



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BUDGET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Harris County Economic Highlights, 2017
December 6, 2017**

NOTE – most data pertains to Harris County only and not to the greater Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area

Administration Building // 1001 Preston, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77002 // Tel: (713) 274-1400



Harris County Budget Management Department, Economic Development

Harris County Economic Highlights, 2017

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1. Harris County at a Glance

Harris County is the best place to invest, open and operate your business.
It has 34 cities within its boundaries including the City of Houston, its county seat.

| | | | World Class Transportation System | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| 18 Fortune 500 Headquarters (Fortune 2017) | 4.59 million Residents (U.S. Census, July 1, 2016 Population Estimate, 03/17) | \$0 State and Local Income Tax | 2 Major Airports with 190+ non- stop destinations | 1 Spaceport | 1 Major Sea Port – No. 1 in the U.S. by foreign waterborne tonnage | 3 Major Rail Road Companies | 4 Interstate highways 4 State highways 4 Tollways 1 US highway | \$68.2 billion (or 81%) of All Exported Goods from the Houston Metro Area (International Trade Administration, 10/13/17) |



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2. Fortune 500 Headquarters

| Company | Rank | Revenues (\$M) | Company | Rank | Revenues (\$M) |
|------------------------------|------|----------------|---------------------------|------|----------------|
| Phillips 66 | 34 | \$72,396 | Occidental Petroleum | 278 | \$10,398 |
| Sysco | 57 | \$50,367 | Baker Hughes | 285 | \$9,841 |
| ConocoPhillips | 115 | \$24,360 | Quanta Services | 355 | \$7,651 |
| Enterprise Products Partners | 122 | \$23,022 | EOG Resources | 356 | \$7,651 |
| Plains GP Holdings | 141 | \$20,182 | CenterPoint Energy | 362 | \$7,528 |
| Halliburton | 173 | \$15,887 | National Oilwell Varco | 375 | \$7,251 |
| Waste Management | 201 | \$13,609 | Calpine | 400 | \$6,716 |
| Kinder Morgan | 215 | \$13,058 | Targa Resources | 402 | \$6,691 |
| Group 1 Automotive | 261 | \$10,888 | Apache | 488 | \$5,354 |
| Source: Fortune.com, 2017 | | | | | |



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3. Largest 100 Houston Area Employers

The top 100 employers in Houston account for nearly 600,000 regional workers.

| More than 20,000 employees | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| H-E-B | Houston Methodist | Memorial Hermann Health System | UT MD Anderson Cancer Center | Walmart |
| 10,000 to 19,999 employees | | | | |
| ExxonMobil | HCA | Kroger | Landry's | |
| Schlumberger | Shell Oil Co. | United Airlines | UT Medical Branch Health System | |
| 5,000 to 9,999 employees | | | | |
| Academy Sports & Outdoors | Aramark Corp. | Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston | | |
| AT&T | Baker Hughes | Baylor College of Medicine | | |
| BP America | CenterPoint Energy | Chevron | | |
| CHI St. Luke's Health | Dow Chemical Co. | Fluor | | |
| GE Oil and Gas | Harris Health System | Hewlett Packard Enterprise | | |
| Home Depot | Houston Community College | JPMorgan Chase | | |
| Lone Star College | Macy's | National Oilwell Varco | | |
| Pappas Restaurants, Inc. | S&B Engineers and Constructors | TechnipFMC | | |
| Texas Children's Hospital | University of Houston | UT Health Science Center at Houston | | |
| 1,000 to 4,999 employees | | | | |
| Accenture | AIG | Amegy Bank | American National Insurance Co | Anadarko Petroleum Corp. |
| Aon | Austin Industrial | Bank of America | Bechtel Corporation | Brinker International |
| Brock Group | Cameron International | CB&I | Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. | Comcast |
| ConocoPhillips | CVS Health | Dalkin/Goodman | Dril-Quip | Equistar Chemicals |
| FedEx | Fiesta Mart | Friedkin Group Inc. | Grocers Supply Company | Gulf States Toyota |
| Halliburton | Jacobs | JCPenney | KBR | Kelsey-Seybold Clinic |
| Kinder Morgan | Kindred Healthcare | Lewis Food Town | Lowe's | Luby's |
| LyondellBasell | Mariner Post-Acute Network | Mexican Restaurants, Inc. | Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center | NASA - Johnson Space Center |
| NRG Energy | Occidental Petroleum | Phillips 66 | PwC | Quanta Services Inc. |
| Randalls Food Markets, Inc. | Rice University | Sam's Club | Southwest Airlines | Sysco Corp. |
| Tenet Healthcare Corp. | Texas Home Health | Union Pacific Railroad | United Health Group | Walgreens |
| Weatherford | Wells Fargo | Wood Group | Woodforest National Bank | WorleyParsons |

Note: This list excludes government employers (except hospitals, universities and research centers) and fast food chains.



4. Where Harris County Ranks

AREA

Harris County covers a total of 1,778 square miles (1,729 land and 49 water), enough space to fit the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, Austin and Dallas, with room still to spare. (Texas Almanac; U.S. Census Bureau; GHP)

POPULATION

With an estimated 4,589,928 residents as of July 1, 2016, Harris County is the most populous county in Texas and the third most populous county in the United States. (U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17)

If it were a state, Harris County would have the 26th largest population in the U.S., behind Louisiana (4,681,666) and ahead of Kentucky (4,436,974) and Oregon (4,093,465). (U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17; GHP)

By gaining 56,587 new residents from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016, Harris County experienced the second-highest numeric population increase among all U.S. counties. Prior to 2016, Harris County held the number one spot for new residents eight years in a row. (U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17; GHP)

FOREIGN-BORN

25.4% of Harris County residents are foreign-born – slightly ahead of the 23.6% for the Houston metro area population and surpassing the 13.6% for the U.S. population. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17)

EMPLOYMENT

More than 2.2 million residents are employed in Harris County. If Harris County were a state, it would rank 28th in total employment among the U.S. states, with more jobs than South Carolina, Alabama, or Louisiana. (GHP)

EXPORTS

With \$68.2 billion exported goods in 2016, Harris County was the largest single-county exporter in the U.S. and accounted for 81% of all goods exported from the Houston metro area. (U.S. International Trade Administration, 10/13/17)

GDP AND INCOMING INVESTMENTS

Harris County ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 2 in the nation in terms of GDP growth and ranks No. 4 in Texas and No. 9 in the nation for incoming investments. (SmartAsset.com, 2017 using U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns Survey, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey, Bloomberg)



5. Harris County's Welcoming Business Climate

Cost of Living... Cost of Doing Business... Tax Climate...

Harris County is **your partner** to open, expand or relocate your business by offering:

- √ Nimble land use regulations and business friendly labor rules coupled with competitive business and permitting compliance costs.
- √ A relatively low overall tax burden with [no state and local income tax](#).
- √ A streamlined construction approval process where companies identify sites, gain construction approval, and build their facilities quickly, minimizing or avoiding the costly and time-consuming political process found in other regions (New York and Los Angeles). (*Dallas and Houston: Centers for Economic Development by Scott Beyer, Forbes, 07/26/16*)
- √ An [8%](#) lower overall affordability rate than the national average that attracts people and corporations from around the world. (bestplaces.net, 2017)
- √ A competitive edge on the global stage. ([KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2016 edition](#))



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5.1 Harris County Cost of Living, 2017

| COST OF LIVING (by County) | Overall | Grocery | Health | Housing | Utilities | Transportation | Miscellaneous |
|--|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| United States | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Texas | 90 | 89.6 | 97 | 82 | 96 | 97 | 95 |
| Harris County, Texas | 92 | 84.2 | 97 | 86 | 93 | 96 | 100 |
| Brazoria County | 93 | 85.6 | 101 | 91 | 90 | 93 | 96 |
| Chambers County, Texas | 92 | 85.2 | 99 | 88 | 92 | 95 | 95 |
| Dallas County, Texas | 97 | 97.6 | 117 | 86 | 120 | 99 | 100 |
| Fort Bend County, Texas | 104 | 85.2 | 99 | 128 | 92 | 95 | 95 |
| Montgomery County, Texas | 102 | 91 | 97 | 114 | 98 | 96 | 100 |
| Los Angeles County, California | 156 | 95.5 | 93 | 283 | 110 | 102 | 91 |
| Cook County, Illinois | 109 | 110.8 | 101 | 107 | 105 | 122 | 106 |
| Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana | 91 | 96.3 | 94 | 84 | 88 | 96 | 92 |
| Orleans Parish, Louisiana | 96 | 98.9 | 107 | 90 | 87 | 101 | 100 |
| Brooklyn, Borough, New York | 188 | 125 | 110 | 337 | 128 | 107 | 120 |
| Queens Borough, New York | 160 | 122.2 | 112 | 249 | 135 | 111 | 120 |
| The Bronx Borough, New York | 140 | 105.6 | 105 | 203 | 135 | 105 | 114 |
| Manhattan Borough, New York | 261 | 145.6 | 124 | 520 | 134 | 127 | 148 |
| Staten Island Borough, New York | 150 | 105.6 | 105 | 232 | 135 | 105 | 114 |
| San Francisco County, California | 275 | 121.6 | 115 | 610 | 96 | 115 | 119 |
| Suffolk County, Massachusetts | 161 | 121.8 | 125 | 242 | 149 | 105 | 131 |
| Washington, D.C | 159 | 110.4 | 101 | 274 | 106 | 107 | 99 |
| Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania | 99 | 121.2 | 101 | 68 | 129 | 106 | 116 |
| Miami-Dade County, Florida | 116 | 105.6 | 108 | 136 | 99 | 112 | 106 |
| Hennepin County, Minnesota | 112 | 105.4 | 100 | 127 | 99 | 102 | 111 |
| Fulton County, Georgia | 107 | 103.2 | 102 | 120 | 94 | 104 | 100 |

Source: www.bestplaces.net

Cost of living indices area based on a US Average of 100.

Amounts below 100 mean that the area is cheaper than the US average. Conversely amounts higher than 100 point to more expensive regions.

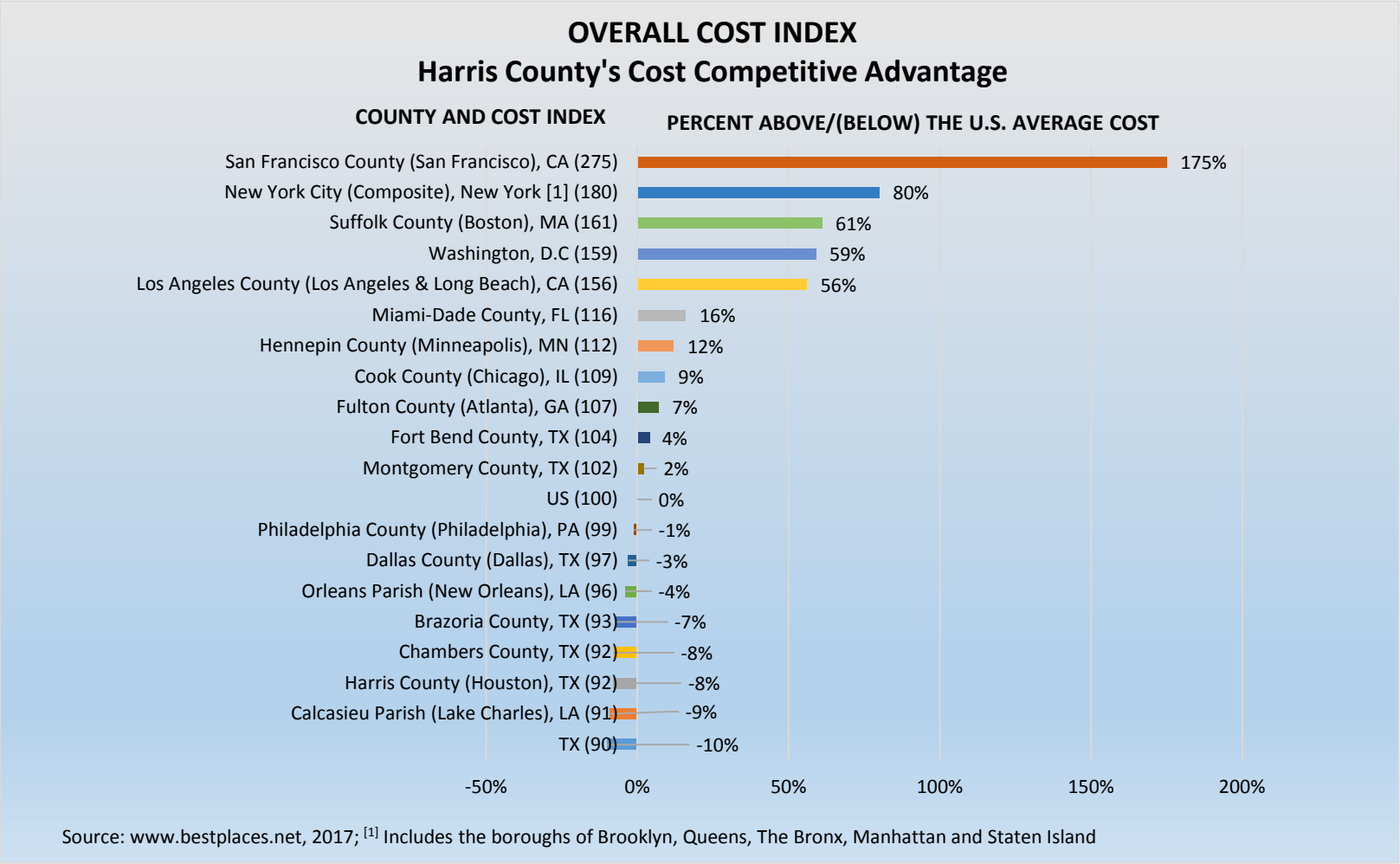
See following pages for charts comparing average costs where the U.S. average cost is the base:

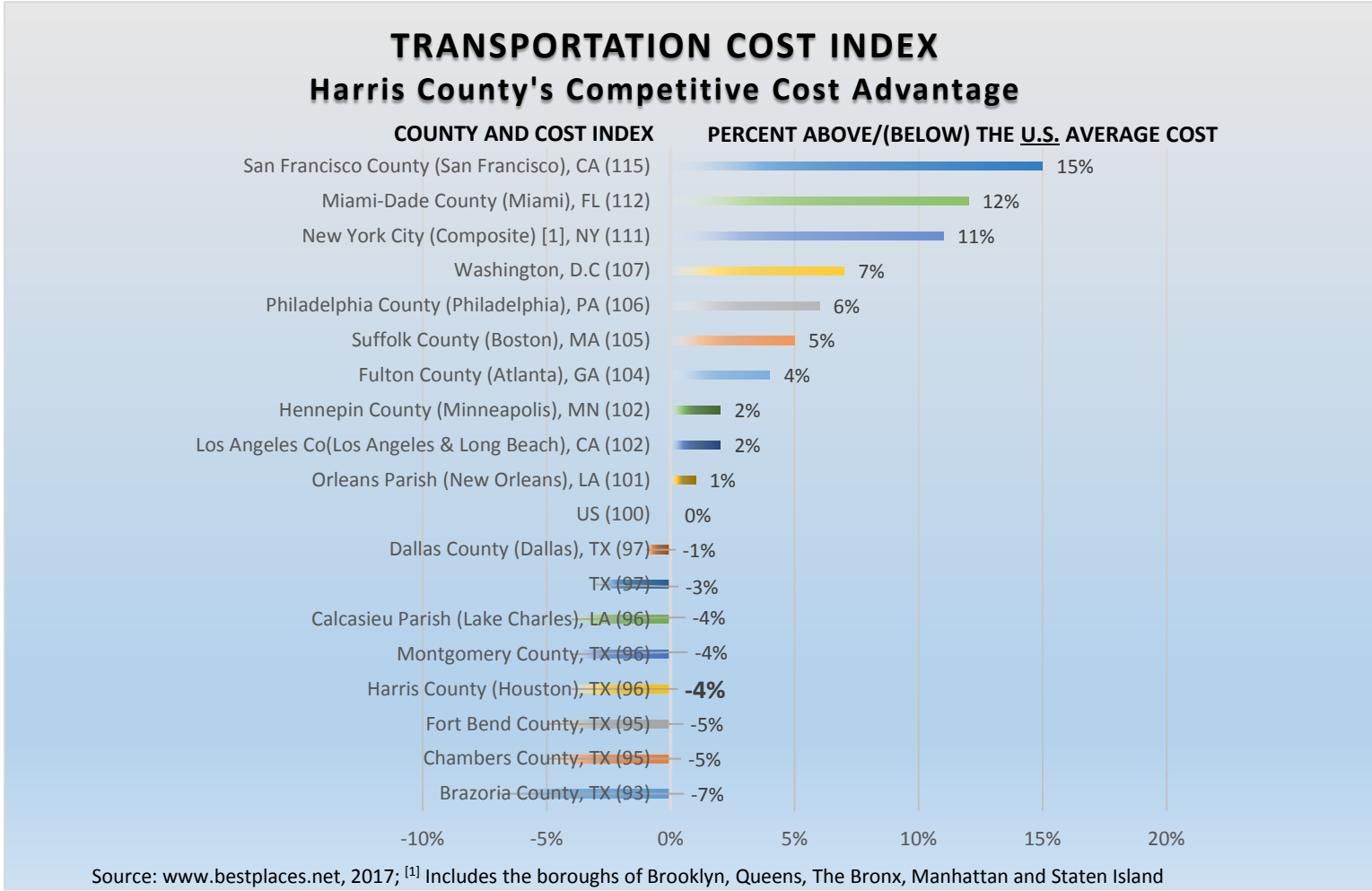
- [Overall Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)
- [Transportation Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)
- [Utilities Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)

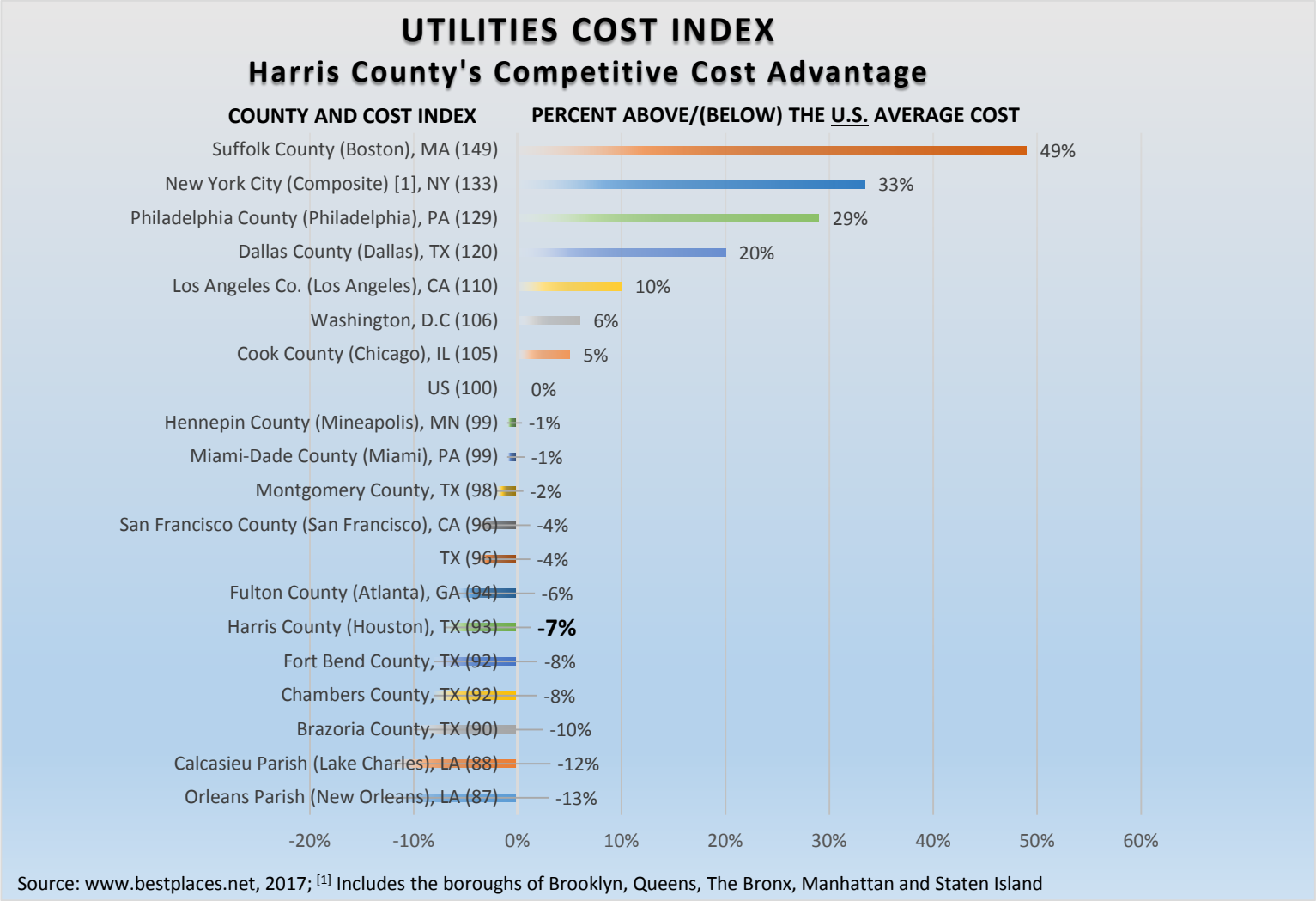
Additional charts comparing Harris County's costs against other area costs where Harris County is the base:

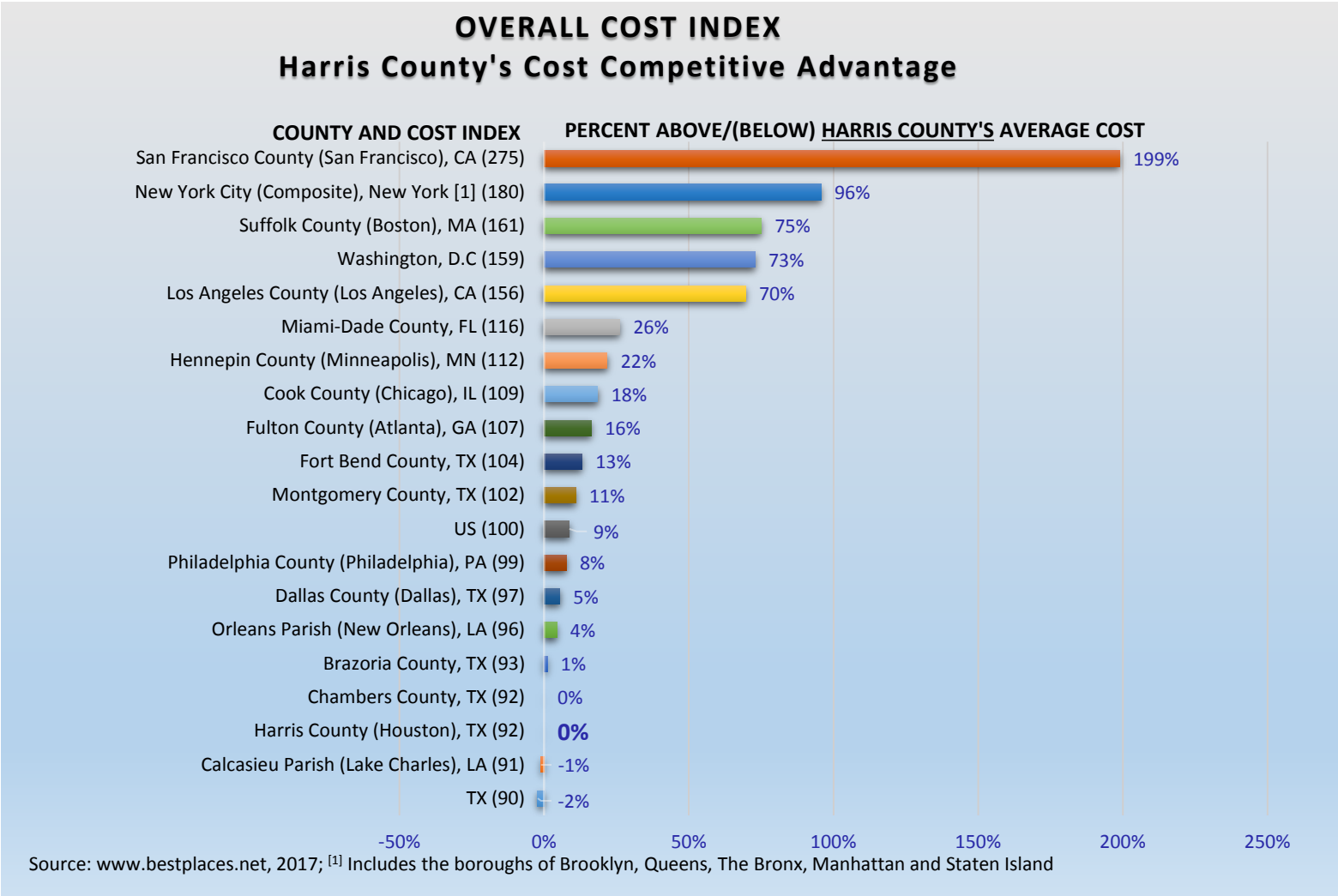
- [Overall Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)
- [Transportation Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)
- [Utilities Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)

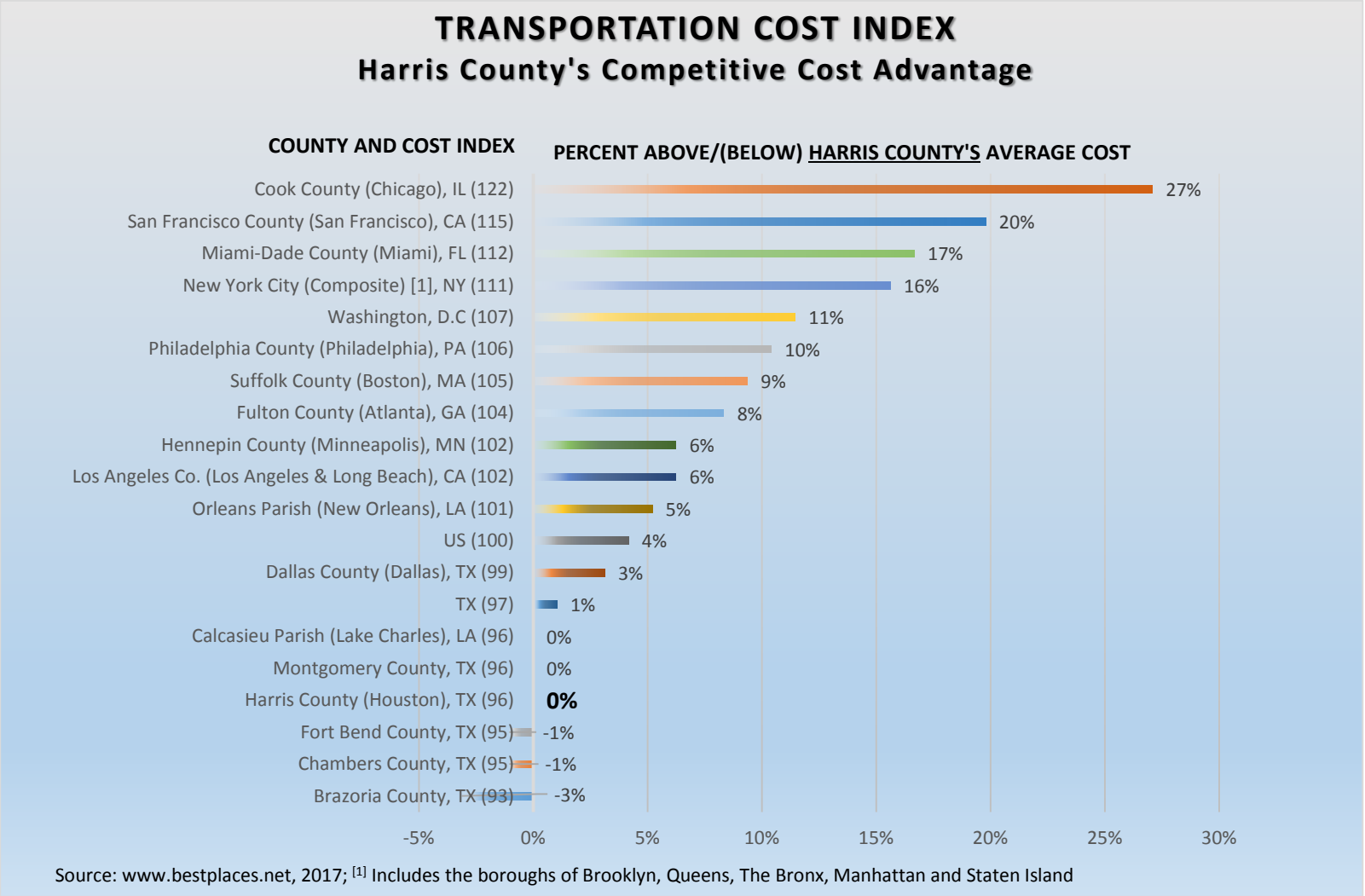
[Cost of Living \(by City\), 2017](#)

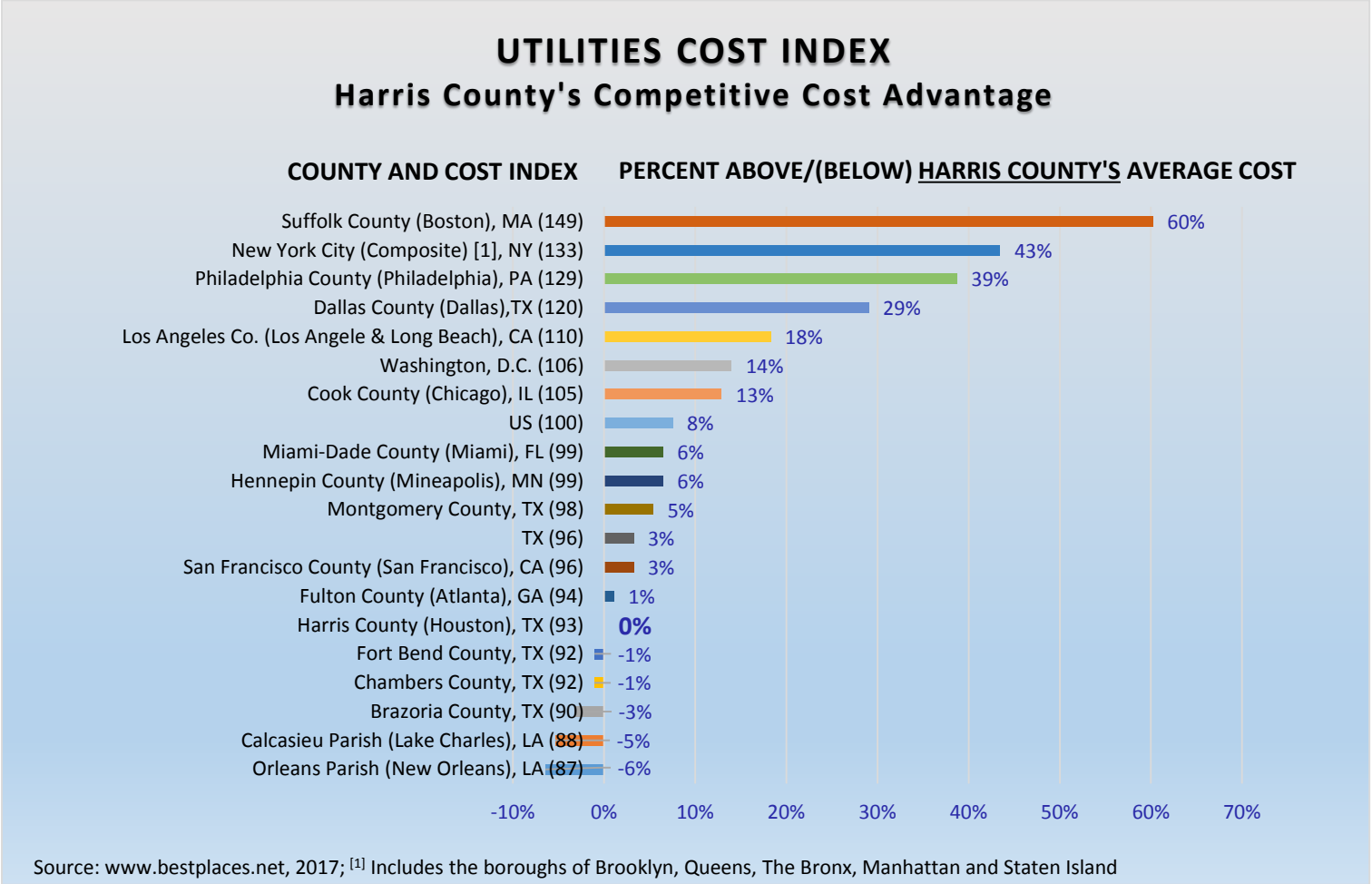














Houston Cost of Living, 2017

| COST OF LIVING (by City) | Overall | Grocery | Health | Housing | Utilities | Transportation | Miscellaneous |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| United States | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Texas | 90 | 89.6 | 97 | 82 | 96 | 97 | 95 |
| Houston, Texas | 102 | 84.2 | 97 | 118 | 93 | 96 | 100 |
| Dallas, Texas | 95 | 97.6 | 117 | 80 | 120 | 99 | 100 |
| Los Angeles, California | 166 | 95.5 | 93 | 314 | 110 | 102 | 91 |
| Long Beach, California | 155 | 95.5 | 93 | 280 | 110 | 102 | 91 |
| Chicago, Illinois | 111 | 110.8 | 101 | 112 | 105 | 122 | 106 |
| Lake Charles, Louisiana | 92 | 96.3 | 94 | 87 | 88 | 96 | 92 |
| New Orleans, Louisiana | 96 | 98.9 | 107 | 90 | 87 | 101 | 100 |
| New York, New York | 180 | 125 | 110 | 313 | 128 | 107 | 120 |
| San Francisco, California | 273 | 121.6 | 115 | 604 | 96 | 115 | 119 |
| Boston, Massachusetts | 170 | 121.8 | 125 | 269 | 149 | 105 | 131 |
| Washington, D.C. | 159 | 110.4 | 101 | 274 | 106 | 107 | 99 |
| Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 100 | 121.2 | 101 | 69 | 129 | 106 | 116 |
| Miami, Florida | 123 | 105.6 | 108 | 157 | 99 | 112 | 106 |
| Minneapolis, Minnesota | 109 | 105.4 | 100 | 118 | 99 | 102 | 111 |
| Atlanta, Georgia | 102 | 103.2 | 102 | 103 | 94 | 104 | 100 |

Source: www.bestplaces.net

Cost of living indices area based on a US Average of 100.

Amounts below 100 mean that the area is cheaper than the US average. Conversely amounts higher than 100 point to more expensive regions.



5.2 Harris County's Cost of Doing Business and Tax Climate, 2017

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| State and Local Personal Income Tax | 0% for the State of Texas and all its taxing jurisdictions | |
| State and Local Corporate Income Tax | 0% for the State of Texas and all its taxing jurisdictions | |
| Franchise Tax | 0.75% for most entities 0.375% for qualifying wholesalers and retailers 0.331 for those entities with \$10 million or less in Total Revenue and electing the E-Z Computation | |
| Sales & Use Tax Maximum sales tax composite is 8.25% | 0% for Harris County 6.25% for the State of Texas Up to 2% for other entities, as applicable | |
| Property Tax (2017 rates) Tax rates are per \$100 Certified Taxable Appraised Value The same tax rates apply to all items The following items are taxed in the State of Texas Real Property (includes land and building) Tangible Personal Property means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or otherwise perceived by the senses. See <i>Property Tax Code</i> for definitions. | State of Texas Harris County Flood Control District Port of Houston Hospital District Total Property Tax | \$0 \$0.41801 \$0.02831 \$0.01256 \$0.17110 \$0.62998 |

Depending on the property's location, tax rates from other entities apply. Check Harris County Appraisal District to find out the entities levying taxes for your property.

| | |
|--|---|
| Unemployment Insurance | 2.7% general entry rate, charged on first \$9,000 in earnings, reassessed after 6 quarters and charged at own experience rate. |
| Workers' Compensation Insurance | Not required by the State of Texas. Options include: self insurance, state-operated Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund or licensed private insurance company. |
| Licenses & Permits | Varies by industry and regulatory agency. Please visit the State of Texas Portal and/or the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations. |
| Application for Registration to do Business | \$750, required to do business in Texas for non-U.S. corporations, LLC, LPs and out-of-state entities. Please visit the Texas Secretary of State for details. |
| Doing Business As (DBA) | \$15 + \$0.50 for each additional name filed in Harris County (A DBA filing is required if not incorporated or if doing business under a name other than that in which the business was incorporated). Please visit Harris County Clerk's Office for details. |

Source: Harris County, Harris County's Clerk Office, Harris County Appraisal District, Texas Secretary of State, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations

Harris County has
√ No State or Local Individual Income Tax
√ No State or Local Corporate income tax

With a deregulated energy market in the State of Texas, Harris County electricity users enjoy a selection of retail providers competing for their business.

7% lower average utility costs compared to the U.S.



5.3 One Stop Shop/[Business Resources](#) - Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting A Business

Step 1: Research your idea. Talk to your [local chamber of commerce](#), [Houston Office of Business Opportunity](#) (832-393-0954), [US Small Business Administration](#) (Houston Office) (713-773-6500), or your local EDC or EDO. For Harris County Partners [click here](#).

Step 2: If you determine that your business plan is viable, then look for a location. Would you qualify for special incentives? Will you need to hire a professional architect or engineer, submit a site plan to the zoning office or obtain special permits? For Harris County permits [click here](#) (713-274-3900). For city permits, please visit [their websites](#).

Step 3: Name your business. Research other businesses that may have a similar name to the one you are considering. Check the availability of your name on the [U.S. Patent website](#) (800-786-9199) to see if it has been trademarked. If you plan on incorporating you'll need to file with the [Texas Secretary of State](#) (512-463-5555) to make sure that your name is not claimed already. For Harris County Assumed Business Names searches click on [DBA](#) or call 713-274-8600.

Step 4: Depending on what type of business entity you form, you may have to register with the [Texas Secretary of State](#). Some of the more common forms are Sole Proprietorship, For Profit Corporation, Professional Corporation, Professional Association, General Partnership, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership and Limited Liability Company. Foreign and out-of-state entities also have to file an application for registration with the [Texas Secretary of State](#) in order to transact business in Texas. An Assumed Name or Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate with the County Clerk in the county(s) in which the business is located and/or will conduct business must be filed. See [Harris County Clerk's Office](#) (713-274-8600) for details.

Step 5: [Texas Business Organization Code](#) requires every business to maintain a registered agent and office in Texas. File this information with the [Texas Secretary of State](#).

Step 6: Determine federal, state, and local tax obligations for your business. Apply for an Employer Identification number (EIN) with the [IRS](#) (800-829-4933). Determine sales, use and excise taxes. Apply for a Texas sales tax permit with the [Texas Comptroller](#) (888-334-4112). Property taxes are assessed by the [Harris County Appraisal District](#) (713-957-7800) and collected by the [Harris County Tax Office](#) (713-274-8000). The [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) (512-463-2222) requires most employers to pay an Unemployment Insurance tax. More information can be found at the TWC website.

Step 7: The state of Texas does not require a general business license, but you may be required to have a license or permit depending on the type of service, or products associated with your business. Specific professions that require state level licenses can be found at the [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#) (512-463-6599). Also contact your county and city to determine if there are any additional requirements.



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The list below is intended for your convenience. Other resources may be available in the region.

[Texas Secretary of State](#) (512-463-5555) (registering businesses formed in Texas or outside of Texas)

[Texas Comptroller's Office](#) (888-334-4112) (State Sales Tax ID and other useful information)

[Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation](#) (512-463-6599 or 800-803-9202) (licensing requirements)

[Texas Workforce Commission](#) (512-463-2222) (workforce information & Employer's ID)

Texas Worker's Compensation & [Texas Department of Insurance](#) (800-578-4677 or 512-676-6000)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (512-239-1000 or 800-447-2827) (environmental & permitting)

[Texas.gov](#) (information about Texas and links to all State of Texas Departments)

[Office of the Texas Governor](#) (800-843-5789)

[US Export Assistance](#) (800-USA-TRAD (872-8723)) trade counseling and information)

[US Small Business Administration, Houston District](#) (713-773-6500)

[US Patent and Trademark Office](#) (800-786-9199)

[Internal Revenue Services](#) (Businesses 800-829-4933) (Federal Tax ID and other tax matters)

[US Census Bureau](#) (301-763-INFO (4636) or 800-923-8282)

[US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (202-691-5200 or 972-850-4800 or TDD 800-877-8339)

[US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), Houston Area (281-286-0583)

For more information on business resources in Texas, please visit <https://businessintexas.com/>

[Greater Houston Partnership](#) (713-844-3600)

[Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership](#) (832-536-3255)

[Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation](#) (281-420-2961)

[Economic Alliance-Houston Port Region](#) (281-476-9176)

[Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) (713-644-7070)

[Katy Area Economic Development Council](#) (281-396-2200)

[North Houston Regional Center for Economic Development \(Lone Star College\)](#) (832-813-6252)

[Chambers of Commerce](#)

[Harris County](#)

[Harris Engineering Department](#) (713-274-3900) (permits)

[Harris County Tax Office](#) (713-274-8000)

[Harris County Clerk's Office](#) (713-274-8600)

[Harris County Appraisal District](#) (713-957-7800)

[Port of Houston](#) (713-670-2400)

[METRO](#) – Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (713-635-4000)

[CenterPoint Energy, Houston Metro Area](#) (713-659-2111 or 800-752-8036)

[Houston Office of Business Opportunity](#) (832-393-0954)

[Houston Airports](#)

If the business is operated in a home, check the deed restrictions and contact the homeowners association.

If the Business is located in a [city](#) or its jurisdiction, contact the city for possible permit requirements.

Contact the [Harris County Public Health Department](#) (713-439-6000) for a business involved in food preparation or handling.

Roadmap to grow your business by exporting – [Export Resources](#)



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Chambers of Commerce in Harris County

| | |
|---|---|
| Asian Chamber of Commerce | Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce |
| Australian American Chamber of Commerce | Houston West Chamber of Commerce |
| Baytown Chamber of Commerce | Indo American Chamber of Commerce |
| Bethels Place Black Chamber of Commerce | Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Texas |
| Bilateral US Arab Chamber of Commerce | Japanese Business Association of Houston |
| Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce | Kingwood Chamber of Commerce |
| Caribbean Chamber of Commerce | Korean-American Chamber of Commerce |
| Christian Business Fellowship Association | La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce |
| Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce | Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Colombia-Texas Chamber of Commerce | Lake Houston Economic Development Partnership |
| Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce | North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce | Norwegian American chamber of Commerce |
| Deer Park Chamber of Commerce | Pakistan Chamber of Commerce-USA |
| French American Chamber of Commerce | Pasadena Chamber of Commerce |
| German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern US | South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce |
| Ghana-Houston Chamber of Commerce | South Houston Chamber of Commerce |
| Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce | Spring-Klein Chamber of Commerce |
| Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce | Swedish American Chamber of Commerce |
| Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce | Texas Argentine Chamber of Commerce |
| Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce | Tri-County Regional Black Chamber of Commerce |
| Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce | Turkic American Chamber of Commerce |
| Highlands Chamber of Commerce | US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce |
| Houston East End Chamber of Commerce | US-Russia Chamber of Commerce |
| Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce | World Chamber of Commerce |
| Houston Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce | |



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Cities in Harris County

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[Friendswood](#)
[Galena Park](#)
[Hedwig Village](#)
[Hilshire Village](#)
[Houston](#)
[Humble](#)
[Hunters Creek](#)
[Jacinto City](#)
[Jersey Village](#)
[Katy](#)
[La Porte](#)
[League City](#)

[Missouri City](#)
[Morgan's Point](#)
[Nassau Bay](#)
[Pasadena](#)
[Pearland](#)
[Piney Point](#)
[Seabrook](#)
[Shoreacres](#)
[South Houston](#)
[Southside Place](#)
[Spring Valley](#)
[Stafford](#)
[Taylor Lake Village](#)
[Tomball](#)
[Waller](#)
[Webster](#)
[West University Place](#)



6. Harris County's Top Industries

Harris County is home to:

- One of the most important industrial bases in the world with the City of Houston recently ranked as No. 1 among top U.S. manufacturing cities. (Manufacturers' News Inc., Jan 2013; GHP)
- The [Texas Medical Center](#) (world's largest medical complex) where 59 institutions provide clinical health, cutting edge research, and education. (Texas Medical Center, 2017)
- The [Johnson Space Center](#) – NASA's mission control center and an aerospace hub and transfer site for NASA-developed technology.
- The *Energy Capital of the Future*. (GHP)
- A growing presence in both traditional and renewable forms of energy technology. (GHP)



6. Harris County's Top Industries

Advanced Manufacturing and Technology

Large concentration of industrial space...
with room to grow

- ✓ 6,063 manufacturers who employ almost a quarter of a million skilled workers.
- ✓ 400+ software development companies tapping into a large customer base in areas of energy, space science, biotechnology and leading technology.

Source: GHP

Aerospace and Aviation

An aerospace hub and transfer site for
NASA

- ✓ The [Johnson Space Center](#) – a \$1.5 billion complex housing one of NASA's largest R&D facilities and a source of the nation's best high-tech professionals in science and engineering.
- ✓ 150+ companies involved in aircraft or space vehicle manufacturing, cutting edge space research, and technology.

Source: GHP



6. Harris County's Top Industries

Distribution and Logistics

A hub of major logistics network for the U.S.
Equidistant from the East and West Coasts

- ✓ Harris County is the gateway for trade to Mexico, Canada and the enormous expanding markets of Latin America.
- ✓ Harris County's strategic location – equidistant from both the U.S. East and West coasts – makes the region a transportation hub to the U.S. heartland.
- ✓ Harris County's geographic advantages coupled with overall [low cost of living](#) and proximity to major population centers throughout the U.S. Midwest makes it the ideal place to set up manufacturing and logistics facilities with fewer supply chain costs.

Source: [bestplaces.net](#), 2017; GHP

Biotechnology and Life Sciences

The birthplace of nanotechnology
190+ life sciences and biotech companies

- ✓ 83 cutting edge hospitals and numerous clinics along with some of the world's top research institutions thrive in Harris County.
- ✓ More than 1,000 biotechnology companies in the Houston region are involved in the country's top research and development in every key biotech cluster – agriculture, biomedical, oncology, environmental, genomics, medical devices, and nanotechnology
- ✓ [Texas Medical Center](#) (the world's largest medical center) houses 59 institutions involved in cutting edge medical care, medical and biotechnology research, and development.
- ✓ The 2014 Issue of Business Facilities ranks Texas as the fourth strongest state in Biotechnology growth due to strong technology infrastructure, research facilities, commercial company presence and financing.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, *Annual Survey of Hospitals*, 2016 (accessed 2017); Texas Association of Counties, 2016; Business Facilities, 2014; GHP

Energy

Home to virtually every segment of the oil and gas industry

- ✓ Harris County – home to the *Energy Capital of the Future* – is the U.S. energy headquarters and a leading world center for virtually every segment of the oil and gas industry including exploration, production, transmission, marketing, supply and technology.
- ✓ Harris County – home to the largest petrochemical complex in the U.S. (second largest in the world).
- ✓ A growing non-hydrocarbon based fuels sector in large part due to the critical mass of energy talent produced by decades of research and innovation.

Source: Texas Comptroller's Office, *Port of Entry: Houston – Port of Houston Impact to the Texas Economy*, 2015, (accessed 2017); GHP



7. Harris County's Strategic Advantages

Population... Education and Workforce... Transportation... Medicine...

- **Harris County** – the most diverse and the 3rd most populous in the U.S. where **residents** and **businesses thrive** and **expand** by benefiting from:
 - ✓ An overall cost of living that is 8% below the national average, 15% less than Los Angeles County, and 30% less than in New York (see [Cost of Living Index](#)). (bestplaces.net, 2017)
 - ✓ Utilities cost 7% less than the national average, 18% less than in Los Angeles County and 60% less than in Suffolk County (Boston) (see [Cost of Living Index](#)). (bestplaces.net, 2017)
- **Harris County** – a **premier transportation and logistics HUB** building on a world class transportation system, advantageous geographic location and a competitive Transportation Cost Index that is 4% lower than the national average and 5%+ lower than the average for 11 separate other regions in the nation. (bestplaces.net, 2017)
- **Harris County** – where **global networks**, connecting Harris County and the Gulf of Mexico to the interior of the U.S. and to the world, are **powered by**:
 - ✓ 1 [Sea Port](#) – ranked 1st in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage and 3rd in the U.S. in total foreign cargo value (Port of Houston, 2017; Texas Comptroller's Office, *Port of Entry: Houston – Port of Houston Impact to the Texas Economy, 2015* (accessed 2017))
 - ✓ 2 [major airports](#) with 190+ non-stop destinations (Houston Airport System, 2017)
 - ✓ 1 [spaceport](#) (10th licensed in the nation)
 - ✓ A world-class highway system including I-610 Loop, I-10, I-45, SH 288, SH 6, SH 225, SH 146, US 59/I-69, US 290, Beltway 8, Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, and the Westpark Tollway, and
 - ✓ 3 major rail road companies ([Union Pacific](#) (UP), [Burlington Northern Santa Fe](#) (BNSF), and [Kansas City Southern](#) (KCS) (see link to the [Texas State Railroad Maps](#) (TxDOT)).
- **Harris County** – where in 2016 was the **largest single-county exporter** in the U.S. and where the [Port of Houston](#) ranked as the **largest Gulf Coast container port** handling 68% of the U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic. (U.S International Trade Administration, 2017; Texas Comptroller's Office, *Port of Entry: Houston – Port of Houston Impact to the Texas Economy, 2015* (accessed 2017); Port of Houston, 2017)
- **Harris County** – a **world class science and innovation HUB**, is at the forefront of research and treatment of cancer and heart disease where the [Texas Medical Center](#) (world's largest medical complex) occupies 1,345 acres¹ and has \$3 billion in construction projects underway. (Texas Medical Center, 2017; ¹GHP)



7.1 Harris County Population Highlights

- Projected to attract the largest number of new residents in Texas by 2050¹.
- 3rd largest County in the U.S.² – larger than 25 U.S. states and 6 U.S. territories.
- If it were a state, it would have the 26th largest population in the U.S., behind Louisiana (4,681,666) and ahead of Kentucky (4,436,974) and Oregon (4,093,465)³.
- Well educated where nearly 80% of its residents have a high school diploma or higher².
- A young and vibrant population where 27% are under the age of 18 – a much higher share of the total county population compared to the U.S.'s 23% and to 18 other counties across the nation including Cook County (Chicago), Illinois and Los Angeles County (Los Angeles), California each at 22%, Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts at 17.10%, and San Francisco County, California at 13.6%².
- Most diverse where 1 in 4 residents is foreign born⁴.

Source: ¹ Map: Texas Suburbs, Not Cities, To Grow The Fastest By 2050; One Central Texas County Will Top Them All, Austin Business Journal, March 9, 2015; ² U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17; ³ GHP; ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

Harris County Population (By the Numbers)

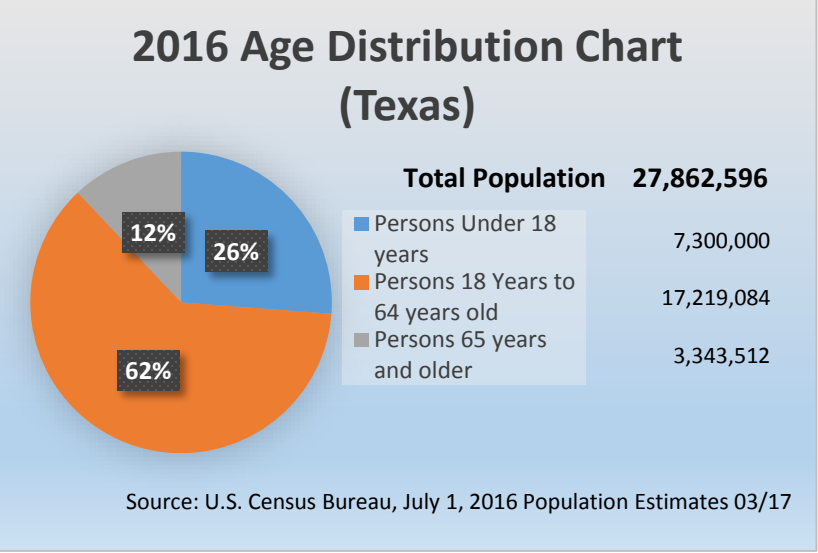
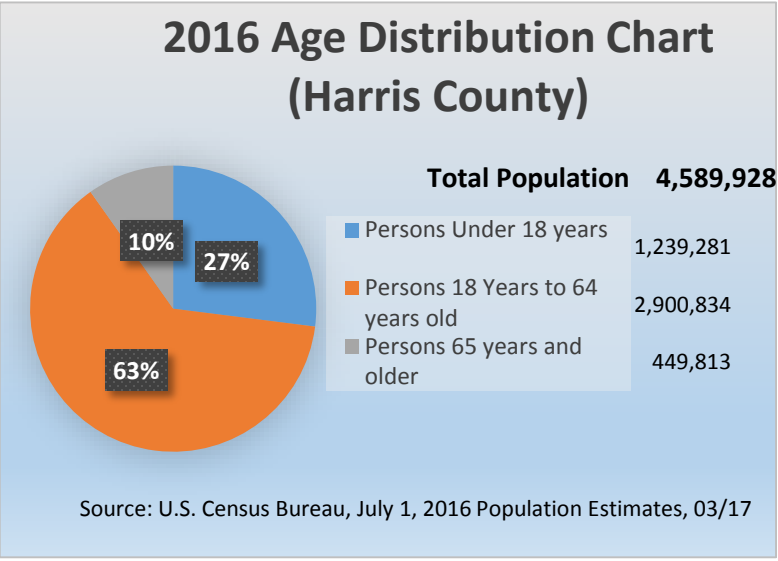
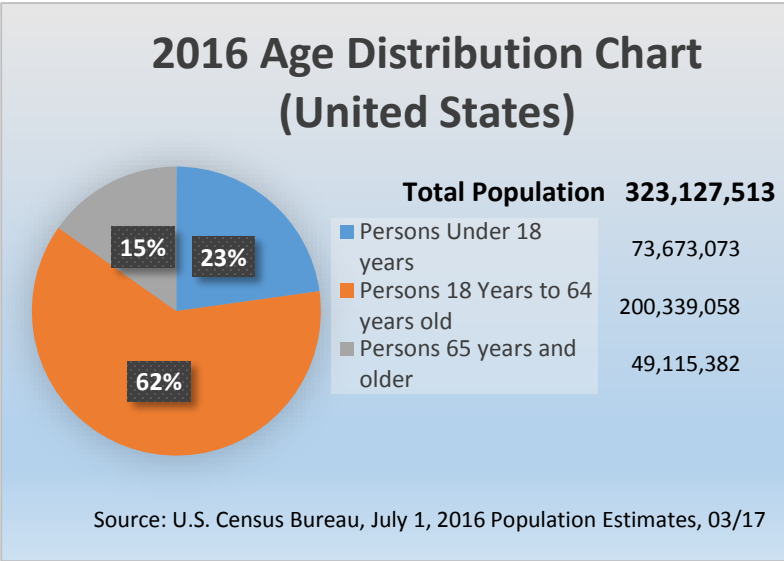
| | |
|--|---------------|
| 2016 Population Estimate¹ | 4,589,928 |
| Age¹ | |
| Persons under 18 years | 27.00% |
| Persons 65 years and older | 9.80% |
| Median Age | 33.3 |
| Race and Hispanic Origin¹ | |
| White alone | 70.00% |
| Black or African American alone | 19.70% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone | 1.10% |
| Asian alone | 7.20% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | 0.10% |
| Two or More Races | 1.90% |
| | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 42.40% |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 30.40% |
| Foreign Born² | 25.40% |
| Education Attainment² | |
| High School Graduate or Higher (persons age 25 years+) | 79.60% |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher (persons age 25 years+) | 29.50% |
| No. of Households² | 1,499,528 |
| Median Household Income² | \$54,457 |
| Per Capita Personal Income (2015 BEA)³ | \$55,088 |
| Total Personal Income (2015 BEA)³ | \$249,989,494 |

Sources:

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17.

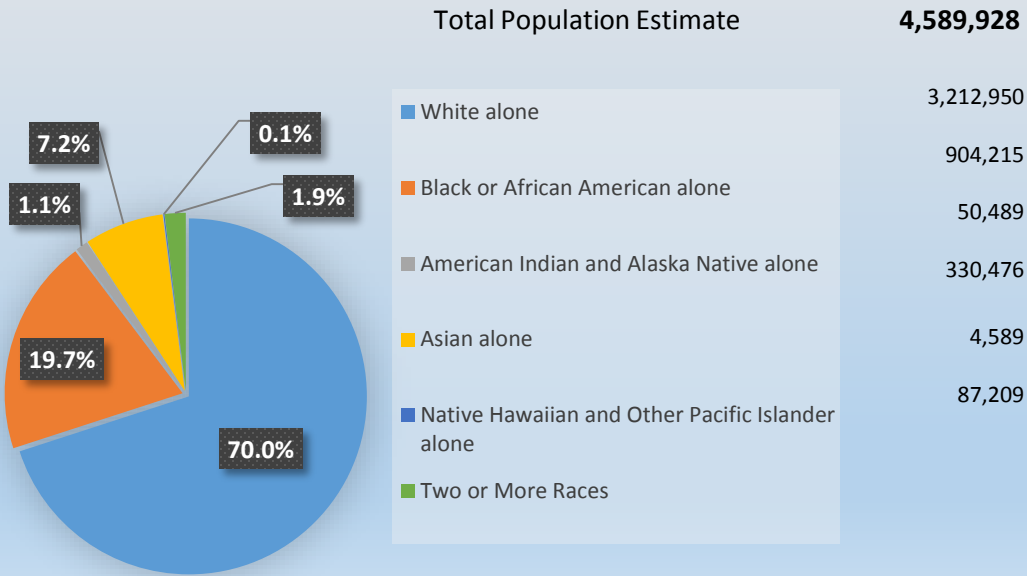
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

³ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis using County BEARFACTS published 11/17/16.



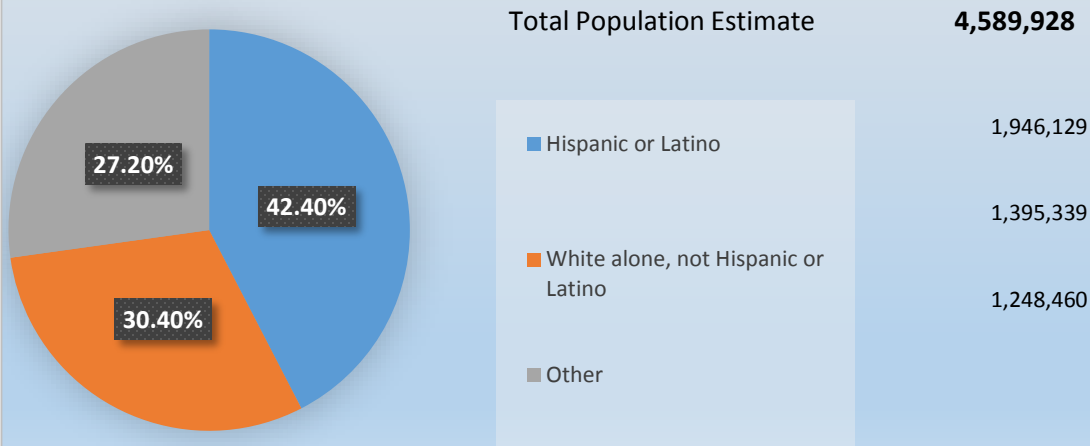


2016 Population - Race Distribution Chart
(Harris County)

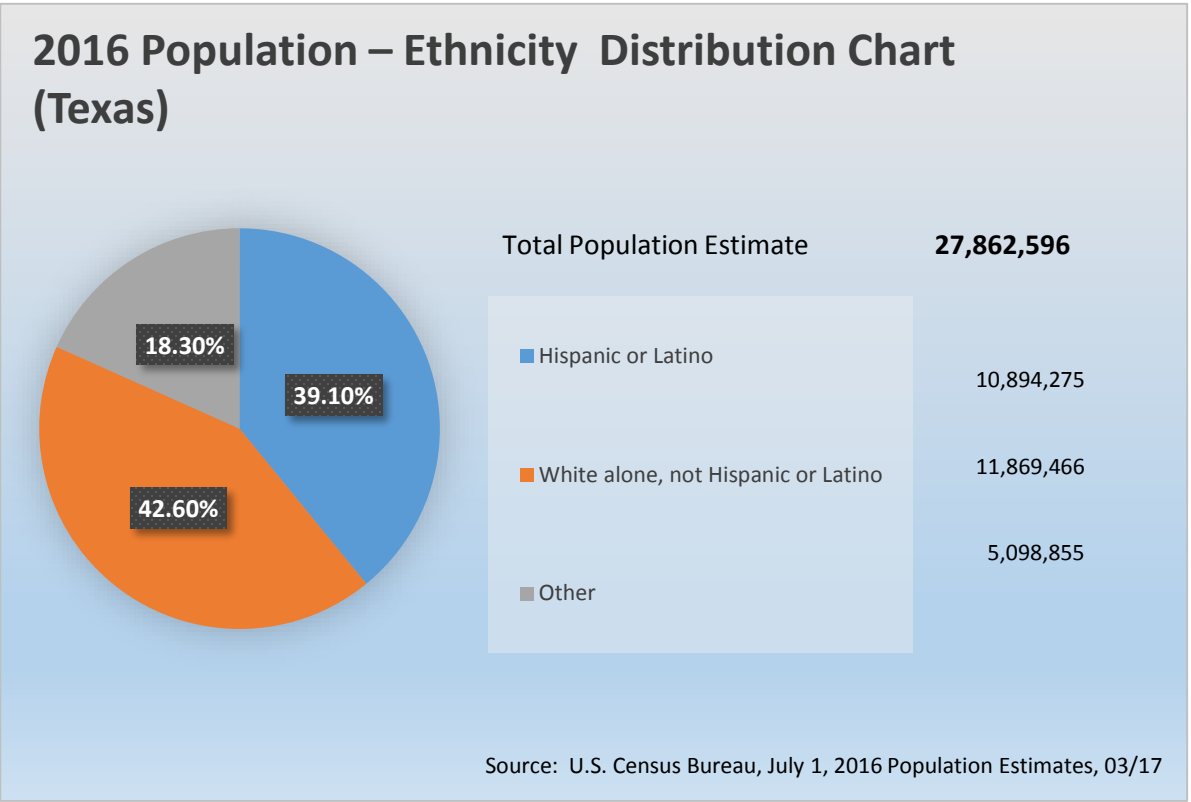
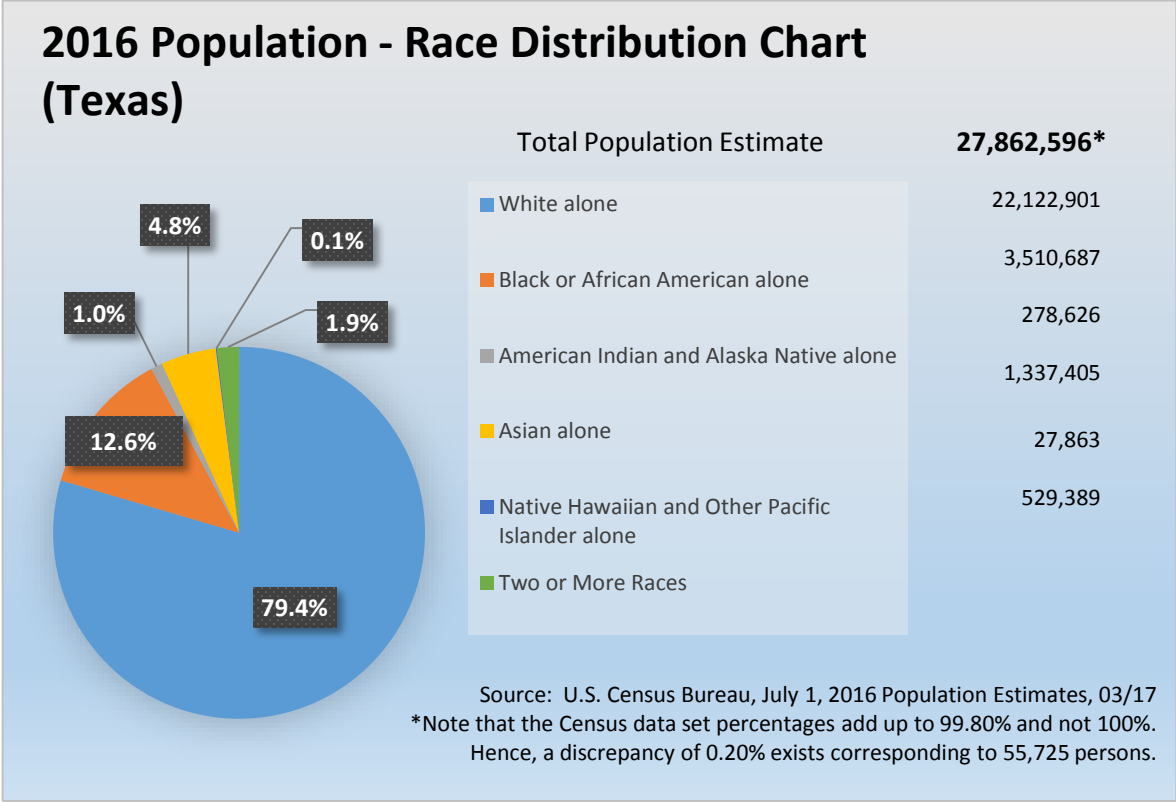


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17

2016 Population - Ethnicity Distribution Chart
(Harris County)

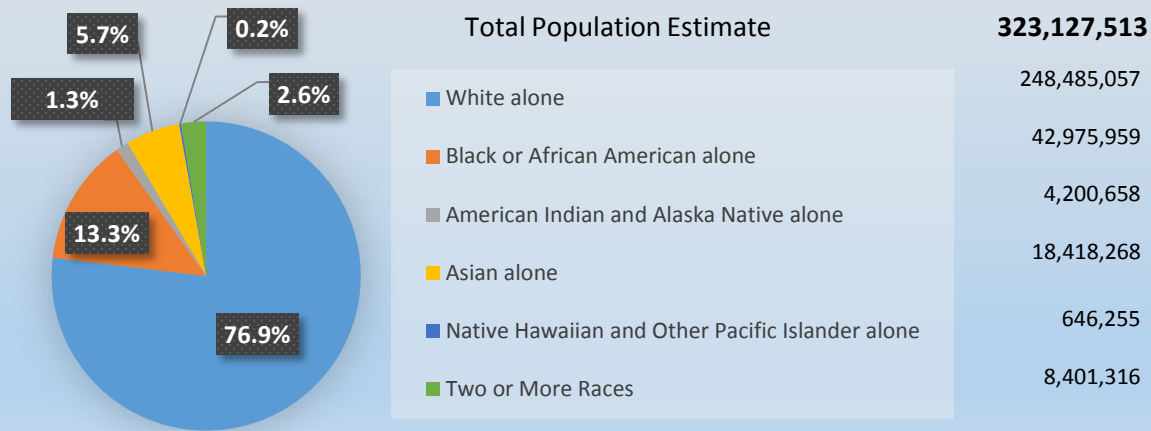


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17



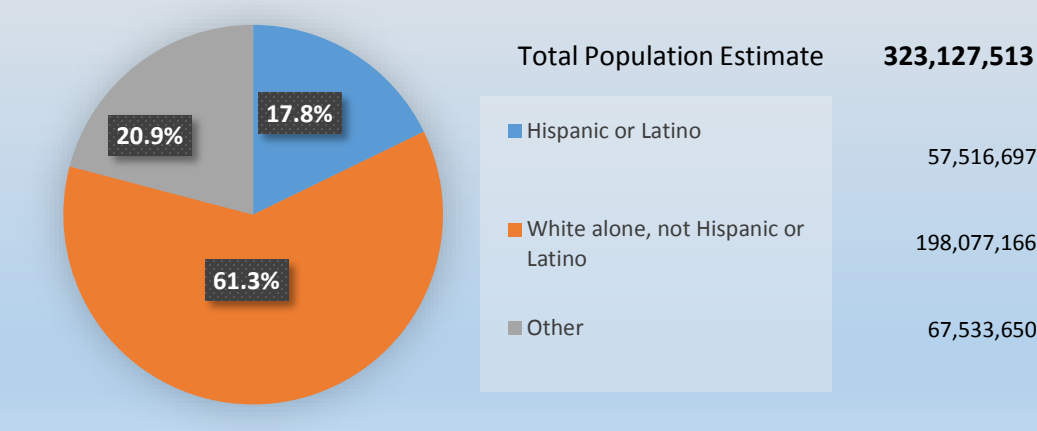


2016 Population - Race Distribution Chart
(United States)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17

2016 Population - Ethnicity Distribution Chart
(United States)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17



7.2 Harris County's Diversity

- 145 languages spoken in Harris County¹
- 1 in 4 Harris County residents is foreign born²

Source: ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, Released 2015; ² U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

- More than 80 nations have **consular** representation in Harris County offering services to both visitors and residents ([U.S. Department of State](#))
- 2nd largest Hispanic population of all U.S. Counties according to Pew Research Center's [Hispanic Population Growth and Dispersion Across U.S. Counties, 1980- 2014, 2014](#)
- Virtually unlimited entertainment choices in **arts, culture, food, leisure, sports**, and more Come discover Harris County



7.3 Harris County's Education and Workforce

Education Attainment...

K-12 School Districts... Universities and Community Colleges...

Training and Education Partners...

Harris County's Education and Labor Force Assets:

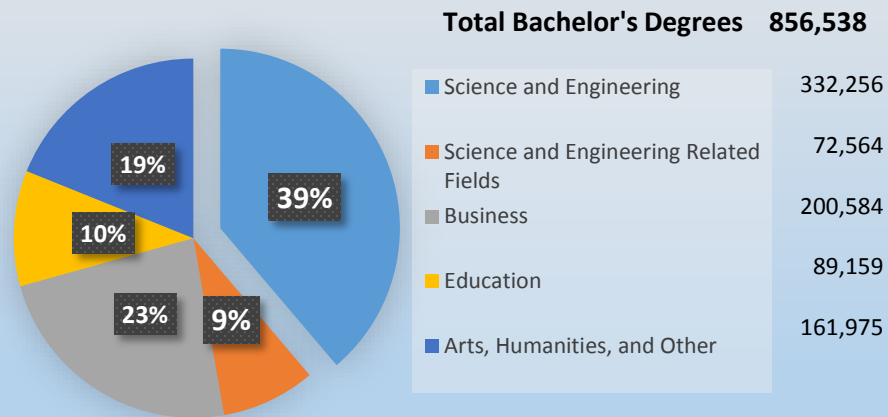
- ✓ A population of over 4.58¹ million and a civilian labor force of over 2.25² million people
- ✓ Nearly 80% of persons over the age of 25 have a high school diploma or higher³
- ✓ Close to 30% of persons over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher³
- ✓ 39% of total bachelor's degrees earned are in the fields of Science and Engineering – a higher concentration than 35% for the U.S. and Texas, each, and only slightly behind Suffolk County (Boston) at 41%³
- ✓ Home to 87,500 engineers and architects which is more than for any other U.S. metro area⁴

Source: ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17; ² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Data by County 2016 Annual Averages*, 04/21/17; ³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17; ⁴ GHP



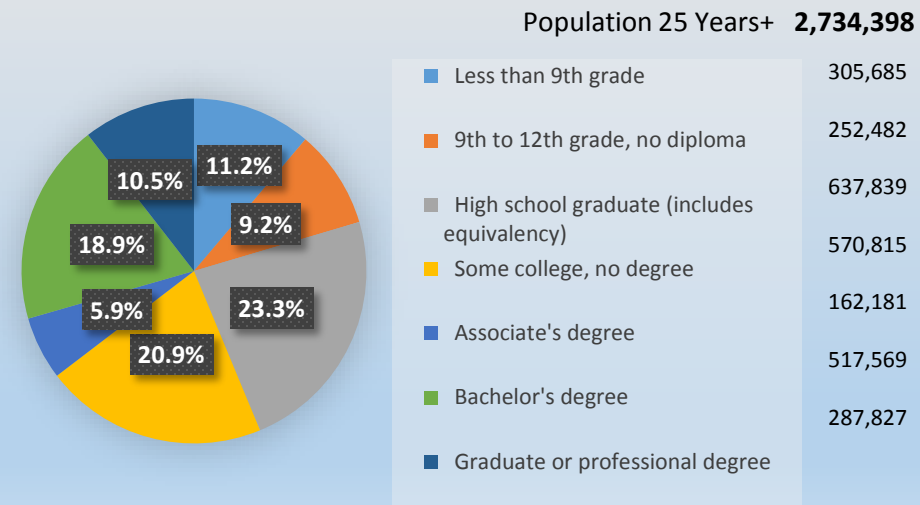
Harris County Education Attainment

2015 No. of Bachelor's Degrees per Field of Study (Harris County)



Source: U.S Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Yr Estimates, 07/13/17.
Population 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher attainment.

2015 Education Attainment (Harris County)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

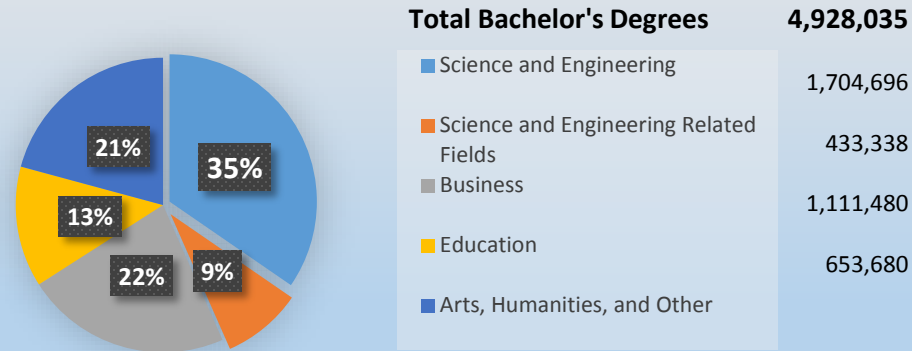


Harris County Budget Management Department, Economic Development

Harris County Economic Highlights, 2017

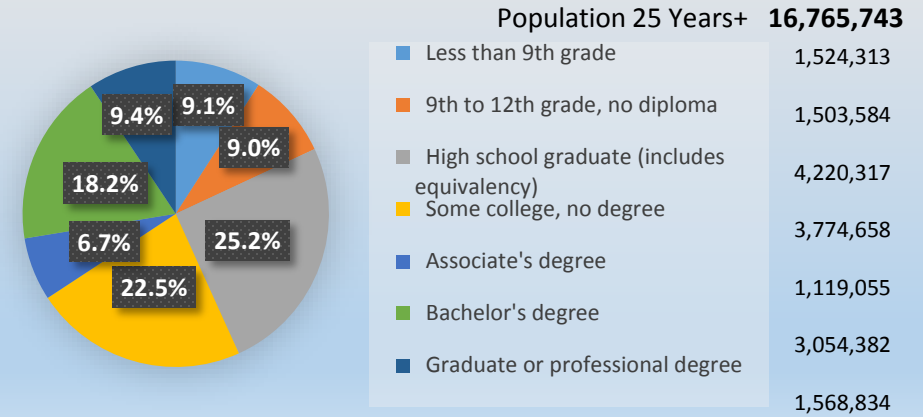
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2015 No. of Bachelor's Degrees per Field (Texas)



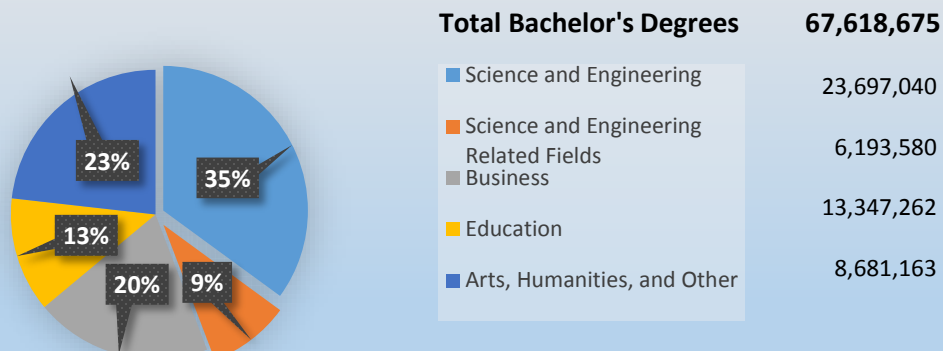
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Yr Estimates, 07/13/17.
Population 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher attainment.

2015 Education Attainment (Texas)



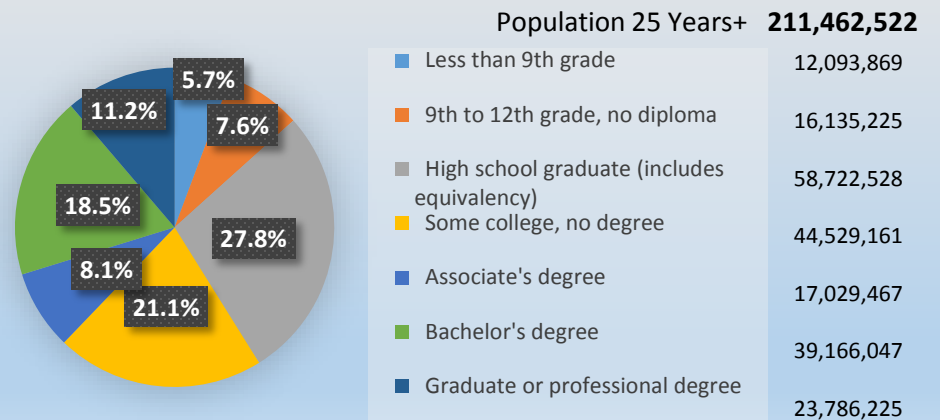
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

2015 No. of Bachelor's Degrees per Field (United States)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Yr Estimates, 07/13/17.
Population 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher attainment.

2015 Education Attainment (United States)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.



K-12 Education

Universities and Community Colleges

13 Universities

[Baylor College of Medicine](#)
[Houston Baptist University](#)
[Rice University](#)
[South Texas College of Law](#)
[Texas Southern University](#)
[Texas Woman's University – Houston](#)
[University of Houston](#)
[University of Houston - Clear Lake](#)
[University of Houston – Downtown](#)
[University of Houston – Victoria \(Katy\)](#)
[University of St. Thomas](#)
[University of Texas Health Science Center](#)
[University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#)

4 Community Colleges

[Houston Community College System](#)
[Lee Jr. College District](#)
[Lone Star College System District](#)
[San Jacinto Jr. College District](#)

Source: GHP 2016

[Aldine ISD](#)
[Alief ISD](#)
[Channelview ISD](#)
[Clear Creek ISD](#)
[Crosby ISD](#)
[Cypress-Fairbanks ISD](#)
[Dayton ISD](#)
[Deer Park ISD](#)
[Galena Park ISD](#)
[Goose Creek ISD](#)
[Houston ISD](#)
[Huffman ISD](#)
[Humble ISD](#)
[Katy ISD](#)
[Klein ISD](#)
[La Porte ISD](#)
[New Caney ISD](#)
[Pasadena ISD](#)
[Pearland ISD](#)
[Sheldon ISD](#)
[Spring ISD](#)
[Spring Branch ISD](#)
[Stafford MSD](#)
[Tomball ISD](#)
[Waller ISD](#)

Source: Harris County Appraisal District



Training and Education Partners

Harris County has the resources to educate and train
current and future employees for your business.

**Lone Star College -
Corporate College**

**Lee College Center
for Workforce and
Community
Development**

**Texas Workforce
Commission – Skills
Development Fund**

**San Jacinto College
Corporate Training
& Consulting**

**Houston Community
College Global Oil &
Gas Drilling
Training Center**

**Greater Houston
Partnership –
Upskill Houston**



7.4 Harris County's Transportation System

Transportation Advantages

- **Harris County's transportation costs are¹** (see [Cost of Living Index](#)):
 - ✓ 4% less than the national average
 - ✓ 6% less than in Los Angeles County (Los Angeles and Long Beach), California – the most populous county in the U.S.
 - ✓ 27% less than in Cook County (Chicago), Illinois – the 2nd most populous county in the U.S.
- **Auspicious geographic location** as the gateway to Latin American markets²
- **A world-class highway system** including I-610 Loop, I-10, I-45, SH 288, SH 6, SH 225, SH 146, US 59/I-69, US 290, US 90, Beltway 8 (AKA Sam Houston Tollway), Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, and the Westpark Tollway³

Source: ¹ bestplaces.net; ² GHP; ³ Texas Department of Transportation'

Harris County's Transportation System By the Numbers

| | |
|---|------------|
| Total Area (square miles) | 1,778 |
| Daily Vehicle Miles | 63,777,898 |
| Lane Miles | 35,431.385 |
| Vehicles Registered | 3,556,608 |
| METRO No. of Buses | 1,233 |
| METRO Revenue Miles (Buses) | 42,000,000 |
| METRO Light Rail miles | 23 |
| Major Airports | 2 |
| Spaceport | 1 |
| Passenger Airlines | 34 |
| Passengers | 54,000,000 |
| Non-stop Destinations | 190+ |
| Regional Airports (public use) | 6 |
| Other Airports (private use) | 7 |
| Heliports | 108 |
| Ports (Sea Port) | 1 |
| Industrial Terminals (Public & Private) | 150+ |
| Vessels | 8300+ |
| Barges | 231,000 |
| Major Railway Companies (class-1 railroads) | 3 |

Source: Texas Almanac, 2016; Texas Department of Transportation, 2017; METRO, 2016; U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, 2016; Houston Airport System, 2017; Texas Comptroller's Office, *Port of Entry: Houston – Port of Houston Impact to the Texas Economy, 2015* (accessed 2017); Port of Houston Authority, 2017



7.4 Transportation System

Port of Houston and the Houston Ship Channel

Top 5 Containerized Commodities EXPORT

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Resins & Plastics |
| Chemicals & Minerals |
| Food & Drink |
| Machinery, Appliances & Electronics |
| Automotive |

Top 5 Containerized Commodities IMPORT

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Food & Drink |
| Hardware & Construction Materials |
| Machinery, Appliances & Electronics |
| Retail Consumer Goods |
| Steel & Metals |

Top 10 Containerized Trading Country Partners (IMPORTS, 2016)

| | |
|----------------|------|
| China (PRC) | 30% |
| Germany | 8% |
| India | 5% |
| Brazil | 7% |
| Italy | 6% |
| Belgium | 4% |
| Spain | 3% |
| United Kingdom | 2% |
| Netherlands | 2% |
| France | 2% |
| Others | 32% |
| Total | 100% |

Top 10 Containerized Trading Country Partners (EXPORTS, 2016)

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Brazil | 29% |
| Belgium | 8% |
| China (PRC) | 5% |
| Netherlands | 7% |
| Turkey | 6% |
| Colombia | 4% |
| India | 3% |
| Chile | 2% |
| UAE | 2% |
| Peru | 2% |
| Others | 32% |
| Total | 100% |

Source: Port of Houston, *PHA Market Development, Journal of Commerce/PIERS data, 2016*

Notes: Port of Houston, 2016 Container Volume (TEUs); Values include all Houston Ship Channel Terminals. Totals are estimated, not exact. Commodity categories are based on custom PHA Market Development definitions.



7.4 Transportation System

Port of Houston and the Houston Ship Channel

Largest Texas port with:

- 46% of market share by tonnage¹
- 95% market share in containers by total TEUs¹
- 67% market share of Texas's international seaport trade in 2015³
- ✓ 150+ industrial terminals including the nation's largest break-bulk terminal⁴
- ✓ Boasts an extensive intermodal network of terminals, roads, rails (access to class-1 railroads) and pipelines⁴

Ranked:

- ✓ 1st ranked U.S. port in foreign tonnage¹
- ✓ 2nd ranked in total tonnage for 23 straight years²
- ✓ 3rd ranked U.S. port in terms of total foreign cargo value^{1, 3, 4}
- ✓ Busiest U.S. waterway with 8,300+ large ships and 231,000 smaller commercial crafts including barges⁴
- ✓ Largest Gulf Coast container port handling 68% of the U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2016 and 6th ranked U.S. container port by total TEUs in 2016¹
- ✓ Largest U.S. facility for raw plastic resin export⁴
- ✓ Nation's largest importer and exporter of petroleum and petroleum products⁴
- ✓ Home to the nation's largest petrochemical complex (second largest in the world)⁴

Weekly Container Service Overview:

- ✓ East Asia – 3 services
- ✓ North Europe – 4 services
- ✓ Mediterranean – 2 services
- ✓ East Coast South America – 3 services
- ✓ Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, North Coast South America – 6 services
- ✓ Other trade lanes – 4 services

For details please visit [Port of Houston's Container Service Schedule Flyer](#) and [Port of Houston's Trade Carrier Schedules](#).

Source: ¹ Port of Houston, 2017; ² GHP; ³ U.S. Census Bureau; ⁴ Texas Comptroller's Office, *Port of Entry: Houston – Port of Houston Impact to the Texas Economy, 2015* (accessed 2017).



7.4 Transportation System



Houston Airport System - 3 Airports

- ✓ Accommodates nonstop air service to all six inhabited continents
- ✓ Recognized worldwide as a gateway to Latin America

George Bush Intercontinental ([IAH](#)) – the largest airport in the Harris County region and a global gateway

- ✓ 12th busiest in North America by total passengers according to ACI-NA
- ✓ Major connecting HUB with the 2nd largest HUB for United Airlines, focusing on Latin America

Passenger Airlines --- 29 Non-stop Destinations --- 190+ Passengers --- 41 million

William P. Hobby ([HOU](#)) – a medium-sized regional and international airport

- ✓ Home to one of Southwest Airline's most important and active hubs
- ✓ A 4-star rated airport by Skytrax in 2016 and 2017

Passenger Airlines --- 4 Non-stop Destinations --- 60 Passengers --- 12 million

Ellington Airport ([EFD](#)) – a commerce and general aviation center

- ✓ Home to the 10th licensed commercial [spaceport](#)
- ✓ With NASA as a tenant, EFD is home to ongoing U.S. Military and space training
- ✓ Disaster Relief – Home to the regional headquarters for the U.S. Coast Guard

Source: Houston Airport System, 2017

Other Regional Airports Ready to Serve Customers

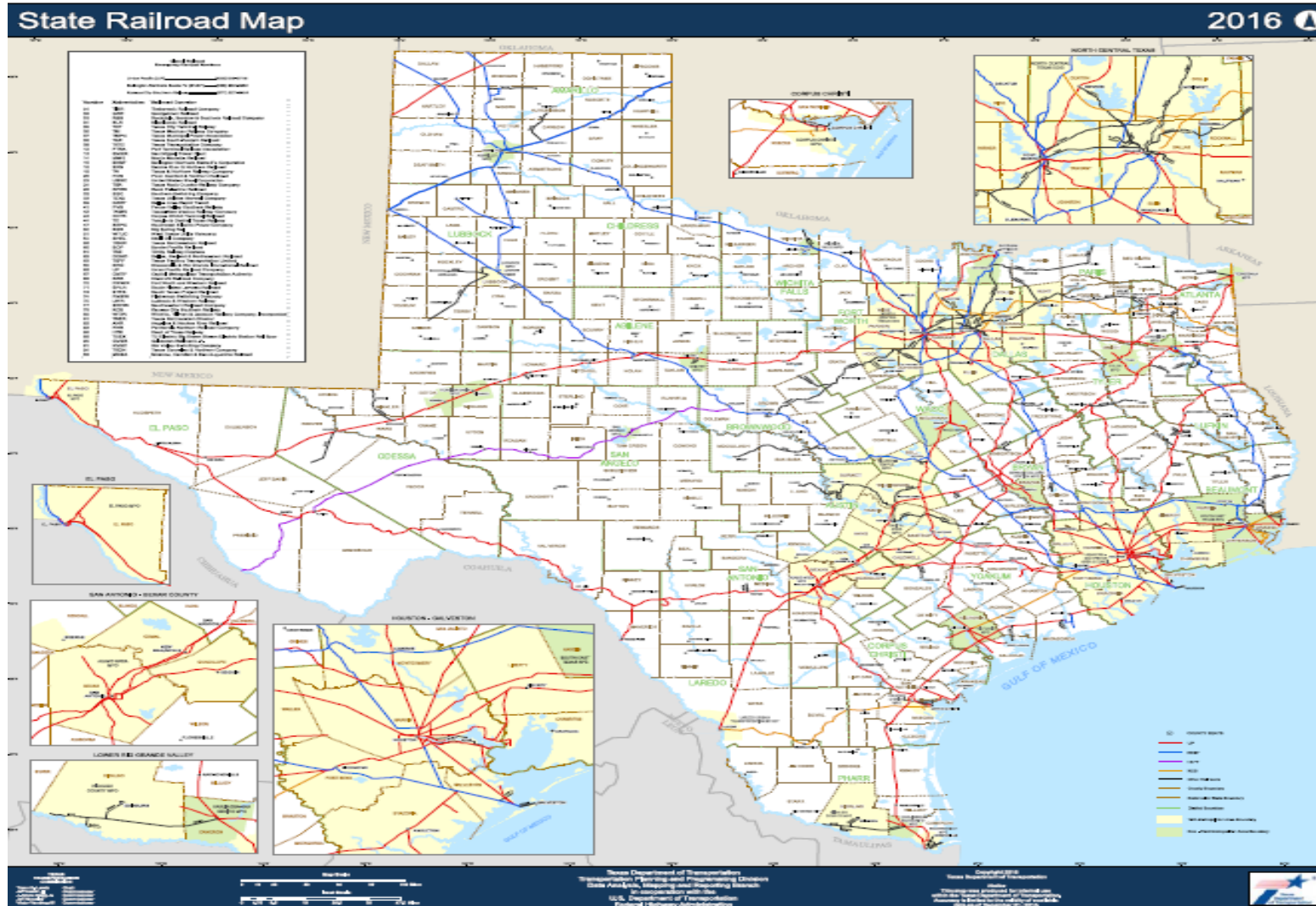
- 6 Regional Airports for public use
- 7 Regional Airports for private use

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Agency, 2017



Harris County Budget Management Department, Economic Development Harris County Economic Highlights, 2017

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See link:

<http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/tpp/maps/2016-railroad.pdf>



7.5 Texas Medical Center

World's largest:

- Medical complex by any measure – number of hospitals, number of physicians, square footage, and patient volume
- Children's Hospital
- Cancer Hospital

8th largest business district in the U.S.

Is at the forefront of advancing life sciences

Home to:

- ✓ 6 general hospitals
- ✓ 11 specialized hospitals
- ✓ 2 specialized patient facilities
- ✓ 3 medical schools
- ✓ 5 schools of nursing
- ✓ 2 schools of pharmacy
- ✓ 1 dental school
- ✓ 1 community college

Focusing on 19
Health Science
Fields

Source: Texas Medical Center, 2018; GHP

Texas Medical Center By the Numbers

Total Area¹ ----- 1,345+ Acres

Area Developed ----- 50 million square feet

Permanent Building ----- 290

Project in Construction ----- \$3 billion

Medical and Research
Institutions ----- 59

Employees ----- 106,000+

Patient Encounters Per Year ----- 10 million

Total Patient Beds ----- 9,200

Annual Surgeries ----- 180,000+

Total Heart Surgeries ----- 13,600+

ER Visits per Year ----- 750,000

Babies Delivered Per Year ----- 25,000

Source: Texas Medical Center, 2018; ¹ GHP



8. Quality of Life – Harris County welcomes you home!

Unlimited entertainment and cultural choices

Education... Standard of Living... Sports, Leisure, and Parks... Diverse Arts and Cultural Venues...
Shopping, Dining and Nightlife... Area Events Calendar...

Education With a diverse collection of school systems – 25 k-12 school districts, a plethora of k-12 private schools, 13 universities and colleges, and 4 community colleges – choices abound to prepare our children and the workforce.

Given Harris County's strong biotechnology, advance manufacturing, aerospace, and energy industry clusters, it is not surprising that nearly 47%¹ of all bachelor's degrees are in science, engineering, and related fields.

Source: ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Yr Estimates, 07/13/17.

Standard of Living Our overall low cost of living at 8%¹ below the national average coupled with a diverse economic base and top educational facilities make us a great community to live, work, play, and invest.

Housing costs are [14%](#)¹ lower than the national average, allowing the median household income of \$54,457², which is 1% higher than the national median household income², to stretch further. Find your next home or rental at [Houston Association of Realtors® \(HAR\)](#).

Harris County's diverse economy provides work opportunities in a wide range of fields where the 2015 per capita personal income was \$55,088 – 14% higher than U.S.'s and 17% higher than Texas's per capita personal income³.

Our residents and visitors can receive top of the line health care at world renowned medical facilities, such as the distinguished [M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#), the No. 1 cancer hospital in the world. Other distinguished health institutions include [Baylor College of Medicine](#), [Houston Methodist Hospital](#), [CHI St. Luke's Health](#), [Memorial Hermann](#), [Texas Medical Center](#), [Texas Heart Institute](#) and the [University of Texas Health Science Center](#), just to name a few.

Source: ¹ Bestplaces.net; ² U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Yr Estimates, 07/13/17; ³ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis using County BEARFACTS, 11/17/16.



SPORTS, LEISURE AND PARKS

There is no downtime when keeping up with the area's professional sports teams – the *Houston Texans*, the *Houston Rockets*, the *Houston Astros*, the *Houston Dynamo* and the *Houston Dash*.

In addition to catching a Houston Texans game at Harris County's state-of-the-art NRG Stadium, rock concerts, jewelry shows, professional conferences, and a multitude of other events attract people from around the world.

Quality of life is enhanced by 158 Harris County parks in addition to numerous city *parks* and school parks.

Abundant miles of walk/run/hike and bike *trails* open the door to Harris County's wildlife and natural biodiversity.

DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURAL VENUES

Staying true to [our diversity](#), many cultural communities feel right at home in Harris County.

Anyone's calendar can be filled quickly with events performed by world-class, year-round resident companies in all of the major performing arts—*symphony, opera, drama, and ballet*.

There is no shortage of choice with concert and performing arts genres and venues abounding - from classical music and opera to pop music and indie rock concerts to blues and honky-tonk, from classical ballet to modern plays and avant-garde dance and to everything in between with world class performers from around the world. See [your independent](#) guide at [Houston-theater.com](#) to the best shows around.

Come discover area events and unique venues at [visithoustontexas.com](#), or check out the [Houston.culturemap.com](#), or visit any of over 150 [museums](#), art galleries, cultural institutions, art fairs, festivals and markets (at [365thingsinhouston.com](#)) covering everything from nature, art, science, history, and more.

SHOPPING, DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

Choose from over 10,000 restaurants representing more than 70 countries and American regions. Make your plans by visiting [visithouston.com](#), or [Yelp](#).

A variety of shopping centers and malls all around Harris County provide a plethora of styles and products to satisfy your needs. You may find some by visiting USA Today's [10best.com](#).

Whether you're looking for high-energy dance clubs or Texas honky-tonks, action-packed sports pubs or low-key wine bars, there's something for every taste by looking [visithouston.com](#).