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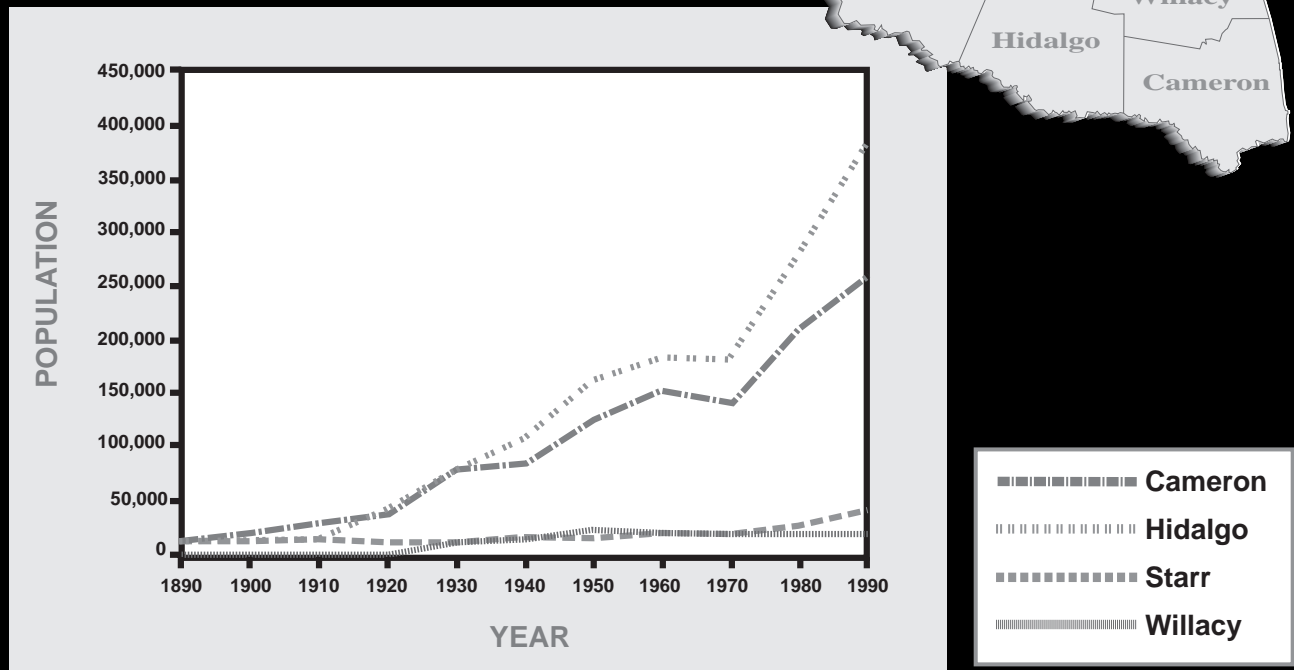
3rd Quarter 1997

Member of the Texas Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Rio Grande Valley, Over the Years

When Texas joined the Union, the Rio Grande Valley (as we know it today) did not have the same geographical designation. The Valley did not assume its present shape (to include Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties) until the early 1900s.

*Lower Rio Grande Valley Population
(1890 to 1990)*



	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
CAMERON	14,424	16,095	27,158	36,662	77,540	83,202	125,170	151,098	140,368	209,727	260,120
HIDALGO	6,534	6,837	13,728	38,110	77,004	106,059	160,446	180,904	181,535	283,229	383,545
STARR	10,749	11,469	13,151	11,089	11,409	13,312	13,948	17,137	17,707	27,266	40,518
WILLACY	*	*	*	*	10,499	13,230	20,920	20,084	15,570	17,495	17,705

Over the years, the Rio Grande Valley has seen steady growth. The percentage increase in population from 1980 to 1990 was 30.53% and that from 1990 to 1997 was 27.45%. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1995 the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA was the third fastest-growing MSA and the Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito MSA was the seventh fastest growing MSA in the country.

County City	Population 1980	Population 1990	Percentage Change 1980-1990	Population Jan. 1997	Population 1990-1997
CAMERON COUNTY	209,727	260,120	24.0	318,132	22.3
Bayview Town	291	231	-20.6	296	28.1
Brownsville City	84,997	98,962	16.4	134,267	35.7
Cameron Park CDP	5,721	3,802	-33.5	4,760	25.2
Combes Town	1,488	2,042	37.2	2,631	28.8
Encantada-Ranchito	-	1,143	-	1,427	24.8
Harlingen City	43,543	48,746	11.9	57,240	17.4
Indian Lake Town	-	390	-	447	14.6
La Feria City	3,495	4,360	24.7	5,541	27.1
Laguna Heights	-	1,671	-	2,128	27.3
Laguna Vista	632	1,166	84.5	1,533	31.5
Los Fresnos	2,173	2,473	13.8	3,127	26.4
Palm Valley Town	-	1,199	-	1,335	11.3
Port Isabel City	3,769	4,467	18.5	5,324	19.2
Primera Town	1,380	2,030	47.1	2,713	33.6
Rancho Viejo	-	885	-	1,108	25.2
Rangerville	-	280	-	339	21.1
Rio Hondo City	1,673	1,793	7.2	2,353	31.2
San Benito City	17,988	20,125	11.9	23,940	19.0
Santa Rosa Town	1,889	2,223	17.7	2,867	29.0
South Padre Island	791	1,677	112.0	2,215	32.1
HIDALGO COUNTY	283,229	383,545	35.4	506,919	32.2
Abram-Perezville	-	3,999	-	5,062	26.6
Alamo City	5,831	8,210	40.8	11,853	44.4
Alton City	2,732	3,069	12.3	3,536	15.2
Donna City	9,952	12,652	27.1	15,437	22.0
Edcouch City	3,092	2,878	-6.9	3,810	32.4
Edinburg City	24,075	29,885	24.1	41,974	40.5
Elsa City	5,061	5,242	3.6	6,461	23.3
Hidalgo City	2,288	3,292	43.9	5,084	54.4
La Homa CDP	-	1,403	-	1,837	30.9
La Joya City	2,018	2,604	29.0	3,761	44.4
La Villa City	1,442	1,388	-3.7	1,889	36.1
Lopezville CDP	-	2,827	-	3,660	29.5
McAllen City	66,279	84,021	26.8	103,486	23.2
Mercedes City	11,851	12,694	7.1	14,762	16.3
Mila Doce CDP	-	2,089	-	2,690	28.8
Mission City	22,589	28,653	26.8	39,363	37.4
Palmhurst City	364	326	-10.4	440	35.0
Palmview City	674	1,818	169.7	2,545	40.0
Penitas CDP	-	1,077	-	1,388	28.9
Pharr City	21,381	32,921	54.0	40,936	24.3
Progreso CDP	1,456	1,951	34.0	3,158	61.9
Progreso Lakes	-	154	-	214	39.0
San Juan City	7,608	10,815	42.2	21,147	95.5
Scissors CDP	-	1,513	-	1,946	28.6
Sullivan City CDP	-	2,371	-	3,038	28.1
Weslaco City	19,331	21,877	13.2	26,503	21.1
STARR COUNTY	27,266	40,518	48.6	49,765	22.8
Escobares CDP	-	1,705	-	2,110	23.8
La Grulla	1,442	1,335	-7.4	1,752	31.2
Rio Grande City	8,930	9,891	10.8	12,224	23.6
Roma	3,384	8,059	138.2	10,455	29.7
WILLACY COUNTY	17,495	17,705	1.2	19,715	11.4
Lyford	1,618	1,674	3.5	1,989	18.8
Raymondville	9,493	8,880	-6.5	9,582	7.9
San Perlita	475	512	7.8	574	12.1
Sebastian CDP	-	1,598	-	1,783	11.6

Minority Businesses in the Rio Grande Valley

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts an economic census of businesses every five years. Results from the economic survey of businesses show that total number of U.S. firms increased from 13.7 million in 1987 to 17.3 million in 1992, a 26 percent increase. The increase for minority owned businesses during the same period was 60 percent, from 1.3 million firms to 2.1 million firms. Minority owned businesses are those owned by African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

The survey also shows that African American women owned the largest share (39 percent or 277,246) of firms owned by minority women, while Hispanic men owned the largest share (42 percent or 525,330) of firms owned by minority men.

Among minority firms, Hispanic businesses showed the largest numeric increase at 349,335 between 1987 and 1992, followed by Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Alaska Native firms (229,715), and African American businesses (196,747).

Three states—California, Texas, and Florida—accounted for 49 percent of the total number of minority-owned firms. Hawaii had the highest percentage of firms owned by minorities at 52 percent and the District of Columbia ranked second with 36 percent of all firms.

The table below shows where the Rio Grande Valley stands in respect to minority owned businesses.

Minority Owned Businesses (Firms) in the Rio Grande Valley

County	Total Firms (Minority and Non-Minority)	Hispanic Owned	Black Owned	Other Minority Owned
Cameron	12,322	6,938	less than 100	126
Hidalgo	18,154	11,550	less than 100	299
Starr	2,490	2,181	less than 100	less than 100
Willacy	792	380	less than 100	less than 100
Total	33,758	21,049	*	425

Source: 1992 Economic Census, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC

Note: The data in this report were collected as part of the 1992 Economic Census from a large sample of all non-farm businesses filing tax forms as sole proprietorships, partnerships, or subchapter S corporations (corporations other than subchapter S were excluded), and with receipts of \$500 or more in 1992. The report does not include C corporations, which are legally incorporated businesses with no limits on their number of shareholders. The information was collected from a sample survey and is therefore subject to sampling variability as well as reporting and coverage errors. Exact number of minority-owned businesses, if less than 100, is not reported due to confidentiality issues.



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.

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- Census Maps & Data for Counties, Cities, Census Tracts, Block Groups, Blocks, and Zip Codes
- Population Estimates and Projections for Counties
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- 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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