

## TEXAS POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2010 TO 2050

### In this Brief:

- The latest population projections include more recent migration trends, a new race/ethnicity category, and an expansion of the age distribution to 95 years plus.
- The newly added non-Hispanic Asian group is projected to grow at the fastest rate, growing five-fold by 2050.
- The Hispanic population will likely surpass the non-Hispanic White population by 2022 but is not projected to make up the majority of the state population during the projections horizon.
- Much of the population growth in Texas is projected to come from the large urban counties of Harris, Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant and neighboring suburban counties. The fastest growth is projected to occur in these suburban counties as well as in the Permian Basin area.

The Texas Demographic Center produces, interprets, and disseminates demographic information to facilitate data driven decision making for the benefit of Texans.

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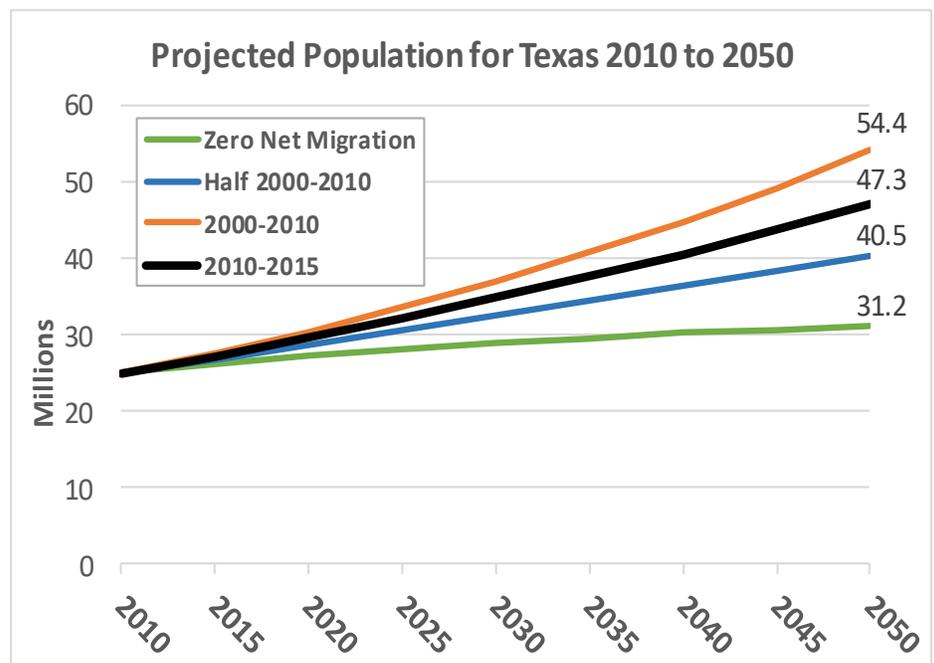
The Texas Demographic Center produces population projections for 40 years beyond the most recent Census to help planners and policymakers anticipate future demand for services and pressures on infrastructure. In our most recent set of projections, one migration scenario is employed in which the migration patterns observed in Texas between 2010 and 2015 are assumed throughout the projections horizon. Additionally, this updated set of projections includes a new race/ethnicity category, non-Hispanic Asian, and expands the age distribution to 95 years and older.

This document provides a brief overview of the statewide population projections for 2010 to 2050 using the migration trends observed in Texas between 2010-2015. This scenario represents our recommended scenario as it most closely reflects the most recent migration trends. Projections using the previous migration scenarios can be accessed by contacting our office. Our full methodology can be found on our [website](#).

Migration rates between 2010 and 2015 were somewhat lower than migration rates observed in Texas between 2000 and 2010. This updated scenario yields a state population approaching 47.3 million by 2050, which represents an 88.3 percent increase over that period.

### Projected Geographic Distribution of the Population

Our population projections suggest the majority of Texas counties will experience continued steady population growth between 2010 and 2050. This is especially the case for suburban



## 2010-2015 Migration Trends

Domestic migration made up a larger share of total net migration between 2010 and 2015, while international migration made up a larger share of total net migration between 2000 and 2010. This is one of the most important key differences in how the migration trends employed in the latest population projections differ from the migration trends observed between 2000 and 2010.

On average, net migration contributed approximately 178,000 migrants annually to the Texas population between 2000 and 2010. By contrast, between 2010 and 2015, net migration contributed an average of 198,000 migrants annually to the state population. In essence, an additional 20,000 net migrants were added annually to the Texas population during this most recent migration period than during the last decade.

Net migration to the state is comprised of domestic migration (or migrants moving to Texas from other states) and international migration (or immigrants moving to Texas from another country). Between 2000 and 2010, international migration made up over half, or 52 percent, of the total net migration to the state, and domestic migration contributed about 48 percent of the total net migration. In contrast, between 2010 and 2015, domestic migration made up over 61 percent of the total net migration to the state, compared to less than 39 percent added from international migration.

These differences in the migration patterns employed in our most recent population projections have significant implications for the projected findings. For instance, certain parts of the state are most impacted by population changes associated with domestic migration, whereas other parts of the state are more impacted by changes in international migration. The latest projections indicate faster and more growth in areas characterized by high domestic migration and slower growth in some border counties and other areas of the state with high shares of international migration. Additionally, domestic migration is more often characterized by migration of non-Hispanic Whites, whereas international migration to Texas is more often characterized by migration of Hispanics. Therefore, the most recent projections employing the 2010 to 2015 migration patterns produce an increased rate of growth for the non-Hispanic White population and a slower rate of growth for Hispanics. Indeed, if the patterns of strong domestic migration (mostly comprised of migration by non-Hispanic Whites) and a smaller share of international migration continues into the future, our projections indicate this pattern could mitigate and even compensate for the aging effect of the Baby Boom generation on the Texas population.

These projections, like all projections, are beholden to their underlying assumptions, which may or may not occur. One such key assumption is the migration scenario. Migration trends to Texas between 2010 and 2015 represent a high migration period, particularly domestic migration of non-Hispanic Whites. More recent data, yet to be incorporated into the Population Estimates and Projections Program, indicate slower and more diversified migration rates to Texas. As we continue to diligently observe emerging demographic trends in Texas and incorporate new data, we will update our projections.

counties surrounding the large urban centers of Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin. All of these suburban counties are projected to experience a growth rate greater than that of the State as a whole, with 25 of these counties projected to more than double their populations by 2050. Additionally, a number of counties in the Permian Basin and surrounding the Midland-Odessa area will also see continued growth. Although many of the large urban counties are also projected to experience high growth rates, only Harris, Bexar, and Travis Counties are expected to grow faster than the State. These projections also indicate slower growth in areas of the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso County. Lastly, our projections suggest continued population decline in 99 counties, located mostly in West Texas,

parts of East Texas, and parts of South Texas.

## Projections by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity

### Age

The current population projections expand the age distribution to include the population aged 95 years and older. This age group is captured in Tables 1 and 2 below in the 85 plus age category. When compared to the other age categories, the age category including Texans over 85 years of age is projected to grow at the fastest rate. The eldest seniors, those 85 years of age and older, are projected to nearly quintuple in size between 2010 and 2050, approaching 1.5 million. The age category including those 65 to 84 years of age is projected to

be the second fastest growing age group, nearly tripling in size by 2050 to a population of over 6.8 million. The younger age categories are projected to continue a slower but steady growth, with children, ages 0 to 4 and 5 to 17, projected to be the slowest growing age groups.

**Sex**

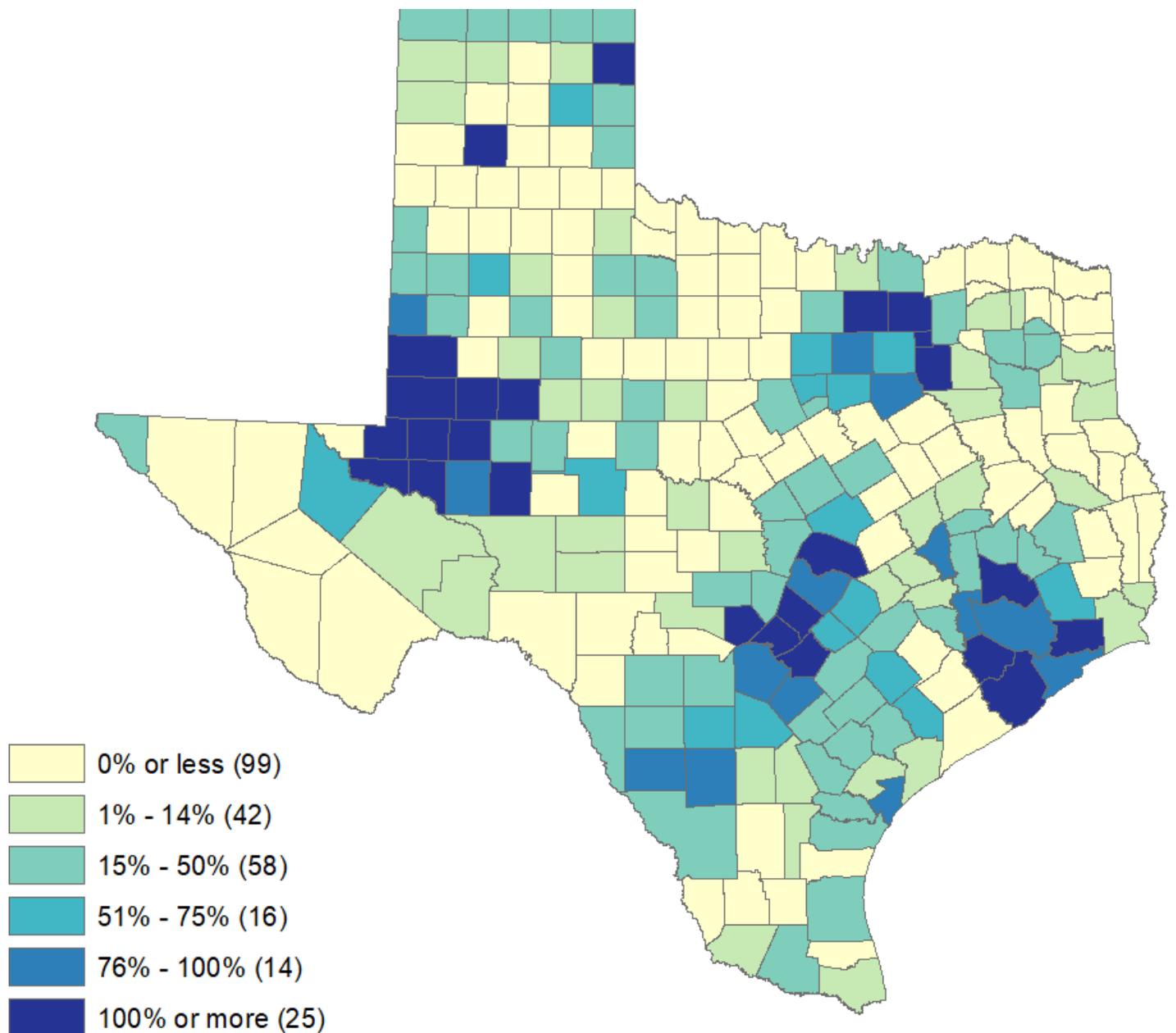
The 2010 Census showed nearly equal proportions of males and females in the State, with slightly more females than males. Both groups are projected to approach 24 million by 2050. The sex ratio is projected to remain about the same

throughout the projections horizon and ends with slightly more females than males.

**Race/Ethnicity**

This most recent set of projections includes the addition of the non-Hispanic Asian race/ethnicity category. In previous projections, the non-Hispanic Asian group was part of the non-Hispanic Other racial/ethnic category. Projections indicate this new race/ethnicity group, non-Hispanic Asians, will grow at the fastest rate, when compared to other racial/ethnic categories. The non-Hispanic Asian population is projected to near 6 million by 2050, with a

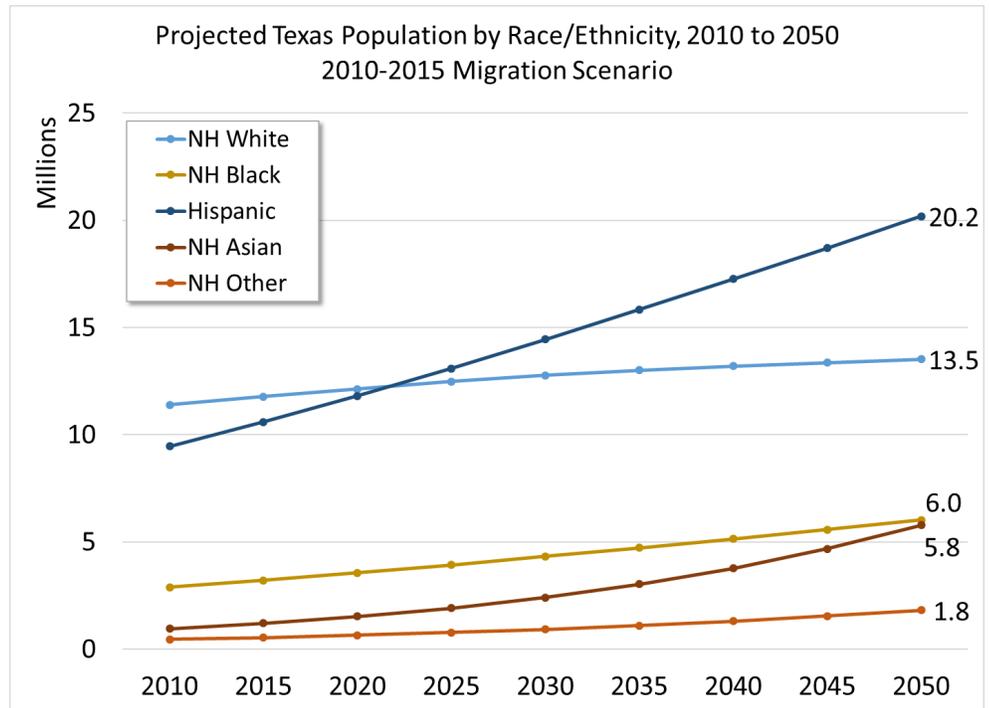
**Projected Percent Population Change in Texas Counties, 2010 to 2050  
2010-2015 Migration Scenario**



population growth rate of more than 5 times as the 2010 population. The non-Hispanic Asian population is projected to make up over 12 percent of the total State population in 2050.

The non-Hispanic Other race/ethnicity category, consisting mostly of population of two or more races, continues to grow rapidly and is projected to grow to near 2 million by 2050, tripling in size during this time period.

The Hispanic population is growing at a rapid rate as well as increasing its proportion of the total State population. Our projections suggest the Hispanic population will more than double its size in 2010 to over 20 million by 2050. The non-Hispanic Black population is also projected to double in size, growing to over 6 million by 2050. The non-Hispanic White population is projected to grow at a steady but slower pace relative to the other race/ethnicity categories, growing to a total population of 13.5 million by 2050. Our population projections



suggest the Hispanic population will likely surpass the non-Hispanic White population in size by 2022. However, the Hispanic population is not projected to make up a majority of the Texas population throughout this projection's 2050 horizon.

**Table 1. Texas Population 2000, 2010 and Projected Population, 2020-2050 by Select Characteristics**

Population Characteristics	Census 2000	Census 2010	Population Projections, 2010-2015 Migration Scenario			
			2020	2030	2040	2050
<b>Total Population</b>	20,851,820	25,145,561	29,677,668	34,894,452	40,686,496	47,342,105
<b>Male</b>	10,352,910	12,472,280	14,740,035	17,341,921	20,244,206	23,615,080
<b>Female</b>	10,498,910	12,673,281	14,937,633	17,552,531	20,442,290	23,727,025
<b>NH White</b>	10,933,313	11,397,345	12,138,523	12,774,056	13,203,514	13,523,839
<b>NH Black</b>	2,364,255	2,886,825	3,557,892	4,322,983	5,141,963	6,030,795
<b>NH Asian</b>	554,445	948,426	1,525,540	2,414,778	3,772,186	5,782,879
<b>NH Other</b>	330,141	452,044	651,054	929,686	1,308,013	1,812,842
<b>Hispanic</b>	6,669,666	9,460,921	11,804,659	14,452,949	17,260,820	20,191,750
<b>0-4 Years</b>	1,624,628	1,928,473	2,115,105	2,414,601	2,675,179	3,017,096
<b>5-17 Years</b>	4,262,131	4,937,351	5,400,024	6,037,081	6,895,478	7,730,354
<b>18-44 Years</b>	8,683,202	9,644,824	11,285,365	13,114,665	14,924,024	17,094,607
<b>45-64 Years</b>	4,209,327	6,033,027	6,965,146	7,751,616	9,282,871	11,193,374
<b>65-84 Years</b>	1,834,592	2,296,707	3,492,480	4,962,366	5,865,629	6,811,385
<b>85 Years Plus</b>	237,940	305,179	419,548	614,123	1,043,315	1,495,289

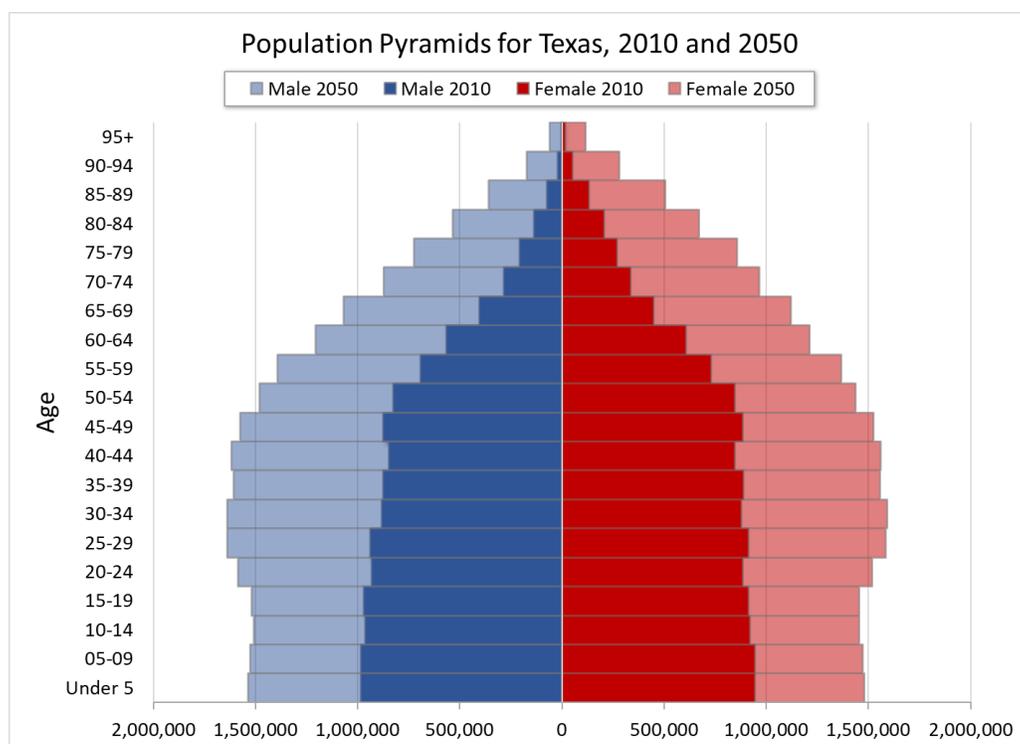
**Table 2. Texas Projected Numeric and Percent Change, 2010 to 2050 by Select Characteristics**

Population Characteristics	Projected Numeric Change from 2010, 2010-2015 Migration Scenario				Projected Percent Change from 2010, 2010-2015 Migration Scenario			
	2020	2030	2040	2050	2020	2030	2040	2050
Total Population	4,532,107	9,748,891	15,540,935	22,196,544	18.02	38.77	61.80	88.27
Male	2,267,755	4,869,641	7,771,926	11,142,800	18.18	39.04	62.31	89.34
Female	2,264,352	4,879,250	7,769,009	11,053,744	17.87	38.50	61.30	87.22
NH White	741,178	1,376,711	1,806,169	2,126,494	6.50	12.08	15.85	18.66
NH Black	671,067	1,436,158	2,255,138	3,143,970	23.25	49.75	78.12	108.91
NH Asian	577,114	1,466,352	2,823,760	4,834,453	60.85	154.61	297.73	509.73
NH Other	199,010	477,642	855,969	1,360,798	44.02	105.66	189.36	301.03
Hispanic	2,343,738	4,992,028	7,799,899	10,730,829	24.77	52.76	82.44	113.42
0-4 Years	186,632	486,128	746,706	1,088,623	9.68	25.21	38.72	56.45
5-17 Years	462,673	1,099,730	1,958,127	2,793,003	9.37	22.27	39.66	56.57
18-44 Years	1,640,541	3,469,841	5,279,200	7,449,783	17.01	35.98	54.74	77.24
45-64 Years	932,119	1,718,589	3,249,844	5,160,347	15.45	28.49	53.87	85.53
65-84 Years	1,195,773	2,665,659	3,568,922	4,514,678	52.06	116.06	155.39	196.57
85 Years Plus	114,369	308,944	738,136	1,190,110	37.48	101.23	241.87	389.97

### Projected Age Structure of the Population

Population pyramids for Texas in 2010 and 2050 reveal key changes in the sex and age

structure. Most strikingly, the projected population pyramid for Texas in 2050 loses much of its pyramidal shape and begins to look more like a rectangle, with a slightly tapered base — indicating decreasing fertility rates, and a broader “peak” — representing the growing proportion of those in the older age categories. While the older age categories, ages 60 plus, are projected to include more females than males, the age categories including those under 60 years are projected to include more males.



### Population Growth and Decline in Texas Counties

Numerically, much of the population growth is projected to come from the large urban counties of Harris, Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant, with each of these

counties projected to add over one million people by 2050. Other counties projected to add over one million in population during this time period, include Fort Bend, Collin, Denton, Williamson, and Montgomery. Together, these counties are projected to add over 15.6 million between 2010 and 2050.

The top 10 counties projected to have the fastest growth rates are a combination of suburban counties, such as Hays, Kendall, Williamson, Fort Bend, Comal, and Denton, and counties in the Permian Basin area, including Andrews, Crane, Midland, and Ector. Andrews County, located northwest of San Antonio, is projected to grow at the fastest rate of all the Texas counties. All of these suburban counties and counties located in

the Permian Basin are projected to more than triple their populations between 2010 and 2050, adding a total population of over 6.4 million or 29 percent of the total State population change projected between 2010 and 2050.

Although Texas is generally characterized by rapid and high growth, 99 of the 254 counties are projected to have declines in population. Hale County, located in the Texas Panhandle, is projected to have the greatest population decline between 2010 and 2050, projected to lose over 14,000 residents during this time period. Among counties with the greatest population losses are counties mostly in rural and more sparsely populated areas of the state, particularly in parts of West, East, and South Texas. Two counties with populations over

**Table 3. Top 10 Texas Counties with Greatest and Least Numeric Change between 2010 and 2050 2010-2015 Migration Scenario**

County	Ranking	2010	2050	Numeric Change
Harris	1	4,092,459	7,933,397	3,840,938
Fort Bend	2	585,375	2,267,998	1,682,623
Collin	3	782,341	2,456,914	1,674,573
Denton	4	662,614	2,332,629	1,670,015
Bexar	5	1,714,773	3,353,060	1,638,287
Dallas	6	2,368,139	3,869,605	1,501,466
Tarrant	7	1,809,034	3,196,603	1,387,569
Williamson	8	422,679	1,645,982	1,223,303
Montgomery	9	455,746	1,487,366	1,031,620
Travis	10	1,024,266	1,980,918	956,652
Rusk	245	53,330	48,018	-5,312
Lamar	246	49,793	44,203	-5,590
Navarro	247	47,735	42,085	-5,650
Anderson	248	58,458	52,766	-5,692
Potter	249	121,073	115,000	-6,073
Nacogdoches	250	64,524	57,748	-6,776
Val Verde	251	48,879	41,593	-7,286
Bowie	252	92,565	84,633	-7,932
Wichita	253	131,500	121,675	-9,825
Hale	254	36,273	22,101	-14,172

**Table 4. Top 10 Texas Counties with Greatest and Least Percent Change between 2010 and 2050 2010-2015 Migration Scenario**

County	Ranking	2010	2050	Percent Change
Andrews	1	14,786	100,655	580.75
Hays	2	157,107	746,149	374.93
Crane	3	4,375	18,425	321.14
Midland	4	136,872	573,981	319.36
Kendall	5	33,410	137,844	312.58
Williamson	6	422,679	1,645,982	289.42
Fort Bend	7	585,375	2,267,998	287.44
Ector	8	137,130	494,892	260.89
Comal	9	108,472	389,584	259.16
Denton	10	662,614	2,332,629	252.03
Floyd	245	6,446	4,224	-34.47
Comanche	246	13,974	8,976	-35.77
Lamb	247	13,977	8,875	-36.50
Sabine	248	10,834	6,834	-36.92
Jeff Davis	249	2,342	1,458	-37.75
Hale	250	36,273	22,101	-39.07
Clay	251	10,752	6,326	-41.16
Castro	252	8,062	4,609	-42.83
Parmer	253	10,269	5,762	-43.89
Presidio	254	7,818	2,662	-65.95

100,000 are among the top counties with the greatest population losses between 2010 and 2050. These counties are Potter and Wichita Counties.

The top 10 counties with the lowest percent change are projected to lose between 35 and 66 percent of their populations between 2010 and 2050. The county projected to have the greatest population decline, in terms of percentage, by 2050 is Presidio County, located south of El Paso along the Texas-Mexico border.

These projections, like all projections, involve the use of certain assumptions about future events that may or may not occur. Users of these projections should be aware that although the projections have been prepared with the use of detailed methodologies and with extensive attempts being made to account for existing demographic patterns, they may not accurately project the future population of the State or of particular counties in the State. Additionally, given that these projections are for 2010 to 2050 but incorporate a new migration scenario and updated birth, death, and special populations data, they may not be similar to those released by the program in 2014. The complete population projections methodology, data for download, interactive maps, and our online projections tool are available on our website:

<http://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections>.

## Conclusion

The most recent population projections from the Texas Demographic Center employing the migration trends observed between 2010 and 2015 indicate Texas may reach a population of near 47.3 million. Much of the growth in the State is projected to take place in the large urban core counties of the State along with the surrounding suburban ring counties. These suburban counties, as well as counties located in the Permian Basin, are projected to grow at the fastest rates during this time. These projections also indicate the State will continue to age, with the fastest growing age groups being those of ages 65 years and older. The Hispanic population is projected to continue to drive population growth, and the newly added non-Hispanic Asian group is projected to grow at rates faster than those of other race/ethnicity groups. Amid population growth, parts of Texas are projected to continue to decline, especially sparsely populated, rural counties in parts of West, East, and South Texas.

## About this Report

The Texas Demographic Center produced this report as part of the Population Estimates and Projections Program. The report's authors include: Helen You, Lloyd Potter, Lila Valencia, Janine Geppert, and Po-Chun Huang.



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