[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox U.S. state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols)

**Massachusetts** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); officially the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**, is the most populous state in the [New England](/wiki/New_England) part of the [northeastern region](/wiki/Northeastern_United_States) of the [United States](/wiki/United_States). It is bordered by the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the east, the states of [Connecticut](/wiki/Connecticut) and [Rhode Island](/wiki/Rhode_Island) to the south, [New Hampshire](/wiki/New_Hampshire) and [Vermont](/wiki/Vermont) to the north, and [New York](/wiki/New_York) to the west. The capital of Massachusetts and the most populous city in New England is [Boston](/wiki/Boston). Over 80% of Massachusetts' population lives in the [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston) metro area, a region influential upon American [history](/wiki/History_of_the_United_States), [academia](/wiki/Academia), and [industry](/wiki/Economy_of_the_United_States).<ref name=GreaterBoston>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Originally dependent on agriculture, fishing and trade,[[1]](#cite_note-1) Massachusetts was transformed into a manufacturing center during the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution).[[2]](#cite_note-2) During the 20th century, Massachusetts' economy shifted from manufacturing to services.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Modern Massachusetts is a global leader in [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology), [engineering](/wiki/Engineering), [higher education](/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_Massachusetts), [finance](/wiki/Finance), and [maritime trade](/wiki/Maritime_trade).[[4]](#cite_note-4) [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts) was the site of the first colony in New England, founded in 1620 by the [Pilgrims](/wiki/Pilgrim_Fathers), passengers of the [*Mayflower*](/wiki/Mayflower). In 1692, the town of [Salem](/wiki/Salem,_Massachusetts) and surrounding areas experienced one of America's most infamous cases of [mass hysteria](/wiki/Mass_hysteria), the [Salem witch trials](/wiki/Salem_witch_trials).[[5]](#cite_note-5) In 1777, General [Henry Knox](/wiki/Henry_Knox) founded the [Springfield Armory](/wiki/Springfield_Armory), which during the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) catalyzed numerous important technological advances, including [interchangeable parts](/wiki/Interchangeable_parts).[[6]](#cite_note-6) In 1786, [Shays' Rebellion](/wiki/Shays'_Rebellion), a populist revolt led by disaffected [Revolutionary War](/wiki/Revolutionary_War) veterans, influenced the [United States Constitutional Convention](/wiki/Constitutional_Convention_(United_States)).<ref name=shay>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In the 18th century, the Protestant [First Great Awakening](/wiki/First_Great_Awakening), which swept the [Atlantic world](/wiki/Atlantic_world), originated from the pulpit of [Northampton](/wiki/Northampton,_Massachusetts) preacher [Jonathan Edwards](/wiki/Jonathan_Edwards_(theologian)).[[7]](#cite_note-7) In the late 18th century, Boston became known as the "Cradle of Liberty"[[8]](#cite_note-8) for the agitation there that led to the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution).

The entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts has played a powerful commercial and cultural role in the history of the United States. Before the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), Massachusetts was a center for the [abolitionist](/wiki/Abolitionism_in_the_United_States), [temperance](/wiki/Temperance_movement),[[9]](#cite_note-9) and [transcendentalist](/wiki/Transcendentalism)[[10]](#cite_note-10) movements.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In the late 19th century, the sports of [basketball](/wiki/Basketball) and [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball) were invented in the western Massachusetts cities of [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts) and [Holyoke](/wiki/Holyoke,_Massachusetts), respectively.<ref name=basketball>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=volleyball>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to legally recognize [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_Massachusetts) as a result of [the decision](/wiki/Goodridge_v._Department_of_Public_Health) of the state's [Supreme Judicial Court](/wiki/Massachusetts_Supreme_Judicial_Court).<ref name=CNNmarriage>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Many prominent American political dynasties have hailed from the state, including the [Adams](/wiki/Adams_family) and [Kennedy](/wiki/Kennedy_family) families. [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University) in [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Massachusetts) is [the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States](/wiki/List_of_Colonial_Colleges),[[12]](#cite_note-12) with the largest [financial endowment](/wiki/Financial_endowment) of any university,[[13]](#cite_note-13) and whose [Law School](/wiki/Harvard_Law_School) has spawned a contemporaneous majority of [United States Supreme Court](/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court) [Justices](/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court_Justice).[[14]](#cite_note-14) Both Harvard University and the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology), also in Cambridge, have been ranked among the most highly regarded [academic institutions](/wiki/Academic_institution) in the world.<ref name=AcademicRanking2><https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/reputation-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank_label/sort_order/asc/cols/rank_only> Accessed May 8, 2016.</ref>

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Pre-Colonization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 The Revolutionary War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 Federal period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.7 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 3 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 3.1 Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 3.2 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 4 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 4.1 Race and ancestry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 4.2 Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 4.3 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
* 5 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 5.1 Taxation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 5.2 Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
* 6 Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
  + 6.1 Rail service[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 6.2 Regional services[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 6.3 Air service[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 6.4 Roads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
* 7 Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 7.1 Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 7.2 Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
* 8 Cities, towns, and counties[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
* 9 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
* 10 Arts, culture, and recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
* 11 Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
* 12 Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
* 13 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
* 14 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 14.1 Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
  + 14.2 Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 14.3 History and Archives[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
* 15 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
* 16 Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
* 17 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
  + 17.1 Overviews and surveys[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
  + 17.2 Secondary sources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]
* 18 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumb|450px|Prominent roads and cities in Massachusetts](/wiki/File:National-atlas-massachusetts.png) The [Massachusetts Bay Colony](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony) was named after the indigenous population, the [Massachusett](/wiki/Massachusett), whose name can be segmented as *mass-adchu-s-et*, where *mass-* is "large", *-adchu-* is "hill", *-s-* is a [diminutive](/wiki/Diminutive) suffix meaning "small", and *-et* is a [locative](/wiki/Locative) suffix, identifying it as a place. It has been translated as "near the great hill",[[15]](#cite_note-15) "by the blue hills", "at the little big hill", or "at the range of hills", referring to the [Blue Hills](/wiki/Blue_Hills_Reservation), or in particular the [Great Blue Hill](/wiki/Great_Blue_Hill) which is located on the boundary of [Milton](/wiki/Milton,_Massachusetts) and [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Massachusetts).[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) Alternatively, Massachusett has been represented as *Moswetuset*, from the name of the [Moswetuset Hummock](/wiki/Moswetuset_Hummock) (meaning "hill shaped like an arrowhead") in [Quincy](/wiki/Quincy,_Massachusetts) where [Plymouth Colony](/wiki/Plymouth_Colony) commander [Miles Standish](/wiki/Miles_Standish) and [Squanto](/wiki/Squanto), [Native American](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas), met Chief [Chickatawbut](/wiki/Chickatawbut) in 1621.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) The official name of the state is the "[Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_(U.S._state)) of Massachusetts".[[20]](#cite_note-20) Colloquially, it is often referred to simply as "the Commonwealth". While this designation is part of the state's official name, it has no practical implications.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Massachusetts has the same position and powers within the United States as other states.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:MayflowerHarbor.jpg) [Mayflower](/wiki/Mayflower) *in Plymouth Harbor* by [William Halsall](/wiki/William_Halsall) (1882). The [Pilgrims](/wiki/Pilgrim_(Plymouth_Colony)) were a group of [Puritans](/wiki/Puritans) who founded [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts) in 1620.

### Pre-Colonization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Massachusetts was originally inhabited by tribes of the [Algonquian language family](/wiki/Algonquian_languages) such as the [Wampanoag](/wiki/Wampanoag), [Narragansett](/wiki/Narragansett_(tribe)), [Nipmuc](/wiki/Nipmuc), [Pocomtuc](/wiki/Pocomtuc), [Mahican](/wiki/Mahican), and [Massachusett](/wiki/Massachusett).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)<ref name=Mohican>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> While cultivation of crops like [squash](/wiki/Squash_(plant)) and [corn](/wiki/Maize) supplemented their diets, these tribes were generally dependent on hunting, gathering and fishing for most of their food supply.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Villages consisted of lodges called [wigwams](/wiki/Wigwams) as well as [long houses](/wiki/Longhouse),<ref name=Mohican/> and tribes were led by male or female elders known as [sachems](/wiki/Sachem).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

### Colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

In the early 1600s, after contact had been made with [Europeans](/wiki/European_diaspora), large numbers of the [indigenous people](/wiki/Indigenous_people) in the northeast of what is now the United States were killed by [virgin soil epidemics](/wiki/Virgin_soil_epidemics) such as [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox), [measles](/wiki/Measles), [influenza](/wiki/Influenza), and perhaps [leptospirosis](/wiki/Leptospirosis).[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) Between 1617 and 1619, smallpox killed approximately 90% of the [Massachusetts Bay](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay) [Native Americans](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The first English settlers in Massachusetts, the [Pilgrims](/wiki/Pilgrim_(Plymouth_Colony)), arrived via the [*Mayflower*](/wiki/Mayflower)[[25]](#cite_note-25) at [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth_(town),_Massachusetts) in 1620, and developed friendly relations with the native [Wampanoag people](/wiki/Wampanoag_people).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) This was the second successful permanent [English colony](/wiki/British_colonization_of_the_Americas) in the part of North America that later became the United States, after the [Jamestown Colony](/wiki/Jamestown_Colony). The Pilgrims were soon followed by other [Puritans](/wiki/Puritan), who established the [Massachusetts Bay Colony](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony) at present-day Boston in 1630.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The Puritans, who believed the [Church of England](/wiki/Church_of_England) needed to be purified and experienced harassment from English authority because of their beliefs,<ref name=puritans>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> came to Massachusetts with the goal of establishing an ideal religious society.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Unlike the Plymouth colony, the bay colony was founded under a royal charter in 1629.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Both religious dissent and expansionism resulted in several new colonies being founded shortly after Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay elsewhere in New England. The Massachusetts Bay banished dissenters such as [Anne Hutchinson](/wiki/Anne_Hutchinson) and [Roger Williams](/wiki/Roger_Williams_(theologian)) due to religious and political disagreements. In 1636, Williams founded the colony of [Rhode Island](/wiki/Colony_of_Rhode_Island_and_Providence_Plantations) and Hutchinson joined him there several years later. Religious intolerance continued. Among those who objected to this later in the century were the English Quaker preachers [Alice and Thomas Curwen](/wiki/Alice_Curwen), who were publicly flogged and imprisoned in Boston in 1676.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [thumb|180px|Capture of](/wiki/File:Brookfield1.jpg) [Brookfield](/wiki/Brookfield,_Massachusetts) by [Nipmucks](/wiki/Nipmuck) in 1675

In 1641, Massachusetts expanded inland significantly, acquiring the [Connecticut River Valley](/wiki/Connecticut_River_Valley) settlement of [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts), which had recently disputed with, and defected from its original administrators, the [Connecticut Colony](/wiki/Connecticut_Colony).[[28]](#cite_note-28) This established Massachusetts' southern border in the west,[[29]](#cite_note-29) though surveying problems resulted in [disputed territory](/wiki/Southwick,_Massachusetts) until 1803–04.[[30]](#cite_note-30) In 1691, the colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth were united (along with present-day [Maine](/wiki/Maine), which had previously been divided between Massachusetts and [New York](/wiki/Province_of_New_York)) into the [Province of Massachusetts Bay](/wiki/Province_of_Massachusetts_Bay).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Shortly after the arrival of the new province's first governor, Sir [William Phips](/wiki/William_Phips), the [Salem witch trials](/wiki/Salem_witch_trials) took place, where a number of men and women were hanged for alleged [witchcraft](/wiki/Witchcraft).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The [most destructive earthquake](/wiki/1755_Cape_Ann_earthquake) yet known in [New England](/wiki/New_England) occurred in 1755, causing considerable damage across Massachusetts.[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32)

### The Revolutionary War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Percy's_Rescue_at_Lexington_Detail.jpg)[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal), about the [Battles of Lexington and Concord](/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord) Massachusetts was a center of the movement for independence from [Great Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain); colonists in Massachusetts had long uneasy relations with the British monarchy, including open rebellion under the [Dominion of New England](/wiki/Dominion_of_New_England) in the 1680s.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Protests against British attempts to tax the colonies after the [French and Indian War](/wiki/French_and_Indian_War) ended in 1763 led to the [Boston Massacre](/wiki/Boston_Massacre) in 1770, and the 1773 [Boston Tea Party](/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party) escalated tensions.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In 1774, the [Intolerable Acts](/wiki/Intolerable_Acts) targeted Massachusetts with punishments for the Boston Tea Party and further decreased local autonomy, increasing local dissent.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Anti-Parliamentary activity by men such as [Samuel Adams](/wiki/Samuel_Adams) and [John Hancock](/wiki/John_Hancock), followed by reprisals by the British government, were a primary reason for the unity of the [Thirteen Colonies](/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies) and the outbreak of the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution) in 1775.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The [Battles of Lexington and Concord](/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord) initiated the [American Revolutionary War](/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War) and were fought in the homonymous Massachusetts towns.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Future President [George Washington](/wiki/George_Washington) took over what would become the Continental Army after the battle. His first victory was the [Siege of Boston](/wiki/Siege_of_Boston) in the winter of 1775–76, after which the British were forced to evacuate the city.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The event is still celebrated in [Suffolk County](/wiki/Suffolk_County,_Massachusetts) as [Evacuation Day](/wiki/Evacuation_Day_(Massachusetts)).[[34]](#cite_note-34) On the coast, [Salem, Massachusetts](/wiki/Salem,_Massachusetts), became a center for [privateering](/wiki/Privateer). Although the documentation is incomplete, about 1,700 [Letters of Marque](/wiki/Letters_of_Marque), issued on a per-voyage basis, were granted during the American Revolution. Nearly 800 vessels were commissioned as privateers and are credited with capturing or destroying about 600 British ships.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

### Federal period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Bostonian [John Adams](/wiki/John_Adams), known as the "Atlas of Independence",[[36]](#cite_note-36) was an important figure in both the struggle for independence as well as the formation of the new United States. Adams was highly involved in the push for separation from Britain and the writing of the [Massachusetts Constitution](/wiki/Massachusetts_Constitution) in 1780 which, in the [Elizabeth Freeman](/wiki/Elizabeth_Freeman_(Mum_Bett)) and [Quock Walker](/wiki/Quock_Walker) cases, effectively made Massachusetts the first state to have a constitution that declared universal rights and, as interpreted by Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice [William Cushing](/wiki/William_Cushing), abolished slavery. David McCullough points out that an equally important feature was its placing for the first time the courts as a co-equal branch separate from the executive.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The [Constitution of the Vermont Republic](/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Vermont_Republic), adopted in 1777, represented the first partial ban on slavery. Vermont became a state in 1791, but did not fully ban slavery until 1858 with the Vermont Personal Liberty Law. The Pennsylvania Gradual Abolition Act of 1780[[38]](#cite_note-38) made Pennsylvania the first state to abolish slavery by statute. Later, Adams was active in early American foreign affairs and succeeded Washington as the second United States President. His son [John Quincy Adams](/wiki/John_Quincy_Adams), also from Massachusetts,[[39]](#cite_note-39) would go on to become the sixth United States President.

From 1786 to 1787, an armed uprising, known as [Shays' Rebellion](/wiki/Shays'_Rebellion) led by Revolutionary War veteran [Daniel Shays](/wiki/Daniel_Shays) wrought havoc throughout Massachusetts, and ultimately attempted to seize the U.S. Federal [Armory at Springfield](/wiki/Armory_at_Springfield).<ref name=shay/> The rebellion was one of the major factors in the decision to draft a stronger national constitution to replace the [Articles of Confederation](/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation).<ref name=shay/> On February 6, 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the [United States Constitution](/wiki/United_States_Constitution).[[40]](#cite_note-40)

### 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In 1820, [Maine](/wiki/Maine) separated from Massachusetts and entered the Union as the 23rd state as a result of the ratification of the [Missouri Compromise](/wiki/Missouri_Compromise).[[41]](#cite_note-41) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Mill_Building_(now_museum),_Lowell,_Massachusetts.JPG)[Textile mills](/wiki/Textile_mill) such as the Boott Mills in [Lowell](/wiki/Lowell,_Massachusetts) made Massachusetts a leader in the U.S. [industrial revolution](/wiki/Industrial_revolution). During the 19th century, Massachusetts became a national leader in the American [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution), with factories around cities such as [Lowell](/wiki/Lowell,_Massachusetts) and [Boston](/wiki/Boston) producing textiles and shoes, and factories around Springfield producing tools, paper, and textiles.[Template:SfnTemplate:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The economy transformed from one based primarily on agriculture to an industrial one, initially making use of water-power and later the [steam engine](/wiki/Steam_engine) to power factories. Canals and railroads were used for transporting raw materials and finished goods.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) At first, the new industries drew labor from [Yankees](/wiki/Yankee) on nearby subsistence farms, and later relied upon [immigrant](/wiki/Immigration_to_United_States) labor from Europe and Canada.[Template:SfnTemplate:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In the years leading up to the [Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), Massachusetts was a center of [progressivism](/wiki/Progressivism) and [abolitionist](/wiki/Abolitionist) activity. [Horace Mann](/wiki/Horace_Mann) made the state's school system a national model.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [Henry David Thoreau](/wiki/Henry_David_Thoreau) and [Ralph Waldo Emerson](/wiki/Ralph_Waldo_Emerson) made major contributions to American philosophy.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Members of the [transcendentalist movement](/wiki/Transcendentalism) emphasized the importance of the natural world and emotion to humanity.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

Although significant opposition to abolitionism existed early on in Massachusetts, resulting in anti-abolitionist riots between 1835 and 1837,[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) opposition to slavery gradually increased throughout the next few decades.[Template:SfnTemplate:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Abolitionists [John Brown](/wiki/John_Brown_(abolitionist)) and [Sojourner Truth](/wiki/Sojourner_Truth) lived in Springfield and Northampton, respectively, while [Frederick Douglass](/wiki/Frederick_Douglass) lived in Boston. The works of such abolitionists contributed to Massachusetts' actions during the Civil War. Massachusetts was the first state to recruit, train, and arm a [Black](/wiki/African-American) regiment with [White](/wiki/White_(people)) officers, the [54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry](/wiki/54th_Massachusetts_Volunteer_Infantry).[[42]](#cite_note-42) In 1852, Massachusetts became the first state to pass [compulsory school attendance](/wiki/Compulsory_school_attendance) laws.<ref name=compschools>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|upright|Part of the "](/wiki/File:Boston_CAT_Project-construction_view_from_air.jpeg)[Big Dig](/wiki/Big_Dig)" construction project; this portion is over the [Charles River](/wiki/Charles_River) in Boston. With the exodus of several manufacturing companies, the area's industrial economy began to decline during the early 20th century. By the 1920s competition from the South and Midwest, followed by the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression), led to the collapse of the three main industries in Massachusetts: textiles, shoemaking, and precision mechanics.[[43]](#cite_note-43) This decline would continue into the later half of the century; between 1950 and 1979, the number of Massachusetts residents involved in textile manufacturing declined from 264,000 to 63,000.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The 1969 closure of the [Springfield Armory](/wiki/Springfield_Armory), in particular, spurred an exodus of high-paying jobs from Western Massachusetts, which suffered greatly as it de-industrialized during the last 40 years of the 20th century.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Massachusetts manufactured 3.4 percent of total United States military armaments produced during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), ranking tenth among the 48 states.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In Eastern Massachusetts, following World War II, the economy was transformed from one based on heavy industry into a service based economy.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Government contracts, private investment, and research facilities led to a new and improved industrial climate, with reduced unemployment and increased per capita income. Suburbanization flourished, and by the 1970s, the [Route 128](/wiki/Massachusetts_Route_128) corridor was dotted with [high-technology](/wiki/High_tech) companies who recruited graduates of the area's many elite institutions of higher education.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The [Kennedy family](/wiki/Kennedy_family) was prominent in Massachusetts politics in the 20th century. Children of businessman and ambassador [Joseph P. Kennedy Sr.](/wiki/Joseph_P._Kennedy_Sr.) included [John F. Kennedy](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy), who was a senator and US president before [his assassination](/wiki/Assassination_of_John_F._Kennedy) in 1963, [Robert F. Kennedy](/wiki/Robert_F._Kennedy), who was a senator, US attorney general and presidential candidate before [his assassination](/wiki/Assassination_of_Robert_F._Kennedy) in 1968, [Ted Kennedy](/wiki/Ted_Kennedy), a senator from 1962 until his death in 2009,[[46]](#cite_note-46) and [Eunice Kennedy Shriver](/wiki/Eunice_Kennedy_Shriver), a co-founder of the [Special Olympics](/wiki/Special_Olympics).[[47]](#cite_note-47) In 1966 Massachusetts became the first state to popularly elect an African American to the US senate with [Edward Brooke](/wiki/Edward_Brooke).[[48]](#cite_note-48) [George H. W. Bush](/wiki/George_H._W._Bush), 41st President of the United States (1989–1993) was born in [Milton, Massachusetts](/wiki/Milton,_Massachusetts) in 1924.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In 1987, the state received federal funding for the Central Artery/Tunnel Project. Commonly known as "the [Big Dig](/wiki/Big_Dig_(Boston,_Massachusetts))", it was, at the time, the biggest federal highway project ever approved.<ref name=BigDig1>Grunwald, Michael. *Dig the Big Dig* <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/04/AR2006080401755.html> [*The Washington Post*](/wiki/The_Washington_Post). August 6, 2006. . Retrieved May 31, 2010.</ref> The project included making the [Central Artery](/wiki/Central_Artery) a tunnel under downtown Boston, in addition to the re-routing of several other major highways.<ref name=BigDig2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Often controversial, with numerous claims of graft and mismanagement, and with its initial price tag of $2.5 billion increasing to a final tally of over $15 billion, the Big Dig has nonetheless changed the face of Downtown Boston.<ref name=BigDig1/> It has connected areas that were once divided by elevated highway, (much of the raised old Central Artery was replaced with the [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway](/wiki/Rose_Kennedy_Greenway)) and improved traffic conditions along a number of routes.<ref name=BigDig1/><ref name=BigDig2/> Additionally, Massachusetts has had a diplomatic relationship with the Japanese prefecture of [Hokkaido](/wiki/Hokkaido) since 1988.[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts became the first state in the U.S. to legalize [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_Massachusetts) after a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling in November 2003 determined that the exclusion of same-sex couples from the right to a civil marriage was unconstitutional.<ref name=CNNmarriage/> This decision was eventually superseded by the U.S. Supreme Court's affirmation of [same-sex marriage in the United States](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_States) in 2015.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|A portion of the north-central](/wiki/File:Pioneer_Valley_South_From_Mt._Sugarloaf.jpg) [Pioneer Valley](/wiki/Pioneer_Valley) in [Sunderland](/wiki/Sunderland,_Massachusetts)

Massachusetts is the [7th smallest](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_area) state in the United States. It is located in the [New England](/wiki/New_England) region of the northeastern United States, and has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), 25.7% of which is water. Several large [bays](/wiki/Headlands_and_bays) distinctly shape its coast. Boston is the largest city, at the inmost point of [Massachusetts Bay](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay), and the mouth of the [Charles River](/wiki/Charles_River).

Despite its small size, Massachusetts features numerous [topographically](/wiki/Topography) distinctive regions. The large [coastal plain](/wiki/Coastal_plain) of the Atlantic Ocean in the eastern section of the state contains [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston), along with most of the state's population,<ref name=GreaterBoston/> as well as the distinctive [Cape Cod](/wiki/Cape_Cod) [peninsula](/wiki/Peninsula). To the west lies the hilly, rural region of [Central Massachusetts](/wiki/Central_Massachusetts), and beyond that, the [Connecticut River Valley](/wiki/Connecticut_River_Valley). Along the western border of [Western Massachusetts](/wiki/Western_Massachusetts) lies the highest elevated part of the state, the [Berkshire Mountains](/wiki/Berkshire_Mountains) range.

The U.S. [National Park Service](/wiki/National_Park_Service) administers a number of natural and historical [sites in Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_areas_in_the_National_Park_System_in_Massachusetts).<ref name=NPS1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Along with twelve national historic sites, areas, and corridors, the National Park Service also manages the [Cape Cod National Seashore](/wiki/Cape_Cod_National_Seashore) and the [Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area](/wiki/Boston_Harbor_Islands_National_Recreation_Area).<ref name=NPS1/> In addition, the [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation](/wiki/Massachusetts_Department_of_Conservation_and_Recreation) maintains a number of [parks](/wiki/List_of_Massachusetts_state_parks), trails, and beaches throughout Massachusetts.[[51]](#cite_note-51)

### Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|left|Many coastal areas in Massachusetts provide breeding areas for species such as the](/wiki/File:Charadrius-melodus-004_edit.jpg) [piping plover](/wiki/Piping_plover). The primary [biome](/wiki/Biome) of inland Massachusetts is [temperate deciduous forest](/wiki/Temperate_deciduous_forest).[[52]](#cite_note-52)Although much of Massachusetts had been cleared for agriculture, leaving only traces of [old growth forest](/wiki/Old_growth_forest) in isolated pockets, secondary growth has regenerated in many rural areas as farms have been abandoned.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Currently, forests cover around 62% of Massachusetts.[[54]](#cite_note-54) The areas most affected by human development include the Greater Boston area in the east and the Springfield metropolitan area in the west, although the latter includes agricultural areas throughout the Connecticut River Valley.[[55]](#cite_note-55) There are currently 219 [endangered species](/wiki/Endangered_species) in Massachusetts.[[56]](#cite_note-56) A number of species are doing well in the increasingly urbanized Massachusetts. [Peregrine falcons](/wiki/Peregrine_falcons) utilize office towers in larger cities as nesting areas,[[57]](#cite_note-57) and the population of [coyotes](/wiki/Coyotes), whose diet may include garbage and roadkill, has been increasing in recent decades.[[58]](#cite_note-58) [White-tailed deer](/wiki/White-tailed_deer), [raccoons](/wiki/Raccoon), [wild turkeys](/wiki/Wild_turkey) and [eastern gray squirrels](/wiki/Eastern_gray_squirrel) are also found throughout Massachusetts. In more rural areas in the western part of Massachusetts, larger mammals such as [moose](/wiki/Moose) and [black bears](/wiki/American_black_bear) have returned, largely due to reforestation following the regional decline in agriculture.[[59]](#cite_note-59) Massachusetts is located along the [Atlantic Flyway](/wiki/Atlantic_Flyway), a major route for migratory [waterfowl](/wiki/Waterfowl) along the eastern coast.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Lakes in central Massachusetts provide habitat for many species of fish and waterfowl, but some species such as the [common loon](/wiki/Common_loon) are becoming rare.[[61]](#cite_note-61) A significant population of [long-tailed ducks](/wiki/Long-tailed_duck) winter off [Nantucket](/wiki/Nantucket). Small offshore islands and beaches are home to [roseate terns](/wiki/Roseate_tern) and are important breeding areas for the locally threatened [piping plover](/wiki/Piping_plover).[[62]](#cite_note-62) Protected areas such as the [Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge](/wiki/Monomoy_National_Wildlife_Refuge) provide critical breeding habitat for shorebirds and a variety of marine wildlife including a large population of [gray seals](/wiki/Gray_seal).

Freshwater fish species in Massachusetts include [bass](/wiki/Bass_(fish)), [carp](/wiki/Common_carp), [catfish](/wiki/Catfish), and [trout](/wiki/Trout), while saltwater species such as [Atlantic cod](/wiki/Atlantic_cod), [haddock](/wiki/Haddock) and [American lobster](/wiki/American_lobster) populate offshore waters.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Other marine species include [Harbor seals](/wiki/Harbor_seals), the endangered [North Atlantic right whales](/wiki/North_Atlantic_right_whale), as well as [humpback whales](/wiki/Humpback_whales), [fin whales](/wiki/Fin_whale), [minke whales](/wiki/Minke_whales) and [Atlantic white-sided dolphins](/wiki/Atlantic_white-sided_dolphin).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|Massachusetts map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Massachusetts_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Massachusetts has a transitional climate between the [humid continental](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) and [humid subtropical](/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) climate regimes. The warm to hot summers render the [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) rare in this transition, only applying to exposed coastal areas such as on the peninsula of [Barnstable County](/wiki/Barnstable_County). The climate of [Boston](/wiki/Boston) is quite representative for the commonwealth, characterized by summer highs of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and winter highs of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and is quite wet. Frosts are frequent all winter, even in coastal areas due to prevailing inland winds.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected cities in Massachusetts[[64]](#cite_note-64) | | | | |
| **Location** | **July (°F)** | **July (°C)** | **January (°F)** | **January (°C)** |
| [Boston](/wiki/Boston,_Massachusetts) | 81/65 | 27/18 | 36/22 | 2/–5 |
| [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts) | 79/61 | 26/16 | 31/17 | –0/–8 |
| [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts) | 84/62 | 27/17 | 34/17 | 1/–8 |
| [New Bedford](/wiki/New_Bedford,_Massachusetts) | 80/65 | 26/18 | 37/23 | 3/–4 |
| [Quincy](/wiki/Quincy,_Massachusetts) | 80/61 | 26/16 | 33/18 | 1/–7 |
| [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts) | 80/61 | 27/16 | 38/20 | 3/–6 |

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|350px|Massachusetts population density map. The centers of high-density settlement, from east to west, are Boston, Worcester, Springfield, and](/wiki/File:Massachusetts_population_map.png) [Pittsfield](/wiki/Pittsfield,_Massachusetts), respectively. [Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimated that the population of Massachusetts was 6,794,422 on July 1, 2015, a 3.77% increase since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=qcensus/>

As of 2014, Massachusetts was estimated to be the [third](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population_density) most densely populated U.S. state, with 839.4 people per square mile,<ref name=qcensus/> behind [New Jersey](/wiki/New_Jersey) and [Rhode Island](/wiki/Rhode_Island). In 2014, Massachusetts had 1,011,811 foreign-born residents or 15% of the population.<ref name=qcensus/>

Most Bay State residents live within the Boston Metropolitan Area, also known as [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston), which includes Boston and its proximate surroundings but also extending to [Greater Lowell](/wiki/Greater_Lowell) and to [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts). The [Springfield Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts_metropolitan_area) is also a major center of population. Geographically, the [center of population](/wiki/Center_of_population) of Massachusetts is located in the town of [Natick](/wiki/Natick,_Massachusetts).[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66) Like the rest of the [northeastern United States](/wiki/Northeastern_United_States), the population of Massachusetts has continued to grow in the past few decades. Massachusetts is the fastest growing state in [New England](/wiki/New_England) and the 25th fastest growing state in the United States.<ref name=GlobeTopgrowth>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Population growth was largely due to a relatively high quality of life and a large higher education system in the state.<ref name=GlobeTopgrowth/>

Foreign immigration is also a factor in the state's population growth, causing the state's population to continue to grow as of the [2010 Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) (particularly in [Massachusetts gateway cities](/wiki/Massachusetts_gateway_cities) where costs of living are lower).<ref name=GlobeDemographics1>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref><ref name=USAToday1>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> 40% of foreign immigrants were from [Central](/wiki/Central_America) or [South America](/wiki/South_America), according to a 2005 Census Bureau study, with many of the remainder from [Asia](/wiki/Asia). Many residents who have settled in [Greater Springfield](/wiki/Greater_Springfield) claim [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Rico) descent.<ref name=GlobeDemographics1/> Many areas of Massachusetts showed relatively stable population trends between 2000 and 2010.<ref name=USAToday1/> [Exurban](/wiki/Exurb) Boston and coastal areas grew the most rapidly, while [Berkshire County](/wiki/Berkshire_County,_Massachusetts) in far [Western Massachusetts](/wiki/Western_Massachusetts) and [Barnstable County](/wiki/Barnstable_County) on [Cape Cod](/wiki/Cape_Cod) were the only counties to lose population as of the [2010 Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=USAToday1/>

By gender, 48.4% were male and 51.6% were female in 2014. In terms of age, 79.2% were over 18 years old and 14.8% were over 65 years old.<ref name=qcensus/>

### Race and ancestry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|left|250px|](/wiki/File:St._Patrick_Day's_Parade,_Scituate_MA.jpg)[St. Patrick's Day Parade](/wiki/St._Patrick's_Day_Parade) in [Scituate](/wiki/Scituate,_Massachusetts), the municipality with the highest percentage identifying [Irish](/wiki/Irish_diaspora) ancestry in the United States, at 47.5% in 2010.[[67]](#cite_note-67) [Irish Americans](/wiki/Irish_American) constitute the largest ethnicity in Massachusetts. As of 2014, in terms of race and ethnicity, Massachusetts was 83.2% White (73.7% [Non-Hispanic White](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_White)), 8.8% [Black](/wiki/African_American) or African American, 0.5% American Indian and [Alaska Native](/wiki/Alaska_Native), 6.3% Asian American, <0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 2.1% from Some Other Race, and 3.1% from Two or More Races. [Hispanics](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) and Latinos of any race made up 11.2% of the population.<ref name=qcensus/>

The state's most populous ethnic group, non-Hispanic white, has declined from 95.4% in 1970 to 73.7% in 2014.<ref name=qcensus/>[[68]](#cite_note-68) As of 2011, non-Hispanic whites were involved in 63.6% of all the births.[[69]](#cite_note-69) As late as 1795, the population of Massachusetts was nearly 95% of English ancestry.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) During the early and mid 19th century, immigrant groups began arriving to Massachusetts in large numbers; first from Ireland in the 1840s;[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) today the Irish and part-Irish are the largest ancestry group in the state at nearly 25% of the total population. Others arrived later from Quebec as well as places in Europe such as Italy, Portugal and Poland.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In the early 20th century, a number of [African Americans migrated to Massachusetts](/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)), although in somewhat fewer numbers than many other Northern states.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Later in the 20th century, immigration from Latin America increased considerably. Over 156,000 [Chinese Americans](/wiki/Chinese_Americans_in_Boston) made their home in Massachusetts in 2014,[[70]](#cite_note-70) and Boston hosts a growing [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston) accommodating heavily traveled [Chinese-owned bus lines](/wiki/Chinatown_bus_lines) to and from [Chinatown, Manhattan](/wiki/Chinatown,_Manhattan) in [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City). Massachusetts also has large [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Rican_American), [Dominican](/wiki/Dominican_American), [Haitian](/wiki/Haitian_Americans), [Cape Verdean](/wiki/Cape_Verdean_American) and [Brazilian](/wiki/Brazilian_American) populations. Boston's [South End](/wiki/South_End,_Boston) and [Jamaica Plain](/wiki/Jamaica_Plain,_Boston) are both [gay villages](/wiki/Gay_village), as is nearby [Provincetown, Massachusetts](/wiki/Provincetown,_Massachusetts) on Cape Cod. [thumb|left|250px|](/wiki/File:Boston_Chinatown_Paifang.jpg)[Boston's Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston), with its [paifang](/wiki/Paifang) gate, is home to many [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Americans_in_Boston) and also [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_Americans_in_Boston) restaurants. [thumb|250px|Boston](/wiki/File:Were_a_gay_and_happy_family_wagon.jpg) [gay pride](/wiki/Gay_pride) march, held annually in June Massachusetts has a relatively large population of [Irish](/wiki/Irish_Americans) descent (22.5% of the population) and also significant populations of [Italians](/wiki/Italian_Americans) (13.5%), and [English](/wiki/English_Americans) (11.4%), and [French](/wiki/French_Americans) (8%).<ref name=citydata2000>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Lowell](/wiki/Lowell,_Massachusetts) is home to the second-largest [Cambodian (Khmer)](/wiki/Cambodian_American) community of the nation.[[71]](#cite_note-71) There are also [several populations](/wiki/List_of_American_Indian_Reservations_in_Massachusetts) of [Native Americans](/wiki/Native_Americans) in Massachusetts, the [Wampanoag](/wiki/Wampanoag_people) tribe maintains reservations at [Aquinnah](/wiki/Aquinnah,_Massachusetts) on Martha's Vineyard and at [Mashpee](/wiki/Mashpee,_Massachusetts) on Cape Cod, while the [Nipmuck](/wiki/Nipmuck) maintain two state-recognized reservations in the central part of the state, including one at [Grafton](/wiki/Grafton,_Massachusetts).[[72]](#cite_note-72) Massachusetts has avoided many forms of racial strife seen elsewhere in the US, but examples such as the successful electoral showings of the [nativist](/wiki/Nativism_(politics)) (mainly [anti-Catholic](/wiki/Anti-Catholicism)) [Know Nothings](/wiki/Know_Nothing) in the 1850s,[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) the controversial [Sacco and Vanzetti](/wiki/Sacco_and_Vanzetti) executions in the 1920s,[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) and Boston's opposition to [desegregation busing](/wiki/Boston_busing_desegregation) in the 1970s[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) show that the ethnic history of Massachusetts was not completely harmonious.

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

The most common varieties of [American English](/wiki/American_English) spoken in Massachusetts, other than [General American English](/wiki/General_American_English), are the [*cot-caught* distinct, rhotic, western Massachusetts dialect](/wiki/New_England_English#Southwestern_New_England) and the [*cot-caught* merged, non-rhotic, eastern Massachusetts dialect](/wiki/Boston_accent) (popularly known as a "Boston accent").[[73]](#cite_note-73)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Top 11 Non-English Languages Spoken in Massachusetts** | |
| **Language** | **Percentage of population (as of 2010)**[**[74]**](#cite_note-74) |
| [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language) | 7.50% |
| [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language) | 2.97% |
| [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_language) (including [Cantonese](/wiki/Cantonese_language) and [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese)) | 1.59% |
| [French](/wiki/French_language) (including [New England French](/wiki/New_England_French)) | 1.11% |
| [French Creole](/wiki/French-based_creole_languages) | 0.89% |
| [Italian](/wiki/Italian_language) | 0.72% |
| [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) | 0.62% |
| [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_language) | 0.58% |
| [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) | 0.41% |
| [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) and [Cambodian](/wiki/Cambodian_language) (including [Mon-Khmer](/wiki/Mon-Khmer)) (tied) | 0.37% |
| [Wampanoag](/wiki/Wampanoag_language) | 0.001% |

As of 2010, 78.93% (4,823,127) of Massachusetts residents age 5 and older spoke English at home as a [primary language](/wiki/Primary_language), while 7.50% (458,256) spoke Spanish, 2.97% (181,437) [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language), 1.59% (96,690) Chinese (which includes [Cantonese](/wiki/Cantonese) and [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese)), 1.11% (67,788) French, 0.89% (54,456) [French Creole](/wiki/French-based_creole_languages), 0.72% (43,798) Italian, 0.62% (37,865) Russian, and [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_language) was spoken as a [main language](/wiki/Main_language) by 0.58% (35,283) of the population over the age of five. In total, 21.07% (1,287,419) of Massachusetts' population age 5 and older spoke a [mother language](/wiki/Mother_language) other than English.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[thumb|Built in 1681, the](/wiki/File:OldShipEntrance.jpg) [Old Ship Church](/wiki/Old_Ship_Church) in [Hingham](/wiki/Hingham,_Massachusetts) is the oldest church in America in continuous ecclesiastical use.[[75]](#cite_note-75)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Massachusetts was founded and settled by the [Puritans](/wiki/Puritans) in 1620<ref name=puritans/>[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) and most people in Massachusetts today remain Christians.<ref name=qcensus/> The descendants of the Puritans belong to many different churches; in the direct line of inheritance are the various [Congregational churches](/wiki/Congregational_church), [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) and the congregations of [Unitarian Universalist Association](/wiki/Unitarian_Universalist_Association). The headquarters of the [Unitarian Universalist Association](/wiki/Unitarian_Universalist_Association), long located on [Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Boston), is now located in [South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77)[thumb|Boston's](/wiki/File:CCHolyCross.JPG) [Cathedral of the Holy Cross](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Holy_Cross_(Boston)) was built in 1875 to serve the area's growing [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic_Church) population. Today, [Protestants](/wiki/Protestants) make up 21% of the state's population and Christians make up 57% of the population. [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholics) make up 34% and now predominate because of massive immigration from primarily Catholic countries and regions – chiefly Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Quebec, and Latin America. Both Protestant and Roman Catholic communities have been in decline for some time now, due to the rise of [irreligion](/wiki/Irreligion) in New England, the most irreligious region of the U.S., along with the [Western United States](/wiki/Western_United_States). A significant Jewish population immigrated to the Boston and Springfield areas between 1880 and 1920. Jews currently make up 3% of the population. [Mary Baker Eddy](/wiki/Mary_Baker_Eddy) made the [Boston Mother Church](/wiki/Christian_Science_Center) of [Christian Science](/wiki/Christian_Science) the world headquarters. [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhists), [Pagans](/wiki/Paganism), [Hindus](/wiki/Hindus), [Seventh-day Adventists](/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church), [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim), and [Mormons](/wiki/Mormons) also can be found. [Kripalu Center](/wiki/Kripalu_Center) in [Stockbridge](/wiki/Stockbridge,_Massachusetts), the Shaolin Meditation Temple in Springfield, and the Insight Meditation Center in [Barre](/wiki/Barre,_Massachusetts) are examples of non-Abrahamic religious centers in Massachusetts. According to 2010 data from The [Association of Religion Data Archives](/wiki/Association_of_Religion_Data_Archives) (ARDA) the largest single denominations are the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) with 2,940,199 adherents; the [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) with 86,639 adherents; and the [Episcopal Church](/wiki/Episcopal_Church_(United_States)) with 81,999 adherents.[[78]](#cite_note-78) 32% of the population identifies as having no religion.[[79]](#cite_note-79)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The United States [Bureau of Economic Analysis](/wiki/Bureau_of_Economic_Analysis) estimates that the Massachusetts [gross state product](/wiki/Gross_state_product) in 2013 was US$446 billion.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The per capita personal income in 2012 was $53,221, making it the third highest state in the nation.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Thirteen [Fortune 500](/wiki/Fortune_500) companies are located in Massachusetts, the largest of which are the [Liberty Mutual Insurance Group](/wiki/Liberty_Mutual_Insurance_Group) of Boston and [MassMutual](/wiki/MassMutual) Financial Services of Springfield.[[82]](#cite_note-82) CNBC's list of "Top States for Business for 2014" has recognized Massachusetts as the 25th best state in the nation for business.[[83]](#cite_note-83) According to a 2013 study by Phoenix Marketing International, Massachusetts had the sixth-largest number of millionaires per capita in the United States, with a ratio of 6.73 percent.[[84]](#cite_note-84) [Boston-Logan International Airport](/wiki/Logan_International_Airport) is the busiest airport in New England, serving 33.4 million total passengers in 2015, and witnessing rapid growth in international air traffic since 2010.<ref name=LoganTraffic><https://www.massport.com/media/378708/1215-avstats-airport-traffic-summary.pdf> Accessed May 8, 2016.</ref>

Sectors vital to the Massachusetts economy include higher education, [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology), [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology), finance, health care, tourism, and defense. The [Route 128 corridor](/wiki/Route_128_(Massachusetts)) and Greater Boston continue to be a major center for [venture capital investment](/wiki/Venture_capital),[[85]](#cite_note-85) and [high technology](/wiki/High_technology) remains an important sector. In recent years tourism has played an ever-important role in the state's economy, with Boston and [Cape Cod](/wiki/Cape_Cod) being the leading destinations.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Other popular tourist destinations include [Salem](/wiki/Salem,_Massachusetts), [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts), and [the Berkshires](/wiki/The_Berkshires). Massachusetts is the sixth most popular tourist destination for foreign travelers.[[87]](#cite_note-87)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Sunset_on_Cape_Cod_Bay.jpg)[Cape Cod Bay](/wiki/Cape_Cod_Bay), a leading tourist destination in Massachusetts. Tourism is of growing importance to the state's economy. As of 2012, there were 7,755 farms in Massachusetts encompassing a total of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) apiece.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Particular agricultural products of note include green house products making up more than one third of the states agricultural output, cranberries, sweet corn and apples are also large sectors of production.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Massachusetts is the second-largest cranberry-producing state in the union after [Wisconsin](/wiki/Wisconsin).[[90]](#cite_note-90)

### Taxation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

Depending on how it is calculated, state and local tax burden in Massachusetts has been estimated among U.S. states and Washington D.C. as 21st highest (11.44% or $6,163 per year for a household with nationwide median income)[[91]](#cite_note-91) or 25th highest overall with below-average corporate taxes (39th highest), above-average personal income taxes, (13th highest), above-average sales tax (18th) highest, and below-average property taxes (46th highest).[[92]](#cite_note-92) In the 1970s, the Commonwealth ranked as a relatively high-tax state, gaining the pejorative nickname **Taxachusetts**. This was followed by a round of tax limitations during the 1980s - a conservative period in American politics - including [Proposition 2½](/wiki/Proposition_2½).[[93]](#cite_note-93) As of January 1, 2016, Massachusetts has a flat-rate personal income tax of 5.1%,[[94]](#cite_note-94) after a 2002 voter referendum to eventually lower the rate to 5.0%[[95]](#cite_note-95) as amended by the legislature.[[96]](#cite_note-96) and the short-term [capital gains](/wiki/Capital_gains_tax) tax rate is 12%.<ref name=MassTax2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> An unusual provision allows filers to voluntarily pay at the pre-referendum 5.85% income tax rate, which is done by between one and two thousand taxpayers per year.[[97]](#cite_note-97) The sales tax is charged on clothing that costs more than $175.00, for the amount exceeding $175.00.<ref name=SalesTax1/> Massachusetts also charges a [use tax](/wiki/Use_tax) when goods are bought from other states and the vendor does not remit Massachusetts sales tax; taxpayers report and pay this on their income tax forms or dedicated forms, though there are "safe harbor" amounts that can be paid without tallying up actual purchases (except for purchases over $1000).[[98]](#cite_note-98) There is no [inheritance tax](/wiki/Inheritance_tax) and limited Massachusetts [estate tax](/wiki/Estate_tax) related to federal estate tax collection.<ref name=MassTax2/>

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Massachusetts' [electricity generation](/wiki/Electricity_generation) market was made competitive in 1998, enabling retail customers to change suppliers without changing utility companies.[[99]](#cite_note-99) In 2012, Massachusetts consumed 1374.4 trillion [BTU](/wiki/British_Thermal_Units),<ref name=EIAmass>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> making it the fifth lowest state in terms of consumption of energy per capita, and 63% of that energy came from [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas).<ref name=EIAmass/> In 2014 and 2015, Massachusetts was ranked as the most energy efficient state the United States[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101) while Boston is the most efficient city,[[102]](#cite_note-102) but it had the third highest electricity prices of any state.<ref name=EIAmass/>

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|250px|The](/wiki/File:MBTA_services_sampling_excluding_MBTA_Boat.jpg) [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Transportation_Authority), serving [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston)

Massachusetts has 10 regional [metropolitan planning organizations](/wiki/Metropolitan_planning_organization) and three non-metropolitan planning organizations covering the remainder of the state;[[103]](#cite_note-103) statewide planning is handled by the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation](/wiki/Massachusetts_Department_of_Transportation).

### Rail service[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Amtrak](/wiki/Amtrak) operates [inter-city rail](/wiki/Inter-city_rail), including the high-speed [Acela](/wiki/Acela) service to cities such as [Providence](/wiki/Providence,_Rhode_Island), [New Haven](/wiki/New_Haven,_Connecticut), New York City, and Washington, DC from [South Station](/wiki/South_Station). From [North Station](/wiki/North_Station) the Amtrak Downeaster serves [Portland, Maine](/wiki/Portland,_Maine) and [Brunswick, Maine](/wiki/Brunswick,_Maine).[[104]](#cite_note-104)

### Regional services[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

The [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Transportation_Authority) (MBTA), also known as "The T",[[105]](#cite_note-105) operates public transportation in the form of subway,[[106]](#cite_note-106) bus,[[107]](#cite_note-107) and ferry[[108]](#cite_note-108) systems in the [Metro Boston](/wiki/Metro_Boston) area. It also operates longer distance commuter rail services throughout the larger Greater Boston area, including service to [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts), [Lowell](/wiki/Lowell,_Massachusetts), and [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts).[[109]](#cite_note-109) As of the summer of 2013 the [Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority](/wiki/Cape_Cod_Regional_Transit_Authority) in collaboration with the [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Transportation_Authority) and the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation](/wiki/Massachusetts_Department_of_Transportation) (MassDOT) is operating the [CapeFLYER](/wiki/CapeFLYER) providing passenger rail service between Boston and Cape Cod.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) Fifteen other regional transit authorities provide public transportation in the form of bus services in their local communities.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Two [heritage railways](/wiki/Heritage_railway) are also in operation: the [Cape Cod Central Railroad](/wiki/Cape_Cod_Central_Railroad) and the [Berkshire Scenic Railway](/wiki/Berkshire_Scenic_Railway).[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) As of 2015, a number of [freight railroads](/wiki/Rail_freight_transport) were operating in Massachusetts, with [CSX](/wiki/CSX_Transportation) being the largest carrier.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Massachusetts has a total of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of freight trackage in operation.[[116]](#cite_note-116) [The Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority](/wiki/The_Woods_Hole,_Martha's_Vineyard_and_Nantucket_Steamship_Authority) regulates freight and passenger ferry service to the islands of Massachusetts including [Martha's Vineyard](/wiki/Martha's_Vineyard) and [Nantucket](/wiki/Nantucket).[[117]](#cite_note-117)

### Air service[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Downtown_Worcester,_Massachusetts.jpg)[Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts), second-largest city in the state, with [Worcester Regional Airport](/wiki/Worcester_Regional_Airport) tower in the background The major airport in the state is [Boston-Logan International Airport](/wiki/Logan_International_Airport). The airport served 33.5 million passengers in 2015, up from 31.6 million in 2014,<ref name=LoganTraffic/> and is used by around 40 airlines with a total of 103 gates.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Logan International Airport has service to numerous cities throughout the United States, as well as international service to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia.<ref name=massport>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Logan, [Hanscom Field](/wiki/Hanscom_Field) in [Bedford](/wiki/Bedford,_Massachusetts), and [Worcester Regional Airport](/wiki/Worcester_Regional_Airport) are operated by [Massport](/wiki/Massport), an independent state transportation agency.<ref name=massport/> Massachusetts has approximately 42 public-use airfields, and over 200 private landing spots.[[119]](#cite_note-119) Some airports receive funding from the Aeronautics Division of the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation](/wiki/Massachusetts_Department_of_Transportation) and the [Federal Aviation Administration](/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration); the FAA is also the primary regulator of Massachusetts air travel.[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Roads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

There are a total of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [interstates](/wiki/Interstate_highway) and other highways in Massachusetts.[[121]](#cite_note-121) [Interstate 90](/wiki/Interstate_90_in_Massachusetts) (I-90, also known as the [Massachusetts Turnpike](/wiki/Massachusetts_Turnpike)), is the longest interstate in Massachusetts. The route travels [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) generally west to east from the New York state line near the town of [West Stockbridge](/wiki/West_Stockbridge,_Massachusetts) and passes just north of [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts), just south of [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts) and through [Framingham](/wiki/Framingham,_Massachusetts) before terminating near Logan International Airport in Boston.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Other major interstates include [I-91](/wiki/Interstate_91_in_Massachusetts), which travels generally north and south along the [Connecticut River](/wiki/Connecticut_River), [I-93](/wiki/Interstate_93_in_Massachusetts), which travels north and south through central Boston, then passes [Methuen](/wiki/Methuen,_Massachusetts) before entering New Hampshire. [I-95](/wiki/Interstate_95_in_Massachusetts), which follows most of the US Atlantic coastline, connects [Providence, Rhode Island](/wiki/Providence,_Rhode_Island) with Greater Boston, forming a loop around the more urbanized areas (for some distance [concurrent](/wiki/Concurrency_(road)) with [Route 128](/wiki/Massachusetts_Route_128)) before continuing north along the coast.

[I-495](/wiki/Interstate_495_(Massachusetts)) forms a wide loop around the outer edge of Greater Boston. Other major interstates in Massachusetts include [I-291](/wiki/Interstate_291_(Massachusetts)), [I-391](/wiki/Interstate_391_(Massachusetts)), [I-84](/wiki/Interstate_84_in_Massachusetts), [I-195](/wiki/Interstate_195_in_Massachusetts), [I-395](/wiki/Interstate_395_in_Massachusetts), [I-290](/wiki/Interstate_290_(Massachusetts)), and [I-190](/wiki/Interstate_190_(Massachusetts)). Major non-interstate highways in Massachusetts include [U.S. Routes](/wiki/United_States_Numbered_Highways) [1](/wiki/U.S._Route_1_in_Massachusetts), [3](/wiki/U.S._Route_3_in_Massachusetts), [6](/wiki/U.S._Route_6_in_Massachusetts), and [20](/wiki/U.S._Route_20_in_Massachusetts), and state routes [2](/wiki/Massachusetts_Route_2), [3](/wiki/Massachusetts_Route_3), 9, [24](/wiki/Massachusetts_Route_24), and 128. A great majority of interstates in Massachusetts were constructed during the mid 20th century, and at times were controversial, particularly the routing of I-95 through central Boston. Opposition to continued construction grew, and in 1970 Governor [Francis W. Sargent](/wiki/Francis_W._Sargent) issued a general prohibition on most further freeway construction within the I-95/Route 128 loop in the Boston area.[[123]](#cite_note-123) A massive undertaking to bring I-93 underground in downtown Boston, called the [Big Dig](/wiki/Big_Dig), brought the city's highway system under public scrutiny for its high cost and construction quality.<ref name=BigDig1/>

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Mass_statehouse_eb1.jpg) [Massachusetts State House](/wiki/Massachusetts_State_House), topped by its golden dome, faces [Boston Common](/wiki/Boston_Common) on [Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Boston). Massachusetts has a long political history; earlier political structures included the [Mayflower Compact](/wiki/Mayflower_Compact) of 1620, the separate [Massachusetts Bay](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony) and [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth_Colony) colonies, and the combined colonial [Province of Massachusetts](/wiki/Province_of_Massachusetts). The [Massachusetts Constitution](/wiki/Massachusetts_Constitution) was ratified in 1780 while the [Revolutionary War](/wiki/Revolutionary_War) was in progress, four years after the [Articles of Confederation](/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation) was drafted, and eight years before the present [United States Constitution](/wiki/United_States_Constitution) was ratified on June 21, 1788. Drafted by [John Adams](/wiki/John_Adams), the Massachusetts Constitution is currently the oldest functioning written constitution in continuous effect in the world.[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[126]](#cite_note-126) Massachusetts politics since the second half of the 20th century have generally been dominated by the [Democratic Party](/wiki/United_States_Democratic_Party), and the state has a reputation for being the most [liberal](/wiki/Modern_liberalism) state in the country.[[127]](#cite_note-127) In 1974, [Elaine Noble](/wiki/Elaine_Noble) became [the first](/wiki/List_of_the_first_LGBT_holders_of_political_offices) openly lesbian or gay candidate elected to a state legislature in US history.[[128]](#cite_note-128) The state housed the first openly gay member of the [United States House of Representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives), [Gerry Studds](/wiki/Gerry_Studds), in 1972[[129]](#cite_note-129) and in 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage).<ref name=CNNmarriage/>

### Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Seealso](/wiki/Template:Seealso) [thumb|175px|](/wiki/File:Charlie_Baker_official_portrait.jpg)[Charlie Baker](/wiki/Charlie_Baker_(politician)) ([R](/wiki/Republican_party_(United_States))), the 72nd and current [Governor of Massachusetts](/wiki/Governor_of_Massachusetts) The [Government of Massachusetts](/wiki/Massachusetts_government) is divided into three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The [governor of Massachusetts](/wiki/Governor_of_Massachusetts) heads the executive branch; duties of the governor include signing or vetoing legislation, filling judicial and agency appointments, granting pardons, preparing an annual budget, and commanding the [Massachusetts National Guard](/wiki/Massachusetts_National_Guard).<ref name=MassPol1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Massachusetts governors, unlike those of most other states, are addressed as His/Her Excellency.<ref name=MassPol1/> The current governor is [Charlie Baker](/wiki/Charlie_Baker_(politician)),<ref name=2014electionboston>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> a Republican from [Swampscott](/wiki/Swampscott,_Massachusetts).[[130]](#cite_note-130) The executive branch also includes the Executive Council, which is made up of eight elected councilors and the [Lieutenant Governor](/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor) seat,<ref name=MassPol1/> which is currently occupied by [Karyn Polito](/wiki/Karyn_Polito).<ref name=2014electionboston/> [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Abilities of the Council include confirming gubernatorial appointments and certifying elections.<ref name=MassPol1/> The [Massachusetts House of Representatives](/wiki/Massachusetts_House_of_Representatives) and [Massachusetts Senate](/wiki/Massachusetts_Senate) comprise the legislature of Massachusetts, known as the [Massachusetts General Court](/wiki/Massachusetts_General_Court).<ref name=MassPol1/> The House consists of 160 members while the Senate has 40 members.<ref name=MassPol1/> Leaders of the House and Senate are chosen by the members of those bodies; the leader of the House is known as the Speaker while the leader of the Senate is known as the President.<ref name=MassPol1/> Each branch consists of several committees.<ref name=MassPol1/> Members of both bodies are elected to two-year terms.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The Judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Judicial Court, which serves over a number of lower courts.<ref name=MassPol1/> The Supreme Judicial Court is made up of a chief justice and six associate justices.<ref name=MassPol1/> Judicial appointments are made by the governor and confirmed by the executive council.<ref name=MassPol1/>

The Congressional delegation from Massachusetts is entirely [Democratic](/wiki/U.S._Democratic_Party).[[132]](#cite_note-132) Currently, the [US senators](/wiki/United_States_Senate) are Democrats [Elizabeth Warren](/wiki/Elizabeth_Warren) and [Ed Markey](/wiki/Ed_Markey). The members of the state's delegation to the [US House of Representatives](/wiki/US_House_of_Representatives) are [Richard Neal](/wiki/Richard_Neal), [Jim McGovern](/wiki/Jim_McGovern_(congressman)), [Niki Tsongas](/wiki/Niki_Tsongas), [Joseph Kennedy III](/wiki/Joseph_Kennedy_III), [Katherine Clark](/wiki/Katherine_Clark), [Seth Moulton](/wiki/Seth_Moulton), [Mike Capuano](/wiki/Mike_Capuano), [Stephen Lynch](/wiki/Stephen_Lynch_(politician)), and [Bill Keating](/wiki/Bill_Keating_(politician)).[[133]](#cite_note-133) Federal court cases are heard in the [United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts](/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_District_of_Massachusetts), and appeals are heard by the [United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit](/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_First_Circuit).[[134]](#cite_note-134) In U.S. presidential elections since 2012, Massachusetts has been allotted 11 votes in the [electoral college](/wiki/United_States_Electoral_College), out of a total of 538.[[135]](#cite_note-135) Like most states, Massachusetts's electoral votes are granted in a winner-take-all system.[[136]](#cite_note-136)

### Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

{| class=wikitable style="float:right; margin-left:1em" ! colspan = 6 | Massachusetts registered voters as of February, 2016[[137]](#cite_note-137)|- ! colspan = 2 | Party ! Number of Voters ! Percentage |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Independent/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Independent/row) | [Unenrolled](/wiki/Independent_politician#United_States) | style="text-align:center;"| 2,277,760 | style="text-align:center;"| 53.32% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Democratic/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Democratic/row) | [Democratic](/wiki/Massachusetts_Democratic_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 1,490,335 | style="text-align:center;"| 34.89% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Republican/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Republican/row) | [Republican](/wiki/Massachusetts_Republican_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 468,295 | style="text-align:center;"| 10.96% |- | style="width: 0.25em; background-color: [Template:United Independent Party/meta/color](/wiki/Template:United_Independent_Party/meta/color) | | [United Independent](/wiki/United_Independent_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 16,476 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.39% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Green/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Green/row) | [Green-Rainbow](/wiki/Green-Rainbow_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 5,285 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.12% |- | rowspan=1 colspan=2 align="left" | Political designations | style="text-align:center;"| 13,684 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.32% |- ! colspan = 2 | Total ! style="text-align:center;"| 4,271,835 ! style="text-align:center;"| 100% |- |}

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Recent presidential elections results | | |
| **Year** | [**Democratic**](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) | [**Republican**](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) |
| [1988](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1988) | **√ 53%** *1,401,416* | 46% *1,194,635* |
| [1992](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1992) | **√ 48%** *1,318,662* | 29% *805,049* |
| [1996](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1996) | **√ 62%** *1,571,763* | 28% *718,107* |
| [2000](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2000) | **√ 60%** *1,616,487* | 33% *878,502* |
| [2004](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2004) | **√ 62%** *1,803,801* | 37% *1,070,109* |
| [2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008) | **√ 62%** *1,904,098* | 36% *1,108,854* |
| [2012](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2012) | **√ 61%** *1,906,319* | 38% *1,178,510* |

Throughout the mid 20th century, Massachusetts has gradually shifted from a [Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))-leaning state to one largely dominated by [Democrats](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)); the [1952 victory](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Massachusetts,_1952) of [John F. Kennedy](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) over incumbent Senator [Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.](/wiki/Henry_Cabot_Lodge,_Jr.) is seen as a watershed moment in this transformation. His younger brother [Edward M. Kennedy](/wiki/Ted_Kennedy) held that seat until his death from a brain tumor in 2009.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Massachusetts has since gained a reputation as being a politically liberal state and is often used as an archetype of [modern liberalism](/wiki/Modern_liberalism_in_the_United_States), hence the usage of the phrase "[Massachusetts liberal](/wiki/Massachusetts_liberal)".[[138]](#cite_note-138) Massachusetts routinely votes for the Democratic Party, with the core concentrations in the Boston metro area, the Cape and Islands, and Western Massachusetts outside Hampden County. Pockets of Republican strength are in the central areas along the I-495 crescent, Hampden County, and communities on the south and north shores,[[139]](#cite_note-139) but the state as a whole has not given its [Electoral College](/wiki/Electoral_College_(United_States)) votes to a Republican in a [presidential election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election) since [Ronald Reagan](/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) carried it in [1984](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1984). Additionally, Massachusetts provided Reagan with his smallest margins of victory in both the [1980](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1980)[[140]](#cite_note-140) and 1984 elections.[[141]](#cite_note-141)[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

As of the 2014 election, the Democratic Party holds a significant major over the Republican party. Only 35 of the 160 seats in the [state house](/wiki/Massachusetts_House_of_Representatives)[[142]](#cite_note-142) and 6 of the 40 seats in the [state senate](/wiki/Massachusetts_state_senate) belong to the Republican Party.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Although Republicans held the governor's office continuously from 1991 to 2007 and from 2015 onwards,<ref name=2014electionboston/> they have been among the most moderate Republican leaders in the nation.[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145) In the [2004 election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2004), the state gave Massachusetts senator [John Kerry](/wiki/John_Kerry) 61.9% of the vote, his best showing in any state.[[146]](#cite_note-146) In [2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008), President [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) carried the state with 61.8% of the vote.[[147]](#cite_note-147) In the [2010 special election](/wiki/United_States_Senate_special_election_in_Massachusetts,_2010) for the U.S. Senate, Republican [Scott Brown](/wiki/Scott_Brown) defeated Democrat [Martha Coakley](/wiki/Martha_Coakley) by a 52% to 47% margin only to lose the seat in the [2012 Senate election](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Massachusetts,_2012) to [Elizabeth Warren](/wiki/Elizabeth_Warren), the first female senator to represent Massachusetts.[[148]](#cite_note-148)[[149]](#cite_note-149) A number of contemporary national political issues have been influenced by events in Massachusetts, such as the decision in 2003 by the state Supreme Judicial Court [allowing same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_Massachusetts)[[150]](#cite_note-150) and [a 2006 bill](/wiki/Massachusetts_2006_Health_Reform_Statute) which mandated health insurance for all Bay Staters.[[151]](#cite_note-151) In 2008, Massachusetts voters passed [an initiative](/wiki/Massachusetts_Sensible_Marijuana_Policy_Initiative) decriminalizing possession of small amounts of [marijuana](/wiki/Marijuana).[[152]](#cite_note-152) Voters in Massachusetts also approved a ballot measure in 2012 that legalized the medical use of marijuana.[[153]](#cite_note-153)

## Cities, towns, and counties[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Template:Largest cities](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities)

There are [50 cities and 301 towns](/wiki/List_of_municipalities_in_Massachusetts) in Massachusetts, grouped into [14 counties](/wiki/List_of_Massachusetts_counties).<ref name=MassCities1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The fourteen counties, moving roughly from west to east, are [Berkshire](/wiki/Berkshire_County,_Massachusetts), [Franklin](/wiki/Franklin_County,_Massachusetts), [Hampshire](/wiki/Hampshire_County,_Massachusetts), [Hampden](/wiki/Hampden_County,_Massachusetts), [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester_County,_Massachusetts), [Middlesex](/wiki/Middlesex_County,_Massachusetts), [Essex](/wiki/Essex_County,_Massachusetts), [Suffolk](/wiki/Suffolk_County,_Massachusetts), [Norfolk](/wiki/Norfolk_County,_Massachusetts), [Bristol](/wiki/Bristol_County,_Massachusetts), [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth_County,_Massachusetts), [Barnstable](/wiki/Barnstable_County,_Massachusetts), [Dukes](/wiki/Dukes_County,_Massachusetts), and [Nantucket](/wiki/Nantucket_County,_Massachusetts). Eleven communities which call themselves "towns" are, by law, cities since they have traded the [town meeting](/wiki/Town_meeting) form of government for a mayor-council or manager-council form.[[154]](#cite_note-154) Boston is the state capital and largest city in Massachusetts. The population of the city proper is 645,966,[[155]](#cite_note-155) and [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston), with a population of 4,628,910, is the 10th largest [metropolitan area](/wiki/Metropolitan_area) in the nation.[[156]](#cite_note-156) Other cities with a population over 100,000 include [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts), [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts), [Lowell](/wiki/Lowell,_Massachusetts), and [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Massachusetts). [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Massachusetts) is the largest municipality in the state by land area.<ref name=MassCities1/>

Massachusetts, along with the five other [New England](/wiki/New_England) states, features the local governmental structure known as [the New England town](/wiki/New_England_town).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In this structure, incorporated towns—as opposed to townships or counties—hold many of the responsibilities and powers of local government.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Most of the county governments were abolished by the state of Massachusetts beginning in 1997 including [Middlesex County](/wiki/Middlesex_County,_Massachusetts),[[157]](#cite_note-157) the largest county in the state by population.[[158]](#cite_note-158)[[159]](#cite_note-159) The voters of these now defunct counties elect only Sheriffs and Registers of Deeds, who are part of the state government. Other counties have been reorganized, and a few still retain county councils.[[160]](#cite_note-160)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Massachusetts was the first state in North America to require municipalities to appoint a teacher or establish a grammar school with the passage of the [Massachusetts Education Law](/wiki/Massachusetts_Education_Laws) of 1647,[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) and 19th century reforms pushed by [Horace Mann](/wiki/Horace_Mann) laid much of the groundwork for contemporary universal public education[Template:SfnTemplate:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) which was established in 1852.<ref name=compschools/> Massachusetts is home to the oldest school in continuous existence in North America ([The Roxbury Latin School](/wiki/The_Roxbury_Latin_School), founded in 1645), as well as the country's oldest public elementary school ([The Mather School](/wiki/The_Mather_School), founded in 1639),[[161]](#cite_note-161) its oldest high school ([Boston Latin School](/wiki/Boston_Latin_School), founded in 1635),[[162]](#cite_note-162) its oldest continuously operating boarding school ([The Governor's Academy](/wiki/The_Governor's_Academy), founded in 1763),[[163]](#cite_note-163) its oldest college ([Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University), founded in 1636),[[164]](#cite_note-164) and its oldest women's college ([Mount Holyoke College](/wiki/Mount_Holyoke_College), founded in 1837).[[165]](#cite_note-165) Massachusetts' per-student public expenditure for elementary and secondary schools was eighth in the nation in 2012, at $14,844.[[166]](#cite_note-166) In 2013, Massachusetts scored highest of all the states in math and third highest in reading on the [National Assessment of Educational Progress](/wiki/National_Assessment_of_Educational_Progress).[[167]](#cite_note-167) Massachusetts is home to 121 institutions of higher education.[[168]](#cite_note-168) [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University) and the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology), both located in [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Massachusetts), consistently rank among the world's best universities.[[169]](#cite_note-169) In addition to Harvard and MIT, several other Massachusetts universities currently rank in the top 50 at the national level in the [widely cited rankings](/wiki/College_and_university_rankings#United_States) of [*U.S. News and World Report*](/wiki/U.S._News_and_World_Report): [Tufts University](/wiki/Tufts_University) (#27), [Boston College](/wiki/Boston_College) (#30), [Brandeis University](/wiki/Brandeis_University) (#34), [Boston University](/wiki/Boston_University) (#41) and [Northeastern University](/wiki/Northeastern_University) (#47). Massachusetts is also home to three of the top five U.S. News and World Report's best Liberal Arts Colleges: [Williams College](/wiki/Williams_College) (#1), [Amherst College](/wiki/Amherst_College) (#2), and [Wellesley College](/wiki/Wellesley_College) (#4).[[170]](#cite_note-170) The public [University of Massachusetts](/wiki/University_of_Massachusetts) (nicknamed *UMass*) features five campuses in the state, with its flagship campus in [Amherst](/wiki/Amherst,_Massachusetts) that enrolls over 25,000 students.[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172)[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

## Arts, culture, and recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[thumb|left|The site of](/wiki/File:Site_of_Thoreau's_cabin.JPG) [Henry David Thoreau's](/wiki/Henry_David_Thoreau) cabin at [Walden Pond](/wiki/Walden_Pond) in [Concord](/wiki/Concord,_Massachusetts) Massachusetts has contributed to American arts and culture. Drawing from its [Native American](/wiki/Native_American) and [Yankee](/wiki/Yankee) roots, along with later immigrant groups, Massachusetts has produced a number of writers, artists, and musicians. A number of major museums and important historical sites are also located there, and events and festivals throughout the year celebrate the state's history and heritage.[[173]](#cite_note-173) Massachusetts was an early center of the [Transcendentalist](/wiki/Transcendentalism) movement, which emphasized intuition, emotion, human individuality and a deeper connection with nature.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [Ralph Waldo Emerson](/wiki/Ralph_Waldo_Emerson), who was born in Boston but spent much of his later life in [Concord](/wiki/Concord,_Massachusetts), largely created the philosophy with his 1836 work [*Nature*](/wiki/Nature_(essay)), and continued to be a key figure in the movement for the remainder of his life. Emerson's friend, [Henry David Thoreau](/wiki/Henry_David_Thoreau), who was also involved in Transcendentalism, recorded his year spent alone in a small cabin at nearby [Walden Pond](/wiki/Walden_Pond) in the 1854 work [*Walden; or, Life in the Woods*](/wiki/Walden;_or,_Life_in_the_Woods).[[174]](#cite_note-174) Other famous authors and poets born or strongly associated with Massachusetts include [Nathaniel Hawthorne](/wiki/Nathaniel_Hawthorne), [John Updike](/wiki/John_Updike), [Emily Dickinson](/wiki/Emily_Dickinson), [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](/wiki/Henry_Wadsworth_Longfellow), [E.E. Cummings](/wiki/E.E._Cummings), [Sylvia Plath](/wiki/Sylvia_Plath), [H.P. Lovecraft](/wiki/H.P._Lovecraft), and [Theodor Seuss Geisel](/wiki/Dr._Seuss), better known as "Dr. Seuss".[[175]](#cite_note-175)[[176]](#cite_note-176)<ref name=MassMisc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Famous painters from Massachusetts include [Winslow Homer](/wiki/Winslow_Homer) and [Norman Rockwell](/wiki/Norman_Rockwell);<ref name=MassMisc/> many of the latter's works are on display at the [Norman Rockwell Museum](/wiki/Norman_Rockwell_Museum) in [Stockbridge](/wiki/Stockbridge,_Massachusetts).[[177]](#cite_note-177) [thumb|An outdoor dance performance at](/wiki/File:InsideOutStage.jpg) [Jacob's Pillow](/wiki/Jacob's_Pillow_Dance) in [Becket](/wiki/Becket,_Massachusetts) Massachusetts is also an important center for the performing arts. Both the [Boston Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Boston_Symphony_Orchestra) and [Boston Pops Orchestra](/wiki/Boston_Pops_Orchestra) are based in Massachusetts.<ref name=BostonArts1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Other orchestras in Massachusetts include the [Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Cape_Cod_Symphony_Orchestra) in [Barnstable](/wiki/Barnstable,_Massachusetts) and the [Springfield Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Springfield_Symphony_Orchestra).[[178]](#cite_note-178)[[179]](#cite_note-179) [Tanglewood](/wiki/Tanglewood), in western Massachusetts, is a music venue that is home to both the [Tanglewood Music Festival](/wiki/Tanglewood_Music_Festival) and [Tanglewood Jazz Festival](/wiki/Tanglewood_Jazz_Festival), as well as the summer host for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.[[180]](#cite_note-180) Other performing arts and theater organizations in Massachusetts include the [Boston Ballet](/wiki/Boston_Ballet), the [Boston Lyric Opera](/wiki/Boston_Lyric_Opera),<ref name=BostonArts1/> and the [Lenox](/wiki/Lenox,_Massachusetts)-based [Shakespeare & Company](/wiki/Shakespeare_&_Company_(Massachusetts)). In addition to classical and folk music, Massachusetts has produced musicians and bands spanning a number of contemporary genres, such as the [classic rock](/wiki/Classic_rock) band [Aerosmith](/wiki/Aerosmith), the proto-punk band [The Modern Lovers](/wiki/The_Modern_Lovers), the [new wave](/wiki/New_wave_music) band [The Cars](/wiki/The_Cars), and the [alternative rock](/wiki/Alternative_rock) band [Pixies](/wiki/Pixies).[[181]](#cite_note-181) Film events in the state include the [Boston Film Festival](/wiki/Boston_Film_Festival), the [Boston International Film Festival](/wiki/Boston_International_Film_Festival), and a number of smaller film festivals in various cities throughout Massachusetts.[[182]](#cite_note-182) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:USS_Constitution_salutes_Bataan_2005.jpg)[USS *Constitution*](/wiki/USS_Constitution) fires a salute during its annual Fourth of July turnaround cruise. Massachusetts is home to a large number of museums and historical sites. The [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](/wiki/Museum_of_Fine_Arts,_Boston), the [Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston](/wiki/Institute_of_Contemporary_Art,_Boston), and the [DeCordova](/wiki/DeCordova_Museum) contemporary art and sculpture museum in [Lincoln](/wiki/Lincoln,_Massachusetts) are all located within Massachusetts,[[183]](#cite_note-183) and the [Maria Mitchell Association](/wiki/Maria_Mitchell_Association) in [Nantucket](/wiki/Nantucket) includes several observatories, museums, and an aquarium.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Historically themed museums and sites such as the [Springfield Armory National Historic Site](/wiki/Springfield_Armory_National_Historic_Site) in [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts),<ref name=NPS1/> Boston's [Freedom Trail](/wiki/Freedom_Trail) and nearby [Minute Man National Historical Park](/wiki/Minute_Man_National_Historical_Park), both of which preserve a number of sites important during the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution),<ref name=NPS1/>[[185]](#cite_note-185) the [Lowell National Historical Park](/wiki/Lowell_National_Historical_Park), which focuses on some of the earliest mills and canals of the [industrial revolution](/wiki/Industrial_revolution) in the US,<ref name=NPS1/> the [Black Heritage Trail](/wiki/Black_Heritage_Trail) in Boston, which includes important African-American and abolitionist sites in Boston,[[186]](#cite_note-186) and the [New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park](/wiki/New_Bedford_Whaling_National_Historical_Park)<ref name=NPS1/> all showcase various periods of Massachusetts's history.

[Plimoth Plantation](/wiki/Plimoth_Plantation) and [Old Sturbridge Village](/wiki/Old_Sturbridge_Village) are two [open-air](/wiki/Open-air_museum) or "living" museums in Massachusetts, recreating life as it was in the 17th and early 19th centuries, respectively.[[187]](#cite_note-187)[[188]](#cite_note-188) Boston's annual [St. Patrick's Day](/wiki/St._Patrick's_Day) parade and "Harborfest", a week-long [Fourth of July](/wiki/Fourth_of_July) celebration featuring a fireworks display and concert by the Boston Pops as well as a turnaround cruise in Boston Harbor by the [USS *Constitution*](/wiki/USS_Constitution), are popular events.[[189]](#cite_note-189) The [New England Summer Nationals](/wiki/New_England_Summer_Nationals), an [auto show](/wiki/Auto_show) in Worcester, draws tens of thousands of attendees every year.[[190]](#cite_note-190) The [Boston Marathon](/wiki/Boston_Marathon) is also a popular event in the state drawing more than 30,000 runners and tens of thousands of spectators annually.[[191]](#cite_note-191) Long-distance hiking trails in Massachusetts include the [Appalachian Trail](/wiki/Appalachian_Trail), the [New England National Scenic Trail](/wiki/New_England_National_Scenic_Trail), the [Metacomet-Monadnock Trail](/wiki/Metacomet-Monadnock_Trail), the [Midstate Trail](/wiki/Midstate_Trail_(Massachusetts)), and the Bay Circuit Trail.[[192]](#cite_note-192) Other outdoor recreational activities in Massachusetts include sailing and yachting, freshwater and deep-sea fishing,[[193]](#cite_note-193) [whale watching](/wiki/Whale_watching),[[194]](#cite_note-194) downhill and cross-country skiing,[[195]](#cite_note-195) and hunting.[[196]](#cite_note-196)

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

There are two major television media markets located in Massachusetts. The Boston/Manchester market is the fifth largest in the United States.[[197]](#cite_note-197) The other market surrounds the Springfield area.[[198]](#cite_note-198) [WGBH-TV](/wiki/WGBH-TV) in Boston is a major public television station and produces national programs such as [*Nova*](/wiki/Nova_(TV_series)), [*Frontline*](/wiki/Frontline_(U.S._TV_series)), and [*American Experience*](/wiki/American_Experience).[[199]](#cite_note-199)[[200]](#cite_note-200) [*The Boston Globe*](/wiki/The_Boston_Globe), [*Boston Herald*](/wiki/Boston_Herald), [*Springfield Republican*](/wiki/Springfield_Republican), and the [*Worcester Telegram & Gazette*](/wiki/Worcester_Telegram_&_Gazette) are Massachusetts's largest daily newspapers.[[201]](#cite_note-201) In addition, there are many community dailies and weeklies. There are a number of major [AM](/wiki/AM_broadcasting) and [FM](/wiki/FM_broadcasting) stations which serve Massachusetts,[[202]](#cite_note-202) along with many more regional and community-based stations. Some colleges and universities also operate campus television and radio stations, and print their own newspapers.[[203]](#cite_note-203)[[204]](#cite_note-204)[[205]](#cite_note-205)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Massachusetts generally ranks highly among states in most health and disease prevention categories. In 2014, the [United Health Foundation](/wiki/United_Health_Foundation) ranked the state as third healthiest overall.[[206]](#cite_note-206) Massachusetts has the most doctors per 100,000 residents,[[207]](#cite_note-207) the second-lowest [infant mortality rate](/wiki/Infant_mortality_rate),[[208]](#cite_note-208) and the lowest percentage of uninsured residents (for both children as well as the total population).[[209]](#cite_note-209) According to [*Businessweek*](/wiki/Businessweek), commonwealth residents have an average life expectancy of 78.4 years, the fifth longest in the country.[[210]](#cite_note-210) 37.2% of the population is overweight and 21.7% is obese,<ref name=CDC1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and Massachusetts ranks sixth highest in the percentage of residents who are considered neither obese nor overweight (41.1%).<ref name=CDC1/> Massachusetts also ranks above average in the prevalence of [binge drinking](/wiki/Binge_drinking), which is the 20th highest in the country.[[211]](#cite_note-211) The nation's first [Marine Hospital](/wiki/Marine_Hospital_Service) was erected by federal order in Boston in 1799.[[212]](#cite_note-212)[[213]](#cite_note-213) There are currently a total of 143 hospitals in the state.[[214]](#cite_note-214) According to 2015 rankings by [*US News & World Report*](/wiki/US_News_&_World_Report), [Massachusetts General Hospital](/wiki/Massachusetts_General_Hospital) the hospital ranked in the top three in two specialties.[[215]](#cite_note-215) Massachusetts General was founded in 1811 and serves as the largest teaching hospital for nearby [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University).[[216]](#cite_note-216) The state of Massachusetts is a center for medical education and research including Harvard's [Brigham and Women's Hospital](/wiki/Brigham_and_Women's_Hospital), [Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center](/wiki/Beth_Israel_Deaconess_Medical_Center), and [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](/wiki/Dana-Farber_Cancer_Institute)[[217]](#cite_note-217) as well as the [New England Baptist Hospital](/wiki/New_England_Baptist_Hospital), [Tufts Medical Center](/wiki/Tufts_Medical_Center), and [Boston Medical Center](/wiki/Boston_Medical_Center) which is the primary teaching hospital for [Boston University](/wiki/Boston_University).[[218]](#cite_note-218) The [University of Massachusetts Medical School](/wiki/University_of_Massachusetts_Medical_School) is located in [Worcester](/wiki/Worcester,_Massachusetts).[[219]](#cite_note-219) The [Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences](/wiki/Massachusetts_College_of_Pharmacy_and_Health_Sciences) has two of its three campuses in Boston and Worcester.[[220]](#cite_note-220)

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Celtics_game_versus_the_Timberwolves,_February,_1_2009.jpg)[TD Garden](/wiki/TD_Garden) in Boston is home to the [Boston Celtics](/wiki/Boston_Celtics) of the [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) and the [Boston Bruins](/wiki/Boston_Bruins) of the [NHL](/wiki/National_Hockey_League).

Massachusetts is home to five major league professional sports teams: seventeen-time [NBA Champions](/wiki/NBA_Finals) [Boston Celtics](/wiki/Boston_Celtics),[[221]](#cite_note-221) eight-time [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) winners [Boston Red Sox](/wiki/Boston_Red_Sox),[[222]](#cite_note-222) six-time [Stanley Cup](/wiki/Stanley_Cup) winners [Boston Bruins](/wiki/Boston_Bruins),[[223]](#cite_note-223) and four-time [Super Bowl](/wiki/Super_Bowl) winners [New England Patriots](/wiki/New_England_Patriots).[[224]](#cite_note-224) The [New England Revolution](/wiki/New_England_Revolution) is the [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) team for Massachusetts and the [Boston Cannons](/wiki/Boston_Cannons) are the [Major League Lacrosse](/wiki/Major_League_Lacrosse) team.[[225]](#cite_note-225) The [Boston Breakers](/wiki/Boston_Breakers_(WPS)) are the [Women's Professional Soccer](/wiki/Women's_Professional_Soccer) in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is also the home of the [Cape Cod Baseball League](/wiki/Cape_Cod_Baseball_League).

In the late 19th century, the [Olympic](/wiki/Olympics) sports of basketball<ref name=basketball/> and volleyball<ref name=volleyball/> were invented in the Western Massachusetts cities of [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts)<ref name=basketball/> and [Holyoke](/wiki/Holyoke),<ref name=volleyball/> respectively. The [Basketball Hall of Fame](/wiki/Basketball_Hall_of_Fame), is a major tourist destination in the City of Springfield and the [Volleyball Hall of Fame](/wiki/Volleyball_Hall_of_Fame) is located in Holyoke.<ref name=volleyball/> The [American Hockey League](/wiki/American_Hockey_League) (AHL), the NHL's development league, is headquartered in Springfield.[[226]](#cite_note-226) Several universities in Massachusetts are notable for their collegiate athletics. [Boston College](/wiki/Boston_College) fields teams in the nationally televised [Atlantic Coast Conference](/wiki/Atlantic_Coast_Conference), while [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University) competes in the famed [Ivy League](/wiki/Ivy_League). [Boston University](/wiki/Boston_University), [Northeastern University](/wiki/Northeastern_University_(Boston,_Massachusetts)), [College of the Holy Cross](/wiki/College_of_the_Holy_Cross), [UMass Lowell](/wiki/University_of_Massachusetts_Lowell), and [UMass Amherst](/wiki/University_of_Massachusetts_Amherst) also participate in Division I athletics.[[227]](#cite_note-227)[[228]](#cite_note-228) Many other Massachusetts colleges compete in lower divisions such as [Division III](/wiki/Division_III_(NCAA)), where [MIT](/wiki/MIT), [Tufts University](/wiki/Tufts_University), [Amherst College](/wiki/Amherst_College), [Williams College](/wiki/Williams_College), and others field competitive teams.

Massachusetts is also the home of rowing events such as the [Eastern Sprints](/wiki/Eastern_Sprints) on [Lake Quinsigamond](/wiki/Lake_Quinsigamond) and the [Head of the Charles Regatta](/wiki/Head_of_the_Charles_Regatta).[[229]](#cite_note-229) A number of major golf events have taken place in Massachusetts, including nine [U.S. Opens](/wiki/U.S._Open_(golf)) and two [Ryder Cups](/wiki/Ryder_Cup).[[230]](#cite_note-230)[[231]](#cite_note-231) Massachusetts has produced several successful Olympians including [Butch Johnson](/wiki/Butch_Johnson), [Todd Richards](/wiki/Todd_Richards_(snowboarder)), [Albina Osipowich](/wiki/Albina_Osipowich), and [Susan Rojcewicz](/wiki/Susan_Rojcewicz).[[232]](#cite_note-232) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

### Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

* [Climate change in Massachusetts](/wiki/Climate_change_in_Massachusetts)
* [Climate of Massachusetts](/wiki/Climate_of_Massachusetts)
* [Geology of Massachusetts](/wiki/Geology_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of amphibians of Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_amphibians_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of birds of Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_birds_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of mammals of Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of mammals of New England](/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_New_England)
* [List of reptiles of Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_reptiles_of_Massachusetts)

### Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

* [Government of Massachusetts](/wiki/Government_of_Massachusetts)
* [Governor of Massachusetts](/wiki/Governor_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of colonial governors of Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_colonial_governors_of_Massachusetts)
* [List of counties in Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Massachusetts)
* [List of municipalities in Massachusetts](/wiki/List_of_municipalities_in_Massachusetts)
* [Massachusetts Governor's Council](/wiki/Massachusetts_Governor's_Council)

### History and Archives[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

* [General history of Massachusetts](/wiki/History_of_Massachusetts)
* [History of Massachusetts by periods, settlements, or subject](/wiki/Historical_outline_of_Massachusetts)
* [History of New England](/wiki/History_of_New_England)
* [Massachusetts Archives](/wiki/Massachusetts_Archives)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

### Overviews and surveys[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism](http://www.massvacation.com/)
* [Massachusetts State Guide](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/states/massachusetts/index.html) from the Library of Congress
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)

[Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end) [Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:Massachusetts](/wiki/Template:Massachusetts) [Template:Government of Massachusetts](/wiki/Template:Government_of_Massachusetts) [Template:Massachusetts cities and mayors of 100,000 population](/wiki/Template:Massachusetts_cities_and_mayors_of_100,000_population) [Template:Protected areas of Massachusetts](/wiki/Template:Protected_areas_of_Massachusetts) [Template:New England](/wiki/Template:New_England) [Template:Northeast US](/wiki/Template:Northeast_US) [Template:United States political divisions](/wiki/Template:United_States_political_divisions)

[Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Template:DEFAULTSORT:Massachusetts](/wiki/Template:DEFAULTSORT:Massachusetts) [Category:Massachusetts](/wiki/Category:Massachusetts) [Category:Former British colonies](/wiki/Category:Former_British_colonies) [Category:New England](/wiki/Category:New_England) [Category:Northeastern United States](/wiki/Category:Northeastern_United_States) [Category:States and territories established in 1788](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1788) [Category:States of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_United_States) [Category:States of the East Coast of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_East_Coast_of_the_United_States) [Category:1788 establishments in the United States](/wiki/Category:1788_establishments_in_the_United_States)