The current population of Burnet County is 45,149, an increase of 10,600 since 2000. Burnet County is the fifth-most populated county in the CAPCOG region and the third-fastest growing. Since 2000, Burnet County has grown more than 30 percent. While the rate of growth is slightly less than the 33 percent increase experienced by the broader CAPCOG region, in percentage terms Burnet County’s population growth easily outpaced the Texas and national average at 18 percent and 9 percent respectively. Like the rest of the CAPCOG region, Burnet County should continue to experience robust growth for the foreseeable future.

Burnet County is one of the oldest counties in the CAPCOG region, and growing older still. The median age of Burnet County is 44.7, nearly 13 years older than the median age of the Austin metropolitan area and approximately 7 years older than the U.S. median age. Burnet also appears to be aging more rapidly than many counties in the CAPCOG region. During the past decade, for example, Burnet County had the largest increase in median age than any county in the CAPCOG region. The fastest growing age cohort in Burnet County is residents age 65 and older. Additionally, all age cohorts above 45 are experiencing increases. At the same time, the proportion of residents in all age cohorts younger than 45 has declined since 2000. The age distribution dynamics within Burnet County suggest continued growth of older populations throughout the next decade.

Like the rest of the CAPCOG region, Burnet County is becoming more diverse. Nearly 79 percent of Burnet County residents are white. While this represents a decline of nearly 4 percentage points since 2000, Burnet County has the second-highest proportion of white residents within the CAPCOG region. During the past ten years, however, the proportion of all minority racial and ethnic groups has increased. Hispanics now represent nearly 18 percent of Burnet County’s population. The combined proportion of all other racial groups in Burnet County—including blacks, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and individuals of two or more races—grew slightly from 3.1 percent to 3.8 percent.
While Burnet County features slightly lower levels of educational attainment than the CAPCOG regional, during the past decade, the county has experienced significant increases. According to the latest Census release, approximately 81 percent of residents have graduated from high school, more than 26 percent of residents have a college degree, and 6.5 percent of resident possess a graduate or professional degree. Since 2000, the proportion of college graduates in Burnet County has increased more than any other county in the CAPCOG region. During this same period, Burnet County witnessed the second-highest increase in the proportion of professional degree graduates.

In 2009, the unemployment rate of Burnet County was 6.1 percent, a lower unemployment rate than the overall CAPCOG region. During the past decade the unemployment rate in Burnet County has consistently hovered below the unemployment rate of the CAPCOG region. From 2000 to 2009, Burnet County’s unemployment rate was an average of 0.2 percent points below the regional unemployment rate. Recently, however, the difference between the regional unemployment rate and Burnet County’s unemployment rate has widened. In 2009, for example, Burnet County’s unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points lower than the regional unemployment rate, the largest observed difference in more than 10 years.

Median household income in Burnet County is $46,832, a decline of approximately $2,400 since 2000. As a percentage of median household income, Burnet County suffered the fourth-most severe decline among all counties in the CAPCOG region. Burnet County’s median household income also trails Texas and the U.S. As median household income dropped even more precipitously at the state and national level, the gap between these two geographies and Burnet County has narrowed over the past decade.
While the overwhelming majority of workers in the CAPCOG region continue to drive alone to work, during the past decade Burnet County employees have begun to explore alternatives. Approximately 72 percent of all workers in Burnet County drive alone to work, down from more than 76 percent in 2000. No other community in the CAPCOG region reported a larger decline in the proportion of driving alone to work. Workers are instead turning to carpooling and telecommuting. At 17.8 percent, the percentage of Burnet County workers carpooling to their job has increased 1.5 percentage points since 2000. Additionally, the proportion of employees working from home jumped from 3.9 percent to 7.8 percent. Within the CAPCOG region, only Llano County has enjoyed stronger growth among telecommuters during the past decade. The combined proportion of workers taking public transit, biking, or walking to work in Burnet County stands at 2.2 percent, a 40 percent decline since 2000.

The composition of Burnet’s housing stock has remained relatively constant during the past decade. More than 76 percent of all housing structures in Burnet County are single-family units, a significantly higher proportion than the Texas and U.S. average. Since 2000, the proportion of single-family units within Burnet County has remained largely unchanged. The second largest category of housing type within Burnet County—“other”—consists primarily of mobile homes. In the past decade, the proportion of “other” housing units in Burnet County has also been relatively constant at 21 percent. During this same period, the proportion of multi-family housing units rose from 4.6 percent to 5.5 percent.

Currently, 70 percent of all households in Burnet County consist of families. The proportion of family households has declined slightly during the past decade, falling approximately 4 percent. Similar trends are occurring throughout the CAPCOG region—during the past decade the proportion of family households has declined in every county in the CAPCOG region.