



# 2024 ThinkTennessee State of Our Counties Dashboard

All Metrics: Houston County

## Houston County – All Metrics



This report summarizes all 104 metrics for Houston County. All data was compiled by Think Tennessee from the sources listed.

| Metric   | Value in Houston County | County Rank | Value in Average TN County | Difference from Average | Description   | Source   |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| Economy  |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| Seniors Living in Poverty                          | 13.4%                   | #75         | 11.0%                      | +2.4%                   | The percentage of adults aged 65 and older below the federal poverty line.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Women Living in Poverty                            | 15.1%                   | #29         | 17.7%                      | -2.6%                   | The percentage of women below the federal poverty line.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Poverty  | 13.9%                   | #29         | 16.1%                      | -2.2%                   | The percentage of people who had incomes below the federal poverty line.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Unemployment                                       | 4.4%                    | #81         | 3.7%                       | +0.7%                   | The percentage of the labor force who are unemployed.   | U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics |
| Employment Growth                                  | -8.6%                   | #94         | 19.6%                      | -28.2%                  | The percent change in the count of jobs between 2010 and 2022, both full-time and part-time.  | US Bureau of Economic Analysis                       |
| Population Growth                                  | -0.8%                   | #91         | 1.2%                       | -2.0%                   | The percent change in population between 2021 and 2022.   | U.S. Census Bureau, via Tennessee State Data Center  |
| GDP Growth   | 1.3%                    | #65         | 3.6%                       | -2.3%                   | The percent change in GDP (gross domestic product) between 2021 and 2022.   | U.S. Department of Commerce                          |
| Households Receiving Food Stamps                   | 16.8%                   | #70         | 14.5%                      | +2.3%                   | The percentage of households receiving food stamps.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| African American Households Receiving Food Stamps  | 20.3%                   | #39         | 22.6%                      | -2.3%                   | The percentage of African American households receiving food stamps.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Hispanic & Latino Households Receiving Food Stamps | 72.7%                   | #93         | 15.2%                      | +57.5%                  | The percentage of Hispanic or Latino households receiving food stamps.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Households with Seniors Receiving Food Stamps      | 10.7%                   | #43         | 11.7%                      | -1.0%                   | The percentage of households with at least one resident at or over the age of 60 receiving food stamps.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Cost of Living                                     | \$68,915                | #59         | \$69,367                   | -\$460.63               | The annual cost of living for a family budget for a two-parent, two-child family, including housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, taxes, and other necessities. | Economic Policy Institute                            |
| Median Household Income                            | \$46,535                | #59         | \$51,734                   | -\$5,199                | The annual median income of all persons living in a household 15 years and older.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Average Wages & Salaries                           | \$39,599                | #87         | \$48,422                   | -\$8,823                | The average annual wage of employees received from employers for the provision of labor services.   | US Bureau of Economic Analysis                       |
| Income Inequality                                  | 0.43                    | #23         | 0.4516                     | -0.02                   | The extent to which the distribution of income among individuals and households deviates from perfectly equal distribution (with 0 representing perfect equality)                 | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Labor Force Participation Gap                      | 3.9%                    | #15         | 8.4%                       | -4.5%                   | The difference between men and women's labor force participation rates.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates                 |
| Debt in Collections                                | 27.9%                   | #10         | 33.6%                      | -5.7%                   | The share of people with a credit bureau record who have any debt in collections.   | Urban Institute                                      |

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| Medical Debt in Collections                    | 15.3%                   | #15         | 20.2%                      | -4.9%                   | The share of people with a credit bureau record who have medical debt in collections.   | Urban Institute  |
| Student Loan Holders in Default                | NA%                     |             | 9.8%                       | +NA%                    | The share of people with any student loan debt who have student loan debt in collections/default.   | Urban Institute  |
| Auto & Retail Loan Delinquency Rate            | 4.3%                    | #31         | 5.0%                       | -0.7%                   | The share of people with an auto loan or lease or a retail installment loan who are 60 or more days delinquent.   | Urban Institute  |
| Debt to Income Ratio                           | 4.17                    | #89         | 2.36                       | +4.15                   | The amount of debt individuals have relative to their annual income.  | US Federal Reserve   |
| Wage Gap                                       | 65.2%                   | #93         | 78.4%                      | -13.2%                  | Women's median earnings as a percentage of men's median earnings.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Median Credit Score                            | 685                     | #33         | 683                        | +2                      | The median credit score, out of a range of 300 to 850, of people with a credit bureau record.   | Urban Institute  |
| Bankruptcy Rate                                | 146 per 100k            | #15         | 228 per 100k               | -82 per 100k            | The rate of nonbusiness bankruptcy filings per 100,000 residents.   | Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts                                     |
| Children                                       |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| Children in Poverty                            | 13.5%                   | #10         | 22.0%                      | -8.5%                   | The share of persons under 18 below the federal poverty level.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Households with Children Receiving Food Stamps | 33.9%                   | #87         | 23.9%                      | +10.0%                  | The percentage of households with children under 18 receiving food stamps.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Child Care Cost Burden                         | 24.0%                   | #45         | 24.3%                      | -0.3%                   | Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Uninsured Children                             | 2.6%                    | #12         | 4.9%                       | -2.3%                   | The percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Youth Obesity                                  | 35.5%                   | #4          | 42.5%                      | -7.0%                   | The prevalence of overweight or obese students in Tennessee public schools.   | Tennessee Department of Education  |
| Child Care Centers                             | 10.13 per 1k            | #34         | 9 for every 1k             | +1.13 per 1k            | The number of child care centers per 1,000 population under 5 years old.  | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Disconnected Youth                             | 2.8%                    | #7          | 8.7%                       | -5.9%                   | The share of teens and young adults ages 16-19 who are neither working nor in school.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Children in Single-Parent Households           | 11.7%                   | #6          | 25.1%                      | -13.4%                  | The percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Children in Food-Insecure Households           | 9.6%                    | #13         | 13.5%                      | -3.9%                   | The percentage of children under age 18 living in households, where in the past year, there was an uncertainty of having, or an inability to acquire, enough food because of insufficient money or other resources. | Feeding America - Map the Meal Gap   |
| Children Receiving Public Assistance           | 34.6%                   | #70         | 29.7%                      | +4.9%                   | The percentage of children 18 and under in households who recieved Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the previous 12 months.                                | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Health   |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| Uninsured Rate                                 | 9.6%                    | #55         | 9.3%                       | +0.3%                   | The percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Black Uninsured Rate                           | 21.2%                   | #80         | 15.2%                      | +6.0%                   | The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance who are African American.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Hispanic & Latino Uninsured Rate               | 0.0%                    | #1          | 24.8%                      | -24.8%                  | The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance who are of Hispanic or Latino origin.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Low-Income Uninsured                           | 21.3%                   | #68         | 19.0%                      | +2.3%                   | The percentage of adults under the age of 65 without health insurance with incomes below the federal poverty level.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Women Uninsured Rate                           | 12.2%                   | #86         | 9.0%                       | +3.2%                   | The percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance who are women.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Adult Obesity                                  | 38.0%                   | #43         | 37.6%                      | +0.4%                   | The percentage of the adult population (ages 18 and up) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Adults Who Smoke                               | 25.5%                   | #53         | 24.6%                      | +0.9%                   | The percentage of adults who are current smokers.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Adults with Diabetes                           | 11.3%                   | #28         | 11.7%                      | -0.4%                   | The percentage of adults aged 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health                                    |

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|   |                         |             |                            |                         |   | Institute - County Health Rankings   |
| Fatal Drug Overdoses                                  | NA per 100k             |             | 62 per 100k                | +NA per 100k            | The number of deaths due to drug injury of any intent (unintentional, suicide, homicide or undetermined) per 100,000 residents.   | Tennessee Department of Health   |
| Opioid Prescriptions                                  | 852 per 1k              | #61         | 807 per 1k                 | +45 per 1k              | The prescriptions rate per 1,000 residents who filled opioid for pain and benzodiazepine prescriptions.   | Tennessee Department of Health   |
| Mental Health Providers                               | 333 to 1                | #4          | 2,570 to 1                 | -2,237 to 1             | There is 1 mental health provider for every X residents.  | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Primary Care Physicians                               | 4,146 to 1              | #69         | 3,360 to 1                 | +786 to 1               | There is 1 primary care physician for every X residents.  | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Life Expectancy                                       | 72                      | #87         | 74 years                   | -2                      | The average number of years a person can expect to live.  | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Low Birthweight                                       | 8.0%                    | #9          | 8.8%                       | -0.8%                   | The percent of live births with low birthweight (<2,500 grams).   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Teen Births   | 26 per 1k               | #23         | 32 per 1k                  | -6 per 1k               | The number of births per 1,000 population ages 15-19.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| Poor Mental Health                                    | 19.9%                   | #46         | 19.7%                      | +0.2%                   | The percent of adults ages 18 and up who reported 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.  | Center for Disease Control   |
| Housing   |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| Housing Unit Growth                                   | -4.9%                   | #93         | 6.1%                       | -11.0%                  | The percent change in the total number of housing units from 2010 to 2022.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Home Ownership Growth                                 | 2.8%                    | #25         | 1.3%                       | +1.5%                   | The percent change in the total number of owner-occupied households from 2017 to 2022.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Renter Cost Burdened                                  | 41.4%                   | #34         | 43.5%                      | -2.1%                   | The percentage of occupied units paying rent whose gross rent as a percentage of household income is greater than or equal to 30 percent.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Home Ownership Cost Burdened                          | 41.7%                   | #87         | 34.4%                      | +7.3%                   | The percentage of owner occupied housing units, both with and without a mortgage, whose monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income is greater than or equal to 30 percent. | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Housing Cost Burdened                                 | 22.7%                   | #49         | 23.4%                      | -0.7%                   | The percentage of occupied housing units, both renters and homeowners, whose housing expenditures are greater than or equal to 30% of their household income.                           | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Change in Median Rent                                 | 9.9%                    | #8          | 25.1%                      | -15.2%                  | The percent change in the cost of median rent from 2017 to 2022.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Average Home Sale Price                               | \$204,410               |             | \$270,884                  | -\$66,474               | The average home sale price for the total number of home sales in 2022.   | Tennessee Housing Development Agency   |
| New Home Sales  | 2.2%                    | #81         | 12.2%                      | -10.0%                  | The percentage of total home sales that are new homes.  | Tennessee Housing Development Agency   |
| Age of Housing Stock                                  | 84.2%                   | #91         | 74.6%                      | +9.6%                   | The percentage of a county's total housing stock built before 2000.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Affordability of a Two-Bedroom Rental Unit            | \$30,800                | #44         | \$35,778                   | -\$4,978                | The annual income necessary to afford a two-bedroom rental home at the Fair Market Rent.  | National Low-Income Housing Coalition  |
| Work Hours Needed to Afford a Two-Bedroom Rental Unit | 81.7                    | #44         | 95 hours per week          | -13.3                   | A renter earning the minimum wage in Tennessee (\$7.25) must work this many hours per week to afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.                                     | National Low-Income Housing Coalition  |
| Home Ownership Growth - African Americans             | 4.3%                    | #37         | 4.8%                       | -0.5%                   | The percent change in housing units occupied by African American owners from 2017 to 2022.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Home Ownership Growth - Hispanic/Latinos              | -64.5%                  | #86         | 93.9%                      | -158.4%                 | The percent change in housing units occupied by owners of Hispanic or Latino origin from 2017 to 2022.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Renter Growth - African Americans                     | -61.8%                  |             | 28.6%                      | -90.4%                  | The percent change in rental housing units rented by African Americans from 2017 to 2022.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Renter Growth - Hispanic & Latinos                    | NA%                     |             | 75.0%                      | +NA%                    | The percent change in rental housing units rented by people of Hispanic or Latino origin from 2017 to 2022.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |

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| Criminal Justice & the Courts   |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| <b>Incarceration Rate</b>   | 1,199 per 100k          | #29         | 1434 per 100k              | -235 per 100k           | The incarceration rate per 100,000 residents ages 15 to 64.   | Vera Institute for Justice   |
| <b>Crime Rate</b>   | 30.58 per 1k            | #22         | 46.49 per 1k               | -16.32 per 1k           | The number of overall crimes per 1,000 residents.   | Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  |
| <b>Firearm Fatalities</b>   | NA per 100k             |             | 18.6 per 100k              | +NA per 100k            | The number of deaths due to firearms per 100,000 residents.   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| <b>Prison Capacity</b>  | 97.1%                   | #69         | 84.7%                      | +12.4%                  | Of the currently populated jail facilities, the percent of total bed capacity occupied by inmates.  | Tennessee Department of Correction   |
| Elections & Civic Life  |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| <b>Voter Registration (Midterm Election - 2022)</b>                               | 85.9%                   | #40         | 84.8%                      | +1.1%                   | The reported percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote in 2022.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Registered Voter Turnout (Midterm Election - 2022)</b>                         | 46.1%                   | #7          | 39.3%                      | +6.8%                   | The reported percentage of registered citizens voting in 2022.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Eligible Voter Turnout (Midterm Election - 2022)</b>                           | 39.6%                   | #9          | 33.3%                      | +6.3%                   | The reported percentage of eligible, voting-age citizens voting in 2022.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Voter Registration (Presidential Election - 2020)</b>                          | 83.3%                   | #49         | 84.5%                      | -1.2%                   | The reported percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote in 2022.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Registered Voter Turnout (Presidential Election - 2020)</b>                    | 69.7%                   | #50         | 69.3%                      | +0.4%                   | The reported percentage of registered citizens voting in 2020.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Eligible Voter Turnout (Presidential Election - 2020)</b>                      | 58.1%                   | #49         | 58.6%                      | -0.5%                   | The reported percentage of eligible, voting-age citizens voting in 2020.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>In-Person Election Day Voter Participation</b>                                 | 47.3%                   | #78         | 53.5%                      | -6.2%                   | The percentage of voters who cast a ballot at a physical location on Election Day and whose ballot was counted.   | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>In-Person Early Voting Turnout</b>   | 45.8%                   | #35         | 44.0%                      | +1.8%                   | The percentage of voters who cast a ballot at a physical polling location or election office before Election Day and whose ballot was counted.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Provisional Ballots Rejected</b>   | 6                       |             | 20                         | -14                     | The number of provisional ballots cast in the 2022 election that were rejected.   | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>New Poll Workers</b>   | 19.6%                   |             | 9.5%                       | +10.1%                  | The percentage of poll workers who assisted with Election Day voting and/or early voting who were new.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Election Day Polling Stations to Voters Ratio</b>                              | 1 to 171.43             | #10         | 1 to 398                   | 1 to -226.57            | In the 2022 Election, there was 1 polling place for X Election Day voters.  | US Election Assistance Commission  |
| <b>Nonprofit Giving</b>   | \$475                   | #23         | \$392                      | +\$83                   | Contributions per capita to 501©3 organizations, educational non-profits, and foundations.  | Urban Institute  |
| Education   |                         |             |                            |                         |   |  |
| <b>Public School Teacher Salary</b>   | \$54,195                | #43         | \$54,790                   | -\$595                  | The average annual public school teacher salary.  | Tennessee Education Association  |
| <b>High School Graduation Rate</b>  | 84.6%                   | #68         | 86.7%                      | -2.1%                   | The percentage of students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.                                      | Tennessee Department of Education  |
| <b>High School Graduation Rate - Black, Hispanic, or Native American Students</b> | NA%                     |             | 83.1%                      | +NA%                    | The percentage of Black, Hispanic, and Native American students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort. | Tennessee Department of Education  |
| <b>High School Graduation Rate - Economically Disadvantaged Students</b>          | 75.9%                   | #74         | 79.8%                      | -3.9%                   | The percentage of economically disadvantaged students who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.           | Tennessee Department of Education  |
| <b>High School Graduation Rate - Students with Disabilities</b>                   | NA%                     |             | 39.8%                      | +NA%                    | The percentage of students with disabilities who completed all required coursework and graduated with a diploma within four years and a summer in his or her original graduation cohort.                    | Tennessee Department of Education  |
| <b>Third Grade Reading Proficiency</b>  | 19.3%                   | #92         | 38.2%                      | -18.9%                  | The percentage of students in a 3rd grade ELA who met or exceeded the reading requirements for the 2023 TCAP.   | Tennessee Department of Education  |

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| <b>Post High School Educational Attainment</b>                     | 22.3%                   | #63         | 26.5%                      | -4.2%                   | The percentage of the total population age 25 and up who has obtained an associate's degree or higher.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| Infrastructure & Mobility  |                         |             |                            |                         |  |  |
| <b>Average Commute to Work</b>                                     | 38.9                    | #94         | 27.8 minutes               | +11.1                   | The mean travel time to work, in minutes, of workers 16 years and over who did not work at home.   | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| <b>Residents Commuting to Work Outside the County of Residence</b> | 62.0%                   | #88         | 39.0%                      | +23.0%                  | The percentage of workers 16 years and over who worked outside their county of residence.  | US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates   |
| <b>Fatal Crash Rate</b>  | 0.16 per 1k             | #19         | 0.28 per 1k                | -0.12 per 1k            | The crash rate per 1,000 residents that resulted in a fatality.  | Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security                           |
| <b>Injury Crash Rate</b>   | 3.91 per 1k             | #11         | 6.07 per 1k                | -2.16 per 1k            | The crash rate per 1,000 residents that resulted in an injury.   | Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security                           |
| <b>Deficient Bridges</b>   | 4.2%                    | #56         | 4.4%                       | -0.2%                   | The share of bridges in poor or critical condition as a percentage of total inventory.   | Tennessee Department of Transportation                                       |
| <b>Road Quality</b>  | 10.6%                   | #7          | 31.7%                      | -21.1%                  | The share of pavement roughness in fair or poor condition as a percentage of total inventory.  | Tennessee Department of Transportation                                       |
| <b>Broadband Access</b>  | 23.5%                   | #71         | 15.4%                      | +8.1%                   | The percentage of people living in census blocks without access to fixed broadband services at 25/3 Mbps or higher   | Federal Communications Commission  |
| <b>Gigabyte Internet Availability</b>                              | 0.0%                    | #84         | 33.8%                      | -33.8%                  | The percentage of people living in census blocks with access to download speeds of 1 gigabyte (GB) or higher.  | Federal Communications Commission  |
| <b>Number of Internet Providers</b>                                | 1                       |             | 1                          | 0                       | The number of fixed broadband providers offering service to consumers at 25/3 Mbps or higher advertised speeds available to the 50th percentile of the population. | Federal Communications Commission  |
| <b>Rural Broadband Access</b>                                      | 76.5%                   | #62         | 79.5%                      | -3.0%                   | The percentage of people living in rural census blocks with access to fixed broadband service at 25/3 Mbps or higher   | Federal Communications Commission  |
| Environment & Energy   |                         |             |                            |                         |  |  |
| <b>Renewable Energy Production</b>                                 | 0                       |             | 52 MW                      | -52                     | The total net summer capacity in megawatts generated by renewable energy infrastructure.   | US Energy Information Administration Atlas                                   |
| <b>Air Pollution</b>   | 7.2                     | #21         | 7.7 PM2.5                  | -0.5                    | The average daily density amounty of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5)   | University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute - County Health Rankings |
| <b>Flood Risk</b>  | 20.0%                   | #82         | 13.0%                      | +7.0%                   | The percentage of properties likely at risk of floods occurring in the next thirty years from tides, rain, riverine and storm surges.                              | First Street Foundation  |
| <b>Fire Risk</b>   | 0.0%                    | #1          | 13.9%                      | -13.9%                  | The percentage of properties likely at risk of wildfire exposure due to causes from fire fuels, weather, human influence, and fire movements.                      | First Street Foundation  |
| <b>Average Annual Energy Cost</b>                                  | \$1,884                 | #59         | \$1,847                    | +\$37                   | The average annual household expenditure for energy, based on household monthly expenditures for electricity, gas, and other fuels.                                | US Department of Energy  |
| <b>Household Energy Burden</b>                                     | 3.1%                    | #69         | 2.9%                       | +0.2%                   | The percentage of annual household income spent on energy-related expenditures.  | US Department of Energy  |