

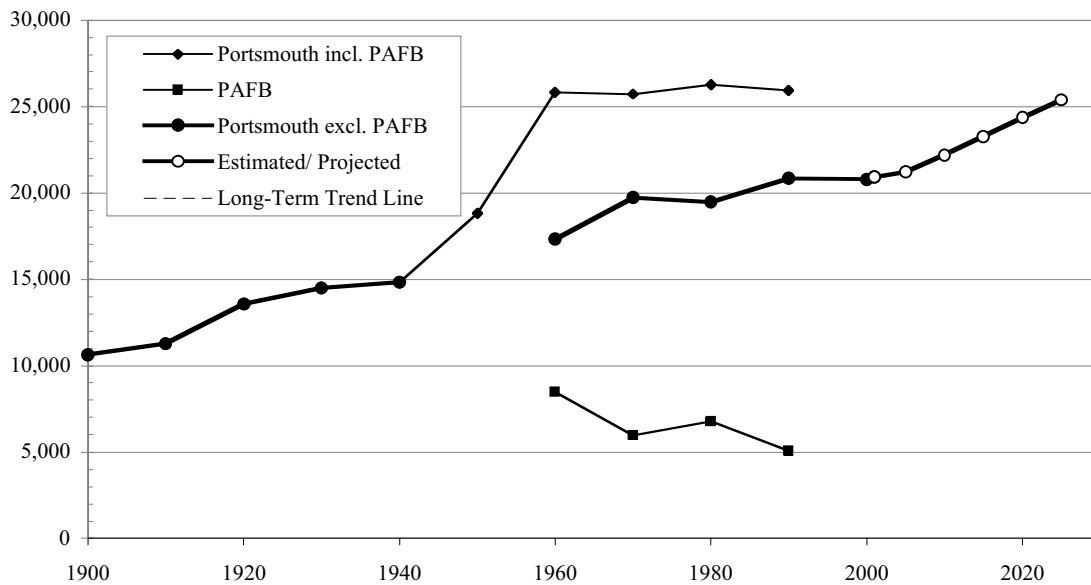
POPULATION & SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Population Growth

Population change from 1900 through 2000, and projected growth to 2025, are presented in Table 1 and shown graphically in Figure 1.¹ In addition, Table 2 presents the 10-year population changes and growth rates represented by the raw numbers in Table 1.

Portsmouth had relatively stable growth throughout the twentieth century, with the exception of the significant impact of Pease Air Force Base from 1946 through 1990. Prior to the Second World War the city’s average growth rate was around 1160 per decade. Following the war, and factoring out the population at Pease AFB, the growth rate slowed to an average of approximately 800 per decade. For the next two decades, a somewhat more rapid growth of around 1,940 per decade is projected.

Figure 1: Portsmouth Population Growth, 1900-2025



The City’s population declined by nearly 20% from 1990 to 2000, representing a net loss of 5,141 persons during the period. This dramatic population change was almost entirely due to the closure of the Pease Air Force Base (AFB) and associated housing demolition, and mirrored an equally

¹ Historic population figures are drawn from the decennial United States Census or from the city’s 1980 Master Plan citing the U.S. Census. Population projections are taken from projections published in March 2003 by the New Hampshire Office of State Planning, which are the most recent and comprehensive projections available. The OSP’s methodology projects county totals based on long term trends based on the 1960-2000 period, and then assigns local projections based on each community’s share of its respective county’s growth. These projections were then further adjusted based on any input from the Regional Planning Commission as well as OSP review of changes in the community’s share of county population change in each of the decennial census years from 1960 through 2000. (Source: “Municipal Population Projections, 2005 to 2025,” NH Office of State Planning, March 2003.)

dramatic increase in the city's population after the establishment of Pease AFB in the late 1940s and early 1950s. As indicated in Table 2, after adjusting for the closure of Pease AFB, the city's population was essentially stable, declining by only 72 residents.

During the 1990s Portsmouth registered 2,353 births and 2,302 deaths, resulting in a net "natural increase" of 51 residents. Thus, the city experienced a net out-migration of 123 residents during the decade (72 +51), or 0.7 percent.

Table 1: Population Change, 1960 - 2025

Year	Portsmouth incl. PAFB	PAFB	Portsmouth excl. PAFB	Estimated/ Projected
1900			10,637	
1910			11,269	
1920			13,569	
1930			14,495	
1940			14,821	
1950	18,830	(n.a.)	(n.a.)	
1960	25,833	8,500	17,333	
1970	25,717	5,980	19,737	
1980	26,254	6,767	19,487	
1990	25,925	5,069	20,856	
2000			20,784	
2001				20,910
2005				21,220
2010				22,210
2015				23,280
2020				24,380
2025				25,390

Sources:

1900-1970 totals: U.S. Census, cited in City of Portsmouth 1980 Master Plan

1960-1970 PAFB counts: City of Portsmouth 1980 Master Plan

1900-2000: U.S. Census

2001 estimate and 2005-2025 projections: NH Office of State Planning, March 2003

Table 2: Population Growth Rates, 1900 – 2020

Decade	10-Year Change, Including Pease AFB		10-Year Change, Excluding Pease AFB	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1900–1910			632	5.9%
1910–1920			2,300	20.4%
1920–1930			926	6.8%
1930–1940			326	2.2%
1940–1950	4,009	27.0%		
1950–1960	7,003	37.2%		
1960–1970	-116	-0.4%	2,404	13.9%
1970–1980	537	2.1%	-250	-1.3%
1980–1990	-329	-1.3%	1,369	7.0%
1990–2000	-5,141	-19.8%	-72	-0.3%
2000–2010			1,300	6.2%
2010–2020			2,170	9.8%

Sources: See Table 1

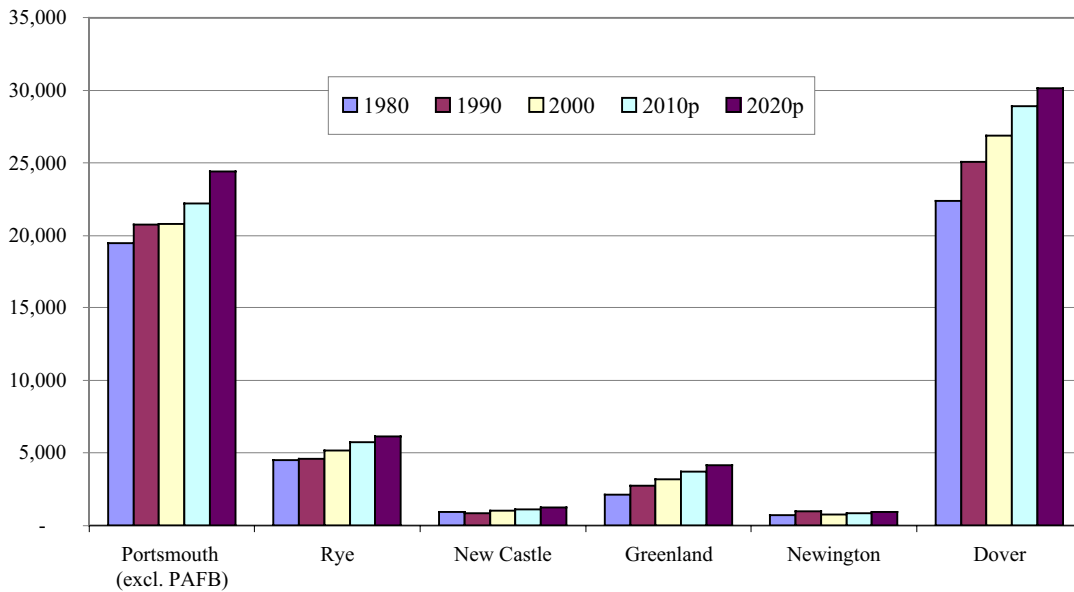
Table 3 and Figure 2 present population trends in Portsmouth and the surrounding towns between 1990 and 2000, with projections to 2020. These data illustrate that during the 1990s Portsmouth grew more slowly than most of the surrounding towns, Rockingham County and the state of New Hampshire. This pattern is expected to continue during the current decade, but will reverse somewhat after 2010 when Portsmouth is predicted to grow at a rate approaching or exceeding the surrounding towns.

Table 3: Population Change, Portsmouth and Region, 1990–2020

	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990–2000 Growth	2000–2010 Growth	2010–2020 Growth
Portsmouth (excl. PAFB)	20,856	20,784	22,210	24,380	-0.3%	6.9%	9.8%
Rye	4,612	5,182	5,750	6,150	12.4%	11.0%	7.0%
New Castle	840	1,010	1,130	1,230	20.2%	11.9%	8.8%
Greenland	2,768	3,208	3,700	4,180	15.9%	15.3%	13.0%
Newington	990	775	870	950	-21.7%	12.3%	9.2%
Dover	25,042	26,884	28,930	30,150	7.4%	7.6%	4.2%
Rockingham County	245,845	277,359	313,130	343,320	12.8%	12.9%	9.6%
New Hampshire (Thousands)	1,109.3	1,235.8	1,385.2	1,523.7	11.4%	12.1%	10.0%

Sources: 1990 & 2000, U.S. Census; 2010 & 2020, NH Office of State Planning projections

Figure 2: Population Change, Portsmouth and Region, 1980-2020

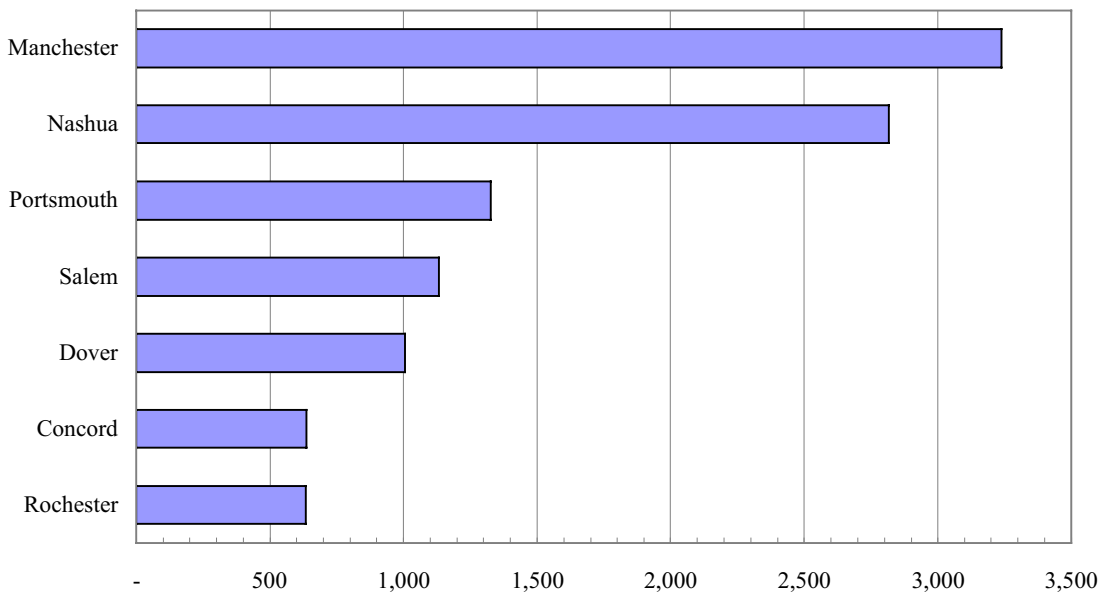


Note: 2010p and 2020p = Projected populations

Population Density

In 2000 Portsmouth’s population density was 1,326 persons per square mile of land area. As shown in Figure 3, this density is significantly lower than the population densities of Manchester and Nashua, but higher than for other New Hampshire cities with populations greater than 20,000.

Figure 3: Population Per Square Mile of Land Area, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, NH Office of State Planning

Age Distribution

Table 4 presents the age distribution of the city's population in the last two national censuses. Most of the population and household loss during the 1990s was in the under-35 year old age groups, in part reflecting the decline of younger military and civilian support personnel and families. The number of school-age children (age 5-17) declined by 1,187 or about 32% during the decade.

The 1990s saw an increase in the number of working-age adults in Portsmouth, while the elderly population remained essentially stable.

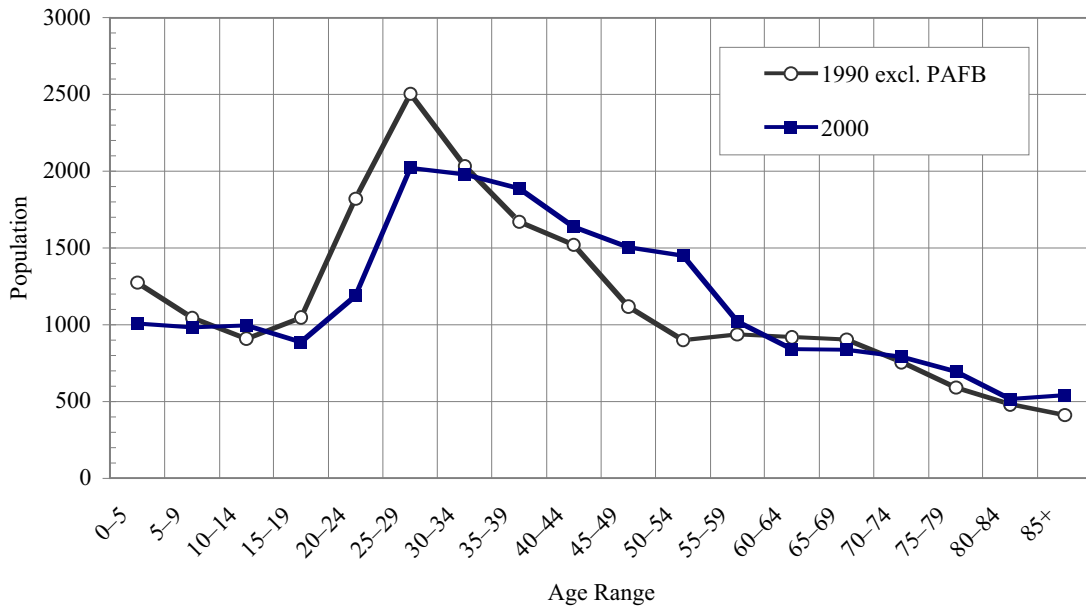
Table 4: Population Age Distribution, 1990 and 2000

Age Cohort	1990 incl. PAFB	PAFB	1990 excl. PAFB	2000	Percent Change
0 to 4	2,071	795	1,276	1,009	-20.9%
5 to 9	1,702	659	1,043	981	-5.9%
10 to 14	1,307	397	910	997	9.6%
15 to 19	1,268	220	1,048	886	-15.5%
20 to 24	2,561	739	1,822	1,187	-34.9%
25 to 29	3,489	982	2,507	2,021	-19.4%
30 to 34	2,678	643	2,035	1,981	-2.7%
35 to 39	2,088	415	1,673	1,888	12.9%
40 to 44	1,695	172	1,523	1,636	7.4%
45 to 49	1,142	23	1,119	1,503	34.3%
50 to 54	909	9	900	1,449	61.0%
55 to 59	942	4	938	1,021	8.8%
60 to 64	921	3	918	841	-8.4%
65 to 69	909	6	903	837	-7.3%
70 to 74	757	2	755	792	4.9%
75 to 79	590	0	590	698	18.3%
80 to 84	482	0	482	517	7.3%
85+	414	0	414	540	30.4%
Totals	25,925	5,069	20,856	20,784	-0.3%

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Figure 4 presents the above data graphically, and indicates the significant changes in Portsmouth's age profiles over the past decade. During the 1990s there was very little change in the total number of school-aged children and older residents (ages 60 and over). However the number of preschool children and young adults (ages 20 to 29) declined during the decade, while the number of adults in the peak working age groups, especially the 45–54 age group increased. This combination of more adults and fewer children is also reflected in the city's declining average household sizes, and in the fact that the number of homes has continued to increase while the overall population has remained essentially stable.

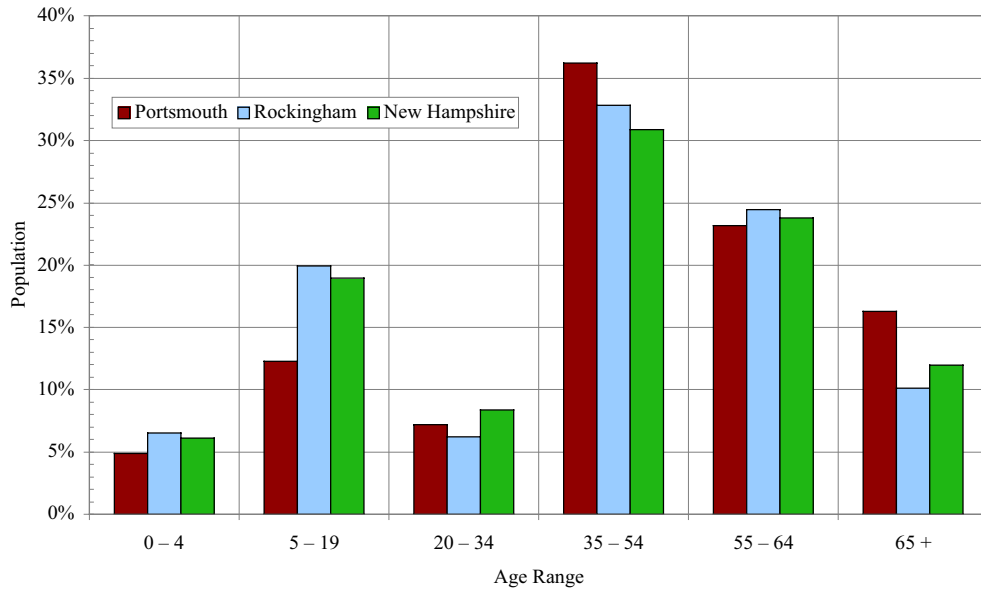
Figure 4: Population Age Distribution, 1990 and 2000



In 2000 the median age of Portsmouth’s residents was 38.5 years, which was somewhat higher than the median ages for the state and county (37.2 and 37.1 years, respectively). Among the surrounding towns, Greenland had a similar age profile to Portsmouth’s, but Newington, Rye and New Castle had significant older populations (median ages of 42.6, 44.4 and 49.6, respectively).

Figure 5 shows Portsmouth’s 2000 age profile in comparison to the county and the state. The City has a significantly lower percentage of school-age children but higher proportions of both adults in the 35-54 age range and elderly residents (65 years and older).

Figure 5: Age Profiles for Portsmouth, Rockingham County and New Hampshire



Income

Table 5 presents 1989 and 1999 median family income levels for Portsmouth, the county and state, as well as the adjoining communities and New Hampshire's other major urban areas. Incomes of Portsmouth residents are lower than for neighboring towns and Rockingham County, but slightly higher than for the state of New Hampshire as a whole. However, income levels in Portsmouth rose significantly faster than in the neighboring towns, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, and the other urban areas in the state.

Table 5: Median Family Income

	1989	1999	% of State, 1989	% of State, 1999	10-Year Increase
PORTSMOUTH	\$34,344	\$59,630	82.5%	103.6%	73.6%
Rye	\$51,333	\$74,956	123.3%	130.2%	46.0%
New Castle	\$58,815	\$93,290	141.3%	162.0%	58.6%
Greenland	\$48,467	\$67,188	116.4%	116.7%	38.6%
Newington	\$45,625	\$76,202	109.6%	132.4%	67.0%
Manchester	\$38,812	\$50,039	93.2%	86.9%	28.9%
Nashua	\$46,641	\$61,102	112.0%	106.1%	31.0%
Salem	\$51,073	\$67,278	122.7%	116.9%	31.7%
Dover	\$38,281	\$57,050	92.0%	99.1%	49.0%
Concord	\$39,531	\$52,418	95.0%	91.0%	32.6%
Rockingham County	\$46,942	\$66,345	112.8%	115.2%	41.3%
New Hampshire	\$41,628	\$57,575			38.3%

Source: US Census, STF 3

Educational Achievement

Portsmouth's residents are well-educated in comparison to other communities in Rockingham County and New Hampshire. As detailed in Table 6, in 2000 67.0% of the city's adult residents (aged 25 years and older) had attended or completed college, compared to 61.9% in the County and 57.3% in the State as a whole. Educational achievement has increased since 1990, when only 56.0% of the city's residents over 25 had completed some college. Those who have completed four years or more increased from 23.9% in 1990 to 41.9% in 2000.

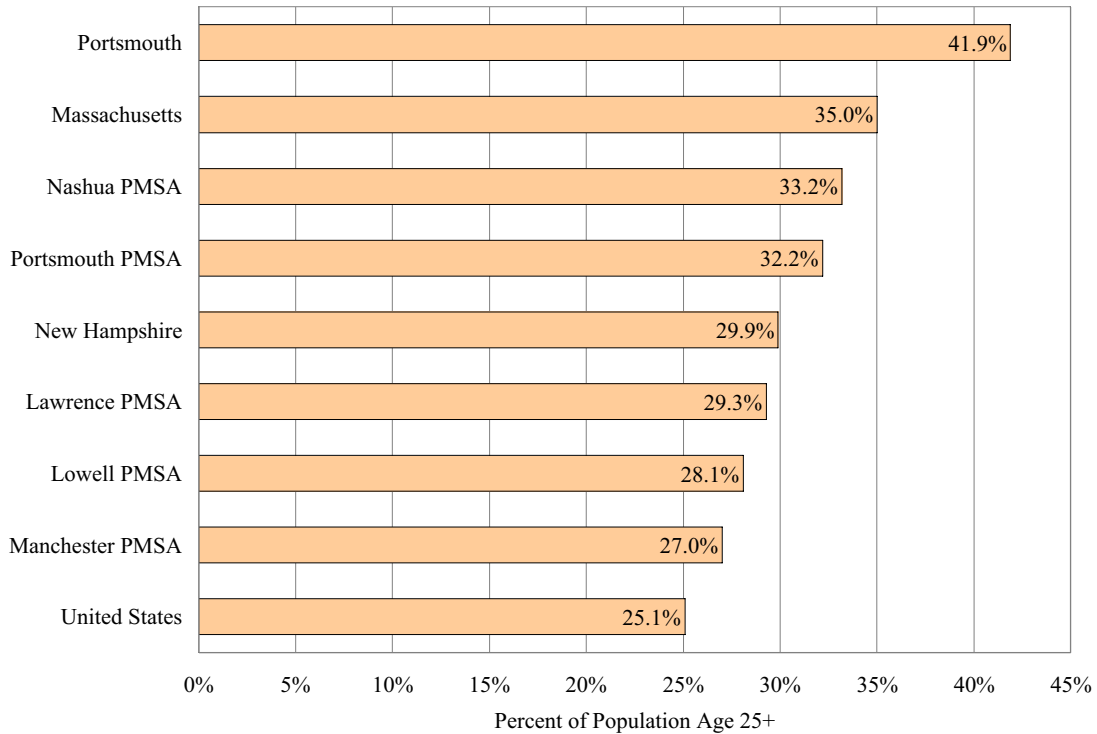
Figure 6 compares Portsmouth to surrounding areas in terms of the percentage of residents who have a four-year college degree.

Table 6: Educational Achievement, Residents 25 Years and Older, 1990 and 2000

	Portsmouth		Rockingham Co.		New Hampshire	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Did not complete high school	11.4%	8.6%	14.5%	9.5%	18.1%	12.6%
High school only	32.5%	24.3%	32.0%	28.6%	32.0%	30.1%
1–3 years of college	32.1%	25.1%	29.5%	30.2%	27.8%	28.7%
4 or more years of college	23.9%	41.9%	24.0%	31.7%	22.1%	28.7%

Source: U.S. Census

Figure 6: Percent of Population With Bachelor’s Degree or Higher, 2000



Source: U.S. Census