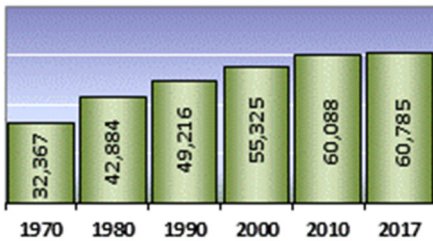


# Belknap County

Located just southeast of the geographic center of the state in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, Belknap County was established in 1840 from portions of Strafford County. The county was named for Dr. Jeremy Belknap, Dover Congregational Church minister and author of *The History of New Hampshire*, which chronicled the early history of the state. Belknap is one of two counties in the state without an interstate border; Merrimack is the other. A large part of Lake Winnepesaukee, all of Lake Winnisquam, and many smaller lakes cover nearly one-sixth of the county, the largest amount of inland water among New Hampshire's counties.



Belknap County contains 400.2 square miles of land area and 68.4 square miles of inland water area. Based on the 2010 Census population, the population density is 150.1 persons per square mile. Belknap County includes one city, Laconia, and ten towns. The county seat is Laconia.



**Population Trends:** Belknap County experienced its highest rate of growth from 1970 to 1980, when the population grew by 32.5 percent, adding 10,500 residents. Belknap ranked in the bottom third among all counties every census from 1970 to 1990, then rose to seventh, holding that rank ever since. Population increase in both 1990 and 2000 was just over 6,000 residents. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate of growth slowed a little more, increasing by 8.6 percent, adding 4,700 residents. Belknap County residents are generally older as well, having the second-highest median age in New Hampshire. The median age of women is higher than that of men, by about one and a quarter year.

Population (1-Year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau)					
Year	2017	2010	2000	1990	1980
	60,785	60,088	55,325	49,216	42,884

Demographics (2013-2017 5-Year Average, ACS)		
By Gender:		
	Male	Female
Total	29,705	30,678
18 years and over	23,810	25,007
65 years and over	5,739	6,527
Median Age (years)	46.2	47.4
By Age Group:		
	Under age 5	2,690
	Age 5 to 19	10,090
	Age 20 to 34	9,364
	Age 35 to 54	15,735
	Age 55 to 64	10,238
	Age 65 and over	12,266
Median Age (years)		46.7

Labor Force (NHES-ELMI)		
Category	2007	2017
Annual Average		
Civilian Labor Force	32,410	30,850
Employed	31,250	30,040
Unemployed	1,160	810
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	2.6%

### 2017 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Town

Alton	2.3%	Laconia	2.8%
Barnstead	2.4%	Meredith	2.6%
Belmont	2.9%	New Hampton	2.4%
Center Harbor	1.9%	Sanbornton	2.3%
Gilford	2.7%	Tilton	2.8%
Gilmanton	3.0%		

Due to differing methodologies, 1-Year Population Estimates and 5-Year Average ACS Demographics data may not match.

Largest Businesses	Community	Product/Service	Employees
Aavid Engineering Corp.	Laconia	Semiconductor heat sinks	620
Gunstock Recreation Area	Gilford	Ski, recreation area	550
NH Ball Bearings, Inc.	Laconia	Spherical bearings	478
j.jill	Tilton	Contact & distribution center of women's apparel	325
Gilford School District	Gilford	Education	260
Interlakes School System	Meredith	Education	228
Meredith Village Savings Bank	Meredith	Banking services	210
Hannaford Brothers	Gilford	Supermarket	200
Wal-Mart	Gilford	Retail store	200
Tanger Outlet Stores	Tilton	Retail outlet stores	200
Town of Gilford	Gilford	Municipal services	175
New Hampton School	New Hampton	Secondary education	156
Home Depot	Tilton	Home improvement center	150
Town of Alton	Alton	Municipal services	140
Taylor Community	Laconia	Nonprofit continuing care retirement community	140
Hannaford Brothers	Alton	Supermarket	132
Golden View	Meredith	Nursing home	130
Lewis & Sanders, Inc.	Laconia	Metal tubular assemblies	130
Alton School Department	Alton	Education	116
Hampshire Hospitality Holdings	Meredith	Inn, spa, marketplace	115
Bank of New Hampshire	Gilford	Banking services	115
Winnisquam Regional School District	Tilton	Education	114
Shaws Supermarket	Gilford	Supermarket	113
Wal-Mart	Tilton	Retail store	110
Autoserv	Tilton	Car dealership	110
Barnstead Elementary School/SAU 86	Barnstead	Education/administrative	106
The Tilton School	Tilton	Education	99
Town of Barnstead	Barnstead	Municipal services	96
Shaw's Supermarket	Belmont	Supermarket	95
Lowe's	Tilton	Home improvement center	94

**Note:** All employer information, including number of employees, was provided by the individual communities.

Covered Employment & Wages	(NHES-ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment	2007	2017
Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	4,820	3,676
Average Weekly Wage	\$922	\$1,140
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	18,212	18,049
Average Weekly Wage	\$601	\$759
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	23,032	21,725
Average Weekly Wage	\$668	\$823
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	4,235	4,104
Average Weekly Wage	\$707	\$822
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	27,266	25,829
Average Weekly Wage	\$674	\$823

Income	(2013-2017 5-Year Average, ACS)	
Per Capita Income		\$33,849
Median Family Income		\$77,620
Median Household Income		\$65,834
Median Earnings (Full-Time Year-Round)	Male	\$49,983
	Female	\$40,214
Individuals below poverty level		9.1%

Commuting to Work	(2013-2017 5-Year Average, ACS)
Workers, 16 years and over	30,185
Car, truck or van: drove alone	24,686
Car, truck or van: carpooled	2,947
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	11
Walked	449
Other means	605
Worked at home	1,487
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	26.4
Percent of working residents:	
Working in county of residence	62.3%
Commuting to some other NH county	35.3%
Commuting out-of-state/country	2.4%

Transportation		
Road Access	US Routes	3
	State Routes	25, 25B, 28, 28A, 104, 106, 107, 126, 127, 129, 132, 140
Nearest Interstates	I-93, Exit 15E (Concord); Exit 20 (Tilton); Exit 22 (Sanbornton); or Exit 23 (New Hampton)	
Nearest Airport(s) with Scheduled Service	Manchester-Boston Regional	Passenger Airlines 4

**Educational Attainment (2013-2017 5-Year Average, ACS)**

Population, Age 25 and Over	44,469
Less than 9th grade	707
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	2,682
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	13,123
Some college, no degree	9,446
Associate's degree	4,518
Bachelor's degree	8,666
Graduate or professional degree	5,327

Percent high school graduates or higher	92.4%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	31.5%

**Educational and Child Care Facilities***School Districts in Belknap County municipalities:*

- Alton (Grades K-8)
- Barnstead (Grades K-8)
- Prospect Mountain JMA—  
Alton, Barnstead (Grades 9-12)
- Gilford (Grades K-12)
- Gilmanton (Grades K-8)
- Inter-Lakes Cooperative —  
Center Harbor, Meredith (Grades K-12)
- Laconia (Grades K-12)
- Newfound Area —  
New Hampton (Grades K-12)
- Shaker Regional — Belmont (Grades K-12)
- Winnisquam Regional —  
Sanbornton, Tilton (Grades K-12)

*Career Technology Centers:*

- J. Oliva Huot Technical Center (Laconia)
- Winnisquam Agricultural Programs (Tilton)
- Lakes Region Technology Center (Wolfeboro)
- Plymouth Applied Technology Center

*Nearest Community College:*

- Lakes Region, Laconia
- NH Technical Institute, Concord

*Nearest Colleges/Universities:*

- Plymouth State University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Colby-Sawyer College (New London)
- University of New Hampshire School of Law (Concord)
- University of New Hampshire (Durham)
- Southern NH University (Manchester)

**NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2017***(NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing)*

Total Facilities: 39                      Total Capacity: 1,693

**Nearest Hospitals (NH Hospital Assoc.)**

	Staffed Beds
Concord Hospital, Concord	242
Franklin Regional, Franklin	31
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester	96
Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro	25
Lakes Region General, Laconia	96
Speare Memorial, Plymouth	25

**Housing (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS)**

Total Housing Units	38,148
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	28,791
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:	
Two to Four Units in Structure	3,289
Five or More Units in Structure	3,011
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units	3,057

**New Hampshire Association of Realtors\***

YTD 2018 Median Sale Price, Residential \$250,000

**NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey\*\***

2018 Median Monthly Gross Rent, 2 Bedroom \$1,071

**Property Tax Rates, 2017 (NH Dept. of Revenue Admin.)**

Town	Total Tax Rate/\$1000	Equalization Ratio	Full Value Rate/\$1000
Alton	\$12.86	97.6	\$12.52
Barnstead	\$28.90	83.6	\$24.10
Belmont	\$29.46	89.7	\$26.17
Center Harbor	\$13.88	98.4	\$13.64
Gilford	\$17.26	95.1	\$16.35
Gilmanton	\$24.80	93.7	\$23.28
Laconia	\$21.03	95.2	\$19.64
Meredith	\$15.23	94.8	\$14.34
New Hampton	\$19.04	90.7	\$18.03
Sanbornton	\$23.63	88.3	\$20.73
Tilton	\$21.50	92.0	\$19.87

**2017 Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type, County Totals**

Residential Land and Buildings	87.4%
Commercial Land and Buildings	11.0%
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	1.6%

\* **Source:** NH Monthly Indicators – December 2018. Copyright 2019 New Hampshire Association of Realtors and Northern New England Real Estate Network, Inc. The reproduction of these statistics is done with the permission of NHAR and NNEREN. The statistics referenced herein are based solely upon listings submitted to the multiple listing service database of NNEREN and do not include all properties sold and marketed for sale. ALL INFORMATION DEEMED RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED. Any analysis or commentary related to these statistics is that of the commentator, and not that of NHAR or NNEREN. <www.nhar.org>

\*\* **Source:** 2018 NH Residential Rental Cost Survey, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. Copyright NHHFA 2018. <www.nhhfa.org>

Contacts	Address	ZIP	Phone/Fax*	E-Mail/Web	Office Hours
Town of Alton	PO Box 659 Alton NH	03809	P: 875-2161 F: 875-0207	administrator@alton.nh.gov www.alton.nh.gov	M-F 8-4:30, 1 <sup>st</sup> & last Th until 7
Barnstead Board of Selectmen	PO Box 11 Center Barnstead NH	03225	P: 269-4071 F: 269-4072	barntownhall@metrocast.net www.barnstead.org	Selectmen: T 5-7; Twn Hall: MWThF 8:30-4:30, T 8:30-7; TC/TC: MWThF 8:30-4:30, T 11:30-7
Town of Belmont	143 Main Street PO Box 310 Belmont NH	03220	P: 267-8300 F: 267-8327	townadministrator@belmontnh.org http://belmontnh.org	M-F 7:30-4
Center Harbor Board of Selectmen	PO Box 140 Center Harbor NH	03226	P: 253-4561 F: 253-8420	chselectmen@metrocast.net www.centerharbornh.org	MTThF 9-3, W 9-12 & 6-8
Town of Gilford	47 Cherry Valley Road Gilford NH	03249	P: 527-4700 F: 527-4711	selectmen@gilfordnh.org www.gilfordnh.org	M-F 8-5; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: MTWF 8-4:30, Th 8-6
Town of Gilmanton	PO Box 550 Gilmanton NH	03237	P: 267-6700 F: 267-6701	TownAdministrator@gilmantonnh.org www.gilmantonnh.org	Selectmen: MWThF 9-4:30; Town Clerk: MTh 9-2 & 6-8, WF 9-4, closed Tues.
City of Laconia	45 Beacon Street East Laconia NH	03246	P: 527-1270 F: 527-1292	citymanager@laconianh.gov www.laconianh.gov	M-F 8:30-4:30
Town of Meredith	41 Main Street Meredith NH	03253	P: 677-4205 not available	pwarren@meredithnh.org www.meredithnh.org	M-F 8-5
New Hampton Board of Selectmen	6 Pinnacle Hill Road New Hampton NH	03256	P: 744-3559 F: 744-5106	blucas@new-hampton.nh.us www.new-hampton.nh.us	Selectmen: M-F 8:30-4; TC/TC: MTWF 7:30-4:30, Th 10-7, closed daily 12-1
Town of Sanbornton	PO Box 124 Sanbornton NH	03269	P: 286-8303 F: 286-9544	townadministrator@sanborntonnh.org www.sanborntonnh.org	Selectmen: M-F 8-4; Town Clerk: W 8-6:30, TThF 8-4, closed Mon.
Town of Tilton	257 Main Street Tilton NH	03276	P: 286-4521 x 101 F: 286-3519	townadmin@tiltonnh.org www.tiltonnh.org	MTWF 8:30-4:15, Th 8:30-5:30

\*all area codes are (603)