The current population of Fayette County is 22,891, an increase of approximately 1,000 residents since 2000. Fayette County is the third-least populated county in the CAPCOG region and the second-slowest growing. Since 2000, Fayette County has grown less than 5 percent. The rate of growth is significantly less than the 33 percent increase experienced by the broader CAPCOG region and also trails the Texas and national average, at 18 percent and 9 percent respectively. Fayette County will likely experience modest growth for the foreseeable future.

Fayette County is one of the oldest counties in the CAPCOG region, and growing older still. The median age of Fayette County is 45.7, nearly 14 years older than the median age of the Austin metropolitan area and approximately 8 years older than the U.S. median age. Fayette also appears to be aging more rapidly than many counties in the CAPCOG region. During the past decade, for example, Fayette County had the third-largest increase in median age among all counties in the CAPCOG region. Additionally, all age cohorts above 45 are experiencing increases. At the same time, the proportion of residents in most age cohorts younger than 45 has declined since 2000; only the proportion of residents age 15 to 24 has increased during the past decade. The age distribution dynamics within Fayette County suggest continued growth of older populations throughout the next decade.

Like the rest of the CAPCOG region, Fayette County is becoming more diverse. Approximately 75 percent of Fayette County residents are white. While this represents a decline of 5 percentage points since 2000, Fayette County features the fourth-highest proportion of white residents within the CAPCOG region. During the past ten years, however, Fayette County’s Hispanic population had the most dramatic growth, increasing from less than 13 percent of the population to nearly 18 percent. During this period, the black population as a proportion of the total population in Fayette County fell from 6.9 to 6.5 percent. During the past decade, the proportion of Asian residents remained constants at 0.3 percent. The combined proportion of all other racial groups in Fayette County is less than 1 percent.
Although Fayette County has some of the lowest levels of educational attainment within the CAPCOG region, the county has experienced consistent increases during the past decade. According to the latest Census release, 76.5 percent of residents have graduated from high school, 17.5 percent of residents have a college degree, and 4.2 possess a professional or graduate degree. Since 2000, the proportion of residents in Fayette County completing high school has increased at the third-fastest pace, and the percentage of college graduates in Fayette saw the fourth-fastest increase in the CAPCOG region. During this same period, Fayette County witnessed the third-highest increase in the proportion of high school graduates and professional degree graduates.

In 2009, the unemployment rate of Fayette County was 5.6 percent, lower than the unemployment rate of the CAPCOG region. During the past decade the unemployment rate in Fayette County has consistently hovered below the unemployment rate of the CAPCOG region. From 2000 to 2009, Fayette County’s unemployment rate was an average of 0.7 percent points below the regional unemployment rate. Recently, however, the difference between the regional unemployment rate and Fayette County’s unemployment rate has widened. In 2009, for example, Fayette County’s unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points lower than the regional unemployment rate, the largest observed difference since 2002.

Median household income in Fayette County is $44,031 a decline of approximately $400 since 2000. Fayette County’s median household income is the second-lowest in the CAPCOG region and also trails Texas and the U.S. Compared to other communities, however, the declines in median household income observed in Fayette County were extremely mild. In fact, on a percentage basis, Fayette County suffered the second-least severe decline among all counties in the CAPCOG region. As median household income dropped even more precipitously at the state and national level, the gap between these two geographies and Fayette County decreased over the past decade.
The overwhelming majority of workers in the CAPCOG region continue to drive alone to work, and Fayette County employees are no exception. Approximately 78 percent of all workers in Fayette County drive alone to work, down slightly from more than 79 percent in 2000. Whereas the rise of telecommuting helped fuel declines in the proportion of workers driving to work in most other counties within the CAPCOG region, the percentage of Fayette County residents working from home actually declined during the past decade. While Fayette County workers have not widely adopted telecommuting, they are embracing carpooling. Between 2000 and 2009, the percentage of workers carpooling to their place of employment rose from 11.9 to 14 percent, the second-largest increase in the CAPCOG region. The combined proportion of workers taking public transit, biking, or walking to work in Fayette County stands at 3 percent, a slight increase since 2000.

The composition of Fayette’s housing stock has remained relatively constant during the past decade. More than 79 percent of all housing structures in Fayette County are single-family units, a significantly higher proportion than the Texas and U.S. average. Within the CAPCOG region, only Williamson County features a higher proportion of single-family housing units. The second-largest category of housing type within Fayette County, “other,” consists primarily of mobile homes. In the past decade, the proportion of “other” housing units in Fayette County increased from 14.4 to 15.6 percent. During this same period, the proportion of multi-family housing units declined from 4.1 percent to 3.6 percent. During the past decade, no other county within the CAPCOG region experienced a decline in the proportion of multi-family housing units.

A total of 69 percent of all households in Fayette County consist of families. The proportion of family households has declined slightly since 2000, falling less than 1 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.