Population Projections to Inform Redistricting in Texas

House Redistricting Committee
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@TexasDemography

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CENSUS 2020

- Every ten years, the country conducts a census to count every person in the United States.
- The next count will take place April 1, 2020.
- Census counts used to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
- Census counts also used to determine the number of electoral college votes a state gets.
- Census counts used by state officials to redraw congressional and state legislative boundaries to account for population shifts.
Texas is the second largest state in terms of population (2nd to CA) and area (2nd to AK). In terms of number of people, Texas’ growth exceeds that of all other states between 2010 and 2018. Texas has added over 3.5 million people between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2018. This puts Texas on track to meet or surpass the number of people added in the last census when Texas gained 4 congressional seats. Projections from multiple sources anticipate Texas will gain 3 congressional districts after the 2020 census.
The Texas Demographic Center produces population projections for the state. In comparing these projections, to a linear forecast of the Census Bureau’s population estimates since 2010, we see the Texas Demographic Center is closely aligned with the Census Bureau estimates trend. TDC projections indicate Texas will grow to just under 29.7 million by 2020.
The population engine of the state of Texas lies in its metro areas. TDC projections indicate the areas of the state to see the greatest increases in population are located in the population triangle, anchored by the state's major metro areas of Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Houston-Sugarland-The Woodlands, San Antonio-New Braunfels, and Austin-Round Rock. Dallas County is projected to join Harris County in having a population exceeding 2.5 million in 2020. By 2020, the Collin County population is projected to exceed 1 million and Williamson and Montgomery County are projected to exceed half a million.
El Paso County is one of the most populated areas of the state outside of the population triangle. In 2020, El Paso County is projected to have a population of about 876,000. The largest city in El Paso County is its namesake, the City of El Paso. With a population of over 682,000, the City of El Paso is the 22nd largest city in the U.S., falling right between Boston, MA, and Detroit, MI.

Its neighboring county, Hudspeth County, is one of the more sparsely populated areas of the state, with a projected population of about 3,400 people in 2020.
As the metro areas of the state increase in population from 2010 to 2020, many Texas counties will see declines in their populations. Most of these counties are located in more sparsely populated parts of West Texas, East Texas, and South Texas between San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley. 72 counties are projected to experience population decline between 2010 and 2020. One of these counties is Hudspeth County. El Paso County is projected to see an increase in population of about 75,000, shown here in light blue.
Percent change is an indicator of the speed of population change void of information about the volume of population change. Percent change in the population over the past few years has been greatest in the suburban population triangle counties, notably among counties between San Antonio and Austin.

El Paso County is projected to grow at a slightly slower rate than that of the state (growth rate = 9.4% between 2010 and 2018, compared to 14% for state). Hudspeth County is projected to experience some population decline between 2010 and 2020.
El Paso County is projected to grow steadily at a rate slightly slower than the state, from 800,647 in 2010 to over 876,000 in 2020.

The Hudspeth County population is projected to decline slightly from its 2010 population of nearly 3,500 to about 3,400 in 2020.
The Texas Demographic Center’s most recent set of projections, employing migration trends observed between 2010 and 2015, indicate Texas will have a population of 29.7 million by 2020.
Population projections by race and ethnicity suggest that Latino’s are and will increasingly be the largest race/ethnic group. NH Black and NH Asian populations in Texas are projected to grow steadily. The non-Hispanic white population is projected to grow but at a slower pace.
The bulk of the growth projected between 2010 and 2020 will come from growth among non-White populations, with only 16.4% coming from NH Whites.
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Hudspeth County population is projected decline slightly from its 2010 population of nearly 3,500 to about 3,400.
The Hispanic population is projected to be the greatest contributor to the total population change for counties in the El Paso metro area. Over 60% of the population change projected in El Paso County will be attributed to Hispanics. African Americans, NH Whites, and NH Asians are projected to contribute smaller but steady shares in El Paso County.

In Hudspeth County, Hispanics are projected to be the only growing racial/ethnic group, with declines projected among NH Whites, NH Blacks, and NH Other (made up of mostly of individuals of two or more races).
Redistricting Dates

- Apportionment File sent to POTUS on 12/31/2020
- Redistricting Data File (Public Law 94-171 File) received by the Governor no later than April 1, 2021
- PL 94-171 released to states in groups of 8 states per week, with one week prior notice
- PL 94-171 File to include:
  - Race,
  - Race for population 18 and older,
  - Race and Hispanic origin,
  - Race and Hispanic origin for population 18 and older,
  - Occupancy Status
  - Group Quarters (GQ) Population by GQ Type
- Data available at [WWW.CENSUS.GOV/RDO](http://WWW.CENSUS.GOV/RDO)
Lila Valencia, Ph.D.

📞 (210) 458-6530
✉️ Lila.Valencia@utsa.edu
🌐 demographics.texas.gov
🐦 @TexasDemography