The current population of Caldwell County is 37,810, an increase of 5,350 since 2000. Caldwell County is the sixth-most populated county in the CAPCOG region and the fifth-fastest growing. Since 2000, Caldwell County has grown more than 16 percent. While the rate of growth is less than half the 33 percent increase experienced by the broader CAPCOG region, in percentage terms Caldwell County’s population growth easily outpaced the national average of 9 percent and was only slightly behind the Texas average of 18 percent. Like the rest of the CAPCOG region, Caldwell County should continue to experience robust growth for the foreseeable future.

The median age of Caldwell County is 35.8, approximately four years older than the median age of the Austin metropolitan area, but a year younger than the U.S. median age. Caldwell County, like the entire CAPCOG region, is also growing older. During the past decade, for example, all age cohorts above 45 years old experienced increases. During this same period, the proportion of residents in all age cohorts 45 and younger declined.

Caldwell County is the only majority-minority county in the CAPCOG region. Approximately 46 percent of Caldwell County residents are white, a decline of nearly 4 percentage points since 2000. The growing Hispanic population, representing nearly 45 percent of Caldwell County, is the second largest racial/ethnic group in the county. During the past decade, Caldwell County’s black population fell from 8.3 percent of the population to 7.3 percent. All other racial/ethnic groups comprise less than 2 percent of Caldwell County’s population.
Caldwell County has slightly lower levels of educational attainment than the average of the CAPCOG region. According to the latest Census release, approximately 71 percent of residents have graduated from high school, more than 13 percent of residents have a college degree, and 3 percent of residents possess a graduate or professional degree. During the past decade, educational attainment at every level increased slightly. Despite these gains, Caldwell County trails the broader CAPCOG region, Texas, and the U.S. at all levels of educational attainment.

In 2009, the unemployment rate of Caldwell County was 8.3 percent, the highest unemployment rate in the CAPCOG region. During the past decade the unemployment rate in Caldwell County has consistently hovered above the regional unemployment rate. From 2000 to 2009, Caldwell County’s unemployment rate was an average of 1 percent point above the regional unemployment rate. Recently, however, the difference between the regional unemployment rate and Caldwell County’s unemployment rate has widened. In 2009, for example, Caldwell County’s unemployment rate was 1.4 percentage points higher than the regional unemployment rate, the largest observed difference since 2004.

Median household income in Caldwell County is $41,387, a decline of approximately $5,700 since 2000. As a percentage of median household income, Caldwell County suffered the most severe decline among all counties in the CAPCOG region (with a decline of nearly 13% during the past decade). Caldwell County’s median household income is the lowest among all counties in the CAPCOG region and also trails Texas and the U.S figures. As median household income dropped more precipitously within Caldwell County than at either the state or national level, the gap between Caldwell County and these two geographies has widened over the past decade.
Like much of the CAPCOG region, the overwhelming majority of workers drive alone to work. Approximately 73 percent of all workers in Caldwell County drive alone to work, a decline of nearly one percentage point since 2000. The decline in commuting to work does not appear to correlate with Caldwell County employees adopting alternative modes of transportation. While transit use was up, it still accounts for less than 1 percent of all Caldwell County workers. Furthermore, during the past decade the proportion of Caldwell County workers who carpooled to their place of employment actually declined. The percentage of Caldwell County employees working from home, however, jumped from 2.4 percent to 4.5 percent. Since 2000, the combined proportion of workers biking and walking to work remains unchanged since 2000 at 2 percent.

The composition of Caldwell’s housing stock has remained largely unchanged during the past decade. Approximately 63 percent of all housing structures in Caldwell County are single-family units, a proportion similar to the CAPCOG region, Texas and U.S. average. Since 2000, the proportion of single-family units within Caldwell County has remained relatively constant, increasingly less than one percentage point. The second largest category of housing type within Caldwell County— “other”—consists primarily of mobile homes. In the past decade, the proportion of “other” housing units in Caldwell County has also been relatively constant at around 25 percent (the second-highest level within the CAPCOG region). During this same period, the proportion of multi-family housing units rose from 7.1 percent to 7.5 percent.

At 75 percent of all households, Caldwell County has the second-highest level of families within the CAPCOG region. The proportion of family households has declined slightly during the past decade, falling less than 2 percent (the third-smallest decline within the region). 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.