

Portsmouth, NH



Community Contact

Portsmouth Economic Development Commission
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Municipal Office Hours

Monday, 8 am - 6 pm, Tuesday through Thursday,
8 am - 4:30 pm, Friday, 8 am - 1 pm

County
 Labor Market Area
 Tourism Region
 Planning Commission
 Regional Development

Rockingham
Portsmouth, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA
Seacoast
Rockingham
Coastal Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts

US Congress
 Executive Council
 State Senate
 State Representative

District 1 (All Wards)
District 3 (All Wards)
District 21 (All Wards)
Rockingham County Districts 25, 30 (Ward 1) 26, 30 (Ward 2)
27, 31 (Ward 3) 28, 30 (Ward 4) 29,30 (Ward 5)

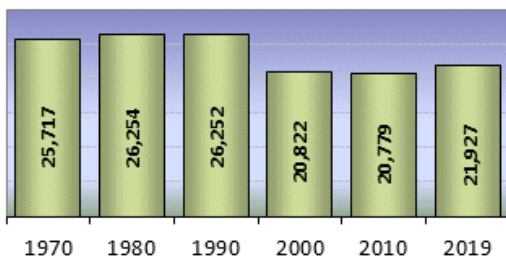
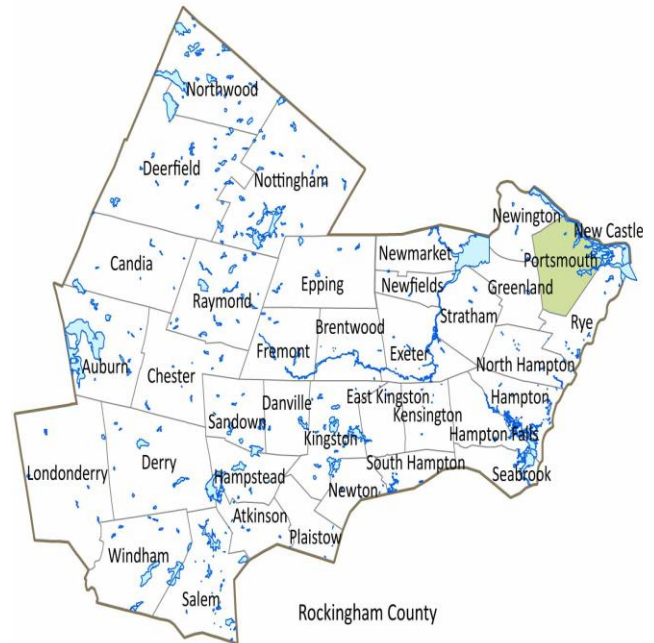
Incorporated: 1631

Origin: This territory was a part of the original land grant to John Mason and Francisco Gorges in 1622. A township grant was issued by the council of Plymouth (MA) in 1631 which covered what is now Portsmouth and the harbor, Greenland, Rye, New Castle, and Newington. First called Piscataqua, the settlement became known as Strawberry Banke because of the wild strawberries that were found there. The name Portsmouth was adopted in 1653 to honor John Mason, Captain of the Port in Portsmouth, England, and because it was a good harbor situated at the river's mouth. Already an important center of trade and shipping, Portsmouth became capitol of the province of New Hampshire in 1679, and was incorporated as a city in 1849.

Villages and Place Names: Atlantic Heights, Christian Shore, Creek Area, Elwyn Park, Meadowbrook, Pannaway Manor, Portsmouth Plains, Haymarket Square, Sagamore Hill, Strawberry Banke, the Woodlands

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 4,720 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change decreased for Portsmouth by 3,790 over 49 years, from 25,717 in 1970 down to 21,927 in 2019. The largest



decennial percent change was a 2 percent increase between 1970 and 1980; population declined by 21 percent between 1990 and 2000. The 2019 Census estimate for Portsmouth was 21,927 residents, which ranked 13th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2019 (US Census Bureau): 1,398.4 persons per square mile of land area, the third highest among the cities and towns. Portsmouth contains 15.7 square miles of land area and 1.1 square miles of inland water area.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES	
Type of Government	City Manager & Council
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2019	\$64,922,957
Budget: School Appropriations, 2018-2019	\$48,036,136
Zoning Ordinance	1927/05
Master Plan	Update in Progress
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	Planning Department
Boards and Commissions	
Elected:	City Council; School; Police; Fire
Appointed:	Please visit http://cityofportsmouth.com, for a list of boards & committees to which citizens may be appointed.
Public Library	Portsmouth Athenaeum; Portsmouth Public
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Police Department	Full-time
Fire Department	Municipal
Emergency Medical Service	Full & part-time
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance Staffed Beds
Portsmouth Regional, Portsmouth	Local 209
UTILITIES	
Electric Supplier	Eversource Energy
Natural Gas Supplier	Unitil
Water Supplier	Portsmouth Water Department
Sanitation	Municipal
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	Yes
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	Municipal
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	No
Recycling Program	Mandatory
Telephone Company	Fairpoint
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes
Cable Television Access	Yes
Public Access Television Station	Yes
High Speed Internet Service:	Yes
Business	Yes
Residential	Yes
PROPERTY TAXES (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2019 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$14.86
2019 Equalization Ratio	91.9
2019 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$13.43
2019 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	57.7%
Commercial Land and Buildings	39.5%
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	2.8%
HOUSING (ACS 2015-2019)	
Total Housing Units	10,615
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	5,044
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:	
Two to Four Units in Structure	2,159
Five or More Units in Structure	3,118
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units	294

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		<i>(US Census Bureau)</i>	
Total Population	Community	County	
2019	21,927	309,769	
2010	20,779	295,223	
2000	20,822	278,748	
1990	26,252	246,744	
1980	26,254	190,345	
1970	25,717	138,951	
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2015-2019	
Population by Gender			
Male	10,706	Female	11,069
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5	809		
Age 5 to 19	2,918		
Age 20 to 34	5,780		
Age 35 to 54	5,639		
Age 55 to 64	2,850		
Age 65 and over	3,779		
Median Age	39.8 years		
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over			
High school graduate or higher	95.8%		
Bachelor's degree or higher	58.6%		
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		<i>(ACS 2015-2019)</i>	
Per capita income	\$53,344		
Median family income	\$116,200		
Median household income	\$83,923		
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male	\$68,856		
Female	\$57,988		
Individuals below the poverty level	6.7%		
LABOR FORCE		<i>(NHES – ELMI)</i>	
Annual Average	2009	2019	
Civilian labor force	13,370	14,163	
Employed	12,672	13,876	
Unemployed	698	287	
Unemployment rate	5.2%	2.0%	
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		<i>(NHES – ELMI)</i>	
Annual Average Covered Employment	2009	2019	
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment	2,531	2,951	
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,160	\$1,662	
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment	22,677	28,802	
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,002	\$1,368	
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment	25,208	31,754	
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,018	\$1,396	
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment	1,920	1,991	
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 936	\$1,088	
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment	27,128	33,745	
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,012	\$1,378	

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: **Portsmouth operates grades K-12** District: **SAU 52**
 Career Technology Center(s): **Portsmouth Career Technical Center #19** Region: **19**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	4	1	1	1
Grade Levels	P K 1-5	6-8	9-12	P K 1-8
Total Enrollment	1,013	531	1,128	169

Nearest Community College: **Great Bay**
 Nearest Colleges or Universities: **University of NH**

2020 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing) Total Facilities: **18** Total Capacity: **1,274**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Portsmouth Consular Center, US Dept of State	Passport, visa services	1,601	
HCA Portsmouth Regional Hospital	Health care services	1,000	1987
Liberty Mutual Insurance	Insurance services	1,000	1969
Lonza Biologies	Biopharma	950	
City of Portsmouth	Municipal services	712	
Bottomline Technologies	Finance software	450	
Amadeus	Hospitality/Event software	420	
John Hancock	Financial services	400	
High Liner Foods	Seafood production	394	
Service Credit Union	Banking services	317	

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)

Road Access	US Routes	1, 4
	State Routes	1A, 1B, 16, 33, 1 Bypass
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-95, Exits 3 - 7
	Distance	Local access
Railroad		Guilford Rail Service
Public Transportation		COAST; Wildcat Transit
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
Pease International	Runway	11,321 ft.
asphalt/concrete		
Lighted?	Yes	Navigation Aids? Yes
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
Manchester-Boston Regional	Distance	48 miles
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		4
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		46 miles
Portland, Maine		52 miles
Boston, Mass.		57 miles
New York City, NY		268 miles
Montreal, Quebec		302 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK (ACS 2015-2019)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	74.4%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	6.8%
Public transportation	1.3%
Walked	6.8%
Other means	10.2%
Worked at home	13.2%
Mean Travel Time to Work	22.8 minutes
Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2015-2019	
Working in community of residence	50.9
Commuting to another NH community	35.9
Commuting out-of-state	13.2

RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

X	Municipal Parks
X	YMCA/YWCA
	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
	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
	Campgrounds
X	Fishing/Hunting
X	Boating/Marinas
	Snowmobile Trails
X	Bicycle Trails
X	Cross Country Skiing
X	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
X	Overnight or Day Camps
	Nearest Ski Area(s): Gunstock
	Other: Outdoor Ice Skating Rink; Strawberry Banke; Harbor & Isles of Shoals Cruises; Historic Homes; Fish Pier; Trolley; Sailing; Kayaking; Music Festival; Shopping; History Tours; Market Square Day; First Night; Seafood, Chili, and NH Film Festivals