

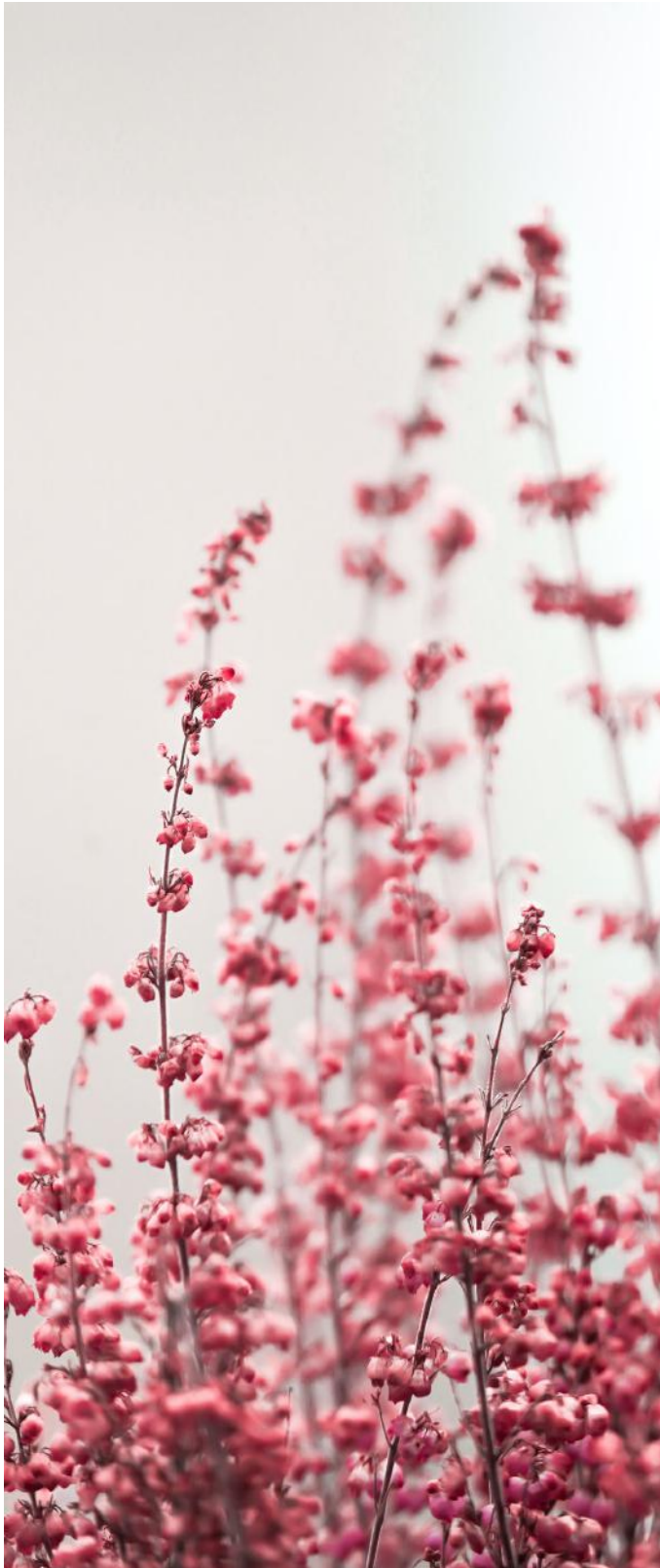
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2021-2025

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGION



Acknowledgements



The West Central Texas Economic Development District (WCTEDD) Board of Directors serves as the policy making and strategic planning entity of the district. Members are thoughtfully appointed as representatives of rural counties, urban areas, minorities, business and industry, utilities, labor and the unemployed, media, education, or community assistance interests. All are broadly representative of the area's principal economic interests. The Board of Directors currently has 16 members; bylaws prohibit more than 35 Board members. In this region, it is critical for fair and equitable representation that Board members will be representatives from the five sub-regions of the area. Each member may serve for two-year terms with no term limitations. Officers consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

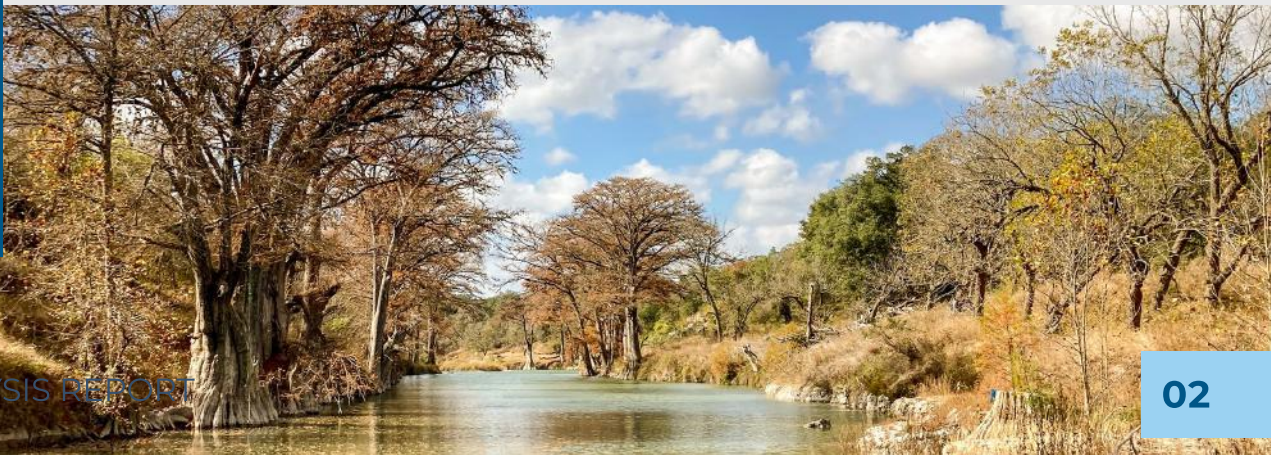
The current sub-regional representation of Board members reflects the population across the sub regions:

32% represent Sub region I, 19% represent Sub region II, 5% represent Sub region III, 25% represent Sub region IV, and 19% represent Sub region V.

To ensure an all-encompassing perspective toward economic and community development, 63% of the Board represents the public sector and workforce and 37% represent the private sector and media.

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Introduction and Purpose

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) serves as a roadmap that aggregates and synthesizes economic development initiatives throughout the 19-county West Central Texas region and clarifies how the regional economy is likely to diversify and strengthen over a five-year period (2020-2025). The CEDs is a prerequisite for designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Districts must update their CEDs at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs.

The West Central Texas Economic Development District (WCTEDD) CEDs was developed through a locally based, regionally driven economic development planning process. WCTEDD's area stakeholders have a history of working together to integrate and leverage each other's local regional planning goals, objectives, tasks, and project efforts. In developing the CEDs, WCTEDD inventoried and reviewed existing economic development plans, reports, initiatives, and strategies underway in WCTEDD's 19-county areas. Collaborations and economic development initiatives were incorporated into the CEDs to create a collective regional, strategy-driven plan.

WCTEDD also engaged the CEDs Committee and community partners to contribute and validate the analysis, goals and benchmarks assessed in the CEDs. At its November 2019 Meeting, the CEDs Committee reviewed in detail the data collected in preparation of the WCTEDD CEDs. At the meeting the Committee was also provided a summary of regional economic development plans from partner agencies and economic development organizations from communities throughout the West Central Texas region, many of which Committee members represent. Committee members then participated in a strategic work session, conducting a SWOT analysis, and developing a Plan of Action with Strategic Recommendations. The Committee provided additional feedback via individual interviews and regional videoconference planning sessions following the November meeting. Community comment period for the CEDs was from November 17, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

Note: What will be significant to the West Central 19-county area is the unknown effect of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis. In March 2020, during development of the CEDs, local and State of Texas orders were issued for all persons to stay in their homes except for persons determined essential workers. Since those orders were issued, regional economies have experienced varying levels of economic activity as businesses open and close in response to community spread, and many businesses permanently shutter due to lack of demand for goods and services at previous levels. As of the last update to the CEDs in October, 3.6 million Texans have filed for unemployment since mid-March resulting in a 6.8% unemployment rate and Sales tax revenues are down 6.1% year-over-year.

Economic Partners

Economic Development groups throughout the WCTEDD region were involved in development of the CEDS, have significant and varied economic developments portfolios and are key to the region's continued economic vitality. The Economic Development District supports these partners and their efforts through collaboration, joint planning, and the provision of technical assistance as needed.

In addition, several partner cities in the region have passed 4A and 4B sales tax to undertake eligible projects. These cities include Albany, Anson, Aspermont, Breckenridge, Cisco, Goree, Gorman, and Knox City. The cities with 4A sales tax include Abilene, Baird, Brownwood, Coleman, Comanche, DeLeon, Early, Eastland, Hamlin, Haskell, Munday, Ranger, Rotan, Snyder, Stamford, and Sweetwater. Cities with 4B sales tax include Bangs, Benjamin, Breckenridge, Buffalo Gap, Clyde, Cross Plains, Gustine, Merkel, Miles, Rising Star, Santa Anna, and Throckmorton.



Vision

West Central Texas Economic Development District shall serve as a catalyst for economic expansion and prosperity while preserving the integrity and character of the Big Country region. Strategic development will occur through creation of sustainable wage jobs, establishment of innovative projects and businesses, strong alliance with local economic development efforts, provision of technical assistance, collection and interpretation of economic data, and vigorous evaluation and procurement of services and resources. As an Economic Development District, rather than an Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the pivotal role for the WCTEDD is to advocate for the region as a whole, while supporting the individual roles of the EDC. The two are positioned to be complementary rather than competitive. The EDD will provide technical assistance and support for the practice and policy of expanding economic development in this vast region.

Staff Support

Since 1988, the WCTEDD Board has executed a cooperative agreement whereby the district would propose to contract with the West Central Texas Council of Governments for staff, office space and functions. In turn, the Council of Governments has provided matching funds to the district.

The CEDS is representative of the collaboration and innovative occurring within the West Central Texas Economic Development District. Historically, Districts and local Economic Development Corporations have focused on procuring new business to the region. This may occur through working with business new to the region or developing local entrepreneurship.



Organization and Management

The West Central Texas Economic Development District was established in September 1990 as a state-chartered non-profit corporation, to respond to severe economic challenges. The designated region encompasses the 17,914 square mile. “Big Country” region; including Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton counties, as well as the cities and special purpose districts within these counties. The WCTEDD is open to all city and county governments, chamber of commerce representatives, local economic development corporation personnel, education specialists, media personnel, workforce and labor representatives, economic development professors, tourism professionals, and business leaders.

Historically, the WCTEDD goals were designed to identify common regional problems and collaborative, synergetic stimuli, and solutions. Specifically, original goals focused on:

- Procuring new business interests to the region
- Assisting member governments with applications and technical assistance with job creation projects
- Developing and maintaining an effective, proactive regional economic development program
- Strengthening and diversifying the business and agricultural sectors of the regional economy

The WCTEDD has proactively recognized that the historical efforts of the Economic Development Districts is to provide a solid foundation to expand the District’s role in this new millennium. West Central Texas has very affordable business and living costs, excellent school districts, low crime rates, and other factors that contribute to a high quality of life. The regional economy has proven adaptive and resilient over the past several decades, weathering changes brought on by urbanization, automation, cost-effective renewable energy, and emergent technologies as well as the post 9/11 (2001) and financial crisis (2008) recessions. Regional leaders face challenges once again by the looming social and economic upheaval with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, regional economic development stakeholders will be required to be agile and responsive in the face of this new challenge and will be tasked with building a more resilient economy with social supports that ensure the safety and security of all residents.

The region will need to build upon past successes and leverage its unique economic assets while working collaboratively to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development that will diversify the economy and build strong economic competencies. The WCTEDD supports this effort by providing value-added and innovative services to elected officials, education leaders, economic developers, chambers of commerce, tourism agencies, businesses leaders, entrepreneurs, and others.

Summary Background

Regional Vitals

The West Central Texas Economic Development District encompasses over 18,000 square miles of land across 19 counties. It contains a vast rural area; the largest city is Abilene (population 112,999 in 2018), located in Taylor County. The region lies approximately 140 miles West/Southwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and is approximately 190 miles West/Northwest of the City of Austin.

The City of Abilene is centrally located in the heart of the 19-county region, on the area's only major interstate highway. The counties of Stephens, Eastland, Brown, Comanche and Throckmorton are in the Central Oklahoma/Texas Plains Ecoregion and are primarily range and pastureland. The rest of the counties are encompassed within the Central Great Plains Ecoregion once grassland with low trees and shrubs, the area is prime for winter wheat crops. The region's economic composition and characteristics are as varied and complex as the communities that comprise it and present unique challenges for the region's economic development community.

Analyzing the Regional Vitals (Summary Background) provides insights into the economic vitality and potential of West Central Texas.

- Demographic and Socioeconomic Data
- Industry Sector and Employment Trends
- Economic Performance
- Transportation
- Housing
- Agriculture and Livestock
- Internet Connectivity
- Health

Population

The continued urbanization of Texas and the United States has resulted in sustained muted population growth in West Central Texas. According to the Texas Demographic Center, the region experienced only a nominal population growth of 1.7% (5,791) from 2015 to 2020.

Projecting forward, the population is expected to continue to grow 6.71% (24,657) from 2020 to 2050. Seventeen of the nineteen counties are projected to increase in population by 2050. The largest growth is projected to occur in Knox county 17.01% (204), Scurry county 14.30% (3,023), and Nolan county 11.51% (2,084). Taylor County, our most populated county in the region will only see a 8.75% (13,522) increase in that time. Stonewall County is projecting to have the largest reduction in population, reducing by -2.3% (-34) by 2050.

Economic developers and stakeholders must work together to retain and attract residents to the region in order to build and sustain a competitive workforce, a primary economic development asset.

Population Estimates

COUNTY	2020	2030	2040	2050	% GROWTH
Brown	39,167	36,626	39,250	38,850	-0.82%
Callahan	13,680	13,988	13,885	13,742	0.45%
Coleman	8,900	8,968	8,969	9,063	1.80%
Comanche	14,316	14,790	15,198	15,778	9.27%
Eastland	19,019	19,258	19,260	19,338	1.65%
Fisher	4,025	4,099	4,118	4,150	3.01%
Haskell	5,880	5,943	5,950	5,972	1.54%
Jones	20,662	20,995	21,016	20,982	1.53%
Kent	819	865	843	825	0.73%
Knox	3,884	4,145	4,410	4,680	17.01%
Mitchell	9,775	10,141	10,389	10,713	8.76%
Nolan	16,024	16,836	17,484	18,108	11.51%
Runnels	10,807	11,179	11,400	11,764	8.13%
Scurry	18,113	19,234	20,193	21,136	14.30%
Shackelford	3,548	3,676	3,725	3,802	6.68%
Stephens	9,892	10,238	10,552	10,847	8.80%
Stonewall	1,504	1,538	1,511	1,470	-2.31%
Taylor	140,946	146,962	151,200	154,468	8.75%
Throckmorton	1,660	1,669	1,631	1,590	4.40%
Region	342,621	351,147	360,984	367,278	6.71%

US Census Bureau: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Texas, April 1 2010 - July 1 2013

Population

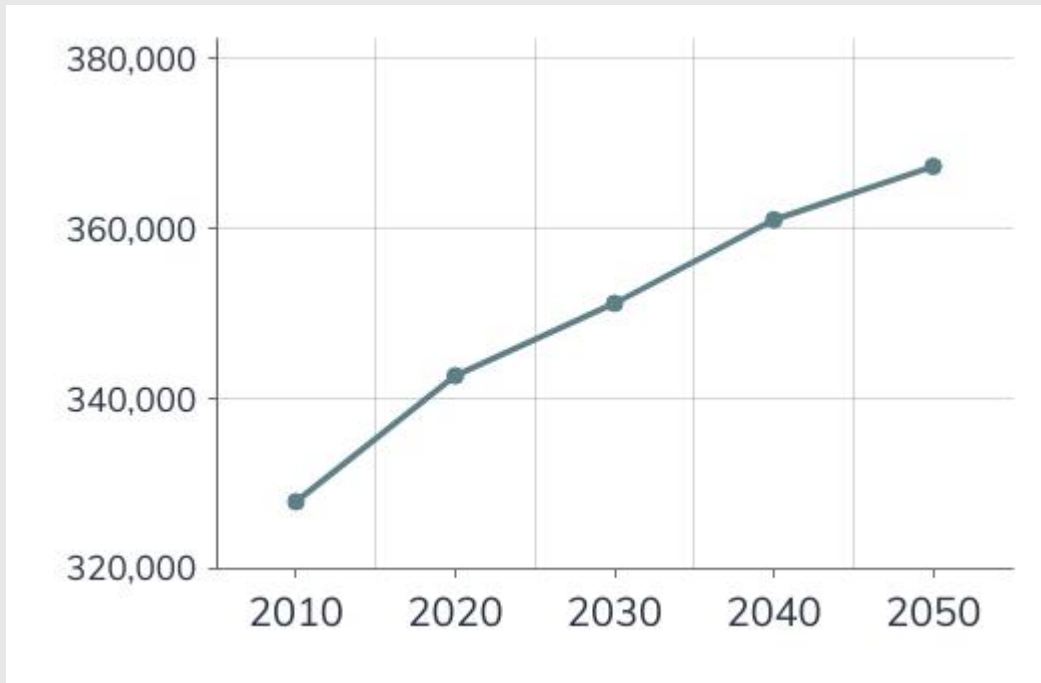
Population Density Per Square Mile

COUNTY	POPULATION PER SQ MILE	LAND AREA PER SQ MILE
Brown	40.30	944.43
Callahan	15.10	899.37
Coleman	7.0	1,262
Comanche	14.90	937.75
Eastland	20.10	926.49
Fisher	4.40	898.94
Haskell	6.50	903.13
Jones	21.80	928.55
Kent	0.90	902.51
Knox	4.40	850.62
Mitchell	10.30	911.09
Nolan	16.70	912.00
Runnels	10.00	1,050.95
Scurry	18.70	905.44
Shackelford	3.70	914.29
Stephens	10.70	896.72
Stonewall	1.60	916.31
Taylor	143.60	915.55
Throckmorton	1.80	912.55

US Census Bureau, 2018

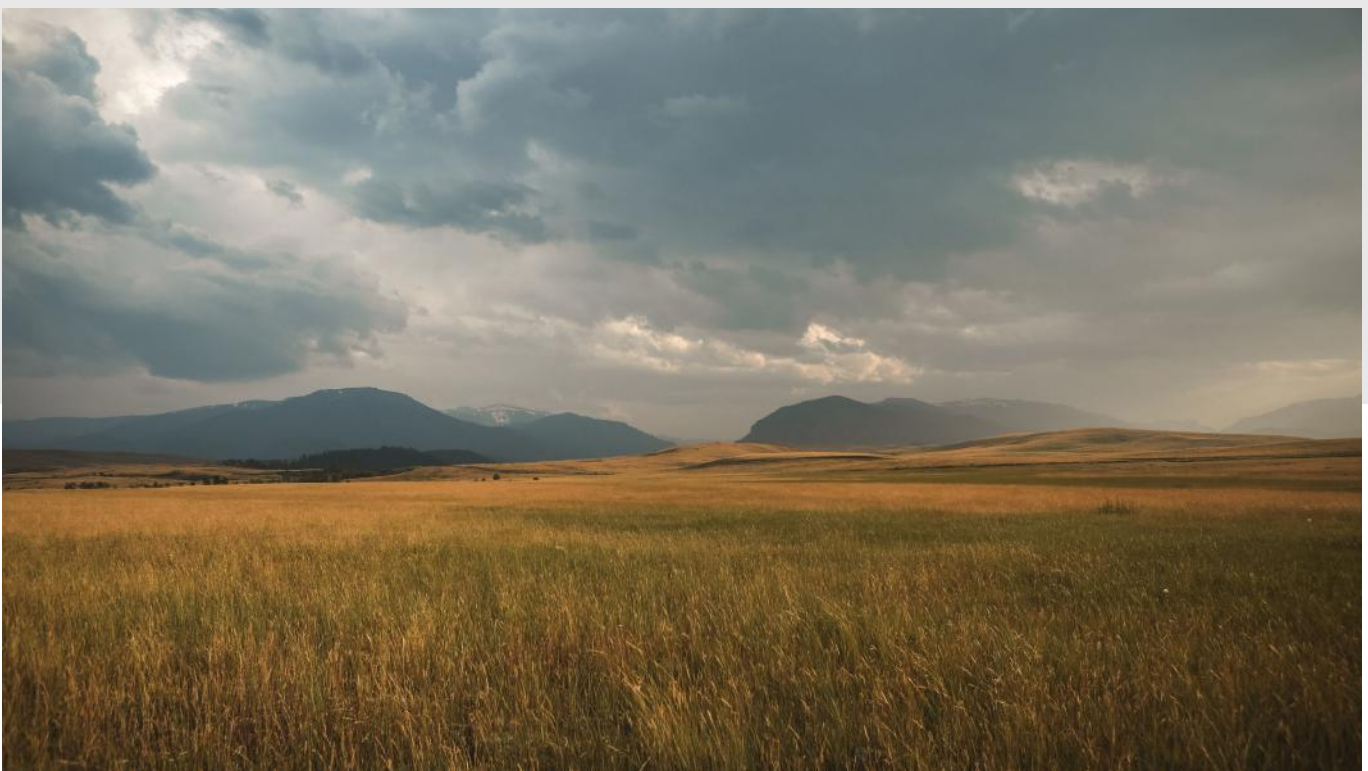
Population

Regional Population Estimates 2010 - 2050



6.71%
Growth

US Census Bureau



Race and Ethnicity

Projected population growth among Race/Ethnicity groups is consistent with the trends throughout northern Texas. West Central Texas is projected to experience a drop in the majority White, Non-Hispanic population of -2.3% (-4,796) from 2020 to 2025. During the same period, the Hispanic populations are expected to realize the most significant gains, with the number classified as White, Hispanic increasing 3.7% (2,950) and those classified as Black, Hispanic increasing 8.4% (243). While Hispanic groups are projected to experience significant gains in the region, as a percentage of the population they still trail Texas in which Hispanics accounted for 37.7% in 2020 (Source: Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI)). Other groups expected to realize significant percentage gains thru 2025 include Asian, Non-Hispanic 12.9% (624) and individuals classified as Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic 10.8% (473).

The presence of growing racial and ethnic minority groups present economic developers and stakeholders with an opportunity to train and develop a new, emergent workforce in the region that can drive new economic growth. Increased diversity provides new opportunities for innovation and economic development as local communities and economies adapt to new cultures. Increased diversity, however, also presents challenges. Economic developers and stakeholders must collaborate to address new challenges and adapt institutions, including education and training providers, to increase positive outcomes within new populations

Regional Population by Race /Ethnicity

RACE / ETHNICITY	2020 POPULATION	2025 POPULATION	CHANGE	% CHANGE	2020 % OF COHORT
White, Non-Hispanic	212,403	207,607	-4,796	-2.3%	64.5%
White, Hispanic	79,132	82,082	2,950	3.7%	24.0%
Black, Non-Hispanic	18,168	18,619	451	2.5%	5.5%
Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic	5,606	6,079	473	8.4%	1.7%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	4,830	5,454	624	12.9%	1.5%
Black, Hispanic	2,613	2,856	243	9.3%	0.8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Hispanic	2,182	2,341	159	7.3%	0.7%
Two or More Races, Hispanic	2,119	2,348	229	10.8%	0.6%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic	1,699	1,812	113	6.7%	0.5%
Asian, Hispanic	462	501	39	8.4%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	174	194	20	11.5%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	168	193	25	14.9%	0.1%
Total	329,556	330,085	529	0.2%	100.0%

Economic Modeling Specialists (EMSI)

Age

Analysis of projected growth among age cohorts indicates pronounced growth among cohorts age <9 years and 65 and older.

Growth among younger cohorts presents an opportunity to invest and develop a skilled future workforce. The <5 cohort is projected to grow 4.6%, while the 5 to 9 cohort is projected to grow 1.6%. Among older cohorts, 65 to 69 is projected to grow by 9.1%, 70 to 74 by 6.6%, 75 to 79 by 8.0%, and 80 to 84 by 7.3%. Expansion among these age groups requires careful planning among economic developers and stakeholders to ensure sufficient services are available to support the health and well-being of an aging population.

Age data substantiates stakeholder feedback that indicates an out migration of working age adults to more metropolitan regions. Strategies to improve retention among the middle cohorts should be prioritized to increase the competitiveness of the region's labor force.

Regional Population By Age

AGE COHORT	2020 POPULATION	2025 POPULATION	CHANGE	% CHANGE	2020 % OF COHORT
Under 5 years	21,680	22,668	988	4.6%	6.6%
5 to 9 years	20,718	21,052	334	1.6%	6.3%
10 to 14 years	21,562	20,829	-733	-3.4%	6.5%
15 to 19 years	22,660	23,358	698	3.1%	6.9%
20 to 24 years	25,473	23,616	-1,857	-7.3%	7.7%
25 to 29 years	22,764	21,603	-1,161	-5.1%	6.9%
30 to 34 years	21,237	21,766	529	2.5%	6.4%
35 to 39 years	20,973	21,016	43	0.2%	6.4%
40 to 44 years	18,268	20,594	2,326	12.7%	5.5%
45 to 49 years	17,412	17,659	247	1.4%	5.3%
50 to 54 years	17,523	16,835	-688	-3.9%	5.3%
55 to 59 years	19,938	16,956	-2,982	-15.0%	6.1%
60 to 64 years	20,405	19,166	-1,239	-6.1%	6.2%
65 to 69 years	17,735	19,351	1,616	9.1%	5.4%
70 to 74 years	14,827	15,802	975	6.6%	4.5%
75 to 79 years	11,234	12,129	895	8.0%	3.4%
80 to 84 years	7,762	8,331	569	7.3%	2.4%
85 years and older	7,386	7,352	-34	-0.5%	2.2%

Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI)

AGE

Population Age By County

COUNTY	UNDER 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	MEDIAN AGE
Brown	8,227	3,410	8,826	9,843	7,499	41.2
Callahan	3,062	921	3,176	3,939	2,861	43.9
Coleman	1,796	459	1,631	2,356	2,039	47.0
Comanche	3,035	855	2,978	3,463	3,266	44.6
Eastland	3,869	1,865	3,947	4,521	4,087	41.5
Fisher	821	274	865	1,017	850	44.5
Haskell	1,056	662	1,284	1,365	1,344	42.8
Jones	3,478	1,559	7,054	4,708	3,075	38.1
Kent	207	19	138	126	214	43.5
Knox	938	279	775	1,007	680	41.6
Mitchell	1,700	1,327	2,089	1,839	1,301	34.2
Nolan	3,853	1,502	3,324	3,506	2,716	37.1
Runnels	2,459	793	2,246	2,651	2,131	40.4
Scurry	4,185	1,521	4,885	3,776	2,551	36.5
Shackelford	769	263	637	974	648	44.7
Stephens	2,111	895	2,330	2,181	1,841	39.5
Stonewall	382	149	218	374	289	40.8
Taylor	34,034	19,251	35,995	28,343	19,898	32.6
Throckmorton	305	1,669,128	257	425	385	48.4

US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2020 , 5 year estimates

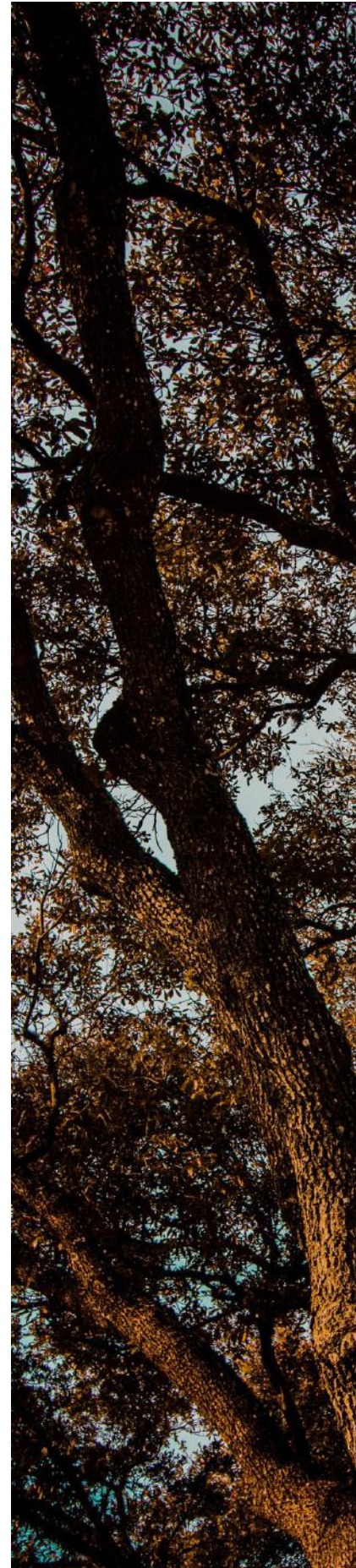
Educational Attainment

Educational attainment among West Central Texas residents trails that of Texas and the nation in 2020. Analysis of the maximum level of attainment for individuals age 25 or more in 2020 indicate:

- 18% achieved less than a high school diploma, compared to 18% of Texans and 14% nationwide
- 34% attained a high school diploma, compared to 25% of Texans and 28% nationwide
- 6% achieved an Associates degree, compared to 7% of Texans and 8% nationwide
- 13% achieved a Bachelor's degree, compared to 19% of Texans and 19% nationwide
- 6% obtained a Graduate degree or higher, compared to 10% of Texans and 12% nationwide

Of note within the educational attainment estimates, a significant percentage (24%) of residents attended some college that did not result in a degree. Strategies targeting up-skilling and completion among these individuals has the potential to significantly improve the competency and capacity of the region's workforce and improve the economic competitiveness of the region. (Source: Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., economicmodeling.com)

A county level analysis indicates that no county exceeds the State of Texas's level of Bachelor's Degrees (19.1%). Only one county, Kent, at 11.2% has a higher level of attainment of Graduate Degrees than Texas at 10.2%. The number of residents with an Associate's Degree is above the Texas (7.1%) in Brown (7.4%), Eastland (8.0%), Fisher (9.9%), Nolan (7.9%) and Taylor (8.1%) Counties. Haskell (15.0%), Runnels (11.1%), Comanche (10.8%), Scurry (10.4%) have the highest percentage of residents age 25+ with less than a 9th Grade Education. Shackelford at 22.6% is the only county from the nineteen counties with a High School Diploma attainment level that is less than Texas at 25.0%.



Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment By County

COUNTY	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE NO DEGREE	ASSOCIATES DEGREE	BACHELORS DEGREE	GRADUATE OR DOCTORATE DEGREE
Brown	35.1%	24.7%	7.0%	15.0%	5.10%
Callahan	34.8%	24.7%	6.7%	16.9%	5.50%
Coleman	36.1%	27.2%	6.3%	11.7%	5.10%
Comanche	32.7%	24.6%	8.3%	14.4%	5.80%
Eastland	31.0%	25.3%	9.6%	12.0%	7.20%
Fisher	35.2%	22.4%	11.1%	14.9%	5.50%
Haskell	33.7%	18.4%	5.4%	9.7%	6.90%
Jones	38.2%	22.5%	6.5%	9.2%	2.60%
Kent	25.7%	26.8%	8.2%	18.4%	14.40%
Knox	30.6%	24.2%	6.9%	11.7%	7.20%
Mitchell	45.1%	22.3%	5.2%	9.2%	2.90%
Nolan	34.5%	24.0%	9.1%	10.7%	4.30%
Runnels	35.1%	21.9%	7.5%	13.2%	3.40%
Scurry	33.0%	24.4%	6.7%	11.5%	4.60%
Shackelford	20.5%	30.0%	5.0%	23.2%	9.40%
Stephens	33.0%	24.4%	6.7%	12.1%	3.60%
Stonewall	40.1%	27.2%	1.8%	9.2%	3.30%
Taylor	30.5%	23.6%	8.5%	17.2%	9.60%
Throckmorton	37.4%	20.0%	7.3%	14.6%	7.70%
National	26.7%	20.3%	8.6%	20.2%	12.70%

U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2020, 5 year Estimate

Educational Attainment

Deeper analysis of educational attainment projections, considering Race and Ethnic population projections, indicates educational institutions, policy makers, and stakeholders must work proactively and strategically to improve overall educational attainment in the region. Many of the fastest growing Racial and Ethnic groups have historically lower educational attainment levels, introducing the potential to further reduce the educational attainment level of the region.

The White, Hispanic cohort, projected to grow by 2,950 individuals (+4.0%) thru 2025, has both a high incidence of less than a high school diploma or equivalent (38.6%) and low incidence of attaining a college degree (12.1%).

The Black, Non-Hispanic cohort, likewise, is projected to grow by 451 individuals (+2.0%) and has lower than average educational attainment with 21.7% having less than a high school diploma or equivalent and 16.4% possessing a college degree.

Notable growth among Asian, Non-Hispanic (624, 13.0%) and Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic (473, 8.0%) contrastingly project to have a positive effect.

Regional Educational Attainment By Race/ Ethnicity, Age 25+

RACE / ETHNICITY	2020 POPULATION	2025 POPULATION	2020 LESS THAN HIGHSCHOOL	2020 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2020 COLLEGE DEGREE
White, Non-Hispanic	151,174	148,394	11.1%	59.7%	29.3%
White, Hispanic	44,965	47,418	38.6%	49.3%	12.1%
Black, Non-Hispanic	11,107	11,483	21.7%	61.9%	16.4%
Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic	2,175	2,265	18.8%	56.1%	25.2%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	3,087	3,640	20.7%	30.6%	48.6%
Black, Hispanic	1,132	1,203	37.3%	50.9%	11.8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Hispanic	1,433	1,550	19.5%	49.6%	11.7%
Two or More Races, Hispanic	710	739	38.2%	49.9%	11.9%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic	1,212	1,335	113.0%	58.1%	22.4%
Asian, Hispanic	267	311	38.4%	50.2%	11.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	105	110	12.4%	42.0%	45.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic	98	114	35.6%	51.5%	12.8%

Economic Modeling Specialists (EMS)

Median Household Income

Median Household Income By County

COUNTY	2000	2020	% CHANGE
Brown	\$31,526	\$48,752	54.60%
Callahan	\$33,036	\$54,862	66.10%
Coleman	\$26,405	\$43,623	65.20%
Comanche	\$29,082	\$47,282	62.60%
Eastland	\$27,537	\$50,317	82.70%
Fisher	\$28,032	\$52,828	88.50%
Haskell	\$24,693	\$44,847	81.60%
Jones	\$28,967	\$47,019	62.30%
Kent	\$31,828	\$53,472	68.00%
Knox	\$26,234	\$46,053	75.50%
Mitchell	\$26,078	\$46,156	77.00%
Nolan	\$27,476	\$41,720	51.80%
Runnels	\$28,605	\$50,972	78.20%
Scurry	\$32,505	\$57,158	75.80%
Shackelford	\$32,141	\$64,931	102.00%
Stephens	\$30,120	\$48,911	62.40%
Stonewall	\$28,756	\$59,802	108.00%
Taylor	\$34,603	\$52,974	53.10%
Throckmorton	\$29,840	\$46,820	56.90%
Texas	\$58,028	\$68,093	-
U.S.	\$42,148	\$67,521	-

All nineteen counties increased in Median Household Income from 2000 to 2020. Two of the nineteen counties, Stonewall and Shackelford, experienced tremendous growth of over 100%. WCT's most populous county, Taylor County, which accounts for 40.5% of the region's population posted the lowest growth during the period at 53.1%.

Nolan County has the lowest Median Household Income of \$41,720 and saw a growth of 51.8%. Despite across the board increases, none of the nineteen counties are estimated to have a Median Household Income higher than the State of Texas at \$68,093 or the U.S. at \$67,521.

U.S. Census Bureau

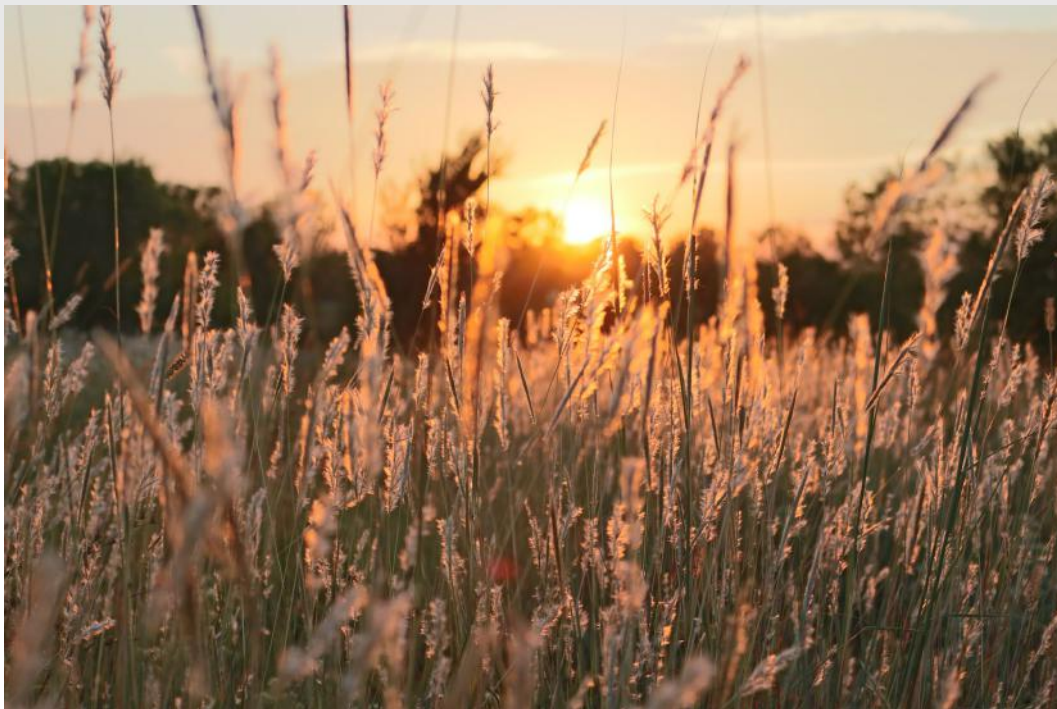
Employment

The 19-county WCTEDD region is characterized by concentrations in skilled industry and occupational clusters that provide a strong foundation for future economic growth.

The West Central Texas regional economy is characterized by strong competencies in the Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (LQ 9.95), Utilities (LQ 2.39), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (2.14) sectors. Location Quotient (LQ) is a useful measure for studying the composition of jobs in a region relative to the average, identifying sectors with high concentrations of jobs. A LQ shows the sector's share of a region's employment relative to the national average. For example, a LQ of 2.0 indicates that a sector accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally.

Looking forward, the West Central Texas region is projected to grow employment 5.9% (8,888 jobs) from 2020 to 2025. The fastest growing sectors from 2020 to 2025 will build on these regional competencies with Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction expanding by 11.7% (723 jobs) and Utilities by 17.3% (188 jobs).

The Health Care and Social Assistance sector is projected to have the largest growth of jobs at 1,622 (8.8%). The Manufacturing and Construction sectors are likewise expected to add a significant number of jobs, adding 897 (8.9%) and 802 (8.5%) jobs respectively through 2025.



Employment

Regional Employment By Industry

NAICS	DESCRIPTION	2020 JOBS	2025 JOBS	2020-2025 CHANGE	2020-2025 % CHANGE	2025 LOCATION QUOTIENT
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	3,782	3,766	-16	-0.4%	2.14
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	6,189	6,912	723	11.7%	9.95
22	Utilities	1,089	1,277	188	17.3%	2.39
23	Construction	9,384	10,186	802	8.5%	1.11
31	Manufacturing	10,105	11,002	897	8.9%	0.91
42	Wholesale Trade	4,613	5,010	397	8.6%	0.88
44	Retail Trade	16,192	16,711	519	3.2%	1.08
48	Transportation and Warehousing	3,907	4,228	321	8.2%	0.69
51	Information	1,402	1,450	48	3.4%	0.51
52	Finance and Insurance	4,876	5,077	201	4.1%	0.80
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,967	2,040	73	3.7%	0.76
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,737	4,007	270	7.2%	0.37
55	Management of Companies and Enterprise	355	366	11	3.1%	0.16
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	5,782	6,396	614	10.6%	0.63
61	Educational Services	30	4,992	397	8.6%	1.17
62	Healthcare and Social Services	18,428	20,050	1,622	8.8%	0.93
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,247	1,296	49	3.9%	0.46
72	Accommodation and Food Services	12,018	12,548	530	4.4%	0.90
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,858	9,413	555	6.3%	1.26
90	Government	32,316	32,958	642	2.0%	1.43
99	Unclassified Industry	146	190	44	30.1%	1.40

Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI)

Jobs and Wages

West Central Texas counties show fluctuations in total wages paid from 2015 to 2019, with a peak of \$946 MM, a \$81.2 MM increase in 2019 collectively paid to employees residing in the 19-county area. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, between the period 2015 to 2019 there were seven counties that had an increase in quarterly wages—Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Kent, Mitchell, Stephens, and Taylor. There were twelve counties that had decreases in county wages with Scurry, Jones, Knox, Runnels and Stonewall Counties exhibiting the greatest loss in collective county wages.

Consistent with employment trends, total wages and wage gains were concentrated in Taylor county from 2015 to 2019. Taylor county wages increased by 19.5% (\$98.8 MM) during that timeframe and accounted for 64.0% of the region's total wages in 2019. The region's overall wage increase registered \$17.6 MM less than Taylor county due to wage losses in other counties.



Jobs and Wages

Wages By County

COUNTY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 YEAR CHANGE
Brown	\$71,203,926	\$74,242,247	\$71,798,245	\$75,961,351	\$77,428,722	\$6,224,796
Callahan	\$9,142,729	\$8,578,465	\$13,337,126	\$15,512,368	\$18,501,723	\$9,358,994
Coleman	\$7,172,379	\$6,754,318	\$607,029	\$5,828,017	\$6,867,051	-\$305,328
Comanche	\$8,847,094	\$18,885,075	\$20,365,352	\$21,067,144	\$22,414,680	\$3,567,586
Eastland	\$44,747,600	\$39,792,061	\$39,508,978	\$40,750,993	\$44,519,013	-\$228,587
Fisher	\$1,740,861	\$1,882,331	\$2,388,187	\$2,449,442	\$1,576,588	-\$164,273
Haskell	\$6,258,025	\$6,128,635	\$7,986,336	\$6,533,627	\$5,841,775	-\$416,250
Jones	\$25,507,147	\$19,157,679	\$21,930,282	\$19,201,801	\$19,325,174	-\$6,181,973
Kent	\$333,711	\$313,817	\$250,240	\$590,767	\$447,900	\$114,189
Knox	\$8,275,301	\$6,883,620	\$4,993,021	\$4,333,786	\$4,652,426	-\$3,622,875
Mitchell	\$8,316,971	\$7,514,742	\$7,371,517	\$7,724,274	\$8,405,983	\$89,012
Nolan	\$31,350,670	\$25,348,076	\$27,755,341	\$29,222,003	\$31,334,007	-\$16,663
Runnels	\$14,272,610	\$11,601,526	\$13,443,621	\$13,970,397	\$13,177,765	-\$1,094,854
Scurry	\$79,286,701	\$58,900,909	\$52,772,136	\$57,231,525	\$60,647,975	\$18,638,726
Shackelford	\$15,606,591	\$8,147,208	\$8,005,473	\$10,174,343	\$11,718,802	-\$3,887,789
Stephens	\$13,103,927	\$11,686,602	\$12,533,486	\$12,751,929	\$13,133,439	\$29,512
Stonewall	\$1,513,978	\$1,400,736	\$1,023,596	\$931,365	\$103,536	-\$1,410,442
Taylor	\$507,508,793	\$525,119,420	\$540,970,850	\$567,766,732	\$606,308,927	\$98,800,734
Throckmorton	\$1,499,641	\$1,144,174	\$862,872	\$729,037	\$622,357	-\$877,284
Total Wages	\$865,688,655	\$833,481,641	\$853,366,388	\$892,730,901	\$946,924,298	\$81,235,643

Texas Workforce Commission 1st Quarter Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Jobs and Wages By County

Annual Industry Distribution of Jobs

Brown County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	918	14,956	\$42,078
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	21	104	\$53,252
Mining	6	67	\$66,124
Utilities	8	67	\$79,218
Construction	85	487	\$44,110
Manufacturing	48	2,539	\$67,944
Wholesale Trade	41	538	\$57,317
Retail Trade	142	1,924	\$31,582
Transportation	30	374	\$34,735
Information	11	95	\$44,151
Finance and Insurance	54	518	\$61,890
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	35	79	\$46,861
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	63	0	NA
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	39	475	\$31,426
Educational Services	16	351	\$37,794
Health Care and Social Services	113	2,596	\$32,332
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13	78	\$21,686
Accommodation and Food Services	71	1,473	\$16,309
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	73	310	\$27,870
Public Administration	44	1,018	\$47,695
Unallocated	5	15	\$42,961

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

D = Non-Disclosable Data

N/A = Not Available

Note: Average wage may not match published numbers due to rounding.

Callahan County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	288	2,521	\$46,776
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	8	23	\$28,985
Mining	11	49	\$51,873
Utilities	2	0	\$0
Construction	40	195	\$62,475
Manufacturing	17	176	\$44,572
Wholesale Trade	7	0	\$0
Retail Trade	38	534	\$64,848
Transportation	15	92	\$64,568
Information	6	15	\$37,356
Finance and Insurance	15	54	\$71,345
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9	32	\$55,015
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	25	71	\$71,707
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	16	48	\$35,670
Educational Services	4	487	\$40,823
Health Care and Social Services	17	207	\$31,889
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5	35	\$20,308
Accommodation and Food Services	23	268	\$14,585
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	16	31	\$34,764
Public Administration	14	132	\$42,382
Unallocated	2	2	\$47,407

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Coleman County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	241	2,008	\$37,736
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14	22	\$37,508
Mining	9	32	\$51,675
Utilities	5	0	N/A
Construction	19	129	\$54,249
Manufacturing	11	126	\$39,776
Wholesale Trade	5	0	\$0
Retail Trade	33	257	\$24,053
Transportation	15	23	\$44,496
Information	3	31	\$65,450
Finance and Insurance	11	62	\$62,122
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7	28	\$86,328
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21	60	\$425,664
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	5	33	\$34,381
Educational Services	5	277	\$40,788
Health Care and Social Services	21	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	21	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	14	28	\$25,457
Public Administration	19	134	\$40,758
Unallocated	0	0	\$0

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Comanche County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	391	4,225	\$41,604
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	59	0	\$0
Mining	2	0	\$0
Utilities	8	65	\$73,306
Construction	38	119	\$49,308
Manufacturing	15	178	\$70,291
Wholesale Trade	20	238	\$43,448
Retail Trade	52	562	\$34,414
Transportation	21	210	\$36,749
Information	7	78	\$55,465
Finance and Insurance	21	123	\$52,900
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9	27	\$23,518
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	29	7	\$60,445
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	8	125	\$49,955
Educational Services	5	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	35	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	22	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	20	57	\$29,473
Public Administration	15	57,200	\$33,754
Unallocated	1	2	\$17,174

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Eastland County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	534	6,642	\$49,678
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	27	159	\$54,383
Mining	38	1,005	\$99,279
Utilities	8	49	\$89,340
Construction	49	263	\$54,858
Manufacturing	19	585	\$53,094
Wholesale Trade	16	74	\$67,196
Retail Trade	73	844	\$31,270
Transportation and Warehousing	31	316	\$52,741
Information	7	27	\$43,415
Finance and Insurance	24	102	\$50,428
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	22	59	\$51,447
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	33	86	\$44,419
Management of Companies and Enterprise	2	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	10	0	N/A
Educational Services	9	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	50	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5	12	\$19,384
Accommodation and Food Services	49	551	\$15,799
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	34	168	\$33,240
Public Administration	27	287	\$44,630
Unallocated	4	8	\$34,389

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Fisher County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	129	828	\$47,649
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	36	0	\$0
Mining	2	0	\$0
Utilities	2	0	\$0
Construction	5	0	N/A
Manufacturing	3	0	\$0
Wholesale Trade	5	0	\$0
Retail Trade	15	57	\$22,488
Transportation and Warehousing	10	46	\$61,704
Finance and Insurance	2	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2	0	N/A
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7	17	\$36,176
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	2	0	\$0
Educational Services	2	0	\$0
Health Care and Social Services	12	59	\$28,696
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	4	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	6	0	\$0
Public Administration	12	3	\$41,059

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Haskell County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	223	2,036	\$41,152
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	47	168	\$32,746
Mining	4	35	\$41,400
Utilities	4	10	\$30,770
Construction	11	26	\$45,277
Manufacturing	4	21	\$43,089
Wholesale Trade	6	4	\$101,558
Retail Trade	29	341	\$30,582
Transportation and Warehousing	12	45	\$46,832
Information	1	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	9	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2	0	\$0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	9	23	\$63,299
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	6	0	N/A
Educational Services	3	193	\$44,137
Health Care and Social Services	15	227	\$46,557
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	12	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	20	65	\$21,396
Public Administration	27	101	\$40,519
Unallocated	1	0	\$0

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jones County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	345	3,054	\$43,951
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	30	147	\$40,329
Mining	12	108	\$46,660
Utilities	7	38	\$87,763
Construction	32	218	\$53,164
Manufacturing	9	160	\$36,036
Wholesale Trade	13	99	\$55,160
Retail Trade	41	334	\$39,525
Transportation and Warehousing	23	182	\$55,154
Information	5	8	\$32,516
Finance and Insurance	22	86	\$77,297
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9	29	\$32,255
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	15	45	\$46,720
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	7	0	N/A
Educational Services	7	558	\$42,348
Health Care and Social Services	25	109	\$48,325
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8	18	\$12,629
Accommodation and Food Services	28	203	\$13,900
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	20	48	\$23,468
Public Administration	32	201	\$46,566
Unallocated	1	1	\$25,806

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Kent County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	39	271	\$45,579
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	6	15	\$32,606
Mining	1	0	\$0
Construction	4	0	N/A
Wholesale Trade	2	0	\$0
Retail Trade	5	0	\$0
Transportation and Warehousing	2	2	\$36,389
Finance and Insurance	1	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1	0	\$0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	0	0	\$0
Educational Services	1	0	0
Health Care and Social Services	5	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	1	0	\$0
Public Administration	9	3	\$79,157

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Knox County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	155	1,095	\$44,454
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	23	84	\$41,977
Mining	8	42	\$89,343
Utilities	3	0	N/A
Construction	8	0	N/A
Manufacturing	2	0	\$0
Wholesale Trade	9	66	\$101,115
Retail Trade	17	151	\$36,158
Transportation and Warehousing	11	14	\$44,890
Information	1	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	7	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2	0	\$0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3	4	\$70,860
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	3	0	N/A
Educational Services	5	192	\$38,763
Health Care and Social Services	9	136	\$40,902
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5	36	\$16,834
Accommodation and Food Services	7	40	\$13,199
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	8	22	\$43,408
Public Administration	23	70	\$32,540
Unallocated	1	1	\$25,806

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Mitchell County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	186	1,938	\$48,840
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	22	47	\$39,262
Mining	10	271	\$68,277
Utilities	4	0	\$0
Construction	10	0	N/A
Manufacturing	2	0	\$0
Wholesale Trade	2	0	\$0
Retail Trade	20	168	\$25,737
Transportation and Warehousing	11	44	\$61,139
Information	4	7	\$54,044
Finance and Insurance	5	44	\$63,283
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6	31	\$52,621
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10	26	\$65,541
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	5	31	\$43,384
Educational Services	5	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	17	0	\$0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	18	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	12	23	\$28,131
Public Administration	24	120	\$36,420

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Nolan County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	415	6,326	\$49,791
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	38	86	\$38,981
Mining	10	144	\$90,639
Utilities	8	189	\$95,391
Construction	31	739	\$69,584
Manufacturing	9	871	\$65,932
Wholesale Trade	9	71	\$72,151
Retail Trade	55	824	\$32,933
Transportation and Warehousing	24	288	\$45,509
Information	6	25	\$37,482
Finance and Insurance	26	156	\$57,871
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	12	44	\$18,401
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	22	0	\$0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	20	128	\$48,431
Educational Services	7	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	37	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7	51	\$24,247
Accommodation and Food Services	37	571	\$16,184
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	24	144	\$44,683
Public Administration	28	266	\$52,579
Unallocated	2	3	\$24,329

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Runnels County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	287	2,918	\$41,580
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	35	99	\$42,252
Mining	4	9	\$56,212
Utilities	3	13	\$70,537
Construction	33	134	\$51,281
Manufacturing	14	457	\$51,876
Wholesale Trade	11	128	\$41,246
Retail Trade	34	450	\$40,413
Transportation and Warehousing	16	63	\$45,827
Information	3	3	\$43,649
Finance and Insurance	18	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3	0	N/A
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	15	31	\$40,531
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	8	83	\$27,115
Educational Services	4	433	\$39,081
Health Care and Social Services	24	468	\$45,113
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3	6	\$28,315
Accommodation and Food Services	21	191	\$14,938
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	14	44	\$22,271
Public Administration	23	156	\$38,113
Unallocated	3	14	\$20,210

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Scurry County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	468	5,625	\$57,082
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	24	74	\$44,028
Mining	53	787	\$86,390
Utilities	8	197	\$88,470
Construction	43	198	\$60,427
Manufacturing	14	168	\$83,167
Wholesale Trade	25	267	\$94,483
Retail Trade	50	701	\$30,122
Transportation and Warehousing	20	152	\$72,830
Information	7	28	\$44,888
Finance and Insurance	21	99	\$72,035
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17	47	\$42,740
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	27	0	N/A
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	14	190	\$133,081
Educational Services	8	13	\$21,452
Health Care and Social Services	23	177	\$33,553
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8	42	\$14,169
Accommodation and Food Services	41	534	\$16,162
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	39	231	\$51,014
Public Administration	25	429	\$52,156
Unallocated	1	5	\$36,041

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Shackelford County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	164	1,247	\$55,926
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14	34	\$31,272
Mining	34	483	\$76,246
Utilities	3	0	N/A
Construction	8	44	\$68,958
Manufacturing	4	55	\$50,859
Wholesale Trade	7	0	\$0
Retail Trade	16	85	\$25,826
Transportation and Warehousing	9	31	\$75,013
Information	3	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	8	40	\$75,304
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6	25	\$55,119
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5	6	\$15,979
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	3	11	\$33,322
Educational Services	4	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	8	0	N/A
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	7	0	\$0
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	12	16	\$23,783
Public Administration	12	5	\$55,062
Unallocated	1	0	\$0

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Stephens County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	309	3,357	\$39,912
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	19	62	\$48,279
Mining	35	257	\$68,616
Utilities	4	21	\$43,297
Construction	35	220	\$51,996
Manufacturing	19	793	\$33,355
Wholesale Trade	10	0	\$0
Retail Trade	41	398	\$28,557
Transportation and Warehousing	8	188	\$39,186
Information	2	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	13	128	\$62,888
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7	14	\$19,924
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21	72	\$49,126
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	7	43	\$34,852
Educational Services	2	0	N/A
Health Care and Social Services	19	186	\$44,803
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4	21	\$35,896
Accommodation and Food Services	17	211	\$17,281
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	21	42	\$30,599
Public Administration	24	84	\$32,177
Unallocated	2	0	\$0

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Stonewall County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	77	479	\$44,052
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7	12	\$48,210
Mining	4	26	\$72,132
Utilities	1	0	\$0
Construction	8	43	\$45,338
Wholesale Trade	4	8	\$60,766
Retail Trade	8	48	\$38,296
Transportation and Warehousing	3	8	\$41,109
Information	1	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	2	0	\$0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1	0	\$0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	1	0	\$0
Educational Services	1	0	\$0
Health Care and Social Services	8	31	\$28,218
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	0	\$0
Accommodation and Food Services	5	29	\$10,420
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	5	8	\$43,665
Public Administration	16	28	\$33,838
Unallocated	1	1	\$17,238

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Taylor County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	3,821	63,853	\$47,452
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	30	114	\$50,249
Mining	82	806	\$75,002
Utilities	32	394	\$93,706
Construction	345	2,909	\$54,191
Manufacturing	122	2,959	\$49,465
Wholesale Trade	184	2,394	\$66,165
Retail Trade	520	7,928	\$36,401
Transportation and Warehousing	113	1,743	\$58,176
Information	57	858	\$57,043
Finance and Insurance	234	2,797	\$65,149
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	195	980	\$51
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	344	2,089	\$67,181
Management of Companies and Enterprise	17	194	\$68,414
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	216	4,096	\$41,288
Educational Services	57	2,766	\$42,813
Health Care and Social Services	465	11,325	\$55,757
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	58	969	\$21,356
Accommodation and Food Services	329	6,492	\$19,628
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	338	1,938	\$36,210
Public Administration	63	2,234	\$62,414
Unallocated	24	44	\$34,193

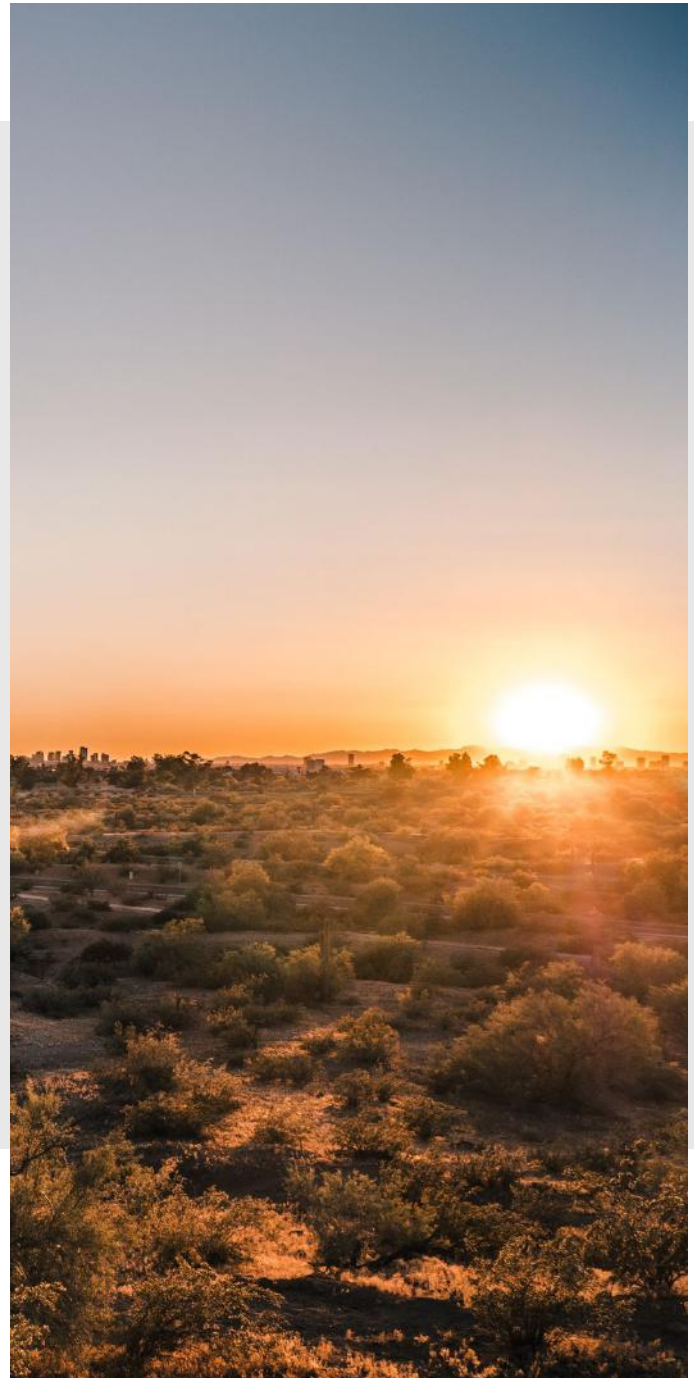
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

Jobs and Wages By County

Throckmorton County

ANNUAL INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB
Total	76	772	\$57,445
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	6	35	\$34,780
Mining	10	28	\$28,687
Utilities	1	0	\$0
Construction	6	0	N/A
Manufacturing	1	0	\$0
Wholesale Trade	6	12	\$49,653
Retail Trade	6	25	\$28,482
Transportation and Warehousing	6	4	\$47,062
Information	1	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	2	0	\$0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3	0	\$0
Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Rem. Services	3	0	N/A
Educational Services	2	0	\$0
Health Care and Social Services	5	0	N/A
Accommodation and Food Services	5	29	\$13,943
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	1	0	\$0
Public Administration	13	50	\$20,193
Unallocated	1	0	\$56,480

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021



Jobs and Wages

The number of establishments in the 19-county West Central Texas region has fluctuated from 2011 to 2021. Callahan County, netted the largest 10-year change, increasing their establishments by 20%. Haskell County posted the largest reduction in establishments, losing 50 establishments during the period. Haskell has seen a steady decrease in establishments year to year for the last 10 years but has seen a .7% increase in jobs during that time.

Throckmorton had the largest gains for jobs with an increase of 60.8% in the 10-year period, along with a 113% boost in wages for the county. Ten counties experienced declines in the number of jobs from 2011 to 2021. The largest decrease being seen in Jones County at a 19.5% decrease. Mitchell County was close behind with a 18.5% decrease in jobs. All 19 counties saw an increase of wages throughout the period.

Jobs and Wages By County

Annual Covered Employment and Wages Over Time

Callahan County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	288	2,521	\$46,776	69.20%
2020	272	2,436	\$45,481	71.00%
2019	269	2,564	\$41,919	70.80%
2018	255	2,564	\$42,182	73.70%
2017	247	2,297	\$38,205	69.00%
2016	232	2,145	\$36,600	68.30%
2015	224	2,182	\$37,452	70.70%
2014	221	2,129	\$36,977	72.00%
2013	224	2,071	\$36,035	72.30%
2012	240	2,104	\$34,488	70.00%
2011	240	2,099	\$31,562	65.70%
10- Year Change	48	422	\$15,214	x
10 Year % Change	20.0%	20.1%	48.2%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



20.1% Increase of Jobs



48.2% Increase in Wages

Coleman County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	241	2,008	\$37,736	55.80%
2020	238	1,947	\$35,010	54.70%
2019	246	1,963	\$32,780	55.40%
2018	245	2,014	\$30,611	53.50%
2017	252	2,131	\$30,857	55.70%
2016	251	2,065	\$30,145	56.20%
2015	255	2,054	\$29,682	56.10%
2014	263	2,050	\$29,252	57.00%
2013	262	2,030	\$28,175	56.60%
2012	253	2,133	\$27,980	56.80%
2011	248	2,139	\$27,448	57.10%
10- Year Change	-7	-131	\$10,288	x
10 Year % Change	-2.8%	-6.1%	37.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-6.1% Increase of Jobs



37.5% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Comanche County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	391	4,255	\$41,604	61.5%
2020	396	3,868	\$38,607	60.3%
2019	358	3,818	\$35,799	60.5%
2018	348	3,680	\$34,632	60.5%
2017	344	3,600	\$33,298	60.1%
2016	333	3,607	\$32,037	59.7%
2015	344	3,676	\$31,548	59.6%
2014	356	3,624	\$31,337	61.0%
2013	353	3,608	\$29,716	59.7%
2012	355	3,621	\$29,811	60.5%
2011	364	3,614	\$29,597	61.6%
10- Year Change	27	611	\$12,007	x
10 Year % Change	7.4%	16.9%	40.6%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



16.9% Increase of Jobs



40.6% Increase in Wages

Eastland County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	534	6,642	\$49,678	73.5%
2020	527	6,587	\$46,374	72.4%
2019	525	7,777	\$52,027	87.9%
2018	516	8,074	\$54,155	94.6%
2017	503	7,253	\$44,887	81.0%
2016	490	6,626	\$40,044	74.7%
2015	491	7,316	\$43,610	82.4%
2014	499	7,553	\$43,864	85.4%
2013	493	7,558	\$40,861	82.0%
2012	486	7,155	\$38,466	78.0%
2011	501	7,233	\$35,978	74.9%
10- Year Change	33	-591	\$13,700	x
10 Year % Change	6.6%	-8.2%	38.1%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-8.2% Increase of Jobs



38.1% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Fisher County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	129	828	\$47,649	70.5%
2020	131	826	\$44,945	70.2%
2019	131	822	\$43,639	73.7%
2018	138	838	\$42,362	74.0%
2017	142	896	\$39,913	72.1%
2016	139	944	\$38,145	71.1%
2015	136	903	\$37,001	69.9%
2014	132	882	\$36,554	71.2%
2013	137	907	\$35,344	71.0%
2012	139	884	\$33,462	67.9%
2011	133	871	\$31,863	66.3%
10- Year Change	-4	-43	\$15,786	x
10 Year % Change	-3.0%	-4.9%	49.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-4.9% Increase of Jobs



49.5% Increase in Wages

Haskell County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	223	2,036	\$41,152	60.9%
2020	218	1,969	\$39,484	61.7%
2019	221	1,444	\$32,726	55.3%
2018	226	1,538	\$36,605	63.9%
2017	236	1,636	\$34,459	62.2%
2016	234	1,672	\$32,449	60.5%
2015	240	1,704	\$33,006	62.3%
2014	258	1,739	\$325,505	63.4%
2013	267	1,709	\$31,226	62.7%
2012	268	1,726	\$29,582	60.0%
2011	273	2,021	\$30,599	63.7%
10- Year Change	-50	15	\$10,553	x
10 Year % Change	-18.3%	0.7%	34.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



.7% Increase of Jobs



34.5% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Jones County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	345	3,054	\$43,951	65.0%
2020	345	3,067	\$41,637	65.0%
2019	337	3,019	\$39,352	66.5%
2018	339	2,973	\$38,185	66.7%
2017	351	3,148	\$38,187	68.9%
2016	361	3,037	\$36,801	68.6%
2015	357	3,426	\$37,599	71.0%
2014	368	3,880	\$39,760	77.4%
2013	368	3,911	\$37,211	74.7%
2012	363	3,903	\$34,189	69.4%
2011	368	3,793	\$31,358	65.3%
10- Year Change	-23	-739	\$12,593	x
10 Year % Change	-6.3%	-19.5%	40.2%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-19.5% Increase of Jobs



40.2% Increase in Wages

Kent County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	39	271	\$45,579	67.4%
2020	40	275	\$42,031	65.7%
2019	37	284	\$39,451	66.6%
2018	36	269	\$38,936	68.0%
2017	38	266	\$34,921	63.0%
2016	40	271	\$37,891	70.7%
2015	39	287	\$35,970	67.9%
2014	37	285	\$34,085	66.4%
2013	37	295	\$31,674	63.6%
2012	40	299	\$30,679	62.2%
2011	38	289	\$29,121	60.6%
10- Year Change	1	-18	\$16,458	x
10 Year % Change	2.6%	-6.2%	56.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-6.2% Increase of Jobs



56.5% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Knox County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	155	1,095	\$44,454	65.8%
2020	156	1,086	\$45,721	71.4%
2019	155	1,093	\$44,721	74.4%
2018	157	1,103	\$44,056	71.3%
2017	159	1,117	\$40,838	71.2%
2016	153	1,169	\$39,414	76.0%
2015	151	1,220	\$40,729	77.5%
2014	154	1,194	\$41,025	92.7%
2013	165	1,212	\$47,595	82.3%
2012	169	1,219	\$41,009	79.1%
2011	171	1,258	\$39,101	76.9%
10- Year Change	-23	-163	\$7,518	x
10 Year % Change	-9.4%	-13.0%	20.4%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-13% Increase of Jobs



20.4% Increase in Wages

Mitchell County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	186	1,938	\$48,840	72.2%
2020	190	1,933	\$44,618	69.7%
2019	195	1,953	\$43,530	73.5%
2018	189	1,931	\$45,356	79.2%
2017	192	2,093	\$40,692	73.5%
2016	194	2,129	\$40,661	75.8%
2015	193	2,259	\$41,450	78.3%
2014	198	2,397	\$40,742	79.3%
2013	193	2,318	\$38,581	77.5%
2012	189	2,315	\$39,724	80.6%
2011	186	2,379	\$38,417	80.0%
10- Year Change	0	-441	\$10,423	x
10 Year % Change	0.0%	-18.5%	27.1%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-18.5% Increase of Jobs



27.1% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Nolan County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	415	6,326	\$49,791	73.6%
2020	418	6,246	\$46,507	72.6%
2019	413	6,315	\$44,936	75.9%
2018	416	5,963	\$43,186	75.4%
2017	420	5,968	\$41,665	75.2%
2016	422	5,985	\$40,619	75.8%
2015	413	6,082	\$40,265	76.1%
2014	415	6,113	\$39,246	76.4%
2013	415	5,928	\$37,439	75.2%
2012	420	6,008	\$36,552	74.2%
2011	427	6,160	\$34,018	70.8%
10- Year Change	-12	166	\$15,773	x
10 Year % Change	-2.8%	2.7%	46.4%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



2.7% Increase of Jobs



46.4% Increase in Wages

Runnels County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	287	2,918	\$41,580	61.5%
2020	289	2,834	\$39,781	62.1%
2019	283	2,905	\$37,745	63.7%
2018	285	2,867	\$35,849	62.6%
2017	281	2,869	\$34,882	63.0%
2016	284	2,861	\$33,642	62.7%
2015	285	2,842	\$34,988	66.1%
2014	290	3,004	\$35,321	68.8%
2013	300	2,985	\$32,235	64.7%
2012	295	2,984	\$31,288	63.5%
2011	288	2,874	\$30,411	63.3%
10- Year Change	-1	44	\$11,169	x
10 Year % Change	-0.3%	1.5%	36.7%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



1.5% Increase of Jobs



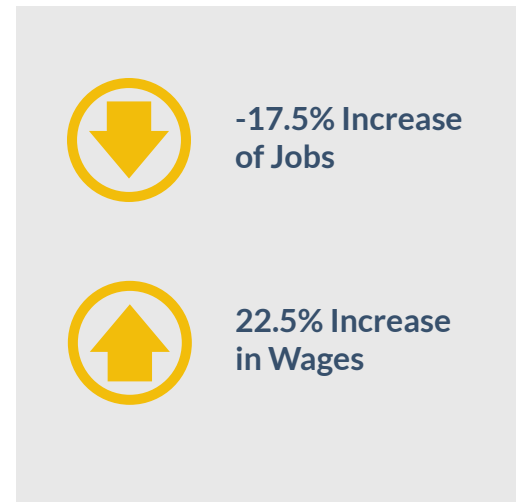
36.7% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Scurry County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	468	5,625	\$57,082	84.4%
2020	478	5,705	\$5,602	87.6%
2019	499	6,447	\$57,016	96.3%
2018	489	6,688	\$56,126	98.0%
2017	472	6,693	\$51,721	93.4%
2016	470	7,093	\$48,304	90.1%
2015	484	7,967	\$51,424	97.1%
2014	490	8,438	\$58,456	113.8%
2013	482	8,256	\$54,341	109.1%
2012	477	7,714	\$50,462	102.4%
2011	459	6,817	\$46,581	97.0%
10- Year Change	9	-1,192	\$10,501	x
10 Year % Change	2.0%	-17.5%	22.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Shackelford County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	164	1,247	\$55,926	82.7%
2020	164	1,181	\$53,684	83.9%
2019	168	1,328	\$58,647	99.1%
2018	171	1,370	\$58,884	102.8%
2017	168	1,302	\$48,796	88.1%
2016	169	1,286	\$44,382	82.8%
2015	163	1,464	\$49,562	93.6%
2014	166	1,709	\$57,998	112.9%
2013	166	1,597	\$56,933	114.3%
2012	167	1,503	\$52,083	105.7%
2011	158	1,262	\$43,618	90.8%
10- Year Change	6	-15	\$12,308	x
10 Year % Change	3.8%	-1.2%	28.2%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Jobs and Wages By County

Stephens County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	309	3,357	\$39,912	59.0%
2020	312	3,199	\$40,304	63.0%
2019	314	3,322	\$39,063	66.0%
2018	310	3,193	\$39,047	68.2%
2017	309	3,168	\$37,493	67.7%
2016	315	3,125	\$35,869	66.9%
2015	317	3,268	\$36,953	69.8%
2014	318	3,378	\$39,958	77.8%
2013	311	3,255	\$38,430	77.2%
2012	313	3,348	\$37,711	76.5%
2011	319	3,294	\$36,254	75.5%
10- Year Change	-10	63	\$3,658	x
10 Year % Change	-3.1%	1.9%	10.1%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



1.9% Increase of Jobs



10.1% Increase in Wages

Stonewall County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	77	479	\$44,052	65.2%
2020	78	466	\$42,791	66.8%
2019	76	481	\$41,116	69.4%
2018	79	479	\$38,952	68.0%
2017	85	500	\$38,647	69.8%
2016	85	499	\$34,801	64.9%
2015	82	530	\$33,059	62.4%
2014	83	554	\$34,857	67.9%
2013	82	546	\$34,652	69.6%
2012	81	571	\$32,511	66.0%
2011	83	545	\$31,338	65.2%
10- Year Change	-6	-66	\$12,714	x
10 Year % Change	-7.2%	-12.1%	40.6%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



-12.1% Increase of Jobs



40.6% Increase in Wages

Jobs and Wages By County

Taylor County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	3,821	63,853	\$47,452	70.2%
2020	3,737	62,424	\$46,215	72.2%
2019	3,701	64,444	\$44,118	74.5%
2018	3,670	62,354	\$42,473	74.2%
2017	3,648	60,843	\$40,495	73.1%
2016	3,644	60,275	\$38,894	72.5%
2015	3,595	60,490	\$38,673	73.0%
2014	3,544	60,065	\$38,298	74.6%
2013	3,502	59,051	\$36,789	73.9%
2012	3,481	58,146	\$35,965	73.0%
2011	3,427	57,429	\$34,518	71.8%
10- Year Change	394	6,424	\$12,934	x
10 Year % Change	11.5%	11.2%	37.5%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



11.2% Increase of Jobs



37.5% Increase in Wages

Throckmorton County

ANNUAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OVER TIME	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS	AVG. WAGE PER JOB	% OF U.S. AVG. WAGE
2021	76	772	\$57,445	85.0%
2020	68	388	\$32,520	50.4%
2019	68	382	\$31,200	52.7%
2018	71	448	\$28,655	50.0%
2017	77	426	\$28,564	51.6%
2016	76	487	\$33,640	62.7%
2015	78	489	\$35,025	66.2%
2014	81	499	\$37,131	72.3%
2013	78	454	\$30,215	60.7%
2012	75	468	\$29,426	59.7%
2011	75	480	\$26,968	56.1%
10- Year Change	1	292	\$30,477	x
10 Year % Change	1.3%	60.8%	113.0%	x

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



60.8% Increase of Jobs



113% Increase in Wages

Employment and Unemployment

The WCTCOG region's economy has a diversity of industries with the Health Care and Social Assistance, Government, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Accommodation and Food Services employing the highest number of employees. The U.S. Census Bureau data indicates that in 2021, the WCT region had a workforce 342,621 strong. In our 19-county region, 6 counties had a decrease in unemployment numbers: Fisher, Haskell, Kent, Stephens, Stonewall, and Throckmorton. Nolan County has had no change, and the 12 other counties have seen an increase in unemployment numbers over the last five years. Brown county at 18.2% and Taylor County at 16.2%, had the largest growth in unemployment numbers. Despite all of this, since 2009, Texas has had a lower unemployment rate than the national unemployment rate.

Employment and Unemployment

U.S. Unemployment Rate 2000 - 2021

YEAR	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	ANNUAL CHANGE
2021	5.5%	-2.6%
2020	8.1%	4.4%
2019	3.7%	-0.2%
2018	3.9%	-0.5%
2017	4.4%	-0.5%
2016	4.9%	-0.4%
2015	5.3%	-0.9%
2014	6.2%	-1.2%
2013	7.4%	-0.7%
2012	8.1%	-0.9%
2011	8.9%	-0.7%
2010	9.6%	0.4%
2009	9.3%	3.5%
2008	5.8%	1.2%
2007	4.6%	0.0%
2006	4.6%	-0.5%
2005	5.1%	-0.5%
2004	5.5%	-0.5%
2003	6.0%	0.2%
2002	5.8%	1.1%
2001	4.7%	0.7%
2000	4.0%	-0.2%

World Bank

Texas Unemployment Rate 2000 - 2021

YEAR	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	ANNUAL CHANGE
2021	4.8%	-2.10%
2020	6.9%	3.40%
2019	3.5%	-3.40%
2018	3.8%	-0.30%
2017	4.1%	-0.70%
2016	4.8%	0.30%
2015	4.5%	-0.10%
2014	4.6%	-1.20%
2013	5.8%	-0.70%
2012	6.5%	-0.88%
2011	7.3%	-0.90%
2010	8.2%	-0.10%
2009	8.3%	2.40%
2008	5.9%	1.50%
2007	4.4%	-0.10%
2006	4.5%	-0.80%
2005	5.3%	-0.50%
2004	5.8%	-0.60%
2003	6.4%	-0.20%
2002	6.6%	0.60%
2001	6.0%	1.90%
2000	4.1%	-0.70%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment and Unemployment

Labor Force and Unemployment by County

COUNTY	TOTAL LABOR FORCE 2021	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	% 5 YEAR CHANGE
Brown	15,267	14,475	792	5.2	18.20%
Callahan	6,134	5,850	284	4.6	7.00%
Coleman	2,937	2,761	176	6.0	3.40%
Comanche	6,032	5,756	276	4.6	7.00%
Eastland	7,341	6,918	423	5.8	5.50%
Fisher	1,606	1,538	68	4.2	-2.30%
Haskell	2,740	2,632	108	3.9	-7.10%
Jones	5,730	5,377	353	6.2	6.90%
Kent	447	434	13	2.9	-3.30%
Knox	1,457	1,389	68	4.7	11.90%
Mitchell	2,346	2,179	167	7.1	1.40%
Nolan	7,091	6,754	337	4.8	0.00%
Runnels	4,618	4,430	188	4.1	2.50%
Scurry	6,086	5,678	408	6.7	13.60%
Shackelford	1,845	1,771	74	4.0	5.30%
Stephens	4,190	3,984	206	4.9	-7.50%
Stonewall	587	563	24	4.1	-6.80%
Taylor	67,165	64,246	2,919	4.3	16.20%
Throckmorton	1,008	980	28	2.8	-20.00%
Region	342,621	351,147			6.71%

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment and Unemployment

Historical Unemployment Rate by County

COUNTY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Brown	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	6.5%	5.2%
Callahan	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	5.4%	4.6%
Coleman	4.5%	4.0%	4.1%	7.3%	6.0%
Comanche	3.7%	3.6%	3.2%	5.5%	4.6%
Eastland	4.3%	3.4%	3.3%	6.7%	5.8%
Fisher	3.6%	3.2%	2.9%	4.5%	4.2%
Haskell	4.8%	3.9%	3.3%	4.3%	0.9%
Jones	5.4%	4.8%	4.3%	7.1%	6.2%
Kent	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	3.9%	2.9%
Knox	4.0%	3.6%	3.2%	5.6%	4.7%
Mitchell	5.5%	4.2%	3.7%	7.9%	7.1%
Nolan	4.1%	3.3%	2.9%	5.4%	4.8%
Runnels	3.7%	3.2%	2.8%	4.9%	4.1%
Scurry	4.4%	3.4%	3.2%	8.2%	6.7%
Shackelford	3.0%	2.3%	2.2%	5.3%	4.0%
Stephens	4.6%	3.6%	3.0%	6.1%	4.9%
Stonewall	3.6%	3.4%	2.9%	5.1%	4.1%
Taylor	3.6%	3.2%	2.9%	5.5%	4.3%
Throckmorton	4.4%	3.3%	3.7%	4.7%	2.8%

Texas Association of Counties

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure provides the vital framework for commerce in any region, moving goods and services between markets and allowing labor, often in rural communities, to reach centers of commerce and industry. The West Central Texas region is fortunate to have a strong intermodal transportation infrastructure that includes a mature and robust roadway system, vital public transportation, high capacity rail systems, and pervasive airport coverage. Additional funding, however, is needed to maintain and improve the infrastructure, including resurfacing of some roadways and expansion of public transportation hours and routes in the region.

Interstate Highway 20 bisects the region, crossing five of the region's 19 counties, Mitchell, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, and Eastland, on an east/west route. I-20 is a significant transportation corridor that connects Midland-Odessa, an epicenter for oil and gas production in Texas, with Dallas-Fort Worth, a major national transportation and logistics hub. In addition to I-20, the region boasts a strong network of highways which intersect throughout the region providing safe, convenient access to residents and business.

Increases in traffic tied to the boom in oil and natural gas production during the past decade, however, have taxed the region's road system and challenged local communities to maintain the integrity of road infrastructure, often with insufficient resources. The impact is particularly profound for the region's municipal and county road systems. Municipalities and county governments typically do not garner sufficient tax revenue in communities from increased production activities, to offset the cost to maintain road conditions and ensure public safety.

Integral to transportation and the labor force, the commuting patterns for the region is included for perspective. It is vital to determine the commute both into and from the local counties. The net gain or loss of the labor force illustrates the transportation patterns but also illuminates potential effect on the sales tax base of each of the counties.

Work Location and Travel

The Commute Methods table below shows that while working from home is a growing trend, it is still a small percentage of the workforce in West Central Texas Region. One reason for this slow growth may be due to the poor connectivity throughout our rural areas. Without sufficient broadband coverage, a higher work from home workforce percentage is difficult. Haskell County shows the highest work from home percentage at 8.1%. This is followed by Kent County at 7.4%, Callahan County at 6.5% with Taylor County trailing at 6.4%.

21.4% of Mitchell County's commuters Carpool, while Kent County shows 0% of their commuters Carpool. Majority of our counties have a percentage between 11-13% that Carpool. Vast majority of all commuters across the region Drive Alone, with the lowest percentage being 76.0% in both Haskell and Mitchell Counties.

Commute Methods

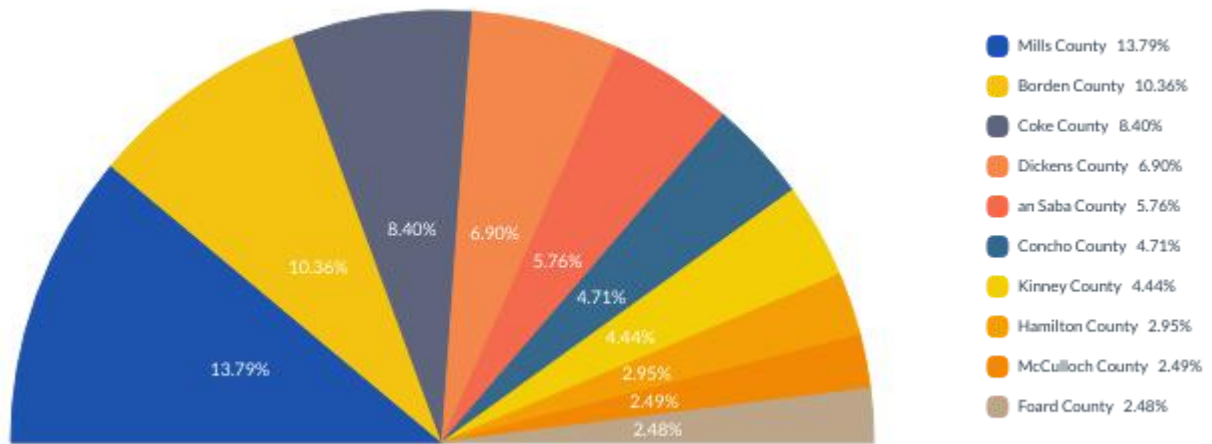
COUNTY	% OF ALL WORKERS COMMUTE (OVER 16)	% DRIVE ALONE	% CARPOOL	% PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	% WALK	% WORK FROM HOME
Brown	96.2%	82.4%	10.6%	0.3%	1.8%	3.8%
Callahan	93.5%	82.1%	9.4%	0.0%	0.9%	6.5%
Coleman	95.1%	83.5%	9.6%	0.3%	0.7%	4.9%
Comanche	96.6%	83.5%	11.3%	0.0%	0.7%	3.4%
Eastland	97.3%	80.2%	13.8%	0.3%	1.7%	2.7%
Fisher	97.1%	80.7%	12.1%	0.0%	3.5%	2.9%
Haskell	91.9%	76.0%	12.7%	0.5%	2.7%	8.1%
Jones	95.2%	79.9%	12.3%	0.0%	2.7%	4.8%
Kent	92.6%	80.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%	7.4%
Knox	95.8%	84.6%	10.4%	0.0%	0.7%	4.2%
Mitchell	98.2%	76.0%	21.4%	0.4%	0.4%	1.8%
Nolan	97.1%	76.6%	15.9%	0.0%	1.8%	2.9%
Runnels	98.0%	83.5%	11.6%	0.3%	2.1%	2.0%
Scurry	97.9%	81.6%	13.0%	0.0%	0.4%	2.1%
Shackelford	97.8%	87.8%	4.9%	0.0%	2.1%	2.2%
Stephens	96.8%	80.3%	11.1%	0.0%	1.4%	3.2%
Stonewall	99.1%	86.5%	6.9%	0.0%	2.2%	0.9%
Taylor	93.6%	78.7%	10.8%	0.7%	2.3%	6.4%
Throckmorton	99.0%	79.9%	15.4%	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%

US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2020 , 5 year estimates

Work Location and Travel

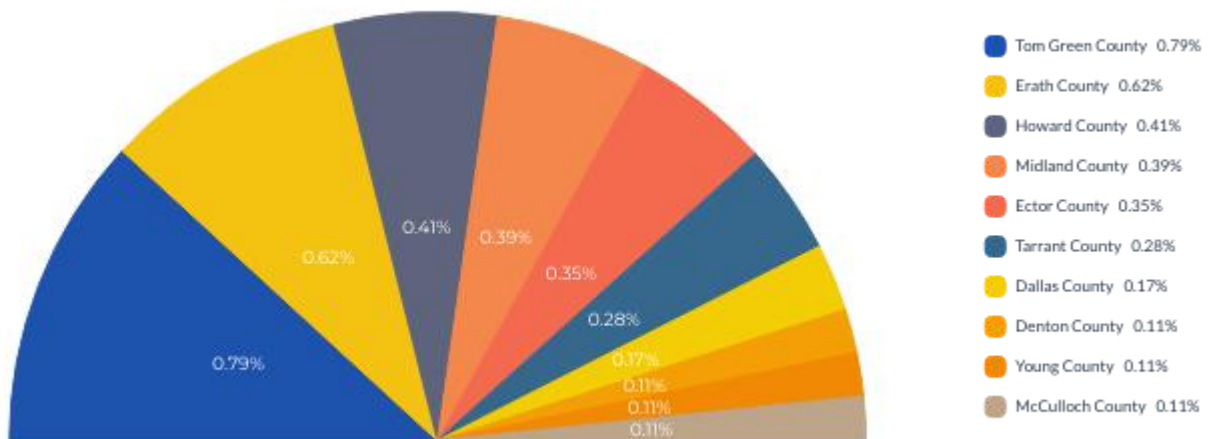
Mills County has the highest percentage of workers that commute into the region (13.79%) followed by Borden County (10.36%) and Coke County (8.4%). As a region we have a relatively low number of workers leaving our region to work with the highest number going to Tom Green County (0.79%).

Commuters To the Region



StatsAmerica: The Regionizer, 2015

Commuters From the Region



StatsAmerica: The Regionizer, 2015

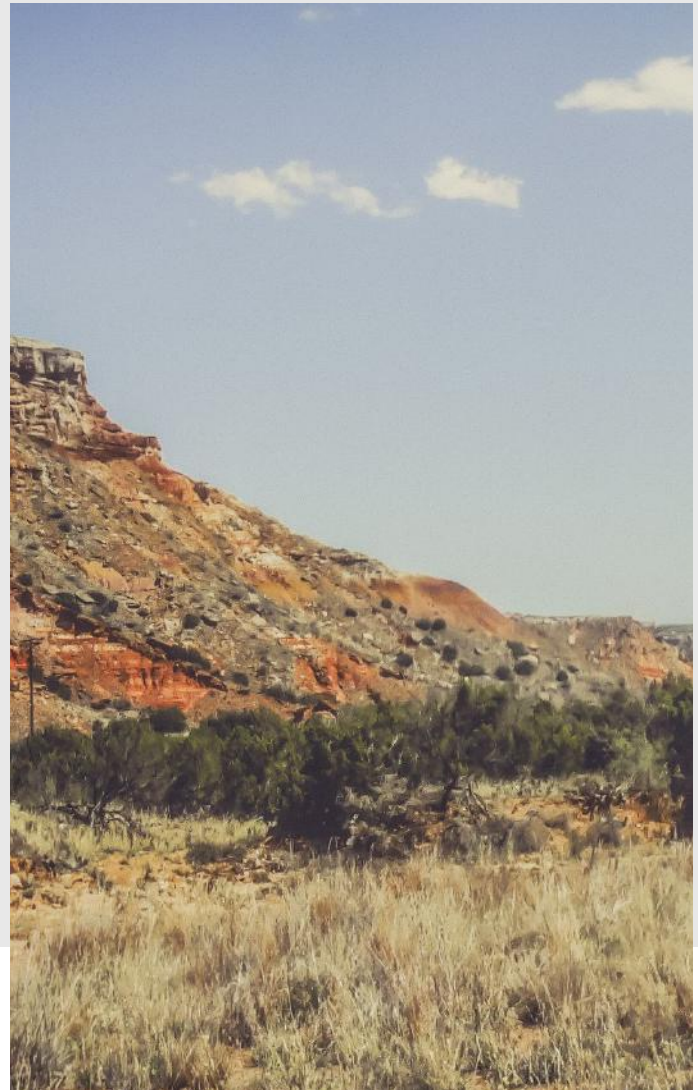
Work Location and Travel

Analysis of Mean Travel Time to Work and County of Residence versus Employment shows the population is highly migratory between counties for work, but with shorter commute time than the average Texan.

All 19-counties in the West Central Texas region registered a lower mean travel time to work than the 26.4 minute average for the State of Texas when it was last measured in 2020. Callahan County has the longest commute with a 26.9 minute commute and Stonewall County with the shortest commute of only 12.7 minutes. Since 2017, 15 of our 19 counties have had a rise in commute time. Brown, Callahan, Fisher, and Throckmorton have all either stayed the same or lowered their commute times according to the US Census Bureau, 2017.

Percentage of Commuters

COUNTY	% OF ALL WORKERS WHO COMMUTE (OVER 16)
Brown	16.6%
Callahan	26.9%
Coleman	22.0%
Comanche	23.5%
Eastland	19.3%
Fisher	21.3%
Haskell	18.9%
Jones	23.8%
Kent	14.8%
Knox	17.0%
Mitchell	22.1%
Nolan	17.9%
Runnels	24.2%
Scurry	17.8%
Shackelford	25.1%
Stephens	20.3%
Stonewall	12.7%
Taylor	17.2%
Throckmorton	15.1%



2011-2015 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates

Housing

While population growth in rural communities is typically slower than urban communities, housing needs in these communities is just as urgent. Generally stagnant incomes plague rural Texas. Major portions of the population are elderly and have lower incomes . These economic and demographic conditions, coupled with an aging and deteriorating housing stock, add up to a pressing need for decent and affordable housing.

Households By County

COUNTY	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	MARRIED WITH CHILDREN	MARRIED WITHOUT CHILDREN	SINGLE PARENTS	OTHER	NON FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	LIVING ALONE
Brown	14,614	9,599	2,575	5,089	986	949	5,015	4,265
Callahan	5,372	3,567	926	1,957	282	402	1,805	1,673
Coleman	3,492	2,203	630	1,203	166	204	1,289	925
Comanche	5,416	3,540	828	2,016	365	331	1,876	1,648
Eastland	7,017	4,483	1,212	2,488	343	440	2,534	2,431
Fisher	1,676	1,098	312	568	111	107	578	487
Haskell	2,162	1,430	332	753	197	148	732	641
Jones	5,646	3,942	1,041	2,090	453	358	1,704	1,445
Kent	286	179	65	86	0	28	107	99
Knox	1,394	1,001	244	504	126	127	393	382
Mitchell	2,419	1,421	530	689	111	91	998	849
Nolan	5,516	3,792	1,009	1,753	525	505	1,724	1,581
Runnels	3,891	2,591	643	1,321	323	304	1,300	1,158
Scurry	6,115	3,985	1,319	1,889	423	354	2,130	1,982
Shackelford	1,367	914	243	463	155	53	453	396
Stephens	3,408	2,278	447	156	407	268	1,130	1,032
Stonewall	529	384	139	179	20	46	145	145
Taylor	50,396	33,439	9,917	14,823	4,667	4,032	16,957	13,217
Throckmorton	713	435	86	257	54	38	278	265

US Census Bureau: Households in 2020

Housing

Home Price Distribution in Texas

Percent Distribution

PRICE RANGE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
\$0-\$69,999	12.4	9.0	7.0	5.9	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.8	2.1	1.3	1.2
\$70,000-\$99,999	11.4	9.5	8.2	6.8	5.6	4.8	4.1	3.3	2.5	1.8	1.5
\$100,000-\$149,999	23.0	22.0	20.3	17.8	15.3	13.0	11.2	9.7	7.6	5.4	4.3
\$150,000-\$199,999	18.6	19.8	20.4	20.8	20.7	19.8	18.9	17.8	15.2	10.5	7.4
\$200,000-\$249,999	10.8	11.7	12.8	14.1	15.7	16.7	17.8	19.1	19.1	14.7	11.0
\$250,000-\$299,999	7.6	8.4	9.1	10.2	11.3	12.3	13.2	14.2	15.5	15.5	13.8
\$300,000-\$399,999	7.9	9.3	10.5	11.8	13.0	14.5	15.6	16.5	18.4	21.4	23.7
\$400,000-\$499,999	3.5	4.5	5.1	5.6	6.2	6.7	7.2	7.6	8.7	11.8	14.5
\$500,000-\$749,999	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.7	6.0	7.3	11.2	14.7
\$750,000-\$999,999	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.0	3.3	4.4
\$100,000+	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	3.0	3.6

Texas A&M Real Estate Center, Texas Housing Activity

Home Sales Average Price

DATE	SALES	DOLLAR VOLUME	AVERAGE PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	TOTAL LISTINGS	MONTHS INVENTORY
2012	\$246,940	\$50,588,511,651	\$204,862	\$157,000	112,302	4.6
2013	\$286,607	\$64,010,562,388	\$223,339	\$170,000	96,991	3.7
2014	\$295,649	\$70,334,696,354	\$237,899	\$182,500	91,807	3.3
2015	\$307,089	\$76,779,024,752	\$250,022	\$195,500	88,821	3.2
2016	\$320,327	\$83,277,106,866	\$259,975	\$210,000	91,866	3.1
2017	\$332,990	\$91,177,426,055	\$273,814	\$223,900	95,485	3.0
2018	\$341,183	\$96,751,648,930	\$283,577	\$233,235	97,001	3.2
2019	\$356,186	\$104,158,527,125	\$292,427	\$241,400	100,992	3.0
2020	\$389,681	\$123,268,724,250	\$316,332	\$259,990	78,199	1.6
2021	\$414,215	\$154,739,289,264	\$373,572	\$300,000	48,321	1.2
2022	\$367,472	\$151,936,154,616	\$413,463	\$340,000	66,160	2.7

Texas A&M Real Estate Center, Texas Housing Activity

Housing

Housing Units By County

COUNTY	TOTAL UNITS	OWNER OCCUPIED	RENTER OCCUPIED	SEASONAL OR REC USE
Brown	19,112	10,449	4,165	4,498
Callahan	6,739	4,481	891	225
Coleman	5,547	2,623	869	757
Comanche	7,399	4,446	970	906
Eastland	10,413	5,388	1,629	1,025
Fisher	3,465	1,551	611	547
Haskell	3,114	1,451	579	424
Jones	7,054	4,444	1,202	331
Kent	517	233	53	117
Knox	2,030	1,180	214	158
Mitchell	4,077	1,964	455	594
Nolan	7,075	3,748	1,768	187
Runnels	5,245	2,838	1,053	253
Scurry	7,205	4,799	1,316	115
Shackelford	1,775	1,090	277	122
Stephens	4,956	2,527	881	702
Stonewall	837	424	105	128
Taylor	57,761	29,409	20,987	331
Throckmorton	1,059	523	190	153

US Census Bureau: Housing Units in 2020



Housing

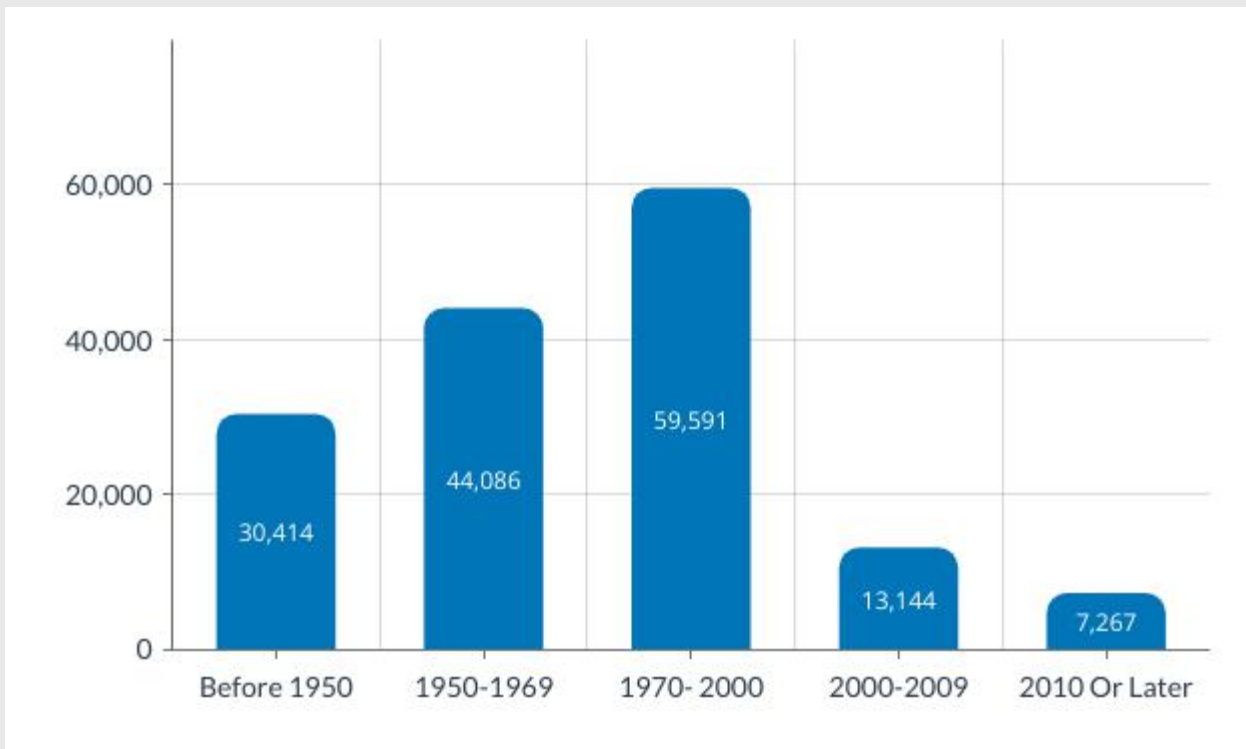
Housing Values by County

COUNTY	AVERAGE HOUSING VALUE	AVG. MONTHLY OWNER COST (WITH A MORTGAGE)	MEDIAN RENT	AVERAGE RENT
Brown	\$109,500	\$563	\$778	\$607
Callahan	\$132,631	\$551	\$760	\$511
Coleman	\$178,133	\$395	\$714	\$492
Comanche	\$180,681	\$430	\$525	\$452
Eastland	\$146,943	\$409	\$653	\$491
Fisher	\$106,297	\$268	\$621	\$405
Haskell	\$74,416	\$257	\$686	\$435
Jones	\$120,541	\$530	\$773	\$531
Kent	\$95,951	\$229	\$819	\$427
Knox	\$57,117	\$235	\$560	\$454
Mitchell	\$157,421	\$403	\$650	\$430
Nolan	\$105,785	\$426	\$739	\$554
Runnels	\$118,911	\$441	\$762	\$490
Scurry	\$114,110	\$502	\$757	\$600
Shackelford	\$149,972	\$440	\$754	\$449
Stephens	\$141,455	\$440	\$710	\$507
Stonewall	\$54,821	\$194	\$600	\$434
Taylor	\$169,085	\$807	\$921	\$805
Throckmorton	\$110,219	\$236	\$604	\$370

US Census Bureau: Housing Units in 2020

Housing

Region: Age of Housing Stock



StatsAmerica: The Regionizer, 2015

Agriculture and Livestock

Agriculture and livestock production are important cornerstones of the the West Central Texas regional economy. According to the US Department of Agriculture, there were 13,614 farms covering 10,018,970 acres (2017) in the region. In total, the region produced \$283.0 MM in crops in 2017. During the same year, 22,167 producers accounted for \$492.6 MM in livestock, poultry, and other animal products.

Brown (1,838), Comanche (1,427), Taylor (1,394), and Eastland (1,198) counties accounted for 43.0% of all farms in the region although they only accounted for 17.2% of revenue from crop production. The highest producing county was Haskell county, with 488 farms accounting for \$37.1 MM in crop revenue.

Brown (3,020), Comanche (2,355), Eastland (1,976), and Taylor (2,324) counties, meanwhile, accounted for 43.5% of all producers and 45.8% (\$225.6 MM) of the region's livestock, poultry, and other animal product revenue in 2017.

In total, there are 22,167 West Central Texas residents (62.9% male) employed in agricultural and livestock operations. Among those, 42.6% are age 65 or older, 52.4% are age 35 to 64, and 4.9 % are less than 35 years of age. New and beginning farmers accounted for 29.4%.

In order to sustain a strong agricultural and livestock producing segment of the economy, policy makers and economic developers must continue to incentivize younger residents to seek employment and start businesses in the sector. Without coordinated initiatives, the aging production labor force will not be replenished and the sector may struggle to maintain and grow production.



Agriculture and Livestock

Agricultural Production 2017

COUNTY	NUMBER OF FARMS	LAND IN FARMS (ACHERS)	MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD TOTAL	CROPS	LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL PRODUCERS
Brown	1,838	546,768	\$45,971	\$9,245	\$36,725	3,020
Callahan	961	477,812	\$31,240	\$3,043	\$28,197	1,573
Coleman	976	672,281	\$41,202	\$13,354	\$27,848	1,633
Comanche	1,427	486,940	\$173,264	\$23,374	\$149,891	2,355
Eastland	1,198	489,773	\$23,519	\$4,969	\$18,550	1,976
Fisher	486	477,958	\$35,739	\$26,969	\$8,770	783
Haskell	488	565,019	\$54,318	\$37,084	\$17,234	760
Jones	915	516,507	\$41,490	\$29,853	\$11,637	1,440
Kent	164	577,532	\$9,866	\$1,027	\$8,839	268
Knox	216	488,811	\$60,529	\$13,546	\$46,982	363
Mitchell	362	583,017	\$21,742	\$13,584	\$8,158	565
Nolan	410	466,360	\$36,609	\$25,790	\$10,819	661
Runnels	833	672,304	\$53,434	\$31,877	\$21,557	1,351
Scurry	560	530,804	\$45,152	\$24,361	\$20,791	898
Shackelford	223	536,848	\$16,609	\$812	\$15,797	362
Stephens	575	470,191	\$10,624	\$568	\$10,056	899
Stonewall	314	468,896	\$15,543	\$6,878	\$8,665	485
Taylor	1,394	484,257	\$31,541	\$11,155	\$20,386	2,324
Throckmorton	274	506,892	\$27,260	\$5,519	\$21,741	451
Total	13,614	10,018,970	\$775,652	\$283,008	\$492,643	22,167

USDA- National Agricultural Statistics Service- 2017 Census of Agriculture Volume 1, Chapter 2: County Level Data

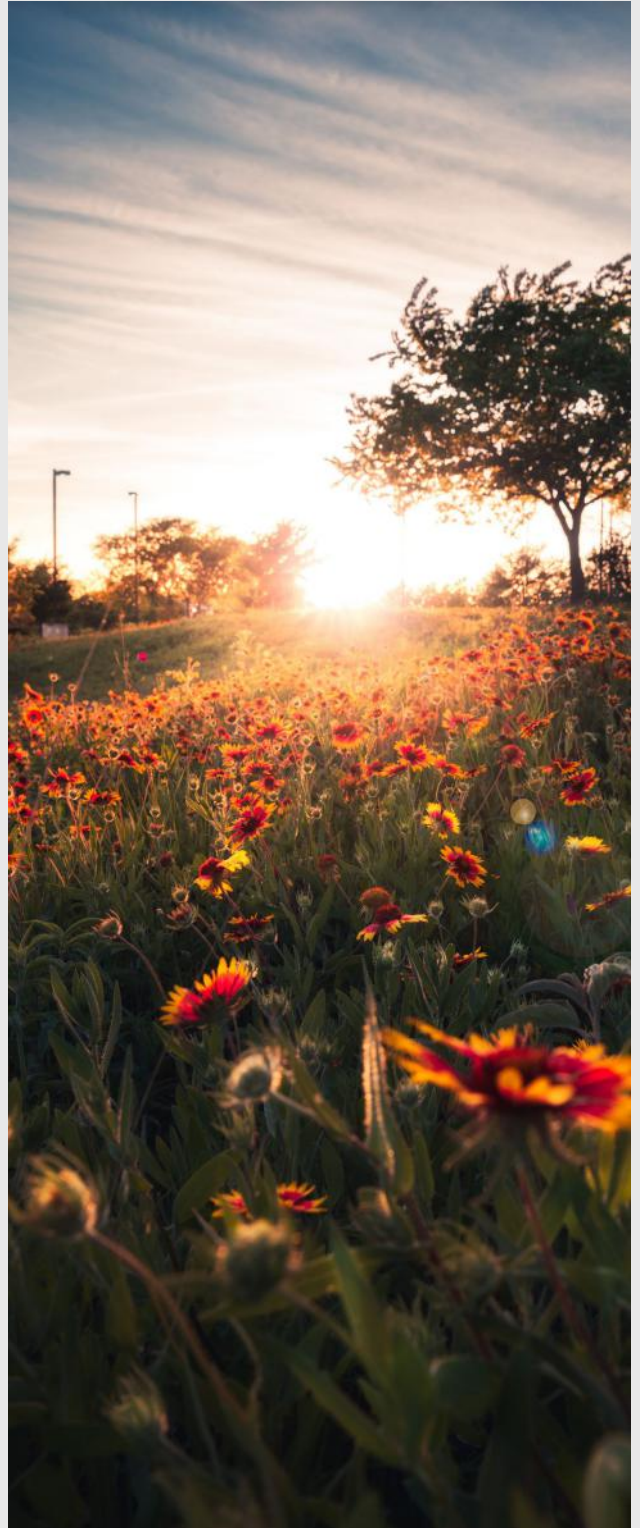
Internet Connectivity

Rural communities in Texas lag far behind the rest of the state in access to the internet that many urban and suburban communities take for granted. According to Connected Nation, an estimated 146,700 West Central Texas residents do not have access to fixed, terrestrial non-mobile broadband service and less than fifty percent of residents in eleven of the region's nineteen counties have access to high-speed broadband.

This rural digital divide significantly limits innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic competitiveness in rural communities throughout the West Central Texas region. New businesses and startups cannot access customers on par with competitors in urban areas, regional businesses have difficulty realizing efficiencies without access to current systems and software, and residents cannot access opportunities to earn competitive wages in work from home positions. The lack of internet access exacerbates rural counties' challenge of retaining residents to live and work in their communities by compelling working age adults to relocate to more urban communities for better economic opportunity.

Challenges associated with lack of internet connectivity have been laid bare in the recent months as the region grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic. Most communities have seen a surge in working from home and remote schooling with the imposition of stay home, stay safe resolutions and community spread. In communities without reliable internet access, employees that would be able to perform their jobs at home are at risk of unemployment and education is unable to continue consistently during intermittent school closures.

Policy makers and economic developers must address this challenge or risk further loss of economic opportunity for their residents and their communities.



Internet Connectivity

High Speed Internet Accessibility By County

COUNTY	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	50 xMbps (percent of Households Served)				100 x10 Mbps (Percent Households Served)			
		CABLE	DSL	FIBER	FIXED WIRELESS	CABLE	DSL	FIBER	FIXED WIRELESS
Brown	14,778	0.00%	0.00%	58.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58.80%	0.00%
Callahan	5,447	0.00%	44.69%	2.66%	0.31%	0.00%	0.00%	2.66%	0.00%
Coleman	3,857	0.00%	0.00%	31.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	31.03%	0.00%
Comanche	5,580	0.00%	0.44%	43.97%	0.04%	0.00%	0.00%	43.97%	0.00%
Eastland	7,465	0.31%	5.59%	0.00%	37.40%	0.31%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fisher	1,668	9.04%	0.00%	6.96%	0.00%	0.60%	0.00%	6.96%	0.00%
Haskell	2,297	0.00%	31.29%	67.52%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	67.52%	0.00%
Jones	6,034	0.05%	0.00%	13.90%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%	13.90%	0.00%
Kent	350	0.29%	0.00%	85.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Knox	1,506	0.00%	50.17%	53.59%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.59%	0.00%
Mitchell	2,809	0.00%	8.36%	0.00%	36.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Nolan	5,999	75.16%	1.95%	1.19%	0.00%	71.70%	0.00%	1.19%	0.00%
Runnels	4,165	59.77%	0.12%	0.67%	69.75%	59.77%	0.00%	0.67%	0.00%
Scurry	5,838	84.98%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	79.17%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Shackelford	1,367	24.23%	9.35%	8.46%	0.00%	4.03%	0.00%	8.46%	0.00%
Stephens	3,665	83.61%	0.00%	0.00%	16.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Stonewall	642	0.00%	37.67%	80.69%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.69%	0.00%
Taylor	50,725	88.74%	51.75%	5.01%	73.78%	88.74%	0.00%	5.01%	0.00%
Throckmorton	721	0.00%	35.50%	0.14%	4.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.14%	0.00%

Connected Nation Texas, January 2020

The FCC released new maps November 2022. This map will determine how federal funds will be allocated to each state. You can find those maps at: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>

The Texas Library and Archives Commission worked with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, and Texas Legal Services Center- TexasLaw Help to create an interactive mapping tool to provide geographic locations of public Wi-Fi hotspots in Texas and allows users to submit available locations of public Wi-Fi. You can find this resource here: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/tech/wifimap>

Internet Connectivity



The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) released their legislative agenda to the 118th Congress in February 2023. Here are the four areas of focus released in their agenda:

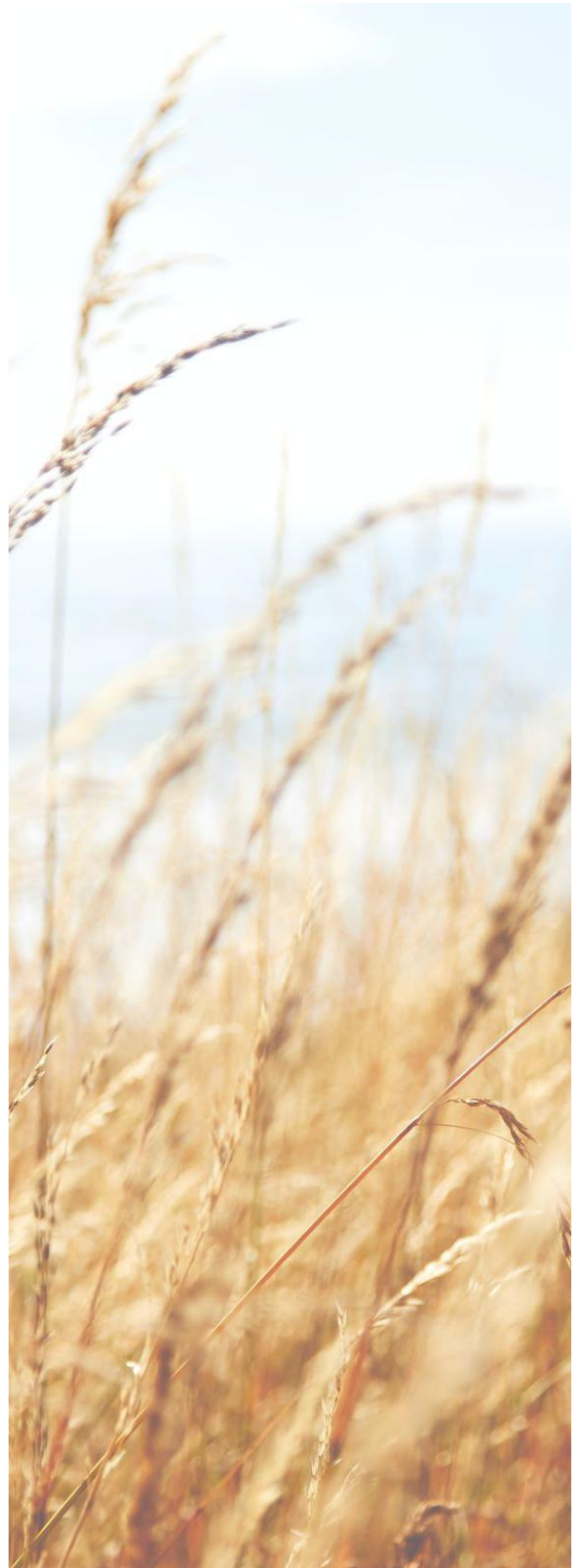
1. Promote universal service programs and related initiatives to ensure sustainable and affordable connectivity.
 - Update key high-cost USF mechanisms
 - Sustain affordability measures
 - Expand the base contributors support USF initiatives
2. Ensure effective and efficient use of broadband infrastructure grant funding
 - Take no shortcuts in broadband mapping
 - Coordinate among broadband programs thoughtfully
 - Leverage proven networks and providers of all kinds
 - Ensure grant program requirements are tailored and reasonable
3. Align tax policies with incentives and goals for broadband investment
4. Promote right-sized regulation targeted to market needs and market failures

Health

The rural nature of the West Central Texas region presents a significant challenge for local health officials and policy makers to ensure residents have ready access to needed medical care. According to the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 15 of the 19 WCT counties have a primary care physician to patient ratio higher than the state of Texas. In counties that are more densely populated, however, access to health care is not a pronounced challenge; 45.0% of residents reside in counties with a primary care physician to patient ratio lower than the state average.

Several additional behavioral and physical health factors also present health challenges for the region. Although factors vary county to county, evaluation of characteristics outlined in the Behavioral and Physical Health Factors Table indicate:

- All 19 counties have an Adult Obesity Index greater than the U.S. and 18 of 19 are higher than the state rate
- All 19 counties have a Physical Inactivity Index that exceeds the U.S. average and 18 of 19 have a higher rate than the state
- 6 of 19 counties has an Excessive Drinking Index lower than Texas and the U.S.



Health

Regional Hospital Profiles

COUNTY	CITY	HOSPITAL	BEDS	TYPE OF FACILITY	TYPE OF CONTROL
Brown	Brownwood	Hendrick Medical Center, Brownwood	65	Short Term Acute Care	Voluntary Nonprofit, Church
Coleman	Coleman	Coleman County Medical Center	25	Critical Access	Proprietary, Corporation
Comanche	Comanche	Comanche County Medical Center	25	Critical Access	Voluntary Nonprofit, Other
Eastland	Eastland	Eastland Memorial Hospital	19	Short Term Acute Care	Government Hospital District
Fisher	Rotan	Fisher County Hospital	12	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Haskell	Haskell	Haskell Memorial Hospital	25	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Jones	Anson	Anson General	7	Short Term Acute Care	Government, City- County
Knox	Knox City	Knox County Hospital	28	Critical Access	Government County
Mitchell	Colorado City	Mitchell County Hospital	25	Critical Access	Government County
Nolan	Sweetwater	Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital	39	Short Term Acute Care	Government Hospital District
Runnels	Ballinger	Ballinger Memorial Hospital	16	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Runnels	Winters	North Runnels Hospital District	12	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Scurry	Snyder	Cogdell Memorial Hospital	25	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Stephens	Breckenridge	Stephens Memorial Hospital	14	Short Term Acute Care	Government, County
Stonewall	Aspermont	Stonewall Memorial Hospital	20	Critical Access	Government Hospital District
Taylor	Abilene	Continue CARE Hospital at Hendrick medical Center	23	Long-Term	Voluntary Nonprofit, Other
Taylor	Abilene	Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Abilene	60	Rehabilitation	Proprietary, Corporation
Taylor	Abilene	Hendrick Medical Center	606	Short Term Acute Care	Voluntary Nonprofit, Other
Taylor	Abilene	Hendrick Medical Center South	196	Short Term Acute Care	Proprietary, Corporation
Taylor	Abilene	Oceans Behavioral Hospital Abilene	90	Psychiatric	Proprietary, Corporation
Throckmorton	Throckmorton	Throckmorton County Memorial Hospital	14	Critical Access	Governmental, County

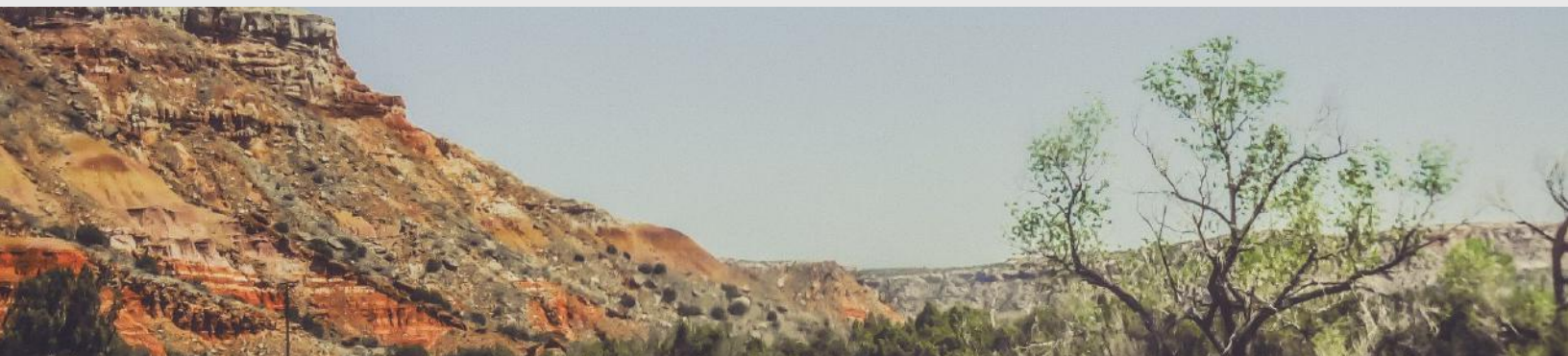
American Hospital Directory, January 2023

Health

Behavioral and Physical Health Factors 2019

COUNTY	ADULT SMOKING	ADULT OBESITY	PHYSICAL INACTIVITY	EXCESSIVE DRINKING	ALCOHOL IMPAIRED DRIVING DEATHS	SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (PER 100,000 PPL)	TEEN BIRTHS (2021)
Brown	18%	36%	30%	20%	28%	304.7	31
Callahan	19%	36%	28%	21%	13%	121.9	29
Coleman	19%	36%	30%	21%	25%	146.8	43
Comanche	17%	36%	30%	20%	3%	286.0	42
Eastland	21%	37%	32%	20%	27%	223.3	32
Fisher	18%	38%	31%	20%	38%	182.8	47
Haskell	23%	40%	38%	18%	36%	123.7	33
Jones	20%	39%	34%	20%	34%	174.3	38
Kent	17%	35%	28%	22%	100%	NA	NA
Knox	19%	39%	35%	18%	33%	NA	24
Mitchell	19%	38%	35%	20%	10%	257.5	47
Nolan	19%	38%	34%	19%	23%	421.4	57
Runnels	18%	37%	34%	19%	31%	233.8	32
Scurry	19%	38%	34%	19%	12%	401.1	58
Shackelford	18%	34%	27%	21%	50%	275.7	24
Stephens	20%	38%	33%	20%	29%	331.0	46
Stonewall	20%	37%	32%	20%	0%	NA	NA
Taylor	17%	37%	29%	19%	18%	370.9	33
Throckmorton	19%	36%	30%	20%	20%	0.0	40
Texas	15%	34%	27%	20%	25%	445.1	29
U.S.	16%	32%	26%	20%	27%	551.0	19

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Health

Brown County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Brown	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	9,900	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Brown County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,720:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	2,350:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	530:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Callahan County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Callahan	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	9,500	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	11%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	18%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	13%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Callahan County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	13,940:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,530:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	7,060:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Coleman County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Coleman	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	12,200	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	10%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	26%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Coleman County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,640:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	4,050:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	8,100:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Comanche County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Comanche	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	9,200	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	7%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	24%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	12%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Comanche County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,950:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,440:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	2,290:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Eastland County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Eastland	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	10,900	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	24%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	9%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Eastland County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,670:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,680:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	2,630:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Fisher County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Fisher	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	NA	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	12%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	19%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	9%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Fisher County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,830:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,780:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	NA	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Haskell County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Haskell	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	7,800	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	9%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	27%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	10%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Haskell County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,890:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	2,880:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	1,440:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Jones County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Jones	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	7,900	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Jones County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,350:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	9,940:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	19,880:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Kent County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Kent	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	NA	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	NA	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	14%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	8%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Kent County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	760:0	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	790:0	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	790:0	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Knox County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Knox	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	10,700	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	7%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	25%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	9%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Knox County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,660:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,680:0	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	NA	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Mitchell County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Mitchell	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	8,400	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	10%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	13%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Mitchell County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	2,140:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	8,200:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	NA	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Nolan County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Nolan	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	10,500	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	15%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Nolan County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	2,940:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	1,850:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	1,480:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Runnels County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Runnels	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	8,600	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Runnels County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	2,050:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	5,200:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	2,600:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Scurry County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Scurry	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	8,600	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	20%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Scurry County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,520:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	1,850:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	4,170:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Shackelford County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Shackelford	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	NA	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	6%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	23%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	15%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Shackelford County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,270:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	3,300:0	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	1,650:1	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Stephens County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Stephens	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	9,200	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	8%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	24%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	11%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Stephens County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	3,120:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	2,330:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	1,870:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Stonewall County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Stonewall	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	NA	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	NA	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	19%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	7%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Stonewall County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,350:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	1,350:0	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	340:1	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Taylor County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Taylor	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	9,700	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	9%	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	19%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	14%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Taylor County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,390:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	1,190:1	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	530:1	760:1	350:1

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

Throckmorton County



This county is a HRSA designated HCP Shortage area

	Throckmorton	Texas	U.S.
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people, 2018-2020)	NA	7,000	7,300
Low Birth Weight (Percentage of live births with weight under 5lbs 8 oz., 2014-2020)	NA	8%	8%
Uninsured (Percentage of population under 65 without health insurance, 2019)	24%	21%	11%
Severe Housing Problems (Percentage of households with 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, 2014-2018)	7%	17%	17%

Ratio of Population to Providers , 2021

	Throckmorton County	Texas	U.S.
Primary Care Physicians	1,500:1	1,630:1	1,400:1
Dentists	1,490:0	1,660:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	1,490:1	760:1	350:1

*NA= Not Available

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health

In addition to the challenges presented by behavioral and health factors, the region is characterized by disproportionate percentage of residents with disabilities. According to the US Census Bureau, eighteen of the nineteen counties had a higher percentage of persons with a disability, under 65 years when compared to the State of Texas at 8.0%. Kent County at 5.7% was the only county that had a lower percentage of disability population than Texas.

The region is also challenged by a significant percentage of uninsured residents under 65. The uninsured rate exceeds that of the state of Texas (20.4%) in eleven of the nineteen counties. The high uninsured rate, compounded with significant behavioral and physical health risk factors presents a significant challenge to local policy makers and risk for the region.

Persons With Disability By County

COUNTY	WITH DISABILITY, UNDER 65	PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE, UNDER 65
Brown	14.1%	17.8%
Callahan	13.9%	19.3%
Coleman	16.0%	20.7%
Comanche	10.2%	21.4%
Eastland	14.9%	20.6%
Fisher	9.7%	19.3%
Haskell	17.0%	24.7%
Jones	10.6%	18.9%
Kent	5.7%	15.0%
Knox	16.6%	24.3%
Mitchell	9.8%	19.5%
Nolan	15.2%	20.3%
Runnels	12.0%	22.4%
Scurry	8.4%	21.8%
Shackelford	12.6%	21.6%
Stephens	13.8%	24.3%
Stonewall	9.7%	22.7%
Taylor	9.6%	16.8%
Throckmorton	10.7%	22.6%

Economic US Census Bureau, 2021

Poverty

Poverty Rates By County

COUNTY	POVERTY RATE IN 2000	POVERTY RATE IN 2020	% CHANGE IN 20 YEARS
Brown	18.3	15.3	-16.40%
Callahan	15.4	12.2	-20.80%
Coleman	21.8	16.0	-26.60%
Comanche	19.2	15.9	-17.20%
Eastland	19.6	17.0	-13.30%
Fisher	17.5	13.3	-24.00%
Haskell	22.0	20.0	-9.10%
Jones	23.9	19.5	-18.40%
Kent	15.3	11.3	-26.10%
Knox	24.8	16.3	-34.30%
Mitchell	26.0	18.7	-28.10%
Nolan	21.3	17.2	-19.20%
Runnels	19.1	14.3	-25.10%
Scurry	18.5	13.8	-25.40%
Shackelford	14.8	12.5	-15.50%
Stephens	19.6	15.6	-20.40%
Stonewall	18.3	14.3	-21.90%
Taylor	15.3	12.2	-20.30%
Throckmorton	15.0	13.5	-10.00%
Texas	14.6%	13.6	%

U.S. Census Bureau

Reducing the percentage of the population in poverty continues to be a challenge for the West Central Texas region. Thirteen counties had poverty rates higher than the poverty rate for the State of Texas at 13.6% in 2020. Despite continuing to register poverty rates higher than the state of Texas, most counties within the region, however, continue to trend positively and showed a reduction in poverty rates from 2000 to 2020.

The need to provide services to help those in poverty will be made more acute during the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be incumbent on communities throughout West Central Texas to coordinate services among social agencies and workforce development organizations. Service coordination must be sufficient to address both the immediate crisis and long-term systemic poverty.



Opportunity Zones

COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER
Brown	48049950700
Coleman	48083950300
Eastland	48133950100
Eastland	48133950200
Fisher	48151950400
Haskell	48207950300
Jones	48253020400
Stephens	48429950300
Taylor	48441011700
Taylor	48441013000

The Opportunity Zone Program is designed to encourage economic development and job creation in distressed communities through tax benefits. Investors may defer taxes on most capital gains up to Dec. 31, 2026 by making an eligible investment in an Opportunity Zone. Some grants offer decreased match amounts for grant projects within Opportunity Zones. Our region has 10 designated Opportunity Zones, none have active grants at this time.

Opportunity Zones Resources

<https://www.cdfifund.gov/opportunity-zones>

IRS, December 14, 2018

Economic Resiliency

The goal of the WCTEDD and its partners is to plan for a resilient region that anticipates threats and economic risk, develops resources to reduce their impact, responds appropriately, and ultimately leads the region to recovery. The need for a focus on economic resiliency has been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic which is having tremendous deleterious economic effects.

The region's approach must continue to extend beyond emergency responsiveness and shift further toward intentional economic development that focuses on long-term structural changes to the economy. Economic development practitioners must continue to coordinate and collaborate effectively to build a more resilient regional economy, utilizing economic data and stakeholder feedback to address vulnerabilities and to build and support vibrant, healthy communities.

The capacity to recover from an economic shock can be strengthened by addressing the following capacity measures:

1. **Economic diversification:** Economic diversification measures the degree to which economic activity is spread across sectors of an economy. When economic activity is concentrated in relatively few sectors, the overall regional economy is more vulnerable.
2. **Business climate:** Continuously improving the business climate throughout the region through economic development policy and incentives improves access to jobs in communities throughout the region.
3. **Entrepreneurship and small business development:** Strong support of entrepreneurship and small business development capitalizes on the region's human capital and leverages demographic diversity.
4. **Improve Digital Infrastructure:** Improved broadband coverage and creation of programs to improve household access to computer equipment will improve access to distance education and remote work opportunities.
5. **Strengthening community identities:** Revitalizing downtowns creates anchors for development and develops a sense of place and destination for communities.
6. **Regional affordability/housing:** Improving housing affordability, comparing the cost of housing to the level of income, is critical to ensure local business has ready access to a sufficient workforce and residents can afford to reside in WCT communities.
7. **Income equality:** Measures and policies that lessen income inequality and linking assets throughout the region improves economic security and aggregate disposable income and can spur economic growth and resiliency.

Through innovation, adaptation, investing in local assets, and connecting people, the WCT region can enhance economic stability and competitiveness which will result in long-term success, viability and durability of the region's economy.

SWOT

Strengths

- Energy Infrastructure (production and transmission)
- Logistics competency and infrastructure (global supply chain)
- Land availability (agriculture and renewable energy)
- New in-migration patterns
- Each city or town has "place identity " including community center or designated resident activity spaces
- Expanded broadband availability (in each county)
- The 19-county area had increase of 99 establishments between 2015-2019 (entrepreneurship)

Weaknesses

- New residents possess lower education attainment levels
- Outflow of young adult population
- Proximity to logistics routes (select communities)
- Small Business/Entrepreneurship resources
- Limited broadband access
- All counties have a higher number of persons with a disability, under 65 when compared to Texas state
- Current and forecast educational attainment
- Low income values when compared to Texas state

SWOT

Opportunities

- Diversification of regional economic sectors and labor market (improved economic resiliency)
- Entrepreneurship throughout the region
- Increase in gig economy and remote employment opportunities
- Emphasis on internet presence provides opportunities for increased community visibility
- Trade relationship development
- Rising cost of living in urban centers (migration back to rural communities)
- All counties have a large population of 25+ with some college but no degree
- Projected 9% increase in jobs in Construction, Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Educational Services, and Health Care by 2025

Threats

- Energy price fluctuations
- Disruptive trade patterns
- Competitive rural regions
- Healthcare availability/Low insured rates
- WCTCOG region's education level/graduates reduced by 5% over the last 5 years
- 18 of 19 counties have a lower median household income when compared to Texas
- Harsh and unpredictable weather
- Low availability of water
- Low stock of affordable housing
- High cost for broadband infrastructure in majority of the region
- Although poverty rates decreased from 2000 to 2017 in seventeen counties, there are only 4 counties with poverty rates below the Texas rate

Funding Priorities

1. Equity: Economic development planning or implementation projects that advance equity across America through investments that directly benefit 1) one or more traditionally underserved populations, including but not limited to women, Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders or 2) underserved communities within geographies that have been systemically and/or systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic prosperity such as Tribal Lands, Persistent Poverty Counties, and rural areas with demonstrated, historical underservice.

2. Recovery & Resilience: Economic development planning or implementation projects that build economic resilience to and long-term recovery from economic shocks, like those experienced by coal and power plant communities, or other communities impacted by the decline of an important industry or a natural disaster, that may benefit from economic diversification-focused resilience.

3. Workforce Development: Economic development planning or implementation projects that support workforce education and skills training activities directly connected to the hiring and skills needs of the business community and that result in well paying, quality jobs.

4. Manufacturing: Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or to the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

5. Technology-Based Economic Development: Economic development planning or implementation projects that foster regional knowledge ecosystems that support entrepreneurs and startups, including the commercialization of new technologies, that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

6. Environmentally-Sustainable Development: Economic development planning or implementation projects that help address the climate crisis including through the development and implementation of green products, green processes (including green infrastructure), green places, and green buildings.

7. Exports & FDI: Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance or build community assets to support growth in US exports or increased foreign direct investment.

Strategic Recommendations

As a result of the information shared by economic development stakeholders in the WCT region and the SWOT Analysis, the following recommendations are outlined as strategic direction for the Economic Development District

Recommendation 1: Work on improving the competitiveness of the region's key economic clusters.

Key Actions

- A. Assist the WCT region's communities in implementing economic development strategies that attract and grow business in key economic clusters.
- B. Assist smaller communities in developing smaller micro-clusters that capitalize on their unique community assets.
- C. Support initiatives that focus on growing industries that generate wealth for the region.
- D. Provide economic development partners and municipalities learning opportunities and networking opportunities through a series of economic development workshops and trainings.
- E. Provide assistance to regional municipalities and other economic development stakeholders in applying for funds from the Economic Development Administration and other federal and state funding agencies.

Recommendation 2: Monitor and assist in the educational attainment and training of the workforce, incentivizing business to locate and expand in the WCT region.

Key Actions

- A. Coordinate with regional education and workforce development agencies to better align regional curricula to meet employer needs.
- B. Support the regions human capital development by accessing resources for a well-prepared, skilled professional and technical workforce.

Strategic Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Through collaborative efforts, build a strong innovation infrastructure that promotes entrepreneurship and small business development.

Key Actions

- A. Support programs that develop entrepreneurial skills in the workforce.
- B. Coordination with regional Small Business Development Centers to improve access of resources throughout the region for entrepreneurs and small business owners.
- C. Encourage incentive programs that will foster entrepreneurship and small business development.

Recommendation 4: Guide and assist in the development of the region's economic strength.

Key Actions

- A. Assist the WCT region's communities in implementing economic development strategies that capitalize on their unique characteristics and economic opportunity.
- B. Identify unique industries that can be replicated throughout the region.
- C. Coordinate marketing opportunities within the region to highlight each community's assets.

Recommendation 5: Coordinate and promote the economic resiliency within the WCTEDD region in conjunction with regional partners to minimize the threats and hazards.

Key Actions

- A. Identify persistent economic deficiencies and challenges.
- B. Monitor economic indicators to mitigate impact of economic impact of economic disasters and respond to potential economic shocks.
- C. Assist distressed communities affected by economic collapse.
- D. Identify capacity of income equality, economic diversification, regional affordability and business climate as capacity measures.

Plan of Action

WCTEDD will continue to leverage resources and align interdependent planning and development components including economic development, workforce development, transportation, environmental-air quality, housing, and more. WCTEDD, as the regional economic development district and lead agency for implementation of the CEDS, will play several key roles to ensure support of the recommended Plan of Action to include:

1. Promote regionalism in economic development to ensure communities throughout the region are fully capitalizing on regional assets and building regional competencies.
2. Promote local economic development initiatives that leverage the unique assets of communities within the region.
3. Supply timely and actionable economic and labor market data to regional decision makers.
4. Provide technical assistance as needed to ensure communities within the WCT region have knowledge of and access to the resources needed for their communities to prosper.
5. Promote collaboration and coordination among economic development stakeholders by facilitating relationships and bringing together key players with common interests. The CEDS committee will meet semi-annually to establish a framework to monitor/track activity towards these recommendations, including but not limited to establishing subgroups or task forces for each of the five areas.

