

2.2 | GROWING FASTER — 2010 TO 2020

THE PAST 10 YEARS HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AND MOST TRANSFORMATIONAL PERIODS IN DENVER'S HISTORY

In 2020, Denver's population grew to 715,500 (U.S. Census 2020) to become the 19th largest city in the country. Of the 20 largest cities, Denver was the fifth fastest growing over the past decade. More residents, visitors, and businesses mean more people and goods moving within and through Denver. New development and rising housing prices have increased gentrification and displacement in neighborhoods while also creating more dense, mixed-use communities in other neighborhoods. Not every Denverite has benefited from the economic expansion of the past decade. Section 2.2 highlights key changes Denver has undergone over the past decade, demonstrating the extent and scale of transformation in recent years, as well as the positives and negatives of these changes.

GROWING POPULATION

Denver has grown by 115,000 new residents since 2010 — that's 31 people per day for the past 10 years. This growth has brought new challenges to our City and region. The metro area population reached 2.9 million people in 2020 and saw increased travel and economy activity. New mobility solutions are needed to move more and more residents each and every day.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

INCREASING TOURISM

Tourism in Denver is a major economic driver, bringing in over \$7 billion in direct spending to the economy. The experiences of visitors are shaped by how easy it is to get around. The comfort and ease of transit options from the airport and to major destinations are important to visitors as well as the businesses and industries that rely on tourism.



SOURCE: City and County of Denver, 2021

EXPANDING ECONOMY

Denver's \$80 billion dollar economy has expanded over the past decade and the number of businesses operating in the city grew by 40% between 2010 and 2020. Businesses depend on efficient movement of goods and services to meet customer demands and deliver the parcels and products that keep Denver's economy competitive.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020

STABLE COMMUTE PATTERNS

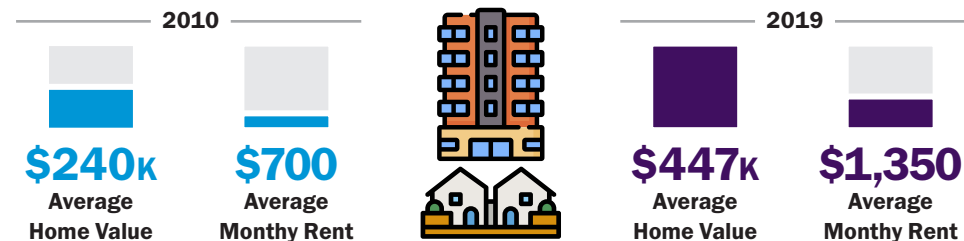
The ways that Denverites travel to work and the time we spend commuting has not changed much since 2010. With continued population growth and more people and goods moving around Denver, more dramatic shifts in how we travel are needed to make Denver more equitable, safe, and sustainable. Some neighborhoods in Denver with significant new investment in transit options have experienced greater shifts in non-vehicle commutes.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

RISING HOUSING COSTS

Development, particularly near new transit improvements, that is not accompanied with affordable housing can lead to rising home prices. Residents who cannot afford to live within the city may face longer travel times and have more limited commute options.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

GREENHOUSE GASES

Over the past 10 years, total greenhouse gas emissions in Denver have decreased with more energy efficient buildings and power generation. However, transportation related emissions have increased over the same period. The impact of driving on climate change will continue unless significant shifts in vehicle fuels and driving patterns are achieved.



SOURCE: City and County of Denver, 2020

PEOPLE OF LOWER-INCOMES

As Denver's economy has grown, wages and income have grown for most but not all residents. Income inequality in Denver is increasing and many lower-income residents have moved to more affordable areas of the region. Lower-income households are more likely to not own a vehicle and to depend on walking, bicycling, carpools, and transit to get to work and travel in Denver.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. *Poverty is defined as the percentage below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

PEOPLE OF COLOR

Denver is a city of neighborhoods with distinctive cultures and character. Since 2010, Denver has become less racially and ethnically diverse. Residents of color are more likely to face challenges accessing affordable, safe, and convenient travel options. This makes addressing transportation inequities across marginalized areas and peoples even more important.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES

Not every resident in Denver has the same ability to move around independently, comfortably, and easily. Whether younger or older; moving by wheelchair or with other mobility aids; or with different work arrangements and education levels, all Denverites rely on different travel options and have different mobility needs.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey