



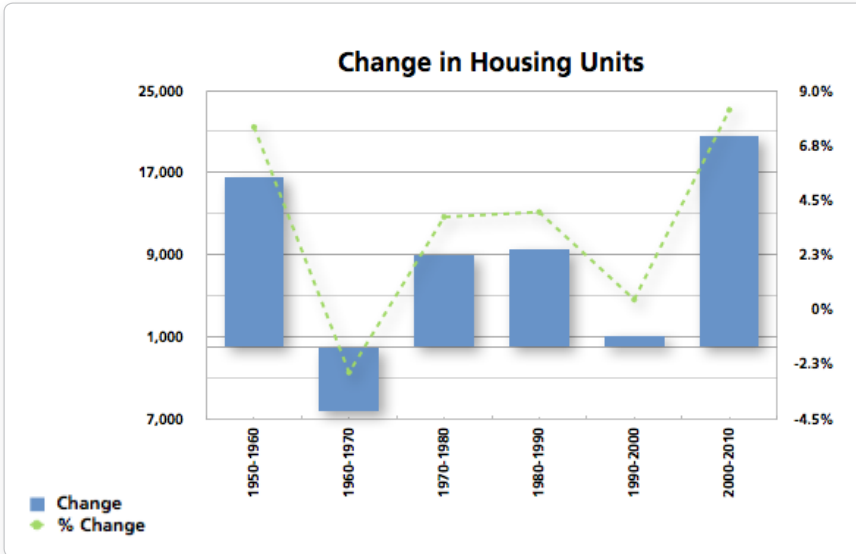
# BOSTON BY THE NUMBERS

## LAND AREA AND USE

### Land Area and Use

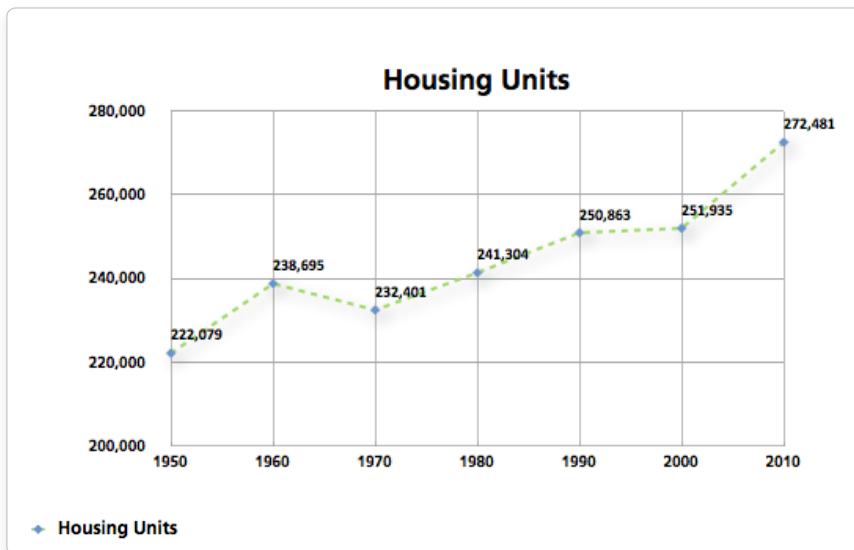
- With a land area of 48.4 square miles Boston comprises 0.6% of the 7,824 square miles that make up the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Boston is the second smallest major U.S. city in terms of land area after San Francisco that has 47 square miles.
- The city has grown to 40 times its original size through landfill and annexation from its 783 acres since its settlement in 1630. Originally, Boston occupied just 2½% of the modern city's area.
- Boston has a population density of 19.94 persons per acre (less dense than San Francisco at 26.78 persons/acre and slightly greater than Chicago at 18.55 persons/acre).
- More than 50% of the land in the city is tax-exempt:
  - 26% state property;
  - 14% city property;
  - 2% higher education & medical;
  - 8% other exempts.
- 16% of the land in Boston is dedicated to public open space.
- Boston's overall land use distribution is:
  - 51% tax exempt;
  - 36% residential;
  - 9% commercial;
  - 4% industrial.
- 77% of the parcels in the city are classed as residential, 4% commercial and 0.3% industrial.
- Boston has 272,481 housing units with 37% owner-occupied that is 29% lower than the national owner-occupancy rate of 66%. (US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009).
- The number of 1, 2, 3-family properties is 62,174 (not counting condominiums). They contain 107,962 dwelling units, 40% of the city's housing stock.
- More than 20% of Boston's housing stock is affordable which makes up for more than 22% of the State's affordable units even though Boston has just 9.7% of the State's 2.8 million housing units.

— The 8.2% growth in Boston’s housing stock between 2000 and 2010 is the strongest in more than half a century.



Source: US Census Bureau; Boston Redevelopment Authority analysis

— Housing growth between 2000 and 2010 has led to the largest housing stock in Boston’s history.



Source: US Census Bureau; Boston Redevelopment Authority analysis

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Alvaro Lima, Director of Research

Mark Melnik

John Avault

Nanette Dyer Blake

Nicoya M. Borella, Northeastern University Intern, Winter 2011