

# Planning Regions — Looking Ahead to 2022

From the North Country to the Rockingham Region, New Hampshire’s nine Planning Regions are expected to see a wide range of employment gains from 2012 to 2022. Statewide, employment is projected to increase by 10.3 percent over the ten-year period.<sup>1</sup> Growth will range from 14.7 percent in the Rockingham Planning Commission region to 4.8 percent for the North Country Council region.

As a supplement to statewide estimates, projections have been developed for the planning regions. In New Hampshire, counties have political and institutional importance while planning regions represent areas of economic cohesiveness. Planning regions were selected as the primary substate geography as a proxy for smaller geographies such as labor market areas or school districts due to the limitation of projections at such a small scale.

Planning regions in New Hampshire are required by law to “prepare regional master plans, compile housing needs assessments, and review developments of regional impact.”<sup>2</sup> Projections provide valuable information about growing industries and occupations that can assist regional planners with these obligations.

Most of New Hampshire’s population is concentrated in the southeast corner of the state, encompassing the Central, Southern, Nashua, Strafford, and Rockingham regions. Geographic features such as lakes, mountains, and the proximity to Massachusetts have a significant effect on industry and occupational growth and the composition of the labor force in each region.

The graphics accompanying each section on the following pages show the estimated 2012 population (in red) and employment (in blue) for the region.

## New Hampshire Regional Planning Commissions Projected Employment Growth, 2012 - 2022



1. For more information on statewide projections, go to the ELMI, website at [www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi](http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi).
2. Go to [www.nharpc.org](http://www.nharpc.org) for more information on all nine regional planning commissions.

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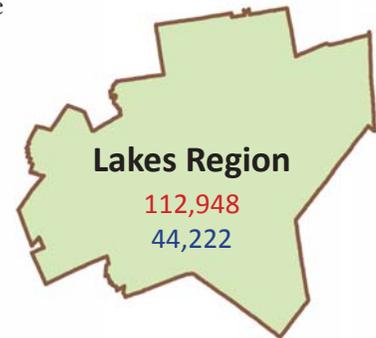
## North Country Council

- The North Country Council region, along with the Southwest Region, is projected to have the lowest employment growth rate among all nine regions at 4.8 percent. This region has a small, dispersed population, which, combined with its geographic isolation, are major reasons for slow projected growth.
- The North Country has the second-largest share of workers employed in the Arts, entertainment, and recreation industry, where more than 1,800 were employed in 2012. Only the Rockingham region, with a much larger population base, has more employed (2,600) in that industry.
- Paper manufacturing is no longer a significant employer in the North Country.
- While no specific occupational group stands out, the outlook is most favorable in Personal care and service occupations (69 annual openings) and Food preparation and serving related occupations (233 annual openings).



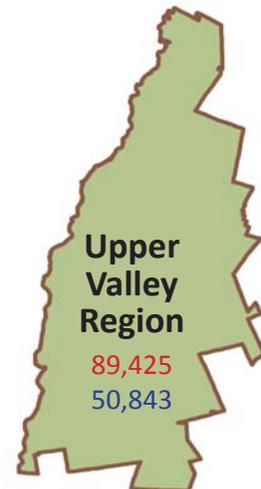
## Lakes Region Planning Commission

- The Lakes Region Planning Commission area is projected to have the third slowest employment growth rate at 6.3 percent through 2022. Relatively slow growth in the Manufacturing sector (-3.9%) is expected to be a drag on growth.
- Fifteen percent of all workers are employed in Retail trade, which is more than the share of workers in Healthcare and social assistance (13.0%). Three other regions have a higher concentration of retail compared to healthcare workers — North Country, Rockingham, and Nashua planning regions.
- Despite the decline in Manufacturing, openings are expected in Production occupations, with about 80 projected openings per year; 70 of those will be needed to replace workers who retire or move on to other occupations. In comparison, more openings are expected in Office and administrative support occupations (190), Sales and related occupations (180), and Food Preparation and serving occupations (200).



## Upper Valley / Lake Sunapee Region

- The Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee region is projected to have an employment growth rate of 10.2 percent through 2022, the third fastest-growing overall.
- The Upper Valley region has the largest share (17.5%) of total regional employment in Educational services, which includes all public and private educational institutions. Healthcare and social assistance is projected to add the most jobs over ten years (2,200).
- The Upper Valley region has the highest projected growth rate for Construction and extraction occupations (24.8%), but with a relatively small employment base in 2012, only 65 annual openings are projected. In contrast, Education, training and library occupations are projected to need 132 workers each year and Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are projected to need about 200 workers annually.



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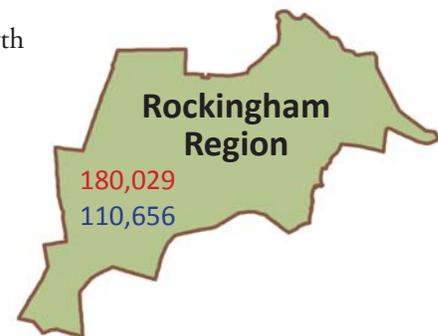
## Southwest Region Planning Commission

- The Southwest Planning region is projected to have an employment growth rate of 4.8 percent, which, along with the North Country region, is the lowest of the nine planning regions.
- Over 13 percent of total employment in the Southwest region is in Manufacturing, second only to the Nashua region (16.7%). Employment in Manufacturing is projected to decline by 122 jobs, or 2.1 percent, over the ten-year period.
- Net employment in Production occupations is projected to decline slightly, by 100 jobs, over the ten-year period, but 84 annual openings will exist due to the need to replace workers who retire or move on to other occupations. There will also be a significant number of openings in Sales and related occupations (177) and Office and administrative support occupations (174).



## Rockingham Planning Commission

- The Rockingham Planning region is projected to have an employment growth rate of 14.7 percent, the highest of all planning regions. The Rockingham region leads projected employment growth in Administrative and support and waste management services (31.6%) and Construction (37.3%).
- The Rockingham Planning region has the largest share of total employment of all regions in the Retail trade sector (19.2%). The region's proximity to large population centers and tourist destinations on the seacoast should continue to drive employment growth.
- The Rockingham Planning region has the fastest projected employment growth rate for Computer and mathematical occupations (24.2%), Business and financial occupations (17.2%), Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (22.8%), and Healthcare support occupations (26.8%).



## Strafford Regional Planning Commission

- The Strafford Planning region is projected to have an employment growth rate of 9.5 percent, the fifth-highest of all planning regions. This is the only region with three cities — Rochester, Somersworth, and Dover.
- Including public and private educational institutions and related services, Educational services in Strafford planning region account for 15.7 percent of total employment, the second-largest share of all regions. The Educational services sector is projected to grow faster in the Strafford region than in the other planning regions.
- Employment growth in the Strafford region is expected to be strongest in Computer and mathematical occupations (16.1%), Community and social services occupations (15.4%), and Personal care and service occupations (17.9%).





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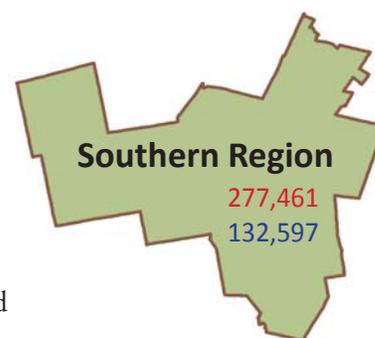
## Central New Hampshire Planning Commission

- The Central New Hampshire region is projected to have an employment growth rate of 9.2 percent, the sixth-highest of all regions. This region has a large concentration of employment in the Government sector, which is projected to have lower than average growth.
- This region has the second-highest concentration of employment in Healthcare and social assistance (16.3%) after Upper Valley (20.6%). Employment in this sector is projected to increase by 23.1 percent.
- Employment growth in the Central New Hampshire region is expected to be strongest in Healthcare support occupations (24.3%), Personal care and service occupations (30.0%), and Community and social services occupations (16.5%).



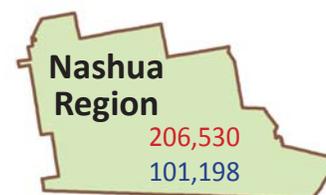
## Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

- The Southern New Hampshire region is the most populous and is projected to have the second-highest employment growth rate (14.1%).
- This region is projected to have the highest growth rate in Manufacturing employment at 6.6 percent.
- Many occupational groups in this region are projected to have the best outlook among all regions: Life, physical, and social science occupations (21.1%), Community and social services occupations (26.1 percent), Food preparation and serving occupations (17.4%), Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations (20.3%), Production Occupations (8.5%), and Transportation and material moving occupations (13.1%).



## Nashua Regional Planning Commission

- The Nashua planning region is second-most populous and is projected to have a growth rate of 9.5 percent, the fourth-highest of all regions.
- The Nashua region is projected to have the highest projected growth rate of all regions in Construction (21.6%) which will offset some of the losses expected in Manufacturing, where regional share of employment in that sector is expected to decline from 17.0 to 13.9 percent.
- The Nashua region, along with the Upper Valley region and Southern New Hampshire region, are expected to have employment growth over ten percent in Education, training, and library occupations, the highest among all regions.



For more information on industries and occupations by planning region, go to:  
[www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/proj.htm](http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/proj.htm)

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