New Hampshire
Fact Book:
Quality of Life

Compiled by:

Public Service
of New Hampshire
The Northeast Utilities System

Economic and Community Development Division
Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH)
"Helping Businesses Prosper"

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Introduction

The New Hampshire Fact Book is a compilation of public available data sources about the state of New Hampshire by Public Service of New Hampshire's (PSNH) Economic and Community Development Division. It was developed as a tool for economic development professionals to use when deciding where to locate a new or expanding facility. All information is believed to be accurate and from reliable sources. PSNH is not responsible for inaccurate data represented in this publication.

Quality of Life

All states say they have “quality of life,” but the fact is that New Hampshire is small enough to support a balanced quality of life without sitting in traffic for two hours. Employees and company owners choose to live in New Hampshire because there are excellent school systems, high quality health care, low crime rates, sophisticated technologies, clean air, mountains, oceans, lakes and historical and cultural resources, and commuting to work takes on average only 30 to 45 minutes. New Hampshire is also close to major metropolitan areas; Boston is a one-hour commute by automobile and New York City is a four and a half hour commute.

Social Surveys

New Hampshire has been highly rated in national social surveys. New Hampshire was recently ranked the third “Most Livable State” by CQ Press. New Hampshire ranked this high because of factors such as its low crime rate, reasonable cost of living and highly educated and healthy population. The table below lists some of the quality of life categories in which New Hampshire has ranked high.

Categories	National Rank	New England Rank
Favorable Business Tax Climate	8th	1st
Standard of Living (by Poverty Rate) 2005-2007	1st	1st
Most Livable State (CQ Press, 2009)	3rd	1st
Safest State (Crime per 100,000 people, 2008)	1st	1st
Child and Family Well-Being (Annie E. Casey, 2008)	1st	1st
Healthiest State (CQ Press, 2008)	2nd	1st
% of Population Graduated from High School in 2007	3rd	1st
Per Capita Income (2007)	9th	3rd

Housing Costs

Despite a softening real estate and rental market, New Hampshire's citizens continue to face a significant housing affordability challenge. Property taxes, and other costs associated with keeping a family housed, have increased substantially in the past year. These associated expenses have had the effect of raising the overall cost of housing for both renters and home owners, thus continuing the challenge of affordability for Granite State residents. Although rents and home prices have recently stabilized or even fallen slightly, there is still a substantial affordability gap between household incomes and housing costs for most low and moderate income New Hampshire families.

Median Gross Rental Cost by Type

Year	All Units	0-Bedroom Units	1-Bedroom Units	2-Bedroom Units	3-Bedroom Units	4+-Bedroom Units
2008	$969	$615	$800	$1,044	$1,200	$1,466
2007	$946	$634	$778	$1,029	$1,195	$1,437
2006	$928	$600	$794	$1,003	$1,194	$1,400
2005	$901	$585	$750	$989	$1,116	$1,335
2004	$896	$592	$754	$978	$1,094	$1,274
2003	$854	$550	$736	$932	$1,025	$1,200

Source: New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority Residential Rental Cost Survey

Median Purchase Price by House Type

Year	All Homes	Existing Homes	New Homes	Non-Condominiums	Condominiums
2008	$240,200	$234,000	$295,500	$254,000	$196,000
2007	$252,500	$245,000	$300,000	$269,900	$199,000
2006	$249,900	$240,000	$312,500	$265,000	$192,000
2005	$250,000	$240,000	$299,933	$270,000	$196,000
2004	$238,000	$229,000	$284,190	$252,660	$187,780
2003	$215,000	$201,600	$267,500	$229,400	$169,900

Source: New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority Purchase Price Database

For more information on housing costs, visit the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority website http://www.nhhfa.org

Climate

The New Hampshire climate is conducive to healthy minds and good worker attitudes. Winter storms impose very few travel problems as evidenced by school department averages of two no school days per season due to storms. Summers are temperate and air conditioning is not usually necessary for comfort, except for a few peak humid days. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the 12 months.

Temperatures for Concord, NH

	Normal Temperatures			Extreme Temperatures	
Month	**Daily Max**	**Daily Min**	**Average**	**High**	**Low**
January	30.6	9.7	20.1	68	-33
February	34.1	12.6	23.3	67	-37
March	43.8	22.7	33.3	89	-16
April	56.9	32.2	44.6	95	8
May	69.6	42.4	56	97	21
June	77.9	51.8	64.9	98	30
July	82.9	57.1	70	102	35
August	80.8	55.6	68.2	101	29
September	72.1	46.6	59.4	98	21
October	60.5	35.1	47.8	90	10
November	47.6	27.6	37.6	80	-5
December	35.6	16.2	25.9	73	-22
Annual	57.7	34.1	45.9	102	-37

Normal values are based on the period 1971-2000
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Culture and Recreation

New Hampshire offers a wide variety of activities for residents and tourists alike all year round in any region of the state. Some of the activity types include:

- Enrich your mind at one of the many **galleries**, **historic sites**, **museums** and **theaters** in New Hampshire where arts and history combine to inspire creative minds.
- Sun yourself at a **beach** along NH's 18 miles of coastline or enjoy other **water activities** such as boating or swimming in one of the 1,300 lakes and ponds that provide recreation throughout the seasons.
- Get outdoors and experience year-round **outdoor activities** such as skiing, snowmobiling, golfing, biking, hiking, camping, fishing, or boating.
- Enjoy tax-free **shopping** in New Hampshire's unique stores, factory outlets or **antique stores.**
- Take a **scenic drive** through one of New Hampshire's 50 **covered bridges** or view the **fall foliage.**
- Experience New Hampshire made products at one of the many **Agricultural Fairs** or **Farmer's Markets** throughout the state.
- Catch a **sporting event** or a **performance** at one of New Hampshire's arenas or stadiums.

Visit the New Hampshire Department of Travel and Tourism's website for more information on New Hampshire's attractions http://www.visitnh.gov.