

Summary of U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 Population Estimates for Massachusetts Cities and Towns

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases Sub-County-Level Population Estimates for July 1, 2014

On May 21, 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau released updated population estimates for Massachusetts cities and towns (also called “minor civil divisions” or “MCDs”) for July 1, 2014. This new vintage of estimates is derived from the allocation of the Census Bureau’s 2014 county-level population estimates, released in March 2015, 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 person-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 **12/26/2014**
- For county-level population and components of change estimates, see the release dated **03/36/2015**

Highlights from the 2013 State- and County-Level Estimates Releases

In their December 23, 2014 state-level release, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the Massachusetts population count had increased by 36,534 from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 to a new total of 6,745,408 persons, allowing the state to maintain its rank as the 14th most populous state in the U.S. This 0.54% annual increase puts Massachusetts’ growth at over twice that of the Northeast average of 0.22%, and ranks it as the fastest growing state in the Northeast region for the fourth consecutive year since 2010. At the national level during the 2013-2014 period, Massachusetts ranked 26th for annual percentage growth and 17th in terms of absolute growth.

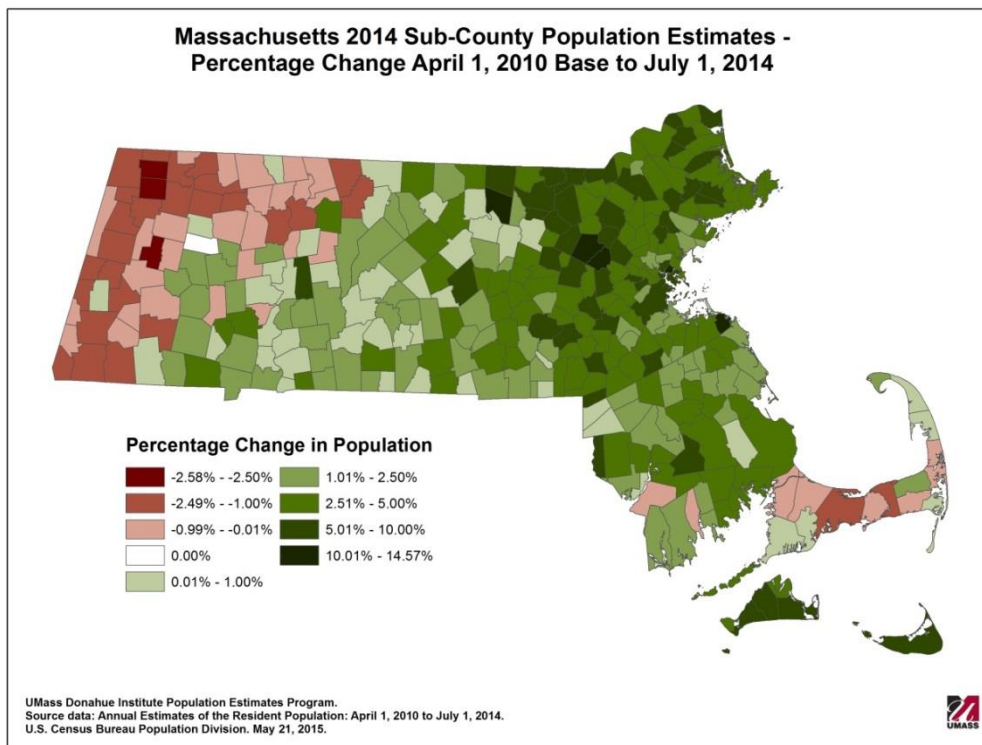
A good portion of Massachusetts’ growth last year was driven by a positive *net natural increase* of 18,228 persons, meaning that the state experienced a greater number of births (73,248) than deaths (55,020). A somewhat larger share of the growth, however, was attributed to positive *net migration* of 20,931 persons. Specifically, a large number of international immigrants (37,285) offset a net domestic outflow (-16,354)



that resulted when slightly more people moved out of Massachusetts than into it from other parts of the U.S.

At the **county level**, the greatest population increases in Massachusetts from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 were seen in Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex County, which increased by 12,184; 7,161; and 4,998 persons respectively. In terms of annual percentage change, the largest gains were in Nantucket County at 2.7%, Dukes County at 1.0% and Suffolk County at 0.9%. Nantucket and Dukes County had the highest rates of *total net migration* in the state in 2014, which helped to boost their population growth over the past year. Essex, Suffolk, and Middlesex County had the highest rates of *natural increase* from 2013 to 2014. See the components section of this summary in the March 2015 county-level release for details. Counties that lost population—Barnstable, Franklin, Berkshire, and Hampshire—experienced a greater number of deaths than births in the 2013 to 2014 period. Hampden, Franklin, and Berkshire County also experienced a net domestic loss that was not fully offset by positive *net international immigration* in the 2013 to 2014 period contributing to population loss.

Massachusetts Sub-County Population Estimates



Large Places >50,000

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 Sub-County Population Estimates, all but two of Massachusetts' 25 cities or towns with populations of 50,000 or more have increased in population since the 2010 Census, including the state's three largest cities; Boston's population has increased by 6.2% or 38,204 persons cumulatively; Worcester's by 1.1% or 1,975 persons; and Springfield's by 0.5%, or 796 persons.

Throughout the U.S., 90.3% of the 714 incorporated places over 50,000 persons have increased in population since the 2010 Census, by an average increase of 4.9 percent. The most significant growth was seen in parts of the South and West. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's May 21, 2015 news release:

"The West was home to eight cities among the top 15 fastest-growing cities with a population of 50,000 or more. Four were in California. Each of the 15 fastest-growing cities between 2013 and 2014 were in the South or West, as were all but two of top 15 numerical gainers. The lone exception, aside from New York, was Columbus, Ohio, which gained 12,421 people over the period to make it the nation's 13th largest numerical gainer."

The following table shows the estimated numerical and percentage differences from the April 1, 2010 Census base to July 1, 2014 for cities in Massachusetts with populations over 50,000, as well as their national rankings by cumulative percentage change.

Cumulative Estimates of Resident Population Change for Massachusetts Incorporated Places of 50,000 or More, Ranked by Percent Change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014					
National Rank out of 714 places >50,000	Geography	Population Estimate		Change 2010 to 2014	
		April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	July 1, 2014	Number	Percent
187	Boston	617,680	655,884	38,204	6.2
279	Revere	51,733	54,157	2,424	4.7
309	Somerville	75,635	78,901	3,266	4.3
314	Cambridge	105,201	109,694	4,493	4.3
333	Waltham	60,632	63,014	2,382	3.9
366	Newton	85,174	88,287	3,113	3.7
382	Weymouth	53,743	55,643	1,900	3.5
405	Lowell	106,519	109,945	3,426	3.2
460	Haverhill	60,879	62,488	1,609	2.6
483	Lawrence	76,377	78,197	1,820	2.4
486	Malden	59,464	60,859	1,395	2.3
503	Peabody	51,251	52,376	1,125	2.2
515	Medford	56,253	57,437	1,184	2.1
527	Lynn	90,329	92,137	1,808	2
566	Quincy	92,271	93,397	1,126	1.2
568	Taunton	55,874	56,544	670	1.2
574	Worcester	181,041	183,016	1,975	1.1
579	Brockton	93,810	94,779	969	1
586	Chicopee	55,298	55,795	497	0.9
610	Springfield	153,195	153,991	796	0.5
652	Fall River	88,857	88,712	(145)	(0.2)
656	New Bedford	95,072	94,845	(227)	(0.2)

Source: Cumulative Estimates of Resident Population Change for Incorporated Places of 50,000 or More, Ranked by Percent Change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 21, 2015.

All Cities and Towns

Among the 351 individual cities and towns in Massachusetts, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 286 municipalities increased in population, one was unchanged, and 64 decreased from April 1, 2010 to July 1,



2014. The largest cumulative population gains occurred within the already dense Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, and Norfolk Counties, while most population loss was experienced in the western counties of Berkshire and Franklin County and in Barnstable County in Cape Cod. Boston (38,204), Cambridge (4,493), Chelsea (3,684), Lowell (3,426), and Somerville (3,266) represent the municipalities with the largest cumulative population gains since the 2010 Census. By percentage points, the largest gains from 2010 to 2014 were estimated in Lincoln (14.6%), Concord (10.6%), Cohasset (10.5%), Chelsea (10.5%), and Lunenburg (10.1%).¹

In terms of single-year change from 2013 to 2014, the largest population gains were seen in Boston (5,967), Cambridge (1,962), and Everett (1,121). Percentage-wise, the largest increases over the single year occurred in Watertown (3%), Rowley (2.8%), and Nantucket (2.7%). The municipalities showing the greatest estimated population loss from 2013 to 2014 were the three small Berkshire and Franklin towns of Pittsfield (-371), New Bedford (-128), and North Adams (-116), while the largest decrease in population percentage was most pronounced in Rowe (-1.0%), Florida (-0.9%), and Hinsdale (-0.9%),

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.

Massachusetts 20 Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Numeric Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014									
City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1 Estimate					Change 2010 Base to July 1, 2014	Rank Numeric Change
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Boston	Suffolk	617,680	620,598	630,645	640,839	649,917	655,884	38,204	1
Cambridge	Middlesex	105,201	104,955	105,809	106,046	107,732	109,694	4,493	2
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,177	35,332	36,256	37,079	37,881	38,861	3,684	3
Lowell	Middlesex	106,519	106,659	107,553	108,564	109,675	109,945	3,426	4
Somerville	Middlesex	75,635	75,757	76,666	77,723	78,857	78,901	3,266	5
Newton	Middlesex	85,174	85,403	85,915	87,249	87,927	88,287	3,113	6
Everett	Middlesex	41,667	41,718	42,136	42,592	43,110	44,231	2,564	7
Natick	Middlesex	33,002	33,057	33,375	33,820	35,339	35,523	2,521	8
Revere	Suffolk	51,733	51,857	52,755	53,524	54,063	54,157	2,424	9
Framingham	Middlesex	68,326	68,602	69,575	70,011	70,583	70,746	2,420	10
Waltham	Middlesex	60,632	60,842	61,377	62,008	62,424	63,014	2,382	11
Watertown	Middlesex	31,915	31,971	32,210	32,899	33,130	34,127	2,212	12
Billerica	Middlesex	40,243	40,384	41,052	41,484	42,069	42,264	2,021	13
Worcester	Worcester	181,041	181,811	182,362	182,367	183,021	183,016	1,975	14
Amherst	Hampshire	37,819	38,706	39,056	39,025	39,786	39,774	1,955	15
Weymouth	Norfolk	53,743	53,784	54,171	55,008	55,482	55,643	1,900	16
Andover	Essex	33,209	33,287	33,880	34,192	34,781	35,085	1,876	17
Concord	Middlesex	17,668	17,736	18,743	18,907	19,235	19,535	1,867	18
Methuen	Essex	47,255	47,354	47,712	48,027	48,609	49,112	1,857	19
Lawrence	Essex	76,377	76,521	76,986	77,353	77,765	78,197	1,820	20

Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 21, 2015.

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 2010 base, but in actuality the Census 2010 base reflects a temporarily reduced population in the town.



**Massachusetts Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Percentage Growth,
April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014**

City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1 Estimate					Percent Change 2010 Base to July 1, 2014	Rank Percent Change
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Lincoln	Middlesex	6,362	7,040	7,111	7,183	7,257	7,289	14.6%	1
Concord	Middlesex	17,668	17,736	18,743	18,907	19,235	19,535	10.6%	2
Cohasset	Norfolk	7,540	7,547	8,141	8,205	8,284	8,334	10.5%	3
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,177	35,332	36,256	37,079	37,881	38,861	10.5%	4
Lunenburg	Worcester	10,086	10,093	10,838	10,884	11,041	11,107	10.1%	5
Groveland	Essex	6,459	6,491	6,634	6,798	7,022	7,059	9.3%	6
Hopkinton	Middlesex	14,925	14,977	15,251	15,496	15,940	16,311	9.3%	7
Lynnfield	Essex	11,596	11,621	11,728	11,820	12,410	12,668	9.2%	8
Westford	Middlesex	21,951	22,017	22,438	22,864	23,322	23,678	7.9%	9
Plainville	Essex	8,264	8,292	8,394	8,464	8,826	8,910	7.8%	10
Natick	Middlesex	33,002	33,057	33,375	33,820	35,339	35,523	7.6%	11
Tyngsborough	Middlesex	11,292	11,382	11,776	11,958	12,086	12,149	7.6%	12
Ayer	Middlesex	7,427	7,458	7,586	7,710	7,866	7,952	7.1%	13
Seekonk	Bristol	13,722	13,744	13,854	13,974	14,354	14,683	7.0%	14
Watertown	Middlesex	31,915	31,971	32,210	32,899	33,130	34,127	6.9%	15
Topsfield	Essex	6,085	6,097	6,181	6,288	6,393	6,505	6.9%	16
Stow	Middlesex	6,586	6,624	6,744	6,854	6,932	7,033	6.8%	17
Nantucket	Nantucket	10,172	10,154	10,148	10,342	10,568	10,856	6.7%	18
Wakefield	Middlesex	25,094	25,147	25,401	25,631	26,182	26,774	6.7%	19
Bedford	Middlesex	13,320	13,341	13,535	13,794	14,086	14,205	6.6%	20

Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 21, 2015.

For detailed tables and maps related to this summary report, refer to the appendices of our May 21, 2015 release at: <http://www.massbenchmarks.org/statedata/news.htm>

- Appendix A Table: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population of Massachusetts Minor Civil Divisions, Percent Change, and Percent Change Rank: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014
- Appendix B Table: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population of Massachusetts Minor Civil Divisions, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014, by County
- Appendix C Map: Estimated Population of Massachusetts Municipalities: July 1, 2014
- Appendix D Map: Estimated Cumulative Percent Change in Population for Massachusetts Municipalities; April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014
- Appendix E Map: Estimated Single-Year Percent Change in Population for Massachusetts Municipalities; July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014

For more information on the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2014 Population Estimates Release, and to see data for the rest of the U.S., go to the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates page at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>.



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