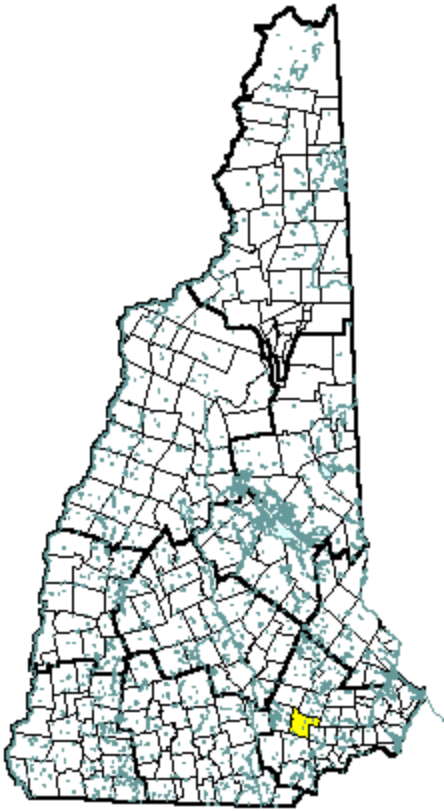


Chester, NH



Incorporated: 1722

Community Contact: **TOWN OF CHESTER PLANNING DEPARTMENT**
Cynthia Robinson, Planning Coordinator
PO Box 217, Municipal Office Building
Chester, NH 03036

Telephone: (603) 887-5629
Fax: (603) 887-4404
E-mail: chstrpl@Gsinet.net
Web Site: www.chesternh.org

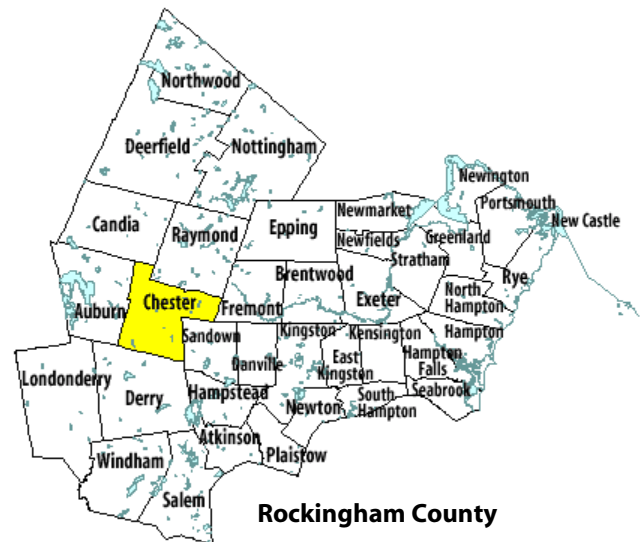
City/Town Office Hours: **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8 am - 12:30 pm, and Tuesday, 8 am - 4 pm**

County: **Rockingham**
Labor Market Area: **Lawrence, MA-NH**
Planning Commission: **Southern NH**
Tourism Region: **Merrimack Valley**

Demographics, 2000 Census: From 1990 to 2000, Chester's population grew by 40.1 percent to 3,792, a numeric increase of 1,101. The median age is 35.7, with 31.0 percent of the population under the age of 18 and 6.1 percent age 65 and older, the 8th lowest percent of people in that age group among the cities and towns. The total number of households is 1,214, with an average size of 3.1 persons. Of those, 1,011 are family households, with an average size of 3.4 persons. As of April 1, 2000, there were 1,247 total housing units.

Population density, 2002: 157.2 persons per square mile of land area. Chester contains 26.0 square miles of land area and 0.1 square miles of inland water area.

Origin: First called the "chestnut country," it may have been the first of the settlement grants by Massachusetts selected for expansion of growing populations in the seacoast. The name may have derived from Cheshire, Chester being the county seat of Cheshire in England. Earl of Chester is a title held by the Prince of Wales.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES

City/Town Office Hours:
MWThF 8-12:30, T 8-4 pm

Type of Government	Selectmen
Annual Budget (2002)	\$8,536,145
Planning Board	Appointed
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	Planning Board
Zoning Ordinance	1960/03
Master Plan	1997
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes

Public Library **Chester Public**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department	Full-time
Fire Department	Volunteer
Town Fire Insurance Rating	9/10
Emergency Medical Service	Volunteer

Nearest Hospital(s):
Parkland Medical Center, Derry
 Distance: **5 miles** Staffed Beds: **82**

PROPERTY TAXES

2002 Total Tax Rate	\$28.13
2002 Equalization Ratio	70.9
2002 Full Value Tax Rate	\$19.74

2002 Property Valuation:	Residential	94.1%
	Commercial	2.8%
	Other	3.1%

UTILITIES

Electric Supplier	PSNH; NH Electric Coop.
Natural Gas Supplier	None
Water Supplier	Private wells

Sanitation	Private septic
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	No
Curbside Trash Pickup	No
Mandatory Recycling Program	Yes

Telephone Company	Granite State; Verizon
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes
Cable Television Access	Yes
High Speed Cable Internet Service	
Business Cable Internet Service	Yes
Residential Cable Internet Service	Yes

HOUSING

2001 Total Housing Units	1,417
2001 Single-Family Units	1,349
Building Permits Issued	79
2001 Multi-Family Units	42
Building Permits Issued	0
2001 Manufactured Housing Units	26
2000 Census Housing Costs	
Median Value, Owner-Occupied Housing	\$170,900
Median Gross Rent (monthly)	\$695

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population	Community	County
2001	4,094	283,808
2000	3,792	277,359
1990	2,691	245,845
1980	2,006	190,345
1970	1,382	138,951

2000 Census Demographics

Population by Gender			
Male	1,875	Female	1,917
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			315
Age 5 to 19			961
Age 20 to 34			564
Age 35 to 54			1,422
Age 55 to 64			300
Age 65 and over			230
Median Age			35.7 years

Total Households	1,214	Ave. Size	3.1 persons
Total Families	1,011	Ave. Size	3.4 persons

Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over	
High school graduate or higher	92.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	31.1%

ANNUAL INCOME, 1999**(US CENSUS)**

Per capita income	\$23,842
Median 4-person family income	\$75,092
Median household income	\$68,571
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers	
Male	\$44,056
Female	\$35,382
Families below the poverty level	3.4%

TRANSPORTATION

Road Access	Federal Routes	
	State Routes	102, 121
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-93, Exit 4
	Distance	7 miles
Railroad		No
Public Transportation		No
Nearest Airport		Manchester
Runway		9,250 feet
Lighted?	Yes	Navigational Aids? Yes
Nearest Commercial Airport		Manchester
Distance		13 miles

DISTANCE TO

Manchester, NH	12 miles
Portland, ME	86 miles
Boston, MA	48 miles
New York City, NY	248 miles
Montreal, Quebec	273 miles

EDUCATION/CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Primary & Secondary	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			
Grade Levels	1-8			
Total Enrollment	601			

If no schools, district students attend: **Pinkerton Academy, Derry**

Distance: **5 miles**

Regional Career Technology Center(s): **Pinkerton Academy; Salem High School**

Region: **17**

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2003: Total Facilities: **7**

Total Capacity: **249**

Nearest Community/Technical College: **Manchester; Nashua**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **White Pines; Hesser; Southern NH University; Notre Dame; UNH-Manchester**

LARGEST EMPLOYERS

	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Genesis Woodcraft	Wooden housewares, accessories	18	1979
Stone Machine Co., Inc.	Machine shop	15	1980

LABOR FORCE

Annual Average	1992	2002
Civilian labor force	1,624	2,308
Employed	1,481	2,155
Unemployed	143	153
Unemployment rate	8.8%	6.6%

COMMUTING TO WORK

(US CENSUS)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	84.2%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	6.8%
Public transportation	1.2%
Walked	0.6%
Other means	0.0
Worked at home	7.2%

Mean Travel Time to Work **32.2 minutes**

EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

2001

2002

Goods Producing		
Average Employment	84	81
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,172	\$1,091
Service Providing		
Average Employment	183	190
Average Weekly Wage	\$790	\$795
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	267	270
Average Weekly Wage	\$910	\$883
Government		
Average Employment	109	135
Average Weekly Wage	\$468	\$457
Total, Private plus Government		
Average Employment	376	406
Average Weekly Wage	\$781	\$741

n = indicates that data does not meet disclosure standards

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- X Municipal Parks
- YMCA/YWCA
- Boys Club/Girls Club
- Golf Courses
- Swimming: Indoor Facility
- X Swimming: Outdoor Facility
- Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
- Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
- Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
- Bowling Facilities
- Museums
- Cinemas
- Performing Arts Facilities
- Tourist Attractions
- X Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
- X Youth Sports: Baseball
- X Youth Sports: Soccer
- Youth Sports: Football
- X Youth Sports: Basketball
- Youth Sports: Hockey
- Campgrounds
- Fishing/Hunting
- Boating/Marinas
- Snowmobile Trails
- Bicycle Trails
- Cross Country Skiing

Nearest Ski Area(s): **McIntyre**

Other: **Summer programs**