Cape Verdean’s contribution to the economy as entrepreneurs and workers is significant.

- Cape Verdeans in Boston had an income of $326 million in 2016.
- Cape Verdeans made up 2.4% of Boston’s population (15,681 people).
- Cape Verdeans living in Boston held 8,140 jobs and owned about 100 businesses.
- Cape Verdeans’ consumer demand supported an additional 1,069 jobs and contributed $163.6 million to Boston’s gross city product in 2016.
- Cape Verdeans contributed $16.6 million in state income taxes and $5.4 million in state sales taxes in 2016.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), PI+ Massachusetts Regions, BPDA Research Division.
The 65,000 Cape Verdeans in Massachusetts live primarily in Boston, Brockton, Taunton, and New Bedford.
Cape Verdeans in Boston live predominantly in parts of Roxbury and Dorchester.
The Cape Verdean community of Boston has grown 48% since 2000.

The Boston Cape Verdean population is predominantly female.

Foreign-born Cape Verdeans are older, while half of native-born Cape Verdeans are children.

Native-born Cape Verdeans speak English very well, while many foreign-born Cape Verdeans are not proficient in English.

83% of adult Cape Verdeans are in the labor force, half of which work full-time.

Cape Verdeans make up 8% of Boston residents working in Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance.

Native-born Cape Verden workers earn more than foreign-born Cape Verden workers.

Improving Cape Verdeans’ educational attainment will allow greater contribution to Boston’s economy.

42% of foreign-born Cape Verdeans have less than a high school education. 27% of native-born Cape Verdeans aged 25 or older started college, but have not finished a degree.

Cape Verdean business owners earn more than their counterparts who are employees.

Self-employment is an effective route to economic mobility for Cape Verdeans, more so than for the general population, but only 1% of Cape Verdeans are business owners, compared to 6% of all Boston resident workers.


Note: Massachusetts data are used due to small sample size in Boston.
Cape Verdean businesses tend to be small and concentrated in low-paying service industries.

Self-Employed Cape Verdeans (Massachusetts) by Top Industries

- Automotive Repair: 14%
- Construction: 12%
- Management Of Companies: 10%
- Consulting Services: 10%
- Taxis & Transportation Services: 9%
- Fishing: 7%
- Child Day Services: 7%
- Care Services: 6%
- Private Households (Nannies, Housekeepers, Gardeners): 6%
- Barber Shops: 6%
- Outpatient Care Centers: 4%

Only 17% of native-born and 30% of foreign-born Cape Verdean householders own their homes.

Thank you!

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