

Dorchester, NH



Community Contact

Telephone
Fax
E-mail
Web Site

Municipal Office Hours

County
Labor Market Area
Tourism Region
Planning Commission
Regional Development

Election Districts
US Congress
Executive Council
State Senate
State Representative

Town of Dorchester

Margaret Currier-Lemay, Administrative Assistant
1021 NH Route 118
Dorchester, NH 03266

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townofdorchester@gmail.com
www.townofdorchester.org

Select Board: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 9-11, Wednesday, 3-6, Thursday, 9-1; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Monday, 9-11, Wednesday, 3-6, last Saturday each month, 9-11

Grafton

Lebanon, NH-VT Micropolitan NECTA, NH part
Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Grafton County Economic Development Council

District 2
District 2
District 5
Grafton County Districts 9, 18

Incorporated: 1761

Origin: First chartered in 1761, Dorchester was probably given its name in honor of ancestors of Governor Benning Wentworth, who held the titles Marquis of Dorchester and Earl of Kingston. Due to the inability of grantees to meet prescribed terms of settlement, the territory was granted twice more, once in 1766 and again in 1772, retaining the name Dorchester throughout. The town's first moderator, Captain John Thompson, was a descendant of David Thompson, who was one of the first settlers in the colony, at Rye's Odiorne Point in 1623.

Villages and Place Names: Bucks Corner, Cheever, North Dorchester

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 175 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for Dorchester totaled 198 over 50 years, from 141 in 1970 to 339 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was 73 percent from 1970 to 1980, followed by 61 percent growth from 1980 to 1990. The town's population decreased by five percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Dorchester was 345 residents, which ranked 224th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.



Grafton County

Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau): 7.7 persons per square mile of land area. Dorchester contains 44.6 square miles of land area and 0.6 square miles of inland water area.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Type of Government		Selectmen	
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021		\$531,567	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021		\$791,746	
Zoning Ordinance		2017	
Master Plan		2017	
Capital Improvement Plan		No	
Industrial Plans Reviewed By		Planning Board	
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	Selectmen; Planning; Cemetery		
Appointed:	Zoning; Conservation; Historic District		
Public Library	No Library		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		No	
Fire Department		Canaan, Rumney, Lyme - Volunteer	
Emergency Medical Service		Canaan, Warren, Wentworth - Volunteer	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Speare Memorial, Plymouth		18 miles	25
Alice Peck Day Memorial, Lebanon		23 miles	23
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier		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		None	
Pay-As-You-Throw Program		No	
Recycling Program		Mandatory	
Telephone Company		Consolidated Communications	
Cellular Telephone Access		Limited	
Cable Television Access		Limited	
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)		\$23.13	
2022 Equalization Ratio		67.0	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$15.48	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		94.6%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		.3%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		5.1%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Total Housing Units		276	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		229	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		0	
Five or More Units in Structure		3	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		44	

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2022		345	91,126
2020		339	91,118
2010		355	89,118
2000		353	81,826
1990		392	74,998
1980		244	65,806
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021	
Population by Gender			
Male	238	Female	222
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			9
Age 5 to 19			34
Age 20 to 34			33
Age 35 to 54			123
Age 55 to 64			77
Age 65 and over			184
Median Age			57.2 years
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:		406	
High school graduate or higher			89.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher			30.3%
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Per capita income			\$34,725
Median family income			\$71,667
Median household income			\$45,625
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male			\$64,250
Female			\$81,250
Individuals below the poverty level			18.0%
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average		2012	2022
Civilian labor force		200	195
Employed		190	190
Unemployed		10	5
Unemployment rate		5.0%	2.6%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment		2012	2022
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment		n	n
Average Weekly Wage		n	n
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment		n	n
Average Weekly Wage		n	n
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment		n	7
Average Weekly Wage		n	\$1,172
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment		9	6
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 233	\$ 453
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment		n	13
Average Weekly Wage		n	\$ 827
If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.			

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARESchools students attend: **Grades K-12 are part of Mascoma Valley Regional (Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Orange)** District: **SAU 62**Career Technology Center(s): **Hartford Area Career & Technology Center (VT)**

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

Nearest Community College: **Lakes Region; River Valley**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **Plymouth State; Dartmouth**

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

Total Facilities:

Total Capacity:

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Town of Dorchester	Municipal services	4	1772

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

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

Road Access	US Routes	
	State Routes	118
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-93, Exit 26
	Distance	19 miles
Railroad		No
Public Transportation		No
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
Newfound Valley, Bristol	Runway	1,900 ft. asphalt
Lighted? No	Navigation Aids?	No
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
Lebanon Municipal	Distance	27 miles
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		1
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		74 miles
Portland, Maine		106 miles
Boston, Mass.		124 miles
New York City, NY		293 miles
Montreal, Quebec		205 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK (*ACS 2017-2021*)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	67.6%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	20.6%
Public transportation	1.2%
Walked	1.2%
Other means	1.2%
Worked at home	8.2%
Mean Travel Time to Work	42.5 minutes
Percent of Working Residents	
Working in community of residence	12.4%
Commuting to another NH community	77.6%
Commuting out-of-state	10.0%

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
X	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
X	Fishing/Hunting
	Boating/Marinas
X	Snowmobile Trails
X	Bicycle Trails
X	Cross Country Skiing
	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
	Overnight or Day Camps
	Nearest Ski Area(s): Tenney Mtn
	Other: Dorchester "Going Places" Mountain Bike-a-Thon; D'Acre