

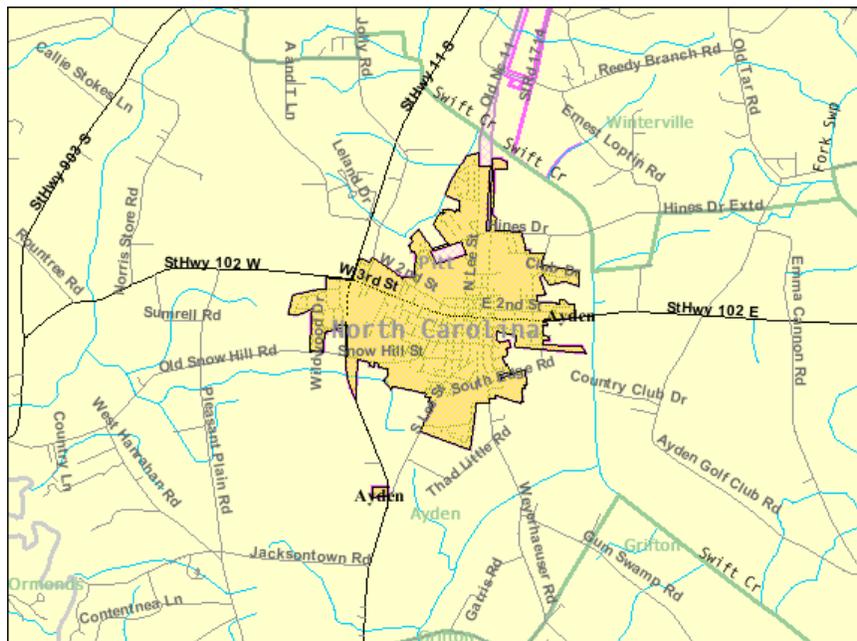
AYDEN, NC¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Ayden (38.28°N, 77.25°W) is located in Pitt County, North Carolina. It is part of the Inner Banks region and the Greenville Metropolitan Area (Town of Ayden 2006). The total area of Ayden is 2.3 mi², all of which is land (MapQuest nd). (*Note:* This community was included in the profiling process because of its role in the seafood processing industry, rather than the importance of harvesting activities to the community.)



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

Historical/Background

Ayden was originally part of William Henry Harris's farm. In 1891 he convinced the Atlantic Coast Railway Line to build a depot at the newly formed "Harristown" of which Mr. Harris owned every other lot. The town was officially incorporated on February 3, 1891 with the name Ayden. Soon after its incorporation, the Carolina Christian College and the Free Will Baptist Seminary were established. The Ayden municipal light plant provided full-time electricity to the town by 1919. The organization of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of Ayden helped families to obtain mortgages and build homes in Ayden. As many towns did,

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."

Ayden experienced difficulty during the depression and the World Wars. After World War II, Ayden saw an increase in productivity and growth which can still be seen today (Town of Ayden 2006).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Ayden has a total population of 4,622, down 2.5% from the reported population of 4,740 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 44.1% were males and 55.9% were females. The median age was 38.8 years and 71.1% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.6% was 62 years or older.

Ayden's age structure (Figure 1) shows a fairly even distribution of age. There is a slight dip in the population between the ages of 20 and 29, indicating that young people may be leaving the community to go to college or in search of jobs. The amount of female adults is also noticeably larger.

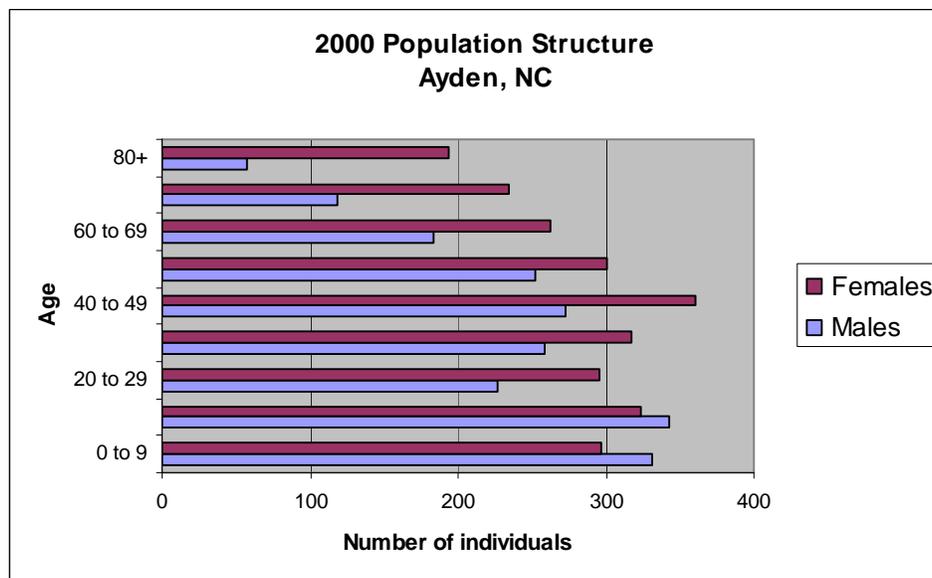


Figure 1. Ayden's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population is closely split between Black or African American (50.1%) and White (48.2%). The remaining residents are Asian (0.2%), Native American (0.2%), and 0.04% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 2.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: American or from the United States (9.5%), English (7.2%) German (3.3%) Irish (3.2%) with various other ancestries recorded at 40.6%. With the regard to region of birth, 78.8% were born in North Carolina, 19% were born in a different state and 1.8% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1% who are 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.

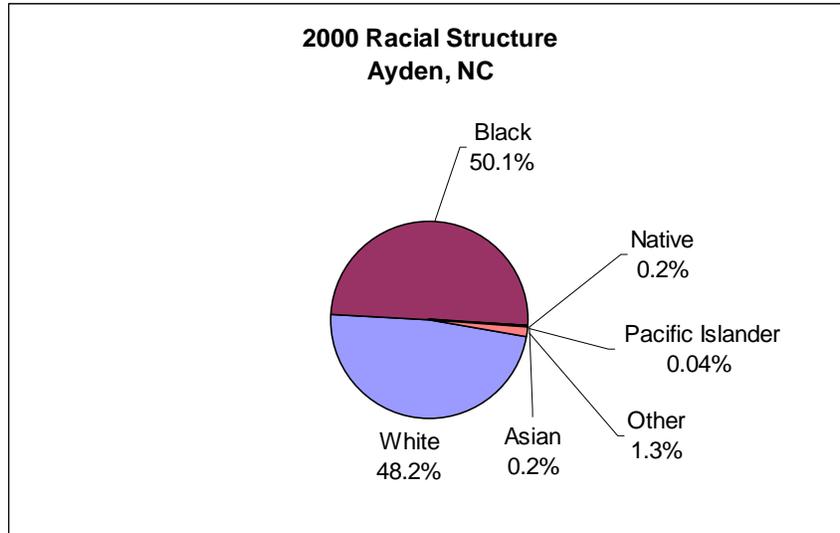


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

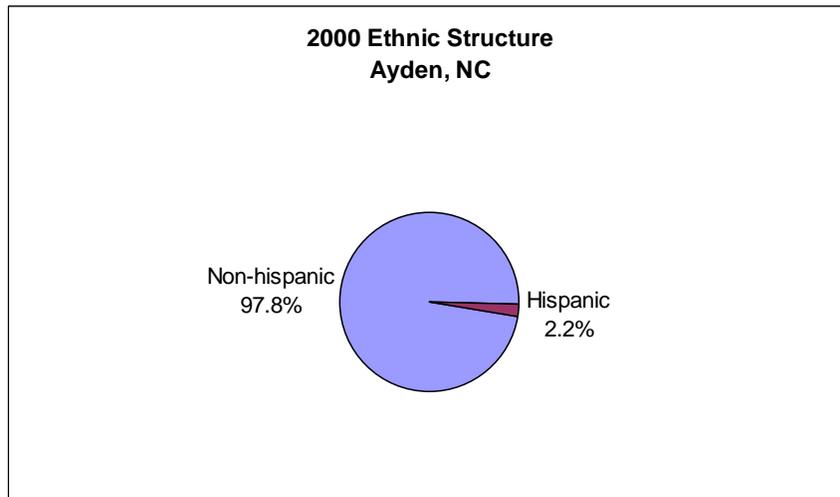


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

In 95.8% of homes, only English is spoken, leaving 4.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.6% of the population who spoke English less than ‘very well’ according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 69.2% were high school graduates or higher and 13.5 % had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 12.7% did not reach ninth grade, 18.2% attended some high school but did not graduate, 28.9% completed high school, 19.7% had some college with no degree, 7% received an associate’s degree, 9% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 4.5% received either 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 Pitt County was United Methodist with 9,376 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the Southern Baptist Convention (13 with 6,380 adherents), Original Free Will Baptists (19 with 4,862 adherents and Catholic (3 with 3,938

adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 12.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Information on issues/processes in Ayden is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Cultural attributes

Ayden is perhaps best known for its annual [Collard Festival](#) which is held in September. Ayden has a strong community infrastructure, with the Veteran's Memorial Park, The Arts and Recreation Center, and Ayden Community Center which offers classes in various activities and skills (Town of Ayden 2006).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

There are three major manufacturing plants in Ayden, including Weyerhaeuser, Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc., and Pepsi Minges Bottling Group. There is also three major shopping centers; Ayden Plaza, Ayden Crossing, Downtown Market Area (Town of Ayden 2006). In addition, CMI Plastics of Cranbury, NJ is relocating to Ayden. The state-of-the-art 70,000 sq. ft. plant will be situated on 13 acres in Minges Corporate Park and is scheduled for occupancy in early November 2007. At full capacity, the plant will employ 165 people.⁴

According to the US Census 2000, 53.1% (1,854 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age or over were in the labor force, of which 4.3% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 48.7% were employed (Figure 4).

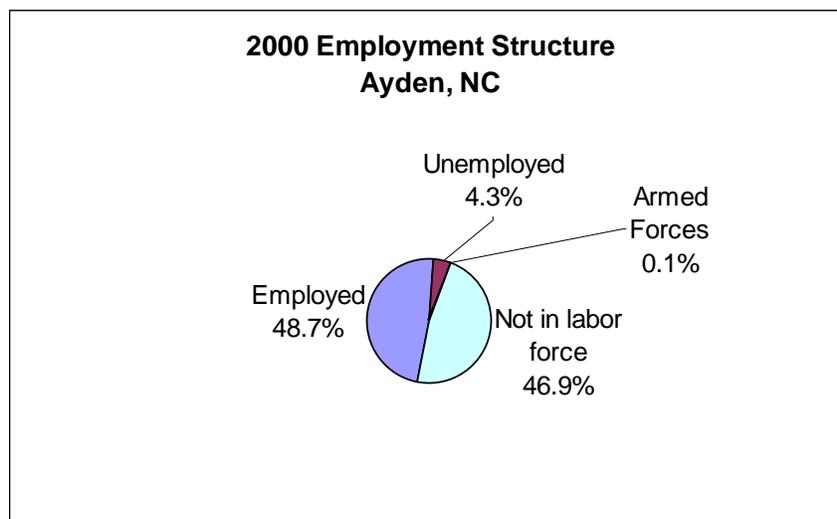


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to the census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 21 positions or 1.2% of all

⁴ Community review comments, Cindy Dunn, Town of Ayden, 4144 West Avenue, P.O. Box 219 Ayden, N.C. 28513, September 12, 2007

jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 6.3% of the labor force. Education, health and social services (28.0%), manufacturing (18.2%), retail trade (11.5%) and construction (7.5%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Ayden was \$24,004 (up 29.8% from \$18,485 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$14,505. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 38.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Ayden consists of 2.36 persons. With respect to poverty, 21% of families (less than 22.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) earn below the official 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, 50.3% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000.

In 2000, Ayden had a total of 2,069 housing units of which 93.1% were occupied and 69.8% were detached one unit homes. More than one quarter (15.4%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 5.2% of the total housing units; a vast majority of the homes (96.3%) have between two and nine bedrooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$74,500. Of vacant housing units, 0.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 44.0% were renter occupied.

Government

The town of Ayden is run by a collection of town officials and positions. The town is overseen by a mayor, and the Commissioners consist of the First Ward through Fifth Ward. There are also town appointed officials: Town Manager, Finance Director, and Town Clerk and Tax Collector (Town of Ayden 2006). More widely, Ayden is governed by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners. The Board includes nine elected officials from around the county (Pitt County 2006). However, Ayden is not governed by the County within its city limits. Ayden's extra Territorial Jurisdiction, which extends one mile beyond the corporate limits, is part of the county, with the exception of the planning and zoning activities controlled by the town.⁵

Fishery involvement in government

Information on fishery involvement in government in Ayden is unavailable through secondary data collection.

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

Information on fishing assistance centers in Ayden is unavailable through secondary data collection.

⁵ Community review comments, Cindy Dunn, Town of Ayden, 4144 West Avenue, P.O. Box 219 Ayden, N.C. 28513, September 12, 2007

Other fishing related institutions

Information on other fishing related institutions in Ayden is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Physical

The town of Ayden is easily accessible by NC 11. It is located near to two airports, Greenville, and North Carolina TrasPark in Kinston and two railway systems, Norfolk Southern and CSX rail (Ayden Chamber of Commerce 2006). In addition, it is 73.3 miles from the major port of Moorhead City and 105 miles from the port of Wilmington (Google nd).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES

Commercial

Ayden is home to [Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.](#) which is a fish processing plant employing 120 people. The plant processes and distributes farm raised catfish to the Northeastern United States. Ayden has no commercial fishing industry.

Recreational

Information on recreational fishing in Ayden is unavailable through secondary data collection. Recreational fishing does not likely occur in Ayden, as the town is not located on any body of water. However, Ayden has numerous freshwater ponds, creeks, and streams which are utilized by recreational fishermen.⁶

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

According to the Town's updated website, the town seeks to create "a community in which the environment possesses characteristics of a village; consisting of an economically thriving retail and service historic downtown district (Town of Ayden 2006)."

The [Ayden town website](#) offers a public forum space. According to the Town newsletter in October 2007, their "vision is to improve the lifestyle and landscape of Ayden through growth and enrichment" (Town of Ayden 2006a).

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