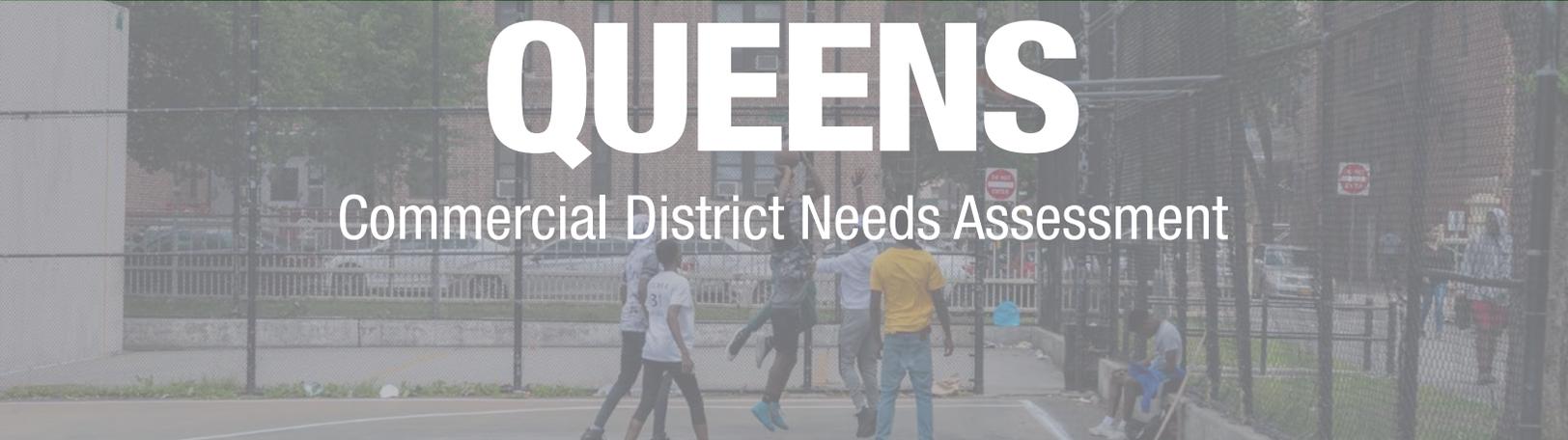




DOWNTOWN JAMAICA QUEENS

Commercial District Needs Assessment



careers
businesses
neighborhoods



Jamaica Center Business Improvement District



ABOUT DOWNTOWN JAMAICA

Avenue NYC is a competitive grant program created by the **NYC Department of Small Business Services** to fund and build the capacity of community-based development organizations to execute commercial revitalization initiatives. Avenue NYC is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which targets investments in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Avenue NYC Commercial Revitalization grants provide multi-year commitments aimed at building the capacity of partner organizations to better understand neighborhood needs, develop impactful programs, and sustain their work in the community for at least three years.

The **Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA)** highlights a neighborhood's existing business landscape and consumer characteristics.

This CDNA features **Jamaica Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Sutphin Boulevard, and 165th Street** commercial corridors in **Downtown Jamaica** which was conducted by the **Jamaica Center Business Improvement District** between July 2018 and January 2019.

Key issues and opportunities identified through this assessment will help prioritize SBS - supported local investments, and serve as an informational and marketing resource for the neighborhood.

In This Report

Existing conditions, business data, and qualitative depictions of the neighborhood were gathered from more than **832 surveys** and various stakeholder meetings with neighborhood merchants, shoppers, workers, property owners, and residents.

Jump to...

Key Findings	4-5
Business Inventory	6
What Merchants Say	7-10
Business Outlook	11-12
What Shoppers Say	8, 12
Physical Environment	13-15
Data Appendix	16-18

Background

One of Queens' three regional business districts, Downtown Jamaica is home to a variety of civic, cultural, and transportation networks, and serves as a gateway to New York City. This commercial destination boasts three performing arts centers, dozens of landmarked structures, an 11-acre park, two colleges, a major transportation hub, hundreds of independent businesses, and several national retailers.

Development of Jamaica began in the early 20th century, with the extension of the elevated transit lines and completion of the Long Island Rail Road's Jamaica station. Between 1920 and 1940, Downtown Jamaica's commercial real estate significantly expanded to support the growing residential population. Neighborhood fixtures included prominent department stores Gertz, Macy's, and May's; the first modern supermarket, King Kullen; and Loew's Valencia Theatre.

The neighborhood remains home to many historically significant buildings: King Manor, a historic house museum that focuses on the role of Rufus King (a signer of the U.S. Constitution) and his sons as national figures in the early anti-slavery movement; the First Reformed Church of Jamaica, initially erected in 1715, rebuilt in 1862, and enlarged in 1902; the Grace Episcopal Church, which was completed in 1862 and enlarged in 1901-1902; and the Jamaica Avenue Sidewalk Clock which was originally built in 1900 at 161-11 Jamaica Avenue, designated a New York City landmark in 1981, and moved to the intersection of Jamaica Avenue and Union Hall Street in 1989.

Today, Downtown Jamaica is a major transportation hub with 560,000 people passing through daily. This includes, four subway lines, 48 bus lines (including 10 Long Island bus lines), the Long Island Railroad, and the AirTrain JFK which connects the district to the rest of New York City, Long Island, John F. Kennedy International Airport, and beyond. This immense transportation hub serves Downtown Jamaica's four vibrant commercial corridors: Jamaica Avenue is home to a dynamic mix of national and local businesses and a variety of retail and food services; Sutphin Boulevard features the AirTrain Jamaica Station, courthouses, and other professional services; Hillside Avenue has large automotive-related businesses, cultural retail stores, and restaurants catering to a large Bangladeshi population; 165th Street Mall is a pedestrian area lined with small businesses and the Jamaica Colosseum Mall.

Neighborhood Demographics

See more on page 16

Downtown Jamaica is demographically and socioeconomically diverse, with an approximate population of 68,000, and 61% of the population is foreign-born. Downtown Jamaica has a large presence of Hispanic or Latino (36%) and Asian (36%) residents, and a median household income of \$46,778, somewhat lower than the borough-wide (\$59,758) and citywide (\$55,191) medians. Downtown Jamaica's diversity is present in its unique restaurants and shops, historic landmarks, arts and cultural institutions, and vibrant commercial corridors.

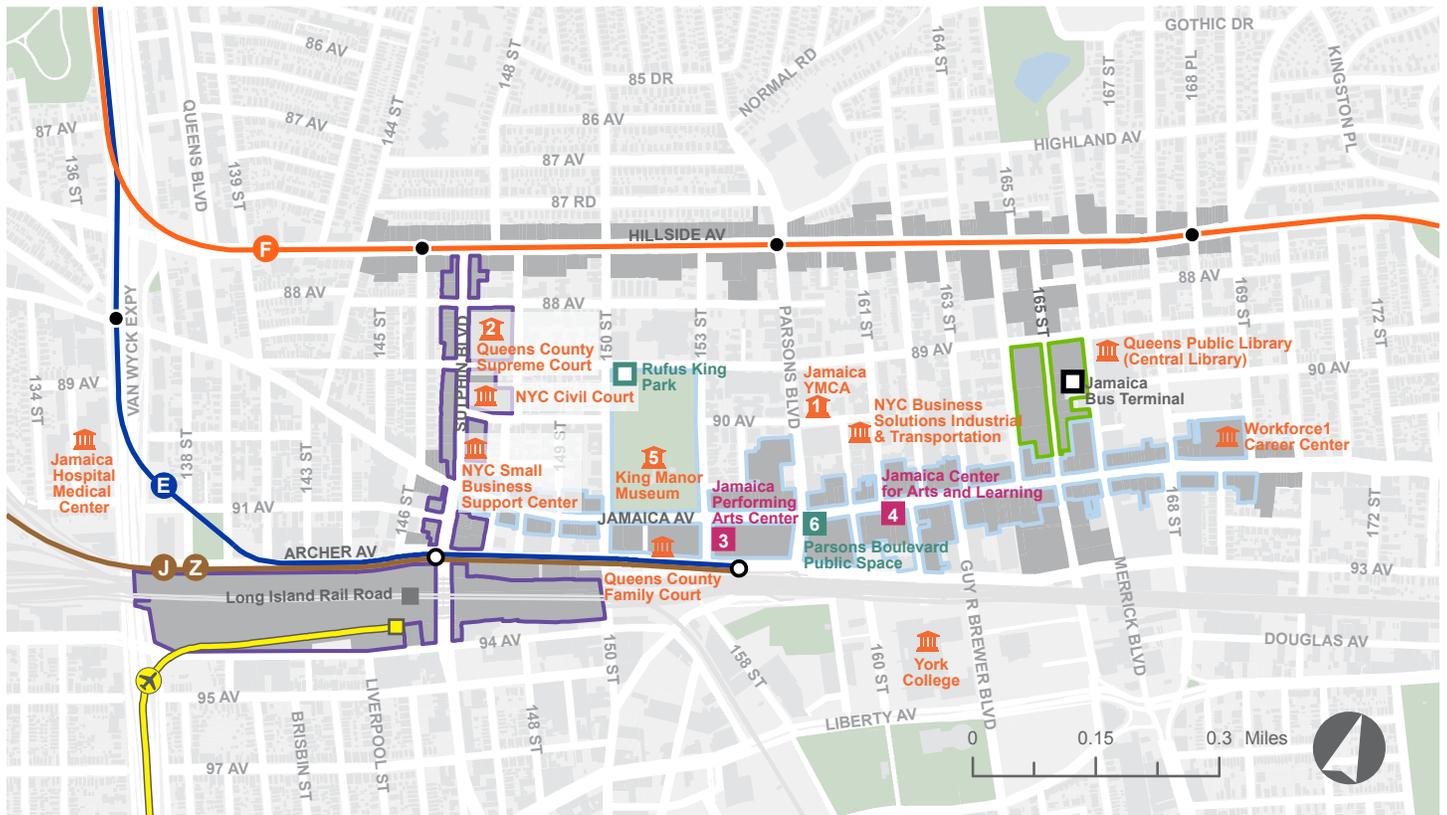
Future Opportunities

See more on page 5

Since 2000, Downtown Jamaica has been the focus of significant public investment. Major investments include the \$350 million AirTrain terminal; an extensive rezoning effort; and more recently, a \$153 million commitment from the City of New York through the Jamaica Now! Action Plan to support equitable growth in Downtown Jamaica. Currently there is more than \$1 billion of private investment, resulting in more than 4,800 new apartments, 2,400 hotel rooms, and 500,000 square feet of commercial space completed and pending. Most recently, Downtown Jamaica received \$10 million in Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding from New York State which in part aims to prepare the local workforce for sustainable careers and make investments to draw residents and visitors.

These investments and recent refreshed efforts at collaboration between various stakeholders are helping the community create and jointly pursue a shared vision for the district. With strategic aligning of resources focusing on the strengthening of businesses through commercial revitalization projects, both long-standing small businesses and new businesses in Downtown Jamaica will be better positioned to leverage these investments and serve a growing population in the years to come.

Downtown Jamaica



▲ Points of Interest

- Assessed Commercial Corridors
- 165th Street Mall Improvement Association BID
- Arts, Culture, Educational Institutions
- Jamaica Center BID
- Public Facilities
- Public Spaces
- Sutphin Boulevard BID

Neighborhood Events

- Downtown Jazz Festival
- Greater Jamaica Development Corporation Harvest Festival
- Jamaica Arts & Music Summer (JAMS) Festival
- Jamaica Avenue Weekend Walks: A Family Stroll
- Queens International Children's Festival
- Sutphin Boulevard BID Harvest Festival

Merchant & Business Groups

- 165th Street Mall Improvement Association
- Association of Women Construction Workers of America, Inc. (AWCWA)
- Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
- Jamaica Center Business Improvement District
- Sutphin Boulevard Business Improvement District

▲ Notable Places



KEY FINDINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths

- ▶ Home to three performing arts centers, dozens of landmarked historic sites, an 11-acre park, two colleges, a major transportation hub, hundreds of independent businesses, and several national destination retailers
- ▶ Proximity to major institutional anchors and destinations like Queens Supreme and Civil Courts, Social Security Administration, JFK International Airport, St. John's University, YMCA, and York College
- ▶ Major transportation hub with 300,000 people passing through every day on four subway lines, 14 bus lines, the LIRR, and AirTrain JFK
- ▶ Low vacancy rate (9%) across the entire commercial district and an abundance of affordable retail
- ▶ A wide variety of goods and services that are accessible to consumers of all income levels
- ▶ High foot traffic during daytime hours which is appreciated by merchants, residents, and visitors
- ▶ Wide sidewalks on Jamaica Avenue encourage window shopping and provide space for spontaneous social interactions
- ▶ Strong sense of community and nostalgic retro feel adds to the character of the neighborhood
- ▶ Many active and engaged community organizations that promote small businesses in the area and celebrate the neighborhood

Challenges

- ▶ Substance abuse and sales around the subway station make visitors, residents, and merchants feel unsafe
- ▶ Lack of family-oriented spaces and activities, like sit-down restaurants and community events
- ▶ Limited nighttime activities contributes to a negative perception of safety
- ▶ Lack of trees, street furniture, and other amenities throughout portions of the district makes it feel unwelcoming
- ▶ Traffic congestion, limited parking, broken and empty tree pits, and a lack of open space negatively affect both the pedestrian and driving experience along the commercial corridors
- ▶ While the commercial district overall boasts a diverse retail mix, certain corridors are underrepresented in specific business categories; ex. both Jamaica Avenue and 165th Street lack sit-down restaurants



165th Street Corridor



Tabernacle of Prayer



Jamaica Avenue Corridor



AirTrain JFK



Parsons Boulevard



Jamaica Avenue Sidewalk Clock



J. Kurtz and Sons Store Building



Jamaica Avenue Corridor

Opportunities

- ▶ Explore opportunities within the district for activating existing open spaces along corridors to enhance quality of life
- ▶ Host community events and family activities that are inclusive of all groups to activate commercial corridors
- ▶ Host community and merchant-focused events that encourage shoppers to rediscover and regularly support local businesses
- ▶ Coordinate with businesses, local NYPD precincts, NYC Department of Homeless Services, and social service providers to improve perceptions of safety along key commercial corridors
- ▶ Increase communication among merchants and connect them to business support services to help them attract customers and thrive
- ▶ Support existing community-based organizations and actively encourage stakeholder collaboration to address various community needs
- ▶ Create programming, wayfinding, and marketing to guide people to businesses, key points of interest, and other community destinations
- ▶ Host workshops to educate business owners on digital and social media marketing to improve their online presence
- ▶ Attract new businesses to vacant storefronts that meet the neighborhood's demand for healthy food, family-friendly restaurants, arts, and entertainment

What's Next?

To address these key findings and opportunities, Avenue NYC Grants have been awarded by SBS to nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit: nyc.gov/avenuenyc

BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

Business Inventory

1,064

Total Number of Storefronts

9.1%

Storefront Vacancy*

*Note: In 2018, New York City's 75 Business Improvement Districts reported an average ground floor vacancy rate of 8.9% and median ground floor vacancy rate of 7.3% (SBS BIDs Trends Report, 2018).

Storefront & Retail Mix

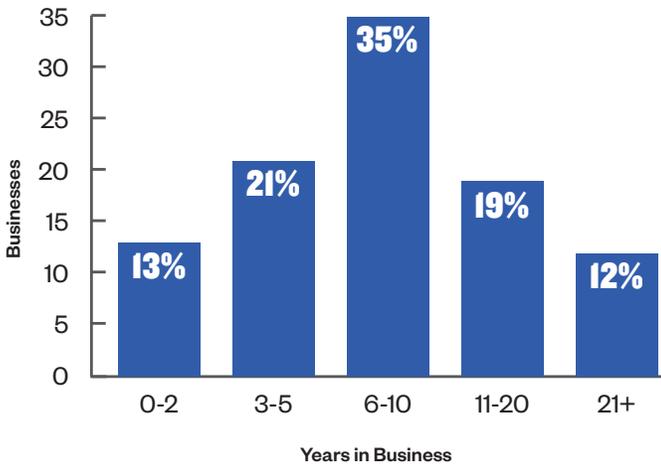


Business inventory and retail mix data were gathered by Jamaica Center BID through a comprehensive area inventory of storefront businesses located along Hillside Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, 165th Street, and Sutphin Boulevard. (October 2018 to April 2019).



What We've Heard from Downtown Jamaica Merchants

How many years have you been in business here?



*Note: The mean is the average of all responses, the median is the middle number when all responses are arranged in ascending order, and the mode is the most common response.

Do you own or rent your property?



Over the past year, has your business improved, stayed the same, or decreased?



How many employees do you have?



What kinds of resources would help you grow your business?

Resource	% Merchant Responses
▶ Marketing support	24%
▶ Lease support	13%
▶ Space improvements	13%
▶ Technology improvements (internet access)	13%
▶ New equipment	10%
▶ Training for staff	8%
▶ Access to financing	6%
▶ Assistance with regulatory compliance	3%
▶ Legal services	1%
▶ Other services	9%

What are the 3 biggest challenges facing your business?

- ▶ Lack of parking/transit
- ▶ Crime/safety
- ▶ Marketing/advertising costs

BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

What We've Heard from Downtown Jamaica Merchants

What do you like about the commercial corridor?

- "High foot traffic."
- "Many businesses have been here for a long time."
- "Its proximity to public transportation."

What makes this commercial district unique?

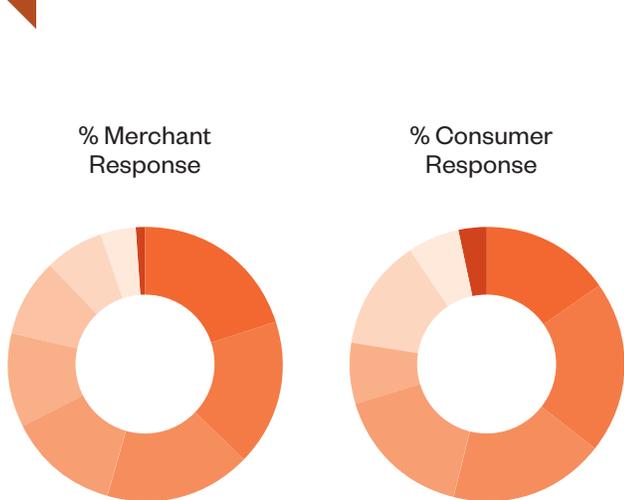
- "Product meets demand, it serves the demographic of customers."
- "Diversity within businesses."
- "Convenience to everything."

What We've Heard from Downtown Jamaica Shoppers

What would you like to see more of in this commercial district?

- "Better quality of merchandise and better customer service."
- "More things to do when you come other than shopping and eating..."
- "Specialty stores, stores with more character rather than generic chains."
- "Healthy food options and high end mom-and-pop stores."
- "Safety, police presence to monitor substance abuse around the train station."
- "More family-oriented events."

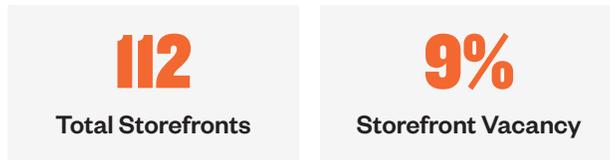
What changes need to occur in Downtown Jamaica to attract more visitors/shoppers?



	% Merchant Response	% Consumer Response
Parking	20%	15%
Community events	17%	20%
Safety	17%	18%
Landscaping/beautification	13%	17%
Storefront improvements	11%	7%
Merchant collaboration	9%	0%
Sanitation	7%	13%
Street lighting	5%	6%
Other	1%	4%

165th Street

Business Inventory & Retail Mix

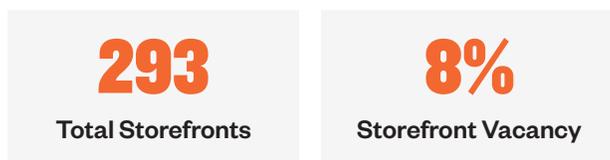


Do you own or rent your property?



Hillside Avenue

Business Inventory & Retail Mix



Do you own or rent your property?



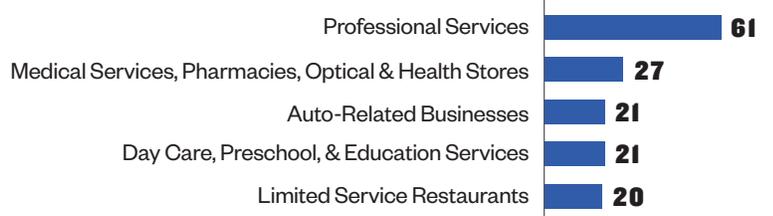
Most Common Businesses



What kinds of resources would help you grow your business?



Most Common Businesses



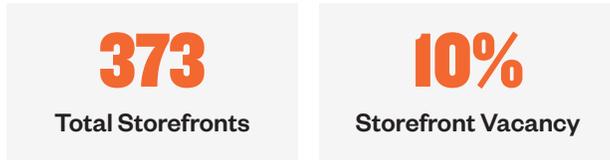
What kinds of resources would help you grow your business?



BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

Jamaica Avenue

Business Inventory & Retail Mix



Do you own or rent your property?



Jamaica Avenue Corridor

Most Common Businesses



What kinds of resources would help you grow your business?



Sutphin Boulevard

Business Inventory & Retail Mix



Do you own or rent your property?

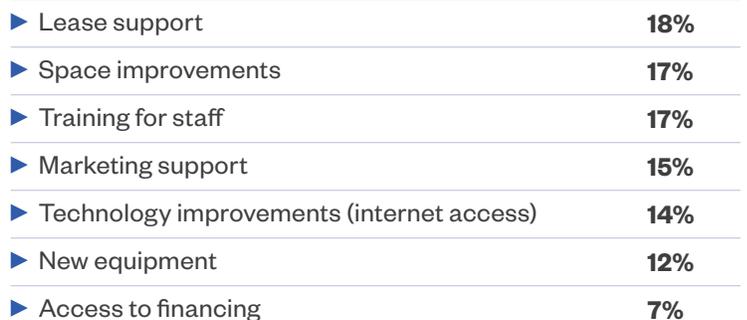


Sutphin Boulevard Corridor

Most Common Businesses



What kinds of resources would help you grow your business?

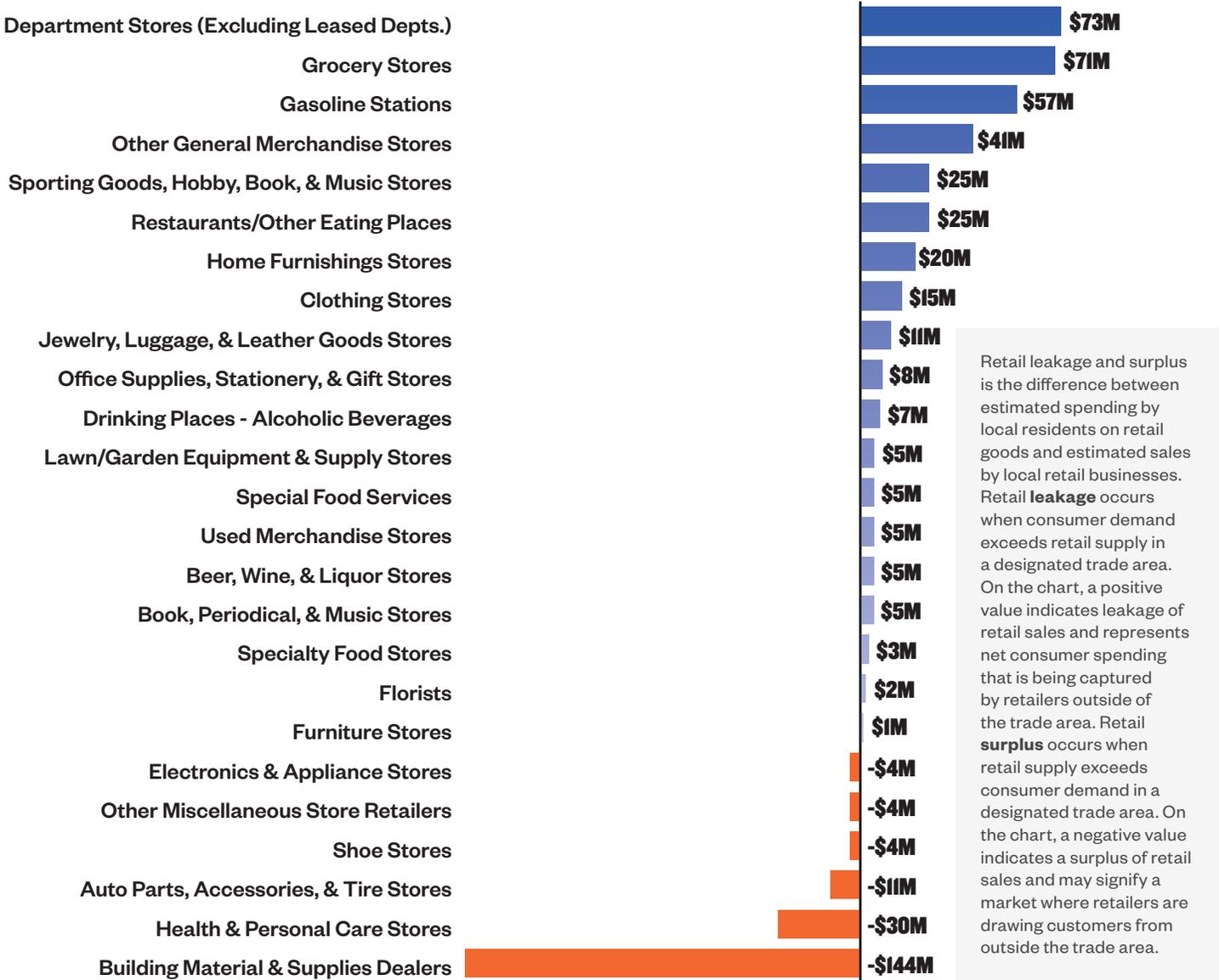


Downtown Jamaica Retail Opportunity

<p>Residents spend</p> <p>\$1.56B</p> <p>each year in goods and services</p>	<p>Local businesses make</p> <p>\$201M</p> <p>each year in retail sales</p>	<p>Every year,</p> <p>\$22M</p> <p>is spent outside the neighborhood</p>
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Retail Leakage & Surplus

← Surplus \$0 Leakage →



Source: ESRI and Infogroup, March 2019.

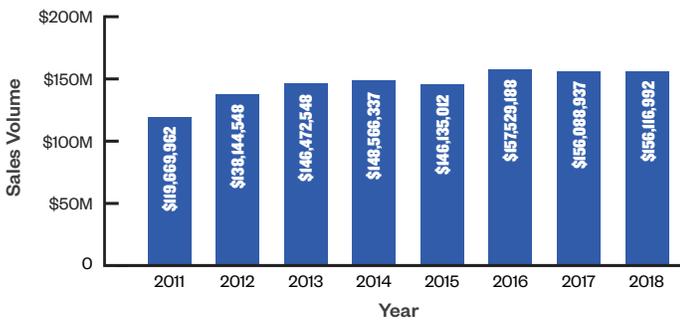
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Business Trends

Change in Total Business Sales, 2011-2018



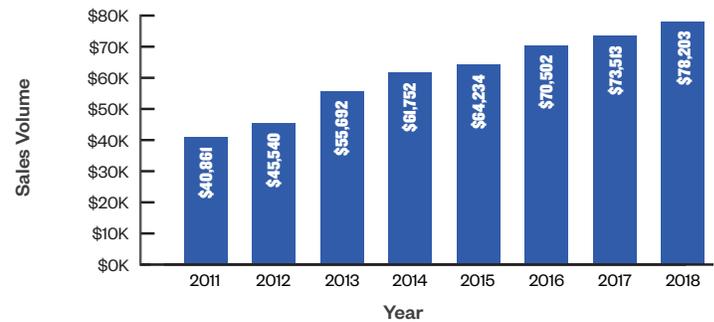
Downtown Jamaica Total Business Sales



Change in Median Sales by Business, 2011-2018



Downtown Jamaica Sales by Business



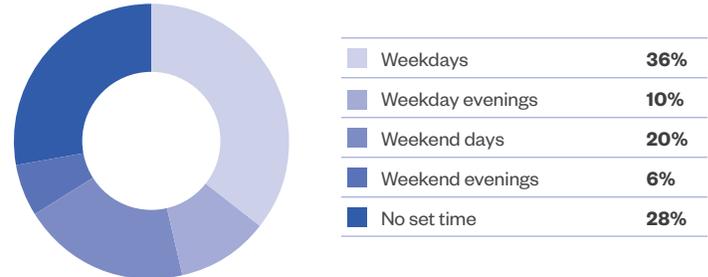
Source: Division of Tax Policy, NYC Department of Finance

What We've Heard from Shoppers

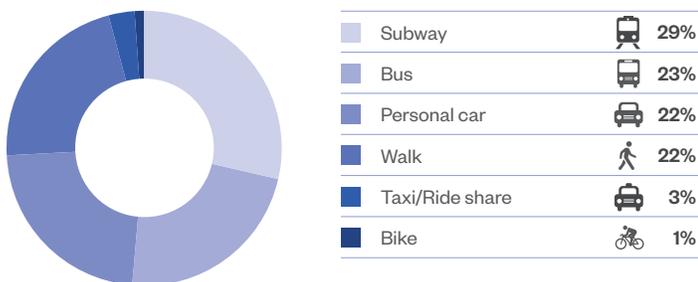
What additional types of businesses would you like to see?

- ▶ Department and chain stores 
- ▶ Healthy food options 
- ▶ Restaurant and eating options 
- ▶ Arts, entertainment, and community centers 
- ▶ Family and kid-friendly businesses 

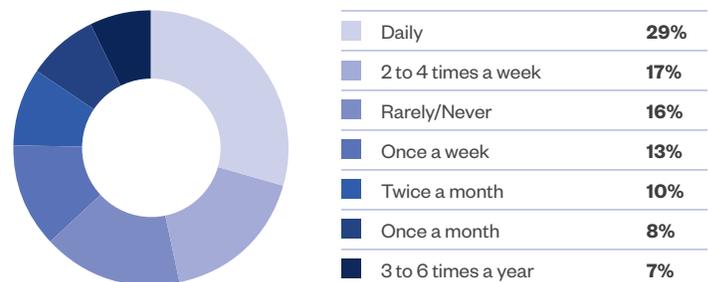
When do you usually go shop in Downtown Jamaica?



How do you usually get to Downtown Jamaica?



How often do you shop in Downtown Jamaica?



Source: Based on 535 consumer surveys conducted by Jamaica Center BID in Winter 2019.

Public Space Study: Parsons Boulevard Public Space

The NYC Department of Transportation created a public space on the east side of Parsons Boulevard between Jamaica and Archer avenues to enhance the pedestrian experience and provide safer crossings along a Vision Zero priority area. This public space is part of the City's Jamaica Now Action Plan, a \$153 million neighborhood revitalization initiative announced in 2015 by Mayor Bill de Blasio, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDO). Funding for the project comes as part of New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The project provides a vibrant space for community activities and events as well as amenities like tables, chairs, and planters for residents, shoppers, workers, commuters, and visitors. The former roadbed was transformed into a 26-foot sidewalk extension using paint, signage, and streetscape amenities. The movable tables, chairs, planters, and granite blocks help create a safer expanded space for pedestrians while elevating the look and feel of this area.



What is your relationship to this space?

% Space User Responses

▶ Live in neighborhood	37%
▶ Visiting	28%
▶ Work in neighborhood	24%
▶ Other	11%

How often do you visit this space?

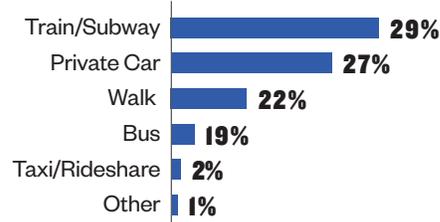
% Space User Responses

▶ Daily	34%
▶ Weekly	11%
▶ Monthly	22%
▶ Rarely	33%

How do you typically use this space?



How did you get here ?



How much time do you typically spend here?

▶ Walking through	65%
▶ Less than 15 minutes	20%
▶ Less than 30 minutes	7%
▶ Less than 1 hour	4%
▶ 1-2 hours	0%
▶ 2 or more hours	4%

Source: Based on 72 public space surveys conducted by Jamaica Center BID in Spring 2019.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Public Space Study: Parsons Boulevard Public Space

Downtown Jamaica is a lively, diverse, and densely populated community that is home to a variety of civic, cultural, and commercial anchors. Parsons Boulevard between Archer and Jamaica Avenue (the current location of the temporary Parsons Boulevard Public Space) serves as an entry point (an important node for first impressions!) to the E, J, and Z subway lines and numerous bus lines.



Harvest Festival 2018

When visiting Parsons Boulevard Public Space, do you shop at nearby businesses?

74%

Yes

26%

No

What are the top 3 things you like best about this space?

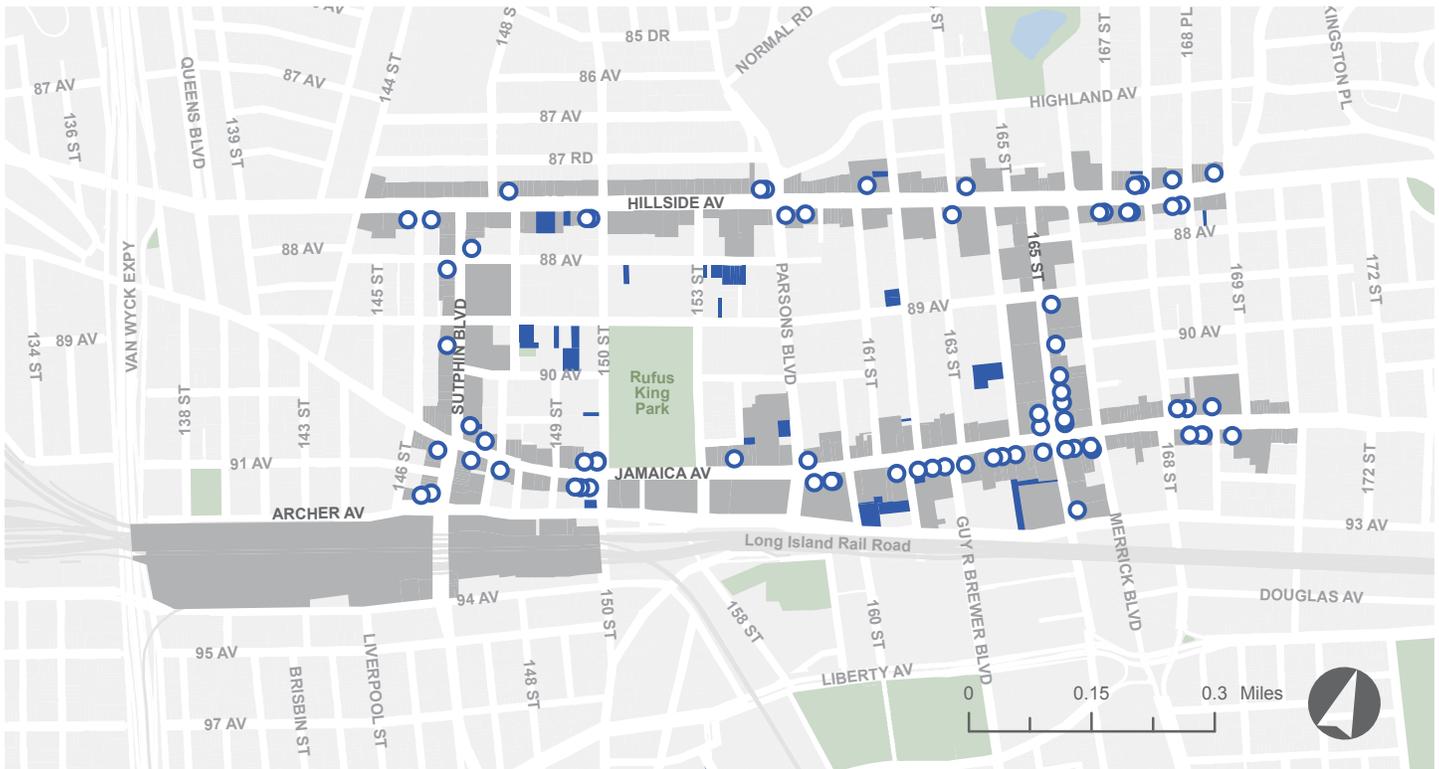
- ▶ Summer events and farmers market
- ▶ Welcoming and inviting space
- ▶ Accessibility

On the scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high), please rate your level of satisfaction with:

▶ Cleanliness	3
▶ Lighting	3
▶ Attractiveness	3
▶ Accessibility	4
▶ Overall safety	3
▶ Physical conditions/amenities	3
▶ Programs/events	3

Source: Based on 72 public space surveys conducted by Jamaica Center BID in Spring 2019.

Storefront Vacancies



- Vacant Lots
- Vacant Storefronts
- Parks & Open Spaces

An analysis of 809 storefronts along Jamaica Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Sutphin Boulevard, and 165th Street revealed that 39% of storefronts are in poor condition, 29% are in average condition, and 32% are in good condition.

Streetscape Observations

- ▶ There's a limited number of trees and greenery throughout the commercial district. Tree pits are empty or in disrepair (missing or broken tree guards) making the corridors feel uninviting.
- ▶ Most blocks throughout the district appear to be well illuminated at night from both streetlights and storefronts.
- ▶ Jamaica Avenue lacks street furniture, plantings, public art, signage, and other visually appealing enhancements to improve the pedestrian experience.
- ▶ Auto-related businesses on Hillside Avenue park cars on the sidewalk, which, along with frequent curb cuts, disrupt pedestrian circulation and contribute to a negative safety perception of the corridor.
- ▶ Poor street and sidewalk conditions are evident across the neighborhood.
- ▶ Lack of traffic lights and faded or missing crosswalks at various intersections negatively impact pedestrian safety.
- ▶ Due to heavy bus traffic, commuter vans, high parking demand, and high pedestrian foot traffic, traffic congestion continues to be a challenge in Downtown Jamaica.



DATA APPENDIX

Study Area Boundaries

Assessed Commercial Corridors

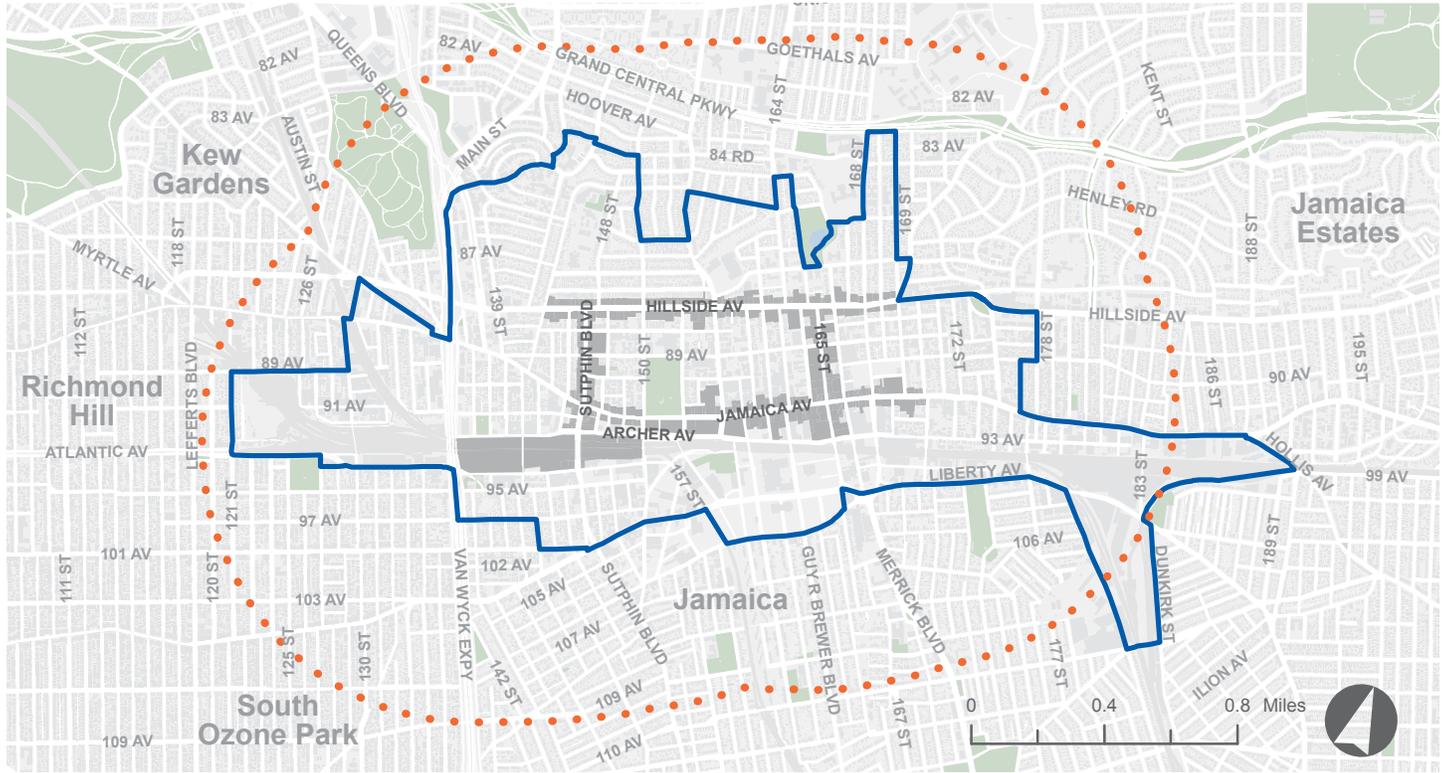
Primary data on Downtown Jamaica storefront businesses presented on pg. 6-8 was gathered along Jamaica Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Sutphin Boulevard, and 165th Street commercial corridors.

Downtown Jamaica Context Area

Demographic and employment data on pg. 17-18 correspond to the Downtown Jamaica neighborhood context area.

Trade Area

Retail leakage, surplus, and retail opportunity data on pg. 11 correspond to the 0.75 mile trade area.



Area Demographics

Total Population

67,768	Downtown Jamaica
2,310,011	Queens
8,461,961	New York City

Population Density (per square mile)

33,710	Downtown Jamaica
21,150	Queens
27,986	New York City

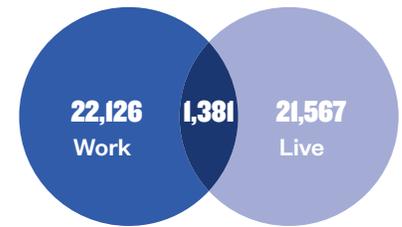
Average Household Size

3.27	Downtown Jamaica
2.93	Queens
2.65	New York City

Car Ownership

49%	Downtown Jamaica
63%	Queens
45%	New York City

Commuting Patterns



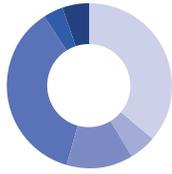
22,126 Work in Downtown Jamaica, live elsewhere

1,381 Live & Work in Downtown Jamaica

21,567 Live in Downtown Jamaica, work elsewhere

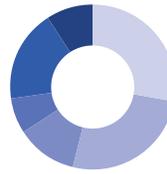
Area Demographics

Race/Background



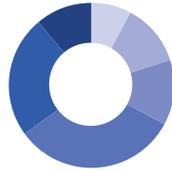
	Downtown Jamaica	QN	NYC
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	36%	28%	29%
White alone	5%	26%	32%
Black or African American alone	13%	17%	22%
Asian alone	36%	25%	14%
Two or more races	4%	2%	2%
Some other race alone	5%	2%	1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1%	0%	0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%

Educational Attainment



	Downtown Jamaica	QN	NYC
12th Grade or Less, No Diploma	28%	19%	19%
High School Graduate	26%	27%	24%
Some College, No Degree	12%	15%	14%
Associate's Degree	7%	8%	7%
Bachelor's Degree	18%	20%	21%
Graduate or Professional Degree	9%	11%	15%

Population Age



	Downtown Jamaica	QN	NYC
Under 5 Years	8%	6%	6%
5-14 Years	12%	11%	11%
15-24 Years	13%	12%	13%
25-44 Years	32%	31%	32%
45-64 Years	24%	26%	25%
65+ Years	11%	14%	13%

Median Age

35.3	Downtown Jamaica
37.9	Queens
35.9	New York City

Foreign-Born Population

61%	Downtown Jamaica
48%	Queens
37%	New York City

Income

Median Household Income

\$46,778	Downtown Jamaica
\$59,758	Queens
\$55,191	New York City

Pop. Below Poverty Line

23%	Downtown Jamaica
15%	Queens
20%	New York City

Employment

Population in Labor Force

65%	Downtown Jamaica
64%	Queens
64%	New York City

Unemployment*

10.8%	Downtown Jamaica
7.8%	Queens
8.6%	New York City

*Note: Unemployment figures are based on data from 2010-2014. As of December 2018, the unemployment rate is 3.4% for Queens and 3.9% for New York City (NYS DOL); updated neighborhood-level data for Downtown Jamaica is not available.

Local Jobs and Employment

Local Residents' Employment



Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	21%
Accommodation, Food Services, Arts, & Entertainment	14%
Retail Trade	13%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	10%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	10%
Construction	7%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	6%
Manufacturing	5%
Public Administration	3%
Other Services	10%

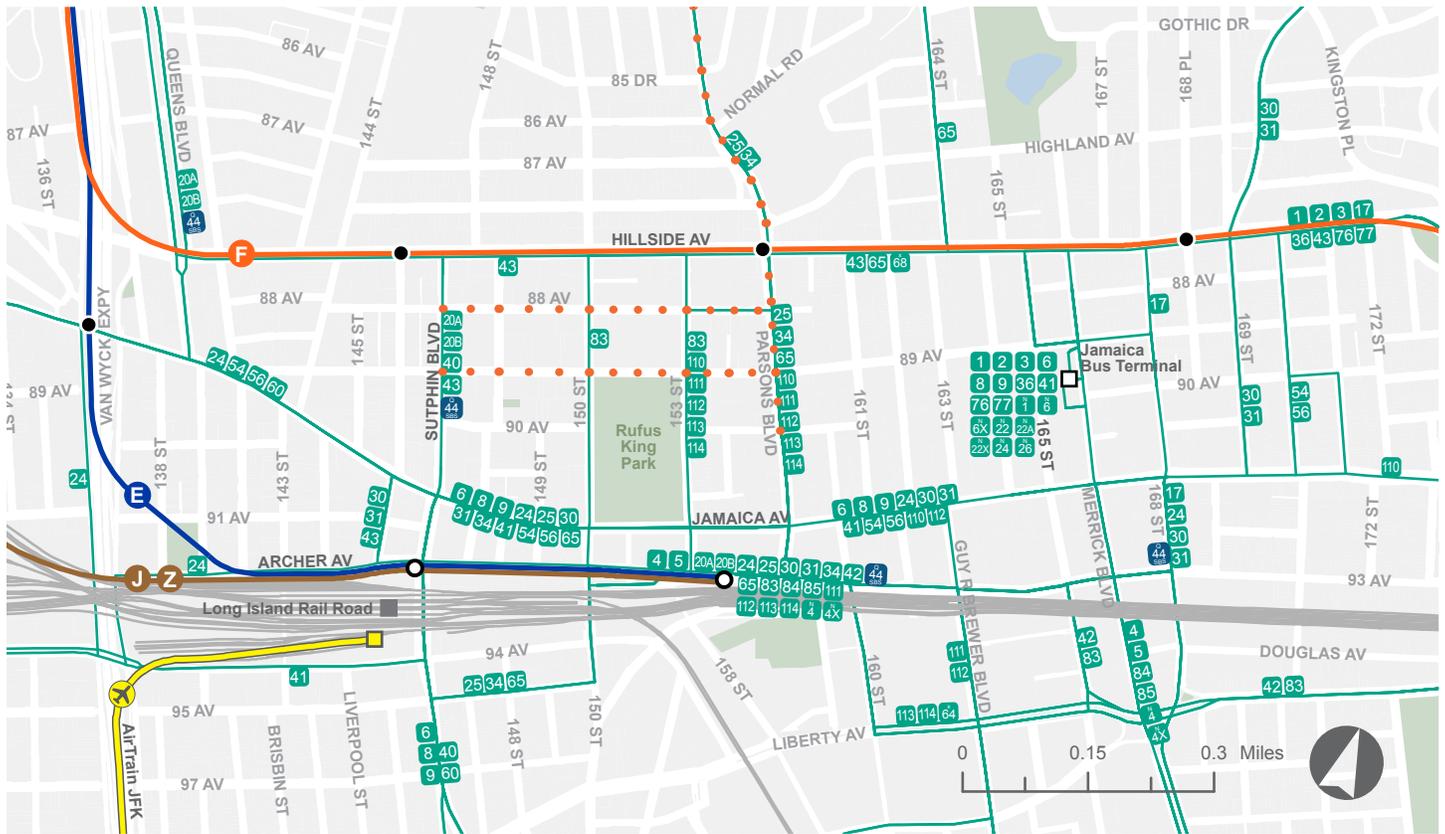
Jobs Located in Downtown Jamaica



Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	41%
Accommodation, Food Services, Arts, & Entertainment	5%
Retail Trade	14%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	2%
Construction	4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	3%
Manufacturing	3%
Public Administration	10%
Other Services	17%

DATA APPENDIX

Downtown Jamaica Transportation



▲ Downtown Jamaica Transportation

— Bus Routes

... Bicycle Lanes

— NYC Subway

MTA Annual Bus Ridership

5.1M	Q17
4.5M	Q20
6.1M	Q25
4.3M	Q43
9.0M	Q44
3.5M	Q54
4.7M	Q60
6.1M	Q65
3.5M	Q111

Bus Routes

36	Total MTA Bus Routes
2	Express Bus Routes X64, X68

Vehicular Traffic (2015)

16,895	Jamaica Avenue from Sutphin Boulevard to Merrick Boulevard
12,578	Jamaica Avenue from Van Wyck Expressway to Sutphin Boulevard
22,032	Jamaica Avenue from Merrick Boulevard to 188th Street
8,974	Sutphin Boulevard from 90th Avenue to Hillside Avenue
29,033	Hillside Avenue from Queens Boulevard to Francis Lewis Boulevard
8,098	Merrick Boulevard from Hillside Avenue to Liberty Avenue
3,682	150th Street from Hillside Avenue to Jamaica Avenue
10,159	Parsons Boulevard from Hillside Avenue to 93rd Avenue

Average Weekday Subway Ridership (2017)

39,326	E J Z Jamaica Center-Parsons-Archer
23,843	E J Z Sutphin Boulevard/Archer Avenue/JFK Airport
22,421	F Jamaica/179 Street
6,593	F Parsons Boulevard
4,496	F Sutphin Boulevard
8,671	F 169 Street
4,972	E Jamaica-Van Wyck

Sources: MTA 2017; NYC DOT March, 2019; NYS DOT, 2016 Annual Average Daily Traffic data.

Recent SBS Neighborhood Investments

- ▶ *Commercial Revitalization*, Avenue NYC multi-year grant, awarded to the Jamaica Center BID, 2018-2021.
- ▶ *Downtown Jamaica Storefront Improvement Program*, \$500,000 awarded in storefront improvement grants (privately funded by the NYC Economic Development Corporation) to 32 storefronts in Downtown Jamaica, 2017-2020.
- ▶ *Neighborhood Design Lab services*, awarded to the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, 2019.
- ▶ *Façade Improvements*, Avenue NYC grant of \$30,000 awarded to the Sutphin Boulevard BID, 2017.
- ▶ *Business Attraction*, Avenue NYC grant of \$30,000 awarded to the Jamaica Center BID, 2016.
- ▶ *Façade Improvements*, Avenue NYC grant of \$25,000 awarded to the Sutphin Boulevard BID, 2016.
- ▶ *Merchant Organizing*, Avenue NYC grant of \$25,000 awarded to the Queens Chamber of Commerce, 2016.
- ▶ *Placemaking*, Avenue NYC grant of \$30,000 awarded to the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, 2016.
- ▶ *Activating the Ave with Arts*, Neighborhood Challenge grant of \$75,000 awarded to No Longer Empty and Jamaica Center BID, 2016.
- ▶ *Business Attraction and Placemaking*, Avenue NYC grant of \$25,000 awarded to the Jamaica Center BID, 2015.
- ▶ *Business Attraction*, Avenue NYC grant of \$35,000 awarded to the Sutphin Boulevard BID, 2015.
- ▶ *Sutphin Boulevard Storefront Improvement Project*, Neighborhood Challenge grant of \$95,000 awarded to the Sutphin Boulevard BID, 2015.

Existing Plans & Studies

Atlantic Avenue Extension

- ▶ A planned \$20 million project by the NYC Department of Transportation that will ease vehicular flow to the Jamaica Station area and create a new Gateway Park to serve as a western entranceway to Downtown Jamaica.

Jamaica Now Action Plan

- ▶ The Jamaica Now Action Plan is a \$153 million dollar neighborhood revitalization initiative announced in 2015 by the de Blasio Administration, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). The plan outlines a strategic path to economically revitalize Jamaica, Queens, by providing workforce training and small business support, and improving the livability of the neighborhood through investments in safety measures, green spaces and more.

Sources

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ABOUT SBS

The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building thriving neighborhoods across the five boroughs.

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