

BOSTON MULTIFAMILY



Occupancy Tight, Inches Up Further

Boston proved its resilience again in 2024, with relatively limited supply growth helping occupancy and rent movement. Occupancy in stabilized properties, at 96.5% as of November, was up 10 basis points year-over-year. Rents contracted on a trailing three-month basis through December, by 0.7%, but remained in line with seasonal trends. Year-over-year, average advertised asking rents rose 1.2%, to \$2,836 in metro Boston, double the 0.6% U.S. figure.

Employment growth picked up in the second half of 2024, marking a 0.9% expansion as of November, but was still below the 1.3% national average. Four sectors, including manufacturing and information, lost a combined 8,500 net jobs. Education and health services led gains, adding 18,200 net positions, followed by leisure and hospitality, with 9,700 jobs. Meanwhile, unemployment rose to 3.7% as of November, according to preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but outperformed the U.S. (4.2%) and Massachusetts (4.0%).

Supply growth totaled 7,083 units in 2024. The volume was close to the previous two years but still the lowest recorded over the last decade. Another 17,752 units were under construction going into 2025. Meanwhile, investment hit \$2.2 billion, marking metro Boston's lowest total since 2020. Meanwhile, the price per unit declined 8.7% year-over-year, to \$393,195.

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Recent Boston Transactions

Residences at Stevens Pond



City: Saugus, Mass. Buyer: Waterton Purchase Price: \$156 MM

Price per Unit: \$477,761

The Batch Yard



City: Everett, Mass. Buyer: LCOR

Purchase Price: \$141 MM Price per Unit: \$430,183

Modera Newton



City: Newton, Mass. Buyer: Mill Creek Residential Purchase Price: \$114 MM Price per Unit: \$556,098

Matrix Hudson



City: Hudson, Mass. Buyer: Zurich Alternative Asset Management Purchase Price: \$67 MM Price per Unit: \$379,261