

HOUSTON METRO OVERVIEW

# HOUSTON 2025





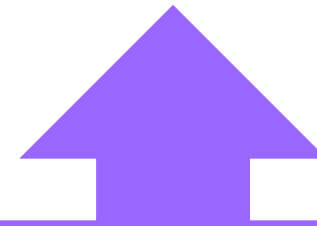
# HOUSTON

Houston, the nation's fourth largest city, has become a diverse, vibrant metro filled with talented people who have an undeniable spirit. The economy is strong, the city is made up of many different cultures, and the quality of life is second to none. Houston has one of the youngest, fastest-growing and most diverse populations anywhere in the world.

7.5 million people live in the ten-county Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA. The City of Houston has 2.3 million residents, the fourth most in the U.S. Nearly 1 in 4 Houstonians are foreign-born.

In addition to Houston's diversity as a community, Houston offers a well-developed suite of key global industries – including energy, life science, manufacturing, logistics and aerospace. As these industries digitize, Houston is a hotbed of rapid technological development thanks to its access to customers and expertise.

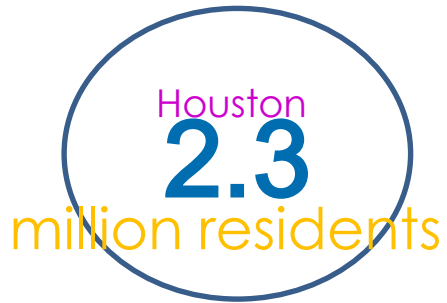
A thriving international city, Houston's ties stretch to all corners of the world. The region's geographic location makes it easy to move both goods and people around the globe. With one of the largest ports in the country and two international airports, Houston connects companies to the world.



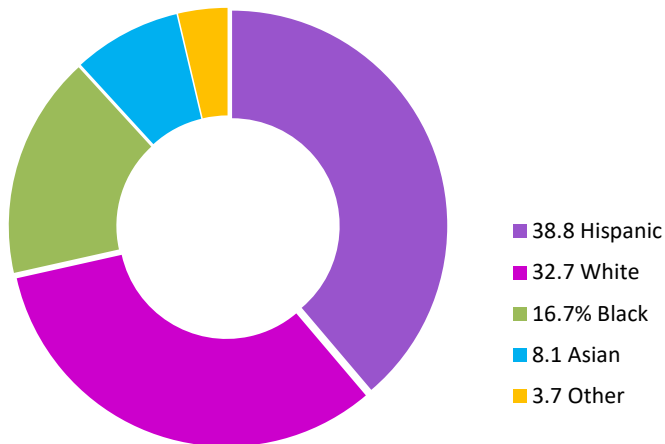
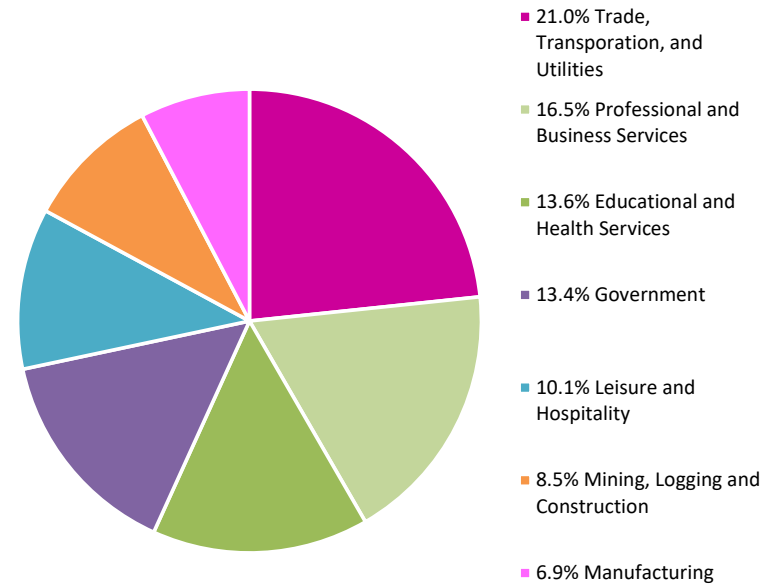
Metro Houston is forecast to add 71,200 jobs next year and finish 2025 with over 3.5 million full-time jobs according to the Greater Houston Partnership's (GHP) annual Houston Region Economic Outlook released in December. Health care and construction industries are expected to advance the farthest, while professional and technical services, government, and restaurant and bars are also expected to realize significant gains.

- ✓ Metro Houston has the **THIRD LARGEST** number of **FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES** in the nation
- ✓ If Houston were a country, it would rank as the **24th LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD**, exceeding Belgium's and Sweden's Gross Domestic Product
- ✓ Houston's **TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER** is the **WORLD'S LARGEST** medical complex
- ✓ Houston is home to more than **9,100 TECH-RELATED FIRMS** including more than 1,000 venture backed startups

# HOUSTON quick facts



- There are **3.5 million jobs** in the Houston MSA
- The Health, Education, and Business & Professional Services industries account for over **1 in 4 jobs** in the region
- The goods-producing sector accounts for nearly **1 in 6 jobs**



- 23** Fortune 500 Headquarters
- 44** Fortune 1,000 Headquarters
- 8** Fortune Global 500
- 29** Forbes Global 2,000
- 94** Inc. 1,000
- 4** Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For

# HOUSTON quick facts

## Area

The 10-county **Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** covers 8,838 square land miles. If the MSA were a state, it would rank as the 47th largest, behind Vermont, New Hampshire, but ahead of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island.

**Harris County covers** 1,707 square miles, enough space to fit the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, New York City, and Seattle with room still to spare.

At 665 square miles, the **City of Houston** is larger in area than the cities of Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix and San Diego.

## Economy

If the MSA were an independent nation, **it would rank as the world's 24th largest economy**, behind Poland (\$688.3 Billion) and Argentina (\$632.2 Billion) but ahead of Sweden (\$585.9 Billion) and Belgium (\$582.2 Billion), according to the World Bank.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at **\$633.1 Billion in '22**, making it the seventh largest U.S. metro economy.

**If Houston were a state, its GDP would rank 14th**, behind Massachusetts (\$691.5 Billion) and Virginia (\$663.1 Billion) but ahead of Michigan (\$622.6 Billion) and Colorado (\$491.2 Billion.)

Source: Greater Houston Partnership 2025





# The Houston - Pasadena - The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

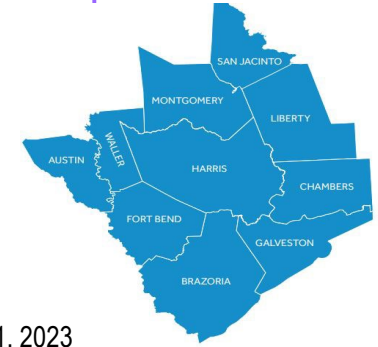
The county seat or administrative center of Harris County is the City of Houston. The ten-county Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA covers 8,838 square miles, is the nation's 5th largest metro area. An area larger than five states: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island. [The 10-county Houston MSA had a population of 7,510,253 residents as of July 1, 2023, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.]



**7,510,253**

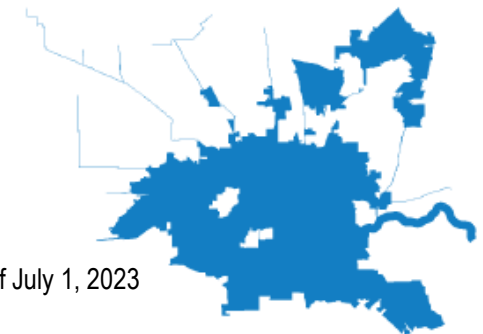
Nine-County Houston MSA, as of July 1, 2023  
**5th** among the nation's metropolitan areas

## Population



**4,835,125**

Harris County Population, as of July 1, 2023  
**3rd** most populous county in the nation



**2,314,157**

City of Houston Population, as of July 1, 2023  
**4th** most populous U.S. City

# Houston Economic Drivers

## COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

### Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

COUNTY	POPULATION		POPULATION CHANGE SINCE APRIL 2020				TOTAL POPULATION CHANGE
	APRIL 2020	JULY 2023	NET MIGRATION		NATURAL INCREASE		
			NATIONAL MIGRATION	DOMESTIC MIGRATION	BIRTHS	DEATHS	
Austin	30,132	31,677	21	1,430	1,200	1,149	1,545
Brazoria	373,493	398,938	2,122	19,486	15,250	10,243	25,445
Chambers	47,019	53,876	195	6,567	1,876	1,307	6,857
Fort Bend	829,109	916,778	15,493	64,327	29,923	14,902	87,669
Galveston	351,590	361,744	1,138	8,264	12,877	11,187	10,154
Harris	4,734,792	4,835,125	93,864	-88,500	207,466	109,733	100,333
Liberty	92,479	108,272	132	15,639	4,399	3,393	15,793
Montgomery	625,291	711,354	5,319	75,568	26,425	15,963	86,063
San Jacinto	27,397	28,936	4	2,028	957	1,457	1,539
Waller	57,285	63,553	199	5,863	2,330	1,577	6,268
<b>HOUSTON MSA</b>	<b>7,168,587</b>	<b>7,510,253</b>	<b>118,487</b>	<b>110,672</b>	<b>302,703</b>	<b>167,997</b>	<b>341,666</b>

*Sustained population growth.* Over 225,000 people moved to the metro area between April '20 and July '23. They've been drawn to the region by job opportunities, affordable housing, an appealing quality of life, and a cost of living that is 6.0 percent below the U.S. average and nearly 30 percent below the average of the nation's 20 most populous metros. Metro Houston's population is expected to surpass 8.0 million and payroll employment to approach 4.0 mill by the end of the decade.

NEARLY  
**ONE IN  
FOUR**



**HOUSTONIANS  
BORN OUTSIDE  
THE U.S.**

Among the 1,757,731 foreign-born in the Houston metro area, 62.6 percent entered the U.S. before '10.

# Key Industries

## HEALTH CARE



**The Medical Center (TMC)**, the largest medical complex in the world, encompasses 55 institutions ranging from renowned hospitals, support organizations, academic and research institutions, and public health organizations. Comprising 1,345 acres, TMC is the eight-largest business district in the United States and is home to the world's largest cancer hospital and children's hospital. TMC's campus currently contains 50 million square feet of developed space, with an additional \$3 billion worth of construction projects underway.

### Bio-Tech and Life Science

As a hub for medical device manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and health research, the Houston region is home to more than 15,400 life sciences and biotech researchers and 1,100 life sciences and biotech companies. More than 2,200 clinical trials were active in the Houston region in mid- '24, representing 11.1 percent of all trials in the U.S. In '23, Houston medical institutions and life sciences firms received \$951.9 million in National Institute of Health (NIH) grant funding

- 106,000+ jobs supported at TMC
- \$25 billion TMC annual GDP generated
- Largest Medical Complex in the World
- \$3 billion worth of construction projects underway
- 8th largest business district in the U.S.
- 50 million developed square feet
- 120,000+ total employees
- 10 million patient encounters per year
- 9,200 total patient beds
- 13,600 total heart surgeries
- 180,000 annual surgeries





# Key Industries

## MANUFACTURING

### PETROCHEMICAL & REFINING

The Houston region was home to 674 chemical plants employing 41,784, or 18.0 percent of Greater Houston's total manufacturing workforce, in '24, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The region accounts for 41.5 percent of the nation's overall base petrochemicals manufacturing capacity.

The Houston MSA also dominates U.S. production of three major resins, producing 40.6 percent of the country's polypropylene, 39.4 percent of polyethylene and 30.5 percent of polyvinyl chloride.

In '24, the Houston metro had a crude operating capacity of 2.7 million barrels of refined petroleum products per calendar day, representing 15.6 percent of overall U.S. capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Oil refiners in the region employed 7,205 workers in '23, equivalent to 3.1 percent of the Houston region's total manufacturing workforce.

### NEW ENERGY

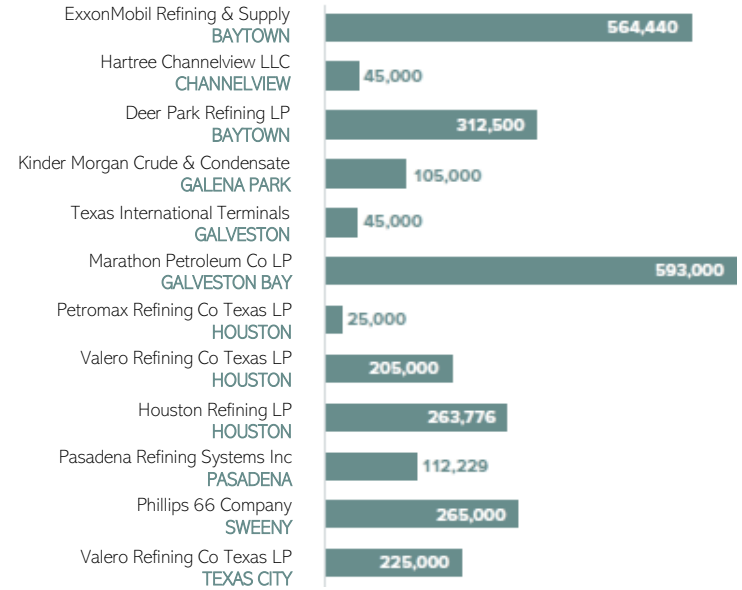
Houston is well positioned to lead the transition to low-carbon and no-carbon energy. Houston has a large, diverse, and technically oriented workforce. It has the most highly developed of energy infrastructure in the nation. A large and expanding renewable generation capacity is already in place. The local culture supports innovation and growth. And the region's extensive port, rail and aviation infrastructure offer a platform for large-scale decarbonization initiatives. The strategy sets out three initial objectives for the region: jumpstarting emerging technologies and markets where Houston has a strategic advantage, attracting and supporting companies in established yet rapidly growing "New Energy" industries, and creating an environment that encourages investment in and deployment of a wide range of value chains. The later includes everything from nature-based solutions, to cleaner production of natural gas, oil, and petrochemicals, to breakthroughs in energy efficiency, geothermal energy, and advanced materials.

Source: Greater Houston Partnership 2025

Houston is the leading domestic and international center for virtually every segment of the energy industry — exploration and production, transmission, marketing, service, trading, supply, offshore drilling and technology.

More than **4,600** energy-related firms are located within the Houston metro area, including over **410** exploration and production firms, **740** oilfield service companies, nearly **90** pipeline transportation firms, and hundreds of manufacturers and wholesalers of energy-sector products.

### PETROLEUM REFINING CAPACITY



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Refinery Capacity Report Jan 1, 2024





# Key Industries

## AEROSPACE & AVIATION



### NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Years before the historic Apollo 11 mission in 1969, Houston was a pioneering hub in the aerospace and aviation sector. But the mission didn't stop at the moon. Over the decades, Houston scientists and engineers have helped with some of the world's biggest space endeavors, including running mission control for the International Space Station for nearly 20 years. Some of the sharpest minds in aerospace and aviation technology continue to chart a vibrant future for Houston centered around NASA's Johnson Space Center and one of the world's only truly urban commercial spaceports. Every manned U.S. space mission since 1961 has been planned and executed from JSC. Every astronaut has lived and trained in the Houston area, every manned mission controlled here. The missions of tomorrow—to the moon, to Mars and beyond—are being planned today by scientists and engineers who call Houston home.

Houston established itself as a global hub for aerospace in 1961 with the arrival of NASA's human space program. Since then, the Johnson Space Center (JSC) has anchored a thriving aerospace industry, attracting the world's leading aerospace companies.

### NASA'S EXPLORATION PARK

NASA's Exploration Park is 240 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to JSC that will house Texas A&M University's Space Institute and the American Center of Manufacturing and Innovation's new Space Systems Campus.

### HOUSTON SPACEPORT

Houston Spaceport, situated 18 miles southeast of downtown at Ellington Airport, became a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) designated spaceport in '15. One of only 10 spaceports in the U.S., the development plays a major role in Houston's aerospace landscape.

### AXION SPACE

The campus will train astronauts, conduct mission operations and serve as a research facility, featuring Axiom Station's first commercial module that will attach to the International Space Station.

### INTUITIVE MACHINES

Houston-based Intuitive Machines opened its 12.5 acre campus in September '23. Intuitive Machines manufactures lunar lander and spacecraft, track and manager lunar missions.

### COLLINS AEROSPACE

Develop systems for NASA's human spaceflight program at its eight-acre campus. Collins and Axiom Space were selected to create the next generation of NASA spacesuits

- 500+ Space, Aviation, and Aerospace Related Firms and Institutions
- \$2.9 Billion Total Trade in Aviation
- 2 International Airports
- 1 FAA-Licensed Commercial Spaceport
- 11,000+ JSC Employees
- \$5.5+ Annual Budget

# Key Industries

## PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

ENGINEER OCCUPATIONS	HOUSTON	U.S.	PER 100,000 WORKERS	
			HOUSTON	U.S.
Aerospace Engineers	1,840	66,660	57.9	43.9
Bioengineers and Biomedical Engineers	260	19,320	8.2	12.7
Chemical Engineers	1,870	21,140	58.8	13.9
Civil Engineers	9,540	327,950	300.1	216.0
Computer Hardware Engineers	770	82,660	24.2	54.5
Electrical Engineers	3,650	185,430	114.8	122.1
Electronics Engineers, Except Computers	1,150	96,410	36.2	63.5
Environmental Engineers	920	39,880	28.9	26.3
Health and Safety Engineers	1,230	22,510	38.7	14.8
Industrial Engineers	7,210	332,870	226.8	219.2
Marine Engineers and Naval Architects	510	9,960	16.0	6.6
Materials Engineers	400	24,630	12.6	16.2
Mechanical Engineers	7,540	281,290	237.1	185.2
Mining and Geological Engineers	110	7,040	3.5	4.6
Petroleum Engineers	5,850	20,390	184.0	13.4
Engineers, All Other	2,750	150,990	86.5	99.4
<b>TOTAL ENGINEERS</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>1,689,130</b>	<b>1,434.3</b>	<b>1,112.3</b>

Houston has 45,600 engineers across all disciplines, the most numerous being:

- ✓ civil
- ✓ mechanical
- ✓ petroleum
- ✓ industrial
- ✓ electrical
- ✓ chemical

Houston has one of the highest concentrations of engineering talent in the nation. For every 100,000 workers in the Houston MSA, there are 1,434 engineers; by comparison, for every 100,000 workers in the U.S., there are 1,112 engineers.

Source: Greater Houston Partnership 2025



# Key Industries

## ENERGY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES



INDUSTRY	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	FIRMS	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE (\$)
Oil & Gas Extraction	31,949	415	\$149,500
Drilling Oil & Gas Wells	9,325	127	\$141,960
Support Activities for Oil & Gas Operations	25,551	743	\$246,272
Oil & Gas Pipeline & Related Structures Construction	17,117	208	\$149,344
Petroleum Refineries	7,205	40	\$101,556
Chemical Manufacturing	41,784	508	\$122,668
Industrial Valve Manufacturing	3,688	82	\$173,004
Fabricated Pipe & Pipe Fitting Manufacturing	5,291	85	\$144,560
Oil & Gas Field Machinery & Equipment Manufacturing	21,978	234	\$171,860
Pump & Compressor Manufacturing	1,836	55	\$86,268
Pipeline Transportation	13,924	89	\$98,228
Engineering Services	49,887	1,912	\$139,100
Geophysical Surveying & Mapping Services	2,040	118	\$123,032
<b>Energy-Related</b>	<b>231,575</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>\$149,855</b>
<b>Share of Houston Metro Total</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	

Houston is the leading domestic and international center for virtually every segment of the energy industry — exploration and production, transmission, marketing, service, trading, supply, offshore drilling and technology. Houston is home to 36 of the nation's 85 publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms.

Source: Greater Houston Partnership 2025

The 10 refineries in the Houston region process 2.8 million barrels of crude oil per calendar day — approximately 46.2 percent of the state's total capacity and 15.6 percent of total U.S. capacity. The logistics for moving much of the nation's petroleum and natural gas across the country are controlled from Houston.

13 of the nation's 20 largest oil pipelines have corporate or divisional headquarters based in Houston. 15 of the nation's top 20 natural gas transmission pipelines are operated by companies with corporate or divisional headquarters in Houston.

# Key Industries

## RETAIL TRADE

### MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Academy Sports + Outdoors  
Aldi  
Amazon  
AutoZone  
Best Buy  
CUS  
Costco  
Dollar General  
Dollar Tree  
H-E-B  
Hobby Lobby

### MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Home Depot  
IKEA  
Kohl's  
Kroger  
Lowe's  
Macy's  
Randall's  
Target  
Walgreens  
Walmart

There are over 19,500 stores, boutiques, outlets, and shops in metro Houston, the most common being gas stations, grocery stores, clothing shops, warehouse clubs, and purveyors of beauty products. Florists and bookstores are the least common.

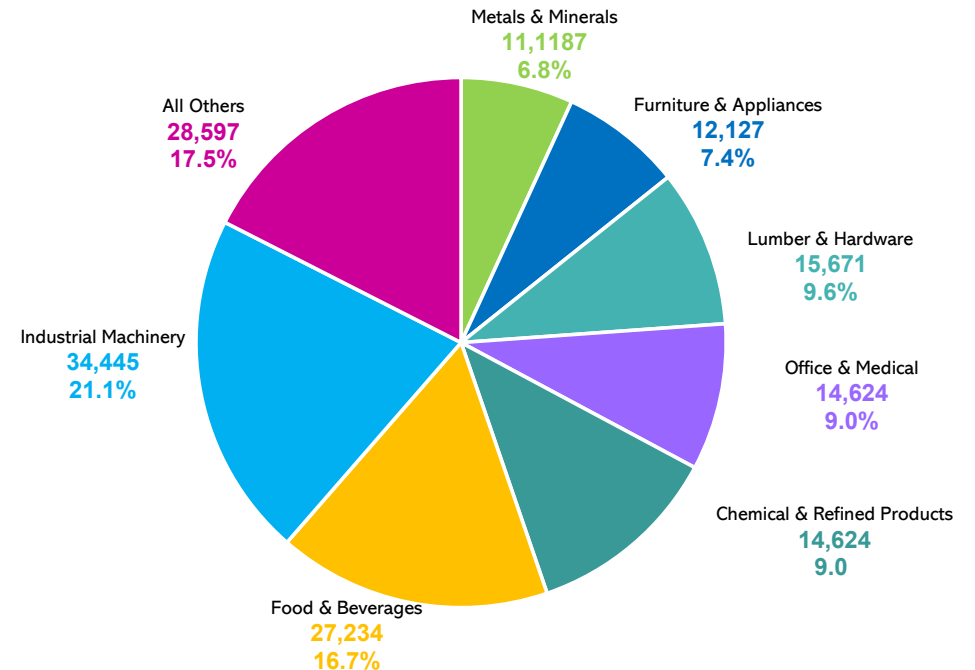
The sector employed over 280,000 toward the end of '24, or 8.2 percent of all Houstonian job holders. Only government and health care employ a larger share of the local workforce. Retail accounted for 5.2 percent (\$31.2 billion) of the region's GDP in '22, the latest year for which data is available.

Retailers have opened more than 800 shops, boutiques, and stores and employment grew by more than 19,000 jobs over the past three years. The sector's total salaries and wages are up \$430 million over the period. Developers have added 10 million square feet of retail space to the market and the vacancy rate still declined from 6.3 percent in Q1/21 to 5.1 percent in Q4/24.

## WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesalers are the classic middlemen, buying in bulk from manufacturers, consolidating purchases into a warehouse, then repackaging and reselling in smaller quantities to retail, industrial, and commercial customers.

The sector employed 184,000 Houstonians toward the end of '24, 5.3 percent of all jobs in the region. It contributed to 12.3 percent of Houston's GDP in '22, the latest year for which data is available. The sector has grown considerably in recent years. Developers have added 197 million square feet of industrial/warehouse space over the past decade. Wholesale trade has added 18,000 jobs over the same period.



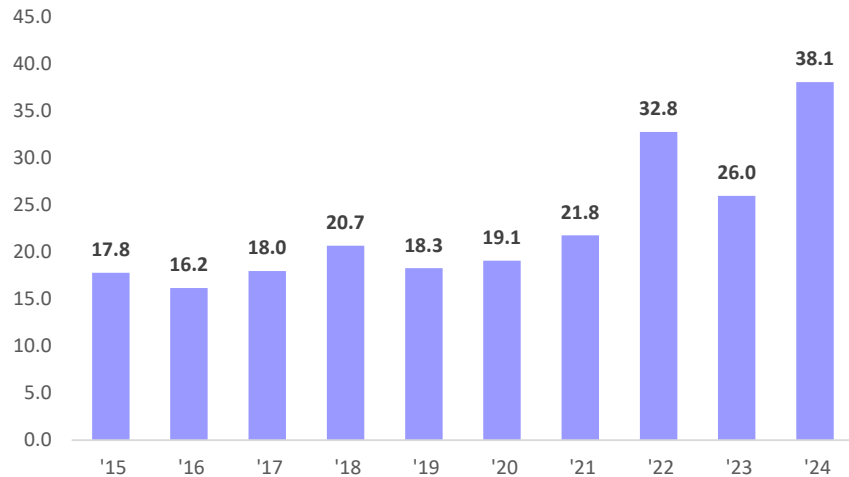


# Key Industries

## CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

Over \$38.1 billion in construction contracts were awarded in Houston in '24. That's up \$12.1 billion from the same period last year. The surge led to the hiring of 15,000 construction workers over that first 9 months of '24, more than the previous two years combined.

### CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDS, \$ BILLIONS



### OFFICE

Only 2.6 million square feet of office space was under construction at the end of '24 and most was pre-leased. A few buildings may break ground in '25, but Houston is unlikely to see an upswing in office construction.

### INDUSTRIAL

Demand for industrial space should remain strong. Houston's population continues to grow. Each year, Port Houston handles more shipping containers than it did the previous year. Houston is firmly established a major logistics/distribution hub.

### RETAIL

Only 3.4 million square feet was under construction in '24, down from 4.5 million square feet in '23. There's a common phrase in the industry

"retail follows rooftops," and the housing boom underway in Houston' suburbs will continue to draw clinics, banks, restaurants, etc. Over half the construction underway year end '24 was in Brazoria, Montgomery and far west Harris County.

### MULTIFAMILY

Multifamily is overbuilt and the building boom has begun to wind down. Developers have delivered 130,000 units since '19, but the market has absorbed only 103,888 as of March 2025. As a result, occupancy has fallen, taking rents with it. According to MRI Apartment Data, 49.0 percent Class A apartment units have leasing incentives (i.e., free rent, security deposit waivers, floorplan upgrades) attached to them.

### SINGLE-FAMILY - EXISTING

In the 12 months ending September '24, brokers closed on 98,700 homes (single-family, duplexes, condos, and townhomes.) That's a 4.0 percent drop from the comparable period in '23 and a 22.3 percent drop from '22. The decline has eased some of the pressure on home prices. The median price of an existing single-family home was \$335,000 in October '24 up only 2.7 percent from October the year prior.

The average interest on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 6.8 percent in November '24, down from 7.4 percent the previous November.

According to HAR there is a 4.4 month supply. A 4.0 market is considered a balanced market, where neither seller nor buyer has an advantage. With inventory exceeding four months, Houston has shifted from a seller's market to a buyer's market.

### SINGLE-FAMILY - NEW

Houston led the nation in single-family building permits (40,557) through the first nine months of '24. The demand for new homes has been driven by population growth, job growth, and builders' ability to adapt designs and financing to meet homebuyers' needs.

# Key Industries

## TRANSPORTATION - AIRPORT SYSTEM - PORT OF HOUSTON

This sector includes air, rail, water, and trucking services; freight forwarders and customs house brokers; crude, gas, and refined product pipelines; warehouses and bulk storage terminals; courier and delivery services; and electric, gas, and water utilities. It employed 190,000 Houstonians toward the end of '24, 5.5 percent of all job holders. The sector has added more than 36,000 jobs over the past five years, with the majority of the gains in warehousing, followed by air, pipelines, trucking and utilities.

Houston is an international air gateway to the southern United States and Latin America. Houston is the only city in Texas with two international airports – one of only eight such cities nationwide. The Houston Airport System, both William P. Hobby and Bush Intercontinental are ranked among the World's Top 100 airports, claiming No. 32 and No. 35 respectively.

Houston's airports are on track to handle a record 62.5 million passengers '24 up from 60.1 million the year before.

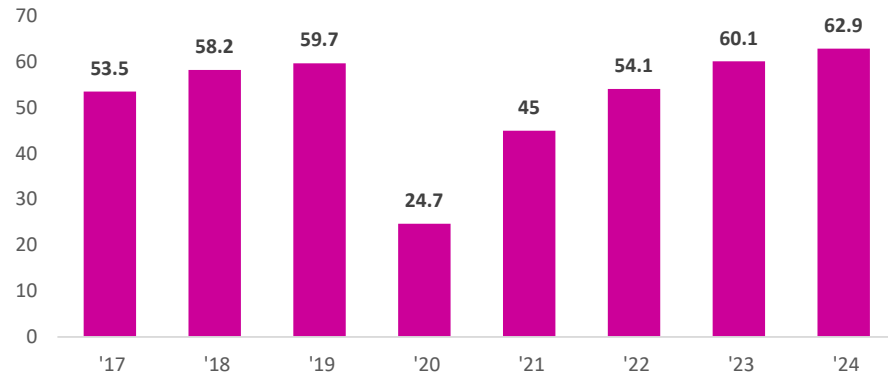
### SEAPORTS RANKED BY FOREIGN TRADE

Million Metric Tons by Vessel

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Port Houston	207.0
15 <sup>TH</sup>	Port Freeport	30.2
22 <sup>ND</sup>	Port of Texas City	14.0
47 <sup>TH</sup>	Port of Galveston	4.3

Source: Greater Houston Partnership 2025

### HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM PASSENGER TRAFFIC, \$ MILLIONS



### FOUR HOUSTON-AREA PORTS

Port Freeport | Port Galveston | Port Houston | Port Texas City

The four Houston-area ports are predicted to handle a record 270 million metric tons in '25 up from 240 million five years ago. The four seaports, handled 255.6 million metric tons of foreign trade in '23. Of these four ports, the Port of Houston is the largest and ranks first in foreign trade tonnage among all U.S. seaports. Port Freeport ranks No. 15 in the U.S., Port of Texas City ranks No. 22 and Port of Galveston ranks No. 47.

### PORT OF HOUSTON

The Houston Ship Channel, a 52-mile inland waterway, connects Houston with the sea lanes of the world. Its turning basin is eight miles east of Houston's central business district.

The region's containerized exports reflect its industrial base. Chemicals, electrical and industrial machinery, plastics, and rubber account for two thirds (65.6 percent) of all container exports via the Port of Houston. Containerized imports reflect the needs of local industry and consumers. In addition to machinery, chemicals and plastics, the Port handled a significant volume of apparel, beverages, coffee, food, footwear, home furnishings, meat, seafood and toys last year.

The Port of Houston is on track to handle 4.1 million containers (loaded plus empties), up from 3.0 million in '19.

Through the first nine months of '24, Houston led the nation in industrial/warehouse space absorption.



# Key Industries

## TRANSPORTATION - AIRPORT SYSTEM - PORT OF HOUSTON



### HIGHWAYS AND MOTOR FREIGHT LINES

There are 1,957 long-distance trucking establishments operating in the 10-county Houston MSA. The region's extensive highway system is well-integrated with the Houston Airport System (Houston Intercontinental Airport, Hobby Airport and Ellington Airport), four deep water seaports and the mainline railroads serving the city. Houston is at the crossroads of Interstate Highways 10, 45 and 69.

There are 3,355 centerline miles and 11,084 lane miles of freeways and expressways in operation, according to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District. The Houston District includes Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. Corridors: Houston's major thoroughfares include Beltway 8, Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, I-10, I-45, I-610, SH 6, SH 146, SH 225, SH 288, US 59/I-69, US 90, US 290 and the Westpark Tollway.

### RAILROADS

The Houston area is served by BNSF Railway Company, Kansas City Southern Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad Company. Businesses along the Houston ship channel are served by the Galveston Railroad, Port Terminal Railroad Association and Texas City Terminal Railway Company. Eight mainline tracks and five branch line tracks radiate from Houston.

Amtrak provides passenger service three times per week in Houston via the Sunset Limited route that travels from New Orleans to San Antonio and Los Angeles.

### METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

METRO serves an area of 1,303 square miles with 21 transit centers, over 9,000 bus stops and 28 Park & Ride facilities, according to the most recent edition of METRO at a Glance. METRO's fleet includes 2,209 active transit vehicles and 90, one Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route and three light-rail lines that travel on 23 miles of track. Boardings for METRORail service reached 13.7 million in '24.



# Economic Drivers

## EDUCATION

### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Houston MSA contains 64 independent school districts and 43 state-approved charter management organizations. Public schools in the Houston metro area enrolled more than 1.3 million students, approximately one in four school children in Texas.

The Houston Independent School District is the ninth -largest public school system in the nation and the largest in Texas.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Colleges and universities in the Houston area enrolled nearly 435,000 students across 33 academic institutions in fall '24, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Community college students accounted for 46.7 percent of enrollment, while four-year institutions and professional and medical students accounted for 53.3 percent.

Houston benefits from three Tier 1 research universities: Rice University, the University of Houston and Texas A&M University in nearby College Station. These institutions have the highest ranking under the Carnegie classification system for research activity.

The Houston region has more [than 40 two-year community colleges and four-year universities](#). Houston-area colleges and universities educate nearly 435,000 students and graduate more than 100,000 students annually.

The region also has 50 trade, vocational and business schools specializing in law, healthcare, welding, process technology and various other disciplines that enroll an additional 20,000 students, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

## ARTS AND CULTURE



### PERFORMANCE ARTS

Resident companies in drama, ballet, opera and orchestra perform year-round in Houston. More than 550 institutions are devoted to the performing and visual arts, science, and history in the Houston area. According to the most recent study by Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$1 billion in economic activity each year and supports over 21,000 full-time equivalent jobs, generates over \$932 million in household income to residents, and delivers over \$251 million in local and state government revenue.

Houston's Theater District, located in downtown Houston, spans 17 blocks, and its five flagship theaters house 13,000 seats. The Alley Theatre, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Jones Hall, Bayou Music Center, and Wortham Theater Center host seven renowned performing arts organizations and many smaller programs. The Theater District also includes one venue dedicated solely to dance: Houston Ballet's Center for Dance.



# Economic Drivers

## ARTS AND CULTURE



### HOUSTON DISTRICT BOASTS

- Alley Theatre
- Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
- Houston Ballet's Center for Dance
- Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts
- Bayou Music Center
- Wortham Theater Center

### OTHER VENUES

- Berry Center
- Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
- Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston
- Miller Outdoor Theatre
- Smart Financial Centre
- Stafford Centre
- The Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston
- White Oak Music Hall

### MUSIC

- Da Camera
- Houston Grand Opera
- Houston Symphony

### PERFORMANCE ARTS

- Performing Arts Houston

### THEATER

- A.D. Players
- Ensemble Theatre
- Main Street Theater
- Stages Theatre
- Theatre Under the Stars

### MUSEUMS

The Houston Museum District is one of the country's most visited and diverse cultural centers with 19 museums. These museums provide rich experiences in art, history, culture, nature and science. The district is divided into four walkable zones, each of which includes a group of museums.

### HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT

- Asia Society Texas Center
- Buffalo Soldiers National Museum
- Children's Museum of Houston
- Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
- Czech Center Museum Houston
- Diverse works
- Holocaust Museum Houston
- Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
- Houston Center for Photography
- Houston Museum of African American Culture
- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Houston Zoo
- Jung Center of Houston
- Lawndale Art Center
- Menil Collection
- Moody Center for the Arts
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- Rothko Chapel
- The Health Museum

# Economic Drivers

## RECREATION AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

### PARKS AND RECREATION

Houston contains 43,486 acres of parkland and 665 parks, according to The Trust for Public Land's City Parks report.

- Sixty-one percent of Houston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is six percent above the national average.
- Houston's oldest municipal park is Sam Houston Park, established in 1899, while the area's largest municipal park is Cullen Park with 9,270 acres. Cullen Park is also one of the largest parks in the U.S. The most visited park in the Houston region is Hermann Park, with six million visitors annually.
- There are nearly 23 acres of parkland in Houston per 1,000 residents.



## PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS IN GREATER HOUSTON



### HOUSTON ASTROS

'17 and '22 World Series Champions  
Major League Baseball's  
American League  
Minute Maid Park



### HOUSTON ROCKETS

Western Conference in the  
National Basketball Association  
Toyota Center



### HOUSTON DASH

National Women's Soccer League  
Shell Energy Stadium



### HOUSTON TEXANS

American Football Conference in  
the National Football League  
NRG Stadium



### HOUSTON DYNAMO

Major League Soccer's  
Western Conference  
Shell Energy Stadium



### HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS

West Division of the  
Xtreme Football League  
TDECU Stadium



### HOUSTON ROLLER DERBY

Women's Flat Track Derby Association  
Bayou Music Center



### SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS

'18 Atlantic League World Champions  
Pacific Coast League  
Constellation Field



### HOUSTON SABERCATS

Major League Rugby  
Aveva Stadium