

# CENSUS 2010 Shows Boston Population Grew by Highest Rate in 90 Years

Between 2000 and 2010, the city of Boston awakened from a 50-year population slumber as the number of its residents grew from 589,141 to 617,594, a growth rate of 4.8%, the highest since 1920.

A comparative analysis of the 2010 decennial census and the previous censuses for the last hundred years, reveal that the rate of increase in Boston's 2000 to 2010 population was the highest since 1920, when - thanks mainly to the 1912 annexation of Hyde Park, Boston's population grew by 11.6% over the previous decade.

Boston's historic 2010 population growth rate appears to put to rest fears that the city is losing its ability to attract and retain young people and families.

It also seems to be a testament to the continued strength of the city's many academic, cultural, financial and health care institutions to promote and support a desirable place to live and work.

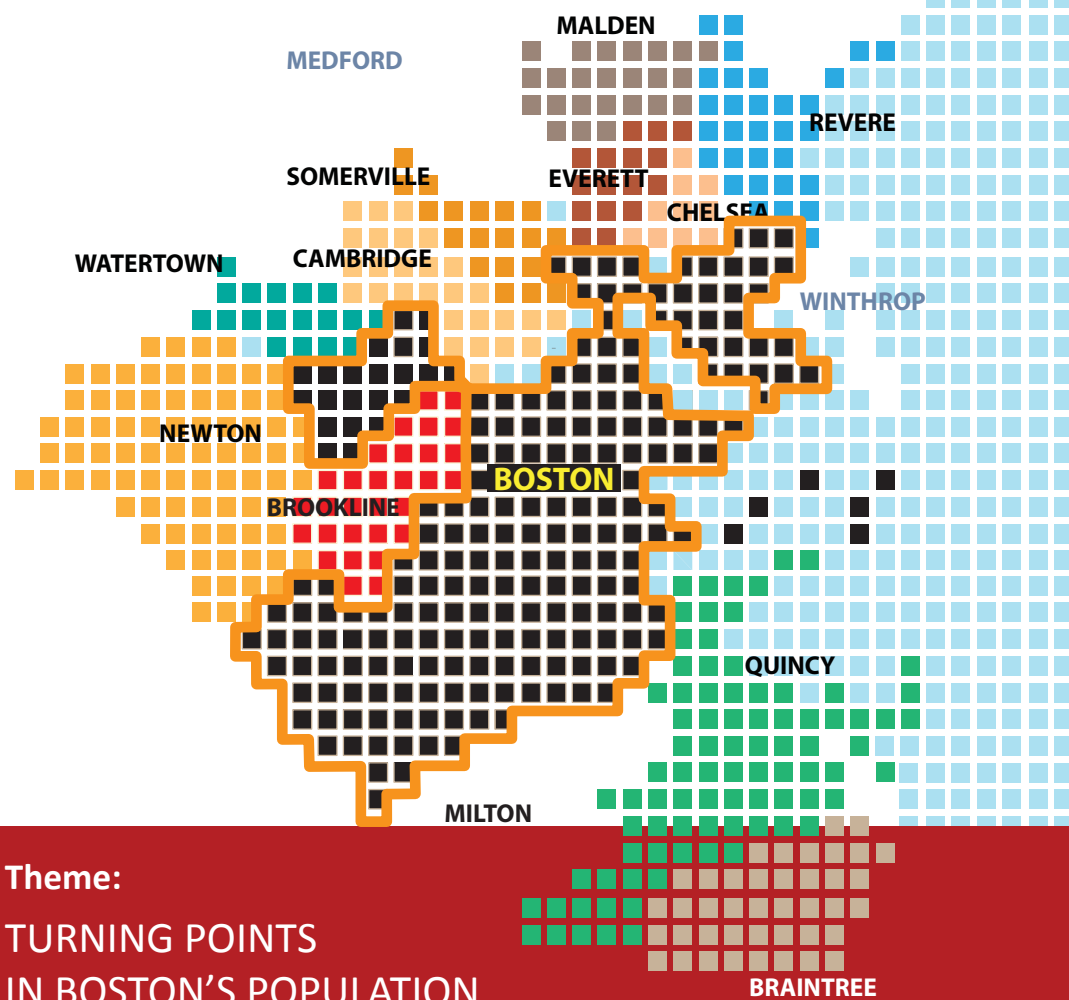
Boston's surge in population growth is only one of the many key findings contained in a new study,

**Census 2010: Winners and Losers in Demographic Change in Boston Area Cities and Towns**, published recently by the Boston Studies Group.

Among the report's other findings: While Boston's population grew dramatically, the population in surrounding municipalities - Watertown and Somerville - decreased; the number of Hispanic/Latino residents increased throughout the Boston area; some communities (Everett and Braintree) experienced significant increases in school-age populations, while others (Somerville and Boston) experienced large decreases; and some communities (Braintree and Boston) significantly increased their housing stock while one (Brookline) added almost no housing units during the ten-year period.

This report provides an analysis of the latest available US Census 2010 data and compares national and state-wide demographic changes between 2000 and 2010 with those in Boston and selected nearby cities and towns. Extensively illustrated with figures and charts, the report provides a graphic view of the data tables. Cities and Towns included in the report are Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Watertown. Eswaran Selvarajah is the author of the report. To obtain a copy or for further information, contact: [eswaran@BostonStudies.com](mailto:eswaran@BostonStudies.com)

The report is downloadable from: <http://www.bostonstudies.com/publications/Census2010WinnersandLosers>



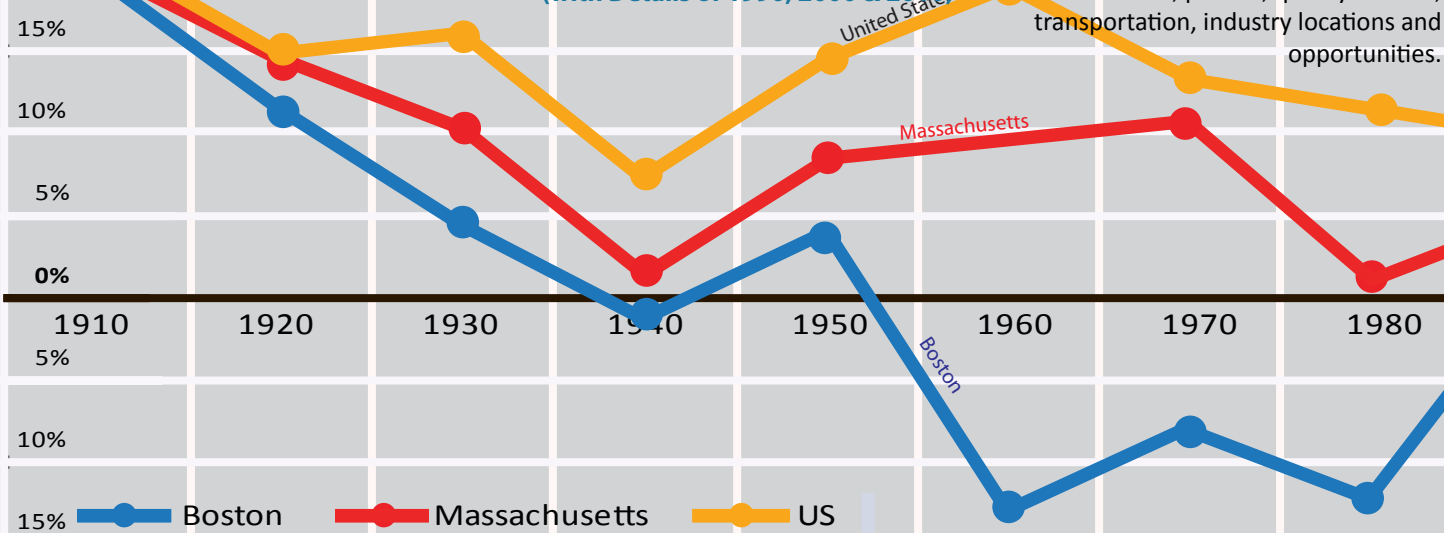
**Theme:**  
TURNING POINTS  
IN BOSTON'S POPULATION  
GROWTH RATE

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## BOSTON TRENDS

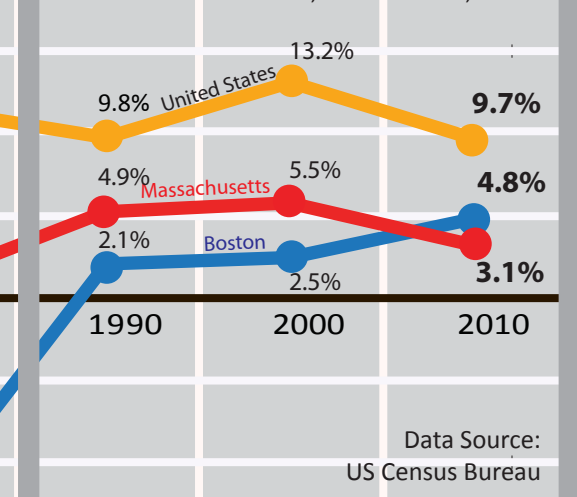
October, 2011

**Comparative Trends of Decennial Population Growth Rates: 1910 to 2010**  
US, Massachusetts and Boston  
(with Details of 1990, 2000 & 2010)



Behind these ups and downs of trend lines are the impacts of public policy, urban renewal, politics, quality schools, transportation, industry locations and opportunities.

**Growth Rate: 1990, 2000, 2010**  
US, Massachusetts, Boston



Data Source:  
US Census Bureau

### BOSTON'S POPULATION GROWTH RATE 1910-2010

#### Decennial Population Growth 1910-2010

#### Population of US, Massachusetts and Boston by Decade from 1910 to 2010

Year	Boston			Massachusetts			US		
	Population	Change	% Growth	Population	Change	% Growth	Population	Change	% Growth
2010	617,594	28,453	4.8%	6,547,629	198,532	3.1%	308,745,538	27,323,632	9.7%
2000	589,141	14,318	2.5%	6,349,097	332,672	5.5%	281,421,906	32,712,033	13.2%
1990	574,823	11,829	2.1%	6,016,425	279,388	4.9%	248,709,873	22,164,068	9.8%
1980	562,994	-78,077	-12.2%	5,737,037	47,867	0.8%	226,545,805	23,333,879	11.5%
1970	641,071	-56,126	-8.1%	5,689,170	540,592	10.5%	203,211,926	23,888,751	13.3%
1960	697,197	-104,247	-13.0%	5,148,578	458,064	9.8%	179,323,175	28,625,814	19.0%
1950	801,444	30,628	4.0%	4,690,514	373,793	8.7%	150,697,361	19,028,086	14.5%
1940	770,816	-10,372	-1.3%	4,316,721	67,107	1.6%	131,669,275	8,894,229	7.2%
1930	781,188	33,128	4.4%	4,249,614	397,258	10.3%	122,775,046	17,064,426	16.1%
1920	748,060	77,475	11.6%	3,852,356	485,940	14.4%	105,710,620	13,738,354	14.9%
1910	670,585	109,693	19.6%	3,366,416	561,070	20.0%	91,972,266	15,977,691	21.0%
1900	560,892			2,805,346			75,994,575		

Data Source:  
US Census Bureau

### 2000 - 2010 TRENDS

Some of the recent trends in Boston's Population Growth Rate are noteworthy:

1. Boston reached a historic growth rate of 4.8% for the first time since 1920.
2. For the first time in the last 100 years, the decennial growth rate of Boston is higher than the growth rate of Massachusetts.
3. Since Census 1990, Boston's growth rate has been steadily rising in contrast to the fluctuating growth rates of US and Massachusetts.

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