

# Strafford, NH



## Community Contact

## Town of Strafford

Lynn M. Sweet, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
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Strafford, NH 03884

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Web Site

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## Municipal Office Hours

Town Clerk: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-2, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-7; Tax Collector: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-2, Tuesday, 1-6

County  
Labor Market Area  
Tourism Region  
Planning Commission  
Regional Development

**Strafford**  
**Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA**  
**Lakes**  
**Strafford Regional**  
**Southeast Economic Development Corp.**

## Election Districts

US Congress  
Executive Council  
State Senate  
State Representative

**District 1**  
**District 4**  
**District 6**  
**Strafford County Districts 4, 18**

## Incorporated: 1820

**Origin:** This territory was for a long time part of Barrington, and settled prior to the Revolution. It was incorporated as a separate town in 1820, taking its name from the county in which it is located. Earl of Strafford was a title of the Wentworth family in England. Strafford, Vermont is also named for the family. The name was also adopted by a state militia company in Dover, the Strafford Guards, who later became part of the New Hampshire National Guard. The company served as escort for the Marquis de Lafayette on his visit to America, and saw service in the Civil War.

**Villages and Place Names:** Berrys Corner, Bow Lake Village, Center Strafford, Hills Corner, Leighton Corners, Strafford Corner, Welshs Corner

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 2,144 residents in 1820

**Population Trends:** Population change for Strafford totaled 3,270 over 50 years, from 965 in 1970 to 4,235 in 2020. The largest decennial percent change was a 77 percent increase from 1980 to 1990. The town's population increased by six percent from 2010 to 2020. The 2022 Census estimate for Strafford was 4,329 residents, which ranked 91st among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density and Land Area, 2022 (US Census Bureau):** 88.4 persons per square mile of land area. Strafford contains 49.0 square miles of land area and 2.2 square miles of inland water area.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Type of Government		Selectmen	
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2023		\$4,406,695	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2023-2024		\$12,484,487	
Zoning Ordinance		1970/22	
Master Plan		2023	
Capital Improvement Plan		Yes	
Industrial Plans Reviewed By		Planning Board	
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	Selectmen; Library; Planning; Zoning Board of Adjustment		
Appointed:	Conservation		
Public Library	Hill		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		Full-time	
Fire Department		Full and Part-time	
Emergency Medical Service		Full and Part-time	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester		10 miles	27
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier		Eversource Energy	
Natural Gas Supplier		None	
Water Supplier		Private wells	
Sanitation		Private septic	
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant		No	
Solid Waste Disposal			
Curbside Trash Pickup		None	
Pay-As-You-Throw Program		No	
Recycling Program		Mandatory	
Telephone Company		Consolidated Communications; TDS	
Cellular Telephone Access		Yes	
Cable Television Access		Yes	
Public Access Television Station		No	
High Speed Internet Service:	Business	Limited	
	Residential	Limited	
PROPERTY TAXES		(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2022 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$17.13	
2022 Equalization Ratio		69.4	
2022 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$11.86	
2022 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		95.6%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		1.5%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		3.0%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Total Housing Units		1,828	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		1,662	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		56	
Five or More Units in Structure		0	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		110	

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2022	4,329		132,275
2020	4,230		130,889
2010	3,991		123,143
2000	3,649		112,676
1990	2,936		104,348
1980	1,663		85,324
DEMOGRAPHICS		AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2017-2021	
Population by Gender			
Male	1,956	Female	2,275
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			171
Age 5 to 19			781
Age 20 to 34			613
Age 35 to 54			1,056
Age 55 to 64			757
Age 65 and over			853
Median Age			49.3 years
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:		3,136	
High school graduate or higher			89.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher			38.3%
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2017-2021)	
Per capita income			\$40,913
Median family income			\$127,125
Median household income			\$120,453
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male			\$63,750
Female			\$66,875
Individuals below the poverty level			7.5%
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average		2012	2022
Civilian labor force		2,155	2,275
Employed		2,045	2,227
Unemployed		110	48
Unemployment rate		5.1%	2.1%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment		2012	2022
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment		114	132
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 781	\$1,172
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment		90	138
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 849	\$ 921
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment		204	269
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 811	\$1,044
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment		157	155
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 580	\$ 692
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment		361	424
Average Weekly Wage		\$ 711	\$ 915
If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.			

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**Schools students attend: **Strafford operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are tuitioned to Coe-Brown Academy (Northwood)** District: **SAU 44**Career Technology Center(s): **Dover Career Technical Center; R.W. Creteau Regional Technology Ctr.; Somersworth Career Technical Center**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			
Grade Levels	P K 1-8			
Total Enrollment	403			

Nearest Community College: **NHTI-Concord**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **University of NH**

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

Total Facilities: **2** Total Capacity: **107**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
David R. Whitcher, Builder	Building contractor	25	1971
Strafford Machine & Welding	Job machine shop	2	1974
Amusement Media, Inc.	Media & marketing	32	1997
Isinglass Country Store	Convenience store	3	1985
Strafford Insulating Technologies	Insulation	1	1985
Parker Mountain Machine	Machine Shop	8	2020
Independence Inn	Restaurant & Inn	5	2022
7 C's Kitchen and Market	Market & take-out food	7	2023

## Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

**TRANSPORTATION** (*distances estimated from city/town hall*)

Road Access US Routes  
State Routes **126, 202A**  
Nearest Interstate, Exit **Spaulding Tpk., Exit 16; I-95, Exit 5**  
Distance **9 miles; 29 miles**

Railroad **No**  
Public Transportation **No**

Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation  
**Skyhaven, Rochester** Runway **4,200 ft. asphalt**  
Lighted? **Yes** Navigation Aids? **Yes**

Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service  
**Manchester-Boston Regional** Distance **47 miles**  
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport **4**

Driving distance to select cities:  
Manchester, NH **32 miles**  
Portland, Maine **62 miles**  
Boston, Mass. **79 miles**  
New York City, NY **270 miles**  
Montreal, Quebec **264 miles**

**COMMUTING TO WORK** (*ACS 2017-2021*)

Workers 16 years and over  
Drove alone, car/truck/van **74.6%**  
Carpooled, car/truck/van **7.2%**  
Public transportation **.0%**  
Walked **3.0%**  
Other means **1.2%**  
Worked at home **14.1%**  
Mean Travel Time to Work **34.6 minutes**

Percent of Working Residents  
Working in community of residence **22.7%**  
Commuting to another NH community **72.3%**  
Commuting out-of-state **5.0%**

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

Municipal Parks  
YMCA/YWCA  
Boys Club/Girls Club  
Golf Courses  
Swimming: Indoor Facility  
Swimming: Outdoor Facility  
Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility  
Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility  
Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility  
Bowling Facilities  
Museums  
Cinemas  
**X** Performing Arts Facilities  
Tourist Attractions  
**X** Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)  
**X** Youth Sports: Baseball  
**X** Youth Sports: Soccer  
Youth Sports: Football  
**X** Youth Sports: Basketball  
Youth Sports: Hockey  
**X** Campgrounds  
**X** Fishing/Hunting  
**X** Boating/Marinas  
**X** Snowmobile Trails  
Bicycle Trails  
Cross Country Skiing  
**X** Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area  
**X** Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **Gunstock**Other: **Bow Lake**