Patterns of Population Change in Texas, 2010 - 2013

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Table of Contents

I. **Abstract**

Texas is one of the most rapidly growing states in the United States. This report provides July 1, 2013, population estimates for the State of Texas and describes the patterns of population change for 2010-2013 for the State of Texas. It also provides July 1, 2012 estimated population for the Council of Government Regions (COG), metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), counties, and places. It also presents data on components of population change, and describes the methodology used to make estimates for counties and places in Texas. 2010-2012 patterns of population change are examined for the Council of Government Regions (COG), metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), counties, and places.Texas population increased from 25,145,561 in 2010 to 26,448,193 in 2013. This is an increase of 1,302,632 persons between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2013, leading the nation in numerical increase. Texas' growth has been fueled by substantial natural increase (births minus deaths) and by net migration (inmigration from states in the U.S. and immigration from other countries of the world). For example, of the 1,302,632 population increase between 2010 to 2013, 684,968 was due to natural increase and 617,664 was due to net migration, or in other words, 52.6 percent of the growth was due to natural increase and 47.4 percent was from net migration (see Table 1 and 3).

Keywords: population, change, size, composition, distribution, diversification

II. Introduction

The Population Census is one of the most important sources of demographic data. The aim of the census is to provide demographic data through an accurate and 100 percent count of the number of people and households with their characteristics. However, in the U.S. the censuses are conducted once every ten years. In non-census years, population estimates provide demographic data regarding the size, distribution, and composition of the population by place of residence.

This report provides July 1, 2013, population estimates for the State of Texas and describes the patterns of population change for 2010-2013 for the State of Texas. It also provides July 1, 2012 estimated population for the Council of Government Regions (COG), metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), counties, and places. It also presents data on components of population change, and describes the methodology used to make estimates for counties and places in Texas. 2010-2012 patterns of population change are examined for the Council of Government Regions (COG), metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), counties, and places.

The data on state level changes are derived from estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Census, while the COG, MSA, county and place estimates are produced by the authors. As with all estimates, it must be recognized that both the estimates from the Census Bureau and those from the authors are subject to error. Several methods have been developed to estimate population. However, population estimates are difficult to complete with accuracy for small areas because small areas can grow or decline rapidly, or may even undergo substantial changes in age, sex, and race/ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics, such as migration. All these factors increase the

difficulty for making accurate estimates. However, there is no alternative to using estimates for intercensal periods and users should, nevertheless, remain cognizant of the potential errors in any estimates and use them with full recognition of their limitations.

III. **Recent Trends in Texas Population**

Once again, Texas is one of the most rapidly growing states in the United States. According to the 2013 estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Texas population increased from 25,145,561 in 2010 to 26,448,193 in 2013 [3, 4], which is an increase of 1,302,632 persons between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2013, and leads the nation in numerical increase.   During the same time, for instance, California's population increased by 1,078,565 persons. The increase of 1,302,632 persons during the 2010-2013 period was little more than the total 2013 populations of Wyoming (582,658), and the District of Columbia (646,449) (Table 1).

In terms of percent population growth, Texas ranked third among the fastest growing states for the period 2010 to 2013 (with an increase of 5.2 percent (Table 1). Since 2006, in numerical change, Texas has been the fastest growing state since 2006. Texas' population also diversified extensively; the proportion of Anglo (non-Hispanic White) population decreased from 45.3 percent in 2010 to 44.3 percent in 2012, while the proportion of the Hispanic population (Hispanics of any race) has increased from 37.6 percent in 2010 to 38.4 percent in 2012. In 2012, almost fifty-six percent of Texans are minorities (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and Others).

Table 1: Total Population Change by State, 2010 - 2013

State name	Census Count 2010	Estimated Population 2013	Numerical Change 2010-2013	Percent Change 2010-2013
United States	308,745,538	316,128,839	7,383,301	2.4
Alabama	4,779,736	4,833,722	53,986	1.1
Alaska	710,231	735,132	24,901	3.5
Arizona	6,392,017	6,626,624	234,607	3.7
Arkansas	2,915,918	2,959,373	43,455	1.5
California	37,253,956	38,332,521	1,078,565	2.9
Colorado	5,029,196	5,268,367	239,171	4.8
Connecticut	3,574,097	3,596,080	21,983	0.6
Delaware	897,934	925,749	27,815	3.1
District of Columbia	601,723	646,449	44,726	7.4
Florida	18,801,310	19,552,860	751,550	4
Georgia	9,687,653	9,992,167	304,514	3.1
Hawaii	1,360,301	1,404,054	43,753	3.2
Idaho	1,567,582	1,612,136	44,554	2.8
Illinois	12,830,632	12,882,135	51,503	0.4
Indiana	6,483,802	6,570,902	87,100	1.3
Iowa	3,046,355	3,090,416	44,061	1.4
Kansas	2,853,118	2,893,957	40,839	1.4
Kentucky	4,339,367	4,395,295	55,928	1.3
Louisiana	4,533,372	4,625,470	92,098	2
Maine	1,328,361	1,328,302	(59)	0
Maryland	5,773,552	5,928,814	155,262	2.7
Massachusetts	6,547,629	6,692,824	145,195	2.2
Michigan	9,883,640	9,895,622	11,982	0.1
Minnesota	5,303,925	5,420,380	116,455	2.2
Mississippi	2,967,297	2,991,207	23,910	0.8
Missouri	5,988,927	6,044,171	55,244	0.9
Montana	989,415	1,015,165	25,750	2.6
Nebraska	1,826,341	1,868,516	42,175	2.3
Nevada	2,700,551	2,790,136	89,585	3.3
New Hampshire	1,316,470	1,323,459	6,989	0.5
New Jersey	8,791,894	8,899,339	107,445	1.2
New Mexico	2,059,179	2,085,287	26,108	1.3
New York	19,378,102	19,651,127	273,025	1.4
North Carolina	9,535,483	9,848,060	312,577	3.3
North Dakota	672,591	723,393	50,802	7.6
Ohio	11,536,504	11,570,808	34,304	0.3
Oklahoma	3,751,351	3,850,568	99,217	2.6
Oregon	3,831,074	3,930,065	98,991	2.6
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	12,773,801	71,422	0.6
Rhode Island	1,052,567	1,051,511	(1,056)	-0.1
South Carolina	4,625,364	4,774,839	149,475	3.2
South Dakota	814,180	844,877	30,697	3.8
Tennessee	6,346,105	6,495,978	149,873	2.4
Texas	25,145,561	26,448,193	1,302,632	5.2
Utah	2,763,885	2,900,872	136,987	5
Vermont	625,741	626,630	889	0.1
Virginia	8,001,024	8,260,405	259,381	3.2
Washington	6,724,540	6,971,406	246,866	3.7
West Virginia	1,852,994	1,854,304	1,310	0.1
Wisconsin	5,686,986	5,742,713	55,727	1
Wyoming	563,626	582,658	19,032	3.4

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 2 presents population change by race/ethnicity for the State of Texas from 2010-2012. Although Texas' total population increased by 3.6 percent during the post-2010, the Anglo (non-Hispanic white) population increased by only 1.4 percent, the non-Hispanic Black population by 3.5 percent, the Hispanic population by 5.9 percent, and the non-Hispanic Other population by 7.4. In terms of numerical change, the Non-Hispanic White (Anglo) population increased from 11,397,345 to 11,552,523, the Non-Hispanic Black population increased from 2,886,825 to 2,986,753, the Non-Hispanic Other increased from 1,400,470 to 1,503,570. The Hispanic or Latino population, which can be of any race, increased from 9,460,921 in 2010 to 10,016,357 in 2012. A detailed discussion on racial/ethnic composition can be found at Chapter 8 of "The Methods and Materials of Demography" [5]. The proportion of Black population remains the same during the post-2010 period. The proportion of Hispanic increased from 37.6 percent in 2010 to 38.4 in 2012. The proportion of Other (the sum of all other Non-Hispanic groups) population increased from 5.6 percent in 2010 to 5.8 percent in 2012.

Table 2: Total Population Change by Race/Ethnicity in Texas, 2010 – 2012

State	Race	Census Count 2010	Estimated Population 2012	Numerical Change 2010-2012	Percent Change 2010-2012	Percent 2010	Percent 2012
Texas	Anglo	11,397,345	11,552,523	155,178	1.4	45.3	44.3
Texas	Black	2,886,825	2,986,753	99,928	3.5	11.5	11.5
Texas	Hispanic	9,460,921	10,016,357	555,436	5.9	37.6	38.4
Texas	Other	1,400,470	1,503,570	103,100	7.4	5.6	5.8
Texas	Total	25,145,561	26,059,203	913,642	3.6	100	100

Source: 2010 Data from Census Count, 2012 Data are estimated by the authors

The median age of Texas population, like the U.S., is increasing. The median age in Texas population increased from 33.6 years in 2010 to 34.0 in 2012. In terms of median age Texas ranked 49th of the 50 states. The median age for the Non-Hispanic White population has increased from 41.3 years in 2010 to 41.9 years in 2012, for Hispanic median age has increased from 27.0 in 2010 to 27.5 years in 2012, for Non-Hispanic Black population increased from 32.1 to 32.8 years. In 2012, the median age in Texas Counties ranged from 24.8 years in Brazos County to 55.8 years in Llano County. The proportion of Texas population 65 years of age or older has increased from 10.3 in 2010 to 11.0 in 2012.

Texas' growth has been fueled by substantial natural increase (births minus deaths) and by net migration (inmigration from states in the U.S. and immigration from other countries of the world). For example, of the 388,990 population increase between 2012 to 2013, 208,432 was due to natural increase and 180,558 was due to net migration, or in other words, 53.6 percent of the growth was due to natural increase and 46.4 percent was from net migration (see Table 3). Population change due to migration was higher from 2010-2011 then dropped in 2011-2012 and back to the 2000-2010 level in 2013.

Table 3: Total Population and Components of Population Change in Texas, 2000 - 2013

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Percent Change	Percent Change Due To	
						Natural Increase	Migration
2000	20851820	.	.	.	.	.	.
2010	25145561	4,293,741	2,304,208	1,989,533	2.1	53.7	46.3
2011	25674681	529,120	268,310	260,810	1.7	50.7	49.3
2012	26059203	384,522	208,226	176,296	1.5	54.2	45.8
2013	26448193	388,990	208,432	180,558	1.5	53.6	46.4

Source: 2000 – 2010 Data from Census Count, 2011 – 2013 Data are estimated by the authors

Changes in any population group have important consequences for many social institutions; for example, for young populations more demand will be placed on building new schools creating new jobs and for older populations more demand will be placed on housing, health care needs and social services. The observed changes in Texas' population, which is also occurring throughout the U.S., portends important shifts in Texas, e.g,, the student population, congressional seats, and the ethnic/racial composition of the labor market.

The distribution of populations in Texas are uneven, some regions are densely populated while others are sparsely populated. The change in population during 2010-2012 has not been distributed evenly throughout Texas either. Some parts of the State have grown rapidly, some have grown slowly and others have declined. In the following sections we examine the patterns of population growth for the Council of Governments regions, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and cities and places in Texas.

IV. **Population Change in Council of Governments Regions in Texas, 2010-2012**

In this section we examine the patterns of population change in Council of Government (COG) in Texas. There are 24 Council of Governments (COG) regions in Texas (see Figure 3). Recently McMullen county has joined the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) from Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG). This change has been reflected in this report. The populations in 2010 and 2012 for Council of Governments regions were derived by summing the appropriate county populations. All twenty-four regions experienced population growth during the post-2010. The Houston-Galveston COG gained the most population (246,663), followed by the North Central Texas COG (243,641), Alamo Area COG (95,569), and the Capital Area COG (92,675). The Nortex COG gained the least population (1,229). However, Nortex COG has managed to reverse his position from losing population during the 2000-2010 to gaining population during the 2010-2012

In terms of percent population change, the fastest growing regions during 2010-2012 have been the Capital Area with an increase of 5.1 percent, it was followed by the Permian Basin with an increase of 4.4 percent, Alamo Area with an increase of 4.2 percent, Rio Grande with a 4.2 percent, and South Texas with a 4.2 percent increase. The slowest growing regions have been the Nortex with a 0.6 percent increase, followed by South East Texas with an increase of 1.0 percent, Ark-Tex with 1.3 percent, and Texoma with a 1.3 percent increase.

Table 4: Population and Components of Population Change by Council of Governments Regions in Texas, 2010 - 2012

COG Name	Census Count 2010	July Estimate 2012	Numerical Change 2010-2012	Percent Change 2010-2012	Natural Increase 2010-2012	Net Migration 2010-2012	Percent Change Due To	
							Natural Increase 2010 - 2012	Net Migration 2010 - 2012
Alamo Area	2,249,718	2,345,287	95,569	4.2	36,020	59,549	37.7	62.3
Ark-Tex	281,947	285,600	3,653	1.3	1,228	2,425	33.6	66.4
Brazos Valley	319,447	329,357	9,910	3.1	4,332	5,578	43.7	56.3
Capital Area	1,830,003	1,922,678	92,675	5.1	37,447	55,228	40.4	59.6
Central Texas	449,641	465,657	16,016	3.6	11,332	4,684	70.8	29.3
Coastal Bend	571,280	583,693	12,413	2.2	6,639	5,774	53.5	46.5
Concho Valley	154,192	156,902	2,710	1.8	1,186	1,524	43.8	56.2
Deep East Texas	378,477	385,003	6,526	1.7	915	5,611	14.0	86.0
East Texas	829,749	846,814	17,065	2.1	4,542	12,523	26.6	73.4
Golden Crescent	188,626	193,307	4,681	2.5	1,579	3,102	33.7	66.3
Heart of Texas	349,273	357,380	8,107	2.3	3,417	4,690	42.2	57.9
Houston-Galveston	6,087,133	6,333,796	246,663	4.1	132,895	113,768	53.9	46.1
Lower Rio Grande Valley	1,203,123	1,251,678	48,555	4.0	40,363	8,192	83.1	16.9
Middle Rio Grande	167,010	171,580	4,570	2.7	3,688	882	80.7	19.3
Nortex	222,860	224,089	1,229	0.6	913	316	74.3	25.7
North Central Texas	6,539,950	6,783,591	243,641	3.7	132,343	111,298	54.3	45.7
Panhandle	427,927	438,832	10,905	2.5	6,007	4,898	55.1	44.9
Permian Basin	417,679	435,871	18,192	4.4	7,931	10,261	43.6	56.4
Rio Grande	825,913	860,544	34,631	4.2	20,743	13,888	59.9	40.1
South East Texas	388,745	392,697	3,952	1.0	3,202	750	81.0	19.0
South Plains	411,659	421,925	10,266	2.5	5,556	4,710	54.1	45.9
South Texas	330,590	344,435	13,845	4.2	12,424	1,421	89.7	10.3
Texoma	193,229	195,741	2,512	1.3	428	2,084	17.0	83.0
West Central Texas	327,390	332,746	5,356	1.6	1,415	3,941	26.4	73.6

Source: 2000 – 2010 Data from Census Count, 2011 – 2012 Data are estimated by the authors

Population change results from natural increase and/or net migration. If these factors are examined in terms of total population change, several important patterns may emerge. An examination of the data in Table 4 indicates that all of the Council of Governments regions have experienced net in-migration. Net migration played an

important role in population growth for Deep East Texas, Texoma, West Central Texas, East Texas, and Ark-Texas. Almost 86 percent of the population growth for the Deep East Texas COG was due to net migration.

Figure 1: Percent Population Change in Texas Council of Governments Regions, 2010-2012
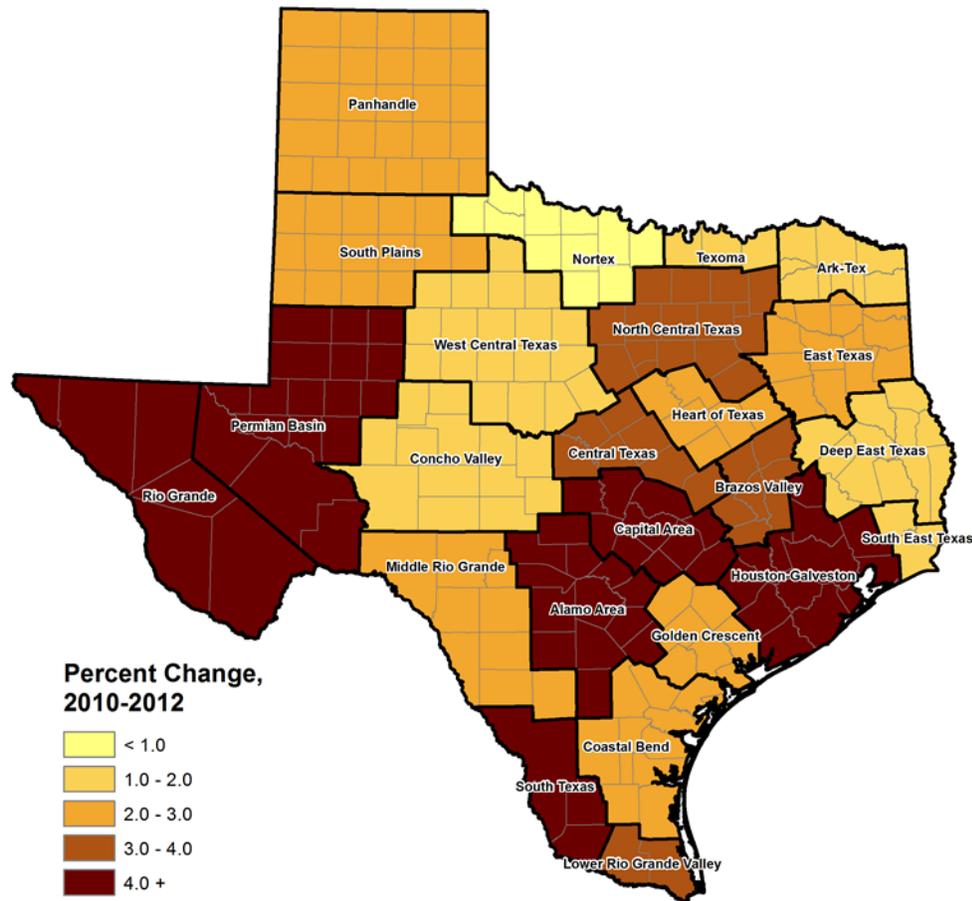
Data in Table 4 also suggests that natural increase played an important role in population growth for the South Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, South East, Texas, Middle Rio Grande, Nortext, and Central Texas. For example, almost 90.0 percent of the population growth for the South Texas COG was due to natural increase, 83.1 percent in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and 81.0 percent for South East Texas.

Natural increase also plays an important role in Central Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Middle Rio Grande, Nortex, South East Texas, and South Texas More than 50 percent of the growth of all of these COGs is due to natural increase.

V. Population Change in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Texas Counties, 2010-2012

Post-2010 patterns of population change varied significantly by Metropolitan status, with higher rates of change in metropolitan suburban counties followed by metropolitan central city counties, 5.0 and 3.5 percent, respectively (see Table 5). Nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties did better than nonmetropolitan adjacent counties. Nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties grew by 2.0 percent while nonmetropolitan adjacent counties grew by 1.8 percent.

The proportions of people living in metropolitan central city counties decreased from 67.1 percent in 2000 to 65.7 percent in 2010, and remain the same in 2012. In contrast, the proportion of people living in metropolitan suburban counties increased from 18.9 in 2000 to 22.0 in 2010, and 22.3 in 2012, the proportion residing in nonmetropolitan adjacent counties decreased from 11.1 to 9.5, and nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties decreased from 2.8 to 2.4 (metropolitan and central city counties are as defined in 2013 by the Office of Management and Budget) [10].

Table 5: Total Population and Components of Population Change in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas, 2000- 2012

Area Name	Census Count 2010	July Estimate 2012	Numerical Change 2010-2012	Percent Change 2010-2012	Natural Increase 2010-2012	Net Migration 2010-2012	Percent Change Due To	
							Natural Increase 2010 - 2012	Net Migration 2010 - 2012
State of Texas	25,145,561	26,059,203	913,642	3.6	476,544	437,098	52.2	47.8
Metropolitan Central City Counties	16,543,223	17,124,603	581,380	3.5	370,576	210,804	63.7	36.3
Metropolitan Suburban Counties	5,541,946	5,817,358	275,412	5.0	87,718	187,694	31.9	68.2
Nonmetropolitan Adjacent Counties	2,436,458	2,480,861	44,403	1.8	13,250	31,153	29.8	70.2
Nonmetropolitan Nonadjacent Counties	623,934	636,381	12,447	2.0	4,999	7,448	40.2	59.8

Source: 2000 – 2010 Data from Census Count, 2011 – 2012 Data are estimated by the authors

Metropolitan areas had the greatest population growth in Texas, with the highest rates of net migration in metropolitan central city counties (210,804 persons), followed by suburban counties (187,694 persons). More than thirty-six percent of the population growth in metropolitan central city counties was due to net migration while almost 64 percent of the growth was due to natural increase. More than sixty-eight percent of the population growth in suburban counties was due to net migration and almost 32 percent due to natural increase. More than seventy percent of the population growth in nonmetropolitan adjacent counties was due to net migration while almost 30 percent due to natural increase. Almost sixty of percent of the population for nonmetropolitan nonadjacent counties was due to net migration and forty percent due to natural increase. The estimated population of July 1, 2012 for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas was derived by the authors by summing the appropriate county populations.

VI. **Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) in Texas, 2010-2012**

The patterns of population change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are shown in Table 6. All comparisons are made using the 2013 definition for Metropolitan Statistical Areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget [10]. All 25 metropolitan areas experienced population growth during the post 2010. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA gained the most population (244,909), followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA (241,229). San Antonio-New Braunfels increased by 92,456 persons, Austin-Round Rock increased by 89,348, and McAllen-Edinburg-Mission increased by 37,135. Wichita Falls gained the least population, it increased by only 448 persons during 2010-2012.

In terms of percent population change from 2010 to 2012, Midland showed the largest gain, with an increase of 6.5 percent, followed by the Austin-Round Rock MSA, with an increase of 5.2 percent, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA (4.8 percent), Laredo MSA (4.7 percent), Odessa (4.4 percent), and San Antonio-New Braunfels (4.3 percent). The slowest growing MSAs were Wichita Fall (.3 percent), Beaumont-Port Arthur (1.0 Percent), Sherman-Denison (1.2 percent), Texarkana (1.4 percent), and Abilene (1.5 percent).

Table 6: Population and Components of Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Texas, 2010 - 2012

MSA Name	Census Count 2010	July Estimate 2012	Numerical Change 2010-2012	Percent Change 2010-2012	Natural Increase 2010-2012	Net Migration 2010-2012	Percent Change Due to	
							Natural Increase 2010 - 2012	Migration 2010 - 2012
State of Texas	25,145,561	26,059,203	913,642	3.6	476,544	437,098	52.2	47.8
Abilene	165,252	167,771	2,519	1.5	1,713	806	68.0	32.0
Amarillo	251,933	259,988	8,055	3.2	3,587	4,468	44.5	55.5
Austin-Round Rock	1,716,289	1,805,637	89,348	5.2	37,725	51,623	42.2	57.8
Beaumont-Port Arthur	403,190	407,292	4,102	1.0	3,160	942	77.0	23.0
Brownsville-Harlingen	406,220	417,573	11,353	2.8	11,727	-374	103.3	-3.3
College Station-Bryan	228,660	236,429	7,769	3.4	4,040	3,729	52.0	48.0
Corpus Christi	428,185	437,574	9,389	2.2	5,062	4,327	53.9	46.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	6,426,214	6,667,443	241,229	3.8	131,277	109,952	54.4	45.6
El Paso	804,123	838,384	34,261	4.3	20,487	13,774	59.8	40.2
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	5,920,416	6,165,325	244,909	4.1	131,915	112,994	53.9	46.1
Killeen-Temple	405,300	420,450	15,150	3.7	11,413	3,737	75.3	24.7
Laredo	250,304	262,107	11,803	4.7	9,588	2,215	81.2	18.8
Longview	214,369	218,701	4,332	2.0	1,902	2,430	43.9	56.1
Lubbock	290,805	299,702	8,897	3.1	3,965	4,932	44.6	55.4
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	774,769	811,904	37,135	4.8	28,273	8,862	76.1	23.9
Midland	141,671	150,832	9,161	6.5	3,100	6,061	33.8	66.2
Odessa	137,130	143,141	6,011	4.4	3,010	3,001	50.1	49.9
San Angelo	111,823	113,681	1,858	1.7	1,215	643	65.4	34.6
San Antonio-New Braunfels	2,142,508	2,234,964	92,456	4.3	36,387	56,069	39.4	60.6
Sherman-Denison	120,877	122,339	1,462	1.2	345	1,117	23.6	76.4
Texarkana	92,565	93,857	1,292	1.4	565	727	43.7	56.3
Tyler	209,714	216,097	6,383	3.0	2,353	4,030	36.9	63.1
Victoria	94,003	96,303	2,300	2.4	1,156	1,144	50.3	49.7
Waco	252,772	258,911	6,139	2.4	3,323	2,816	54.1	45.9
Wichita Falls	151,306	151,754	448	0.3	1,037	-589	231.5	-131.5

Source: 2000 – 2010 Data from Census Count, 2011 – 2012 Data are estimated by the authors

Of the 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 9 showed a net increase due to migration during the post-2010 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 Midland with an annualized rate of 4.3 percent, Austin Round Rock (3.0 percent), San Antonio – New Braunfels (2.6 percent), Odessa (2.1 percent), Tyler (1.9 percent), and Houston – The Woodlands – Sugar Land (1.8 percent). For nine metropolitan areas, Sherman-Denison (76.4), Texarkana (56.3), (66.2), Tyler (63.1), San Antonio – New Braunfels (60.6), Austin Round-Rock (57.8), Longview (56.1), Amarillo (55.5), and Lubbock (55.4) more than 50 percent of their total population growth from 2010 to 2012 has been due to net in-migration. During the same period, two metropolitan areas (Wichita Falls and Brownsville - Harlingen) experienced net out-migration.

Finally, the data in Table 6 suggest that for Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as was the case for Council of Governments regions, the fastest growing areas are generally those which have had both extensive natural increase and net in-migration. Natural increase played an important role in population growth for the following MSAs: Laredo (81.2 percent), Beaumont – Port Arthur (77 percent), McAllen – Edinburg – Mission (76.1 percent), Killen – Temple (75.3 percent), Abilene (68 percent), San Angelo (65.4 percent), and more than 100 percent of the growth in Wichita Falls and Brownsville-Harlingen. Clearly, although many of the State's metropolitan areas have experienced relatively rapid net in-migration, natural increase is still an essential element in the growth of rapidly growing areas.

VII.   **Population Change in Counties in Texas, 2010-2012**

There are 254 counties in Texas and it is not feasible to describe patterns of population change for individual counties. In this section we summarize general patterns of population change evident across counties during the post 2010 period. Due to space limitations we have provided data for the ten fastest growing and declining counties (see Table 7). Detailed data for all counties can be obtained from the Hobby Center for Public Policy or from the authors [3, 4].

The seven most populous counties contained, in combination, more than 50 percent of Texas' total population in 2012. These seven counties are Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, El Paso, and Collin. Harris County remains the most populous county with 4.2 million people, accounting for 16.3 percent of the State's population. Dallas, with 2.4 million people, was the second most populous county, accounting for 9.3 percent of the State's total population. Tarrant was the third largest county with 1.9 million population, or 7.2 percent of the total population. The two hundred least populous counties account for only 13.2 percent of Texas' total population.

**See Table 7: Population and Components of Population Change for Counties in Texas, 2010 – 2012** (Excel)

The largest numerical increases in population from 2010 to 2012 were in the counties with the largest populations including Harris County with an increase of 152,745 Bexar County with an increase of 69,958, Tarrant County with an increase of 67,590, Dallas County with an increase of 59,674, Travis County with an increase of

47,872, and Collin with an increase of 45,180. Five counties lost population during the post 2010 period. Archer County lost the most population (58), followed by Fisher County (21), Hardeman County (12), Red River County (10), and Cochran County (2). The population of Loving County remains the same during the post 2012 period.

The largest percentage increases were in Knox County with an increase of 30.3 percent, McMullen County with a 22.9 percent increase, Andrews County with 8.5 percent, Fort Bend County with 6.7 percent, Kennedy County with an increase of 6.7 percent, Williamson County with 6.6 percent, and Dimmit County 6.6 percent. As mentioned before, five counties lost population during the post 2012. Archer County lost the most population (0.6 percent), followed by Fisher County (0.5 percent), Hardeman County (0.3 percent), Red River County (0.1 Percent), and Cochran County (0.1). In general, as shown in Figure 2, 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.

Figure 2: Percent Population Change in Texas Counties, 2010-2012

Percent Change, 2010-2012
- < 0.0
- 0.0 - 3.0
- 3.0 - 5.0
- 5.0 - 10.0
- 10.0 +
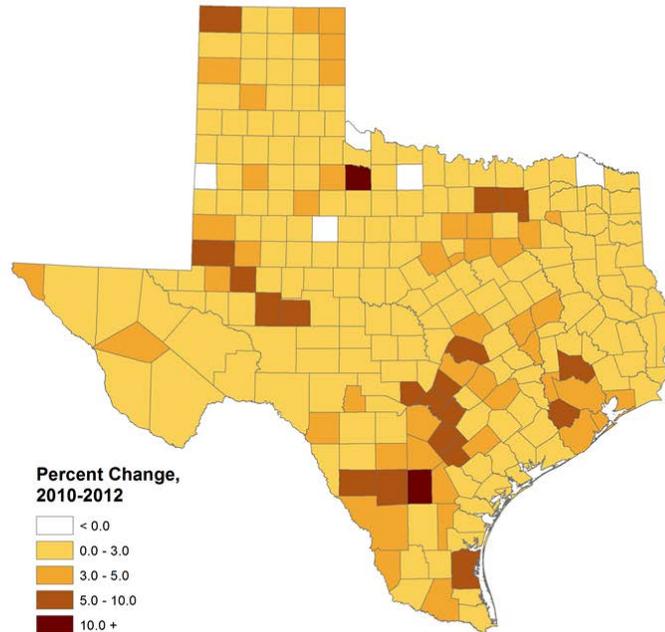
Net in-migration is also an important factor in population growth, and presents challenges for a population as opposed to natural increases. During 2010-2012 Harris County gained the most net in-migrants (52,516) followed by Bexar County (37,196), Tarrant County (30,438), Collin County (29,028), Denton (27,269). More than 30 counties had net out migration during 2010-2010.

The highest rates of net in-migration were observed in Knox County with 30.6 percent, followed by McMullen County with 22.5 percent, Andrews County with 6.3 percent, and Irion County with 6.1 percent. Among the counties with rates of net out-migration, the highest rates were in Cochran County (1.8 percent), and Moore County (1.7 percent). Figure 3 provides a graphical view of the rates of net migration in Texas counties. In general, the data in this figure show a relatively similar pattern as found in Figure 2, with counties having higher levels of net in-migration in Central and lower levels of in-migration in West Texas.

Figure 3: Percent Net Migration in Texas Counties, 2010-2012

% Net Migration,
2010-2012

- < 0.0
- 0.0 - 2.0
- 2.0 - 4.0
- 4.0 - 6.0
- 6.0 +
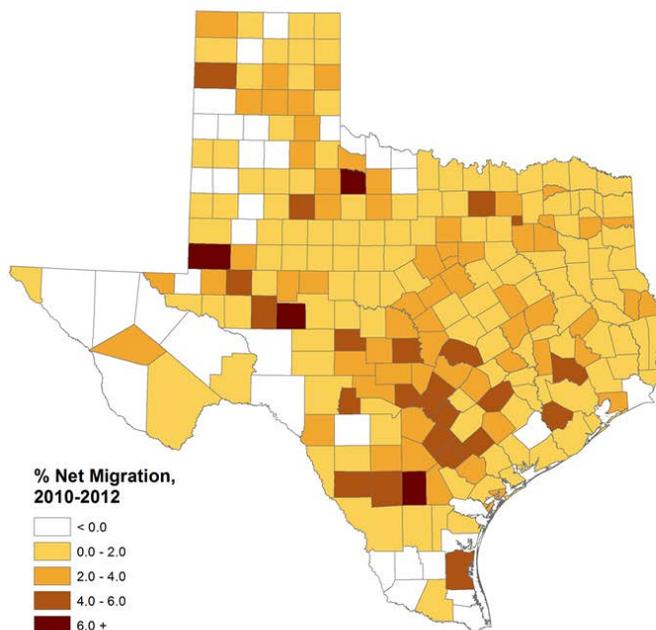
Nevertheless, population growth from 2000 to 2010 has slowed compared to the 1990s when one examines the number of counties in Texas that have shown growth and increased net migration during 2010-2012. From 1990 to 2000, 68 counties experienced population decline and 89 counties experienced net outmigration (meaning that 21 counties had sufficient natural increase to offset population loss due to net outmigration). From 2000 to 2010, the number of counties with population decline was 88 and the number of counties with net outmigration was 119. This clearly suggests that during the 2010-2012 period, population growth in Texas has slowed compared with changes experienced during the 1990s.

VIII.   **Population Change in Places in Texas, 2010-2012**

Population change has also impacted the places and cities of Texas during 2010-2012. Given that there are more than 2,000 places in Texas, population change for

individual places cannot be discussed in detail, therefore only general population patterns for Texas cities and places will be described. Detailed data on population change for places can be obtained from the website of Hobby Center for Public Policy or the authors. The 20120 census populations for cities/places are derived from PL94-171 machine readable files and estimated population for July 1, 2012 for cities/places are produced by the authors [3, 4]. In examining these data, it is important to note that some places may have shown growth or decline through boundary changes (i.e., annexation, deannexation) and or changes in institutional population (i.e., college dormitories, prisons, nursing home etc.) from 2010 to 2012.

From 2010 to 2012, 1,629 of the 1,747 places showed population gains, while 80 places lost population, and population for the 38 places remained the same. During 2010-2012, Houston city gained the most population (64,472), followed by San Antonio (54,649), Austin (46,780), Fort Worth (38,299), Dallas (37,883), El Paso (27,279), and Frisco (12,031). Electra city lost the most population (33), followed by Port Neches (31), Clarksville (26), and Quitman (17). During 2010-2012, 1220 places had net in-migration, and approximately 445 places had net out-migration. There are 65 places that had zero net migration.

[See Table 8: Population and Components of Population Change for Places in Texas, 2010-2012](#) (Excel)

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 in-migration was San Antonio (28,912), Austin (26,335), Fort Worth (21,859), Houston (12,390) and El Paso (10,920). Cities and places which experienced net out-migration were Garland City (679), Pasadena City (568), and Wichita Falls City (527).

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 2010-2012. 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 outmigration.

IX. **Conclusions**

The post-2010 population patterns in Texas 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. The annual rate of population growth in Texas has slowed during the post 2010 (1.5 percent) period compared with 2.1 percent during 2000-2010 but is still higher than the national rate of growth rate of 0.7 percent. One must be careful to note that patterns based on only a few years may change quickly. The patterns of 2010-2013, however, suggest that Texas population is growing at a level that is substantially higher than the potential rate

of growth, for the Nation and all but a handful of other States. Texas' population also diversified extensively; the proportion of Anglo population has decreased from 60.6 percent in 1990 to 45.3 percent in 2010, and 44.3 percent in 2012. The proportion of Hispanic population has increased from 32.0 percent in 2000 to 37.6 percent in 2010, and 38.4 percent in 2012. In 2012, almost fifty-six percent of Texans are minority (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and Others). The median age of Texas population has increased from 32.3 in 2000 to 33.6 years in 2010. The proportion of population 65 years of age and above has increased from 9.9 in 2000 to 10.4 in 2010. However, there are significant differences by racial/ethnic categories. All of these changes have significant implications for education, the labor force, health services, and the polity.

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. 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 fastest growing States in the coming years.

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