INDICATORS

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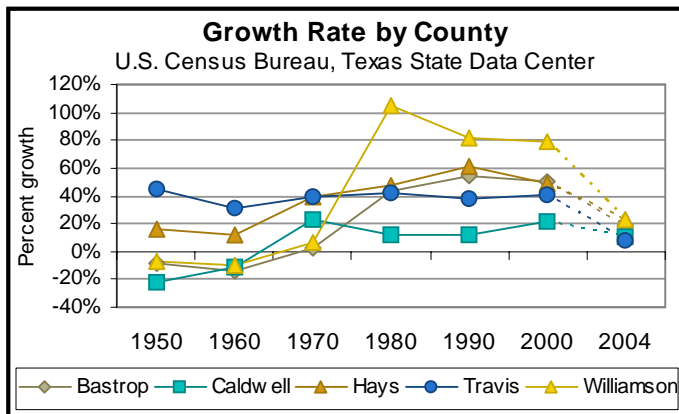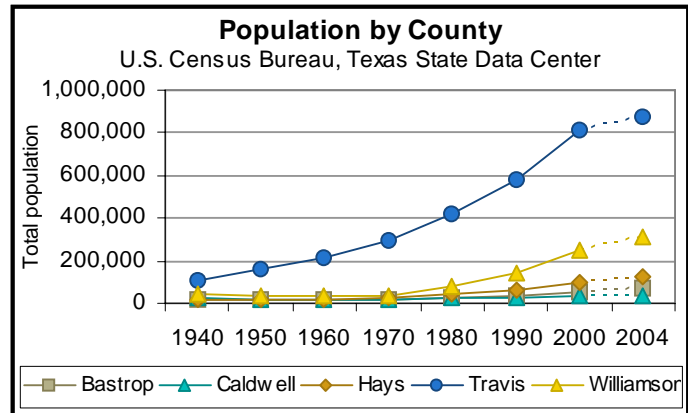Income Distribution
Population Projections

Demographics

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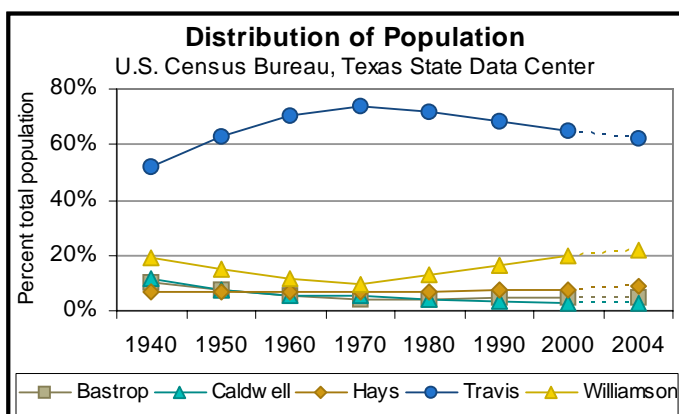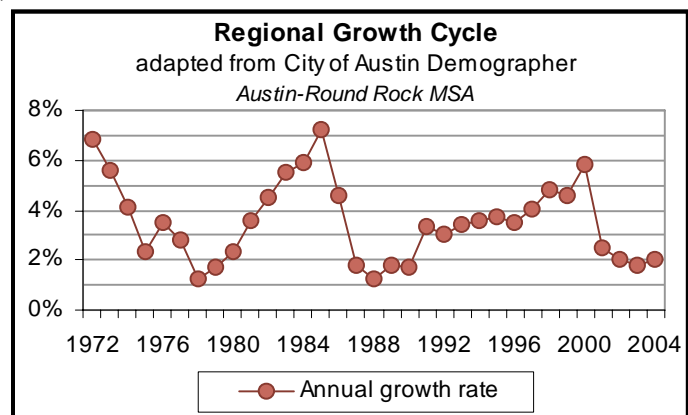# Demographics

Population Growth

- Nationwide, the five-county Central Texas region ranked 5th out of 280 metropolitan regions in growth between 1990 and 2000 with a population growth rate of 47.7% (an increase of 400,000 people).

- Our region tends to double in population every 20 years, reaching 1,249,763 people in 2000, up from 585,051 in 1980.

Population by County
U.S. Census Bureau, Texas State Data Center

- Viewing population growth in sheer numbers is important in considering how a community plans for social and public services, transportation and land use. Viewing growth by percent change provides a perspective on how growth feels to a community.

- Between 1970 and 1980, Williamson County grew from 37,305 residents to 76,521, an increase of 105%, igniting rapid growth in employment and housing opportunities which has made Williamson County into a population center almost independent of Austin.

Growth Rate by County
U.S. Census Bureau, Texas State Data Center
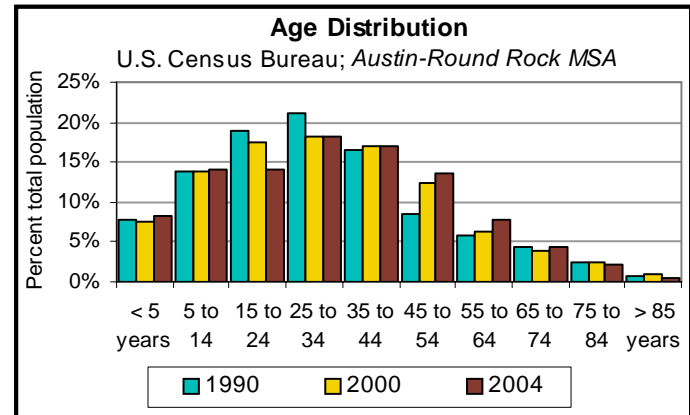

Regional Cycles and Shifts

- The Central Texas region appears to be at the bottom of its third down cycle in population growth in 30 years, with faster growth in population likely in upcoming years.

- In 2004, Travis County housed 62% of the total regional population, down from a peak of 74% in 1970, revealing a gradual shift in population within the region.

Regional Growth Cycle
adapted from City of Austin Demographer
Austin-Round Rock MSA

- The growing share in Williamson County led the U.S. Census Bureau to rename our region from the Austin-San Marcos MSA to the Austin-Round Rock MSA.

- *The Texas State Data Center annually releases population estimates - these data are the most current available.*

Distribution of Population
U.S. Census Bureau, Texas State Data Center

Population by Age

- Our population distribution by age is consistent with national and state trends, the greatest increase in our population is older and nearing retirement, aged 45 to 60 years of age.

- The percent of over 65 year olds in our region is smaller compared to the nation and the state. As this population grows it will also become increasingly diverse, forcing growth in service industries within the regional economy.

- Our youth population is maintaining a strong share of the regional population and is also increasingly non-White (not shown). The increasing diversity and volume of kids creates challenges throughout the child care and public education spectrum, including higher education.

Age Distribution
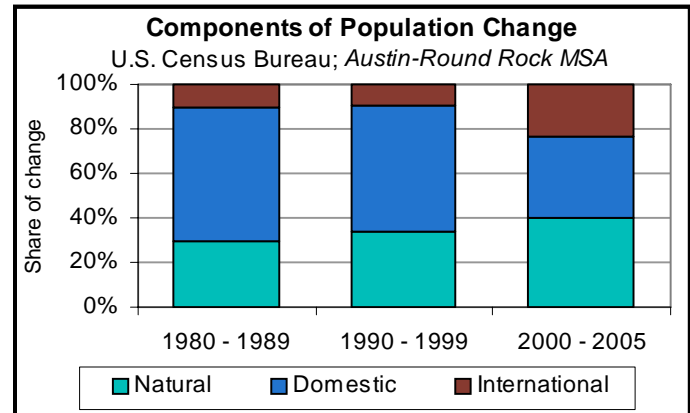U.S. Census Bureau; *Austin-Round Rock MSA*

Population by Race/Ethnicity

- Hispanics, of any race, represent the largest share of the non-White, minority population (estimated at 29% in 2004). The Hispanic population grew by over 167,000 individuals, more than doubling, between 1990 and 2000, and is estimated at 398,206 people in 2004.

- White, non-Hispanics still comprise the largest number of people in the region (estimated at 795,039 in 2004), but their share of the population is steadily decreasing, down from 68% in 1990 to 58% in 2004.

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of African-Americans increased to 101,875, even though the African-American share of the total population decreased to 8%.

- Asians, while still a small share of the actual population in 2004 at 4.5%, had the highest growth rate, at 133%, of any race/ethnic group between 1990 and 2000.

- Race and ethnicity are separate and distinct terms of self-identification. Individuals may be of one or more races (e.g., White, Black or African-American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or "some other race"). There are two categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Demographics

Components of Change

• Population growth consists of two components: natural increase and migration. Natural increase is a function of births minus deaths (a positive rate of natural increase means there were more births than deaths). Migration is a function of domestic migration (people moving within the United States) plus international migration (people crossing an international boundary when moving).

• Of all population growth within the region from 2000 to 2005, 20% was due to international migration, as compared to less than 10% in each of the prior two decades.

Components of Population Change
U.S. Census Bureau; *Austin-Round Rock MSA*

• Undocumented immigration is technically a share of international migration, but estimates vary widely on the number of undocumented immigrants in Central Texas.

• Domestic in-migration to Austin is down in the past five years, representing less than 40% of Austin's population growth, as compared to close to 60% of total population growth in the two prior decades.

• Population growth from natural increase now equals 40% of all growth, up from 30% between 1980 to 1989, and 35% between 1990 to 1999.
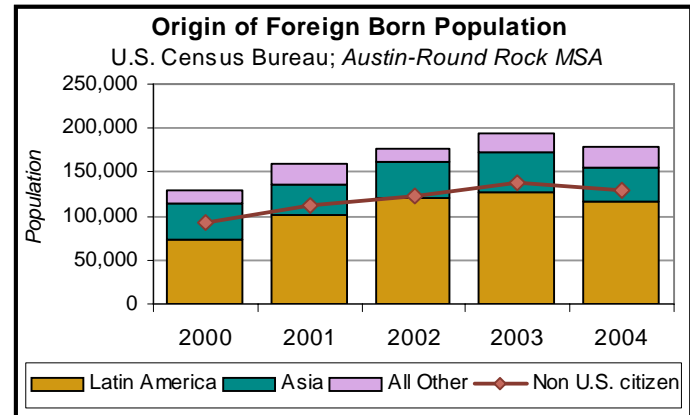
Income Distribution

• The region has a clear East-West geographic pattern of income distribution that spans the entire region and which is mirrored by patterns in many other indicators of equity and economy.

• This regional geographic pattern is also reflected at smaller scales in individual cities across the region, including Austin, Taylor, and Lockhart.

Diversity in Culture

- Within the broad race/ethnicity categories is even greater diversity; many more Central Texans choose not to self-identify by a single race category, rather choosing "some other" or "two or more" categories.

- Cultural diversity includes many factors such as primary language, English language proficiency and linguistic isolation, religious or spiritual preference, physical and mental disability, age and length of residence in the region (by 2004, just over 55% of Central Texans were actually born in Texas), and preferences for urban, suburban or rural settings.

Origin of Foreign Born Population
U.S. Census Bureau; *Austin-Round Rock MSA*

Legend: Latin America | Asia | All Other | Non U.S. citizen

Population Projections

- A spread of 400,000 people exists between five methodologies of population projection, each of which are used in local, regional, and state planning efforts in Central Texas.

- Demographers and planners use data and trends on distribution, diversity, and components of change, as well as an additional variables to create projections of how and where the population may grow in the future. Projections can be simple, linear forecasts looking out just a couple of years or complex models looking out several decades; they represent our best guess about what and where growth will occur. Major financial investments from the household to City Hall to Fortune 500 companies are based on our best guesses about the future.

Population Projections
Various for Austin-Round Rock MSA

Legend: Tx. State Data Center, 0.5 | Tx. State Data Center, 2.0 | Tx. Water Devel. Board | City of Austin | CAPCOG