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
Harris County Boundaries

- Harris County
- Other counties
- Top 5 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Houston
Largest City: Houston

OVERVIEW

Population Growth Forecast
Harris County grew by 88% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 6,328,000 residents by 2040.

Residents Per Square Mile
Harris County is most dense county in the region.
Race and Ethnicity
Harris County is more racially diverse than the region and the state, and has more Hispanic residents than any other race or ethnicity.

- **County**
  - White: 32%
  - Hispanic: 42%
  - Black: 18%
  - Asian: 7%
  - Other: 2%

- **Region**
  - White: 39%
  - Hispanic: 36%
  - Black: 17%
  - Asian: 7%
  - Other: 2%

*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.

Poverty Rate
Harris County has a higher rate of poverty than the region and state.

- **Overall**
  - County: 18%
  - Region: 16%
  - Texas: 17%

- **Children (under 18)**
  - County: 27%
  - Region: 23%
  - Texas: 25%

- **Seniors (65 and over)**
  - County: 11%
  - Region: 10%
  - Texas: 11%

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

- Ages 0-17: 27%
- Ages 18-34: 25%
- Ages 35-64: 39%
- Ages 65+ (over): 10%

Median Household Income
Harris County has a slightly higher median household income than the region.

- Harris County: $53,200
- Region: $54,500
- Texas: $55,400

Race and Ethnicity
Harris County is more racially diverse than the region and the state, and has more Hispanic residents than any other race or ethnicity.
Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction has not recovered from a peak in 2006 while multi-family permits have dropped sharply between 2014 and 2016.
**Housing Tenure**
Harris County has a lower rate of homeownership than the region or the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners 55%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renters 45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>Harris County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV, boat, &amp; mobile home</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Living Costs**
Harris County households spend 49% of their income on transportation and housing.

- Housing: 28%
- Transportation: 21%

**Median Home Value**
Harris County has a slightly higher median home value than the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>TX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>$137,800</td>
<td>$136,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Units Built Since 2000**
One-quarter of Harris County’s housing units were built since 2000.
Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Employment in Harris 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>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major Employers in Harris County

- Administaff
- Baylor College of Medicine
- City of Houston
- Cypress Fairbanks ISD
- ExxonMobil
- Houston ISD
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- United Airlines
- University of Texas System Cancer Center
- 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.

Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Around 8% of Harris 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>Harris County</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Around 80% of Harris County residents work in the county, and 65% of workers in the county live there.

Workers’ Job & Home Destinations
Around 80% of Harris County residents work in the county, and 65% of workers in the county live there.

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

Earnings of Residents
Half of Harris County residents earn more than $40,000 annually, a lower percentage than the region.

1,402,400 Harris County residents both live and work in the county.
Educational Attainment
Harris County has a similar educational attainment split as the region and state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some College or Associate's</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bachelor's Degree or More</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Schools
Public Secondary Schools
- Aldine ISD
- Alief ISD
- Channelview ISD
- Clear Creek ISD
- Crosby ISD
- Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
- Deer Park ISD
- Galena Park ISD
- Goose Creek ISD
- Houston ISD
- Huffman ISD

Post-Secondary Schools
- Alvin Community College
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Houston Baptist University
- Houston Community College
- Lone Star College
- Rice University
- San Jacinto College
- Texas Women's University
- Texas Southern University
- University of Houston
- University of St. Thomas
- University of Texas

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate
Harris County students graduated at a lower rate in 2015 than the students of most counties in the region.

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment
A Harris County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, $54,400 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.
### Population without Health Insurance
A higher percentage of Harris County residents lack health insurance than the region or state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (under 18)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top Causes of Death
Per 100,000 Harris County residents

- **166** Heart disease
- **160** Cancer (all types)
- **41** Stroke
- **37** Accidents
- **32** Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- **24** Septicemia
- **20** Diabetes
- **17** Kidney Disease

### Adult Obesity Rate
Harris County has a lower obesity rate than the state.

```
Fort Bend  | 27%
Montgomery | 31%
Austin    | 31%
Galveston | 31%
Liberty   | 31%
Colorado  | 31%
Chambers  | 31%
Walker    | 31%
Texas     | 31%
Matagorda | 31%
Wharton   | 31%
Waller    | 31%
```

### Dentists Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per 100,000</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Doctors Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per 100,000</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents in 100-year Floodplain
About the same percentage of Harris County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.

11% County
12% Region

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
Only 20% of Harris County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region.

20% County
25% Region
**TRANSPORTATION**

### Mean Commute to Work (minutes)
Harris 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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Commute Mode to Work
A lower percentage of Harris County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Harris County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive alone</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work from home</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transit</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk, bike, other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person
Harris County drivers travel about the same distance annually as the average driver in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>8,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Harris County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview
Harris 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
Harris 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 Harris 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

**Harris 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