

# Alton, NH



## Community Contact

**Town of Alton**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**PO Box 659**  
**Alton, NH 03809**

Telephone  
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E-mail  
Web Site

**(603) 875-2161**  
**(603) 875-0207**  
**administrator@alton.nh.gov**  
**www.alton.nh.gov**

## Municipal Office Hours

**Town Office: Monday to Friday, 8-4:30, first and last Thursday each month until 7pm**

County  
Labor Market Area  
Tourism Region  
Planning Commission  
Regional Development

**Belknap**  
**Belmont, NH LMA**  
**Lakes**  
**Lakes Region**  
**Belknap County Economic Development Council**

Election Districts  
US Congress  
Executive Council  
State Senate  
State Representative

**District 1**  
**District 1**  
**District 6**  
**Belknap County District 7**

## Incorporated: 1796

**Origin:** Originally called New Durham Gore, the town was settled by a group from Roxbury, Massachusetts. There were already two towns named Roxbury in New England, so the town was incorporated as Alton in honor of a prominent family from Roxbury. The town's boundary envelopes the five-mile long Alton Bay, southeastern point of Lake Winnepesaukee, and includes the southern side of Wolfeboro Harbor and all of the largest islands in the southeast end of the lake. Alton's 19.3 square miles of inland water area is the highest among the cities and towns in New Hampshire.

**Villages and Place Names:** Alton Bay, East Alton, Mount Major, South Alton, West Alton

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 445 residents in 1790

**Population Trends:** Population change for Alton totaled 4,238 over 50 years, from 1,647 in 1970 to 5,885 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 48 percent increase from 1970 to 1980; followed by increases of 35 percent and 38 percent over the next two decades. The town's population increased by 12 percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Alton was 6,026 residents, which ranked 62nd among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau):** 94.3 persons per square mile of land area. Alton contains 63.9 square miles of land area and 19.3 square miles of inland water area.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Type of Government		Selectmen	
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021		\$12,101,377	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021		\$16,041,076	
Zoning Ordinance		1970/15	
Master Plan		2023	
Capital Improvement Plan		Yes	
Industrial Plans Reviewed By		Planning Board	
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	Selectmen; Planning; Library; Cemetery; Budget; Checklist; Trust Funds; Water; Zoning		
Appointed:	Conservation; Parks & Recreation; Levey Park; Milfoil; Energy		
Public Library	Gilman		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		Full & part-time	
Fire Department		Municipal	
Emergency Medical Service		Municipal	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro		11 miles	25
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier	Eversource Energy; NH Electric Coop; Wolfeboro Electric		
Natural Gas Supplier	None		
Water Supplier	Alton Water Works		
Sanitation	Private septic		
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant		No	
Solid Waste Disposal			
Curbside Trash Pickup	Private		
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	No		
Recycling Program	Mandatory		
Telephone Company	Consolidated; TDS		
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes		
Cable Television Access	Yes		
Public Access Television Station	No		
High Speed Internet Service:	Business	Yes	
	Residential	Yes	
PROPERTY TAXES		(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$11.37	
2022 Equalization Ratio		62.1	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$ 7.05	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		95.3%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		4.1%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		0.7%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Total Housing Units		4,240	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		3,815	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		63	
Five or More Units in Structure		88	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		274	

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2022	6,026		64,781
2020	5,894		63,705
2010	5,250		60,088
2000	4,528		56,576
1990	3,289		49,294
1980	2,440		42,884
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021	
Population by Gender			
Male	2,909	Female	2,917
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5		258	
Age 5 to 19		873	
Age 20 to 34		860	
Age 35 to 54		1,255	
Age 55 to 64		1,160	
Age 65 and over		1,420	
Median Age		50.7 years	
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:		4,258	
High school graduate or higher		94.8%	
Bachelor's degree or higher		26.9%	
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Per capita income		\$43,288	
Median family income		\$104,657	
Median household income		\$101,604	
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male		\$61,250	
Female		\$65,463	
Individuals below the poverty level		5.2%	
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average		2012	2022
Civilian labor force		3,067	3,049
Employed		2,933	2,982
Unemployed		134	67
Unemployment rate		4.4%	2.2%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment		2012	2022
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment		45	115
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 607	\$1,101
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment		627	849
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 464	\$ 743
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment		672	964
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 474	\$ 785
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment		333	300
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 675	\$1,015
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment		1,005	1,263
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 540	\$ 840
If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.			

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: **Alton operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are jointly managed with Barnstead (JMA)** District: **SAU 72**  
 Career Technology Center(s): **Lakes Region Technology Center (Wolfeboro)**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	
Grade Levels	<b>P K 1-8</b>		<b>9-12</b>	
Total Enrollment	<b>417</b>		<b>387</b>	

Nearest Community College: **Lakes Region; NHTI-Concord**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **Granite State; UNH School of Law; University of NH**

2022 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)

Total Facilities: **1** Total Capacity: **9**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Alton School Department	Education	116	1797
Town of Alton	Municipal services	140	1796
McDonald's	Fast food restaurant	50	1995
Dunkin' Donuts	Donut shop	20	1996
Water Industries	Commercial pumping systems	20	1963
Hannaford Brothers	Supermarket	132	2006
Christian Conference Center	Recreational, campground	8	1863
Alton Home & Lumber	Hardware & lumber sales	10	1994
Aubuchon	Hardware store	11	2004

#### Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)				RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS	
Road Access	US Routes			<b>X</b>	Municipal Parks
	State Routes	<b>11, 11D, 28, 28A, 140</b>		<b>X</b>	YMCA/YWCA
Nearest Interstate, Exit		<b>I-93, Exit 20</b>			Boys Club/Girls Club
	Distance	<b>28 miles</b>			Golf Courses
Railroad		<b>No</b>			Swimming: Indoor Facility
Public Transportation		<b>No</b>			Swimming: Outdoor Facility
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation				<b>X</b>	Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
<b>Laconia Municipal</b>	Runway	<b>5,286 ft. asphalt</b>			Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
Lighted? <b>Yes</b>	Navigation Aids?	<b>Yes</b>			Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service				<b>X</b>	Bowling Facilities
<b>Manchester-Boston Regional</b>	Distance	<b>46 miles</b>			Museums
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		<b>4</b>			Cinemas
Driving distance to select cities:				<b>X</b>	Performing Arts Facilities
Manchester, NH		<b>46 miles</b>		<b>X</b>	Tourist Attractions
Portland, Maine		<b>66 miles</b>		<b>X</b>	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
Boston, Mass.		<b>91 miles</b>		<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Baseball
New York City, NY		<b>293 miles</b>		<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Soccer
Montreal, Quebec		<b>256 miles</b>		<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Football
<b>COMMUTING TO WORK</b> (ACS 2017-2021)				<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Basketball
Workers 16 years and over				<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Hockey
Drove alone, car/truck/van		<b>72.4%</b>		<b>X</b>	Campgrounds
Carpooled, car/truck/van		<b>16.2%</b>		<b>X</b>	Fishing/Hunting
Public transportation		<b>0.0%</b>		<b>X</b>	Boating/Marinas
Walked		<b>0.8%</b>		<b>X</b>	Snowmobile Trails
Other means		<b>0.5%</b>			Bicycle Trails
Worked at home		<b>10.0%</b>		<b>X</b>	Cross Country Skiing
Mean Travel Time to Work		<b>32.0 minutes</b>		<b>X</b>	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
Percent of Working Residents				<b>X</b>	Overnight or Day Camps
Working in community of residence		<b>30.9%</b>			Nearest Ski Area(s): <b>Gunstock</b>
Commuting to another NH community		<b>62.6%</b>			Other: <b>Boat Launch; Town Docks; Swim Dock; Public Beach in Picnic Area; B&amp;M RR; Old Home Days; Mt. Washington Dock</b>
Commuting out-of-state		<b>6.5%</b>			