Health Care and Social Assistance

Houston is home to the largest medical complex in the world and employs over 360,000 health care workers.

Employment: Health care and social assistance employed 366,582 people in the year ending Q3/18, almost one in eight Houston workers, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Ambulatory health care accounts for 43.6 percent of the sector employment, hospitals for 32.5 percent and social assistance, nursing and residential care for 23.9 percent. Average annual wage for the entire industry was $54,337.

According to the Texas Medical Board, 18,529 physicians are licensed in the Houston region, 80.0 percent of which are in Harris County alone. The concentration of anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, cardiovascular technologists and technicians, respiratory therapy technicians, and occupational health and safety specialists/technicians is well above the national average.

Establishments: Houston’s 19,954 health care and social assistance establishments included 13,085 ambulatory health care providers, 6,003 social assistance establishments, 683 nursing and residential care facilities and 184 hospitals for the year ending in Q3/18.

Top Employers: CHI St. Luke’s, HCA, Harris Health System, Houston Methodist, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Texas Children’s Hospital and UTMB Health.

Texas Medical Center
Houston’s Texas Medical Center is the world’s largest medical complex by multiple measures: number of hospitals, number of physicians, square footage and patient volume. The Texas Medical Center’s 61 member institutions have been consistently recognized as some of the best hospitals and universities in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

TMC by the numbers:
- $3 billion in construction projects underway
- 50 million developed square feet
- 10 million patient visits per year
- 750,000 ER visits per year
- 180,000 + surgeries
- 106,000 + employees
- 13,600 + total heart surgeries
- 8th largest business district in the U.S. with 1,345 total acres and $25 billion in GDP

Some prominent members include:
Baylor College of Medicine, CHI St. Luke’s Health, Harris Health System, Houston Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Rice University, Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Texas Children’s Hospital, Texas Heart Institute, The University of Texas Health Science Center, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, UTMB Health and the University of Houston.
The Texas Medical Center is working to develop **five institutes** that foster collaboration across all member institutions:

- **Clinical Research**: To be the world leader in clinical research by more efficiently translating research discoveries into breakthrough therapies and cures.
- **Genomics**: To create the world’s premier clinical genomics program.
- **Health Policy**: To develop the most effective policy solutions to improve the health of diverse populations in Houston and Texas that will serve as models for the world.
- **Innovation**: To become the global leader in health and life sciences innovation. The TMC Innovation Institute houses TMCx, an accelerator that advances the development of health and medical technology companies, and TMCx+, an incubator for health startups.
- **Regenerative Medicine**: To lead the world in discovering, developing and delivering curative regenerative therapies.

In April ‘18, TMC announced the creation of TMC³, a multi-institutional 30-acre research campus that brings together the best institutions in clinical care, research and industry. The campus is projected to be complete in ‘22, create nearly 30,000 jobs and bring $5.2 billion to Houston’s economy.