



# PELHAM

Pelham is characterized by rural landscapes and a strong sense of community. A tradition of pride and independence are exemplified even today. The town library is shared between the elementary school and the town public, with school children using it during the day and the Pelham residents using it throughout the evenings and weekends. It currently houses 26,903 volumes and features a display on historic Pelham. The community has a volunteer fire department and part-time police force.

Settled in 1739 by Scottish immigrants, Pelham was incorporated as a town in 1743. Its most famous citizen was Daniel Shays, who led a year-long rebellion against high taxes imposed by the government. Planned in the local meeting place, Conkey's Tavern, Shay's 1786 rebellion is credited with bringing about the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787.

Pelham's Old Meeting House, built in 1743, is the oldest town hall in the nation. The meeting house is still the location of the annual town meeting, often referred to as the purest form of democracy practiced widely in New England communities. Almost one-third of Pelham's original land area is now part of the Quabbin Reservoir, which was constructed in the 1930's. Daniel Shays Highway, now part of Route 202, was part of the reservoir project. Industry in town is comprised of a small manufacturing facility and several poultry farms. Pelham Elementary School is the town's largest employer.

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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:

Open Town Meeting, 3 Selectmen

#### Transit System:

**Public Carrier** Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

**Private Carrier** None

**Para-Transit Carrier** Amherst Council on Aging, PVTA

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall  
351 Amherst Rd.  
Pelham, MA 01002  
Phone: (413) 253-7129  
FAX: (413) 256-1061

## LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	17,000
Square Miles	27
2012	
Vehicle Registrations (autos and light trucks)	1,484
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$20.79
Commercial/Industrial	\$20.79

## POPULATION TRENDS

1970	937
2014	1,112
1990	1,366
2000	1,405
2010	1,321
2014	1,350

#### 2014 Race and Latino Population

White	95.3%
Black	2.9%
Asian	1.0%
Other	0.9%
Latino (of any race)	9.6%

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	3.9	3.8
5 - 9	6.7	6.5	3.8
10 - 14	6.6	7.8	5.8
15 - 19	6.1	6.8	6.9
20 - 24	6.1	5.8	6.1
25 - 34	16.2	8.8	8.0
35 - 44	20.3	15.6	10.5
45 - 54	12.8	20.5	17.6
55 - 59	4.5	7.0	11.4
60 - 64	4.8	4.6	9.5
65 - 74	5.8	7.4	9.2
75 & over	3.5	5.1	7.3

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	27
Total Road Miles	2009 46

Land Use	Acres
Residential	453
Commercial	4
Industrial	0
Urban Open/Public	63
Transportation	0
Outdoor Recreational	1
Agricultural Land	137
Undeveloped Land	15,317
Water	907

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Quabbin Watershed.

GOLF COURSES: None

OTHER:

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%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0	0%
Construction	15	11.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	0	0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	18	14%
Information	0	0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Services	99	75.0%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	0	0.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	0	0%

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

Average Weekly Wage \$493

Self-employed (includes all business types) 122

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

19.3% work in Pelham  
80.7% commute out of Pelham

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	7	\$320,000
2011	5	\$220,000
2012	25	\$175,000
2013	14	\$252,500
2014	13	\$280,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older \*

2013

Less than 12 years	4.6%
4 years High School	17.3%
Less than 4 years College	18.1%
4 or more years College	60.0%

\*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost 2013
Pelham	K-6	\$14,703
Amherst-Pelham	7-12	\$18,688
Smith Vocational	9-12	\$17,954

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	845	3.6%
2005	845	3.7%
2006	845	3.3%
2007	850	3.2%
2008	804	2.6%
2009	787	3.2%
2010	792	3.8%
2011	694	4.5%
2012	706	4.7%
2013	704	5.5%
2014	717	5.2%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	2.5%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	4.2%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	2.7%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	8.7%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.8%
\$75,000 & over	60.1%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$88,462

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 5.7%