[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement)

**Boston** (pronounced [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell)) is the [capital](/wiki/List_of_capitals_in_the_United_States) and [largest city](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states'_largest_cities_by_population)[[1]](#cite_note-1) of the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_(U.S._state)) of [Massachusetts](/wiki/Massachusetts) in the [United States](/wiki/United_States). Boston also served as the [county seat](/wiki/County_seat) of [Suffolk County](/wiki/Suffolk_County,_Massachusetts) until Massachusetts disbanded county government in 1999. The [city proper](/wiki/New_England_town#Cities) covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with an estimated population of 667,137 in 2015,[[2]](#cite_note-2) making it the [largest city](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_population_in_New_England) in [New England](/wiki/New_England) and the [24th largest city in the United States](/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population).[[3]](#cite_note-3) The city is the economic and cultural anchor of a substantially larger metropolitan area called [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston), home to 4.7 million people and the [tenth-largest metropolitan statistical area](/wiki/Table_of_United_States_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas) in the country.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Greater Boston as a commuting region is home to 8.1 million people, making it the [sixth-largest combined statistical area](/wiki/Table_of_United_States_Combined_Statistical_Areas) in the United States.[[5]](#cite_note-5) One of the oldest cities in the United States, Boston was founded on the [Shawmut Peninsula](/wiki/Shawmut_Peninsula) in 1630 by [Puritan](/wiki/Puritan) settlers from [England](/wiki/England).[[6]](#cite_note-6)[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) It was the scene of several key events of the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution), such as the [Boston Massacre](/wiki/Boston_Massacre), the [Boston Tea Party](/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party), the [Battle of Bunker Hill](/wiki/Battle_of_Bunker_Hill), and the [Siege of Boston](/wiki/Siege_of_Boston). Upon American independence from [Great Britain](/wiki/Great_Britain), the city continued to be an important port and manufacturing hub, as well as a center for education and [culture](/wiki/Culture).<ref name=AboutBoston>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Through [land reclamation](/wiki/Land_reclamation) and [municipal annexation](/wiki/Municipal_annexation_in_the_United_States), Boston has expanded beyond the original peninsula. Its rich history attracts many tourists, with [Faneuil Hall](/wiki/Faneuil_Hall) alone drawing over 20 million visitors per year.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Boston's many firsts include the United States' first public school, [Boston Latin School](/wiki/Boston_Latin_School) (1635),[[8]](#cite_note-8) first [subway system](/wiki/Tremont_Street_Subway) (1897),[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) and [first public park](/wiki/Boston_Common) (1634).

The area's many colleges and universities make Boston an international center of [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education),<ref name=AcademicRanking2><https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/reputation-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank_label/sort_order/asc/cols/rank_only> Accessed May 12, 2016.</ref> including [law](/wiki/Law), [medicine](/wiki/Medicine), [engineering](/wiki/Engineering), and [business](/wiki/Business), and the city is considered to be a world leader in [innovation](/wiki/Innovation) and [entrepreneurship](/wiki/Entrepreneurship).<ref name=VentureCapitalBoston1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[9]](#cite_note-9) Boston's economic base also includes finance,[[10]](#cite_note-10) [professional and business services](/wiki/Professional_services), [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology), [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology), and government activities.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Households in the city claim the highest average rate of [philanthropy](/wiki/Philanthropy) in the United States;[[12]](#cite_note-12) businesses and institutions rank among the top in the country for [environmental sustainability](/wiki/Sustainability) and investment.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The city has one of the highest [costs of living](/wiki/Cost_of_living) in the United States,[[14]](#cite_note-14) though it remains high on [world livability rankings](/wiki/World's_most_livable_cities).[[15]](#cite_note-15)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|upright|alt=Map of Boston in 1775|Map showing a British tactical evaluation of Boston in 1775](/wiki/File:Boston,_1775bsmall1.png) Boston's early European settlers had first called the area *Trimountaine* (after its "three mountains"—only traces of which remain today) but later renamed it *Boston* after [Boston, Lincolnshire, England](/wiki/Boston,_Lincolnshire), the origin of several prominent colonists. The renaming, on September 7, 1630 ([Old Style](/wiki/Old_Style_and_New_Style_dates)),[[16]](#cite_note-16)[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) was by [Puritan](/wiki/Puritan) colonists from England,[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)[[17]](#cite_note-17) who had moved over from [Charlestown](/wiki/Charlestown_(Boston)) earlier that year in quest of fresh water. Their settlement was initially limited to the [Shawmut Peninsula](/wiki/Shawmut_Peninsula), at that time surrounded by the [Massachusetts Bay](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay) and [Charles River](/wiki/Charles_River) and connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. The peninsula is known to have been inhabited as early as 5000 BC.[[18]](#cite_note-18) In 1629, the [Massachusetts Bay Colony's](/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony) first governor, [John Winthrop](/wiki/John_Winthrop), led the signing of the [Cambridge Agreement](/wiki/Cambridge_Agreement), a key founding document of the city. [Puritan](/wiki/Puritan) ethics and their focus on education influenced its early history;[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) America's first public school was founded in Boston in 1635.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Over the next 130 years, the city participated in four [French and Indian Wars](/wiki/French_and_Indian_Wars), until the British defeated the French and their native allies in North America. Boston was the largest town in [British North America](/wiki/British_North_America) until [Philadelphia](/wiki/Philadelphia) grew larger in the mid 18th century.[[19]](#cite_note-19) [thumbnail|left|](/wiki/File:Old_State_House_and_State_Street,_Boston_1801.jpg)[State Street](/wiki/State_Street_(Boston)), 1801 Many of the crucial events of the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution)[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)—the [Boston Massacre](/wiki/Boston_Massacre), the [Boston Tea Party](/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party), [Paul Revere's midnight ride](/wiki/Paul_Revere), the battles of [Lexington and Concord](/wiki/Battle_of_Lexington_and_Concord) and [Bunker Hill](/wiki/Battle_of_Bunker_Hill), the [Siege of Boston](/wiki/Siege_of_Boston), and many others—occurred in or near Boston. After the Revolution, Boston's long seafaring tradition helped make it one of the world's wealthiest international ports, with the slave trade,[[20]](#cite_note-20) rum, fish, salt, and tobacco being particularly important.[[21]](#cite_note-21) [thumb|left|alt=Painting with a body of water with sailing ships in the foreground and a city in the background|View of Boston from](/wiki/File:Boston-view-1841-Havell.jpeg) [Dorchester Heights](/wiki/Dorchester_Heights), 1841 The [Embargo Act of 1807](/wiki/Embargo_Act_of_1807), adopted during the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), and the [War of 1812](/wiki/War_of_1812) significantly curtailed Boston's harbor activity. Although foreign trade returned after these hostilities, Boston's merchants had found alternatives for their capital investments in the interim. Manufacturing became an important component of the city's economy, and by the mid-19th century, the city's industrial manufacturing overtook international trade in economic importance. Until the early 20th century, Boston remained one of the nation's largest manufacturing centers and was notable for its garment production and leather-goods industries.[[22]](#cite_note-22) A network of small rivers bordering the city and connecting it to the surrounding region facilitated shipment of goods and led to a proliferation of mills and factories. Later, a dense network of railroads furthered the region's industry and commerce.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

[thumbnail|right|](/wiki/File:TremontSt_ca1843_Boston_byPhilipHarry_MFABoston.png)[Tremont Street](/wiki/Tremont_Street), 1843 During this period, Boston flourished culturally as well, admired for its [rarefied literary life](/wiki/Classic_literature) and generous [artistic patronage](/wiki/The_arts),<ref name=BosLitHist>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[23]](#cite_note-23) with members of old Boston families—eventually dubbed [*Boston Brahmins*](/wiki/Boston_Brahmin)—coming to be regarded as the nation's social and cultural elites.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

Boston was an early port of the [Atlantic triangular slave trade](/wiki/Triangular_trade) in the New England colonies, but was soon overtaken by [Salem, Massachusetts](/wiki/Salem,_Massachusetts) and [Newport, Rhode Island](/wiki/Newport,_Rhode_Island).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Eventually Boston became a center of the [abolitionist](/wiki/Abolitionism_in_the_United_States) movement.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The city reacted strongly to the [Fugitive Slave Law of 1850](/wiki/Fugitive_Slave_Law_of_1850),[[26]](#cite_note-26) contributing to President [Franklin Pierce's](/wiki/Franklin_Pierce) attempt to make an example of Boston after the [Anthony Burns](/wiki/Anthony_Burns) Fugitive Slave Case.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) In 1822,<ref name=AboutBoston/> the citizens of Boston voted to change the official name from the "Town of Boston" to the "City of Boston", and on March 4, 1822, the people of Boston accepted the charter incorporating the City.[[29]](#cite_note-29) At the time Boston was chartered as a city, the population was about 46,226, while the area of the city was only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[29]](#cite_note-29) [thumb|Cutting down Beacon Hill in 1811; a view from the north toward the](/wiki/File:1800_beacon_hill.jpg) [Massachusetts State House](/wiki/Massachusetts_State_House)[[30]](#cite_note-30) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Old_City_Hall_(Boston).jpg) [Template:W](/wiki/Template:W) was home to the Boston city council from 1865 to 1969. [thumb|left|alt=Colored print image of a city square in the 1900s|](/wiki/File:Haymarket_Square.JPG)[Haymarket Square](/wiki/Haymarket_Square_(Boston)), 1909 In the 1820s, Boston's population grew rapidly, and the city's ethnic composition changed dramatically with the first wave of European [immigrants](/wiki/Immigration_to_the_United_States). Irish immigrants dominated the first wave of newcomers during this period, especially following the [Irish Potato Famine](/wiki/Great_Famine_(Ireland)); by 1850, about 35,000 [Irish lived in Boston](/wiki/Irish_in_Boston).[[31]](#cite_note-31) In the latter half of the 19th century, the city saw increasing numbers of Irish, Germans, [Lebanese](/wiki/Lebanese_people), Syrians,[[32]](#cite_note-32) [French Canadians](/wiki/French_Canadian), and [Russian](/wiki/Jews_in_Russia) and [Polish Jews](/wiki/Jews_in_Poland) settled in the city. By the end of the 19th century, Boston's core neighborhoods had become enclaves of ethnically distinct immigrants—Italians inhabited the [North End](/wiki/North_End,_Boston),[[33]](#cite_note-33) Irish dominated [South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston,_Boston) and [Charlestown](/wiki/Charlestown,_Massachusetts), and Russian Jews lived in the [West End](/wiki/West_End,_Boston). [Irish](/wiki/Irish_American) and [Italian](/wiki/Italian_American) immigrants brought with them Roman Catholicism. Currently, Catholics make up Boston's largest religious community,[[34]](#cite_note-34) and since the early 20th century, the Irish have played a major role in Boston politics—prominent figures include the [Kennedys](/wiki/Kennedy_family), [Tip O'Neill](/wiki/Tip_O'Neill), and [John F. Fitzgerald](/wiki/John_F._Fitzgerald).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

Between 1631 and 1890, the city tripled its area through [land reclamation](/wiki/Land_reclamation) by filling in marshes, mud flats, and gaps between wharves along the waterfront.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The largest reclamation efforts took place during the 19th century; beginning in 1807, the crown of Beacon Hill was used to fill in a 50-acre (20 ha) mill pond that later became the [Haymarket Square](/wiki/Haymarket_Square_(Boston)) area. The present-day [State House](/wiki/Massachusetts_State_House) sits atop this lowered Beacon Hill. Reclamation projects in the middle of the century created significant parts of the [South End](/wiki/South_End,_Boston), the [West End](/wiki/West_End,_Boston), the [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Boston), and [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston).

After [The Great Boston Fire of 1872](/wiki/Great_Boston_Fire_of_1872), workers used building rubble as landfill along the downtown waterfront. During the mid-to-late 19th century, workers filled almost 600 acres (2.4 km2) of brackish Charles River marshlands west of [Boston Common](/wiki/Boston_Common) with gravel brought by rail from the hills of Needham Heights. The city annexed the adjacent towns of [South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston) (1804), [East Boston](/wiki/East_Boston) (1836), [Roxbury](/wiki/Roxbury,_Boston) (1868), [Dorchester](/wiki/Dorchester,_Boston) (including present day [Mattapan](/wiki/Mattapan,_Massachusetts) and a portion of [South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston)) (1870), [Brighton](/wiki/Brighton,_Massachusetts) (including present day [Allston](/wiki/Allston,_Boston)) (1874), [West Roxbury](/wiki/West_Roxbury,_Massachusetts) (including present day [Jamaica Plain](/wiki/Jamaica_Plain,_Boston) and [Roslindale](/wiki/Roslindale,_Boston)) (1874), [Charlestown](/wiki/Charlestown,_Massachusetts) (1874), and [Hyde Park](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Boston) (1912).[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37) Other proposals, for the annexation of [Brookline](/wiki/Brookline-Boston_annexation_debate_of_1873), Cambridge,[[38]](#cite_note-38) and [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea,_Massachusetts),[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40) were unsuccessful.

By the early and mid-20th century, the city was in decline as factories became old and obsolete, and businesses moved out of the region for cheaper labor elsewhere.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Boston responded by initiating various [urban renewal](/wiki/Urban_renewal) projects under the direction of the [Boston Redevelopment Authority](/wiki/Boston_Redevelopment_Authority) (BRA), which was established in 1957. In 1958, BRA initiated a project to improve the historic West End neighborhood. Extensive demolition was met with strong public opposition.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The BRA subsequently reevaluated its approach to urban renewal in its future projects, including the construction of [Government Center](/wiki/Government_Center,_Boston). In 1965, the first [Community Health Center in the United States](/wiki/Community_health_centers_in_the_United_States) opened, the Columbia Point Health Center, in the [Dorchester](/wiki/Dorchester,_Boston) neighborhood. It mostly served the massive [Columbia Point](/wiki/Columbia_Point_(Boston)) public housing complex adjoining it, which was built in 1953. The health center is still in operation and was rededicated in 1990 as the Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The Columbia Point complex itself was redeveloped and revitalized into a mixed-income community called Harbor Point Apartments from 1984 to 1990.[[43]](#cite_note-43) By the 1970s, the city's economy had recovered after 30 years of economic downturn. A large number of high rises were constructed in the [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Boston) and in Boston's [Back Bay](/wiki/Back_Bay) during this time period.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) This boom continued into the mid-1980s and resumed after a few pauses. Hospitals such as [Massachusetts General Hospital](/wiki/Massachusetts_General_Hospital), [Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center](/wiki/Beth_Israel_Deaconess_Medical_Center), and [Brigham and Women's Hospital](/wiki/Brigham_and_Women's_Hospital) lead the nation in medical innovation and patient care. Schools such as [Boston College](/wiki/Boston_College), [Boston University](/wiki/Boston_University), the [Harvard Medical School](/wiki/Harvard_Medical_School), [Northeastern University](/wiki/Northeastern_University), [Wentworth Institute of Technology](/wiki/Wentworth_Institute_of_Technology), [Berklee College of Music](/wiki/Berklee_College_of_Music) and [Boston Conservatory](/wiki/Boston_Conservatory) attract students to the area. Nevertheless, the city experienced conflict starting in 1974 over [desegregation busing](/wiki/Desegregation_busing), which resulted in unrest and violence around public schools throughout the mid-1970s.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

[thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Boston_Back_Bay_reflection.jpg)[Back Bay](/wiki/Back_Bay,_Boston) Boston is an intellectual, technological, and political center but has lost some important regional institutions,[[44]](#cite_note-44) including the loss to mergers and acquisitions of local financial institutions such as [FleetBoston Financial](/wiki/FleetBoston_Financial), which was acquired by [Charlotte](/wiki/Charlotte,_North_Carolina)-based [Bank of America](/wiki/Bank_of_America) in 2004.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Boston-based department stores [Jordan Marsh](/wiki/Jordan_Marsh) and [Filene's](/wiki/Filene's) have both been merged into the Cincinnati–based [Macy's](/wiki/Macy's,_Inc.).[[46]](#cite_note-46)The 1993 acquisition of [*The Boston Globe*](/wiki/The_Boston_Globe) by [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times)[[47]](#cite_note-47) was reversed in 2013 when it was re-sold to Boston businessman [John W. Henry](/wiki/John_W._Henry). In 2016, it was announced that [General Electric](/wiki/General_Electric) would be moving its corporate headquarters from Connecticut to the Innovation District in South Boston, joining many other companies in this rapidly-developing neighborhood.

Boston has experienced [gentrification](/wiki/Gentrification) in the latter half of the 20th century,[[48]](#cite_note-48) with housing prices increasing sharply since the 1990s.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Living expenses have risen, and Boston has one of the highest costs of living in the United States,[[49]](#cite_note-49) and was ranked the 129th most expensive major city in the world in a 2011 survey of 214 cities.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Despite cost of living issues, Boston ranks high on livability ratings, ranking 36th [worldwide in quality of living](/wiki/World's_Most_Livable_Cities) in 2011 in a survey of 221 major cities.[[51]](#cite_note-51) On April 15, 2013, two Chechen Islamist brothers [detonated a pair of bombs](/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombing) near the finish line of the [Boston Marathon](/wiki/2013_Boston_Marathon), killing three people and injuring roughly 264.<ref name=260herald/>

[620px|right|thumb|Boston Skyline from the Harbor](/wiki/File:Boston_Skyline_from_Harbor.jpg)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|left|alt=Aerial view of the Boston area from space|Boston as seen from the International Space Station (ISS)](/wiki/File:Boston_Massachusetts_2007_satellite_photo.jpg) Boston has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)—[Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (54.0%) of land and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (46.0%) of water. The city's official elevation, as measured at [Logan International Airport](/wiki/Logan_International_Airport), is 19 ft (5.8 m) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level).[[52]](#cite_note-52) The highest point in Boston is [Bellevue Hill](/wiki/Bellevue_Hill,_Boston) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level, and the lowest point is at sea level.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Situated onshore of the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), Boston is the only state capital in the [contiguous United States](/wiki/Contiguous_United_States) with an oceanic coastline.[[54]](#cite_note-54) [Template:Quotation](/wiki/Template:Quotation)

Boston is surrounded by the "[Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston)" region and is contiguously bordered by the [cities and towns](/wiki/New_England_town) of [Winthrop](/wiki/Winthrop,_Massachusetts), [Revere](/wiki/Revere,_Massachusetts), [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea,_Massachusetts), [Everett](/wiki/Everett,_Massachusetts), [Somerville](/wiki/Somerville,_Massachusetts), [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Massachusetts), [Newton](/wiki/Newton,_Massachusetts), [Brookline](/wiki/Brookline,_Massachusetts), [Needham](/wiki/Needham,_Massachusetts), [Dedham](/wiki/Dedham,_Massachusetts), [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Massachusetts), [Milton](/wiki/Milton,_Massachusetts), and [Quincy](/wiki/Quincy,_Massachusetts). The [Charles River](/wiki/Charles_River) separates Boston from [Watertown](/wiki/Watertown,_Massachusetts) and the majority of Cambridge, and the mass of Boston from its own Charlestown neighborhood. To the east lie [Boston Harbor](/wiki/Boston_Harbor) and the [Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area](/wiki/Boston_Harbor_Islands_National_Recreation_Area) (which includes part of the city's territory, specifically [Calf Island](/wiki/Calf_Island_(Massachusetts)), [Gallops Island](/wiki/Gallops_Island), [Great Brewster Island](/wiki/Great_Brewster_Island), [Green Island](/wiki/Green_Island_(Massachusetts)), [Little Brewster Island](/wiki/Little_Brewster_Island), [Little Calf Island](/wiki/Little_Calf_Island), [Long Island](/wiki/Long_Island), [Lovells Island](/wiki/Lovells_Island), [Middle Brewster Island](/wiki/Middle_Brewster_Island), [Nixes Mate](/wiki/Nixes_Mate), [Outer Brewster Island](/wiki/Outer_Brewster_Island), [Rainsford Island](/wiki/Rainsford_Island), [Shag Rocks](/wiki/Shag_Rocks_(Massachusetts)), [Spectacle Island](/wiki/Spectacle_Island_(Massachusetts)), [The Graves](/wiki/The_Graves_(Massachusetts)), and [Thompson Island](/wiki/Thompson_Island_(Massachusetts))). The [Neponset River](/wiki/Neponset_River) forms the boundary between Boston's southern neighborhoods and the city of [Quincy](/wiki/Quincy,_Massachusetts) and the town of [Milton](/wiki/Milton,_Massachusetts). The [Mystic River](/wiki/Mystic_River) separates Charlestown from Chelsea and Everett, and Chelsea Creek and Boston Harbor separate East Boston from Boston proper.[[55]](#cite_note-55)

### Cityscapes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [Template:Spaces](/wiki/Template:Spaces) [thumb|right|170px|The](/wiki/File:JohnHancockTowerHDRApr09.jpg) [John Hancock Tower](/wiki/John_Hancock_Tower) is the tallest building in Boston, with a [roof height](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_the_world_by_height_to_roof) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). [thumb|left|alt=Reflecting pool with high-rises in the background|right|Reflecting pool of the headquarters of the](/wiki/File:USA_09562_Boston_Luca_Galuzzi_2007.jpg) [Church of Christ, Scientist](/wiki/Church_of_Christ,_Scientist). The [Prudential Tower](/wiki/Prudential_Tower) and 111 Huntington Avenue are in the background. [thumb|left|Former home of the](/wiki/File:USA-Boston-Night0.jpg) [Museum of Natural History](/wiki/Boston_Society_of_Natural_History), [Back Bay](/wiki/Back_Bay,_Boston) [thumbnail|left|Back Bay row houses](/wiki/File:Boston_backbay_brownstones.jpg) [thumb|left|alt=Autumn foliage with a city skyline in the distant background|Boston's skyline in the background, with](/wiki/File:USA_Massachusetts_Boston_Foliage.jpg) [fall foliage](/wiki/Autumn_leaf_color) in the foreground

### Neighborhoods[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Boston is sometimes called a "city of neighborhoods" because of the profusion of diverse subsections; the city government's Office of Neighborhood Services has officially designated 23 neighborhoods.[[56]](#cite_note-56) More than two-thirds of inner Boston's modern land area did not exist when the city was founded, but was created via the gradual filling in of the surrounding tidal areas over the centuries,[[35]](#cite_note-35) notably with earth from the leveling or lowering of Boston's three original hills (the "Trimountain", after which Tremont Street is named), and with gravel brought by train from Needham to fill the [Back Bay](/wiki/Back_Bay).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

[Downtown](/wiki/Downtown_Boston) and its immediate surroundings consist largely of low-rise (often [Federal style](/wiki/Federal_architecture) and [Greek Revival](/wiki/Greek_Revival)) masonry buildings, interspersed with modern highrises, notably in the Financial District, Government Center, and [South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston,_Boston,_Massachusetts).[[57]](#cite_note-57) Back Bay includes many prominent landmarks, such as the [Boston Public Library](/wiki/Boston_Public_Library), [Christian Science Center](/wiki/The_First_Church_of_Christ,_Scientist_(Boston,_Massachusetts)), [Copley Square](/wiki/Copley_Square), [Newbury Street](/wiki/Newbury_Street), and New England's two tallest buildings—the [John Hancock Tower](/wiki/John_Hancock_Tower) and the [Prudential Center](/wiki/Prudential_Tower).[[58]](#cite_note-58)Near the John Hancock Tower is the [old John Hancock Building](/wiki/Berkeley_Building) with its prominent [illuminated beacon](/wiki/Weather_beacon), the color of which forecasts the weather.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Smaller commercial areas are interspersed among areas of single-family homes and wooden/brick multi-family row houses. The South End Historic District is the largest surviving contiguous Victorian-era neighborhood in the US.[[59]](#cite_note-59) The geography of downtown and South Boston was particularly impacted by the Central Artery/Tunnel Project (known unofficially as the "[Big Dig](/wiki/Big_Dig)"), which allowed for the removal of the unsightly elevated [Central Artery](/wiki/Central_Artery) and the incorporation of new green spaces and open areas.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|500px|](/wiki/File:Boston_Winter_Snowfall_Counts_Distribution.png)[Normal distribution](/wiki/Normal_distribution) of winter snowfall counts collected at [Logan International Airport](/wiki/Logan_International_Airport) from 1920–2016. Data is from [NWS](/wiki/National_Weather_Service) and [NOAA](/wiki/National_Oceanic_and_Atmospheric_Administration) and was procured at [The Weather Warehouse](http://weather-warehouse.com/WeatherHistoryListing/monthlyWeatherDataStart.html). [Statistical mean](/wiki/Arithmetic_mean) is approximately 43.4 inches and one [standard deviation](/wiki/Standard_deviation) is approximately 22 inches. Note: Winter is defined here as October 1st through April 30th.[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66)

Under the [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification), Boston has a [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) (Köppen *Dfa*) with some [maritime](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) influence.[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68) Despite its climate, the city lies at the transition between [USDA](/wiki/USDA) plant [hardiness zones](/wiki/Hardiness_zone) 6b (most of the city) and 7a (Downtown, South Boston, and East Boston neighborhoods).[[69]](#cite_note-69) Summers are typically warm to hot, rainy, and humid, while winters oscillate between periods of cold rain and snow, with cold temperatures. Spring and fall are usually mild, with varying conditions dependent on wind direction and jet stream positioning. Prevailing wind patterns that blow offshore minimize the influence of the Atlantic Ocean.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The hottest month is July, with a mean temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The coldest month is January, with a mean of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Periods exceeding [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in summer and below freezing in winter are not uncommon but rarely extended, with about 13 and 25 days per year seeing each, respectively.<ref name = NOAA/> The most recent sub-[Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) reading occurred on February 14, 2016, when the temperature dipped down to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the coldest reading since 1957.<ref name = NOAA/> In addition, several decades may pass between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) readings, with the most recent such occurrence on July 22, 2011, when the temperature reached [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[71]](#cite_note-71) The city's average window for freezing temperatures is November 9 through April 5.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) Official temperature records have ranged from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on February 9, 1934, up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on July 4, 1911; the record cold daily maximum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on December 30, 1917, while, conversely, the record warm daily minimum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on August 2, 1975.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Boston's coastal location on the North Atlantic moderates its temperature, but makes the city very prone to [Nor'easter](/wiki/Nor'easter) weather systems that can produce much snow and rain.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The city averages [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) a year, with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snowfall per season.<ref name= NOAA/> Snowfall increases dramatically as one goes inland away from the city (especially north and west of the city)—away from the moderating influence of the ocean.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Most snowfall occurs from December through March, as most years see no measurable snow in April and November, and snow is rare in May and October.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[75]](#cite_note-75) There is also high year-to-year variability in snowfall; for instance, the winter of 2011–12 saw only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of accumulating snow, but the previous winter, the corresponding figure was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[71]](#cite_note-71)[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn)

Fog is fairly common, particularly in spring and early summer, and the occasional tropical storm or [hurricane](/wiki/Hurricane) can threaten the region, especially in late summer and early autumn. Due to its situation along the North Atlantic, the city often receives sea breezes, especially in the late spring, when water temperatures are still quite cold and temperatures at the coast can be more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) colder than a few miles inland, sometimes dropping by that amount near midday.[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77)Thunderstorms occur from May to September, that are occasionally severe with large [hail](/wiki/Hail), damaging winds and heavy downpours.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Although downtown Boston has never been struck by a violent [tornado](/wiki/Tornado), the city itself has experienced many [tornado warnings](/wiki/Tornado_warning). Damaging storms are more common to areas north, west, and northwest of the city.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Boston has a relatively sunny climate for a coastal city at its latitude, averaging over 2,600 hours of sunshine per annum. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[Template:Boston, MA weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Boston,_MA_weatherbox)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|alt=Map of Boston and the surrounding area displaying per capita income distribution|](/wiki/File:Boston_income_donut.png)[Per capita income](/wiki/Per_capita_income) in the Greater Boston area, by US Census block group, 2000. The dashed line shows the boundary of the City of Boston. [thumb|left|250px|](/wiki/File:US_Navy_090315-N-8110K-011_A_crowd_along_a_parade_route_in_South_Boston_cheers_Sailors_from_the_guided-missile_frigate_USS_Taylor_(FFG_50)_as_they_march_in_the_108th_Annual_St._Patrick's_Day_Parade.jpg)[U.S. Navy](/wiki/U.S._Navy) sailors march in Boston's annual [St. Patrick's Day Parade](/wiki/St._Patrick's_Day_Parade). [Irish Americans](/wiki/History_of_Irish_Americans_in_Boston) constitute the largest ethnicity in Boston. [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

In 2016, Boston was estimated to have 667,137 residents (a density of 13,841 persons/sq mile, or 5,344/km2) living in 272,481 housing units—[[3]](#cite_note-3) an 8% population increase over 2010. The city is the [third most densely populated large U.S. city](/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population_density) of over half a million residents. Some 1.2 million persons may be within Boston's boundaries during work hours, and as many as 2 million during special events. This fluctuation of people is caused by hundreds of thousands of suburban residents who travel to the city for work, education, health care, and special events.[[79]](#cite_note-79) In the city, the population was spread out with 21.9% at age 19 and under, 14.3% from 20 to 24, 33.2% from 25 to 44, 20.4% from 45 to 64, and 10.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 30.8 years. For every 100 females, there were 92.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 89.9 males.[[80]](#cite_note-80) There were 252,699 households, of which 20.4% had children under the age of 18 living in them, 25.5% were married couples living together, 16.3% had a female householder with no husband present, and 54.0% were non-families. 37.1% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.0% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.26 and the average family size was 3.08.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The [median household income](/wiki/Median_household_income) in Boston was $51,739, while the median income for a family was $61,035. Full-time year-round male workers had a median income of $52,544 versus $46,540 for full-time year-round female workers. The per capita income for the city was $33,158. 21.4% of the population and 16.0% of families are below the poverty line. Of the total population, 28.8% of those under the age of 18 and 20.4% of those 65 and older were living below the poverty line.[[81]](#cite_note-81) In 1950, [Whites](/wiki/Race_(United_States_Census)) represented 94.7% of Boston's population.[[82]](#cite_note-82) From the 1950s to the end of the 20th century, the proportion of [non-Hispanic whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_white) in the city declined; in 2000, non-Hispanic whites made up 49.5% of the city's population, making the city [majority-minority](/wiki/Majority-minority) for the first time. However, in the [21st century](/wiki/21st_century), the city has experienced significant [gentrification](/wiki/Gentrification), in which affluent whites have moved into formerly non-white areas. In 2006, the US Census Bureau estimated that non-Hispanic whites again formed a slight majority. But [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), in part due to the housing crash, as well as increased efforts to make more affordable housing more available, the non-white population has rebounded. This may also have to do with increased [Latin American](/wiki/Latin_American) and [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) populations and more clarity surrounding US Census statistics, which indicate a non-Hispanic white population of 47 percent (some reports give slightly lower figures).[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[85]](#cite_note-85)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Race/ethnicity composition | | | | |
| **Race/ethnicity** | **2013**[**[86]**](#cite_note-86) | **1990**[**[82]**](#cite_note-82) | **1970**[**[82]**](#cite_note-82) | **1940**[**[82]**](#cite_note-82) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) (includes [White Hispanics](/wiki/White_Hispanic)) | 52.9% | 62.8% | 81.8% | 96.7% |
| [Black](/wiki/African_American) | 24.1% | 25.6% | 16.3% | 3.1% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 9.0% | 5.3% | 1.3% | 0.2% |
| [Native American](/wiki/Native_American) | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | – |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | 4.5% | – | – | – |
| [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) | 18.8% | 10.8% | 2.8% [[87]](#cite_note-87) | 0.1% |
| [Non-Hispanic Whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites) | 45.9% | 59.0% | 79.5% [[87]](#cite_note-87) | 96.6% |

People of [Irish](/wiki/History_of_the_Irish_in_Boston) descent form the largest single [ethnic group](/wiki/American_ancestry) in the city, making up 15.8% of the population, followed by [Italians](/wiki/Italian_American), accounting for 8.3% of the population. People of [West Indian](/wiki/West_Indies) and [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean) ancestry are another sizable group, at 6.0%,[[88]](#cite_note-88) about half of whom are of [Haitian](/wiki/Haitian_Americans) ancestry. Over 27,000 [Chinese Americans](/wiki/Chinese_Americans_in_Boston) made their home in Boston city proper in 2013,[[89]](#cite_note-89) and the city hosts a growing [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston) accommodating heavily traveled [Chinese-owned bus lines](/wiki/Chinatown_bus_lines) to and from [Chinatown, Manhattan](/wiki/Chinatown,_Manhattan) in [New York City](/wiki/Chinese_Americans_in_New_York_City). Some neighborhoods, such as Dorchester, have received an influx of people of [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_in_Boston) ancestry in recent decades. Neighborhoods such as Jamaica Plain and Roslindale have experienced a growing number of [Dominican Americans](/wiki/Dominican_American).[[90]](#cite_note-90) The city and greater area also has a growing immigrant population of [South Asians](/wiki/South_Asians), including the [tenth-largest Indian community in the country](/wiki/Indian_American#US_Metropolitan_areas_with_the_largest_population_of_Indian_Americans). Boston's South End and Jamaica Plain are both [gay villages](/wiki/Gay_village), as is nearby [Provincetown, Massachusetts](/wiki/Provincetown,_Massachusetts) on [Cape Cod](/wiki/Cape_Cod). [thumb|left|250px|](/wiki/File:Boston_Chinatown_Paifang.jpg)[Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston), with its [paifang](/wiki/Paifang) gate, is home to many [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Americans_in_Boston) and also [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_Americans_in_Boston) restaurants. [thumb|250px|Boston](/wiki/File:Were_a_gay_and_happy_family_wagon.jpg) [gay pride](/wiki/Gay_pride) march, held annually in June The city, especially the [East Boston](/wiki/East_Boston) neighborhood, has a significant Hispanic community. In 2010, Hispanics in Boston were mostly of [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Stateside_Puerto_Ricans) (30,506 or 4.9% of total city population), [Dominican](/wiki/Dominican_American) (25,648 or 4.2% of total city population), [Salvadoran](/wiki/Salvadoran_American) (10,850 or 1.8% of city population), [Colombian](/wiki/Colombian_American) (6,649 or 1.1% of total city population), [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American) (5,961 or 1.0% of total city population), and [Guatemalan](/wiki/Guatemalan_American) (4,451 or 0.7% of total city population) ethnic origin. Hispanics of all national origins totaled 107,917 in 2010. In Greater Boston, these numbers grew significantly, with Puerto Ricans numbering 175,000+, Dominicans 95,000+, Salvadorans 40,000+, Guatemalans 31,000+, Mexicans 25,000+, and Colombians numbering 22,000+.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

### Demographic breakdown by zip code[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

#### Income[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Data is from the 2008–2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[93]](#cite_note-93)[[94]](#cite_note-94){| class="wikitable sortable" |- valign=bottom ! Rank ! ZIP Code (ZCTA) ! Per capita  
income ! Median  
household  
income ! Median  
family  
income ! Population ! Number of  
households |- | 1 | 02110 ([Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Boston)) | $152,007 | $123,795 | $196,518 | 1,486 | 981 |- | 2 | 02199 ([Prudential Center](/wiki/Prudential_Tower)) | $151,060 | $107,159 | $146,786 | 1,290 | 823 |- | 3 | 02210 ([Fort Point](/wiki/Fort_Point,_Boston)) | $93,078 | $111,061 | $223,411 | 1,905 | 1,088 |- | 4 | 02109 ([North End](/wiki/North_End,_Boston)) | $88,921 | $128,022 | $162,045 | 4,277 | 2,190 |- | 5 | 02116 ([Back Bay](/wiki/Back_Bay,_Boston)/[Bay Village](/wiki/Bay_Village,_Boston)) | $81,458 | $87,630 | $134,875 | 21,318 | 10,938 |- | 6 | 02108 ([Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Boston)/Financial District) | $78,569 | $95,753 | $153,618 | 4,155 | 2,337 |- | 7 | 02114 (Beacon Hill/[West End](/wiki/West_End,_Boston)) | $65,865 | $79,734 | $169,107 | 11,933 | 6,752 |- | 8 | 02111 ([Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Boston)/Financial District/[Leather District](/wiki/Leather_District)) | $56,716 | $44,758 | $88,333 | 7,616 | 3,390 |- | 9 | 02129 ([Charlestown](/wiki/Charlestown,_Boston)) | $56,267 | $89,105 | $98,445 | 17,052 | 8,083 |- | 10 | 02467 ([Chestnut Hill](/wiki/Chestnut_Hill,_Massachusetts)) | $53,382 | $113,952 | $148,396 | 22,796 | 6,351 |- | 11 | 02113 (North End) | $52,905 | $64,413 | $112,589 | 7,276 | 4,329 |- | 12 | 02132 ([West Roxbury](/wiki/West_Roxbury)) | $44,306 | $82,421 | $110,219 | 27,163 | 11,013 |- | 13 | 02118 ([South End](/wiki/South_End,_Boston)) | $43,887 | $50,000 | $49,090 | 26,779 | 12,512 |- | 14 | 02130 ([Jamaica Plain](/wiki/Jamaica_Plain)) | $42,916 | $74,198 | $95,426 | 36,866 | 15,306 |- | 15 | 02127 ([South Boston](/wiki/South_Boston)) | $42,854 | $67,012 | $68,110 | 32,547 | 14,994 |- | | [*Massachusetts*](/wiki/Massachusetts) | $35,485 | $66,658 | $84,380 | 6,560,595 | 2,525,694 |- | | *Boston* | $33,589 | $53,136 | $63,230 | 619,662 | 248,704 |- | | [*Suffolk County*](/wiki/Suffolk_County,_Massachusetts) | $32,429 | $52,700 | $61,796 | 724,502 | 287,442 |- | 16 | 02135 ([Brighton](/wiki/Brighton,_Boston)) | $31,773 | $50,291 | $62,602 | 38,839 | 18,336 |- | 17 | 02131 ([Roslindale](/wiki/Roslindale)) | $29,486 | $61,099 | $70,598 | 30,370 | 11,282 |- | | [*United States*](/wiki/United_States) | $28,051 | $53,046 | $64,585 | 309,138,711 | 115,226,802 |- | 18 | 02136 ([Hyde Park](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Boston)) | $28,009 | $57,080 | $74,734 | 29,219 | 10,650 |- | 19 | 02134 ([Allston](/wiki/Allston)) | $25,319 | $37,638 | $49,355 | 20,478 | 8,916 |- | 20 | 02128 ([East Boston](/wiki/East_Boston)) | $23,450 | $49,549 | $49,470 | 41,680 | 14,965 |- | 21 | 02122 ([Dorchester](/wiki/Dorchester,_Boston)-[Fields Corner](/wiki/Fields_Corner)) | $23,432 | $51,798 | $50,246 | 25,437 | 8,216 |- | 22 | 02124 (Dorchester-[Codman Square](/wiki/Codman_Square_District)-[Ashmont](/wiki/Ashmont,_Boston)) | $23,115 | $48,329 | $55,031 | 49,867 | 17,275 |- | 23 | 02125 (Dorchester-[Uphams Corner](/wiki/Uphams_Corner)-[Savin Hill](/wiki/Savin_Hill)) | $22,158 | $42,298 | $44,397 | 31,996 | 11,481 |- | 24 | 02163 (Allston-[Harvard Business School](/wiki/Harvard_Business_School)) | $21,915 | $43,889 | $91,190 | 1,842 | 562 |- | 25 | 02115 (Back Bay/[Fenway-Kenmore](/wiki/Fenway-Kenmore)) | $21,654 | $23,677 | $50,303 | 29,178 | 9,958 |- | 26 | 02126 ([Mattapan](/wiki/Mattapan)) | $20,649 | $43,532 | $52,774 | 27,335 | 9,510 |- | 27 | 02215 (Fenway-Kenmore) | $19,082 | $30,823 | $72,583 | 23,719 | 7,995 |- | 28 | 02119 ([Roxbury](/wiki/Roxbury,_Boston)) | $18,998 | $27,051 | $35,311 | 24,237 | 9,769 |- | 29 | 02121 (Dorchester-Mount Bowdoin) | $18,226 | $30,419 | $35,439 | 26,801 | 9,739 |- | 30 | 02120 ([Mission Hill](/wiki/Mission_Hill,_Boston)) | $17,390 | $32,367 | $29,583 | 13,217 | 4,509 |}

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumbnail|right|](/wiki/File:OldSouthChurchBoston.JPG)[Old South Church](/wiki/Old_South_Church), a [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) congregation first organized in 1669 According to a 2014 study by the [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center), 57% of the population of the city identified themselves as [Christians](/wiki/Christians), with 25% professing attendance at a variety of churches that could be considered [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant), and 29% professing [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) beliefs.[[95]](#cite_note-95)[[96]](#cite_note-96) while 33% claim [no religious affiliation](/wiki/Irreligion). The same study says that other religions (including [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Islam](/wiki/Islam), and [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism)) collectively make up about 10% of the population.

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) the Catholic Church had the highest number of adherents as a single denomination in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton Metro area, with more than two million members and 339 churches, followed by the Episcopal Church with 58,000 adherents in 160 churches. The [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) had 55,000 members and 213 churches.[[97]](#cite_note-97) The UCC is the successor of the city's Puritan religious traditions. [Old South Church](/wiki/Old_South_Church) in Boston is one of the oldest congregations in the United States. It was organized in 1669 by dissenters from the First Church in Boston (1630). Notable past members include Samuel Adams, William Dawes, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Sewall, and Phillis Wheatley. In 1773, Adams gave the signals from the [Old South Meeting House](/wiki/Old_South_Meeting_House) that started the Boston Tea Party.

The city has a sizable [Jewish population](/wiki/Jewish_population) with an estimated 25,000 Jews within the city and 227,000 within the Boston metro area; the number of congregations in Boston is estimated at 22.<ref name=jewestimates>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[98]](#cite_note-98) The adjacent communities of [Brookline](/wiki/Brookline,_Massachusetts) and [Newton](/wiki/Newton,_Massachusetts) are both approximately one-third Jewish.<ref name=jewestimates/>

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|300px|Distribution of the Boston metropolitan](/wiki/File:Boston_economy_chart.png) [NECTA](/wiki/New_England_city_and_town_area) labor force, 2004 annual averages[[22]](#cite_note-22) A [global city](/wiki/Global_city), Boston is placed among the top 30 most economically powerful cities in the world.[[99]](#cite_note-99) Encompassing $363 billion, the [Greater Boston](/wiki/Greater_Boston) metropolitan area has the [sixth-largest economy in the country and 12th-largest in the world](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP).[[100]](#cite_note-100) Boston's colleges and universities exert a significant impact on the regional economy. Boston attracts more than 350,000 college students from around the world, who contribute more than $4.8 billion annually to the city's economy.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) The area's schools are major employers and attract industries to the city and surrounding region. The city is home to a number of technology companies and is a hub for [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology), with the [Milken Institute](/wiki/Milken_Institute) rating Boston as the top [life sciences](/wiki/Life_sciences) cluster in the country.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Boston receives the highest absolute amount of annual funding from the [National Institutes of Health](/wiki/National_Institutes_of_Health) of all cities in the United States.[[104]](#cite_note-104) The city is considered highly innovative for a variety of reasons, including the presence of academia, access to [venture capital](/wiki/Venture_capital), and the presence of many [high-tech](/wiki/High-tech) companies.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[105]](#cite_note-105) The [Route 128 corridor](/wiki/Route_128_(Massachusetts)) and Greater Boston continue to be a major center for venture capital investment,[[106]](#cite_note-106) and high technology remains an important sector.

[Tourism](/wiki/Tourism) also composes a large part of Boston's economy, with 21.2 million domestic and international visitors spending $8.3 billion in 2011;[[107]](#cite_note-107) excluding visitors from [Canada](/wiki/Canada) and [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico), over 1.4 million international tourists visited Boston in 2014, with those from [China](/wiki/China) and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) leading the list.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Boston's status as a state capital as well as the regional home of federal agencies has rendered law and government to be another major component of the city's economy.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[109]](#cite_note-109) The city is a major [seaport](/wiki/Port_of_Boston) along the United States' East Coast and the oldest continuously operated industrial and fishing port in the [Western Hemisphere](/wiki/Western_Hemisphere).[[110]](#cite_note-110) Other important industries are [financial services](/wiki/Financial_services), especially [mutual funds](/wiki/Mutual_fund) and insurance.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Boston-based [Fidelity Investments](/wiki/Fidelity_Investments) helped popularize the mutual fund in the 1980s and has made Boston one of the top financial cities in the United States.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[111]](#cite_note-111) The city is home to the headquarters of [Santander Bank](/wiki/Santander_Bank), and Boston is a center for [venture capital](/wiki/Venture_capital) firms. [State Street Corporation](/wiki/State_Street_Corporation), which specializes in asset management and custody services, is based in the city. Boston is a printing and publishing center[[112]](#cite_note-112) — [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](/wiki/Houghton_Mifflin_Harcourt) is headquartered within the city, along with [Bedford-St. Martin's Press](/wiki/Bedford-St._Martin's) and [Beacon Press](/wiki/Beacon_Press). [Pearson PLC](/wiki/Pearson_PLC) publishing units also employ several hundred people in Boston. The city is home to three major [convention centers](/wiki/Convention_center)—the [Hynes Convention Center](/wiki/Hynes_Convention_Center) in the Back Bay, and the [Seaport World Trade Center](/wiki/Seaport_Hotel_and_Seaport_World_Trade_Center) and [Boston Convention and Exhibition Center](/wiki/Boston_Convention_and_Exhibition_Center) on the [South Boston waterfront](/wiki/South_Boston_waterfront).[[113]](#cite_note-113) The [General Electric Corporation](/wiki/General_Electric_Corporation) announced in January 2016 its decision to move the company's global headquarters to the [Seaport District](/wiki/Seaport_District) in Boston, from [Fairfield, Connecticut](/wiki/Fairfield,_Connecticut), citing factors including Boston's preeminence in the realm of [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education).[[114]](#cite_note-114)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

### Primary and secondary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|alt=Three-story brick building façade with three white columns surrounding a brown wooden door located on the ground floor|](/wiki/File:Boston_Latin_School_-.jpg)[Boston Latin School](/wiki/Boston_Latin_School), established in 1635, is the oldest public high school in the US.

The [Boston Public Schools](/wiki/Boston_Public_Schools) enrolls 57,000 students attending 145 schools, including the renowned [Boston Latin Academy](/wiki/Boston_Latin_Academy), [John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science](/wiki/John_D._O'Bryant_School_of_Math_&_Science), and [Boston Latin School](/wiki/Boston_Latin_School). The Boston Latin School, established 1635, is the oldest public high school in the US; Boston also operates the United States' second oldest public high school, and its oldest public elementary school.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The system's students are 40% Hispanic or Latino, 35% Black or African American, 13% White, and 9% Asian.[[115]](#cite_note-115)Another major annual event is the [Head of the Charles Regatta](/wiki/Head_of_the_Charles_Regatta), held in October.[[173]](#cite_note-173)

## Parks and recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|alt=City skyline with a body of water in the background and a green park in the foreground|Boston Common seen from the](/wiki/File:Boston_common_20060619.jpg) [Prudential Tower](/wiki/Prudential_Tower) [Boston Common](/wiki/Boston_Common), located near the Financial District and Beacon Hill, is the oldest public park in the United States.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Along with the adjacent [Boston Public Garden](/wiki/Boston_Public_Garden), it is part of the [Emerald Necklace](/wiki/Emerald_Necklace), a string of parks designed by [Frederick Law Olmsted](/wiki/Frederick_Law_Olmsted) to encircle the city. The Emerald Necklace includes [Jamaica Pond](/wiki/Jamaica_Pond), Boston's largest body of freshwater, and [Franklin Park](/wiki/Franklin_Park,_Boston), the city's largest park and home of the [Franklin Park Zoo](/wiki/Franklin_Park_Zoo).[[174]](#cite_note-174) Another major park is the Esplanade, located along the banks of the Charles River. The [Hatch Shell](/wiki/Hatch_Shell), an outdoor concert venue, is located adjacent to the Charles River Esplanade. Other parks are scattered throughout the city, with the major parks and beaches located near [Castle Island](/wiki/Castle_Island_(Massachusetts)); in Charlestown; and along the Dorchester, South Boston, and East Boston shorelines.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Boston's park system is well-reputed nationally. In its 2013 ParkScore ranking, [The Trust for Public Land](/wiki/Trust_for_Public_Land) reported that Boston was tied with [Sacramento](/wiki/Sacramento,_California) and [San Francisco](/wiki/San_Francisco) for having the third-best park system among the 50 most populous US cities.[[176]](#cite_note-176) ParkScore ranks city park systems by a formula that analyzes the city's median park size, park acres as percent of city area, the percent of residents within a half-mile of a park, spending of park services per resident, and the number of playgrounds per 10,000 residents.

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|left|alt=Red brick building with white columns on the façade and a gold dome on the top|The](/wiki/File:MA_State_House_11-13-2015.jpg) [Massachusetts State House](/wiki/Massachusetts_State_House), seat of the [Government of Massachusetts](/wiki/Government_of_Massachusetts), on [Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Boston) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:03-30-07-BostonCityHall.jpg)[Boston City Hall](/wiki/Boston_City_Hall), built in 1968, is a prominent example of the [Brutalist](/wiki/Brutalist_architecture) architectural style. [thumb|](/wiki/File:Marty_Walsh.jpg)[Marty Walsh](/wiki/Marty_Walsh_(politician)) ([D](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))), the 54th and current [Mayor of Boston](/wiki/Mayor_of_Boston) Boston has a [strong mayor – council government](/wiki/Mayor–council_government) system in which the mayor (elected every fourth year) has extensive executive power. [Marty Walsh](/wiki/Marty_Walsh_(politician)) became Mayor in January 2014, his predecessor [Thomas Menino's](/wiki/Thomas_Menino) twenty-year tenure having been the longest in the city's history.[[177]](#cite_note-177)The [Boston City Council](/wiki/Boston_City_Council) is elected every two years; there are nine district seats, and four citywide "at-large" seats.[[178]](#cite_note-178) The School Committee, which oversees the [Boston Public Schools](/wiki/Boston_Public_Schools), is appointed by the mayor.[[179]](#cite_note-179) In addition to city government, numerous commissions and state authorities—including the [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation](/wiki/Massachusetts_Department_of_Conservation_and_Recreation), the [Boston Public Health Commission](/wiki/Boston_Public_Health_Commission), the [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)](/wiki/Massachusetts_Water_Resources_Authority), and the [Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport)](/wiki/Massachusetts_Port_Authority)—play a role in the life of Bostonians. As the capital of Massachusetts, Boston plays a major role in [state politics](/wiki/Massachusetts#Politics).

The city has several federal facilities, including the [John F. Kennedy Federal Office Building](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy_Federal_Office_Building), the [Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building](/wiki/Thomas_P._O'Neill_Jr._Federal_Building_(Boston)),[[180]](#cite_note-180) the [John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse](/wiki/John_W._McCormack_Post_Office_and_Courthouse), the [Federal Reserve Bank of Boston](/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_Boston), the [United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit](/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_First_Circuit), and the [United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts](/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_District_of_Massachusetts). Both courts are housed in the [John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse](/wiki/John_Joseph_Moakley_United_States_Courthouse).

Federally, Boston is split between two congressional districts. The northern three-fourths of the city is in the [7th district](/wiki/Massachusetts's_7th_congressional_district), represented by [Mike Capuano](/wiki/Mike_Capuano) since 1998. The southern fourth is in the [8th district](/wiki/Massachusetts's_8th_congressional_district), represented by [Stephen Lynch](/wiki/Stephen_Lynch_(politician)).[[181]](#cite_note-181) Both are Democrats; a Republican has not represented a significant portion of Boston in over a century. The state's senior member of the [United States Senate](/wiki/United_States_Senate) is Democrat [Elizabeth Warren](/wiki/Elizabeth_Warren), first elected in 2012. The state's junior member of the United States Senate is Democrat [Ed Markey](/wiki/Ed_Markey), who was elected in 2013 to succeed [John Kerry](/wiki/John_Kerry) after Kerry's appointment and confirmation as the [United States Secretary of State](/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_State).

{| class=wikitable ! colspan = 6 | Voter registration and party enrollment [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of)[[182]](#cite_note-182)|- ! colspan = 2 | Party ! Number of voters ! Percentage [Template:American politics/party colors/Democratic/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Democratic/row) | [Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) | style="text-align:center;"| 211,257 | style="text-align:center;"| 54.58% [Template:American politics/party colors/Republican/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Republican/row) | [Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | style="text-align:center;"| 25,903 | style="text-align:center;"| 6.69% [Template:American politics/party colors/Green/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Green/row) | [Green-Rainbow](/wiki/Green-Rainbow_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 686 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.17% [Template:American politics/party colors/Independent/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Independent/row) | Unaffiliated | style="text-align:center;"| 147,813 | style="text-align:center;"| 38.19%

|- ! colspan = 2 | Total ! style="text-align:center;"| 387,040 ! style="text-align:center;"| 100% |}

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Newspapers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[*The Boston Globe*](/wiki/The_Boston_Globe) and the [*Boston Herald*](/wiki/Boston_Herald) are two of the city's major daily newspapers. The city is also served by other publications such as [*Boston*](/wiki/Boston_(magazine)) *magazine*, [*The Improper Bostonian*](/wiki/The_Improper_Bostonian), [*DigBoston*](/wiki/DigBoston), and the Boston edition of [*Metro*](/wiki/Metro_International). [*The Christian Science Monitor*](/wiki/The_Christian_Science_Monitor), headquartered in Boston, was formerly a worldwide daily newspaper but ended publication of daily print editions in 2009, switching to continuous online and weekly magazine format publications.[[183]](#cite_note-183) *The Boston Globe* also releases a teen publication to the city's public high schools, called *Teens in Print* or *T.i.P.*, which is written by the city's teens and delivered quarterly within the school year.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The city's growing [Latino](/wiki/Latino) population has given rise to a number of local and regional [Spanish-language](/wiki/Spanish-language) newspapers. These include [*El Planeta*](/wiki/El_Planeta_(newspaper)) (owned by the former publisher of [*The Boston Phoenix*](/wiki/The_Boston_Phoenix)), *El Mundo*, and *La Semana*. *Siglo21*, with its main offices in nearby [Lawrence](/wiki/Lawrence,_MA), is also widely distributed.[[185]](#cite_note-185) Various LGBT publications serve the city's large LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community such as *The Rainbow Times*, the only minority and lesbian-owned LGBT newsmagazine. Founded in 2006, *The Rainbow Times* is now based out of Boston, but serves all of New England.[[186]](#cite_note-186)

### Radio and television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Boston is the largest broadcasting market in New England, with the radio market being the 11th largest in the United States.[[187]](#cite_note-187) Several major [AM](/wiki/AM_broadcasting) stations include [talk radio](/wiki/Talk_radio) [WRKO](/wiki/WRKO), [sports](/wiki/Sports_radio)/talk station [WEEI](/wiki/WEEI_(AM)), and [CBS Radio](/wiki/CBS_Radio) [WBZ](/wiki/WBZ_(AM)).[[188]](#cite_note-188) WBZ (AM) broadcasts a [news radio](/wiki/All-news_radio) format. A variety of commercial [FM](/wiki/FM_broadcasting) [radio formats](/wiki/Radio_format) serve the area, as do [NPR](/wiki/National_Public_Radio) stations [WBUR](/wiki/WBUR) and [WGBH](/wiki/WGBH_(FM)). College and university radio stations include [WERS](/wiki/WERS) (Emerson), [WHRB](/wiki/WHRB) (Harvard), [WUMB](/wiki/WUMB) (UMass Boston), [WMBR](/wiki/WMBR) (MIT), [WZBC](/wiki/WZBC) (Boston College), [WMFO](/wiki/WMFO) (Tufts University), [WBRS](/wiki/WBRS) (Brandeis University), [WTBU](/wiki/WTBU_(college_radio)) (Boston University, campus and web only), [WRBB](/wiki/WRBB) (Northeastern University) and [WMLN-FM](/wiki/WMLN-FM) (Curry College).

The Boston television [DMA](/wiki/Designated_market_area), which also includes [Manchester, New Hampshire](/wiki/Manchester,_New_Hampshire), is the 8th largest in the United States.[[189]](#cite_note-189)