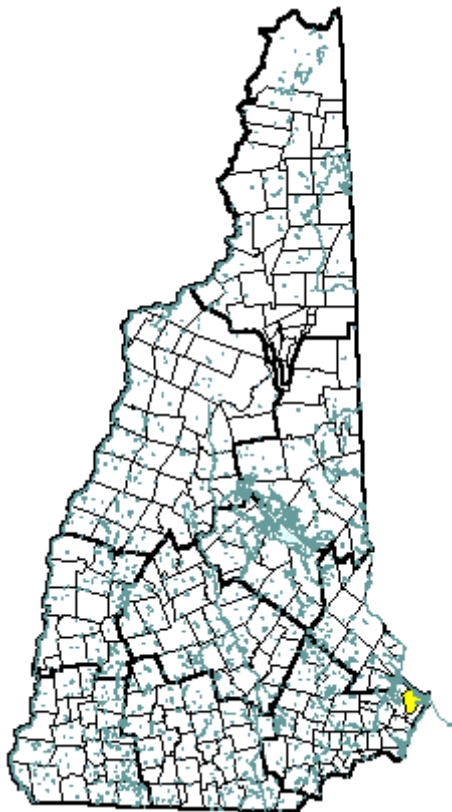


# Portsmouth, NH



## Community Contact

**Portsmouth Economic Development Commission**  
**Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Program Manager**  
**1 Junkins Avenue**  
**Portsmouth, NH 03801**

Telephone  
 Fax  
 E-mail  
 Web Site

**(603) 610-7220**  
**(603) 427-1593**  
**nmcarmer@ch.cityofportsmouth.com**  
**http://cityofportsmouth.com**

## Municipal Office Hours

**Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm**

## County

**Rockingham**

## Labor Market Area

**Portsmouth NH-ME Metro-NECTA, NH Portion**

## Tourism Region

**Seacoast**

## Planning Commission

**Rockingham**

## Regional Development

**Coastal Economic Development Corp.**

## Election Districts

US Congress  
 Executive Council  
 State Senate  
 State Representative

**District 1 (All Wards)**  
**District 3 (All Wards)**  
**District 24 (All Wards)**  
**Rockingham County District 16 (All Wards)**

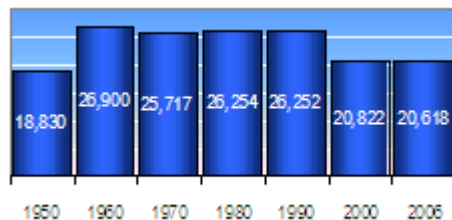
**Incorporated:** 1631

**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 the wild strawberries that were 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

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

**Population Trends:** Population change for Portsmouth totaled 1,992 over 50 years, from 18,830 in 1950 to 20,822 in 2000. The largest decennial percent change was a 43 percent increase between 1950 and 1960; population declined by 21 percent between 1990 and 2000. The 2006 Census estimate for Portsmouth was 20,618 residents, which ranked 13th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.



**Population Density, 2006:** 1,315.8 persons per square mile of land area, the third highest among the cities and towns. Portsmouth contains 15.7 square miles of land area and 1.1 square miles of inland water area.



**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Type of Government	<b>City Manager &amp; Council</b>
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2008	<b>\$45,532,029</b>
Budget: School Appropriations, 2008	<b>\$34,326,773</b>
Zoning Ordinance	<b>1927/05</b>
Master Plan	<b>2005</b>
Capital Improvement Plan	<b>Yes</b>
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	<b>Planning Dept.</b>

## Boards and Commissions

Elected:	<b>City Council; School; Police</b>
Appointed:	<b>Planning; Conservation; Library; Economic Development; Historic District; Zoning</b>

Public Library **Portsmouth Athenaeum; Portsmouth Public**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Police Department	<b>Full-time</b>	
Fire Department	<b>Full-time</b>	
Town Fire Insurance Rating	<b>4</b>	
Emergency Medical Service	<b>Municipal</b>	
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds
<b>Portsmouth Regional, Portsmouth</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>209</b>

**UTILITIES**

Electric Supplier	<b>PSNH</b>
Natural Gas Supplier	<b>Northern Utilities</b>
Water Supplier	<b>Portsmouth Water Department</b>
Sanitation	<b>Municipal</b>
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	<b>Yes</b>
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	<b>Municipal</b>
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	<b>No</b>
Recycling Program	<b>Mandatory</b>
Telephone Company	<b>Verizon</b>
Cellular Telephone Access	<b>Yes</b>
Cable Television Access	<b>Yes</b>
Public Access Television Station	<b>Yes</b>
High Speed Internet Service:	
Business	<b>Yes</b>
Residential	<b>Yes</b>

**PROPERTY TAXES** (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)

2006 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$15.72</b>
2006 Equalization Ratio	<b>90</b>
2006 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$13.76</b>
2006 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	<b>53.9%</b>
Commercial Land and Buildings	<b>42.5%</b>
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	<b>3.6%</b>

**HOUSING SUPPLY** (NH Office of Energy and Planning)

2006 Total Housing Units	<b>10516</b>
2006 Single-Family Units	<b>4,209</b>
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	<b>10</b>
2006 Multi-Family Units	<b>6,028</b>
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	<b>11</b>
2006 Manufactured Housing Units	<b>279</b>

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

(US Census Bureau)

Total Population	Community	County
2006	<b>20,618</b>	<b>296,267</b>
2000	<b>20,822</b>	<b>278,748</b>
1990	<b>26,252</b>	<b>246,744</b>
1980	<b>26,254</b>	<b>190,345</b>
1970	<b>25,717</b>	<b>138,951</b>

**Census 2000 Demographics**

Population by Gender			
Male	<b>10,099</b>	Female	<b>10,685</b>
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			<b>1,009</b>
Age 5 to 19			<b>2,864</b>
Age 20 to 34			<b>5,189</b>
Age 35 to 54			<b>6,476</b>
Age 55 to 64			<b>1,862</b>
Age 65 and over			<b>3,384</b>
Median Age			<b>38.5 years</b>

## Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over

High school graduate or higher	<b>91.4%</b>
Bachelor's degree or higher	<b>41.9%</b>

**ANNUAL INCOME, 1999**

(US Census Bureau)

Per capita income	<b>\$27,540</b>
Median 4-person family income	<b>\$59,630</b>
Median household income	<b>\$45,195</b>
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers	
Male	<b>\$41,966</b>
Female	<b>\$29,024</b>
Families below the poverty level	<b>6.4%</b>

**LABOR FORCE**

(NHES - ELMI)

Annual Average	1996	2006
Civilian labor force	<b>12,351</b>	<b>13,460</b>
Employed	<b>12,009</b>	<b>13,079</b>
Unemployed	<b>342</b>	<b>381</b>
Unemployment rate	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

**EMPLOYMENT & WAGES**

(NHES - ELMI)

Annual Average Covered Employment	1996	2006
Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>1,865</b>	<b>2,738</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$663</b>	<b>\$1,043</b>
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>19,139</b>	<b>24,220</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$525</b>	<b>\$950</b>
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	<b>21,003</b>	<b>26,958</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$537</b>	<b>\$959</b>
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	<b>1,677</b>	<b>1,810</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$611</b>	<b>\$896</b>
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	<b>22,680</b>	<b>28,768</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$543</b>	<b>\$955</b>

n = indicates that data does not meet disclosure standards

## EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: **Portsmouth operates grades K-12** District: **SAU 52**  
 Career Technology Center(s): **Portsmouth High School** Region: **19**

Educational Facilities	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Grade Levels	<b>P K 1-5</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>K 1-8</b>
Total Enrollment	<b>1,017</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>152</b>

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2007: Total Facilities: **23** Total Capacity: **1,309**

Nearest Community/Technical College: **Stratham**  
 Nearest Colleges or Universities: **McIntosh; University of NH**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Liberty Mutual Insurance	Insurance services	1,800	1969
Columbia HCA Hospital	Health care, services	1,020	1987
City of Portsmouth	Municipal services	937	
Lonza Biologies	Biotechnology	500	
Demoulas Market Basket	Supermarket	425	
US Dept of State National Visa Center	Visa services	380	
Erie Scientific/Sybron Lab Products	Laboratory equipment	350	1978
US Dept of State, National Passport Center	Passport services	330	
Shaws	Supermarket	270	
Newmarket International	Web services	252	

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

Road Access	US Routes	<b>1, 4</b>
	State Routes	<b>1A, 1B, 16, 33, 1 Bypass</b>
Nearest Interstate, Exit		<b>I-95, Exits 3 - 7</b>
	Distance	<b>Local access</b>
Railroad		<b>Boston &amp; Maine</b>
Public Transportation		<b>Yes</b>
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
<b>Pease International</b>	Runway	<b>11,321 ft. asphalt/concrete</b>
Lighted? <b>Yes</b>	Navigation Aids?	<b>Yes</b>
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
<b>Pease International</b>	Distance	<b>Local</b>
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		<b>2</b>
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		<b>45 miles</b>
Portland, Maine		<b>51 miles</b>
Boston, Mass.		<b>57 miles</b>
New York City, NY		<b>268 miles</b>
Montreal, Quebec		<b>294 miles</b>

## COMMUTING TO WORK *(US Census Bureau)*

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	<b>80.5%</b>
Carpooled, car/truck/van	<b>6.4%</b>
Public transportation	<b>1.5%</b>
Walked	<b>4.9%</b>
Other means	<b>1.3%</b>
Worked at home	<b>5.4%</b>
Mean Travel Time to Work	<b>21.5 minutes</b>
Percent of Working Residents:	
Working in community of residence	<b>51%</b>
Commuting to another NH community	<b>33%</b>
Commuting out-of-state	<b>16%</b>

## RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

<b>X</b>	Municipal Parks
<b>X</b>	YMCA/YWCA
	Boys Club/Girls Club
<b>X</b>	Golf Courses
<b>X</b>	Swimming: Indoor Facility
<b>X</b>	Swimming: Outdoor Facility
<b>X</b>	Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
<b>X</b>	Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
	Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
<b>X</b>	Bowling Facilities
<b>X</b>	Museums
<b>X</b>	Cinemas
<b>X</b>	Performing Arts Facilities
<b>X</b>	Tourist Attractions
<b>X</b>	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Baseball
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Soccer
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Football
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Basketball
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Hockey
	Campgrounds
<b>X</b>	Fishing/Hunting
<b>X</b>	Boating/Marinas
	Snowmobile Trails
<b>X</b>	Bicycle Trails
<b>X</b>	Cross Country Skiing
	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
	Overnight or Day Camps
	Nearest Ski Area(s): <b>Gunstock</b>
	Other: <b>Strawbery Banke; Harbor &amp; Isles of Shoals Cruises; Historic Homes; Fish Pier; Trolley; Sailing; Kayaking; Music Festival; Shopping</b>