



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.

18 Fortune 500 Headquarters <small>(Fortune 2017)</small>	4.59 million Residents <small>(U.S. Census, July 1, 2016 Population Estimate, 03/17)</small>	\$0 State and Local Income Tax	World Class Transportation System					\$68.2 billion (or 81%) of All Exported Goods from the Houston Metro Area <small>(International Trade Administration, 10/13/17)</small>
			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	



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 1,777 square miles, 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](#))



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.

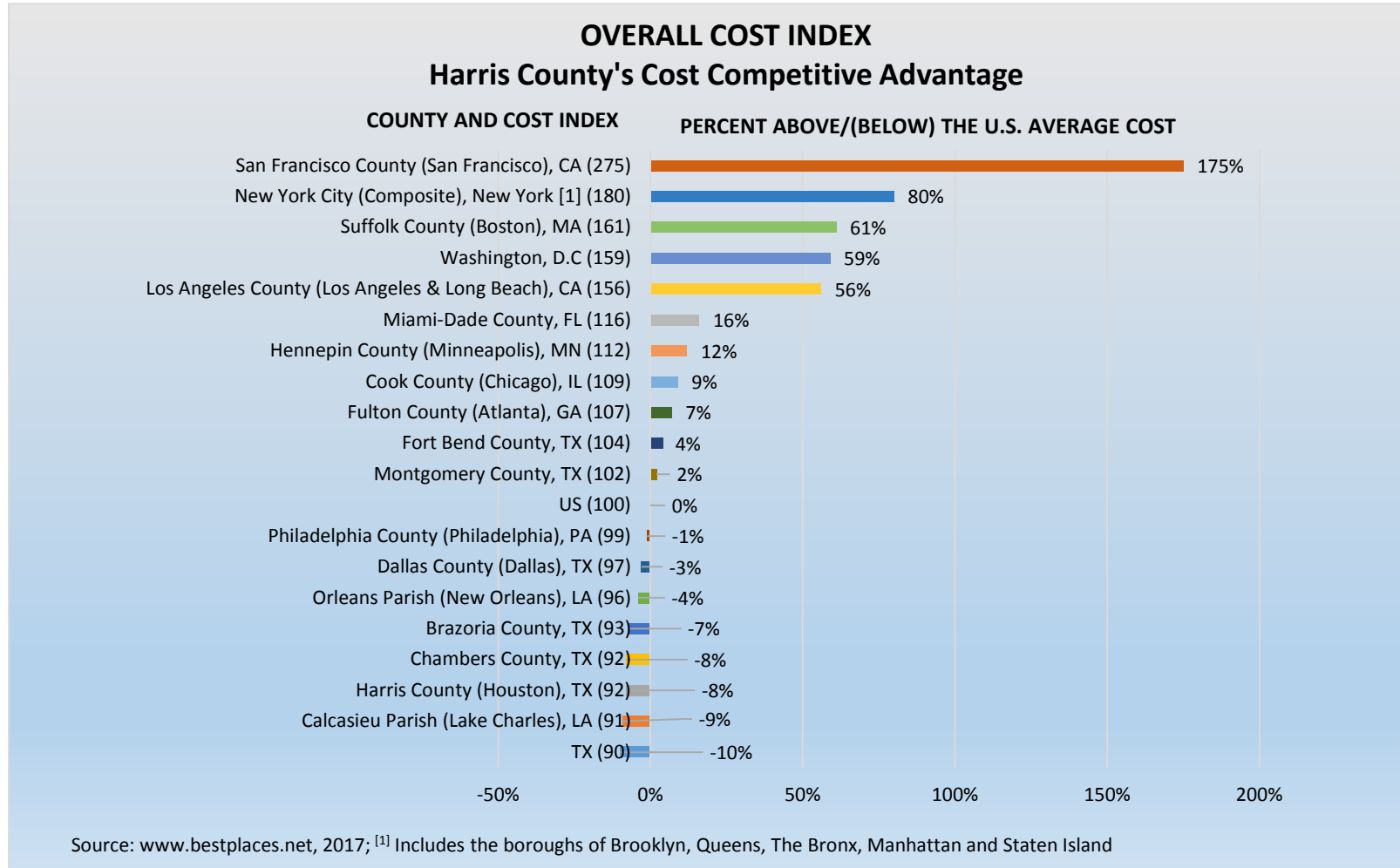
See following pages for charts comparing average costs where the U.S. average cost is the base:

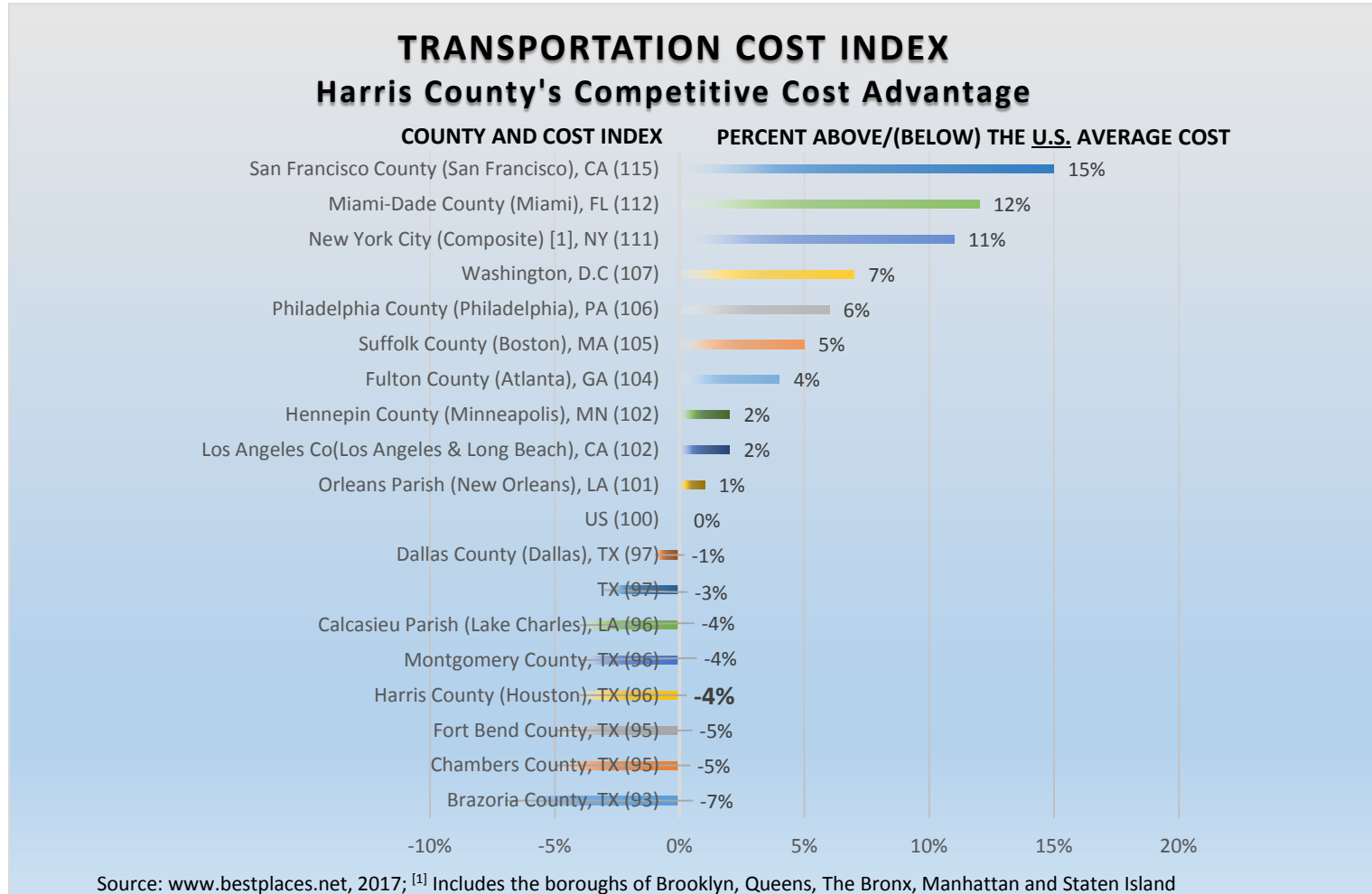
- [Overall Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)
- [Transportation Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)
- [Utilities Cost Index \(% Above/Below US\)](#)

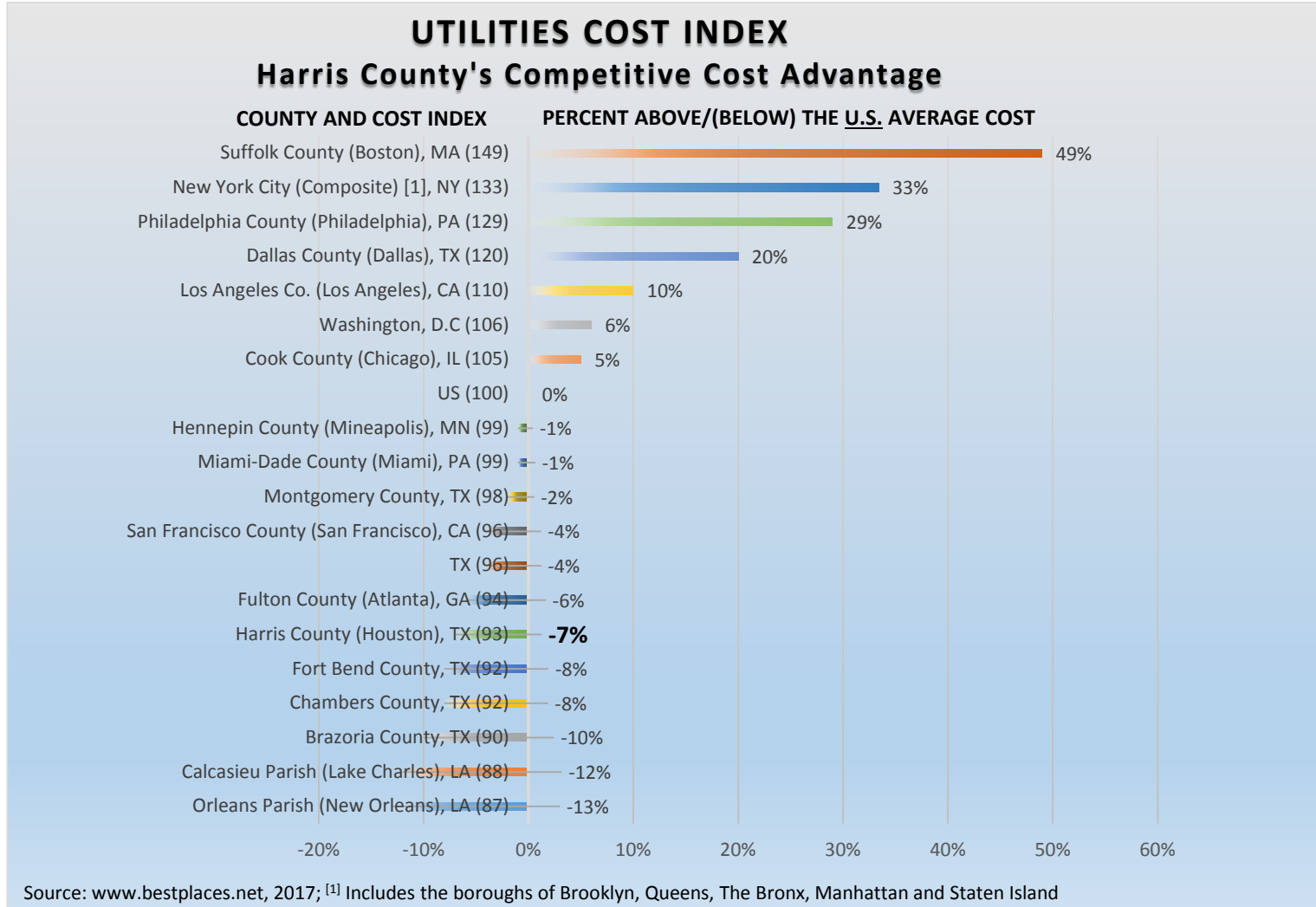
Additional charts comparing Harris County's costs against other area costs where Harris County is the base:

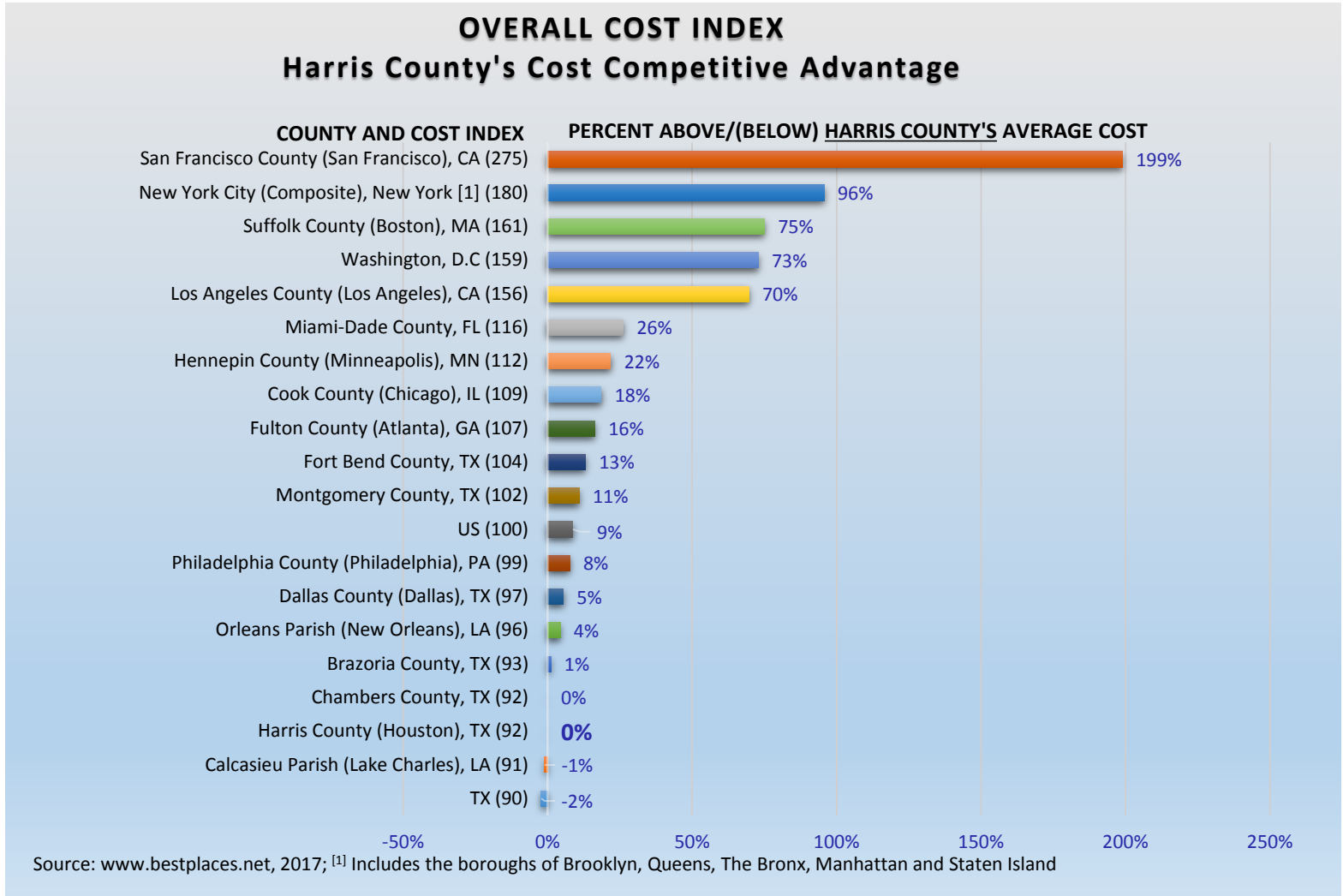
- [Overall Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)
- [Transportation Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)
- [Utilities Cost Index \(% Above/Below HARRIS COUNTY\)](#)

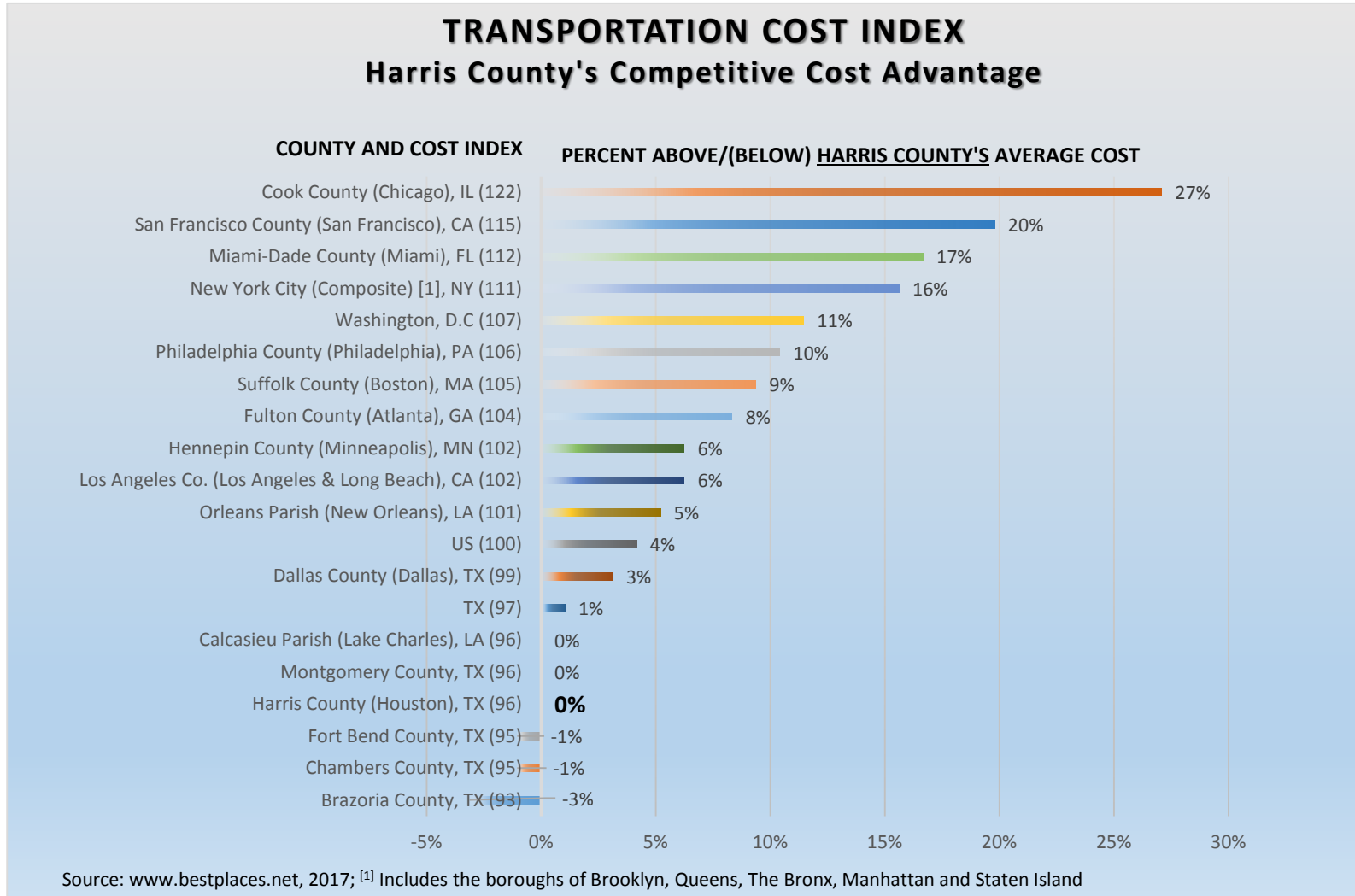
[Cost of Living \(by City\), 2017](#)

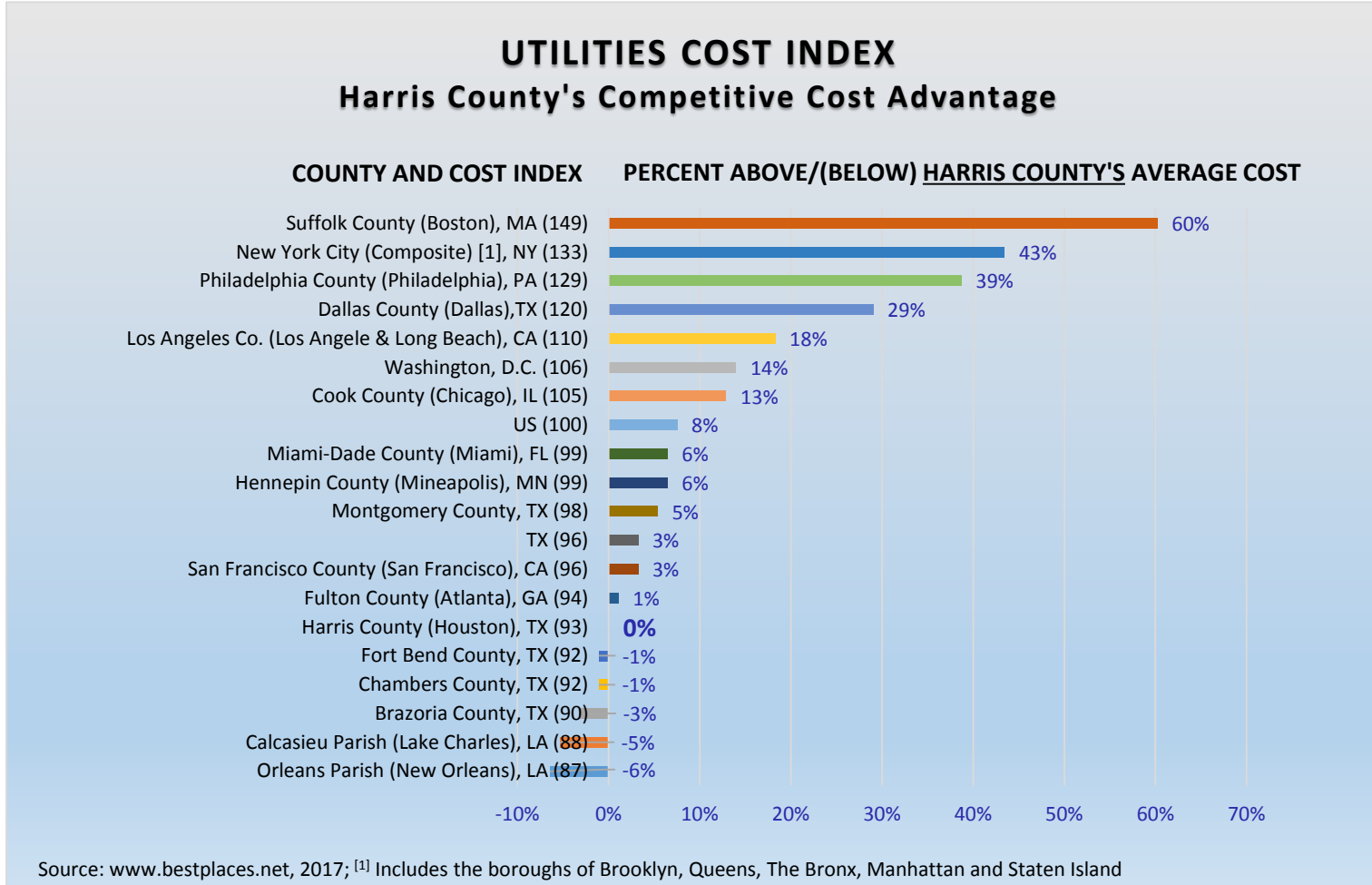














Houston Cost of Living, 2017

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

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.

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



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.



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

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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](#)



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	



Cities in Harris County	
Baytown	Missouri City
Bellaire	Morgan's Point
Bunker Hill	Nassau Bay
Deer Park	Pasadena
El Lago	Pearland
Friendswood	Piney Point
Galena Park	Seabrook
Hedwig Village	Shoreacres
Hilshire Village	South Houston
Houston	Southside Place
Humble	Spring Valley
Hunters Creek	Stafford
Jacinto City	Taylor Lake Village
Jersey Village	Tomball
Katy	Waller
La Porte	Webster
League City	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)

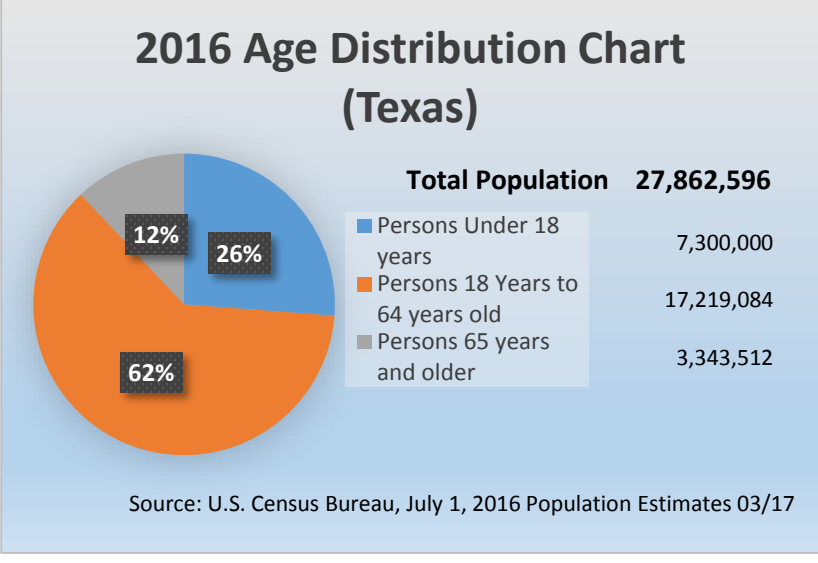
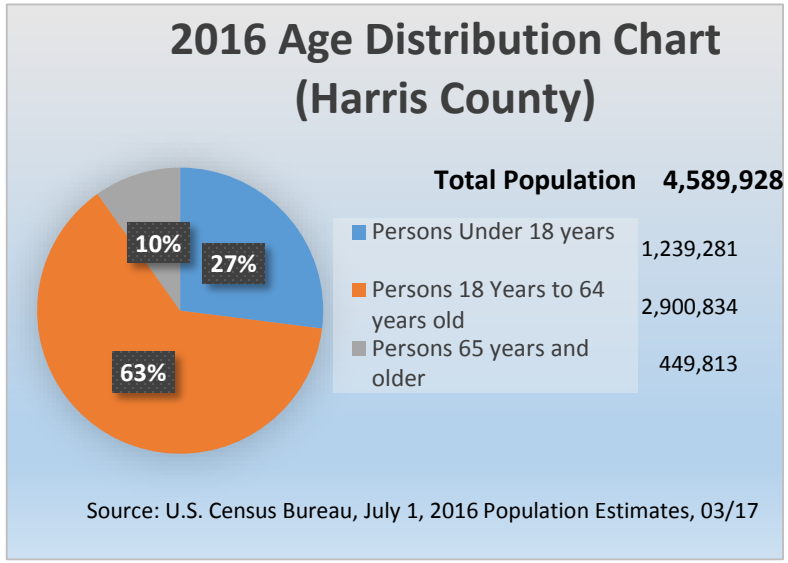
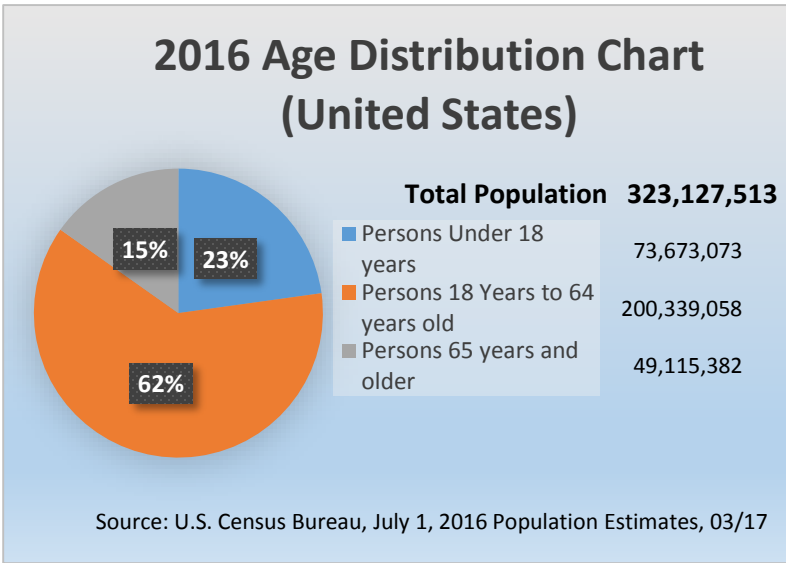
2016 Population Estimate¹	4,589,928
Age¹	
Persons under 18 years	27.00%
Persons 65 years and older	9.80%
Median Age	33.3
Race and Hispanic Origin¹	
White alone	70.00%
Black or African American alone	19.70%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.10%
Asian alone	7.20%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific 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.

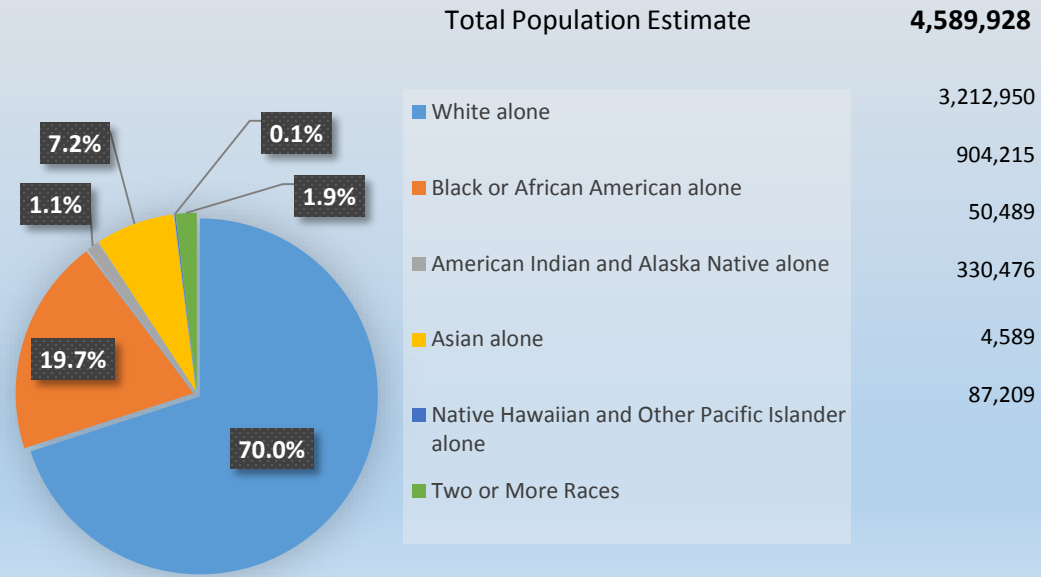
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.

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



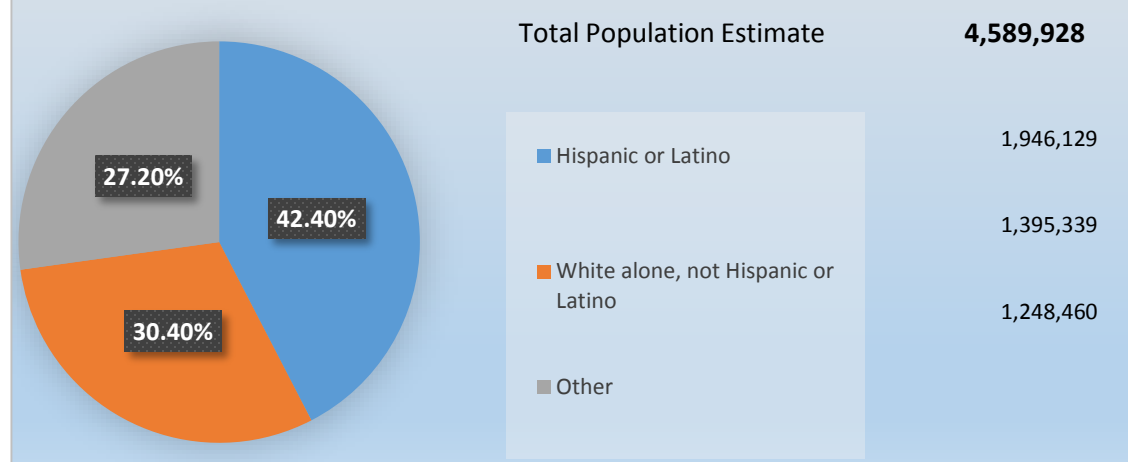


2016 Population - Race Distribution Chart (Harris County)



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

2016 Population - Ethnicity Distribution Chart (Harris County)

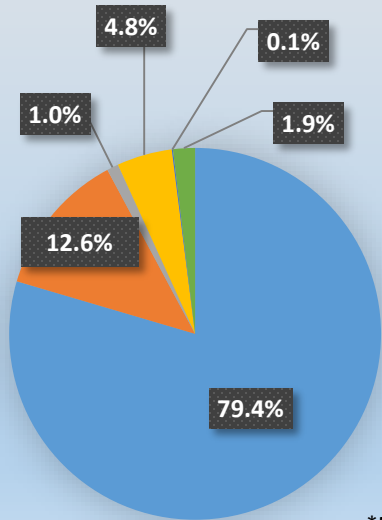


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17



2016 Population - Race Distribution Chart (Texas)

Total Population Estimate **27,862,596***

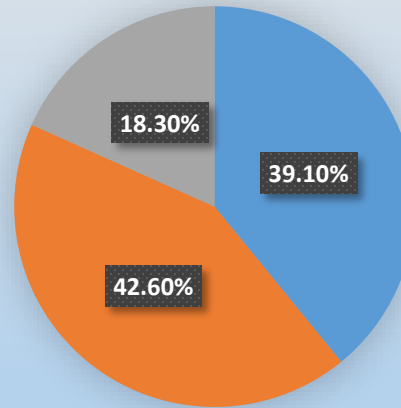


White alone	22,122,901
Black or African American alone	3,510,687
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	278,626
Asian alone	1,337,405
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	27,863
Two or More Races	529,389

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17
 *Note that the Census data set percentages add up to 99.80% and not 100%. Hence, a discrepancy of 0.20% exists corresponding to 55,725 persons.

2016 Population – Ethnicity Distribution Chart (Texas)

Total Population Estimate **27,862,596**

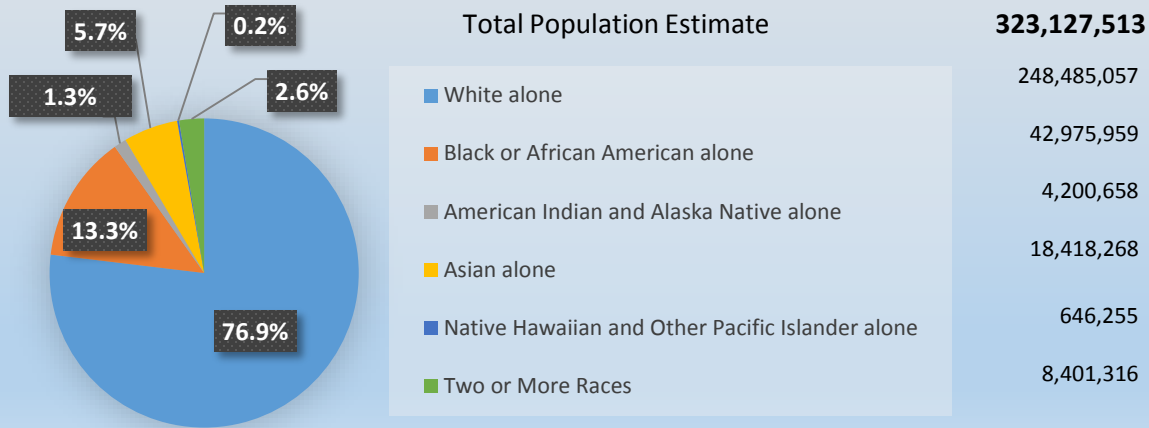


Hispanic or Latino	10,894,275
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	11,869,466
Other	5,098,855

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

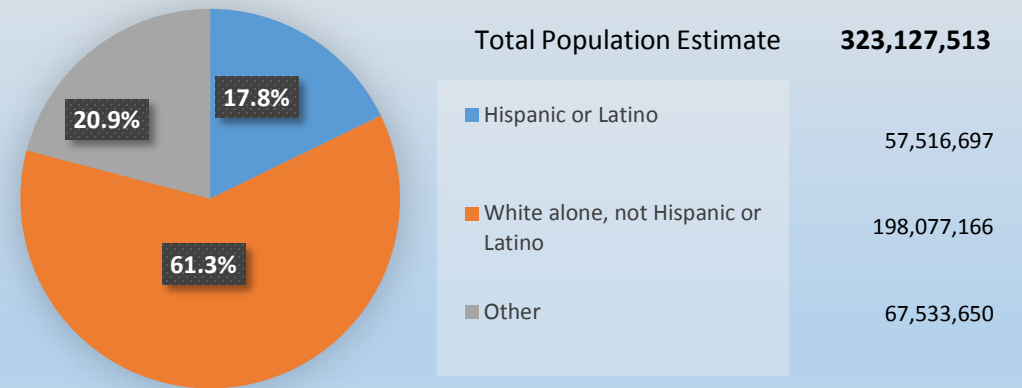


2016 Population - Race Distribution Chart (United States)



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:

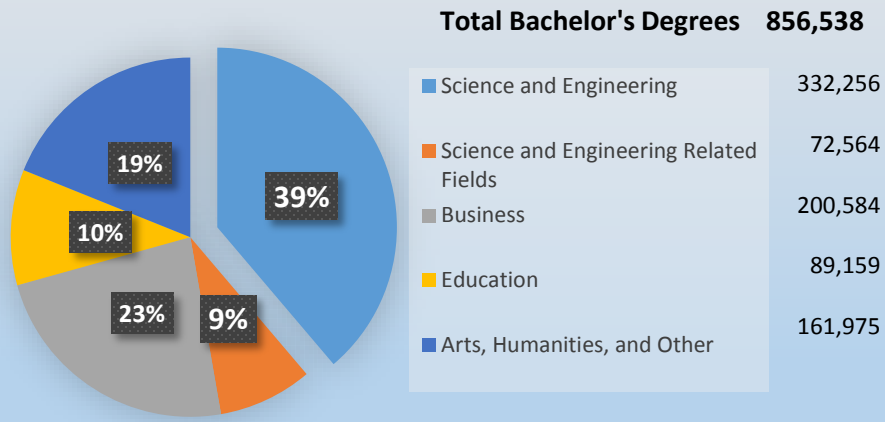
- ✓ A population of over 4.58¹ million and a civilian labor force of over 2.25² million people
- ✓ Nearly 80% of persons over the age of 25 have a high school diploma or higher³
- ✓ Close to 30% of persons over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher³
- ✓ 39% of total bachelor's degrees earned 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: ¹U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2016 Population Estimates, 03/17; ²U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Data by County 2016 Annual Averages*, 04/21/17; ³U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17; ⁴GHP



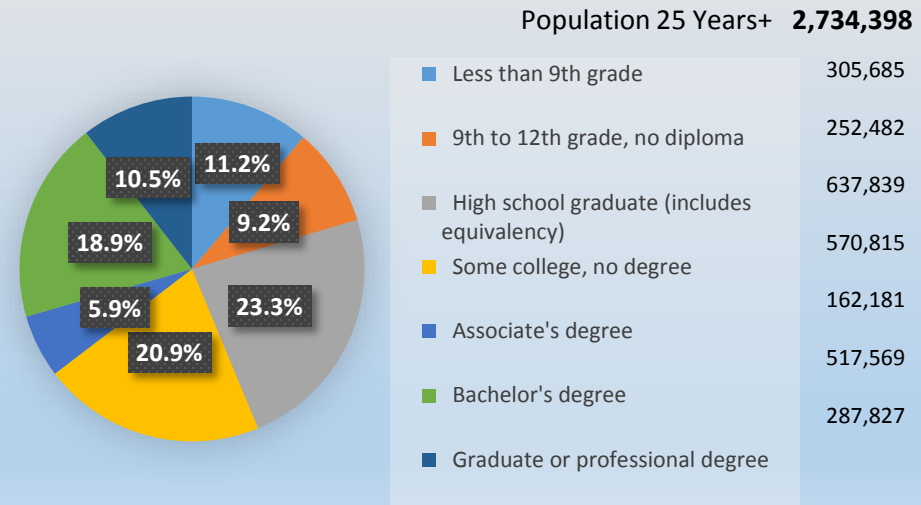
Harris County Education Attainment

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)



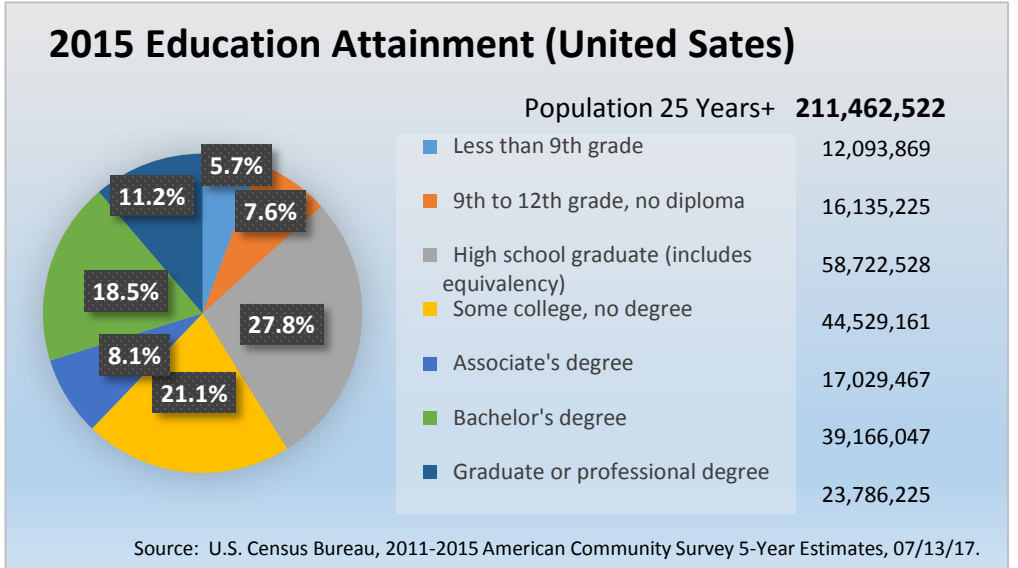
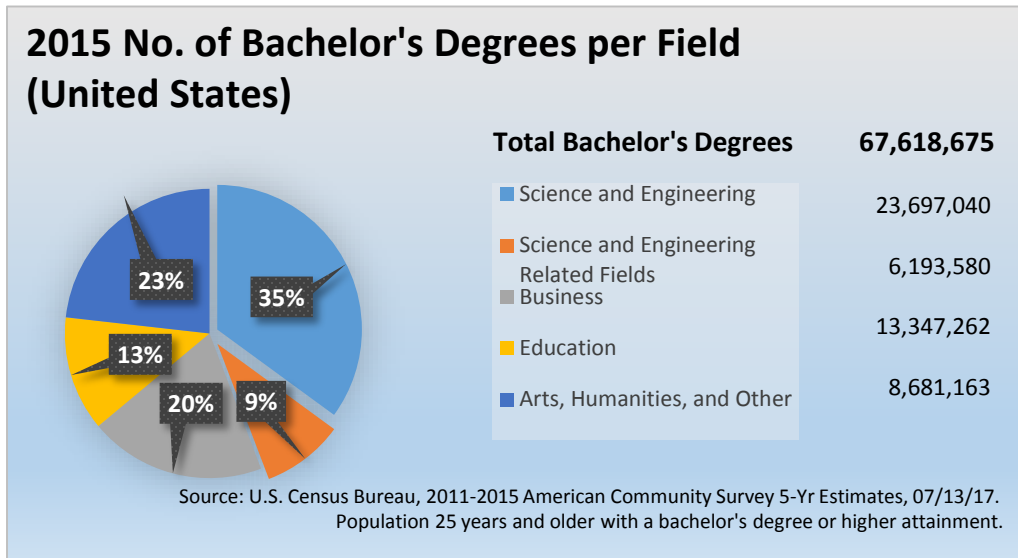
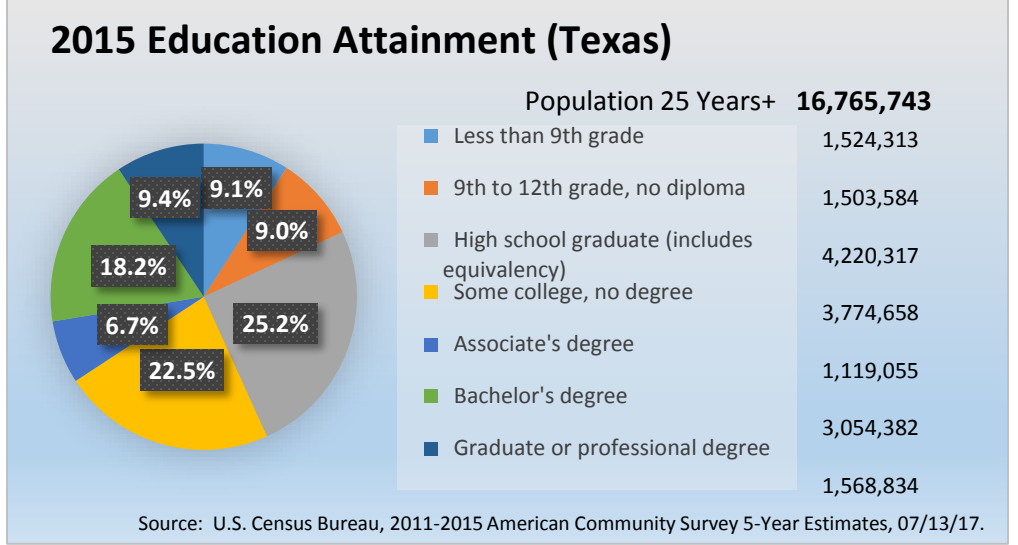
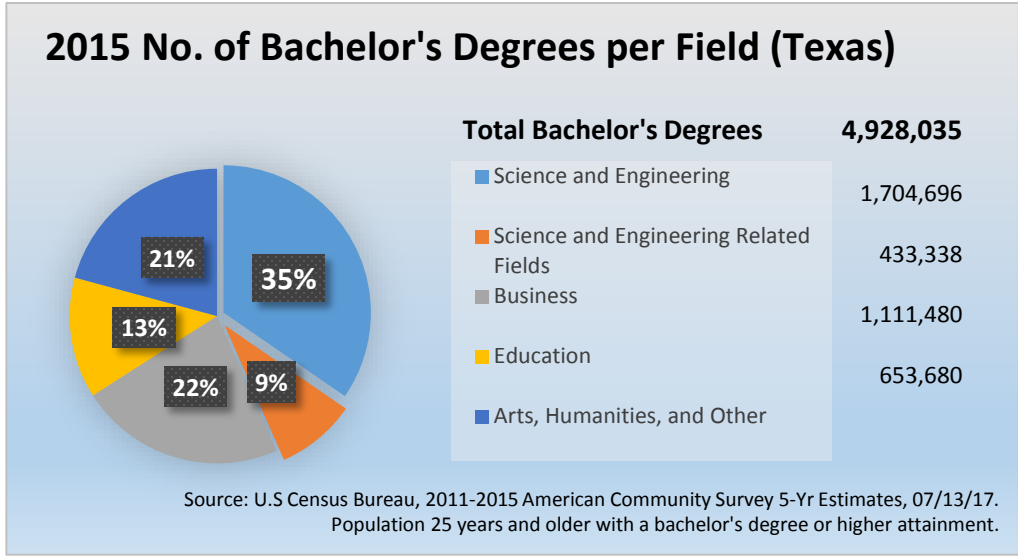
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 07/13/17.



Harris County Budget Management Department, Economic Development

Harris County Economic Highlights, 2017

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K-12 Education

- [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

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



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)	1,777
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

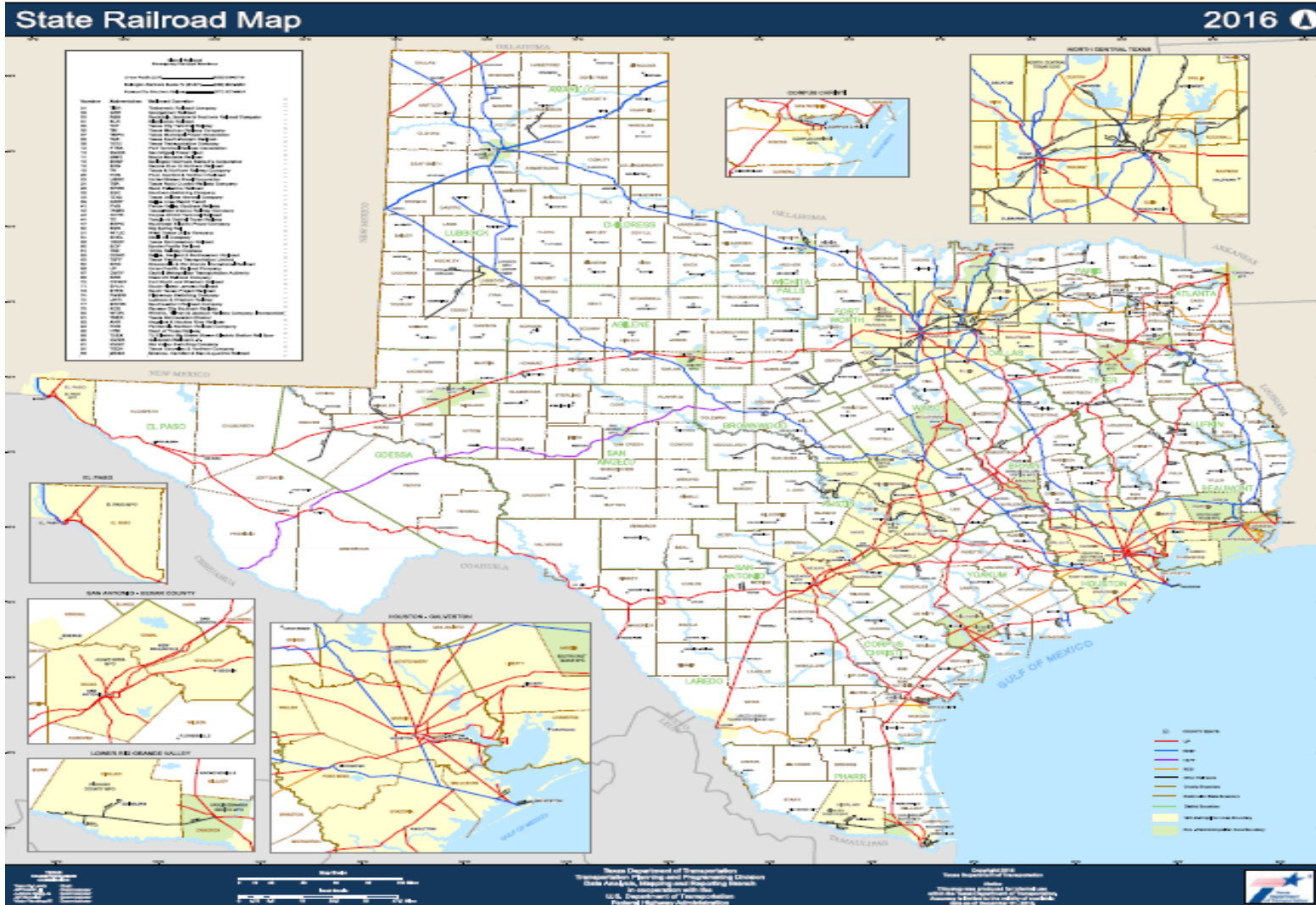
- 6 Regional Airports for public use
- 7 Regional Airports for private use

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 Area ¹	----- 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 visithoustantexas.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.