s historical population growth.

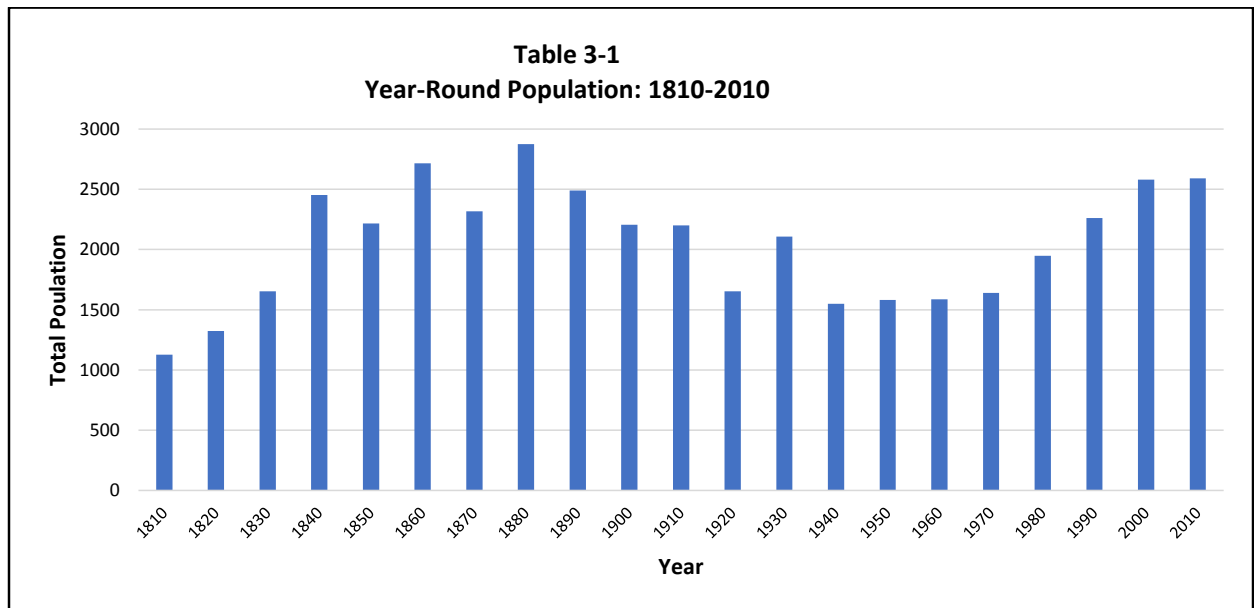


Table 3-2 exhibits a 40-year trend comparison (1970-2010) of St. George's population to that of surrounding communities. Over the past 40 years St. George has seen a 58% growth rate which is higher than the Count and State. Cushing had the highest growth rate at an increase of 194% and while the larger community of Rockland saw a decrease in population of a little over 14%.

Table 3-2 Comparative Population Change								
Year	St. George	Cushing	Friendship	Rockland	South Thomaston	Thomaston	Knox Cty	Maine
1970	1,639	522	834	8,505	831	2,646	29,013	993,722
1980	1,948	795	1,000	7,919	1,064	2,900	32,941	1,124,660
1990	2,261	998	1,099	7,972	1,227	3,306	36,310	1,226,928
2000	2,580	1,322	1,204	7,609	1,416	3,748	39,618	1,274,923
2010	2,591	1,534	1,152	7,297	1,558	2,781	39,736	1,328,361
%Ch 70-80	18.9	52.3	19.9	-6.9	28.0	9.6	13.5	13.2
%Ch 80-90	16.1	24.3	9.9	0.7	15.3	14	10.2	9.1
%Ch 90-00	14	34	10	-0.54	15	13	9.1	0.04
%Ch 00-10	0.04	16	-4.3	-4.1	10	-25.8*	0.3	4.2
% Ch 70-10	58.08	193.87	38.13	-14.20	87.48	5.10	36.96	33.68

Sources: U.S. Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010.

*Prison population moved from Thomaston to Warren

Population by Age Group: Census data comparisons for the last 10 to 20 years shows that the population of St. George is aging. Between 1990 and 2010 adults in the 55 to 74 range (pre-retirement/early retirement aged adults) increased by 41%, while the adults between the ages of 25 and 54 (those adults in the prime parenting and household building years) decreased by 6%. St. George also has an older population than that of Knox County as a whole. In 2000 the median age for St. George was 44.5 and Knox County was 41.1, a difference of 3 years. In 2010 that gap had increased to over 5 years with St. George median age increasing to 50.2 and the Knox County median age increasing to 44.5.

Table 3-3 below shows the overall population change by age group for St. George.

Table 3-3 Population Change: 1990 - 2010				
Age Group	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1990-2010
Under 5	144	127	109	-32%
5 to 14	297	341	260	-14%
15 to 24	213	213	201	-6%

25 to 34	292	261	203	-44%
35 to 44	390	370	256	-52%
45 to 54	237	413	406	42%
55 to 64	258	314	512	50%
65 to 74	254	300	361	30%
75 to 84	138	185	203	32%
85 +	38	56	80	53%
total	2261	2580	2591	
0 to 15	441	468	369	-20%
15 to 24	213	213	201	-6%
25 to 54	919	1044	865	-6%
55 to 74	512	614	873	41%
75plus	176	241	283	38%

Sources: U.S. Census 1990, 2000, and 2010.

3.2 Household Trends

In 2010 there were a total of 1,204 households in St. George, which is a 7% increase over 2000. While the number of households is increasing, the overall household size is decreasing. The 2010 data available on household size indicates that the average household size in St. George is 2.15 persons compared to 2.31 in 2000. Household size is also smaller than in Knox County (2.22 persons) and the State of Maine (2.32 persons). Average Family Size is also decreasing. In 2000, the Average Family Size was 2.77. By 2010 it had decreased to 2.60 and the number of households with individuals under 18 had decreased by 30%.

Table 3-4 below shows a summary of household by type and relationship.

Table 3-4 Household Type/Relationship				
Household Type	2000	2010	% Change	Change
Total Households	1119	1204	7.06%	85
Family Households	758	768	1.30%	10
With own children <18 years	316	231	-36.80%	-85
Non-Family Households	361	436	17.20%	75
Average Household Size	2.31	2.15	-7.44%	-0.16
Average Family Size	2.77	2.60	-6.54	-0.17
Households with Individuals under 18	329	253	-30.04%	-76
Households with Individuals 65 and older	380	467	18.63%	87

Sources: U.S. Census 2000 and 2010.

3.3 Population Projections

The Office of Policy and Management has prepared population projections for 2019 through 2034 using the recent historical growth of the town's share of the county's population and county population projections. The projections show that St. George will start a gradual population decline in 2019. By 2034 the total population is projected to decrease by 4.7% from 2010 census numbers.

There are a few aspects of Maine's demographic picture that appear to also have influences on St. George: an older population with a large number of baby boomers (generation born between 1946 and 1964); relatively few children; and low numbers of racial and ethnic minorities.

Table 3-5 Population Projections									
	Population projected				Percent change from previous period				Total percent change
2010 Population	2019	2024	2029	2034	2010- 2019	2019- 2024	2024- 2029	2029- 2034	2010-2034
2591	2,576	2,553	2,518	2,474	-0.6%	-0.9%	-1.4%	-1.8%	-4.7%

Source: Office of Policy and Management, 2016