

# Texas Population: Change in Size, Composition, and Distribution, 2000-2008

Md. Nazrul Hoque\* and Beverly Pecotte

*Department of Demography and Organization Studies and Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 501 West Durango Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78207-4415*

**Abstract:** Texas is among the most rapidly growing states in the United States. In this paper we examine the change in size, composition, and distribution of Texas population from 2000-2008. Texas population increased from 20,851,820 in 2000 to 24,326,974 in 2008. This is an increase of 3,475,154 persons between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008, leading the nation in numerical increase. The increase of 3,475,154 persons during the 2000-2008 time period was equivalent to the total 2008 estimated population of Wyoming (532,668), District of Columbia (591,833), Vermont (621,270), North Dakota (641,481), Alaska (686,293), and South Dakota (804,194). Texas' population also diversified extensively; the proportion of Anglo (non-Hispanic White) population has decreased from 60.7 percent in 1990 to 46.6 percent in 2008. The proportion of Hispanic population (Hispanics of any race) has increased from 25.5 percent in 1990 to 37.5 percent in 2008. In 2008, more than fifty-three percent of Texans were minorities (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and Others). However, population growth has not been distributed evenly throughout the State. Some parts of the State have grown rapidly, some have grown slowly and others have declined. It is impossible to predict future patterns of population growth with absolute accuracy, but the fact that more than 54 percent of the population growth is due to natural increase suggests that population growth will likely continue, even if the rate of growth slows from that observed in the past few years. Texas may thus be expected to remain among those states with the largest numerical increase in population and to continue to be among the Nation's growing states in the coming years.

**Keywords:** Change, size, composition, distribution, diversification.

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to the post-2000 estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Texas State Data Center, Texas is among the most rapidly growing states in the United States. Texas' rate of population growth has exceeded that for the nation in every decade since Texas became a state, and its recent population increases have been particularly large (see Fig. 1). Texas population increased from 20,851,820 in 2000 to 24,326,974 in 2008 [1]. This is an increase of 3,475,154 persons between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008, leading the nation in numerical increase. During the same time California population increased by 2,885,018 persons. In terms of percent population growth, Texas ranked sixth among the fastest growing states for the period from 2000 to 2008 (with an increase of 16.7 percent (see Fig. 1 and Appendix Table 1). During the 1990s and 2000-2005, Texas was the second fastest growing state in numerical terms (behind California) but has been the fastest growing state since 2006. Texas' population also diversified extensively; the proportion of Anglo (non-Hispanic White) population has decreased from

60.7 percent in 1990 to 46.6 percent in 2008. The proportion of Hispanic population (Hispanics of any race) has increased from 25.5 percent in 1990 to 37.5 percent in 2008. In 2008, more than fifty-three percent of Texans were minorities (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and Others). In this paper we examine the change in size, composition, and distribution of Texas population from 2000-2008.

## II. SIZE

The size of Texas' population has almost doubled in the past 28 years, increasing from 14.2 million in 1980 to 24.3 million in 2008. The population growth of 3,475,154 persons between 2000 and 2008 represents the largest annualized increase of 421,230 persons per year in Texas' history. The previous record increase was 3,865,310 persons or an annualized increase of 386,531 persons per year between 1990 and 2000 (see Table 1). The increase of 3,475,154 persons during the 2000-2008 was equivalent to the total 2008 estimated population of Wyoming (532,668), District of Columbia (591,833), Vermont (621,270), North Dakota (641,481), Alaska (686,293), and South Dakota (804,194) (see Appendix Table 1).

Texas' growth has been fueled both by substantial natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (immigration from states in the U.S. and immigration from other countries of the world). For example, of the 3,475,154 population in-

\*Address correspondence to this author at the Department of Demography and Organization Studies and Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, 501 West Durango Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78207-4415; Tel: 210/458-6530; Fax: 210/458-6540; Email: Nazrul.hoque@utsa.edu

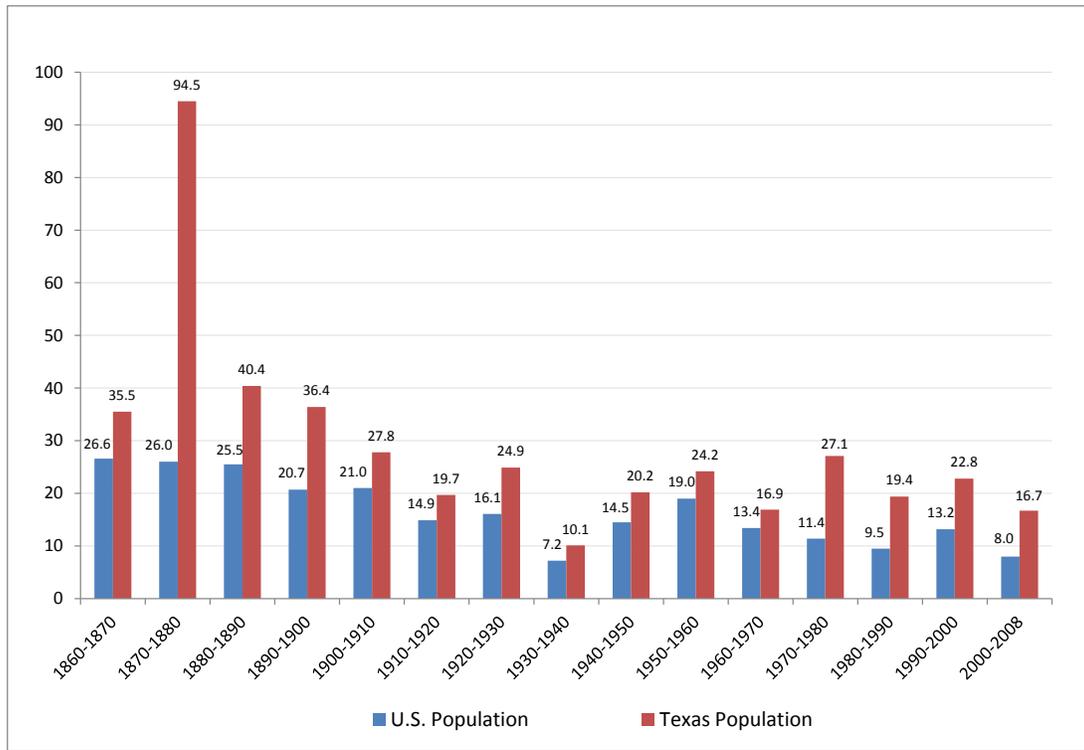


Fig. (1). U.S. and Texas Population Percent Change, 1860-2008.

Table 1. Total Population and Components of Population Change in Texas, 1950-2008

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Percent Change	Percent Change Due to	
						Natural Increase	Net Migration
1950	7,711,194	.	.	.	.	.	.
1960	9,579,677	1,868,483	1,672,522	195,949	24.2	89.5	10.5
1970	11,196,730	1,617,053	1,402,716	214,337	16.9	86.7	13.3
1980	14,229,191	3,032,461	1,258,881	1,773,580	27.1	41.5	58.5
1990	16,986,510	2,757,319	1,815,699	941,620	19.4	65.8	34.2
2000	20,851,820	3,865,310	1,922,037	1,943,273	22.8	49.7	50.3
2008	24,326,974	3,475,154	1,888,829	1,586,325	16.7	54.4	45.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1 population counts for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and July 1 estimated population for 2008.

crease between 2000 to 2008, 1,888,829 was due to natural increase and 1,586,325 was due to net migration, or in other words, 54.4 percent of the growth was due to natural increase and 45.6 percent was from net migration (see Table 1).

III. COMPOSITION

Table 2 presents population change by race/ethnicity for the State of Texas from 1990-2000 and 2000-2008. The estimated populations of 2008 by race/ethnicity were derived by the authors [2]. During the 1990s Texas’ rapid population growth was extensive, but the racial/ethnic diversification of the population was even more substantial. Although Texas’ total population increased by 22.8 percent during the 1990s, the Anglo (non-Hispanic white) population increased by

only 7.4 percent, the Black population by 22.3 percent, the Hispanic population by 53.7 percent, and the Other population by 91.8. In terms of numerical change the Anglo population increased from 10,308,444 in 1990 to 11,074,716 in 2000, the Black population increased from 1,980,693 in 1990 to 2,421,653 in 2000, the Hispanic population increased from 4,339,900 in 1990 to 6,669,666 in 2000, and the Other population increased from 357,473 in 1990 to 685,785 in 2000.

During 2000-2008, the Anglo population increased from 11,074,716 to 11,342,864, the Black population increased from 2,421,653 to 2,823,460, the Hispanic population increased from 6,669,666 to 9,116,768, and the Other population increased from 685,785 to 1,043,882. In terms of percent change, the Anglo population increased by 2.4 percent,

**Table 2. Population Change by Race/Ethnicity in Texas, 1990-2000 and 2000-2008**

Race/ Ethnicity	Census Count 1990	Census Count 2000	Estimated Population 2008	Numerical Change		Percent Change		Percent Population		
				1990-2000	2000-2008	1990-2000	2000-2008	1990	2000	2008
Anglo	10,308,444	11,074,716	11,342,864	766,272	268,148	7.4	2.4	60.7	53.1	46.6
Black	1,980,693	2,421,653	2,823,460	440,960	401,807	22.3	16.6	11.7	11.6	11.6
Hispanic	4,339,900	6,669,666	9,116,768	2,329,766	2,447,102	53.7	36.7	25.5	32.0	37.5
Other	357,473	685,785	1,043,882	328,312	358,097	91.8	52.2	2.1	3.3	4.3
Total	16,986,510	20,851,820	24,326,974	3,865,310	3,475,154	22.8	16.7	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, modified age, race and sex (MARS) file for 1990 and PL94-171 for 2000. Estimated 2008 populations are derived by the authors.

the Black population increased by 16.6 percent, the Hispanic population increased by 36.7 percent, and the Other population increased by 52.2 percent.

As a result of these changes, the proportion of the Anglo population decreased from 60.7 percent in 1990 to 53.1 percent in 2000 and 46.6 percent in 2008, the proportion of Black population decreased from 11.7 percent in 1990 to 11.6 percent in 2000 and remained at 11.6 percent in 2008, the Hispanic proportion increased from 25.5 percent in 1990 to 32.0 percent in 2000, and 37.5 percent in 2008. The proportion of Other population increased from 2.1 percent in 1990 to 3.3 percent in 2000 and 4.3 percent in 2008.

#### IV. DISTRIBUTION

Population growth has not been distributed evenly throughout the state. Some parts of the State have grown rapidly, some have grown slowly and others have declined. The following sections examine the patterns of population growth for Council of Governments regions, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and cities and places in Texas.

#### VIA. Population Change in Council of Governments Regions in Texas, 2000-2008

In this section we examine the patterns of population growth in Council of Governments (COG) regions in Texas. There are 24 Council of Governments regions in Texas (see Fig. 2). The estimated populations in 2008 for Council of Governments regions were derived by the authors by summing the appropriate county populations [3]. All twenty-four regions experienced population growth during the 1990s. However, 3 regions lost population from 2000 to 2008 (see Table 3). During the 1990s, the North Central Texas Region gained the most population (1,197,527), followed by the Houston-Galveston Region (957,308). A similar pattern of change has been observed during 2000-2008. The population of the North Central Texas Region increased from 5,309,277 in 2000 to 6,430,706 in 2008. The population of the Houston-Galveston Region increased from 4,854,454 in 2000 to 5,859,339 in 2008. The population of the Capital Area Region increased from 1,346,833 in 2000 to 1,751,066 in 2008. In terms of numerical increase, the North Central Texas Region gained 1,121,429 persons, the Houston-Galveston Region gained 1,004,885 persons, and the Capital Area Region gained 404,233 persons from 2000 to 2008. The South East

Texas Region lost the most population of any region followed by the Nortex Region. The West Central Region lost the least population. In terms of numerical decrease, the South East Texas, Nortex and West Central Regions have lost 3,282, 1,057, and 937, respectively.

In terms of percent population change, the fastest growing regions during 2000-2008 have been the Capital Area with a 30.0 percent increase, followed by the Lower Rio Grande Valley with an increase of 23.2 percent, South Texas with an increase of 21.3 percent, and North Central Texas with a 21.1 percent increase. The slowest growing regions have been the Concho Valley with a 0.4 percent increase, followed by Coastal Bend with an increase of 2.3 percent, Golden Crescent with 2.5 percent, and Ark-Tex with a 3.8 percent increase. In general, the fastest growing regions are either in the central corridor of Texas or along the Texas-Mexico Border. The slowest growing regions are in the Panhandle and East Texas. Nortex, West Central and South East Texas lost population during 2000-2008.

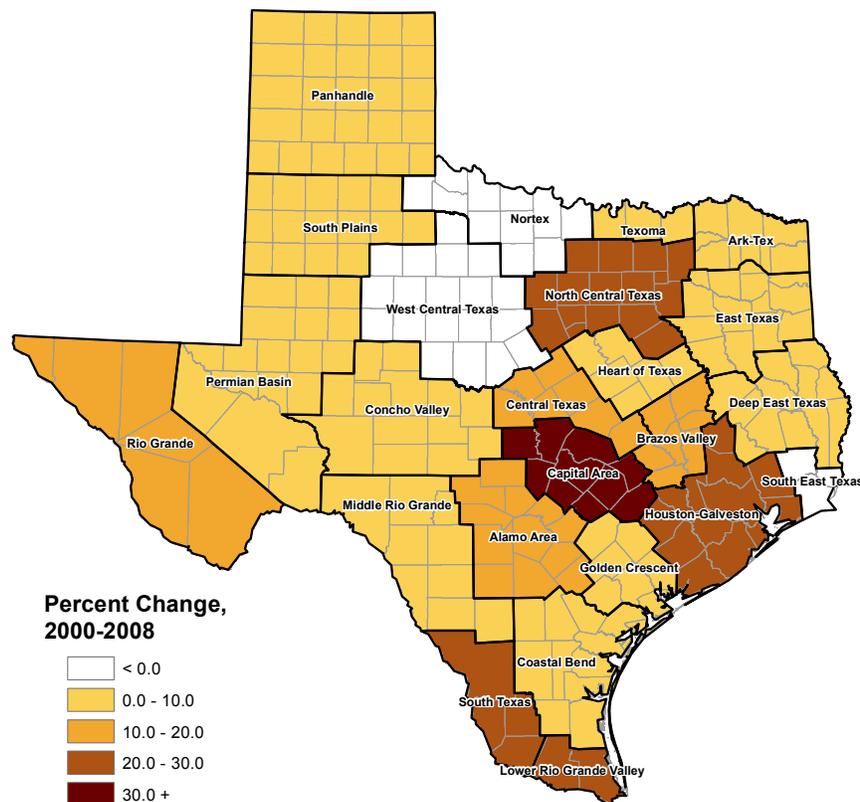
Population change results either from natural increase or net migration. If these factors are examined in conjunction with the data on total population change, several important patterns are evident. An examination of the data in Table 3 indicates that 13 Council of Governments regions have experienced net immigration while 11 have experienced outmigration from 2000 to 2008. The Coastal Bend COG lost the most population due to outmigration (21,235), followed by Rio Grande (14,485), South East Texas (13,958), South Plains (7,780), and West Central Texas (7,565). The regions with the largest number of immigrants during 2000-2008 are North Central Texas with net immigration of 573,987 persons, followed by the Houston-Galveston area with net immigration of 506,978, the Capital Area with net immigration of 264,589, and the Alamo Area region with net immigration of 183,965.

In terms of percent net immigration during 2000-2008, the fastest growing areas are the Capital Area with an annualized immigration rate of 2.37 percent, followed by the North Central Texas Region with an annualized immigration rate of 1.31 percent, Houston-Galveston with an annualized rate of 1.26 percent, and the Alamo Area with an annualized rate of 1.23 percent. The fastest declining COGs are Coastal Bend followed by Rio Grande and South East Texas.

Table 3. Population and Components of Population Change in Council of Governments Regions in Texas, 2000-2008

Council of Governments (COG)	Population 2000	SDC Estimate 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
							Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
Alamo Area	1,807,868	2,132,780	324,912	18.0	140,947	183,965	43.4	56.6
Ark-Tex	270,468	280,715	10,247	3.8	5,014	5,233	48.9	51.1
Brazos Valley	267,085	296,689	29,604	11.1	15,796	13,808	53.4	46.6
Capital Area	1,346,833	1,751,066	404,233	30.0	139,644	264,589	34.5	65.5
Central Texas	374,518	425,283	50,765	13.6	38,242	12,523	75.3	24.7
Coastal Bend	549,012	561,554	12,542	2.3	33,777	-21,235	269.3	-169.3
Concho Valley	148,212	148,804	592	0.4	5,253	-4,661	887.3	-787.3
Deep East Texas	355,862	372,046	16,184	4.5	7,062	9,122	43.6	56.4
East Texas	745,180	806,434	61,254	8.2	22,235	39,019	36.3	63.7
Golden Crescent	183,905	188,561	4,656	2.5	7,721	-3,065	165.8	-65.8
Heart of Texas	321,536	342,103	20,567	6.4	11,685	8,882	56.8	43.2
Houston-Galveston	4,854,454	5,859,339	1,004,885	20.7	497,907	506,978	49.5	50.5
Lower Rio Grande Valley	924,772	1,139,301	214,529	23.2	165,074	49,455	76.9	23.1
Middle Rio Grande	154,381	162,636	8,255	5.3	15,681	-7,426	190.0	-90.0
Nortex	224,366	223,309	-1,057	-0.5	4,858	-5,915	-459.6	559.6
North Central Texas	5,309,277	6,430,706	1,121,429	21.1	547,442	573,987	48.8	51.2
Panhandle	402,862	421,157	18,295	4.5	22,304	-4,009	121.9	-21.9
Permian Basin	376,672	396,564	19,892	5.3	25,856	-5,964	130.0	-30.0
Rio Grande	704,318	774,524	70,206	10.0	84,691	-14,485	120.6	-20.6
South East Texas	385,090	381,808	-3,282	-0.9	10,676	-13,958	-325.3	425.3
South Plains	377,871	394,201	16,330	4.3	24,110	-7,780	147.6	-47.6
South Texas	264,177	320,333	56,156	21.3	52,482	3,674	93.5	6.5
Texoma	178,200	193,097	14,897	8.4	3,744	11,153	25.1	74.9
West Central Texas	324,901	323,964	-937	-0.3	6,628	-7,565	-707.4	807.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 2000 population (PL94-171). Estimated populations for 2008 are derived by the authors.



**Fig. (2).** Percent Population Change in Texas Council of Governments Regions, 2000-2008.

Table 3 also suggests that natural increase played an important role in population growth for the South Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Central Texas regions. For example, 93.5 percent of the population growth for the South Texas COG was due to natural increase, 76.9 percent of the population growth for the Lower Rio Grande Valley was due to natural increase, and 75.3 percent of the population growth for Central Texas was due to natural increase. Natural increase also plays an important role for Coastal Bend, Concho Valley, Golden Crescent, Middle Rio Grande, Panhandle, Permian Basin, Rio Grande, and South Plains. Without natural increase all of these COGs would have lost population during 2000-2008.

#### **VI.B. Population Change in Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan Texas Counties, 2000-2008**

Post-2000 patterns of population change varied significantly by status types, with higher rates of change in metropolitan suburban counties followed by metropolitan central city counties, 34.8 and 14.1 percent, respectively. Non-metropolitan nonadjacent counties gained the least population. Nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties grew only by 2.2 percent compared with 16.7 percent for the State and 34.8 percent for the metropolitan suburban counties. As a result, the proportions of people living in metropolitan central city counties has decreased from 67.1 percent in 2000 to 65.7 percent in 2008, the proportions of people living in metropolitan suburban counties has increased from 18.9 in 2000 to 21.9 in 2008, the proportion in nonmetropolitan adjacent counties decreased from 11.1 to 10.0, and nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties decreased from 2.8 to 2.5 (metropolitan and central city counties are as defined in 2003 by the Office of Management and Budget) [4].

Metropolitan areas have the greatest population growth in Texas, with the highest rates of net migration in metropolitan suburban counties (1,038,925 persons), followed by the central city counties (512,961 persons). Almost seventy-six percent of the population growth in metropolitan suburban counties was due to net migration while natural increase resulted in only 24 percent of the change. In contrast, the central city counties in metropolitan areas received only 26 percent of their growth from net migration while 74 percent was due to natural increase. In all nonmetropolitan counties, the population change due to natural increase was greater than the net migration. Yet even the nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties with net outmigration from 2000 to 2008 managed to show growth of 2.2 percent due to natural increase in their population. Again the estimated populations in 2008 for Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Texas were derived by the authors by summing the appropriate county populations [3].

#### **VI.C. Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) in Texas, 2000-2008**

The patterns of population change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are shown in Table 5. All comparisons are made using the 2003 definition of Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget [4]. All 25 of the metropolitan areas experienced population growth during the 1990s, however, two of these metropolitan areas lost population during 2000-2008. The largest numerical increases have been in the largest metropolitan areas; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington increased by 1,103,423, Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown increased by 1,003,271, Austin-Round Rock increased by 388,173, and San Antonio increased by 317,129. Beaumont-Port Arthur

**Table 4. Population and Components of Population Change in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas, 2000-2008**

Metropolitan Status	Population 2000	SDC Estimate 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
							Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
Metropolitan Central City Counties	13,993,705	15,973,037	1,979,332	14.1	1,466,371	512,961	74.1	25.9
Metropolitan Suburban Counties	3,950,843	5,324,331	1,373,488	34.8	334,563	1,038,925	24.4	75.6
Nonmetropolitan Adjacent Counties	2,315,507	2,424,992	109,485	4.7	66,199	43,286	60.5	39.5
Nonmetropolitan Nonadjacent Counties	591,765	604,614	12,849	2.2	21,696	-8,847	168.9	-68.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 2000 population (PL94-171). Estimated populations for 2008 are derived by the authors.

**Table 5. Population and Components of Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Texas, 2000-2008**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Population 2000	SDC Estimate 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
							Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
Abilene	160,245	161,996	1,751	1.1	7,196	-5,445	411.0	-311.0
Amarillo	226,522	247,050	20,528	9.1	14,042	6,486	68.4	31.6
Austin-Round Rock	1,249,763	1,637,936	388,173	31.1	139,696	248,477	36.0	64.0
Beaumont-Port Arthur	385,090	381,808	-3,282	-0.9	10,676	-13,958	-325.3	425.3
Brownsville-Harlingen	335,227	393,355	58,128	17.3	53,508	4,620	92.1	7.9
College Station-Bryan	184,885	208,379	23,494	12.7	14,305	9,189	60.9	39.1
Corpus Christi	403,280	415,882	12,602	3.1	26,149	-13,547	207.5	-107.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	5,161,544	6,264,967	1,103,423	21.4	543,724	559,699	49.3	50.7
El Paso	679,622	748,596	68,974	10.1	82,962	-13,988	120.3	-20.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	4,715,407	5,718,678	1,003,271	21.3	492,816	510,455	49.1	50.9
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	330,714	379,806	49,092	14.8	38,384	10,708	78.2	21.8
Laredo	193,117	238,269	45,152	23.4	40,803	4,349	90.4	9.6
Longview	194,042	204,259	10,217	5.3	7,379	2,838	72.2	27.8
Lubbock	249,700	270,086	20,386	8.2	17,091	3,295	83.8	16.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr	569,463	724,971	155,508	27.3	109,344	46,164	70.3	29.7
Midland	116,009	128,717	12,708	11.0	8,765	3,943	69.0	31.0
Odessa	121,123	130,849	9,726	8.0	10,664	-938	109.6	-9.6

Table 5. Contd....

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Population 2000	SDC Estimate 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
							Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
San Angelo	105,781	106,457	676	0.6	5,144	-4,468	760.9	-660.9
San Antonio	1,711,703	2,028,832	317,129	18.5	140,809	176,320	44.4	55.6
Sherman-Denison	110,595	118,754	8,159	7.4	2,716	5,443	33.3	66.7
Texarkana	89,306	93,354	4,048	4.5	1,763	2,285	43.6	56.4
Tyler	174,706	200,466	25,760	14.7	9,851	15,909	38.2	61.8
Victoria	111,663	114,897	3,234	2.9	6,499	-3,265	201.0	-101.0
Waco	213,517	228,497	14,980	7.0	11,408	3,572	76.2	23.8
Wichita Falls	151,524	150,507	-1,017	-0.7	5,240	-6,257	-515.2	615.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 2000 population (PL94-171). Estimated populations for 2008 are derived by the authors.

lost the most population followed by Wichita Falls. Beaumont-Port Arthur declined by 3,282 persons while Wichita Falls declined by 1,017.

In terms of percent population change, the Austin-Round Rock MSA showed the largest gain, with an increase of 31.1 percent from 2000 to 2008, followed by the McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr MSA with an increase of 27.3 percent, and the Laredo MSA which increased by 23.4 percent. The slowest growing MSAs were San Angelo with an increase of 0.6 percent, Abilene with an increase of 1.1 percent and Victoria with an increase of 2.9 percent. Wichita Falls and Beaumont-Port Arthur are the only two MSAs that lost population during the 2000-2008 time period. Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA lost population by 0.9 percent and Wichita Falls MSA lost population by 0.7 percent.

Out of 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 8 of the MSAs showed net outmigration during the post-2000 period. The level of net migration and the extent to which migration accounted for population growth varies widely among the metropolitan areas. The highest rates of net migration have been in Austin-Round Rock with an annualized rate of 2.4 percent, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington with 1.3 percent, and Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown with 1.3. For seven metropolitan areas, (Sherman-Denison (66.7), Austin Round-Rock (64.0), Tyler (61.8), Texarkana (56.4), San Antonio (55.6), Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown (50.9 percent), Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (50.7 percent)), more than 50 percent of their total population growth from 2000 to 2008 has been due to net immigration. During the same period, eight metropolitan areas (El Paso, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, Wichita Falls, Abilene, San Angelo, Victoria, and Odessa) experienced net outmigration.

Finally, the data in Table 5 suggest that for Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as for Council of Governments regions, the fastest growing areas are generally those which have had both extensive natural increase and net immigration. Natural Increase played an important role in population growth for the following MSA's, for Brownsville-Harlingen 92.1 percent of the growth was due to natural increase, for Laredo

90.4 percent, and more than 100 percent of the growth in El Paso, Corpus Christi, Abilene, San Angelo, Victoria, and Odessa was due to natural increase. Clearly, although many of the State's metropolitan areas have experienced relatively rapid net immigration, natural increase is still an essential element in the growth of many rapidly growing areas. Some metropolitan areas would have experienced population decline if they did not have extensive natural increase, such as Abilene, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Odessa, San Angelo, and Victoria.

#### VI.D. Population Change in Counties in Texas, 2000-2008

Given the large number of counties in Texas (254), it is not feasible to describe patterns of population change for individual counties. Here we attempt only to summarize general patterns of population change evident across counties during the 1990s and 2000-2008. Due to space limitations we have provided data for the ten fastest growing and declining counties (see Table 6). Data for all counties are available from the Texas State Data Center and the authors. The estimated 2008 population for counties were derived by the authors taking the average of the component method II, ratio-correlation method, and housing unit methods [3].

The seven most populous counties contained more than 50 percent of Texas' total population in 2008. Harris County remains the most populous county with almost 4.0 million people, accounting for 16.3 percent of Texas' population. Dallas, with 2.4 million people, was the second most populous county, accounting for 9.8 percent of the State's total population. Tarrant was the third largest county with 1.7 million population, or 7.1 percent of the total population. The two hundred least populous counties contained only 13.7 percent of Texas' total population.

The largest numerical increases in population from 2000 to 2008 were in the counties with the largest populations including Harris County with an increase of 565,138, Tarrant County with an increase of 294,745, Collin County with an increase of 268,338, Bexar County with an increase of 225,353, and Denton County with an increase of 204,382.

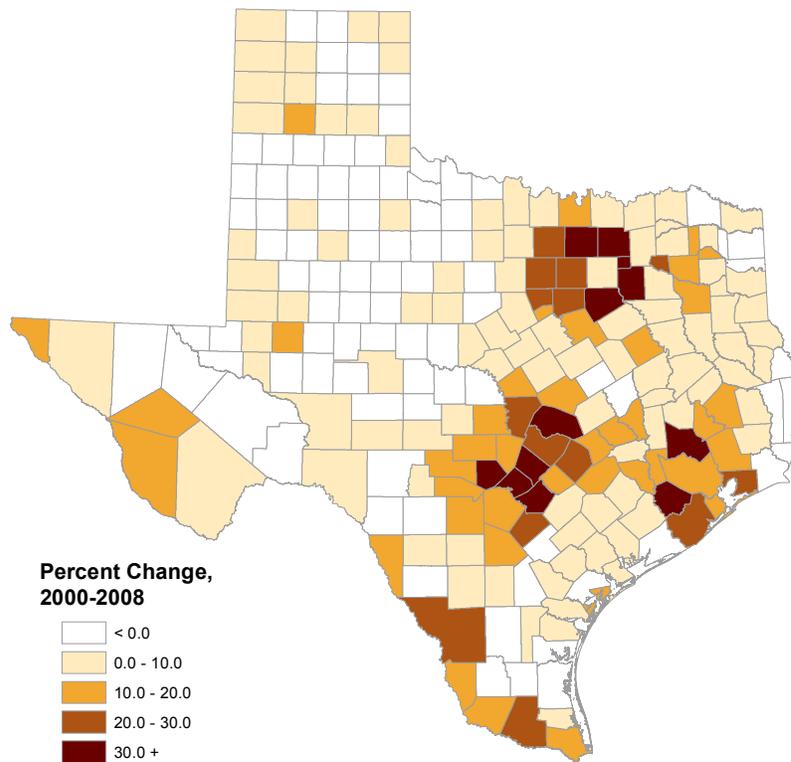
**Table 6. Population and Components of Population Change for Counties in Texas, 2000-2008 - Ranked by Numerical Change 2000-2008**

Rank	County	Population 2000	Estimated Population 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
								Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
1	Harris	3,400,578	3,965,716	565,138	16.6	385,480	179,658	68.2	31.8
2	Tarrant	1,446,219	1,740,964	294,745	20.4	147,850	146,895	50.2	49.8
3	Collin	491,675	760,013	268,338	54.6	65,382	202,956	24.4	75.6
4	Bexar	1,392,931	1,618,284	225,353	16.2	125,075	100,278	55.5	44.5
5	Denton	432,976	637,358	204,382	47.2	55,023	149,359	26.9	73.1
6	Fort Bend	354,452	533,696	179,244	50.6	37,797	141,447	21.1	78.9
7	Travis	812,280	988,312	176,032	21.7	91,695	84,337	52.1	47.9
8	Dallas	2,218,899	2,387,963	169,064	7.6	240,733	-71,669	142.4	-42.4
9	Hidalgo	569,463	724,971	155,508	27.3	109,344	46,164	70.3	29.7
10	Williamson	249,967	392,043	142,076	56.8	32,986	109,090	23.2	76.8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
245	Duval	13,120	12,251	-869	-6.6	595	-1,464	-68.5	168.5
246	Falls	18,576	17,657	-919	-4.9	-145	-774	15.8	84.2
247	Kleberg	31,549	30,602	-947	-3.0	2,309	-3,256	-243.8	343.8
248	Orange	84,966	84,016	-950	-1.1	1,704	-2,654	-179.4	279.4
249	Dawson	14,985	13,926	-1,059	-7.1	527	-1,586	-49.8	149.8
250	Hutchinson	23,857	22,659	-1,198	-5.0	493	-1,691	-41.2	141.2
251	Hale	36,602	35,366	-1,236	-3.4	2,770	-4,006	-224.1	324.1
252	Wichita	131,664	130,195	-1,469	-1.1	5,105	-6,574	-347.5	447.5
253	Reeves	13,137	11,379	-1,758	-13.4	692	-2,450	-39.4	139.4
254	Jefferson	252,051	246,121	-5,930	-2.4	7,515	-13,445	-126.7	226.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 2000 population (PL94-171). Estimated populations for 2008 are derived by the authors.

Jefferson County lost the most population (5,930), followed by Reeves County (1,758), Wichita County (1,469), Hale County (1,236), Hutchinson County (1,198), and Dawson County (1,059). The largest percentage increases were in Rockwall County with an increase of 76.7 percent, Williamson County with a 56.8 percent increase, Collin County with 54.6 percent, Hays County with 51.2 percent, Fort Bend County with an increase of 50.6 percent, Denton County with 47.2 percent, and Montgomery County 45.7 percent. In terms of percent loss, Culberson County lost the most population (15.5 percent), followed by Loving County (13.4 percent), Reeves County (13.4 percent), and Glasscock County (11.9 Percent). Eleven Counties lost 10 percent or more of their population. In general, as shown in Fig. (3), the fastest rates of growth were in Central Texas, North Central Texas, South Texas, and the Gulf Coast areas of the State with the slowest rates of growth in West Texas and the Panhandle areas of the State.

Collin County has gained the most population due to net immigration both during 1990-2000 and 2000-2008 (180,672) and (202,956), respectively. Harris County has gained the second most population due to net immigration both during the 1990s and also 2000-2008, (180,560) and (179,658), respectively. Denton County gained the third most population due to net immigration from 2000-2008 (149,359), followed by Tarrant County (146,895), Fort Bend (141,447), Williamson (109,090), and Montgomery (108,391). Among Texas' largest counties, only Dallas County lost population due to outmigration (71,669) during 2000-2008. El Paso has the second highest net outmigration (13,988), followed by Nueces (13,561), and Jefferson (13,445). The highest rates of net immigration were observed in Rockwall County with 66.7 percent, followed by Williams County with 43.6 percent, Hays County with 41.6 percent, and Collin County 41.3 percent. Among the counties with rates of net outmigration, the highest rates were in Culberson County with 21.2 percent,



**Fig. (3).** Percent Population Change in Texas Counties, 2000-2008.

Reeves County with 18.6 percent, and Glasscock County with a 16.4 percent rate of outmigration. Fig. 4 provides a graphical view of the rates of net migration in counties in Texas. In general, the data in this figure show a relatively dispersed pattern of net immigration, with counties having higher levels of net immigration being less geographically concentrated than those with higher levels of total population change (shown in Fig. 3).

Nevertheless, population growth from 2000 to 2008 has slowed down compared to the 1990s when one examines the number of counties in Texas that have shown growth and increased net migration during 2000-2008. From 1990 to 2000, 68 counties experienced population decline and 89 counties experienced net outmigration (meaning that 21 counties had sufficient natural increase to offset population loss due to net outmigration). From 2000 to 2008, the number of counties with population decline was 88 and the number of counties with net outmigration was 119. This clearly suggests that during 2000-2008 population growth in Texas has slowed down compared with the 1990s.

#### **VI.E. Population Change in Places in Texas, 2000-2008**

Population change has also impacted the places and cities of Texas during 2000-2008. Given that there are more than 1,500 places in Texas, estimates for individual places cannot be discussed in detail, therefore general population patterns for Texas cities and places are described here. For convenience, we have provided data for the ten fastest growing and declining cities/places in Table 7. However, detailed data on population estimates for places can be obtained from the Texas State Data Center or the authors. The estimated 2008 population for cities/places were derived by the authors taking the average of the component method II, ratio-correlation

method, and housing unit methods [3]. In examining these data, it is important to note that some places have shown growth or decline through boundary annexation, deannexation or changes in institutional population from 2000 to 2008.

From 2000 to 2008, 1,244 of the 1,522 places showed population gains, while 271 places lost population, and the population for 7 places remain the same. During 2000-2008, Houston city gained the most population (262,316), followed by San Antonio (198,004), Fort Worth (168,092), and Austin (101,155). Beaumont city lost the most population (2,282), followed by Port Arthur (1,967), and Pecos (1,264). During 2000-2008, 841 places gained population due to net immigration, and 666 places lost population due to net outmigration. There are fifteen places that did not lose or gain population due to net migration.

It is difficult to accurately measure migration levels for places because it is necessary to estimate births and deaths for small places for which vital statistics data are not available. Migration levels and rates are therefore particularly speculative for small places. Thus, although limited in several ways, the estimates of net migration for places show several important patterns. For example, they suggest that, unlike overall population change, net migration was not simply a function of the size of the place. The city with the highest immigration was Fort Worth (104,973), followed by San Antonio (80,107), McKinney (52,796), Frisco (47,195), Plano (38,594), Pearland (35,781), and Round Rock (32,551). Houston and Dallas, the two largest cities in Texas, experienced net outmigration. Dallas experienced net outmigration of 58,035 and Houston experienced net outmigration of 20,949. The other relatively large cities and places which experienced net outmigration were El Paso (21,447), Irving (16,908), and Garland (16,115).



Table 7. Contd....

Rank	City/Place	Census Count 2000	Estimated Population 2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008	Percent Change Due to	
								Natural Increase 2000-2008	Net Migration 2000-2008
1513	Plainview City	22,336	21,757	-579	-2.6	2,246	-2,825	-387.9	487.9
1514	Borger City	14,302	13,570	-732	-5.1	406	-1,138	-55.5	155.5
1515	Groves City	15,733	14,968	-765	-4.9	66	-831	-8.6	108.6
1516	Lamesa City	9,952	9,182	-770	-7.7	485	-1,255	-63.0	163.0
1517	Wichita Falls City	104,197	103,318	-879	-0.8	4,327	-5,206	-492.3	592.3
1518	Fort Hood CDP	33,711	32,799	-912	-2.7	3,919	-4,831	-429.7	529.7
1519	Kingsville City	25,575	24,581	-994	-3.9	2,289	-3,283	-230.3	330.3
1520	Pecos City	9,501	8,237	-1,264	-13.3	587	-1,851	-46.4	146.4
1521	Port Arthur City	57,755	55,788	-1,967	-3.4	1,780	-3,747	-90.5	190.5
1522	Beaumont City	113,866	111,584	-2,282	-2.0	5,294	-7,576	-232.0	332.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 2000 population (PL94-171). Estimated populations for 2008 are derived by the authors.

In general however, net migration, like total population growth, was extensive in places in Texas. Towns and cities in Texas have shown population growth due to net migration during the 2000-2008. Natural increase played an important role for population growth for some cities and places as well. Without natural growth some of the cities would have lost population because of net out migration.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The post-2000 patterns are ones which show substantial population growth in the State and in a large majority of Council of Governments regions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, counties, and places in State. The annual rate of population growth in Texas has slowed down during the 2000-2008 period compared with the 1990-2000, but is still higher than the national rate of growth. One must be very careful to note that patterns of a few years may change quickly. An example of such change is seen in the patterns of the early versus the late 1990s. The patterns of 2000-2008, however,

suggest that Texas population is growing at a level that is substantially higher than the rate of growth in the Nation and all but a handful of other states. Texas' population also diversified extensively; the proportion of Anglo population has decreased from 60.7 percent in 1990 to 46.6 percent in 2008. The proportion of Hispanic population has increased from 25.5 percent in 1990 to 37.5 percent in 2008. In 2008, more than fifty three percent of Texans were minority (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and Others).

One may ask, whether such growth will continue in the future. It is impossible to predict future patterns with absolute accuracy, but the fact that such a large part of Texas population growth is due to natural increase (which tends to change relatively slowly) suggests that population growth will likely continue, even if the rate of growth slows from that observed in the past few years. Texas may thus be expected to remain among those states with the largest numerical increase in population and to continue to be among the Nation's growing states in the coming years.

Appendix Table 1. Population Change for States, 2000-2008 - Ranked by Numerical Change 2000-2008

Rank	State Name	Census Count 4/1/2000	Estimated Population 7/1/2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008
1	Texas	20,851,820	24,326,974	3,475,154	16.7
2	California	33,871,648	36,756,666	2,885,018	8.5
3	Florida	15,982,378	18,328,340	2,345,962	14.7
4	Georgia	8,186,453	9,685,744	1,499,291	18.3

Appendix Table 1. Contd....

Rank	State Name	Census Count 4/1/2000	Estimated Population 7/1/2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008
5	Arizona	5,130,632	6,500,180	1,369,548	26.7
6	North Carolina	8,049,313	9,222,414	1,173,101	14.6
7	Virginia	7,078,515	7,769,089	690,574	9.8
8	Washington	5,894,121	6,549,224	655,103	11.1
9	Colorado	4,301,261	4,939,456	638,195	14.8
10	Nevada	1,998,257	2,600,167	601,910	30.1
11	Tennessee	5,689,283	6,214,888	525,605	9.2
12	New York	18,976,457	19,490,297	513,840	2.7
13	Utah	2,233,169	2,736,424	503,255	22.5
14	Illinois	12,419,293	12,901,563	482,270	3.9
15	South Carolina	4,012,012	4,479,800	467,788	11.7
16	Oregon	3,421,399	3,790,060	368,661	10.8
17	Maryland	5,296,486	5,633,597	337,111	6.4
18	Missouri	5,595,211	5,911,605	316,394	5.7
19	Minnesota	4,919,479	5,220,393	300,914	6.1
20	Indiana	6,080,485	6,376,792	296,307	4.9
21	New Jersey	8,414,350	8,682,661	268,311	3.2
22	Wisconsin	5,363,675	5,627,967	264,292	4.9
23	Idaho	1,293,953	1,523,816	229,863	17.8
24	Kentucky	4,041,769	4,269,245	227,476	5.6
25	Alabama	4,447,100	4,661,900	214,800	4.8
26	Oklahoma	3,450,654	3,642,361	191,707	5.6
27	Arkansas	2,673,400	2,855,390	181,990	6.8
28	Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,448,279	167,225	1.4
29	New Mexico	1,819,046	1,984,356	165,310	9.1
30	Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,497,967	148,870	2.3
31	Ohio	11,353,140	11,485,910	132,770	1.2
32	Kansas	2,688,418	2,802,134	113,716	4.2
33	Connecticut	3,405,565	3,501,252	95,687	2.8
34	Mississippi	2,844,658	2,938,618	93,960	3.3
35	Delaware	783,600	873,092	89,492	11.4
36	New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,315,809	80,023	6.5
37	Hawaii	1,211,537	1,288,198	76,661	6.3
38	Iowa	2,926,324	3,002,555	76,231	2.6
39	Nebraska	1,711,263	1,783,432	72,169	4.2
40	Montana	902,195	967,440	65,245	7.2
41	Michigan	9,938,444	10,003,422	64,978	0.7

Appendix Table 1. Contd....

Rank	State Name	Census Count 4/1/2000	Estimated Population 7/1/2008	Numerical Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008
42	Alaska	626,932	686,293	59,361	9.5
43	South Dakota	754,844	804,194	49,350	6.5
44	Maine	1,274,923	1,316,456	41,533	3.3
45	Wyoming	493,782	532,668	38,886	7.9
46	District of Columbia	572,059	591,833	19,774	3.5
47	Vermont	608,827	621,270	12,443	2.0
48	West Virginia	1,808,344	1,814,468	6,124	0.3
49	Rhode Island	1,048,319	1,050,788	2,469	0.2
50	North Dakota	642,200	641,481	-719	-0.1
51	Louisiana	4,468,976	4,410,796	-58,180	-1.3

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