Seattle’s population explosion hit only certain neighborhoods, why?

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Seattle’s recent population boom may be even more astonishing than you thought.

Later this year, I’ll be starting a new column in which I’ll be musing about what it means to live in Seattle. (Spin: Seattle is the future! Spin, spin, spin.)

But for now, let’s consider the fact that Seattle seems to have gained 132,000 residents since 2010. This increase is notable in the context of the rest of Western Washington and the US.

Seattle’s recent population growth has been concentrated in just a handful of neighborhoods.

In the past 10 years, most of the growth has been concentrated in parts of Beacon Hill, South Lake Union, Smith Tower and parts of downtown.

Some areas of Seattle, including parts of Beacon Hill, saw much less population growth than the rest of the city.

In 2010, the city’s population was 571,000. By 2017, the population had grown to 663,000.


The rate of population growth ranged from a low of 2 percent in parts of Beacon Hill to a high of 24 percent in parts of downtown.

The suburbs, including parts of Bothell, Kirkland, and Redmond, saw much less growth.

Some neighborhoods, including parts of South Lake Union, saw more than 20 percent growth.

In the past 10 years, the rate of population growth in Seattle has been the highest since the 1990s.

In 2010, the population of Seattle was 571,000. By 2017, the population had grown to 663,000.

Seattle’s population growth has been the result of a combination of factors:

- Low housing costs: Seattle has been one of the most affordable cities in the country, making it attractive to young professionals.
- Strong economy: Seattle has a thriving tech industry and a growing number of high-paying jobs.
- Good schools: Seattle has some of the best public schools in the country, attracting families and parents.
- Climate: Seattle has a mild climate, making it a great place to live year-round.

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