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HIBBS INSTITUTE

Lamar County

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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 Lamar County, Texas was 49,705 per American Community Survey data for 2016-2020. The region has a civilian labor force of 23,080 with a participation rate of 58.8%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Lamar County, Texas, 18.9% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 34.3% in the nation. The median household income in Lamar County, Texas is \$48,036 and the median house value is \$108,500.

Summary¹

Demographics	Percent			Value		
	Lamar County, Texas	Texas	USA	Lamar County, Texas	Texas	USA
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	49,705	28,635,442	326,569,308
Male	47.8%	49.7%	49.2%	23,773	14,221,720	160,818,530
Female	52.2%	50.3%	50.8%	25,932	14,413,722	165,750,778
Median Age ²	—	—	—	40.7	34.8	38.2
Under 18 Years	23.8%	25.8%	22.4%	11,833	7,381,482	73,296,738
18 to 24 Years	7.4%	9.8%	9.3%	3,692	2,804,109	30,435,736
25 to 34 Years	12.6%	14.7%	13.9%	6,244	4,210,488	45,485,165
35 to 44 Years	11.3%	13.6%	12.7%	5,629	3,888,044	41,346,677
45 to 54 Years	12.7%	12.4%	12.7%	6,316	3,542,967	41,540,736
55 to 64 Years	12.8%	11.2%	12.9%	6,382	3,214,983	42,101,439
65 to 74 Years	10.9%	7.6%	9.4%	5,408	2,166,863	30,547,950
75 Years and Over	8.5%	5.0%	6.7%	4,201	1,426,506	21,814,867
Race: White	79.8%	69.2%	70.4%	39,645	19,805,623	229,960,813
Race: Black or African American	12.9%	12.1%	12.6%	6,413	3,464,424	41,227,384
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	1.3%	0.5%	0.8%	657	137,921	2,688,614
Race: Asian	0.8%	4.9%	5.6%	383	1,415,664	18,421,637
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	19	25,328	611,404
Race: Some Other Race	1.1%	6.2%	5.1%	564	1,788,398	16,783,914
Race: Two or More Races	4.1%	7.0%	5.2%	2,024	1,998,084	16,875,542
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8.1%	39.4%	18.2%	4,007	11,294,257	59,361,020
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	49,905	29,360,759	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.0%	1.5%	0.6%	8	411,886	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	55.0	111.0	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	58.8%	64.7%	63.2%	23,080	14,214,242	164,759,496
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	80.6%	81.0%	82.4%	14,647	9,378,835	105,137,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	12	94,824	1,143,342
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.2%	4.7%	4.5%	1,459	832,547	8,920,267
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	66.1%	78.5%	76.8%	965	653,740	6,853,673
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$48,036	\$63,826	\$64,994
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$24,826	\$32,177	\$35,384
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.1	26.6	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.2%	1.3%	4.6%	34	166,825	7,044,886
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	11.9%	14.6%	10.5%	2,914	2,171,844	17,929,220
High School Graduate	34.0%	24.4%	25.4%	8,353	3,627,667	43,289,555
Some College, No Degree	25.7%	21.6%	20.5%	6,313	3,213,443	34,959,338
Associate's Degree	9.6%	7.8%	9.3%	2,349	1,163,242	15,776,790
Bachelor's Degree	13.5%	20.8%	21.6%	3,326	3,089,698	36,888,244
Postgraduate Degree	5.4%	10.7%	12.7%	1,316	1,590,588	21,630,870

About This Report

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Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Lamar County, Texas	Texas	USA	Lamar County, Texas	Texas	USA
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	22,807	11,112,975	138,432,751
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$108,500	\$187,200	\$229,800
Homeowner Vacancy	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%	130	87,068	1,129,755
Rental Vacancy	7.4%	7.8%	5.8%	571	319,748	2,704,553
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	35.3%	37.7%	35.6%	7,055	3,737,262	43,552,843
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	7.2%	5.2%	8.5%	1,444	518,950	10,344,521
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	18.4%	14.2%	12.8%	9,020	3,984,260	40,910,326
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	13.7%	11.5%	11.4%	2,743	1,137,919	13,892,407
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%	665	414,927	4,358,865
Disconnected Youth ³	1.5%	2.9%	2.5%	36	46,974	433,164
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	44.2%	34.3%	34.0%	4,943	2,407,343	23,628,508
Uninsured	16.9%	17.3%	8.7%	8,310	4,877,069	28,058,903
With a Disability, Age 18-64	16.7%	9.5%	10.3%	4,671	1,635,809	20,231,217
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	36.7%	46.3%	43.2%	1,715	757,894	8,740,236
Foreign Born	3.8%	16.8%	13.5%	1,896	4,822,952	44,125,628
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.4%	13.3%	8.2%	1,125	3,531,850	25,312,024

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2016-2020, 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.

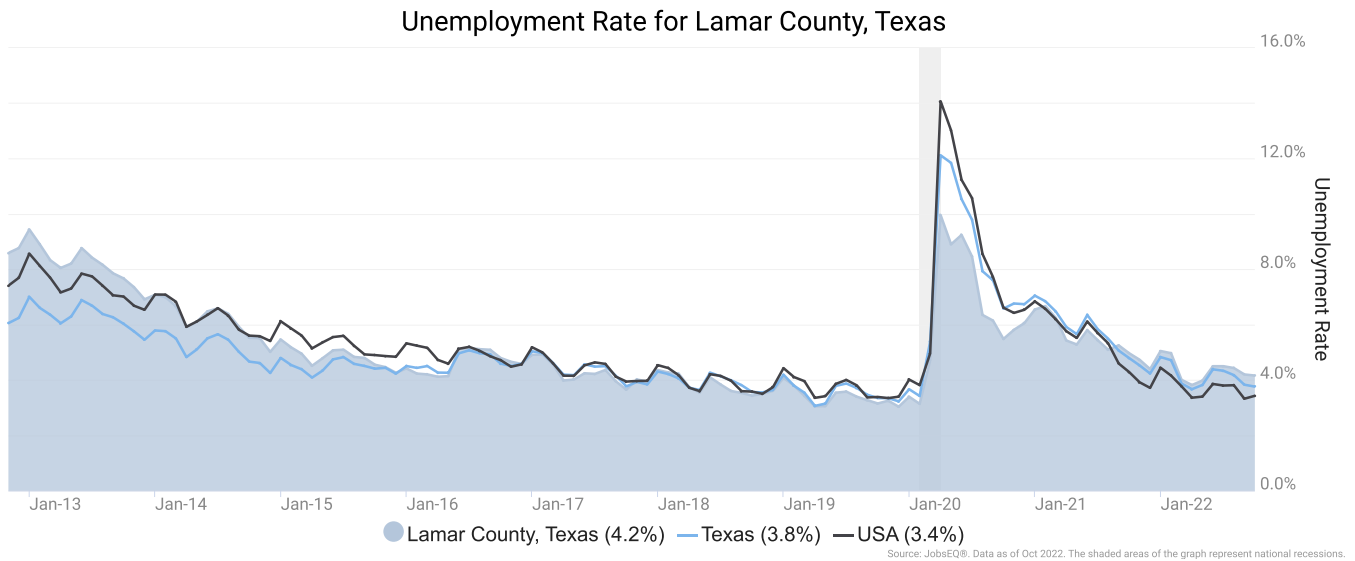
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

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Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Lamar County, Texas was 4.2% as of October 2022. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 3.4%. One year earlier, in October 2021, the unemployment rate in Lamar County, Texas was 5.0%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through October 2022.

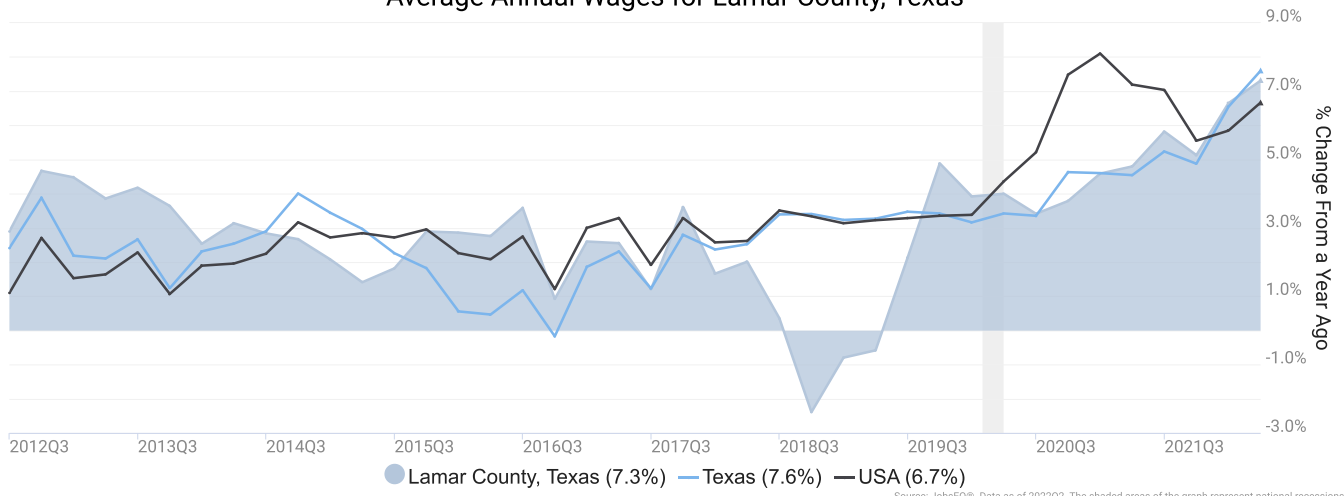
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Wage Trends

The average worker in Lamar County, Texas earned annual wages of \$47,589 as of 2022Q2. Average annual wages per worker increased 7.3% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$67,777 in the nation as of 2022Q2.

Average Annual Wages for Lamar County, Texas



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 2022Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q2.

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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 12.4% lower in Lamar County, Texas than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index	
		(Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Lamar County, Texas	\$47,589	87.6	\$54,341
Texas	\$66,137	94.4	\$70,085
USA	\$67,777	100.0	\$67,777

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q2

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2022Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

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Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Lamar County, Texas is Production Occupations, employing 3,964 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (2,810 workers) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,087). 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 = 2.82), Healthcare Support Occupations (1.28), and Management Occupations (1.15).

Occupation groups in Lamar County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$90,500), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$85,100), and Management Occupations (\$84,300). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations to 7.7% among Personal Care and Service Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Lamar 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 Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+35 jobs) and Healthcare Support Occupations (+31). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Production Occupations (436 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (338).

Lamar County, Texas, 2022Q2¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			Total Demand	1-Year Forecast			
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %		Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	3,964	\$39,700	2.82	188	5.7%	45	796	4.6%	427	147	289	-9	-0.2%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	2,810	\$37,200	0.92	109	4.0%	60	-142	-1.0%	299	132	174	-7	-0.3%
41-0000	Sales and Related	2,087	\$37,600	0.89	122	5.8%	155	-106	-1.0%	274	111	167	-4	-0.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,018	\$35,500	0.93	125	6.2%	111	25	0.3%	268	93	165	10	0.5%
11-0000	Management	1,964	\$84,300	1.15	35	2.0%	108	43	0.4%	179	70	98	11	0.5%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,769	\$23,700	0.91	137	7.6%	110	-28	-0.3%	373	146	192	35	2.0%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,402	\$26,600	1.28	61	4.6%	46	0	0.0%	224	95	98	31	2.2%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,325	\$85,100	0.92	17	1.4%	175	61	1.0%	95	36	42	17	1.3%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,267	\$43,200	1.13	74	6.2%	21	48	0.8%	134	38	88	7	0.6%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	1,234	\$46,100	0.93	32	2.9%	11	-130	-2.0%	115	49	57	9	0.7%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,096	\$48,200	1.14	31	2.9%	46	60	1.1%	112	35	70	6	0.6%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	942	\$66,700	0.59	22	2.6%	54	155	3.7%	88	25	57	6	0.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	706	\$28,600	0.86	39	5.6%	34	67	2.0%	97	40	53	4	0.6%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	446	\$27,100	0.74	36	7.7%	15	14	0.6%	74	30	36	9	1.9%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	331	\$50,600	0.75	6	2.4%	26	-2	-0.1%	39	12	22	5	1.5%
33-0000	Protective Service	328	\$45,200	0.62	12	3.3%	16	3	0.2%	38	16	20	2	0.7%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	327	\$75,800	0.38	5	1.9%	50	79	5.7%	26	7	17	2	0.7%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	306	\$79,900	0.75	6	2.2%	14	57	4.2%	23	7	15	1	0.4%

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Lamar County, Texas, 2022Q2¹

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	216	\$48,300	0.49	10	5.8%	6	-8	-0.8%	24	8	14	2	0.9%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	138	\$31,000	0.86	9	6.3%	n/a	-26	-3.4%	21	6	15	0	-0.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	117	\$73,000	0.54	2	2.7%	3	15	2.8%	11	3	7	1	0.6%
23-0000	Legal	74	\$90,500	0.35	1	1.9%	5	2	0.7%	6	2	3	1	0.8%
Total - All Occupations		24,866	\$45,800	1.00	1,077	4.7%	1,113	984	0.8%	2,951	1,108	1,698	145	0.6%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q2 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 2021 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 2022Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q2. Wages by occupation are as of 2021 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.

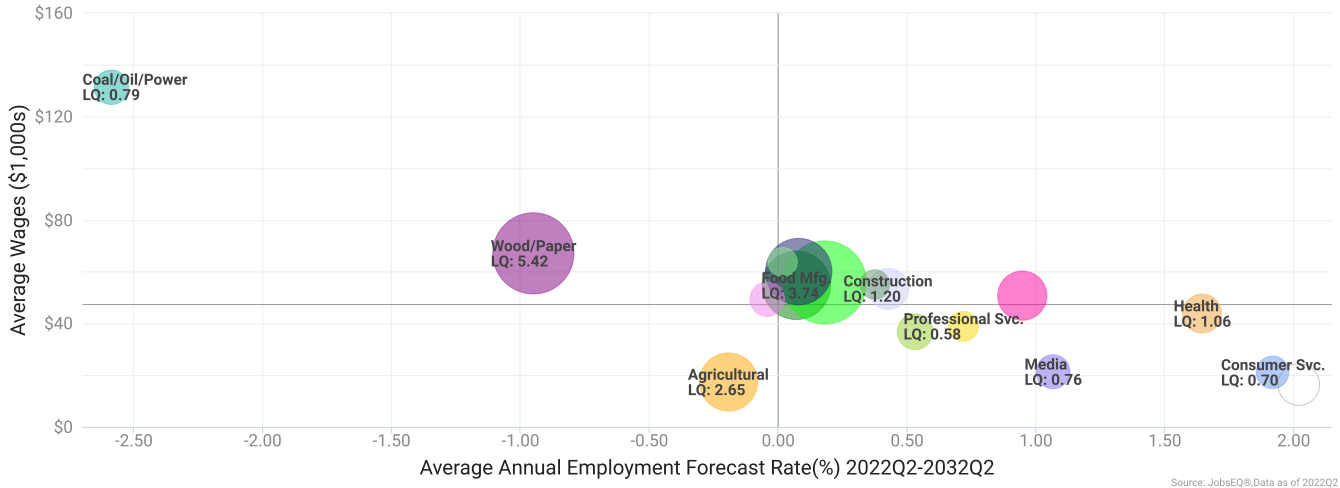
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Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Lamar County, Texas with the highest relative concentration is Auto/Auto-related with a location quotient of 5.71. This cluster employs 2,359 workers in the region with an average wage of \$55,971. Employment in the Auto/Auto-related cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.2% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Lamar County, Texas as of 2022Q2



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 2022Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

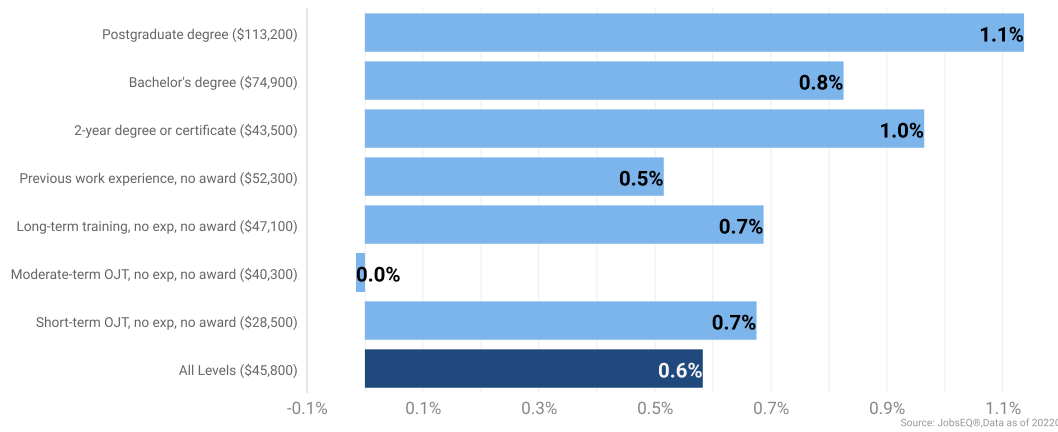
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Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Lamar County, Texas is projected to grow 0.6% 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 0.8% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.0% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required



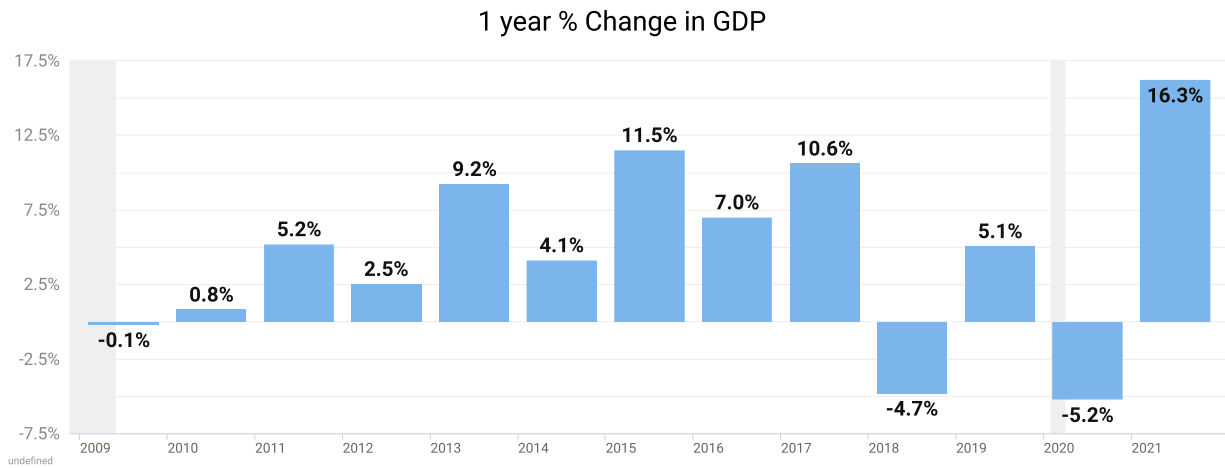
Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2022Q2. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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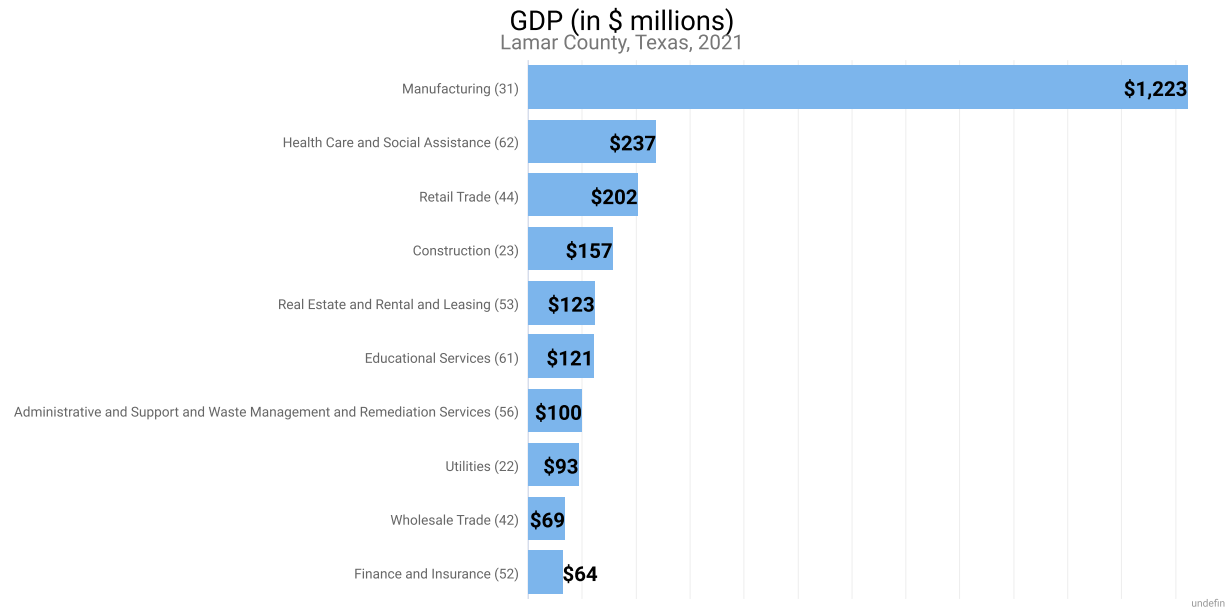
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2021, nominal GDP in Lamar County, Texas expanded 16.3%. This follows a contraction of 5.2% in 2020. As of 2021, total GDP in Lamar County, Texas was \$2,706,671,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Of the sectors in Lamar County, Texas, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$1,223,428,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$236,795,000); Retail Trade (\$202,329,000); and Construction (\$156,816,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

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