



Texas Economic & Demographic Association

NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 27, No. 1

June 2010

TEDA Has New Home at Rice

Since organizing TEDA/Houston in 1983, the Research Department of the Houston Chamber of Commerce and its successor organization, the Greater Houston Partnership, provided staffing and logistical support for TEDA.

Faced with a budgetary crunch early this year, GHP was compelled to eliminate some staff positions, one of which was in Research—a department that already was understaffed. Discontinuing its staff support for TEDA was one adjustment Patrick Jankowski, GHP's vice president for research, felt compelled to make so the department could meet its primary obligations to GHP activities and projects.

The timing turns out to have been auspicious. Steve Klineberg, the Rice University sociologist who conducts the annual Houston Area Survey, and who has presented the survey results at TEDA's April meeting for more than 20 years, was on the verge of opening the new Institute for Urban Research at Rice. Steve Murdock, now also a professor of sociology at Rice after directing the Texas State Data Center for many years and then serving a stint as director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census toward the end of the Bush administration, was preparing to debut the new Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice. Both are longtime TEDA/Houston members.

In March, Klineberg, Murdock, and Mike Cline, assistant director of Murdock's Hobby Center, met with TEDA president Bala Balachandran, immediate past president Paula Pipes, and GHP's Edith Chambers and Skip Kasdorf to discuss the possibility of moving support functions for TEDA to either of the new Rice research centers. The result was an agreement, since ratified by the TEDA board, that the Hobby Center would serve as a new logistical home for TEDA.

"TEDA seems like a really good fit for the Hobby Center," said Murdock. "It's a well-established organization of local professionals in fields that bear directly on the work of the Center, and it offers an opportunity to vastly expand the exposure of Rice students to practical applications of the academic knowledge they're acquiring. This looks like a win/win situation."

Cline, who is completing his dissertation in applied demography at UTSA, will be TEDA's primary support at the Hobby Center, continuing many of the functions of executive secretary that Chambers has maintained for more than two decades.

Cline holds a B.A. in geography from Texas Tech and an M.A. in geography from Kansas State. His current research interests include estimating populations lacking health insurance, understanding the implications of demographic change for transportation demand, and exploring the socioeconomic effects of energy devel-

opment for Texas communities. Before coming to Rice, he served as director of research at the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research at UTSA and assistant director for the Small Business Development Center National Information Clearinghouse.

Cline's professional work in demography began soon after the 1990 census, when he assisted in analyses for redistricting proposals for county commissioners courts in west Texas. Since then, he has provided demographic research to assist in planning for businesses, nonprofits, and other institutions. In addition to his work in demography, he has provided economic impact assessments of various businesses and the University of Texas System. His work is published in various public policy reports and academic and professional journals.

"I'm delighted to have a role in sustaining TEDA's contribution to Houston professionals," said Cline. "TEDA/Houston enjoys a statewide reputation for its service to those with interests in applied demography and economics. This arrangement promises to be mutually beneficial to TEDA and to the Hobby Center."

The transfer of logistical functions from GHP to the Hobby Center has occurred gradually over the past three months, and was completed this month.

"GHP's withdrawal of support for TEDA in no way reflects any reduced appreciation for TEDA and the role it plays in serving Houston economists, demographers, and others with similar interests," said Jankowski. "GHP has gladly provided support to TEDA for more than a quarter of a century. Since we no longer have the capacity to devote paid staff time to supporting TEDA, I'm greatly pleased that such a promising solution has been found so TEDA can continue its program without interruption."

The presence of an organization that can provide recordkeeping and handle membership communications has been a key ingredient in TEDA/Houston's success. In 1983, at the request of the governor's office, TEDA chapters were founded in Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Austin. Each enjoyed initial support from the local chamber of commerce. As chambers in the other three metros withdrew their support, those chapters withered, eventually ceasing to exist. In Houston, by contrast, TEDA has been healthy from the outset.

"A huge thank-you to Steve [Murdock] and Mike [Cline] for stepping in to ensure that TEDA/Houston remains a smoothly functioning organization," said Balachandran. ❖

Houston Metro Still Sixth

Reprinted from the April 2010 Houston: The Economy at a Glance, published by the Greater Houston Partnership.

The 10-county Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) gained 140,784 residents from mid-'08 to mid-'09, according to Census Bureau estimates released [in March.] That extraordinarily large increase—second nationwide only to Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington's 146,530—put Houston's total population on July 1 last year at 5,867,489. (But Houston's gain was proportionally larger than DFW's—2.45 percent versus 2.33 percent. Texas grew by 1.97 percent; the nation, by 0.86 percent.) Over the year, Houston gained more residents through net migration (the difference between immigration and outmigration)—77,658—than any other metro area.

Since the '00 census, the population of the Houston MSA has grown by 1,152,072, or 24.4 percent. Houston remains the sixth largest metro, narrowly trailing Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington.

These new estimates also show that Harris County remains the third most populous U.S. county, topping 4 million to stand at 4,070,989. During the 12 months, Harris gained 90,387 residents, up 2.27 percent, widening its lead over fourth-ranked Maricopa County (Phoenix), which also passed the 4 million mark by adding 64,869. Only seven states—Texas, California, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Washington and Arizona—gained more people than did Harris County. Since '00, Harris County has grown by 670,399 residents, or 19.7 percent—more than the current total population of North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, or the District of Columbia.

Among the nation's 257 counties with populations of more than 250,000, Fort Bend and Montgomery ranked sixth and ninth respectively in proportional growth since the '00 census—Fort Bend up 57.1 percent; Montgomery, 52.4 percent. Fort Bend, with an '09 population of 508,260, joins 124 other U.S. counties with more than 500,000 residents.

For the past nine years, metropolitan Houston has been a migration magnet. Natural increase—the excess of resident births over resident deaths—accounted for just 50.3 percent of Houston's population increase from '00 through '09. Net foreign migration contributed 27.0 percent; domestic migration, 22.6 percent. But the number of foreign migrants has declined gradually over the decade, falling from more than 40,000 in '00-'01 to just under 28,000 in each of the past two years. Domestic migration, on the other hand, has followed no clear pattern, but began the decade a bit above 4,000 and ended it above 40,000, with a spike in '05-'06 caused by the flood of Hurricane Katrina evacuees from southern Louisiana.

International migration dropped from 90 percent of net migration at the start of the decade to 36 percent in '08-'09.

Harris County saw an interesting reversal last year. With the exception of '05-'06, when Katrina dramatically increased domestic migration, Harris County had negative domestic migration until '08-'09. In this most recent year, 19,000 more people moved into Harris from other U.S. counties than left it for other U.S. counties (among which are Houston's suburban counties). International migration for Harris remained positive throughout, but declined gradually from 35,000 in '00-'01 to a bit more than 24,000 in '08-'09. ❖

Houston and Chicago

Reprinted from the December 2009 Houston: The Economy at a Glance, published by the Greater Houston Partnership.

In the '70s, it was widely rumored that Lloyd's of London had projected Houston would be the world's most populous city by the end of the century. The claim was preposterous, of course, but extirpating it took several years.

In recent months, a less grandiose but equally groundless claim has been making the rounds—that Houston, currently the nation's fourth most populous city, is on the verge of surpassing Chicago, now third. Professionals of diverse backgrounds have declaimed this surprising "fact" before varied audiences. (Some versions say, "The 2010 census will show...". A less common version has the Houston metropolitan area, now the nation's sixth largest Metropolitan Statistical Area [MSA], overtaking the Chicago metro, which ranks third. And at least one speaker has inserted Los Angeles into the picture.)

Let's do some simple math and extend into the future the population change in the cities of Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles and in their MSAs from the 2000 census through mid-'08, the latest date for which we have Census Bureau estimates. We'll do this in two ways—first by using the compound annual growth rate, then by using average annual nominal growth.

- ❖ *Compound annual growth rate:* The population of Houston surpasses that of Chicago 13 years from now. Overtaking Los Angeles requires 44 years. The population of the Houston MSA exceeds that of the Chicago MSA in 29 years, but doesn't top that of the Los Angeles MSA for another 108 years after passing Chicago.
- ❖ *Average annual nominal growth:* Houston's population edges past Chicago's 15 years hence and moves ahead of Los Angeles' just before the end of the century, in '96. The Houston MSA passes the Chicago MSA 58 years from now, but takes 116 years to move ahead of the Los Angeles MSA.

Clearly, none of these events is imminent. Indeed, these extrapolations are likely to understate the time needed for rankings to change. Using average change for Chicago means showing that city's population continuing to decline, whereas the annual estimates since '00 show Chicago's population declining early in this decade and then resuming net gains more recently—a trend which, if continued, would extend any change in city rankings beyond the first half of the '20s. Furthermore, the calculations for Houston don't adjust for the influx of new residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in '05, and thus artificially overstate our underlying growth rate.

The only plausible change in population rankings among major cities and metros

in the near future is that the Houston MSA could move past the Philadelphia MSA into fifth rank. Such an event seems more likely to occur in the first few years following next April's census than before it. ❖

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TEDA/Houston Newsletter

Publisher: Texas Economic & Demographic Association, Houston Chapter

Editor: Skip Kasdorf (skasdorf@comcast.net)

Published occasionally and distributed free to TEDA/Houston members. TEDA/Houston is a nonprofit organization promoting excellence in economic and demographic research in the Houston region.

Activities of TEDA/Houston are underwritten in part by Rice University's Hobby Center for the Study of Texas.