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Discussion Points Concerning Census Sample Data Tables for 1990 and 2000

Note: The following discussion points refer to the table, Census Data for St. Lawrence County – Comparison Between 1990 and 2000. This table was compiled by the St. Lawrence County Planning Office, from 1990 Census STF 3 and 2000 Census SF3 sample data files.

- County population remained stable over the decade 1990-2000, compared to NYS and US populations, which each increased. Within the county, populations declined in 21 communities and increased in 28 communities. Star Lake CDP had the biggest drop, at 21.2%, while Clare Town saw the largest gain, at 53.4%.
- The number of households increased in the US (14.7%), in New York State (6.3%), and in St. Lawrence County (6.9%). In the county, Clare Town increased the number of households by 84%. Edwards Village, by comparison, lost 16.5% of households over the decade. In all, 15 St. Lawrence County communities lost households, while 34 communities gained households.
- Regarding employment, the civilian labor force in St. Lawrence County grew by 1.9%, from 48,690 to 49,621. This compares to an increase of only 0.4% in New York State (from 8,989,621 in 1990 to 9,023,096 in 2000). For the US, the civilian labor force grew by 11.5% during the decade (from 123,473,450 to 137,668,798).
- The incidence of self-reported unemployment (as reported to the US Census, rather than unemployment figures compiled by the NYS Dept. of Labor) was reduced from 9.3% in 1990 to 8.5% in 2000. Among St. Lawrence County communities, the Village of Canton experienced the largest increase in unemployment rates during the decade, from 5.9% to 20.0%; while the Town of Rossie reported the largest decline in unemployment, from 21.7% down to 12.6%.

- St. Lawrence County's Median Household income in 1999, at \$32,356, was only 74.6% of the MHI for NYS (\$43,393). Among St. Lawrence County communities, the 1999 MHI in the Village of Potsdam of \$21,273 made up only 49.0% of the statewide MHI. Pierrepoint Town came closest to the statewide figure; MHI in Pierrepoint was \$41,890 in 1999, or 96.5% of the NYS MHI. Significantly, no community in St. Lawrence County exceeded the statewide MHI in 1999. In 1989, only the Town of Clare had a MHI that exceeded the statewide figure (\$40,208 vs. \$32,965, respectively).
- Similarly, the county lagged behind NYS in Per Capita Income. In 1999, St. Lawrence County PCI (\$15,728) was 67.2% of NYS PCI. This represented a slight improvement since 1989, when St. Lawrence County PCI made up only 62.7% of the state PCI. Among St. Lawrence County communities in 1999, the Town of DePeyster had a PCI of \$10,667; this was 45.6% of the state figure. The Village of Waddington, with a 1999 PCI of \$22,568 had 96.5% of the state rate. Again, no St. Lawrence County communities exceeded the state PCI.
- St. Lawrence County had a poverty rate in 1999 that slightly exceeded the state rate (16.9% vs. 14.6%). Poverty rates among St. Lawrence County communities in 1999 ranged from 7.4% in Richville Village to 34.0% in the Village of Potsdam.
- The tables for age ranges indicate that St. Lawrence County has consistently had a lower percentage of children in its population than the state or national rates in 2000. In 1990 the percentage of children was between the state and national rates. Interestingly, among working-age adults (between 18 and 65 years old), the county had a greater percentage in 2000 than either the state or nation (76.6%, vs. 75.3% and 74.3% respectively). Similarly, elder persons represented a larger proportion of population in St. Lawrence County in 2000 than in the state or nation.
- In 2000, DePeyster had the largest percentage of children, at 37.3%. Not surprisingly, the Village of Potsdam had the largest number of adults 18-65 years old (88.7%). The Village of Waddington had the largest percentage of elder residents, with 20.5%.