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
Fort Bend County grew by 447% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 1,271,000 residents by 2040.

Residents Per Square Mile
Fort Bend County is more dense than the region as a whole.
**Race and Ethnicity**
Fort Bend County is more 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>35%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</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.*

---

**Age**
Fort Bend County has a similar age profile as the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 65</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Median Household Income**
Fort Bend County has the highest median household income in the region.

Fort Bend: $53,200
Harris: $89,200

---

**Poverty Rate**
Fort Bend 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>8%</td>
<td>11%</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>

---

**Age**
Fort Bend County has a similar age profile as the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 65</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Race and Ethnicity**
Fort Bend County is more 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>35%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</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.*
Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction increased rapidly in 2003 and has recovered from a decline between 2006 and 2010.
**Housing Tenure**

Fort Bend County has a higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.

- **Own**: 79%
- **Rent**: 21%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vacant Housing Units**

Fort Bend County has the lowest rate of vacant housing in the region.

- **5%**

**Housing Type**

Fort Bend County’s homes are mostly single-family residences.

- **Single Family**: 86%
- **Multi-Family**: 10%
- **RV, boat, & mobile home**: 3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV, boat, &amp; mobile home</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Living Costs**

Fort Bend County households spend 61% of their income on transportation and housing.

- **37%** Housing
- **24%** Transportation

**Median Home Value**

Fort Bend County has the highest median home value in the region.

- **$136,000**
- **$200,200**

**Housing Units Built Since 2000**

Nearly half Fort Bend County’s housing units have been built since 2000.

- **46%**
ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs
Employment in Fort Bend County remained diverse between 2002 and 2014, with each of the top four industries employing more people in 2014 than in 2002.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.

Major Employers in Fort Bend County
- Administaff
- Fluor Corporation
- Fort Bend ISD
- Fort Bend County
- Lamar CISD
- Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- Richmond State School
- Schlumberger Technology Corp.
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Instruments, Inc.
- United Parcel Service
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.

Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)
Only 6% of Fort Bend County’s working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrolled in School</th>
<th>Employed, Not in School</th>
<th>Not in School or Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Only 22% of Fort Bend County residents work in the county, and only 38% of the workers in the county live there.

Workers’ Job & Home Destinations

Only 22% of Fort Bend County residents work in the county, and only 38% of the workers in the county live there.

62,500 Fort Bend County residents both live and work in the county.

County residents who work elsewhere

Workers in the county who live elsewhere

Unemployment Rate
Fort Bend County’s unemployment was lower than the nation from 2006 to 2015, but surpassed it in 2016.

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


Fort Bend Region

$15,000 or less $15,000-$40,000 $40,000 or more

Unemployment Rate
Fort Bend County’s unemployment was lower than the nation from 2006 to 2015, but surpassed it in 2016.

Earnings of Residents
Nearly 60% of Fort Bend County residents earn over $40,000 annually, a higher percentage than the region.
Educational Attainment
A high percentage of Fort Bend County residents have completed a bachelor’s degree or more.

- Less than High School: County 11%, Region 18%, Texas 18%
- High School or Equivalent: 18%
- Some College or Associate’s: 28%
- Bachelor’s Degree or More: 44%

Local Schools
Public Secondary Schools
- Brazos ISD
- Fort Bend ISD
- Katy ISD
- Lamar CISD
- Needville ISD
- Stafford MSD

Post-Secondary Schools
- Houston Community College - Southwest Campus
- University of Houston - Sugar Land & Cinco Ranch
- Wharton County Junior College - Fort Bend Technical Center & Sugar Land Campus

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

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment
A Fort Bend County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, $60,900 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.
Population without Health Insurance
A lower percentage of Fort Bend 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>9%</td>
<td>15%</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 Fort Bend County residents

134 Heart disease
133 Cancer (all types)
34 Stroke
28 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
26 Accidents
20 Septicemia
16 Alzheimer’s

Adult Obesity Rate
Fort Bend County has the lowest obesity rate in the region.

24%

Dentists Per Capita

Texas 53 per 100,000
County 47 per 100,000

Doctors Per Capita

Texas 74 per 100,000
County 98 per 100,000
Residents in 100-year Floodplain
About the same portion of Fort Bend County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
Fewer than 4% of Fort Bend County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% in the region.
TRANSPORTATION

Mean Commute to Work (minutes)
Fort Bend County workers commute for a longer amount of time than the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Mean Commute (minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person
Fort Bend County drivers travel less than any other drivers in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>34,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matagorda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commuter Mode to Work
Fort Bend County workers have similar commute patterns as the regional workforce.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Drive alone</th>
<th>Carpool</th>
<th>Work from home</th>
<th>Public transit</th>
<th>Walk, bike, other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents
Fort Bend County has a lower rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fort Bend</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

Fort Bend 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

Fort Bend 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 Fort Bend 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

- **Fort Bend 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