[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Houston** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell)) is the most populous city in [Texas](/wiki/Texas) and the [fourth-most populous city in the United States](/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population), located in [Southeast Texas](/wiki/Southeast_Texas) near the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico), following [New York](/wiki/New_York), [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles), and [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago) respectively. With a census-estimated 2014 population of 2.239 million[[1]](#cite_note-1) within a land area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[2]](#cite_note-2) it also is the largest city in the [Southern United States](/wiki/Southern_United_States),[[3]](#cite_note-3) as well as the seat of [Harris County](/wiki/Harris_County,_Texas). It is the principal city of [Houston–The Woodlands–Sugar Land](/wiki/Greater_Houston), which is the fifth-most populated metropolitan area in the United States.

Houston was founded in 1836 near the banks of [Buffalo Bayou](/wiki/Buffalo_Bayou) (now known as [Allen's Landing](/wiki/Allen's_Landing))[[4]](#cite_note-4)<ref name=HouHTO>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and incorporated as a city on June 5, 1837. The city was named after former General [Sam Houston](/wiki/Sam_Houston), who was president of the [Republic of Texas](/wiki/Republic_of_Texas) and had commanded and won at the [Battle of San Jacinto](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Jacinto) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) east of where the city was established. The burgeoning port and railroad industry, combined with oil discovery in 1901, has induced continual surges in the city's population. In the mid-20th century, Houston became the home of the [Texas Medical Center](/wiki/Texas_Medical_Center)—the world's largest concentration of healthcare and research institutions—and [NASA's](/wiki/NASA) [Johnson Space Center](/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson_Space_Center), where the [Mission Control Center](/wiki/Christopher_C._Kraft_Jr._Mission_Control_Center) is located.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Houston's economy has a broad industrial base in energy, manufacturing, aeronautics, and transportation. It is also leading in health care sectors and building oilfield equipment; only [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City) is home to more [Fortune 500](/wiki/Fortune_500) headquarters within its city limits.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) The [Port of Houston](/wiki/Port_of_Houston) ranks first in the United States in international waterborne tonnage handled and second in total cargo tonnage handled.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Nicknamed the "Space City", Houston is a [global city](/wiki/Global_city), with strengths in business, international trade, entertainment, culture, media, fashion, science, sports, technology, education, medicine, and research. The city has a population from various ethnic and religious backgrounds and a large and growing international community. Houston is the [most diverse city](/wiki/Demographics_of_Houston) in Texas and has been described as the most diverse in the United States.[[9]](#cite_note-9) It is home to many cultural institutions and exhibits, which attract more than 7 million visitors a year to the [Museum District](/wiki/Houston_Museum_District). Houston has an active visual and performing arts scene in the [Theater District](/wiki/Houston_Theater_District) and offers year-round resident companies in all major performing arts.[[10]](#cite_note-10)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:samuel_houston.jpg)[Sam Houston](/wiki/Sam_Houston) In August 1836, two real estate entrepreneurs from New York—[Augustus Chapman Allen](/wiki/Augustus_Chapman_Allen) and [John Kirby Allen](/wiki/John_Kirby_Allen)—purchased [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of land along [Buffalo Bayou](/wiki/Buffalo_Bayou) with the intent of founding a city.[[11]](#cite_note-11) The Allen brothers decided to name the city after [Sam Houston](/wiki/Sam_Houston), the popular general at the [Battle of San Jacinto](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Jacinto),[[11]](#cite_note-11) who was elected President of Texas in September 1836. The great majority of slaves in Texas came with their owners from the older slave states. Sizable numbers, however, came through the domestic slave trade. New Orleans was the center of this trade in the Deep South, but slave dealers were in Houston. Thousands of [enslaved](/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States) [African Americans](/wiki/African_American) lived near the city before the [Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War). Many of them near the city worked on sugar and cotton plantations, while most of those in the city limits had domestic and artisan jobs. In 1860, 49% of the city's population was enslaved. A few slaves, perhaps as many as 2,000 between 1835 and 1865, came through the illegal African trade. Post-war Texas grew rapidly as migrants poured into the cotton lands; they also brought or purchased enslaved African Americans, whose numbers nearly tripled in the state from 1850 to 1860, from 58,000 to 182,566.

Houston was granted incorporation on June 5, 1837, with [James S. Holman](/wiki/James_Sanders_Holman) becoming its first mayor.<ref name=HouHTO/> In the same year, Houston became the county seat of Harrisburg County (now Harris County) and the temporary capital of the [Republic of Texas](/wiki/Republic_of_Texas).[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 1840, the community established a chamber of commerce in part to promote shipping and waterborne business at the newly created port on Buffalo Bayou.[[13]](#cite_note-13) [thumb|left|Houston,](/wiki/File:Old_map-Houston-1873.jpg) [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)

By 1860, Houston had emerged as a commercial and railroad hub for the export of cotton.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Railroad spurs from the Texas inland converged in Houston, where they met rail lines to the ports of [Galveston](/wiki/Galveston,_Texas) and [Beaumont](/wiki/Beaumont,_Texas). During the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), Houston served as a headquarters for General [John Bankhead Magruder](/wiki/John_B._Magruder), who used the city as an organization point for the [Battle of Galveston](/wiki/Battle_of_Galveston).[[14]](#cite_note-14) After the Civil War, Houston businessmen initiated efforts to widen the city's extensive system of bayous so the city could accept more commerce between downtown and the nearby port of Galveston. By 1890, Houston was the railroad center of Texas.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Union_Station,_Houston,_Texas.jpg)[Union Station](/wiki/Union_Station_(Houston)), Houston, Texas (postcard, [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa))

In 1900, after Galveston was struck by a devastating [hurricane](/wiki/Galveston_Hurricane_of_1900), efforts to make Houston into a viable deep-water port were accelerated.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The following year, oil discovered at the [Spindletop](/wiki/Spindletop) [oil field](/wiki/Oil_field) near Beaumont prompted the development of the Texas petroleum industry.[[16]](#cite_note-16) In 1902, President [Theodore Roosevelt](/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) approved a $1 million improvement project for the Houston Ship Channel. By 1910, the city's population had reached 78,800, almost doubling from a decade before. African Americans formed a large part of the city's population, numbering 23,929 people, or nearly one-third of the residents.[[17]](#cite_note-17) President [Woodrow Wilson](/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson) opened the deep-water Port of Houston in 1914, seven years after digging began. By 1930, Houston had become Texas' most populous city and Harris County the most populous county.[[18]](#cite_note-18) In 1940, the Census Bureau reported Houston's population as 77.5% white and 22.4% black.[[19]](#cite_note-19) [thumb|Downtown Houston,](/wiki/File:Downtown_Houston_TX_1927.jpg) [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)

When [World War II](/wiki/United_States_home_front_during_World_War_II) started, tonnage levels at the port decreased and shipping activities were suspended; however, the war did provide economic benefits for the city. Petrochemical refineries and manufacturing plants were constructed along the ship channel because of the demand for petroleum and synthetic rubber products by the defense industry during the war.[[20]](#cite_note-20) [Ellington Field](/wiki/Ellington_Airport_(Texas)), initially built during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), was revitalized as an advanced training center for bombardiers and navigators.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [Brown Shipbuilding Company](/wiki/Brown_Shipbuilding_Company) was founded in 1942 to build ships for the [U.S. Navy](/wiki/U.S._Navy) during World War II. Due to the boom in defense jobs, thousands of new workers migrated to the city, both blacks and whites competing for the higher-paying jobs. President Roosevelt had established a policy of nondiscrimination for defense contractors, and blacks gained some opportunities, especially in shipbuilding, although not without resistance from whites and increasing social tensions that erupted into occasional violence. Economic gains of blacks who entered defense industries continued in the postwar years.[[22]](#cite_note-22)<ref name=AmericanStyle2005>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Houston received the official nickname of "Space City" in 1967 because it is the location of NASA's [Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center](/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson_Space_Center). [Other nicknames](/wiki/Nicknames_of_Houston) often used by locals include "Bayou City", "[Clutch City](/wiki/Clutch_City)", "Magnolia City", "New Houston" (a tribute to the cultural contributions of New Orleans natives who left their city during the 2005 [Hurricane Katrina](/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina) catastrophe), and "H-Town". [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

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### Arts and theater[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Hobbycenter.jpg)[Hobby Center for the Performing Arts](/wiki/Hobby_Center_for_the_Performing_Arts) [left|thumb|](/wiki/File:MFA_houston.jpg)[Museum of Fine Arts, Houston](/wiki/Museum_of_Fine_Arts,_Houston) [left|thumb|](/wiki/File:HMNS.jpg)[Houston Museum of Natural Science](/wiki/Houston_Museum_of_Natural_Science) The [Houston Theater District](/wiki/Houston_Theater_District), located downtown, is home to nine major performing arts organizations and six performance halls. It is the second-largest concentration of theater seats in a downtown area in the United States.[[121]](#cite_note-121)[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123) Houston is one of few United States cities with permanent, professional, resident companies in all major performing arts disciplines: opera ([Houston Grand Opera](/wiki/Houston_Grand_Opera)), ballet ([Houston Ballet](/wiki/Houston_Ballet)), music ([Houston Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Houston_Symphony)), and theater ([The Alley Theatre](/wiki/The_Alley_Theatre), [Theatre Under the Stars](/wiki/Theatre_Under_The_Stars_(Houston))).[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[124]](#cite_note-124) Houston is also home to [folk artists](/wiki/Folk_art), [art groups](/wiki/Art_groups) and various small progressive arts organizations.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Houston attracts many touring Broadway acts, concerts, shows, and exhibitions for a variety of interests.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Facilities in the Theater District include the [Jones Hall](/wiki/Jones_Hall)—home of the [Houston Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Houston_Symphony_Orchestra) and Society for the Performing Arts—and the [Hobby Center for the Performing Arts](/wiki/Hobby_Center_for_the_Performing_Arts).

The [Museum District's](/wiki/Houston_Museum_District) cultural institutions and exhibits attract more than 7 million visitors a year.[[127]](#cite_note-127)[[128]](#cite_note-128) Notable facilities include [The Museum of Fine Arts](/wiki/The_Museum_of_Fine_Arts,_Houston), [Houston Museum of Natural Science](/wiki/Houston_Museum_of_Natural_Science), the [Contemporary Arts Museum Houston](/wiki/Contemporary_Arts_Museum_Houston), the [Station Museum of Contemporary Art](/wiki/Station_Museum_of_Contemporary_Art), [Holocaust Museum Houston](/wiki/Holocaust_Museum_Houston), and the [Houston Zoo](/wiki/Houston_Zoo).[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) Located near the Museum District are [The Menil Collection](/wiki/Menil_Collection), [Rothko Chapel](/wiki/Rothko_Chapel), and the [Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum](/wiki/Byzantine_Fresco_Chapel_Museum).

[Bayou Bend](/wiki/Bayou_Bend_Collection_and_Gardens) is a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) facility of the Museum of Fine Arts that houses one of America's best collections of decorative art, paintings, and furniture. Bayou Bend is the former home of Houston philanthropist [Ima Hogg](/wiki/Ima_Hogg).[[132]](#cite_note-132) The National Museum of Funeral History is located in Houston near the [George Bush Intercontinental Airport](/wiki/George_Bush_Intercontinental_Airport). The museum houses the original [Popemobile](/wiki/Popemobile) used by [Pope John Paul II](/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II) in the 1980s along with numerous hearses, embalming displays, and information on famous funerals.

Venues across Houston regularly host local and touring rock, blues, country, dubstep, and Tejano musical acts. While Houston has never been widely known for its music scene,[[133]](#cite_note-133) [Houston hip-hop](/wiki/Houston_hip_hop) has become a significant, independent music scene that is influential nationwide.[[134]](#cite_note-134)

### Tourism and recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Mission_control_center.jpg)[Christopher C. Kraft Jr. Mission Control Center](/wiki/Christopher_C._Kraft_Jr._Mission_Control_Center) within the [Johnson Space Center](/wiki/Johnson_Space_Center) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Discovery_green.JPG)[Discovery Green](/wiki/Discovery_Green) park in downtown [thumb|Shopping centers in](/wiki/File:Houston_Chinatown_shopping_centers_east_of_Beltway_8_(Dec_2013).JPG) [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Houston)

The [Theater District](/wiki/Houston_Theater_District) is a 17-block area in the center of downtown Houston that is home to the [Bayou Place](/wiki/Bayou_Place) entertainment complex, restaurants, movies, plazas, and parks. Bayou Place is a large multilevel building containing full-service restaurants, bars, live music, billiards, and [Sundance Cinema](/wiki/Sundance_Cinema). The [Bayou Music Center](/wiki/Bayou_Music_Center) stages live concerts, stage plays, and stand-up comedy. [Space Center Houston](/wiki/Space_Center_Houston) is the official visitors' center of NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. The Space Center has many interactive exhibits including [moon rocks](/wiki/Moon_rocks), a shuttle simulator, and presentations about the history of NASA's manned space flight program. Other tourist attractions include the [Galleria](/wiki/The_Galleria_(Houston)) (Texas's [largest](/wiki/List_of_largest_shopping_malls_in_the_United_States) shopping mall, located in the Uptown District), Old Market Square, the [Downtown Aquarium](/wiki/Downtown_Aquarium,_Houston), and [Sam Houston Race Park](/wiki/Sam_Houston_Race_Park).

[left|thumb|The Galleria in the](/wiki/File:GalleriaOne.jpg) [Uptown District](/wiki/Uptown_Houston) is the largest mall in Texas. [thumb|Shopping mall in the](/wiki/File:The_Plaza_@_Hillcroft_&_Hawrin_-_(hillcroft_st).JPG) [Mahatma Gandhi District](/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi_District) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Galleriawaterfall.jpg)[Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park](/wiki/Gerald_D._Hines_Waterwall_Park) in [Uptown](/wiki/Uptown_Houston)

Of worthy mention are Houston's [current Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Houston) and the [Mahatma Gandhi District](/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi_District). Both areas offer a picturesque view of Houston's multicultural makeup. Restaurants, bakeries, traditional-clothing boutiques, and specialty shops can be found in both areas.

Houston is home to 337 parks, including [Hermann Park](/wiki/Hermann_Park), [Terry Hershey Park](/wiki/Terry_Hershey_Park), [Lake Houston Park](/wiki/Lake_Houston), [Memorial Park](/wiki/Memorial_Park,_Houston,_Texas), [Tranquility Park](/wiki/Tranquility_Park), [Sesquicentennial Park](/wiki/Sesquicentennial_Park), [Discovery Green](/wiki/Discovery_Green), and [Sam Houston Park](/wiki/Sam_Houston_Park). Within Hermann Park are the [Houston Zoo](/wiki/Houston_Zoo) and the [Houston Museum of Natural Science](/wiki/Houston_Museum_of_Natural_Science). Sam Houston Park contains restored and reconstructed homes which were originally built between 1823 and 1905.[[135]](#cite_note-135) A proposal has been made to open the city's first botanic garden at Herman Brown Park.[[136]](#cite_note-136) Of the 10 most populous U.S. cities, Houston has the most total area of parks and green space, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[137]](#cite_note-137) The city also has over 200 additional green spaces—totaling over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) that are managed by the city—including the [Houston Arboretum and Nature Center](/wiki/Houston_Arboretum_and_Nature_Center). The [Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark](/wiki/Lee_and_Joe_Jamail_Skatepark) is a public [skatepark](/wiki/Skatepark) owned and operated by the city of Houston, and is one of the largest skateparks in Texas consisting of a 30,000-ft2 (2,800 m2)in-ground facility. The [Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park](/wiki/Gerald_D._Hines_Waterwall_Park)—located in the Uptown District of the city—serves as a popular tourist attraction and for weddings and various celebrations. A 2011 study by Walk Score ranked Houston the 23rd most walkable of the 50 largest cities in the United States.[[138]](#cite_note-138) [Wet'n'Wild SplashTown](/wiki/Wet'n'Wild_SplashTown) is a [water park](/wiki/Water_park) located north of Houston.

The [Bayport Cruise Terminal](/wiki/Bayport_Terminal) on the [Houston Ship Channel](/wiki/Houston_Ship_Channel) is [port of call](/wiki/Port#port_of_call) for both [Princess Cruises](/wiki/Princess_Cruises) and [Norwegian Cruise Line](/wiki/Norwegian_Cruise_Line).[[139]](#cite_note-139)

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Reliantstadium.jpg)[NRG Stadium](/wiki/NRG_Stadium) is the home of the [Houston Texans](/wiki/Houston_Texans).

Houston has sports teams for every major professional league except the [National Hockey League](/wiki/National_Hockey_League). The [Houston Astros](/wiki/Houston_Astros) are a [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) [expansion team](/wiki/Expansion_team) formed in 1962 (known as the "Colt .45s" until 1965) that made one [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) appearance in [2005](/wiki/2005_World_Series).[[140]](#cite_note-140) The [Houston Rockets](/wiki/Houston_Rockets) are a [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) franchise based in the city since [1971](/wiki/1971-72_NBA_season). They have won two [NBA Championships](/wiki/List_of_NBA_champions): in [1994](/wiki/1994_NBA_Finals) and [1995](/wiki/1995_NBA_Finals) under star players [Hakeem Olajuwon](/wiki/Hakeem_Olajuwon), [Otis Thorpe](/wiki/Otis_Thorpe), [Clyde Drexler](/wiki/Clyde_Drexler), [Vernon Maxwell](/wiki/Vernon_Maxwell), and [Kenny Smith](/wiki/Kenny_Smith).[[141]](#cite_note-141) The [Houston Texans](/wiki/Houston_Texans) are a [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League) expansion team formed in [2002](/wiki/2002_NFL_season). The [Houston Dynamo](/wiki/Houston_Dynamo) is a [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) franchise that has been based in Houston since [2006](/wiki/2006_Major_League_Soccer_season) after it won two [MLS Cup](/wiki/List_of_MLS_Cup_finals) titles in [2006](/wiki/2006_MLS_Cup) and [2007](/wiki/2007_MLS_Cup). The [Houston Dash](/wiki/Houston_Dash) team plays in the [National Women's Soccer League](/wiki/National_Women's_Soccer_League).[[142]](#cite_note-142) The [Scrap Yard Dawgs](/wiki/Scrap_Yard_Dawgs), a women's professional softball team, are expected to play in the [National Pro Fastpitch](/wiki/National_Pro_Fastpitch) from 2016.[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) [Minute Maid Park](/wiki/Minute_Maid_Park) (home of the [Astros](/wiki/Houston_Astros)) and [Toyota Center](/wiki/Toyota_Center_(Houston)) (home of the [Rockets](/wiki/Houston_Rockets)), are located in downtown Houston. Houston has the NFL's first retractable-roof stadium with natural grass, [NRG Stadium](/wiki/NRG_Stadium) (home of the [Texans](/wiki/Houston_Texans)).[[145]](#cite_note-145) Minute Maid Park is also a retractable-roof stadium. Toyota Center also has the largest screen for an indoor arena in the United States built to coincide with the arena's hosting of the [2013 NBA All-Star Game](/wiki/2013_NBA_All-Star_Game).[[146]](#cite_note-146) [BBVA Compass Stadium](/wiki/BBVA_Compass_Stadium) is a [soccer-specific stadium](/wiki/Soccer-specific_stadium) for the Houston Dynamo, the [Texas Southern Tigers football](/wiki/Texas_Southern_Tigers_football) team, and Houston Dash, located in East Downtown. In addition, [NRG Astrodome](/wiki/Reliant_Astrodome) was the first indoor stadium in the world, built in 1965.[[147]](#cite_note-147) Other sports facilities include [Hofheinz Pavilion](/wiki/Hofheinz_Pavilion) (Houston Cougars basketball), [Rice Stadium](/wiki/Rice_Stadium_(Rice_University)) ([Rice Owls](/wiki/Rice_Owls) football), and [Reliant Arena](/wiki/Reliant_Arena). [TDECU Stadium](/wiki/TDECU_Stadium) is where the [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston) [Houston Cougars](/wiki/Houston_Cougars) football team plays.[[148]](#cite_note-148)Houston has hosted several major sports events: the [1968](/wiki/1968_Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game), [1986](/wiki/1986_Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game) and [2004](/wiki/2004_Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game) [Major League Baseball All-Star Games](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game); the [1989](/wiki/1989_NBA_All-Star_Game), [2006](/wiki/2006_NBA_All-Star_Game) and [2013](/wiki/2013_NBA_All-Star_Game) [NBA All-Star Games](/wiki/NBA_All-Star_Game); [Super Bowl VIII](/wiki/Super_Bowl_VIII) and [Super Bowl XXXVIII](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XXXVIII), as well as hosting the [2005 World Series](/wiki/2005_World_Series) and [1981](/wiki/1981_NBA_Finals), [1986](/wiki/1986_NBA_Finals), [1994](/wiki/1994_NBA_Finals) and [1995 NBA Finals](/wiki/1995_NBA_Finals), winning the latter two. [Super Bowl LI](/wiki/Super_Bowl_LI) is currently slated to be hosted in NRG Stadium in 2017.[[149]](#cite_note-149) The city has hosted several major professional and college sporting events, including the annual [Houston Open](/wiki/Shell_Houston_Open) golf tournament. Houston hosts the annual NCAA College Baseball Classic every February and NCAA football's [Texas Bowl](/wiki/Texas_Bowl) in December.[[150]](#cite_note-150) The [Grand Prix of Houston](/wiki/Grand_Prix_of_Houston), an annual auto race on the [IndyCar Series](/wiki/IndyCar_Series) circuit is held on a 1.7-mile temporary street circuit in [Reliant Park](/wiki/Reliant_Park). The October 2013 event was held using a tweaked version of the 2006–2007 course.[[151]](#cite_note-151) The event has a 5-year race contract through 2017 with IndyCar.[[152]](#cite_note-152) In motorcycling, the Astrodome hosted an [AMA Supercross Championship](/wiki/AMA_Supercross_Championship) round from 1974 to 2003 and the NRG Stadium since 2003.

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Houston_City_Hall-1.jpg)[Houston City Hall](/wiki/Houston_City_Hall) The city of Houston has a [strong mayoral](/wiki/Mayor–council_government) form of municipal government.[[153]](#cite_note-153) Houston is a [home rule](/wiki/Devolution) city and all municipal elections in the state of Texas are [nonpartisan](/wiki/Nonpartisan).[[153]](#cite_note-153)[[154]](#cite_note-154) The City's elected officials are the mayor, city controller and 16 members of the [Houston City Council](/wiki/Houston_City_Council).[[155]](#cite_note-155) The current mayor of Houston is [Sylvester Turner](/wiki/Sylvester_Turner), a Democrat elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Houston's mayor serves as the city's chief administrator, executive officer, and official representative, and is responsible for the general management of the city and for seeing that all laws and ordinances are enforced.[[156]](#cite_note-156) The original city council line-up of 14 members (nine district-based and five at-large positions) was based on a U.S. Justice Department mandate which took effect in 1979.[[157]](#cite_note-157) At-large council members represent the entire city.[[155]](#cite_note-155) Under the city charter, once the population in the city limits exceeded 2.1 million residents, two additional districts were to be added.[[158]](#cite_note-158) The city of Houston's official 2010 census count was 600 shy of the required number; however, as the city was expected to grow beyond 2.1 million shortly thereafter, the two additional districts were added for, and the positions filled during, the August 2011 elections.

The city [controller](/wiki/Comptroller) is elected independently of the mayor and council. The controller's duties are to certify available funds prior to committing such funds and processing disbursements. The city's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. [Ronald Green](/wiki/Ronald_C._Green) is the city controller, serving his first term as of January 2010.

As the result of a 2015 referendum in Houston, a mayor is elected for a four-year term, and can be elected to as many as two consecutive terms.[[159]](#cite_note-159) The term limits were spearheaded by conservative political activist [Clymer Wright](/wiki/Clymer_Wright).[[160]](#cite_note-160) The city controller and city council members are also subject to the same two-year, three-term limitations.

Houston is considered to be a politically divided city whose balance of power often sways between Republicans and Democrats. Much of the city's wealthier areas vote Republican while the city's working class and minority areas vote Democratic. According to the 2005 Houston Area Survey, 68 percent of non-Hispanic whites in Harris County are declared or favor Republicans while 89 percent of non-Hispanic blacks in the area are declared or favor Democrats. About 62 percent Hispanics (of any race) in the area are declared or favor Democrats.[[161]](#cite_note-161) The city has often been known to be the most politically diverse city in Texas, a state known for being generally conservative.[[161]](#cite_note-161) As a result, the city is often a contested area in statewide elections.[[161]](#cite_note-161) In 2009, Houston became the first US city with a population over 1 million citizens to elect a gay mayor, by electing [Annise Parker](/wiki/Annise_Parker).

### Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|Houston Police Department Memorial](/wiki/File:Houston_Police_Department_memorial.jpg) Houston's murder rate ranked 46th of U.S. cities with a population over 250,000 in 2005 (per capita rate of 16.3 murders per 100,000 population).[[162]](#cite_note-162) In 2010, the city's murder rate (per capita rate of 11.8 murders per 100,000 population) was ranked sixth among U.S. cities with a population of over 750,000 (behind New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, and Philadelphia)[[163]](#cite_note-163) according to the FBI.

Murders fell by 37 percent from January to June 2011, compared with the same period in 2010. Houston's total crime rate including violent and nonviolent crimes decreased by 11 percent.[[164]](#cite_note-164) Houston is a significant hub for trafficking of [cocaine](/wiki/Cocaine), [cannabis](/wiki/Cannabis_(drug)), [heroin](/wiki/Heroin), [MDMA](/wiki/MDMA), and [methamphetamine](/wiki/Methamphetamine) due to its size and proximity to major illegal drug exporting nations.[[165]](#cite_note-165) Houston is one of the country's largest hubs for [human trafficking](/wiki/Human_trafficking).[[166]](#cite_note-166) In the early 1970s, Houston, [Pasadena](/wiki/Pasadena,_Texas) and several coastal towns were the site of the [Houston Mass Murders](/wiki/Houston_Mass_Murders), which at the time were the deadliest case of [serial killing](/wiki/Serial_killing) in American history.[[167]](#cite_note-167)[[168]](#cite_note-168)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center (HMWESC), which houses the](/wiki/File:Hisd-hmw-008.JPG) [Houston Independent School District](/wiki/Houston_Independent_School_District) administrative offices [Seventeen school districts](/wiki/List_of_school_districts_in_Houston) exist within the city of Houston. The [Houston Independent School District](/wiki/Houston_Independent_School_District) (HISD) is the seventh-largest school district in the United States.[[169]](#cite_note-169) HISD has [112 campuses](/wiki/List_of_Houston_Independent_School_District_schools) that serve as magnet or vanguard schools—specializing in such disciplines as health professions, visual and performing arts, and the sciences. There are also many charter schools that are run separately from school districts. In addition, some public school districts also have their own charter schools.

The Houston area encompasses more than 300 private schools,[[170]](#cite_note-170)[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172) many of which are accredited by Texas Private School Accreditation Commission recognized agencies. The [Houston Area Independent Schools](/wiki/Houston_Area_Independent_Schools) offer education from a variety of different religious as well as secular viewpoints.[[173]](#cite_note-173) The Houston area Catholic schools are operated by the [Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Galveston-Houston).

### Colleges and universities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Ezekiel_W._Cullen_Building_(Alternate).JPG)[University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston) [thumb|Texas Southern University](/wiki/File:TexasSouthernUniversityHouston.JPG) Four separate and distinct state universities are located in Houston. The [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston) is a nationally recognized Tier One research university, and is the flagship institution of the [University of Houston System](/wiki/University_of_Houston_System).[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175)[[176]](#cite_note-176) The [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) university in Texas, the University of Houston has nearly 40,000 students on its 667-acre campus in southeast Houston.[[177]](#cite_note-177) The [University of Houston–Clear Lake](/wiki/University_of_Houston–Clear_Lake) and the [University of Houston–Downtown](/wiki/University_of_Houston–Downtown) are [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) universities; they are not branch campuses of the University of Houston. Located in the historic community of Third Ward is [Texas Southern University](/wiki/Texas_Southern_University), one of the largest historically black colleges and universities in the United States. Several private institutions of higher learning—ranging from liberal arts colleges, such as [The University of St. Thomas](/wiki/University_of_St._Thomas_(Texas)), Houston's only Catholic university, to [Rice University](/wiki/Rice_University), the nationally recognized research university—are located within the city. Rice, with a total enrollment of slightly more than 6,000 students, has a number of distinguished graduate programs and research institutes, such as the James A. Baker Institute for Public Policy.[[178]](#cite_note-178) [Houston Baptist University](/wiki/Houston_Baptist_University), affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, offers bachelor's and graduate degrees. It was founded in 1960 and is located in the Sharpstown area in Southwest Houston.

Three community college districts exist with campuses in and around Houston. The [Houston Community College System](/wiki/Houston_Community_College_System) serves most of Houston. The northwestern through northeastern parts of the city are served by various campuses of the [Lone Star College System](/wiki/Lone_Star_College_System), while the southeastern portion of Houston is served by [San Jacinto College](/wiki/San_Jacinto_College), and a northeastern portion is served by [Lee College](/wiki/Lee_College).[[179]](#cite_note-179) The Houston Community College and Lone Star College systems are within the [10 largest institutions of higher learning](/wiki/List_of_United_States_colleges_and_universities_by_enrollment#US_Department_of_Education_Ranking) in the United States. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The primary network-affiliated television stations are [KPRC-TV](/wiki/KPRC-TV) ([NBC](/wiki/NBC)), [KHOU-TV](/wiki/KHOU-TV) ([CBS](/wiki/CBS)), [KTRK-TV](/wiki/KTRK-TV) ([ABC](/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company)), [KRIV](/wiki/KRIV_(TV)) ([Fox](/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company)), [KIAH](/wiki/KIAH) ([The CW](/wiki/The_CW)), and [KTXH](/wiki/KTXH) ([MyNetworkTV](/wiki/MyNetworkTV)). KTRK-TV, KRIV and KTXH operate as [owned-and-operated stations](/wiki/Owned-and-operated_station) of their networks.

The Houston–The Woodlands–Sugar Land metropolitan area is served by one public television station and two public radio stations. [KUHT](/wiki/KUHT) (*HoustonPBS*) is a [PBS](/wiki/Public_Broadcast_Service) member station and is the first public television station in the United States. Houston Public Radio is listener-funded and comprises two [NPR](/wiki/NPR) member stations: [KUHF](/wiki/KUHF) (*KUHF News*) and [KUHA](/wiki/KUHA) (*Classical 91.7*). KUHF is news/talk radio and KUHA is a classical music station. The [University of Houston System](/wiki/University_of_Houston_System) owns and holds broadcasting licenses to KUHT, KUHF, and KUHA. The stations broadcast from the Melcher Center for Public Broadcasting, located on the campus of the [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston).

Houston is served by the [*Houston Chronicle*](/wiki/Houston_Chronicle), its only major daily newspaper with wide distribution. The Hearst Corporation, which owns and operates the *Houston Chronicle*, bought the assets of the [*Houston Post*](/wiki/Houston_Post)—its long-time rival and main competition—when *Houston Post* ceased operations in 1995. The *Houston Post* was owned by the family of former Lieutenant Governor [Bill Hobby](/wiki/Bill_Hobby) of Houston. The only other major publication to serve the city is the [*Houston Press*](/wiki/Houston_Press)—a free alternative weekly with a weekly readership of more than 300,000.[[180]](#cite_note-180)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

### Healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Aerial_view_of_Texas_Medical_Center.jpg)[Texas Medical Center](/wiki/Texas_Medical_Center) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:UTMDA1.JPG)[MD Anderson Cancer Center](/wiki/MD_Anderson_Cancer_Center) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Memorial-hermann-hospital.jpg)[Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center Hospital](/wiki/Memorial_Hermann-Texas_Medical_Center_Hospital) Houston is the seat of the internationally renowned Texas Medical Center, which contains the world's largest concentration of research and healthcare institutions.[[181]](#cite_note-181) All 49 member institutions of the Texas Medical Center are non-profit organizations. They provide patient and preventive care, research, education, and local, national, and international community well-being. Employing more than 73,600 people, institutions at the medical center include 13 hospitals and two specialty institutions, two medical schools, four nursing schools, and schools of dentistry, public health, pharmacy, and virtually all health-related careers. It is where one of the first—and still the largest—air emergency service, [Life Flight](/wiki/Memorial_Hermann_Life_Flight), was created, and a very successful inter-institutional transplant program was developed. More heart surgeries are performed at the Texas Medical Center than anywhere else in the world.[[182]](#cite_note-182) Some of the academic and research health institutions at the center include [MD Anderson Cancer Center](/wiki/University_of_Texas_MD_Anderson_Cancer_Center), [Baylor College of Medicine](/wiki/Baylor_College_of_Medicine), [UT Health Science Center](/wiki/University_of_Texas_Health_Science_Center_at_Houston), [Memorial Hermann Hospital](/wiki/Memorial_Hermann-Texas_Medical_Center), [The Methodist Hospital](/wiki/The_Methodist_Hospital), [Texas Children's Hospital](/wiki/Texas_Children's_Hospital), and [University of Houston College of Pharmacy](/wiki/University_of_Houston_College_of_Pharmacy).

The Baylor College of Medicine has annually been considered within the top ten medical schools in the nation; likewise, the MD Anderson Cancer Center has consistently ranked as one of the top two U.S. hospitals specializing in cancer care by *U.S. News & World Report* since 1990.[[183]](#cite_note-183)[[184]](#cite_note-184) The [Menninger Clinic](/wiki/Menninger_Clinic), a renowned psychiatric treatment center, is affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital System.[[185]](#cite_note-185) With hospital locations nationwide and headquarters in Houston, the Triumph Healthcare hospital system is the third largest long term acute care provider nationally.[[186]](#cite_note-186)

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

#### Highways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Update](/wiki/Template:Update)

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:45intoI-10_2.jpg)[I-10](/wiki/Interstate_10_in_Texas) and [I-45](/wiki/Interstate_45) interchange [thumb|right|Downtown Houston in the morning looking over the 45 freeway](/wiki/File:Downtown_Houston_over_I-45.JPG) 71.7 percent of residents drive alone to work.[[187]](#cite_note-187) [Houston's freeway](/wiki/List_of_Houston_highways) system comprises [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of freeways and expressways in a ten-county metropolitan area.[[188]](#cite_note-188) However, the [Texas Transportation Institute's](/wiki/Texas_Transportation_Institute) annual Urban Mobility Report found that Houston had the fourth-worst congestion in the country with commuters spending an average of 58 hours in traffic in 2009.[[189]](#cite_note-189) Houston's highway system has a [hub-and-spoke](/wiki/Spoke-hub_distribution_paradigm) freeway structure serviced by multiple loops. The innermost loop is [Interstate 610](/wiki/Interstate_610_(Texas)), which encircles downtown, the medical center, and many core neighborhoods with around a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) diameter. [Beltway 8](/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_Beltway_8) and its freeway core, the Sam Houston Tollway, form the middle loop at a diameter of roughly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). A proposed highway project, [State Highway 99](/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_99) (Grand Parkway), will form a third loop outside of Houston, totaling 180 miles in length and making an almost-complete circumference, with the exception of crossing the ship channel. As of June 2014, two of eleven segments of State Highway 99 have been completed to the west of Houston, and three northern segments totaling 38 miles. In addition to the Sam Houston Tollway loop mentioned above, the Harris County Toll Road Authority currently operates four spoke tollways: The Katy Managed Lanes of Interstate 10, the Hardy Toll Road, the Westpark Tollway, and the Fort Bend Parkway Extension. Other spoke roads either planned or under construction include [Crosby Freeway](/wiki/U.S._Route_90_in_Texas), and the future [Alvin Freeway](/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_35).

Houston's freeway system is monitored by [Houston TranStar](/wiki/Houston_TranStar)—a partnership of four government agencies that are responsible for providing transportation and [emergency management](/wiki/Emergency_management) services to the [region](/wiki/Greater_Houston).[[190]](#cite_note-190)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:METRO_Light_Rail3.jpg)[METRORail](/wiki/METRORail) light rail

#### Transit systems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

The [Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County](/wiki/Metropolitan_Transit_Authority_of_Harris_County) (METRO) provides public transportation in the form of buses, light rail, and lift vans.

METRO began light rail service on January 1, 2004, with the inaugural track ("Red Line") running about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the University of [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) (UHD), which traverses through the Texas Medical Center and terminates at [NRG Park](/wiki/NRG_Park). METRO is currently in the design phase of a 10-year expansion plan that will add five more lines.[[191]](#cite_note-191) and expand the current Red Line. [Amtrak](/wiki/Amtrak), the national passenger rail system, provides service three times a week to Houston via the [Template:Amtrak lines](/wiki/Template:Amtrak_lines) (Los Angeles–New Orleans), which stops at a [train station](/wiki/Houston_(Amtrak_station)) on the north side of the downtown area. The station saw 14,891 boardings and alightings in fiscal year 2008.[[192]](#cite_note-192) In 2012, there was a 25 percent increase in ridership to 20,327 passengers embarking from the Houston Amtrak station.[[193]](#cite_note-193)

#### Cycling[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

Houston has the largest number of bike commuters in Texas with over 160 miles of dedicated bikeways.[[194]](#cite_note-194) The city is currently in the process of expanding its on and off street bikeway network.[[195]](#cite_note-195) A new [Bicycle sharing system](/wiki/Bicycle_sharing_system) known as Houston B-Cycle currently operates 29 different stations in downtown and neighboring areas[[196]](#cite_note-196)

#### Airports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Bush_terminal_E.jpg)[George Bush Intercontinental Airport](/wiki/George_Bush_Intercontinental_Airport) Houston is served by three airports, two of which are commercial that served 52 million passengers in 2007 and managed by the [Houston Airport System](/wiki/Houston_Airport_System).[[197]](#cite_note-197) The [Federal Aviation Administration](/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration) and the state of Texas selected the "Houston Airport System as Airport of the Year" for 2005,[[198]](#cite_note-198) largely because of its multi-year, $3.1 billion airport improvement program for both major airports in Houston.

The primary city airport is [George Bush Intercontinental Airport](/wiki/George_Bush_Intercontinental_Airport) (IAH), the tenth-busiest in the United States for total passengers, and twenty eighth-busiest worldwide. Bush Intercontinental currently ranks fourth in the United States for non-stop domestic and international service with 182 destinations.[[199]](#cite_note-199) In 2006, the [United States Department of Transportation](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Transportation) named IAH the fastest-growing of the top ten airports in the United States.[[200]](#cite_note-200) The [Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center](/wiki/Houston_Air_Route_Traffic_Control_Center) stands on the George Bush Intercontinental Airport grounds.

Houston was the headquarters of [Continental Airlines](/wiki/Continental_Airlines) until its 2010 merger with [United Airlines](/wiki/United_Airlines) with headquarters in Chicago; regulatory approval for the merger was granted in October of that year. Bush Intercontinental became United Airlines' largest [airline hub](/wiki/Airline_hub).[[201]](#cite_note-201) The airline retained a significant operational presence in Houston while offering more than 700 daily departures from the city.[[202]](#cite_note-202)[[203]](#cite_note-203) In early 2007, Bush Intercontinental Airport was named a model "port of entry" for international travelers by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.[[204]](#cite_note-204) The second-largest commercial airport is [William P. Hobby Airport](/wiki/William_P._Hobby_Airport) (named Houston International Airport until 1967) which operates primarily short- to medium-haul domestic flights. However, in 2015 [Southwest Airlines](/wiki/Southwest_Airlines) launched service from a new international terminal at Hobby airport to several destinations in [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico), [Central America](/wiki/Central_America), and [the Caribbean](/wiki/The_Caribbean). These were the first international flights flown from Hobby since 1969.[[205]](#cite_note-205) Houston's aviation history is showcased in the [1940 Air Terminal Museum](/wiki/1940_Air_Terminal_Museum) located in the old terminal building on the west side of the airport. Hobby Airport has been recognized with two awards for being one of the top five performing airports in the world and for customer service by [Airports Council International](/wiki/Airports_Council_International).[[206]](#cite_note-206) Houston's third municipal airport is [Ellington Airport](/wiki/Ellington_Airport_(Texas)) (a former U.S. Air Force base) used by military, government, [NASA](/wiki/NASA), and general aviation sectors.[[207]](#cite_note-207)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

The Houston Office of Protocol and International Affairs is the city's liaison to Houston's sister cities and to the national governing organization, Sister Cities International. Through their official city-to-city relationships, these volunteer associations promote people-to-people diplomacy and encourage citizens to develop mutual trust and understanding through commercial, cultural, educational, and humanitarian exchanges.[[208]](#cite_note-208) [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Abu Dhabi](/wiki/Abu_Dhabi) ([United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates)) – 2001
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Baku](/wiki/Baku) ([Azerbaijan](/wiki/Azerbaijan)) – 1976
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Basrah](/wiki/Basrah) ([Iraq](/wiki/Iraq)) – 2015[[209]](#cite_note-209)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Chiba](/wiki/Chiba,_Chiba) ([Japan](/wiki/Japan)) – 1973
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Guayaquil](/wiki/Guayaquil) ([Ecuador](/wiki/Ecuador)) – 1987
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Huelva](/wiki/Huelva) ([Spain](/wiki/Spain)) – 1969
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul) ([Turkey](/wiki/Turkey)) – 1986
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) ([Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan)) – 2009
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Leipzig](/wiki/Leipzig) ([Germany](/wiki/Germany)) – 1993
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) ([Angola](/wiki/Angola)) – 2003
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Nice](/wiki/Nice) ([France](/wiki/France)) – 1973
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Perth](/wiki/Perth) ([Australia](/wiki/Australia)) – 1983
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Shenzhen](/wiki/Shenzhen) ([China](/wiki/China)) – 1986
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Stavanger](/wiki/Stavanger) ([Norway](/wiki/Norway)) – 1980
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei) ([Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan)) – 1963
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tampico](/wiki/Tampico) ([Mexico](/wiki/Mexico)) – 2003
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tyumen](/wiki/Tyumen) ([Russia](/wiki/Russia)) – 1995

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## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

* [List of people from Houston](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Houston)

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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Handbook of Texas](/wiki/Template:Handbook_of_Texas)
* [Houston, New York Has a Problem, *City Journal,* Summer 2008](http://www.city-journal.org/2008/18_3_houston.html)
* [174 Years of Historic Houston](http://www.houstonhistory.com/) *Houstonhistory.com*. 2007. Retrieved on 2007-01-13.
* [*A thumb-nail history of the city of Houston, Texas, from its founding in 1836 to the year 1912*](http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pth-24649:1), published 1912, hosted by the [Portal to Texas History](http://texashistory.unt.edu/), republished 2007 by Copano Bay Press.
* [*True stories of old Houston and Houstonians: historical and personal sketches / by S. O. Young.*](http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pth-24646:1), published 1913, hosted by the [Portal to Texas History](http://texashistory.unt.edu/), republished 2007 by Copano Bay Press.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book).
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* Pruitt, Bernadette. *The Other Great Migration: The Movement of Rural African-Americans to Houston, 1900–1941.* College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2013.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Official website](http://www.houstontx.gov/)
* [Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/)
* [Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) Houston Chamber](http://www.houston.org/)
* [Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center](http://www.houstontranstar.org/)
* [Houston Public Library official website](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)

[Template:Houston, Texas](/wiki/Template:Houston,_Texas) [Template:Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA](/wiki/Template:Houston-Sugar_Land-Baytown_MSA) [Template:Texas](/wiki/Template:Texas) [Template:Republic of Texas](/wiki/Template:Republic_of_Texas) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Featured article](/wiki/Template:Featured_article)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Houston, Texas](/wiki/Category:Houston,_Texas) [Category:Capitals of former nations](/wiki/Category:Capitals_of_former_nations) [Category:Cities in Fort Bend County, Texas](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Fort_Bend_County,_Texas) [Category:Cities in Harris County, Texas](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Harris_County,_Texas) [Category:Cities in Montgomery County, Texas](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Montgomery_County,_Texas) [Category:Cities in Texas](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Texas) [Category:County seats in Texas](/wiki/Category:County_seats_in_Texas) [Category:Populated coastal places in Texas](/wiki/Category:Populated_coastal_places_in_Texas) [Category:Populated places established in 1836](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_established_in_1836) [Category:Port cities and towns of the United States Gulf Coast](/wiki/Category:Port_cities_and_towns_of_the_United_States_Gulf_Coast) [Category:Sam Houston](/wiki/Category:Sam_Houston) [Category:1836 establishments in the Republic of Texas](/wiki/Category:1836_establishments_in_the_Republic_of_Texas)