

Strafford County

County Offices

Strafford County Commissioners
 259 County Farm Road Suite 204
 Dover NH 03820
 (603) 742-1458
<https://co.strafford.nh.us/>

County Services: Attorney's Office, Community Corrections, County Commissioners, Department of Corrections, Finance, Human Resources, Hyder Family Hospice House, IT Department, Registry of Deeds, Riverside Rest Home, Sherriff's Office

UNH Cooperative Extension
<https://extension.unh.edu/facility/strafford-county-office>



Strafford County is located on the eastern border of the state, south of center. A 45-mile stretch of the Salmon Falls River pouring into the Piscataqua River separates the county from Maine. It is the only county with three cities—Rochester, Dover, and Somersworth. It was one of the five original counties established in 1769, once encompassing all of Belknap County and the portion of Carroll County not in the White Mountain National Forest. The county was named for the Earl of Strafford, a title held by the Wentworth family in England, who were prominent in New Hampshire politics in colonial days. Dover, along with Rye, was one of the first places to be settled in New Hampshire.

Strafford County contains 367.5 square miles of land area, the smallest among the counties, and 15.1 square miles of inland water area. As of the 2023 Census, the population density was 362.6 persons per square mile. Strafford County includes three cities, Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth, and ten towns. The county seat is Dover.

COUNTY POPULATION

2023	2020	2010	2000	1990
133,243	131,068	123,143	112,233	104,233

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial/Annual Population Estimates

DEMOGRAPHICS

By Gender:	Male	Female
Total	65,071	66,672
18 years and over	52,780	55,342
65 years and over	9,704	12,067
Median Age (years)	36.7	39.1

By Age Group:		
Under age 5		5,865
Age 5 to 19		23,678
Age 20 to 34		31,149
Age 35 to 54		31,272
Age 55 to 64		18,008
Age 65 and over		21,771

Median Age (years) 37.9

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023

LABOR FORCE

Annual Average	2013	2023
Civilian Labor Force	70,313	72,663
Employed	66,775	71,171
Unemployed	3,538	1,492
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	2.1%

2023 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Town

Barrington	1.9%	Milton	2.3%
Dover	1.9%	New Durham	1.8%
Durham	2.5%	Rochester	2.0%
Farmington	2.2%	Rollinsford	1.9%
Lee	1.9%	Somersworth	2.1%
Madbury	1.8%	Strafford	2.1%
Middleton	2.1%		

Source: NHES/ELMIB

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

LARGEST BUSINESSES	COMMUNITY	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES
University of New Hampshire	Durham	Education	3,597
Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Dover	Health care services	2,435
Liberty Mutual	Dover	Insurance services	1,911
Frisbie Memorial Hospital	Rochester	Health care services	1,048
Lincoln Financial Group	Dover	Financial services	939
City of Rochester - Schools	Rochester	Education	821
Albany/SAFRAN Engineered Composites	Rochester	Aerospace engineered products	750
Strafford County	Dover	County government services	559
Dover Schools/SAU 11	Dover	Education	558
Market Basket - 2 locations	Rochester	Supermarket	450
Contitech	Somersworth	High performance silicone rubber hose	450
Turbocam USA	Barrington	Components for turbo-machinery operations	400
Aclara	Somersworth	Manufacturing, meter control division	400
City of Rochester	Rochester	Municipal services	387
Wal-Mart	Somersworth	Retail store	380
Community Partners	Dover	Counseling and mental health services	361
Somersworth School Department	Somersworth	Education	334
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Rochester	Retail store, supermarket	300
Market Basket	Somersworth	Supermarket	285
City of Dover	Dover	Municipal services	270
Hannaford Brothers - 2 locations	Rochester	Supermarket	264
Next Phase Medical (fka Phase 2 Medical)	Rochester	Medical device manufacturing	220
Velcro	Somersworth	Hook and loop products	199
Eastern Propane & Oil	Rochester	Retail propane and oil	178
Laars Technologies	Rochester	Boilers and water heaters	165
Index Packaging	Milton	Foam packaging	157
The Works Athletic Club	Somersworth	Physical fitness, wellness center	139
Town of Milton	Milton	Municipal services	132
Market Basket	Lee	Supermarket	120
General Linen	Somersworth	Laundry facility	120

Source: Employer data were provided by individual municipalities; not all municipalities provided data.

COVERED EMPLOYMENT & WAGES – ANNUAL AVERAGES		
	2013	2023
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	45,379	47,145
Average Weekly Wage	\$897	\$1,256
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	36,187	38,307
Average Weekly Wage	\$881	\$1,257
Private Goods-Producing Establishments		
Average Employment	6,365	7,017
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,050	\$1,415
Private Service-Providing Establishments		
Average Employment	29,822	31,290
Average Weekly Wage	\$845	\$1,221
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	9,192	8,838
Average Weekly Wage	\$958	\$1,256

Source: NHES/ELMIB. 'n' = data do not meet disclosures standards. Data represent workers covered by unemployment insurance.

INCOME AND POVERTY	
Per Capita Income	\$44,406
Median Family Income	\$118,846
Median Household Income	\$86,564
Median Earnings (Full-Time Year-Round)	
Male	\$70,685
Female	\$58,821
Percent of individuals below the poverty level	8.8%
Persons under 18 years of age	6.4%
Persons 65 years of age or older	10.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-year Estimates 2019-2023

NEAREST HOSPITALS	STAFFED BEDS
Exeter Hospital, Exeter	99
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester	23
Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro	25
Wentworth-Douglass, Dover	145

Source: NH Hospital Association

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population, age 25 and over	89,069
Less than 9th grade	1,542
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,217
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23,287
Some college, no degree	16,174
Associate's degree	10,562
Bachelor's degree	21,645
Graduate or professional degree	12,642

Percent of age 25 and over population:

High school graduate or higher	94.7%
With a Bachelor's degree or higher	38.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

School Districts Serving Strafford County Municipalities

- Barrington (grades K-8)
- Coe-Brown Academy, Northwood (grades 9-12)
- Dover (grades K-12)
- Eliot, Maine - Rollinsford students (grades 7-12)
- Farmington (grades K-12)
- Governor Wentworth Regional: Brookfield, Effingham, Middleton, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro (grades K-12)
- Middleton (grades K-6)
- Milton (grades K-12)
- Oyster River Cooperative: Durham, Lee, Madbury (grades K-12)
- Rochester (grades K-12)
- Rollinsford (grades K-6)
- Somersworth (grades K-12)
- Strafford (grades K-8)

Career Technology Centers

- Dover Career Technical Center (Dover)
- Lakes Region Technology Center (Wolfeboro)
- Creteau Regional Technology Center (Rochester)

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

Nearest Community Colleges

- Great Bay Community College (Portsmouth)
- Lakes Region Community College (Laconia)
- New Hampshire Technical Institute (Concord)

Nearest Colleges and Universities

- University of New Hampshire (Durham)
- Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, online)

Source: NH Department of Education

NH LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS, 2023

Total Licensed Facilities	66
Total Capacity	3,877

Source: NH DHHS, Bureau of Child Care Licensing

COMMUTING TO WORK

Total Workers, 16 years and over	70,326
Car, truck or van: drove alone	50,920
Car, truck or van: carpooled	4,189
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	1,033
Walked	2,339
Other means	1,000
Worked at home	10,845
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.8

Percent of working residents who:

Work in county of residence	63.2%
Commute to some other NH county	26.7%
Commute out of the state or the country	10.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023

TRANSPORTATION

Road Access	US Routes	4, 202
	State Routes	4, 9, 11, 16, 16A, 16B, 75, 108, 125, 126, 152, 153, 155, 155A, 202A, 236

Nearest Interstate/Exits

- I-93, Exit 15E (Concord); I-95, Exit 5 (Portsmouth); I-95, Exit 2 (Kittery, Maine); Spaulding Turnpike Exits 6-9 (Dover), 12-16 (Rochester), 17, 18 (Milton)

Nearest Airport(s) with Scheduled Service	Passenger Airlines
Manchester-Boston Regional	7
Portland International (Maine)	9
Portsmouth International	2

Source: Local mapping data

HOUSING UNITS

Total Housing Units	56,162
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	33,674
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:	
Two to Four Units in Structure	7,469
Five or More Units in Structure	10,297
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units	4,722

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023

CURRENT HOUSING MARKET

New Hampshire Association of Realtors¹

YTD Dec 2023 Median Sale Price, Residential	\$435,000
YTD Dec 2023 Average Days on Market Until Sale	21

NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey²

2023 Median Monthly Gross Rent, 2 Bedroom	\$1,613
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Source: see footnotes

2023 LOCAL ASSESSED VALUATION BY PROPERTY TYPE

Property Type	Share of Total Valuation
Residential Land and Buildings	77.4%
Commercial Land and Buildings	19.9%
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	2.7%

Source: NH Department of Revenue Administration

PROPERTY TAX RATES, 2023

Town	Total Tax Rate per \$1000	Equalization Ratio	Full Value Rate per \$1000
Barrington	\$16.69	94.8	\$15.69
Dover	\$18.70	89.5	\$16.14
Durham	\$20.48	93.5	\$18.91
Farmington	\$25.66	59.9	\$14.99
Lee	\$23.63	71.6	\$16.69
Madbury	\$26.97	66.0	\$17.53
Middleton	\$15.04	99.1	\$14.81
Milton	\$24.54	59.7	\$14.51
New Durham	\$20.00	77.0	\$15.35
Rochester	\$25.74	59.1	\$14.71
Rollinsford	\$15.38	91.8	\$14.09
Somersworth	\$29.30	54.1	\$15.76
Strafford	\$18.64	67.1	\$12.47

Source: NH Department of Revenue Administration

¹ Source: NH Monthly Indicators – December 2023. Copyright 2023 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>

² Source: 2023 NH Residential Rental Cost Survey, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. Copyright NHHFA 2023. <www.nhfa.org>

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Strafford County Community Contacts

Town of Barrington
address PO Box 660
 Barrington NH 03825
phone 603-664-9007
email administration@barrington.nh.gov
web site www.barrington.nh.gov
office hours Selectboard: MTTh 8-5, W 8-6; Town Clerk:
 MTTh 8-5, W 1-6; Tax Collector: MTTh 8-3,
 W 12-5, closed Friday

Dover City Clerk's Office
 288 Central Avenue
 Dover NH 03820-4169
 603-516-6012
 s.mistretta@dover.nh.gov
 www.dover.nh.gov
 City Hall: M-Th 8:30-5:30, F 8:30-4

Town of Durham
 8 Newmarket Road
 Durham NH 03824-2898
 603-868-8064
 mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us
 www.ci.durham.nh.us
 Town Hall, Town Administrator: M-F 8-5;
 Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M-F 8-5, 1st M 8-6

Town of Farmington
address 356 Main Street, Municipal Offices
 Farmington NH 03835
phone 603-755-3657
email rdickie@farmington.nh.us
web site www.farmington.nh.us
office hours Town Hall, Administrator: M-F 8-5;
 Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M-W 8:30-5,
 Th 8:30-7, F 8:30-12:30

Town of Lee
 249 Calef Highway
 Lee NH 03861
 603-659-5414 x312
 townadministrator@leenh.org
 www.leenh.org
 Selectmen's Office: M 8-6, T-Th 8-4:30,
 F 8-12:30; Town Clerk/Tax Collector:
 M 8-6, WF 8-4

Town of Madbury
 13 Town Hall Road
 Madbury NH 03823
 603-742-5131
 tcmadbury@comcast.net
 www.townofmadbury.com
 Town Hall, Town Clerk, Tax Collector:
 T 12-7, WTh 8-1, closed Monday & Friday

Town of Middleton
address 182 King's Highway
 Middleton NH 03887
phone 603-473-2261
email bos@middletonnh.gov
web site www.middletonnh.gov
office hours Selectmen: M-Th 8-4; Town Clerk/Tax
 Collector: T 10-6, WTh 8-4

Town of Milton
 PO Box 310
 Milton NH 03851
 603-652-4501 x1
 miltonta@miltonnh-us.com
 www.miltonnh-us.com
 Town Hall: M-F 8-4; Town Clerk/Tax
 Collector: MTWF 8:30-4, Th 8:30-5

Town of New Durham
 4 Main Street, PO Box 207
 New Durham NH 03855
 603-859-2091
 ndadmin@newdurhamnh.us
 www.newdurhamnh.us
 Town Hall, Town Clerk, Tax Collector:
 M-Th 8-4, last Th 8-6:30; Transfer
 Station: F-M 8-4:45

Rochester Dept. of Economic Devel.
address 31 Wakefield Street, City Hall
 Rochester NH 03867-1917
phone 603-335-7522
email michael.scala@rochesternh.net
web site www.rochesternh.net
office hours City Hall, city Manager, City Clerk: M-F 8-5;
 Tax Collector: M-F 8-4:30

Town of Rollinsford
 PO Box 309
 Rollinsford NH 03869
 603-742-2510
 selectboard@rollinsford.nh.us
 www.rollinsford.nh.us
 Town Clerk: MF 8-1, TTh 1-6; Tax
 Collector: M 9-1, TTh 3-7

Somersworth Economic Development
 One Government Way
 Somersworth NH 03878
 603-692-9519
 mmears@somersworthnh.gov
 www.somersworth.com
 City Hall: MTThF 8-4:30, W 8-6

Town of Strafford
address 12 Mountain View Drive
 Strafford NH 03884
phone 603-664-2192
email administrator@strafford.nh.gov
web site www.strafford.nh.gov
office hours Selectmen: MTW 9-12; Town Clerk:
 MW 8:30-2, TTh 1-7; Tax Collector:
 MW 8:30-2, T 1-6

Hours reviewed January 2024