

County Narrative Profile

Fort Bend County Regional Report

What are County Narrative Profiles?

The Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI) department of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has developed the County Narrative Profile (CNP) as a tool for presenting Texas county based statistical data in an easy-to-read narrative format. This CNP module is one of many analytical tools available from the Industrial Profiles system. The narrative approach is an alternative to looking through stacks of tables and charts which can be confusing and difficult to understand or interpret. It allows the user to easily request an easy to understand report on one or more of the 254 counties in Texas. To review all the current TWC's initiatives and services, link to: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us>

Geography

Regional Information: The Fort Bend County Regional region (FIPS code:48157) had an estimated population of 523,339 in 2008. The region consists of 886 square miles with a **population density** of 590.68 residents per square mile compared to a statewide density of 91.95. This county ranked 10th in 2000 population compared to all 254 counties in Texas. Fort Bend County Regional is a member of TWC's Gulf Coast Local Workforce Development region. This area is a **metropolitan** county. This county also ranked 181st in size by square miles when compared to all counties in Texas. The Fort Bend County Regional area is assigned to the following district(s): Texas Representative District(s) of 26-28 and State Senatorial District(s) of 13,17,18. The area is in the U.S. Congressional District(s) of: 22,25. The county seat is Richmond and the county's **major city, town or place** is Sugar Land. See Texas Online at <http://www.state.tx.us/portal/tol/en/gov/11/1> for State and local updates. Fort Bend County Regional is classified as a metropolitan county by virtue of either its close relationship with a significant central city or lack thereof. Using 2000 Census population data, roughly 86.05 percent of all Texas population could be found in the 76 metropolitan counties defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for 2003. In 1993 the county was classified as a metropolitan county. Texas has established a network of 24 **Councils of Government** (COGs) to assist local governments in planning for common needs and to coordinate regional economic development activity. Fort Bend County Regional falls within the Houston-Galveston Area Council region. For additional information and links to the COG regions see www.txregionalcouncil.org/.

The Office of the State Climatologist in College Station, under the guidance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, maintains 10-year intervals of weather compilations. For most recent interval as of January 1, 1993, the **rainfall** in the region averages 45.3 inches per year compared to the Texas average of 30.1 inches per year. The average **growing season** in the Fort Bend County Regional region is 296 days. Texas is so climatically diverse that statewide averages are generally irrelevant as a means of comparison. The **average temperature** in January gathered by the Office of the State Climatologist ranges from 41 degrees to an average for July of 93 degrees. The Texas Department of Agriculture estimates the **freeze dates** range from Dec 7 to Feb 14. Current and past climate information can be found at <http://www.farmersalmanac.com/weather/uszone5.html> and <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>.

Natural amenities of the area, according to the U.S. Department of Interior, reflect an overall percent of **surface water** of 1.3 percent compared to 2.5 percent statewide. The land surface form topography for the region is described as flat plains. Considerably more detailed information can be found at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/sb1/> and http://www.netstate.com/states/geography/tx_geography.htm.

Local Workforce Boards: Fort Bend County Regional is a member of the TWC Gulf Coast local workforce board area. In order to contact the board or TWC's Tele Center by phone, call 1-800-939-6631. Local addresses, references to specific needs and services can be found at the Gulf Coast web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdas/wda28.html>. For further information on all Local Workforce Board go to <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdbs/wdbmap.html>.

Population

County population estimates are updated periodically by the Texas State Data Center – Office of the State Demographer at the University of Texas at San Antonio. County estimates are primarily based on the 100 percent population counts from the latest April, 2000 decennial census and are calculated to reveal population change up to a current date, in this case January 2008. These estimation methodologies utilize information on births, deaths and elementary school enrollment to estimate population. In this method, migration of the school-age population is assumed to be indicative of migration in the total population (with adjustments being made for the historical differences between the school-age migration rate and the total population's rate of migration). Data on public school enrollment from the Texas Education Agency and data from the Texas State Data Center's survey of private schools in Texas are used to estimate change in the school-age population. Data on institutional populations were obtained from applicable institutions, while data on other special populations, such as the elderly population were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

According to the county-based population estimates from the Texas State Data Center, Fort Bend County Regional changed in population from 354,452 in April, 2000 to an estimated 523,339 in January 2008 by 168,887 residents. This reflects an increase of 47.6 percent in population. During the same time period, the state's population changed by 3,253,597 residents from 20,851,820 to an estimated 24,105,417 persons representing a comparative change of 15.6 percent. A variety of data topics for Texas and all the counties is available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>.

The region's race/ethnic distribution in 2000 is estimated by the Census Bureau to be:

| <u>Race/Ethnicity</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Area Percent</u> | <u>Statewide Percent</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| White | 201,896 | 57.0 | 70.97 |
| Black | 70,356 | 19.8 | 11.53 |
| Other | 40,882 | 11.5 | 3.33 |
| Hispanic ^o | 74,871 | 21.1 | 31.99 |

^o Hispanic count includes White, Black and other representation when reported.

Population Age

The age distribution of an area can provide valuable insight into the region's economic composition and income potential. By national standards, Texas has a relatively young population. The 2000 Census estimates for Texas show a population composition as follows:

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Area Percent</u> | <u>Statewide</u> |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Under 5 | 27,337 | 7.7 | 7.8 |
| 5-14 | 66,040 | 18.6 | 15.8 |
| 15-19 | 29,661 | 8.4 | 7.8 |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|------|------|
| 20-44 | 131,843 | 37.2 | 38.5 |
| 45-64 | 79,402 | 22.4 | 20.2 |
| 65+ | 20,169 | 5.7 | 9.9 |

While the median age for Texas was 32.30 years in 2000, the Fort Bend County Regional area had a median age of 33.30 according to the 2000 Census.

Population Gender

The gender distribution of an area can provide additional insight into the region's overall distribution in the population by male and female. Of the area's population, 176,437 were male which represents 49.8 percent and 178,015 were female which represents 50.2 percent. This compares to the statewide percentage of 49.6 percent for male and 50.4 percent for female.

Special Age Groups and Gender

Youth and Older Workers: Other age cohorts may be of special interest for Workforce Development Board's summer youth programs and older worker programs. The Fort Bend County Regional region has 53,568 persons **age 14-21** representing 14.9 percent of the population. This compares with 13.3 percent statewide. For the potential older age cohort, 18,915 persons or 5.3 percent are **55 or over** in the Fort Bend County Regional region based on the 2000 Census. This compares to 9.9 percent statewide.

Ages 25-44: If the population cohort 45 and over is higher than the state average, this suggests a stable, mature population comprised of mainly "empty-nesters," retirees and the aged. When the 25-44 age cohort is higher than the state average, this is a healthy economic situation since this group contains the greatest share of the labor force. Decreases over time in this group, especially when similar changes are not occurring statewide, can be an indication that people are moving out of an area they consider to be a poor labor market. In Fort Bend County Regional the total number in the age groups of 25 to 44, was 126,236 or 35.1 percent. This compares to a statewide percentage of 31.9 percent.

Ages 18 and Older: For the population generally considered in the ages to participate in the labor market, the total population who were 18 years and over totaled 14,965,061 in Texas which represented 71.8 percent of the total population. In this study area, the total persons in this age group was 240,980 or 68.0 percent of the total population. Within this age group in Texas the number of males in 2000 who were 18 years and over represented 7,338,177 persons or 35.2 percent of the total population while females age 18 years and over represented 7,626,884 or 36.6 percent. In the Fort Bend County Regional area, males 18 and over represented 118,228 or 33.4 percent in comparison and females totaled to 122,752 or 34.6 percent.

Veteran Status: According to the U.S. Bureau of Census, the area had 240,802 persons in the population age 18 years and older in the year 2000. Of that number, 22,022 or 9.1 percent responded as being a civilian veteran, compared to 11.8 percent statewide. A "civilian veteran" is a person 18 years old or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps.

Disability Status: From the 2000 Census, data on Disability Status were derived when respondents reported long-lasting conditions: (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment, (sensory disability) and (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying (physical disability). Disability status was also derived if the individuals in the working age range of 21 to 64 years had a physical, mental, or emotional

condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities such as: (a) learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability); (b) dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office (going outside the home disability); and (d) working at a job or business (employment disability).

It was reported in the 2000 Census that the area had an estimated 99,468 persons residing there between the ages of 5 to 20 years of age with approximately 6,125 or 6.2 percent with a **disability**. In Texas, the percent with disabilities in this same age bracket was 7.9 percent. In the working age population group - ages 21 to 64 years, the area had approximately 204,007 persons, of which 32,789 were categorized to be in a disability status. This represented 16.1 percent compared to 19.9 percent in the state overall. For those persons in this age group that had a disability, approximately 21,837 or 66.6 percent were employed. For those who had no disability, an estimated 131,667 or 76.9 percent were employed. For the retirement age group of 65 years of age and older, 19,187 persons resided of which 7,810 were disabled. The percent of this age group with a disabled status was 40.7 percent and this compared to 44.8 percent in Texas overall.

Ages 65 and Older: For the population who are considered to be at the age of retirement or older - 65 years and older, the total number of persons in Texas was 2,072,532 or 9.9 percent of the total population in 2000. This region had a total of 20,169 or 5.7 percent in this older age group. In the same age group of 65 years and over, males in Texas represented 862,181 or 4.1 percent of the total population and females totaled to 1,210,351 or 5.8 percent, while in this study area, males totaled to 8,693 or 2.5 percent of all persons in this area and females represented 11,476 or 3.2 percent of all persons. For other general and special population information from the 2000 Census as well as specific populations topics, link to <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/tx.html>.

Population Projections

The Office of the State Demographer for the State of Texas distributes the most widely used population projections for Texas. **Projection estimates** in these tables and the methodology for **migration scenarios** have been revised as of 2006 by the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer - now housed at University of Texas San Antonio. Each projection series includes three scenarios resulting in three alternative sets of population values for the State and each county are presented in these projections. These scenarios assume the same set of mortality and fertility assumptions in each scenario but differ in their assumptions relative to net migration. The net migration assumptions made for three scenarios are derived from 1990-2000 patterns which have been altered relative to expected future population trends. This is done by systematically and uniformly altering the adjusted 1990-2000 net migration rates by age, sex and race/ethnicity. The scenarios so produced are referred to as the zero migration (0.0) scenario, the one-half 1990-2000 (0.5) scenario, the 1990-2000 (1.0) scenario and the 1990-2000 (2.0) scenario.

The recommended scenario for most county based projection reporting used is believed to be the 0.5 scenario as most appropriate scenario for most counties in Texas. This scenario has been prepared as an approximate average of the zero (0.0) and 1990-2000 (1.0) scenarios. It assumes rates of net migration one-half of those of the 1990s. The reason for including this scenario is that many counties in the State are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relatively extensive growth of the 1990s. A scenario which projects rates of population growth that are approximately an average of the zero and the 1990-2000 scenarios is one that suggests slower but steadier growth than occurred during 1990-2000 (For a more detailed discussion see <http://txsdc.utsa.edu>).

Using this projection scenario, the following table represents population projections for Fort Bend County Regional:

| Population Projections and Percent Change Since 2000* | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Pct Chg</u> | <u>Anglo</u> | <u>Pct Chg</u> | <u>Black</u> | <u>Pct Chg</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> | <u>Pct Chg</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Pct Chg</u> |
| 2000 | 354,452 | --- | 166,758 | --- | 70,810 | --- | 74,871 | --- | 42,013 | --- |
| 2005 | 402,278 | 13.5 | 179,745 | 7.8 | 82,901 | 17.1 | 89,008 | 18.9 | 50,624 | 20.5 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|---------|------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 2010 | 452,097 | 27.5 | 190,752 | 14.4 | 95,653 | 35.1 | 104,958 | 40.2 | 60,734 | 44.6 |
| 2015 | 505,647 | 42.7 | 201,461 | 20.8 | 108,583 | 53.3 | 122,820 | 64.0 | 72,783 | 73.2 |
| 2020 | 563,873 | 59.1 | 213,061 | 27.8 | 121,458 | 71.5 | 142,406 | 90.2 | 86,948 | 107.0 |
| 2025 | 623,919 | 76.0 | 223,946 | 34.3 | 134,030 | 89.3 | 163,531 | 118.4 | 102,412 | 143.8 |
| 2030 | 682,296 | 92.5 | 231,639 | 38.9 | 146,090 | 106.3 | 185,890 | 148.3 | 118,677 | 182.5 |
| 2035 | 737,313 | 108.0 | 235,490 | 41.2 | 157,563 | 122.5 | 209,087 | 179.3 | 135,173 | 221.7 |
| 2040 | 789,864 | 122.8 | 236,275 | 41.7 | 168,337 | 137.7 | 233,114 | 211.4 | 152,138 | 262.1 |

* Anglo, Black, and Other excludes Hispanic counts.

For comparison purposes, the Texas population projections, using the same scenario methodology, are as follows:

| Year | Population Projections and Percent Change Since 2000* | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Total | Pct Chg | Anglo | Pct Chg | Black | Pct Chg | Hispanic | Pct Chg | Other | Pct Chg |
| 2000 | 20,851,820 | --- | 11,074,716 | --- | 2,421,653 | --- | 6,669,666 | --- | 685,785 | --- |
| 2005 | 22,556,054 | 8.2 | 11,327,875 | 2.3 | 2,588,604 | 6.9 | 7,820,854 | 17.3 | 818,721 | 19.4 |
| 2010 | 24,330,612 | 16.7 | 11,533,974 | 4.1 | 2,754,744 | 13.8 | 9,080,436 | 36.1 | 961,458 | 40.2 |
| 2015 | 26,156,715 | 25.4 | 11,694,533 | 5.6 | 2,913,063 | 20.3 | 10,436,536 | 56.5 | 1,112,583 | 62.2 |
| 2020 | 28,005,788 | 34.3 | 11,796,493 | 6.5 | 3,052,401 | 26.0 | 11,882,998 | 78.2 | 1,273,896 | 85.8 |
| 2025 | 29,897,443 | 43.4 | 11,830,579 | 6.8 | 3,170,986 | 30.9 | 13,448,469 | 101.6 | 1,447,409 | 111.1 |
| 2030 | 31,830,589 | 52.7 | 11,789,298 | 6.5 | 3,268,616 | 35.0 | 15,140,100 | 127.0 | 1,632,575 | 138.1 |
| 2035 | 33,789,668 | 62.0 | 11,682,014 | 5.5 | 3,345,684 | 38.2 | 16,934,444 | 153.9 | 1,827,526 | 166.5 |
| 2040 | 35,761,201 | 71.5 | 11,525,112 | 4.1 | 3,403,169 | 40.5 | 18,804,298 | 181.9 | 2,028,622 | 195.8 |

* Anglo, Black, and Other excludes Hispanic counts.

County to County Migration

Out Migration: Using Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information regarding changes in residences between two filing years 2006 and 2007, statistics regarding moving in and out of counties can reveal patterns of migration as well as patterns of out-of-state and foreign migration to and from selected counties. During this time Fort Bend County Regional reported 154,628 total tax returns were matched to tabulate outflow migration. Of these returns approximately 8.6 percent showed a change in residences by moving out from their originating county in 2006 to another county in 2007. Of these who moved out of their original county, 77.9 percent moved to another county within Texas, while 20.7 percent moved to a different state but within the U.S. Those who moved from their originating county in the year 2006 to a foreign country in 2007 was approximately 1.4 percent.

In-Migration: During the period 2006 to 2007, there were approximately 160,060 total tax returns were matched to calculate inflow migration. Of these returns approximately 11.7 percent showed a change in residences by moving in from their originating county in 2006 to a county in the study area in 2007. Of these who moved into the study area from another county, 73.1 percent moved from other counties in Texas, while 25.8 percent moved from a county in a different state but within the U.S. Those who moved into the study area during the 2006-2007 period from a foreign country was approximately 1.1 percent.

Vital Statistics: According to the Texas Department of State Health Services for vital statistics for the year 2004, the Fort Bend County Regional area had a total of 6,158 live births which represents a **live birth rate** of 14.2 births for every 1,000 persons in the study area compared to a statewide rate of 17.0 births per 1,000 persons in the population. The area had a total of 1,672 **deaths** representing a rate of 3.9 for every 1,000 persons compared to a statewide rate of 6.8.

Employment

Civilian Labor Force (CLF): The most recent civilian labor force estimates from TWC for Texas statewide in April 2009 is 11,873,732 which is an increase in the labor force of 265,409 persons since April 2008. This represents a 2.3 percent change in Texas during this time period. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Fort Bend County Regional had a civilian labor force of 260,873 for April 2009 which was a change of 3,767 in CLF since April 2008. This change represented an increase of 1.5 percent for the study area. For another glimpse into TWC/LMI's Texas and County information, link to:

<http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce>.

Economic Diversification: Relative to the Texas economy, the LMCI economic diversification index measures the degree to which a county economy is diversified. Significant concentrations of employment in only one or two industrial sectors makes an area less diversified and more susceptible to widespread economic decline should a key sector suffer a significant loss. While economic diversification or a balanced distribution of employment across all major industry sectors, is generally desirable, in some cases, especially where a region is exploiting a comparative advantage (such as access to raw materials, access to transportation routes, etc.) a statistically diverse economy does not necessarily correlate with higher growth. Of the three levels of diversification ranging from below average, average and above average, Fort Bend County Regional had an economic base which is of above average diversity.

Employment By Major Industry Sector: The most recent employment data from TWC by major industrial sector for Fort Bend County Regional compared to Texas are shown below in a table for two years. The Department of Labor calls these major categories "Super Sectors". One advantage in reviewing employment changes at broad industrial levels is that it allows for a unique snapshot of major differences in the total civilian labor force for a selected study area when compared to any larger statewide trend. When employment changes at a higher rate than the state, there may be comparative advantages in the local economy which are driving these changes. Conversely, when change is at a lower rate, then the Super Sector is showing less growth in comparison to the state and may consequently have a smaller comparative **change impact**.

| Fort Bend County Regional Industry Sector | AREA EMPLOYMENT | | | | STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------------------------|------------|---------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | Abs | Pct | 2007 | 2008 | Abs | Pct |
| | 1st Qtr | 1st Qtr | Chg | Chg | 1st Qtr | 1st Qtr | Chg | Chg |
| Total, All Industries | 117,840 | 125,590 | 7,750 | 6.58 | 10,037,000 | 10,359,640 | 322,640 | 3.11 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 3,210 | 3,210 | 0 | 0.00 | 256,750 | 280,220 | 23,470 | 8.38 |
| Construction | 11,390 | 12,410 | 1,020 | 8.96 | 656,110 | 694,740 | 38,630 | 5.56 |
| Manufacturing | 13,570 | 13,900 | 330 | 2.43 | 931,460 | 931,520 | 60 | 0.01 |
| Trade, Transport. & Utilities | 24,460 | 26,620 | 2,160 | 8.83 | 2,164,600 | 2,222,230 | 57,630 | 2.59 |
| Information | 1,580 | 1,630 | 50 | 3.16 | 227,530 | 226,140 | -1,390 | -0.61 |
| Financial Activities Group | 5,100 | 5,330 | 230 | 4.51 | 631,350 | 641,090 | 9,740 | 1.52 |
| Prof., Business & Other Svcs | 12,700 | 13,800 | 1,100 | 8.66 | 1,268,320 | 1,335,700 | 67,380 | 5.04 |
| Education & Health Svcs. | 26,850 | 28,200 | 1,350 | 5.03 | 2,236,940 | 2,310,790 | 73,850 | 3.20 |
| Leisure & Hospitality Group | 11,950 | 13,180 | 1,230 | 10.29 | 960,500 | 996,930 | 36,430 | 3.65 |
| Other Services | 3,660 | 3,800 | 140 | 3.83 | 281,920 | 290,930 | 9,010 | 3.10 |
| Public Administration | 3,260 | 3,460 | 200 | 6.13 | 413,510 | 421,770 | 8,260 | 1.96 |

Compared to Texas, the table above shows employment sectors in Fort Bend County Regional changed at a higher rate for *Construction, Manufacturing, Trade, Transport. & Utilities, Information, Financial Activities Group, Prof., Business & Other Svcs, Education & Health Svcs., Leisure & Hospitality Group, Other Services* and *Public Administration* between 1st quarter 2007 and 1st quarter 2008. During that same time period, area employment for *Natural Resources & Mining* changed at a lower rate when compared to Texas.

Occupations: The best source of occupational information at the county level is from the 2000 Census. The total number of persons 16 years of age or older who were employed in Fort Bend County Regional during the 2000

Census was 166,172. The following presents a table of those employed by occupational categories for this region compared to statewide percentages:

| <u>Occupational Categories</u> | <u>Count</u> | <u>Area Percent</u> | <u>Statewide Percent</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mgmt., Professional Occs. | 73,741 | 44.4 | 33.3 |
| Service Occupations | 18,640 | 11.2 | 14.6 |
| Sales and Office Occupations | 45,986 | 27.7 | 27.2 |
| Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occs. | 454 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Constr., Extraction Occs. | 12,559 | 7.6 | 10.9 |
| Production, Transport. Occs. | 14,792 | 8.9 | 13.2 |

Class of Worker: Another way to view the types of workers in an area's labor force is by class of worker. According to the 2000 Census, the area had 132,410 employees who were private wage and salary workers representing 79.7 percent of all workers. The region had another 22,743 persons who were government workers or 13.7 percent, 10,513 who were self employed workers or 6.3 percent and 506 who were unpaid family workers representing 0.3 percent. This compares to the Texas statewide distribution of 78.0 percent for private wage and salary workers, 14.6 percent for government workers, 7.1 percent for self employed, and 0.3 percent for unpaid family workers.

Unemployment: According to TWC unemployment figures for April 2009 Fort Bend County Regional had an unemployment estimate of 15,576 persons which represents a rate of 6.0 compared to a Texas statewide unemployment rate of 6.4 for the same month. For the study area these estimates represent an increase from April 2008 unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. The Texas statewide unemployment rate was 4.0 for April 2008. For the latest unemployment rates, see TWC's LMI website - Unemployment Rates (LAUS): <http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce> and for a description of methodology link to: <http://www.tracer2.com/article.asp?ARTICLEID=148>.

Reporting Establishments: The TWC indicates 7,161 business reporting units operating in Fort Bend County Regional in the first quarter of 2008 with an average of 16.78 workers per unit. Average firm size makes a difference for job hunting and job development strategy because larger firms tend to have better defined ports of entry and in-house training capabilities. Although definitions vary greatly, small business can be defined as less than 50 workers and medium sized is 250 or less. The Texas average is 22.86 workers per unit. Regions with higher than average number of workers per unit tend to be dominated economically by a few very large employers.

Commuting to Work: Commuting to work for workers 16 years and over has a number of implications for transportation and municipal services study. Fort Bend County Regional had a total of 133,482 or 81.6 percent who drove their car to work alone, 20,565 or 12.6 percent who car pooled, 2,718 or 1.7 percent used public transportation, 800 or 0.5 percent who walked to work, 1,318 or 0.8 percent of regional workers who used other means to work, and 4,731 or 2.9 percent who worked at home. These methods of commuting to work compare to the Texas statewide results by: car alone (77.7%), car pool (14.5%), public transportation (1.9%), walked (1.9%), other means (1.3%), and worked at home (2.8%). The average travel time to work in minutes was 32.30 for the region as compared to an overall statewide average of 25.4 minutes.

Employers by Employee Size Class: Employer contact information and employee size ranges are collected and updated by the Analyst Resource Center from InfoUSA Inc. The most current release is a product called the Employer Database 2009 1st Edition. This product shows that the area had approximately 2,431 establishments which employed 10 or more employees. Of these employers, approximately 0.4 percent employed over 1000 employees. 0.5 percent employed between approximately 500 and 999 employees, 8.1 percent employed between approximately 100 and 499 employees, 12.7 percent employed between 50 and 99 employees, 29.4 percent

employed between 20 and 49 employees, and 48.9 percent employed between approximately 10 and 19 employees.

Top 10 Manufacturers for the Fort Bend County Regional Region:

- Laird Plastics
- Imperial Sugar Co
- Personix
- Tyco Valves And Controls
- Microwave Networks Inc
- Amphenol Assemble Tech
- National-Oilwell
- Hudson Engineering Corp
- Rtron Inc
- Houston Sigma Technology

Income

Personal Income: According to the most recent data released by the BEA 2005, Fort Bend County Regional's total personal income, excluding farm, was \$16,873,230,000 which represented an increase of \$1,632,308,000 when compared to the 2004 **total personal income**, excluding farm, of \$ 15,240,922,000. For Statewide personal income, the total of \$686,943,289,000 for 2004 and \$741,099,703,000 for the year 2004, shows an increase of \$54,156,414,000. This indicates that Fort Bend County Regional has a personal income showing a rate change of 10.7 percent compared to the statewide income at a rate change of 7.9 percent for the same period. Income from all government and government enterprises for the area was a total of \$975,579,000 for the year 2005. This was an increase of 7.0 percent from the 2004 figure of \$911,947,000. Texas statewide had an increase of 5.7 percent for **government income**. **Military income**, excluding federal civilian income, for 2005 was \$42,389,000 compared to \$36,230,000 in 2004 for the study area. This was an increase of 17.0 percent compared to a statewide change of no change percent for the same period. For further information link to: <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis>.

Per Capita Income: Total personal income is a widely used measure of regional economic health while per capita income is generally used to compare the relative well-being of residents across areas (not accounting for differences in area cost of living). The per capita personal income for 2005 was \$36,286 in Fort Bend County Regional while Texas statewide had a per capita income of \$32,460. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis>.

Government Transfer Payments: The Fort Bend County Regional region received over \$1,087,238,000 in transfer of payments in FY2005 which reflected a \$2,332 per capita transfer payment compared to the Texas per capita payment of \$4,194. Transfer payments includes the total amount of government allocations to people who qualify for income assistance. This consists largely of supplemental security income payments, family assistance, general assistance payments, food stamp payments, and other assistance payments, including emergency assistance. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis>.

Residence Adjustment: Some areas function as major employment centers and others serve as "bedroom communities". This means that residents may work in one region but live, pay taxes and spend most of their income in their resident region. The degree to which a regional area serves as a bedroom community can be measured by a "residence adjustment" to the area personal income. The residence adjustment in the Fort Bend County Regional region was \$7,102,410 in 2005. By 2006 the adjustment represented an increase to \$8,032,500. A negative number implies that workers commute into the region to earn income but do not reside there. Growth over time of negative residence adjustments generally implies an eroding tax base for the region. Similarly, a positive figure implies that on balance the region exports jobs and income to residents of other regions. For more

information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

Average Weekly Wage: TWC reported an average weekly wage during 1st quarter 2007 for all covered wages and salaried employment in the Fort Bend County Regional region to be \$875.66. Average weekly wages for 1st quarter 2008 was \$927.73, an increase of 5.9 percent. This is compared to an increase of 5.5 percent statewide for the same period of time. The Texas statewide average weekly wage in the 1st quarter of 2008 was \$871.46.

These wage data are the result of the reported quarterly wages and salaries paid by employers divided by 13 weeks. For the most current information, link to: <http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Industry>

UI Benefits: The region had \$30,586,130 in Unemployment Insurance benefits paid during calendar year 2008. In the Fort Bend County Regional region, the average duration before exhausting regular UI benefits in calendar year 2008 was approximately 13.8 weeks, while the statewide average duration before exhausting regular UI benefits in calendar year 2008 was approximately 13.4 weeks. The most likely interpretation of longer duration times is greater difficulty finding a job. Therefore, duration can serve as a good barometer for local general economic conditions. The average weekly benefits payment for Regular UI in 2008 was \$327.57 for the Fort Bend County Regional region compared to \$307.5 in Texas statewide.

Personal Income by Place of Residence: Personal income by place of residence, based on the 2000 Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates was roughly \$95,142 for the Fort Bend County Regional region. This compares to \$78,626 statewide. This figure is much higher than the per capita income level because it includes all wage earners living within a single household. Also, income data from BEA will be different than income data from other agencies due to that fact the BEA includes other sources of income such as farm wages, dividends, interest, rent and transfer payments. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

Poverty Population: The U.S. Department of Census estimated a 2002 poverty population for the Fort Bend County Regional region for people of all ages at 31,356 persons. That figure represents 7.9 percent of the non-institutional population compared to a Texas percentage of 15.4 percent for people of all ages. The estimated number of people under the age of 18 in the study area in poverty was 9,869 in 1999. This figure was 3.1 percent of all people under 18 in the study area compared to Texas statewide which was 6.0 percent of all people under 18 as estimated in 1999. According to the 2000 Census, the number of families living below poverty status in 1999 were 5,139 which was 5.5 percent of all families in the study area. This compared to 12.0 percent of all families statewide living in poverty status in 1999. The total number of individuals living below poverty status was 24,953 in 1999 which was 7.0 percent of all individuals in the study area. This compared to 15.0 percent of all individuals living below poverty status statewide. For the most recent Poverty information, see: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipc/county.html> .

Gross Retail Sales: Income can be viewed in several ways and under different definitions. Per capita income tends to have a direct relationship with the growth of gross sales and most service sector industries in an area. **Gross sales** for the region estimated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts were \$3,338,785,161 in the 1st quarter 2007 which represented an increase of 6.7 percent to \$3,562,498,765.00 by the 1st quarter 2008. The statewide change for the same period was an increase of 18.3 percent in gross sales. The total number of **reporting outlets** for the same period was 8,796 in the 1st quarter 2007 and 8,982 in the 1st quarter 2008. This region had an increase of 2.1 percent in the study area compared to the statewide change for the same period of an increase of 0.9 percent. For the most recent Gross Retail Sales information, please see: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/>.

Housing

Household Units and Size: The total number of **housing units** in 2000 in Fort Bend County Regional according the Census was 110,915 with an average household size of 3.1 persons. The average **household size** for Texas

was 2.7 persons for the same period. **Home ownership rates** for this area was 80.8 percent compared to Texas statewide which had a rate of 63.8 percent. While in Texas statewide the percent of households with persons under 18 years of age in 2000 was 40.9 percent, this study area had a percent of 53.5. The percent of households with persons 65 years of age or older was 19.9 percent in Texas statewide while 13.0 percent of Fort Bend County Regional had households with individuals 65 years of age and older.

Types of Structures: While Texas had approximately 63.4 percent of the housing units in the category of one **detached structures** in 2000 according to the census, the study area had approximately 83.2 percent. **Mobile homes** in the area made up 5.2 percent when compared to a statewide percentage of 9.0 percent. More recently built housing structures in the area shows new development has taken place in the region. The total number of **new housing structures** built between 1995 and March 2000 was 27,779 or 23.9 percent in Fort Bend County Regional compared to 13.2 percent statewide.

Owner and Renter Occupied: According to the 2000 Census, the percent of **owner-occupied** units with a value of \$100,000 or greater in Fort Bend County Regional was 57.4 percent compared to 36.7 percent for the state. The percent of **renter-occupied** units with rent values of \$500 per month or greater was 74.5 percent as compared to the Texas percentage of 60.4 percent. The **median home value** in Fort Bend County Regional according to the 2000 census was \$115,100.00 compared to a statewide median value of \$82,500.00. **Median rent** for the area was \$730.00 compared to \$574.00 for the state. For this area, the total number of renter-occupied housing units was 21,259 which represented 19.2 percent of all occupied housing units in 2000. This compares to a Texas statewide percentage of 36.2 percent for the same period.

Education

The total number of public independent school districts in Fort Bend County Regional for the school year 1999-2000 was 4 according to the Texas Education Agency. The overall average daily attendance for the same year was 65,417.

Enrollment: School enrollment data from the 2000 Census showed that there were 114,365 persons in the population who were 3 years of age and older and enrolled in school in the study area during the census collection period. Of this population, the following table shows a breakdown of what types of schools persons were enrolled compared to similar statewide information:

| <u>Type of School</u> | <u>Count</u> | <u>Area Percent</u> | <u>Statewide Percent</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nursery school or preschool | 8,473 | 7.4 | 6.6 |
| Kindergarten | 6,535 | 5.7 | 5.9 |
| Elementary School (grades 1-8) | 54,650 | 47.8 | 45.5 |
| High School (grades 9-12) | 26,670 | 23.3 | 21.9 |
| College or graduate school | 18,037 | 15.8 | 20.2 |

Educational Attainment: The total number of persons 25 years of age or older who responded to the level of educational attainment during the 2000 Census was 214,461. Of those persons, the following presents a table on various levels of educational attainment for this region compared to statewide percentages:

| <u>Educational Attainment</u> | <u>Count</u> | <u>Area Percent</u> | <u>Statewide Percent</u> |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Less than 9th Grade | 15,424 | 7.2 | 11.5 |
| 9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma | 18,179 | 8.5 | 12.9 |
| H.S. graduate (inc. equiv.) | 41,684 | 19.4 | 24.8 |
| Some college, no degree | 46,716 | 21.8 | 22.4 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| Associate Degree | 13,277 | 6.2 | 5.2 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 53,974 | 25.2 | 15.6 |
| Graduate or Prof. Degree | 25,207 | 11.8 | 7.6 |

Another useful grouping of these statistics shows that the percent of high school graduates or higher was 84.3 percent for the area compared to 75.7 percent for Texas. Also, the percent with bachelor's degree or higher was 36.9 percent as compared to 23.2 percent for Texas.

Dropout and Attrition Rates: Information from the Texas Education Agency on student **dropouts** from public schools for 2004-2005 shows that 192 students, grades 7-12, dropped out of school in this study area. This represents a dropout rate of 0.45 percent as compared to a Texas statewide percentage of 0.90 percent of all students who dropped out during this period. **Attrition** rates are often viewed as measures of the percentage of students that begin high school but do not graduate with a diploma. It is arguably a more reasonable way to view dropouts from an economic viewpoint. One way to view educational progress in a region is to estimate the number of persons who persist to high school graduation as opposed to standard dropout statistics. Attrition rates are calculated by the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA). IDRA conducts research and development activities; creates, implements and administers innovative education programs; and provides teacher, administrator, and parent training and technical assistance. The attrition rates for Fort Bend County Regional during the period 2004-2005 by race and ethnicity were 26 percent for all students, 30 percent for Blacks, 14 percent for Whites, and 43 percent for Hispanics. In order to review the latest Secondary Schools Enrollment and Dropouts information posted on the Texas Education Agency, link to: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/research/>.

Health

Health Facilities - The number of acute and psychiatric care **hospitals** in Fort Bend County Regional as of October 2007 was 7, with an average total beds capacity of approximately 79.9 compared to a statewide ratio of 123.1 beds per hospital according to statistical reports from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data reporting on health care facilities. The Texas State Board of Pharmacy data for October 2007 shows there are 95 licensed **pharmacies** in the study area. The total number of licensed pharmacies statewide is 5,919. For additional information on Texas Pharmacies, link to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy at <http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/index.htm>.

Health Practitioners - According to the Texas Department of State Health Services October 2007 report, there were 629 direct patient care and primary care **physicians** who practiced in the region. The ratio of total persons to each physician in the area was 777.5 residents per each physician. This compares to a statewide ratio of 460.5 persons for each physician in Texas. Another way of reporting these figures is by showing the number of physicians as a ratio per 100,000 residents. In this study area, the ratio in direct patient care was 1,101.5 as compared to the statewide ratio of 638.3 in direct patient care physicians per 100,000 population as of 2007. The ratio of physicians in primary care was 1,925.5 compared to a statewide ratio of 1,472.0 physicians in primary care per 100,000 persons in the population statewide. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data.

The study area had a total of 1,753 **registered nurses** (RN) working in the study area, representing a ratio of 279.0 persons for each RN in the area. The statewide ratio was 152.2 persons for each RN in the state. For the same time period, the ratio of RNs per 100,000 population was 358.4 compared to 657.0 per 100,000 statewide. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data.

The number of **licensed vocational nurses** (LVN) who practiced in the area was 673 representing a ratio of 726.7 persons per each LVN in the area. This compared to 363.8 persons per each LVN statewide. The ratio of LVNs per 100,000 population was 137.6 compared to 274.9 per 100,000 population statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services information for October 2007 also reports that there were 219 **dentists** in the study area, with a ratio of 2,233.2 persons for each dentist in the area. The ratio of dentists per 100,000 residents was 44.8. By comparison, there was a statewide ratio of 42.8 dentists per 100,000 residents, with a total of 10,151 dentists statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

According to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services for October 2007, there were 596 licensed **Emergency Medical Technicians**, or EMTs, for the study area; a ratio of 121.9 licensed EMTs per 100,000 residents. The statewide ratio was 218.0 EMTs per 100,000 residents, with a total of 51,718 EMTs statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

Also, according to the October 2007 report from the Texas Department of State Health Services, there were 412 **pharmacists** in this area, which is a ratio of 1,187.1 persons for each pharmacist. Texas has 18,138 pharmacists statewide, or a ratio of 1,308.2 persons for each pharmacist in the area. The ratio of pharmacists per 100,000 residents was 84.2 compared to 76.4 per 100,000 residents statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services information for October 2007 shows that for the study area there were 39 **occupational therapists**; a ratio of 12,540.4 persons for each occupational therapist. The statewide ratio was 11,072.6 persons for each occupational therapist, with a total of 2,143 occupational therapists statewide. The ratio of occupational therapists per 100,000 residents was 8.0 compared to 9.0 statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

Medical & Health Services Employment*

| Area | | | Statewide | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 2007 1st Qtr | 2008 1st Qtr | Pct Change | 2007 1st Qtr | 2008 1st Qtr | Pct Change |
| 10,186 | 10,964 | 7.64% | 1,092,916 | 1,135,001 | 3.85% |

* Includes: Hospitals, Medical/Health Offices; Home Health, Nursing, Elderly Residential facilities; Individual/Family, Emergency & Other Relief Svcs., Vocational Rehab. Svcs.
[NAICS: 6211,6212-19,6221-23,6231-33,6239,6241-43]
Due to confidentiality, employment for small areas may be suppressed and reported as zero.

Health Statistics - Some of the leading **causes of mortality** in Texas include malignant neoplasms or cancer, heart disease, and chronic lower respiratory disease. From information gathered by Texas Department of State Health Services for 2004, the study area had a total of 394 reported deaths from malignant neoplasm **cancer**. On a statewide level, Texas had 33,836 reported deaths from malignant neoplasm cancer. Texas Department of State Health Services reports that for 2004 there were 408 deaths from **heart disease**, and 53 deaths from lower respiratory disease in the selected study area. By contrast, Texas statewide had 40,091 deaths from heart disease and 7,387 deaths from **chronic lower respiratory disease**. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

Several state agencies collect statistics on health status indicators that can be used to assess the strengths or weaknesses of public health in a local area or community. For this study area, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported for August 2004 there were 31 **infant deaths**, as compared with a statewide rate of 2,398. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported that for August 2003 there were 166 total **teen pregnancies** in this area. There were different teen pregnancy rates in the study area depending on race, with 39

for Black teens, 101 for Hispanic teens and 26 for White teens. Statewide rates for teenage pregnancy were 19,730 for total teenage pregnancies, with 3,003 for Black teens, 12,693 for Hispanic teens and 4,034 for White teens. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

In the Health and Human Services 2003 Data Book, figures show that the number of children under 19 in this area whom were **not covered by health insurance** is 13,276, which is 9.1% of the reported population in that age group. The number of **uninsured children** statewide is 885,999, or 7.1% of the reported population for children under 19. For more information, or to view or download the entire data book, see <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us>.

Information On The Web

The Bureau of Census has a variety of useful Quick Facts for each county in Texas. The Quick Fact report for Fort Bend county can be accessed at the following URL: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48157.html>. Some counties maintain their own Internet sites for local information. If a county hosts its own Web site, it may be accessed through a URL with the following format <http://www.co.County Name Goes Here.tx.us>.

To research additional websites on Counties, consider any of the following:

Texas A-Z List of counties with web sites: <http://www.state.tx.us/portal/tol/en/gov/6/2/1>

Texas Conference on Urban Counties: <http://www.cuc.org>

State of Texas Web Site - Texas Counties: <http://www.state.tx.us>

Texas Economic Development: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/ecodev>

TWC's LMI unit, Tracer: <http://www.tracer2.com/>

Texas Association of Counties: <http://www.county.org>

V.G. Young Institute of County Government: <http://vgyi.tamu.edu/>

Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University: <http://recenter.tamu.edu>

Bureau of Business Research, University of Texas: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/bbr>

National Association of Counties: <http://www.naco.org>

"Uniform Crime Statistics, County Reports" Geostat-Geospatial & Statistical Data Center, University of Virginia: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/crime>

Compare County Data Nationwide: http://www.stats.indiana.edu/uspr/a/sbs_profile_frame.html

Other Facts of Interest

- According to the Texas Secretary of State's Office, for the November 2008 presidential election, there were 299,110 **registered voters** in Fort Bend County Regional. The **voter turnout** was 202,822 representing 67.8 percent of **eligible voters**. The **election results** were 103,206 or 50.9 percent for McCain/Palin, 98,368 or 48.5 percent for Obama/Biden, and 1,248 or 0.6 percent for all other presidential candidates. The statewide results were 55.5 percent for McCain/Palin, 43.7 percent for Obama/Biden, and approximately 0.9 percent for all other candidates. See: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml> for other topics of interest.
- Information on the three categories of child placement services from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for 2006 showed that the area had 17 **foster homes**, 49 **foster/adoptive homes** and 17 **adoptive homes**. The total number of **licensed day care facilities** were 205 with a total capacity of 23,628. The total number of **family homes licensed for 24-hour care** was 191. Link to http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2006/databook/default.asp for further information.

- There were approximately 13,277 crimes reported in the Fort Bend County Regional area during 2005 or a 2.2 percent change from the 12,989 crimes reported for 2004. Statewide, the total of all reported crimes was 1,117,806 for 2005 representing a -1.8 percent change from the reported totals of 1,138,346 for 2004. This information was collect from the FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, as prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data; see the U.S. Dept. of Justice site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dtdata.htm> for the most recent reported data.
- The total **jail capacity** for public and private jails in the region was 763 as of October 1, 2006 according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. **Jail population** was at 91.7 percent capacity when compared to maximum capacity. At this same time, this compared to a statewide capacity of 90.4 percent. For more detailed information, see to: <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/index.php?linkid=320>.
- The region had 36 **commercial banks** in 2007, as reported by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), with **total deposits** of \$4,084,000,000 and **assets** of \$73,387,000. The 2007 **deposit to population ratio** was \$8,114 for the Fort Bend County Regional region compared to the Texas ratio of \$13,816. A ratio less than the state average generally indicates either the presence of an adjacent city or county not within the described region serving as a regional financial center, or per capita income well below the state average. These numbers do not reflect assets and deposits which are held in branch offices of banks whose headquarters are in another city or state. The most recent FDIC data for this area is at <http://www2.fdic.gov/sod/index.asp>.
- While all counties in Texas are served by banks, savings and loan institutions and credit unions, many counties may not show these offices directly reported in its geography by the FDIC or other governing agencies. For the 2007 reporting period in Fort Bend County Regional, the number of **saving and loans** was 3 which had a total of savings and loan assets of \$0 and deposits of \$77,400,000 These figures are in contrast to the statewide total of 54 savings and loans, with \$7,767,193,400 in assets and \$12,067,400,000 in deposits. For more information, please see: <http://www2.fdic.gov/sdi/index.asp>. There were 4 **credit unions** in the study area according to the National Credit Union Administration data. For 2007, the latest year of reported data, these credit unions had a total of \$468,588,073 in assets and \$339,938,942 in deposits, as compared to a total of 615 credit unions statewide, with \$48,883,686,146 in assets and \$36,648,314,014 in deposits. Credit union statistics and other information on credit unions can be found at <http://webapps.ncua.gov/customquery>.

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