



NEWS & VIEWS



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Member of the Texas Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Data and Information Systems Center Moves to New Trade and Technology Building

The Data and Information Systems Center (DISC) recently moved from its old location at the College of Business Administration to the International Trade and Technology (IT²) building on 4th Street across from the University Book Store.



The IT² building houses several other centers of the Office of Center Operations and Community Services (CoSERVE) Division of UT-Pan American. The building's dedication ceremony was held on June 26th and was attended by over 2,000 people. U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Robert L. Mallett was the keynote speaker.

Secretary Mallett and Congressman Ruben Hinojosa listen attentively as Dr. S.J. Sethi, Director of DISC, gives a presentation on the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities of DISC.



Affirmative Action Data for MSAs in the Rio Grande Valley

Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito MSA

	Population	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Total	318,132	128,771	111,113	17,658	13.7
Male	152,303	71,376	61,053	10,323	14.5
Female	165,829	57,395	50,060	7,335	12.8
White	262,245	105,696	91,779	13,917	13.2
Male	125,762	58,616	50,539	8,077	13.8
Female	136,483	47,080	41,240	5,840	12.4
Black	1,105	392	304	88	22.4
Male	569	191	138	53	27.7
Female	536	201	166	35	17.4
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	753	290	215	75	25.9
Male	382	156	109	47	30.1
Female	371	134	106	28	20.9
Asian & Pacific Islander	786	372	350	22	5.9
Male	292	125	122	3	2.4
Female	494	247	228	19	7.7
Other Races	53,244	22,022	18,465	3,557	16.2
Male	25,298	12,288	10,144	2,144	17.4
Female	27,946	9,734	8,321	1,413	14.5
Hispanic (1)	260,004	103,897	87,709	16,188	15.6
Male	123,805	57,383	47,922	9,461	16.5
Female	136,199	46,514	39,787	6,727	14.5
Minorities (2)	315,892	126,973	107,043	19,930	15.7
Male	150,346	70,143	58,435	11,708	16.7
Female	165,546	56,830	48,608	8,222	14.5

McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA

	Population	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Total	506,919	205,082	161,835	43,247	21.1
Male	244,564	116,769	91,733	25,036	21.4
Female	262,355	88,313	70,102	18,211	20.6
White	378,973	150,034	120,448	29,586	19.7
Male	182,902	85,244	67,814	17,430	20.4
Female	196,071	64,790	52,634	12,156	18.8
Black	1,348	671	537	134	20.0
Male	702	400	313	87	21.8
Female	646	271	224	47	17.3
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	852	324	212	112	34.6
Male	437	188	146	42	22.3
Female	415	136	66	70	51.5
Asian & Pacific Islander	1,455	756	636	120	15.9
Male	694	372	347	25	6.7
Female	761	384	289	95	24.7
Other Races	124,291	53,296	40,001	13,295	24.9
Male	59,829	30,564	23,113	7,451	24.4
Female	64,462	22,732	16,888	5,844	25.7
Hispanic (1)	432,084	176,978	135,880	41,098	23.2
Male	208,468	100,651	77,057	23,594	23.4
Female	223,616	76,327	58,823	17,504	22.9
Minorities (2)	560,030	232,025	177,266	54,759	23.6
Male	270,130	132,175	100,976	31,199	23.6
Female	289,900	99,850	76,290	23,560	23.6

Notes:

- (1) Hispanic Persons are of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or South American or some other Spanish Origin.
- (2) Sum of Hispanic and all races except White. Some duplication is possible since Hispanics may include nonwhite races.

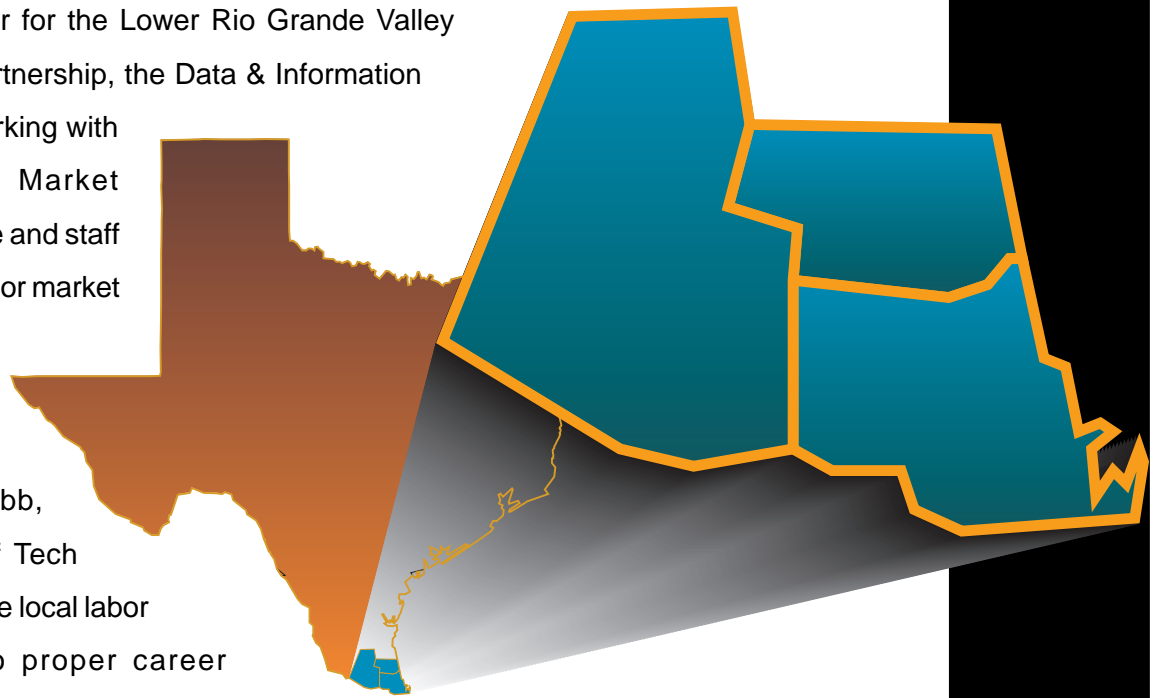
All figures are based upon 1990 Census ratios. Population from State Data Center for July 1997. Source: Texas Workforce Commission, 1998, Austin, Texas

Labor Market Information

Under a contract with Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc., managing partner for the Lower Rio Grande Valley School-to-Careers Partnership, the Data & Information Systems Center is working with Tech Prep's Labor Market Information Committee and staff to develop the 1998 labor market report for the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

According to Pat Bubb, Executive Director of Tech Prep, the analysis of the local labor market is crucial to proper career counseling and targeting of educational and training dollars and has been identified as a major need for School-to-Careers implementation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron Counties). Since School-to-Careers involves building connections between the Lower Rio Grande Valley's education and job-training systems, conducting a labor-market analysis that meets the needs of the entities providing job-training services for the Valley is very desirable.

Finally, the work being done is crucial to the economic development of the region, said Bubb. The Tech Prep/DISC partnership in this study should produce the outcomes that the region needs to guide education and training providers in meeting the needs of the private sector to help sustain the economic growth of the region. In addition, this study will provide the information that is crucial to informing students and parents about the world of work and the importance of having a strong academic and technical education such as Tech Prep/School-to-Careers options available at South Texas Community College in McAllen, Texas State Technical College in Harlingen, and Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. Many of these programs allow interested, participating students to continue for a baccalaureate degree and to prepare for a career that is of interest to them.





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



COSERVE (Office of Center Operations and Community Services) is the community service component of UT-Pan American.

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