

# New Hampshire ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

October 2020

## Migration and Moving in New Hampshire

The U.S. Census Bureau recently completed its effort to count every resident of the United States for the 2020 decennial census. The decennial census determines the level of federal funding given to states and local areas for services such as schools, roads, and hospitals. An accurate population count ensures that funding is distributed equitably. Between decennial censuses, the Census Bureau releases annual population estimates based on survey data, rather than a complete count of the population.

According to the Census Bureau's estimate, New Hampshire's 2019 population was 1,359,711, 3.3 percent

higher than in the 2010 Census. Barring significant population changes in 2020, this decade will have the lowest rate of growth since 1910 - 1920, when New Hampshire's population grew 2.9 percent. New Hampshire's fastest population growth was over a 30-year period between 1960 and 1990, when the state's population increased from 606,921 to 1,109,252, growing by more than 20 percent every ten years.

Two factors drive New Hampshire's population change – natural change (the net change in population as a result of births and deaths) and migration, people moving to and from other U.S. states and territories and other countries. The

natural change in New Hampshire's population was negative in 2017, 2018, and 2019, as the number of deaths slightly exceeded the number of births.

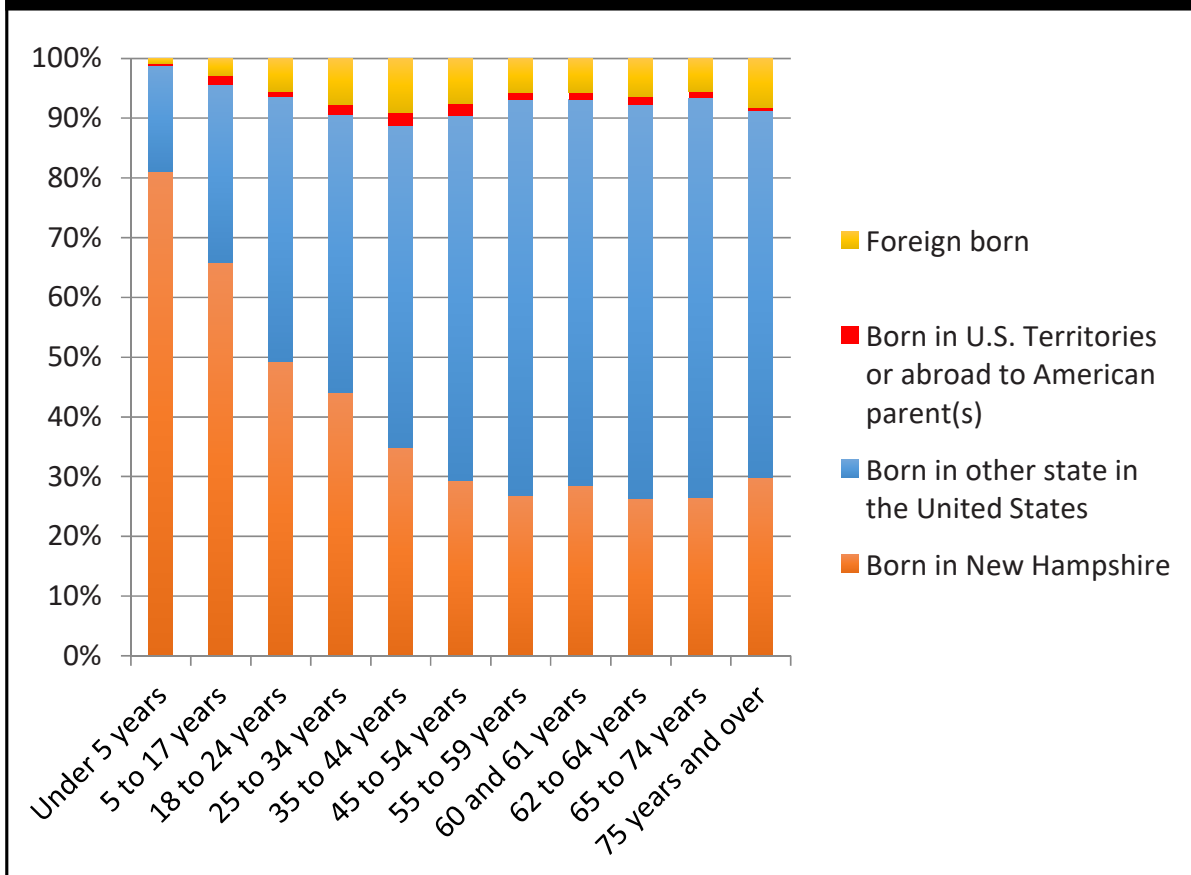
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### Place of Birth for New Hampshire Residents, by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimate, Table B06001

However, due to positive net migration over that time, New Hampshire’s population increased by 17,000 residents. More people moved into New Hampshire from other U.S. states and territories or from other countries than moved out of the state.

**Where New Hampshire Residents Were Born**

As of 2019, about 41 percent of New Hampshire residents were born in New Hampshire. Just over half of residents, 52 percent, were born in other U.S. states. A little more than one percent were born in U.S. territories, or to U.S. parent(s) living abroad, and six percent were born outside of the U.S. (to parents who were not U.S. citizens).

Where residents were born varies by age. Residents under age 18 were most likely to be New Hampshire natives, with 70 percent born in the Granite State. The percentage of residents born in New Hampshire decreases with older age cohorts, although this trend levels off for residents over age 45. Around 28 percent of residents over age 45 were born in New Hampshire; this percentage is relatively unchanged for all age cohorts over age 45.

The percentage of residents under 5 years of age born in other U.S. states was relatively small, 18 percent. This percentage increases among older age cohorts, before leveling off between 60 and 67 percent for residents age 45 and older.

The percentage of foreign-born New Hampshire residents peaks among those between the ages of 25 and 54, and age

75 and over. Roughly eight percent of residents in those age groups were born outside the U.S. The percentage of New Hampshire residents born in U.S. territories or abroad to American parent(s) also peaks among those between the ages of 25 and 54. These age cohorts account for approximately two percent of New Hampshire residents.

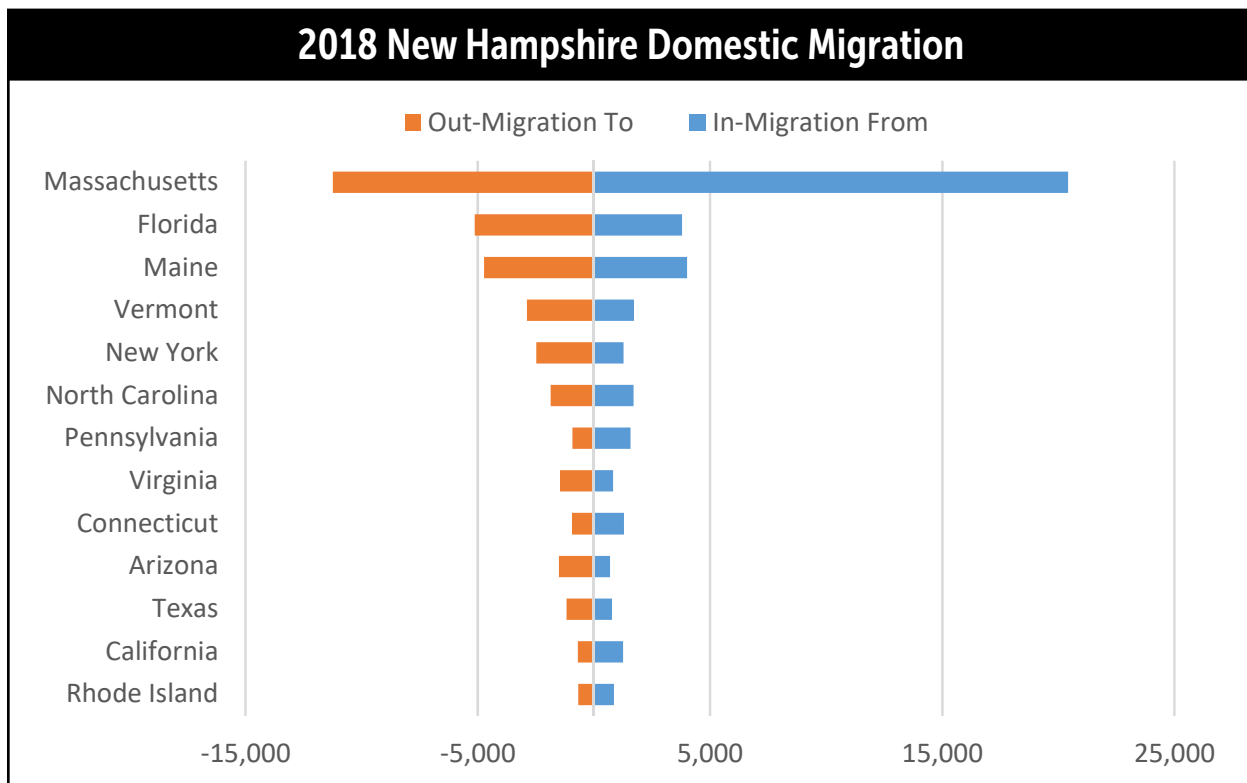
**Where New Hampshire Residents Move to and Move From**

State-to-state migration data from 2018 estimates that 43,600 New Hampshire residents had moved to another U.S. state or territory in the previous year. Nearly half of those individuals moved to another New England state, with Massachusetts, and Maine being the most popular destinations. Outside of New England, Florida and New York were the most popular destinations for former New Hampshire residents, followed by North Carolina, Arizona, and Virginia.

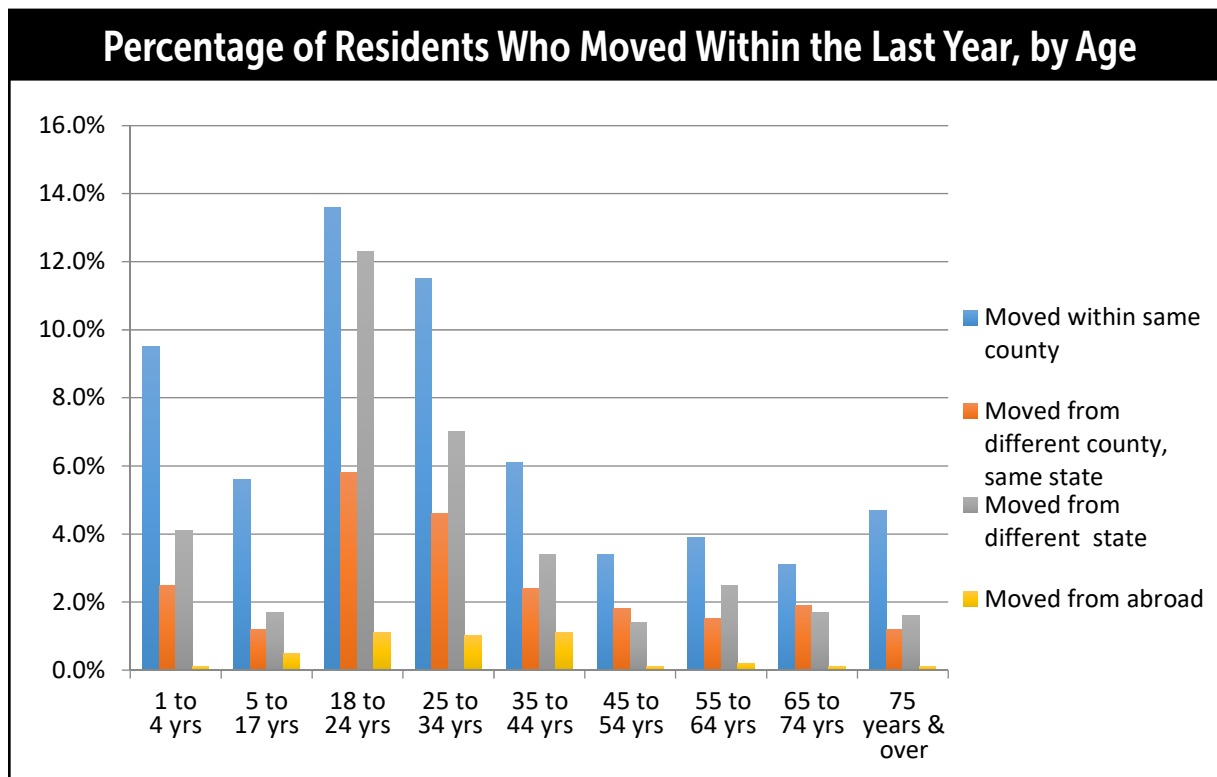
Over the same time period, 48,400 individuals moved to New Hampshire. Slightly more than half, 59 percent, moved from other New England states, primarily Massachusetts. Former residents of Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, and California also moved to New Hampshire in large numbers. An additional 5,000 individuals moved to New Hampshire from foreign countries as well.

**Characteristics of Movers**

In 2019, 13 percent of New Hampshire residents had moved within the previous year. Most New Hampshire



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 State-to-State Migration Flows



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimate, Table S0701

residents who moved, did not move far. More than half of movers, 6.4 percent of all residents, moved within the same county, and 2.4 percent moved from a different county in New Hampshire. Just over four percent of New Hampshire residents moved from a different state or abroad.

A number of factors are associated with New Hampshire residents having moved during the previous year. Age was one of the most significant factors associated with the movement of residents. New Hampshire residents between the ages of 18 and 34 were more likely to have moved within the previous year than residents of any other age group. Compared to the population as a whole, residents age 18 to 34 were roughly twice as likely to have moved during the previous year.

Most individuals under 18 live with their parents, while individuals age 18 to 34 tend to move away from their parent’s home for the first time. They may also move to attend college, to establish a career, to marry, or otherwise establish their own household.

Individuals age 18 to 34 are also less likely to own homes, another factor that impacts the likelihood of an individual moving within the previous year. More than a quarter of renters, 25.8 percent, moved during the previous year, compared to 7.4 percent of homeowners. According to the National Association of Realtors, the median age for first-time homebuyers in the U.S. was 33 in 2019.<sup>1</sup> Residents age 18 to 34 are less likely to own a home than those in older age

cohorts, and are more likely to have moved in the previous year as a result.

Poverty status was another factor associated with residents having moved during the previous year. New Hampshire residents with income below the poverty level were most likely to move, with 25.5 percent moving during the previous year. Residents with an income between 100 and 149 percent of the poverty level were a little less likely to move; 15.7 percent moved during the previous year. Only 10.5 percent of residents with an income 150 percent of the poverty level or greater moved during the previous year.

Poverty status is also strongly related to homeownership. Individuals with lower incomes are less likely to be able to afford a mortgage, or qualify for a mortgage, particularly as home prices in New Hampshire increase, and the supply of available homes remains limited.

Married New Hampshire residents were less likely to have moved within the previous year than non-married residents. Only 8.1 percent of married residents moved within the last year, while 22.6 percent of never married individuals and 13.9 percent of divorced or separated individuals moved within the past year.

Data on educational attainment includes only residents over age 25, as those under age 25 are much less likely to have completed their education. Among residents over age 25,

<sup>1</sup> Reade Pickert, “Young Homebuyers Are Vanishing From the U.S.,” Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-08/young-homebuyers-vanish-from-u-s-as-median-purchasing-age-jumps#:~:text=The%20median%20age%20of%20first,age%20of%2031%20in%201981>.

11.1 percent had moved within the previous year. Individuals with less than a high school diploma were most likely to have moved within the last year, at 14.2 percent. Among residents with all other levels of education, ranging from a high school diploma to a graduate or professional degree, the percentage who moved within the previous year was close the statewide average, between 10.6 and 11.4 percent. Individuals with a graduate or professional degree were most likely to have moved from a previous state within the previous year; 4.4 percent of this group did so.

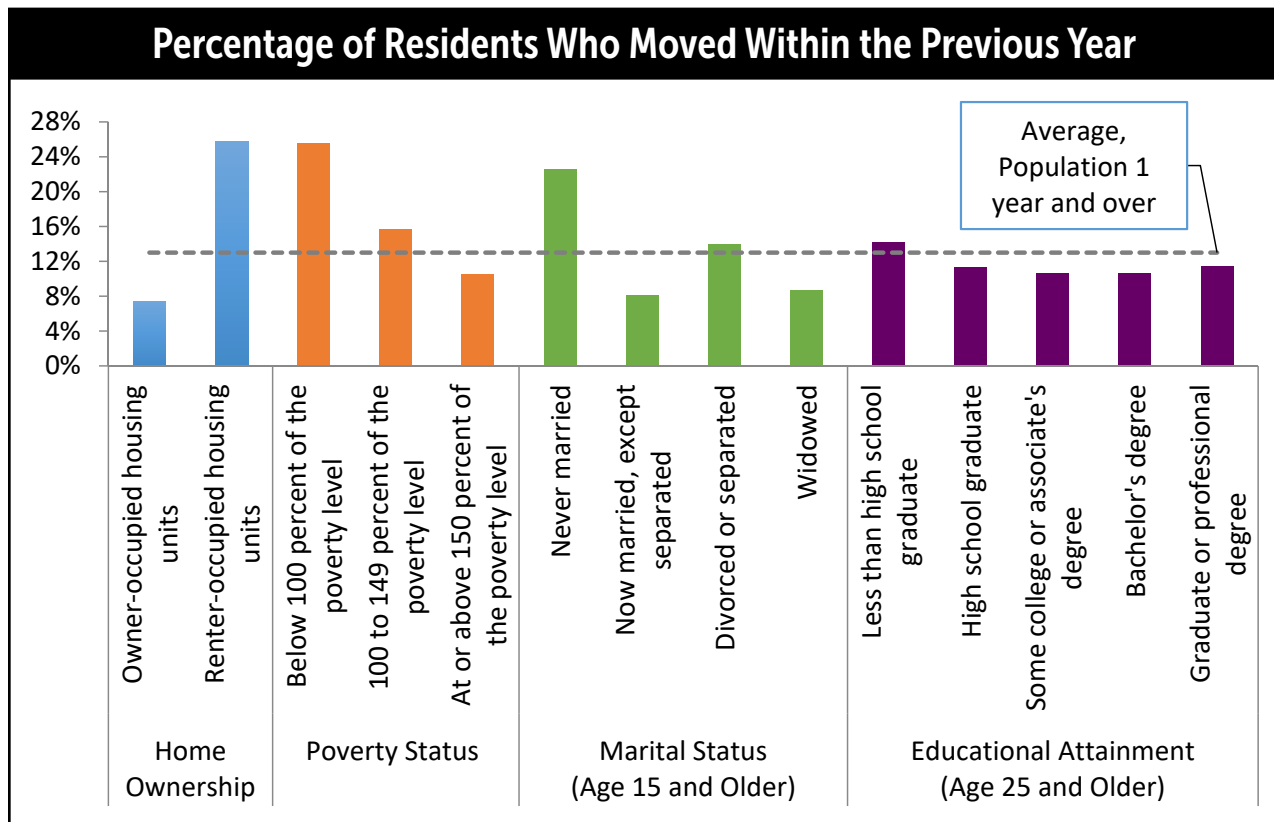
**Migration within New Hampshire**

Since 2010, the populations of Coös, Cheshire, and Sullivan counties have all decreased. Coös County’s population decreased by 1,489 residents, equal to 4.5 percent of the 2010 population. This was the largest population decrease in both number and as a percentage, of any county in New Hampshire. The 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated migration from other counties in New Hampshire increased the population of Coös County by 258 residents.

More New Hampshire residents also moved to Cheshire and Sullivan counties than moved out of these counties. Although it wasn’t enough to reverse overall population decline, migration by New Hampshire residents increased the populations of these counties by 266 and 136 residents, respectively, during the 2014-2018 survey period.

Rockingham County has been one of the fastest-growing counties in New Hampshire, adding nearly 8,600 residents during the 2014-2018 survey period. However, more Rockingham County residents moved to other New Hampshire counties than residents of other New Hampshire counties moved to Rockingham County. Between 2014 and 2018, nearly 8,400 Rockingham County residents moved to a different county in New Hampshire, while only 4,450 New Hampshire residents moved to Rockingham County. Positive in-migration was driven by residents of other states, primarily Massachusetts, relocating to Rockingham County.

- Greg David, Economist



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimate, Table S0701