



Report a delivery issue

How rich (or not) is your community?

A town-by-town look at income in Massachusetts

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

22

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 18, 2015

Massachusetts ranks in the top tier nationally when it comes to median household income, but within the state itself there is a vast range in earnings, new figures from the US Census Bureau show.

Median household incomes range from \$31,406 on the tiny island community of Gosnold to as high as \$201,200 in the Boston suburb of Weston, according to the Census's most recent five-year American Community Survey, conducted between 2010 and 2014.

The American Community Survey's definition of income includes most common types of income, such as wages, salaries, interest, and dividends. But there are certain exceptions, including capital gains, gifts, and lump sum inheritances.

The national median household income is \$53,482, and it is \$67,846 in Massachusetts.

Only 50 Massachusetts communities were below the national median; meanwhile, 48 had median incomes that were more than double the national figure. Most of the higher-income communities are Boston suburbs.

**SOCIAL SECURITY
SUCKS**

palmbeachgroup.com

Born before 1969? You can get
an extra \$4,098 monthly with this



“It fits a narrative that is pretty commonly understood around here,” said Mark Melnik, director of economic and public policy research at the University of Massachusetts’ Donahue Institute. “We have these more affluent communities in the Metro West region and in the South Shore and North Shore areas.”

The median income in the city of Boston is \$54,485, below the state median. Melnik said that while Boston has a sizeable number of wealthy families, it also has a large number of low-income residents. The city is also popular among people in their early- to mid-20s, who tend to have lower wages because they are starting their careers. Then, as those young working professionals grow older, many move to the suburbs to raise families, Melnik said.

“It’s that cycle of people who are approaching middle age, have established their careers, and are making more money, and say, ‘To the suburbs we go,’ ” Melnik said.

Communities in the bottom fifth of incomes are generally located in the western part of the state, though there are several exceptions in central and eastern Massachusetts and on Cape Cod.

“Part of it is the cost of living is lower in those communities,” Melnik said.

“But some of these are also places that have historically had weaker economies,” he said, citing examples like Holyoke, Springfield, Chelsea, and Fall River.

The group of cities and towns with the lowest incomes are “a mix of more rural communities and urban areas where you have a more significant mix of incomes,” he said.

Median household income, 2010-2014

For this map, towns and cities were ranked by median income per household and separated into five equal groups, or quintiles, each of which were labeled with a different color. The data is from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The statewide median household income was \$67,846.

CALL ANSWERING
SERVICES

moneypenny.com/CallAnswering

Providing You With Support
Exactly When You Need It. Take
A Free Trial



■ \$58,235 OR BELOW
 ■ \$58,236 TO \$69,583
 ■ \$69,584 TO \$80,225
 ■ \$80,226 TO \$96,494
 ■ \$96,495 OR ABOVE

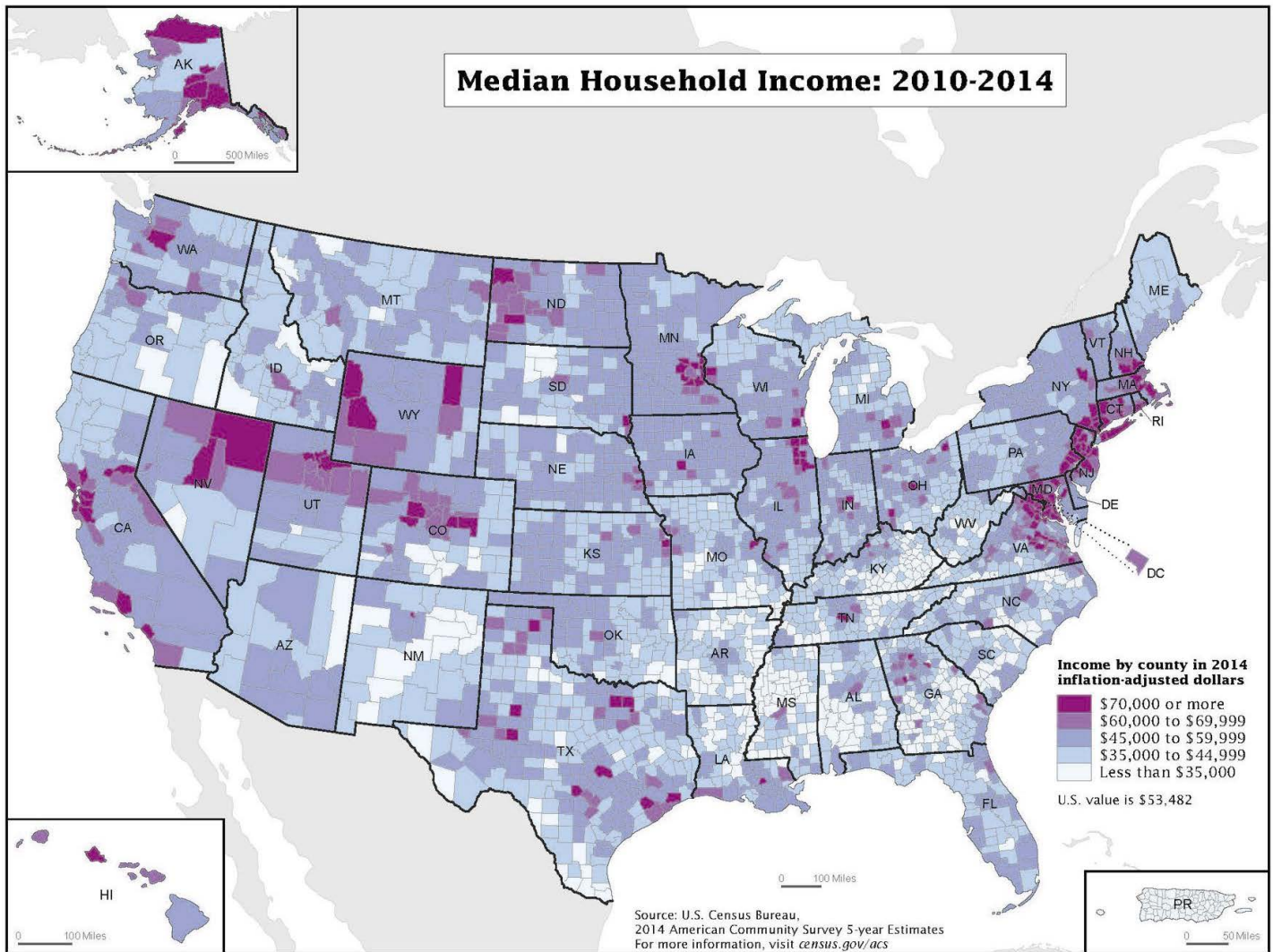
Search:

Municipality	Median household income
Abington	\$81,500
Acton	\$120,865
Acushnet	\$69,570
Adams	\$41,807
Agawam	\$63,561
Alford	\$91,250
Amesbury	\$76,463
Amherst	\$52,537
Andover	\$125,321
Aquinnah	\$65,833

Showing 1 to 10 of 351 entries

[Previous](#)
1
2
3
4
5
...
36
▶

Residents in only six states and Washington, D.C., reported higher median household incomes than Massachusetts, according to 2010-2014 ACS data.



US CENSUS BUREAU

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @mrochele.

Get Today's Headlines from the Globe in your inbox:

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 22 COMMENTS

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

Dan Shaughnessy: It feels like the Patriots didn't try to win ...

How feds gained an inner look at Mass. drug running

The Globe's Here

Ben Volin: Were Patriots really going for it?

Saudi Arabia cuts ties with Iran

Nick Cafardo: Baseball's big hitters aren't connecting on fre...

MY ACCOUNT

Boston Sand and Gravel and the northbound train

DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP

Church allowed abuse by priest for years

Globe reporters, editors mobilize to aid home delivery teams

SOCIAL
FACEBOOK

Ben Volin: Were the Patriots playing for No. 1 seed or health?

GOOGLE+

CONTACT

HELP

FAQS

GLOBE NEWSROOM

ADVERTISE

MORE

EPAPER

NEWS IN EDUCATION

ARCHIVES

PRIVACY POLICY

TERMS OF SERVICE

TERMS OF PURCHASE

YOUR AD CHOICES

WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA