

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



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*Employment*  
**SECURITY**

## Nativity of New Hampshire's Residents

### Over 95 Percent of Granite Staters were Born Citizens of the United States

New Hampshire remains a state with an overwhelming share of native born citizens, although less than half of the population was born in the Granite State. The share of New Hampshire residents who were foreign born remains small, but this number grew faster than total population between Census years 1990 and 2000.

New Hampshire had 1,235,786 residents on April 1, 2000, up 11.4 percent from 1990. Over 95 percent of Granite Staters were born American citizens. The number of residents born in a different state grew at a faster rate, 11.9 percent, than those that were born in New Hampshire, 9.3 percent. The portion of residents that were born outside the United States remains relatively low, 0.9 percent.

Foreign born residents rose from 41,193 in 1990 to 54,154 in 2000, a growth of 31.5 percent. New Hampshire attracted about 2,000 new foreign born residents per year over the Census decade, compared to about 1,000 per year during the previous Census decade. In 2000, over 47 percent of New Hampshire's foreign

born residents were naturalized citizens. The number of residents who were not a citizen increased from 18,317 in 1990 to 28,393 in 2000, a growth of 55 percent.

Over 92 percent of New Hampshire's residents spoke English-only at home, ten percentage points higher than the nation. It may come as no surprise that in New Hampshire, French was the second most frequent language spoken at home, with a 3.1 percent share, while the nation's share was less than one percent. What may be surprising is these numbers are dropping, despite the fact that the state borders the French speaking Canadian Province of Quebec. New Hampshire experienced a decrease of nearly one-third, while the nation saw a dip of over one quarter from 1990 to 2000.

Spanish remains the state's third most frequent language spoken at home, with a 1.4 percent share, while the nation had a share of 10.5 percent, ranking it second in the nation. The Granite State experienced a 63.6 percent growth in the number of residents who speak Spanish at home while the nation gained 54.2 percent. Every state in New England saw increases ranging from 34 percent in Maine to 116 percent in Rhode Island. If Spanish continues to grow at the rate it has both in the state and the nation, New Hampshire businesses will need to consider the impact it will have on the future of their companies in production and marketing.

*Gail Houston*

**Nativity of New Hampshire's residents**

	1990	2000	% Change
Total population	1,109,252	1,235,786	11.4%
Native	1,068,059	1,181,632	10.6%
Born in United States	1,056,953	1,170,140	10.7%
State of residence	488,894	534,558	9.3%
Different state	568,059	635,582	11.9%
Born outside United States	11,106	11,492	3.5%
Foreign born	41,193	54,154	31.5%
Entered between census years	10,159	20,191	98.7%
Naturalized citizen	22,876	25,761	12.6%
Not a citizen	18,317	28,393	55.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

