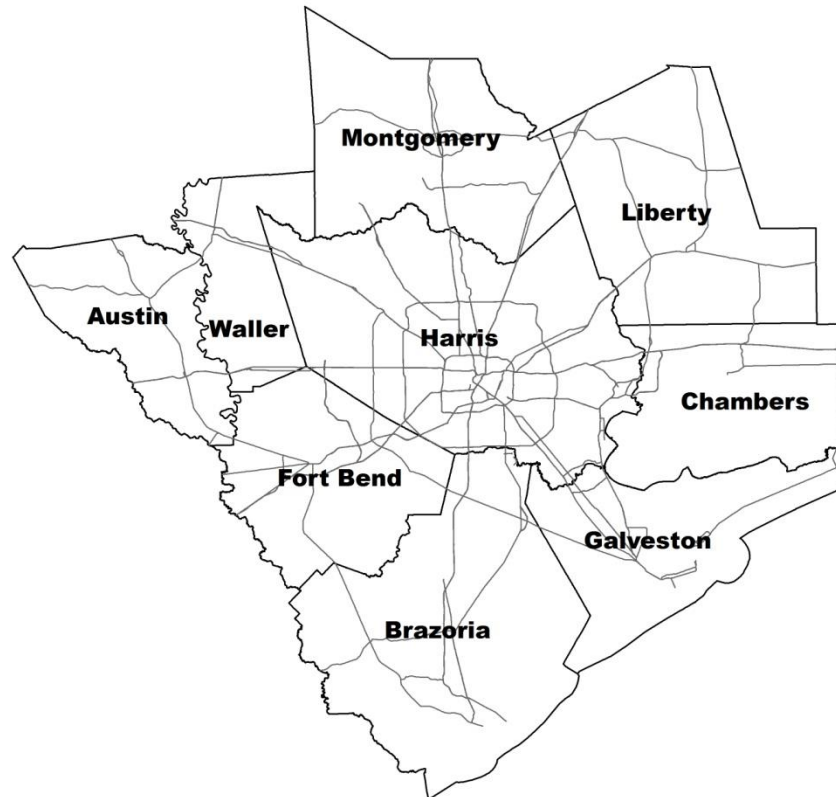


## Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area Profile

The Houston MSA is the fifth most populous in the U.S. and spans an area larger than five states.



- Founded in 1836, the City of Houston had a population of 2.3 million as of July 1, 2016, making it the fourth most populous U.S. city. Only New York, Los Angeles and Chicago have more residents. Houston has been Texas' most populous city since 1930.
- The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (Houston MSA) consists of nine counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller. The metro area's 2016 population of 6.77 million ranks fifth among U.S. metropolitan statistical areas. The Houston MSA covers 9,444 square miles, an area larger than five states, including New Hampshire, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- The Houston MSA's nominal gross area product in 2016 was \$478.6 billion, according to U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. If Houston were a country, its economy would rank 24<sup>th</sup> in the world, and is larger than that of Poland and Nigeria, according to the International Monetary Fund. Only 23 foreign nations' gross domestic products exceed Houston's.
- The Houston MSA recorded more than three million nonfarm payroll jobs in September 2017, more than the job counts of 35 U.S. states, including Oregon, Oklahoma, and Colorado.
- The Houston MSA is home to 20 *Fortune 500* headquarters, ranking fourth among metro areas. Many other *Fortune 500* companies maintain U.S. administrative headquarters in Houston.