Texarkana 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 the Texarkana Area was 187,686 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022. The region has a civilian labor force of 78,792 with a participation rate of 52.8%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Texarkana Area, 18.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation. The median household income in the Texarkana Area is $53,116 and the median house value is $135,330.

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Texarkana Area	Texas	USA	Texarkana Area	Texas	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	187,686	29,243,342	331,097,593
Male	49.7%	50.0%	49.6%	93,368	14,624,638	164,200,298
Female	50.3%	50.0%	50.4%	94,318	14,618,704	166,897,295
Median Age[2]	—	—	—	40.5	35.2	38.5
Under 18 Years	23.2%	25.3%	22.1%	43,555	7,396,128	73,213,705
18 to 24 Years	8.4%	10.0%	9.4%	15,836	2,936,266	31,282,896
25 to 34 Years	12.0%	14.4%	13.7%	22,581	4,224,194	45,388,153
35 to 44 Years	12.4%	13.8%	12.9%	23,337	4,046,302	42,810,359
45 to 54 Years	12.3%	12.3%	12.4%	23,082	3,597,088	41,087,357
55 to 64 Years	13.0%	11.2%	12.9%	24,418	3,274,387	42,577,475
65 to 74 Years	10.8%	7.9%	9.7%	20,241	2,297,666	32,260,679
75 Years and Over	7.8%	5.0%	6.8%	14,636	1,471,311	22,476,969
Race: White	69.6%	59.1%	65.9%	130,595	17,293,460	218,123,424
Race: Black or African American	22.9%	12.1%	12.5%	43,041	3,552,579	41,288,572
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	1,254	169,576	2,786,431
Race: Asian	1.2%	5.2%	5.8%	2,297	1,511,069	19,112,979
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	110	27,350	624,863
Race: Some Other Race	2.2%	7.8%	6.0%	4,175	2,281,525	20,018,544
Race: Two or More Races	3.3%	15.1%	8.8%	6,214	4,407,783	29,142,780
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.9%	39.9%	18.7%	12,868	11,665,280	61,755,866
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates)[4]	—	—	—	186,751	30,029,572	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth[4]	-0.3%	1.4%	0.6%	-545	394,545	1,940,990
People per Square Mile[4]	—	—	—	49.9	114.9	94.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	52.8%	65.0%	63.3%	78,792	14,674,135	167,857,207
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	71.4%	81.5%	82.8%	49,217	9,621,423	106,380,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	47	110,177	1,236,378
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.6%	4.7%	4.3%	6,121	835,988	8,636,019
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	66.4%	78.7%	77.1%	4,063	658,147	6,656,238
Median Household Income[2]	—	—	—	$53,116	$73,035	$75,149
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	$28,510	$37,514	$41,261
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.9	26.6	26.7
Commute via Public Transportation	0.3%	1.0%	3.8%	223	142,353	5,945,723
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	11.3%	13.9%	10.1%	10,551	2,103,422	17,373,867
High School Graduate	37.8%	24.1%	25.1%	35,333	3,653,228	43,176,248
Some College, No Degree	24.5%	20.9%	19.7%	22,886	3,158,279	33,916,989
Associate's Degree	8.3%	7.9%	9.2%	7,787	1,199,146	15,886,884
Bachelor's Degree	11.9%	21.7%	22.4%	11,095	3,281,456	38,451,123
Postgraduate Degree	6.2%	11.5%	13.4%	5,766	1,746,440	23,058,233

About This Report
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Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Texarkana Area	Texas	USA	Texarkana Area	Texas	USA
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	85,403	11,654,971	140,943,613
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)[2,5]	—	—	—	$135,330	$238,000	$281,900
Homeowner Vacancy	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	595	78,790	931,393
Rental Vacancy	6.1%	7.4%	5.5%	1,515	318,227	2,623,236
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	32.4%	37.6%	35.2%	23,146	3,944,826	44,238,593
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	6.6%	5.3%	8.3%	4,692	551,100	10,474,870
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	18.4%	13.9%	12.5%	32,987	3,990,326	40,521,584
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	13.2%	11.5%	11.5%	9,417	1,209,485	14,486,880
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	2,473	433,670	4,476,703
Disconnected Youth[3]	2.0%	3.0%	2.5%	195	50,502	430,795
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	42.7%	34.1%	34.0%	16,907	2,400,195	23,568,955
Uninsured	14.1%	17.6%	8.7%	25,331	5,056,008	28,315,092
With a Disability, Age 18-64	14.6%	9.7%	10.5%	15,063	1,710,522	20,879,820
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	32.1%	49.8%	45.5%	4,839	851,439	9,492,098
Foreign Born	3.5%	17.1%	13.7%	6,644	4,987,855	45,281,071
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.0%	13.0%	8.2%	3,552	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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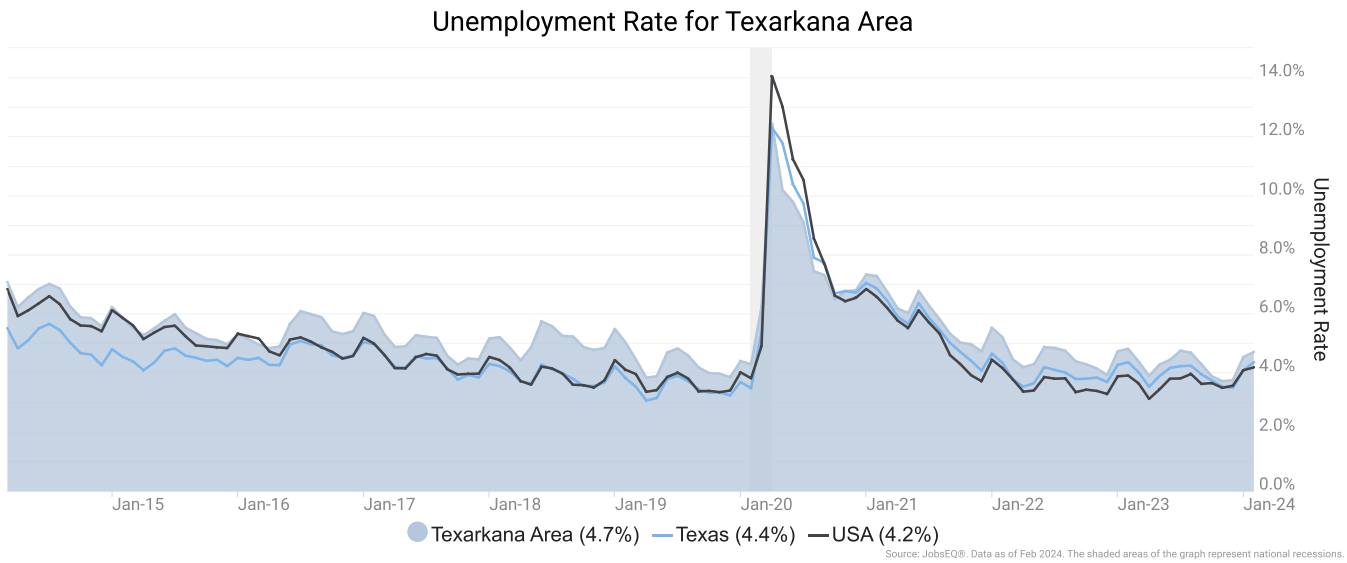
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Texarkana Area was 4.7% as of February 2024. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.2%. One year earlier, in February 2023, the unemployment rate in the Texarkana Area was 4.8%.



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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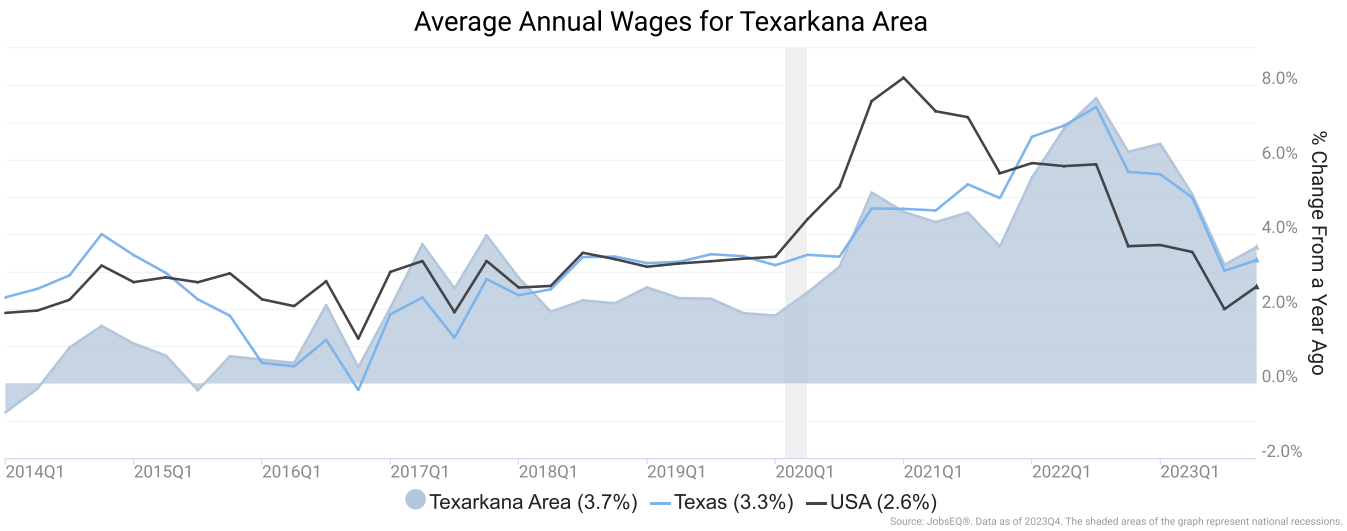
Wage Trends

The average worker in the Texarkana Area earned annual wages of $47,727 as of 2023Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.7% 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 11.6% lower in Texarkana Area than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Texarkana Area	$47,727	88.4	$53,960
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 the Texarkana Area is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 8,183 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (6,828 workers) and Sales and Related Occupations (6,692). 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 Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (LQ = 1.27), Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations (1.25), and Production Occupations (1.23).

Occupation groups in the Texarkana Area with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations ($96,800), Architecture and Engineering Occupations ($88,200), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations ($88,000). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 6.5% among Transportation and Material Moving Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Texarkana Area is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+48 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+20). 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 (1,287 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (895).

Texarkana Area, 2023Q4[1]

		Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
SOC	Occupation	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	8,183	$40,300	0.90	338	3.6%	277	-413	-1.0%	801	418	469	-86	-1.0%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,828	$27,300	1.12	487	6.4%	317	85	0.2%	1,270	588	699	-17	-0.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	6,692	$40,500	1.01	399	5.4%	602	107	0.3%	844	410	485	-52	-0.8%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	6,473	$42,300	0.98	516	6.5%	345	-406	-1.2%	809	334	475	0	0.0%
11-0000	Management	6,432	$86,600	1.14	127	1.9%	215	372	1.2%	512	236	283	-7	-0.1%
51-0000	Production	5,160	$46,000	1.23	351	5.7%	102	-196	-0.7%	482	209	324	-50	-1.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	5,104	$49,600	1.27	146	2.9%	179	291	1.2%	435	218	216	2	0.0%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	4,780	$88,000	1.08	85	1.8%	611	-36	-0.1%	294	153	121	20	0.4%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	3,965	$29,400	1.17	174	4.1%	183	-182	-0.9%	602	263	290	48	1.2%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	3,670	$52,000	1.25	120	2.8%	184	74	0.4%	310	139	176	-5	-0.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	3,506	$46,000	1.02	248	5.9%	68	294	1.8%	294	119	178	-3	-0.1%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	3,282	$69,500	0.69	99	3.0%	55	99	0.6%	256	100	160	-4	-0.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	2,495	$30,900	1.01	158	5.6%	64	-74	-0.6%	328	155	177	-3	-0.1%
33-0000	Protective Service	1,900	$46,400	1.18	57	2.9%	45	-174	-1.7%	170	80	99	-9	-0.5%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	1,440	$29,600	0.77	76	4.8%	36	-45	-0.6%	244	97	144	3	0.2%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	1,304	$53,200	0.96	40	3.2%	92	42	0.7%	120	51	63	6	0.5%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	1,083	$80,800	0.45	31	2.6%	52	60	1.2%	72	25	41	7	0.6%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	786	$56,000	0.57	36	5.3%	47	-18	-0.4%	77	34	44	-1	-0.1%

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Texarkana Area, 2023Q4[1]

		Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
SOC	Occupation	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	738	$88,200	0.61	19	2.8%	29	11	0.3%	47	20	27	-1	-0.1%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	514	$39,200	1.16	31	5.4%	6	36	1.4%	71	27	46	-2	-0.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	478	$77,300	0.72	11	2.8%	40	-43	-1.7%	41	10	31	0	0.0%
23-0000	Legal	392	$96,800	0.64	5	1.2%	3	-64	-3.0%	23	11	12	0	0.0%
	Total - All Occupations	**75,206**	**$50,500**	**1.00**	**3,553**	**4.3%**	**3,552**	**-181**	**0.0%**	**8,115**	**3,697**	**4,560**	**-142**	**-0.2%**

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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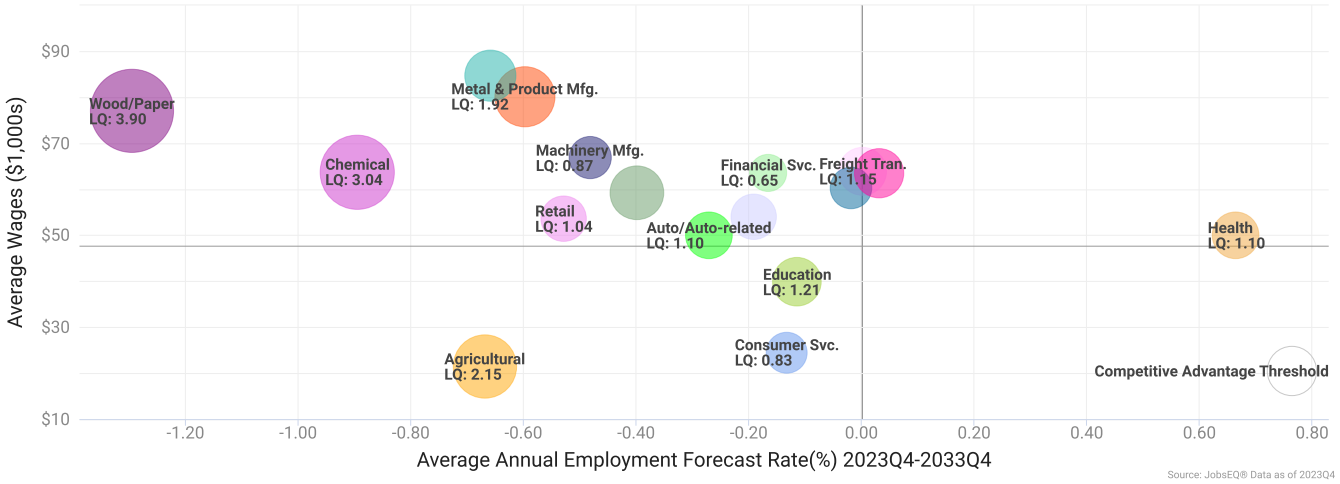
Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Texarkana Area with the highest relative concentration is Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 3.90. This cluster employs 2,208 workers in the region with an average wage of $77,015. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to contract in the region about 1.3% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Texarkana Area as of 2023Q4



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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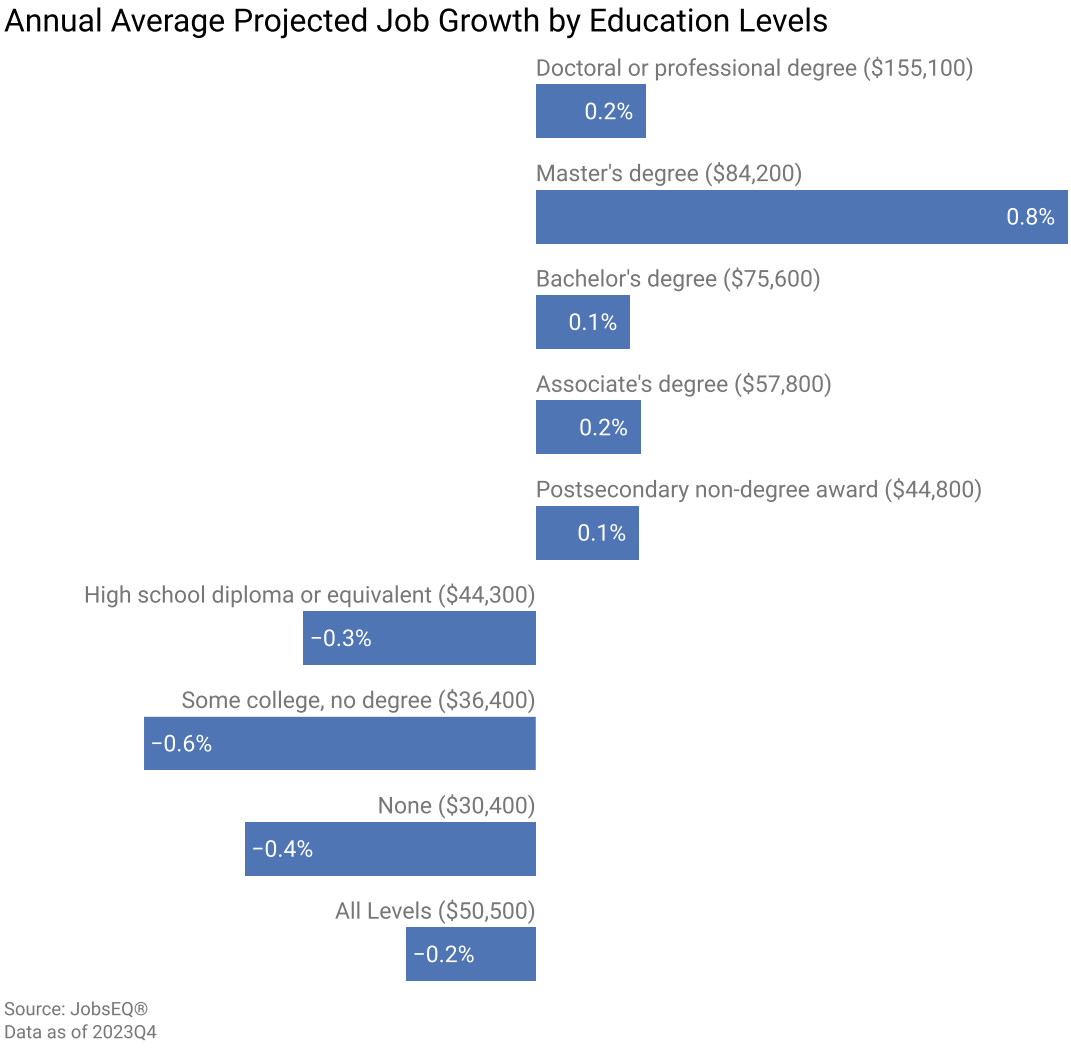
Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Texarkana Area is projected to contract 0.2% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 0.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.2% per year.



Employment by occupation data are estimates are 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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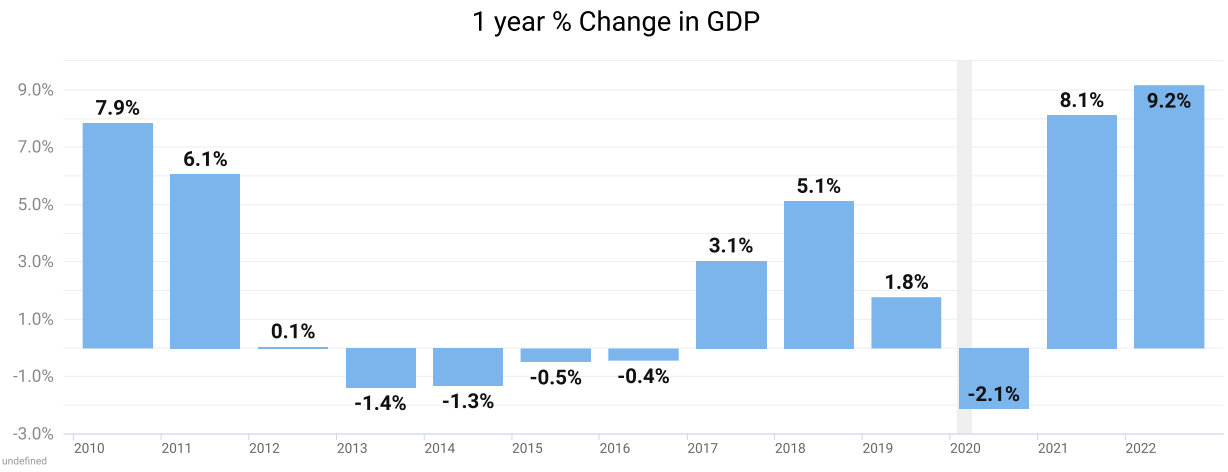
Gross Domestic Product

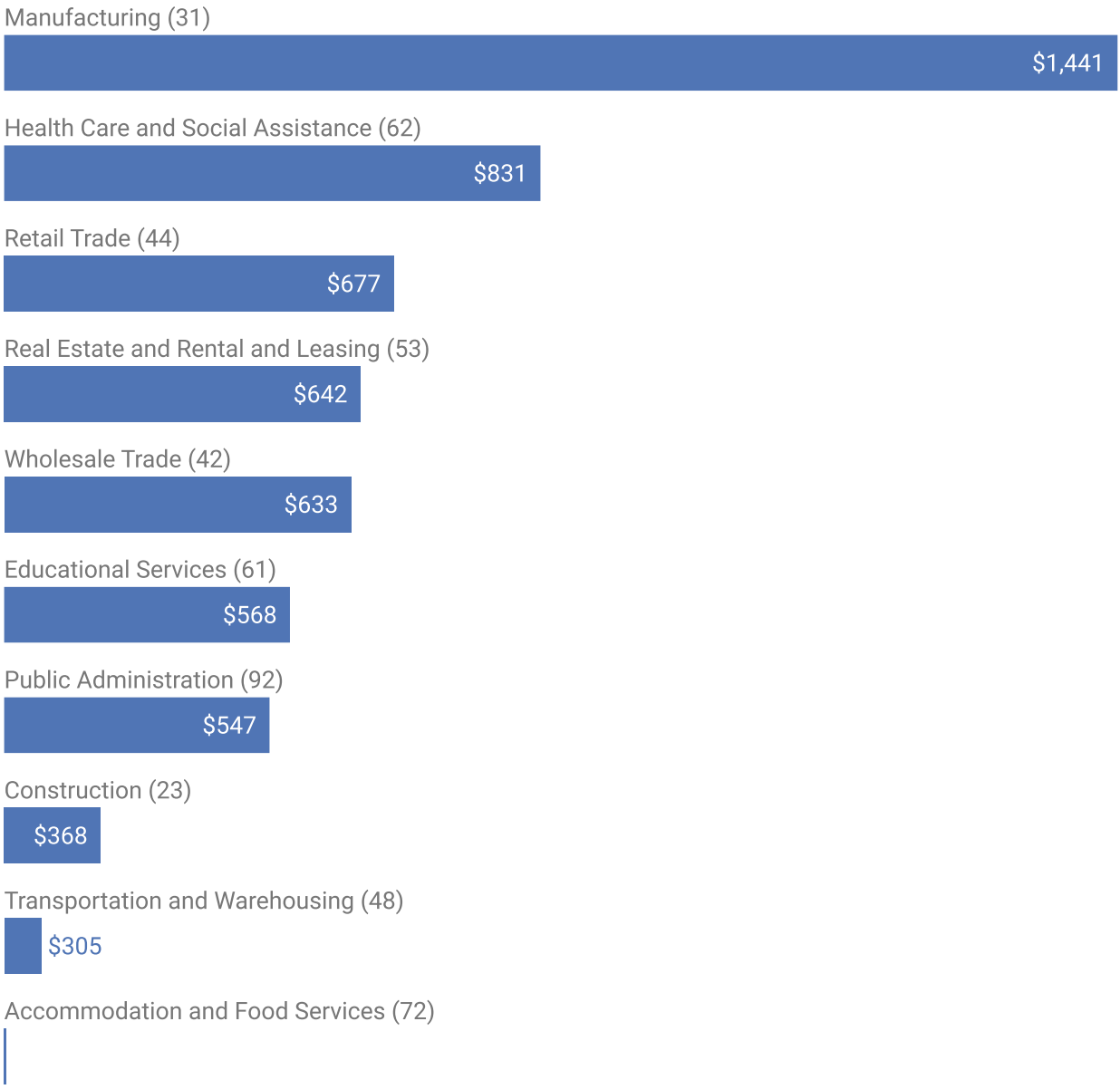
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in the Texarkana Area expanded 9.2%. This follows growth of 8.1% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in the Texarkana Area was $7,696,245,000.



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

Of the sectors in the Texarkana Area, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, $1,441,408,000 The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance ($830,611,000); Retail Trade ($677,415,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing ($641,518,000).

GDP (in $ millions)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2

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Region Definition

Texarkana Area is defined as the following counties:

Miller County, Arkansas	Morris County, Texas
Bowie County, Texas	Red River County, Texas
Cass County, Texas	

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