The mission of the Greater Houston Partnership is to make Houston one of the world’s best places to live, work and build a business. The Partnership works to make Houston greater by promoting economic development, foreign trade and investment, and by advocating for efficient and effective government that supports, rather than impedes, business growth. The Partnership also convenes key stakeholders to solve the region’s most pressing issues.

The Partnership was formed in 1989 through the merger of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Economic Development Council and the Houston World Trade Association. Today, the Partnership serves the 11-county greater Houston region and represents a member roster of more than 1,100 businesses and institutions. Members of the Partnership account for one-fifth of all jobs in Houston. They engage in various initiatives, committees and task forces to work toward our goals of making Houston greater.

701 AVENIDA DE LAS AMERICAS, SUITE 900
HOUSTON, TX 77010
713-844-3600
HOUSTON.ORG
INTRODUCTION

The Houston - The Woodlands - Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) contains nine Texas counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller.1 Within these nine counties are 124 incorporated cities and 33 Census Designated Places (CDP)3.

The county seat or administrative center of Harris County is the City of Houston. Harris County contains the bulk of the city in addition to all or part of 33 incorporated cities and 12 CDPs. Small portions of Houston spread into adjacent Montgomery and Fort Bend counties.

Houston Facts has presented unvarnished information about the Houston region since 1959, and its predecessor publications—under different names, but with the same objective—date to 1906. Over the decades, Houston Facts has grown well beyond its original four pages so that we could expand the range and depth of coverage, bringing you more information about parks, museums, schools, living costs, the regional economy and a host of other topics. It has evolved into a concise almanac for the Houston region.

Corporate planners, market analysts, students, relocation and site selection consultants, real estate professionals, government agencies and myriad others turn to it for authoritative information on this region.

Of course, we believe the Houston region is one of the nation’s most attractive major metropolitan areas—an outstanding place to live, work and build a business. We would like you to share that view. But we won’t try to persuade you. The facts need no embellishment. They speak for themselves.

THE HOUSTON REGION

THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

GEOGRAPHY

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1 The longer title is shortened to “Houston MSA,” “Metro Houston,” “Greater Houston,” “Houston area” or simply, “Houston”.

2 Combined land and water area

3 A Census Designated Place functions like a city or town, but is not incorporated

You may find in these pages facts that you never knew about the Houston region. For example:

- More than 1.6 million Houstonians, or roughly one in four, were born outside the U.S.
- If Houston were a country, it would rank as the 27th largest economy in the world—exceeding Austria’s and Iran’s Gross Domestic Product.
- Metro Houston ranks third in the U.S. for Fortune 500 company headquarters.
- More than 500 institutions are devoted to the performing and visual arts, science and history in the Houston area.

Houston Facts. The title says much about this publication. No spin. No frills. No hyperbole. Just page after page of straightforward information from hundreds of sources to answer questions frequently asked about the Houston region.

The Houston region is one of the nation’s most attractive major metropolitan areas—an outstanding place to live, work and build a business. We would like you to share that view. But we won’t try to persuade you. The facts need no embellishment. They speak for themselves.
Population
The nine-county Houston MSA had a population of 7,066,141 residents as of July 1, 2019, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

If metro Houston were a state, it would have the 15th largest population in the U.S. behind Arizona (7,278,717) and ahead of Massachusetts (6,892,503) and Tennessee (6,825,174).

The City of Houston had a population of 2,320,268 residents as of July 1, 2019, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

If the city were a state, it would rank 35th in population in the U.S. behind Kansas (2,913,314) and ahead of New Mexico (2,096,829) and Nebraska (2,913,314).

Harris County had a population of 4,713,325 residents as of July 1, 2018, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

If Harris County were a state, it would have the 25th largest population in the U.S. behind Alabama (4,903,185) and ahead of Louisiana (4,648,794) and Kentucky (4,467,673).

Area
The nine-county Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers 9,444 square miles, an area larger than five states: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

Harris County covers 1,778 square miles, enough space to fit the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York City and Seattle with room still to spare.

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

Economy
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates the Houston MSA’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at $478.8 billion in ’18, making it the seventh largest U.S. metro economy.

If Houston were a state, its GDP would rank 15th behind Michigan ($527.1 billion) and ahead of Maryland ($412.6 billion) and Colorado ($371.8 billion).

If the MSA were an independent nation, it would rank as the world’s 27th largest economy behind Thailand ($487.2 billion) and ahead of Austria ($457.6 billion) and Iran ($452.3 billion), according to the International Monetary Fund.

SELECTED KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR ’19

The Houston Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service recorded closings on 102,706 properties (includes single-family homes, townhomes, condos, high rises, etc.), an average of one every 5.1 minutes.

The Houston Airport System handled 59,652,616 passengers, an average of one every 113 passengers per minute.

The City of Houston issued building permits for construction valued at $7.3 billion, an average of $13,799 per minute.

Houston MSA automobile dealers sold 292,606 new cars, trucks and SUV’s, an average of one every 1.8 minutes.

Area
The nine-county Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers 9,444 square miles, an area larger than five states: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

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COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

Metro Houston, 2010 – 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET MIGRATION</th>
<th>TOTAL POPULATION CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL</td>
<td>DOMESTIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>MIGRATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'10</td>
<td>'19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin County</td>
<td>28,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria County</td>
<td>313,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers County</td>
<td>35,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend County</td>
<td>584,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston County</td>
<td>291,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>4,093,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty County</td>
<td>75,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>455,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller County</td>
<td>43,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSTON MSA</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,920,487</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In some cases, the increase due to migration and the natural increase will not sum to the change in population due to rounding and the Bureau's use of residual values in generating the estimates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 Population Estimates

DECENNIAL CENSUS AND INTERCENSAL POPULATION

City of Houston | Harris County | Houston Metro

Population and People

The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA’s population of 7,066,141 residents on July 1, 2019 ranks fifth among the nation’s metropolitan areas. The Houston MSA added 89,994 residents from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019, the increase primarily from the net natural increase (births minus deaths) and international migration. Domestic migration has significantly lagged international migration in recent years.

Harris County, with a population of 4,713,325 on July 1, 2019, is the third most populous county in the nation. Harris County added 33,280 new residents between July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019.

The City of Houston, the fourth most populous U.S. city, had a population of 2,320,268 on July 1, 2019. Houston added 1,695 residents from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.

Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE DISTRIBUTION</th>
<th>Houston MSA, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 17 years</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 years</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 84 years</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and older</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Sums may not total due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey
SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS  Metro Houston, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)</th>
<th>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</th>
<th>AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE</th>
<th>PERCENT OF ADULTS WITH BACHELOR’S DEGREE OR HIGHER</th>
<th>PERCENT OF POPULATION FOREIGN BORN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin County</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>11,041</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria County</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>118,762</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers County</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>13,529</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend County</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>230,381</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston County</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>119,181</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>1,583,486</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty County</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>26,203</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>192,823</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller County</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>14,807</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON MSA</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>2,359,266</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: County data may not sum to Houston MSA total due to a difference in survey methods.
Source: County data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-18 American Community Survey; MSA data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

Nearly one in four Houstonians was born outside the U.S. Among the 1,648,768 foreign-born in the Houston metro area, 73.5 percent entered the U.S. before ’10.

Top regions of birth for the Houston MSA’s foreign-born populations: Latin America (61.1 percent), Asia (27.1 percent), Africa (5.9 percent) and Europe (4.3 percent).

Metro Houston accepted 587 refugees from 30 countries in ’19, a quarter of all refugees resettled in Texas that year.

RACE/ETHNIC COMPOSITION  Houston MSA, 2018

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT  Houston MSA, 2018
### Income

**PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME**

The nine-county Houston MSA pretax per capita personal income (PCPI) in '18 was $56,077, 16.5 percent above the U.S. average of $48,146, according to the latest data available by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). PCPI increased 4.9 percent in the Houston MSA, compared to 5.6 percent nationwide from '17 to '18.

**TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME**

Total personal income in the Houston MSA, defined as income from all sources (wages, investments, transfer payments), totaled $392.4 billion in '18, up 6.3 percent from '17, according to the BEA.

### Wages

The average weekly wage in metro Houston was $1,315 in the four quarters ending Q3/19, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Total wages for the metro area were $206.3 billion for the same period.

### Commuting to Work

**PERCENT OF WORKERS 16 AND OLDER**  Houston MSA, 2018

- 81.0% Drove alone in car, truck or van
- 9.4% Carpool in car, truck or van
- 4.9% Worked at home
- 2.0% Utilized public transportation
- 1.5% Used other means
- 0.9% Walked
- 0.2% Bicycled

Note: Sums may not total due to rounding. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

**METRO EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION**  Houston MSA, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>419,280</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support</td>
<td>110,590</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Related</td>
<td>300,320</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maint</td>
<td>87,320</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation and Serving Related</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture and Engineering</td>
<td>84,560</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Material Moving</td>
<td>258,690</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Mathematical</td>
<td>84,040</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Extraction</td>
<td>193,950</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Service</td>
<td>73,870</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>193,460</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care and Service</td>
<td>47,940</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Training, and Library</td>
<td>177,250</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, Physical, and Social Science</td>
<td>34,680</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners and Technical</td>
<td>165,350</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media</td>
<td>31,720</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>163,940</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Social Service</td>
<td>26,450</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Financial Operations</td>
<td>156,470</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>24,770</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance and Repair</td>
<td>133,010</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming, Fishing, and Forestry</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL OCCUPATION EMPLOYMENT**  3,052,170  | 100%


responded in a like manner, dropping mild recession. Population growth downturn, by any standard a relatively enough to offset the layoffs in oil and services and hospitality grew, but not care, business and professional jobs. Construction, retail, health February '16 and the energy industry barrel in June '14 to $26 per barrel in.

Oil prices fell from over $100 per new residents in some years. Population growth exceeded 170,000 height of the fracking boom ('10 – '14). Averaging 100,000 per year during the on to lead the nation in job growth, in less than two years. Houston went to following Stay Home-Work a matter of days, local employers out and delivery soon followed. In bars and limit restaurants to take- Judge Lena Hidalgo to close all early. Calls from Houston Mayor Show & Rodeo shut down 10 days came when the Houston Livestock arrived in Houston. The first blow in March '20, the COVID-19 pandemic percent in '03.

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Houston lost 120,000 jobs in the Great Recession but was among the first to recover, recouping all the jobs lost in less than two years. Houston went on to lead the nation in job growth, averaging 100,000 per year during the height of the fracking boom (10 – 14). Population growth exceeded 170,000 new residents in some years. Oil prices fell from over $100 per barrel in June '14 to $26 per barrel in February '16 and the energy industry proceeded to shed nearly 95,000 jobs. Construction, retail, health care, business and professional services and hospitality grew, but not enough to offset the layoffs in oil and gas. Houston lost 4,900 jobs in the downturn, by any standard a relatively mild recession. Population growth responded in a like manner, dropping to around 93,000 new residents in 17 and 76,000 in '18, the gains milling solely from the natural increase (births minus deaths) and international migration.

Job growth resumed mid-'17, aided by a healthy U.S. economy and strong ties to a growing global economy. U.S. GDP growth averaged 2.5 percent over the quarter. Global growth exceed 3.5 percent. The Brookings Institution estimates that 17.3 percent of Houston’s GDP is now tied to exports, up from just 8.9 percent in '03.

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Employment by Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOODS PRODUCING</td>
<td>555,000</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINING AND LOGGING</td>
<td>78,500</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and Gas Extraction</td>
<td>37,600</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Activities for Mining</td>
<td>39,200</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>241,600</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>234,900</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durable Goods</td>
<td>150,400</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Durable Goods</td>
<td>84,500</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES</td>
<td>652,900</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>177,400</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>313,900</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities</td>
<td>161,600</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
<td>32,700</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>168,800</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Insurance</td>
<td>104,100</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate and Rental Leasing</td>
<td>64,700</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES</td>
<td>512,700</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services</td>
<td>247,000</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Companies and Enterprises</td>
<td>46,500</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin and Support and Waste Mgmt.</td>
<td>219,200</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES</td>
<td>411,100</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>64,600</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>346,500</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY</td>
<td>332,200</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>295,200</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER SERVICES</td>
<td>117,300</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>426,800</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NONFARM</td>
<td>3,084,700</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Texas Workforce Commission, December 2019; not seasonally adjusted

Safe guidelines requiring much of the region’s population to work remotely. Businesses closures and furloughs resulted in over 600,000 claims being filed for unemployment benefits. More than 350,000 jobs were lost in March and April. The region’s unemployment rate hit 14.2 percent.

Trying to balance public health concerns with economic needs, Texas Governor Greg Abbott began gradually easing restrictions on May 1 and Houston businesses started the slow process of reopening. A survey of Partnership members found that by mid-June 40 percent had brought back furloughed employees or those who had been working from home. Roughly half hoped to resume normal operations by early August &20. However, a surge in COVID-19 cases that began in late June created new public health concerns and delayed the full reopening of the Texas economy.

Though the U.S. economy may not fully recover until late 21, according to many economists, Houston’s long-term outlook remains bright. The region’s population is expected to surpass 8.0 million and payroll employment to approach 4.0 million by the end of the decade.

Corporate Economy

Metro Houston, a major corporate center, ranks fourth in the nation in Fortune 500 headquarters and third in Fortune 1000. Many other Fortune firms maintain U.S. offices in Houston. The 21 companies on the Forbes Global 2000 list that are headquartered in Houston have a combined total revenue of $422.2 billion.

The Texas Workforce Commission reports that Metro Houston was home to more than 160,000 establishments in 19. The three industries with the most establishments were professional, scientific, and technical services; health care and social assistance; and retail trade. These three industries comprised 38.2 percent of the region’s business establishments. Over half of the metro’s establishments employ between one and four workers.
International Business

Houston is the base of operations for the international oil and gas exploration and production industry as well as for many of the nation’s largest international engineering and construction firms.

A key center for international finance, Houston leads the Southwest U.S. with 16 foreign banks from 9 nations.

Houston’s economy is deeply tied to global trade and foreign investment. The region has trading relationships with more than 200 countries. The Houston/Galveston Customs District handled 23.7 million metric tons in exports valued at $151.8 billion in ‘19, according to WISERTrade. These exports accounted for 64.1 percent of the value of total trade that passed through the region in 19—a 19-point increase from 44.8 percent in ‘10.

The Brookings Institution estimates that in ’17, the latest data available, 17.3 percent of Houston’s economy was tied to exports, and that exports supported 330,340 jobs (indirect and direct).

Seventy-eight nations have consular representation in the city, ranking Houston’s consular corps the third largest in the nation.

Fifteen foreign governments maintain trade and commercial offices here, and the city has more than 35 active foreign chambers of commerce and trade associations.

Houston has 18 sister-city relationships promoting business opportunities across five continents: Asia (7), Europe (7), Americas (2), Africa (1), and Australia (1). Houston’s oldest sister-city relationship was established in 1961 with Taipei, Taiwan, and its most recent relationship with Basrah, Iraq was established in ’15.

More than 150 Houston-based companies operate subsidiary locations around the world. These firms account for over 3,000 offices in more than 110 countries.

More than 1,700 firms in Houston report foreign ownership. In ‘19, at least 30 foreign-owned firms invested in office expansions, new plants and expanded distribution facilities in Houston. More than $3.3 billion in capital investments were made by foreign-owned firms in Houston.

Nearly 5,000 Houston-area firms are engaged in global commerce, including more than 2,300 local manufacturers.

Eleven of Houston’s 32 skyscrapers (at least 150 meters tall) are owned, co-owned, or financed by foreign investors.

More than $3.3 billion in capital investments were made by foreign-owned firms in Houston.

Eleven of Houston’s 32 skyscrapers (at least 150 meters tall) are owned, co-owned, or financed by foreign investors.

Note: Four quarters ending Q3/19. Sums may not total due to rounding.

Source: Texas Workforce Commission
Houston's Top Employers

OVER 20,000 EMPLOYEES

- H-E-B
- Houston Methodist
- Memorial Hermann Health System
- UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Walmart

10,000 TO 19,999 EMPLOYEES

- Academy Sports & Outdoors
- Air Liquide USA
- American National Insurance Co
- Apache Corp.
- Ascend Performance Materials
- Bank of America
- Bechtel Corp.
- Ben Taub Hospital
- Brinker International
- Cameron, a Schlumberger Co.
- CenterPoint Energy
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.
- Climate Change
- ConocoPhillips
- CVS Health
- Daikin/Goodman
- Deloitte
- Enterprise Products Partners
- Fiesta Mart
- Fluor Corp.
- The Friedkin Group, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of Houston
- Grocers Supply Company
- Group 1 Automotive
- Halliburton
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- HP Inc.
- Jacobs
- KBR
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Kinder Morgan
- Lewis Food Town Inc.
- Lowe’s Cos.
- LyondellBasell
- Macy’s
- Marathon Oil Corp.
- NASA - Johnson Space Center
- Phillips 66
- Rice University
- Sam Houston State University
- Sam’s Club
- San Jacinto Community College
- Sysco Corp.
- TechnipFMC
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Texas A&M University
- Wood Group
- Universal Plant Services
- Wells Fargo

5,000 TO 9,999 EMPLOYEES

- AT&T
- Baker Hughes, a GE Company
- Baylor College of Medicine
- BP America
- Chevron
- CHI St. Luke’s Health
- Dow Chemical Co.
- Harris Health System
- Home Depot
- Houston Community College
- JPMorgan Chase
- KBR
- Lone Star College
- Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
- National Oilwell Varco
- Occidental Petroleum
- S&R Engineers and Constructors
- Target Corp.
- Texas A&M University
- University of Houston
- UT Medical Branch Health System
- Walgreens

2,000 TO 4,999 EMPLOYEES

- Academy Sports & Outdoors
- Air Liquide USA
- American National Insurance Co
- Apache Corp.
- Ascend Performance Materials
- Bank of America
- Bechtel Corp.
- Ben Taub Hospital
- Brinker International
- Cameron, a Schlumberger Co.
- CenterPoint Energy
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.
- Climate Change
- ConocoPhillips
- CVS Health
- Daikin/Goodman
- Deloitte
- Enterprise Products Partners
- Fiesta Mart
- Fluor Corp.
- The Friedkin Group, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of Houston
- Grocers Supply Company
- Group 1 Automotive
- Halliburton
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- HP Inc.
- Jacobs
- KBR
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Kinder Morgan
- Lewis Food Town Inc.
- Lowe’s Cos.
- LyondellBasell
- Macy’s
- Marathon Oil Corp.
- NASA - Johnson Space Center
- Phillips 66
- Rice University
- Sam Houston State University
- Sam’s Club
- San Jacinto Community College
- Sysco Corp.
- TechnipFMC
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Texas A&M University
- Wood Group
- Universal Plant Services
- Wells Fargo

Note: The list is for '19 and does not account for increased employment or layoffs due to the coronavirus in '20. The list excludes government employers (except hospitals, universities and research centers) and fast food chains. Source: Greater Houston Partnership Research, May 2020.
Construction and Real Estate

EMPLOYMENT

The construction industry in Houston employed an average of 233,240 people in the four quarters ending Q3/19, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Nearly half of all construction employment occurred as specialty trade contractors (e.g., electrical work, plumbing, site preparation, painting). Building construction accounted for 23.8 percent, and heavy and civil engineering construction accounted for 27.2 percent of construction employment. Annual wages in the industry averaged $75,855.

ESTABLISHMENTS

The Houston metro area was home to nearly 11,431 construction establishments in the four quarters ending Q3/19. Of that total, 60.8 percent were heavy and civil engineering contractors, 29.4 percent were in building construction, and 9.7 percent were specialty trade contractors. 29.4 percent were in building construction, and 9.7 percent were heavy and civil engineering construction establishments.

TOP EMPLOYERS


BUILDING PERMITS

City of Houston building permits totaled nearly $7.3 billion in '19 with $2.8 billion for residential and nearly $4.5 billion for commercial building permits, according to city data.

OFFICE

At the close of '19, NAI reported that the Houston area contains 236.7 million-square-feet (msf) of inventory, with 39.8 msf in the Central Business District (CBD).

INDUSTRIAL

As of Q4/19, Houston has more than 236.6 million square feet of industrial space. NAI reported year-end '19 occupancy dipped slightly from the previous year to 93.1 percent. At the end of '19, 18.7 msf of projects were under construction. Net absorption for '19 was strong with a total of 8.7 msf. Across the market, average monthly asking rates were $0.61 per square foot in the fourth quarter of '19.

KEY INDUSTRIES

Health Care and Social Assistance

EMPLOYMENT

Health care and social assistance employed an average of 375,744 people in the Houston area in the four quarters ending Q3/19, almost nine in eight Houston workers, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Ambulatory health care accounts for 43.8 percent of the sector employment, hospitals for 32.3 percent and social assistance, nursing and residential care for 23.8 percent. The average annual wage for the industry was $56,252.04 in the four quarters ending Q3/19.

Healthcare, Kelsey Seybold Clinic, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, and occupational health and safety specialists/technicians is well above the national average.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Houston’s 20,558 health care and social assistance establishments included 13,467 ambulatory health care providers, 6,192 social assistance establishments, 703 nursing and residential care facilities and 226 hospitals in the four quarters ending Q3/19.

TOP EMPLOYERS

CHI St. Luke’s, HCA, Harris Health System, Houston Methodist, Kindred Healthcare, Kelsey Seybold Clinic, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, and occupational health and safety specialists/technicians is well above the national average.

RETAIL

Metro Houston had 356.7 msf of retail space at the end of '19, of which 19.9 msf was vacant and available for lease. Nearly 3.6 msf was under construction at the start of '20. The average asking rent, on a triple net basis, was $18.16 per square foot per year.

SINGLE-FAMILY

In '19, Houston home sales set records for sales, average prices and median prices. In '19, single-family closings (largely resale homes) in the Houston area totaled 86,205, and an additional 6,562 town homes, condos and high rises were sold, according to the Houston Association of Realtors. The median sales price for a resale single-family detached home was $251,000. Single-family sales in '19 numbered 30,547, according to Metrostudy.

MULTI-FAMILY

Apartments Data Services reported that Houston area multi-family occupancy averaged 95.9 percent in '19, '19, with an inventory of 666,678 units, and as of April '20, Houston’s multi-family inventory included 2,665 properties with approximately 666,600 units. Monthly rents across all property classes averaged $1,050.

CLASS D

As of Q4/19, the average asking rent, on a triple net basis, was $18.16 per square foot. According to the Texas Medical Board, metro Houston has 19,065 licensed physicians. Eighty percent of the physicians in Harris County. 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 20,558 health care and
Health Policy: To develop effective policy solutions to improve the health of diverse populations in Houston and Texas and will serve as models for the world.

Innovation: To become the global leader in health and life sciences innovation. The TMC Innovation Institute houses TMCK, 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.

Initially announced in ’15, the design of TMCM, a multi-institutional 37-acre research campus bringing together the best institutions in clinical care, research and industry, was updated in ’19. Construction on the campus is scheduled for completion in ’22. TMCM will create nearly 30,000 jobs and inject more than $5.2 billion for health startups.

Manufacturing
The 6,572 manufacturing establishments in the Houston region reported 234,155, or about 1 in 13 Houston-area workers in ’19, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The average annual wage was $59,685. The value of goods manufactured in metro Houston topped $48.4 billion in ’18 and accounted for 17.7 percent of the region’s total GDP, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

CHEMICALS
The Houston region was home to 591 chemical plants employing 39,776 workers, or 17.0 percent of Greater Houston’s total manufacturing workforce in ’19, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The region has 44.0 percent of the nation’s overall base petrochemicals manufacturing capacity which includes 48.7 percent of butadiene produced in the country, 45.9 percent of ethylene, 45.0 percent of propylene, 43.3 percent of benzene, 40.1 percent of xylene and 35.5 percent of toluene.

Base petrochemicals are the raw materials for producing some of the more important plastics and resins. The Houston MSA also dominates U.S. production of three major resins, producing 49.0 percent of the country’s capacity of polypropylene, 38.1 percent of polyethylene and 52.1 percent of polyvinyl chloride.

PETROLEUM REFINING
The Spaghetti Bowl is a complex of manufacturing facilities located around downtown Houston and utilizes 44% of the region’s total refining capacity. The Houston MSA also dominates U.S. production of three major resins, producing 49.0 percent of the country’s capacity of polypropylene, 38.1 percent of polyethylene and 52.1 percent of polyvinyl chloride.

BASE CHEMICAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY Houston MSA, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Capacity (metric tons/year)</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butadiene</td>
<td>1.2M</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylene</td>
<td>17.6M</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propylene</td>
<td>14.2M</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzene</td>
<td>3.3M</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xylenes</td>
<td>4.5M</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>1.9M</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Metrostudy

Manufacturing Overview Houston MSA, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Establishments</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated Metal Products</td>
<td>5,447</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Electronic Products</td>
<td>13,225</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics and Rubber Products</td>
<td>10,284</td>
<td>1,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Equipment</td>
<td>5,355</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery</td>
<td>46,311</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>11,843</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetallic Mineral Products</td>
<td>6,727</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Manufacturing</td>
<td>29,649</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>39,776</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum and Coal Products</td>
<td>10,150</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Equipment and Appliances</td>
<td>6,399</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated Metal Products</td>
<td>5,447</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Manufacturing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Establishments</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>234,155</td>
<td>6,672</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data as of 2019
pipeline connecting hundreds of chemical plants, refineries, salt domes and fractionation plants along the Texas Gulf Coast. It gives the Houston area an economic advantage through convenient and low-cost transfer of feedstocks, fuel and chemical products among plants, storage terminals and transportation facilities.

In ’19, the Houston metro had a crude operating capacity of 2.6 million barrels of refined petroleum products per calendar day, representing 14.0 percent of overall U.S. capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Oil refiners in the region employed 9,318 workers in ’19, equivalent to 4.0 percent of the Houston region’s total manufacturing workforce.

### Professional and Technical Services

#### EMPLOYMENT

Metro Houston employed an average of 227,699 professional, scientific and technical service workers in the four quarters ending Q3/19. Architectural and engineering services, with 72,285 workers, represents over a third of the sector’s total employees. The second and third largest industry subsectors include management and technical consulting (39,356 employees) and computer systems design services (31,231 employees).

Houston has more than 56,860 engineers of all disciplines, the most numerous being, petroleum, civil, mechanical, industrial, chemical and electrical. Houston has one of the highest concentrations of engineering talent in the nation. For every 100,000 workers in the Houston MSA, there are 1,857 engineers. In comparison, for every 100,000 workers in the U.S., there are 1,138 engineers.

#### ESTABLISHMENTS

The Houston MSA had 2,487 establishments in professional, scientific and technical services in the four quarters ending Q3/19. The sector includes 5,352 management and technical consulting establishments, 4,231 computer systems design companies and 3,917 establishments that provide legal services.

#### FINANCE

Metro Houston’s 95 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured institutions had 1,416 offices and branches with $249.6 billion in local deposits, according to June ’19 FDIC data. Houston ranked 12th among U.S. metros in total deposits in ’19.

Houston’s 10 largest banks (ranked by local deposits) include JPMorgan Chase Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, BBVA Compass Bank, Zions Bank, Capital One, Prosperity Bank, Cadence Bank, Woodforest National Bank and Frost Bank.

Five of the nation’s 10 largest FDIC-insured banks, as measured by domestic deposits, operate full-service branches or commercial loan offices in the Houston region. These five include the three largest banks in the nation.

### Engineers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engineer</th>
<th>TOTAL HOUSTON ENGINEERS</th>
<th>PER 100,000 WORKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td>138.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>10,740</td>
<td>351.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Hardware</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>4,290</td>
<td>140.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>69.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>50.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>176.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Engineers and Naval Architects</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>8,760</td>
<td>287.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining and Geological</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>10,210</td>
<td>334.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Engineers</td>
<td>3,480</td>
<td>114.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>56,680</td>
<td>1,857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wholesale and Retail Trade

EMPLOYMENT

Wholesale trade employed 161,500 in the Houston MSA, including 102,062 in durable goods, 49,036 in nondurable goods and 10,402 in electronic online markets in '19.

Retail trade employed 301,330, including 65,981 in food and beverage, 58,471 in general merchandise and 42,479 in motor vehicle and parts dealers. Average annual wage in '19 was $88,231 for wholesale workers and $33,540 for retail workers.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Metro Houston contained 11,059 wholesale trade establishments, including 6,700 durable goods wholesalers and 2,493 nondurable goods wholesalers in '19. There were 18,321 retail establishments, including 2,635 food and beverage stores, 2,554 gas stations and 2,275 clothing stores.

TOP EMPLOYERS

Academy Sports & Outdoors, CVS Health, Fiesta Mart, H-E-B, Home Depot, Kroger, Lewis Food Town, Lowe’s, Macy’s, Sam’s Club, Sysco, Target, Walmart and Walgreens.

Energy

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 4,650 energy-related firms are located within the Houston metro area, including over 630 exploration and production firms, nearly 800 oilfield service companies, nearly 90 pipeline transportation firms, and hundreds of manufacturers and wholesalers of energy-sector products.

Houston is home to 42 of the nation’s 113 publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms, including eight of the top 25; seven more among the top 25 have subsidiaries, major divisions or other significant operations in Houston.

Two-thirds of the global-integrated oil companies (e.g., ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron) have operations here. More than half of all oil field service firms based outside of North America (e.g. ENI, TechnipFMC, Transocean) have offices in Houston, and around one-fifth of the world’s national oil companies (e.g., Saudi Aramco, PetroChina, Gazprom) have operations in Houston.

The 11 refineries in the Houston region process more than 2.6 million barrels of crude oil per calendar day—approximately 45.5 percent of the state’s total production and 14.0 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. Thirteen of the nation’s 20 largest oil pipeline operators have corporate or divisional headquarters or ownership interests based in Houston. These 13 pipeline companies control 58,810 miles, or 34.2 percent of all U.S. oil pipeline capacity. Seventeen of the nation’s top 20 natural gas transmission companies have corporate or divisional headquarters in Houston, controlling 133,203 miles of U.S. pipeline, which is 68.2 percent of the total U.S. natural gas pipeline capacity.

In '19, the Houston MSA held 26.1 percent of the nation’s jobs in oil and gas extraction (37,001 of 141,627), and 18.4 percent of jobs in drilling oil and gas wells (11,156 of 60,546), and 10.6 percent of jobs in support activities for oil and gas operations (28,475 of 265,485), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

DEFINING “ENERGY”

Defining the “energy” sector and its related industries is a challenging task. There are multiple approaches and the table which follows serves as one interpretation. Given this definition, Houston’s energy sector in ‘19 accounted for 8.5 percent of the region’s employment and 3.6 percent of its firms. The average job in an energy-related industry paid approximately $145,108 per year, more than double the metro average of $68,770.

GROSS RETAIL SALES

Metro Houston, 2018-2019, ($ Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEOGRAPHY</th>
<th>’18</th>
<th>’19</th>
<th>% CHANGE FROM ’18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston MSA</td>
<td>127,662.4</td>
<td>128,258.8</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin County</td>
<td>320.1</td>
<td>341.0</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazoria County</td>
<td>4,829.6</td>
<td>4,398.8</td>
<td>-8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers County</td>
<td>437.4</td>
<td>502.6</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend County</td>
<td>9,089.2</td>
<td>8,538.2</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston County</td>
<td>4,336.3</td>
<td>4,303.8</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>98,675.1</td>
<td>100,830.0</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty County</td>
<td>880.8</td>
<td>867.9</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>8,530.9</td>
<td>8,630.0</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller County</td>
<td>563.1</td>
<td>593.4</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data compiled from four quarters ending Q3/19. Source: Texas Comptroller’s Office.

ENERGY-RELATED SECTORS

Houston MSA, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>EMPLOYMENT</th>
<th>FIRMS</th>
<th>AVG. ANNUAL WAGE ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering services</td>
<td>48,649</td>
<td>1,841</td>
<td>125,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical manufacturing</td>
<td>39,980</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>137,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and gas extraction</td>
<td>37,001</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>244,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support activities for oil and gas</td>
<td>28,475</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>138,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and gas field machinery</td>
<td>28,456</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>116,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and gas pipeline construction</td>
<td>27,068</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>92,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline transportation</td>
<td>11,702</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>194,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drilling oil and gas wells</td>
<td>11,156</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>144,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum refineries</td>
<td>9,346</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>168,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated pipe and pipe fitting mfg</td>
<td>5,575</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>66,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial valve manufacturing</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>88,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysical surveying and mapping</td>
<td>3,520</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>134,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump and compressor manufacturing</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>108,238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Due to the reach of the energy industry in Houston, portions of several other industries (e.g., utilities, accounting, real estate) could be added to this definition.

*Four quarters ending Q4/19
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

TOP ENERGY-RELATED EMPLOYERS

Apache
Aramco
Baker Hughes
BP North America
Calpine
Chevron
CenterPoint Energy
Cheniere
Chevron
CITGO
ConocoPhillips
Direct Energy
Enbridge
Enterprise Products
EOG Resources
ExxonMobil
Halliburton
Hilcorp
Kinder Morgan
Marathon Oil
McDermott International
National Oilwell Varco
NRL Energy
Occidental
Oceanwering International
Phillips 66
Plains All American Pipeline
Repstat
Schlumberger
Shell
Sun Coast Resources
Superior Energy Services
TechnipFMC
Total
Universal Plant Services
Westernfied
Wood

Note: Data compiled from four quarters ending Q3/19. Source: Texas Comptroller’s Office.
NASA and Aerospace

Houston is home to NASA’s Johnson Space Center (JSC), the focal point of the nation’s manned space flight program. Manned U.S. space missions have been planned, executed and controlled from JSC since 1961. Astronauts live and train at this facility.

The 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing by Apollo 11 occurred on July 20, ’19. Space Center Houston, the official visitor center of JSC, hosted a series of anniversary events, drawing people from 49 countries and yielding a record attendance of 13,000 people on July 20th. Following the anniversary, NASA announced in August ’19 that there would be a new lunar lander program and that JSC would develop the lunar ascent spacecraft.

JSC serves as NASA’s lead center for life sciences research and application, astronaut selection and training and mission control. JSC personnel direct industrial efforts to design, develop, build and upgrade piloted space craft and oversee many of the medical, scientific and engineering experiments conducted in space.

JSC, a $1.5 billion complex established in 1961, occupies over 1,700 acres in southeast Houston. It is one of NASA’s largest R&D facilities. JSC managed an annual budget of $4.61 billion in ’19 and spent $2.34 billion in Texas on contracts and federal salaries. JSC’s largest contractors in ’19 included Boeing, Collins Aerospace and Pacific Architects and Engineers. NASA supported 10,888 employees (8,056 contractors and 2,852 federal) at JSC in ’19. Space Center Houston, which welcomed more than 11 million visitors in ’19, an annual record, employs 300 full-time workers.

Houston is home to 350 companies involved in aircraft or space vehicle manufacturing, research and technology or other air transportation support activities. Of the 50 largest aerospace manufacturing companies in the U.S., 10 have a presence in the Houston region. Houston’s total trade in aircraft, spacecraft, and parts totaled $2.9 billion in ’19, and aircraft, spacecraft, and parts were Houston’s 41th largest internationally traded commodity. The Space Commerce Conference and Expo (SpaceCom) was in its fifth year in ’19 at Houston’s George R. Brown Convention Center and featured Bill Nye the Science Guy as a keynote speaker.

In ’15, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) designated Ellington Field as a spaceport, clearing the way for commercial space flight in Houston. In June ’19, the groundbreaking began for Phase I of the spaceport development, an $18.8 million project designed to provide infrastructure and utilities, as well as the construction of 53,000 square feet of lab and office space.

Innovation

Houston has emerged as a hub for digital technology. With more than 235,000 tech workers, Houston has the 12th largest tech sector in the U.S., according to the Computing Technology Industry Association. Houston’s tech industry generates $28.1 billion to the region’s GDP. Houston is home to 8,800 tech-related firms, including more than 500 venture-backed startups. These companies have received $1.9 billion in venture capital funding over the last five years, including $600 million in ’19, a record high for the region, according to Pitchbook. In January ’20, the financial software firm HighRadius was valued over $1 billion after receiving $125 million in late stage VC funding, the most lucrative stage VC funding, the most lucrative stage VC funding, the most lucrative startup in at least 20 years, according to Pitchbook data.

In ’15, the most heavily invested industry for VC funding in Houston was Health Care, which received $132.8 million across 28 deals. Followed by information technology $230.8 million across 25 deals, energy $250.7 million across 19 deals. In ’19, the most heavily invested industry for VC funding in Houston was Health Care, which received $230.8 million across 25 deals, followed by information technology with $122.8 million across 28 deals.

HOUSTON VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING

Houston Metro, 2015-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>$706.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>$547.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>$232.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>$76.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>$8.3M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Partnership Analysis of PitchBook data
Supporters hope The Ion generates space for established tech companies. In 19, there were at least 20 coworking providers in Houston. The Cannon, with a main campus in the Energy Corridor and branches in Downtown and the Galleria, is one of a growing number of Houston area companies offering both workspace and incubation services. Other coworking spaces include: Station Houston in downtown, The Headquarers in the East End, Techspace Houston in Uptown, WeWork locations in downtown, north, and west Houston, Work Lodge in northwest Houston, Cowork Lab in the Heights and Common Grounds in Greenway Plaza. There are also several makerspaces across the region, including TX/RX Labs in the East End.

Incubators and Accelerators

The recent push by Houston leaders to encourage more startup support has produced a surge of incubator and accelerator activity in the city. In 19, there were at least 23 incubator and accelerator programs operating in Houston, including MassChallenge, Ion Smart Cities Accelerator, Gener8tor, Plug and Play, TMX, JLabs, and The AT&T Foundry.

University Programs

The entrepreneurship programs at Rice University and University of Houston are consistently ranked as two of the nation’s best, according to the Princeton Review. Rice University’s entrepreneurship program at the Jones Graduate School of Business supports student innovation through the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship. The organization sponsors programs involving technology commercialization, entrepreneurship education and the launch of student-run technology companies. Rice’s Owlspark Accelerator has helped launch dozens of companies and the Rice Business Plan Competition is the richest pitch competition in the country, with awards in 19 totaling $3 million. Participating companies in the 19-year history of the competition have raised more than $2.3 billion in capital. The University of Houston’s Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at the Bauer College of Business aims to teach students how to run their own businesses from the inception of an idea through its implementation. Students with promising concepts are accepted into Red Labs, the University of Houston’s startup incubator/accelerator program. At the graduate level, students manage the million-dollar Cougar Venture Fund, working with an advisory board of entrepreneurs, angel investors and venture capitalists to analyze and invest in early stage technology companies.

Civic Initiatives

In a joint effort between the Greater Houston Partnership and the City of Houston’s Innovation and Technology Task Force, the non-profit Houston Exponential (HX) was formed in 17 to bolster the city’s digital startup ecosystem. By convening stakeholders, connecting startups to funding and removing barriers to growth, HX hopes to boost innovation in the region and spur job creation in the tech sector. Through its $25-million HX Venture Fund of Funds, the organization plans to lure tech investment to Houston.

Industry Backing

Oil and gas startups continue to be the most frequent destination for venture capital and private equity funding in Houston, with investments flowing from both outside sources and the industry itself. Many of the major oil and gas companies have business units dedicated to finding and funding innovation in the sector. This includes: Shell Technology Ventures, Chevron Technology Ventures, ConocoPhillips Technology Ventures, Saudi Aramco Ventures and BP Ventures. In June 2020, Boston-based Greentown Labs, a startup incubator focused on clean energy technology, announced it will open a Houston office in 21, its first outside of Boston, to capitalize on synergies with the region’s existing energy companies.

Biology and Life Science

As a hub for medical device manufacturing, pharmaceutica, and health research, Houston is home to more than 20,700 life science and biotech researchers. Additionally, Houston’s health care industry includes 158,000 health care practitioners and technical occupations, including 12,900 medical doctors and 59,500 nurses. More than 2,100 clinical trials were active in the Houston region in 20, representing 20.6 percent of all trials in the U.S. Houston’s medical research institutions received $717 million in medical research grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 19, a 7.4 percent increase from 18. Since 15, the region has received nearly $3.2 billion in NIH funding, an average of $635.8 million per year.

NIH Funding in Houston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>$548.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>$554.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>$567.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>$607.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>$731.3M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NIH.gov

Huston Venture Capital Funding

Houston Metro, 2015-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>$212.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
<td>$328.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center</td>
<td>$658.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Medical Branch</td>
<td>$488.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Houston</td>
<td>$829.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Hospital Research Institute</td>
<td>$253.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice University</td>
<td>$126.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Southern University</td>
<td>$81.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$110.1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NIH.gov

Life Science and Biotech Researchers in Houston

20,700 researchers in Houston
In '19, the top 10 Houston institutions receiving NIH funding were:

- Baylor College of Medicine: $271.4M
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center: $168.6M
- University of Texas Health Science Center: $108.2M
- University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston: $93.0M
- University of Houston: $27.2M
- Methodist Hospital Research Institute: $20.5M
- Rice University: $14.4M
- Texas Heart Institute: $1.4M
- Chrysalis Biotherapeutics: $1.9M
- Texas Southern University: $1.3M

Venture Capital investment in Houston health care companies totaled $230.8 million in '19, a 57.9 percent increase from '18, according to PitchBook.

In '19, the Top 6 biotech firms receiving investment were:

- AlloVir: $121.3M
- Procyrion: $30.0M
- AcceleDent: $20.5M
- Decisio Health: $15.9M
- Castle Biosciences: $13.0M
- Medical Informatics: $11.9M

The Texas Medical Center’s Innovation Institute is the epicenter of Houston’s life science startup activity. The organization aims to help early-stage companies commercialize new medical technologies by providing access to the vast resources of the world’s largest medical center. The Innovation Institute’s accelerator program, TMCx, focuses on early-stage companies making breakthroughs in medical devices, digital health care services, diagnostics and therapeutics. A related entity, TMCx+, offers a rotating incubator program for seed-stage companies. Additionally, the Texas Medical Center launched the TMC Venture Fund in ’17. The fund has invested in 30 Houston health startups in the last three years.

TMC Innovation partners with several industry-backed programs supporting health innovation. Johnson & Johnson's JLABs @TMC provides lab space and support to companies developing technologies in consumer health, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. TMCx is also home to Johnson & Johnson’s Center for Device Innovation, a one-of-a-kind medical device prototyping lab. Also housed within the TMC Innovation space, the AT&T Foundry is an accelerator program for companies developing digital health services.

In '19, ABB opened a first-of-its-kind robotics laboratory inside the TMC Innovation Institute.

The City of Houston

The City of Houston is a home rule municipality, which provides the city with inherent powers to manage their own affairs with minimal interference from the state.

The city's current elected officials, serving four-year terms, are: the mayor, Sylvester Turner; the city controller, Chris B. Brown; and the 16 members of City Council. Eleven council members are elected from single-member districts and five are elected citywide or "at-large." City of Houston elected officials can serve no more than two terms of four years each.

The city’s adopted General Fund budget for fiscal year (FY) ’20 is $2.4 billion. Property and sales taxes compose 80.4 percent of revenue for the General Fund, with property taxes expecting to total $1.2 billion and revenue from sales tax (estimated pre-COVID 19 pandemic) at $694 million.

Metro Area Counties

Each county in Texas is run by a five-member Commissioners Court consisting of four commissioners elected from single-member districts, called commissioner precincts, and a county judge elected "at-large" or countywide. The county commissioners and county judge serve staggered four-year terms and are not term-limited. The current Harris County Judge is Lina Hidalgo. The county’s General Fund budget for fiscal year ’20 is $3.1 billion.
Texas Government

The chief executive of the State of Texas is the governor. Other elected officials with executive responsibilities include the lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, commissioner of the General Land Office, commissioner of agriculture and the railroad commissioner. These elected offices have a term of four years.

The Texas Legislature has 181 members: 31 in the State Senate, who are elected to four-year overlapping terms, and 150 in the State House of Representatives, who are elected to two-year terms. Regular sessions of the state legislature convene on the second Tuesday of January in odd-numbered years. The Texas Constitution limits the regular session to 140 calendar days; however, the governor may call special 30-day sessions if needed.

Local Council of Governments

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a regional council of governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region. Organized in 1966, H-GAC is overseen by 36 elected officials that represent 13 counties (Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton), 177 cities and 84 school districts.

H-GAC’s regional programs focus on community and environmental planning, data tools and resources, disaster planning and recovery, transportation planning, public safety, workforce and economic development. As one of the country’s largest council of governments, H-GAC provides a forum for jurisdictions of all sizes to solve regional issues; identifies and prioritizes funding opportunities; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region.

U.S. Congress

The U.S. House of Representatives legislative districts partly or entirely within the Houston MSA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Brazoria and Galveston Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Harris and Montgomery Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Austin, Harris and Waller Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taxation

The sales and use tax in the State of Texas is 6.25 percent. The City of Houston levies an additional 1.0 percent. The Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority levies an additional 1.0 percent in areas it serves, which includes the entire City of Houston and many of the unincorporated parts of Harris County. The table below shows typical tax rates for property located within Houston city limits. The tax rates are expressed as dollars per $100 taxable value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type</th>
<th>Tax Rate per $100 Taxable Value</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston</td>
<td>$0.56792</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>$0.40713</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Independent School District</td>
<td>$1.2067</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Community College</td>
<td>$0.100263</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Property Tax Rate: 2.282013

Public Safety

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD)

HPD’s budget for FY ‘20 is $899.9 million.

The HPD budget funds a total of 6,395 full-time-equivalent (FTE) police personnel, of which 5,286 are classified, 976 civilian and 163 police cadets in training.

HPD’s estimated average response time in ‘19 was 5.8 minutes for priority one calls and 10.66 minutes for priority two calls.

HPD responded to 1,082,782 calls for service in ‘19.

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (HCSO)

Founded in 1837, HCSO is the largest sheriff’s office in Texas and the third largest in the United States.

HCSO’s FY ‘20 operating budget is $717.4 million.

The Harris County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement protection to the 4.7 million residents in Harris County.

HCSO employs over 4,600 employees and 200 volunteer reserve deputies.

HARRIS COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD)

HFD is the largest fire department in the U.S. to possess a Class 1 rating from the Insurance Service Organization and is the world’s largest fire department to receive accreditation from the Commission on Fire Service International. The City of Houston has 105 fire stations equipped with 87 engine companies, 92 ambulances (36 with advanced life support), 2 hazmat response units, 11 booster trucks, 4 cascade units, 32 ladder trucks, 13 evacuation and rescue boats.

In ‘19, HFD responded to 336,718 incidents. Of these incidents, there were 43,774 fire-related incidents with a first unit response time of 7.5 minutes and 292,944 EMS-related incidents with a first unit response time of 7.6 minutes.

HFD’s FY ‘20 budget is $507.1 million and supports 3,998 full-time employees, of whom 97 are civilians.

Libraries

The Houston Public Library (HPL) is comprised of 44 branches including 31 neighborhood libraries, four regional libraries, four express libraries, three special collection libraries, the HPL Mobile Express and a satellite library located at the Children’s Museum of Houston. The system has a total collection of three million items. In ‘19, HPL served 8.2 million visitors and circulated 5.7 million books, magazines, e-books, audiobooks, DVDs and CDs.

The Harris County Public Library (HCPL) system is a network of 26 branches with 1.9 million items in its collection. In ‘19, 7.8 million physical items and 2.7 million digital items were borrowed by 1.7 million library card holders.

Ad valorem property tax is the primary source of local government revenue in the Houston region.

FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAX ROLL 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value (in Billions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston</td>
<td>$242.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston ISD</td>
<td>$324.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>$650.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Harris County Appraisal District
### SELECTED HOUSTON-AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS (ISDS) AND CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (CMOS) 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISD OR CMO</th>
<th>CAMPUSES</th>
<th>TOTAL STUDENTS FALL '18</th>
<th>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>209,040</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>116,245</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATY</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>79,710</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BEND</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75,797</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALDINE</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>66,763</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONROE</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62,577</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>KLEIN</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>53,252</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASADENA</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>53,157</td>
<td>13.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALIEF</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45,423</td>
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<td>Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMBLE</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43,441</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAR CREEK</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42,042</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>Galveston</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35,348</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BRANCH</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>34,632</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMAR CISD*</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33,347</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALVIN</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25,732</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Brazoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOSE CREEK CISD*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23,765</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALENA PARK</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22,264</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEARLAND</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21,526</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Brazoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOMBALL</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16,920</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIPP PUBLIC CHARTER (HOUSTON)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16,876</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW CANEY</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15,360</td>
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<td>Montgomery</td>
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<td>MAGNOLIA</td>
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<td>13,231</td>
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<td>Montgomery</td>
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<td>DEER PARK</td>
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<td>12,812</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZOSPORT</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12,385</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>Brazoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11,405</td>
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<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DICKINSON</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11,129</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>Galveston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTSVILLE</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8,898</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>Walker</td>
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<td>WALKER</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7,382</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>Walker</td>
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<td>CLEVELAND</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,568</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>Liberty</td>
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<td>BARBERS HILL</td>
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<td>5,710</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEALY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,751</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEPHERD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,026</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>San Jacinto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Reports, 2018-19

### Education

#### Elementary and Secondary Education

The 11-county Greater Houston area contains more than 60 independent school districts (ISDs) and 40 state-approved charter management organizations (CMOs). Charter schools and ISDs in the Houston metro area enrolled more than 1.3 million students, approximately one out of every four school-aged children in Texas, in fall '18.

Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the seventh largest public school system in the nation and the largest in Texas. In the '18-19 school year, HISD operated 279 campuses and enrolled more than 209,000 students.

### Higher Education

Houston area colleges and universities enrolled more than 440,000 students across more than 35 academic institutions in the fall of '18, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Undergraduates comprised 87.1 percent of enrolled students in the region.

Houston benefits from three Tier I research universities in close proximity. Rice University and the University of Houston are located directly within the Houston MSA, while Texas A&M University in College Station is within 100 miles of Metro Houston. The three universities have the highest ranking under the Carnegie classification system for research activity.
CNP's '19 Annual Report: field services operations. According to services, interstate pipelines, and competitive natural gas sales and distribution, natural gas distribution, that includes electric transmission and domestic energy delivery company CenterPoint Energy (CNP) is a Headquartered in Houston, ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS Utilities

Telecommunications

The Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC) has certified 291 active Competitive Local Exchange Carriers to provide local phone service in the state.

The Texas PUC has registered 221 active Competitive Local Exchange Carriers to provide local phone service in the state.

Numerous cellular service providers offer mobile voice and data communications in the Houston MSA, and Houston was first in the nation to install Verizon 5G broadband in October '18.

Fiber

Houston added $45 million of carrier fiber since the first quarter of '19. As of Q3'20, the Houston metro has 12,592 installed fiber carrier miles, the equivalent of 7,910 fiber route miles. A fiber conduit can have 12 to 1,024 fiber strands inside it, and carriers can own multiple strands within each conduit. Fiber carrier miles are measured by strand length in each conduit, but only one strand per carrier is counted regardless of the number of strands owned within the conduit. However, fiber route miles are measured by conduit length.

Twenty-four carriers operate or provide fiber service in Houston including, AT&T, CenturyLink, Crown Castle, Consolidated Communications, Fiberlight, Phonoscope, Verizon, Windstream, XO Communications and Zayo.

Fifty-five companies operate 42 fiber-lite data centers, colocation, or carrier hotel facilities in Houston including, but not limited to, Alpheus, CenturyLink, CyrusOne, Data Foundry, Digital Realty, Fiberlite, Internap, Softlayer Technologies, Stratusphere, Sungard Availability and The Planet.

Wastewater

The City of Houston operates 39 wastewater treatment plants, three wet weather facilities, 18 storm water underpass pump stations and over 383 lift stations. The City treats an average of 250 mgd of wastewater with an overall permitted capacity of 564 mgd. It maintains 6,100 miles of sewer pipelines with over 127,000 manholes.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS

Headquartered in Houston, CenterPoint Energy (CNP) is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission and distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, interstate pipelines, and field services operations. According to CNP’s ’19 Annual Report:

- CNP’s assets total nearly $29.0 billion.
- The company employs 14,262, of which approximately 4,200 work in Houston.
- CNP, via its subsidiary Houston Electric, serves 2,534,286 Texas Gulf customers (2,243,188 residential and 291,098 commercial/industrial).
- CNP’S electric utility business serves more than 2.5 million metered customers in the Houston region. Houston Electric has a Smart Grid, a private telecommunications network and a wireless radio frequency mesh telecommunications network.

CNP’s Houston Electric owns and operates 3,811 circuit miles of overhead and 26 miles of underground electric transmission lines, 29,303 circuit miles of overhead and 25,935 miles of underground distribution lines, 236 major substation sites with a capacity of 68,053 megavolt amperes and 15 regional service centers.

In ’19, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation (CERC) owned and operated an underground natural gas storage facility with a combined capacity of 7.0 bcf, 10 propane-air plants with a production rate of 198,000 dekatherms (dth) per day, and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant facility with a 12 million-gallon LNG storage tank and production rate of 72,000 dth per day.

Telecommunications

Houston is served by seven area codes: 281, 346, 409, 713, 832, 936 and 797, four of which overlap.

Fiber

Fiber carrier miles are measured by fiber conduit length. However, regardless of the number of strands inside it, carriers can own multiple strands within each conduit. Fiber carrier miles are measured by strand length in each conduit, but only one strand per carrier is counted regardless of the number of strands owned within the conduit. However, fiber route miles are measured by conduit length.

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Land Transportation

**MOTOR FREIGHT LINES**
1,067 long-distance trucking establishments operate in the Houston MSA.

**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 daily passenger service in Houston via the Sunset Limited route that travels from New Orleans to San Antonio and Los Angeles.

**INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY**
The Texas portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway stretches 423 miles. The main channel is 12 feet deep and 125 feet wide. The entire Gulf Intracoastal Waterway spans approximately 1,100 miles from Brownsville, Texas to St. Mark’s, Florida. Texas’ portion of the Gulf Coast Intracoastal Waterway facilitates the transportation of up to 90 million tons of freight annually.

**FREEWAYS, HIGHWAYS AND TOLL ROADS**
There are 3,309 centerline miles and 10,759 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, Port Band Tollway, SH 99 Grand Parkway, Hardy Tollway, I-10, I-45, I-610, SH 6, SH 146, SH 225, SH 288, US 59/1-69, US 90, US 290 and the Westpark Tollway.

Highway Spending: In FY ’19, the TxDOT spent $1.5 billion on construction and maintenance projects in the Houston District.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): Motorists traveled a total of 96,685,315 vehicle miles per day in the Houston district in ’19. The average daily VMT per vehicle was 17.6 miles based on the 5,478,148 vehicles registered in the region.

**METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (METRO)**

**METRO** serves an area of 1,303 square miles with 21 transit centers, 8,964 bus stops and 27 Park & Ride lots, according to METRO Highlights ’19. METRO’s fleet included 1,236 active buses and 76 light-rail train cars. METRO operates 114 routes and three light-rail lines that travel more than 22 track miles.

Ridership in ’19, including bus, rail and Park & Ride, totaled 86.7 million passengers, up 0.4 percent from ’18, according to annual calculations from METRO’s Monthly Ridership Reports.

Passenger boardings in ’19 averaged 7.2 million per month.

Daily fixed-route weekday ridership in ’19 averaged 282,397 boardings.

Omitting free transfers, rail ridership was down 31 percent to 32 million passenger boardings in ’19, with 36 percent fewer passengers using the light-rail system.

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**PORT HOUSTON**
In ’18, the most recent year for which data is available, the Port of Houston ranked 27th in total tonnage (foreign and domestic) and 23rd in foreign tonnage (imports and exports) among U.S. ports, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Globally, the Port of Houston ranks as the 16th largest port in the world by total tonnage.

Container service was initiated in Houston in 1956. Today the Port of Houston is the largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 69 percent of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic and 96 percent of Texas container traffic.

The Port of Houston handled 27.4 million metric tons of containerized cargo and hauled in 3.0 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in ’19, setting new port records for containers handled in a year.

The Port ranked as the sixth busiest U.S. container port in ’19, based on total TEUs.

Foreign shipments in ’19 totaled 195.0 million metric tons valued at $107.5 billion. Foreign imports were 55.6 million metric tons, valued at $63.4 billion. Foreign exports were 139.3 million metric tons, valued at $93.8 billion.

The Port of Houston traded with 209 countries in ’19. Of those, trade with 35 countries exceeded one billion dollars each, and trade with 178 countries exceeded one million dollars. Mexico was the Port’s top trading partner by both value and weight.

**HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL**
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.

Most of the channel has a minimum width of 530 feet and a depth of 45 feet at mean low tide.

More than 330 public and private terminals, owned by more than 150 companies, line both sides of the channel and serve one of the world’s largest petrochemical industrial complexes.

**Sea Ports**

The Houston region has four seaports which handled 242.5 million metric tons of trade in ’19.

**TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>TOP FIVE BY VALUE</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>14,125.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>11,740.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>10,430.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>8,100.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>7,373.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL TOP 5 TRADING PARTNERS** $51,769.5 M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>ALL OTHER TRADING PARTNERS</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL TRADING PARTNERS</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>31,096.7</td>
<td>$157,546.0 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>14,078.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>11,476.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>11,087.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>9,338.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ALL TRADING PARTNERS** $157,546.0 M

Source: WSBTrade

---

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Air Transportation

Houston is the international air gateway to the Central United States and Latin America. With the addition of international air service at Hobby Airport in ’15, Houston became the only city in Texas with two airports offering international service and one of only eight such cities nationwide.

The Houston Airport System (HAS) was recognized with a number of awards in ’19:

- George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) ranked ninth among “mega airports” in the U.S. and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) ranked 10th among “large airports” in the U.S. according to J.D. Power airport satisfaction rankings released in September ’19.

- IAH ranked as the 10th best airport in the nation on the Wall Street Journal U.S. airport rankings released November ’19. Among the 15 factors in the study, IAH was ranked first for On-Site Parking Cost, sixth for Satiation, and eighth for TSA Screening Time and Nonstop Destinations Served.

In July ’18, Southwest began shipping international cargo between the U.S. and Mexico from Hobby Airport. In October ’18, Houston City Council approved the updated contracts and funding for the redevelopment of George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The adjusted International Terminal Redevelopment Program (ITRP) has a budget of $1.2 billion and includes refurbishing the existing Terminal D facility, as well as demolishing the Terminal D/E parking garage to allow for an international terminal processor for passengers. The plans are expected to be mostly complete by ’24.

In ’18, the Houston City Council allocated $18.8 million toward phase one of the Houston Spaceport development project. This expansion to Ellington Airport will add streets, water, wastewater, electrical power distribution facilities, and communications facilities in order to prepare for future commercial space flight tenants. The Houston Aerospace Support Center, a 53,000-square foot facility at the Spaceport, was fully leased in ’19, with lab and office space tenants including Intuitive Machines and San Jacinto College.

Houston offers scheduled passenger air service to 177 domestic and 67 international destinations; 28 airlines provide scheduled passenger service from Houston.

### SEGMENTS RANKED BY FOREIGN TRADE 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mineral fuels, oil, refined products</td>
<td>$60,081.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Organic chemicals</td>
<td>$15,065.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Industrial equipment and computers</td>
<td>$13,655.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plastics and plastic products</td>
<td>$10,992.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Articles of iron or steel</td>
<td>$7,154.7</td>
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</table>

| TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES | $106,949.4 M |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mineral fuels, oil, refined products</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Organic chemicals</td>
<td>17,574.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plastics and plastic products</td>
<td>8,912.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Salt, sulfur, stone, lime, and cement plaster</td>
<td>5,840.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>5,576.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL TOP 5 COMMODITIES | 171,110,2 K METRIC TONS |

| Source: WISERTrade | Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division data |

HAS Statistics:

HAS served 59.7 million passengers in ’19, up 2.4 percent from ’18.

International traffic increased 17 percent to 12.0 million passengers in ’19.

At George Bush International (IAH), domestic passengers numbered 34.2 million in ’19, up 3.4 percent from ’18.

At William P. Hobby Airport (HOU), domestic passengers totaled 13.6 million in ’19, up 1.2 percent from ’18.

The Houston Airport System handled a total of 525,321 metric tons of air freight in ’19, down 2.0 percent from ’18.

International cargo accounted for 43.6 percent of total air freight.

Including IAH, HOU and Ellington Airport EFO, the FAA lists 35 public-use airports and heliports located in the nine counties that comprise the Houston MSA:

- Austin County 1
- Brazoria 8
- Chambers 3
- Fort Bend 6
- Galveston 3
- Harris 9
- Liberty 2
- Montgomery 2
- Waller 1

#### WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT (HOU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airlines Offering Direct Domestic Flights</th>
<th>Airlines Offering Direct International Flights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Airlines</td>
<td>British Airways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Airlines</td>
<td>Delta Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier Airlines</td>
<td>Frontier Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Airlines</td>
<td>United Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JetBlue Airways</td>
<td>JetBlue Airways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Airlines</td>
<td>Southwest Airlines</td>
</tr>
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## Table of Foreign Trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES</th>
<th>$157,546.0 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL OTHER COMMODITIES</td>
<td>$50,596.6 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES</td>
<td>$194,973.6 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Houston</td>
<td>194,973,595 metric tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Freeport</td>
<td>22,497,283 metric tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Texas City</td>
<td>20,059,242 metric tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Galveston</td>
<td>5,411,356 metric tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Source: WISERTrade | Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division data |
Houston has 255 professional media outlets, including 174 print and online publications, 37 television stations and 44 radio stations. The Houston Chronicle, with nearly 1,000 employees, is the region’s largest media employer. The University of Houston’s KHU-T, which aired its first broadcast May 25, 1953, is the oldest public television station in the U.S.

### Broadcast

According to Nielsen, the Houston television market was the eighth largest in the nation in 19, making up 2.2 percent of all TV households in the U.S. Houston’s podcast industry is also booming, offering topics varying from politics and hurricane season to sports and religion. One of Houston’s podcasts on classical music, Classical Classroom, is regularly listed in the top 50 most popular music podcasts on iTunes.

**TOP LOCAL TV NEWS STATIONS INCLUDE**
- NBC-affiliate KTRK Channel 13
- Fox-affiliate KTRK Channel 26
- CW-affiliate KUAH Channel 39
- Univision-affiliate KXIN Channel 45
- Telemundo-affiliate KTMD Channel 27

**THE MOST POPULAR LOCAL RADIO STATIONS, BY SHARE OF LISTENERSHIP, INCLUDE**
- KLRT-FM Qué Buena 102.9
- KODA-FM Sunny 91.1
- KGLK-FM Houston Eagle 107.5
- KMJQ-FM Majic 102.1
- KKHH-FM The Spot 95.7

According to ratings from Nielsen.

### Digital and Print

Houston’s major daily newspaper is the Houston Chronicle, which was founded in 1881. The paper has the second highest circulation in Texas and consistently ranks among the 15 most widely read newspapers in the country. The newspaper’s website receives over 15 million unique visitors each month and distributes over half a million copies every week.

Other top print and digital outlets in Houston include: Bisnow, CityBook, Community Impact, Culture Map, Houston, Houston Business Journal, Houston Press, Houston Public Media, Houston Style Magazine, Intown Magazine, Local Houston, PaperCity, Realty News Report and Swamplot.

### Cost of Living

Houston’s living costs are 25.4 percent below the average of the nation’s 20 most populous metropolitan areas, ranking it third most affordable, according to the Cost of Living Index from the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Houston’s overall living costs are 4.5 percent below the average for all U.S. metros.

Housing costs in Houston are 49.3 percent below the average for the nation’s 20 most populous metro areas and 9.8 percent below the average for all U.S. metros. Excluding the two most expensive housing markets, New York and San Francisco, which tend to skew the average, Houston’s housing costs are 38.8 percent below the major metro average.

### COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS 2019 Annual Average 20 Most Populous U.S. Metros* | (Average for 266 Urban Areas = 100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>COMPOSITE</th>
<th>GROCERIES</th>
<th>HOUSING</th>
<th>UTILITIES</th>
<th>TRANSPORTATION</th>
<th>HEALTHCARE</th>
<th>MISCELLANEOUS &amp; SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York (Manhattan), NY</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>514.0</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>128.6</td>
<td>110.5</td>
<td>135.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>514.0</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>128.6</td>
<td>110.5</td>
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<td>110.5</td>
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*Metro areas represented by most dominant urban area. Riverside, California, is among the 20 most populous metros, but did not submit COLI data. Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Cost of Living Index, 2019 Annual Average Data (Data based on a survey of 266 urban areas, published January 2020).
Weather

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Normal (30-year average) daily maximum temperatures: January 62.9°F; April 79.6°F; July 93.7°F; October 82.0°F.

Normal (30-year average) daily minimum temperatures: January 43.2°F; April 59.4°F; July 75.1°F; October 60.9°F.


Record daily snowfall: 2.0 inches in February 1973.

Record low monthly snowfalls since 1939.

Houston has had 16 measurable snowfalls since 1939.

Record monthly rainfall: 39.1 inches in August 17, breaking the previous record of 19.2 inches in June ’01.

Highest rainfall in a 24-hour period: 18.1 inches fell on August 26-27, 2017 during Hurricane Harvey, breaking the previous record of 11.0 inches on June 8-9, 2001 during Tropical Storm Allison.

Houston has had 16 measurable snowstorms since 1939.

Record monthly snowfall: 2.8 inches in February 1973.


PRECIPITATION

Houston had 91.9 inches of rain in ’19, higher than the 30-year average of 49.8 inches.

Thunderstorms occurred on 74 days in ’19, higher than the 48-year average of 62.8 days per year.

Record monthly rainfall: 39.1 inches in August ’17, breaking the previous record of 19.2 inches in June ’01.

Record hourly rainfall: 3.4 inches in six hours in ’18.

Humidity averaged 86 percent at midnight; 92 percent at 6:00 a.m.; 70 percent at 12:00 p.m.; and 88 percent at 6:00 p.m. in ’18.

The Houston MSA lies in a zone with 260-275 frost-free days per year.

The Houston MSA lies in a zone with 260-275 frost-free days per year.

SUNSHINE

Related Normal (27-year) averages:

- “Clear” on 90.3 days, concentrated in September, October and November.
- “Partly cloudy” on 114.5 days, typical of June through August.
- “Cloudy” on 160.3 days, common in December through February. Fog limiting visibility to a quarter of a mile or less occurs on average 23.9 days per year.

WIND

Prevailing wind in ’19 was south-southeasterly at an average speed of 7.7 miles per hour—consistent with the Normal (34-year average) speed of 7.5 mph.

Dining

Houston restaurants feature outstanding regional dishes as well as diverse international cuisine. In the four quarters ending Q3/19, the Houston MSA was home to 11,692 food service and drinking establishments that employed more than 265,222. These establishments included: 1,462 full-service restaurants, 4,484 limited-service eating places and 652 drinking establishments.

The Houston MSA food service and drinking establishments had sales of $18.1 billion in the four quarters ending Q3/19, according to the State Comptroller’s office.

According to Yelp.com, Houston has nearly 130 categories of cuisine, including Afghan, Georgian and Polish restaurants. Houston is also home to nearly 1,000 food trucks and stands and about 100 wine bars. There are also over 64 active breweries or craft beer establishments in the region, an increase of 355% from ’13, when the area had 18. In ’19, three Houston-area breweries won medals at the annual Great American Beer Festival.

Houston’s reputation as a culinary hot spot is recognized by the James Beard Foundation, the organization that bestows the James Beard Awards, commonly known as the “Oscars of the food world.” The greater Houston area received 13 semifinalist nominations for the 2020 awards. Additionally, the city is in the top 20 for WalletHub’s “Best Cities for Vegans & Vegetarians” as well as being home to three of Texas Monthly’s top 10 “Best New Restaurants in Texas for 2020.”

Numerous dining options, and the increasing number of food halls in the Houston area, earned the city a spot on “The 20 Best Places to Travel in 2020,” compiled by Harper’s Bazaar. Since Houston’s first food hall opened in ’16, four more have launched in the city, with an additional six in the works.
Arts and Culture

PERFORMANCE ARTS
Resident companies in drama, ballet, opera, and orchestra perform year-round in Houston. More than 500 institutions are devoted to the performing and visual arts, science and history in the Houston area. Houston’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generated over $1.1 billion in total economic activity, according to the latest Arts & Economic Prosperity report by Americans for the Arts. This spending – $579.4 million by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and an additional $538.0 million in event-related spending by their audiences – supports 25,817 full-time equivalent jobs, generates $801.6 million in household income to local residents and delivers $119.3 million in local and state government revenue.

THEATER DISTRICT VENUES
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, Revention Music Center and Wortham Theater Center host seven renowned performing arts organizations as well as many smaller programs. The Theater District also includes one venue dedicated solely to dance: Houston Ballet’s Center of Dance.

ALLEY THEATRE, home to a nationally recognized performing arts company, offers two stages, the 774-seat Hubbard Stage and the 296-seat Neuhaus Stage, and nearly 500 annual performances. Founded in 1947, the theater company produces up to 16 plays annually. Through its performances and educational programs, the company reaches over 200,000 people each year.

HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, opened in ’02, is home to Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Broadway Across America, the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre and Uniquely Houston (a program that provides a home venue for Houston’s smaller and mid-sized nonprofit performing arts organizations in the Theater District). Its two stages, Sarofim Hall and Zilkha Hall, have seating for 2,650 and 500.

HOUSTON BALLET’S CENTER FOR DANCE is the largest professional dance company facility of its kind in the U.S. With 115,000 square feet, the six-story structure with sustainable features was constructed for $46.6 million and opened in ’11. The center features nine dance studios and a dance lab that seats 175.

JESSE H. JONES HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, opened in 1966, is home to the Houston Symphony and the Society for the Performing Arts. Spanning an entire city block, the hall offers 250 events annually and seats 2,912. More than 400,000 visitors attend performances each year.

REVENTION MUSIC CENTER, formerly known as the Bayou Music Center, seats 2,875 inside the 130,000-square-foot Bayou Place entertainment complex in downtown Houston.

WORTHAM THEATER CENTER, built entirely with private funds at the height of the 1980’s oil bust on land provided by the city, opened in 1987. The theater is home to the opera and ballet companies, and its two halls, the Alice and George Brown Theater and the Lillie and Roy Cullen Theater, seat 2,423 and 1,100, respectively.

OTHER VENUES
BERRY CENTER, located in Northwest Houston, includes an 11,000-seat athletic stadium, a conference center with over 15,000 square feet, an 8,312-seat arena and a 484-seat theater.

CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION, located in The Woodlands, offers outdoor performance space and accommodates 16,500. Established in 1990, it presents an eclectic range of programs featuring nationally and internationally recognized artists.

MIDTOWN ARTS & THEATER CENTER HOUSTON (MATCH), which had its first performances in ’15, was formed to create a new space for Houston artists to collaborate and present their work. Over 40 arts groups provided input for the design of the venue, which consists of two buildings with four performance spaces, three rehearsal studios, a gallery space and offices for arts professionals.

MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE in Hermann Park offers free outdoor performances by Houston’s performing arts organizations. The city-owned theatre is located on 7.5 acres of land in Hermann Park, site of the Houston Zoo, the Garden Center and the Museum of Natural Science. Seating is provided for 1,705 patrons under the covered pavilion. A sloping lawn accommodates approximately 4,500 more on blankets or lawn chairs.

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE, located in Sugar Land, opened in January ’17 and is a premier venue for a wide variety of performances and programs. This state-of-the-art indoor hall can seat up to 6,400. In ’19, the Centre ranked seventh in the world in ticket sales for venues under 10,000 seats.

STAFFORD CENTRE, located in Stafford, includes a performing arts theater with seating for 1,154 and 24 acres of outdoor festival green space.

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE in Galveston is a Romanesque Revival-style theater. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Opera House has seating for 1,000 and presents Broadway shows, comedians, musicians, silent films and more.

WHITE OAK MUSIC HALL, opened in ’16, hosts over 400 live music events per year, from a diverse array of musical acts and genres, including rock, country, hip-hop, R&B and more. The venue provides two indoor performance stages, supporting 200 and 1,000 attendees, and an outdoor amphitheater that can fit over 3,000 people.

Arts Organizations

DANCE
HOUSTON BALLET, founded in 1955 and established as a professional company in 1969, is the nation’s fifth largest ballet company, with annual operating expenses of $33.2 million and 59 dancers. Houston Ballet has toured extensively over the past 15 years, appearing in Europe, Canada, Australia and cities throughout the U.S. The company produced nine ballets in the ’18-’19 season. Through its Education and Community Engagement Program, the Houston Ballet is committed to providing high-quality, community-sponsored educational programming to the diverse populations of Houston and its surrounding areas.

LITERATURE
INPRINT, founded in 1983, is a literary arts nonprofit organization that provides literary performances, writing workshops and financial support for emerging writers. Inprint annually serves more than 15,000 readers and writers of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction. Literary performance programs have featured more than 350 celebrated writers from 28 countries, including winners of seven Nobel Prizes, 12 Man Booker Prizes, 44 National Book Critics Circle Awards, 53 National Book Awards, 56 Pulitzer Prizes as well as 17 U.S. Poets Laureate.

MUSIC
DA CAMERA, founded in 1987, provides thematically programmed concerts with a broad range of repertoire and musical styles. Da Camera also founded the Young Artist Program in ’09 to provide performance opportunities for emerging musicians.
PERFORMING ARTS

SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (SPA), founded in 1966, is the largest nonprofit presenting organization of its kind in the Southwest. SPA presents internationally acclaimed artists from all performing artforms, including large orchestras and dance companies, and solo performers.

THEATER

A.D. PLAYERS, founded in 1957, is one of Houston’s largest resident theater companies, which produces plays and programs from a Christian world-view. The A.D. Players offered five mainstage shows and two Black Box (Aspiring Artist series) theater performances for the '18–'19 season. A.D. Players perform at the Jeannette and L.M. George Theater.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE, located in Midtown and established in 1976, is one of a few professional theaters in the Southwest devoted to preserving African American artistic expression. Ensemble Theatre performances reach 65,000 people each year. The theater offers six contemporary and classical works annually, a Performing Arts Education Program and a Young Performers Program.

MAIN STREET THEATER (MST), founded in 1975, produces innovative plays for adults and children at its two locations, one in Rice Village and the other at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center (MATCH). MST also offers educational and youth programs on-site and at locations throughout the Houston region.

STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE, founded in 1978, presents plays and musicals. Stages is Houston’s sixth largest nonprofit performing arts producer, the largest outside of Houston’s downtown theater district. With an average of 12 productions per year and more than 430 performances, Stages welcomes 75,000 visitors each season. Stages completed its five-year strategic plan during the '19–'20 season, which included its move to a new three-theatre campus called The Gordy.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS (TUTS), founded in 1958, offers a mix of touring musicals and self-produced shows, both new works and revivals, performed at the Hobby Center. It also operates the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre. The River Performing and Visual Arts Center merged with TUTS in '10 to provide singing, dancing and acting opportunities to children with disabilities. The theater celebrated its 50th anniversary during the '18–'19 season.

HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT

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 in four walkable zones, each of which includes a group of museums.

ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER, opened in '12, houses the 273-seat Brown Foundation Performing Arts Theater, the Louisa Stude Sarofim Gallery and more. One of only 14 Asia Society locations throughout the world, the center serves as an Asia-Pacific educational and cultural institution in the region.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM, founded in '01, is the only U.S. museum dedicated to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldiers that served on behalf of the United States of America.

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON, founded in 1980, has been ranked as the number one children’s museum in the U.S. by Parents Magazine. Families from 31 countries, all 50 states and 905 Texas cities have visited the Children’s Museum of Houston. The museum has its own galleries and offers a multitude of exhibits and programs for children.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON, founded in 1948, is a non-collecting museum that presents regional, national and international art of the past 40 years through exhibitions accompanied by publications and educational programming.

CZECH CENTER MUSEUM HOUSTON, opened in 1996, is dedicated to the exploration and preservation of Czech and Slovak heritage, including art, music and dance. The center features a wide array of cultural events, film screenings, art exhibitions and lectures.

DIVERSEWORKS, founded in 1982, presents and commissions new art in all forms. DiverseWorks supports freedom of artistic expression with an artist-centered focus through a schedule of exhibitions, performances and community programs.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON, opened in 1996, is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, honoring the survivors’ legacy and remembering the six million Jews and other innocent victims who died in concentration camps in WWII. The museum underwent a $74 million expansion in 19, and its new 57,000-square-foot facility is ranked as the fourth largest Holocaust museum in the nation.

HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE (HAA) works to implement local civic art through grants and investments for public art and cultural events. HAA recently moved to The Southmove in the Museum District.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT, founded in '01, is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to advancing education about the process, product and history of craft. The center is one of the few venues in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to craft.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, founded in 1981, brings together a community of people interested in photography and lens-based work. The center offers a gallery and a library with over 4,000 books. In addition, the center provides more than 300 photography classes and workshops annually.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE (HMAAC), established in '12, exhibits the material and intellectual culture of Africans and African Americans in Houston, the state of Texas, the Southwest and the African Diaspora.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE, established in 1909, houses four floors of 16 permanent exhibits, the Burke Baker Planetarium, Cockrell Butterfly Center and the Wortham GIANT Screen Theatre. The museum also maintains a satellite facility in Sugar Land and the George Observatory in Fort Bend County, which houses one of the largest telescopes in the country.

HOUSTON ZOO seeks to provide a fun and inspirational experience fostering appreciation, knowledge and care for the natural world. There are over 6,500 animals attracting more than 2 million guests each year.

JUNG CENTER OF HOUSTON was founded in 1958 in honor of Carl Gustav Jung, the revolutionary psychologist. The center displays new art exhibits each month and offers more than 200 classes annually. Much of the featured artwork is generated by local and regional artists.
LAWNDALE ART CENTER, founded in 1979, is one of the only institutions in Houston that is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art with an emphasis on work by regional artists.

MENIL COLLECTION, opened in 1987, features a highly acclaimed collection of some 200 works of art, including masterpieces from antiquity, the Byzantine and the tribal cultures of Oceania. The museum has one of the world's foremost collections of Surrealist holdings.

MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS, located at Rice University, serves as an experimental platform for creating and presenting art works. The 50,000-square-foot facility newly constructed in 2017 for $30 million features a striking contemporary design with bold geometric shapes. In 2017, the Moody received a Design Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, California Council.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON (MFAH), opened in 1924, is the first American Institute of Architects, design with bold geometric features a striking contemporary constructed in '17 for $30 million creating and presenting art works. as an experimental platform for collection and Gardens. The museum also served as the terminal for the Texas Limited excursion train until it ceased operations in 1996. The museum's artifacts include forty pieces of rolling stock (ailcars and locomotives) and exhibits detailing rail history.

HARRIS COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY operates ten historic buildings that date from 1823 to 1905, which the organization authentically restored and moved to Sam Houston Park. Together with the Museum Gallery, these buildings serve as historic reference points and exhibition spaces for more than 23,000 artifacts that document life in historic Houston.

HOUSTON BLUES MUSEUM, opened in '08, is a non-collecting fine art museum that provides a wide array of art exhibits and educational programs. Housed in a former county library, the Pearl is located in Spring.

SAN JACINTO MONUMENT AND MUSEUM OF HISTORY, located at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, features artifacts and documents covering Mexican Texas, the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas. This 1,200-acre site is also a National Historic Landmark and consists of the San Jacinto battleground, the monument with observation tower, the museum of history and Battleship Texas. The battleship closed to the public in '19 and seeks to be moved to a new location in '20.

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON, the Disney-designed visitors' center for Johnson Space Center, opened in 1992 and attracts more than one million visitors per year. It features two new permanent exhibits that includes the Saturn V Rocket, a tram tour of the campus, a space suit gallery, and the world's largest collection of moon rocks.

STATION MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART is an exhibition forum for local, national and international artists with comprehensive exhibitions from Afghanistan, Austria, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, India, Iraq, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Russia, South Africa and Yemen exhibits of unique fine art objects, including a rare collection of historical hearths. The museum collaborates with the Vatican to display an exhibit on the lives and deaths of the Popes.

O'KANE GALLERY, University of Houston-Downtown, established in 1970, annually offers five to six exhibitions representing a diversity of artists, themes and mediums.

FORT BENEDICT ART CENTER, managed by the Art League of Fort Bend, was established in 1948, is one of Houston's longest-running nonprofits and is dedicated to showcasing local contemporary art. Art League Houston also provides art education and outreach to underserved communities.

THE PRINTING MUSEUM, founded in 1979, has interactive tours and exhibits with over 10,000 items in its permanent collection. Founded by four printers, the museum features ancient tandem presses, Johann Gutenberg Gallery and early American and Texas printing.

THE WOODLANDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM provides a cooperative learning environment for children, including dynamic workshops and more than 15 interactive exhibits.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (UMUSE), specializes in the history of African American art accumulated over four decades.
Recurring Events and Festivals

JANUARY
Chevron Houston Marathon
MLK Grande Parade
"Original" MLK Jr. Birthday Parade

FEBRUARY
Experimental Action: Performance Art Festival
Mardi Gras! Galveston
Texas Lunar New Year Celebration
World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest

MARCH
Azalea Trail
Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park
Buffalo Bayou Regatta
Hermann Park Kite Festival

APRIL
BP MS 150
Houston Art Car Parade
Houston Barbecue Festival
Houston Art Car Parade

May
Cinco de Mayo Parade and Celebration

May
Kael's & Wheels Concours d'Elegance
Pasadena Strawberry Festival
Rail's & Tails Mudbug Festival

JUNE
Caribbean Heritage Month Festival
Juneteenth Celebration
Pride Houston
Texas Outlaw Challenge

AUGUST
AIA Sandcastle Competition
Houston International Jazz Festival
Houston Restaurant Weeks
Houston Shakespeare Festival
Theater District Open House

SEPTEMBER
Avoca Care Texas Kickoff
Fiestas Patrias
Octoberfest Houston

OCTOBER
Bayou City Art Festival Downtown
Grito Fest
Houston Italian Festival
Houston Open
International Quilt Festival

Original Greek Festival
Pearland Art & Crafts on the Pavilion
Texas Renaissance Festival
Texas Restaurant Days
Wings Over Houston Airshow

NOVEMBER
Day of the Dead
H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade
Houston Salutes American Heroes
Veterans Day Celebration
Houston Zoo Lights
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Rothko Chapel

DECEMBER
Al-Noor Mosque boasts a large golden dome that can be seen from I-69 and the Westpark Tollway. It is located in Houston's Hillcroft region, a vibrant center of South Asian culture within the city.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, uniquely located in the heart of downtown, is a predominantly African American church that was founded by freed slaves in 1866 and occupies an important place in Houston's history.

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, the first Hindu temple in the U.S., is located at 5915 Bissonnet St. It was built in 1985 as a small temple and has since expanded to become one of the largest Hindu temples in the United States.

Centro Islamico, located in early '16, is the nation's first Spanish-speaking mosque. Located in a former industrial building on Houston's far west side, the building's interior has architectural elements of Moorish Spain.

Chapel of St. Basil, located at 5335 South Main St., is a large, single-story building that was designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson.

Christ Church Cathedral, located at 5355 South Main St., is a large, single-story building that was designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson.

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is a Catholic place of worship with a congregation history dating back to the 1850s. The current cathedral building opened in 2016 and features a towering stained-glass display created by artisans in Florence, Italy.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, founded in 1912 in Houston's Second Ward, was the first church in Houston to offer services in Spanish. The parish hosts the oldest Catholic grade school in Houston.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, founded in 1952, has grown to become the largest Episcopal Church in North America with more than 9,300 members. The funeral for former president George H. W. Bush and his wife Barbara Bush were both held at St. Martin's where they had been active members since the early 1950s.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, founded in 1905, is in the heart of Houston's Museum District. The church is renowned for its choir and Neo-Gothic architecture.

Texas Guadi Temple, founded in 1999, welcomes Taoists, Buddhists and anyone who seeks respite, meditation or counsel. The building is a focal point of Houston's Chinatown. An architect from China designed the Texas Guadi Temple, the largest temple in the nation dedicated to Guandi. Materials for the building and for the interior also came from China.

The Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) is the largest Islamic society in North America. Established in 1969, ISGH currently includes 21 Islamic Centers across the Houston metro.

Zarathushri Heritage and Cultural Center, opened in May 2019, is built on a seven-acre site that was donated by community members. The Center is a house of worship for Zoroastrians from Persia. The site is located in Houston, Texas.
Major Events and Conventions

Greater Houston has 4.4 million sq. ft. of convention space and regularly hosts worldwide events such as the International Quilt Festival, which draws 60,000 participants to George R. Brown Convention Center and the Offshore Technology Conference, with 62,000 attendees at NRG Park.

According to the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, in '19 Houston hosted 524 conventions and meetings that drew 771,591 attendees to Houston translating into an estimated economic impact of $415 million.

Houston hosted its third Super Bowl (Super Bowl LII) in '17, drawing 150,000 visitor and generating an estimated economic impact of $347 million. The previous two Super Bowls hosted by Houston were Super Bowl VIII in 1974, and Super Bowl XXXVIII in '04.

Other past major Houston-based events include '02 World Space Congress, '08 Latin Grammy Awards ceremony, '13 American Association for Clinical Chemistry, '16 Copa America Centenario and the '16 NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament.

In '19, Houston hosted two matches of the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup, the Confederation of North and Central America and Caribbean Association Football, in addition to the Gastech conference, held every 18 months.

Houston is slated to host the U.S. Women's Open Tournament in '20. The event will take place at Champions Golf Club. Houston previously hosted the men's U.S. Open in 1969.

Bluejack National, located in Montgomery County, was named Golf Digest's "Best New Course" in '16.

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department maintains six municipal golf parks.

GOLF

The Houston Open has made the Bayou City an annual PGA tour stop since it was first played in 1930. The Golf Club of Houston has hosted the tournament since '03, though the event will move to Memorial Park starting in '20.

The Woodlands Country Club has hosted the Insperity Invitational since '08. The event was held at Augusta Pines from '04-'07. It's the only Texas stop for the PGA's senior tour.

Houston was selected to host the U.S. Women's Open Tournament in '20. The event will take place at Champions Golf Club. Houston previously hosted the men's U.S. Open in 1969.

Houston Raceway Park is a multi-purpose motorsports venue located in Baytown. The race park features a quarter-mile drag strip sanctioned by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Houston Motorsports Park is a car racing track in Northeast Houston that features a NASCAR oval track and a NHRA drag strip.

Sam Houston Race Park is a horse racing track located in Northwest Houston that hosts Thoroughbred and American Quarter horse races.

BIKING AND HIKING

The City of Houston has a 345-mile interconnected bikeway network that includes shared-use paths, separate bike lanes, bike routes and shared sidewalks.

In March '17, the City Council adopted the Houston Bike Plan, which strives to make Houston a safer, more bike-friendly city. The long-term vision of the plan is to extend Houston's bikeway network to almost 1,800 miles.

Houston BCycle is the City of Houston's non-profit bike share program, offering rentable bicycles at over 109 bike share stations with nearly 800 bikes in circulation. A $4.7 million expansion of the Houston BCycle network will add hundreds of bikes and dozens of stations to the current network. The program is track to have more than 1,100 bikes and 160 stations by '21.

Convention and Sports Facilities

AVENDA HOUSTON, which opened in '17, is the entertainment district in front of the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center in downtown Houston. The 97,000-square-foot outdoor plaza connects to Discovery Green's 12-acre park, public art installations, as well as two convention headquarters hotels adjoined to the GRB, the 1,200-room Hilton Americas and the 1,000-room Marriott Marquis.

The area around Avenida Houston offers many dining options, including several restaurants within the GRB.

BBVA COMPASS STADIUM, the state-of-the-art, open-air stadium designed to host Dynamo and Dash soccer matches, as well as additional sporting and concert events, opened in May '12. The 22,000-seat stadium is the first soccer-specific stadium in Major League Soccer located in a city's downtown district.

CONSTELLATION FIELD, opened in '12 as home of the Sugar Land Skeeters of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball. The stadium hosts sporting events as well as concerts. It has a capacity of 7,500 spectators for baseball games (expandable to 10,000) and 9,500 for concerts.

GEORGE R. BROWN (GRB) CONVENTION CENTER, one of the nation's largest convention centers, opened in 1987. GRB offers nearly 2 million square feet of exhibit and meeting space, including 773,000 square feet total of exhibit space with seven exhibit halls, more than 100 meeting rooms, and 3,600 fixed seating in its amphitheater. GRB's latest improvements, which include the development of a grand entryway and four restaurants, were completed in December '16.

MINUTE MAID PARK, the Houston Astros' retractable-roof downtown baseball stadium with seating for 41,000, opened in April '00. In '19, a $25 million renovation of the stadium's suite level, to be paid for by the Astros, was approved by the Harris County Houston Sports Authority. The stadium's ornamental train, positioned 90 feet above the field on the left-field wall, makes its way along the 800-foot track whenever the Astros score a homerun.

FERTITTA CENTER, formerly known as Hofheinz Pavilion, is home to the University of Houston Cougars men’s and women’s basketball teams. The 7,100-seat multipurpose area, built...
in 1965, underwent a $60-million transformation in ‘18, including the addition of a seating bowl bringing fans only 10 feet from the sideline and a new audio system, sports lighting and video boards.

NRG PARK, which occupies 350 acres and offers 26,000 parking spaces, is among the most versatile sports and meeting complexes in the United States. Hosting over 500 events annually, NRG Park includes the NRG Stadium, which opened in 1990, is a 70,000-seat football stadium located on the Rice University campus. It has been the home of the Rice Owls football team since its completion in 1990 and hosted Super Bowl VIII in 1974. At this stadium, President John F. Kennedy made his famous challenge to America to place a man on the moon and bring him safely home again.

TDECU STADIUM, which opened in August ‘14, is a $1.25 billion, 40,000-seat football stadium located on the campus of the University of Houston. To ensure the best level of comfort for Houston fans and student-athletes, sun and shade studies were conducted prior to construction.

HOUSTON ASTROS, ‘17 World Series Champions
Major League Baseball’s American League Minute Maid Park

HOUSTON DASH
National Women’s Soccer League BBVA Compass Stadium

HOUSTON DYNAMO
Major League Soccer’s Western Conference BBVA Compass Stadium

HOUSTON ROCKETS
Western Conference in the National Basketball Association Toyota Center

HOUSTON TEXANS
American Football Conference in the National Football League NRG Stadium

HOUSTON ROLLER DERBY
Women’s Flat Track Derby Association Revolution Music Center

HOUSTON SABERCATS
Atlantic League of Professional Baseball Constellation Field

PROFESSIONAL TEAMS IN GREATER HOUSTON

Parks and Recreation

The city of Houston contains 38,412 acres of parkland and 604 parks, according to The Trust for Public Land’s ‘19 Houston, TX report.

• Parks represent 11.0 percent of the city’s adjusted land area in ‘19.
• Fifty-eight percent of Houston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is 4 percent above the national average.
• Houston’s oldest municipal park is Sam Houston Park, established 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 6.5 million visitors annually.
• There are 17.3 acres of total parkland per 1,000 residents, well above the median of 13.6 acres per 1,000 residents for cities of similar density.

CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS

Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) oversees 380 developed municipal parks and more than 167 green spaces, which together encompass approximately 39,501 acres.

HPARD owns and operates 60 community centers across the city along with the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.

MAJOR CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS:

CULLEN PARK (9,270 acres)
LAKE HOUSTON WILDERNESS PARK (4,787 acres)
MEMORIAL PARK (1,464 acres)
HERMAN BROWN PARK (771 acres)
EISENHOWER PARK (682 acres)
KEITH-WIESS PARK (493 acres)
HERMANN PARK (445 acres)
BUFFALO BAYOU PARK (60 acres)
MACGREGOR PARK (83 acres)

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center provides access to year-round activities for children and adults with disabilities.

AMENITIES IN CITY OF HOUSTON PARKS INCLUDE

235 Playgrounds
201 Tennis Courts
173 Basketball Courts
165 3 Miles of Trails
161 Baseball & Softball Fields
87 Soccer Fields
75 Practice Backstops
38 Pools
29 Water Spray Grounds
20 Volleyball Courts
16 Football/Rugby/ Cricket/Lacrosse Fields
11 Community Garden Sites
9 Dog Parks
8 Golf Courses
7 Skate Parks
5 Fitness Centers
4 Nature Centers

NEW AND RECENTLY HONORED PARKS

CHAMPION FOREST PARK, a seven-acre park in Spring, opened in ‘19. The park features four soccer fields and a playground and will connect to the Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve and Matzke Park. It is also designed to absorb water during heavy rains.

HERMAN BROWN PARK, a 717-acre park located eight miles from downtown, is currently renovating a 24-acre section to have rolling hills with pavilions, a new play area and native landscaping. Referred to as the ‘Commons,’ this project is the first of the park’s 20-year master plan for improvements.

HADEN PARK, a 12-acre park in Spring Branch, won the ‘19 Natural Planning Award presented by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The redesigned park includes a playground, splashpad, nature area, dog park, event lawn and tennis court. Activities for children and adults with disabilities.
DOWNTOWN HOUSTON PARKS

ALLEN’S LANDING, referred to as “Houston’s Plymouth Rock,” is where August Chas. Allen and John Kirby Allen stepped ashore in 1836 to found Houston.

DISCOVERY GREEN, a 12-acre park adjoining the George R. Brown Convention Center, opened in ’08. The park underwent a $12 million Convention Center, opened in ’08.

ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK, a 12-acre park located southeast of Houston in Galveston County.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE (1,700 acres) is the site of Houston’s 150th anniversary in ’19.

SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK (496 acres) is a mosaic of coastal habitats and located southeast of Houston in Galveston County.

GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK (2,013 acres) is a bird migration route, and over 500 species of birds migrate through or make Houston their home. Migration occurs spring through fall, depending on the species.

Wildlife refuges in the greater Houston area include the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Chambers County; the Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges in Brazoria County, and the 30,000-acre Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge in Liberty County.

Houston Audubon, the largest chapter of Audubon Texas, is headquartered at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston. Among its several sanctuary locations are Bolivar Flats and High Island. Houston Audubon celebrated its 50th anniversary in 19.

HOUtON ZOO

The Houston Zoo, founded in 1922, receives more than 2 million visitors per year and is the second most visited zoo in the U.S.

Occupying 55 acres in Hermann Park and accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Zoo is home to more than 6,000 animals and employees more than 330 caretakers, administrators and educators.

In ’18, the Houston Zoo announced its plans for a $150 million renovation, which will add several new exhibits featuring an avian conservation center, South America’s Pantanal and the Galapagos Islands. The renovation will be complete in ’22, the zoo’s 100th anniversary celebration.

STATE PARKS

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK (5,000 acres) has coastal prairies, woodlands and wetlands. The park is located approximately 45 miles southwest of downtown Houston in Fort Bend County.

WILDLIFE REFUGES

Houston is located along the Central Flyway, a bird migration route, and over 500 species of birds migrate through or make Houston their home. Migration occurs spring through fall, depending on the species.

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MAJOR HARRIS COUNTY PARKS

GEORGE BUSH PARK (7,800 acres)

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER (2,500 acres)

BEAR CREEK PIONEERS PARK (2,168 acres)

CONGRESSMAN BILL ARCHER PARK (926 acres)

TERRY HERSEY PARK (496 acres)

CHALLENGER SEVEN MEMORIAL PARK (226 acres)

MERCER ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDENS (400 acres)

ROY CAMPBELL BURROUGHS PARK (320 acres)

JESSE H. JONES PARK & NATURE CENTER (312 acres)

GEO GREEN BELTWAY 8 PARK (250 acres)

ARTHUR STOREY PARK (175 acres)

CYPRESS PARK (165 acres)

TOM BASS REGIONAL PARK (115 acres)

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Major Harris County Parks

George Bush Park (7,800 acres)

Armad Bayou Nature Center (2,500 acres)

Bear Creek Pioneers Park (2,168 acres)

Congressman Bill Archer Park (926 acres)

Terry Hershey Park (496 acres)

Challenger Seven Memorial Park (226 acres)

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Emancipation of slaves in Texas is announced from Galveston, leading to a summer holiday.

Houston’s first bank, First National Bank of Houston, opens.

Houston Stonewall defect Houston Robert E. Lee 35-2 in its first recorded baseball game in Houston.

First trolley cars (mule-drawn) appear.

Houston police begin using motorcycles to enforce speed limits.

Houston County Club opens with Houston’s first professional-designed 18-hole golf course.

Congress accepts, from a group of Houston businessmen headed by the Houston Chamber of Commerce, a plan to split ship channel development costs between the Houston and the federal government.

The University of Houston (now Rice University) is founded.

Houston Symphony is established.

George Heimann donates 285 acres in the area in a public park near Rice Institute.

The 25-foot-deep Houston Ship Channel is completed and formally dedicated.

First deepwater vessel, the S.S. Salka, calls at Houston.

Historic Houston is founded.

Houston Volunteer Fire Department replaces Houston Fire Department.

The Houston Police Department is formed.

The Chamber of Commerce is established.

Businessmen form the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Gail Borden, a now-famous grocer, visits Houston.

General Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas, signs an act authorizing the incorporation of Houston. Its capital is the Republic of Texas from 1837-1838.

The Laura is the first steamship to visit Houston.

A bucket brigade, Protection Fire Company No. 1, is formed to fight fires.

First census after Texas joins the Union. During the Houston and Harris County vote to secede from the Union. During the Houston Volunteer Fire Department.

Houston’s first railroad — the Buffalo Bayou Railroad — is conceived.

First telephone exchange is created.

Houston Electric Light Co. is organized. Houston and New York are the first cities to build electric power plants.

Houston gets its first arc light.

Sisters of Charity open Houston’s first general hospital.

Houston is first Texas city with electric streetcar.

Houston Business League is founded (became Houston Chamber of Commerce in 1910).

Houston Fire Department replaces Volunteer Fire Department.

Auto insurance first appears in Houston as an advertising gimmick.

Houston’s first asphalt street-paving test is laid on Franklin St.

Galveston County Club opens with Texas’ first recorded professionally designed golf course.

First Houston city park opens.

This site, now Sam Houston Park, contains several of Houston’s earliest buildings.

Oil refineries proliferate along the Ship Channel, taking advantage of inexpensive waterborne shipping.

Houston’s first air-conditioned building.

First deepwater vessel, the S.S. Salka, calls at Houston.

Houston’s first telephone exchange is created.

Oil pipelines parallel the Ship Channel, taking advantage of inexpensive waterborne shipping.

First Houston business man (taxidermist) dedicates taxidermy to its library system.

Second National Bank becomes Houston’s first air-conditioned building.

Houston Natural gas pipeline is drafted into Houston.

Houston Colored Junior College, the forerunner of Texas Southern University, is established.

Houston Junior College (now the University of Houston’s campus) is established.

National Democratic Convention is held in Houston.

Municipal airport opened; air mail begins.

City Planning Commission recommends that Houston adopt a zoning ordinance but finds scant support.

First railroad in Texas.

New master plan for Houston and surrounding areas is drawn.

Houston hosts its inaugural World's Fair, World's Fair.

Houston’s first bank, First National Bank, is organized.

Oil discoveries in the area are made.

Houston’s first major hospital, Houston General Hospital, opens.

Houston Metropolitan area population reaches 1,000,000.

NASA’s Manned Spacecraft Center moves to Houston.

Houston votes reject proposed zoning ordinance.

First event held in the Astrodome.

Houston Continental Air Terminal begins operations.

“Houston” is the first word spoken from the lunar surface.

The Gallery opens.

Shel-Oil Co. relocates corporate headquarters to Houston. More than 20 major movie firms move headquarters, subsidiaries and divisions here in the 1920s.

Arab oil embargoes quadruple the prices in 90 days, fueling Houston’s 1973-1981 economic boom.

Voters approve and fund Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Employment peaks at 1,183,402 in March before onset of recession.

100 office buildings completed in 1923.

Voters approve creation of Harris County Tax Rollover District.

Dough of recession in January; net recession loss of 221,900 jobs.

World Trade Center, home to Houston Economy. A $60 billion chemical in plant construction began along the Gulf Coast. Construction boom helps to offset job losses in energy over the next two years.

Oil prices peak at $150 per barrel in June before plunging 75% over the next 18 months devastating the local energy industry. Nearly 80,000 energy-related jobs are lost.

Holiday Airport launches international service with the opening of the airport’s first international terminal.

Elgin Airport receives a commercial airport status under the Federal Aviation Act.

The emerald dynamo bottoms out and a slow recovery begins.

Houston hosts NFL Super Bowl XL.

Hurricane Harvey inundates Houston with five days of rain. Total rainfall exceeds 50 inches in many parts of the region.

The American League Houston Senators, the American League Los Angeles Dodgers, win Major League Baseball’s World Series.

Houston City Council announces plans to develop new hub for innovation and technology.

The world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

The World Health Organization declares the emergence of a new pneumonia-like virus in Wuhan, China on December 31.

The COVID-19 pandemic arrives in Houston by nearly 85,000 residents, and causing nearly 1,200 deaths in the first four months of the outbreak. Over 250,000 jobs are lost and April 2020 agricultural economic recovery begins in May.

On June 2, more than 50,000 protesters gather in Discovery Green and march to City Hall to protest systemic racism and police brutality. The demonstration brought on the formation of the George Floyd Justice Board.

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Building an Advisory Board for Your Business

When it comes to advisory boards, companies should think of them as a beacon, not a burden. Long a requirement of corporate governance, advisory boards can be a critical component for guiding privately-held companies toward future growth, navigating challenges, side-stepping risk, and, when relevant, mapping out an exit strategy.

In its 2020 Private Company Board Compensation Survey, Lodestone Global notes that 94 percent of private companies with boards reported increased revenues and 92 percent increased EBITDA. More than half categorized their boards as “indispensable” or “very effective” at driving corporate strategy.

Still, it isn’t enough just to have a board in place. Much like hiring for top management, getting the right people in the right board seats is a key part of the equation.

Here are some best practices to consider when creating a board that can help your business reach new levels of success.

**Identify Your Company Vision**

One of the first considerations in creating an effective advisory board is identifying your company’s strategic vision and being able to articulate that to potential board members. The mission of the company is its basic constitution and should be the starting point for creating an effective board.

After all, the role of an effective board is to fine-tune or reinforce the company’s vision. At the same time, a board should not be a cohort of “yes” men and women there to validate current leadership. The board’s role is to identify vulnerabilities as well as opportunities for future growth.

**Recruiting Ideal Board Members**

The old saying, “dress for the job you want, not the one you have” is relevant to board building, too. The ideal board brings to the table connections and competencies that reflect where a company and its industry should be going. Step back and consider where your gaps and opportunities are in terms of geography and industry, and then find key people who can help.

If a company is diving into new markets or parallel sectors, it makes sense to consider a board member well-connected in those areas. For example, if a company’s vision is to be the best lifestyle marketing firm in Chicago, that may narrow the field to local and strategic talent. On the other hand, if the company’s vision is to gain nationwide appeal, the board composition might look a little different.

Likewise, if a major shift in technology is on the horizon, a member who has experience in change management and technology may be key to help navigate choppy waters. Similarly, if your business foresees a large expansion phase over the next five years, a board member who can open doors to growth capital may be your first recruit.

**Mistakes to Avoid**

A common mistake in creating boards is building it in the image of current leadership. The difference between an insight-rich, effective and active dream board and one whose main purpose is to validate a company’s management is the difference between winning and losing.

Boards should be socially (e.g. gender, race and age) and professionally diverse—but that’s just a starting point. Research published in the Harvard Business Review concluded that “diversity doesn’t guarantee a better performing board and firm; rather, the culture of the board is what can affect how well diverse boards perform their duties and oversee their firms.”

And as far as size, bigger is not better when it comes to your board, particularly for smaller, privately held companies. Boards that are too big may be difficult to manage and expensive. You wouldn’t hire two people to do the same job. So why would you bring on board members with the same work experience?

The ideal size varies by company, but in the Lodestone Global survey the median number of board members was six with three independent directors. The median total compensation among respondents—whose median revenue was $100 million—was $43,500.

**Establish Roles and Objectives**

Whether your board members are volunteering or being paid to advance your company’s interests, it’s important to make their time count. In addition to a general document of the board’s purpose and obligations, create an organizational chart that emphasizes each member’s expertise and specific role in moving the company forward. This is important because board members, particularly private citizens, are often giving their time in exchange for the impact they expect to have on the organization and larger community. In that way, feedback and a sense of purpose is as valuable as financial compensation.

To be sure, it’s important to set expectations with your board. It typically makes sense to meet quarterly or semi-annually; a lot can happen to a business in a year, and monthly may be overkill unless a company is going through a major crisis or transition. It also helps to establish a logical cadence for your meetings, including the typical length, issues covered and primary themes of each meeting.

Whether or not you’re compensating your board, make a point of letting them know how and where they’re making an impact. While it’s important to not overstep, company leaders should recognize that most board members want to contribute in a meaningful way.

Indeed, building a dream board is only the first step. Cultivating an effective board takes time and energy—but it’s an endeavor that can pay significant dividends over time. A great board can not only help a company realize its near-term vision, it can manage difficult transitions, execute new strategies and create a foundation for sustainable growth for decades to come.

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Led by a local, dedicated Relationship Manager, our Commercial Banking experts are able to create customized banking solutions to power your business forward.

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