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*Hibbs Institute for
Business and
Economic Research*

East Texas Area Economic Overview*

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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 was 1,143,378 per American Community Survey data for 2015-2019. The region has a civilian labor force of 501,851 with a participation rate of 55.6%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the East Texas, 18.7% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 33.5% in the nation. The median household income in the East Texas 23 is \$50,985 and the median house value is \$124,675.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	East Texas 23	Texas	USA	East Texas 23	Texas	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	1,143,378	28,260,856	324,697,795
Male	49.7%	49.7%	49.2%	568,455	14,034,009	159,886,919
Female	50.3%	50.3%	50.8%	574,923	14,226,847	164,810,876
Median Age ²	—	—	—	39.4	34.6	38.1
Under 18 Years	23.8%	26.0%	22.6%	271,598	7,338,445	73,429,392
18 to 24 Years	8.7%	9.9%	9.4%	99,280	2,790,857	30,646,327
25 to 34 Years	12.4%	14.7%	13.9%	141,644	4,154,182	45,030,415
35 to 44 Years	12.0%	13.5%	12.6%	137,237	3,823,085	40,978,831
45 to 54 Years	12.3%	12.5%	13.0%	140,373	3,526,243	42,072,620
55 to 64 Years	13.0%	11.2%	12.9%	149,057	3,165,517	41,756,414
65 to 74 Years	10.3%	7.4%	9.1%	117,282	2,081,849	29,542,266
75 Years, and Over	7.6%	4.9%	6.5%	86,907	1,380,678	21,241,530
Race: White	78.9%	74.0%	72.5%	902,228	20,903,375	235,377,662
Race: Black or African American	15.2%	12.1%	12.7%	173,665	3,428,211	41,234,642
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	5,499	141,425	2,750,143
Race: Asian	0.9%	4.8%	5.5%	10,416	1,357,273	17,924,209
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	770	25,292	599,868
Race: Some Other Race	2.3%	5.8%	4.9%	26,301	1,643,869	16,047,369
Race: Two or More Races	2.1%	2.7%	3.3%	24,499	761,411	10,763,902
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15.3%	39.3%	18.0%	175,244	11,116,881	58,479,370
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	1,163,885	29,360,759	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.4%	1.5%	0.6%	5,059	411,886	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	75.0	111.0	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	55.6%	64.5%	63.2%	501,851	13,962,458	163,555,585
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	74.4%	80.6%	82.1%	311,486	9,228,757	104,634,905
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	462	93,394	1,073,907
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.2%	4.9%	4.6%	34,987	846,005	9,143,042
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	68.9%	78.1%	76.6%	24,098	660,595	7,003,778
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$50,985	\$61,874	\$62,843
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$26,078	\$31,277	\$34,103
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	24.7	26.6	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.2%	1.4%	5.0%	1,152	181,273	7,641,160
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	15.4%	15.3%	10.9%	87,724	2,239,400	18,550,150
High School Graduate	31.8%	24.7%	25.7%	180,674	3,621,456	43,627,868
Some College, No Degree	25.5%	21.8%	20.7%	144,837	3,190,676	35,174,790
Associate's Degree	8.6%	7.6%	9.1%	48,807	1,120,514	15,526,064
Bachelor's Degree	13.4%	20.4%	21.2%	76,118	2,987,310	35,997,848
Postgraduate Degree	5.3%	10.3%	12.3%	30,151	1,509,671	20,961,560

About This Report

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Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	East Texas 23	Texas	USA	East Texas 23	Texas	USA
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	492,849	10,937,026	137,428,986
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$124,675	\$172,500	\$217,500
Homeowner Vacancy	2.0%	1.6%	1.6%	5,820	95,519	1,257,737
Rental Vacancy	7.8%	7.8%	6.0%	10,557	318,899	2,793,023
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	29.9%	38.0%	36.0%	122,388	3,686,845	43,481,667
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.3%	5.3%	8.6%	21,594	512,411	10,395,713
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	16.0%	14.7%	13.4%	175,915	4,072,194	42,510,843
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	13.1%	11.8%	11.7%	53,813	1,140,905	14,171,567
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	15,187	411,701	4,422,344
Disconnected Youth ³	3.3%	2.8%	2.5%	2,002	45,519	423,273
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	34.9%	34.4%	34.1%	88,330	2,405,770	23,790,005
Uninsured	16.5%	17.2%	8.8%	182,324	4,791,164	28,248,613
With a Disability, Age 18-64	12.9%	9.5%	10.3%	82,272	1,627,151	20,187,604
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	35.7%	44.8%	42.2%	29,382	729,715	8,509,463
Foreign Born	6.6%	17.0%	13.6%	75,783	4,814,638	44,011,870
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	5.1%	13.7%	8.4%	55,047	3,607,255	25,615,365

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2015-2019, 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 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

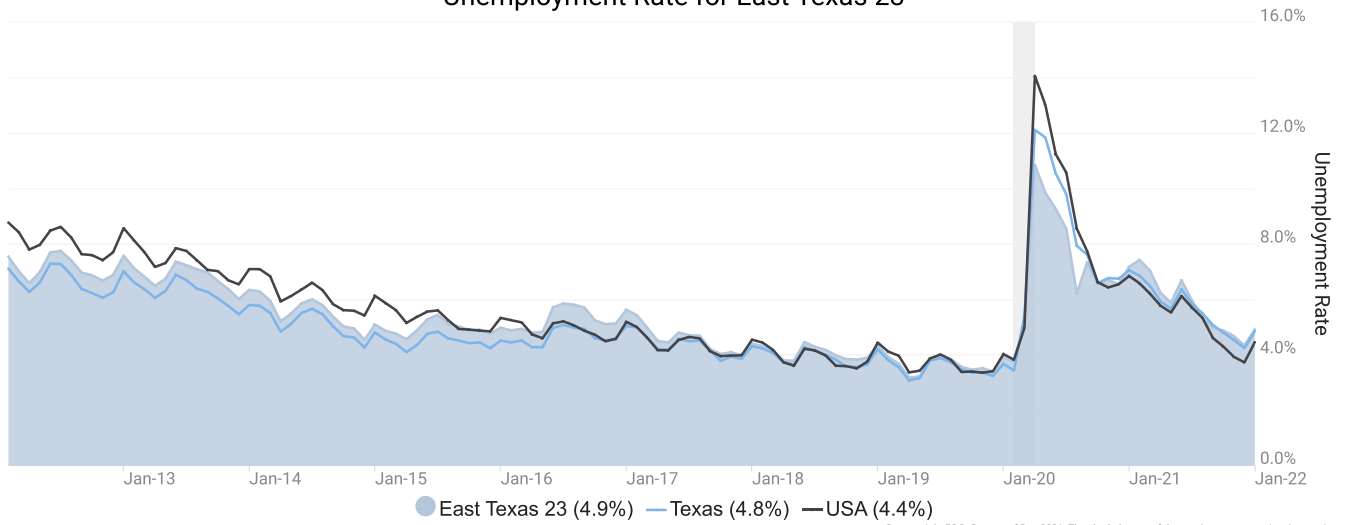
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Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the East Texas was 4.9% as of January 2022. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in January 2021, the unemployment rate in the East Texas was 7.2%.

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 January 2022.

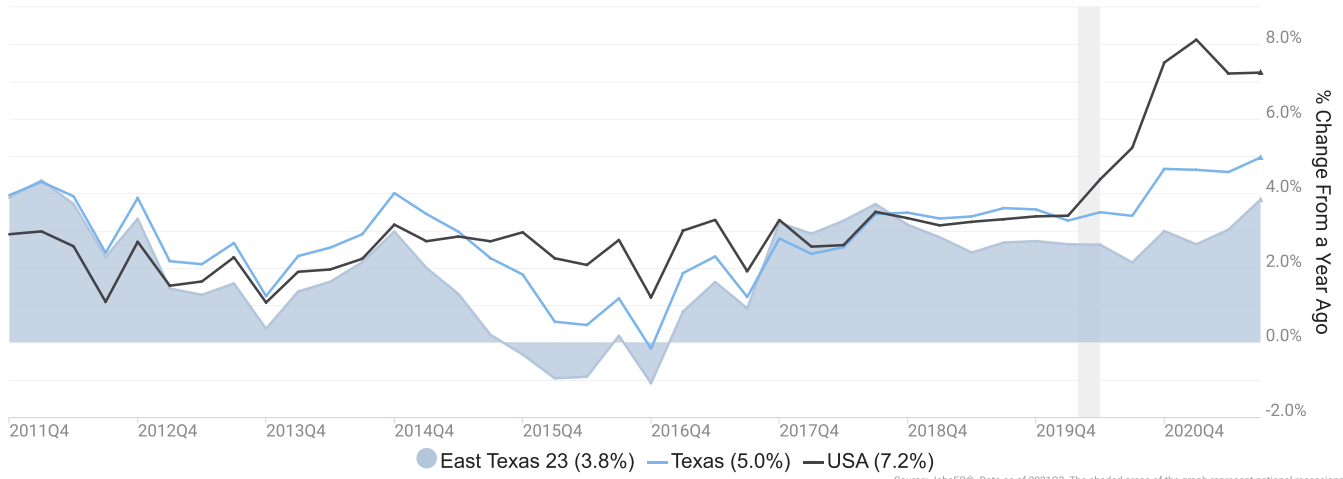
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Wage Trends

The average worker in the East Texas earned annual wages of \$45,027 as of 2021Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.8% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$64,555 in the nation as of 2021Q3.

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 2021Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q3.

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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 10.7% lower in East Texas than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
East Texas 23	\$45,027	89.3	\$50,424
Texas	\$62,289	94.7	\$65,750
USA	\$64,555	100.0	\$64,555

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2021Q3

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2021Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

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Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the East Texas is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 55,002 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (45,609 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (40,845). 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 = 1.31), Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.28), and Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (1.23).

Occupation groups in the East Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$92,400), Management Occupations (\$88,400), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$80,200). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.8% among Legal Occupations to 13.3% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the East Texas is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.1% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+755 jobs) and Healthcare Support Occupations (+493). 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 (7,185 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (6,379).

East Texas 23, 2021Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
				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	55,002	\$36,300	0.92	3,125	5.2%	2,173	-2,840	-1.0%	6,134	2,649	3,645	-159	-0.3%
41-0000	Sales and Related	45,609	\$37,100	1.01	3,804	7.7%	3,309	-869	-0.4%	6,256	2,517	3,862	-123	-0.3%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	40,845	\$35,700	1.01	3,434	7.3%	3,003	1,977	1.0%	5,554	1,878	3,378	298	0.7%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	39,035	\$22,700	1.09	6,234	13.3%	2,405	782	0.4%	7,940	2,941	4,244	755	1.9%
51-0000	Production	35,754	\$38,300	1.31	2,628	6.7%	755	518	0.3%	4,126	1,378	2,767	-18	-0.1%
11-0000	Management	32,884	\$88,400	1.12	767	2.5%	1,370	-1,304	-0.8%	3,152	1,184	1,759	209	0.6%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	28,753	\$42,800	1.12	1,584	5.8%	381	115	0.1%	2,807	1,179	1,416	212	0.7%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	28,318	\$75,600	1.02	649	2.3%	3,761	-249	-0.2%	1,991	776	916	299	1.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	27,914	\$43,000	1.28	2,549	8.1%	405	-1,239	-0.9%	3,443	911	2,324	209	0.7%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	23,876	\$26,200	1.14	1,241	4.8%	1,204	844	0.7%	3,674	1,538	1,643	493	2.1%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	20,403	\$47,200	1.14	1,218	5.2%	1,036	232	0.2%	2,167	653	1,380	134	0.7%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	18,418	\$68,100	0.65	492	2.9%	718	1,174	1.3%	1,894	516	1,268	110	0.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	16,399	\$26,900	1.06	1,403	7.7%	765	648	0.8%	2,285	931	1,251	102	0.6%
33-0000	Protective Service	9,789	\$44,000	0.98	440	4.2%	340	-637	-1.3%	1,009	412	563	34	0.3%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	9,404	\$26,800	0.81	1,276	11.5%	249	-208	-0.4%	1,659	678	819	161	1.7%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	7,962	\$48,000	0.94	127	1.9%	464	277	0.7%	1,004	311	587	106	1.3%
15-0000	Computer Mathematical and	7,813	\$76,900	0.48	167	2.3%	419	870	2.4%	651	134	457	61	0.8%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	6,012	\$80,200	0.76	200	3.5%	192	-84	-0.3%	517	147	340	30	0.5%

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East Texas 23, 2021Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current		Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	5-Year History		Total Demand	1-Year Forecast			Ann % Growth
				LQ	Unempl			Empl Change	Ann %		Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	5,483	\$44,000	0.66	410	8.2%	166	-95	-0.3%	673	227	395	51	0.9%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	3,892	\$29,100	1.23	306	7.2%	40	-35	-0.2%	650	156	480	13	0.3%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,175	\$66,000	0.74	88	3.2%	166	-60	-0.4%	313	65	226	23	0.7%
23-0000	Legal	2,846	\$92,400	0.70	49	1.8%	17	-92	-0.6%	209	72	115	22	0.8%
Total - All Occupations		469,583	\$45,000	1.00	32,192	6.4%	23,337	-272	0.0%	58,218	21,252	33,834	3,132	0.7%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2021Q3 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 are as of 2020 and represent the average for all Covered Employment

3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. 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).

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 2021Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2020 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.

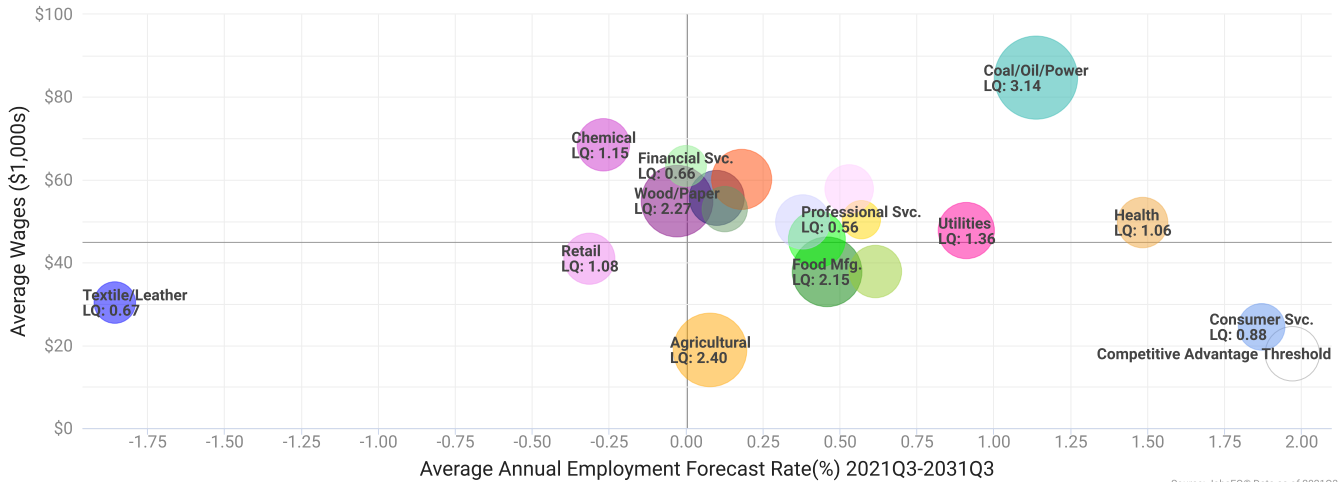
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Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the East Texas with the highest relative concentration is Coal/Oil/Power with a location quotient of 3.14. This cluster employs 11,794 workers in the region with an average wage of \$84,669. Employment in the Coal/Oil/Power cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.1% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for East Texas 23 as of 2021Q3



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 2021Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

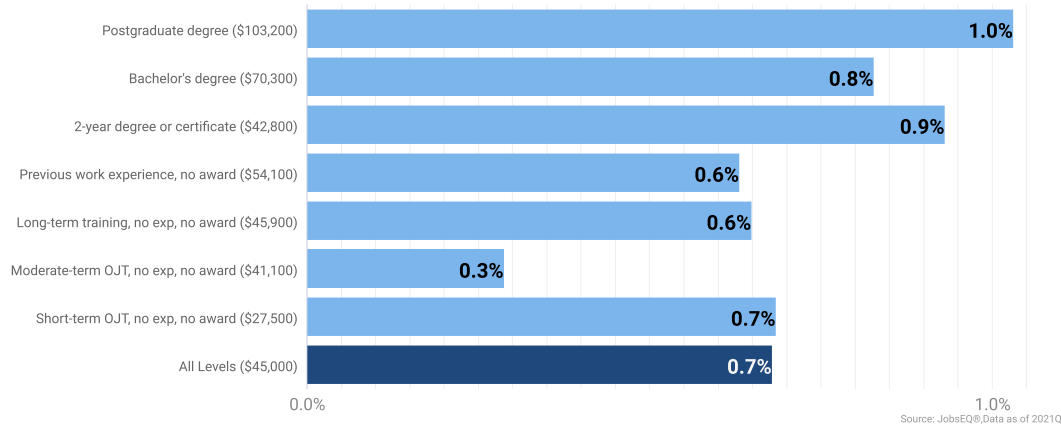
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Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the East Texas is projected to grow 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.0% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 0.8% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.9% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required for East T



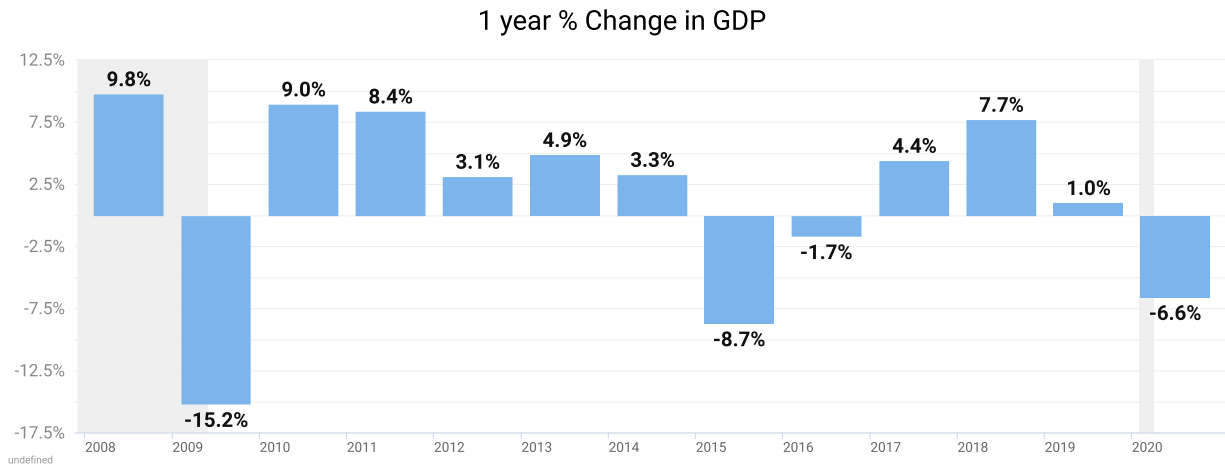
Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2021Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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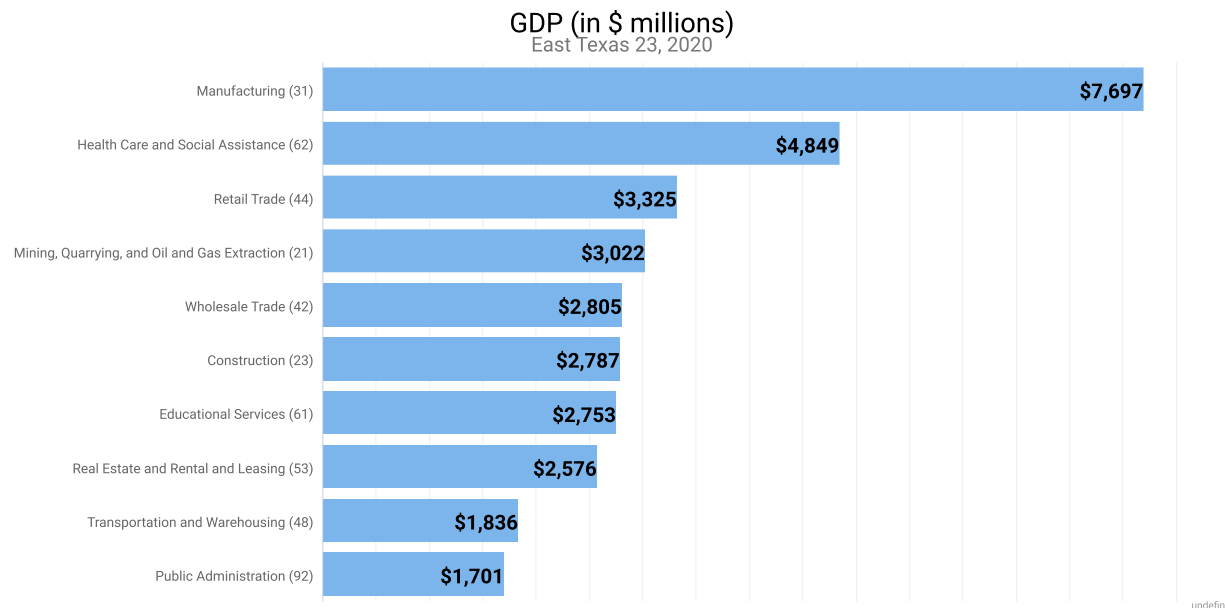
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2020, nominal GDP in the East Texas contracted 6.6%. This follows growth of 1.0% in 2019. As of 2020, total GDP in the East Texas was \$43,226,743,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2020.

Of the sectors in the East Texas, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2020, \$7,696,806,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$4,849,479,000); Retail Trade (\$3,324,533,000); and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$3,021,729,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2020.

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