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BUSINESS REVIEW

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College and Graduate School of Business, University of Texas at Austin

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The Size and Distribution of Two Minority Population Groups in Texas

In the 1990 official census of U.S. population, Texas had a recorded population of 16,986,510. Although this total is disputed as undercounted, it will remain the official state population figure until the year 2000 census, unless legal action forces the acceptance of an amended figure. In the three and one-half years since the census was last taken, the Texas population has continued to increase, and it is *estimated* that more than 18 million persons currently reside in the state, making Texas second only to California in population.

In the 1990 census, 12,787,521 people, or 75.3 percent of the Texas population, were listed as *white* (table 1). Black citizens of Texas numbered 2,018,543, or 11.9 percent of the total population.¹ All other races made up 12.8 percent of the Texas population. This group included American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleutians (0.4 percent); Asians or Pacific Islanders (1.8 percent); and the category "other race" (10.6 percent).

In addition to listing figures by race, the 1990 census also recorded persons of "Hispanic origin" (table 2). In 1990, 4,294,120 Texans, or 25.3

percent of the total state population, were of Hispanic origin. The census data on Hispanic origin are further broken down into whites (14.5 percent) and nonwhites (10.8 percent).

We have mapped the distribution of the two largest minority groups in Texas, blacks and Hispanics.² Our goal was to find different and innovative ways of mapping these population groups to give a clearer visual representation of their size and distribution within the state.

The Size and Distribution of the Black Population in Texas

Most black people in Texas reside in urban areas or in rural East Texas. Twelve counties, most in South and West Texas, reported no black population in 1990, while another three listed only one person. Figure 1 is a dot distribution map of blacks in Texas. This map clearly illustrates the concentration of blacks in urban areas and in rural East Texas. West of Interstate Highway 35, the majority of black persons are concentrated in the larger cities and towns such as El Paso, Midland-Odessa, Lubbock, and Amarillo. Note that the concentration in the larger urban areas such as Houston and Dallas is so large that the dots coalesce into a single mass. Of the 2,018,543 blacks who lived in Texas in 1990, 1,823,557, or 90.3 percent, lived in urban areas. Only 194,986, or 9.7 percent, lived in areas defined as rural and just 4,872 of these black persons lived on farms.

Figure 2 is a map of black population aggregated by percentages. Eleven counties in East and Central Texas contained 72 percent of Texas

Table 1
Population of Texas by Race

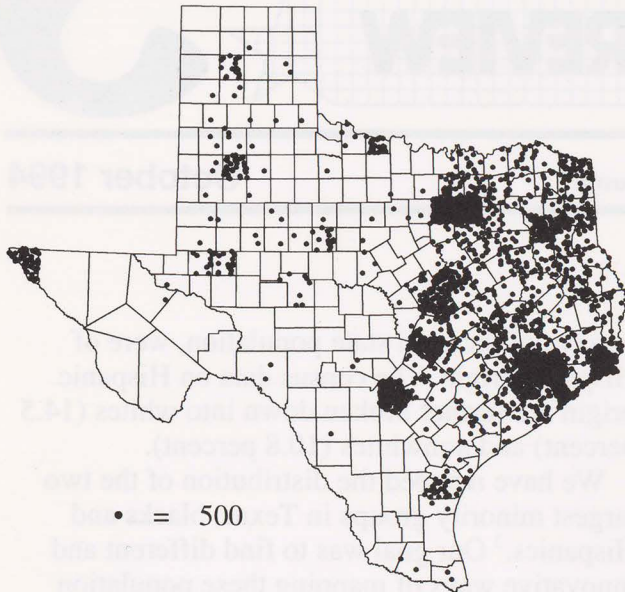
Total population	White	Black	American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other race
16,986,510	12,787,521	2,018,543	69,872	315,072	1,795,502

Table 2
Population of Texas by Hispanic Origin

Total population	Hispanic origin (any race)	Hispanic origin (white)	Hispanic origin (black)
16,986,510	4,294,120	2,466,642	1,827,478

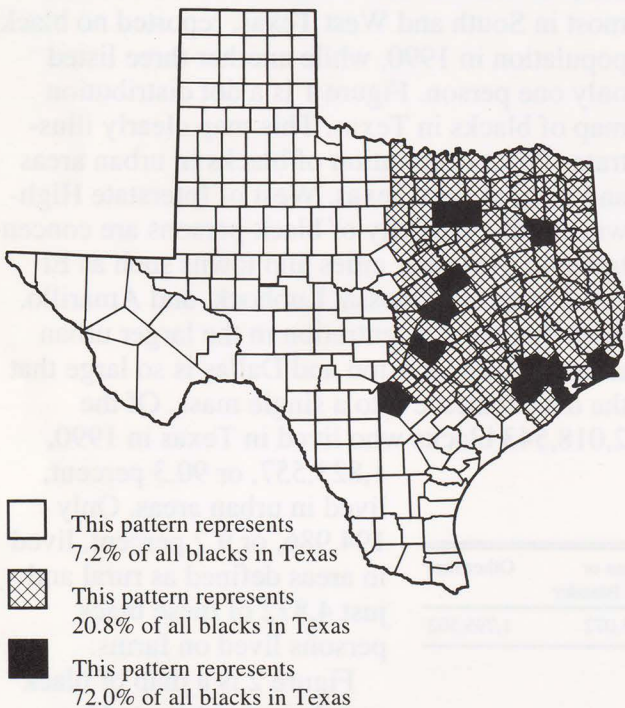
Source: U.S. Census, 1990

Figure 1
Distribution of the Black Population
in Texas, 1990



Sources: Texas Department of Transportation; U.S. Census, 1990.

Figure 2
The Black Population in Texas, 1990
(percentages)



Source: U.S. Census, 1990.

blacks. Over a half million blacks, almost 27 percent of the total black population in Texas, lived in Harris county. (Although the largest total number of black persons lived in Harris county, Waller county claimed the distinction of having the highest percentage of black population: 8,796 blacks accounted for 37.6 per cent of the total Waller county population in 1990.) Of the remaining black population, 20.8 percent lived in East and Central Texas counties. Note from figure 2 that few blacks lived south of Houston and San Antonio, along the Texas coast, near the Rio Grande border with Mexico, in the Panhandle, or in the Trans Pecos area. In 1990, only 7.2 percent of the Texas black population lived in this great sweep of country, almost two-thirds of the state. In South and West Texas, most of this small total black population lived in the urbanized areas (figure 1). We can conclude then that the black population in Texas is predominately urban and that almost 93 percent live in approximately the north, central, and eastern one-third of the state. (Table 3 lists the ten Texas counties with the largest total numbers of black persons.)

The Size and Distribution
of the Hispanic Population in Texas

It is more difficult to map the Hispanic population of Texas because the Bureau of the Census struggles with the precise meaning of the term "Hispanic origin." To simplify the problem of mapping this population group, we used the aggregate or total figure for persons of Hispanic origin. Table 2 shows that about one-quarter, or 25.3 percent, of the Texas population was of Hispanic origin in 1990. But more than half of this group was enumerated as white and this was 14.5 percent of the total 1990 Texas population. The remaining 10.8 percent of the state population was counted as nonwhite.

Figure 3 is a dot map of the Hispanic population. The lower Rio Grande Valley and the urban areas of San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and El Paso stand out as major concentrations of total Hispanic population. Harris and Bexar counties show the largest total numbers of Hispanic peoples. More than one-quarter of the Hispanic population of Texas lived in just these two counties in 1990, while El Paso, Hidalgo, and Dallas counties combined contained another quarter. (Starr county in South Texas had the

distinction of having the highest percentage of Hispanics of the total county population: the 39,390 Hispanics living there in 1990 accounted for 97.2 percent of the total county population.)

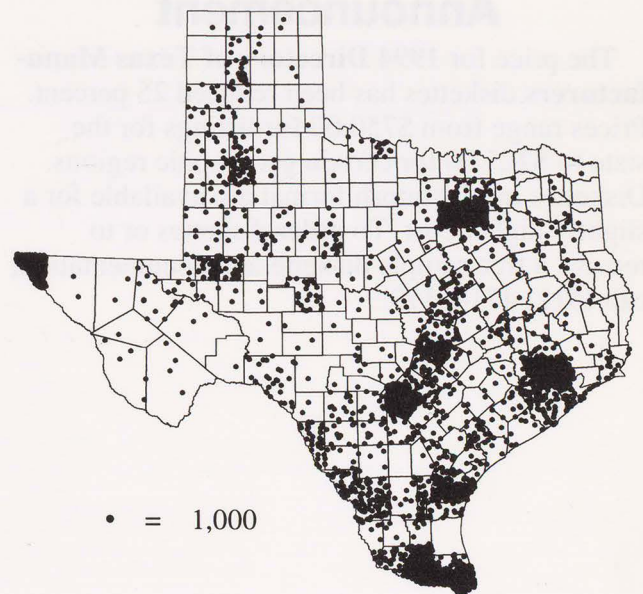
The counties along the Texas-Mexico border, the Trans Pecos, and the southern Panhandle contained the highest percentages of Hispanic population. There are no counties in Texas that do not have some Hispanic population. The border and West Texas counties do not have large total numbers of people living in them. Figure 4 shows the Hispanic population aggregated by county. In 1990, eighteen counties, mostly around Houston and along IH-35 from San Antonio to Dallas, contained almost half (49.2 percent) of the Texas Hispanic population. The border counties contained another 38.7 percent. Note that Northeast Texas had just 4.2 percent of the total number of Hispanics in the state. (Table 4 lists the ten Texas counties with the largest total numbers of Hispanic population.)

Summary

The two largest minority population groups in Texas, blacks and Hispanics, have higher growth rates than the white population, and, when aggregated with other minority groups in Texas, the combined minority population will probably represent more than 50 percent of the total state population shortly after the turn of the century.

The 1990 census found blacks in Texas living predominantly in urban areas, especially in Houston and Dallas. Rural blacks were found mostly in East Texas, east of IH-35, and north and east of Houston. Fewer than 8 percent of blacks—a total number not equal to the black population of Harris county—lived in South or

Figure 3
Distribution of the Hispanic Population in Texas, 1990



Sources: Texas Department of Transportation; U.S. Census, 1990.

West Texas, with most of the black population of West Texas concentrated in that region's urban areas.

The total Hispanic population was more than twice the total of the black population in 1990. Widely distributed, Hispanics were represented in all Texas counties. Because of the continuing historic settlement of Texas by Hispanic people through Mexico, the Texas-Mexico border and West Texas counties had the highest percentages of Hispanics within the total county populations. However, almost one-half of the total numbers of Hispanic Texans lived in the Houston area and along the IH-35 population corridor from San

Table 3
Texas Counties with the Largest Black Populations, 1990

County	Population	Percentage of total county population
Harris	541,180	19.02
Dallas	369,597	19.95
Tarrant	140,740	12.03
Bexar	84,670	7.14
Jefferson	74,412	31.08
Travis	63,173	10.96
Fort Bend	46,593	20.67
Galveston	38,154	17.55
Bell	36,095	18.89
Smith	31,572	20.87

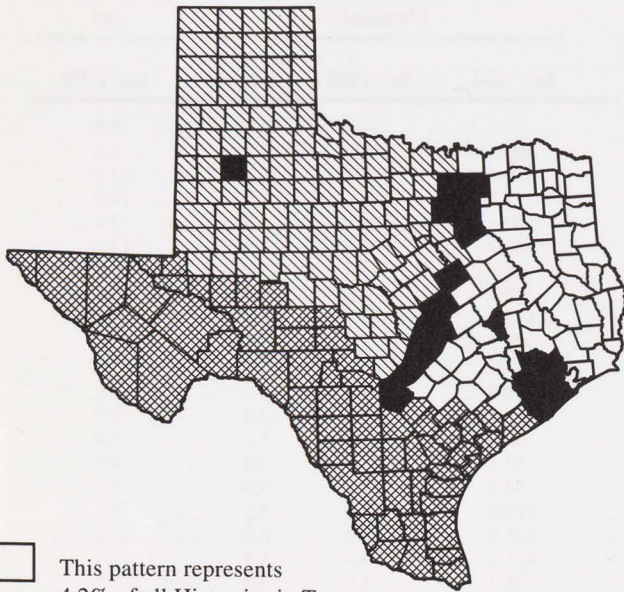
Source: U.S. Census, 1990.





Table 4
Texas Counties with the Largest Hispanic Populations, 1990

County	Population	Percentage of total county population
Harris	644,935	22.88
Bexar	589,180	49.70
El Paso	411,619	69.58
Hidalgo	326,972	85.25
Dallas	315,630	17.04
Cameron	212,995	81.88
Nueces	152,051	52.23
Tarrant	139,879	11.95
Webb	125,069	93.87
Travis	121,689	21.11

Source: U.S. Census, 1990.

Figure 4
The Hispanic Population in Texas, 1990
 (percentages)



-  This pattern represents 4.2% of all Hispanics in Texas
-  This pattern represents 7.9% of all Hispanics in Texas
-  This pattern represents 38.7% of all Hispanics in Texas
-  This pattern represents 49.2% of all Hispanics in Texas

Source: U.S. Census, 1990.

Antonio to Dallas. The area of the state having the lowest Hispanic population were the counties of East Texas.

Thus, the 1990 census showed that, except for the urban areas along IH-35 and Houston, the two minority population groups in Texas occupy distinctly different regional sections of the state. In other words, Hispanics are less numerous in the areas where blacks are most numerous. These two minority groups have distinct regions of population distribution in Texas.

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Notes

1. The term "black" is used here to be consistent with the figures reported in the U.S. Census, 1990.
2. The author wishes to thank Michael Parks and Gregory F. White for generating the maps used in this article.



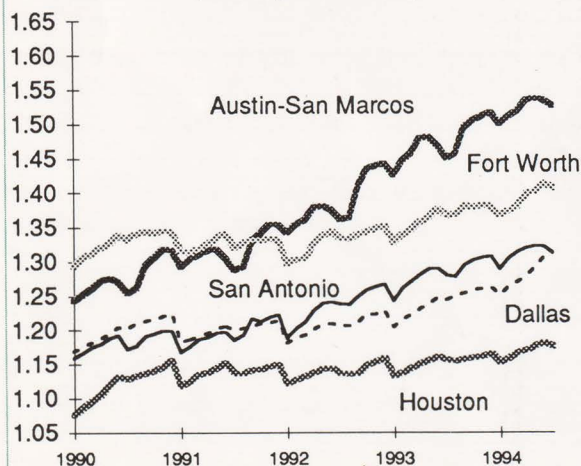
Employment and Unemployment Rate by Metropolitan Area

Area	Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)			Total employment (thousands)			Unemployment rate
	July 1994	July 1993	Percentage change	July 1994	July 1993	Percentage change	July 1994
Abilene	49.8	49.3	1.0	55.6	54.9	1.3	5.8
Amarillo	85.9	82.4	4.2	105.3	100.2	5.1	4.4
Austin-San Marcos	466.8	444.0	5.1	560.3	525.1	6.7	3.9
Beaumont-Port Arthur	151.3	148.0	2.2	172.8	166.1	4.0	10.5
Brazoria	71.7	70.2	2.1	102.1	98.5	3.7	7.6
Brownsville-Harlingen	89.0	85.8	3.7	108.8	103.3	5.3	12.1
Bryan-College Station	60.2	58.4	3.1	66.7	63.5	5.0	3.6
Corpus Christi	142.7	139.6	2.2	162.7	157.0	3.6	9.7
Dallas	1,544.6	1,473.7	4.8	1,643.2	1,543.0	6.5	5.6
El Paso	227.9	224.0	1.7	258.7	251.0	3.1	10.4
Fort Worth-Arlington	629.7	611.9	2.9	782.8	749.4	4.5	5.8
Galveston-Texas City	85.5	84.3	1.4	120.8	117.0	3.2	8.7
Houston	1,689.4	1,660.8	1.7	1,866.5	1,815.1	2.8	6.9
Killeen-Temple	86.8	82.9	4.7	104.9	99.2	5.7	5.4
Laredo	55.8	52.4	6.5	62.1	57.8	7.4	9.5
Longview-Marshall	80.5	78.4	2.7	94.3	90.8	3.9	8.8
Lubbock	104.0	101.9	2.1	117.0	113.0	3.5	5.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	115.6	110.5	4.6	145.9	137.6	6.0	17.3
Odessa-Midland	91.6	90.9	0.8	111.3	109.4	1.7	7.9
San Angelo	39.7	38.9	2.1	48.7	47.2	3.2	5.3
San Antonio	584.2	569.4	2.6	674.3	650.9	3.6	5.7
Sherman-Denison	37.0	36.7	0.8	43.7	42.8	2.1	6.6
Texarkana	47.4	47.9	-1.0	53.0	52.6	0.8	9.5
Tyler	68.4	66.8	2.4	79.0	76.4	3.4	5.8
Victoria	32.5	32.0	1.6	40.5	39.0	3.8	6.5
Waco	87.5	84.3	3.8	94.5	89.7	5.4	5.6
Wichita Falls	53.8	52.9	1.7	61.0	59.1	3.2	6.3
Total Texas	7,708.2	7,483.0	3.0	8,966.1	8,607.9	4.2	6.8
Total United States	113,399.0	110,431.0	2.7	124,503.0	121,323.0	2.6	6.2

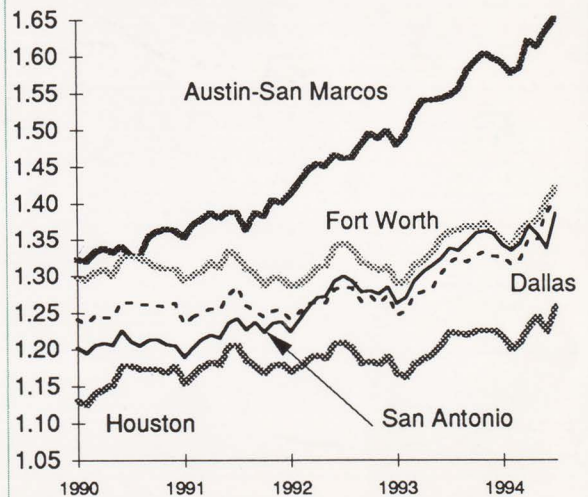
Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted. Figures for 1993 have undergone a major revision; previously published 1993 figures should no longer be used. Revised figures are available upon request. All 1994 figures are subject to revision.

Sources: Texas Employment Commission and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Nonagricultural Employment
in Five Largest Texas
Metropolitan Areas
(January 1984=1.00)**



**Total Employment in Five Largest
Texas Metropolitan Areas
(January 1984=1.00)**



Announcement

The price for **1994 Directory of Texas Manufacturers** diskettes has been reduced 25 percent. Prices range from \$750.00 for listings for the state to \$225.00 for certain geographic regions. Diskettes in Macintosh format are available for a slightly higher cost. To order diskettes or to receive a free sample diskette and documentation, call (512) 471-5179.

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