

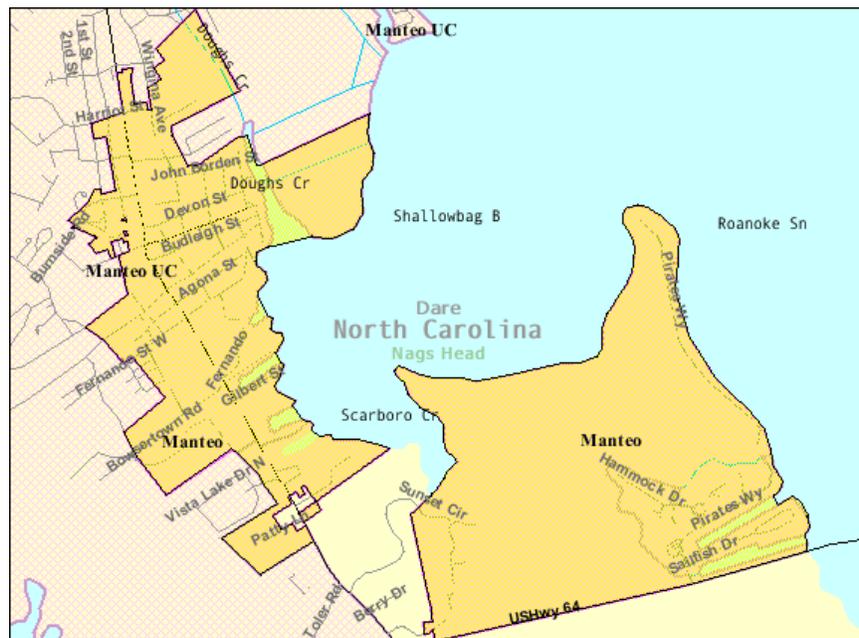
MANTEO, NC¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Manteo (35.90°N, 75.67°W) is situated on Roanoke Island, sandwiched between the mainland and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The town limits wrap around Roanoke Sound to its north and Croatan Sound to the south (USGS 2008). Manteo is the county seat of Dare County, and the only county seat in North Carolina that is located on an island. The historic port of Manteo lies in the center of Roanoke Island between Fort Raleigh and the beach-front resorts of the Outer Banks.



Map 1. Location of Manteo, NC (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

The small town of Manteo was named for the Native American who aided Sir Walter Raleigh and his “Lost Colony” (Outerbanks.com). Manteo is found on the historic and mysterious site of the first European settlement in North America; the colony of Roanoke. In the late 1500’s, 117 men, women and children landed on the shores of North America; however, the experiment failed tragically and all 117 persons who set off from England disappeared and the failed colony became known as the Lost Colony. The community of Manteo and Roanoke Island

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: “Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov.”

has not forgotten their history (ICW-NET nd). “[The Lost Colony](#)” is the nation’s longest running outdoor drama; the play recreates the tale of the Lost Colony on summer nights.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000a), Manteo had a total population of 1,052, up 6.2% from the reported population of 991 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990a). Of this 2000 total, 46.8% were males and 53.2% were females. The median age was 41.2 years and 80.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 17.2% was 62 years or older.

Manteo’s age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population between 50 and 59 years of age. There was also a slight dip in the population between the ages of 20 and 29, particularly for males, indicating that young people may be leaving the community to go to college or in search of jobs.

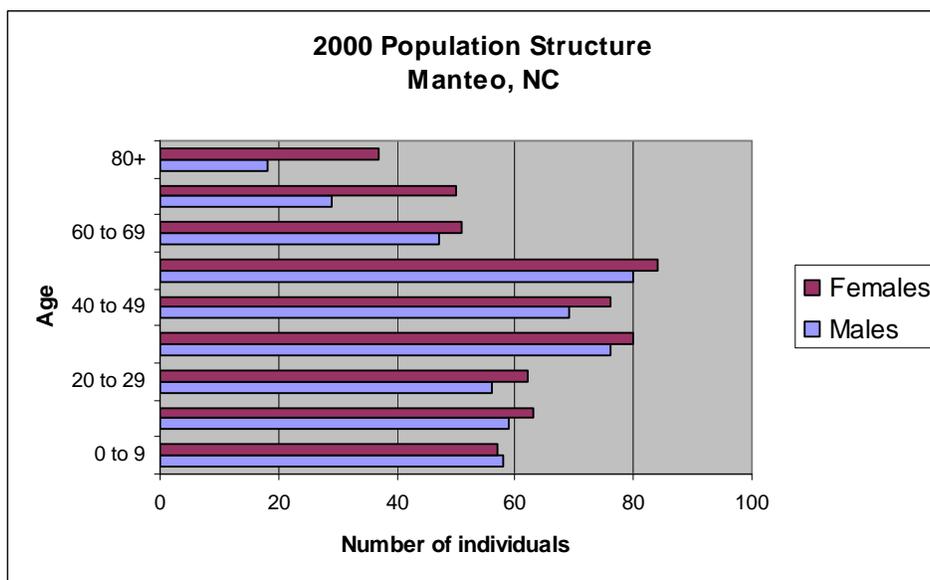


Figure 1. Manteo’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (85.3%) with 10.0% of residents black or African American, 0.1% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 2.5% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (16.7%), German (11.2%), and Irish (9.8%). With the regard to region of birth, 47.7% were born in North Carolina, 49.0% were born in a different state and 2.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.6% who were not United States citizens).

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

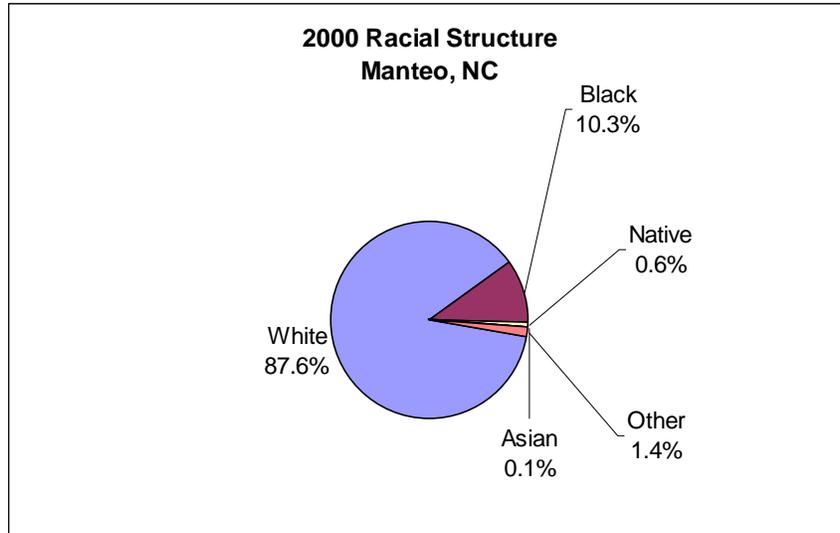


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

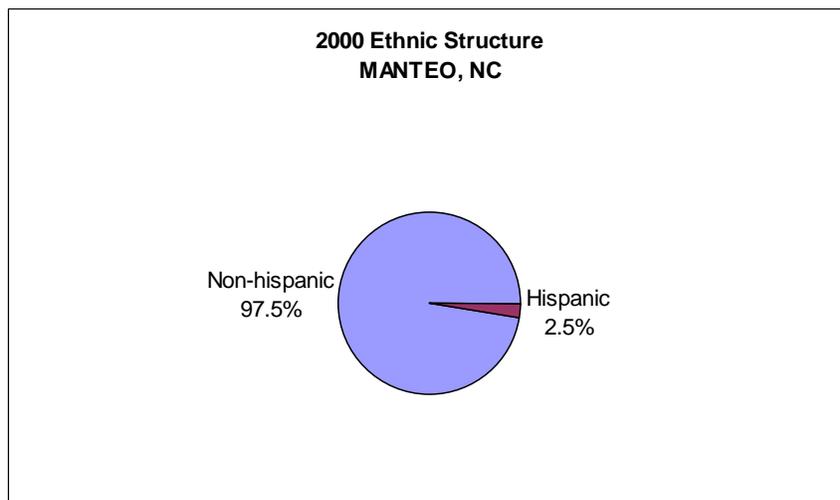


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

In 95.2% of homes, only English was spoken, leaving 4.8% of homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.4% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 89.0% were high school graduates or higher and 20.9 % had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.4% did not reach ninth grade, 7.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 29.8% completed high school, 30.9% had some college with no degree, 7.5% received an associate’s degree, 20.9% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 4.9% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Dare County was the United Methodist Church with 14 congregations and 4,686 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the Catholic Church (4 with 2,097 adherents), Southern Baptist Convention (6 with 1,783 adherents),

and the Assemblies of God (8 with 1,184 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 36.4% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Similar to many coastal towns, there is growing concern over the loss of coastal diversity within Dare County. North Carolina representatives are addressing the issue of working waterfront preservation through valuation and taxation to waterfront property used by the commercial fishing industry (NCSG 2006).

Another issue affecting Manteo is the “shoaling” of Oregon Inlet. Due to U.S. Army Corps funding cuts, the commercially and recreationally important inlet was no longer being dredged for a period of time.⁴ Dredging has resumed in 2007. Although Oregon Inlet is closer to Nags Head than Manteo, the dredging issue is important to Manteo since boats leaving from Roanoke Island are dependent on the inlet as a passage to the Atlantic.⁵

Shrimp fishermen along the North Carolina coast have suffered because of decreasing prices of shrimp, resulting from an increase of foreign farmed shrimp on the market. North Carolina shrimp fishermen are working to promote their wild-caught shrimp to create a niche market and higher prices for their product (NCSG 2005). The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries was discussing minimum size limits for the shrimp that could be taken by trawlers, noting that foreign imports have cornered the market on small shrimp (Smith 2005).

Cultural attributes

There are several museums found in Manteo. [The North Carolina Maritime Museum](#) on Roanoke Island is one of the most popular of these museums. The Museum documents, collects, preserves, and researches the maritime history of coastal North Carolina for the purpose of interpreting this history through educational services and exhibits, and passing scholarship from the present to future generations.

[The North Carolina Aquarium](#) at Roanoke Island in Manteo is one of three state run aquariums in the state, featuring sharks, local species, alligators and a wide range of educational events, feedings and conservation research. The largest exhibit is nearly 250,000 gallons, housing large sand bar sharks.

Manteo hosts the annual Dare Day on the first Saturday in June, an outdoor festival celebrating the beginning of summer and Dare County heritage. On Saturdays in the summer, the town also holds the Manteo Farmers' Market, located on the waterfront next to the NC Maritime Museum (Town of Manteo 2006).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Tourism is tremendously important to this area; during the peak summer months the population of Dare County can go from 29,000 permanent residents to 250,000 (Hendrix 2000).

According to the US Census 2000⁶, 61% (499 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age or over were in the labor force (Table 4), of which 3.3% were unemployed, 0.9% were in the Armed Forces, and 56.8% were employed.

⁴ Personal communication, Shannon Twiddy, Manteo Assistant Town Manager, Town Hall, 407 Budleigh St., Manteo, NC 27954, June 16, 2006

⁵ Profile review comment, Steve Jozik, Town of Manteo, Town Hall, 407 Budleigh St., Manteo, NC 27954, September 24, 2007

⁶ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

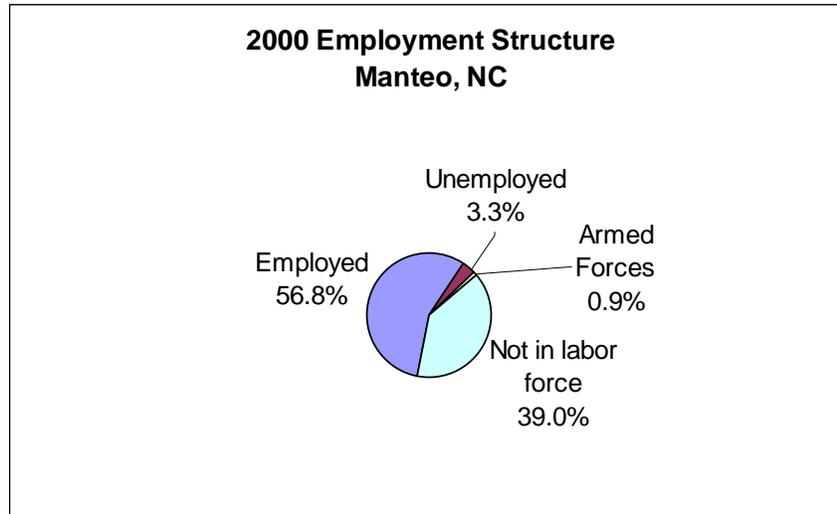


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to the census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 14 positions or 3.0% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 8.2% of jobs. Retail trade (12.5%), education, health and social services (11%), construction (9%), and manufacturing (6.9%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Manteo was \$29,803 (up 49.8% from \$19,894 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$18,499. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 47.0% more per year than females.

The average family in Manteo consisted of 2.03 persons. With respect to poverty, 18.2% of families (down from 18.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) earn below the US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 32.9% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000.

In 2000, Manteo had a total of 924 housing units of which only 55.7% were occupied and 59.0% were detached one unit homes. Less than one quarter (12.0%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 4.6% of housing units; 94.5% of detached units had between two and nine rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$116,100. Of vacant housing units, 33.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 50.3% were renter occupied.

Government

The town of Manteo is run by the Manteo Board of Commissioners made up of a mayor and six commissioners. These seven individuals oversee four other boards and committees: the Board of Adjustments, Planning and Zoning Board, Cemetery Board and the Special Events Committee (Town of Manteo 2006a).

Fishery involvement in government

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted the [Fisheries Reform Act](#) in August 1997. One of its major provisions is a requirement that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) prepare Coastal Habitat Protection Plans (CHPPs). The stated CHPPs goal is to enhance coastal fisheries associated with each habitat, including that of

Manteo. This plan was instilled to protect and nourish the communities and ecosystems of Manteo's important commercial fishing industry (State of North Carolina 2002).

Institutional

Fishing associations

[The North Carolina Fisheries Association](#) has been supporting fishing families since 1952, with the goal "to celebrate and preserve commercial fishing families, heritage, and seafood" in North Carolina. This is achieved through lobbying federal, state, and local legislators and through public awareness projects.

Fishing assistance centers

[The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers \(TAA\)](#) program has provided business education to shrimpers in the state to assist them in recent changes in the market of shrimp, and also provided some training to shrimpers to exit the business if they chose.

Other fishing related organizations

Information on other fishing related organizations in Manteo is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Physical

The town of Manteo is located between two major interstates, Route 64 and Route 264. [The Dare County Regional airport](#) is within the town limits of Manteo. Manteo is five miles from Wanchese, nine miles from Nags Head, and thirteen miles from Kill Devil Hills (MapQuest). There are two major marinas in Manteo; the Manteo Waterfront Marina at Shallowbag Bay and Pirate's Cove Marina.⁷ Access to the Atlantic from Manteo is through Oregon Inlet, located by Nags Head.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

The town of Manteo has changed dramatically over several generations. What was once a major fishing community has transformed into a tourist haven. The town's 5th-generation fishermen supply most of the local citizens and businesses with their catch (Hendrix 2000). However, a small amount of families who have a long heritage in Manteo still make their living through commercial fishing. The amount and variety of fish caught around Manteo is limited (Table 1). The only year in which fish were landed in Manteo was 2003.

⁷ Profile review comment, Steve Jozik, Town of Manteo, Town Hall, 407 Budleigh St., Manteo, NC 27954, Sept 24, 2007

⁸ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

The number of vessels home ported in Manteo as well as the number of vessels with owner's city listed as Manteo has declined since 1997. There are a number of boats which list Manteo as their home port landing their catch elsewhere (Table 2). This can be attributed to Manteo's changing economic structure, as the town of Manteo has changed from mainly a fishing town to a tourist attraction (Insiders.com nd). The level of fishing home port value varied and shows no discernable trend over the ten year time period.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landing in Manteo

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	2,070	0
Monkfish	201	0
Other⁹	7	0

Vessels by Year¹⁰

Table 2. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	20	18	164,922	0
1998	12	11	520,727	0
1999	13	14	363,110	0
2000	16	18	363,774	0
2001	12	15	541,874	0
2002	9	13	339,457	0
2003	7	11	259,367	22,782
2004	8	9	341,517	0
2005	9	12	557,316	0
2006	6	11	404,672	0

Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹¹

Level of fishing home port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries associated with home ported vessels

Level of fishing landed port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries landed in location

Recreational

The small town of Manteo is known for [all kinds of angling](#), from deep sea saltwater fishing to onshore fly fishing. [The Oregon Inlet Fishing Center](#) offers fishing charters, with the spring season focusing on offshore trips targeting tuna, wahoo, dolphin, king mackerel and marlin. [The Pirate's Cove Memorial Weekend Tournament](#) is a fishing event held annually in Manteo during the month of May.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Manteo is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

⁹ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁰ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹¹ The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

FUTURE

Even though the town of Manteo's commercial fishing industry has declined over the years, it still remains the cultural, commercial, and governmental center of Dare County. "The quaint town has transformed into a tourist epicenter and the townspeople have embraced this endearing quality. The town of Manteo, however, will continue to celebrate and honor their deep and historic fishing past and preserve, not only the past, but the present to ensure that the future will remain bright for Manteo's fishing community" (ICW-NET nd).

The Dare County Tourist Bureau is conducting a study of fishing income in the county.¹² The Bureau also receives the 1% sales tax income on all lodging which is redistributed to various grants. One such possible grant is restoration of pier pilings in areas where they are degraded.¹³

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