

10. H-GAC 2024 REGIONAL GROWTH FORECAST (2020-2050)

BACKGROUND

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) periodically updates its Regional Growth Forecast, which projects population, employment, and land use trends across the eight-county H-GAC Transportation Management Area: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Each forecast update integrates the latest data on planned developments, population and employment trends, economic conditions, regional travel networks, and user feedback. The forecast plays a vital role in transportation planning for multiple agencies and is widely referenced in various reports and analyses. The model generates projections in five-year increments from 2020 through 2050, using 2020 as the base year.

CURRENT SITUATION

In January 2025, H-GAC released the 2024 Regional Growth Forecast, projecting a regional population of 10.7 million by 2050, an increase of 3.6 million over 30 years. This estimate is 500,000 lower than the 2018 forecast (11.24 million), primarily due to declining birth rates, an aging population, and temporary migration disruptions from COVID-19—trends that are also reflected in both national and Texas population projections.

The 2024 update incorporates the latest socioeconomic, real estate, and travel network data, along with refinements to the growth model to better account for future real estate development.

For more details on methodology and results, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/regional-growth-forecast>

ACTION REQUESTED

For Information only.