

Rochester, NH



Community Contact

Rochester Department of Economic Development
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Municipal Office Hours

City Hall, City Manager, City Clerk: Monday to Friday, 8-5; Tax Collector: Monday to Friday, 8-4:30

County
Labor Market Area
Tourism Region
Planning Commission
Regional Development

Strafford
Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA
Lakes
Strafford Regional
Southeast Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts
US Congress
Executive Council
State Senate
State Representative

District 1 (All Wards)
District 1
District 6 (All Wards)
Strafford County Districts 2 (Ward 5), 5 (Ward 1), 6 (Ward 2), 7 (Ward 3), 8 (Ward 4), 9 (Ward 6), 19 (Wards 1-4, 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, 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 totaled 14,580 over 50 years, from 17,938 in 1970 to 32,518 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 24 percent increase from 1980 to 1990. The city's population increased by nine percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Rochester was 33,169 residents, which ranked sixth among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau): 739.9 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, 2023		\$46,466,946	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2022-2023		\$71,954,485	
Zoning Ordinance		1984/14	
Master Plan		2018	
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		
Public Library	East Rochester Public; Rochester Public		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		Full-time	
Fire Department		Municipal	
Emergency Medical Service		Municipal	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester		Local	27
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier		Eversource Energy	
Natural Gas Supplier		Unitil	
Water Supplier		Municipal	
Sanitation		Municipal	
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant		Yes	
Solid Waste Disposal			
Curbside Trash Pickup		Municipal	
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	Yes	
	Residential	Yes	
PROPERTY TAXES		(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$25.28	
2022 Equalization Ratio		61.7	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$15.12	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		70.2%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		25.4%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		4.4%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Total Housing Units		14,192	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		7,512	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		2,265	
Five or More Units in Structure		2,113	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		2,302	

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2022	33,169		132,275
2020	32,492		130,889
2010	29,752		123,143
2000	28,563		112,676
1990	26,722		104,348
1980	21,560		85,408
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021	
Population by Gender			
Male	16,347	Female	15,970
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5		1,389	
Age 5 to 19		6,262	
Age 20 to 34		5,684	
Age 35 to 54		8,342	
Age 55 to 64		5,019	
Age 65 and over		5,621	
Median Age		42.6 years	
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:		22,865	
High school graduate or higher		92.1%	
Bachelor's degree or higher		24.4%	
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Per capita income		\$36,475	
Median family income		\$82,719	
Median household income		\$70,582	
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male		\$53,306	
Female		\$49,408	
Individuals below the poverty level		9.3%	
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average		2012	2022
Civilian labor force		16,840	17,851
Employed		15,863	17,434
Unemployed		977	417
Unemployment rate		5.8%	2.3%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment		2012	2022
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment		1,559	2,349
Average Weekly Wage		\$1,164	\$1,433
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment		7,760	8,227
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 670	\$ 938
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment		9,318	10,576
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 753	\$1,048
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment		1,413	1,276
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 737	\$ 995
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment		10,732	11,852
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 751	\$1,042
If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.			

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: **Rochester operates grades K-12**
 Career Technology Center(s): **R.W. Creteau Regional Technology Ctr (Rochester)**

District: **SAU 54**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	8	1	2	4
Grade Levels	P K 1-5	6-8	9-12	P K 1-12
Total Enrollment	1,667	847	1,359	127

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

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

Total Facilities: **18** Total Capacity: **1,085**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
City of Rochester	Municipal services	387	1891
Frisbie Memorial Hospital	Health care services	1,048	1919
Albany/SAFRAN Engineered Composites	Aerospace engineered products	750	1985
Hannaford Brothers - 2 locations	Supermarket	264	1963
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Retail store, supermarket	300	1970
Market Basket - 2 locations	Supermarket	450	1996
Next Phase Medical (fka Phase 2 Medical)	Medical device manufacturing	220	1995
Laars Technologies	Boilers & water heaters	165	1984
City of Rochester - Schools	Education	821	1751
Sig Sauer	Firearms manufacturer	250	1985

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

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
Skyhaven, Rochester Runway **4,200 ft. asphalt**
 Lighted? **Yes** Navigation Aids? **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**

COMMUTING TO WORK (*ACS 2017-2021*)

Workers 16 years and over
 Drove alone, car/truck/van **77.0%**
 Carpooled, car/truck/van **9.8%**
 Public transportation **1.0%**
 Walked **1.2%**
 Other means **2.4%**
 Worked at home **8.7%**
 Mean Travel Time to Work **26.8 minutes**

Percent of Working Residents
 Working in community of residence **34.1%**
 Commuting to another NH community **55.2%**
 Commuting out-of-state **10.7%**

RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

X Municipal Parks
X YMCA/YWCA
 Boys Club/Girls Club
X Golf Courses
 Swimming: Indoor Facility
X Swimming: Outdoor Facility
 Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
X Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
X Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
 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
X Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
X Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **Gunstock**

Other: **Rochester Opera House; Skyhaven Airport; Rochester Farmer's Market; History Museum; 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; Roch**