



March 22, 2018

Metro Houston added 94,417 residents in '17, a 1.4 percent increase, to reach a total population of 6,892,427 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ Houston had the second largest gain of any U.S. metro area. The Dallas-Fort Worth metro led the nation in population growth adding 146,238 residents, a 2.0 percent increase. Atlanta came in third with 89,013, a 1.5 percent increase. Houston maintained its position as the fifth largest U.S. metro area.

The metro area grew from the combined effects of the net natural increase (*i.e.*, more births than deaths) and net in-migration (*i.e.*, more people moving in than out).² Last year, Houston added one new resident every 5.6 minutes as a result of:

- 61,537 residents from net natural increase (102,941 births and 41,404 deaths)
- 32,722 residents from net in-migration (43,094 from around the world and a loss of 10,372 from across the U.S.)

HOUSTON METRO POPULATION CHANGE BY COUNTY, 7/1/16 to 7/1/17

County	2017 Population	2016 Population	# Change	% Change
Austin	29,786	29,637	149	0.5
Brazoria	362,457	353,828	8,629	2.4
Chambers	41,441	40,283	1,158	2.9
Fort Bend	764,828	741,958	22,870	3.1
Galveston	335,036	329,306	5,730	1.7
Harris	4,652,980	4,617,041	35,939	0.8
Liberty	83,658	81,377	2,281	2.8
Montgomery	570,934	554,522	16,412	3.0
Waller	51,307	50,058	1,249	2.5
Total	6,892,427	6,798,010	94,417	1.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Every Houston-area county experienced population growth in '17. The majority of the growth occurred in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties, accounting for eight out of every 10 new residents. Harris County ranked fourth in the nation in overall growth adding 35,939 residents to total 4,652,980 or 67.5 percent of the metro population.

Additional details will be provided in the upcoming April issue of [Houston: The Economy at a Glance](#).

¹ The population change is from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017. Metro Houston includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties. Population estimates for U.S. cities will be released in May.

² The two components do not sum to the total growth due to rounding and residuals.