



TEXAS FORWARD

Data-Driven Solutions for Our State's Future

Hello y hola!

Welcome to the second issue of Texas Forward, your data-driven guide to key issues shaping our state. In our second issue, we recap proposed SNAP rule changes affecting food access for Texans across the state and share a new SNAP Retailer Locator tool we've created for our communities. We zoom in on economic opportunities, exploring which Texas counties have the widest gap between their richest and poorest residents. Finally, we invite you to explore the diversity of our state with our Demographic Data Explorer.

In this issue:

SNAP

THE REAL STORY AROUND NEW FOOD REQUIREMENTS

The USDA is proposing changes to the SNAP Staple Food Stocking Standards that would require retailers to offer seven varieties of staple foods instead of three, including at least three perishable items.



INCOME INEQUALITY

WHILE TEXAS BOASTS PROSPERITY, THE GINI INDEX MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY

Texas is defined by its rapid growth and diverse population, yet not all Texans share equally in the state's prosperity.



FACES OF TEXAS

EVERY TEXAN SPOTLIGHT: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA DASHBOARD

Texas is home to 31 million Texans from diverse backgrounds. Explore demographic data profiles to learn more about Indigenous Texans, Asian and Pacific Islander Texans, and more.



WE BELIEVE DATA DRIVES POWERFUL CHANGE.
THIS NEWSLETTER IS A TOOL TO SPARK
DIALOGUE AND INSPIRE COLLABORATION.

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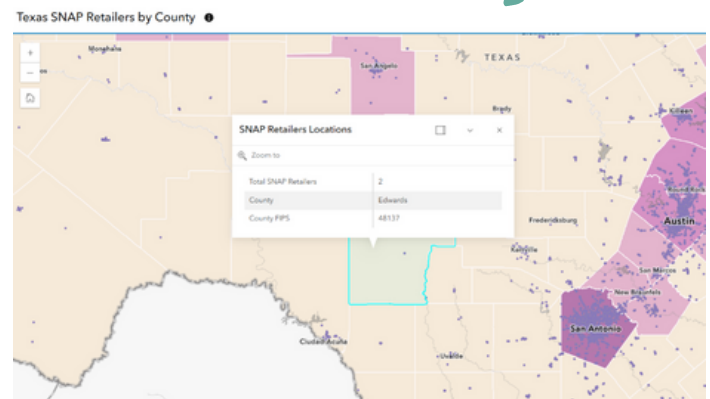
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THE REAL STORY AROUND NEW FOOD REQUIREMENTS: SNAP

The USDA is proposing changes to the SNAP Staple Food Stocking Standards that would require retailers to offer seven varieties of staple foods instead of three, including at least three perishable items. While intended to expand access to fresh foods, these changes would place new cost and storage pressures on small, rural, and low-margin stores that already operate with limited refrigeration and thin margins. Read more about the proposed rule [here](#).

Explore our [SNAP Retailer Locator Map](#) by Texas county to see where communities are most dependent on small retailers, and where the proposed changes may pose the greatest risk to food access.

VISIT OUR INTERACTIVE VISUALIZATION TOOL TO LEARN MORE



CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR OTHER SNAP RELATED DATA AND MAPS [HERE](#).

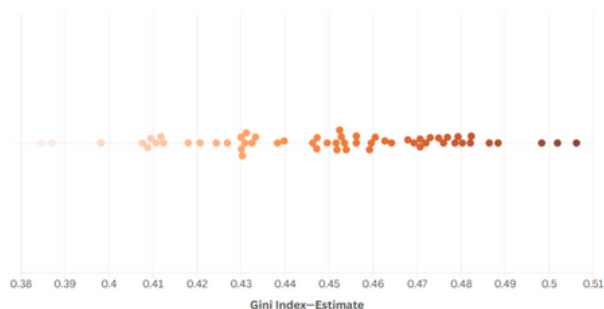
THE GINI INDEX



Gini Index of Income Inequality for Texas Counties with Populations of 65,000 or Greater

Most Texas counties have income inequality levels close to or above the national average.

Gini Index—Estimate 0.38 0.51



Source: Every Texan analysis of 2024 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table B19083. • The Gini coefficient ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality (where everyone receives an equal share), to 1, perfect inequality (where only one recipient or group of recipients receives all the income).

A TALE OF TWO TEXAS ECONOMIES: MAPPING COUNTY-LEVEL INCOME INEQUALITY

Texas is defined by its rapid growth and diverse population, yet not all Texans share equally in the state's prosperity. To understand where the largest economic disparities lie, we used the latest Census data to gauge prosperity via the Gini Index. The Gini index is the standard measure of income inequality and ranges from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality).

[EXPLORE THE DATA FOR YOURSELF!](#)



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MAPPING INCOME INEQUALITY BY TEXAS COUNTY

Our analysis of the 2024 American Community Survey shows that most Texas counties with populations over 65,000 have Gini coefficients close to or above the national average. Even as the state economy booms, the gap between the richest and poorest residents remains a significant challenge to the goal of a better future for all Texans.

Jump in to our interactive table to learn about the latest median household income for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in Texas and see where your region ranks!

DIVE DEEP: ECONOMIC DATA

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas (In 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars)

Metropolitan Area	2023 Estimate	2023 Margin of Error	2024 Estimate	2024 Margin of Error	Percent Change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	89,047.00	887.00	92,344.00	963.00	3.70
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	101,402.00	2,452.00	99,897.00	2,027.00	-1.50
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	97,059.00	1,795.00	98,666.00	2,168.00	1.70
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	113,950.00	1,965.00	117,825.00	2,297.00	3.40
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	83,649.00	1,386.00	85,938.00	1,325.00	2.70
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN	89,629.00	969.00	90,770.00	879.00	1.30
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	89,411.00	1,172.00	92,733.00	1,281.00	3.70
Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO	106,083.00	1,550.00	108,046.00	2,110.00	1.90
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	74,706.00	892.00	76,403.00	998.00	2.30
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	81,797.00	1,150.00	81,417.00	936.00	-0.50

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Source: 2024 ACS 1-Year Estimates via Household Income in the States and Metropolitan Areas ACS Data Brief, 2025.



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Every Texan Spotlight

THE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA DASHBOARD: 31 MILLION TEXANS AND COUNTING

31 million people from all backgrounds call Texas home! Harris County tops the list for the largest county population at 4.8 million. In 2023, the statewide median age was 35.9 years of age. Today, it's 35.5. This is some of the data you can learn about to join us in celebrating the diversity of our state!



DIVE DEEPER



DIVE DEEPER INTO THE NUMBERS DRIVING OUR EDUCATION AND HEALTH ANALYSES.
[VISIT OUR DATA HUB.](#)

RECEIVE UPDATES ON OUR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND EARNED EXPERTISE.
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GOT A DATA CONUNDRUM THAT NEEDS A DATA-DRIVEN ANSWER? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
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With Thanks and Data,



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