Rochester, NH

Community Contact
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Municipal Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

County
Strafford

Labor Market Area
Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA

Tourism Region
Lakes

Planning Commission
Strafford Regional

Regional Development
Southeast Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts
District 1 (All Wards)
District 2 (All Wards)
District 6 (All Wards)
Strafford County Districts 7, 22 (Ward 1) 9, 23 (Ward 2) 10, 23 (Ward 3) 11, 24 (Ward 4) 12, 24 (Ward 5) 8, 22 (Ward 6)

Incorporated: 1722

Origin: This town was one of four granted by Samuel Shute during his brief term as Governor of Massachusetts, which at the time included the New Hampshire province. The 1722 grant included what is now Farmington and Milton, and was named for a close friend of Governor Shute, Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester, who was a brother-in-law to King James II. The first settlers arrived in 1728, but due to trouble with Indians, the settlement didn’t experience any growth until about 1760. Rochester was incorporated as a city in 1891. It includes the village of Gonic, named for the Indian Squamanagona, meaning day and water.

Villages and Place Names: East Rochester, Gonic

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 2,857 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for Rochester, the ninth largest numeric increase among the cities and towns, totaled 13,588 over 49 years, from 17,938 in 1970 to 31,526 in 2019. The largest decennial percent change was a 24 percent increase between 1980 and 1990. The 2019 Census estimate for Rochester was 31,526 residents, which ranked sixth among New Hampshire’s incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2019 (US Census Bureau): 703.2 persons per square mile of land area. Rochester contains 44.8 square miles of land area and 0.6 square miles of inland water area.
### Municipal Services

- **Type of Government**: Council/Manager
- **Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021**: $48,868,269
- **Budget: School Appropriations, 2020-2021**: $72,195,431
- **Zoning Ordinance**: 1984/07
- **Master Plan**: 2001
- **Capital Improvement Plan**: Yes
- **Industrial Plans Reviewed By**: Planning Board

### Boards and Commissions

- **Elected**: City Council; Police; School
- **Appointed**: Planning; Zoning; Library; Conservation; Economic Development; Industrial Development; Arena; Historic; Utility; Arts & Culture

### Emergency Services

- **Nearest Hospital(s)**: Frisbie Memorial, Rochester

### Utilities

- **Electric Supplier**: PSNH
- **Natural Gas Supplier**: Unitil
- **Water Supplier**: Municipal
- **Sanitation**: Municipal
- **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant**: Yes
- **Solid Waste Disposal**: Municipal
- **Curbside Trash Pickup**: Yes
- **Pay-As-You-Throw Program**: No
- **Recycling Program**: Voluntary
- **Telephone Company**: Consolidated Communications
- **Cellular Telephone Access**: Yes
- **Cable Television Access**: Yes
- **Public Access Television Station**: Yes
- **High Speed Internet Service**: Business, Residential

### Property Taxes

- **2019 Total Tax Rate (per $1000 of value)**: $24.90
- **2019 Equalization Ratio**: 99.0
- **2019 Full Value Tax Rate (per $1000 of value)**: $23.54

### Housing

- **Total Housing Units**: 13,522
- **Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached**: 7,212
- **Housing in Multiple-Family Structures**: Two to Four Units in Structure: 2,041, Five or More Units in Structure: 2,019, Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units: 2,250

### Demographics

#### American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019

- **Population by Gender**
  - Male: 15,423
  - Female: 15,532
- **Population by Age Group**
  - Under age 5: 5,587
  - Age 5 to 19: 6,036
  - Age 20 to 34: 8,168
  - Age 35 to 54: 4,352
  - Age 55 to 64: 5,569
  - Age 65 and over: 41.8 years
- **Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over**
  - High school graduate or higher: 89.4%
  - Bachelor’s degree or higher: 21.7%
- **Income, Inflation Adjusted $**
  - Per capita income: $32,024
  - Median family income: $74,767
  - Median household income: $62,179
  - Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers
    - Male: $48,635
    - Female: $43,308
- **Individuals below the poverty level**: 10.4%

### Labor Force

#### NHES – ELM7

- **Annual Average**
  - 2009: 17,201
  - 2019: 17,992
- **Civilian labor force**
  - 2009: 15,945
  - 2019: 15,759
- **Unemployed**
  - 2009: 1,256
  - 2019: 433
- **Unemployment rate**
  - 2009: 7.3%
  - 2019: 2.4%

### Employment & Wages

#### NHES – ELM7

- **Annual Average Covered Employment**
  - 2009: 9,784
  - 2019: 11,067
- **Goods Producing Industries**
  - Average Employment: 1,613
  - Average Weekly Wage: $907
- **Service Providing Industries**
  - Average Employment: 8,171
  - Average Weekly Wage: $636
- **Total Private Industry**
  - Average Employment: 9,784
  - Average Weekly Wage: $680
- **Government (Federal, State, and Local)**
  - Average Employment: 1,417
  - Average Weekly Wage: $725
- **Total, Private Industry plus Government**
  - Average Employment: 11,201
  - Average Weekly Wage: $686

### Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau, NH Employment Security, January 2021. Community Response Received 8/04/2020
**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: *Rochester operates grades K-12*

Career Technology Center(s): *R.W. Creteau Regional Technology Ctr (Rochester)*

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

| Working in community of residence | 31.8 |
| Commuting to another NH community | 57.1 |
| Commuting out-of-state | 11.1 |

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

| Road Access | US Routes | 202 |
| State Routes | 11, 16, 108, 125, 202A |

| Nearest Interstate, Exit | Spaulding Tpk., Exits 12-16; I-95, Exit 5 |
| Distance | Local access; 21 miles |

| Railroad | NH Northcoast |
| Public Transportation | COAST |

| Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation (Runway Lighted? Navigation Aids?) | Skyhaven, Rochester | 4,200 ft. asphalt | Yes | Yes |

| Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service | Manchester-Boston Regional | Distance | 46 miles |
| Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport | 4 |

| Driving distance to select cities: | Manchester, NH | 43 miles |
| Portland, Maine | 53 miles |
| Boston, Mass. | 75 miles |
| New York City, NY | 285 miles |
| Montreal, Quebec | 271 miles |

**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
- Fishing/Hunting
- Boating/Marinas
- Snowmobile Trails
- Bicycle Trails
- Cross Country Skiing
- Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
- Overnight or Day Camps
- Nearest Ski Area(s): Gunstock
- Other: Rochester Opera House; Skyhaven Airport; Rochester Farmer's Market; History Museum; Oktoberfest; Public Art Downtown; Concerts on the Common; Comic Book Day; Wings & Wheels; Historic Homes & Inns; Rochester Museum of Art (RMFA); Roger Allen Park; Walking Trails; Rochester Performing Arts Center; Trick or Treat/Zombie Walk; Dinner Theater Events; River Walk; Kayaking

**Commuting to Work (ACS 2015-2019)**

| Workers 16 years and over | 80.1% |
| Carpoled, car/truck/van | 10.5% |
| Public transportation | 1.9% |
| Walked | 1.1% |
| Other means | 6.1% |
| Worked at home | 11.1% |
| Mean Travel Time to Work | 27.2 minutes |

**Total Facilities: 19**

**Total Capacity: 1,099**