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## Houston & Texas News

June 28, 2007, 12:06AM

# Texas tops nation's population growth

Houston, Dallas and San Antonio remain among the 10 largest cities in the U.S.

By **LORI RODRIGUEZ** and **JAMES PINKERTON**  
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Step aside California. Texas is now the state with the biggest growth in population.

Booming cities in the Lone Star state dominated the latest population estimates for cities as of July, 1, 2006, released by the census today. Six Texas cities were in the top 25 in the U. S, and three, including Houston, were in the top 10, with San Antonio the seventh-largest and Dallas the ninth.

Phoenix shouldered past Philadelphia to become the nation's fifth-largest city, but, not to worry, Houston's perch at No. 4 remains secure.

Nineteen Texas cities, or nearly 20 percent, were among the top 100 fastest-growing cities with populations of at least 100,000 between 2000 and July 1, 2006. McKinney, north of Dallas, ranked No. 1 on that list, nearly doubling its population.

"What you're seeing is verification that, numerically, Texas continues to be the fastest-growing state in the nation," said

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### LOCAL RANKINGS

- **Fourth:** Population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau show Houston maintaining its ranking as the fourth-largest city in the U.S. with a population of 2.14 million as of July 1, 2006.
- **Sixth:** The Census Bureau divides the country into Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or MSAs. Each MSA includes the metropolitan city and surrounding suburban areas as defined by the

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state demographer Steve Murdock, whom President Bush has nominated to be Census Bureau director.

As of July 1, 2006, Texas edged out California as the state with the largest population growth, gaining 2.7 million people since 2000 while California gained 2.6 million. In that time period, Texas grew at a 12.7 percent rate, compared with California's 8 percent.

Houston grew from 1.98 million to 2.14 million in the same period.

At his weekly press conference, Mayor Bill White said that, unlike many other urban areas, Houston is growing inside city limits rather than just surrounding cities and suburbs.

"It's a great thing," he said. "People speak with their feet about places that have desirable living conditions, and Houston has grown dramatically because people want to live here."

The mayor attributed the growth in Texas cities and others in the Southwest to striking "a good balance" between cultural diversity, a friendly environment and a spirit of entrepreneurship.

## Evacuees counted?

Between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006, Houston gained about 26,000 people, according to the estimates, a number that seems inconsistent with assertions that about 100,000 Katrina evacuees have settled here.

Murdock said the difference could be attributed to the complicated methodology used to arrive at the annual estimates.

Those estimates include factors such as the number of housing units, the vacancy rate and household size in an area. Household size and vacancy rates are taken from the 2000 Census.

In Houston, Katrina evacuees were absorbed into existing, vacant housing, dramatically changing the vacancy rate.

The Census Bureau used a separate method to arrive at estimates for areas stricken by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that includes estimated housing-unit losses and death counts, as well as FEMA and Red Cross data.

## Underscore the trend

The new population estimates underscored a decades-old trend of escalating population growth in the West and South and declining or stagnant population in the Northeast and Midwest. Also confirmed was booming growth in suburban areas, including those around Houston.

Katy has nearly doubled, from 6,490 in 2000 to about 13,600 in July 2006. Sugar Land has jumped from 63,328 people to nearly 80,000 over the same period. Pearland also registered robust growth, from 36,640 people to more than 68,000.

bureau. The Houston-Sugarland-Baytown MSA ranks sixth in the U.S.

• **10th:** A Designated Market Area, or DMA, is a geographic region set up by the A.C. Nielsen Company. The counties within a city's television viewing area define the DMA. The Houston-Galveston DMA ranks 10th in U.S. DMAs.

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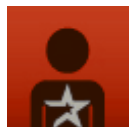
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**Lothar** wrote:

There are lots of facts in this article, but it fails to tell me if the population growth is good or bad.

6/28/2007 1:14:28 AM

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**kdog104** wrote:

It depends on your views of the environment vs. industry.

6/28/2007 1:39:25 AM

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**jnmunsey** wrote:

It also fails to mention how many of the new residents are immigrants or children of immigrants.. All I know is I want minority status soon.

6/28/2007 3:03:50 AM

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**horsefly** wrote:

MOST OF THIS GROWTH IS ILLEGAL MEXICANS--PEW HISPANIC CENTER STATES THAT THIS IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES TEXAS POPULATION WILL GO FROM 25 MILLION TO 48 MILLION--

6/28/2007 6:08:12 AM

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**Skullcrusherjones** wrote:

How is it that we can't get a good count on evacuees that we house and give goverment funds to, but we have these have this "12 million illegal immigrants" that every AM hack with high watts and low wits keep spouting out?

Are we just counting the ones who overstay their visas and multiplying by two? And if we know the names and occupations/areas of study of half the illegal immigrant population, why don't we round those up before we sink money into a poorly thought out Great Fence of America?

6/28/2007 6:13:30 AM

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**TEOTWAWKI** wrote:

Houston is already over a third Latino, and with their third world tendency towards high birth rates we could see the demographics go to 50% or more. The Tax problems associated with the rapid growth are going to kill most of us already here. Schools are the biggest problem as they are 80% of your property tax bill. The Democrats are going to drain the swamp again like they did in the 70's when the morons thought the oil co's were making too much money and put in the windfall profits tax. After all the extra people show up here to serve king oil the Democrats will institute a huge tax and the new arrivals and us will drown again, history is a grim reminder.

6/28/2007 6:19:42 AM

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**jam102** wrote:

Gee is this a surprise. With the number of illegals pouring across the border and the number of babies they have is it any wonder. Let's not forget the Katrina evacuees - some good hard working people and some criminals and welfare junkies. Yes, Texas is growing fast but mold grows rapidly, too. Not necessarily a good thing.

6/28/2007 6:34:01 AM

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**JLG** wrote:

Well with all the advertisement of a free ride I would run the river too!

6/28/2007 6:52:50 AM

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**glide625** wrote:

If you read this carefully and have been around as long as I have you immediately recognize that once again, they are severely under reporting the number of people actually residing in and working in Harris County, (just one example).

"Between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006, Houston gained about 26,000 people, according to the estimates, a number that seems inconsistent with assertions that about 100,000 Katrina evacuees have settled here. Murdock said the difference could be attributed to the complicated methodology used to arrive at the annual estimates."

O.k., yea, right guy. Phony numbers, from phony bureaucrats. My question has always been whether they simply remain utterly incompetent or whether they are again intentionally under reporting the population numbers and demographics just like they intentionally under report the crime stats. And they are shocked that they have no credibility?

6/28/2007 6:53:51 AM

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