



# Facts, Accolades and Projections for Travis, Williamson and Hays Counties



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Alamo Title

**Why Austin?** *Austin is defined by stunning growth, lower business and living costs and a well educated youthful population. Austin possesses an infrastructure that is ready to support local businesses. We have the telecommunication, transportation, electric and water capacities to support major industry and offer a favorable tax environment for business. More than 18 companies have moved offices or headquarters to Austin in 2010 putting the city on track for record breaking relocation. ABJ, August, 2010*

## Greater Austin SMA

- Austin is ranked as the #1 metro area for 24-hour particulate pollution and has some of the cleanest air in the country by The American Lung Association, State of the Air, May 2011
- Austin ranked 3rd for the Best Cleantech cities in the nation by Clean Techies, May 2011
- Austin is ranked 5th on the "Cities on the Edge" list of American Cities poised for greatness in sports, culture and music. Spearlings Best List, May 2011.
- Austin is ranked first among 65 large metros for job growth by New Geography, April 2011
- Austin ranks as America's 5th Strongest Job Market by Business Journals "On Numbers," April 2011
- Austin leads the nation in Small Business Vitality rankings by The Business Journal, April 2011
- Austin has the fourth lowest unemployment rate in the country according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2011
- Austin ranks 3rd on the Best Cities for Staying Young survey of the 50 largest metros by RealAge, April 2011
- Austin ranks among nine metropolitan areas with a strong supply of IT talent, low competition and favorable employment costs by KLG Advisors, April 2011
- Austin was ranked the 8th Most Socially Networked City in the U.S. by Men's Health, March 2011
- Austin has the 2nd highest well-being of any metropolitan area with more than one million residents by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, March 2011
- Austin is ranked the #2 Healthiest Market for Home Builders by Builder Magazine, March 2011
- UT Austin ranks as one of the Best Values in Public Colleges 2011 by Kiplinger's Personal Finance, February 2011
- Austin is among the 10 Best Cities to Invest in Office Real Estate by Grubb & Ellis, January 2011
- Austin is ranked the 2nd IT Startup Hotspot by PayScale, January 2011
- Austin ranked as one of the Best American Cities to Live and Work by Business Review USA, January 2011
- Austin is ranked the Best Place to Buy a Home in 2011 by AOL's WalletPop, December 2010
- Austin is rated among Newsweek's 10 Cities Best Situated for Economic Recovery, November, 2010
- Austin is rated among America's 10 Most Affordable Cities by Forbes, November, 2010
- Austin ranked 6th among America's Smartest Cities by CNNMoney.com, October, 2010
- University of Texas at Austin named 9th Best Graduate Program for Entrepreneurs. Entrepreneur, October, 2010
- Austin ranks 2nd on the Milken Institute's Best-Performing Cities 2010: Where America's Jobs Are Created & Sustained, October, 2010
- Austin has the 6th Highest Percentage of Residents with a College Degree in the United States according to CNNMoney.com and the U.S. Census Bureau. October 2010
- University of Texas at Austin was named the 12th Best Executive M.B.A. Program in the country by The Wall Street Journal, September 2010
- Austin tops multiple Business Facilities Metro Rankings: #1 for Quality of Life, #1 for Renewable Energy Availability, & #2 among Greenest Metros. Business Facilities, July, 2010
- Austin is the 10th Fastest-Growing Exporter in U.S. July 2010
- Austin ranks 1st on the list of the Best Cities for the Next Decade and Ten Best Places for Your Future by Kiplinger's Personal Finance, July 2010
- Austin ranked 2nd on the list of America's Most Innovative Cities by Forbes, May 2010
- UT ranked in the Top 10 CEO Undergraduate Alma Maters in Bloomberg Businessweek, May 2010
- Austin ranked in the Top 10 for Best Quality of Life by Portfolio.com, May 2010
- Austin ranked as the Best Big City for Jobs in Forbes, April 2010
- Austin ranks in the Top 10 of Forbes' annual Best Places for Business & Careers. Forbes, April 2010
- Austin places in the Top 10 of the Best Places to Live by RelocateAmerica.com, April 2010
- Austin places 3rd among 20 Cities That Are Having An Awesome Recovery in Business Insider, March 2010
- Austin tied for 1st in Forbes' list of Cities Where the Recession is Easing. Forbes, March 2010
- Austin was ranked as the #5 city in the annual "100 Best Retirement Towns by TopRetirements.com, February 2010
- Austin has the Healthiest Housing Market for 2010. Builder Market Health Index, February 2010
- Austin's ranked as the Best Airport in North America & the 2nd Best in the World in its Size Class by Airports Council International, February, 2010
- Austin ranks 2nd in job growth among the top 50 major metropolitan areas by Texas Workforce Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2010
- Austin received the nation's top score for small-business vitality, according to a new Portfolio.com/bizjournals study, January 2010
- Austin was ranked Best City to Invest in Commercial Real Estate by Grubb & Ellis, January 2010
- Austin is listed among the Top 5 places to buy and sell a home by ABC News, August 2009
- Austin lands the number one spot as the top U.S. city for job growth, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2009
- Pitney Bowes Business Insight names Austin America's top retail city, May 2009

## Round Rock and Georgetown

- For the fifth consecutive year, Round Rock ranks among the top 20 safest cities in the country, and No. 4 safest among cities greater than 100,000 population.
- In 2008, Round Rock landed 7th on MONEY magazine's list of America's Best Places to Live, its annual ranking of America's most livable towns.
- In January 2007, the City of Round Rock was selected in a national competition as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.
- In 2010, Family Circle's annual survey ranked Round Rock among the Top 10 Towns for Families.
- The Austin-Round Rock area tied for first on Forbes' list of large metros where the recession is easing. March 2010
- In 2007 Georgetown ranked the best Place to Retire in America by Retirement Magazine.
- Georgetown was named in 10 Great Retirement Spots for Golf Nuts by US News and World Report in 2008.
- Georgetown was the only city in the country to receive a perfect score as a place to launch a small business by Fortune Small Business in 2008.

## Three County Area Travis, Williamson & Hays

- Travis County has 1,022 square miles with 33 square miles of rivers and lakes.
- In 2009 the population of Travis County was 1,026,158 and has gained 400,000 residents since 1990.
- Travis County is supported with 5 major Highways, I-35, US 183, US 290, State Hwy 71, and State Hwy 130.
- Williamson County has 1,135 square miles with 12 square miles of rivers and lakes.
- Williamson county had a 57.7% population growth from 2000-2009.
- CNNMoney.com reports Williamson County added more jobs in the past decade than every other county in the nation except one. Since 2000, Williamson County's job growth is 58.9 percent, second only to Lincoln County, SD.
- Williamson county is supported with 9 major Highways, I-35, US 79, US 183, State Highway 29, State Highway 45, State Highway 95, State Highway 130, 183A Toll Road and State Highway 195.
- Williamson County is the 12th Fastest Growing county in the Nation according to the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.
- Hays County has 680 square miles with 2 square miles of rivers and lakes.
- Hays County is supported with 4 major Highways, I-35, US Highways 290, State Highway 21 and State Highway 80.
- In 2008 Hays County had a population of 149,476.
- Six Texas Counties Rockwall, Williamson, Collin, Hays, Fort Bond and Montgomery are in the Top 25 Fastest Growing Counties in the Nation according to USA Today.

## Population Growth Texas A&M Real Estate Center & Census Bureau.

- Travis County 2000-2009 had a 26.3% growth adding 213,878 people.
- Williamson County 2000-2009 had a 64.3% growth adding 160,719 people.
- Hays County 2000-2009 had 59.4% growth adding 58,000 people.

## 2010-2015 Population Forecasts Texas Department of Health Services. Office of State Demographer.

Travis	113,559 Gain	+11.1%		
Williamson	147,457 Gain	+35.7%		
Hays	47,792	+30.5%		
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>New Residents</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Travis	992,793	1,168,738	175,965	+17.7%
Williamson	435,355	715,395	280,040	+64.3%
Hays	164,078	250,886	86,808	+52.9%
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>New Residents</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Travis	992,793	1,336,648	343,875	+34.6%
Williamson	435,355	1,137,513	702,158	+61.3%
Hays	164,078	355,508	191,430	+116.7%

## Hays County Roads

- In 2008, Hays County approved \$207 Million in road bond improvements.

## Travis County Roads

- Between 2006 and 2010 more than 75 miles of new toll roads were constructed at a cost of more than \$4 Billion.
- The Mobility Authority is planning to construct Express Lanes in the median of the MoPac Expressway from Lady Bird Lake north to Parmer Lane. The project will encompass 11 miles and cost approximately \$250 Million.
- Also under development is the Manor Expressway, a 6.2-mile limited-access toll road with three lanes in each direction. It will be constructed in an expanded median of US 290 and will extend from US 183 to east of Parmer Lane. The Mobility Authority recently received federal stimulus funding to help complete the flyover direct connect interchange between US 183 and the Manor Expressway. The project cost approximately \$600 Million.

## Williamson County Roads

- Williamson County voters passed a \$350 Million road bond project in 2000.
- In 2005, The Texas Department of Transportation Commission approved \$174 Million in road improvements in Williamson County.
- In 2006, Williamson County voters approved a \$228 Million in road bond package for further Road improvements.

## Texas Statistics Texas Comptrollers Office.

- Texas economy is the world's 11th largest!
- **Texas has added 732,800 jobs over the last 10 years, no other state tops 100,000.** Business Journals On Numbers, May 2011.
- Texas is predicted to be the Place that will Lead the Country to a Solid Economic Recovery by the National Journal, September 2010
- Texas ranked #1 for U.S. Wind Power Capacity added. U.S. Department of Energy, August, 2010
- Texas ranked as the Best State for Business by Chief Executive in June 2010.
- Texas ranked as one of country's Best State Tax Systems for Entrepreneurship & Small Business by Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council in May 2010.
- Texas Foreclosure in May 2010 was one in 867 mortgages. Florida was 1 in 174, California was 1 in 186, Nevada was 1 in 79, Arizona was 1 in 169
- Texas was Number 1 in population growth from 1990 to 2000.