

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Houston's Comparison with Major U.S. Cities

April 2009



CITY OF HOUSTON
Planning and Development Department
Public Policy Division

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Table of Contents

- **Population**

- Figure 1: Total Population
- Figure 2: Population Change
- Figure 3: Male and Female Population
- Figure 4: Population by Race\Ethnicity
- Figure 5: Age 18 Years and Over
- Figure 6: Age 65 Years and Over
- Figure 7: Native and Foreign born

- **Households**

- Figure 8: Total Households
- Figure 9: Family and Non-Family Households
- Figure 10: Married Couple Family
- Figure 11: Female Householder – No husband Present
- Figure 12: Average Household Size
- Figure 13: Marital Status

- **Education**

- Figure 14: Educational Attainment
- Figure 15: High School Graduates
- Figure 16: Graduate and Professional

- **Income & Poverty**

- Figure 17: Median Household Income
- Figure 18: Individuals Below Poverty Level
- Figure 19: Families Below Poverty Level

- **Employment**

- Figure 20: Not in Labor Force
- Figure 21: Employment in Educational, Health & Services
- Figure 22: Unemployment Rate for Cities
- Figure 23: Unemployment Rate for Metro Areas
- Figure 24: Class of Workers

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Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Table of Contents (Contd)

- **Economic Well Being**

- Figure 25: Average Hotel Rates
- Figure 26: Average Meal Costs
- Figure 27: Deposits of all FDIC-Insured Institutions

- **Density**

- Figure 28: Land Area in Square Miles
- Figure 29: Land Area Change in Square Miles
- Figure 30: Population Density

- **Housing**

- Figure 31: Total Housing Units
- Figure 32: Occupied and Vacant Housing Units
- Figure 33: Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units
- Figure 34: Residential Building Permits
- Figure 35: Single and Multi-Family Permits
- Figure 36: Median Housing Value
- Figure 37: Median Contract rent
- Figure 38: Median Sale Price of Single Family Homes

- **Public Safety**

- Figure 39: Police Officers Per 100,000 Population
- Figure 40: Number of Crimes Per 100,000 Population

- **Transportation**

- Figure 41: Commuting to Work
- Figure 42: Car Pool to Work
- Figure 43: Congestion Cost Per Peak Traveler
- Figure 44: Person Hours of Delay Per Peak Traveler
- Figure 45: Travel Time to Work

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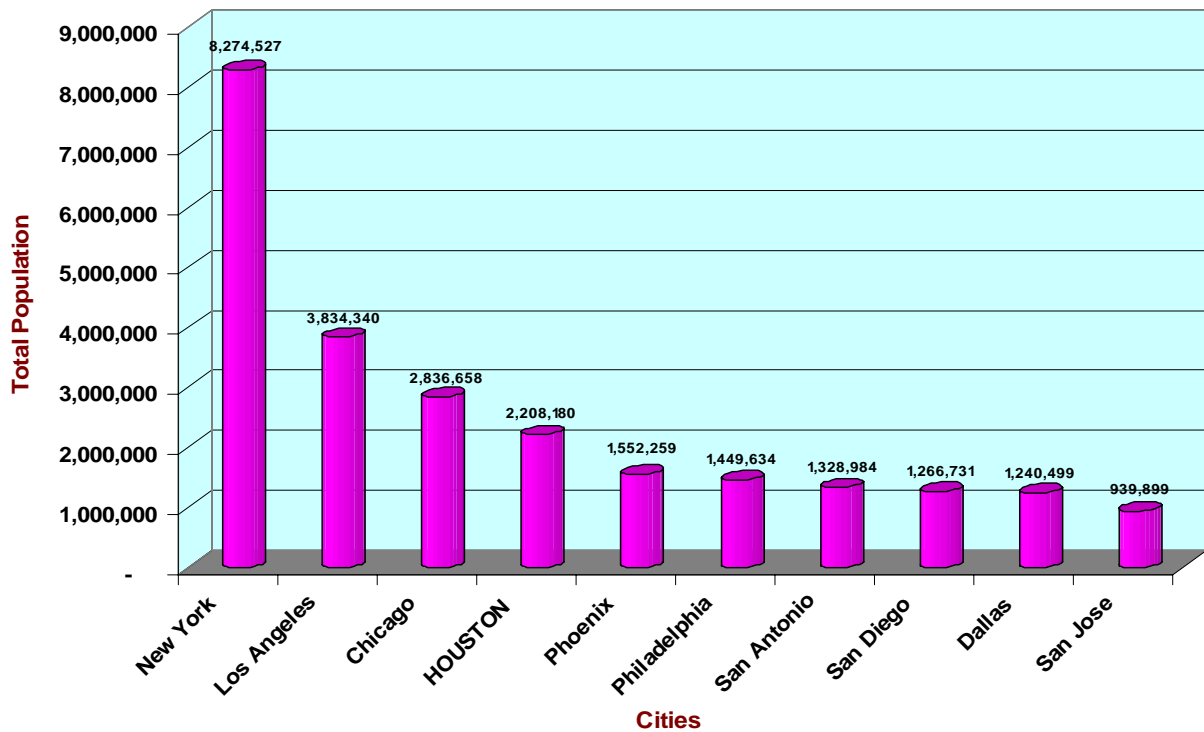
Population

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Figure 1

2007 Ten City Comparison Total 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.

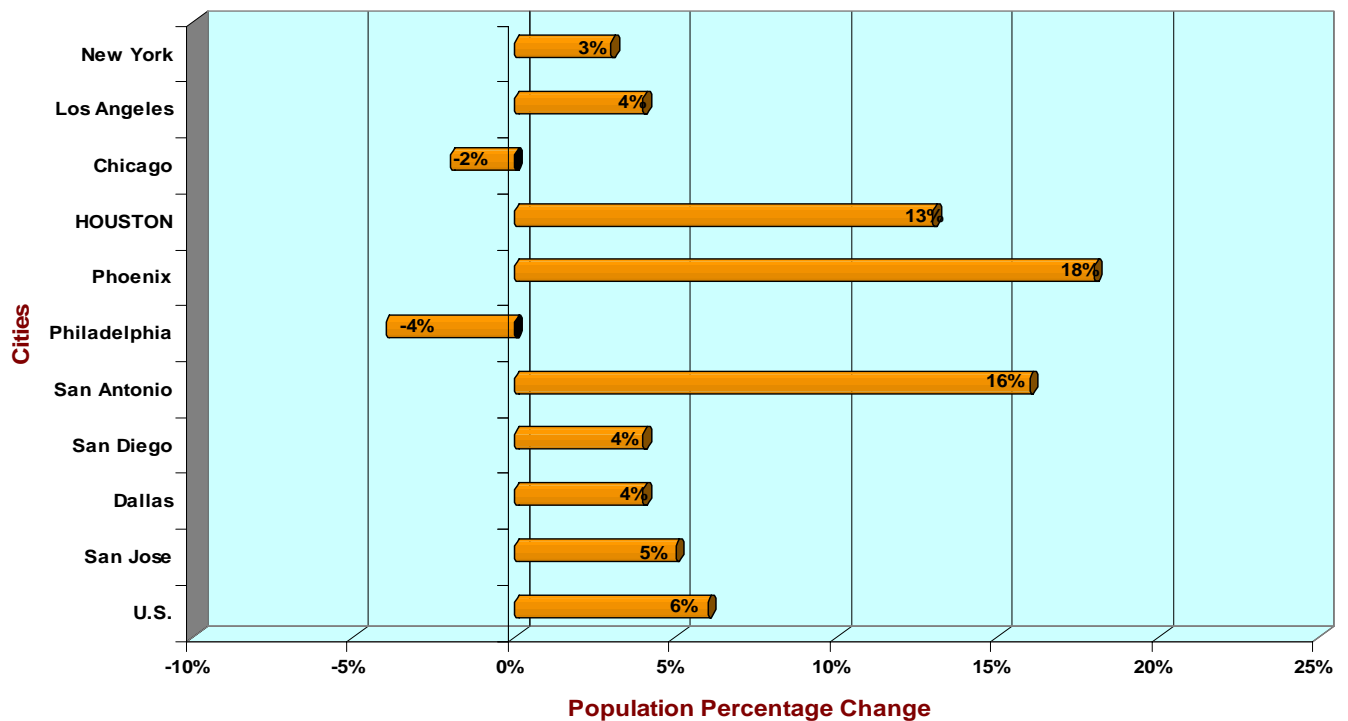
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates, 2007

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Figure 2

Ten City Comparison Population Change 2000-2007



- 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.

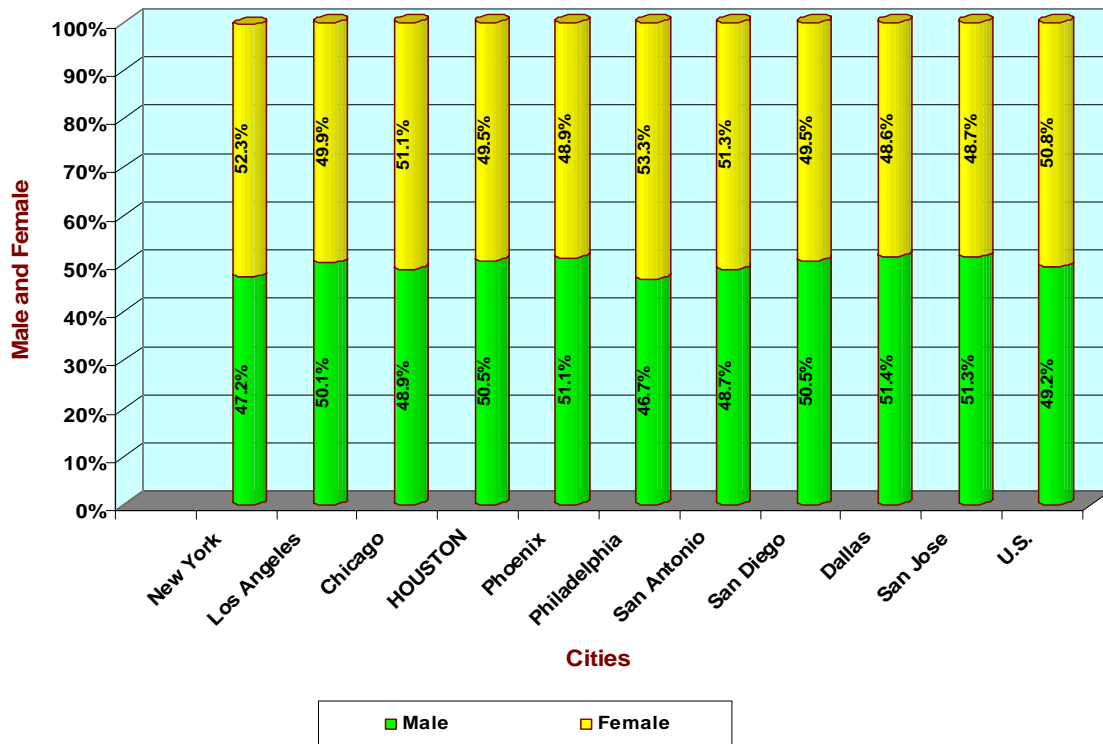
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2007

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Figure 3

2007 Ten City Comparison Male and Female Population



- 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%.

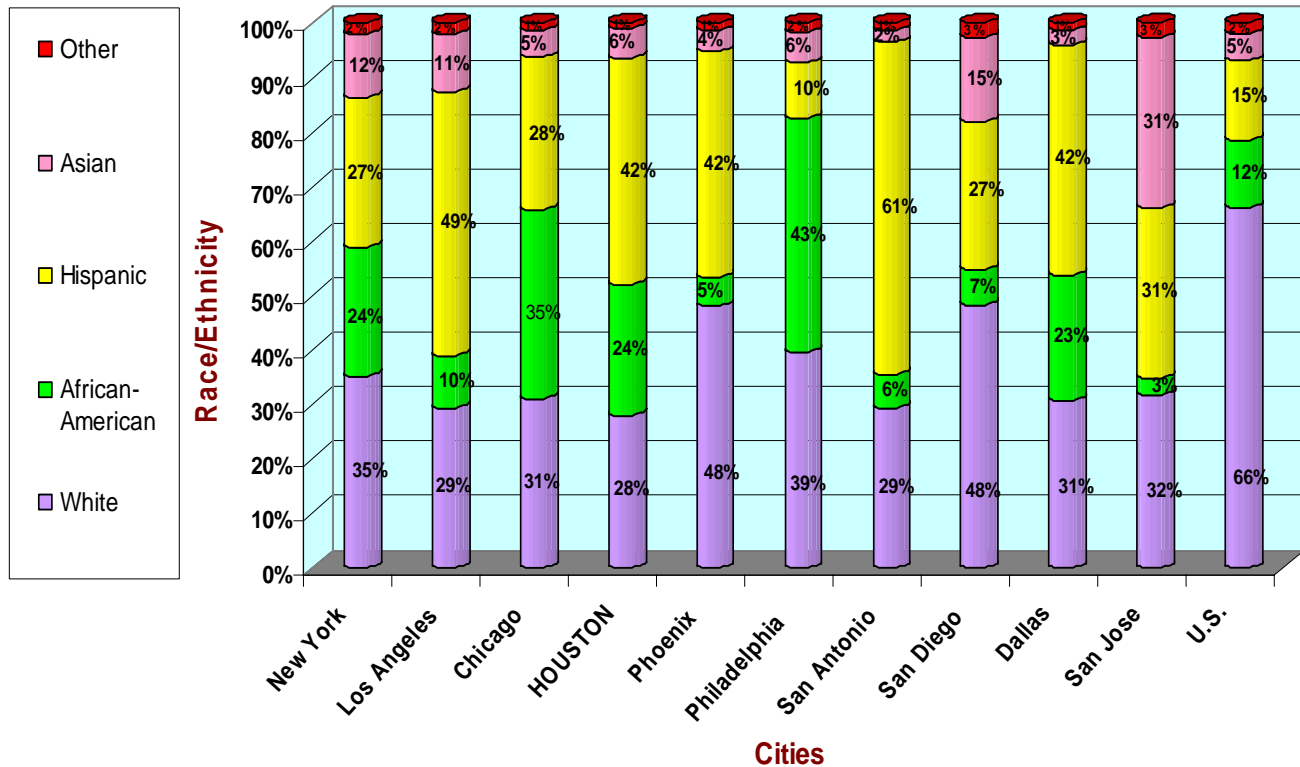
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 4

2007 Ten City Comparison Population by Race/Ethnicity



- 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.

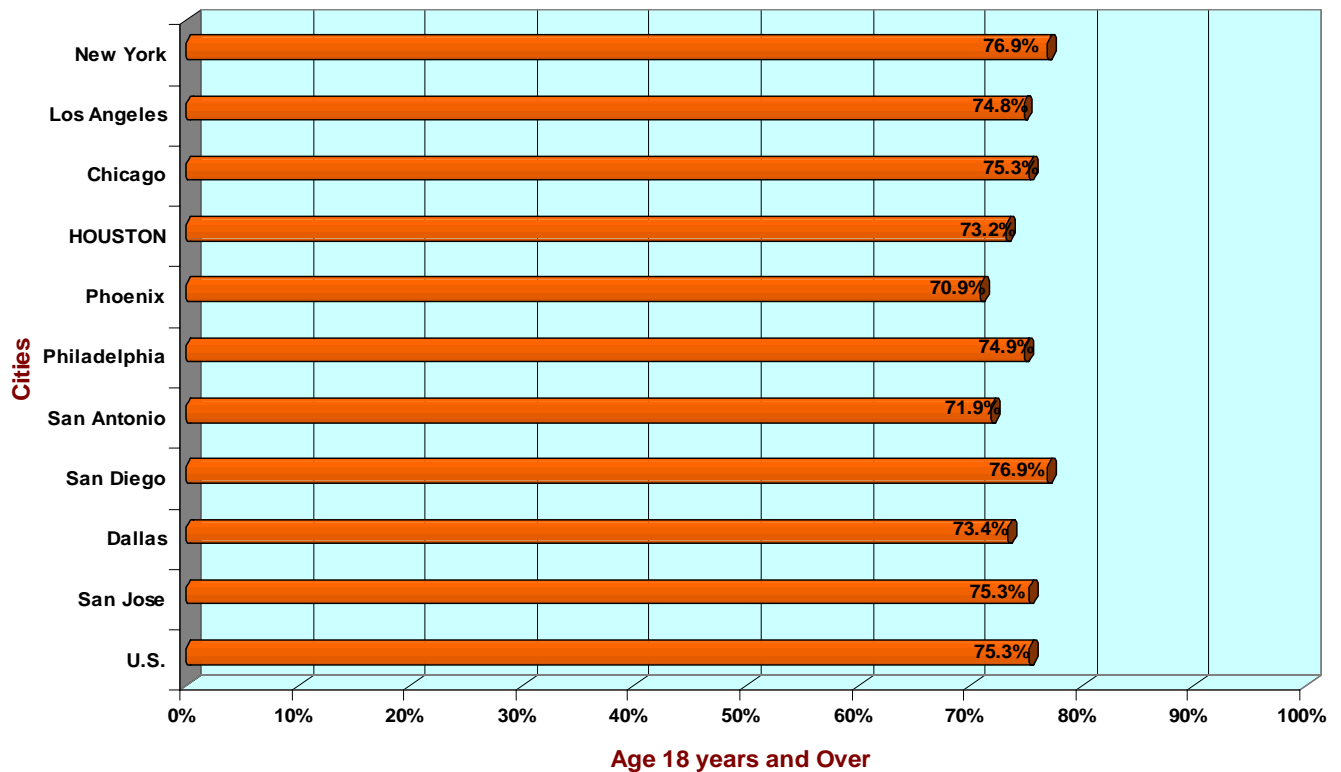
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 5

2007 Ten City Comparison Age 18 years and Over



- 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.

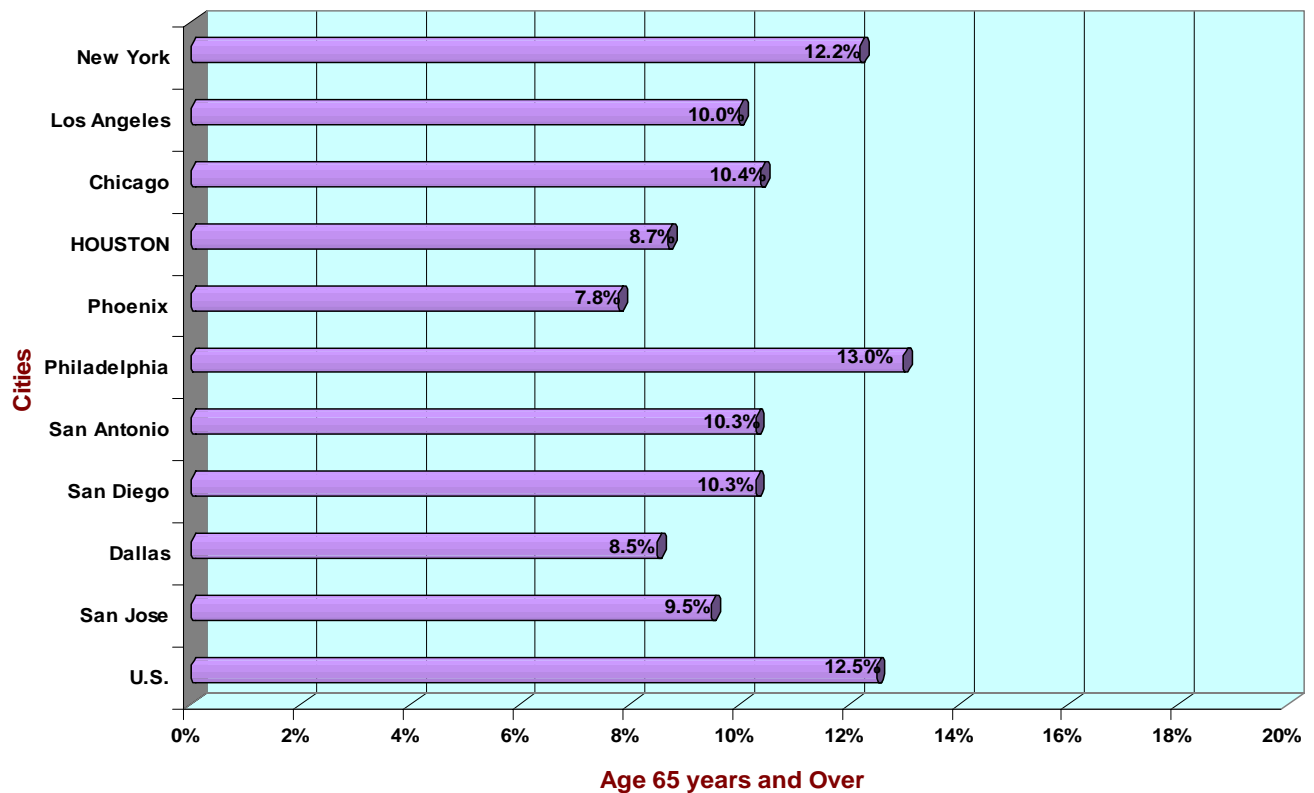
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 6

2007 Ten City Comparison Age 65 years and Over



- 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.

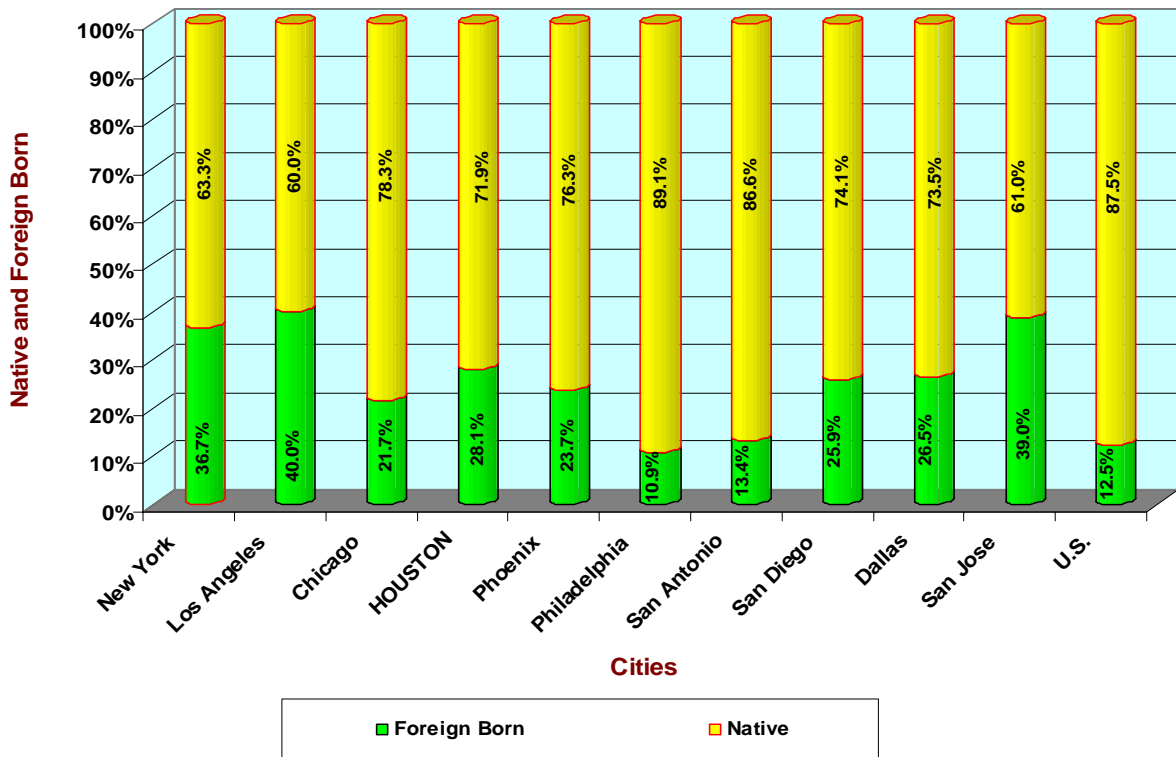
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 7

2007 Ten City Comparison Native and Foreign Born



- 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

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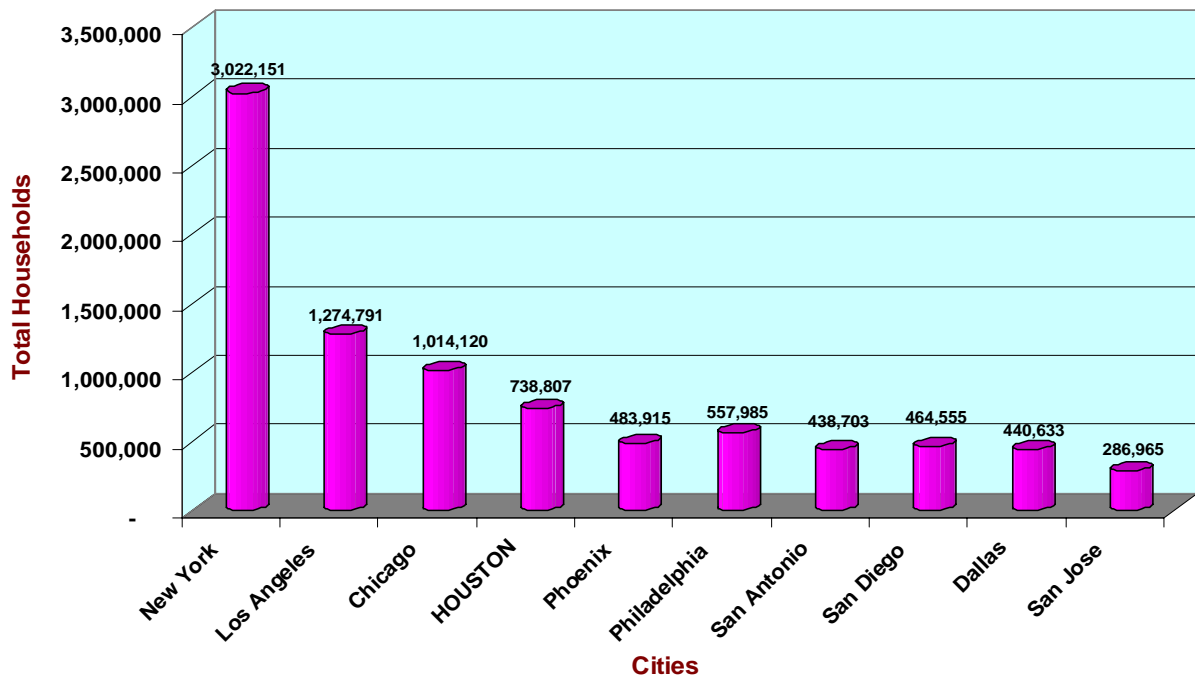
Households

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Figure 8

2007 Ten City Comparison Total 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.

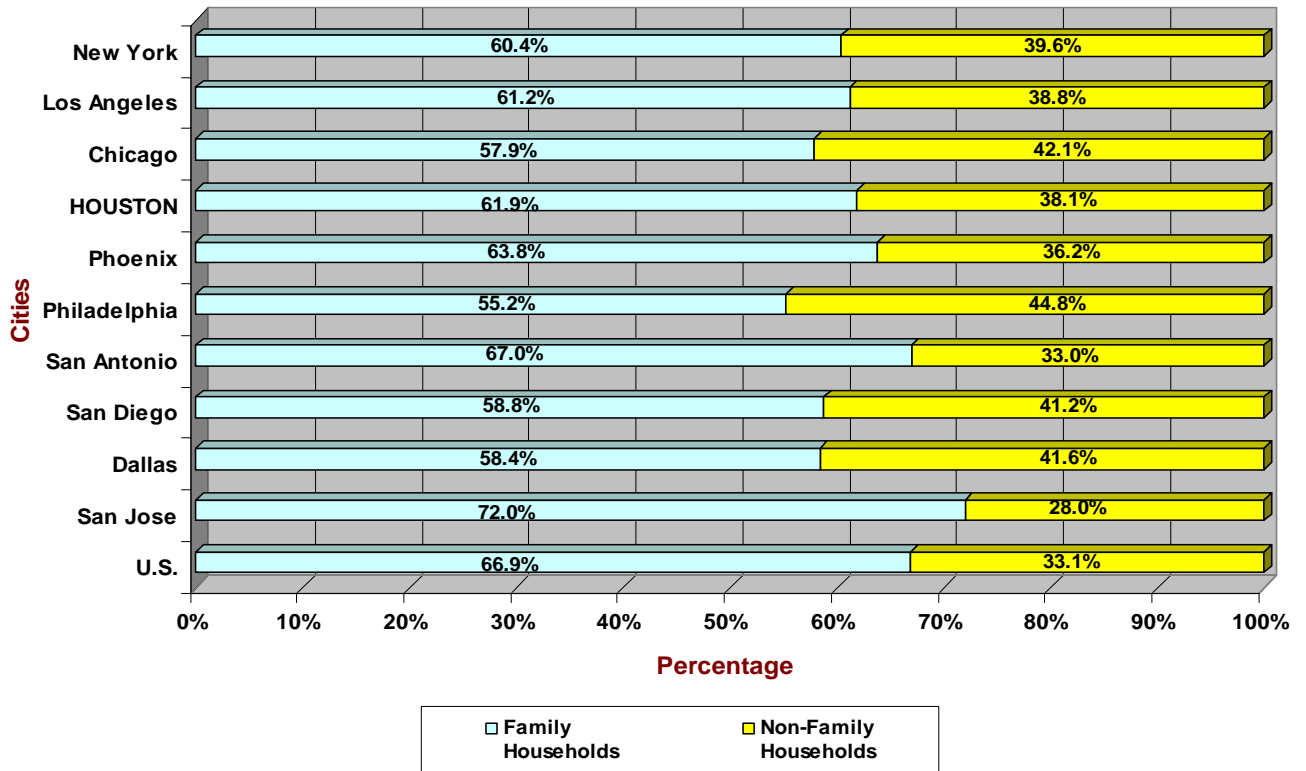
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 9

2007 Ten City Comparison Family Households and Non-Family Households



- 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%.

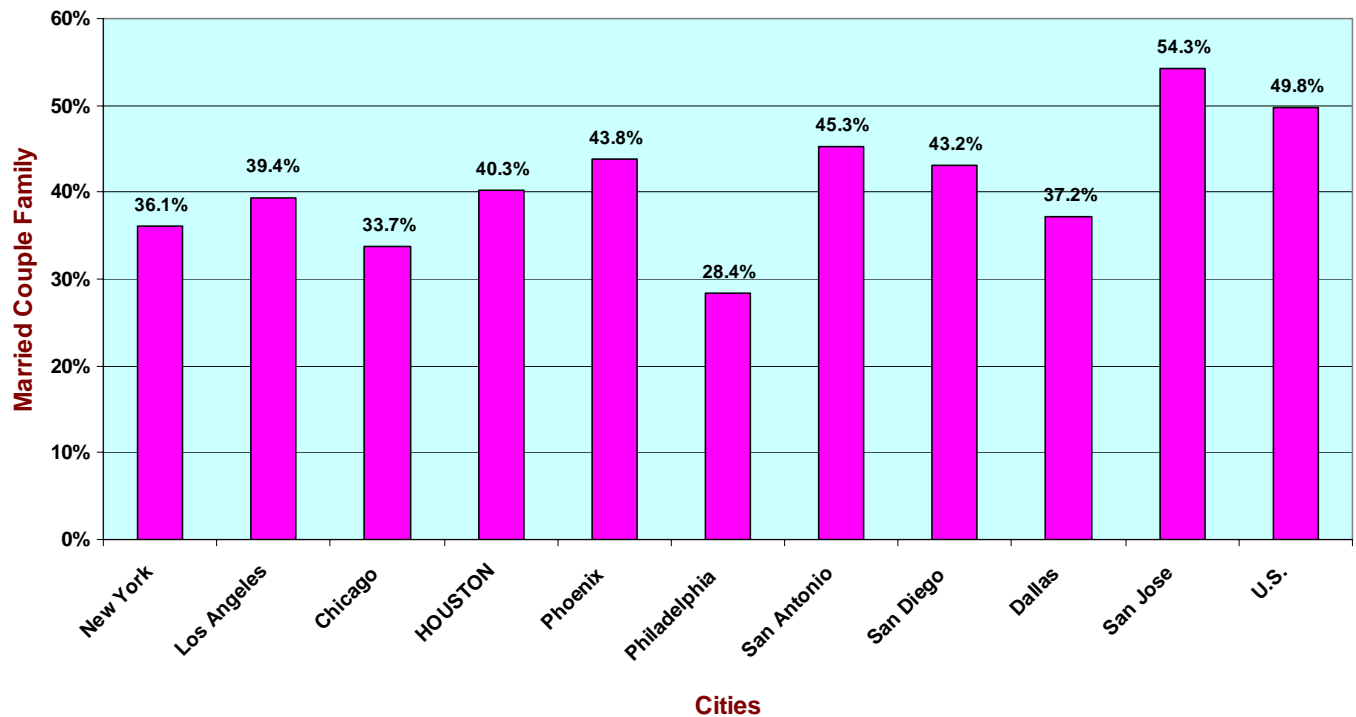
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 10

2007 Ten City Comparison Married Couple Family



- 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

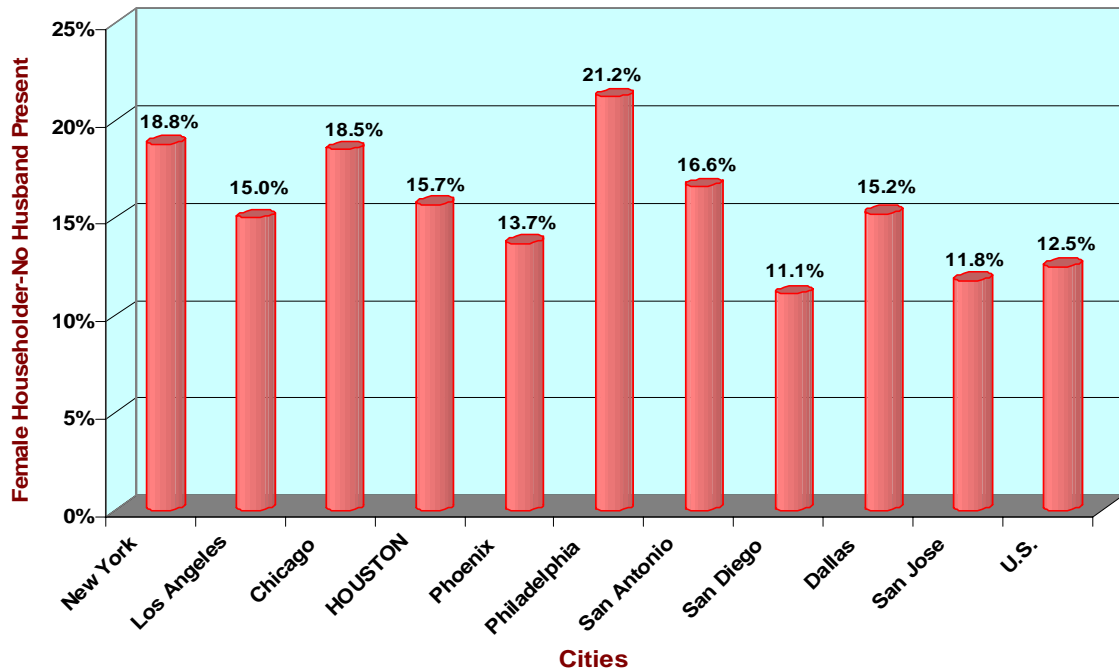
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 11

2007 Ten City Comparison Female Householder - No Husband Present



- 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.

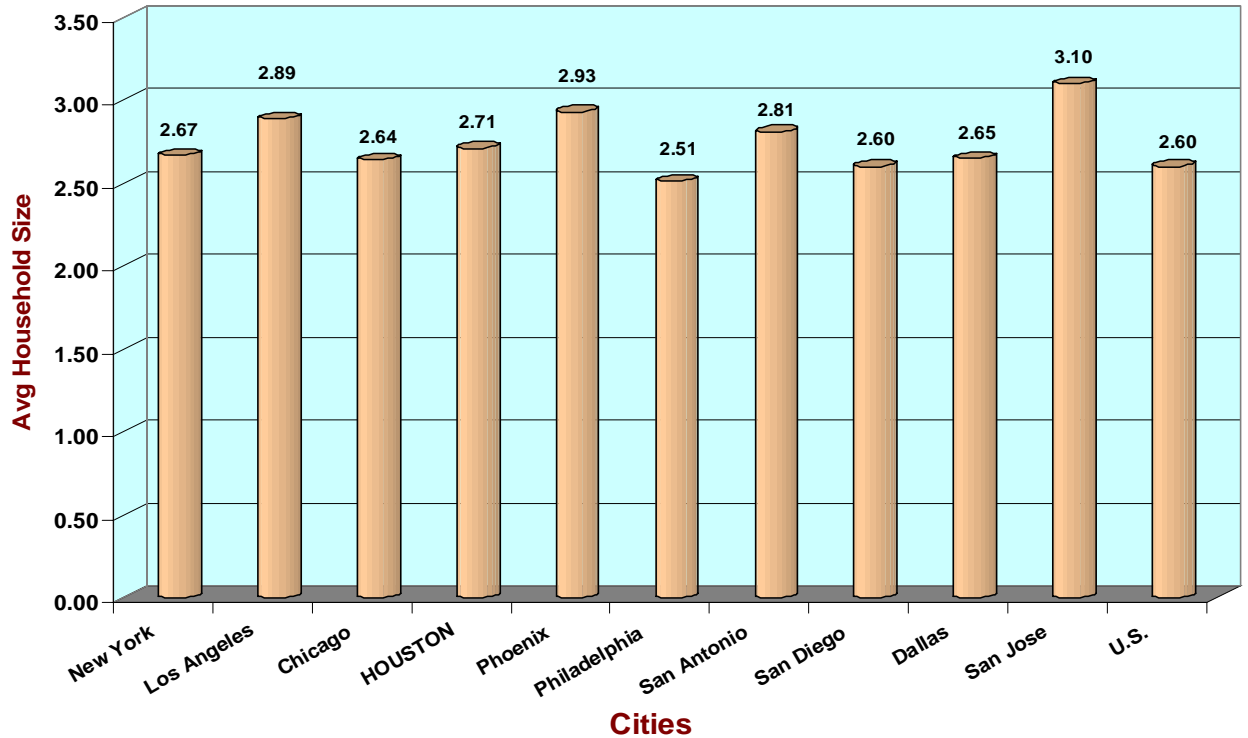
Note: Female Householder - No Husband Present percentage is to the total households
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 12

2007 Ten City Comparison Average Household Size



- 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.

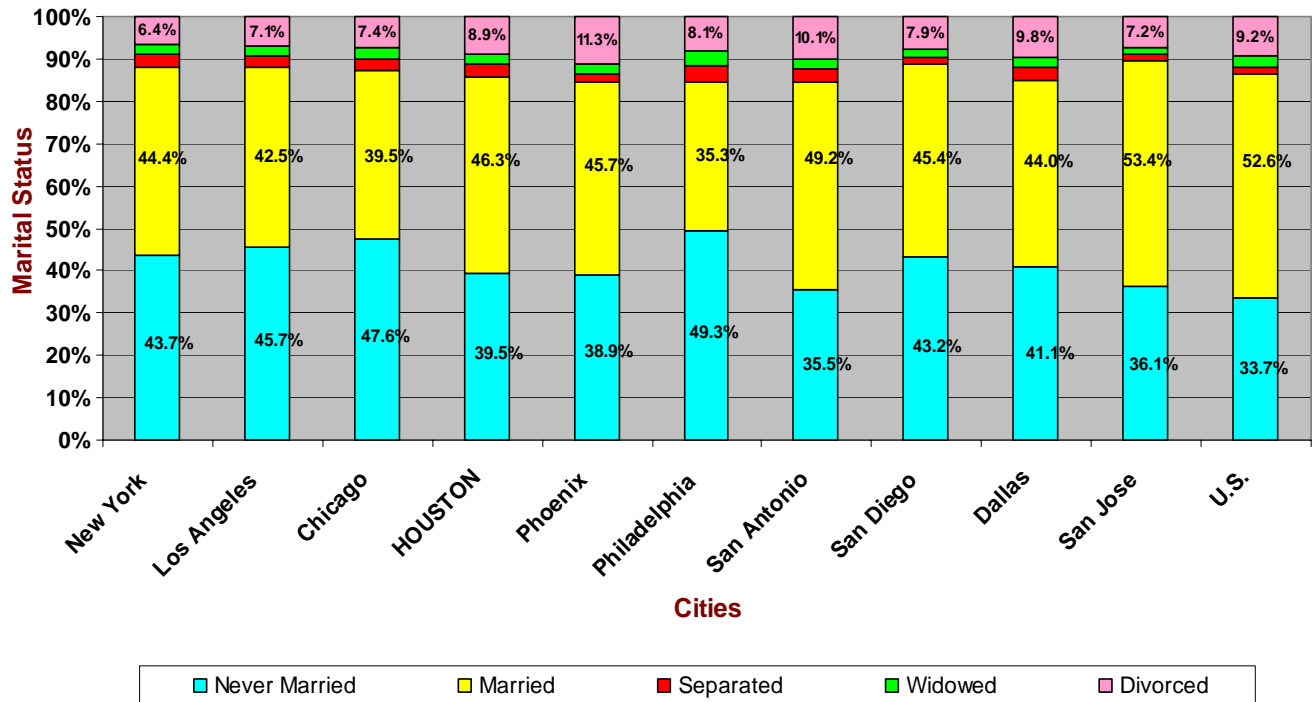
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 13

2007 Ten City Comparison Marital Status (Population 15 years and Over)



- 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

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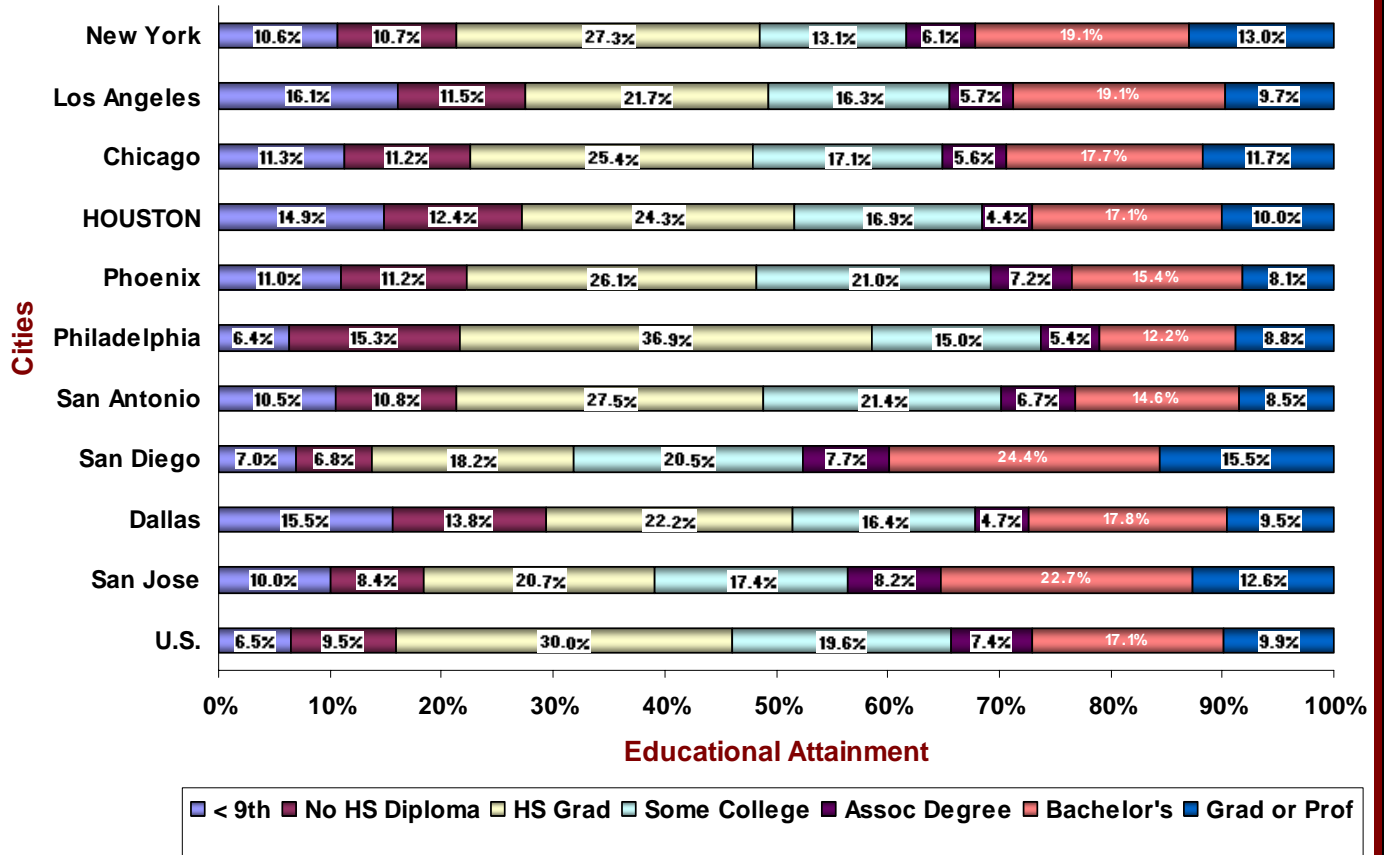
Education

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Figure 14

2007 Ten City Comparison Educational Attainment (Persons 25 Years and Over)



- 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.

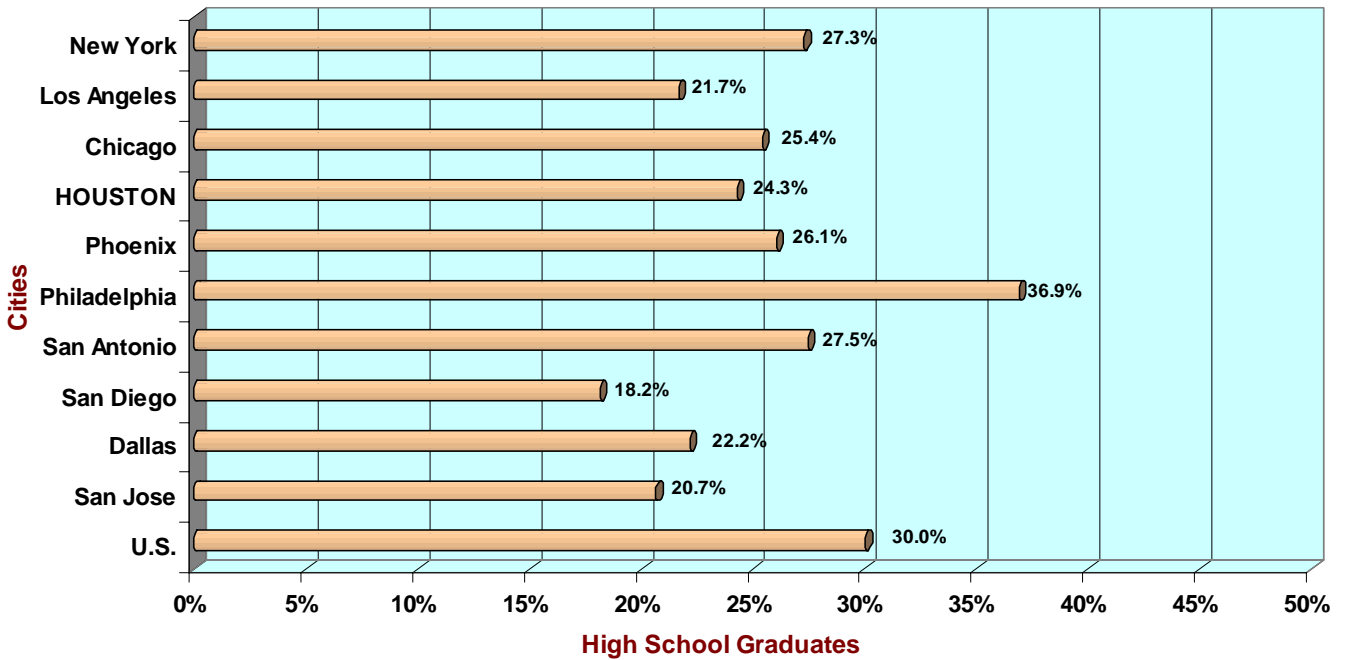
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 15

2007 Ten City Comparison High School Graduates (Persons 25 years and over)



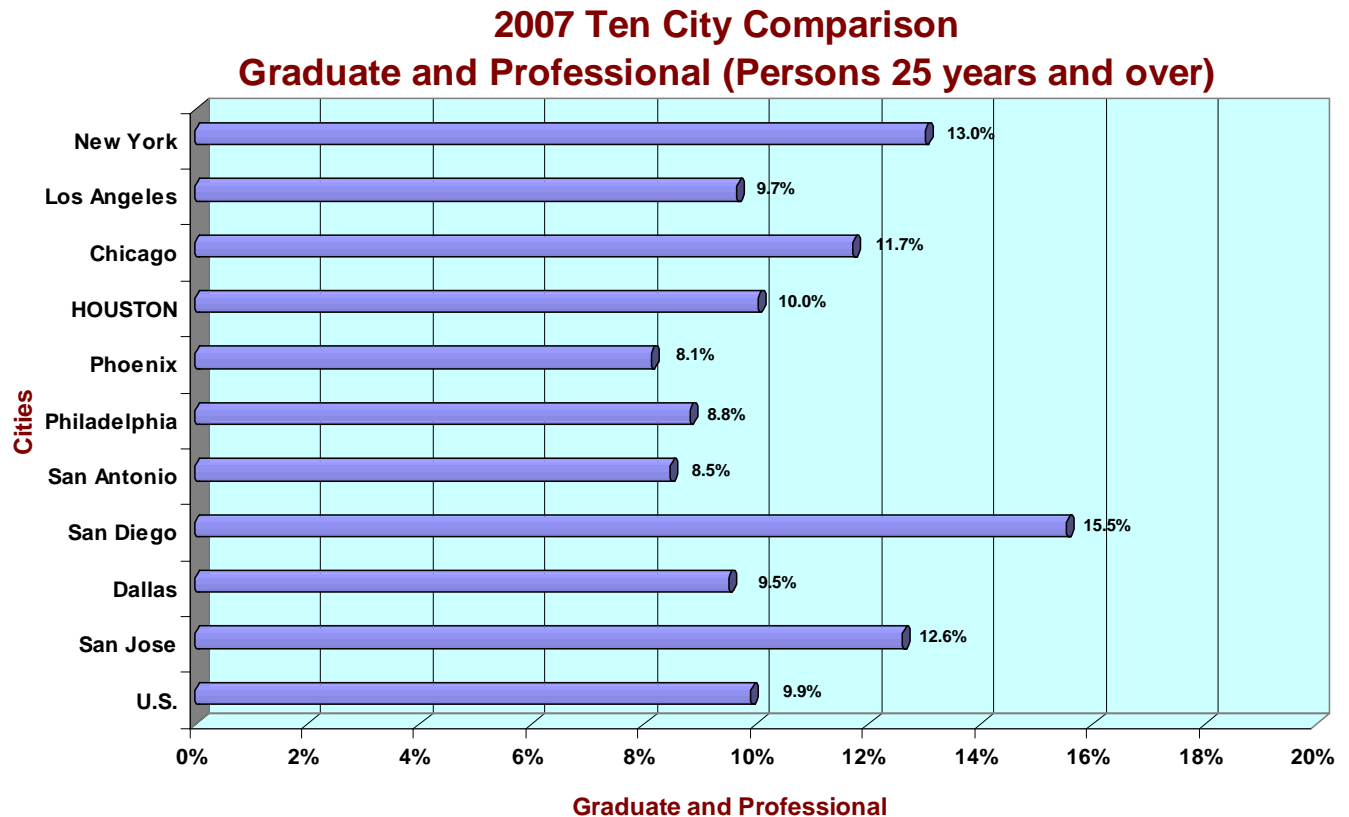
- Philadelphia registers much higher percentage (36.9%) of High School graduates.
- The U.S. average of High School graduates is 30%.
- Houston ranks sixth among the major U.S. cities.

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

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Figure 16



- 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

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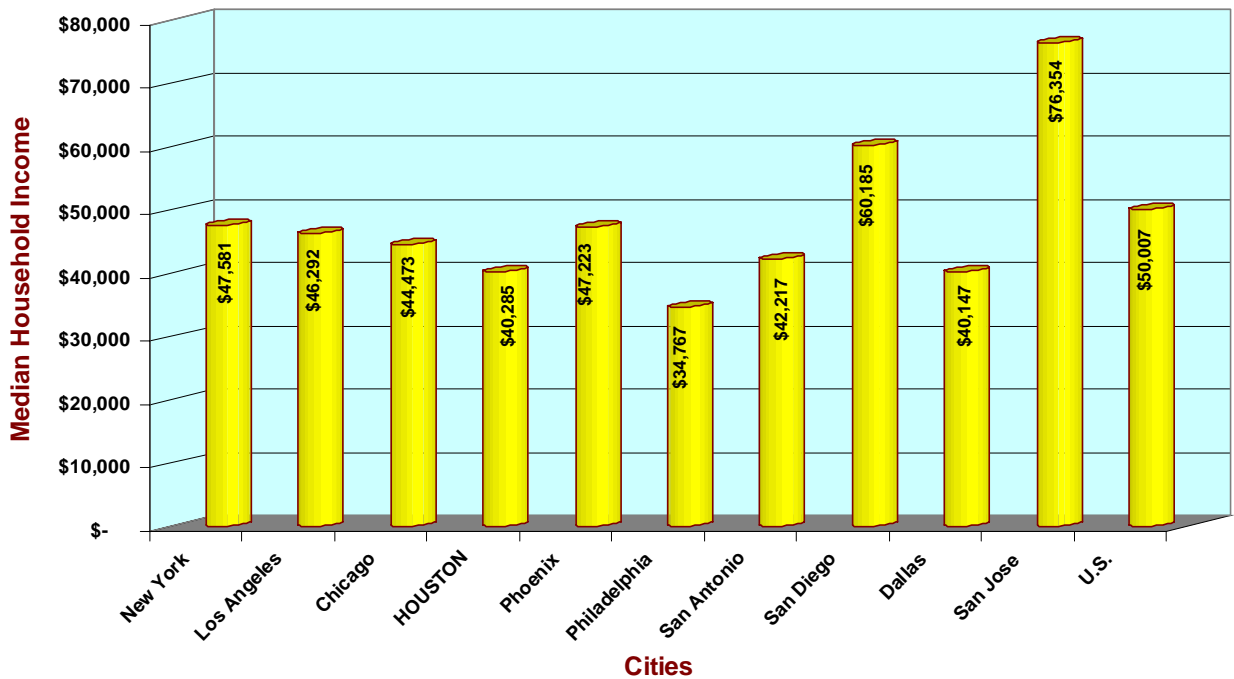
Income and Poverty

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Figure 17

2007 Ten City Comparison Median Household Income



- 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.

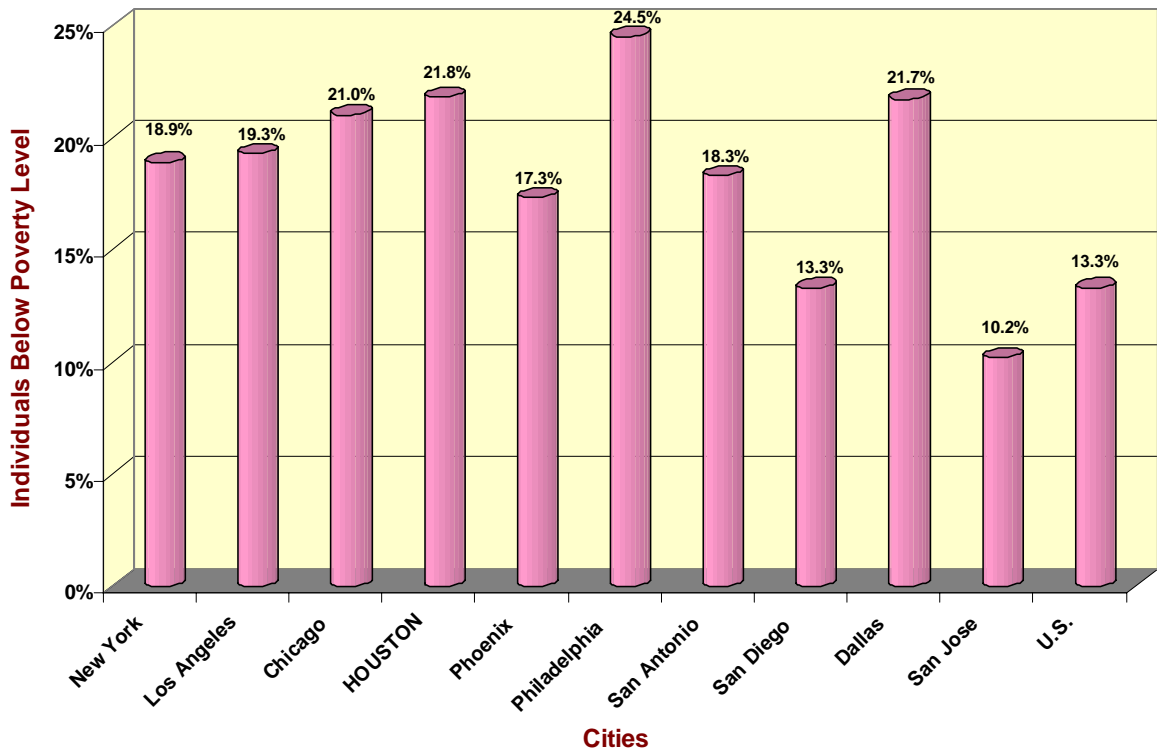
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 18

2007 Ten City Comparison Individuals Below Poverty Level



- 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%.

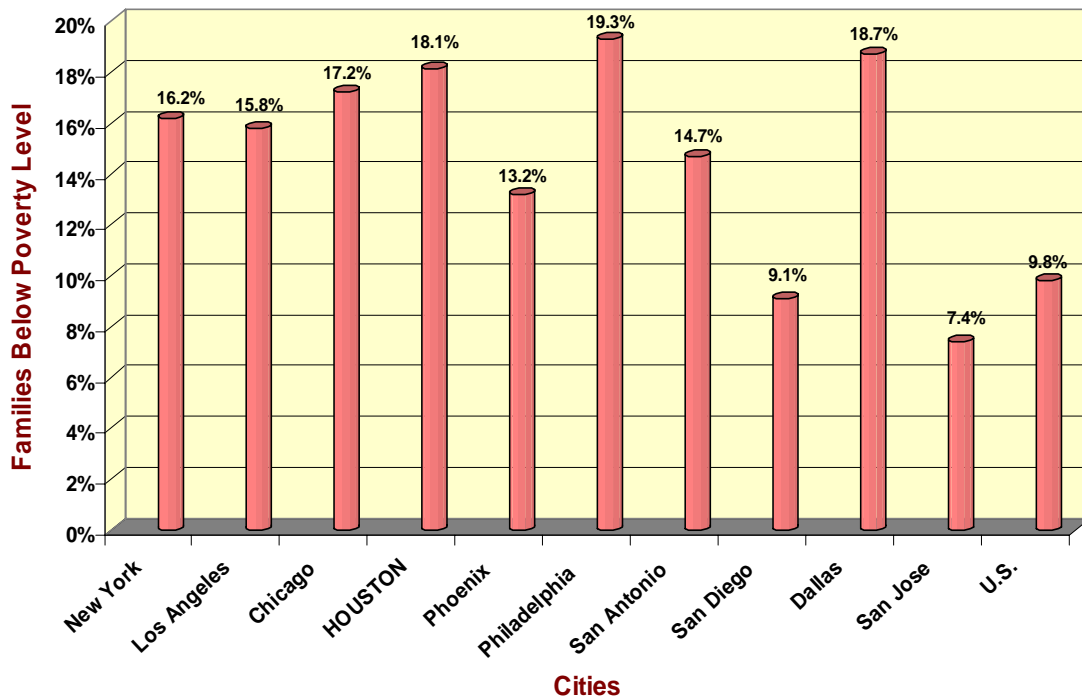
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 19

2007 Ten City Comparison Families Below Poverty Level



- 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

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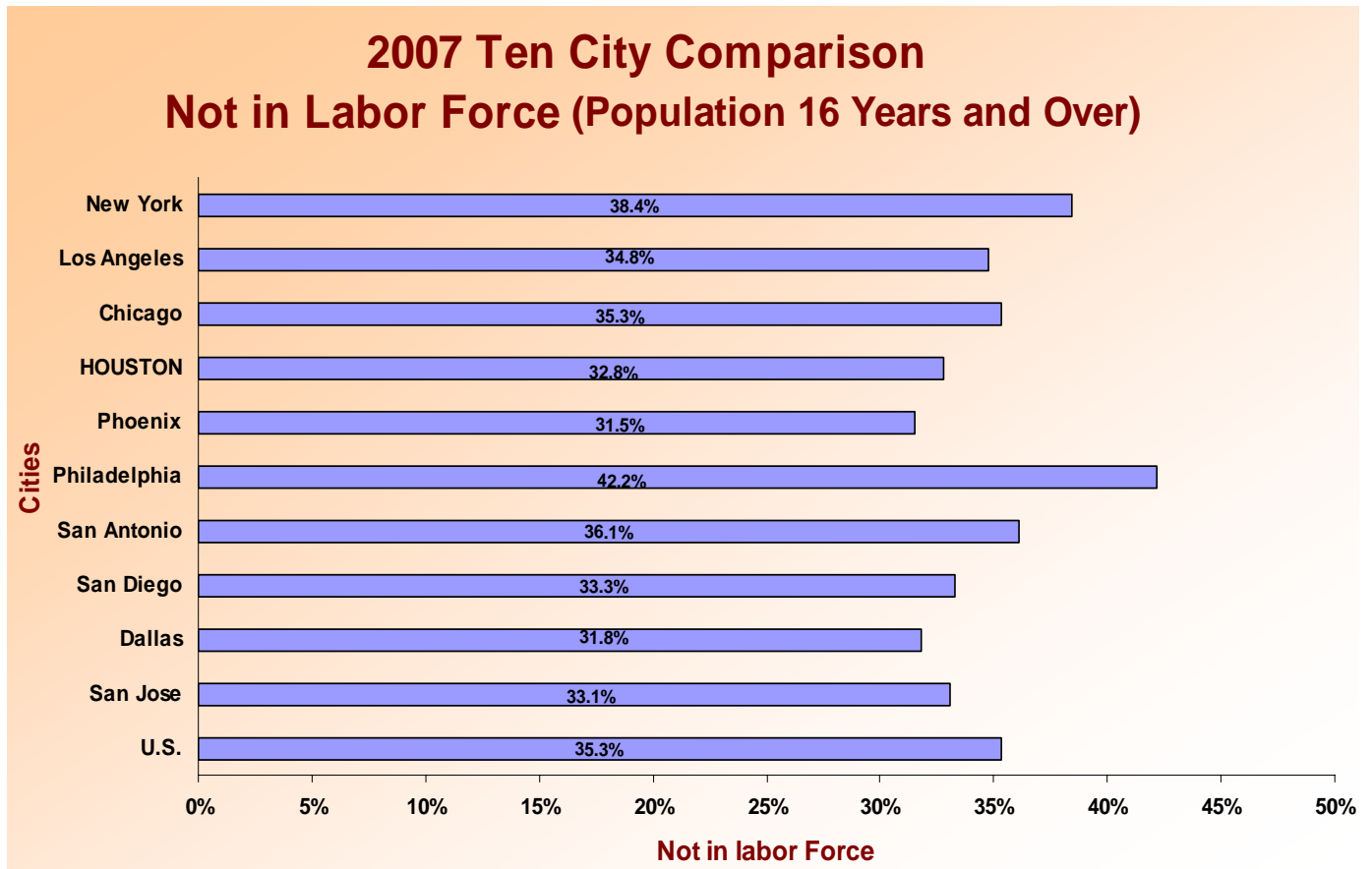
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Employment

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Figure 20



- 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%.

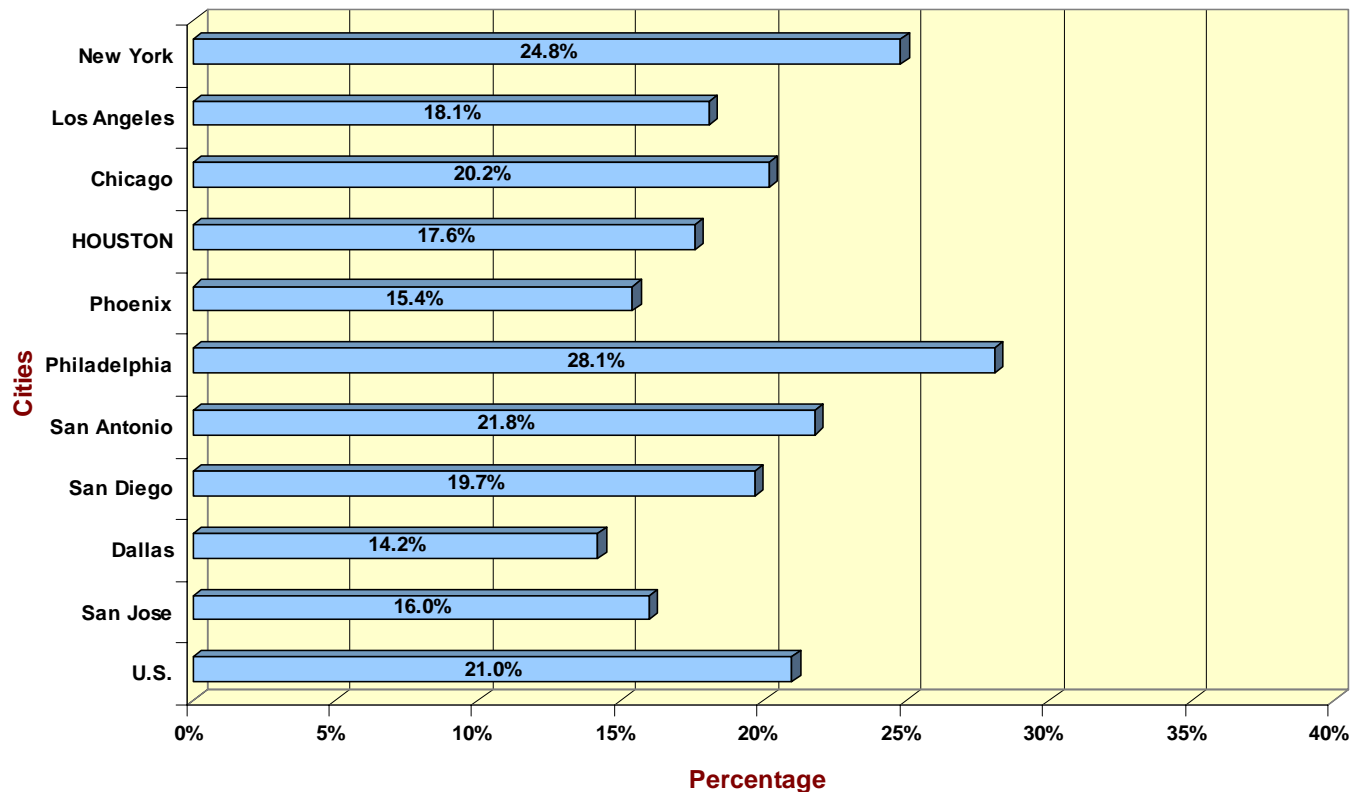
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 21

2007 Ten City Comparison Employment in Educational, Health, Social Services



- 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

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Figure 22



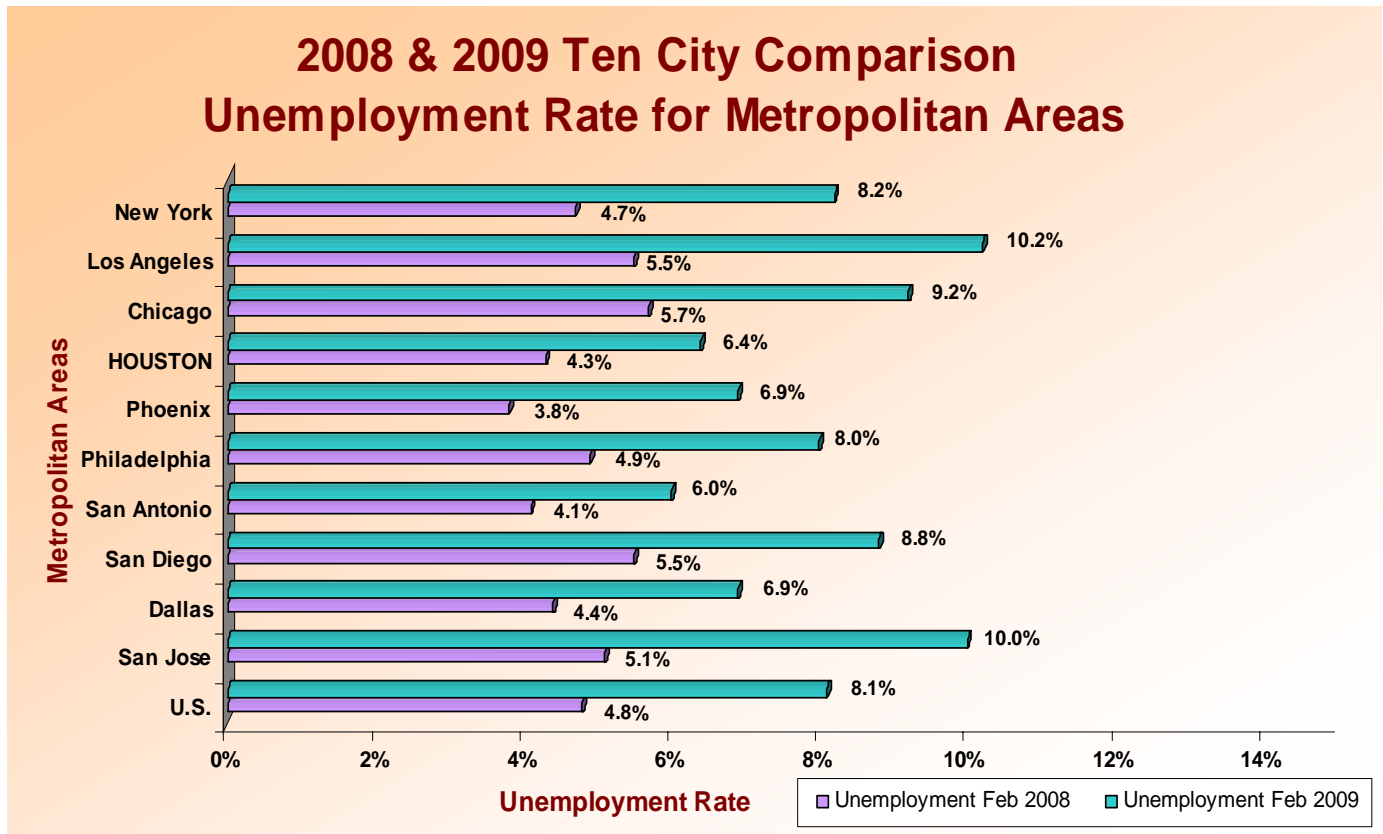
- Only Phoenix's unemployment rate (3.6%) is lower than the U.S. average (4.2%).
- Chicago and Philadelphia have an unemployment rate greater than 6%.
- Houston ranks third among the major U.S. cities.

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

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Figure 23



- 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.

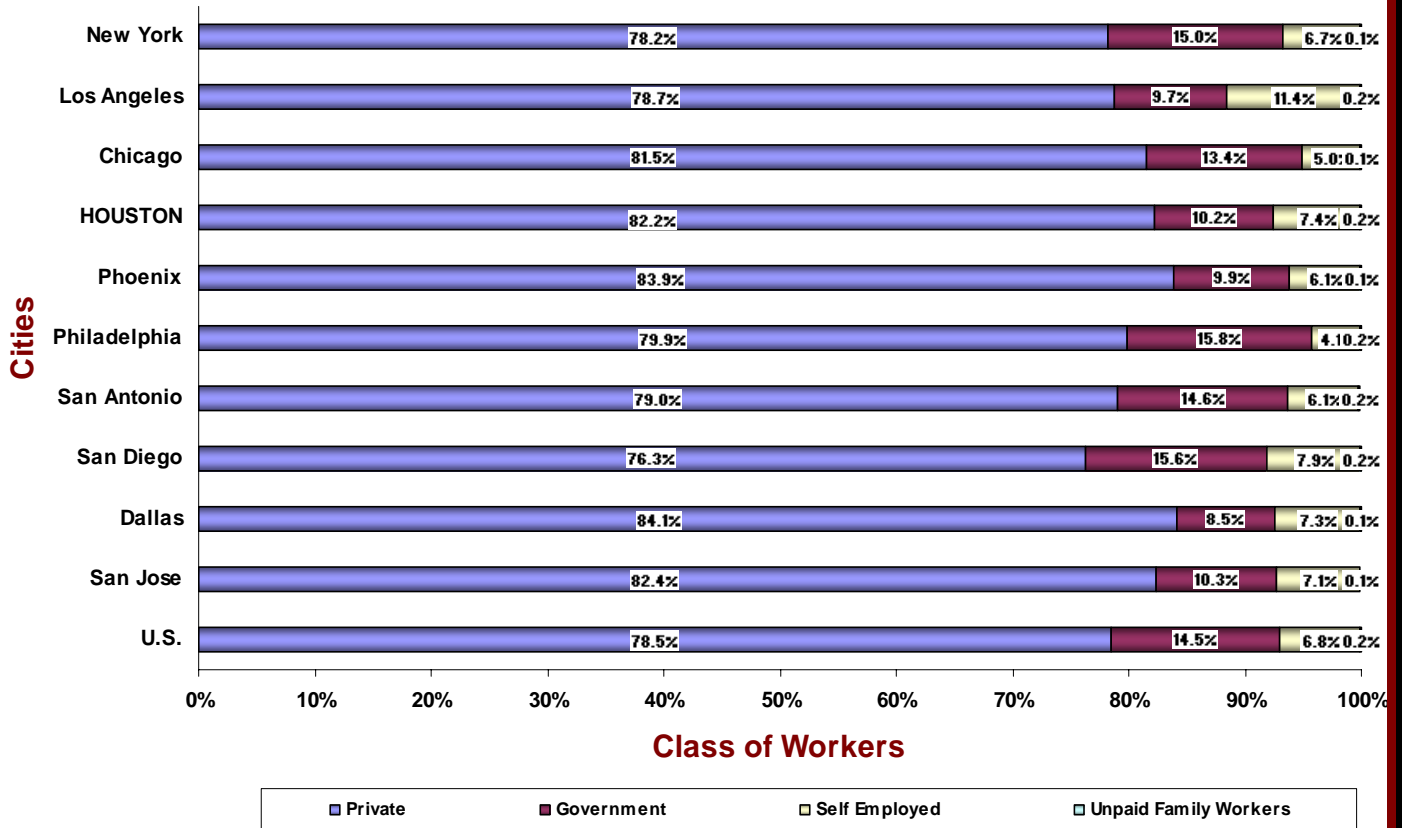
Note: Unemployment Rate for persons 16 years and over
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008 & 2009

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Figure 24

2007 Ten City Comparison Class of Workers



- 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

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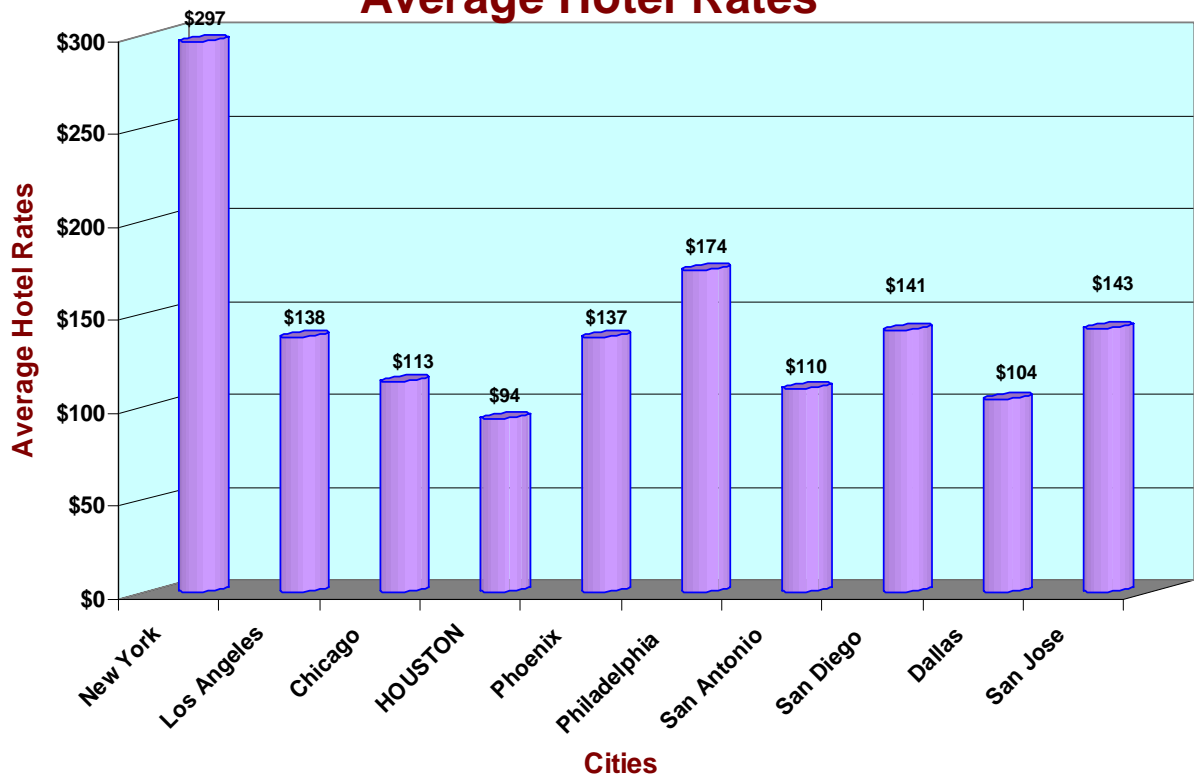
Economic Well Being

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Figure 25

2009 Ten City Comparison Average Hotel Rates



- 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.

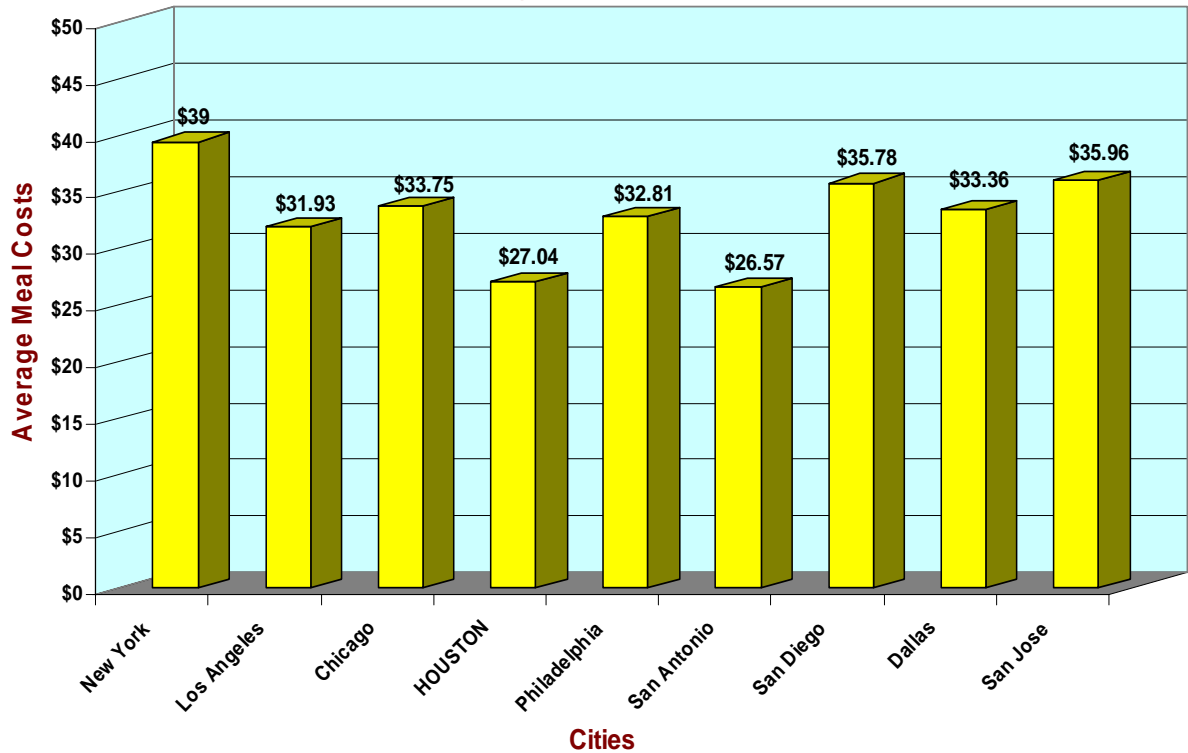
Sources: *Hotelnewsnow.com* for New York, Chicago, Houston, San Jose and Phoenix; *Latimes.com* for Los Angeles; *Dallascityhall.com* for Dallas; *Visitsanantonio.com* for San Antonio; *Sandiego.org* for San Diego; *Gophila.com* for Philadelphia; Compiled by Planning Department in March 2009.

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Figure 26

2007 Ten City Comparison Average Meal Costs



- 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.

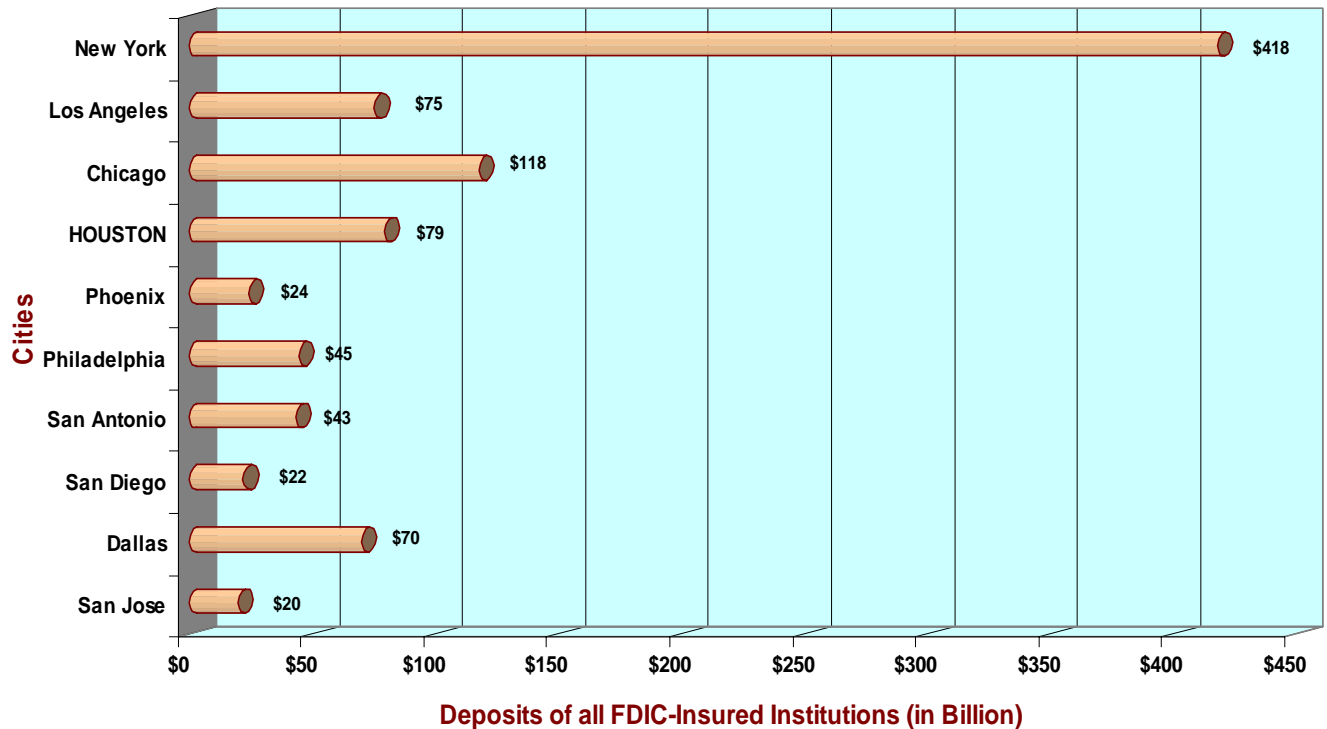
Source: Zagat Ratings, 2007

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Figure 27

2008 Ten City Comparison Deposits of all FDIC-Insured Institutions



- Among the ten largest cities in the U.S., Houston has the fourth third bank deposits at \$79 billion.
- New York has significantly high bank deposits at \$418 billion, followed by Chicago at \$118 billion.

Source: FDIC, 2008

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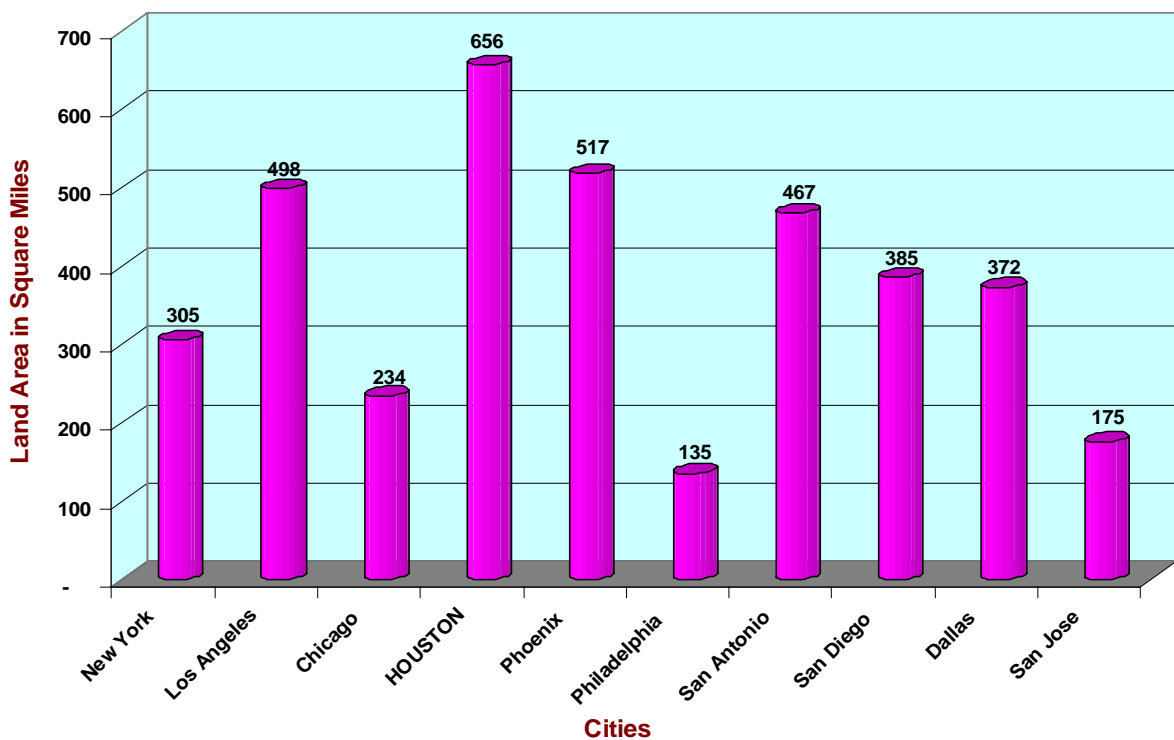
Density

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Figure 28

2008 Ten City Comparison Land Area in Square Miles



- 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.

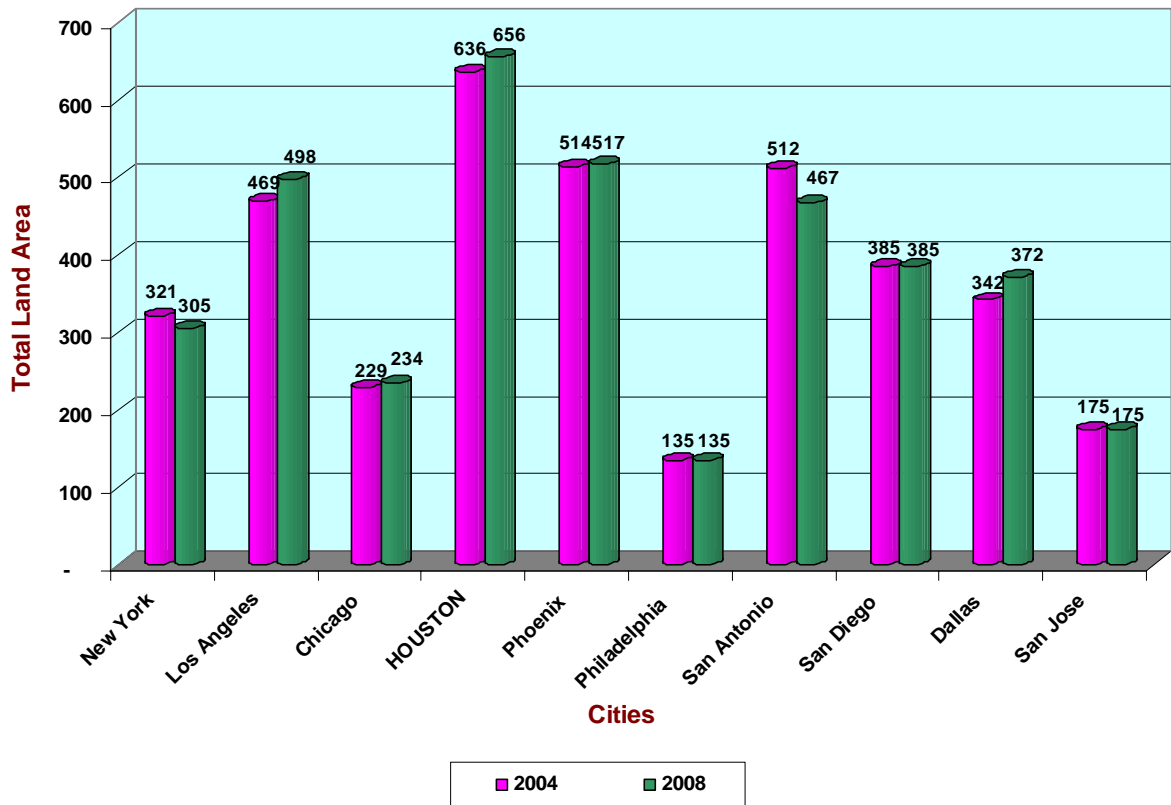
Source: Compiled by Planning and Development Dept. 2009

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Figure 29

2004-08 Ten City Comparison Land Area Change in Square Miles



- 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.

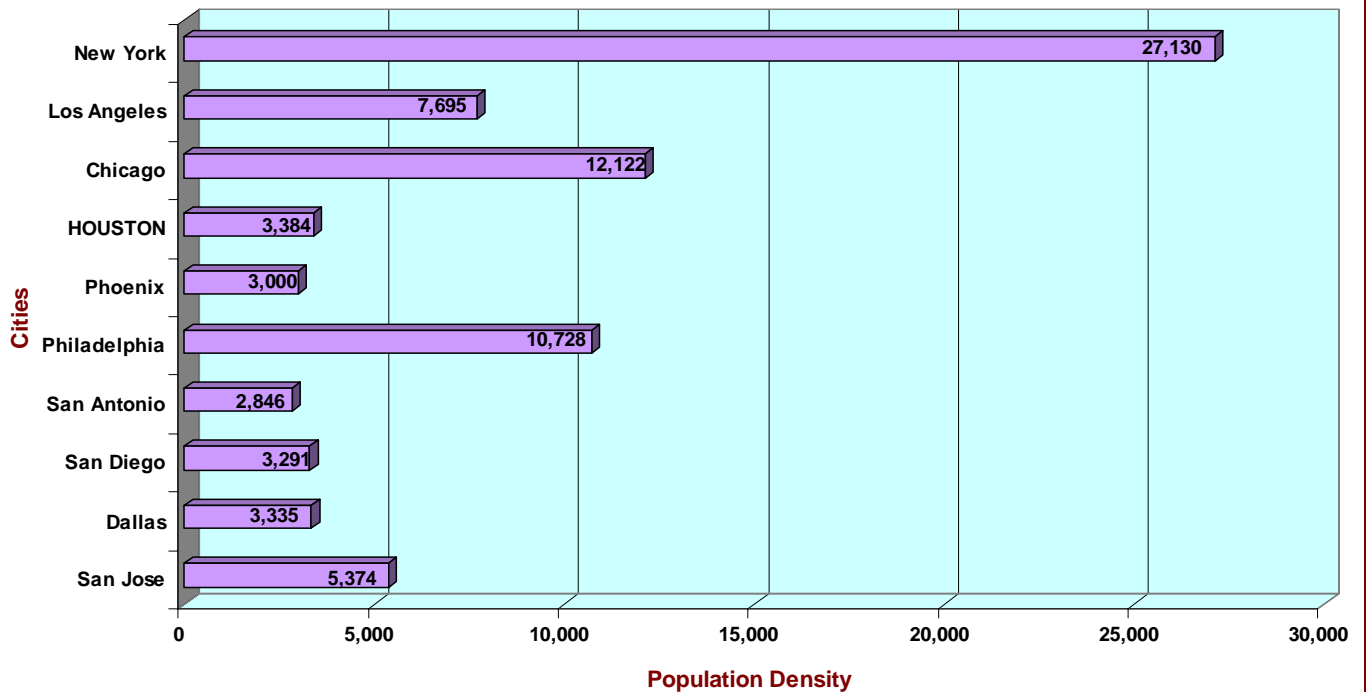
Source: Compiled by Planning and Development Dept. 2009

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Figure 30

2008 Ten City Comparison Population Density (Persons Per Square Mile)



- 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

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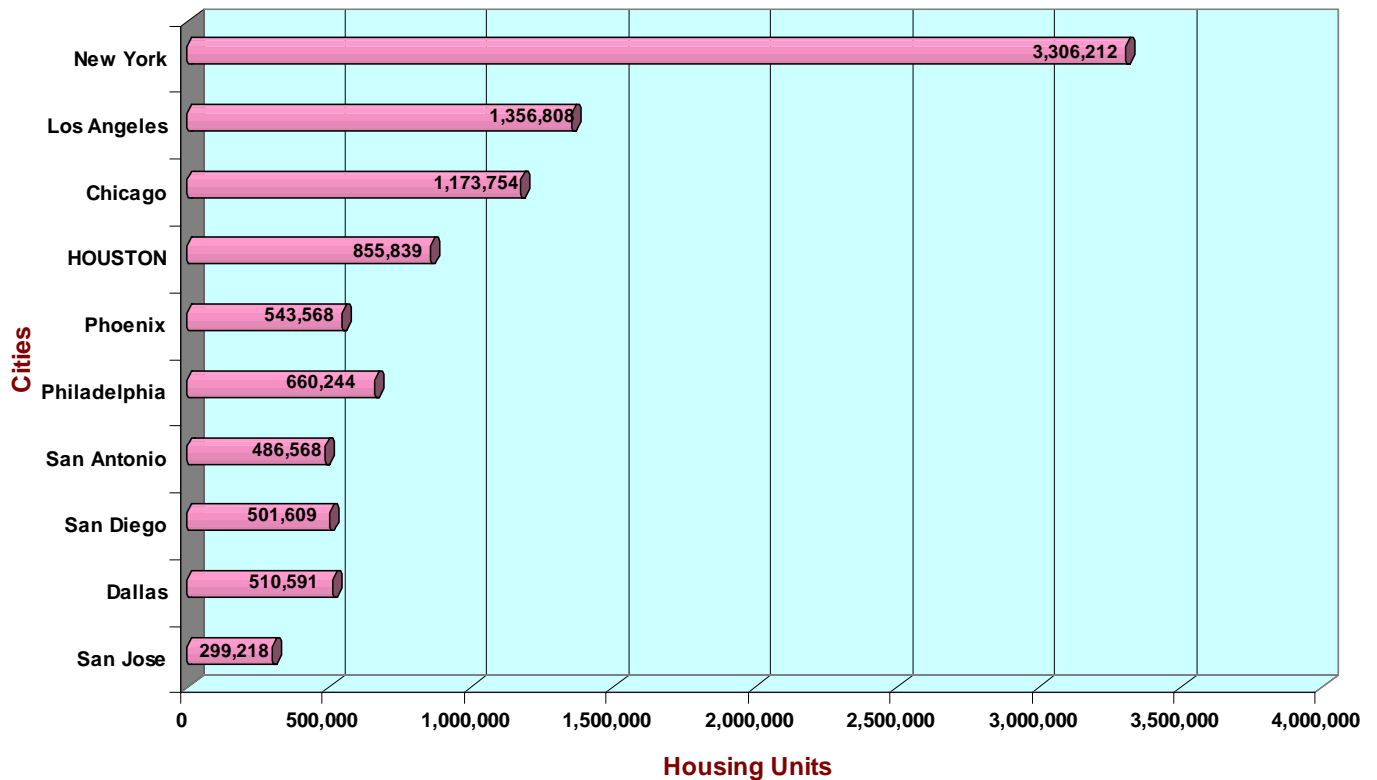
Housing

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Figure 31

2007 Ten City Comparison Total Housing Units



- 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.

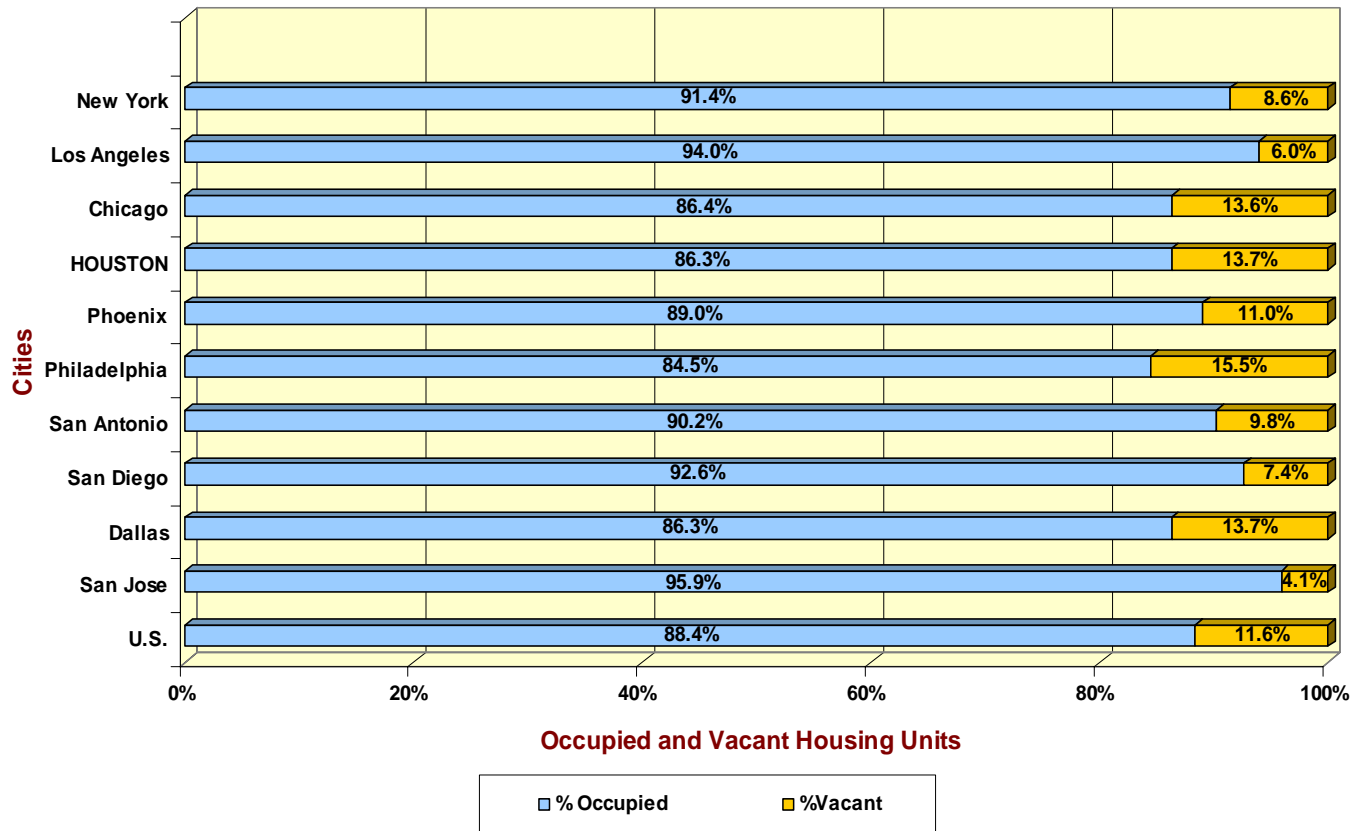
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 32

2007 Ten City Comparison Occupied and Vacant Housing Units



- 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%.

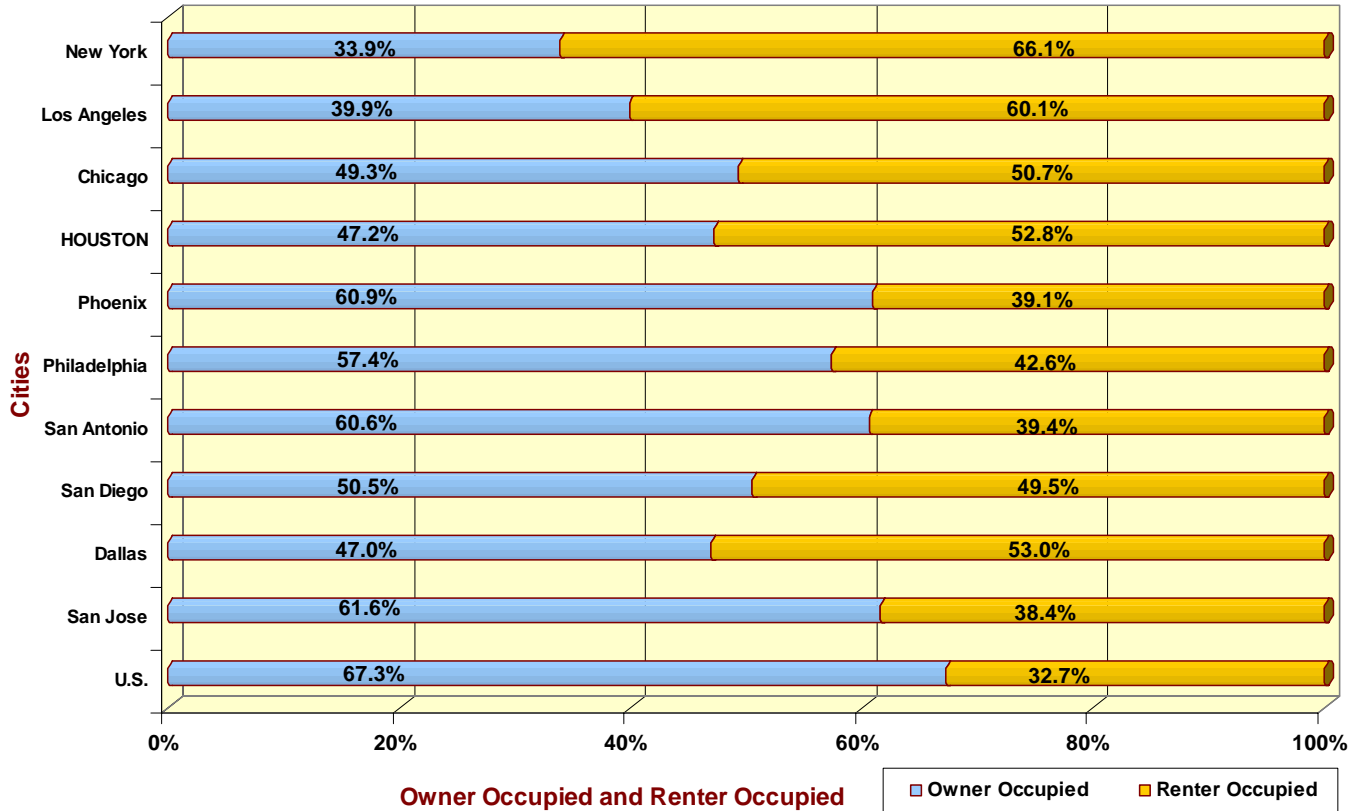
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 33

2007 Ten City Comparison Owner Occupied and Renter Occupied Housing Units



- 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%.

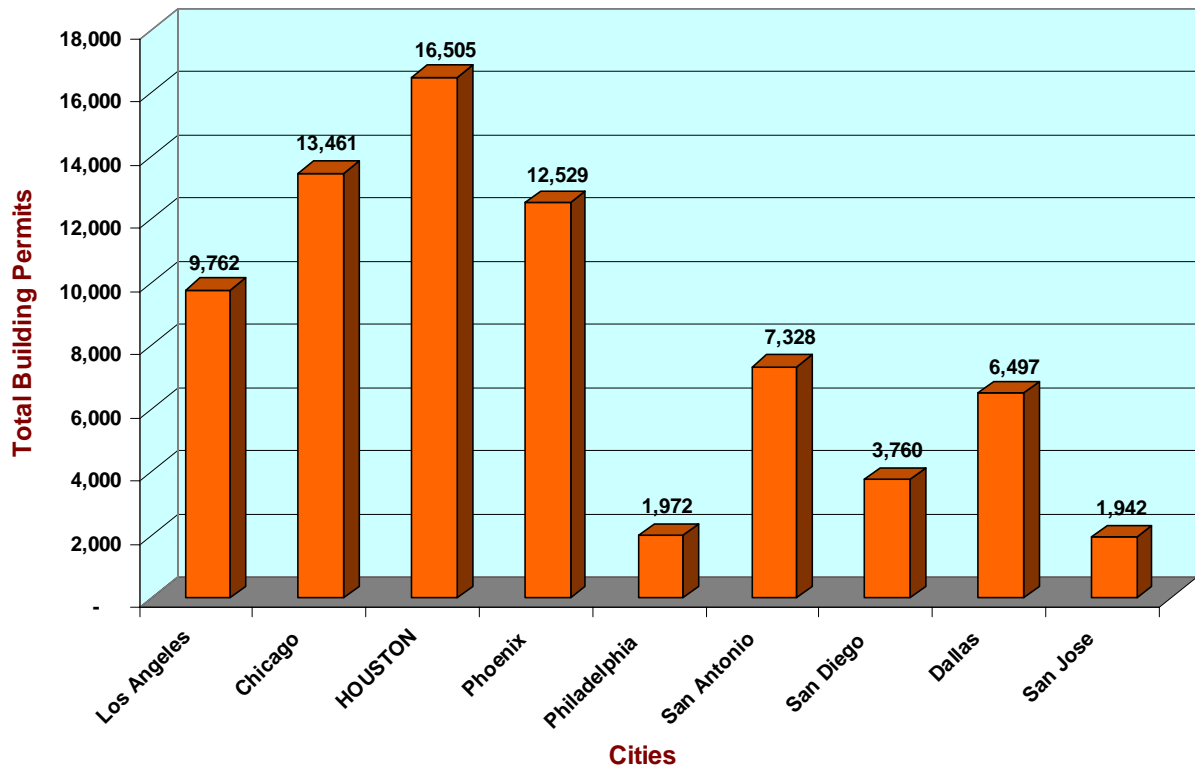
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 34

2007 Ten City Comparison Residential Building Permits



- 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.

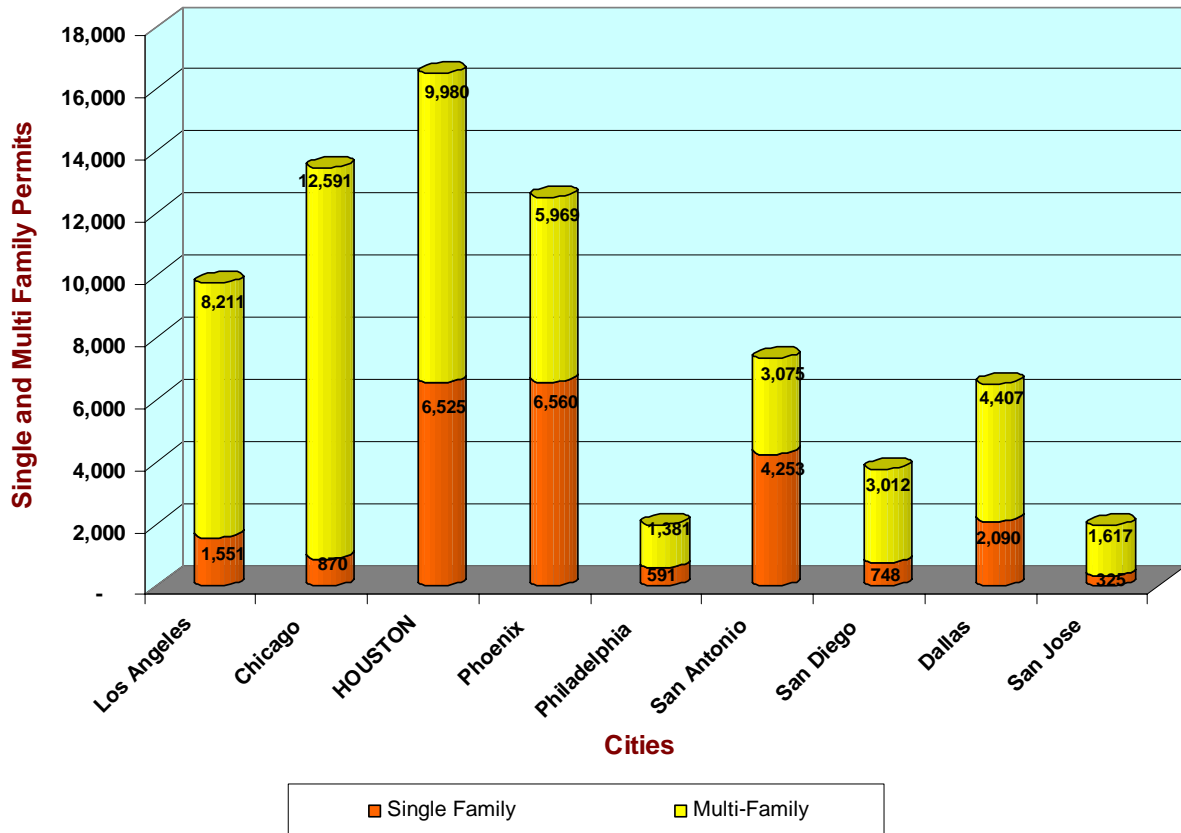
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permit Data, 2007

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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.

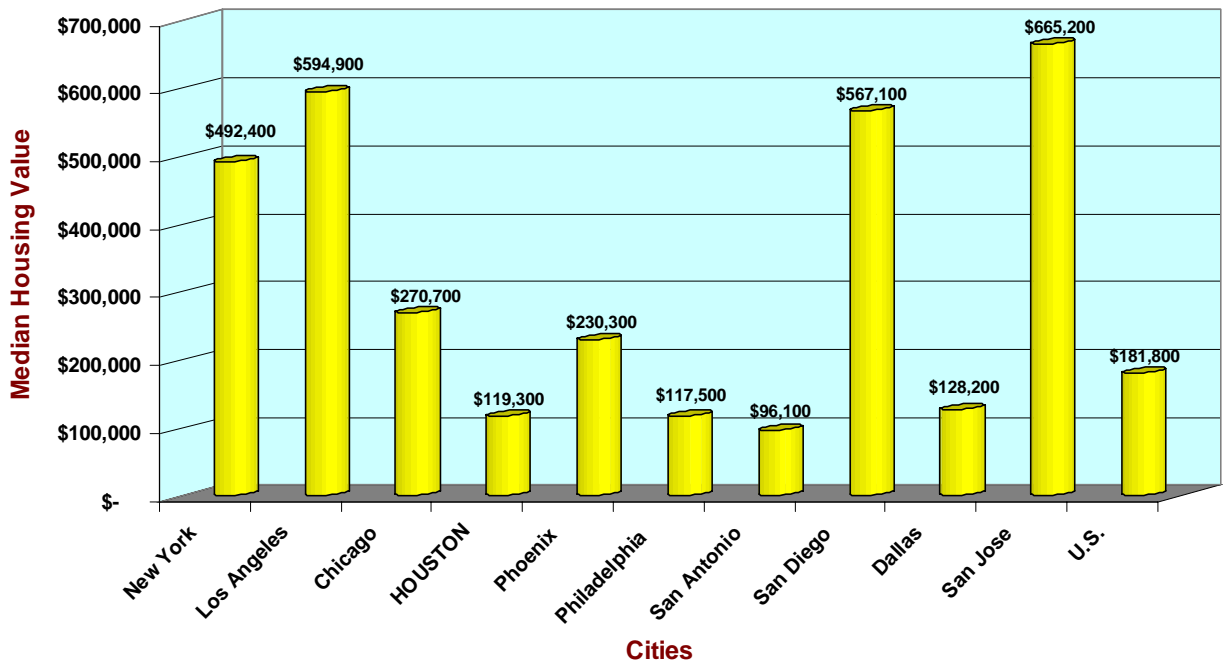
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permit Data, 2007

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Figure 36

2007 Ten City Comparison Median Housing Value



- 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.

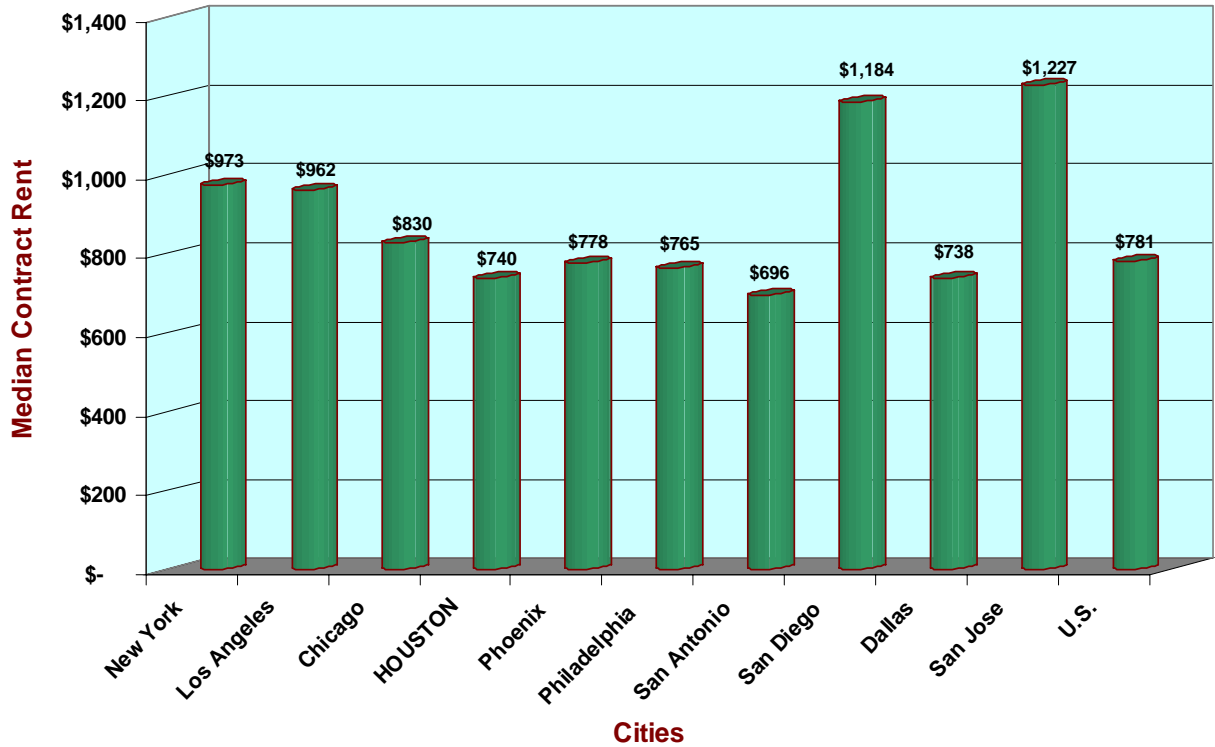
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

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Figure 37

2007 Ten City Comparison Median Contract Rent



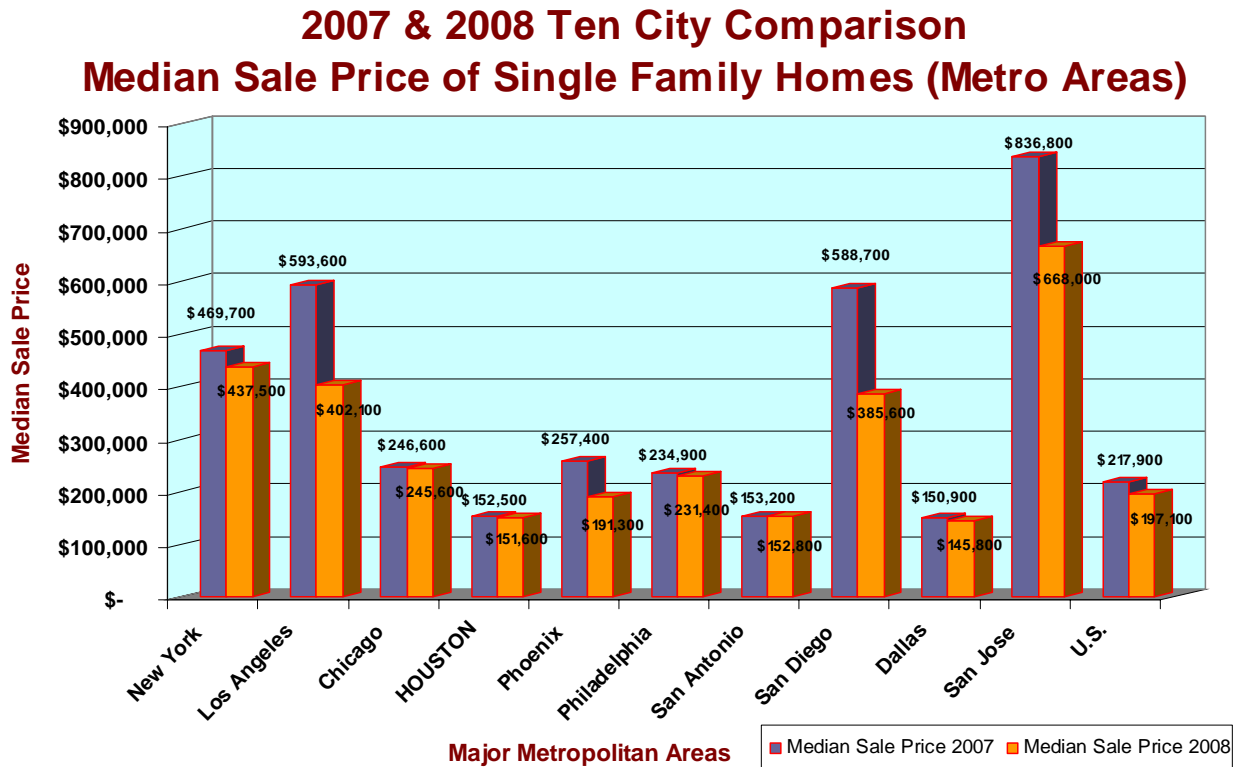
- The highest median contract rent is in San Jose and San Diego, showing \$1,227 and \$1,184, respectively.
- Houston had the third lowest median contract rent at \$740.
- The median contract for the nation is \$781.

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

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 38



- 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.

Source: National Association of Realtors, 2007 & 2008

HOW WE COMPARE

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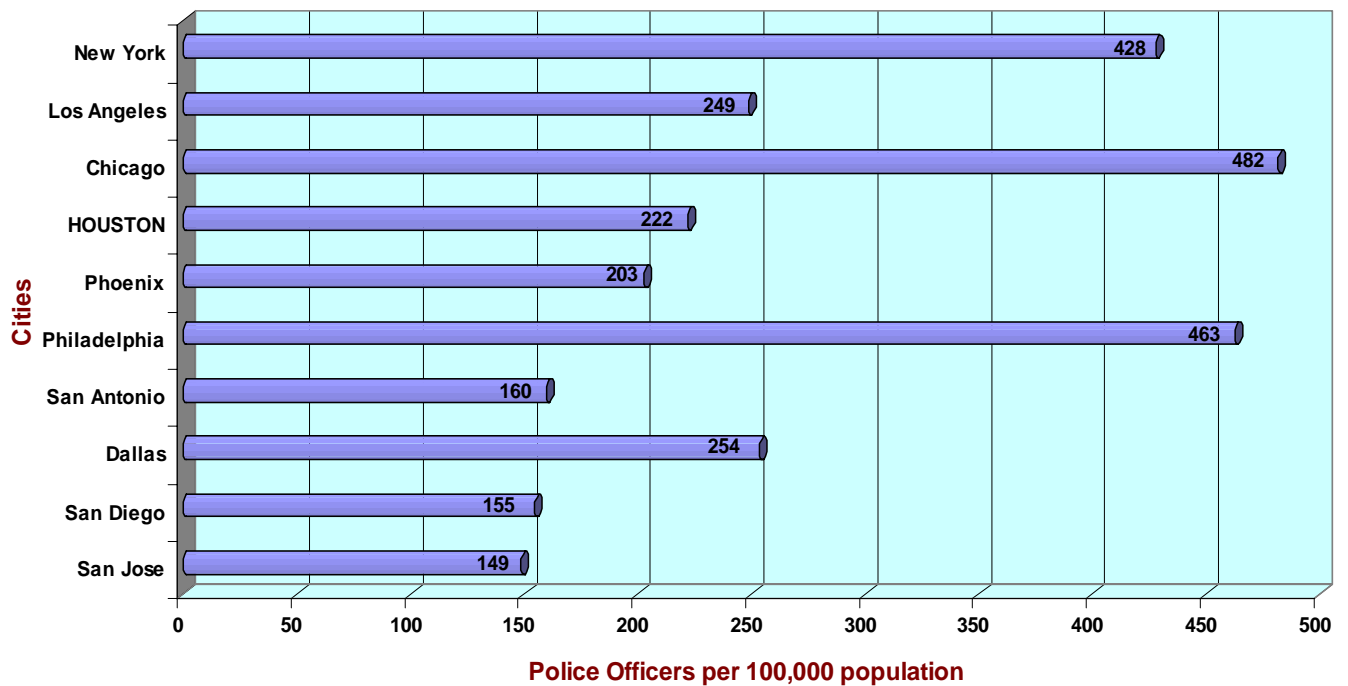
Public Safety

HOW WE COMPARE

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Figure 39

2007 Ten City Comparison Police Officers per 100,000 population



- 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.

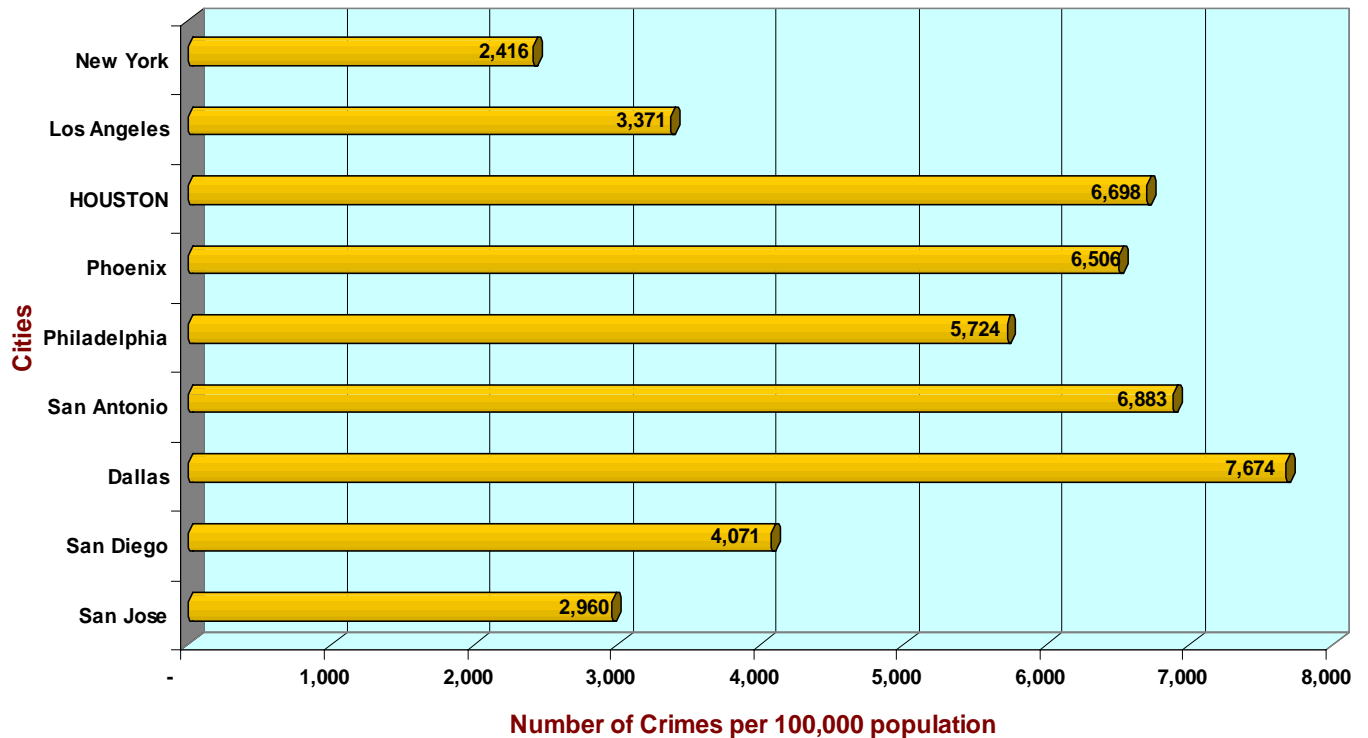
Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 2007

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 40

2007 Ten City Comparison Number of Crimes per 100,000 population



- 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

HOW WE COMPARE

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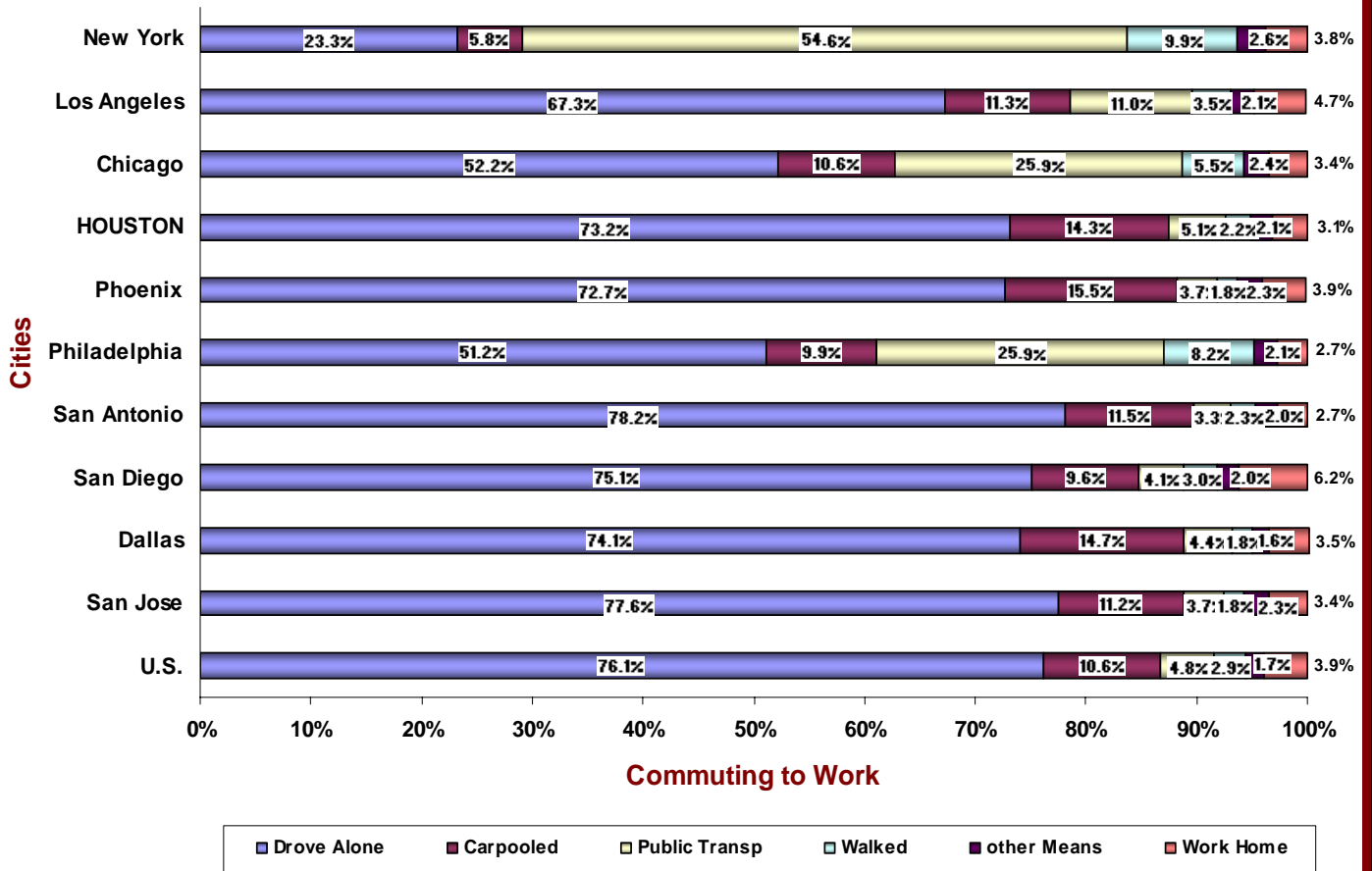
Transportation

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 41

2007 Ten City Comparison Commuting to Work



- 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.

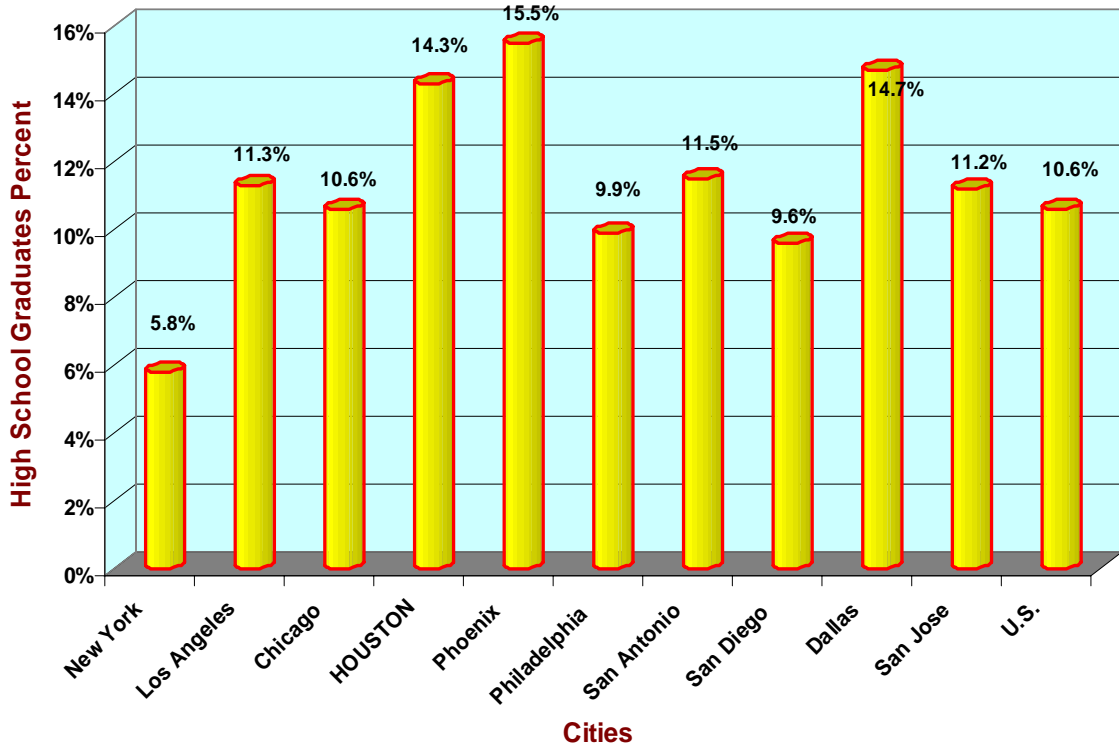
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 42

2007 Ten City Comparison Car Pool to Work



- 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%.

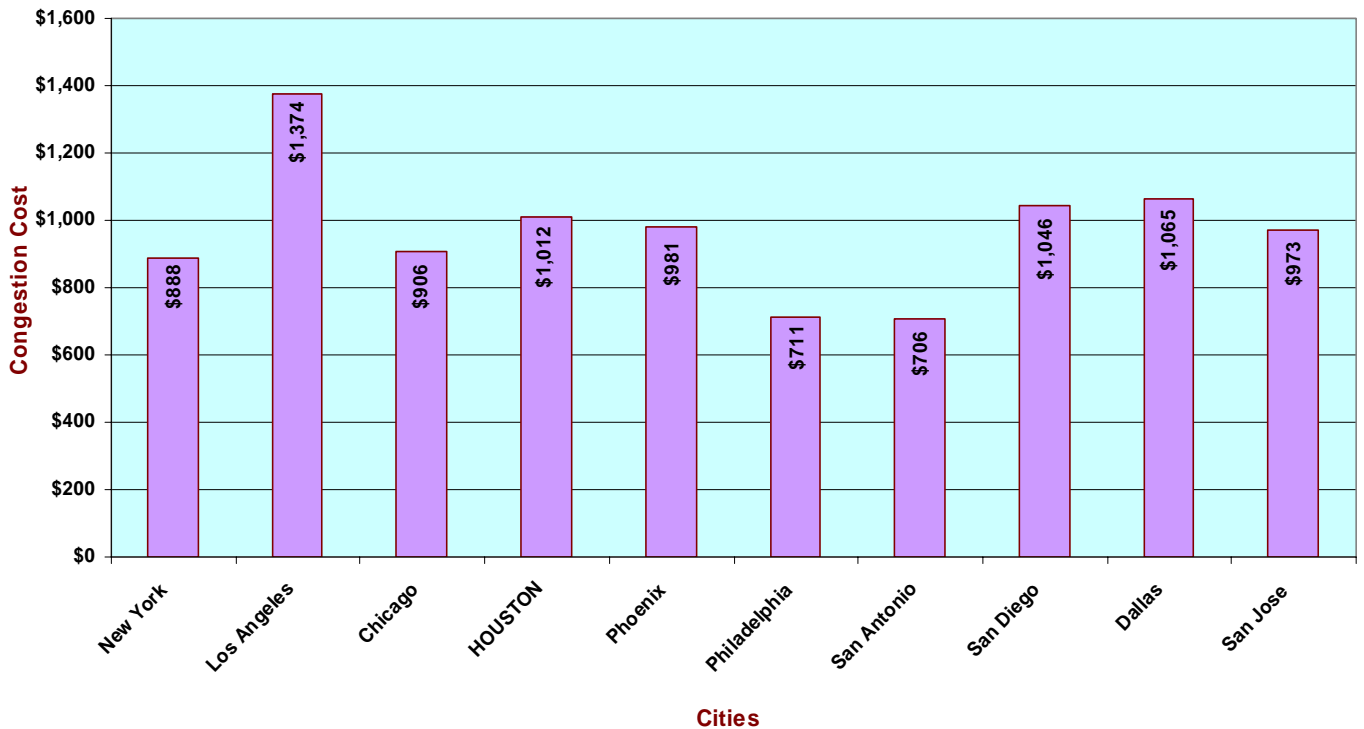
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 43

2005 Ten City Comparison Congestion Cost Per Peak Traveler



- The City of Los Angeles has the highest Congestion Cost Per Peak Traveler (\$1,374).
- Houston ranks fourth among other major cities.
- Sa 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.

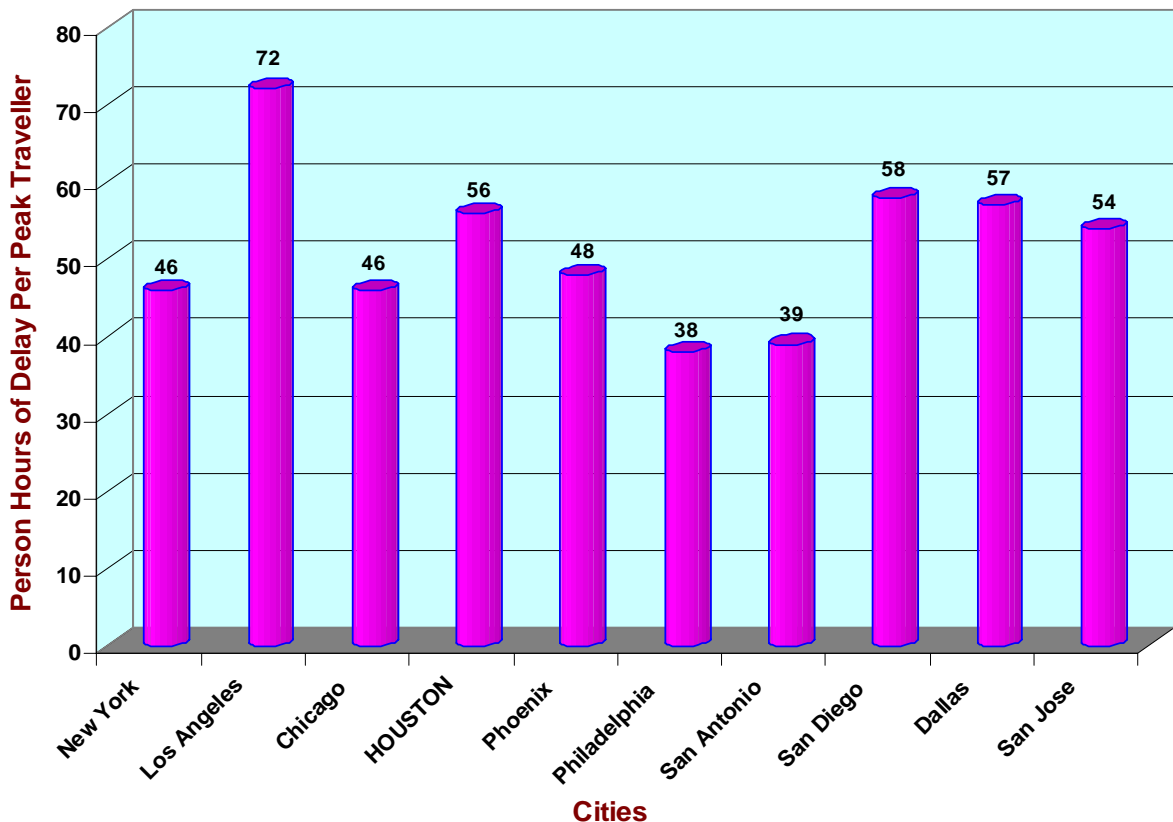
Source: Texas Transportation Institute, *The 2007 Urban Mobility Report*

HOW WE COMPARE

Diversity . Education . Employment . Housing . Income . Transportation

Figure 44

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.)

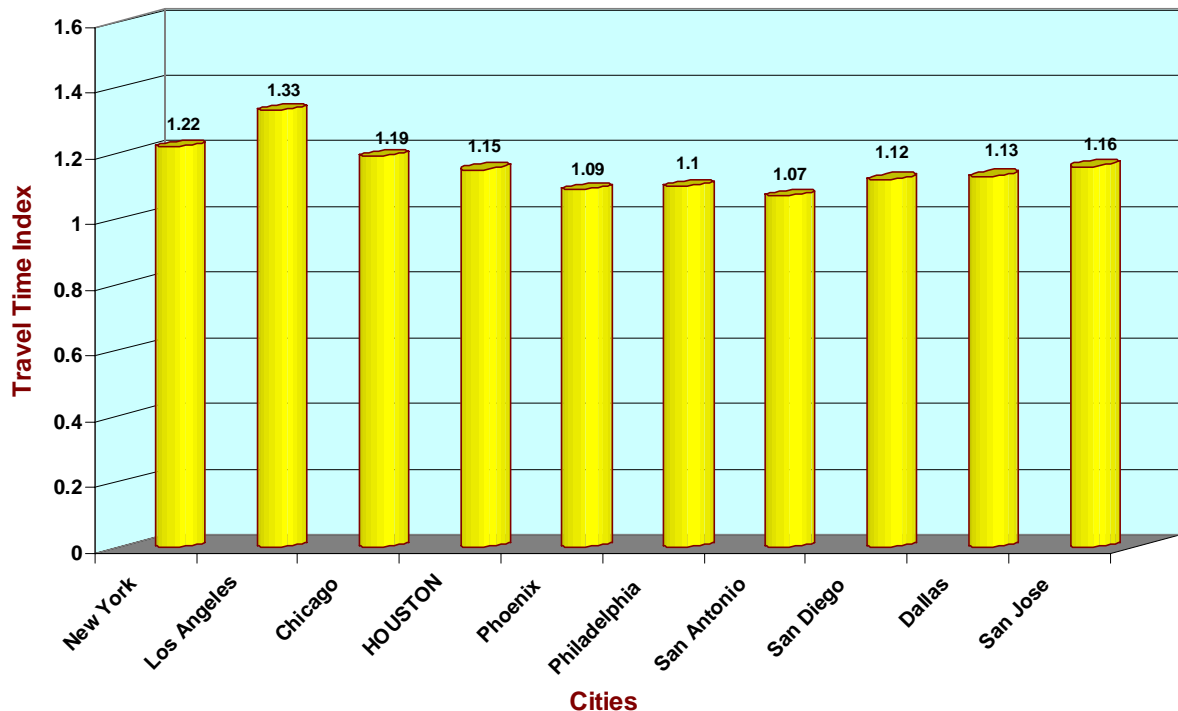
Source: Texas Transportation Institute, The 2007 Urban Mobility Report

HOW WE COMPARE

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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*

HOW WE COMPARE

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Data Sources

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