Lewiston, Maine's second largest city, is situated on the banks of the Androscoggin River midway between the state's coastline and mountains. Lewiston is part of the Lewiston-Auburn MSA and the two cities, often referred to as twin cities, are connected by three bridges that span the Androscoggin River.

**Lewiston’s Neighborhoods**

Although first settled in 1770, Lewiston became a “company town” in 1857, taken over by Boston investors who financed the canal system and several textile mills. Mill owners constructed tenements to provide supervised housing for their work force. Although most of the textile mills have closed, the city is developing new uses for these buildings.

Downtown Lewiston has some of the oldest housing stock in the country, much of it in need of renovation or replacement. In recognition of this situation, Lewiston has initiated loan programs designated to rehabilitate older properties and has partnered with affordable housing developers to build new housing.

Several cultural organizations are located in downtown Lewiston. The Museum L-A explores the history of the Industrial Revolution and, in particular, the workers who immigrated to the Lewiston-Auburn area. The Public Theater produces plays from Broadway, off-Broadway, and new scripts, at an affordable price with professional actors. The Franco-American Heritage Center hosts a variety of musical performances, including those of the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra.

Although it is within the city limits, the area beyond the downtown is primarily rural. The commercial farms have decreased over the past five to ten years and have been replaced by more than twenty subdivisions and other residential development. Most of the development has been located in the South Lewiston, No Name Pond, and North Lewiston areas. A new elementary school is under construction in the North Lewiston area. Much of the new development is on large lots of an acre or more; however, there is at least one new townhouse development.

**Parks and Recreation**

Thorncliff Nature Sanctuary in Lewiston, a 357-acre wildlife preserve, offers opportunities for bird watching, picnicking, hiking, walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, skating, and nature photography. In addition, Lewiston has over 20 other parks, including many little league fields.

Both Bates College and the University of Southern Maine’s Lewiston-Auburn campus maintain art museums. In addition, the University of Southern Maine’s Lewiston-Auburn campus’s Franco-American Collection has Maine’s largest scholarly repository of archival material pertaining to the state’s Franco-American community, covering local history, government, religion, language, education, sports, industry, and the arts.

The Lewiston MAINEiacs Hockey Club, part of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, plays professional hockey at the Androscoggin Bank Colisée.

**Lewiston City Stats**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area</td>
<td>107,031</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita personal income, Lewiston-Auburn (2006)</td>
<td>$30,275</td>
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**Education**

Lewiston’s school district educates about 4,900 students and comprises six public elementary schools, one middle school, one academic high school, and a regional vocational technical high school. In addition, three private religious-based schools and one private special education school are located in Lewiston.

Lewiston has two four-year colleges, Bates College and University of Southern Maine Lewiston-Auburn College, as well as Central Maine Community College and Andover College, which grant associate degrees.

**Health Care**

The two hospital systems that serve the community provide 483 inpatient beds. They also provide other health services, including community-based clinics, behavioral health services, and long-term care beds, and offer opportunities for training in health professional careers, including nursing.