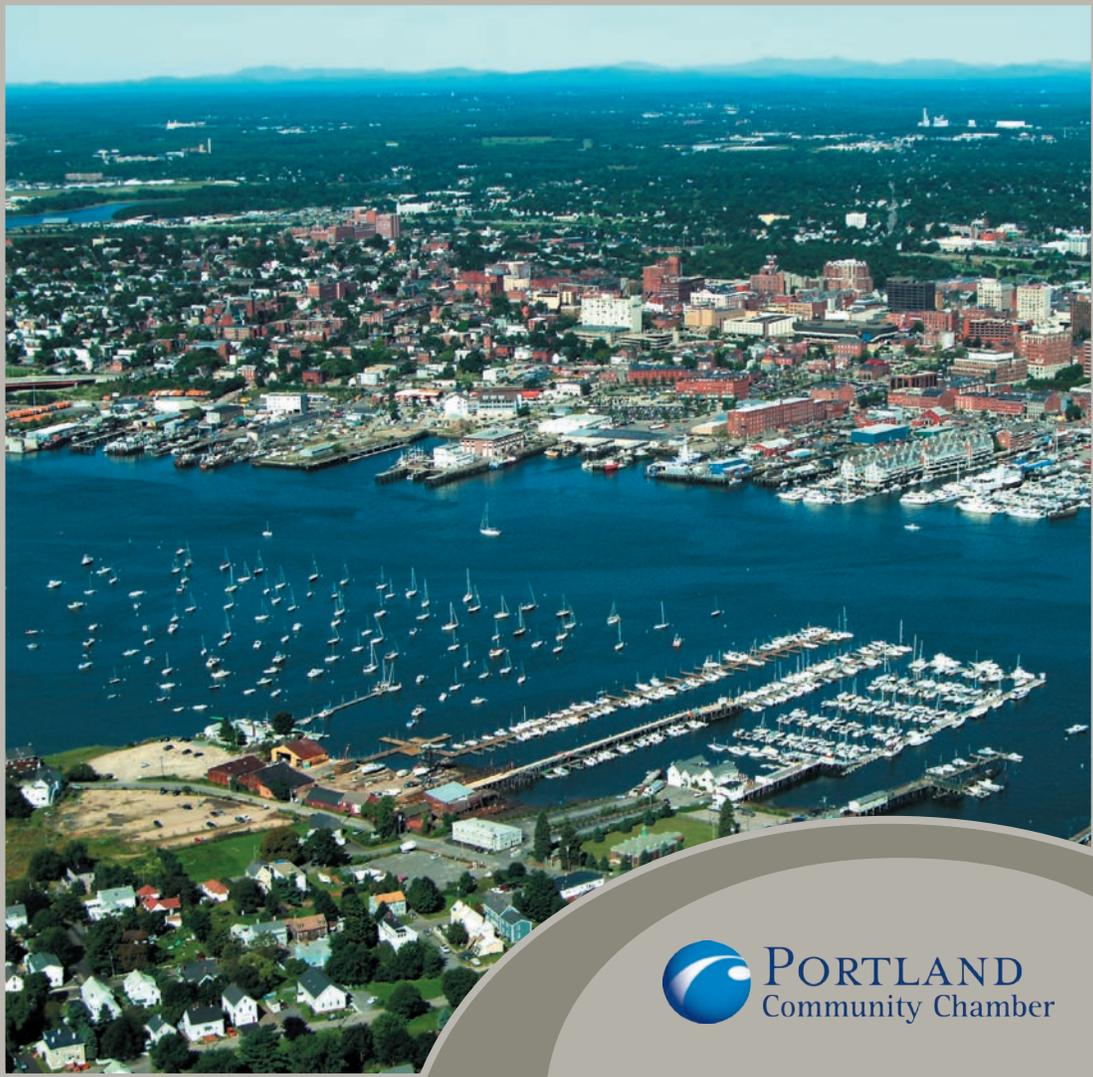

LOOKING OUT FOR PORTLAND AND THE REGION

2007



 PORTLAND
Community Chamber

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Portland Community Chamber's inaugural report, *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007*. This foundational study delivers an important view of current opportunities and challenges for our city and our region.

Portland is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. With the waterfront just steps away, vibrant downtown shopping, arts and restaurant districts, superior educational institutions such as the University of Southern Maine and Southern Maine Community College, and active neighborhoods throughout the city, we are very fortunate to call Portland home. Additionally we are surrounded by dynamic communities, the natural beauty of Casco Bay and remarkable outdoor resources, all of which serve to make Portland even more appealing.

These are the reasons why we are here. And the Portland Community Chamber strives daily to protect and grow these important assets. Healthy neighborhoods, a vigorously strong environment and a vibrant economy all make this a superb place to live, work and play.

While Portland is a great place, we need to know how Portland is doing in order to sustain our strengths, and avoid trouble. While a great deal of information is available on the Maine economy, very little data has been compiled that is specific to Portland and the Portland region.

This report tries to fill that gap. We hope you find it informative and enlightening. We intend to use the indicators in this report to build a better future for all of us. And we intend to publish this report every few years and add additional indicators and measures.

As always the Portland Community Chamber, along with the entire Portland Regional Chamber organization, will continue to work on Portland's behalf, and we look forward to making Portland an even better place to be. We hope you'll join us!

Thank you.

Mark McAuliffe, President

Portland Community Chamber

Acknowledgements

The Portland Community Chamber owes a debt of gratitude to many people for the extraordinary effort that went into creating this report. One of the most significant contributors, Jim Damicis of PolicyOne Research, Inc., deserves many thanks for his in-depth and detailed research, as well as his compilation of this important data. The cover photograph was provided by Dan Rodrigue of Studio 1 Photography, and the cover was designed by Emily Trescot of Emily Trescot Design. We are grateful for both of their efforts. Thanks also to Bert Follansbee for her design and desktop publishing contribution.

Appreciation is also owed to the Portland Community Chamber Board of Directors and Economic and City Affairs Committee. Both of these groups lent support and direction to the project. We'd especially like to thank the subcommittee that worked tirelessly on this project, including Robert Hansen of University of Southern Maine, Chip Harris of Kilbride & Harris Insurance Services, LLC, Jack Lufkin of Gorham Savings Bank, Laurie Banks of Perry & Banks Integrated Sales and Marketing, William Becker of the Maine Heritage Policy Center and Nelle Hanig of the city of Portland. Michael Bourque of MEMIC also provided valuable communications support.

The city of Portland has also been very supportive, especially Lee Urban and the Planning Staff. We'd like to acknowledge them for their cooperation. Additionally, we'd like to thank the Maine Development Foundation for their initial consultation.

The staff of the Portland Regional Chamber, especially Godfrey Wood, Christopher Hall and Martina Duncan, also merit our appreciation for working diligently on this important project.

To all those who contributed—thank you.

Table of Contents

Introduction and Summary	i
Data Snapshot – Trends over time show concerns	v
Selected Indicators.....	vii
Economic Performance	1
Public Finance	9
Housing, Health, and Public Safety	15
Demographics.....	19
Data Snapshot – How are we doing right now?.....	23
Methodology.....	27

Introduction

This report began with questions asked by members of the Portland Community Chamber (PCC) and their regional partners:

Where is our community today in relation to last year? In relation to five or 10 years ago? What are the trends in economics, demographics and quality of life in our city and in our area? Are we headed in the right direction? Are there things we need to strengthen, or preserve, or change?

More questions followed:

How does our city and our region compare to similar places – in Maine, in the Northeast, and across the nation? What are our strengths? Our weaknesses? How do we best prepare for the future of our community and our state?

Looking around, it quickly became clear there were many reports comparing Maine to the rest of the country, but there wasn't nearly as much information about how the city and the Greater Portland region compared. We also found little in the way of trend data to tell us how we are doing over time.

So we set to work, hiring Jim Damicis at PolicyOne Research Inc. to provide analysis, and assembling a committee of Portland Community Chamber members to provide guidance and oversight through more than six months of work. The report you hold would not have been possible without all of their committed efforts. We decided at the outset to measure the city of Portland against 24 representative communities and the Portland region against 26 regions around the country, including Boise City, ID; Manchester, NH; Burlington, VT; and Santa Barbara, CA. Please see pages 29-30 for a full list.

This report begins the process of answering some of our questions, and teaching us more about our city and our community. However, good data often raises more questions than it answers, and we are committed to presenting this research as a first step in coming together to find solutions – nothing more or less.

In fact, we fully expect that *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007* will become both a living document, updated regularly by the Portland Community Chamber, and a platform for launching additional research as the information in this report generates new questions and requests for more data.

Think of this report as Chapter One...

It is important to understand the depth of the work that was done. In all, more than sixty separate sets of data were assembled and converted to comparative information for Portland and the region. (For the curious, “the Portland region” refers to the Portland metropolitan statistical area, unless data for an indicator was unavailable in that form, in which case we occasionally used other “regional” definitions.)

Then all that data was gathered into 27 separate indicators, grouped into four major categories (economic performance, public finance, demographics and housing, health and public safety). You can see the entire body of research in great detail, including all indicators, findings, methodology, and data sources, on our website at www.portlandregion.com, and you'll find a summary of our 27 indicators at the back of this report.

When all that work was done we had a remarkably detailed picture of how Portland, Maine and the Greater Portland region compared to other cities in Maine, and to similar cities and regions in New England and across the country. From a national perspective, Portland and the region are competitive – even attractive – but there are warning signs that clearly need attention.

The information we've collected is powerful. It has clear implications for Portland, for the Portland region, and for the state of Maine. In the executive summary of findings that follows, we detail some of the most important things we learned about our city and our region.

Executive Summary of Major Findings:

So, what did we find out? Two tables summarizing Portland's performance relative to the benchmarks for each indicator are presented later in the report. Here are 4 major findings:

1. **Portland has great assets.** The city and the region are wonderful places to live, work, visit, and raise a family. We have better access to health care, recreation, amenities, a lower crime rate, higher incomes and higher educational attainment levels compared to our national counterparts. Relative to national benchmarks we have:
 - **More leisure services** - Portland has a higher concentration of business establishments in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services sectors compared to benchmark cities.
 - **Better access to health insurance coverage** - The Portland region ranked first in terms of coverage of the 14 benchmark regions included for this indicator.
 - **Less crime** - In 2005, the Portland region's rate for violent and property crimes combined was 33% lower than the average for the national benchmark regions, and the city of Portland had a 12% lower rate than the national benchmark cities.
 - **Higher incomes** - In 2005, the median household income level in the Portland region was 6% higher than the level for the national benchmark regions, and the city of Portland's level was 2% higher than the national benchmark cities.
 - **Less poverty** - In 2005, 10.39% of the Portland region's population lived with incomes below poverty level compared to 12.29% for the national benchmark regions. In 2000, 14.07% of the city of Portland's population lived with incomes below the poverty level compared to 17.55% for the national benchmark cities.
 - **Higher educational attainment** - In 2005, 32.8% of the Portland region's population 25 years or older had attained at least a bachelor's degree compared to 29.4% for the national benchmark regions. In 2000, 36.4% of the city of Portland's population 25 years or older had attained at least a bachelor's degree compared to 31.5% for the national benchmark cities.

For more information, see indicators on pages 8, 18-20.

What does *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007* mean to the rest of Maine?

As you can see from the summary of our findings, Portland is a big part of Maine in many ways – lots of people, lots of economic activity, with many assets and many challenges. A report like this, focused just on Portland, might easily be seen as selfish, self-centered or irrelevant by the rest of our state.

We need to say right up front we don't want our readers to feel that way. We do want people to understand Portland – but we also want to let our readers know how much we understand that the rest of our state is vitally important to our region. We cannot hope to thrive if the rest of Maine is hurting.

The entire Portland Chamber family understands that the cultural, economic and community connections that bind us together are far more important than any set of indicators. And we want you to understand that we are committed to working for prosperity not just for our city and our region, but also for all of Maine.

One look at the indicators will tell you that many of the issues we face here are the same issues faced by communities across the state. We want to be sure everyone understands our commitment to using this report as a tool to help us work together for prosperity for all Maine communities.

The truth is, we'll never accomplish much if we aren't pulling together. We hope this report helps folks all across Maine do just that.

2. The Portland region not only hosts the largest part of the Maine's economy and population, but Portland's proportion of the state's economy is much bigger than any other city and region we looked at across the country.

In 2005 the Portland region had more than three times the number of:

- **People** - The Portland region represented 38.9% of the state's population while on average national benchmark regions represented 12.4% of state population.
- **Products** - The gross metro product of the Portland region represented 42.7% of gross state product for Maine while on average national benchmark regions gross metro product represented 12.2% of gross state product.
- **Income** - The Portland region's total personal income represented 44.2% of total state personal income compared to 12.2% on average for the national benchmark regions.
- **Jobs** - The Portland region's total employment represented 42.4% of total state employment compared to 12.3% on average for the national benchmark regions.

For comparison, Missoula was 12% of Montana's gross state product and Santa Fe was 7% of New Mexico's gross state product. For more information, see the indicator on page 1.

3. Ten year trends for the city and the region are encouraging – we often performed better over the last 10 years than our counterparts. But in the last 5 years, those advantages are slipping away, and some recent trends are seriously concerning.

In the last ten years the Portland region outperformed the national benchmarks on several key indicators:

- **Faster job growth** - Between 1997 and 2006 total non-farm employment in the Portland region grew 14.9% compared to 14.3% for the national benchmark regions.
- **Faster job growth** - Between 1997 and 2006, the Portland region's growth in private non-farm employment was 14.7%, compared to 14.4% on average for national benchmark regions.
- **Faster income growth** - From 1996 to 2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 59.9% in personal income compared to 58.8% for the national benchmark regions.

However, in the last 5 years the Portland region has lagged the national benchmarks on key indicators:

- **Slower economic growth** - From 2002 to 2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 17.8% in gross metro product compared to an average of 19.6% for the national benchmark regions.
- **Slower job growth** - Between 2002 and 2006 total non-farm employment in the Portland region grew 4.0% compared to 5.7% for the national benchmark regions.
- **Slower job growth** - Between 2002 and 2006, the Portland region's growth in private employment was 3.7%, compared to 6.1% on average for national benchmark regions.
- **Key sectors lagging** - Between 2002 and 2006, the Portland region only experienced employment growth in the education and health services sectors, and in government. All other sectors grew less on average than the national benchmark regions.
- **Slower income growth** - From 2001-2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 16.1% in personal income compared to 19.1% for the national benchmark regions.

For more information, see indicators on pages 2, 4, 5.

4. **Portland is a high cost city, in a high cost region, within a high cost state.** Unless we do better, the ability of the city and region to attract and retain businesses and residents will be diminished.

- **Higher overall cost of living** - In 2006, the overall cost of living index for the Portland region was 13% higher than the average for the national benchmark regions.
- **Higher tax burden** - In 2005 the city of Portland had a higher tax burden at most family income levels, compared to the average for national benchmark cities. Statewide, between 1998 and 2007, Maine continued to have a very high state and local tax burden, according to U.S. census data.
- **Higher housing and home ownership costs** - In 2006, the housing cost index for the Portland region was 34% higher than the average for the national benchmark regions.
- **Higher health care costs** - In 2006, the health care cost index for the Portland region was 2% higher than the average for the national benchmark regions.

For more information, see indicators on pages 6, 9, 15-17.

Conclusion... to be continued.

As we said, think of this report as Chapter One. There is much more to find out, and to do. But we hope you've learned something about Portland and our region. We certainly have.

One of the first questions many people will ask is: "What are you going to do about ...?" One of the first comments we expect to hear is: "Nothing but numbers – no solutions!"

Fair enough. We set out in search of information – answers to the questions we were asking. We found out a great deal, both good and bad. And much of what we found demands attention. But we specifically chose not to leap before we looked – that's why this report doesn't end with a set of proposals for action.

However, we want *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007* to become a foundation for action as much as anyone. That's why the Portland Community Chamber is setting up a task force right now, engaging community leaders from our city, our region and our state to look at the data we've presented, and to produce a blueprint for action for 2008.

How do we strengthen our assets, and protect them? How do we enhance the good trends, and reverse the bad ones? How do we keep our city and our region vital and prosperous, preserving what's best in our communities, while supporting growth and a brighter future? How do we make sure the rest of the state remains connected to our region, and how do we share whatever prosperity we find with all of Maine?

Hard questions, one and all. But we have a great start – good information. And on that basis, we can work together to support each other as we look at the future with honest, optimistic eyes.

We hope you'll join us.

Data Snapshot – Trends over time show concerns.

Below you'll see that 10 years ago, the region was doing well. But more recent trends are going the wrong way.

GROWTH INDICATORS

Portland Region Compared To National Benchmark Regions			
INDICATOR	10 Year Growth	5 Year Growth	1 Year Growth
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE			
Gross Metro Product Growth	N/A	↓	↓
Employment Growth	↑	↓	↓
Private Sector Employment Growth	↑	↓	N/A
Personal Income Growth	↑	↓	↓
Wage Growth	N/A	↑	↓
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Population Growth	↓	↓	↓

City of Portland Compared To National Benchmark Cities			
INDICATOR	10 Year Growth	5 Year Growth	1 Year Growth
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE			
Retail Sales Growth	N/A	↓	N/A
Retail Establishment Growth	N/A	↑	N/A
PUBLIC FINANCE			
Full Value Property Tax Rate Growth	N/A	↑	↔
Property Valuation Growth	N/A	↑	↓
Tax Exempt Property Value Growth	N/A	↑	↑
Property Tax Commitment Growth	N/A	↓	↓
School Expenditures Growth	N/A	↑	↑
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Population Growth	↓	↓	↓
Median Age of Population Growth	↓	N/A	N/A

KEY:

- Portland Outperforming Benchmarks – ↑
 - National Benchmarks Outperforming Portland – ↓
 - Portland Similar to National Benchmarks – ↔
 - Not Applicable/No Data – N/A
- (Note that similar arrows may denote different degrees of performance – see individual indicators for more information.)*

Selected Indicators

In the next section of our report we display many individual indicators that were most significant to the city and the region. These are the separate pieces of information that helped most to shape what we learned.

We urge you to do several things as you review this section:

First, please remember these are summaries of more extensive work. To see the underlying detail for any of the indicators, please visit our website www.portlandregion.com and follow the links to the full *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007* report.

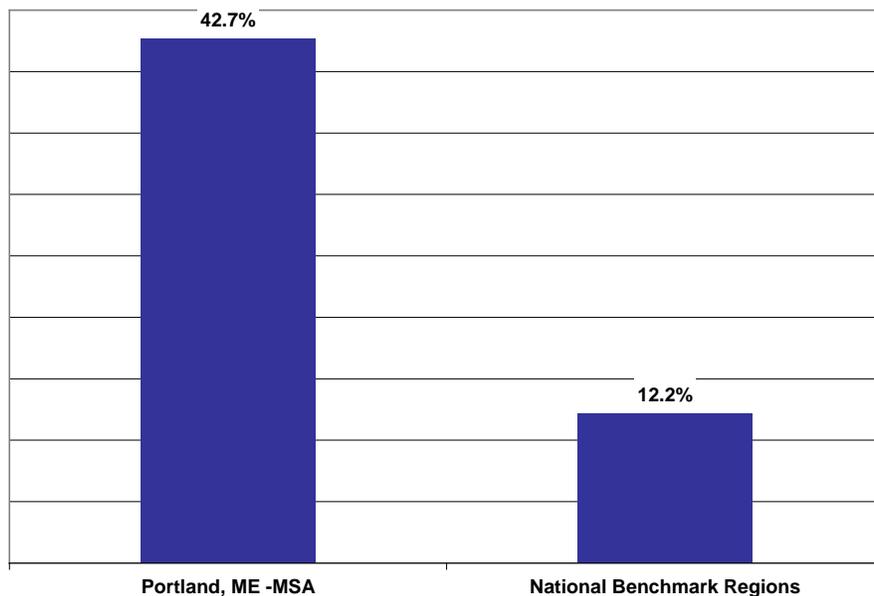
Second, please keep in mind that no indicator should be viewed in isolation. Individual data points are interesting, but no single indicator can give a complete picture of economic growth, demographics, or any other broad areas of interest. Again, refer to our complete report which gives a better understanding of how individual indicators relate to each other, and help shape the larger picture of our region.

Finally, as you are reading the next section, think about what you don't see, and what you feel is missing. We made a conscious decision to limit our work areas and indicators that we thought were important, but there were many more topics that we simply didn't have the time or the resources to include. Let us know what else you'd like to see examined – as we begin planning our next *Looking Out for Portland and the Region 2007* report, we'll consider your suggestions to help expand our research.

Economic Performance

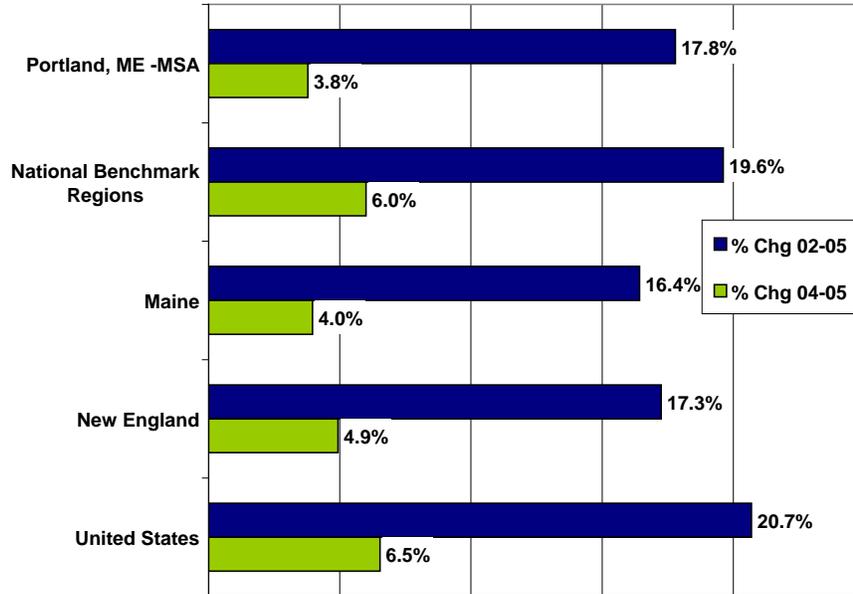
The Portland region is the dominant economic region in Maine and its importance in the state goes well beyond its role as a population center. In 2005, the gross metro product of the Portland region represented 42.7% of gross state product for Maine. On average for the national benchmark regions, gross metro product represented 12.2% of gross state product. In 2005 the Portland region represented 38.9% of the state’s population while, on average, the national benchmark regions represented 12.4% of their states’ population.

Gross Metro Product as a % of Gross State Product - 2005



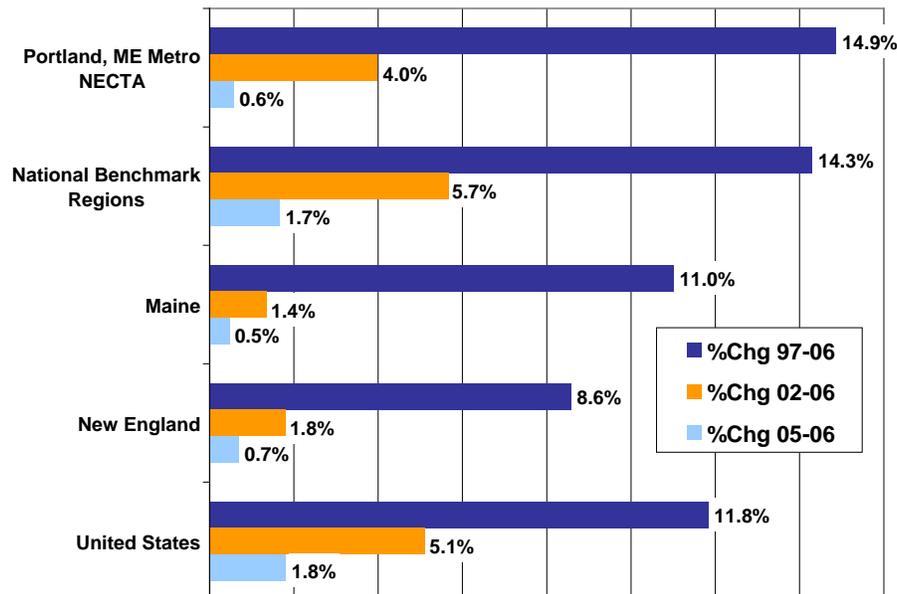
Over the last four years, overall economic output in the Portland region has lagged that of the benchmarks. From 2002-2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 17.8% in gross metro product. This was lower than the average of 19.6% for the national benchmark regions and the average of 20.7% for the U.S., but higher than the average for New England states (17.3%) and for Maine (16.4%).

Percent Change in Gross Metro/State Product



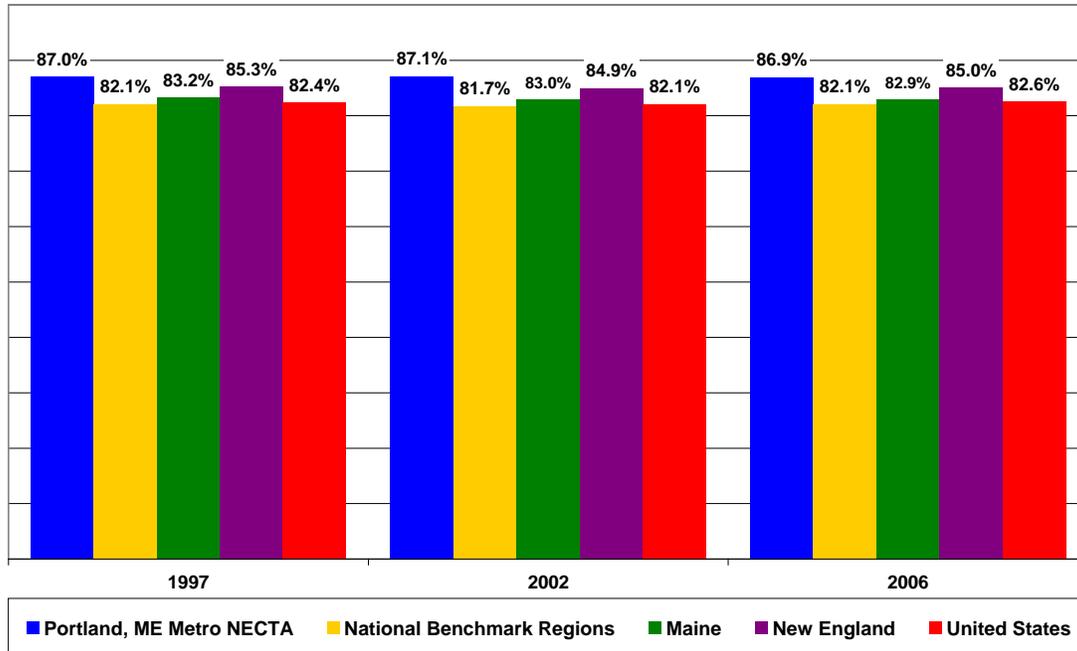
Over the past ten years, employment growth in the Portland region outpaced the average growth of the national benchmark regions, but lagged behind them in the past five-year and one-year periods. Between 1997 and 2006, total non-farm employment in the Portland Metro region grew 14.9%, compared to an average of 14.3% for the national benchmark regions, 11.0% for the state, 8.6% for New England, and 11.8% for the U.S. In the past five years, while employment growth in the Portland region outpaced the state and New England, it lagged behind that of the national benchmark regions and the U.S. In the last year, employment growth in the Portland region outpaced the state, but lagged behind all the other reference groups.

Percent Change in Total Non-Farm Employment



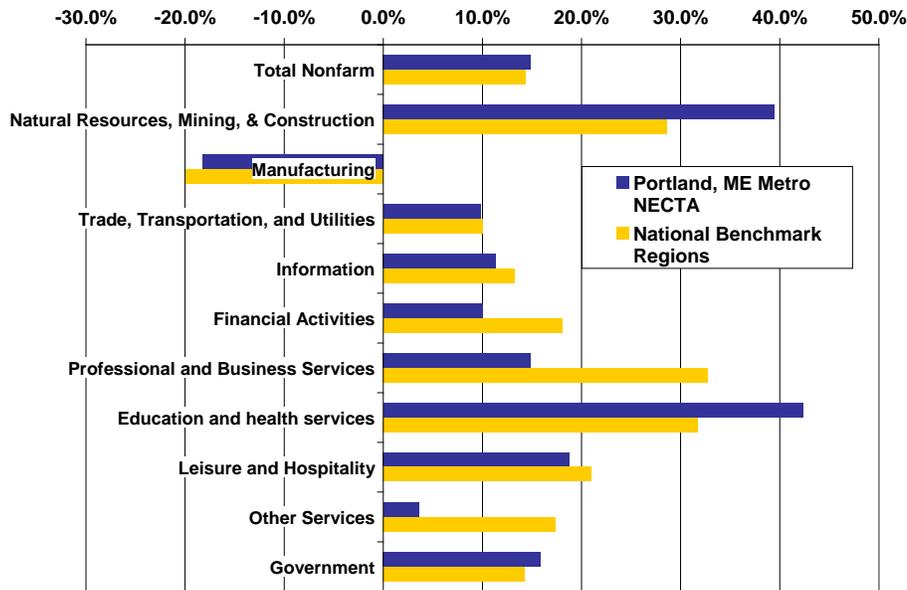
While the Portland region’s growth in private non-farm employment has slowed somewhat in the past five years, the region continues to have a healthier mix of private vs. public employment. In 2006, private non-farm employment in the Portland region represented 86.9% of all non-farm employment, compared to 82.1% for the average of the national benchmark regions, 82.9% for Maine, 85.0% for New England, and 82.6% for the U.S.

**Private Employment as a % of Total Employment 1997, 2002, & 2006
Non-Farm Employment**

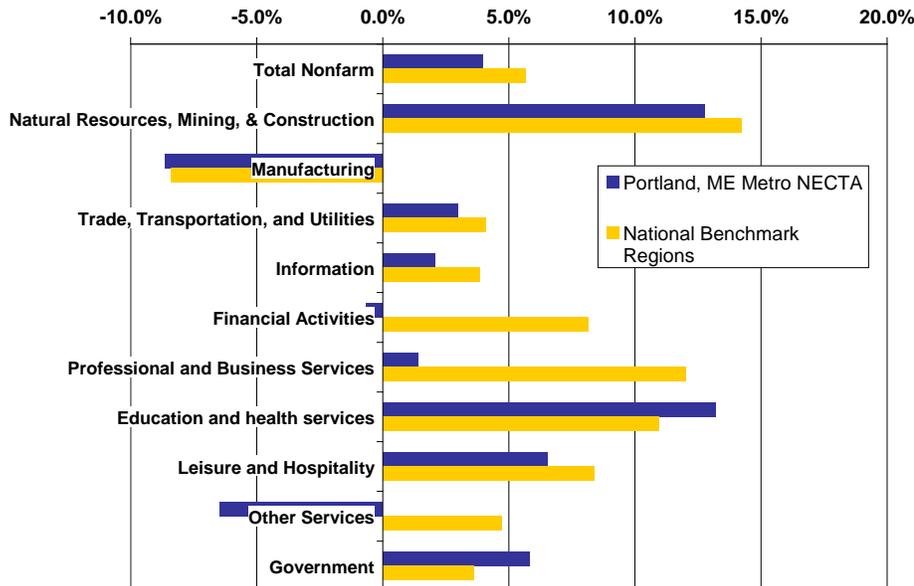


Employment growth by sector reveals concerns over the future economic diversity of the region. Between 1997 and 2006, the Portland region experienced higher growth compared to the national benchmark regions in the sectors of natural resources, mining, and construction; and education and health services; and government. During the same period, the Portland region experienced lower growth in the sectors of information, financial activities, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and other services. More recently, between 2002 and 2006, in comparison to the national benchmark regions, the Portland region only experienced higher growth in the sectors of education and health services, and government.

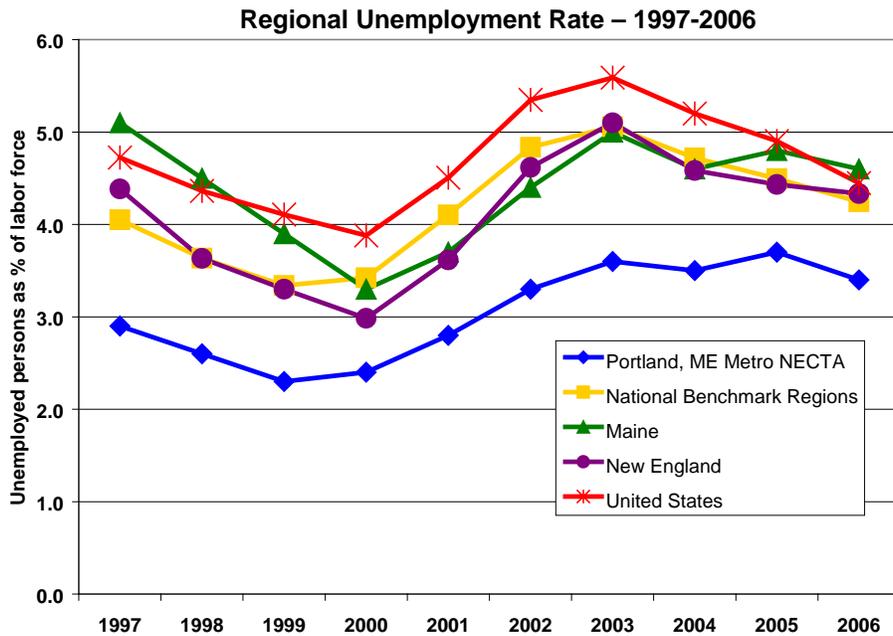
Percent Change in Non-Farm Employment by Industry - 1997-2006



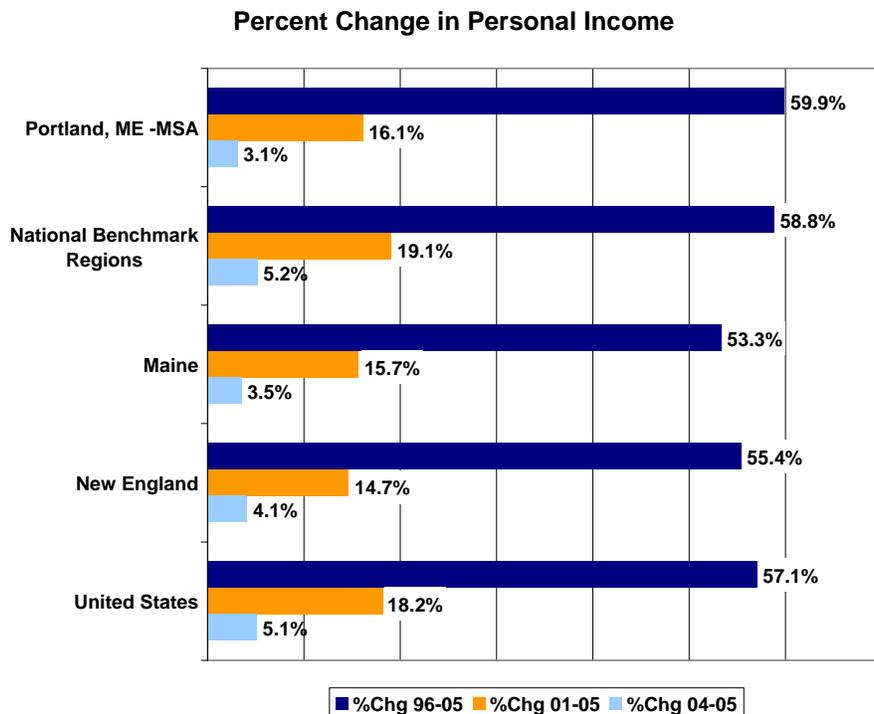
Percent Change in Non-Farm Employment by Industry - 2002-2006



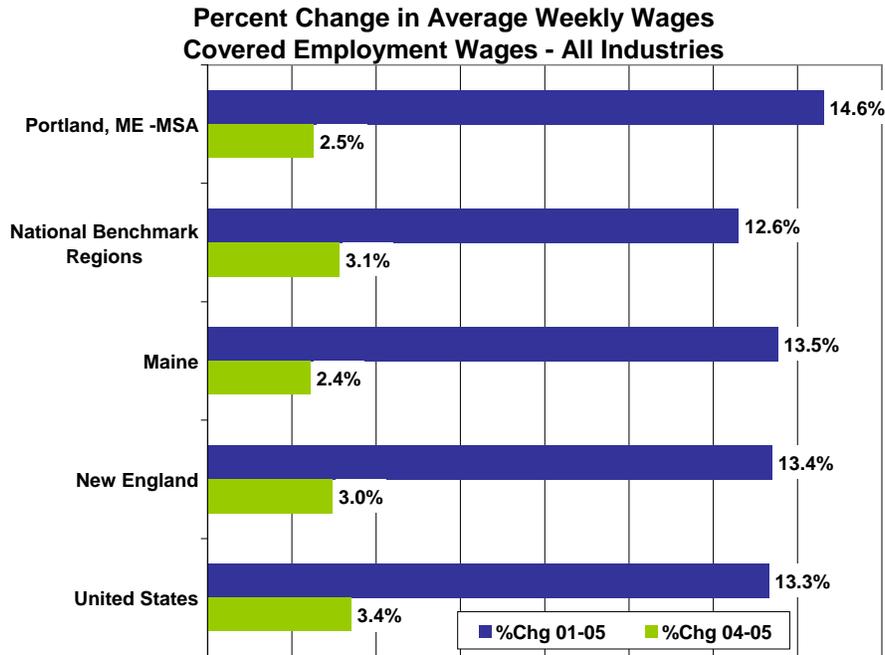
Unemployment has been historically low in the Portland region relative to the benchmarks. From 1997-2006 the annual unemployment rate in the Portland region has remained lower than the national benchmarks for cities and regions. During this period, the unemployment rate for the Portland region dipped to a low of 2.3% in 1999, but has since risen, reaching a level of 3.4% in 2006.



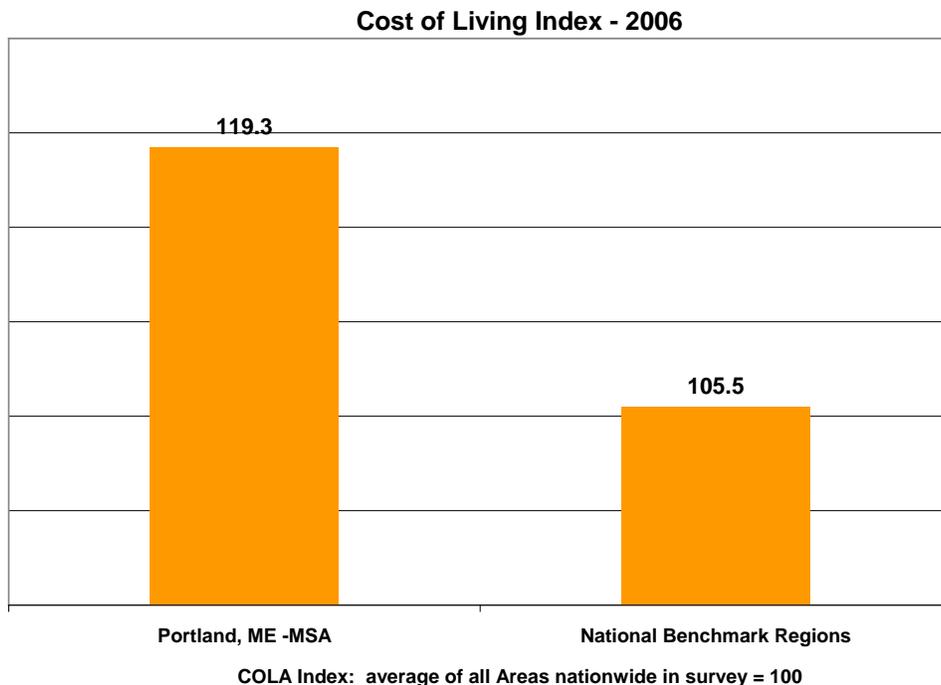
Income and wage trends revealed similar patters to that of employment – higher growth over the past ten years but lower growth in the past five years. From 1996-2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 59.9% in personal income. This was higher than the averages experienced for the national benchmark regions (58.8%), Maine (53.3%), New England (55.4%), and the U.S. (57.1%). From 2001-2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 16.1% in personal income. This was lower than the averages experienced for the national benchmark regions (19.1%) and the U.S. (18.2%), but higher than Maine (15.7%) and New England (14.7%).



In the five year period from 2001-2005, the Portland region experienced an increase of 14.6% in average weekly wages. This was higher than the averages experienced for the national benchmark regions (12.6%), Maine (13.5%), New England (13.4%), and the U.S. (13.3%).

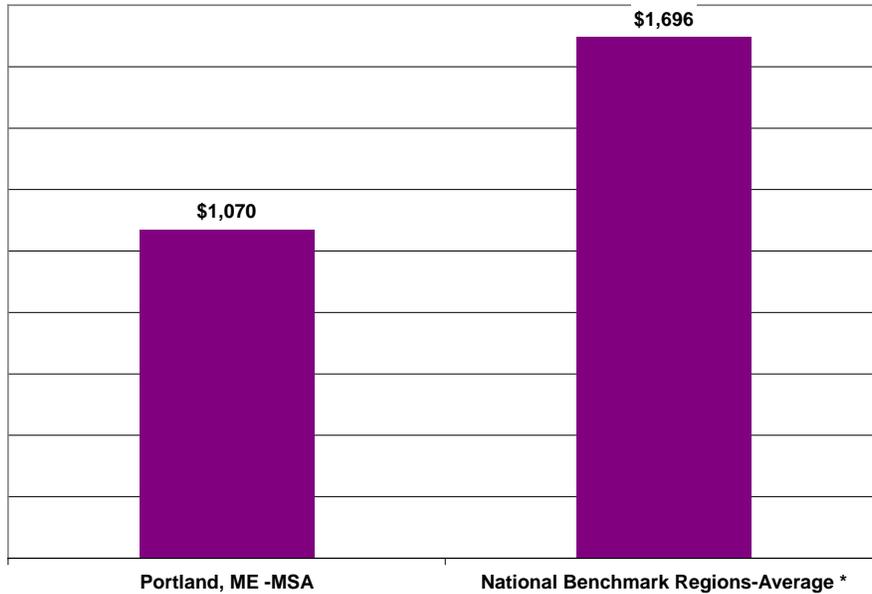


The spending power that wages represent is influenced by the cost of living, and the cost of living in the Portland region is high relative to the benchmarks. In 2006, the cost of living index for the Portland region was 119.3, while the average for the national benchmark regions was 105.5.



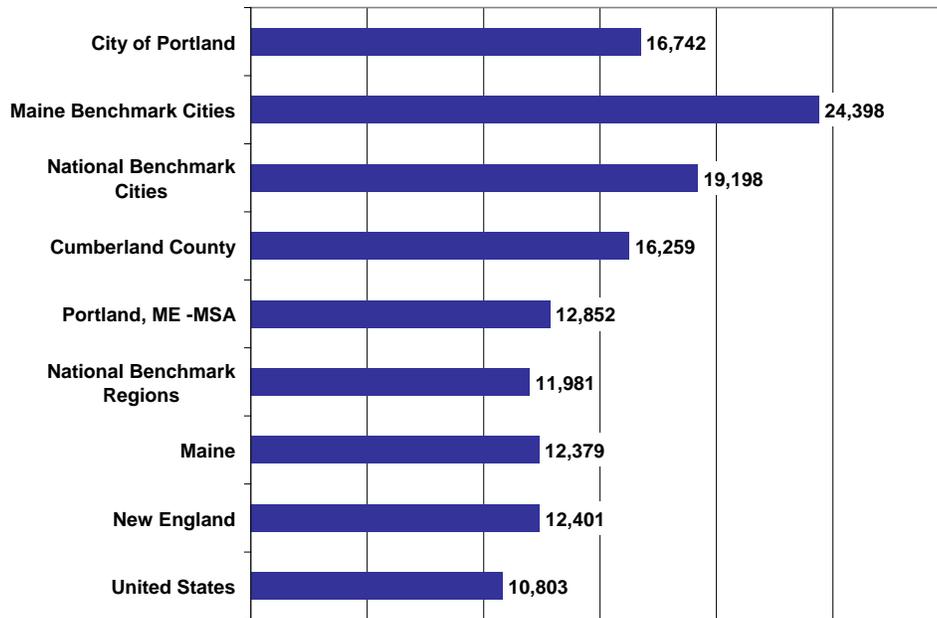
Portland’s performance on export activity is mixed. From 2004-2006, the value of exports passing through the Port of Portland represented \$1,070 per capita. This was lower than the average level of \$1,696 for ports within the national benchmark regions for the same period. When Portland is ranked relative to the nineteen ports for which export data was available, Portland ranked 6th highest in terms of actual value, as well as per capita value.

Per Capita Value of Exports by Port - 3-Year Total 2004-2006



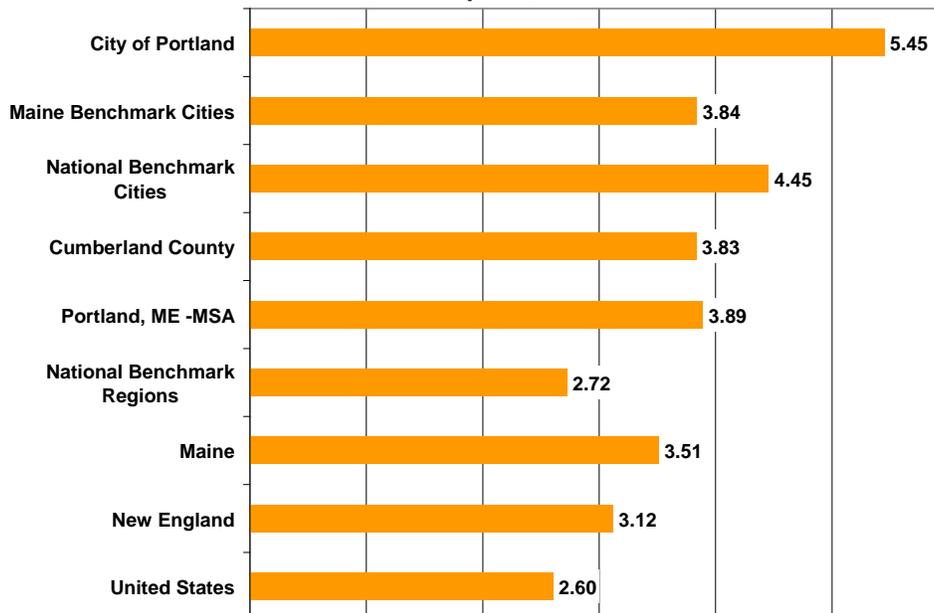
Retail activity is strong regionally but weaker within the city. The Portland region has higher than average retail sales per capita, compared to the reference regions, while the city of Portland has lower than average retail sales per capita. In 2002, per capita retail sales for the Portland region were \$12,852. This was higher than the average level for the national benchmark regions (\$11,981), Maine (\$12,375), New England (\$12,401), and the U.S. (\$10,803). In 2002, per capita retail sales for the city of Portland were \$16,742. This was lower than the average level for the Maine benchmark cities (\$24,398) and the national benchmark cities (\$19,198).

Per Capita Retail Sales \$ - 2002



The Portland region and the city of Portland have a higher concentration of business establishments that are related to tourism (in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services) than their national counterparts. In 2002, the latest year for which comparable data is available, the Portland region had 3.89 tourism-related establishments per 1,000 persons. This was higher than the average level for the national benchmark regions (2.72), Maine (3.51), New England (3.12), and the U.S. (2.60).

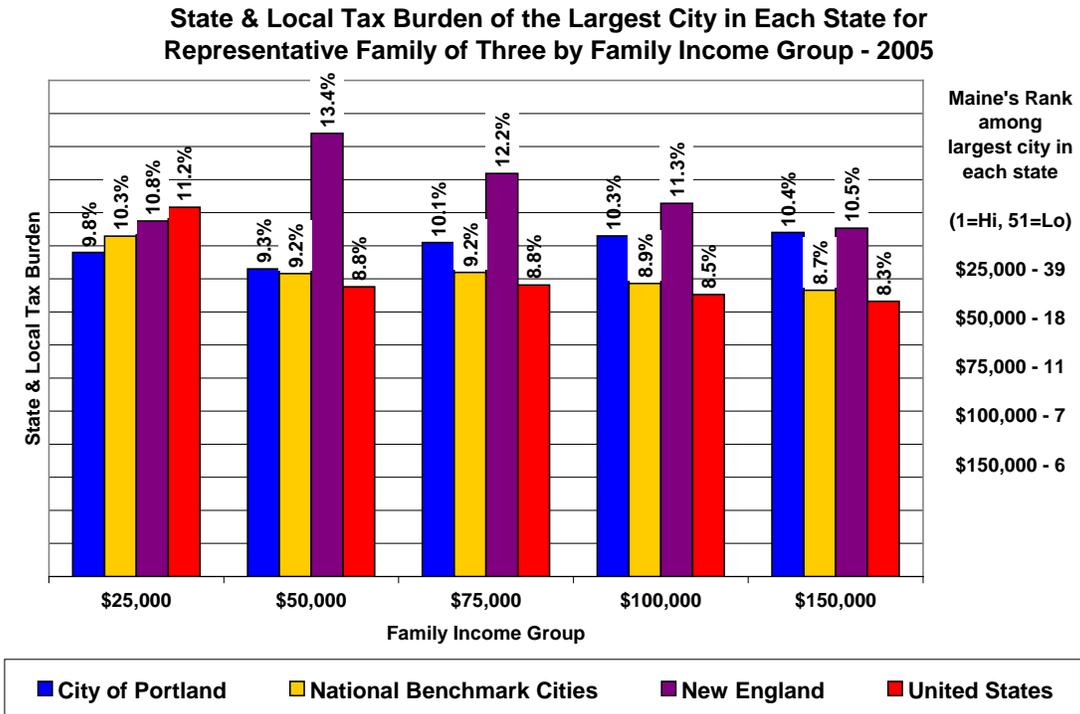
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, & Food Services - Establishments per 1,000 Persons - 2002



Public Finance

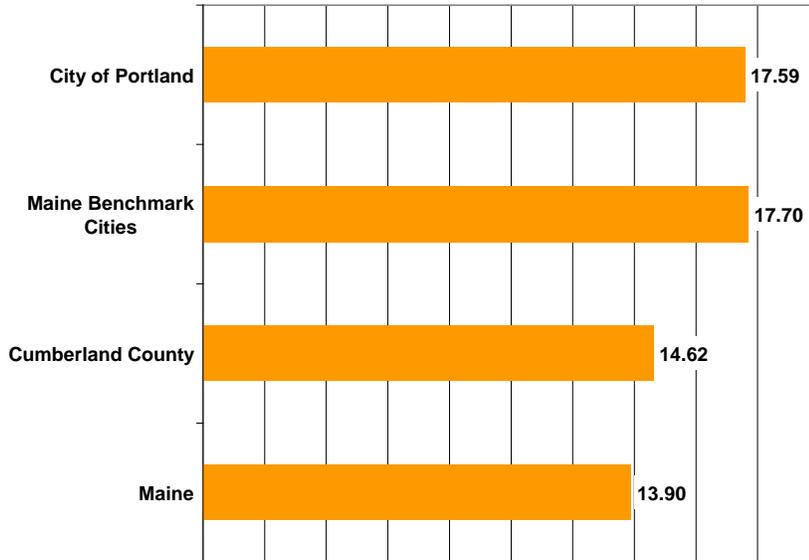
State and local tax burden is relatively high in the city of Portland relative to national benchmarks, but the property tax rate is not significantly different than the City's Maine counterparts.

In 2005 the city of Portland had a higher tax burden at family income levels of \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000, and \$150,000, as compared to the average for national benchmark cities and the U.S. This is based on state and local tax burden (taxes as a percent of income) for a representative family of three. Portland's representative tax burden was lower only at the \$25,000 family income level. Maine as a state compared to all states does not fair well on this indicator among rankings of the largest city in each state. Maine ranked 39th at the \$25,000 income level, 18th at the \$50,000 income level, 11th at the \$75,000 income level, 7th at the \$100,000 income level, and 6th highest in the nation at the \$150,000 income level.



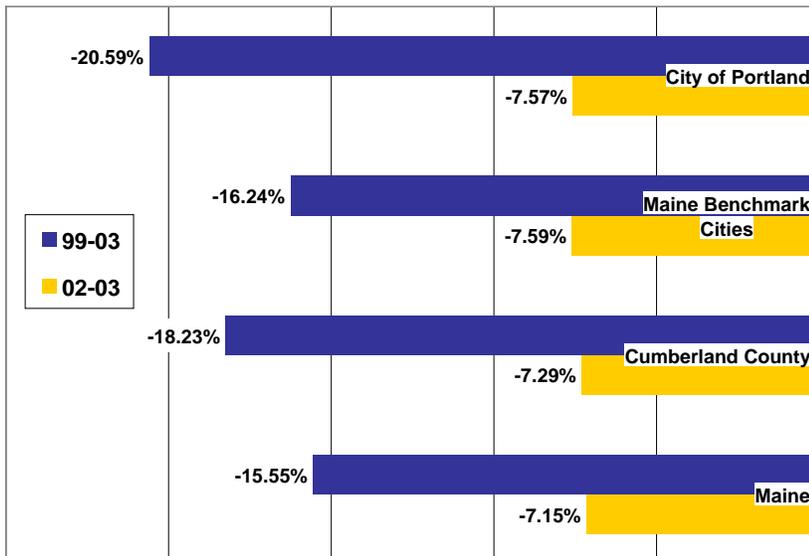
In 2003, the city of Portland's full value property tax rate was 17.59 mils. This was slightly lower than the average for the Maine benchmark cities (17.70 mils), and higher than that of Cumberland County (14.62 mils), as well as the state as a whole (13.90 mils). Out of the sixteen Maine municipalities used for this study, nine communities had lower full-value tax rates in 2003 and six had higher; Portland ranked 10th lowest.

Full Value Property Tax Rates - 2003



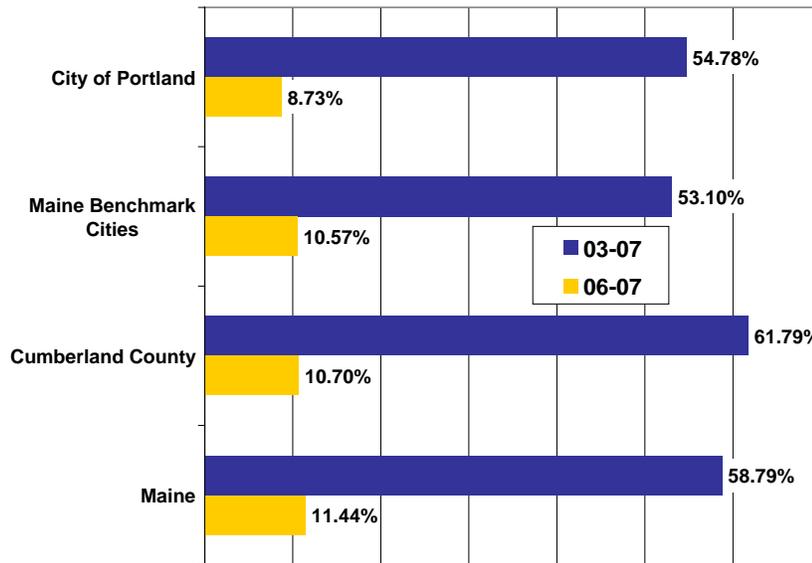
The city of Portland’s full-value property tax rate has decreased more than the Maine benchmark cities. Between 1999 and 2003, Portland’s full-value property tax rate decreased 20.59%. This was a larger decrease than that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities during the same period (-16.24%), Cumberland County (-18.23 %), and the state (-15.55%). Between 2002 and 2003, Portland’s full-value property tax rate decreased 7.57%. This decrease was similar to that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities during the same period (-7.59%), but slightly lower than that experienced in Cumberland County (-7.29%) and the state (-7.15%).

Full Value Property Tax Rate Change



In general, the decrease in full value tax rates during this period was the result of property valuation increasing at a higher rate than property tax assessments (dollars to fund services). Between 2003 and 2007, Portland’s property valuation increased 54.78%. This was slightly higher than that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities during the same period (53.10%), but was lower than Cumberland County (61.79 %) and the state (58.79%). Between 2006 and 2007, Portland’s property valuation increased 8.73%. This was lower than that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities during the same period (10.57%), Cumberland County (10.70%), and the state (11.44%).

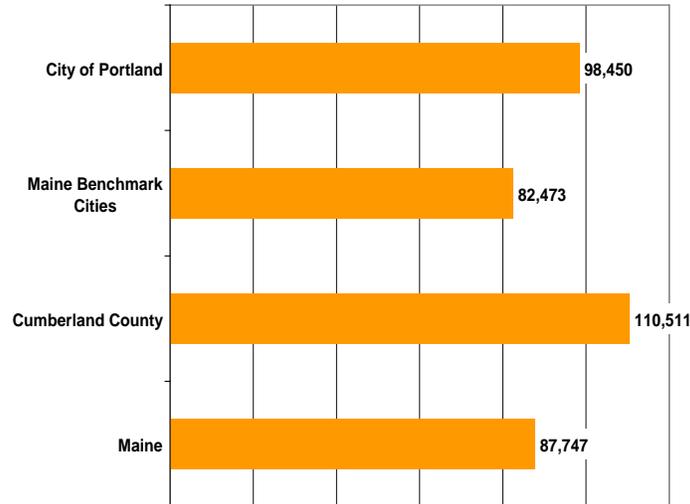
Property Valuation (State Adjusted) Change



Between 2001 and 2005, Portland’s property tax commitment increased 18.42%. This was higher than that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities during the same period (16.51%), but lower than Cumberland County (20.06%) and the state (20.81%). Between 2004 and 2005, Portland’s property tax commitment increased 2.80%. This was higher than that experienced by the Maine benchmark cities (1.45%), Cumberland County (1.26%) and the state (1.85%) during the same period.

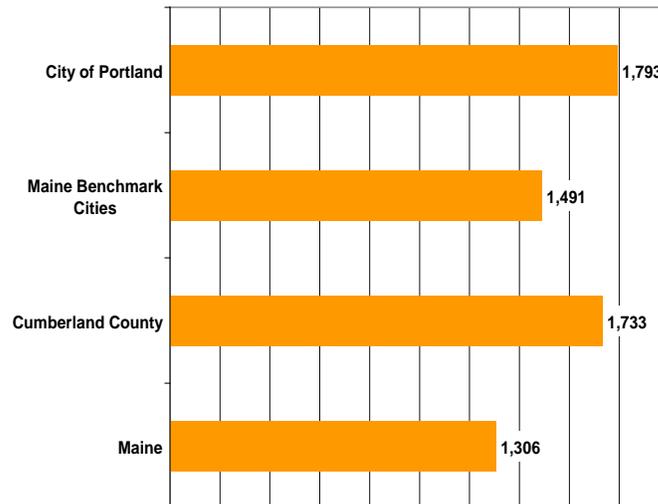
The city of Portland’s property valuation (tax base) and property tax commitment (tax revenues) are higher than the Maine benchmarks on a per capita basis. In 2005, the valuation of property in the city of Portland represented \$98,450 per person. This was higher than the average for the Maine benchmark cities (\$82,473), and the state as a whole (\$87,747), but was lower than that of Cumberland County (\$110,511). Portland ranked 4th highest out of the 16 Maine benchmark cities in per capita valuation of property.

Property Valuation (State Adjusted) Per Capita- 2005

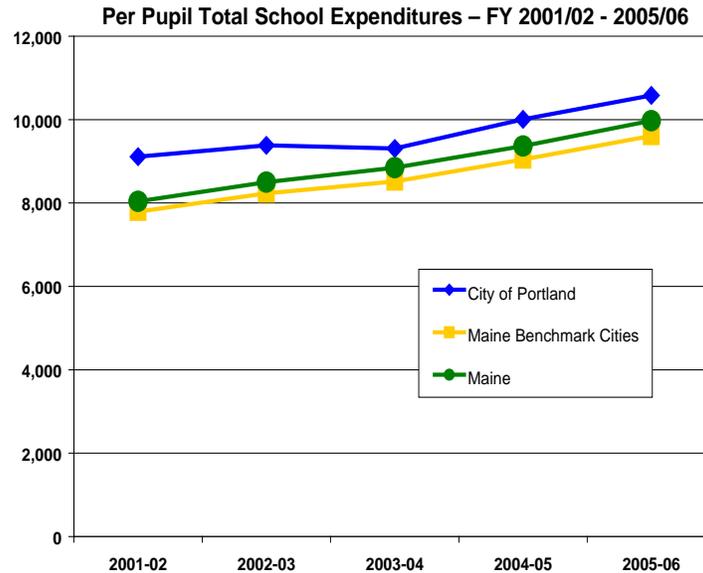


In 2005, the dollars to be raised from property taxes, or property tax commitments, in the city of Portland represented \$1,793 per person. This was higher than the average for all the other reference groups, including the Maine benchmark cities (\$1,491), Cumberland County (\$1,733), and the state as a whole (\$1,306). Portland ranked 4th highest out of the 16 Maine benchmark cities in per capita property tax commitment.

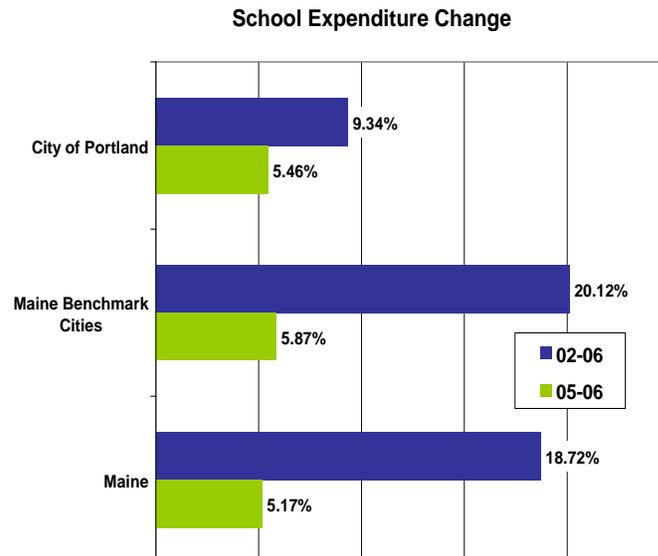
Property Tax Commitment (\$ Raised from Property Taxes) Per Capita- 2005



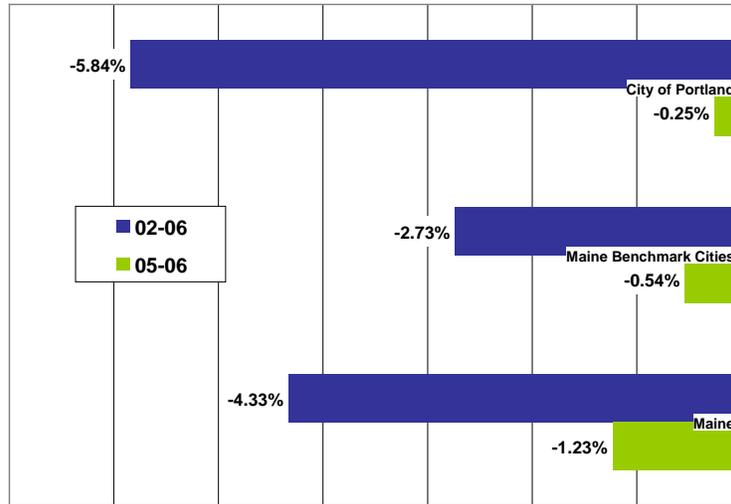
The city of Portland has higher per pupil education expenditures relative to the benchmarks. Since fiscal year 2002, per pupil education expenditures in the city of Portland for students in grades K-12 increased from \$9,112 in FY 2002 to \$10,851 in FY 2006. During this five year period per pupil expenditures for Portland were higher than that for the Maine benchmark cities and Maine as a whole. In FY 2006, the Maine benchmark cities averaged per pupil expenditures of \$9,608 and Maine as a whole \$9,973. All per pupil expenditure data should be viewed in the context of historically declining school enrollments.



While in FY 2006, Portland’s per pupil expenditures were higher than the benchmarks, other communities’ expenditures increased at a faster rate. Between 2002 and 2006, Portland’s total school expenditures increased 9.34% which was significantly lower than the Maine benchmark cities increase of 20.12% and Maine as a whole at 18.72%. This was likely the result of recent changes in Maine’s state school funding formula. Under the recently adopted “Essential Programs and Services” model, the state increased the level of expenditures required by local units in order for the unit to receive state support. Portland was already raising enough local funds to trigger state support while some of the other communities needed to increase their local expenditures to do so. It was also the result of facility and program growth in several of the benchmark communities that were experiencing pupil increases including Falmouth, Gorham, and Scarborough. More recently, in the last fiscal year, Portland’s total educational expenditures increased 5.46% which was similar to the Maine benchmark cities’ increase of 5.87% and the Maine statewide level of 5.17%.

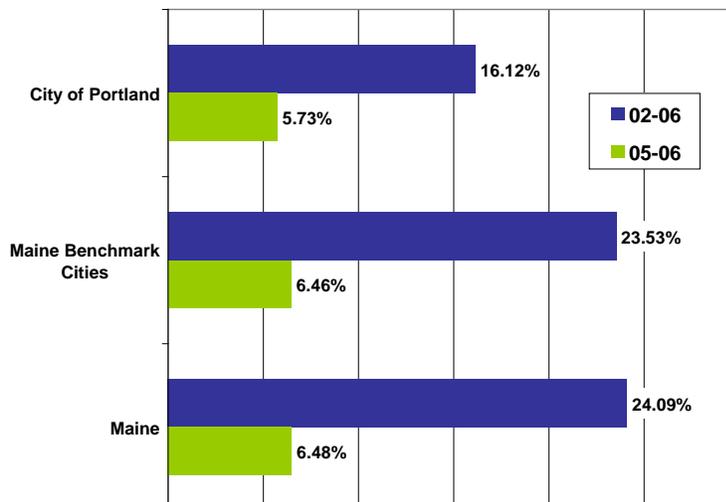


K-12 Enrollment Change



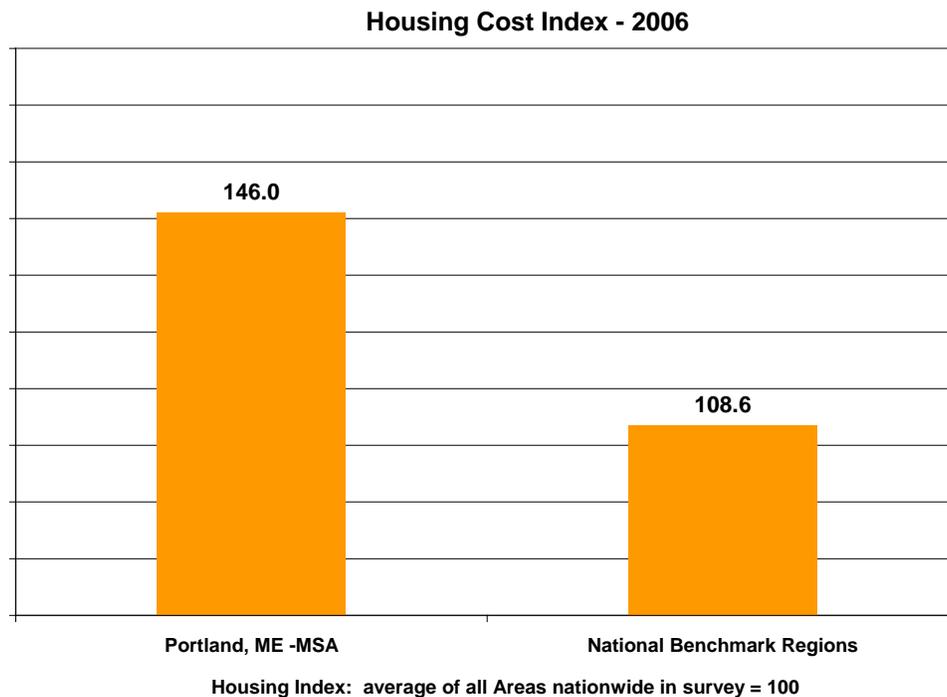
Between FY 2002 and 2006, K-12 enrollment in Portland decreased 5.84%, compared to 2.73% for the Maine benchmark cities and 4.33% in Maine as a whole. The combination of expenditure and pupil changes resulted in an increase of 16.12% between FY 2002 and 2006 in per pupil education expenditures compared to 23.53% for the Maine benchmark cities and 24.09% across Maine as a whole. **Taken together, the data indicates that increases in the last five years in education expenditures for the Maine benchmark cities resulting from the new state funding formula and some pupil growth in some communities, brought them closer to the Portland’s per pupil expenditure levels, but Portland still remains higher. Additionally, data in the last fiscal year indicates that increases in the benchmark communities may be slowing. Therefore, in order to remain in line with the benchmark’s Portland may have to slow its rate of school expenditure growth.**

Per Pupil Expenditure Change



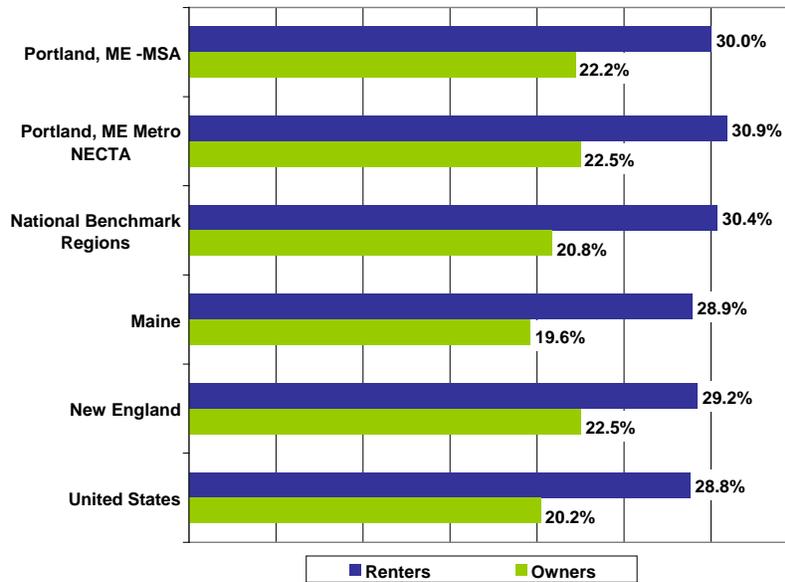
Housing, Health, and Public Safety

The cost of housing is significantly higher in the Portland region than in the national benchmark regions. In 2006, the housing cost index for the Portland region was 146.0 compared to 108.6 for the national benchmark regions. The average for all areas nationwide was 100.0.



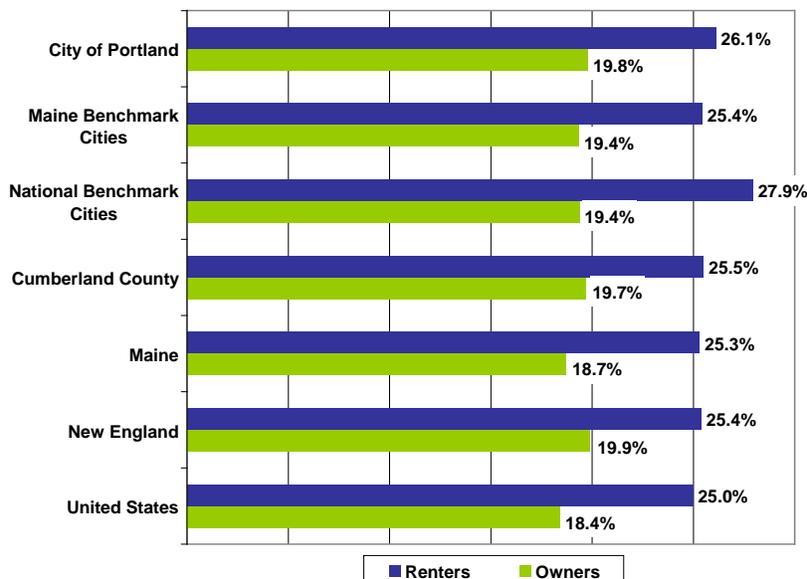
In terms of home ownership affordability, the Portland region is less affordable than its national counterparts and the city of Portland is on par with its national counterparts. In 2005, median monthly homeownership costs represented 22.2% of median income in the Portland region compared to 20.8% for the national benchmark regions. On this indicator, the Portland region was also higher than the average for Maine (19.6%), and the U.S. states (20.2%), but slightly lower than the average for the New England states (22.5%). In 2000, median monthly homeownership costs represented 19.8% of median income in the city of Portland compared to 19.4% for the national benchmark cities. For this indicator the city of Portland was on par with the Maine benchmark cities (19.4%) and the average for the New England states (19.9%) but higher than the State of Maine (18.7%), and the U.S. states (18.4%).

Median Monthly Housing Costs as % of Income - 2005

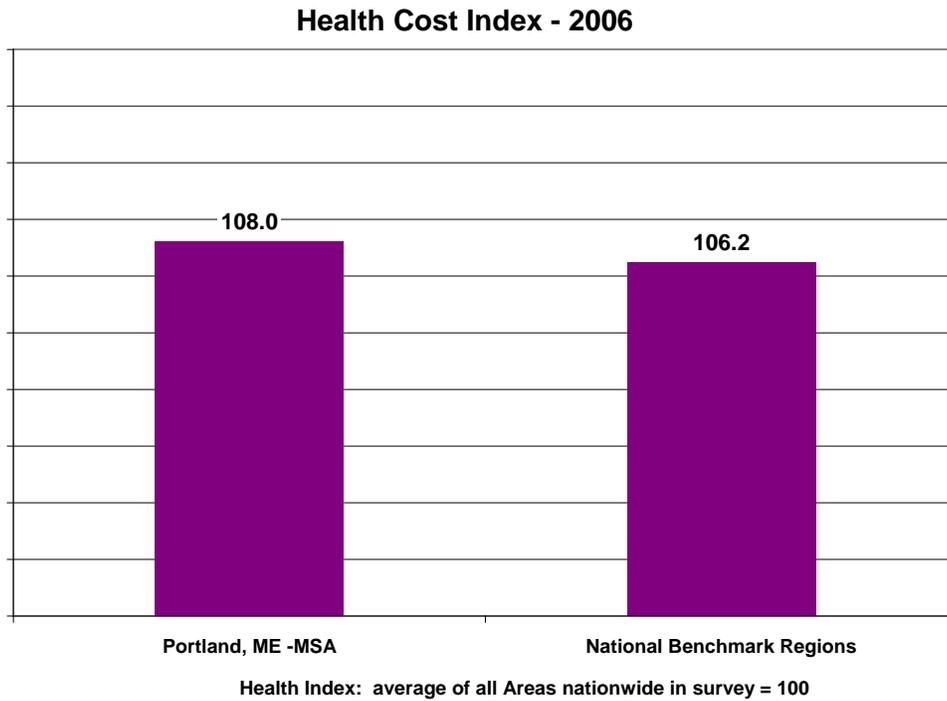


In terms of rental affordability, the Portland region’s affordability is on par with its national counterparts and the city of Portland is slightly more affordable in terms of rental costs than its national counterparts. In 2005, median monthly rental costs represented 30.0% of median income in the Portland region (MSA) compared to 30.4% for the national benchmark regions. For this indicator, the Portland region and the national benchmark regions were slightly higher than the average for Maine (28.9%), New England (29.2%), and the U.S. states (28.8%). In 2000, median monthly rental costs represented 26.1% of median income in the city of Portland compared to 27.9% for the national benchmark cities. For this indicator, the city of Portland and the national benchmark cities were higher than the average for Maine (25.3%), the Maine benchmark cities (25.4%), New England (25.4%), and the U.S. states (25.0%).

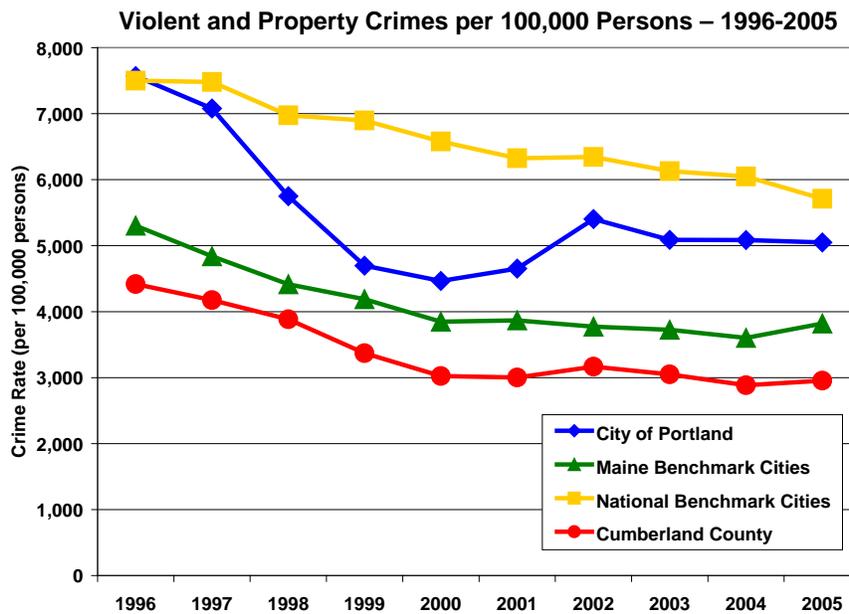
Median Monthly Housing Costs as % of Income - 2000



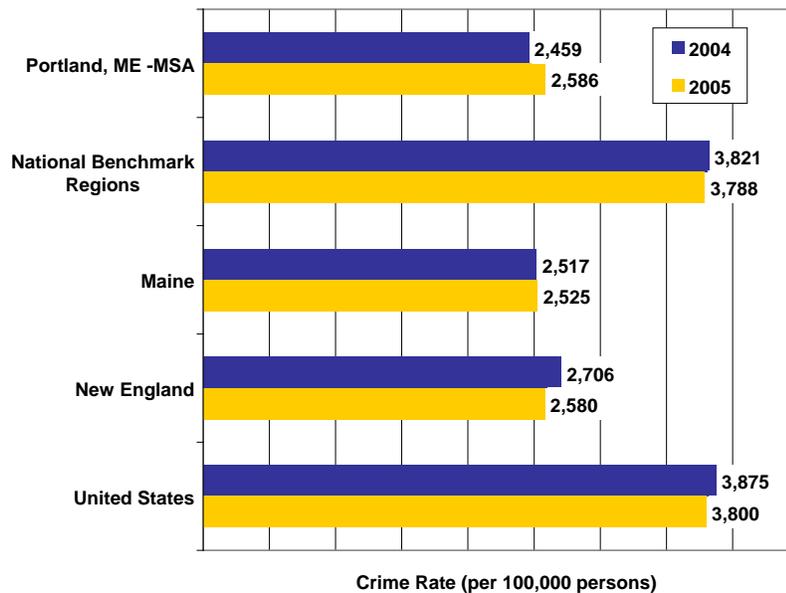
Since 2002, on average, persons in the Portland region were more likely to have some kind of health insurance coverage than their national counterparts but the costs of health care are higher in the Portland region than in the national benchmark regions. In 2006, an estimated 93.2% of persons in the Portland region indicated they had some kind of health care coverage, including both privately and publicly funded insurance. This compares to 86.2% for the national benchmark regions. Out of the 14 benchmark regions included for this indicator, the Portland region ranked first in terms of highest percent of coverage. In 2006, the health care cost index for the Portland region was 108.0 compared to 106.2 for the national benchmark regions. The average for all areas nationwide was 100.0.



The city of Portland is a safer place than its national counterparts. Since 1997, the city of Portland has had a lower rate for violent and property crimes combined, compared to the national benchmark cities. In 2005, the city of Portland's rate for violent and property crimes combined was 5,049 crimes per 100,000 people, compared to 5,711 crimes for the national benchmark cities. The city of Portland's 2005 rate was higher than the average for the Maine benchmark cities (3,820) and for Cumberland County (2,955), which is a reflection of Portland being Maine's largest service center. In 2005, the Portland region's rate for violent and property crimes combined was 2,586, which was considerably lower than the average for the national benchmark regions (3,788) and the average for the U.S. (3,800). The Portland region crime rate was on par with that of New England (2,580) and Maine (2,525).



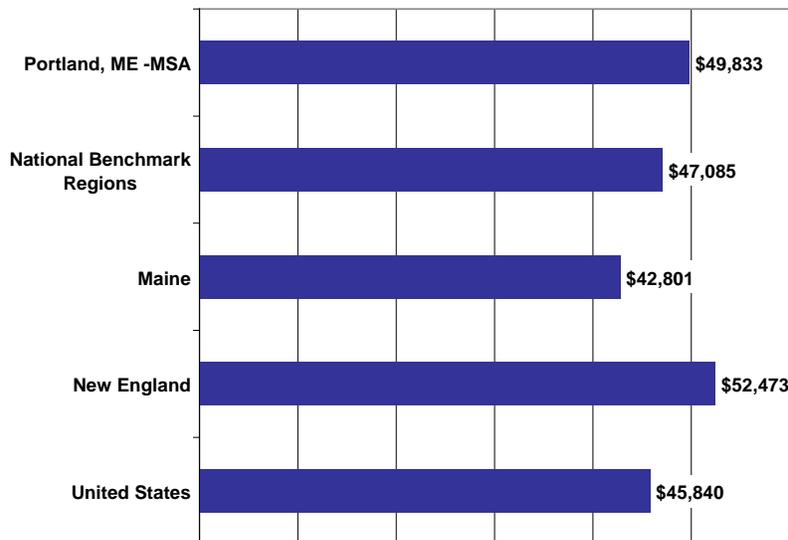
Violent & Property Crimes per 100,000 Population (crime rate)



Demographics

On average, households in the Portland region and the city of Portland have higher incomes than their counterparts. In 2005, the median household income in the Portland region was \$49,833. This was higher than the median for the national benchmark regions (\$47,085), Maine (\$42,801), and the U.S. (\$45,840), but lower than the median for New England (\$52,473). In 2000, the latest year for which city level data is available, the median income of households within the city of Portland was \$35,650. This was higher than the median for the national benchmark cities (\$35,014) but lower than the median for Maine benchmark cities (\$39,165), Cumberland County (\$44,048), Maine (\$37,240), New England (\$45,682), and U.S. (\$41,347).

Median Household Income - 2005

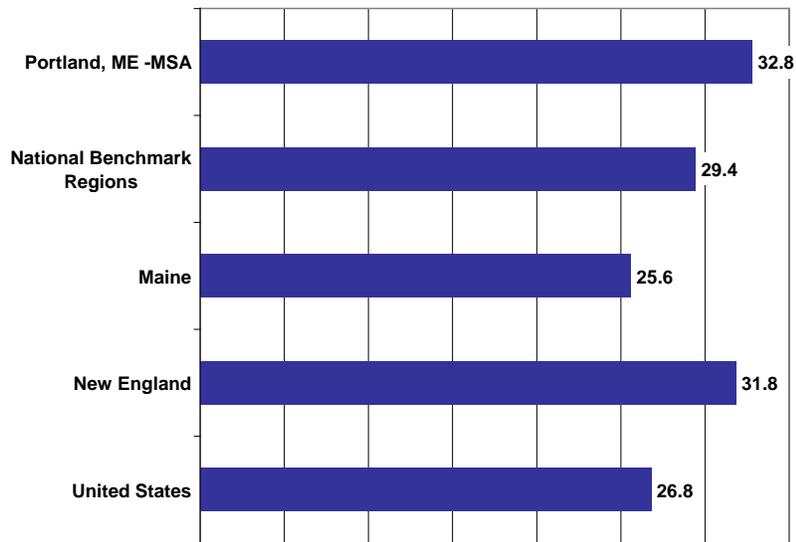


Median Household Income - 2000

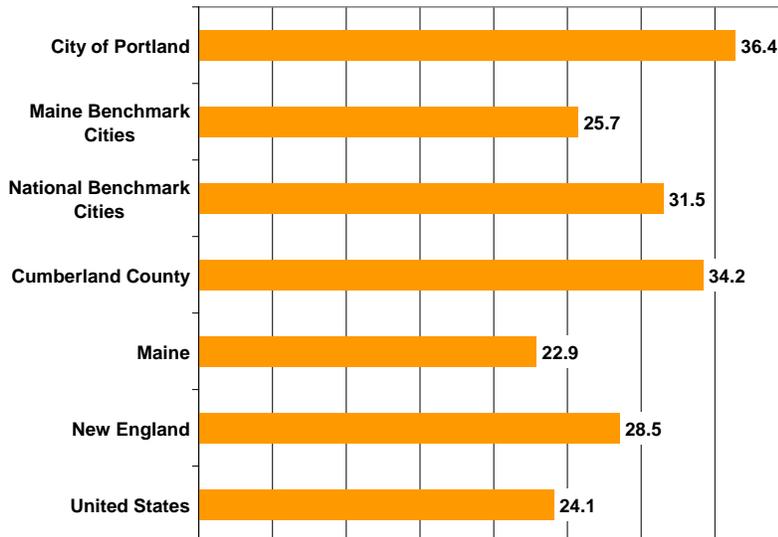


The Portland region and the city of Portland also perform well, relative to their benchmark groups, regarding educational attainment. In 2005, 32.8% of the Portland region’s population that was 25 years or older had attained at least a bachelor’s degree. This was higher than the averages experienced for the national benchmark regions (29.4%), Maine (25.6%), New England (31.8%), and the U.S. (26.8%). In 2000, the latest year for which city level data is available, 36.4% of the city of Portland’s population that was 25 years or older had attained at least a bachelor’s degree. This is higher than the averages experienced for Maine benchmark cities (25.7%), national benchmark cities (31.5%), Cumberland County (34.2%), Maine (22.9%), New England (28.5%), and the U.S. (24.1%).

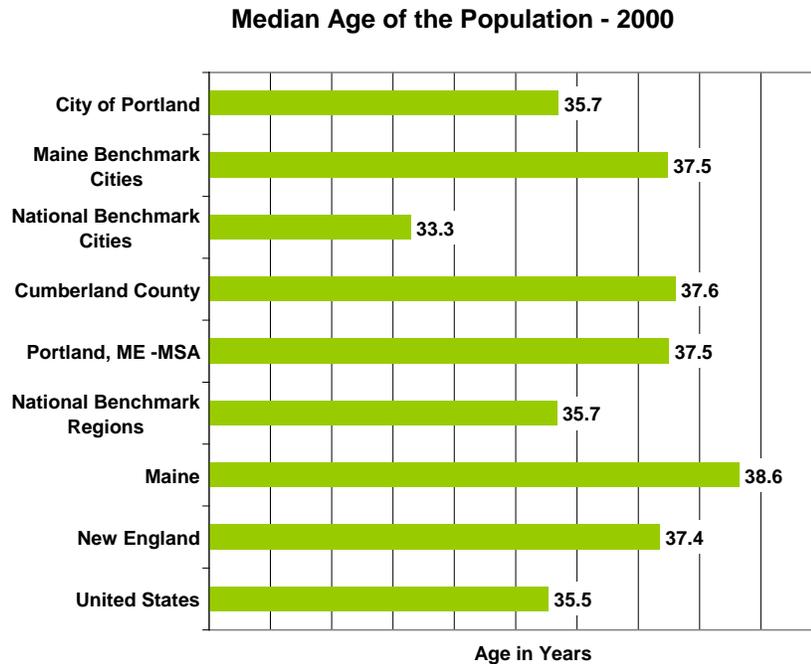
**% of Population 25 years or older with a Bachelor's Degree or More
2005**



**% of Population 25 years or older with a Bachelor's Degree or More
2000**

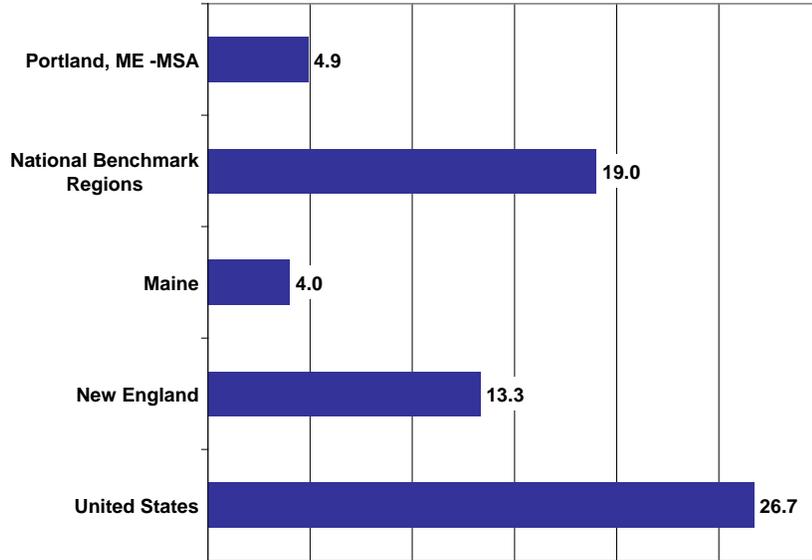


The population of the Portland region and city of Portland is older and less diverse than their counterparts. In 2000, the median age of the population of the Portland region was 37.5 years. This was lower than Maine (38.6) and on par with New England (37.4), but higher than the average for the national benchmark regions (35.7) and the U.S. states (35.5). In 2000, the median age of the population of the city of Portland was 35.7 years. This was lower than the average median age for the Maine benchmark cities (37.5), but higher than the national benchmark cities (33.3).

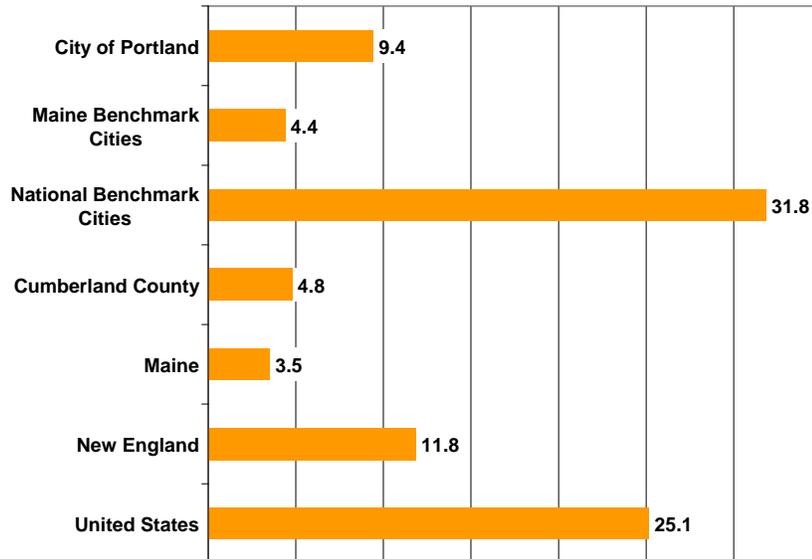


In 2005, 4.9% of the Portland region’s population was non-white, mixed race, Hispanic or Latino. This was significantly lower than the averages for the benchmark regions (19.0%), New England (13.3%), and the U.S. (26.7%). The level for Maine was 4.0%. In 2000, the latest year for which city data is available, 9.4% of Portland’s population was non-white, mixed race, Hispanic or Latino. This was higher than the averages experienced for Maine benchmark cities (4.4%) but lower than the average for the national benchmark cities (31.8%), New England (11.8%), and U.S. (25.1%).

% of Population Non-White, Mixed race, or Hispanic or Latino - 2005



% of Population Non-White, Mixed Race, or Hispanic or Latino - 2000



Data Snapshot – How are we doing right now?

Below you'll find a summary of the most recent data for Portland and the region, showing what's good and what's not in the most recent year for which data was available.

MOST CURRENT YEAR INDICATORS

Portland Region Compared To National Benchmark Regions	
INDICATOR	Most Current Year Benchmark
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE	
Gross Metro Product as % of Gross State Product	↑
Metro Area Total Personal Income as % of State Total Personal Income	↑
Metro Area Employment as % of State Total Employment	↑
Metro Area Population as % of State Total Population	↑
Gross Metro Product Growth	↓
Gross Metro Product Per Capita	↓
Employment Growth	↓
Private Sector Employment Growth	↓
Private Sector Employment as % of Total Employment	↑
Unemployment Rate	↑
Personal Income Growth	↓
Per Capita Personal Income	↑
Transfer Payments as % of Personal Income (includes social support payments)	↑
Wage Growth	↓
Average Weekly Wages	↑
Average Wages as % of US Average	↑
Cost of Living	↓
Export Value Per Capita	↓
Retail Sales Per Capita	↑
Retail Sales Pull Factor	↓
Tourism Related Establishments per 1,000 Persons	↑
Tourism Related Sales per 1,000 Persons	↑

KEY:

- Portland Outperforming Benchmarks – ↑
 - National Benchmarks Outperforming Portland – ↓
 - Portland Similar to National Benchmarks – ↔
 - Not Applicable/No Data – N/A
- (Note that similar arrows may denote different degrees of performance – see individual indicators for more information.)*

Most Current Year Indicators (continued)

Portland Region Compared To National Benchmark Regions	
INDICATOR	Most Current Year Benchmark
PUBLIC FINANCE	
State & Local Tax Burden (Maine statewide compared to all other states)	↓
HOUSING, HEALTH, & PUBLIC SAFETY	
Housing Cost Index	↓
Housing Affordability - Owners	↓
Housing Affordability - Renters	↔
Health Care Insurance Coverage	↑
Health Care Cost Index	↓
Crime Rate	↑
DEMOGRAPHICS	
Population Growth	↓
Median Income	↑
Percent Population Below Poverty	↑
Education Attainment - % Population with Bachelor's Degree or More	↑
Education Attainment - % Population with High School Degree or More	↑
Median Age of Population	↓
Percent of Population non-white, mixed race, Hispanic or Latino	↓
Percent of Population that is Foreign-Born	↓
Population Density	↓

City of Portland Compared To National Benchmark Cities	
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE	
Unemployment Rate	↑
Retail Sales Per Capita	↓
Retail Sales Pull Factor	↓
Retail Sales Growth	↓
Retail Establishment Growth	↑
Tourism Related Establishments per 1,000 Persons	↑
Tourism Related Sales per 1,000 Persons	↓

Most Current Year Indicators (continued)

INDICATOR	Most Current Year Benchmark
PUBLIC FINANCE	
State & Local Tax Burden	↓
Full Value Property Tax Rate	↑
Full Value Property Tax Rate Growth	↔
Property Valuation Per Capita	↑
Property Valuation Growth	↓
Value of Tax Exempt Property	↑
Tax Exempt Property Value Growth	↑
Property Tax Commitment Per Capita	↓
Property Tax Commitment Growth	↓
School Expenditures Per Capita	↓
School Expenditures Growth	↑
HOUSING, HEALTH, & PUBLIC SAFETY	
Housing Affordability - Owners	↔
Housing Affordability - Renters	↑
Crime Rate	↑
DEMOGRAPHICS	
Population Growth	↓
Median Income	↑
Percent Population Below Poverty	↑
Education Attainment - % Population with Bachelor's Degree or More	↑
Education Attainment - % Population with High School Degree or More	↑
Median Age of Population	↓
Median Age of Population Growth	↓
Percent of Population non-white, mixed race, Hispanic or Latino	↓
Percent of Population That is Foreign Born	↓
Population Density	↓

KEY:

Portland Outperforming Benchmarks – ↑
 National Benchmarks Outperforming Portland – ↓
 Portland Similar to National Benchmarks – ↔
 Not Applicable/No Data – N/A

(Note that similar arrows may denote different degrees of performance – see individual indicators for more information.)

Methodology

Geographic units of analysis

Two basic geographic levels are used for the analysis: The Portland region in comparison to a reference group of other regions throughout the U.S. and the city of Portland in comparison to the primary city in each of the reference group regions. When data was readily available on both levels: regions and cities it was presented; however in many cases data was available only on one of the levels.

In addition to comparisons based on other regions and other cities, for most indicators data is presented for the state of Maine, the average of New England states, the average for U.S. states. Also, for most of the city-level indicators data is presented for Cumberland County as a whole. Finally, when data was available, data for the city of Portland was compared to a reference group of Maine municipalities.

For the region-level analysis, the region is defined according to the federal definitions of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and (MSA), and/or New England City and Town Areas (NECTA). MSA and NECTA geography listings are from – “OMB BULLETIN NO. 06 – 01 Corrected, Update of Statistical Area Definitions and Guidance on Their Uses”, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, December, 5, 2005. Additional information is available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>

The Portland Region

Two different definitions of the Portland region were used for this analysis and the one used within an indicator depended on the availability of the data. For many of the regional indicators the Portland-South Portland-Biddeford Metropolitan Statistical Area was used. This includes Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and York counties. For many of the economic and demographic indicators the Portland region was defined as the Portland New England City and Town Area. This included a smaller geographic area covering most of Cumberland County and part of Oxford and York Counties. A table listing of the towns and cities included in the Portland NECTA follows this methodology narrative. While a more narrow definition of the Portland region might be preferred to the MSA and NECTA definitions, data for comparisons to benchmarks would not have been reasonably been available.

The national benchmark regions included 26 MSA's or NECTA's throughout the United States including Portland. For Maine, in addition to the Portland-South Portland-Biddeford MSA, the Bangor and Lewiston-Auburn MSA's were included in the calculation of benchmarks. The national benchmark cities included 24 cities throughout the U.S. including Portland and, Portland is the only Maine city included. The Maine benchmark cities include 16 Maine towns and cities including Portland. A detailed listing of regions and cities included in the benchmark groups follows this methodology narrative.

Selection of Benchmark Regions and Cities

An advisory committee of Chamber members was used to help refine and finalize the benchmark groups. The benchmark regions and cities were chosen based on a review of several factors. An initial list included those regions with similar population size. This list was narrowed to include those regions in the U.S. which included a city similar in population size to Portland. To add enough New England based comparisons a region and corresponding principal city in each New England State was included. The list was then refined to include representation of cities with some characteristics similar to Portland such as ocean ports, tourism activity, and importance to region.

Finally the list was refined to include regions that were perceived by the advisory committee as good places to live and work. The Maine benchmark cities were chosen to include a selection of Maine's largest towns and cities, service centers, plus communities directly surrounding Portland.

Statistical analysis

How performance is measured varies throughout the analysis depending on the type of indicator and the availability of data. To reflect performance over time, growth over the past 10-year, 5-year, 1-year periods is measured for many indicators. Also to reflect current performance relative to the benchmarks, many indicators are calculated based on the most current year of available data. Beyond the assessment of change over time, for most indicators data is equalized to reflect population size difference and expressed on a per capita basis or as a percent of a total for the area. Unless otherwise noted in the notes section following each indicator, the benchmarks are the arithmetic mean of the reference group components.

Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME Metro NECTA - Component Town and Cities

Town or City	County	Population- 2005	Town or City	County	Population- 2005
TOTAL		350,897	Westbrook	Cumberland	16,108
Baldwin	Cumberland	1,373	Windham	Cumberland	16,371
Cape Elizabeth	Cumberland	8,922	Yarmouth	Cumberland	8,257
Casco	Cumberland	3,649	Hiram	Oxford	1,547
Cumberland	Cumberland	7,656	Porter	Oxford	1,492
Falmouth	Cumberland	10,601	Alfred	York	2,818
Freeport	Cumberland	8,066	Arundel	York	4,031
Frye Island	Cumberland	1	Biddeford	York	22,072
Gorham	Cumberland	15,300	Buxton	York	8,163
Gray	Cumberland	7,376	Cornish	York	1,392
Long Island	Cumberland	198	Dayton	York	2,016
Naples	Cumberland	3,561	Hollis	York	4,556
New Gloucester	Cumberland	5,291	Kennebunk	York	11,510
North Yarmouth	Cumberland	3,485	Kennebunkport	York	4,033
Portland	Cumberland	63,889	Limerick	York	2,544
Pownal	Cumberland	1,586	Limington	York	3,678
Raymond	Cumberland	4,578	Lyman	York	4,173
Scarborough	Cumberland	18,897	Old Orchard Beach	York	9,350
Sebago	Cumberland	1,495	Parsonsfield	York	1,742
South Portland	Cumberland	23,742	Saco	York	18,230
Standish	Cumberland	9,915	Waterboro	York	7,233

Source: Annual Estimates of the Population; April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006; U.S. Census Bureau; <http://www.census.gov/popest>

National Benchmark Regions

Geographic Area	Geographic Base	State	Population
Worcester, MA-CT Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Connecticut, Massachusetts	539,828
Norwich-New London, CT-RI Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Connecticut, Rhode Island	265,288
Bangor, ME Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Maine	124,906
Lewiston-Auburn, ME Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Maine	101,778
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Maine	333,624
Portsmouth, NH-ME Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Maine, New Hampshire	71,232
Manchester, NH Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	New Hampshire	176,663
Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Rhode Island, Massachusetts	1,291,932
Burlington-South Burlington, VT Metro NECTA	Metro NECTA	Vermont	187,105
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria, CA	Metro Statistical Area	California	400,335
Norwich-New London, CT MSA	Metro Statistical Area	Connecticut	263,293
Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL	Metro Statistical Area	Florida	682,833
Savannah, GA	Metro Statistical Area	Georgia	320,013
Boise City-Nampa, ID	Metro Statistical Area	Idaho	567,640
Bloomington, IN	Metro Statistical Area	Indiana	178,714
Bangor, ME	Metro Statistical Area	Maine	147,180
Lewiston-Auburn, ME	Metro Statistical Area	Maine	107,552
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME MSA	Metro Statistical Area	Maine	513,667
Worcester, MA MSA	Metro Statistical Area	Massachusetts	784,992
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	Metro Statistical Area	Michigan	774,084
Missoula, MT	Metro Statistical Area	Montana	101,417
Manchester-Nashua, NH MSA	Metro Statistical Area	New Hampshire	402,789
Rockingham County-Strafford County, NH MSA	Metro Statistical Area	New Hampshire	416,257
Santa Fe, NM	Metro Statistical Area	New Mexico	142,407
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	Metro Statistical Area	New York	850,957
Asheville, NC	Metro Statistical Area	North Carolina	398,009
Wilmington, NC	Metro Statistical Area	North Carolina	326,166
Corvallis, OR	Metro Statistical Area	Oregon	79,061
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	Metro Statistical Area	Pennsylvania	525,380
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA MSA	Metro Statistical Area	Rhode Island, Massachusetts	1,612,989
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	Metro Statistical Area	South Carolina	603,178
Greenville, SC	Metro Statistical Area	South Carolina	601,986
Chattanooga, TN-GA	Metro Statistical Area	Tennessee, Georgia	496,704
Burlington-South Burlington, VT MSA	Metro Statistical Area	Vermont	206,007
Yakima, WA	Metro Statistical Area	Washington	233,105

MSA represents Metropolitan Statistical Area and NECTA represents New England City and Town Areas. NECTA population is for 2000 and MSA population is for 2006

Source: Annual Estimates of the Population; April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006; U.S. Census Bureau; <http://www.census.gov/popest>

CITY BENCHMARK GROUPS

Maine Benchmark Cities

Geographic Area	State	Metropolitan Statistical Area	County	Population-2005
Auburn	Maine	Lewiston-Auburn, ME	Androscoggin	23,602
Augusta	Maine	Augusta-Waterville, ME	Kennebec	18,626
Bangor	Maine	Bangor, ME	Penobscot	31,074
Biddeford	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	York	22,072
Brunswick	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	21,820
Falmouth	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	10,601
Gorham	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	15,300
Lewiston	Maine	Lewiston-Auburn, ME	Androscoggin	36,050
Portland	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	63,889
Rockland	Maine	Rockland, ME	Knox	7,658
Saco	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	York	18,230
Sanford	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	York	21,734
Scarborough	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	18,897
South Portland	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	23,742
Waterville	Maine	Augusta-Waterville, ME	Kennebec	15,621
Westbrook	Maine	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	Cumberland	16,108

National Benchmark Cities

Santa Barbara	California	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria, CA	Santa Barbara	85,899
New London	Connecticut	Norwich-New London, CT	New London	26,174
Sarasota	Florida	Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL	Sarasota	53,711
Savannah	Georgia	Savannah, GA	Chatham	128,453
Boise City	Idaho	Boise City-Nampa, ID	Boise	193,161
Bloomington	Indiana	Bloomington, IN	Monroe	69,017
Worcester	Massachusetts	Worcester, MA	Worcester	175,898
Grand Rapids	Michigan	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	Kent	193,780
Missoula	Montana	Missoula, MT	Missoula	62,923
Manchester	New Hampshire	Manchester-Nashua, NH	Hillsborough	109,691
Nashua	New Hampshire	Manchester-Nashua, NH	Hillsborough	87,321
Portsmouth	New Hampshire	Rockingham County-Strafford County, NH	Rockingham	20,674
Santa Fe	New Mexico	Santa Fe, NM	Santa Fe	70,631
Albany	New York	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	Albany	93,523
Asheville	North Carolina	Asheville, NC	Buncombe	72,231
Wilmington	North Carolina	Wilmington, NC	New Hanover	95,476
Corvallis	Oregon	Corvallis, OR	Benton	49,553
Harrisburg	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	Dauphin	47,472
Providence	Rhode Island	Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	Providence	176,862
Charleston	South Carolina	Charleston-North Charleston, SC	Charleston	106,712
Greenville	South Carolina	Greenville, SC	Greenville	56,676
Chattanooga	Tennessee	Chattanooga, TN-GA	Hamilton, Marion	154,762
Burlington	Vermont	Burlington-South Burlington, VT	Chittenden	38,531
Yakima	Washington	Yakima, WA	Yakima	81,214

Source: Annual Estimates of the Population; April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006; U.S. Census Bureau; <http://www.census.gov/popest>

About the Portland Community Chamber

The Portland Community Chamber, an affiliate of the Portland Regional Chamber, represents the employer community in the city of Portland through advocacy, community partnerships and events. By working collaboratively in our community, we strive to build a vibrant economy and a superior place to live and work.

A volunteer-driven organization, the Portland Community Chamber counts on participation from the local employer community to fulfill our mission. We have many committees that plan everything from appearances before the Portland City Council to our monthly breakfast forum, Eggs & Issues. Everything we do is designed to improve the quality of life in our great city.

Affiliation with the Portland Regional Chamber allows our membership to have a powerful voice at the local, regional and state levels. By leveraging this partnership, the Portland Community Chamber helps us successfully effect positive change for our community.

For more information on becoming an active member of the Chamber, please call 207.772.2811 or visit www.portlandregion.com.



About PolicyOne Research

PolicyOne provides research and analysis to help communities, regions, states, and businesses succeed in economic development including:

- ✓ Economic Development planning and implementation
- ✓ Technology and Innovation assessment
- ✓ Tax Increment Financing
- ✓ Program and Service planning and evaluation
- ✓ Economic, Fiscal, and Demographic analysis

Additional information about PolicyOne Research can be found at: www.policyoneresearch.com or by emailing info@policyoneresearch.com

