# HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

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Population
New York remains the most populated city in the United States, far ahead of other cities with a population over eight million.

Per the 2007 Census estimate, the City of Houston continues to be the fourth largest city in the U.S.

San Jose has replaced Detroit, as the tenth largest city.

Phoenix experienced the highest increase in population, 18% between 2000 and 2007.

Houston had the third highest population increase (13%), behind Phoenix and San Antonio.

Philadelphia and Chicago witnessed decline in population, 4% and 2%, respectively.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2007
• The national average for the male population (49.2%) is slightly lower than the female population.

• Only Houston, San Jose, Dallas, San Diego, Phoenix and Los Angeles register a slightly higher percentage of male population compared to the U.S. average.

• Highest female population is shown for Philadelphia at 53.3%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• San Antonio registers the highest Hispanic population (61%), followed by Los Angeles (49%).

• Houston, Dallas and Phoenix show similar proportions of Hispanic population (42%).

• San Jose’s Asian population at 31% is six times higher than the national average (5%).

• Phoenix and San Diego show much a higher white population than the remaining major cities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
All major cities reveal percentages closer to the national average (75.3%) except Phoenix.

San Diego and New York (both at 76.9%) have a slightly higher percentage than the U.S. average.

Houston’s percentage (73.2%) is slightly lower than the U.S. average.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
The senior citizen population (65 years and over) in the U.S. is 12.5%. Only New York and Philadelphia are close to this figure.

Houston, Phoenix, Dallas, San Jose register for less than 10%.

Phoenix shows the lowest percentage among the major cities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• Houston has the fourth highest Foreign Born population at 28.1% compared to all the other major cities.

• The highest of Foreign Born population is in Los Angeles (40%). In contrast only 10% are in Philadelphia, followed by 13.4% in San Antonio.

• The U.S. average Foreign Born population is 12.5%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Households
Houston registered the fourth largest number of households compared to the nation’s ten largest cities, which is reflected in its population ranking.

New York has the largest number of households, more than double the number of households in Los Angeles.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
**Figure 9**

2007 Ten City Comparison
Family Households and Non-Family Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Family Households</th>
<th>Non-Family Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Only San Jose (72%) exceeds the U.S. average (66.9%).
- Houston ranks fourth among the ten largest cities, with 61.9% traditional family households.
- Philadelphia registered lowest percentage of family households at 55.2%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• Houston ranks sixth (40.3%) among the major cities.

• Only San Jose’s percentage is higher than the national average showing, 54.3%

• Philadelphia has the least percentage of Married Couple Families, at 28.4, followed by Chicago at 33.7%.

Note: Married Couple percentage is to the total households
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
- San Diego and San Jose show percentages lower than the national average.
- Houston, Dallas and Los Angeles register similar percentages.
- Philadelphia has the highest percentage (21.2%) of female-headed, single parent households.

**Note:** Female Householder - No Husband Present percentage is to the total households

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007*
• The average household size for the U.S. is 2.60.

• Only San Jose shows an average household size larger than 3.00 compared to other major U.S. Cities.

• All ten cities show an average household size larger than the U.S. average except Philadelphia and Chicago.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• The percentage of ‘Never Married” is higher than the national average (33.7%) for all of the major cities.

• Houston ranks third among married couple families, at 46.3%.

• The U.S. average for married couples is 52.6%. All other cities are lower than the U.S. average except San Jose (53.4%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Persons with no High School Diploma are lower than the U.S. average in San Jose and San Diego.

Houston, Chicago and Dallas register similar percentages of Bachelor’s Degree holders.

One fourth of the persons 25 years and older have Bachelor’s Degree in San Diego, followed by 22.7% in San Jose.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• Philadelphia registers much higher percentage (36.9%) of High School graduates.

• The U.S. average of High School graduates is 30%.

• Houston ranks sixth among the major U.S. cities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• San Diego shows the highest percentage of Graduates and Professionals, at 15%.

• The U.S. average is close to 10%. Houston, Dallas and Los Angeles experience similar percentages.

• Phoenix shows the lowest, at 8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Income and Poverty
Houston and Dallas experience similar median household incomes.

San Jose and San Diego show income levels higher than the U.S. average, at $76,354 and $60,185, respectively.

According to the 2007 American Community Survey, the median household income for the U.S. is $50,007.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
• Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate, at 24.5%, compared to the U.S. average at 13.3%

• Houston’s poverty level is similar to those of Dallas and Chicago.

• San Jose has the lowest poverty rate, at 10.2%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
San Jose has the lowest rate of families below the poverty level, at 7.4%

Houston ranks third after Philadelphia and Dallas.

The U.S. average is registered at 9.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Employment
Houston ranks seventh (32.8%) among persons 16 years and older who are not in the labor force.

Philadelphia registers the highest percentage, at 42.2%, followed by New York, at 38.4%.

The U.S. average is at 35.3%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
 Employment in Educational, Health and Social Services in Dallas, San Jose and Phoenix are lower than Houston's percentage (17.6%).

- Philadelphia shows the highest percentage (28.1%), followed by New York (24.8%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Only Phoenix’s unemployment rate (3.6%) is lower than the U.S. average (4.2%).

Chicago and Philadelphia have an unemployment rate greater than 6%.

Houston ranks third among the major U.S. cities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Between Feb 2008 and Feb 2009, the unemployment rate (more or less) doubled in Los Angeles and San Jose.

The U.S. average increased from 4.8% to 8.1% for the same period.

Houston and Dallas experienced similar increases, but lower than the U.S. average.

Note: Unemployment Rate for persons 16 years and over
• All cities show significant employment in the Private Sector.

• Only San Diego and New York show a slightly lower proportion in the Private Sector.

• Self Employment percentages are higher than the U.S. average is Houston, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas and San Jose.

• Slightly higher Government employment rates are shown in San Diego, Philadelphia and New York.

Note: Data for Workers 16 years and Over
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Economic Well Being
Average Hotel rate per night in New York is significantly higher than other major U.S. cities, at $297.

Houston’s hotel rate is the lowest at $94, followed by Dallas, at $104.

Sources: Hotelnewsnow.com for New York, Chicago, Houston, San Jose and Phoenix; Latimes.com for Los Angeles; Dallascityhall.com for Dallas; Visitsanantonio.com for San Antonio; Sandiego.org for San Diego; Gophila.com for Philadelphia; Compiled by Planning Department in March 2009.
• Average meal cost in New York ($39) is the highest among other major cities, followed by San Jose (35.96%) and San Diego ($35.78).

• Houston’s cost is the second lowest at $27.04 after San Antonio, at $26.57.

Note: Data for Phoenix is not available.
Source: Zagat Ratings, 2007
Among the ten largest cities in the U.S., Houston has the fourth highest bank deposits at $79 billion.

New York has significantly high bank deposits at $418 billion, followed by Chicago at $118 billion.

Source: FDIC, 2008
Compared to the ten largest cities in the U.S., Houston has the largest geographical area (656 square miles), followed by Phoenix (517 square miles).

The City of Philadelphia has the least land area at 135 square miles, followed by San Jose, at 175 square miles.

Source: Compiled by Planning and Development Dept. 2009
• Houston gained 3% land area from 636 square miles in 2004 to 656 square miles in 2008.

• Between the same years, the City of San Antonio lost 9% or 45 square miles, the largest decrease in land area compared to the other major cities.

Source: Compiled by Planning and Development Dept. 2009
- New York has the highest density (27,130 persons per square mile), followed by Chicago and Philadelphia.

- San Antonio has the lowest density at 2,846 persons per square mile. Houston and Dallas have comparable densities.

- Houston has the fifth lowest density compared to the major cities, with 3,384 persons per square mile.

Source: Compiled by Planning and Development Dept. 2009
Houston has the fourth highest number of housing units among the ten largest cities.

New York's figure is similar to a cumulative total of housing units in Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
The U.S. average of occupied units is 88.4%

Houston, Chicago & Dallas show similar percentages of occupied units.

Philadelphia shows the highest percentage of vacant units at 15.5%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
None of the major cities shows a higher percentage of occupied units than the U.S. average of 67.3%.

New York has the highest percentage of renter occupied units at 66.1%, followed by Los Angeles at 60%.

Houston ranks 4th among renter occupied units, at 52.8%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Houston issued the highest number of residential permits (16,505) in 2007 among the major U.S. cities.

San Jose issued the fewest permits issued (1,942), followed by Philadelphia (1,972).

Note: Data for New York is not reported.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permit Data, 2007
**Figure 35**

2007 Ten City Comparison
Single and Multi Family Permits

- Chicago and New York show a significant number of multi-family permits that were issued in 2007.
- Houston and Phoenix have issued a similar number of permits for constructing multi-family units.
- Only Philadelphia and San Jose have issued fewer single family permits.

*Note: Data for New York is not reported.*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permit Data, 2007*
Houston’s median housing value is third lowest ($119,300) after Philadelphia ($117,500) and San Antonio ($96,100).

The U.S. median housing value is $181,800. Houston’s median value is much lower than the nation.

The three cities with highest median housing values are in the State of California.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
The highest median contract rent is in San Jose and San Diego, showing $1,227 and $1,184, respectively.

Houston had the third lowest median contract rent at $740.

The median contract for the nation is $781.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
San Diego witnessed the largest decline in the median sale price of single family homes (-34%) from $588,700 in 2007 to $385,600 in 2008, followed by Los Angeles (-32%) and Phoenix (-26%).

Houston and Philadelphia have experienced the smallest declines in median sale prices for the same period (-1%).

In 2008, the lowest median sale price for single family homes was in Dallas at $145,800, followed by Houston at $151,600.

Public Safety
In Houston, the number of police officers per 100,000 persons is 222, which is fifth highest in the nation.

Chicago, New York and Philadelphia have the highest number of officers per capita (more than 400).

San Jose has the lowest number at 149 police officers per 100,000 persons.

Note: 2008 data is not available.
Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 2007
According to the FBI crime report, the highest number of crimes is registered in Dallas for 2007, at 7,674 crimes per 100,000 persons.

Houston, Phoenix and San Antonio show more than 6,000 crimes per 100,000 persons.

Note: Data for Chicago is not published.
Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 2007
Transportation
More than 50% commute in public transportation system in New York, followed by 25% in Chicago and Philadelphia.

In Houston, 73.2% of the commuters drive alone in their vehicles, lower than the U.S. average (76.1%).

The percentage of commuters in Houston using public transportation is 5.1%, far less than percentage of commuters in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
Phoenix shows the highest percentage (15.5%) of commuters taking a car pool to work, followed by Dallas (14.7%) and Houston (14.3%).

The U.S. average for commuters car pooling to work is 10.6%.

New York has the lowest percentage of commuters car pooling to work at 5.8%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007
The City of Los Angeles has the highest Congestion Cost Per Peak Traveler ($1,374).

Houston ranks fourth among other major cities.

San Antonio’s congestion cost is the lowest, followed by Philadelphia, at $706 and $711, respectively.

Data for 2007 is not available.

Note: Congestion Cost Per Traveler means dollar value of travel delay and extra fuel consumed in traffic congestion annually per peak traveler. 

Source: Texas Transportation Institute, The 2007 Urban Mobility Report
2005 Ten City Comparison
Person Hours of Delay Per Peak Traveler

- Los Angeles leads the nation’s other cities in terms of Person Hours Delay Per Peak Traveler, at 72 hours, followed by San Diego at distant second, at 58 hours.

- Houston ranks fourth among other major cities.

- The lowest number of delay hours is registered for Philadelphia.

Data for 2007 is not available.

Note: Hours of Delay Per Traveler means the extra time required during peak conditions compared to free flow conditions. The hours of delay per peak traveler – those who begin a trip during the morning or evening peak travel periods (6 to 9 a.m. or 4 to 7 p.m.)

Source: Texas Transportation Institute, The 2007 Urban Mobility Report
Figure 45

2005 Ten City Comparison
Travel Time Index

- Travel Time Index indicated additional time needed to commute due to congestion.
- Los Angeles registers for 30% more time needed to commute, followed by New York at 22%.
- Houston ranks sixth in terms of more time needed to commute due to congestion at 15%.

Data for 2007 is not available.
Note: The Travel Time Index (TTI) is the ratio of peak period travel time to free flow travel time. The TTI expresses the average amount of extra time it takes to travel in the peak relative to free-flow travel. A TTI of 1.3, for example, indicates a 20-minute free-flow trip will take 26 minutes during the peak travel time periods, a 6-minute (30 percent) travel time penalty.
Source: Texas Transportation Institute, The 2007 Urban Mobility Report
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Data Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2007
- U.S. Census Bureau: Building Permits, 2007
- Texas Transportation Institute: The 2007 Urban Mobility Report, 2005
- FDIC: Bank Deposits of all FDIC-Insured Institutions, 2008
- National Association of Realtors, 2007 & 2008
- Planning Dept Research: Land Area, Hotel, Meals, 2009

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