



# Hampshire County

Bisected by the Connecticut River, Hampshire County is situated in the middle of Western Massachusetts. Its population of 160,328 enjoys a balance of rural living and urban amenities.

The City of Northampton and Town of Amherst form an educational, commercial, and cultural center and are connected by Route 9, a vibrant commercial corridor. The county enjoys a highly academic influence from the “Five-College Area” network of Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Hampshire College, as well as a thriving agricultural sector. Agricultural production is centered in the river towns of Hadley and Hatfield.

The county is rapidly becoming a popular residential and recreational area. It is rich in history and natural amenities. The county has been the home of such historical figures as President Calvin Coolidge and 19th Century poet Emily Dickinson. The Northampton Academy of Music is the oldest municipally owned theatre in the United States. The area also contains several state parks as well as the Quabbin Reservoir, the Commonwealth’s vast man-made reservoir serving metropolitan Boston. Look Park in Northampton is a regional attraction. The county’s western towns are at the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains and renowned for their scenic vistas. Some of the world’s oldest fossils are found in Hampshire County, and large collections are on display in three private museums.

Interstate 91 is the county’s primary highway. An extensive network of public bus service links the college communities and the larger Pioneer Valley area. Bradley International airport is within a 45 minute drive. There are two hospitals and one veteran’s hospital in the county.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Not Applicable.

## LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	348,012
Square Miles	543.7
Municipalities	20

## POPULATION TRENDS

1970	123,981
2014	138,813
1990	146,568
2000	152,251
2010	158,080
2014	160,328

2014 Race and Latino Population	
White	89.1%
Black	2.7%
Asian	5.1%
Other	3.1%
Latino (of any race)	5.0%

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

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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:

There are no county governments in Massachusetts.

### Transit System:

**Public Carrier:** Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

**Private Carrier:** Bonanza Bus Lines, Greyhound, Peter Pan Bus Lines and Vermont Bus Lines

**Para-Transit Carrier** Community Council on Aging and Private Agencies, PVRTA, Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	5.4	4.6	3.9
5 - 9	5.7	5.5	4.6
10 - 14	5.1	5.9	5.1
15 - 19	11.0	10.7	10.8
20 - 24	14.5	12.3	13.9
25 - 34	15.7	11.8	10.3
35 - 44	15.4	15.0	11.1
45 - 54	8.6	14.6	14.5
55 - 59	3.4	4.4	7.2
60 - 64	3.6	3.2	6.1
65 - 74	6.8	5.7	6.4
75 & over	4.8	6.3	6.2

LAND USE 2005

Acres	348,012
Total Square Miles	544
Total Road Miles	2009 1,591

Land Use	Acres
Residential	28,510
Commercial	1,979
Industrial	1,273
Urban Open/Public	3,308
Transportation	792
Outdoor Recreational	2,409
Agricultural Land	33,141
Undeveloped Land	247,943
Water	11,907

TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORTS: Northampton Airport

RAIL SERVICE: Amtrak Stations:  
Northampton and Amherst; Short Line Freight:  
Class One, CSX; Regional: Guilford Rail  
System; New England Central

PRIMARY INTERSTATE  
HIGHWAY: Interstate 91 (north-south).

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	429	0.7%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,249	11.8%
Construction	2,367	3.9%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,866	3.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	9,710	15.8%
Information	832	1.4%
Manufacturing	2,521	4.1%
Services	25,945	42.2%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	1,324	2.2%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	9,186	14.9%

Note: Above does not include self-employed, where many work in the agriculture, construction and service industries.

Average Weekly Wage \$827

Self-employed (includes all business types) 8734

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

65.0% work in county  
35.0% commute out of county

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	1,715	\$215,900
2011	1,659	\$219,000
2012	1,857	\$220,000
2013	1,908	\$230,000
2014	1,915	\$230,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years  
and Older \*

2013	
Less than 12 years	6.8%
4 years High School	25.6%
Less than 4 years College	25.4%
4 or more years College	42.3%

\*Expressed as the highest level attained.

Colleges: Amherst College, Hampshire  
College, Mt. Holyoke College, Smith  
College, University of Massachusetts  
Amherst

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2005	87,804	4.0%
2006	88,500	3.9%
2007	88,535	3.8%
2008	88,817	4.3%
2009	87,565	6.5%
2010	87,644	6.9%
2011	84,803	5.9%
2012	85,036	5.5%
2013	85,041	5.8%
2014	86,287	5.0%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	6.4%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	5.8%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	8.9%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	8.9%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	13.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.0%
\$75,000 & over	41.3%

Median Household Income: 2010-14  
\$61,460

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014  
13.9%