

# Columbia, NH



## Community Contact

**Columbia Board of Selectmen**  
**Marcia Parkhurst, Secretary**  
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**Colebrook, NH 03576**

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 Fax  
 E-mail  
 Web Site

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**www.columbianh.org**

## Municipal Office Hours

**Selectmen's Assistant/Town Clerk: Monday to Thursday, 10-4;**  
**Tax Collector: second and fourth Saturday each month, 10-12**

County  
 Labor Market Area  
 Tourism Region  
 Planning Commission  
 Regional Development

**Coös**  
**Colebrook, NH-VT LMA, NH part**  
**Great North Woods**  
**North Country Council**  
**Coös Economic Development Corp.**

## Election Districts

US Congress  
 Executive Council  
 State Senate  
 State Representative

**District 2**  
**District 1**  
**District 1**  
**Coös County District 3**

**Incorporated: 1797**

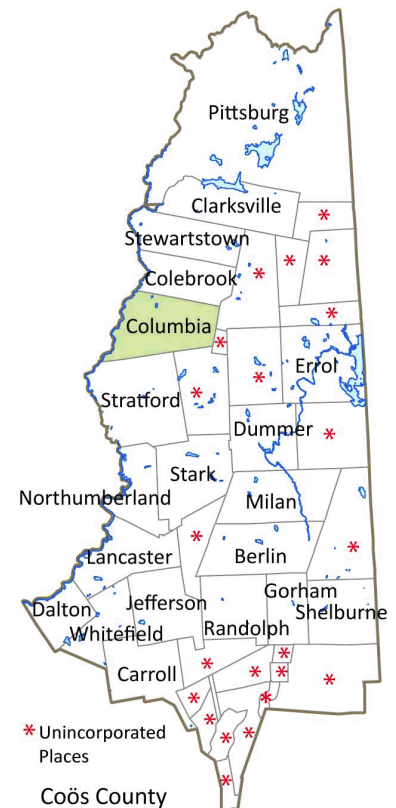
**Origin:** Columbia was first chartered in 1762, and named Preston for Richard Graham, Viscount Preston of Scotland. The original grantees were a members of the Society of Friends from Long Island, known as Quakers. The town was regranted in 1770 due to grantees failing to meet the prescribed terms, and renamed Cockburntown, after Sir James Cockburn of Scotland, and was so incorporated in 1797. The town kept that name until 1811, when Governor John Langdon renamed the town Columbia in the spirit of patriotism preceding the War of 1812.

**Villages and Place Names:** Bungy, Cones, Georges, Meriden Hill, Tinkerville

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 34 residents in 1790

**Population Trends:** Population change for Columbia totaled 177 over 50 years, from 467 in 1970 to 644 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 44 percent increase from 1970 to 1980. The town's population decreased by 15 percent from 2010 to 2020, the third largest percent decline among the cities and towns. The 2022 Census estimate for Columbia was 660 residents, which ranked 211th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau):** 10.8 persons per square mile of land area. Columbia contains 61.2 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	<b>\$626,500</b>
Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021	<b>\$1,465,459</b>
Zoning Ordinance	<b>1971/10</b>
Master Plan	<b>2007</b>
Capital Improvement Plan	<b>No</b>
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	<b>Planning Board</b>

Boards and Commissions  
 Elected: **Selectmen; Planning; School**  
 Appointed: **Conservation**

Public Library **No Library**

<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>			
Police Department			<b>No</b>
Fire Department			<b>No</b>
Emergency Medical Service			<b>Volunteer</b>
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds	
<b>Upper Connecticut Valley, Colebrook</b>	<b>5 miles</b>	<b>16</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			
Curbside Trash Pickup			<b>Private</b>
Pay-As-You-Throw Program			<b>No</b>
Recycling Program			<b>Voluntary</b>
Telephone Company	<b>Consolidated Communications</b>		
Cellular Telephone Access			<b>Limited</b>
Cable Television Access			<b>Limited</b>
Public Access Television Station			<b>No</b>
High Speed Internet Service:	Business		<b>Limited</b>
	Residential		<b>Limited</b>

<b>PROPERTY TAXES</b>		<i>(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)</i>	
2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		<b>\$15.30</b>	
2022 Equalization Ratio		<b>56.0</b>	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		<b>\$ 8.40</b>	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		<b>66.6%</b>	
Commercial Land and Buildings		<b>3.8%</b>	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		<b>29.6%</b>	

<b>HOUSING</b>		<i>(ACS 2017-2021)</i>	
Total Housing Units		<b>476</b>	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		<b>394</b>	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		<b>2</b>	
Five or More Units in Structure		<b>0</b>	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		<b>80</b>	

<b>POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)</b>		<i>(US Census Bureau)</i>	
Total Population	Community	County	
2022	<b>660</b>	<b>31,504</b>	
2020	<b>659</b>	<b>31,268</b>	
2010	<b>757</b>	<b>33,055</b>	
2000	<b>752</b>	<b>33,156</b>	
1990	<b>656</b>	<b>34,879</b>	
1980	<b>673</b>	<b>35,014</b>	

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>				<i>AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021</i>	
Population by Gender					
Male	<b>377</b>	Female		<b>258</b>	
Population by Age Group					
Under age 5				<b>2</b>	
Age 5 to 19				<b>120</b>	
Age 20 to 34				<b>90</b>	
Age 35 to 54				<b>154</b>	
Age 55 to 64				<b>130</b>	
Age 65 and over				<b>139</b>	
Median Age				<b>47.8 years</b>	
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over: <b>462</b>					
High school graduate or higher				<b>85.5%</b>	
Bachelor's degree or higher				<b>14.7%</b>	

<b>INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$</b>		<i>(ACS 2017-2021)</i>	
Per capita income			<b>\$36,558</b>
Median family income			<b>\$63,438</b>
Median household income			<b>\$47,708</b>
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male			<b>\$38,000</b>
Female			<b>\$43,500</b>
Individuals below the poverty level			<b>14.0%</b>

<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			<i>(NHES – ELMII)</i>	
Annual Average	2012	2022		
Civilian labor force	<b>327</b>	<b>318</b>		
Employed	<b>305</b>	<b>306</b>		
Unemployed	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>		
Unemployment rate	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>		

<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; WAGES</b>				<i>(NHES – ELMII)</i>	
Annual Average Covered Employment	2012	2022			
Goods Producing Industries					
Average Employment	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>			
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 938</b>	<b>\$1,772</b>			
Service Providing Industries					
Average Employment	<b>n</b>	<b>22</b>			
Average Weekly Wage	<b>n</b>	<b>\$ 288</b>			
Total Private Industry					
Average Employment	<b>48</b>	<b>72</b>			
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 881</b>	<b>\$1,331</b>			
Government (Federal, State, and Local)					
Average Employment	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>			
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 870</b>	<b>\$1,019</b>			
Total, Private Industry plus Government					
Average Employment	<b>54</b>	<b>78</b>			
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 879</b>	<b>\$1,307</b>			

If "n" appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: **Grades K-12 are tuitioned to Colebrook** District: **SAU 7**  
 Career Technology Center(s): **Berlin Regional Career & Technical Center**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools				
Grade Levels				
Total Enrollment				

Nearest Community College: **White Mountains**  
 Nearest Colleges or Universities: **Plymouth State; Northern VT - Lyndon (VT)**

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

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Columbia Sand & Gravel, Inc.	Aggregate		
Blue Mountain Variety	Convenience store		

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

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

Road Access	US Routes	<b>3</b>
	State Routes	
Nearest Interstate, Exit	<b>I-91 (VT), Exit 28; Aut-55 (QC), Exit 21</b>	
Distance		<b>45 miles; 46 miles</b>
Railroad	<b>State owned line</b>	
Public Transportation		<b>No</b>
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
<b>Gifford Field, Colebrook</b>	Runway	<b>2,440 ft. turf</b>
Lighted?	<b>No</b>	Navigation Aids? <b>No</b>
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
<b>Portland (ME) International</b>	Distance	<b>139 miles</b>
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		<b>8</b>
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		<b>147 miles</b>
Portland, Maine		<b>135 miles</b>
Boston, Mass.		<b>200 miles</b>
New York City, NY		<b>379 miles</b>
Montreal, Quebec		<b>132 miles</b>

**COMMUTING TO WORK** (ACS 2017-2021)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	<b>77.7%</b>
Carpooled, car/truck/van	<b>8.0%</b>
Public transportation	<b>0.0%</b>
Walked	<b>4.0%</b>
Other means	<b>3.7%</b>
Worked at home	<b>6.7%</b>
Mean Travel Time to Work	<b>23.7 minutes</b>
Percent of Working Residents	
Working in community of residence	<b>16.0%</b>
Commuting to another NH community	<b>75.0%</b>
Commuting out-of-state	<b>9.0%</b>

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

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
Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
Youth Sports: Baseball
Youth Sports: Soccer
Youth Sports: Football
Youth Sports: Basketball
Youth Sports: Hockey
Campgrounds
<b>X</b> Fishing/Hunting
Boating/Marinas
<b>X</b> Snowmobile Trails
Bicycle Trails
Cross Country Skiing
Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
Overnight or Day Camps
Nearest Ski Area(s): <b>Bretton Woods, Jay Peak</b>
Other: <b>Camps</b>