Dover, NH

Community Contact
Susan Mistretta, City Clerk/Tax Collector
288 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820-4169

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(603) 516-6012
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Web Site
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Municipal Office Hours
Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Friday, 8:30 am - 4 pm

County
Strafford
Labor Market Area
Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA
Tourism Region
Seacoast
Planning Commission
Strafford Regional
Regional Development
Southeast Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts
US Congress
District 1 (All Wards)
District 2 (All Wards)
District 4 (All Wards)

Executive Council
District 1 (All Wards)
District 2 (All Wards)
District 4 (All Wards)

State Senate
Strafford County Districts 13, 19 (Ward 1) 14, 19 (Ward 2) 15, 20 (Ward 3) 16, 20 (Ward 4) 17, 21 (Wards 5 & 6)

State Representative

Incorporated: 1623

Origin: For the first fifty years of New Hampshire history, Dover was one of only three communities established in what is now New Hampshire. Settled in 1623 on the banks of the Piscataqua River, Dover was first called Hilton’s Point, named after Edward Hilton, who procured for himself the “Dover and Squamscot Patent” in 1629. The town was also known by the Indian names of Newichwannock (place of wigwams) and Cochecho; and briefly called Bristol and Northam before permanently becoming Dover. The settlement was an independent government until 1641, when residents agreed to be annexed to Massachusetts; the town returned to New Hampshire when provincial status was restored by King George II in 1741. Dover’s location on the Piscataqua and Cochecho Rivers made it a thriving center of trading and manufacturing. Dover was incorporated as a city in 1855.

Villages and Place Names: Bellamy, Cochecho, Gates Corner, Sawyers, Wentworth Terrace

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 1,998 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for Dover totaled 11,341 over 49 years, from 20,850 in 1970 to 32,191 in 2019. The largest decennial percent change was a 14 percent increase between 1980 and 1990, and the population has grown less than 15 percent each decade since. The 2019 Census estimate for Dover was 32,191 residents, which ranked fifth among New Hampshire’s incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2019 (US Census Bureau): 1,203.9 persons per square mile of land area, the sixth highest among the cities and towns. Dover contains 26.7 square miles of land area and 2.3 square miles of inland water area.
### Municipal Services
- **Type of Government**: Manager & Council
- **Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2020**: $41,371,778
- **Budget: School Appropriations, 2019-2020**: $58,177,215
- **Zoning Ordinance**: 1948/18
- **Master Plan**: 2018
- **Capital Improvement Plan**: Yes
- **Industrial Plans Reviewed By**: Planning Board
- **Boards and Commissions**
  - **Elected**: City Council
  - **Appointed**: Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Library; Cemetery; Recreation; Ethics; Open Lands; Arts; Transportation; Pool

### Emergency Services
- **Police Department**: Full-time
- **Fire Department**: Full-time
- **Emergency Medical Service**: Municipal
- **Nearest Hospital(s)**: Wentworth-Douglass, Dover
  - Distance: Local
  - **Staffed Beds**

### Utilities
- **Electric Supplier**: Eversource Energy
- **Natural Gas Supplier**: Unitil
- **Water Supplier**: City of Dover
- **Sanitation**: Municipal
- **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant**: Yes
- **Solid Waste Disposal**: Yes
- **Curbside Trash Pickup**: Municipal
- **Pay-As-You-Throw Program**: Yes
- **Recycling Program**: Voluntary
- **Telephone Company**: Fairpoint
  - **Cellular Telephone Access**: Yes
  - **Cable Television Access**: Yes
  - **Public Access Television Station**: Yes
  - **High Speed Internet Service**: Business
    - **Residential**: Yes

### Property Taxes
- 2019 Total Tax Rate (per $1000 of value): $25.19
- 2019 Equalization Ratio: 93.5
- 2019 Full Value Tax Rate (per $1000 of value): $22.97
- 2019 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type
  - Residential Land and Buildings: 74.0%
  - Commercial Land and Buildings: 24.0%
  - Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other: 2.0%

### Housing
- **Total Housing Units**: 14,226
- **Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached**: 7,162
- **Units in Multiple-Family Structures**:
  - Two to Four Units in Structure: 2,929
  - Five or More Units in Structure: 3,708
  - Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units: 427

### Populations
- **Total Population**: 32,191
- **Community**: 130,633
- **County**: 123,143
- **Under age 5**: 2,033
- **Age 5 to 19**: 4,250
- **Age 20 to 34**: 9,025
- **Age 35 to 54**: 7,563
- **Age 55 to 64**: 3,650
- **Age 65 and over**: 5,056
- **Median Age**: 36.1 years
- **High school graduate or higher**: 93.9%
- **Bachelor’s degree or higher**: 46.5%
- **Per capita income**: $41,533
- **Median household income**: $95,141
- **Median family income**: $71,631
- **Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers**
  - Male: $63,588
  - Female: $44,188
- **Individuals below the poverty level**: 9.9%
- **Annual Average Covered Employment**
  - Goods Producing Industries
    - Average Employment: 1,319
    - Average Weekly Wage: $888
  - Service Providing Industries
    - Average Employment: 13,141
    - Average Weekly Wage: $953
  - Total Private Industry
    - Average Employment: 14,460
    - Average Weekly Wage: $947
  - Government (Federal, State, and Local)
    - Average Employment: 1,811
    - Average Weekly Wage: $767
- **Average Weekly Wage**: $927
- **Average Weekly Wage**: $1,183
**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: Dover operates grades K-12  
Career Technology Center(s): Dover Career Technical Center; R.W. Creteau Regional Technology Ctr.; Somersworth Career Technical Center  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Middle/Junior High</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Private/Parochial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Levels</td>
<td>P K 1-8</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>P K 1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>1,459</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearest Community College: Great Bay; NHTI-Concord  
Nearest Colleges or Universities: University of NH; Southern NH University

2020 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)  
Total Facilities: 23  Total Capacity: 1,274

**LARGEST BUSINESSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product/Service</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wentworth-Douglas Hospital</td>
<td>2,144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Mutual</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Dover</td>
<td>820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Financial Group</td>
<td>729</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strafford County</td>
<td>559</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dover Schools/Sau 11</td>
<td>558</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partners</td>
<td>361</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured Progress</td>
<td>296</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RELOCATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

X Municipal Parks  
X YMCA/YWCA  
X Boys Club/Girls Club  
X Golf Courses  
X Swimming: Indoor Facility  
X Swimming: Outdoor Facility  
X Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility  
X Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility  
X Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility  
X Bowling Facilities  
X Museums  
X Cinemas  
X Performing Arts Facilities  
X Tourist Attractions  
X Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)  
X Youth Sports: Baseball  
X Youth Sports: Soccer  
X Youth Sports: Football  
X Youth Sports: Basketball  
X Youth Sports: Hockey  
X Campgrounds  
X Fishing/Hunting  
X 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): Gunstock  
Other: Woodman Institute; Bellamy River Sanctuary

**TRANSPORTATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Access</th>
<th>US Routes</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Routes</td>
<td>4, 9, 16, 16A, 16B, 108, 155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest Interstate, Exit</td>
<td>Spaulding Tpk., Exits 6-9; I-95, Exit 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>Local access; 10 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td>Amtrak Downeaster; Guilford Rail Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>COAST; Wildcat Transit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation</td>
<td>Skyhaven, Rochester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runway</td>
<td>4,200 ft. asphalt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation Aids?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service</td>
<td>Manchester-Boston Regional</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>43 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving distance to select cities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester, NH</td>
<td>39 miles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>50 miles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston, Mass.</td>
<td>65 miles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City, NY</td>
<td>272 miles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Montreal, Quebec</td>
<td>285 miles</td>
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</tbody>
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**COMMUTING TO WORK**

Workers 16 years and over  
Drove alone, car/truck/van 82.3%  
Carpooled, car/truck/van 7.2%  
Public transportation 1.5%  
Walked 2.5%  
Other means 6.0%  
Worked at home 11.4%  
Mean Travel Time to Work 24.2 minutes

**Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2015-2019**

Working in community of residence 35.6  
Commuting to another NH community 53.0  
Commuting out-of-state 11.4