



DUNSTABLE

Dunstable, a small, rural town with a population of 3,359, has an economy primarily composed of blue-collar jobs. It boasts natural beauty, local agriculture, and open spaces, home to a large portion of the Petapawag Area of Critical Environmental Concern along the Nashua river.

Employment sectors include farming, education, and local small businesses. The largest employers in town are in the public sector, such as the elementary school and fire department. The town's built environment is predominantly suburban and rural, featuring open spaces, farms, and historic sites. Dunstable recently established an Economic Development Committee focused on attracting small businesses that align with the residential and institutional mix of uses along the town's main roadway, Route 113.

Top 5 Occupations

Occupation	Employees	Percent of Total
Management	366	18.4%
Other	210	10.6%
Educational and Library	157	7.9%
Office and Administrative Support	153	7.7%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	150	7.6%

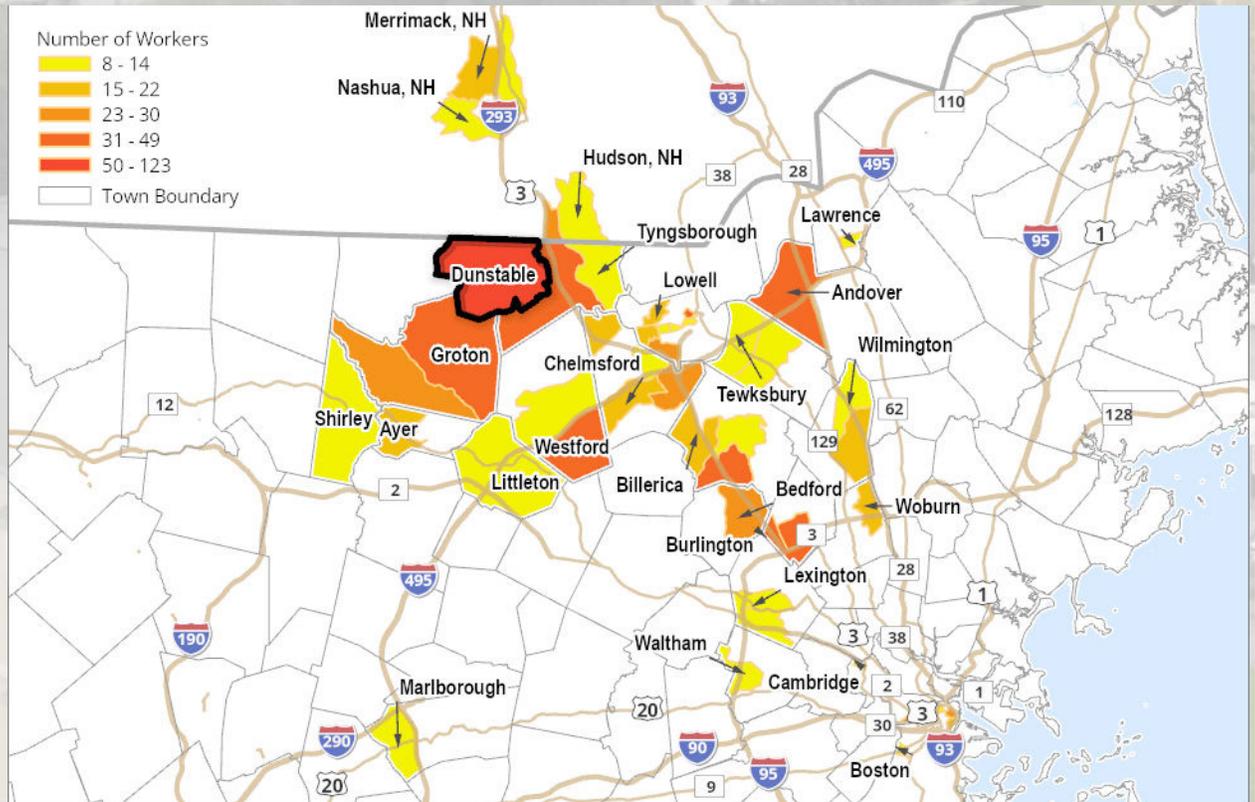
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey, Table B24010

Top 5 Industries

Industry	Employees	Percent of Total
Heavy and civil engineering construction	39	14.6%
Specialty trade contractors	29	10.8%
Food services and drinking places	25	9.3%
Construction of buildings	25	9.3%
Administrative and support services	22	8.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024 Q2 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (Level 3 NAICS)

FIGURE 10: DUNSTABLE RESIDENT WORK DESTINATIONS



Sources: LEHD (2022 On the Map destination analysis); MassDOT/NMCOG (roads); MassGIS/NMCOG (town boundaries); MassDEP (2009 hydrography). Produced by NMCOG: 5/7/2025

Profile: Union Building



The Union School Building was built in 1895, unifying five one-room schoolhouses. The Town partnered with NMCOG and a private consultant when the school district no longer needed the property for a rehabilitation and reuse plan.

It concluded that the Union Building is a beloved structure that should be preserved and that using the building for a mix of community focused uses and private revenue-generating uses is ideal. The Town has since appropriated \$1.1 million to restore the building for a mix of uses, including possible second-floor art studio or office use.

Source: NMCOG

Top 5 Employers

Name	NAICS †	Employees
Swallow Union Elementary	611110	65
Dunstable Town Fire Department	922160	26
Child Care Center	624410	20
Mass Motorcycle School	611110	12
YMCA Camp Massapoag	721214	12

Source: Data Axle 2023, Excluding Town of Dunstable and Groton-Dunstable Regional School District(Multiple Locations)

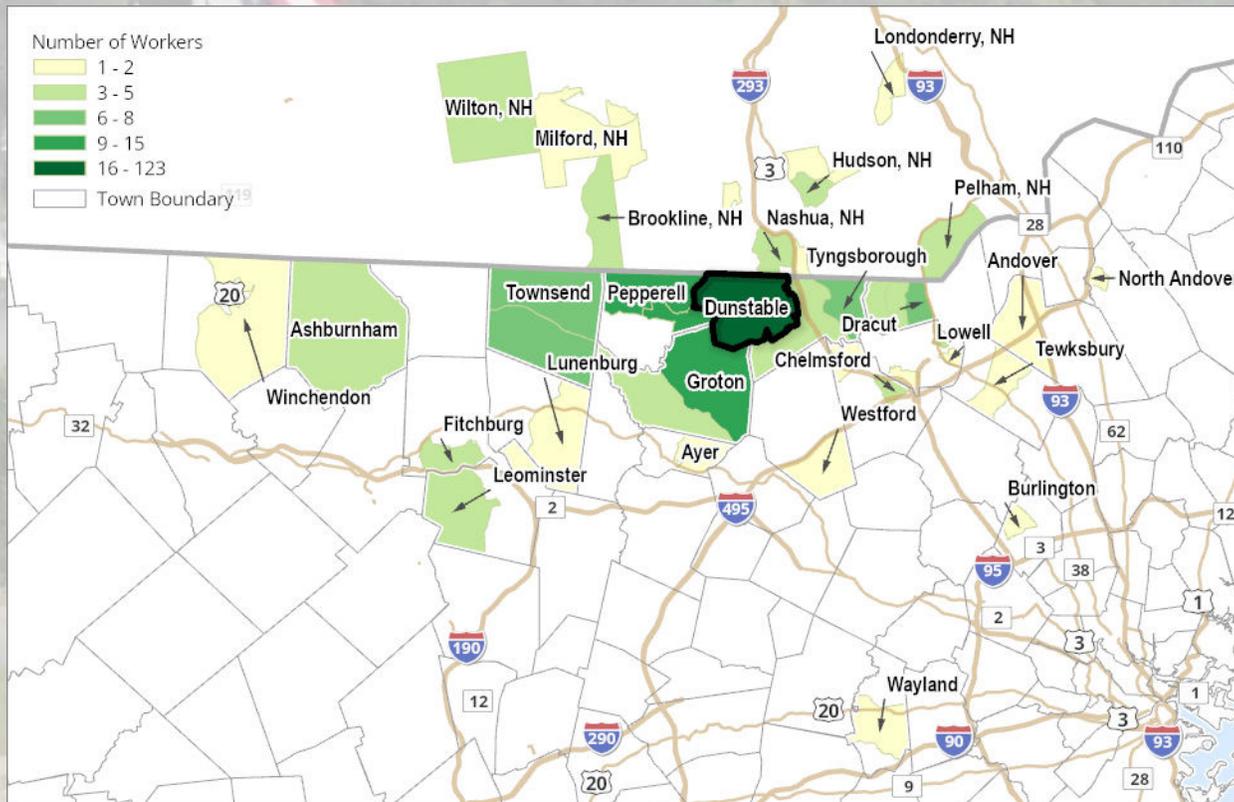
Main Street Improvement Project

The Route 113 Planning project was completed in 2023. It improved the roadway and pavement along Main Street in Dunstable Town Center. The project, led by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), included the repaving and widening of the roadway, new concrete sidewalks, granite curbing, and guardrails. The project is intended to improve safety and accessibility for all of the roadway corridor's users while protecting, enhancing and reinforcing the corridor's existing village character, rural landscape, and historic features.

Dunstable worked closely with MassDOT for these important infrastructure upgrades. The Town is now working with NMCOG to proactively plan to leverage these improvements for economic development while maintaining Dunstable Town Center's unique sense of place.

† North American Industrial Classification System. This 2- to 6-digit code classifies businesses based on their primary activities. Find more information at <https://www.census.gov/naics/>

FIGURE 11: DUNSTABLE-BASED FIRMS WORKER ORIGINS



Sources: LEHD (2022 On the Map destination analysis); MassDOT/NMCOG (roads); MassGIS/NMCOG (town boundaries); MassDEP (2009 hydrography). Produced by NMCOG: 5/7/2025

Background Image Source: Town of Dunstable