

TEDA/HOUSTON

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19, No. 2

May 2002

Remember 18-Wheelers Floating in the I-10 Bayou?

Nearly a year has elapsed since Allison inundated Houston, claiming 22 lives and inflicting some \$5 billion in property damage. Do we understand why such catastrophic losses occurred? What did we learn? What are we doing to be better prepared? And what are the implications for development in Houston of both Allison and our activities to mitigate the effects of flooding?

To answer these questions, TEDA/Houston is presenting *A Year After Allison—Flooding and Flood Control in the Houston Region*, a workshop anchored by **Michael D. Talbott, P.E.**, director of the Harris County Flood Control District, and **Jeff Stys**, manager of community building for United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast.

“Last year, I had the privilege of seeing a Power Point presentation prepared by the Flood Control District a month after Allison,” said TEDA/Houston president Skip Kasdorf. “Even with so little time lapsed, it was a lucid and engrossing explanation not only of what happened in Allison, but also of how and why different types of flooding occur in Houston and what’s being considered to handle it. Nobody who sees the Flood Control District’s presentation, which by now has been fleshed out with additional data, will look at flooding the same way again. It’s something that’s simply not to be missed!”

In This Issue...

Flooding and Flood Control Workshop ..	1
New County Population Estimates	2
Federal Spending Slight Texas.....	3
New CPI Slated for August Intro.....	3
Keeping Up With Economic Data	4
TEDA/Houston Calendar.....	4
TEDA/Houston Directors	4

At this half-day workshop, which will be presented at United Way’s offices on the morning of May 22, Talbott will discuss flooding in Houston, with special attention to Allison, and will look at long-term programs of the Flood Control District. A key focus will be the implications of future flooding and future flood control efforts for development in the region. Stys will address the social costs of Allison and how the catastrophe has altered the ways local social agencies prepare for physical disasters. Talbott also will introduce cutting-edge technology being used to produce new flood plain maps for the region.

Because of the emphasis on how development may be affected by Allison and by flood control programs, this workshop will be of particular interest to developers and other real estate professionals, government agencies, insurers, and business economists.

Registration is \$20 for TEDA members and their guests, \$15 for individuals with student identification, and \$30 for others. You may register by e-mail (teda@houston.org) or fax (713-844-0218). Include your name, firm

or organization, mailing address, phone, and e-mail. No cancellations after May 17. ❖

Population Zooms

The eight-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) experienced a 2.7 percent population increase during the 15 months following Census 2000, according to Census Bureau population estimates for all U.S. counties and county-equivalents released on April 26.

As of July 1, 2001, the CMSA’s population stood at 4,795,794—more people than live in Louisiana, Alabama, or Colorado. Harris County, the nation’s third most-populous, ranked fifth among counties in population gain, up 60,011 (1.8 percent).

Not surprisingly, suburban Fort Bend and Montgomery counties—both of which were among the nation’s fastest-growing counties in the ’90s, experienced rapid post-census growth. Fort Bend County added more people (26,748) than Dallas County (26,499) or Bexar County (24,570), ranking 23rd nationally in population gain. Montgomery County, up 21,650, topped Travis County (21,517), ranking 29th nationally.

Fort Bend’s ’01 population was estimated at 381,200; Montgomery’s, at 315,418. Between them, the two counties contain more people than either Alaska or North Dakota.

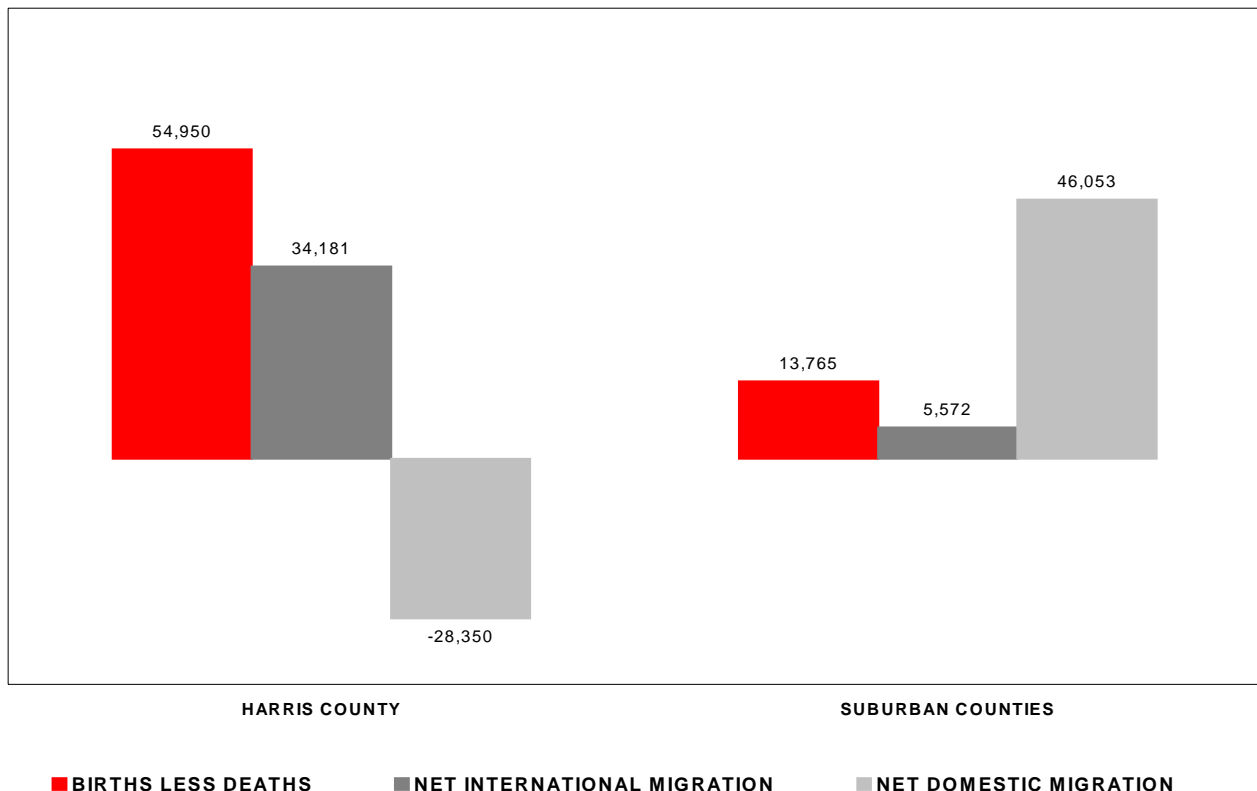
The components of population change show that migration trends of the ’90s have continued. The early part of this decade shows Harris County to be a primary target for foreign immigration and the suburban counties as beneficiaries of domestic county-to-county migration (see graph).

In the aggregate, the seven suburban counties increased by 5.2 percent, adding more than 66,000 people, with domestic migration accounting for more than two-thirds of that gain; foreign immigration represented just 8 percent of the increase.

In contrast, net migration into Harris County accounted for less than 10 percent of its growth, as a gain of more than 34,000 from foreign immigration was largely offset by the loss of more than 28,000 to other counties.

It seems a reasonable surmise that much of the negative domestic migration for Harris County is a movement into surrounding counties—principally Fort Bend and Montgomery.

HOUSTON CMSA POPULATION CHANGE 4/1/00-7/1/01



Since the suburban counties in the aggregate had net domestic migration exceeding 46,000, however, it's clear that much of their growth came from people moving from places outside the CMSA.

Maricopa County (Phoenix) gained more people than any other U.S. county, adding 122,649 over the 15 months. Eleven of the top three dozen counties were in Texas—Harris (5th), Collin (7th), Tarrant (12th), Denton (16th), Williamson (20th), Fort Bend (23rd), Dallas (25th), Bexar (26th), Montgomery (29th), Travis (32nd), and Hidalgo (36th).

The nation's fastest-growing county was Douglas in suburban Denver, up 13.6 percent. Nine Texas counties ranked in the top three dozen on percent change—Rockwall (4th, 11.4 percent), Williamson (5th, 11.2 percent), Collin (9th, 10.1 percent), Rains (13th, 9.5 percent), Hays (26th, 7.7 percent), Denton (28th, 7.7 percent), Fort Bend (29th, 7.5 percent), Bastrop (30th, 7.5 percent), and Montgomery (32nd, 7.4 percent).

Among counties with more than 250,000 people in the 2000 census, Texas swept the first four places for growth rate: Fort Bend and Montgomery ranked second and fourth respectively; Collin led, and Denton was third. ❖

Shortchanged?

The federal government provided \$1.8 trillion to the 50 states in '01, up 9 percent over '00, reports the Census Bureau. This spending comprises domestic benefits, subsidies, grants, goods and services, and salaries and wages.

Texas, second in population to California, ranked *third* among the states, receiving \$113 billion. California received \$189 billion; New York, \$116 billion. On a per capita basis, Texas ranked *41st* among the 50 states in federal spending last year.

At the county level, Harris County—the nation's third most populous—ranked *fifth* at \$15.62 billion. New York City led the list at \$48.98 billion, followed by Los Angeles County (\$48.96 billion), Cook County (\$27.88 billion), and San Diego County (\$19.83 billion).

Texas and Houston fared no better in Department of Defense spending. Among the states, Texas' \$18.1 billion ranked behind both California (\$31.3 billion) and Virginia (\$30.0 billion). Harris County didn't even make the top five counties. ❖

Chained CPI to Debut

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will introduce the Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) with the release of July data this August.

The C-CPI-U will use a Tornqvist formula and use expenditures data in adjacent time periods to reflect the effect of any substitution that consumers make *across* item categories in response to changes in relative prices. The new measure, said to be a "superlative" index, is designed to approximate changes in cost of living more closely than do existing measures.

Expenditure data required to calculate the C-CPI-U are available only with a time lag; hence the C-CPI-U will be issued first in preliminary form, and will be subject to two subsequent revisions. Accordingly, the August '02 release will include "final" values of the C-CPI-U for the 12 months of '00, "interim" values for the 12 months of '01, and "initial" values for January-July '02. In February '03, final values for '01 and interim values for '02 will be released. BLS anticipates that revisions will be small.

BLS expects the C-CPI-U is to increase one- to two-tenths of a percentage point less than the CPI-U. For this reason, it will prove attractive to employers in gauging the extent to which wages and salaries need to be increased to maintain a level standard of living.

The C-CPI-U will be issued only for the national as a whole, and will not be seasonally adjusted. Its reference base will be December 1999. Data will not be calculated for periods prior to that date.

The C-CPI-U will be published monthly in the CPI news release and in *CPI Detailed Report*. ❖

TEDA/Houston '01-'02 Calendar

This calendar of TEDA/Houston functions is presented as a continuing feature of the *TEDA/Houston Newsletter*. Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 1701 San Jacinto.

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). Fees and times for other functions vary.

May 22—Workshop

A Year After Allison—Flooding and Flood Control in the Houston Region

Michael D. Talbott, P.E., Director,
Harris County Flood Control District
and

Jeff Stys, Manager,
Community Building,
United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast
**8:30 a.m.-Noon, United Way of the
Texas Gulf Coast**

June 26—Meeting

Selling Houston for the 2012 Olympics
McCoy McLemore, Media Director
Houston 2012

September 25—Workshop

What Census 2000 Tells Us About Houston

Karl Eschbach, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of Houston
**8:30 a.m.-Noon, United Way of the
Texas Gulf Coast**

'01-'02 TEDA/Houston Board of Directors

Terms Expiring in 2002

- ❖ Skip Kasdorf, Greater Houston Partnership, **President**, 713-844-3615, kasdorf@houston.org
- ❖ Hans C. Olavson, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., 281-589-5859, olavson@pbworld.com
- ❖ Ron Rea, Ph.D., Rea & Associates, 713-782-2643, ronrea@hal-pc.org
- ❖ Vincent Sanders, METRO, **Vice President**, 713-739-3867, VS02@hou-metro.harris.tx.us

Terms Expiring in 2003

- ❖ Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., Dept. of Sociology, University of Houston, **Webmaster**, 713-743-3950, eschbach@uh.edu
- ❖ Chris Pollet, Neighborhood Centers, Inc., 713-669-5260, chris.pollet@neighborhood-centers.org
- ❖ John Stansfield, 281-933-2588, jstansfield@pdq.net
- ❖ Christina Todd, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, **Treasurer** and **Membership Chair**, 281-260-3128, christina.c.todd@nhmccd.edu

Terms Expiring in 2004

- ❖ Virginia Appl, Houston Independent School District, **Secretary**, 713-892-6619, vappl@houstonisd.org
- ❖ Max L. Beauregard, 713-864-0549, max-beau@msn.com
- ❖ Greg Grabiec, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, 713-685-2331, ggrabiec@uwtgc.org
- ❖ Sharon Ju, Ph.D., Houston-Galveston Area Council, 713-993-2419, sju@hgac.cog.tx.us

Tracking the Economy

Need the latest economic data? At www.houston.org, click on "About Houston," then on "Houston Economy," and then on "Latest Economic Data." This page is updated whenever any of the indicators change.

Courtesy of the Greater Houston Partnership, you can receive updates by e-mail as Excel spreadsheets when they're issued (usually eight to 10 times per month). If you want to stay abreast of these indicators, e-mail your request to kasdorf@houston.org. ❖

Visit TEDA/Houston at www.teda.org

TEDA/Houston Newsletter

Publisher: Texas Economic & Demographic Association, Houston Chapter

President: Skip Kasdorf

Editor: Skip Kasdorf

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

Activities of TEDA/Houston are underwritten in part by the Greater Houston Partnership.