DOWNTOWN AT A GLANCE

CENTRAL HOUSTON & DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

JUNE 2018
An eclectic mix of historic and contemporary infrastructure, convenient transit options, convention and sports venues, an active cultural and arts scene, fine dining and shopping, and thriving residential communities, Downtown Houston is one of the region's most dynamic and vibrant mixed-use urban centers.

The Downtown Core measures 1.84 square miles, bounded by Interstate I-10 on the north, U.S. 59 on the east and I-45 on the south and west, but has the largest concentration of employment in the region, with an estimated 158,000 jobs. It remains the desired business location for prominent companies, offering competitive advantages such as proximity to customers, business and service providers and transit options. A well-established, but constantly evolving business center, Downtown has a wide industry mix and a collaborative, entrepreneurial and innovative environment.

Over the past two decades, more than $9 billion in public and private investments have been made towards achieving Downtown’s vision of a creative and vibrant place to live, work and play. Downtown residents grew by almost 300 percent from 2000 to date, spurred by the increasing desire to be closer to work and at the
heart of Houston’s premier destination for culture and entertainment. Responding to market demand, developers have delivered over 3,200 residential units in the last two years, 600 units are under construction, with another 1,179 planned. This growth is not limited to the core. Greater Downtown (a 2-mile radius from the center of Downtown) is home to 66,838 household residents, recording an increase of 36 percent from 2000 to 2016. This urban neighborhood continues to attract families and children: over 57 percent of households are family households, and approximately 11,000 children call the Greater Downtown area home. Walkable, accessible, central and vibrant, Downtown is poised to remain a competitive and sustainable regional economic hub and mixed-use urban center.

Key Facts

**LIVING**

**Greater Downtown (2 mile radius)**
- Household Population: 66,838
- Residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher: 46%

**Downtown Core**
- Residential Units: 5,992
- Housing Units Under Construction & Planned: 1,779
- Transit Score: 93
- Bike Score: 58
- Walk Score: 76
- Schools & Universities: 8
- Higher Education Enrollment: 14,251
- Average Apartment Asking Rent: $2,509
- Average Home Value: $561,664

**TRANSIT**
- Annual Houston Airports Passenger Traffic
  - 2017 (FY): 54,168,938
  - 2018 (YTD): 18,042,976
- Average Weekday Metro Transit Ridership (Bus & Light Rail): 105,000

HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

- Hotel Rooms: 7,803
- Hotel Room Occupancy: 70%
- Average Daily Room Rate: $183
- Theatre District Seating Capacity: 13,000
- Major Sports/Concert Venue Capacity: 150,000
- Convention Seating Capacity: ~100,000
- Convention Square Footage: 1.9 million
- Theater Performance Attendance: 790,618

OFFICE MARKET & EMPLOYMENT

- Office Square Footage: 51,313,631
- Office Occupancy (Class A): 81.6%
- Average Asking Rate (Class A; $ per SF): $41.43
- Innovation hubs, Co-working & Collaborative Spaces (SF): 283,526
- Fortune 500 Companies (total): 20
- Fortune 500 Companies (Headquarters): 10
- Total Wage & Salary Jobs (2015): 157,906

RESTAURANTS & RETAIL

- Retailers: 394
Downtown Living

Downtown residents are located at the epicenter of activity, steps away from Houston's best entertainment, dining and green spaces.

With 5,992 residential units in the core, 600 units under construction, and another 1,179 planned, residents have a variety of options to call home, ranging from historical to contemporary, mid to high-rise luxury apartments and condos. Downtown has experienced exponential growth in residential development, and is expected to add over 5,000 new residents in the next three to five years. Almost 60 percent of residential units-to-date were built within the last four years. Based on known projects, Downtown is set to see a 173% increase in the number of units from 2,562 units at the beginning of 2014, to 7,771 units by 2019, making Downtown one of the fastest growing residential neighborhoods in Houston. High population growth, competitive rental and occupancy rates, and strong home values are indicative of Downtown's growing residential appeal.

Downtown attracts young professionals, executives, empty nesters, and those seeking proximity to their jobs, pedestrian-friendly lifestyles, and a vibrant urban neighborhood. Downtown's central location and well-developed public transit system provide easy access to

QUICK FACTS

Greater Downtown (2-mile radius)

66,838 Household Population

$2,509 Average Apartment Rental Rate

46% Percent Bachelor’s Degree or Higher

Downtown Core

8,313 Household Population

5,992 Housing Units Completed

1,779 Housing Units Under Construction/Planned

$561,664 Average Home Sale Price

93 Transit Score

58 Bike Score

76 Walk Score

Creme de la Creme
Downtown’s walkability means that residents are only minutes away from dining at their favorite restaurant, attending a concert or sports event, or taking their dog for a walk in the park.

Complemented by robust pedestrian infrastructure (bike lanes and sidewalks), this makes for a green and safe community where individuals and families can enjoy a high quality of life and work.

Hike, bike or kayak along Buffalo Bayou; attend a fitness class at Discovery Green or play Bingo at Market Square Park; watch a Broadway show, ballet production, or jazz concert in the Theater District; attend weekly events that bring residents, children, and visitors together. Residents never have a dull moment.
Demographics Greater Downtown (2 mile radius)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Percentage/Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>75,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Households</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Population</td>
<td>66,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Population Growth 2000–2015</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children [0–18 years]</td>
<td>10,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Households</td>
<td>33,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Household Size</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennials [20–34 years]</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Downtown has a very young population; over 55 percent of the population is 34 years or younger.
Demographics Greater Downtown (2 mile radius)

**POPULATION BY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 years</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 years</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 84 years</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ years</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POPULATION BY SEX**

- Male: 57%
- Female: 43%

**POPULATION BY RACE**

- White: 40%
- Hispanic/Latino: 33%
- Black/African: 21%
- Asian: 5%
- Other Race: 1%
- Two or more races: 1%
- American Indian/Alaskan: 1%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.3%
Income & Education
Greater Downtown (2-mile radius)

$96,098
Average Household Income
With a difference of over $20,000, Downtown households have significantly higher average income levels than households in the City of Houston, which averages $75,763, and the national average of $77,866.

59%
Household Income > $50,000
Compared to 48 percent of households in the City of Houston, almost half of Downtown households have incomes exceeding $50,000. 46 percent of Downtown households have incomes of $75,000 or more, compared to 31 percent in Houston and the national average of 37 percent.

$561,664
Average Home Price
Home prices in the Downtown core average $561,664 or $390 per SF compared to $482,202 or $179 per SF in the City of Houston.

$2.12
Average Rent per Square Feet
Rental rates in the Downtown core average $2,509 or $2.12 per SF compared to $2,174 or $1.27 per SF in the City of Houston.

67%
Some College Degree or Higher
More than two in three adults Downtown have completed some college (including an Associate’s degree) or hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 54 percent in all of Houston and the national average of 59 percent.

46%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher
Downtown residents have higher levels of education than the average for the City of Houston and the nation, with 46 percent holding a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 28 percent.
Income & Education
Greater Downtown (2 mile radius)

**Housing Tenure**
- Renter Occupied: 34%
- Owner Occupied: 66%

**Household Income**
- $200,000 or higher: 11%
- $125,000 – $199,000: 15%
- $75,000 – $124,999: 19%
- $50,000 – $74,999: 14%
- Less than $49,000: 41%

**Housing Units – Occupancy Rate**
- Vacant: 14%
- Occupied: 86%

**Educational Attainment**
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 46%
- Master’s degree or higher: 20%
- Bachelor’s degree: 26%
- Some college/Associate: 21%
- High School or less: 35%
Demographics Downtown Core

10,241
Total Population

8,313*
Household Population

4,518
Number of Households

1.84
Average Household Size

* HDMD Estimate

Demographics 3-Mile Radius

159,221
Total Population

145,213
Household Population

69,796
Number of Households

2.24
Average Household Size

Demographics 5-Mile Radius

386,384
Total Population

363,783
Household Population

159,779
Number of Households

2.4
Average Household Size
# Residences Downtown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY (EXISTING)</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1414 Congress - New Hope Housing</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1711 Caroline</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Crawford</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexan Downtown</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIS Market Square</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayou Lofts</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaconsfield Condos</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block 334</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byrd’s Lofts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Lofts</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalyst</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CityView Lofts</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce Tower</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota Lofts</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeGeorge at Union Station</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighteen25</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eller Wagon Works</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foley Building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Seasons Condominium</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Lofts</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermann Lofts</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogg Palace</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston House Apartments</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keystone Lofts</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirby Lofts on Main</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Square Tower</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquis Lofts on Sabine</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Park Place</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Peacock and Plaza Court Apartments</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rice</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jacinto Lofts</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkyHouse Houston</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkyHouse Main</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Germain Lofts &amp; Condos</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Star</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennison Lofts</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hamilton</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Oak Bayou Lofts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Camden Downtown</td>
<td>271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marlowe</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regalia at the Park</td>
<td>229</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY (PLANNED)</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1810 Main—Fairfield Residential</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block 114—Marquette Companies</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block 346—Camden Phase II</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block 98—Trammell Crow</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Office Market & Employment

A Downtown Houston business address means you are in the region’s largest Central Business District (CBD), home to local, regional and multinational companies, and industry leaders in energy, finance and professional services.

Downtown is headquarters to several prominent firms, including ten Fortune 500 companies. One of the biggest contributors to the region’s economy, Downtown’s 3,000-plus businesses are housed in over 50 million square feet of office space, distributed across several of Houston’s most iconic historic and modern office buildings. Downtown’s skyline features architecturally distinctive buildings that showcase the works of world-renowned architects such as I.M. Pei and Philip Johnson. Recognizable landmarks include the Italian renaissance-style Neils and Mellie Esperson Buildings and The JP Morgan Chase & Co building, the tallest building in Texas and the world’s tallest pentagonal building. One of the 10 largest CBDs in the nation, Downtown accounts for close to a quarter of Houston’s Class A office space.

From traditional office floors to innovative and forward-thinking workplaces of the future, the Downtown office market features a variety of options to suit different corporate cultures. Downtown remains a top competitor in the regional office market, constantly evolving with demographic and workforce trends. Downtown’s growing network

QUICK FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Employment (2017)</td>
<td>157,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector Jobs</td>
<td>128,540 (81%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector Jobs</td>
<td>29,366 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Office Space (sq.ft.)</td>
<td>51,313,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class A Office Space (sq.ft.)</td>
<td>34,890,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class A Occupancy</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Class A Lease Rate</td>
<td>$41.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Houston Office Space</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortune 500 Companies (Total)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortune 500 Companies (Headquarters)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of technology incubators, co-working, and collaborative spaces, including WeWork, Station Houston, Accenture’s Innovation Center and Brookfield’s innovative spec suites named DesignHive, foster innovation and growth, and demonstrate its commitment to creating an underlying environment for its growing community of entrepreneurs and innovators to thrive. New office construction and recent renovations reflect disruptive technologies and emphasize innovation, sustainability and amenities that are tailored to the workforce of today. Downtown leads green efforts in the region, with just under 60 LEED certified projects totaling 46.62 million square feet, including two LEED Certified Core and Shell Platinum buildings, and 42 Energy Star Certified buildings. Capitol Tower—Downtown’s newest office building under construction—is one of only four Platinum Core and Shell projects nationwide that is pre-certified under LEED v4 Platinum.

Downtown has the largest concentration of workers in the Houston region, attracting some of the most qualified employees from around the nation and the globe. Compared to the city and national averages of 27 percent and 29 percent, respectively, 35 percent of Downtown employees have a Bachelor’s degree or higher, and almost 70 percent have some college or higher degree. Downtown currently boasts 157,906 employees, 81 percent of which work in the private sector, but also lead entrepreneurial ventures and small businesses. Regional offices of U.S. government agencies, and federal and municipal courthouses, draw over 29,000 employees daily, and millions of users of public services to Downtown, making it one of the city’s largest public administration centers. About 74 percent of the Downtown workforce earns more than $3,333 a month, compared to regional and national averages of 55 and 45 percent, respectively. As the region continues to experience the nation’s largest influx of millennials, Downtown continues to welcome a growing number of entrepreneurs, startups, freelancers, and small business owners, further diversifying its employee and industry base.

Business executives, young professionals and their clients are only walking distance from an array of business support services and much coveted quality of life amenities, including high-end and fast casual restaurants, luxury hotels, and event centers. Well-established public transit, innovative mixed-use spaces, acres of landscaped and programmed outdoor spaces, and the live-work-play and 24-7 vibrancy of Downtown make it the top choice for businesses and their employees.

### MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS IN DOWNTOWN

- Accenture
- Amegy Bank of Texas
- Baker Botts
- Bank of America
- Calpine
- Chevron Corporation
- CenterPoint Energy
- Deloitte LLP
- EDF Trading
- Energy Transfer Partners
- Enterprise Products Partners LP
- EP Energy
- EOG Resources Inc.
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Hess Corporation
- Hilton Americas-Houston
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- JPMorgan Chase
- KBR
- Kinder Morgan
- KPMG LLP
- Landry’s Inc.
- LyondellBasell Industries
- Motiva
- Norton Rose Fullbright
- NRG/Reliant Energy
- Plains All American
- Pros Holdings Inc
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- Saudi Aramco
- TransCanada
- United Airlines
- Vinson & Elkins
- Waste Management, Inc.
- Wells Fargo

City Hall Farmers Market
Employment Downtown Core

157,906
Total Wage & Salary Jobs
Downtown has the largest concentration of employees in the Houston region.

74%
Workforce Earning > $3,333/month
Over 70 percent of the Downtown workforce earn more than $3,333 per month, compared to the city and national averages of 55 percent and 45 percent respectively.

81%
Percent Private Sector Jobs
The private sector employs over 80 percent of the Downtown workforce. Downtown is also a major government center, providing over 29,000 public sector jobs.

67%
Workforce with some College or higher
68 percent of the Downtown workforce have completed some college, or have a Bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 58 percent in Houston and the national average of 61 percent.

35%
Workforce with Bachelor’s or advanced degree
More than a third of the Downtown workforce have a Bachelor’s or higher degree or higher, compared to 27 percent in Houston, and the national average of 29 percent.
**Employment Downtown Core**

**WORKFORCE BY AGE**

- Age 29 or younger: 22.4%
- Age 30 to 54: 60.7%
- Age 55 or older: 16.9%

**WORKFORCE BY INDUSTRY**

- Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas: 28.6%
- Professional & Business Services: 16.8%
- Trade, Transportation: 11.6%
- Public Administration: 9.5%
- Construction: 6.0%
- Utilities: 5.6%
- Manufacturing: 3.7%
- Financial Services: 3.7%
- Education & Health Services: 3.6%
- Leisure and Hospitality: 2.9%
- Information: 2.0%
- Other Services (excl. Public Admin.): 1.4%
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing: 0%

**WORKFORCE BY EARNINGS**

- $1,250 per month or less: 7.9%
- $1,251 to $3,333 per month: 18.7%
- More than $3,333 per month: 73.5%

**WORKFORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

- Bachelor’s degree or advanced degree: 35%
- Some college or Associate degree: 32%
- High school or less: 33%
Downtown is Houston’s prime entertainment district. Over 10 million people visit Downtown annually, for conventions, meetings, baseball and basketball games, theater, concerts and Houston’s massive civic events.

2017 was a historical year for Downtown in events and visitor traffic. In the first two months of 2017 alone, Downtown welcomed over 1 million visitors during SuperBowl LI, and at the close of the year, hosted three-quarters of a million fans to celebrate the historical Astros World Series Championship victory. Downtown is home to the recently renovated 1.9 million square foot George R. Brown Convention Center, one of the ten largest convention centers in the nation, that draws over half a million attendees annually for conventions, meetings, trade shows, and other events. Downtown remains among the premier locations for national and global sports tournaments and related-events, including most recently, the Super Bowl LIVE at Discovery Green and the new Avenida Houston, the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament at BBVA Compass Stadium, one of the world’s largest intercontinental soccer events for the fourth consecutive edition of the tournament; and the World Corporate Games, including a parade at Discovery Green, fan parties across Downtown, and the closing awards at the Marriott Marquis. The three major sports and entertainment venues draw millions of major league sports fans, and local and international visitors for concerts and touring shows. Toyota Center, home to the NBA’s Houston Rockets, seats up to 18,000 and hosts over 100 events annually; Minute Maid Park, home to the Astros, has a seating capacity of 40,963; and BBVA Compass Stadium, home to MLS’s Houston Dynamo, Houston Dash and Texas Southern University Tigers football team, seats 22,039.

Downtown already had a busy line-up...
of major international events in the first half of 2018. A few of the major events include CERAWeek 2018, the world’s preeminent energy conference that brings together 3000 global energy, industrial, technology and financial industry leaders, experts, government officials and policymakers, from over 60 countries, at the Hilton America, which has been the official host for seven consecutive years; the Copa de Campeones International Soccer Tournament match at the BBVA Compass Stadium in March; and the Annual International Quilts Market & Festival, the largest annual consumer quilt show in the world, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, drawing close to 60,000 visitors from almost 40 countries into Downtown each year. Downtown’s Toyota Center will be hosting the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Regionals in 2020. Fans and event attendees are never short of staying entertained, with Downtown’s diverse range of entertainment options, hotels and restaurants, all within walking distance.

Whether travelling for business or leisure, visitors enjoy the genuine southern hospitality and feel right at home in one of Downtown’s 7,803 luxury rooms in 25 hotels. The new iconic 1000-room Marriott Marquis features a one-of-a-kind 530-foot-long Texas-shaped lazy river and a rooftop infinity pool that provide stunning views of the Downtown skyline, and Houston’s largest (39,000 square-foot) ballroom. In response to the high demand for hotel rooms, boasting an average occupancy rate of 70 percent, developers are set to deliver another 565 rooms in three hotels by mid-2019, bringing Downtown’s room count to 8,367 in 28 hotel properties. Downtown caters to both short and extended stay visitors in a variety of hotel types and styles, ranging from some of the largest global 5-star brands, including Marriott Marquis, Hilton, JW Marriott, and Hyatt, to boutique hotels, such as Aloft, Hotel Icon, The Whitehall and Hotel Alessandra.

Houston First continues to set annual records in convention sales, booking 429 conventions and meetings in 2017, representing 802,852 room nights, compared to 765,401 room nights in 2016. This represents 106 percent of their annual goal and is a 41 percent increase from 2014. Robust convention activity and Downtown’s increasing attraction as the location of choice for major sporting events and cultural attractions have contributed to the significant increase in Houston’s domestic and international airport passenger traffic, and Houston’s position as the second-fastest growing...
destination in the U.S. for overseas travelers. About 55 million passengers passed through Houston’s domestic and international airports in 2017. Houston hosted a record 20.5 million visitors in 2016, up 17 percent from 2015, contributing $16.4 billion to the local economy. Among the many accolades, Houston was ranked number six on TripAdvisor’s Travelers’ Choice Top Trending Travel Spots to Book for 2017 in its Annual Travelers’ Choice Destinations on the Rise Awards. Houston was also named on Forbes Travel Guide’s “12 Top Destinations of 2017,” and the city was ranked number seven on the U.S. News & World Report’s list of “Best Foodie Destinations in the USA.” In 2017, Insiders Magazine ranked Houston among the top 20 cities every foodie needs to visit in their lifetime; Thrillist ranked Houston among the seven most impressive American cities of 2017; and Upscale Magazine rated Houston among the top 10 coolest cities for millennials to love. The renovated George R. Brown Center, the new restaurant row and pedestrian promenade, Avenida Houston, the addition of the Marriott Marquis, and the national attention Discovery Green continues to receive, have put Downtown at the center of the map as a major tourist and convention destination.

The renovated George R. Brown Center, the new restaurant row and pedestrian promenade on Avenida Houston, the addition of the Marriott Marquis, and the national attention Discovery Green continues to receive, have put Downtown at the center of the map as a major tourist and convention destination.

Downtown’s Theater District is the second largest performing arts district in the nation, next to New York City, home to nine award-winning and internationally acclaimed performing arts organizations and several smaller ones, and over 13,000 seats. Audiences enjoy performances in theater, opera, ballet, and symphony at the four major performing arts venues—Jones Hall, Wortham Theater Center, Alley Theatre and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

Thanks to the tremendous growth of Downtown over the past 20 years, thriving adjacent neighborhoods have developed and are within walking distance or an easy ride away on METRORail from Downtown. The Museum District is home to 19 museums plus Hermann Park and the Houston Zoo; EaDo is a quirky neighborhood with a mix of ethnic grocery stores, restaurants, bars, breweries and the famous Ninfa’s on Navigation; and Washington Avenue and Midtown are both booming commercial and residential neighborhoods.

Spend a day touring Houston’s outdoor history museum at Sam Houston Park or Saint Arnold Brewing Company (Texas’ oldest craft brewery); watch a performance in the Theater District; visit the aquarium with the kids; enjoy a meal and a concert at Bayou Place, there is certainly no shortage of things to do or attractions to see around Downtown.

Houston Astros
Restaurants & Retail

Featuring award-winning restaurants, Downtown offers some of the best dining in the city.

Downtown has earned the status of one of the city’s hottest culinary destinations, boasting three James Beard Award-winning chefs, with restaurants that are raising the bar for Houston dining. From contemporary French to Vietnamese, Southern, Italian, Japanese and American cuisines, and some of the best steak houses in Houston, Downtown’s booming culinary scene celebrates international flavors. Downtown is home to close to 400 restaurants, coffee shops and bars in approximately two-million square feet of retail space, including prominent restaurants such as Xochi, Potente and Theodore Rex. Downtown will be adding two new food halls in 2018, including Finn Hall and Bravery Chef Hall with the anticipated Lyric Market opening in early 2019. Whether you are grabbing a quick bite or dining formally with business associates, Downtown’s variety of cuisine choices suit individual tastes, schedules and lifestyles. Visitors, residents and employees can also enjoy outdoor seating available in over 20 percent of restaurants and cafes. Many convenience and fast casual restaurants and shops are also located in Downtown’s 6.5-mile tunnel system that connects over 65 buildings.

Phoenicia Specialty Foods Grocery Store, a 35,000 square foot gourmet food market in the heart of Downtown, features over 10,000 products from more than 50 countries, in addition to offering prepared foods, catering and delivery services to Downtown residents and visitors. CVS/Pharmacy now has two Downtown locations, including

6.5 mile
Tunnel System Connects Over 65 Buildings
340 Restaurants, Coffee Shops and Bars
their newest store at Market Square Tower in Historic Market Square. Hundreds of other retailers and service providers are within walking distance, and several major grocery stores are also available within a 2-mile radius.

The Shops at Houston Center and GreenStreet, located in Downtown’s Shopping District, are home to major retail brands like Forever XXI, JoS. A. Banks, niche retailers such as Make(her) Boutique, Dress Barn and several smaller merchandise retailers. GreenStreet’s three block mixed-use shopping, entertainment and dining center provides visitors, employees and residents with a complete experience and includes blockbuster tenants such as House of Blues, Lucky Strike Lanes, McCormick & Schmicks and local eatery Guadalajara del Centro. Ground floor retail, including boutique stores and restaurants are located at street level in both commercial and residential buildings throughout Downtown.

The newly designed Avenida Houston, tailored to foot traffic, features restaurants including local favorites Pappadeaux and Grotto; Joe O’Connell + Creative Machine’s Wings Over Water, a monumental 30-foot interactive kinetic winged-sculpture integrated into the ‘Fountain of the Americas’; the renovated George R. Brown Convention Center; Discovery Green park; Hilton Americas-Houston; and the new Marriott Marquis hotel. This new dining, entertainment and arts district was the epicenter of the 2017 SuperBowl festivities.

A favorite destination for Downtowners and visitors alike, Historic Market Square is located on the northern edge of Downtown. Historic building facades line the streets, and with a high concentration of residential buildings, Historic Market Square feels like a neighborhood despite the skyscrapers just a few blocks away. At the heart of the neighborhood is the award-winning Market Square Park, a small but dynamic green space that supports the residential and business community. Local up-and-coming and esteemed chefs and entrepreneurs have chosen Historic Market Square to open their unique and incredibly popular concepts with cool and funky bars, small live music venues, and boutique hotels rounding out this charming district.

Historic building facades line the streets, and with a high concentration of residential buildings, Historic Market Square feels like a neighborhood despite the skyscrapers just a few blocks away.
Transit

Approximately 105,000 passengers transit through Downtown on a daily basis.

A network of integrated multi-modal transit systems provides convenient travel options for several hundred thousand employees and visitors commuting in and out of Downtown daily. A major transit hub for METRO local bus, park & ride, and light rail, over 105,000 passengers transit through Downtown on a daily basis. Average weekday ridership for the METRO System was 294,934 in 2017. Downtown is strongly committed to environmental sustainability. ‘Green’ transportation options, including Houston’s BCycle bike share program and Downtown’s free circulator Greenlink, along with an extensive network of sidewalks and a growing number of bicycle lanes, provide commuters with alternative transit options and reduce car dependency. A 2013 commuter survey revealed that approximately 32 percent of Downtown employees use public transit and another 11.2 percent use alternative modes to get to work, compared to only 2.4 percent public transit users in the Houston region. Greenlink ridership in 2017 was 227,076.

Getting around Downtown has never been easier and safer. Rent a bicycle for an hour or a day from Houston BCycle to explore Downtown, ride along the Bayou, or run errands. Hop on a Greenlink bus, a free, environmentally-friendly bus fleet that runs on Compressed Natural Gas, and connect to dozens of attractions and destinations. Walk around Downtown on the wide, beautifully paved and landscaped sidewalks, using wayfinding signs for easy navigation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 4-year Data; U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD); HAR.com; Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2018; Houston Downtown Management District (HDMD)/ Central Houston, Inc. (CHI); CoStar; JLL.
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**RESOURCES**  

Downtown Development Map  
Bird’s-eye-view Map  
Downtown Parking Map  

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