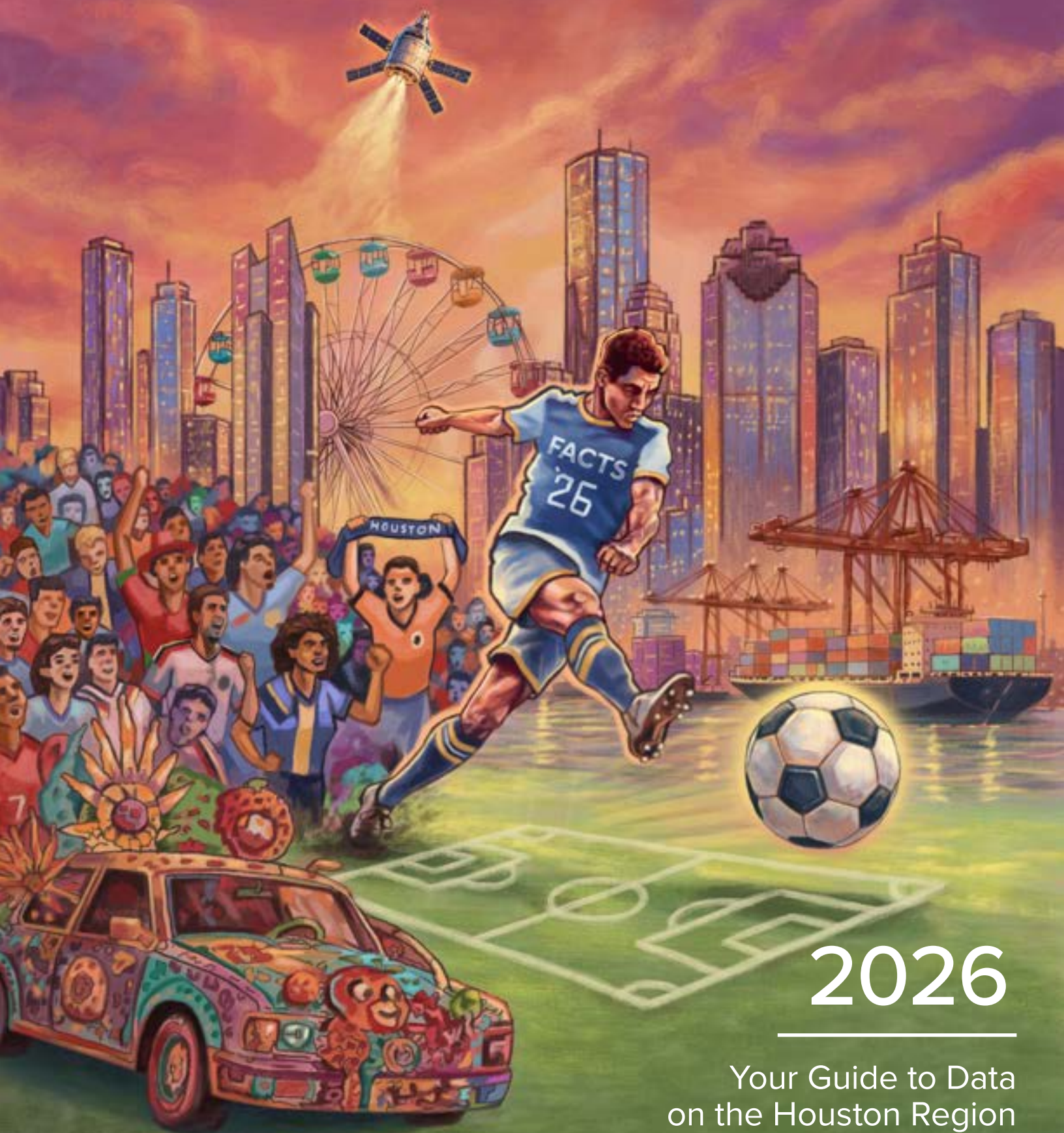


GREATER HOUSTON **PARTNERSHIP**

HOUSTON FACTS



2026

Your Guide to Data
on the Houston Region

HOUSTON FACTS

2026

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ABOUT THE GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

The Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the best places to live, work, and do business by bringing together business and community leaders to build a stronger, more prosperous, and resilient region. Through the strength and collaboration of our 900 member organizations and a broad network of partners across our 12-county region, we champion economic growth, shape smart policy, and elevate the economic opportunity and quality of life for all Houstonians.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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THE HOUSTON REGION

HOUSTON FACTS.

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

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



~1 IN 4

or approximately 2.0 million Houstonians were born outside the U.S.



NO. 22

economy in the world if Houston were a country



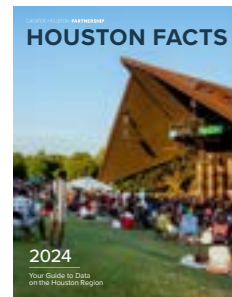
NO. 2

in Fortune 500 Companies in the nation



NO. 1

exporting metro in the nation with \$177.3 billion in goods and commodities sent abroad last year



THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Houston Facts has presented unvarnished information about the Houston region since 1959, and its predecessor publications—under different names, but with the same objective—date back to 1906. Over the decades, Houston Facts has grown well beyond its original four pages so that we could expand the range and depth of coverage, bringing you more information about parks, museums, schools, living costs, the regional economy and a host of other topics. It has evolved into a concise almanac for the Houston region. Corporate planners, market analysts, students, relocation and site selection consultants, real estate professionals, government agencies and myriad others turn to it for authoritative information on this region.

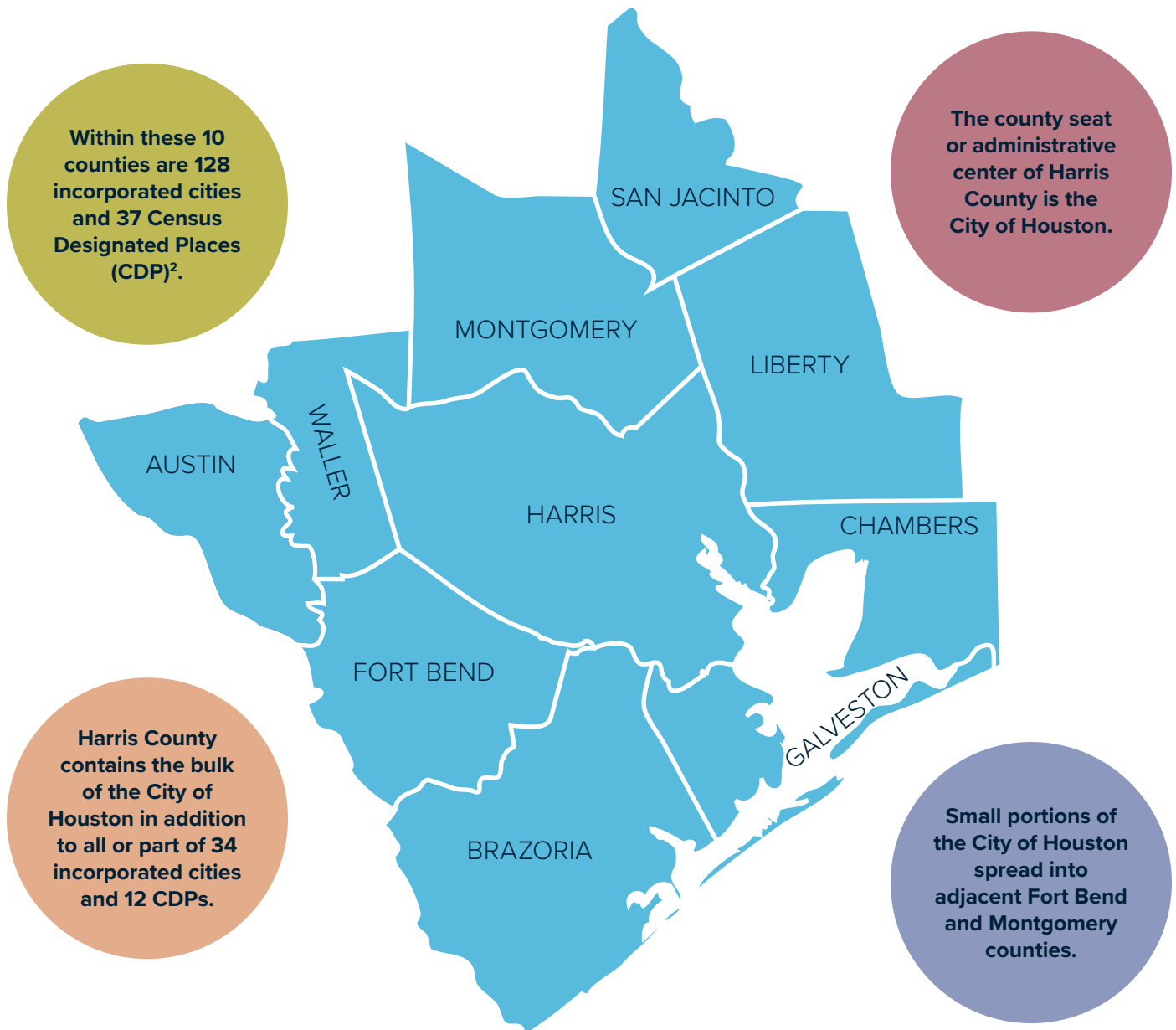
Of course, we believe the Houston region is one of the nation's most attractive major metropolitan areas—an outstanding place to live, work and build a business. We would like you to share that view. But we won't try to persuade you. The facts need no embellishment. They speak for themselves.



REGION IN PERSPECTIVE

GEOGRAPHY

The Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)¹ contains **10 Texas 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.

POPULATION

METRO HOUSTON

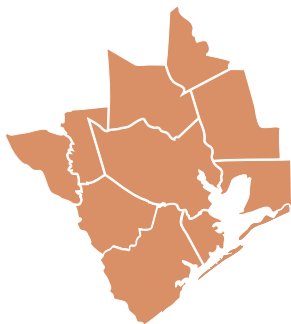
If metro Houston were a state, it would have the 14th largest population in the U.S.

WASHINGTON

8,001,020



7,904,627



ARIZONA

7,623,818



TENNESSEE

7,315,076



HARRIS COUNTY

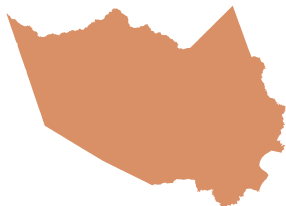
If Harris County were a state, it would have the 25th largest population in the U.S.

ALABAMA

5,193,088



5,045,026



LOUISIANA

4,618,189



KENTUCKY

4,606,864



CITY OF HOUSTON

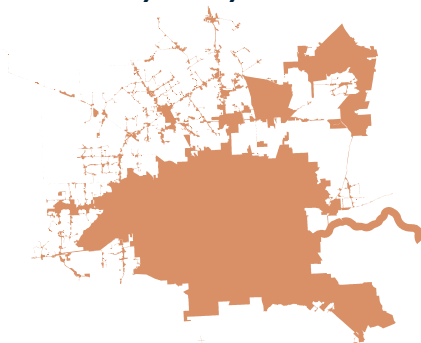
If the City of Houston were a state, it would rank 36th in population in the U.S.

MISSISSIPPI

2,954,160



2,397,315



NEW MEXICO

2,125,498



IDAHO

2,029,733



AREA

The **10-county Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** covers 8,839 square land miles. If the MSA were a state, it would rank as the 45th largest, behind Vermont and New Hampshire, but ahead of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Hawaii.

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

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, metro Houston's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was valued at **\$758.1 billion in '24**, making it the sixth largest U.S. metro economy.

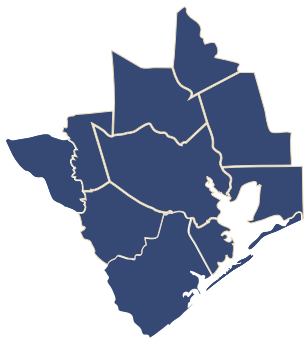
If the MSA were an independent nation, it would rank as **the world's 22nd largest economy**, behind Switzerland (\$936.6 billion) and Poland (\$917.8 billion) but ahead of Belgium (\$671.4 billion) and Argentina (\$638.4 billion), according to the World Bank.

If metro Houston were a state, its GDP would rank 15th, behind Massachusetts (\$778.5 billion) and Virginia (\$761.7 billion) but ahead of Michigan (\$702.5 billion) and Arizona (\$570.1 billion).



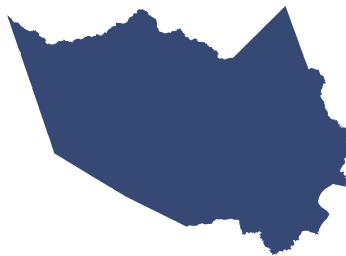
DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION AND PEOPLE



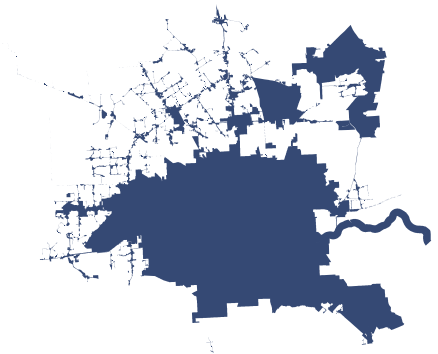
7,904,627

residents in the Houston MSA



5,045,026

residents in Harris County



2,397,315

residents in the City of Houston

126,720

residents added between July '24 and July '25, a 1.6% increase

48,695

residents added between July '24 and July '25, a 1.0% increase

11,515

residents added between July '24 and July '25, a 0.5% increase

5th

most populous U.S. metro area

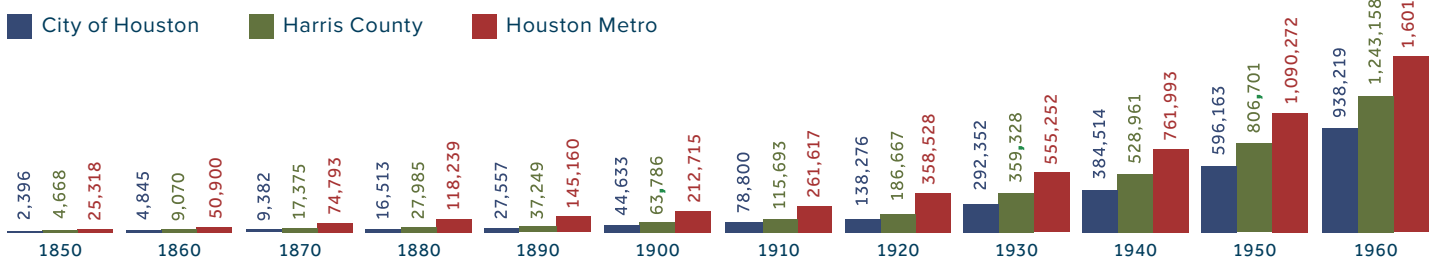
3rd

most populous county in the nation

4th

most populous U.S. city

DECENNIAL CENSUS AND VINTAGE POPULATION ESTIMATES

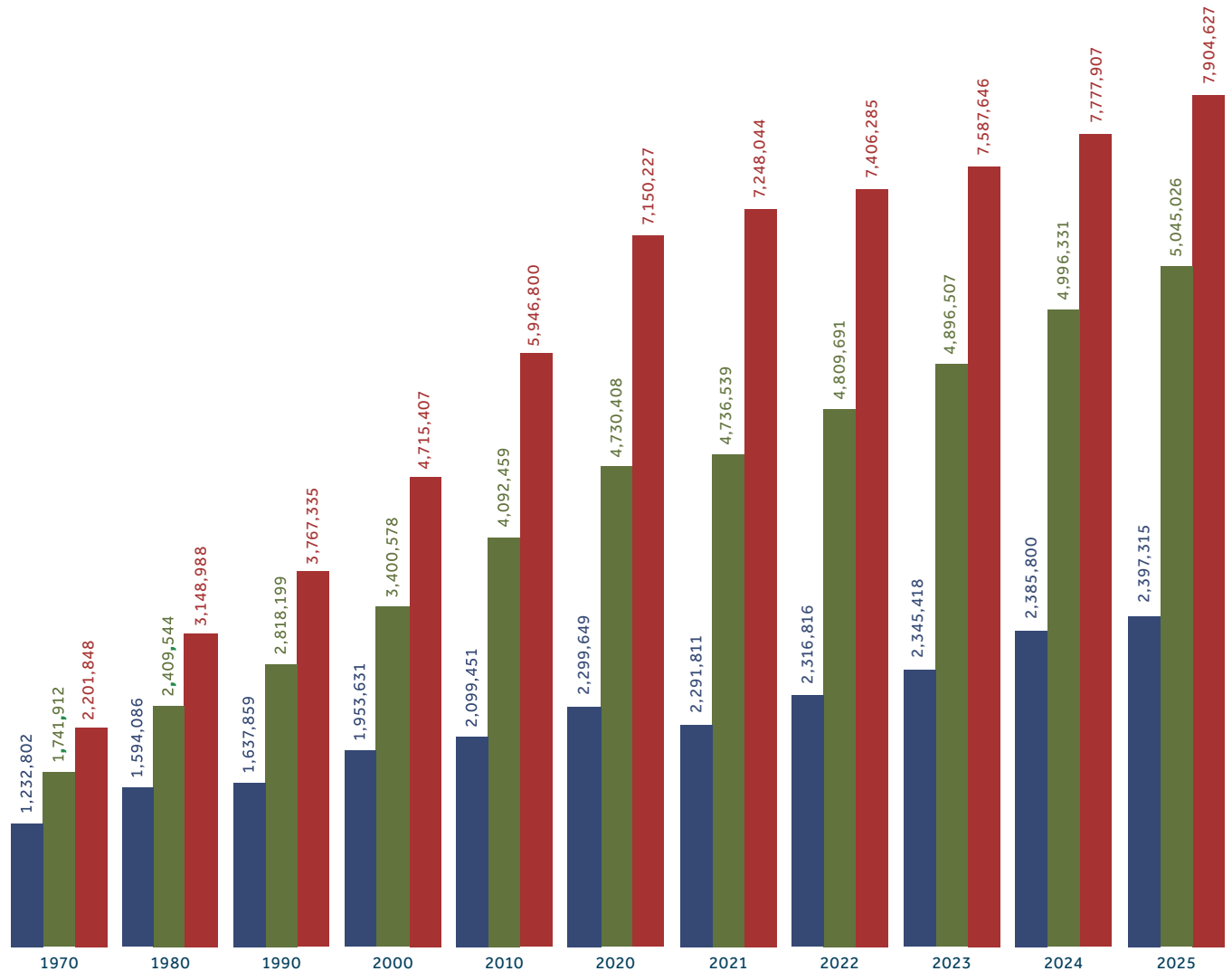


COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE
By County, 2020 - 2025

County	Population		Natural Increase		Net Migration		Total Population Change
	April 2020	July 2025	Births	Deaths	International	Domestic	
Austin	30,168	33,625	1,967	-1,826	482	2,815	3,457
Brazoria	372,046	419,080	24,377	-15,559	5,715	31,955	47,034
Chambers	46,539	57,594	3,363	-1,914	465	9,101	11,055
Fort Bend	823,997	975,191	49,219	-24,495	42,287	85,000	151,194
Galveston	350,682	372,207	20,376	-17,588	4,457	14,361	21,525
Harris	4,730,408	5,045,026	339,445	-170,569	308,470	-162,694	314,618
Liberty	91,661	121,364	7,993	-5,194	1,645	25,277	29,703
Montgomery	620,551	781,194	44,448	-26,104	21,212	120,951	160,643
San Jacinto	27,406	29,488	1,705	-2,172	123	2,398	2,082
Waller	56,769	69,858	4,352	-2,401	1,571	9,594	13,089
Total	7,150,227	7,904,627	497,245	-267,822	386,427	138,758	754,400

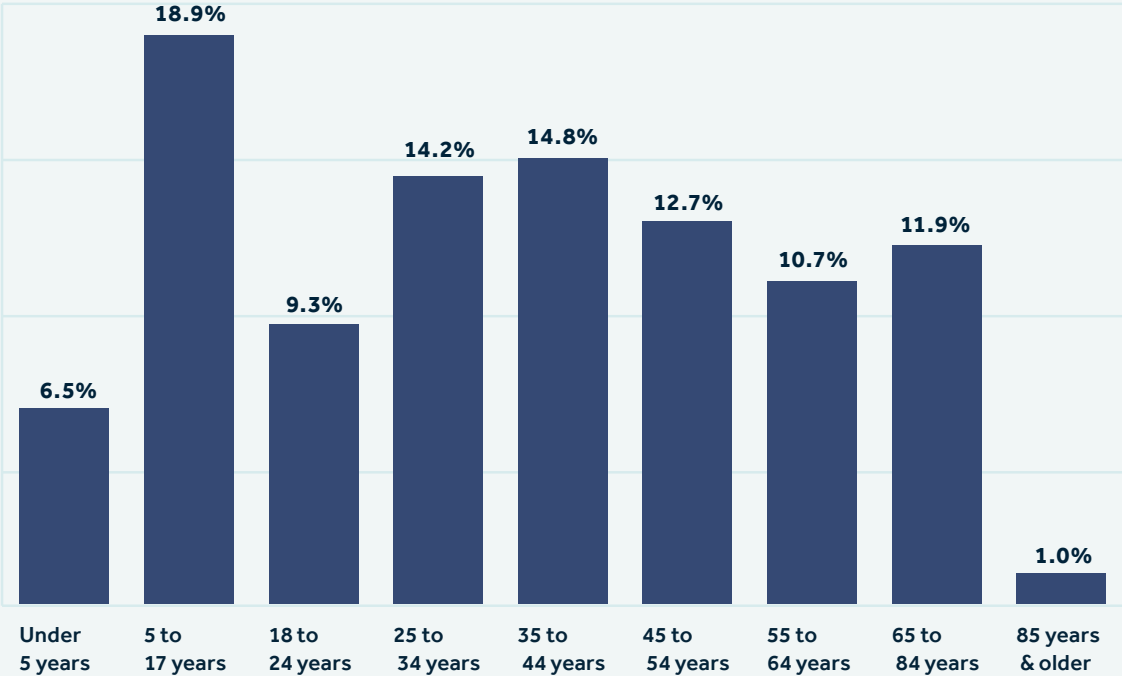
Note: In some cases, the increase due to migration and the natural increase will not sum to the change in population due to rounding and the Bureau's use of residual values in generating the estimates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025 Population Estimates



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

AGE DISTRIBUTION
Houston MSA, 2024



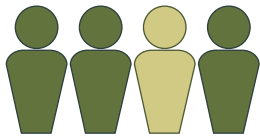
Note: Sums may not add to 100 percent due to rounding error | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, 2024

County	Median Age	Total Households	Average Household Size	% of Adults with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	% of Population Foreign Born
Austin	41.1	12,128	2.55	25.1%	11.6%
Brazoria	36.7	133,898	2.82	33.1%	14.6%
Chambers	35.1	17,229	2.97	21.9%	9.6%
Fort Bend	37.3	292,713	3.03	50.2%	30.5%
Galveston	38.8	140,660	2.51	34.8%	10.2%
Harris	34.6	1,757,164	2.73	34.2%	26.8%
Liberty	32.9	31,183	3.15	11.9%	15.6%
Montgomery	37.2	247,541	2.75	38.8%	15.2%
San Jacinto	44.0	10,881	2.60	16.2%	8.9%
Waller	31.3	18,342	3.09	27.9%	14.7%
Houston MSA	35.7	2,768,708	2.79	37.3%	25.4%

*Note: County data may not sum to Houston MSA total due to a difference in survey methods
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates*

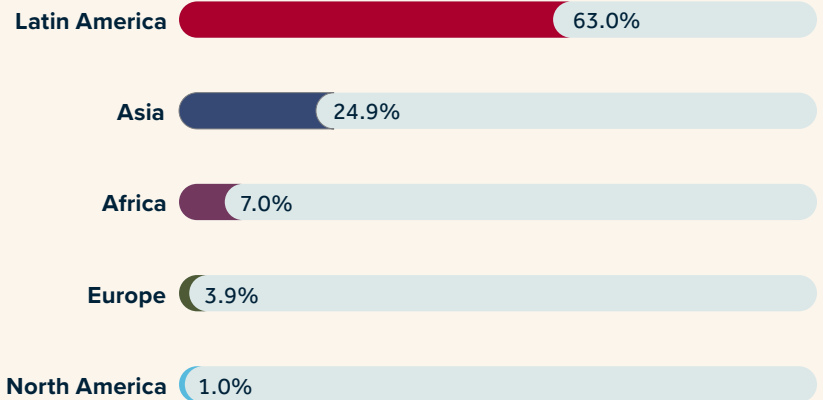
ONE IN FOUR



HOUSTONIANS BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S. (25.4%)

Among the 1,979,300 foreign-born in the Houston metro area, 56.9% entered the U.S. before 2010

TOP REGIONS OF BIRTH

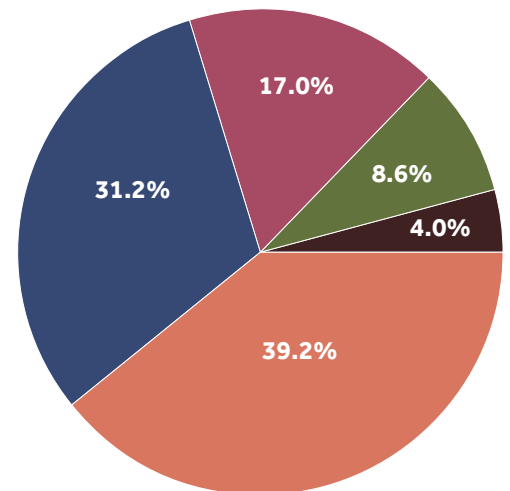


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates



Credit: Bryan Malloch

RACE/ETHNIC COMPOSITION HOUSTON MSA, 2024



- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American alone, not Hispanic or Latino
- Asian alone, not Hispanic or Latino
- Other

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

INCOME

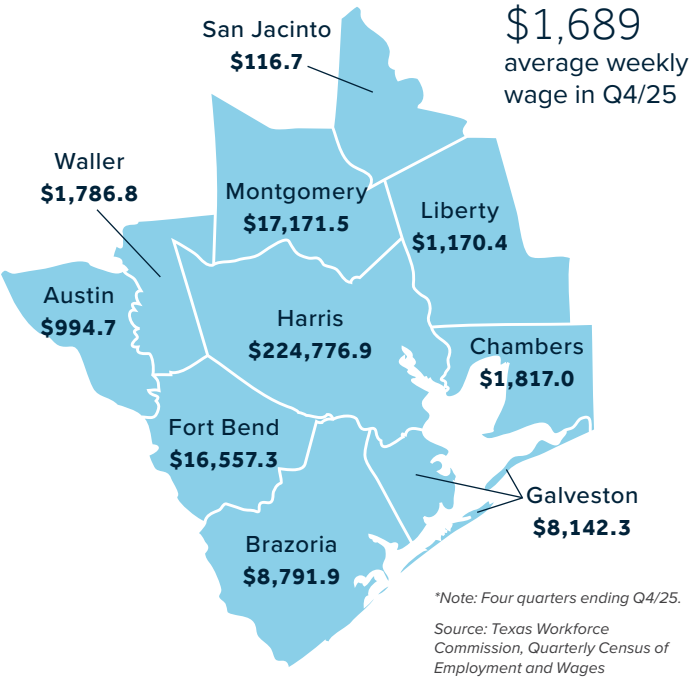
\$76,916

per capita personal income (PCPI) in '24, above the national average of \$73,204

\$599.7B

total personal income, defined as income received from all sources, in the 10-county Houston MSA in '24 (latest data available), up 5.4 percent from '23, according to BEA data

TOTAL WAGES BY COUNTY
Metro Houston, 2025 (\$ Millions)*



WAGES

\$281.3B

total wages for MSA in '25
Source: Texas Workforce Commission

TOP OCCUPATIONS BY EMPLOYMENT



Office and Administrative Support



Transportation and Material Moving



Food Preparation and Service Related

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

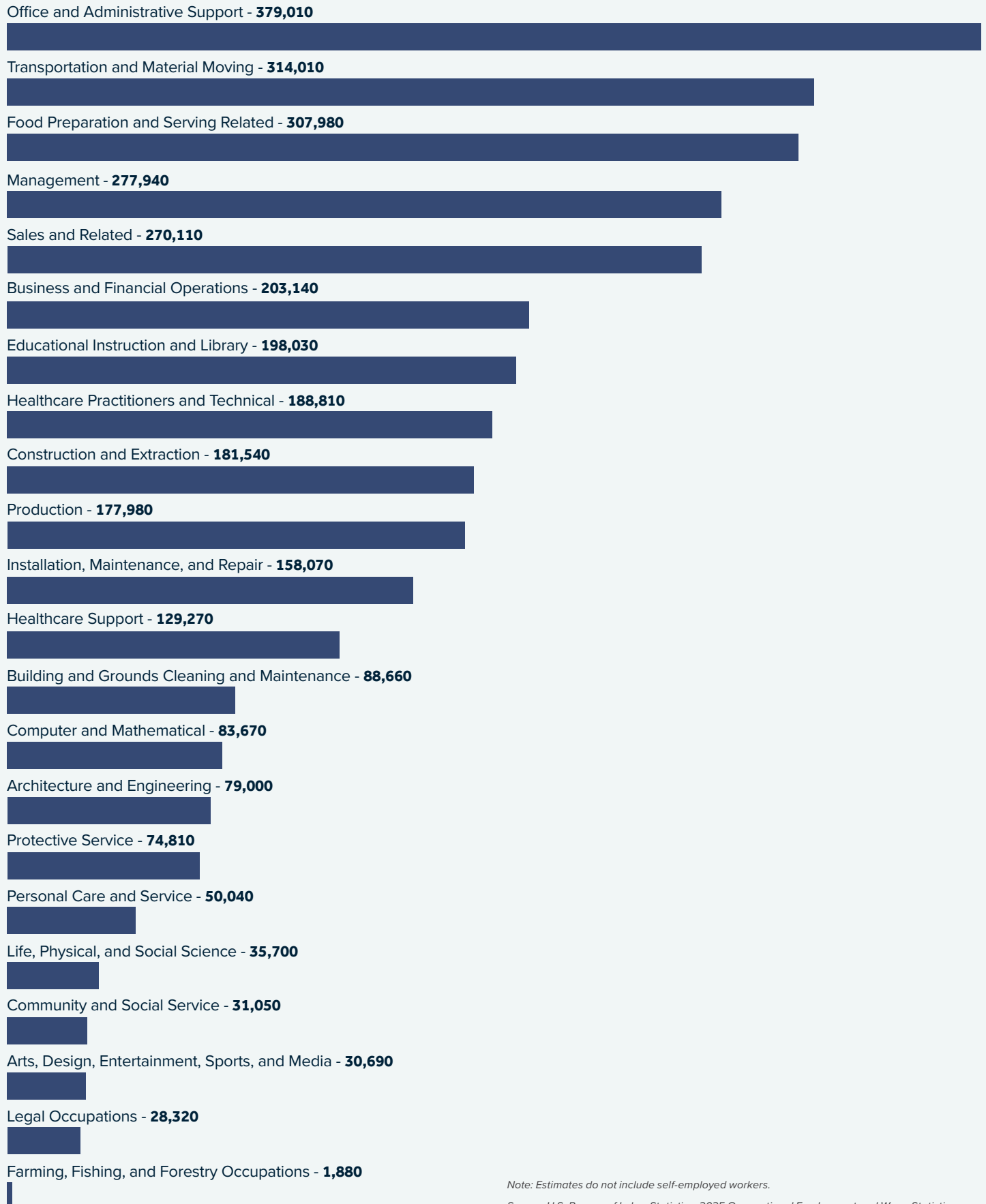


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

Highest Education Level Attained	Population Age 25 or Older	
	Number	Percent
No High School Diploma	740,695	14.6%
High School Graduate or Higher	4,348,703	85.4%
High School Diploma or GED	1,152,081	22.6%
Some College, No Degree	930,628	18.3%
Associate Degree	369,697	7.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,896,297	37.3%
Bachelor's Degree	1,169,705	23.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	726,592	14.3%

Note: Sums may not total due to rounding | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

METRO EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, 2025



Note: Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics



HOUSTON ECONOMY

Greater Houston has proven itself one of the nation's most resilient and dynamic regions, continuing to grow even as the U.S. economy has faced turbulence following the COVID-19 pandemic. Inflation, higher interest rates, global uncertainty, and uneven national job growth have all created headwinds in recent years. Yet across a wide range of measures, Houston continues to rank among the fastest growing and most productive major metros in the country. Indicators through mid-'26 show that the region remains strong.

Houston is the **second-fastest growing major U.S. economy**. Between '22 and '24, the last two years of available metro GDP data, the value of the region's economic output expanded from roughly \$685.6 billion to \$758.3 billion after adjusting for inflation. That increase of \$72.6 billion represents a two-year growth rate of 10.6 percent. Among the 20 most populous U.S. metros, Houston trailed only Seattle, which grew 10.7 percent, and outpaced other large regions such as Dallas, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, and Miami.

Houston is the nation's **leading manufacturer**. In '24, the region produced \$126.8 billion in manufacturing output, more than any other U.S. metro area. Houston's manufacturing output surpassed Los Angeles at \$119.2 billion, Chicago at \$100.9 billion, New York at \$82.5 billion, and Dallas at \$71.6 billion, even though

each of those metros has a larger population. That production base is one of Houston's defining economic advantages. Energy and petrochemicals remain central, but the region's manufacturing strength also extends into machinery, fabricated metals, and increasingly to advanced manufacturing through products like computer hardware, large scale batteries, and pharmaceuticals.

Houston is the nation's **top exporting metro**. In '25, the region exported \$177.3 billion in goods and commodities to foreign markets. That total exceeded the combined export value of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Dallas. Houston's export strength reflects the depth of its manufacturing base, its energy infrastructure, its port and logistics network, and its long-standing ties to global markets. The region produces goods the world needs and has the infrastructure to move them efficiently.

Houston is the nation's **third strongest job creator**. Among the 20 most populous U.S. metros, Houston ranked third in job growth over the past two decades. The region added roughly one million jobs, growing from 2.5 million at the end of '05 to 3.5 million at the end of '25. That represents a 42.9 percent increase, trailing only Dallas at 51.7 percent and Orlando at 44.4 percent. This growth has occurred through recessions, energy cycles, natural disasters, a pandemic, and global supply chain disruptions.

Houston's 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)
Stavanger, Norway (1988)
Taipei, Taiwan (1961)
Tampico, Mexico (2003)
Ulsan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea (2021)

ESTABLISHMENTS BY INDUSTRY

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA, Q4/25

Industry	Establishments	% of Total
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,263	15.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	22,718	12.9
Retail Trade	19,227	10.9
Accommodation and Food Services	14,951	8.5
Other Services (except Public Administration)	14,261	8.1
Construction	12,618	7.2
Wholesale Trade	10,756	6.1
Finance and Insurance	9,683	5.5
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	9,591	5.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9,426	5.4
Manufacturing	7,251	4.1
Transportation and Warehousing	5,718	3.3
Educational Services	2,507	1.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,102	1.2
Information	2,076	1.2
Unclassified	1,713	1.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,682	1.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,045	0.6
Public Administration	799	0.5
Utilities	646	0.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	584	0.3
Total:	175,617	100.0

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

International Business

With \$177.3 billion in exported goods and commodities, Houston is the nation's top exporting metro. The region serves as 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 **361.3 million metric tons in exports, valued at \$242.6 billion** in '25, according to U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division data.
- Exports accounted for **68.6% of the total trade value**.

- Houston has one of the largest consular corps in the nation with consulates or honorary consuls from **86 nations**.
- 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 **17 sister-city relationships** promoting business opportunities across six continents: Asia (8), Europe (5), North America (1), South America (1), Africa (1) and Oceania (1).

In '25, 117 foreign-owned firms from 31 countries announced or completed new projects in metro Houston, according to the Partnership's New Business Announcements database. Those projects stretch across 12 industry clusters and represent at least \$1.3 billion in capital investment. That is likely a significant underestimate since many firms did not disclose the value of their investments.



146
Houston firms
operate



5,425
business establishments
across



109
foreign
countries

International projects of note in Houston in '25:

- An AI server manufacturing facility from Taiwan's **Foxconn**, representing a \$450 million investment that is expected to create 600 jobs.
- An electronics and AI hardware manufacturing facility from Taiwan's **Inventec**, representing a \$251 million investment that is expected to create over 2,000 jobs
- A solar manufacturing facility from India's **Waaree Energies**, representing a \$200 million investment that is expected to create 300 jobs.
- A new photovoltaic manufacturing facility from Japan's **TMEIC** (a joint venture between Toshiba and Mitsubishi Electric Company), representing a \$50 million investment that is expected to create 500 jobs.
- A copper bar manufacturing plant from Peru's **Tecnofil**, representing a \$31.6 million investment that is expected to create 160 jobs.
- A turbine production facility from Canada's **Turbine X Energy**, representing at \$30 million investment that is expected to create 175 jobs.

HOUSTON'S LARGEST COMPANIES BY REVENUE

OVER \$50 BILLION

Chevron
ConocoPhillips
Enterprise Products

Exxon Mobil
Phillips 66
Plains All American Pipeline

Plains GP
Sysco

\$25 TO \$50 BILLION

Baker Hughes
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

LyondellBasell Industries
NRG Energy

Occidental Petroleum
Schlumberger

\$10 TO \$25 BILLION

Cheniere Energy
Corebridge Financial
EOG Resources
Group 1 Automotive

Halliburton
Kinder Morgan
Quanta Services
Targa Resources

Waste Management
Westlake

\$5 TO \$10 BILLION

Academy Sports and Outdoors
APA
CenterPoint Energy
Cheniere Energy
Comfort Systems USA

Coterra Energy
CVR Energy
Insperity
KBR
NOV

TechnipFMC
Waste Connections
Weatherford International

\$1 TO \$5 BILLION

Archrock
Bristow
Cactus
Camden Property Trust
ChampionX
Chord Energy
DNO
DXP Enterprises
Expro
Helix Energy Solutions
Hess Midstream

Howard Hughes
IES
Kirby
Kodiak Gas Services
LGI Homes
Magnolia Oil & Gas
MRC Global
Murphy Oil
National Energy Services Reunited
Noble
Oceaneering International

Powell Industries
Prosperity Bancshares
Quanex Building Products
Service International
Skyward Specialty Insurance
Sterling Infrastructure
Stewart Information Services
Talen Energy
Tidewater
Western Midstream
Westlake Chemical

Note: Based on financial filings for 2024 | Source: Houston Chronicle, The Chronicle 100, 2025

27

Fortune 500 Headquarters

43

Fortune 1000 Headquarters

4

Fortune 100 Best places to work

8

Fortune Global 500 Headquarters*

34

Forbes Global 2000 Headquarters

*Denotes 2023 data, latest available

KEY INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS

Key Definitions:

EMPLOYMENT is the count of only filled payroll 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.

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

CONSTRUCTION

Houston's construction sector remains an important contributor to the regional economy, supported by continued population growth and ongoing residential, commercial, manufacturing, and infrastructure development. In '25, the sector employed 257,620 people, including 62,451 in building construction, 72,014 in heavy and civil engineering construction, and 123,155 in specialty trades construction.

\$103,376
average annual wage

Establishments

The Houston region is home to 12,618 construction establishments, including 3,855 in building construction, 1,277 in heavy and civil engineering construction, and 7,486 in specialty trades construction.

City of Houston Building Permits

Building permits issued by the City of Houston totaled \$9.0 billion in '25, reflecting continued investment in the city.

- Residential building permits: **\$3.2 billion**
- Commercial building permits: **\$1.4 billion**
- Additions and alterations: **\$4.4 billion**

Credit: Bryan Malloch

REAL ESTATE

Office

Houston's office market continues to experience elevated availability levels, while new construction activity has slowed considerably in response to market conditions. Leasing activity remains concentrated in newer, high-quality office space, helping maintain asking lease rates amid broader supply pressures.

Metric	Q1/26	YoY Trend
Availability Rate	26.3%	▼ from 27.3% in Q1/25
Under Construction	850.9K sq. ft.	▼ from 1.5M sq. ft. in Q1/25
Average Gross Lease Rate	\$30.57/sq. ft.	▲ from \$28.76/sq. ft. in Q1/25

Industrial

Continued demand for warehouse, logistics, and manufacturing space has helped make Houston's industrial market one of the region's strongest commercial real estate sectors. While availability rates have risen as new supply entered the market, leasing activity and construction levels remain elevated compared with historical norms.

Metric	Q1/26	YoY Trend
Availability Rate	10.3%	▲ from 8.9% in Q1/25
Under Construction	28M sq. ft.	▲ from 19.1M sq. ft. in Q1/25
Average NNN Lease Rate	\$10.39/sq. ft.	▲ from \$9.52/sq. ft. in Q1/25

Retail

Population growth and steady consumer activity continue to support Houston's retail sector. While availability rates have edged up slightly in recent years, leasing activity and rental rates continue to reflect healthy demand for well-located retail space.

Metric	Q1/26	YoY Trend
Occupancy	94.5%	Flat from 94.5% in Q1/25
Under Construction	4.3M sq. ft.	▲ from 3.7M sq. ft. in Q1/25
Average NNN Lease Rate	\$21.22/sq. ft.	▲ from \$20.55/sq. ft. in Q1/25

Multifamily

Houston's apartment market experienced modest softening in occupancy and rents in early '26 as new supply continued to enter the market. Despite recent declines, Houston continues to offer a cost advantage compared with other major Texas metros.

Q1/26

Market	Occupancy (%)	Average Asking Monthly Rent (\$)	Annual Rent Growth	Absorbed Units (Previous 12 Mo.)	Units Under Construction
Austin	86.0	1,528	-4.2	4,485	20,991
Dallas/Fort Worth	87.9	1,539	-1.7	4,622	37,121
Houston	87.6	1,367	-0.9	1,718	14,788
San Antonio	84.6	1,237	-2.4	702	7,967

Source: CoStar

Single Family

Houston's single-family home sales reached 88,700 in '25, exceeding pre-pandemic levels but remaining below the heightened activity recorded from '20 through '22. The market remained relatively stable into early '26, with modestly stronger sales activity, softer home prices, and continued growth in available inventory despite elevated mortgage rates.

The increase in inventory has provided buyers with more choices and reduced some of the competitive pressures that characterized the market during the pandemic. Elevated borrowing costs, however, have affected affordability and overall market activity.

Home Prices

Median home price: \$332,000 (April '26)

Down 1.6% year-over-year

Relatively stable compared to post-pandemic surges

Inventory & Listings

Active listings: 36,572

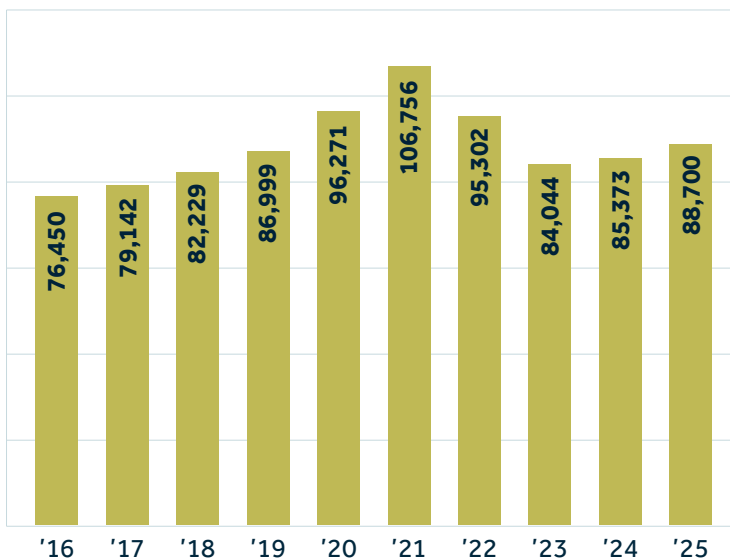
Up 6.5% year-over-year

4.9 months of inventory, up from 4.8

Buyers have more options and leverage

NUMBER OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES SOLD ANNUALLY

Houston MSA



Source: Houston Association of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service



HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Houston's health care and social assistance sector is anchored by the Texas Medical Center 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.

Employment

443,370
people working in the sector

23,325
physicians licensed in metro Houston
Source: Texas Medical Board

78%
of the physicians are in Harris County

Establishments

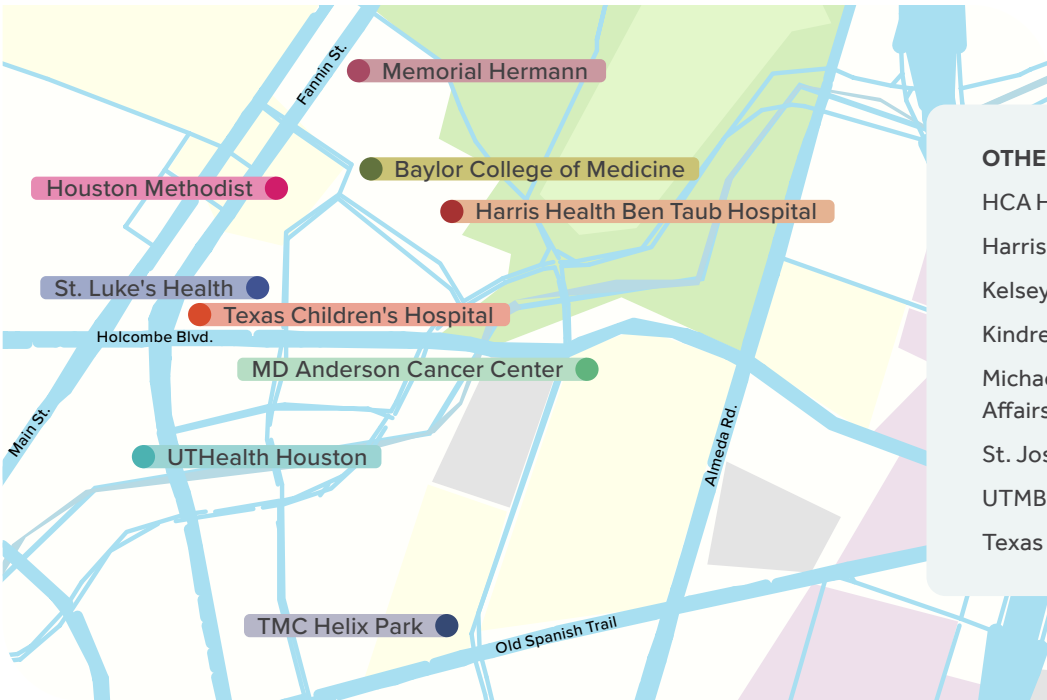
There are 22,718 health care and social assistance establishments in the Houston region, including 15,819 ambulatory health care establishments, 5,816 social assistance establishments, 836 nursing and residential care facilities, and 247 hospitals.

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



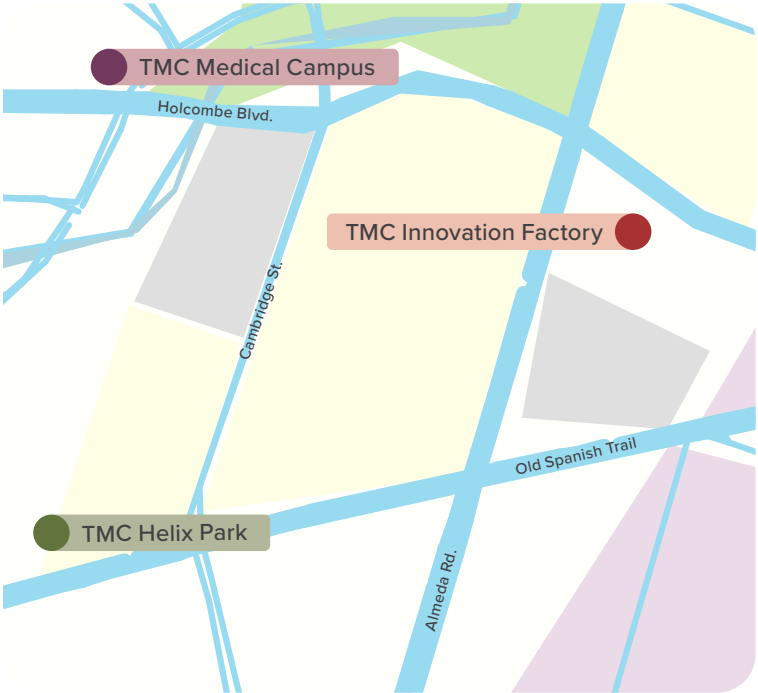
OTHER MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- 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

LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECH

The Houston region is a growing hub for biotechnology and life sciences, with activity spanning biomedical research and innovation, cell and gene therapy, and device manufacturing.

Campuses and innovation ecosystems across the Houston region contribute to this growth. The Texas Medical Center anchors the region’s life sciences ecosystem through its clinical, research, and commercialization activity, including TMC Innovation Factory and TMC Helix Park, a 37-acre life sciences complex designed to foster collaboration among academic institutions, industry, and venture capital. Other accelerators and innovation hubs, including CUBiO, Beacon CoLabs, University of Houston Tech Bridge, Rice University, Texas A&M, and the University of Texas Medical Branch, also support early-stage companies working to commercialize medical technologies.



Education and Workforce



29,356
professionals working across areas such as cancer treatment, genomics, biomedical engineering, health technology development, and wholesaling



3,751
biomed, bioengineering, and pharmaceutical science degrees awarded from regional institutions in '25



2,329
clinical trials were active or completed in the Houston area in '25

Notable Projects in '25

Eli Lilly & Company, a major pharmaceuticals manufacturer, is building a new Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient manufacturing facility in Generation Park. The project is expected to create 615 jobs and represents a \$6.5 billion in capital investment.

Putaner Pharma, a local pharmaceuticals manufacturer, is expanding in the region to produce dietary supplements, pet nutrition products, and cosmetics. The project is expected to create 110 jobs and represents a \$20 million in capital investment.

United Imaging, a medical imaging machinery manufacturer, is expanding with a second location in Pearland. The project will involve \$20 million in capital investment and is expected to create 100 jobs.

SELECT LIFE SCIENCE AND RELATED INDUSTRIES Houston MSA, Q4/25

Industry	Average Employment	Firms
Research and Development in Nanotechnology	528	38
Research and Development in Biotechnology (except Nanobiotechnology)	2,766	158
Testing Laboratories and Services	12,068	295
Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing	3,754	64
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	2,138	151
Electromedical and Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Manufacturing	1,083	35
Medical, Dental, and Hospital Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	7,019	340
Ophthalmic Goods Merchant Wholesalers	417	17
Total	29,773	1,098

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

OTHER LIFE SCIENCES DISTRICTS ACROSS THE REGION



2025 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING

Total for the Region - \$1,074,119,936

Baylor College of Medicine	\$314,943,752
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	\$217,655,664
University of Texas Health Science Center Houston	\$183,929,588
University of Texas Med BR Galveston	\$90,451,394
Methodist Hospital Research Institute	\$50,398,468
University of Houston	\$37,998,633
Texas A&M University Health Science Center	\$36,769,285
Texas A&M University	\$24,485,277
Rice University	\$22,184,432
Texas A&M AgriLife Research	\$16,834,311
Texas Engineering Experiment Station	\$13,627,973
Dell Federal Systems L.P.	\$10,341,847
Baylor University	\$9,280,762
Texas Southern University	\$4,021,120
Marker Therapeutics, Inc.	\$3,352,587
Cellchorus Inc.	\$3,031,916
Texas Heart Institute	\$3,013,269
March Biosciences Inc.	\$2,110,687
Astero Erado Inc.	\$1,882,856
Via Therapeutics, LLC	\$1,628,726
Stingray Therapeutics, Inc.	\$1,460,952
Ridgeline Therapeutics, LLC	\$1,339,717
Fannin Partners, LLC	\$1,300,013
Biotex, Inc.	\$1,296,385
Venostent, inc.	\$1,262,392
Clairvoyant Networks, Inc.	\$1,216,694
Nxtech Inc.	\$1,156,209
Bondwell Technologies LP	\$1,155,951
Genetivision Corporation	\$1,061,192
Constantiam Biosciences Inc.	\$1,030,156
Corvion, Inc.	\$1,024,635
Olera Inc.	\$1,022,260
Prairie View Agri & Mech University	\$1,021,580

2025 CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS (CPRIT) FUNDING

TOTAL HOUSTON AREA FUNDING - \$217,951,686

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	\$71,964,493
Baylor College of Medicine	\$24,298,678
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$19,092,947
Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	\$15,010,772
OncoMAGNETx, Inc.	\$13,970,678
Immunogenesis, Inc.	\$10,846,062
Rice University	\$9,299,434
Iterion Therapeutics Inc.	\$7,125,242
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	\$6,949,570
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	\$6,749,482
Diakonon Oncology Corporation	\$6,690,943
University of Houston	\$5,349,264
ExoDiscovery Technologies Inc.	\$4,029,475
Texas Agrilife Research	\$3,247,501
Texas Medical Center Foundation	\$2,999,970
EMPIRI, Inc	\$2,594,084
Air Surgical, Inc.	\$2,583,100
Light and Salt Association	\$2,450,000
Texas Southern University	\$2,000,000
Texas A&M University	\$449,999
The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	\$249,992

Houston received
over 70% of
CPRIT funds in 2025

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

Visit houston.org to learn more.

MANUFACTURING

Employment

Houston’s manufacturing sector is a major contributor to the regional economy, supporting industries ranging from energy and chemicals to machinery, fabricated metals, electronics and advanced manufacturing. In '25, the sector employed 236,659 people — approximately one in every 14 Houston-area workers — across 7,251 establishments. Manufacturing accounted for 16.7% of the region’s gross domestic product.

\$108,524
average annual wage
Source: Texas Workforce Commission

\$126.9B
manufactured output value in '24
(latest data available)
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Computers, Electronics, and Electrical

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 624 establishments focused on manufacturing computers, electronics and electrical equipment, employing 23,659 workers. The region continues to innovate and build its tech manufacturing capacity with large AI server facilities under development.

- 624 establishments focused on manufacturing computers, electronics, and electrical equipment
- 23,659 workers | 10.0% share of manufacturing total

Chemical

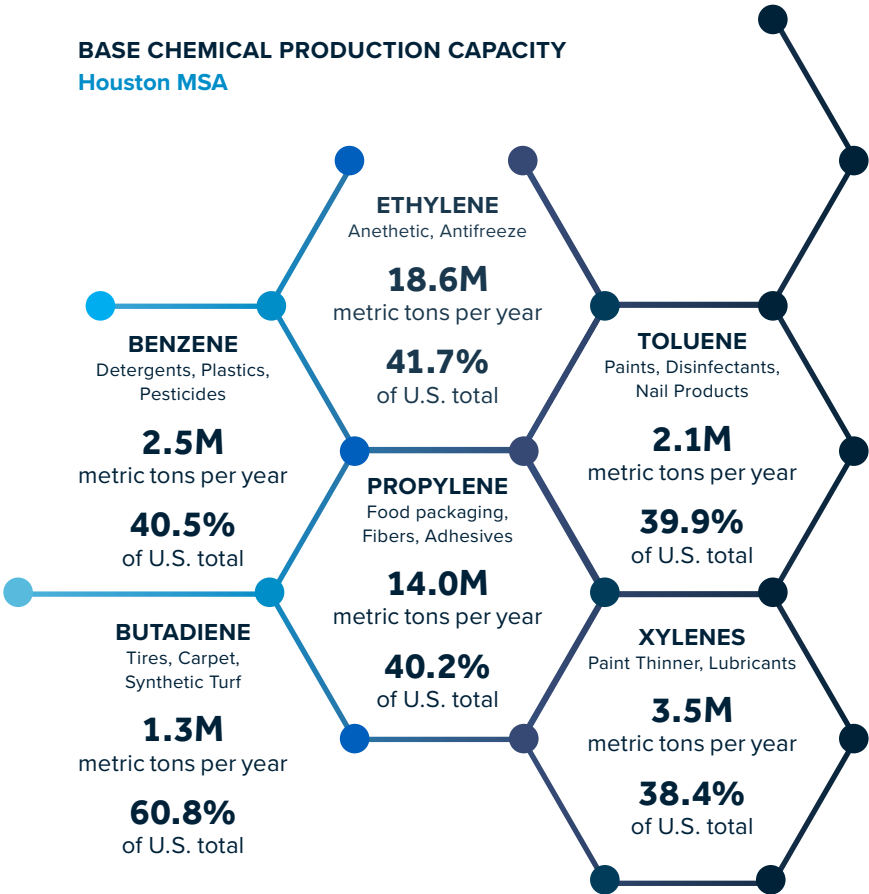
The Houston region is home to 706 chemical plants, employing 42,337 people or 17.9 percent of Greater Houston’s total manufacturing labor force, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The region accounts for 41.1 percent of the nation’s overall base petrochemical manufacturing capacity. Base petrochemicals 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 39.8 percent of the country’s polyethylene, 39.6 percent of polypropylene and 29.9 percent of its polyvinyl chloride.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR Houston MSA Q4/25

Rank	Subsector	Workers	Share of Total (%)
1	Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	58,068	24.5
2	Chemicals, Petroleum, and Coal	49,682	21.0
3	Machinery	38,924	16.4
4	Computers, Electronics, and Electrical	23,659	10.0
5	Plastics, Rubbers, and Minerals	19,811	8.4
6	Food and Beverages	17,857	7.5
7	Other	7,441	3.1
8	Wood and Furniture	6,772	2.9
9	Paper and Printing	6,716	2.8
10	Vehicles	5,140	2.2
11	Textiles, Apparel, and Leather	2,590	1.1
Total		236,659	100.0

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

BASE CHEMICAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY Houston MSA



Source: CAS Registry via IHS Markit, June 2026

Petroleum Refining

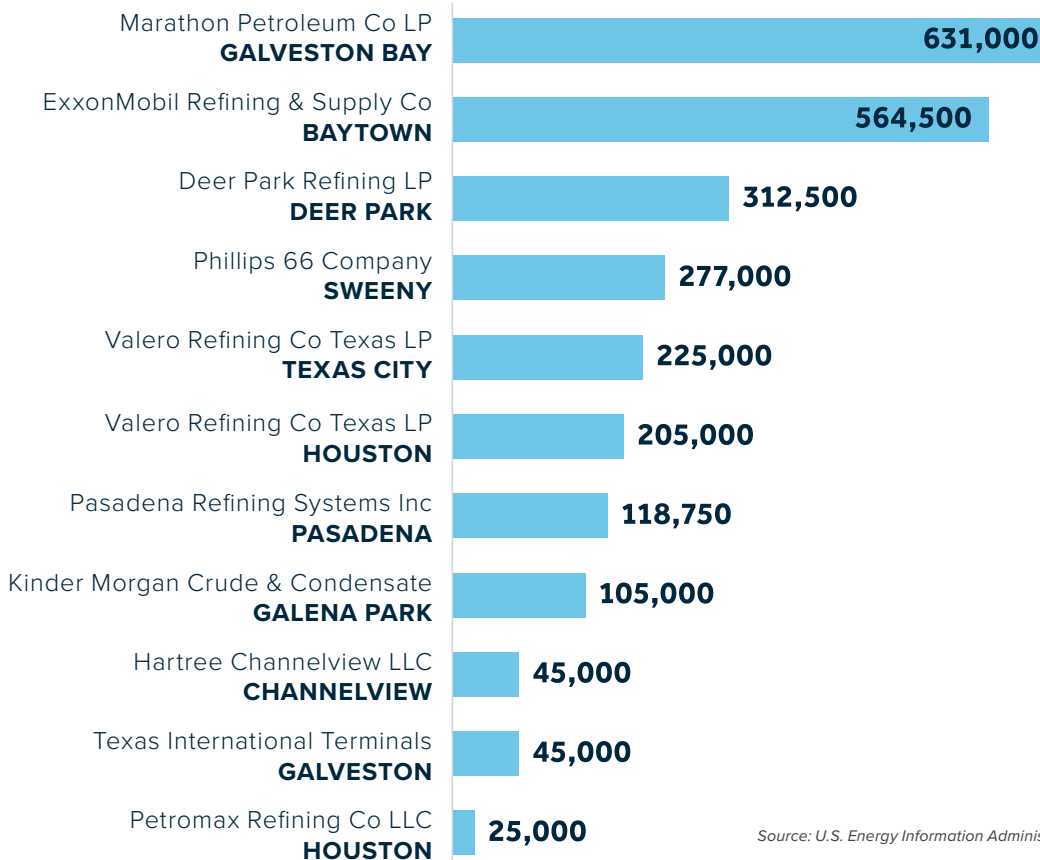
In '25, the Houston metro had a crude operating capacity of 2.6 million barrels of refined petroleum products per calendar day, representing 14.0 percent of overall U.S. capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Oil refiners in the region employed 7,345 workers in '25, or 3.1 percent of the Houston region's total manufacturing workforce.



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

Visit houston.org to learn more.

PETROLEUM REFINING CAPACITY Metro Houston, 2025, Barrels Per Day



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Refinery Capacity Report, January 1, 2026

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Employment

Metro Houston employed 260,691 professional, scientific and technical service workers in '25, including 76,346 in architectural and engineering services workers, 48,743 in management, scientific, and technical consulting services, and 36,474 in computer systems design and related services.

Establishments

The Houston MSA had 26,263 establishments in professional, scientific and technical services in '25, including:

- 6,641 management and technical consulting establishments
- 5,179 computer systems design companies
- 4,215 legal services establishments

Finance

Metro Houston's 109 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured institutions operate 1,345 offices and branches

- **\$348.4B** in local deposits
- ranking **11th** among U.S. metros

Source: June '25 FDIC data

Seven 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.

Engineering

Houston is home to 51,890 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 1,577 engineers. By comparison, for every 100,000 workers in the U.S., there are 1,112 engineers.

HOUSTON'S 10 LARGEST BANKS By Deposits (\$ Billions)

JPMorgan Chase	\$176.3
Wells Fargo	\$30.9
Bank of America	\$24.2
Zions Bancorporation	\$12.9
PNC Bank	\$9.8
Frost Bank	\$8.0
Cadence Bank	\$6.3
Woodforest National Bank	\$5.9
Stellar Bank	\$5.7
Prosperity Bank	\$5.7

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, June 2025

ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY FIELD 2025

Engineer Occupations	Per 100,000 Workers			
	Houston	U.S.	Houston	U.S.
Civil Engineers	12,140	355,410	369.0	230.5
Industrial Engineers	8,620	350,230	262.0	227.1
Mechanical Engineers	8,310	286,760	252.6	186.0
Electrical Engineers	5,770	188,790	175.4	122.4
Petroleum Engineers	4,770	18,970	145.0	12.3
Engineers, All Other	3,490	150,750	106.1	97.8
Aerospace Engineers	1,890	68,440	57.5	44.4
Chemical Engineers	1,510	20,330	45.9	13.2
Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors	1,400	23,220	42.6	15.1
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,380	93,940	41.9	60.9
Computer Hardware Engineers	840	75,710	25.5	49.1
Environmental Engineers	690	37,950	21.0	24.6
Materials Engineers	560	22,770	17.0	14.8
Bioengineers and Biomedical Engineers	520	21,860	15.8	14.2
TOTAL ENGINEERS*	51,890	1,715,130	1,577.3	1,112.4

*Note: *Omits agricultural, marine, mining, and nuclear engineers because Houston-area statistics were not published for those categories in '25.
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, 2025 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics*



WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

Employment

Wholesale trade employed 164,418 in the Houston area, including 102,754 in durable goods and 52,047 in nondurable goods in '25.

\$114,816
average annual wage

Retail trade employed 319,021, including 77,283 in food and beverage, 64,282 in general merchandise, and 44,361 in motor vehicle and parts dealers.

\$44,616
average annual wage

Establishments

Metro Houston had 10,756 wholesale trade establishments, including 6,473 in durable goods and 2,538 in nondurable goods in '25. There were 19,227 retail establishments, including:

- Food and Beverage: 3,044
- Gas Stations: 2,753
- Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers: 2,245
- Clothing and Accessory Stores: 1,531
- General Merchandise: 1,349

GROSS RETAIL SALES

Metro Houston, (\$ Million)

County	'25	'24	% Change from '24
Austin	468.7	470.7	-0.4
Brazoria	6,327.6	6,054.4	4.5
Chambers	1,113.1	1,000.2	11.3
Fort Bend	12,483.2	11,987.9	4.1
Galveston	5,211.0	5,150.6	1.2
Harris	127,054.1	123,341.2	3.0
Liberty	1,180.1	1,161.8	1.6
Montgomery	13,674.8	12,974.9	5.4
San Jacinto	90.5	76.7	18.1
Waller	870.3	857.4	1.5
Total	168,473.5	163,075.7	3.3

Source: Texas Comptroller's Office

ENERGY

Houston is a global center for energy, serving as a hub for exploration and production, transmission, marketing, services, trading, supply, and offshore drilling and technology.

The region’s energy economy continues to evolve alongside its established strength in oil and natural gas. Houston-area companies and institutions are advancing projects and technologies in carbon capture and storage, wind, solar, energy storage and other lower-carbon technologies, drawing on the region’s existing infrastructure, technical expertise and capital networks.

Energy Innovation and Investment

Houston’s energy expertise is also supporting employment, business formation and investment across a range of lower-carbon energy sectors.

- **\$14.85B** private-market financing for Houston-based energy transition companies in '25
- **330+** cleantech and climatetech startups

While oil and gas dominate Houston’s energy workforce, approximately 23,140 people in metro Houston work in renewable energy, defined here to include solar, wind, hydroelectric and other non-fossil fuel power generation, along with power storage and smart grid transmission. The sector continues to expand, adding 3,967 jobs in '24, the most recent year of available data. Houston also ranks as the nation’s No. 1 metro for wind energy employment. Wind accounts for the largest share of the region’s renewable energy jobs, but solar has grown rapidly and now represents a nearly equal share.

METRO HOUSTON RENEWABLE ENERGY EMPLOYMENT SHARE (%)

By Sector



Source: Partnership analysis of U.S. Department of Energy USEER data

Energy Scale & Infrastructure

21

Fortune 500 energy HQs

\$158.9B

in mineral fuels, oil and refined products exported through the Houston-Galveston Customs District in '25

10

Houston area refineries have a capacity of 2.6 million barrels per calendar day

55%

of U.S. gas pipeline mileage owned by Houston-area companies

48%

of U.S. oil pipeline mileage owned by Houston-area companies

Energy Innovation Hubs

- Houston Advanced Research Center
- Energy Transition Institute, University of Houston
- Rice Advanced Materials Institute
- Greentown Labs Houston
- Shell Technology Center Houston
- Aramco Americas R&D Center
- Schlumberger Houston Technology Center
- ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
- Chevron Technology Ventures
- BP Center for High-Performance Computing
- Dow Chemical Texas Innovation Center
- Ion District
- Activate Houston
- Rice Alliance Clean Energy Accelerator
- Evolve Houston
- Texas Center for Superconductivity
- Center for Advanced Materials, University of Houston
- Subsea Systems Institute
- Schneider Electric Energy Innovation Center

SELECT ENERGY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

Houston MSA, Q4/25

Industry	Employment	Firms	Average Annual Wage (\$)
Oil and Gas Extraction	34,677	374	\$284,544
Drilling Oil and Gas Wells	8,541	127	\$171,600
Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations	25,238	715	\$157,976
Support Activities for Coal Mining	83	5	\$102,284
Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures Construction	23,688	207	\$116,480
Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction	10,275	212	\$123,396
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	7,345	72	\$173,836
Petrochemical Manufacturing	12,764	38	\$162,136
Industrial Gas Manufacturing	2,885	31	\$246,116
Turbine and Turbine Generator Set Units Manufacturing	167	12	\$131,716
Battery Manufacturing	343	17	\$114,816
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	14,935	164	\$155,064
Natural Gas Distribution	4,055	60	\$170,612
Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals)	9,400	188	\$198,848
Pipeline Transportation of Crude Oil	4,421	27	\$129,272
Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas	9,908	51	\$234,052
Pipeline Transportation of Refined Petroleum Products	372	9	\$160,628
Engineering Services	52,824	1,926	\$170,664
Regulation and Administration of Communications, Electric, Gas, and Other Utilities	26	4	\$38,376
Total:	221,947	4,239	

*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 foundational history of over a century in the aerospace and aviation industry and is where the future of aerospace and aviation is being built. The Houston region is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, the FAA-licensed Houston Spaceport, a growing commercial space sector, and an aviation ecosystem, supported by talent, infrastructure, and industry partnerships.

For more than 60 years, NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) has served as the nation's center for human spaceflight, leading astronaut training, mission control, spacecraft operations, and human systems research for every U.S. crewed space mission. Today, JSC remains at the operational forefront of NASA's Artemis program, working alongside an expanding commercial space industry developing the next generation of spacecraft, lunar systems, and technologies that will enable sustained exploration of the Moon and Mars.

The region's commercial space ecosystem continues to expand around JSC and the FAA-licensed Houston Spaceport. Adjacent to JSC, Exploration Park is being developed as a collaborative campus where industry, academia, and government accelerate innovation. Opening in the fall of 2026, the Texas A&M University Space Institute will add advanced research, testing, workforce development, and mission development capabilities, including simulated Moon and Mars environments. The institute is backed by the Texas Space Commission, which was established by the state legislature in 2023 to promote innovation and commercial opportunities.



Courtesy: Official Visitor Center of NASA Johnson Space Center

Houston's aviation network supports commercial passenger service, cargo operations, business aviation, military aviation, flight training, aircraft maintenance, and advanced manufacturing. The region is also helping shape the future of aviation as one of the Federal Aviation Administration's initial Advanced Air Mobility Integration Pilot Program sites, advancing the safe integration of electric aircraft and other emerging aviation technologies.

2 international airports → 200 nonstop destinations → 37 countries (including the U.S.)



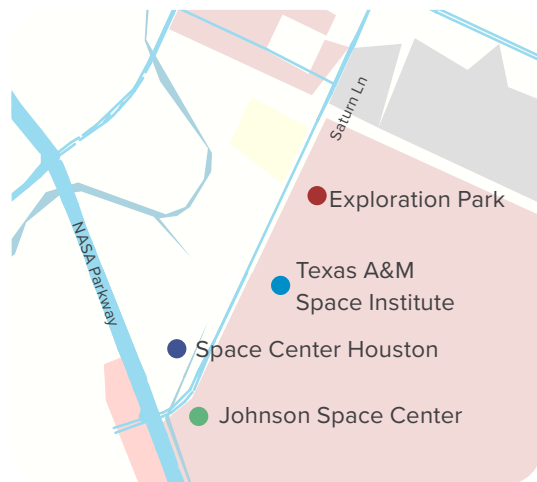
500+ aerospace and aviation companies and institutions



43,128 aerospace and aviation professionals



1 FAA-licensed commercial spaceport



Notable Employers

Axiom Space
Boeing
Houston Airport System
Intuitive Machines
KBR
Lockheed Martin
NASA Johnson Space Center
Southwest Airlines
United Airlines

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

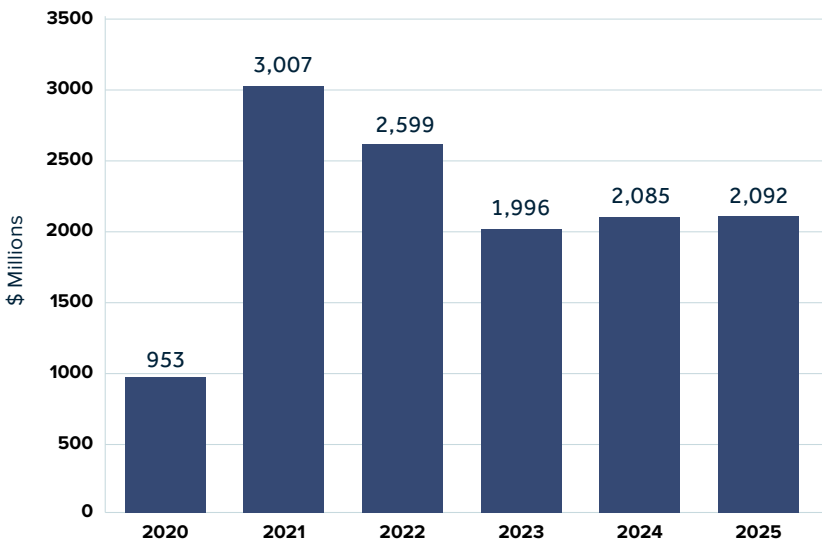
INNOVATION

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 154,938 tech workers representing 4.3% of the region’s workforce, and 7,675 technology-related firms, according to CompTIA. Innovation hubs such as The Ion also support entrepreneurs, startups and research commercialization across the region.

Over the past five years, Houston-area companies raised \$12.7 billion in venture capital (VC) across 2,298 deals. Venture capital investment totaled \$2.1 billion in '25, according to financial database PitchBook.

Energy attracted the most VC investment in '25, with \$569 million across 24 deals. Health care followed with \$545 million across 83 deals, while information technology received \$518 million across 77 deals.

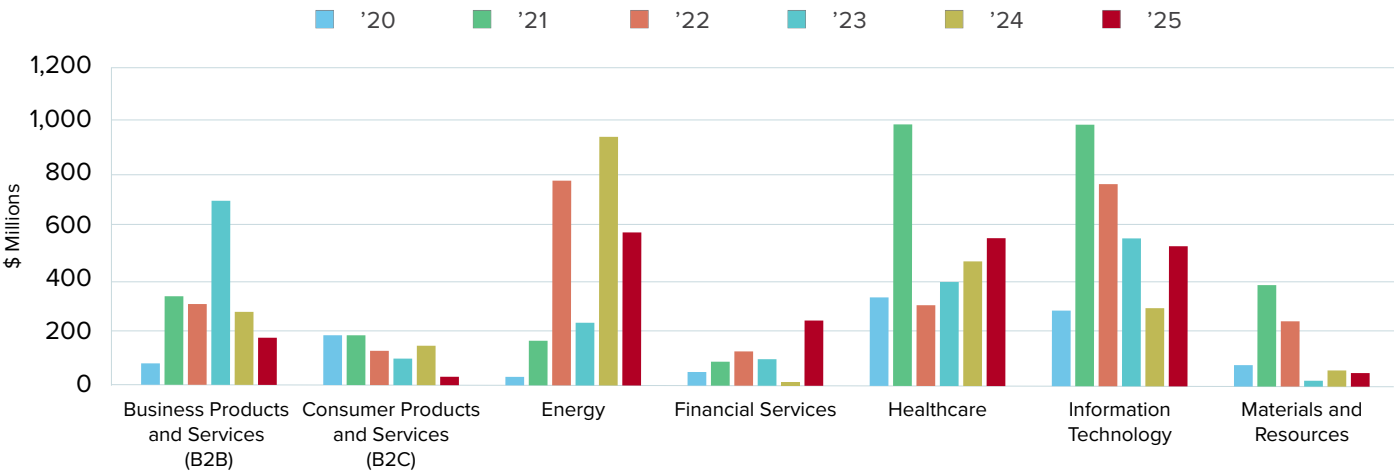
VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTED IN HOUSTON



Source: Partnership analysis of Pitchbook data

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

By Industry



Source: Partnership analysis of Pitchbook data

LARGEST HOUSTON-AREA VENTURE CAPITAL DEALS IN '25

Fervo Energy \$462M	EndoQuest Robotics \$59M
Zolve \$251M	Indapta Therapeutics \$51M
Merama \$215M	Cart.com \$50M
Baylor Genetics \$102M	Persona AI \$42M
CoRegen \$93M	Smartpipe Technologies \$30M



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.

\$3.17B

General fund FY '26

Current elected officials serving four-year terms:

John Whitmire
Houston Mayor

Chris Hollins
City Controller

16
City Council members

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.

\$2.77B

Harris County general fund FY '26

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 governed by its Board of Directors, which is made up of 38 elected officials representing 13 counties, 109 cities, and 12 independent 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.

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

- 181 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

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 | Fort Bend and Harris County

District 8 | Harris, Montgomery, and San Jacinto Counties

District 9 | Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties

District 10 | Austin and Waller Counties

District 14 | Brazoria, Chambers, and Galveston Counties

District 18 | Harris County

District 22 | Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties

District 29 | Harris County

District 36 | Chambers, Harris, and Liberty Counties

District 38 | Harris County

** Denotes districts boundaries as of 2026. Texas completed redistricting in 2025, establishing new district boundaries scheduled to take effect in January 2027.*

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. Property taxes on the assessed value of homes are the primary source of local government revenue in the Houston region.

TYPICAL PROPERTY TAXES

Tax Rate Per \$100 Taxable Value | 2025

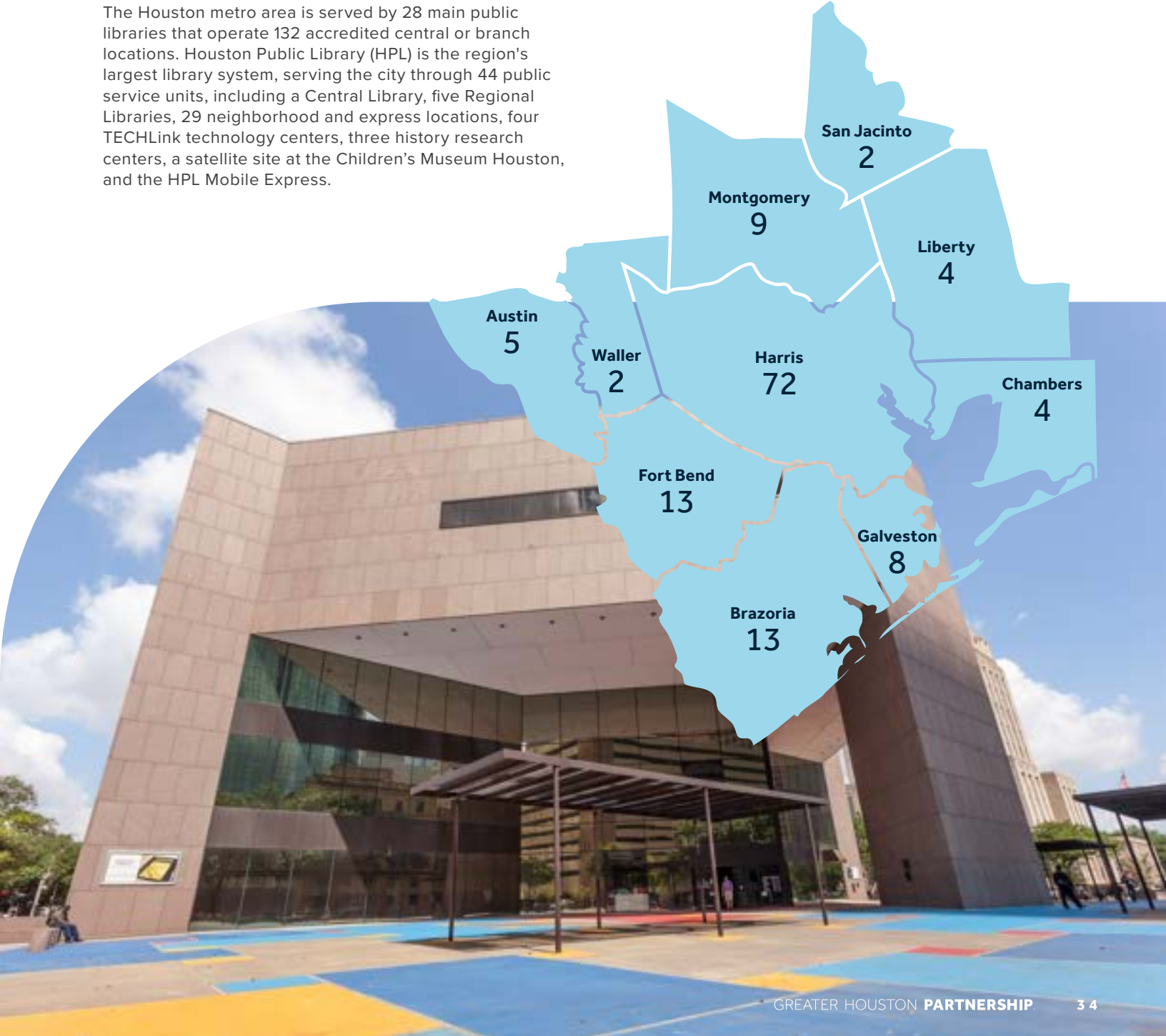
City of Houston	\$0.51919
Harris County	\$0.38036
Houston ISD	\$0.87830
Houston City College	\$0.09880

LIBRARIES

The Houston metro area is served by 28 main public libraries that operate 132 accredited central or branch locations. Houston Public Library (HPL) is the region's largest library system, serving 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 METRO HOUSTON

Source: Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Public Library Accreditation Statistics



EDUCATION

The Houston metro is home to 104 traditional public school districts and charters across 10 counties, according to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The state measures districts on how well they prepare high school graduates to be college, career, or military ready (CCMR), based on criteria such as meeting score benchmarks on the SAT or ACT, or earning an industry-based certification in high school. In '25, the percentage of high school graduates meeting CCMR benchmarks ranged from 69 percent to 93 percent across the counties in the region.

There are more than 25 colleges and universities in the region that prepare students for the workforce through educational degrees and workforce training programs. Enrollment in Texas public two-year community, state, and technical colleges declined by more than 25,000 students from '19 to '20 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while enrollment in public four-year, public health, and private institutions declined only slightly or continued to grow, based on data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Two-year colleges did not reach pre-pandemic levels of student enrollment until '25. In '23, Texas House Bill 8 allocated funds through the community college finance system to support programs that prepare students for high-demand careers or to transfers to four-year universities, likely helping attract more students and drive enrollment gains.

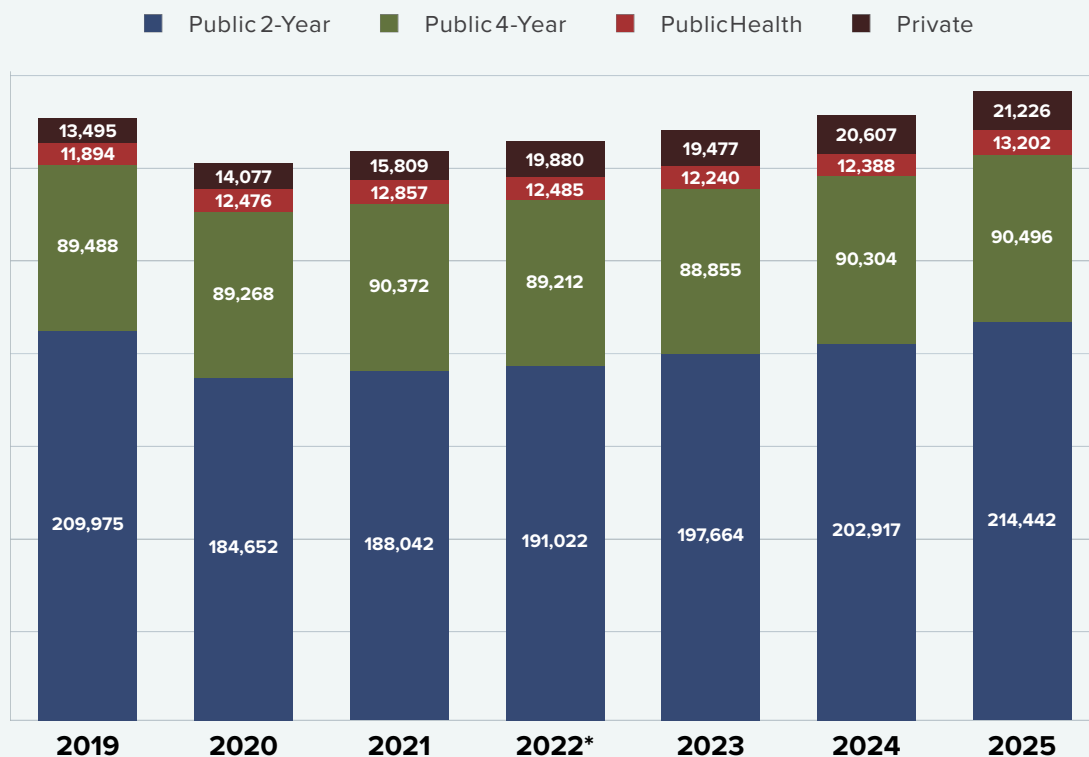


PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES DEEMED COLLEGE, CAREER, AND MILITARY READY (CCMR)
by County, '25

County	CCMR Count	Graduates Count	% of Graduates Deemed CCMR
AUSTIN	315	434	72.6
BRAZORIA	4,738	5,662	83.7
CHAMBERS	601	646	93.0
FORT BEND	7,411	9,638	76.9
GALVESTON	4,613	5,878	78.5
HARRIS	48,350	60,408	80.0
LIBERTY	1,076	1,481	72.7
MONTGOMERY	7,453	8,980	83.0
SAN JACINTO	226	247	91.5
WALLER	585	845	69.2

Source: TEA 2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), CCMR, College Ready, and TSI Criteria (Annual Graduates), District by County Report

TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Houston Metro, 2019-2025



Note: Public 2-Year includes Texas Community & State Colleges and Texas State Technical Colleges. Private includes 2-Year, 4-Year, and Health-Related Institutions.

*The 2022 count added three additional private institutions that had not previously reported to THECB: College of Biblical Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Western Governor's University. Thus, enrollment from 2022-2025 should not be compared to enrollments in prior years.

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Certified Fall Enrollments 2019-2022, 2022-2025

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 '25:

- Delivers electricity to 2.8 million customers across a 5,000-square-mile area via 3,900 miles of transmission and over 60,000 miles of distribution lines.
- Owns and operates over 2,200 miles of transmission right-of-way, including more than 30,000 transmission towers.
- Electricity demand in Houston is projected to increase by nearly 50 percent from '24 to '29.
- 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 283 competitive local exchange carriers, or CLECs, to provide local phone service in the state.
- The Texas PUC has registered 155 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 1.2 billion gallons per day (GPD) of reliable surface water and over 200 million GPD of available groundwater.

Water Sources

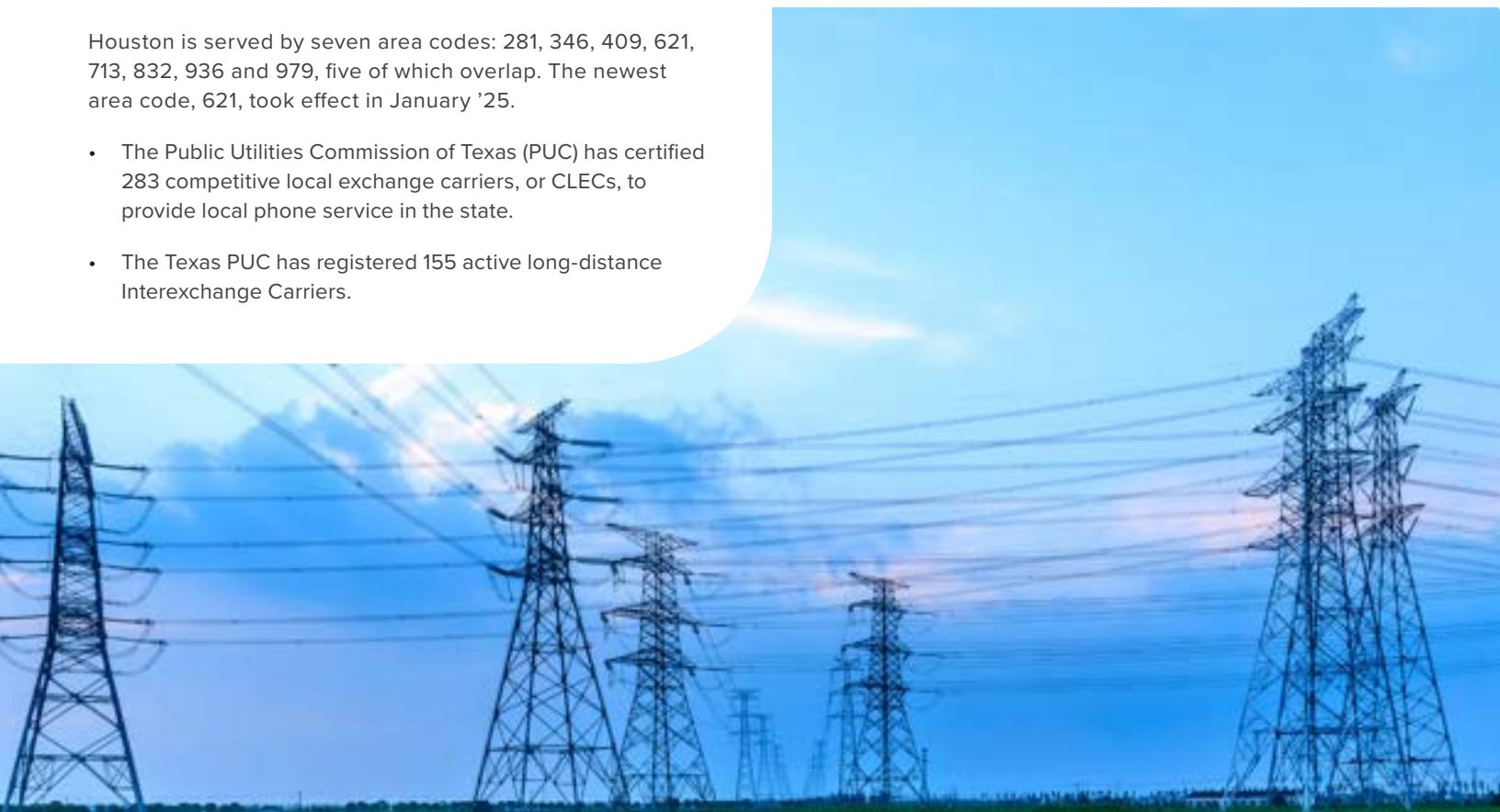
Owns 70% of Lake Livingston, Lake Conroe, and 100% of Lake Houston.

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 over 370 lift stations.





LAND TRANSPORTATION

Motor Freight Lines

1,625

long-distance trucking establishments operating in the Houston MSA in Q4/25

Railroads

The Houston area is served by BNSF Railway Company, Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad Company. Businesses along the Houston Ship Channel are served by the Galveston Railroad, Port Terminal Railroad Association, Texas City Terminal Railway Company and Trans-Global Solutions.

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.

Freeways, Highways, and Toll Roads

There are 3,450 centerline miles and 11,910 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.

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 '25

\$2.3B

on construction and maintenance projects in Houston District

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) | HOUSTON DISTRICT FY '25

107.4M

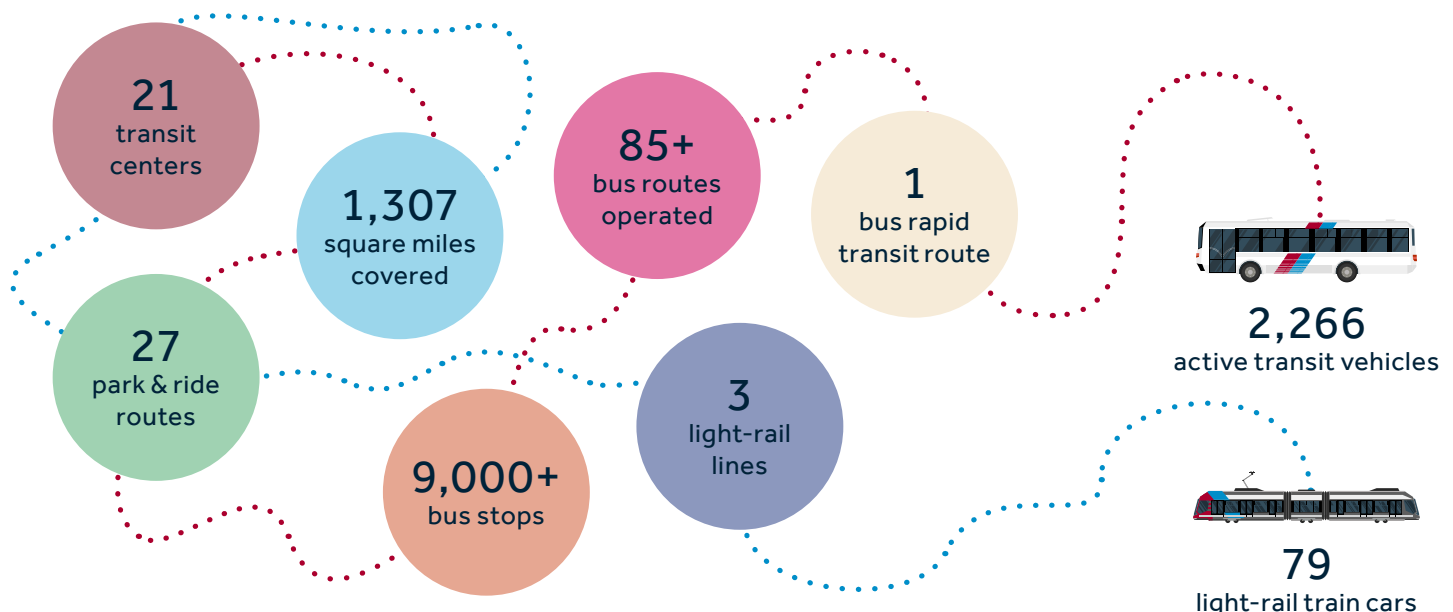
vehicle miles traveled per day

18.9 miles

average VMT per vehicle

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 Association (APTA) has honored METRO as the Best Transit Agency in North America three times – most recently in '20.



SEA PORTS

4
Seaports

268.9M
metric tons of foreign
trade handled in '25

Port Houston

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

75%
of all container traffic on the
U.S. Gulf Coast is handled
at Port Houston.

In '25, Port Houston hit a new
record for container traffic,
handling 4.3 million total twenty-
foot-equivalent containers units
(TEUs). That represents a 4
percent increase over the previous
record in '24, with loaded exports
increasing by 7 percent and loaded
imports increasing by 1 percent.

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
213 countries in '25. Of those, trade
with 41 countries exceeded one
billion dollars each while trade with
54 additional countries exceeded
\$100 million. The port's top trading
partner by value is China and
by weight is the Netherlands,
with the Port of Rotterdam
serving as a gateway to trade
elsewhere in Europe.

TOP FIVE TRADING PARTNERS Port of Houston, 2025

Rank	Description	In Billions (\$)
1	China	18.5
2	Netherlands	16.7
3	Mexico	14.1
4	Brazil	11.3
5	India	9.4
Total Top 5 Trading Partners		70.0
All Other Trading Partners		135.8
Total All Partner Countries		205.8

Rank	Description	In Million Metric Tons
1	Netherlands	25.0
2	Mexico	23.5
3	China	14.1
4	Japan	12.4
5	Brazil	11.2
Total Top 5 Trading Partners		86.6
All Other Trading Partners		133.6
Total All Trading Partners		220.1

*Note: Includes only commodities carried by sea vessels
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Harmonized System Port-Level Data*



Courtesy: Port Houston

PORT HOUSTON FOREIGN TRADE IN '25		
	Million Metric Tons	Trade Value (\$Billions)
Imports	45.2	80.6
Exports	168.0	205.8
Total Foreign Trade	213.2	205.8

*Note: Includes only commodities carried by sea vessels
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Harmonized System Port-Level Data*

TOP FIVE TRADED COMMODITIES

Port of Houston, 2025

Rank	Description	In Billions (\$)
1	Mineral Fuels, Oil and Refined Products	77.4
2	Industrial Equipment and Computers	19.2
3	Organic Chemicals	15.8
4	Plastics and Plastic Products	15.5
5	Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Parts	14.1
Total Top 5 Commodities		142.0
All Other Commodities		63.9
Total All Commodities		205.8

Rank	Description	In Million Metric Tons
1	Mineral Fuels, Oil and Refined Products	142.4
2	Organic Chemicals	19.2
3	Plastics and Plastic Products	12.9
4	Salt, Sulfur, Stone, Lime and Cement Plaster	5.9
5	Cereals	5.5
Total Top 5 Commodities		185.8
All Other Commodities		27.4
Total All Commodities		213.2

*Note: Includes only commodities carried by sea vessels
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Harmonized System Port-Level Data*

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 37.5 to 46 feet. More than 200 public and private terminals 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, 2025

1 ST		Port Houston		213.1
13 TH		Port Freeport		35.7
29 TH		Port of Texas City		10.5
33 RD		Port of Galveston		9.5

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



AIR TRANSPORTATION

Houston is an international air gateway. 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) received high honors at the Skytrax 2026 World Airport Awards ceremony. Both Bush Intercontinental and William P. Hobby ranked among the World's Top 100 airports, claiming No. 29 and No. 39, respectively. They were the first- and fourth-highest ranking U.S. airports in those rankings.

The Houston Airport System handled 559,089 metric tons of air freight in '25. Outbound cargo accounted for 46.9 percent, while inbound cargo accounted for 53.1 percent.

62.1 million

passengers served at **George Bush Intercontinental & William P. Hobby** Airports in '25

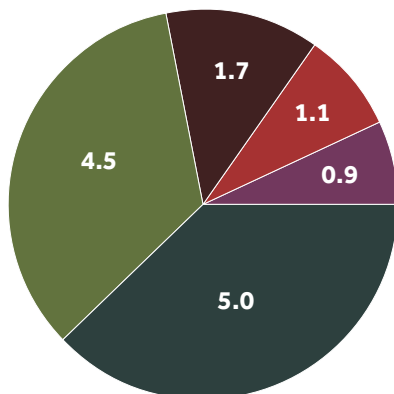
48.7 million

passengers on domestic routes

13.3 million

passengers on international routes, including:

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



Source: Houston Airport System





COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

BROADCAST

According to Nielsen, the Houston television market is the sixth largest in the nation for the '25–'26 television season, with approximately 2.9 million TV households.

KPRC-TV (Channel 2)

NBC affiliate

KUHT-TV (Channel 8)

PBS member station

KHOU-TV (Channel 11)

CBS affiliate

KTRK-TV (Channel 13)

ABC affiliate

KRIV-TV (Channel 26)

FOX affiliate

KIAH-TV (Channel 39)

CW affiliate (CW39)

KXLN-DT (Channel 45)

Univision affiliate/owned-and-operated station

KTMD-TV (Channel 47)

Telemundo affiliate/owned-and-operated station

The University of Houston's KUHT-TV aired its first broadcast on May 25, 1953, becoming the nation's first non-commercial educational television station and the forerunner of public television in the United States.

According to Nielsen Audio's Fall 2025 Radio Market Survey, the Houston-Galveston radio market ranks fifth in the nation, with a population of approximately 6.8 million persons age 12 and older.

Popular Houston-area radio stations include:

KSBJ-FM (89.3)

KODA-FM (Sunny 99.1)

KMJQ-FM (Majic 102.1)

KTBZ-FM (The Buzz 94.5)

KGLK-FM (The Eagle 107.5)

KKHH-FM (95.7 The Spot)

KUHF-FM (News 88.7)

KKBQ-FM (93Q)

KQQK-FM (El Norte 107.9)

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA BY TYPE

Houston MSA, 2025

Media Type	Establishments	Jobs	Average Annual Wage
Newspaper Publishers	63	789	\$90,636
Periodical Publishers	77	1,122	\$120,900
Book Publishers	35	274	\$120,276
Radio Broadcasting Stations	30	537	\$111,852
Television Broadcasting Stations	9	430	\$115,232
Media Streaming Distribution Services, Social Networks, and Other Media Networks and Content Providers	139	1,457	\$108,836

DIGITAL AND PRINT

Houston's major daily newspaper is the Houston Chronicle. Founded in 1901, it is one of Texas' most widely read news organizations and remains a leading source of news and information for the Houston region through its print and digital platforms.

Print and Digital Outlets in Houston

Axios Houston	Houston Business Journal
Houston Chronicle	Houston Public Media
Chron.com	Houstonia Magazine
Community Impact	PaperCity Magazine
CultureMap Houston	Realty News Report



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

LIFE IN HOUSTON

COST OF LIVING

Houston's living costs are 7.0 percent below the U.S. urban average and 25.1 percent below the average of the nation's 20 most populous metropolitan areas.

Housing costs in Houston are 20.2 percent below the U.S. urban average and approximately 50.8 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 41.4 percent below the major metro average.

HOUSTON RANKS AS 3RD MOST AFFORDABLE METRO

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

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	239.0	116.1	511.3	117.7	119.2	143.3	129.6
San Francisco, CA	163.7	115.4	254.0	150.1	141.8	124.3	120.6
Los Angeles, CA	152.4	109.2	235.4	109.3	138.3	96.6	121.1
Boston, MA	148.5	102.7	221.0	154.8	105.2	134.2	116.8
San Diego, CA	147.4	112.3	209.5	149.3	143.1	99.6	116.0
Seattle, WA	144.6	110.9	203.6	100.6	134.8	120.2	124.8
Washington, DC	137.8	104.8	204.7	103.3	105.2	120.7	113.1
Miami, FL	120.1	108.8	157.2	103.7	100.0	82.4	107.2
Chicago, IL	117.6	103.5	143.7	94.8	104.7	115.9	110.4
Denver, CO	110.0	101.9	120.2	87.3	98.8	119.1	112.1
Philadelphia, PA	107.2	104.2	108.1	109.6	104.6	104.5	108.3
Phoenix, AR	105.3	102.6	112.3	106.4	109.2	95.8	100.5
Detroit, MI	100.6	101.2	99.2	99.3	105.3	104.1	100.3
Dallas, TX	98.5	98.2	89.2	113.3	88.9	101.6	105.1
Tampa, FL	97.3	105.5	89.6	107.6	101.6	91.8	97.5
Atlanta, GA	94.7	101.3	83.2	102.5	104.3	98.4	96.8
Houston, TX	93.0	97.7	79.8	91.6	96.0	96.3	101.6
Minneapolis, MN	92.0	101.5	80.4	95.7	96.5	91.0	96.1
Orlando, FL	90.6	104.3	77.8	96.4	96.0	82.5	94.0

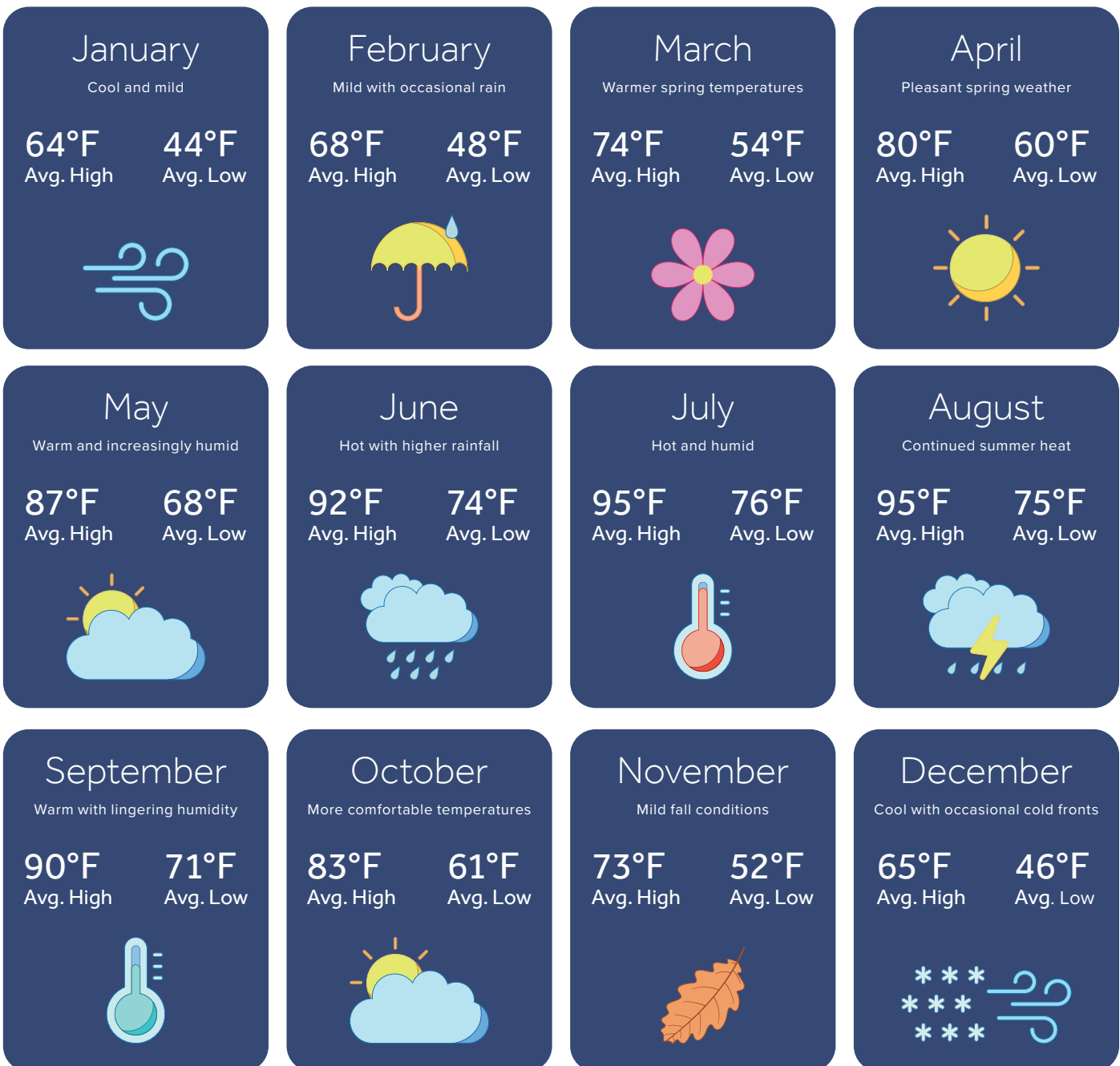
*Metro areas represented by most dominant urban area. Riverside, California is among the 20 most populous MSAs but did not submit COLI data.
Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), Cost of Living Index, 25 Annual Average (Data based on a survey of 257 urban areas).



WEATHER

Houston's climate is classified as humid subtropical, characterized by long, hot summers and mild winters. Average high temperatures typically reach the mid-90s °F during the summer, while winters are generally short and cool. Rainfall occurs throughout the year, with higher precipitation typically occurring in late spring and early summer. Houston's location along the Gulf Coast places the region within the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June through November.

HOUSTON WEATHER Monthly Average



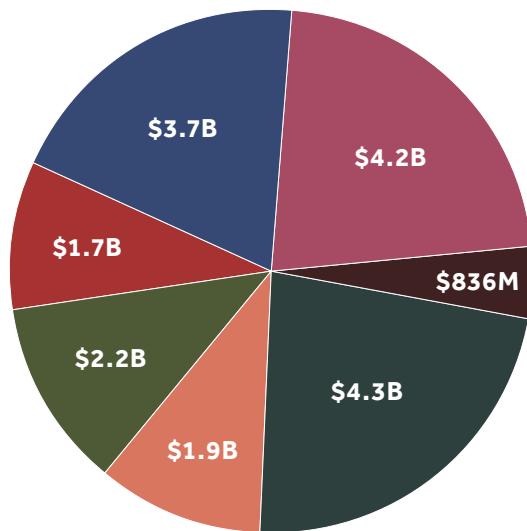
TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Travelers spent \$22.6 billion in metro Houston in '25, according to Dean Runyan Associates, which gathered the data on behalf of the Office of the Texas Governor. Their spending supported over 139,316 jobs in the region, paid almost \$8.1 billion in salaries and wages, and generated \$2.1 billion in tax revenue.

METRO HOUSTON Q4/25

1,307 hotels and motels 78 campgrounds and RV parks

TRAVELER SPENDING IN METRO HOUSTON 2025



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



Courtesy: Houston First

604

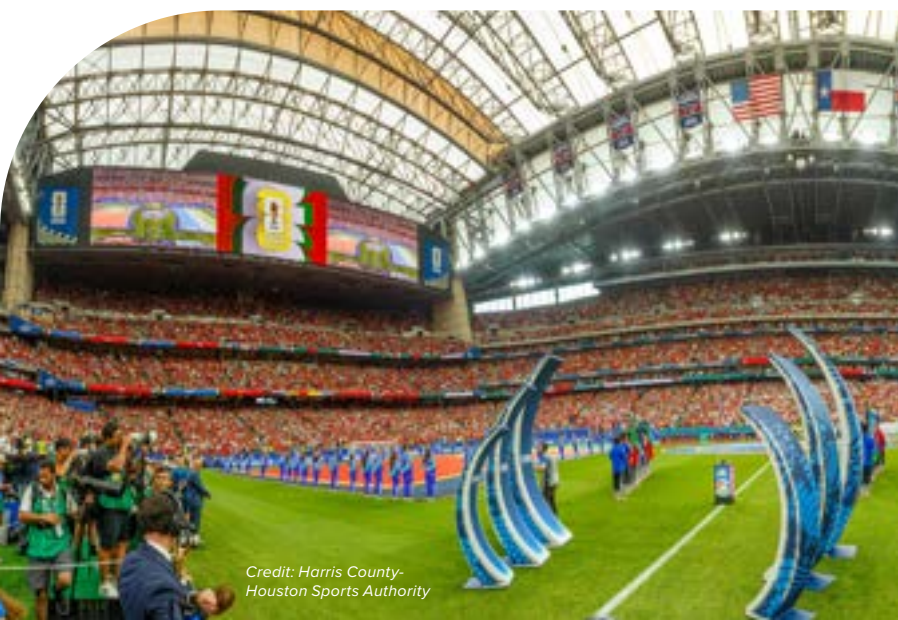
conventions hosted with more than 740,000 attendees in '24, up from 560 conventions with approximately 688,000 attendees in '23

Source: Houston First Corporation

Houston hosted seven '26 FIFA World Cup matches at NRG Stadium: five group-stage matches, one Round of 32, and one Round of 16.

- Thirteen national teams competed in Houston: Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Curaçao, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and Uzbekistan.
- Houston also served as the official team base camp for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Preparations for the World Cup accelerated more than 200 long-term infrastructure projects across the region, representing nearly \$500 million in investment. Projects included the Main Street Promenade, neighborhood park improvements, and the resurfacing of 400 lane miles of streets.

Source: City of Houston



Credit: Harris County-Houston Sports Authority

DINING

Houston restaurants feature outstanding regional dishes and diverse international cuisine.

13,492

food service and drinking establishments

~292,000

employees

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

These establishments included 5,069 full-service restaurants, 5,087 limited-service eating places, 639 drinking establishments, 1,923 snack bars, and 774 other food service establishments. From Laotian and Tex-Mex to inventive fusion concepts, Houston's dining scene reflects the region's broad cultural diversity. The region is also home to more than 40 Michelin recognized restaurants and eight James Beard winners. Below are the 2025 recognitions.

2025 Michelin Star 1

BCN Taste and Tradition

Corkscrew

Le Jardinier

March

Musaafer

Tatemo

2025 Michelin Bib Gourmand

Annam

Nam Giao

Blood Bros BBQ

Nancy's Hustle

ChòpnBlòk

Papalo Taqueria

CasaEma

Pinkerton's Barbecue

da Gama Canteen

Rosie Cannonball

Killen's

Street to Kitchen

Killen's BBQ

The Pit Room

Mala Sichuan Bistro

Theodore Rex

Maximo

Truth BBQ

Nobie's

2025 James Beard Winners

Emerging Chef (National):

Adrian Torres, Maximo

Best Chef (Texas):

Evelyn Garcia and Henry Lu, JŪN

ARTS AND CULTURE

Performance Arts

Resident companies in drama, ballet, opera, and orchestra perform year-round in Houston. 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. One of the nation's leading resident theaters, it produces up to 16 productions annually and serves audiences throughout the Houston region.

HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, opened in 2002, is home to Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Broadway at the Hobby Center, 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 hosts approximately 250 events annually.

BAYOU MUSIC CENTER, located in Bayou Place, is a 2,815-capacity live entertainment venue that hosts concerts, comedy performances, and special events.

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 arts organizations.

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 features a 1,100-seat hall and event facilities.

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE (GALVESTON) seats approximately 1,000 and presents Broadway productions, concerts, comedy, and other performing arts events.

WHITE OAK MUSIC HALL, opened in 2016, features multiple indoor and outdoor performance spaces and hosts a wide variety of live music and entertainment events.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Dance

HOUSTON BALLET, one of the nation's largest ballet companies, stages major productions and operates extensive education and community engagement programs.

Literature

INPRINT, a literary nonprofit, hosts readings, workshops, and fellowships, connecting Houston audiences with nationally and internationally recognized authors.

Music

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

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA (HGO) is an internationally recognized opera company known for world premieres, artistic excellence, and extensive education and community engagement programs.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY, founded in 1913, is a Grammy Award-winning orchestra that performs classical and popular programs while providing education and community engagement initiatives throughout the region.

Performance Arts

PERFORMING ARTS HOUSTON presents a broad range of national and international touring artists and performing arts programs. The organization was formerly known as the Society for the Performing Arts (SPA).

Theater

A.D. PLAYERS produces faith-based theatrical productions and educational programs at the George Theater.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE is one of the nation's leading African American theater companies, presenting culturally relevant productions and educational outreach programs.

MAIN STREET THEATER (MST)

produces a MainStage season and Theater for Youth programming at multiple Houston venues, including MATCH.

STAGES produces contemporary plays and musicals at The Gordy, a three-theater performing arts venue located near downtown Houston.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS (TUTS) produces Broadway-style musicals and offers musical theater education and training programs through the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre.

MUSEUMS

Houston Museum District

The Houston Museum District is home to a diverse collection of museums, cultural centers, and educational institutions dedicated to promoting art, science, history, and culture.

ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER

presents exhibitions, educational programs, and cultural events exploring the arts, culture, and societies of Asia.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

preserves the history, legacy, and contributions of African Americans who served in the U.S. military.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON

features interactive exhibits and educational experiences designed to inspire learning and creativity in children.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON (CAMH)

is a non-collecting institution presenting contemporary art exhibitions, publications, and public programs.

CZECH CENTER MUSEUM HOUSTON

preserves and promotes Czech and Slovak culture, history, and heritage through exhibitions, educational programs, and cultural events.

DIVERSEWORKS presents innovative visual, performing, and literary arts through exhibitions, performances, and public programs.

THE HEALTH MUSEUM

offers interactive exhibits and educational programs focused on health, medicine, and the human body.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

educates about the Holocaust and promotes human rights through exhibitions, education, and community programs.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

showcases contemporary craft through exhibitions, artist residencies, and educational programs featuring disciplines such as fiber, metal, wood, and clay.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

exhibits contemporary photography and offers educational programs, workshops, and artist talks.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE (HMAAC)

showcases African American art, history, and culture through exhibitions, programs, and community engagement initiatives.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE (HMNS)

features exhibits on paleontology, astronomy, natural history, and science, along with educational programs and special exhibitions.

HOUSTON ZOO is a 55-acre zoological park housing thousands of animals and offering conservation, education, and wildlife experiences.

THE JUNG CENTER OF HOUSTON

offers programs on psychology, spirituality, and the arts.

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

presents contemporary art exhibitions with an emphasis on emerging and mid-career artists from Texas and the Gulf Coast region.

THE MENIL COLLECTION

houses a diverse collection of art spanning ancient to modern works, including Surrealist, Byzantine, African, and contemporary art.



Art & Design

BLAFFER ART MUSEUM, located at the University of Houston, presents contemporary art exhibitions and public programs featuring emerging and established artists.

SEISMIQUE is an immersive art and technology experience featuring interactive exhibits, digital installations, and multimedia environments.

Science & Technology

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON is the official visitor center of NASA's Johnson Space Center, featuring spaceflight exhibits, artifacts, and educational programs.

LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM features historic aircraft, aviation exhibits, and educational programs that explore the history and future of flight.

History & Culture

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY offers exhibits on funeral traditions, cultural practices, historical artifacts, and the evolution of memorial customs around the world.

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK preserves historic buildings, artifacts, and the history of Houston through exhibits, tours, and educational programs.

HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM preserves the history of firefighting in Houston through exhibits, artifacts, and educational programs housed in a restored historic fire station.

Specialty & Interactive

COLOR FACTORY is an immersive art experience featuring colorful installations, interactive exhibits, and activities designed to engage visitors of all ages.

HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM preserves maritime history through exhibits, artifacts, and educational programs focused on navigation, shipping, and seafaring traditions.

MUSEUM OF ILLUSIONS HOUSTON features optical illusions, immersive exhibits, and interactive experiences that explore visual perception and the science of illusion.

Courtesy: Houston First



MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS at Rice University presents interdisciplinary exhibitions, performances, and programs that connect art, science, and technology.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON (MFAH) is one of the largest art museums in the United States, featuring more than 70,000 works spanning 6,000 years of history.

ROTHKO CHAPEL is a non-denominational chapel featuring 14 murals by Mark Rothko and serving as a center for contemplation, dialogue, and human rights initiatives.

Museums Outside the Museum District

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

RECURRING EVENTS AND FESTIVALS



MARCH

Holi Houston
Credit: Houston Holi

JANUARY



MLK Unity Parade
Credit: MLK Grande Parade

FEBRUARY



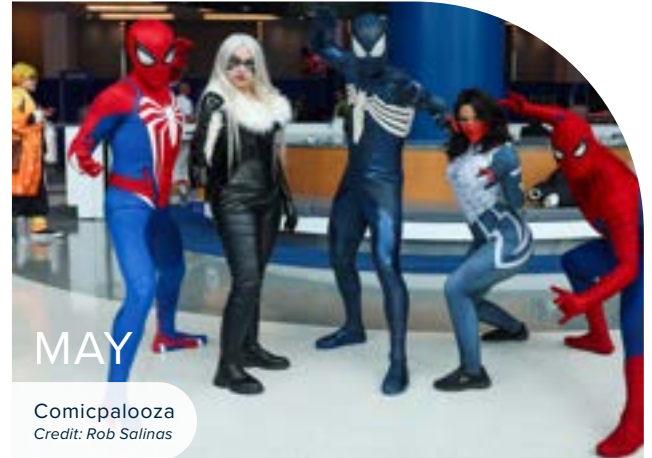
Texas Lunar New Year Houston
Credit: Chinese Community Center

APRIL

Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Texas
North American Championship
Credit: Memorial Hermann Iron Man Texas

MAY

Comicpalooza
Credit: Rob Salinas



Garden Fest -
Port Arthur, Texas
Credit: Visit Port Arthur

JUNE



JULY



Great Texas Mosquito Festival – Brazosport
Credit: University of Houston

Houston
Shakespeare Festival
Credit: University of Houston

AUGUST



SEPTEMBER

Japan Festival
Courtesy: Visit Houston



Bayou City Art Festival
Credit: University of Houston

OCTOBER



Dickens on the Strand – Galveston
Credit: University of Houston



DECEMBER

The Nutcracker Market
Credit: University of Houston

NOVEMBER



RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

According to the Kinder Institute for Urban Research's 2024 Houston Area Survey, religious affiliation in the Houston area has shifted significantly in recent years, reflecting broader national trends toward secularization and increasing religious diversity.

38%

Protestant (43% in 2020)

26%

Catholic (32% in 2020)

~1%

Jewish (relatively stable)

9%

Other Religions (6% in 2020)

27%

No Religious Affiliation (19% in 2020)

24%

said religion is "not important" in their lives (10% in 2009)

AL-NOOR MOSQUE, established in 1987, is one of Houston's largest and most prominent mosques, serving a diverse Muslim community through religious, educational, and community programs.

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, founded in 1866, was the first African American Baptist church in Houston and remains an important institution in the city's religious and cultural history.

BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR, located in Stafford, is a traditional Hindu temple known for its intricate hand-carved stone architecture and cultural programs.

CENTRO ISLÁMICO, opened in 2016, is recognized as the nation's first Spanish-speaking mosque and serves Houston's Hispanic Muslim community through religious, educational, and outreach programs.

CHAPEL OF ST. BASIL, located at the University of St. Thomas, was designed by architect Philip Johnson and is recognized for its distinctive modern architecture.

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

CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART, one of the principal churches of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, traces its history to the 1890s. The current cathedral opened in 2008.

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN, one of the largest Conservative synagogues in the United States, has served Houston's Jewish community for more than 120 years.

ISMAILI JAMATKHANA AND CENTER, opened in 2002 in Sugar Land, serves as a religious, cultural, and community center for the Ismaili Muslim community.

LAKEWOOD CHURCH, one of the largest congregations in the United States, is led by Pastor Joel Osteen and attracts worshippers from across the Houston region and beyond.

MTO SHAHMAGHSOUDI SCHOOL OF ISLAMIC SUFISM is a spiritual and cultural center known for its distinctive architecture, artistic design, and educational programs rooted in the Sufi tradition.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH, founded in 1912, was the first church in Houston to offer services in Spanish and remains an important center for the city's Hispanic Catholic community.

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, built in 1896 in Galveston, is one of the oldest Serbian Orthodox churches in the United States and a significant landmark of the region's immigrant history.



ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, founded in 1952, is the largest Episcopal church in North America and serves a large and diverse congregation through worship, education, and community outreach programs.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, established in 1905, is known for its Neo-Gothic architecture and long-standing role in Houston's religious and civic life.

TEXAS GUANDI TEMPLE, founded in 1999, is a Chinese temple dedicated to Guandi and serves as a religious and cultural center for the Houston area's Chinese community.

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON (ISGH), established in 1969, is one of the largest Islamic organizations in North America and serves the Houston region through mosques, schools, and community programs.

ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, opened in 1998, serves Houston's Zoroastrian community through religious, cultural, educational, and community activities.

CONVENTION & EVENT CENTERS

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

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER

RELIANT CENTER

FORT BEND EPICENTER

THE POST OAK HOTEL CONVENTION & EVENT SPACE

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE

SPORTS STADIUMS & ARENAS

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

RELIANT STADIUM

RICE STADIUM

DAIKIN PARK

FERTITTA CENTER

TOYOTA CENTER

CONSTELLATION FIELD

TDECU STADIUM

SHELL ENERGY STADIUM

TRAINING & SPORTS FACILITIES

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

RELIANT PARK

HOUSTON SPORTS PARK

RELIANT ARENA

SABERCATS STADIUM

EQUESTRIAN & RACING VENUES

These venues host equestrian activities, community events, festivals, concerts, and other special events.

SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK

HOUSTON POLO CLUB

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 Energy Stadium



Houston Dynamo FC

Major League Soccer's
Shell Energy Stadium



Houston Rockets

Western Conference in the
National Basketball Association
Toyota Center



Houston Texans

American Football Conference
in the National Football League
Reliant Stadium

Credit: Harris County-
Houston Sports Authority



2026 HOUSTON FACTS

PARKS AND RECREATION

City of Houston

43,153
acres of parkland

720
parks

65%
of Houston residents live within
a 10-minute walk of a park

16.7
acres per 1,000 residents

12.2%
parks represent the city's
adjusted land area

Source: Trust for Public Land

Houston's oldest municipal park is Sam Houston Park, established in 1899, while the city's largest municipal park is Cullen Park with 9,270 acres, making it one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Hermann Park is the most visited park in the Houston region, attracting 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 38,486 acres.

City of Houston Park Amenities

161
baseball and softballs fields

19
football/cricket/lacrosse fields

232
playgrounds

86
soccer fields

194
basketball courts

5
golf courses

38
pools

204
tennis courts/centers

60
community centers

196.81
miles of trails

76
practice backstops

20
volleyball courts

15
dog parks

56
pickleball courts

7
skateparks

27
water spraygrounds

Major Houston Area Parks

Buffalo Bayou Park
(160 acres)

Cullen Park
(9,270 acres)

Herman Brown Park
(717 acres)

Hermann Park
(445 acres)

Keith-Wiess Park
(500 acres)

Lake Houston Wilderness Park
(4,787 acres)

Memorial Park
(1,466 acres)



Courtesy: SWA Photographer - David Lloyd

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.

1840s

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

1850s

- 1850 First census after Texas joins the United States counts 2,396 Houstonians. Galveston, with 4,117 residents, is the state's largest city.
- 1853 Houston's first railroad — the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad — begins operations.
- 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

- 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.
- 2026 ○ Congress appropriates \$5 million for the Coastal Texas Project (or "Ike Dike").
- 2026 ○ Bloomberg Philanthropies grants Houston City College \$17 million to expand skilled-trade education.
- 2026 ○ Houston hosts the FIFA World Cup 2026™ with seven total matches.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

