Travis County Snapshot



from the

American Community Survey 2015

2016

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Acknowledgements

This report was researched and written by the staff at the Travis County Health and Human Services, Research & Planning Division. Lead writers were Brittain Ayres, Tara Carmean, and Tonya Pennie with the support of other division staff, Lawrence Lyman (Division Director), and Sherri E. Fleming (County Executive for Travis County HHS).

Questions or Comments?

For questions or for more information, please contact the Research & Planning Division at HHS_R&P@traviscountytx.gov.

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About the Chartbook

About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) is one of many surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It includes questions about social, housing, and economic characteristics. While many available data sources address these subjects, the Research & Planning Division has increasingly relied on the ACS as a primary resource to describe current demographics and local conditions. Compared to the more widely-known Decennial Census, which is conducted every 10 years, the ACS is conducted on an ongoing basis and releases data annually. Thus it can provide more up-to-date information, particularly for communities undergoing rapid demographic change. (For more on the ACS, please see the Methodology section at the end of this chartbook.)

About the Chartbook

All of the information contained herein is publicly available via the U.S. Census Bureau's website. However, due to time constraints or technical limitations, it may sometimes be difficult for users to access, analyze, and interpret needed data. By selecting key variables from among the many available, analyzing the data for important relationships and trends, and presenting it in the chartbook in a clear, accessible visual format, our goal is to provide current information describing the Travis County community.

Because the data presented in the chartbook is representative of a sample and not the entire population, some of the smaller estimates are unreliable due to sampling error,[1] which generally increases as sample sizes decrease. Comparisons of indicators between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods may appear significant, but may not be. Therefore, we perform testing of estimates that appear unreliable for significance and any comparisons that are explicitly made between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods at 90% level of confidence. (For more information on statistical testing, see the Methodology section at the end of this chartbook.)

We hope this information is helpful in efforts to improve programs, plan community investments, and shape local policies. We encourage users to borrow and cite this material.

1 Sampling error is the difference between the characteristics of a sample and the population from which it was drawn.

Social Characteristics

Age 6

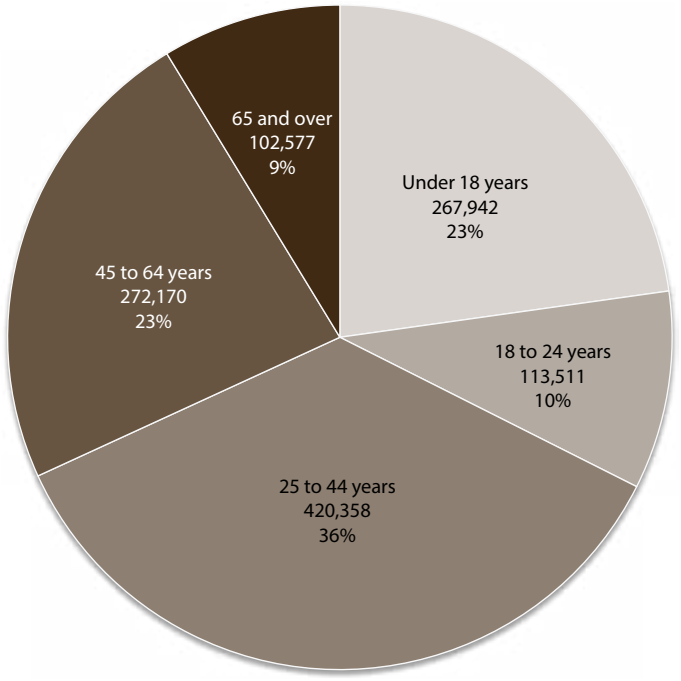
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Population by Age
Total population, Travis County, 2015
(n = 1,176,558)



Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

Age Distribution: Age distribution in Travis County continues to be characterized by a large working age population (18-64). Working age adults comprise about 69% of the county's population. In comparison, the 18-64 year old age group comprises 62% of the Texas population and of the United States as a whole.

Median Age: The median age in Travis County is 33.6. This reflects a slightly younger population than that of Texas (34.4) and the U.S. population (37.8).

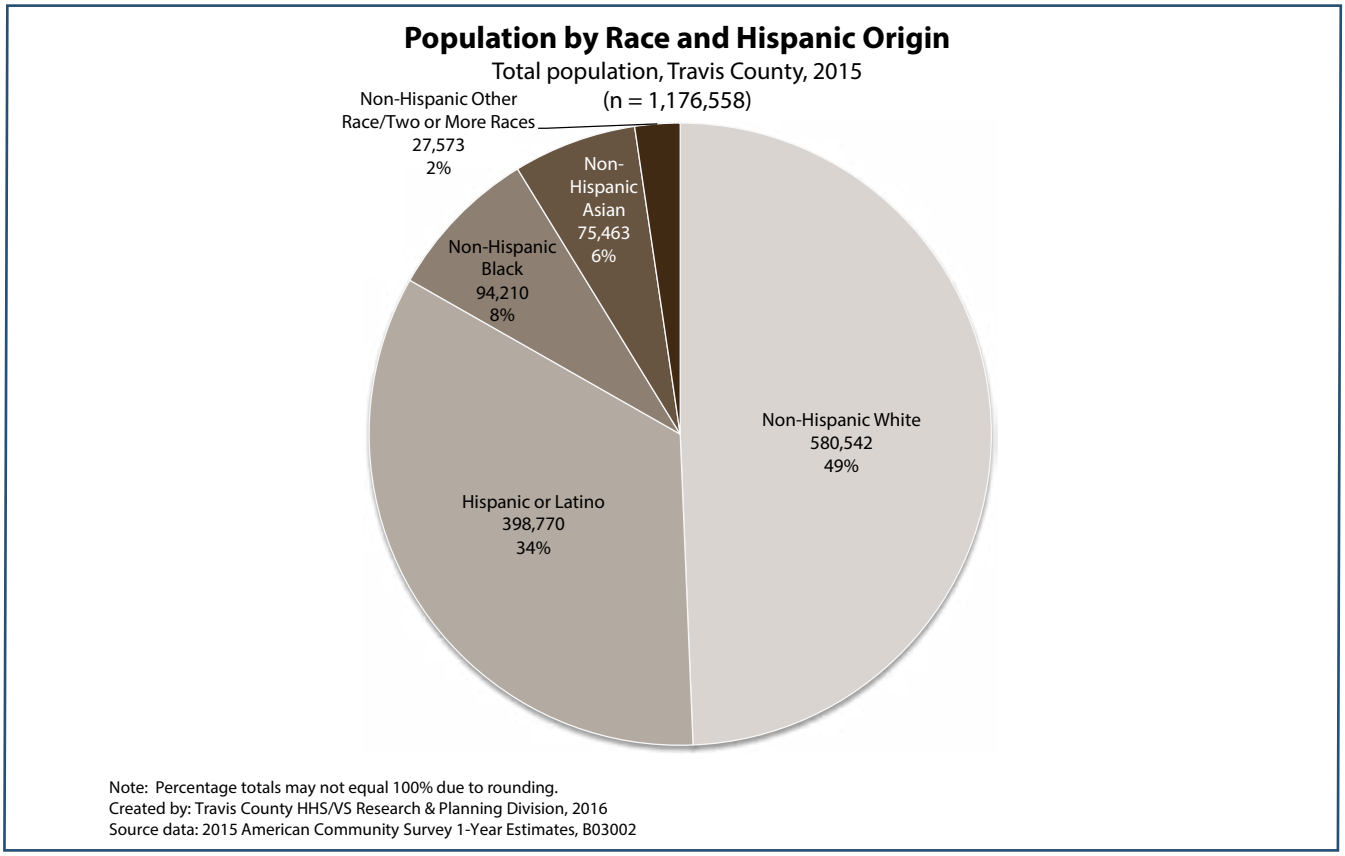
Trends to Watch: Since 2011, the Travis County total population has grown by 11%, compared to 7% statewide and 3% nationally. During the same time, the 18-24 year old age group has decreased by 11%, compared to a 10% increase both statewide and nationally.

Growth in Population by Age, Travis County, 2011-2015

	2011	2015	Growth	Percent Change
Under 18	254,110	267,942	13,832	5%
18 to 24	127,342	113,511	-13,831	-11%
25 to 44	363,134	420,358	57,224	16%
45 to 64	238,971	272,170	33,199	14%
65 and over	79,573	102,577	23,004	29%
Total	1,063,130	1,176,558	113,428	11%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016 Source data: 2011 & 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

Race and Hispanic Origin



Race and Hispanic Origin: Almost half of the Travis County population identifies as Non-Hispanic White (49%), followed by Hispanic or Latino (34%), Non-Hispanic Black (8%), and Non-Hispanic Asian (6%).

From 2011 to 2015 the rate of growth for Non-Hispanic Blacks (9%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (9%) was slower than Hispanic or Latinos (11%), and Non-Hispanic Asians (29%).

Trends to Watch: From 2011 to 2015, the proportion of Non-Hispanic Whites slightly decreased from 50% to 49% while the proportion of other categories remained the same.

Geographic Comparison: The table below provides a comparison of the racial and ethnic compositions of Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

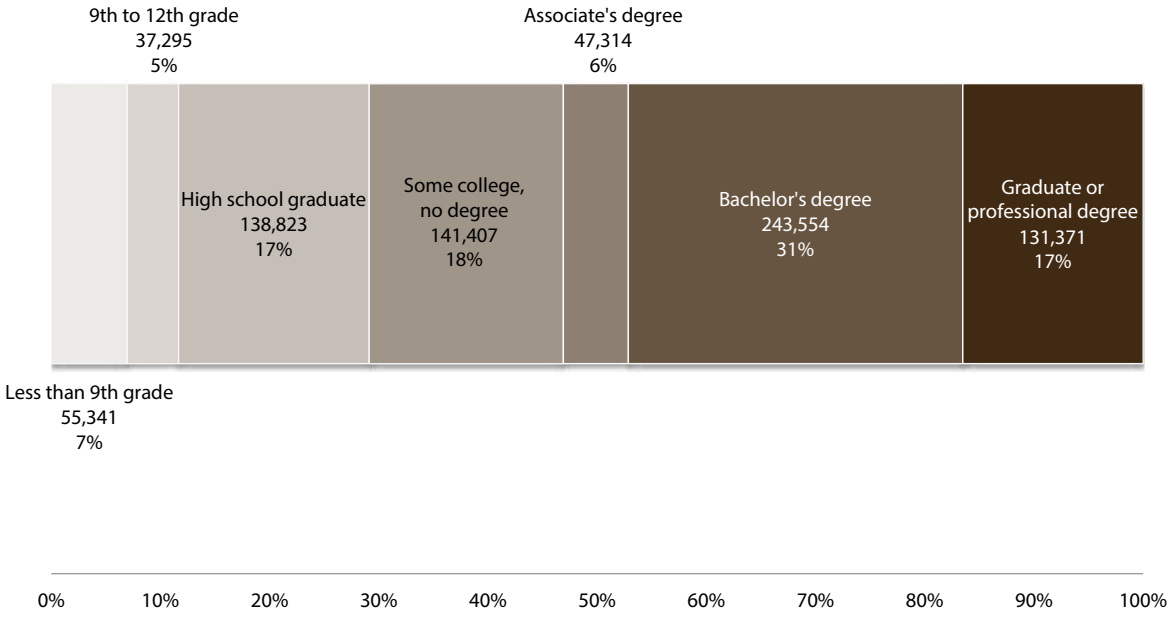
Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2015

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Non-Hispanic White	49%	43%	61%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	39%	18%
Non-Hispanic Black	8%	12%	12%
Non-Hispanic Asian	6%	5%	5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race/Two or More Races	2%	2%	3%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2016 Source: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B03002

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment Level
Population 25 years and over, Travis County, 2015
(n = 795,105)



Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B15002

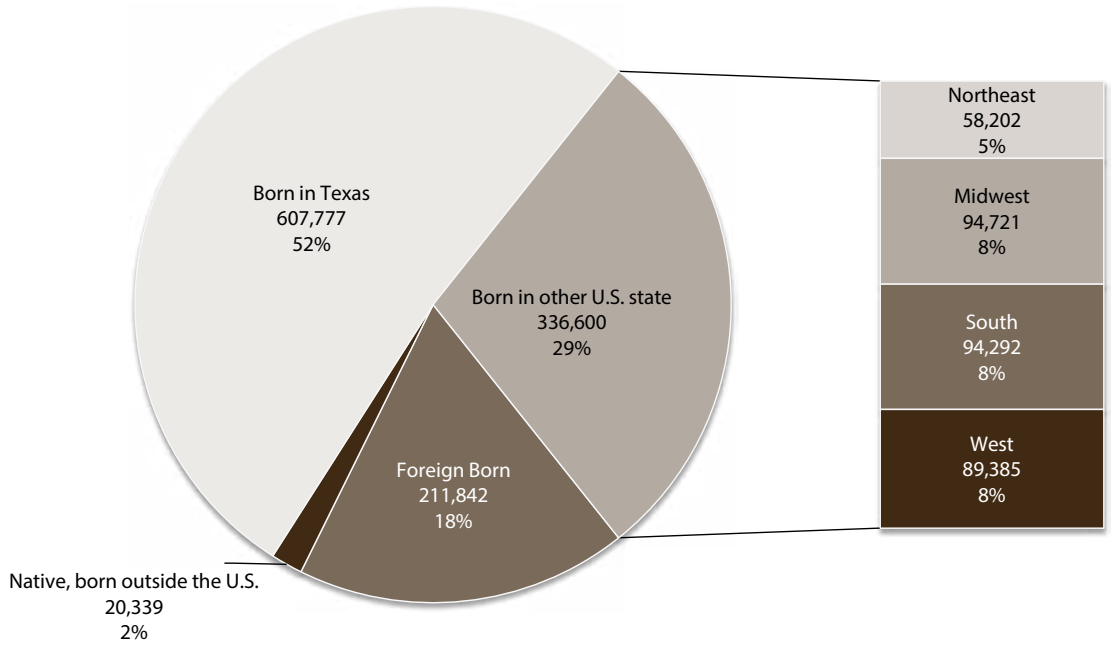
Educational Attainment Level: Travis County continues to have a highly educated population. In comparison to state figures, proportionately more Travis County residents have a college degree, and fewer lack a high school diploma.

- 47% of Travis County residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 28% of Texans and 31% of Americans.
- 12% of Travis County residents report having less than a high school diploma or equivalency, compared with 18% of Texans and 13% of Americans.

College or Graduate School Enrollment:[1] About 11% of Travis County's population is enrolled in college or graduate school. This compares with about 8% of the Texas population and 9% of the U.S. population.

1 These statistics include individuals enrolled in school which advances a person toward a college, university or professional school (such as law or medicine) degree. They do not include people enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school (such as post secondary, trade, hospital school or on the job training). (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 119.)

Place of Birth
Total population, Travis Coutny, 2015
(n = 1,176,558)



Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B05002

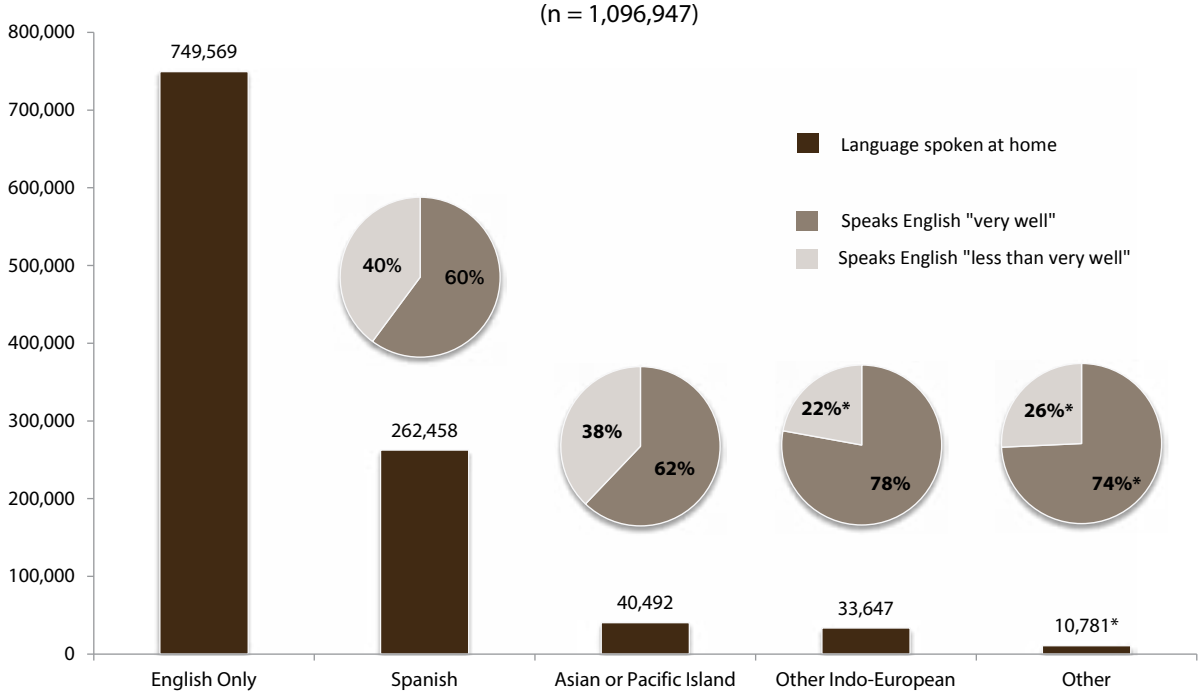
Place of Birth for the Travis County Population: Slightly over half of Travis County residents (52%) were born in Texas, over one-quarter (29%) were born in another state, and about 18% of residents are foreign born.

Geographic Comparison: In comparison to state and national averages, Travis County residents are:

- *Less likely to have been born in their current state of residence*. 52% of Travis County residents were born in their state of residence compared with 60% of Texans and 58% of Americans.
- *More likely to be foreign born.* 18% of Travis County residents are foreign born compared with 17% of Texans and 13% of Americans. However, Travis County has a proportionately smaller foreign born population than both Harris and Dallas Counties, where immigrants comprise 27% and 24% of the population, respectively.[2]

Trends to Watch: Since 2011, the number of Travis County residents who were born in another state grew by 14%. During the same time, the number of residents who were born in Texas grew by 9%, and the number of residents who were foreign born grew by 9%.

2 A statistical test for sampling variability was not appropriate for geographic comparison due to use of a controlled estimate. For more information on controlled estimates, please refer to http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2015.pdf



*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C16005

Languages Spoken at Home: Almost one-third of the Travis County population (32% or 347,378 residents) speaks a language other than English at home. In comparison, 21% of U.S. residents and 35% of Texans speak a language other than English at home.

Ability to Speak English: 63% of Travis County residents who speak a language other than English at home also speak the English language "very well," and 37% speak English "less than very well."

Limited English Speaking Households: 6% of all Travis County households (28,710 households) are limited English speaking households.[3] 76% of limited English speaking households speak Spanish (21,684 households) and 14% of limited English speaking households speak Asian and Pacific Island languages (4,042 households).

3 A "Limited English speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English at home or (2) speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English "Very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with the English language. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 47).

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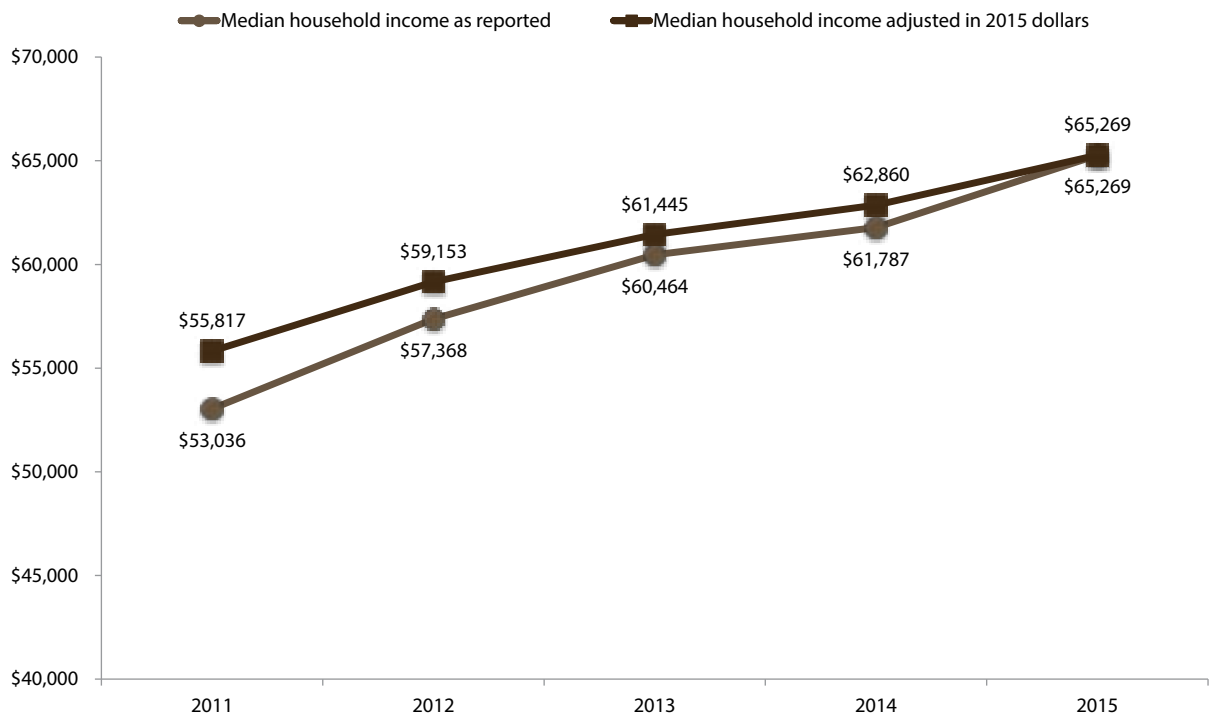
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Median Household Income



Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19013

Median Household Income:[4] The reported median income has been increasing. Between 2011 and 2015, the reported median income increased by $12,233. When adjusted in 2015 dollars, the reported median income increased by $9,385.

Geographic Comparison: Median household income is higher in Travis County than in the U.S. and Texas.

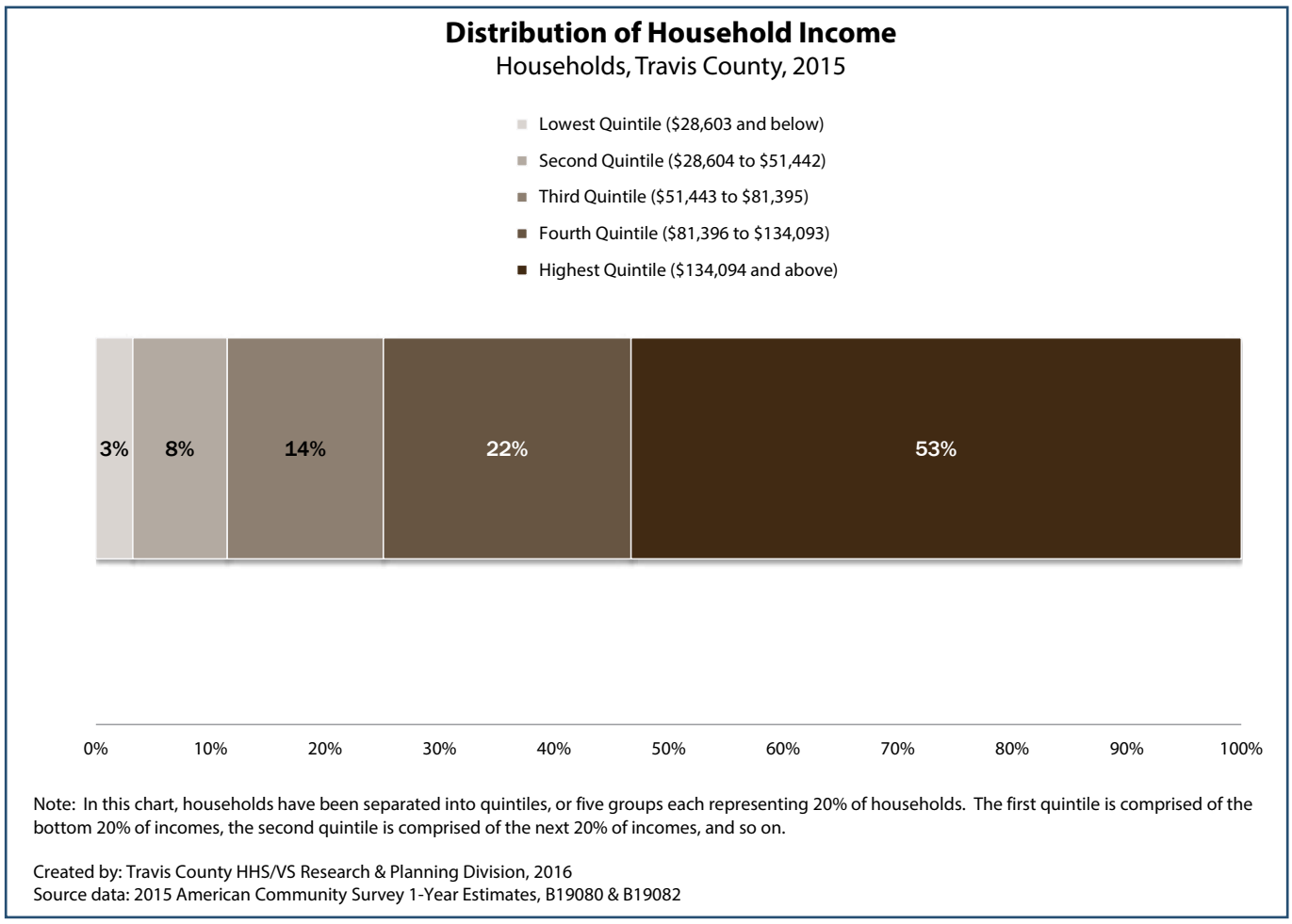
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months
Households, Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2011 and 2015

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Median Household Income 2011 (in 2015 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	$55,884	$53,687	$54,893
Median Household Income 2015	$65,269	$55,653	$55,775
Percent change between 2011 and 2016 (In 2015 Inflation-Adjust Dollars)	17%	4%	2%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: American Community Survey 2011 & 2015 1-Year Estimates, B19013, and the Consumer Price Index

4 The ACS asks respondents how much was earned during the past 12 months. Consequently, a person answering the questions in December 2015 would respond based on income earned between December 2014 and November 2015.

Household Income Distribution



Note: In this chart, households have been separated into quintiles, or five groups each representing 20% of households. The first quintile is comprised of the bottom 20% of incomes, the second quintile is comprised of the next 20% of incomes, and so on.

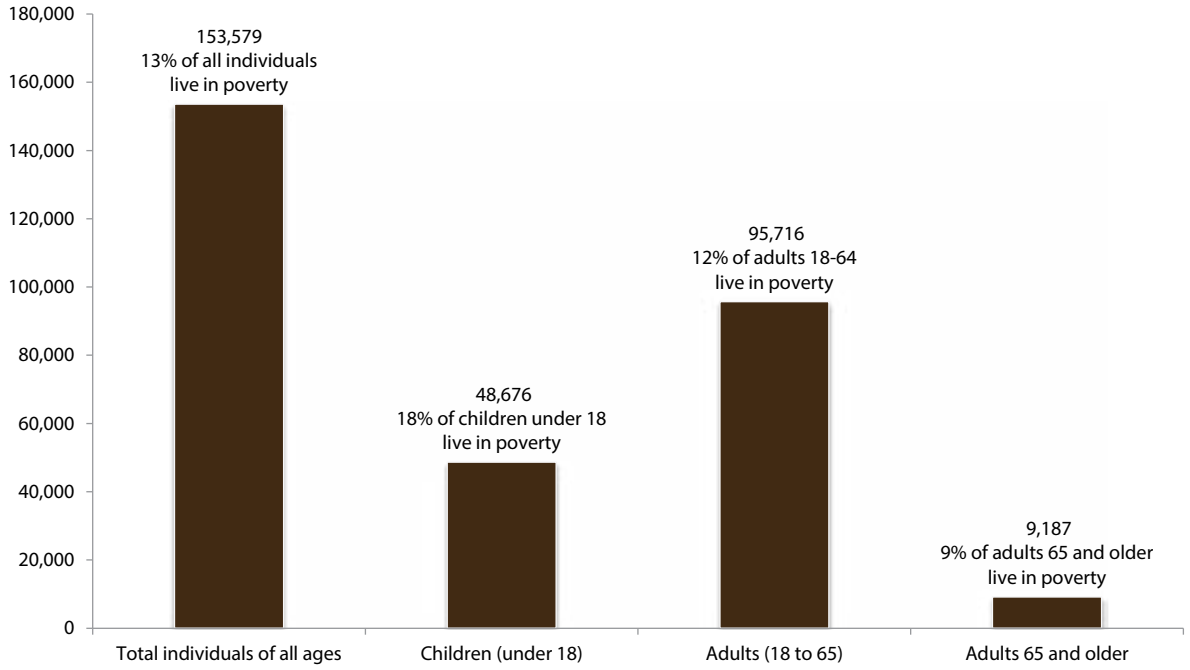
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19080 & B19082

To assess household income distribution, households are separated into quintiles[5] (five groups, each representing 20% of households). The bottom 20% of households represent about 3% of the county's income, while the top 20% of households represent over half of the county's income (53%).

5 For shares of household income by quintiles, negative incomes are converted to zero. These measures are the aggregate household income in each quintile as a percentage of the total aggregate income. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 85.)

Poverty Status by Age

Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined*, Travis County, 2015



* Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C17001

Thirteen percent of all Travis County residents are living in poverty.[6] From 2011 to 2015, the overall individual poverty rate has decreased. There was a 24% decrease in the number of children under age 18 living in poverty between 2014 (63,659) and 2015 (48,676). The number of adults age 18-64 living in poverty also decreased by 22% between 2014 (122,431) and 2015 (95,716).

Poverty Status by Age
Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Individuals in Poverty	192,436	197,657	176,920	193,753	153,579
Individual Poverty Rate	18%	18%	16%	17%	13%
Children (under 18) in Poverty	63,680	67,791	55,554	63,659	48,676
Child Poverty Rate	25%	26%	22%	24%	18%

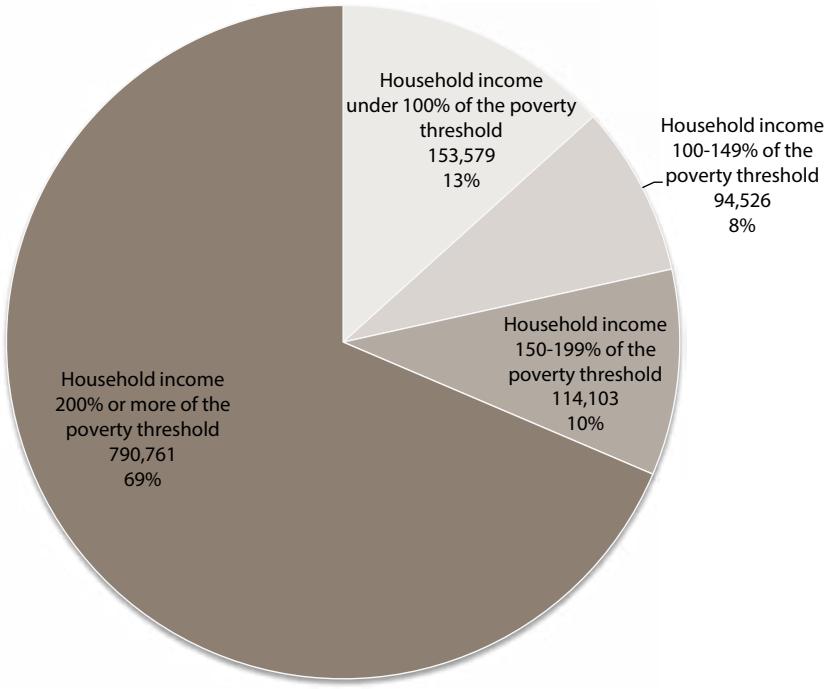
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2016 Source data: American Community Survey 2011-2015 1-Year Estimates, C17001

Geographic Comparison: Travis County's proportion of individuals living in poverty (13%) is less than Texas (16%) and the United States (15%). The proportion of Travis County children (18%) and adults age 18-64 (12%) in poverty is also less than Texas (23% and 14%, respectively) and the nation (21% and 14%, respectively).

6 2015 poverty thresholds define poverty for an individual under age 65 at $12,331 in annual income and for a family of four with two children at $24,036 in annual income. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html.

Income to Poverty Ratio

Ratio of Income to the Poverty Threshold in the past 12 months
Population for whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, 2015



2015 Poverty Threshold for:
One person under age 65
100%: $12,331
150%: $18,497
200%: $24,662

A family of four, including two related children under 18
100%: $24,036
150%: $36,054
200%: $48,072

*Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C17002

In Travis County an estimated 153,579 individuals (13%) live in households with incomes below the poverty threshold.[7] One-third (31%) of Travis County residents, or 362,208 individuals, live at or below 200% of the poverty threshold.

Geographic Comparison: The table below shows the ratios of income to poverty in Travis County, Texas, and the United States.

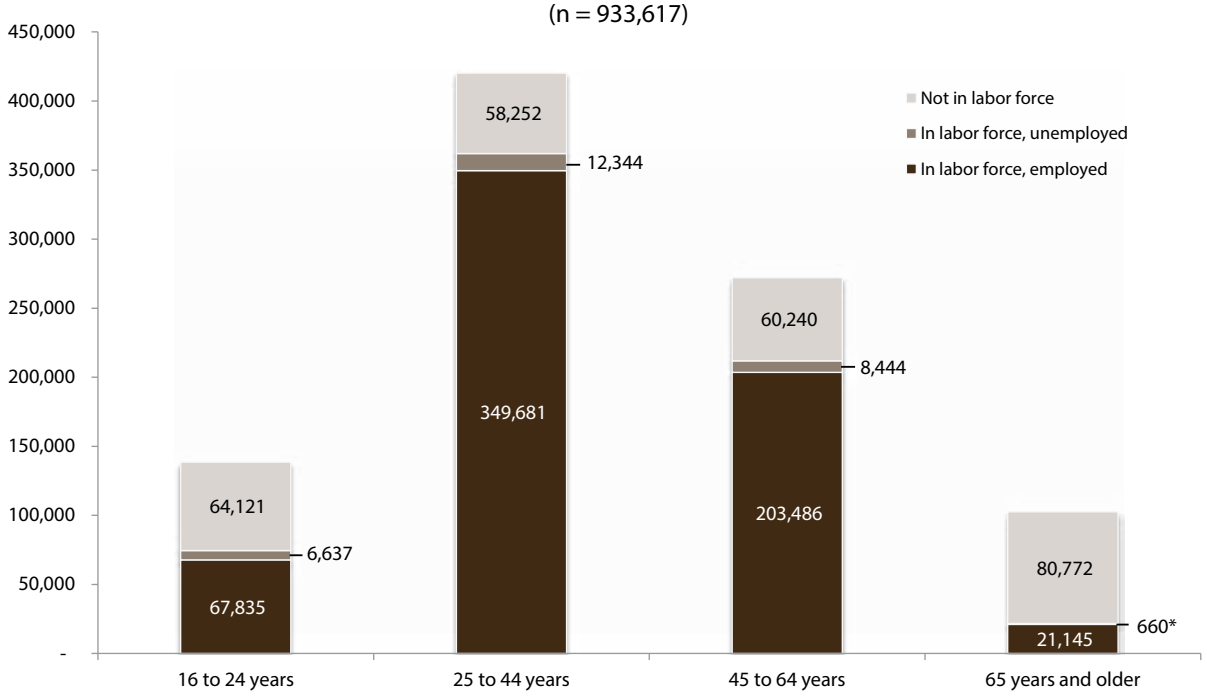
Ratio of Income to the Poverty Level in the Past 12 months
Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, Texas, and U.S., 2015

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Income < 100% of the poverty threshold	13%	16%	15%
Income 100%-199% of the poverty threshold	18%	20%	18%
Income 200% or more of the poverty threshold	69%	64%	67%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2016 Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B17002

7 The Census Bureau uses poverty thresholds as denoted in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14 as described on the Census Bureau's website at http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html.

Employment Status by Age
Population 16 years and over, Travis County, 2015
(n = 933,617)



*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C23001

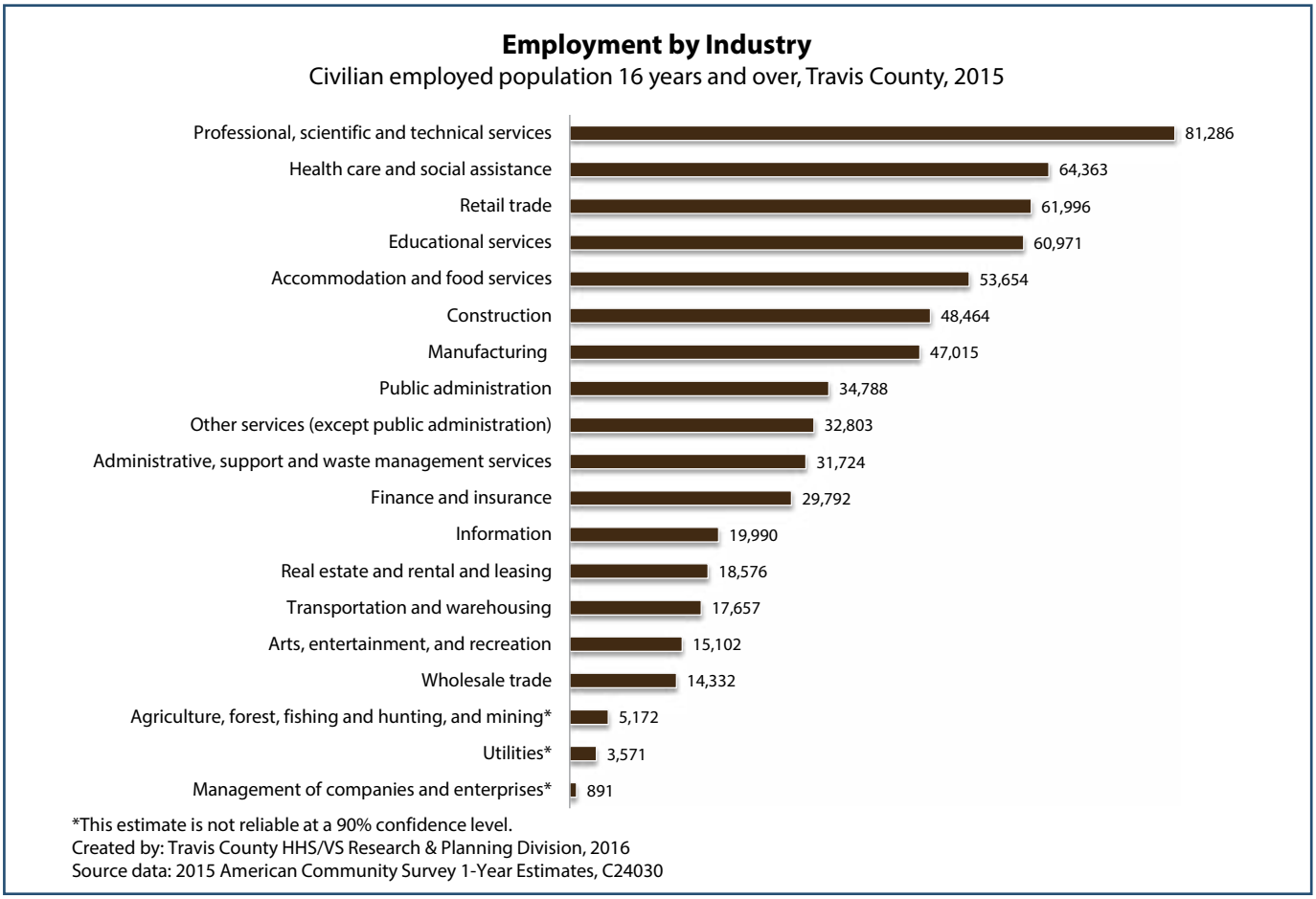
Travis County's Labor Force: In total, 72% of Travis County's population age 16 and over (670,232) is in the labor force. Approximately 28,000 (3%) of them were unemployed in 2015.

Labor Force by Age: Individuals between the ages of 25 and 44 constitute over half (54%) of Travis County's labor force. The 45 to 64 age group comprises 32% of the labor force, followed by the 16 to 24 age group (11%), and finally those 65 years and older (3%).

Unemployment by Age: Travis County's overall unemployment rate (which is the percent unemployed of those in the labor force) was 4% in 2015. By age, the unemployment rate is highest for those 16 to 24 years old (9%), and lowest for individuals 25 to 44 years old (3%) and those 65 years and older (3%).[8]

8 Due to sampling error, the unemployment rate of those in the "65 years and over" category, reported at 3% in 2015, is unreliable at a 90% confidence level.

Employment by Industry



Half (50%) of Travis County's civilian employed population age 16 and over is employed in the following five industries: professional/scientific/technical services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, education services, and accommodation and food services.

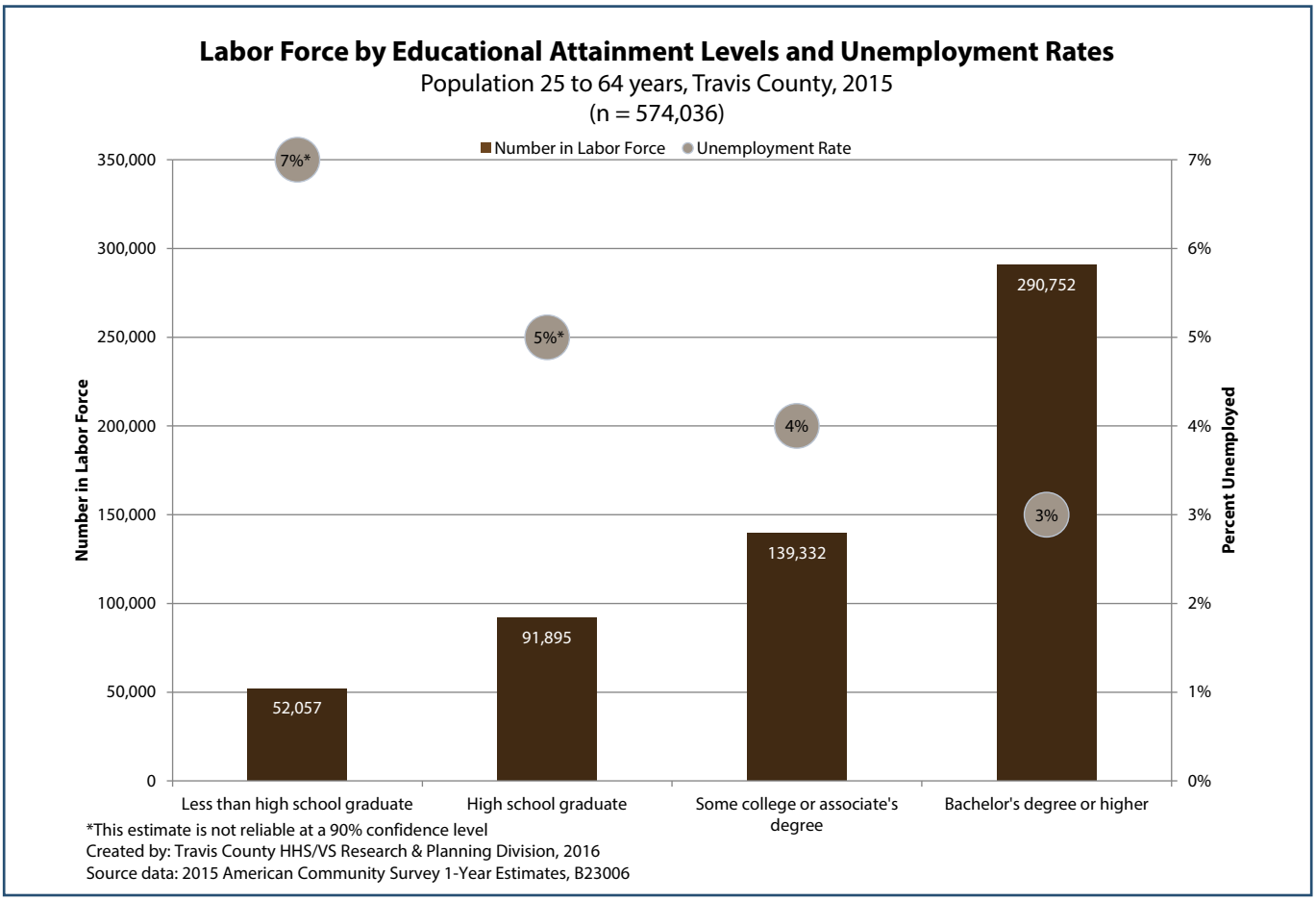
Geographic Comparison: The proportion of Travis County workers in the professional/ scientific/ technical industry (13%) nearly doubles the proportion in Texas (7%) and the United States (7%).

Employment in the top five industries
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2015

Travis County		Texas		United States	
Professional/scientific/technical	13%	Health care & social assistance	12%	Health care & social assistance	14%
Health care & social assistance	10%	Retail trade	12%	Retail trade	11%
Retail trade	10%	Educational services	9%	Manufacturing	10%
Educational services	9%	Manufacturing	9%	Educational services	9%
Accommodation & food services	8%	Construction	8%	Accommodation & food services	8%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2016 Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C24030

Employment and Education

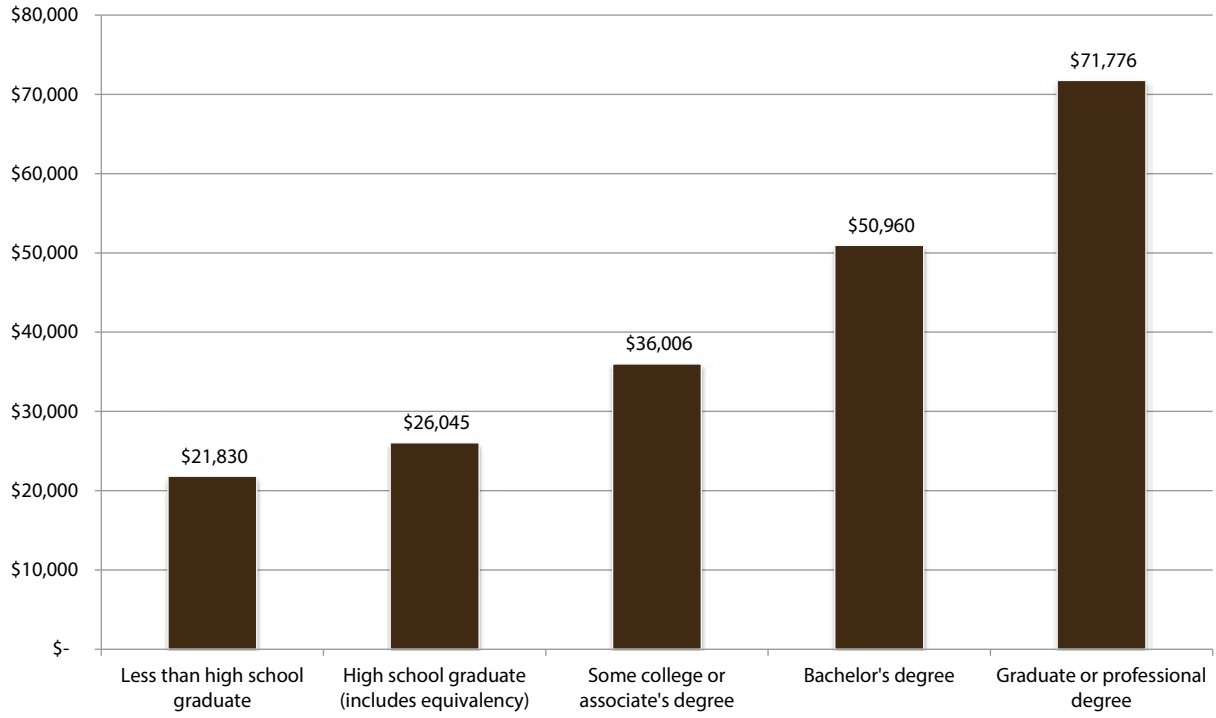


Educational Attainment in the Labor Force: Among the Travis County population in the labor force between the ages of 25 and 64, one-half (51%) have a bachelor's degree or higher, and nearly one-quarter (24%) have some college or an associate's degree. High school graduates comprise 16% of the labor force, and the remaining 9% have less than a high school degree.

Educational Attainment and Employment Rates: Workforce trends indicate that unemployment decreases as education levels increase. Accordingly, those with the highest educational attainment levels in Travis County also have the lowest unemployment (less than 3% for those with a bachelor's degree or higher). Those with the lowest educational attainment levels have the highest unemployment rate (over 7% for those with less than high school degree).

Geographical Comparison: In comparison to Texas and the U.S., the Travis County workforce population is more educated. In Travis County, 51% of workers age 25 to 64 have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 32% for Texas and 36% for the U.S.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Education Attainment
Population 25 and over with earnings, Travis County 2015



Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B20004

Educational Attainment and Earnings: Educational attainment level and earnings are directly related: As education level increases, earnings also increase. In 2015, median earnings[9] rose with each incremental increase in education level. For Travis County, the overall 2015 median earnings are $40,786, a significant increase over 2014 ($38,230). The median earnings for individuals with a bachelor's degree are 42% more than for individuals who have some college or an associate's degree. The median earnings for those with a high school diploma or an equivalency are 38% higher than for those who did not graduate high school. Similarly, the median earnings for those with a graduate or professional degree are 41% higher than for those who have a bachelor's degree.

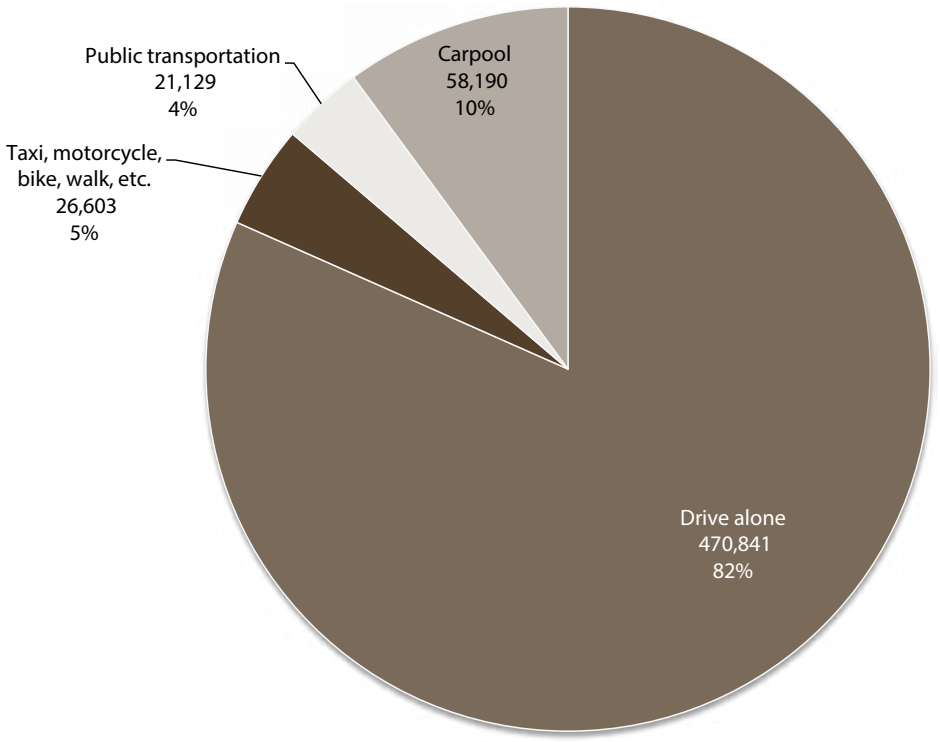
Median Earnings and Gender: The median earnings for men ($45,625) are 28% higher than those for women ($35,774).

Geographic Comparison: Travis County's 2015 overall median earnings ($40,786) were 12% higher than Texas ($36,361) and 11% higher than the U.S. ($36,860).

9 The median divides the earnings distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median. Median earnings is restricted to individuals 16 years old and over with earnings and is computed on the basis of a standard distribution. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 85.)

Means of Transportation to Work

Workers 16 years and over who did not work at home, Travis County, 2015



Note: Percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C08134

Means of Transportation to Work: The vast majority of Travis County workers aged 16 and older drive to work alone (82%). While 10% carpool, only 5% use other means of transportation, including: taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or walking. The remaining 4% use public transportation.

Most commuters (63%) travel under 30 minutes to get to work, while one-third (31%) spend between 30 minutes and an hour traveling to work. A small percentage of workers (6%) travel more than an hour to work.

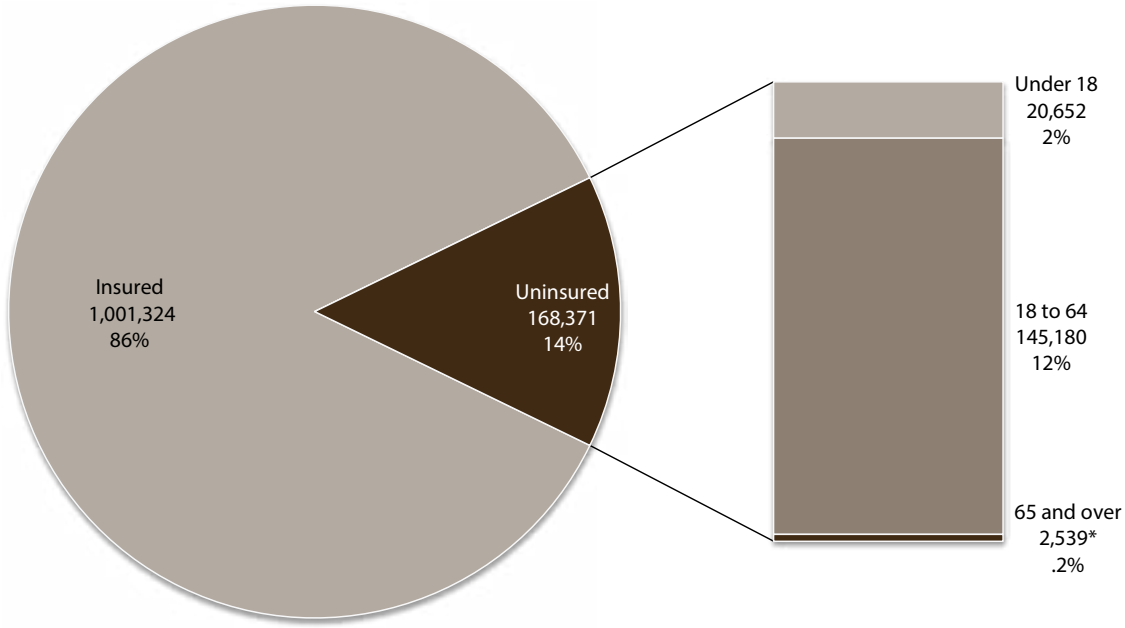
Geographic Comparison of Means of Transportation to Work: The proportion of Travis County commuters who drive to work alone (82%) is greater than the nation (80%) but less than the state (84%). More Travis County commuters use public transportation (4%) than the state (2%) and other metropolitan counties[10] in Texas (range between 1 and 3%).

More Travis County workers commute under 30 minutes (63%) than in the nation (62%) and statewide (61%).

10 Comparison counties include Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, and Tarrant.

Health Insurance Coverage Status by Age

Civilian Non-Institutionalzed Population, Travis County, 2015
(n = 1,169,695)



*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate, C27001

In Travis County, 14% of residents do not have health insurance.[11] Of the168,371 uninsured individuals, the majority (about 145,180 people) are adults between the ages of 18 and 64. Another 20,652 uninsured individuals are under the age of 18.

Trends To Watch: Since 2011, the number of Travis County residents with insurance has grown by 18%.

Geographic Comparison: Travis County's proportion of uninsured residents (14%) is higher than that of the U.S. (9%) but lower than that of Texas (17%). Travis County has a lower rate of uninsured residents than other major metropolitan counties in Texas, including Bexar County (15%), Tarrant County (16%), Harris County (20%), El Paso (20%), and Dallas County (21%).

11 The Census Bureau defines coverage to include plans and programs that provide comprehensive health coverage. People are considered insured if they report having at least one of the following: private health insurance or public coverage. Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual from a private company, or TRICARE or other military health care. Public health coverage includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid, and VA Health Care (provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs); the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and individual state health plans. People who had no reported health coverage, or those whose only health coverage was Indian Health Service, are considered uninsured. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 71-73.)

Housing Characteristics

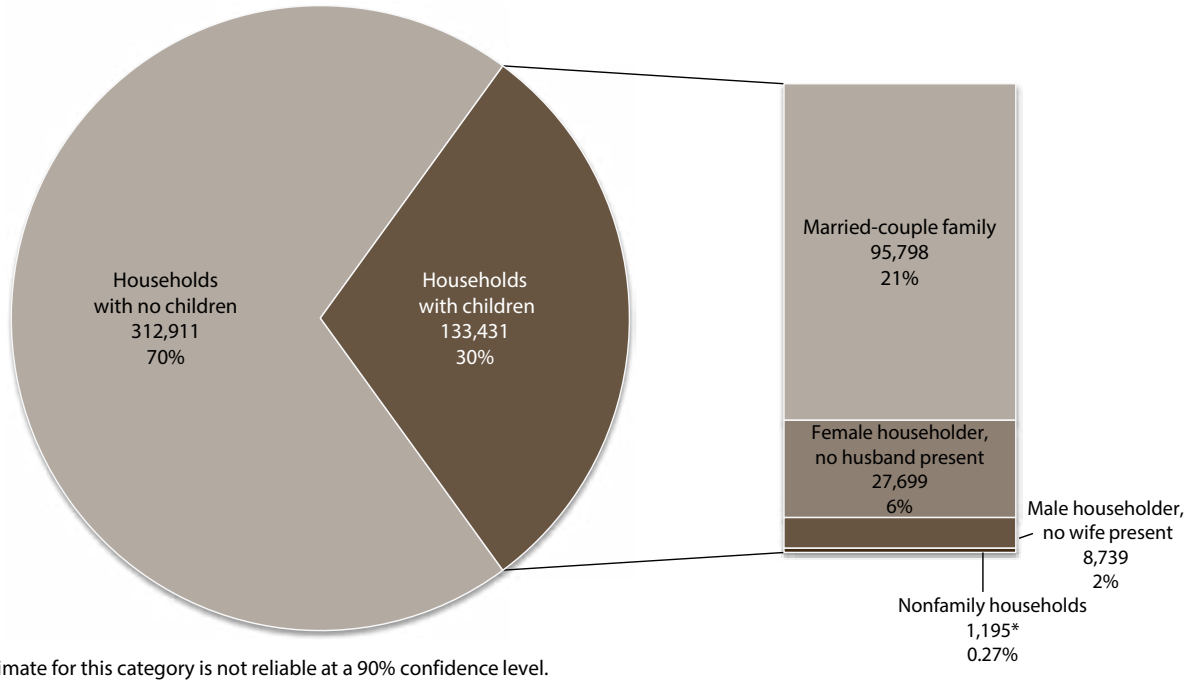
Household Type..... 23
Cost Burden 24
Rent Values..... 25
Housing Values 26
Median Housing Value..... 27

Household Type

Households by Presence of Children by Household Type

Households, Travis County, 2015

(n = 446,342)



*The estimate for this category is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.
Note: Nonfamily households are comprised of a group of unrelated people.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B11005

In Travis County, 70% of households have no children. 30% of households have children and of those 21% (95,798) are married-couple families, 8% (36,438) have one householder with no spouse present, and 1% (1,195[12]) are nonfamily households.[13]

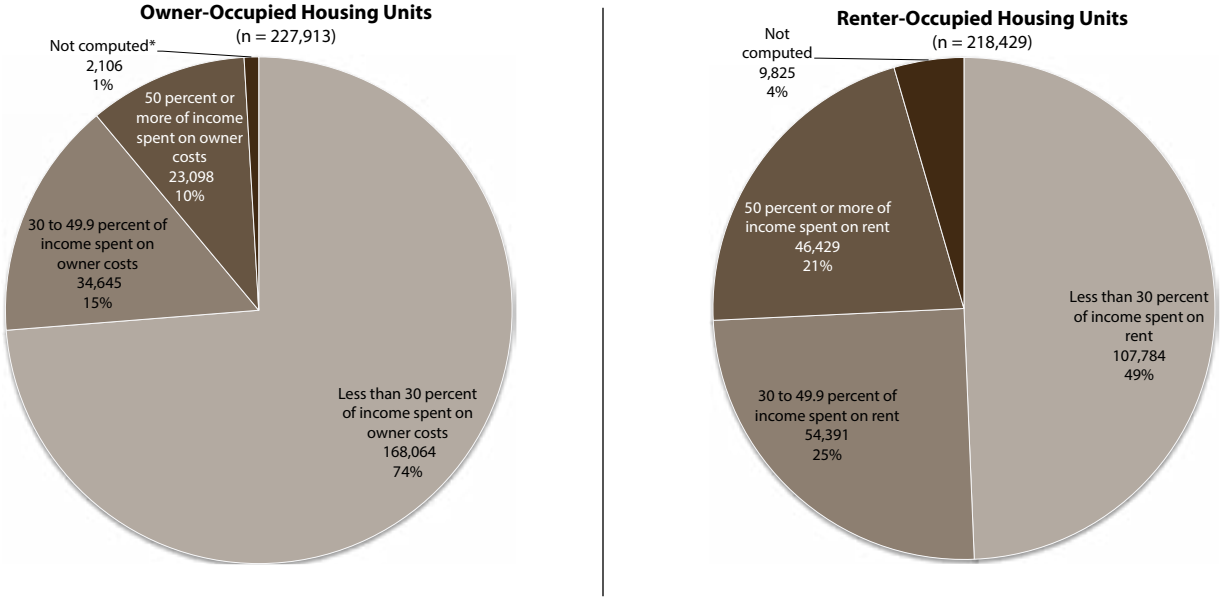
Geographic Comparison:

- Thirty percent of Travis County households include children, which is lower than Texas and U.S. households (37% and 31%, respectively.)
- When looking at households with children by family type, Travis County has a higher share of married-couple families with children (72%) than Texas and U.S. (65% and 64%, respectively).

12 This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

13 "Nonfamily households" are comprised of a group of unrelated people. Unmarried couples households, whether opposite-sex or same-sex, with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, page 78-79.)

Percent of Household Income Spent on Housing Costs
Travis County, 2015



Households spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs have a cost burden; those spending 50% or more on housing costs have a severe cost burden.

*The estimate for this category is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

Percentage totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2016
Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25070 & B25091

Cost Burden:[14] In Travis County, 51% of occupied housing is owner-occupied and 49% is renter-occupied. A large percentage of both renters and owners in Travis County experience a housing cost burden, which is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs.[15] However, the percent of households that are cost burdened is much higher among renters than owners. About one-half (46%) of renter households spend 30% or more of their income on rent, and almost one-quarter (21%) of renter households experience a severe cost burden, which is defined as spending at least one-half of their income on rent. Comparatively, 25% of owner households spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs and 10% spend at least one-half.

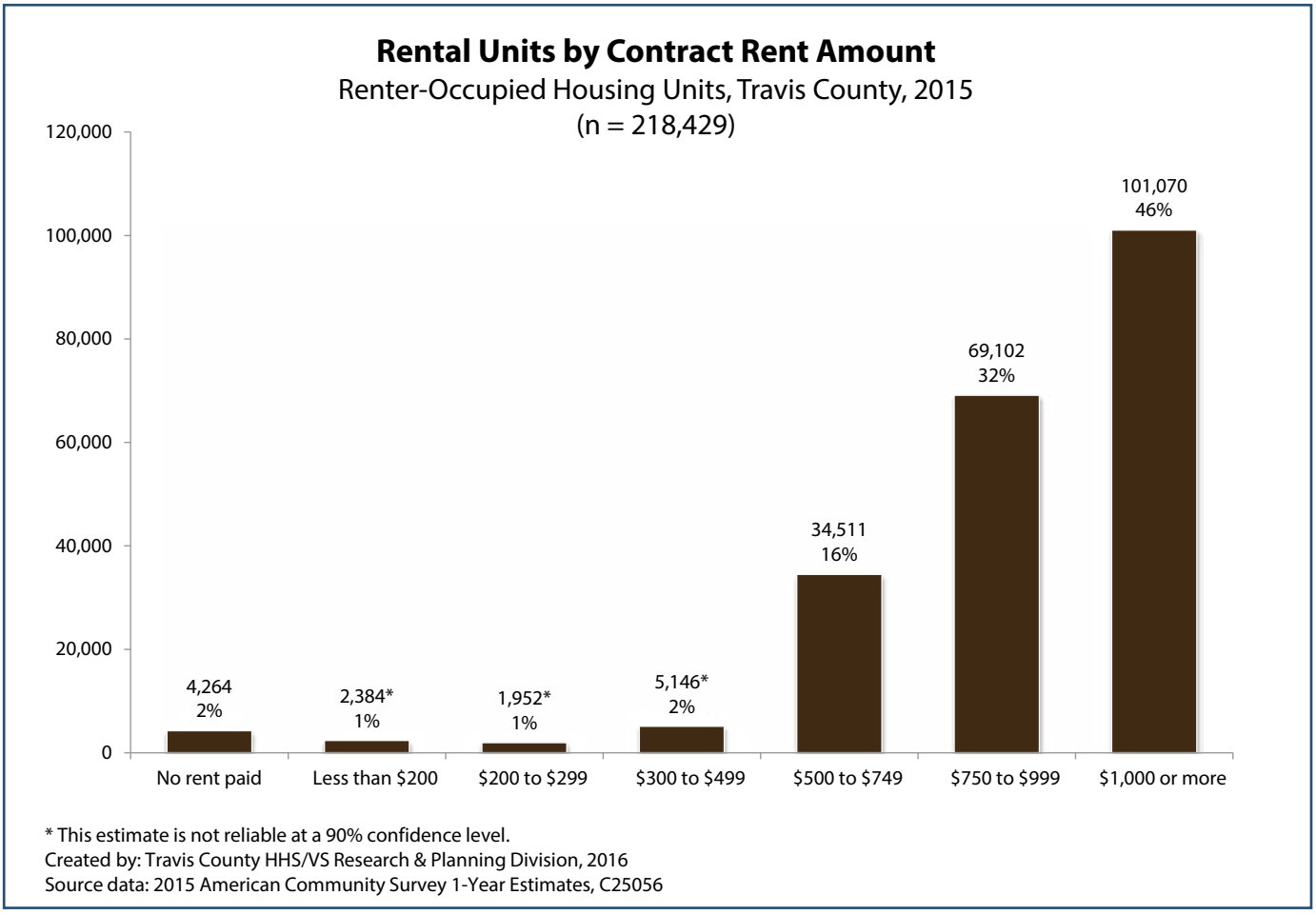
Geographic Comparison:

- The proportion of Travis County renter households who are cost burdened is slightly higher than that of Texas (44%).
- The proportion of owner households experiencing a cost burden in Travis County (25%) is higher than Texas (21%) and the nation as a whole (24%). Other Texas metropolitan counties[16] have a slightly lower proportion of cost-burdened owner households, ranging from 20% to 24%.

14 Cost burden is determined by the percentage of household income spent on housing costs. Monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pgs 19, 33-34.)

15 See U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/.

16 Comparison counties include Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris and Tarrant.

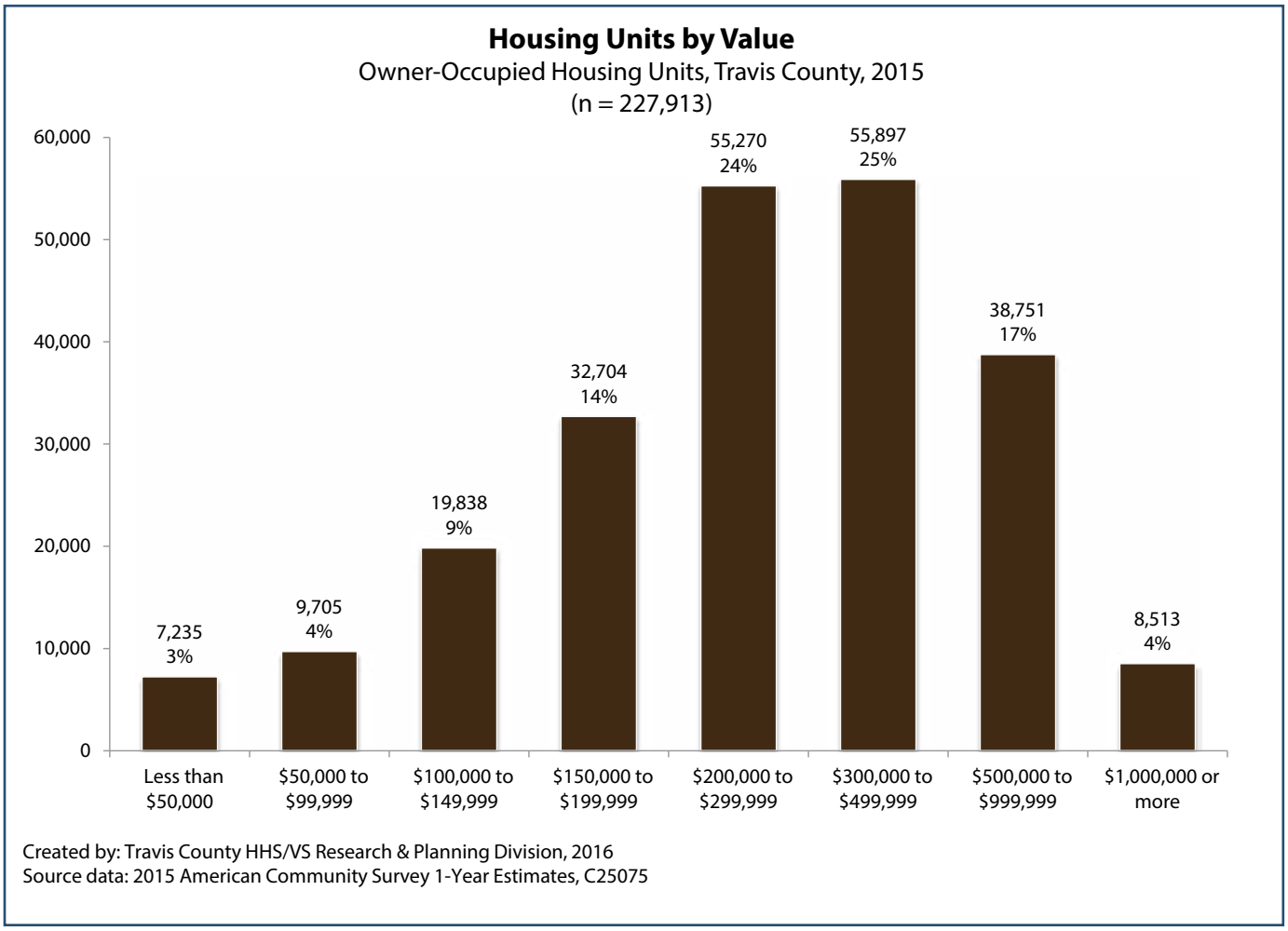


Contract Rent[17] Distribution: Over three-quarters (78%) of Travis County's occupied rental units have rents at or above $750. Four percent of occupied rental units have rents below $500 (not including 2% with no rent paid).[18]

Median Contract Rent: The 2015 median contract rent in Travis County was $976, compared to $774 in Texas and $812 in the U.S.

17 Contract rent is the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 16.)

18 "No rent paid" refers to housing units that are renter occupied without payment of rent. The unit may be owned by friends or relatives who live elsewhere and who allow occupancy without charge. Rent-free houses or apartments may also be provided to compensate caretakers, ministers, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, or others. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 16.)

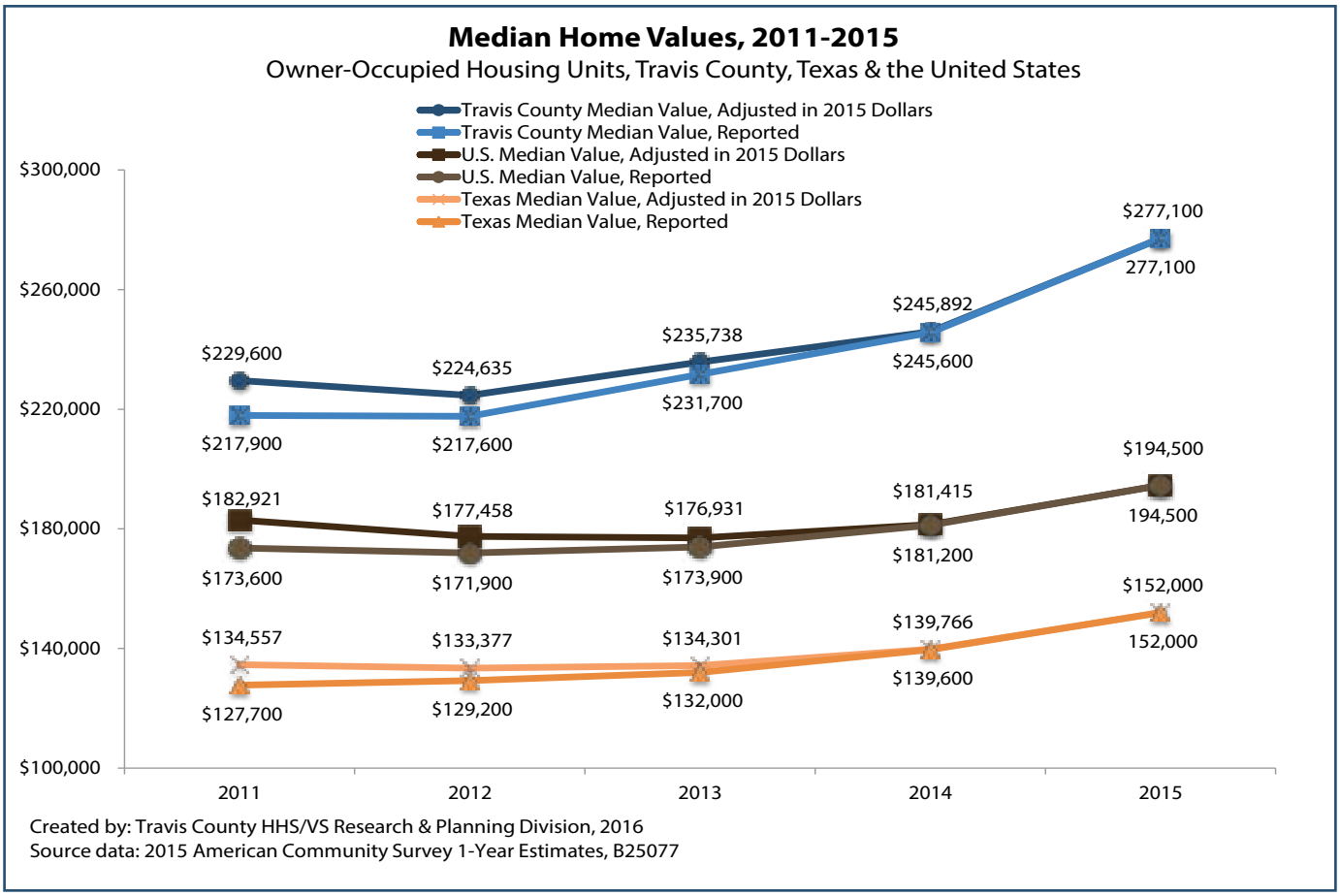


Housing Value[19] Distribution: About one-sixth (16%) of Travis County owner-occupied homes are valued under $150,000 (approximately 36,778). The majority (70%) of owner-occupied homes are valued at or over $200,000.

Median Housing Value: In 2015, the median housing value in Travis County was $277,100. This is higher than that of the U.S. ($194,500), and Texas ($152,000).

19 Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale. For vacant units, value was the price asked for the property. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 42.)

Median Housing Value



From 2011 to 2015, the reported median value of owner-occupied housing units in Travis County rose by 27% from $217,900 to $277,100. When adjusted for inflation,[20] during the same time period median home values in Travis County rose by 21%.

Geographic Comparison:

- In 2015, Travis County's reported median home values ($277,100) were higher than Texas ($152,000) and the U.S. ($194,500).
- Median home values have risen at a faster pace in Travis County than the State and U.S. When adjusted for inflation, from 2011 to 2015 the median home values in Texas and the U.S. rose by 13% and 6%, respectively.

20 Inflation adjustment calculation based on Consumer Price Index at: http://www.bls.gov/cpi/tables.htm.

Methodology

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) is the primary data source for this chartbook. Data from the 2011-2014 ACS are also referenced for trend analyses.

About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census or Decennial Census and collects information on an ongoing basis rather than once every ten years. The survey includes questions about housing, social, and economic characteristics.[21] The ACS employs continuous data collection, with annual results produced at the national, state, city, and county levels as well as smaller geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or greater. In 2008, data based on a 3-year sample became available for all areas of 20,000 or more, although 3-year estimates were discontinued in 2014. In 2011, data based on a 5-year sample became available for many small areas (state, county, city, town, place, census tracts and block groups). Also in 2011, changes in sampling design were made that have increased the reliability of small tract estimates.[22]

ACS Methodology

The ACS is conducted every month on independent samples of housing unit[23] addresses (whether vacant or occupied) and persons in group quarters[24] facilities, and produces annual estimates of the total residential population. Each year, approximately 3.5 million housing unit addresses in the United States and approximately 207,000 residents in group quarters facilities are selected.[25] Surveys are collected from 1/12 of the sample each month. An address will not be included in the ACS survey more than once in a five-year period.[26]

For Travis County, the original 2015 (entire 12 month) sample of initial addresses selected was 9,665, and the final number of housing unit interviews (actual sample used to produce results) was 6,426.[27] The group quarters population sample is not available at the county level, but for the entire state of Texas, the initial sample selected was 13,077 and the final number of group quarters actual interviews was 10,735.[28]

The ACS is conducted primarily through self-response. The ACS employs two distinct data collection methodologies: one for individuals residing in housing units and another for those residing in group quarters. For those residing in housing units, four modes of data collection are used: the internet, a mailout/mailback, Computer-

21 A copy of the 2015 questionnaire can be found at: http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2016/quest16.pdf.

22 For more information on 2011 reliability improvements, go to http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2011.pdf.

23 A housing unit may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing unit inventory. Boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, tents, railroad cars, and the like are included only if they are occupied as someone's current place of residence. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 7.)

24 A group quarters is a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, pg. 8.)

25 U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Tables B98001 and B98002.

26 American Community Survey Design and Methodology, available at: http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design_and_methodology/acs_design_methodology_report_2014.pdf

27 U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B98001.

28 American Community Survey Sample Size Definitions, available at: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/sample-size/index.php

Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) and a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). The general timing of data collection is completed within three months. During Month 1, addresses in the sample are sent an initial mailing package, which contains information for completing the ACS questionnaire on the internet. If an online response is not received after two weeks, then a second mailing package is sent. This package contains a paper questionnaire and the housing unit has the option of which mode to use to complete the interview. During Month 2, all mail non-responding addresses with an available phone number are sent to the CATI. During Month 3, a sample of mail non-responses without a phone number, CATI non-responses, and unmailable addresses are selected and sent to CAPI. For participants residing in Group Quarters, field representatives use several options, including completing the questionnaire while speaking to the resident in person or over the telephone, conducting a personal interview with a proxy, such as a relative or guardian, or leaving paper questionnaires for residents to complete for themselves and then pick them up later. This last option is used for data collection in Federal prisons.[29]

Limitations

Because the findings are based on a sample rather than entire populations, the results would differ slightly if another sample were drawn or if the entire population were surveyed. This reduces the reliability of the results. A certain amount of variability (also called sampling error) is associated with any estimate based on a sample. In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling error will be.[30] ACS estimates highlighted in this publication with relatively small sample sizes and therefore relatively large margins of error have been tested for reliability at a 90% level of confidence.[31] When direct comparisons are made (for example, between geographic areas or over time), tests have been performed for statistical significance at a 90% confidence level. Estimates with coefficients of variation[32] of more than 15% were either excluded or footnoted as being unreliable. Note that testing was not conducted on every possible permutation of comparisons between visible figures in this report's charts and tables, so inferences about statistics and trends should be interpreted with caution.

For more information and instruction on testing for reliability and statistical significance, as well as general guidance on how to use American Community Survey data, please see the Compass guides published by the U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html.

Non-response error: If certain individuals do not respond to the survey, the strength of the findings will be diminished. Additionally, those who respond to the survey may possess certain traits that skew the results differently than if everyone in the sample responds (this is known as selection bias). However, while surveys are often

29 American Community Survey Accuracy of the Data (2015), available at: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2015.pdf.

30 U.S. Census Bureau, A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2008. Available at: http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2009/acs/ACSstateLocal.pdf.

31 A confidence level or interval is a range of values that describes the uncertainty surrounding an estimate. The "90%" in the confidence interval listed above represents a level of certainty about our estimate. If we were to repeatedly make new estimates using exactly the same procedure (by drawing a new sample, conducting new interviews, calculating new estimates and new confidence intervals), the confidence intervals would contain the average of all the estimates 90% of the time. We have therefore produced a single estimate in a way that, if repeated indefinitely, would result in 90% of the confidence intervals formed containing the true value. (From the US Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates website, http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/methods/statecounty/ci.html, accessed 10/7/2016).

32 Coefficient of variation is a measure used to discern the level of reliability of an estimate. It is calculated using the estimate and its standard error. For more information on calculating and using coefficients of variation, see: A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know, available at http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2008/acs/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf.

Methodology

voluntary, response to the ACS is required by law (Title 18 U.S.C Section 3571 and Section 3559), and those who refuse or willfully neglect to respond to the survey are subject to a fine of up to $5,000 and those willfully gives any false answers are subject to a fine up to $500.[33] The response rate for the ACS is high (the 2015 response rate for Texas was 94% for housing units and 93% for group quarters).[34]

33 American Community Survey: Why Were You Selected? available at: http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/why-was-i-selected.html

34 Response rate information is available on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey website at: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/response-rates/