

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Drivers Licenses and Motor Vehicle Registrations

New Hampshire drivers held a total of 1,195,211 driver's licenses in 2019.¹ This included drivers who held more than one type of license, such as a commercial or motorcycle license in addition to a standard operator's license. The number of licenses increased by over 120,000 from 2015 to 2019, while the state's population increased by about 23,000² during this same period. The number of young (15-19 years of age) New Hampshire drivers on state roads declined, as the state's population cohort of 15-19 year-olds decreased by nearly 4,500 from 2015 to 2019. During this same period the number of licensed New Hampshire drivers age 15 to 19 decreased by nearly 8,000.³

From 2015 to 2019, the number of automobiles registered in the state declined by 50,000. However, the total number of motor vehicle registrations increased by nearly 70,000. Registrations of trucks, which includes pickups, vans, and sport utility vehicles, accounted for the majority of this increase. In addition, there were small increases in the number of buses and motorcycles during this period.

Airport Traffic

Passenger traffic at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT) has continued to decline since 2005, when 4.3 million passengers flew in or out of Manchester. In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic precipitated the shutting down of certain segments of the economy, and passenger traffic at MHT declined nearly 64 percent from 2019 levels. The number of passengers increased 53 percent from 2020 to 2021, although still remained well short of 2019 traffic.⁴ In late 2021, Spirit Airlines began offering flights out of MHT, the first airline to add service at MHT in 17 years.⁵

Although the coronavirus negatively impacted passenger traffic numbers, the pandemic had the opposite effect on the amount of cargo passing through the airport. In 2020, more than 150,000 tons of cargo was processed at MHT, a nine percent increase over 2019 levels. According to Ted Kitchens, Airport Director at MHT, close to four million additional square feet of distribution centers are planned within 20 miles of MHT. With easy access to the interstate highway system and e-commerce becoming more prevalent, continued growth of MHT's cargo business is likely.⁶

Infrastructure

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed a one trillion-dollar bipartisan infrastructure bill into law. This legislation will provide funding to help repair and rebuild the nation's roads and bridges. Statistics referenced in the bill indicate that in the United States, one in five miles of highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges are in poor condition. Preliminary reports indicate the infrastructure bill will allocate over one billion dollars to infrastructure projects in New Hampshire. Along with road and bridge repairs, the bill includes funding for sewage projects, airport upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations, and modernization of passenger and freight rail service. The infrastructure press release stated that within New Hampshire there were 215 bridges and nearly 700 miles of highway rated in poor condition.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, 118 state-owned bridges were "red listed" as of December 31, 2020. These "red listed" bridges account for about 5 percent of New Hampshire state-owned bridges. During 2020,

1 U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Highway Statistics 2019, <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2019/dl22.cfm>.

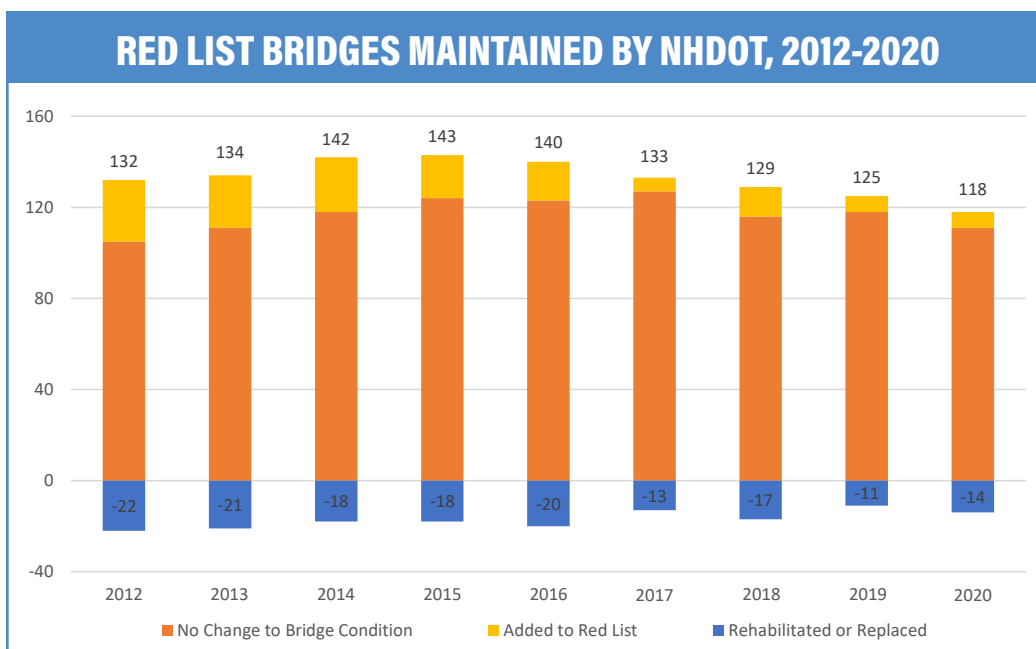
2 U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=New%20Hampshire%20Populations%20and%20People&tid=PEPPOP2019.PEPANNRES>.

3 In New Hampshire, you must be at least 16 years of age to apply for a driver's license.

4 Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, Statistics, <https://www.flymanchester.com/about-the%20airport/statistics/>.

5 KC Downey WMUR, "For first time in 17 years, new airline begins service through Manchester-Boston Regional Airport", <https://www.wmur.com/article/spirit-manchester-airport-mht-begins/37893811#>

6 Air Cargo News: "MHT Airport set to increase cargo volumes with new facility", <https://www.aircargonews.net/cargo-airport/mht-airport-set-to-increase-cargo-volumes-with-new-facility/>



Source: New Hampshire Department of Transportation

fourteen bridges had their “red listed” designation removed, and seven bridges were newly classified as “red listed,” for a net decrease of 7 bridges during calendar year 2020. According to New Hampshire Senate Bill 38 (effective July 1, 2017) “red listed” bridges include structurally deficient bridges (one or more major elements in poor or worse condition). The total deck area of “red listed” bridges measured 608,000 square feet, an increase of about 2,500 square feet from the 2019 end-of-year total.

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles (EV’s) are growing in popularity in the United States. As of December 2020, there were an estimated 2,690 electric vehicles registered in New Hampshire.⁷ Only all-electric vehicles (EV) are included in this count, i.e., plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are excluded. New Hampshire was ranked 32nd amongst all states in total EV’s registered. California was ranked number one with over 425,000 EV’s registered. In New Hampshire, EV registration accounted for about 0.6 percent of all automobiles registered, while EV’s registered in California accounted for three percent of all registered automobiles. Under the recently passed

federal infrastructure bill, New Hampshire is expected to receive about \$17 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network.

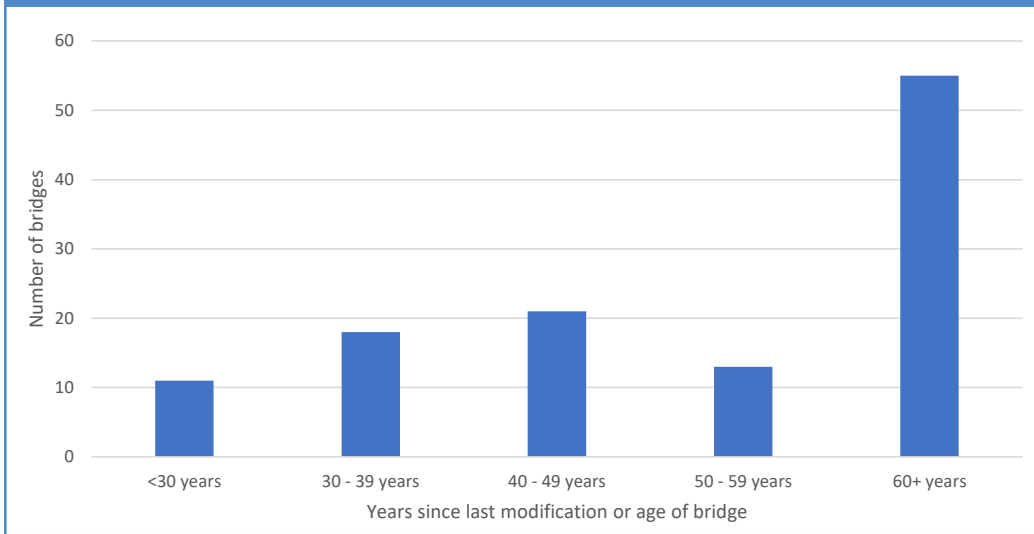
STATE	ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	EV REGISTRATIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATIONS
Massachusetts	21,010	1.0%
Connecticut	9,040	0.7%
New Hampshire	2,690	0.6%
Vermont	2,230	1.2%
Maine	1,920	0.5%
Rhode Island	1,580	0.4%

Source: US Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center

Two concerns with owning an EV are the ability to charge the vehicle when away from home and the charging time required. Most electric vehicle users charge their vehicles at home, but publicly available charging stations are required for longer

⁷ U.S. Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center, <https://afdc.energy.gov/data/search?q=electricity>.

YEARS SINCE LAST MODIFICATION OF RED LISTED STATE-OWNED BRIDGES (Data reference date: 12/31/2020)



Source: New Hampshire Department of Transportation: "2020 State Red List Bridges Summary Key"

trips. Currently there are 157 public charging stations available in New Hampshire, the lowest number of charging stations in New England, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Most charging stations have infrastructure to accommodate charging multiple vehicles simultaneously. The charging unit that connects to the EV is referred to as an Electric Vehicle Supply

Equipment Port (EVSE Port), which is analogous to a pump at a gas station. The speed at which an EV can be recharged depends on the type of charging port. Currently there are three levels of charging, which provide different travel ranges per amount of time on a charger.

– David Mikelson

EV CHARGING LEVELS AND TRAVEL RANGE PER CHARGE TIME

EV CHARGING	OUTLET LOCATION	POWER	CHARGING SPEED (miles of range per charge time)
Level 1	Common Household Outlet	120 volt AC	3 to 5 miles of range per hour
Level 2	Home/ Publicly Installed	208-240 volt AC	12 to 80 miles of range per hour
Level 3	Private Charging Networks	400-900 volt DC	3 to 20 miles of range per minute (75 to 1,200 miles of range per hour)

Source: Forbes Wheels

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS / EVSE PORTS IN NEW ENGLAND STATES - 2020

STATE	STATIONS	EVSE PORTS	LVL 1	LVL 2	LVL 3
MA	2,119	4,648	9	4,199	440
CT	468	1,259	21	925	311
VT	321	857	71	712	74
ME	288	599	6	458	135
RI	244	548	20	490	38
NH	157	352	4	242	106

Source: United States Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC - ANNUAL TOTALS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Annual Daily Traffic					
I-93 at Mass. State Line (Salem)	106,630	107,320	109,466	110,780	93,498
Annual percent change	2.1%	0.6%	2.0%	1.2%	-15.6%
I-95 at Mass. State Line (Seabrook)	96,128	97,907	98,783	100,908	80,619
Annual percent change	4.1%	1.9%	0.9%	2.2%	-20.1%

Source: New Hampshire Department of Transportation, ELMI analysis. Last Update 9/17/2021

LICENSES ISSUED & REGISTRATIONS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Motor-Vehicle Registrations					
All Motor Vehicles	1,296,137	1,322,682	1,319,117	1,346,318	1,363,379
Automobiles	535,188	529,491	505,381	506,959	489,224
Buses	2,822	2,798	2,871	3,045	3,096
Trucks	684,136	712,175	732,067	757,353	791,892
Motorcycles	73,991	78,218	78,798	78,962	79,167
Licensed Drivers					
Male	539,007	549,729	553,759	587,031	604,347
Female	535,759	546,505	549,865	574,634	590,864
Age 19 and under	46,354	45,954	45,748	38,413	38,485
Age 65 and over	200,128	196,094	224,681	272,831	292,748

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Policy and Governmental Affairs, Office of Highway Policy Information. Last Update 9/2/2021

AIRCRAFT TRAVEL	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Manchester-Boston Regional Airport					
Total Passengers, Domestic and International Carriers	1,968,875	1,925,950	1,803,778	1,698,109	614,821
Annual Percent Change	-2.9%	-2.2%	-6.3%	-5.9%	-63.8%
Enplanements	984,284	962,621	902,788	847,899	303,890
Annual Percent Change	-2.8%	-2.2%	-6.2%	-6.1%	-64.2%
Deplanements	984,591	963,329	900,990	850,210	310,931
Annual Percent Change	-2.9%	-2.2%	-6.5%	-5.6%	-63.4%
Air Cargo, Domestic and International Carriers (Tons) ^a	86,128	85,504	92,903	96,890	105,727
Annual Percent Change	8.3%	-0.7%	8.7%	4.3%	9.1%

^a Does not include air mail

Source: Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, ELMI analysis. Last Update 9/2/2021

PORTSMOUTH HARBOR FREIGHT TRAFFIC	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total (thousands of short tons)	2,788	2,353	2,627	2,869	2,631
Annual percent change	-0.5%	-15.6%	11.6%	9.2%	-8.3%
Domestic	475	365	386	689	444
Annual percent change	-2.6%	-23.2%	5.7%	78.5%	-35.6%
Foreign Imports	2,306	1,959	2,240	2,179	2,154
Annual percent change	7.5%	-15.1%	14.4%	-2.7%	-1.1%
Foreign Exports	7	29	1	0	33
Annual percent change	-96.1%	344.1%	-96.6%	-100.0%	n/a
<i>Source: US Army Corp of Engineers - Navigational Data Center, ELMI analysis. Last Update 9/16/2021</i>					
Prepared by: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau					
www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi (603) 228-4124					