

Travis County Snapshot

from the American Community Survey 2024



2026



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Acknowledgements

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Questions or Comments?

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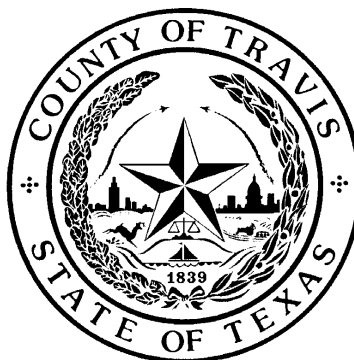


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Executive Summary

Social Characteristics

- The Travis County population in 2024 was 1,363,767, a 7% increase since 2019.
- The number of households in 2024 was 625,815. About 75% of households have no children under 18 years, an increase of 31% since 2019.
- At 46%, the non-Hispanic White residents are the largest race and ethnic group in the County. An estimated 33% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race.



Economic Characteristics

- The reported median household income was \$97,013, which decreased by 1.2% from 2019 when adjusted for inflation.
- About 22% of Travis County residents experienced deep economic hardship and were living below 200% of the poverty threshold.
- Households in the highest income quintile had incomes of \$207,214 or more and possessed 54% of the aggregate income in Travis County.



Housing Characteristics

- Approximately 49% of occupied housing units in Travis County are renter-occupied and 51% are owner-occupied.
- About 48% of renters experience a housing cost burden, spending 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs.
- 87% of owner-occupied housing homes were valued at or above \$300,000, a 68% increase from 2019.
- The reported median home value for owner-occupied housing was \$545,700.



Introduction



The 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) Snapshot marks our 17th year of reporting the current conditions and trends impacting our large and diverse county, specifically through social, housing, and economic conditions. The data presented supports Travis County Health and Human Services' in assessing and refining its efforts to achieve its vision of maximizing the quality of life for all people in Travis County.

The indicators selected for inclusion in this report:

- Reflect broad country-wide interests related to health and human services, which impact a significant percentage of the population; and
- Illustrate fundamental factors that help determine long-term quality of life for residents across the county.

All the information contained herein refers to data contained within the ACS that is publicly available via the U.S. Census Bureau's website. However, due to time constraints or technical limitations, it may sometimes be difficult for users to access, analyze, and interpret needed data.

HHS selects key variables from among the many available within the ACS to analyze important relationships and trends. The information is presented in a clear and accessible chart book format that provides current data on the Travis County community. We hope this information supports efforts to improve programs, plan community investments, and inform local policies. Users are encouraged to borrow and cite this material. When citing this chart book, use the following citation:

Research and Planning Division. (2026). The 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) Travis County Snapshot Health and Human Services Department. Travis County. <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/research-planning/snapshot>

About the Data

The ACS is one of many surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It includes questions about social, housing, and economic characteristics. Compared to the more

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widely known Decennial Census, which is conducted every 10 years, the ACS is conducted on an ongoing basis and releases data annually. Thus, it can provide more up-to-date information, particularly for communities undergoing rapid demographic change. To place Travis County in context, many of the indicators in this report compare the County to Texas and the U.S.

The data presented in this chart book is representative of a sample and not the entire population. Some of the smaller estimates may be unreliable due to sampling error, which generally increases as sample sizes decrease. As a result, comparisons of indicators between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods may not be statistically significant. We perform testing of estimates and make comparisons across geographies, subpopulations, or time periods at 90% level of confidence. For more information on statistical testing, see the Methodology section at the end of this chart book.

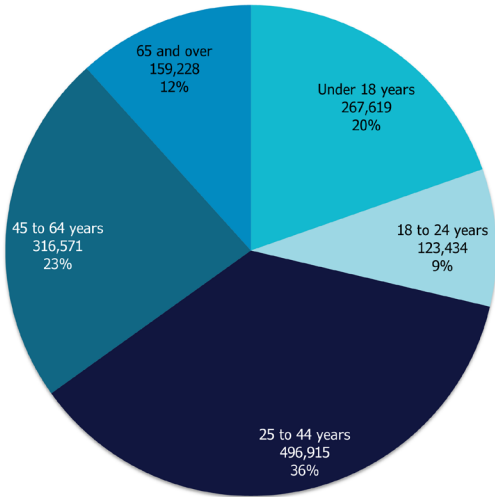
It is important to note that ACS 1-year estimates were not released in 2020 due to unreliable data collection caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result, trend data from 2020 will be absent.

Age Distribution: Travis County continues to be characterized by a large working-age population (individuals ages 18 to 64), that makes up 69% of the county’s population. In comparison, the working-age individuals account for only 62% of the Texas population and 61% of the United States population.

Median Age¹: The median age in Travis County and Texas are 35.8 and 35.9, respectively, while the U.S. median age is 39. The female median age in Travis County is 36.1, which is lower than the state and national female median ages of 36.7 and 40.3. The male median age is 35.1, slightly higher than the state median age of 35.1, but lower than the national median age of 38.1.

Trends to Watch: Since 2019, the total population of Travis County has increased by 7%, compared with an 8% increase statewide and a 4% increase nationally. In Travis County, the proportion of the population ages 65 and older increased by 23%, consistent with increases observed statewide (17%) and nationally (13%). In Travis County and the nation, the population of youth under 18 has seen relatively minor declines; however, statewide, this age group has decreased by 4% since 2019.

Population by Age
Total Population, Travis County, 2024
(n = 1,363,767)



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B01001

Growth in Population by Age Travis County, 2019 & 2024						
	2019		2024		Difference in Numbers	Percent Change
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion		
Under 18	269,942	21%	267,619	20%	-2,323*	-1%
18 to 24	115,382	9%	123,434	9%	8,052	7%
25 to 44	462,958	36%	496,915	36%	33,957	7%
45 to 64	296,234	23%	316,571	23%	20,337	7%
65 and over	129,438	10%	159,228	12%	29,790	23%
Total	1,273,954		1,363,767		89,813	7%

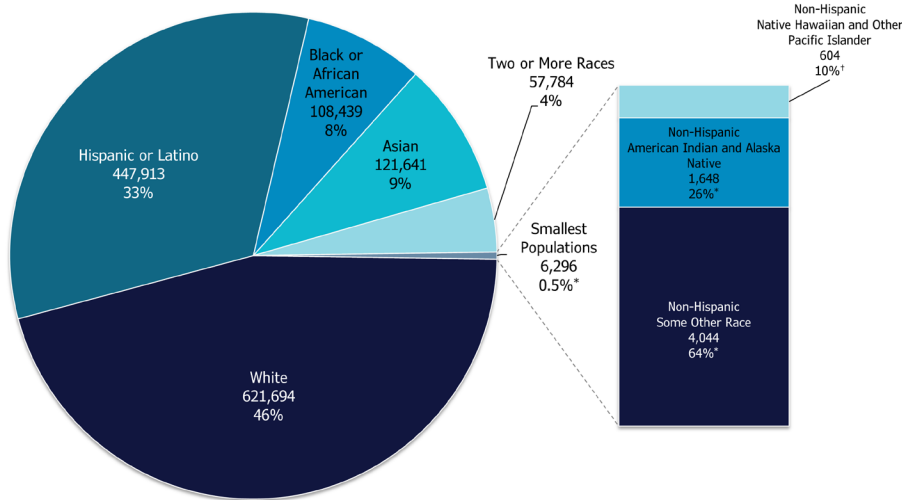
*Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.
Note: Differences in percentages may greater due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B01001

1 Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B01002

Race and Hispanic Origin

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

Total population, Travis County, 2024
(n = 1,363,767)



*Use caution with this estimate.
†Estimate is unreliable.
Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B03002

Race and Hispanic Origin²:

Approximately 46% of the Travis County population identifies as White, followed by Hispanic or Latino of any race (32.8%), Black or African American (8%), Asian (8.9%), and Two or More Races (4%). The three smallest race groups, Some Other Race, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Native, together made up less than 1% of the total population.

Trends to Watch: From 2019 to 2024, the Asian population and the non-Hispanic population of Two or More Races experienced the largest increases, leading to a 2% increase in their share of the total population.

Though the Hispanic or Latino of any race and White populations have seen minor

increases, their share of the total population decreased between 2019 and 2024. In contrast, the Asian population increased between 2019 and 2024, and their share of the total population also increased. The Black or African American population increased between 2019 and 2024; however, their share of the total population did not change in a statistically significant way.

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin						
Travis County, 2019 & 2024						
	2019		2024		Difference between Numbers	Difference between Proportions
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion		
Hispanic/Latino any race	428,571	34%	447,913	33%	19,342 [†]	-1%
Non-Hispanic White	621,577	49%	621,694	46%	117	-3%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	98,776	8%	108,439	8%	9,663	0% [†]
Non-Hispanic Asian	86,543	7%	121,641	9%	35,098	2%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	34,011	3%	57,784	4%	23,773	2%
Smallest Populations [‡]	4,476*	0.4%	6,296*	0.5%	1,820 [†]	0.1% [†]

*Use caution with this estimate.
†Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.
‡Smallest Populations includes individuals in Non-Hispanic Some Other Race, Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native.
Note: Differences in percentages may be greater due to rounding.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B03002

² Racial classifications used in the graph do not include Hispanic origin unless specified. For example, White is the non-Hispanic White race category as identified in the ACS. For more details on racial classifications see ACS 2024 Subject Definitions pg. 124-125.

Household Demographics

Households with

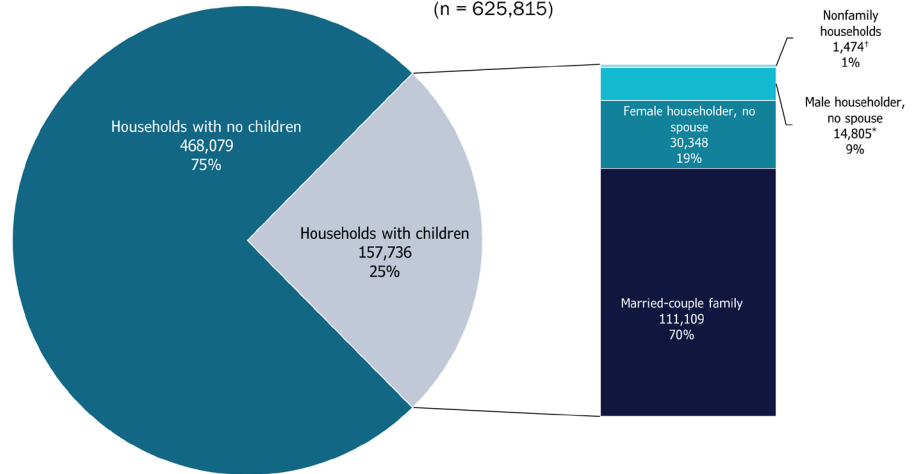
Children: In Travis County, 75% of households have no children and 25% of households have children.³ Of the 157,736 households with children, most are married-couple families (18% of all households countywide).

Geographic Comparison:

Travis County has a higher percentage of households with no children than Texas and the U.S. Travis County also has the lowest percentage of households with children, as compared to Texas and the U.S. Of the households with children, Travis County has a higher percentage living in a married-couple family.

Trends to Watch: Since 2019, the number of households with no children has increased by 31%, whereas the number of households with children has risen only slightly, by 6%. Proportionally, households with no children increased by 4 percentage points, while households with children decreased by 4 percentage points between the two time periods.

Households by Presence of Children under 18 years by Household Type
Households, Travis County, 2024
(n = 625,815)



*Use caution with this estimate.
*Estimate is unreliable.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B11005

Household Type	Travis County, Texas, and U.S., 2024		
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Households with no children	75%	66%	71%
Households with children	25%	34%	29%
Married Couple Families	70%	66%	65%
Single-Parent Families	29%	33%	34%
Non-Family Households	1%*	1%	1%

*This estimate is unreliable.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B11005

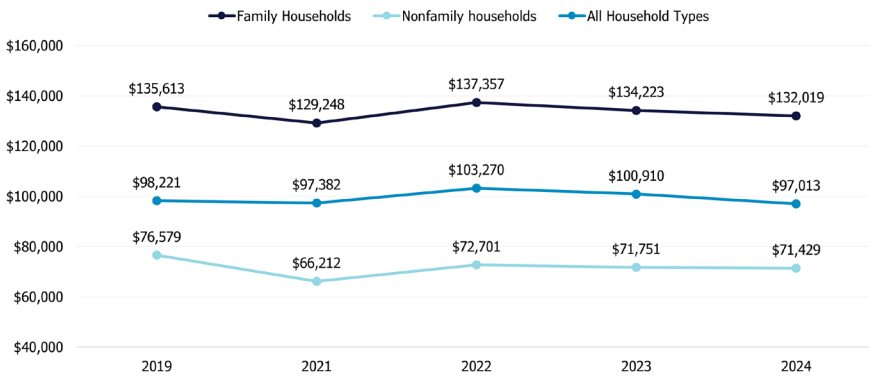
Household Type	Travis County, 2019 & 2024					
	2019 (n= 507,751)		2024 (n= 625,815)		Percent Change	Difference between Proportions
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion		
Households with no children	358,471	71%	468,079	75%	31%	4%
Households with children under 18 years	149,280	29%	157,736	25%	6%	-4%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B11005

³ Children are defined as individuals under 18 years old.

Median Household Income

Median Household Income in the Past 12 months by Household Type
Households, Travis County, 2019 -2024
(income adjusted in 2024 dollars)



2020 1-Year American Community Survey estimates were not made available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Tables#B19126, #B19013, and #B19202.

Median Household Income of Families with Children Families with Children Households, Travis County, 2019 & 2024

	2019 [†]	2024	Percent Change
Married Couple Family	\$169,434	\$182,441	8%
Female Householder, no spouse	\$39,481	\$36,537	-7% [†]
Male Householder, no spouse	\$53,602	\$80,992	51% [†]

[†]Data is reported in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars.

[†]Use caution with this estimate.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.

Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B19126

increase in median household income from 2019 to 2024. Among all household types with children, female householders still have the lowest income and experienced a 7% decrease from 2019 to 2024, although caution should be used with this estimate.

Geographic Comparison: In 2024, the Travis County median household income

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months Households, Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2019 & 2024

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Median Household Income 2019 (in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$98,221	\$77,911	\$79,953
Median Household Income 2024	\$97,013	\$79,721	\$81,604
Difference between 2019 and 2024	-\$1,208 [*]	\$1,810	\$1,651
Percent change between 2019 and 2024 (in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars)	-1%	2%	2%

^{*}Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2026.

Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B19013 and the CPI-U-RS

Median Household Income: In 2024, Travis County's reported median income was \$97,013, a 1.2% decrease from 2019 adjusted median household income (\$98,221). Family households, which make up 53% of all households in Travis County, had the highest median household income (\$132,019) in 2024, but experienced a 2.7% decrease from 2019 adjusted median household income (\$135,613). Nonfamily households, which comprise of 47% of households in Travis County, had the lowest median income (\$71,429) in 2024 and the greatest decrease (6.7%) from 2019 adjusted median household income (\$76,579).

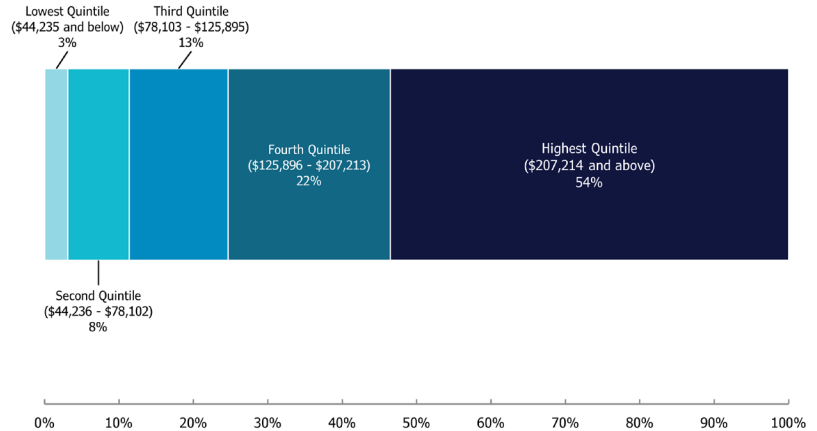
Trends to watch: Married couple families experienced an

increase in median household income from 2019 to 2024. Among all household types with children, female householders still have the lowest income and experienced a 7% decrease from 2019 to 2024, although caution should be used with this estimate. (\$97,013) was higher than that of Texas (\$79,721) and the U.S. (\$81,604). Between 2019 and 2024, Travis County had a slight decrease in the median household income (-1%), while both Texas and the U.S. saw an increase of 2%.

Household Income Distribution

Income Distribution: The quintile shares of aggregate household income provide information on how income or wealth is distributed across the population.⁴ In 2024, households in the lowest quintile (with household incomes of \$44,235 or below) received 3% of the aggregate household income of Travis County. Households in the highest quintile (with household incomes at or above \$207,214) received 54% of Travis County's

Distribution of Household Income
Aggregate Household Income, Travis County, 2024
(n = \$93,102,807,600)



Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B19082

Difference in Average Household Income for Income Quintiles Travis County, 2019 & 2024				
Quintile	2019 Amount [†]	2024 Amount	Difference in Numbers	Percent Change
Lowest Quintile	\$22,155	\$23,223	\$1,068 [‡]	5%
Second Quintile	\$59,911	\$61,193	\$1,282 [‡]	2%
Third Quintile	\$98,640	\$99,142	\$502 [‡]	1%
Fourth Quintile	\$155,864	\$162,097	\$6,233	4%
Highest Quintile	\$358,335	\$398,197	\$39,862	11%
Top 5% [†]	\$653,000	\$744,717	\$91,717	14%

[†]Data is reported in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars.
[†]Top 5% of households included in highest quintile.
[‡]Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B19081

aggregate income. The top 5% of households, which are included in the highest quintile (the darkest blue section of the above graph), received 25% of Travis County's total aggregate income.

Trends to Watch: Travis County's aggregate income across all households was \$93,102,807,600

in 2024. Data from 2019 to 2024 shows the difference in average household income has increased for each quintile, with the highest quintile having the largest percentage change at 11%. The difference in amounts was statistically significant for the fourth and highest quintiles.

Geographic Comparison:

Compared to Texas and the United States, Travis County has a higher household income upper limit for each quintile.

Difference in Upper Limit of Household Income Quintiles Travis County to Texas and U.S., 2024					
Quintile	Travis County Upper Limit	Texas Upper Limit	U.S. Upper Limit	Travis County to Texas Difference	Travis County to U.S. Difference
Lowest	\$44,235	\$33,235	\$33,775	\$11,000	\$10,460
Second	\$78,102	\$62,908	\$64,384	\$15,194	\$13,718
Third	\$125,895	\$100,044	\$101,835	\$25,851	\$24,060
Fourth	\$207,213	\$160,370	\$163,696	\$46,843	\$43,517
Lower Limit of Top 5%	\$250,001	\$250,001	\$250,001		

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B19080

⁴ For shares of household income by quintiles, negative incomes are converted to zero for these measures. A quintile is one of five equal groups ranked by income from lowest to highest, so that 20% of all households are in each group. These measures are the aggregate household income in each quintile as a percentage of the total aggregate household income.

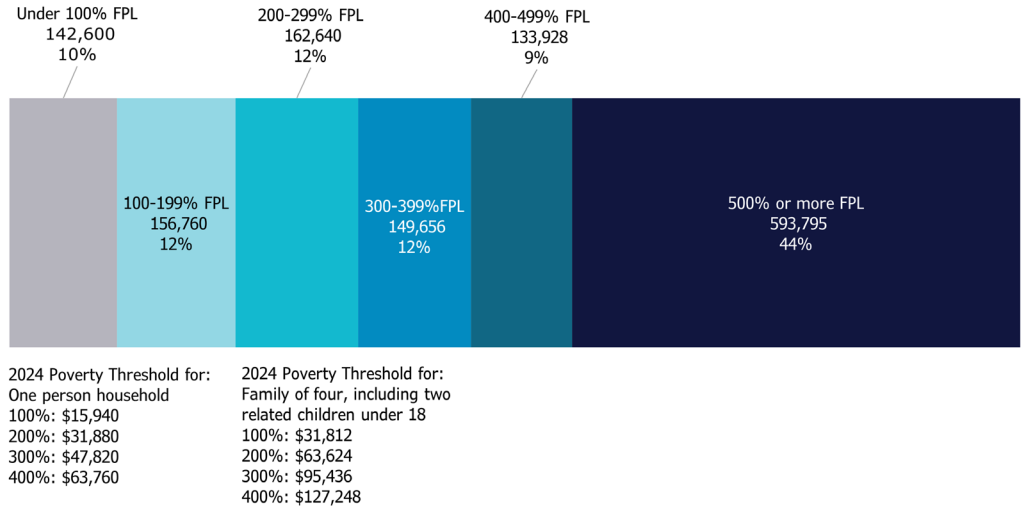
Income to Poverty Ratio

Poverty Status: In 2024, an estimated twenty-two percent of Travis County residents (299,360) were living below 200% of the poverty threshold⁵, while 53% (727,723) of residents were living above 400% of the poverty threshold.

Trends to Watch: Between 2019 and 2024, the difference in the percentage of residents living at or below 200% of the

poverty threshold decreased by 3%. This percentage point change was statistically significant, although the change in the number of residents living at or below 200% of the poverty threshold was not significant. During the same time period, the difference in the percentage of residents living at or above 500% of the poverty threshold increased by 5%. For residents at other income to poverty level ratios, the difference in numbers was not statistically significant.

Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold
Population for whom poverty status is determined, Travis County, 2024
(n = 1,339,379)



Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source Data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B17002

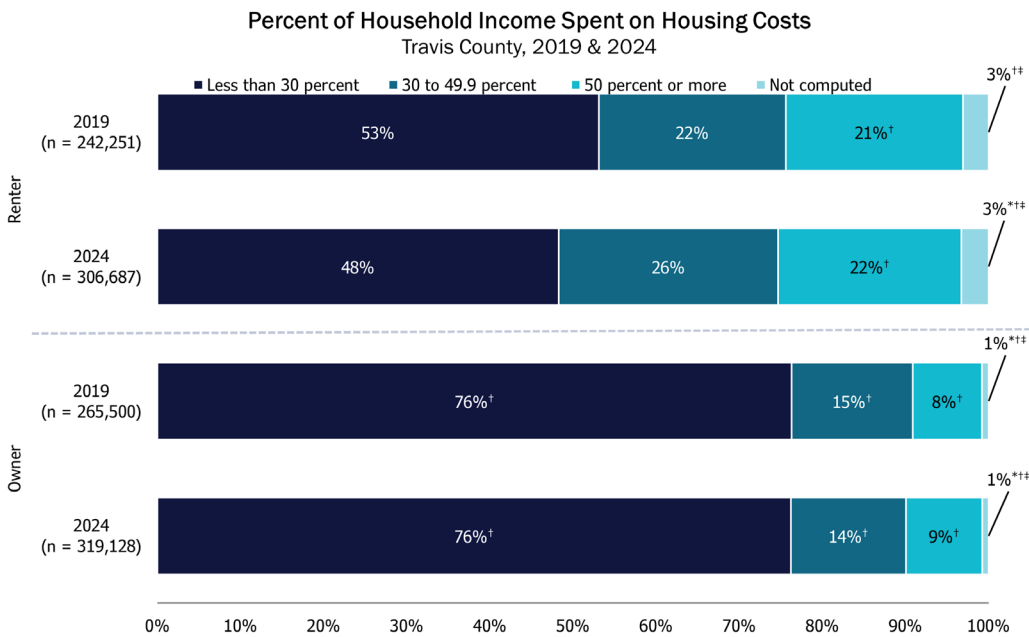
Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold in the Past 12 Months
Population for whom poverty status is determined, Travis County, 2019 & 2024

	2019		2024		Difference in Numbers	Difference in Proportions
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion		
Under 200%	313,295	25%	299,360	22%	-13,935*	-3%
200-299%	173,541	14%	162,640	12%	-10,901*	-2%
300-399%	148,001	12%	149,656	11%	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
400-499%	123,160	10%	133,928	10%	<i>not statistically significant</i>	
500% or more	487,113	39%	593,795	44%	106,682	5%
Total	1,245,110		1,339,379		94,269	

*Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B17002

⁵ The Census Bureau uses poverty thresholds as denoted in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14. The poverty thresholds are described in detail on the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

Cost Burden



Cost Burden⁶:

Residents are considered cost burdened when they spend 30% or more of their household income on housing costs.⁷

The share of residents considered cost burden differed dramatically between renters and homeowners. In 2019, 43% of Travis County renters spent more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. By

2024, 48% of Travis County renters spent more than 30% of their household income on housing costs, a statistically significant difference in percentages. During this same time period, the percentage of homeowners who spent less than 30% of their household income on housing costs or who were considered cost burdened remained unchanged.

Geographic Comparison: The differences in percentages of Travis County renters considered cost burdened compared to Texas were not statistically significant. Travis County had a slightly lower

percentage of renters (22%) considered severely cost burdened as compared to the U.S (24%).

Differences in Percentage of Renters Burdened by Housing Costs					
Travis County to Texas and U.S., 2024					
Percent of household income spent on housing	Travis County [*]	Texas [*]	U.S. [*]	Travis County to Texas Difference	Travis County to U.S. Difference
Less than 30%	48%	44%	45%	4%	3%
30% - 49.9%	26%	25%	24%	1% [†]	2%
Greater than 50%	22%	24%	24%	-2% [†]	-2%

^{*}Households for which costs were not computed are not included, so percentages may not sum to 100.

[†]Difference in 2019 and 2024 are not statistically significant.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.

Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B25070

⁶ Cost burden is determined as the percentage of household income spent on housing costs. Monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2024 Subject Definitions, pages 19 and 28.)

⁷ See U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/bg_chas.html.

Rent Values

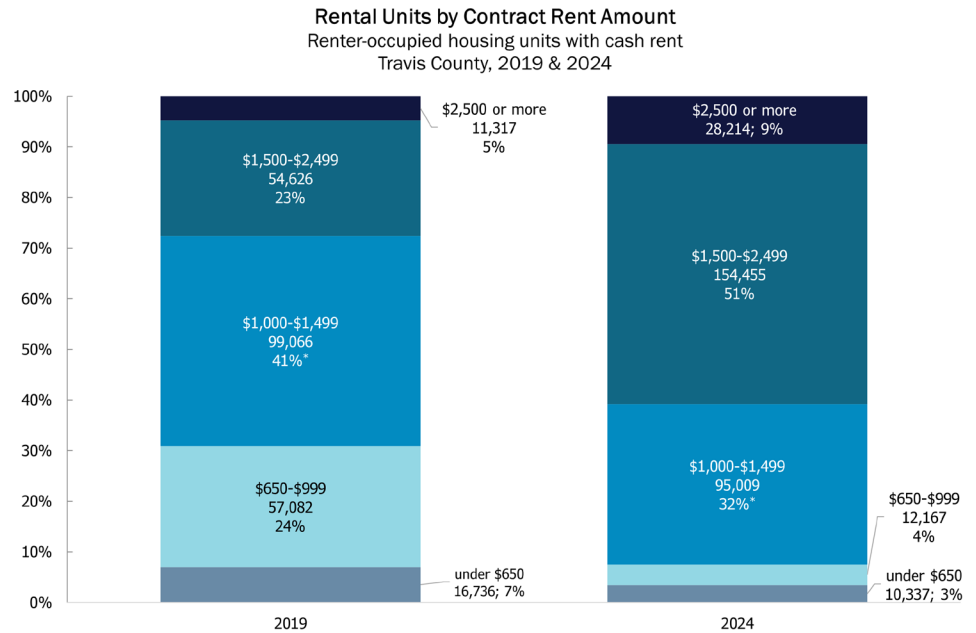
Contract Rent⁸

Distribution: In 2024, 83% of rental units had rents between \$1,000 and \$2,500, while only 7% had rents below \$1,000.

Trends to Watch: The percentage of rental units priced above \$2,500 grew from 5% to 9% between 2019 and 2024. Although there was a 27% increase (+64,436 units) in the total number of renter-occupied units during the same five-year period,

Travis County saw a 70% decrease (-51,314) in the availability of units priced under \$1,000. Rental units under \$1,000 decreased in absolute number and as a share of all units paying rent to 22,504 or 7% of units.

Median Contract Rent: In 2024, the median contract rent in Travis County (\$1,656) was higher than in Texas (\$1,294) and the U.S. (\$1,307). Between 2019 and 2024, Travis County had an identical 14% increase in the median contract rent as Texas and the U.S., when adjusted for inflation, as shown in the table below.



*Difference in 2019 and 2024 is not statistically significant.
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B25056

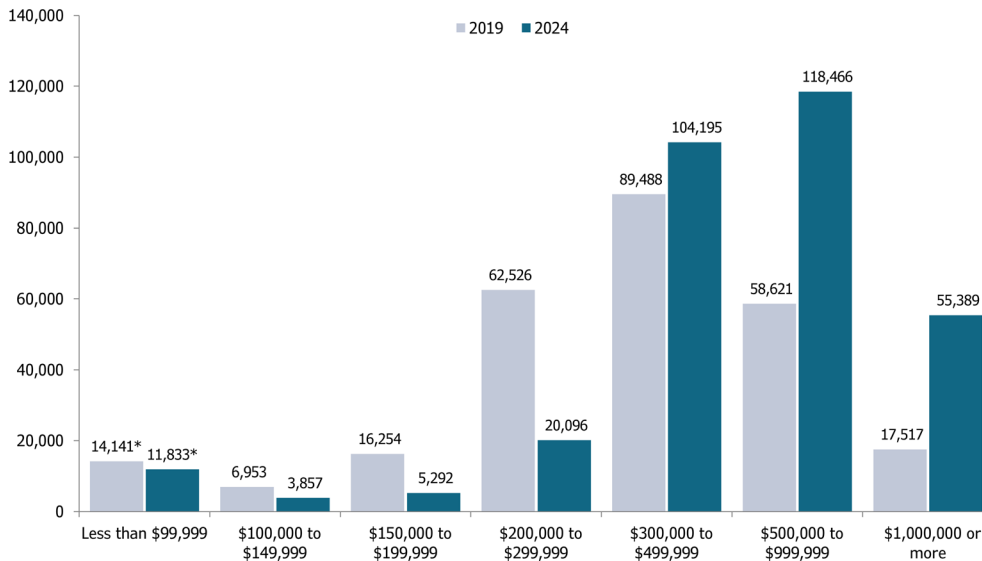
Median Contract Rent				
Travis County, Texas, U.S., 2019 & 2024				
	2019*	2024	Difference in Numbers	Percent Change
Travis County Median Contract Rent	\$1,459	\$1,656	\$197	14%
Texas Median Contract Rent	\$1,130	\$1,294	\$164	14%
U.S. Median Contract Rent	\$1,145	\$1,307	\$162	14%

*Data is reported in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars.
Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2019 & 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#B25058

⁸ Contract rent is the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2024 Subject Definitions, page 16.)

Housing Values

Housing Units by Value
Owner-occupied housing units, Travis County, 2019 & 2024



*Differences in 2019 and 2024 are not statistically significant.
Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table#C25075

Distribution of Housing Values⁹:

In 2024, only 7% (20,982) of Travis County owner-occupied homes were valued under \$200,000, 6% (20,096) were valued between \$200,000 and \$299,999, and 87% (278,050) were valued at or over \$300,000.

Trends to Watch:

Between 2019 and 2024, owner-occupied housing units in Travis County have increased by 20%

(53,628). Owner-occupied housing units valued above \$300,000 have increased by 68%, rising from 62% of the total in 2019 to 87% of the total in 2024. The largest increase occurred in housing units valued between \$500,000-\$999,999.

Geographic Comparison:

The table shows the percentage of housing value categories for Travis County, Texas, and the U.S. Travis County has a smaller proportion of homes valued

below \$300,000 (13%) and a higher proportion of homes valued at \$500,000 and above (54%) than both Texas and the U.S. Travis County's median housing value was also higher than Texas and the U.S.

Housing Units by Value Travis County, Texas, U.S., 2024			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Less than \$200,000	7%	26%	23%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	6%	21%	17%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	33%	30%	28%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	37%	18%	24%
\$1,000,000 or more	17%	4%	8%
Median Housing Values	\$574,000	\$275,400	\$320,900

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2026.
Source data: 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Tables#C25075 & #B25077

⁹ The U.S. Census Bureau defines housing value "...[as] the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale..." (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2024 Subject Definitions, page 50.)

Methodology



The U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates is the primary data source for this chart book. Data from 2019 to 2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates are also referenced for trend analyses. It is important to note that ACS 1-Year Estimates were not released in 2020 due to unreliable data collection caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and trend data from 2020 will be absent. Due to the unavailability of 2020 data, data from 2019 was used for historical comparison.

About the American Community Survey

The ACS replaced the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census or Decennial Census and collects information on an ongoing basis, rather than from a single point in time every ten years.¹⁰ The data collected through the ACS can be grouped into four main types of characteristics: social, economic, housing, and demographic.¹¹ The ACS 1-year estimates are data that have been collected over a 12-month period and are available for geographic areas with at least 65,000 people. Although not used in this report, the Census Bureau also produces 5-year estimates, by combining data collected over a period of 60 months, to produce estimates for geographic areas with fewer than 65,000 residents.

ACS Methodology

The ACS is conducted every month on independent samples of housing unit¹² addresses (whether vacant or occupied) and persons in group quarters¹³ facilities and produces annual estimates of the total residential population. In 2024, approximately 3.54 million housing unit addresses in the United States and approximately 150,092 residents in

10 A copy of the 2024 questionnaire can be found at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2024/quest24.pdf>

11 U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020. https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/acs/acs_general_handbook_2020.pdf

12 The U.S. Census Bureau defines a housing unit "[as] a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters...Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing unit inventory. Boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, tents, railroad cars, and the like are included only if they are occupied as someone's current place of residence..." (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2024 Subject Definitions, pg. 7.)

13 The U.S. Census Bureau defines group quarters "[as] a place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents...Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness..." (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2024 Subject Definitions, pg. 8.)

group quarters facilities were selected.¹⁴ Surveys are collected from 1/12 of the sample each month. Requests to complete the ACS are not mailed to specific people but rather to specific addresses. The Census Bureau selects a random sample of addresses to be included in the ACS. An address will not be included in the ACS survey more than once in a five-year period.¹⁵

For Travis County, the original 2024 (entire 12 month) sample of initial addresses selected was 11,439, and the final number of housing unit interviews (actual sample used to produce results) was 5,517.¹⁶ The group quarters population sample is not available at the county level, but for the entire state of Texas, the initial sample selected was 10,749 and the final number of group quarters actual interviews was 7,757.¹⁷ The ACS is conducted primarily through self-response. The U.S. Census Bureau employs two distinct data collection methodologies: one for individuals residing in housing units and another for those residing in group quarters. For those residing in housing units, three modes of data collection are used: the internet, a mailout/mailback, and a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). The general timing of data collection is completed within three months. During Month 1, addresses in the sample are sent an initial mailing package, which contains information for completing the ACS questionnaire on the internet. If an online response is not received after two weeks, then a second mailing package is sent. This package contains a paper questionnaire, and the housing unit has the option of which mode to use to complete the interview. During Month 2, collection via the mail and internet modes continues. During Month 3, a sample of mailable non-responding addresses and unmailable addresses are selected and sent to CAPI. For participants residing in Group Quarters, field representatives use several data collection methods, including completing the questionnaire through an in-person or telephone interview with the resident, conducting a personal interview with a proxy (such as a relative or guardian), or leaving a paper questionnaire for the resident to complete, which is later collected.¹⁸

Limitations

¹⁴ American Community Survey Sample Size and Data Quality, available at: https://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample_size_and_data_quality/

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B98001

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B98002

¹⁸ American Community Survey Accuracy of the Data (2024), available at: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2024.pdf (pg.3)

Methodology

Since the ACS findings are based on a sample rather than the entire population, the results would differ slightly if another sample were drawn or if the entire population were surveyed. This reduces the reliability of the results. A certain amount of variability (also called sampling error) is associated with any estimate based on a sample.¹⁹ In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling error will be. ACS estimates included in this publication have been tested for reliability at a 90% level of confidence.²⁰ When direct comparisons are made (for example, between geographic areas or over time), tests have been performed for statistical significance at a 90% confidence level. Estimates with coefficients of variation (CV)²¹ of more than 15% were either excluded or footnoted as being unreliable. Note that testing was not conducted on every possible permutation of comparisons between visible figures in this report's charts and tables, so inferences about statistics and trends should be interpreted with caution.

For estimates of monetary values, inflation affects the comparability of dollar-denominated data across time periods. When comparing household income over time we adjust estimates for inflation using the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual averages.²²

For more information and instruction on testing for reliability and statistical significance, as well as general guidance on how to use American Community Survey data, please see the Handbooks for Data Users published by the U.S. Census Bureau.²³

Estimates may be subject to non-response error. If certain individuals do not respond to the survey, the strength of the findings will be diminished. Additionally, the people

19 U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020

20 The U.S. Census Bureau specifies a confidence level or interval "[as] a range of values that describes the uncertainty surrounding an estimate...The '90%' in the confidence interval listed above represents a level of certainty about our estimate. If we were to repeatedly make new estimates using exactly the same procedure (by drawing a new sample, conducting new interviews, calculating new estimates and new confidence intervals), the confidence intervals would contain the average of all the estimates 90% of the time. We have therefore produced a single estimate in a way that, if repeated indefinitely, would result in 90% of the confidence intervals formed containing the true value." (U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, "A Basic Explanation of Confidence Intervals", <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/guidance/confidence-intervals.html>)

21 Coefficient of variation is a measure used to discern the level of reliability of an estimate. It is calculated using the estimate and its standard error. For more information on calculating and using coefficients of variation, see U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020.

22 The U.S. Census Bureau recommends accounting for inflation when comparing estimates of dollar-denominated data across time periods. Examples of dollar-denominated data include income, rent, or home values. For more information on deriving inflation adjustment factors, see U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2020.

23 The Handbooks include publications for the business community, state and local government users, researchers, and other ACS data stakeholders; see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/library/handbooks.html>

Methodology

who choose to respond to the survey may share certain characteristics that differ from those who do not respond. If this happens, the results may not fully reflect the entire sample. This is known as selection bias. However, while surveys are often voluntary, response to the ACS is required by law (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 3571 and Section 3559). Those who fail to respond to the survey are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000. Those who intentionally give any false answers are subject to a fine up to \$10,000.²⁴ The 2024 response rate for Texas was 76.6% for housing units and 72.4% for group quarters).²⁵

²⁴ American Community Survey: Frequently Asked Questions, "What is the penalty for not responding?" <https://ask.census.gov/prweb/PRServletCustom?pyActivity=pyMobileSnapStart&ArticleID=KCP-5176>

²⁵ Response rate information is available on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey website at: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/response-rates/index.php>

Appendix

2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds

The following table presents the federal poverty thresholds by household size and income.

Number	100%	200%	300%	400%	500%
1 person	\$15,940	\$31,880	\$47,820	\$63,760	\$79,700
2 persons	\$20,220	\$40,440	\$60,660	\$80,880	\$101,100
3 persons	\$24,940	\$49,880	\$74,820	\$99,760	\$124,700
4 persons	\$32,130	\$64,260	\$96,390	\$128,520	\$160,650
5 persons	\$38,110	\$76,220	\$114,330	\$152,440	\$190,550
6 persons	\$43,130	\$86,260	\$129,390	\$172,520	\$215,650
7 persons	\$48,970	\$97,940	\$146,910	\$195,880	\$244,850
8 persons	\$54,740	\$109,480	\$164,220	\$218,960	\$273,700

Data source: "2024 Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children," <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>

2024 Austin Median Family Income (MFI) Guidelines

Some of the social service programs we fund may utilize Austin MFI guidelines when measuring client incomes. The following table presents the median family income limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Austin-Round Rock, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA contains Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties.

Number	Extremely Low*	Very Low (50%)	Low (80%)
1 person	\$26,500	\$44,100	\$68,500
2 persons	\$30,250	\$50,400	\$78,250
3 persons	\$34,050	\$56,700	\$88,050
4 persons	\$37,800	\$63,000	\$97,800
5 persons	\$40,850	\$68,050	\$105,650
6 persons	\$43,850	\$73,100	\$113,450
7 persons	\$47,340	\$78,150	\$121,300
8 persons	\$52,720	\$83,200	\$129,100

Data source: "Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA FY 2024 Income Limits Summary," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2024/2024summary.odn?year=2024&states=%24states%24&data=2024&inputname=METRO12420M12420*Austin-Round+Rock%2C+TX+MSA&stname=%24stname%24&statefp=99&selection_type=hmfa

*HUD notes that "...the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act changed the definition of extremely low-income to be the greater of 30/50ths (60%) of the Section 8 very low-income limit or the poverty guideline as established by the Department of Health and Human Services, provided that this amount is not greater than the Section 8 50% very low-income limit." See "Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA FY 2024 Income Limits Summary".