

NEW ENGLAND REGION 19 DESCRIPTION AND MAP

New England Region 19 comprises six states: Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to the north, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island to the south. The three northern states border Canada. The western regional border is adjacent to New York state. The eastern and southern borders meet the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound.

The region's topography is diverse. "The key topographic influence are the Appalachian mountains, which run north from western Connecticut and Massachusetts, into the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire, terminating in Maine. The trademark rocky coastline of Maine, sandy beaches and dunes of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and Connecticut, offer the interface between the land mass of New England and the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound. Bridging the gap between the ocean and mountains" are coastal plain and rolling hills.¹ The highest point is Mount Washington in New Hampshire which rises 6,288 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation is sea level for the states bordering the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound. The region encompasses 62,810 square miles with a population of 13,562,517.² Population characteristics vary considerably.

The northern states - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont - are sparsely populated relative to the region as a whole. While these states comprise 78% of the geographical region (49,080 square miles), they account for 23% of the region's population (3,119,536). The average population density for these three states combined is 64 persons per square mile. Within these states, the population density ranges from four persons per square mile (Piscataquis County, Maine) to 435 persons per square mile (Hillsborough County, New Hampshire). There is one city with a population of over 100,000, Manchester, New Hampshire (population 107,006).

The population of the region's southern states - Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island - reflect a more urban nature. This remaining geographic area comprises 22% of the geographic area (13,730 square miles) but 77% of the population (10,442,981) with an average density of 761 persons per square mile. However, within these states, there is a wide range in population density ranging from 102 persons per square mile (Franklin County, Massachusetts) to 11,788 persons per square mile (Suffolk County, Massachusetts). There are 11 cities with populations of over 100,000 in these states, the most populous being Boston, Massachusetts (population 589,141).

A complete listing of the region's states and counties is found in Appendix E.

Clearly, the geographic and demographic diversity within Region 19 presents both operational and structural challenges in the development and administration of the comprehensive management plan.

1. “The New England Weather Network: A Shared 21st Century Vision For Environmental Monitoring and Science Education In The New England States,” University of Maine Robust Instrumentation Laboratory website
<http://www.eece.maine.edu/EE/RIL/> updated 08-04-00.
2. County population data taken from:
 - U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary file 1, Matrices PCT 12 and 13.Population density data taken from:
 - U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 QuickFacts state and county tables.Cities with population over 100,000 data taken from:
 - U.S. Census Bureau, Table SUB-EST2002-01, City and Town Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2002.