

4.1 Overview

Analysis performed by Population and Survey Analysts (PASA) for the Bryan Independent School District in 2003 points out several factors that affect growth in Brazos County. PASA finds that educational attainment is the single best predictor of accelerated population growth. In 2003 Brazos County ranked sixth out of the 254 Texas counties in the percent of persons with bachelor’s degrees. This indicator affects employment and projected population. In terms of employment, PASA predicts that Brazos County should grow twice as fast as the nation over the next few years and should be ahead of the national average for jobs in construction, technology, professional services, communications, utilities, wholesale trade, manufacturing, finance, insurance and real estate.

4.2 Bryan Independent School District

The Bryan Independent School District (BISD) serves the Bryan area by educating over 14,000 students. There are 16 neighborhood-based elementary schools (grades K-5), three middle schools (grades 6-8) and one high school. The district recently purchased land for another middle school and its second high school. The Texas Education Agency has recognized 11 Bryan campuses for academic excellence. Six elementary schools (Bowen, Crockett, Sam Houston, Johnson, Navarro and Sul Ross) were rated “Exemplary.” Bowen and Johnson elementary schools are the only National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence in the area. The honor, designated by the U.S. Department of Education, is considered the highest award for academic achievement. Bryan High School is one of 70 National Service-Learning Leader high schools in the nation; a presidential initiative where service to the community is emphasized along with academics. The campus has a state-recognized Advanced Placement Program offering courses including, calculus, foreign languages, computer science, physics, history, and economics.

The US Census Bureau gathers statistics on educational attainment through the decennial Census. Table 4.1 displays educational attainment of persons 25 years and older in Bryan and Brazos County in 2000.

Table 4.1

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older
2000

Educational Level	Bryan Total Persons	Bryan Percent of Total	Brazos Co. Total Persons	Brazos Co. Percent of Total
	36,005	100%	70,708	100%
Less than 9th gr.	4,420	12.3%	5,547	7.8%
9 th -12 th , no diploma	5,356	14.9%	7,659	10.8%
HS graduate	8,381	23.3%	14,214	20.1%
Some college	7,113	19.8%	13,946	19.7%
Associate degree	1,385	3.8%	3,190	4.5%
Bachelor’s degree	5,366	14.9%	13,933	19.7%
Grad./ Prof. degree.	3,984	11.1%	12,219	17.3%

Source: US Census

In Bryan, the percentage of persons having less than a 9th grade education and those having attended 9th to 12th grade without receiving a diploma increased from 25 percent to 27.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. In Brazos County the percentage increased from 15 percent in 1990 to 18.6 percent in 2000. Various educational characteristics and conditions for BISD and the State of Texas during the 2003-2005 academic year are displayed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2

BISD and State of Texas Education Statistics

2003-2004

Statistic	Bryan ISD	State of Texas
Total Number of Schools	25	7,813
Total Number of Students	14,263	3,311,502
Total Teachers	973	294,545
Student Teacher Ratio	14.6	14.9
Attendance Rate	95.2%	95.7%
Annual Drop Out Rate	1.9%	1.2%
TAKS: % Met standard - all grades tested -all tests 2004	56%	62%
SAT: mean total score	1010	987
ACT: mean composite score	19.5	20.1
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	62.6%	54.5%

Source: Texas Educational Agency, Comprehensive Annual Report 2004

- The student teacher ratio of 14.6 students per teacher in BISD has not changed significantly since the 1997-1998 academic year was examined in the previous Comprehensive Plan. The statewide ratio has improved but is still slightly below BISD.
- The mean total score on the SAT examinations has improved since 1997, while the mean composite score on the ACT examination declined slightly.
- The number of economically disadvantaged students in the BISD has increased substantially since 1997-1998 from 53.4 to 62.6 percent. The statewide average has also increased fairly substantially from 48.5 percent disadvantaged to almost 55 percent.
- The drop-out rate for grades 9-12 in BISD during the 2003-2004 academic year increased to 1.9 percent compared to .5 percent in 1997-1998.

Although enrollment is increasing annually in BISD, the high increase in enrollment experienced during the 1990's has begun to slow down. PASA projects school enrollment to continue to increase, but at a rate closer to 1.7 annually over the next 9 years.

4.3 Private Schools

The local community is also served by several private schools.

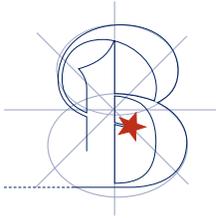
Allen Academy was founded in 1886 and its pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade coursework is designed exclusively for the college bound student. Allen serves 290 students and is accredited by SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools).

Brazos Christian School serves approximately 200 students and is a fully accredited for preschool through 12th grade. The school has been in operation for over 24 years providing a college preparatory program and athletics.

Brazos Valley Adventist School is a fully accredited school affiliated with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It has an award-winning curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 8.

St. Joseph Catholic School has provided education since 1894 for preschool through 12th grade. There are over 425 students on two campuses within the community. The school is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools and is fully accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference.

St. Michael's Academy has provided college preparatory education since 1972. The school is affiliated with the Episcopal Church but has a non-denominational enrollment. St. Michael's serves over 160 students enrolled in preschool through 12th grade. All courses are considered honors or advanced placement level. The school is accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools.



4.4 Higher Education

Texas A&M University has the third largest university enrollment in the nation with over 44,000 students. It has had a profound effect on the growth and culture of Bryan and surrounding region. It was the fastest growing university in the country when an enrollment-management plan was put in place to ensure high standards of teaching excellence. Approximately one-half of the student body is female. African American and Hispanic students currently account for 11 percent of the student body. Texas A&M's annual enrollment of approximately 700 National Merit Scholars consistently places it among the top ten U.S. institutions for such recruitment. The A&M System recently announced plans to increase the universities enrollment to 55,000 in the coming years.

Blinn College opened in Brenham, Texas in 1883 and has proven to be among the top community colleges in Texas. Classes began in the local community in 1970. A new consolidated campus was developed within the Bryan city limits in 1997. Of the three campuses (Brenham, Bryan and Schulenburg), Bryan is now the largest campus with more than 10,000 students enrolled for the 2005 fall semester. Projected future enrollment is expected to exceed 13,000 by 2015.

Many students, faculty and staff of both institutions of higher learning choose to live in Bryan. The growth in multi-family housing starts over the past five years may point to an increasing resident student population.

4.5 Employment

Table 4.3 shows the percentage of the employed population working in each industry for the City of Bryan, Brazos County and Texas. The numbers for Bryan from 1990 are shown for comparison.

Table 4.3

Employment by Industry - Bryan, Brazos County and Texas
2000

Industry	Bryan		Brazos	Texas
	1990	2000	2000	2000
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total Employed Persons	26,749	30,603	72,096	9,234,372
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries & Mining	3	2.2	2.3	2.7
Construction	6	8.3	6.6	8.1
Manufacturing	9	9.7	6.4	11.8
Transportation, communications and other public utilities	6	5.5	2.8	5.8
Wholesale trade	2	2.6	2.1	3.9
Retail trade	18	11.1	11.2	12.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	5	4.8	4.7	6.8
Entertainment, arts, recreation & food services	1	7.9	9.7	7.3
Health, educational, and related services	30	31	35.7	19.3
Other professional & related services, business, repair & personal services	16	12.5	12.2	14.7
Public administration	4	4.4	4.0	4.5

Source: U.S Census

There was an increase of 14.4 percent in total employment in Bryan between 1990 and 2000 from 26,749 to 30,603 employed persons. In 2000, the industries with the largest percentage of the employed labor force in Bryan were Health, Educational and related services accounting for 31.0 percent of the total industry employment. This was similar to the County with 35.7 percent. Also, similar to the county and the state, retail trade and other professional services were the next highest sectors. At the state level, manufacturing accounted for almost the same percent of the employed labor force as retail trade. The major employers in the region are listed in Table 4.4

Table 4.4

Major Employers in the Region - 2005

Company	Location	Products	Employees
All Sectors			
Texas A&M University & System	College Station	Educational	12,000
Bryan ISD	Bryan	Health Services	2,061
St. Joseph Regional Health Center	Bryan	Educational	1,560
College Station ISD	College Station	Educational	1,046
City of Bryan	Bryan	Government	771
College Station Medical Center	College Station	Health Services	425
City of College Station	College Station	Government	840
Brazos County	Bryan	Government	700
Scott & White Clinic	College Station	Health Services	513
Blinn College	Bryan	Educational	609
Manufacturing			
Sanderson Farms	Bryan	Poultry Processing	1,500
Universal Computer Systems	College Station	Computers	740
Alenco	Bryan	Windows	600
Finance & Real Estate			
Citibank	Brazos County	Banking	500

Source: Research Valley Partnership

4.6 Income

The median household income of persons in Bryan, Brazos County, Texas and the US in 1999 is shown in Table 4.5. According to the US Census Bureau, the per capita income in Bryan was below that of Brazos County, the State and the U.S. income levels. Median household income was above that of the County, but below the State and National incomes. The percentage of persons below the poverty level in Bryan is higher than that of the state or nation, but lower than Brazos County.

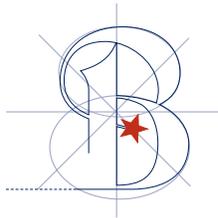


Table 4.5

Household Income				
<i>1999</i>				
Income	Bryan	Brazos Co.	Texas	US
Per Capita Income	\$15,770	\$16,212	\$19,617	\$21,587
Median Household Income	\$31,672	\$29,104	\$39,927	\$41,994
Percent individuals below poverty level	22.3%	26.9%	15.4%	12.4%
Percent families below poverty level	15.5%	14%	12%	9.2%
Percent female headed households below poverty level	39.5%	39.3%	29.5%	26.5%

Source: US Census

4.7 Economic Census

The 1992 and 2002 Economic Census data for Retail and Wholesale Trade and the Services Industry are shown in tables 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8.

Note that there was an overall decrease in the total number of total retail establishments from 1992 to 2002 but an increase in the overall sales. Two categories showing the most increase in the number of establishments during this period were “Building Materials & Garden Supplies” and “Gasoline Service Stations.”

The number of wholesale establishments dropped dramatically from 1992 to 2002 from 112 establishments to 83; however, overall sales increased 34 percent. The categories of “Personal Services” and “Automobile Repair Services” show increases in sales although the number of establishments decreased. This was not true for the “Engineering, Accounting, Research and Management” classification where the number of establishments decreased by almost nine percent and the sales decreased by almost 30 percent. “Ambulatory Health Services” showed the largest percentage increase in sales.

Table 4.6

Bryan Retail Trade Establishments and Sales

<i>1992 and 2002</i>				
	Number of Establishments	Sales (\$1000)	Number of Establishments	Sales (\$1000)
Classification	1992	1992	2002	2002
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	15	(D)	23	130,680
Electronics & Appliances	NA	NA	9	(D)
General Merchandise Stores	5	(D)	8	(D)
Food & Beverage Stores	42	(D)	46	89,284
Convenience Store	NA	NA	21	(D)
Automotive Dealers	35	171,741	21	(D)
Gasoline Service Stations	29	27,667	41	56,358
Apparel and Accessory Stores	15	(D)	16	5,569
Furniture & Home Furnishings	23	17,468	14	18,373
Drug and Pharmacy Stores	12	9,311	6	(D)
Miscellaneous Retail Stores	69	(D)	42	(D)
Total	329*	439,184	285*	748,201

(NA) Not Available (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing operations of individual companies

* The totals are not the sum of the column as not all classifications were included.

Source: US Census Bureau, Texas Economic Census

Table 4.7

Bryan Services Establishments and Sales

1992 AND 2002

Classification	No. of Establishments			Receipts (\$1000)		
	1992	2002	% Change	1992	2002	% Change
Accommodation & Food Service	NA	118		NA	65,202	
Hotels, Houses, Camps, Other	5	10	100	(D)	(D)	
Food & Drink	NA	108		NA	(D)	
Personal Services	55	50	-9.0	12,105	24,738	104.4
Auto Repair, Services, Parking	66	52	-21.2	19,596	23,678	20.8
Arts/Amusement/Recreational	21	17	-19.0	9,417	(D)	
Ambulatory Health Services	124	168	35.4	81,572	248,107	190.2
Legal Services	38	50	31.5	15,847	(D)	
Select Educational Services	3	12	300.0	(D)	(D)	
Social Services & Child care	22	56	154.5	4,023	(D)	
Engineering, Accounting, Research, & Management	78	71	-8.9	33,700	23,604	-29.9

(NA) Not Available (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing operations of individual companies.

Source: US Census, Texas Economic Census

4.8 Labor Force

Employment figures for 1990, 2000 and an estimate for 2005 are provided in Table 4.9. The unemployment rate for Bryan has been decreasing since 1990 and is now below the state rate of 5.0%. This trend was occurring while the Bryan civilian labor force increased by 6.3 percent in the past five years

Table 4.8

Employment - Persons 16 Years and Older

Labor Force	Bryan			Brazos County			Texas
	1990	2000	August 2005	1990	2000	2005	October 2005
Civilian Labor Force	32,315	34,359		78,811		Not available	11,310,700
Employed	26,749	30,603	32,916	56,368	72,096	"	10,742,600
Unemployed	1,652	1,712	1,443	3,429	6,715	"	568,100
Total in labor force	28,401	32,537	Not available	59,797	79,136	"	9,937,150
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.3%	4.2%	5.7%	8.5%	"	5.0%

Source: US Census, Population and Survey Analysts, Texas Workforce Commission

A decreasing unemployment rate and an increasing work force population is a positive trend. The positive population growth seen in this area and in Bryan in particular can be expected to continue. This continued growth will help the economy continue in a positive direction. In the future it will be important to encourage new business and industry where there are gaps in the market, and to help existing business to grow as well.