



# FITCHBURG

## Worcester County

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## NARRATIVE

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### **Narrative**

The City of Fitchburg is a community of 41,000 people located in north-central Worcester County. Despite being the second largest city in the county, Fitchburg retains its small town flavor. Fitchburg is noted for its old mills that line the Nashua River, its hilly topography and regional parks and its tightly knit neighborhood enclaves that, in many cases, still retain their ethnic identity. Among the city's cultural assets are the Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg State College and the world famous annual Longsjo Classic Bicycle race.

Fitchburg is located just 10 miles from New Hampshire and 50 miles from Boston, with excellent access via highway or MBTA commuter train to all points. The former reliance on the paper industry in the community has given way to a healthier economic diversification which now includes pharmaceuticals, tool and die makers, machine manufacturers, plastic molders and textile producers.

(Narrative supplied by community)

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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

North central section of Massachusetts, bordered by Westminster on the west, Ashby on the north, Lunenburg on the east, and Leominster on the south. Fitchburg is 25 miles north of Worcester, 46 miles northwest of Boston, and 211 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 28.06 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 27.76 sq. miles

**Population:** 41,194

**Density:** 1,484 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Fitchburg, Ashby

## Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fitchburg-Leominster

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# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 345-9550

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1764

As a city: 1872

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	16,212		
Democrats	6,836	42.2	%
Republicans	1,647	10.2	%
Other parties	7	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,722	47.6	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)

# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Fitchburg city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	39,102	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	39,102	100.0
Male.....	18,659	47.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	5,852	15.0
Female.....	20,443	52.3	Mexican.....	391	1.0
Under 5 years.....	2,637	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	4,199	10.7
5 to 9 years.....	3,011	7.7	Cuban.....	28	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,844	7.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1,234	3.2
15 to 19 years.....	2,946	7.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	33,250	85.0
20 to 24 years.....	3,184	8.1	White alone.....	29,414	75.2
25 to 34 years.....	5,430	13.9	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	5,841	14.9	Total population.....	39,102	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,556	11.7	In households.....	37,357	95.5
55 to 59 years.....	1,643	4.2	Householder.....	14,943	38.2
60 to 64 years.....	1,297	3.3	Spouse.....	6,437	16.5
65 to 74 years.....	2,629	6.7	Child.....	11,609	29.7
75 to 84 years.....	2,215	5.7	Own child under 18 years.....	9,138	23.4
85 years and over.....	869	2.2	Other relatives.....	1,872	4.8
Median age (years).....	34.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	655	1.7
18 years and over.....	28,998	74.2	Nonrelatives.....	2,496	6.4
Male.....	13,552	34.7	Unmarried partner.....	1,092	2.8
Female.....	15,446	39.5	In group quarters.....	1,745	4.5
21 years and over.....	26,958	68.9	Institutionalized population.....	567	1.5
62 years and over.....	6,462	16.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1,178	3.0
65 years and over.....	5,713	14.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	2,174	5.6	Total households.....	14,943	100.0
Female.....	3,539	9.1	Family households (families).....	9,363	62.7
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	4,630	31.0
One race.....	37,904	96.9	Married-couple family.....	6,437	43.1
White.....	32,007	81.9	With own children under 18 years.....	2,805	18.8
Black or African American.....	1,426	3.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,189	14.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	138	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	1,430	9.6
Asian.....	1,668	4.3	Nonfamily households.....	5,580	37.3
Asian Indian.....	79	0.2	Householder living alone.....	4,526	30.3
Chinese.....	87	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,798	12.0
Filipino.....	24	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,038	33.7
Japanese.....	33	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,903	26.1
Korean.....	58	0.1	Average household size.....	2.50	(X)
Vietnamese.....	206	0.5	Average family size.....	3.13	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	1,181	3.0	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	13	-	Total housing units.....	16,002	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	6	-	Occupied housing units.....	14,943	93.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,059	6.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	5	-	occasional use.....	99	0.2
Some other race.....	2,652	6.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	1,198	3.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:</i> <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	14,943	100.0
White.....	32,921	84.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	7,708	51.6
Black or African American.....	1,829	4.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	7,235	48.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	350	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.64	(X)
Asian.....	1,909	4.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.35	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	53	0.1			
Some other race.....	3,299	8.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units:** The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 570

Conventional Federal: 100

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 70

Federal (Section 8): 177

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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is cross-state Route 2.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston (travel time 85-94 min.; no MBTA parking). Conrail and the Springfield Terminal Railway (STRR) offer freight service to Fitchburg. Contact number for Conrail: 617) 783-6222; for the STRR: (978) 663-1073

### Bus

Fitchburg is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides fixed route service within Fitchburg and to Leominster, Gardner, and Fort Devens. The MRTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines provides limited service between Fitchburg and Worcester, with direct connection to Hartford, Connecticut, and New York City.

### Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport is a General Aviation (GA) facility located 3 mi SE of the city. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511'x 100' and 3,502'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.

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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Fitchburg Art Musuem

185 Elm Street

(978) 345-4207

Fitchburg Historical Society

50 Grove Street

(978) 345-1157

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

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# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Burbank Hospital, Inc.

### Long Term Care

Birchwood Care Center

Highlands: L.T.C. Center

Hillcrest Nursing Home

Mystic Nursing & Rehab. Center

### Hospices

Diversified Hme Serv. Hospice

### Rest Homes

Caldwell Home - Extended Care

Cedar Street Home Inc

Grand View Rest Home

High Street Rest Home

James Manor Rest Home

Magnolia Rest Home, Inc.

New Bunker Rest Home

Tower Hill Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.