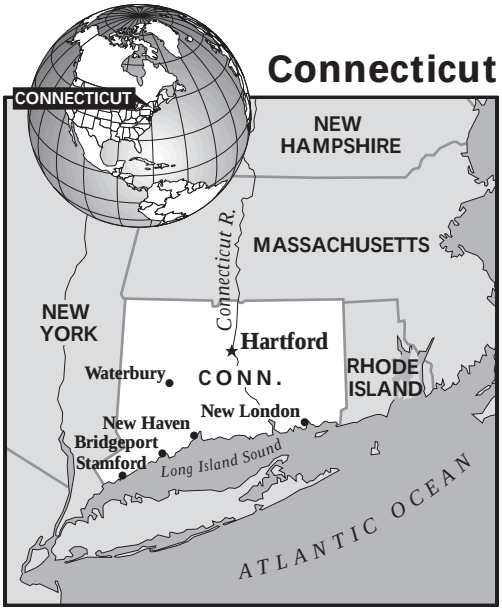
US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996): Hartford (1,144,574), New Haven–Meriden (523,724), Bridgeport (443,637)

Comparison at same scale

Connecticut
Area: 5,018 sq. miles
Population: 3.3 million

Jamaica
Area: 4,244 sq. miles
Population: 2.6 million

Largest urban area by population (1991): Kingston (587,798)

Albany Avenue in Hartford, Conn., lined with small West Indian businesses, reminds Jamaicans of Spanish Town Road, a main commercial thoroughfare to Jamaica's capital, Kingston.

This road and other images of the Jamaican culture dot Connecticut's landscape, a result of the thousands of Jamaicans who, since the 1940s, have emigrated to Connecticut in search of better opportunities. Immigration into Connecticut from Jamaica and elsewhere has helped stabilize the overall population of the state, reversing the declining numbers earlier in this decade.

Currently, Connecticut's population is slightly larger than Jamaica's. Neither population is growing very rapidly. In fact, both places have experienced outmigration in recent years. From 1996 to 1997, almost 20,000 people left Connecticut for other states, and a nearly equal number left Jamaica for the United States.

Despite their equivalent populations, there are wide disparities in the prosperity of the two areas.

The average resident of Connecticut is 18 times wealthier than the average Jamaican and consumes daily five times more energy and 12 times more water. While Connecticut's work force is concentrated in the manufacturing and service industries, with only 1 percent employed in agriculture, agriculture accounts for almost 25 percent of Jamaica's work force and 42 percent of the land area.

Over half of Jamaica's population now lives in urban areas, most of which are located along the coast. This is up from 41 percent in 1980, and is expected to reach 60 percent by the year 2000. Most of Connecticut's cities are also located near the coast, but the state is facing an opposite dilemma. Since 1990 people have moved out of its larger cities, attracted by economic opportunities in other states. The biggest losers, Hartford and New Haven, rank among the 21 fastest shrinking cities in the United States.

The effect of a burgeoning coastal population on the marine environment has been detrimental in Jamaica. Oil spills, sewage, and industrial waste discharge have reduced the size of fisheries and have damaged coral reefs and beaches, affecting one of the country's most important industries: tourism. Tourists are attracted to the island's rich and irregular coastline of coral reefs, bays, estuaries, mangroves, and sandy beaches. Coral reefs provide sites for fishermen to capture lucrative reef fish and for diving enthusiasts to enjoy the natural beauty. Yet recent degradation of reefs has resulted in decreasing catches of fish and a decline in the

continued on back page

CONNECTICUT

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Connecticut's population declined by more than 17,000 between 1990 and 1997. Only Rhode Island and the District of Columbia experienced similar net losses in population in this period.

■ Economic recovery has contributed to stabilizing the state's population size in recent years. Still, the state's annual growth rate of 0.1 percent is well below the national average.

■ Migration to other states has been Connecticut's main population trend in the 1990s. Between 1996 and 1997, for example, natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and international migration barely offset a net loss of roughly 20,000 persons to other states.

■ Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury have all lost population since 1990. By contrast, the fifth Connecticut city of at least 100,000 population—Stamford, located in the greater New York City metropolitan area—has grown.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ In 1998, Connecticut and New York are beginning a massive cleanup of Long Island Sound.

■ Connecticut has reduced the level of ozone released into the atmosphere by more than half since the early 1970s. The current level, however, still exceeds the maximum national air quality standard for ozone. The state meets air quality standards for several other pollutants, including lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

■ Among Connecticut's endangered and threatened species are the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, roseate tern, two species of beetles, and the sandplain gerardia.

Socioeconomic Factors

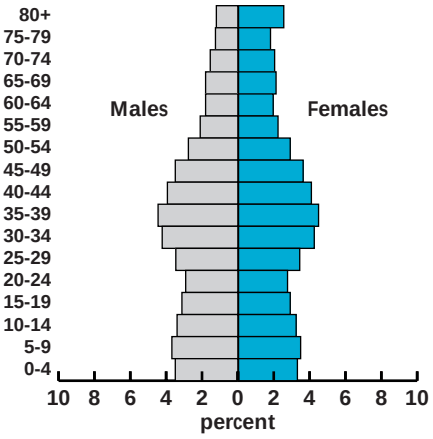
■ Connecticut's median household income ($42,400 in the period from 1994 to 1996) is one of the highest in the country.

■ Declines in the insurance and defense industries in the early 1990s have hit Connecticut hard. The state has lost nearly 150,000 manufacturing jobs in the defense industry alone.

■ Since 1990, the state government's financial contribution to local schools, as a percentage of the total cost of running them, has declined from 46 percent to 39 percent, with local property taxes picking up the slack.

■ A recent study found that half of Connecticut's public school students attend schools in the state's most financially stressed towns.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

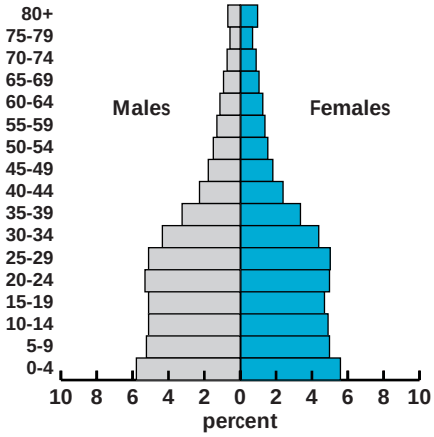


CONNECTICUT FACTS

Population, 1997: 3.3 million
Projected population, 2025: 3.7 million
Annual growth rate: 0.1 %
Doubling time (at current rate): 700 years
Average number of children per woman: 1.9
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 7.2
Life expectancy: 74 (male), 80 (female)
Persons per square mile: 675
Percent urban: 79
Endangered/threatened animals: 7 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 2 species
Percent of land protected: 7
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 74%
Daily water use per capita: 1,364 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 11%
Water use for agriculture: 1%
Water use for industry: 0.3%
Water use for energy production: 88%
Cropland per capita: 0.1 acres
Energy use per capita: 41.4 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.2
Adults who are high school graduates: 85%
Elected officials who are women: 29%
Labor force in agriculture: 1%
Labor force in industry: 20%
Labor force in services: 79%
Gross State Product, 1994: $33,745 per capita

JAMAICA

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



JAMAICA FACTS

Population, 1997: 2.6 million
Projected population, 2025: 3.0 million
Annual growth rate: 0.8%
Doubling time (at current rate): 87 years
Average number of children per woman: 2.6
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 24
Life expectancy: 71 (male), 76 (female)
Persons per square mile: 616
Percent urban: 50
Threatened animals: 28 species
Threatened plants: 371 species
Percent of land protected: 0.1
Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.
Percent with access to safe water: 86
Percent with adequate sanitation: 89
Daily water use per capita: 115 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 7%
Water use for agriculture: 86%
Water use for industry: 7%
Cropland per capita: n.a.
Energy use per capita: 7.0 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 20
Percent of girls in secondary school: 70
Percent of boys in secondary school: 62
Women as % of national legislature: 12
Labor force in agriculture: 25%
Labor force in industry: 24%
Labor force in services: 50%
GDP per capita, 1995: US$1,836

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Jamaica's population has the largest numbers in the youngest ages as a consequence of past high fertility. Even with the current lower fertility rate, this young age structure ensures continued growth well into the future.

■ Life expectancy in Jamaica is approaching that in the United States, adding to population growth. Women and infants remain vulnerable, however, with the death rates far exceeding the rates in the United States.

■ Like many island nations, Jamaica is densely populated. Half of the country's population lives in urban areas, and the proportion is expected to increase as rural to urban migration continues.

■ Since 1970, approximately 481,000 Jamaicans legally emigrated to the United States.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Wildlife habitats are being destroyed in areas where forests are overgrazed by livestock or cleared for subsistence farming. On steep slopes these activities contribute to soil erosion. Other forested areas have been converted to timber and coffee plantations, thus reducing their potential as wildlife habitats.

■ Sewage discharge and industrial effluent have contaminated groundwater in Kingston. Urban expansion and pollution, including oil spills, have greatly reduced the size of local fisheries and damaged coral reefs. At times untreated sewage has polluted north shore beaches to levels detrimental to swimming.

■ Bauxite mining and processing also pollute the air and groundwater.

■ Many of Jamaica's native plant and animal species are found nowhere else in the world, including 27 birds, 20 lizards, 82 ferns, and 784 flowering plants. Threatened animals include the Jamaican petral, Jamaican flower bat, Caribbean manatee, and West Indian whistling-duck.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Bauxite mining and tourism form the core of the country's economy. Tourism accounts for Jamaica's greatest amount of foreign exchange.

■ The structure of Jamaica's economy has changed little since 1980. Services contribute 53 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP); industry accounts for 38 percent; and agriculture, less than 10 percent. Jamaica has a well-developed light manufacturing sector.

■ While agriculture accounts for less than 10 percent of GDP, it contributes 17 percent of exports and employs 25 percent of the country's work force. Commercial crops include sugar cane, bananas, coffee, citrus fruits, potatoes, and vegetables.

■ The labor force is growing faster than the total population, due in part to the large numbers of adolescents.

■ The adult literacy rate is 85 percent and 96 percent of primary school children reach at least grade five.

continued from page 1

number of tourists who dive.

Along Connecticut's coastline, the Long Island Sound has fallen victim to a similar fate. Increasing levels of nitrogen in the water from fertilizer runoff and sewage treatment plant discharge have resulted in a buildup of algae. When the algae die and decompose, oxygen levels decrease, and fish and other aquatic organisms swim to cleaner water (away from the Sound) for survival.

Responding to Challenges

Connecticut, in collaboration with the state of New York, has undertaken an environmental cleanup of Long Island Sound. The enormous cost and duration of the project, $750 million over 15 years, is a testament to the state's commitment to improving water quality. The cleanup is expected to reduce the area of the Sound affected by nitrogen discharge by 75 percent. Connecticut has already begun the process of cleanup by allocating $250 million for treatment plants along its coastline.

The Long Island Sound Project is the result of a nine-year, $17 million Environmental Protection Agency study that sought to identify the causes of pollution in the Sound. The study recognized the Sound's importance as a resource and the need to alleviate future damage from pollution.

In 1991, the Jamaican government passed the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act, which set up the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA). The NRCA, as the lead environmental management agency, has a broad mandate that includes coastal cleanup. It also has sought to reverse some of the damage caused by clearing wildlife habitats for subsistence agriculture and erosion resulting from farmers trying to cultivate on steep slopes.

Another program currently underway in Jamaica, supported by The World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the United Nations Environment Programme seeks to clean up Kingston Harbour. The harbor is the most polluted coastal area around Jamaica, primarily due to inadequate sewage treatment facilities. The program involves a sewage collection and treatment system for the Kingston metropolitan area, similar to the system proposed for Long Island Sound.

Other programs have been supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the International Maritime Organization. Additional support for development activities comes from the U.S. Peace Corps, which currently provides 96 volunteers to Jamaica. ■

People in Connecticut and Jamaica, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

DEFINITIONS: Doubling Time: The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. Average Number of Children Per Woman: Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. Endangered Species: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. Threatened Species: Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. Gross State Product (GSP): The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: In 1998, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) produced the *US in the World* fact sheet series in collaboration with the Population and Habitat Campaign of the National Audubon Society and the Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters. The *US in the World* project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, is designed to help Americans explore how a shared concern for the environment links us to people of the world.

FACT SHEETS PRODUCED BY:

Population Reference Bureau, *1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009; Phone: 202-483-1100; Fax: 202-328-3937; Web site: http://www.prb.org*

National Audubon Society, *Population and Habitat Campaign; Phone: 303-442-2600; Web site: http://www.earthnet.net/~popnet*

Population Coalition *of local Leagues of Women Voters, Phone: 909-625-5717; Web site: http://popco.org*