

Demographic Profile

N In the context of the Master Plan, a statistical profile of the community is useful in two respects. First, it places or defines the community in relation to other communities in the region.

This allows for comparisons and evaluations of the various social economic and demographic factors in a regional context.

Second, it can be used to identify and examine important trends that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the growth and development of Newington in years to come.



Most of the information on the ages that follow is either presented with regional comparisons or with comparisons over time. The region (entitled "Newington Area Communities"), is comprised of the seven municipalities situated at the northeast end of Rockingham County, namely Newington, Portsmouth, Rye, New Castle, North Hampton, Stratham, and Greenland.

Much of the data presented in the tables which follow is derived from the U.S. Census. Other sources include the New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning, and various records maintained by the Town Clerk, Assessors, Building Inspector, and Planning Board.

Population History

Newington has exhibited a growth pattern that is common to many small New Hampshire towns. Throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, agriculture was the mainstay of the town's economy. Newington's population remained steady during the late 18th and early 19th century at approximately 500 people, a density of 56 persons per square mile. Like much of rural New England, Newington's population gradually declined during the 19th century as local youth were drawn to jobs in the cities and better farmland in the Midwest.

Newington Population History

Year	Population	Density	Year	Population	Density
1767	514	58	1880	433	49
1773	548	62	1890	401	45
1775	532	60	1900	390	44
1786	476	53	1910	296	33
1790	542	61	1920	398	45
1800	481	54	1930	381	43
1810	508	57	1940	418	47
1820	541	61	1950	494	55
1830	547	61	1960	405	86
1840	543	61	1970	560	119
1850	472	53	1980	716	152
1860	475	53	1990	990	211
1870	414	46	2000	775	165

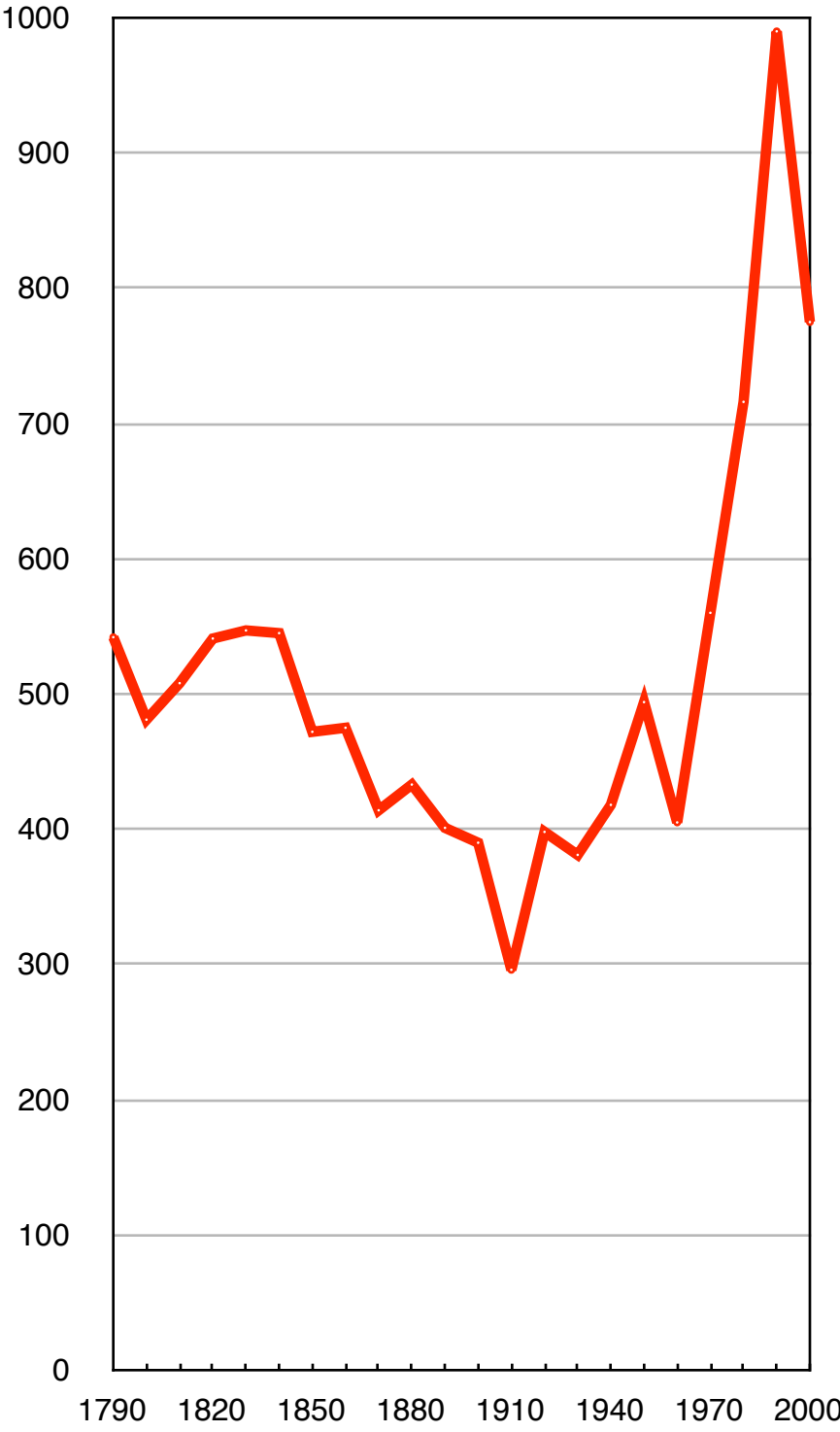
NOTES "Density" above refers to people per square mile. Density calculations prior to 1953 are based on townwide area of 5,675 acres, or 8.9 square miles. Density calculations after 1953 exclude Pease AFB, and it's successors, the Pease Tradeport and the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Tradeport and refuge cover 2,678 acres or 4.2 square miles.

Source for 18th & 19th century population data is [Population of NH. Part One](#), by the NH State Planning and Development Commission, 1946. Source for population statistics for 1900 thru 2000 is the U.S. Census.

The 1970 U.S. Census allocated to Newington an unknown number of residents from the Portsmouth aide of Pease, AFB. As of 1980, the U.S. Census no longer included Pease residents in Newington's population count. The 1970 population figure cited in the table above was extrapolated from 1960 & 1980 census data, and assumes an average population increase of 15.5 each year between 1960 and 1980.

-Note that the U.S. Census reported that Newington had 716 residents in 1980, 990 in 1990, and 775 in 2000. Federal officials explained the spike in the 1990 population as being caused by the presence of "180 boat people". Town officials assert that there were only two residents living on boats in 1990. The Town asked the U.S. Census officials to double-check their data. The request was declined.

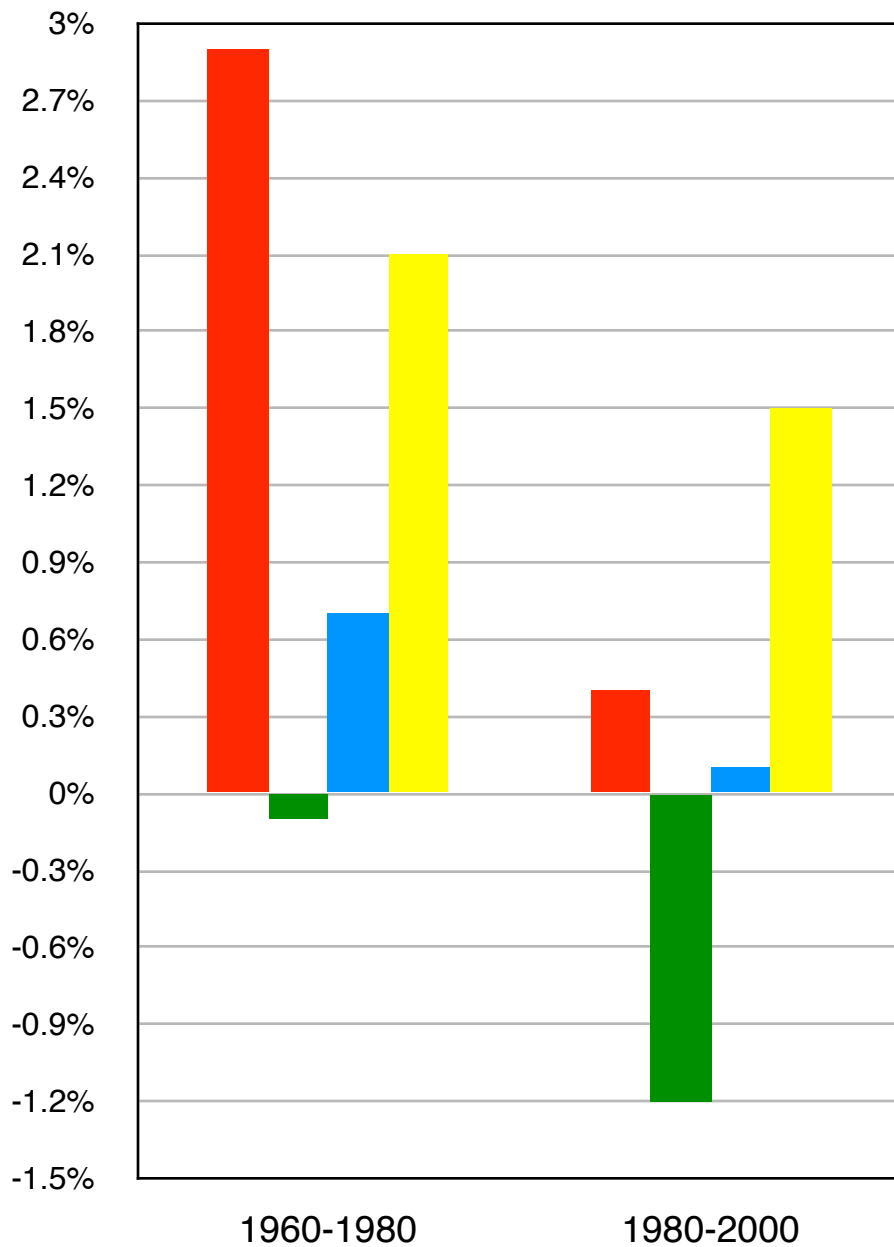
Newington Population History



SOURCE: US Census

Average Annual Population Growth Rates 1960 to 2000

■ Newington ■ Portsmouth
■ NE Rock. County ■ NH



SOURCE: NH Office of Energy & Planning

Population Growth Since 1960

The two World Wars brought ship building jobs to the area, which in turn resulted in significant increases in Newington's population. By the end of WWII the town had once again attained 19th century population levels.

The most far reaching event in Newington's history was the arrival of Pease Air Force Base in 1952. This entailed the taking of 2,678 acres, or 47% of Newington's 8.9 square mile area. This event left the townspeople with only 4.7 square miles. Many families were driven from town. By 1960, the town's population had dropped to 405.

Newington's population has doubled since 1960, as depicted in the table on page 2. The last four decades have seen the most rapid growth in the town's 360 year history.

Average Annual Population Growth Rates in Northeast Rockingham County 1960 -2000

	1960-1980	1980-2000
Greenland	2.9%	2.1%
New Castle	.6%	.4%
Newington	2.9%	.4%
North Hampton	3.0%	1.1%
Portsmouth	.1%	-1.2%
Rye	1.7%	.7%
Stratham	4.5%	4.8%
NE Rock. County	.7%	.1%
New Hampshire	2.1%	1.5%

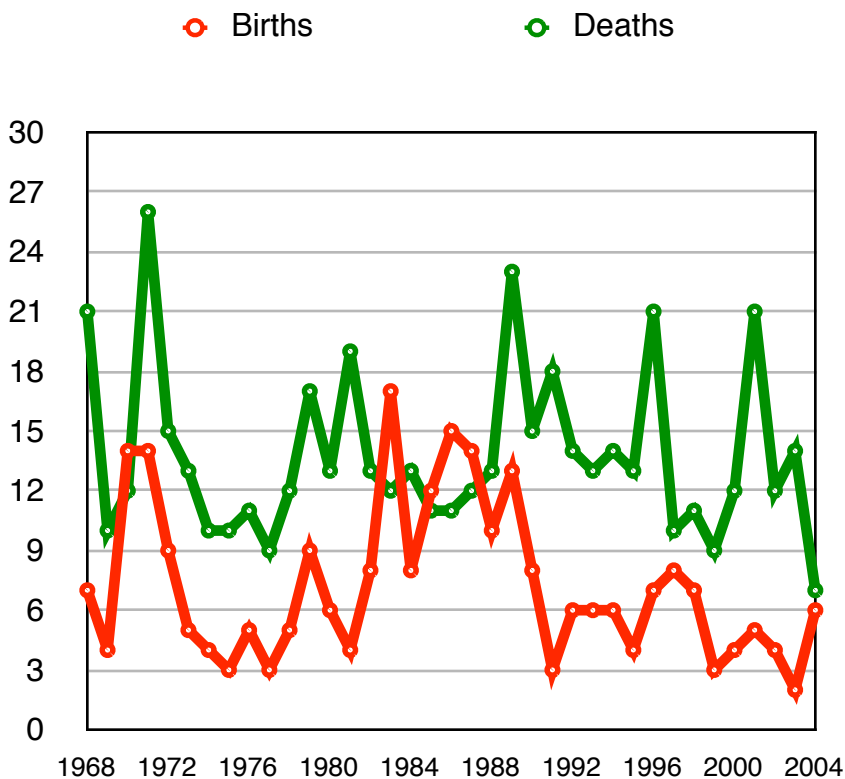
SOURCE: U.S. Census

As indicated in the table above, Newington's population growth rate during the past four decades was four times that of the region, the region being comprised of the seven municipalities situated at the northeast end of Rockingham County.

Vital Statistics

As illustrated below and on the page opposite, Newington's vital statistics of the past four decades were examined in order to track current trends, and also to determine what portion of the town's recent population growth is due to the expansion of local families, and how much is due to an influx of new residents.

Births & Deaths in Newington

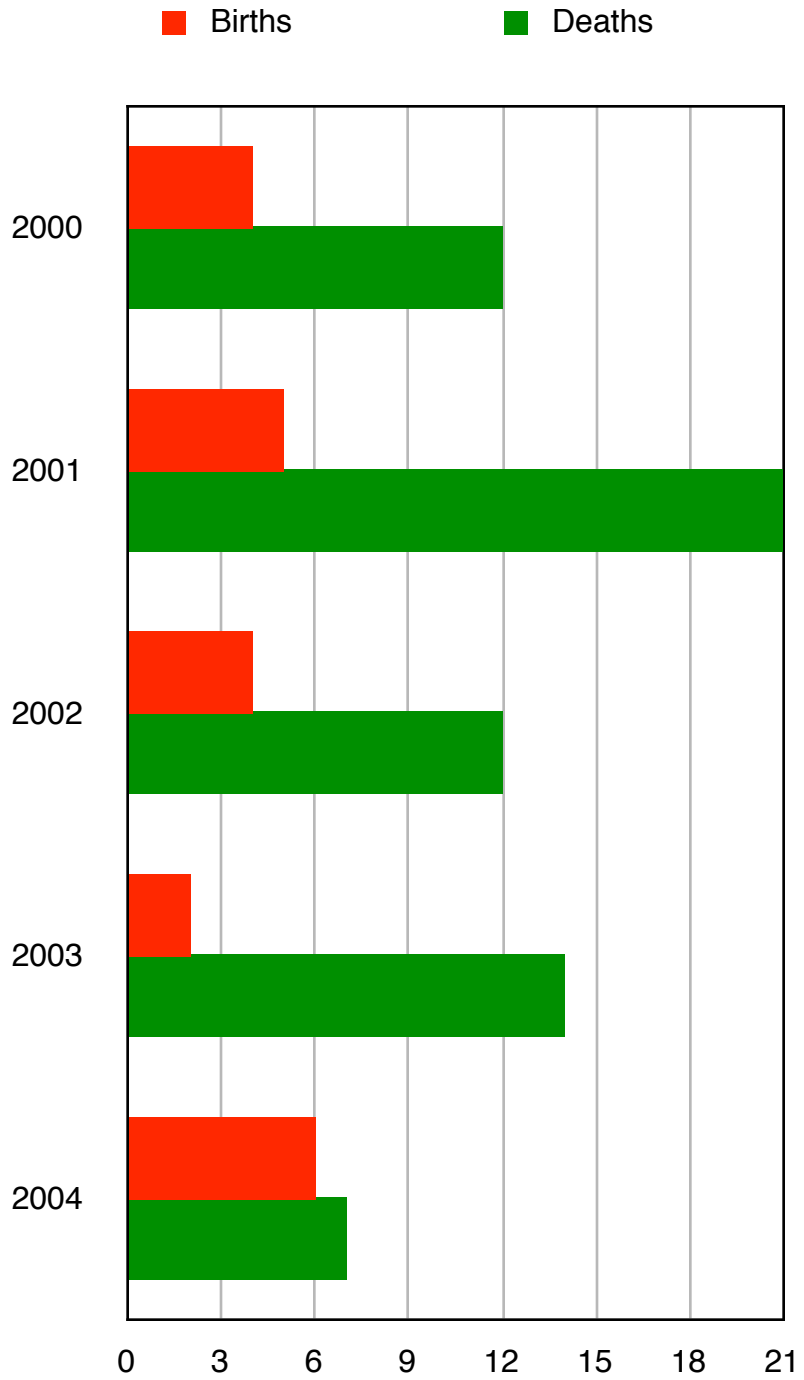


The graph above indicates that during the past thirty-six years, deaths have exceeded births by 53% (515 deaths us. 275 births). During this period, the town averaged 8 births per year, and 14 deaths per year.

According to NH Office of Energy & Planning population estimates, Newington gained 234 residents between 1970 and 2003, an average of 7 annually. The Town's birth and death records from this period indicate that these 7 new residents can not be attributed to natural increase, and that Newington's population growth is due to migration.

Births & Deaths

Newington 2000-2004



Population Movement

The U.S. Census depicts Newington as a more stable community than most others across the county and state. Table 5 below indicates that the average Newington resident is less likely than other New Hampshire residents to have resided in his/her present dwelling for a short period of time, and more likely to be in the same dwelling for twentyone years or more. However, the town is changing rapidly: In 1970, one of every three residents had occupied their present dwelling for more than twenty years, by 2000, this figure declined to one in four.

Length of Residency at Present Dwelling

	1980			2000		
	Newgtn	County	NH	Newgtn	County	NH
5 Years or Less	46%	55%	52%	36%	47%	47%
6 to 10 Years	23%	16%	16%	23%	16%	16%
11 to 20 Years	13%	16%	15%	18%	20%	19%
21 Years or More	17%	13%	16%	24%	17%	17%

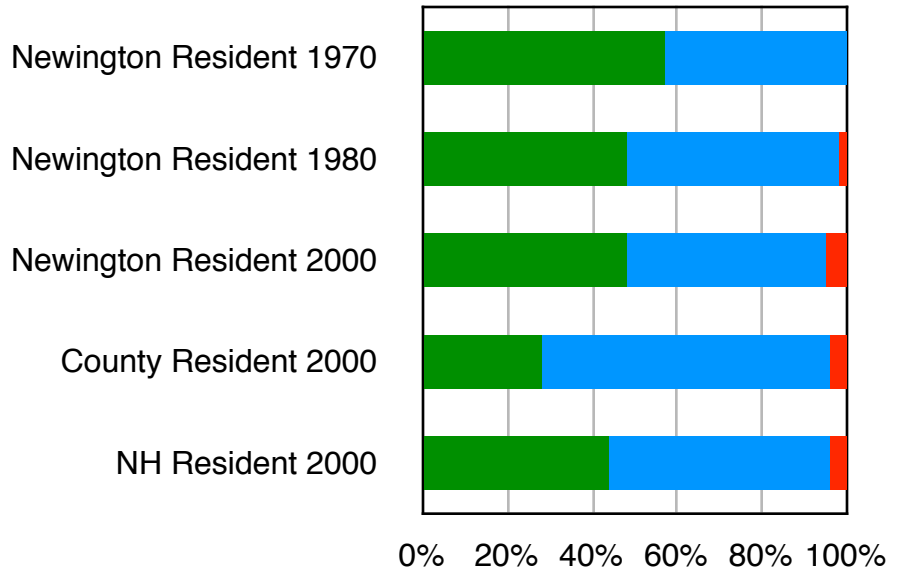
SOURCE: 1980 US Census STF3A Table 110; & 2000 US Census H38/H39

New Hampshire natives, account for only one quarter of Rockingham County residents, down from one third in 1980. In contrast, 48% of Newington residents were born in New Hampshire, a percentage that is a bit higher than the statewide figure of 43%. As depicted in the graph above right, thirty years earlier, 57% of Newington's residents were New Hampshire natives.

Where are Newington's new arrivals coming from? Nearly a third are migrating from outside of New Hampshire, as revealed by a comparison of the 1970, 1980 and 2000 federal census returns. The prior residence of those who settled in Newington between 1995 and 2000 is depicted on the graph opposite.

Place of Birth

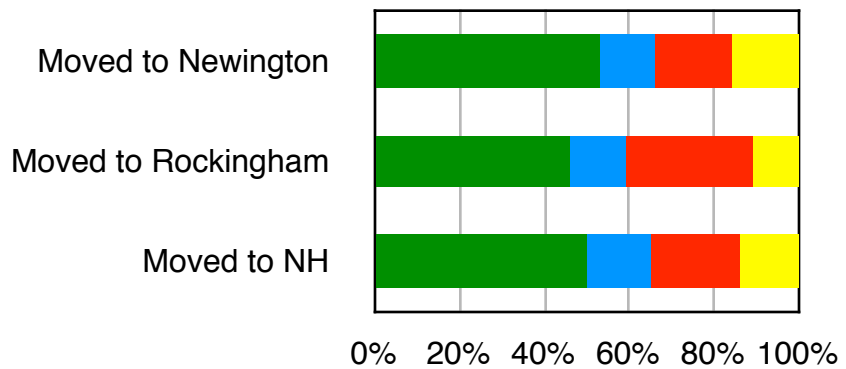
■ Born in NH
 ■ Born in Other State
 ■ Foreign Born



New Residents

Where They Are Arriving From (Since 1995)

■ From Same County
 ■ From Other NH County
 ■ From Northeast US
 ■ From Elsewhere



SOURCE: Newington Town Clerk

Projected Population Growth

Population projections issued by the NH Office of Energy & Planning, dated March 2003, indicate that Newington will be home to nearly 1,000 people by the year 2025. This would be a substantial increase over the town's estimated 2003 population of 794, and represents a 25% increase in Newington's population.

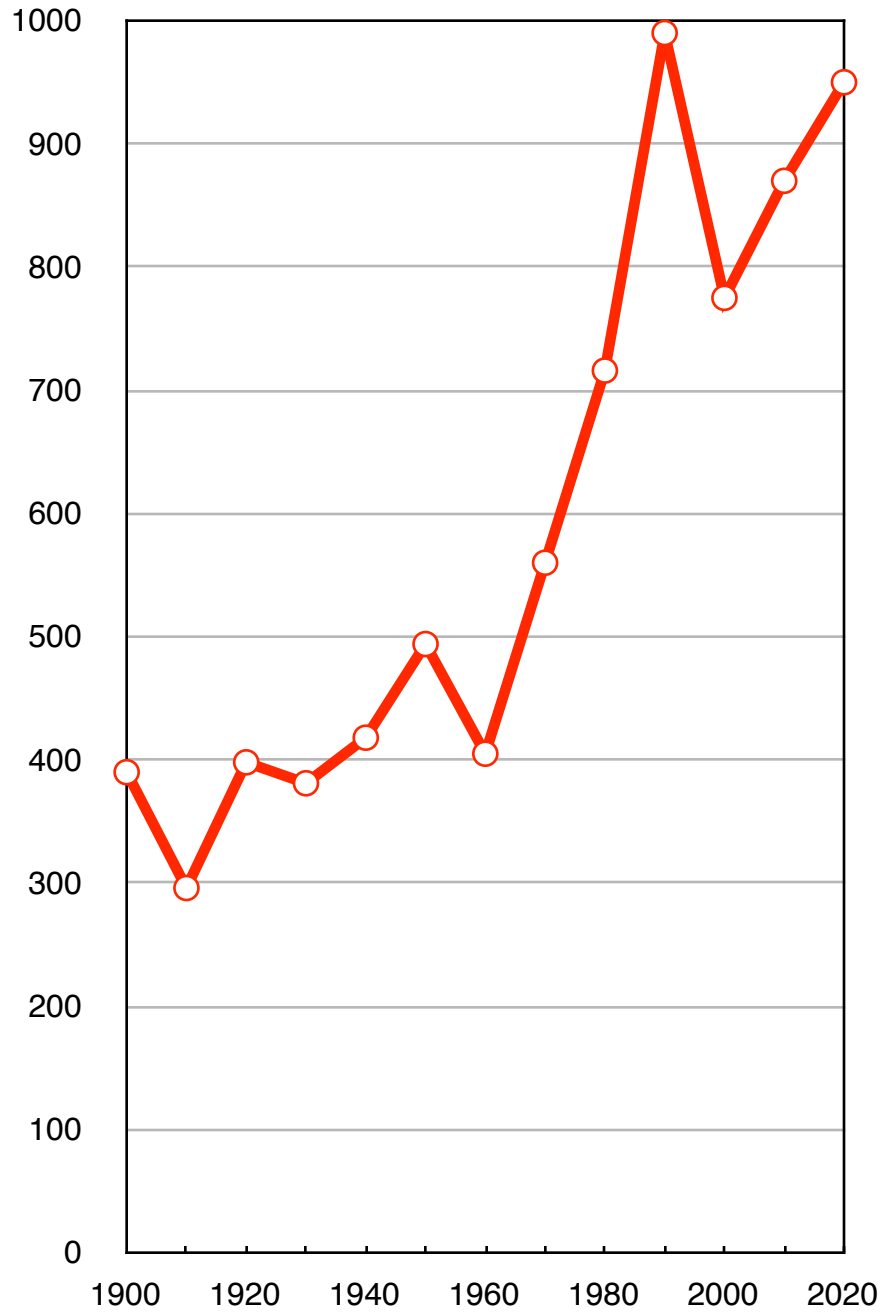
Population Projections to the Year 2025 Northeastern Rockingham County

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Greenland	3,460	3,700	3,920	4,180	4,380
New Castle	1,060	1,130	1,180	1,230	1,280
Newington	820	870	910	950	990
N. Hampton	4,570	4,870	5,110	5,310	5,510
Portsmouth	21,220	22,210	23,280	24,380	25,390
Rye	5,450	5,750	5,960	6,150	6,330
Stratham	6,780	7,280	7,700	8,060	8,410
NE Rock. Cty.	294,970	313,130	328,960	343,320	356,800
NH	1,311,050	1,385,210	1,456,120	1,523,680	1,586,070

SOURCE: Population Projections by the NH Office of Energy & Planning, dated March 2003

Population Projections

Newington's Population to the Year 2025



SOURCE: Population Projections by the NH Office of Energy & Planning, dated March 2003.

SOURCE: US Census

Rate of Population Growth

Should the Office of State Planning's projections prove accurate, Newington will experience average annual population growth of .8% to 1% during the next two decades. This rate is comparable to that which is predicted for northeastern Rockingham County and the state as a whole.

Projected Population Growth Average Annual Growth Rates

	2005 to 2015	2015 to 2025
Greenland	1.3%	1.1%
New Castle	1.1%	0.8%
Newington	1.0%	0.8%
North Hampton	1.1%	0.8%
Portsmouth	0.9%	0.9%
Rye	0.9%	0.6%
Stratham	1.3%	0.9%
Northeast Rock. County	1.1%	0.8%
New Hampshire	1.0%	0.9%

SOURCE: NH Office of Energy & Planning

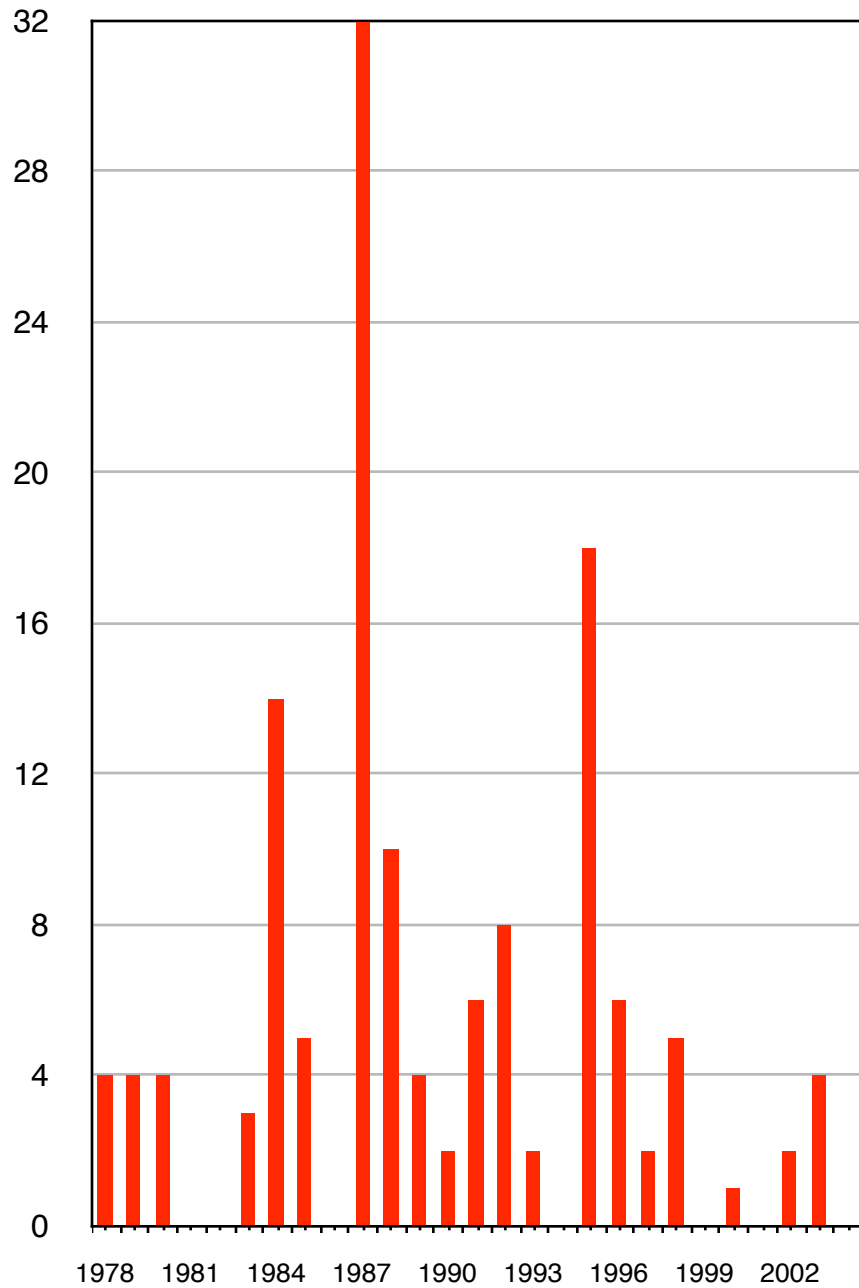
An examination of building permits issued for new dwellings (81 new homes since 1991) suggests that Newington's annual population growth rate will be somewhat greater than the rate predicted by the NH Office of Energy Planning.

For the reasons which follow, we can expect an annual growth rate that will remain high for the foreseeable future:

- Newington's proximity to urban job markets;
- The town's attractive setting and low taxes;
- The growth in housing stock cited above; and
- The 54 new building lots approved by the Planning Board since 1991, as reflected in the graph on the opposite page.

New Building Lots

Number of New Residential Lots Granted
Subdivision Approval by the Planning Board 1978-2004



SOURCE: *Newington Planning Board minutes*

School Age Population

Since 1999, Newington’s pre-school population has declined dramatically, dropping from 42 in 1999 to 16 in 2004. This statistic portends a parallel drop in school age population (ages 6 to 18) commencing in 2006. The trends during the past fifteen years are depicted graphically on the page opposite.

School Age Census returns compiled between 1999 and 2004 are presented in the table below.

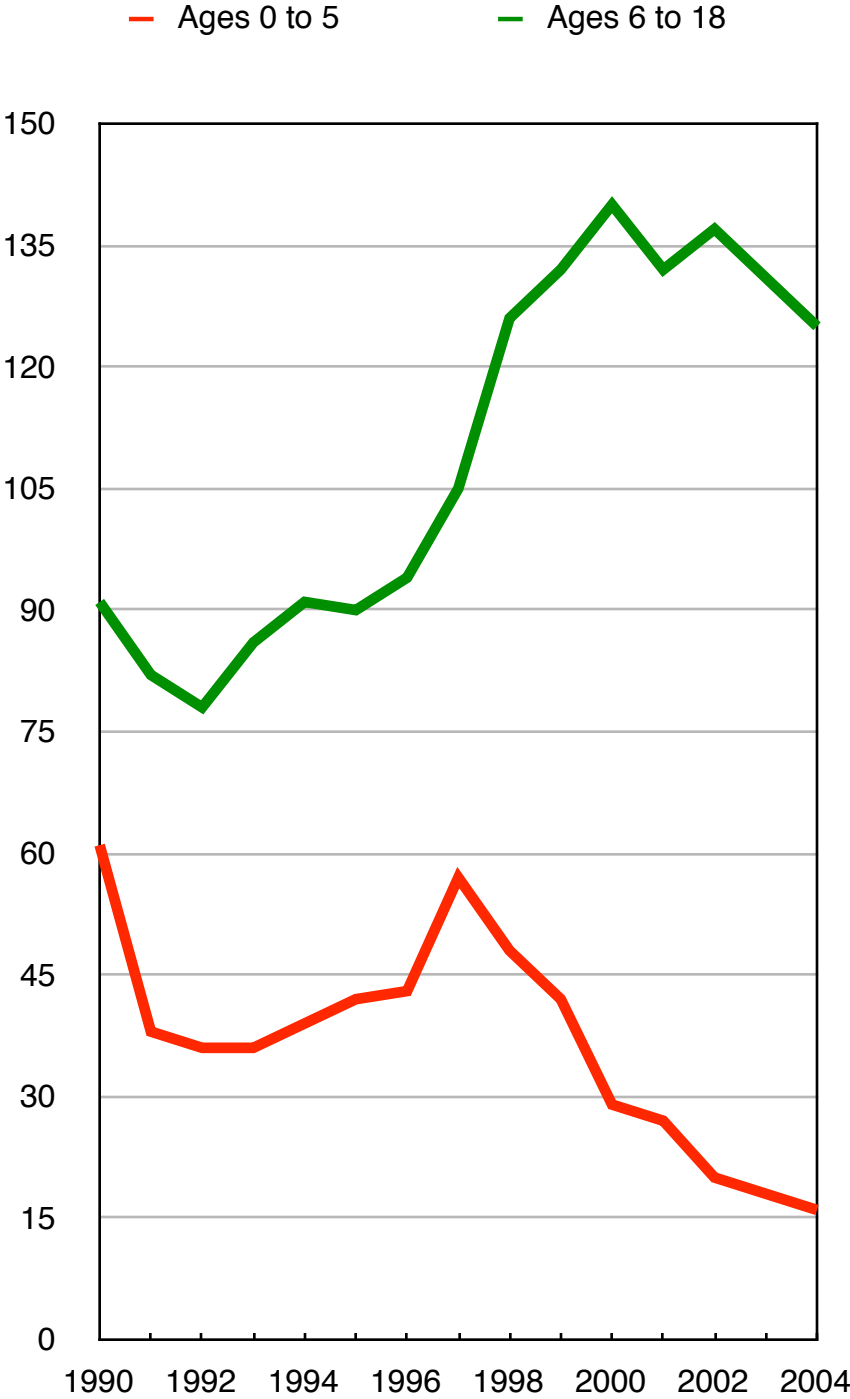
School Age Population

Age	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
0 to 1	3	2	2	1	1	1
1	6	3	3	2	1	1
3	9	6	5	3	3	2
4	6	8	6	5	4	5
5	11	5	8	6	7	6
6	9	10	5	7	8	8
7	12	6	10	6	6	8
8	9	14	8	12	6	8
9	8	12	14	6	11	4
10	9	9	13	15	8	11
11	8	11	8	13	12	8
12	13	9	10	10	16	10
13	15	12	8	11	9	14
14	11	14	11	10	12	8
15	12	11	14	12	9	14
16	8	11	10	11	10	10
17	12	9	11	14	15	9
18	6	12	10	10	9	13
Totals	174	169	159	157	149	141

SOURCE: SAU 50

How does one interpret this decline in school age population in the context of a general population that has been steadily growing? It seems likely that Newington is becoming increasingly populated by older residents and that families with school age children are becoming more scarce.

School & Pre-School Age Population 1990-2004



Source: Annual census' conducted by SAU 50

Population Characteristics

A comparison of 1970 & 2000 Census returns indicates that marriage is down, and divorce is up. However, a Newington resident is still slightly more likely to be married than his or her counterpart across the state. On the other hand, Newington’s divorce rate is up seven-fold since 1970, and is 50% higher than that of the county and state.

Marital Status Persons 15 Years & Older

	Newington 1970	Newington 2000	Rockingham 2000	NH 2000
Married	67%	62%	62%	58%
Never Married	23%	17%	23%	25%
Widowed	8%	6%	5%	6%
Divorced	2%	15%	10%	10%

SOURCE: US Census, STF1 Table 21 in 1970, Table P18 in Summary File 3, 2000

Newington residents are no longer slightly younger than the rest of New Hampshire, as they were at the time of the last Master Plan update in 1990. On the contrary, the town’s median age has grown significantly higher since the 1990 Census. This graying trend is also reflected in the school age population census cited previously.

Median Age

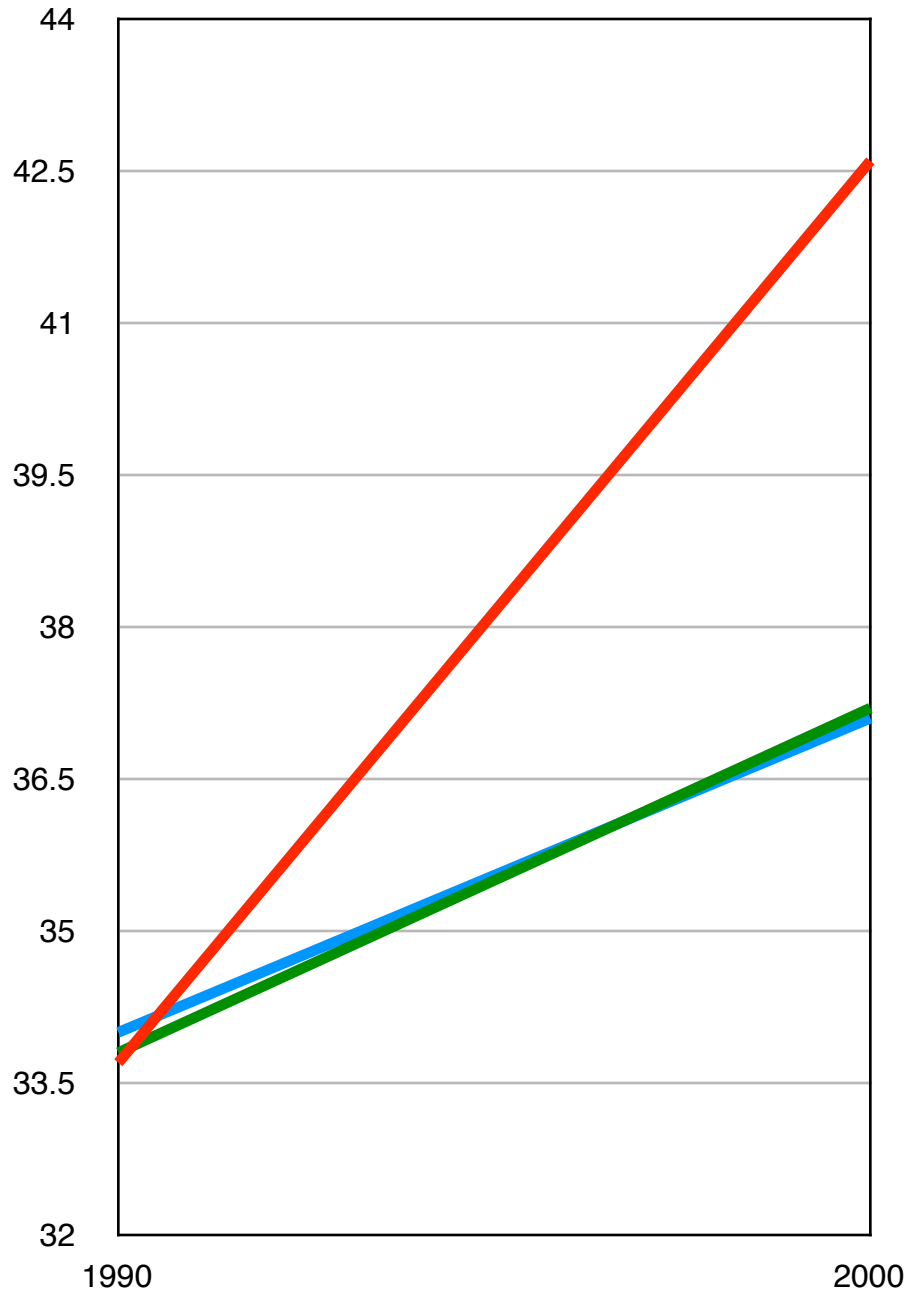
	1990	2000
Newington	33.7	42.6
Rockingham County	33.8	37.2
New Hampshire	34.0	37.1

SOURCE: U.S. Census 1990 & 2000

As more retired people move to Newington, the price of the town’s limited housing stock is pushed upward beyond the reach of many young families, hence the dramatic increase in the town’s median age.

Median Age

1990 - 2000



SOURCE: U.S. Census 1990 & 2000

Educational Background

Newington is well educated. One in three of Newington's adult residents (age 25+) holds a four year college degree, up from one in five in 1980.

Years of School Completed Persons 25 Years & Over

	Newington 1970	Newington 2000	Rockingham 2000	NH 2000
0 to 8 years	20%	5%	2%	4%
9 to 11 years	13%	8%	7%	9%
High School Graduates	67%	27%	29%	30%
Some College	43%	28%	30%	29%
4 Year College Degree	25%	31%	32%	29%

SOURCE: 2000 U.S. Census, Table DP-2

In just about every respect, the educational profile of Newington's adult residents is similar to those across the county and the state.

Language Spoken at Home

The 2000 U.S. Census revealed that among Newington's population aged 5 and over, 92% speak English at home, while 2% speak French, 2% speak Spanish, and 2% speak Chinese. Six individuals speak German, four people speak Greek, and three speak Italian.

Median Household Income

Newington’s median household income is comparable to that of Rockingham County, and substantially higher than neighboring Portsmouth and New Hampshire as a whole. Among the suburban communities in northeast Rockingham County (listed in the table below), Newington’s median income continues to be among the lowest.

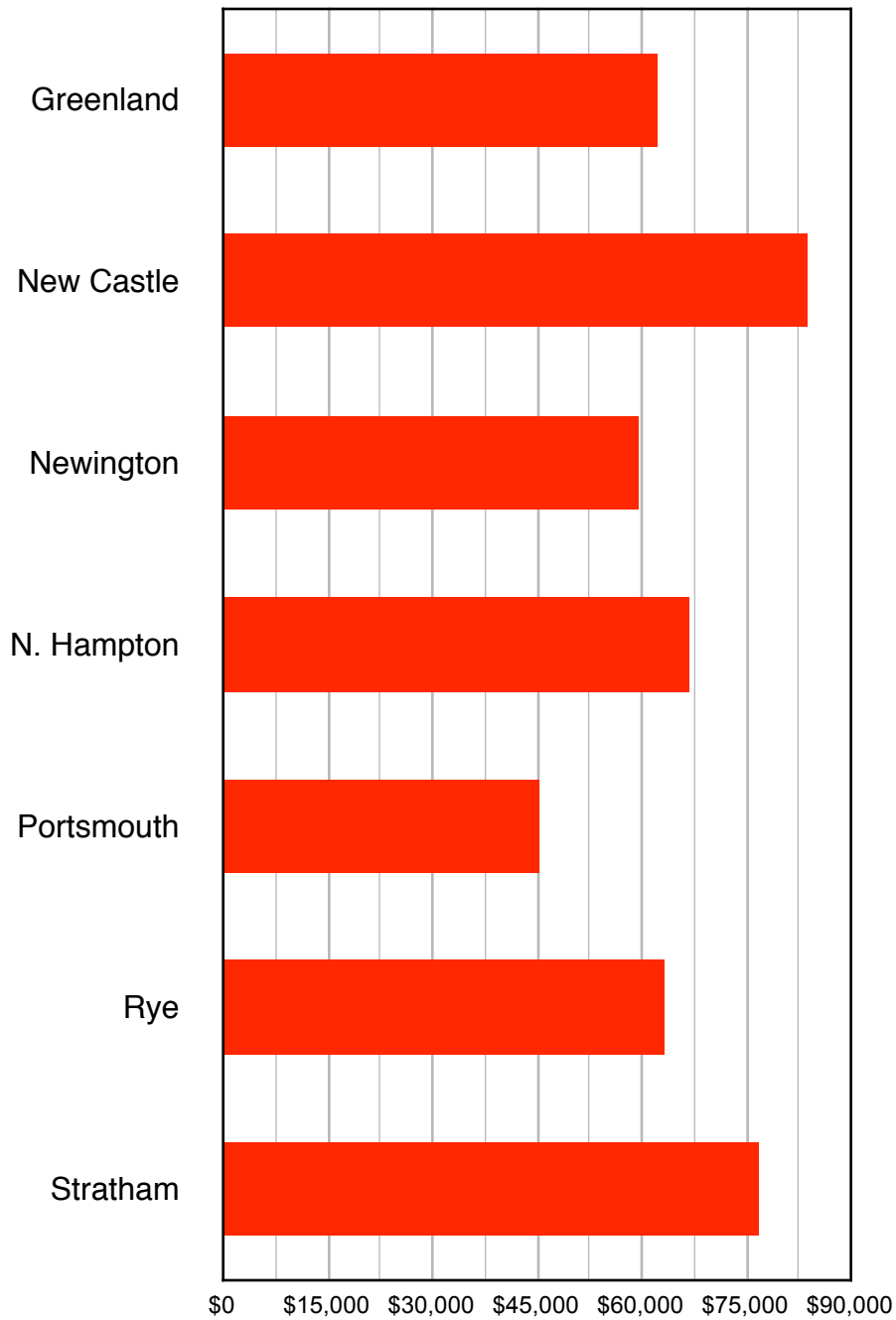
As noted in the table below, Newington’s median income did not grow at as fast a rate as other communities in northeast Rockingham County, with the exception of New Castle which increased at the same rate.

Median Household Income 1999

	Median Household Income in 1987	Median Household Income in 1999	% Change 1987-1999
Greenland	\$42,155	\$62,172	47%
New Castle	\$46,290	\$83,708	81%
Newington	\$32,783	\$59,464	81%
North Hampton	\$46,822	\$66,696	42%
Portsmouth	\$28,996	\$45,195	56%
Rye	\$45,243	\$63,152	40%
Stratham	\$48,341	\$76,726	59%
Rockingham County	\$38,062	\$58,150	53%
New Hampshire	\$33,039	\$49,467	50%

SOURCES: 2000 U.S. Census, Tables P56 & P57; and 1980 U.S. Census, STF3A Tables 69 & 91; and [July 1, 1988. Population and Calendar Year 1987 Per Capita Income Estimates for States, Counties, and Subcounty Areas.](#) U.S. Department of Commerce. Approximate 1987 median household income was calculated by multiplying the 1980 median household income by the percent growth in per capita income through 1987.

Median Household Income



SOURCE: 2000 U.S. Census, Tables P56 & P57

Summary of Demographic Characteristics

Newington is experiencing unprecedented growth in population. In fact, the town has grown more since 1960 than during the previous two hundred years.

The New Hampshire Office of State Planning predicts an average annual growth rate of .8% to 1% over the course of the next two decades. At that rate, Newington's population will be 910 in ten years, and 990 by the year 2025.

Several factors suggest that the State's projections are low. Newington's attractive setting, its proximity to job markets and transportation corridors, and the Town's low property tax rate continue to attract many new residents.

The age of Newington residents is increasing dramatically: the median age rose from 34 in 1990 to 43 in 2000. Meanwhile, the school age population has plummeted since 1999. Town officials should keep these population trends in mind while planning for schools, community services and municipal facilities.

Newington's median household income grew 55% since the last Master Plan update in 1990. It grew to \$59,464 by 1999. However the state, county, and most other nearby communities experienced a growth greater than 55% during the same period.