



UT Tyler

HIBBS INSTITUTE

East Texas

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 East Texas 23 was 1,155,141 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022. The region has a civilian labor force of 518,524 with a participation rate of 56.7%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the East Texas 23, 20.1% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation. The median household income in the East Texas 23 is \$61,596 and the median house value is \$165,161.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	East Texas 23	Texas	USA	East Texas 23	Texas	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	1,155,141	29,243,342	331,097,593
Male	50.1%	50.0%	49.6%	578,973	14,624,638	164,200,298
Female	49.9%	50.0%	50.4%	576,168	14,618,704	166,897,295
Median Age ²	—	—	—	39.6	35.2	38.5
Under 18 Years	23.4%	25.3%	22.1%	270,576	7,396,128	73,213,705
18 to 24 Years	8.8%	10.0%	9.4%	101,968	2,936,266	31,282,896
25 to 34 Years	12.4%	14.4%	13.7%	143,236	4,224,194	45,388,153
35 to 44 Years	12.1%	13.8%	12.9%	140,343	4,046,302	42,810,359
45 to 54 Years	11.8%	12.3%	12.4%	136,604	3,597,088	41,087,357
55 to 64 Years	13.0%	11.2%	12.9%	150,163	3,274,387	42,577,475
65 to 74 Years	10.8%	7.9%	9.7%	124,628	2,297,666	32,260,679
75 Years and Over	7.6%	5.0%	6.8%	87,623	1,471,311	22,476,969
Race: White	73.1%	59.1%	65.9%	844,405	17,293,460	218,123,424
Race: Black or African American	14.6%	12.1%	12.5%	168,224	3,552,579	41,288,572
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	5,095	169,576	2,786,431
Race: Asian	1.0%	5.2%	5.8%	11,618	1,511,069	19,112,979
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	725	27,350	624,863
Race: Some Other Race	2.9%	7.8%	6.0%	33,085	2,281,525	20,018,544
Race: Two or More Races	8.0%	15.1%	8.8%	91,989	4,407,783	29,142,780
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	16.2%	39.9%	18.7%	187,531	11,665,280	61,755,866
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	1,174,572	30,029,572	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.5%	1.4%	0.6%	5,394	394,545	1,940,990
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	76.1	114.9	94.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	56.7%	65.0%	63.3%	518,524	14,674,135	167,857,207
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	75.6%	81.5%	82.8%	317,217	9,621,423	106,380,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	496	110,177	1,236,378
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.8%	4.7%	4.3%	32,575	835,988	8,636,019
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	71.7%	78.7%	77.1%	23,367	658,147	6,656,238
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$61,596	\$73,035	\$75,149
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$31,124	\$37,514	\$41,261
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	24.8	26.6	26.7
Commute via Public Transportation	0.3%	1.0%	3.8%	1,262	142,353	5,945,723
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	13.7%	13.9%	10.1%	78,253	2,103,422	17,373,867
High School Graduate	32.1%	24.1%	25.1%	183,207	3,653,228	43,176,248
Some College, No Degree	24.8%	20.9%	19.7%	141,605	3,158,279	33,916,989
Associate's Degree	9.2%	7.9%	9.2%	52,692	1,199,146	15,886,884
Bachelor's Degree	14.2%	21.7%	22.4%	80,775	3,281,456	38,451,123
Postgraduate Degree	5.9%	11.5%	13.4%	33,814	1,746,440	23,058,233

About This Report

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Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	East Texas 23	Texas	USA	East Texas 23	Texas	USA
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	500,063	11,654,971	140,943,613
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$165,161	\$238,000	\$281,900
Homeowner Vacancy	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	3,437	78,790	931,393
Rental Vacancy	8.1%	7.4%	5.5%	10,818	318,227	2,623,236
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	28.9%	37.6%	35.2%	121,706	3,944,826	44,238,593
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.0%	5.3%	8.3%	21,092	551,100	10,474,870
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	14.9%	13.9%	12.5%	165,340	3,990,326	40,521,584
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	12.3%	11.5%	11.5%	51,718	1,209,485	14,486,880
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	15,195	433,670	4,476,703
Disconnected Youth ³	3.2%	3.0%	2.5%	1,981	50,502	430,795
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	34.8%	34.1%	34.0%	87,667	2,400,195	23,568,955
Uninsured	17.2%	17.6%	8.7%	192,117	5,056,008	28,315,092
With a Disability, Age 18-64	12.8%	9.7%	10.5%	82,147	1,710,522	20,879,820
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	39.7%	49.8%	45.5%	32,583	851,439	9,492,098
Foreign Born	6.6%	17.1%	13.7%	76,618	4,987,855	45,281,071
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	4.9%	13.0%	8.2%	53,673	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.

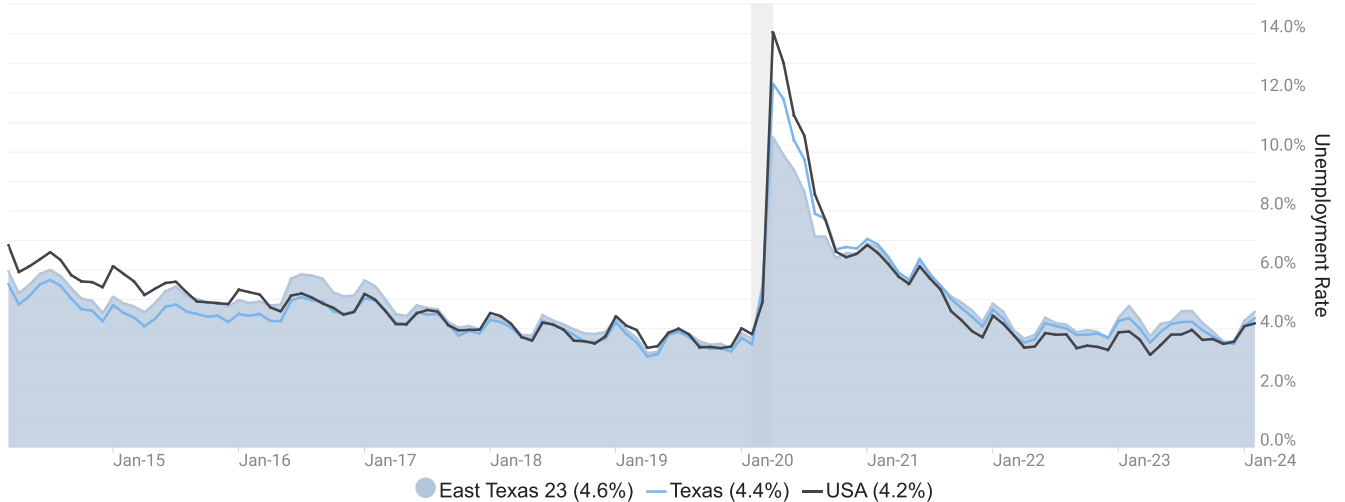
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Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the East Texas 23 was 4.6% 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 East Texas 23 was 4.8%.

Unemployment Rate for East Texas 23



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

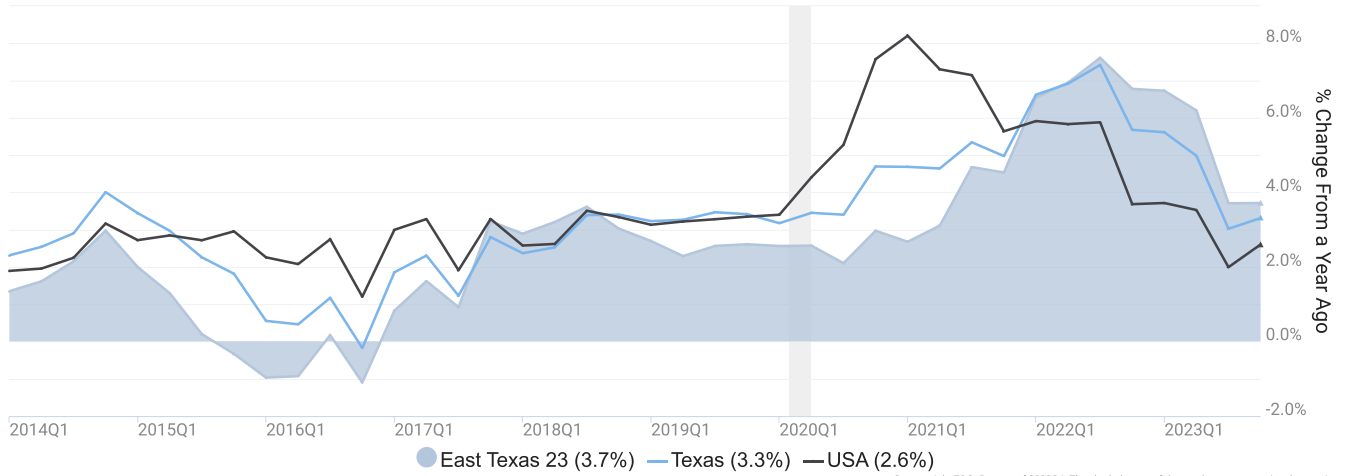
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Wage Trends

The average worker in the East Texas 23 earned annual wages of \$50,949 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.

Average Annual Wages for East Texas 23



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 6.5% lower in East Texas 23 than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
East Texas 23	\$50,949	93.5	\$54,512
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 East Texas 23 is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 54,511 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (44,588 workers) and Management Occupations (44,191). 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 Production Occupations (LQ = 1.32), Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.32), and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations (1.20).

Occupation groups in the East Texas 23 with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$106,700), Management Occupations (\$96,000), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$92,000). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 6.7% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the East Texas 23 is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.9% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+458 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+422). 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 (8,057 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (6,125).

East Texas 23, 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	54,511	\$41,500	0.92	2,247	3.5%	1,343	-989	-0.4%	6,040	2,882	3,243	-85	-0.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	44,588	\$41,700	1.03	3,416	6.4%	1,471	3,841	1.8%	6,172	2,337	3,413	422	0.9%
11-0000	Management	44,191	\$96,000	1.19	834	1.9%	965	4,297	2.1%	4,054	1,666	2,024	364	0.8%
41-0000	Sales and Related	43,481	\$42,300	1.00	2,511	5.1%	2,636	2,304	1.1%	5,997	2,694	3,222	81	0.2%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	41,204	\$27,400	1.03	3,094	6.4%	1,788	2,464	1.2%	8,337	3,685	4,372	280	0.7%
51-0000	Production	36,158	\$44,300	1.32	1,910	4.7%	683	1,437	0.8%	4,047	1,564	2,402	80	0.2%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	30,546	\$52,800	1.16	834	2.8%	624	1,641	1.1%	2,922	1,354	1,333	235	0.8%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	29,942	\$92,000	1.03	508	1.7%	3,543	1,794	1.2%	2,153	986	779	389	1.3%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	29,748	\$47,200	1.32	2,060	6.0%	382	-458	-0.3%	2,852	1,028	1,600	224	0.8%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	23,997	\$30,000	1.08	1,031	3.8%	1,141	-153	-0.1%	3,905	1,619	1,828	458	1.9%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	23,127	\$52,500	1.20	769	2.8%	782	1,332	1.2%	2,251	913	1,152	186	0.8%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	20,245	\$72,900	0.64	585	2.8%	333	2,334	2.5%	1,827	629	1,024	174	0.9%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	16,506	\$31,800	1.02	1,079	5.7%	339	187	0.2%	2,394	1,064	1,207	123	0.7%
33-0000	Protective Service	9,603	\$48,400	0.91	333	3.1%	192	-548	-1.1%	1,027	450	539	38	0.4%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	9,493	\$30,900	0.78	493	4.4%	280	206	0.4%	1,761	664	989	109	1.1%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	8,164	\$53,400	0.92	232	3.2%	351	157	0.4%	849	335	407	107	1.3%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	7,507	\$88,400	0.47	201	2.4%	238	1,080	3.2%	580	177	291	112	1.5%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	5,994	\$89,700	0.75	159	2.7%	184	183	0.6%	463	174	237	52	0.9%

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East Texas 23, 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
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	5,828	\$54,500	0.64	235	4.4%	227	145	0.5%	646	262	335	49	0.8%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	3,259	\$37,400	1.12	230	6.7%	64	-36	-0.2%	501	184	299	17	0.5%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,040	\$77,000	0.70	57	2.1%	171	75	0.5%	307	68	208	31	1.0%
23-0000	Legal	2,432	\$106,700	0.60	29	1.2%	22	-457	-3.4%	173	71	75	26	1.1%
Total - All Occupations		493,563	\$52,600	1.00	22,847	4.2%	17,760	20,836	0.9%	59,314	24,806	30,979	3,529	0.7%

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.

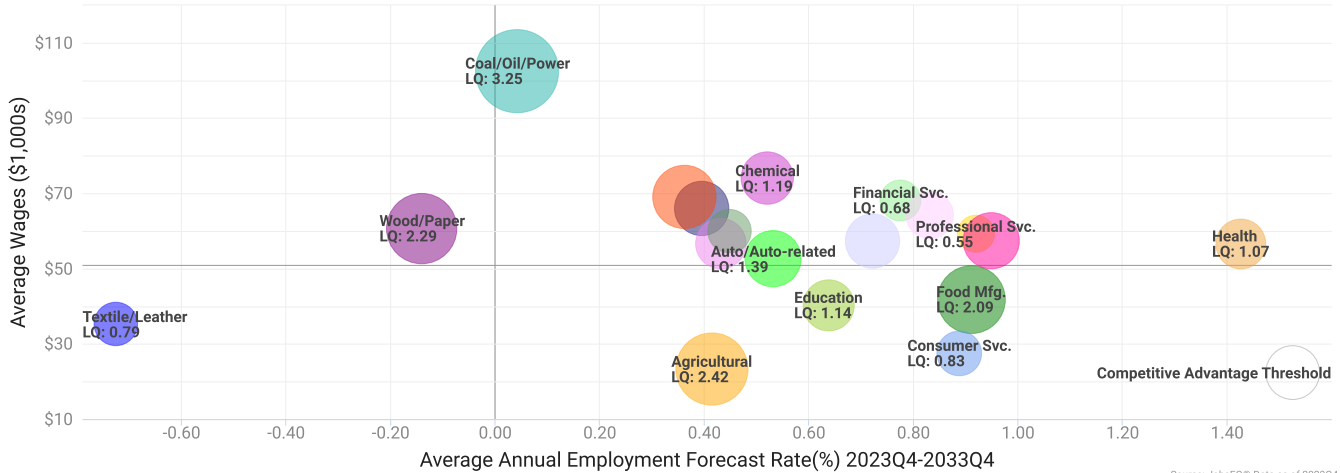
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Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the East Texas 23 with the highest relative concentration is Coal/Oil/Power with a location quotient of 3.25. This cluster employs 13,025 workers in the region with an average wage of \$102,569. Employment in the Coal/Oil/Power cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.0% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for East Texas 23 as of 2023Q4



Source: JobsEQ® Data 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.

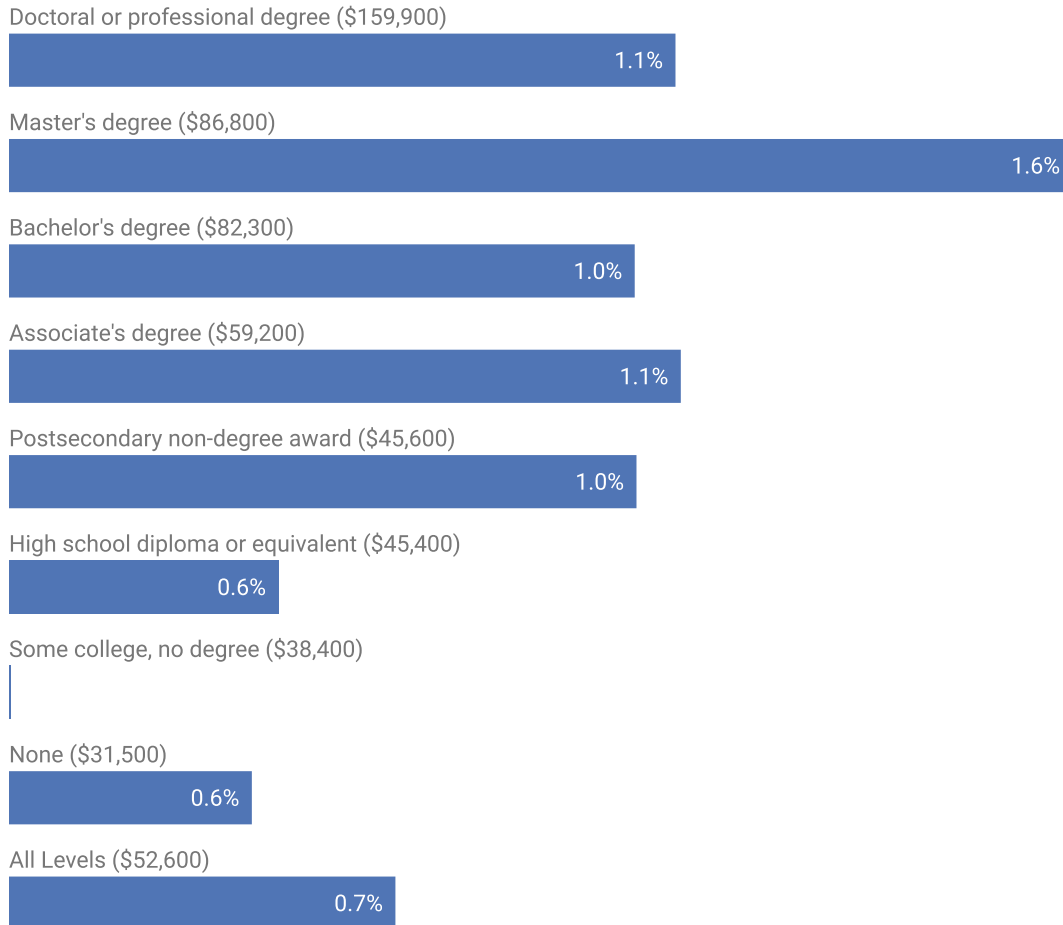
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Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the East Texas 23 is projected to grow 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.0% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.1% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2023Q4

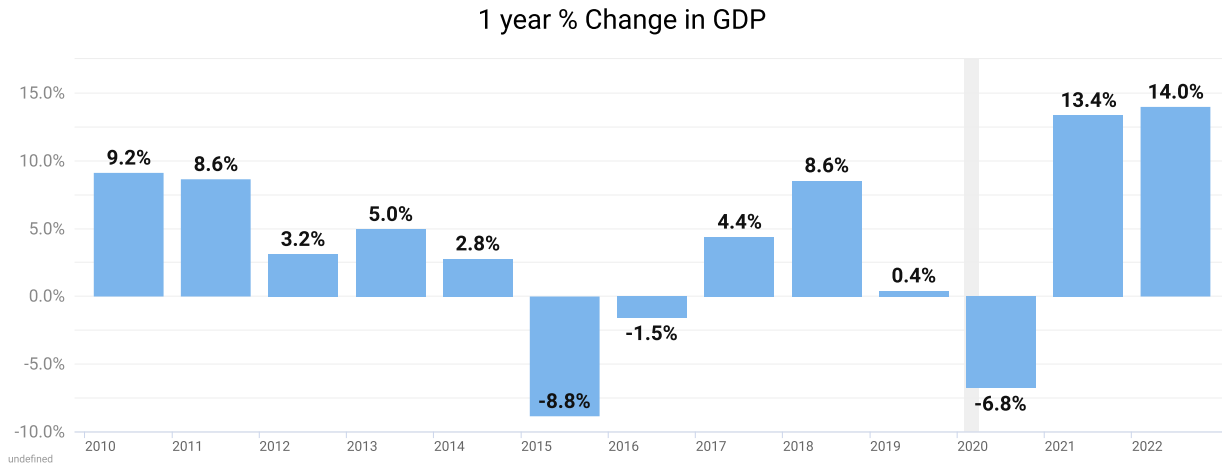
Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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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 the East Texas 23 expanded 14.0%. This follows growth of 13.4% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in the East Texas 23 was \$55,980,613,000.



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 East Texas 23, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$9,963,069,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$6,094,810,000); Retail Trade (\$4,420,310,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$4,319,661,000).

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GDP (in \$ millions)

Manufacturing (31)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Retail Trade (44)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



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



Wholesale Trade (42)



Construction (23)



Educational Services (61)



Transportation and Warehousing (48)



Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)



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Region Definition

East Texas 23 is defined as the following counties:

Anderson County, Texas

Bowie County, Texas

Camp County, Texas

Cass County, Texas

Cherokee County, Texas

Delta County, Texas

Franklin County, Texas

Gregg County, Texas

Harrison County, Texas

Henderson County, Texas

Hopkins County, Texas

Lamar County, Texas

Marion County, Texas

Morris County, Texas

Panola County, Texas

Rains County, Texas

Red River County, Texas

Rusk County, Texas

Smith County, Texas

Titus County, Texas

Upshur County, Texas

Van Zandt County, Texas

Wood County, Texas

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