

2016 Boston Marathon By The Numbers

by John S Kiernan

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The Boston Marathon is more than the country's premier long-distance running event and a Patriot Day centerpiece for Bay Staters. The heinous acts of two troubled young men on April 15, 2013 turned "Boston Strong" into a national rallying cry and transformed the event into a 26.2-mile tribute to American resilience. But the Boston Marathon must not be characterized by the violence of that day; rather by the fact that we continue to show up and run freely year after year.

Symbolism aside, a spot in the Boston Marathon is a prestigious position, as the field is limited to just 30,000 people, 80% of whom need to beat an age-based qualifying time in a previous marathon to even have a chance. Such is why thousands of qualifiers are left bib-less each year, with \$180-\$240 in savings representing their sole silver lining.

It is those competitor dues, combined with funding from benefactor John Hancock and a roster of 22 corporate sponsors, that fuel the event's \$830,500 purse, helping to lure Olympic-hopefuls and other top talent in the process. That elite field, the holiday atmosphere and even the annual 11:05 a.m. start time for the hometown Red Sox contribute to Marathon Monday's party vibe, bringing roughly half a million people to line the course each year and

providing a \$182 million boost to the local economy.

We're obviously already in the marathon mood at WalletHub, and to help inspire you to join us, we put together an awesome infographic filled with fun facts about the 2016 Boston Marathon, which you can check out below. We also [convened a panel](#) of leading running industry and sports business experts for their take on the Boston's significance, trends in the marathon world and much more. Enjoy the race!

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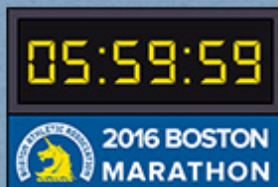
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26.2 Mi.

Distance of the course from Hopkinton to Boston



6 Hrs.

Maximum time allowed to complete the course



35K

Gallons of water will be available to racers



American Red Cross

26

First-aid stations line the course



2.6K

Estimated number of calories burned during a marathon



1.08 Gal.

Of fuel is saved by running a marathon instead of covering the distance in a car

THE FIELD



30K

Runners are in the Boston Marathon field, as mandated by the Boston Athletic Association

Age Group	Men	Women
18-34	3:05	3:35
35-39	3:10	3:40
40-44	3:15	3:45
45-49	3:25	3:55
50-54	3:30	4:00
55-59	3:40	4:10
60-64	3:55	4:25
65-69	4:10	4:40
70-74	4:25	4:55

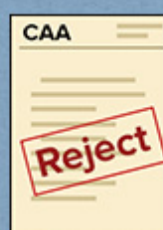
80%

Is comprised of runners who qualified based on finishing time in a previous marathon



23,628

Applicants beat their age group's qualifying time by 148+ seconds and earned automatic entry



28.6K

4,562

28.6K
Applications were received during the registration period for qualifiers



404

People automatically qualified due to completing 10+ consecutive Boston Marathons

4,302
Qualified applicants were rejected due to field size constraints



50+

Crashers manage to run the entire Boston Marathon each year

PULLING THE PURSE STRINGS



\$830.5K

Total purse for the 2016 Boston Marathon, plus an additional \$220K if records are broken



\$180

U.S.-resident registration fee



\$240

International registration fee



\$18.1 Mil

Paid by John Hancock, the marathon's principal sponsor, since prize money entered the equation in 1986

Bank of America

Abbott



22

Number of sponsors for the 2016 Boston Marathon

BOSTON'S MARATHON MADNESS



\$181.9 Mil

Economic impact of the 2015 Boston Marathon



500K

Spectators line the course each year, making the marathon New England's most widely viewed sporting event



500

Boston Marathon street banners are hung throughout the city



1

Boston Red Sox home game is played at 11:05 a.m. each Marathon Monday to allow fans to watch runners pass Fenway Park

THE BOMBINGS & SECURITY



260

People were injured and three were killed by the two explosions at the 2013 Boston Marathon



102 Hrs.

Passed between the bombing and the capture of the culprits



2

Terrorist attacks survived by Utah's Mason Wells, 19: the Boston Marathon and Brussels Airport bombings



2

Movies about the Boston Marathon bombings are currently in the works: "Patriots Day" (Mark Wahlberg) and "Stronger" (Jake Gyllenhaal)



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Boston Police Commissioner William Evans will not run the 2016 race to focus on security following the Brussels attacks



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Drones are allowed along the course during the race



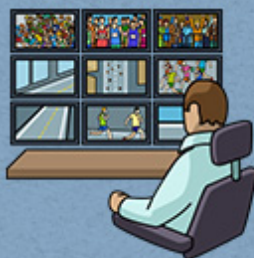
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Backpacks or rucksacks are allowed on the course



1L

Containers with more than 1 liter of liquid are not allowed



30X

Magnification cameras will keep watch over the finish line



100+

Surveillance cameras line the course



50+

Observation posts are around the finish line and Back Bay



1.9K+

Medical personnel will be present



3.5K

Law enforcement and military personnel will be posted along the route

MARATHON MILESTONES



START

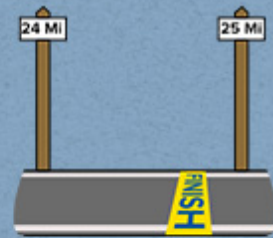
1897

The year of the first Boston Marathon, making it the world's oldest annual marathon



15

Runners started the first Boston Marathon



24.5 Mi.

Distance of the inaugural Boston "Marathon"



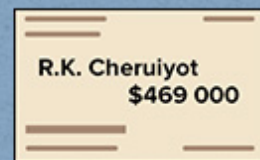
1972

Nina Kuscsik became the first official female participant to win the Boston Marathon



58/61

John A. Kelley started a record 61 Boston Marathons and finished 58



\$469K

Career prize money won by Robert Kipkoech Cheruiyot – most all time



\$110

Price of the 2016 Boston Marathon Celebration Jacket, honoring the first jacket Adidas created for the Boston Marathon in 1991



\$234 Mil+

Has been raised for Boston Marathon charities since 1989

FINISH

Presented by



Sources:

The data in this report is based on WalletHub projections as well as information from the Boston Athletic Association, MassLive, Spanfeller Media Group, John Hancock Financial Services, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Abbott, CBS Local Media, Boston Discovery Guide, A&E Television Networks, National Geographic Channel, Chicago Tribune, Boston Herald, Rodale, NPR, American City Business Journals, Bottletop Media and Adidas America.

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Ask the Experts

For a closer look at the business side of big races such as the Boston Marathon, we posed the following questions to a panel of leading experts. You can find their bios and responses below.

1. What tips do you have for a non-professional first time participant to the Boston Marathon?
2. Do you think it is too easy or too difficult to qualify for the Boston marathon?

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attack on the Marathon?

Ray Castle

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Associate Professor of Professional Practice & Athletic Training Program Director in the School of Kinesiology at the Louisiana State University College of Human Sciences & Education

What tips do you have for a non-professional first time participant to the Boston Marathon?

The best thing I typically tell first time marathoners is to try to stay to your normal routine leading up to the race. For some runners who may have qualified to raise funds for a



charity, this especially holds importance. With the large number of runners and start waves, a runner may not be accustomed to starting his/her running day at 10:30 AM. This may change how a runner hydrates and fuels (eats) prior to the start time. Another important factor is ensuring good quality sleep. Finally, listen to your body. If you are having difficulties during the race then medical personnel are positioned throughout the entire course to provide assistance.

Do you think it is too easy or too difficult to qualify for the Boston Marathon?

It is definitely not easy to qualify for the Boston Marathon. There are a number of races, such as the Louisiana Marathon held in each January that has grown a reputation as a “fast” course and good BAA Qualifier race. Once a runner qualifies, I think it’s easy to say that is when the next level of training begins to finish the Boston Marathon. Given the difficulty of the course, especially Heartbreak Hill after Mile 20, runners really need to be prepared (and qualified) to have a great run.

What are the chances that an American (male or female) wins the Marathon?

While history hasn’t fared well for an American (male or female) to win the race in recent years, it looks slim given the total number of non-US runners in this year’s elite races. Once they put their shoes on and the race starts, it is anyone’s race. There are several Americans running in the elite field for the first time, so it will be great to see how they do.

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Do you believe that the recent attack in Brussels increases the possibility of another attack on the Marathon?

I wouldn’t say the recent attack increases the possibility, but rather that it can happen (and has previously) anywhere and/or repeated, not just the Marathon. Large events like the Super Bowl, the World Series, and other athletic events always have a higher threat level potential given that they are highly visible events. However, organizers for these and many other events spend extensive time working with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and the medical community to ensure a fun and safe Marathon for runners and spectators.

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