preface

In 2013, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) developed Our Great Region 2040, a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan lays out a long-range vision to ensure that the 13-county region is one of the world’s greatest places to live, work, and succeed by 2040.

The 2017 profiles for all 13 counties in the region provide a demographic snapshot and build a baseline understanding from which local communities and H-GAC can gauge how the region has advanced the tenets of the Our Great Region 2040 plan.

The contents of this report have been gathered from a variety of sources referenced on the last two pages. All maps were produced by H-GAC.

To read the Our Great Region 2040 plan and all 13 county profiles, visit ourregion.org/county-profiles.html or h-gac.com/go/apps.
big ideas

Strategies in the Our Great Region 2040 plan are grouped into Big Ideas for six different topics highlighting areas of opportunity within the region. The Big Ideas serve as high-level guides when considering new projects or policies. This 2017 county profile includes a range of demographic data points that correspond with one or multiple Big Ideas.

**Economic Development**
Strengthening our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce

**Environment**
Securing a clean and ample water supply

**Healthy Communities**
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives

**Housing**
Providing balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options

**Resiliency**
Increasing our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment

**Transportation**
Achieving a world-class transportation network
Population Growth Forecast
Brazoria County grew by 104% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 574,000 residents by 2040.

Residents Per Square Mile
Brazoria County is less dense than the region as a whole.
Race and Ethnicity
Brazoria County is less racially diverse than the region and the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

Age
Brazoria County has a similar age profile as the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 0-17</th>
<th>Ages 18-34</th>
<th>Ages 35-64</th>
<th>Ages over 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty Rate
Brazoria County has a lower rate of poverty than the region, particularly for children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Children (under 18)</th>
<th>Seniors (65 and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Household Income
Brazoria County has one of the highest median household incomes in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>$69,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age
Brazoria County has a similar age profile as the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 65</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Poverty Rate
Brazoria County has a lower rate of poverty than the region, particularly for children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Children (under 18)</th>
<th>Seniors (65 and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race and Ethnicity
Brazoria County is less racially diverse than the region and the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.
Brazoria County Land Use

- Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops: 49%
- Wetlands: 30%
- Developed Land: 16%
- Open water: 5%
- Other counties

Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction is staying steady after a post-2010 rise while multi-family permits remain intermittent.
**Housing Tenure**
Brazoria County has a higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renters</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Type**
Brazoria County’s homes are mostly single-family residences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV, boat, &amp; mobile home</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Median Home Value**
Brazoria County has the fifth highest median home value in the region.

**Vacant Housing Units**
Around 10% of Brazoria County’s housing units are vacant.

**Living Costs**
Brazoria County households spend 54% of their income on transportation and housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Units Built Since 2000**
One-third of Brazoria County’s housing units were built since 2000.
Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs
Employment in Brazoria County diversified between 2002 and 2014. While the Manufacturing and Construction industries declined as a percentage of overall jobs over that period, they still employed about the same number of workers.

- Manufacturing 21%
- Construction 17%
- Retail Trade 12%
- Educational Services 9%
- Manufacturing 14%
- Construction 15%
- Educational Services 12%
- Retail Trade 11%

Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)
Fewer than 10% of Brazoria County’s working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.

- Enrolled in School: 84% County, 85% Region
- Employed, Not in School: 7% County, 7% Region
- Not in School or Employed: 9% County, 8% Region

Major Employers in Brazoria County
- Alvin ISD
- Brazosport ISD
- Brazoria County
- Gulf States, Inc.
- Industrial Specialists, Inc.
- Infinity Construction Services
- Pearland ISD
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- The Dow Chemical Company
- The Kroger Company
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.

*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.*
Only 31% of Brazoria County residents work in the county, and only 46% of the workers in the county live there.

Workers’ Job & Home Destinations
Only 31% of Brazoria County residents work in the county, and only 46% of the workers in the county live there.

Unemployment Rate
Brazoria County’s unemployment mirrors national trends, and was higher than the nation in 2016.

Unemployment Rate

Earnings of Residents
Nearly 60% of Brazoria County residents earn more than $40,000 annually, a higher percentage than the region.

Earnings of Residents

County residents who work elsewhere

Workers in the county who live elsewhere

44,000 Brazoria County residents both live and work in the county.
**Educational Attainment**
A higher percentage of Brazoria County residents have completed high school than the region and state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>14%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>26%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate’s</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or More</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local Schools**
Public Secondary Schools
- Alvin ISD
- Angleton ISD
- Brazosport ISD
- Columbia-Brazoria ISD
- Damon ISD
- Danbury ISD
- Pearland ISD

Post-Secondary Schools
- Brazosport College
- Alvin Community College
- Alvin Community College at Pearland College Center

**Class of 2015 Graduation Rate**
Brazoria County students graduated at a higher rate in 2015 than the students of most counties in the region.

**Median Earnings by Educational Attainment**
A Brazoria County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, $54,700 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.
Population without Health Insurance
A lower percentage of Brazoria County residents lack health insurance than the region or state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children (under 18)</th>
<th>Total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Causes of Death, 2013
Per 100,000 Brazoria County residents

169 Cancer (all types)
168 Heart disease
46 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
40 Accidents
36 Stroke
23 Alzheimer’s
22 Septicemia
18 Flu and Pneumonia

Adult Obesity Rate
Brazoria County has the same obesity rate as the state.

Dentists Per Capita
Texas 53 per 100,000
County 46 per 100,000

Doctors Per Capita
Texas 74 per 100,000
County 78 per 100,000
Residents in 100-year Floodplain
A larger percentage of Brazoria County residents live in a 100-year floodplain than the region.

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
All Brazoria County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region’s residents.

- **20%** County
- **12%** Region
- **100%** County
- **25%** Region
TRANSPORTATION

Mean Commute to Work (minutes)
Brazoria County workers commute for about the same amount of time as the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Mean Commute to Work (minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commute Mode to Work
A higher percentage of Brazoria County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode to Work</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive alone</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work from home</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transit</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk, bike, other</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person
Brazoria County drivers travel less annually than drivers in the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents
Brazoria County has a similar rate of traffic fatalities as the rest of the region.
Overview
Brazoria County Boundaries (map)
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017
Population Growth Forecast
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017
Residents per Square Mile
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017
Age
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001
Median Household Income
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2503
Poverty Rate
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701
Race and Ethnicity
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002

Housing & Land Use
Brazoria County Land Use (map)
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017
Building Permits Issued
U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 1990-2015
Housing Tenure
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04
Housing Type
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04
Vacant Housing Units
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04
Living Costs
Center for Neighborhood Technology 2013 H+T® Index
Median Home Value
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04
Housing Units Built Since 2000
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Economy & Workforce
Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs
U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program
Major Employers in Brazoria County
2016 Workforce Solutions, County Economic Profiles
Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B14005
Unemployment Rate
Earnings of Residents
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program
Workers’ Job & Home Destinations
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program
Education & Health

Educational Attainment
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501

Local Schools
Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate
Texas Education Agency, Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Data, Class of 2015

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B20004

Population without Health Insurance
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Top Causes of Death
Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2013 County Health Facts Profiles

Adult Obesity Rate
Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013 County Data Indicators

Dentists per Capita
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Doctors per Capita
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Environment & Transportation

Brazoria County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts (map)
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in 100-year Floodplain
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Mean Commute to Work (minutes)
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person
Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

Commute Mode to Work
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents
Texas Department of Transportation, 2010-2015, Crash Records Information System