#### City of Austin, Office of the City Auditor

### AFFORDABILITY REVIEW PROJECT: COUNCIL DISTRICT PROFILES

December 2016

As requested by City Council, the Office of the City Auditor conducted this special project to identify factors that affect affordability for Austin residents. Demographic and expenditure information was summarized for each Council district and the city overall in a series of profiles.



**Deputy City Auditor** Jason Hadavi

#### **Team**

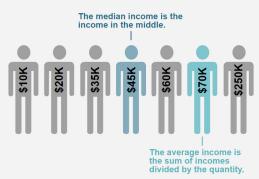
Niki Raggi, Assistant City Auditor Mary Dory, Auditor-in-Charge Cameron Lagrone, Auditor Michael McGill, Senior Auditor Tope Eletu-Odibo, Senior Investigator Emily Hebert, Audit Intern



#### TERMINOLOGY AND DATA NOTES

For variable definitions, methodology, and a more extensive discussion of data sources, please see the last page of this report.

#### **Medians versus Averages**



These profiles often rely on medians rather than average estimates. Medians are the center point of the data, and thus are less affected by outliers (such as a few households with extremely high or low incomes). Averages, on the other hand, tend to be skewed towards large outliers. This means that medians are often a better choice for describing what is happening at the district level.

#### **Households and Families**

These profiles analyze income and expenditures (with the exception of child care) at the household level.



A household is defined by the Census as an occupied housing unit. This means that a household can have many different compositions – it might be a single person living alone, a group of roommates, a married couple without children, or a family.

Families are a specific subset of households. The Census defines a family household as a household in which one or more persons are related to the householder by marriage, birth, or adoption.

#### Median Household Income versus Median Family Income

Median Family Income



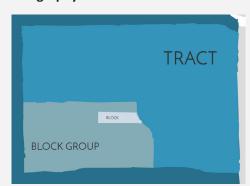


Median Household Income

These profiles focus on median household income rather than median family income. Measures of family income are often higher than measures of household income. This is because many family households have two incomes, whereas households of single individuals (and therefore single incomes) are excluded from median family income by default. In comparison, the median household income is based on all households.

Although median family income is important for many social service activities, we concluded that median household income was a more accurate reflection of income for the typical Austin household, and therefore the best measure for the districts and city as a whole.

#### **Geography and Data Sources**



The data used in these profiles reflect a combination of public and private sources. All data were estimated for 2015. GIS analysis was used to map the data and generate estimates at the Council district and city-wide level.

With the exception of property tax estimates and child care estimates, all data were estimated at the Census block group level. Property tax estimates were calculated by property and child care estimates are based on market rates for all of Travis County.

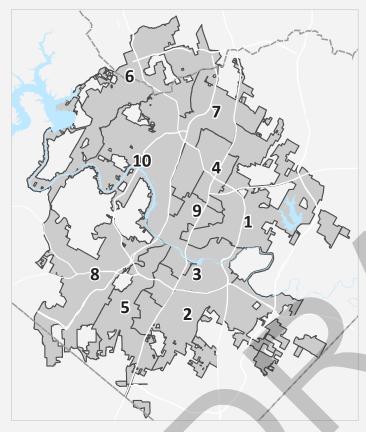
#### CITY OF AUSTIN

\$52,460 2015 Median Household Income

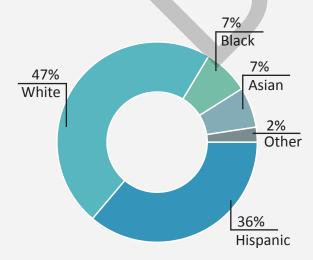
2.36 2015 Average Household Size

\$270,610 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

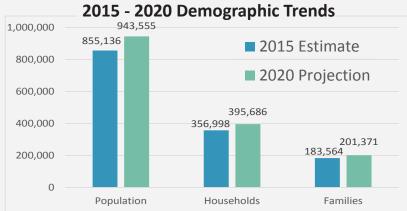
\$4,910 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*



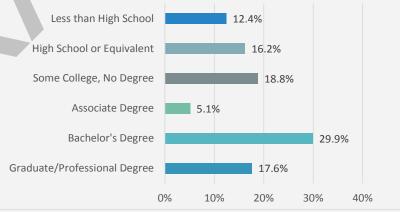
\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

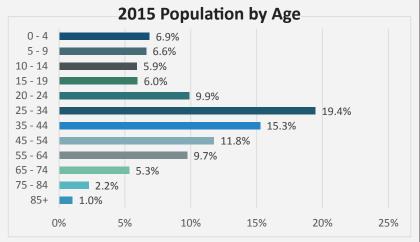


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

## 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5 Professional/Tech Services Educational Services 10.4%







#### **CITY OF AUSTIN**

#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

	by Renter	\$12,430
Housing <	by Owner	\$23,690
Utilities		\$4,930
Food		\$9,020
Transportati	ion	\$10,850
Health Care		\$4,370
Education &	Retirement	\$8,980

Annual Renter Spending: \$50,580

Annual Owner Spending: \$61,840

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

Citywide, renters spend 48% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



**57% Renter Households** 

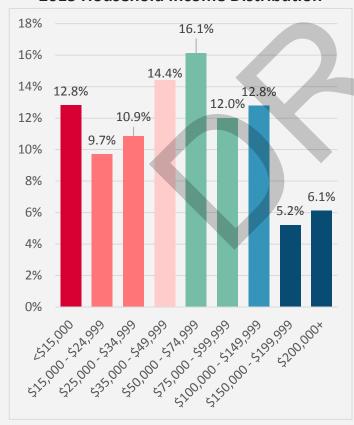
43% Owner Households

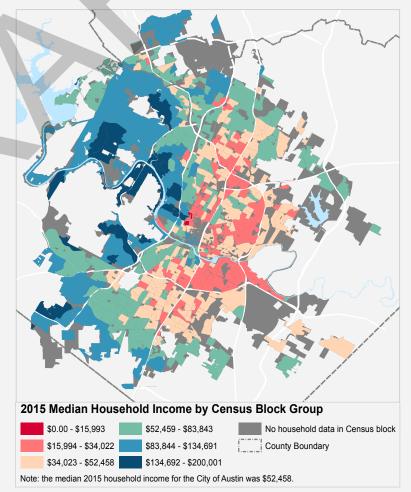
Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 58,700 children under five in Austin.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution





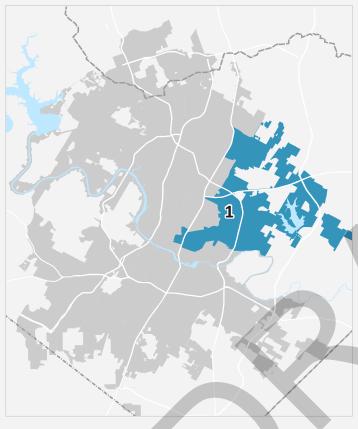
\$52,460 2015 Median Household Income

\$39,790 2015 Median Household Income

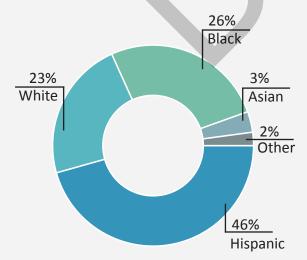
2.72 2015 Average Household Size

\$193,650 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

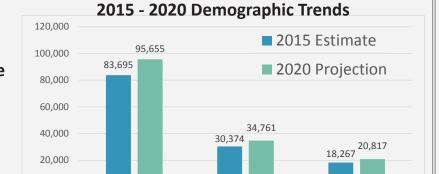
\$3,570 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*



\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

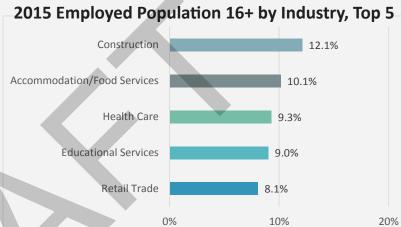


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

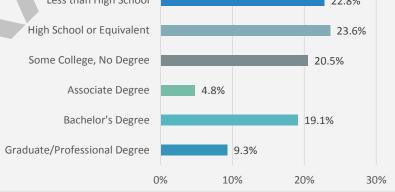
Households

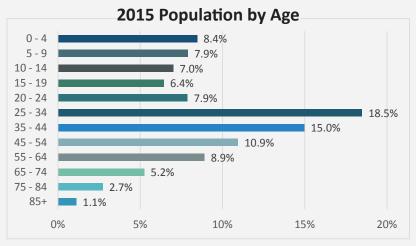
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Population









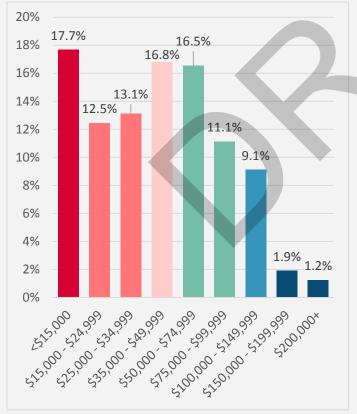
#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

by Renter \$8,840	71	
Housing by Owner\$15,200	64	AUS
<b>Utilities</b> \$3,440	70	
<b>Food</b> \$6,180	69	1
Transportation \$7,460	64 70 69 69	rc
<b>Health Care</b> 3,050	70	ī
Education & Retirement \$5,990	67_	

Annual Renter Spending: \$34,960
Annual Owner Spending: \$41,320

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



\$39,790 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 1, renters spend 42% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



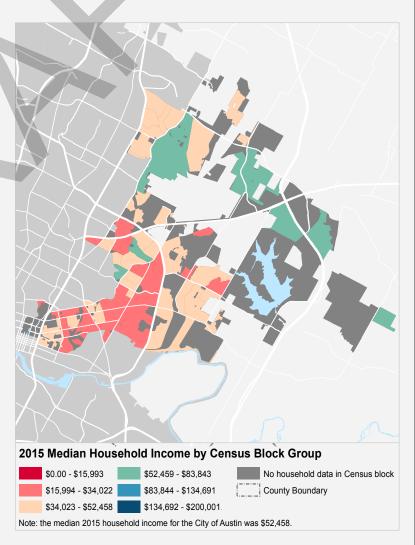
53% Renter Households

47% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 7,070 children under five in District 1.

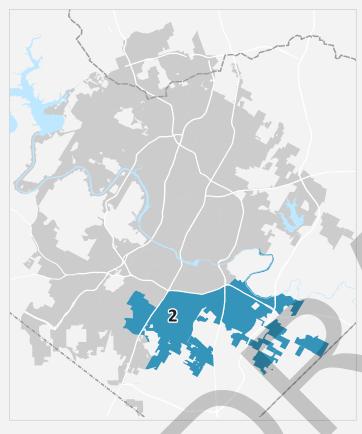


\$41,130 2015 Median Household Income

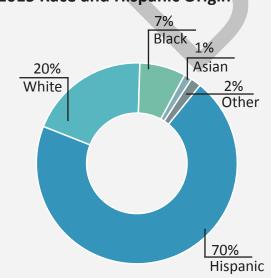
3.11 2015 Average Household Size

\$150,080 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

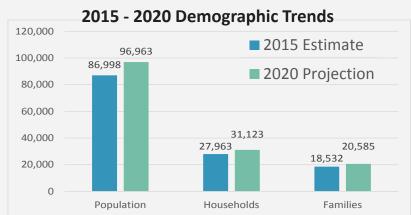
\$2,660 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

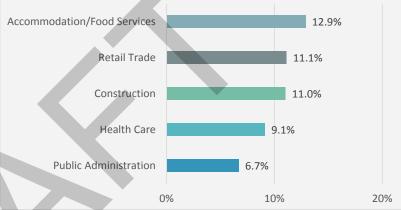


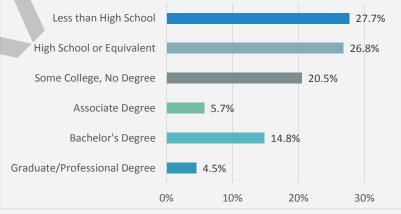
\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

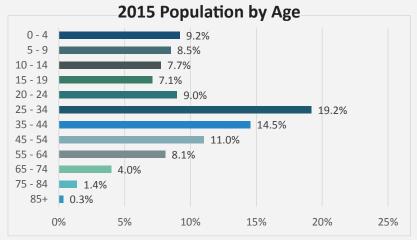


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

#### 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5







#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

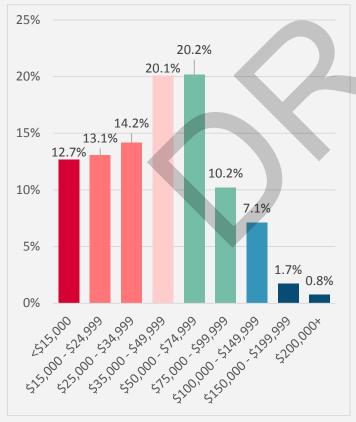
Education & Retirement \$5,850	65_
<b>Health Care</b> \$2,950	67
<b>Transportation</b> \$7,400	68
<b>Food</b> \$6,070	67
<b>Utilities</b>	69
Housing	60
Housing by Renter \$8,770	71

Annual Renter Spending: \$34,440

Annual Owner Spending: \$39,780

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 2, renters spend 38% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



50% Renter Households

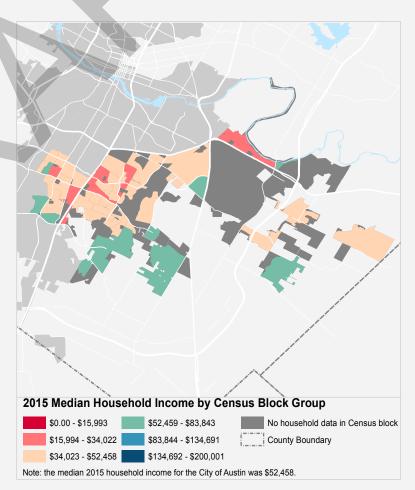
Austin Spending Index\*

50% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 7,990 children under five in District 2.



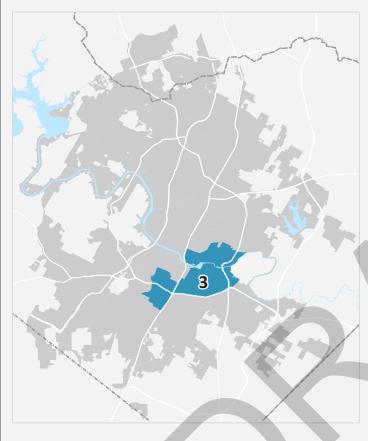
#### \$41,130 2015 Median Household Income

\$29,430 2015 Median Household Income

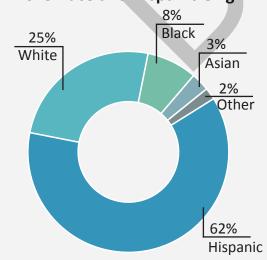
2.48 2015 Average Household Size

\$224,850 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

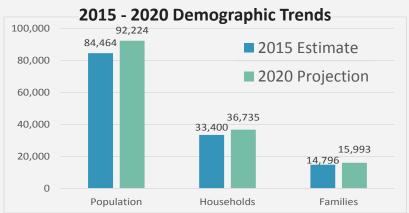
\$3,540 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



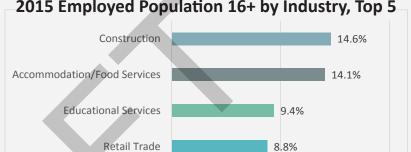
#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*



\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.



NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

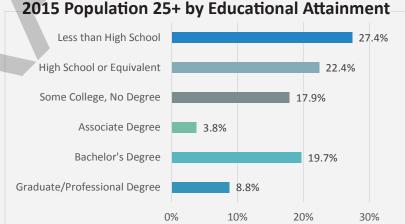


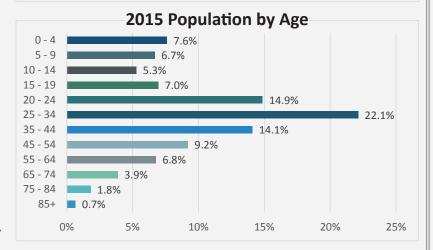
8.6%

10%

20%

Health Care





#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

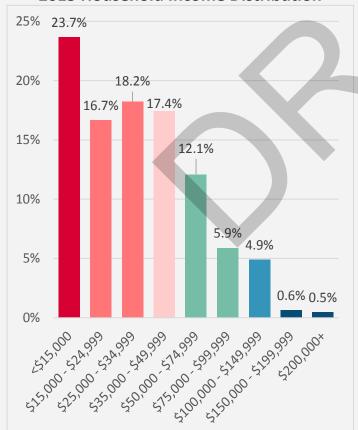
by Renter \$6,230	50
Housing by Owner\$17,640	74
<b>Utilities</b> \$2,610	53
<b>Food</b> \$4,750	53
<b>Transportation</b> \$5,650	52
<b>Health Care</b> \$2,120	49
Education and Savings \$4,330	48 I –

Austin Spending Index

Annual Renter Spending: \$25,690
Annual Owner Spending: \$37,100

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### **2015 Household Income Distribution**



Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

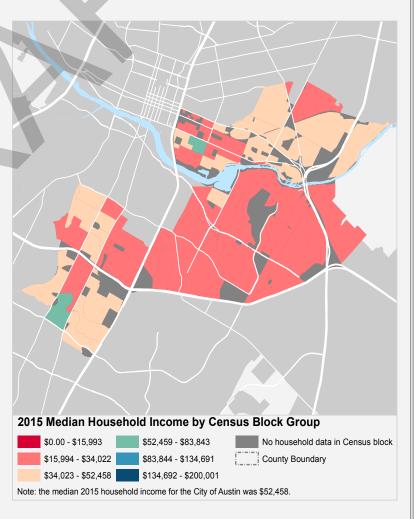
In District 3, renters spend 65% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 6,430 children under five in District 3.



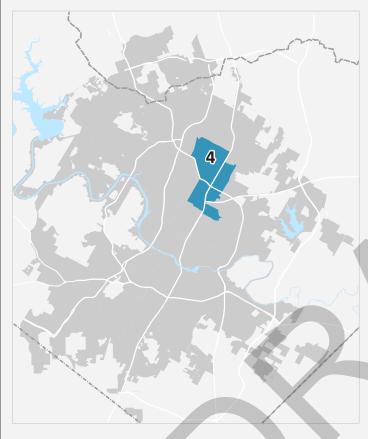
#### \$29,430 2015 Median Household Income

\$33,840 2015 Median Household Income

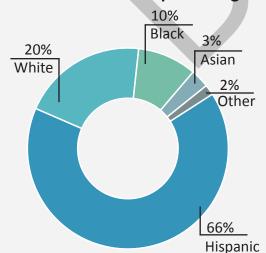
2.90 2015 Average Household Size

\$178,360 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

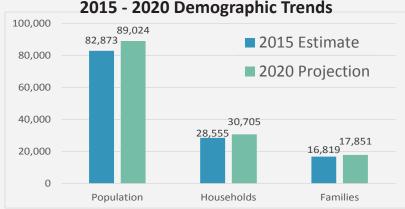
\$3,090 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



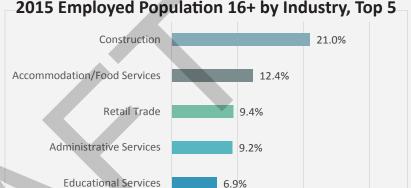
#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*



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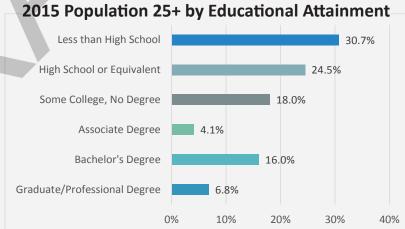
NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

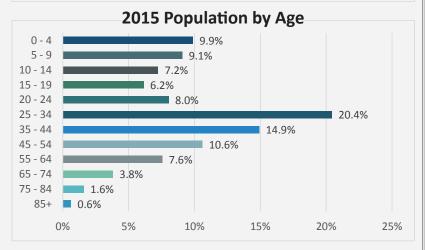


10%

20%

30%





#### 2015 Average Annual Household **Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers**

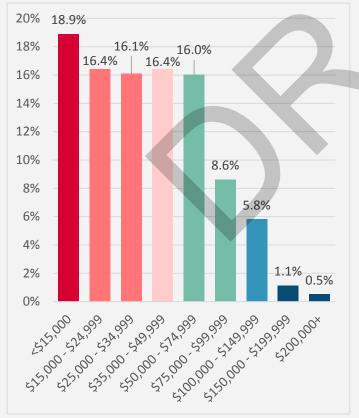
Housing $<$	by Renter		58	
	by Owner	\$17,990	76	Aust
Utilities		\$2,950	60	Austin Spending
Food		\$5,490	61	endi
Transportation	on	\$6,390	59	
Health Care		\$2,430	56	Index*
Education &	Retirement	\$4,950	55_	

**Annual Renter Spending:** \$29,450 \$40,200

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

**Annual Owner Spending:** 

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



\$33,840 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 4, renters spend 60% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



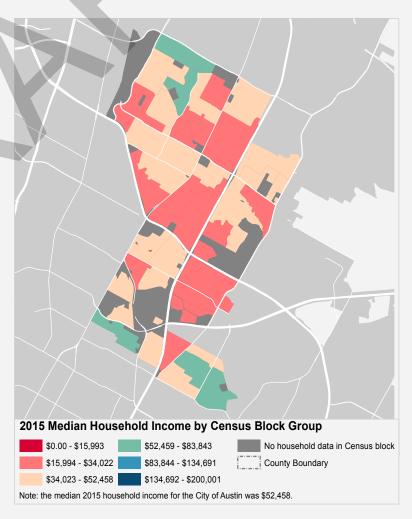
72% Renter Households

28% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 8,200 children under five in District 4.

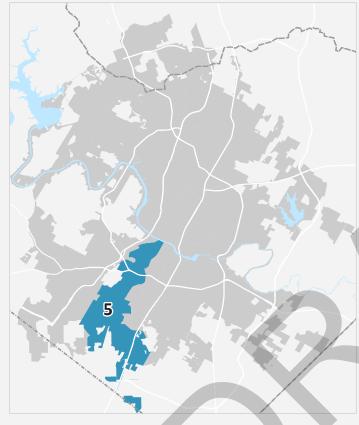


\$59,000 2015 Median Household Income

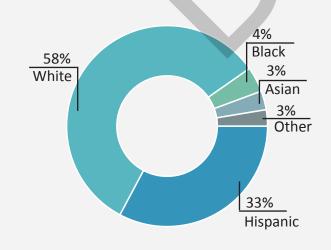
2.19 2015 Average Household Size

\$233,290 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

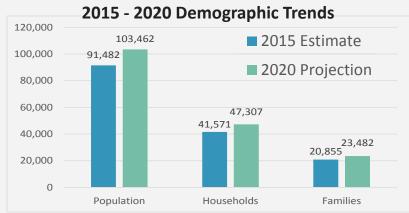
\$4,350 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*



<sup>\*</sup>Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

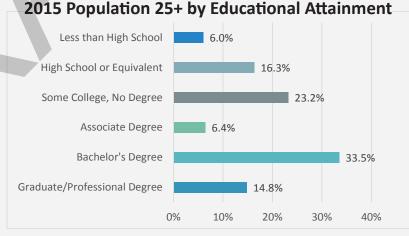


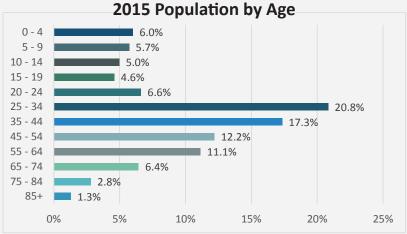
NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

# Retail Trade Professional/Tech Services Educational Services Health Care Accommodation/Food Services 10.4% 9.9%

10%

20%





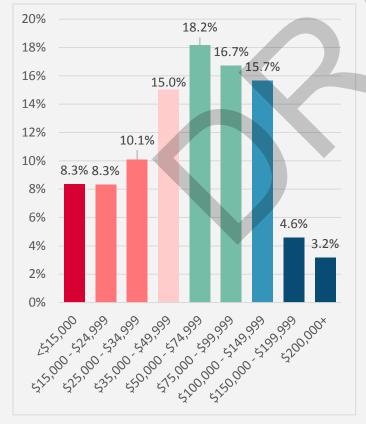
#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

by Renter	\$12,300	99
Housing < by Owner	\$20,510	87
Utilities	\$4,770	97
Food	\$8,570	95
Transportation	\$10,480	97
Health Care	\$4,320	99
Education & Retirement	\$8,520	95_

Annual Renter Spending: \$48,960
Annual Owner Spending: \$57,170

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### **2015 Household Income Distribution**



\$59,000 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 5, renters spend 40% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



51% Renter Households

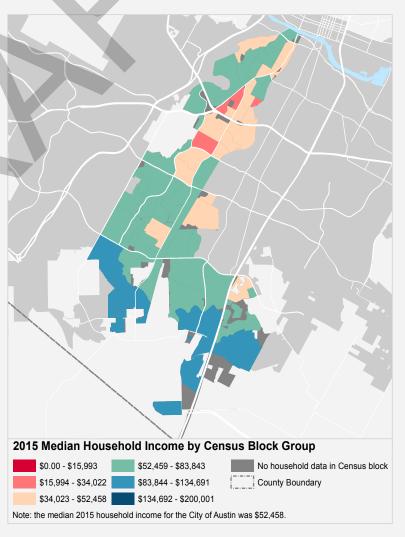
Austin Spending Index\*

49% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

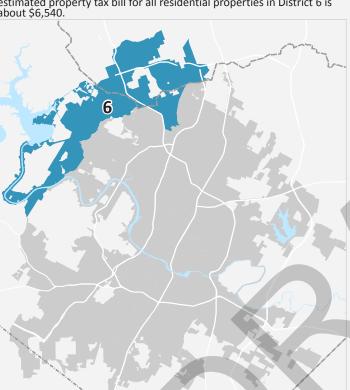
There are approximately 5,500 children under five in District 5.



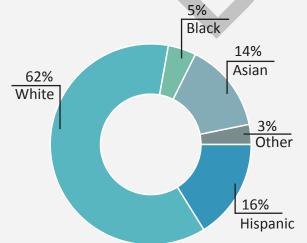
2015 Median Household \$78,510 Income 2.28 2015 Average Household Size 2015 Median Appraised \$387,660 Home Value<sup>y</sup> 2015 Median Estimated \$7,620 Property Tax Bill<sup>y</sup>

\*Estimated 2015 property taxes and appraisal values for all Council districts were calculated using Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD) data. However, approximately half the residential properties in District 6 are located in the Williamson Central Appraisal District (WCAD). The median appraisal value of District 6 residential properties using both TCAD and appraisal value of District 6 residential properties using both TCAD and WCAD data was \$304,835 in 2015. Testing indicated that the median estimated property tax bill for all residential properties in District 6 is

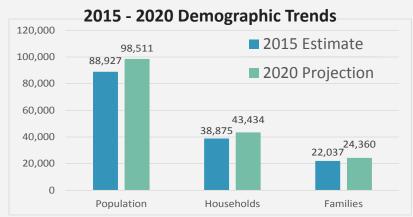




#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

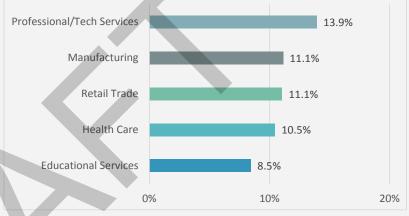


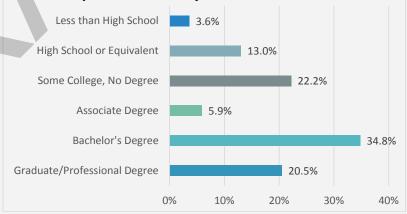
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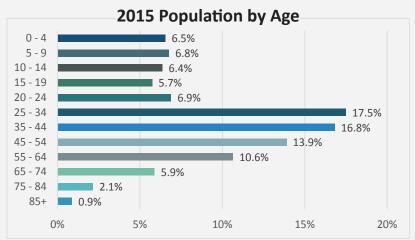


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

#### 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5







#### 2015 Average Annual Household **Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers**

Education & Retirement \$11,760	131_
<b>Health Care</b> \$5,630	129
<b>Transportation</b> \$13,850	128
<b>Food</b> \$11,410	127
<b>Utilities</b>	127
Housing by Owner\$30,990	131
Housing by Renter \$14,550	117

\$63,430 **Annual Renter Spending:** \$79,870 **Annual Owner Spending:** 

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

2015 Household Income Distribution



#### \$78,510 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 6, renters spend 53% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



56% Renter Households

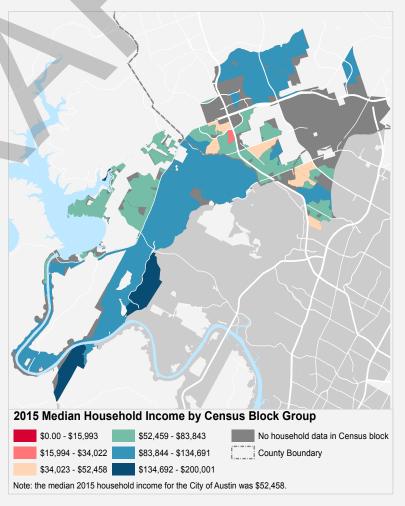
Austin Spending Index

44% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 5,810 children under five in District 6.

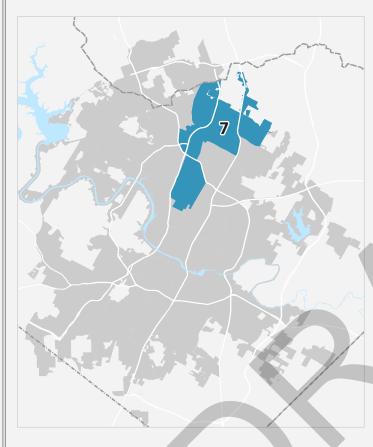


\$55,750 2015 Median Household Income

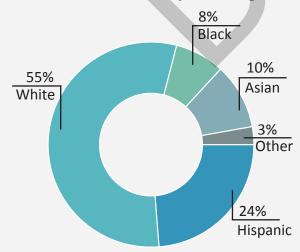
2.06 2015 Average Household Size

\$264,140 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

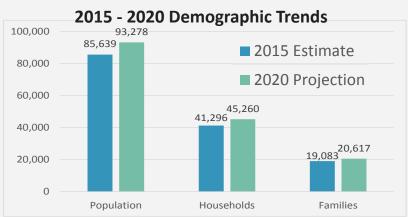
\$4,970 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

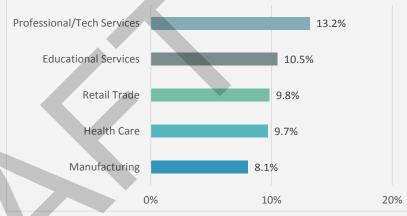


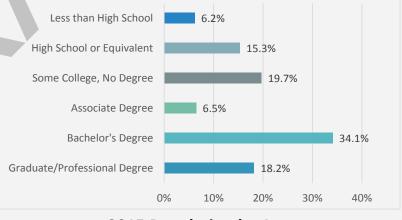
\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

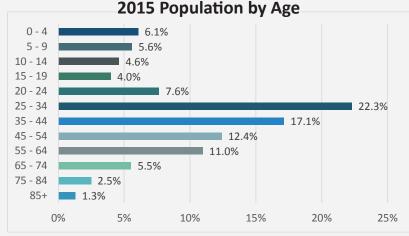


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

#### 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5







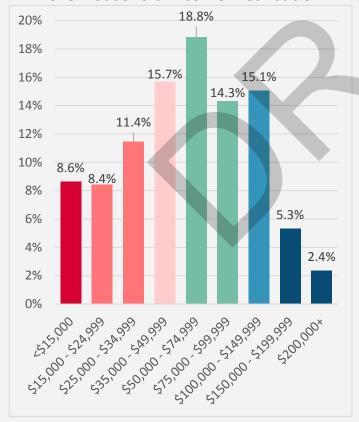
#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

	by Renter		88	
	by Owner	\$22,760	96	Aust
Utilities		\$4,490	91	ll op
Food		\$8,200	91	endi
Transportati	on	\$9,900	91	Austin spending maex
Health Care		\$4,030	92	uex .
Education &	Retirement	\$8,150	91_	

Annual Renter Spending: \$45,700
Annual Owner Spending: \$57.530

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



#### \$55,750 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 7, renters spend 52% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



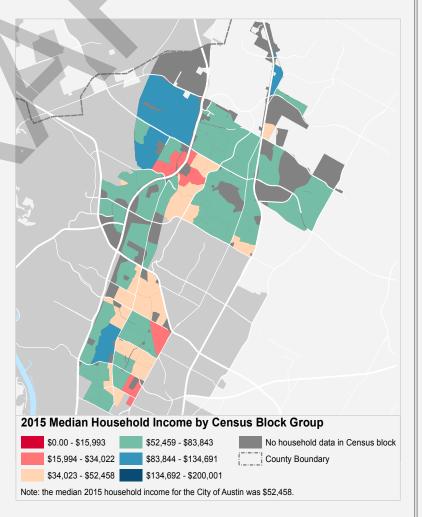
**60% Renter Households** 

40% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 5,190 children under five in District 7.

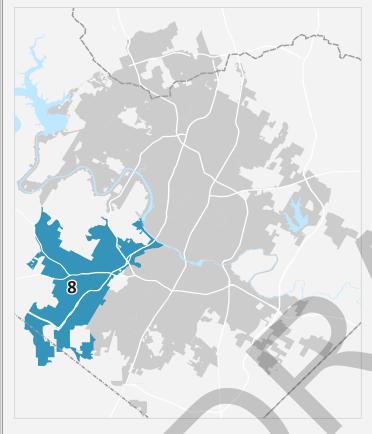


\$94,240 2015 Median Household Income

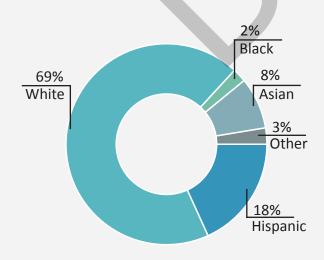
2.47 2015 Average Household Size

\$346,380 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

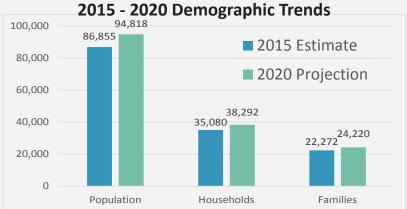
\$6,650 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

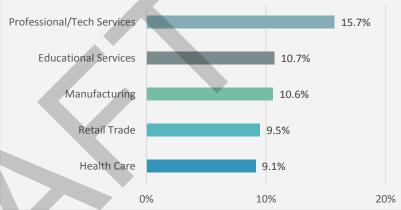


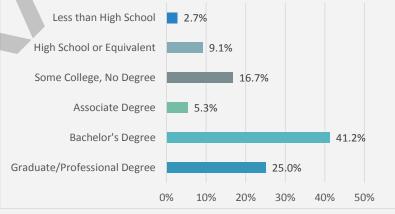
<sup>\*</sup>Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

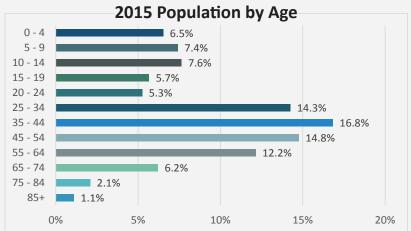


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

#### 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5







#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

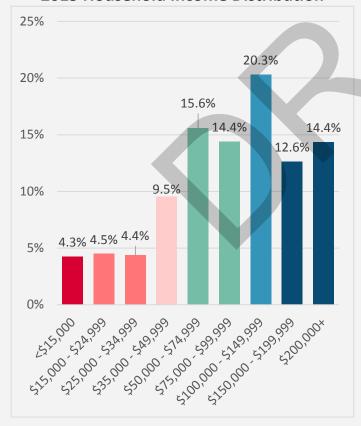
Education & Retirement \$15,070	168_
<b>Health Care</b> \$7,220	165
<b>Transportation</b> \$16,780	155
<b>Food</b> \$13,700	152
<b>Utilities</b>	152
Housing by Owner\$30,860	130
Housing by Renter \$18,510	149

Annual Renter Spending: \$78,790

Annual Owner Spending: \$91,140

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 8, renters spend 40% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



37% Renter Households

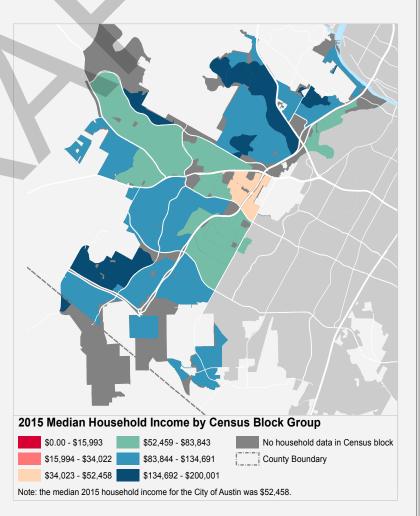
Austin Spending Index\*

**63% Owner Households** 

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 5,670 children under five in District 8.



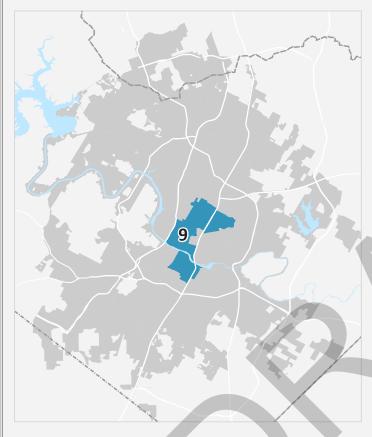
#### \$94,240 2015 Median Household Income

\$39,230 2015 Median Household Income

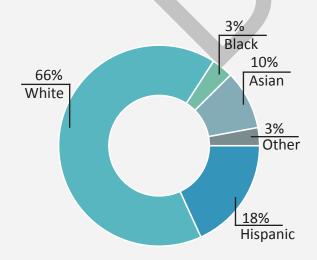
1.83 2015 Average Household Size

\$457,450 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

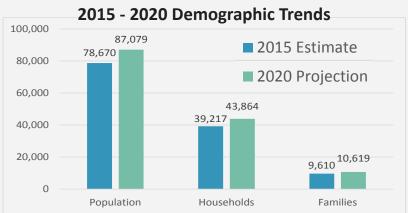
\$8,530 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



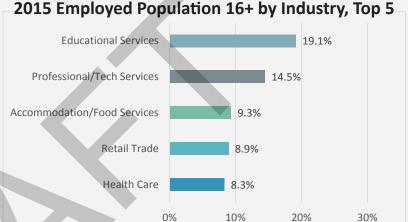
#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

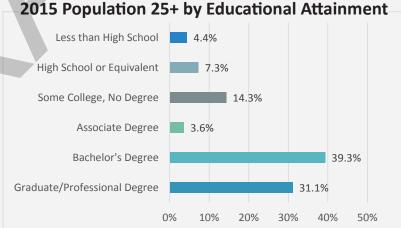


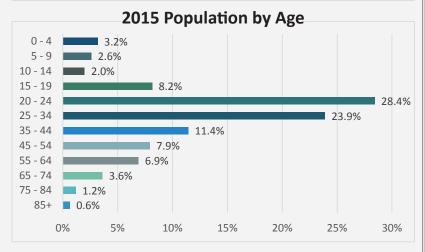
\*Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.



NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.







#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

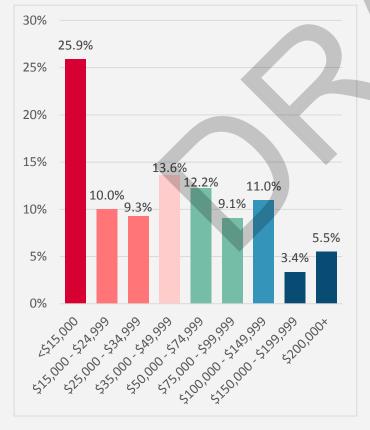
Housing by Renter \$11,21	
by Owner\$26,34	0 111
<b>Utilities</b> \$4,10	0 83
<b>Food</b> \$7,79	0 86
Transportation \$9,21	0 85
<b>Health Care</b> \$3,43	0 78
Education & Retirement \$7,54	0 84

Austin Spending Index\*

Annual Renter Spending: \$43,280
Annual Owner Spending: \$58.410

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



\$39,230 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 9, renters spend 57% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.

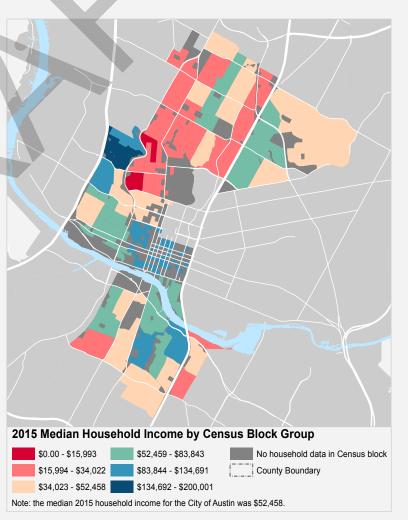


26% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 2,510 children under five in District 9.

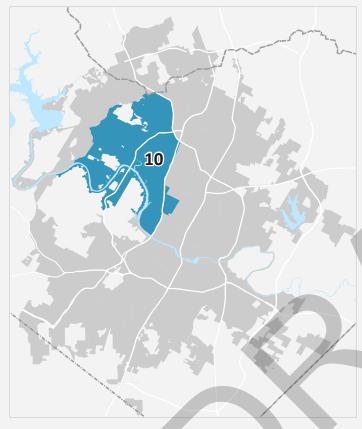


\$83,890 2015 Median Household Income

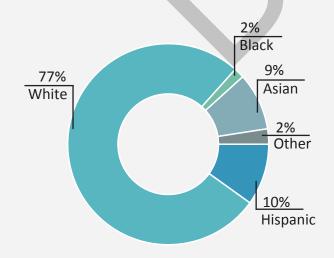
2.09 2015 Average Household Size

\$522,270 2015 Median Appraised Home Value

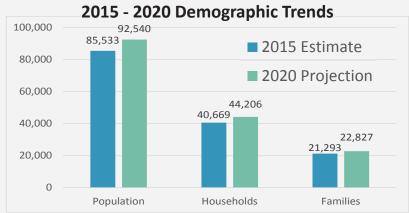
\$9,810 2015 Median Estimated Property Tax Bill



#### 2015 Race and Hispanic Origin\*

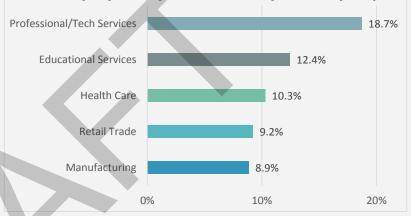


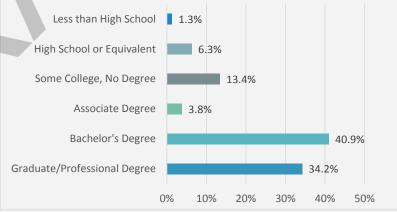
<sup>\*</sup>Based on Census Bureau methodology, people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. White, Black, Asian, and other populations included here are non-Hispanic.

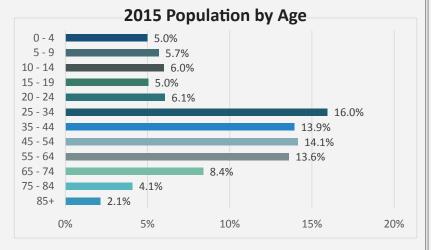


NOTE: The Census Bureau defines a household as an occupied housing unit. Families are a subset of households, in which there is at least one person present who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

#### 2015 Employed Population 16+ by Industry, Top 5







#### 2015 Average Annual Household Spending on Affordability Cost Drivers

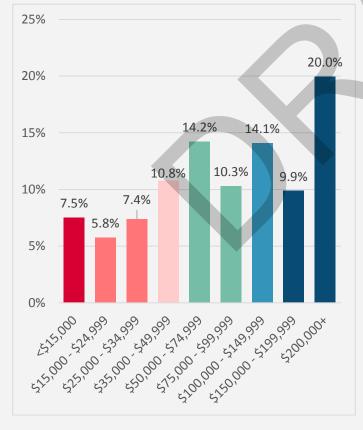
Housing <	by Renter \$20,050	161
Housing	by Owner \$35,190	149
Utilities	\$7,720	157
Food	\$14,380	160
Transportati	on\$17,240	159
Health Care	\$7,470	171
Education &	<b>Retirement</b> \$15,810	176_

Annual Renter Spending: \$82,670

Annual Owner Spending: \$97,810

\*Austin Spending Potential Index: The Austin SPI is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a citywide average of 100. If the index is greater than 100, district residents spend more on average on that product or service than the average Austinite.

#### 2015 Household Income Distribution



#### \$83,890 2015 Median Household Income

Housing costs are the largest basic expense for most Austinites.

In District 10, renters spend 43% less on average on housing costs than homeowners.



**45% Renter Households** 

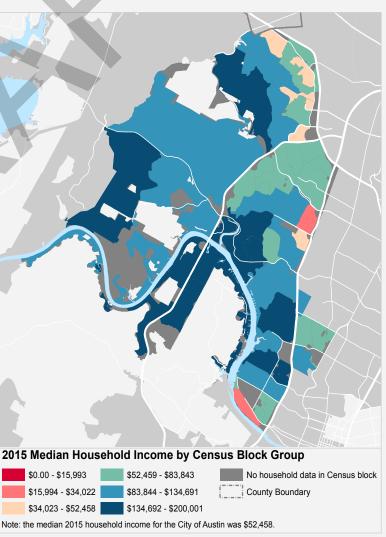
Austin Spending Index\*

55% Owner Households

Child care is another major expense for some Austinites.

In 2015, the average cost per child of full-time child care in Travis County was \$7,720.

There are approximately 4,270 children under five in District 10.



#### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Data Source**

The Office of the City Auditor (OCA) Affordability Review project summarizes demographic and expenditure information at the city-wide level and for each of the ten City Council districts. All data is for 2015. Data for property tax data and for child care expenditures were derived from publically available data, as explained in more detail below. All other data were derived from a private dataset, Esri Business Analyst. OCA utilized Esri Business Analyst due to the need for demographic and expenditure data that were recent, accurate, and geographically precise. Esri Business Analyst data is derived from public and private sources, which are combined and forecasted through various statistical modeling techniques. Data sources used by Esri Business Analyst include the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census, the Internal Revenue Service, the Postal Service, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as well as a variety of privately developed databases.

Additional data source information:

- Demographic and expenditure estimates were developed using Esri Business Analyst block group level data for 2015. The data were apportioned to the relevant geographic boundaries.
- Appraised home values and estimated property taxes for 2015 were obtained from the Travis Central Appraisal District. This
  information is publicly available, but the Office of the City Auditor appreciates the assistance of the Chief Appraiser in supplying the
  data in a centralized format. Estimated property taxes take into account all applicable exemptions and freeze ceilings. Information
  from the Williamson Central Appraisal District was also used to estimate home values and property taxes in District 6.
- Estimated child care costs used in the profiles is based on 2015 market rate data collected for the Texas Workforce Commission's
  Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey.

#### **Expenditure Variable - Definitions**

**Housing Costs, Owner:** Includes mortgage interest, mortgage principal, property taxes, homeowner's insurance, ground rent, maintenance and remodeling services, maintenance and remodeling materials, and property management and security costs.

**Housing Costs, Renter:** Includes rent, rent received as pay, renters' insurance, maintenance and repair services, and maintenance and repair materials.

Utilities: Includes electricity, natural gas, phone services, and water and other public services.

**Food:** Includes expenditures on food at home and food away from home. Spending on alcoholic beverages is excluded.

**Transportation:** Includes vehicle purchases, vehicle finance charges, gasoline and motor oil, maintenance and repairs, vehicle insurance, public transportation, and vehicle rental, leases, licenses, and other charges.

**Health Care:** Includes health insurance, medical services, drugs, and medical supplies.

**Education and Retirement:** Includes tuition, fees, textbooks, supplies, and equipment for educational pursuits, as well as all Social Security contributions paid by employees, employee contributions to pension programs, and retirement programs for the self-employed.

#### **Expenditure Variable - Methodology**

Average expenditure estimates were used because individual household-level expenditure data is not available. Therefore, median expenditures could not be calculated.

**Housing Costs** 

Average housing costs were calculated by dividing the total housing expenditures by the relevant number of housing units. Average housing costs for owners were divided by the total number of owner-occupied housing units for the designated area, while average housing costs for renters were divided by the total number of renter-occupied housing units for the designated area.

#### **Child Care**

The expenditure data used in our other analyses did not allow us to estimate child care costs by household. For a household-level analysis, we used Travis County data from the 2015 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey. The average daily cost of full-time care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers was multiplied by 250, which was the number of days we estimated that full-time care was required per year.

#### **All Other Expenditures**

Average expenditures for all other variables were calculated by dividing the total expenditures for that category over the total number of households in the designated area.



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email: oca\_auditor@austintexas.gov

website: http://www.austintexas.gov/auditor

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