

# Apportionment and Redistricting

## How the census affects representation

In the early 1800s, six of the 105 members of the House of Representatives were from the state of New Hampshire. As population in other states increased, New Hampshire's representation was adjusted to its portion of the U.S. population. This representation has remained at two representatives for the state for over a century.

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, explains that the enumeration of the population would serve as a basis for the apportionment of members of the House of Representatives. Since the first census in 1790,

Year	Resident Population	Number of Reps.
2000	1,235,786	2
1990	1,109,252	2
1980	920,610	2
1970	737,681	2
1960	606,921	2
1950	533,242	2
1940	491,524	2
1930	465,293	2
1920	443,083	2
1910	430,572	2
1900	411,588	2
1890	376,530	2
1880	346,991	2
1870	318,300	3
1860	326,073	3
1850	317,976	3
1840	284,574	4
1830	269,328	5
1820	244,161	6
1810	214,460	6
1800	183,858	5
1790	141,885	4
1789		3

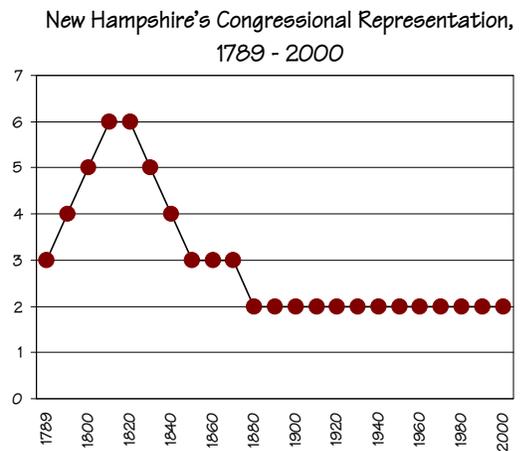
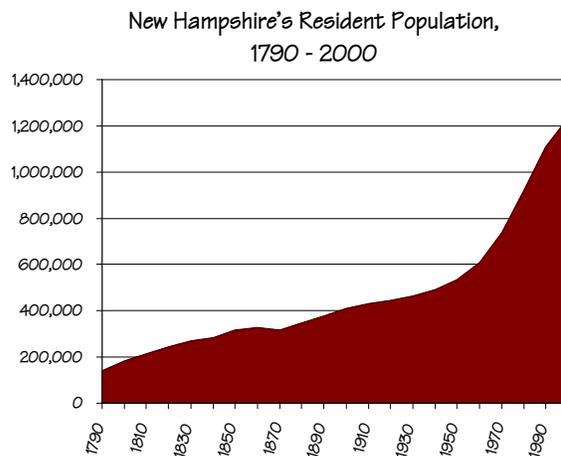
several methods of calculating apportionment have been used. The first apportionment from that census resulted in 105 members. Then the representatives were assigned a ratio of persons they were to represent from 1800 to 1840. This allowed for the number of representatives to change with the population growth and

the admission of new states. Starting in 1850, the House size was determined prior to the final apportionment. The ratio of people being represented was the result of those calculations. In 1911 the House size was fixed at 433, with provision for one seat each for Arizona and New Mexico when they became states. The House size has remained at 435 except for the temporary increase to 437 when Alaska and Hawaii were admitted as states.

Congressional apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 memberships or seats in the House of Representatives among the 50 states. The census, conducted every 10 years, provides the results for the calculation of the number of House memberships to which each state is entitled. New York and Pennsylvania will each lose two representatives as a result of the 2000 census apportionment.

The second major use for the census is for geographically defining state legislative districts. This is census redistricting. Redistricting for the State of New Hampshire is currently before the Election Law Committee of the House. The status of this bill will be determined by May 11<sup>th</sup> when the committee will decide if the bill will be ruled on or held over to the next session.

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1. The resident population excludes the overseas population.
2. Congressional apportionment for each state is based upon (1) the resident population and (2) the overseas U.S. military and federal civilian employees (and their dependents living with them) allocated to their home state, as reported by the employing federal agencies.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau