

Summary of U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 Population Estimates for Massachusetts Cities and Towns

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases Sub-County-Level Population Estimates for July 1, 2015

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Census Bureau released updated population estimates for Massachusetts cities and towns (also called “minor civil divisions” or “MCDs”) for July 1, 2015. This new vintage of estimates is derived from the allocation of the Census Bureau’s 2015 county-level population estimates, released in March 2016, to individual municipalities.

While county-level estimates are produced by accounting for “components of change,” including births, deaths, and migration, sub-county estimates are produced by distributing the county-level household population to each city and town, based on a housing unit formula, and then adding the group quarters population. The Bureau’s housing unit formula considers each town’s share of the county housing unit totals along with its specific persons-per-household and occupancy rates.

Highlights from the state and county-level estimates released earlier this year by the U.S. Census Bureau appear below. For more information on state and county estimates for Massachusetts, please see our detailed reports at: <http://www.massbenchmarks.org/statedata/news.htm>.

- For state-level population and components of change estimates, see the release dated **12/23/2015**.
- For county-level population and components of change estimates, see the release dated **03/24/2016**.

Highlights from the 2015 State- and County-Level Estimates Releases

In their December 23, 2015 state-level release, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the Massachusetts population had increased by 39,298 from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015 to a new total of 6,794,422, making it the 15th most populous state in the U.S., down from 14th in 2014. This 0.6% annual increase puts Massachusetts’ growth at almost three times that of the Northeast average of 0.2% and ranks it as the fastest growing state in the Northeast region for the fifth consecutive year since the April 2010 Census. At the national level, Massachusetts ranked 16th for population growth—up from 17th last year. In terms of percentage growth, it jumped from 26th place in 2014 to 25th in 2015. Since the last Census, the Massachusetts population has increased by 246,605 persons total, or 3.8%, compared to 1.7% for the Northeast region and 4.1% for the U.S. as a whole.

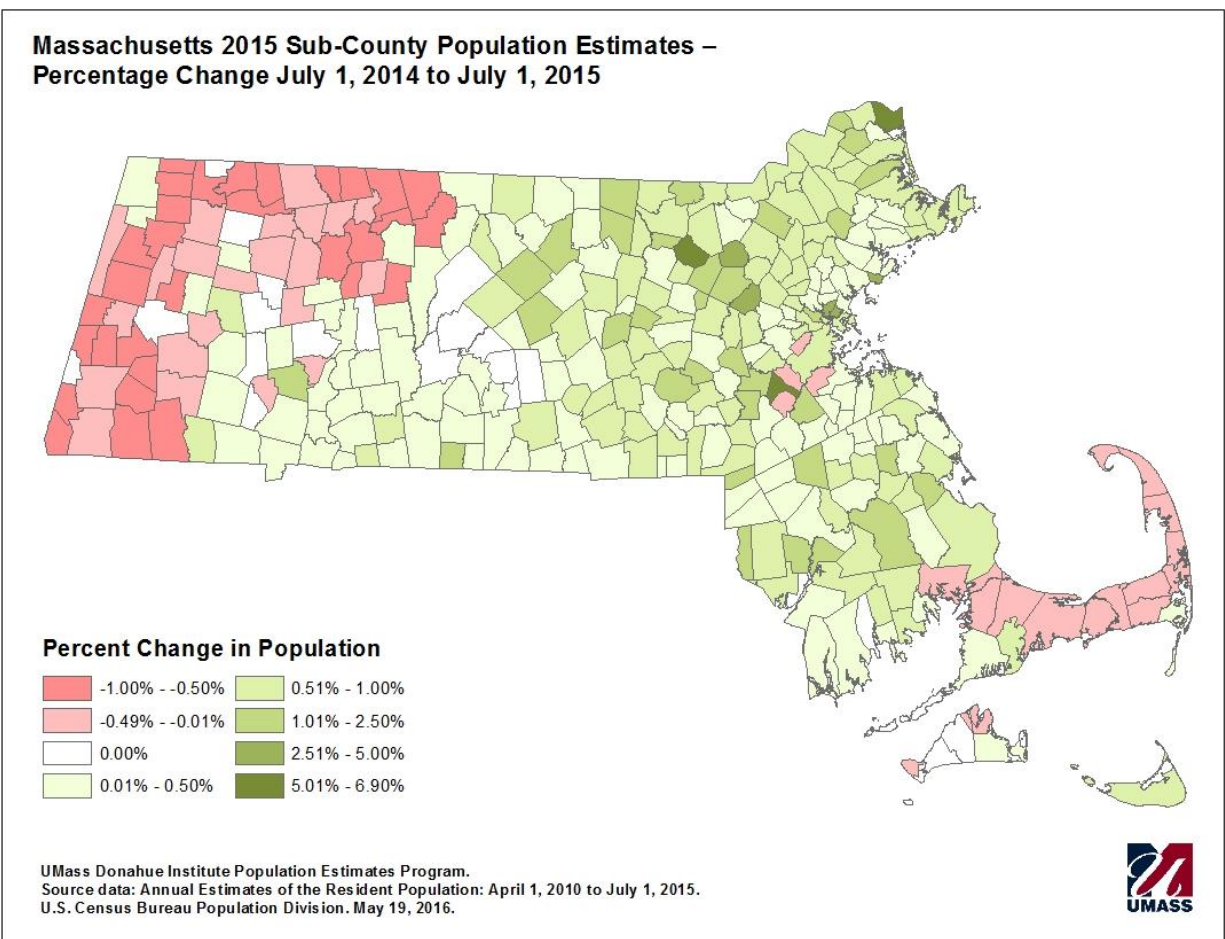
A good portion of Massachusetts’ growth last year was driven by a positive *net natural increase* of 17,813 persons, meaning that the state experienced a greater number of births (73,104) than deaths (55,291). A



somewhat larger share of the growth was attributed to the positive *net migration* of 21,703 persons. Specifically, a large number of international immigrants (43,508) offset a net domestic outflow (-21,805) that resulted when a greater number of people moved out of Massachusetts than into it from other parts of the U.S.

At the **county level**, the greatest numerical increases in Massachusetts from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015 were seen in Middlesex County at 12,616 persons gained, Suffolk County at 8,312 and Essex County at 5,557. In terms of percentage change, the largest gains were in Suffolk County at 1.1%, Nantucket County at 1.0%, and Middlesex County at 0.8%. Suffolk County had the highest rate of total net migration in the state in 2015, which helped to boost its population growth over the past year. Nantucket, Suffolk, and Middlesex counties had the highest rates of *natural increase* from 2014 to 2015, meaning they had a high rate of births compared to deaths over the past year as compared to other parts of the state. The counties that lost population—Berkshire, Franklin, and Barnstable—all experienced a greater number of deaths than births in the 2014 to 2015 period. Berkshire and Franklin counties also experienced a net loss of domestic migrants that was not fully offset by positive net international immigration in the 2014 to 2015 period, which also contributed to population loss.

Massachusetts Sub-County Population Estimates



Cities and Town with Populations over 50,000

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 Sub-County Population Estimates, all but one of Massachusetts' 25 cities or towns with populations of 50,000 or more increased in population from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015. Boston led the group in terms of total gained with an estimated 6,859 person increase over the year, while Somerville was the fastest-growing large place in terms of percentage growth, with a 1.2% population increase. The following table shows the estimated numerical change and percent change from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015 for cities and towns in Massachusetts with populations over 50,000 and how they rank in terms of percent change among the national group of cities with populations over 50,000.

Estimated Population and Population Change for Massachusetts Cities and Towns > 50,000, Including National Percent Change Rankings for Cities >50,000					
Geography	July 1 Population Estimate		Change 2014 to 2015		National Rank out of 749 cities >50,000
	2014	2015	Number	Percent	
Somerville	79,356	80,318	962	1.2%	278
Boston	660,278	667,137	6,859	1.0%	330
Plymouth	58,310	58,890	580	1.0%	*
Lawrence	79,535	80,231	696	0.9%	384
Cambridge	109,700	110,402	702	0.6%	427
Haverhill	62,370	62,765	395	0.6%	430
Brockton	94,800	95,314	514	0.5%	446
Framingham	70,856	71,209	353	0.5%	*
Lowell	110,235	110,699	464	0.4%	482
Weymouth	55,747	55,957	210	0.4%	494
Lynn	92,115	92,457	342	0.4%	497
Revere	53,226	53,422	196	0.4%	500
Peabody	52,314	52,504	190	0.4%	503
Waltham	63,149	63,378	229	0.4%	504
Taunton	56,586	56,789	203	0.4%	507
Newton	88,506	88,817	311	0.4%	511
Chicopee	56,545	56,741	196	0.3%	514
Worcester	184,211	184,815	604	0.3%	521
Malden	60,928	61,068	140	0.2%	550
Medford	57,295	57,403	108	0.2%	567
Quincy	93,520	93,618	98	0.1%	590
Springfield	154,204	154,341	137	0.1%	595
Fall River	88,727	88,777	50	0.1%	606
New Bedford	94,954	94,958	4	0.0%	619
Brookline	59,388	59,195	(193)	-0.3%	*

* Plymouth, Framingham, and Brookline are not included in the Census Bureau's national rankings because they are towns, not cities.

UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source: Tables SUB-EST2015_25 and PEPCUMCHIP. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 19, 2016.

In the United States overall, 83% of the 749 incorporated places over 50,000 persons increased in population from 2014 to 2015, with an average increase of 1%. The most significant growth was seen in parts of the South and West. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's May 19, 2016 news release: *"Texas was home to five of the 11 fastest-growing cities (by percent change) and five of the eight that added the most people... Among the 15 fastest-growing cities, the only one outside the South or West was Ankeny, Iowa, a suburb of Des Moines."*

All Cities and Towns

Single-Year Change

Among the 351 individual cities and towns in Massachusetts, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 278 municipalities increased in population between July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015.

In terms of single-year change from 2014 to 2015, the largest population gains were seen in Boston (6,859), Everett (1,309), and Chelsea (1,135). Percentage-wise, the fastest growers in the year were mostly small- to mid-sized towns and cities, including many in Middlesex County and other counties close to Boston. The table below shows the top 25 fastest growing municipalities in the state in terms of percentage change from 2014 to 2015.

Top 25 Massachusetts Cities and Towns by Percent Population Growth 2014 to 2015					
City or Town	County	July 1 Estimate		Change 2014-2015	Percent change 2014-2015
		2014	2015		
Westwood	Norfolk	15,022	16,055	1,033	6.9%
Salisbury	Essex	8,695	9,261	566	6.5%
Littleton	Middlesex	9,404	9,912	508	5.4%
Swampscott	Essex	13,987	14,477	490	3.5%
Chelsea	Suffolk	38,263	39,398	1,135	3.0%
Everett	Middlesex	44,741	46,050	1,309	2.9%
Lincoln	Middlesex	7,292	7,491	199	2.7%
Carlisle	Middlesex	5,107	5,245	138	2.7%
Medfield	Norfolk	12,412	12,718	306	2.5%
Hopkinton	Middlesex	16,315	16,674	359	2.2%
Tewksbury	Middlesex	30,289	30,915	626	2.1%
Seekonk	Bristol	14,691	14,968	277	1.9%
Hanson	Plymouth	10,434	10,630	196	1.9%
Concord	Middlesex	19,512	19,830	318	1.6%
Hubbardston	Worcester	4,523	4,596	73	1.6%
Natick	Middlesex	35,687	36,262	575	1.6%
Middleborough	Plymouth	23,980	24,350	370	1.5%
Rutland	Worcester	8,402	8,527	125	1.5%
Rowley	Essex	6,193	6,285	92	1.5%
Ashland	Middlesex	17,317	17,573	256	1.5%
Westminster	Worcester	7,462	7,570	108	1.4%
Kingston	Plymouth	13,117	13,301	184	1.4%

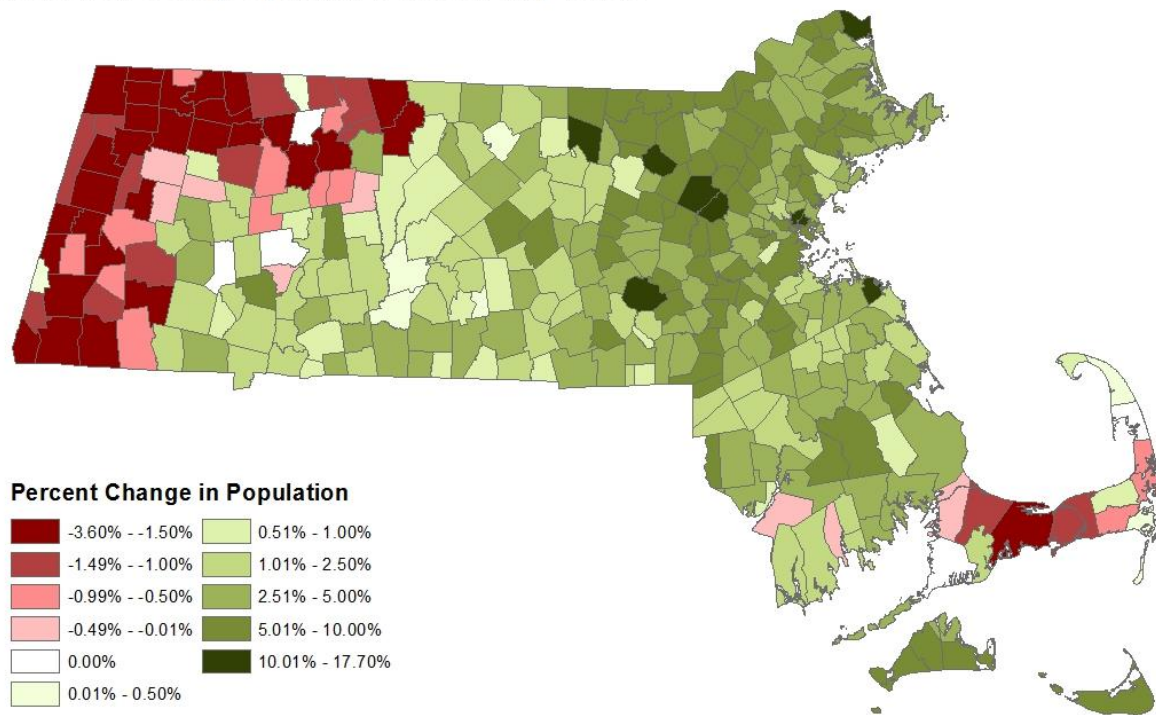
UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 19, 2016.

The municipalities showing the greatest estimated population loss during the year were Pittsfield (-352), Brookline (-193), and Barnstable (-156), while the largest percentage decreases were estimated in the very small Franklin and Berkshire County towns of Rowe (-1.0%), Florida (-0.9%), and Hinsdale (-0.9%). In general, towns in the Western Massachusetts counties of Berkshire and Franklin showed the greatest percent decreases along with many of the small towns in Barnstable County on Cape Cod.

Cumulative Change Since 2010



**Massachusetts 2015 Sub-County Population Estimates –
Percentage Change April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2015**



UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program.
Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015.
U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 19, 2016.



Since the last Census in 2010, the largest cumulative population gains occurred within the already dense Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, and Norfolk counties, while most population loss was experienced in Berkshire, Franklin, and Barnstable counties. The municipalities with the largest cumulative population gains since the 2010 Census include Boston (49,457), Cambridge (5,201), Somerville (4,683), Everett (4,383), and Chelsea (4,221). By percentage growth, the largest gains from 2010 to 2015 were estimated in Lincoln (17.7%), Concord (12.2%), Chelsea (12.0%), Salisbury (11.8%), and Hopkinton (11.7%).¹

The table below lists the 20 fastest growing MCDs in Massachusetts since April 1, 2010 by population growth and is followed by a table of the 20 fastest growing MCDs by percentage growth.

For additional detailed tables and maps related to this summary report refer to the appendices of our May 19, 2016 release at: <http://www.massbenchmarks.org/statedata/news.htm>.

¹ Lincoln is a special case in the estimates series because a large percentage of its housing units were undergoing demolition and replacement at the time of the Census 2010 enumeration. The subsequent replacement of these units in the time series results in a high percentage growth when compared to the Census base, but in actuality the Census 2010 base reflects a temporarily reduced population in the town.

Massachusetts 20 Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Numeric Population Change, April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2015

City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1 Estimate						Cumulative Change from April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2015	
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Population Change	Rank Change
Boston	Suffolk	617,680	620,623	630,286	642,031	651,710	660,278	667,137	49,457	1
Cambridge	Middlesex	105,201	104,979	105,743	106,048	107,705	109,700	110,402	5,201	2
Somerville	Middlesex	75,635	75,779	76,679	77,727	78,929	79,356	80,318	4,683	3
Everett	Middlesex	41,667	41,755	42,283	42,860	43,484	44,741	46,050	4,383	4
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,177	35,304	36,122	36,711	37,359	38,263	39,398	4,221	5
Lowell	Middlesex	106,519	106,686	107,562	108,573	109,653	110,235	110,699	4,180	6
Lawrence	Essex	76,377	76,596	77,394	78,116	78,669	79,535	80,231	3,854	7
Worcester	Worcester	181,041	181,849	182,372	182,426	183,121	184,211	184,815	3,774	8
Newton	Middlesex	85,174	85,424	85,928	87,254	87,908	88,506	88,817	3,643	9
Natick	Middlesex	33,002	33,066	33,381	33,823	35,326	35,687	36,262	3,260	10
Framingham	Middlesex	68,326	68,619	69,575	70,005	70,569	70,856	71,209	2,883	11
Waltham	Middlesex	60,632	60,854	61,322	62,010	62,412	63,149	63,378	2,746	12
Billerica	Middlesex	40,243	40,396	41,059	41,489	42,062	42,403	42,683	2,440	13
Plymouth	Plymouth	56,468	56,653	57,141	57,275	57,616	58,310	58,890	2,422	14
Methuen	Essex	47,255	47,361	47,696	47,996	48,559	49,205	49,660	2,405	15
Watertown	Middlesex	31,915	31,980	32,217	32,901	33,124	34,141	34,319	2,404	16
Weymouth	Norfolk	53,743	53,799	54,185	55,037	55,510	55,747	55,957	2,214	17
Concord	Middlesex	17,668	17,741	18,745	18,965	19,288	19,512	19,830	2,162	18
Lynn	Essex	90,329	90,505	90,594	91,212	91,694	92,115	92,457	2,128	19
Andover	Essex	33,209	33,292	33,871	34,171	34,746	35,035	35,299	2,090	20

UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 19, 2016.

Massachusetts 20 Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Percent Population Change, April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2015

City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1 Estimate						Cumulative Change from April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2015	
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Percent Change	Rank Change
Lincoln	Middlesex	6,362	7,042	7,113	7,183	7,256	7,292	7,491	0	1
Concord	Middlesex	17,668	17,741	18,745	18,965	19,288	19,512	19,830	0	2
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,177	35,304	36,122	36,711	37,359	38,263	39,398	0	3
Salisbury	Essex	8,283	8,305	8,395	8,474	8,564	8,695	9,261	0	4
Hopkinton	Middlesex	14,925	14,981	15,255	15,498	15,934	16,315	16,674	0	5
Lunenburg	Worcester	10,086	10,094	10,841	10,888	11,044	11,110	11,241	0	6
Cohasset	Norfolk	7,540	7,548	8,143	8,210	8,288	8,342	8,393	0	7
Littleton	Middlesex	8,924	8,946	9,039	9,142	9,271	9,404	9,912	0	8
Everett	Middlesex	41,667	41,755	42,283	42,860	43,484	44,741	46,050	0	9
Lynnfield	Essex	11,596	11,622	11,723	11,812	12,398	12,652	12,761	0	10
Natick	Middlesex	33,002	33,066	33,381	33,823	35,326	35,687	36,262	0	11
Westwood	Norfolk	14,616	14,644	14,715	14,803	14,904	15,022	16,055	0	12
Plainville	Norfolk	8,264	8,294	8,397	8,469	8,830	8,956	9,057	0	13
Seekonk	Bristol	13,722	13,746	13,858	13,980	14,361	14,691	14,968	0	14
Tyngsborough	Middlesex	11,292	11,385	11,778	11,959	12,083	12,155	12,267	0	15
Westford	Middlesex	21,951	22,024	22,443	22,867	23,315	23,686	23,831	0	16
Middleton	Essex	8,987	8,984	9,119	9,259	9,441	9,629	9,738	0	17
Stow	Middlesex	6,586	6,628	6,758	6,881	6,968	7,088	7,125	0	18
Carlisle	Middlesex	4,852	4,867	4,927	4,997	5,061	5,107	5,245	0	19
Dunstable	Middlesex	3,179	3,191	3,250	3,304	3,350	3,390	3,435	0	20

UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 19, 2016.



For more information on the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2015 Population Estimates Release and to see data for the rest of the U.S., visit the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates page at:
<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>.

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