

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



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Crime In NH 2

Travel To Work 3

Local Area
Unemployment
Statistics 5

Current
Employment
Statistics 6

For Additional
Information 8

New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate in the nation in 2001

More than 81,000 people in New Hampshire were considered poor in 2001, an increase of 27.4 percent over-the-year. This 6.5 percent share of the total population (also known as the poverty rate) was the lowest in the nation. Nationally, roughly 31.1 million people (poverty rate of 11.7 percent) were considered poor in 2001, an over-the-year increase of about 16 percent.

In New England, Maine reported the highest poverty rate, 10.3 percent. Nationally, Mississippi had the largest share of its population in poverty in 2001, 19.3 percent.

If a family's total income is less than the relevant threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. For instance, if you are a family of four, including two children, and made less than \$17,960 in 2001, the US Census Bureau considered you poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and excludes capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, medic-aid, and food stamps).¹

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How does the Census Bureau measure poverty? They use a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor.

¹ Proctor, Bernadette D. and Joseph Dalaker. "Poverty in the United States: 2001." US Census Bureau September 2002: pg. 5



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Employment
SECURITY

New Hampshire's poverty rate was not only the lowest in the region, but also nationwide in 2001

