

2 POPULATION ANALYSIS

Comprehensive plans include estimates of the current and future population because the size and rate of a community's growth impacts planning for facilities and services. Information for this population analysis comes from the United States Census Bureau, the Texas Demographic Center, the Texas Water Development Board, and a survey of the community's occupied houses.

2.1 Highlights

Incorporated in 1973, Wallis is the third largest city in Austin County. Wallis is located approximately 45 miles to the west of Houston, with direct connections to larger cities in the Houston Metropolitan Area like Fulshear and Rosenberg along TX 36 and FM 1093. Wallis' connectivity has guided its development as a residential community. Census estimates suggest that the majority of Wallis' workers are employed outside the city, with many commuters traveling to Houston, Rosenberg, Fulshear, and even Austin. Consequently, many of the jobs within Wallis are held by individuals who live outside the city, either in nearby cities, the Wallis ETJ, or other unincorporated areas. This trend is common in Austin County, where over half of the residents have lived outside the county's three largest cities for more than half a century.

The city's connectivity to larger cities via both highways and railways would present the possibility of establishing a local transportation and warehousing center, considering the predominance of these industries in Austin County. However, there is no guarantee that new industrial development will bring new residents based on current commuting trends, but development pressure along Wallis' main arterial to Houston (FM 1093) can establish the city as a rural-commuter community similar to Fulshear. Thus, as Wallis' community leaders hope to establish their city as a place where residents can work, play, and live, special care must be given to developing community amenities and fostering attractive and affordable neighborhoods where retirees will want to live and the workforce population will want to raise families.

Dedicated public officials, City staff, and the Economic Development Corporation are pursuing projects to capitalize on Wallis' strengths and work through challenges. Recently, Wallis has seen redevelopment in the city's downtown with the renovation of historic buildings along Commerce St. With the support of residents, Wallis can leverage its rural character and location to draw new population and development.

This study forecasts that Wallis' population will increase over the next 10 years, reaching approximately 1,615 residents by 2034.

2.2 Historical, Regional, & Recent Changes

Incorporated in 1973, Wallis is the second largest city in Austin County. Wallis is located in the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) region. As part of the Houston Metropolitan Area, Wallis is within an hour of several small-to-medium population centers and one of the largest in the state:

- Houston (2,300,000+ residents) approximately 45 miles east
- Rosenberg (38,000+ residents) just over 16 miles southeast
- Katy (22,000+ residents) just over 24 miles northeast
- Fulshear (21,000+ residents) just under 12 miles northeast
- Sealy (16,000+ residents) just over 12 miles northwest

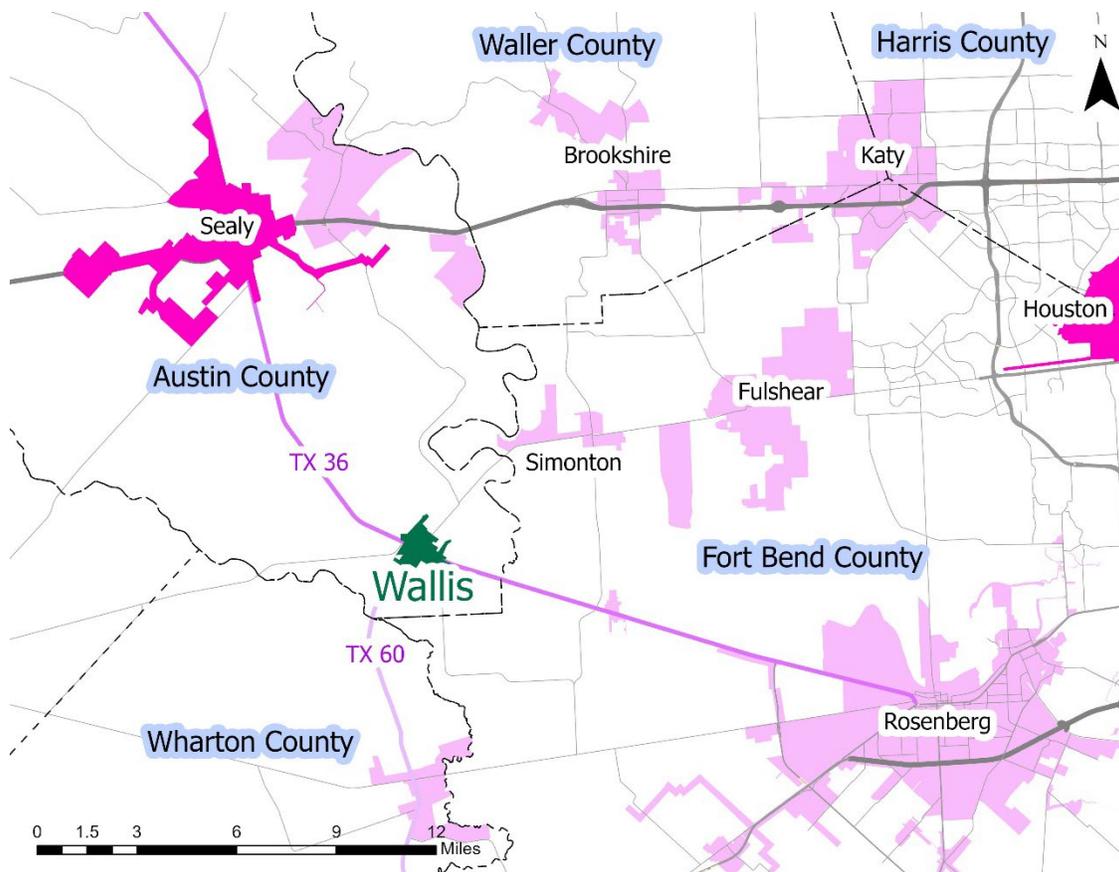


Figure 2A: Proximate Population Centers

Historical & Regional Growth

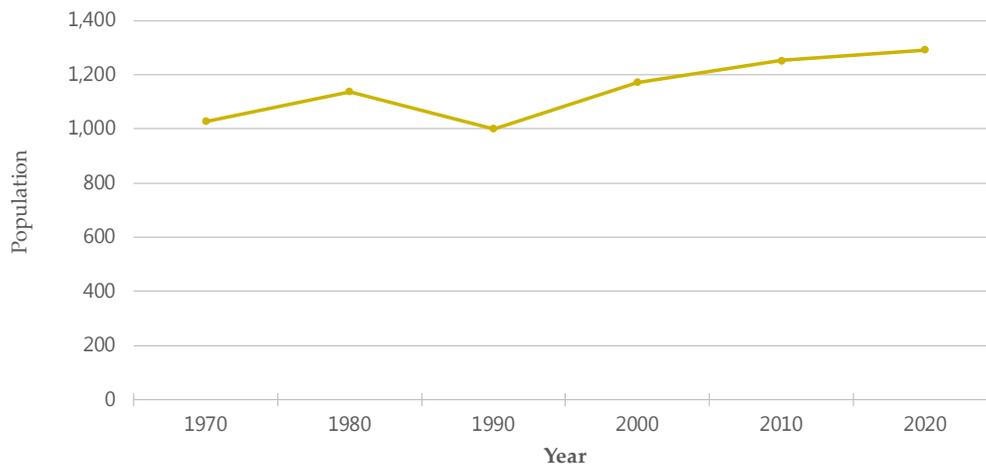
The City of Wallis' early development is tied to the expansion of railroad networks through eastern and central Texas in the late 1800s. Historically, the area that is now known as Austin County was the home of the Tonkawan Native American Tribe, but non-native settlement began in the 1830s as a wave of immigration from Germany swept through the region.

Wallis' own growth was fueled by the expansion of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway through Wallis, Sealy, and Bellville in the late 1870s, and growth was further fueled as the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway extended east through Wallis into Houston in 1887. This railway strengthened the existing commercial connection between Wallis and Houston that would be a hallmark of the city's development in the 20th century. These railway connections and the influx of Czech immigrants beginning in the 1890s helped Wallis reach a population of 631 by 1904. However, a decline in the production of cotton and corn led to a contraction in the agrarian economy that did not resolve until after WWII with the growth of the industrial sector, particularly steel production and heavy and general construction. Manufacturing and construction remain two of the dominant industries in Austin County today.

Despite a slight dip in 1990, most of the 1900s was defined by slow but steady growth, owing potentially to three factors: the burgeoning industrial sector, the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves within the county, and the city's proximity to Houston. In 1980, 33% of Austin County residents worked outside the county, suggesting that Wallis may have experienced the suburbanization of the 1960s and 1970s and had become somewhat of a bedroom community. Wallis was officially incorporated in 1973.

In the last several years, Wallis has seen redevelopment centered in the city's downtown with the renovation of historic buildings along Commerce St. Wallis is primed for growth offering a rural lifestyle with the added benefits of its proximity to the Greater Houston Area.

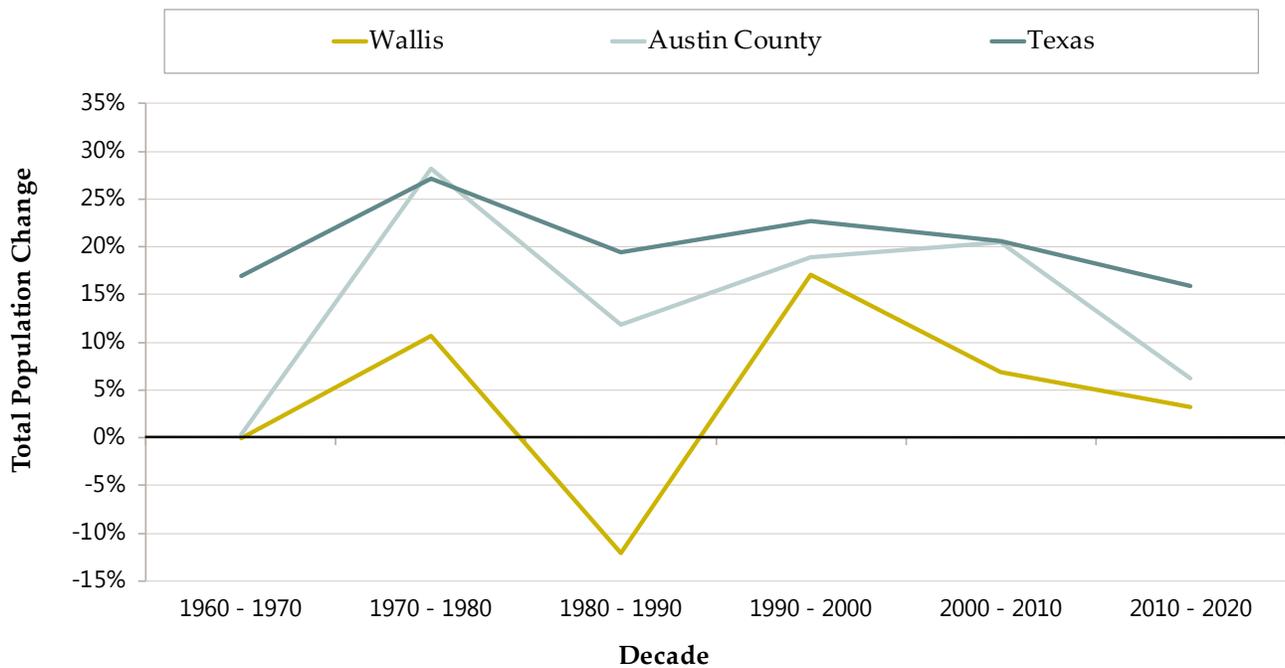
Chart 2A: Population (1940-2020) [City]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1940-2020

Wallis' period of population decline between 1980 and 1990 came despite continued growth in both Austin County and its largest cities. However, population changes in Wallis followed similar trends to changes in both Austin County and Texas (see *Chart 2B*). Wallis, Austin County, and Texas all saw peaks in population growth between 1970 and 1980 and between 1990 and 2000 as well as **a significant slowdown in population growth between 1980 and 1990**. This suggests that regional factors may have influenced population growth throughout Texas and Austin County, and Wallis experienced the decline more harshly than other locales.

Chart 2B: Historical Population Changes (1960-2020) [Wallis, Austin County, Texas]

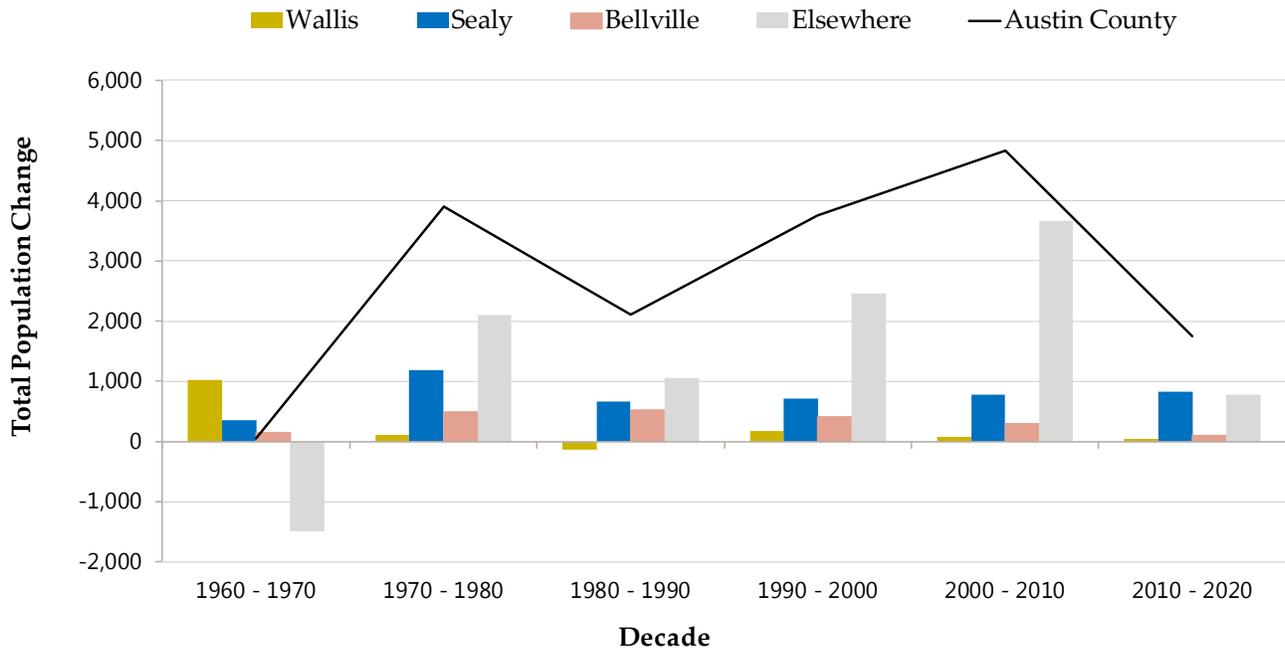


Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1960-2020

Austin County has seen continued growth since the 1960s, but growth rates varied significantly and have been declining since the 2000s. However, much of this growth has been accruing outside of Wallis. Population growth has largely been concentrated outside Austin County's three largest cities (Sealy, Bellville, and Wallis) (see *Chart 2C*). This trend can also be seen in the population distribution within Austin County shown in Chart 2D. Since 1960, over 50% of Austin County's population lived outside Wallis, Sealy, and Bellville, and this figure reached 60% in 2010.

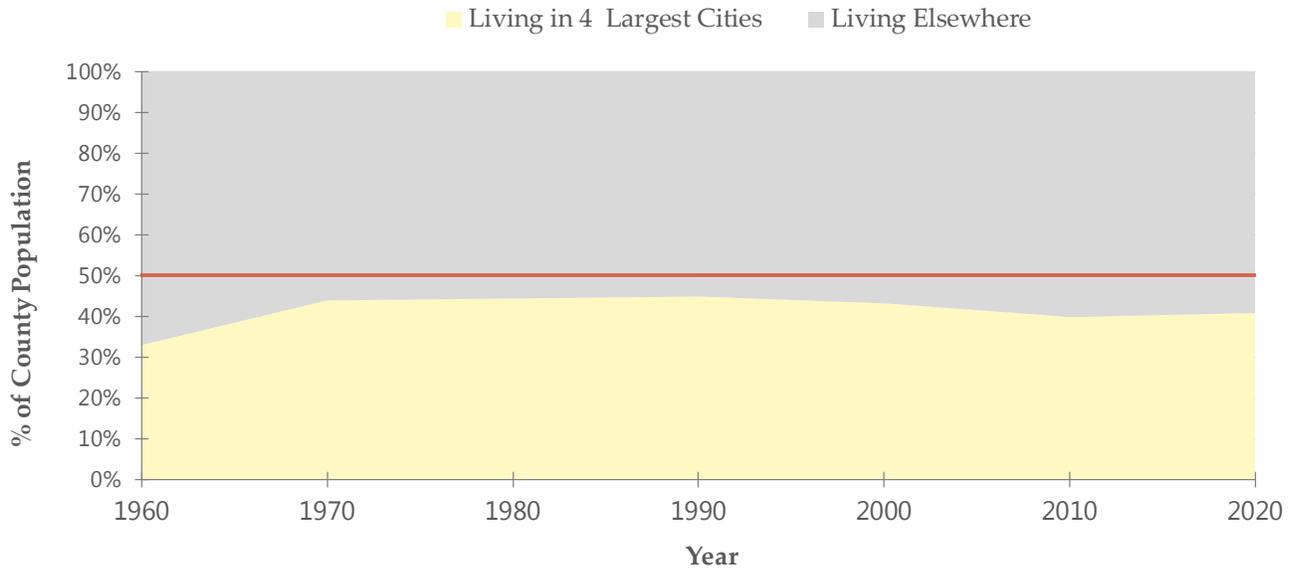
Sealy and Bellville have also been growing faster than Wallis since the 1970s. Sealy's population growth experienced the same decline as Austin County in the 1980s, but growth rates have been increasing since 1990. Bellville, on the other hand, saw its largest period of growth from 1980 to 1990, and its growth rate has been declining ever since. As of 2020, 4% of Austin County's population lives in Wallis, compared to 23% in Sealy, 14% in Bellville, and 57% outside of the largest cities.

Chart 2C: Historical Population Changes (1960-2020) [Austin County, Cities in County, Other]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1960-2020

Chart 2D: Historical Population Distribution Changes (1960-2020) [Austin County]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1960-2020

Table 2A: Historical Population (1960-2020) [Austin County, Largest Cities in County, Other]

Year	Wallis	Sealy	Bellville	Elsewhere	Austin County
1960	0	1,942	2,112	9,231	13,777
1970	1,028	2,328	2,218	7,747	13,831
1980	1,138	2,685	2,371	9,853	17,726
1990	1,001	3,875	2,860	10,912	19,832
2000	1,172	4,541	3,378	13,376	23,590
2010	1,252	5,248	3,794	17,049	28,417
2020	1,292	6,019	4,097	17,830	30,167

Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1960-2020

Wallis' population growth has varied somewhat since 1960. Wallis saw steady growth through the early-to-mid 20th century until its incorporation in 1973, but the 1980s brought a decade of population decline. Off the back of 10 years of an average population growth rate of -1.4%, Wallis saw its greatest period of growth with an annual rate of 1.8% between 1990 and 2000, which restored the city to its pre-1980 size. Since 2000, the population growth rate has been steadily declining in Wallis. *Chart 2E* illustrates historical average annual growth rates in Wallis and nearby cities for comparison.

Understanding Growth Rates

Approximate population doubling can be calculated by dividing 70 by the population growth rate. A continuing growth rate of 1% will result in population doubling within 70 years.

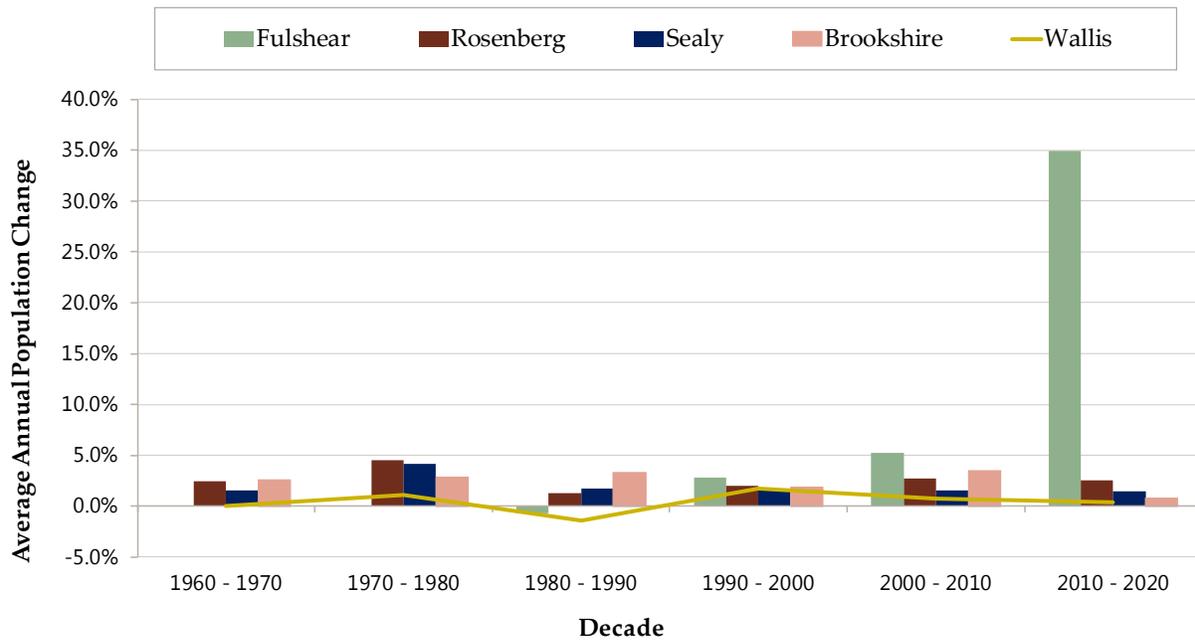
Average annual growth rates for Wallis are generally lower than the comparison cities, except for a slight increase over Sealy between 1990 and 2000. Rosenberg, Fulshear, and Brookshire are all closer to Houston than Wallis, and they have more direct connections via Hwy 90, FM 1093, and I-10. The relative location of these cities may have created development pressure along these arterials, leading to faster growth, and a now larger population, than was seen in Wallis. Fulshear's period of significant population growth between 2010 and 2020 (35% annually) may indicate intense development pressure from Houston along FM 1093 (the Westpark Tollway in Houston city limits). This pressure is evidenced by the expansive residential developments that have sprung up along FM 1093 to the east. FM 1093 does continue to the west into Wallis, so there is potential for continued development pressure along this route. The City's ETJ extends along this direction and incorporates Brazos River Authority's proposed Allens Creek Reservoir. This reservoir is stated to break ground by 2030 and will serve as a water supply storage reservoir. The reservoir will put added development pressure on Wallis as it will allow for recreational use and draw attention to potential residential development. Additionally, Wallis has direct connections to Sealy and Rosenberg via TX 36, but there is no direct connection between Wallis and Brookshire (see *Figure 2A, page 2-2*).

Austin County is adjacent to 2 of the 25 fastest growing counties in Texas from 2010 to 2020: Waller County and Fort Bend County. From 2010 to 2019, Waller County grew by approximately 27.7% (or +11,972 residents), and Fort Bend County grew by approximately 38.8% (or +226,989 residents). Both of these population increases are driven by in-migration.¹ Waller County saw an influx of 8,930 new residents, and Fort Bend County saw an influx of 169,327 new residents. As new residents move to these counties, it is possible that this growth will extend outwards into nearby counties, such as Austin County, reaffirming the potential for development pressure outward from Houston through nearby communities like Fulshear, Brookshire, and Rosenberg. On the contrary, this regional change may hurt Wallis. From 2016 to 2020, Austin County saw a large amount of out-migration to nearby Waller, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties.² If residents are leaving Austin County to be closer to Houston, then development pressure may actually dissipate before it reaches Austin County.

¹ <https://idser.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=99dbf561151b4a2993248557e8f7aa56>

² From the Census Flow Mapper, <https://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/map.html>

Chart 2E: Historical Population Change AAGRs (1960 – 2020) [City, Nearby Cities]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing 1960-2020

Table 2B: Historical Population (1960-2020) [Wallis, Nearby Cities]

Year	Wallis	Sealy	Brookshire	Fulshear	Rosenberg
1960	0	2,328	1,339	0	9,698
1970	1,028	2,685	1,683	0	12,098
1980	1,138	3,875	2,175	594	17,995
1990	1,001	4,541	2,922	557	20,183
2000	1,172	5,248	3,450	716	24,043
2010	1,252	6,019	4,702	1,134	30,618
2020	1,292	6,839	5,066	16,856	38,282

Source: US Census of Population and Housing, 1960-2020

Recent Population Changes

Wallis' population increased by 3.2% (or +40) between 2010 and 2020 and by 6.8% (or +80) in the previous decade.

Population changes are the result of both **migration** (residents moving to or leaving a city) and **natural changes** (new births or current residents passing away). The following sections examine recent population changes in Wallis, and potential implications for future growth.

Age Distribution

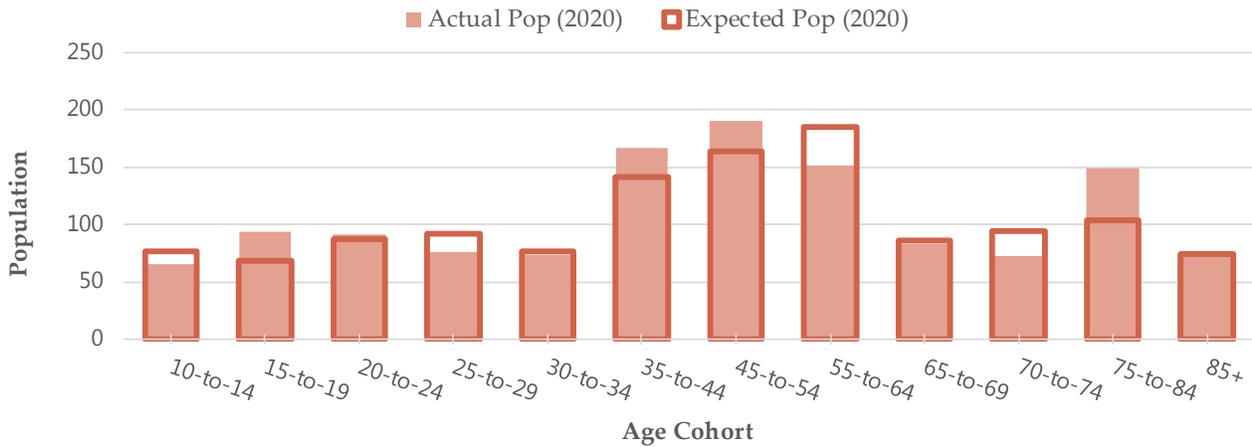
Chart 2F compares Wallis' expected 2020 population with the actual population figures from the 2020 Census. The expected population in each group is based on the aging of individuals living in Wallis in 2010. For example, the expected population of 20-to-24-year-olds in 2020 is the population that was 10-to-14 years-old in 2010.

Expected Population

Comparing expected and actual populations by age group can indicate how migration and natural increases/decreases may have impacted overall population change. While a higher-than-expected population suggests that new residents in the age group moved to the community, a lower-than-expected population is often the result of residents moving or passing away.

A comparison of Wallis' actual and expected populations suggests that **several adults and children (perhaps as family units) moved to the city between 2010 and 2020**, based on the greater than expected number of residents between 15 and 19 and 35 and 54. A similar trend is seen amongst **adults ages 75-84**, suggesting that older residents are retiring to Wallis. However, the population of adults between 70 and 74 is lower than expected, perhaps due to mortality more than out-migration because of their age. The population of **adults between 55 and 64 is significantly lower** than the expected population, but the age of this group suggests that the difference is more likely due to out-migration than mortality. **Two other age groups with lower-than-expected populations are 10-14 and 25-29.** This difference is also more likely to be related to out-migration. Young adults between 25 and 29 may be relocating outside of Wallis for career opportunities. Children between 10 and 14 would most likely be leaving with their parents, but this out-migration is not visible amongst the likely age groups (30-54).

Chart 2F: Expected & Actual 2020 Population, by Age Group



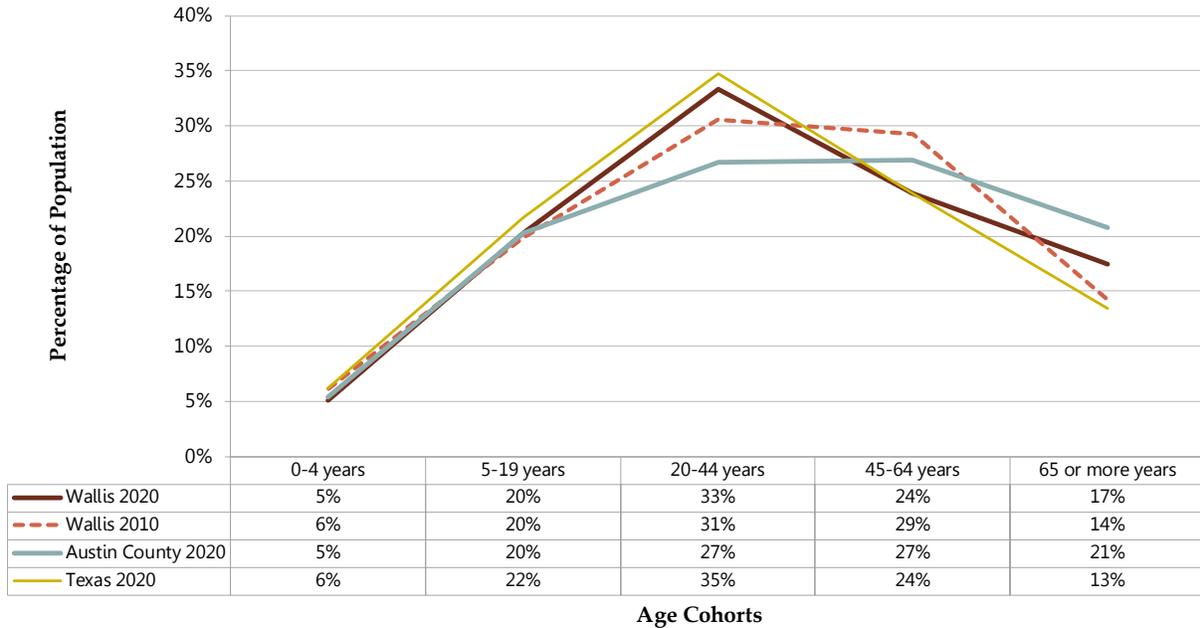
Source: US Census of Population and Housing, P12 (2010), P12 (2020)

Chart 2G illustrates age cohort distributions for Wallis (2010 and 2020), Austin County (2020), and the state of Texas (2020).

It should be kept in mind that, due to the small size of Wallis' population, the age distribution can fluctuate from minor changes.

Wallis' peaked 2020 distribution supports some natural population increase. The 2010 distribution was somewhat flatter with a greater percentage of residents aged 55 or older, but the shift to a distribution peaked between 20 and 44 suggests that the population is better situated to experience natural population growth. It is also notable that the Wallis 2020 population distribution has a sharper peak than the Austin County population, indicating that the population of Wallis is somewhat younger.

Chart 2G: Age Distribution Comparison (2010, 2020) [City, County, State]



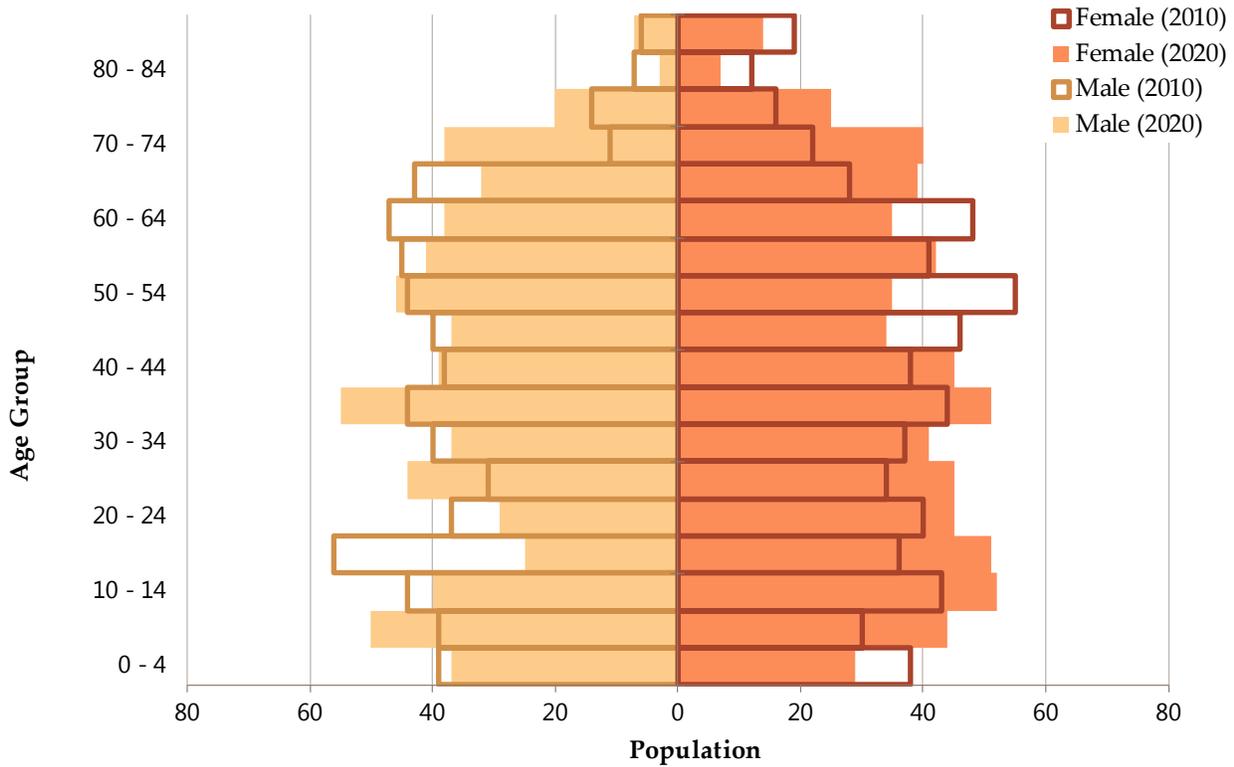
Source: US Census of Population and Housing, P12 (2010), P12 (2020)

Age Cohort Distributions & Natural Population Growth

Age cohort distributions can indicate whether a community’s population dynamics generally support expansion, stability, or decline. A distribution peaked in the middle (adults 20-to-44) suggests stable-to-expanding or “healthy” natural population growth (births to current residents) because adults between 20 and 44 are considered the cohort most likely to have new children. The 2020 Texas distribution is an example of a “healthy” distribution. In contrast, a flatter and/or right-skewed distribution can indicate relatively stationary or declining natural population change.

Chart 2H shows Wallis’ 2010 and 2020 age distribution in additional detail. This chart further shows the decreases in older cohorts (45-69 and 80-84) and in younger cohorts (0-4). The smaller cohort below the age of 4 suggests a decrease in birth rates with fewer residents having children in the four years leading up to 2020 than in the four years leading up to 2010. The sharp narrowing of the pyramid above age 80 suggests a lowering life expectancy. Taking into account the greater-than-expected population between ages 75 and 84 (see Chart 2F), it is more likely that this population differential amongst adults aged 70 to 80 is due to in-migration. Overall, the population pyramids suggests that the Wallis population is in Stage 4 of population growth: contraction. With a greater population of older adults and a shrinking population of children under 15, there may be limited potential for natural population growth.

Chart 2H: Population Pyramid Comparison (2010, 2020) [City]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing, P12 (2010), P12 (2020)

Population Pyramids

Population pyramids are bar graphs that represent the age-sex composition of a population. Each bar graph represents a five-year age group. The male population is represented to the left of the vertical axis and females to the right.

Interpretive guides:

- A very triangular pyramid shows a population with a high number of young dependents and a low life expectancy
- An upside-down pyramid shows an aging population, and a very low birth rate
- A pyramid with straight sides (more like a barrel) shows a population with a falling birth rate and rising life expectancy

Race & Ethnicity

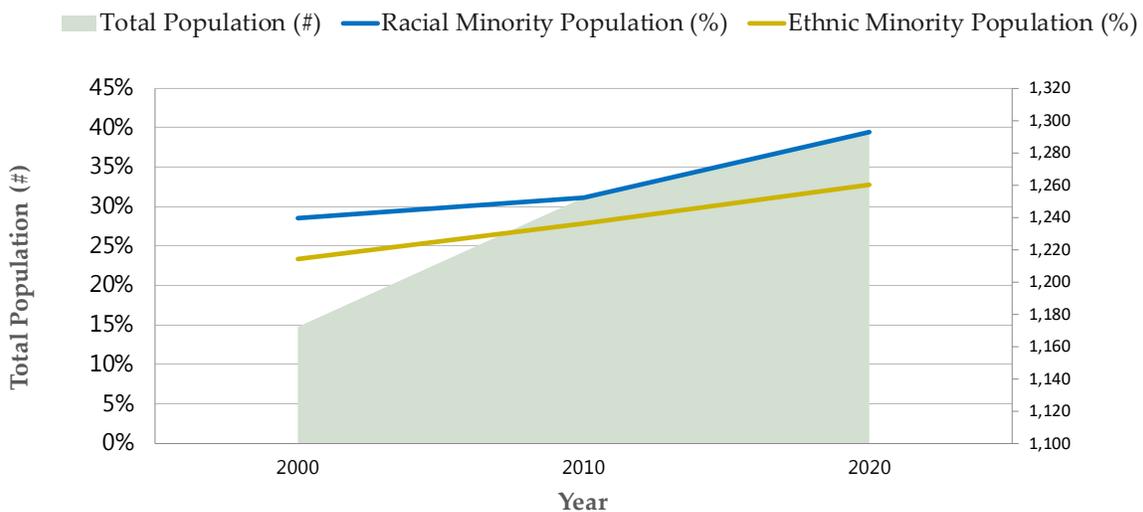
Chart 2I illustrates Wallis' total population from 2000 to 2020 (green), as well as the percentage of residents that identify as a racial- or ethnic-minority (gold and blue lines). Table 2C (next page) further illustrates these changes.

Census Definitions

The U.S. Census distinguishes between two minority population groups: "racial minorities" - all non- "White" residents - and "ethnic minorities" - all "Hispanic or Latino" residents.

The percentage of Wallis residents that identify as a racial minority increased by 31% (or +120) from 2010 to 2020. This change can be mostly attributed to significant growth in the number of residents who identify as two or more races, growing from 2% to 19% (or +209) of the total population. At the same time, the number of residents identifying as White (-80) or Black (-20) decreased. The number of residents that identify as an ethnic minority also increased by 21.5% (or +75). Wallis is generally more diverse than Austin County, with a greater relative population of residents that identify as a racial or ethnic minority. However, Wallis is generally less diverse than Texas (see Chart 2I, below and table 2C, next page).

Chart 2I: Total & Minority Population Change Comparison (2000-2020) [City]



Source: US Census of Population and Housing, P0003 & P008 (2000), P8 & P5 (2010), P1 & P2 (2020)

As shown on Map 2A and discussed further in Chapter 3: Housing Study, **the city of Wallis has no areas of high minority concentration.** The State of Texas defines an "Area of High Minority Concentration" as "a census block group that consists of 65% or more of minorities".³

³ Minorities include all racial and ethnic population groups other than "White, non-Hispanic (Anglo)". Census data is not available to map the locations of other protected classes for towns or cities with fewer than 20,000 residents. The "65 percent threshold" is based on the definition of "an area of minority concentration" used by the Texas General Land Office in its 10/1/2012 publication, "Homeowner Opportunity Program Guidelines - CDBG Disaster Recovery Program - Hurricanes Ike & Dolly, Round 2."

Table 2C: Population Change by Race & Ethnicity (2010, 2020) [City, County, State]

Characteristic	Wallis				Austin County		Texas	
	2010		2020		2020		2020	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Total Population	100%	1,252	100%	1,292	100%	30,167	100%	29,145,505
Race								
White	69%	862	61%	782	67%	20,164	50%	14,609,365
Black or African American	15%	182	13%	162	8%	2,440	12%	3,552,997
American Indian, Alaskan Native	1%	11	1%	10	1%	277	1%	278,948
Asian	0%	5	1%	7	1%	201	5%	1,585,480
Native Hawaiian / Hawaiian / Another Pacific Islander	0%	0	0%	0	0%	8	0%	33,611
Other	13%	161	7%	91	10%	3,103	14%	3,951,366
Two or More Races	2%	31	19%	240	13%	3,974	18%	5,133,738
Ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino	28%	348	33%	423	27%	8,052	39%	11,441,717
Not Hispanic or Latino	72%	904	67%	869	73%	22,115	61%	17,703,788

Source: US Census of Population and Housing, P8 & P5 (2010), P1 & P2 (2020)

Note: Figures may be rounded to next whole number

2.3 Local & Regional Economic Profile

Industry concentration refers to the degree to which activities associated with a given industry are present in a region. Generally, concentrated industries make a regional economy “unique” or “specialized”.

Table 2D (next page) lists location quotient calculations for Austin County from 2018 to 2022. Based on these LQ figures, Austin County has employment concentrations in the following industries:

- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting

Wallis also had an employment concentration in Finance and Insurance in 2022. Through 2021, Wallis had an employment concentration in Wholesale Trade, but employment fell in 2022.

Table 2E (page 2-18) lists estimates of the number of Wallis residents employed in each industry area. As the table shows, the top four employing industries for Wallis residents are:

- Transportation and warehousing, and utilities
- Retail trade
- Educational services, and healthcare and social assistance
- Construction

These figures refer to the industries that employ residents of Wallis and do not necessarily mean that those residents are employed in Wallis.

Chart 2J (page 2-18) and *Table 2F (page 2-19)* illustrate estimated data for employment inflow to and outflow from the city of Wallis. As the chart and table show, only 2.3% of Wallis residents (about 15 total) work in the city. Estimates suggest that over 25% of Wallis residents commute between 10 and 24 miles to work, and over 25% of Wallis residents commute more than 50 miles to work. Common reported destinations at this distance include Houston and Austin. Closer destinations include Rosenberg and Sealy. Just over 89% of workers employed in Wallis live outside the city, and 19% of these workers commute more than 50 miles to Wallis. Most commuters, however, live within 24 miles of Wallis in cities like Rosenberg, Fulshear, and East Bernard. This statistic also includes those who live in Wallis’ ETJ or nearby unincorporated areas.

Table 2D: Location Quotients for Austin County Compared to Texas (2018 - 2022)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1.84	1.67	1.53	1.49	1.31
Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction	0.94	0.72	0.87	0.89	0.61
Utilities	-	-	1.92	1.95	1.78
Construction	1.92	1.83	1.80	1.60	1.58
Manufacturing	1.61	1.60	1.71	1.63	1.56
Wholesale Trade	1.16	1.16	1.33	1.23	0.92
Retail Trade	2.35	2.29	2.29	2.33	2.13
Transportation & Warehousing	-	-	1.79	1.78	1.80
Information	0.57	0.60	0.60	0.55	0.61
Finance & Insurance	0.84	0.81	0.69	0.68	1.25
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1.04	0.90	0.88	0.90	0.82
Professional & Technical Services	0.61	0.64	0.59	0.89	0.93
Management of Companies & Enterprises	0.25	0.23	0.31	0.30	0.35
Administrative & Waste Services	0.42	0.82	0.65	0.70	0.74
Educational Services	0.48	0.60	0.52	0.74	0.84
Health Care & Social Assistance	0.42	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.42
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	0.29	0.42	0.34	0.37	0.47
Accommodation & Food Services	0.78	0.78	0.89	0.75	0.65
Other Services, except public administration	0.95	0.94	0.80	0.74	0.75

Location Quotient Analysis

Location quotient (LQ) analysis identifies industry concentrations by comparing an industry's share of employment in a specific area (such as a county) with that same industry's share of employment in a larger geographic area (such as the state or nation). *For example, the LQ for the Mining Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction industry in Texas was 4.31 in 2015. This indicates that the Mining Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction industry accounts for approximately three times more employment in the Texas economy than in the U.S. economy; employment within the Mining Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction industry is thus, in relative terms, more concentrated in the Texas economy than in the U.S. economy.*

LQ figures are often used to identify export industries (industries that produce enough to meet local needs and to sell products outside the region).

- ❖ Generally, an LQs over 1.25 indicates an export industry.

The direction of an industry's LQ score over time indicates how employment in that industry is changing.

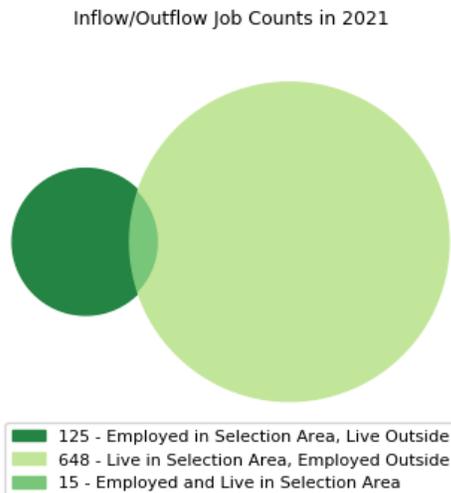
- ❖ Increasing annual LQ scores indicate industry growth

Table 2E: Wallis Residents Who Work, by Industry

Industry	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	578	178	578
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	11	12	1.9
Construction	65	40	11.2
Manufacturing	45	37	7.8
Wholesale trade	29	29	5.0
Retail trade	103	66	17.8
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	163	124	28.2
Information	4	6	0.7
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6	9	1.0
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	31	35	5.4
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	68	41	11.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	10	12	1.7
Other services, except public administration	18	25	3.1
Public administration	25	30	4.3

Source: US Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics for Wallis. Note: Margins of error are large, data cited for trends only.

Chart 2J: Employment Inflow/Outflow (2020)

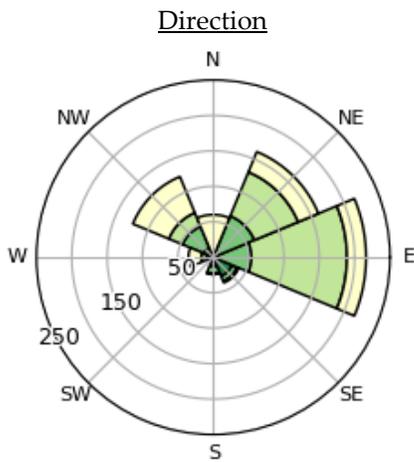


Employed in Wallis	% (#)
Total	100% (140)
Living Outside	89.3% (125)
Living In	10.7% (15)
Living in Wallis	% (#)
Total	100% (663)
Employed Outside	97.7% (648)
Employed In	2.3% (15)

Source: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/> Note: Margins of error are large, data cited for trends only.

Table 2F: Employment Travel Profiles

Travel from Wallis for Work



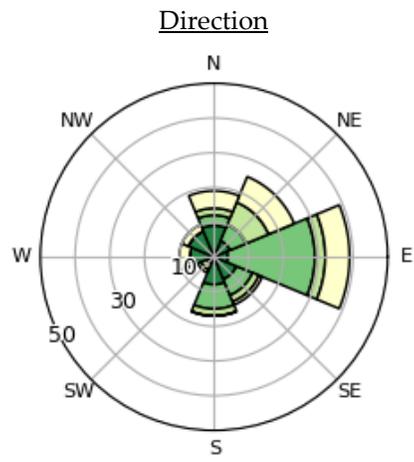
Distance

Distance (Miles)	%	#
Wallis Residents	2.3%	15
Less than 10	8.9%	59
10 to 24	25.3%	168
25 to 50	35%	232
Greater than 50	28.5%	189
<i>Total Primary Jobs</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>663</i>

Common Destinations

Place	%	#
Wallis, TX	2.3%	15
Houston, TX	26.5%	176
Rosenberg, TX	5.1%	34
Sealy, TX	4.4%	29
Katy, TX	3.5%	23
Austin, TX	3.2%	21
Bryan, TX	1.8%	12
Sugar Land, TX	1.8%	12
College Station, TX	1.5%	10
East Bernard, TX	1.5%	10
<i>All Other Locations</i>	<i>48.4%</i>	<i>321</i>

Travel to Wallis for Work



Distance

Distance (Miles)	%	#
Wallis Residents	10.7%	15
Less than 10	24.3%	34
10 to 24	32.9%	46
25 to 50	12.9%	18
Greater than 50	19.3%	27
<i>Total Primary Jobs</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>140</i>

Common Origins

Place	%	#
Wallis, TX	10.7%	15
Rosenberg, TX	3.6%	5
Fulshear, TX	2.9%	4
East Bernard, TX	2.1%	3
Cinco Ranch CDP, TX	1.4%	2
Conroe, TX	1.3%	24
El Campo, TX	1.0%	19
Houston, TX	1.0%	19
Pecan Grove, TX	0.8%	15
Wharton, TX	0.8%	15
<i>All Other Locations</i>	<i>72.1%</i>	<i>101</i>

Source: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/> Note: Margins of error are large, data cited for trends only.

2.4 Current Population Estimate, Projections, & Forecast

In 2024, Wallis is a primarily residential community. Most commercial activity is directed at residents to serve local needs, and the vast majority of Wallis' workers are employed outside of the city. The direct connections along TX 36 and FM 1093 to Rosenberg, Fulshear, and Houston most likely facilitate this outflow.

Population Estimate

The city of Wallis estimated 2024 population is 1,390.⁴

Population Projections

Population projections inform Federal, State, and local funding decisions about facilities such as highways, sewage treatment plants, and schools. Population projections are typically based on historical trends ranging from the population changes in the most recent decade to changes over the past century or more.

Planners considered several population projections, based on differing methods, to help guide the planning recommendations for the City of Wallis in this comprehensive plan:

- Extrapolation of Texas Demographic Center (TDC) cohort population projection for Austin County (adjusted by the city of Wallis' City's relative population)
- Geometric extrapolation of recent Census data (2000, 2010, 2020)
- Linear regression analysis of Census data (1970-2020)
- Texas Water Development Board (2020-2070 Population Projections by Water User Group regional estimate)

Appendix 2A provides a more detailed discussion of the population projection methods.

⁴The population estimate is based on number of occupied housing identified in field survey. Planners considered two additional population estimates based on figures multiplied by the 2020 average household size: (1) a population estimate based on the number of residential water connections (1,862) and (2) a population estimate based on the number of total housing units identified in the field survey (592) multiplied by the average of the 2020 Census vacancy rate (14%) and the field survey vacancy rate (4%). Field housing counts are based on windshield observations. Windshield observations are necessarily limited to observation of external and readily apparent housing characteristics, and this may miss some units. In addition, windshield observations may undercount vacant structures in better condition because it is easier to identify vacant housing in substandard condition than vacant housing in standard condition.

Population Forecast

Wallis' location in the Houston Greater Area and associated direct connections to Houston and other larger cities, make it an attractive point for commuters who enjoy a small-town, rural way of life.

Projections vs. Forecasts

While a population **projection** hypothesizes values for the population by assuming historical trends will continue, the assumptions in a population **forecast** may also include informed expectations of future events, like non-traditional growth resulting from relocation of a major employer.

Intense development pressure from Houston along FM 1093 (the Westpark Tollway in Houston city limits), has led to rapid population growth in the southwest Greater Houston Area (Fulshear and the Greater Katy area). This pressure is already reaching Wallis as two residential developments on the city's westside are in negotiation and the City has found a renewed interest in developing its historic downtown. Further driving development interest along this arterial is the proposed Allens Creek Reservoir that is set to be completed within the planning period.

Wallis' Economic Development Corporation is prepared to further capitalize on the city's location by allocating resources to continue to develop the downtown area to bring in new businesses and provide an attractive space for residents and passerby traffic along TX 36.

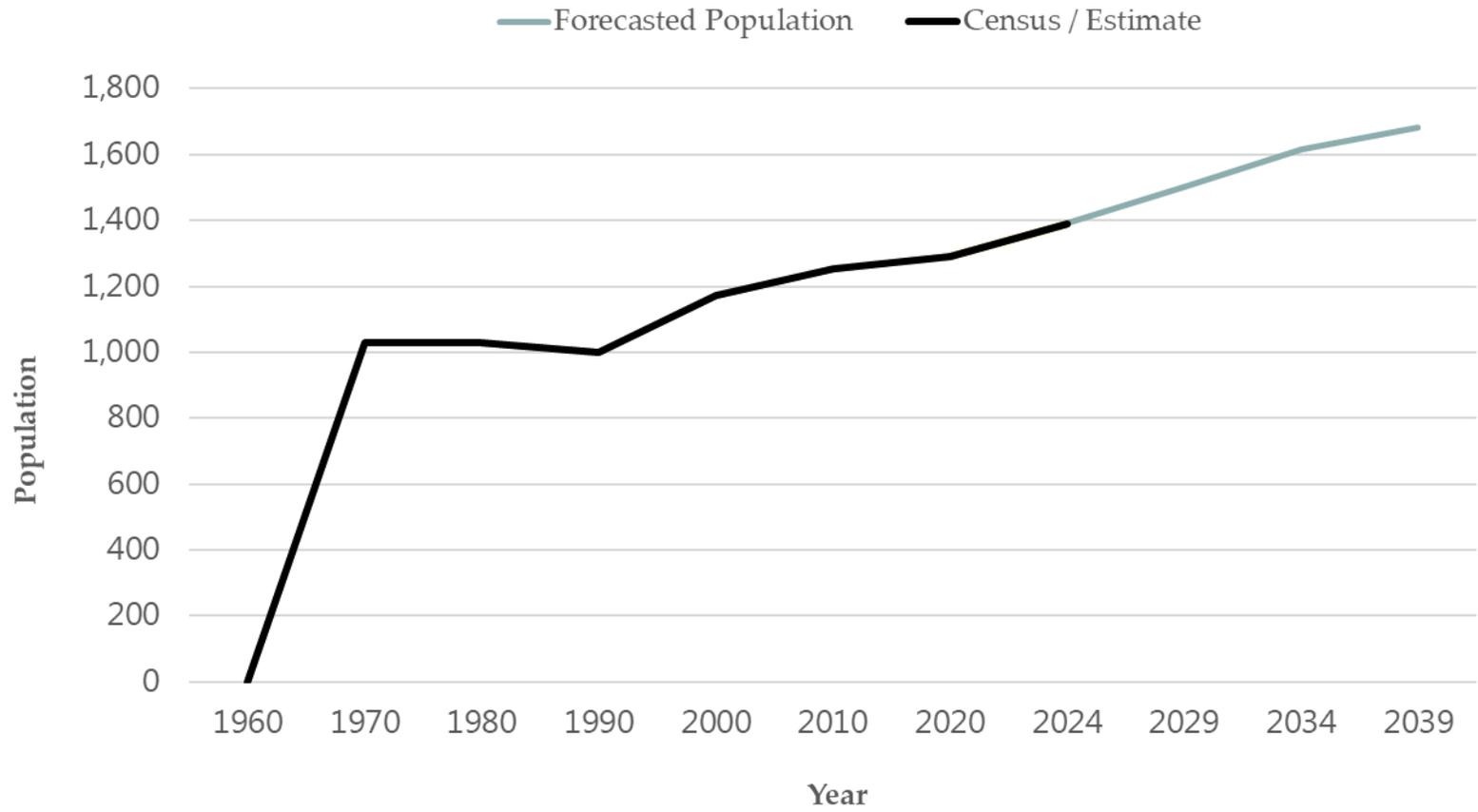
Wallis' representatives and community leaders hope to establish their city as a place where residents can work, play, and live. In addition to further developing community amenities, drawing new residents will require fostering attractive and affordable neighborhoods where retirees and middle-aged professionals will want to raise families.

Dedicated public officials and City staff are already pursuing projects to capitalize on Wallis' strengths and work through local challenges. With the support of engaged residents, Wallis can leverage its rural character and location in the Houston Metropolitan Area to draw new population and development.

This study forecasts that Wallis' population will increase over the next 10 years, reaching approximately 1,615 residents by 2034 (see *Chart 2J, next page*).

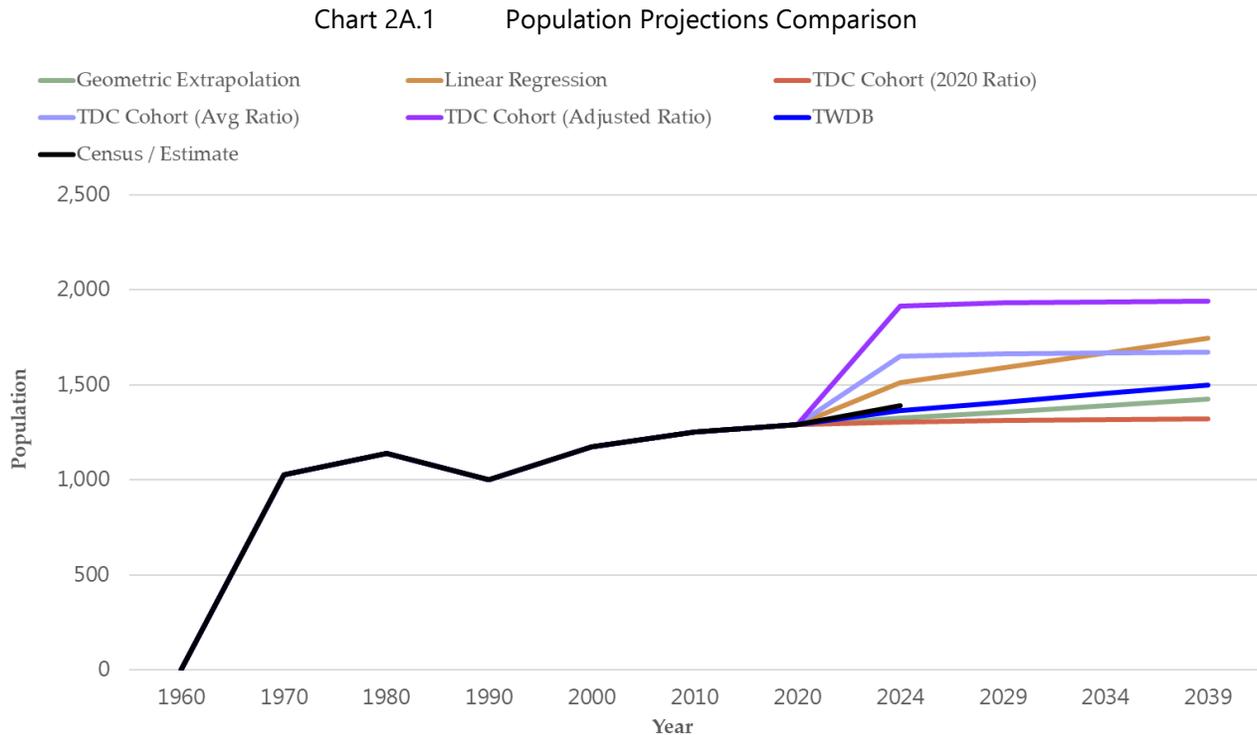
Map 2A shows the expected locations of Wallis' population in 2034.

Chart 2K: Population Forecast



2.5 Appendix 2A: Population Projection Methods

Chart 2A.1 illustrates each projection considered for this plan. The following sections describe projection methods.



Cohort Extrapolation

Population estimates identify changes to the city’s population and provide a benchmark to guide population projections and forecasts. The Texas Demographic Center (TDC) periodically issues population estimates for all incorporated places in the state; the TDC’s system provides a baseline for the cohort extrapolation estimate produced as part of this study. The TDC uses the Cohort-Component Method to calculate estimates and projections. The basic characteristics of this technique are the use of separate cohorts – persons with one more characteristic – and the separate projection of each of the major components of population change –fertility, mortality, and migration for each of the cohorts.

TDC generally develops county-level projections under three migration scenarios:

- Zero migration: no net migration (natural growth only),
- 1.0 migration: new migration rates of 2010 to 2020 (“full-migration scenario”), and
- 0.5 migration: 2010 to 2020 migration rates halved (“half-migration scenario”).

Geometric Extrapolation

The geometric extrapolation model operates on the assumption that the population will change by the same percentage in each future year as the average annual change over the base period (2000-2020).

Linear Regression

Linear regressions attempt to model the relationships between two variables by fitting a linear equation to the observed data. One variable is considered an explanatory variable (time) and the other is considered a dependent variable (population change). Linear regressions help to adjust for short term fluctuations over time to identify longer-term trends.

Texas Water Development Board

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides population projections for “Municipal Water User Groups” (WUGs). TWDB rule changes for the 2022 State Water Plan (SWP) define water user group (WUG) planning as being utility-based. Cities without their own water systems no longer meet the WUG definition and their population are represented through a) Utility WUGs who provide water for them and meet the new WUG definition, or b) County other WUGs as aggregated rural population. Municipal WUGs are now defined as:

- Privately-owned utilities that provide an average of more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use for all owned water systems,
- Water systems serving institutions or facilities owned by the state or federal government that provide more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use,
- All other Retail Public Utilities not covered in paragraphs (A) and (B) that provide more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use,
- Collective Reporting Units, or groups of Retail Public Utilities that have a common association and are requested for inclusion by the RWPG, and
- Municipal and domestic water use, referred to as Couth-Other, not included in paragraphs (A)-(D) of this subsection.

TWDB staff prepared draft population and municipal water demand projections for 2020-2070 for all municipal WUGs using projection trends based on the population projections in the 2017 SWP as reassembled by utility service area. In addition, the municipal water demand projections generally utilize base gallons per capita daily (GPCD) and water efficiency volumes for from the 2017 SWP. However, a new set of 2010 population estimates for each municipal WUG were developed to reflect a utility-based boundary (not political boundary) as a baseline population to be projected for the 2021 Regional Water Plan (RWP). More information about the municipal WUG population projection methods and methodology can be found at <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/>