

Frequently asked questions about population and employment projections

Why are the Population and Employment Projections being prepared now?

The Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization both require population, employment and other demographic and scenario-based projection data to the year 2045 to facilitate their state and federally mandated work efforts. In addition to supporting the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model development, the data must also support the missions of other agencies including the Hillsborough County School Board, HART, Fire/EMS, Parks and Recreation, and Utilities. Because many of these agencies plan in a 10-year cycle, this may mean that more attention should be paid to the interim year data than is typical for transportation model development.

How often are population projections published and what set of geographic boundaries are used?

The BEBR, (Bureau of Economic and Business Research) Population Program produces Florida's official city, county and state population projections each year. It also produces population projections by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for the state and each county.

How is this done?

BEBR Staff members conduct research on the accuracy of population estimates and projections, seasonal migration, the effects of hurricanes on population growth and a variety of other demographic topics.

How will the Forecast Scenarios be developed?

Up to five scenarios will be developed using the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) data as guidance. The scenarios will focus on potential alternative transportation, infrastructure improvements and land use patterns and their impact on future growth throughout the tri-county area.

Considerations in the scenario development may include: redevelopment and reinvestment in established centers versus continued outward growth; and different countywide control totals based on varying assumptions about how much regional growth will be absorbed by Hillsborough County compared to other counties.

Population Estimates vs. Population Projections – What's the difference?

An **estimate** is a statistic about a whole **population** for a previous reference period which is based on data from a sample of the **population**, whereas a **projection** is a statistic indicating what a value would be if the assumptions about future trends hold true.

Each year the Planning Commission prepares population and housing unit estimates for Unincorporated Hillsborough County and the cities of Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace. These estimates are prepared at the Census Tract level and then aggregated into the correct jurisdiction. Analysis at the Census Tract level allows other agencies and the public to identify geographic areas which are either adding or losing housing units and, concomitantly, adding or losing people.

How were the current 2040 Long Range Growth Forecast (Socioeconomic Data) forecasts prepared?

Growth forecasts were prepared for the update of the Imagine 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and local comprehensive plans. The analysis was prepared using Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) and the forecast extends to the year 2040.

As part of the Plan 2040 update, three distinct growth scenarios were evaluated and presented to the public for review and comment. Because of the Imagine 2040 effort, a final preferred hybrid scenario was developed to guide the Imagine 2040 Plan.

For more information click below:

<http://www.planhillsborough.org/long-range-growth-forecasts-socioeconomic-data/>

Who prepares the Socioeconomic Data used for Transportation Planning?

The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for coordinating transportation planning for Hillsborough County. As part of this effort, the MPO is responsible for updating the federally-mandated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every five years. Related to the LRTP update, the Planning Commission updates the Comprehensive Plans for Plant City, Temple Terrace, Tampa and Unincorporated Hillsborough County.

The purpose of the LRTP is to identify needed transportation improvements within the county.

The Comprehensive Plan guides public policy in terms of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. Together, these documents guide future development of the county.

One of the first steps in the LRTP process is to develop a forecast of the geographic distribution of the county's population and employment over the LRTP timeframe. These "socioeconomic" data document anticipated population and employment concentrations and are used to forecast future travel patterns.

For more information click below:

<http://www.planhillsborough.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/SE-Data-Tech-Memo-2014-7-9-Final.pdf>