

Town of Amherst

Massachusetts

Data Book

December 2002

Amherst Planning Department

Abstract

TITLE: Town of Amherst Data Book

SUBJECT: Compilation of demographic and other information about Amherst.

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**SOURCES
OF COPIES:** Amherst Planning Department
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ABSTRACT: This report offers a range of statistical information about the Town of Amherst. It outlines the Town's demographic, socio-economic, and infrastructure characteristics. This report is intended to serve as a reference for citizens, town boards and committees, business people, and others who are interested in statistical information about Amherst. Unless otherwise noted, the information is derived from the United States Census. In addition, reports and surveys from the Amherst Planning Department, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), the Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training, the Division of Employment Security, the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, the Building Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Conservation Department were used to compile this information. Finally, the weather information was provided by Amherst College.

The main body of the report provides information for the year 2000, except where noted. Information from the years 1950 to 1990 is provided in the Appendices.

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General Information

County:	Hampshire
Location:	West Central Massachusetts, bordered by Hadley on the west, Sunderland and Leverett on the north, Shutesbury, Pelham, and Belchertown on the east, and Granby and South Hadley on the south. It is 23 miles from Springfield, 18 miles from Greenfield, 50 miles from Pittsfield, 87 miles from Boston, and 157 miles from New York City.
Land Area:	27.7 square miles
Population:	
1950	10,856
1960	13,718
1970	26,331
1980	33,229
1990	35,228
2000	34,874
Density:	
1950	392 persons per square mile
1960	495 “ “ “ “
1970	951 “ “ “ “
1980	1,199 “ “ “ “
1990	1,272 “ “ “ “
2000	1,259 “ “ “ “
Elevation at Town Hall:	312 feet above mean sea level
Topographical characteristics:	Valley plateau, within a circle of hills.
USGS Topo Plates:	Belchertown, Mount Holyoke, Williamsburg, Shutesbury
Longitude/Latitude:	42 22' 25" N, 72 31' 15" W

Established: 1759: The Governor, Governor’s Council, and General Court of the Bay Colony approved the creation of a “separate and distinct district” from Hadley to be named Amherst

1786: Full township status was granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Type of Government: Town Manager/Select Board/Representative Town Meeting

Special Districts: 1st Mass. Congressional District
8th Councilor District
Franklin and Hampshire State Senatorial District
3rd Hampshire State Representative District



