



Planning Department Report on Population Projections

Following several questions regarding the projection of population numbers from the State of New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, we have undertaken a brief study of one element of our growth in response. It is our opinion that the OEP projections are, in their words “a point of departure for users to establish their own projections and/or for evaluating other projection efforts.” As such we have analyzed recent building permit data to determine a more realistic projection of population.

State OEP projections:

2000	2001	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
8027	8270	8490	8910	9240	9530	9810

Consider the following actual permits (in unit counts) that were granted in the subsequent years following the Census report:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
67 ¹	144 ²	99 ³	175 ⁴	118 ⁵	36 ⁵

Next, consider these numbers plugged into the 2000 Census per unit count of 2.37 and you get the following spreadsheet showing the units added multiplied by the per unit count of 2.37 for a resulting number based upon dwelling unit increase:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Units added per year	67	144	99	175	118	36
Population added at 2.37 per unit count ⁶	159	341	235	415	280	85
Population Projection on unit count alone	8186	8527	8726	9141	9421	9506

This rough projection shows that if the per unit count stays roughly the same from the 2000 Census, our more realistic projection is much more advanced than the state

¹ The permit count reported in the Town Report was 42 – this included one multi family building with X units. This total represents the number of units.

² This reported number was 114 permits with three permits for multi-family units, the total units are reflected in the 144 total.

³ This year reported only two multi-family structures

⁴ This year reflects a change in reporting and shows the actual number of units constructed.

⁵ Current to May, 2005.

⁶ This 2.37 is based on the 2000 Census data Tables Summary Table from OEP Data Center.

Office of the Planning Board

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projections. In fact, our projections indicate that we are possibly close to the 2020 projections issued by the State for our Town's population.

This estimate is conservative given two additional factors:

- 1) Births and deaths are not reflected in our projections; however, births have outpaced deaths by about 30% for every year since 1980.⁷
- 2) Population counts may not fairly reflect the number of students or other population groupings.⁸

⁷ Town of Newmarket Master Plan Population Chapter - page 4, 2001.

⁸ Reports on America: 2000 Census Challenge, Vol 1 Issue 1. 1999. www.prb.org.