



Metro Houston added 125,005 residents in '16, a 1.9 percent increase, to reach a total population of 6,772,470 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 143,435 residents, a 2.0 percent increase. Phoenix came in third with 93,680, a 2.1 percent increase.

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). Last year, Houston added [one new resident every 4.2 minutes](#) as a result of:

- 61,616 residents from net natural increase (102,152 births and 40,536 deaths)
- 63,090 residents from net in-migration (35,000 from around the world, 28,090 from across the U.S.)²

HOUSTON METRO POPULATION CHANGE BY COUNTY, 7/1/15 to 7/1/16				
County	2015 Population	2016 Population	# Change	% Change
Austin	29,548	29,758	210	0.7
Brazoria	345,661	354,195	8,534	2.5
Chambers	38,768	39,899	1,131	2.9
Fort Bend	713,849	741,237	27,388	3.8
Galveston	321,538	329,431	7,893	2.5
Harris	4,533,341	4,589,928	56,587	1.2
Liberty	79,696	81,704	2,008	2.5
Montgomery	536,434	556,203	19,769	3.7
Waller	48,630	50,115	1,485	3.1
Totals	6,647,465	6,772,470	125,005	1.9%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census				

¹ The population change is from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. 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.



GREATER HOUSTON
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UPDATE



POPULATION

Every Houston-area county experienced population growth in '16. The majority of the growth occurred in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties, accounting for eight out of every 10 new residents. Residents continued to favor the suburbs, with Harris County dropping to 67.8 percent of the region's population, down from 69.1 in '10.

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