

**Granite Staters continue to have a higher educational attainment than the nation.**

Over 87 percent of New Hampshire residents age 25 and over had at least a high school diploma, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Census 2000. This was over five percentage points higher than the 1990 Census. For the second consecutive census, the Granite State was seven points higher than the nation in this group.

Why is education so important? Some of the projected fastest growing jobs are among the better-paid jobs, and these also require some form of higher education. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the number of Computer software engineers will double by the year 2010. This is expected to be the fastest growing occupation.

Seven of the top ten projected fastest growing occupations are in the computer field. Six of those require a bachelor's degree, while one requires an associate's degree.

It is becoming more and more apparent that education beyond a high school diploma is necessary in today's world. Employers are more apt to locate their business in an area where many residents have a higher average level of education. They will have a better chance of hiring qualified employees without having to invest in training, saving money and time.

New Hampshire fared better than the nation at both ends of the education spectrum, according to Census 2000. The state had fewer residents age 25 and over with less than a high school diploma, 12.6 percent, compared to the nation having nearly 20 percent.

At the other end, New Hampshire had a larger concentration of residents age 25 and over with a college degree (associate's degree and higher), 37.4 percent, compared to the nation with 30.7 percent. Over 57 percent of New Hampshire residents age 25 and over had some college education or higher compared to the nation's almost 52 percent. Nearly 29 percent of Granite Staters age 25 and over had a bachelor's degree or higher, as of Census 2000, compared to the nation with just over 24 percent.

*Gail Houston*

**Educational Attainment Percent Share of Residents 25 Years Old and Over in 2000\***

	12th Grade & Under, No Diploma	HS Grad, Inc. GED	Some College, No Degree	College Degrees Level Attained			
				Total	Assoc.	Bachelor	Graduate or Profess.
United States	19.6%	28.6%	21.1%	30.7%	6.3%	15.5%	8.9%
New Hampshire	12.6%	30.0%	20.0%	37.4%	8.7%	18.7%	10.0%
Belknap County	14.3%	32.6%	21.5%	31.6%	8.3%	15.7%	7.6%
Carroll County	11.8%	32.2%	20.4%	35.5%	9.1%	17.1%	9.4%
Cheshire County	13.8%	34.4%	18.6%	33.2%	6.6%	17.2%	9.4%
Coos County	23.1%	41.6%	15.3%	20.0%	8.1%	8.1%	3.8%
Grafton County	12.3%	31.0%	16.9%	39.8%	7.1%	18.5%	14.2%
Hillsborough County	13.0%	27.5%	20.3%	39.2%	9.1%	20.0%	10.1%
Merrimack County	11.8%	29.6%	20.6%	38.0%	8.8%	18.8%	10.4%
Rockingham County	9.5%	28.6%	20.7%	41.2%	9.5%	21.1%	10.6%
Strafford County	13.6%	30.5%	20.5%	35.4%	9.0%	16.9%	9.5%
Sullivan County	17.0%	38.5%	18.2%	26.3%	6.6%	12.4%	7.3%

\*Share of population within each area

Source: Bureau of Census (Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000)

**Educational Attainment of Residents 25 Years Old and Over in 2000**

	Total Pop. 25 yrs +	12th Grade And Under, No Diploma	HS Grad, Inc. GED	Some College, No Degree	College Degrees Level Attained			
					Total	Assoc.	Bachelor	Graduate or Profess.
United States	182,211,639	35,715,625	52,168,981	38,351,595	55,975,438	11,512,833	28,317,792	16,144,813
New Hampshire	823,987	103,754	247,723	164,634	307,876	71,772	153,874	82,230
Belknap County	39,260	5,623	12,809	8,425	12,403	3,263	6,161	2,979
Carroll County	31,534	3,722	10,166	6,437	11,209	2,863	5,380	2,966
Cheshire County	48,032	6,627	16,539	8,925	15,941	3,158	8,273	4,510
Coos County	23,490	5,434	9,770	3,596	4,690	1,891	1,897	902
Grafton County	52,795	6,507	16,355	8,932	21,001	3,754	9,736	7,511
Hillsborough County	251,908	32,853	69,169	51,234	98,652	22,849	50,475	25,328
Merrimack County	91,278	10,809	27,044	18,823	34,602	8,029	17,126	9,447
Rockingham County	187,172	17,805	53,593	38,725	77,049	17,788	39,430	19,831
Strafford County	70,319	9,592	21,412	14,412	24,903	6,311	11,903	6,689
Sullivan County	28,199	4,782	10,866	5,125	7,426	1,866	3,493	2,067

Source: Bureau of Census (Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000)