

# Welcome to New Hampshire!



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**NEW HAMPSHIRE**



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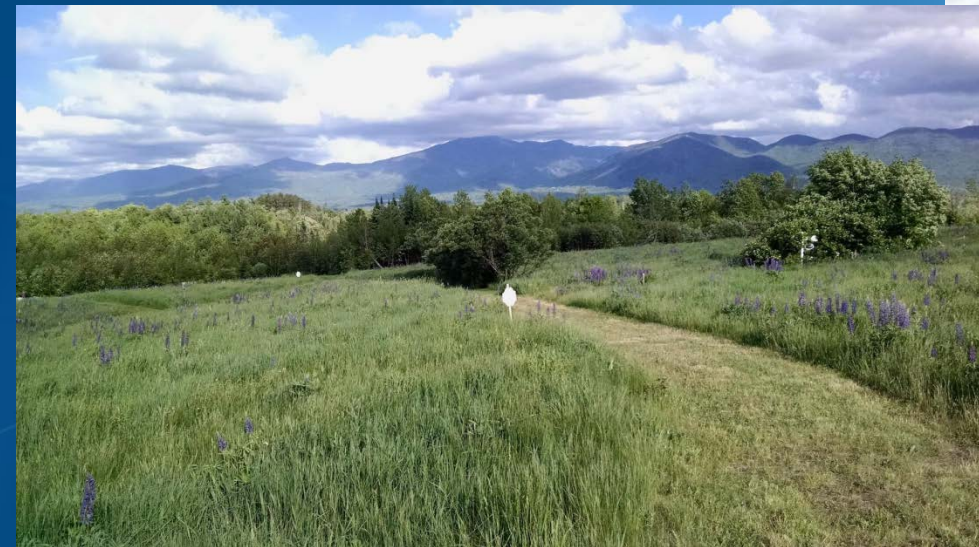
# Portsmouth

Under an English land grant, Capt. John Smith sent settlers to establish a fishing colony at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, near present-day Rye and Dover, in 1623. Capt. John Mason, who participated in the founding of Portsmouth in 1630, gave New Hampshire its name.

On December 13, 1774, four months before his famous “midnight ride” to Lexington, Massachusetts, Paul Revere embarked on a 55-mile ride from Boston to Portsmouth to warn of Fort William and Mary’s imminent seizure from British troops.

As leaders in the revolutionary cause, New Hampshire delegates received the honor of being the first to vote for the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was established on June 12, 1800 during the administration of President John Adams, and is the U.S. Navy's oldest continuously operating shipyard. It sits on a cluster of conjoined islands called Seavey's Island in the Piscataqua River, whose swift tidal current prevents ice from blocking navigation to the Atlantic Ocean. PNS is tasked with the overhaul, repair, and modernization of US Navy submarines.



# Fast Facts

- New Hampshire's state motto is "Live Free or Die" and was coined by General John Stark in 1809.
- New Hampshire is also known as The Granite State because of the vast amount of granite that is found throughout the state.
- New Hampshire became the 9th state on June 21, 1788. It was one of the original 13 colonies.
- New Hampshire's population is estimated to have reached 1,330,608 in the year 2015.
- The first public library in the United States was founded in 1833 in Peterborough, New Hampshire.
- During the 19th century, the economy was dominated by the textile and shoe industries. The Amoskeag Mill in Manchester was once the largest textile mill in the world. In recent years, New Hampshire's top industries have included the manufacturing of electrical, light metal, and computer and technology products.



New Hampshire has 10 counties, 13 municipalities, 221 towns and 22 unincorporated places.





# Population Overview

10 largest cities (2012 est.): Manchester, 110,209; Nashua, 86,933; Concord, 42,630; Dover, 30,220; Rochester, 29,823; Salem, 29,396; Merrimack, 26,683; Keene, 23,272; Derry, 22,015; Portsmouth, 21,379

**2010 resident census population (rank):** 1,316,470 (42). **Male:** 649,394 (49.3%); **Female:** 667,076 (50.7%). **White:** 1,236,050 (93.9%); **Black:** 15,035 (1.1%); **American Indian:** 3,150 (0.2%); **Asian:** 28,407 (2.2%); **Other race:** 12,062 (0.9%); **Two or more races:** 21,382 (1.6%); **Hispanic/Latino:** 36,704 (2.8%). **2010 percent population 18 and over:** 78.2; **65 and over:** 13.5; **median age:** 41.1.



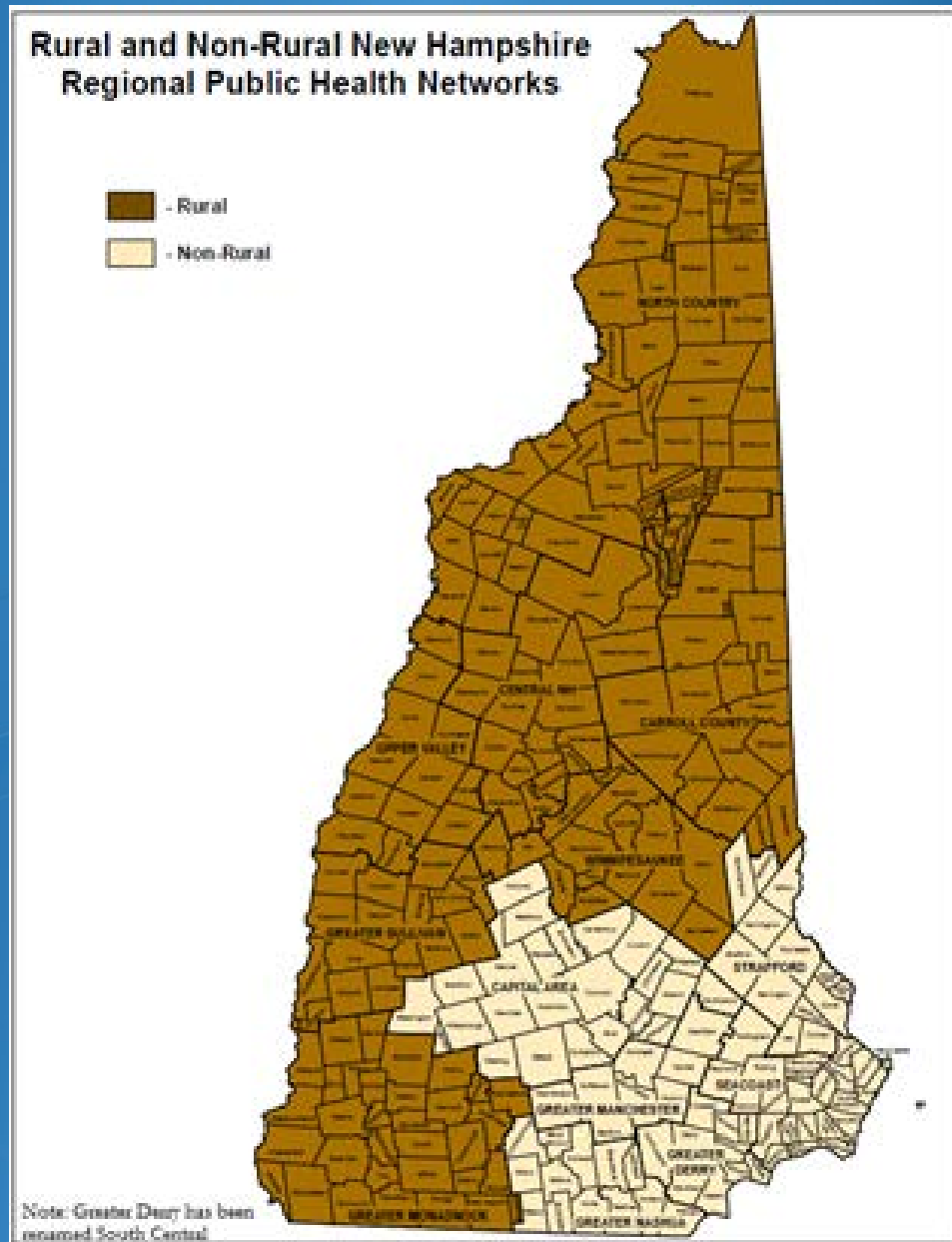
# Economy

Historically, New Hampshire, like much of New England, depended heavily on paper and grain mills to support its economy. With the decline of mill work throughout the 20th century, the state came to lean on traditional manufacturing as an economic driver.

And although manufacturing is still an important part of New Hampshire's economy, advances in technology and the decline of traditional fabrication work all over the country means factories employ far fewer people than in the past. Toward the end of the 20th century, Massachusetts became a center for high-tech sectors. And in turn, New Hampshire has been able to piggy-back off its neighbor's success, moving its economy toward electronic component manufacturing and other high-tech industries.

The state is culturally—and often economically—distinguished by its regions. So while tourism is central to the Lakes Region economy, it's less prominent in the Merrimack Valley. And although high-tech work is integral to the Seacoast and Upper Valley economies, it's much less a factor in the North Country. But keeping regional differences in mind, some overarching statewide trends do emerge: Smart Manufacturing/High Technology, Tourism, and Health Care Fields.

# Defining Rural





## NEW HAMPSHIRE'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Since 1920, New Hampshire has held its presidential primary election before any other state. Changes in New Hampshire law in 1949 made the primary a direct selection of presidential aspirants, not a mere choice of delegates pledged to specific nominees. Held in February or March, during the week preceding any similar election elsewhere, the New Hampshire primary has become a critical first step on the road to the White House. Taking their responsibility seriously, New Hampshire voters test contenders during the months leading to the primary and have usually favored the candidate who ultimately attains the Oval Office.

2000



# Governance

The state legislature, called the General Court, consists of a 24-member Senate and a 400-seat House of Representatives, larger than that of any other state. Legislative sessions begin each January and are limited to 45 legislative days. Legislators, who must reside in their districts, serve two-year terms, for which they were paid \$200 (\$100 per year) as of 2004, unchanged from 1999.

The only executive elected statewide is the governor, who serves a two-year term and is assisted by a five-member executive council, elected for two years by district. As of 2006, New Hampshire and Vermont were the only two states whose governors served two-year terms. The council must approve all administrative and judicial appointments. The secretary of state and state treasurer are elected by the legislature.

