Houston has been a center for world-changing innovation for decades. With science and engineering breakthroughs ingrained in the fabric of our economy, Houston has become one of the most prominent emerging tech hubs in the country.

Over the past few years, entrepreneurs, investors, academic institutions, local government, and the corporate sector have come together to unite, grow, and promote Houston’s startup ecosystem. Today, Houston offers access to key talent, funding, and customers, along with the robust support system needed for young startups to thrive.
Houston is unabashedly pro-growth and opportunity-rich.

- 24 Fortune 500 HQs, 3rd highest concentration in the U.S.
- #3 U.S. metro for business expansion and relocation (Site Selection, ’21)
- Top 25 Global Cities of the Future (fDi Intelligence, Financial Times, ’21/’22)

Houston is one of the youngest, fastest growing, and most diverse regions.

- 4th Largest U.S. city
- 7.3M Residents
- 3.3M Jobs
- $537.1B GDP

Houston is a great global city.

- 90+ Foreign consulates, 3rd highest concentration in the U.S.
- #1 Metro exporter in the U.S.
- 2 International airports with 180+ non-stop destinations

World-class infrastructure
Houston’s Tech Economy

230,800+
Net tech workforce

9,100
Tech-related firms

1,000+
VC-backed tech startups and companies

#5 In Top 100 Emerging Ecosystems for Startups (Startup Genome)
Houston companies have received $4.35 billion in venture capital funding over the last five years.

$2.02B in VC in ’21, a record high for the region

Nearly 3X increase in average deal size since ’18

4X increase in VC funding since ’18

Houston’s Top Funded Sectors

Health Care and Life Sciences | Information Technology

Business Products and Services (B2B) | Energy

Notable Investors in the Region

Houston Angel Network
Next Coast Ventures
Mercury Fund
Tiger Global Capital Management
GOOSE Capital
Baird Capital
Texas Halo Fund

S3 Ventures
Green Park & Golf Ventures
Sequoia Capital
Calibre Ventures
Quiet Capital
Keiretsu Forum
Flyover Capital
In Houston, certain niche markets show special promise and are overrepresented in the region’s ecosystem compared to the national average.

- CleanTech/Climate Tech
- Oncology
- Industrials
- Oil and Gas Technologies
- Life Sciences/HealthTech
- Advanced and Conventional Manufacturing
- Nanotechnology
- Space Technology
- SportsTech
- Business Software
Tech Talent

Houston is home to 9,100 tech-related firms, including more than 1,000 venture-backed startups and companies.

230,800+ Tech workers
146,800+ Tech industry jobs
155,300+ Tech occupation jobs

#2 U.S. market for relocating tech workers (Axios, May ‘21)

Large Tech Employers

HP Enterprise
NASA - Johnson Space Center
HP Inc.
Boeing
IBM
Honeywell
Siemens
Dell
Microsoft
Lockheed Martin
BMC Software
Oracle
AWS
Google
PROS
Quorum Software
HCSS Software
HighRadius
Ion Geophysical
Alert Logic
Houston has a vast network of academic and commercial R&D activities.

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<th>40+ Corporate R&amp;D centers</th>
<th>24 Major energy R&amp;D centers</th>
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Select Innovation Centers in Houston

- Accenture Innovation Center
- Baker Hughes Center for Technology Innovation
- BP Center for High-Performance Computing
- CodeLaunch by Improving
- Deloitte Greenhouse®, Powered by Energy & Industrials
- Halliburton Labs
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise Innovation Lab
- Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
- LyondellBasell Houston Technology Center
- Microsoft Technology Center
- NASA Johnson Space Center
- Rice University Welch Institute for Advanced Materials
- Rice University Carbon Hub
- Shell Technology Center Houston
- Softeq Venture Studio
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- University of Houston Texas Center for Superconductivity
Strong Talent Pipeline

Houston is home to a strong university system and a large supply of young talent.

40+ Universities and colleges

5 Nationally ranked universities and graduate schools

Among the largest community college systems in the U.S.

444,600+ Students enrolled (Fall ’21)

3 Tier-One Universities
(Rice University, University of Houston, Texas A&M University)

Nation’s Top Entrepreneurship Programs

Rice University | Jones Graduate School of Business
University of Houston | Bauer College of Business
Tech Ecosystem Support

80+
Accelerators, incubators, and hubs

35+
New AIHs since ‘17

Select Accelerators, Incubators, and Hubs

- DivInc Houston Accelerator
- East End Maker Hub
- Gener8tor
- Golden Section Venture Studio
- Greentown Labs
- Halliburton Labs
- Impact Hub
- Ion Aerospace Innovation Accelerator
- Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator
- JLABS by Johnson & Johnson
- Johnson & Johnson Center for Device Innovation
- LSA Global (Latino Startup Alliance)
- MassChallenge
- OwlSpark
- Plug & Play Technology Center
- Rice Alliance Clean Energy Accelerator
- Sesh Coworking
- TMC Innovation Institute
- University of Houston RED Labs
As the Most Diverse City in America, Houston’s global ties are reflected in the people who call Houston home.

1 in 4 Houstonians is foreign born

#2 Best State for Black Entrepreneurs (FitSmallBusiness)

#4 Best City for Diversity in Tech (BeyondHQ)

#5 in Nation for Minority-Owned Startups (Self)

#3 Best City for Women in Tech (Smart Asset)
Houston is known for its large geographic footprint with a diversity of talent and business hubs across the broader region.

Texas Medical Center
Downtown Houston
Houston Innovation District
East End
Energy Corridor
NASA/Clear Lake
Houston Spaceport
The 16-acre **Ion District** lies at the heart of this corridor and prioritizes street life, public space, and a mix of uses that embrace technology, community, and sustainability.
The Ion is the epicenter of Houston’s innovation ecosystem — an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant, and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community.

- **280,000 SF** of class-A office space, shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage, and outdoor space
- **6 Levels**
- **50,000 SF** of public and shared space

**Founding Partners**
- Aramco, Chevron Technology Ventures, Baker Botts, ExxonMobil, and Microsoft

**Affiliate Partners**
- bp and Intel
Great Quality of Life

The Houston region offers a low cost of living while maintaining an incredibly high quality of life with the amenities you expect to find in a world-class city.

#2 Lowest cost of living among the 20 most populous U.S. metros

Housing costs 34.1% below the nation’s 20 most populous metros

Houston is one of the greenest cities in the U.S.

Nationally recognized green space renaissance

Nearly 44,480 acres of parkland

382 Developed city parks

345 Miles of interconnected bikeways

Home to two of the nation’s 10 largest urban public parks

60% of Houston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park (6% above national average)

Houston is home to an acclaimed and extensive cultural scene.

Renowned museums and cultural centers

Resident performing arts organizations

Major league sporting teams