

# Summary of U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 Population Estimates for Massachusetts Cities and Towns

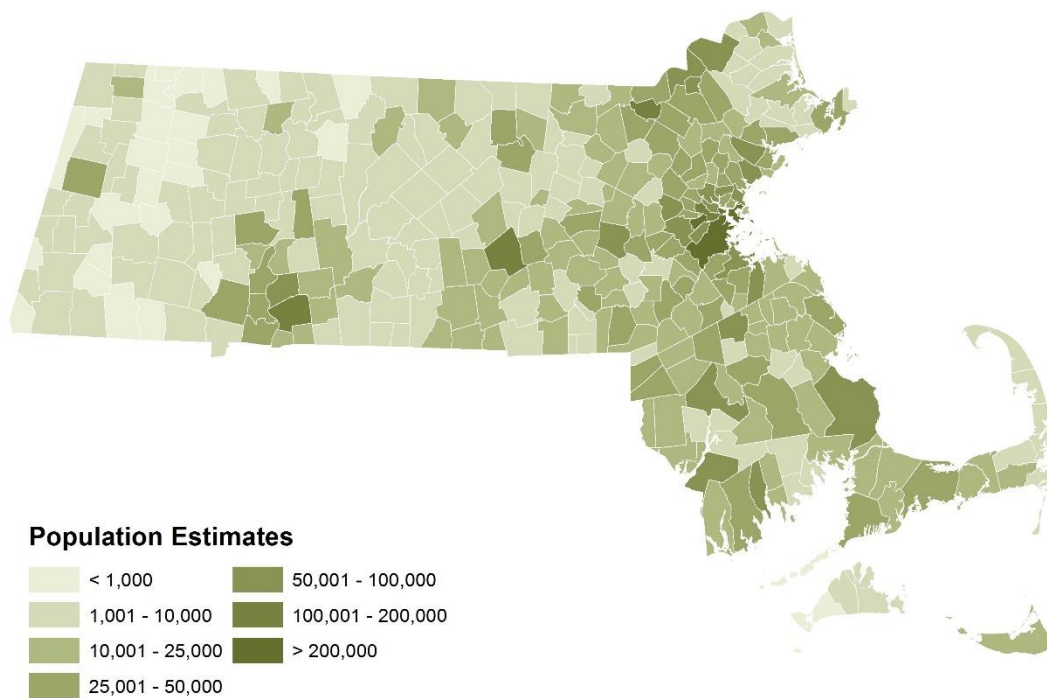
Prepared by:

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Figure 1. Massachusetts Sub-County Population Estimates, July 1, 2018



UMass Donahue Institute. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019.

On May 23, 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau released updated population estimates for Massachusetts cities and towns (also called “minor civil divisions” or “MCDs”) for July 1, 2018. This new vintage of estimates is derived from the allocation of the Census Bureau’s 2018 county-level population estimates, released in April 2019, 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.

For more information on state and county estimates for Massachusetts, please see our detailed reports at: <http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/business-groups/economic-public-policy-research/massachusetts-population-estimates-program/population-estimates-by-massachusetts-geography>

### Cities and Towns with Populations >50,000

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2018 Sub-County Population Estimates, 22 out of Massachusetts’ 26 cities or towns with populations of 50,000 or more increased in population from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018. Boston led the group in terms of total gained with an estimated 6,307 person increase over the year, while Framingham was the fastest-growing large place in terms of percentage growth, with a 1.7% population increase. Table 1 shows the estimated numerical change and percent change from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018 for cities and towns in Massachusetts with populations over 50,000 and how they rank nationally in terms of percent change among cities that had populations over 50,000 in 2017.

In the United States overall, 69% of the 766 incorporated places over 50,000 persons increased in population from 2017 to 2018, with an average 1.2% increase among growing places, an average -0.4% change in places with decreasing populations, and an average 0.7% increase for all 766 places. The most significant growth was seen in parts of the South and West, particularly in Texas which counted eight places in the Top-25 fastest growing places by annual percent-change.

Table 1: Estimated Population and Population Change July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018 for Massachusetts Cities and Towns > 50,000, Including National Percent Change Rankings for Cities >50,000 in 2017						
Geography	July 1 Population Estimate		Change 2017 to 2018		National Rank out of 766 cities >50,000 in 2017	
	2017	2018	Number	Percent		
Framingham	71,866	73,123	1,257	1.7%	116	
Weymouth	56,744	57,719	975	1.7%	122	
Cambridge	117,133	118,977	1,844	1.6%	144	
Plymouth	59,907	60,803	896	1.5%	*	
Boston	688,276	694,583	6,307	0.9%	253	
Methuen	50,334	50,698	364	0.7%	305	
Lynn	94,095	94,654	559	0.6%	328	
Haverhill	63,669	64,041	372	0.6%	330	
Taunton	56,970	57,296	326	0.6%	332	
Peabody	53,008	53,278	270	0.5%	347	
Somerville	81,159	81,562	403	0.5%	351	
Fall River	89,274	89,661	387	0.4%	374	
Chicopee	55,363	55,582	219	0.4%	387	
Lawrence	80,062	80,376	314	0.4%	389	
Springfield	154,498	155,032	534	0.3%	409	

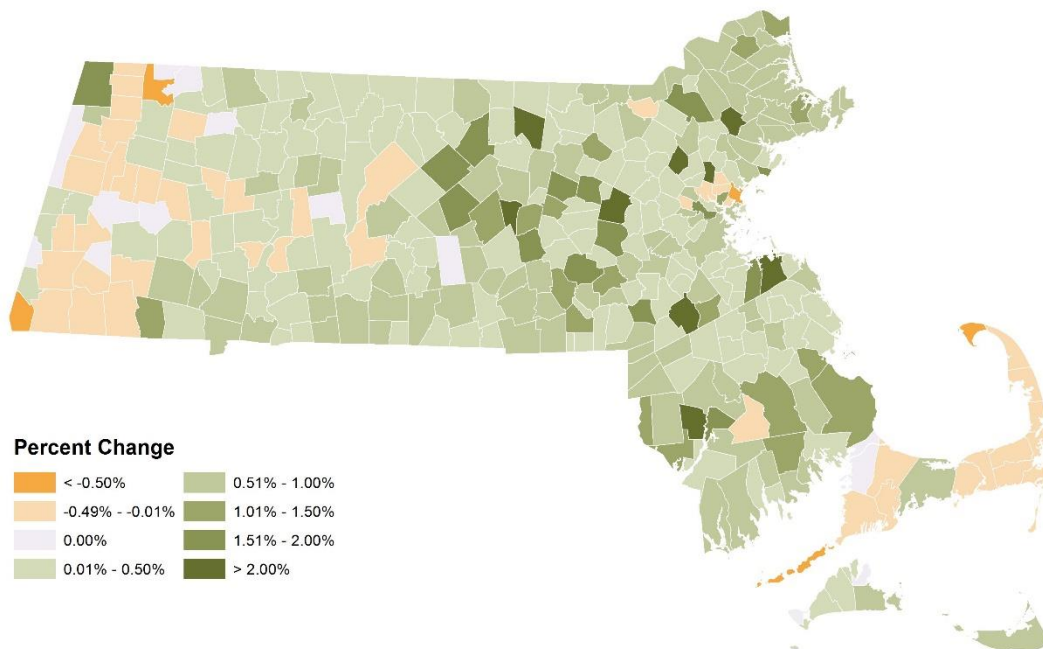
New Bedford	94,990	95,315	325	0.3%	411
Quincy	94,317	94,580	263	0.3%	433
Worcester	185,417	185,877	460	0.2%	441
Brockton	95,659	95,777	118	0.1%	488
Brookline	59,266	59,310	44	0.1%	*
Waltham	62,919	62,962	43	0.1%	506
Newton	88,855	88,904	49	0.1%	514
Medford	57,783	57,765	-18	0.0%	540
Lowell	111,728	111,670	-58	-0.1%	552
Malden	61,071	61,036	-35	-0.1%	553
Revere	54,163	53,821	-342	-0.6%	723

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

UMass Donahue Institute. Source: Annual Estimates of Resident Population Change for Incorporated Places of 50,000 or More in 2017, Ranked by Percent Change: July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Release Date: May 23, 2019

### All Cities and Towns: *Single-Year Change*

Figure 2. Estimated Annual Percent Change in Population by Massachusetts Municipality, July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018



UMass Donahue Institute. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019.

Among the 351 individual cities and towns in Massachusetts, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 287 municipalities, 82% of all, increased in population between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018. The largest population gains from 2017 to 2018 were estimated in Boston (6,307), Cambridge (1,844), and Framingham (1,257).

**Table 2: Top 25 Massachusetts Cities and Towns by Population Change 2017 to 2018**

City or Town	County	July 1 Estimate		Change 2017-2018	Percent change 2017-2018
		2017	2018		
Boston	Suffolk	688,276	694,583	6,307	0.9%
Cambridge	Middlesex	117,133	118,977	1,844	1.6%
Framingham	Middlesex	71,866	73,123	1,257	1.7%
Weymouth	Norfolk	56,744	57,719	975	1.7%
Plymouth	Plymouth	59,907	60,803	896	1.5%
Burlington	Middlesex	27,881	28,742	861	3.1%
Sudbury	Middlesex	18,826	19,627	801	4.3%
Stoneham	Middlesex	21,994	22,729	735	3.3%
Everett	Middlesex	46,196	46,880	684	1.5%
Sharon	Norfolk	18,307	18,943	636	3.5%
Shrewsbury	Worcester	37,340	37,973	633	1.7%
Andover	Essex	35,803	36,403	600	1.7%
Lynn	Essex	94,095	94,654	559	0.6%
Springfield	Hampden	154,498	155,032	534	0.3%
Hingham	Plymouth	23,414	23,923	509	2.2%
Worcester	Worcester	185,417	185,877	460	0.2%
Somerville	Middlesex	81,159	81,562	403	0.5%
Fall River	Bristol	89,274	89,661	387	0.4%
Attleboro	Bristol	44,744	45,117	373	0.8%
Haverhill	Essex	63,669	64,041	372	0.6%
Stoughton	Norfolk	28,584	28,950	366	1.3%
Methuen	Essex	50,334	50,698	364	0.7%
Lunenburg	Worcester	11,302	11,657	355	3.1%
Beverly	Essex	41,961	42,312	351	0.8%
Taunton	Bristol	56,970	57,296	326	0.6%

UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019.



Percentage-wise, the fastest growers of the year were mostly small- to mid-sized towns and cities, including many in Middlesex, Bristol, Worcester 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 2017 to 2018.

**Table 3: Top 25 Massachusetts Cities and Towns by Percent Population Change 2017 to 2018**

City or Town	County	July 1 Estimate		Change 2017-2018	Percent change 2017-2018
		2017	2018		
Sudbury	Middlesex	18,826	19,627	801	4.3%
Sharon	Norfolk	18,307	18,943	636	3.5%
Stoneham	Middlesex	21,994	22,729	735	3.3%
Lunenburg	Worcester	11,302	11,657	355	3.1%
Burlington	Middlesex	27,881	28,742	861	3.1%
West Boylston	Worcester	8,002	8,215	213	2.7%
Dighton	Bristol	7,706	7,891	185	2.4%
Hingham	Plymouth	23,414	23,923	509	2.2%
Middleton	Essex	9,850	10,050	200	2.0%
Stow	Middlesex	7,085	7,214	129	1.8%
Framingham	Middlesex	71,866	73,123	1,257	1.7%
Williamstown	Berkshire	7,856	7,993	137	1.7%
Weymouth	Norfolk	56,744	57,719	975	1.7%
Bolton	Worcester	5,286	5,376	90	1.7%
Shrewsbury	Worcester	37,340	37,973	633	1.7%
Swampscott	Essex	14,976	15,227	251	1.7%
Andover	Essex	35,803	36,403	600	1.7%
Hopkinton	Middlesex	17,974	18,269	295	1.6%
Rutland	Worcester	8,705	8,846	141	1.6%
Westminster	Worcester	7,759	7,884	125	1.6%
Cambridge	Middlesex	117,133	118,977	1,844	1.6%
Berkley	Bristol	6,697	6,802	105	1.6%
Norfolk	Norfolk	11,805	11,988	183	1.6%
Hubbardston	Worcester	4,716	4,787	71	1.5%
Plymouth	Plymouth	59,907	60,803	896	1.5%

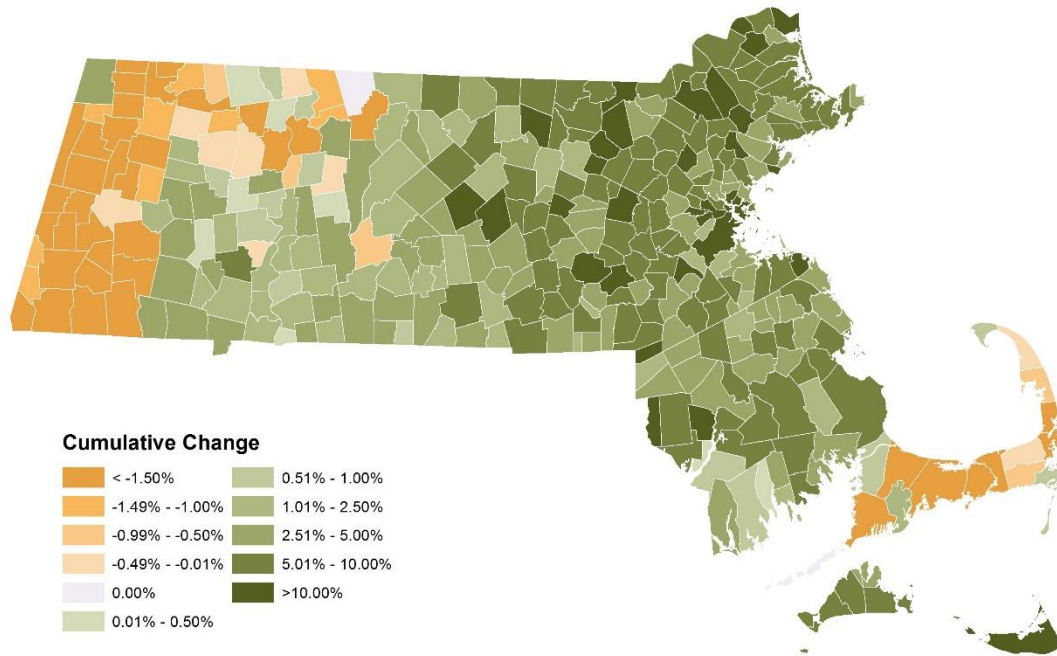
UMass Donahue Institute Population Estimates Program. Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019.

The municipalities showing the greatest estimated population loss during the year were Revere (-342), Chelsea (-173), and Pittsfield (-147)<sup>1</sup>. In general, towns in Berkshire and other Western Massachusetts counties showed the greatest percent decreases along with some of the towns in Barnstable County on Cape Cod (Figure 2.)

<sup>1</sup> Note that while Revere and Chelsea are estimated to have lost population between 2017 and 2018 according to Census estimates, both cities have grown *cumulatively* since April 1, 2010. Chelsea ranks as the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing city in Massachusetts, by increase in population count, since the 2010 Census.

## Cumulative Change Since 2010

Figure 3. Estimated Cumulative Percent Change in Population, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 by Massachusetts Municipality



UMass Donahue Institute. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019.

Since the last census in 2010, the largest cumulative population gains have occurred within the already dense Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex counties as well as portions of Worcester 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 (76,797), Cambridge (13,801), Somerville (5,911), Everett (5,230), and Lowell (5,142). By percent change, the largest gains from 2010 to 2018 were estimated in Boxborough (27.9%), Hopkinton (22.5%), Burlington (17.3%), Lunenburg (15.7%), and Littleton (14.7%).

Table 4 lists the 25 fastest growing MCDs in Massachusetts since April 1, 2010 by population growth and is followed by a table of the 25 fastest growing MCDs by percentage growth (Table 5).

**Table 4: Massachusetts 25 Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Cumulative Population Change**

**April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2018**

City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1, 2018	Cumulative Population Change	Rank Cumulative Change
Boston	Suffolk	617,786	694,583	76,797	1
Cambridge	Middlesex	105,176	118,977	13,801	2
Somerville	Middlesex	75,651	81,562	5,911	3
Everett	Middlesex	41,650	46,880	5,230	4
Lowell	Middlesex	106,528	111,670	5,142	5
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,170	40,160	4,990	6
Worcester	Worcester	181,009	185,877	4,868	7
Framingham	Middlesex	68,325	73,123	4,798	8
Plymouth	Plymouth	56,468	60,803	4,335	9
Lynn	Essex	90,333	94,654	4,321	10
Burlington	Middlesex	24,495	28,742	4,247	11
Lawrence	Essex	76,348	80,376	4,028	12
Watertown	Middlesex	31,977	35,954	3,977	13
Weymouth	Norfolk	53,762	57,719	3,957	14
Newton	Middlesex	85,114	88,904	3,790	15
Billerica	Middlesex	40,225	43,784	3,559	16
Methuen	Essex	47,320	50,698	3,378	17
Hopkinton	Middlesex	14,909	18,269	3,360	18
Andover	Essex	33,071	36,403	3,332	19
Natick	Middlesex	33,012	36,229	3,217	20
Haverhill	Essex	60,878	64,041	3,163	21
North Andover	Essex	28,358	31,296	2,938	22
Beverly	Essex	39,504	42,312	2,808	23
Arlington	Middlesex	42,819	45,624	2,805	24
Shrewsbury	Worcester	35,559	37,973	2,414	25

UMass Donahue Institute. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019



**Table 5: Massachusetts 25 Fastest Growing Cities and Towns by Cumulative Percent Population Change**

**April 1, 2010 Base to July 1, 2018**

City or Town	County	April 1, 2010 Base	July 1, 2018	Population Change	Percent Change	Rank Percent Change
Boxborough	Middlesex	4,996	6,388	1,392	27.9%	1
Hopkinton	Middlesex	14,909	18,269	3,360	22.5%	2
Burlington	Middlesex	24,495	28,742	4,247	17.3%	3
Lunenburg	Worcester	10,076	11,657	1,581	15.7%	4
Littleton	Middlesex	8,926	10,241	1,315	14.7%	5
Salisbury	Essex	8,290	9,489	1,199	14.5%	6
Seekonk	Bristol	13,722	15,702	1,980	14.4%	7
Chelsea	Suffolk	35,170	40,160	4,990	14.2%	8
Cohasset	Norfolk	7,540	8,541	1,001	13.3%	9
Cambridge	Middlesex	105,176	118,977	13,801	13.1%	10
Everett	Middlesex	41,650	46,880	5,230	12.6%	11
Lynnfield	Essex	11,593	13,041	1,448	12.5%	12
Watertown	Middlesex	31,977	35,954	3,977	12.4%	13
Boston	Suffolk	617,786	694,583	76,797	12.4%	14
Berlin	Worcester	2,868	3,220	352	12.3%	15
Middleton	Essex	8,987	10,050	1,063	11.8%	16
Plainville	Norfolk	8,273	9,230	957	11.6%	17
Nantucket	Nantucket	10,172	11,327	1,155	11.4%	18
Dighton	Bristol	7,089	7,891	802	11.3%	19
Sudbury	Middlesex	17,675	19,627	1,952	11.0%	20
Rutland	Worcester	7,979	8,846	867	10.9%	21
West Newbury	Essex	4,234	4,691	457	10.8%	22
Westford	Middlesex	21,962	24,296	2,334	10.6%	23
Swampscott	Essex	13,780	15,227	1,447	10.5%	24
North Andover	Essex	28,358	31,296	2,938	10.4%	25

UMass Donahue Institute. Source data: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. May 23, 2019

For additional detailed tables and maps related to this summary report refer to the appendices of the UMDI May 23, 2019 release at: <http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/business-groups/economic-public-policy-research/massachusetts-population-estimates-program/population-estimates-by-massachusetts-geography/by-city-and-town>.

For more information on the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2018 Population Estimates Release and to see data for the rest of the U.S., visit the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates page at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.html>





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