



Smith County Economic Overview 2024

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*Note This report was originally produced by Chmura Economics & Analytics Economics, an economic consulting company contracted by the Hibbs Institute.

Demographic Profile

The population in Smith County, Texas was 234,667 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022. The region has a civilian labor force of 114,688 with a participation rate of 62.4%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Smith County, Texas, 27.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation. The median household income in Smith County, Texas is \$69,053 and the median house value is \$201,400.

Summary¹

Demographics	Percent			Value		
	Smith County, Texas	Texas	USA	Smith County, Texas	Texas	USA
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	234,667	29,243,342	331,097,593
Male	48.5%	50.0%	49.6%	113,874	14,624,638	164,200,298
Female	51.5%	50.0%	50.4%	120,793	14,618,704	166,897,295
Median Age ²	—	—	—	37.2	35.2	38.5
Under 18 Years	24.2%	25.3%	22.1%	56,849	7,396,128	73,213,705
18 to 24 Years	9.9%	10.0%	9.4%	23,127	2,936,266	31,282,896
25 to 34 Years	13.4%	14.4%	13.7%	31,552	4,224,194	45,388,153
35 to 44 Years	12.2%	13.8%	12.9%	28,640	4,046,302	42,810,359
45 to 54 Years	11.4%	12.3%	12.4%	26,701	3,597,088	41,087,357
55 to 64 Years	11.9%	11.2%	12.9%	27,995	3,274,387	42,577,475
65 to 74 Years	9.8%	7.9%	9.7%	22,915	2,297,666	32,260,679
75 Years and Over	7.2%	5.0%	6.8%	16,888	1,471,311	22,476,969
Race: White	71.2%	59.1%	65.9%	167,190	17,293,460	218,123,424
Race: Black or African American	17.0%	12.1%	12.5%	40,003	3,552,579	41,288,572
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	881	169,576	2,786,431
Race: Asian	1.7%	5.2%	5.8%	3,911	1,511,069	19,112,979
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	176	27,350	624,863
Race: Some Other Race	2.5%	7.8%	6.0%	5,960	2,281,525	20,018,544
Race: Two or More Races	7.1%	15.1%	8.8%	16,546	4,407,783	29,142,780
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	20.4%	39.9%	18.7%	47,820	11,665,280	61,755,866
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	241,922	30,029,572	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	1.2%	1.4%	0.6%	2,710	394,545	1,940,990
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	262.5	114.9	94.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	62.4%	65.0%	63.3%	114,688	14,674,135	167,857,207
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	81.8%	81.5%	82.8%	70,933	9,621,423	106,380,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	199	110,177	1,236,378
Veterans, Age 18-64	3.4%	4.7%	4.3%	4,630	835,988	8,636,019
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	82.3%	78.7%	77.1%	3,811	658,147	6,656,238
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$69,053	\$73,035	\$75,149
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$33,903	\$37,514	\$41,261
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	23.2	26.6	26.7
Commute via Public Transportation	0.5%	1.0%	3.8%	495	142,353	5,945,723
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	12.3%	13.9%	10.1%	14,151	2,103,422	17,373,867
High School Graduate	25.0%	24.1%	25.1%	28,757	3,653,228	43,176,248
Some College, No Degree	25.0%	20.9%	19.7%	28,682	3,158,279	33,916,989
Associate's Degree	10.6%	7.9%	9.2%	12,225	1,199,146	15,886,884
Bachelor's Degree	18.4%	21.7%	22.4%	21,154	3,281,456	38,451,123
Postgraduate Degree	8.6%	11.5%	13.4%	9,919	1,746,440	23,058,233

About This Report

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Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Smith County, Texas	Texas	USA	Smith County, Texas	Texas	USA
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	97,561	11,654,971	140,943,613
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$201,400	\$238,000	\$281,900
Homeowner Vacancy	0.7%	1.2%	1.1%	421	78,790	931,393
Rental Vacancy	15.4%	7.4%	5.5%	4,675	318,227	2,623,236
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	31.3%	37.6%	35.2%	25,423	3,944,826	44,238,593
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.3%	5.3%	8.3%	3,469	551,100	10,474,870
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	12.6%	13.9%	12.5%	28,799	3,990,326	40,521,584
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	9.4%	11.5%	11.5%	7,612	1,209,485	14,486,880
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	2,507	433,670	4,476,703
Disconnected Youth ³	2.2%	3.0%	2.5%	290	50,502	430,795
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	29.6%	34.1%	34.0%	15,809	2,400,195	23,568,955
Uninsured	17.2%	17.6%	8.7%	39,842	5,056,008	28,315,092
With a Disability, Age 18-64	10.2%	9.7%	10.5%	13,903	1,710,522	20,879,820
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	47.1%	49.8%	45.5%	6,547	851,439	9,492,098
Foreign Born	8.7%	17.1%	13.7%	20,505	4,987,855	45,281,071
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	7.5%	13.0%	8.2%	16,515	3,538,224	25,704,846

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2018-2022, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

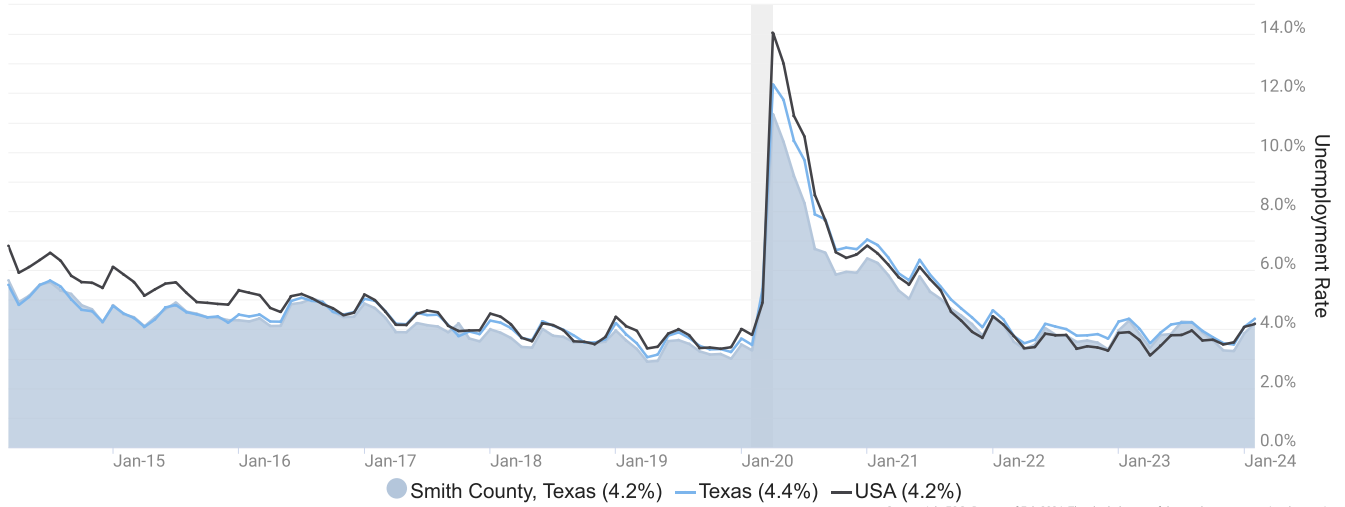
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Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Smith County, Texas was 4.2% as of February 2024. The regional unemployment rate was the same as the national rate of 4.2%. One year earlier, in February 2023, the unemployment rate in Smith County, Texas was 4.3%.

Unemployment Rate for Smith County, Texas



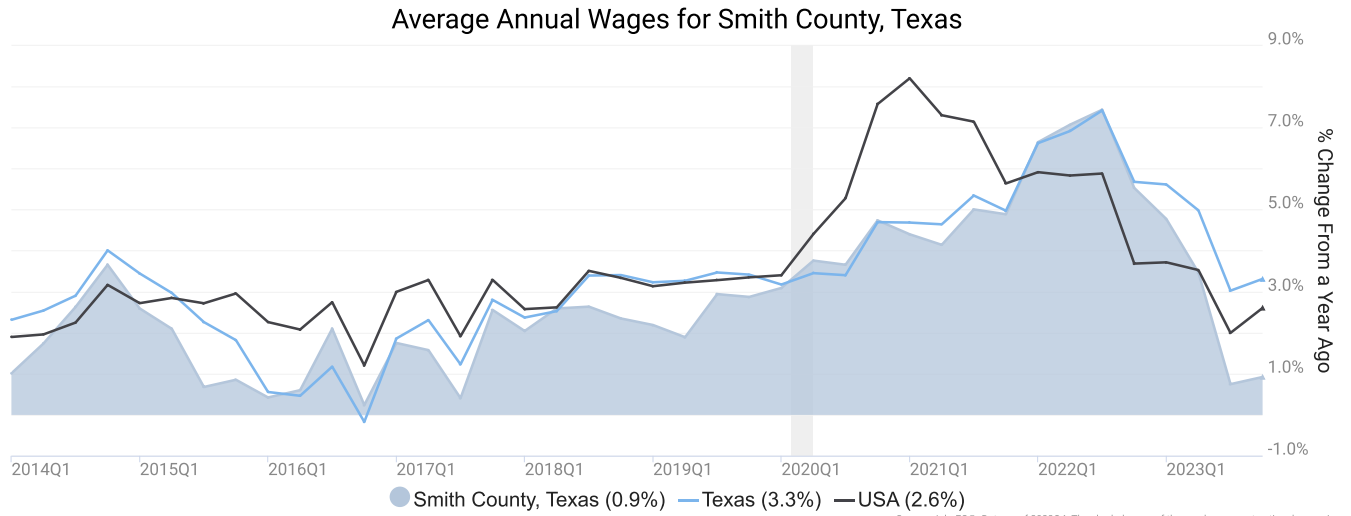
Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through February 2024.

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Wage Trends

The average worker in Smith County, Texas earned annual wages of \$53,393 as of 2023Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 0.9% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$69,861 in the nation as of 2023Q4.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4.

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Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 3.1% lower in Smith County, Texas than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Smith County, Texas	\$53,393	96.9	\$55,102
Texas	\$69,431	94.2	\$73,686
USA	\$69,861	100.0	\$69,861

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

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Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Smith County, Texas is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 14,272 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (11,487 workers) and Sales and Related Occupations (11,466). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (LQ = 1.49), Healthcare Support Occupations (1.48), and Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations (1.12).

Occupation groups in Smith County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$108,000), Management Occupations (\$104,200), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$92,200). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 6.9% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Smith County, Texas is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+184 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+175). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2,136 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,635).

Smith County, Texas, 2023Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	14,272	\$41,500	0.96	465	3.2%	286	-318	-0.4%	1,670	769	866	35	0.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	11,487	\$41,400	1.06	660	6.2%	278	1,992	3.9%	1,681	612	908	161	1.4%
41-0000	Sales and Related	11,466	\$42,500	1.05	514	4.6%	554	366	0.7%	1,618	707	853	58	0.5%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	10,840	\$91,900	1.49	151	1.5%	797	1,058	2.1%	815	361	279	175	1.6%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	10,814	\$27,900	1.08	613	6.1%	380	720	1.4%	2,243	975	1,161	108	1.0%
11-0000	Management	9,505	\$104,200	1.02	176	1.9%	211	1,457	3.4%	898	310	463	126	1.3%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	8,260	\$29,100	1.48	273	3.7%	211	604	1.5%	1,382	566	633	184	2.2%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	6,712	\$53,600	1.02	164	2.6%	55	322	1.0%	681	305	299	77	1.1%
51-0000	Production	5,819	\$42,100	0.85	231	4.3%	136	1,099	4.3%	699	271	394	35	0.6%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	5,774	\$47,800	1.03	319	5.7%	75	368	1.3%	576	202	312	62	1.1%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	5,258	\$74,100	0.67	157	2.7%	75	796	3.3%	503	166	269	68	1.3%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	5,072	\$51,100	1.05	125	2.7%	153	567	2.4%	526	205	260	61	1.2%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,533	\$32,100	1.12	224	5.4%	96	127	0.6%	681	298	336	47	1.0%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	2,432	\$31,100	0.79	106	4.4%	80	-7	-0.1%	467	175	257	35	1.4%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	2,383	\$53,800	1.07	72	3.2%	61	280	2.5%	260	101	121	38	1.6%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	2,033	\$87,700	0.51	59	2.4%	53	339	3.7%	166	49	80	37	1.8%
33-0000	Protective Service	1,741	\$52,900	0.66	56	3.0%	36	146	1.8%	209	90	104	14	0.8%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,718	\$55,100	0.76	79	4.2%	45	81	1.0%	193	77	99	18	1.0%

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Smith County, Texas, 2023Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	1,484	\$92,200	0.74	44	2.5%	52	38	0.5%	124	44	61	18	1.2%
23-0000	Legal	806	\$108,000	0.80	9	1.2%	5	-156	-3.5%	62	24	26	12	1.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	781	\$78,100	0.72	18	2.1%	64	60	1.6%	80	17	52	11	1.4%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	458	\$38,300	0.63	33	6.9%	9	-261	-8.6%	71	26	42	3	0.7%
Total - All Occupations		123,649	\$53,600	1.00	4,549	3.8%	3,714	9,675	1.6%	15,621	6,349	7,873	1,398	1.1%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

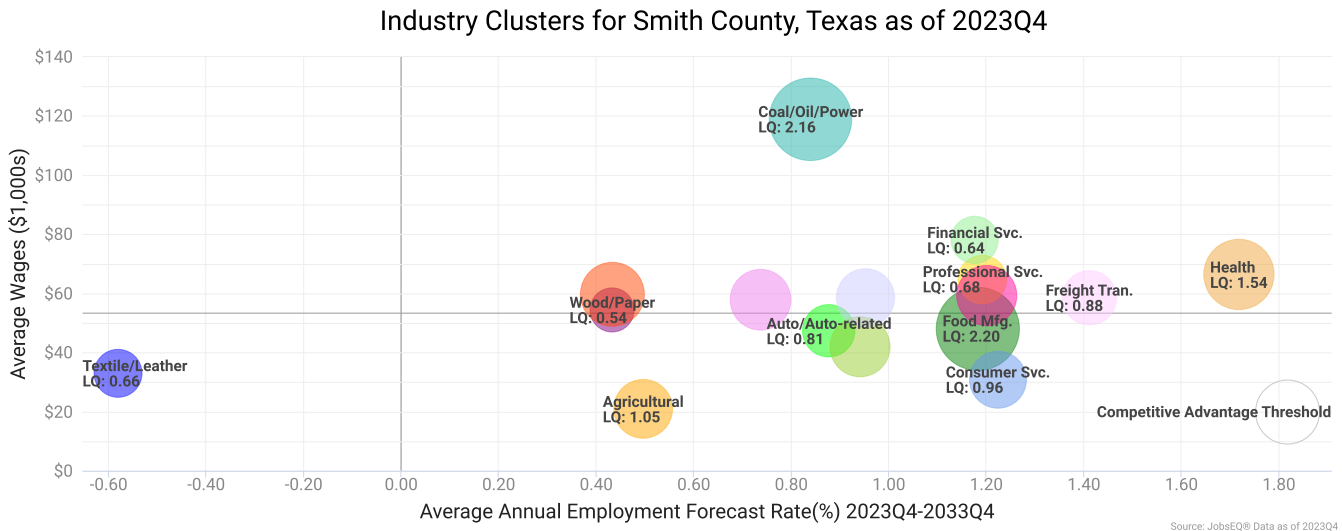
Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2023Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Smith County, Texas with the highest relative concentration is Food Mfg. with a location quotient of 2.20. This cluster employs 3,270 workers in the region with an average wage of \$48,100. Employment in the Food Mfg. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.2% per year over the next ten years.



Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

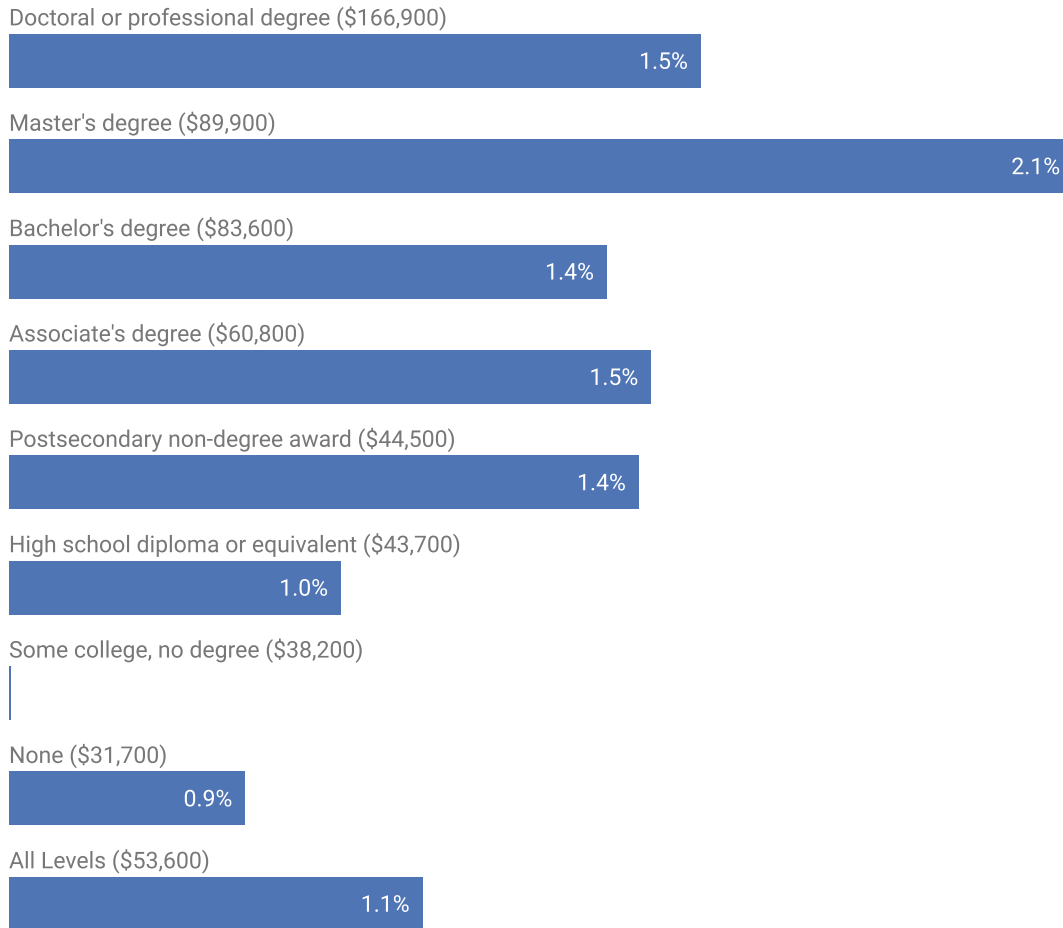
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Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Smith County, Texas is projected to grow 1.1% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.5% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.5% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2023Q4

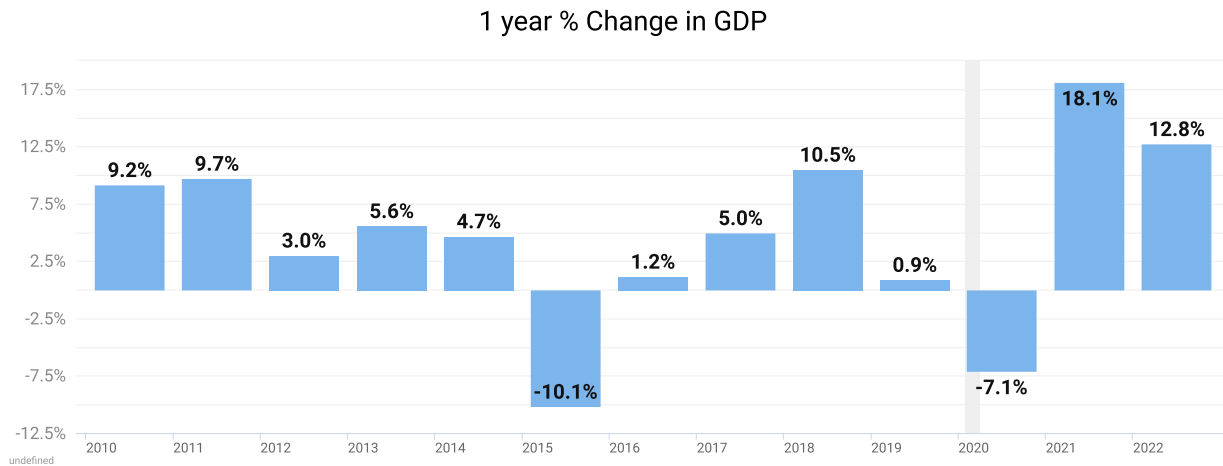
Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in Smith County, Texas expanded 12.8%. This follows growth of 18.1% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in Smith County, Texas was \$14,729,098,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in Smith County, Texas, Health Care and Social Assistance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$2,636,627,000. The next-largest contributions came from Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$1,521,184,000); Manufacturing (\$1,433,316,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$1,317,953,000).

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GDP (in \$ millions)

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$2,637

Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)

\$1,521

Manufacturing (31)

\$1,433

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$1,318

Retail Trade (44)

\$1,200

Wholesale Trade (42)

\$1,173

Educational Services (61)

\$743

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)

\$704

Construction (23)

\$657

Transportation and Warehousing (48)

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

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