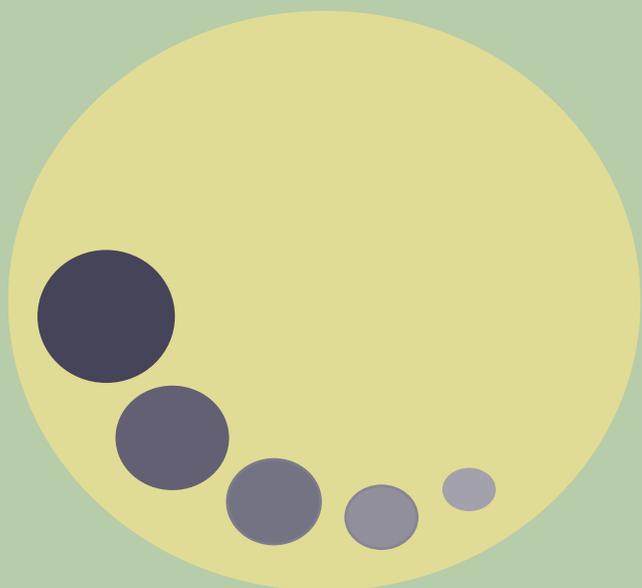


# Travis County Snapshot

from the American Community Survey 2021



2022



# Travis County Snapshot

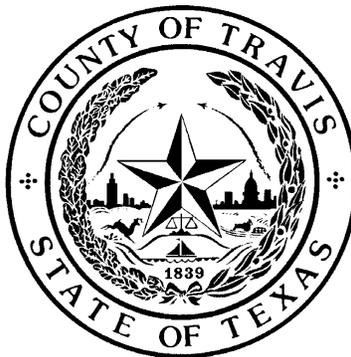
from the American Community Survey 2021

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was researched and written by the staff at the Travis County Health and Human Services, Research & Planning Division. Lead writers were Nathan Fernandes, Rochelle Olivares, Hilda Rivas, and Octavio Ulloa with the support of other division staff, Lawrence Lyman (Division Director), and Pilar Sanchez (County Executive for Travis County HHS).

## **Questions or Comments?**

For questions or for more information, please contact the Research & Planning Division at [HHS\\_R&P@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:HHS_R&P@traviscountytexas.gov).



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# Executive Summary

## Social Characteristics

- Population in 2021 was 1,305,154, a 6% increase since 2017.
- The number of households in 2021 was 567,627 with an average household size of 2.25 individuals. 76% of households have no children under 18 years, an increase of 32% since 2017.
- At 47%, the non-Hispanic White residents are the largest race and ethnic group in the County. 33% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race.



## Economic Characteristics



- The reported median household income was \$84,531, a 5% increase from 2017 adjusted income.
- 22% of Travis County residents experienced deep economic hardship and were living below 200% of the poverty threshold.
- Travis County's unemployment rate was 5% in 2021.
- Many industries have seen growth since 2017, the largest being the professional, scientific and technical services industry which increased by 39% (36,305).
- 87.5% of residents have health insurance.

## Housing Characteristics

- 48% of occupied housing in Travis County is renter-occupied and 52% is owner-occupied.
- 46% of renters experience a housing cost burden, spending 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs.
- 76% of rental homes have rents at or above \$1,000, a 15 percentage point increase from 2017.
- 75% of owner-occupied housing homes were valued at or above \$300,000, a 21 percentage point increase from 2017.
- The reported median home value for owner-occupied housing was \$451,000.



# Introduction

The 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Snapshot marks our 15th year of taking an objective look at our large and diverse county, specifically our social, housing, and economic characteristics. The purpose of this annual report is to measure the current conditions and detect trends. The data presented supports Travis County's ability to assess and refine its efforts toward achieving its vision of being an innovative, vibrant community that preserves diverse cultural heritage and natural resources. It is important to note that ACS 1-year estimates were not released in 2020 due to unreliable data collection caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and any trend data from 2020 will be absent. While this report deals with data from 2021, it may not address all the changes that have occurred during the pandemic.

The indicators selected for inclusion in this report:

- Reflect broad countywide interests related to health and human services, which impact a significant percentage of the population
- Illustrate fundamental factors that contribute to long-term countywide health
- Can be easily understood by the community

To place Travis County in context, many of the indicators in this report compare the County to Texas and the U.S.

All of the information contained herein is publicly available via the U.S. Census Bureau's website. However, it may sometimes be difficult for users to access, analyze, and interpret needed data. By selecting key variables available, analyzing for important relationships and trends, and presenting it in a clear, accessible visual format, our goal is to provide current information describing the Travis County community. We hope this information is helpful in efforts to improve programs, plan community investments, and shape local policies. We encourage users to borrow and cite this material.

## About the Data

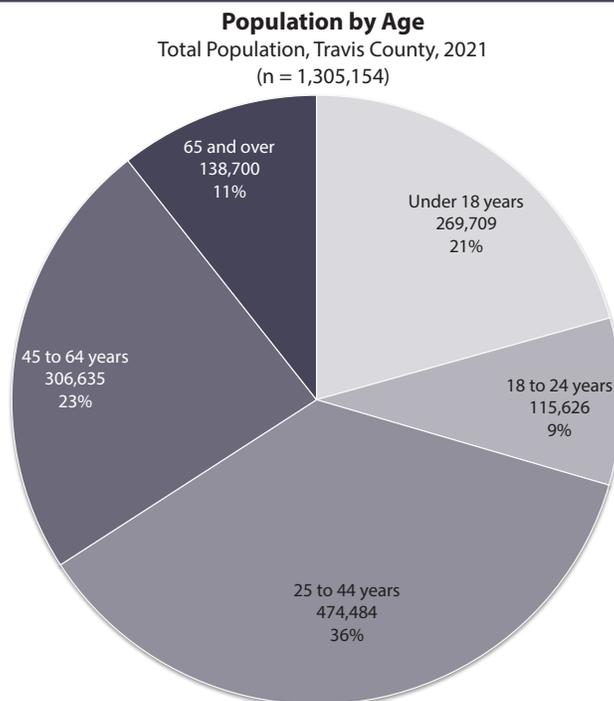
The ACS is one of many surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It includes questions about social, housing, and economic characteristics. While many available data sources address these subjects, the Research & Planning Division has increasingly relied on the ACS as a primary resource to describe current demographics and local conditions. Compared to the more widely-known Decennial Census, which is conducted every 10 years, the ACS is conducted on an ongoing basis and releases data annually. Thus it can provide more up-to-date information, particularly for communities undergoing rapid demographic change.

Because the data presented in the chartbook is representative of a sample and not the entire population, some of the smaller estimates are unreliable due to sampling error, which generally increases as sample sizes decrease. Comparisons of indicators between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods may appear significant, but may not be statistically significant. Therefore, we perform testing of estimates that appear unreliable for significance and any comparisons that are explicitly made between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods at 90% level of confidence. For more information on statistical testing and the ACS, see the Methodology section at the end of this chartbook.

# Social Characteristics



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Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

**Age Distribution:** Age distribution in Travis County continues to be characterized by a large working age population (18-64). Working age adults comprise about 68% of the county’s population. In comparison, working age adults comprise of 62% of the Texas population and 61% of the United States as a whole.

**Median Age:** The median age in Travis County is 35.5, which is the same as Texas (35.5) but, a younger population than the U.S. population (38.8).

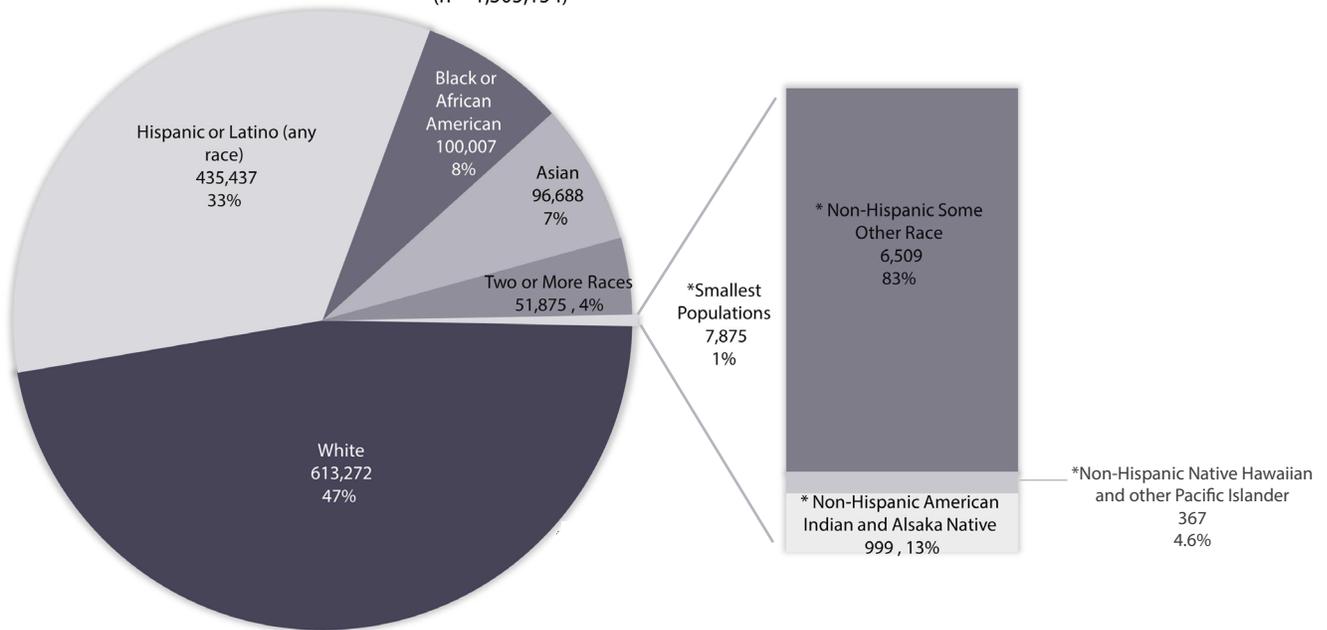
**Trends to Watch:** Since 2017, the Travis County total population has increased by 6%, compared to 4% statewide and 2% nationally. During the same time, the population 65 years and older in Travis County had the largest relative change and increased by 18% compared to 12% statewide and 10% nationally. This same population saw a 1 point percentage increase in their share of the total population as well from 10% in 2017 to 11% in 2021. Although the population decrease is not statistically significant for children under 18 years, this is the first time in recent years that this age group has seen the decline in number of children.

Growth in Population by Age						
Travis County 2017 & 2021						
	2017		2021		Difference in Numbers	Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Under 18	271,403	22%	269,709	21%	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
18 to 24	112,997	9%	115,626	9%	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
25 to 44	439,862	36%	474,484	36%	34,622	8%
45 to 64	285,348	23%	306,635	23%	21,287	7%
65 and over	117,088	10%	138,700	11%	21,612	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,226,698</b>		<b>1,305,154</b>		<b>78,456</b>	<b>6%</b>

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2017 & 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

# Race and Hispanic Origin

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin  
Total population, Travis County, 2021  
(n = 1,305,154)



\*Data is not reliable at the 90% confidence level.; Note: May not add to 100% due to rounding.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B03002

**Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>1</sup>:** Sixty-seven percent (67%) of Travis County residents identify as non-Hispanic (869,717), with the largest room identifying as White (47%), followed by (8%) Black or African American, Asian (7%), Two or More Races (4%) and the smallest three populations, together, make up less than 1% of the total population. Individuals identifying as being of Hispanic origin is equal to 33% (435,437).

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin					
Travis County, 2021 (n = 1,305,154)					
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<b>Not Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>869,717</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>435,437</b>	<b>33%</b>
*American Indian & Alaska Native	999	0.1%	*American Indian & Alaska Native	14,977	3%
Asian	96,688	11%	*Asian	3,637	1%
Black or African American	100,007	12%	*Black or African American	2,950	1%
*Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	367	0.04%	*Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
*Some other race	6,509	1%	Some other race	112,496	26%
Two or more races	51,875	4%	Two or more races	197,287	45%
White	613,272	71%	White	104,090	24%

\* Estimates and percentages for these racial categories are not reliable at the 90% Confidence Level Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B03002

**Trends to Watch:** From 2017 to 2021, the number of individuals identifying as Two or more races (of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin) increased by 470%. The Asian population (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin) also experienced a 21% increase over the five-year period. At the same time, the number of individuals identifying as White (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin) decreased by 17% in Travis County. The Black or African American (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin) racial group only increased by 2% since 2017.

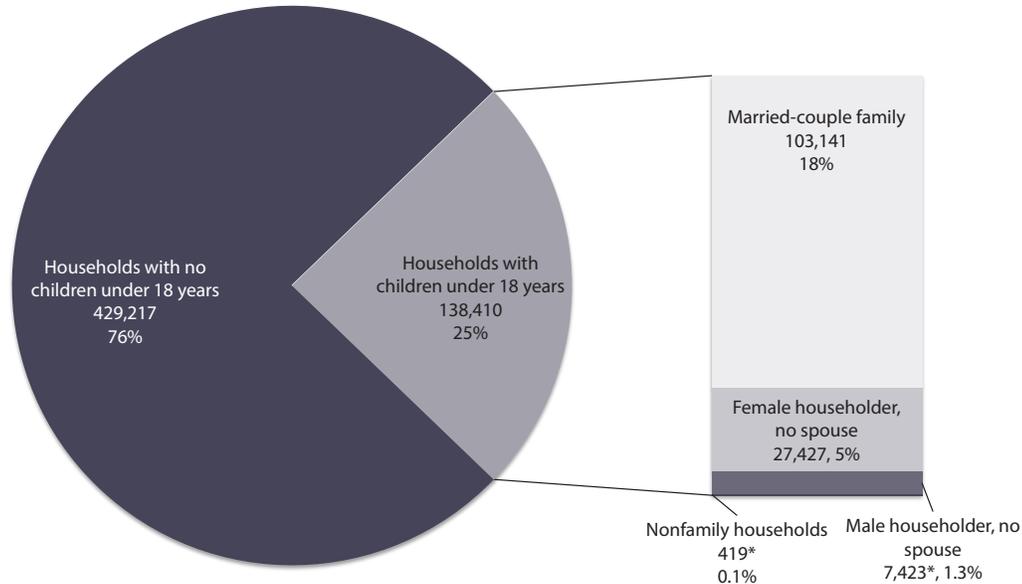
1 Racial classifications used in the graph do not include Hispanic origin unless specified. For example White is the non-Hispanic White race category as identified in the ACS. For more details on racial classifications see ACS 2021 Subject Definitions pg 115.

# Household Demographics

## Households by Presence of Children under 18 years by Household Type

Households, Travis County, 2021

(n = 567,627 Households)



\*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B11005

In Travis County, 76% of households have no children and 25% of households have children.<sup>2</sup> Of the 138,410 households with children, 75% (103,141 households) are married-couple families and 25% (34,850 households) have one householder with no spouse present.

**Trends to Watch:** Since 2017, the number of households with no children has increased by 32% whereas the number of households with children has remained stable. Proportionally, households with no children increased 6 percentage points from 70% in 2017 to 76% in 2021. The percentage of households with children declined from 30% in 2017 to 24% in 2021.

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County has a higher percentage of households with no children and has a higher percentage of children living in a married-couple family household than Texas and the U.S. Travis County's average household size (2.25) is lower than Texas (2.68) and the U.S (2.54).<sup>3</sup>

Household Type	Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2021		
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Households with no children	76%	65%	70%
Households with children	24%	35%	30%
Married Couple Families	75%	66%	65%
Single-Parent Families	25%	33%	34%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B11005

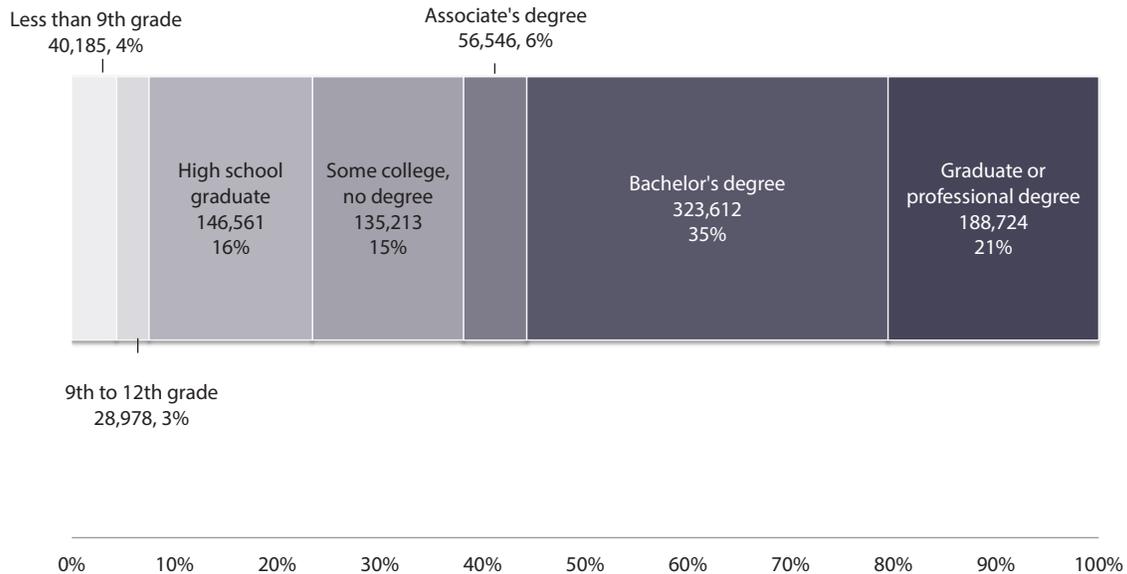
<sup>2</sup> Children are defined as individuals under 18 years old.

<sup>3</sup> 2021 American Community Survey 1-YR Estimates, B25010

# Educational Attainment

## Educational Attainment Level

Population 25 years and over, Travis County, 2021  
(n = 919,819)



Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B15002

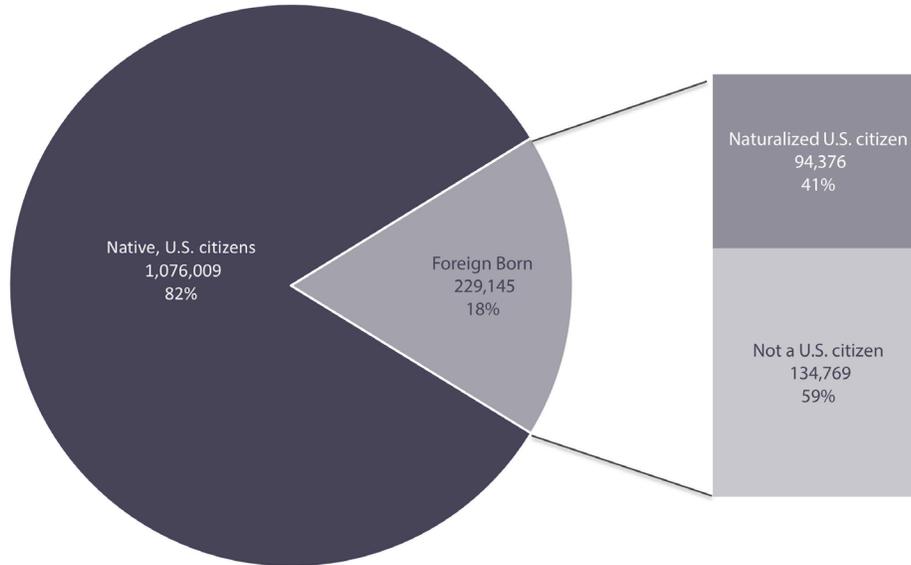
Travis County continues to have a highly educated population. In comparison to Texas and the U.S, proportionately more Travis County residents have a college degree and fewer lack a high school diploma.

- 56% of adults (25 years and over) in Travis County have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 33% in Texas and 35% in the U.S.
- 8% of adults (25 years and over) in Travis County have less than a high school diploma or equivalency, compared with 15% in Texas and 11% in the U.S.

Since 2017 there has been a 21% increase in the number of individuals with a Bachelor's degree and a 26% increase of individuals with a Graduate or professional degree. In addition there has been a 30% decrease in the number of people with only a 9th – 12th grade education, 41,170 to 28,978 respectively.

# Place of Birth & Nativity

Nativity, Citizenship Status, and Place of Birth  
Total Population, Travis County, 2021  
(n = 1,305,154)



Note: Total may not equal 100% due to rounding.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source Data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B05002

In Travis County, 82% of the population is Native-born, meaning they were either born in Texas, in another state, or born outside of the U.S to at least one parent that is a U.S. citizen. Only 18% of the population was foreign born, this includes individuals that are naturalized U.S. citizens or are not a U.S. citizen. Out of all the residents that are considered Natives, 49% (636,313) were born in Texas, 31% (410,202) were born in another state within the U.S, and 2% (29,494) were born outside of the U.S.

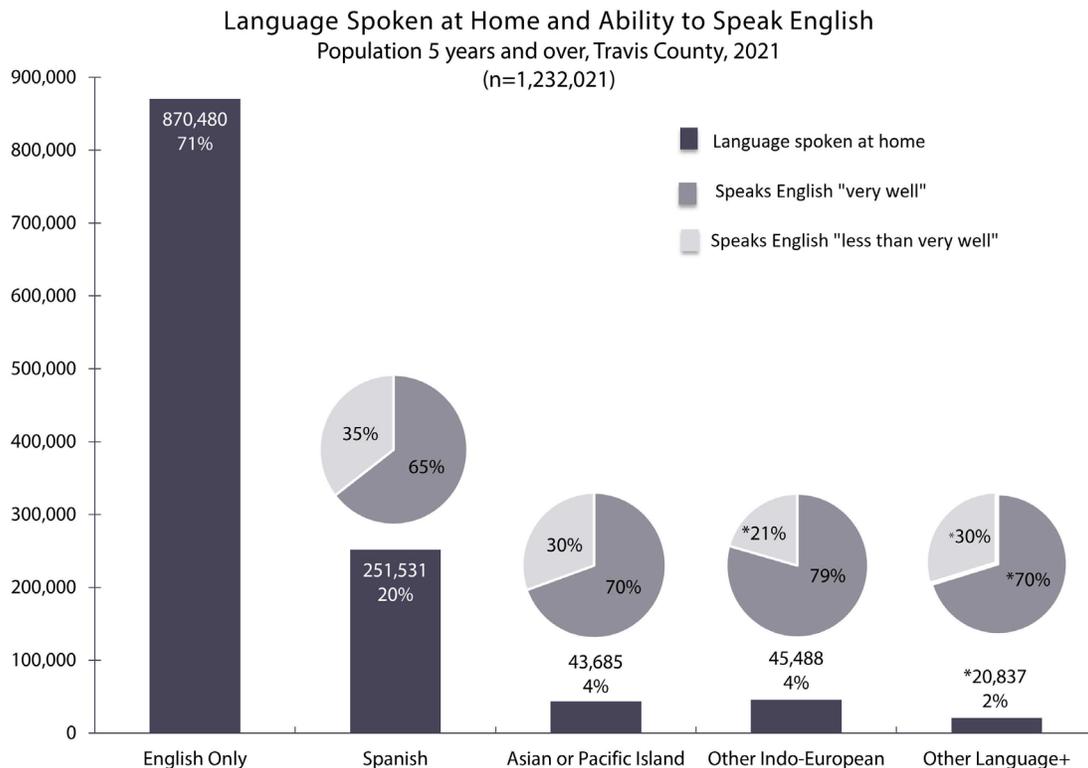
**Trends To Watch:** Between 2017 and 2021 there was a 24% increase in Travis County residents that hailed from other parts of the country. During this time the number of Natives born outside the U.S. also increased by 25%, going from 23,630 in 2017 to 29,494 in 2021. Since 2017, the foreign-born population in Travis County experienced a 22% increase in the number of Naturalized citizens, the majority from Asia and Latin America. While the population of naturalized citizens increased, the population of non-U.S. citizens decreased by 5% during this five-year period.

**Geographic Comparison:** As the table indicates, Travis County residents are less likely to have been born in their current state of residence.

Place of Birth			
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2021			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.*
Born in State of Residence	49%	59%	58%
Born in other U.S. State	31%	22%	27%
Native, Born Outside of U.S.	2%	2%	2%
Foreign Born	18*	17%	14%

\*U.S. may not equal 100% due to rounding.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B05002

# Language



\*This estimate is not reliable at the a 90% confidence level ; + Classification of Other Languages is designated by U.S. Census Bureau, see 2021 American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey Subject Definition, pg. 149  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C16005

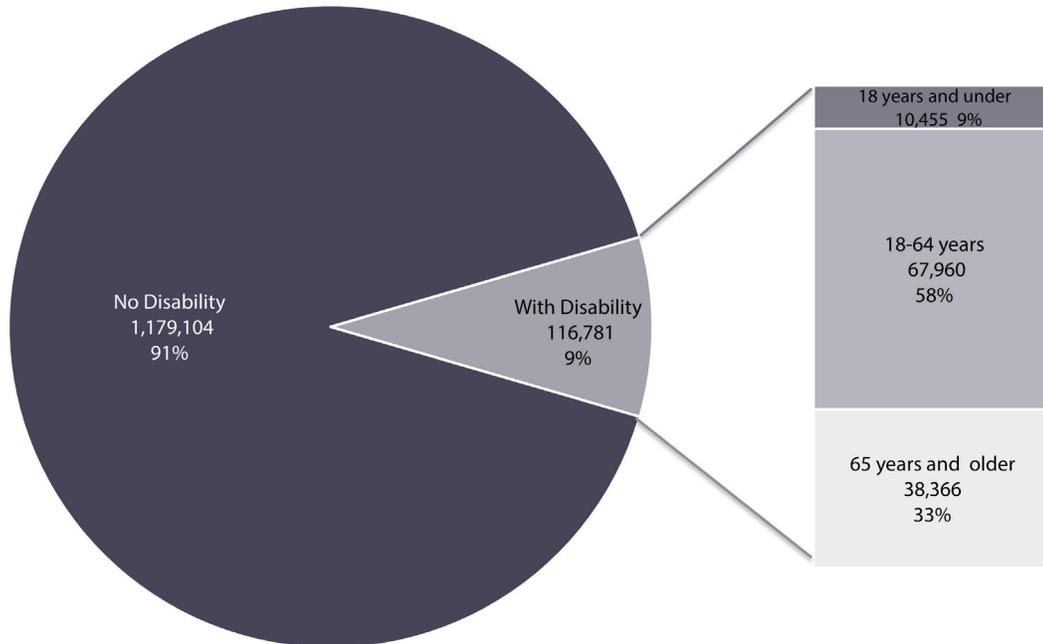
**Languages Spoken at Home:** Nearly one-third of the Travis County population (29%, 361,541) speaks a language other than English at home. In comparison, 22% (67,754,436) of U.S. residents and 35% (9,632,426) of Texans speak a language other than English at home. The percentage of people in Travis County that speak a language other than English at home has decreased from 366,678 in 2017 to 361,541 in 2021, a decrease of 1.4%.

**Ability to Speak English:** Out of the Travis County residents who speak a language other than English at home, 67% (243,525) speak the English language “very well,” and 33% (118,016) speak English “less than very well.”

**Limited English-Speaking Households<sup>4</sup>:** While the graph above describes individual residents; it is important to note household language abilities. Out of a total of 567,627 households in Travis County, 5% (28,627) are limited English speaking households. Sixty-nine percent (69% or 19,706) of limited English-speaking households speak Spanish.

<sup>4</sup> A “Limited English-speaking household” is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English at home or (2) speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English “Very well.” In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with the English language. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, pg. 49).

**Disability Status**  
Civilian noninstitutionalized population, Travis County, 2021  
(n=1,295,885)



Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C18101

**Disability Status:** Nine percent (116,781) of Travis County residents have a disability. Out of those residents with a disability, 9% (10,455) are individuals under 18 years of age, 58% (67,960) are individuals aged 18 to 64 years, and 33% (38,366) are individuals aged 65 years and older.

**Trends to Watch:** The 65 and older population of Travis County has increased by 19% since 2017. The number of 65 and older residents with a disability has also increased by 19% since 2017. The 18 to 64 age group with a disability, experienced a 19% increase, within the same time, and represents the largest share (5%) of the population with a disability. The 65 and over age group still holds the highest rate (28%) of disability.

**Geographic Comparison:** The table below provides disability status by age comparisons of Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

<b>Disability Status Rate by Age</b>			
Civilian noninstitutionalized population, Travis County, Texas, U.S., 2021			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Total with a disability	9%	12%	13%
Under 18 with a disability	4%*	5%	5%
18 to 64 with a disability	8%	10%	11%
65 and over with a disability	28%	35%	33%

\*Data is not considered reliable at 90% confidence value.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C18101

# Economic Characteristics

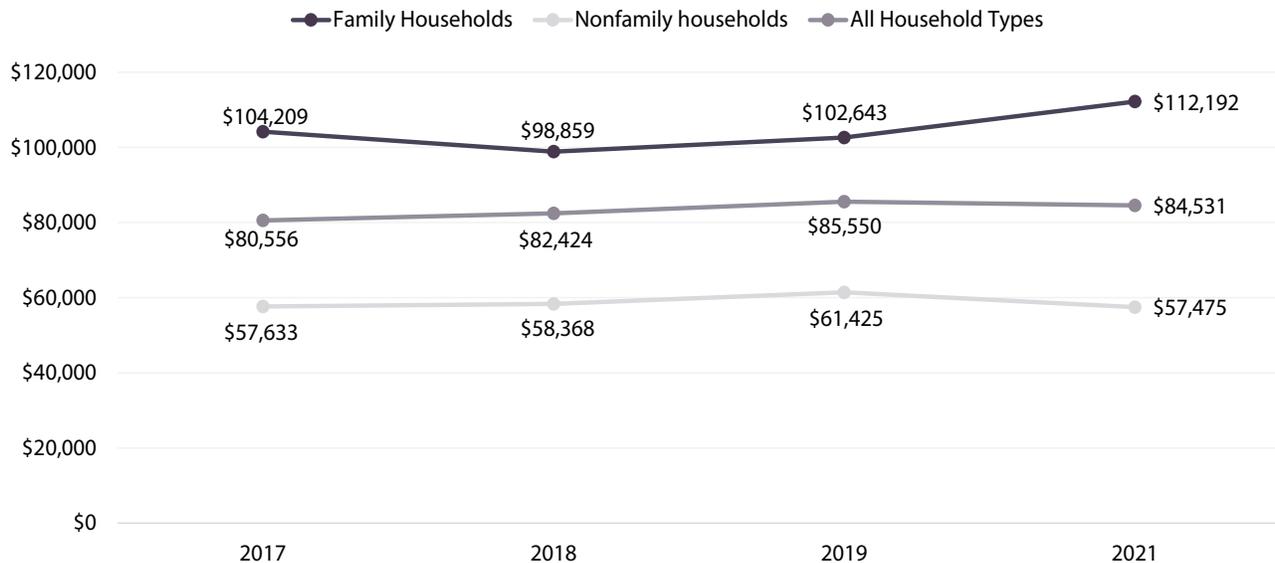
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# Median Household Income

## Median Household Income in the Past 12 months by Household Type

Households, Travis County 2017 -2021

(income adjusted in 2021 dollars)



\*2020 1-Year American Community Survey estimates were not made available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19102, B19013, B19126

In 2021, Travis County’s reported median income was \$84,531, a 5% increase from 2017 adjusted median household income (\$80,556). Family households, which make up 53% of all households in Travis County, had the highest median household income (\$112,192) in 2021, as well as the highest percentage increase (8%) from 2017. Nonfamily households, which comprise of 47% of households in Travis County, had the lowest median income (\$57,475) in 2021, which was found to be not statistically significant from 2017’s adjusted income of \$57,633.

**Trends to watch:** Married-couple families with children had the largest increase of median household income (+20%) of all household types since 2017. Neither single-headed household categories experienced a statistically significant change in household income since 2017, meaning single-headed households’ median incomes remained stagnant.

## Median Household Income of Families with Children by Family Type

Households, Travis County, 2017 & 2021

	2017*	2021	Difference	Percentage Change
Married Couple Family	\$124,747	\$150,037	\$25,290	20%
Female householder, no spouse	\$35,665	\$41,496	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
Male householder, no spouse	\$60,678	\$70,821	<i>not statistically significant</i>	

\*in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022. Source data: 2017 & 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19126

# Median Household Income

**Geographic Comparison:** The table below shows that in 2021, the Travis County median household income (\$84,531) was higher than Texas (\$66,963) and the U.S. (\$69,717). Between 2017 and 2021, Travis County had a greater increase in the median household income than Texas.

<b>Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months</b>			
Households, Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2017 & 2021			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Median Household Income 2017 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$80,556	\$65,438	\$66,687
Median Household Income 2021	\$84,531	\$66,963	\$69,717
Difference between 2017 and 2021	\$3,975	\$1,525	\$3,030
Percent change between 2017 and 2021 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars)	5%	2%	5%

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022.

Source data: 2017 & 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19013 and the CPI-U-RS



# Income to Poverty Ratio

## Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold

Travis County, 2021

(n = 1,277,981)

Below 100%	100-199%	200-299%	300-399%	400-499%	500% or more
144,617	144,841	173,431	142,264	129,680	543,148
11%	11%	14%	11%	10%	43%

### 2021 Poverty Thresholds

One person household  
 100%: \$14,097  
 200%: \$28,194  
 300%: \$42,291  
 400%: \$56,388  
 500%: \$70,485

Family of four, incl. two related children under 18  
 100%: \$27,479  
 200%: \$54,958  
 300%: \$82,437  
 400%: \$109,916  
 500%: \$137,395

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B17002

Eleven percent (11%) of Travis County residents are living below the poverty threshold. Twenty-two percent (22%) of Travis County residents (289,458 individuals) live below 200% of the poverty threshold.<sup>5</sup> The majority of the population (53%) lives above 400% of the poverty threshold.

**Trends to Watch:** The table below displays trends over time. The number of individuals under 200% of the poverty threshold declined by 10% since 2017. Individuals earning 500% or more of the poverty threshold increased by 22%, the largest percentage change of any group.

### Ratio of Income to the Poverty Level in the Past 12 months

Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, 2017 & 2021

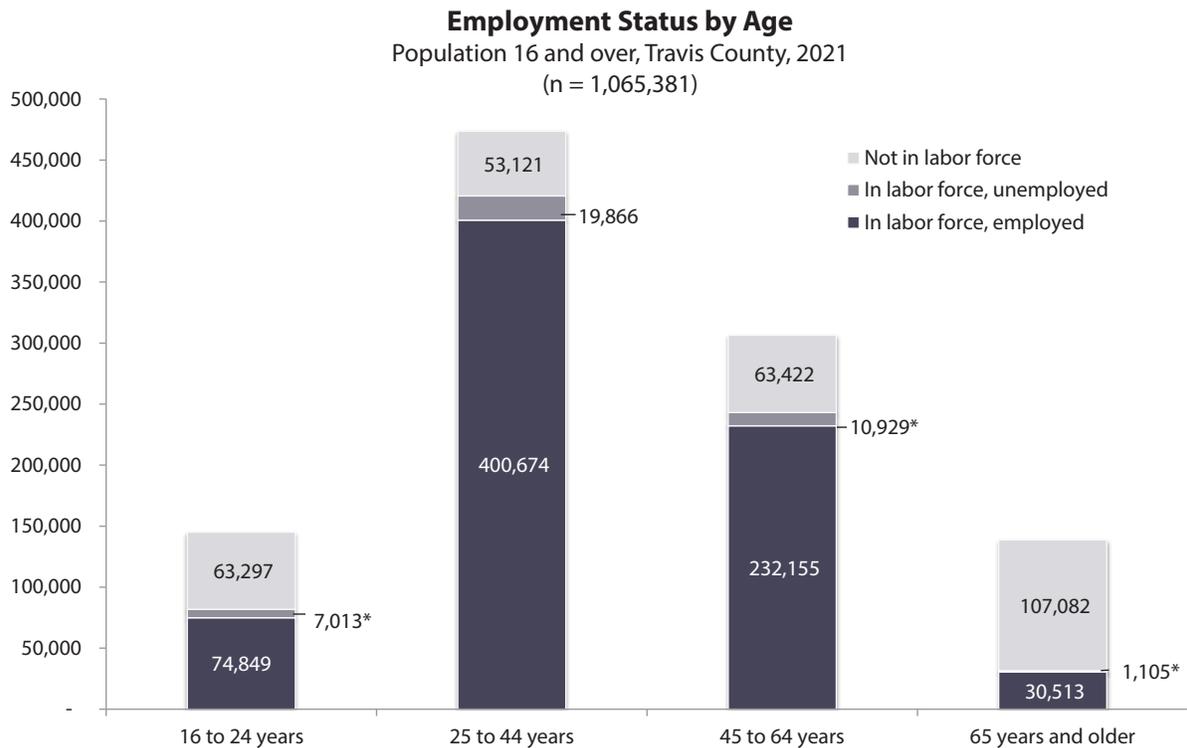
	2017 Number	2021 Number	Difference	Percent Change
Under 200% of the poverty threshold	322,663	289,458	-33,205	-10%
200%-299% of the poverty threshold	152,001	173,431	not statistically significant	
300-399% of the poverty threshold	171,278	142,264	-29,014	-17%
400-499% of the poverty threshold	113,241	129,680	16,439	15%
500% or more of the poverty threshold	444,950	543,148	98,198	22%
Total	1,204,133	1,277,981	73,848	6%

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022, Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B17002

**Geographic Comparison:** The percent of residents living under 200% of the poverty threshold is lower in Travis County (22%) than Texas (32%) and the U.S. (29%). The percent of residents living over 500% of the poverty threshold is higher in Travis County (43%) than Texas (28%) and the U.S. (31%).

<sup>5</sup> The Census Bureau uses poverty thresholds as denoted in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14 as described on the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

# Employment by Age



\* This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C23001

**Travis County’s Labor Force:** In Travis County, 73% percent (778,489 individuals) of the population age 16 and over are in the labor force, and 27% (286,922 individuals) are not in the labor force.<sup>6</sup> Of the population in the labor force, 738, 191 were employed and 38,913 were unemployed.<sup>7</sup>

**Labor Force by Age<sup>8</sup>:** Individuals between the ages of 25 and 44 constitute over half (54%) of Travis County’s labor force. The 45 to 64 age group comprises 31% of the labor force, followed by the 16 to 24 age group (11%) and finally those 65 years and older (4%).

**Unemployment:** Travis County’s overall unemployment rate (which is the percent of unemployed individuals within the labor force) was 5% (38,913 individuals) in 2021.

6 The category for “not in the labor force” consist mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, pg. 68).

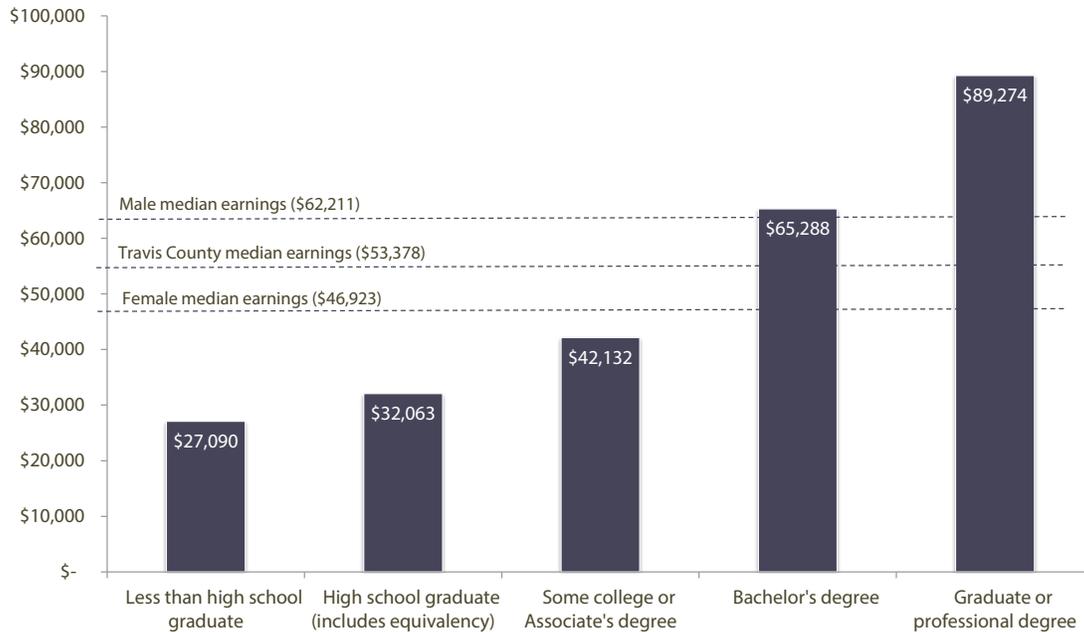
7 All civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they were neither “at work” or “with a job not at work” during the reference week, and were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks and were available to start a job. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, pgs. 67-68).

8 This includes the sum of individuals in labor force, employed and in labor force, unemployed.

# Earnings and Education

## Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Educational Attainment

Population 25 and over with earnings, Travis County, 2021



Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B20004

**Educational Attainment and Earnings:** The above graph highlights how educational attainment and earnings are directly related. As education level increases, earnings increase. When comparing Travis County residents that have Some College or Associate’s degree to one with a Bachelor’s degree, the difference in median earnings was over twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,156).

**Median Earnings and Gender:** Travis County’s 2021 overall median earnings was \$53,378, which is higher than 2017 (\$46,337). The median earnings for females in Travis County are lower than for males (\$62,211), a difference of \$15,288. For all levels of education, females earn significantly less than males. Even for those that have higher levels of education, the median earning for females with a Graduate or Professional degree was \$66,521 compared to males \$114,297, a difference of \$47,776.

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County’s 2021 overall median earnings (\$53,378) is significantly higher than Texas (\$43,802) and the U.S. (\$45,943).

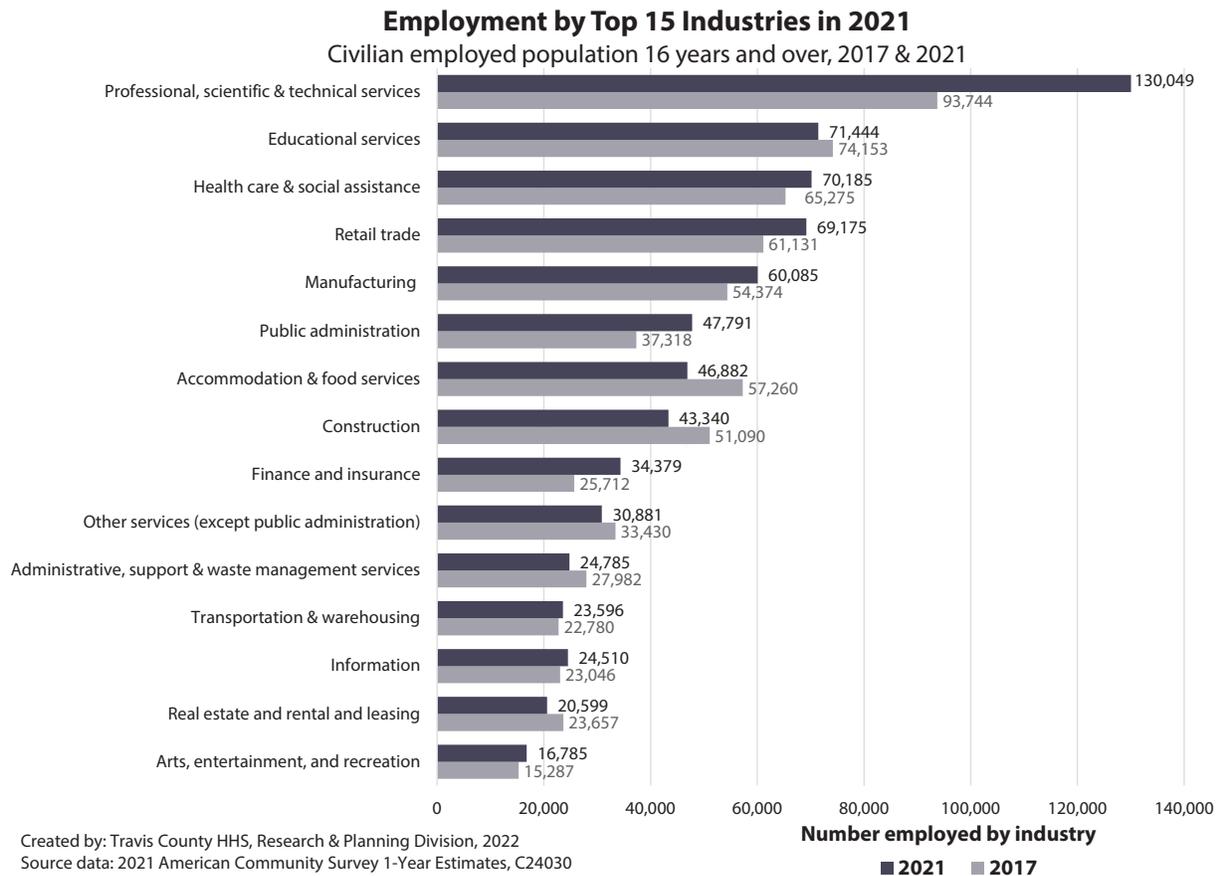
### Median Earnings by Educational Attainment and Sex

Population 25 and over with earnings, Travis County, 2021

	Female	Males	Difference
Less than high school graduate	\$19,366	\$32,314	\$12,948
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$27,612	\$39,452	\$11,840
Some college or Associate's degree	\$38,551	\$45,943	\$7,392
Bachelor's degree	\$56,650	\$80,771	\$24,121
Graduate or professional degree	\$66,521	\$114,297	\$47,776

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022. Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B20004

# Employment by Industry



Many industries have seen growth since 2017, the largest being the professional, scientific and technical services industry which increased by 39% (36,305). However, key industries such as accommodation & food services and construction saw decreases during the same period with -18% (10,378) and -15% (7,750), respectively. This decline is likely caused by COVID.

**Geographic Comparison:** The proportion of Travis County workers in the professional, scientific, and technical services industry (18%) is more than double the proportion in Texas and the United States (8%) and does not rank among the top 5 industries for Texas. The following table displays the top five industries for Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

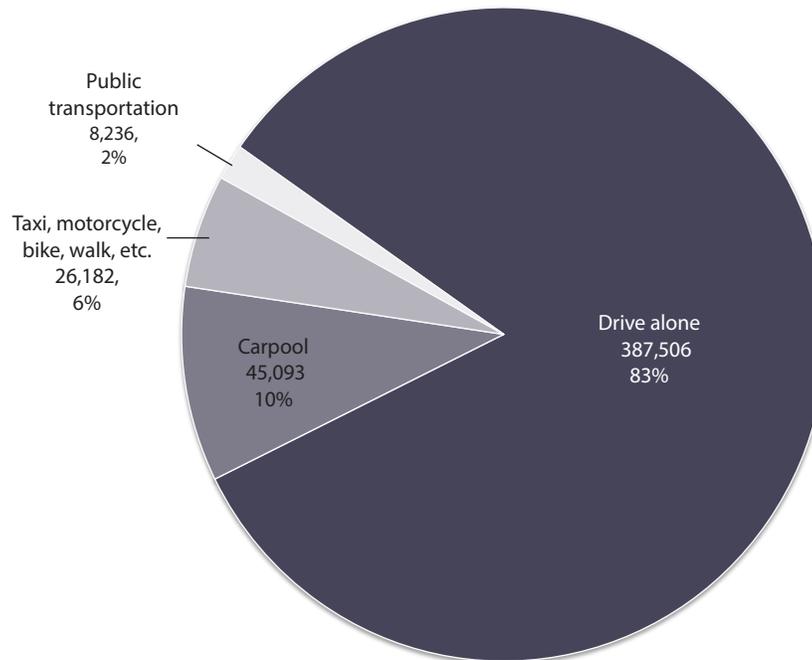
Employment in the Top Five Industries					
Travis County, Texas, & U.S., 2021					
Travis County		Texas		U.S.	
Professional/scientific/technical	18%	Health care & social assistance	12%	Health care & social assistance	14%
Educational services	10%	Retail trade	11%	Retail trade	11%
Health care & social assistance	10%	Educational services	10%	Manufacturing	10%
Retail Trade	9%	Construction	9%	Educational services	9%
Manufacturing	8%	Manufacturing	8%	Professional/scientific/technical	8%

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022. Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C24030

# Commuting

## Means of Transportation to Work

Workers 16 years and over who do not work at home, Travis County, 2021  
(n = 467,017)



Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C08134

**Means of Transportation to Work:** There were declines in nearly all categories of transportation due to COVID-19. Of workers age 16 and older, 83% (387,506 individuals) drove to work alone. The number of individuals driving alone significantly decreased since 2017 (505,506 individuals) to 2021 (387,506 individuals), however the proportion of individuals driving alone has not changed since 2017 (82%). The number of individuals carpooling also dropped from 63,678 to 45,093. The number of individuals using public transportation decreased by more than half, 18,283 in 2017 (3%) to 8,236 (2%) in 2021.

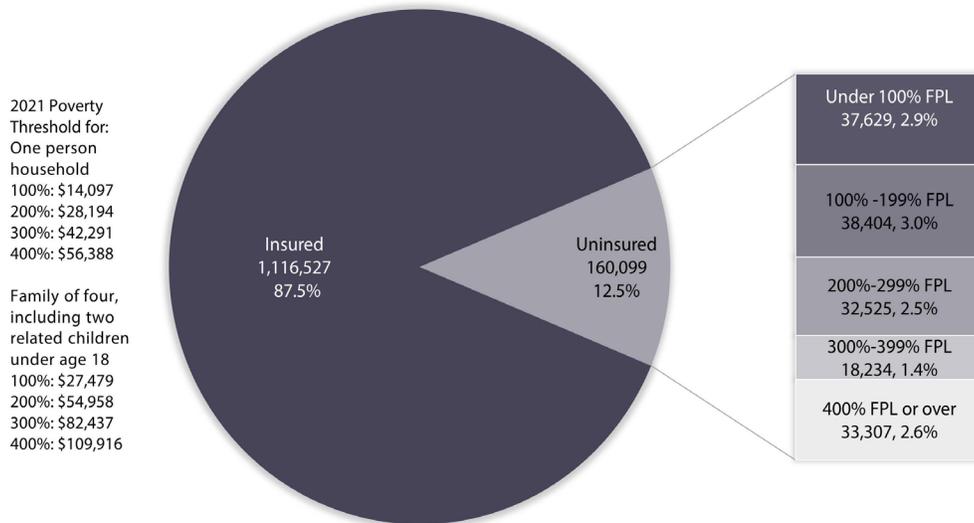
**Travel Time:** In 2017, 382,422 commuters traveled under 30 minutes to get to work, but in 2021 that number declined to 306,300, however the percentage rose from 62% to 66%. For those that spend between 30 minutes to an hour traveling to work, the percentage decreased from 32% in 2017 to 29% in 2021. The percentage of individuals that travel more than one hour to work decreased from 6% (36,462) in 2017 to 5% (23,203) in 2021. In all, there were 148,989 less Travis County residents commuting to work in 2021 than in 2017.

### Geographic Comparison:

- The percentage of Travis County commuters who drive to work alone (83%) is less than Texas (84%) but the same as the U.S (83%).
- More Travis County commuters use public transportation (2%) than the state (1%) but less than the U.S. (3%).
- The percentage of Travis County commuters that drive one hour or more (5%) is less than Texas (7%) and the U.S. (8%).

# Health Insurance

Health insurance coverage by poverty status  
Population for whom poverty is determined\*, Travis County 2021  
(n = 1,276,626)



\*Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old  
Created by Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source: 2021 American Community Survey, B27016

In Travis County, 12.5% (160,099) of residents do not have health insurance.<sup>9</sup> Of the uninsured residents, 47% (76,033) are individuals living below 200% of the poverty level; this is a 6-percentage point decrease from 2017 when 53% (75,995) of the uninsured were living below 200% of the poverty level.

The table below shows the distribution of health insurance by age for the civilian non-institutionalized population. Eighty-five percent (85% or 137,108) of the total uninsured population are adults between the ages of 19 and 64 years. The proportion of uninsured (12.5%) to insured (87.5%) has remained largely the same between 2017 and 2021.

Health Insurance Coverage Status by Age, Travis County, 2017 & 2021

	2017 Number	2021 Number	Difference	Percent Change
Insured	1,073,782	1,134,037	60,255	6%
Uninsured	145,465	161,848	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
Uninsured, under 19 years	22,042*	22,362	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
Uninsured, 19 to 64 years	121,388	137,108	15,720	13%
Uninsured, 65 and older	2,035*	2,378	<i>not statistically significant</i>	

\*The estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

Created by: Travis County, HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2017 & 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C27001

**Trends to Watch:** Despite a 6% increase in the number of insured residents in Travis County, the rate of uninsured residents remained largely the same from 2017 to 2021. The number of residents without health insurance increased, but not significantly.

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County's proportion of uninsured residents (12.5%) is higher than the U.S. (9%), but lower than Texas (18%).

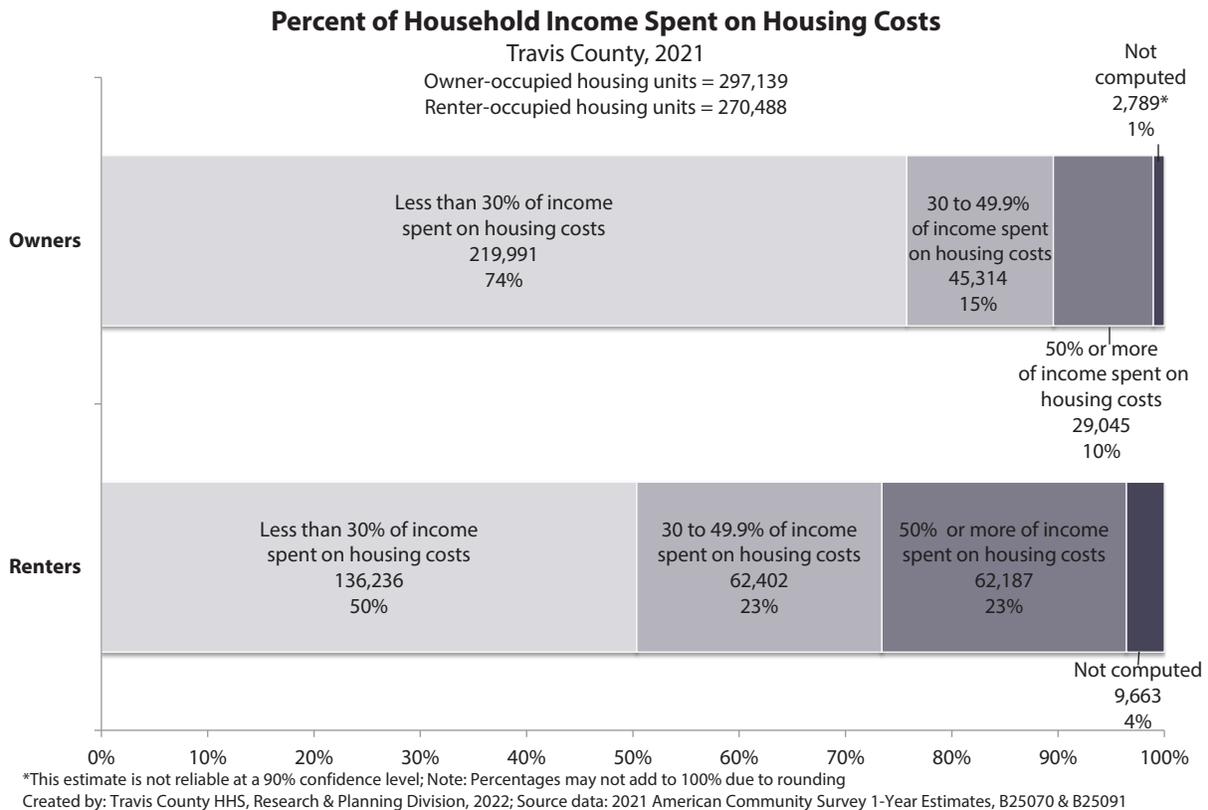
9 ACS 2021 Subject Definitions, pages 74-77.

# Housing Characteristics



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# Cost Burden



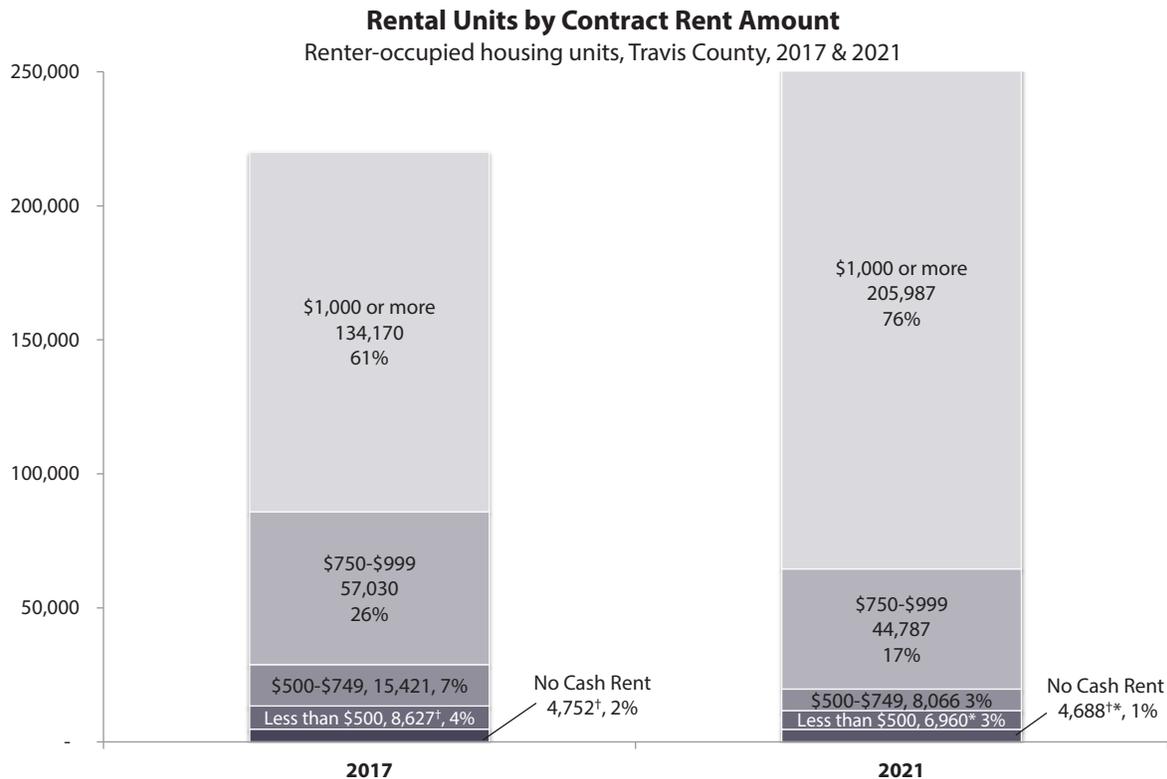
**Cost Burden<sup>10</sup>:** Forty-eight percent (48%) of occupied housing in Travis County is renter-occupied and 52% is owner-occupied. Many renters and owners experience a housing cost burden, which is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs,<sup>11</sup> although the percent of households that are cost burdened is higher among renters. Among households renting, 46% (124,589 units) spend 30% or more of income on housing costs; and of those households, 23% (62,187 units) spend 50% or more of their income on housing costs. Comparatively, 25% (74,359 units) of owner-occupied households experience a cost burden and only 10% (29,045 units) of those households spend 50% or more of their income on housing costs.

**Trends to Watch:** Between 2017 and 2021, the number of renter-occupied units and owner-occupied units increased by 23% (50,488 units) and 22% (54,507 units), respectively. The number of households without a cost burden (spending less than 30% of household income on housing costs) increased significantly for renter-occupied and owner-occupied households, by 22% and 18%, respectively. For those experiencing housing cost burden, only the number of renter-occupied households saw a significant increase of 27% (98,006 to 124,589). Of that increase, the number of renters spending 50% or more on housing costs increased significantly by 31% (47,454 to 62,187) between 2017 and 2021.

<sup>10</sup> Cost burden is determined as the percentage of household income spent on housing costs. Monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels. ((American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, page 19 and 32)

<sup>11</sup> See U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/affordablehousing/](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/)

# Rent Values



<sup>†</sup>Difference not statistically significant at a 90% confidence interval; \*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C25056

**Contract Rent<sup>12</sup> Distribution:** In 2021, over three-quarters (76%) of Travis County’s occupied rental units had rents at or above \$1,000. Only 7% of occupied rental units had rents of \$749 or less.

**Trends to Watch:** Between 2017 and 2021, the total number of renter-occupied units increased by 23% (50,488 units). During the same time, the number of renter-occupied units with rent less than \$750 decreased by 38% (9,022 units) and the number of renter-occupied units with rent \$1,000 or more increased by 54% (71,817 units).

**Median Contract Rent:** In 2021, the median contract rent in Travis County (\$1,321) was higher than Texas (\$1,007) and the U.S. (\$1,037). Between 2017 and 2021, Travis County had a similar increase in the median contract rent as Texas and the U.S. when adjusted for inflation, shown in the table below.

<b>Median Contract Rent</b>				
Travis County, Texas, U.S., 2017 & 2021				
	2017*	2021	Difference	Percent Change
Travis County Median Contract Rent	\$1,238	\$1,321	\$83	7%
Texas Median Contract Rent	\$932	\$1,007	\$75	8%
U.S. Median Contract Rent	\$959	\$1,037	\$78	8%

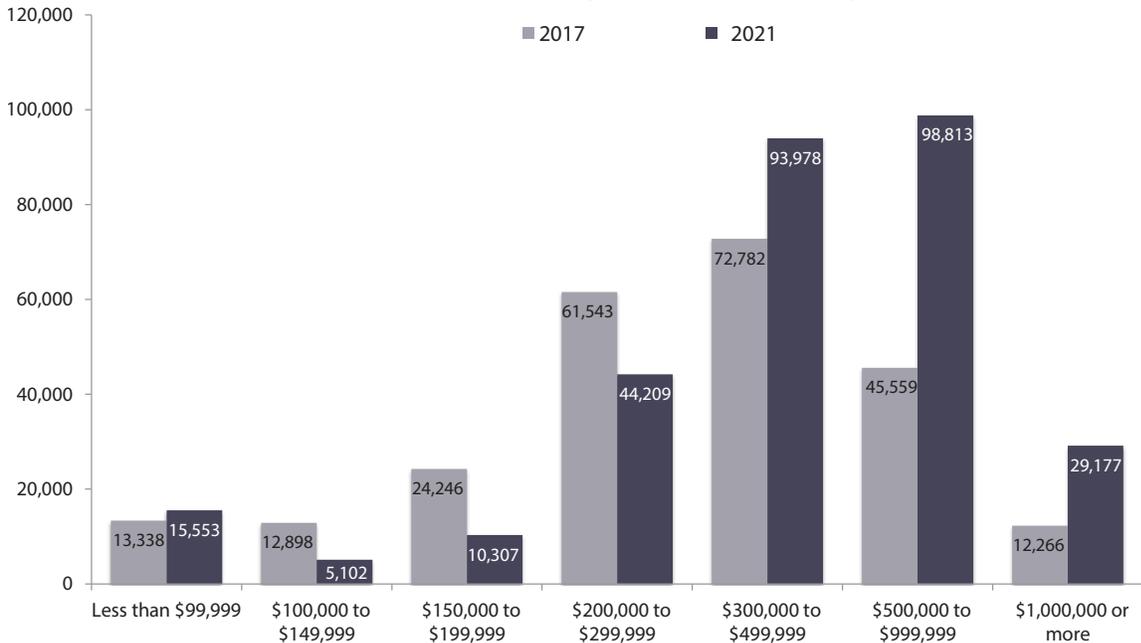
\*2017 Median contract rent is reported in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars using the Consumer Price Index  
Created by: Travis County, HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25058

<sup>12</sup> Contract rent is the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, page 16.)

# Housing Values

## Housing Units by Value

Owner-occupied housing units, Travis County, 2017 & 2021



Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C25075

**Distribution of Housing Values<sup>13</sup>:** In 2021, only 30,962 (10%) of Travis County owner-occupied homes were valued under \$200,000, 44,209 (15%) were valued between \$200,000 and \$299,999, and 221,968 (75%) were valued at or over \$300,000.

**Trends to Watch:** The number of owner-occupied units by value shifted during the past 5 years. From 2017 to 2021, Homes valued below \$300,000 decreased by 33% (36,854 units) while homes valued at or above \$300,000 increased by 70% (91,361 units).

**Geographic Comparison:** The following table shows the percentage of housing value categories for Travis County, Texas, and the U.S. Travis County has a smaller proportion of homes valued below \$200,000 and a higher proportion of homes valued at \$300,000 and above than both Texas and the U.S.

Proportion Housing Units by Value			
Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2021			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Less than \$200,000	10%	40%	34%
\$200,000 to 299,999	15%	24%	20%
\$300,000 to 499,999	32%	23%	25%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	33%	11%	17%
1,000,000 or more	10%	2%	5%

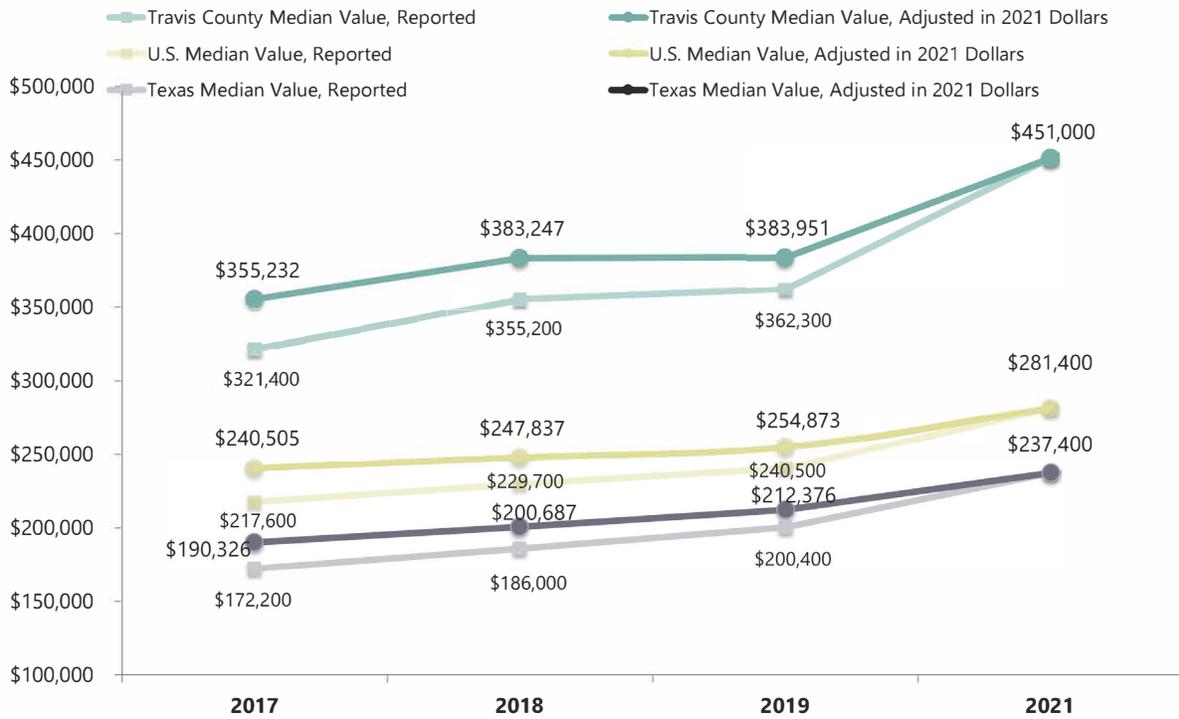
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022. Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C25075

<sup>13</sup> Housing value is the respondent’s estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, page 46.)

# Median Home Values

## Median Home Values, 2017-2021\*

Owner-occupied housing units, Travis County, Texas, & U.S.



\*2020 1-year American Community Survey estimates were not made available due to data unreliability caused by COVID-19 pandemic  
 Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022; Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25077

**Trends to Watch:** In 2021, Travis County’s reported median home value for owner-occupied housing units was \$451,000, an increase of \$95,768 since 2017 when adjusting for inflation.

**Geographic Comparison:** In 2021, Travis County’s reported median home values (\$451,000) were higher than Texas (\$237,400) and the U.S. (\$281,400). When adjusted for inflation, the 2017 median home values in Travis County, Texas, and the U.S. rose by 27%, 25%, and 17%, respectively.

Median Housing Values				
Owner-Occupied Housing Units, Travis County, Texas, & U.S., 2017 & 2021				
	2017*	2021	Difference	Percent Change
Travis County Median Housing Values	\$355,232	\$451,000	\$95,768	27%
Texas Median Housing Values	\$190,326	\$237,400	\$47,074	25%
U.S. Median Housing Values	\$240,505	\$281,400	\$40,895	17%

\*2017 Median housing value is reported in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars using the Consumer Price Index  
 Created by: Travis County, HHS Research & Planning Division, 2022 Source data: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25077

# Methodology

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates is the primary data source for this chartbook. Data from the 2017-2021 ACS are also referenced for trend analyses.

## About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census or Decennial Census and collects information on an ongoing basis rather than a single point in time every ten years.<sup>14</sup> The data collected through the ACS can be grouped into four main types of characteristics: social, economic, housing, and demographic.<sup>15</sup> The ACS 1-year estimates are data that have been collected over a 12-month period and are available for geographic areas with at least 65,000 people. Although not used in this report, the Census Bureau also produces 5-year estimates, by combining data collected over a period of 60 months, to produce estimates for geographic areas with fewer than 65,000 residents.

## ACS Methodology

The ACS is conducted every month on independent samples of housing unit<sup>16</sup> addresses (whether vacant or occupied) and persons in group quarters<sup>17</sup> facilities, and produces annual estimates of the total residential population. In 2021, approximately 3.54 million housing unit addresses in the United States and approximately 167,000 residents in group quarters facilities were selected.<sup>18</sup> Surveys are collected from 1/12 of the sample each month. Requests to complete the ACS are not mailed to specific people but rather to specific addresses. The Census Bureau selects a random sample of addresses to be included in the ACS. An address will not be included in the ACS survey more than once in a five-year period.<sup>19</sup>

For Travis County, the original 2021 (entire 12 month) sample of initial addresses selected was 9,931, and the final number of housing unit interviews (actual sample used to produce results) was 4,909.<sup>20</sup> The group quarters population sample is not available at the county level, but for the entire state of Texas, the initial sample selected was 7,385 and the final number of group quarters actual interviews was 5,346.<sup>21</sup>

The ACS is conducted primarily through self-response. The ACS employs two distinct data collection methodologies: one for individuals residing in housing units and another for those residing in group quarters. For those residing in housing units, four modes of data collection are used: the internet, a mailout/mailback,

14 A copy of the 2021 questionnaire can be found at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2021/quest21.pdf>

15 U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020. [https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/acs/acs\\_general\\_handbook\\_2020.pdf](https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/acs/acs_general_handbook_2020.pdf)

16 A housing unit may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing unit inventory. Boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, tents, railroad cars, and the like are included only if they are occupied as someone's current place of residence. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, pg. 7.)

17 A group quarters is a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions, pg. 8.)

18 American Community Survey Sample Size Definitions, available at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/sample-size/index.php>.

19 U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020. .

20 U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B98001.

21 U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Tables B98001 and B98002.

Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) and a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). The general timing of data collection is completed within three months. During Month 1, addresses in the sample are sent an initial mailing package, which contains information for completing the ACS questionnaire on the internet. If an online response is not received after two weeks, then a second mailing package is sent. This package contains a paper questionnaire and the housing unit has the option of which mode to use to complete the interview. During Month 2, all mail non-responding addresses with an available phone number are sent to the CATI. During Month 3, a sample of mail non-responses without a phone number, CATI non-responses, and unmailable addresses are selected and sent to CAPI. For participants residing in Group Quarters, field representatives use several options, including completing the questionnaire while speaking to the resident in person or over the telephone, conducting a personal interview with a proxy, such as a relative or guardian, or leaving paper questionnaires for residents to complete for themselves and then pick them up later. This last option is used for data collection in Federal prisons.<sup>22</sup>

## Limitations

Because the findings are based on a sample rather than entire populations, the results would differ slightly if another sample were drawn or if the entire population were surveyed. This reduces the reliability of the results. A certain amount of variability (also called sampling error) is associated with any estimate based on a sample.<sup>23</sup> In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling error will be. ACS estimates included in this publication have been tested for reliability at a 90% level of confidence.<sup>24</sup> When direct comparisons are made (for example, between geographic areas or over time), tests have been performed for statistical significance at a 90% confidence level. Estimates with coefficients of variation (CV)<sup>25</sup> of more than 15% were either excluded or footnoted as being unreliable. Note that testing was not conducted on every possible permutation of comparisons between visible figures in this report's charts and tables, so inferences about statistics and trends should be interpreted with caution.

Monetary values: Inflation affects the comparability of dollar-denominated data across time periods. When comparing household income over time we adjust estimates for inflation using the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual averages, per guidance from the Census Bureau's Handbook for Data Users.

For more information and instruction on testing for reliability and statistical significance, as well as general guidance on how to use American Community Survey data, please see the Handbooks for Data Users published by the U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks.html>.

<sup>22</sup> American Community Survey Accuracy of the Data (2021), available at: [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2021.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2021.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2021.

<sup>24</sup> A confidence level or interval is a range of values that describes the uncertainty surrounding an estimate. The "90%" in the confidence interval listed above represents a level of certainty about our estimate. If we were to repeatedly make new estimates using exactly the same procedure (by drawing a new sample, conducting new interviews, calculating new estimates and new confidence intervals), the confidence intervals would contain the average of all the estimates 90% of the time. We have therefore produced a single estimate in a way that, if repeated indefinitely, would result in 90% of the confidence intervals formed containing the true value. (U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, "A basic explanation of confidence intervals", <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/guidance/confidence-intervals.html>, accessed 12/05/2022).

<sup>25</sup> Coefficient of variation is a measure used to discern the level of reliability of an estimate. It is calculated using the estimate and its standard error. For more information on calculating and using coefficients of variation, see: U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2021.

# Methodology

Non-response error: If certain individuals do not respond to the survey, the strength of the findings will be diminished. Additionally, those who respond to the survey may possess certain traits that skew the results differently than if everyone in the sample responds (this is known as selection bias). However, while surveys are often voluntary, response to the ACS is required by law (Title 18 U.S.C Section 3571 and Section 3559), and those who refuse or willfully neglect to respond to the survey are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and those willfully gives any false answers are subject to a fine up to \$500.<sup>26</sup> The 2021 response rate for Texas was 79.7% for housing units and 48.8% for group quarters).<sup>27</sup>

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26 American Community Survey: Top Questions About The Survey,<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/top-questions-about-the-survey.html>

27 Response rate information is available on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey website at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/response-rates/>

# Appendix

## 2021 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

The following table presents the federal poverty thresholds by household size and income.

Household Size	Income Limits by Household Size				
	100%	200%	300%	400%	500%
1 person	\$13,788	\$27,576	\$41,364	\$55,152	\$68,940
2 persons	\$17,529	\$35,058	\$52,317	\$69,846	\$87,375
3 persons	\$21,559	\$43,188	\$64,677	\$86,236	\$107,795
4 persons	\$27,740	\$55,480	\$83,220	\$110,960	\$138,700
5 persons	\$32,865	\$65,730	\$98,595	\$131,460	\$164,325
6 persons	\$37,161	\$74,322	\$111,482	\$148,644	\$185,805
7 persons	\$42,156	\$84,312	\$126,468	\$168,624	\$210,780
8 persons	\$47,093	\$94,186	\$141,279	\$188,372	\$235,465

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,420 for each additional person.

Data source: "Data source: "2021 Poverty Thresholds," U.S. Census Bureau, November 12, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>"

## 2021 Austin Median Family Income Guidelines

For context, the Austin MFI guidelines are provided as some social service programs may use the Austin MFI guidelines when measuring client incomes. The following table presents the median family income limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Austin-Round Rock, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Household Size	Income Limits by Household Size		
	Extremely Low*	Very Low (50%)	Low (80%)
1 person	\$20,800	\$34,659	\$55,400
2 persons	\$23,750	\$39,600	\$63,300
3 persons	\$26,700	\$44,450	\$71,200
4 persons	\$29,650	\$49,450	\$79,100
5 persons	\$32,050	\$53,450	\$85,450
6 persons	\$35,580	\$57,400	\$91,800
7 persons	\$40,120	\$61,350	\$98,100
8 persons	\$44,660	\$65,300	\$104,450

\*The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act changed the definition of extremely low-income to be the greater of 30/50<sup>th</sup>s (60%) of the Section 8 very low-income limit or the poverty guideline as established by the Department of Health and Human Services, provided that this amount is not greater than the Section 8 50% very low-income limit. Data source: "Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA FY 2021 Income Limits Summary," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2021/2021summary.odn>.