



Portsmouth, NH Community Profile



Portsmouth



City Government

- Settled: 1623
- Incorporated: 1849
- Form of Government: Council-Manager
- Bond Rating, Standard & Poor's: AAA

Location

- Latitude: 43° 4' 32" North
- Longitude: 70° 45' 38" West
- County: Rockingham
- State: New Hampshire
- Tourism Region: Seacoast
- Planning Commission: Rockingham

Land

- Land Area: 10,763 acres (16.8 sq. miles)
- 10,034 (15.7 sq. miles) of land
- 729 acres (1.1 sq. miles) of inland water
(source: Taintor and Associates, Existing Conditions, 2004)
- Public Parks & Playgrounds - 200+ acres
(source: Taintor and Associates, Existing Conditions, 2004)
- Public Streets - 136 miles
- Wetlands - 3,538 acres
(source: City of Portsmouth, 2003 Wetlands Inventory)

Transportation & Road Access

- US Routes - 1, 4
- State Routes - 1A, 1B, 16, 33, 1 Bypass
- Nearest Interstate Exit - I-95, Exits 3-7
- Railroad - Guilford Rail Service
- Public Transport - COAST; Wildcat Transit
- Nearest Public Use Airport - Pease International Airport
- Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service: Manchester-Boston Regional

Driving Distance to Selected Cities

- Manchester, NH - 45 miles
- Portland, ME - 51 miles
- Boston, MA - 57 miles
- Concord, NH - 59 miles
- New York City, NY - 270 miles
- Washington, D.C. - 491 miles
- Montreal, Quebec - 301 miles

Emergency Services

Full Time Police Department

- Police Stations - 1
- Police Vehicles – 30

Municipal Fire Department

- Fire Stations – 3
- Fire Department Apparatus - 19

Emergency Medical Service –

Full & Part-time Staff

Nearest Hospital – Portsmouth Regional,
Portsmouth (209 beds)

City School System

- Number of Schools – 5
 - Elementary – 3
 - Middle/ Junior High – 1
 - High School – 1
- Number of Private Schools – 1
- NH Licensed Child Care Facilities
(2015) – 20

Culture and Recreation

- Libraries – 1 public, 1 private
- Community Centers – 2
- Number of boat dock facilities – 2
- Swimming pools – 3
- Tennis Courts – 10

Public Works Department

- Sanitation – Municipal
- Recycling Program – Mandatory
- Miles of Streets – 136
- Miles of Sidewalk – 70
- Number of Bridges – 14
- Number of Municipal Buildings – 7
(approximately 266,268 square feet)
- Playgrounds / parks/ ballfields – 23
- Historic Cemeteries – 6

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

- Miles of water mains – 188
- Number of service connections – 8,038
- Storage capacity in gallons (millions of gallons) – 10
- Maximum daily capacity of plant
(millions of gallons) – 4.5
- Number of fire hydrants – 1, 017
- Miles of sanitary sewers – 107
- Number of water treatment plants – 2
- Number of service connections – 6,404
- Maximum daily capacity of treatment
– millions of gallons 25.3
- Daily average water consumption
(millions of gallons) (FY2015) – 4.5
- Peak daily water consumption
(millions of gallons) (FY2015) – 6.0
- Daily average treatment of sewage
(millions of gallons) (FY2015) – 5.0



Economic Profile

The City of Portsmouth (population: 21,463) is a seaport community on the Piscataqua River, which divides New Hampshire and Maine. It is a regional economic and cultural hub for seacoast New Hampshire and lies 57 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts, and 51 miles south of Portland, Maine.



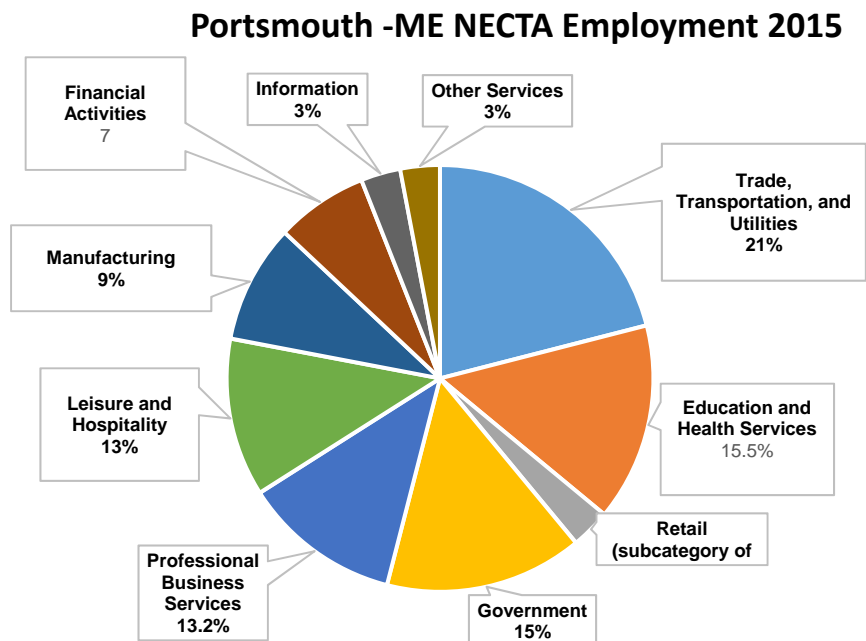
Quality of Life and Economic Assets

Settled in 1623, Portsmouth is the nation's 3rd-oldest city with a rich heritage as a working seaport and the home of the State's only deep-water port. Portsmouth has an authentic New England appeal that is unique. Contributing to that allure are the following attributes:

- Vibrant, walkable downtown
- Historic architecture
- Independent retail offerings and strong culinary destination
- Low crime rate
- Excellent K-12 school system
- Strong creative arts and culture economy
- Easy access to the interstate highway to the Boston, MA and Portland, ME metro areas
- Home to Pease International Tradeport and Airport
- High resident educational attainment (55% of Portsmouth residents over the age of 25 have a college bachelor's degree or higher, Source: US Census)

Portsmouth Business Sectors by Employment

The local economy consists primarily of private, service-producing industries versus manufacturing industries. The city's quality of life and aforementioned economic attributes have attracted a wide variety of industries employing young, entrepreneurial and highly-skilled workers in the technology, finance, biotech and health sectors. This contributes to the strong business diversity in the seacoast NH region. Portsmouth fared well during the recent recession due in part to its diversity and lack of reliance on one industry or workforce as illustrated in the adjacent chart (Source: NH ELMI).



Workforce

According to the NH Employment Security Office, Portsmouth's total public and private average quarterly employment at the end of the 2016 second quarter was 32,579 compared to 32,105 at the end of the 2015 second quarter indicating an increase of 474 jobs, or 1%, over the year. The average weekly wage for those periods were \$1,138 and \$1,092 respectively. Approximately one-half of working residents are employed locally, but the bulk of the workforce commutes into the City to work.

The City of Portsmouth continues to lead the region in low unemployment rates. According to the NH Department of Employment Security, as of December 31, 2016 the unemployment rate was 1.9%, compared to 2.3% in January 2016. The respective rates for the state and the nation for December 31, 2016 were 2.6% and 4.7%. The chart below compares the annual average unemployment rates of Portsmouth to the State and Nation from 2009-2016.

Annual Average Unemployment Rate (%) (Source NH Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau)							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
U.S.	9.6	8.9	8.6	8.1	5.4	5.0	4.9
State of NH	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.0	4.3	3.4	2.8
Portsmouth	5.4	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.2	2.5	2.0

Arts and Culture



Portsmouth also serves as the cultural and culinary destination for the region. This has resulted in a significant creative economy of for-profit and non-profit businesses ranging from theatres and museums to galleries and design/architectural firms. The most recent Economic Impact study of this sector by Americans for the Arts indicated that the city's non-profit cultural institutions and organizations alone contribute over \$41.4 million to the local economy.

Portsmouth stands out in this regard because the \$41.4 million figure is five times the arts and cultural contribution of similar sized cities. These organizations, along with many year-round cultural offerings, make Portsmouth a preferred tourist destination and, as in the past, the media has taken note. In the past year, Portsmouth received the following media accolades:



Portsmouth featured in January 2017 issue of *Paste Magazine* Also *paste magazine*.

<https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2017/01/things-to-do-in-portsmouth-newhampshire-parks-museums-music.html>



Portsmouth featured in *USA Today* article listing picturesque small towns in each state,

<http://www.usatoday.com/picture-gallery/travel/experience/america/fifty-states/2017/01/13/picturesque-small-towns-in-every-state/96554210/>, January 13, 2017

Portsmouth featured as destination to shake the winter blues,

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/travel/2017/01/05/weekend-getaways-shake-winter-blues/lj5PznrPJXTQtptWP0dNuL/story.html>, January 6, 2017

Strawbery Banke Museum featured in The 50 Top Educational Attractions in the Northeast,

<https://www.vacationsmadeeasy.com/TheBLT/The50TopEducationalAttractionsintheNortheast683.html> Oct. 2016

Portsmouth listed in ranking of top ten prettiest towns to retire,
<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/10-of-the-prettiest-us-towns-to-retire-2016-09-15>, September 2016



Portsmouth listed as a top 7 destination road trips under \$500 in US News online travel site
<http://travel.usnews.com/features/americas-top-7-scenic-fall-road-trips-under-500/> Sept. 2016

Portsmouth featured in VacationIdea, Dream Vacation Magazine in article entitled 19 Best Things to do in Portsmouth, August 3, 2016 NH, <http://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-things-to-do-in-portsmouth-nh.html>

Portsmouth highlighted in article, On *Julie's Journey* blog, Off the Beaten Path Eats and Activities in the Capital Region and Beyond entitled, "A Day in Portsmouth, New Hampshire," August 2016
<http://juliejourneys.com/2016/08/20/a-day-in-portsmouth-new-hampshire/>

Portsmouth included in Collections Etcetera blog as one of the best 39 small towns worth visiting:
<https://blog.collectionsetc.com/2016/08/11/39-best-small-towns-in-america-worth-visiting-2016/>
Aug. 11, 2016

Portsmouth featured in *Providence Journal* as "Colonial City with Plenty to Do,"
July <http://www.providencejournal.com/entertainmentlife/20160728/sunday-drive-portsmouth-nh--colonial-city-with-plenty-to-see-and-do>; July 28, 2016

Portsmouth named one of the most tax-friendly places in NH for retirees by Smart Asset: July 2016
<https://smartasset.com/retirement/new-hampshire-retirement-taxes?year=2016#newhampshire>

Portsmouth ranked top small city by National Geographic Traveler digital nomad series:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/digital-nomad/new-hampshire/portsmouth-united-states-greatest-small-town/> July 2016

School Enrollments

The Portsmouth Public School System serves approximately 2,674 students in grades K-12. The School Department includes a preschool program, three elementary schools (K-5), one middle school (6-8), one high school (9-12), and one alternative high school program (9-12). The high school also includes a Career Technical Education program available to students in grades 9-12.



Post-Secondary

In addition to the University of New Hampshire located 12 miles away in Durham and Great Bay Community College in Portsmouth, many institutions of higher education are available in or near the City. These institutions include: Granite State College, Southern New Hampshire University, Franklin Pierce College, Antioch University New England, and New England College.

Education and Child Care (source: NHES Community Profile, Portsmouth 2015 and ACS Survey 2010-2014)				
	Elementary	Middle/ Junior High	High School	Private/ Parochial
# of Schools	3	1	1	1
Grade Levels	P, K-5	6-8	9-12	P, K, 1-8
Total Enrollment	1,035	529	1,110	124
Career Technology Centers	Portsmouth Career Tech Center #19			
Nearest Community College	Great Bay Community College			
Nearest College or University	University of New Hampshire			
2015 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS Bureau of Licensing)	Total Facilities – 20 Total Capacity – 1,335			

Utilities

Electric and Gas – Eversource, interconnected with the New England Power Company Exchange, supplies all electrical power within the city. Gas service is provided by Unitil, Allied Gas Division and Sea 3. Both natural gas and LPG are available.

Water and Sewer - Water and sewer services are provided by the City under an Enterprise Fund with user charges set to ensure adequate coverage of operating expenses and payments on outstanding debt.

Transportation Services

Overnight truck delivery is available from Portsmouth throughout the northeast market serving 36% of the nation's population plus eastern Canada. Portsmouth is served by twenty-one (21) regular route carriers and UPS. The Boston & Maine Railroad provides daily freight service. Greyhound and Trailways bus services also provide daily interstate service. By vehicle, it is an hour commute south to Logan International Airport, as well as the financial and medical centers of Boston.

Pease International Airport is located within the City of Portsmouth. Manchester Airport is located approximately one hour west and Portland International Airport in Portland, Maine is located one hour north of Portsmouth. Amtrak passenger rail link service is now available between Portland and Boston with stops in Dover, Exeter and Durham, NH. Regional bus service is provided by COAST (Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation).

Using Portsmouth as one terminus, COAST serves the region with frequent service.



The New Hampshire State Port Authority's Portsmouth facility currently provides a concrete pier 600 feet by 50 feet, with a 35-foot deep berth alongside, a 10 acre storage area and 50,000 square feet of warehouse space. The newest state pier has doubled its capacity and accommodates additional bulk cargo products and container and barge services. The harbor is ice-free year round and is the closest ice-free port to Europe. The Port operates the only active Foreign Trade Zone north of New York.

Unique Economic Drivers

Along with its skilled workforce and superior quality of life, the City benefits from major economic assets that attract diverse businesses and workers. The City's economic assets include the Pease International Tradeport, the NH State Port, the Foreign Trade Zone, and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, each of which is highlighted below.

Pease International Tradeport



One of the nation's most successful military base redevelopments, Pease International Tradeport, is located in Portsmouth and continues to grow and be a significant contributor to the economic vitality of the region. In September 2016, the Business NH magazine listed the top ten (10) New Hampshire companies to work for in 2015, four (4) of which are located in Portsmouth. Of these four, two are located in Pease International

Tradeport as are two companies that were included in the "Hall of Fame" categories which means it was listed 4 out of the past 5 years as Best Places to Work.

The Pease Development Authority (PDA) administers development of the Tradeport. Because the Tradeport is located primarily within the municipal boundaries of Portsmouth, the PDA and the City entered into a Municipal Services Agreement many years ago for both the Airport and

Non-Airport Districts. In accordance with the Agreement, the City received a total of \$6.9 million in FY17 in municipal service fees and property taxes for City services provided.

Pease International Tradeport continues to be an important regional economic driver with over 275 companies and over 9,500 workers, many in well-paying technology and advance manufacturing jobs. According to a recent report on the 25th anniversary of the Tradeport by Applied Economic Research entitled “Pease Tradeport, Economic Impact 2015,” the Seacoast economy has outperformed the New Hampshire economy in both the short and long term, due largely to the success of Pease. Driven by activity at Pease, the pace of job growth in Portsmouth (71%) has been more than twice that of New Hampshire since the Pease Airforce Base closure in 1990.

The Tradeport is also home to the Pease International Airport, which is an asset to the entire region. Its proximity to Logan Boston’s International Airport, MA, the Portland, Maine International Airport and the Manchester, NH Regional Airport creates a unique opportunity to capture both passenger and airplane service companies. Currently, passenger flights are available on Allegiant Airlines and on several charter and private jets that operate out of the airport.

The Air National Guard 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease Tradeport is moving forward with preparations to receive twelve (12) new KC-46A refueling tankers slated to replace the aging KC-135 Stratotanker refuelers. The Pease Refueling Wing was selected in 2014 as the U.S. Air Force’s top choice to receive the next generation KC-46A refueling tankers adding 100 new jobs with a payroll of \$7 million and indirect economic benefits of \$45 million in construction contracts. In January of this year, the Air Force announced successful test flights of the planes scheduled to arrive at Pease in February 2018. Between now and then, the Air Force is undertaking infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate the new aircraft such as new hangar space and simulator building and maintenance crew training.

The Port of New Hampshire

The Port of New Hampshire, located on the Piscataqua River in downtown Portsmouth, is the State’s only deep-water port. The Port is overseen by the Pease Development Authority. Its strategic location on a deep natural harbor makes it viable for international cargo shipping as well as for visiting cruise ships. The Harbormaster offices and docks are located onsite. Port infrastructure includes a 66-foot-long wharf, a 310-foot barge pier, two (2) large warehouse structures, and open areas for bulk storage and container facilities. The Port also leases space to local charter fishing and harbor cruise operators and serves as host to the popular tall ships that visit the City periodically.



Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)

New Hampshire has one Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) consisting of five (5) distinct sites, three (3) of which are located in Portsmouth: 1,095 acres at the Tradeport, 10 acres at the Port, and 50 acres at the Portsmouth Industrial Park. A Foreign Trade Zone is a site within the United States where items may be imported, stored and processed with deferral or elimination of customs duties and excise taxes, allowing firms to operate more competitively in the international market. The

FTZ, in conjunction with the State's International Trade Resource Center, provides both opportunity and technical assistance for businesses interested in foreign commerce.



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY)



The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) is located in Kittery, Maine, just across the Piscataqua River from the City. It is a major submarine overhaul and refueling facility as well as the U.S. government's oldest continuously operating naval shipyard. It is also the largest regional employer with a highly skilled, technical workforce. The Seacoast Shipyard Association's regional economic impact report of the PNSY for calendar year 2015 shows an economic impact of \$732,730,681. The Shipyard employs a total of

6,099 civilian employees with a payroll of \$482 million up from 5,585 employees with a payroll of \$432 million in calendar year 2014. The shipyard purchased \$70 million of goods and services in 2015; an increase of \$17 million over calendar year 2014. Total contracted facility services

purchased was \$138 million in 2015 making it a significant source of direct and indirect expenditures in the region.