



Texas  
Economic & Demographic  
Association

TEDA

# Houston NEWSLETTER

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## Statistical Funding Set for '06

On November 22, the president signed into law the FY06 appropriations bill that funds the U.S. Department of Commerce, including the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

After a year in which survival of the American Community Survey appeared to be in peril, House and Senate conferees approved funding of \$812.2 million for the Census Bureau, overcoming a far lower funding level approved by the Senate in September. The final amount includes \$169.9 for the ACS, \$203.8 million for 2010 census redesign, and \$79.8 to update the master address list and the TIGER mapping system. In addition, the ACS this year will be expanded to include group quarters coverage for the first time. The ACS is designed to provide annual data on a wide range of social, economic, and housing characteristics, replacing the census long form in 2010.

As part of the Census Bureau appropriations legislation, the Census Bureau has 90 days to report to Congress on the feasibility of enumerating prisoners at their “permanent homes of record” instead of their places of incarceration—a change that could have a substantial effect on redistricting in some cases.

BEA receives \$76.1 million—\$5.2 million below the president’s request, but still sufficient to fund existing programs and channel \$3.8 million into new initiatives. Among these are improved accuracy in the early Gross

Domestic Product estimates, accelerating the publication of Gross State Product and metropolitan personal income estimates, and improving the accuracy of data on international trade in services.

Separately, FY06 funding of \$542.5 million for the Bureau of Labor Statistics was approved in December. This amount will sustain existing programs and underwrite such improvements as expansion of the employment cost index sample, expanded coverage of the service sectors in producer price and productivity estimates, updating weights and outlet and item samples for the consumer price indexes, and upgrading computer subsystems used in producing the PPI. ❖

## Conference on Views of Houston’s Future Jan. 19

*Three Views of Houston’s Future*, a conference originally scheduled for last September, will be held on the morning of Thursday, January 19, at the Houston branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 1801 Allen Parkway. This event was postponed because so many attendees were involved in hurricane relief efforts.

All three speakers scheduled for the event last September will participate this month:

❖ **Steve Murdock**, chief demographer for the State of Texas, will discuss the Texas State Data Center’s projections of populations and their characteristics for Texas counties, including comments on the latest

projections and their implications for public policy, especially at the state level.

- ❖ **Dmitry Messen**, forecasting group manager for the Houston-Galveston Area Council, will present the latest draft of the forthcoming biennial small-area population and employment forecast for regional transportation planning. This forecast has been under development since mid-'05, and will soon be presented to HGAC's board for approval after the current round of public comment is completed.
- ❖ **Ann Lents**, president and CEO of the Center for Houston's Future, will discuss the development of alternative scenarios showing how Houston's future could be directed or could evolve by default.

"This conference should make for a fascinating morning, and it's an event people have been eagerly anticipating since it was announced last year," said TEDA/Houston president Christina Todd. "We'll see three distinct approaches—what the math tells us *will* happen under certain assumptions about demographic trends, what local demographic experts think is *most likely* to happen, and what *could be made* to happen."

Registration is \$15 for TEDA members and their guests and \$30 for nonmembers. For more info, e-mail [teda@houston.org](mailto:teda@houston.org). ❖

## New TEDA Board Members

The '05 TEDA/Houston elections brought two newcomers to the organization's 12-member board of directors:

**Bala J. Balachandran** is administration manager for planning services in the Planning & Development Department of the City of Houston. In that position, he is responsible for managing the analysis process and policy development of demographic and research elements for planning activities, including data research, census data, demographic estimates, GIS, and related programs. He also represents P&D's liaison in sharing information, leveraging resources, and coordinating efforts related to planning.

Prior to joining the City of Houston, Balachandran served as senior demographer for the Houston-Galveston Area Council for some seven years.

Balachandran has nearly two decades of experience in planning, socioeconomic, demographic, and GIS-related activities. He was coordinator for the 1990 and 2000 Census Complete Count Committees.

Balachandran is a graduate of Kansas State University, where he earned a master's degree in regional and community planning. He also holds a master's degree in economics.

**Margaret Drain** is the senior research associate for the Houston Community College System. Hired in '95 as the first Institutional Researcher for HCCS, she has been instrumental in developing the eight-person office and its projects. Her major responsibility is performing environmental scanning—a task that involves demographic analysis, college mapping, needs analysis, enrollment projections, and facility planning. However, her expertise with student data and SPSS has kept her involved with problem solving, data accessing, and warehousing for HCCS. Her current studies in survey research also have drawn her into the office's survey activities.

Before '95, Drain spent 13 years in hospital patient accounts management and was self-employed as a marketing and management consultant.

Drain received her B.S. in secondary education from Penn State and her MBA from Lamar University. She is nearing completion of work on her Ed.D. at the University of Houston.

Since '97, Drain has been a member of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), the Southern, Texas, and Gulf Coast Associations for Institutional Research (SAIR, TAIR, and GCAIR, respectively), the National Council of Community College Research and Planning (NCCCRP), and the Association for Women Administrators. She serves as NCCCRP regional director of District 8, Texas, and as TAIR's treasurer, and has presented papers, conducted workshops, and held roundtables

on a variety of institutional research topics at AIR and TAIR conferences. ❖

## Fascinating Miscellany

From time to time (usually every 12 to 18 months), the Texas State Data Center convenes a meeting of its affiliates and other data junkies to discuss the TSDC's programs and how they can be more made effective and to update numbers mavens on the latest developments from the TSDC, the Census Bureau, and other purveyors of demographic data. Herewith a few gems gleaned from last year's meeting:

- ❖ Texas' population in the '00 census looks very much like the U.S. is expected to look at mid-century—53 percent Anglo, 47 percent non-Anglo.
- ❖ In terms of the percentage of adults who are high school graduates, Texas ranked 39<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in '90, 45<sup>th</sup> in '00, and 50<sup>th</sup> in '03 and '04.
- ❖ Each year, TSDC conducts a private school survey, a survey of building permits and vacancy patterns, and a Boundary and Annexations Survey (BAS) for all 254 counties and all 1,201 places in Texas.
- ❖ In the most recent year, the Texas BAS showed, 18.2 percent of all places had boundary changes. (That's something to remember when you use Census Bureau estimates of place populations, since the Bureau often lags by several years in picking up boundary changes.)
- ❖ TSDC publishes county population projections for four scenarios that differ only in their assumptions about migration rates for the 680 combinations of race/ethnicity, sex, and age in each county. (For details: [http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2004projections/2004\\_Texas\\_County\\_Projection\\_Methodology.pdf](http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2004projections/2004_Texas_County_Projection_Methodology.pdf).) *Unless special local considerations argue to the contrary, TSDC generally suggests that the '00-'02 scenario be used for work covering two to 10 years,*

*and that the 0.5 scenario be used for periods longer than 10 years.*

- ❖ In the U.S., the Census Bureau's *Statistical Abstract of the United States* outsells the Bible. (Note: The '06 edition of the *Stat Abstract* has just been published. To access data from the new edition and recent earlier editions: <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>. To order a printed copy—\$35 paperbound, \$39 clothbound: [http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/statistical\\_abstract.html](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/statistical_abstract.html).)
- ❖ “FedStats” on the Census Bureau's Web site ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)) links to *every* federal agency that collects statistics. (Presumably, this sweeping statement excludes such entities as NSA, widely known as “No Such Agency.”)
- ❖ The American Community Survey is great for proportional distributions of population and housing characteristics, but shouldn't be used for estimates of total population.
- ❖ ACS data for census tracts will be running five-year averages (the meaning of which may be difficult to convey to casual data users). When census tract boundaries are revised for the '10 census, the Bureau plans to publish the five-year averages for the new boundaries, electronically regeocoding data from earlier ACS tallies to conform with the new geography.
- ❖ What does the Census Bureau think of the Texas State Data Center's numbers? Said Paula Wright of the Bureau's Dallas Regional Office: “If you don't use the Texas State Data Center estimates and projections, you're being silly. They're better than the Bureau's.” (Of course, if you're comparing places in and outside of Texas, most of the time you're compelled to use a single source, rather than mixing and matching.) ❖

## Getting to the Fed

For parking for TEDA/Houston functions: [http://www.dallasfed.org/fed/direct\\_hou.pdf](http://www.dallasfed.org/fed/direct_hou.pdf).

## TEDA/Houston '05-'06 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).

### Jan. 19—Conference (8:30 a.m.-Noon)

*Three Views of Houston's Future* • Steve Murdock, Ph.D., Chief Demographer, State of Texas • Dmitry Messen, Ph.D., Forecasting Group Manager, Houston-Galveston Area Council • Ann Lents, President and CEO, Center for Houston's Future • \$15 members/\$30 nonmembers

### Feb. 16—Meeting

*Early Childhood Development—Measuring and Mapping Progress* • Patricia Gail Bray, Ph.D., Executive Director, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities • Susan H. Landry, Ph.D., Director, State Center for Early Childhood Development

### Mar. 16—Meeting

*NASA's Economic Impact on Houston* • Speaker TBA

### Apr. 20—Meeting

*The Houston Area Survey—Newest Findings from the '06 Survey* • Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Rice University

### May 18—Meeting

*Traffic Congestion—How Houston Stacks Up and What We Can Do* • Tim Lomax, Ph.D., Program Manager, Mobility Analysis, Texas Transportation Institute, TAMU

### Jun. 15—Meeting

*Houston's Residential Real Estate Markets* • Michael Inselmann, President, Metrostudy • Richard Zigler, Director of Research, O'Connor & Associates

### Sep. 21—Meeting

*Religious (In)tolerance in Houston* • Speaker TBA

## '05-'06 TEDA/Houston Board of Directors

### Terms Expiring in 2006

- ❖ Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, *Webmaster*, 409-747-3516, [kaeschba@utmb.edu](mailto:kaeschba@utmb.edu)
- ❖ Skip Kasdorf, Greater Houston Partnership, *Newsletter Editor*, 713-844-3615, [kasdorf@houston.org](mailto:kasdorf@houston.org)
- ❖ John Stansfield, Consultant, 281-933-2588, [jstansfield@pdq.net](mailto:jstansfield@pdq.net)
- ❖ Christina Todd, North Harris Montgomery Community College Dist., *President*, 832-813-6628, [christina.c.todd@nhmccd.edu](mailto:christina.c.todd@nhmccd.edu)

### Terms Expiring in 2007

- ❖ Max L. Beauregard, Demographics & GIS Consulting Services, *Vice President*, 713-864-0549, [mbeauregard@houston.rr.com](mailto:mbeauregard@houston.rr.com)
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- ❖ Greg Deurdulian, Houston-Galveston Area Council, 713-993-4529, [greg.deurdulian@h-gac.com](mailto:greg.deurdulian@h-gac.com)
- ❖ Jim Hofmeister, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc., 713-759-0468, [jhofmeister@careerandrecovery.org](mailto:jhofmeister@careerandrecovery.org)

### Terms Expiring in 2008

- ❖ Bala Balachandran, Planning & Development Dept., City of Houston, *Secretary*, 713-837-7839, [bala.balachandran@cityofhouston.net](mailto:bala.balachandran@cityofhouston.net)
- ❖ Margaret Drain, Houston Community College System, 713-718-8628
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*Visit TEDA/Houston at [www.teda.org](http://www.teda.org)*

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