



PALMER

Palmer is comprised of four villages: Thorndike, Bondsville, Three Rivers, and Depot Village. Each village has its own Main Street park, commercial-industrial base, neighborhood atmosphere, and ethnic mix. Four rivers flow through the town of Palmer, and it was here that the colonial “Elbows Plantation” was settled, so named because the rivers shaped the town in the form of an elbow.

The Elbow Plantation was founded in 1716 by John King. The town of Palmer was formally established in 1752. Industries of the early 1800’s began to utilize the Quabog and Swift Rivers, where the manufacture of soap, hats, cotton, woolen, and iron goods took place. A stately railroad station designed by the nationally known architect H.H. Richardson is found in the central business district.

The Palmer Industrial Park continues the town’s industrial heritage and a new intermodal freight facility offering full customs clearance has helped to establish Palmer as a key cargo distribution center. Palmer also has a Massachusetts Turnpike Interchange, making the town attractive to residential as well as commercial development.

Residential housing consists mainly of single family homes with small apartments buildings and two-family homes located near the centers of each village. Well over half of the land area in Palmer is undeveloped.

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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:

Town Manager serves as the chief executive with a 7-member Town Council serving as the legislative board.

Transit System:

Public Carrier Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

Private Carrier Peter Pan Bus Lines

Para-Transit Carrier Council on Aging, PVTA

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall
 4417 Main St.
 Palmer, MA 01069
 Phone: (413) 283-2603
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www.townofpalmer.com

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acreage	20,946
Square Miles	33
2012	
Vehicle Registrations (autos and light trucks)	13,380
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$19.33
Commercial/Industrial	\$19.33

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	11,680
2014	11,389
1990	12,056
2000	12,529
2010	12,140
2014	12,155

2014 Race and Latino Population

White	98.4%
Black	0.4%
Asian	0.1%
Other	1.1%
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	6.7	5.6	4.7
5 - 9	7.1	7.2	5.7
10 - 14	5.9	7.8	6.0
15 - 19	6.0	6.9	7.1
20 - 24	7.0	4.5	6.1
25 - 34	18.2	12.8	11.2
35 - 44	14.5	17.7	13.7
45 - 54	9.3	14.0	17.9
55 - 59	4.2	4.6	7.0
60 - 64	4.8	3.4	6.2
65 - 74	9.9	7.3	6.7
75 & over	6.6	8.2	7.7

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	33
Total Road Miles	2009 115

Land Use	Acres
Residential	2,354
Commercial	167
Industrial	274
Urban Open/Public	250
Transportation	143
Outdoor Recreational	139
Agricultural Land	908
Undeveloped Land	15,658
Water	482

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Legion Field, Forest Lake Park, Eager Field, Endelson Playground, Crystal Park, Burleigh Park, Chase Memorial Park, Midura Family Conservation Area, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers Common.

GOLF COURSES: None

OTHER: Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Camp Stanica, Camp Ramah of New England.

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	468	9.9%
Construction	302	6.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	81	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,107	23.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	599	12.6%
Services	1,333	28.1%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	144	3.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	712	15.0%

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

Average Weekly Wage \$813

Self-employed (includes all business types) 546

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

25.8% work in Palmer
74.2% commute out of Palmer

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	159	\$145,900
2011	142	\$138,700
2012	130	\$150,000
2013	139	\$150,000
2014	153	\$157,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older *

2013

Less than 12 years	12.5%
4 years High School	39.3%
Less than 4 years College	29.3%
4 or more years College	18.9%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost
Palmer	PK-12	\$13,126
Pathfinder	9-12	\$20,239
Vocational		

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	7,068	6.4%
2005	7,020	5.2%
2006	7,101	5.7%
2007	7,057	5.2%
2008	7,093	5.9%
2009	7,078	8.9%
2010	7,111	9.7%
2011	6,138	9.3%
2012	6,134	8.5%
2013	6,132	8.7%
2014	6,213	7.8%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	4.6%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	5.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	13.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	12.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11.8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20.1%
\$75,000 & over	33.3%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$51,846

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 10.3%