Bedford, NH

Community Contact
Town of Bedford
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Municipal Office Hours Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

County Hillsborough
Labor Market Area Manchester, NH Metropolitan NECTA
Tourism Region Merrimack Valley
Planning Commission Southern NH
Regional Development Capital Regional Development Council

Election Districts
District 1
District 4
District 9
Hillsborough County Districts 7, 41

Incorporated: 1750

Origin: Bedford was established in 1730 as Narragansett Number 5 for the benefit of soldiers who fought against the Narragansett Indians in Rhode Island. Twenty years later little had been done to the land, and it was regranted first as Souhegan East, then as Bedford in 1750. The town was named for Lord John Russell, fourth Duke of Bedford, a close friend of Governor Benning Wentworth, whose first wife, Diana Spencer, was cousin to the Duke of Marlborough. The town’s first moderator was Major John Goffe, son of Colonel John Goffe for whom Goffstown was named.

Villages and Place Names: unknown

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 898 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Bedford ranked sixth in numeric change over 49 years. Population change totaled 16,769, from 5,859 in 1970 to 22,628 in 2019. The largest decennial percent change was 62 percent between 1970 and 1980. The 2019 Census estimate for Bedford was 22,628 residents, which ranked 12th among New Hampshire’s incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2019 (US Census Bureau): 690.7 persons per square mile of land area. Bedford contains 32.8 square miles of land area and 0.3 square miles of inland water area.
**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

- **Type of Government**: Manager & Council
- **Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2020**: $31,302,603
- **Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021**: $77,700,000
- **Zoning Ordinance**: 1953/20
- **Master Plan**: Update in Progress
- **Capital Improvement Plan**: Yes
- **Industrial Plans Reviewed By**: Planning Board

**Boards and Commissions**
- **Elected**: Town Council; Library
- **Appointed**: Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Historic District; Recreation; Budget; Highway Safety; Sewer & Water Advisory

**Public Library**: Bedford Public

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- **Police Department**: Full-time
- **Fire Department**: Full & part-time
- **Emergency Medical Service**: Full & part-time

**Nearest Hospital(s)**
- **Elliot Hospital, Manchester**: Distance 6 miles, Staffed Beds 268
- **Catholic Medical Center, Manchester**: Distance 4 miles, Staffed Beds 251

**UTILITIES**

- **Electric Supplier**: Eversource Energy
- **Natural Gas Supplier**: Liberty Utilities
- **Water Supplier**: Manchester Water Works; Pennichuck Water Works
- **Sanitation**: Private septic & municipal
- **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant**: No
- **Solid Waste Disposal**: Curbside Trash Pickup – Private, Pay-As-You-Throw Program – No, Recycling Program – Voluntary
- **Telephone Company**: Fairpoint
- **Cellular Telephone Access**: Yes
- **Cable Television Access**: Yes
- **Public Access Television Station**: Yes
- **High Speed Internet Service**: Business – Yes, Residential – Yes

**PROPERTY TAXES**

- **2019 Total Tax Rate (per $1000 of value)**: $18.95
- **2019 Equalization Ratio**: 94.7
- **2019 Full Value Tax Rate (per $1000 of value)**: $17.72
- **2019 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type**:
  - Residential Land and Buildings: 79.3%
  - Commercial Land and Buildings: 19.4%
  - Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other: 1.3%

**HOUSING**

- **Total Housing Units**: 8,056
- **Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached**: 6,842
- **Units in Multiple-Family Structures**: Two to Four Units in Structure: 161, Five or More Units in Structure: 1,053, Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units: 0

**POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)**

- **Total Population**: Community 22,628, County 417,025

**DEMographics**

- **Population by Gender**
  - Male: 11,039
  - Female: 11,496

- **Population by Age Group**
  - Under age 5: 1,339
  - Age 5 to 19: 4,832
  - Age 20 to 34: 2,929
  - Age 35 to 54: 6,236
  - Age 55 to 64: 3,468
  - Age 65 and over: 3,731
  - Median Age: 43.9 years

- **Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over**
  - Male Full & part time: 11,406, Female Full & part time: 6,127

**INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED $**

- **Per capita income**: $58,602
- **Median family income**: $151,016
- **Median household income**: $135,021
- **Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers**
  - Male: $103,542
  - Female: $69,055
- **Individuals below the poverty level**: 2.8%

**LABOR FORCE**

- **Annual Average** (NHES – ELM)
  - 2009: Civilian labor force 11,406, Employed 10,862, Unemployed 544, Unemployment rate 4.8%
  - 2019: Civilian labor force 12,409, Employed 12,132, Unemployed 277, Unemployment rate 2.2%

**EMPLOYMENT & WAGES**

- **Annual Average Covered Employment** (NHES – ELM)
  - 2009: Goods Producing Industries: Average Employment 1,208, Average Weekly Wage $1,161
  - 2019: Service Providing Industries: Average Employment 11,536, Average Weekly Wage $944
  - Total Private Industry: Average Employment 12,744, Average Weekly Wage $965

**ECONOMIC & LABOR MARKET INFORMATION BUREAU, NH EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, JANUARY 2021. COMMUNITY RESPONSE RECEIVED 9/01/2020**
EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: Bedford operates grades K-12
Career Technology Center(s): Manchester School of Technology

District: SAU 25
Region: 15

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend:

- Bedford operates grades K-12
- Manchester School of Technology

Nearest Community College: Manchester
Nearest Colleges or Universities: St. Anselm; Southern NH University; UNH-Manchester

2020 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)
- Total Facilities: 17
- Total Capacity: 1,445

LARGEST BUSINESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT/SERVICE</th>
<th>EMPLOYEES</th>
<th>ESTABLISHED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedford School District</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Basket</td>
<td>Supermarket</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannaford Brothers</td>
<td>Supermarket</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Foods</td>
<td>Natural food supermarket</td>
<td>254</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSNE</td>
<td>Contract manufacturing</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowe's</td>
<td>Home improvement center</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Services</td>
<td>Temporary employment agency</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Bedford</td>
<td>Municipal services</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Department store</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Recreation, Attractions, and Events

- Municipal Parks
- YMCA/YWCA
- Boys Club/Girls Club
- Golf Courses
- Swimming: Indoor Facility
- Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
- Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
- Bowling Facilities
- Museums
- Cinemas
- Performing Arts Facilities
- Tourist Attractions
- Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
- Youth Sports: Baseball
- Youth Sports: Soccer
- Youth Sports: Football
- Youth Sports: Basketball
- Youth Sports: Hockey
- Campgrounds
- Fishing/Hunting
- Boating/Marinas
- Snowmobile Trails
- Bicycle Trails
- Cross Country Skiing
- Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
- Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): McIntyre, Pat’s Peak
Other: Farmer’s Market

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)

- Road Access US Routes 3
- Nearest Interstate, Exit I-293, Exit 3
- Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation Manchester-Boston Regional Runway 9,250 ft. asphalt
- Lighted? Yes Navigation Aids? Yes
- Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service Manchester-Boston Regional Distance 7 miles
- Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport 4

COMMUTING TO WORK (ACS 2015-2019)

- Workers 16 years and over
  - Drove alone, car/truck/van 83.9%
  - Carpoooled, car/truck/van 4.6%
  - Public transportation 0.7%
  - Walked 0.5%
  - Other means 10.1%
  - Worked at home 13.0%
- Mean Travel Time to Work 29.6 minutes

Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2015-2019

- Working in community of residence 26.4%
- Commuting to another NH community 60.6%
- Commuting out-of-state 13.0%