



PLAINFIELD

Located at the northwest tip of Hampshire County, amid the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains, Plainfield was home to 605 residents in 2014. Many newcomers are employed as craftsmen, artisans, or have the capability to work out of home offices. However, the majority of the workforce commutes out of town.

Plainfield was settled around 1770 as a part of Cummington, and incorporated as its own community in 1785. The landscape varies from rugged, forested hills reaching altitudes of almost 1,700 feet to active agricultural sites, such as a saw mill, a dairy farm, and a multi-purpose farm for various crops. Plainfield is also home to a portion of the Hawley State Forest.

The majority of developed land is in agriculture, followed by residential uses. Children participate in a regional school district in Shelburne Falls.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
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<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, 3 Selectmen

Transit System:

Public Carrier None

Private Carrier None

Para-Transit Carrier None

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Offices
 304 Main St.
 Plainfield, MA 01070
 Phone: (413) 634-5420
 FAX: (413) 634-5683

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	13,645
Square Miles	21
2012	
Vehicle Registrations <i>(autos and light trucks)</i>	776
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$17.83
Commercial/Industrial	\$17.83

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	287
2014	425
1990	571
2000	590
2010	648
2014	605

2014 Race and Latino Population	
White	92.1%
Black	2.1%
Asian	1.8%
Other	4.0%
Latino (of any race)	0.8%

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

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	6.3	4.8	4.9
5 - 9	8.1	8.7	5.2
10 - 14	7.7	7.1	5.7
15 - 19	6.5	6.3	6.3
20 - 24	4.2	2.2	3.1
25 - 34	16.3	7.6	8.3
35 - 44	16.5	18.5	11.7
45 - 54	13.8	20.7	17.4
55 - 59	4.6	5.9	11.3
60 - 64	4.7	5.3	9.4
65 - 74	7.9	7.8	10.6
75 & over	3.2	5.1	5.9

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	21
Total Road Miles	2009 49

Land Use	Acres
Residential	300
Commercial	19
Industrial	8
Urban Open/Public	14
Transportation	2
Outdoor Recreational	26
Agricultural Land	1,081
Undeveloped Land	12,019
Water	142

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Deer Hill State Reservation, Dubuque Memorial State Forest, Hawley State Forest.

GOLF COURSES: None

OTHER: Peppermint Park Camping Resort.

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	7	16%
Construction	0	0%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	0	0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	5	11%
Information	0	0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Services	25	56.8%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	3	6.8%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	0	0%
<i>Note: Above does not include self-employed, where many work in the agriculture, construction and service industries.</i>		
Average Weekly Wage	\$462	
Self-employed (includes all business types)	92	

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

19.9%	work in Plainfield
80.1%	commute out of Plainfield

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	9	\$60,000
2011	7	\$76,000
2012	8	\$138,000
2013	6	\$162,000
2014	6	\$92,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older * 2013

Less than 12 years	7.5%
4 years High School	24.1%
Less than 4 years College	27.4%
4 or more years College	40.9%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost 2013
Mohawk Trail	PK-12	\$14,852
Smith Vocational	9-12	\$17,954

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	308	5.8%
2005	304	4.9%
2006	308	5.2%
2007	307	4.9%
2008	305	6.2%
2009	298	8.4%
2010	298	9.1%
2011	358	5.6%
2012	355	4.8%
2013	356	6.7%
2014	357	6.2%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	3.9%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	6.3%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	14.8%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	7.8%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9.8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	27.0%
\$75,000 & over	30.5%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$57,188

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 9.3%