Historical Trends in Dorchester

- From 2011 to 2015, payroll jobs increased by 17% throughout Dorchester.
- The owner-occupancy rate has remained at roughly 33% since 1990.
- The share of Dorchester households with vehicles has increased from 66% in 2000 to about 69% in 2017.
- The foreign-born share of the population has increased from 31% in 2000 to 34% in 2017.
- The share of adult residents with at least a Bachelor’s degree increased from 18% in 2000 to 26% in 2017.

The Future for Dorchester

- Dorchester’s growth is poised to continue, with 1,831 housing units approved for construction between 2014 and 2018.
- 1,114 new housing units were built in Dorchester between 2011 and 2018.

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Information
For more information about Boston’s demographics or economy, please visit bostonplans.org/research-publications.

Please contact us at bostonplans.org/research-inquiries with additional questions.

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BPDA Board-Approved Housing Units 2014-2018

BPDA Board-Approved Development (in Thousands of Feet²) 2014-2018
Economy

In 2015, Dorchester had 32,681 payroll jobs, 25% of which were in Healthcare and Social Assistance.

Dorchester had 0.47 payroll jobs for every resident worker, 5% of the payroll jobs in Boston.

Labor Force

In 2017, Dorchester's resident labor force had 69,353 people, 18% of Boston's resident labor force.

70% of Dorchester residents participated in the labor force, about the same as Boston's participation rate.

The top occupations for residents in 2017: Office and Administrative Support, Sales, and Management.

Education

In 2017, 8% of Dorchester's residents were enrolled in college or university, lower than 16% of Boston's residents.

26% of Dorchester's residents had at least a Bachelor's degree, compared to 47% of Boston's adult residents.

Place

Households

61% of Dorchester's households were families, compared to 48% of Boston's households.

Renters and Owners

In 2017, 65% of Dorchester's 44,086 housing units were renter-occupied.

In FY2018, 65% of Dorchester's 4,506 condominiums were owner-occupied.

Income

In 2017, the median household income in Dorchester was $49,662, lower than $62,021 throughout Boston.

Vehicles

In 2017, 69% of Dorchester's households had at least one vehicle, compared to 66% of Boston's households.

The ratio of vehicles to households in Dorchester was 1.02, higher than Boston's ratio of 0.95.