

there were over 27,000 residents in Atlantic City, up from 250 just 45 years before. Atlantic City became known for its entertainment, from numerous games and amusements to vaudeville and Hollywood entertainers (Kozek nd). In 1921, Atlantic City became the home of the first Miss America pageant, and in 1935, the classic Parker Brothers game Monopoly, set in Atlantic City, was invented (PBS online nd). In 1976, the Casino Gambling Referendum was passed (Kozek nd), and the city quickly became best known for its casinos. Today there are twelve casinos in Atlantic City, many open 24 hours a day, attracting tourists from all over (DTT 2007).

Demographic Profile³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Atlantic City had a total population of 40,517, up 6.7% from 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 51% were female and 49% were male. The median age was 34.7 years and 70.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 16.5% were 62 or older.

Atlantic City's age structure (see Figure 1) showed the largest population categories to be children and young people, with the largest groups being 30-39 and 0-9. This seems to imply lots of young families.

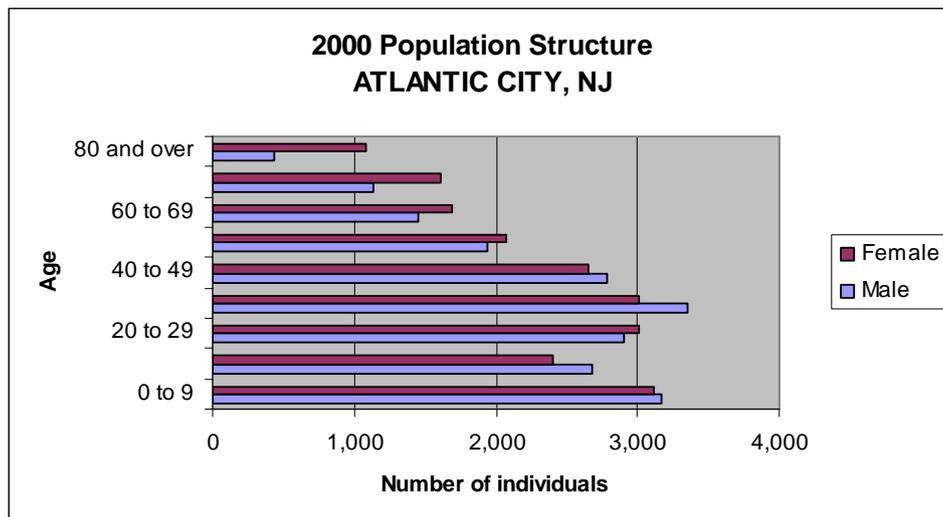


Figure 1. Atlantic City's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Atlantic City in 2000 was black or African American (44.2%), with 26.7% of residents white, 0.5% Native American, 10.4% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Of the total population, 24.9% were Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: Italian (4.9%), Irish (4.1%), and other ancestries (66.0%). With regard to region of birth, 45.8% were born in New Jersey, 24.3% were born in a different state and 24.7% were born outside of the U.S. (including 16.2% 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.

⁴ These and all census data, unless otherwise referenced, can be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Atlantic City

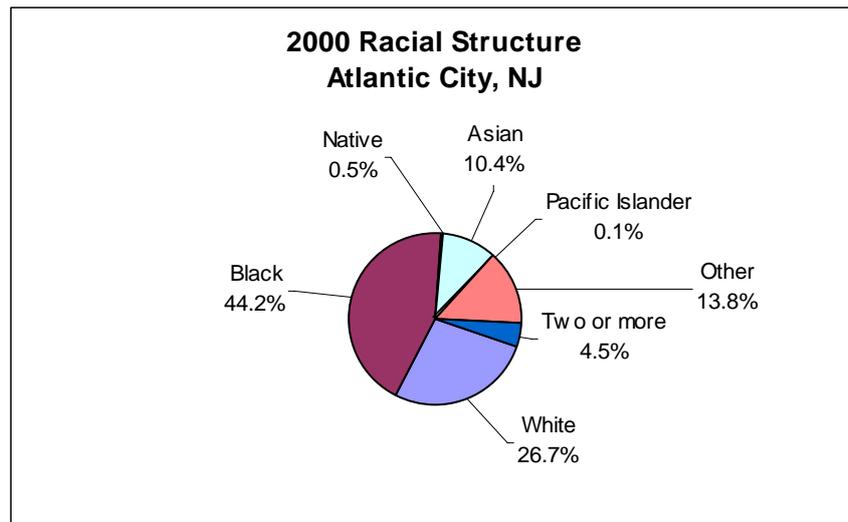


Figure 2. Atlantic City's Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

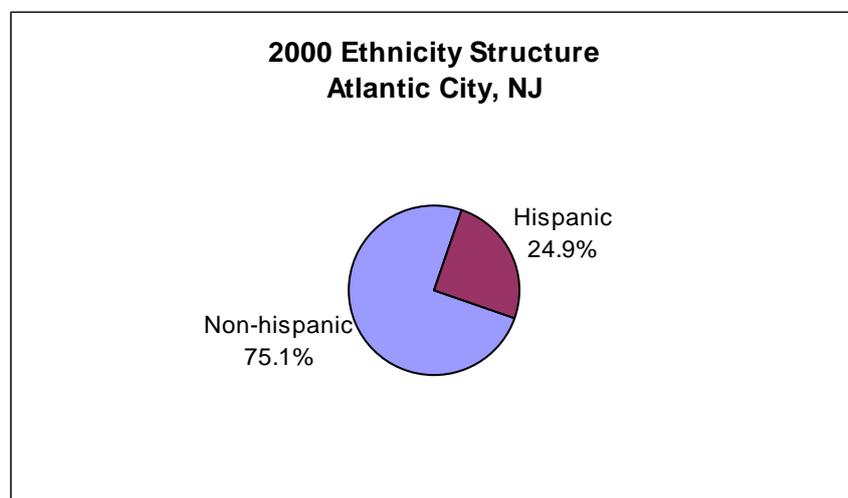


Figure 3: Atlantic City's Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 61.6% of the population 5 years old and higher in 2000 only English was spoken in the home, leaving 38.4% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 21.8% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 61.8% were high school graduates or higher and 10.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 11.9% did not reach ninth grade, 26.3% attended some high school but did not graduate, 30.7% completed high school, 16.7% had some college with no degree, 4.0% received their associate’s degree, 7.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 3.2% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Atlantic County was Catholicism, with 23 congregations and 62,940 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (12 with 14,600 adherents), and Assemblies of God (10 with 1,409 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 5.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/processes

The New Jersey Fresh Seafood Festival, traditionally held every year in Atlantic City, will no longer take place after 2006 because the city no longer has room for the festival and has lost interest in supporting festivals (Pritchard 2006).

Cultural attributes

In previous years, the Fleet New Jersey Fresh Seafood Festival was held annually the second weekend in June at Atlantic City. One of the Festival's major goals was to educate people about the ocean environment through live exhibits and interactive, hands-on demonstrations. The proceeds of the festival were donated to a number of charitable organizations, including marine science education programs and fishing industry research and development (NJRCDC nd). However, as noted above, 2006 was the last year in which the festival is held. The [Atlantic City Aquarium](#) at Gardner's Basin is accessible by land or by sea, and offers a chance to educate visitors about the sea.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Atlantic City's numerous casinos are a significant source of employment for the people of the city, providing more than 40,000 jobs in 2002. Conventions are another important source of income for the area's hotels, especially in off seasons. Beyond these, health care is also important to the region as a whole as are the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center, several fine china, glass and plastics companies, and boatyards which construct many types of vessels, including luxury yachts (GACC 2007).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 56.8% (31,117 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see

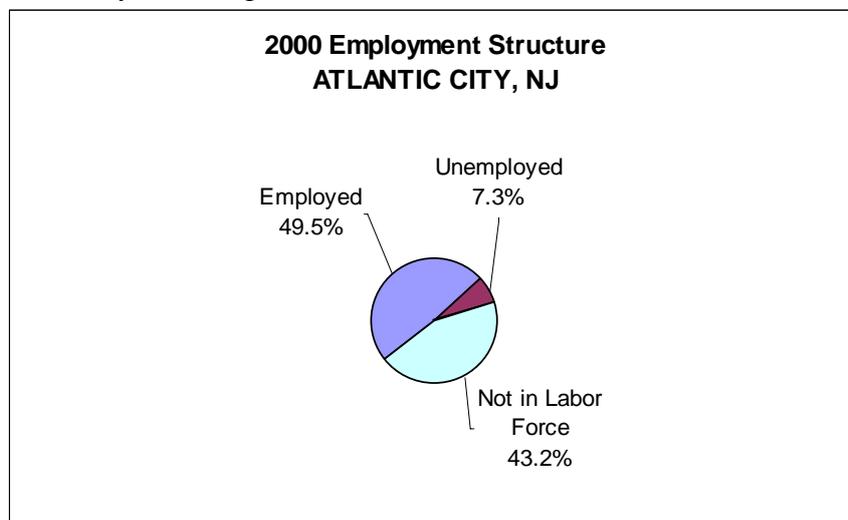


Figure), of which 7.3% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 49.5% were employed.

⁵ 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.

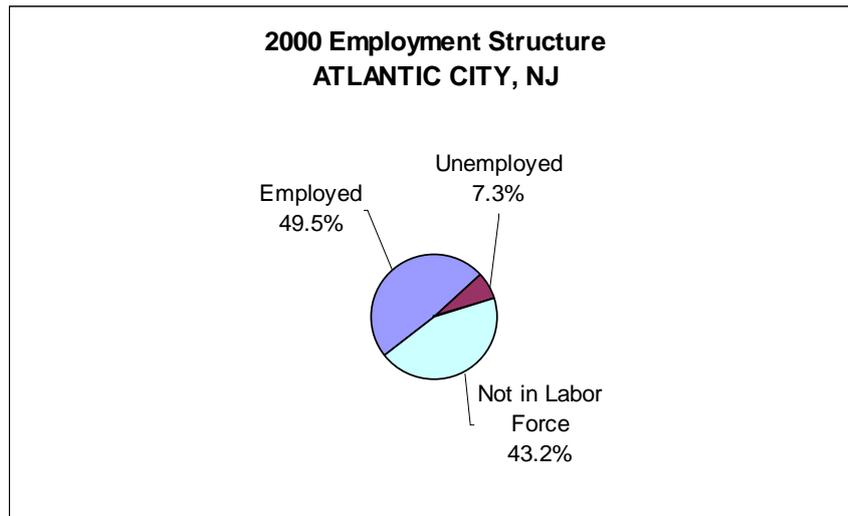


Figure 4. Atlantic City's employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 29 positions or 0.2% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 492 positions or 3.2% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (52.6%), educational health and social services (11.4%), retail trade (6.8%), professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (4.6%), and public administration (4.5%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Atlantic City was \$26,969 (up 32.8% from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$15,402. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 6.7% more per year than women.

The average family in Atlantic City in 2000 consisted of 3.26 persons. With respect to poverty, 19.1% of families (down from 1.5% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 23.6% of individuals were below the U.S. 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, 54.8% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Atlantic City had a total of 20,219 housing units of which 78.4% were occupied and 15.4% were detached one unit homes. Approximately one-quarter (26.4%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes/vans/boats accounted for 0.3% of the total housing units; 74.4% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$87,500. Of vacant housing units, 9.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 71.1% were renter occupied.

Governmental

The city of Atlantic City operates under the Council/Manager form of government. There is a nine-member City Council and a Mayor (City of Atlantic City nd).

Fishery involvement in government

Information on fishery involvement in government in Atlantic City was unavailable through secondary data collection.

Institutional

Fishing associations

There are no Atlantic City based fishing associations which could be found through secondary sources. However, [Garden State Seafood Association](#) in Trenton is a statewide organization of commercial fishermen and fishing companies, related businesses and individuals working in common cause to promote the interests of the commercial fishing industry and seafood consumers in New Jersey.

The [Jersey Coast Anglers Association](#) (JCAA) is an association of over 75 saltwater fishing clubs throughout the state. Founded in 1981, the purpose of the organization is to unite and represent marine sport anglers to work towards common goals. The JCAA website (www.jcaa.org) also provides links for many NJ anglers associations.

Fishery assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Atlantic City was unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related institutions

The Atlantic City Historical Waterfront Foundation provided much of the funding for the [city's aquarium](#).

Physical

There are several ways to access Atlantic City and to travel within the city. The [Atlantic City Jitney](#) buses run 24 hours a day, every day in Atlantic City. Nine miles northwest of Atlantic City, the [Atlantic City International Airport](#) offers non-stop or connector flights to over 100 destinations on Delta and Spirit Airlines. The [Atlantic City Rail Line](#) runs twenty-nine trains per day between Philadelphia and the Atlantic City Rail Terminal with local stops. Atlantic City is 48 miles north from Cape May, NJ, 41.3 miles south from Barnegat, NJ, and 62.2 miles southeast from Philadelphia, PA.

Atlantic City has also numerous marinas. The Senator Frank S. Farley State Marina is a full service marina which can house 640 boats and provides water, electricity, ice, restaurant, charter boats, and gas and diesel fuel (Trump Entertainment Resorts 2007). Situated on Clam Creek, the marina is a short distance from the Atlantic Ocean via Absecon Inlet, or the Intracoastal Waterway. The Atlantic City Aquarium operates a marina in the city's historic Gardner's Basin, where they also have a restaurant selling seafood from the boats that dock there (Atlantic City Aquarium 2008). In addition, there are multiple private marinas (ACR&D nd).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁶

Commercial

Atlantic City's commercial fishing fleet is based in the Marina section of the city, in the shadow of the casinos. The fishery almost exclusively targets surf clams and ocean quahogs. This fishery is conducted by larger vessels, 70 to 150 feet in length, equipped with hydraulic dredges. Atlantic City's fishery provides much of the world's supply of minced clams and clam strips. There are no processing facilities in Atlantic City, so the clams must be trucked elsewhere (Garden State Seafood Association nd). In addition to the large commercial clam industry, numerous small-scale fishing operations in Atlantic City fish for clams on the bay side using rakes and tongs or fishing by hand. There are also some clam aquaculture facilities here (McCay and Cieri 2000).

In 2006, the value of the surf clam and ocean quahog landings was just under \$22 million (see Table 1), slightly higher than the average values for 1997-2006. Scallops were the second most valuable species, worth \$2.25 million, a significant increase from the ten year average value. The third most important species was black sea bass (\$59,355). The value of landed catch in Atlantic City seems to have been relatively constant in the years cited, whereas the catch value for vessels with their home port in Atlantic City has doubled in the last ten years. The number of vessels home ported in Atlantic City also increase in this same time period. It is also interesting to note that there are few vessel owners living in Atlantic City, meaning most home ported vessels are owned by people living in other communities (Table 2).

⁶ 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.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of landings

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	20,850,112	21,928,679
Scallop	441,844	2,257,070
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	30,635	11,472
Other⁷	23,657	4,478
Lobster	6,132	7,475
Monkfish	1,840	14,169
Bluefish	275	0
Smallmesh Groundfish⁸	64	0
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	28	0

Vessels by Year⁹

Table 1: 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	24	3	17,882,496	20,796,672
1998	28	1	18,260,756	17,828,564
1999	26	2	19,966,741	20,002,005
2000	31	2	25,632,408	26,079,708
2001	28	1	27,711,967	25,160,380
2002	27	1	29,179,530	22,429,230
2003	26	2	28,907,729	20,760,477
2004	28	1	24,295,002	17,733,598
2005	32	1	24,293,377	18,531,878
2006	37	4	34,803,456	24,223,343

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
 # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁰
 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

In New Jersey, the charter/party fleet is the largest on east coast. Many vessels are over 120 ft long and carry over 150 people.¹¹ There are a number of businesses operating recreational fishing charter and party boats in Atlantic City, fishing year round for a large variety of species including flounder, sea bass, cod, striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, tuna,

⁷ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁸ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Community Review Comments, Bruce Freeman, NJ Coast Anglers Association, October 2, 2007

shark, and mahi mahi, among others (ACFishing.com nd). Charter vessels from the Gardner's Basin area offer both deep sea and bay fishing (Atlantic City Aquarium 2008).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority has invested \$225 million in the construction of new residential housing to revitalize the image of Atlantic City. This goal of this project is to restore the vitality of the city's architecturally and culturally diverse neighborhoods and to re-establish thriving residential communities. The CRDA has funded and completed construction on a total of 1,897 housing units since its inception in 1984, increasing Atlantic City's housing stock by 12% (CRDA nd). The Inlet section of Atlantic City, where some of the commercial fishing fleet is based and which has been largely underdeveloped, is now being built up with condominiums and homes, forcing out the annual seafood festival held here (Pritchard 2006). Gardner's Basin, home to many of the clam docks, is also home to numerous townhouses and is zoned "marine commercial" (McCay and Cieri 2000).

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