

Texas Migration

With millions of Texans moving each year, a basic question is: *Which parts of Texas are most impacted by this migration?*

The first brief in this series on Texas migration, [TEXAS MOBILITY](#), described the volumes and types of mobility for the state as a whole. It noted more than four million Texans change residence each year. Of these four million plus movers, 16 percent originated outside of the state – coming from other U.S. states or from abroad – and the remaining 84 percent originated within the state. Together, these streams of external and internal migrants represent an important source of demographic change in Texas.

The present brief expands on the first by examining how these internal and external migration streams are affecting different areas within the state. Toward this end, we use the state's 254 counties as units of analysis.

In terms of political geography, Texas represents a single state that has 27,862,596 residents living within an area of 261,232 square miles. As a whole, the state gains around a quarter million additional residents a year through domestic migration and immigration. However, not all parts of the state are affected equally by this migration and variations in migration can lead to profound differences in local population growth patterns.

Included in this Brief:

- Migration patterns vary across Texas counties.
- Smaller population counties are more affected by internal migration.
- Larger population counties are more affected by external migration.
- Border counties would have negative migration if not for strong immigration rates.

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Migration Terms

Based on migrant origins and destinations:

- **Internal Migration** - migration between two Texas counties.
- **Domestic Migration** - migration between a Texas county and another U.S. state
- **International Migration or Immigration** - migration from another nation to a Texas county

Based on migration volume:

- **Net Migration** - the number of in-migrants minus the number of out-migrants.
- **Gross Migration** - the number of in-migrants plus the number of out-migrants

Note: *Net migration tells us how much population growth or decline occurs through migration. Gross migration counts all of the people who move into and out of a place during a period of time and, as such, provides a gauge of overall population mobility.*

Unlike other population events such as births and deaths, when a person moves, it affects both an origin and a destination. That is, one place's in-migrant is another place's out-migrant. When migration is viewed this way, certain areas in Texas have become favorite destinations for other areas' out-migrants.

Here are some highlights:

- Migration patterns vary across Texas counties.
- Smaller population counties are more affected by internal migration.
- Larger population counties are more affected by external migration.
- Border counties would have negative migration if not for strong immigration rates.

County Volumes and Linkages

Volumes. In general, gross migration volume is proportional to a county's population size. For example, in Table 1, the five most populous Texas counties, Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis, also have the state's five largest total gross migration flows. Similarly, the state's least populated counties rank at the bottom for gross migration. Reflecting the counties' population extremes, Table 1 shows that total gross migration ranges from over 300,000 in Harris County, the state's most populous county, down to less than 20 persons in Kenedy County which ranks 252nd in population size¹.

The other source of migration is international migration or immigration². Table 1 again shows a close correspondence between county population size and immigration volume. For example, among

Table 1: Selected Migration Characteristics for the 10 Most and 10 Least Populous Counties in Texas, 2009-2013

County Name	Population		Total Gross Migration*		Net Internal Migration		Net Domestic Migration		Total Net Migration*		International Migration (Immigration)		Total Net Migration* & Immigration	
	Size	Rank	Size	Rank	Size	Rank	Size	Rank	Size	Rank	Size	Rank	Size	Rank
Harris	4,119,266	1	318,064	1	-18,297	253	21,693	1	3,396	14	38,780	1	42,176	1
Dallas	2,377,637	2	241,434	2	-27,155	254	2,811	11	-24,344	254	17,992	2	-6,352	254
Tarrant	1,823,073	3	186,758	3	-363	204	8,965	4	8,602	6	10,782	5	19,384	6
Bexar	1,728,176	4	161,793	4	2,746	8	9,477	2	12,223	3	12,960	3	25,183	2
Travis	1,047,764	5	152,850	5	2,019	13	9,031	3	11,050	4	10,146	6	21,196	4
El Paso	801,745	6	66,453	10	-3,493	251	550	26	-2,943	252	12,507	4	9,564	9
Collin	799,867	7	109,013	6	-1,428	246	4,587	8	3,159	15	5,646	9	8,805	10
Hidalgo	775,494	8	38,569	17	-1,667	248	1,964	12	297	75	7,094	7	7,391	15
Denton	679,254	9	106,999	7	13,267	1	5,000	7	18,267	1	4,659	12	22,926	3
Fort Bend	600,966	10	66,721	9	1,304	18	913	19	2,217	17	5,396	10	7,613	14
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Motley	1,170	245	315	237	-2	120	-91	222	-93	155	0	211	-93	174
Foard	1,122	246	118	246	2	117	30	141	32	127	0	211	32	144
Roberts	1,022	247	198	243	-25	130	17	154	-8	142	0	211	-8	157
Kent	887	248	149	244	103	90	42	133	145	93	0	211	145	109
Terrell	825	249	106	248	96	94	0	170	96	106	0	211	96	129
Borden	625	250	113	247	49	106	0	170	49	121	2	200	51	140
McMullen	605	251	101	249	22	112	-29	203	-7	141	0	211	-7	156
Kenedy	507	252	19	254	-17	126	0	170	-17	143	0	211	-17	160
King	319	253	58	251	1	119	1	168	2	137	0	211	2	153
Loving	87	254	32	253	-26	132	6	163	-20	146	0	211	-20	161

*Internal and Domestic migration combined

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

the top 10 population size counties, nine of these also are in the top 10 immigration counties. As a group, the top 10 received 125,962 immigrants. As with gross migration, the 10 least populated counties are at the bottom for immigration, collectively receiving a total of 2 immigrants.

When net internal migration is examined, the relationship between migration flows and population size is not as straightforward. For example, Dallas County has the state's second largest population but ranks last, at 254th, for net internal migration. This occurs because Dallas County lost more than 25,000 persons through net internal migration. Thus, a large gross migration stream does not necessarily lead to large population gains because the outcome depends on the balance between in-migrants and out-migrants.

At the same time, a small net migration flow does not necessarily mean that migration has no impact on local populations. A good example is Harris County. In the process of gaining 3,396 persons through total net migration, 160,730 new residents moved to Harris County while 157,334 established residents moved out of Harris County. Together, this in-migration and out-migration represented a gross migration flow of 318,064 persons or 7.7 percent of the total Harris County population. With this, gross migration produced a 7.7 percent 'turnover' in population even though the 3,396 net migrants represented less than 0.1 percent of the total county population.

Linkages. In addition to migration volume, another way to characterize migration is by linkages. Migration involves a move between an origin and a destination. As such, a migration flow forms a linkage between two places. A primary distinction for migration linkages is whether they are internal (connected within Texas) or external (connected to another state through domestic migration or another country through international migration).

Referring again to Table 1, six of the 10 most populous counties lost population through net internal migration. As a group, the top 10 lost 33,067 persons from migration within Texas. However, all of the top 10 gained population

through domestic migration, collectively gaining 64,991 persons from other U.S. states. In addition, the top 10 gained 125,962 new residents through immigration.

The opposite patterns emerge for the 10 least populated counties. Collectively, the bottom 10 gained 203 persons through internal migration but lost 24 persons through net domestic migration. As a group, the bottom 10 gained 2 residents from immigration.

Table 1 suggests that external migration, from both other states and other nations, is the prime source of migration-based population growth for large population counties. With almost no immigration and negative domestic migration, the group of least populated counties appears to be most affected by internal migration – moves that begin and end in Texas.

Border Counties. Two of the 10 most populated counties, El Paso and Hidalgo, share a border with Mexico. While these counties share some migration similarities with large population counties, they also have some noticeable differences. Both have total gross migration flows that are proportionately small compared to their population sizes. For example, Hidalgo County ranks 8th in population size but 17th in gross domestic migration. These two border counties have relatively small flows of internal and domestic migrants. For example, El Paso County ranks 26th in net domestic migration while Hidalgo County ranks 12th. Finally, both border counties have proportionately large population gains from immigration. As an example, El Paso County is 6th in population size but ranks 4th in immigration.

Table 1 has revealed some distinctions among and between the state's 10 most populated and 10 least populated counties. For example: gross migration and immigration flows tend to be proportional to population size; the largest population counties tend to lose population to internal migration and gain population through external migration; and the smallest population counties have an opposite pattern where population is gained through internal migration and

lost through external migration. However, these 20 counties are but a small sample of the state’s 254 total counties.

County Groupings

While it would be informative to examine migration patterns for each of the state’s 254 counties, it is difficult to generalize from this amount of detail. One way to examine similarities and differences is to group the counties by size. To further explore the trends noted above, the Texas counties were grouped by population size as follows.

The 254 counties were ranked by population size and divided into quintiles: five groups where each group represents 20 percent of the state’s total counties. An additional Border County group was extracted from the five size categories. This resulted in the following six county classifications:

	Population
Tier 1 (Smallest):	87 – 5,044 (N=47)
Tier 2:	5,045 – 12,676 (N=49)
Tier 3:	12,677 – 24,461 (N=49)
Tier 4:	24,462 – 64,725 (N=48)
Tier 5 (Largest):	64,726 – 4,119,266 (N=47)
Border Counties:	825 – 801,745 (N=14)

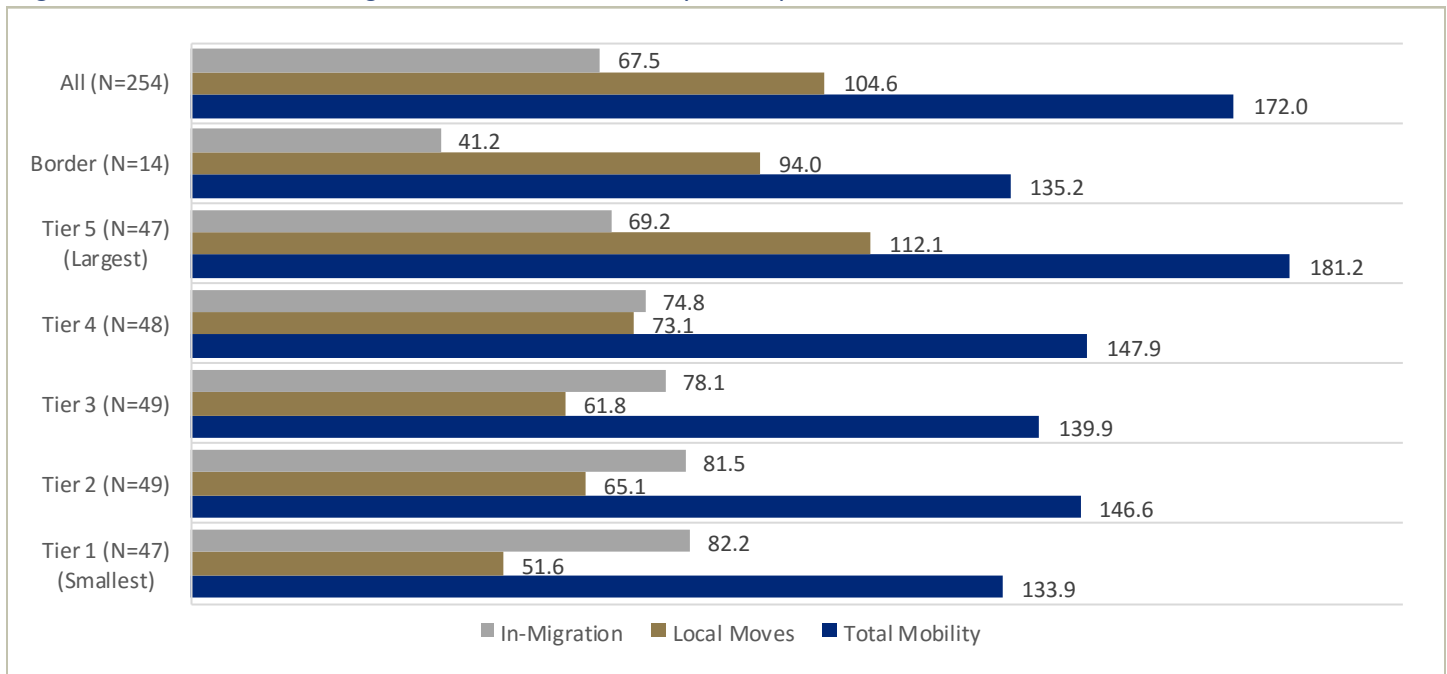
These six groups represent all 254 Texas counties. The Border Counties are the 14 Texas counties that share a border with Mexico. In terms of population size, the Border Counties are represented in all five tiers³. Please refer to Appendix A for a more detailed description of the county groupings.

Mobility Versus Migration. Local moves are a change of residence within the same county. These moves within a county represent mobility but not migration. This is because local moves inside a county have no impact on the size or composition of that county’s total population.

Figure 1 presents local moves, in-migration, and total mobility rates per 1,000 residents using the six county classifications described above. The in-migration rate includes all inflows by combining internal migration, domestic migration, and immigration. The total mobility rate combines local moves and in-migration to derive an overall gauge of mobility. By using rates instead of absolute values, migration patterns can be compared directly across the different county groupings.

Figure 1 also shows some general relationships between mobility patterns and county classification.

Figure 1: Local Moves, In-Migration, and Total Mobility Rates per 1,000 Residents in Texas Counties, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

Large population counties have higher total mobility than smaller population counties. Tier 5 has the highest rate of total mobility at 181.3 movers per 1,000 residents while Tier 1 has the least at 133.9.

In general, the rate of local moves increases as county population size increases. Tier 5 has the highest rate of local moves at 112.1 movers per 1,000 residents while Tier 1 has the lowest rate at 51.6. In Tiers 1-4, the lower local moves rates could be due to differences in housing availability, employment opportunities, and age structures that exist between the low- and high-population counties.

Tiers 1-4 have in-migration rates that exceed their local moves rates. The smallest population counties in Tier 1 have the highest in-migration rate of 82.3 in-migrants per 1,000 residents. The largest population counties in Tier 5 have an in-migration rate of 69.2.

For Tiers 1-5, higher rates of local moves are associated with higher total mobility rates. The Border Counties do not follow this pattern. These counties have the second highest rate of local moves (94.0) but the second lowest rate of total

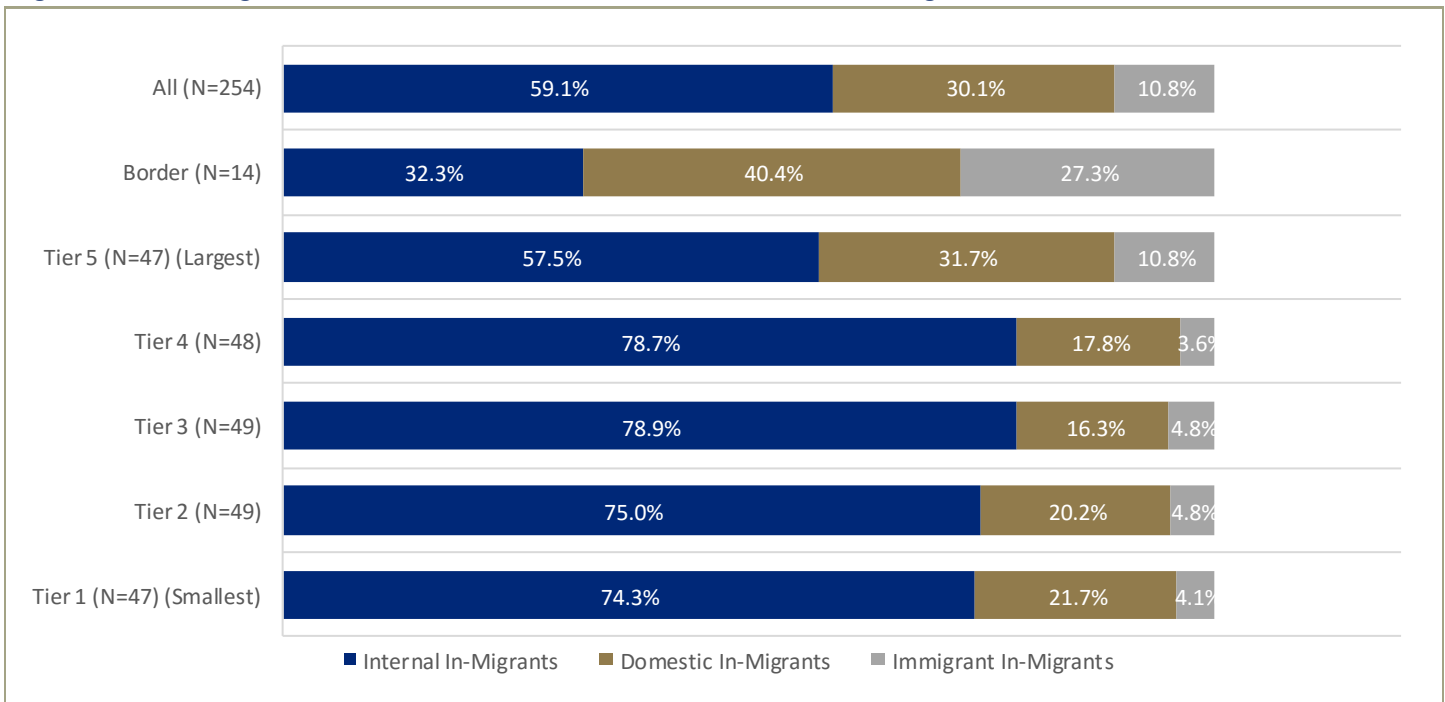
mobility (135.2). Total mobility is low because the Border Counties have the lowest in-migration rate, 41.2 in-migrants per 1,000 residents.

Migration Flows. Figure 2 has the percentage shares by in-migration type for the six county categories. The types are: internal in-migrants (originating in another Texas county); domestic in-migrants (originating in another U.S. state); and immigrant in-migrants (originating in another country). These are the three migration flows that can alter the size and composition of a county's population.

For the less populated counties in Tiers 1-4, around 74 to 79 percent of all in-migrants are internal in-migrants, originating from other counties within Texas. This compares to 57.5 percent for the most populated counties in Tier 5. Internal in-migration is least important in the Border Counties where it comprises 32.3 percent of all in-migration.

Domestic in-migration is most substantial in the Border Counties where 40.4 percent of all in-migrants originated from other U.S. states. For the top population counties of Tier 5, domestic migration is 31.7 percent of all in-migration.

Figure 2: Percentage Shares of Internal, Domestic and International In-Migration in Texas Counties, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

Domestic migration is least important in Tiers 1-4 where it ranges from 16.3 to 21.7 percent.

As for immigrant in-migrants, the Border Counties are most impacted with 27.3 percent of all in-migrants originating in another country. Tier 5 has the next highest share at 10.8 percent while Tiers 1-4 have immigrant in-migration shares of less than 5.0 percent.

Based on the patterns in Figures 1 and 2, several generalizations can be made:

- Tiers 1-4, the smaller population counties, are more connected with migrants originating within Texas.
- Tier 5, the largest population counties, is more affected by in-migration from outside of Texas.
- The 14 Border Counties are characterized by relatively high immigration from other countries.

Net Migration. The in-migration data in Figure 2 identified the origins of people moving into Texas counties. However, in-migration data alone do not capture the full effects of migration. Another gauge of migration is net migration which describes the total or net effect of in-migration and out-migration flows.

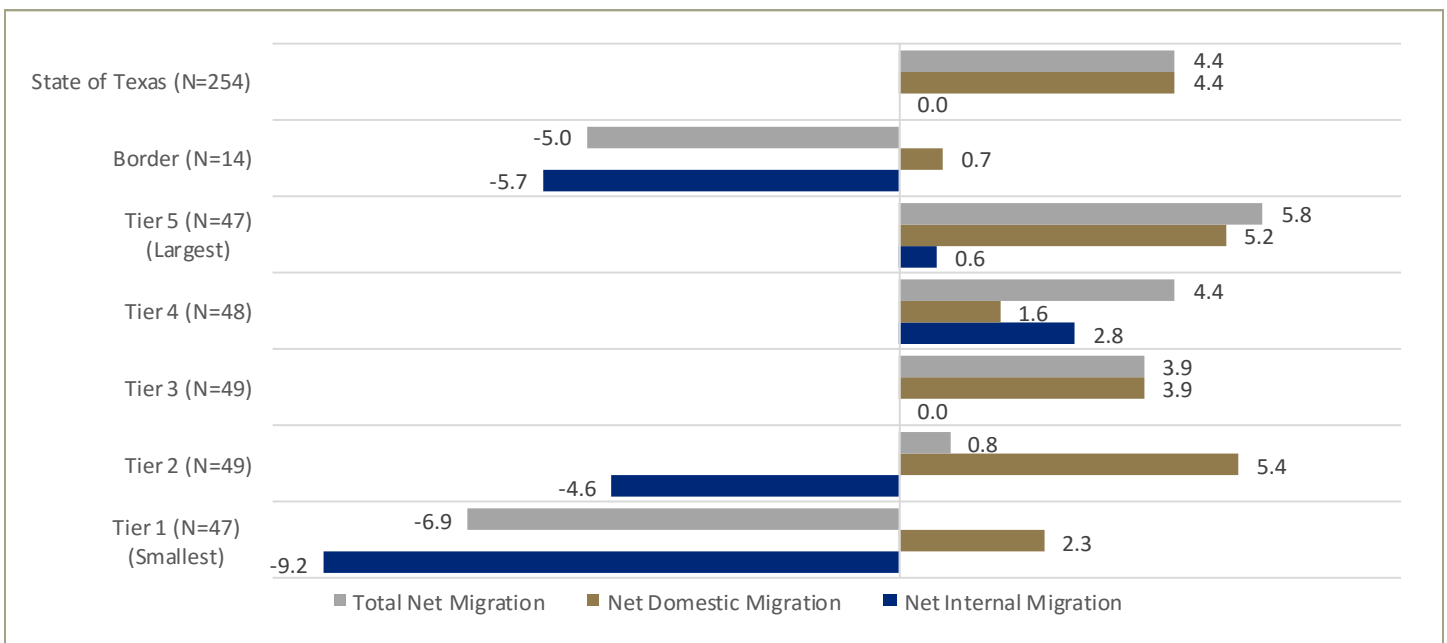
Figure 3 presents net migration rates for internal, domestic, and total net migration (Note: total net migration is internal and domestic net migration combined). Here, we see that the rate of population gain from total net migration is closely related to population size:

- Tier 5, with the largest population counties, had the highest total net rate at 5.8 net migrants per 1,000 residents.
- Conversely, in Tier 1, the smallest population group, had the lowest total net rate of -6.9.

Figure 3 also suggests the sources of net migration vary by county category:

- All county categories gained population from domestic migration.
- Four county categories, Tiers 1-3 and the Border Counties, had negative or flat net internal migration rates.
- In Tier 4, internal migration represented 63.1 percent of the total net migration rate.
- In Tier 5 domestic migration made up close to 90.0 percent of the total net migration rate.

Figure 3: Net Migration Rates per 1,000 Residents for Counties in Texas, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

Table 2: Percentage of Counties with Positive Net Migration in Texas, 2009-2013

	Positive Internal	Positive Domestic	Positive Combined
(Smallest) Tier 1: (N=47)	46.80%	59.60%	53.20%
Tier 2: (N=49)	40.80%	63.30%	51.00%
Tier 3: (N=49)	44.90%	65.30%	49.00%
Tier 4: (N=48)	52.10%	60.40%	56.30%
(Largest) Tier 5: (N=47)	59.60%	91.50%	74.50%
Border: (N=14)	21.40%	64.30%	28.60%
All: (N=254)	47.20%	67.70%	55.10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

Table 2 has the percentage of counties with positive net migration. It shows the share of counties in each group that gained population from internal and domestic migration as well as internal and domestic migration combined.

For the state as a whole, 140 of the 254 counties or 55.1 percent gained population from both internal and domestic migration. Tiers 1-4 had similar proportions gaining population, ranging from 49.0 to 56.3 percent. The largest population counties in Tier 5 had close to 75 percent gaining population from both internal and domestic migration while the proportion for Border Counties was only 28.6 percent.

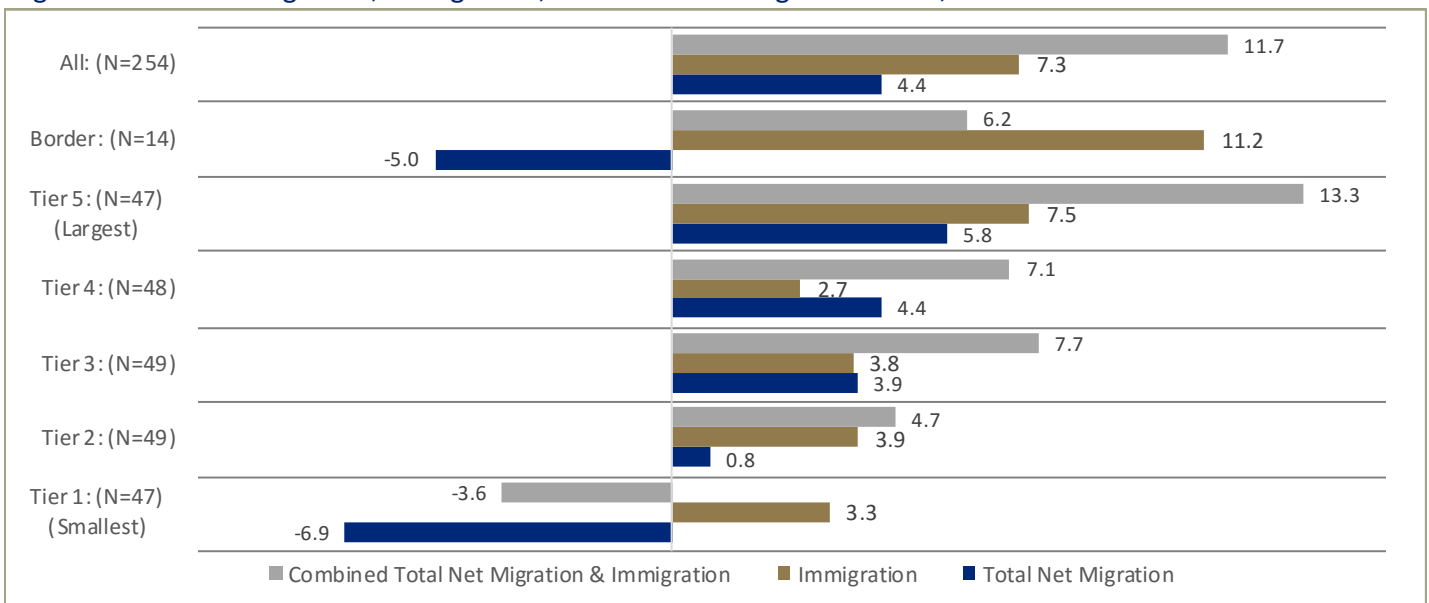
Each of the county categories had more counties gaining population from domestic migration than from internal migration. The

difference between internal and domestic sources is most apparent in the top population tier. For Tier 5, 91.5 percent of the counties gained from domestic migration while 59.6 gained from internal migration.

Among the smaller population counties, Tiers 1-3 had less than 50 percent gaining population from internal migration. This means that more than half of the counties in Tiers 1-3 lost population due to migration within Texas. For the Border Counties, 21.4 percent gained population from internal migration and, as such, almost 80 percent lost population from migration within Texas.

Immigration's Contribution. Figure 4 shows how immigration interacts with internal and domestic net migration. In Figure 4, Total Net Migration is net internal and net domestic migration combined.

Figure 4: Total Net Migration, Immigration, and Combined Migration Rates, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

Here are some highlights:

- Immigration rates are highest in the largest counties (Tier 5) and the Border Counties at 7.5 and 11.2 immigrants per 1,000 residents respectively. For Tier 5, the 7.5 immigration rate helps this group have the highest combined migration rate (13.3).
- The Border Counties would have lost population from migration were it not for strong immigration. Without immigration, the total net migration rate was negative at -5.0 migrants per 1,000 residents. The 11.2 immigration rate was enough to make the combined migration rate positive at 6.2 migrants per 1,000.
- In contrast, the 3.3 immigration rate in the least populated group (Tier 1) is not enough to make its combined migration rate positive.

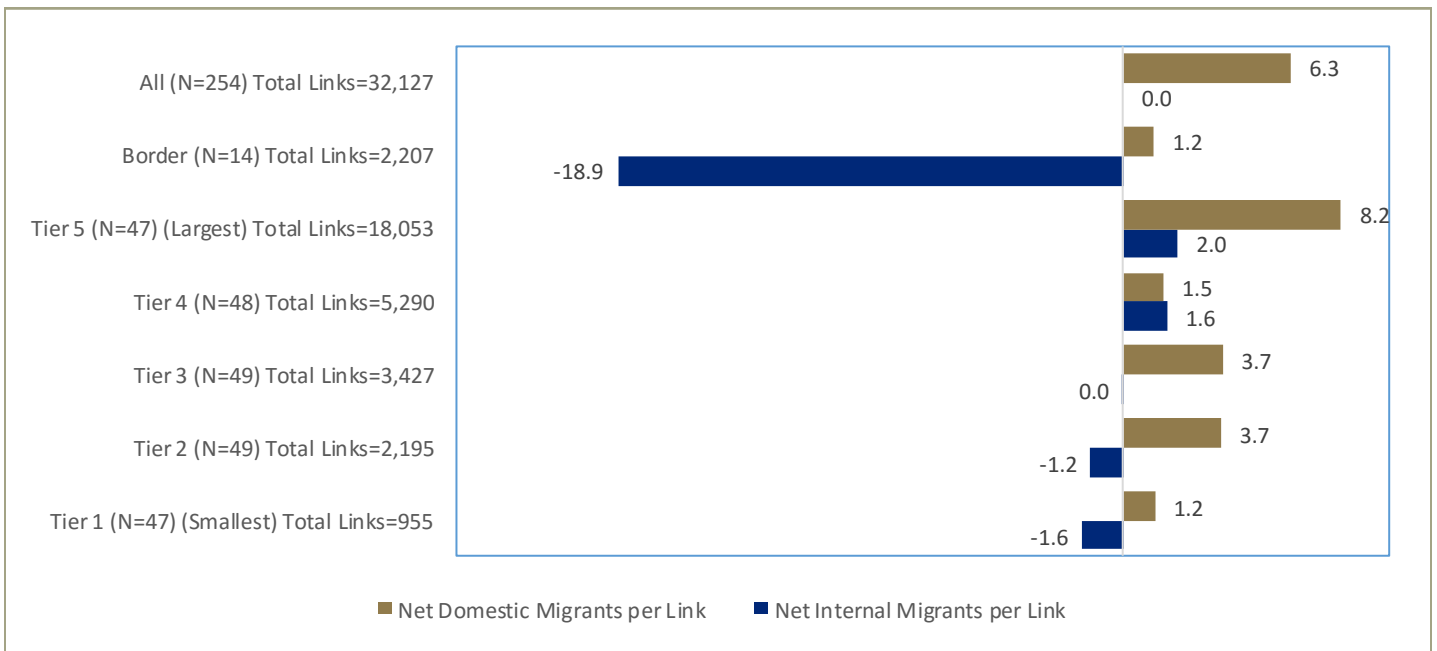
Migration Connectivity. One last way to examine migration is to look at the linkages between county pairs. Figure 5 shows the net migrants per county-to-county link. Here, a link represents one or more persons moving between a pair of counties. For example, each of Texas’ 254 counties could have up to 253 internal migration links. This would occur if a

county shared at least one in-migrant or out-migrant with each of the other 253 Texas counties. Similarly, for domestic migration, each Texas county could have up to 2,889 links to all counties and county equivalents in the other 49 states. In this way, migrants per link data provide information on the counties’ degree of connectivity as well as the efficiency of migration links.

Figure 5 indicates that the number of links ranges from 955 in Tier 1 up to 18,053 in Tier 5. This large difference occurs because the number of links is closely related to the volume of gross migration and Tier 5 counties have much higher gross migration than Tier 1 counties. When viewed as a per capita rate, the relationship between migration links and population size reverses. For example, the number of links per 1,000 residents is 7.8 in the Tier 1 counties and 0.9 in the Tier 5 county group.

In Figure 5, the number of net migrants per link is a gauge for link efficiency. Using this concept, Tier 5 has the most efficient internal migration connectivity with 2.0 net internal migrants per county-to-county link. For domestic migration, Tier 5 also leads the way with 8.2 net migrants per link.

Figure 5: Net Internal and Net Domestic Migrants per County-to-County Link, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

The Border Counties have the least efficient internal migration, losing 18.9 net migrants for each internal link. The Border Counties and Tier 1 counties have the least efficient domestic migration connectivity, with each group gaining 1.2 net domestic migrants per domestic link.

Figure 5 again illustrates how migration from outside of Texas predominates in the largest population counties. Tier 5 gains 8.2 domestic migrants per each external link compared to 2.0 migrants per each internal link. As with other measures, the connectivity data suggest that the smallest population counties are characterized by population loss through internal migration. Tier 1 loses 1.6 migrants for each county-to-county link within Texas while it gains 1.2 migrants per domestic link.

Tables 3 and 4 examine linkages at the individual county level. Table 3 shows net internal migration while Table 4 presents net domestic migration. Each table shows the three counties with the largest losses or largest gains from net

migration as well as each county's five largest migration links.

In Table 3, all of the top three loss and top three gain counties are Tier 5 in population size. In Table 3A, the two largest losses from internal migration occur in the state's two most populous counties: Dallas and Harris. The third largest loss is in Cameron County, a border county that ranks 13th in population size. For each of these three counties, the largest county-to-county population losses are to adjacent counties: Dallas to Denton; Harris to Montgomery; and, Cameron to Hidalgo.

Table 3B has the three counties with the largest net internal migration gains. The counties gaining from internal migration also have large populations but of the three, only Denton County is among the state's ten most populous counties. For Denton and Williamson Counties, the largest county-to-county population gains are from adjacent counties: Denton from Dallas; and, Williamson from Travis.

Table 3: Select County-to-County Links for Texas Internal Migration, 2009-2013

Table 3A: Top Three Population Losses from Net Internal Migration with Five Largest Negative Links

<u>Cameron County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=102</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=-3,979</i>			<u>Dallas County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=203</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=-27,155</i>			<u>Harris County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=199</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=-18,297</i>		
Top 5	Name	Net	Name	Net	Name	Net		
1	Hidalgo County, TX	-957	Denton County, TX	-7,669	Montgomery County, TX	-3,398		
2	Bexar County, TX	-660	Tarrant County, TX	-7,588	Travis County, TX	-2,552		
3	Nueces County, TX	-592	Collin County, TX	-1,088	Liberty County, TX	-1,775		
4	Hays County, TX	-309	Smith County, TX	-1,021	Fort Bend County, TX	-1,706		
5	Williamson County, TX	-294	Travis County, TX	-799	Hays County, TX	-1,149		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015a. County-to-County Migration Flows: 2009-2013 ACS

Table 3B: Top Three Population Gains from Net Internal Migration with Five Largest Positive Links

<u>Brazos County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=158</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=8,132</i>			<u>Denton County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=143</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=13,267</i>			<u>Williamson County, TX</u> <i>Internal Links=140</i> <i>Net Internal Migration=8,658</i>		
Top 5	Name	Net	Name	Net	Name	Net		
1	Bexar County, TX	767	Dallas County, TX	7,669	Travis County, TX	4,250		
2	Tarrant County, TX	637	Tarrant County, TX	1,575	Bell County, TX	955		
3	Grimes County, TX	544	Collin County, TX	1,342	McLennan County, TX	482		
4	Burleson County, TX	374	Rockwall County, TX	641	Dallas County, TX	380		
5	Brazoria County, TX	362	Harris County, TX	625	Hidalgo County, TX	340		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015a. County-to-County Migration Flows: 2009-2013 ACS

Table 4: Select County-to-County Links for Texas Domestic Migration, 2009-2013

Table 4A: Top 3 Population Losses from Net Domestic Migration with Five Largest Negative Links

<u>Cameron County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=231</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=-884</i>			<u>Johnson County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=125</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=-673</i>		<u>Val Verde County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=76</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=-702</i>	
Top 5	Name	Net	Name	Net	Name	Net
1	Lee County, FL	-374	Lancaster County, NE	-198	San Bernardino County, CA	-435
2	Maricopa County, AZ	-278	Grady County, OK	-129	Hamilton County, IN	-128
3	Kandiyohi County, MN	-204	Berkeley County, SC	-116	Broward County, FL	-117
4	Alexandria city, VA	-203	Ward County, ND	-66	Olmsted County, MN	-102
5	Terrebonne Parish, LA	-137	Lincoln County, OK	-54	Chaves County, NM	-80

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015a. County-to-County Migration Flows: 2009-2013 ACS

Table 4B: Top 3 Population Gains from Net Domestic Migration with Five Largest Positive Links

<u>Bexar County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=944</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=9,477</i>			<u>Harris County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=1,032</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=21,693</i>		<u>Travis County, TX</u> <i>Domestic Links=628</i> <i>Net Domestic Migration=9,031</i>	
Top 5	Name	Net	Name	Net	Name	Net
1	Los Angeles County, CA	813	Los Angeles County, CA	3,073	Los Angeles County, CA	733
2	Cook County, IL	586	Cook County, IL	1,200	Fulton County, GA	645
3	Orange County, CA	576	Miami-Dade County, FL	1,001	Cook County, IL	573
4	Cochise County, AZ	522	Fairbanks North Star, AK	967	Orange County, CA	493
5	Hillsborough County, FL	515	Queens County, NY	657	Miami-Dade County, FL	386

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015a. County-to-County Migration Flows: 2009-2013 ACS

Table 4 shows the largest negative and positive net domestic migration links for individual Texas counties. Table 4A has the top three domestic migration loss counties. None is among the top ten most populous. Two of these, Cameron and Val Verde, are Border Counties. In terms of population size, the top domestic migration losses are small when compared to the top internal migration losses. County-to-county links for the top three domestic loss counties are dispersed. The 15 negative links involve 12 different states and 15 different counties.

In Table 4B, the top domestic migration gains occur in three of the state's top five most populous counties. In terms of absolute size, the top domestic gains are much larger than the top domestic losses. Compared to the domestic loss counties, the county-to-county links for the top gainers are more concentrated. The 15 positive links involve seven states and nine counties. Many of these links are with other major U.S.

metropolitan areas. Los Angeles County (Los Angeles) is the largest domestic link for all three top gaining Texas counties. Cook County (Chicago), Orange County (Anaheim), and Miami-Dade (Miami) are other major sources of domestic migration gain.

Overall, the county-to-county links suggest that the state's most populated counties are impacted by migration in two ways. In the first instance, internal migration redistributes people from the state's most populated counties to less-populated, adjacent counties. In the second instance, domestic migration from major U.S. metropolitan areas adds people to the state's most populated counties. With this, the state's most populous counties are losing existing residents from internal migration while simultaneously gaining new residents from domestic migration. Moreover, these same counties are primary destinations for new immigrants. A continuation of these trends promises to reshape both the population

distributions and population compositions of the state's most populated areas. We examine this interplay more closely in Part 3 of this series, TEXAS MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION, which explores how migration is redistributing the population within and between Texas' 25 metropolitan areas.

Summary and Conclusions

Summary. In recent years, Texas has become a favorite destination for domestic and international migrants, adding close to 250,000 people a year through migration. In addition to this external migration, over a million Texans move from one county to another within the state. Together, these migration streams produce a substantial population redistribution within Texas every year.

Though contemporary Texas consistently adds population through migration, the same is not true for all of the state's 254 counties. Population change from migration has been uneven and the sources of migration have varied across the state.

This brief has examined migration in Texas counties by total mobility, migration flows, net migration, immigration, and connectivity. With each of these migration measures, there is a strong contrast between the largest population counties and the smallest population counties in Texas. In addition, the group of 14 Border Counties has its own distinctive migration characteristics.

Population change from migration in Texas can be generalized as follows:

- Smaller population counties are more affected by internal migration - movements beginning and ending in Texas. The three least populated tiers had population loss or zero growth from internal migration. They also tend to have flat or low rates of domestic and international migration. As for migration linkages, these counties are less connected to other counties than the largest population counties and tend to gain fewer migrants per county-to-county link.
- The largest population counties tend to have the highest mobility rates, greatest

migration volumes, highest overall migration rates, and highest overall connectivity with other counties. Larger population counties are most affected by domestic and international migration flows. More than 90 percent of the total net migration in these counties comes from external sources that originate outside of Texas. At the same time, some of the state's most populated counties are losing population through internal migration to nearby counties.

- Border counties have low volumes and low rates of internal and domestic migration and, as a group, experience negative total net migration. Were it not for high immigration rates, these counties would have negative overall migration rates.

Conclusions. It has long been believed that migration is associated with basic social change and cultural diffusion (Bogue 1959; Bogue et al 1982). Given this dynamic, the state's major metropolitan areas have become the focal points of substantial change. While all of Texas is affected by migration, the counties encompassed by major metropolitan areas are experiencing large population increases through the in-migration of people from other states and nations. This growth from external migration sources suggests a future with increasingly heterogeneous populations, both demographically and culturally, residing in the state's major metropolitan areas.

At the same time, some of the state's least populated counties are losing population through both internal and domestic migration. Because migrants tend to be young adults, this pattern of youth outmigration can lead to increasingly older populations remaining in these counties. In turn, this 'aging in place' can inhibit economic development, restrain community vitality, and reduce population growth through natural increase. To the extent this pattern of out-migration continues, some of the state's least populated counties will face continuing population loss.

In many respects, the Texas counties that share a border with Mexico are an enigma. Domestic

migration is minimal and negative in 10 of the 14 counties. As a group, their total net migration rate is -5.0 per 1,000 residents. At the same time, this group gains 11.2 persons per 1,000 residents through immigration. Thus, the border counties are experiencing population gain through immigration and losing population from internal and domestic migration. Yet, even with this, some of these counties are among the fastest growing in the state. This is because high fertility rates are producing large population gains through natural increase. Thus, while the loss of population from migration is similar to that of the state's least populated counties, the border counties are growing rapidly from immigration and natural increase. If these trends persist, these counties will continue to have populations that are younger and more international than the state as a whole.

Given the differences in these three types of counties, it might be said that Texas is one state with three demographic destinies. As a whole, Texans are very mobile and Texas is growing from migration. But, within the state, the sifting and sorting of these population movements is uneven. These trends underlie a reshaping of the state's population geography with some counties losing population while others gain population, some counties growing older while others are attracting young people, and some counties becoming more heterogeneous while others fail to thrive. Should these trends persist, Texas could see a future where migration sharpens the state's geographical differences in opportunities and challenges.

Endnotes

¹Data used in this report are derived from the 2014 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS). The 2014 5-Year ACS Summary File covers the 2009-2013 time period. With this, five years of data are accumulated on a continuous basis. This is done to increase the sample size, which improves the survey's accuracy and permits the inclusion of geographic areas with populations of less than 20,000 persons. Conceptually, these period surveys measure the average characteristics of a geographic area over five years (U.S. Census Bureau 2008).

As with all survey data, the ACS is subject to sampling error which occurs when a random sample does not fully represent the whole population that is being evaluated. Sampling error becomes less problematic with larger sample sizes. For a more detailed description of the ACS data accuracy, please see the U.S. Census Bureau (2015b) reference.

²Here we use the terms international migration and immigration interchangeably. The American Community Survey does not have data on net international migration. The U.S. Census Bureau produces several annual reports that include the mobility patterns of Americans. Two of the primary sources are surveys: The American Community Survey and the annual supplement to the Current Population Survey. The other primary source, Population Estimates, is not a survey. The Population Estimates Program uses various data sources to produce annual estimates of the population and components of population change. Using various estimation techniques, the Population Estimates are able to calculate Net International Migration as well as Net Domestic Migration. By contrast, the surveys are based on respondents' answers. Because these surveys are administered only in the United States and its territories, they do not get information on persons who emigrate from the U.S. to other countries.

³The 14 border counties and their respective population tiers (quintiles) are as follows: Hudspeth (Tier 1); Jeff Davis (Tier 1); Kinney (Tier 1); Terrell

(Tier 1); Brewster (Tier 2); Presidio (Tier 2); Zapata (Tier 3); Maverick (Tier 4); Starr (Tier 4); Val Verde (Tier 4); Cameron (Tier 5); El Paso (Tier 5); Hidalgo (Tier 5); and, Webb (Tier 5). For more information, please refer to Appendix A.

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APPENDIX A: COUNTY CLASSIFICATIONS

Tier 1			Tier 2			Tier 3		
FIPS	Name	Population*	FIPS	Name	Population*	FIPS	Name	Population*
48011	Armstrong	1,768	48009	Archer	8,786	48003	Andrews	15,300
48023	Baylor	3,641	48017	Bailey	7,053	48007	Aransas	23,388
48033	Borden	625	48031	Blanco	10,500	48019	Bandera	20,344
48045	Briscoe	1,598	48047	Brooks	7,110	48035	Bosque	18,005
48079	Cochran	3,028	48063	Camp	12,166	48051	Burleson	16,966
48081	Coke	3,233	48065	Carson	6,078	48057	Calhoun	21,111
48087	Collingsworth	3,033	48069	Castro	7,864	48059	Callahan	13,427
48095	Concho	4,048	48075	Childress	6,978	48089	Colorado	20,591
48101	Cottle	1,530	48077	Clay	10,539	48093	Comanche	13,603
48103	Crane	4,375	48083	Coleman	8,558	48115	Dawson	13,695
48105	Crockett	3,811	48107	Crosby	5,985	48117	Deaf Smith	18,721
48109	Culberson	2,345	48111	Dallam	6,709	48123	DeWitt	20,121
48125	Dickens	2,358	48119	Delta	5,143	48133	Eastland	18,241
48129	Donley	3,598	48127	Dimmit	10,001	48145	Falls	17,529
48137	Edwards	2,070	48131	Duval	11,604	48161	Freestone	19,494
48151	Fisher	3,898	48153	Floyd	6,315	48163	Frio	17,329
48155	Foard	1,122	48159	Franklin	10,496	48165	Gaines	17,573
48173	Glasscock	1,176	48169	Garza	6,324	48177	Gonzales	19,631
48191	Hall	3,286	48175	Goliad	7,204	48179	Gray	22,519
48197	Hardeman	4,035	48193	Hamilton	8,348	48219	Hockley	22,775
48211	Hemphill	3,884	48195	Hansford	5,503	48225	Houston	23,176
48235	Irion	1,595	48205	Hartley	6,029	48233	Hutchinson	21,770
48261	Kenedy	507	48207	Haskell	5,791	48239	Jackson	13,970
48263	Kent	887	48237	Jack	8,921	48253	Jones	19,943
48267	Kimble	4,543	48247	Jim Hogg	5,179	48255	Karnes	14,742
48269	King	319	48283	La Salle	6,830	48279	Lamb	13,717
48275	Knox	3,711	48297	Live Oak	11,468	48281	Lampasas	19,692
48295	Lipscomb	3,283	48305	Lynn	5,811	48285	Lavaca	19,126
48301	Loving	87	48307	McCulloch	8,187	48287	Lee	16,406
48311	McMullen	605	48315	Marion	10,383	48289	Leon	16,513
48317	Martin	4,898	48335	Mitchell	9,263	48293	Limestone	23,219
48319	Mason	3,991	48357	Ochiltree	10,301	48299	Llano	19,052
48327	Menard	2,187	48369	Parmer	9,988	48313	Madison	13,511
48333	Mills	4,851	48379	Rains	10,851	48331	Milam	24,135
48345	Motley	1,170	48387	Red River	12,661	48337	Montague	19,358
48359	Oldham	2,042	48391	Refugio	7,192	48341	Moore	21,637
48383	Reagan	3,422	48399	Runnels	10,250	48343	Morris	12,743
48385	Real	3,322	48403	Sabine	10,557	48351	Newton	14,172
48393	Roberts	1,022	48405	San Augustine	8,788	48353	Nolan	14,856
48413	Schleicher	3,316	48411	San Saba	5,953	48365	Panola	23,609
48417	Shackelford	3,333	48425	Somervell	8,429	48371	Pecos	15,482
48421	Sherman	3,020	48429	Stephens	9,373	48389	Reeves	13,571
48431	Sterling	1,338	48437	Swisher	7,712	48395	Robertson	16,351
48433	Stonewall	1,347	48445	Terry	12,625	48415	Scurry	16,737
48435	Sutton	4,026	48475	Ward	10,678	48455	Trinity	14,314
48447	Throckmorton	1,603	48483	Wheeler	5,469	48457	Tyler	21,314
48461	Upton	3,272	48495	Winkler	7,120			
			48501	Yoakum	7,865			
			48507	Zavala	11,690			

*Population is from the 2009-2013 5-Year ACS Summary Data for the population 1 year of age and older.

TIER POPULATION KEY						
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Border Counties
Population	87 – 5,044	5,045 – 12,676	12,677 – 24,461	24,462 – 64,725	64,726 – 4,119,266	825 – 801,745

APPENDIX A: COUNTY CLASSIFICATIONS (continued)

Tier 4			Tier 5			Border Counties			
FIPS	Name	Population*	FIPS	Name	Population*	FIPS	Name	Population*	Tier
48001	Anderson	57,722	48005	Angelina	85,910	48043	Brewster	9,136	2
48013	Atascosa	45,173	48021	Bastrop	73,842	48061	Cameron	404,024	5
48015	Austin	28,339	48027	Bell	311,127	48141	El Paso	801,745	5
48025	Bee	31,836	48029	Bexar	1,728,176	48215	Hidalgo	775,494	5
48049	Brown	37,287	48037	Bowie	91,402	48229	Hudspeth	3,327	1
48053	Burnet	42,759	48039	Brazoria	315,036	48243	Jeff Davis	2,290	1
48055	Caldwell	38,128	48041	Brazos	194,767	48271	Kinney	3,563	1
48067	Cass	30,064	48085	Collin	799,867	48323	Maverick	53,743	4
48071	Chambers	35,086	48091	Comal	110,923	48377	Presidio	7,495	2
48073	Cherokee	50,311	48099	Coryell	74,832	48427	Starr	60,423	4
48097	Cooke	38,096	48113	Dallas	2,377,637				
48143	Erath	38,400	48121	Denton	679,254				
48147	Fannin	33,452	48135	Ector	139,042				
48149	Fayette	24,544	48139	Ellis	150,264				
48171	Gillespie	24,707	48157	Fort Bend	600,966				
48185	Grimes	26,487	48167	Galveston	292,928				
48189	Hale	35,686	48181	Grayson	119,887				
48199	Hardin	54,341	48183	Gregg	120,494				
48217	Hill	34,591	48187	Guadalupe	134,362				
48221	Hood	51,196	48201	Harris	4,119,266				
48223	Hopkins	34,836	48203	Harrison	65,625				
48227	Howard	34,838	48209	Hays	162,331				
48241	Jasper	35,378	48213	Henderson	77,782				
48249	Jim Wells	40,436	48231	Hunt	85,581				
48259	Kendall	34,595	48245	Jefferson	249,062				
48265	Kerr	49,211	48251	Johnson	150,760				
48273	Kleberg	31,529	48257	Kaufman	103,926				
48277	Lamar	49,176	48291	Liberty	74,829				
48321	Matagorda	36,083	48303	Lubbock	279,272				
48325	Medina	45,983	48309	McLennan	234,221				
48347	Nacogdoches	64,116	48329	Midland	140,206				
48349	Navarro	47,173	48339	Montgomery	466,046				
48363	Palo Pinto	27,789	48355	Nueces	339,763				
48373	Polk	45,230	48361	Orange	81,452				
48401	Rusk	52,835	48367	Parker	117,373				
48407	San Jacinto	26,348	48375	Potter	119,764				
48409	San Patricio	64,127	48381	Randall	121,418				
48419	Shelby	25,332	48397	Rockwall	80,095				
48449	Titus	31,858	48423	Smith	209,441				
48459	Upshur	39,131	48439	Tarrant	1,823,073				
48463	Uvalde	26,177	48441	Taylor	130,486				
48467	Van Zandt	51,986	48451	Tom Green	110,585				
48473	Waller	43,338	48453	Travis	1,047,764				
48477	Washington	33,341	48469	Victoria	86,982				
48481	Wharton	40,802	48471	Walker	67,506				
48493	Wilson	43,359	48485	Wichita	129,773				
48497	Wise	59,290	48491	Williamson	435,257				
48499	Wood	41,755							

*Population is from the 2009-2013 5-Year ACS Summary Data for the population 1 year of age and older.

TIER POPULATION KEY						
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Border Counties
Population	87 – 5,044	5,045 – 12,676	12,677 – 24,461	24,462 – 64,725	64,726 – 4,119,266	825 – 801,745

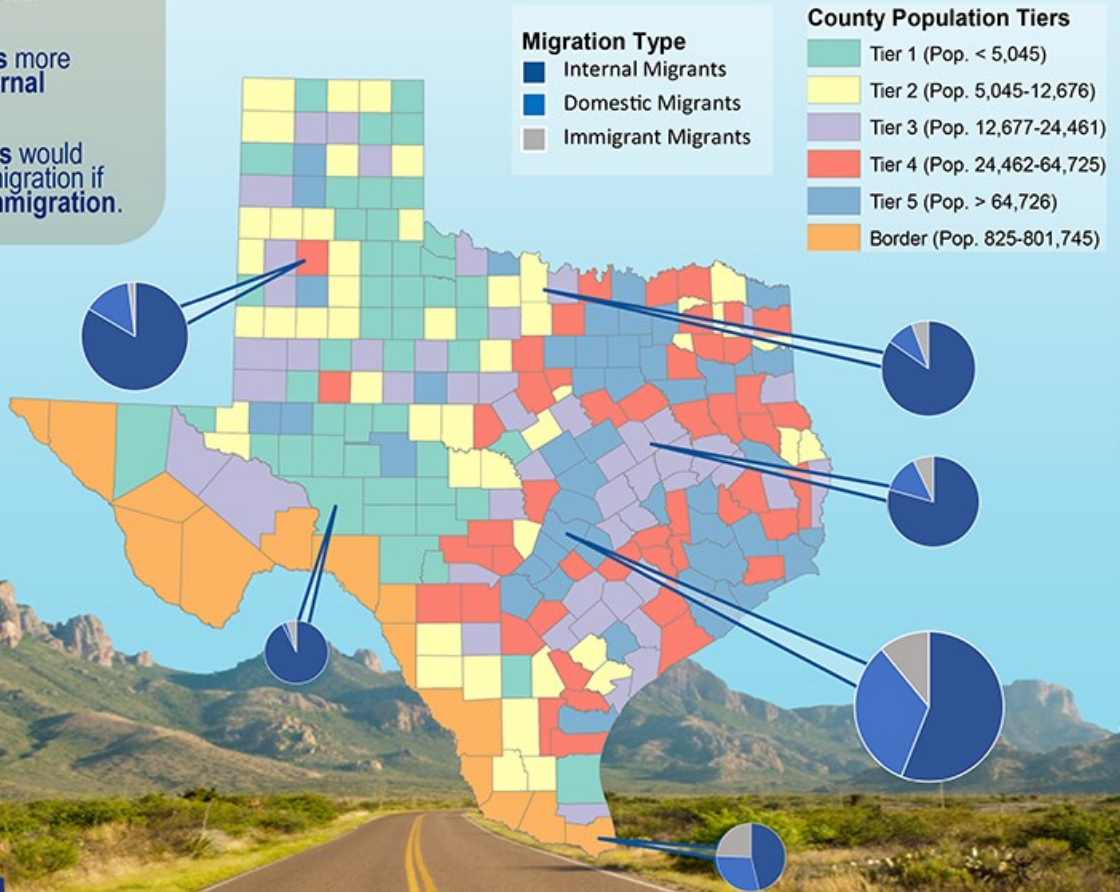
TEXAS MIGRATION

To see more details about how Texas counties are affected differently by migration, go to our brief *Texas Migration*.

Texas consistently has added population through migration in recent years but the same is not true for all of the state's 254 counties. Among the counties, population change from migration has been uneven and the sources of migration have varied across the state.

- ⇒ **Smaller counties** more affected by **internal migration**.
- ⇒ **Larger counties** more affected by **external migration**.
- ⇒ **Border counties** would have negative migration if not for strong **immigration**.

Texas County Population Tiers by Migration Type per Tier for Select Counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Summary Data, 2009-2013

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