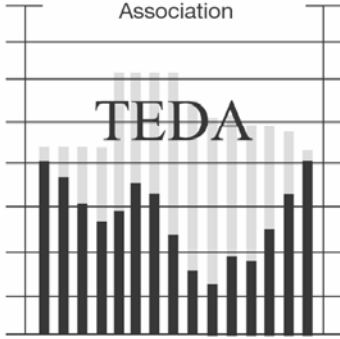


Texas  
Economic & Demographic  
Association



# Houston NEWSLETTER

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## People on the Move

President Bush has nominated **Steve Murdock**, director of the Texas State Data Center and a long-time TEDA/Houston member, to succeed Charles Louis Kincannon as director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

In a letter to Census Bureau staff, Kincannon said in part: "Dr. Murdock...has advised five Texas governors, five lieutenant governors and four speakers from both parties in Texas on the importance of Census participation and the uses of the economic, demographic, and social data for decision making. ...I have worked with Steve Murdock for 25 years in his capacity as head of the Texas State Data Center; as an active member of the Population Association of America; and most recently in his current capacity at the University of Texas, San Antonio. He is an outstanding and effective collaborator in our mission, and he will make a superb director as we move into the final stages of preparation for the 2010 census."

Murdock's nomination is subject to approval by the U.S. Senate.

TEDA/Houston member **Karl Eschbach** has moved from UTMB to San Antonio, where he has assumed duties as associate director of the Texas State Data Center.

Earlier this year, **Al Mirabal** retired as director of the Census Bureau's Dallas Regional Office after nearly 30 years of service to the Census Bureau. Mirabal, who made presentations to TEDA/Houston on several occasions, says he looks forward to active involvement in volunteer work, including Dallas Area Inter-

faith and the area's Dispute Mediation Service.

The new director of the Bureau's Dallas Regional Office is **Gabriel Sanchez**, formerly assistant director of the Kansas City Regional Office. Sanchez, whose family emigrated from Uruguay to the U.S. when he was eight, grew up in New York, became a U.S. citizen, and graduated with a history degree from City University of New York. He joined the Bureau in 1998, managed a local census office in Colorado for the 2000 census, and held three other posts before moving to Kansas City.

The Dallas Regional Office oversees census operations in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. ❖

## '06 Population Estimates Out

The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area, with 23.3 percent of Texas' population, accounted for 29.0 percent of the state's gain between the 2000 census and mid-'06, according to the latest estimates from the Texas State Data Center. Houston MSA population on July 1, 2006, stood at 5.59 million, up 16.3 percent from April 1, 2000. Only Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, with an increase of 837,000, had a larger nominal gain than Houston's 770,000. Three of the state's 25 MSAs had proportional gains exceeding Houston's 16.3 percent—Austin, up 21.6 percent, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley's McAllen-Edinburg-Mission and Laredo, up 24.4 percent and 21.4 percent respectively. The state grew 12.7 percent, adding 2.66 mil-

**HOUSTON-SUGAR LAND-BAYTOWN MSA POPULATION 2000-2006**

County	2000 Census Count	1-Jul-06 Population Estimate	1-Jan-07 Population Estimate	Numerical Change 2000-06	Numerical Change 2000-07	Percent Change 2000-06	Percent Change 2000-07
<b>Houston MSA</b>	<b>4,715,407</b>	<b>5,485,718</b>	<b>5,593,944</b>	<b>770,311</b>	<b>878,537</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Austin	23,590	26,928	27,335	3,338	3,745	14.2	15.9
Brazoria	241,767	286,773	291,729	45,006	49,962	18.6	20.7
Chambers	26,031	32,383	32,664	6,352	6,633	24.4	25.5
Fort Bend	354,452	487,047	503,315	132,595	148,863	37.4	42.0
Galveston	250,158	282,126	285,484	31,968	35,326	12.8	14.1
Harris	3,400,578	3,830,130	3,899,122	429,552	498,544	12.6	14.7
Liberty	70,154	77,176	77,382	7,022	7,228	10.0	10.3
Montgomery	293,768	399,941	412,665	106,173	118,897	36.1	40.5
San Jacinto	22,246	24,739	24,809	2,493	2,563	11.2	11.5
Waller	32,663	38,475	39,439	5,812	6,776	17.8	20.7
<i>City of Houston</i>	<i>1,953,631</i>	<i>2,112,671</i>	<i>2,132,409</i>	<i>159,040</i>	<i>178,778</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>9.2</i>
<i>State of Texas</i>	<i>20,851,820</i>	<i>23,507,783</i>	<i>23,834,206</i>	<i>2,655,963</i>	<i>2,982,386</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>14.3</i>

Source: Texas State Data Center

lion residents—a bit more than the total population of Utah.

The Texas State Data Center also produced “estimates” for January 1, 2007. A quick look at the figures in the table above shows “growth” in the latter half of 2006 that’s well above trend. What’s going on is that the January 1 figure is reached by beginning with the mid-2006 estimate, adding resident births and subtracting resident deaths in the latter half of 2006, and carrying forward for six months the *migration rates from mid-2005 to mid-2006*. In Houston’s case, that period includes domestic migration associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September 2005, so carrying forward those migration rates for another six months yields figures that are patently too high.

How much population growth did Houston *really* receive from the 2005 evacuations? Since the Census Bureau publishes components of change, we can look there for guidance. Comparing the Bureau’s earlier estimates for mid-2006 with its previous post-censal estimates indicates that net domestic migration from mid-2005 to mid-2006 was roughly 76,000 higher than average for the metropolitan area and 64,000 higher than average for Harris County. ❖

## MSA GDP to Debut

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis is scheduled to release estimates of Gross Domestic Product for 363 Metropolitan Statistical Areas on September 26. This is the first time BEA has published GDP data below the state level.

In Texas, those who needed GDP data for metropolitan areas have relied largely on The Perryman Group or other private purveyors of estimates. Unless one had a budget to purchase proprietary data from other private vendors, apples-to-apples comparisons across state lines have been unavailable.

The new estimates include detailed data for more than 80 NAICS industries in each metropolitan area, BEA economist John Sporing told a meeting of The Houston Economics Club earlier this month. Data will cover 2001 through 2005, and will be presented in both real and nominal dollars.

Assuming that the color-coded map on the BEA teaser for this new data series uses real data, the Houston metro ranked in the next-to-highest quintile on 2004-2005 percent change in GDP. Austin-San Marcos was in the highest quintile, while Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington and San Antonio ranked in the middle quintile. ❖

## 2006 ACS Data Released

Data from the 2006 American Community Survey, the Census Bureau's replacement for the census long form, are now available. What does the 10-county Houston metropolitan area look like? A few tidbits:

- Our median age is 32.9 years. One in 12 of us is under age 5, and a like number are over age 65.
- Nearly a third of us are Hispanic; 43 percent are Anglo, and one in six are non-Hispanic black.
- 22 percent of us are foreign-born—15 percent of us in Latin America, 5 percent of us in Asia.
- 36 percent of us speak a language other than English at home. For 28 percent of us, that language is Spanish; for 4 percent, it's an Asian language.
- German remains our most common ancestry, cited by 10 percent of us. Irish and English are next, both claimed by 7 percent of us.
- A quarter of our households are single-person households. Even so, average household size is 2.93 persons.
- Just over half of all households are married-couple households, but only 51 percent of those have children under age 18 at home.
- 79 percent of adults have graduated high school, but just 27 percent have a bachelor's degree or a more advanced degree.
- One in eight persons over age 5 has a disability, including 42 percent of people over age 65.
- 68 percent of residents age 16 and over are in the labor force. Of those, just over 7 percent said they were unemployed.
- The average commute to work for those employed was 28.1 minutes. More than 77 percent drove alone, 17 percent carpooled, and just 2.7 percent used public transportation.
- One-third of employed persons over age 16 are in management, professional, or related occupations.
- Median household income was \$50,250; average household income, \$70,419. But

12 percent of all families and 15 percent of all residents lived below the poverty level.

- 62 percent of our housing units are single-family detached houses. A surprising 27 percent of all housing units have been built in 2000 or more recently.
- 13 percent of all housing units have nine or more rooms.
- 17 percent of all households have three or more vehicles available; 58 percent have at least two.
- Only 61 housing units out of 1.86 million reported solar energy as a house heating fuel.
- Median value of owner-occupied housing was \$129,800, but more than 9,500 properties were valued at \$1 million or more.

2006 ACS data were released for all geographic entities with more than 65,000 residents. Beginning next year, three-year averages will be released for entities in the next smaller population size, and then in 2010, five-year averages will be released for the smallest geographic units. Data users can begin preparing now to cope with a mixture of one-, three-, and five-year estimates.

The introduction of ACS data has brought an element of unease for data users who had been accustomed to treating decennial census data as “accurate”—a convention most of adopted even though we knew there was a margin of error associated with the data. As a matter of routine, the Census Bureau publishes ACS data with associated 90-percent confidence intervals. For relatively large population groups, this interval can be fairly narrow—for the number of Hispanics in the Houston MSA, for example, the estimate is  $1,823,830 \pm 0.11\%$ . Toward the other extreme, on the other hand, the estimated number of Japanese race persons is  $4,513 \pm 34.54\%$ . If one wishes to track change from year to year for relatively small populations, the size of the confidence intervals often leaves little comfort that real change is being measured. (This is one issue we hope to address at the February 21 workshop. See next page.)

2006 ACS data are available, of course, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). ❖

## TEDA/Houston '07-'08 Calendar

Meetings (reception 5-5:30 p.m., presentation 5:30-6:30) are free to TEDA members of any chapter and \$10 per person for guests (applicable toward dues if a guest joins TEDA/Houston the same day). All functions are at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch, 1801 Allen Parkway.

Topics and speakers shown below are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check the calendar at [www.teda.org](http://www.teda.org).

### Sep. 20—Meeting

*The Port, the Airports, and Houston's Economy* • Genaro Peña, Director of Marketing, Houston Airport System • Patrick Nwachokor, Marketing Analyst, Port of Houston Authority

### Oct. 18—Meeting

*The Economic Impact of Undocumented Residents* • Pia Orrenius, Ph.D., Senior Economist and Policy Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

### Nov. 15—Meeting

*Health Care and Geography in Houston*

### Jan. 17—Meeting

*What's Metro Doing with Light Rail—and Why?*

### Feb. 21—Morning Workshop

*What's in Store from Census and BLS?* • Speakers from Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and Bureau of Labor Statistics TBA

### Mar. 27—Meeting

*What Happened in the Primaries? What's Yet to Come?* • Richard W. Murray, Ph.D., Director, Center for Public Policy, University of Houston

### Apr. 24—Meeting

*The Houston Area Survey—Newest Findings from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey* • Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Rice University

### May 15—Morning Symposium

*Handbook of Population: The Authors Speak* • Dudley L. Poston, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University • Amanda K. Baumle, J.D., Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Sociology, University of Houston • Additional speakers TBA

### Jun. 19—Meeting

*Aging and Other Demographic Changes—What They Mean for Houston*

### Sep. 18—Meeting

*Economic and Employment Trends—A Look at Houston Region Counties*

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