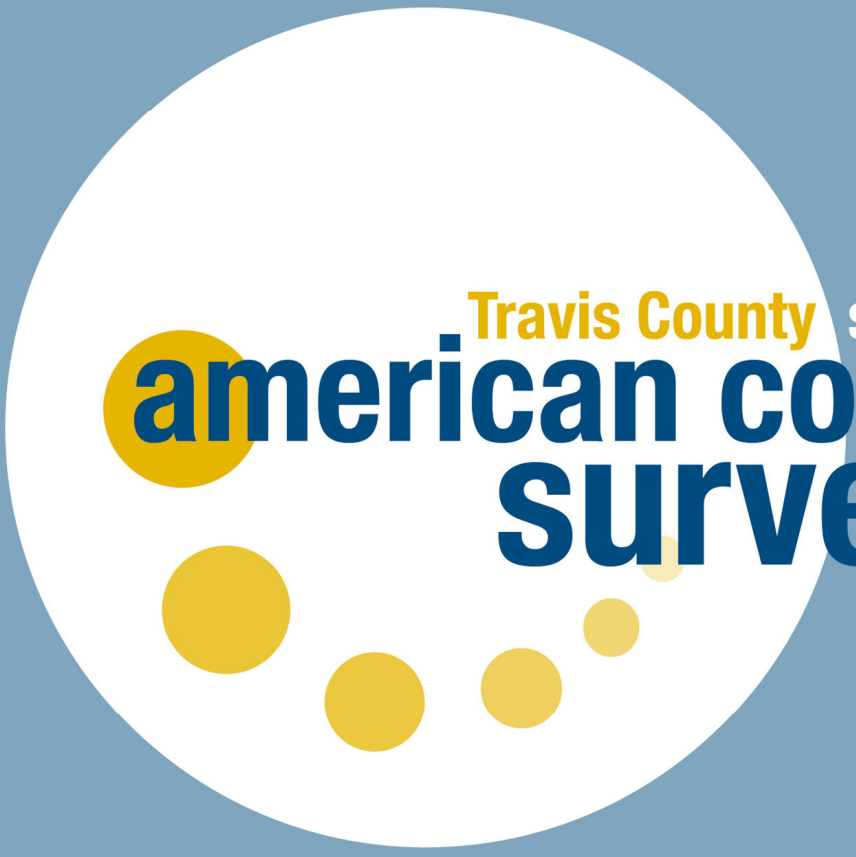


Travis County snapshot from american community survey 2007

Fall 2008

Travis County snapshot from american community survey 2007

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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 turned to the American Community Survey as a primary resource to describe current demographics and local conditions. Compared to the more well-known Decennial Census, which is conducted every 10 years, the American Community Survey is conducted on an ongoing basis and releases data annually. Thus it can provide more recent and accurate information, particularly for communities undergoing rapid demographic change. (For more on the American Community Survey, please see the Methodology.)

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 to access, analyze, and interpret the data you need. By selecting key variables from among the many available, analyzing the data for important relationships and trends, and presenting it here in visual formats, our goal is to provide access to current information describing our community. We hope this information is helpful in efforts to improve programs, influence funding decisions, and shape local policies. We encourage you to borrow and cite this material.

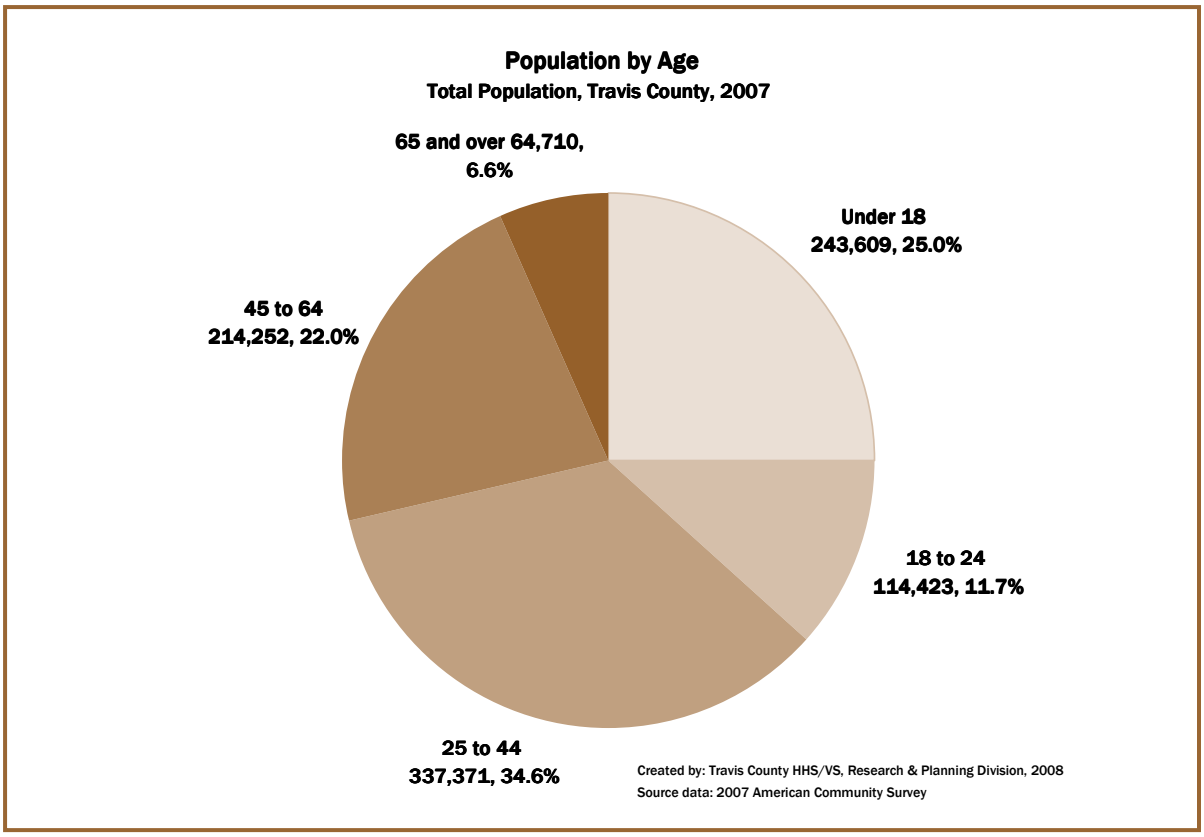
In Context: The Economic Downturn

While the American Community Survey is generally considered a timely source of information, the data reported in the 2007 ACS was collected roughly 9 to 20 months prior to its release in August/September 2008. Thus impacts of the current economic slowdown are not reflected in this edition. As you read the chartbook, please keep in mind that some current community conditions, particularly those related to economic or housing costs/values may have shifted from the information presented here. Community changes resulting from crises in the financial and housing industries, as well as rising unemployment, that we are experiencing in 2008 will not begin to appear in ACS data until the 2009 release.

Social Characteristics

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Age



Age Distribution: Age distribution in Travis County continues to be characterized by a large working age population (18-64). Working age adults comprise about 68% of the county's population. In comparison, the 18-64 year old age group comprises 62% of the Texas and 63% of the U.S. population.

Median Age: The median age in Travis County is 32.3. This reflects a relatively younger population than that of Texas (33.2) and the United States as a whole (36.7). In all three cases, the median age rose slightly in comparison to 2006 figures.

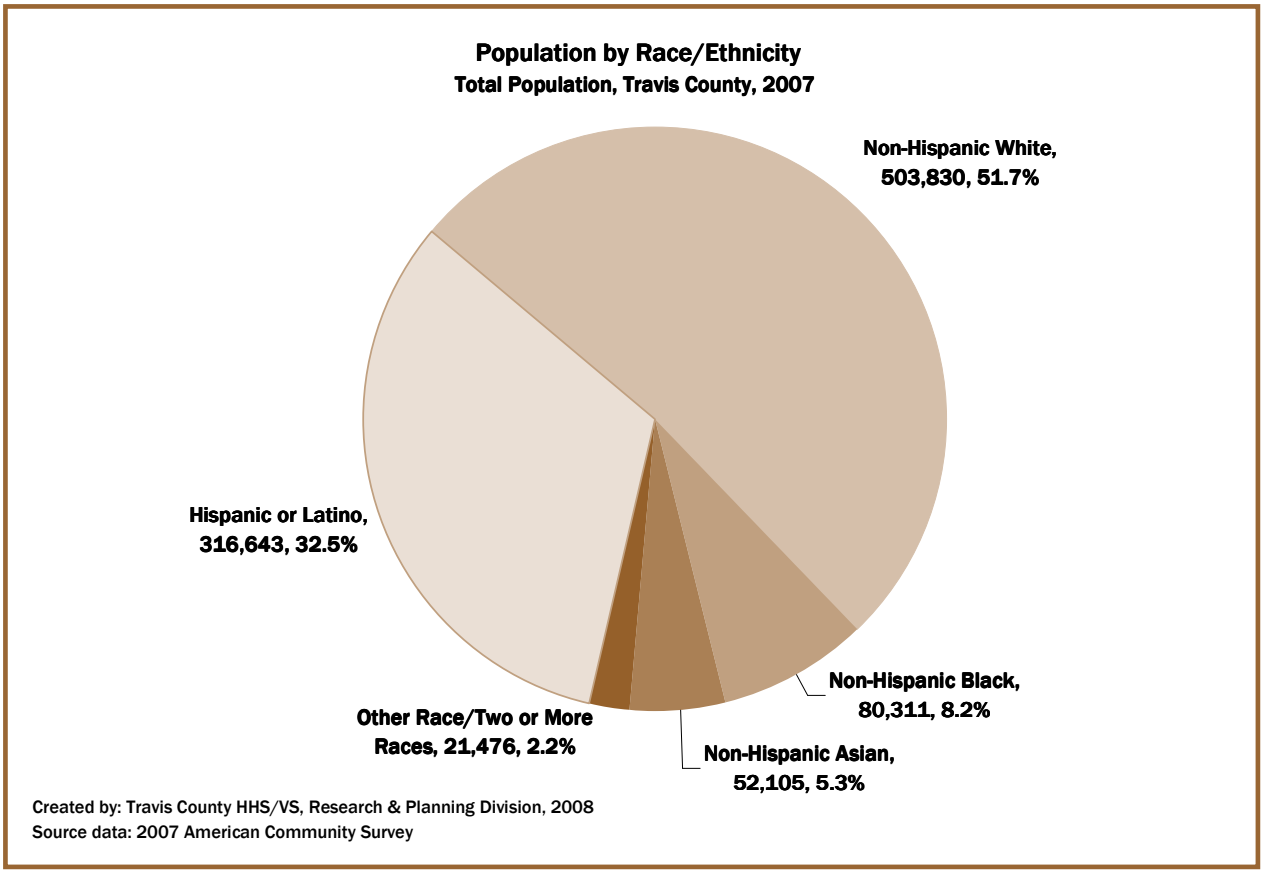
Trends to Watch: In Travis County, the 45-64 age group is growing at the fastest rate (see table below); this mirrors national trends and is likely mostly a result of the aging of the baby boomer generation. Travis County's under 18 population is also growing at faster rate than the population as a whole; this same trend does not appear in state and national statistics.

Growth in Population by Age
Travis County, Texas 2000- 2007

	2000	2007	Growth	% Change
Under 18	192,547	243,609	51,062	27%
18 to 24	118,372	114,423	-3,949	-3%
25 to 44	299,477	337,371	37,894	13%
45 to 64	147,450	214,252	66,802	45%
65 and over	54,434	64,710	10,276	19%
Total	812,280	974,365	162,085	20%

Created by Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2008
Source data: American Community Survey, 2007

Race and Ethnicity



Race and Ethnicity: The majority of the Travis County population identifies as Non-Hispanic White (52%) followed by Hispanic or Latino (33%), Non-Hispanic Black (8%) and Non-Hispanic Asian (5%).

Trends to Watch: In noting trends since 2000, Asians and Hispanics have increased as a proportion of Travis County's population, while Non-Hispanic Whites have decreased in share.

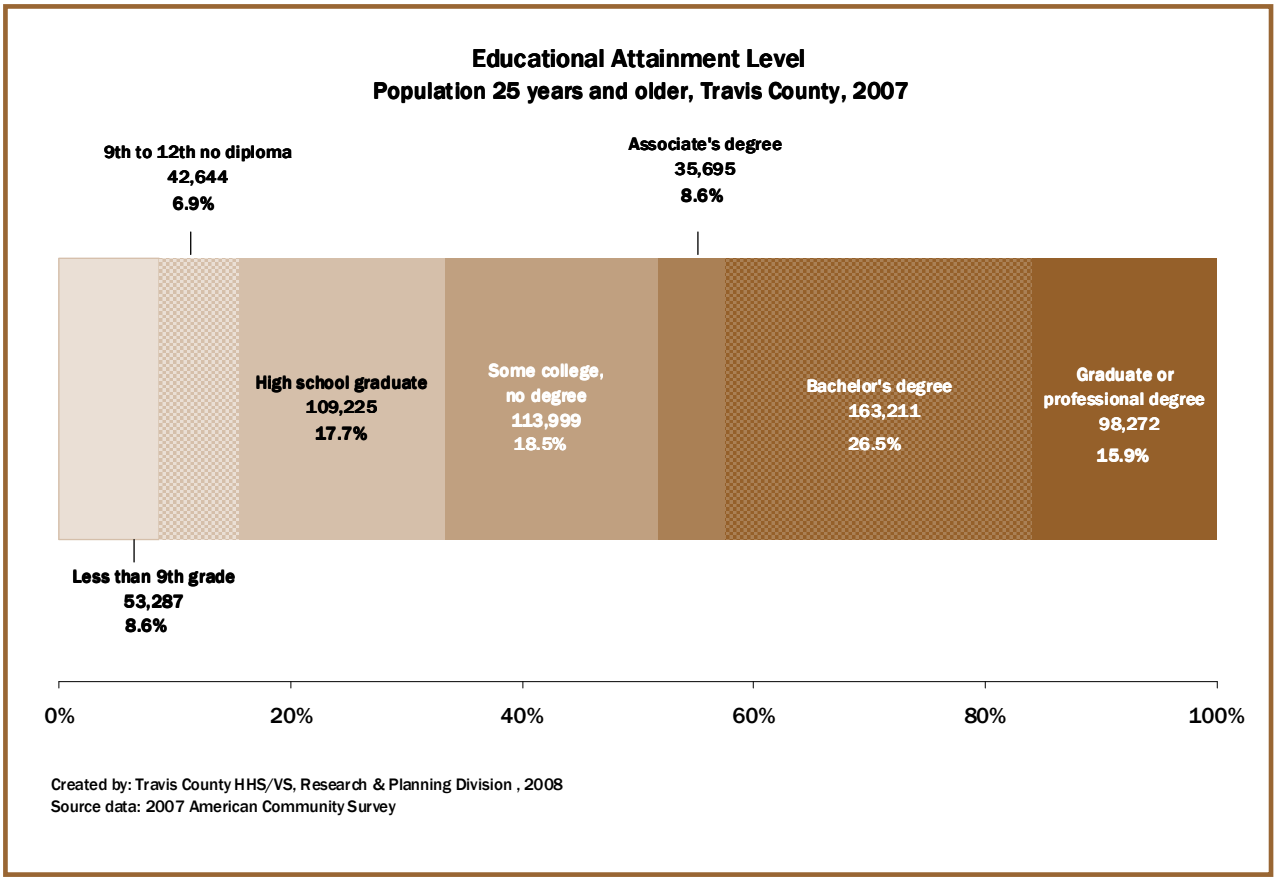
Geographic comparison: The table below provides a comparison of the racial and ethnic compositions of Travis County, Texas and the U.S.

Population by Race/Ethnicity
Travis County, Texas & U.S. 2007

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Non-Hispanic White	51.7%	47.7%	65.8%
Hispanic or Latino	32.5%	36.0%	15.1%
Non-Hispanic Black	8.2%	11.4%	12.2%
Non-Hispanic Asian	5.3%	3.3%	4.3%
Non-Hispanic Other Race/Two or More Races	2.2%	1.6%	2.6%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source data: American Community Survey, 2007

Educational Attainment



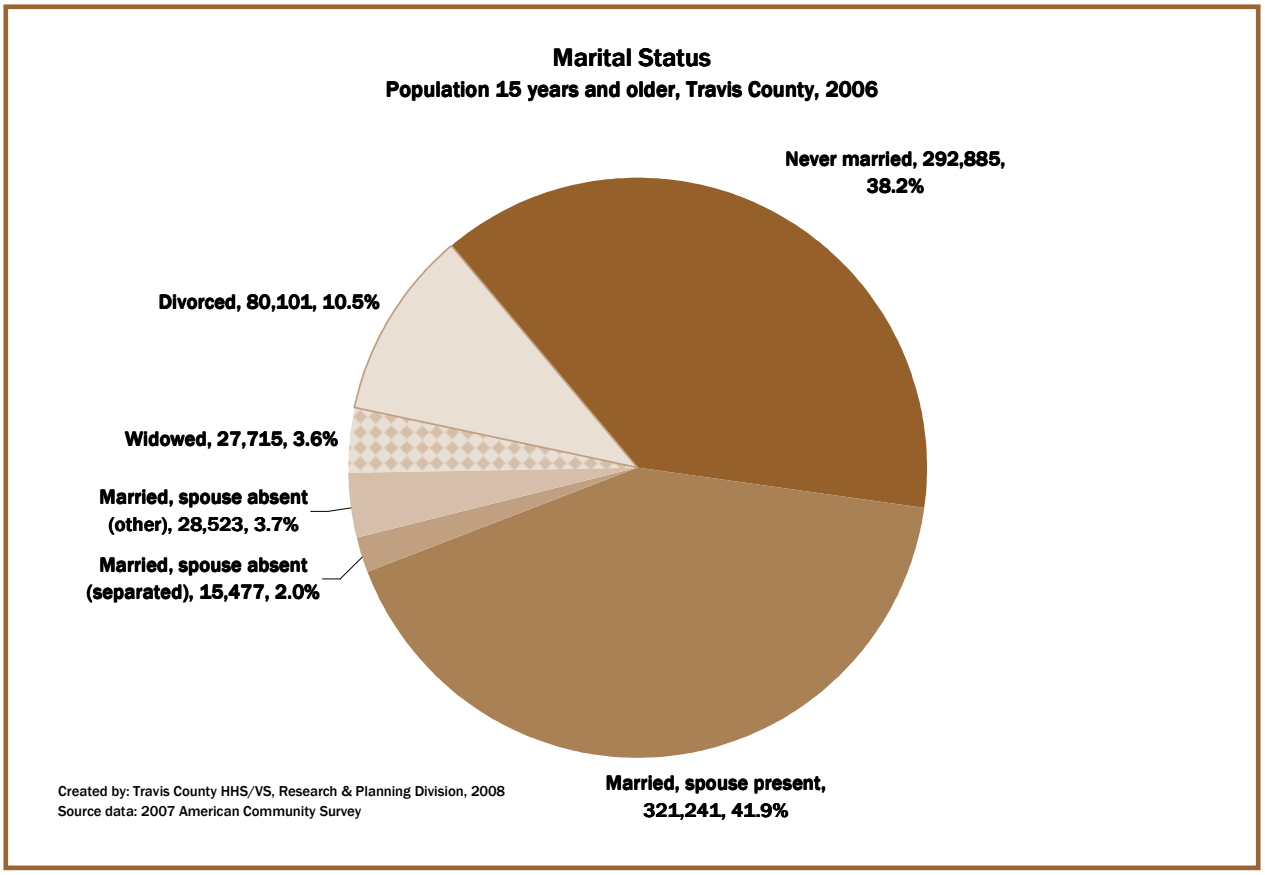
Educational Attainment Level: Travis County continues to have a highly educated population. In comparison to state and national figures, proportionately more Travis County residents have a college degree, and proportionately fewer lack a high school diploma.

- 42% of Travis County residents have Bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 25% of Texans and 27% of Americans.
- 16% of Travis County residents report having less than a high school diploma or equivalency compared with 21% of Texans and 16% of Americans.

College or Graduate School Enrollment[1]: About 12% 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 (law or medicine) degree. They do not include people enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school.

Marital Status



Marital Status by Sex: In Travis County, 42% of the population identifies as currently married, spouse present. Some differences between the sexes are noted below:

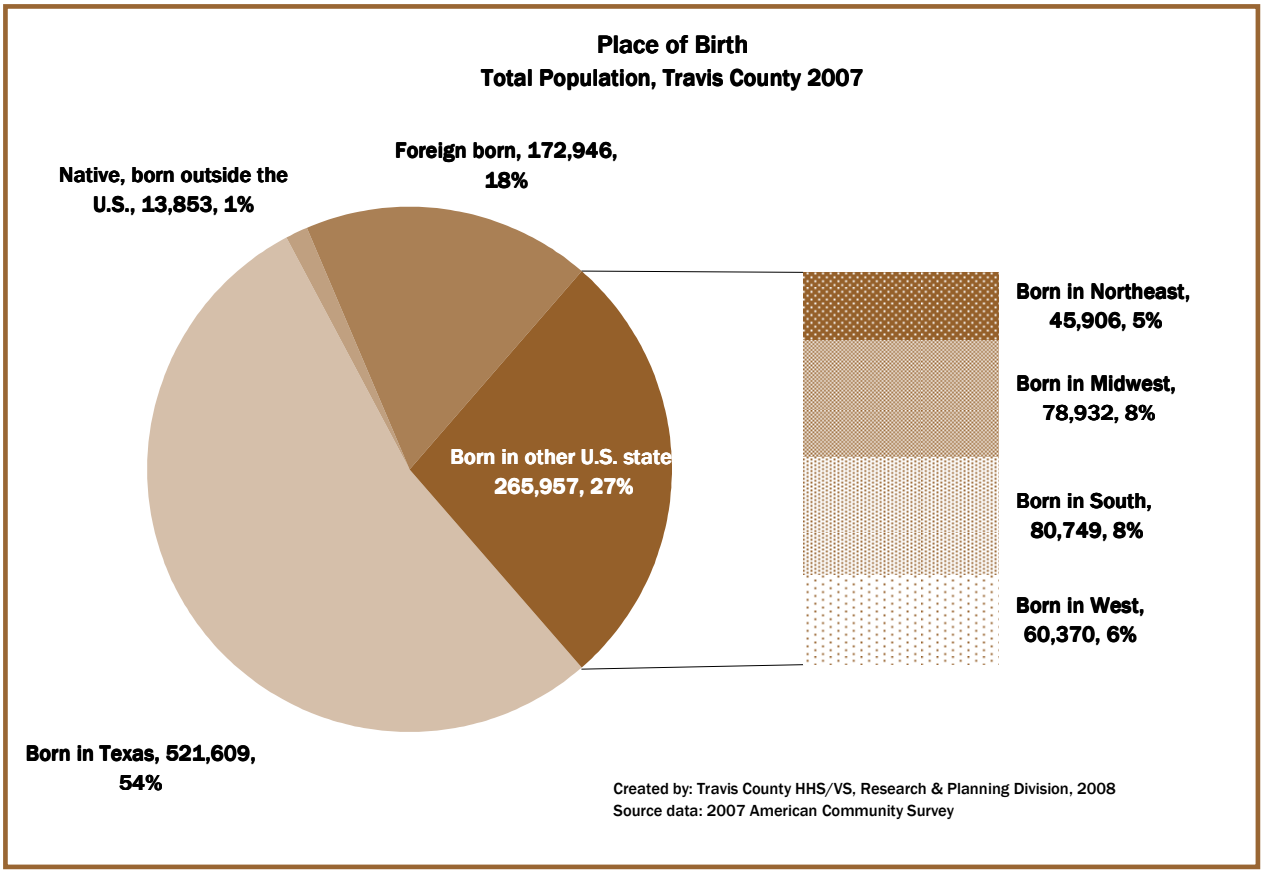
- Women were more likely than men to be separated, widowed or divorced
- Men were more likely than women to have never been married or identify their marital status as married, spouse absent (other)

Geographic Comparison: Compared to state and national figures, Travis County residents are more likely to have never been married, less likely to be currently married, and less likely to be widowed.

- 38% of Travis County residents have never been married compared to 30% of Texans, and 31% of Americans.
- 46% of Travis County residents are married[2] compared to 51% of Texans and 50% of Americans.
- 3.6% of Travis County residents are widowed compared to 5.5% of Texans and 6.3% of Americans.

[2] Includes married, spouse present and married, spouse absent (other). Does not include married, spouse absent (separated).

Place of Birth



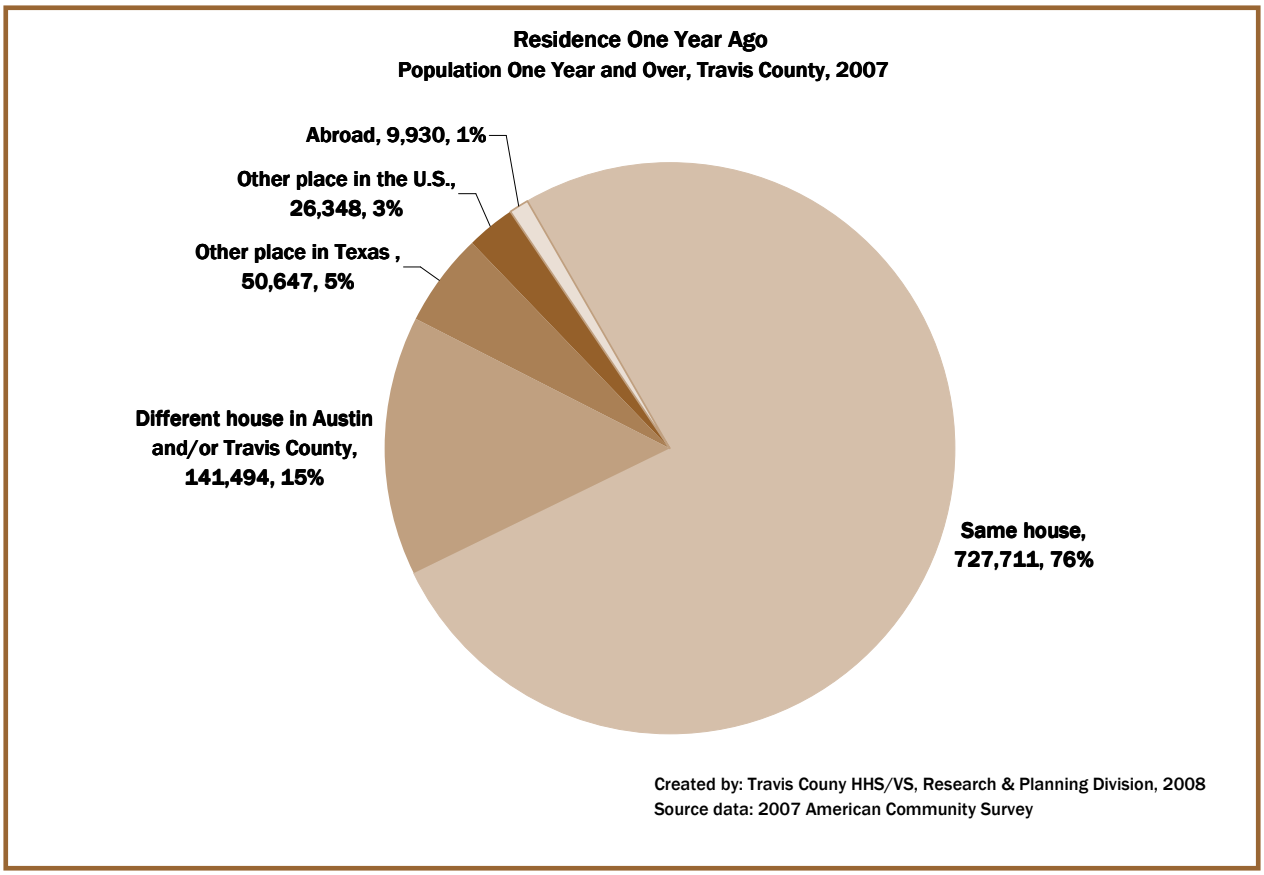
Place of Birth for the Travis County Population: About half of Travis County residents (54%) were born in Texas, roughly a quarter (27 %) were born in another state (most commonly in the southern or Midwestern regions of the U.S.), and about 18% of residents are foreign born.

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*. 53.5% of Travis County residents were born in their state of residence compared with 60.7% of Texans and 58.9% of Americans. However, Travis County statistics are relatively similar to those of other major metropolitan counties in the state. (53.7% of current Dallas County residents, 54.7% of Harris County residents, and 55.4% of Tarrant County residents were born in Texas.)

- *More likely to be foreign born;* 17.7% of Travis County residents are foreign born compared with 16.0% of Texans, and 12.6% of Americans. However, Travis County has a proportionately smaller foreign-born population than both Dallas and Harris Counties where immigrants comprise nearly a quarter of the population.

Migration



Place of Residence One Year Ago for Current Travis County Residents: In 2007, about 91% of the Travis County population had lived in the Austin/Travis County community one year before, while 9% of the population was newly arrived, or returning to Austin/Travis County from elsewhere.

Geographic and Trend Comparison:

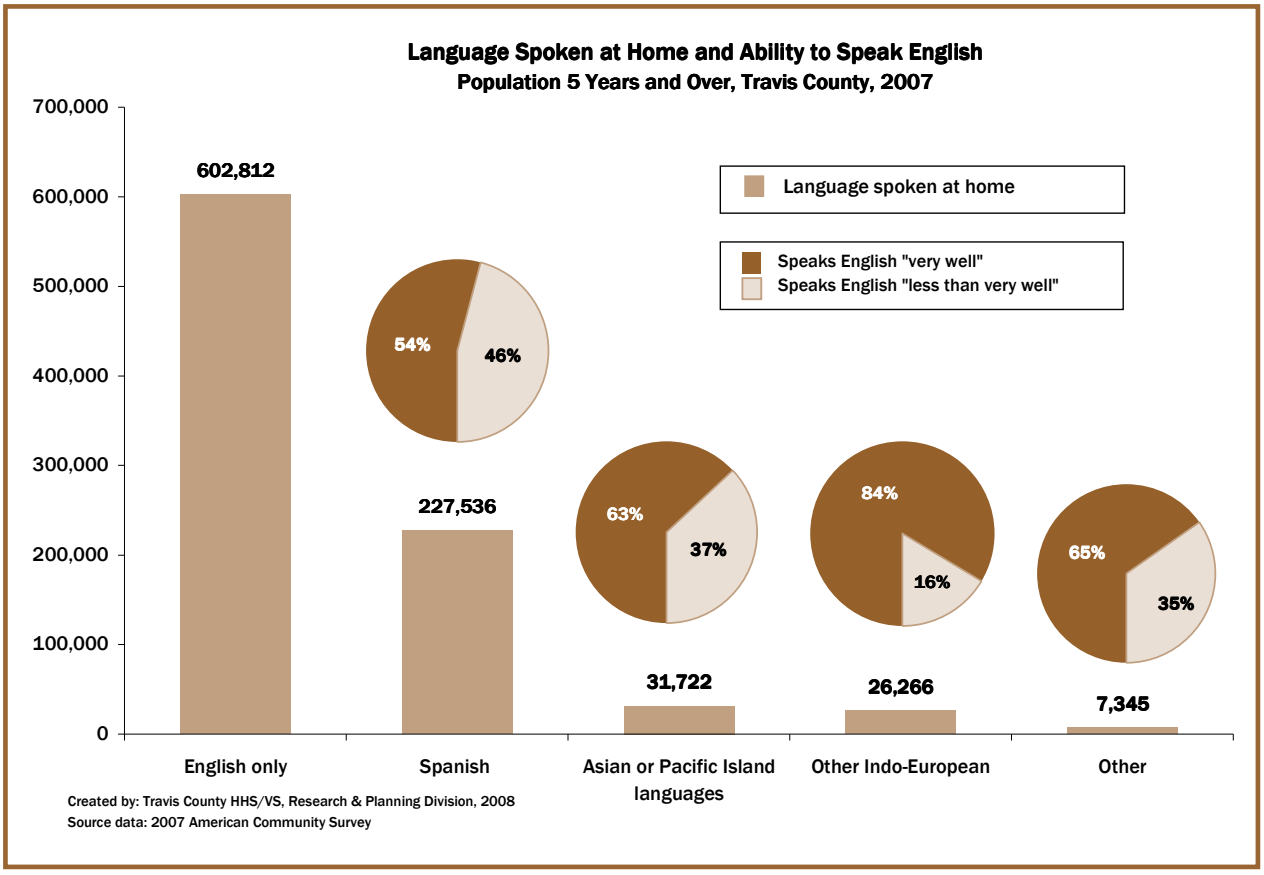
- Compared to Texas and U.S. averages, Travis County residents are more likely to have lived in a location other than their current residence one year ago.
- National, state and local data from 2006 and 2007 all indicate a slight trend towards a less mobile population (more people remaining in the same house).

Place of Residence One Year Ago
Population One Year and Older, Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2006 & 2007

	Travis County		Texas		U.S.	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Same house	74%	76%	80%	81%	83%	84%
Different house in same city/county	16%	15%	12%	12%	10%	9%
Other city/county in same state	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Other city/county in a different state	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Abroad	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to 100%.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source data: 2006 & 2007 American Community Survey

Language



Languages Spoken at Home: Nearly one-third of the Travis County population (33% or 292,869 residents) speaks a language other than English at home. In comparison, 20% of U.S. residents and 34% of Texans speak a language other than English at home.

Ability to Speak English: 58% of Travis County residents who speak a language other than English at home also speak the English language "very well"; about 42% speak English "less than very well".

Trends to Watch: Overall, the number and share of Travis County residents speaking a language other than English at home has grown since 2000 (from 29% or 216,164 in 2000 to 33% or 292,869 in 2007).

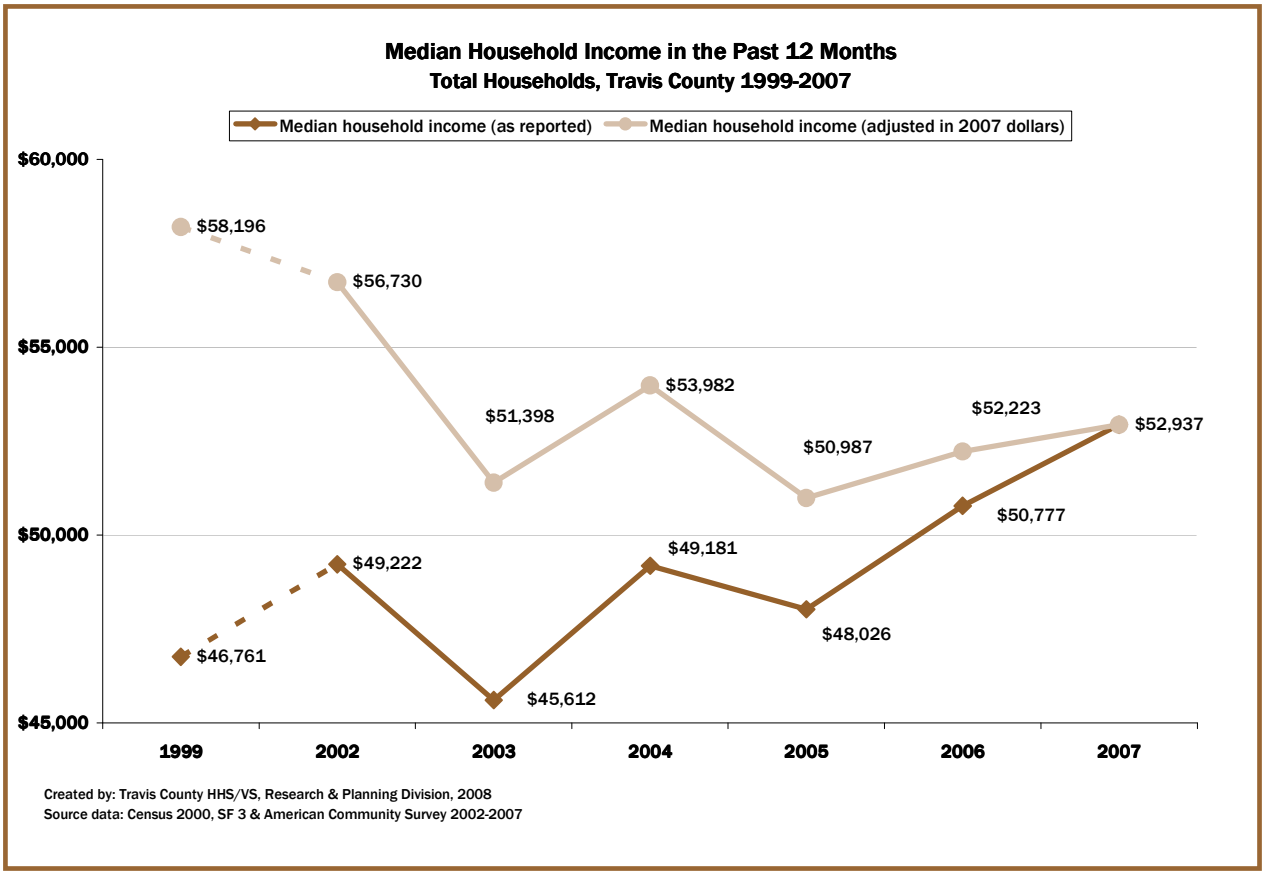
Linguistic Isolation: 8% of all Travis County households (29,922 households) are linguistically isolated[3]. The majority of these households speak Spanish (about 25,103 households) or Asian or Pacific Islander languages (about 3,257 households).

[3]A linguistically isolated household is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English.

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Median Income



Median Household Income: Although the reported median income has risen overall since 1999 (dark line on the chart above), once adjusted for inflation (lighter line above), the actual value of Travis County's median household income was about $5,000 lower in 2007 than in 1999.[4]

Geographic Comparison: Since 1999, the median household income in Travis County has consistently exceeded that of the U.S. and Texas. However, the county's median household income is falling at a faster rate than the nation or state. Subsequently, the difference in median income between the county and state/nation is shrinking.

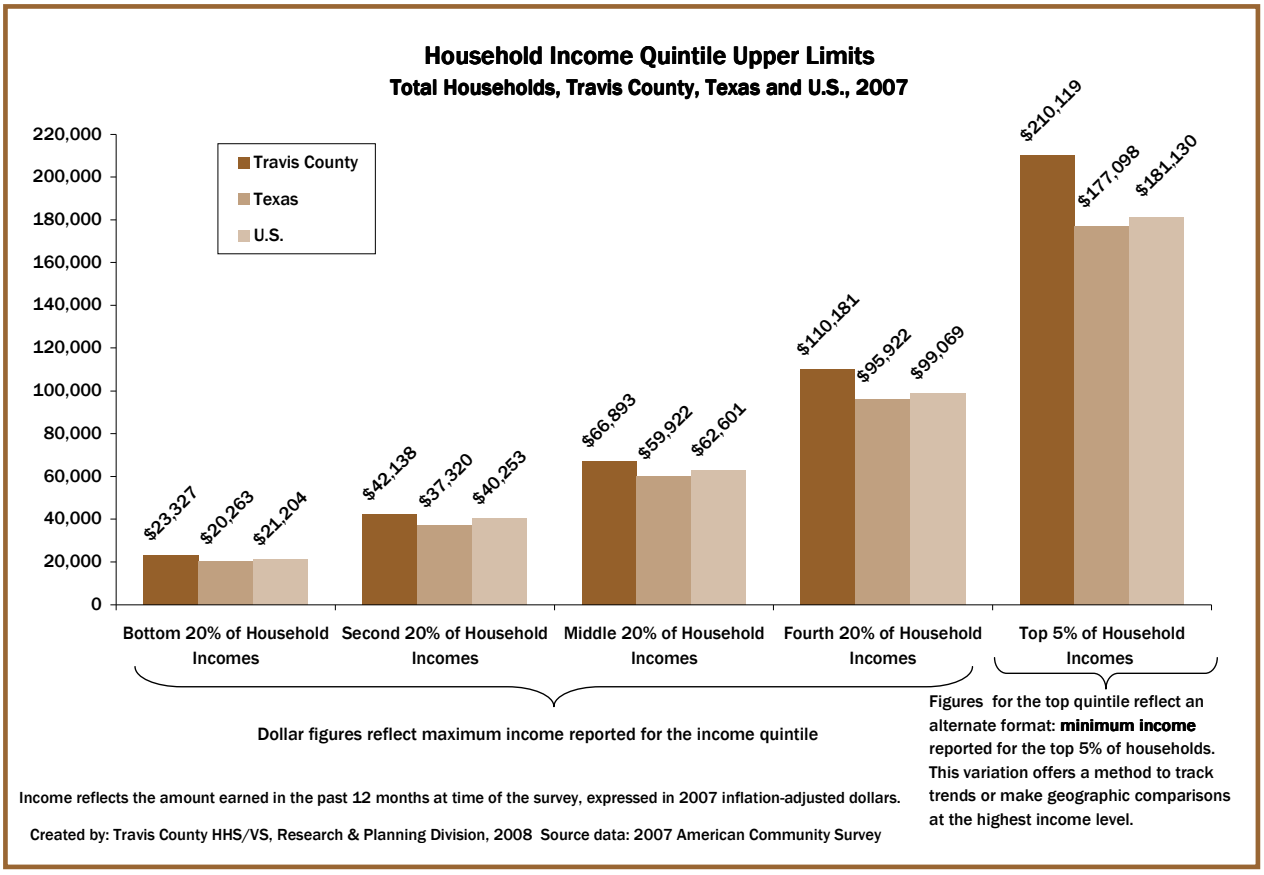
Median Household Income (in 2007 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)
Travis County, Texas and U.S., 1999 and 2007

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Median Household Income 1999	$58,196	$49,691	$52,264
Median Household Income 2007	$52,937	$47,548	$50,740
Percent Change between 1999 and 2007	-9%	-4%	-3%

Created by Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source data: Census 2000, SF 3 & ACS, 2007

[4] The 2000 Census reflects income earned during calendar year 1999. However, the ACS is a monthly survey that asks how much income was earned during the past 12 months. Consequently, a person answering the question in January 2006 would answer based on income earned between January 2006 and December 2006 and a person answering the questions in December 2007 would respond based on income earned between December 2006 and November 2007.

Household Income Distribution



Several methods for assessing income distribution involve separating households into quintiles, or five groups each representing 20% of households. The first quintile is comprised of the bottom 20% of incomes (household incomes of $0-$23,327) and the fifth quintile of the top 20% of income (household incomes of $210,119- highest income in County, likely in the millions). In Travis County, there are about 76,850 households in each quintile.

Quintile Upper Limits: When comparing Travis County's income quintile distribution to the U.S. and Texas, Travis County's household incomes are higher than that of the U.S. or Texas across the entire income distribution.

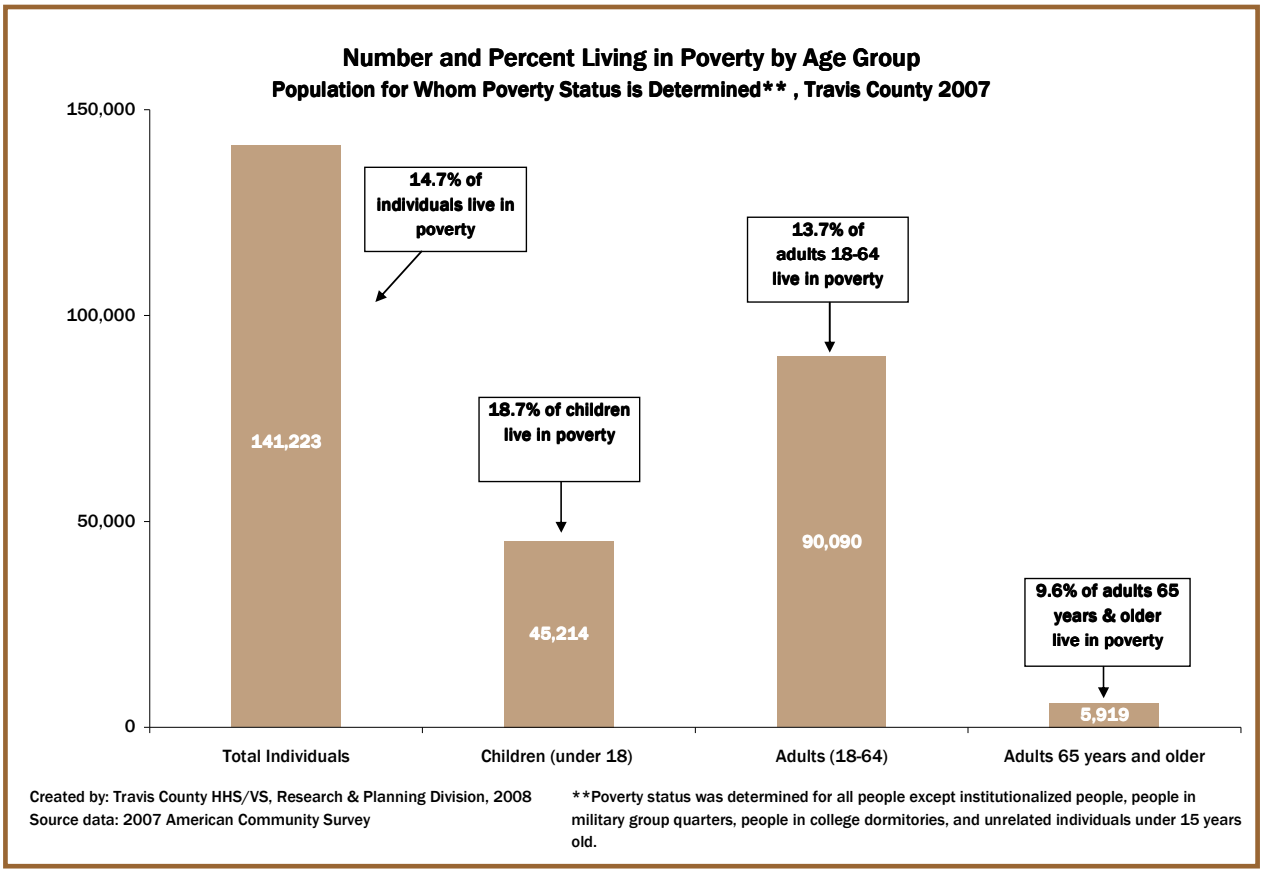
Share of Household Income by Quintile: The table below shows the aggregate shares of income held by each quintile for Travis County, Texas and the United States. In Travis County the households in the lowest quintile (those with incomes less than $23,327) have 3.2% of household income; while the one-fifth of households with incomes of more than $210,119 (those in the highest quintile) have more than half (51.7%) of the household income.

Shares of Income by Quintile
Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2007

	Lowest Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Highest Quintile	Top 5 Percent
Travis County	3.2%	8.5%	14.1%	22.6%	51.7%	22.8%
Texas	3.3%	8.6%	14.4%	22.8%	50.9%	22.7%
United States	3.4%	8.8%	14.7%	22.9%	50.3%	22.5%

Created by TCHHS/vS, Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source: American Community Survey, 2007

Poverty (Individuals)



Poverty Rate Trends: Travis County's poverty rates among individuals (15%) and children (19%) remain higher than in 1999 (Census 2000), when 13% of individuals and 14% of children lived below the poverty threshold.[5] While there is not a significant shift in Travis County's poverty rate from recent years, the 2007 poverty rate figures for both all individuals and children did decrease slightly from 2006.

Poverty Estimates & Rates among Individuals & Children
Travis County, Texas 1999-2007

	1999	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals in Poverty	99,388	122,607	116,231	106,765	135,240	137,687	141,223
Individual poverty rate	12.5%	14.8%	14.0%	12.6%	15.7%	15.2%	14.7%
Children (under 18) in Poverty	27,214	39,712	34,260	27,549	45,524	46,039	45,214
Child poverty rate	14.3%	19.6%	16.7%	12.9%	21.4%	20.4%	18.7%

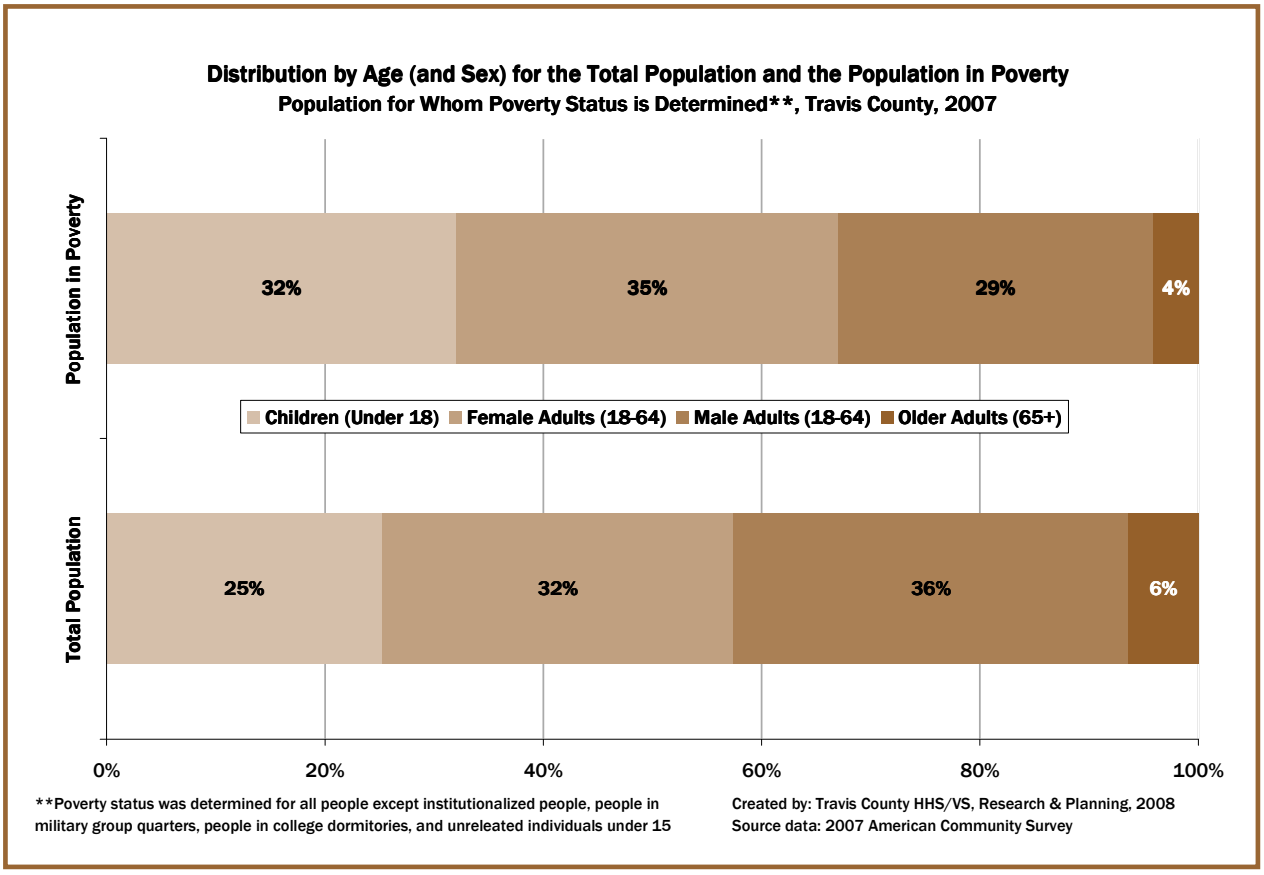
Created by Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division Source data: American Community Survey 2002-2007, Census 2000

Geographic Comparison: Travis County has a higher poverty rate (15%) than the US (13%), but a lower rate than Texas (16%). Specific comparisons for select subpopulations include:

- A higher child poverty rate (19%) than the U.S. (18%) but a lower rate than Texas (23%).
- The same adult poverty rate (14%) as Texas, and a higher rate than the U.S. (12%).
- The same poverty rate among older adults as the nation (10%), but a lower rate than the state (12%).

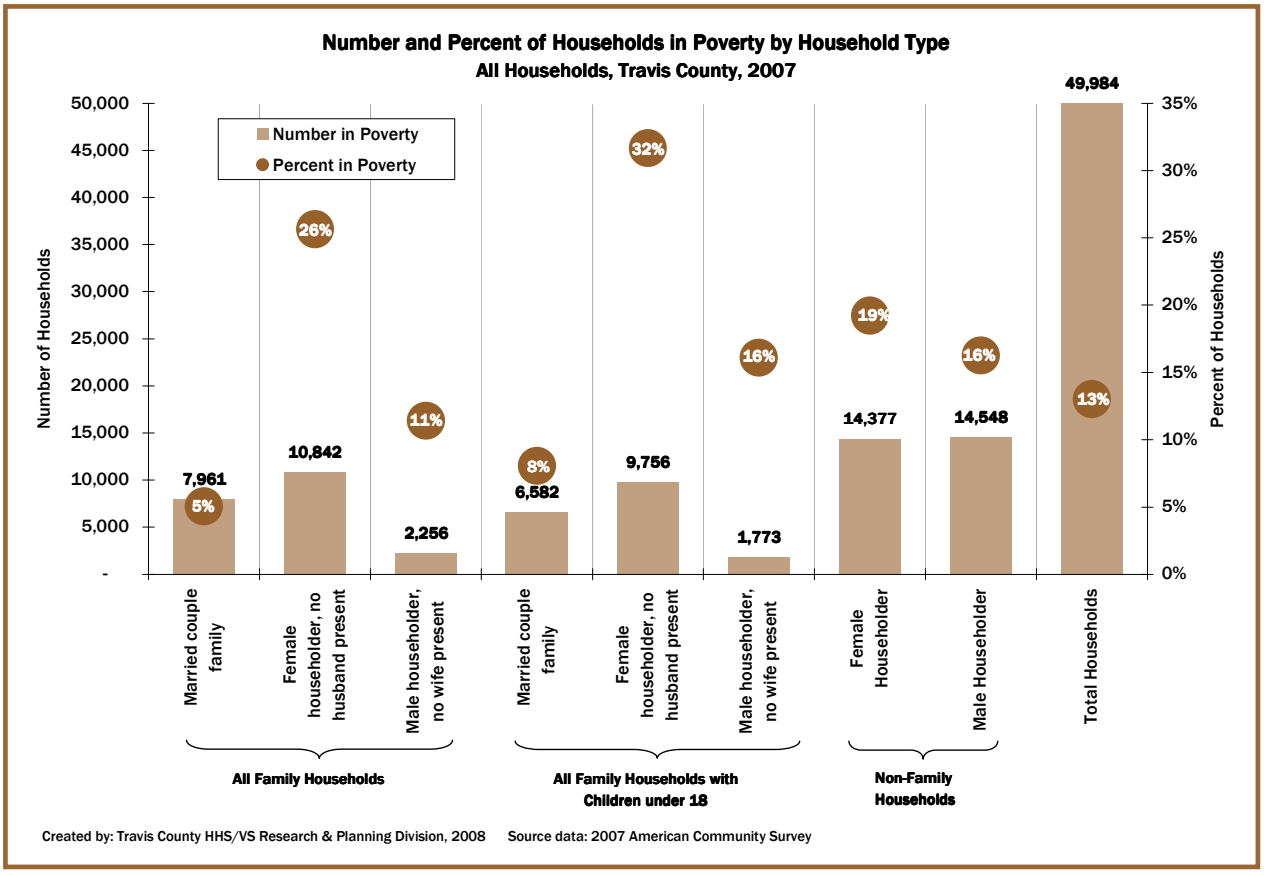
[5] The Census Bureau uses poverty thresholds as denoted in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14. These thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh07.html.

Poverty (Individuals)



Age and Sex Distribution of Individuals in Poverty: Children and female adults are disproportionately represented among the poor, with the overrepresentation being especially prominent among children. (Children make up one-quarter of the total Travis County population, but comprise nearly one-third of those living in poverty.)

Poverty (Households)



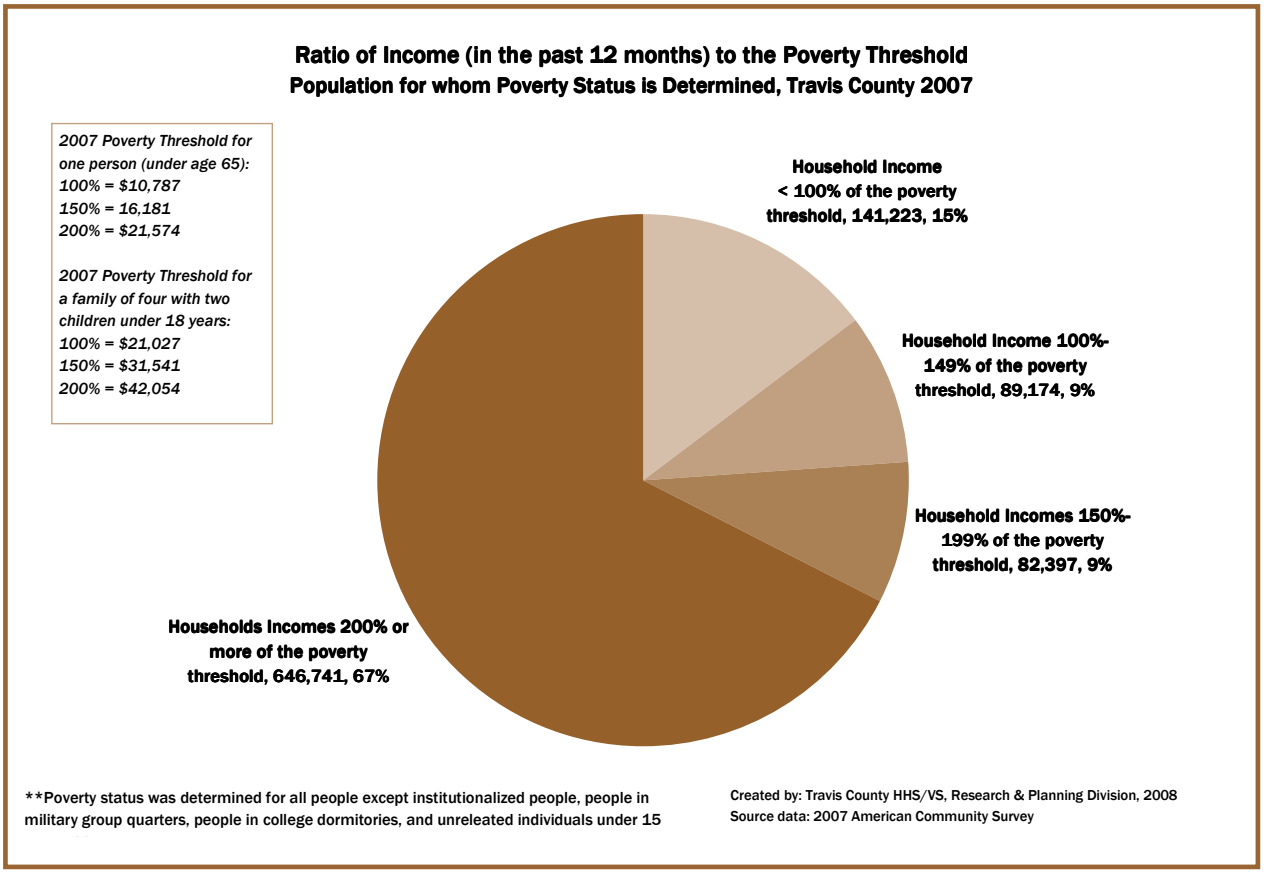
Household Poverty Rate: In 2007, an estimated 49,984 Travis County households (about 13% of all households) have incomes that fall below the poverty threshold. These figures are very similar to the number (49,648) and rate (13.5%) of households living in poverty in 2006.

Household Poverty Rates and Household Type: Female headed households have the highest poverty rates. For example, single female headed households with children have a poverty rate (32%) that is roughly 4 times higher than the rate for married couples with children (8%) and double that of single male headed households with children (16%).

Geographic Comparison: Travis County has an overall household poverty rate (13%) that is greater than that of the U.S. (12%) but less than that of Texas (15%). Travis County's family poverty rate (10%), matches that of the U.S., but is less than the family household poverty rate for Texas (13%).

Travis County single parent households appear to fall beneath the poverty threshold at a lesser rate than their counterparts across the state and the nation. For example, 32% of Travis County female headed households with children have incomes below the poverty threshold compared with 40% in Texas and 37% across the U.S.

Income to Poverty Ratio



Ratio of Household Income in the Past 12 Months to the Poverty Threshold: In Travis County an estimated 141,223 individuals (15% of the total population) live in households with incomes below the poverty threshold. When expanding the lens to 200% of poverty, almost a third (33%) of Travis County residents, or an estimated 312,794 individuals, fall under this threshold.

Geographic Comparison: As compared to national statistics, Travis County has a slightly greater share of residents living in households with incomes at or below 200% of the poverty threshold; in comparison to state figures, Travis County has a smaller share of residents living in households with incomes at or below 200% of the poverty threshold.

Ratio of Income (in the past 12 months) to the Poverty Threshold
Travis County, Texas, & U.S., 2007

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Income < 100% of the poverty threshold	15%	16%	13%
Income 100%-199% of the poverty threshold	18%	21%	18%
Incomes 200% or more of the poverty threshold	67%	63%	69%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source data: 2007 American Community Survey

Receipt of Public Benefits

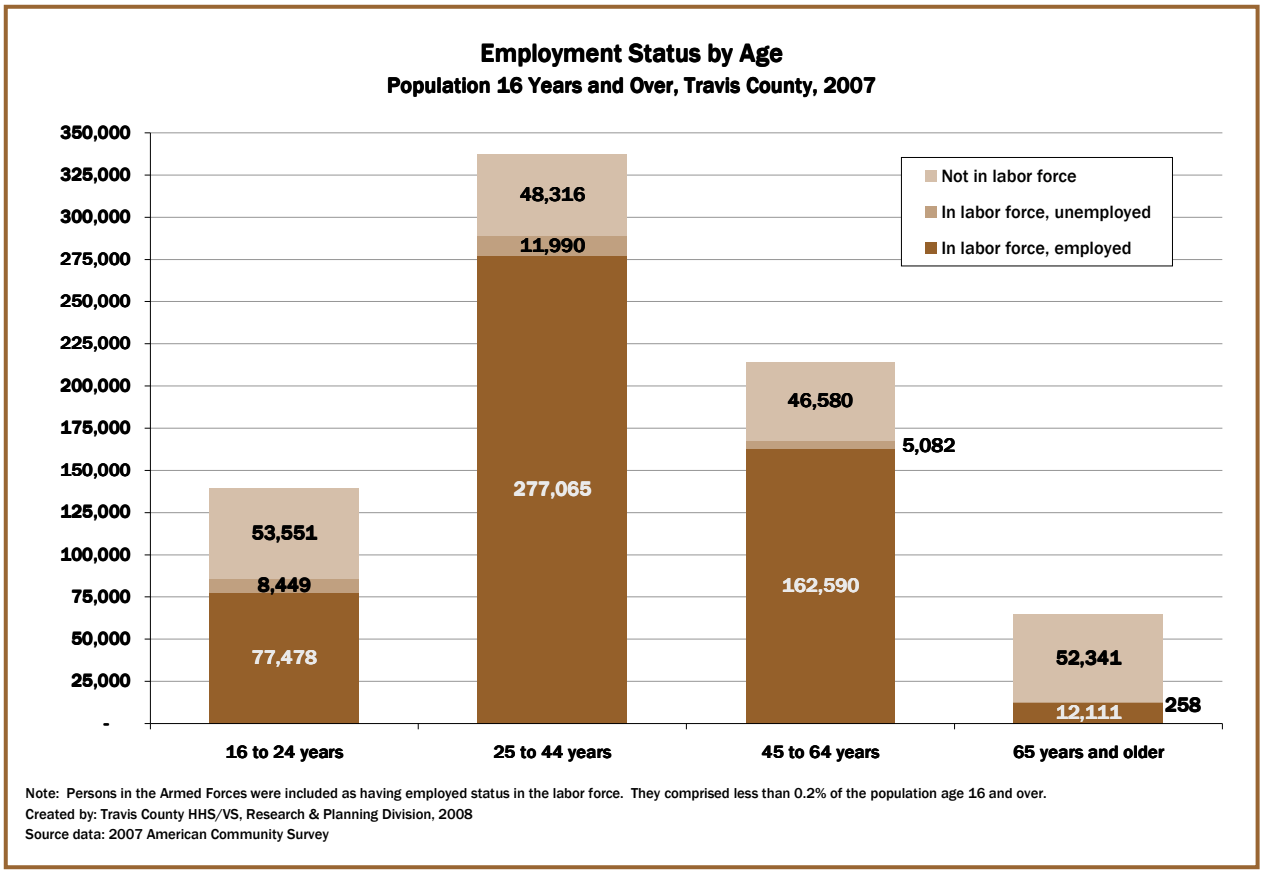
Households Receiving Public Benefits, Travis County, 2007						
	Travis County		Texas		U.S.	
	Number of Households	Percent of all Households	Number of Households	Percent of all Households	Number of Households	Percent of all Households
Households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	7,607	**2.0%**	294,914	**3.6%**	4,565,694	**4.1%**
Households with Public Assistance Income	3,504	**0.9%**	103,004	**1.2%**	2,411,238	**2.1%**
Household that received Food Stamps in the past 12 months	23,830	**6.2%**	735,491	**8.9%**	8,676,234	**7.7%**

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008. Source data: 2007 American Community Survey.

Receipt of Benefits over Time: The share of Travis County households receiving these benefits has remained relatively stable since 2004. In 2007, about 6% of Travis County households received Food Stamps, 2% received Supplemental Security Income, and 1% received Public Assistance Income.

Geographic Comparison: Compared to Texas and the U.S., proportionately fewer Travis County households receive all three of these types of public benefits.

Employment and Age

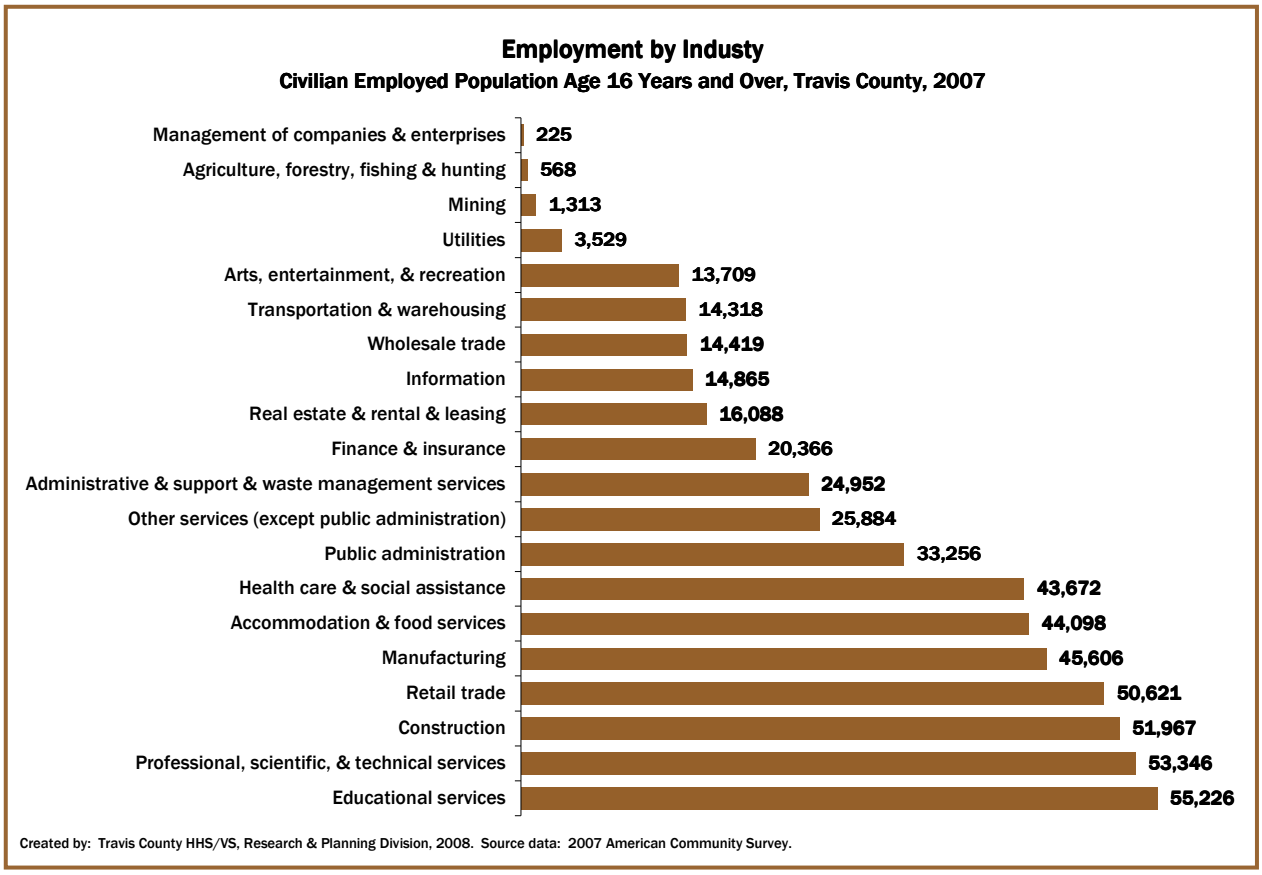


Travis County's Labor Force: In total, 73% of Travis County's population (about 555,000 people) is in the labor force. Approximately 25,800 of them are unemployed.

Labor Force by Age: Individuals between the ages of 25 and 44 constitute the majority (52%) of Travis County's labor force. The 45 to 64 age group comprises 30% of the labor force, followed by the 16 to 24 age group (15%), and finally those age 65 and older (2%).

Unemployment by Age: Travis County's overall unemployment rate (which is the percent unemployed of those in the labor force) is 5%. By age, the unemployment rate is highest, at 10%, for those 16 to 24 years old; 4% for those 25 to 44 years old; 3% for those 45 to 64 years old; and 2% for those 65 years and older.

Employment by Industry

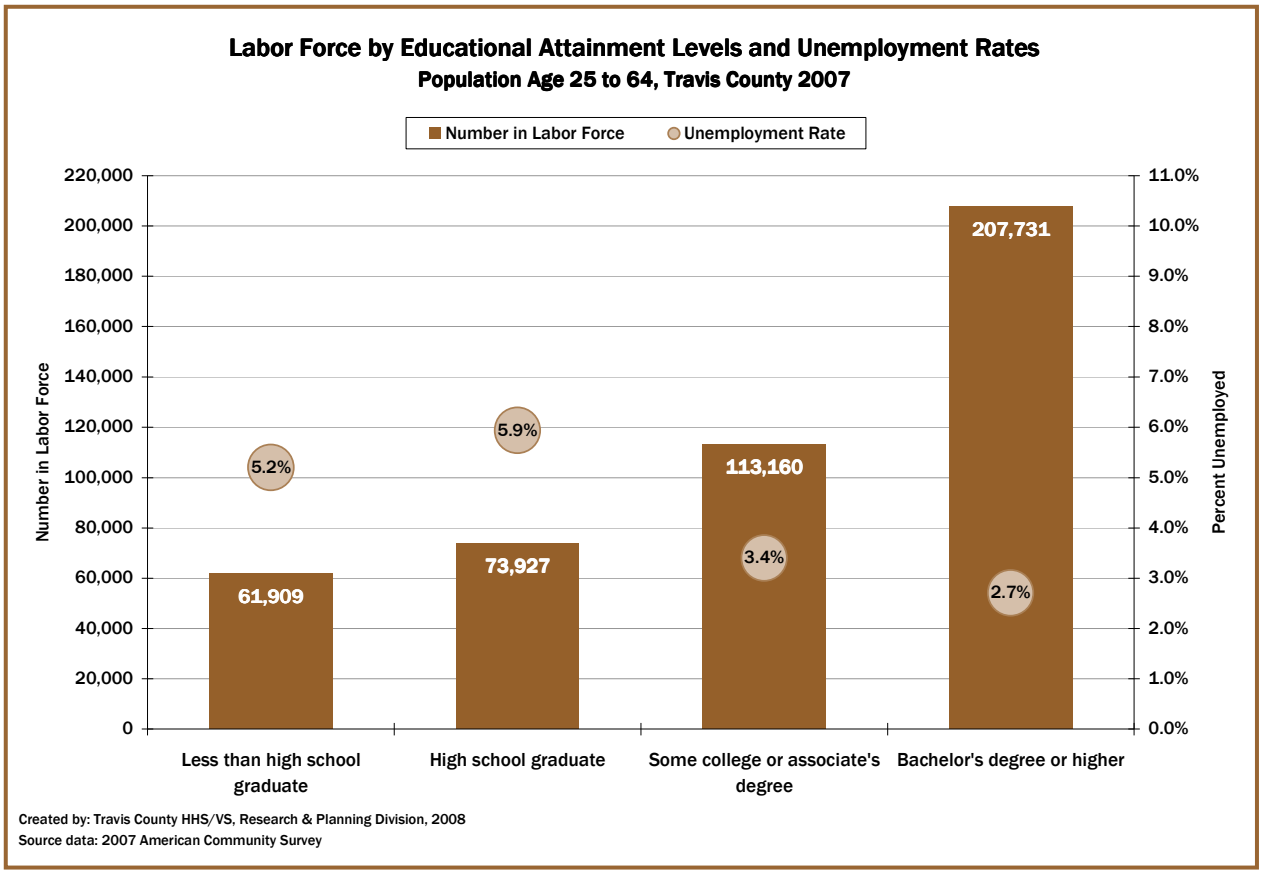


Industries: Half (49%) of Travis County's civilian employed population age 16 and over is employed in the following five industries: educational services, professional/scientific/technical services, construction, retail trade, and manufacturing.

Occupations: By occupation, the majority (55%) of Travis County works in: (1) professional and related occupations (27%), (2) management, business and financial operations occupations (16%), and (3) office and administrative support occupations (13%).

Geographic Comparison: Compared to four other metropolitan counties in Texas (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties), Travis County's labor force has higher shares of workers in the following industries: public administration; educational services; and professional, scientific and technical services.

Employment and Education

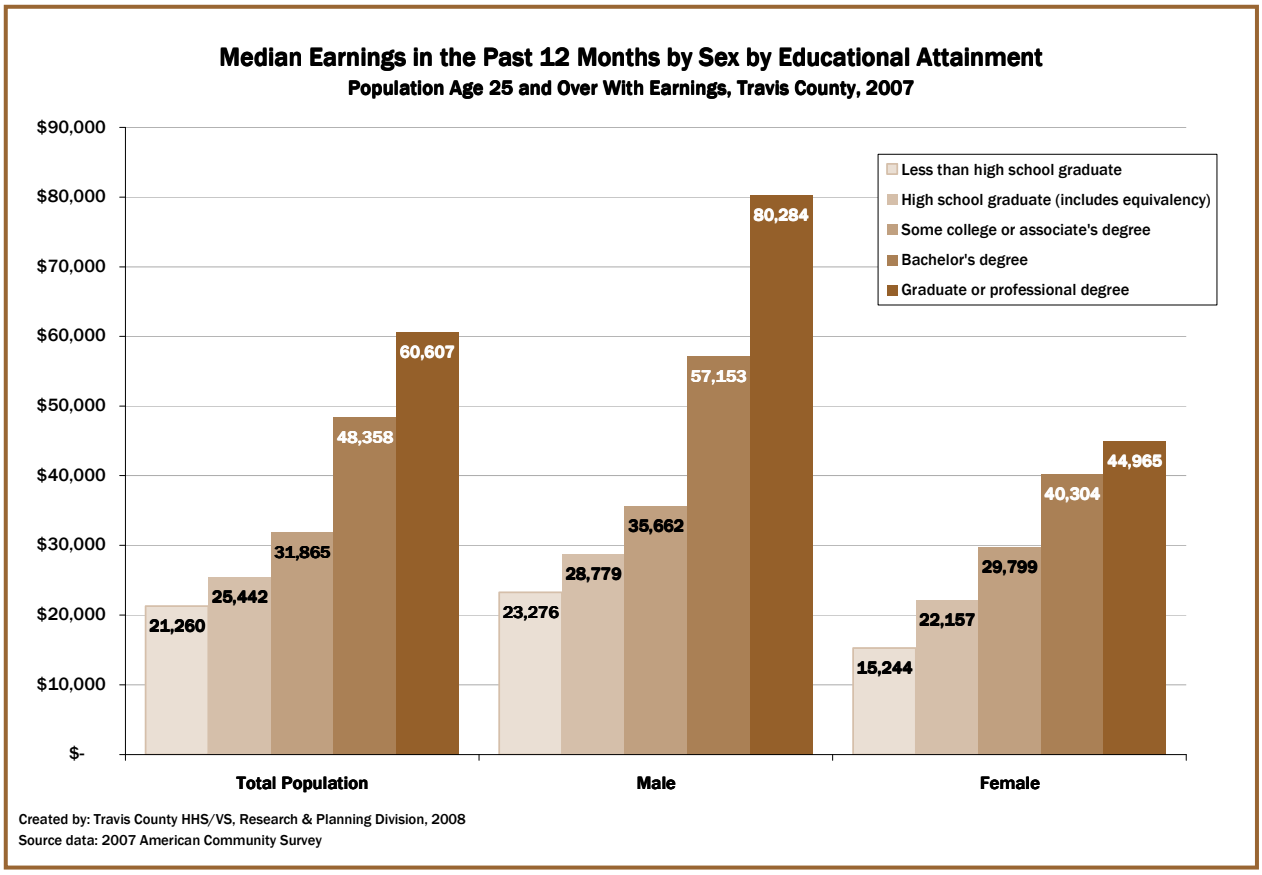


Educational Attainment in the Labor Force: Among Travis County workers between the ages of 25 and 64, almost half (45%) have a bachelor's degree or higher, and one-quarter (25%) have some college or an associate's degree. High school graduates comprise 16% of the labor force, and the remaining 14% have less than a high school degree.

Educational Attainment and Employment Rates: Workforce trends generally predict that unemployment decreases as education levels increase. Accordingly, those with the highest educational attainment levels in Travis County also have the lowest unemployment (about 3% unemployment, both for those with come college or an associate's degree and for those with a bachelor's degree or higher). Interestingly, in 2007, unemployment among those with less than a high school degree (5%) was lower than what we might expect.

Geographical Comparison: In comparison to Texas and the U.S., Travis County has a very educated workforce. In Travis County, 45% of workers age 25 to 64 have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 29% for Texas and 32% for the U.S. at large.

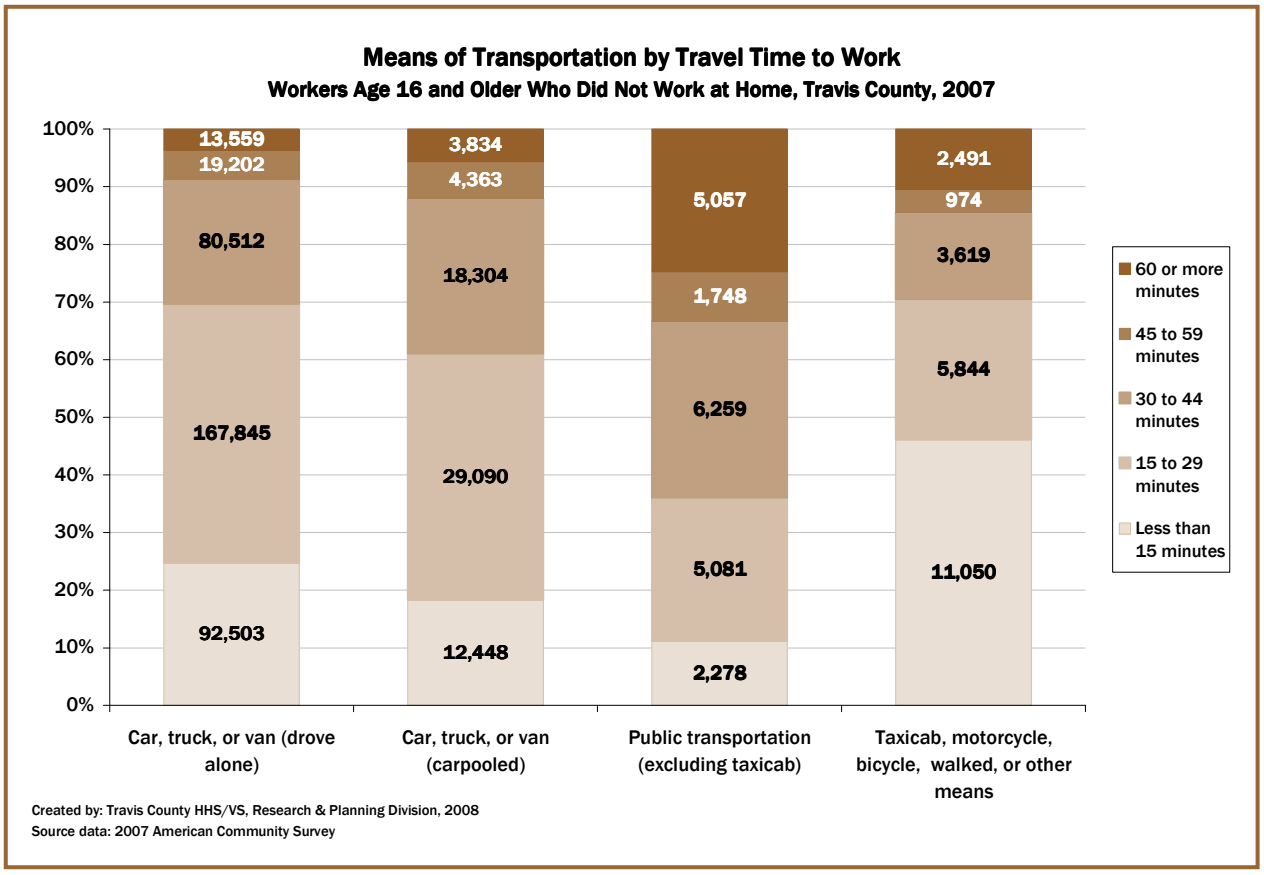
Earnings and Education



Educational Attainment and Earnings: Educational attainment level and earnings are directly related: As education level increases, earnings also rise. The largest percent increase in 2007 is between those with some college or associate's degree and those with bachelor's degrees (a 52% increase in median earnings).

Earnings by Sex: For the county overall, median earnings are $35,419. However, median earnings for men ($40,116) are higher than those for women ($31,103). This is also true at all levels of educational attainment. The disparity is most evident at the highest and lowest ends of the educational spectrum: For those with less than a high school degree, median earnings for men were 53% higher than those for women; for those with professional degrees, men's median earnings were 79% higher than women's.

Geographic Comparison: Compared to other metropolitan counties in Texas, Travis County's overall median earnings ($35,419) are slightly higher than those of the counties of Bexar ($29,412), Dallas ($30,990), Harris ($32,220) and Tarrant ($35,277).



Means of Transportation: The vast majority of Travis County commuters who do not work at home are single drivers: 77% of commuters (approximately 373,600) drive to work alone in a car, truck or van. 14% (approximately 68,000) carpool in a car, truck or van. Only 4% (about 20,400) use public transportation. The remaining 5% (about 24,000) use other means of transportation, including taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, and walking.

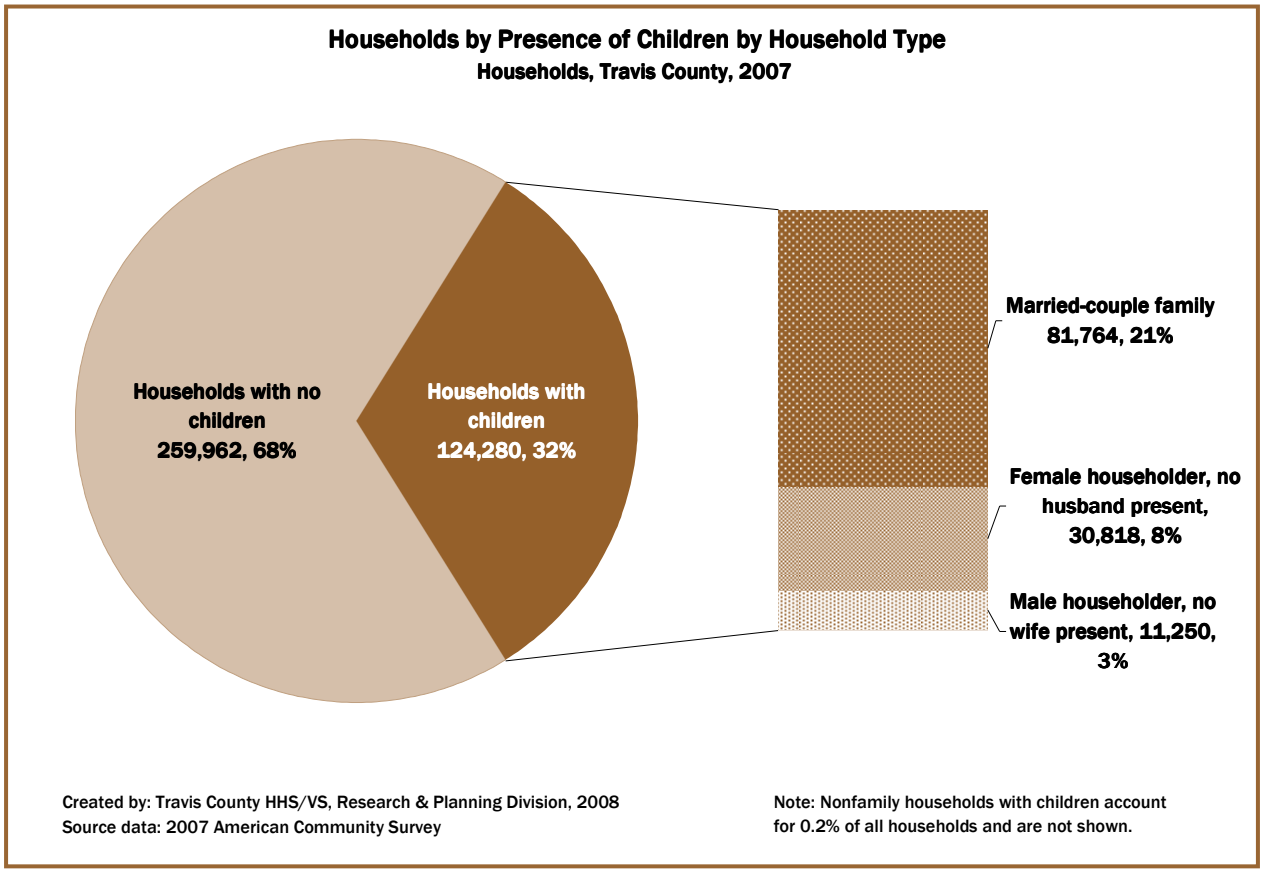
Geographic Comparison: Travis County's proportions of single drivers, carpoolers, public transportation users and other commuters are very similar to those of other metropolitan areas in Texas and to the U.S. population at large.

Commute Times: Commuting times in Travis County vary by means of transportation. For those driving alone, the large majority of commutes (70%) are under 30 minutes. Commutes for carpoolers are slightly longer but remain under 30 minutes for the majority. Conversely, for those relying on public transportation, the large majority of commutes (64%) are 30 or more minutes in duration. One-in-four commutes using public transportation is 60 or more minutes.

Housing Characteristics

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Household Type



Households by Presence of Children: 32% of Travis County households include children, while 68% do not. In comparison to state and national averages Travis County households are less likely to include children (40% of Texas households and 34% of U.S. households include children).

Households with Children by Household Type: The breakdown of households with children by type is similar across the local, state and national statistics:

Households with Children by Household Type
Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2007

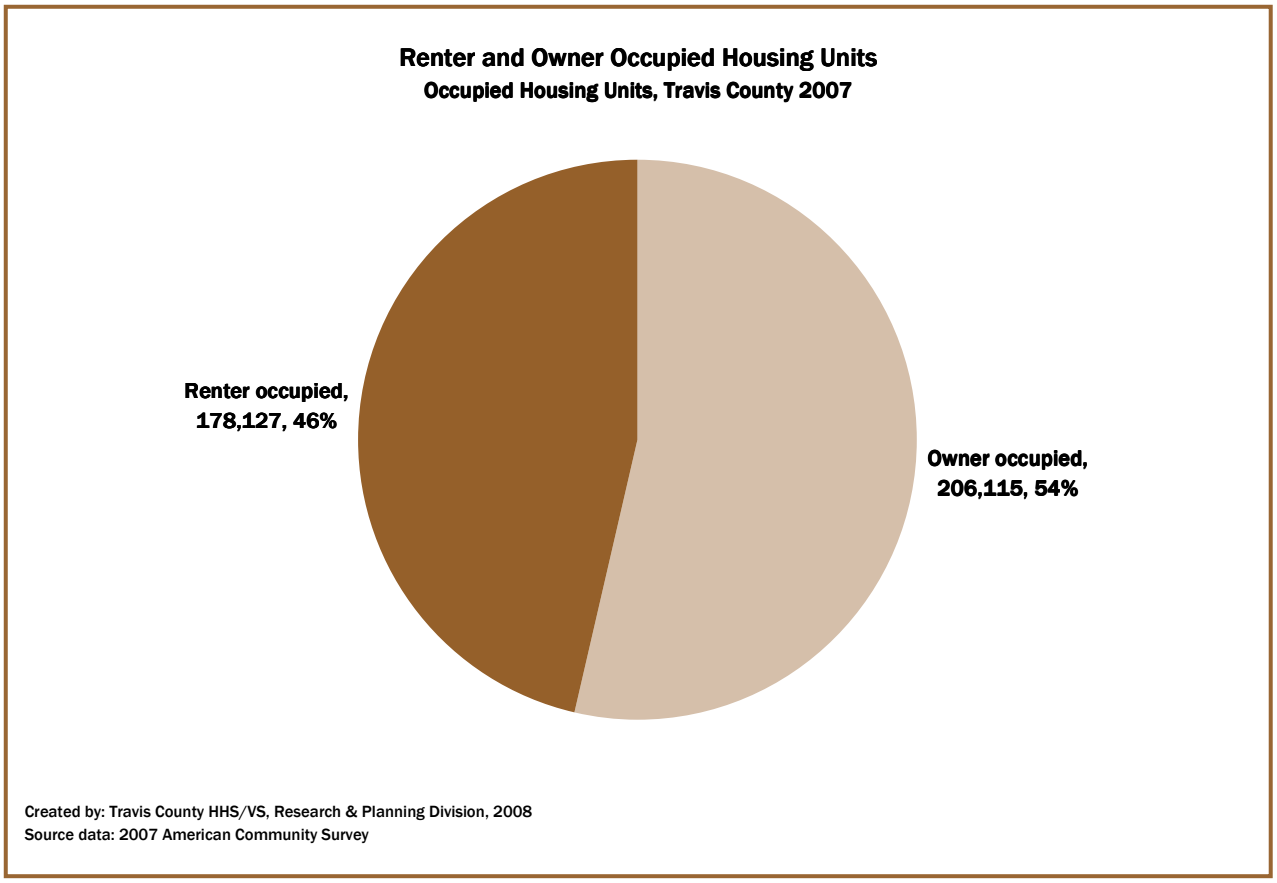
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Married-couple family	65.8%	67.0%	66.2%
Male householder, no wife present	9.1%	7.4%	7.8%
Female householder, no husband present	24.8%	24.9%	25.1%
Nonfamily households	0.4%	0.7%	1.0%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008. Source data: American Community Survey, 2007.

Family and Nonfamily Households[6]: 57% of Travis County households are family households while 43% of households are nonfamily households. Compared to state and national figures, Travis County households are less likely to be family households (70% of Texas households and 69% of U.S. households are family households.)

[6] Family households are households made up of persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Nonfamily households are those in which an individual lives alone or with non-relatives only. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 48.)

Housing Tenure

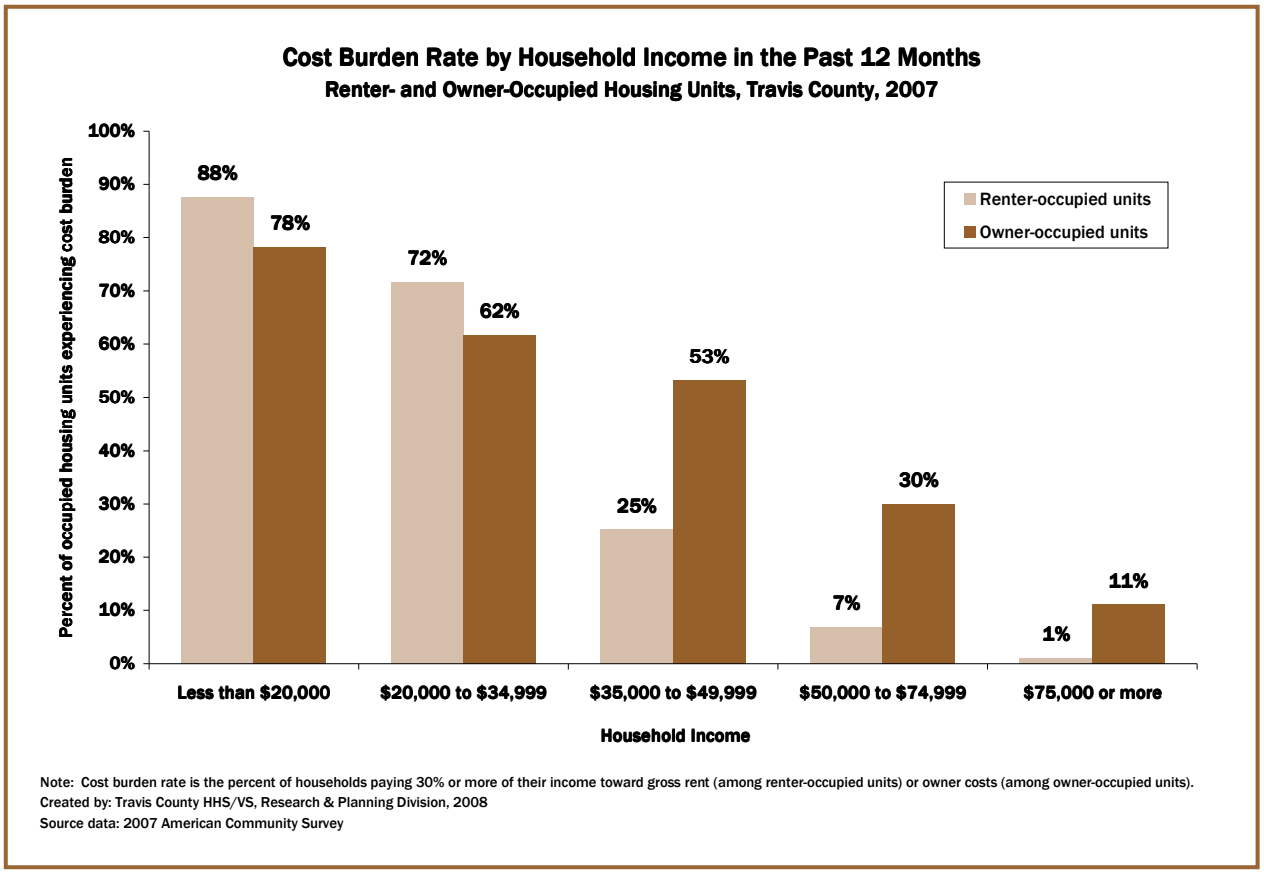


Housing Tenure[7]: Owner-occupied housing units comprise just over half (54%) of occupied units in Travis County. Renter-occupied housing units represent 46%.

Geographic Comparison: Compared to other Texas metropolitan counties, Travis County's share of owner-occupied units is comparable to Dallas County (56%) and Harris County (59%), while Bexar and Tarrant Counties both have a higher owner-occupancy rate of 63%.

[7]A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for.… All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter occupied. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 23-24.)

Cost Burden and Income

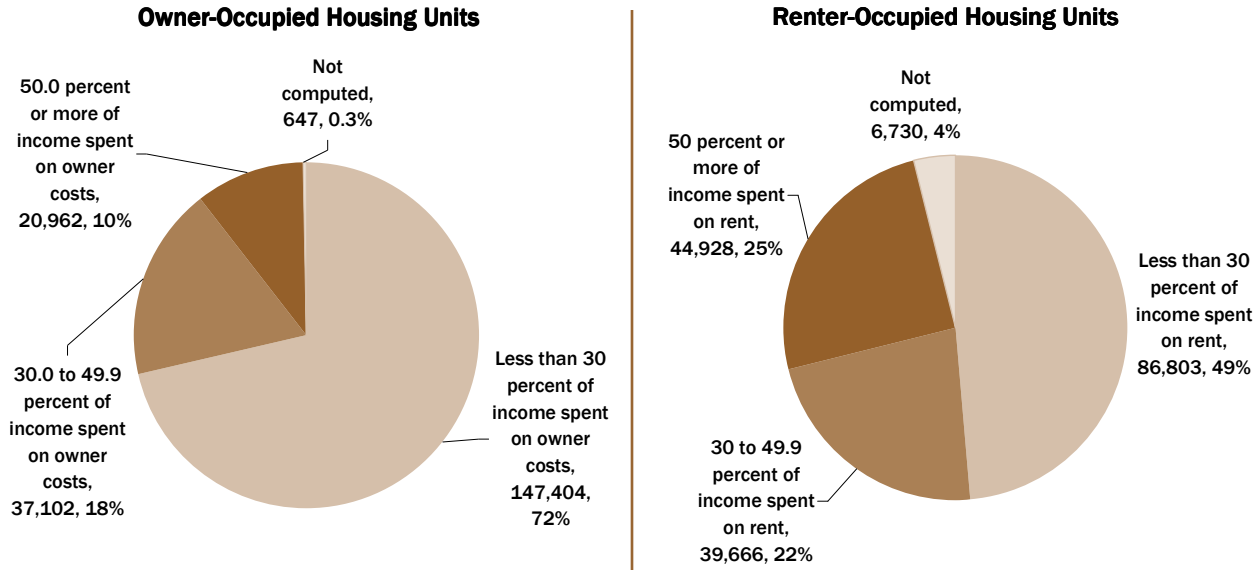


Cost Burden and Household Income: Households spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs are defined as being cost burdened. Cost burden seems to be associated with income. Among both renters and owners, a higher percentage of lower income households are cost burdened. Accordingly, the higher the income, the lower the cost burdened rate.

Renter Versus Owner Cost Burden: Among renters, households making less than $35,000 have a high risk of being cost burdened, but that risk decreases sharply for households with incomes of $35,000 or greater. For owners, cost burden decreases more gradually as income increases.

Renter vs. Owner Cost Burden

Percent of Household Income Spent on Housing Costs
Travis County 2007



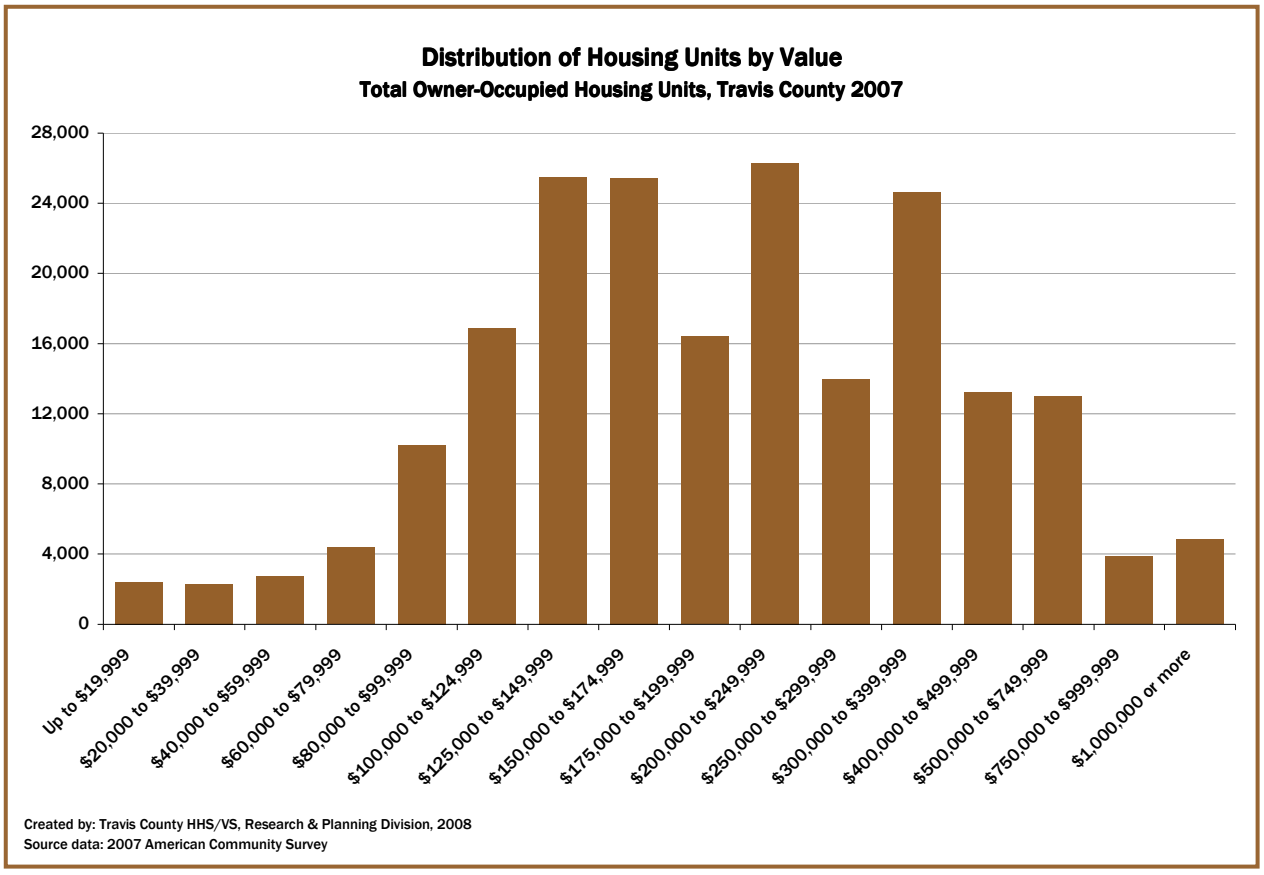
Note: Households spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs have a cost burden; those spending 50% or more on housing costs have a severe cost burden.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008
Source data: 2007 American Community Survey

Cost Burden: 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.[8] However, the percent of households that are cost burdened is much higher among renters than owners. 47% of renter households spend 30% or more of their income on rent, and one quarter of them spend at least half. Comparatively, 28% of owner households spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs and 10% spend at least half.

Geographic Comparison: Travis County renter households experience similar cost burden rates to those of the nation, the state of Texas, and other metropolitan counties in Texas (Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris and Tarrant counties). Travis County owner households' cost burden rate (28%) is similar to that of the nation (30%), but higher than that of the state of Texas (25%). As compared to other Texas metropolitan counties, the cost burden rate among Travis County owners falls in the middle of the spectrum.

[8] See U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, http://www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/worstcase00/app_b.html.

Housing Values



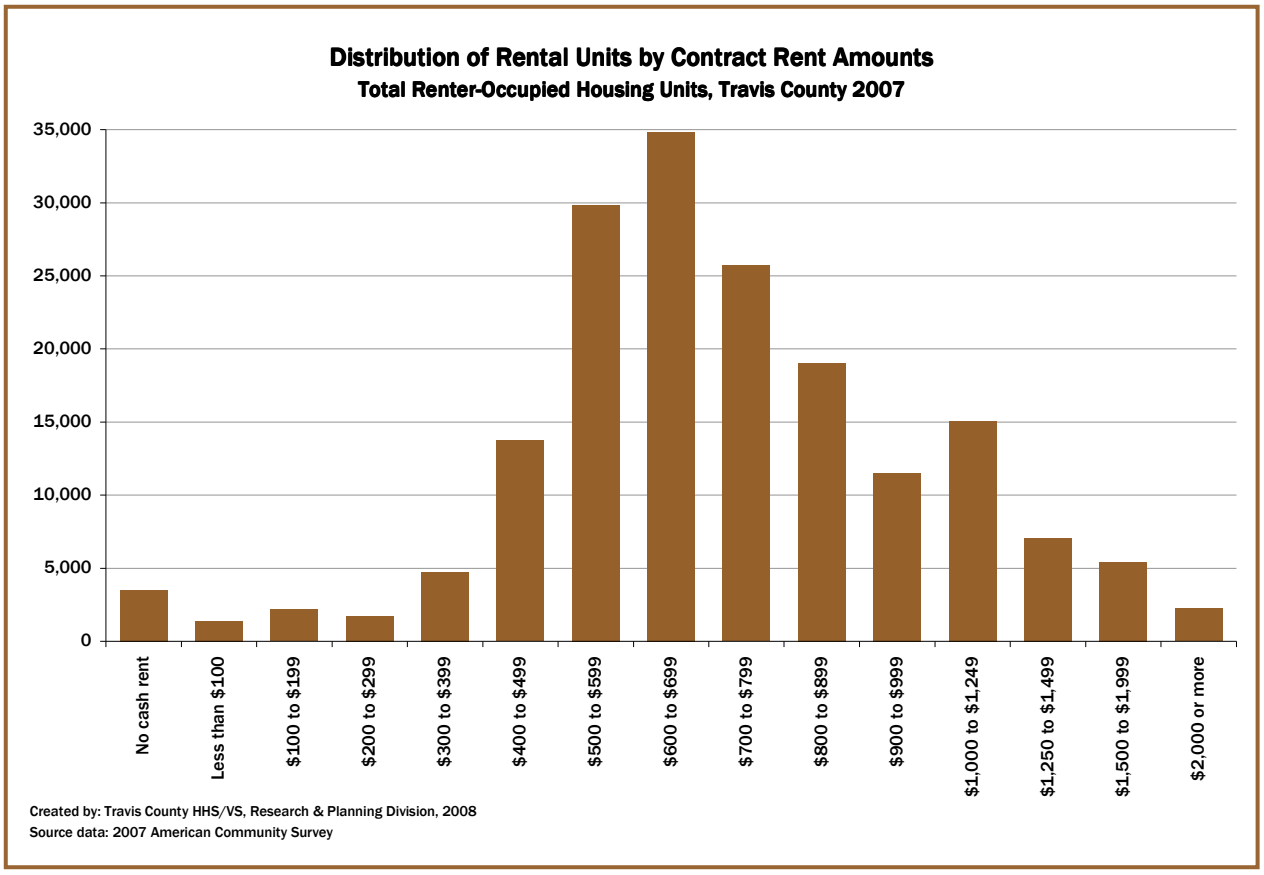
Housing Value Distribution:[9] Much of Travis County's owner-occupied housing is clustered in the middle of the value spectrum. Homes valued between $100,000 and $299,999 comprise 60% (approximately 124,500) of owner-occupied housing in Travis County. Only 11% (approximately 22,000) of owner-occupied homes in Travis County are valued at under $100,000.

Median Housing Value: The median housing value in Travis County is $195,100. This is similar to that of the U.S. ($194,300) but much higher than that of the state of Texas ($120,900). Also, the 2007 Travis County median housing value of $195,100 is higher than the prior year's median value of $173,200 in 2006.[10]

[9] 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: 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 27).

[10] The 2007 value data may not be reflective of the most recent housing market trends, i.e. the general softening of the housing market nationally and locally in 2007-2008.

Rent Values



Contract Rent[11]Distribution: The Travis County rental market is skewed toward the higher end of rental values. About half (52%) of Travis County's occupied rental units have rents between $500 and $799, and 35% have contract rents at or above $800. Only 14% (approximately 27,300) of occupied rental units have rents below $500. [12]

Median Contract Rent: The 2007 median contract rent in Travis County is $697, compared to $589 for Texas and $661 for the U.S.

[11] 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 2007 Subject Definitions, page 11.)

[12] To calculate percentages of rental units by rent values, the group "no cash rent" was excluded. "No cash rent" refers to housing units that are renter occupied without payment of cash 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 2007 Subject Definitions, page 11.) "No cash rent" units comprise approximately 3,500 or 2% of Travis County's renter-occupied housing units in 2007.

Substandard Housing

Substandard Housing Characteristics, Travis County 2007							
Housing tenure	Number of Households	Lacking complete kitchen facilities		Lacking complete plumbing facilities		Overcrowded	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Owner Occupied Households	206,115	1,010	0.5%	1,158	0.6%	4,102	2.0%
Renter Occupied Households	178,127	1374	0.8%	336	0.2%	11,290	6.3%
All Occupied Households	384,242	2,384	0.6%	1,494	0.4%	15,392	4.0%
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008 Source data: 2007 American Community Survey							

Lacking Complete Kitchen/Plumbing Facilities: A very small share of Travis County households fall into the categories of lacking complete kitchen facilities[13] or lacking complete plumbing facilities[14] (about 2,400 and 1,500 households respectively).

Overcrowding: The U.S. Census Bureau has no official definition of overcrowding. However, one common definition of overcrowding is a household with more than one occupant per room.[15,16] Travis County has a much higher rate of overcrowding among renter households (6%) than among owner households (2%).

Geographic Comparison: Travis County households have comparable rates of lacking complete kitchen and plumbing facilities as Texas and the U.S. Travis County's overcrowding rate is comparable to that of the U.S. but lower than that of Texas.

[13] Complete plumbing facilities include: (1) hot and cold piped water, (2) a flush toilet, and (3) a bathtub or shower. All three facilities must be located inside the housing unit but not necessarily in the same room. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 18.)

[14] Complete kitchen facilities include: (1) a sink with piped water, (2) a range or cook top *and* oven, and (3) a refrigerator. All three kitchen facilities must be located in the housing unit but they need not be in the same room. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 15-16.)

[15] Rooms refers to whole rooms used for living purposes. This includes: living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches suitable for year-round use, and lodger's rooms. Excluded are: strip or pullman kitchens, bathrooms, open porches, balconies, halls or foyers, half-rooms, utility rooms, unfinished attics or basements, or other unfinished space used for storage. A partially divided room is a separate room only if there is a partition from floor to ceiling, but not if the partition consists solely of shelves or cabinets. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2007 Subject Definitions, p. 20.)

[16] This measure of overcrowding is adopted herein with the caveat that cultural norms do influence the perception of overcrowding, and what constitutes overcrowding may be defined differently among various cultures.

Methodology

The Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) is the primary data source for this chart book. Data from the 2000 Census and the 2002-2006 ACS surveys are also referenced for specific trend analyses.

About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaces the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census and collects information on an ongoing basis rather than once every ten years. The survey includes questions about demographic, housing, social and economic characteristics.[17] Annual results are produced at the national, state, city, and county levels as well as smaller geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or greater. Beginning in December 2008, data (based on a 3 year sample) will be available for all areas of 20,000 or more. [18]

ACS Methodology

Sample: The original 2007 (entire 12 month) sample for Travis County was 7,794 and the number of interviews (actual sample used to produce results) was 5,141.[19] Surveys are collected from 1/12 of the sample each month.

Addition of Group Quarter: In 2006, group quarters were added to the ACS target population of housing units. Because the individuals living in group quarters may comprise particular characteristics, their addition may cause an increase or decrease to a statistic from a prior year when there would not have been a true change had they been included in the past. For this reason, comparison of the 2006-2007 ACS surveys with those from 2002-2005 is discouraged by the Census on statistics that may be closely connected to the characteristics of group quarters.[20] Group quarters include group residential facilities such as: "college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness."[21]

Data collection: The ACS employs two distinct data collection methodologies; one for individuals residing in housing units and another for those residing in group quarters. For participants residing in housing units, three attempts are made to administer the survey: 1) by mail, 2) by phone and 3) by personal interviews. Data collection for the group quarters[22] sample occurs in two phases—interviewers contact the Group Quarters Administrators and then conduct surveys with a sample of individuals from the selected facility. For details on the sampling and data collection methods, please see the Census's Design and Methodology paper.[23]

[17] A copy of the questionnaire can be found at: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/SQuest/SQuest1.htm.

[18] Release schedule for ACS data http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/DataDiss/RelDates.htm.

[19] Sample sizes at American Fact Finder, 2007 American Community Survey, Table B98001.

[20] For specific guidance on comparisons, please see: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm.

[21] Design and Methodology, American Community Survey, Technical Paper 67 – Unedited Version, p. 8-1, Census Bureau, May 2006.

[22] The Census defines small group quarter facilities as those with 15 or fewer people on Census 2000 day. They also sample the group quarter facilities closed on Census day with the small group quarter facilities, (Design and Methodology, American Community Survey, Technical Paper 67 – Unedited Version, p. 4-8, Census Bureau, May 2006).

[23] Design and Methodology, American Community Survey, Technical Paper 67 – Unedited Version, p. 4-1, Census Bureau, May 2006.

Methodology

Limitations

Statistical Significance: To test the true significance of a difference in estimates, for example between geographic areas or over time, a statistical test should be conducted. This chart book simply reports on the changes observed and does not test for significance. For this reason, the statistics and trends reported should be interpreted with caution.

Sampling error: Because the findings are based on a sample, rather than the entire populations, the results would differ slightly if another sample was drawn or if the entire population was surveyed. This reduces the reliability of the results.[24]

Non-response error: If certain individuals do not respond to the survey, the strength of the findings will be weakened. Also, known as selection bias, those that responded to the survey may possess certain traits that skew the results differently than if everyone in the sample responded. However, while surveys are often voluntary, response to the ACS is mandatory through Title 13, United States Code, and those that neglect to respond to the survey are subject to a fine of up to $5000.[25] Thus the response rate for the ACS is high (Texas 2007 response rate was 97.7% for housing units and 97.8% for group quarters).[26]

[22] The Census 2006 Data Users Handbook: The American Community Survey, Census Bureau p. 6.

[23] Additional detail at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/What/What1.htm.

[24] Response rate information at American Factfinder, American Community Survey 2007, Tables B98021 and B98022 http://factfinder.census.gov.