

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

# HOUSTON FACTS



# 2024

Your Guide to Data  
on the Houston Region

# HOUSTON FACTS

## 2024

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*Cover photo: Lance Childers  
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## ABOUT THE GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

The mission of the Greater Houston Partnership is to make Houston one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. The Partnership works to make Houston greater by promoting economic development, foreign trade and investment, and by advocating for efficient and effective government that supports, rather than impedes, business growth. The Partnership also convenes key stakeholders to solve the region's most pressing issues.

The Partnership was formed in 1989 in a merger of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Economic Development Council and the Houston World Trade Association. Today, the Partnership serves the 12-county greater Houston region and represents a member roster of over 950 businesses and institutions. Members of the Partnership account for one-fifth of all jobs in Houston. They engage in various initiatives, committees and task forces to work toward our goal of making Houston greater.

### GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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# FIFTH THIRD

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# THE HOUSTON REGION

## THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Houston Facts has presented unvarnished information about the Houston region since 1959, and its predecessor publications—under different names but with the same objective—date back to 1906.



Over the decades, Houston Facts has grown well beyond its original four pages so that we could expand the range and depth of coverage, bringing you more information about parks, museums, schools, living costs, the regional economy and a host of other topics. It has evolved into a concise almanac for the Houston region. Corporate planners, market analysts, students, relocation and site selection consultants, real estate professionals, government agencies and myriad others turn to it for authoritative information on this region.

Of course, we believe the Houston region is one of the nation's most attractive major metropolitan areas—an outstanding place to live, work and build a business. We would like you to share that view. But we won't try to persuade you. The facts need no embellishment. They speak for themselves.

Houston Facts. The title says much about this publication. No spin. No frills. No hyperbole. Just page after page of straightforward information from hundreds of sources to answer questions frequently asked about the Houston region.

You may find in these pages facts that you never knew about the Houston region. For example:

**OVER 1.7 M HOUSTONIANS**  
or **ROUGHLY 1 IN 4**  
were born outside the U.S.

Metro Houston has the **THIRD LARGEST** number of **FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES** in the nation.

If Houston were a country, it would rank as the **24<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD**—exceeding Belgium's and Sweden's Gross Domestic Product.

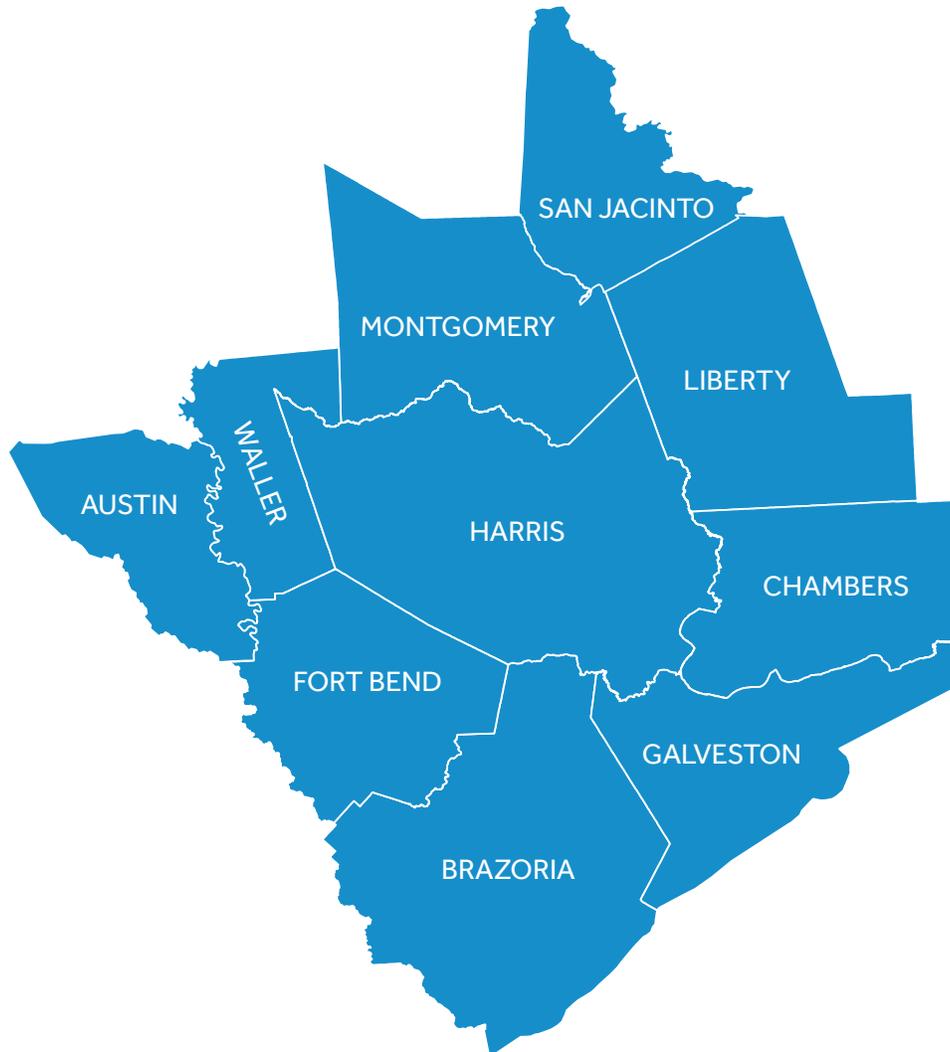
Houston is home to more than **9,300 TECH-RELATED FIRMS**, including more than 1,000 venture backed startups.



# REGION IN PERSPECTIVE

## Geography

### THE HOUSTON-PASADENA-THE WOODLANDS METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)<sup>1</sup> CONTAINS 10 TEXAS COUNTIES:



Within these 10 counties are 126 incorporated cities and 33 Census Designated Places (CDP).<sup>2</sup>

The county seat or administrative center of Harris County is the City of Houston.

Harris County contains the bulk of the city in addition to all or part of 33 incorporated cities and 12 CDPs.

Small portions of Houston spread into adjacent Montgomery and Fort Bend counties.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineates the official boundaries for all metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Late in 2023, OMB added San Jacinto County to the Houston MSA, bringing it to 10 counties. OMB also changed the metro area's name to the Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA. All data in this issue of Houston Facts reflect trends for the 10-county MSA unless otherwise stated.

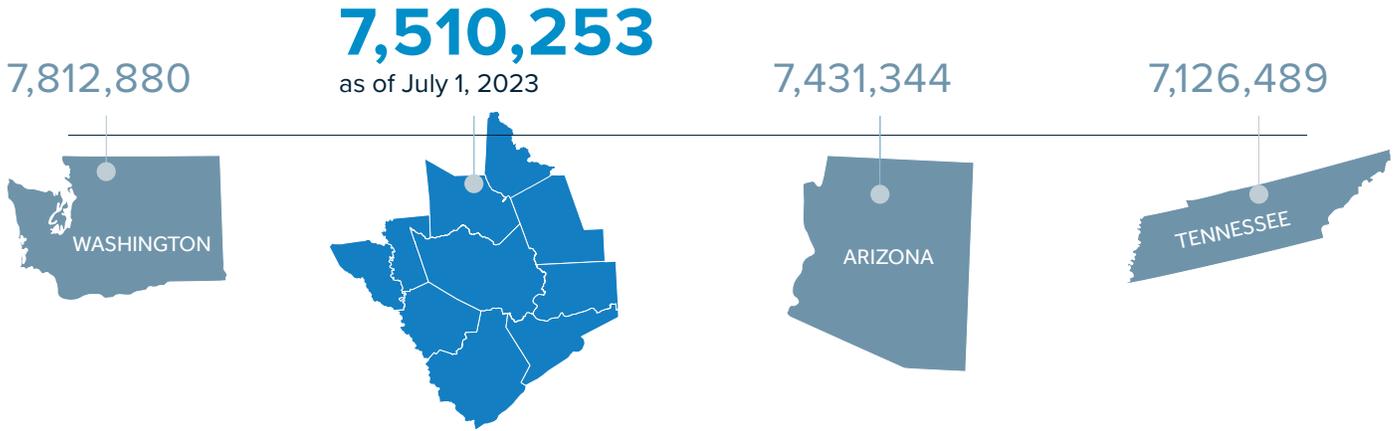
<sup>1</sup> The longer title is shortened to "Houston MSA," "metro Houston," "Greater Houston," "Houston area" or simply "Houston" in Houston Facts.

<sup>2</sup> A Census Designated Place functions like a city or town but is not incorporated.

<sup>3</sup> Combined land and water area.

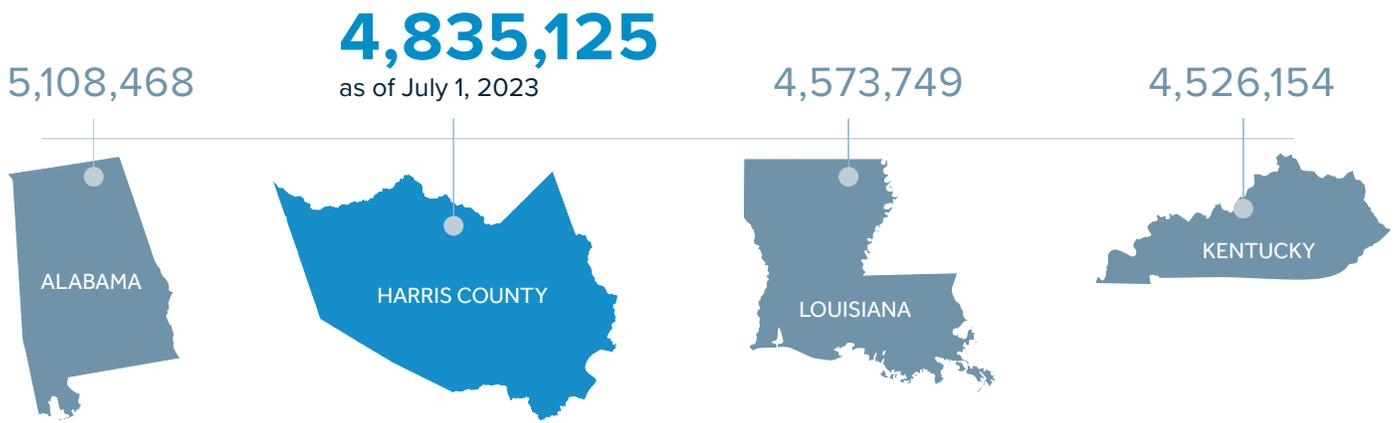
## 10-County Houston MSA Population

If metro Houston were a state, it would have the 15th largest population in the U.S.



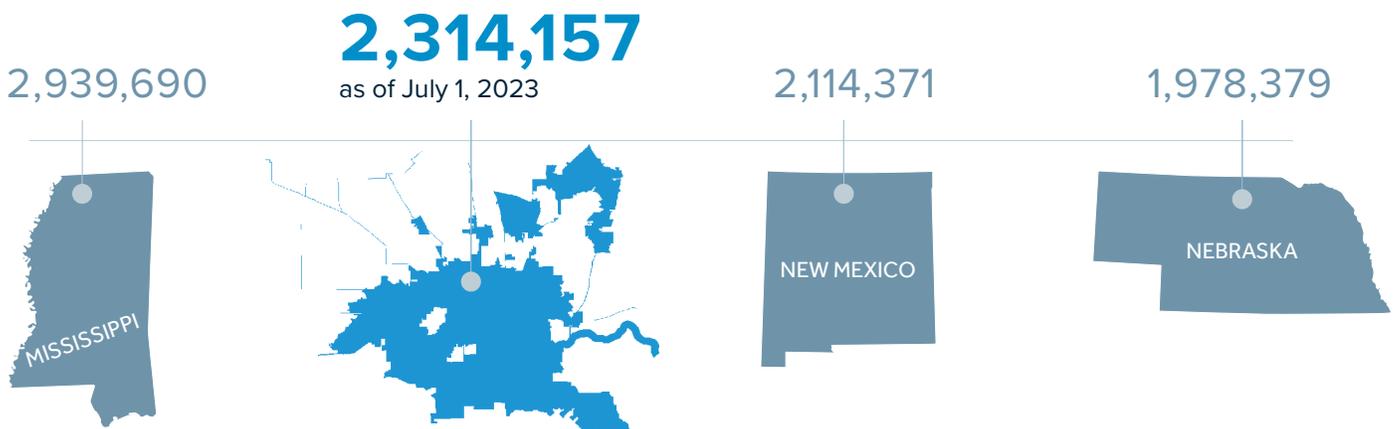
## Harris County Population

If Harris County were a state, it would have the 26th largest population in the U.S.



## City of Houston Population

If the city were a state, it would rank 38th in population in the U.S.



## Area

The 10-county **Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** covers 8,838 square land miles. If the MSA were a state, it would rank as the 47th largest, behind Vermont, New Hampshire, but ahead of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island.

**Harris County** covers 1,707 square miles, enough space to fit the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York City and Seattle with room still to spare.

At 665 square miles, the **City of Houston** is larger in area than the cities of Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix and San Diego.

## Economy

If the MSA were an independent nation, **it would rank as the world's 24th largest economy**, behind Poland (\$688.3 billion) and Argentina (\$632.2 billion) but ahead of Sweden (\$585.9 billion) and Belgium (\$582.2 billion), according to the World Bank.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at **\$633.1 billion in '22**, making it the seventh largest U.S. metro economy.

**If Houston were a state, its GDP would rank 14th**, behind Massachusetts (\$691.5 billion) and Virginia (\$663.1 billion) but ahead of Michigan (\$622.6 billion) and Colorado (\$491.2 billion.)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Population and People

**7,510,253**  
residents on July 1, 2023



**5th**  
among the nation's  
metropolitan areas



**1.9%**  
grew from July  
'22 to July '23

**4,835,125**  
residents on July 1, 2023



**3rd**  
most populous  
county in the nation



**↑53,788**  
more residents gained  
between July '22 and July '23

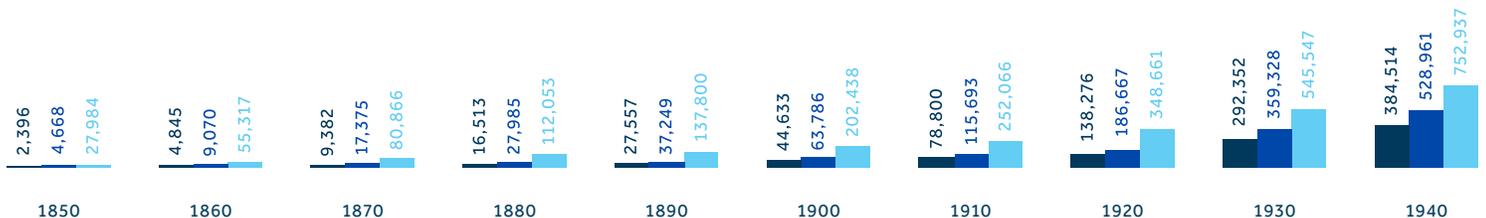
**2,314,157**  
residents on July 1, 2023



**4th**  
most populous  
U.S. city



**+11,669**  
residents added in '23, ranking  
it seventh among U.S. cities in  
population growth



# COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

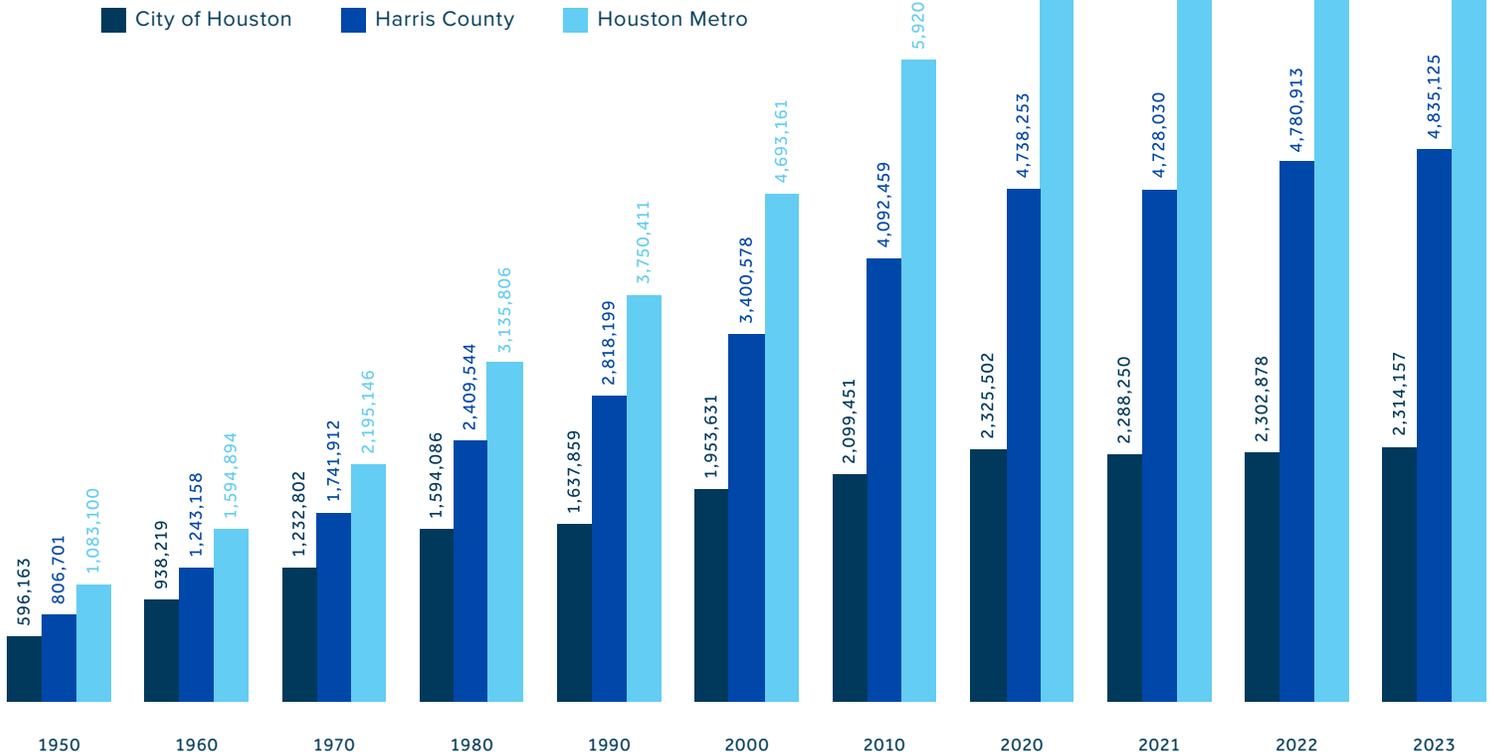
## Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, April 1, 2020 - July 1, 2023

COUNTY	POPULATION		POPULATION CHANGE SINCE APRIL '20				TOTAL POPULATION CHANGE
	APRIL 2020	JULY 2023	NET MIGRATION		NATURAL INCREASE		
			INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION	DOMESTIC MIGRATION	BIRTHS	DEATHS	
Austin	30,132	31,677	21	1,430	1,200	1,149	1,545
Brazoria	373,493	398,938	2,122	19,486	15,250	10,243	25,445
Chambers	47,019	53,876	195	6,567	1,876	1,307	6,857
Fort Bend	829,109	916,778	15,493	64,327	29,923	14,902	87,669
Galveston	351,590	361,744	1,138	8,264	12,877	11,187	10,154
Harris	4,734,792	4,835,125	93,864	-88,500	207,466	109,733	100,333
Liberty	92,479	108,272	132	15,639	4,399	3,393	15,793
Montgomery	625,291	711,354	5,319	75,568	26,425	15,963	86,063
San Jacinto	27,397	28,936	4	2,028	957	1,457	1,539
Waller	57,285	63,553	199	5,863	2,330	1,577	6,268
<b>HOUSTON MSA</b>	<b>7,168,587</b>	<b>7,510,253</b>	<b>118,487</b>	<b>110,672</b>	<b>302,703</b>	<b>167,997</b>	<b>341,666</b>

Note: In some cases, the increase due to migration and the natural increase will not sum to the change in population due to rounding and the Bureau's use of residual values in generating the estimates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 Population Estimates

## DECENNIAL CENSUS AND INTERCENSAL POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Almanac

# SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

## Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

COUNTY	MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	% OF ADULTS WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	% OF POPULATION FOREIGN BORN
Austin	41.0	11,913	2.53	24.1	9.4
Brazoria	36.3	127,264	2.85	31.4	13.6
Chambers	35.4	15,744	2.97	22.8	8.0
Fort Bend	36.9	270,136	3.06	48.6	30
Galveston	38.1	135,275	2.55	33.8	10.2
Harris	34.1	1,692,896	2.77	33.2	26.2
Liberty	34.1	28,921	3.02	10.6	11.7
Montgomery	37.4	224,474	2.79	37.7	14.1
San Jacinto	45.3	9,451	2.88	14.3	6.9
Waller	28.7	17,780	2.96	24.9	10.8
<b>HOUSTON MSA</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>2,533,854</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>23.6</b>

Note: County data may not sum to Houston MSA total due to a difference in survey methods.  
Source: County data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-22 American Community Survey

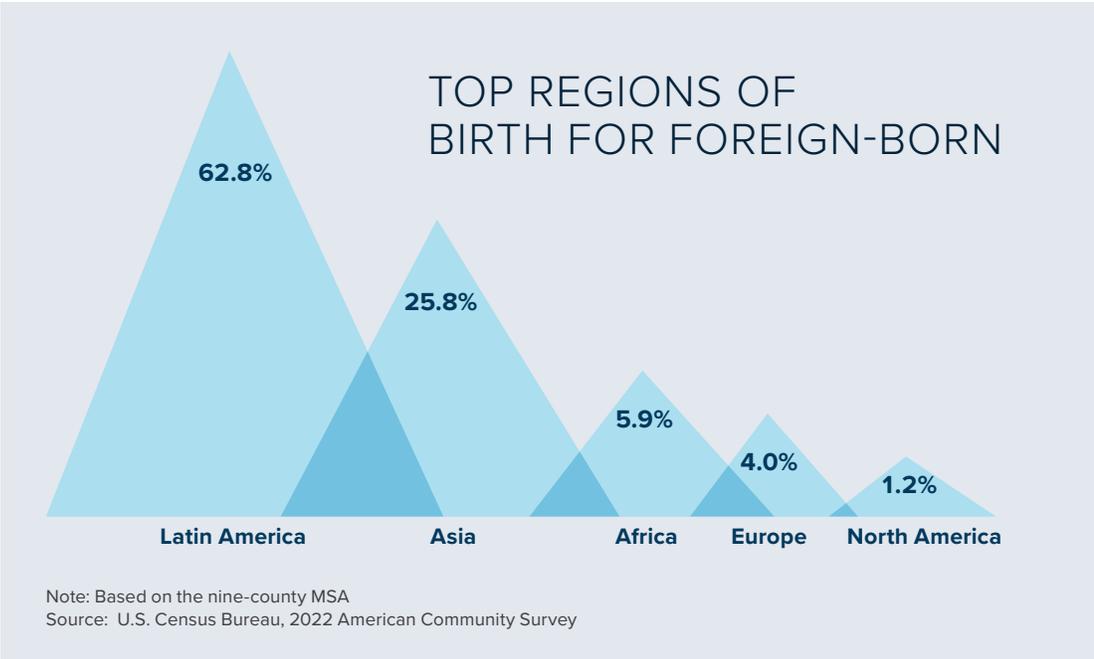


# NEARLY ONE IN FOUR



## HOUSTONIANS BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S.

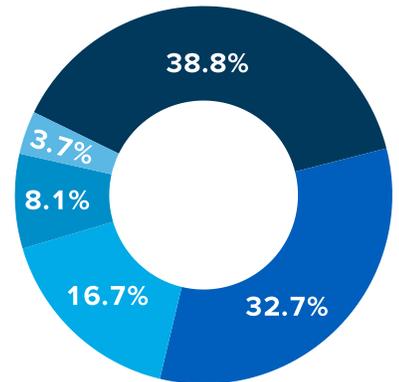
Among the 1,757,731 foreign-born in the Houston metro area, 62.6 percent entered the U.S. before '10.



## RACE/ETHNIC COMPOSITION

Houston MSA, 2022\*

- Hispanic
- Anglo
- African-American
- Asian
- Other



\*Nine-county metro  
Note: Hispanic/Latino includes all races.  
Sums may not total due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

Houston MSA, 2022\*



\*Nine-county metro  
Note: Sums may not total due to rounding  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

## Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

POPULATION AGE 25 OR OLDER		
HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL ATTAINED	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA</b>	<b>708,455</b>	<b>14.9</b>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR HIGHER</b>	<b>4,052,048</b>	<b>85.1</b>
High School Diploma or GED	1,091,504	22.9
Some College, No Degree	912,433	19.1
Associate Degree	341,336	7.2
<b>BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER</b>	<b>1,719,388</b>	<b>36.0</b>
Bachelor's Degree	1,077,525	22.6
Graduate or Professional Degree	641,863	13.5
<b>TOTAL POPULATION AGE 25 OR OLDER</b>	<b>4,771,989</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**4,771,989**

total population  
age 25 or older

**\$1,557**

average weekly  
wage in Q4/23

Note: Sums may not total due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey

## Income

### PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

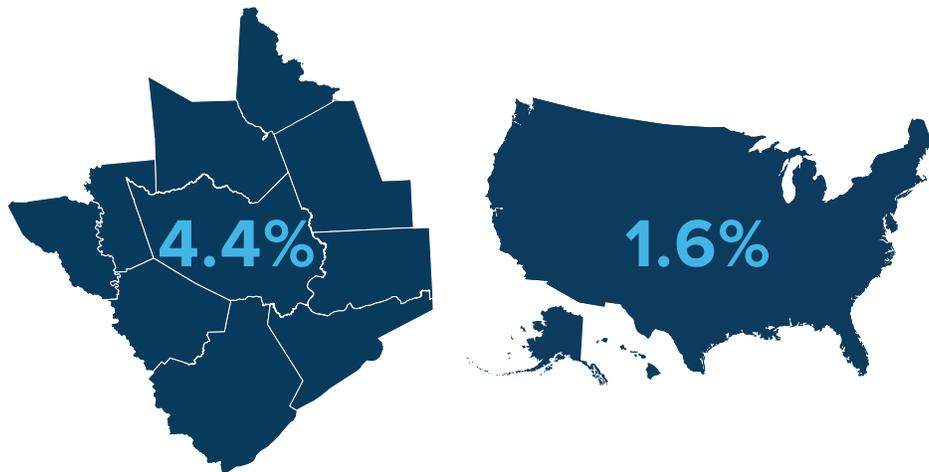
The nine-county Houston MSA's pretax per capita personal income (PCPI) was \$68,344 in '22 (latest data available), just above the national average of \$65,470 according to the latest data available from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

### TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income, defined as income received from all sources, in the nine-county Houston MSA in '22 (latest data available) was \$501.7 billion, up 6.2 percent from '21, according to BEA data.

## PCPI INCREASE IN THE HOUSTON MSA COMPARED TO NATIONWIDE INCREASE

From '21 to '22



## Wages

Total wages for the metro area were \$237.3 billion in Q4/23, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

### TOP OCCUPATIONS



Office and administrative support



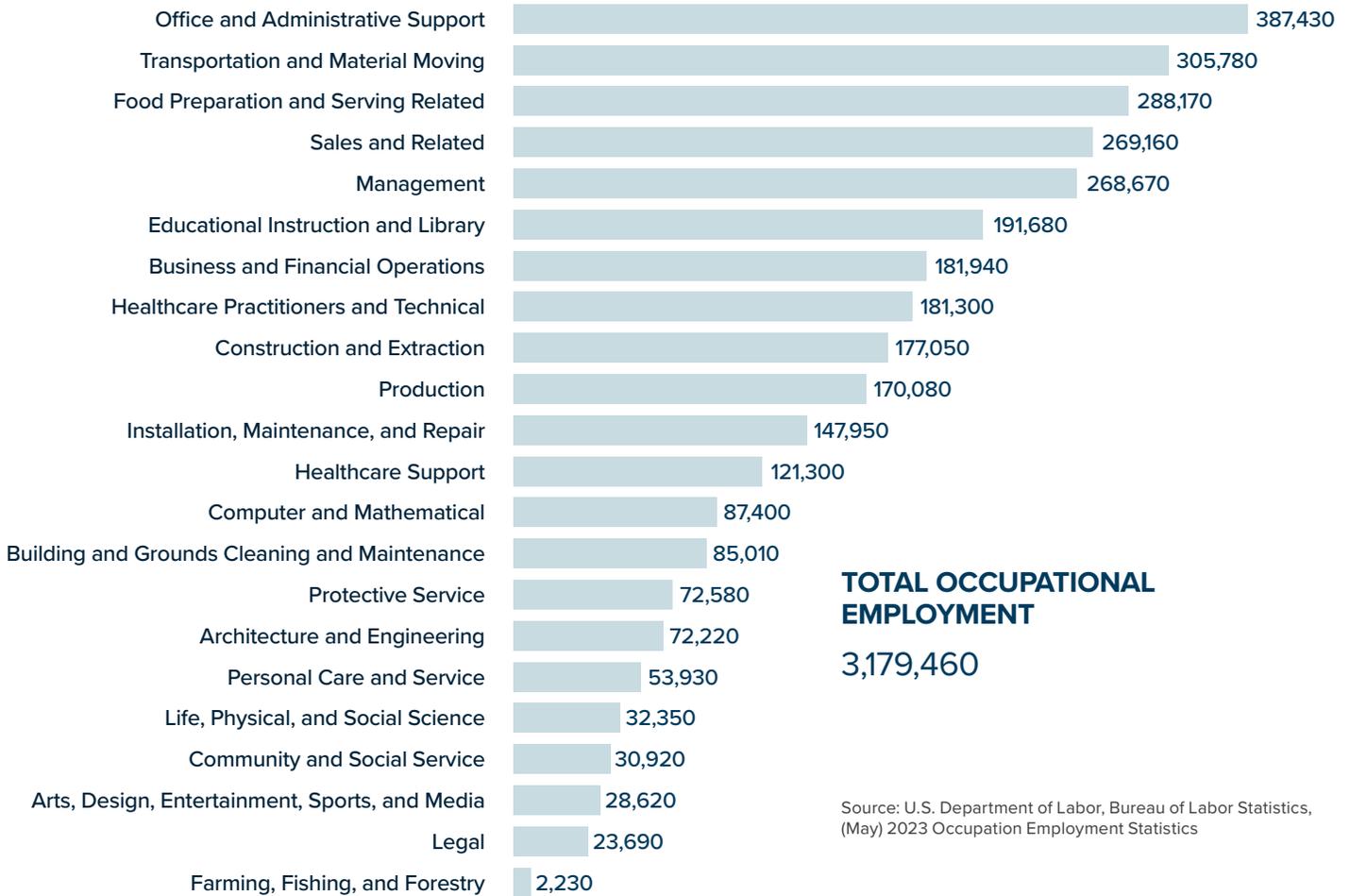
Transportation and material moving



Food preparation and serving related

# METRO EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA, 2023

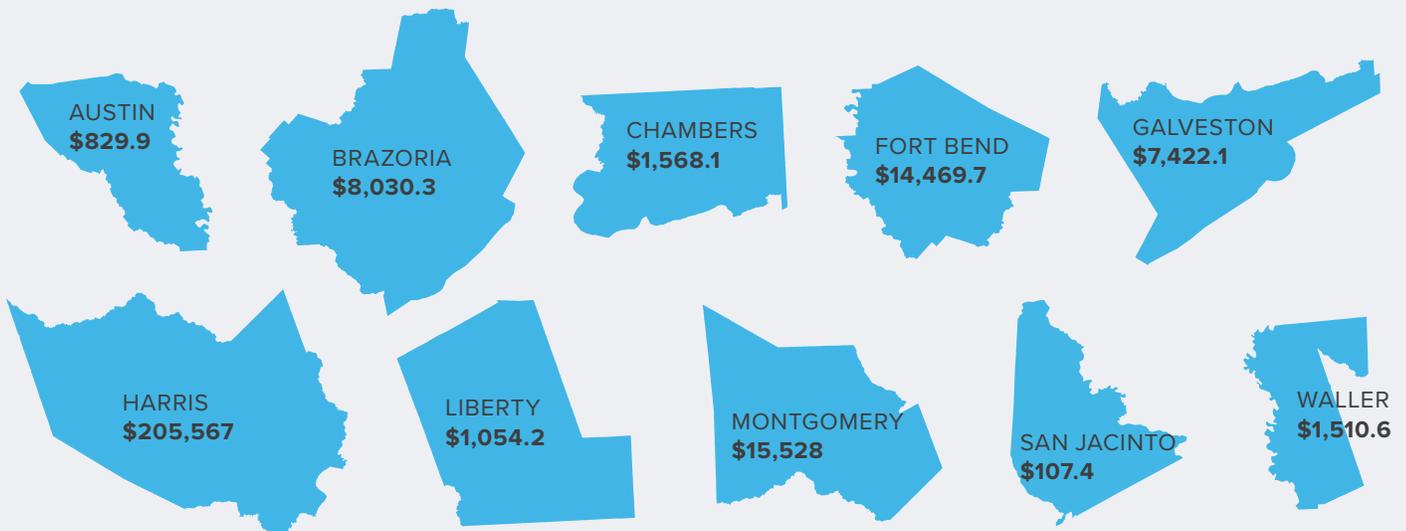


Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, (May) 2023 Occupation Employment Statistics

## TOTAL WAGES

Metro Houston, 2023 (\$ Millions)

**HOUSTON MSA**  
**\$256,087.7**



\*Note: Four quarters ending Q4/23.  
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



# HOUSTON ECONOMY

Metro Houston lost nearly 360,000 jobs during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumer-facing industries suffered the worst. A third of all restaurant workers were laid off. Forty percent of all hotel workers were let go. The arts and entertainment sector shed half its workforce. In April '20, the region's unemployment rate hit 14.4 percent.

The local economy recovered quickly once businesses were allowed to reopen. By May '21, over 55 percent of the jobs lost early in the pandemic had been recouped. By April '22, all the

jobs had been recovered. Since the economy reopened, the region has created over 620,000 jobs.

Houston reached an employment milestone in '24. The Texas Workforce Commission reported nonfarm payroll employment topped 3.4 million early in the year. As of May, the region's unemployment rate stood at 4.0 percent, a sign of a tight labor market.

Initially, job growth was driven by the reopening of stores and restaurants, the recalling of employees back to the workplace, and generous government

stimulus packages. Over the past two years, other factors have kicked in.

**Strong U.S. economic growth:** Since May '20, the nation has created over 28.0 million jobs, 6.2 million more than it lost in the pandemic. U.S. gross domestic product has grown nearly 20 percent since then, adjusted for inflation. As of May '24, the nation's unemployment rate has tracked at 4.0 percent or lower for 28 consecutive months. It hasn't tracked that low for that long since Richard Nixon was President.



**Close ties to the global economy:**

Houston exports topped \$175.5 billion in '23, the second highest level on record. The Houston-Galveston Customs District ranked first in the country in volume (407.7 million metric tons) and value (\$344.5 billion) in '23. The Houston Airport System handled over 12.5 million international passengers in '23, a new record for the region.

**A surge in corporate activity:** Over 1,000 companies have announced relocations, expansions, or start-up operations in the region since '21 with more than 130 of these projects involving foreign-owned companies.

**Houston's emergence as a logistics center:** Developers have added over 185.8 million square feet of

warehouse/industrial space since '16. Container traffic through the Port of Houston has jumped 84.2 percent over the same period. The Port is on track to handle over 3.4 million loaded containers in '24, which would be a record for the region.

**Sustained population growth:** Over 225,000 people moved to the metro area between April '20 and July '23. They've been drawn to the region by job opportunities, affordable housing, an appealing quality of life, and a cost of living that is 6.0 percent below the U.S. average and nearly 30 percent below the average of the nation's 20 most populous metros. Metro Houston's population is expected to surpass 8.0 million and payroll employment to approach 4.0 million by the end of the decade.

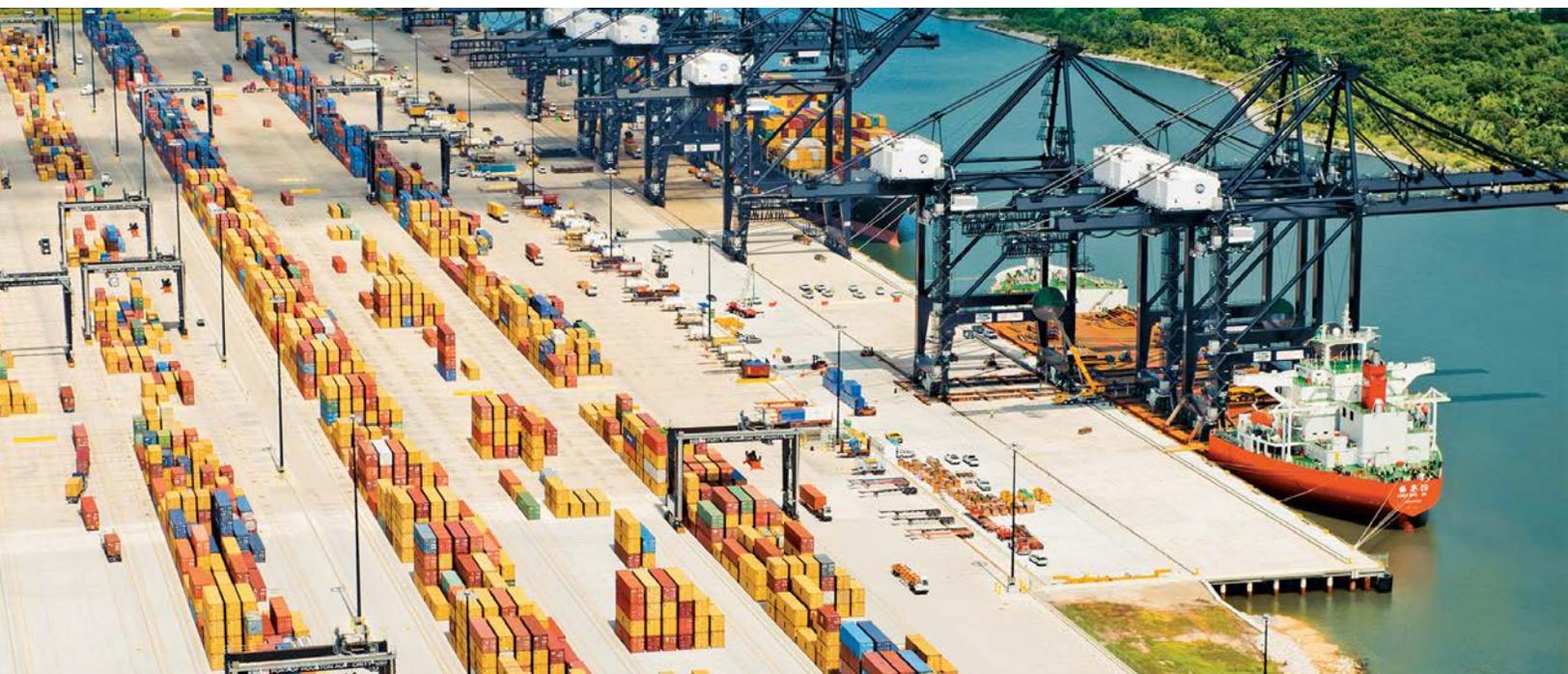
**A growing sense of optimism:** The 43rd Annual Kinder Houston-Area survey asked respondents if they were excited or worried about the new opportunities they have, given the rapid pace of change in Houston. Seventy-two percent of respondents were excited, only 28 percent worried. Across every demographic and income level, more Houstonians expressed excitement than worry about their future.

# ESTABLISHMENTS BY INDUSTRY

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, Q4/23

INDUSTRY	ESTABLISHMENTS	% OF TOTAL
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,697	15.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	22,564	12.7
Retail Trade	19,648	11.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	14,854	8.4
Accommodation and Food Services	14,636	8.2
Construction	12,545	7.1
Wholesale Trade	11,185	6.3
Finance and Insurance	9,962	5.6
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	9,770	5.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9,401	5.3
Manufacturing	7,131	4.0
Transportation and Warehousing	5,886	3.3
Educational Services	2,432	1.4
Information	2,180	1.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,048	1.2
Unclassified	1,761	1.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,755	1.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,003	0.6
Public Administration	763	0.4
Utilities	615	0.3
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	611	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177,447</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Texas Workforce Commission; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



## International Business

Houston is the base of operations for the international oil and gas exploration and production industry, as well as for many of the nation's largest international engineering and construction firms.

A key center for international finance, Houston leads the Southwest U.S. with 17 foreign banks from nine nations.

Houston's economy is deeply tied to global trade and foreign investment. The region has trading relationships with more than 200 countries. The Houston/Galveston Customs District handled 328.4 million metric tons in exports (via vessel), valued at \$238.3 billion in '23, according to WISERTrade. These exports accounted for 66.2 percent of the value of total trade that passed through the region in '23.

Houston has one of the largest consular corps in the nation with 82 named career or honorary Consuls, according to the City of Houston.

Fifteen foreign governments maintain trade and commercial offices here, and the city has 39 active foreign chambers of commerce and trade associations.

Houston has 19 sister-city relationships promoting business opportunities across five continents: Asia (8), Europe (7), Americas (2), Africa (1) and Oceania (1). Houston's oldest sister-city relationship was established in 1961 with Taipei,

### HOUSTON SISTER CITIES

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2001)	Luanda, Angola (2003)
Baku, Azerbaijan (1976)	Nice, France (1973)
Basrah, Iraq (2015)	Perth, Australia (1984)
Chiba, Japan (1972)	Shenzhen, China (1986)
Grampian Region, Aberdeen, Scotland (1979)	Stavanger, Norway (1988)
Guayaquil, Ecuador (1987)	Taipei, Taiwan (1961)
Huelva, Spain (1969)	Tampico, Mexico (2003)
Istanbul, Turkey (1988)	Tyumen, Russia (1995)
Karachi, Pakistan (2009)	Ulsan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea (2021)
Leipzig, Germany (1992)	

Taiwan, and its most recent relationship with Ulsan, South Korea, was established in '21.

locations (16 percent), manufacturing or distribution facilities (8 percent), and other types of operations.



These subsidiary locations represent branch offices (57 percent), service centers (15 percent), retail or sales

In '23, over 50 foreign-owned firms from 23 countries announced or completed new projects in metro Houston, according to the Partnership's New Business Announcements database. Those projects stretch across 38 different industries and represent at least \$2 billion in capital investments. That is likely an underestimate since many firms did not disclose the value of their investments.

## International projects of note landing in Houston in '23 included:

India's largest solar panel manufacturer, Waaree Energies, announced that it intends to start a 3-GW solar panel assembly plant in Brookshire, investing over \$1 billion into the site.

Belgian-based John Cockerill recently broke ground on its first alkaline electrolyzer gigafactory in the U.S. Production is slated to begin in '26.

Canada-based RS Technologies, a utility pole manufacturer, will build a new state-of-the-art facility in Humble, which is set to create over 400 jobs.

Sumika Semiconductor Materials Texas, Inc., a subsidiary of Sumitomo Chemical of Japan, is building a high-purity semiconductor process chemical manufacturing plant. The project includes an investment of \$250 million and will create 50 jobs in the region.

Malaysian company Maxter Healthcare plans to build a \$90-million factory as part of its 215-acre campus in Brazoria County.

Mexican toilet paper manufacturer Grupo Corporativo Papelera announced plans to build a \$400-million facility in east Montgomery County.

## Houston's Top Employers

ABM Industries	Group 1 Automotive	Phillips 66
Academy Sports + Outdoors	Halliburton	Plains All American
Accenture	Harris Health System	Prairie View A&M University
Air Liquide USA	HCA Houston Healthcare	PwC
Amazon	H-E-B	Quanta Services
Ascend Performance Materials	Helix Energy	Rice University
AT&T	Hess Corporation	S&B Engineers and Constructors
Austin Industrial	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Sam Houston State University
Baker Hughes	Home Depot	Sam's Club
Bank of America	Honeywell	San Jacinto College
Baylor College of Medicine	Houston Chronicle	SCI
Bechtel	Houston Community College	Sempra
Boehringer Ingelheim	Houston Methodist	Shell Oil
Boeing Company	HP Inc.	Siemens
BP America	INEOS	Silver Eagle Distributors Houston, LLC
Brinker International	Insperty	SLB
CEMEX	Intel	Southwest Airlines
CenterPoint Energy	Jacobs	Starbucks Coffee Company
Chevron	JPMorgan Chase	Sysco
Chevron Phillips Chemical	Katoen Natie	Target
CHI St. Luke's Health	KBR	TechnipFMC
CITGO Petroleum Corporation	Kelsey-Seybold Clinic	Texas A&M
Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages	Kinder Morgan	Texas Children's Hospital
Comcast	KPMG	Texas Southern University
ConocoPhillips	Kroger	Toshiba International Corporation
Costco	Landry's	Transocean
Crown Castle	Lone Star College	Turner Industries
CVS Health	Lowe's	United Airlines
Daikin Comfort Technologies	LyondellBasell	UnitedHealthcare
Deloitte	Macy's	Universal Plant Services
DHL	Marek Family of Companies	University of Houston
Doggett	Marathon Oil Corporation	UPS
Dow Chemical	MD Anderson Cancer Center	UT Health Science Center
Enbridge	Memorial Hermann Health System	Verizon
Enterprise Products Partners	Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	Walgreens
EOG Resources	NASA Johnson Space Center	Walmart
ExxonMobil	Norton Rose Fulbright	Waste Management
EY	NOV	Weatherford International
FedEx	NRG Energy	Wells Fargo
Fiesta Mart	Occidental Petroleum	Westlake
Fluor	Oceanering International, Inc.	Wood
Friedkin Group	Pappas Restaurants, Inc.	Woodforest National Bank
Grocers Supply		

**23** Fortune 500 Headquarters

**44** Fortune 1,000 Headquarters

**8** Fortune Global 500

**29** Forbes Global 2,000

**94** Inc. 1,000

**4** Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For



# KEY INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS

## Construction and Real Estate

### EMPLOYMENT

The construction sector in Houston employed 232,097 people in Q4 '23, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Specialty trade contractors (e.g., electrical work, plumbing, site preparation, painting) made up 48.9 percent of all construction employment. Building construction and heavy and civil engineering accounted for 25.9 percent and 25.2 percent of construction employment, respectively. The average annual wage was \$92,976 in '23.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

The Houston metro area was home to 12,502 construction establishments in Q4 '23. Of that total, 48.9 percent were specialty trade contractors, 26.0 percent were in building construction, and 25.1 percent were heavy and civil engineering construction establishments.

### BUILDING PERMITS

City of Houston building permits totaled \$7.8 billion in '23, down 3.0

percent from \$8.0 billion in '22. Over \$3.9 billion was for residential building permits and over \$3.8 billion for commercial, according to city data. Adjusted for inflation, construction permits fell 4.7 percent.

### CITY OF HOUSTON BUILDING PERMITS



Source: City of Houston

### KEY DEFINITIONS:

**EMPLOYMENT** is the count of only filled jobs, whether full- or part-time, and temporary or permanent, by place of work.

**ESTABLISHMENT** count is the aggregation of establishments in a geographic area within an industry.

**WAGES** are the total compensation paid, including bonuses, stock options, severance pay, profit distributions, the cash value of meals and lodging, tips and other gratuities, and, in some states, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans (such as 401(k) plans).

A **SECTOR** refers to a broad categorization of related industries, while an industry is a specific group of businesses involved in producing similar goods or services.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Texas Workforce Commission

### SELECTED CONSTRUCTION FIRMS

Arch-Con

Arco Design/Build

Austin Industrial

Burns & McDonnell

Burton, D.E. Harvey Builders

DPR Construction

DivisonOne Construction

Durotech E.E. Reed Construction

Flintco

G.T. Leach

Gamma

Gilbane

Harvey

Hensel Phelps

Hoar

Manhattan Construction

McCarthy Building Companies

Mission Constructors

Linbeck

O'Donnell/Snider

Rosenberger

Satterfield & Pontikes

Skanska

SpawGlass

Tellepsen

Turner Construction

Vaughn Construction

VCC Construction

Webber

W.S. Bellows

- Non-residential permits totaled \$1.226 billion, down 44.0 percent after adjusting for inflation.
- Residential permits (single-family and apartments) totaled \$3.485 billion, up 9.2 percent after adjusting for inflation.
- Permits for additions and alterations, both residential and non-residential, totaled \$3.041 billion, up 5.0 percent after adjusting for inflation.

## OFFICE

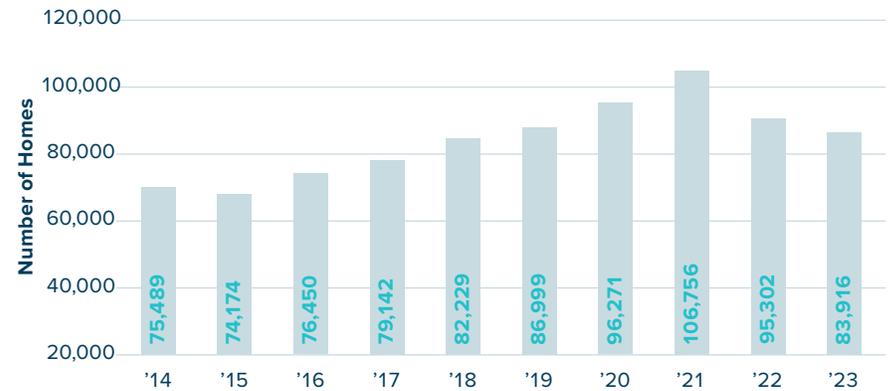
The Houston office market is struggling, with 680,000 more square feet of office space vacated than occupied in Q1 '24, reversing the 300,000 square feet of space gained in Q1 '23. This trend, ongoing since the Fracking Bust of '14, has led to a rise in available office space, which is now at 27.8 percent compared to 19.0 percent in Q4 '14. Class A, B and C spaces account for 41.7, 26.9 and 1.6 million square feet, respectively, with Class B and C spaces facing the most difficulty in reducing vacancies. Stationary gross rents, averaging \$29.74 in Q1 '24, and a slowdown in new construction reflect the oversupply. Work-from-home trends have further impacted office occupancy, with Houston's office occupancy at 60 percent at the end of Q1 '24. Tenants are downsizing or moving to newer buildings with better amenities, leaving older buildings with higher vacancy rates (26.8 percent) compared to newer ones (17.0 percent).

## INDUSTRIAL

The demand for industrial and warehouse space in Houston continues to decline. In Q4 '22, the vacancy rate was at a recent low of 5.2 percent but has since increased to 7.4 percent in Q1 '24. Demand for space peaked at 18.1 million square feet in Q3 '21, while in Q1 '24, the amount of space taken up stood at 2.5 million square feet, which is reminiscent of pre-pandemic levels. Houston had 74.2 million square feet of industrial and warehouse space available at the end of Q1 '24, including vacant, occupied but available, available for sublease or available at a future date.

## NUMBER OF SINGLE FAMILY HOMES SOLD ANNUALLY

### Houston MSA



Source: Houston Association of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service

Higher interest rates, tougher lending standards and weaker demand have hampered building activity. As of Q1 '24, Houston had 15.8 million square feet under construction compared to 37.3 million at the Q4 '22 peak. Rents, however, continue to rise, with the average industrial rent at \$9.20 per square foot per year in Q1 '24, up from \$8.77 in Q1 '23 and \$8.07 in Q1 '22. These rates are triple net (NNN), meaning tenants are responsible for all expenses associated with their share of building occupancy. As vacancy levels continue to rise, rents are expected to plateau and may decline from their current record highs.

## RETAIL

Houston's retail market is performing the best among the city's commercial real estate sectors due to population and job growth. Retail vacancy rates remain low, with merchants absorbing space, though at a slower pace than in '23. Rents remain stable, and overbuilding is not a concern. Vacancy rates have trended down since the economy reopened in mid-'20. Though rates recently ticked up, they are well below historic averages at 5.2 percent as of Q1 '24. Robust population growth and a return to in-person shopping are driving demand. The market absorbed 300,000 square feet of retail space in Q1 '24, a significant drop from 1.4 million square feet in Q1 '23. The

total space being marketed, including vacant, occupied but available, available for sublease or available at a future date, was 23.6 million square feet at the end of Q1 '24, up from 23.2 million square feet in Q4 '23 and 22.3 million square feet in Q1 '23. Retail construction is steady despite higher interest rates and tougher lending standards, with 3.2 million square feet underway as of Q1 '24. Rents continue to rise, reaching \$20.87 per square foot per year in Q1 '24, up from \$19.62 in Q1 '23 and \$18.97 in Q1 '22. These rates are triple net (NNN), meaning tenants cover all expenses associated with their share of building occupancy.

## SINGLE-FAMILY

Houston realtors closed on 102,389 homes in the 12 months ending December '23, marking the weakest sales since. Home prices, which rose rapidly in late '20, reversed in '22 with year-over-year declines continuing through much of '23. The median price for a single-family home in Houston was \$330,000 in December '23, down from a peak of \$354,000 in June '22. Inventory has improved significantly, with single-family home listings more than doubling from a low in March '22, reaching 23,072 homes, or a 3.3-month supply, by December '23. Total home sales in '23 amounted to \$39.9 billion, down from \$46.7 billion in '21. December '23 saw a 4.9 percent decline in overall property sales and a

3.7 percent drop in volume compared to December '22, while active listings increased by 13.9 percent. Single-family home sales decreased by 6.2 percent, with the median price remaining stable at \$330,000.

**MULTI-FAMILY**

Houston's multi-family market saw a mixed performance in '23, with positive absorption in Class A units but negative absorption in Class B, C and D properties. Developers added

22,250 Class A units, outpacing absorption by roughly 6,900 units, leading to decreased occupancy and rental rates in this segment. Class A occupancy dropped from 86.5 percent to 84.4 percent from December '22 to December '23, with rents declining from \$1,757 to \$1,720. Despite this, Class B and C properties maintained occupancies above 90 percent, indicative of a landlord-friendly market, while all property classes experienced downward occupancy trends, influencing rental rates.

Additionally, properties in lease-up faced significant occupancy and rental declines, impacting stable properties. Multi-family property owners faced challenges including labor shortages, increased materials costs and higher insurance premiums. With 18,000 units under construction and 35,000 proposed for the market as of June '24, concerns remain regarding potential oversupply.

**Health Care and Social Assistance**

**EMPLOYMENT**

Health care and social assistance employed 409,683 at the end of '23, or one in eight Houston-area workers, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Ambulatory health care accounted for 45.6 percent of sector employment, hospitals for 32.2 percent, and social assistance, nursing and residential care for 22.2 percent. The average annual wage for the sector was \$71,432 in '23.

According to the Texas Medical Board, 20,443 physicians are licensed in the Houston region, with Harris County accounting for nearly 80 percent. The concentration of anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, surgeons, cardiovascular technologists and technicians, pediatricians, dentists, and occupational health and safety specialists/technicians is well above the national average.

**MAJOR EMPLOYERS**

- Baylor College of Medicine
- CHI St. Luke's Health
- HCA Houston Healthcare
- Harris Health System
- Houston Methodist
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Kindred Healthcare
- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- Tenet Health
- Texas Children's Hospital
- UTMB Health
- Texas A&M Health Science Center
- University of Texas Health Science Center

**ESTABLISHMENTS**

Houston's health care and social assistance establishments included 15,377 ambulatory health care

providers, 6,065 social assistance establishments, 857 nursing and residential care facilities, and 243 hospitals.



**TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER**

Houston's Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical complex by several measures, including number of hospitals, number of physicians, square footage and patient volume.

Texas Medical Center's 63 member institutions are

consistently recognized by the U.S. News and World Report as some of the best hospitals and universities in the nation.

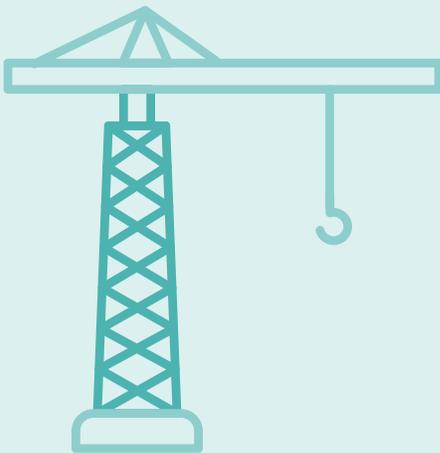
Scientists at TMC-affiliated institutions, most notably Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Methodist and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, are advancing life

sciences breakthroughs across dozens of research centers and more than 300 research laboratories.

TMC BY THE NUMBERS

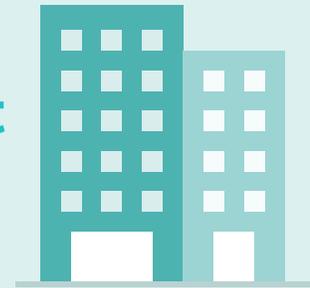
**\$3 billion**

in construction projects underway



**8th largest**

business district in the U.S.



**50 million**

developed square feet

**120,000+**

total employees

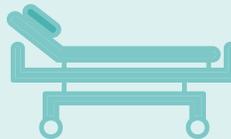


**10 million**

patient encounters per year

**9,200**

total patient beds



**750,000**

ER visits per year

**13,600+**

total heart surgeries



**180,000+**

annual surgeries

## Biotech and Life Science

As a hub for medical device manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and health research, the Houston region is home to more than 15,400 life sciences and biotech researchers and 1,100 life sciences and biotech companies. More than 2,200 clinical trials were active in the Houston region in mid-'24, representing 11.1 percent of all trials in the U.S.

In '23, Houston medical institutions and life sciences firms received \$951.9 million in National Institute of Health (NIH) grant funding.

### TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

#### HELIX PARK

In '23, the Texas Medical Center opened the TMC3 Collaborative Building and the Dynamic One North Tower as part of the first phase of Helix Park, a 37-acre commercial life sciences complex. Helix Park is projected to create over 26,500 permanent jobs and bring \$5.4 billion annually to the Texas economy.

#### UTHEALTH

The UTHealth Houston School of Public Health broke ground in mid-'23 on a new \$229-million tower in Helix Park. The 350,000-square-foot facility will include research laboratories, an auditorium, teaching kitchen and classrooms.

#### MD ANDERSON

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center began work on a new 600,000-square-foot research facility that is anticipated to house 90 percent of MD Anderson's research operations, including the James P. Allison Institute, which will focus on discovering innovative, groundbreaking treatments in immunotherapy.

#### TMC INNOVATION

Located in a former cookie factory, TMC Innovation (TMCi) is home to several programs that aim to help early-stage companies commercialize new medical technologies by providing access to the



## 2023 NIH FUNDING

Baylor College of Medicine  
**\$343,906,799**

University of Texas MD  
Anderson Cancer Center  
**\$192,882,895**

University of Texas Health  
Science Center Houston  
**\$156,796,205**

University of Texas Medical  
Branch Galveston  
**\$112,184,085**

University of Houston  
**\$43,779,648**

Methodist Hospital  
Research Institute  
**\$37,043,520**

Rice University  
**\$30,018,645**

Texas Heart Institute  
**\$3,652,411**

Bivacor, Inc.  
**\$3,128,775**

7 Hills Pharma, LLC  
**\$2,925,291**

Texas Southern University  
**\$2,126,073**

Ridgeline Therapeutics, LLC  
**\$1,812,827**

Vathes, Inc,  
**\$1,796,295**

Microgen, LLC  
**\$1,661,702**

Geneial, LLC  
**\$1,404,432**

Discover the unparalleled opportunities in Houston's life sciences industry and explore how the region can accelerate your innovations from research to commercialization. Visit [Houston.org](https://Houston.org) to learn more.

vast resources of the world's largest medical center.

TMCi has two accelerator programs focusing on early-stage companies making breakthroughs in medical devices, digital health care services, diagnostics and therapeutics. TMC Biodesign unites the talents of innovators with diverse backgrounds to quickly bring breakthrough products to market. Additionally, the Texas Medical Center launched the TMC Venture Fund in '17. The fund has invested in 30 Houston health startups in the last three years.

TMC Innovation partners with several industry-backed programs supporting health innovation, such as Johnson & Johnson's JLABS @ TMC, which provides lab space and support to companies developing promising

technologies in consumer health, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. TMCi is also home to the Center for Device Innovation, a one-of-a-kind medical device prototyping lab.

### OTHER BIOTECH & LIFE SCIENCES CAMPUSES

In '23, several additional biotech and life sciences real estate projects were announced or completed:

**LEVIT GREEN** is a 53-acre, master-planned life sciences district near the Texas Medical Center. Phase One, a five-story building with 296,000 square feet of lab and office space, was completed in '23. Phase Two will include a seven-story, 400,000-square-foot building with biomanufacturing, lab and office space.

**THE WOODLANDS INNOVATION DISTRICT** was announced in March '23 as a partnership between Howard Hughes and Vitrian to develop an 83-acre district in the heart of Research Forest in The Woodlands. Life sciences companies could potentially move in as early as '25.

**THE ALEXANDRIA CENTER FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES**, a 12-acre life sciences campus in The Woodlands, opened in October '23. Nurix Therapeutics, a San Francisco-based clinical stage biopharmaceutical company, is the anchor tenant. Once fully completed, the campus is expected to offer 325,000 square feet of building space.



# Manufacturing

## EMPLOYMENT

The 7,120 manufacturing establishments in the Houston region employed 232,752, or about 1 in 14 Houston-area workers, in '23, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The average annual wage was \$104,728. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, manufacturing accounted for \$99.9 billion or 15.8 percent of Houston's GDP in '22 (latest data available).

## CHEMICALS

The Houston region was home to 674 chemical plants employing 41,784, or 18.0 percent of Greater Houston's total manufacturing workforce, in '23, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The region accounts for 41.5 percent of the nation's overall base petrochemicals manufacturing capacity, which includes 62.5 percent

BASE CHEMICAL	MAJOR USE/PRODUCT
Benzene	Detergents, Plastics, Pesticides
Butadiene (BDE)	Tires, Carpet, Synthetic Turf
Ethylene	Anesthetic, Antifreeze
Propylene	Food Packaging, Fibers, Adhesives
Toluene	Paints, Disinfectants, Nail Products
Xylenes (mixed)	Tear Gas, Paint Thinner, Lubricants

of butadiene, 39.3 percent of ethylene, 45.0 percent of propylene, 36.7 percent of benzene, 39.9 percent of xylenes and 39.6 percent of toluene.

Base petrochemicals are the raw materials for producing some of the more important plastics and resins. The Houston MSA also dominates U.S. production of three major resins, producing 40.6 percent of the country's polypropylene, 39.4 percent of polyethylene and 30.5 percent of polyvinyl chloride.

## PETROLEUM REFINING

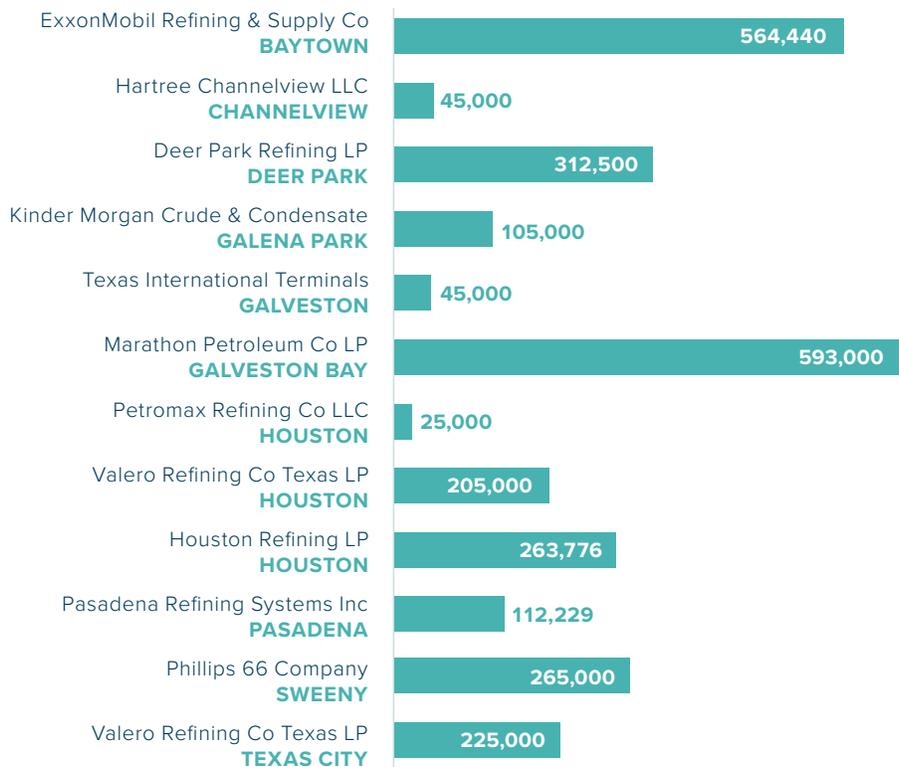
In '23, the Houston metro had a crude operating capacity of 2.7 million barrels of refined petroleum products per calendar day, representing 15.6 percent of overall U.S. capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Oil refiners in the region employed 7,205 workers in '23, equivalent to 3.1 percent of the Houston region's total manufacturing workforce.



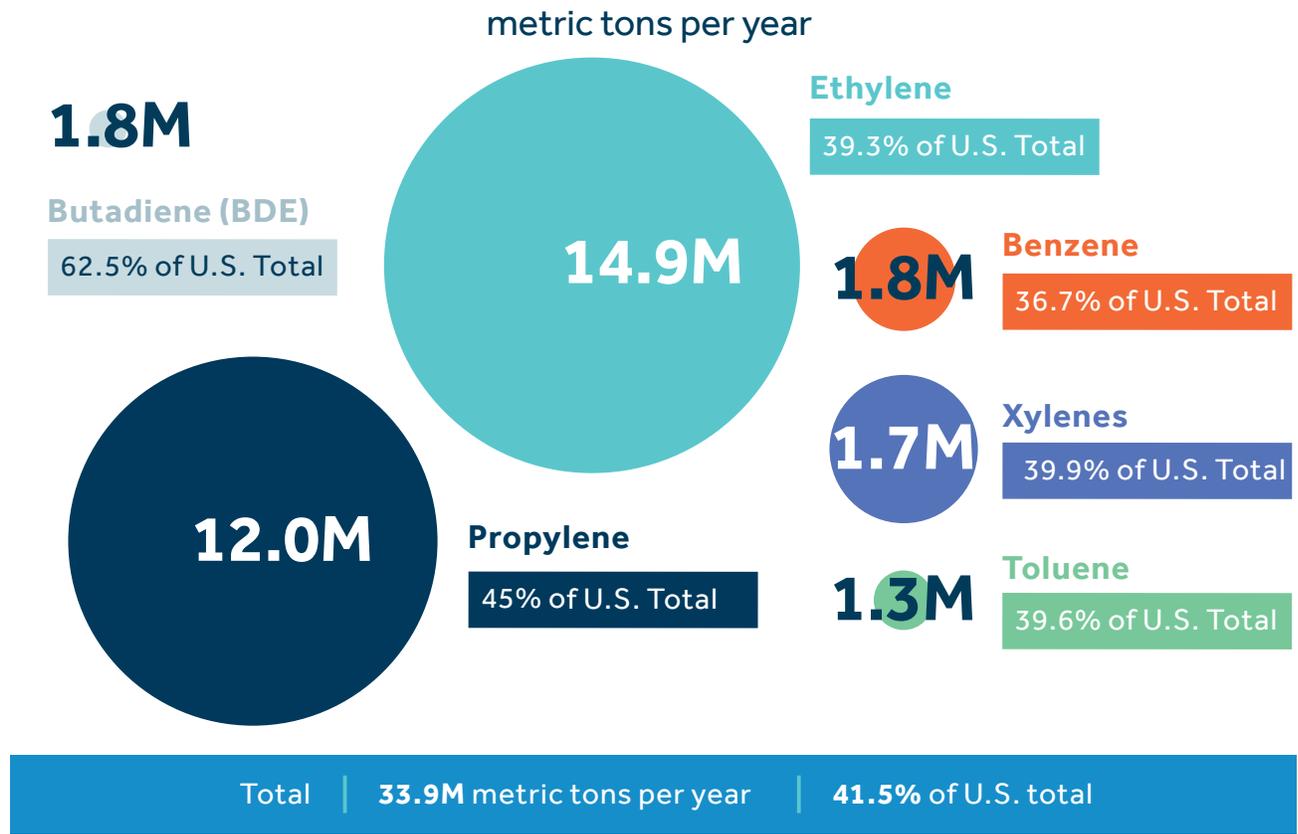
# PETROLEUM REFINING CAPACITY

## Metro Houston, 2024



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Refinery Capacity Report January 1, 2024

# BASE CHEMICAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY Houston MSA



Source: CAS Registry via IHS Markit, June 2024



## Professional and Technical Services

ENGINEER OCCUPATIONS			PER 100,000 WORKERS	
	HOUSTON	U.S.	HOUSTON	U.S.
Aerospace Engineers	1,840	66,660	57.9	43.9
Bioengineers and Biomedical Engineers	260	19,320	8.2	12.7
Chemical Engineers	1,870	21,140	58.8	13.9
Civil Engineers	9,540	327,950	300.1	216.0
Computer Hardware Engineers	770	82,660	24.2	54.5
Electrical Engineers	3,650	185,430	114.8	122.1
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,150	96,410	36.2	63.5
Environmental Engineers	920	39,880	28.9	26.3
Health and Safety Engineers	1,230	22,510	38.7	14.8
Industrial Engineers	7,210	332,870	226.8	219.2
Marine Engineers and Naval Architects	510	9,960	16.0	6.6
Materials Engineers	400	24,630	12.6	16.2
Mechanical Engineers	7,540	281,290	237.1	185.2
Mining and Geological Engineers	110	7,040	3.5	4.6
Petroleum Engineers	5,850	20,390	184.0	13.4
Engineers, All Other	2,750	150,990	86.5	99.4
<b>TOTAL ENGINEERS</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>1,689,130</b>	<b>1,434.2</b>	<b>1,112.3</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2023

### EMPLOYMENT

Metro Houston employed 256,923 professional, scientific and technical service workers in '23. Architectural and engineering services, with 72,016 workers, represented 28.0 percent of the sector's total employment. The second- and third-largest industry subsectors were management and technical consulting (48,839 employees) and computer systems design services (36,491 employees).

### ESTABLISHMENTS

The Houston MSA had 26,666 establishments in professional, scientific and technical services at the end of '23. The sector includes 6,780 management and technical

consulting establishments, 5,400 computer systems design companies, and 4,133 establishments that provide legal services.

Houston has 45,600 engineers across all disciplines, the most numerous being civil, mechanical, petroleum, industrial, electrical and chemical. Houston has one of the highest concentrations of engineering talent in the nation. For every 100,000 workers in the Houston MSA, there are 1,434 engineers; by comparison, for every 100,000 workers in the U.S., there are 1,112 engineers.

### FINANCE

Metro Houston's 104 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured institutions operate 1,351

offices and branches with \$324.1 billion in local deposits, ranking 13th among U.S. metros, according to June '23 FDIC data.

Five of the nation's 10 largest FDIC-insured banks, as measured by domestic deposits, operate full-service branches or commercial loan offices in the Houston region.

## HOUSTON'S 10 LARGEST BANKS BY DEPOSITS

<b>\$156.7M</b>	JPMorgan Chase
<b>\$29.1M</b>	Wells Fargo
<b>\$26.7M</b>	Bank of America
<b>\$12.0M</b>	Zions Bancorporation
<b>\$9.7M</b>	PNC Bank
<b>\$7.8M</b>	Cadence Bank
<b>\$7.6M</b>	Frost Bank
<b>\$6.5M</b>	Capital One
<b>\$6.2M</b>	Stellar Bank
<b>\$5.6M</b>	Prosperity Bank



## Wholesale and Retail Trade

### EMPLOYMENT

Wholesale trade employed 165,728 in the Houston area, including 104,023 in durable goods and 51,813 in nondurable goods in '23. Retail trade employed 319,026, including 72,958 in food and beverage, 64,137 in general merchandise, and 43,279 in motor vehicle and part dealers. The average wage in '23 was \$106,392 for wholesale workers and \$41,860 for retail workers.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

Metro Houston had 11,170 wholesale trade establishments, including 6,677 durable goods wholesalers and 2,611 nondurable goods wholesalers, in '23. There were 19,615 retail establishments, including 3,080 food and beverage stores, 2,789 gas stations, 2,164 motor vehicle and parts dealers, 2,229 clothing stores, and 1,377 general merchandise stores.

### MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- Academy Sports + Outdoors
- Aldi
- Amazon
- Autozone
- Best Buy
- CUS
- Costco
- Dollar General
- Dollar Tree
- H-E-B
- Hobby Lobby
- Home Depot
- IKEA
- Kohl's
- Kroger
- Lowe's
- Macy's
- Randall's
- Target
- Walgreens
- Walmart



## GROSS RETAIL SALES

Metro Houston, (\$ Millions)

COUNTY	'23	'22	% CHANGE FROM '22
Austin	427.4	422.0	-1.3
Brazoria	6,043.0	5,722.1	-5.3
Chambers	965.0	916.6	-5.0
Fort Bend	12,082.5	12,614.1	4.4
Galveston	5,761.2	5,865.8	1.8
Harris	121,769.8	124,518.1	2.3
Liberty	3,356.8	3,013.0	-10.2
Montgomery	13,004.4	12,937.6	-0.5
San Jacinto	45.4	81.1	-7.0
Waller	908.8	1,008.5	11.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164,471.5</b>	<b>167,182.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Source: Texas Comptroller's Office

## Energy

### DEFINING “ENERGY”

Defining the “energy” sector and its related industries is a challenging task. There are multiple approaches and the table which follows serves as one interpretation. Given this definition, Houston’s energy sector in '23 accounted for 7.1 percent of the region’s employment and 3.2 percent of its firms. The typical job in an energy-related industry paid \$149,855 in wages per year on average, nearly double the metro average of \$81,016.

Houston is the leading domestic and international center for virtually every segment of the energy industry — exploration and production, transmission, marketing, service, trading, supply, offshore drilling and technology.

More than 4,600 energy-related firms are located within the Houston metro area, including over 410 exploration and production firms, 740 oilfield service companies, nearly 90 pipeline transportation firms, and hundreds of manufacturers and wholesalers of energy-sector products.

Houston is home to 36 of the nation’s 85 publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms, including 10 of the top 25.

The 10 refineries in the Houston region process 2.8 million barrels of crude oil per calendar day — approximately 46.2 percent of the state’s total capacity and 15.6 percent of total U.S. capacity.

The logistics for moving much of the nation’s petroleum and natural gas across the country are controlled from Houston.

Thirteen of the nation’s 20 largest oil pipelines have corporate or divisional headquarters or ownership interests based in Houston. These 13 pipeline companies control 55,199 miles, or 31.2 percent, of all U.S. oil pipeline capacity.

Fifteen of the nation’s top 20 natural gas transmission pipelines are operated by companies with corporate or divisional headquarters in Houston, controlling 112,810 miles of U.S. pipeline, 58.8

percent of the total U.S. natural gas pipeline capacity.

In '23, the Houston MSA held 26.4 percent of the nation’s jobs in oil and gas extraction (33,500 of 115,600), 11.8 percent of jobs in oil field services (30,500 of 219,300), and 10.2 percent of jobs in manufacturing of agricultural, construction and mining equipment (22,400 of 220,100), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## ENERGY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

### Houston MSA, 2023\*

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	FIRMS	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE (\$)
Oil and Gas Extraction	31,949	415	\$149,500
Drilling Oil and Gas Wells	9,325	127	\$141,960
Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations	25,551	743	\$246,272
Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures Construction	17,117	208	\$149,344
Petroleum Refineries	7,205	40	\$101,556
Chemical Manufacturing	41,784	508	\$122,668
Industrial Valve Manufacturing	3,688	82	\$173,004
Fabricated Pipe and Pipe Fitting Manufacturing	5,291	85	\$144,560
Oil and Gas Field Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	21,978	234	\$171,860
Pump and Compressor Manufacturing	1,836	55	\$86,268
Pipeline Transportation	13,924	89	\$98,228
Engineering Services	49,887	1,912	\$139,100
Geophysical Surveying and Mapping Services	2,040	118	\$123,032
<b>Energy-Related</b>	<b>231,575</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>\$149,855</b>
<b>Share of Houston Metro Total</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	

\*Nine-county metro

Note: Due to the reach of the energy industry in Houston, portions of several other industries (e.g., utilities, accounting, real estate) could be added to this definition. \*Four quarters ending Q4/23

Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

## Aerospace

### NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Houston established itself as a global hub for aerospace in 1961 with the arrival of NASA’s human space program. Since then, the Johnson Space Center (JSC) has anchored a thriving aerospace industry, attracting the world’s leading aerospace companies.

JSC, a \$1.9-billion complex, occupies over 1,700 acres and is one of NASA’s largest R&D facilities. JSC managed an annual budget of \$5.65 billion in '22 and generated more than \$2.69 billion in expenditures in Texas.



### 2022



### 2023



**13th largest**  
internationally traded commodity

Houston’s trade in aircraft, spacecraft and parts totaled \$2.9 billion in '23, and aircraft, spacecraft and parts were Houston’s 13th largest internationally traded commodity.

### NASA’S EXPLORATION PARK

NASA’s Exploration Park is 240 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to JSC that will house Texas A&M University’s Space Institute and the American Center of Manufacturing and Innovation’s new Space Systems Campus. The development will allow academic researchers, aerospace companies and entrepreneurs to collaborate with NASA.

### HOUSTON SPACEPORT

Houston Spaceport, situated 18 miles southeast of downtown Houston at Ellington Airport, became a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-designated spaceport in '15. One of only 10 spaceports in the U.S., the development plays a major role in Houston’s aerospace landscape.

With the construction of multiple new facilities, major anchor tenants began operations or expanded their footprint at the Houston Spaceport in '23:

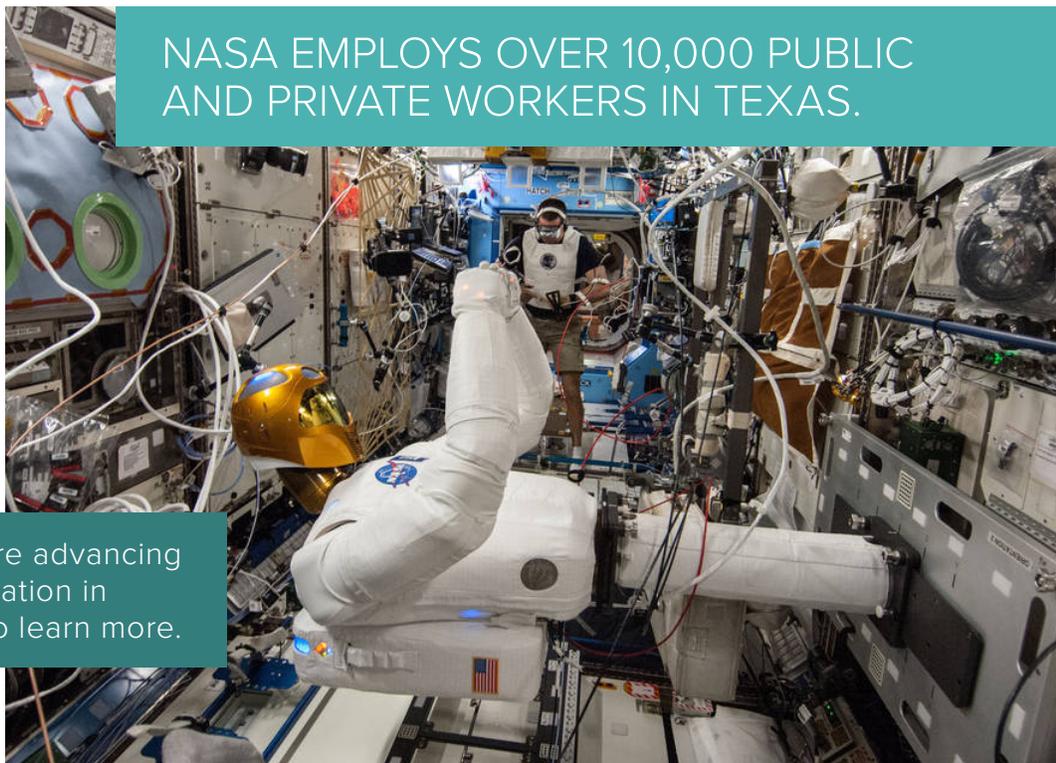
**AXIOM SPACE** cut the ribbon on Phase I of its 22-acre campus in December '23. The campus will train astronauts, conduct mission operations and serve as a research facility, featuring Axiom Station’s first commercial module that will attach to the International Space Station.

Houston-based **INTUITIVE MACHINES** opened its 12.5-acre campus in September '23. Intuitive will manufacture lunar landers and spacecraft, track and manage lunar missions with its mission control rooms, and support NASA-awarded missions at its site.

**COLLINS AEROSPACE** develops systems for NASA’s human spaceflight program at its eight-acre campus. Collins and Axiom Space were selected to create the next generation of NASA spacesuits – a contract valued at up to \$3.5 billion over a 15-year period.

The Spaceport launched its second development phase in early '24, with plans to construct a taxiway that will connect Ellington Airport and the Spaceport and expand San Jacinto College’s EDGE Center, which offers aerospace training.

NASA EMPLOYS OVER 10,000 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORKERS IN TEXAS.



Explore how collaborations are advancing the future of aerospace innovation in Houston. Visit **Houston.org** to learn more.

## Innovation

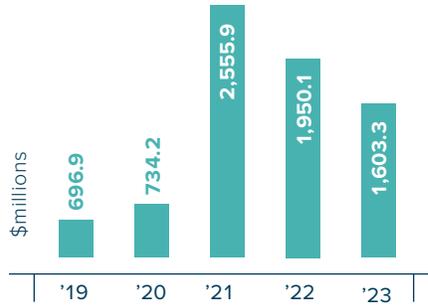
Houston is a thriving hub of digital tech talent, with more than 152,000 tech workers representing 4.4 percent of the region's workforce, according to CompTIA.

Houston is home to 9,300 tech-related firms, including more than 1,000 venture-backed startups. These companies have received \$7.54 billion in venture capital funding over the last five years, including \$1.60 billion in '23, according to the financial database Pitchbook.

In '23, the most heavily invested industry for VC funding in Houston was Business Products and Services, which received \$622.8 million across 54 deals. Information Technology followed with \$568.0 million across 81

deals. Health Care came in third with \$194.4 million in funding.

### VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTED IN HOUSTON



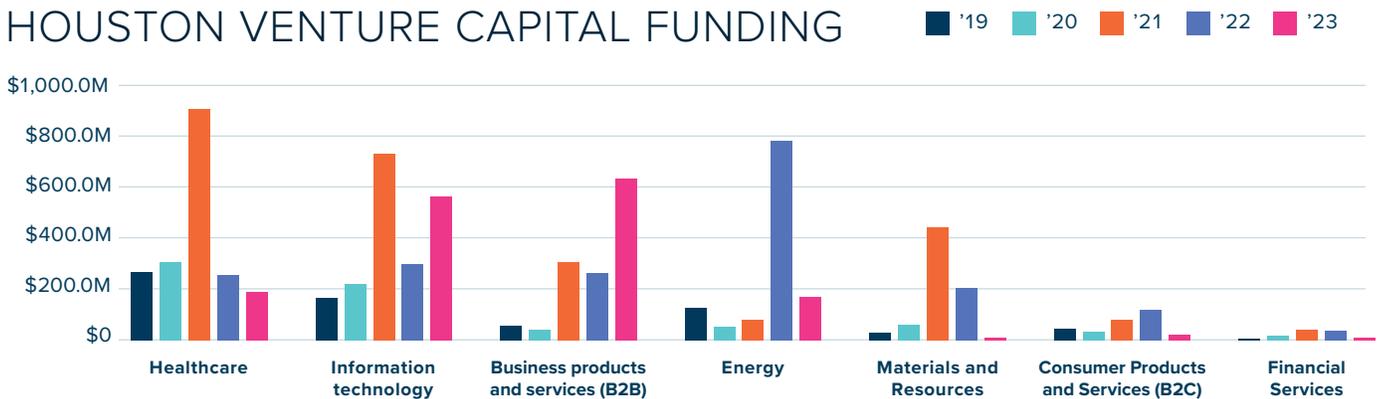
Source: Partnership analysis of Pitchbook data

### TECH EMPLOYERS

Several tech companies are among Houston's largest employers, including:

Alert Logic	Honeywell
Asurion	IBM
ATR Inc.	Microsoft
AWS	Oracle
BMC Software	PAS
Cart.com	PROS
Dell	Siemens
HighRadius	Support Zebra
HP Enterprise	Symplr
HP Inc.	

## HOUSTON VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING



## Top venture-backed companies and startups that received VC funding in '23:

### Axiom Space | \$460.0M Deal

The funds will be used to lay the foundation for finding diverse business opportunities in the private space industry.

### NXTClean Fuels | \$75.0M Deal

NXT is in the process of permitting its first proposed refinery to produce renewable fuel.

### Cart.com | \$60.5M Deal

Expansion of its software and artificial intelligence capabilities, as well as its business reach among B2B and enterprise customers.

### RepeatMD | \$50.0M Deal

Operator of a patient engagement platform intended to offer revenue automation and grow medical practices.

### MetOx Technologies | \$42.9M Deal

Manufacturer of high-temperature superconducting (HTS) wire intended to transmit electricity without electrical loss or heat generation in operation.

### EndoQuest Robotics | \$42.0M Deal

Developer of a groundbreaking flexible endoluminal robot aimed at transforming minimally invasive procedures.

### MacroFab | \$42.0M Deal

An electronics manufacturing platform designed to help companies integrate electronics and sub-assemblies into a full system build.

### Welligence | \$41.0M Deal

A machine learning data and analytics platform designed to forecast international oil and gas assets.

### P97 | \$40.7M Deal

A leader in payment and loyalty solutions for mobility-focused retailers.

Source: Partnership analysis of PitchBook data

# GOVERNMENT

## City of Houston

The City of Houston is a home-rule municipality, which provides the city with inherent powers to manage its affairs with minimal interference from the state.

The city's current elected officials, serving four-year terms, are Mayor

John Whitmire, City Controller Chris Hollins, and the 16 members of the City Council. Eleven council members are elected from single-member districts, and five are elected citywide or "at-large." The City of Houston elected officials can serve no more than two terms of four years each.

The city's General Fund budget for fiscal year (FY) '23 is \$2.89 billion. Property taxes account for 47.3 percent of revenues (\$1.37 billion), sales taxes for 29.9 percent (\$866 million) and intergovernmental transfers for 5.6 percent (\$160 million).

## Metro Area Counties

Each county in Texas is run by a five-member Commissioners Court consisting of four commissioners elected from single-member districts, called commissioner precincts, and a county judge elected "at-

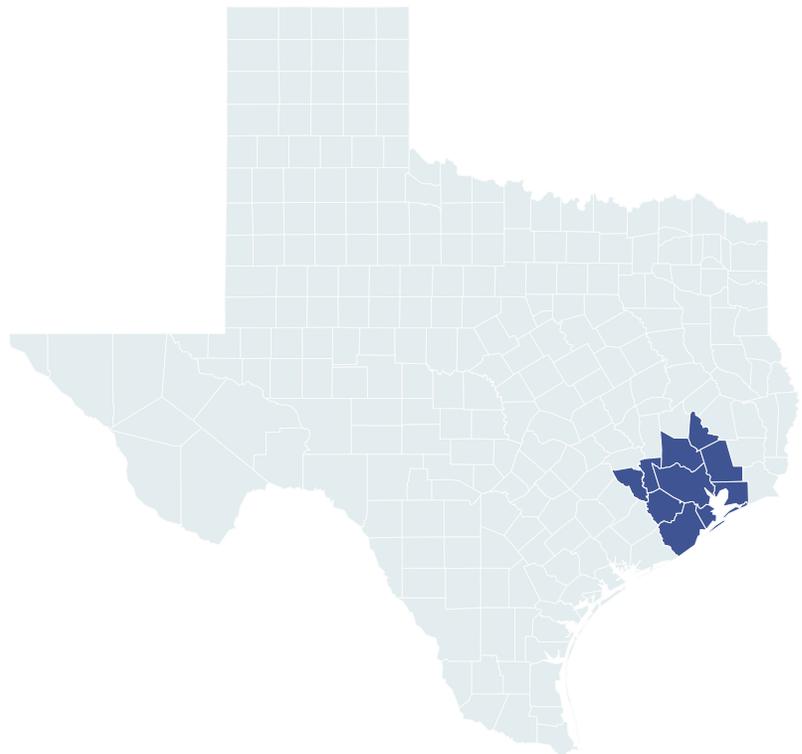
large" or countywide. The county commissioners and county judge serve staggered four-year terms and are not term limited. The Commissioners Court of Harris County, which overlaps the City of

Houston, has Judge Lina Hidalgo and its four precinct commissioners. The county's General Fund budget for fiscal year '24 is \$2.40 billion. Property taxes typically comprise about 75 percent of county revenues.

## Texas Government

The chief executive of the State of Texas is the governor. Other elected officials with executive responsibilities include the lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, commissioner of the General Land Office, commissioner of agriculture and the railroad commissioner. These elected offices have a term of four years.

The Texas Legislature has 181 members: 31 in the State Senate, who are elected to four-year overlapping terms, and 150 in the State House of Representatives, who are elected to two-year terms. Regular state legislature sessions convene on the second Tuesday of January in odd-numbered years. The Texas Constitution limits the regular session to 140 calendar days; however, the governor may call a special 30-day session.





## Local Council of Governments

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a regional council of governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region. Organized in 1966, H-GAC is overseen by 36 elected officials that represent 13 counties (Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker,

Waller and Wharton), 177 cities and 84 school districts.

H-GAC's regional programs focus on community and environmental planning, data tools and resources, disaster planning and recovery, transportation planning, public safety, workforce, and economic development.

As one of the country's largest councils of governments, H-GAC provides a forum for jurisdictions of all sizes to solve regional issues, identify and prioritize funding opportunities, and analyze trends and conditions affecting the region.



## U.S. CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives legislative districts partly or entirely within the Greater Houston Partnership's service area:

**District 2 | Harris County**

**District 7 | Harris County**

**District 8 | Harris and Montgomery Counties**

**District 9 | Brazoria and Harris Counties**

**District 10 | Austin, Harris and Waller Counties**

**District 14 | Brazoria and Galveston Counties**

**District 17 | Matagorda and Wharton Counties**

**District 18 | Harris County**

**District 22 | Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties**

**District 29 | Harris County**

**District 36 | Chambers, Harris and Liberty Counties**

## Taxation

The sales and use tax in the State of Texas is 6.25 percent. The City of Houston levies an additional 1.0 percent. The Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority levies an additional 1.0 percent in areas it serves, which includes the entire City of Houston and many of the unincorporated parts of Harris County.

The table below shows typical tax rates for property located within Houston city limits. The tax rates are expressed as dollars per \$100 taxable value. Ad valorem property tax is the primary source of local government revenue in the Houston region.

### TYPICAL PROPERTY TAXES

Tax Rate per \$100 Taxable Value | 2023

City of Houston	Harris County	Houston ISD	Houston Community College	Other Jurisdictions
\$0.519190	\$0.350070	\$0.868300	\$0.092231	\$0.18502

**Total Property Tax Rate | \$2.014811**

## FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAX ROLL 2023



## Public Safety

### HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD)

HPD’s budget for FY ‘24 is \$1.04 billion.

The HPD budget calls for a total of 6,254 full-time-equivalent (FTE) police personnel, of which 5,215 are Classified, 898 are Civilian and 142 are police Cadets in training.

HPD’s estimated average response time in ‘23 was 6.0 minutes for priority one calls and 11.4 minutes for priority two calls. HPD responded to 1,104,147 calls for service in ‘23.

### HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (HCSO)

Founded in 1837, HCSO is the largest sheriff’s office in Texas and one of the largest in the United States. HCSO’s FY ‘24 operating budget is \$692.4 million.

The Harris County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement protection to the 4.7 million residents in Harris County.

HCSO employs over 5,000, as well as an additional 200 volunteer reserve deputies.

### HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD)

HFD is the largest fire department in Texas, the third-largest fire department in the United States, and is responsible for preserving life and property to a population of more than 2.3 million in an area totaling 654 square miles.

In ‘23, HFD responded to 328,186 incidents. Of these incidents, 8,221 were fire-related and 319,965 EMS-related.

HFD’s FY ‘24 budget is \$593.3 million and calls for 4,057 FTE employees, which includes 432 overtime FTEs and 98 civilian employees.

## Libraries

The Houston Public Library (HPL), established in 1904, celebrated its 120th birthday in April ‘24.

HPL is comprised of 44 public service units, including 29 neighborhood and express libraries, five regional libraries, three history research centers, the HPL mobile express, three TECHLink locations and a satellite

location at the Children’s Museum of Houston. The system has a collection of over two million items and 1.8 million registered borrowers. In fiscal year ‘24, the library hopes to host 2.5 million in-house visits and 3.2 million virtual visits.

The Harris County Public Library (HCPL) system is a network of 26

branches with 2.3 million items in its collection. HCPL circulates more than 11 million items each year and has over 900,000 registered borrowers. It has the highest circulation of any public library in Texas.

# EDUCATION

## SELECTED HOUSTON-AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS (ISDs)

HARRIS COUNTY	CAMPUSES	STUDENTS FALL '23
ALDINE ISD	80	57,828
ALIEF ISD	46	39,452
CHANNELVIEW ISD	13	9,434
CROSBY ISD	10	6,868
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD	94	118,470
DEER PARK ISD	15	12,122
GALENA PARK ISD	25	21,105
GOOSE CREEK CISD	34	24,108
HOUSTON ISD	274	184,092
HUFFMAN ISD	5	3,679
HUMBLE ISD	52	48,521
KATY ISD	81	94,769
KLEIN ISD	53	53,093
LA PORTE ISD	14	7,115
PASADENA ISD	67	47,486
SHELDON ISD	14	11,028
SPRING BRANCH ISD	50	33,407
SPRING ISD	43	33,935
TOMBALL ISD	25	22,273
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>828,785</b>
COUNTY	TOTAL CAMPUSES	TOTAL STUDENTS FALL '23
AUSTIN	13	6,144
BRAZORIA	107	74,340
CHAMBERS	17	10,833
FORT BEND	157	131,767
GALVESTON	117	79,566
LIBERTY	35	23,949
MONTGOMERY	35	128,558
SAN JACINTO	8	3,584
WALLER	19	12,930

Source: Texas Education Agency

# INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Greater Houston Area, Fall 2023



## Elementary and Secondary Education

The Houston MSA contains 64 independent school districts (ISDs) and 43 state-approved charter management organizations (CMOs). In fall '23, public schools in the Houston metro area enrolled more than 1.3 million students, approximately one in four school children in Texas.

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the ninth-largest public school system in the nation and the largest in Texas. In the '22-'23 school year, HISD operated 274 campuses and enrolled more than 184,000 students.

## Higher Education

Colleges and universities in the Houston area enrolled nearly 435,000 students across 33 academic institutions in fall '23, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Community college students accounted for 46.7 percent of enrollment, while four-year institutions and professional and medical students accounted for 53.3 percent in '23.

Houston benefits from three Tier I research universities: Rice University, the University of Houston and Texas A&M University. These institutions have the highest ranking under the Carnegie classification system for research activity.

TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES		FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT
Lone Star College System District		76,672
Houston Community College System		40,255
San Jacinto College		31,255
Blinn College		18,086
Lee College		8,150
Wharton County Junior College*		5,691
Alvin Community College		5,279
Lamar Institute of Technology*		5,035
College of the Mainland Community College District		4,967
Brazosport College		4,125
Galveston College		2,124
Texas State Technical College - Fort Bend		959
		<b>202,598 STUDENTS</b>
FOUR-YEAR OR ABOVE		FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT
Texas A&M University*		69,598
University of Houston		46,502
Sam Houston State University*		20,762
Lamar University*		16,721
University of Houston-Downtown		14,113
Prairie View A&M University		9,508
Texas Southern University		8,472
University of Houston-Clear Lake		8,232
University of Houston-Victoria*		3,813
Texas A&M University at Galveston		2,142
Rice University		8,446
Houston Christian University		4,182
University of St. Thomas		3,816
South Texas College of Law		1,040
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston		5,078
The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center		3,454
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston		3,327
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center		356
University of Houston Medical School		171
Baylor College of Medicine		1,653
Texas Chiropractic College		267
		<b>231,653 STUDENTS</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>434,251 STUDENTS</b>

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

\*Located outside Houston MSA but within 100-mile radius.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Utilities

### ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS

Headquartered in Houston, CenterPoint Energy is an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation, and natural gas distribution. The company’s infrastructure investment plan calls for a nearly \$27 billion investment in system growth, reliability, modernization and cleaner energy enablement to improve the overall resiliency of its Houston electric service territory.

CenterPoint Energy’s Houston service area by the numbers in ‘23:

- Experienced an all-time system peak load of 21,890 MWs resulting from record-breaking heat; the load exceeded the record set in ‘22 by 12 percent.
- With about 3,900 miles of transmission lines and nearly 60,000 miles of distribution lines, the company delivers electricity to more than 2.9 million customers in a 5,000-square-mile area.
- CenterPoint Energy owns and operates over 1,610 miles of transmission right-of-way, including more than 30,000 transmission towers.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Houston is served by seven area codes: 281, 346, 409, 713, 832, 936 and 979, four of which overlap.

- The Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC) has certified 300 carriers to competitive local exchange carriers, or CLECs, to provide local phone service in the state.
- The Texas PUC has registered 173 active long-distance Interexchange Carriers.
- Numerous cellular service providers offer mobile voice and data communications in the Houston MSA, and Houston was the first U.S. metro to install Verizon 5G broadband in October ‘18.

365NAP	NETRALITY
ALPHEUS COMMUNICATIONS	DATA CENTERS
CYRUSONE	SOFTLAYER TECHNOLOGIES
DATA FOUNDRY	SPECTRUM COMMUNICATIONS
DIGITAL REALTY	STRATITSPHERE
INAP	SUNGARD AVAILABILITY SERVICES
LOGIX COMMUNICATIONS	VERIZON
LUMEN	

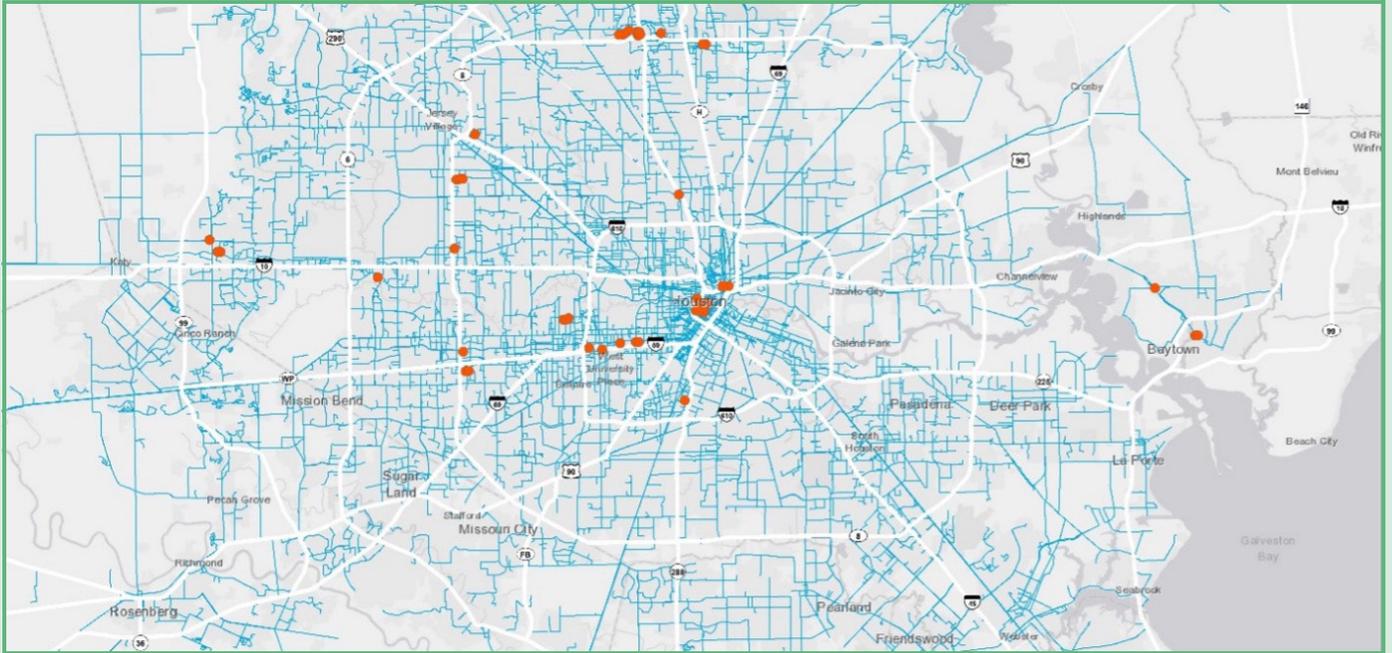
CARRIER (top 10 by mileage)	FIBER CARRIER MILES
AT&T	4,978
CROWN CASTLE	1,882
LUMEN	1,217
VERIZON	963
WINDSTREAM	948
FIBERLIGHT	941
ZAYO	686
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS	567
PHONOSCOPE	530
ICTX	551
ALL OTHERS	1,954
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,016</b>

### FIBER

Fiber optic lines support very high rates of data transmission. In Houston, 25 carriers operate or provide fiber service via more than 15,000 fiber carrier miles.

Fifty-nine companies operate 56 fiber-lit data centers and related facilities in Houston.





Blue Lines = Fiber Routes Orange Dots = Data Centers or related

## WATER

The City of Houston is the regional water provider for Harris County and portions of three surrounding counties. At projected usage rates, the City has sufficient water supplies for its wholesale and retail customers through the year 2050.

The City owns water rights to over 1.2 billion gallons per day of reliable surface water and over 200 million gallons per day of available groundwater supplies.

The City of Houston owns a 70 percent share of Lake Livingston, 70 percent of Lake Conroe and 100 percent of Lake Houston.

According to Water Data for Texas, Lake Livingston averaged a water level of 131.98 feet in '23, Lake Conroe averaged a water level of 201.13 feet and Lake Houston averaged a water level of 42.65 feet. Lake Conroe maintains the highest water level average for '23 while Lake Houston maintains the lowest water level average. The average water level of all three lakes in '23 was 125.25 feet.

Houston's Drinking Water Operations produced and distributed more than 172 billion gallons of water in '21 via a 7,000-mile pipeline distribution system.

The City has three purification plants: the Northeast Water Plant, the East

Water Plant and the Southeast Water Plant. The Northeast Water Plant is currently undergoing an expansion that will increase the plant's capacity from 80 million gallons per day (MGD) to 400 MGD by '24.

## WASTEWATER

The City of Houston operates 40 wastewater treatment plants, three wet weather facilities, 18 storm water underpass pump stations and over 380 lift stations. The City treats an average of 250 MGD of wastewater with an overall permitted capacity of 564 MGD. It maintains 6,200 miles of sewer pipelines with over 129,600 manholes.



## Land Transportation

### MOTOR FREIGHT LINES

There are 1,957 long-distance trucking establishments operating in the 10-county Houston MSA.

### RAILROADS

The Houston area is served by BNSF Railway Company, Kansas City Southern Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad Company. Businesses along the Houston Ship Channel are served by the Galveston Railroad, Port Terminal Railroad Association and Texas City Terminal Railway Company. Eight mainline tracks and five branch line tracks radiate from Houston.

Amtrak provides passenger service three times per week in Houston via the Sunset Limited route that travels from New Orleans to San Antonio and Los Angeles.

### INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

The Texas portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway stretches 379 miles. The main channel is 12 feet deep and 125 feet wide. The entire

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway spans approximately 1,300 miles from Brownsville, Texas, to St. Mark's, Florida. Texas' portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway facilitates the transportation of up to 90 million tons of freight annually.

### FREEWAYS, HIGHWAYS AND TOLL ROADS

There are 3,440 centerline miles and 11,777 lane miles of freeways and expressways in operation, according to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The Houston District includes Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

Corridors: Houston's major thoroughfares include Beltway 8, Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, I-10, I-45, I-610, SH 6, SH 146, SH 225, SH 288, US 59/I-69, US 90, US 290 and the Westpark Tollway.

Highway Spending: In FY '23, TxDOT spent \$1.5 billion on construction and maintenance projects in the Houston District.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): Motorists traveled a total of 99,594,247 vehicle miles per day in the Houston District in '23. The average daily VMT per vehicle was 17.9 miles based on the 5,540,043 vehicles registered in the region.

In March '23, the Federal Highway Administration entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement with TxDOT, formally removing a hold on the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP). The NHHIP is TxDOT's \$9 billion investment to improve I-45 from Beltway 8 to I-10 and reroute I-45 through the downtown Houston area along I-10 and US 59/I-69.

### METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (METRO)

Created and funded with a one-cent sales tax in a 1978 voter referendum, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County began operations in January 1979. The American Public Transportation System (APTA) has honored METRO as the Best Transit Agency in North America three times – most recently in '20.

METRO serves an area of 1,303 square miles with 21 transit centers, over 9,000 bus stops and 28 Park & Ride facilities, according to the most recent edition of METRO at a Glance.

METRO's fleet includes 2,209 active transit vehicles and 90 light-rail train cars. METRO operates over 80 bus routes, one Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route and three light-rail lines that travel on 23 miles of track. Boardings for METROrail service reached 13.7 million in '23, a 17.8 percent increase from 11.6 million in '22.

METRO provided 1,507,014 rides to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in March '23 — a 10% increase in ridership from March '22.

(METRO's Fiscal Year is measured from October through September)



## Sea Ports

The Houston region has four seaports, handling 255.6 million metric tons of foreign trade in '23. Of these four ports, the Port of Houston is the largest and ranks first in foreign trade tonnage among all U.S. seaports. Port Freeport ranks No. 15 in the U.S., Port of Texas City ranks No. 22 and Port of Galveston ranks No. 47.

### PORT HOUSTON

Port Houston ranks as the nation's fifth-busiest container port, behind Los Angeles, New York/New Jersey, Long Beach and Savannah. The Port handles over 73 percent of all container traffic on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

In '23, Port Houston fell just short of the record for container traffic set in '22. The Barbour's Cut and Bayport facilities handled 3,175,543 TEUs (twenty-foot-equivalent units) — about 10,000 short of the total for '22.

The region's containerized exports reflect its industrial base. Chemicals, electrical and industrial machinery, plastics, and rubber account for two thirds (65.6 percent) of all container exports via the Port of Houston. Containerized imports reflect the needs of local industry and consumers. In addition to machinery, chemicals and plastics, the Port handled a significant volume of apparel, beverages, coffee, food, footwear, home furnishings, meat, seafood and toys last year.

Foreign trade via Port Houston in '23 totaled 207.0 million metric tons and was valued at \$226.4 billion. Imports totaled 55.0 million metric tons, valued at \$101.9 billion. Exports totaled 152.0 million metric tons, valued at \$124.4 billion.

The Port of Houston traded with 217 countries in '23. Of those, trade with 41 countries exceeded \$1 billion each, while trade with 45 additional countries exceeded \$100 million. The Port's top trading partner by value is China and by weight is Mexico.



## TOP FIVE TRADING PARTNERS Port of Houston, 2023

RANK	DESCRIPTION	IN BILLIONS
1	China	26.0
2	Mexico	16.9
3	South Korea	12.0
4	Germany	10.5
5	Brazil	10.3
<b>TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS</b>		<b>\$75.7 B</b>
<b>REMAINING 227 TRADING PARTNERS</b>		<b>\$150.7 B</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL PARTNER COUNTRIES</b>		<b>\$226.4 B</b>

RANK	DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL METRIC TONS IN MILLIONS
1	Mexico	23.7
2	China	17.6
3	Japan	12.6
4	Netherlands	12.1
5	South Korea	11.3
<b>TOTAL TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS</b>		<b>77.3 M</b>
<b>ALL OTHER TRADING PARTNERS</b>		<b>129.7 M</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL TRADING PARTNERS</b>		<b>207.0 M</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division; WISERTrade (By Vessel)

### HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

The Houston Ship Channel, a 52-mile inland waterway, connects Houston with the sea lanes of the world. Its turning basin is eight miles east of Houston’s central business district.

Most of the channel has a minimum width of 530 feet and a depth of 45 feet at mean low tide.

More than 330 public and private terminals, owned by more than 150 companies, line both sides of the channel and serve one of the world’s largest petrochemical industrial complexes.



### PORT OF HOUSTON TOTAL TRADE AND WEIGHT

2023

RANK	DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL IN BILLIONS
1	Mineral Fuels, Oil; Refined Products	84.6
2	Industrial Machinery, Including Computers	20.7
3	Organic Chemicals	18.8
4	Electric Machinery, Equipment Parts	16.6
5	Plastics and Plastic Products	15.3
<b>TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES</b>		<b>\$156.0 B</b>
<b>ALL OTHER COMMODITIES</b>		<b>\$71.3 B</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES</b>		<b>\$227.4 B</b>

RANK	DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL METRIC TONS IN MILLIONS
1	Mineral Fuel, Oil; Refined Products	140.5
2	Organic Chemicals	19.5
3	Plastics and Plastic Products	11.2
4	Salt, Sulfur, Stone, Lime and Cement Plaster	5.2
5	Articles of Iron or Steel	4.7
<b>TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES</b>		<b>181.1 M</b>
<b>ALL OTHER COMMODITIES</b>		<b>25.9 M</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES</b>		<b>207.0 M</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division; WISERTrade

### SEAPORTS RANKED BY FOREIGN TRADE

2023, Million Metric Tons by Vessel

1<sup>ST</sup> | Port Houston  
207.0

15<sup>TH</sup> | Port Freeport  
30.2

22<sup>ND</sup> | Port of Texas City  
14.0

47<sup>TH</sup> | Port of Galveston  
4.3



Note Metric Tons by Vessel

## Air Transportation

Houston is an international air gateway to the southern United States and Latin America. In '15, Hobby Airport added direct flights to Mexico, making Houston the only city in Texas with two international airports – one of only eight such cities nationwide. The Houston Airport System (HAS) received high honors at the Skytrax 2023 World Airport Awards ceremony. Both William P. Hobby and Bush Intercontinental ranked among the World's Top 100 airports, claiming No. 32 and No. 35 respectively. They were the second- and third-highest ranking U.S. airports in that category.

# 534,096

metric tons of air freight handled at the Houston Airport System in '23.

Domestic cargo accounted for 63.3 percent of total air freight, while international cargo accounted for 36.7 percent.



# 60.1 million

passengers served at **George Bush Intercontinental & William P. Hobby Airports** in '23.

# 12.6 million

total international passengers at Bush and Hobby airports, of which:

- 4.9 million Mexico
- 3.3 million Central America
- 1.7 million Europe
- 0.8 million Canada
- 1.9 million Other



# 46.2 million

total passengers at IAH, up 12.7 percent from '22.

# 13.9 million

total passengers at HOU, up 6.1 percent from '22.



# COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

## Broadcast

According to Nielsen, the Houston television market was the sixth largest in the nation in '23, making up 2.2 percent of all TV households in the U.S. Top local TV news stations include:

- NBC-affiliate KPRC (Channel 2)
- CBS-affiliate KHOU (Channel 11)
- ABC-affiliate KTRK (Channel 13)
- FOX-affiliate KRIV (Channel 26)
- CW-affiliate KIAH (Channel 39)
- Univision-affiliate KXLN (Channel 45)
- Telemundo-affiliate KTMD (Channel 47)

The University of Houston's KUHT, which aired its first broadcast on May 25, 1953, is the oldest public television station in the U.S.

The most popular local radio stations, by share of listenership according to ratings from Nielsen, include:

- KSBJ-FM (God Listens, 89.3)
- KODA-FM (Sunny 99.1)
- KMJQ-FM (Magic 102.1)
- KTBZ-FM (The Buzz 94.5)
- KGLK-FM (The Eagle 107.5)
- KKHH-FM (The Sport 95.7)
- KUHF-FM (News 88.7)
- KKBQ-FM (Country 92.9)
- KQQK-FM (El Norte 107.9)

## COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA BY TYPE

### Houston MSA, 2023

#### Newspaper Publishers

71 establishments | 966 jobs

**\$83,772** average annual wage

#### Book Publishers

45 establishments | 320 jobs

**\$107,016** average annual wage

#### Media Streaming Distribution Services, Social Networks, and Other Media Networks and Content Providers

121 establishments | 1,474 jobs

**\$105,144** average annual wage

#### Periodical Publishers

94 establishments | 2,047 jobs

**\$98,124** average annual wage

#### Radio Broadcasting Stations

27 establishments | 566 jobs

**\$108,264** average annual wage

#### Television Broadcasting Stations

6 establishments | 410 jobs

**\$111,540** average annual wage

Source: Texas Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

## Digital and Print

Houston's major daily newspaper, the Houston Chronicle, is the region's largest media employer. Founded in 1901, the paper has the second highest circulation in Texas and consistently ranks among the most widely-read newspapers in the country.

In addition to the Houston Chronicle's daily readers, HoustonChronicle.com receives 16 million page views a month. In addition to its flagship, Chron.com, a digital-first local news source, serves more than six million unique visitors each month.

### PRINT AND DIGITAL OUTLETS IN HOUSTON

- Bisnow
- BIC Magazine
- Community Impact
- CultureMap Houston
- Houston Business Journal
- Houston Landing
- Houston Press
- Houston Public Media
- Houstonia Magazine
- Houston CityBook
- Intown Magazine
- PaperCity
- Realty News Report



# LIFE IN HOUSTON

## Cost of Living

### HOUSTON RANKS AS 3RD MOST AFFORDABLE METRO

Source: Cost of Living Index, Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

Houston's living costs are 5.9 percent below the U.S. average and 29.2 percent below the average of the nation's 20 most populous metro areas. Houston ranks as the third most affordable metro, according to the Cost of Living Index from the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER).

Housing costs in Houston are 17.8 percent below the U.S. average and 84.7 percent below the average for the nation's 20 most populous metro areas. Excluding the two most expensive housing markets — New York and San Francisco — which tend to skew the average, Houston's housing costs are 58.1 percent below the major metro average.

## COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS

### 2023 Annual Average

20 Most Populous U.S. Metros\* (Average for 276 Urban Areas = 100)

URBAN AREA	COMPOSITE	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPOR-TATION	HEALTH CARE	MISC. GOODS & SERVICES
New York (Manhattan), NY	225.2	113.4	498.9	101.7	115.2	120.6	126.8
San Francisco, CA	170.0	122.5	287.3	135.8	131.5	124.8	119.9
Los Angeles, CA	148.9	112.2	234.5	112.4	124.3	107.9	116.2
Washington, DC	146.8	105.4	237.7	110.6	105.5	110.0	116.6
Boston, MA	146.5	105.3	218.5	133.9	117.5	112.9	121.6
Seattle, WA	144.6	116.3	210.1	102.1	128.2	137.6	119.5
San Diego, CA	142.0	115.6	213.6	107.1	127.0	105.0	112.6
Miami, FL	116.9	104.0	149.9	102.8	102.6	95.8	106.1
Chicago, IL	113.4	103.5	137.0	89.2	107.2	107.7	107.0
Denver, CO	110.3	105.0	129.8	85.0	104.2	98.7	106.4
Detroit, MI	102.1	103.4	105.6	94.4	99.5	102.2	101.5
Dallas, TX	102.1	100.1	97.3	111.4	88.6	108.3	108.0
Phoenix, AZ	101.9	104.2	115.8	99.0	102.0	94.0	91.0
Philadelphia, PA	101.5	102.0	96.3	110.4	106.7	93.5	102.8
Atlanta, GA	98.3	101.3	98.4	81.1	99.4	109.2	99.6
Tampa, FL	96.2	99.5	96.1	98.9	100.4	92.0	93.3
<b>Houston, TX</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>100.5</b>
Minneapolis, MN	93.3	97.4	85.7	94.8	97.1	100.6	95.3
St. Louis, MO	88.9	96.9	75.8	101.7	93.5	88.7	91.5

\*Metro areas represented by most dominant urban area. Riverside, California is among the 20 most populous MSAs, but did not submit COLI data. Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), Cost of Living Index, '23 Annual Average (Data based on a survey of 276 urban areas, published January '24).



# Weather

Houston has a humid subtropical climate, with hot and humid summers and mild winters. The city is located in southeastern Texas, near the Gulf of Mexico, which has a significant influence on the local climate.

## TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

During the summer months (June-August), Houston experiences high temperatures in the mid- to upper-90s°F (32-37°C) and high humidity, with occasional thunderstorms and tropical storms. The city is prone to flooding during these months due to the heavy rainfall.

Winters (December-February) are mild, with temperatures ranging from the mid-40s°F to mid-60s°F (7-18°C), and occasional cold fronts that can bring temperatures below freezing. Houston rarely sees snowfall, but it does occur occasionally.

Spring (March-May) and fall (September-November) are generally pleasant, with mild temperatures and lower humidity. However, severe weather, such as thunderstorms and tornadoes, can occur in spring.

## PRECIPITATION

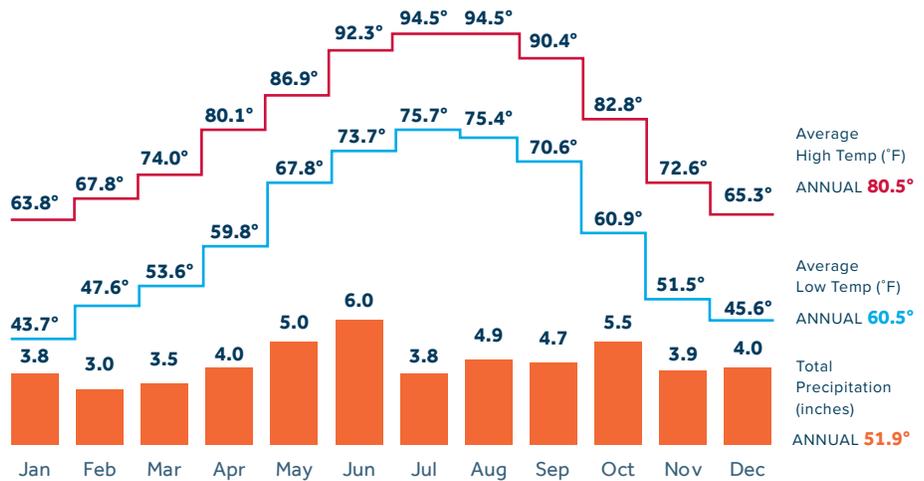
Houston receives an average of 49 inches of precipitation per year with most of the rainfall occurring during the summer. June is typically the wettest month, with an average of 6.3 inches of rainfall, while February is the driest month, with an average of 3.2 inches.

Houston is prone to severe weather events, such as thunderstorms, hurricanes and tropical storms, which can cause significant amounts of precipitation in a short amount of time. This can lead to flooding, particularly in low-lying areas of the city. Houston has experienced several major floods in recent years, including the Memorial Day flood in '15 and Hurricane Harvey in '17.

In addition to rainfall, Houston also experiences some snowfall, although it is rare. On average, the city sees less than an inch of snow per year.

# HOUSTON WEATHER

Average, 1991-2020



Note: Recorded at George Bush Intercontinental Airport's weather station. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## SUNSHINE

Houston receives an average of 204 sunny days per year, with an average of 3,066 hours of sunshine annually. However, the amount of sunshine can vary widely depending on the season and weather conditions. During the summer, Houston can experience extended periods of cloudiness due to frequent thunderstorms and tropical storms. This can result in fewer hours of sunshine per day. In contrast, during the fall and winter, Houston generally experiences clearer skies and more sunshine.

## WIND

Houston experiences a moderate amount of wind throughout the year, with average wind speeds ranging from 6-10 miles per hour. During the summer, Houston can experience occasional tropical storms and hurricanes, which can bring strong winds and gusts to the area. In the fall and winter, the city can also experience cold fronts that can bring strong northerly winds. The wind direction in Houston is generally from the southeast due to the prevailing winds from the Gulf of Mexico.



## Travel and Tourism

Travelers spent \$18.4 billion in metro Houston in '23, according to Dean Runyan Associates, which gathered the data on behalf of the Office of the Texas Governor. Their spending supported over 137,000 jobs in the region, paid almost \$7.3 billion in salaries and wages, and generated \$5.0 billion in tax revenue.

Metro Houston had 1,336 hotels and motels and 108 campgrounds and RV parks at the end of '23.

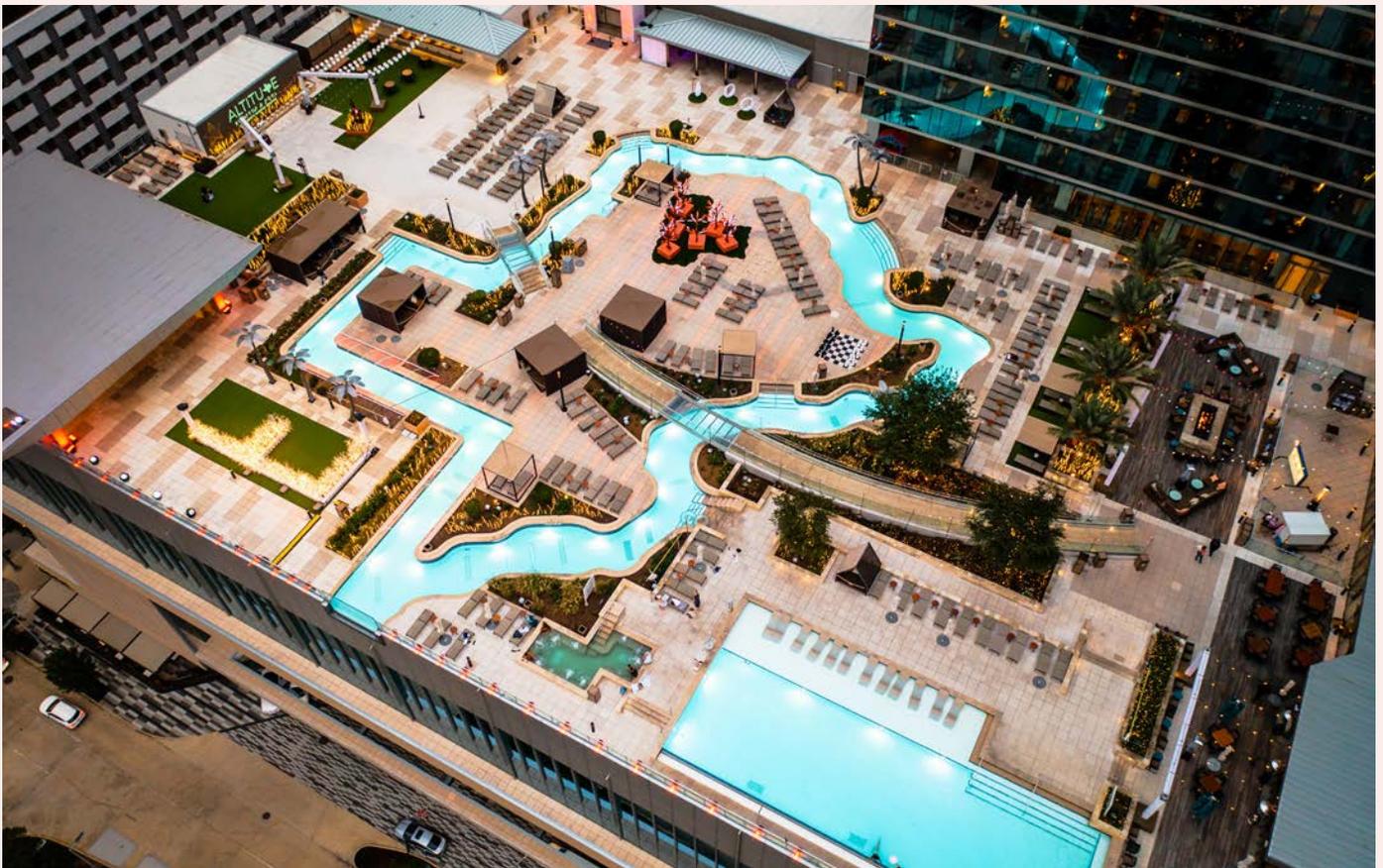
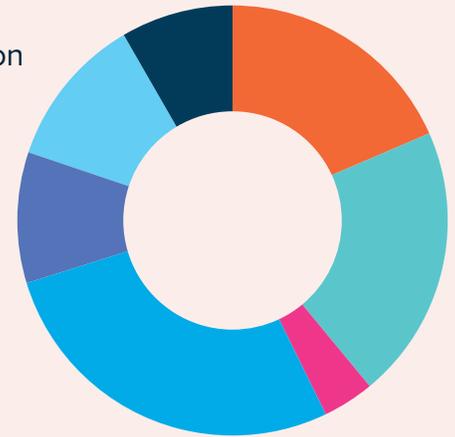
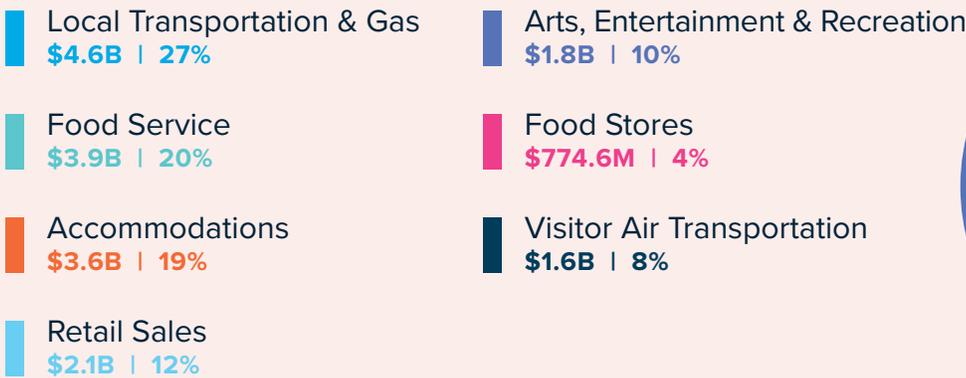
According to tourism and convention organization Houston First Corporation, the city hosted 417 events with more than 751,500 attendees in '22, up from just 156 events with more than 342,500 attendees in '21.

Houston hosted the College Football National Championship in '24 and is one of the host cities for the '26 FIFA World Cup.

Announced in late May '24, Houston will host the '26 World Baseball Classic at Minute Maid Park. It will be Houston's first time hosting the World Baseball Classic.

Houston was also to be a host city for the Copa America '24, featuring 10 South American teams, with Mexico and the United States representing North America.

## TRAVELER SPENDING IN METRO HOUSTON 2023



## Dining

Houston restaurants feature outstanding regional dishes as well as diverse international cuisine. At the end of '23, the Houston MSA was home to 13,137 food service and drinking establishments that employed more than 288,815. These establishments included 5,019 full-service restaurants, 4,902 limited-service eating places, 687 drinking establishments, 1,739 snack

bars and 790 other food service establishments.

According to Yelp.com, Houston has over 80 categories of cuisine, including Cajun, Latin American, Ramen, Polish and Vegan restaurants. Houston is also home to nearly 1,000 food trucks and stands and about 100 wine bars. Houston's reputation as a culinary hotspot is recognized by the James Beard Foundation, the

organization that bestows the James Beard Awards (commonly known as the "Oscars of the food world"). The greater Houston area received Best New Restaurant (Tatemó), Outstanding Wine and Other Beverage Program (Nancy's Hustle) and Best Chef: Texas (Benchawan Jabthong Painter, Street to Kitchen) nominations for the '23 awards.

### SELECTED CATEGORIES OF CUISINE

Afghani	East African	Hawaiian	Lebanese	Portuguese	Thai
African	Egyptian	Honduran	Malaysian	Salvadorian	Turkish
Argentinian	Ethiopian	Indian	Mediterranean	Seafood	Ukrainian
Asian Fusion	European	Italian	Mexican	Soul Food	Vegan
Barbecue	Filipino	Jamaican	Moroccan	Southern	Venezuelan
Cajun/Creole	French	Japanese	Nepalese	Sri Lankan	Vietnamese
Caribbean	German	Korean	Pakistani	Sushi	West African
Chinese	Greek	Kosher	Persian	Szechuan	Yemenite
Cuban	Halal	Laotian	Peruvian	Tex-Mex	



## Arts and Culture

### PERFORMANCE ARTS

Resident companies in drama, ballet, opera and orchestra perform year-round in Houston. More than 550 institutions are devoted to the performing and visual arts, science, and history in the Houston area. According to the most recent comprehensive study by Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the Houston area generates over \$1 billion in economic activity each year. The survey also found that this spending — \$693.1 million by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and an additional \$674.4 million in event-related spending by their audiences — supports over 21,000 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$932.2 million in household income to residents, and delivers \$251.7 million in local and state government revenue.

### THEATER DISTRICT VENUES

Houston's Theater District, located in downtown Houston, spans 17 blocks, and its five flagship theaters house 13,000 seats. The Alley Theatre, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Jones Hall, Bayou Music Center (formerly the Revention Music Center), and Wortham Theater Center host seven renowned performing arts organizations and many smaller programs. The Theater District also includes one venue dedicated solely to dance: Houston Ballet's Center for Dance.

**ALLEY THEATRE**, home to a nationally-recognized performing arts company, offers two stages — the 774-seat Hubbard Stage and the 296-seat Neuhaus Stage — and nearly 500 annual performances. Founded in 1947, the theater company produces up to 16 plays annually. Through its performances and educational programs, the company reaches nearly 250,000 people each year.

**HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**, opened in '02, is home to Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Broadway Across America, the Humphreys School of Musical

Theatre and Uniquely Houston (a program that provides a home venue for Houston's smaller and mid-sized nonprofit performing arts organizations in the Theater District). Its two stages, Sarofim Hall and Zilkha Hall, have seating for 2,650 and 500, respectively.

**HOUSTON BALLET'S CENTER FOR DANCE** is the largest professional dance company facility of its kind in the U.S. The \$46.6-million, 115,000-square-foot structure opened in '11. The six-story center includes nine dance studios, a dance lab that seats 175 and sustainable features.

**JESSE H. JONES HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**, which opened in 1966, is home to the Houston Symphony and the Society for the Performing Arts. Spanning an

entire city block, the hall offers 250 events annually and seats 2,911. More than 400,000 visitors attend performances each year.

**BAYOU MUSIC CENTER**, formerly the Revention Music Center, seats 2,815 inside its 130,000-square-foot Bayou Place entertainment complex in downtown Houston.

**WORTHAM THEATER CENTER**, built entirely with private funds at the height of the 1980s oil bust on land provided by the City, opened in 1987. The theater is home to the opera and ballet companies, and its two halls — the Alice and George Brown Theater and the Lillie and Roy Cullen Theater — seat 2,405 and 1,100, respectively.



## OTHER VENUES

**BERRY CENTER**, located in Northwest Houston, includes an 11,000-seat athletic stadium, a conference center with over 15,000 square feet of event space, an 8,312-seat arena and a 484-seat theater.

**CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION**, located in The Woodlands, offers outdoor performance space and accommodates approximately 17,000, with 6,500 reserved seats and a lawn area for general admission. Established in 1990, it presents an eclectic range of programs featuring nationally- and internationally-recognized artists.

**MIDTOWN ARTS & THEATER CENTER HOUSTON (MATCH)**, which began holding performances in '15, was formed to create a new space for Houston artists to collaborate and present their work. More than 40 arts groups provided input for the design of the venue, which consists of two buildings with four performance spaces, three rehearsal studios, a 3,000-square-foot gallery and offices for arts professionals.

### MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

offers free outdoor performances by Houston's performing arts organizations. The City-owned theatre is located on 7.5 acres of land in Hermann Park, the site of the Houston Zoo, the Garden Center and the Museum of Natural Science. Seating is provided for 1,700 patrons under the covered pavilion, while a sloping lawn accommodates approximately 4,500 more on blankets or lawn chairs.

**SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE**, located in Sugar Land, opened in January '17 and is a premier venue for a wide variety of performances and programs. The state-of-the-art indoor hall can seat up to 6,400. In '19, the Centre ranked seventh in the world in ticket sales for venues under 10,000 seats, according to a Pollstar survey.

**STAFFORD CENTRE** is a performing arts and convention center located in Stafford. It opened in '04 and features a main performance hall with a seating capacity of approximately 1,100, as well as several smaller meeting rooms and banquet halls.

**THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE** in Galveston is a Romanesque Revival-style theater. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Opera House has seating for 1,000 and presents Broadway shows, comedians, musicians, silent films and more.

**WHITE OAK MUSIC HALL**, which opened in '16, hosts over 400 live music events per year from a diverse array of musical acts and genres, including rock, country, hip-hop, R&B and more. Covering over five acres, the venue provides two indoor performance stages, collectively supporting 1,200 attendees, and an outdoor amphitheater that can fit over 3,000 people.

## Arts Organizations

### DANCE

**HOUSTON BALLET**, founded in 1955 and established as a professional company in 1969, is the nation's fourth-largest ballet company, with annual operating expenses of \$41.4 million, as of Jun. 30, 2023. Houston Ballet has toured extensively, appearing in Europe, Canada, Australia and cities throughout the U.S., and has an extensive education and outreach program, with classes and performances that reach over 60,000 students, teachers and community members each year.

### LITERATURE

**INPRINT**, founded in 1983, is a literary arts nonprofit organization that provides literary performances, writing workshops and financial support for emerging writers. Inprint annually serves more than 15,000 readers and writers of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction. Literary performance programs have featured more than 400 writers from 38 countries, including winners of 12 Nobel Prizes, 70 Pulitzer Prizes, 65 National Book Awards, 54 National Book Critics Circle Awards and 17 Booker Prizes, as well as 21 U.S. Poet Laureates.



## MUSIC

**DA CAMERA** is a music-presenting organization that was founded in 1987. Its mission is to bring world-class chamber music and jazz performances to Houston audiences and to engage and inspire them through music. In addition to its performances, Da Camera also offers educational programs that promote music appreciation and literacy.

**HOUSTON GRAND OPERA (HGO)**, founded in 1955, is known worldwide for training young artists and for commissioning and presenting new works. HGO will have presented 76 world premieres by the end of the '23-'24 season. With an operating budget of \$30 million, HGO presents six to eight productions per season and offers diverse, innovative and wide-reaching community and education projects. HGO has won three Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards and a Tony Award. In '19, HGO was the only American finalist for Opera Company of the Year at the International Opera Awards.

**HOUSTON SYMPHONY** was founded in 1913 and is one of the oldest performing arts organizations in the nation. The Grammy Award-winning symphony has an ensemble of over 80 professional musicians and presented 153 concerts and 470 community-based performances in their '22-'23 season. The symphony's long tradition of touring has included Europe, Japan and Russia. In '18, the Houston Symphony won its first-ever Grammy award for Best Opera Recording of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*.

## PERFORMANCE ARTS

**PERFORMING ARTS HOUSTON**, formerly the Society for the Performing Arts, was founded in 1966 when Jones Hall opened and was responsible for overseeing the venue's operations and programming for several decades. In the early 2000s, the organization merged with another nonprofit, the Houston Symphony Society, to form the Society for the Performing Arts.



## THEATER

**A.D. PLAYERS**, founded in 1967, one of Houston's largest and oldest professional theater companies, produces plays and programs from a Christian worldview. A. D. Players operates out of the Jeannette and L.M. George Theater, which is in the Galleria area. The theater features a 450-seat auditorium, a black box theater, and rehearsal and production facilities. They are also involved in educational outreach programs, serving over 100,000 students and educators each year.

**ENSEMBLE THEATRE** is a nonprofit professional theater company founded in 1976 with the mission to provide high-quality theatrical productions that reflect the African American experience.

**MAIN STREET THEATER (MST)**, founded in 1975, operates out of two theaters in the Houston area: the MainStage Theater in the Midtown area and the Theater for Youth at the MATCH (Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston). The MainStage Theater is a 250-seat theater that hosts the company's mainstage

productions, and the Theater for Youth is a smaller, more intimate space that hosts productions geared towards young audiences.

**STAGES THEATRE**, founded in 1978, presents plays and musicals and welcomes more than 75,000 visitors each season. Stages is Houston's sixth-largest nonprofit performing arts producer and the largest outside of Houston's downtown Theatre District, with an average of 12 productions and more than 430 performances per year. In '20, Stages opened its new three-theater venue called The Gordy.

**THEATRE UNDER THE STARS (TUTS)**, founded in 1968, offers a mix of touring musicals and self-produced shows, including new works and revivals, at the Hobby Center. It also operates the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre. The River Performing and Visual Arts Center merged with TUTS in '10 to provide singing, dancing and acting opportunities to children with disabilities.



## Museums

### HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT

The Houston Museum District is one of the country's most visited and diverse cultural centers with 19 museums. These museums provide rich experiences in art, history, culture, nature and science. The district is divided into four walkable zones, each of which includes a group of museums.

**ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER**, opened in '12, houses the 273-seat Brown Foundation Performing Arts Theater, the Louisa Stude Sarofim Gallery and more. One of only 13 Asia Society locations throughout the world, the center serves as an Asia-Pacific educational and cultural institution in the region.

**BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM**, opened in '01, is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to preserving the legacy and honor of the African American soldiers who served on behalf of the United States of America.

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON** founded in 1980, was named Good Housekeeping's "2023 Stand-Out Kids' Museum" in the Best Family Travel Awards. Serving nearly a million people onsite and through its outreach programs, and welcoming visitors from every state in the U.S. and more than 40 nations, Children's Museum Houston is the only children's museum in the country to be included in the lengthy award list.

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON**, founded in 1948, is a non-collecting museum that presents regional, national and international art of the past 40 years through exhibitions accompanied by publications and educational programming.

**CZECH CENTER MUSEUM HOUSTON**, opened in 1996, is dedicated to the exploration and preservation of Czech and Slovak heritage, including art, music and dance. The center features a wide array of cultural events, film screenings, art exhibitions and lectures.

**DIVERSEWORKS**, founded in 1982, presents and commissions new art in all forms. DiverseWorks supports freedom of artistic expression with an artist-centered focus through a schedule of exhibitions, performances and community programs.

**HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON**, opened in 1996, is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, honoring the survivors' legacy, and remembering the six million Jews and other innocent victims who died in concentration camps in WWII. Reopening in '19 after undergoing a \$34-million expansion, its new 57,000-square-foot facility is ranked as the fourth largest Holocaust museum in the nation.

**HOUSTON CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT**, founded in '01, is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to advancing education about the process, product and history of craft. The center is one of the few venues in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to craft.

**HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**, founded in 1981, brings together a community of people interested in photography and lens-based work. The center offers a gallery and a library with over 4,000 books. In addition, the center provides more than 300 photography classes and workshops annually.

**HOUSTON MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE (HMAAC)**, opened in '12, exhibits the material and intellectual culture of Africans and African Americans in Houston, the state of Texas, the Southwest and the African Diaspora.

**HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE**, established in 1909, houses four floors of 17 permanent exhibits, the Burke Baker Planetarium, Cockrell Butterfly Center and the Wortham Giant Screen Theatre. The museum also maintains a satellite facility in Sugar Land and the George Observatory in Fort Bend County, which houses one of the largest telescopes in the country.

**HOUSTON ZOO** celebrated its 100th anniversary in '22. The Houston Zoo occupies 55 acres of Hermann Park and is home to more than 6,000 animals from 900 species, attracting more than 2.4 million guests each year. In '23, the new Galápagos Islands exhibit opened.

**JUNG CENTER OF HOUSTON** was founded in 1958 in honor of Carl Gustav Jung, the revolutionary psychologist. The center displays new art exhibits each month and offers more than 200 classes annually. Much of the featured artwork is generated by local and regional artists.

**LAWDALE ART CENTER**, founded in 1979, is one of the only institutions in Houston that is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art with an emphasis on work by regional artists.

**MENIL COLLECTION**, opened in 1987, features a highly acclaimed collection of some 19,000 works of art, including masterpieces from antiquity, the Byzantine and the tribal cultures of Oceania. The museum has one of the world's foremost collections of Surrealist holdings.

**MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, located at Rice University, serves as an experimental platform for creating and presenting artworks. The \$30-million, 50,000-square-foot facility constructed in '17 features a striking contemporary design with bold geometric shapes. In '17, the Moody received a Design Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, California Council.

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON (MFAH)**, opened in 1924, is among the 10 largest art museums in the U.S., with nearly 70,000 works of art. The MFAH campus includes three buildings, the Glassell School of Art, a sculpture garden and more. Satellite facilities include the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. In November '20, the museum completed the construction of a new master-planned campus transformation. The \$450-million expansion included a state-of-the-art conservation center, a new tunnel system connecting the buildings, and the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building, which adds more

than 100,000 square feet of exhibition space to the museum.

**ROTHKO CHAPEL**, founded in 1971, is a non-denominational place of meditation and reflection that welcomes over 100,000 visitors each year. The chapel contains 14 canvases by the painter Mark Rothko and is lit only by skylight. The chapel's plaza contains an obelisk in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After closing for expansion and restorations, the chapel reopened in fall '20.

**THE HEALTH MUSEUM**, opened in 1996, is an interactive science center and a member institution of the world-renowned Texas Medical Center. With over 2.5 million visitors, the museum is the most visited health museum in the country. In '17, the museum was named a Smithsonian Affiliate.

## OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

**1940 AIR TERMINAL MUSEUM**, founded in 1940, has a theater and several galleries of aviation memorabilia housed in Houston's original art deco air terminal. The museum also serves as a venue for plane spotters to view activity at nearby Hobby Airport. The 1928 Carter Airmail Hangar on-site is also open for tours. In '20, the Museum

celebrated the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Houston Municipal Airport terminal.

**BLAFFER ART MUSEUM** established in 1973, is dedicated to furthering the understanding of contemporary art through exhibits, publications and programs.

**BRYAN MUSEUM**, located in the historic Galveston Orphans Home, opened in '15 and houses one of the world's largest collections of historical artifacts, documents and artwork relating to Texas and the American West. The museum also has a library and archive.

**FORT BEND ART CENTER**, managed by the Art League of Fort Bend, opened in '18. It is a multi-arts center with artwork by more than 30 member artists on display and for sale. With two galleries, the art center functions as a shared space for artists and art enthusiasts to create, exhibit and experience art.

**GALVESTON NAVAL MUSEUM**, opened in 1971 in Seawolf Park, has two drydocked WWII vessels that visitors can explore: the USS Cavalla submarine and the USS Stewart, the only Edsall-class destroyer escort preserved in the U.S.



**GALVESTON RAILROAD MUSEUM**, opened in 1983, is located at the site of the 1932 Santa Fe depot and railyard. The museum also served as the terminal for the Texas Limited excursion train until it ceased operations in 1996. The museum's artifacts include 40 pieces of rolling stock (railcars and locomotives) and exhibits detailing rail history.

**HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK** operates 10 historic buildings that date from 1823 to 1905, which the organization authentically restored and moved to Sam Houston Park. Together with the Museum Gallery, these buildings serve as historic reference points and exhibition spaces for more than 23,000 artifacts that document life in historic Houston.

**HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM**, founded in '00, has eight galleries with collections of maritime artifacts and ship models throughout history, including exhibits on the history of Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel.

**LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM**, opened in 1990, is an aviation museum and STEM learning center. The museum is home to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, a collection of historic aircraft, hands-on exhibits and a \$1-million Aviation Learning

Center. The museum opened a new \$38-million, 130,000-square-foot facility at Houston's Ellington Airport in '17.

**NATIONAL UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES MUSEUM** collects, restores and displays military artifacts including vehicles, aircraft and artillery field pieces. The museum also acts as a research facility with an online database and serves as a meeting space for military organizations.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY**, founded in 1992, houses 17 permanent exhibits of funerary artifacts, including a rare collection of historical hearses. The museum collaborates with the Vatican to display an exhibit on the lives and deaths of the Popes.

**O'KANE GALLERY**, established in 1970, annually offers about six exhibitions representing diverse artists, themes and mediums.

**ORANGE SHOW CENTER FOR VISIONARY ART** is a nonprofit organization founded in 1980 that preserves, promotes and documents visionary art environments. The center has been the producer of the annual Houston Art Car Parade for the past 35 years.

**PEARL FINCHER MUSEUM**, opened in Spring in '08, is a non-collecting fine art museum housed in a former county library that provides a wide array of art exhibits and educational programs.

**SAN JACINTO MONUMENT AND MUSEUM OF HISTORY**, located at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, features artifacts and documents covering Mexican Texas, the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas. This 1,200-acre site is also a National Historic Landmark and consists of the San Jacinto battleground, the monument with an observation floor, the Museum of History and Battleship Texas. In '20, operational control of the Battleship was transferred to the Battleship Texas Foundation. The Battleship is currently undergoing renovations.

**SPACE CENTER HOUSTON**, opened in 1992, has welcomed more than 22 million people and hosts nearly 1.25 million visitors annually. The 250,000-square-foot educational complex features more than 400 space artifacts, permanent and traveling exhibits and experiences, and theaters related to the exciting future and remarkable past of America's human spaceflight program.





**STATION MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART** located in the Third Ward, is an exhibition forum for local, national and international artists with comprehensive exhibitions from Afghanistan, Austria, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, India, Iraq, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Russia, South Africa and Venezuela.

**TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM** is home to the 1877 tall ship ELISSA, a National Historic Landmark that has also been designated as an American Treasure by the National Trust for Historic

Preservation. The museum displays information on seaborne commerce and immigration, including a database containing the names of over 133,000 immigrants who entered the U.S. through Galveston.

**THE PRINTING MUSEUM**, founded in 1979, has interactive tours and exhibits with over 10,000 items in its permanent collection. Founded by four printers, the museum features ancient papyrus fragments, a Johannes Gutenberg Gallery, and early American and Texan printing.

**THE WOODLANDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM** provides a cooperative learning environment for children, including dynamic workshops and more than 15 interactive exhibits.

**UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (UMUSE)**, opened in '00, has 11,000 square feet of exhibition space with acoustics for musical performances. The museum displays a collection of African and African American art.

## Recurring Events and Festivals

### JANUARY

Chevron Houston Marathon  
Houston Boat Show & Travel Show  
MLK Grande Parade  
"Original" MLK, Jr. Birthday Parade  
Texas Lunar New Year Houston

### FEBRUARY

Mardi Gras! Galveston  
World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest

### MARCH

Azalea Trail  
Buffalo Bayou Regatta  
Hermann Park Kite Festival  
Houston Holi: Festival of Colors  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

### APRIL

BP MS 150  
Houston Art Car Parade  
Houston Barbecue Festival  
Houston Brew Festival  
Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Texas North America Championship  
The Nutcracker Market Spring  
San Jacinto Day Celebration and Battle Reenactment  
The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival  
Tour de Houston  
U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship

### MAY

Cinco de Mayo Parade and Celebration  
Comicalooza  
Houston Polish Festival  
Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance  
Pasadena Strawberry Festival  
Rails & Tails Mudbug Festival

### JUNE

Houston Caribbean Festival  
Juneteenth Celebration  
Pride Houston  
Texas Outlaw Challenge

### JULY

Freedom Over Texas Festival  
Great Texas Mosquito Festival  
Star-Spangled Salute

### AUGUST

AIA Sandcastle Competition  
Houston Restaurant Weeks  
Houston Shakespeare Festival  
Theater District Open House  
White Linen Night in the Heights

### SEPTEMBER

Fiestas Patrias  
Japan Festival Houston  
Polish Harvest Festival

### OCTOBER

Bayou City Art Festival  
Día de los Muertos at Sugar Land Heritage Foundation  
Grito Fest  
Houston Black Heritage Music & Arts Festival  
Houston Italian Festival  
International Quilt Festival  
Original Greek Festival  
Oktoberfest Houston



Over 2.5 million patrons attended the '24 Houston Rodeo. The annual 20-day rodeo and concert event is the biggest rodeo in the world.

Pearland Art & Crafts on the Pavilion  
Texas Contemporary Art Fair  
Texas Renaissance Festival  
Texian Market Days  
Wings Over Houston Airshow

**NOVEMBER**

Annual Turkish Festival  
Día de los Muertos at Discovery Green  
H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade  
Houston Open  
Houston Zoo Lights  
Ice at Discovery Green  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Rothko Chapel  
Lone Star Rally  
Mayor's Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting  
Moody Gardens Festival of Lights  
Puerto Rican and Cuban Festival



Houston's largest single-day sporting event. More than 20,000 participants, 200,000 spectators and 5,000 volunteers take to the streets.

Texas Championship Native American Pow Wow  
The Nutcracker Market  
Veterans Day Celebration  
Via Colori

Dickens on the Strand  
Texas Bowl  
Tamale Festival Houston  
Tomball German Christmas Market & Festival

**DECEMBER**

Candlelight Tour in the Park  
Christmas Boat Lane Parade  
Christmas Village at Bayou Bend



Since 2016, over 26,400 pounds of holiday lights have been recycled at the Zoo – the weight of approximately 80 adult black bears, according to the Houston Zoo.

## Religious and Cultural Diversity

### RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

According to the Kinder Institute for Urban Research's 39th Annual Houston Area Survey, 80.1 percent of Harris County residents report that religion is "somewhat" or "very" important to them. Among those surveyed, 40.5 percent identify as Protestant, 30.1 percent identify as Catholic, 1.3 percent identify as Jewish and 4.4 percent of respondents are of another religion. Of the remaining respondents, 18.3 percent have no religious affiliation and 5.3 percent did not answer. As the nation's most diverse city, Houston is home to a wide array of faith traditions. One can experience Houston's religious diversity through the numerous mosques, synagogues, Hindu temples and a Zoroastrian cultural center in the region. Representative religious congregations in Houston include:

**AL-NOOR MOSQUE**, established in 1987, boasts a large gold dome that can be seen from I-69 and the Westpark Tollway. It is located in Houston's Hillcroft region, a vibrant center of South Asian culture.

**ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, located in the center of Freedman's Town, was the first brick structure in Houston to be built and owned by African Americans. The church was organized seven months after the abolition of slavery was announced in Galveston, Texas, in 1866.

**BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR**, the first traditional Hindu Mandir of its kind in the U.S., is in Stafford. The stones used to build the temple were quarried in Turkey and Italy and then shipped to India where traditional artisans sculpted more than 33,000 individual pieces.

**CENTRO ISLÁMICO**, opened in early '16, is the nation's first Spanish-speaking mosque. Located in a former industrial building on Houston's far southwest side, the building's interior has architectural elements of Moorish Spain.

**CHAPEL OF ST. BASIL**, located at Houston's Catholic University of St. Thomas in the Montrose district, is a cube-shaped chapel designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson.

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL** was Houston's first religious congregation when founded in 1839 and is the only one still worshiping on its original site from the days when Houston was the capital of the Republic of Texas. In 1949, Christ Church became the cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

**CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART** is a Catholic place of worship with a congregational history dating back to the 1890s. The current cathedral building opened in '08 and features a towering stained-glass display created by artisans in Florence, Italy.

**CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN**, the largest conservative synagogue in the U.S., holds significant importance for its 120-year history and location in the Meyerland area, the center of Houston's Jewish community.

**ISMAILI JAMATKHANA AND CENTER**, opened in '02, is set by a lake on an 11.5-acre site in Sugar Land. The center is a religious venue for Shi'a Ismaili Muslims in Houston, as well as a site for community events to stimulate the intellect, encourage dialogue and celebrate cultural diversity in the greater Houston area.

**LAKWOOD CHURCH**, housed in a former sports arena, is one of the largest religious congregations in the U.S., featuring English and Spanish language services. Televangelist Joel Osteen pastors the church.

**MTO SHAHMAGHSOUDI SCHOOL OF ISLAMIC SUFISM**, located along Beltway 8, is a Sufi temple that is rich in art and architecture. The energy-efficient design of the building features solar panels.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH**, founded in 1912 in Houston's Second Ward, was the first church in Houston to offer services in Spanish. The parish hosts the oldest Catholic grade school in Houston.

**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**, built in 1896 and supported by the last czar of Imperial Russia, Czar Nicholas II, originally held services in Greek, Russian and Serbian. Located in Galveston, the church celebrated its 125th anniversary in '21.

**ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, founded in 1952, has grown to become the largest Episcopal church in North America with more than 10,000 members. The funerals for former president George H. W. Bush and his wife, Barbara Bush, were held at St. Martin's where they had been active members since the 1950s.



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, founded in 1905, is in the heart of Houston's Museum District. The church is renowned for its choir and Neo-Gothic architecture.

**TEXAS GUANDI TEMPLE**, founded in 1999, welcomes Taoists, Buddhists and anyone who seeks respite, meditation or counsel. The building is a focal point of Houston's Old Chinatown. An architect from China

designed the Texas Guandi Temple, the largest temple in the nation dedicated to Guandi. Materials for the building and for the interior also came from China.

**THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON (ISGH)** is the largest Islamic society in North America. Established in 1969, ISGH currently includes 21 Islamic centers across the Houston metro.

**ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER**, opened in May 1998, is built on a seven-acre site that was donated by community members. The center is a house of worship for Irani Zarathushtis and Parsis from India, Iran and Pakistan.



## Convention and Sports Facilities

**AVENIDA HOUSTON**, opened in '17, is the entertainment district in front of the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center in downtown Houston. The 97,000-square-foot outdoor plaza connects Discovery Green's 12-acre park, public art installations and two convention headquarter hotels adjoined to the GRB, the 1,200-room Hilton Americas and the 1,000-room Marriott Marquis. The area around Avenida Houston offers many retail and dining options, including several restaurants within the GRB.

**CONSTELLATION FIELD** opened in '12 as the home of the Sugar Land Space Cowboys of the Pacific Coast League. The stadium hosts sporting events and concerts. It has a capacity of 7,500 spectators for baseball games (expandable to 10,000) and 9,500 for concerts.

**FERTITTA CENTER**, formerly known as Hofheinz Pavilion, is home to the University of Houston Cougars men's and women's basketball teams. The 7,100-seat multipurpose area, built in 1969, underwent a \$60-million transformation in '18, including the addition of a seating bowl bringing fans within 10 feet from the sideline, a new audio system, sports lighting and video boards.

**GEORGE R. BROWN (GRB) CONVENTION CENTER**, one of the nation's largest convention centers, opened in 1987. GRB offers nearly two million square feet, including 773,000 total square feet of exhibit space across seven exhibit halls, more than 100 meeting rooms and 3,600 fixed seats in its amphitheater. GRB's latest improvements, which include the development of a grand entryway and four restaurants, were completed in December '16.

In '23, GRB hosted over 1.3 million guests during 147 events.

**MINUTE MAID PARK**, the Houston Astros' retractable-roof downtown baseball stadium with seating for 41,000, opened in April '00. In '19,



a \$25-million renovation to the stadium's suite level, to be paid for by the Astros, was approved by the Harris County Houston Sports Authority. The stadium's ornamental train, positioned 90 feet above the field on the leftfield wall, makes its way along the 800-foot track whenever the Astros hit a homerun.

Work should begin in late '24 on a proposed ballpark entertainment and hospitality complex next to Minute Maid Park. Conceptual plans for the complex, unveiled in November '23, include a 60,000-square-foot retail area with bars, restaurants and a large viewing area to watch games on a big screen.

**NRG PARK**, which occupies 350 acres and offers 26,000 parking spaces, is among the most versatile sports and meeting complexes in the United States. Hosting over 500 events annually, NRG Park includes the following venues:

**NRG STADIUM**, a 71,995-seat football stadium with a retractable roof and natural grass, opened in '02. It is home to the Houston Texans and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

**NRG CENTER**, opened in '02, occupies 1.4 million square feet, which includes 706,000 square feet of contiguous exhibition space and 59 meeting rooms.

**NRG ARENA** has 350,000 square feet of exhibit space, an 8,000-seat arena and a 2,000-seat pavilion.

**NRG ASTRODOME** debuted in 1965 as the first fully-enclosed sports stadium seating over 70,000. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in '14.

**SHELL ENERGY STADIUM** is a state-of-the-art, open-air stadium designed to host Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash soccer matches, as well as additional sporting and concert events. Opened in May '12, the 22,000-seat stadium was the first soccer-specific stadium in Major League Soccer in a city's downtown district. In addition, the stadium has been home to Texas Southern University Tigers football since '12.

### OTHER SPORTS VENUES

**RICE STADIUM** is a 47,000-seat football stadium located on the Rice University campus and has been the home of the Rice Owls football team since its completion in 1950. It was at this stadium in 1962 that President John F. Kennedy issued his famous challenge to America to place a man on the moon and bring him safely home again by the end of the decade.

January '24 marked the 50th anniversary of Rice Stadium hosting Super Bowl VIII in 1974.

**TDECU STADIUM**, which opened in August '14, is a \$125-million, 40,000-seat football stadium on the University of Houston campus. The stadium's attendance record was set in November '15 when 42,159 fans watched the Cougars rally to defeat the Memphis Tigers 35-34.

Construction began in late '23 on the \$130-million Memorial Hermann

Football Operations Center. It will feature state-of-the-art amenities for student athletes and university football staff. The operations center will also provide additional premium seating to TDECU Stadium with 14 suites, a 450-seat club section with access to an 11,000-square-foot club and 300-seat roof terrace facing inward to John O'Quinn Field.

**TOYOTA CENTER**, opened in '03, is a sports and entertainment center located downtown that is home to the Houston Rockets. The center can seat 18,300 for basketball and up to 19,000 for concerts.

**PROFESSIONAL TEAMS IN GREATER HOUSTON**



**HOUSTON ASTROS**  
 '17 and '22 World Series Champions  
 Major League Baseball's American League Minute Maid Park



**HOUSTON ROCKETS**  
 Western Conference in the National Basketball Association Toyota Center



**HOUSTON DASH**  
 National Women's Soccer League Shell Energy Stadium



**HOUSTON TEXANS**  
 American Football Conference in the National Football League NRG Stadium



**HOUSTON DYNAMO**  
 Major League Soccer's Western Conference Shell Energy Stadium



**HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS**  
 West Division of the Xtreme Football League TDECU Stadium



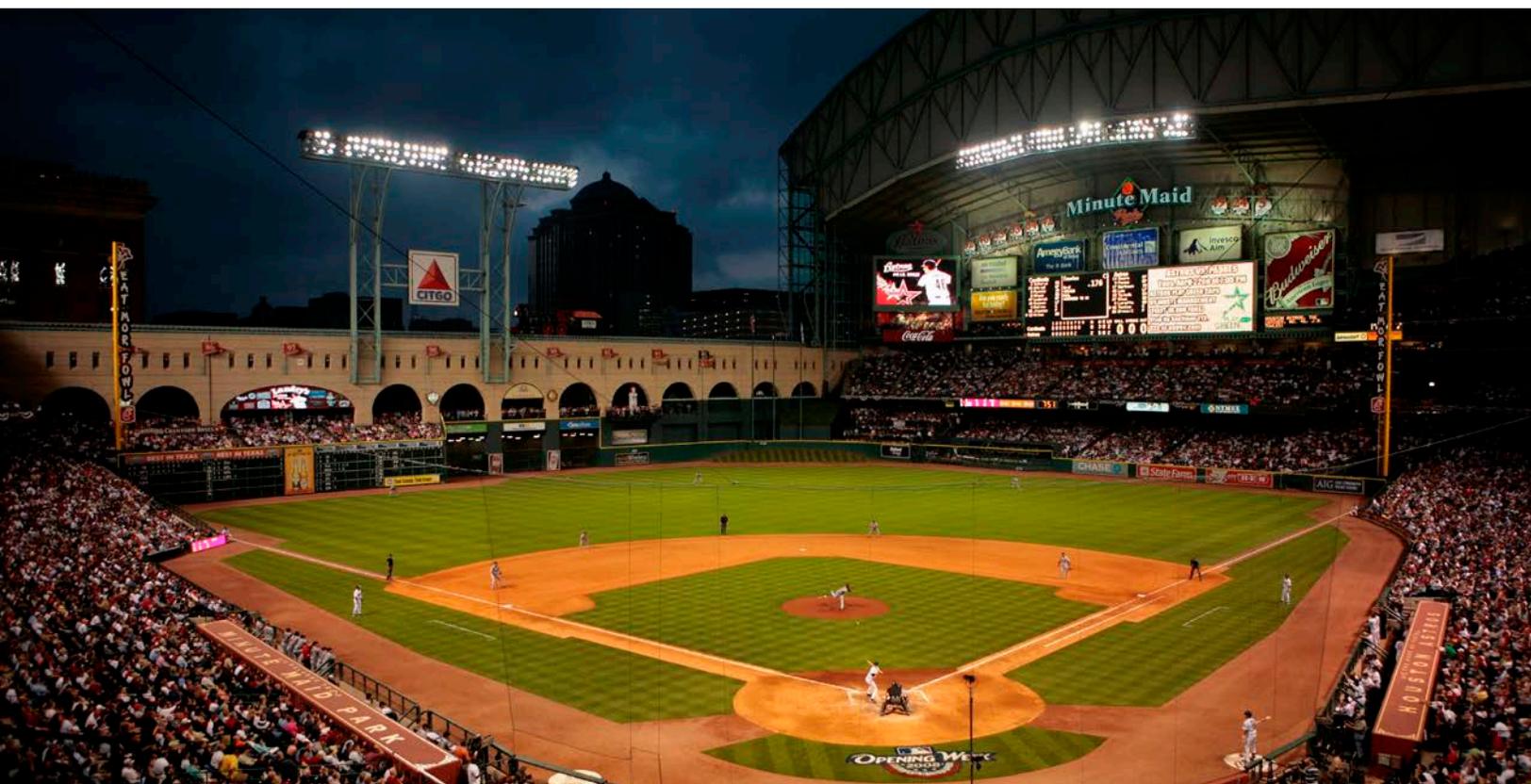
**HOUSTON ROLLER DERBY**  
 Women's Flat Track Derby Association Bayou Music Center



**SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS**  
 '18 Atlantic League World Champions Pacific Coast League Constellation Field



**HOUSTON SABERCATS**  
 Major League Rugby Aveva Stadium





## Parks and Recreation

Houston contains 43,486 acres of parkland and 665 parks, according to The Trust for Public Land's '23 City Parks report.

- Parks represent 12.4 percent of the city's adjusted land area in '23.
- Sixty-one percent of Houston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is six percent above the national average.
- Houston's oldest municipal park is Sam Houston Park, established in 1899, while the area's largest municipal park is Cullen Park with 9,270 acres. Cullen Park is also one of the largest parks in the U.S. The most visited park in the Houston region is Hermann Park, with six million visitors annually.
- There are nearly 23 acres of parkland in Houston per 1,000 residents.

### CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS

Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) oversees 382 developed municipal parks and more than 167 green spaces, which together encompass approximately 38,486 acres.

### CITY OF HOUSTON PARK AMENITIES

239	Playgrounds
161	Baseball & Softball Fields
28	Water Spray Grounds
10	Dog Parks
220	Tennis Courts
86	Soccer Fields
20	Volleyball Courts
7	Golf Courses
173	Basketball Courts
76	Practice Backstops
19	Football/Rugby/ Cricket/Lacrosse Fields
6	Skate Parks
197	Miles of Trails
38	Pools
60	Community Centers
47	Pickleball Courts

### MAJOR CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS

**CULLEN PARK** (9,270 acres)

**CULLINAN PARK** (755 acres)

**LAKE HOUSTON  
WILDERNESS PARK** (4,787 acres)

**MEMORIAL PARK** (1,504 acres)

**HERMAN BROWN PARK** (902 acres)

**EISENHOWER PARK** (682 acres)

**KEITH-WIESS PARK** (499 acres)

**HERMANN PARK** (445 acres)

**BUFFALO BAYOU PARK** (160 acres)

In early '23, the Land Bridge and Prairie project was completed, reuniting the north and south sides of Memorial Park and creating a new network of trails for people and wildlife. Later in the same year, a running complex opened nearby. Memorial Park celebrates its centennial anniversary in '24.

## DOWNTOWN HOUSTON PARKS

**ALLEN'S LANDING ON BUFFALO BAYOU**, described as "Houston's heart," is the spot where August C. and John K. Allen stepped ashore and claimed Houston as their own in 1836. Currently, 1.76-acre Allen's Landing is undergoing major revitalization and rejuvenation.

**BUFFALO BAYOU PARK**, on the northwest side of downtown, is a greenbelt consisting of hike and bike trails, exercise stations, the Jim Mozola Memorial Disc Golf Course, a dog park, canoeing and kayaking, trails and children's playgrounds.

**CITY HALL/HERMANN SQUARE** is a small park dominated by a reflecting pool. The front of Houston's City Hall steps down to the park and is used almost daily for festivals, public gatherings, and concerts. The reflecting pool is planked over to accommodate larger events.

**DISCOVERY GREEN** is downtown's premier green space, encompassing 12 acres, surrounded by the George R. Brown Convention Center, hotels, and downtown sports arenas. The

park includes two restaurants, a kids' play area, a manufactured lake, two dog runs, a multi-use amphitheater, an event lawn and more.

**ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK** is home to Houston's premier greenbelt that winds from Shepherd Drive on the west to Bagby Street on the East End. The park is located within this greenway (Taft-Sabine) and is the site of major Houston festivals and events, including the city's Fourth of July Fireworks.

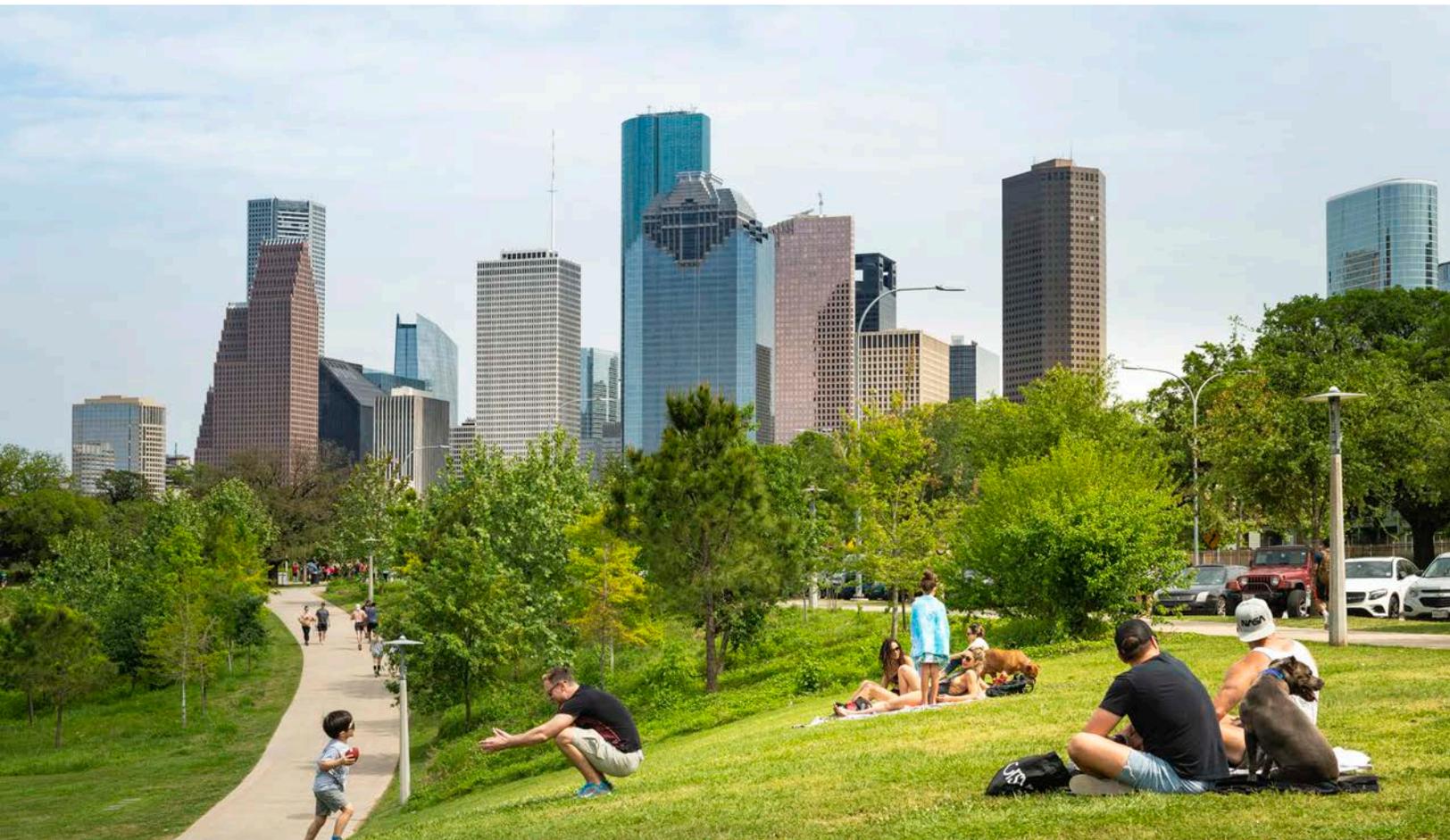
**NEW LYNN WYATT SQUARE** for the Performing Arts is a one-square-block plaza that plays host to popular concert series and serves as the backdrop for many civic events located in the heart of the downtown Theater District.

**MARKET SQUARE PARK** is anchored by a central lawn where the original City Hall once stood. You will find shady, outdoor seating, a plaza for performances, and Lauren's Garden, a memorial that honors all lost on September 11.

**SAM HOUSTON PARK**. In 1900, Mayor Sam Brashier purchased the Kellem-Noble land and house and created the city's first park. The 19-acre park has been the home of The Heritage Society since 1954, with eight historic structures including a log cabin and St. John Church, dating back as far as 1823.

**SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK** was created to commemorate Houston's 150th birthday in 1986. The park features cascading waterfalls, distinctive lighting, a gazebo and a promenade. Visitors can enjoy the waterway, green spaces, hike-and-bike trails and boat launches.

**NEW TREBLY PARK** opened in 2023 in the southern portion of downtown Houston at the corner of Leeland and Fannin Streets near Toyota Center. The L-shaped green space includes garden zones, a central lawn for events, dog parks and a Tout Suite café.



## STATE PARKS

**BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK** is only 45 miles southwest of downtown Houston. Besides marveling at nature, you can hike and bike, fish, picnic, geocache and ride your horse. The park covers 5,000 acres. Its 3.2-mile eastern boundary fronts the Brazos River on the southeast border of Fort Bend County. The state purchased the parkland in '76-'77. Brazos Bend opened in '84.

**GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK** is just an hour from Houston. Come to the island to stroll the beach, splash in the waves, fish or look for coastal birds. The park is in Galveston County in the city of Galveston. The state acquired the 2,013.1-acre site in '69, opening in '75.

**SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE** is a 1,300-acre site 20 miles east of downtown that includes the towering 567-foot-tall San Jacinto Monument and the San Jacinto Museum of History. Walk in the Texian soldiers' footsteps on the grounds, explore the museum, and ride the

elevator to the top of the monument to take in a bird's-eye view of where Texas' independence was won.

**SHELDON LAKE STATE PARK & ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER** is 25 minutes from downtown Houston. The park has a lake, ponds, wetlands, woods, and a prairie to explore. The park is a 2,800-acre outdoor education and recreation center in northeast Harris County. It opened in '55 and became a state park in '84.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK**, on the banks of the Brazos River, is 50 minutes west of the outskirts of Houston. Explore trails, picnic, look for a geocache or wildlife, or set up camp. The San Felipe de Austin Corporation deeded Stephen F. Austin State Park to the state in 1940. The park opened the same year.

## FORESTS

**SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST**, one of four National Forests in Texas, is located 50 miles north of Houston. The forest contains 163,037

acres between Huntsville, Conroe, Cleveland, and Richards, Texas. With land in Montgomery, Walker, and San Jacinto counties, the Sam Houston National Forest is intermingled with privately owned timberlands and small farms.

**W. GOODRICH JONES STATE FOREST**, an urban working forest covering 1,733 acres, is located 40 miles north of Houston near Conroe in Montgomery County. The forest provides 15 miles of trails, horseback riding, and two small lakes for fishing. The Texas A&M Forest Service owns and administers the forest.

## WILDLIFE REFUGES

**BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**: This refuge, located about an hour south of Houston, encompasses over 44,000 acres of coastal prairie, freshwater sloughs and marshes. The refuge is part of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and lies in the Central Flyway which includes both coastal and trans-oceanic bird migration paths. It is home to more than 320 species of birds, 95 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 130 species of butterflies and dragonflies.

**ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**: Located about an hour east of Houston, this refuge covers over 34,000 acres of coastal wetlands and prairies. The refuge's Shoveler Pond Auto-Tour loop, Butterfly Garden, moist soil units and Skillern Tract are just a few of the places on the refuge where the wildlife watching is spectacular. Here you will find excellent views of alligators and opportunities to see any of the six rail species.

**SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**: This refuge is located about an hour southwest of Houston and encompasses over 25,000 acres of wetlands and coastal prairies. It provides habitat for over 300 species of birds, American alligators and bobcats.





# HISTORY

## 1830s

- 1836 On April 21, General Sam Houston's army wins Texas' independence from Mexico in the Battle of San Jacinto.
- 1836 Houston founded on Aug. 30 by brothers Augustus C. and John K. Allen, who pay just over \$1.40 per acre for 6,642 acres near headwaters of Buffalo Bayou.
- 1836 Allen Brothers call on Gail Borden (publisher, surveyor, originator of condensed milk) and Thomas H. Borden to survey the site. Gail Borden lays out the town's streets 80' wide, with the principal east-west street (Texas Ave.) 100' wide.
- 1837 General Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas, signs an act authorizing Houston to incorporate. Houston is capital of the Republic from 1837-1839.
- 1837 The Laura is the first steamship to visit Houston.
- 1838 A bucket brigade, Protection Fire Company No. 1, is formed to fight fires.

## 1840s

- 1840 On April 4, seven Houston businessmen form the Houston Chamber of Commerce.
- 1841 Houston Police Department is formed.
- 1842 Texas' oldest newspaper, The Galveston County Daily News, is first published.
- 1846 Texas becomes the 28th state.

## 1850s

- 1850 First census after Texas joins the United States counts 2,396 Houstonians. Galveston, with 4,117 residents, is the state's largest city.
- 1853 Houston's first railroad — the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad — begins operations.
- 1853 Texas Legislature appropriates \$4,000 for Buffalo Bayou improvements.
- 1859 Three competing firefighting companies combined into the Houston Volunteer Fire Department.

## 1860s

- 1861 Houston and Harris County vote to secede from the Union. During the Civil War, the closest fighting is at Galveston.
- 1865 On June 19, Federal troops arrive in Galveston to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, becoming the Juneteenth holiday.
- 1866 Houston's first bank, First National Bank, is founded.

- 1867 Houston Stonewalls defeat Galveston Robert E. Lees 35-2 in first recorded baseball game in Houston.
- 1868 Houston's first trolley cars (mule-drawn) appear.
- 1868 Houston's first gaslights are installed.
- 1870 Texas readmitted to the Union.
- 1870 Census shows Houston's population up to 9,332. Harris County's has reached 17,375, ranking it second in the state.
- 1870 Congress designates Houston a port; first survey of Houston's proposed ship channel is conducted.
- 1872 Congress makes its first appropriation — \$10,000 — for ship channel improvements.
- 1874 Houston Board of Trade and Cotton Exchange are organized.
- 1875 First grain elevator is built on the Houston Ship Channel.
- 1877 Houston's first free public schools are established.

## 1880s

- 1880 Houston's first telephone exchange is created.
- 1882 Houston Electric Light Co. is organized. Houston and New York are the first cities to build electric power plants.
- 1882 Houston gets its first arc light.
- 1887 Sisters of Charity open Houston's first general hospital.
- 1891 Houston is first Texas city with electric streetcars.
- 1895 Houston Business League is founded (became Houston Chamber of Commerce in 1910).
- 1895 Houston Fire Department replaces Houston Volunteer Fire Department.
- 1897 Automobile first appears in Houston as an advertising gimmick.
- 1897 Houston's first asphalt street paving is laid on Franklin St.
- 1898 Galveston Country Club opens with Texas' first recorded professionally designed golf course.
- 1899 First Houston city park opens. (This site, now Sam Houston Park, contains several of Houston's earliest buildings.)

## 1900s

- 1900 A Category 4 hurricane — deadliest in U.S. history — strikes Galveston, claiming more than 6,000 lives and causing property damage exceeding \$30 million (\$902 million in 2019 dollars).
- 1901 Houston Left Hand Fishing Club purchases the city's first automobile from Olds Motor Works of Detroit.
- 1901 Oil discovered at Spindletop, and later discoveries at Humble in 1905 and Goose Creek in 1906, put Houston in the center of new oil and oilfield equipment development.

- 1902 Congress appropriates \$1 million for work on the Houston Ship Channel.
- 1909 Houston Museum and Scientific Society, Inc., predecessor of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, is organized.
- 1909 Houston Country Club opens with Houston's first professionally-designed 18-hole golf course.

## 1910s

- 1910 Congress accepts, from a group of Houston businessmen headed by the Houston Chamber of Commerce, a novel plan to split ship channel development costs between Houston and the federal government.
- 1912 Rice Institute (now Rice University) begins classes.
- 1913 Houston Symphony is established.
- 1914 George Hermann donates 285 acres to the city for a public park near Rice Institute.
- 1914 The 25-foot-deep Houston Ship Channel is completed and formally dedicated.
- 1915 First deepwater vessel, the S.S. Satilla, calls at Houston.

## 1920s

- 1920s-1930s Oil refineries proliferate along the Ship Channel, taking advantage of inexpensive waterborne shipping.
- 1921 Houston adopts ordinance dedicating tax monies to its library system.
- 1923 Second National Bank becomes Houston's first air-conditioned building.
- 1924 Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the first fine arts museum in Texas, opens.
- 1926 Natural gas first piped into Houston.
- 1927 Houston Colored Junior College, the forerunner of Texas Southern University, established.
- 1927 Houston Junior College (now the University of Houston) is established.
- 1928 National Democratic Convention is held in Houston.
- 1928 Municipal airport opened; air mail service to Houston begins.
- 1929 City Planning Commission recommends that Houston adopt a zoning ordinance but finds scant support.

## 1930s

- 1930 Census ranks Houston as the state's most populous city at 292,352.
- 1932 First Houston Fat Stock Show & Rodeo (now Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo) held.
- 1934 Intracoastal Canal links Houston to Mississippi River navigation system.
- 1935 Braniff International inaugurates first scheduled air passenger service to Houston.

**1940s**

- 1940s ○ Petrochemical complex develops, taking feedstocks from nearby refineries.
- 1941 ○ New master plan for Houston thoroughfares emphasizes a loop system.
- 1943 ○ Texas Medical Center is founded.
- 1946 ○ Houston Golf Assn. hosts its first PGA Tour event — now the Houston Open, 10th oldest event on the PGA schedule.
- 1947 ○ Houston College for Negroes acquired by Texas Legislature; established as Texas State University for Negroes (now Texas Southern University).
- 1947 ○ Alley Theatre established.
- 1947 ○ Engineering begins on the Gulf Freeway, Texas' first freeway.
- 1948 ○ Dec. 31 annexation expands Houston's area from 74.4 to 216 square-miles.
- 1948 ○ Port of Houston ranks second nationally in total tonnage.
- 1949 ○ KLEE-TV broadcasts first Houston commercial TV program.

**1950s**

- 1953 ○ KUHT-TV, the nation's first public broadcast TV station, goes on the air.
- 1955 ○ Houston Grand Opera Association and Houston Ballet founded.
- 1955 ○ Houston metro area population reaches 1,000,000.

**1960s**

- 1962 ○ NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center moves to Houston.
- 1965 ○ First event held in the Astrodome.
- 1969 ○ Houston Intercontinental Airport begins operations.
- 1969 ○ "Houston" is the first word spoken from the lunar surface.

**1970s**

- 1970 ○ The Galleria opens.
- Shell Oil Co. relocates corporate headquarters to Houston. More than 200 major firms move headquarters, subsidiaries and divisions here in the 1970s.
- 1971 ○
- 1973 ○ Arab oil embargo quadruples oil prices in 90 days, fueling Houston's 1973-1981 economic boom.
- 1978 ○ Voters approve and fund Metropolitan Transit Authority.

**1980s**

- 1982 ○ Employment peaks at 1,583,400 in March before onset of recession.
- 1983 ○ 155 office buildings completed in 12 months.
- 1983 ○ Voters approve creation of Harris County Toll Road Authority.

- 1987 ○ Trough of recession in January; net recession loss of 221,900 jobs.
- 1987 ○ Wortham Center, home to Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera, opens.
- 1989 ○ Houston Chamber of Commerce, Houston Economic Development Council and Houston World Trade Association combine to form Greater Houston Partnership.

**1990s**

- 1990 ○ Houston economic recovery complete; April job count above March 1982 level.
- 1990 ○ Houston hosts 16th annual Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations.
- 1991 ○ Houston City Council mandates first zoning regulations.
- 1992 ○ Republican National Convention held in Houston.

**2000s**

- 2000 ○ Census finds Houston MSA has no racial or ethnic majority.
- 2000 ○ Minute Maid Park, home of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros, opens.
- 2001 ○ Tropical Storm Allison inundates Houston June 5-9, claiming 22 lives and inflicting \$4.9 billion in property damage, with storm precipitation as high as 35.67 inches in some areas.
- 2002 ○ NRG Stadium, home of the National Football League's Houston Texans, opens.
- 2002 ○ Hobby Center for the Performing Arts opens.
- 2003 ○ Toyota Center, home of the National Basketball Association's Houston Rockets, opens
- 2004 ○ Houston's first modern light rail line, 7.5-miles long, begins operations.
- 2004 ○ Houston hosts NFL Superbowl XXXVIII
- 2005 ○ More than 100,000 evacuees flee to Houston from southern Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
- 2008 ○ Hurricane Ike makes landfall Sept. 13 at Galveston as a Category 2 storm, claiming at least 70 lives and causing some \$27 billion in property damage along the Texas Gulf Coast, ranking it third most costly among U.S. hurricanes.

**2010s**

- 2011 ○ By November, Houston returns to 2008 pre-recession employment levels; first major metro to do so.
- 2012 ○ BBVA Compass Stadium, home of Major League Soccer's Houston Dynamo, opens.
- 2013 ○ A \$60-billion boom in chemical plant construction begins along the Gulf Coast. The construction boom helps to offset job losses in energy over the next two years.
- 2014 ○ Oil prices peak at \$108 per barrel in June before plunging 75% over the next 18 months, devastating the local energy industry. Nearly 80,000 energy-related jobs are lost.

- 2015 ○ Hobby Airport launches international service with the opening of the airport's first international terminal.
- 2015 ○ Ellington Airport receives a commercial spaceport license by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- 2016 ○ The energy downturn bottoms out and a slow recovery begins.
- 2017 ○ Houston hosts NFL Super Bowl LI.
- 2017 ○ Hurricane Harvey inundates Houston with five days of rain. Total rainfall exceeds 50 inches in many parts of the region.
- 2017 ○ The American League Houston Astros defeat the National League Los Angeles Dodgers to win Major League Baseball's World Series.
- 2019 ○ The world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing on July 20.
- 2019 ○ The World Health Organization declares the emergence of a mysterious pneumonia-like virus in Wuhan, China on December 31.

**2020s**

- 2020 ○ The COVID-19 pandemic arrives in Houston infecting nearly 85,000 residents and causing nearly 1,200 deaths during the first four months of the outbreak. Over 350,000 jobs are lost in March and April. A tepid economic recovery begins in May.
- 2020 ○ On June 2, more than 60,000 Houstonians gather at Discovery Green and to City Hall to protest systematic racism and police brutality, the demonstration brought on by the death of native Houstonian George Floyd, killed by Minneapolis police while being taken into custody.
- 2020 ○ In December 2020, the City of Houston receives first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2021 ○ Winter Storm Uri causes Houston temperatures to plunge to record lows. The city records up to four inches of sleet and snow.
- 2021 ○ Rothko Chapel celebrates its 50th anniversary as a landmark of modern art.
- 2021 ○ Rice University opens The Ion, a tech-focused hub in the Innovation Corridor.
- 2022 ○ ExxonMobil announces their HQ relocation, marking the third Fortune 500 company moving to Houston in 14 months.
- 2022 ○ The American League Houston Astros defeat the National League Philadelphia Phillies to win their second MLB World Series.
- 2023 ○ Houston hosts the NCAA Men's Final Four for the fourth time.
- 2024 ○ Hurricane Beryl passes over Houston knocking down power to 2.3 million households. Power restored to 92 percent of those households in seven days.

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