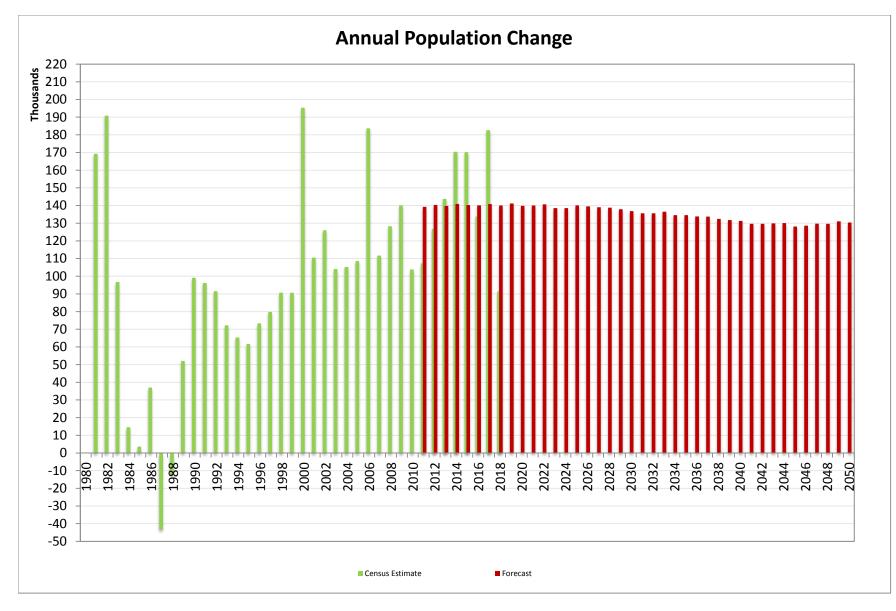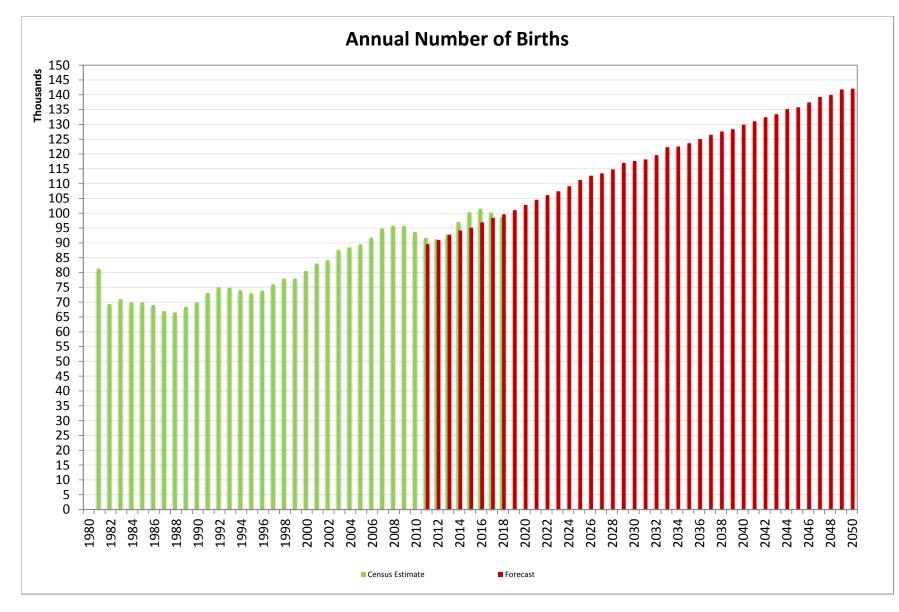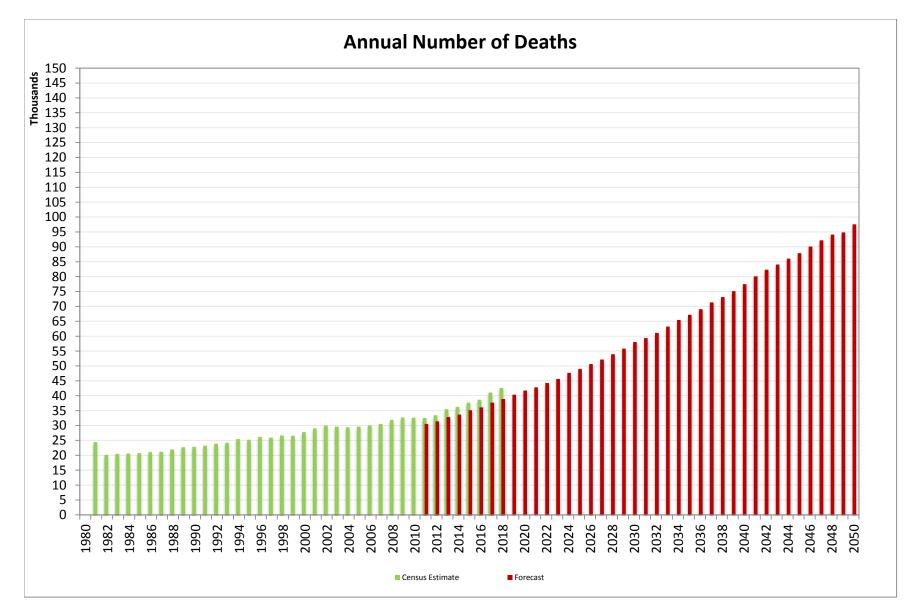# Annual Population

Our demographic forecast shows a steady growth pattern for the region's population, with an average increase of 1.6% per year. The 8-county H-GAC region's population is expected to reach 11.2 million by 2050, growing by nearly 5 million people over the next 35 years (2015-2050). 2015 is the base year for the forecast; the overlapping bars (2010-2018) illustrate how the model predictions compare with the population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
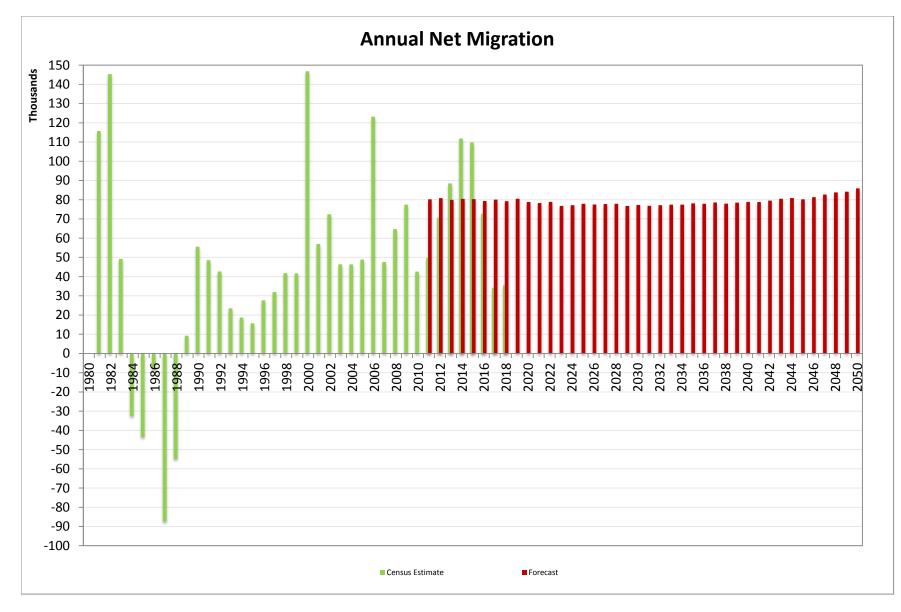
Annual Population Change

The model predicts that each year the population in the region will grow by 130,000 to 140,000. From 2000 to 2018, the annual population growth was above 130,000. The spike in 2006 is related to the mass relocation of people following Hurricane Katrina. The spike in 2000 appears to be related to the discrepancy between the counts from the 2000 Decennial Census and the U.S. Census Bureau's 1999 estimates. In all likelihood, the population growth in the early 2000s was similar to the one in the late 1990s. The downward bars indicate the years (1987 and 1988) when the region lost population.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
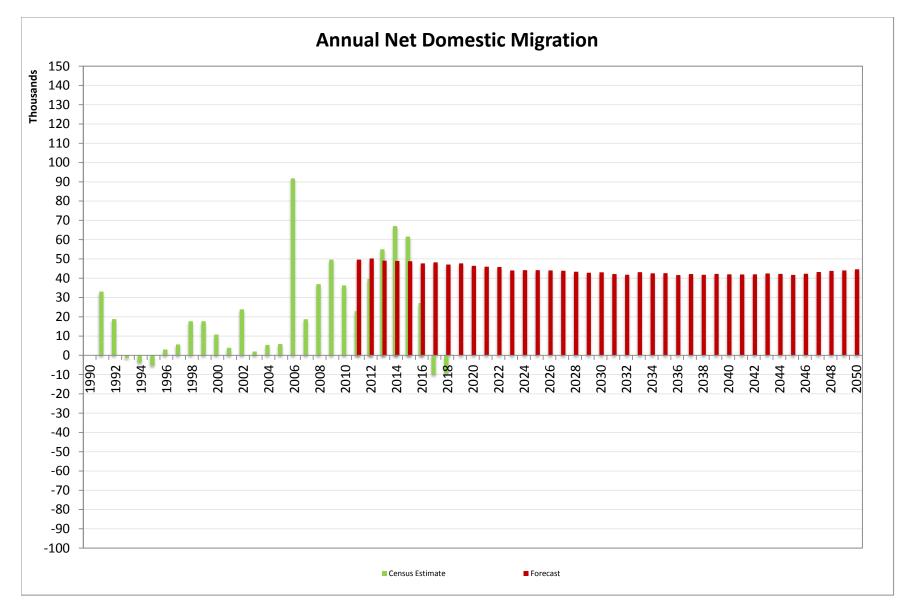
Annual Number of Births

The annual number of births in the region is currently 90,000 to 95,000. The number of births is expected to grow gradually, reaching 142,000 in 2050.

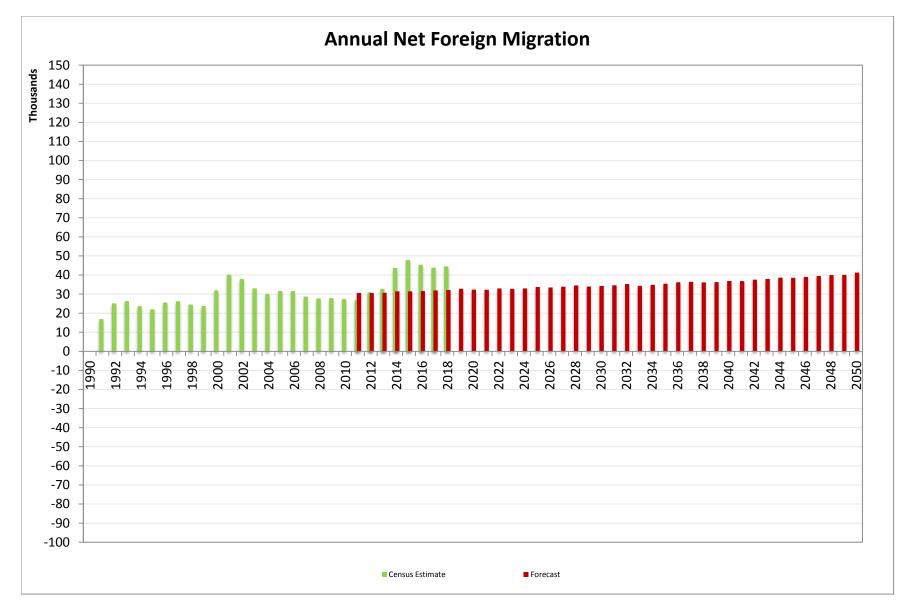Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Annual Number of Deaths

Currently, the annual number of deaths in the region is over 35,000. Due to the aging of the baby-boomer generation, that number is expected to increase substantially, reaching 98,000 by 2050.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
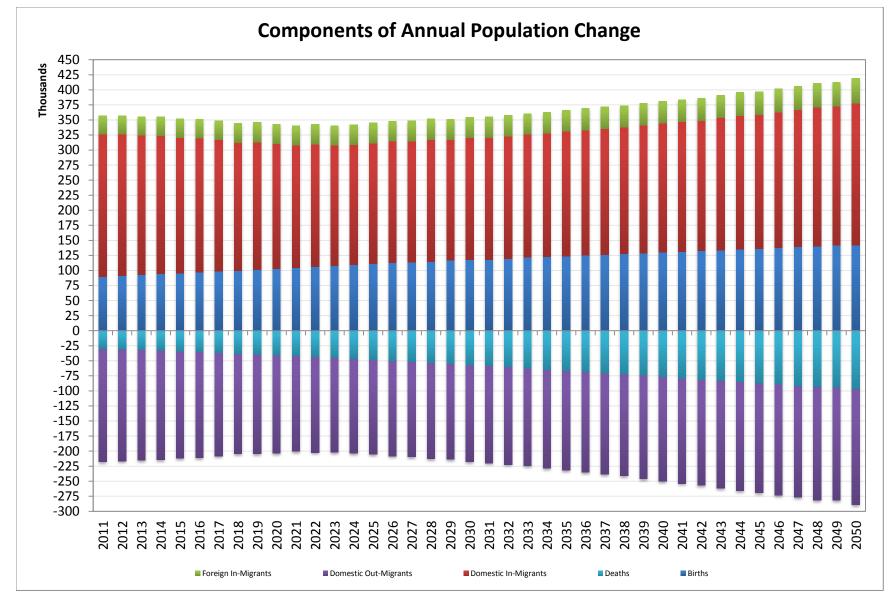
Annual Net Migration

Net migration is the difference between the number of people who move into the region and the number who move away from the region. The annual net migration in the region is expected to be around 83,000. The spike in 2000 is a statistical artifact: the additional 100,000 instead should be spread over the decade of the 1990s.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
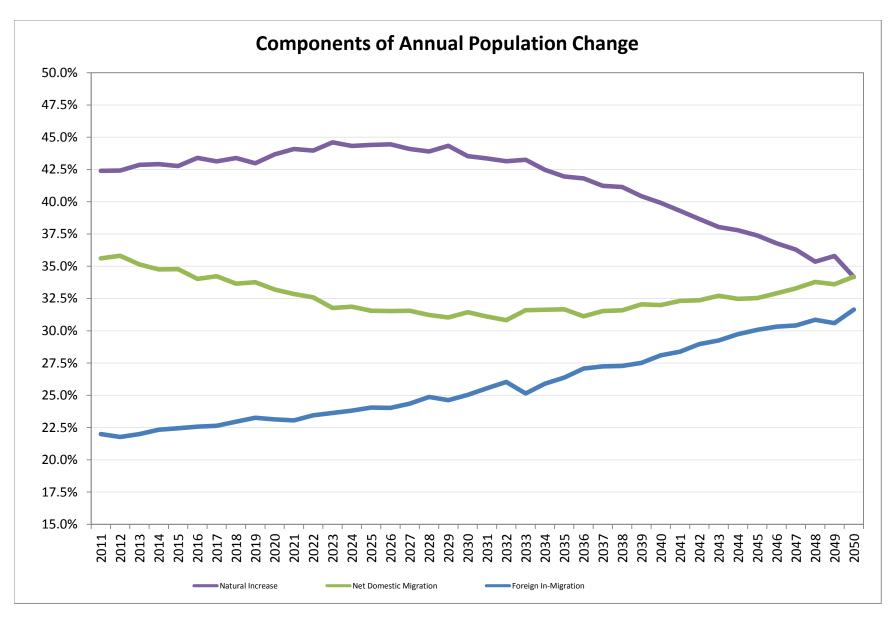
Annual Net Domestic Migration

Net domestic migration considers only the migrants whose origins or destinations lie within the United States. The annual net domestic migration is expected to average about 46,000.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
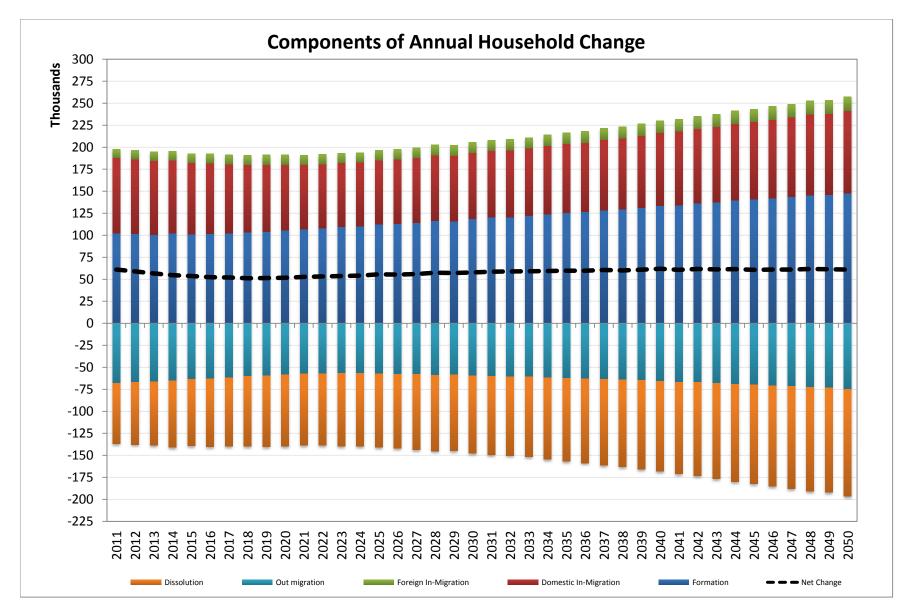
Annual Net Foreign Migration

Although some migration occurs from the the region to foreign countries, there is no data available for use in the model. Accordingly, we assume the absence of the foreign outmigration in our forecast. However, we adjust the foreign in-migration for the region to be in line with U.S. Census Bureau net foreign migration. The foreign net migration is expected to grow slightly in the future, at 30,000 to 40,000 per year.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
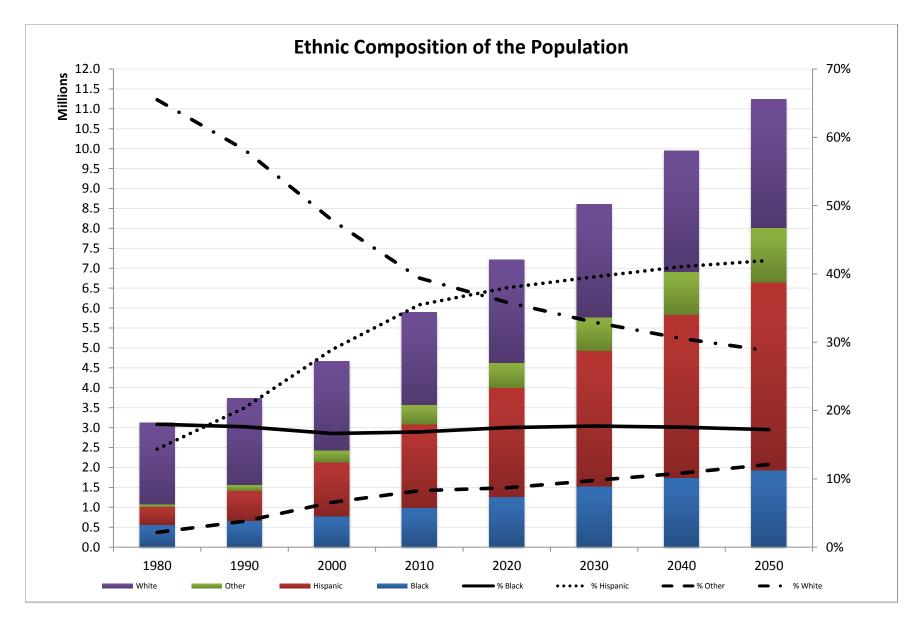
Components of Annual Population Change

The sources of population gains are births and in-migration, the sources of population losses are deaths and out-migration. Currently, the region gains around 350,000 people each year but also loses more than 200,000. While the relative contributions of different components are expected to change over the next 35 years, the overall levels for gains and losses are expected to increase only slightly.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
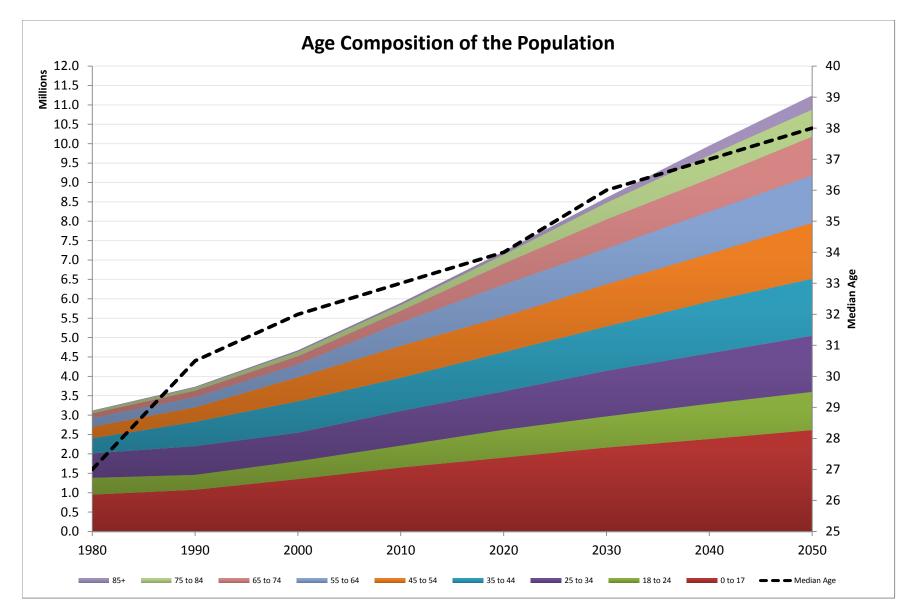
Components of Annual Population Change

From a hundred additional people in the region in 2018, 43 people can be attributed to the natural increase (exceedance of births over deaths),34 people are due to domestic migration, and 23 people are due to foreign migration. While the forecast doesn't show a radical change in that pattern, it is expected the contribution of the natural increase will become smaller and the contribution of the migration will become larger.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

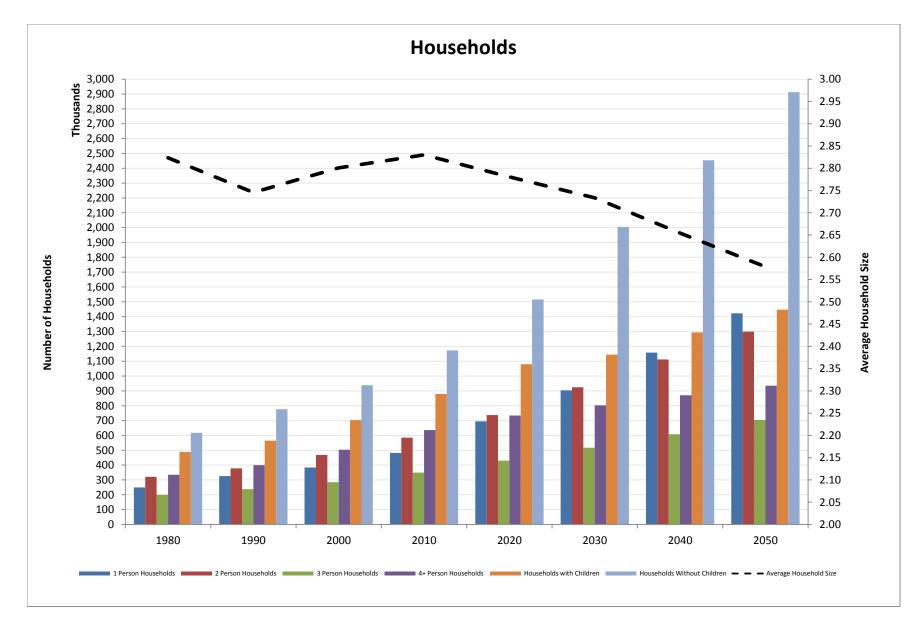# Components of Annual Household Change

Our forecasting model also deals with the household dynamics. Each year, new households appear, either through formation or migration, and disappear, due to death or divorce. Currently, net growth in households is around 60,000 per year. That level is expected to remain stable over the next 35 years.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
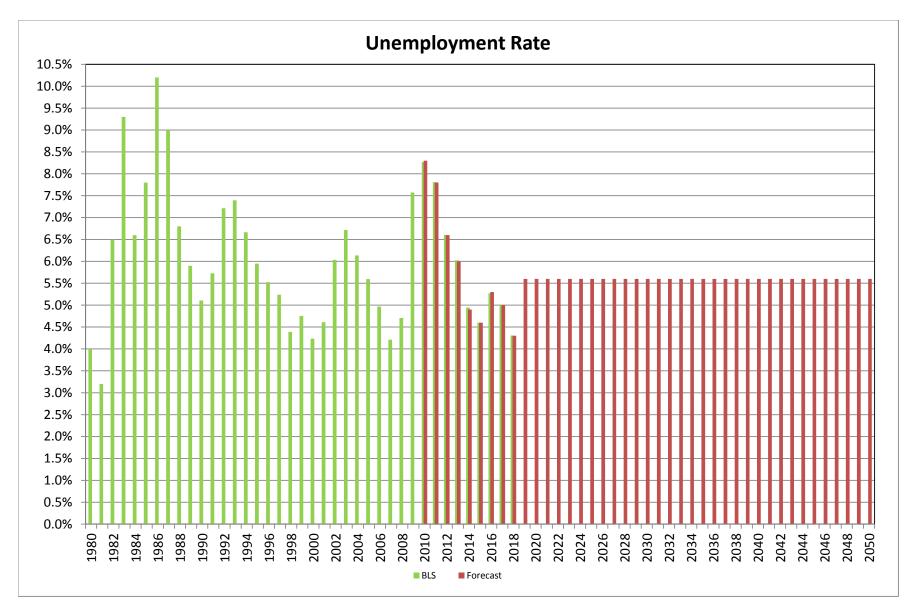
Ethnic Composition of the Population

Our forecasting model also deals with ethnicity. While all groups will gain population in absolute terms, the relative shares will continue to change, most notably for the Hispanic and White populations. By the middle of the current decade, the share of Hispanic population is expected to equal (37%) that of the White population. By 2050, the share of the Hispanic population is expected to be over 40%. Ethnicity in our model is "inherited" by the child from the mother, which neglects the ethnicity of the other parent. As more and more children are being born from parents with different ethnicities, the meaning and usefulness of the current ethnic categories is likely to change.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast
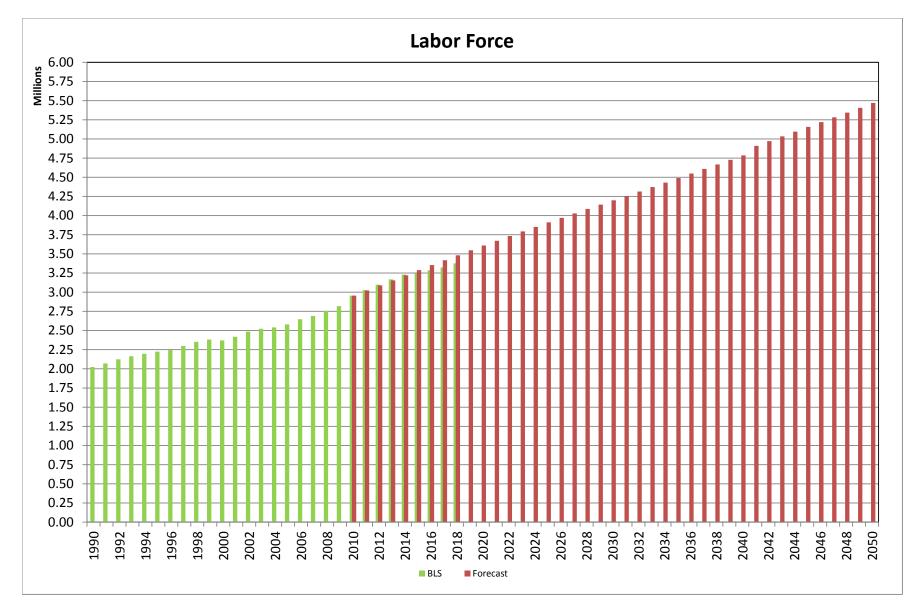
Age Composition of the Population

Short of a radical increase in the fertility rates, the share of the older cohorts in the population will increase gradually, driving the median age of the population from 33 in 2010 to close to 38 by 2050. The share of people 65 years and older will more than double, increasing from 9% in 2010 to close to 18% by 2050.
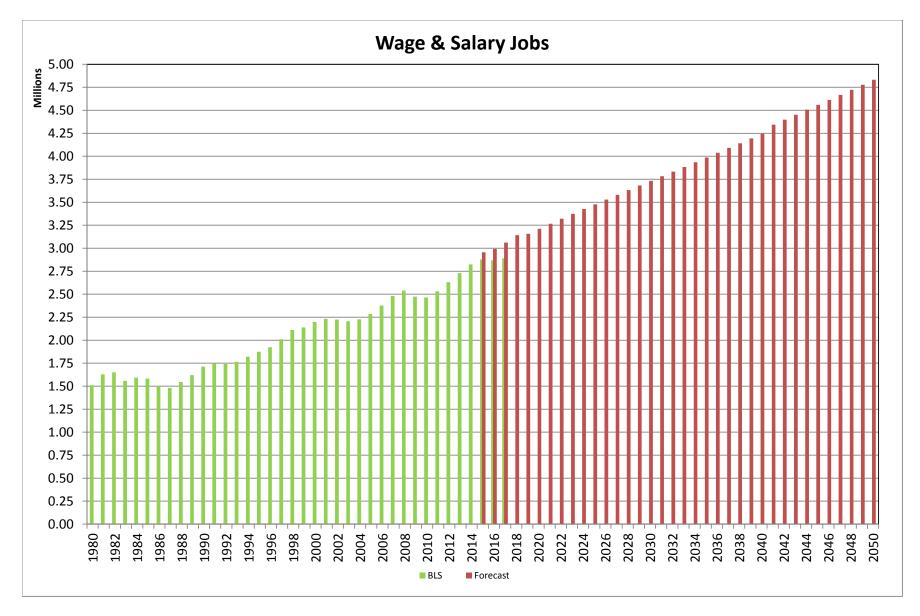
Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Households

The aging of the population also affects the household dynamics. Average household size is expected to decrease, while the share of single-person households is expected to increase. Also expected to increase is the share of households without children, from 56% in 2010 to 67% in 2050. However, the housing patterns of the elderly population may also change in the future.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Unemployment Rate

Over the last 40 years, the unemployment rate in the region ranged from 3% to 10%. The future unemployment rate is set to 6%, which is an average rate since 1990. The fluctuations in the unemployment rate are tied to the business cycle, and it is virtually certain that the unemployment rate in the future will vary year to year; however, for the purposes of long-term forecasting, using a constant rate is appropriate.
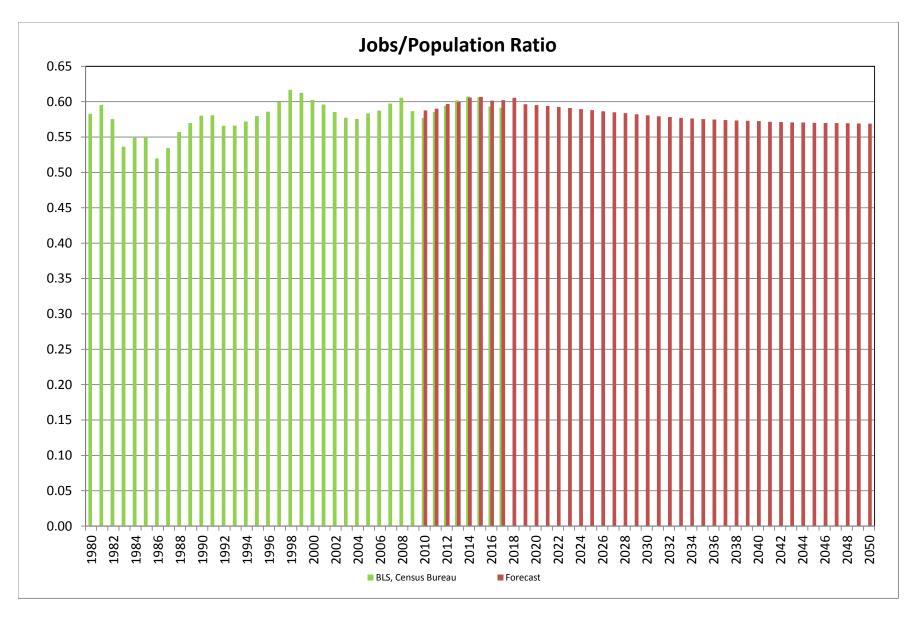
Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Labor Force

Labor force, which includes both the employed and those looking for work, is expected to grow steadily, from less than 3 million in 2010 to almost 5.5 million in 2050.
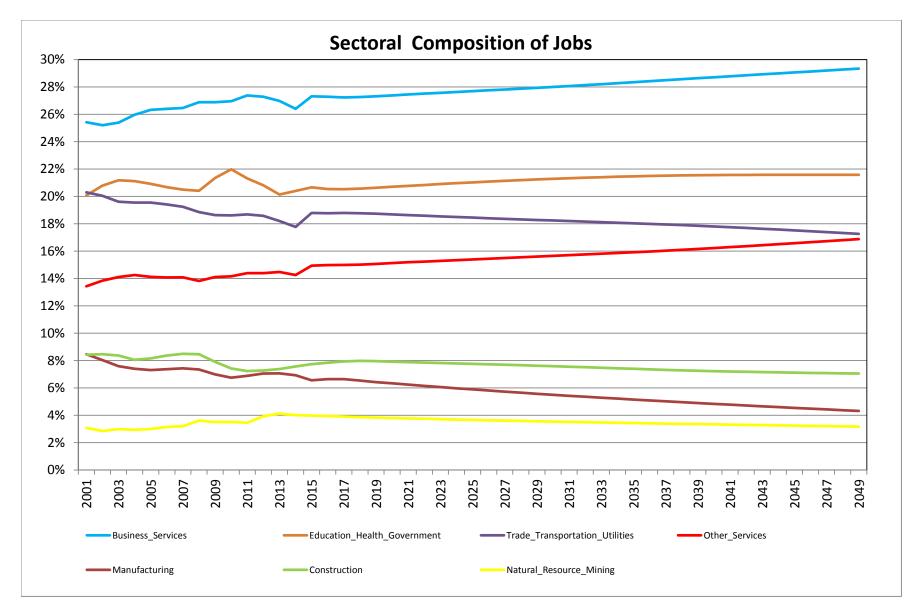
Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Wage & Salary Jobs

Wage and Salary Jobs, which do not include self-employed, are projected to grow steadily, from 2.5 million in 2010 to over 4.7 million in 2050.

Self-Employed Jobs

The trend in the growth of the self-employed jobs is expected to continue. Over the next 35 years, the number of the self-employed jobs will increase by 0.5 million, reaching 1.7 million in 2050.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Jobs/Population Ratio

Legend: ■ BLS, Census Bureau ■ Forecast

Jobs to population ratio responds to the changes in the employment as well as to the changes in the demographic composition of the population. While the job market is expected to remain strong in the future, the aging of the population will drive the ratio down. Nevertheless, over the next 35 years the ratio will remain well within the sustainable range.

Source: H-GAC 2018 Forecast

Sectoral Composition of Jobs

Legend:
- Business_Services
- Education_Health_Government
- Trade_Transportation_Utilities
- Other_Services
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Natural_Resource_Mining

Only minor shifts are expected in the sectoral composition of employment: by 2050, the share of manufacturing will drop by over 2 percentage points.