GREATER HOUSTON **PARTNERSHIP**

HOUSTON FACTS

2025

Your Guide to Data on the Houston Region

HOUSTON FACTS

2025

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GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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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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.

Houston Facts. 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:

Nearly 1.9 million Houstonians, or **ROUGHLY ONE IN FOUR,** were born outside the U.S.

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

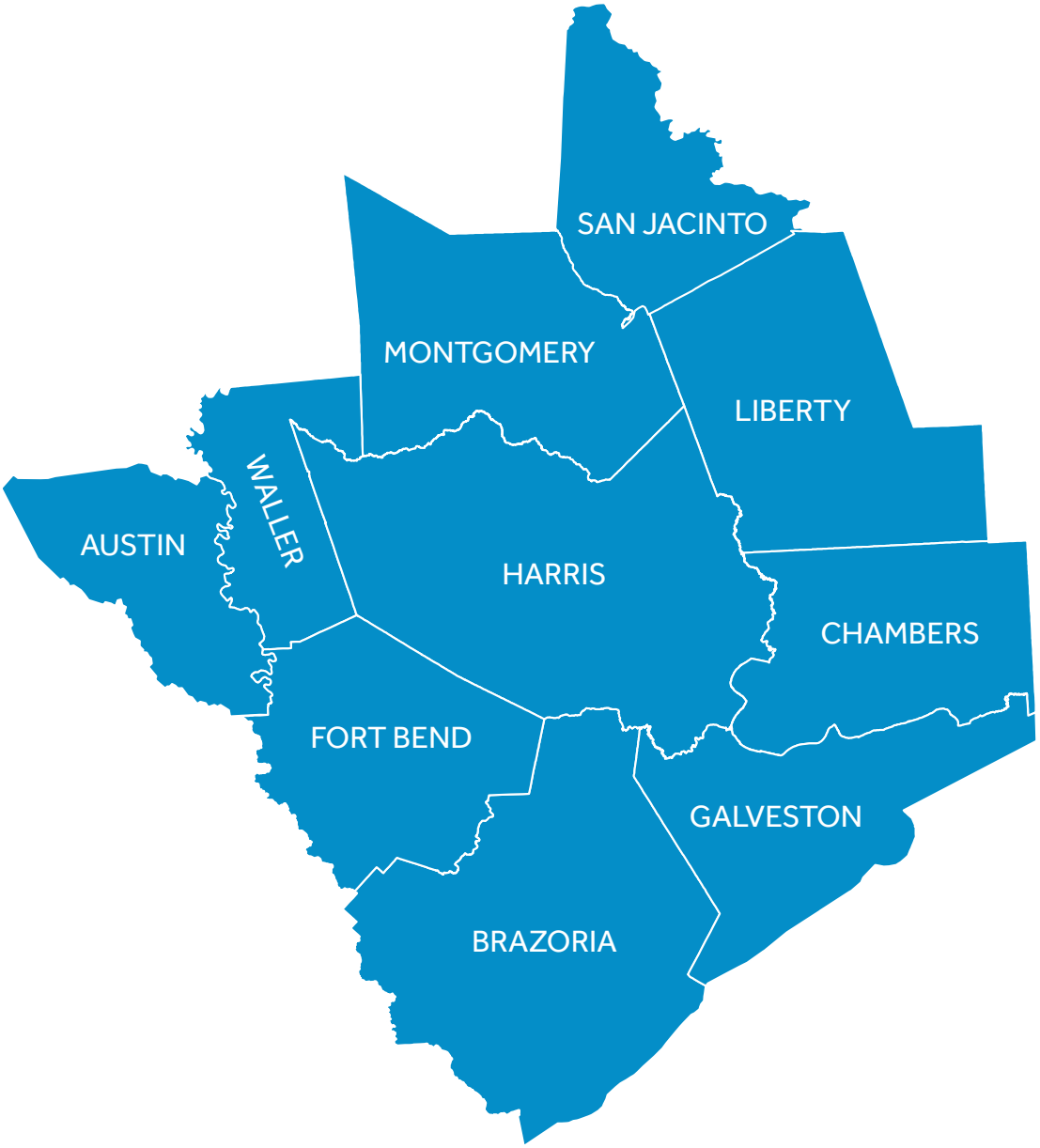
If Houston were a country, it would rank as the **22ND LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD**—exceeding Argentina and Belgium's Gross Domestic Product.

Houston leads the nation in exports with **$180.9 BILLION IN GOODS AND COMMODITIES** sent abroad last year.

REGION IN PERSPECTIVE

Geography

THE HOUSTON-PASADENA-THE WOODLANDS METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)[1] CONTAINS 10 TEXAS COUNTIES:



Within these 10 counties are 125 incorporated cities and 37 Census Designated Places (CDP). [2]

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 34 incorporated cities and 12 CDPs.

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

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineates the official boundaries for all metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). All data in this issue of Houston Facts reflect trends for the 10-county MSA unless otherwise stated.

[1] The longer title is shortened to "Houston MSA," "metro Houston," "Greater Houston," "Houston area" or simply "Houston" in Houston Facts.

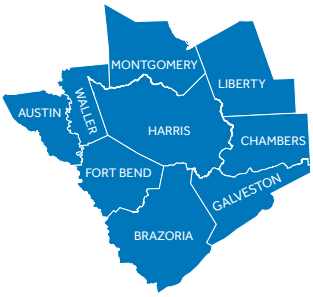
[2] A Census Designated Place functions like a city or town but is not incorporated.

10-County Houston MSA Population

If metro Houston were a state, it would have the 14th largest population in the U.S.

7,958,180

7,796,182



7,582,384

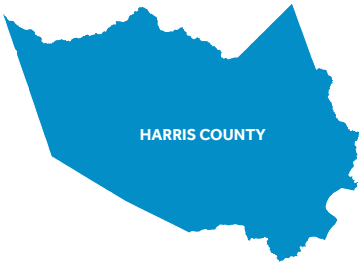
7,227,750

Harris County Population

If Harris County were a state, it would have the 25th largest population in the U.S.

5,157,699

5,009,302



4,597,740

4,588,372

City of Houston Population

If the City of Houston were a state, it would rank 36th in population in the U.S.

2,943,045

2,390,125

2,130,256

2,005,465

Area

The 10-county Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers 8,838 square miles of land. If the MSA were a state, it would rank as the 46th 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 641 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

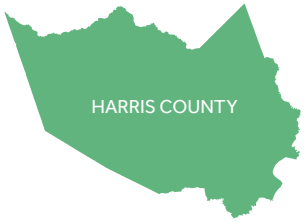
If the MSA were an independent nation, it would rank as **the world's 22nd largest economy,** behind Switzerland ($884.9) and Poland ($809.2 billion) but ahead of Argentina ($646.1 billion) and Belgium ($644.8 billion), according to the World Bank.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at **$697.0 billion in '23,** making it the seventh largest U.S. metro economy.

If Houston were a state, its GDP would rank 14th, behind Massachusetts ($736.2 billion) and Virginia ($719.9 billion) but ahead of Michigan ($673.8 billion) and Colorado ($529.6 billion).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population and People



5,009,302
residents as of July 1, 2024

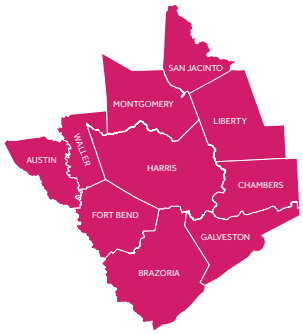
105,852
residents added between July '23 and July '24, a 2.2% increase

3rd
most populous county in the nation

2,390,125
residents as of July 1, 2024

43,217
residents added between July '23 and July '24, a 1.8% increase

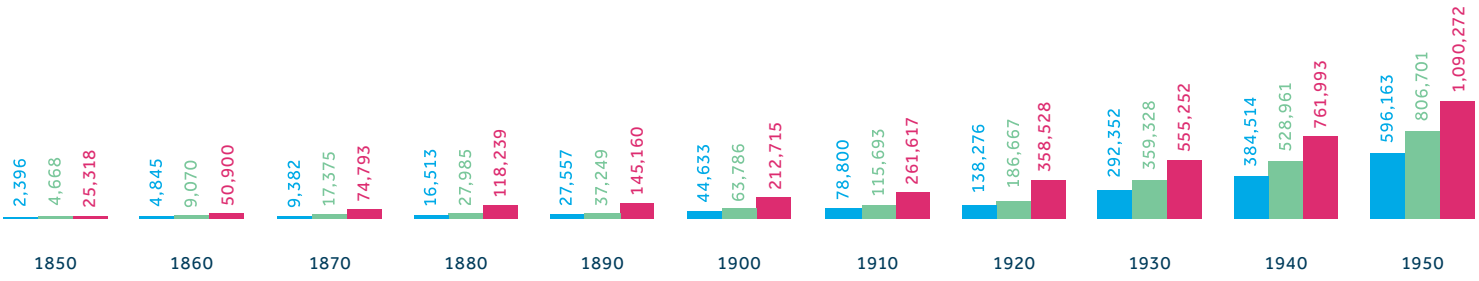
4th
most populous U.S. city



7,796,182
residents as of July 1, 2024

198,171
residents added between July '23 to July '24, a 2.6% increase

5th
most populous U.S. metro area



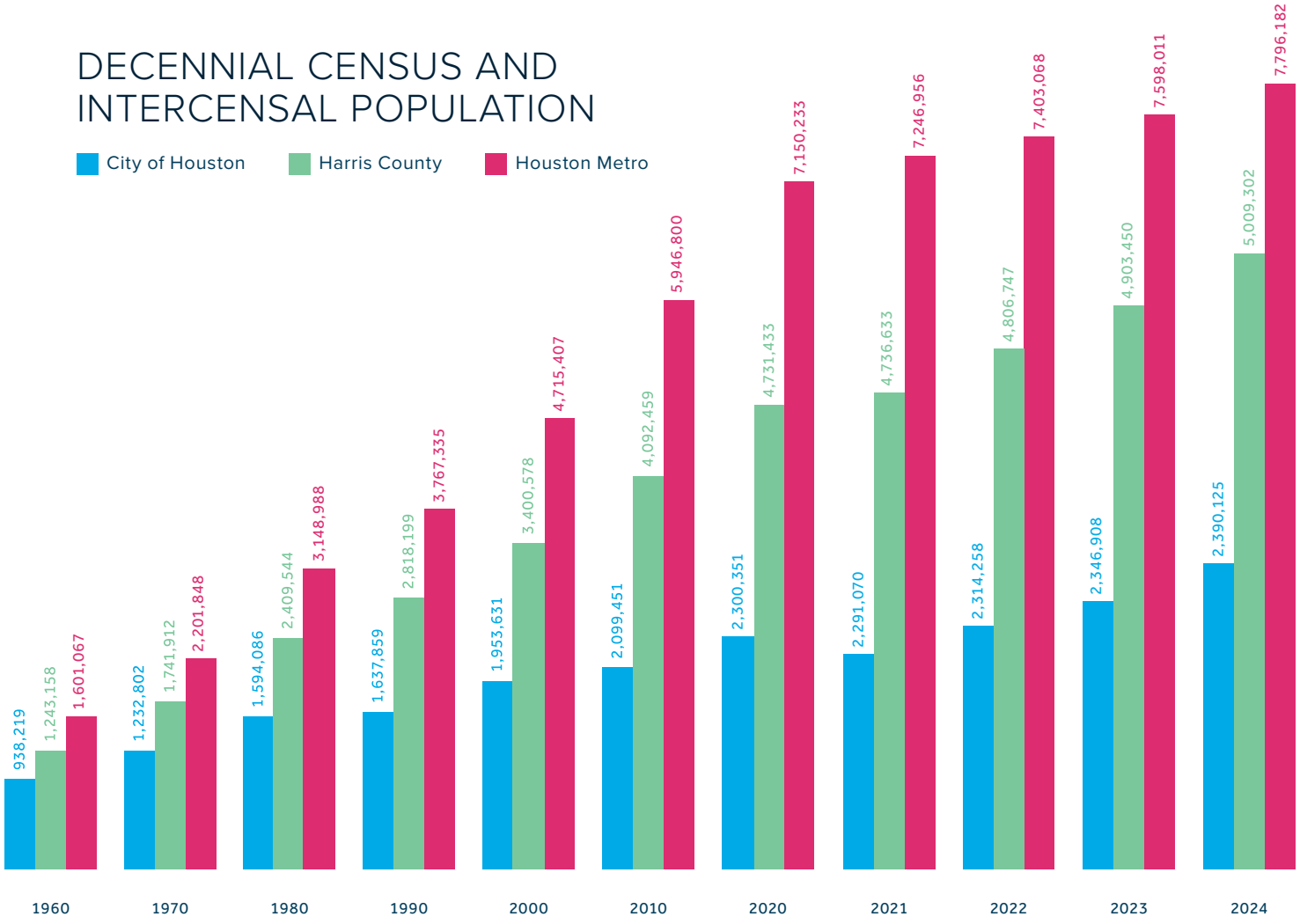
SUBCOMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

By County, 2024

COUNTY	POPULATION		NET MIGRATION		NATURAL INCREASE		TOTAL POPULATION CHANGE
	APRIL 2020	JULY 2024	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC	BIRTHS	DEATHS	
Austin	30,167	32,546	181	2,212	1,517	-1,546	2,379
Brazoria	372,040	413,224	6,198	27,261	20,020	-12,747	41,184
Chambers	46,543	56,179	591	7,954	2,648	-1,583	9,636
Fort Bend	822,989	958,434	41,480	74,765	39,680	-19,617	135,445
Galveston	350,686	367,407	3,585	11,027	16,549	-14,386	16,721
Harris	4,731,433	5,009,302	260,290	-118,626	274,840	-138,772	277,869
Liberty	91,658	115,042	725	20,888	6,106	-4,274	23,384
Montgomery	620,567	749,613	16,198	98,887	34,840	-20,917	129,046
San Jacinto	27,400	29,326	42	2,178	1,389	-1,710	1,926
Waller	56,750	65,109	620	6,570	3,164	-2,013	8,359
HOUSTON MSA	**7,150,233**	**7,796,182**	**329,910**	**133,116**	**400,753**	**-217,565**	**645,949**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Population Estimates
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.

DECENNIAL CENSUS AND INTERCENSAL POPULATION



Source: US Census Bureau, Texas Almanac, City of Houston
Note: Historical metro population based on the current 10-county definition of the MSA

SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, 2023

COUNTY	MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	% OF ADULTS WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	% OF POPULATION FOREIGN BORN
Austin	41.6	12,174	2.50	23.4	10.6
Brazoria	36.8	138,692	2.77	32.3	15.7
Chambers	35.3	16,558	2.96	23.0	9.2
Fort Bend	37.6	303,900	3.00	49.4	31.0
Galveston	39.3	142,199	2.51	35.0	10.1
Harris	34.8	1,791,013	2.67	34.2	27.3
Liberty	33.3	30,009	3.08	11.2	13.8
Montgomery	37.3	262,273	2.70	39.3	16.9
San Jacinto	45.0	10,480	2.66	15.8	9.1
Waller	30.8	17,981	3.04	26.6	12.1
HOUSTON MSA	**35.7**	**2,731,843**	**2.72**	**36.0**	**24.8**

Note: County data may not sum to Houston MSA total due to a difference in survey methods
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey

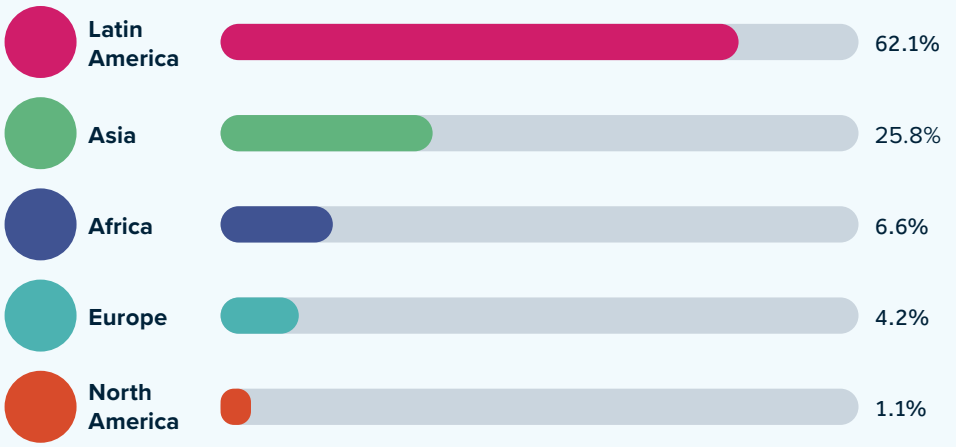
NEARLY

ONE IN FOUR

HOUSTONIANS BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S. (24.8%)

Among the 1,862,626 foreign-born in the Houston metro area, 59.5% entered the U.S. before 2010.

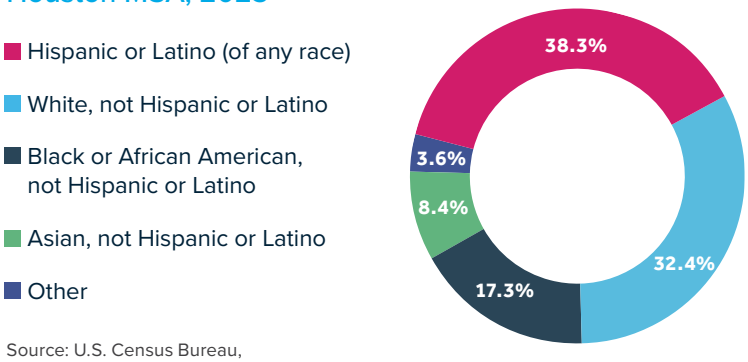
TOP REGIONS OF BIRTH FOR FOREIGN-BORN



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey

RACE/ETHNIC COMPOSITION

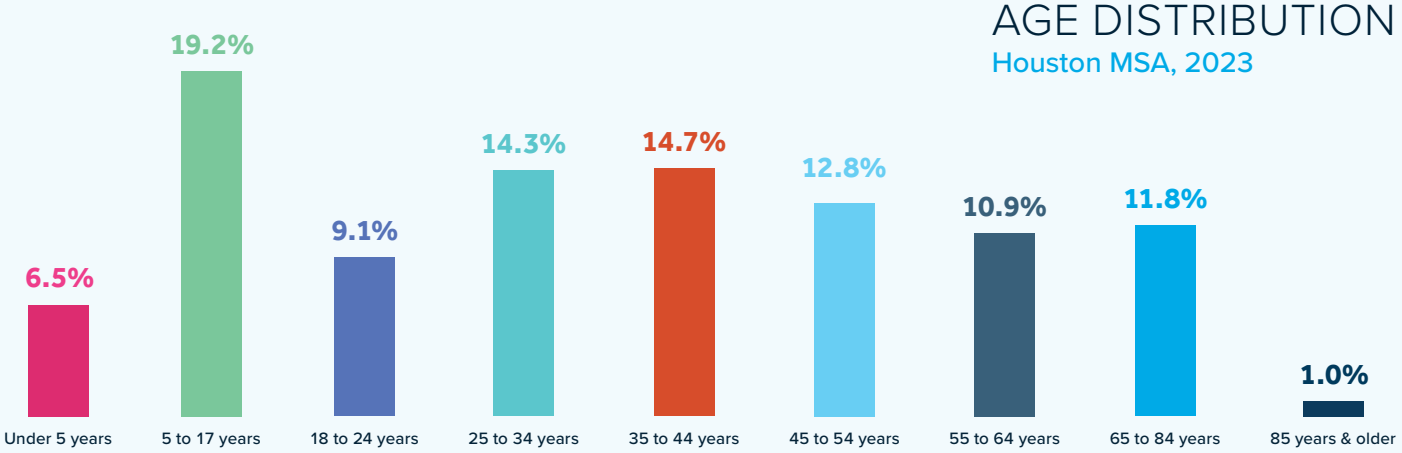
Houston MSA, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey

AGE DISTRIBUTION

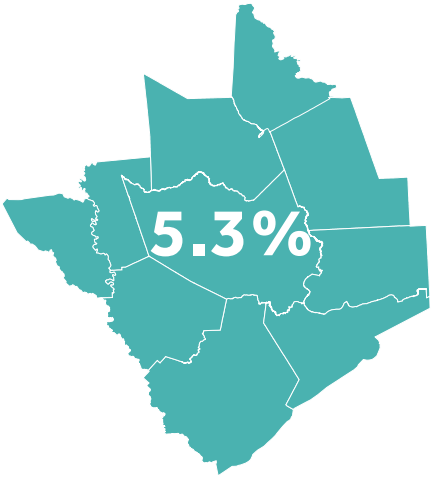
Houston MSA, 2023

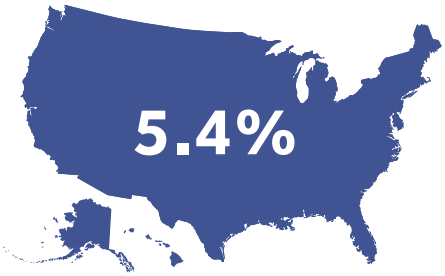


Note: Sums may not total due to rounding
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey

PCPI INCREASE IN THE HOUSTON MSA COMPARED TO NATIONWIDE INCREASE

From ’22 to ’23





Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Income

$72,453

Per capita personal income (PCPI) in ’23, above the national average of $69,810

$542.0B

Total personal income, defined as income received from all sources, in the nine-county Houston MSA in ’23 (latest data available), up 7.3% from ’22.

Wages

$269.7B

Total wages for MSA in ’24

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Top Occupations

By Employment

Office and Administrative Support

Transportation and Material Moving

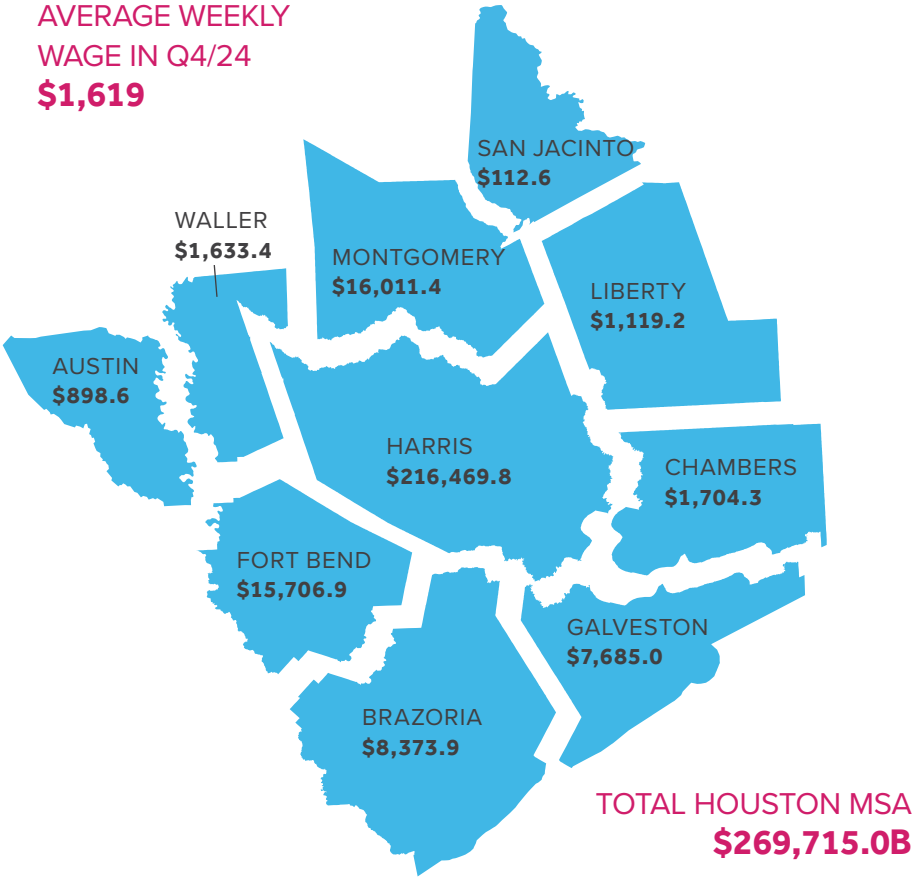
Food Preparation and Service Related

Source: BLS Occupation Employment Statistics

TOTAL WAGES BY COUNTY

Metro Houston, 2024 ($ Millions)*

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE IN Q4/24
$1,619

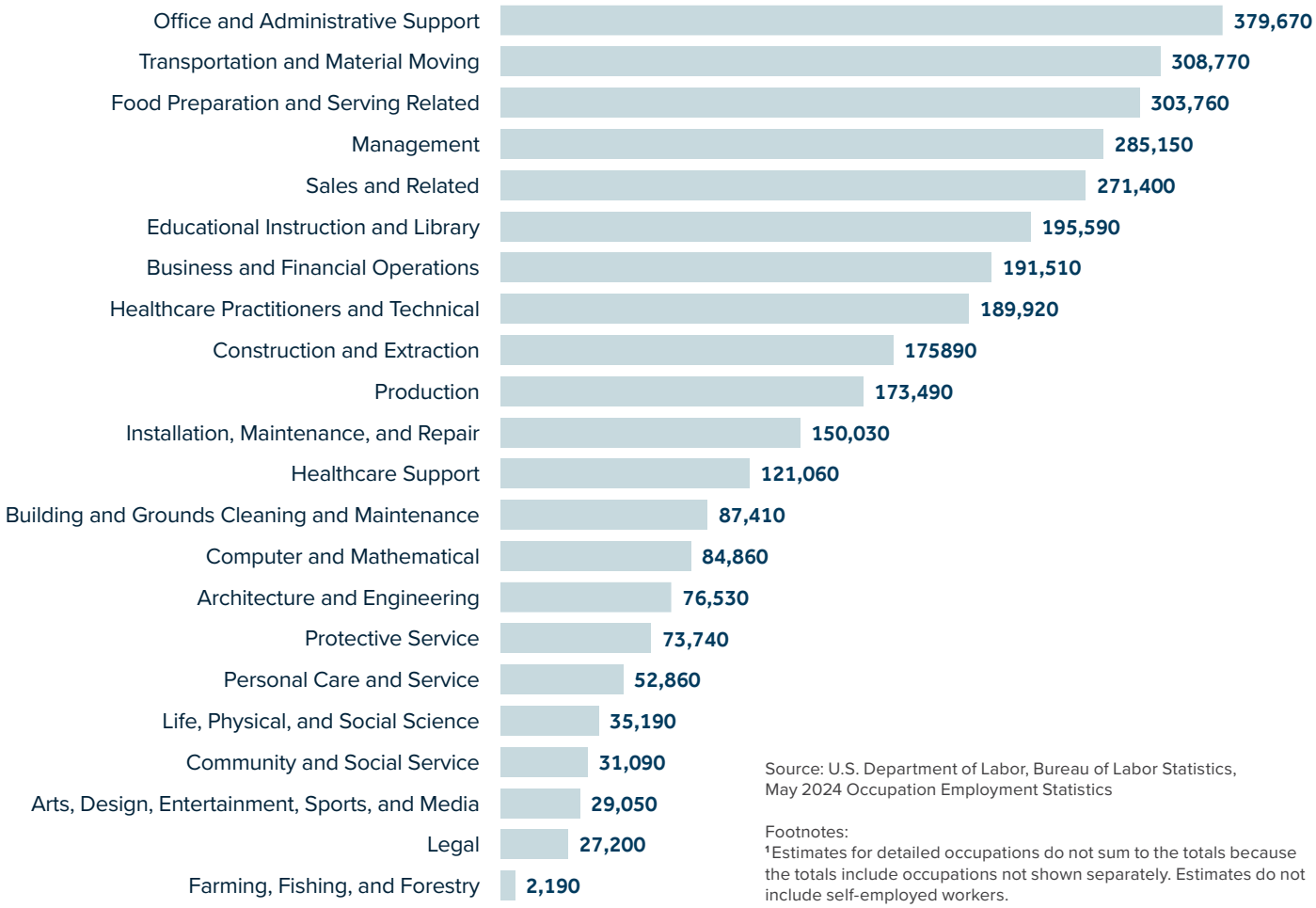


TOTAL HOUSTON MSA
$269,715.0B

*Note: Four quarters ending Q4/24.
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

METRO EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION[1]

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, 2024



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2024 Occupation Employment Statistics

Footnotes:
[1]Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL ATTAINED	POPULATION AGE 25 OR OLDER	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
No High School Diploma	709,405	14.5
High School Graduate or Higher	***4,192,267***	***85.5***
High School Diploma or GED	1,104,721	22.5
Some College, No Degree	923,224	18.8
Associate Degree	400,759	8.2
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	***1,763,563***	***36.0***
Bachelor's Degree	1,073,831	21.9
Graduate or Professional Degree	689,732	14.1

Note: Sums may not total due to rounding
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey

HOUSTON ECONOMY

Houston's economy remains one of the largest and most diverse in the nation. Since April '20, the region has added more than 635,400 jobs, bringing total employment to 3.5 million as of April '25. The unemployment rate stood at 3.9 percent, consistent with a tight labor market.

This expansion reflects more than a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued job growth has been supported by national economic momentum, strong global trade ties, rising corporate investment, and sustained population growth.

Several key trends help explain the region's ongoing economic performance:

Strong U.S. economic growth: Since April '20, the nation has added over 29.0 million jobs, 8.4 million more than it lost in the pandemic. U.S. gross domestic product has grown nearly 25 percent since then, adjusted for inflation. As of April '25, the nation's unemployment rate has tracked 4.2 percent or lower for 41 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 $180.9 billion in '24, the second highest level on record. The Houston-Galveston Customs District ranked first in the country in volume (432.6 million metric tons) and fourth in value ($376.3 billion) in '24. The Houston Airport System handled a record 13.1 million international passengers in '24.

Increased corporate activity: Over 1,400 companies have announced relocations, expansions, or start-up operations in the region since '21, with more than 250 of these projects involving foreign-owned companies.

Logistics and industrial growth: Developers have added over 215 million square feet of warehouse/industrial space since '16. Container traffic through the Port of Houston has roughly doubled over the same period. The Port set a record last year with 4.1 million total containers handled.

Sustained population growth: Over 450,000 people moved to the metro area between April '20 and July '24, drawn by employment opportunities, affordable housing and quality of life. The region's population is expected to surpass 8.0 million residents by the end of the decade.

Strong sense of community: According to the 44th Annual Kinder Houston-Area survey, 80 percent of respondents identified as Houstonians, including nearly two-thirds of those who moved to the region as adults. More than 80 percent said Houston was a better place to live compared to other major metros, with many saying that economic opportunity and the low cost of living are the best things about living here.

ESTABLISHMENTS BY INDUSTRY

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, Q4/24

INDUSTRY	ESTABLISHMENTS	% OF TOTAL
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,410	15.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	22,494	12.8
Retail Trade	19,466	11.1
Accommodation and Food Services	14,695	8.4
Other Services (except Public Administration)	14,530	8.3
Construction	12,414	7.1
Wholesale Trade	10,919	6.2
Finance and Insurance	9,733	5.5
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	9,669	5.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9,432	5.4
Manufacturing	7,209	4.1
Transportation and Warehousing	5,638	3.2
Educational Services	2,453	1.4
Information	2,141	1.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,051	1.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,716	1.0
Unclassified	1,482	0.8
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,055	0.6
Public Administration	753	0.4
Utilities	654	0.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	606	0.3
TOTAL	**175,520**	**100.0**

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 18 foreign banks from 10 nations.

Houston's economy is deeply tied to global trade and foreign investment.

- Trading relationships with 200+ countries.
- The Houston/Galveston Customs District handled 353.7 million metric tons in exports, valued at $251.2 billion in '24, according to U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division data.
- Exports accounted for 66.7 percent of the total trade value.
- Houston has one of the largest consular corps in the nation with 90 career or honorary consulates, according to the U.S. State Department.
- Houston is home to 11 foreign government trade and commercial offices, as well as 41 active non-governmental foreign chambers of commerce and trade associations.
- Houston has 19 sister-city relationships promoting business opportunities across six continents: Asia (9), Europe (6), North America (1), South America (1), Africa (1) and Oceania (1).

141
Houston firms operate

3,268
Subsidiary locations across

49
Foreign countries

These subsidiary locations represent branch offices (60 percent), service centers (15 percent), sales offices or retail locations (13 percent), manufacturing or distribution facilities (6 percent), and other types of operations.

In '24, over 80 foreign-owned firms from 30 countries announced or completed new projects in metro Houston, according to the Partnership's New Business Announcements database. Those projects stretch across 14 different industry clusters and represent at least $277 million in capital investments. That is likely a significant underestimate since many firms did not disclose the value of their investments.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS OF NOTE LANDING IN HOUSTON IN '24:

- China's Oriental Yuhong establishing a construction materials manufacturing facility in Houston, with a $100 million capital investment expected to support 350 jobs.
- Cambodia's IC Star Solar LLC building a manufacturing facility for solar cells and modules in Tomball, with a $30 million capital investment expected to support 348 jobs.
- Japan's TMEIC Corporation expanding its manufacturing capacity in Houston to include photovoltaic inverters, with a $30 million capital investment supporting 300 jobs.
- China's Healgen Scientific LLC establishing a corporate office and manufacturing facility for flu and COVID-19 tests in Houston, with a $27 million capital investment supporting 200 jobs.
- Luxecasting, a Spanish-Chinese joint venture, establishing a U.S. branch office and logistics warehouse in Houston for hoses, couplings, and firefighting equipment, with a $13 million capital investment supporting 50 jobs.
- Italy's Poggipolini, a manufacturer of fasteners for the aerospace industry, expanding to Houston by acquiring a local company, with a $10 million capital investment supporting 50 jobs.

HOUSTON SISTER CITIES

Aberdeen, Scotland (1979)

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2001)

Baku, Azerbaijan (1976)

Basrah, Iraq (2015)

Chiba, Japan (1972)

Guayaquil, Ecuador (1987)

Huelva, Spain (1969)

Istanbul, Turkey (1988)

Karachi, Pakistan (2009)

Leipzig, Germany (1992)

Luanda, Angola (2003)

Nice, France (1973)

Perth, Australia (1984)

Shenzhen, China (1986)

Stavanger, Norway (1988)

Taipei, Taiwan (1961)

Tampico, Mexico (2003)

Tyumen, Russia (1995)

Ulsan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea (2021)

HOUSTON'S LARGEST COMPANIES BY REVENUE

OVER $50 BILLION

ConocoPhillips
Exxon Mobil
Phillips 66
Sysco

$25 TO $50 BILLION

Baker Hughes
Enterprise Products Partners
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
LyondellBasell Industries
Occidental Petroleum
Plains All American Pipeline
Plains GP Holdings
SLB

$10 TO $25 BILLION

Cheniere Energy
Corebridge Financial
EOG Resources
Group 1 Automotive
Halliburton
Kinder Morgan
Quanta Services
Targa Resources
WM
Westlake

$5 TO $10 BILLION

Academy Sports and Outdoors
APA
CenterPoint Energy
Cheniere Energy Partners
Comfort Systems USA
Coterra Energy
Crown Castle
CVR Energy
Insperity
Marathon Oil
NOV
Par Pacific Holdings
Southwestern Energy
TechnipFMC
Waste Connections

$1 TO $5 BILLION

Cactus
Camden Property Trust
ChampionX
Chord Energy
Crescent Energy
DNOW
DXP Enterprises
Excelerate Energy
Genesis Energy
Hess Midstream
IES Holdings
Kinetik Holdings
Kirby
LGI Homes
MRC Global
Murphy Oil
Noble
Oceaneering International
Patterson-UTI Energy
Prosperity Bancshares
Quanex Building Products
Select Water Solutions
Service International
Sterling Infrastructure
Stewart Information Services
Tidewater
U.S. Silica Holdings
Western Midstream Partners
Westlake Chemical Partners

Note: Based on financial filings for 2023
Source: Houston Chronicle, The Chronicle 100, 2024

26
Fortune 500 Headquarters

43
Fortune 1000 Headquarters

8
Fortune Global 500 Headquarters*

24
Forbes Global 2000 Headquarters

94
Inc. 1000 Headquarters*

4
Fortune 100 Best places to work

*Denotes 2023 data, latest available

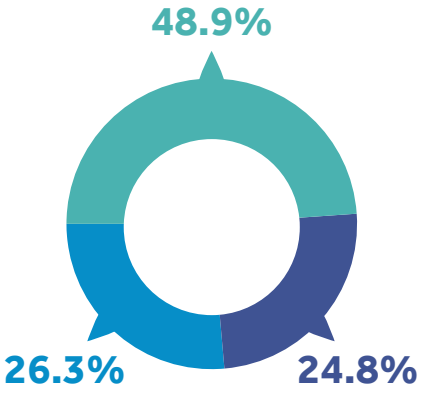
KEY INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS

Construction and Real Estate

238,595
Employed in construction
Source: Texas Workforce Commision

$97,656
Average annual wage

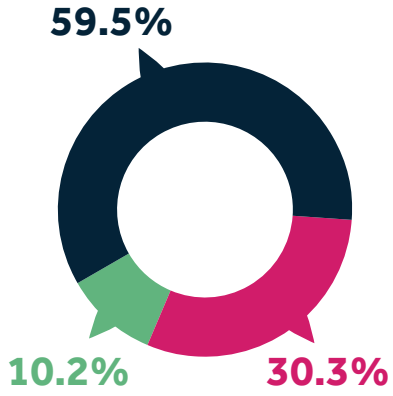
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, Q4/24



- Specialty trade contractors (e.g., electrical work, plumbing, site preparation, painting)
- Building construction
- Heavy and civil engineering

12,414
Total construction establishments

ESTABLISHMENTS BY TYPE



- Specialty trade contractors
- Building construction
- Heavy and civil engineering construction

CITY OF HOUSTON BUILDING PERMITS

$9.0B
In '24, up **16.6%** from **$7.8 billion** in '23

+$3.2B
for residential building permits

+$2.4B
for commercial 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.
- 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.
- **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).

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

OFFICE

At the start of ’25, Houston’s office market showed a modest rebound, with 260,703 square feet of net absorption following a weak ’24. Despite the improvement, elevated vacancy and availability rates persist—especially in older buildings—highlighting the ongoing challenge of oversupply and limited demand growth.

Gross asking rents held steady at $28.74 per square foot, unchanged in real terms for the past decade. New construction activity remains limited.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- **2.0 million sq. ft.** under construction
- **70% preleased**
- Primarily medical office development

OFFICE OCCUPANCY (BADGE SWIPES)

- **60% average** per Kastle Systems
- Comparable to other major Texas metros

INDUSTRIAL

At the start of ’25, Houston’s industrial market showed signs of cooling after several years of rapid growth. Vacancy rose to 6.8%, up from a five-year low of 5.0 percent in late ’22, as new supply continued to outpace leasing demand. Just 863,000 square feet of space was newly leased in Q1/25—down from nearly four million the previous quarter and far below the 18.5 million peak in Q3/21.

AVAILABLE SPACE

77.2

million sq. ft. listed. Includes vacant, sublet, and expected-to-be-vacated space

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- **16.7 million sq. ft.** under construction (Q1/25)
- Down from 36.2 million in late ’22
- Reflects rising interest rates and softer demand

ASKING RENTS

- **$9.69 per sq. ft.** average triple net (NNN) in Q1/25
- Up from $9.11 (Q1/24) and $8.05 (Q1/23)
- Rents have increased 33% over five years

RETAIL

Houston’s retail market remains one of the city’s most stable commercial sectors, buoyed by population growth and a return to in-person shopping. Vacancy edged up to 5.4 percent, still low by historical standards. Retailers leased 1.7 million square feet of space in the first quarter of ’25, a slight slowdown from late ’24. Just 159,000 square feet was newly occupied—the lowest quarterly total in more than five years.

RETAIL SPACE ON THE MARKET

25.4

million sq. ft. available in Q1/25

- Up from 24.0 million in Q1/24

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- **3.6 million sq. ft.** under construction
- Down from 4.6 million in Q1/24
- Reflects tighter lending and slower expansion

ASKING RENTS

- **$20.86 per sq. ft.** (NNN) in Q1/25
- Up from $20.70 (Q1/24) and $19.63 (Q1/23).
- Gradual rent growth over time

SINGLE-FAMILY

Houston’s single-family housing market showed modest growth in early ’25, with 18,519 homes sold through March—a slight 0.2 percent increase from the same period in ’24. A brief dip in mortgage rates helped boost activity, though rising rates in April may slow momentum.

HOME PRICES

$336,000

Median home price (Q1/25)

- Up 1.3% year-over-year.
- Stable compared to post-pandemic surges

INVENTORY & LISTINGS

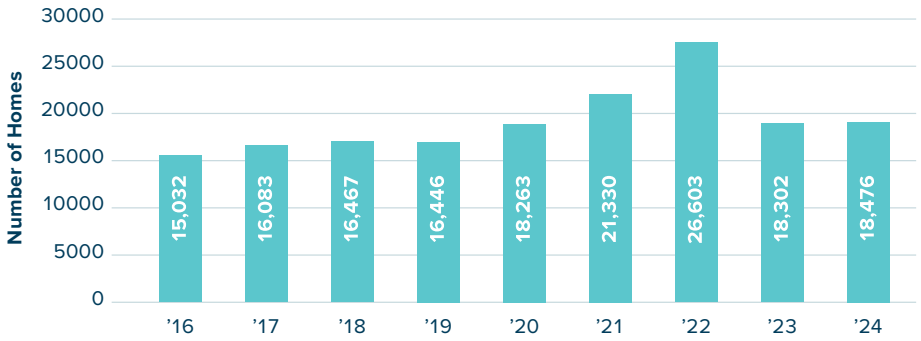
- **32,866** active listings
- Up **36.4%** year-over-year
- **4.6** months of inventory
- Buyers have more options and leverage

ATTACHED HOUSING

- High-rise median price of **$555,500** in March '25
- Down 22% for townhome & condo sales
- Up 45% for townhome & condo listings

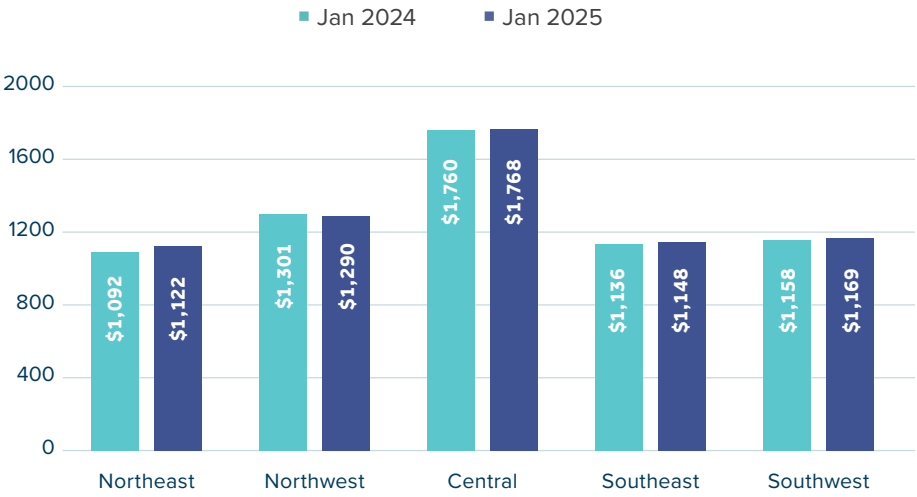
NUMBER OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES SOLD ANNUALLY

Houston MSA



Source: Houston Association of REALTORS®’ Multiple Listing Service

AVERAGE MONTHLY APARTMENT RENTS BY METRO HOUSTON REGION



Source: MRI Apartment Data

Region:

*__Northeast:__ Fifth Ward, Greenspoint, Aldine, Channelview, Humble, Kingwood, Crosby, etc.

*__Northwest:__ Spring Branch, Cypress, Spring, Cinco Ranch, Katy, Klein, Tomball, The Woodlands, Conroe, etc.

*__Central:__ Downtown, Montrose, Midtown, River Oaks, West U, Med Center, The Heights, etc.

*__Southeast:__ Third Ward, Southside, Hobby, Pearland, Pasadena, League City, Alvin, Galveston, etc.

*__Southwest:__ Galleria, Energy Corridor, Bellaire, Sharpstown, Alief, Sugar Land, Richmond, Rosenberg, etc.

MULTIFAMILY

Houston's multifamily market held steady in early '25, supported by sustained demand and slower construction activity. Occupancy and rents both rose slightly year-over-year, with Class A properties driving most of the growth. Compared to other major Texas metros, Houston stands out for maintaining positive trends in both rent and occupancy. Rents remain competitive—averaging 11–12 percent lower than in Austin and Dallas/Fort Worth. While markets like Austin have seen notable rent declines, Houston's steady demand and limited new supply have helped sustain performance, particularly among higher-end units.

OCCUPANCY & RENT TRENDS

88.7%

occupancy in January '25

- Up from 88.4% in '24
- **$1,273 average monthly rent**, a modest increase of $8 (+0.6%)

CLASS TRENDS

- **Class A** units added **20,000+ occupied units** over the past year
- **Class B, C, and D** properties experienced slight occupancy declines

SNAPSHOT OF MULTIFAMILY MARKET IN TEXAS

January 2025

CITY	MONTHLY RENT $	12-MONTH RENT GROWTH %
Austin	1,435	-6.5
Dallas/Fort Worth	1,445	-2.1
Houston	1,273	0.6
San Antonio	1,168	-1.7

Source: MRI Apartment Data

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

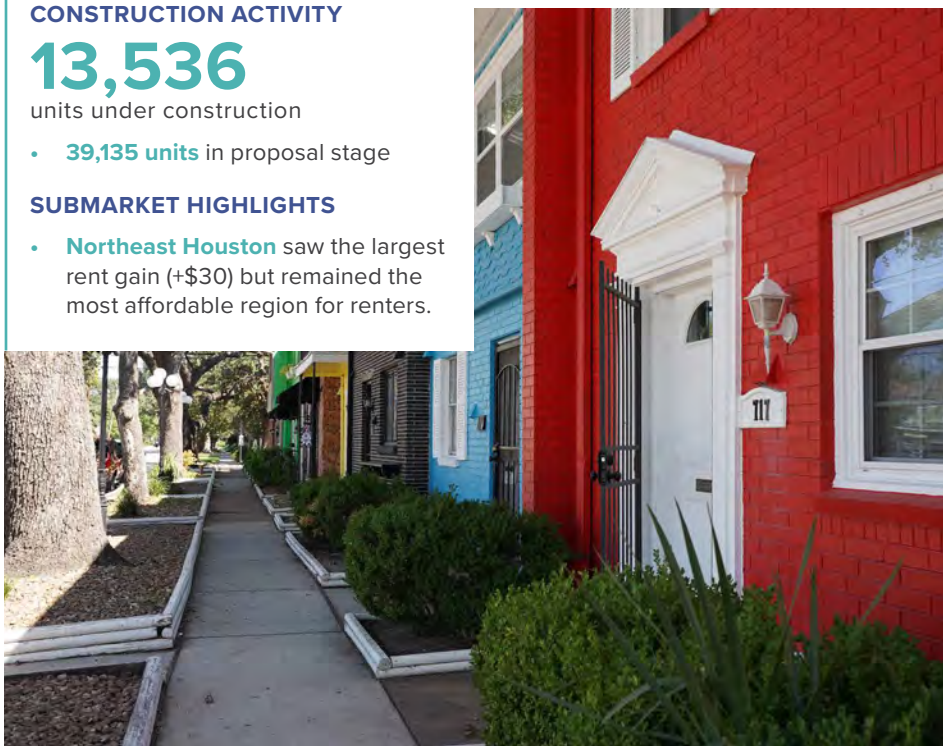
13,536

units under construction

- **39,135 units** in proposal stage

SUBMARKET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Northeast Houston** saw the largest rent gain (+$30) but remained the most affordable region for renters.



Health Care and Social Assistance

Houston's health care industry is anchored by the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world, and supported by major medical hubs in surrounding areas such as Sugar Land and The Woodlands. Collectively, these centers offer a wide range of advanced care in fields such as oncology, cardiology, neurology, and organ transplantation.

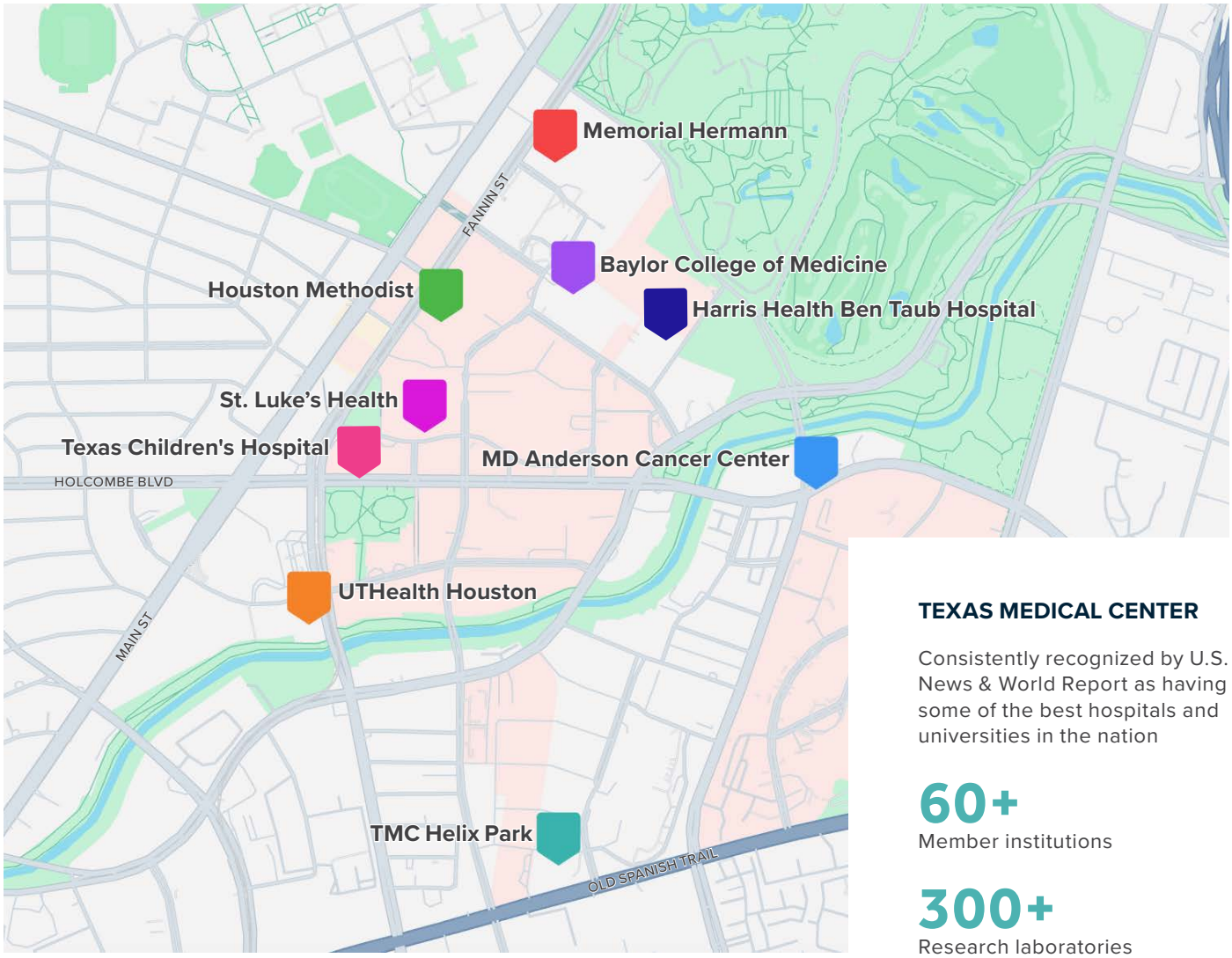
The sector employs 435,220 individuals and serves patients from both domestic and international markets. According to the Texas Medical Board, 20,840 physicians are licensed in the Houston Region; Harris County accounts for 80 percent of this total.

OTHER MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- HCA Houston Healthcare
- Harris Health System
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Kindred Healthcare
- Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- UTMB Health
- Texas A&M Health Science Center

ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 72,365 health care and social assistance establishments in the Houston region, including 15,605 ambulatory health care establishments, 5,800 social assistance establishments, 848 nursing and residential care facilities, and 241 hospitals.



TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

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

60+
Member institutions

300+
Research laboratories

Biotech and Life Sciences

The Houston region is a growing hub for biotechnology and life sciences, with activity spanning medical research, device manufacturing, and health innovation. The region is home to more than 28,000 professionals working across areas such as cancer treatment, genomics, biomedical engineering, and health technology development.

Campuses across the Houston region contribute to this growth. The Texas Medical Center includes institutions engaged in both clinical care and research, while TMC Innovation Factory supports early-stage companies focused on commercializing medical technologies. Adjacent to these efforts, TMC Helix Park is under development as a 37-acre life sciences complex intended to foster collaboration between academic, industry, and commercial partners.

2024 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING

Baylor College of Medicine
$335,649,352

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
$190,932,740

University of Texas Health Science Center Houston
$169,888,868

Methodist Hospital Research Institute
$52,234,048

University of Houston
$38,466,855

Texas A&M University Health Science Center
$31,469,338

Texas A&M University
$26,531,755

Rice University
$24,986,423

Texas A&M AgriLife Research
$15,868,582

Texas Engineering Experiment Station
$11,371,438

Texas Southern University
$3,253,086

Marker Therepeutics, Inc.
$3,174,534

7 Hills Pharma, LLC
$2,950,544

Cellchorus Inc.
$2,182,715

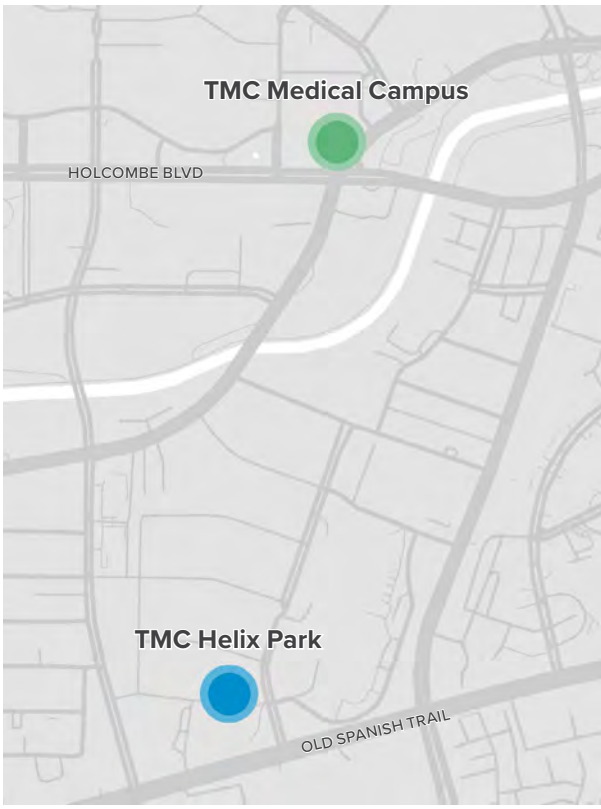
Veloxai LLC
$2,000,000

Total for the Region
$937,388,089

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

45,256
Medicine, biotech, and health students annually

3,076
Biomed, bioengineering, and pharma science degrees awarded regionally



SELECTED LIFE SCIENCE AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

Houston MSA, 2024

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	FIRMS
Research and Development in Nanotechnology	526	42
Research and Development in Biotechnology (except Nanobiotechnology)	2,962	147
Testing Laboratories and Services*	10,979	288
Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing	3,743	64
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	949	148
Electromedical and Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Manufacturing	2,143	37
Medical, Dental, and Hospital Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	7,072	336
TOTAL	**28,374**	**1,062**

Note: *Includes laboratories performing tests in other physical and engineering sciences
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Discover the unparalleled opportunities in Houston's life sciences industry and explore how the region can accelerate your innovations from research to commercialization.

LEVIT GREEN

53-acre
life sciences district

THE WOODLANDS INNOVATION DISTRICT

832-acre
development

GENERATION PARK

4,300-acre
district

LOWER KIRBY DISTRICT

1,200-acre
mixed-use district

2024 CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS (CPRIT) FUNDING

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
$55,908,607

Baylor College of Medicine
$38,964,147

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
$14,645,548

Marker Therapeutics, Inc.
$9,513,569

Eisbach Bio Inc.
$4,750,000

7 Hills Pharma Inc.
$4,700,000

Indapta Therapeutics
$4,500,000

Rice University
$4,250,000

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
$3,539,832

The Methodist Hospital Research Institute
$3,358,632

Bectas Therapeutics Inc.
$2,750,000

Crossbridge Bio, Inc.
$2,575,275

The Rose
$2,500,000

Texas Southern University
$2,000,000

Texas A&M University
$1,998,639

University of Houston
$1,400,000

Total Houston Area Funding
$157,354,249

Manufacturing

7,209
Manufacturing establishments

- **238,271** employees or about **1 in 14** Houston-area workers
- **$106,236** average annual wage

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

$106.1B
Value of goods manufactured in '23 (latest data available)

- **15.2%** of region's total GDP

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

COMPUTERS, ELECTRONICS, AND ELECTRICAL

625
Establishments focused on manufacturing computers, electronics, and electrical equipment

- **22,433** workers
- **9.4%** share of manufacturing total

While the Houston region is known for energy and chemical manufacturing, it also has a long history as a tech hub, with Compaq pioneering the personal computer field in the early 1980s. There are 625 establishments focused on manufacturing computers, electronics and electrical equipment, employing 22,433 workers. The region continues to innovate and build its tech manufacturing capacity with a large AI server production facility opening in '26.

CHEMICALS

The Houston region is home to 694 chemical plants, employing 42,865 people or 18 percent of Greater Houston's total manufacturing in '24, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

The region accounts for 41.0 percent of the nation's overall base petrochemicals manufacturing capacity. 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 39.6 percent of the country's polypropylene, 39.8 percent of polyethylene and 30.5 percent of polyvinyl chloride.

PETROLEUM REFINING

In '24, the Houston metro had a crude operating capacity of 2.8 million barrels of refined petroleum products per calendar day, representing 15.3 percent of overall U.S. capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Oil refiners in the region employed 8,138 workers in '24, or 3.4 percent of the Houston region's total manufacturing workforce.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

RANK	SUBSECTOR	WORKERS	SHARE OF TOTAL (%)
1	Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	56,544	23.7
2	Chemicals, Petroleum, and Coal	51,003	21.4
3	Machinery	39,861	16.7
4	Computers, Electronics, and Electrical	22,433	9.4
5	Plastics, Rubbers, and Minerals	20,998	8.8
6	Food and Beverages	18,596	7.8
7	Other	7,446	3.1
8	Paper and Printing	6,665	2.8
9	Wood and Furniture	6,263	2.6
10	Vehicles	6,010	2.5
11	Textiles, Apparel, and Leather	2,452	1.0
	TOTAL	**238,271**	**100.0**

Source: Texas Workforce Comission, Quarterly Census of Wages and Employment Q4/24

BASE CHEMICAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY

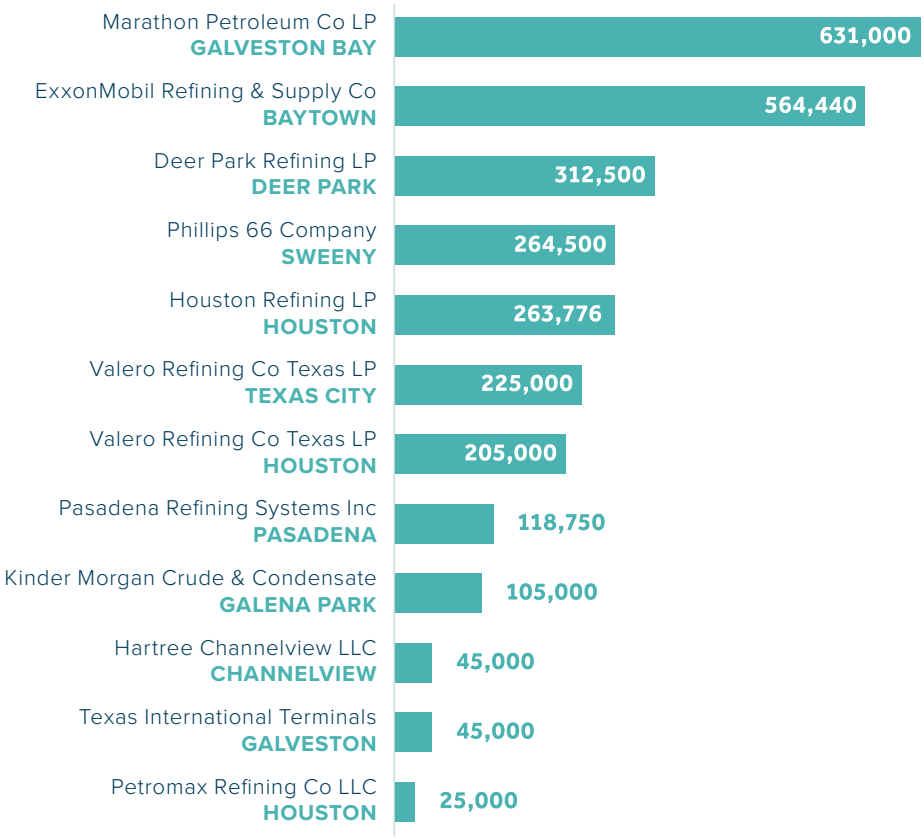
Houston MSA

BASE CHEMICAL	MAJOR USE/PRODUCT	METRIC TONS PER YEAR	% OF U.S. TOTAL
Ethylene	Anesthetic, Antifreeze	18.6M	41.4
Propylene	Food Packaging, Fibers, Adhesives	14.0M	39.9
Xylenes	Tear Gas, Paint Thinner, Lubricants	3.6M	39.0
Benzene	Detergents, Plastics, Pesticides	2.5M	41.4
Toluene	Paints, Disinfectants, Nail Products	2.1M	39.9
Butadiene	Tires, Carpet, Sythentic Turf	1.3M	60.8
TOTAL		**42.2M**	**41.0**

Source: CAS Registry via IHS Markit, July 2025

PETROLEUM REFINING CAPACITY

Metro Houston, 2025, Barrels per day



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Refinery Capacity Report, January 1, 2025

Explore Houston's manufacturing sector and see how the region can support your operations from production to global distribution.

Professional and Technical Services

EMPLOYMENT

260,591
Total employees

LARGEST INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR

1st **75,949** employees in architecture and engineering services

2nd **48,105** employees in management and technical consulting

3rd **37,800** employees in computer systems design services

ESTABLISHMENTS

26,410
Establishments

- **6,685** management and technical consulting establishments
- **5,306** computer systems design companies
- **4,141** establishments that provide legal services.

FINANCE

Metro Houston's 108 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured institutions operate 1,345 offices and branches.

- **$314.4B** in local deposits
- **12th** among U.S. metros

Source: June '24 FDIC data

Six 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

JPMorgan Chase | **$150.2M**
Wells Fargo | **$29.5M**
Bank of America | **$24.8M**
Zions Bancorporation | **$13.2M**
PNC Bank | **$8.5M**
Frost Bank | **$7.8M**
Stellar Bank | **$6.2M**
Cadence Bank | **$5.7M**
Woodforest National Bank | **$5.7M**
Prosperity Bank | **$5.7M**

ENGINEERING

Houston is home to 49,830 engineers across all disciplines, with the largest concentrations in civil, industrial, mechanical, and petroleum engineering.

The region is also home to one of the highest concentrations of engineering talent in the nation. For every 100,000 workers in the Houston MSA, there are 1,535 engineers. By comparison, for every 100,000 workers in the U.S., there are 1,178 engineers.

ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY FIELD

2024

			PER 100,000 WORKERS	
ENGINEER OCCUPATIONS	HOUSTON	U.S.	HOUSTON	U.S.
Civil Engineers	11,270	355,410	347.2	230.5
Industrial Engineers	8,210	350,230	252.9	227.1
Mechanical Engineers	7,010	286,760	215.9	186.0
Petroleum Engineers	5,080	18,970	156.5	12.3
Electrical Engineers	4,910	188,790	151.2	122.4
Engineers, All Other	3,440	150,750	106.0	97.8
Aerospace Engineers	2,600	68,440	80.1	44.4
Chemical Engineers	1,800	20,330	55.4	13.2
Health and Safety Engineers, Excepts Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors	1,440	23,220	44.4	15.1
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,120	93,940	34.5	60.9
Computer Hardware Engineers	950	75,710	29.3	49.1
Environmental Engineers	640	37,950	19.7	24.6
Marine Engineers and Naval Architects	470	8,440	14.5	5.5
Bioengineers and Biomedical Engineers	450	21,860	13.9	14.2
Materials Engineers	440	22,770	13.6	14.8
TOTAL ENGINEERS*	**49,830**	**1,723,570**	**1,534.9**	**1,117.8**

Note: *Omits agricultural, mining, and nuclear engineers because Houston-area statistics were not published for those categories in '24.
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Occupational Employment Statistics '24

Wholesale and Retail Trade

WHOLESALE TRADE

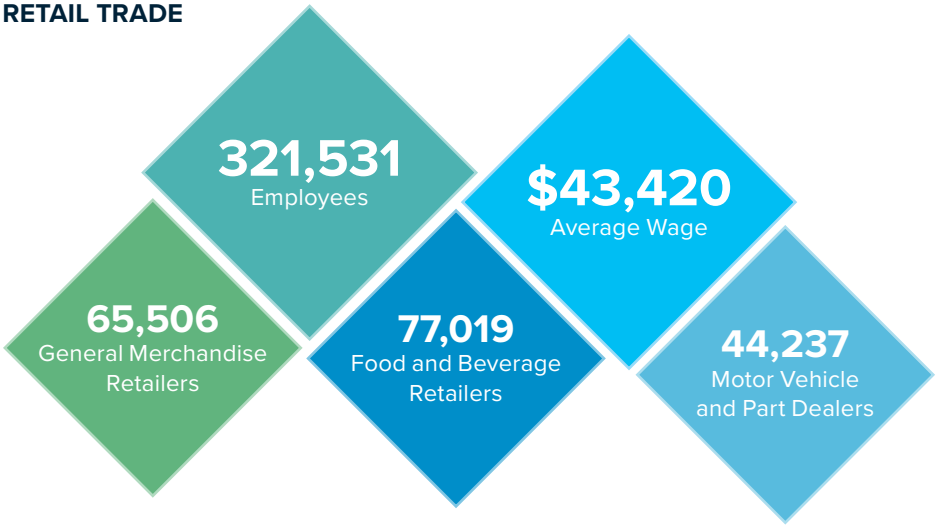
166,334
Employees

$109,096
Average Wage

104,069
Durable Goods Merchants

52,411
Nondurable Goods Merchants

RETAIL TRADE



GROSS RETAIL SALES

Metro Houston, ($ Millions)

COUNTY	'24	'23	% CHANGE FROM '23
Austin	469.9	431.2	9.0
Brazoria	6,052.2	6,067.5	-0.3
Chambers	999.8	965.3	3.6
Fort Bend	12,008.8	12,238.6	-1.9
Galveston	5,147.5	5,753.5	-10.5
Harris	123,227.2	121,321.3	1.6
Liberty	1,158.5	1,192.3	-2.8
Montgomery	12,941.8	13,037.7	-0.7
San Jacinto	76.5	75.7	1.0
Waller	854.0	909.2	-6.1
TOTAL	**162,936.2**	**161,992.4**	**0.6**

Source: Texas Comptroller's Office

10,919
Wholesale trade establishments

- **6,555** Durable Goods
- **2,573** Nondurable Goods

19,466
Retail establishments

- **3,077** Food and Beverage
- **2,753** Gas Stations
- **2,245** Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers
- **1,592** Clothing and Accessory Stores
- **1,389** General Merchandise

Energy

Houston is a global center for energy, serving as a hub for exploration and production, transmission, marketing, service, trading, supply, and offshore drilling and technology. The region is home to thousands of energy-related firms operating across the full value chain.

In addition to its established strength in oil and natural gas, Houston plays a growing role in the energy transition, with increasing activity in carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), battery storage, wind, solar, methane management and other low-carbon technologies.

INFRASTRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

- **21 Fortune 500 energy HQs**
- **12 Houston-area refineries** with a capacity of **2.8 million barrels** per day
- Houston area companies own **56% of U.S. gas pipelines**
- Houston area companies own **48% of U.S. oil pipelines**
- Five petroleum product pipelines were completed in ’24, with four running through the Houston area and one connecting to an existing pipeline in the region

SELECTED ENERGY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

Houston MSA, 2024

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	FIRMS	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE ($)
Drilling Oil and Gas Wells	9,060	130	$166,348
Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations	27,505	735	$159,900
Support Activities for Coal Mining	78	6	$91,624
Oil and Gas Extraction	35,840	389	$283,504
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	15,964	154	$136,760
Natural Gas Distribution	4,016	57	$183,352
Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures Construction	19,660	200	$111,332
Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction	6,793	207	$126,412
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	8,138	68	$178,152
Petrochemical Manufacturing	13,171	39	$160,420
Industrial Gas Manufacturing	2,711	30	$185,224
Battery Manufacturing	304	16	$112,268
Turbine and Turbine Generator Set Units Manufacturing	269	14	$115,128
Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals)	9,070	191	$181,792
Pipeline Transportation of Crude Oil	4,361	25	$131,196
Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas	9,405	49	$210,028
Pipeline Transportation of Refined Petroleum Products	403	9	$184,444
Engineering Services	53,262	1,892	$162,396
Regulation and Administration of Communications, Electric, Gas, and Other Utilities	28	4	$35,204
ENERGY-RELATED	**220,038**	**4,215**	

Note: Some industries listed may engage in work beyond the energy sector. Likewise, certain industries not shown here may still play a tangible role in the energy ecosystem.

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

Aerospace and Aviation

Houston has a long history in aerospace and aviation, beginning with the establishment of Ellington Field in 1917 and the opening of the Houston Municipal Airport Terminal in 1940, now preserved as the 1940 Air Terminal Museum. The region's national significance was further cemented with the development of NASA's Johnson Space Center in the 1960s, which continues to serve as a central facility for U.S. human spaceflight operations.

Today, the region supports a growing commercial aerospace sector. The Houston Spaceport at Ellington Field is home to companies such as Axiom Space and Intuitive Machines, focused on space exploration and lunar technologies. Efforts to advance sustainable aviation are also underway, including partnerships involving Airbus to explore hydrogen fuel infrastructure at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

HOUSTON SPACEPORT

Located at Ellington Airport, 18 miles southeast of downtown, Houston Spaceport became an FAA-licensed spaceport in 2015. As one of only 10 such sites in the U.S., it plays a growing role in Houston's commercial aerospace ecosystem. Key tenants include companies focused on space station development, lunar lander manufacturing, mission operations, and next-generation spacesuit systems. The Spaceport's ongoing expansion includes new facilities, infrastructure improvements, and workforce training partnerships.

SELECTED TENANTS

Axiom Space
Collins Aerospace
DISTIL Incubator
Intuitive Machines
Northrup Rice
RAVN Aerospace
San Jacinto College EDGE Center
Texas Southern University Aviation Facility
Venus Aerospace

500+
aerospace and aviation companies and institutions

$7.13B
economic impact

44,600
total employees

14
general aviation airports

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

JSC, $1.9B complex, occupies 1,700+ acres, one of NASA's largest R&D facilities.

EXPLORATION PARK, a 200+ acre campus designed to support space-related development and foster collaboration among NASA, academic researchers, aerospace companies, and entrepreneurs.

TEXAS A&M SPACE INSTITUTE, a 32-acre, $200 million research facility under development in NASA's Exploration Park. The institute will feature advanced lunar and Martian terrain simulators and support collaboration in space robotics, habitats, and astronaut training

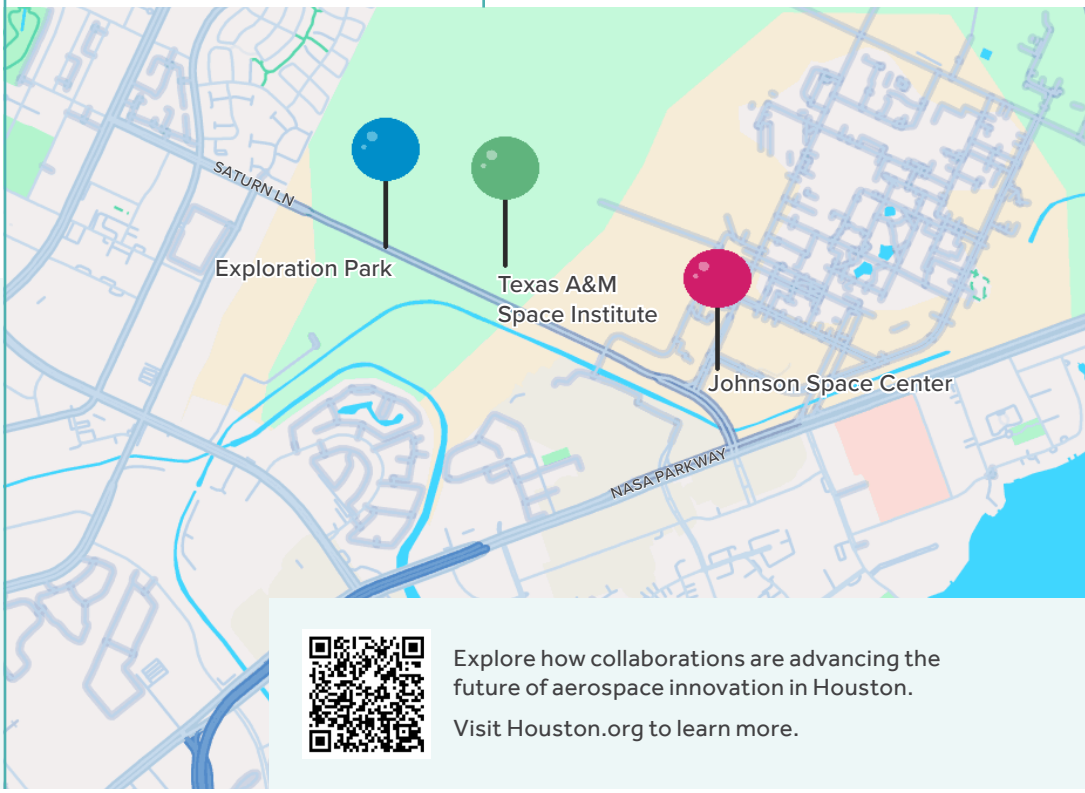
2023

$9.8B
Economic Output

$5.65B
Annual Budget

12,000+
JSC employees and contractors

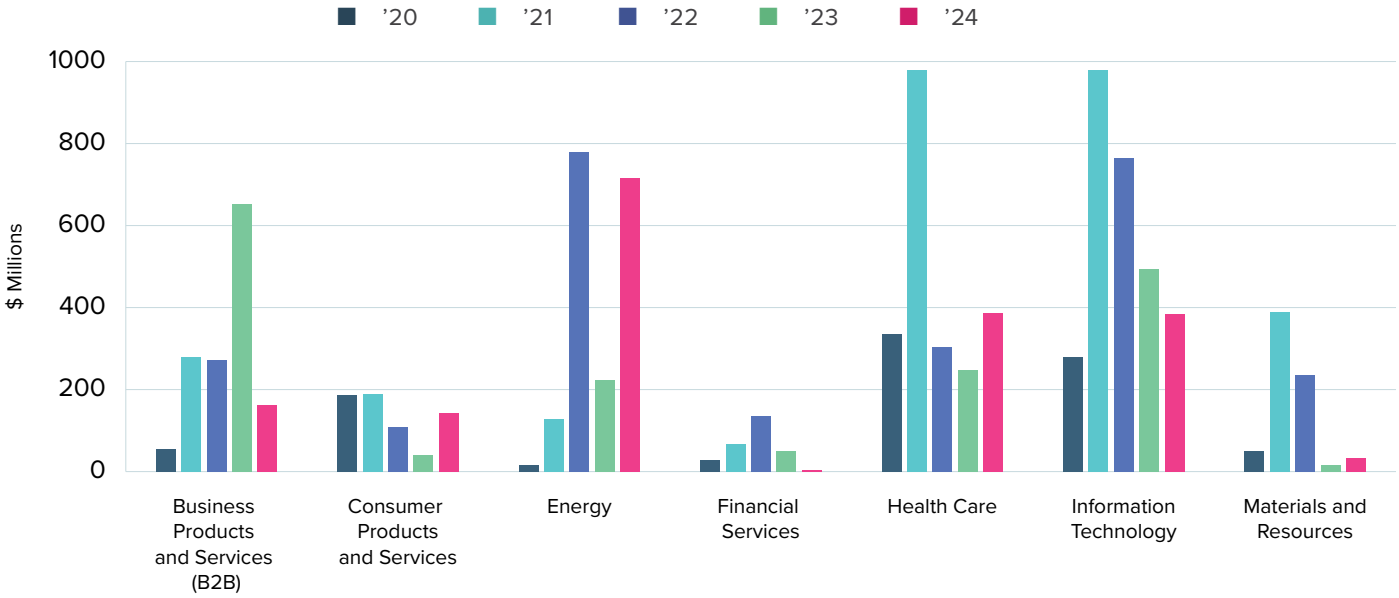
32
Houston Companies with JSC contracts



Explore how collaborations are advancing the future of aerospace innovation in Houston.

Visit Houston.org to learn more.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY INDUSTRY



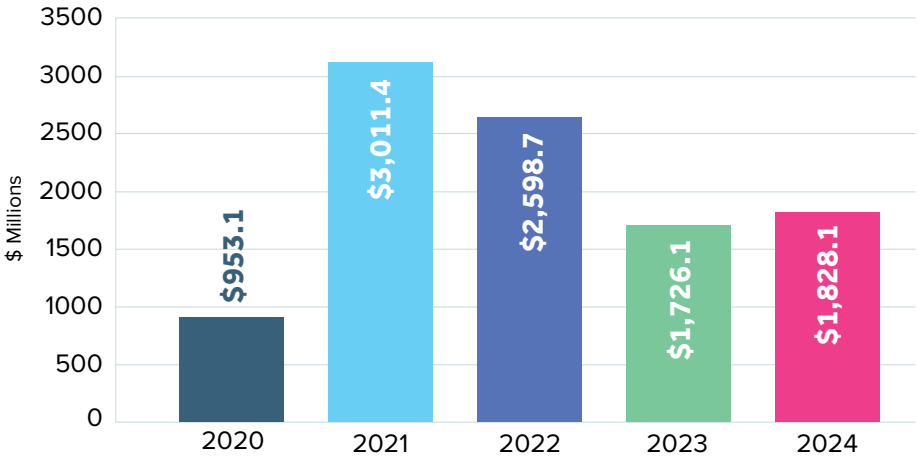
Source: Partnership analysis of Pitchbook data

Innovation

Houston's technology and innovation sector continues to expand, supported by established strengths in energy, life sciences, aerospace, and logistics. The region is home to 154,905 tech workers representing 4.4 percent of the region's workforce, according to CompTIA. In addition to dedicated innovation districts such as The Ion, there are 7,832 tech-related firms and more than 1,900 venture-backed startups.

These companies have received $10.1 billion in venture capital funding over the last five years, including $1.8 billion in '24, according to the financial database Pitchbook. In '24, the most heavily invested industry for VC funding in Houston was Energy, which received $716.2 million across 25 deals. Health Care followed with $385.4 million across 68 deals, and Information Technology came in third with $385.2 million in funding across 79 deals.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTED IN HOUSTON



Source: Partnership analysis of Pitchbook data

COMPANIES AND STARTUPS THAT RECEIVED LARGEST VC FUNDING DEALS IN '24:

Fervo Energy | **$499M**

Cart.com | **$86M**

Procyrion | **$58M**

Utility Global | **$53M**

Sage Geosystems | **$45M**

ImmunoGenesis | **$44.4M**

Octagos | **$43M**

MStack | **$40M**

MetOx International | **$40M**

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.

Current elected officials serving four-year terms:

John Whitmire
Houston Mayor

Chris Hollins
City Controller

16
City Council members

GENERAL FUND FY '25

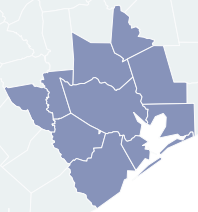
$3.03B

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.

GENERAL FUND FY '25

$2.67B



Texas Government

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Governor (Chief Executive)
- Other elected officials: Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner
- All serve 4-year terms

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- 81 members total
  - 31 Senators (4-year terms)
  - 150 House Members (2-year terms)
- Legislature meets biennially (odd-numbered years)
- Regular session: 140 days
- Special session: 30 days, called by Governor

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 representing 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

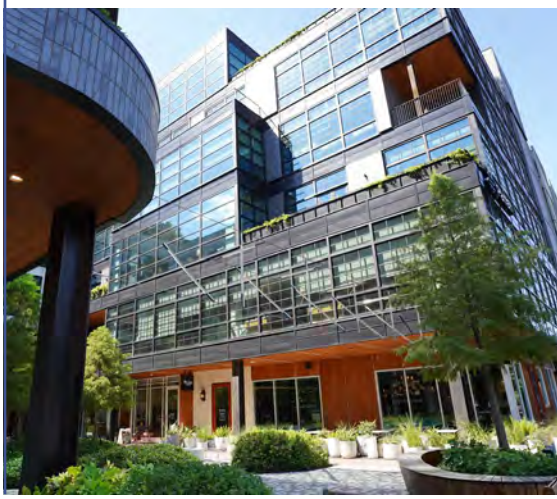
District 36
Chambers, Harris and Liberty Counties

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 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 | 2024

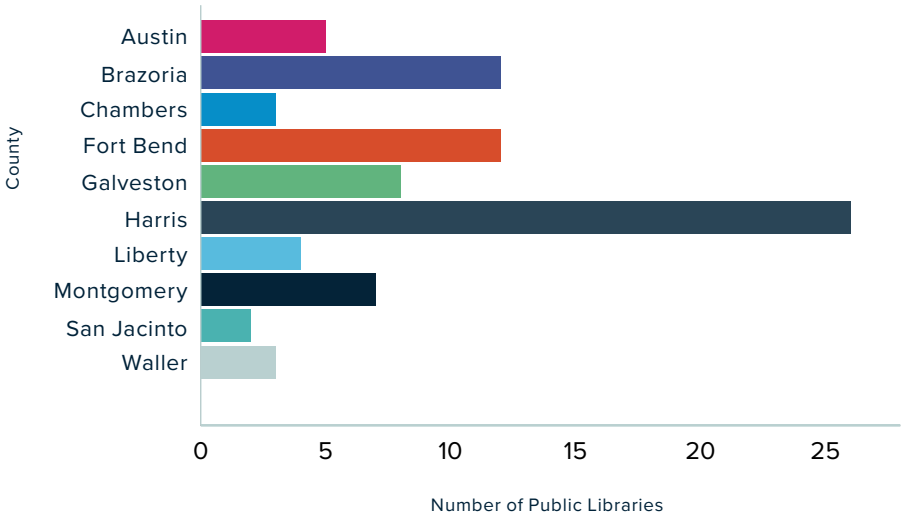
City of Houston	**$0.519190**
Harris County	**$0.385290**
Houston ISD	**$0.868300**
Houston Community College	**$0.096182**
Other Jurisdictions	**$0.18502**
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE	**$2.053982**



Libraries

The Houston Public Library (HPL) serves the city through 44 public service units, including a Central Library, five Regional Libraries, 29 neighborhood and express locations, four TECHLink technology centers, three history research centers, a satellite site at the Children's Museum Houston, and the HPL Mobile Express.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN HOUSTON METRO



EDUCATION

SELECTED HOUSTON-AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS (ISDs)

HARRIS COUNTY	CAMPUSES	FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT
HOUSTON ISD	274	176,727
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD	94	117,927
KATY ISD	81	96,107
ALDINE ISD	80	56,388
KLEIN ISD	54	52,437
HUMBLE ISD	53	48,502
PASADENA ISD	67	46,491
ALIEF ISD	46	38,610
SPRING ISD	42	33,590
SPRING BRANCH ISD	47	32,624
GOOSE CREEK CISD	34	24,007
TOMBALL ISD	27	22,913
GALENA PARK ISD	26	20,848
DEER PARK ISD	15	12,165
SHELDON ISD	14	10,936
CHANNELVIEW ISD	13	9,335
LA PORTE ISD	14	7,099
CROSBY ISD	11	7,046
HUFFMAN ISD	5	3,646
TOTAL	**997**	**817,398**

Elementary and Secondary Education

The Houston MSA contains 64 independent school districts (ISDs) and 43 state-approved charter management organizations (CMOs). In fall '24, public schools in the Houston metro area enrolled nearly 1.3 million students, almost 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 '23- '24 school year, HISD operated 274 campuses and enrolled more than 175,000 students.

Higher Education

Colleges and universities in the Houston area enrolled nearly 443,000 students across 33 academic institutions in fall '24, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Community college students accounted for 47.0 percent of enrollment, while four-year institutions and professional and medical students accounted for 53.0 percent in '24. 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.

13 Campuses
6,290 Fall 2024 Enrollment

111 Campuses
74,158 Fall 2024 Enrollment

17 Campuses
10,989 Fall 2024 Enrollment

158 Campuses
133,573 Fall 2024 Enrollment

120 Campuses
78,833 Fall 2024 Enrollment

35 Campuses
24,410 Fall 2024 Enrollment

150 Campuses
130,923 Fall 2024 Enrollment

8 Campuses
3,553 Fall 2024 Enrollment

20 Campuses
14,374 Fall 2024 Enrollment

Source: TEA's AskTED

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Greater Houston Area*, Fall 2024

TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES	FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT
Lone Star College System District	78,274
Houston Community College System	43,719
San Jacinto College	31,607
Blinn College	17,549
Lee College	8,287
Lamar Institute of Technology	5,717
Alvin Community College	5,517
Wharton County Junior College	5,512
College of the Mainland Community College District	5,162
Brazosport College	3,208
Galveston College	2,412
Texas State Technical College - Fort Bend	1,071
	208,035 STUDENTS
FOUR-YEAR OR ABOVE	**FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT**
Texas A&M University	70,667
University of Houston	47,775
Sam Houston State University	20,340
Lamar University	16,658
University of Houston-Downtown	13,732
Prairie View A&M University	10,042
Rice University	8,849
Texas Southern University	8,742
University of Houston-Clear Lake	8,140
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	5,003
University of St. Thomas	4,301
Houston Christian University	4,276
The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	3,727
University of Houston-Victoria	3,619
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3,258
Texas A&M University at Galveston	2,134
Baylor College of Medicine	1,740
South Texas College of Law	1,092
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	357
Texas Chiropractic College	261
University of Houston Medical School	206
	234,919 STUDENTS
	TOTAL 442,954 STUDENTS

*Note: Some colleges listed are located outside the Houston MSA but within a 100-mile radius, referred to as “Greater Houston.”
Source: Texas Higher Ed Enrollment

INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilities

ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS

Headquartered in Houston, CenterPoint Energy is an energy delivery company engaged in electric transmission and distribution, power generation, and natural gas distribution. The company plans to invest more than $21 billion in Texas electric and gas systems from ’25 to ’30.

CenterPoint Energy’s Houston service area by the numbers in ’24:

- Delivers electricity to 2.8 million customers across a 5,000-square-mile area via 3,900 miles of transmission and over 55,000 miles of distribution lines.
- Owns and operates over 2,200 miles of transmission right-of-way, including more than 30,000 transmission towers.
- Peak electricity demand in Houston is projected to rise from 21 to 31 gigawatts by ’31.
- The 2026–2028 Systemwide Resiliency Plan includes substation hardening, undergrounding lines, stronger poles, cable modernization and more to improve storm resilience.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Houston is served by seven area codes: 281, 346, 409, 621, 713, 832, 936, and 979, five of which overlap. The newest area code, 621, took effect in January ’25.

- The Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC) has certified 270 competitive local exchange carriers, or CLECs, to provide local phone service in the state.
- The Texas PUC has registered 176 active long-distance Interexchange Carriers.

WATER

The City of Houston is the regional water provider for Harris County and portions of three surrounding counties.

WATER RIGHTS

Access to over

1.2B

gallons per day (GPD) of reliable surface water and over 200 million GPD of available groundwater.

WATER SOURCES

The City of Houston owns

70%

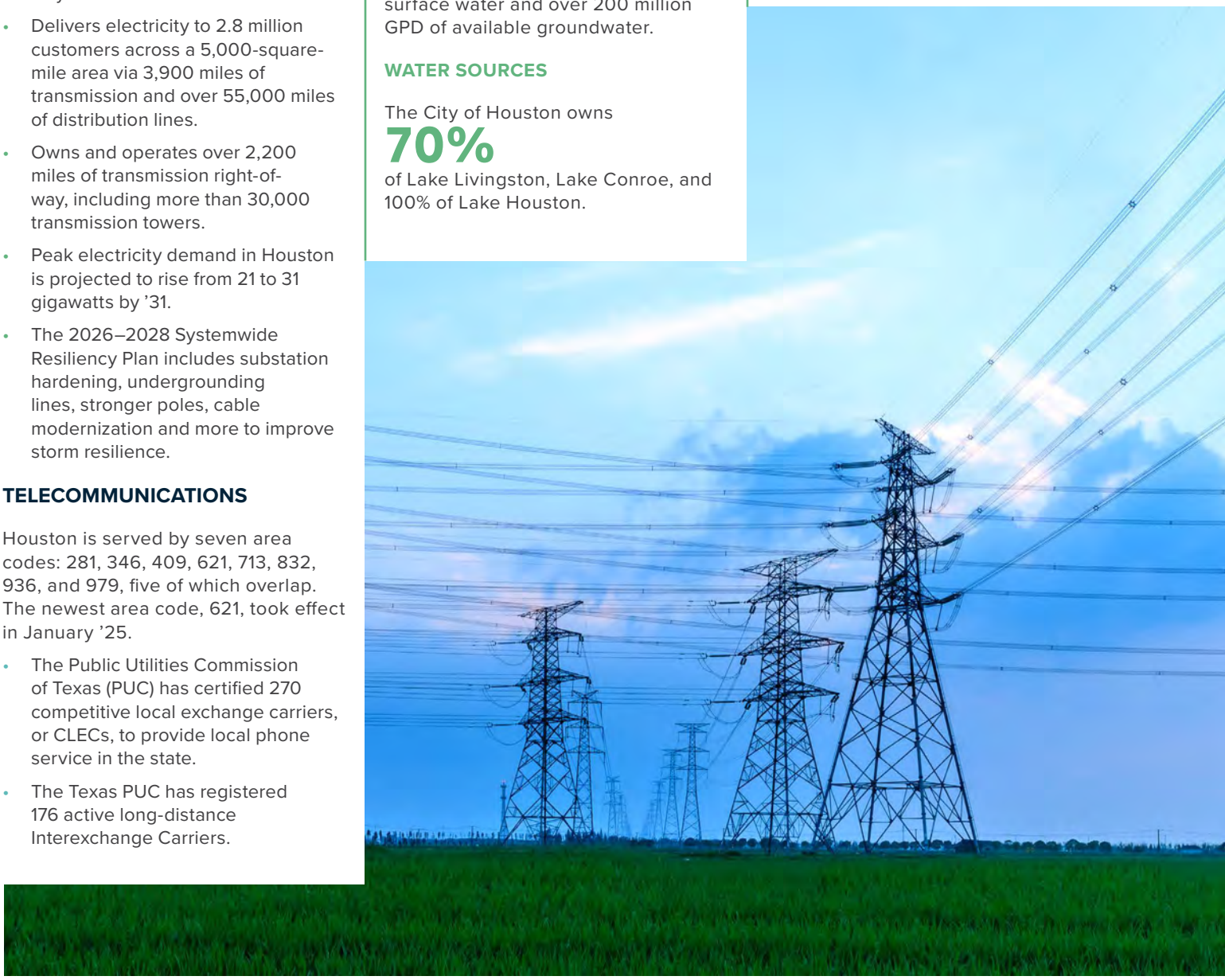
of Lake Livingston, Lake Conroe, and 100% of Lake Houston.

PURIFICATION PLANTS

Operates three major facilities: Northeast, East, and Southeast Water Plants.

WASTEWATER

The City of Houston operates 38 wastewater treatment plants, two wet weather facilities, and 376 lift stations.



Land Transportation

MOTOR FREIGHT LINES

1,625
long-distance trucking establishments operating in the 10-county Houston MSA in Q4/24.

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.

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 1,100 miles from Brownsville, Texas, to St. Mark's, Florida. According to '22 data, Texas' portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway facilitates the transportation of 80 million tons of freight annually.

FREEWAYS, HIGHWAYS, AND TOLL ROADS

There are 3,448 centerline miles and 11,861 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.

TXDOT HIGHWAY SPENDING FY '24

$260M
on construction and maintenance projects in Houston District

DAILY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT)

106M
Houston District in FY '23

19.2 miles
Average VMT per vehicle

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-69.1

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.

SERVICE AREA

21
transit centers

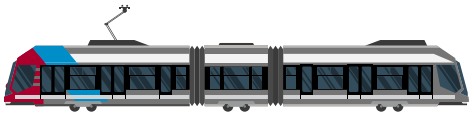
Covers **1,309+**
square miles

9,000+
bus stops

27
Park & Ride routes

FLEET

1,960
active transit vehicles



87
light-rail train cars

TRANSIT NETWORK

3
Light-Rail Lines

1
Bus Rapid Transit Route

Operated **80+**
bus routes

Sea Ports

4
seaports

Handled
273.1M
metric tons of foreign trade in '24

PORT HOUSTON

5th
busiest container port in U.S., behind New York/New Jersey, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Savannah, Georgia.

Handles
74%
of all container traffic on the U.S. Gulf Coast

In '24, Port Houston hit a new record for container traffic, handling 4.1 million total twenty-foot-equivalent containers units (TEUs) including 3.4 million loaded units.

The region's containerized exports reflect its industrial base. Plastics and resins, chemicals and machinery, and electronics and appliances accounted for over two-thirds (66.9 percent) of all container exports via Port Houston. Containerized imports reflect the needs of local consumers and industry, with machinery, appliances, electronics, retail consumer goods, construction hardware and materials, and home furnishings representing most (56.7 percent) of the total.

The Port of Houston traded with 216 countries in '24. Of those, trade with 42 countries exceeded one billion dollars each while trade with 48 additional countries exceeded $100 million. The port's top trading partner by value was China and by weight is Mexico.

TOP FIVE TRADING PARTNERS

Port of Houston, 2024

RANK	DESCRIPTION	IN BILLIONS ($)
1	China	25.5
2	Netherlands	15.1
3	Mexico	14.8
4	Brazil	11.4
5	South Korea	10.3
	TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS	**77.1**
	REMAINING 211 TRADING PARTNERS	**145.4**
	TOTAL ALL PARTNER COUNTRIES	**222.5**

RANK	DESCRIPTION	IN MILLION METRIC TONS
1	Mexico	22.8
2	Netherlands	20.1
3	China	18.5
4	Japan	13.5
5	Brazil	11.8
	TOTAL TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS	**86.6**
	REMAINING 211 TRADING PARTNERS	**133.6**
	TOTAL ALL TRADING PARTNERS	**220.1**

Note: Includes only commodities carried by sea vessels
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division via WISERTrade

PORT HOUSTON FOREIGN TRADE IN '24

	Million Metric Tons	Trade Value ($Billions)
IMPORTS	54.9	92.5
EXPORTS	151.9	130.1
TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE	**220.1**	**222.5**

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

TOP FIVE TRADED COMMODITIES

Port of Houston, 2024

RANK	DESCRIPTION	IN BILLIONS ($)
1	Mineral Fuels, Oil and Refined Products	88.8
2	Industrial Equipment and Computers	19.7
3	Organic Chemicals	17.4
4	Plastics and Plastic Products	15.7
5	Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Parts	14.5
	TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES	**156.1**
	ALL OTHER COMMODITIES	**66.5**
	TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES	**222.5**

RANK	DESCRIPTION	IN MILLION METRIC TONS
1	Mineral Fuels, Oil and Refined Products	152.4
2	Organic Chemicals	19.4
3	Plastics and Plastic Products	12.0
4	Salt, Sulfur, Stone, Lime and Cement Plaster	5.4
5	Articles of Iron or Steel	3.9
	TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES	**193.2**
	ALL OTHER COMMODITIES	**27.0**
	TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES	**220.1**

Note: Includes only commodities carried by sea vessels
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division via WISERTrade

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 channels have a minimum width of 530 feet and a depth of 45 feet at mean low tide.

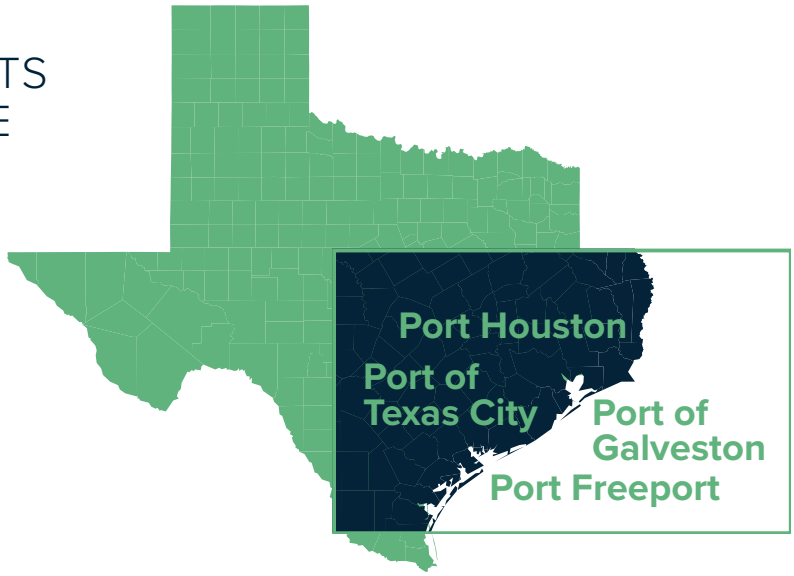
More than 330 public and private terminals, owned by more than 150 companies, line both sides of the channel and serve one of the world's largest petrochemical industrial complexes.

RANKING AMONG U.S. SEAPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TONNAGE

Million Metric Tons by Vessel, 2024

1ST	|	Port Houston	|	220.1
14TH	|	Port Freeport	|	32.9
26TH	|	Port of Texas City	|	13.7
41ST	|	Port of Galveston	|	6.4

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



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. The Houston Airport System (HAS) has received high honors at the Skytrax 2025 World Airport Awards ceremony. Both William P. Hobby and George Bush Intercontinental ranked among the World’s Top 100 airports, claiming No. 27 and No. 33, respectively. They were the first- and third-highest ranking U.S. airports in that category.

537,358
metric tons of air freight handled at the Houston Airport System in ’24

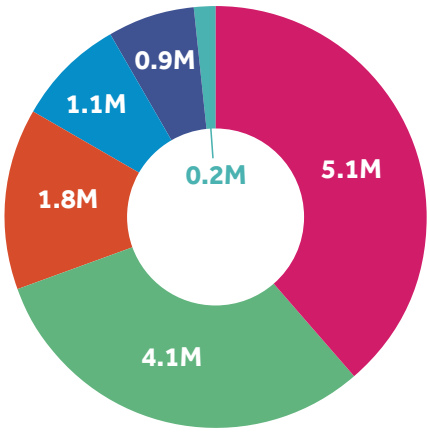
Domestic cargo accounted for 61.7 percent of total air freight, while international cargo accounted for 38.2 percent.

63.1 million
passengers served at **George Bush Intercontinental (IAH)** & **William P. Hobby (HOU)** Airports in ’24

48.4 million
total passengers at IAH,
up 4.9 percent from ’23

14.6 million
total passengers at HOU,
up 5.1 percent from ’23

13.1 million
total international passengers at Bush and Hobby airports:



- Passengers connected to Mexico
- Passengers connected to other Latin American countries
- Passengers connected to Europe
- Passengers connected to Canada
- Passengers connected to Asia
- Other

Source: Houston Airport System

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Broadcast

According to Nielsen, the Houston television market is the sixth largest in the nation for the '24–'25 television season, comprising about 2.8 million TV households, which accounts for approximately 2.2 percent of all U.S. TV households.

- 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)

Digital and Print

Houston's major daily newspaper and the region's largest media employer is the Houston Chronicle. 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 its daily readers, HoustonChronicle.com receives 16 million page views a month.

PRINT AND DIGITAL OUTLETS IN HOUSTON

- Axios Houston
- Chron.com
- Community Impact
- CultureMap Houston
- Houston Public Media
- Houstonia Magazine
- Houston CityBook
- Intown Magazine
- PaperCity

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA BY TYPE

Houston MSA, 2024

Newspaper Publishers

70 establishments | **883** jobs

$87,568 average annual wage

Periodical Publishers

86 establishments | **1,084** jobs

$114,660 average annual wage

Book Publishers

39 establishments | **299** jobs

$112,424 average annual wage

Radio Broadcasting Stations

27 establishments | **568** jobs

$106,750 average annual wage

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

136 establishments | **1,448** jobs

$110,604 average annual wage

Television Broadcasting Stations

8 establishments | **436** jobs

$114,504 average annual wage

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

LIFE IN HOUSTON

Cost of Living

HOUSTON RANKS AS **2ND** MOST AFFORDABLE METRO

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

Houston's living costs are 5.8 percent below the U.S. average and 29.7 percent below the average of the nation's 20 most populous metropolitan areas.

Housing costs in Houston are 20.8 percent below the U.S. average and approximately 61.7 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—Houston's housing costs are 56.8 percent below the major metro average.

COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS

20 Most Populous U.S. Metros* (Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100)

URBAN AREA	COMPOSITE	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPORTATION	HEALTH CARE	MISC. GOODS & SERVICES
New York (Manhattan), NY	230.6	117.9	500.6	115.3	116.7	146.0	127.2
San Francisco, CA	166.8	123.5	263.3	160.5	143.3	128.0	119.4
Los Angeles, CA	149.4	109.2	232.5	107.4	135.8	101.4	119.0
Boston, MA	145.9	104.4	218.8	150.0	109.5	125.7	115.3
San Diego, CA	145.3	111.1	212.0	139.7	140.6	102.6	114.0
Seattle, WA	145.1	110.3	212.1	101.6	128.1	128.9	122.5
Washington, DC	141.9	105.8	222.4	102.6	107.7	117.4	113.3
Miami, FL	120.8	110.7	157.3	105.1	100.4	98.4	107.4
Chicago, IL	115.1	103.8	140.0	96.8	107.1	108.2	107.1
Denver, CO	108.6	101.3	123.4	89.5	94.5	109.9	107.8
Phoenix, AZ	106.3	102.7	115.6	106.8	105.2	91.9	102.3
Philadelphia, PA	103.3	104.1	99.2	105.7	105.1	96.5	106.1
Detroit, MI	103.3	100.9	105.9	100.8	103.5	107.3	102.1
Dallas, TX	101.7	98.8	95.0	115.9	91.0	104.8	107.5
Tampa, FL	97.6	105.7	95.7	100.1	101.9	93.4	94.5
Orlando, FL	96.4	104.7	91.6	103.9	97.2	92.2	95.3
Atlanta, GA	96.0	100.8	86.8	99.9	100.0	108.3	97.7
Houston, TX	**94.2**	**99.3**	**79.2**	**92.6**	**93.8**	**97.8**	**104.2**
Minneapolis, MN	93.6	102.6	82.8	96.8	96.2	96.3	96.6

*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, '24 Annual (Data based on a survey of 265 urban areas, published January '25).

Weather

Houston's weather is characterized by hot and humid summers, mild winters, and abundant sunshine throughout the year. Average highs reach the 90s°F during the summer, while winters are relatively short and cool, with temperatures rarely dipping below the 40s°F. Rain is fairly common—especially in late spring and early summer—and the city's Gulf Coast location places it within the Atlantic hurricane season (June through November).

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.

HOUSTON WEATHER

Monthly Average

JAN
63°F Avg. High
45°F Avg. Low
Cool and mild

FEB
66°F Avg. High
48°F Avg. Low
Pleasant with occasional rain

MAR
72°F Avg. High
54°F Avg. Low
Warming up, spring blossoms

APR
78°F Avg. High
60°F Avg. Low
Ideal for outdoor activities

MAY
85°F Avg. High
68°F Avg. Low
Warm and humid

JUNE
90°F Avg. High
73°F Avg. Low
Hot with increased rainfall

JULY
94°F Avg. High
75°F Avg. Low
Hottest month, high humidity

AUG
94°F Avg. High
75°F Avg. Low
Continued heat, peak hurricane risk

SEPT
89°F Avg. High
71°F Avg. Low
Slightly cooler, still humid

OCT
82°F Avg. High
62°F Avg. Low
Comfortable with lower humidity

NOV
72°F Avg. High
52°F Avg. Low
Mild and pleasant

DEC
64°F Avg. High
46°F Avg. Low
Cool with occasional cold fronts

Sources: Houston Chronicle: Hurricane Season Alerts. Wikipedia: Climate of Houston

Travel and Tourism

Travelers spent $23.2 billion in metro Houston in ’24, according to Dean Runyan Associates, which gathered the data on behalf of the Office of the Texas Governor. Their spending supported over 142,000 jobs in the region, paid almost $8.3 billion in salaries and wages, and generated $2.1 billion in tax revenue.

Metro Houston had 1,333 hotels and motels and 104 campgrounds and RV parks at the end of Q4 ’24.

604

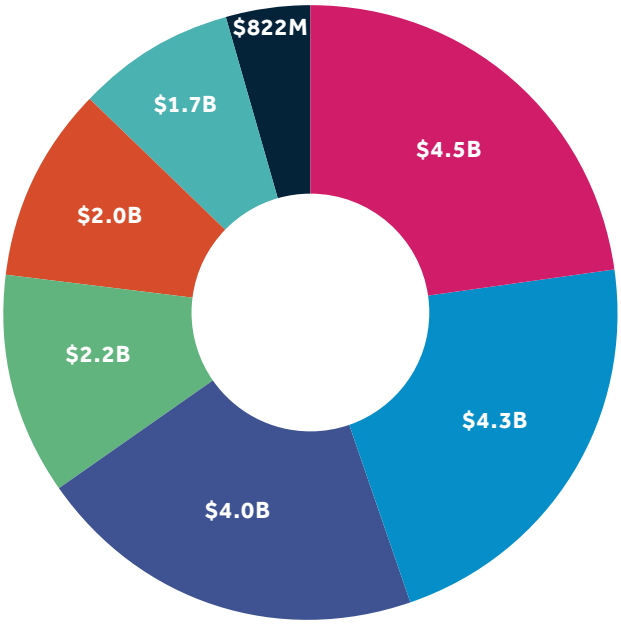
events with more than 740,000 attendees in ’24, up from 560 events with approximately 688,000 attendees in ’23

Source: Houston First Corporation

Houston will be a host city for the ’26 FIFA World Cup, hosting seven matches at NRG Stadium, five in the group stage, one round of 32, and one round of 16.

TRAVELER SPENDING IN METRO HOUSTON

2024



- Local Transportation & Gas
- Food Service
- Accommodations
- Retail Sales
- Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation
- Air Transportation
- Food Stores

Dining

Houston restaurants feature outstanding regional dishes as well as diverse international cuisine.

13,210
food service and drinking establishments

~292,000
employees

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

These establishments included 5,025 full-service restaurants, 4,952 limited-service eating places, 657 drinking establishments, 1,814 snack bars and 762 other food service establishments.

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"). Thomas Bille of Belly of the Beast in Spring, Texas, won Best Texas Chef in the '25 awards. Emmanuel Chavez of Tatemó in Houston was a finalist in the Best Texas Chef category. Ema, a popular Mexican-inspired restaurant and bakery located in the Heights neighborhood, was a finalist in the Best New Restaurant category, and March, a Mediterranean eatery in Montrose, was nominated in the Outstanding Wine and Other Beverages Program.

SELECTED CATEGORIES OF CUISINE

- Afghani
- African
- Argentinian
- Asian Fusion
- Barbecue
- Brazilian
- Cajun/Creole
- Caribbean
- Chinese
- Colombian
- Cuban
- Czech
- Dim Sum
- Egyptian
- Ethiopian
- Filipino
- French
- German
- Gluten Free
- Greek
- Halal
- Hawaiian
- Haitian
- Honduran
- Indian
- Italian
- Jamaican
- Japanese
- Korean
- Kosher
- Laotian
- Lebanese
- Malaysian
- Mediterranean
- Mexican
- Moroccan
- Nepalese
- Pakistani
- Persian
- Peruvian
- Portuguese
- Ramen
- Salvadorian
- Seafood
- Soul Food
- Southern
- Sri Lankan
- Sushi
- Szechuan
- Tex-Mex
- Thai
- Turkish
- Ukranian
- Vegan
- Venezuelan
- Vietnamese
- West African
- Yemeni

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 performing and visual arts, science, and history in the Houston area. According to the 2023 Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the City of Houston generated approximately $1.3 billion in economic activity during fiscal year 2022. This includes $663.5 million in spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and an additional $658.8 million in event-related expenditures by their audiences. This economic activity supported 19,552 jobs and provided $873.2 million in personal income to residents.

THEATER DISTRICT VENUES

Houston's Theater District, located in downtown Houston, spans 17 blocks, and its five flagship theaters house 13,000 seats.

ALLEY THEATRE offers two stages — the 774-seat Hubbard Stage and the 296-seat Neuhaus Stage — and nearly 500 performances annually, reaching nearly 250,000 people.

HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, opened in 2002, is home to Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Broadway Across America, the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre, and Uniquely Houston. It includes Sarofim Hall (2,650 seats) and Zilkha Hall (500 seats).

HOUSTON BALLET'S CENTER FOR DANCE is the largest professional dance facility of its kind in the U.S. The 115,000-square-foot building features nine studios and a 175-seat dance lab.

JESSE H. JONES HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, opened in 1966, seats 2,911 and offers 250 events annually.

BAYOU MUSIC CENTER, located in Bayou Place, accommodates 2,815 in its 130,000-square-foot complex.

WORTHAM THEATER CENTER, opened in 1987, houses the Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera. It includes the Alice and George Brown Theater (2,405 seats) and the Lillie and Roy Cullen Theater (1,100 seats).

OTHER VENUES

BERRY CENTER (Northwest Houston) includes an 11,000-seat stadium, a 484-seat theater, an 8,312-seat arena, and event space.

CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION (The Woodlands) hosts up to 17,000 patrons and presents diverse musical programming.

MIDTOWN ARTS & THEATER CENTER HOUSTON (MATCH) features four performance spaces, three studios, a gallery, and office space for local artists.

MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE, in Hermann Park, offers free performances with 1,700 seats and lawn space for 4,500.

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE (Sugar Land) seats 6,400 and hosts concerts and events.

STAFFORD CENTRE, opened in 2004, features a 1,100-seat hall and event facilities.

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE (Galveston) seats 1,000 and showcases Broadway, music, and more.

WHITE OAK MUSIC HALL, opened in 2016, has two indoor stages and hosts over 400 live events annually.

Arts Organizations

DANCE

HOUSTON BALLET, one of the nation's largest ballet companies, Houston Ballet stages major productions and runs a robust education and community egagement program.

LITERATURE

INPRINT, this literary nonprofit hosts readings, workshops, and fellowships, connecting Houston audiences with globally recognized authors.

MUSIC

DA CAMERA presents chamber music and jazz, with a focus on musical excellence and education programs throughout the community.

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA (HGO), a major opera company known for world premieres, international acclaim, and wide-reaching educational efforts.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY, founding in 1913, this Grammy Award-winning orchestra performs classical and popular programs along with community-based outreach.

PERFORMANCE ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS HOUSTON, presents a broad mix of national and international touring artists, formerly known as the Society for the Performing Arts.

THEATER

A.D. PLAYERS, produces faith-based theatrical works and educational programs, with performances at the George Theater.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE, a leading African American theater company offering culturally relevant productions and educational outreach.

MAIN STREET THEATER (MST), operates both a mainstage series and youth programming at two venues in Houston, including MATCH.

STAGES, offers contemporary plays and musicals in a three-theater venue, The Gordy, located outside the downtown district.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS (TUTS), Produces Broadway-style shows and runs musical theater training programs, including for youth with disabilities.

Museums

HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT

The Houston Museum District is home to 19 museums, cultural centers, and community organizations dedicated to promoting art, science, history, and culture.

ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER, presents exhibitions and programs exploring Asian arts and culture.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM, preserves the legacy of African American soldiers.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON, interactive exhibits designed for children.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON, a non-collecting institution presenting contemporary art exhibitions.

CZECH CENTER MUSEUM HOUSTON, dedicated to Czech and Slovak culture and heritage.

DIVERSEWORKS, presents innovative visual, performing, and literary art.

THE HEALTH MUSEUM, offers interactive health and science exhibits.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON, educates about the Holocaust and promotes human rights.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT, showcases craft disciplines like fiber, metal, and wood.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, exhibits contemporary photography and offers educational programs.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE (HMAAC), showcases African American art and history.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE (HMNS), features exhibits on paleontology, astronomy, and more.

INPRINT, supports creative writing and reading programs.

THE JUNG CENTER OF HOUSTON, offers programs on psychology, spirituality, and the arts.

LAWNDALE ART CENTER, focuses on contemporary art with an emphasis on emerging regional artists.

THE MENIL COLLECTION, houses a diverse collection of art, including Surrealism, Byzantine, and African art.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON (MFAH), one of the largest art museums in the U.S., featuring over 70,000 works spanning 6,000 years.

ROTHKO CHAPEL, a non-denominational chapel featuring 14 murals by Mark Rothko.

MUSEUMS OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

Houston's cultural landscape extends beyond the Museum District, featuring a variety of museums throughout the city.

ART & DESIGN

BLAFFER ART MUSEUM, located at the University of Houston, focuses on contemporary art.

SEISMIQUE, an immersive art experience with interactive exhibits.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON, the official visitor center of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM, features historic aircraft and aviation exhibits.

1940 AIR TERMINAL MUSEUM, showcases Houston's aviation history in an art deco terminal.

HISTORY & CULTURE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY, offers exhibits on funeral traditions and artifacts.

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK, preserves historic buildings and artifacts.

MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN HISTORY, focuses on the history of the American South.

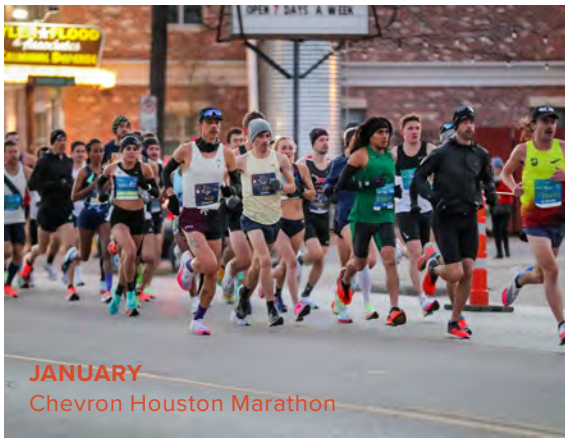
SPECIALTY & INTERACTIVE

MUSEUM OF ILLUSIONS HOUSTON, features optical illusions and interactive exhibits.

COLOR FACTORY, an immersive art experience with vibrant installations.

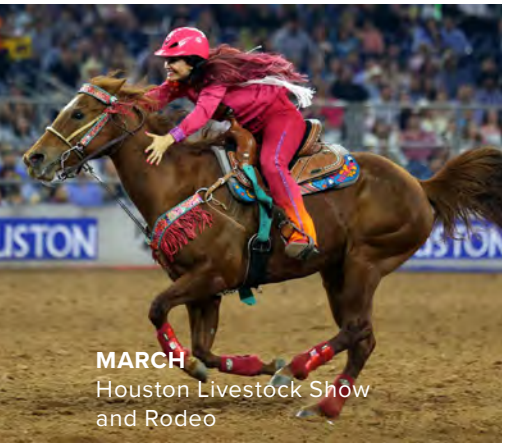
HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM, dedicated to maritime history and education.

Recurring Events and Festivals



JANUARY
Chevron Houston Marathon

FEBRUARY
Mardi Gras! Galveston



MARCH
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

APRIL
Houston Art Car Parade

JUNE
Pride Houston

JULY
Freedom Over Texas Festival

OCTOBER
Original Greek Festival

NOVEMBER
H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade

DECEMBER
Houston Zoo Lights

Religious and Cultural Diversity

According to the Kinder Institute for Urban Research's 2024 Houston Area Survey, religious affiliation in Harris County has shifted significantly over the past few years, reflecting broader national trends toward secularization.

38%
Protestant (down from 40.5% in 2020)

26%
Catholic (down from 30.1% in 2020)

~1%
Jewish (relatively stable)

8%
Other Religions (up from 4.4% in 2020)

27%
No Religious Affiliation (up from 18.3% in 2020)

Additionally, 24 percent of respondents stated that religion is "not important" to them, a significant increase from 10 percent in 2009.

AL-NOOR MOSQUE, established in 1987, features a prominent gold dome visible from major highways.

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, founded in 1866, it was the first African American Baptist church in Houston.

BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR, the first traditional Hindu Mandir of its kind in the U.S., located in Stafford.

CENTRO ISLÁMICO, opened in early 2016, it is the nation's first Spanish-speaking mosque.

CHAPEL OF ST. BASIL, located at the University of St. Thomas, designed by architect Philip Johnson.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Houston's first religious congregation, founded in 1839, and still on its original site.

CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART, with a history dating back to the 1890s, the current building opened in 2008.

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN, the largest Conservative synagogue in the U.S., with a history spanning over 120 years.

ISMAILI JAMATKHANA AND CENTER, opened in 2002 in Sugar Land, serving as a religious and community center.

LAKEWOOD CHURCH, one of the largest religious congregations in the U.S., led by Pastor Joel Osteen.

MTO SHAHMAGHSOUDI SCHOOL OF ISLAMIC SUFISM, located along Beltway 8, known for its art and architecture.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH, founded in 1912, it was the first church in Houston to offer services in Spanish.

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, built in 1896 in Galveston, it celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2021.

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, founded in 1952, it is the largest Episcopal church in North America.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, established in 1905, renowned for its Neo-Gothic architecture.

TEXAS GUANDI TEMPLE, founded in 1999, it is the largest temple in the nation dedicated to Guandi.

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON (ISGH), established in 1969, it is the largest Islamic society in North America.

ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, opened in May 1998, serving the Zoroastrian community in Houston.

Convention & Event Centers

These venues primarily host conventions, trade shows, corporate events, and public gatherings.

GEORGE R. BROWN (GRB)

CONVENTION CENTER

NRG CENTER

BAYOU MUSIC CENTER

THE POST OAK HOTEL CONVENTION & EVENT SPACE

HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER

Sports Stadiums & Arenas

These venues host professional, collegiate, and high school sports, as well as concerts and other entertainment events.

NRG STADIUM – Home of the Houston Texans and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

DAIKIN PARK *(formerly Minute Maid Park)* – Home of the Houston Astros

TOYOTA CENTER – Home of the Houston Rockets

TDECU STADIUM – Home of the University of Houston Cougars football team

RICE STADIUM – Home of Rice University football

FERTITTA CENTER – Home of University of Houston basketball

CONSTELLATION FIELD – Home of the Sugar Land Space Cowboys

SHELL ENERGY STADIUM – Home of Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash soccer teams

NRG ASTRODOME (Historic Venue) – Former sports stadium, now a historical landmark

Training & Sports Facilities

These facilities host various sports, training programs, and events.

NRG PARK – Large complex that includes NRG Stadium, NRG Center, NRG Arena, and the Astrodome

NRG ARENA – Multi-use arena for sports and entertainment events

HOUSTON SPORTS PARK – Training facility for professional and amateur teams

H-E-B PARK (HOUSTON SABERCATS STADIUM) – Rugby stadium and event venue

Equestrian & Racing Venues

Venues dedicated to horse racing, polo, and related events.

SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK – Horse racing and event venue

HOUSTON POLO CLUB – Polo matches and equestrian events

PROFESSIONAL TEAMS IN GREATER HOUSTON

HOUSTON ASTROS
'17 and '22 World Series Champions
Major League Baseball's American League
Daikin Park

HOUSTON DASH
National Women's Soccer League
Shell Stadium

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

HOUSTON ROCKETS
Western Conference in the National Basketball Association
Toyota Center

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

Parks and Recreation

45,059
acres of parkland

722
parks

63%
of Houston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is below the national average of 74 percent.

16.7
acres of parkland in Houston per 1,000 residents.

Higher than the national average of 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents

Source: Trust for Public Land's 2024 City Parks Report

Parks represent
12.8%
of the city's adjusted land area

Source: City of Houston

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, which attracts approximately six million visitors annually.

CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) oversees 382 developed municipal parks and more than 167 green spaces, encompassing over 39,500 acres.

MAJOR CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS

CULLEN PARK (9,270 acres)

CULLINAN PARK (755 acres)

LAKE HOUSTON WILDERNESS PARK (4,787 acres)

MEMORIAL PARK (1,466 acres)

HERMAN BROWN PARK (717 acres)

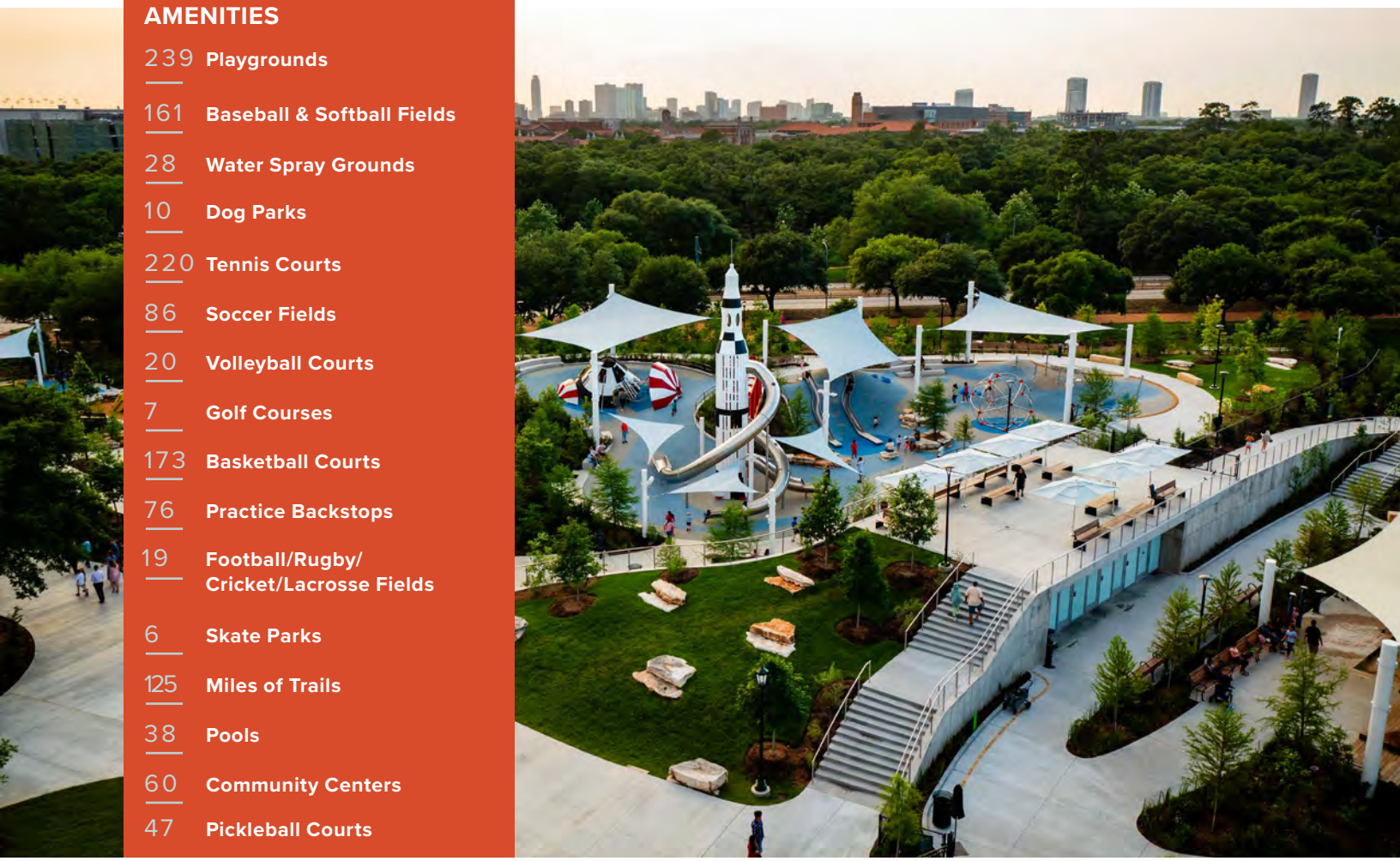
KEITH-WIESS PARK (500 acres)

HERMANN PARK (445 acres)

BUFFALO BAYOU PARK (160 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
125	Miles of Trails
38	Pools
60	Community Centers
47	Pickleball Courts



DOWNTOWN HOUSTON PARKS

STATE PARKS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES

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.

1845 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.

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.

1971 Shell Oil Co. relocates corporate headquarters to Houston. More than 200 major firms move headquarters, subsidiaries and divisions here in the 1970s.

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.

2025 Minute Maid Park renamed Daikin Park under a naming rights agreement with Daikin, effective through 2039.

2025 On January 21, Winter Storm Enzo drops up to six inches of snow in the Houston area.

2025 The Houston Cougars appeared in the NCAA men's basketball championship in 2025, their first appearance since 1984. They were defeated by the Florida Gators in the national championship game.

2025 Chevron relocates its headquarters to Houston from San Ramon, California.

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