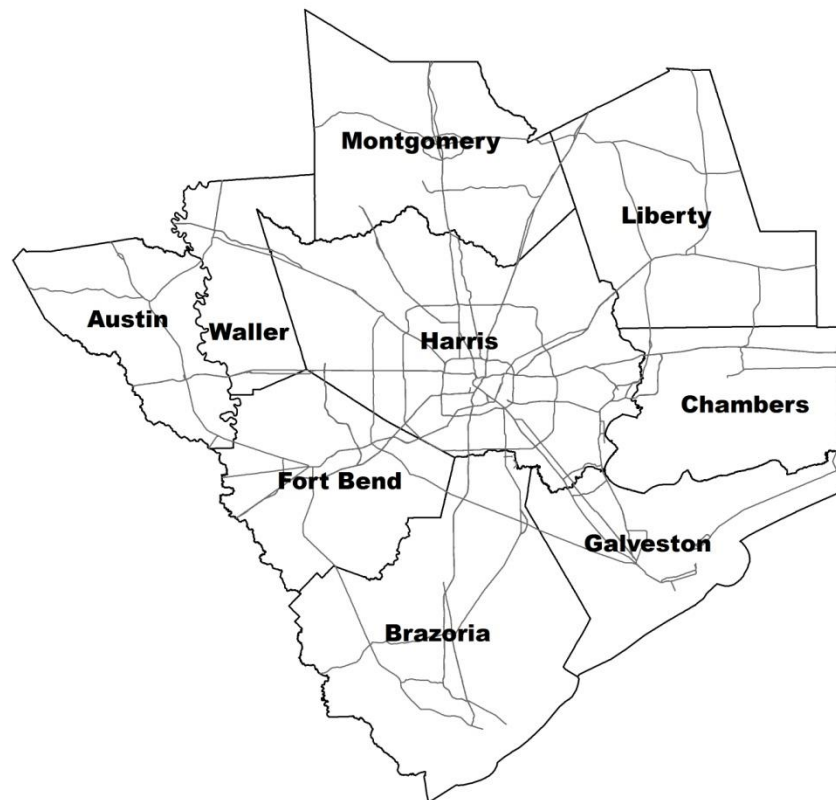


Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area Profile

The Houston MSA is the fifth most populous in the U.S. and a top destination.



- Founded in 1836, the City of Houston had a population of nearly 2.3 million as of July 1, 2015, 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 9 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller. The metro area's 2015 population of 6.6 million ranks fifth among U.S. metropolitan statistical areas. The Houston MSA covers 9,444 square miles, an area larger than New Jersey.
- The Houston MSA's nominal gross area product in 2014 was \$525.4 billion, according to U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. If Houston were a country, its economy would be larger than that of Norway or Austria, according to the International Monetary Fund. Only 25 foreign nations' gross domestic products exceed Houston's.
- The Houston MSA recorded nearly three million nonfarm payroll jobs in April 2016, more than the job counts of 36 U.S. states, including Minnesota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.
- The Houston MSA is home to 26 *Fortune 500* headquarters, ranking third among metro areas. Many other *Fortune 500* companies maintain U.S. administrative headquarters in Houston.