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The image features a large outline map of the state of Maine. Several locations are marked with text labels, representing technical colleges: NMTC Presque Isle in the north; EMTC Bangor in the central-north; WCTC Calais Eastport on the eastern coast; KVTC Fairfield in the central-west; CMTC Auburn in the west; and SMTC So. Portland in the southwest. The York County area in the southwest is shaded with a stippled pattern and labeled 'YORK COUNTY'.

Investing In York County's Future

**A Report by the
Commission to Study the Need for a
Technical College in York County**

December 1991

INVESTING IN YORK COUNTY'S FUTURE

A Report by the Commission to Study the Need for a Technical College in York County

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OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The 115th Legislature and Governor John R. McKernan, Jr., directed the Maine Technical College System (MTCS) Board of Trustees to establish the *Commission to Study the Need for a Technical College in York County* to review the status of the need for technical education in York County, evaluate the current capacity for meeting this need, and recommend changes, if appropriate.

The Commission was comprised of 14 leaders from the business community, membership organizations, education, and labor throughout the southern part of Maine, as well as two members of the MTCS Board of Trustees, including the Chair, and the President of the MTCS. The Commission conducted a series of meetings, including public hearings, to collect and analyze data and public opinion to form the basis of the recommendation in this report. Following review and consultation with the Commission, the Board of Trustees will make a final recommendation to the Maine State Legislature.

THE MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

The enabling legislation which created the Maine Technical College System defined its mission clearly:

The basic mission of the Maine Technical College System is to provide associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs directed at the educational, occupational, and technical needs of the state's citizens and the workforce needs of the state's employers. The primary goals of the post-secondary vocational-technical education and the MTCS are to create an educated, skilled, and adaptable labor force which is responsive to the changing needs of the economy of the state and to promote local, regional, and statewide economic development. (Title 20A: § 12703)

The MTCS includes six technical colleges unified under the auspices of the MTCS Board of Trustees: Central Maine Technical College in Auburn; Eastern Maine Technical College in Bangor; Kennebec Valley Technical College in Fairfield; Northern Maine Technical College in Presque Isle; Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland; and Washington County Technical College in Calais and Eastport.

The six colleges offer 191 associate degree, certificate, and diploma programs in business, automotive, construction, electrical and electronics, health fields, the hospitality industry, trade and technical fields, marine and natural resources, public and occupational safety, and graphic arts and printing. In addition, each college offers a wide variety of seminars, workshops, and credit and noncredit courses through their Continuing Education Divisions, some of which are specifically tailored for a particular business or industry. In 1990-1991, the MTCS enrolled 3,836 full- and part-time students and graduated 1,300 students with degrees, certificates, and diplomas. Over 11,000 adults participated in continuing education programs.

THE CHARGE TO THE COMMISSION

The 115th Legislature passed L.D. 1604, and Governor McKernan signed the bill into law, requiring that the Maine Technical College System Board of Trustees establish a *Commission to Study the Need for a Technical College in York County*.

The Commission's charge was to:

- Examine post-secondary vocational and technical education currently available in York County.
- Assess the current and future demand of area citizens for post-secondary vocational and technical education in York County.
- Assess the current and future work force needs of the state's employers.
- Assess the needs of people who have been traditionally underserved by the Maine Technical College System, including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities.
- Make recommendations to provide post-secondary vocational and technical education in York County that adequately meet the needs of area citizens and the state's employers.
- Make recommendations, if appropriate, to establish a York County Technical College of the Maine Technical College System.

The Commission was further charged to submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

THE PROCESS THE COMMISSION UNDERTOOK

The Commission conducted a series of meetings throughout York County, including two public hearings--one in York Harbor and one in Sanford. Presentations were made, and written testimony was received, from a broad variety of educators, employers, State Planning Office staff, social agencies, and the leadership of other technical colleges. Planning data were gathered from the *Report by the Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System*, as well as methodology for projecting need. In addition, data specific to York County were obtained from the Maine Department of Labor and the State Planning Office. Consistent with the systemwide report, projections of need were forecast through the decade. Existing area resources for meeting that need were evaluated, and the Commission's recommendation is a response to the unmet need.

HISTORY OF EFFORTS IN YORK COUNTY

Since the early 1970's, Southern Maine Technical College (SMTC) has been conducting various courses at high school and business locations in York County. In 1973, York County Community College Systems (YCCCS) was established. YCCCS was a coordinated effort between SMTC (then SMVTI) and the University of Southern Maine (USM) to provide educational courses and programs in southern Maine. During the next nine years, a variety of courses and a few entire programs were offered by YCCCS at locations in Saco-Biddeford, Sanford, and Eliot. Due to funding reductions, the effort was discontinued in 1982.

Since 1982, SMTC has offered various college courses in conjunction with York County Adult Education Programs.

The Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, in conjunction with the Maine Development Foundation, established the "York County 2000" forum in early 1985 to focus on the precarious balancing act of achieving economic growth in York County while maintaining a renowned quality of life. Members of this group met in October 1985 to address the concerns associated with the anticipated population growth. As a result of this early meeting, an education task force was formed to address the educational needs of York County as it moved toward the 21st century. This task force generated a report, *A Forum on the Future of York County: Report from the Education Task Force*, which included the following recommendations:

- Increase the availability of day and evening community-based vocational education programs in high density areas.
- Develop a decentralized and flexible community college and vocational technical institute system by using existing education facilities to meet the needs of a working population which may find itself in a period of transition brought on by plant relocations, etc.

Since 1986, the Maine Technical College System has requested Part 2 funding from the Legislature for educational program improvement and expansion in York County.

These efforts have not been successful.

In 1987, SMTC utilized Carl D. Perkins funds to deliver courses at numerous locations in York County; however, this funding has also been discontinued. At the present time, approximately 30 courses are delivered each year, at six York County locations, through the SMTC Continuing Education Division.

Two pieces of legislation were proposed during the 114th Legislative Session. L.D. 1398 proposed funds to SMVTI to increase its vocational and technical programs in southern Maine, and L.D. 1337 proposed funds to create a technical college in York County. However, neither of these legislative attempts were funded.

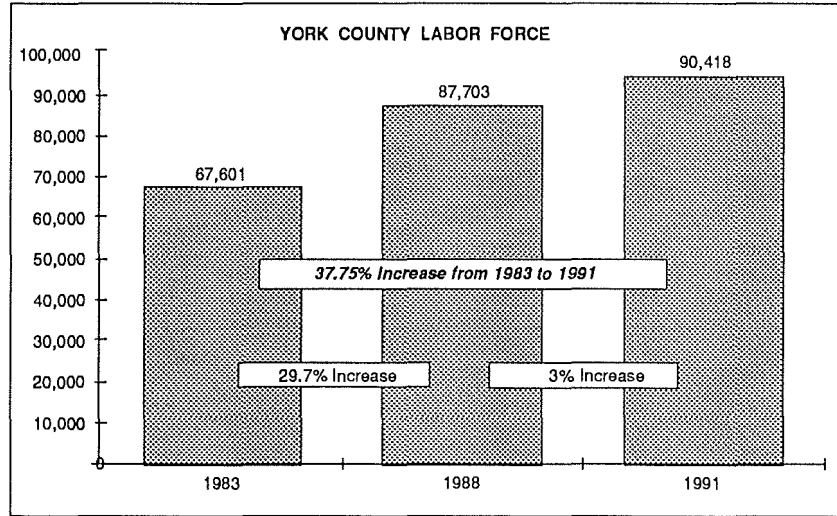
During the 115th Legislative Session, the bill creating the Commission to conduct the study leading to this report was passed.

YORK COUNTY STATEMENT OF NEED

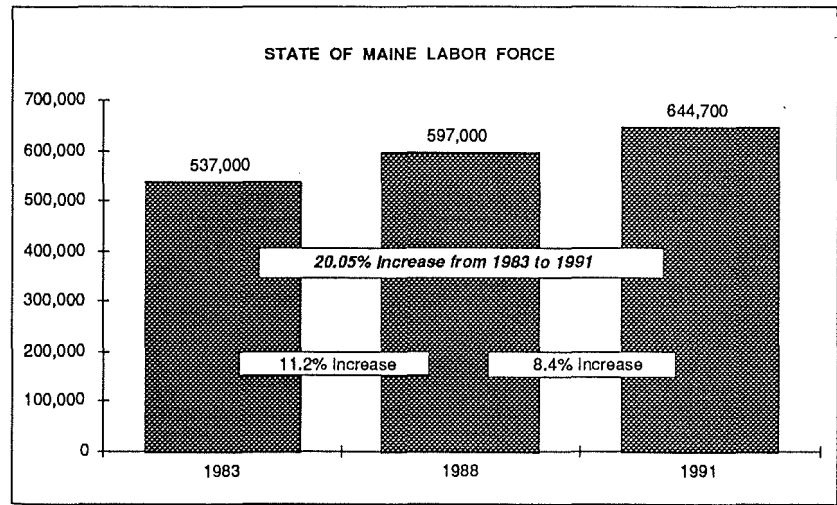
York County is the second largest county in the state, with an estimated 1990 population of 164,587. In 1970, the population was 111,576. This increase of 53,011 represents 47.5% growth. During this same period, the statewide population increased by 23.6%.

LABOR FORCE

The labor force in York County increased at a faster rate than the labor force statewide for the period 1983 to 1991.



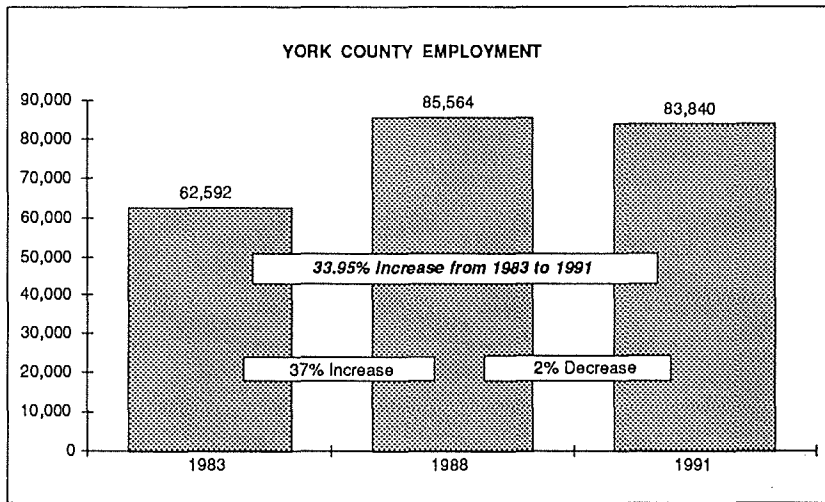
However, the majority of this growth in York County took place from 1983 to 1988. During that period, York County's labor force increased 29.7%, compared to an 11.2% increase statewide. During the period 1988 to 1991, York County's growth was nearly level with the 1988 figure, with only a 3% growth, compared to 8.4% statewide.



Since 1988, the percent of the statewide labor force in York County has been at least 14%, with only a slight decrease from 1988 to 1991. This 14% figure is used in this report for current and projected calculations.

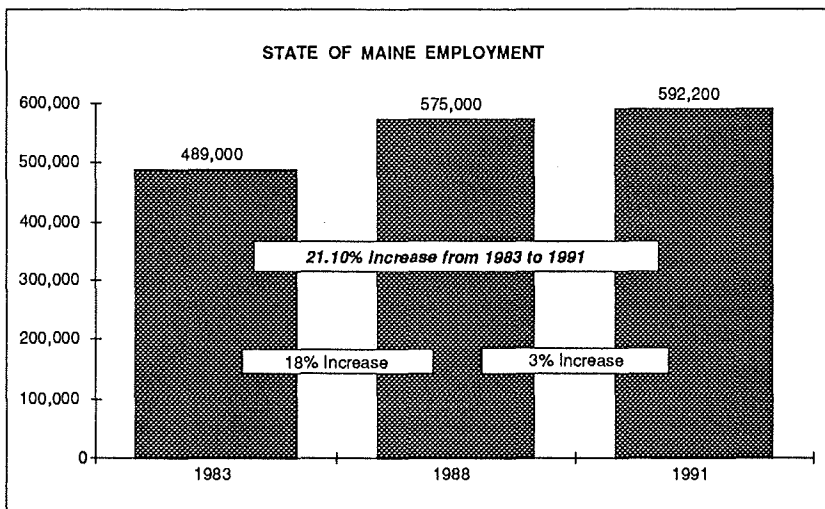
Year	1983	1988	1991
Percent	12.6%	14.7%	14.2%

EMPLOYMENT



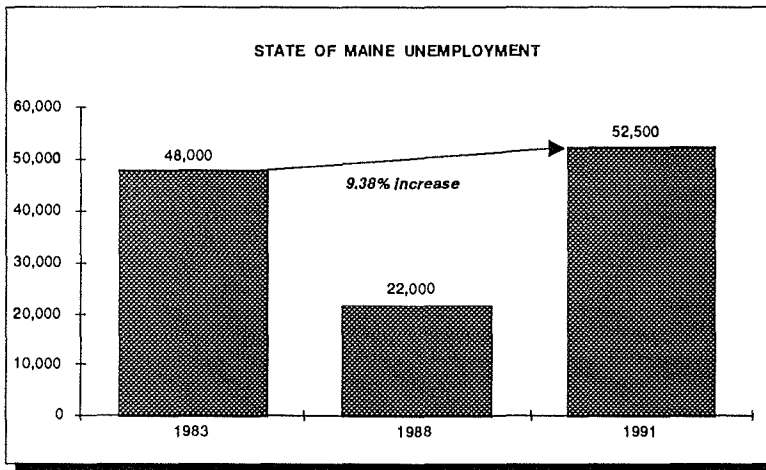
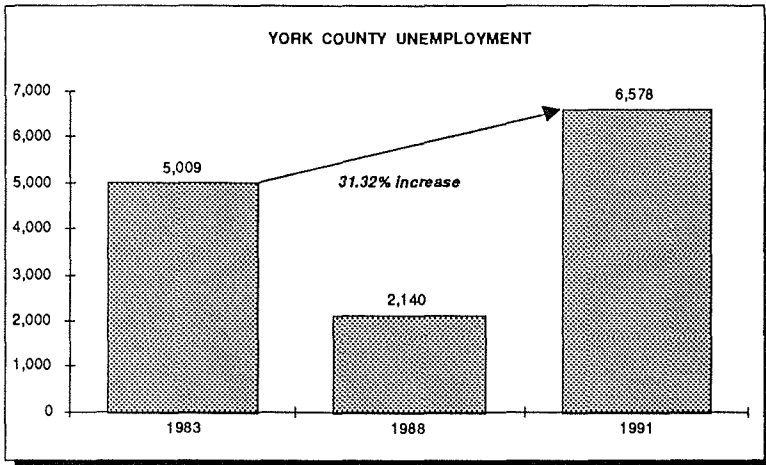
York County's growth in the number of individuals employed increased at a greater rate than statewide.

Between the years 1983 and 1988, York County's employment rate increased by 37%, compared to a statewide increase of 18%. However, between 1988 and 1991, York County's employment decreased by 2%, compared to a statewide increase of 3%.



The 1988 to 1991 changes indicate increasing unemployment in York County.

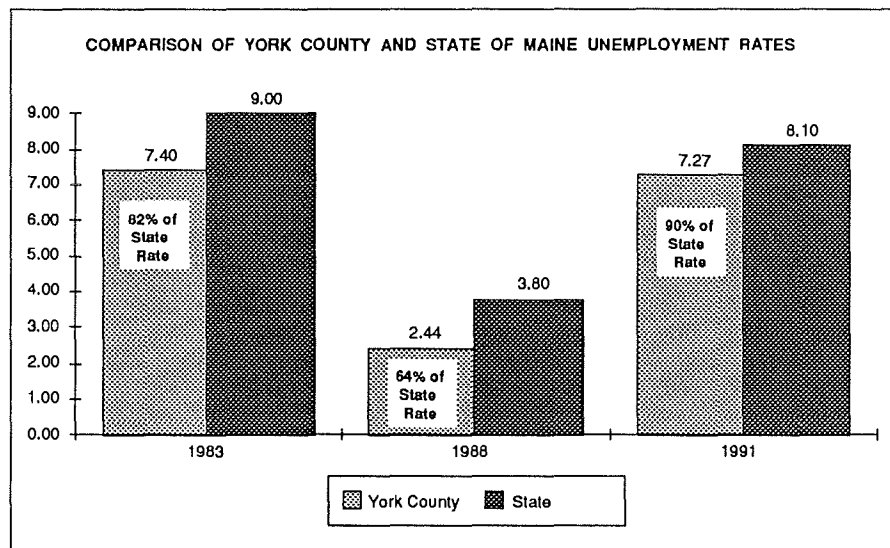
UNEMPLOYMENT



The rate of increase in the number of unemployed people in York County accelerated much faster than statewide, with a **31.32% increase from 1983 to 1991**, compared to a **9.38% increase statewide**.

Although unemployment rates in York County have always been lower than statewide rates, the difference is decreasing. In 1988, York County unemployment was 64% of the state rate. In June 1991, second quarter unemployment in York County reached 90% of the state rate. York County consists of three labor markets--Biddeford, Kittery-York, and Sanford. Two of the three labor markets typically have unemployment rates which are higher than the statewide rate by approximately 20%. It should be noted that, during the summer, York County's unemployment rates drop due to the seasonal nature of many temporary jobs in the area.

Consistent with increasing rates of unemployment, York County contains 11.2% of Maine's Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) population and 10.6% of the Maine Food Stamp program's population. Since 1987, the AFDC population in York County has increased 55%, and the Food Stamp population has increased 43%. In addition, the AFDC unemployed parent population has increased 69% since January 1990.



CHANGES BY YORK COUNTY INDUSTRY

NUMBER OF YORK COUNTY EMPLOYERS BY INDUSTRY

	1981	1990	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forest/Fishing	65	95	46%
Mining	3	5	100%
Construction	486	724	49%
Manufacturing	205	221	8%
Transportation/Public Utilities	99	133	34%
Wholesale Trade	102	169	66%
Retail Trade	969	1,251	29%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	182	248	36%
Services	927	1,370	48%
State Government	14	16	14%
Local Government	119	156	31%
Totals	3,171	4,389	38%

The number of employers in York County increased by 38% between 1981 and 1990 while, during the same period, the number of employees increased by only 32%. This discrepancy in growth indicates that employers may be downsizing their operations.

NUMBER OF YORK COUNTY EMPLOYEES BY INDUSTRY

	1981	1990	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forest/Fishing	307	399	30%
Mining	32	18	-44%
Construction	1,533	2,445	59%
Manufacturing	14,089	12,781	-9%
Transportation/Public Utilities	843	1,173	39%
Wholesale Trade	933	966	4%
Retail Trade	7,952	13,453	69%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,118	1,831	64%
Services	7,111	11,168	57%
State Government	215	298	39%
Local Government	4,322	6,094	41%
Totals	38,455	50,626	32%

When downsizing occurs, the need for employees to upgrade their skills increases to allow them to be more flexible in the broader range of tasks they need to accomplish.

AVERAGE OF YORK COUNTY EMPLOYEES/EMPLOYER

	1981	1990	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing	4.72	4.20	-11%
Mining	10.67	3.00	-72%
Construction	3.15	3.38	7%
Manufacturing	68.73	57.83	-16%
Transportation/Public Utilities	8.52	8.82	4%
Wholesale Trade	9.15	5.72	-38%
Retail Trade	8.21	10.75	31%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	6.14	7.38	20%
Services	7.67	8.15	6%
State Government	15.36	18.63	21%
Local Government	36.32	39.06	8%
Totals	12.13	11.53	-5%

Business downsizing occurred in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade. The average number of employees per employer increased in the fields of construction, transportation and public utilities, retail trade, finance/insurance/real estate, services, and state and local governments.

CHANGES IN YORK COUNTY'S WORKFORCE

The number of female employees increased by 7,820, or 44%, while the number of male employees increased by 4,351, or 21%.

The *Report By The Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System* states, "women will provide 6 out of 10 of the new workers during the 1990's as female labor force participation grows from 58% to 63%."

NUMBER OF YORK COUNTY FEMALE EMPLOYEES BY INDUSTRY

	1981	1990	Net	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forest/Fishing	104	160	56	54%
Mining	4	6	2	50%
Construction	174	310	136	78%
Manufacturing	5,684	4,934	-750	-13%
Transportation/Public Utilities	211	308	97	46%
Wholesale Trade	208	252	44	21%
Retail Trade	4,328	7,263	2,935	68%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	724	1,349	625	86%
Services	4,332	7,452	3,120	72%
State Government	75	148	73	97%
Local Government	1,909	3,391	1,482	78%
Totals	17,753	25,573	7,820	44%

NUMBER OF YORK COUNTY MALE EMPLOYEES BY INDUSTRY

	1981	1990	Net	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forest/Fishing	203	239	36	18%
Mining	28	12	-16	-57%
Construction	1,359	2,135	776	57%
Manufacturing	8,405	7,847	-558	-7%
Transportation/Public Utilities	632	865	233	37%
Wholesale Trade	725	714	-11	-2%
Retail Trade	3,624	6,190	2,566	71%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	394	482	88	22%
Services	2,779	3,716	937	34%
State Government	140	150	10	7%
Local Government	2,413	2,703	290	12%
Totals	20,702	25,053	4,351	21%

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH THROUGH THE END OF THE DECADE

Growth in the number of employees was projected for each industry area.

These projections indicate 41,097 new jobs in York and Cumberland Counties, with the greatest increase in demand in the service and retail trade industries.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS - SOUTHERN REGION
(York and Cumberland Counties)

	1988	2000	Net	Percent Change
Agriculture/Forest/Fishing	1,603	1,945	342	21%
Mining	49	89	40	82%
Construction	13,541	14,359	818	6%
Manufacturing	31,382	34,385	3,003	10%
Transportation/Public Utilities	8,780	10,507	1,727	20%
Wholesale Trade	10,848	13,350	2,502	23%
Retail Trade	44,985	53,031	8,046	18%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	14,030	16,408	2,378	17%
Services	82,759	104,882	21,923	26%
State/Local Government	17,974	18,292	318	2%
Totals	225,951	267,048	41,097	18%

These "new jobs" do not include projections for employees who will need to upgrade their current skills because of increasing competition and advancement of technology.

EXISTING CAPACITY

York County's primary resource for post-secondary technical education is Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland, which offers programs of study in 36 professions. As the sole resource for post-secondary technical education in southern Maine, SMTC serves the largest population of all colleges in the MTCS. SMTC provides technical education to a population of 438,096 individuals, 36% of the state population, and 14,328, or 40%, of the state's employers.

Since 1986, SMTC has undertaken specific efforts to bring high-quality technical education closer to the residents of York County through their Continuing Education Division. Thirty percent of the total 2,966 students enrolled in Continuing Education Division programs are from York County and attend classes in six York County towns. While SMTC's Continuing Education Division has worked diligently to offer numerous courses at locations throughout southern Maine for the past five years, there have been limitations imposed by the fact that all personnel and permanent facilities, including the technical labs needed to complete the 13 programs listed below, are located at the main campus in South Portland.

- Culinary Arts
- Heating
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Machine Tool Technology
- Marine Biology and Oceanography
- Marine Engineering
- Masonry
- Nautical Science
- Plumbing
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiologic Technology
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- Respiratory Therapy

Since 1986, SMTC has continued to propose that a local presence in York County will facilitate closer business and community ties.

Applicants for full-time study to SMTC from York County have increased by 80% during the past five years, for a high of 414 in the fall of 1991. Total applicants have increased 41% during the same time period. Currently, 137 full-time students from York County are enrolled in SMTC courses.

The rate of increase in applications to SMTC from York County residents is twice the overall rate of increase in total applications.

STATEMENT OF UNMET NEED

Estimates prepared for the *Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System* from national data indicate that, during the 1980's, about 9% of those entering the workforce--to fill new jobs in growth industries or as replacements--need MTCS-level technical education.

In addition to training for new jobs, 37,976 individuals, or 42% of the existing workforce, need MTCS-level technical education to upgrade their skills throughout the decade.

The following estimates, based on *A Report by the Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System*, calculate a range from a low to a high demand:

- **Low Demand Estimate:** These figures estimate the numbers of people needing technical education each year at the beginning of the 1990's.
- **High Demand Estimate:** These figures are expanded to incorporate estimates of 25% growth in the share of the workforce that will need technical education.

The statewide analysis indicates that, at the beginning of the decade, at least 4,400 people annually needed nonbaccalaureate technical education to be hired or to upgrade skills on their current jobs. By the end of the decade, this number is projected to rise to 5,700-7,125 persons per year.

York County has had approximately 14% of the state's labor force. These calculations assume that this distribution will remain constant throughout the decade.

	DEMAND ESTIMATES		
	LOW	MEDIAN	HIGH
ANNUAL STATEWIDE NEED			
1989	4,400	4,950	5,500
1995	5,158	5,803	6,447
2000	5,700	6,413	7,125
YORK COUNTY ANNUAL NEED (14%)			
1989	616	693	770
1995	722	812	903
2000	798	898	998
EXISTING CAPACITY THROUGH SMTC	137	137	137
YORK COUNTY UNMET NEED			
1989	479	556	633
1995	585	675	766
2000	661	761	861

These estimates indicate a range of unmet need, from a low of 479 in 1989 to a high of 861 in the year 2000.

FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Increased Opportunities for Technical Education Will Provide an Economic Opportunity for York County Residents.

In 1987, the *National Assessment of Educational Progress* concluded that "more than one-half of the nation's 17-year-olds appear to be inadequately prepared either to competently perform jobs that require technical skills or to benefit substantially from specialized on-the-job training." Many will be unemployed, and too many will be unemployable--posing growing fiscal and social burdens. As the Washington-based Brookings Institution recently concluded: "America's children are not learning enough, they are not learning the right things, and they are not learning how to learn."

National data show that, in the year 2000, the skills demanded in three-out-of-four jobs will require education and training beyond high school. The demographics of the labor force are changing dramatically in the post- "baby-boom" years. These demographic forces mean that people who have not, traditionally, been regarded as part of the mainstream workforce must receive post-secondary education or training. For example, women will provide six-out-of-ten of the new workers during the 1990's, as female labor force participation grows from 58% to 63%. Increases in Maine's labor force over the next 10 years will come from those aged 25 years and older, with much of this increase accounted for by females, older workers, and other groups not presently in the labor force. In addition, persons with disabilities have traditionally sought university-based post-secondary education. Improved access to technical education for these individuals will provide job and career opportunities that traditionally have not been available to many individuals who will become part of the labor force.

The increasing need for technical education is further documented in *A Report by the Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System*. This need for enhanced skills has a clear impact on the population of York County, which has increased nearly 50% since 1970. Since 1983, the labor force in York County increased by 33.75%, compared to a statewide increase of 20.05%. The labor force is available; however, efforts need to be directed to the preparation of this labor force to assure that residents continue to have access to attractive, well-paying jobs.

The unemployment rate in York County is increasing faster than statewide. In 1983, the York County unemployment rate was 2.44%, compared to a state rate of 3.80%. In 1991, York County's unemployment rate is 7.27%, compared to a state rate of 8.10%. In addition, since 1987, the AFDC population in York County has increased 55%, and the Food Stamp program's population has increased 43%. Furthermore, the AFDC unemployed parent population has increased 69% since January 1990. These increases in economically disadvantaged individuals and families emphasize the opportunity for technical education to improve the economic status of York County residents.

Communities with better educated and better trained workforces bounce back more quickly from recessions because they are able to exploit new opportunities faster than communities with less skilled people.

People with up-to-date and marketable skills are better able to weather recessions by finding alternative jobs or even by creating their own businesses. In order to be competitive, Maine must make a commitment to education and training. The *Development Report by the States: Corporation for Enterprise Development*, reported that Maine had a grade of "D" for the Development Capacity Index, based on 1989 data.

Increased Opportunities for Technical Education Will Support Existing York County Employers in Their Efforts to Find New Skilled Workers.

The *Report by the Commission to Review the Capacity of the Maine Technical College System* projects that Maine will need a minimum of 60,000 additional technicians to meet projected employment growth during the 1990's. Since 14% of the state's labor force is in York County, it can then be further projected that York County will need a minimum of 8,400 additional technicians during this same period. If the Maine Technical College System remains at its current capacity, graduating 137 York County residents in each year of the decade, York County's workforce will fall short by at least 7,030 technicians in the 1990's.

Business Week recently warned: "The nation's ability to compete is threatened by our inadequate investment in our most important resource: people. Put simply, too many workers lack the skills to perform more demanding jobs." The national scope of the problem makes Maine's problem even more serious. In the past, Maine has been able to meet the needs for skilled workers by "importing" them from other states--relying on its quality of life to draw people to the northeast. This has been particularly true in York County, as the "gateway" to the state. However, as shortages worsen in other regions, and in areas adjacent to York County, Maine employers will not be able to afford the escalating wages needed to draw employees to Maine.

A productive workforce cannot be found--it must be created.

Major corporations and small businesses, alike, emphasized to both Commissions studying the need for technical education statewide and in York County that they cannot find technically-trained employees.

Increased Opportunities for Technical Education Will Support Existing York County Employers .

According to the *Third Annual Maine Human Resource Development Plan, 1990*, the changing structure of industrial employment and changing technologies is resulting in demands from employers for workers with higher levels of skills and education. Ninety percent of Maine's workforce for the year 2000 is already working, yet 50% of the existing jobs will be phased out or greatly changed by then. Combined with the fact that three-out-of-four new jobs will require some sort of post-secondary education or training, the critical need to enhance the state's education and job training system is not just important--it has become a necessity.

New technologies are greatly increasing the productivity of the workforce. In order for businesses to benefit from new technology, all employees need higher levels of technical competence and greater flexibility. A new college in York County allows for the opportunity to achieve an environment to nurture and foster contemporary business concepts such as Total Quality Management and team building. As technological change accelerates, more and more of Maine's workforce are threatened with falling wages or long-term unemployment unless workers can strengthen their basic and technical skills.

The American Society for Training and Development recently reported that 42% of the nation's workforce will need additional training over the next decade. In York County, that translates into approximately 37,976 individuals. This retraining is a costly investment and one which is particularly difficult for small businesses. According to the Maine Department

of Labor, 99.6% of the businesses in York County have fewer than 250 employees. Small businesses need access to cost-efficient, accessible training opportunities to assure their workers, and their businesses, stay technologically competitive.

In addition, technical education faces a second challenge with small businesses. In order to stay competitive, businesses have to change the way they do business. They need to adjust to new and improved management styles, increase use of teamwork, encourage job flexibility, and adapt to new technology and equipment to assure continued efficient and effective productivity. Technical education institutions need to assume a more proactive role in assisting small businesses to understand and adapt to a fast-changing business environment.

Increased Opportunities for Technical Education Will Provide an Incentive for New Business.

A difficult question facing planners is the resolution of whether business is a catalyst for the training of skilled workers or whether the presence of skilled workers is a catalyst for an infusion of business into an area. The Commission heard testimony from Chamber of Commerce leaders stating that primary questions from businesses considering locating in York County relate to the skill level of the labor force and the accessibility of training. Staff of the State Planning Office stated to the Commission that “higher skilled workers will act as a magnet for growth.”

Regardless of hard data to answer the catalyst question, it was the overwhelming consensus of the Commission that the presence of skilled workers and readily accessible training will be an inducement for economic development opportunities in the area.

At the very least, the strong opinion was that planners can no longer wait for increased numbers of businesses to locate in York County and then develop strategies to meet their employee needs. In hard economic times, a reactive posture can have severe negative effects. Rather, the economic situation dictates, and Commission members support, a proactive stance toward economic development through the training of a skilled workforce.

The Population Base of York County Demands Local Access to Post-Secondary Technical Education.

Service Area Size:

The Commission reviewed the total population served by each of the current MTCS colleges. It was noted that the SMTC service area, including York County, covers a population of 438,096, far greater than the next largest college service area of 226,989. If York County were removed from the SMTC service area, SMTC would still serve a population of 273,509 and retain the largest service area population in the MTCS. The York County service area would encompass a population of 164,587.

There are 35,820 employers in the State of Maine. The SMTC service area currently includes 14,328 employers, 40% of the state’s total employers, and more than double the next largest college service area employer count of 6,045, or 17% of the total. If York County were a discreet service area, it would include 4,389 employers, or 12% of the total, leaving 9,939 employers, or 28% of the total, in the SMTC service area.

Accessibility and Affordability:

The article, *Telecommunications and Education Access: A Plan for Maine's Future*, in the Journal of Maine Education, 1987, reported that "only one-third of Maine's population lives within 12 miles of a university or vocational technical institute campus. Research indicates that proximity to a college or university campus affects the rate of participation in higher education (Sullins and Atwell, 1986). Certainly, for place-bound adults who must maintain their jobs, homes, and families, distance is a major obstacle to their ability to participate."

Many high school graduates have little or no family financial support. These graduates need to have part-time jobs while they attend school, making a commute that much more difficult. A great deal of testimony was heard by the Commission citing distance and the need for travel as an obstacle to participation in post-secondary technical education.

In addition, inconsistent availability of day care services makes it difficult for many parents to travel for classes. Furthermore, there is no public transportation system. Persons with disabilities have particular difficulties traveling for education.

SMTC has limited residence capacity. In the fall of 1991, 13 of the 137 students from York County were housed in residence halls. Space in residence halls is limited to freshmen who live more than 30 miles from the South Portland campus.

Affordable education is a major issue for every student and his or her family. As of the fall of 1991, the annual MTCS full-time tuition of \$1,320 is far less than other post-secondary educational costs. Even with this low tuition, 70% of students enrolled in MTCS programs receive financial aid. Students who travel to the New Hampshire Technical College must pay out-of-state tuition in the amount of \$2,940. At all times, but particularly during difficult economic times, affordable educational opportunities that result in job placement are critical for Maine citizens. As public policy, the State of Maine has historically tried to make education accessible. Most recently, the Lewiston-Auburn campus of the University of Maine System has proven to be a complete success to students in that area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission to Study the Need for a Technical College in York County recommends to the Maine Technical College System Board of Trustees:

- That a separate York County Technical College be established by the academic year 1995-96 under the auspices of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Technical College System;
- That expanded services be available in York County from January 1994 to the Fall Semester of 1995 as a satellite center of Southern Maine Technical College;
- That the Legislature appropriate \$1.8 million annually to be available July 1, 1993, to fund the satellite center of SMTC; and
- That the Legislature appropriate additional funds to support the administration of the York County Technical College to be available July 1, 1995.

The Commission further encourages:

- That efforts to expand the Interactive Television (ITV) system be undertaken to allow additional capacity, i.e. new channels to accommodate MTCS training efforts;
- That a transitional advisory committee be established to assist the satellite center in the transition to a college;
- That a permanent Program Advisory Committee be established for the York County Technical College;
- That York County Technical College provide a broad range of part-time continuing education opportunities; and
- That York County Technical College participate in strong networking arrangements with businesses, secondary schools, regional vocational centers, the University of Maine System, and other private colleges.

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