The current population of Lee County is 16,231 an increase of approximately 500 residents since 2000. Lee County is the second-least populated county in the CAPCOG region and the slowest growing. Since 2000, Lee County has grown approximately 3 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. Lee County will likely experience modest growth for the foreseeable future.

The median age of Lee County is 38.6, nearly 5 years older than the median age of the Austin metropolitan area and approximately 2 years older than the U.S. median age. Lee County also appears to be aging more rapidly than many counties in the CAPCOG region. During the past decade, for example, Lee County had the second-largest increase in median age of any county in the CAPCOG region. 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 Lee County suggest continued growth of older populations throughout the next decade.

Like the rest of the CAPCOG region, Lee County is becoming more diverse. Approximately 65 percent of Lee County residents are white, a decline of 3 percentage points since 2000. During the past ten years, Lee County’s Hispanic population has experienced the most dramatic growth, increasing from 18 percent of the population to more than 22 percent. During this period, the black population as a proportion of the total population in Lee County fell from 12 to 11 percent. The proportion of Asian residents in Lee County increased from 0.2 percent 0.3 percent. The combined proportion of all other racial groups in Fayette County—including Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and individuals of two or more races—is approximately 1 percent.
Historically, educational attainment levels in Lee County have been below that of the CAPCOG region. During the past decade, however, the county has made important strides, especially in the area of high school completion. According to the latest Census release, approximately 78 percent of residents have graduated from high school, more than 15 percent of residents have a college degree, and 4 percent of residents possess a graduate or professional degree. Since 2000, the proportion of residents with a high school diploma in Lee County has grown at a greater pace than all but Blanco county in the CAPCOG region. During this same period, Lee County also witnessed increases in the proportion of college and professional degree graduates.

In 2009, the unemployment rate of Lee County was 6.8 percent, a single percentage point lower than the unemployment rate of the CAPCOG region. During the past decade the unemployment rate in Lee County has consistently hovered slightly below the unemployment rate of the CAPCOG region. From 2000 to 2009, Lee County’s unemployment rate was an average of 0.25 percent points below the regional unemployment rate. In fact, Lee County’s unemployment rate has not exceeded the regional average since 2000.

Median household income in Lee County is $45,161, a decline of approximately $1,550 since 2000. As a percentage of median household income, Lee County suffered the third-least severe decline among all counties in the CAPCOG region. Lee County’s median household income, however, trails that of Texas and the U.S. As median household income declined more precipitously at the state and national level, the gap between these two geographies and Lee County actually decreased over the past decade.
The overwhelming majority of workers in the CAPCOG region drive alone to work, and Lee County workers are no exception. Approximately 77 percent of all workers in Lee County drive alone to work, the fourth-highest proportion in the region. Furthermore, the percentage of workers in Lee County driving alone to work increased more than five percentage points during the past decade. Since 2000, no other county in the CAPCOG region experienced such a significant increase in the proportion of workers driving alone to work. Lee County also witnessed comparatively dramatic declines in the proportion of employees participating in carpools and working from home. During the past ten years, the percentage of workers carpooling to work dropped from 19 to 15 percent. During the same period, the proportion of residents working from home fell from 5 percent to less than 3 percent. The combined proportion of workers taking public transit, biking, or walking to work in Lee County stands at 3.1 percent, a slight increase since 2000.

The composition of Lee County’s housing stock has remained relatively constant during the past decade. More than 67 percent of all housing structures in Lee County are single-family units, a proportion similar to the Texas and U.S. average. Since 2000, the proportion of single-family units within Lee County has remained unchanged. The second largest category of housing type within Lee County, “other,” consists primarily of mobile homes. In the past decade, the proportion of “other” housing units in Lee County has dipped from 27 to 24 percent. During this same period, the proportion of multi-family housing units rose from 1.3 percent to 4.6 percent.

Approximately 70 percent of all households in Lee County consist of families. The proportion of family households has declined slightly during the past decade, falling approximately 2.5 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.