

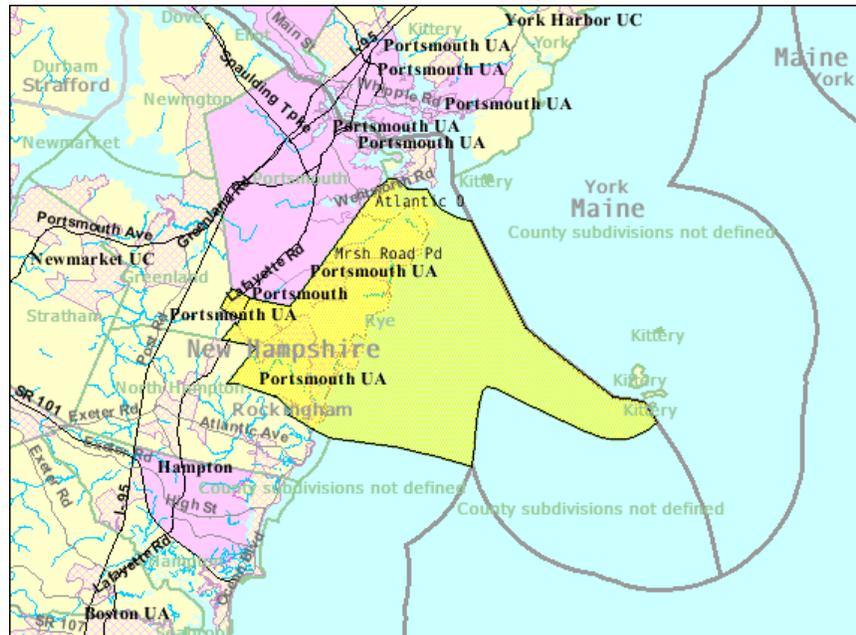
RYE, NH¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Rye, New Hampshire (43.01° N, 70.77° W) (USGS 2008) is located in the New Hampshire Seacoast region, on the Atlantic Ocean's coast in Rockingham County (Map 1). Rye contains 12.6 square miles of land area and 0.5 square miles of inland water area (ELMIB 2007).



Map 1. Location of Rye, NH (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Originally named Pannaway, Rye was the first settlement in New Hampshire and the receiving station for the first Atlantic cable (1874) (NH 2000). Established by David Thompson in 1623 at Odiorne's Point, and named for the borough of Rye, a town on the English Channel, it was part of Portsmouth then later incorporated as a parish of New Castle in 1726. The town includes the villages of Cable Road, Fairhill Manor, Foyes Corner, Langs Corner, Rye, Rye Beach, Rye Harbor, Rye North Beach, Wallis Sands, and West Rye. It holds 8 miles of Atlantic coastline, and is the only NH town with Atlantic islands. These, the four Isles of Shoals, were annexed in 1876 (EMLIB 2007).

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: "Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov."

The increasing reliance on a tourism industry in Rye, as in the rest of the Seacoast, has decreased the economy's reliance on a fishing industry. Rye is a significant as a fishing port because of its proximity to fertile fishing grounds of the region (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Tourist destinations include Ordione Point, Wallis Sands, Jenness and Rye state parks, and Rye harbor. Tourism activities include pleasure cruises, whale watching, and deep sea fishing trips departing from Rye Harbor (Seacoast 2004). Whale watching trips often access Jeffrey's Ledge and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (Blue Ocean 2004; ELMIB 2007). Rye harbor is one of the stat's largest saltwater fishing locations (Stedman and Hanson nd).

Demographics³

According to US Census Bureau 2000 data, Rye had a total population of 5,182, down 0.1% from the reported population of 5,188 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.6% were males and 52.4% were females. The median age was 44.4 years and 77.8% of the population was 21 years or older while 22.1% of the population was 62 or older.

Rye's population structure by age group (see Figure 1) shows that the highest percentage of the population was between 40 and 49 years, and the percentages subtly decreased as age groups increased by decade. As is common in smaller fishing towns and cities, there was a dip in the ages 20-29.

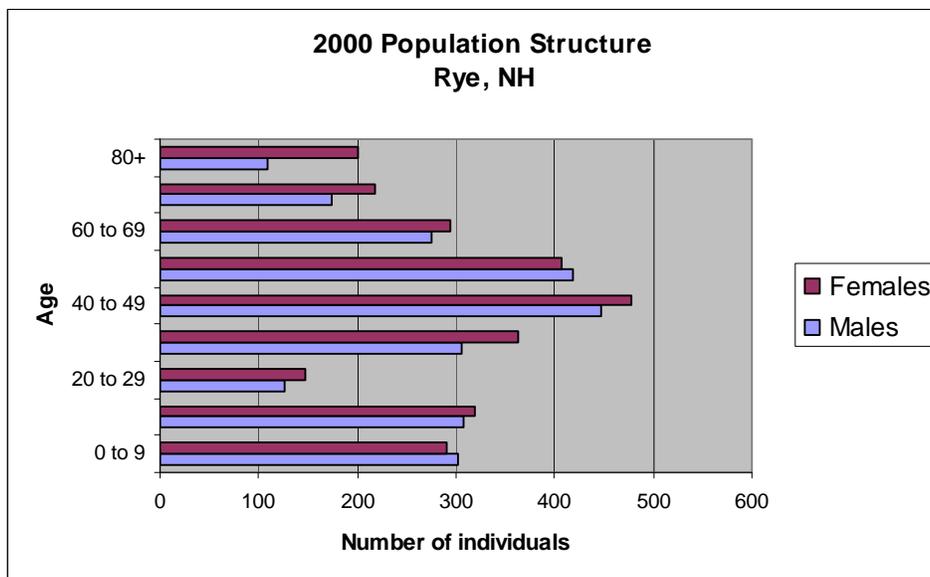


Figure 1. Rye's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population in Rye was white (98.7%), with 0.2% black or African American, 0.3% Native American, 0.6% Asian, and no residents Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.6% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic/ Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: English (21.4%), Irish (18.4%), Italian (11.8%), German (11.5%), and French (7.8%).

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

With regard to region of birth, 36.4% were born in New Hampshire, 58.2% were born in a different state and 4.3% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.5% who were not United States citizens).

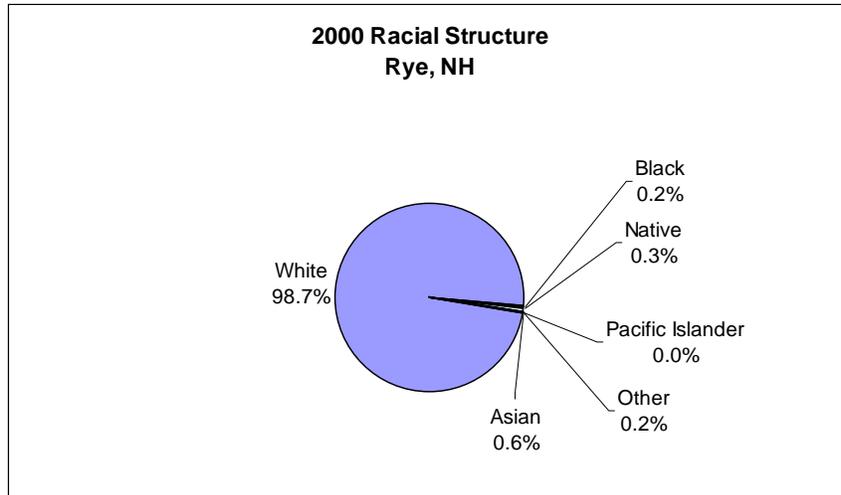


Figure 2. Racial structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

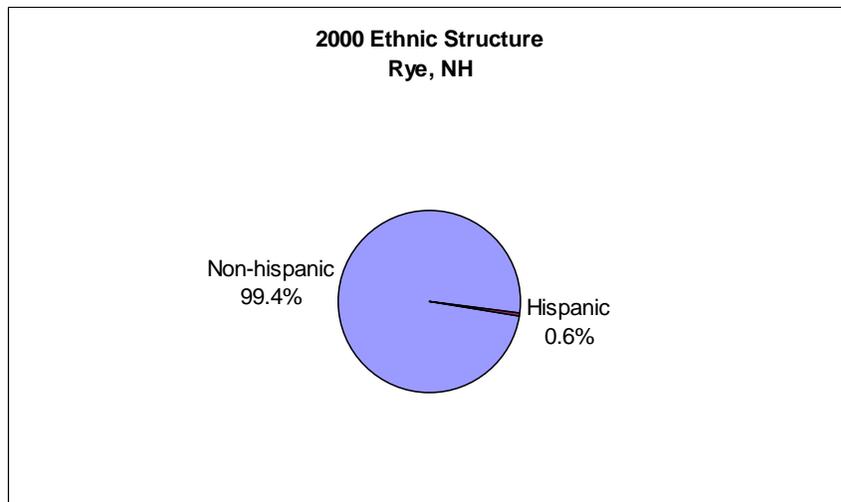


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 94.7% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5.3% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.0% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 94.5% were high school graduates or higher and 53.3% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population 25 years and over, 0.4% did not reach ninth grade, 5.0% attended some high school but did not graduate, 16.7% completed high school, 15.3% had some college with no degree, 9.3% received their associate’s degree, 32.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 21.1% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the American Religious Data Archive the religion with the highest number of congregations in Rockingham County was Catholic, with 25 congregations and 117,542 adherents. Other

prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (23 with 6,352 adherents), and American Baptist (21 with 4,449 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 70.5% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Rye beaches, like others in New England, are infrequently closed do to unhealthy amounts of *coliform* bacteria. Water and stock closures often result from high levels of bacteria that accumulate in coastal waters during excessive runoff periods. The bacteria, primarily *E. coli*, are harmful to humans through swimming and consumption of bivalves, such as quahogs and oysters (Record 2006).

Cultural attributes

Rye has a large surfing population that is active all months of the year. Many tourists also use the waters in and around the town. Annual Rye Lion's Club Car Show has been held in Rye for over 23 years. The fundraiser is attended by car enthusiasts throughout New England. The [Seacoast Science Center](#) is located in Ordiorne State Park, Rye. The center provides the public with an educational resource on coastal environmental history and its importance to the region's culture.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 59.9% (2,487 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.8% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 57.1% were employed.

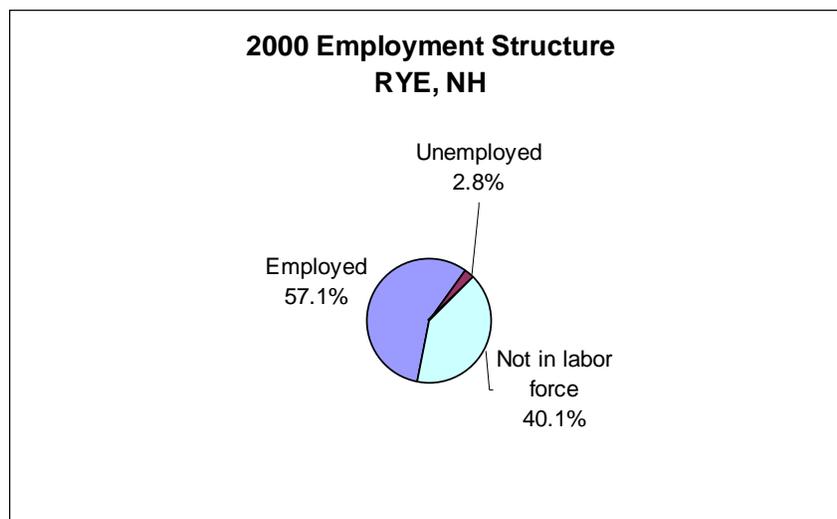


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 41 positions or 1.7% of all jobs. Self

⁴ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 381 positions or 16.1% of jobs. Educational health and social services (16.6 %), retail trade (15.2%), professional, scientific, management, administrative employments, waste management services (13.6%), and manufacturing (11.4%) were the primary industries.

Major employers in the town include the municipal government (56 employees), Petey's Restaurant (seasonal), Rye Airfield (skate park), Wentworth by the Sea (country club), Ice House Restaurant (seasonal) and the Rye public schools (ELMIB 2007).

Median household income in Rye in 2000 was \$63,152, up 49.9% from \$42,143 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$36,746. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 49.0% more per year than females.

The average family in Rye consisted of 2.87 persons. With respect to poverty, 1.6% of families, down from 3.0% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 3.5% of individuals were below the U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 18.3% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Rye had a total of 2,645 housing units of which 82.3% were occupied and 83.7% were detached one unit homes. Close to a third (31.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 2.8% of the total housing units; 81.8% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$311,100. Of vacant housing units, 82.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 19.3% were renter occupied.

Government

Rye is governed by a three-member Board of Selectmen (Town of Rye 2008).

Fishery involvement in government

Rye has an active Harbormaster, Leo Axtin (2007). The Harbormaster falls under the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire State Port Authority (DPH 2003).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association represents both lobstering and groundfishing, the major components of New Hampshire's commercial fishing industry. It has been an active advocate for industry issues at both the state and federal level with members participating as representatives on boards, commissions, and councils.⁵ The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association is based in Rye (Stevenson 2005).

Fishing assistance centers

When NMFS proposed Amendment 13, which closed vast areas to fishing, this reduced the number of days fishermen can fish, and required fishermen to purchase new and expensive gear. New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg (R) asked Senate Appropriations for more than \$11 million in economic assistance for New England fishing communities (Davidson 2002). As a result of Senator Gregg's efforts, a revolving loan fund was made available to the fishing

⁵ Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, September 28, 2007

industry. Fund activity has been sporadic because of the decline in economic investment in the industry resulting from regulatory conditions.⁶

Other fishing related organizations

[Coastal Conservation Association](#) (CCA) is an organization composed of recreational fishermen and that addresses conservation issues nationally and at the state level. The main objective of the association is to protect and sustain fishing resources in the present and future. The New Hampshire chapter was formed in 1998.

The Interstate Passenger Boat Association, located in Rye Harbor, responds to administrative and legislative activity affecting the passenger vessel industry. The association is also carrying out ongoing whale research (DES nd).

Physical

Rye is 57 miles from Portland, 48 miles northeast of Boston, and 40 miles from Manchester. Rye is accessible via personal vehicle through I-95 (exit 3) and state routes 1 and 1A. There is no public transportation of rail or bus with in the town. The nearest airport is Pease Commercial Airport located 8 miles away, in Newington, New Hampshire (ELMIB 2007). The next closest is Manchester-Boston Regional Airport located in Manchester, NH (40 miles).

Rye has an elementary school (grades K-5), junior high school (grades 6-8), 1 private school, and a public library. Stratham is the nearest technical college, and McIntosh and UNH are the nearest universities. The nearest hospital is Portsmouth Regional, located 5 miles away (ELMIB 2007). The town has full-time and part-time police and fire departments.

Rye has a harbor including a marina with a commercial pier. The harbor, located off Route 1A, contains a boat launch, fueling station (Atlantic Fuels Inc.) (DPH 2003), marina and fishing options (ELMIB 2007, Dwyer 2008), and a whale watch (Blue Ocean 2004). Boat repair is available in Rye by Beaver's Boat Repair, or in nearby North Hampton by [Powers Motor Company](#) and [Accutech Marine Propeller Inc.](#)

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

Commercial fishing presence in Rye is strengthened by the capital flow connections with Portsmouth. In effect it is linked to the larger regional fisheries economy. With the increase "beach culture" in the region Rye's contribution to the regional market has decreased (Hall-

⁶ Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, September 28, 2007

⁷ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

Arber et al. 2001). Rye harbor contains a commercial fishing pier. The Division of Ports and Harbors (DPH) has jurisdiction over the facility. The DPH mandates that no long-term or overnight berthing is available due to physical limitations. Commercial fishermen wishing to use the facility must first acquire a “Pier Use” permit (DPH 2003). Rye’s commercial fishing industry in 2000 had 24 or more boats, 8-10 groundfish and over 12 lobster boats using the commercial pier (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

The most valuable species landed in Rye averaged for 1997-2006 was largemouth groundfish, followed by lobster and “other” species (see Table 1). In 2006, lobster responsible for the most landed value after groundfish. Overall, the number of boats homeported in Rye has increased, from a low of 25 in 2000 to 39 in 2006 (see Table 2). The value of home port fishing also showed a net increase from 1997 to 2006. The level of home port fishing was higher in all years than the level of landings, indicating that some fishermen from Rye land their catch elsewhere, perhaps in one of the other ports along the New Hampshire sea coast.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Largemouth Groundfish ⁸	1
Monkfish	2
Other ⁹	3
Lobster	4
Dogfish	5
Scallop	6
Smallmouth Groundfish ¹⁰	7
Bluefish	8
Herring	9
Skate	10
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	11
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	12

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

⁸ Largemouth Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

⁹ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁰ Smallmouth Multi-species : red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

Vessels by Year¹¹

Table 1. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	32	29
1998	31	29
1999	29	28
2000	25	25
2001	30	28
2002	32	28
2003	32	28
2004	37	32
2005	37	30
2006	39	30

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹²)

Recreational

Recreational fishing in Rye is a substantial portion of the town's tourism. Charters depart from Rye Harbor for a variety of local fishing spots (Seacoast 2004). A wide variety of recreationally caught fish are found in New Hampshire waters, including bluefish, striped bass, mackerel, cod, pollock, cusk, ocean catfish, haddock, tuna, and lobster (Fish & Game n.d.). Rye Harbor is home to five or more fishing charter boats including the Atlantic Fleet's *M/V Atlantic Queen II*, Clandestino Fishing Charters' *F/V Marriane*, and Tontine Fishing Inc.'s *F/V Tontine* and *F/V Shenanigans*. Two additional charters in Rye are Mindy's Fishing Parties and Cap'n Sav's Charters. Numerous other fishing charters also depart from the neighboring towns on the Seacoast, Massachusetts and Maine (Seacoast NH 2003). Between 2001-2005 there were a total of 13 charter and party boats which logged trips in Rye, carrying a total of 26,246 anglers on 1,995 different trips.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Rye is either not available through secondary data collection, or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Rye's Master Plan was drafted in 1995. Its general goals are to maintain the town's semi-rural condition while also granting citizens the technological advancement of services (Rye 2008). Areas of Rye, including Rye harbor and Odium State Park, are often locations included in subprojects of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project's (NHEP) Comprehensive Conservation and

¹¹ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹² The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

Management Plan. The NHEP was formed in 1995 as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. The aim of the project is to improve water quality in New Hampshire's Estuaries (NHEP 2008).

New Hampshire's Southeast Land Trust has recently (2006) been created through the merge of the state's Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust. The idea was to create a single organization more powerful than the individuals, to continue protecting land and conserving natural resources in southeastern New Hampshire (Anon. 2006).

Rye along with other small ports of the region has seen a decrease in the reliance of commercial fishing in the local economy. Despite the modern changes to fishing of the region from tourism and management regulations, most people feel this is not a substantial threat to its existence (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

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