

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important parameters of the planning process is the analysis and projection of the population in the planning area. The purpose of projecting population as a part of the comprehensive plan is not to predict the number of inhabitants of the city in an absolutely accurate sense such that one would know the exact population of the city on any given day during the next 20 years or so, but rather to provide a general scale for future development which is compatible with the prospects and potentialities of the city.

There are three main factors affecting the size of population within the city: births, deaths and migration. The number of births which occur within the city is determined by a variety of socioeconomic factors, among which are the number of women of child-bearing age, income and employment opportunities and the decisions of family units within the city with respect to family size. The number of deaths which occur is affected in so small manner by the level and application of medical services and the degree of concentration of the population in older age groups. The level of migration into or out of the city is primarily determined by the availability of adequate employment and income opportunities. The complex interaction of these forces has resulted in the population of Lucas being what it is today.

The population estimates made in this plan are based upon trends which have developed in Lucas primarily in the last 30 years and upon county population forecasting. The total population of Collin County is projected by the Texas State Data Center and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to grow by over 60 percent over the next 20 years. It is assumed then that Lucas will also experience a similar rate of growth if the local and regional economies remain stable. After estimating the size and density of the future population, it becomes possible to determine the future level of demand for facilities and to develop indices for a large number of problems which typically confront those persons who are actively involved in making decisions related to the planning process. If the Lucas Community Development Plan is to provide the City Council with a realistic guide to the future development and redevelopment of the City, then it is necessary that the analysis of past population trends and projection of future population levels be as accurate and realistic as possible.

The amount and general type of potential growth and/or improvement for Lucas is mostly predicated on its population size, composition, and spatial distribution. The population size expresses the overall dimensional requirements of the physical environment, and serves as a basic benchmark by which to estimate and categorize the spatial demands for various land uses. When the element of time is introduced, and future trends in population size are estimated, a rational basis is formed for approximating the timing, sizing, and extent of future public and private improvements. It is especially important to emphasize that holding capacity projections and facility planning require an understanding of the timing and distribution of future population patterns. In short, projected population demand is the rational basis for sizing infrastructure and establishing the timing of capital expenditures. Suffice it to say, cities cannot properly budget for service delivery without a basic knowledge of its population trends.

POPULATION TRENDS

As indicated in Table 2.1, the population of Lucas has increased dramatically since 1970. This is a reflection of the desire on the part of many people to live in a rural or “small town” environment while keeping close to major urban centers for better employment opportunities. The current population is estimated at 4,270 persons, and is based upon calculations which reflect the current housing inventory with an average household size of 3.06 persons.

TABLE 2.1
CITY OF LUCAS
POPULATION GROWTH

YEAR	POPULATION	PERCENT GROWTH
1970	540*	
1980	1,370*	153.7
1990	2,205*	60.8
2000	2,890*	31.0
2003	3,300**	14.2
2004	4,270***	29.4

* U.S. Bureau of the Census ** NCTCOG estimates *** Based on 2004 housing survey

Continued population growth in Lucas is supported by forecast data for Collin County prepared by both the Texas State Data Center (TSDC) and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). According to TSDC data which uses an extensive cohort-survival population forecasting model, the population of Collin County is expected to increase by over 60 percent by 2025. The population estimates prepared by NCTCOG have population levels for the county climbing by almost 66 percent. Since Lucas is in close proximity to U.S. Highway 75 which is one of the major growth corridors of Collin County and North Central Texas, the City's growth rate should at least approximate that of the County. Collin County population growth trends are detailed in Table 2.2

TABLE 2.2
COLLIN COUNTY
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

YEAR	POPULATION (NCTCOG)	POPULATION (TSDC)
2005	652,492	577,807
2010	749,343	664,763
2015	844,515	754,051
2020	938,681	851,348
2025	1,046,919	958,413

The age composition of a population provides a profile, illustrating when and where the greatest need for various types of public expenditures will be required in order to meet citizen demand. Based upon the 2000 census, the median age of the population of Lucas is 39 years, compared to 32.3 years for Texas and 35.3 years for the United States. Since 6.6 percent of Lucas' population is over 65 years of age and 30.2 percent is under 18 years old, it appears that the largest segment of the population is within the middle-years age group. As such, the demand for City services will be diverse and must meet the needs of both mature and younger age groups. In 1990, the census indicated that 97 percent of the population was White with the remaining three

percent consisting of other races. Those persons of Hispanic origin accounted for four percent of the total population. In 2000, the population composition of Lucas is shown to have changed only very slightly. Whites now represent 96.4 percent of the population with Hispanics decreasing to 3.6 percent of the total population. A diversification of the population can be expected as many different segments of the population chose to leave major urban areas in favor of quality suburban areas. Details are provided in Table 2.3.

TABLE 2.3
CITY OF LUCAS

1990 vs. 2000 POPULATION COMPOSITIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	1990		2000	
	AMOUNT	PERCENT*	AMOUNT	PERCENT*
WHITE	2,139	97.0	2,787	96.4
AMERICAN INDIAN	8	0.4	15	0.5
ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	4	0.2	9	0.3
BLACK	26	1.2	12	0.4
OTHER RACE	28	1.26	67	2.3
TOTAL	2,205	100.0	2,890	100.0
HISPANIC ORIGIN	88	4.0*	103	3.6*

* Hispanic origin can be from multiple race classifications

Sources: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections provide the most basic planning assumptions required for strategically meeting future public needs. Any change in population trends is affected by birth rates, death rates, and migration. Because an accurate manner of recording this data has not yet been devised, population projections must be based on potential for growth, local and regional trends, and anticipated economic conditions. Three significant assumptions specific to Lucas help form the basis from which to project the 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025 populations,

and are listed below:

1. *The density and character of development in Lucas will not change appreciably.*
2. *Lucas will experience in-migration from larger urban areas causing the local population to realize some increase.*
3. *The average household size will increase slightly from the present 3.06 persons to 3.10 persons to reflect an increase in families moving to Lucas.*
4. *The “North Central Texas Regional Forecast” prepared by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts anticipates growth in the economy which will feed continued population growth for the area (see Appendix 2.1)*

In developing the population projections for the city of Lucas, past and current population data were utilized along with an average of the projected population growth rate for Collin County as developed by the Texas State Data Center and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The total population of Collin County is projected to grow by over 60 percent over the next 20 years. It is anticipated that over the next two decades, the population of Lucas will have realized a similar growth rate. Based upon all the foregoing assumptions, future population projections for both Lucas and the area within the extra-territorial jurisdiction are shown in Table 2.4.

TABLE 2.4
LUCAS POPULATION PROJECTIONS

YEAR	POPULATION (CITY LIMITS ONLY)	POPULATION (INCLUDES ETJ)
2005	4,380	5,705
2010	4,910	6,385
2015	5,550	7,065
2020	6,190	7,880
2025	6,830	8,695

Source: TFGA, Inc.

It should be understood that regardless of population, the principals of good on-going planning

should still be applied. The changing society, migration, and birth control can change immensely in 20 years; however, the projected population, whether reached 5 years early or 10 years late, will require basically the same number of facilities for the projected number of people. The City should set and strive to achieve goals for both the desired population levels and the facilities necessary to accommodate the resultant population demands.

APPENDIX 2.1