

Portsmouth, NH



Community Contact

Portsmouth Economic Development Commission
Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development
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<http://cityofportsmouth.com>

Municipal Office Hours

City Manager, City Clerk, Tax Collector: Monday, 8-6, Tuesday to Thursday, 8-4:30, Friday, 8-1

County
Labor Market Area
Tourism Region
Planning Commission
Regional Development

Rockingham
Portsmouth, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA
Seacoast
Rockingham
Coastal Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts
US Congress
Executive Council
State Senate
State Representative

District 1 (All Wards)
District 3
District 21 (All Wards)
Rockingham County Districts 21 (Ward 1), 22 (Ward 5), 26 (Ward 3), 27 (Ward 4), 28 (Ward 2), 37 (Wards 1, 5), 39 (Wards 2-4)

Incorporated: 1631

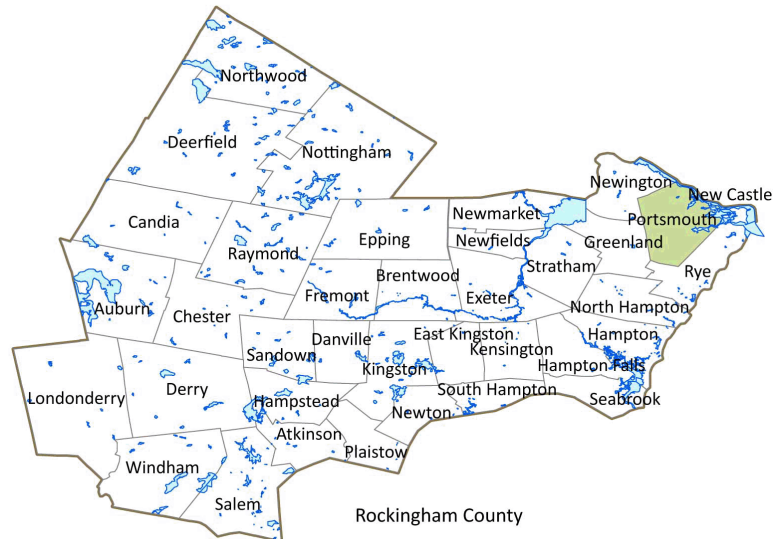
Origin: This territory was a part of the original land grant to John Mason and Francisco Gorges in 1622. A township grant was issued by the council of Plymouth (MA) in 1631 which covered what is now Portsmouth and the harbor, Greenland, Rye, New Castle, and Newington. First called Piscataqua, the settlement became known as Strawberry Banke because of wild strawberries found there. The name Portsmouth was adopted in 1653 to honor John Mason, Captain of the Port in Portsmouth, England, and because it was a good harbor situated at the river's mouth. Already an important center of trade and shipping, Portsmouth became capitol of the province of New Hampshire in 1679, and was incorporated as a city in 1849.

Villages and Place Names: Atlantic Heights, Christian Shore, Creek Area, Elwyn Park, Meadowbrook, Pannaway Manor, Portsmouth Plains, Haymarket Square, Sagamore Hill, Strawberry Banke, the Woodlands

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 4,720 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for Portsmouth was a negative 3,775 over 50 years, from 25,717 in 1970 down to 21,942 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 21 percent decrease from 1990 to 2000. The city's population increased by six percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Portsmouth was 22,713 residents, which ranked 13th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau): 1,448.5 persons per square mile of land area. Portsmouth contains 15.7 square miles of land area and 1.1 square miles of inland water area.



| MUNICIPAL SERVICES | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Type of Government | | City Manager & Council | |
| Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2021-2022 | | \$137,283,375 | |
| Budget: School Appropriations, 2021-2022 | | \$60,577,961 | |
| Zoning Ordinance | | 1927/05 | |
| Master Plan | | 2025 | |
| Capital Improvement Plan | | Yes | |
| Industrial Plans Reviewed By | | Planning Department | |
| Boards and Commissions | | | |
| Elected: | City Council; School; Police; Fire | | |
| Appointed: | Please visit http://cityofportsmouth.com , for a list of boards & committees to which citizens may be elected or appointed | | |
| Public Library | Portsmouth Athenaeum; Portsmouth Public | | |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES | | | |
| Police Department | | Full-time | |
| Fire Department | | Municipal | |
| Emergency Medical Service | | Full & part-time | |
| Nearest Hospital(s) | | Distance | Staffed Beds |
| Portsmouth Regional, Portsmouth | | Local | 173 |
| UTILITIES | | | |
| Electric Supplier | | Eversource Energy | |
| Natural Gas Supplier | | Unitil | |
| Water Supplier | | Portsmouth Water Department | |
| Sanitation | | Municipal | |
| Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant | | Yes | |
| Solid Waste Disposal | | | |
| Curbside Trash Pickup | | Municipal | |
| Pay-As-You-Throw Program | | No | |
| Recycling Program | | Mandatory | |
| Telephone Company | | Consolidated Communications | |
| Cellular Telephone Access | | Yes | |
| Cable Television Access | | Yes | |
| Public Access Television Station | | Yes | |
| High Speed Internet Service: | | Business | Yes |
| | | Residential | Yes |
| PROPERTY TAXES | | (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration) | |
| 2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value) | | \$15.20 | |
| 2022 Equalization Ratio | | 70.6 | |
| 2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value) | | \$10.65 | |
| 2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type | | | |
| Residential Land and Buildings | | 57.8% | |
| Commercial Land and Buildings | | 39.3% | |
| Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other | | 2.9% | |
| HOUSING | | (ACS 2017-2021) | |
| Total Housing Units | | 11,093 | |
| Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached | | 5,244 | |
| Units in Multiple-Family Structures: | | | |
| Two to Four Units in Structure | | 2,121 | |
| Five or More Units in Structure | | 3,451 | |
| Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units | | 277 | |

| POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL) | | (US Census Bureau) | |
|--|---------|---|------------|
| Total Population | | Community | County |
| 2022 | 22,713 | | 319,424 |
| 2020 | 21,956 | | 314,176 |
| 2010 | 20,779 | | 295,223 |
| 2000 | 20,822 | | 278,748 |
| 1990 | 26,252 | | 246,744 |
| 1980 | 26,254 | | 190,345 |
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021 | |
| Population by Gender | | | |
| Male | 10,411 | Female | 11,486 |
| Population by Age Group | | | |
| Under age 5 | | | 768 |
| Age 5 to 19 | | | 2,793 |
| Age 20 to 34 | | | 5,048 |
| Age 35 to 54 | | | 5,819 |
| Age 55 to 64 | | | 3,020 |
| Age 65 and over | | | 4,449 |
| Median Age | | | 42.2 years |
| Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over: | | 17,129 | |
| High school graduate or higher | | | 97.2% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | | | 62.8% |
| INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$ | | (ACS 2017-2021) | |
| Per capita income | | | \$62,756 |
| Median family income | | | \$124,789 |
| Median household income | | | \$91,915 |
| Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers | | | |
| Male | | | \$78,981 |
| Female | | | \$63,695 |
| Individuals below the poverty level | | | 6.0% |
| LABOR FORCE | | (NHES – ELMI) | |
| Annual Average | | 2012 | 2022 |
| Civilian labor force | 13,224 | | 13,930 |
| Employed | 12,631 | | 13,651 |
| Unemployed | 593 | | 279 |
| Unemployment rate | 4.5% | | 2.0% |
| EMPLOYMENT & WAGES | | (NHES – ELMI) | |
| Annual Average Covered Employment | | 2012 | 2022 |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | |
| Average Employment | 2,300 | | 3,409 |
| Average Weekly Wage | \$1,400 | | \$1,724 |
| Service Providing Industries | | | |
| Average Employment | 25,151 | | 27,641 |
| Average Weekly Wage | \$1,046 | | \$1,685 |
| Total Private Industry | | | |
| Average Employment | 27,452 | | 31,050 |
| Average Weekly Wage | \$1,075 | | \$1,690 |
| Government (Federal, State, and Local) | | | |
| Average Employment | 1,823 | | 2,219 |
| Average Weekly Wage | \$ 935 | | \$1,394 |
| Total, Private Industry plus Government | | | |
| Average Employment | 29,274 | | 33,269 |
| Average Weekly Wage | \$1,067 | | \$1,670 |
| If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards. | | | |

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: **Portsmouth operates grades K-12**
 Career Technology Center(s): **Portsmouth Career Technical Center #19**

District: **SAU 52**

| Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools) | Elementary | Middle/Junior High | High School | Private/Parochial |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Number of Schools | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Grade Levels | P K 1-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | P K 1-8 |
| Total Enrollment | 951 | 499 | 1,031 | 260 |

Nearest Community College: **Great Bay**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **University of NH**

2022 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)

Total Facilities: **13** Total Capacity: **1,203**

| LARGEST BUSINESSES | | PRODUCT/SERVICE | EMPLOYEES | ESTABLISHED |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| HCA Portsmouth Regional Hospital | | Health care services | 1,000 | 1987 |
| Liberty Mutual Insurance | | Insurance services | 1,100 | 1969 |
| High Liner Foods | | Seafood production | 366 | |
| Portsmouth Consular Center, US Dept of State | | Passport, visa services | 1,390 | |
| Bottomline Technologies | | Finance software | 701 | |
| WIN Waste | | Waste Services | 402 | |
| Lonza Biologies | | Biopharma | 1,298 | |
| City of Portsmouth | | Municipal services | 891 | |
| Amadeus | | Hospitality/Event software | 383 | |
| Service Credit Union | | Banking services | 404 | |

| TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall) | | RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Road Access | US Routes | 1, 4 | X Municipal Parks |
| | State Routes | 1A, 1B, 16, 33, 1 Bypass | X YMCA/YWCA |
| Nearest Interstate, Exit | | I-95, Exits 3 - 7 | Boys Club/Girls Club |
| Distance | | Local access | X Golf Courses |
| Railroad | | Guilford Rail Service | X Swimming: Indoor Facility |
| Public Transportation | | COAST; Wildcat Transit | X Swimming: Outdoor Facility |
| Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation | | | X Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility |
| Pease International | Runway | 11,321 ft. | X Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility |
| asphalt/concrete | | | Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility |
| Lighted? | Yes | Navigation Aids? | Yes |
| Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service | | | X Bowling Facilities |
| Manchester-Boston Regional | Distance | 48 miles | X Museums |
| Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport | | 4 | X Cinemas |
| Driving distance to select cities: | | | X Performing Arts Facilities |
| Manchester, NH | | 46 miles | X Tourist Attractions |
| Portland, Maine | | 52 miles | X Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H) |
| Boston, Mass. | | 57 miles | X Youth Sports: Baseball |
| New York City, NY | | 268 miles | X Youth Sports: Soccer |
| Montreal, Quebec | | 302 miles | X Youth Sports: Football |
| | | | X Youth Sports: Basketball |
| | | | X Youth Sports: Hockey |
| | | | Campgrounds |
| | | | X Fishing/Hunting |
| | | | X Boating/Marinas |
| | | | Snowmobile Trails |
| | | | X Bicycle Trails |
| | | | X Cross Country Skiing |
| | | | X Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area |
| | | | X Overnight or Day Camps |
| | | | Nearest Ski Area(s): Gunstock |
| | | | Other: Outdoor Ice Skating Rink; Strawberry Banke; Harbor & Isles of Shoals Cruises; Historic Homes; Fish Pier; Trolley; Sailing; Kayaking; Music Festival; Shopping; History Tours; Market Square Day; First Night; Seafood, Chili, and NH Film Festivals |

| COMMUTING TO WORK (ACS 2017-2021) | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Workers 16 years and over | |
| Drove alone, car/truck/van | 71.8% |
| Carpooled, car/truck/van | 6.2% |
| Public transportation | 1.2% |
| Walked | 4.2% |
| Other means | 1.9% |
| Worked at home | 14.6% |
| Mean Travel Time to Work | 22.5 minutes |
| Percent of Working Residents | |
| Working in community of residence | 51.4% |
| Commuting to another NH community | 35.1% |
| Commuting out-of-state | 13.5% |