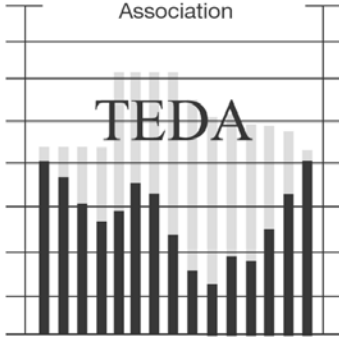


Texas
Economic & Demographic
Association



Houston NEWSLETTER

1200 Smith, Suite 700 • Houston, Texas 77002-4400
713-844-3618 • Fax 713-844-0218 • teda@houston.org

Vol. 20, No. 1

April 2003

Houston Still Growing Strong

In late April, the Census Bureau released its annual estimates of population for all U.S. counties. Some of the results make fascinating reading and give us some perspective on the kinds of changes we're experiencing in the Houston region.

Population Growth

Population in the eight-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria CMSA stood at 4,938,556 on July 1, 2002, up 5.8% from the census count for April 1, 2000. Harris County, with 3,557,055 residents in mid-2002, grew 4.6% over the period (from 3,400,578), while the seven suburban counties in the aggregate grew 8.9% (from 1,268,993 to 1,381,501). Even Harris County outperformed both the State of Texas, up 4.5%, and the nation, up 2.5%.

While the suburban counties grew faster than Harris, Harris still captured 58% of the net change in CMSA population over the 27 months and is home to 72% of the CMSA's residents.

How Houston Compares

Between mid-2001 and mid-2002, the CMSA gained 128,332 people, up 2.7%—not enough to surpass the State of Minnesota, which added 35,185 to stand at 5,019,720. If both repeat that performance, Houston will surpass Minnesota in the mid-2003 estimates to trail Wisconsin.

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The population of the suburban counties in the CMSA exceeds the 2002 estimated population of Idaho (1,341,131); the population of Harris County is larger than that of Oregon (3,521,515) or Connecticut (3,460,503).

Harris remains the nation's third most populous county, ranking behind Los Angeles County and Cook County. (Loving County remains the nation's least populous, counting 64 residents.)

Of the nation's 235 counties with more than 250,000 residents, Fort Bend and Montgomery were the fourth and sixth fastest-growing between the 2000 census and mid-2002. Fort Bend gained 12.7% (45,085); Montgomery, 11.8% (34,681). (The three fastest-growing counties are also in Texas—Williamson, Collin and Denton counties, the first two of which topped 15%.)

Natural Population Change

Natural population change (the difference between resident births and resident deaths) added 121,645 people to the Houston CMSA population between the 2000 census and mid-2002. This figure is running fairly consistently around 54,000 per year, of which a bit more than 42,000 is in Harris County and a bit less than 12,000 is in the suburban counties. If nobody moved here and nobody left, the region's population still would be growing in excess of 1.1% per year.

Migration

When we turn to migration, the story becomes truly interesting. Over the 27 months:

- ❖ *Domestic* migration (movement from one county to another within the United States) added 34,066 people to the CMSA population, while *international* migration added 113,277. International migration represents more than three-fourths of net migration for the region.
- ❖ Harris County alone, though, looks very much different. It *lost* 38,653 people to domestic migration while the seven suburban counties *gained* 72,719 through domestic migration. It seem reasonable to speculate that much of what we're seeing in domestic migration represents movement from Harris into Fort Bend and Montgomery counties, which showed respective domestic migration gains of 30,318 and 25,236.
- ❖ On the other hand, Harris County added 99,557 people through international migration, capturing 88% of the CMSA's foreign migration gain.
- ❖ Harris County is losing roughly 17,000 people per year to domestic migration, while the seven suburban counties are adding about 32,000. The difference of 15,000 or so is the net domestic migration gain for the CMSA, lending credence to the supposition that most of the domestic movement out of Harris is into surrounding counties.
- ❖ Domestic migration out of Harris tapered between mid-2001 and mid-2002, with the

annual loss declining from more than 20,000 to roughly 13,000.

- ❖ International migration for the CMSA is averaging a bit more than 50,000 per year, or close to 1,000 persons per week. ❖

Federal Budget Wins, Losses

In late 2002, TEDA/Houston joined a wide range of other professional organizations in petitioning Congress to fully fund the President's FY03 budget requests for the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Both agencies fared better than anticipated in the bill that passed, although neither was funded at requested levels:

- ❖ BEA is allocated \$65.5 million for the current fiscal year—a record, and an increase of 15.7% over FY02 funding. This appropriation will allow accelerated release of data on trade, gross state product, gross domestic product by industry, input-output tables, and metropolitan personal income.
- ❖ Census programs received full funding for the economic census, the census of governments, and current economic statistics, including development of new indicators for the services sector and for e-business.
- ❖ The anticipated nationwide implementation of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey in 2003 was not funded, which means the ACS will continue its pilot testing for another year in 31 counties where it has been evaluating methodology, operations, and results since 1999. (Harris and Fort Bend counties are among the 31.) The Administration's request for FY04 further delays a nationwide rollout: the restricted FY04 request assumes that questionnaires would be mailed across the country in June 2004 for the first monthly sample of 250,000 households in July 2004. Under this scenario, follow-up field visits to nonresponding households would not begin until October 2004—the first month of FY05.
- ❖ In another FY03 decision of interest to users of economic data, BLS' Mass Layoff Statistics program was reinstated. ❖

Overseas Test Counts Slated

The Census Bureau plans to conduct test censuses in France, Kuwait, and Mexico this year to determine whether it's feasible to count Americans abroad in the 2010 census.

In 1990 and 2000, the Bureau used administrative records to count federal civilian employees and U.S. military personnel and their dependents abroad. Those counts were added to state counts of U.S. residents for purposes of apportioning the House of Representatives.

In the wake of Census 2000, the State of Utah sued the Census Bureau after post-census analysis showed that the count of Americans abroad cost Utah the seat that went to North Carolina. Says Ed Spar, executive director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics: "Utah unsuccessfully argued that Mormon missionaries and other private citizens living outside of the U.S. during the census should have been counted along with government personnel. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case after a federal appeals court sided with the Census Bureau."

In this year's Overseas Enumeration Test, the Census Bureau will work through partner organizations and English-language media in the three countries to mount a publicity campaign informing people how they can participate. U.S. citizens living in each of the three countries can request that questionnaires be mailed to them, pick up questionnaires at embassies or at organizations partnering with the Bureau, or participate via the Internet.

France, Kuwait, and Mexico were selected for their geographic diversity as well as for the large numbers of Americans—retirees, students, and business people—residing in cities and small towns within their borders.

Through the 2004 test, the Bureau expects to gather information about the level of participation of Americans overseas, the quality of the data collected, and the effectiveness of its overseas outreach and marketing campaigns. It also will evaluate any barriers to integrating an overseas enumeration with stateside enumeration processes in 2010. ❖

Annual Meeting Held April 23

At TEDA/Houston's annual membership meeting, held on April 23, the Nominating Committee recommended four nominees for board of directors positions expiring in 2006: **Karl Eschbach**, Ph.D., University of Houston; **Skip Kasdorf**, Greater Houston Partnership; **John Stansfield**, consultant; and **Christina Todd**, North Harris Montgomery Community College District. All but Kasdorf are incumbent directors. Since no nominations were made from the floor, these four will appear on a ballot to be mailed to TEDA/Houston members in early May.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Chris Olavson (chair), Margaret Drain, Jim Hofmeister, and Oliver Stork.

Greg Grabiec, TEDA/Houston's treasurer, submitted the required annual report of the Audit Committee, confirming that the organization's books are in good order and its financial condition is sound.

Skip Kasdorf, chair of the Howard Martin Memorial Award Committee, reported that four papers were submitted in this year's competition. The committee—Kasdorf, the University of Houston's Karl Eschbach, and Rice University's Steve Klineberg—met in mid-April to review the four, and determined that none truly met the criteria for conferring an award.

TEDA established the Martin Memorial Award to encourage graduate-level research that advances our understanding of some aspect of the Houston region. The competition, open to graduate students who have not yet received the Ph.D., calls for papers of seven or fewer pages of clear exposition that can be understood by a college-educated layperson.

At the TEDA/Houston board meeting on April 23, the board approved extension of the Martin Memorial Award competition through the 2003-04 academic year, authorizing as many as two awards of \$1,000 each.

TEDA/Houston members are asked to encourage prospective participants in the 2003-04 competition to check for details in August at www.teda.org. ❖

TEDA/Houston '02-'03 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). Fees and times for other functions vary. Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Houston Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 1701 San Jacinto.

May 28—Meeting 5:15-7 p.m.

The Houston Area Survey—What We've Discovered in 22 Years • Stephen Klineberg, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Rice University • *At Neighborhood Centers*

June 25—Meeting

Houston's Commercial Real Estate Markets and Growth Indicators • Patrick O'Connor, President, O'Connor & Associates • Shady Nebo, Senior Planner, Houston Department of Planning & Development

September 17—Meeting (NEW DATE!)

What's Going on in Fort Bend County? • Barkley Peschel, Vice President – Development and Redevelopment, Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council

TEDA's 20!

Howard N. Martin, then director of research for the Houston Chamber of Commerce, coordinated the founding of the Houston chapter of the Texas Economic & Demographic Association in 1983 at the behest of the Office of the Governor.

The initial exploratory meeting, designed to test the level of interest in such an organization, was held at the offices of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. At a subsequent organizational meeting at the Chamber, M. Eugene Norman, Jr., was elected TEDA/Houston's first president.

The Houston Chamber of Commerce and its successor organization, the Greater Houston Partnership, have provided staff support for TEDA/Houston since its inception. Martin served as executive secretary until his retirement in 1985, at which time Edith Chambers succeeded him in that capacity. ❖

'02-'03 TEDA/Houston Board of Directors

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, *Secretary*, 281-260-3128, christina.c.todd@nhmccd.edu

Terms Expiring in 2004

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

Terms Expiring in 2005

- ❖ Myra Moren, L.J. Melody & Company, *Vice President*, 713-787-1972, myra.moren@l melody.com
- ❖ Paula Pipes, Center for Immigration Research, University of Houston, 713-467-4227, ppipes@uh.edu
- ❖ Nancy Powell, Harris County Office of Economic Development, 713-755-3404, nancy_powell@co.harris.tx.us
- ❖ Vincent Sanders, METRO, *President*, 713-739-3867, VS02@ridemetro.org

Visit TEDA/Houston at www.teda.org

TEDA/Houston Newsletter

Publisher: Texas Economic & Demographic Association, Houston Chapter

President: Vincent Sanders

Editor: Skip Kasdorf (kasdorf@houston.org)

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.