

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

Selectmen's Office: Monday to Friday, 8-4; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Monday and Wednesday, 8-2, Tuesday and Thursday, 10-6

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

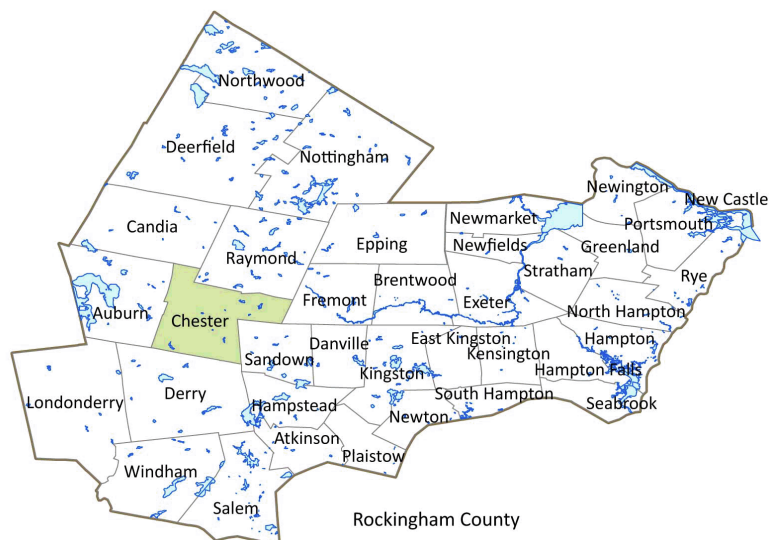
Origin: Chester was first known as the chestnut country, and may have been the first of the settlement grants by the Governor of Massachusetts in 1722 for expansion of New Hampshire's seacoast settlements. Many new settlers were from Hampton, Newbury, Kingston, and Portsmouth, which were considered overcrowded. 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 3,853 over 50 years, from 1,382 in 1970 to 5,235 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 45 percent from 1970 to 1980, followed by 37 percent from 1980 to 1990, and 41 percent from 1990 to 2000. The town's population increased by 10 percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Chester was 5,313 residents, which ranked 71st among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau): 204.1 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.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Type of Government		Selectmen	
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021-2022		\$8,354,686	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021		\$12,839,917	
Zoning Ordinance		1960/21	
Master Plan		2015	
Capital Improvement Plan		Yes	
Industrial Plans Reviewed By		Planning Board	
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	Selectmen; Library; Budget; Cemetary; Road Agent		
Appointed:	Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Recreation; Agriculture		
Public Library	Chester Public		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		Full & part-time	
Fire Department		Full & part-time	
Emergency Medical Service		Municipal	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Parkland Medical Center, Derry		7 miles	50
Elliot Hospital, Manchester		11 miles	292
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier	Eversource Energy; NH Electric Coop		
Natural Gas Supplier	None		
Water Supplier	Private wells		
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	Granite State; Consolidated Communications		
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes		
Cable Television Access	Yes		
Public Access Television Station	Yes		
High Speed Internet Service:	Business	Yes	
	Residential	Yes	
PROPERTY TAXES		(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$21.40	
2022 Equalization Ratio		68.9	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$14.43	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		91.4%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		1.9%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		6.7%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Total Housing Units		1,837	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		1,746	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		64	
Five or More Units in Structure		27	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units			

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2022	5,313		319,424
2020	5,232		314,176
2010	4,768		295,223
2000	3,863		278,748
1990	2,744		246,744
1980	2,006		190,345
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021	
Population by Gender			
Male	2,709	Female	2,489
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5		269	
Age 5 to 19		968	
Age 20 to 34		799	
Age 35 to 54		1,353	
Age 55 to 64		1,109	
Age 65 and over		700	
Median Age		46.4 years	
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:		3,603	
High school graduate or higher		97.3%	
Bachelor's degree or higher		41.7%	
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Per capita income		\$50,043	
Median family income		\$137,167	
Median household income		\$131,635	
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male		\$88,571	
Female		\$66,595	
Individuals below the poverty level		2.8%	
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average		2012	2022
Civilian labor force		2,758	3,094
Employed		2,615	3,017
Unemployed		143	77
Unemployment rate		5.2%	2.5%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment		2012	2022
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment		74	102
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 934	\$1,299
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment		215	180
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 745	\$1,077
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment		289	282
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 793	\$1,157
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment		168	176
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 586	\$ 826
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment		456	458
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 717	\$1,029
If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.			

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			P K 9-12 PG
Total Enrollment	502			154

Nearest Community College: **Manchester; Nashua**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **Southern NH University; UNH-Manchester; Franklin Pierce-Manchester; MCPHS; St. Anselm; Thomas More; Rivier**

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

Total Facilities: **3** Total Capacity: **81**

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

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

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

Road Access	US Routes	
	State Routes	102, 121, 121A
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-93, Exit 4
	Distance	8 miles
Railroad		No
Public Transportation		CART
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	15 miles
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		4
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		14 miles
Portland, Maine		86 miles
Boston, Mass.		49 miles
New York City, NY		248 miles
Montreal, Quebec		268 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK (*ACS 2017-2021*)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	75.8%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	6.5%
Public transportation	0.4%
Walked	0.9%
Other means	1.7%
Worked at home	14.7%
Mean Travel Time to Work	36.0 minutes
Percent of Working Residents	
Working in community of residence	19.7%
Commuting to another NH community	62.9%
Commuting out-of-state	17.4%

RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

X	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
X	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
X	Youth Sports: Baseball
X	Youth Sports: Soccer
	Youth Sports: Football
X	Youth Sports: Basketball
	Youth Sports: Hockey
	Campgrounds
X	Fishing/Hunting
	Boating/Marinas
	Snowmobile Trails
	Bicycle Trails
X	Cross Country Skiing
X	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
	Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **McIntyre**

Other: