



NEWS & VIEWS



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Texas Population Fastest Growing in U.S.

Between 1995 and 2000 Texas' population is projected to grow more than any other state's: 1.4 million people. Half of the states are estimated to grow by 5 percent or more; however, according to tabulations released by the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau, Texas, Florida, California, Georgia, and North Carolina will be top population gainers by the year

2000. Florida is projected to grow by 1.1 million, California by 932,000, Georgia by 674,000, and North Carolina by 582,000.

The Hispanic population is projected to comprise a considerably larger share of the total population in all regions by the year 2025. California's Hispanic population is expected to double and will account for one-third of the nation's total Hispanic

population.

Most states, particularly those where population is expected to grow rapidly, must plan to accommodate the increased population. Adjustments will be necessary in areas such as facilities, services, schools, and roads to provide for the increased population. ■

State	Population Growth (1995-2000)		
	1995	2000	Growth
Texas	18,724,000	20,119,000	1,395,000
Florida	14,166,000	15,233,000	1,067,000
California	31,589,000	32,521,000	932,000
Georgia	7,201,000	7,875,000	674,000
North Carolina	7,195,000	7,777,000	582,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.

Lower Income, Fewer Cars

According to 1996 estimates by *Urban Decision Systems*, a marketing/consulting firm in Virginia, on average 60 percent of U.S. households have two or more cars. However, the Rio Grande Valley lags behind at less than 50 percent.

Counties with the highest proportion of multi-car households tend to have

a high proportion of two-earner households. For example, as more and more women entered the work force in the 1970s and 1980s, automobile sales boomed.

Nationally, the share of working women is 59 percent; however, in the Rio Grande Valley the percentage is much smaller; hence, the average

family income is much lower. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs financed a study which concluded that of 1,092 families surveyed in the Brownsville area, 906 had an annual household income below \$10,000 — much lower than the state average of \$16,717. A primary reason for the low income is

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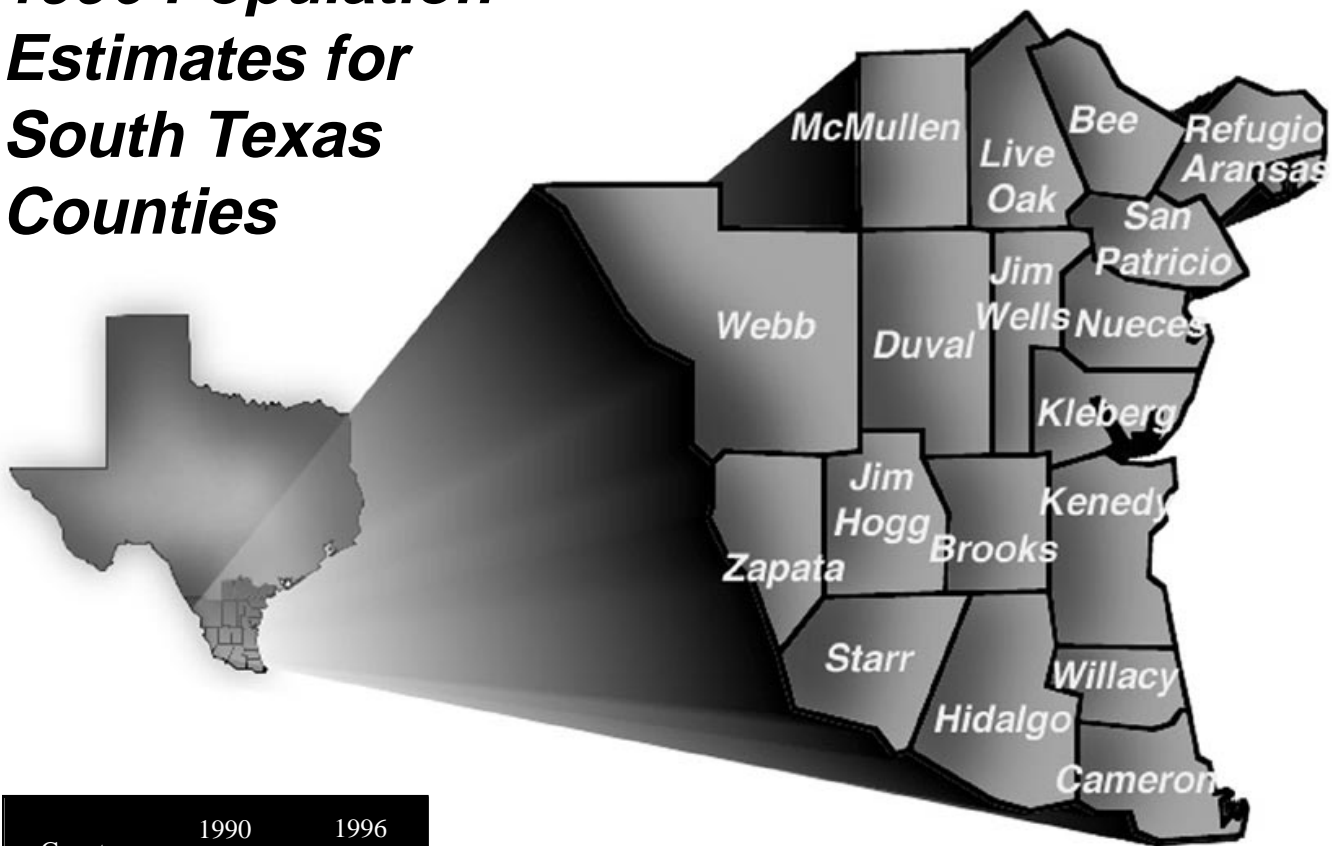
Lower Income, Fewer Cars (cont'd)

the estimated dropout rate for secondary school students (grades 7-12), says Dr. Roberto Zamora, executive director of the Texas Education Agency's Region One. In Region One's seven counties along the Texas-Mexico border, the dropout rate averaged 17.3 percent — higher

than the state rate of 14.4 percent. Many young Valley women are unable to obtain the education they need to acquire a job due to language barriers, inadequate transportation, and the need for young women to care for their younger siblings at home.

While the nation's multi-car families speed away in their shiny automobiles, many Rio Grande Valley residents are left behind in the rising dust. ☐

1996 Population Estimates for South Texas Counties



County	1990 Population	1996 Population*
Aransas	17,892	19,720
Bee	25,135	27,827
Brooks	8,204	8,396
Cameron	260,120	304,660
Duval	12,918	13,631
Hidalgo	383,545	485,332
Jim Hogg	5,109	5,467
Jim Wells	37,679	40,039
Kenedy	460	330
Kleberg	30,274	31,453
Live Oak	9,556	10,291
McMullen	817	787

County	1990 Population	1996 Population*
Nueces	291,145	309,020
Refugio	7,976	7,981
San Patricio	58,749	65,163
Starr	40,518	49,058
Webb	133,239	176,318
Willacy	17,705	19,465
Zapata	9,279	10,389

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., and Texas State Data Center, College Station, TX.

* If you would like 1996 estimates of other counties or cities in Texas, please contact our office at (210) 381-3692 or e-mail at sjsethi@panam.edu.

Unemployment: A Grim Reality of the Rio Grande Valley

November 1990 & November 1996

	Cameron	Hidalgo	Starr	Willacy
Nov. 1990	12.9%	20.5%	40.0%	20.2%
Nov. 1996	11.6%	17.9%	25.8%	17.4%

Source: Texas Labor Market Review 1990 & 1996, Texas Workforce Commission, Austin, TX.

According to the Labor Market Review from the Texas Workforce Commission, in November 1996 the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the highest unemployment rate out of all the MSAs in the State of Texas. Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito MSA and Laredo MSA followed with the second highest unemployment rate. Bryan-College Station MSA had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2 percent. ■

Did You Know?

Did you know that every day in America:

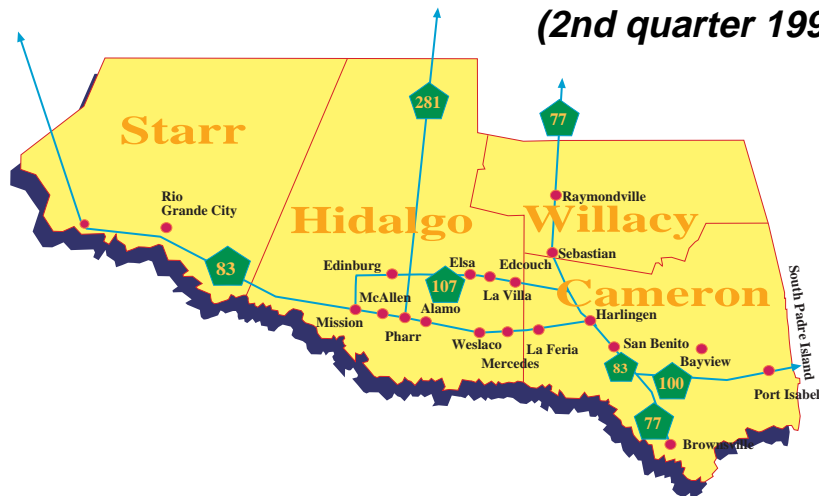
- 3,710 new homes are started, of which 2,948 are one unit structures.
- Nearly 11,000 babies are born, about 7,000 marriages take place, and more than 3,000 divorces occur.
- On average \$12 is spent on food, \$28 on housing, \$17 on transportation, and \$15 on health care per household.

The daily news can only scratch the surface of what is happening in America on a daily basis. The 116th edition of *The Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996*, released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau, serves up a smorgasbord of 1,500 tables — enough information to satiate any healthy appetite.

In addition, this year's Statistical Abstract, available at our office, carries 91 tables on the U.S. Industrial Outlook. ■

Total Employment & Weekly Wages in the Rio Grande Valley

(2nd quarter 1996)



County	Total Covered Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Cameron	92,146	\$353.01
Hidalgo	135,137	\$347.29
Starr	9,808	\$280.83
Willacy	3,904	\$317.12
Texas	8,102,026	\$518.08

Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Austin, TX.

Covered employment is the number of workers employed by employers subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act (TUCA). Excluded from coverage are employment by the Railroad Retirement Act, self-employed, and unpaid family workers.

Average weekly wage data are computed from total wages reported by all establishments subject to the TUCA. ■



Data & Information Systems Center (DISC)

DISC, at The University of Texas - Pan American, is a State Data Center Affiliate and a Member of the Texas Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Service Area:

Southernmost 19 counties of Texas: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.

Products & Services:

- Census of Population and Housing
- Census Maps & Data for Counties, Cities, Census Tracts, Block Groups, Blocks, and Zip Codes
- Population Estimates and Projections for Counties
- Economic Census (Agriculture, Construction, Government, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Services, and Wholesale Trade)
- County Business Patterns
- Employment and Unemployment Data by County
- Census Tract Factbook for the Rio Grande Valley
- Street Index by Census Tract for Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Services
- U.S. Statistical Abstracts
- Customized Consultation Services



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