



WALES

The Town of Wales is a small, rural-residential town whose southern boundary borders the state of Connecticut. Open spaces, and a proximity to the Springfield metropolitan area has contributed to a 24 percent increase in population during the past two decades, from 1,547 in 1990 to 1,923 in 2014.

The town's economic base is small, including several small dairy operations, apple orchards, machine shops and two restaurants. One-third of the land in Wales is considered undevelopable due to wetlands and steep slopes. Three-quarters of its residents commute to other communities for work.

Primarily an agricultural community since its establishment in 1775, the town attracted a number of small industries during the 19th century. The prospering new businesses attracted new residents to the town; however by 1900 all seven of its woolen mills had closed. The town continued to develop slowly, mainly as a popular summer recreation area centered around Lake George. Much of the population remained only during the summer months.

Today, the town center of Wales retains a remarkable early 19th century character as a village with several stylish brick houses and a notable Greek revival meeting house. The Brimfield State Forest borders the town on the north, and 400 acres of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary created by the founders of Norcross Greeting Cards, lies along the town's southwest border.

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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 None

Private Carrier None

Para-Transit Carrier None

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall
 PO Box 834
 Wales, MA 01081
 Phone: (413) 245-7571
 FAX: (413) 245-6197

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acreage	10,225
Square Miles	16
2012	
Vehicle Registrations (autos and light trucks)	2,109
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$17.61
Commercial/Industrial	\$17.61

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	852
2014	1,177
1990	1,547
2000	1,743
2010	1,838
2014	1,923

2014 Race and Latino Population

White	98.5%
Black	0.4%
Asian	0.0%
Other	1.1%
Latino (of any race)	0.2%

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

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	7.9	6.0	5.8
5 - 9	9.4	6.0	5.9
10 - 14	9.5	8.1	6.0
15 - 19	6.8	7.3	5.9
20 - 24	4.8	4.0	4.7
25 - 34	19.2	13.3	11.2
35 - 44	19.3	18.9	13.9
45 - 54	11.0	18.0	19.0
55 - 59	2.9	6.3	7.8
60 - 64	1.8	4.7	7.7
65 - 74	4.8	4.6	7.8
75 & over	2.6	2.7	4.3

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	16
Total Road Miles	2009 29

Land Use	Acres
Residential	545
Commercial	17
Industrial	8
Urban Open/Public	12
Transportation	0
Outdoor Recreational	24
Agricultural Land	284
Undeveloped Land	9,143
Water	157

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Needham Memorial Park, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.

GOLF COURSES: None

CLUBS: VFW Club, Wales Fish and Game Club.

SPECIAL: Oak Haven Camping.

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	0	0.0%
Construction	6	3.9%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4	2.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	9	5.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Services	109	71.2%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	0	0.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	0	0.0%

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

Average Weekly Wage \$582

Self-employed (includes all business types) 111

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

10.3%	work in Wales
89.7%	commute out of Wales

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	34	\$122,500
2011	24	\$69,250
2012	27	\$125,000
2013	27	\$159,900
2014	22	\$170,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older *

2013

Less than 12 years	7.3%
4 years High School	44.9%
Less than 4 years College	26.7%
4 or more years College	21.1%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost 2013
Wales	PK-6	\$13,382
Tantasqua	7-12	\$12,403
Tantasqua	9-12	\$12,996
Vocational		

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	1,051	6.0%
2005	1,053	4.6%
2006	1,081	5.5%
2007	1,087	5.3%
2008	1,105	5.8%
2009	1,098	8.7%
2010	1,098	9.0%
2011	963	8.9%
2012	965	7.8%
2013	969	7.7%
2014	979	6.5%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	1.3%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	6.9%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12.5%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	14.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	22.5%
\$75,000 & over	31.0%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$52,500

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 5.3%