

# Chester, NH



## Community Contact

**Town of Chester Planning Department**  
**Andrew Hadik, Town Planner**  
**84 Chester St, Municipal Office Building**  
**Chester, NH 03036**

Telephone  
 Fax  
 E-mail  
 Web Site

**(603) 887-3636 x105**  
**Not Available**  
**planning@chesternh.org**  
**www.chesternh.org**

## Municipal Office Hours

**Town Clerk, Tax Collector: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 am - 2 pm, Tuesday, Thursday, 10 am - 6 pm**

County  
 Labor Market Area  
 Tourism Region  
 Planning Commission  
 Regional Development

**Rockingham**  
**Nashua, NH-MA NECTA Division**  
**Merrimack Valley**  
**Southern NH**  
**Regional Economic Development Corp.**

## Election Districts

US Congress  
 Executive Council  
 State Senate  
 State Representative

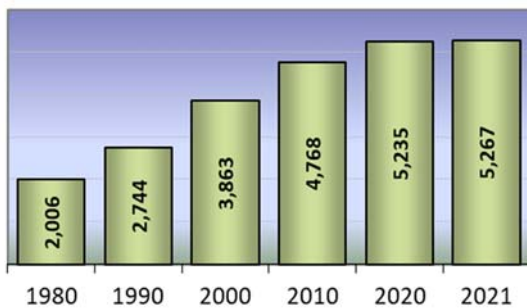
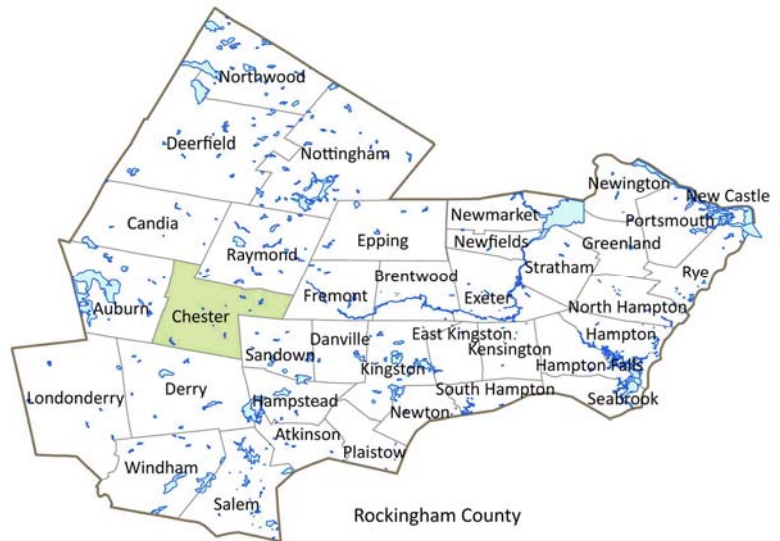
**District 1**  
**District 3**  
**District 23**  
**Rockingham County Districts 3, 31**

**Incorporated: 1722**

**Origin:** Chester was first known as chestnut country, and may have been the first of the grants issued by the Governor of Massachusetts in 1722 for expansion of New Hampshire's seacoast settlements. Many new settlers were from Hampton, Newbury, Kingston, and Portsmouth, which were considered overcrowded. Settlers were required to plant, build houses, lay out roads, and construct a church and schoolhouse, or they would forfeit the land. The name Chester apparently came from Cheshire County in England, whose county seat is Chester, and Earl of Chester is a title held by the Prince of Wales. The towns of Auburn, Candia, Derryfield (renamed Manchester), Hooksett, and Raymond were later formed from Chester's original 100 square mile grant.

**Villages and Place Names:** North Chester

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 1,902 residents in 1790



**Population Trends:** Population change for Chester totaled 3,261 over 41 years, from 2,006 in 1980 to 5,267 in 2021. The largest decennial percent change was a 37 percent increase between 1990 and 2000. The 2021 Census estimate for Chester was 5,267 residents, which ranked 71st among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density and Land Area, 2021 (US Census Bureau):** 202.3 persons per square mile of land area. Chester contains 26.0 square miles of land area and 0.1 square miles of inland water area.

<b>MUNICIPAL SERVICES</b>			
Type of Government	<b>Selectmen</b>		
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021-2022	<b>\$8,354,686</b>		
Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021	<b>\$12,839,917</b>		
Zoning Ordinance	<b>1960/21</b>		
Master Plan	<b>2015</b>		
Capital Improvement Plan	<b>Yes</b>		
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	<b>Planning Board</b>		
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	<b>Selectmen; Library; Budget; Cemetary; Road Agent</b>		
Appointed:	<b>Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Recreation; Agriculture</b>		
Public Library	<b>Chester Public</b>		
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>			
Police Department	<b>Full &amp; part-time</b>		
Fire Department	<b>Full &amp; part-time</b>		
Emergency Medical Service	<b>Municipal</b>		
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds	
<b>Parkland Medical Center, Derry</b>	<b>7 miles</b>	<b>58</b>	
<b>Elliot Hospital, Manchester</b>	<b>11 miles</b>	<b>296</b>	
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
Electric Supplier	<b>Eversource Energy; NH Electric Coop</b>		
Natural Gas Supplier	<b>None</b>		
Water Supplier	<b>Private wells</b>		
Sanitation	<b>Private septic</b>		
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	<b>No</b>		
Solid Waste Disposal	<b>Private</b>		
Curbside Trash Pickup	<b>Private</b>		
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	<b>No</b>		
Recycling Program	<b>Mandatory</b>		
Telephone Company	<b>Granite State; Consolidated Communications</b>		
Cellular Telephone Access	<b>Yes</b>		
Cable Television Access	<b>Yes</b>		
Public Access Television Station	<b>Yes</b>		
High Speed Internet Service:	Business	<b>Yes</b>	
	Residential	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>PROPERTY TAXES</b> (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)			
2021 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$20.84</b>		
2021 Equalization Ratio	<b>79.4</b>		
2021 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$16.14</b>		
2021 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings	<b>90.7%</b>		
Commercial Land and Buildings	<b>1.9%</b>		
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	<b>7.4%</b>		
<b>HOUSING</b> (ACS 2016-2020)			
Total Housing Units	<b>1,847</b>		
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	<b>1,796</b>		
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure	<b>39</b>		
Five or More Units in Structure	<b>12</b>		
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units			

<b>POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)</b>		<i>(US Census Bureau)</i>	
Total Population	Community	County	
2021	<b>5,267</b>	<b>316,947</b>	
2020	<b>5,236</b>	<b>314,430</b>	
2010	<b>4,768</b>	<b>295,223</b>	
2000	<b>3,863</b>	<b>278,748</b>	
1990	<b>2,744</b>	<b>246,744</b>	
1980	<b>2,006</b>	<b>190,345</b>	
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b> AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2016-2020			
Population by Gender			
Male	<b>2,717</b>	Female	<b>2,474</b>
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5	<b>246</b>		
Age 5 to 19	<b>977</b>		
Age 20 to 34	<b>810</b>		
Age 35 to 54	<b>1,390</b>		
Age 55 to 64	<b>1,067</b>		
Age 65 and over	<b>701</b>		
Median Age	<b>47.5 years</b>		
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over			
High school graduate or higher	<b>97.7%</b>		
Bachelor's degree or higher	<b>39.1%</b>		
<b>INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$</b> (ACS 2016-2020)			
Per capita income	<b>\$48,914</b>		
Median family income	<b>\$132,292</b>		
Median household income	<b>\$133,214</b>		
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male	<b>\$86,619</b>		
Female	<b>\$65,360</b>		
Individuals below the poverty level	<b>2.2%</b>		
<b>LABOR FORCE</b> (NHES – ELMII)			
Annual Average	2011	2021	
Civilian labor force	<b>2,715</b>	<b>3,035</b>	
Employed	<b>2,567</b>	<b>2,941</b>	
Unemployed	<b>148</b>	<b>94</b>	
Unemployment rate	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	
<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; WAGES</b> (NHES – ELMII)			
Annual Average Covered Employment	2011	2021	
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment	<b>71</b>	<b>99</b>	
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$1,012</b>	<b>\$1,277</b>	
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment	<b>394</b>	<b>156</b>	
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 554</b>	<b>\$1,028</b>	
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment	<b>464</b>	<b>255</b>	
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 623</b>	<b>\$1,124</b>	
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment	<b>172</b>	<b>170</b>	
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 594</b>	<b>\$ 802</b>	
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment	<b>636</b>	<b>426</b>	
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 616</b>	<b>\$ 995</b>	

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: **Chester operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are tuitioned to Pinkerton Academy (Derry)** District: **SAU 82**  
 Career Technology Center(s): **Pinkerton Academy Center for CTE**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			2
Grade Levels	P K 1-8			3 - 12 +
Total Enrollment	481			70

Nearest Community College: **Manchester; Nashua**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **New England; Southern NH University; UNH-Manchester**

2021 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing) Total Facilities: **4** Total Capacity: **159**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Stone Machine Co., Inc.	Machine shop	30	1980
Busche Academy	Education	20	2016
G & P Pizzeria	Restaurant	20	1990
Play Laugh N' Grow	Daycare	14	2014
Chester General Store	Convenience store	12	1950
MLM Construction	Residential construction	10	1982
Your Variety	Convenience store	10	1987
Chester Forest Products	Sawmill	8	2014
Bittersweet Blessings	Antique store	6	2012
Like Nu Autobody	Auto Repair	5	1979

*Employer Information Supplied by Municipality*

**TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)**

Road Access	US Routes	
	State Routes	<b>102, 121, 121A</b>
Nearest Interstate, Exit		<b>I-93, Exit 4</b>
	Distance	<b>8 miles</b>
Railroad		<b>No</b>
Public Transportation		<b>CART</b>
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
<b>Manchester-Boston Regional</b>	Runway	<b>9,250 ft. asphalt</b>
Lighted? <b>Yes</b>	Navigation Aids?	<b>Yes</b>
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
<b>Manchester-Boston Regional</b>	Distance	<b>15 miles</b>
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		<b>4</b>
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		<b>14 miles</b>
Portland, Maine		<b>86 miles</b>
Boston, Mass.		<b>49 miles</b>
New York City, NY		<b>248 miles</b>
Montreal, Quebec		<b>268 miles</b>

**COMMUTING TO WORK (ACS 2016-2020)**

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	<b>77.0%</b>
Carpooled, car/truck/van	<b>6.7%</b>
Public transportation	<b>0.8%</b>
Walked	<b>0.0%</b>
Other means	<b>1.4%</b>
Worked at home	<b>14.1%</b>
Mean Travel Time to Work	<b>36.3 minutes</b>
<b>Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2016-2020</b>	
Working in community of residence	<b>57.7%</b>
Commuting to another NH community	<b>25.0%</b>
Commuting out-of-state	<b>17.3%</b>

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

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