

***Business Area #7:
Harvard Square***

Boundaries: bordered by Prescott Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Putnam Avenue, Flagg Street, the Charles River, Ash Street, Mason Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: establishments and business offices on Massachusetts Avenue between 1050 and 1540, Mt. Auburn Street between 1 and 168, and the numerous restaurants, shops, and offices on Holyoke, Dunster, and Winthrop Streets, as well as, the Charles Square and University Place complexes.



Harvard Square

Larcenies from buildings increased by 6% in Harvard Square in 2008. Thefts in area retail shops accounted for 40% of the larcenies from buildings. There are three distinct scenarios that make up the majority of this type of thievery: the theft of employee property from back room storage areas, inside jobs where the employee is stealing property or cash from his or her place of work, and the stealing of cash from registers and unattended merchandise from store counters. Larcenies from health clubs and hotels rooms, although common, are not prevalent in this business district. • The totals for **commercial robberies** in Harvard Square continued to rollercoaster last year. After recording zero commercial robberies in 2006, then rocketing to ten in 2007, this target crime leveled off with four incidents in 2008. Two banks, a jewelry store, and a restaurant were victimized by robbers in 2008. Both bank robberies were cleared by arrest. • Despite the fact that the numbers have dropped significantly in recent years, **larcenies from persons** remain a concern in this area. Professional pickpockets use public transportation and Harvard Square has been a hotspot for this activity. A dipper's favorite target is someone who is preoccupied, such as a person who leaves a purse unattended in a coffee shop, a tourist overloaded with packages, or someone totally engaged on their cell phone. A high percentage of these crimes in 2008 were on weekdays between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on weekends between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. • **Shoplifting** in Harvard Square increased by 27% this year. The majority of shoplifting arrests were on weekend afternoons at clothing stores on JFK and Brattle Streets.

CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Larceny from Building	90	78	43	63	67
Larceny from Person	136	113	89	73	74
Commercial Burglary	20	14	18	13	8
Commercial Robbery	5	4	0	10	4
Shoplifting	62	52	56	48	61
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	50	37	28	34	38