



2017 PROFILE

walker county

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prepared by the Houston-Galveston Area Council



preface

In 2013, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) developed *Our Great Region 2040*, a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan lays out a long-range vision to ensure that the 13-county region is one of the world's greatest places to live, work, and succeed by 2040.

The 2017 profiles for all 13 counties in the region provide a demographic snapshot and build a baseline understanding from which local communities and H-GAC can gauge how the region has advanced the tenets of the *Our Great Region 2040* plan.

The contents of this report have been gathered from a variety of sources referenced on the last two pages. All maps were produced by H-GAC.

To read the *Our Great Region 2040* plan and all 13 county profiles, visit ourregion.org/county-profiles.html or h-gac.com/go/apps.



big ideas

Strategies in the *Our Great Region 2040* plan are grouped into Big Ideas for six different topics highlighting areas of opportunity within the region. The Big Ideas serve as high-level guides when considering new projects or policies. This 2017 county profile includes a range of demographic data points that correspond with one or multiple Big Ideas.



Economic Development

Strengthening our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce



Housing

Providing balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options



Environment

Securing a clean and ample water supply



Resiliency

Increasing our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment



Healthy Communities

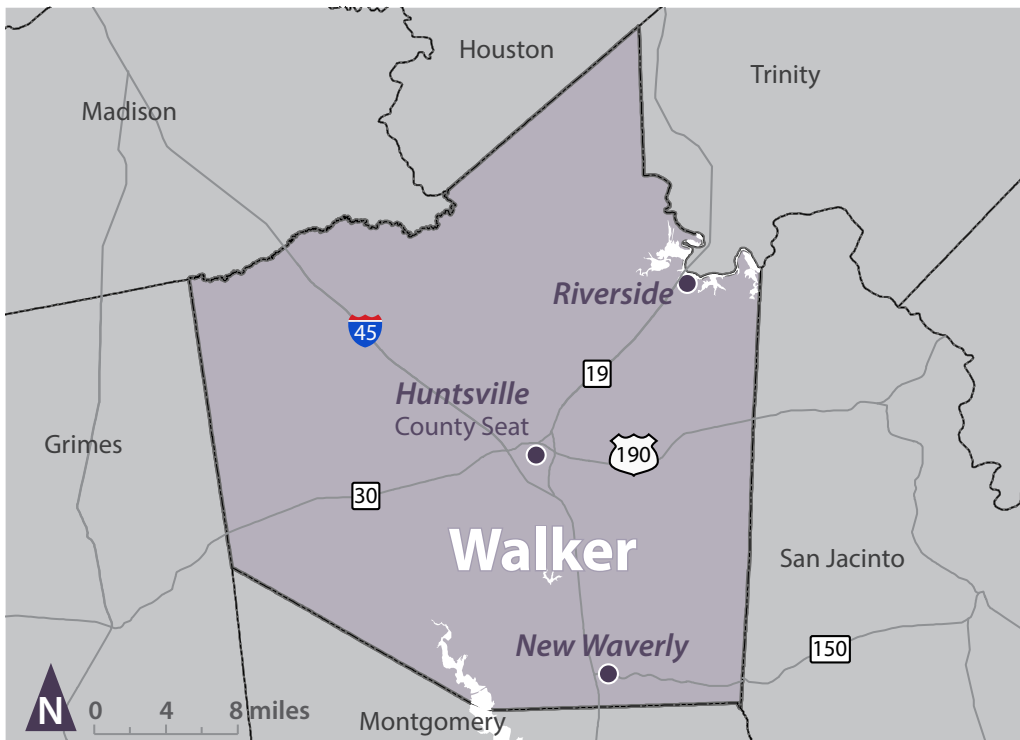
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



Transportation

Achieving a world-class transportation network

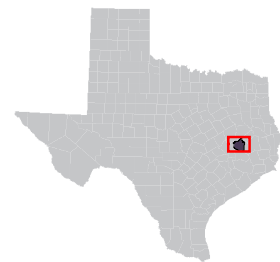
OVERVIEW



Walker County Boundaries

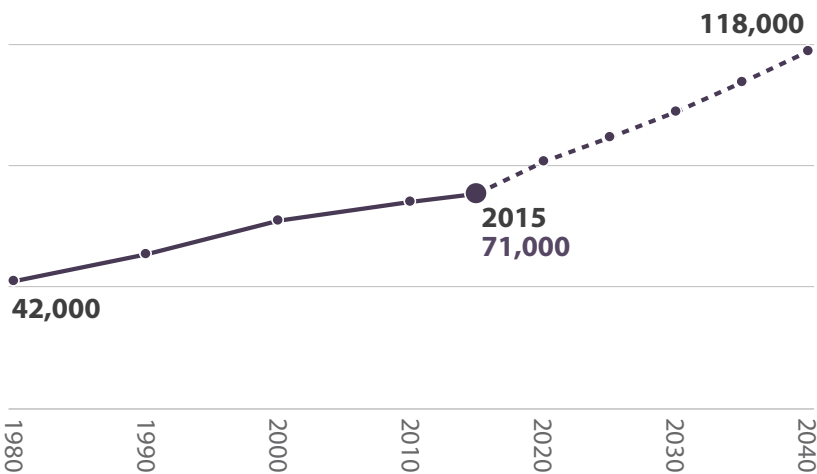
- Walker County
- Other counties
- Top 3 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Huntsville
Largest City: Huntsville



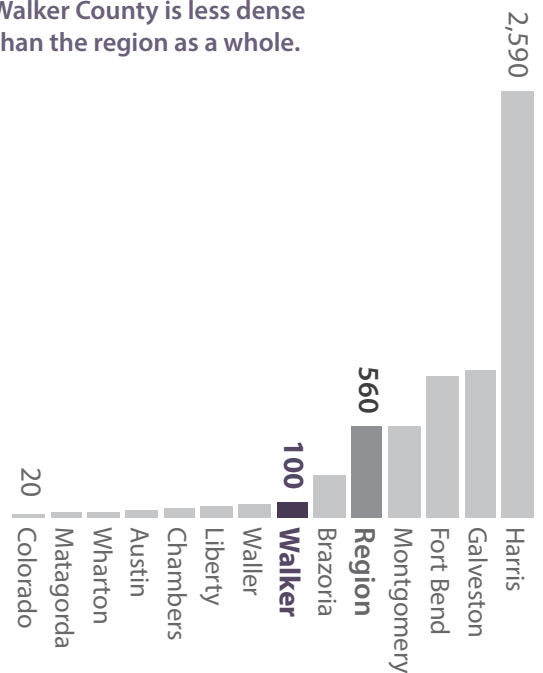
Population Growth Forecast

Walker County grew by 69% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 118,000 residents by 2040.



Residents Per Square Mile

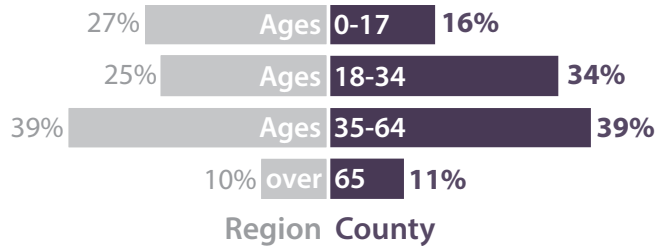
Walker County is less dense than the region as a whole.





Age

Walker County has a much larger portion of 18-34 year olds than the region.



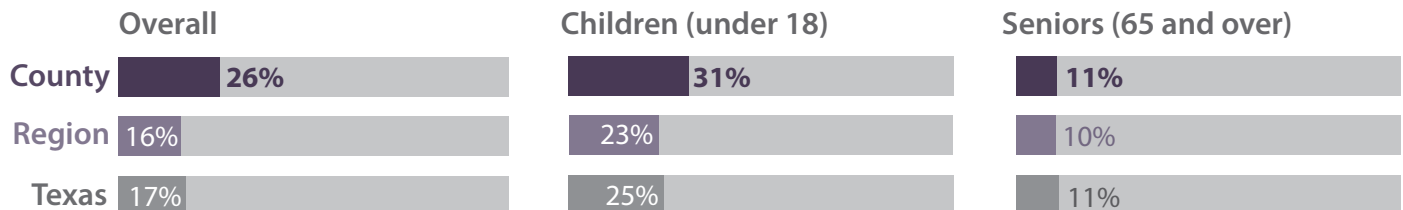
Median Household Income

Walker County has one the lowest median household income in the region.



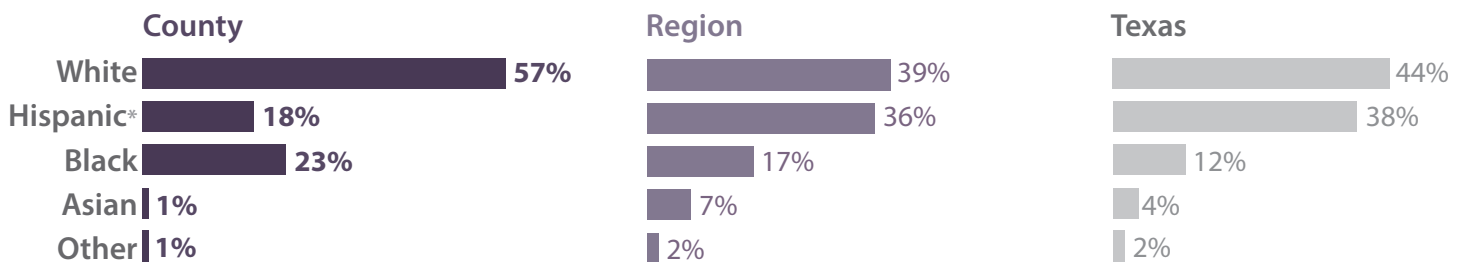
Poverty Rate

Walker County has a higher poverty rate than the region.



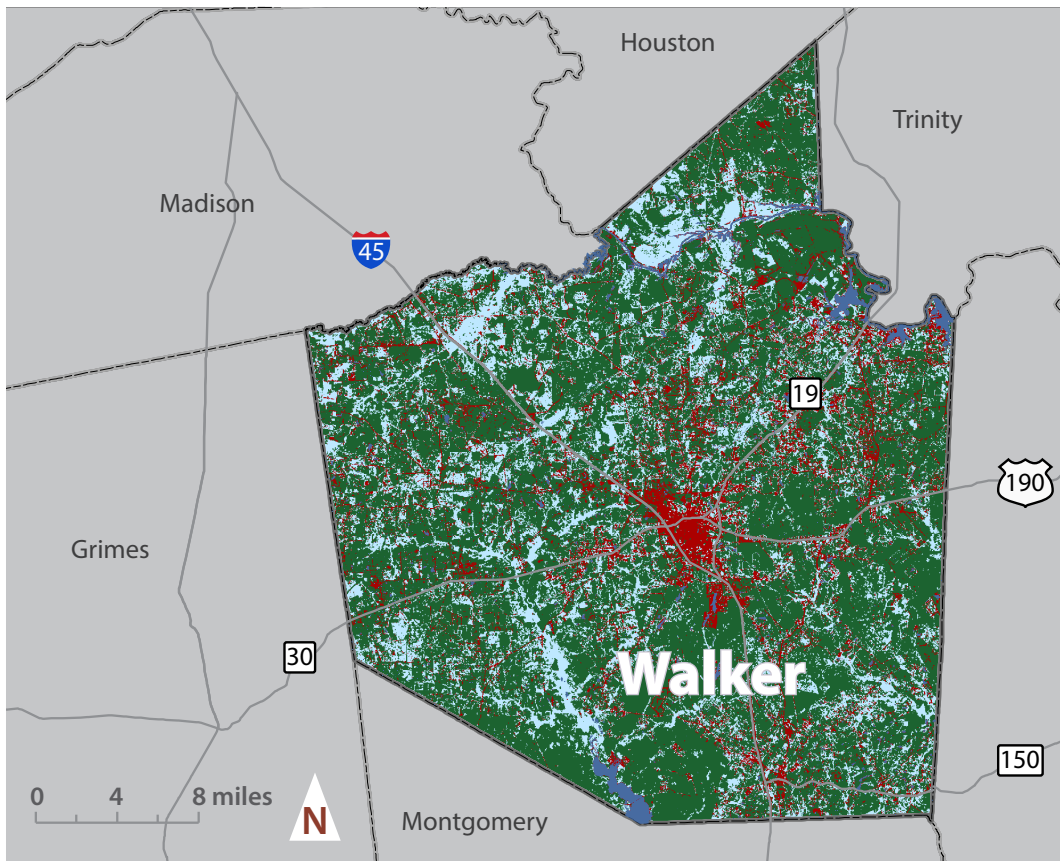
Race and Ethnicity

Walker County has a higher portion of White and Black residents than the region and the state.



*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

HOUSING & LAND USE

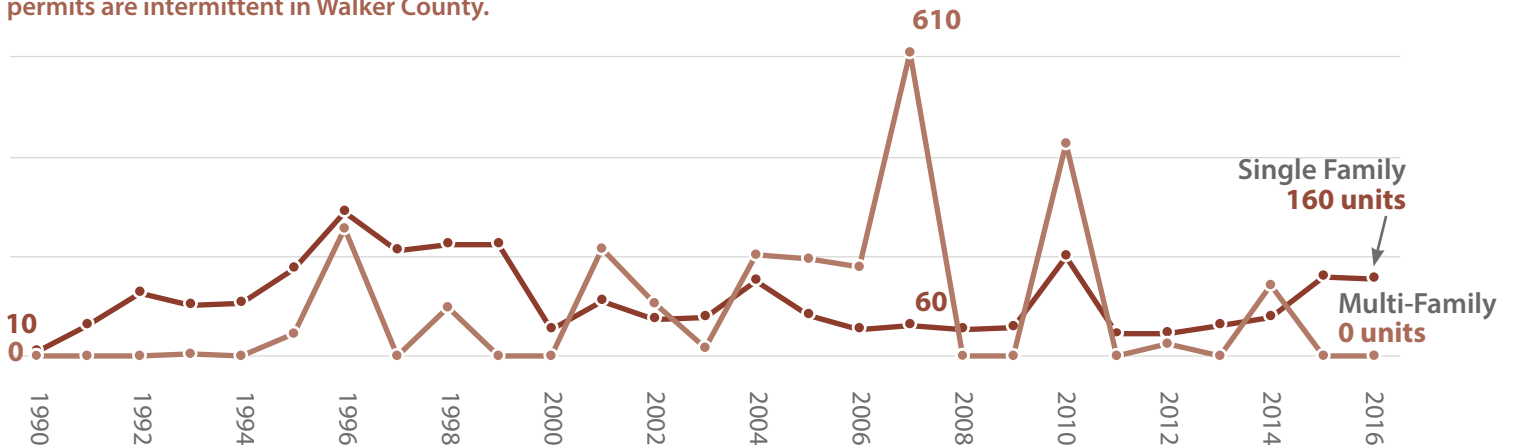


Walker County Land Use

- Other counties
- 1% Open water
- 11% Developed Land
- 22% Wetlands
- 66% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops

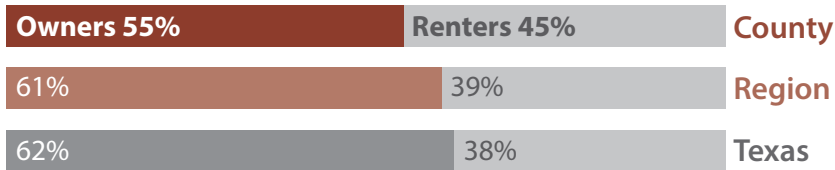
Building Permits Issued

Both single-family and multi-family construction permits are intermittent in Walker County.



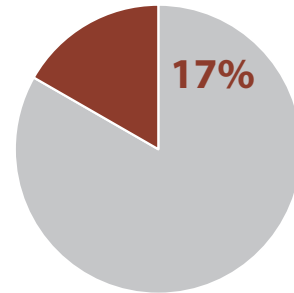
Housing Tenure

Walker County has a lower rate of homeownership than the region or the state.



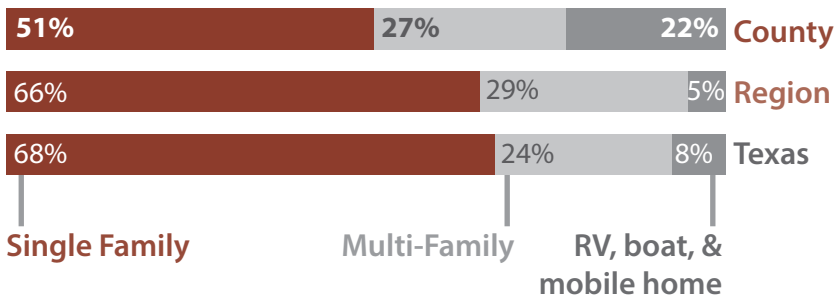
Vacant Housing Units

Around 17% of Walker County's housing units are vacant.



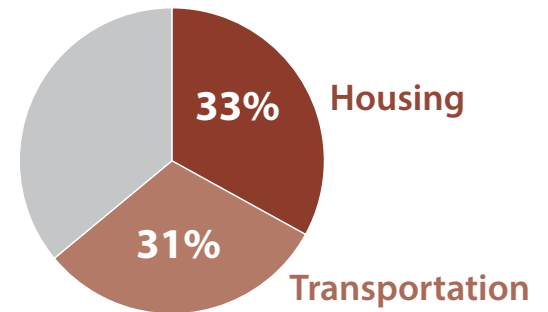
Housing Type

Walker County has a higher rate of multi-family and RV, boat and mobile homes than the region or state.



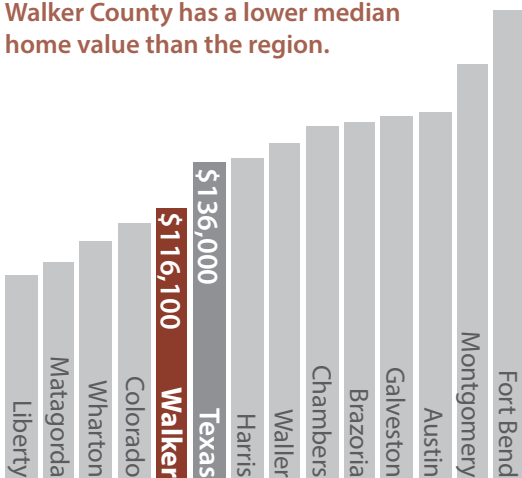
Living Costs

Walker County households spend 64% of their income on transportation and housing.



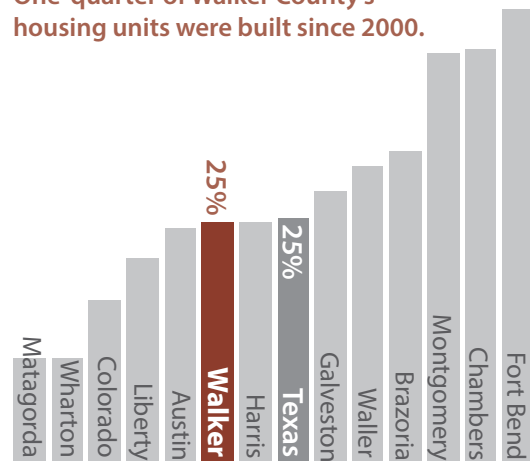
Median Home Value

Walker County has a lower median home value than the region.



Housing Units Built Since 2000

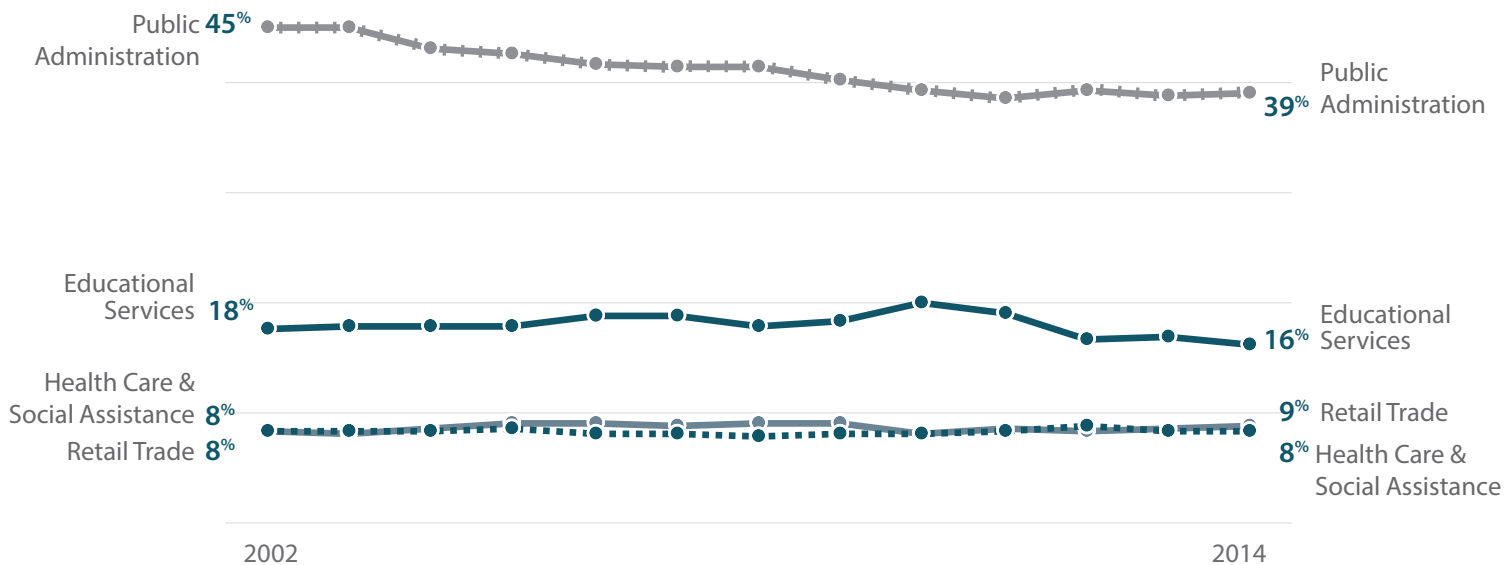
One-quarter of Walker County's housing units were built since 2000.



ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

The Public Administration industry employs a much larger portion of Walker County workers than any other industry, at nearly 40% of all county employment, down from 45% in 2002.



Major Employers in Walker County

Home Health Care
Huntsville ISD
City of Huntsville
Sam Houston State University

Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice
Walker County
Walker County Hospital Corp.
Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.

*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.

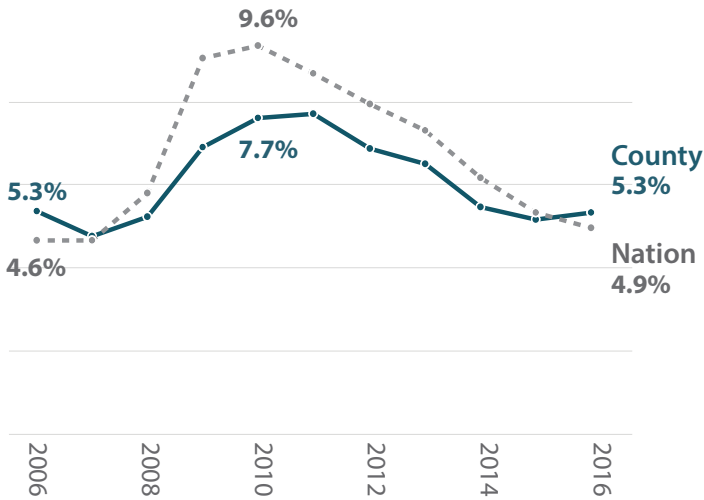
Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Around 6% of Walker County's working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.



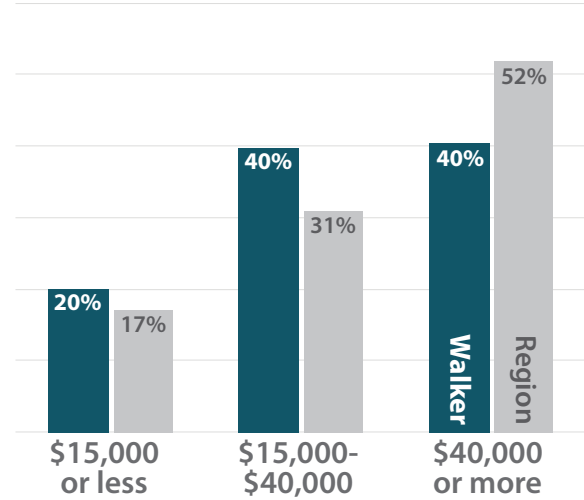
Unemployment Rate

Walker County's unemployment has been lower than the national average until 2016.



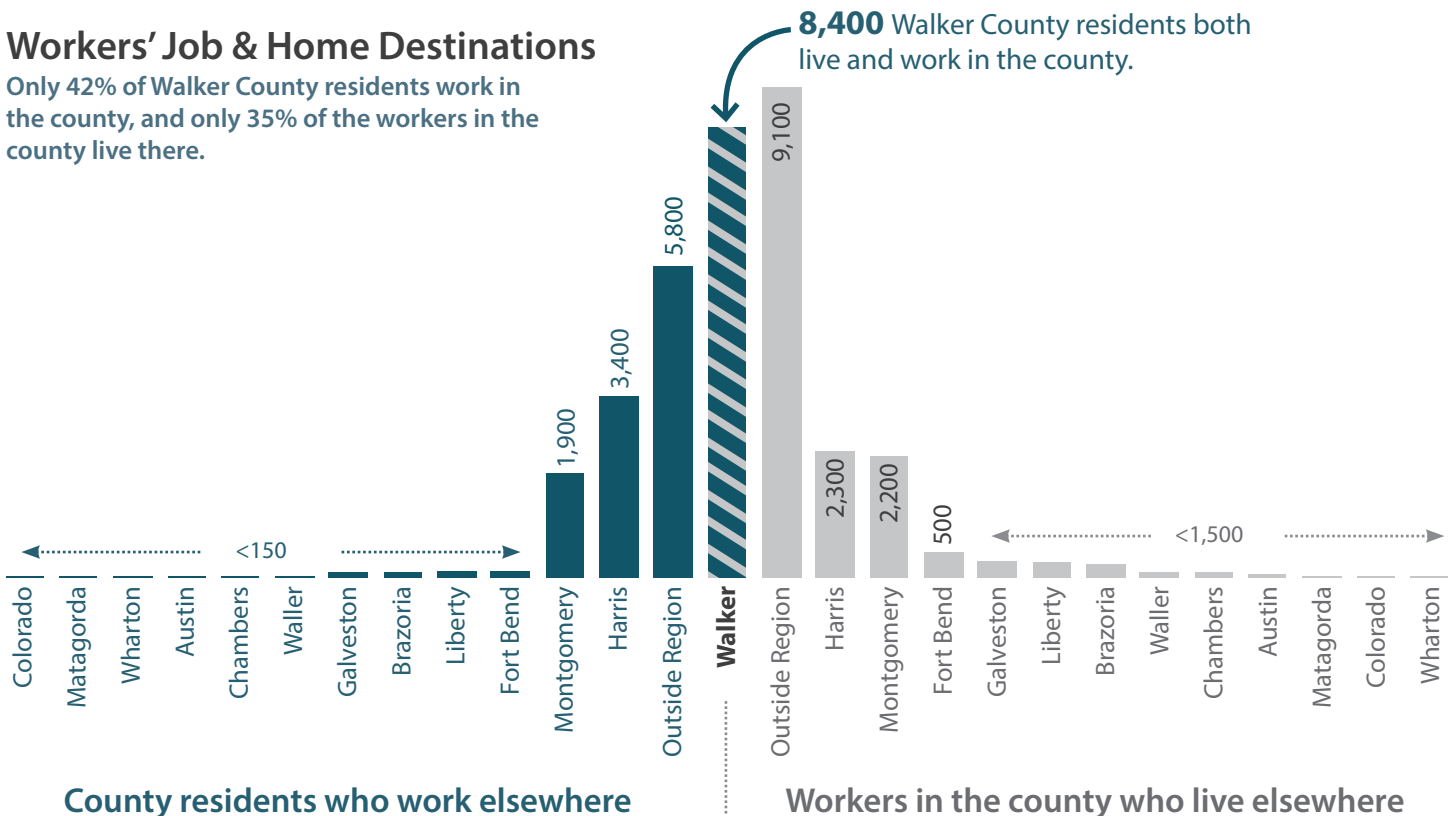
Earnings of Residents

Only 40% of Walker County residents earn more than \$40,000 annually, a lower percentage than the region.



Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Only 42% of Walker County residents work in the county, and only 35% of the workers in the county live there.

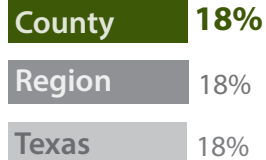


EDUCATION

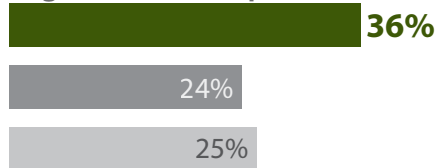
Educational Attainment

A lower percentage of Walker County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher than the region and state.

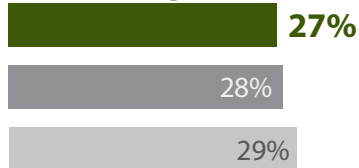
Less than High School



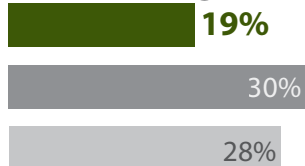
High School or Equivalent



Some College or Associate's



Bachelor's Degree or More



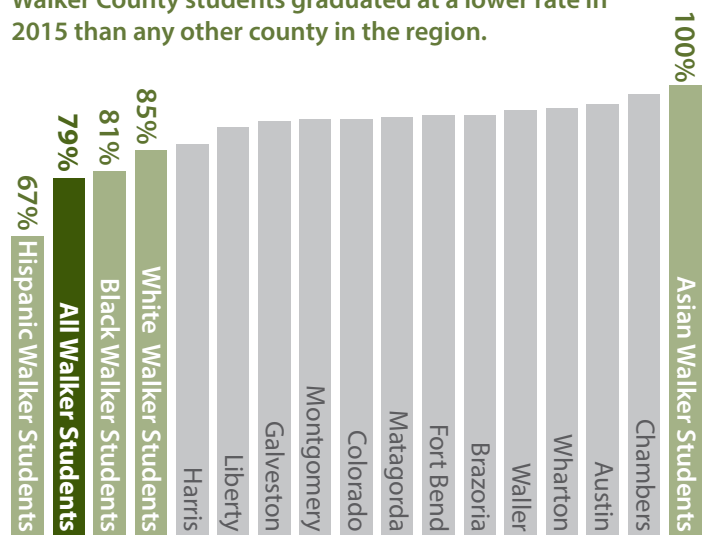
Local Schools

Public Secondary Schools
 Huntsville ISD
 New Waverly ISD
 Richards ISD
 Trinity ISD

Post-Secondary Schools
 Sam Houston State University

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Walker County students graduated at a lower rate in 2015 than any other county in the region.



Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

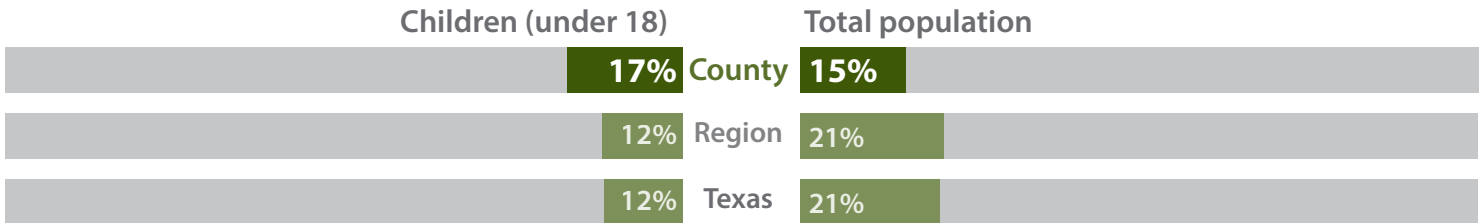
A Walker County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$37,900 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



HEALTH

Population without Health Insurance

A lower percentage of Walker County residents, but a higher percent of children lack health insurance than the region or state.



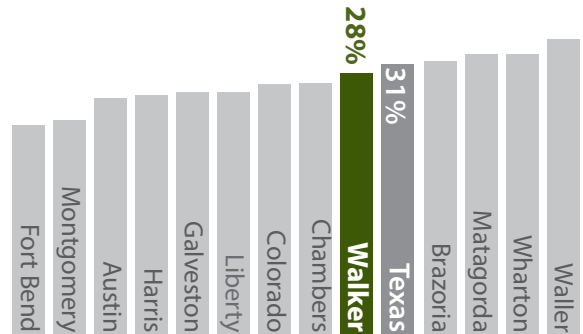
Top Causes of Death, 2013

Per 100,000 Walker County residents

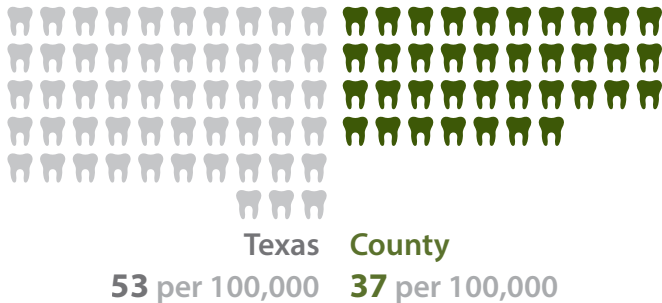
- 169 Cancer (all types)
- 137 Heart disease
- 59 Stroke
- 47 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Adult Obesity Rate

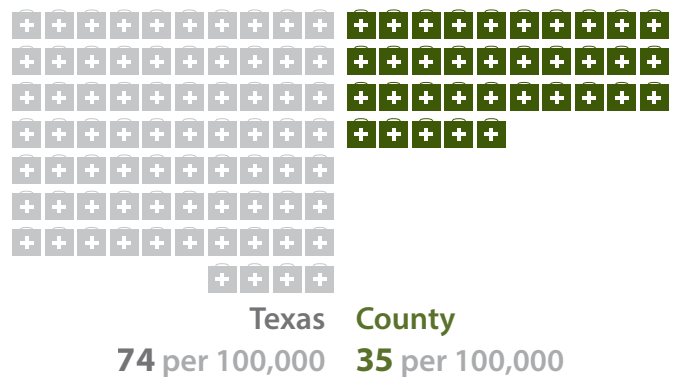
Walker County has a slightly lower obesity rate than the state.



Dentists Per Capita



Doctors Per Capita



ENVIRONMENT

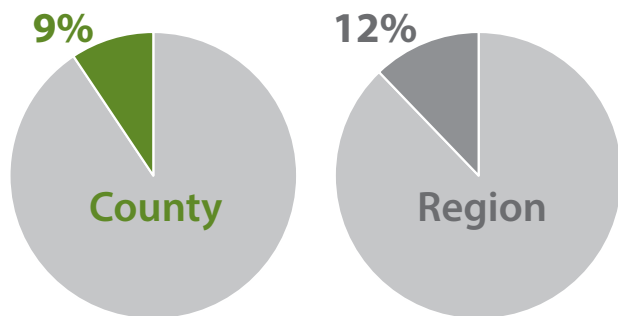


Walker County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Southern Tertiary Uplands
- South Central Plains Floodplains & Low Terraces
- Southern Post Oak Savanna
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

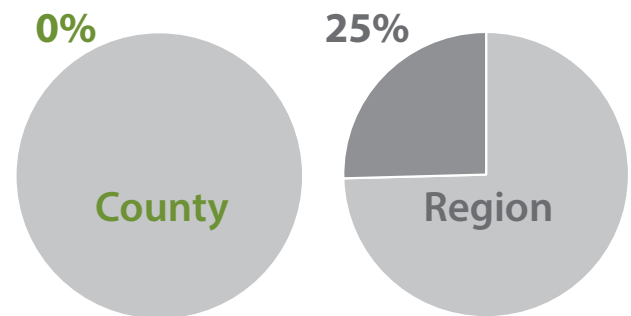
Residents in 100-year Floodplain

A smaller percentage of Walker County residents live in a 100-year floodplain than the region.



Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

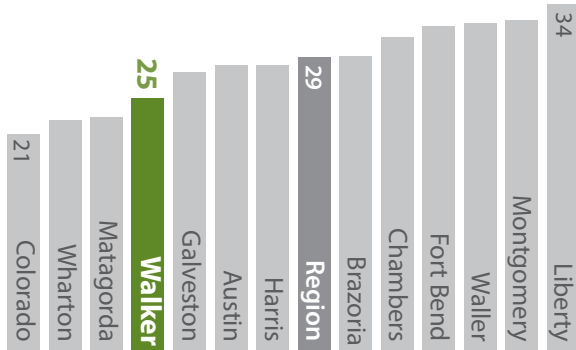
No Walker County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region's residents.



TRANSPORTATION

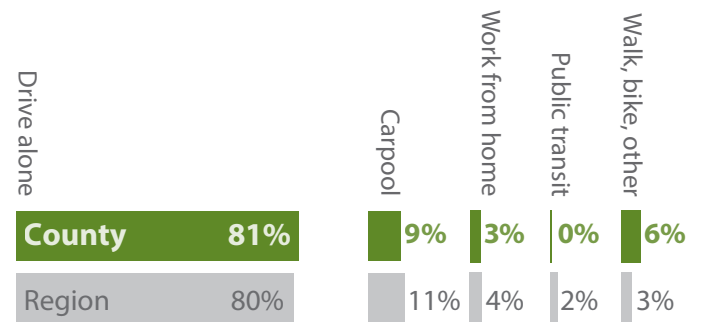
Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Walker County workers have a shorter average commute than the region as a whole.



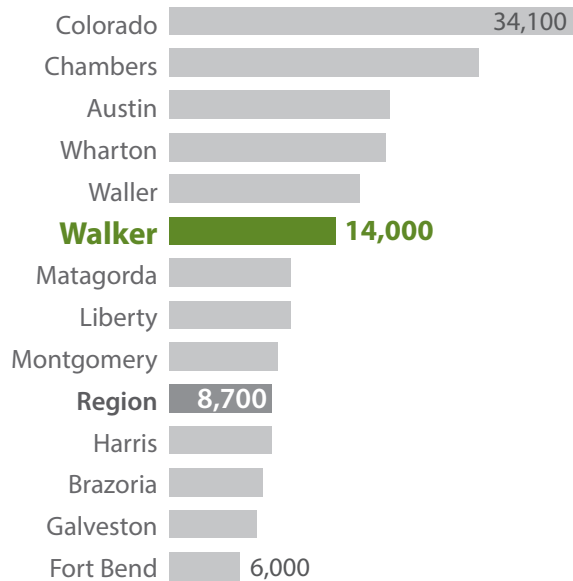
Commute Mode to Work

Walker County workers have a similar commute split as the region, but with more walkers and cyclists.



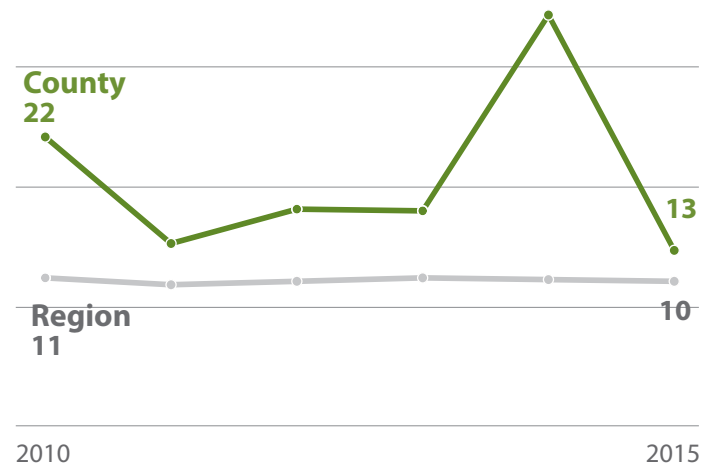
Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Walker County drivers travel more annually than drivers in the region as a whole.



Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Walker County has a higher rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.



SOURCES

Overview

Walker County Boundaries (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Population Growth Forecast

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents per Square Mile

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Age

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001

Median Household Income

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2503

Poverty Rate

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Race and Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002

Housing & Land Use

Walker County Land Use (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Building Permits Issued

U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 1990-2015

Housing Tenure

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Housing Type

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Vacant Housing Units

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Living Costs

Center for Neighborhood Technology 2013 H+T® Index

Median Home Value

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Housing Units Built Since 2000

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Economy & Workforce

Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Major Employers in Walker County

2016 Workforce Solutions, County Economic Profiles

Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B14005

Unemployment Rate

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2006-2016

Earnings of Residents

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Workers' Job & Home Destinations

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Education & Health

Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501

Local Schools

Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Texas Education Agency, Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Data, Class of 2015

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B20004

Population without Health Insurance

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Top Causes of Death

Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2013 County Health Facts Profiles

Adult Obesity Rate

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013 County Data Indicators

Dentists per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Doctors per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Environment & Transportation

Walker County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in 100-year Floodplain

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

Commute Mode to Work

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Texas Department of Transportation, 2010-2015, Crash Records Information System



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www.ourregion.org

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