



NEWS & VIEWS



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Census 2000: Census for the 21st Century

When President George Washington was handed the census results over 200 years ago the returns were written in black and the estimates of the true totals were written in red. Since then every effort has been made to count the people of United States accurately at every census. Despite its efforts, the 1990 census missed over 4 million people. With the next millennium around the corner we must be ready to conduct a census for the 21st century - one that accounts for everybody.

Dr. Martha Farnsworth Riche, Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census visited the Rio Grande Valley recently. She addressed several communities in the Valley. She said, "Innovations planned for Census 2000 are all aimed at making it easy to be counted, these run the gamut from a user friendly questionnaire to multiple mailings to use of phone interviews to multiple language assistance. Then, as insurance, we'll use statistical methods to complete the accounting of everyone to make census 2000 the most accurate census ever in the U.S."

The primary purpose of every census is to have a complete enumeration of all residents in the United States.

Women:

Marching Slowly But Surely

The past decades have been a time of continuous change in society, especially for women. Opportunities in education have helped women move from the traditional workplace at home into today's business world. According to the census bureau, women are becoming better represented in many professions. The percentage of women lawyers climbed from 15 percent in 1983 to 26 percent in 1995. Over the same period female economists have increased from 38 percent to 50 percent.

In the 1992 economic census, 6.4 million businesses were found to be owned by women, representing a third of all domestic businesses. Women owned 54 percent of the nations apparel and accessory stores and 53 percent of miscellaneous retail stores.

In 1994, women accounted for 55 percent of all college students, continuing the majority role they have occupied since 1979.

The increasing number of women in the workplace is based on better education and job opportunities. In 1995, 82 percent of female students, aged 25 and over, graduated with a high school diploma.

Women Owned Businesses — in the Rio Grande Valley

County	Total Firms	Women Owned Firms	Percent of Total
Cameron	12,322	3,332	27.00%
Hidalgo	18,154	4,671	25.70%
Starr	2,490	482	19.40%
Willacy	792	232	29.30%
Total	33,758	8,717	25.82%

*Source: 1992 Economic Census, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.

Industrial Establishments in the Rio Grande Valley by Zip Code

Zip Code	Name	Total Employees	Total Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Total Establishments
78501	McAllen	27,901	452,167	1,942
78502	McAllen	3,197	58,876	290
78503	McAllen	6,539	132,862	378
78504	McAllen	5,283	84,678	652
78505	McAllen	959	13,669	84
78516	Alamo	1,388	16,980	140
78520	Brownsville	17,322	263,473	1,286
78521	Brownsville	12,080	192,246	1,043
78522	Brownsville	396	5,655	36
78523	Brownsville	1,243	29,643	128
78526	Brownsville	141	3,026	14
78535	Combes	106	1,833	19
78537	Donna	1,412	17,016	182
78538	Edcouch	663	6,297	26
78539	Edinburg	8,912	141,901	637
78540	Edinburg	1,257	17,073	98
78543	Elsa	583	7,052	54
78545	Falcon Heights	4	43	3
78548	Grulla	45	534	10
78549	Hargill	25	561	5
78550	Harlingen	23,821	407,859	1,359
78551	Harlingen	1,736	30,990	159
78552	Harlingen	2,308	29,908	200
78553	Harlingen	396	6,380	49
78557	Hidalgo	1,244	18,138	190
78559	La Feria	488	6,694	80
78560	La Joya	128	1,437	24
78563	Linn	37	474	6
78566	Los Fresnos	516	7,577	69
78567	Los Indios	21	155	4
78569	Lyford	117	1,528	24
78570	Mercedes	2,228	32,249	191
78572	Mission	6,257	91,334	610
78573	Mission	637	9,417	76
78575	Olmito	118	1,715	34
78576	Penitas	37	361	10
78577	Pharr	6,806	98,683	605
78578	Port Isabel	1,503	17,412	222
78579	Progreso	137	1,988	27
78580	Raymondville	1,651	22,767	158
78582	Rio Grande City	2,862	33,899	287
78583	Rio Hondo	233	3,426	41
78584	Roma	710	7,997	129
78586	San Benito	4,668	75,920	375
78588	San Isidro	7	133	4
78589	San Juan	1,374	19,223	171
78592	Santa Maria	6	55	4
78594	Sebastian	36	1,462	9
78595	Sullivan City	48	595	6
78596	Weslaco	8,786	149,634	547
78597	South Padre Island	3,174	28,817	263
78598	Port Mansfield	28	269	12
78599	Weslaco	375	6,479	77

*Source: Zip Code Business Patterns, 1994, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

If you would like industrial data by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code from The Zip Code Business Patterns, please contact our office by phone at (210) 381-3692 or e-mail sjsethi@panam.edu

Income and Poverty Estimates by County

Income patterns have changed since 1990 (the last census), therefore, it is important to have new estimates for businesses and governments to make better decisions with more timely, and accurate information. Current estimates of income and poverty are also helpful in improving the administration of public programs and the allocation of federal and state funds to local jurisdictions.

The Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human

Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Labor, supported the Census Bureau in their 'small area income and poverty estimates program'. This program provides estimates of income and poverty for States and counties between decennial censuses.

According to the Census Bureau, from 1989 (the reference year for 1990 census data on income) to 1993, median household income declined by 7 percent, and the persons below

the poverty level increased by 25 percent, but, these changes were not uniform throughout the country. In Florida the number of poor people increased by 52 percent, they increased by 44 percent in California, but there was only a 4 percent increase in the number of poor people in Texas. The table below shows the number of people in poverty, and median household income for Texas and the southernmost 19 counties of Texas as of 1993.

South Texas

Income and Poverty Estimates by County

County	Total Number of Persons in Poverty	Total Percent of Persons in Poverty	Median Household Income (in dollars)
Aransas	4,734	22.6	23,323
Bee	6,404	29.7	23,255
Brooks	3,212	38.7	15,392
Cameron	114,241	38.1	19,283
Duval	4,518	34.8	16,162
Hidalgo	189,729	40.9	18,087
Jim Hogg	1,621	31.4	18,563
Jim Wells	11,791	30.0	20,645
Kenedy	111	25.7	19,500
Kleberg	7,882	25.6	24,756
Live Oak	2,019	19.7	24,817
McMullen	36	4.4	29,794
Nueces	71,082	22.9	28,501
Refugio	1,699	21.7	24,011
San Patricio	14,937	23.4	25,989
Starr	25,480	51.0	12,184
Webb	59,891	36.7	20,471
Willacy	7,984	41.6	16,845
Zapata	3,826	35.2	17,609
Texas	3,591,325	19.6	28,803

*Source: 1993 Income & Poverty Estimates, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.



Data & Information Systems Center (DISC)

The 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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