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.
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 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
Liberty County grew by 69% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 155,000 residents by 2040.

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

*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.
HOUSING & LAND USE

Liberty County Land Use

- 60% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops
- 32% Wetlands
- 8% Developed Land
- 1% Open water
- Other counties

Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction is rising rapidly, while multi-family permits remain low.

- Single Family: 460 units
- Multi-Family: 0 units
**Median Home Value**
Liberty County has the lowest median home value in the region.

**Housing Tenure**
Liberty County has a higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Renters 25%</th>
<th>Owners 75%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
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**Housing Type**
Liberty County has a high rate of RV, boat and mobile homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Single Family</th>
<th>Multi-Family</th>
<th>RV, boat, &amp; mobile home</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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**Vacant Housing Units**
Around 14% of Liberty County's housing units are vacant.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
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</thead>
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**Median Home Value**
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Median Home Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>$87,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Units Built Since 2000**
About one-fifth of Liberty County's housing units were built since 2000.
Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs
Retail Trade has declined as a percent of overall jobs in Liberty County while other top industries retained a similar portion of employment in the county.

![Graph showing changes in top industries](image)

Major Employers in Liberty County
- Boomerang
- Brookshire Brothers
- Campbell Concrete & Materials
- Cleveland ISD
- Dayton ISD
- Liberty County
- Liberty ISD
- Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice
- Texas Home Health of America, Inc.
- 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 7% of Liberty County’s working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unemployment Rate
Liberty County’s unemployment typically mirrors national trends, but is much higher in recent years.

Earnings of Residents
Half of Liberty County residents earn more than $40,000 annually, a similar percentage as the region.

Workers’ Job & Home Destinations
Only 17% of Liberty County residents work in the county, and only 39% of the workers in the county live there.

5,700 Liberty County residents both live and work in the county.
Educational Attainment
A lower percentage of Liberty County residents have completed a bachelor’s degree or more than the region and state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate’s</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or More</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Schools
Public Secondary Schools
- Cleveland ISD
- Dayton ISD
- Devers ISD
- Hardin ISD
- Hull-Daisetta ISD
- Liberty ISD
- Tarkington ISD

Post-Secondary Schools
None

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

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment
A Liberty County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, $24,600 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.
Population without Health Insurance
A lower percentage of Liberty County children, but a higher percentage of all 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>11%</td>
<td>23%</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 Liberty County residents

303  Heart disease
198  Cancer (all types)
  81  Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
  61  Accidents
  53  Alzheimer’s
  46  Stroke

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Dentists Per Capita</th>
<th>Doctors Per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>53 per 100,000</td>
<td>74 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>26 per 100,000</td>
<td>26 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents in 100-year Floodplain
A similar percentage of Liberty County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
Over 40% of Liberty County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region.
**Mean Commute to Work (minutes)**

Liberty County workers have the longest average commute than any other county in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Mean Commute to Work (minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharton</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matagorda</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>34,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>10,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>10,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commute Mode to Work**

A higher percentage of Liberty County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive alone</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work from home</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transit</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk, bike, other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person**

Liberty County drivers travel more annually than drivers in the region as a whole.

**Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents**

Liberty County has a higher rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

Liberty 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

Liberty 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 Liberty 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

**Liberty 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