



# AMHERST

The Town of Amherst is a college town with historic, cultural and natural resources. These make Amherst an attractive and vibrant community for all ages. The town has evolved into a major educational and employment center, yet still maintains its small town charm.

Amherst is home to the oldest college in Western Massachusetts, Amherst College, which opened in 1821. Massachusetts Agricultural College, a land grant college and the only exclusively agricultural college in the country at the time, began in 1867. In the last fifty years, "Mass Aggie" evolved to become the University of Massachusetts, one of the region's largest employers and a nationally-recognized research institution. Hampshire College, created as an innovative alternative to Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts, is the area's newest college, and was founded in 1970.

Amherst has a town center with a broad array of shops, restaurants, and cafes. A variety of housing choices exist in the town, and the town is served by the Pioneer Valley Transit authority (PVTA), the regional public transit service. More recently, the town has begun attracting a number of technology-based companies.

The Dickinson Homestead and Emily Dickinson Museum, home to 19th century poet Emily Dickinson, is a National Historic Landmark owned by Amherst College. The Jones Library, the town's public library, contains special collections of Emily Dickinson's work as well as that of poet Robert Frost, who once taught at Amherst College. The Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst College holds one of the world's finest collections of dinosaur tracks, fossils, and meteorites. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the Yiddish Book Center are adjacent to the Hampshire College campus, attracting visitors throughout the year. During the summer months, the town hosts craft fairs, farmer's markets and a variety of art and literary events.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
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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:

Representative Town Meeting, 5 Selectmen

### Transit System:

**Public Carrier** Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, Greenfield Montague Transit

**Private Carrier** Peter Pan Bus Lines

**Para-Transit Carrier** Council on Aging, Starvos Center for Independent Living, UMass Disabled Trans. Service, PVTA

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall  
 4 Boltwood Ave.  
 Amherst, MA 01002  
 Phone: (413) 256-4001  
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## LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	17,758
Square Miles	28
2012	
Vehicle Registrations <i>(autos and light trucks)</i>	16,350
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$20.54
Commercial/Industrial	\$20.54

## POPULATION TRENDS

1970	26,331
2014	33,229
1990	35,207
2000	34,876
2010	37,819
2014	39,260

2014	Race and Latino Population
White	78.7%
Black	5.4%
Asian	12.2%
Other	3.6%
Latino (of any race)	6.7%

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

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	3.3	2.9	2.2
5 - 9	3.7	3.5	2.6
10 - 14	3.1	3.9	3.0
15 - 19	22.4	21.7	22.6
20 - 24	32.8	30.9	35.3
25 - 34	11.6	9.3	8.0
35 - 44	9.2	7.9	5.3
45 - 54	5.4	8.7	6.7
55 - 59	2.0	2.7	3.7
60 - 64	1.7	1.9	3.2
65 - 74	2.8	3.3	3.7
75 & over	2.4	3.4	3.7

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles		28
Total Road Miles	2009	137

Land Use	Acres
Residential	3,189
Commercial	209
Industrial	130
Urban Open/Public	866
Transportation	47
Outdoor Recreational	417
Agricultural Land	2,872
Undeveloped Land	9,622
Water	117

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Groff Park, Mill River Recreation Area, Community Field, Amethyst Brook, Lawrence Swamp, Puffer's Pond

GOLF COURSES: Hickory Ridge, Amherst Golf Club, Cherry Hill

OTHER: Amherst History Museum at the Strong House, Emily Dickinson House, Robert Frost Trail

BIKEWAY: Norwottuck Rail Trail

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

	Number	Percent of Community Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	60	0.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,209	13.5%
Construction	193	1.2%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	420	2.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,583	9.7%
Information	191	1.2%
Manufacturing	46	0.3%
Services	10,353	63.2%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	105	0.6%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,607	5.2%
Average Weekly Wage	\$913	
Self-employed* (includes all business types)	1,439	

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

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2013

64.5%	work in Amherst
35.5%	commute out of Amherst

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	196	\$277,700
2011	192	\$271,250
2012	246	\$269,250
2013	236	\$295,000
2014	237	\$275,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older \*

2013

Less than 12 years	4.4%
4 years High School	11.7%
Less than 4 years College	17.1%
4 or more years College	66.8%

\*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost
Amherst	PK-6	\$19,054
Amherst - Pelham	7-12	\$18,688
Smith Vocational	9-12	\$17,954

Colleges: Amherst College, Hampshire College, University of Massachusetts Amherst

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	18,771	3.3%
2005	18,726	3.4%
2006	18,924	3.3%
2007	19,125	3.1%
2008	19,306	3.8%
2009	19,298	5.2%
2010	19,415	5.6%
2011	17,834	5.6%
2012	17,831	5.2%
2013	17,926	5.8%
2014	18,197	5.0%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	12.8%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	6.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	11.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	9.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8.7%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13.3%
\$75,000 & over	38.6%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$52,537

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 33.8%