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
Walker County grew by 69% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 118,000 residents by 2040.

Residents Per Square Mile
Walker County is less dense than the region as a whole.
Race and Ethnicity
Walker County has a higher portion of White and Black residents than the region and the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></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.

Poverty Rate
Walker County has a higher poverty rate than the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Children (under 18)</th>
<th>Seniors (65 and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>11%</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>

Median Household Income
Walker County has one the lowest median household income in the region.

Age
Walker County has a much larger portion of 18-34 year olds than the region.

Region County
27% Ages 0-17 16%
25% Ages 18-34 34%
39% Ages 35-64 39%
10% over 65 11%
Walker County Land Use

- Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops: 66%
- Wetlands: 22%
- Developed Land: 11%
- Open water: 1%
- Other counties

Building Permits Issued
Both single-family and multi-family construction permits are intermittent in Walker County.

- Single Family: 160 units
- Multi-Family: 0 units

Graph showing the number of building permits issued from 1990 to 2016.
**Housing Tenure**
Walker County has a lower 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>55%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renters</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vacant Housing Units**
Around 17% of Walker County's housing units are vacant.

**Housing Type**
Walker County has a higher rate of multi-family and RV, boat and mobile homes than the region or state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV, boat, &amp; mobile home</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Living Costs**
Walker County households spend 64% of their income on transportation and housing.

**Median Home Value**
Walker County has a lower median home value than the region.

**Housing Units Built Since 2000**
One-quarter of Walker County's housing units were built since 2000.

**Vacant Housing Units**
Around 17% of Walker County's housing units are vacant.
Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs
The Public Administration industry employs a much larger portion of Walker County workers than any other industry, at nearly 40% of all county employment, down from 45% in 2002.

Major Employers in Walker County
- Home Health Care
- Huntsville ISD
- City of Huntsville
- Sam Houston State University
- Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice
- Walker County
- Walker County Hospital Corp.
- 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 6% of Walker 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>89%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

County  Region
Only 42% of Walker County residents work in the county, and only 35% of the workers in the county live there.

Workers’ Job & Home Destinations
Only 42% of Walker County residents work in the county, and only 35% of the workers in the county live there.

Unemployment Rate
Walker County’s unemployment has been lower than the national average until 2016.

Earnings of Residents
Only 40% of Walker County residents earn more than $40,000 annually, a lower percentage than the region.

8,400 Walker County residents both live and work in the county.

County residents who work elsewhere
Workers in the county who live elsewhere
**Educational Attainment**

A lower percentage of Walker County residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher than the region and state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Walker County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate’s</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or More</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local Schools**

Public Secondary Schools
- Huntsville ISD
- New Waverly ISD
- Richards ISD
- Trinity ISD

Post-Secondary Schools
- Sam Houston State University

**Class of 2015 Graduation Rate**

Walker County students graduated at a lower rate in 2015 than any other county in the region.

**Median Earnings by Educational Attainment**

A Walker County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, $37,900 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate’s</td>
<td>$26,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or More</td>
<td>$40,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional</td>
<td>$54,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker Students</td>
<td>$30,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Walker Students</td>
<td>$40,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Walker Students</td>
<td>$30,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Walker Students</td>
<td>$26,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population without Health Insurance
A lower percentage of Walker County residents, but a higher percent of children lack health insurance than the region or state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Walker County</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (under 18)</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **169** Cancer (all types)
- **137** Heart disease
- **59** Stroke
- **47** Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

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

Dentists Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Walker County</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37 per 100,000</td>
<td>53 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doctors Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Walker County</th>
<th>Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35 per 100,000</td>
<td>74 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents in 100-year Floodplain
A smaller percentage of Walker County residents live in a 100-year floodplain than the region.

9% 12% 0% 25%
County Region County Region

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone
No Walker County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region’s residents.
**Mean Commute to Work (minutes)**
Walker County workers have a shorter average commute than the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Walker</th>
<th>Chambers</th>
<th>Austin</th>
<th>Harris</th>
<th>Brazoria</th>
<th>Chambers</th>
<th>Fort Bend</th>
<th>Waller</th>
<th>Montgomery</th>
<th>Liberty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Mean</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person**
Walker County drivers travel more annually than drivers in the region as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Walker</th>
<th>Chambers</th>
<th>Austin</th>
<th>Harris</th>
<th>Brazoria</th>
<th>Chambers</th>
<th>Fort Bend</th>
<th>Waller</th>
<th>Montgomery</th>
<th>Liberty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Miles Traveled</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commute Mode to Work**
Walker County workers have a similar commute split as the region, but with more walkers and cyclists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode to Work</th>
<th>Walker County</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive alone</td>
<td>81%</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>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents**
Walker 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>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010
2015
SOURCES

Overview
Walker 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
Walker 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 Walker 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

**Walker 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