Trends

Historical Trends in Downtown
• Between 2011 to 2015, payroll jobs increased by 19% throughout Downtown.
• The owner-occupancy rate has increased from 24% in 2000 to 28% in 2017.
• The share of households with cars has remained relatively constant, from 45% in 2000 to 44% in 2017.
• The foreign-born share of the population decreased from 38% in 2000 to 33% in 2017.
• The share of adult residents with at least a Bachelor’s degree grew from 42% in 2000 to 61% in 2017.

The Future for Downtown
• Downtown’s growth is poised to continue, with 2,185 housing units approved for construction between 2014 and 2018.
• 2,915 new housing units were built in Downtown between 2011 and 2018.1

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

BPDA Board-Approved Housing Units
2014-2018

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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People

Population
• According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Downtown had 17,581 residents, 3% of Boston’s total population.¹

Age Distribution
• In 2017, 4% of Downtown’s residents were school-age children (5-17), compared to 11% of Boston’s residents.
• Downtown has a higher share of young adults (18-24) than Boston as a whole.

Diversity
• In 2017, 33% of Downtown’s residents were foreign-born, compared to 28% of Boston’s residents.
• 32% of Downtown’s residents identified as Asian, compared to 9% of Boston’s residents.

Economy

Jobs
• In 2015, Downtown had 184,847 payroll jobs, 23% of which were in Finance and Insurance.²
• Downtown had 17.9 payroll jobs for every resident worker, 28% of the payroll jobs in Boston.

Labor Force
• In 2017, Downtown’s resident labor force had 10,308 workers, 3% of Boston’s resident labor force.
• 63% of Downtown residents participated in the labor force, compared to 69% of Boston’s residents.
• The top occupations among residents in 2017: Management, Business and Finance, and Sales.

Education
• In 2017, 27% of Downtown’s residents were enrolled in college or university, higher than 16% of Boston’s residents.
• 61% of Downtown’s residents had at least a Bachelor’s degree, higher than 47% of Boston’s adult residents.

Income
• In 2017, the median household income in Downtown was $67,367, higher than $62,021 throughout Boston.

Place

Households and Dorms
• In 2017, 77% of Downtown residents lived in households, 38% of which were families.
• The remaining population lived in college dormitories or other institutions.

Renters and Owners
• In 2017, 72% of Downtown’s housing units were renter-occupied.
• In FY2018, 41% of Downtown’s 4,365 condominiums were owner-occupied.³
• The median rent was $1,866 throughout Downtown, higher than $1,445 throughout Boston.

Vehicles
• In 2017, 44% of Downtown’s households had at least one vehicle, lower than 66% of Boston’s households.
• The ratio of vehicles to households in Downtown was 0.25, significantly lower than Boston’s ratio of 0.95.

Notes: Demographic data are for the Census-tract approximations of Downtown. Employment data are for the Census-block approximations of Downtown. Development data were calculated on March 5, 2019.