

E. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

Goal

Promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being while enhancing and supporting existing businesses. Promote new businesses that are compatible with existing rural community values and patterns of development.

Reaching Economic Prosperity – Past, Present, and Future

Jonesport is a small, rural community with an economic base rooted in natural resources, including fishing and related industries, blueberry and cranberry production, regional tourism, and exceptional shoreland and scenic beauty. Median incomes in Jonesport are lower than the median income in the rest of Washington County and poverty rates are slightly higher than the poverty level in the rest of the county. The largest employer, Jonesport-Beals Consolidated Schools, provides employment to residents and to the region. There are a variety of retail and service industries, maritime-related businesses, and health care settings supported by residents, visitors and second homeowners. Nearly 60% of employed residents work within Jonesport.

When planning for future growth, a focus on economic development is critical. Jonesport has recently engaged a community-driven economic advisory committee which leads local efforts for strengthening business development, increasing local spending, job creation, and attracting visitors to the town. Continuation of the community-led initiatives will enhance economic development and provide for sustainable growth for the present and future population of Jonesport.

Jonesport Business and Employment – Past



Image: Town of Jonesport

The original business district of Jonesport was located at Indian River and was comprised of a large sawmill, a shipyard, and a mail center. Early roads could only be used during the winter months when they were frozen. In 1853, the first steamboat, “Rockland”, began service up and down the Maine coast and as steamboats became more prevalent, Jonesport began to establish itself as a center of trade for fishermen and the outlying islands. The business district was moved to Main Street to be closer to the commerce in

Moosabec Reach and since Jonesport was a good port down east on the sailing route between Boston and Canada, sea captains began to build their homes in Jonesport. The ships from Jonesport sailed worldwide and many captains and crew members lost their lives on the high seas. The town not only provided seamen for ocean voyages but also the goods of lading needed. The first mercantile store in Jonesport was owned and operated by Clement Hopkins and Elias Hinkley.

Jonesport reached its peak in development and population during the first two decades of the 20th century. In 1920 the population of Jonesport was 2,129 which included the 533 inhabitants of Beals. When transportation of goods switched from sailing vessels to trains and trucks, Jonesport became “off the beaten path” and by 2020, the local population declined to 1,310. and the remaining residents continue to make their livelihood from fishing and farming.

Jonesport Business and Employment – Present

The economy of Jonesport remains heavily reliant on fishing and maritime-related industries. In fact, in 2020, Jonesport ranked first in the state for live lobster landings with 12.76M pounds reported. The private investment of commercial fishers and related industries is evident as displayed on the employer chart located on the following page. Blueberries are harvested by large commercial companies with seasonal migrant workers as well as being harvested by the blueberry farmers.



Image: Town of Jonesport



Blueberry image: Courtesy of Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism

Specialized industries such as construction, veterinary care, banking, and automotive services flourish with local and regional support as do the few eateries, grocery, and home improvement businesses. Of considerable note is the addition of the Jonesport-Beals elementary and high schools, Arnold Memorial Medical Center and Magnolia Care Facility which have increased opportunities for educators, health providers, and support staff for residents within Jonesport and for residents of surrounding communities.

LOCAL EMPLOYERS – TOWN OF JONESPORT

Source: Interactive Employer Locator; [Interactive Employer Locator \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/economic-development/employment/interactive-employer-locator)

accessed March 15, 2022,

and updated by the Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Committee

Employer	Industry/Business Description	Number of Full-time Employees
Adam Willette	Carpentry	1-4
Arnold Memorial Medical	Medical Care Facility	10-19
Bangor Savings Bank	Banks	5-9
Barnstormer	Website Design	1-4
Bayview Cemetery	Mission	1-4
Beals-Jonesport Co-op, Inc.	Wholesale Seafood	5-9

Bo's Sand & Gravel	Sand & Gravel- Wholesale& Retail	1-4
Bold Coast Properties	Real Estate	1-4
Camden National Bank	Banks	
Carver Construction	Construction of Buildings & Heavy Construction	10-19
Cifelli Plumbing & Heating	Plumbing & Heating Contractor	1-4
Chainsaw Work	Forestry & Tree Work	1-4
Coastal Animal Care	Veterinary Services	5-9
Coastal Bait	Fishing Bait	1-4
Coastal Cruises	Scenic/Sightseeing Transportation-Water	1-4
Coastal Wreath Company	Christmas Lights & Decorations-Retail/Wholesale	1-4
Community of Christ Church	Churches	1-4
Crow Haven	Gifts & Jewelry-Retail	1-4
Davis Property Management	Property Management	1-4
Dive Downeast	Scuba diving Tours	1-4
Dwight Alley	Carpentry	1-4
Dmitri Backman	Fishing Bait	1-4
Downeast Institute	Scientific Research & Education	1-4
Englishman's Bay Craft & Jewelry	Gifts & Jewelry-Retail	1-4
Englishman's Bay Natural Sea Glass Jewelry	Gifts & Jewelry-Retail	
Flotsam & Jetsam	Retail – Gifts	1-4
Gaelic Square Apartments	Social Service & Welfare	1-4
Greenwood Cemetery	Mission	1-4
Guptill's Wharf	Retail and Wholesale- Fish	5-9
Hamilton Marine	Retail-Marine Equipment & Supplies	5-9
Hubbard Rake Company	Farm Equipment-Manufacturers	1-4
Hopkin's Point Lobster	Wholesale/Retail Fish	1-4
Jonesport Pizza	Restaurant	1-4
Jonesport Self Storage	Storage-Household & Commercial	1-4
Jonesport-Beals Consolidated Schools	Public Education; Elementary – High School	20-49
Jonesport Shipyard	Drydock, boat repair & storage	1-4
Lamb of God	Churches	1-4
Jonesport Type, Print, & Copy	Printing & Related Support Activities	1-4
Look's Lobster Company	Wholesale & Retail -lobster/crab/bait fish	10-19
Main Street Auto Repair	Automobile Repair & Service	1-4

Maine Center for Laser & Restorative Dentistry	Dentists	1-4
Maine Coast Sardine History	Museum	1-4
Manaford's	Grocers-Stores	5-9
Midnight Star	Wholesale & Retail-Fish	1-4
Morrissey Earthworks	Heavy Construction	1-4
Moody's Shellfish	Retail & Wholesale –Shellfish	5-9
Moosabec Community School District	Education-Elementary/Middle & High School	1-4
Moosabec Marine	Marine Sales, Repairs & Supplies	1-4
Moosabec Mussels	Wholesale Shellfish	10-19
Moosabec Video & Variety	Grocery Store	1-4
New Look Salon	Beauty Salons	1-4
Ouellette Look Construction	Construction	1-4
Paul T Iossa Real Estate Agency	Real Estate	1-4
Paul's Garage	Automobile Repair & Service	1-4
Peabody Memorial Library	Libraries-Public	1-4
Pierce Art Gallery	Art Gallery-Retail	1-4
Richard Laird	Carpentry	1-4
Rockdale Farms Wild Blueberries	Fruits & Vegetables & Produce-Retail	1-4
Sawyer Memorial Church	Churches	1-4
Smith's Lobster	Wholesale/Retail Fish	1-4
Stewart's Grocery	Grocers- Retail	5-9
Magnolia Assisted Living	Assisted Living	1-4
T.A. King & Sons	Lumber & Building Supplies	5-9
TNT Automotive	Automobile Repair	1-4
Town of Jonesport	Government Offices-City, Village, Town	1-4
US Coast Guard	Government Offices-Federal	20-49
US Post Office	Post Offices	1-4
United Pentecostal Church	Churches	1-4
Warnock Woodworks and Carpentry	Carpentry	1-4
Wayne Beals' Boat Shop	Marine Repair, Construction & Storage	5-9
Wesleyan Church	Churches	1-4

Source: Interactive Employer Locator; [Interactive Employer Locator \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/economic-development/interactive-employer-locator/); accessed March 15, 2022, and updated by the Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Committee

Jonesport Business and Employment – Future

In 2021, an international aquaculture firm received approval from the State to construct a land-based aquaculture facility on a 94-acre site on Chandler Bay in Jonesport. The proposed \$110M facility will produce yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) under the operation of the largest producer of yellowtail kingfish in the European Union. With an anticipated annual production of approximately 8,500 tons of fish to be raised in the Jonesport facility, the company expects to create between 70 and 100 full-time jobs when fully operational.¹

Certainly not all the anticipated aquaculture employees will reside in Jonesport, and, as referenced in Chapter H - Housing, 42%, or 419, of the total number of housing units in Jonesport are unoccupied units. Coupled with the overall decline in population and decline in public school enrollments over the last decade, Jonesport should not experience a housing deficit and a boost in public school enrollments would be welcomed.

Jonesport has lost almost all its dining establishments due to small lot sizes and setbacks required between wells and septic systems. The few dining establishments that remain are takeout only or have very limited seating.

Jonesport has 4 restaurants: Moosabec video & variety (sit down & takeout), Harbor House (sit down & alcohol served), Jonesport Pizza (sit down & take out), Stewart's (take out). Small lot sizes and setbacks required between well and septic systems create challenges for larger dining establishments. The town is exploring public water and wastewater infrastructure for the downtown area to allow more businesses to exist within the confines of lot size. The community survey shows the single most desired type of business in Jonesport is dining establishments including restaurants that serve local foods. In fact, 47% of written responses contained the word "restaurant." The town has approved three locations appropriate and leasable for food trucks.

Dining establishments drive local economies and give visitors to Jonesport a reason to stay for longer periods of time and improve the local economy. Those who work in the food industry tend to live within the community and spend their wages within the community. Dining establishments in Jonesport would also support peripheral industries such as seafood harvesters, growers of blueberries, cranberries and other locally sourced fruits and vegetables.



<https://www.dreamstime.com/photos-images/lobster-roll.html>

Jonesport has numerous businesses which have thrived despite economic downturns as witnessed by the table above, "Local Employers."

¹ Sources: <https://www.mainebiz.biz/article/kingfish-aquaculture-deal-in-jonesport-moves-forward-with-property-purchase> (retrieved 3-22-2022) and <https://www.kingfish-maine.com/about> (retrieved 3-22-2022).

Regional Economy

Jonesport is inexorably tied into the regional economy of Washington and Hancock counties. Because of its reliance on service centers such as Machias for many goods and services that Jonesport residents use, fluctuations in the regional economy directly affect the economy of Jonesport.

Data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) reveals that 59.8% of employed Jonesport residents remain in Jonesport for work. For residents who work outside of the community, 57% have a commuting time of 14 minutes or less. In addition, a new economy is developing around individuals who work remotely. The community-wide survey reveals that over 55% of respondents use the internet to work remotely. These individuals are not entirely dependent on local economic conditions for their income. However, their location decisions are based on quality-of-life factors such as affordable real estate, low crime, and the natural beauty and clean surroundings, all of which are qualities in which Jonesport has a competitive advantage.

While not an employment center for Eastern Washington County, the public schools and fishing-related industries attract workers from outside of Jonesport. The table below depicts the inflow/outflow of the Jonesport labor market. It is important to note that the margin of error for 2019 ACS data is +/-10, which is considerable for a community with the population of Jonesport.

Inflow/Outflow Report

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Private Primary Jobs)						
	2019		2014		2010	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	155	100.0%	192	100.0%	234	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	292	188.4%	229	119.3%	221	94.4%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-137	-	-37	-	13	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Private Primary Jobs)						
	2019		2014		2010	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	292	100.0%	229	100.0%	221	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	44	15.1%	29	12.7%	39	17.6%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	248	84.9%	200	87.3%	182	82.4%

Source: U.S. Census "On the Map"; <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

Also of note is the inflow/outflow of commercial shellfish harvesters between Jonesport and the neighboring island of Beals. Jonesport fishing vessels may be moored off Beals due to pressures on the Sawyer Cove Marina. Family members working on the same vessel often live in the neighboring community. Jonesport and Beals are inextricably linked through shared history and

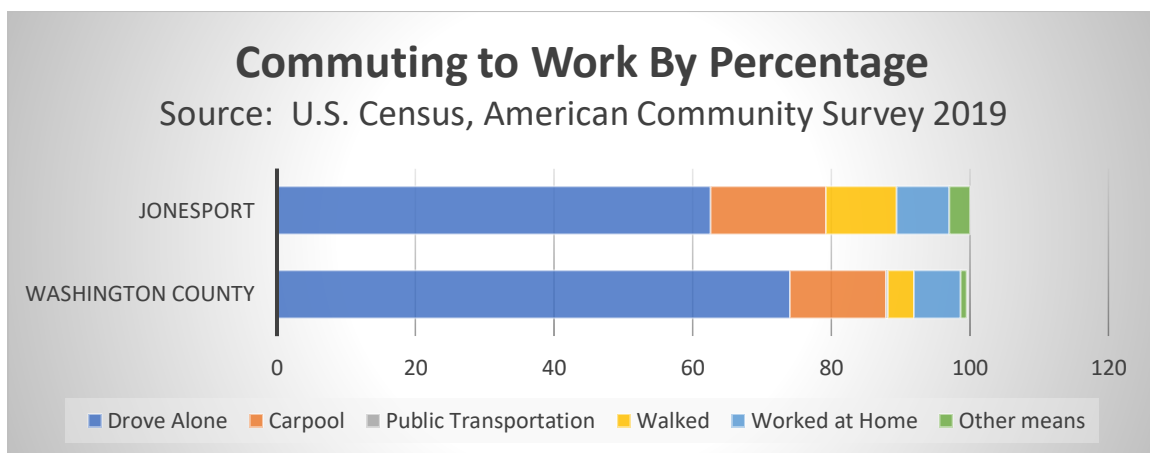
shared resources as witnessed by the Jonesport-Beals public schools, ambulance, and fire protection services.

Jonesport and neighboring Beals were chosen for a pilot project for creation of a prototype “dashboard” that will allow communities to make local planning decisions utilizing data-driven decision making

In 2022, Jonesport and Beals were selected for a pilot project to increase their capacity to make local planning decisions by building the social, economic, and technological infrastructure needed to support them. In partnership with Sunrise County Economic Council, Downeast Fisheries Partnership, Downeast Institute, University of Maine Machias, Maine Sea Grant, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, the communities of Jonesport and Beals will have expanded opportunities to apply economic information relevant to future planning. Through extensive outreach to community members of all ages, researchers will identify high priority economic questions through local data sources, local interviews, and community dialogue. Analyses and a draft for the prototype is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

Commuting to Work

As with the rest of Washington County, most of the workforce in Jonesport commutes by private vehicle. The mean travel time to work for Jonesport residents is 15.8 minutes as compared to the mean travel time of 21.1 minutes for Washington County.



The lack of public transportation in rural areas creates hardship for many residents who may lack the financial resources to maintain a vehicle, particularly in harsh winter conditions. Residents of Jonesport carpool, bicycle, and walk to work more often than most employed residents in Washington County.

Working in Washington County

Some of the major Washington County employers are shown below. Consistent with the major employers in Jonesport, education, healthcare, and industries utilizing natural resources such as fishing, and blueberries predominate however, service industries account for a large proportion of large employers outside of Jonesport.

Employer Name	City	Employer Size
Bay Ridge Elementary Sch Ctr	Cutler	50-99
Bay Ridge Elementary School	Cutler	50-99
C & D Corp	Deblois	250-499
Calais Childrens Project	Calais	100-249
Calais Community Hospital	Calais	100-249
Calais Day Treatment Program	Calais	100-249
Down East Community Hospital	Machias	250-499
Down East Corrections Dept	Machiasport	50-99
East Grand School	Danforth	50-99
Eastport Memorial Nursing Home	Eastport	50-99
East Grand School	Danforth	50-99
Eastport Memorial Nursing Home	Eastport	50-99
Ella Lewis Elementary School	Steuben	50-99
Hallowell Family Parts-Repair	Pembroke	50-99
Helen's Restaurant	Machias	50-99
Human Services Dept	Machias	50-99
Lawrence Ray Fishing Indstrs	Milbridge	50-99
Machias Bancorp MHC	Machias	100-249
Maine Veterans Homes	Machias	50-99
Marshall's Health Care Fclty	Machias	50-99
Mc Donald's	Calais	50-99
Moosabec Community School Dist	Jonesport	50-99
Narraguagus Bay Health Care	Milbridge	50-99
Primerica Financial Svc	Danforth	100-249
Regional Medical Ctr At Lubec	Lubec	100-249
Rhonda Chambers Administrator	Calais	50-99
Rose M Gaffney Elementary Sch	Machias	50-99
Sunrise County Evergreens	Milbridge	100-249
UPS Customer Ctr	Baileyville	50-99
Washington Academy	East Machias	50-99

Source: [Interactive Employer Locator \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/economic-development/employment-and-economy/interactive-employer-locator); accessed March 28, 2022.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

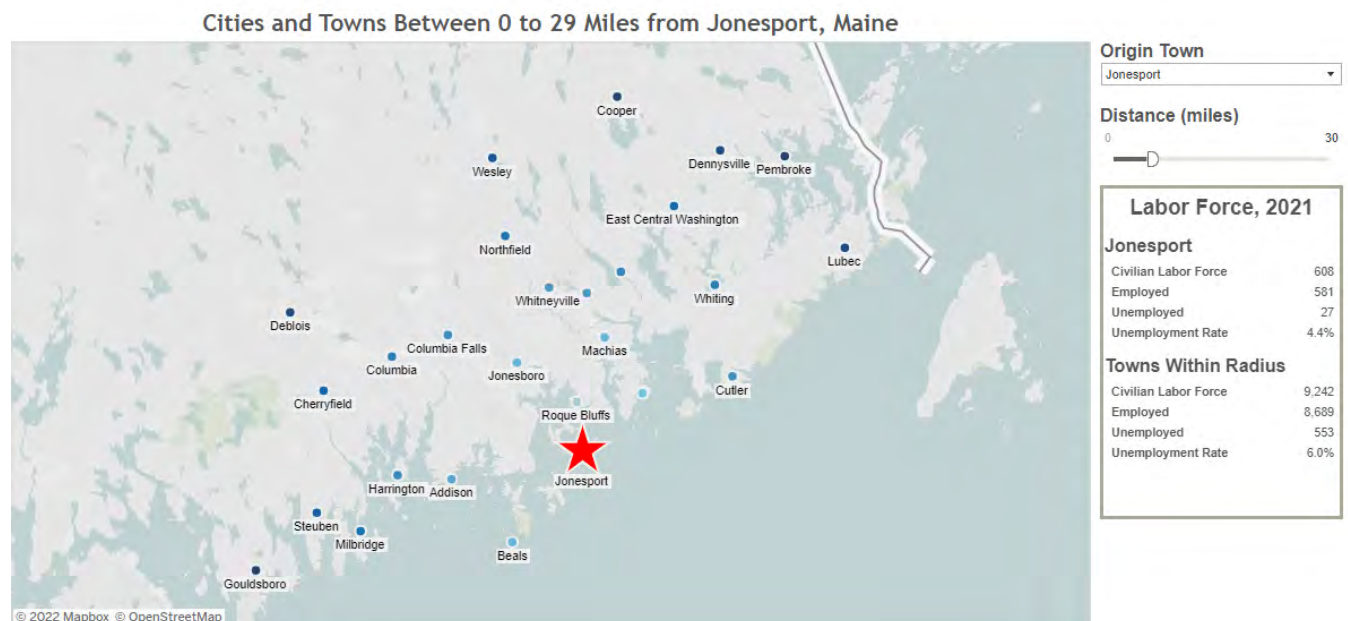
The labor force is defined as all people who are either employed or are receiving unemployment compensation. The figure below provides a visual and tabular view of the labor force including

total civilian labor force and the employed and unemployed population and rate in Jonesport and towns within a 30-mile radius.

According to the Maine Department of Labor, the distribution of the labor force in Jonesport is like the county as a whole, except that in 2021, Jonesport had a lower rate of unemployment (4.4%) than all the towns in a 30-mile radius where unemployment rates were at 6.0% in 2021.

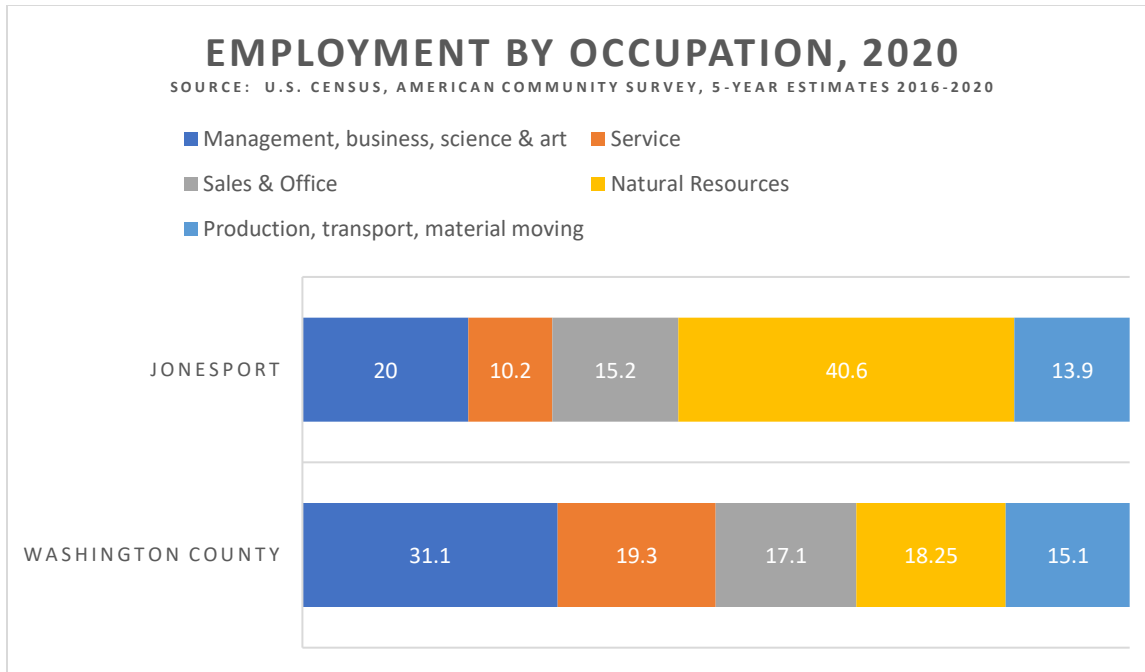
It is important to note that the employment rate may be underestimated due to greater reliance on seasonal, agricultural, marine, and craft-based work in rural areas. The seasonal nature of such work is less likely to be reported. In fact, a significant informal economy exists, especially in natural resource-based jobs, in which residents supplement reported income with seasonal wages.

Also of consideration is substance use disorder (SUD) and active/continuing treatment of SUD which may preclude some individuals from seeking employment due to drug screening. Family members who provide support mechanisms such as providing care for children may also face challenges with maintaining regular employment. These are state-wide labor issues that will require leadership and cooperation among many partners to address.



Source: [Unemployment Rates by Radius \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/dol/unemployment-rates-by-radius); accessed March 28, 2022.

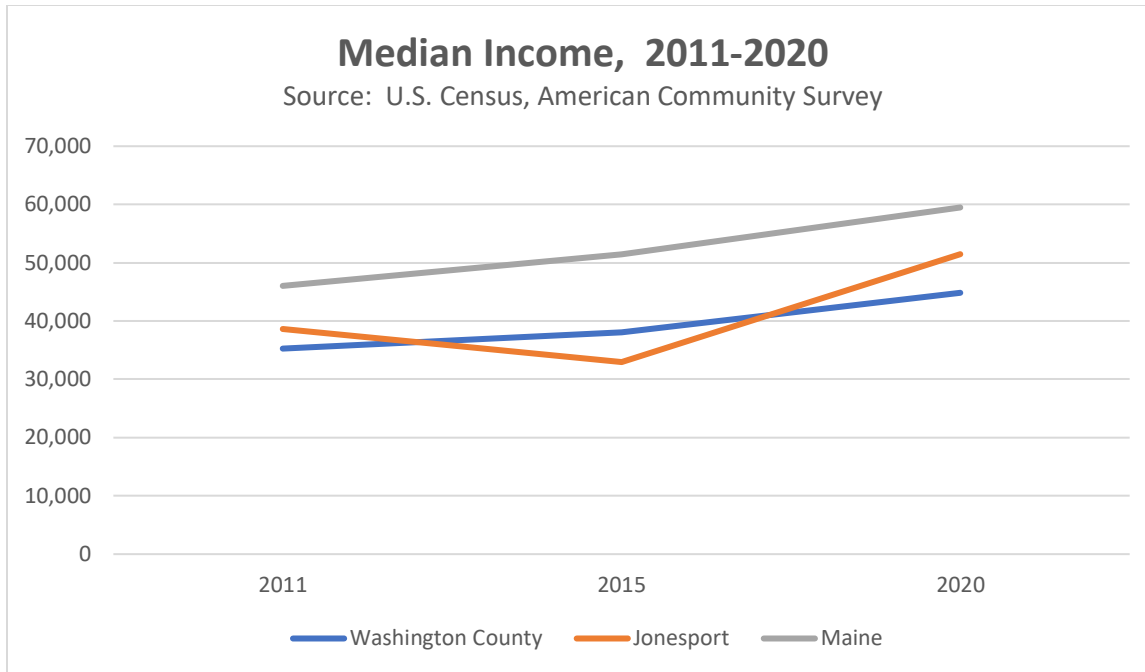
The employed population for Jonesport and Washington County is described by occupation. The top three sectors of employment for Jonesport are: Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance Occupations; Management, Business, Science and Arts Occupations; and Sales and Office Occupation. The chart below shows the percentage of employment by occupation in Jonesport and Washington County. Not surprisingly, over 40% of the employed population in Jonesport work in natural resource occupations.



INCOME

The median income in Jonesport can vary considerably due to the reliance on the harvest of natural resources such as lobster. In the chart shown above, over 40% of the employed population of Jonesport is dependent on natural resources. The chart below makes clear the reliance on market prices for these natural resources.

As the median income for Washington County and for Maine increased between 2011 and 2020, Jonesport bore witness to the fluctuations in the price of shellfish in direct correlation with the temperatures in the Gulf of Maine. Shellfish are sensitive to changes in water temperature and consumers are sensitive to supply and demand – especially when shellfish molt (“shed”) earlier than the tourist or restaurant season requires. When supply outstrips demand, prices plummet, and directly affects the commercial fishers and related industries.



While median household income in Jonesport has recently increased above that for Washington County as a whole, per capita income in Jonesport is similar to that of Washington County.

HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME 2020	JONESPORT		WASHINGTON COUNTY	
	Percentage	Margin of Error	Percentage	Margin of Error
Total	544	+/-74	13,830	+/-283
Less than \$10,000	6.3%	+/-3.1	9.2%	+/-1.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999	12.3%	+/-6.4	8.3%	+/-1.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.7%	+/-3.7	12.1%	+/-1.1
\$25,000 to \$34,999	15.1%	+/-5.4	10.6%	+/-1.1
\$35,000 to \$49,999	6.8%	+/-3.4	14.2%	+/-1.2
\$50,00 to \$74,999	26.1%	+/-6.8	18.6%	+/-1.5
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.5%	+/-5.9	11.2%	+/-1.1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	9.9%	+/-6.6	11.6%	+/-1.1
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0.7%	+/-1.0	2.6%	+/-0.7
\$200,000 or more	0.6%	+/-0.8	1.7%	+/-0.3
Median income (dollars)	51,471	+/-13,143	44,847	+/-2,292

Per capita income (dollars)	24,811	+/-4,600	24,647	+/-1,330
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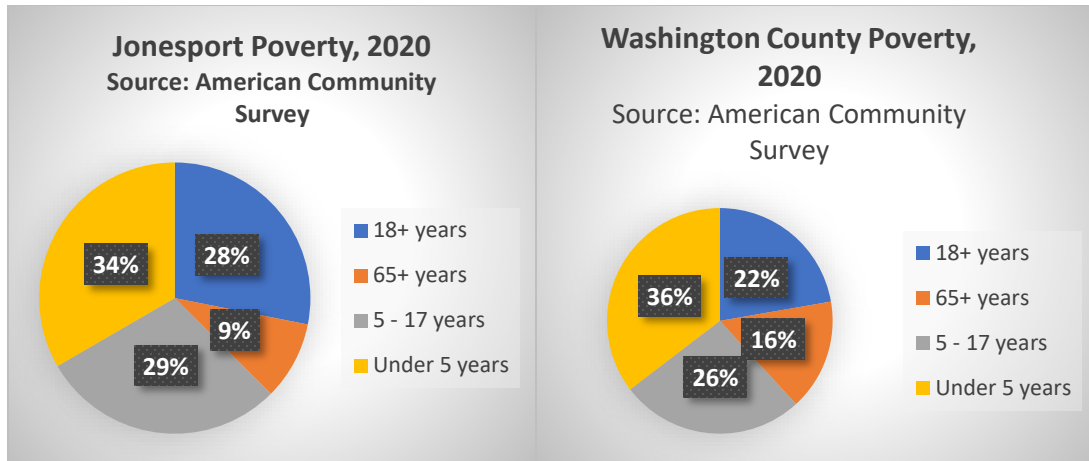
Source: American Community Survey 2016-2020 5 Year Estimates

Sources of income for Jonesport and Washington County in 2019 were primarily derived from wage and salaried positions which includes wages, salary, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned before tax deductions. Wage and salaried employment are broad measures of economic well-being but do not indicate whether the jobs are of good quality. American Community Survey (ACS) estimates in 2019 indicate 33.6% of Jonesport residents report self-employment income as compared to 20.4% in Washington County as a whole. Higher than the rest of Washington County, 48.9% of Jonesport residents received Social Security income, reflecting the aging population throughout Maine.

INCOME AND BENEFITS IN 2019 (Households often have more than one source of income, as seen here).	Jonesport			Washington County		
	Number	Percent	Margin of Error	Number	Percent	Margin of Error
Households	544	100.0	+/-74	13,830	100	+/-283
With earnings	356	65.4	+/-65	9,151	66.2	+/-288
With Social Security Income	266	48.9	+/-45	6,322	45.7	+/-230
With Retirement Income	89	16.4	+/-25	3,301	23.9	+/-185
With Supplemental Security Income	72	13.2	+/-36	1,216	8.8	+/-138
With cash public assistance income or SNAP benefits within the past 12 months	144	26.5	+/-44	2,818	20.4	+/-193

Source: American Community Survey 2016-2020 5 Year Estimates

For the 48 contiguous states, in 2020, the poverty threshold for a family of four persons was \$26,200 (U.S. DHHS). In 2020, over 20% of the population in Jonesport were determined to have incomes of poverty status, slightly higher than Washington County as a whole.



As the charts above reveal, children under the age of five are more likely to live in households with income at or below poverty level in Washington County.

Significant Economic Changes

In 2021 an international aquaculture firm received approval from the State to construct a land-based aquaculture facility on a 94-acre site on Chandler Bay in Jonesport. The proposed \$110M facility will produce yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) under the operation of the largest producer of yellowtail kingfish in the European Union. With an anticipated annual production of approximately 8,500 tons of fish to be raised in the Jonesport facility, the company expects to create between 70 and 100 full-time jobs when fully operational. If the facility is completed, the local valuation is expected to increase by approximately \$50,000,000 while creating an anticipated decrease in the mil rate in Jonesport. The town recognizes that the employment opportunities could improve standards of living and will also result in an increase in county taxes and a decrease in State subsidies for education as Jonesport is a minimum receiver.

According to the Maine Department of Education, minimum receivership is described as, “When a district/town's ability to pay is greater than their required local contribution, then they are considered a minimum receiver.” Therefore, a higher valuation of Jonesport will result in the current EPS [Essential Programs and Services] formula providing fewer funds for the Jonesport schools, due to a perceived greater ability for Jonesport to pay.

Priorities for economic development and regional economic development plans.

Jonesport has very defined priorities for economic development. In 2018, the town purchased a seven-acre property known as Henry Point to construct a commercial boat ramp and pier. Partnering with Land for Maine’s Future, Jonesport has ensured that the parcel will remain protected in perpetuity. The town has secured an engineering design and is actively pursuing funding to construct the working waterfront.

Jonesport continues to examine public water and wastewater in the downtown/village area. As discussed earlier in this chapter, Jonesport has lost almost all its dining establishments due to small lot sizes and setbacks required between wells and septic systems. The community-wide survey reveals a strong desire for dining establishments and generally support public infrastructure to achieve this goal. Parking in the village area is seriously constrained and can impede the circulation of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic as well as access by emergency responders. Jonesport strongly advocates for a traffic circulation study in partnership with Maine DOT.

The collaboration between Jonesport and Beals and previously specified climate and economic professionals will allow both communities to make data-driven decisions for economic development and planning by utilizing multiple sources through a “dashboard” created specifically for the two towns.

Jonesport is part of the Aroostook Washington Development District (AWDD), an area covered by the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC). Economic development plans in Jonesport closely align with the 2018-2023 Aroostook-Washington Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) including the regional vision to leverage natural assets and policy creation to encourage private sector investment while retaining the quality of life cherished by the community.

The investment made by Jonesport in the purchase of Henry Point and the proposed commercial waterfront will help to meet the goals outlined in the Marine Resources Goals outlined in the CEDS including the increase of marine-related employment through the creation of shoreside infrastructure. Also of note is the economy project covered previously in this chapter to create a “dashboard” to allow data-driven decision making which will align with Strategy 4 in the CEDS, “Monitor climate change effects on the fishery and seek...assistance to mitigate reduction in harvest.” This pilot project closely aligns with Jonesport’s enrollment in Maine’s Community Resilience Partnership.

Finally, the proposed aquaculture firm in Jonesport will help meet the Marine Resources Goals of increasing marine-related employment through the expansion of research, harvest, and processing as well as increased seafood processing and the creation of shoreside infrastructure.

Traditional downtown

Jonesport has a traditional downtown that meets the basic needs of the community. Many of the businesses are “existing” but not thriving to the point of expansion or growth. Jonesport has lost numerous stores and dining establishments due to small lot sizes and the required setbacks between wells and septic systems. The town recognizes that public infrastructure for water and/or wastewater will be required to have a vibrant and thriving downtown. In 2003, Jonesport undertook an engineering study to plan for public water and/or wastewater. When brought to the Town Meeting, the voters overwhelmingly turned down the proposal. As seen in the

community-wide survey, some residents have concerns about tax appropriations for public infrastructure that would only serve a specific location while some respondents said that public water/wastewater is necessary for economic development. Jonesport continues to explore the options of public water/wastewater. Ample parking for residents and visitors is also part of a thriving downtown. As noted throughout this document, Jonesport desires to work with Maine DOT for a traffic circulation study.

Tourism in the Economy

Tourism is an important part of any community on the coast of Washington County. Visitors support local economies and may purchase homes for seasonal or year-round use. As previously discussed, Jonesport has a limited ability to attract – and retain – visitors due to the lack of dining establishments. Even though Great Wass Island in adjacent Beals is a tremendous attraction for visitors, and visitors must travel through Jonesport to access Beals, the lack of restaurants is one of the reasons why Jonesport faces difficulty with tourism.

Jonesport lacks hotels and motels and shops geared toward tourism, such as gift shops and art galleries. Jonesport does have an array of rooms/homes for rent for short or extended stays and the properties can be found on websites geared toward the vacation rental market. Currently there are no statistics for how the vacation market may affect local home prices and long-term rentals in Jonesport.

Jonesport is a destination on the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway and the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, but as previously mentioned, the dearth of eating establishments and accommodation give cyclists and motorists little reason to remain in Jonesport beyond a day trip. Also of note is the lack of “shoulders”, or allowance for pedestrians and bicyclists along Route 187, which prohibits safe use for hikers, walkers, and cyclists which results in dangerous conditions and hampers eco-tourism.

Jonesport hosts two major festivals a year: Summerfest and Winterfest. Summerfest occurs over the week of July 4th and Winterfest kicks off after the Thanksgiving holiday. These events are popular amongst residents of Jonesport and Beals, however, for individuals or families travelling from any distance the lack of tourist amenities and the lack of parking areas makes the town primarily a day-trip destination.

Home Occupations

Jonesport strongly supports – and encourages - home occupations, or “cottage industries.” Home occupations in Jonesport run the gamut from suppliers of fabric and sewing notions to web design services. The allowance of mixed use in Jonesport encourages entrepreneurship.

Industrial and commercial development

Appropriate areas for industrial and/or commercial development are available in Jonesport. The town Land Use and Development Ordinance (amended March 14, 2022), provides for necessary

assurance that Performance Standards are upheld in compliance with Sections 6 and 7 of the Ordinance, including, but not limited to: neighborhood and environmental impacts, vehicular access and parking, surface water and drainage, lighting and signage, and dimensional requirements. The town Land Use and Development Ordinance can be found on the town website, www.townofjonesport.com.

Public facilities needed to support known economic activity

The community-wide survey in Jonesport revealed that nearly 65% of respondents reported it was “extremely important” to have fast, reliable internet in Jonesport. In 2022, broadband is of strong interest in Maine, and Jonesport is no exception. Improved internet connection is vital to the economic development of a region, particularly rural Maine. In 2022, Jonesport initiated the process of connecting with incumbent Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to determine if reliable, high-speed internet would be available to residents, telecommuters, and businesses.

Jonesport requires public water and/or wastewater to have any growth in the downtown/village area, due to small lot sizes and setbacks required between wells and septic. Without such infrastructure, Jonesport is unlikely to add dining or hospitality establishments.

At this juncture, three-phase power may be at the cost of an incoming industrial business. However, three-phase power may be required, should a commercial working waterfront occur at Henry Point, and may impact the users of the proposed commercial waterfront at the Henry Point location should user fees be required.

According to Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance, the average lobster trap will weigh between 40 and 65 pounds. Three-phase power may be necessary to handle varying loads of shellfish/landings. However, it would be prudent for Jonesport to investigate the true costs of three-phase power as well as state and federal requirements related to a commercial pier.

Local regional economic development incentives

Tax increment financing (TIF) is available to the Town of Jonesport. Assistance is available through Sunrise County Economic Council. TIF is described by the State of Maine as:

Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Tax Increment Financing is a flexible finance tool used by municipalities, plantations, and unorganized territories to leverage new property taxes generated by a specific project or projects within a defined geographic district. Any portion of the new taxes may be used to finance public or private projects for a defined period of time for up to 30 years.



The Program is locally driven: The municipality or plantation defines the district size, determines the amount of new taxes to be captured, identifies

allowable public and private projects along with the term of up to 30 years, with the whole package requiring local political approval.

A business may approach a municipality with a proposal for investment for which a TIF district would provide financing. Or a municipality may take advantage of an already planned and financed project and create a TIF district around it, capturing a portion of new property tax revenue for specific public uses.

Over their term, TIF districts can return thousands to millions of dollars to a municipality. The projects financed may include anything from upgrading a road to adding a wing to an existing building or more.²

Jonesport is open to exploring tax increment financing. Assistance is available through Sunrise County Economic Council.

Using unique assets for economic growth

Jonesport has an array of unique assets including 19th Century architecture, recreational opportunities, and annual civic events. Sawyer Square contains the largest number of the remaining historic buildings in Jonesport. The D.J and E.M Sawyer Store, built in 1896, is the current home of the Jonesport Historical Society. The Union Congregational Church of Jonesport was constructed in 1887 and was a gift to the people of Jonesport by resident Daniel J. Sawyer (photo courtesy of Jonesport Historical Society). Other notable historic buildings in Sawyer Square include the C.H Mansfield General Store (1881), the former B.B. Mansfield Dairy Farm (1890), and the Bion B. Mansfield Store which is currently in use as a private residence.



Jonesport is home to a very active historical society which provides newsletters and digital tours of historic locations. The Peabody Memorial Library, hosts programming for children, art and music events, “Meet the Author” series, book clubs and a “Teen Advisory Group” where the youth of Jonesport and surrounding communities are given a voice in programming, acquisition of books, and more.

² Source: Maine Department of Economic and Community Development;
<https://www.maine.gov/decd/business-development/tax-incentives-credit/municipal-tax-increment-financing> Accessed March 31, 2022.

The town of Jonesport is a large peninsula surrounded by several bays (Mason, Englishman, Chandler), the estuary and bay of Indian River, and two shipping passages (Seguin and Moosabec Reach). Jonesport also includes several coastal islands across Moosabec Reach to the south and to the east of the complex of coastal islands that make up the town of Beals and numerous other islands which are outlined in the Chapter L - Natural Resources of this document.

The town has extraordinarily scenic water views while the coastline and outer islands support unique species including bald eagles, purple plover, harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, and razorbill auk providing a draw for birdwatchers, hikers, kayakers, and other nature enthusiasts. The endangered Atlantic salmon and Short nosed sturgeon can be found in the waters off Jonesport.

Observers of the natural habitat can seek out the Crowberry Blue Butterfly, only found in coastal plateau bogs in Washington County.



Crowberry Blue Butterfly
Photo: Nature Serve Canada

In the summer months, Jonesport offers recreational boating opportunities and visitors are encouraged to use the recreational boat launch at Sawyer Cove Marina. As with many coastal communities, there are scenic boat tours for observing marine life as well as excursions for SCUBA divers. Sport fishing is also a popular attraction for visitors. In winter months, Jonesport offers ice skating, sledding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Civic events, coordinated by a strong volunteer base and supported by local institutions, include “Summerfest” and “Winterfest.” Summerfest takes place over the July 4th holiday and “Winter Fest” occurs in early December. Summerfest is committee run and is an all-American tribute to the birth of our nation complete with parades, fireworks, community lobster bake, horseshoe tournaments, public entertainment, lobster boat races, arm wrestling, and a “kids’ day” which is held at the town “ball diamond.”



Photo credit: William Milliken

It's easy to imagine that with Jonesport's strong ties to the sea, lobster boat racing is an extremely popular event. In fact, *Down East* magazine stated that lobster boat races in Jonesport "... is the granddaddy of them all. Winning there means more than winning anywhere else. Spectators line the bridge from the mainland to Beals Island. "³

Winter Fest, also run by a committee, celebrates the oncoming winter season with fireworks, parades, children's events, and a free community supper. The festivals have tremendous local support and are well attended by the community and residents from surrounding towns.

The Bold Coast National Scenic Byway and Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway are founded on historic and scenic assets and natural resource industries. Both Jonesport and Beals contain exemplary historic and scenic locales for telling these Bold Coast heritage stories.

An Historic Perspective

Jonesport has always been a community reliant on fishing and related maritime industries. The original settlers had chosen Jonesport for its proximity to the sea, its abundant supply of cod, its good harbors, and its fertile ground for farming. As more families moved to the area, herring fishing became increasingly vital to the economy. Cod and herring were smoked, dried, or heavily salted in order to preserve them until they reached distant markets. During the late 1800's, lobster became an increasing force in the economy.

In 1875 sardine factories began to appear along the Maine coast, first in Eastport and Lubec. Several sardine factories were located within Jonesport. With the opening of the sardine canneries, the fisherman found a new market for their herring and women found a new source of income working in the factories. World War II provided some of the best years for fishermen because the government needed canned food that was high in protein, and they guaranteed to purchase 80% of the sardines produced. At the close of World War II, demand took a sharp decline and at present, there are no sardine factories or weirs remaining in Jonesport.

The clamming industry is only one of several sources of maritime related industries in Jonesport. Historically, clams were shelled, heavily salted, and packed into barrels before being sent to Boston to be used as bait by trawlers fishing for ground fish. After 1975, harvesting of mussels and quahogs met with a growing Asian demand for periwinkles, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers. Although historically a secondary market to lobster, crabs are now exclusively fished by some. Jonesport continues to expand its maritime related industries through seaweed harvesting, scalloping, and digging of sea worms. Today, Jonesport rightfully remains fiercely proud of its maritime history. In 2020, Jonesport with approximately 250 fishing vessels, was the leading port in Maine for landings of live pounds of lobsters.⁴

³ "200 Reasons to Love Maine." <https://downeast.com/our-towns/there-is-nothing-like-a-lobsterboat-race/> Accessed April 7, 2022.

⁴ [Top10PortsByValuePounds.Table.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#). Accessed April 13, 2022.

Recent local and regional economic development plans

Jonesport is part of the Aroostook Washington Development District (AWDD), an area covered by the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC). Jonesport fully participated in the development of the 2018-2023 Aroostook-Washington Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

- To encourage economic development through nature-based tourism, Jonesport acted as a “host community” for BikeMaine. Host communities rely heavily on volunteer support from residents. As a result, Jonesport desires to add bike/ped access along Route 187, which serves as the corridor to the downtown village and neighboring communities.
- In 2021, Jonesport reinvigorated its Economic Development Committee with a broader representation of the demographics within the community to promote the economic interests of the town and region.
- In May 2018, the community overwhelmingly voted to purchase a seven-acre tract of waterfront known as Henry Point, with the aim of creating a working waterfront. In 2022, the community partnered with Land for Maine’s Future to ensure Henry Point would remain protected in perpetuity. The project at Henry Point, once completed, will serve at least 250 commercial fishing vessels for the town and region.
- In 2022, Jonesport and Beals were selected for a pilot project to create a “dashboard” which will support data-driven decision making. The two towns are working with Maine SeaGrant and Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center to extensively interview members of their respective community members to ascertain topics of economic importance to include in the “dashboard.”
- In 2022, Jonesport enrolled in Maine’s Community Resiliency Partnership which requires community meetings and public input to determine which climate resiliency issues the residents find most pressing and how to address those issues.
- In 2022, recognizing the importance of the voices of the youth of the town, Jonesport-Beals Elementary/Middle School hosted a “Youth Community Visioning Session” facilitated by Healthy Acadia. The results of the visioning session are included in this document and can be found in Chapter A - Community Vision and Executive Summary.

Where we work and live

There are over 60 employers within Jonesport. Of the town’s population of residents aged 16 years and older, 47.1% participate in the labor force and 59.8% remain in Jonesport for work. The remainder of the employed population works in surrounding communities as referenced previously.

Economic development incentive districts

As previously referenced, Jonesport is open to exploring tax increment financing. Assistance is available through Sunrise County Economic Council.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies

Goal: Promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic wellbeing.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame
Enhance and support existing businesses in Jonesport and promote new businesses compatible with existing rural community values and patterns of development.	Continue to meaningfully participate in regional organizations that provide technical assistance and information related to business support and regional economic opportunities through Sunrise County Economic Council, Northern Maine Development Commission, and others.	Selectboard, Sunrise County Economic Council	Immediate, Ongoing
	Participate in constructive collaboration with the state, local businesses, and neighboring communities to install signage to direct visitors to sites of importance, including recreational opportunities, retail establishments, parks and preserves, and other locations.	Selectboard, Sunrise County Economic Council (DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, Bold Coast National Scenic Byway, Downeast Maine National Heritage Area)	Long-term (2-5 years)

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame
	Investigate and advocate for improved broadband infrastructure to enhance the competitiveness of Jonesport through Connect Maine, USDA Rural Development, Maine Connectivity Authority, and other funders to make Jonesport more competitive and appealing to remote workers.	Selectboard, Sunrise County Economic Council	Immediate, within 1 year
	Create space at Town Office, Library, and Historical Society to place tourism resources such as Maine Office of Tourism, Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism, and regional chambers of commerce.	Economic Development Committee? In partnership with SCEC (DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism)	Immediate, spring/summer 2023
	Continue to examine, and advocate for, public water/wastewater options in the business/village district to invigorate the economy through the diversification of businesses within the community.	Selectboard	Immediate, ongoing

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame
Make a financial commitment, if necessary, to support desired economic development, including needed public improvements.	Explore options for business development incentives to attract new or support expanding businesses.	Selectboard	Immediate, ongoing
	Continue to explore the feasibility and need for public water or sewer in the downtown.		
Encourage and support local maritime businesses to retain access to the resource and get their products to local and regional markets.	Continue to support retention of access to the water for water dependent uses, particularly the development of Henry Point as a commercial working waterfront.	Selectboard	Ongoing
To coordinate with regional development agencies and surrounding communities as necessary to support economic development.	Advocate with Maine Department of Transportation for infrastructure improvements related to bike/pedestrian access on Route 187.	Selectboard, Planning Board, Sunrise County Economic Council, MaineDOT	Short term (1-2 years), Ongoing
	Participate in local, regional, and state resources to promote tourism.	Economic Development Committee (not yet formed?)	Immediate, Ongoing