



Texas
Economic & Demographic
Association

**Houston
NEWSLETTER**

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ACS Fully Funded

No more waiting for 10 years to get long-form census data!

On December 8, President Bush signed an omnibus budget bill that appropriates \$146 million to conduct the American Community Survey in FY05. This amount, \$19 million shy of the President's budget request, is sufficient to fully fund all aspects of the ACS, with the exception of group quarters coverage, in 2005.

The ACS, which replaces the long form decennial census questionnaire, will provide the full range of long-form socioeconomic, housing, and commuting data down to the census tract level annually. The decennial census in 2010 will consist only of the short form, collecting nothing other than data that are required by the Constitution for reapportionment. Elimination of the long form from the 2010 census should improve response rates.

The ACS will be mailed each month to a sample of approximately 250,000 households in all 3,233 counties and county equivalents in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, plus American Indian reservations, Alaska native villages, and Hawaiian homelands. Over the course of a year, approximately 2.5 percent of the nation's households will be surveyed. The first questionnaires were mailed in December.

The Census Bureau will release data for areas with populations of 65,000 or more annually, beginning in summer 2006. For smaller areas, it will take either three or five years,

depending on population size, to accumulate a large enough sample to produce reliable data. Once those data are collected, the Bureau will release tabulations each year based on rolling three-year averages for areas with populations of 20,000-65,000 and rolling five-year averages for areas as small as census tracts. The three-year averages will debut in 2008; the five-year averages, in 2010.

Implementation of the ACS in group quarters, such as college dormitories and prisons, will be delayed until 2006.

The ACS has been tested since 1996 to ensure that it yields the same high data quality as the census long form.

One potential benefit of the annual ACS lies in the distribution of federal funds among localities. Every year, more than \$200 billion in federal funds are awarded to localities on the basis of census numbers. Federal agencies are reviewing policies that would use ACS data to reallocate the disbursements in a more timely manner.

The Bureau notes yet another benefit from the annual ACS: "The permanent staff, professional interviewers, and mapping updates needed for the survey will contribute to more complete and accurate results for both the ACS and the 2010 census."

To find out more about the ACS data or to obtain data for Houston and other areas for which pilot testing of the ACS was conducted, visit <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>. ❖

Running Around in Circles

Do you need to know the population and population characteristics within a given radius of some point? Say, how many professional and managerial workers within a 500-mile radius of downtown Houston, or the number of persons over age 65 within five miles of Hermann Hospital? The Missouri Census Data Center has developed Circular Area Profiles (CAPS) to make your life easier.

CAPS aggregates data from the 2000 census for approximately circular areas, using a user-specified center point anywhere in the U.S. If you need a precise center point, you must input latitude and longitude. If a ZIP code centroid suffices, you need enter only the five-digit ZIP code. As many as five radii may be selected for each centroid. (Radius entries are assumed to be in miles.)

The CAPS reports cover the most common variables, using Summary File 3 data. If you're using a large radius (say, 250 miles), you may really appreciate a supplemental report, generated automatically, that lists the counties included alphabetically within states alphabetically. Visit:

<http://mcdc2.missouri.edu/websas/caps.html>.

The site includes a detailed discussion of CAPS with usage instructions, a description of the method used to approximate circles, a discussion of how means and medians are calculated, and contact information if your needs or interest extend beyond what's posted. ❖

Board Member Profile

Margaret R. Boice, known to just about everybody as "Peggy," was elected to TEDA/Houston's Board of Directors this past May for a term expiring in 2007.

Peggy has been director of public policy for United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast since 1995. In this capacity, she serves primarily as a "link between nonprofits and government." She has more than 1,000 representatives of nonprofits and government who receive daily

e-mail updates from her on a wide range of health and human service public policy issues—mainly funding, regulations, and legislation at the local, state, and federal levels. She also serves on several advisory bodies such as the Greater Houston Partnership's local, state and federal relations committees.

Peggy, who holds certification as Licensed Master Social Worker – Advanced Practitioner, earned her bachelor's degree from Baylor and both her M.S. in Social Work and her M.A. in Urban Affairs from UT-Arlington. She joined the Georgia Governor's Office of Budget and Planning as human resources senior planner in 1975, moved to the State of Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington as human resources coordinator in 1977, and left government for the nonprofit sector as senior associate for The Assistance Group for Human Resources Development (Silver Spring MD), a consulting firm specializing in policy issues affecting programs for seniors, in 1979. The following year, she returned to Texas as director of public policy for United Ways of Texas in Austin, where she spent the next 15 years serving the more than 100 local United Way organizations across the state, helping them coordinate and communicate with the state legislature and with more than 100 statewide agencies, organizations, and associations involved in health and human services.

Peggy is the author of United Way's *Public Policy Handbook: A Guide to the Texas Legislative Process*, published in 1990 and re-issued in 1994, 1996, and 1999. The recipient of an abundance of awards over four decades, beginning with a scholarship from Optimist Clubs of Houston in 1965 and culminating most recently with an award from the Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition last year, she is active in many community service groups, including the Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition, the Greater Houston Partnership's Government Relations Committee, the Harris County Community Access Collaborative, Women Professionals in Government, and One Voice: A Collaborative for Health and Human Services ❖

New MSA Definitions in Use

Beginning with January 2005, many government agencies will tabulate data based on the “new” metropolitan areas defined by the Office of Management and Budget in June 2003. Some private sector data providers, including Woods & Poole Economics, *Sales & Marketing Management*, and ACCRA (in the quarterly *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*) adopted the new geography more than a year ago.

The most common entity in publications using metropolitan area geography is likely to be the Metropolitan Statistical Area. The Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA includes 10 counties—Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller.

How big is the Houston MSA? It covers more area than Vermont, New Hampshire, or New Jersey, and is just a shade smaller than Massachusetts. It has more people than Minnesota, and is rapidly gaining on Wisconsin. And it has more jobs than Colorado, Louisiana, or Alabama, trailing Arizona by just 10,000 as of November. With a mid-2003 population of 5.076 million, it's the eighth most populous MSA in the nation. ❖

A Movable Feast

Pay special attention to the location on each TEDA/Houston meeting announcement this year so you don't wind up in the wrong place at the right time.

After meeting at United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast for the final two events of 2004, we'll be back at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 1700 San Jacinto, for January, February, and March—all at 5:30 p.m., with reception beginning at 5.

Because the Fed is preparing to move into its new building on Allen Parkway, our April and May meetings and our June workshop will be at United Way—but at *their new building* at 50 Waugh Drive.

Come September, we'll resume meeting at the DallasFed—but at *its new building* at 1801 Allen Parkway. Driving and parking directions will be posted on the TEDA/Houston Web site (www.teda.org) well before that meeting. ❖

Census Bureau Alerts

County Business Patterns data for 2002 have been released and are available on the Bureau's Web site. *CBP* data for 2003 are scheduled to be released this spring.

Metropolitan area data for Texas from the 2002 economic censuses are slated for release between April and September of this year, with most industries due in September. For details: http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/guide/02EC_TX.HTM. ❖

U.S. Population Projections

The Census Bureau's latest projections of the nation's population show its racial and ethnic composition at the middle of this century resembling that of Houston today.

The nation's Hispanic and Asian populations triple between 2000 and 2050, and Anglos' share of total population falls to about 50 percent.

Total population grows from 282.1 million in 2000 to 419.9 million in 2050—but after 2030, the population growth rate is the slowest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Even so, the nation's expected 49 percent increase over these five decades is in sharp contrast to most European countries, which are expected to experience outright declines in total population by mid-century.

The country's age structure will shift. Child-bearing rates are expected to remain low, while baby boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) begin to turn 65 in 2011. By 2030, about 20 percent of the nation's population will be 65 or over.

For details, go to: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/usinterimproj/>. ❖

TEDA/Houston '04-'05 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.

Topics and speakers shown below are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check the calendar at www.teda.org.

Jan. 26—Meeting

The Economic Impact of Railroads on Houston: Past, Present and Future • Ralph G. Kennedy, President, Rail Lease, Inc • *DallasFed, 1701 San Jacinto*

Feb. 23—Meeting

The Economics of Historic Preservation in Houston • Ramona Davis, Executive Director, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance • *DallasFed, 1701 San Jacinto*

Mar. 30—Meeting

The Texas Medical Center's Long-Range Plan • Paul H. Sanders, Dr.P.H., AIA, VP, Planning and Architecture, Texas Medical Center • *DallasFed, 1701 San Jacinto*

Apr. 27—Meeting

The Houston Area Survey—What We've Learned Over 24 Years • Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Rice University • *United Way, 50 Waugh Drive*

May 25—Meeting

Children at Risk in Houston • Barbara McCormick, President & CEO, Children at Risk • *United Way, 50 Waugh Drive*

Jun. 23—Workshop

Three Views of Houston's Future • Steve Murdock, Ph.D., Director, Texas State Data Center (invited); Forecasting Group, Houston-Galveston Area Council; Garry Golden, Strategic Planning Coordinator, Center for Houston's Future • *United Way, 50 Waugh Drive*

Sep. 28—Meeting

The Texas Triangle—A Single Economic Powerhouse • Bill Gilmer, Ph.D., Senior Economist, Houston Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas • *DallasFed, 1801 Allen*

'04-'05 TEDA/Houston Board of Directors

Terms Expiring in 2005

- ❖ Myra F. Moren, Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, L.P., 713-852-3581, mmoren@hfflp.com
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- ❖ Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, **Webmaster**, 409-747-3516, kaeschba@utmb.edu
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Terms Expiring in 2007

- ❖ Max L. Beauregard, Demographics & GIS Consulting Services, **Vice President**, 713-864-0549, mbeauregard@houston.rr.com
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Visit TEDA/Houston at www.teda.org

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