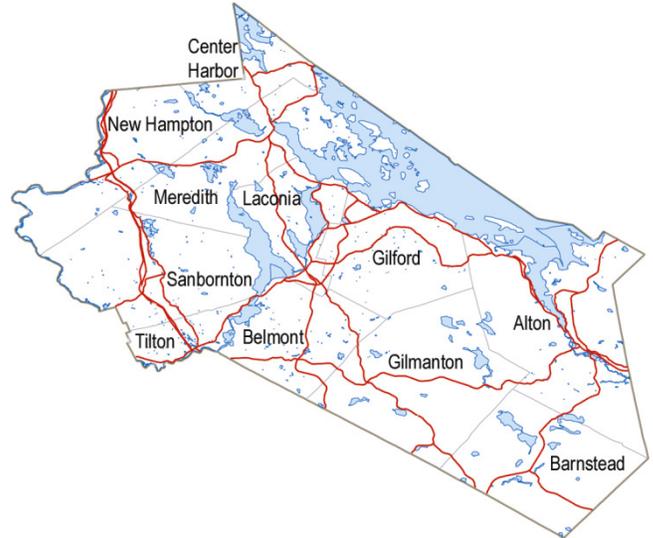
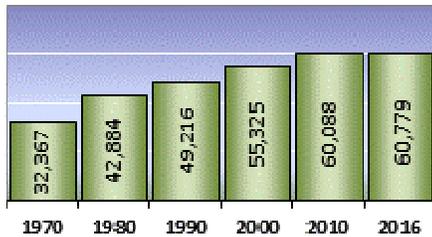


# Belknap County

Located just southeast of the geographic center of the state in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, Belknap County was established in 1840 from portions of Strafford County. The county was named for Dr. Jeremy Belknap, Dover Congregational Church minister and author of *The History of New Hampshire*, which chronicled the early history of the state. Belknap is one of two counties in the state without an interstate border; Merrimack is the other. A large part of Lake Winnepesaukee, all of Lake Winnisquam, and many smaller lakes cover nearly one-sixth of the county, the largest amount of inland water among New Hampshire's counties.



Belknap County contains 400.2 square miles of land area and 68.4 square miles of inland water area. Based on the 2010 Census population, the population density is 150.1 persons per square mile. Belknap County includes one city, Laconia, and ten towns. The county seat is Laconia.



**Population Trends:** Belknap County experienced its highest rate of growth from 1970 to 1980, when the population grew by 32.5 percent, adding 10,500 residents. Belknap ranked in the bottom third among all counties every census from 1790 to 1970, then rose to seventh, holding that rank ever since. Population increase in both 1990 and 2000 was just over 6,000 residents. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate of growth slowed a little more, increasing by 8.6 percent, adding 4,700 residents. Belknap County residents are generally older as well, having the third-highest median age in New Hampshire. The median age of women is higher than that of men, by about one and a half years.

| Population (1-Year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau) |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year   | 2016   | 2010   | 2000   | 1990   | 1980   |
|  | 60,779 | 60,088 | 55,325 | 49,216 | 42,884 |

| Demographics (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS) |                    |        |  |
|--|--------------------|--------|--|
| <b>By Gender:</b>                            |                    |        |  |
|  | Male               | Female |  |
| Total  | 60,392             | 30,821 |  |
| 18 years and over                            | 23,607             | 25,163 |  |
| 65 years and over                            | 5,532              | 6,299  |  |
| Median Age (years)                           | 45.8               | 47.1   |  |
| <b>By Age Group:</b>                         |                    |        |  |
|  | Under age 5        | 2,707  |  |
|  | Age 5 to 19        | 10,343 |  |
|  | Age 20 to 34       | 9,284  |  |
|  | Age 35 to 54       | 16,105 |  |
|  | Age 55 to 64       | 10,122 |  |
|  | Age 65 and over    | 11,831 |  |
|  | Median Age (years) | 46.5   |  |

| Labor Force (NHES-ELMI) |        |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Annual Average          | 2006   | 2016   |
| Civilian Labor Force    | 32,520 | 31,340 |
| Employed                | 31,440 | 30,470 |
| Unemployed              | 1,080  | 870    |
| Unemployment Rate       | 3.3%   | 2.8%   |

#### 2016 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Town

|               |      |             |      |
|---------------|------|-------------|------|
| Alton         | 2.4% | Laconia     | 3.1% |
| Barnstead     | 2.4% | Meredith    | 2.6% |
| Belmont       | 3.1% | New Hampton | 2.6% |
| Center Harbor | 2.5% | Sanbornton  | 2.6% |
| Gilford       | 2.7% | Tilton      | 2.7% |
| Gilmanton     | 3.1% |             |      |

Due to differing methodologies, 1-Year Population Estimates and 5-Year Average ACS Demographics data may not match.

| Largest Businesses                  | Community   | Product/Service                                  | Employees |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| Aavid Engineering Corp.             | Laconia     | Semiconductor heat sinks                         | 620       |
| Gunstock Recreation Area            | Gilford     | Ski, recreation area                             | 550       |
| NH Ball Bearings, Inc.              | Laconia     | Spherical bearings                               | 478       |
| Vutek                               | Meredith    | Color ink machinery                              | 380       |
| j.jill                              | Tilton      | Contact & distribution center of women's apparel | 325       |
| Gilford School District             | Gilford     | Education  | 260       |
| Interlakes School System            | Meredith    | Education  | 228       |
| Meredith Village Savings Bank       | Meredith    | Banking services                                 | 210       |
| Hannaford Brothers                  | Gilford     | Supermarket                                      | 200       |
| Wal-Mart                            | Gilford     | Retail store                                     | 200       |
| Tanger Outlet Stores                | Tilton      | Retail outlet stores                             | 200       |
| Town of Gilford                     | Gilford     | Municipal services                               | 175       |
| New Hampton School                  | New Hampton | Secondary education                              | 155       |
| Home Depot                          | Tilton      | Home improvement center                          | 150       |
| Town of Alton                       | Alton       | Municipal services                               | 140       |
| Taylor Community                    | Laconia     | Nonprofit continuing care retirement community   | 140       |
| Hannaford Brothers                  | Alton       | Supermarket                                      | 132       |
| Lewis & Sanders, Inc.               | Laconia     | Metal tubular assemblies                         | 130       |
| Golden View                         | Meredith    | Nursing home                                     | 130       |
| Alton School Department             | Alton       | Education  | 116       |
| Hampshire Hospitality Holdings      | Meredith    | Inn, spa, marketplace                            | 115       |
| Bank of New Hampshire               | Gilford     | Banking services                                 | 115       |
| Winnisquam Regional School District | Tilton      | Education  | 114       |
| Shaws Supermarket                   | Gilford     | Supermarket                                      | 113       |
| Wal-Mart                            | Tilton      | Retail store                                     | 110       |
| Autoserv                            | Tilton      | Car dealership                                   | 110       |
| Wilcom Products, Inc.               | Belmont     | Telecommunication test equipment                 | 108       |
| Barnstead Elementary School/SAU 86  | Barnstead   | Education/administrative                         | 106       |
| Town of Barnstead                   | Barnstead   | Municipal services                               | 96        |
| Shaw's Supermarket                  | Belmont     | Supermarket                                      | 95        |

**Note:** All employer information, including number of employees, was provided by the individual communities.

| Covered Employment & Wages              | (NHES-ELMI) |         |
|---|-------------|---------|
| Annual Average Covered Employment       | 2006        | 2016    |
| Goods Producing Industries              |             |         |
| Average Employment                      | 5,133       | 3,626   |
| Average Weekly Wage                     | \$862       | \$1,089 |
| Service Providing Industries            |             |         |
| Average Employment                      | 17,909      | 17,951  |
| Average Weekly Wage                     | \$596       | \$738   |
| Total Private Industry                  |             |         |
| Average Employment                      | 23,042      | 21,577  |
| Average Weekly Wage                     | \$655       | \$797   |
| Government (Federal, State, and Local)  |             |         |
| Average Employment                      | 4,195       | 4,132   |
| Average Weekly Wage                     | \$674       | \$803   |
| Total, Private Industry plus Government |             |         |
| Average Employment                      | 27,237      | 25,708  |
| Average Weekly Wage                     | \$658       | \$798   |

| Income                                 | (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS) |          |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| Per Capita Income                      |                                 | \$32,501 |
| Median Family Income                   |                                 | \$73,190 |
| Median Household Income                |                                 | \$61,245 |
| Median Earnings (Full-Time Year-Round) | Male                            | \$48,491 |
|  | Female                          | \$37,422 |
| Individuals below poverty level        |                                 | 10.3%    |

| Commuting to Work                      | (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS) |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Workers, 16 years and over             | 30,319                          |
| Car, truck or van: drove alone         | 25,661                          |
| Car, truck or van: carpooled           | 2,346                           |
| Public transportation (excluding taxi) | 13                              |
| Walked                                 | 432                             |
| Other means                            | 590                             |
| Worked at home                         | 1,277                           |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes)     | 26.6                            |
| Percent of working residents:          |                                 |
| Working in county of residence         | 61.3%                           |
| Commuting to some other NH county      | 36.4%                           |
| Commuting out-of-state/country         | 2.3%                            |

| Transportation                            |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Road Access                               | US Routes  | 3  |
|   | State Routes   | 25, 25B, 28, 28A, 104, 106, 107, 126, 127, 129, 132, 140 |
| Nearest Interstates                       | I-93, Exit 15E (Concord); Exit 20 (Tilton); Exit 22 (Sanbornton); or Exit 23 (New Hampton) |  |
| Nearest Airport(s) with Scheduled Service | Manchester-Boston Regional   | Passenger Airlines<br>4                                  |

**Educational Attainment (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS)**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Population, Age 25 and Over                 | 44,280 |
| Less than 9th grade                         | 857    |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma               | 2,839  |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 13,318 |
| Some college, no degree                     | 9,271  |
| Associate's degree                          | 4,505  |
| Bachelor's degree                           | 8,507  |
| Graduate or professional degree             | 4,983  |
| Percent high school graduates or higher     | 91.7%  |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher         | 30.5%  |

**Educational and Child Care Facilities***School Districts in Belknap County municipalities:*

- Alton (Grades K-8)
- Barnstead (Grades K-8)
- Prospect Mountain JMA—  
Alton, Barnstead (Grades 9-12)
- Gilford (Grades K-12)
- Gilmanton (Grades K-8)
- Inter-Lakes Cooperative —  
Center Harbor, Meredith (Grades K-12)
- Laconia (Grades K-12)
- Newfound Area —  
New Hampton (Grades K-12)
- Shaker Regional — Belmont (Grades K-12)
- Winnisquam Regional —  
Sanbornton, Tilton (Grades K-12)

*Career Technology Centers:*

- J. Oliva Huot Technical Center (Laconia)
- Winnisquam Agricultural Programs (Tilton)
- Lakes Region Technology Center (Wolfeboro)
- Plymouth Applied Technology Center

*Nearest Community College:*

- Lakes Region, Laconia
- NH Technical Institute, Concord

*Nearest Colleges/Universities:*

- Plymouth State University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Colby-Sawyer College (New London)
- University of New Hampshire School of Law (Concord)
- University of New Hampshire (Durham)
- Southern NH University (Manchester)

**NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2017***(NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing)*

Total Facilities: 39      Total Capacity: 1,693

**Nearest Hospitals (NH Hospital Assoc.) Staffed Beds**

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Concord Hospital, Concord     | 242 |
| Franklin Regional, Franklin   | 31  |
| Frisbie Memorial, Rochester   | 96  |
| Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro   | 25  |
| Lakes Region General, Laconia | 88  |
| Speare Memorial, Plymouth     | 25  |

**Housing (2012-2016 5-Year Average, ACS)**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Total Housing Units                       | 37,715 |
| Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached | 28,471 |
| Units in Multiple-Family Structures:      |        |
| Two to Four Units in Structure            | 3,247  |
| Five or More Units in Structure           | 2,928  |
| Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units      | 3,069  |

**Northern New England Real Estate Network Statistics\***

YTD 2017 Median Sale Price, Residential \$219,000

**NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey\*\***

2017 Median Monthly Gross Rent, 2 Bedroom \$1,028

**Property Tax Rates, 2016 (NH Dept. of Revenue Admin.)**

| Town          | Total Tax Rate/\$1000 | Equalization Ratio | Full Value Rate/\$1000 |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Alton         | \$14.15               | 95.2               | \$13.44                |
| Barnstead     | \$27.25               | 92.1               | \$25.03                |
| Belmont       | \$28.83               | 92.7               | \$26.42                |
| Center Harbor | \$14.38               | 91.6               | \$13.15                |
| Gilford       | \$17.95               | 93.8               | \$16.78                |
| Gilmanton     | \$23.91               | 98.3               | \$23.62                |
| Laconia       | \$22.20               | 93.3               | \$20.34                |
| Meredith      | \$15.59               | 90.5               | \$14.02                |
| New Hampton   | \$17.99               | 104.3              | \$19.44                |
| Sanbornton    | \$23.63               | 85.6               | \$20.14                |
| Tilton        | \$20.72               | 95.4               | \$19.82                |

**2016 Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type, County Totals**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Residential Land and Buildings           | 87.2% |
| Commercial Land and Buildings            | 11.2% |
| Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other | 1.6%  |

\* **Source:** *Monthly Statistics Report – October 2017 for New Hampshire*. Copyright 2017 Northern New England Real Estate Network, Inc. The reproduction of these statistics is done with the permission of NNEREN. The statistics referenced herein are based solely upon listings submitted to the multiple listing service database of NNEREN and do not include all properties sold and marketed for sale. ALL INFORMATION DEEMED RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED. Any analysis or commentary related to these statistics is that of the commentator, and not that of NNEREN. <www.nneren.com>

\*\* **Source:** 2017 Residential Rental Cost Survey, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. Copyright NHHFA 2017. <www.nhhfa.org>

| <b>Contacts</b>                  | <b>Address</b>                              | <b>ZIP</b> | <b>Phone/Fax*</b>                   | <b>E-Mail/Web</b>  | <b>Office Hours</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Town of Alton                    | PO Box 659<br>Alton NH                      | 03809      | P: 875-2161<br>F: 875-0207          | administrator@alton.nh.gov<br>www.alton.nh.gov             | M-F 8-4:30, 1 <sup>st</sup> & last Th until 7                                  |
| Barnstead Board of Selectmen     | PO Box 11<br>Center Barnstead NH            | 03225      | P: 269-4071<br>F: 269-4072          | barntownhall@metrocast.net<br>www.barnstead.org            | Selectmen: T 8:30-7; TC/TC:<br>MWThF 8:30-4:30, T 11:30-7                      |
| Town of Belmont                  | 143 Main Street<br>PO Box 310<br>Belmont NH | 03220      | P: 267-8300<br>F: 267-8327          | townadministrator@belmontnh.org<br>http://belmontnh.org    | M-F 7:30-4   |
| Center Harbor Board of Selectmen | PO Box 140<br>Center Harbor NH              | 03226      | P: 253-4561<br>F: 253-8420          | chselectmen@metrocast.net<br>www.centerharbornh.org        | MTThF 9-3, W 9-12 & 6-8  |
| Town of Gilford                  | 47 Cherry Valley Road<br>Gilford NH         | 03249      | P: 527-4700<br>F: 527-4711          | selectmen@gilfordnh.org<br>www.gilfordnh.org               | M-F 8-5; Town Clerk/Tax Collector:<br>MTWF 8-4:30, Th 8-6                      |
| Town of Gilmanton                | PO Box 550<br>Gilmanton NH                  | 03237      | P: 267-6700<br>F: 267-6701          | TownAdministrator@gilmantonnh.org<br>www.gilmantonnh.org   | Selectmen: MWThF 9-4:30; Town<br>Clerk: MTh 9-2 & 6-8, WF 9-4,<br>closed Tues. |
| City of Laconia                  | 45 Beacon Street East<br>Laconia NH         | 03246      | P: 527-1270<br>F: 527-1292          | citymanager@laconianh.gov<br>www.laconianh.gov             | M-F 8:30-4:30  |
| Town of Meredith                 | 41 Main Street<br>Meredith NH               | 03253      | P: 677-4205<br>F: 556-8819          | pwarren@meredithnh.org<br>www.meredithnh.org               | M-F 8-5  |
| New Hampton Board of Selectmen   | 6 Pinnacle Hill Road<br>New Hampton NH      | 03256      | P: 744-3559<br>F: 744-5106          | blucas@new-hampton.nh.us<br>www.new-hampton.nh.us          | Selectmen: M-F 8:30-4; TC/TC:<br>MTWF 7:30-4:30, Th 10-7, closed<br>daily 12-1 |
| Town of Sanbornton               | PO Box 124<br>Sanbornton NH                 | 03269      | P: 286-8303<br>F: 286-9544          | townadministrator@sanborntonnh.org<br>www.sanborntonnh.org | Selectmen: M-F 8-4; Town Clerk:<br>W 8-6:30, TThF 8-4, closed Mon              |
| Town of Tilton                   | 257 Main Street<br>Tilton NH                | 03276      | P: 286-4521<br>x 101<br>F: 286-3519 | townadmin@tiltonnh.org<br>www.tiltonnh.org                 | MTWF 8:30-4:15, Th 8:30-5:30   |

*\*all area codes are (603)*