

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

A profile of the community is useful in the context of a Master Plan in order to identify the demographic composition of the town and recent trends which are affecting population, as well as to place the town within the broader context of surrounding municipalities in the region.

3.1 Population

Kensington has experienced a pattern of population change similar to that of many towns in southern New Hampshire over the last two hundred and fifty years. Early growth based on agriculture and the shoe industry was followed by a decline in the post-Civil War era. Heavy population declines in the early part of the twentieth century, caused by the general decline of the agricultural economy, were followed by steady increases in population after World War II, as the character of the town started shifting from agricultural to rural residential.

Year	Population	% Change	Density (per sq. mile)
1737	500		41.7
1767	755	51%	63.0
1779	797	6%	66.5
1790	800	0%	66.8
1820	709	-11%	59.2
1830	717	1%	59.8
1860	672	-6%	56.1
1870	642	-4%	53.6
1890	547	-15%	45.7
1900	524	-4%	43.7
1920	383	-27%	32.0
1940	458	20%	38.2
1950	542	18%	45.2
1960	708	31%	59.1
1970	1044	93%	87.1
1980	1322	27%	110.4
1990	1631	23%	136.1
2000	1893	16%	158.0

Table 1: Kensington Population History

Source: US Census, NH Office of State Planning

The population density has nearly tripled from the earliest settlement, but the town remains in the bottom quartile of ranking by population per square mile in Rockingham county, according to the Office of State Planning. Kensington is still basically a rural community in spite of the growth in recent decades.

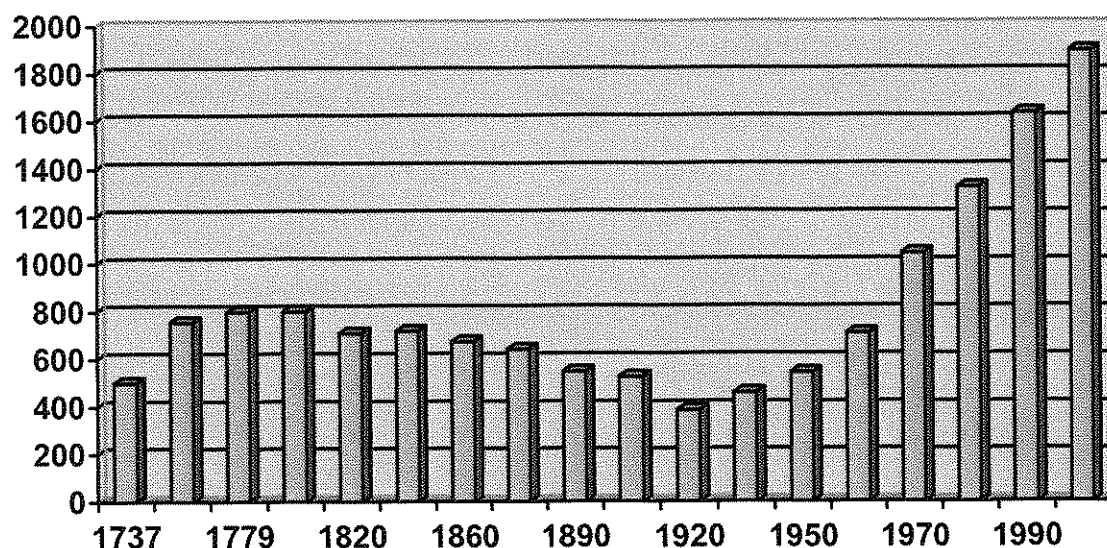


Figure 1: Kensington Population History 1737-2000

Source: US Census, NH Office of State Planning

3.1.1.1.1 Population Growth Since 1960

It is in the last few decades that Kensington, as well as the rest of southern New Hampshire, has experienced the most rapid and significant growth. In contrast to the slow growth and decline of the first two centuries, in which the population nearly doubled between the town's founding in 1737 and 1800, then gradually declined to below the original population level by 1920, Kensington has more than doubled in size in the last forty years. This latest pattern of growth shows no signs of stopping or reversing.

Town	1960 pop'n	1980 pop'n	2000 pop'n	%Change, 1960-2000
East Kingston	424	1135	1784	321%
Exeter	5398	11024	14058	160%
Hampton Falls	885	1376	1880	112%
Kensington	708	1322	1893	167%
South Hampton	443	666	844	91%
Seabrook	2209	5912	7934	259%
Rockingham Cty	99029	190345	277359	180%
New Hampshire	606921	920610	1235786	104%

Table 2: Regional Population Change, 1960-2000

Source: US Census, NH Registers (1961, 1981)

In comparison to the growth experienced by neighboring towns, the region, and the state, Kensington falls about in the middle. While its growth has outpaced that of the state as a whole

and several surrounding towns, it has grown at approximately the same rate as neighboring Exeter, and more slowly than the average for Rockingham County and the towns of Seabrook and East Kingston.

3.2 Demographics

According to preliminary data available from the 2000 US Census (see section III-c, following), Kensington continues to be a small, homogeneous town of primarily home-owning families. The percentage of women slightly outnumbers the percentage of men.

Of the 657 households recorded in 2000, 81% were described as “family households”, half of which had children under 18 years of age. Over 90% of the housing units were owner-occupied; only 60 out of the 657 households were listed as occupied by renters. As of the 1990 Census (Appendix E), 33% of households in the town had lived here for 5 years or less, while 25% had been at their residence for more than 20 years. 84% of town residents commuted outside the town for employment. Comparable data is not yet available from the 2000 Census.

Kensington’s population has grown “at the ends” and declined “in the middle” over the last ten years. The population of children 14 years old and under, as well as those in the age ranges of 35-54 and 65-84, has increased significantly, while the population of young adults aged 15-34 has declined. This reflects a trend towards a resident population of generally middle-aged families with school-aged children, as well as the aging of the long-time resident population.

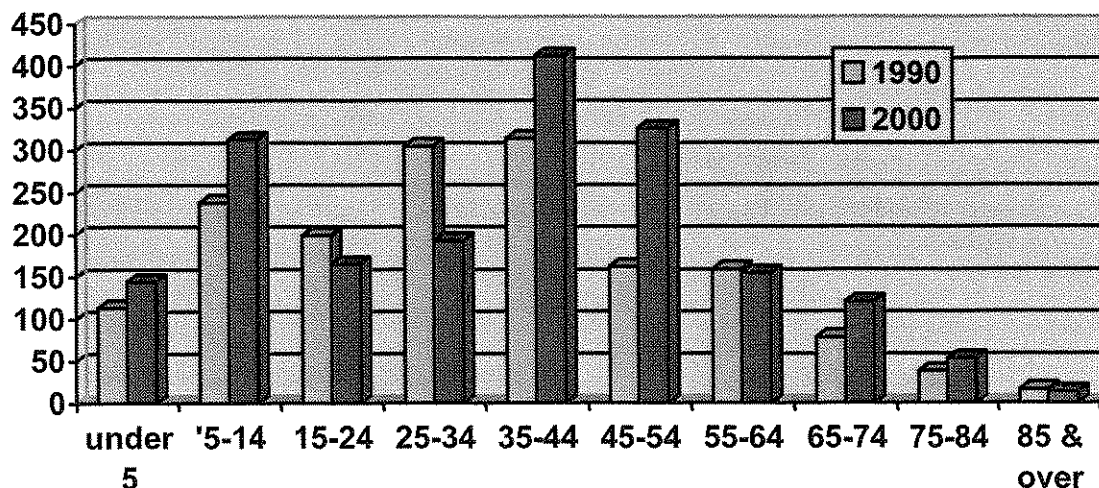


Figure 2: Kensington Demographics by Age Group, 1990 & 2000

Source: US Census

3.3 Population Projections

The New Hampshire Office of State Planning prepares periodic population projections for towns in the state. According to their latest figures (January 1999), the Town is projected to grow at approximately a 2% annual growth rate for the next five years, with growth then slowing to approximately 1.5% per annum. This projected rate leads to an estimated population of 2266 in the year 2010 and 2748 in the year 2020.

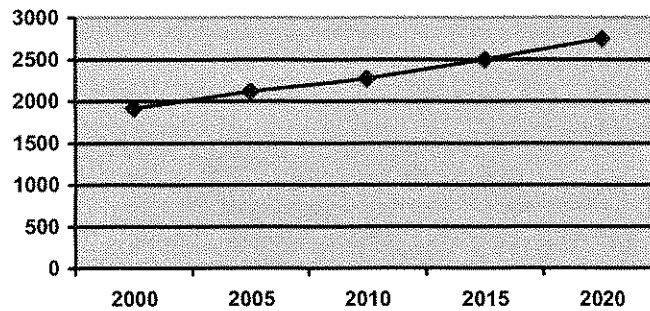


Figure 3: Projected Population, Kensington 2000-2020

Source: NH Office of State Planning

Given Kensington's relatively undeveloped status, its desirable location near several major expressways, the planned introduction of rail service through Exeter, and existing sub development plans, these estimates may be low. Even small changes in the annual growth rate can have a significant impact on population projections over a twenty-year period; at an average annual growth rate of 2.5%, the town would reach a population of 2425 by 2010 and just over 3100 by 2020, doubling the size of the town within 20 years. These numbers point out the need to plan ahead for significant growth in the Town, and the need to manage that growth carefully.

3.4 N.H. State Office of Planning Community Profile: Kensington

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Town of Kensington
Board of Selectmen
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833

Telephone: (603) 772-5423
Fax: (603) 778-6841
E-Mail: not available
Web Site: not available

REGIONS

County	Rockingham
Labor Market Area	Portsmouth-Rochester
Planning Commission	Rockingham
Tourism Region	Seacoast

LOCATION (Distance to)

Manchester, NH	35 miles
Boston, MA	56 miles
New York City, NY	248 miles
Montreal, Quebec	288 miles

MUNICIPAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Town Office Hours M-F 9-1 pm

Type of Government	Selectmen
Annual Budget (1999)	\$684,834
Planning Board	Appointed
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	Planning Commission
Zoning	1959/99
Master Plan	1986
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes

Full Time Police Department	Yes
Full Time Fire Department	No
Town Fire Insurance Rating	9
Emergency Medical Service	Volunteer

Nearest Hospital(s)	Exeter
In: Exeter	Distance: 3 miles Beds: 80

Public Library	Kensington Social & Public
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UTILITIES

Electric Supplier	Exeter & Hampton
Natural Gas Supplier	Northern Utilities

Water Supplier	Private wells
Source	
Permitted Daily Gallon Usage	

Sanitation	Private septic
Sewer Coverage	
Municipal Treatment Plant	No

Curbside Trash Pickup	Yes
Mandatory Recycling Program	No

Telephone Company	Bell Atlantic
Cable Television Service	Yes
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population	Community	County
1998	1,787	264,871
1990	1,631	245,845
1980	1,322	190,345
1970	1,044	138,951

Population by Age Group, 1990

Age 5 and under	137
Age 6 to 17	263
Age 18 to 29	262
Age 30 to 59	756
Age 60 to 69	118
Age 70 and over	95

INCOME

	1990
Per Capita Income	\$17,645
Median 4-Person Family Income	\$47,083
Median Household Income	\$44,773

TAXES

1998 Local Property Tax (per \$1000)	\$18.94
1998 Assessment Ratio	0.95
1998 Equalized Property Tax (per \$1000)	\$17.96
1998 Property Valuation: Residential	94.47%
Commercial	0.93%
Other	4.60%
1999 Local Property Tax (per \$1000)	\$17.44

HOUSING

	1998
Single-Family Units	611
Building Permits Issued	25
Multi-Family Units	27
Building Permits Issued	3
Mobile Homes	48

TRANSPORTATION

Road Access	Federal Routes	150
	State Routes	
Nearest Interstate, Exit	I-95, Exit 5	
Distance	10 miles	
Railroad	None	
Public Transportation	No	
Nearest Airport	Haverhill, MA	
Runway	2,100 feet	
Lighted	Yes	
Navigational Aids	Yes	
Nearest Commercial Airport	Pease	
Distance	18 miles	

Kensington

LARGEST EMPLOYERS	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Exeter & Hampton Electric	Electric service	40	
James R. Rosencrantz & Son	Farm, garden equipment	15+	

EDUCATION/CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Primary & Secondary	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			
Grade Levels	K-5			
Total Enrollment	146			

If no schools, district students attend: Exeter Junior High & High School
Regional Career Technology Center(s): Seacoast School of Technology

Distance: 4 miles
Region: 18

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 1999: Total Facilities: 1 Total Capacity: 8

Nearest Community/Technical College: Stratham
Nearest Colleges or Universities: University of NH

LABOR FORCE	1990	1999
Annual Average Local Area Unemployment		
Civilian Labor Force	951	953
Employed	915	929
Unemployed	36	24
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	2.5%

COMMUTING PATTERNS	1990
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	24.49
Percent of Residents Working in Community	16.0%
Percent of Residents Commuting Elsewhere	84.0%
Percent of Nonresidents Commuting In	54.8%

EMPLOYMENT & WAGES	1991	1998
Manufacturing Industries		
Average Employment	n	0
Average Weekly Wage	n	\$0
Non-Manufacturing Industries		
Average Employment	n	187
Average Weekly Wage	n	\$656
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	126	187
Average Weekly Wage	\$478	\$656
Government		
Average Employment	45	24
Average Weekly Wage	\$257	\$152
Total, Private plus Government		
Average Employment	171	211
Average Weekly Wage	\$419	\$600

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
	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
	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
X	Youth Sports: Baseball
	Youth Sports: Soccer
	Youth Sports: Football
	Youth Sports: Basketball
	Youth Sports: Hockey
	Campgrounds
	Fishing/Hunting
	Boating/Marinas
	Snowmobiling
	Bicycle Trails
	Cross Country Skiing
	Nearest Ski Area(s): Amesbury, MA
	Other:

3.5 US Census Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Kensington town, Rockingham County, New Hampshire

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,893	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,893	100.0
Male.....	935	49.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	-	-
Female.....	958	50.6	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	144	7.6	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	173	9.1	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	140	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	-	-
15 to 19 years.....	102	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,893	100.0
20 to 24 years.....	63	3.3	White alone.....	1,861	98.3
25 to 34 years.....	193	10.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	412	21.8	Total population.....	1,893	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	326	17.2	In households.....	1,893	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	98	5.2	Householder.....	657	34.7
60 to 64 years.....	56	3.0	Spouse.....	479	25.3
65 to 74 years.....	120	6.3	Child.....	615	32.5
75 to 84 years.....	53	2.8	Own child under 18 years.....	487	25.7
85 years and over.....	13	0.7	Other relatives.....	69	3.6
Median age (years).....	38.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	27	1.4
18 years and over.....	1,366	72.2	Nonrelatives.....	73	3.9
Male.....	683	36.1	Unmarried partner.....	33	1.7
Female.....	683	36.1	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	1,310	69.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	213	11.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	186	9.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	92	4.9	Total households.....	657	100.0
Female.....	94	5.0	Family households (families).....	533	81.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	265	40.3
One race.....	1,879	99.3	Married-couple family.....	479	72.9
White.....	1,861	98.3	With own children under 18 years.....	241	36.7
Black or African American.....	2	0.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	38	5.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	17	2.6
Asian.....	12	0.6	Nonfamily households.....	124	18.9
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	88	13.4
Chinese.....	6	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	32	4.9
Filipino.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	284	43.2
Japanese.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	128	19.5
Korean.....	3	0.2	Average household size.....	2.88	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.18	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	672	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	657	97.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	15	2.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	8	1.2
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	14	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races:³			Occupied housing units.....	657	100.0
White.....	1,875	99.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	597	90.9
Black or African American.....	5	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	60	9.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.95	(X)
Asian.....	19	1.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.15	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

NOTES

[illegible]