

**boom**<sup>1</sup> s3

/bu:m/

noun

**1 | increase in business** [singular] a quick increase of business activity

**OPP**

*The boom has created job opportunities.*

**boom in**

*a sudden boom in the housing market*

**consumer/investment/property etc boom**

*the post-war property boom*

**boom years/times**

*In boom times, airlines do well.*

*the **economic boom** of the 1950s*

*The economy went from **boom to bust** (= from increasing to decreasing) **very quickly**.*

→ BOOM TOWN

**2 | when something is popular** [singular] POPULAR LOT/LARGE NUMBER OR AMOUNT an increase in how popular or successful something is, or in how often it happens:

*the disco boom of the 1970s*

**boom in**

*the boom in youth soccer in the U.S.*

→ BABY BOOM

**3 | sound** [countable] a deep loud sound that you can hear for several seconds after it begins, especially the sound of an explosion or a large gun

→ SONIC BOOM

**4 | boat** [countable] a long pole on a boat that is attached to the bottom of a sail, and that you move to change the position of the sail

**5 | long pole** [countable]

a)

a long pole used as part of a piece of equipment that loads and unloads things

b)

a long pole that has a camera or MICROPHONE on the end

**6** **boom** **a river/harbour** [countable] something that is stretched across a river or a BAY to prevent things floating down or across it

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### ADJECTIVES/NOUN + boom

an economic boom *the postwar economic boom*

a property/housing boom (= a sudden increase in house prices) *People made a lot of money in the 1980s property boom.*

a consumer/spending boom (= a sudden increase in the amount people spend) *Various factors caused the consumer boom.*

a building/construction boom (= a sudden increase in building work) *There's been a recent construction boom in the Gulf.*

an investment boom *the investment boom of the past few years*

### verbs

cause/lead to a boom *Tax cuts sometimes lead to an economic boom.*

trigger/spark a boom (= start it) *The lower interest rates triggered an economic boom.*

fuel a boom (= add to it) *The energy crisis is fuelling a boom in alternative energy.*

enjoy a boom *Since then, China has enjoyed a remarkable boom.*

### boom + NOUN

the boom years/times *the boom years of the late 1980s*

### phrases

go from boom to bust (= change from doing very well economically to doing very badly) *The Mexican economy went from boom to bust very quickly.*

at the height of the boom *They sold their house at the height of the boom.*

**Word origin**

Sense 1-3:

**Date:** 1400–1500**Origin:** → BOOM<sup>2</sup>

Sense 4-6:

**Date:** 1500–1600**Language:** Dutch**Origin:** 'tree, long piece of wood'**boom**<sup>2</sup>

verb

**1** [intransitive usually in progressive] **SUCCESSFUL** if business, trade, or a particular area is booming, it is increasing and being very successful:

***Business was booming, and money wasn't a problem.***

***Tourism on the island has boomed.***

**2** **SAY (also boom out)** [transitive] to say something in a loud deep voice:

***'Ladies and gentlemen,' his voice boomed out.***

**3** (also **boom out**) [intransitive] to make a loud deep sound:

***Guns boomed in the distance.***

— **booming** adjective:

***a booming economy***

**Word origin****Date:** 1400–1500**Origin:** From the sound