

Texas Borderlands 2009

Demographics of the Frontier of the Future



Texas Senator Eliot Shapleigh
District 29
El Paso, Texas
September 2008

This report, "Texas Borderlands—Frontier of the Future," examines various areas of daily life in Texas' 43-county Border region. To offer a current overview of the region, each subsequent chapter will detail the challenges and opportunities of Texas' vibrant, fast-growing and ever-changing Border. In 2004, Texas became a majority-minority state.¹ In 2026, Texas is predicted to become a majority Hispanic state.² In so many ways, the Texas Borderlands of today represent the Texas of tomorrow. What happens in this vibrant region will define the frontier of our future. Chapter One presents the demographics of the Border Region.

The Texas-Mexico Border Region covers 1,254 miles from El Paso-Ciudad Juarez to Brownsville-Matamoros. Texas' 43 Border counties are currently home to over 4.6 million Texans.³ Moreover, the population on both sides of the Border is rapidly growing. In the 1990s, the populations of El Paso-Ciudad Juarez grew by 38 percent, Laredo-Nuevo Laredo by 48 percent, and the McAllen-Reynosa area by 38 percent.⁴ Rapid growth is projected to continue along the Texas-Mexico border.⁵

With its fast growing, young population, one of the Border's primary assets is its vast labor force, which leads to a robust manufacturing sector. In 2005, manufacturing in the Border region accounted for \$6.25 billion worth of private earnings.⁶ Trade with Mexico accounts for one in every five manufacturing jobs in the state, and exports make up 14 percent of the state's gross product.⁷ Mexico is the country's third-largest trading partner and, by far, Texas' largest trading partner, accounting for 36 percent of Texas' exports. Moreover, strong trade relations with Mexico, Canada and China have allowed Texas to play a significant role in the national economy, surpassing California and New York as America's top exporting state. Texas' exports totaled \$150.9 billion in 2006, accounting for over 14.5 percent of total U.S. exports.⁸ Today, Texas' exports to Mexico far exceed all trade with the European Union countries combined.

Despite strong trade relations, the Border presents serious challenges. If the Border Region made up a "51st" state, the 43 Border counties would rank last in per capita personal income, first in poverty and fifth in unemployment.⁹ Under current policies, the state demographer predicts that the average Texas household income will decline more than \$6,000 by 2040.¹⁰ As one of Texas' leading economists points out, leadership and investment will make the difference. In a briefing to Texas legislators, Dr. Ray Perryman stated that the Border region is a "social, economic, and demographic time bomb. It demands immediate attention, with both the gains from doing something and the consequences of doing nothing being enormous."¹¹

Population Growth

U.S. Border Region Growth

Beginning in 1970, both sides of the Border experienced rapid population growth due to a young population, relatively high birth rates, and migration fueled by economic development.¹² The Texas Border region is characterized by high rates of migration north and south. In Texas alone, over 65 million legal pedestrians, trucks, autos, and rail cars crossed the border in 2007.¹³ Moreover, the percentage of Mexico-born residents is higher in Texas than in Arizona or New Mexico.¹⁴ In the counties located directly on the Texas Border, the percentage of residents born in Mexico is almost twice as high as any other state along the Border including New Mexico,

Arizona, and California.¹⁵ The chart, *U.S.-Mexico Border Population, 2000*, illustrates where the primary growth is and the large numbers of Hispanics in this region.

U.S.-Mexico Border Population, 2000

	Borderplex Population	Population	Hispanic Population	Percent Share
San Diego, California	4,026,065	2,813,833	750,965	27%
Tijuana, Baja California		1,212,232		
El Paso, Texas	1,898,439	679,622	531,654	78%
Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua		1,218,817		
McAllen, Texas	989,926	569,463	503,100	88%
Reynosa, Tamaulipas		420,463		
Calexico, California	906,963	142,361	102,817	72%
Mexicali, Baja California		764,602		
Brownsville, Texas	753,368	335,227	282,786	84%
Matamoros, Tamaulipas		418,141		
Laredo, Texas	504,032	193,117	182,070	94%
Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas		310,915		
Nogales, Arizona	198,168	38,381	31,005	81%
Nogales, Sonora		159,787		

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch, *Business Frontier, Issue 2, 2001* (El Paso, Texas, January 2, 2002) p. 1-2.

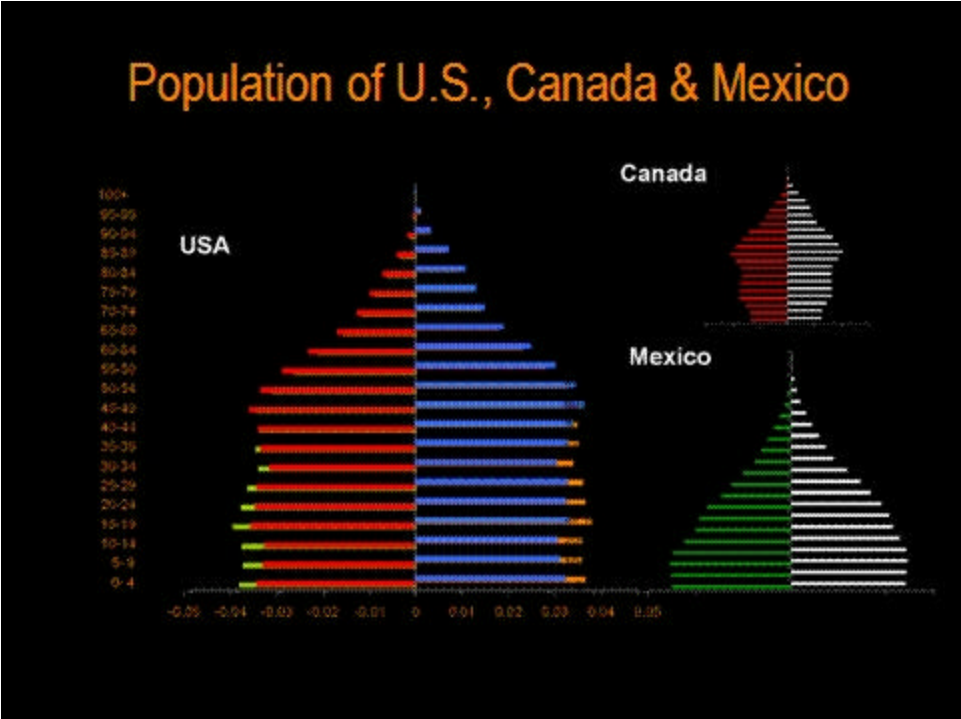
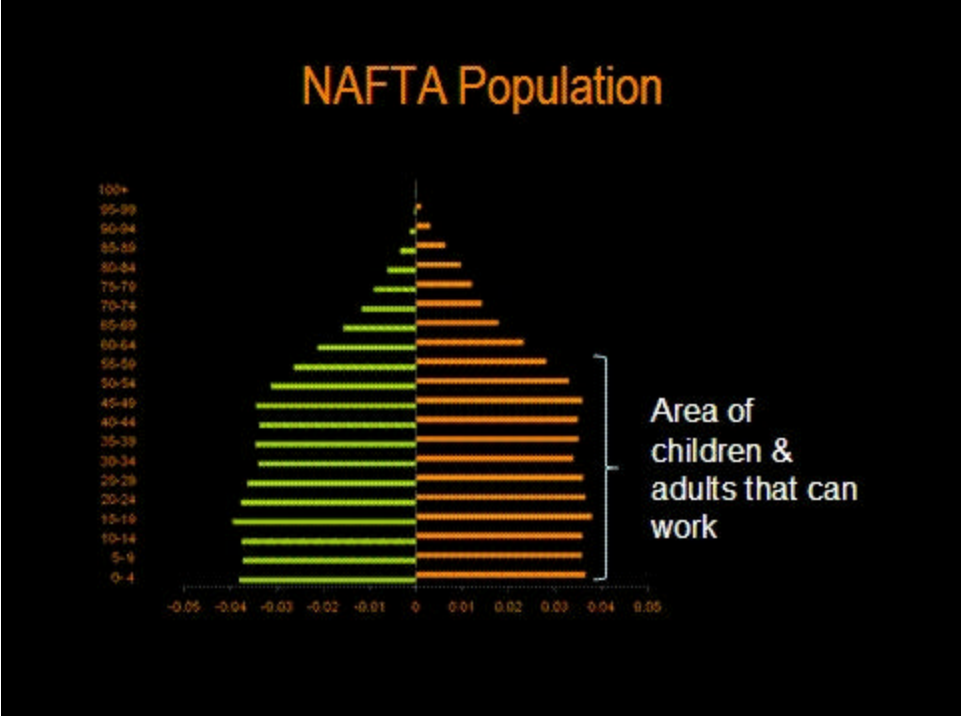
Census data from 2006 showed that El Paso is home to 4 percent more young people than the Texas average and almost 10 percent more than the United States average.¹⁶ In 2006, 43 percent of El Paso's population was 25 years old or younger, compared to 39 percent for Texas. Comparatively, in Hidalgo and Webb Counties, the percentage of the population under the age of 25 is even higher.¹⁷

Mexico's Northern Border Region Growth

Both Texas and Mexico are affected by changes that occur across the Border, including changes in the population levels. The population of the Mexican Border states grew by 26 percent during the 1990s, with an annual growth rate of 2.4 percent.¹⁸ This region continues to see a population increase, with 1.87 percent annual growth between 2000 and 2007.¹⁹ Further, as it is in the United States, a relatively young population is present on the Mexican side of the Border. In fact, 35 percent of the Mexican Border population was under 15 years old in 2000, thus showing the potential for explosive population growth in the future. For all of Mexico, in 2008, 20 percent of the population was under 15 years old.²⁰

NAFTA led to a rapid increase in trade between the U.S. and Mexico, as well as a growing number of maquiladoras—foreign manufacturing plants located in Mexico that import raw materials or components and export their finished products. The increase in maquiladoras has particularly affected population growth on the Mexican side of the Border due to the industry's demand for labor.²¹ For example, in 1960, Juarez had a population of 278,995; by 2000, Juarez's population had grown to 1,218,217.²²

The population graphs below show the relative youth, and therefore labor and workforce potential, of the NAFTA and Mexican population in comparison to the overall population of U.S. and Canada, respectively.



Births and Deaths per 1,000, 2004

Border County	Births per 1,000	Deaths per 1,000
Atascosa	15	7
Bandera	10	7
Bexar	17	7
Brewster	13	9
Brooks	17	6
Cameron	23	5
Crockett	15	9
Culberson	9	10
Dimmit	19	7
Duval	17	8
Edwards	14	8
El Paso	25	6
Frio	14	7
Hidalgo	9	5
Hudspeth	16	5
Jeff Davis	16	10
Jim Hogg	8	9
Jim Wells	11	8
Kenedy	9	5
Kerr	10	14
Kimble	16	14
Kinney	14	10
Kleberg	9	8
La Salle	8	7
Live Oak	22	6
McMullen	14	7
Maverick	16	5
Medina	17	8
Nueces	20	8
Pecos	11	7
Presidio	14	5
Real	18	17
Reeves	25	9
San Patricio	17	7
Starr	11	5
Sutton	18	8
Terrell	21	13
Uvalde	27	9
Val Verde	20	6
Webb	21	4
Willacy	21	6
Zapata	20	5
Zavala	16	6
Border County Total	17	6
Non-Border County Total	16	7
Texas	17	7

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Birth/Death Rates

In 2000, the total fertility rate in Texas Border counties was 3.1 children per woman of reproductive age, which was 50 percent higher than the state rate of 2.5. Surprisingly, the rate in the Mexico Border region was only 2.0, lower than Mexico's national rate of 2.4.²³ According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, birth rates for the 43-county border region in 2004 were about 20 per 1,000, population, with 17 per 1,000 as the Texas average. The death rate was 6 per 1,000 population for the Border, and 7 per 1,000 for Texas, showing a significant difference in both of these categories.²⁴ The Border's low death rate can largely be attributed to its young population. If the 43 Border counties formed a "51st" state, it would rank first in the nation in the percent of population that is five to 17 years of age. Texas as a whole ranks third, but without the Border region, it would rank eleventh.²⁵

The chart, *Births and Deaths per 1,000, 2004*, shows that health levels remain a concern, with 19 of the area's counties having death rates higher than those for the state in 2004.²⁶ The growth of the Border Region is the result of a number of factors, such as a young population and a high birth rate coupled with a low death rate, migration fueled by economic development and quality of life issues, and the advent of NAFTA.²⁷ The young, fast growing population of Border counties creates serious need for investment in public education, university programs, workforce skills, health programs, and vital basic infrastructure.

Socioeconomic Challenges of Border Residents

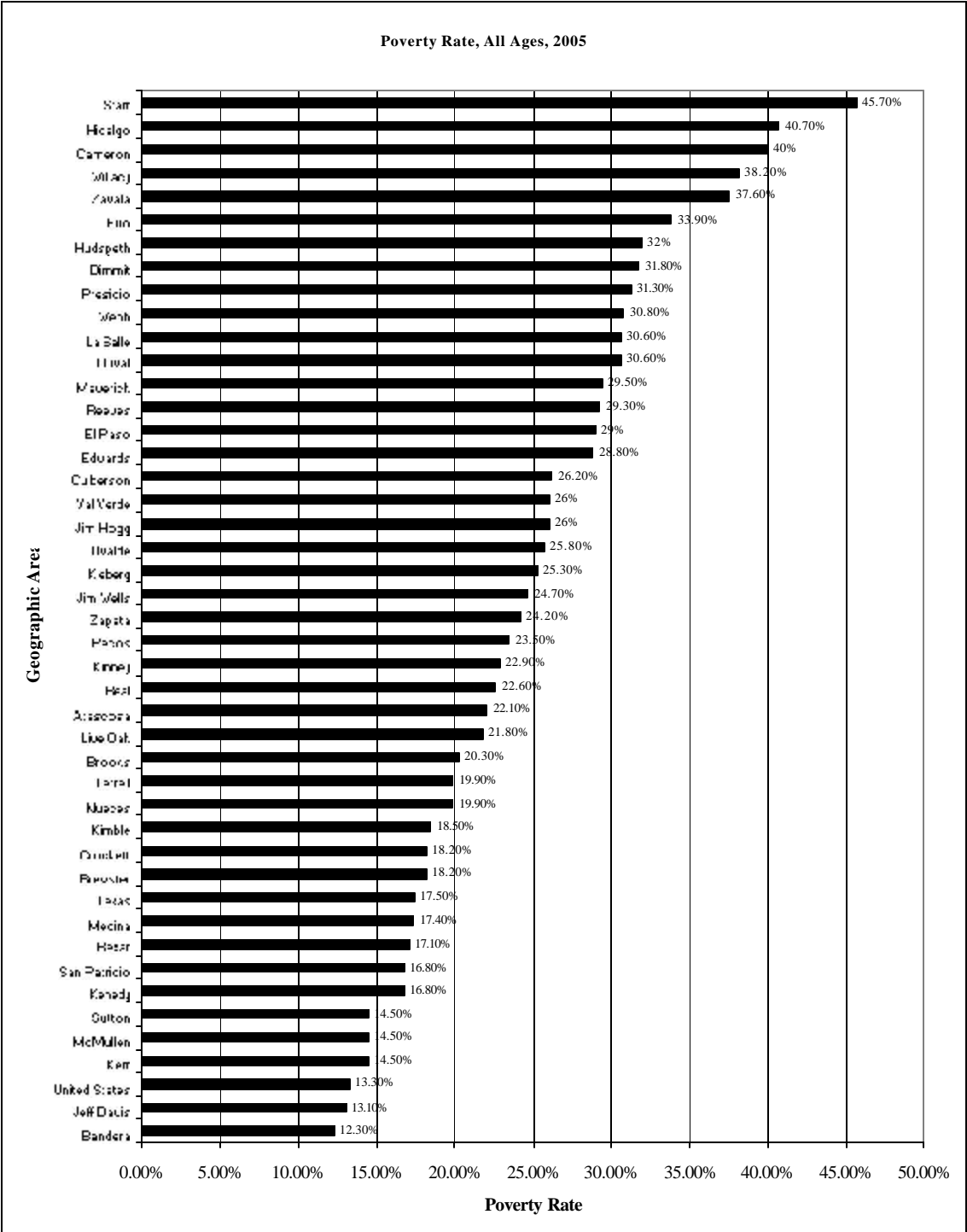
As the following chart *Comparative Facts and Figures about the Texas Border Region* illustrates, if the Border region made up a "51st" state, the 43 Border counties would rank dead last in the U.S. in per capita income. Without the Border counties, Texas would rank 22nd in the nation.²⁸ This is but one of the indicators that suggests that as prosperity in Texas north of I-10 increases, south of I-10, Texans still face daily challenges to improve their standard of living.

Comparative Facts and Figures about the Texas Border Region

Indicator	Year	If the Texas Border were the 51st State :	Texas	Texas without the Border:
Poverty Rate	2005	1st- 26%	4th- 17.5%	12th- 14.8%
Schoolchildren in poverty	2005	1st- 34.4%	6th- 22.6%	13th- 19.4%
Unemployment rate	2006	5th- 5.8%	14th- 4.9%	19th- 4.7%
Population	2007	27th- 4.7 million	2nd- 23.8 million	4th- 19.1 million
Percent of Population that is 5 to 17 years old	2006	1st- 22.57%	3rd- 19.12%	11th- 18.29%
Birth rate per 1,000	2004	2nd- 20 births per 1,000	2nd- 17 births per 1,000	6th- 16 births per 1,000
Infant Mortality Rate	2004	43rd- 5.37	28th- 6.29	26th- 6.56
Death rate from diabetes	2004	1st- 51.7	3rd- 35.61	3rd- 32.00
Death rate from hepatitis and other liver diseases	2004	23.2 per 1,000 deaths	14.85 per 1,000 deaths	12.98 per 1,000 deaths
Per Capita Personal Income	2005	51st- \$24,184	22nd- \$33,160	22nd- \$34,616
Total Personal Income	2005	30th- \$109 billion	3rd- \$744 billion	3rd- \$635 billion
Median Household Income	2005	49th- \$33,894	34th- \$42,165	23rd- \$45,482
Total Area	n/a	18th- 76,610 square miles	2nd- 261,797 square miles	2nd- 185,187 square miles

Poverty

The Border Regions of both the U.S. and Mexico include a mix of very poor and relatively affluent areas. The Northern Border of Mexico is one of the wealthier regions of Mexico.²⁹ However, as the chart *Poverty Rate, All Ages, 2005* indicates, the opposite is true for the Texas Border. Consistently high poverty rates indicate a pervasive cycle of poverty that becomes overwhelmingly difficult to break. In 2007, the national poverty rate rose to 12.5 percent; this increase from 12.3 percent in 2006 represents an additional 0.8 million people who lived under conditions of poverty in 2007 than in 2006.³⁰



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate, 2005

Educational Attainment and Wage Earning

The educational attainment level of United States Border residents is lower than the national average. The opposite, however, is true for Mexican Border residents.³¹ In the Texas Border region, 20 percent of residents age 25 or older had fewer than nine years of education, as

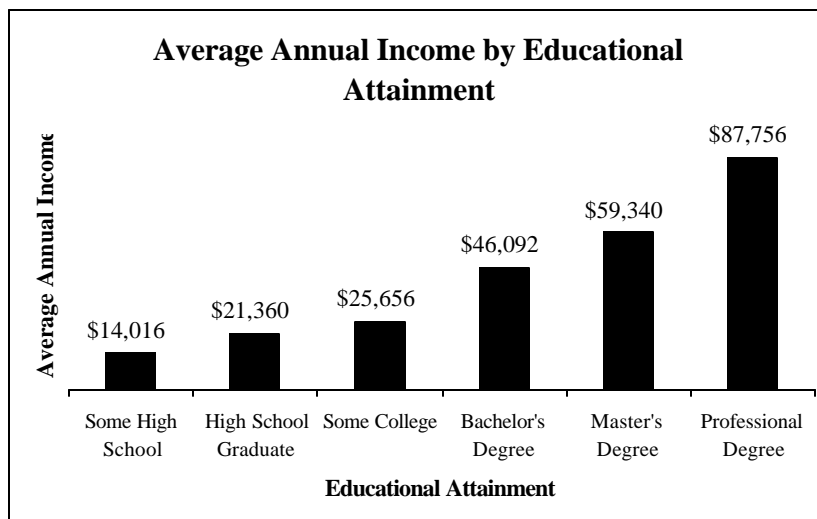
compared to 11.5 percent of the state as a whole. Only 11.2 percent of the Border Region population has a bachelor's degree and 6.3 percent have a post-graduate degree, while the state average for adults with a bachelor's degree is 15.6 percent and post-graduate degree is 7.6 percent.³²

Educational Attainment Levels in the Borderlands for 2000

Population (25 yrs. and older)	Texas Border Region	Texas	Texas Non-Border Region
Without a High School Diploma	33.5%	24.3%	22.2%
With a High School Diploma	23.3%	24.8%	25.2%
With some College but No Degree	22.7%	22.4%	22.7%
With an Associate's Degree	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%
With a Bachelor's Degree	11.2%	15.6%	16.6%
With a Post Graduate Degree	6.3%	7.6%	7.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

As a result of these low levels of educational attainment, it becomes more difficult for individuals to break the cycle of poverty that often engulfs low-income families. As the chart *Average Monthly Income by Educational Attainment* shows, for individuals with less than a high school diploma, the average monthly income is \$1,168, while the average monthly income is \$1,780 for high school graduates. On the other hand, a person with a bachelor's degree on average, earns \$3,841 a month, compared to \$4,945 for an individual with a master's degree. On average, an individual with a master's degree will earn \$45,324 more each year than an individual with less education than a high school diploma.³³ Obviously, increased educational attainment delivers clear economic benefits.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas commissioned a study to determine the impact on the Border Region's income due to high school non-completion.³⁴ Please note that the study only examines fourteen of the fifteen Texas counties that actually border with Mexico, unlike the 43-county Border region to which this document often refers. As indicated in the chart *Implied Income Losses Due to High School Non-completion* indicates, the Border region suffers an enormous negative economic impact due to high levels of residents failing to complete high school. Collectively, the study estimates that the 14-county region lost out on more than \$3.6 billion in income due to high non-completion rates.³⁵

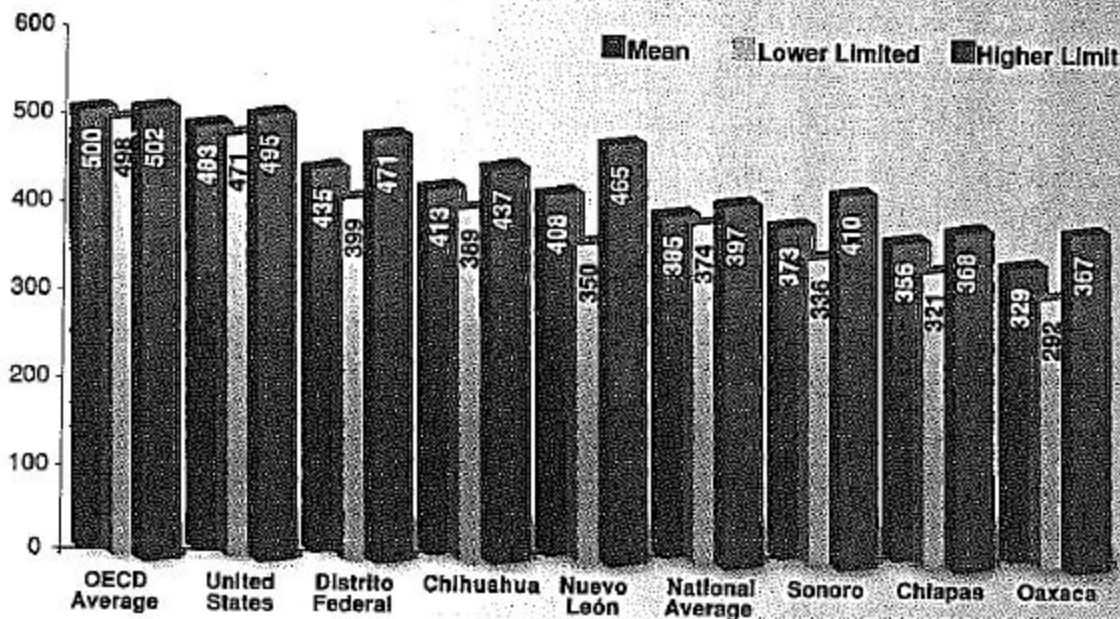
Implied Income Losses Due to High School Non-Completion

County	Per Capita Impact	Aggregate Impact (in millions)
Brewster	Not Calculated	Not Calculated
Cameron	\$3,143	\$744.7
El Paso	\$1,195	\$643.8
Hidalgo	\$3,627	\$1,262.5
Hudspeth	\$3,413	\$9.2
Jeff Davis	\$370	\$0.7
Kinney	\$2,261	\$6.6
Maverick	\$5,177	\$6.6
Presidio	\$4,011	\$24.5
Starr	\$5,760	\$210.2
Terrell	\$825	\$1.1
Val Verde	\$2,276	\$80.1
Webb	\$3,456	\$413.8
Zapata	\$3,129	\$26.3
14 Counties Bordering Mexico	\$2,260	\$3,593.9

* All impacts calculated in dollars for 1990 completion rates relative to the Texas Average. Border zone estimate is weighted average net of Brewster County
 Source: Thomas M. Fullerton, Jr., "Educational Attainment and Border Income Performance," *Economic and Financial Review* (3rd quarter, 2001), p. 7

Furthermore, a recent study commissioned by the Paso del Norte Group shows that educational attainment is improving on the Mexican side of the Border. The graph below demonstrates that, although Mexico as a nation ranks significantly lower than the U.S. in terms of those who attain a higher education degree, the Mexican state of Chihuahua ranks much closer to the U.S..³⁶ As residents of Ciudad Juarez and the rest of Chihuahua become more educated and highly skilled, residents of El Paso and the rest of the U.S. side of the Border will face greater difficulties in remaining competitive for a shared workforce.

Percent of Population Age 24 and Above with a Higher Education Degree (Licencia or Above)—Mexico and State of Chihuahua, 2000 and 2005
Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), OECD, 2003



Source: Rafael Vida and María Días (2004), *Resultados de las Pruebas PISA 2000 y 2003 en México*, Instituto Nacional para la evaluación de la educación

Without an educational system in the Border Region that delivers higher graduation rates and better education to meet the needs of employers, lower wages will persist, and the entire state—particularly the Border—will suffer the consequences.

Income Inequality

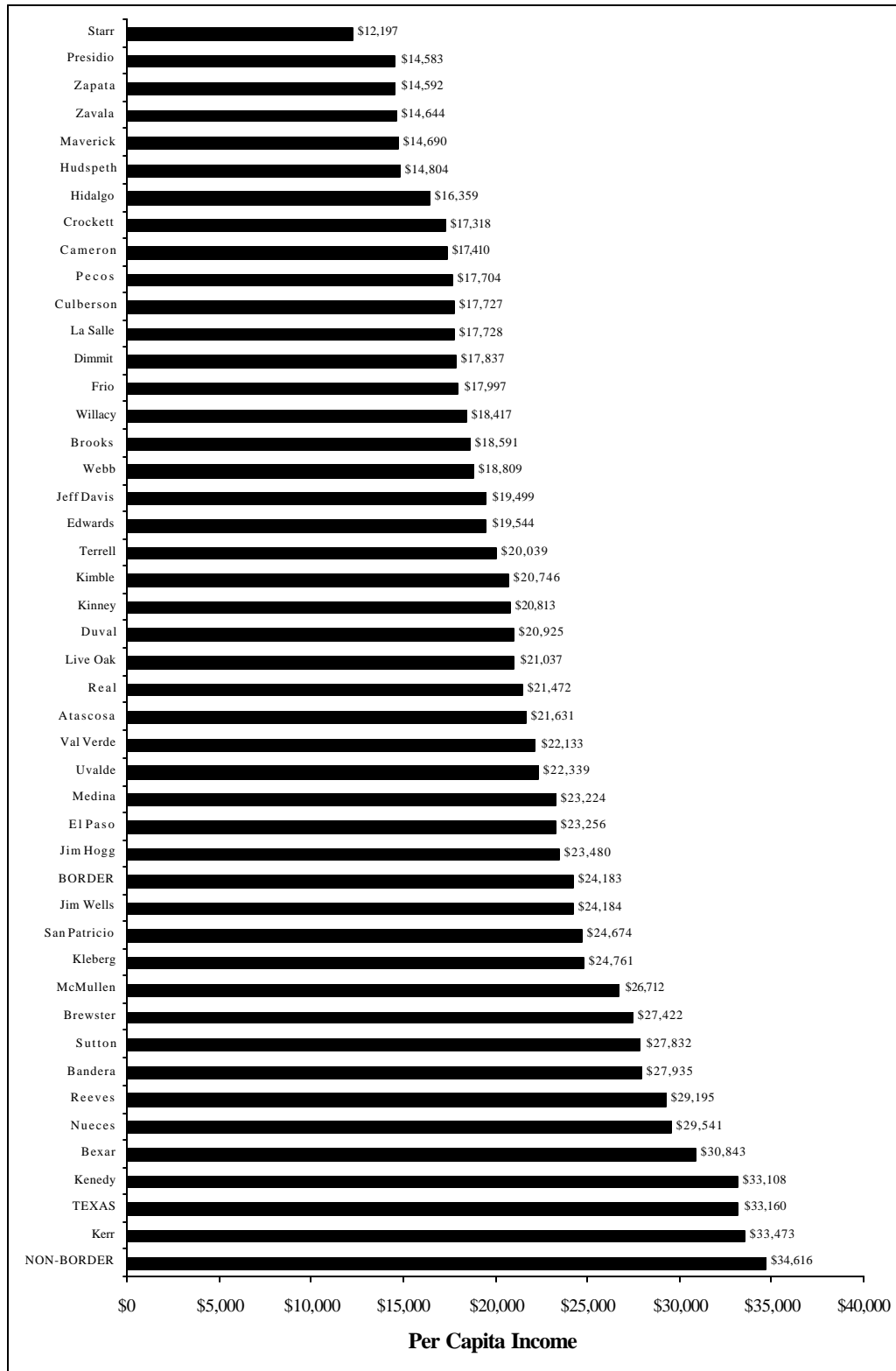
Per capita income is one measure of community success. Lower per capita income indicates that, on average, families are struggling to earn money and break the cycle of poverty. Unlike median income, which reflects the middle range of income—with 50 percent of the households making more and 50 percent earning less—per capita income is the average earnings of the total population in the area. The Border's per capita income is astoundingly low. For example, of the area's 43 counties, 41 had per capita income lower than the state average. Indeed, the Border Region's per capita is among the lowest in the nation, ranging from 35 percent of the U.S. per capita income in Starr County to 97 percent in Kerr County. As a state, Texas averages 94 percent of the U.S. per capita income.³⁷

The entire state has suffered from an increase in income inequality. In Texas, the gap between the rich and the rest of us is unlike any other state in the nation. Texas had the greatest income inequality between the top fifth and the middle fifth in the early 2000s.³⁸ During the same time period, the gap between the richest 20 percent of families and the poorest 20 percent in Texas was the second largest in the entire country, with the largest gap in New York.³⁹

Texas is not alone. Across the entire United States, the rich have been getting exceedingly richer for some time now, while the middle and lower classes continue to struggle. Between 1979 and 2002, for example, the average after-tax income of the top one percent of the population more than doubled, rising from \$298,000 to \$631,700. That's an astounding increase of \$333,700, or 111 percent. Meanwhile, during the same period, the middle class's income rose only \$5,700, or 15 percent.⁴⁰

When comparing the Border counties' per capita income with other counties around the state, the Border again struggles to keep in line. As the chart *Per Capita Income, 2005* shows, per capita income in every county along the Border hovers below or near Texas' per capita income in that year. Just a few years ago, the state per capita income average was \$33,160; however, only two of the 43 Border counties had a higher average.⁴¹ In fact, the Border counties had an average per capita income that was only 75 percent of the state average and 70 percent of the national per capita average of \$34,685.⁴² In 2007, the state median income was \$48,376, while El Paso's median income was only \$34,980.

Per Capita Income, 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Race and Wage Earning

The Border's huge income disparities are also affected by the region's large Hispanic population. As described below in the chart *Median Income in the United States by Hispanic Origin*, Hispanics, on average, earn a lower income than non-Hispanic whites. The numbers reflected in the chart are disturbing. By 2005, the median income of Hispanics was \$37,867, only a \$4,774 increase over 1972 earnings, as measured in 2005 dollars. Over the same time period, non-Hispanic whites' income increased \$15,864.⁴³ As the Hispanic population continues to grow, the state will rely on a more Hispanic workforce to provide funds for state services.

Median Income by Hispanic Origin in the United State (2005 Dollars)

Year	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic
1972	\$47,292	\$33,093
1973	\$48,179	\$33,168
1974	\$47,261	\$33,036
1975	\$46,412	\$30,544
1976	\$47,859	\$31,028
1977	\$48,467	\$32,470
1978	\$51,076	\$34,252
1979	\$51,819	\$35,305
1980	\$50,119	\$33,021
1981	\$49,336	\$33,642
1982	\$48,753	\$31,426
1983	\$49,289	\$31,528
1984	\$50,874	\$33,673
1985	\$52,010	\$32,924
1986	\$53,816	\$33,978
1987	\$55,067	\$33,360
1988	\$55,680	\$34,517
1989	\$56,346	\$35,645
1990	\$55,381	\$33,935
1991	\$54,849	\$33,399
1992	\$54,997	\$32,118
1993	\$54,691	\$31,469
1994	\$55,439	\$31,685
1995	\$57,265	\$31,254
1996	\$58,251	\$32,430
1997	\$60,203	\$34,133
1998	\$61,724	\$35,413
1999	\$63,271	\$36,962
2000	\$63,752	\$39,043
2001	\$63,221	\$38,035
2002	\$63,254	\$37,109
2003	\$63,606	\$36,370
2004	\$63,034	\$36,625
2005	\$63,156	\$37,867

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements

The continued growth of an under-educated Hispanic population will have serious consequences for Texas' future workforce. As the State Demographer contends:

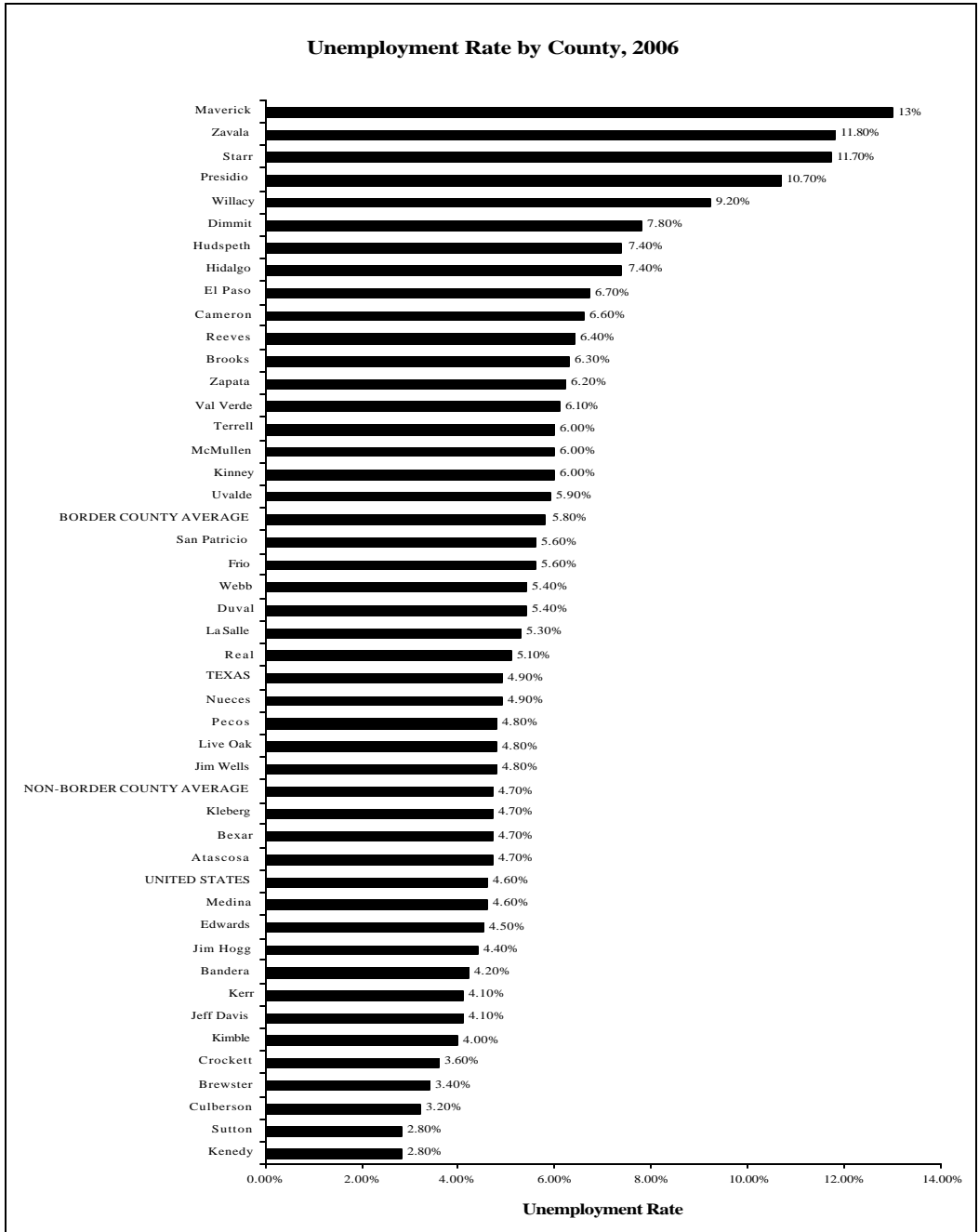
*If the current relationships between minority status and educational attainment, occupations of employment, and wage and salary income do not change in the future from those existing in 1990, the future workforce of Texas will be less educated, more likely to be employed in lower-level state occupations, and earning lower wages and salaries than the present workforce. Preparing Texas workers to compete more effectively in the increasingly competitive international workforce of the future will require changing current patterns of relationships between minority status and other characteristics by improving the educational and skill levels of Texas minority workers.*⁴⁴

Gender and Wage Earning

Nationally, a significant wage gap still exists between male and female workers. In 2007, women working full-time only earned 78% of what their male counterparts earned. For the same year, the U.S. Census determined that this disparity existed in nearly all professions.

Employment

While high poverty rates are the result of various conditions, one important contributor is the rate of unemployment. The Border counties had unemployment rates that were higher than that for the state as a whole in 2006. Unemployment rates are based on the number of people searching for work. Thus, a high rate indicates that opportunities to earn money are unavailable. The chart below, *Unemployment Rate by County, 2006*, outlines the unemployment rates for the 43 Border counties.⁴⁵



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Language Barriers

Language barriers can create and exacerbate numerous problems for people who emigrate from Mexico into the U.S. Border area. Data on language use suggests that many in the region lack the basic English language skills necessary to effectively compete in the labor force and access services. In 2000, 37 of the region's 43 counties had higher proportions of people speaking Spanish at home than the state as a whole, and in 17 counties the percentage of people speaking Spanish at home exceeded 70 percent. Even more important, as the chart *Percentage of Residents who Speak Spanish at Home and Proficiency in English* illustrates, nearly a third of the

counties, more than 20 percent of those speaking Spanish at home either do not speak English at all or do not speak the language well.¹⁴⁶

Percentage of Residents who Speak Spanish at Home and Proficiency in English

		Ability to Speak English			
Area	Percent that speak primarily Spanish at home	Very Well	Well	Not Well	Not at all
Atascosa	43.97%	63.51%	23.63%	11.16%	1.71%
Bandera	11.09%	72.56%	15.67%	8.48%	3.30%
Bexar	40.35%	65.66%	19.87%	10.23%	4.22%
Brewster	41.04%	69.51%	18%	10.06%	2.43%
Brooks	77.10%	64.45%	23.26%	9.10%	3.19%
Cameron	78.26%	54.89%	20.31%	13.52%	11.28%
Crockett	46.83%	60.24%	26.17%	9.97%	3.62%
Culberson	72.11%	63.39%	19.74%	9.11%	7.75%
Dimmit	76.05%	62.03%	23.76%	9.51%	4.70%
Duval	78.01%	65.77%	23.27%	9.37%	1.59%
Edwards	46.58%	61.99%	21.33%	12.04%	4.64%
El Paso	71.18%	55.03%	21.39%	13.74%	9.83%
Frio	61.09%	62.91%	23.82%	9.86%	3.41%
Hidalgo	82.31%	53.59%	21.04%	12.38%	12.99%
Hudspeth	73.85%	45.77%	16.26%	19.18%	18.79%
Jeff Davis	35.97%	58.64%	17.80%	17.80%	5.76%
Jim Hogg	81.64%	66.27%	21.55%	9.71%	2.47%
Jim Wells	61.87%	65.33%	23.66%	9.56%	1.45%
Kenedy	85.45%	57.28%	19.20%	15.17%	8.36%
Kerr	15.97%	59.16%	24.89%	12.36%	3.59%
Kimble	16.48%	62.95%	12.59%	17.95%	6.51%
Kinney	45.92%	58.20%	23.75%	13.04%	5.01%
Kleberg	53.12%	68.64%	21.13%	8.36%	1.87%
La Salle	68.62%	59.85%	27.39%	9.06%	3.70%
Live Oak	28.95%	71.37%	17.54%	8.90%	2.18%
McMullen	26.67%	68.04%	16.89%	14.16%	0.91%
Maverick	90.59%	48.70%	22.80%	14.14%	14.37%
Medina	35.38%	67.78%	21.59%	8.14%	2.49%
Nueces	40.99%	68.04%	20.04%	9.28%	2.63%
Pecos	54.59%	61.46%	21.95%	11.52%	5.07%
Presidio	83.85%	45.95%	19.93%	13.40%	20.72%
Real	19.60%	70.02%	17.02%	9.12%	3.68%
Reeves	66.67%	56.35%	23.25%	12.20%	8.00%
San Patricio	37.72%	67.28%	20.09%	9.90%	2.74%
Starr	90.40%	43.28%	27.03%	13.16%	16.53%
Sutton	46.80%	61.60%	20.76%	8.65%	8.99%

Terrell	52.44%	69.09%	14.71%	13.04%	3.17%
Uvalde	59.11%	60.20%	22.16%	11.25%	6.40%
Val Verde	68.95%	56.94%	21.12%	12.69%	9.25%
Webb	91.35%	51.63%	23.95%	13.55%	10.87%
Willacy	77.84%	58.66%	24.45%	10.91%	5.98%
Zapata	78.10%	53.86%	23.92%	10.18%	12.04%
Zavala	84.47%	50.66%	30.25%	11.86%	7.24%
TEXAS	29.09%	55.87%	16.65%	15.77%	11.70%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

Conclusion

If the Border population continues to grow at the rate recorded between 1990 and 2000, the population of the Mexican Border states will increase to almost 9 million inhabitants in 2010, and to 13 million in 2020.⁴⁷ In 2020, if present trends continue, the 43-county Texas Border region will grow by over 2 million inhabitants. With a total of 6,128,171 inhabitants, the Border region is predicted to be larger than South Carolina and Minnesota. In fact, it would rank as the 20th largest state in population.

The time to face the challenge of our Texas Border Region is now. In public education, university programs, workforce skills, health access, and basic infrastructure—all areas critical to building a sound economy—Texas has failed to allocate appropriate financial resources based on population growth and need. There does, however, seem to be a greater urgency to fund public education in recent years. In 2004, all along the Texas-Mexico Border, the state's share of public education spending had dropped from 65 percent to 36.3 percent, and local governments were forced to rely on the lowest per capita tax base in the U.S. to provide for the most essential state service: a quality public education.⁴⁸ In 2007, the 80th Legislature appropriated \$50.4 billion to all education funds; an increase of 34% above the 2006-2007 biennium.⁴⁹ Though this is a welcome improvement, Texas has a long way to go before achieving parity with other states in the field of public education. In a 21st century economy, the undereducated citizen of Brownsville will soon become the unskilled worker of Dallas. With the dramatic growth ahead, our state has a choice: make the necessary investment and succeed or continue failed policies of underinvestment and, for the first time in Texas history, our next generation will be less prosperous than the generation of today. Simply put, the human capital of the Border is the key to prosperity for all our state, not just the Texas Borderlands.

¹ US Census Bureau, *Texas Becomes Nation's Newest "Majority-Minority" State*, *Census Bureau Announces*, August 2005, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/005514.html> Last accessed: January 30, 2008

² Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, *New Texas State Data Center Projections from the University of Texas at San Antonio*, 2006, Available at: <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2006projections/summary> Last accessed: January 30, 2008

-
- ³ Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, *Estimates of the Total Populations of Counties and Places in Texas for July 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007*, September 2007, Available at: http://txsdc.utsa.edu/download/pdf/estimates/2006_txpopest_county.pdf Last accessed: January 30, 2008
- ⁴ Time Magazine, *America, The New Frontier- A Country of 24 Million* (New York, New York, June 11, 2001) pp. 46-7 (<http://www.time.com/time>)
- ⁵ Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, *New Texas State Data Center Projections from the University of Texas at San Antonio*, 2006, Available at: <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2006projections/summary> Last accessed: January 30, 2008
- ⁶ US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Accounts, SA05N Private Earnings: Manufacturing*, Available at: [http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/drill.cfm?catable=CA\)%N&1c=500&years=2005&rforma](http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/drill.cfm?catable=CA)%N&1c=500&years=2005&rforma) Last accessed: January 31, 2008
- ⁷ Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism, *Overview of the Texas Economy*, Available at: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev/bidc/overview/> Last Accessed: January 30, 2008
US Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, *Texas: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment*, September 2007, Available at: http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/state_reports/texas.html#Jobs Last accessed: January 30, 2008
- ⁸ US Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, *Texas: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment*, September 2007, Available at: http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/state_reports/texas.html#Jobs Last accessed: January 30, 2008
US Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, *National Trade Data, Global Patterns of US Merchandise Trade*, 2006, Available at: <http://tse.export.gov/NTDMap.aspx?UniqueURL=d2otwl45vfbwu555u2uqtzux-2008-1-30-12-30-10> Last accessed: January 30, 2008
- ⁹ US Department of Labor, *Labor Force Data by County, 2006 Annual Averages*, Available at: www.bls.gov/lau/ Last accessed: January 30, 2008
US Department of Labor, *Unemployment Rates by State*, 2006, Available at: www.bls.gov/lau/lastrk06.htm Last accessed: January 30, 2008
Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Accounts*, 2005, Available at: www.bea.gov/region/reis/scb.cfm
US Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*, 2005, Available at: www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saipe/saipe.cgi Last accessed: January 30, 2008
- ¹⁰ Texas State Data Center, Office of the State Demographer, Table 4.7 *Aggregate Household Income by Race/ Ethnicity and Mean Household Income for the State of Texas and Council of Government Regions I Texas in 2000 and Projections to 2040 Assuming Alternative Projection Scenarios*, 2001, Available at: http://txsdc.utsa.edu/pubsrep/pubs/txc_halcog/cogtab4-07.txt Last accessed: February 1, 2008
- ¹¹ W. Gardner Selby, "Promises For Border Not Fulfilled," *San Antonio-Express News*, May 27, 2001.
- ¹² United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Borders 2010*, Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 1, 2008
- ¹³ Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, *Border Crossings, 2007*, Available at: http://texascenter.tamiu.edu/txccen_services/vehicle_crossings.asp?framepg=datavehicle Last accessed: February 1, 2008

-
- ¹⁴ US Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population*, Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_lang=en&_ss=1&_ds=DEC2000 Last accessed: February 7, 2008
- ¹⁵ US Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population*, Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov> Last accessed: February 7, 2008
- ¹⁶ US Census Bureau, *Quickfacts*, 2006, Available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html> Last accessed: February 1, 2008
- ¹⁷ Texas State Data Center and State Demographer, *Estimates of the population by Age, Sex, and Race/ Ethnicity for July 1, 2006 for State of Texas*, Available at: www.txsdcenter.org/tpepp/2006ASREstimates/alldata.pdf Last accessed: February 1, 2008
- ¹⁸ United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Border 2010*, (El Paso, Texas, 2003), p. 9 Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ¹⁹ US Census Bureau, Population Division, *Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population of the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007 (NST-EST2007-01)*, December 2007, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html> Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²⁰ US Census Bureau, *Table 094 Midyear Population, by Age and Sex*, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/idbsprd>, Last accessed: February 8, 2008
- ²¹ United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Border 2010*, (El Paso, Texas, 2003), p. 12 Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²² Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática, XII Censo General de Población y Vivienda, 2000.
- ²³ Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática, XII Censo General de Población y Vivienda, 2000.
- ²⁴ Texas Department of State Health Services, *Table 15 Deaths by Public Health Region, County and City of Residence Texas, 2004*, 2004, Available at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/vstat/latest/t15t.shtm> Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- Texas Department of State Health Services, *Table 9 Births by Public Health Region, County and City of Residence Texas, 2004*, 2004, Available at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/vstat/latest/t09t.shtm> Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²⁵ Texas State Data Center, Office of State Demographer, *Estimates of the Population by Age, Sex, and Race/ Ethnicity for July 1, 2006 for State of Texas*, 2006, Available at: <http://txsdcenter.org/tpepp/2006ASREstimates/allldata.pdf> Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²⁶ Texas Department of State Health Services, *Table 15 Deaths by Public Health Region, County and City of Residence Texas, 2004*, 2004, Available at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/vstat/latest/t15t.shtm> Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²⁷ United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Border 2010*, (El Paso, Texas, 2003), p. 12 Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 5, 2008
- ²⁸ US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Personal Income Per Capita Income by County for Texas*, 2007, Available at: <http://www.bea.gov/region/reis/scb.cfm> Last accessed: January 15, 2008
- ²⁹ United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Border 2010*, (El Paso, Texas, 2003), p. 11 Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 5, 2008

³⁰ US Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf> Last accessed: September 12, 2008.

US Census Bureau, *Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates: Model-based Estimates for States, Counties & School Districts*, 2005, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saipe/national.cgi> Last accessed: February 5, 2008

³¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2005 Kids Count Data Book*, (Baltimore, MD, 2005), p. 12.

³² Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, *The Border: Snapshot* (Austin, TX) 2003

³³ US Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, *Table 2B: Average Monthly Income by Education, Sex, Age, and Race and Hispanic Origin, 2004, Population age 18 and over*, 2004, Available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/education/sipp2004/tab2B.xls> Last accessed: February 5, 2008

³⁴ Thomas M. Fullerton, "Educational Attainment and Border Income Performance," *Economic and Financial Trends Affecting Education*, (Texas, 2002).

³⁵ Thomas M. Fullerton, "Educational Attainment and Border Income Performance," *Economic and Financial Trends Affecting Education*, (Texas, 2002).

³⁶ National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, *Higher Education & the Economic Future of El Paso* (prepared for the Paso del Norte Group), December 2007.

³⁷ US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Personal Income Per Capita Income by County for Texas*, 2007, Available at: <http://www.bea.gov/region/regional/reis/scb.cfm> Last accessed: January 15, 2008

³⁸ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Income Inequity Grew Across the Country Over the Past Two Decades: Early Signs Suggest Inequality Now Growing Again After Brief Interruption*, (January 26, 2006), Available at: www.cbpp.org/1-26-06sfp.htm Last accessed: January 27, 2006

³⁹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Income Inequity Grew Across the Country Over the Past Two Decades: Early Signs Suggest Inequality Now Growing Again After Brief Interruption*, (January 26, 2006), Available at: www.cbpp.org/1-26-06sfp.htm Last accessed: January 27, 2006

⁴⁰ Congressional Budget Office, *Historical Effective Federal Tax Rates: 1979 to 2002*, March 2005

⁴¹ US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income by County for Texas, 2003-2005*, Available at: <http://www.bea.gov/region/regional/reis/scb.cfm> Last accessed: February 5, 2008

⁴² US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Per Capita Income*, Available at: <http://www.bea.gov/region/regional/spi/drill.cfm> Last accessed: February 5, 2008

⁴³ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, *Table F-5: Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder- Families by Median and Mean Income : 1947 to 2005*, 2005 Available at: www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/f05.html Last accessed: February 5, 2008

⁴⁴ Institute for Policy and Economic Development, The University of Texas at El Paso, *Educational Trends and Income in El Paso A Longitudinal Perspective* (El Paso, Texas, August 2001), p. 48

⁴⁵ US Department of Labor, *Labor Force Data by County 2006 Annual Averages*, Available at: www.bls.gov/lau Last accessed: February 6, 2008

⁴⁶ US Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3)- Sample Data: P19. Age By Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over*, Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet>
Last accessed: February 6, 2008

⁴⁷ United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Healthy Border 2010*, (El Paso, Texas, 2003), p. 9 Available at: http://www.borderhealth.org/files/res_63.pdf Last accessed: February 5, 2008

⁴⁸ Legislative Budget Board, Fiscal Size-Up 2004-2005 (Austin, Texas), Online: Available at: http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Fiscal_Size-up_Archive/Fiscal_Size-up_2004-2005_1203.pdf

⁴⁹ Legislative Budget Board, Fiscal Size-Up 2007-2008 (Austin, Texas), Online: Available at: http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Fiscal_Size-up/Fiscal%20Size-up%202008-09.pdf Last accessed September 17, 2008.