



BELCHERTOWN

At 54.2 square miles, Belchertown is the sixth largest community in Massachusetts in terms of land area. The eastern part of the town is located on the shore of the Quabbin Reservoir, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the country. Water supply from this "accidental wilderness" serves nearly half the residents of the state. A noted wildlife preserve surrounds the reservoir. This semi-rural, residential community, with its scenic landscape and proximity to both Amherst and Springfield, has experienced unprecedented residential development.

Summer residents discovered Belchertown in the early 1900s, establishing a few large summer hotels. Up until the time of the Civil War, an active carriage trade had thrived in town. Today, few farms are left. Small businesses flourish in the center of town with its expansive, beautiful Town Common. The annual Belchertown Fair is one of the oldest, continuously operated fairs in the country, including handicraft exhibits, horse and oxen pulls, and a church supper held on the Common.

Points of interest include: The Stone House Museum, built in 1827, which exhibits Rogers Group sculptures and Early American furnishing; Lake Metacomet and Lake Arcadia; the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery, one of the largest fish hatcheries east of the Mississippi River; and the Swift River Wildlife Management Area.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 60 Congress Street - Floor 1
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01104-3419
 Telephone: (413) 781-6045
<http://www.pvpc.org>

Profiles covering all forty-three communities in the Pioneer Valley Region and a range of other topics are available. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Regional Information Center provides demographic, economic, and geographic data and services including mapping, research, and analysis to its constituent communities and to the public. Contact the Information Center for additional information.

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Type of Government:

Open Town Meeting, 5 Selectmen

Transit System:

Public Carrier Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

Private Carrier None

Para-Transit Carrier Council on Aging, (Bondsville) Vanpool Transportation Company, PVTA

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall
 2 Jabish St.
 Belchertown, MA 01007
 Phone: (413) 323-0403
 FAX: (413) 323-0494
www.belchertown.org

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	34,668
Square Miles	54
2012	
Vehicle Registrations <i>(autos and light trucks)</i>	15,521
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$17.89
Commercial/Industrial	\$17.89

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	5,936
2014	8,339
1990	10,593
2000	13,015
2010	14,649
2014	14,774

2014 Race and Latino Population

White	94.2%
Black	1.1%
Asian	1.8%
Other	2.8%
Latino (of any race)	2.6%

Note: Race %s can be greater than 100% because of multiple race persons.

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	8.0	6.9	5.5
5 - 9	7.9	8.1	7.3
10 - 14	6.6	7.9	7.5
15 - 19	5.5	6.5	7.0
20 - 24	6.2	5.1	4.9
25 - 34	19.1	12.9	9.5
35 - 44	21.2	20.4	15.0
45 - 54	8.9	16.7	18.7
55 - 59	3.4	4.2	8.2
60 - 64	3.2	2.7	6.2
65 - 74	6.3	4.6	5.9
75 & over	3.7	4.2	4.4

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	54
Total Road Miles	2009 159

Land Use	Acres
Residential	3,730
Commercial	142
Industrial	105
Urban Open/Public	284
Transportation	76
Outdoor Recreational	362
Agricultural Land	2,607
Undeveloped Land	26,064
Water	1,786

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Holland Glen, Parson's Field, Quabbin Watershed, Belchertown Town Common, Chestnut Hill Recreation Area.

GOLF COURSES: Mill Valley Country Club, Cold Spring Country Club.

OTHER: Swift River Sport Club, Belchertown Town Beach, Stone House Museum, McLaughlin Trout Hatchery.

Data Sources: Massachusetts Department of Revenue; Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development; Massachusetts Department of Education; United States Census Bureau; The Warren Group; Resource Mapping; University of Massachusetts; Applied Geographic Solutions; Local Municipal Offices

EMPLOYERS and EMPLOYMENT

2014

Industry	Number	Percent of Community Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	0	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	262	9.7%
Construction	99	3.7%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	85	3.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	370	13.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	80	3.0%
Services	871	32.4%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	505	18.8%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	419	15.6%
<i>Note: Above does not include self-employed, where many work in the agriculture, construction and service industries.</i>		
Average Weekly Wage	\$684	
Self-employed (includes all business types)	791	

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

18.9%	work in Belchertown
81.1%	commute out of Belchertown

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	196	\$227,750
2011	170	\$221,475
2012	198	\$236,500
2013	202	\$229,000
2014	228	\$230,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older *

2013

Less than 12 years	6.6%
4 years High School	25.4%
Less than 4 years College	29.4%
4 or more years College	38.6%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost
Belchertown	PK-12	\$11,449
Pathfinder Vocational	9-12	\$20,239

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	8,148	4.6%
2005	8,303	5.1%
2006	8,398	4.5%
2007	8,298	3.9%
2008	8,409	4.2%
2009	8,223	6.3%
2010	8,259	7.1%
2011	8,100	5.7%
2012	8,111	5.0%
2013	8,140	5.4%
2014	8,276	4.8%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	3.9%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	9.8%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10.6%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9.9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13.1%
\$75,000 & over	49.6%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$74,221

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 7.8%