

Report: Poverty in Texas

– April 2008 –

POVERTY: *the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions according to Webster. The United States government measures poverty in two ways — the poverty threshold, the cost of a minimum adequate diet multiplied by three, and the poverty guidelines, derived from the poverty threshold and used to determine eligibility for a number of federal and federal-state programs.*

POVERTY

Texas has one of the highest poverty rates in the country with nearly four million people living at or below the poverty level. Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau show Texas' poverty rate at 16.9 percent — well above the national average of 13.3 percent.

The poverty rate varies by location in Texas, with higher poverty rates in larger cities and along the Texas-Mexico border. Of the top ten counties in the country with populations of 250,000 or more, four are in Texas: Hidalgo (U.S. county with the highest rate of poverty at 36.9 percent), Cameron (35.9 percent), El Paso (27.7 percent), and Nueces (22.1 percent). For counties with smaller populations of 65,000 to 249,999, two Texas counties make the top ten list: Webb (29.9 percent) and Brazos (28.3 percent).

For some populations within Texas, the rate is much higher. The poverty rate jumps to 25.7 percent for Hispanics and 25.4 percent for African Americans. For children under 18, a staggering 22.7 percent live in poverty.

*U.S. Census Bureau*¹

INCOME

The estimated median income level for Texas reached \$44,922 in 2006, an increase of about three percent over 2005. However, it falls over \$3,500 short of the national median income for 2006.

*U.S. Census Bureau*¹

EMPLOYMENT

In 2007, Texas' unemployment rate of 4.3 percent registered slightly lower than the national average of 4.6 percent. Job growth has been steadily increasing since 2003 with the number of jobs nearing 11 million in 2007. Despite the progress, some industries performed worse than others. Since 2000, Texas has lost 133,300 manufacturing jobs.

Texas Workforce Commission^{2,3}

HEALTH

Texas leads the nation with the highest number of uninsured individuals, estimated at over 5.5 million. Data show 24.1 percent of Texans lack health insurance — nearly 10 percentage points above the national average of 15.3 percent.

*U.S. Census Bureau*⁴

HOUSING

In 2005, 15 percent of Texas households experienced severe burden from housing costs — with over 50 percent of pre-tax household income spent on housing. For low income Texans (households in the bottom quartile), 46 percent paid more than half of their household income on housing.

*U.S. Census Bureau*⁵

HUNGER

With 15.9 percent of Texas' population deemed food insecure, Texas ranks third in the nation. Only Mississippi and New Mexico have a larger percentage of their populations suffering from low or very low food insecurity. The national figure is 11.3 percent.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture*⁶

CHILD CARE

The average annual cost for child care in Texas ranged from \$4,628 for a four-year-old to \$5,564 for an infant. The number of working families with children under six who need child care in Texas totaled 1,185,805.

*National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies*⁷

County Level Data ^{2,5}

| County | POVERTY STATISTICS | | | | Median Income | Unemp. Rate |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|----------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| | All Ages | % All | Under 18 | % Kids | | |
| Anderson | 9,112 | 22 | 3,107 | 27.8 | \$34,915 | 5.2 |
| Andrews | 2,013 | 15.9 | 744 | 20.8 | \$40,223 | 3.2 |
| Angelina | 15,622 | 19.9 | 6,505 | 29.8 | \$37,146 | 4.4 |
| Aransas | 4,974 | 20.6 | 1,920 | 36.3 | \$32,963 | 4.2 |
| Archer | 870 | 9.7 | 308 | 13.5 | \$45,146 | 3.2 |
| Armstrong | 229 | 11 | 80 | 16.8 | \$42,671 | 3.4 |
| Atascosa | 9,424 | 22.1 | 3,553 | 28.8 | \$35,934 | 4.1 |
| Austin | 3,072 | 11.9 | 1,047 | 16.3 | \$43,684 | 3.8 |
| Bailey | 1,227 | 18.5 | 590 | 29.6 | \$29,711 | 4.5 |
| Bandera | 2,428 | 12.3 | 862 | 20.3 | \$41,338 | 3.8 |
| Bastrop | 7,916 | 11.7 | 3,194 | 17.8 | \$46,501 | 4.1 |
| Baylor | 710 | 18.8 | 266 | 31 | \$26,750 | 3.8 |
| Bee | 7,103 | 29.1 | 2,345 | 34.6 | \$29,886 | 6 |
| Bell | 33,102 | 13.5 | 15,001 | 19 | \$41,386 | 4.5 |
| Bexar | 252,680 | 17.1 | 100,709 | 24.2 | \$42,063 | 4.2 |
| Blanco | 897 | 10.1 | 340 | 16.4 | \$44,511 | 3.4 |
| Borden | 57 | 8.8 | 12 | 10 | \$36,817 | 4.5 |
| Bosque | 2,687 | 15.4 | 974 | 23.6 | \$37,033 | 4.4 |
| Bowie | 15,493 | 18.6 | 5,543 | 25.9 | \$33,688 | 4.9 |
| Brazoria | 31,493 | 11.8 | 11,958 | 15.9 | \$50,795 | 4.4 |
| Brazos | 41,685 | 29.1 | 7,921 | 24.6 | \$31,702 | 3.6 |
| Brewster | 1,570 | 18.2 | 530 | 27.5 | \$31,466 | 3.2 |
| Briscoe | 310 | 18.9 | 139 | 32.7 | \$30,640 | 4.3 |
| Brooks | 2,707 | 35.6 | 1,120 | 49.3 | \$21,398 | 5.5 |
| Brown | 7,344 | 20.3 | 2,600 | 29.2 | \$33,990 | 4.2 |
| Burleson | 3,268 | 19.1 | 1,103 | 25.9 | \$36,117 | 3.8 |
| Burnet | 4,599 | 11.4 | 1,801 | 20 | \$43,781 | 3.5 |
| Caldwell | 6,585 | 19 | 2,502 | 26.4 | \$38,996 | 4.3 |
| Calhoun | 3,601 | 17.7 | 1,423 | 25.5 | \$38,860 | 4.5 |
| Callahan | 1,846 | 13.8 | 648 | 21.1 | \$35,516 | 3.5 |
| Cameron | 148,927 | 40 | 66,043 | 52.3 | \$25,916 | 6 |
| Camp | 2,357 | 19.6 | 937 | 28.3 | \$33,319 | 4.6 |
| Carson | 579 | 8.9 | 202 | 12.3 | \$41,245 | 3.2 |
| Cass | 5,664 | 19.2 | 1,913 | 28.2 | \$32,156 | 5.5 |
| Castro | 1,671 | 22.1 | 775 | 33.1 | \$34,170 | 3.9 |
| Chambers | 3,206 | 11.4 | 1,133 | 15.9 | \$53,961 | 4.6 |
| Cherokee | 8,113 | 17.8 | 3,395 | 27.1 | \$33,172 | 4.9 |
| Childress | 1,451 | 25.3 | 551 | 36.3 | \$29,860 | 5 |
| Clay | 1,177 | 10.6 | 369 | 15.3 | \$41,560 | 3.5 |
| Cochran | 865 | 27 | 369 | 40.4 | \$30,193 | 5 |
| Coke | 485 | 14.7 | 163 | 23.6 | \$30,657 | 5.8 |
| Coleman | 2,036 | 24.1 | 700 | 35.7 | \$27,187 | 3.7 |
| Collin | 38,642 | 5.9 | 12,963 | 7.2 | \$71,419 | 3.9 |
| Collingsworth | 568 | 19.6 | 255 | 34.4 | \$29,047 | 3.4 |
| Colorado | 3,455 | 17.5 | 1,170 | 24.3 | \$35,111 | 3.7 |
| Comal | 8,936 | 9.5 | 3,133 | 14 | \$53,643 | 3.7 |
| Comanche | 2,658 | 20 | 985 | 30.2 | \$30,578 | 4 |
| Concho | 495 | 20.9 | 126 | 23.5 | \$32,122 | 5 |
| Cooke | 5,338 | 14.1 | 2,040 | 21 | \$42,857 | 3.7 |
| Coryell | 8,669 | 14.8 | 3,344 | 17.4 | \$39,129 | 5.7 |
| Cottle | 358 | 21 | 132 | 35.6 | \$28,011 | 4.3 |
| Crane | 475 | 12.6 | 173 | 15.8 | \$39,492 | 4 |
| Crockett | 703 | 18.2 | 233 | 23.8 | \$33,903 | 3.1 |
| Crosby | 1,948 | 29.7 | 850 | 43.8 | \$29,560 | 4.6 |
| Culberson | 684 | 26.2 | 296 | 38.2 | \$26,228 | 2.7 |
| Dallam | 1,001 | 16.4 | 435 | 23.4 | \$29,177 | 2.9 |
| Dallas | 381,322 | 16.9 | 152,672 | 23.6 | \$42,791 | 4.5 |
| Dawson | 3,069 | 25.7 | 1,183 | 34.8 | \$29,309 | 5.4 |
| Deaf Smith | 3,935 | 21.6 | 1,876 | 31.3 | \$30,719 | 3.7 |
| Delta | 840 | 15.7 | 314 | 24.9 | \$33,043 | 4.7 |
| Denton | 39,496 | 7.3 | 11,845 | 8.1 | \$61,825 | 3.9 |
| DeWitt | 3,641 | 19.5 | 1,248 | 27.7 | \$31,711 | 4.1 |
| Dickens | 462 | 21.8 | 122 | 26.7 | \$26,645 | 4 |
| Dimmit | 3,263 | 31.8 | 1,377 | 43.2 | \$24,260 | 6.4 |

| County | POVERTY STATISTICS | | | | Median Income | Unemp. Rate |
|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| | All Ages | % All | Under 18 | % Kids | | |
| Donley | 680 | 19 | 227 | 28.3 | \$30,561 | 4.4 |
| Duval | 3,618 | 30.6 | 1,329 | 39.9 | \$25,715 | 5 |
| Eastland | 3,651 | 20.9 | 1,293 | 31.8 | \$30,481 | 4.4 |
| Ector | 24,631 | 20 | 11,187 | 30.5 | \$35,597 | 3.4 |
| Edwards | 561 | 28.8 | 224 | 42.9 | \$27,942 | 3.9 |
| Ellis | 13,272 | 10.1 | 5,284 | 14.6 | \$51,657 | 4.4 |
| El Paso | 204,588 | 29 | 87,983 | 39.4 | \$31,340 | 5.9 |
| Erath | 5,315 | 16.7 | 1,588 | 20.5 | \$35,112 | 3.6 |
| Falls | 3,685 | 23.7 | 1,409 | 33.9 | \$28,332 | 5.4 |
| Fannin | 4,355 | 14.7 | 1,493 | 20.9 | \$37,549 | 5.3 |
| Fayette | 2,575 | 11.7 | 837 | 17.1 | \$39,723 | 3.3 |
| Fisher | 671 | 16.7 | 216 | 24.9 | \$30,936 | 4.1 |
| Floyd | 1,635 | 23.3 | 725 | 34.6 | \$28,223 | 5.3 |
| Foard | 263 | 17.7 | 97 | 26.9 | \$25,535 | 4.1 |
| Fort Bend | 37,058 | 8.1 | 13,811 | 10.9 | \$70,202 | 4.1 |
| Franklin | 1,477 | 14.7 | 510 | 23 | \$36,789 | 3.7 |
| Freestone | 2,775 | 16.1 | 931 | 22.7 | \$36,686 | 3.8 |
| Frio | 4,817 | 33.9 | 1,894 | 43.3 | \$26,690 | 5 |
| Gaines | 2,787 | 19.1 | 1,328 | 28.2 | \$35,354 | 3.8 |
| Galveston | 36,325 | 13.3 | 12,463 | 17.7 | \$46,012 | 4.6 |
| Garza | 1,059 | 23.8 | 445 | 34.8 | \$30,880 | 3.5 |
| Gillespie | 2,301 | 10.3 | 731 | 16.2 | \$41,985 | 2.9 |
| Glasscock | 129 | 9.7 | 53 | 13.9 | \$42,566 | 3.7 |
| Goliad | 1,172 | 16.8 | 381 | 23.8 | \$38,218 | 3.9 |
| Gonzales | 3,859 | 20.1 | 1,559 | 29.9 | \$31,070 | 3.9 |
| Gray | 3,157 | 16 | 944 | 19.4 | \$33,482 | 3.5 |
| Grayson | 15,328 | 13.5 | 5,197 | 18.6 | \$39,655 | 4.7 |
| Gregg | 19,980 | 17.9 | 8,147 | 27.1 | \$37,436 | 3.8 |
| Grimes | 3,986 | 17.7 | 1,361 | 23.6 | \$36,117 | 4.8 |
| Guadalupe | 11,026 | 10.9 | 3,962 | 15.3 | \$49,127 | 3.9 |
| Hale | 7,010 | 20.8 | 2,948 | 27.5 | \$31,371 | 4.7 |
| Hall | 906 | 24.9 | 405 | 41.2 | \$26,933 | 5.5 |
| Hamilton | 1,244 | 15.9 | 470 | 25.8 | \$33,179 | 3.7 |
| Hansford | 800 | 15.6 | 314 | 21.4 | \$36,216 | 3.1 |
| Hardeman | 791 | 18.8 | 283 | 29 | \$30,507 | 3.7 |
| Hardin | 5,779 | 11.5 | 2,082 | 16.5 | \$43,511 | 4.7 |
| Harris | 650,406 | 17.9 | 272,598 | 26 | \$44,085 | 4.3 |
| Harrison | 11,352 | 18.5 | 3,810 | 24.4 | \$36,807 | 4.5 |
| Hartley | 366 | 9.1 | 122 | 10.1 | \$47,122 | 3.4 |
| Haskell | 1,273 | 23.5 | 433 | 36.5 | \$26,636 | 3.6 |
| Hays | 15,057 | 13.1 | 3,532 | 12.9 | \$45,060 | 3.7 |
| Hemphill | 306 | 9.3 | 94 | 11.4 | \$43,986 | 2.2 |
| Henderson | 14,275 | 18.2 | 5,155 | 28.1 | \$33,993 | 4.6 |
| Hidalgo | 272,368 | 40.7 | 121,174 | 51.3 | \$24,808 | 6.6 |
| Hill | 6,264 | 18.2 | 2,331 | 27.1 | \$34,163 | 4.8 |
| Hockley | 3,765 | 17.1 | 1,555 | 25.3 | \$36,987 | 3.7 |
| Hood | 5,945 | 12.6 | 2,195 | 21.5 | \$47,435 | 4.2 |
| Hopkins | 5,624 | 17.2 | 2,177 | 26.5 | \$35,176 | 3.9 |
| Houston | 5,463 | 27.1 | 1,787 | 37.2 | \$30,146 | 6.1 |
| Howard | 6,205 | 22.5 | 2,294 | 30.6 | \$33,619 | 4.2 |
| Hudspeth | 1,041 | 32 | 472 | 46.7 | \$23,426 | 4.9 |
| Hunt | 12,620 | 15.8 | 4,652 | 22.9 | \$40,796 | 4.6 |
| Hutchinson | 2,967 | 13.4 | 1,027 | 17.8 | \$39,118 | 4 |
| Irion | 162 | 9.2 | 54 | 14.2 | \$40,709 | 3 |
| Jack | 1,152 | 14.5 | 344 | 17.7 | \$36,159 | 3.4 |
| Jackson | 2,177 | 15.5 | 838 | 23.1 | \$38,117 | 3.9 |
| Jasper | 6,561 | 19 | 2,549 | 28.6 | \$32,833 | 5.7 |
| Jeff Davis | 294 | 13.1 | 94 | 22.2 | \$37,417 | 3.5 |
| Jefferson | 45,305 | 19.7 | 17,870 | 29.3 | \$36,226 | 5.5 |
| Jim Hogg | 1,291 | 26 | 491 | 34.9 | \$28,007 | 3.8 |
| Jim Wells | 9,983 | 24.7 | 3,953 | 34 | \$30,722 | 4 |
| Johnson | 17,644 | 12.3 | 6,772 | 17.8 | \$45,407 | 4.1 |
| Jones | 3,255 | 22.2 | 1,079 | 29.6 | \$33,537 | 4.8 |
| Karnes | 3,265 | 27.8 | 1,052 | 34 | \$28,674 | 5.8 |

County Level Data ^{2.5}

| County | POVERTY STATISTICS | | | Median % Kids | Unemp. Income | Rate |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|----------|---------------|---------------|------|
| | All Ages | % All | Under 18 | | | |
| Kaufman | 9,386 | 10.7 | 3,617 | 15.5 | \$49,996 | 4.7 |
| Kendall | 2,526 | 9 | 867 | 12.8 | \$58,843 | 3.5 |
| Kenedy | 69 | 16.8 | 28 | 26.4 | \$27,326 | 2.9 |
| Kent | 82 | 11.1 | 22 | 15.8 | \$31,335 | 3.5 |
| Kerr | 6,427 | 14.5 | 2,482 | 25.7 | \$38,276 | 3.6 |
| Kimble | 841 | 18.5 | 316 | 31.6 | \$31,185 | 3.5 |
| King | 34 | 13.5 | 12 | 15.6 | \$41,738 | 4.5 |
| Kinney | 755 | 22.9 | 243 | 32.5 | \$31,638 | 4.8 |
| Kleberg | 7,453 | 25.3 | 2,458 | 31 | \$32,680 | 4.1 |
| Knox | 958 | 26.1 | 372 | 37.4 | \$27,865 | 3.9 |
| Lamar | 9,166 | 19 | 3,378 | 27.2 | \$34,076 | 4.7 |
| Lamb | 2,909 | 20.6 | 1,178 | 29.9 | \$32,514 | 4.1 |
| Lampasas | 3,381 | 17.6 | 1,284 | 27.5 | \$38,834 | 3.6 |
| La Salle | 1,643 | 30.6 | 670 | 41.7 | \$25,019 | 4.9 |
| Lavaca | 2,618 | 14.2 | 812 | 18.9 | \$34,685 | 3.2 |
| Lee | 1,996 | 12.6 | 766 | 18.5 | \$39,549 | 3.5 |
| Leon | 2,385 | 14.7 | 801 | 22.2 | \$35,070 | 4.3 |
| Liberty | 12,863 | 18.4 | 5,125 | 26.5 | \$37,428 | 5.2 |
| Limestone | 4,236 | 20.3 | 1,538 | 28.2 | \$32,287 | 4.4 |
| Lipscomb | 452 | 14.9 | 169 | 21.3 | \$36,491 | 2.7 |
| Live Oak | 2,193 | 21.8 | 617 | 26.7 | \$34,279 | 4 |
| Llano | 2,225 | 12.4 | 700 | 23.9 | \$38,393 | 4.1 |
| Loving | 16 | 25.2 | 5 | 36.4 | \$40,785 | 9.8 |
| Lubbock | 46,751 | 19.4 | 15,315 | 24.7 | \$35,150 | 3.6 |
| Lynn | 1,310 | 21.2 | 566 | 31.9 | \$31,207 | 5.1 |
| McCulloch | 1,804 | 23.1 | 698 | 35.3 | \$28,944 | 3.9 |
| McLennan | 40,400 | 18.9 | 13,684 | 24.1 | \$36,171 | 4.2 |
| McMullen | 128 | 14.5 | 35 | 22 | \$36,046 | 5.4 |
| Madison | 2,218 | 21.6 | 710 | 26.4 | \$31,411 | 4.7 |
| Marion | 2,466 | 22.8 | 866 | 37.5 | \$27,683 | 4.7 |
| Martin | 829 | 19.3 | 393 | 28.8 | \$37,009 | 3.6 |
| Mason | 530 | 13.8 | 177 | 23.5 | \$34,754 | 2.8 |
| Matagorda | 7,925 | 21.3 | 3,028 | 28.9 | \$33,975 | 6 |
| Maverick | 15,033 | 29.5 | 6,985 | 39.2 | \$24,736 | 11.3 |
| Medina | 7,120 | 17.4 | 2,752 | 24.8 | \$39,142 | 4.2 |
| Menard | 562 | 26 | 170 | 40.7 | \$27,013 | 3.6 |
| Midland | 17,809 | 14.9 | 7,372 | 21.9 | \$42,132 | 2.9 |
| Milam | 4,528 | 18.3 | 1,722 | 26.8 | \$34,372 | 4.2 |
| Mills | 717 | 14.7 | 326 | 30.6 | \$32,984 | 3.9 |
| Mitchell | 1,707 | 25.7 | 517 | 30 | \$28,237 | 5.3 |
| Montague | 2,705 | 14.1 | 960 | 21.4 | \$35,383 | 3.6 |
| Montgomery | 41,153 | 11 | 15,434 | 15.4 | \$59,210 | 3.9 |
| Moore | 2,815 | 14 | 1,340 | 19.9 | \$37,412 | 3.1 |
| Morris | 2,606 | 20.5 | 899 | 29.7 | \$31,954 | 5.2 |
| Motley | 246 | 19 | 90 | 31.7 | \$29,752 | 4 |
| Nacogdoches | 11,568 | 20.7 | 3,389 | 24 | \$31,057 | 4.2 |
| Navarro | 9,421 | 20.1 | 3,766 | 30.1 | \$34,508 | 5 |
| Newton | 3,089 | 22.6 | 1,053 | 32.1 | \$32,319 | 6.6 |
| Nolan | 3,121 | 21.8 | 1,233 | 31.9 | \$30,872 | 3.8 |
| Nueces | 62,156 | 19.9 | 25,032 | 29.2 | \$38,740 | 4.4 |
| Ochiltree | 1,235 | 13.3 | 524 | 19.2 | \$41,835 | 2.7 |
| Oldham | 256 | 13.9 | 124 | 25.7 | \$36,521 | 4 |
| Orange | 13,170 | 15.7 | 4,546 | 21.4 | \$38,856 | 5.2 |
| Palo Pinto | 4,515 | 16.7 | 1,703 | 25.5 | \$34,580 | 3.7 |
| Panola | 3,555 | 15.8 | 1,169 | 21.4 | \$36,640 | 3.9 |
| Parker | 9,424 | 9.5 | 3,086 | 12.5 | \$53,170 | 4 |
| Parmer | 1,442 | 15 | 599 | 20 | \$32,416 | 3.3 |
| Pecos | 3,221 | 23.5 | 1,200 | 31.6 | \$30,806 | 4.3 |
| Polk | 8,258 | 19.1 | 3,451 | 35.2 | \$32,971 | 6 |
| Potter | 23,443 | 21.1 | 10,259 | 30.3 | \$30,316 | 3.9 |
| Presidio | 2,385 | 31.3 | 987 | 41.6 | \$23,452 | 9.1 |
| Rains | 1,810 | 16.2 | 581 | 25.5 | \$36,398 | 4.4 |
| Randall | 8,878 | 8.2 | 2,671 | 10 | \$47,356 | 3 |
| Reagan | 397 | 13.5 | 146 | 16.4 | \$40,234 | 2 |

| County | POVERTY STATISTICS | | | Median % Kids | Unemp. Income | Rate |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| | All Ages | % All | Under 18 | | | |
| Real | 667 | 22.6 | 260 | 41.6 | \$27,863 | 4.3 |
| Red River | 2,494 | 18.8 | 888 | 29.7 | \$31,994 | 5 |
| Reeves | 3,060 | 29.3 | 1,155 | 36.8 | \$25,043 | 5.3 |
| Refugio | 1,278 | 17.1 | 447 | 24.9 | \$32,715 | 3.9 |
| Roberts | 60 | 7.3 | 16 | 10.1 | \$54,091 | 2.3 |
| Robertson | 3,275 | 20.7 | 1,261 | 29.2 | \$32,984 | 4.8 |
| Rockwall | 3,116 | 5 | 1,200 | 7.2 | \$73,987 | 4 |
| Runnels | 2,261 | 21.2 | 809 | 29 | \$30,070 | 4.6 |
| Rusk | 6,946 | 15.5 | 2,387 | 21.8 | \$37,514 | 4.2 |
| Sabine | 1,802 | 17.5 | 615 | 29.5 | \$27,144 | 8.3 |
| San Augustine | 2,035 | 23.9 | 698 | 36 | \$29,129 | 5.6 |
| San Jacinto | 5,009 | 20.4 | 1,816 | 32 | \$33,578 | 5.2 |
| San Patricio | 11,369 | 16.8 | 4,841 | 24.1 | \$37,918 | 5 |
| San Saba | 1,068 | 19.4 | 494 | 37 | \$31,761 | 4.8 |
| Schleicher | 448 | 16.6 | 146 | 21.5 | \$36,340 | 3.5 |
| Scurry | 2,626 | 18.1 | 969 | 25 | \$36,835 | 3.9 |
| Shackelford | 419 | 13.5 | 142 | 19.5 | \$36,215 | 2.7 |
| Shelby | 5,263 | 20.3 | 1,887 | 27.8 | \$31,272 | 4.4 |
| Sherman | 478 | 16.4 | 206 | 24.1 | \$36,390 | 3.5 |
| Smith | 29,739 | 16.1 | 11,413 | 23.5 | \$39,267 | 4.2 |
| Somervell | 792 | 10.7 | 307 | 16.6 | \$44,334 | 4.5 |
| Starr | 27,574 | 45.7 | 12,264 | 55.5 | \$17,843 | 10.6 |
| Stephens | 1,747 | 19.9 | 709 | 32.4 | \$31,767 | 3.7 |
| Sterling | 179 | 14 | 59 | 19.1 | \$39,095 | 2.8 |
| Stonewall | 250 | 18.8 | 80 | 28.4 | \$32,628 | 3.2 |
| Sutton | 604 | 14.5 | 210 | 18.6 | \$42,812 | 2.2 |
| Swisher | 1,443 | 20.2 | 626 | 30.1 | \$31,941 | 4.4 |
| Tarrant | 212,969 | 13.4 | 82,686 | 18.5 | \$49,167 | 4.3 |
| Taylor | 21,859 | 18.5 | 8,310 | 25.7 | \$35,473 | 3.5 |
| Terrell | 198 | 19.9 | 56 | 28.2 | \$27,927 | 5.4 |
| Terry | 2,751 | 24.2 | 1,151 | 34.5 | \$30,253 | 4.6 |
| Throckmorton | 234 | 14.7 | 73 | 22.1 | \$30,680 | 3.9 |
| Titus | 5,085 | 17.7 | 2,145 | 24.2 | \$36,347 | 3.9 |
| Tom Green | 16,993 | 17.2 | 6,048 | 23.4 | \$37,203 | 3.7 |
| Travis | 133,414 | 15.5 | 43,499 | 20.3 | \$48,199 | 3.6 |
| Trinity | 2,952 | 20.9 | 1,043 | 34.1 | \$29,975 | 5 |
| Tyler | 3,725 | 19.6 | 1,276 | 29.1 | \$32,030 | 5.6 |
| Upshur | 6,119 | 16.4 | 2,176 | 24 | \$35,807 | 4.1 |
| Upton | 557 | 18.5 | 194 | 24.9 | \$34,253 | 3.1 |
| Uvalde | 6,761 | 25.8 | 3,119 | 39.1 | \$28,859 | 5.3 |
| Val Verde | 12,123 | 26 | 5,296 | 36.4 | \$31,375 | 5.4 |
| Van Zandt | 9,028 | 17.6 | 3,264 | 26.6 | \$37,629 | 4 |
| Victoria | 12,806 | 15.3 | 5,114 | 22 | \$37,231 | 3.5 |
| Walker | 10,065 | 22.6 | 2,313 | 22.6 | \$35,064 | 4.8 |
| Waller | 5,885 | 18.7 | 1,910 | 22.5 | \$40,921 | 4.6 |
| Ward | 1,867 | 19 | 683 | 26.5 | \$33,494 | 3.8 |
| Washington | 4,767 | 16.1 | 1,531 | 20.9 | \$39,842 | 3.8 |
| Webb | 67,930 | 30.8 | 33,122 | 40.3 | \$31,339 | 4.8 |
| Wharton | 6,486 | 16 | 2,442 | 21.9 | \$35,593 | 4.3 |
| Wheeler | 654 | 14 | 205 | 18.8 | \$37,203 | 2.6 |
| Wichita | 16,650 | 14.6 | 6,308 | 20.4 | \$38,532 | 4.2 |
| Wilbarger | 2,389 | 18.1 | 1,006 | 28.1 | \$31,507 | 3.5 |
| Willacy | 7,357 | 38.2 | 3,220 | 52.1 | \$24,186 | 8.1 |
| Williamson | 19,663 | 6 | 7,563 | 8.2 | \$63,397 | 3.7 |
| Wilson | 4,330 | 11.8 | 1,606 | 16.8 | \$45,624 | 4.1 |
| Winkler | 1,207 | 18.5 | 444 | 24.4 | \$34,357 | 3.2 |
| Wise | 5,891 | 10.7 | 2,224 | 15.7 | \$49,495 | 4.1 |
| Wood | 6,693 | 17.1 | 2,207 | 26.4 | \$35,166 | 4.6 |
| Yoakum | 1,300 | 17.7 | 505 | 23.1 | \$37,876 | 3.3 |
| Young | 2,996 | 17.1 | 1,074 | 25.6 | \$34,532 | 3.4 |
| Zapata | 4,551 | 34.2 | 2,115 | 48.7 | \$23,484 | 5.4 |
| Zavala | 4,293 | 37.6 | 1,841 | 49.5 | \$19,283 | 10.5 |
| Texas | 3,886,632 | 17.5 | 1,537,475 | 24.7 | \$42,165 | 4.3 |
| United States | 38,231,474 | 13.3 | 13,360,273 | 18.5 | \$46,242 | 4.6 |

SOURCES

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau – *Income, Earnings, and Poverty Data From the 2006 American Community Survey*
- ² Texas Workforce Commission – *Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program: annual, non-adjusted unemployment rate for 2007*
- ³ Texas Workforce Commission – *Current Employment Statistics Program: 2007*
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau – *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006*
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau – *2005 Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*
- ⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture – *Household Food Security in the United States, 2006*
- ⁷ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies – *2007 Child Care in the State of: Texas*

OTHER RESOURCES:

The Community Action Partnership released *Rooting Out Poverty: A Campaign by America's Community Action Network* in January 2008. The report captures input, success stories, issues and strategies from Community Action Agencies throughout America. For copies of *Rooting Out Poverty*, call the Community Action Partnership at (202) 265-7546 or order the report at www.communityactionpartnership.com/pdfs/order_forms/Product_Order_Form.pdf (\$5.00).

Since the Federal Poverty Guidelines only take into account geographical differences in the cost of living for Alaska and Hawaii, the Center for Public Policy Priorities created the Family Budget Estimator. Using government data, this tool calculates the basic needs budget for 27 metropolitan areas in Texas and eight different family types. Visit www.cppp.org/fbe/ to access the data.

Housing information is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at www.huduser.org, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs at www.tdhca.state.tx.us, the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service at www.texashousing.org, and the Texas Homeless Network at www.thn.org. The National Low Income Housing Coalition has a *Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness* on their website, www.nlihc.org.

Information specific to low income children by state can be found on the National Center for Children in Poverty's website, www.nccp.org. Data on the wellbeing of children are also available from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count project at www.kidscount.org/sld/databook.jsp or Texas county specific data through the Center for Public Policy Priorities at www.cppp.org/factbook07/.

The Center for American Progress convened a Task Force on Poverty, which came up with a plan to reduce poverty – *From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half*, available on-line at www.americanprogress.org/issues/domestic/poverty.

Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc.

2512 I.H. 35 South, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78704-5772 • Phone: (512) 462-2555



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