



EXPLORE & INVEST IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
2025

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Harris County *At A Glance*

Harris County is the best place to invest, open, and operate your business. It is home to 34 cities within its boundaries, including the City of Houston, the county seat.

25 Fortune 500 Headquarters	5.0 million Residents	\$0 State and Local Income Tax	World Class Transportation System					\$145.5 billion (or 83%) of All Exported Goods from the Houston Metro Area
			2 Major Airports George Bush Intercontinental 186 non-stop destinations William P. Hobby 62 non-stop destinations	1 Spaceport	1 Major Sea Port #1 in the U.S. waterborne tonnage	3 Major Railroad Companies with direct or indirect service ¹	4 Interstate highways 4 State highways 4 Tollways 1 US highway	

Source: 2025 Fortune 500; U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Population Estimates; Tax Foundation (as of August 2025); Houston Airport System, 2024; Port Houston, 2025 Statistics; [Texas Department of Transportation, 2025 Texas Railroads Map](#); [International Trade Administration Metropolitan Export Series](#), [Houston MSA 2023 Trade Factsheet](#).

¹Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad Company, in partnership with Union Pacific and other railroad companies, indirectly serves Harris County. See [CPKC Network Map](#) for details.

Fortune 500 Headquarters

Harris County is home to **25** Fortune 500 headquarters, or **96%** of Metro Houston's Fortune 500 headquarters.

Company	Rank	Revenues (Billions)	Company	Rank	Revenues (Billions)
<u>ExxonMobil</u>	8	\$349.5	<u>Waste Management</u>	197	\$22.0
<u>Phillips 66</u>	28	\$145.4	<u>Group 1 Automotive</u>	214	\$19.9
<u>Sysco</u>	56	\$78.8	<u>Corebridge Financial</u>	224	\$18.7
<u>ConocoPhillips</u>	75	\$56.9	<u>Targa Resources</u>	256	\$16.3
<u>Enterprise Product Partners</u>	78	\$56.2	<u>Cheniere Energy</u>	275	\$15.7
<u>Plains GP Holdings</u>	92	\$50.0	<u>Kinder Morgan</u>	289	\$15.1
<u>Hewlett Packard Enterprise</u>	143	\$30.1	<u>Westlake</u>	345	\$12.1
<u>NRG Energy</u>	153	\$28.1	<u>APA</u>	422	\$9.7
<u>Baker Hughes</u>	155	\$27.8	<u>NOV</u>	443	\$8.8
<u>Occidental Petroleum</u>	159	\$26.8	<u>CenterPoint Energy</u>	450	\$8.6
<u>EOG Resources</u>	183	\$23.6	<u>Par Pacific Holdings</u>	474	\$7.9
<u>Quanta Services</u>	184	\$23.6	<u>KBR</u>	480	\$7.7
<u>Halliburton</u>	194	\$22.9			

Note: Ranking from 1 to 500, with 1 being highest revenue.

Source: 2025 Fortune 500

Largest Harris County Employers

(In order from largest to smallest)

Over 20,000 Employees
Memorial Hermann (Countywide)
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center - Texas Medical Center
Amazon (Countywide)
City of Houston
Houston Methodist (Countywide)

10,000 to 19,999 Employees
Harris County
ExxonMobil (Countywide, incl. HQ, gas stations, refinery)
UTHealth Houston
Chevron Corp. (Countywide)
United Airlines
Walmart (Countywide)
Daikin
CHI St. Luke's Health (Countywide)

5,000 to 9,999 Employees
Harris Health System*
Texas Children's (Countywide)
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston Methodist Hospital - Texas Medical Center
Shell USA Inc.
H-E-B (Countywide)
ExxonMobil (HQ only)
Kroger (Countywide)
Halliburton Co.
ExxonMobil Baytown Refinery
SLB (formerly Schlumberger)
University of Houston
Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
Baker Hughes
Staff Force Inc.
CenterPoint Energy
BP North America
Ben Taub Hospital
NOV

**Does not include 2,340 faculty physicians and 2,600 residents and fellows, who are employed by Baylor College of Medicine or UTHealth Houston.*

Sources: Company Annual Reports and Websites, Data Axle Reference Solutions, Direct Request, Houston Business Journal Book of Lists, LinkedIn, News Sources

Harris County Rankings

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AREA

With a total space of **1,777 square miles**, Harris County is large enough to fit in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, Austin, and Dallas – with room to spare.

POPULATION

With an estimated 5,009,302 residents in 2024, Harris County is the most populous county in Texas and the third most populous county in the United States.

If Harris County was a state, it would be the **25th most populous state**, behind Alabama (5,157,699) and ahead of Louisiana (4,597,740) and Kentucky (4,588,372). If Harris County was a country, it would be the more populous than 68 countries worldwide, including Panama (4.5 million), Qatar (3.1 million), and Jamaica (2.8 million).

With an **12.4% growth** in population from 4,455,994 in 2014 to 5,009,302 in 2024.

FOREIGN-BORN

27.3% of Harris County residents are **foreign-born**. In comparison, 23.9% of the Houston region population and 13.9% of the U.S. population is foreign born.

EMPLOYMENT

More than **2.6 million** residents are **employed** in Harris County. If Harris County were a state, it would rank 22nd in total employment among the U.S. states, with more jobs than South Carolina (2,284,611) and Alabama (2,105,674).

EXPORTS

With **\$145.5 billion** in exported goods in 2023, Metro Houston was the largest exporter in the U.S.

GDP

GDP - **#1** in Texas and **#3** in the nation

Sources: AREA – U.S. Census Bureau, Harris County; POPULATION – International Monetary Fund, 1980-2030 World Outlook, U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Population Estimates; FOREIGN-BORN – U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population; EMPLOYMENT – JobsEQ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via Texas Workforce Commission Q4 2021 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; EXPORTS - International Trade Administration, 2023 Metropolitan & County Export Series; GDP – U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023 GDP by County

Friendly Business Climate

Harris County is **your partner** to open, expand, or relocate your business by offering:

- ✓ Nimble land use regulations and business friendly labor rules coupled with competitive business and permitting compliance costs.
- ✓ A relatively low overall tax burden, with [no state and local income tax](#).
- ✓ A [3%](#) lower overall affordability rate than the national average that attracts people and corporations from around the world.
- ✓ A streamlined construction approval process where companies identify sites, gain construction approval, and build their facilities relatively quickly, minimizing or avoiding the costly and time-consuming political process found in other regions (New York and Los Angeles).
- ✓ A competitive edge on the global stage.

Note: KPMG no longer provides the [Competitive Alternatives](#) report since 2016. As part of the Competitive Alternatives project, on behalf of KPMG, MMK Consulting developed and maintained this sophisticated web-based application which allowed users to perform customized analysis of the costs of operating different types of businesses in more than 130 cities around the world.

Source: Index calculations based on research from the Economic Policy Institute, Family Budget Map (as of January 2024); [2023 Sperling's Best Places Cost of Living](#); [Tax Foundation, 2024 Taxes in Texas](#); Dallas and Houston: Centers for Economic Development by Scott Beyer, Forbes, 07/26/16; ([KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2016 edition - most recent](#))

Cost of Living: County Comparisons

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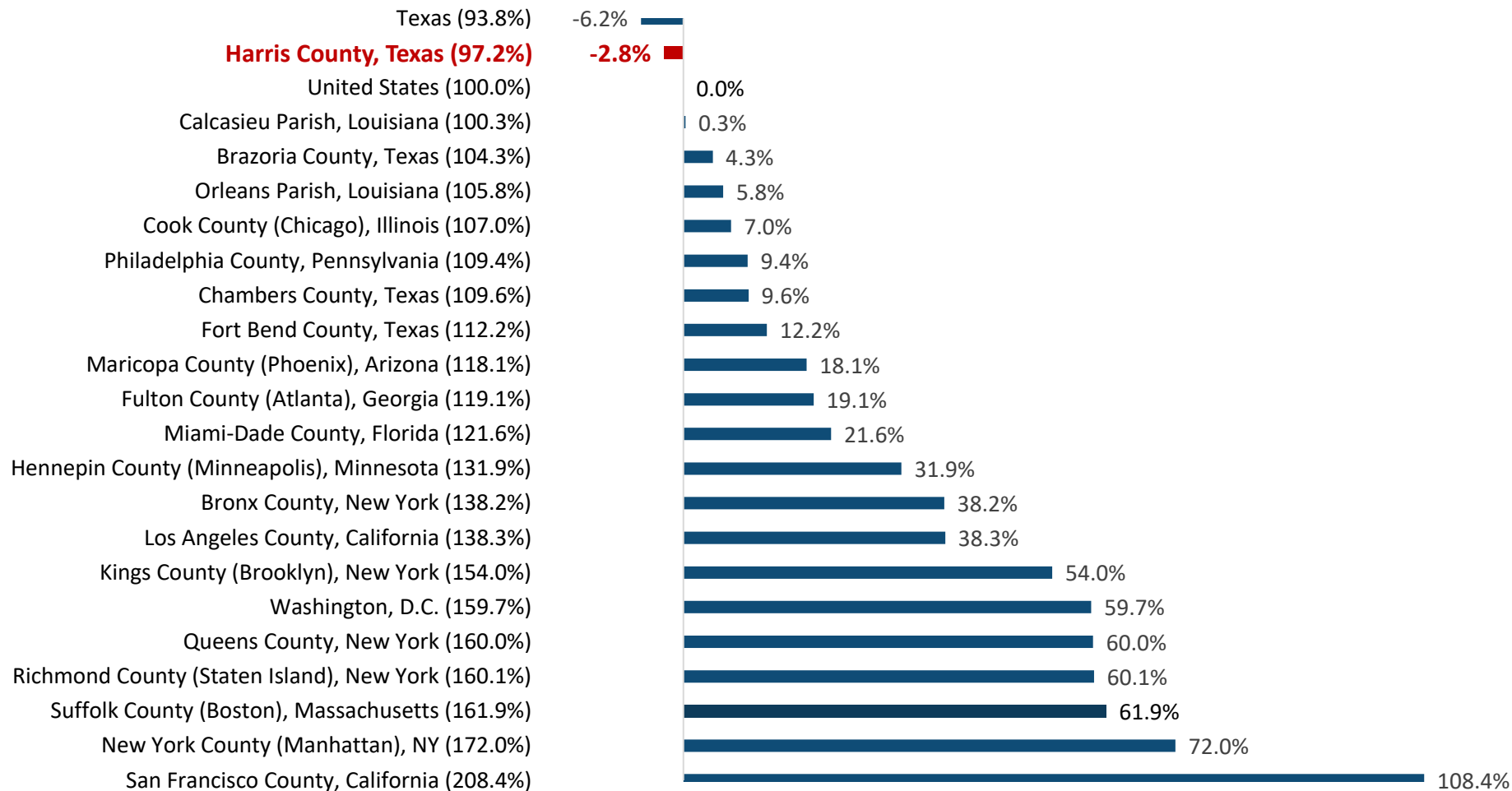
Overall Cost Index in Selected Counties							
Area	Overall	Utilities	Housing	Food	Transportation	Health	Other Necessities
Texas	93.8	77.4	100.6	90.5	101.4	96.3	95.8
Harris County, Texas	97.2	77.4	123.5	93.6	86.8	79.3	109.2
United States	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana	100.3	66.8	101.3	98.9	87.6	112.6	100.1
Brazoria County, Texas	104.3	77.4	125.2	91.1	105.7	90.5	108.9
Orleans Parish, Louisiana	105.8	66.8	128.1	115.6	75.8	108.9	122.1
Cook County (Chicago), Illinois	107	94.9	157.2	113.6	77.1	79.2	136.4
Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania	109.4	96.4	151.1	114.8	70.2	71.2	133.8
Chambers County, Texas	109.6	77.4	141.7	87.5	107.6	98.2	115.8
Fort Bend County, Texas	112.2	77.4	162	97.8	99.1	90.5	131.4
Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona	118.1	98.8	176.4	100	88.4	81.3	140
Fulton County (Atlanta), Georgia	119.1	88.5	179.6	127.3	83.6	92.4	154.6
Miami-Dade County, Florida	121.6	96.8	217.1	118.4	79.5	94.7	170
Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota	131.9	95.2	155.3	126.2	85.2	74.5	141.4
Bronx County, New York	138.2	151.3	203.1	112.3	42.2	129.9	159.8
Los Angeles County, California	138.3	207.9	237.7	108.1	90.2	77.7	175.9
Kings County (Brooklyn), New York	154	151.3	252.3	124.8	44.8	129.9	191.5
Washington, D.C.	159.7	129.6	182	132	67.5	114.9	158.2
Queens County, New York	160	151.3	270.9	113.1	58.3	129.9	195.6
Richmond County (Staten Island), New York	160.1	151.3	238.9	113.1	87.1	129.9	178.9
Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts	161.9	184.6	271.6	125.1	80.9	79.7	201.7
New York County (Manhattan), NY	172	151.3	301.6	166	32.8	129.9	236.9
San Francisco County, California	208.4	207.9	292	143.2	72.6	119.6	221

Source: Index calculations based on research from the [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#) (as of January 2025)

Overall Cost Index

Compared to U.S. Average

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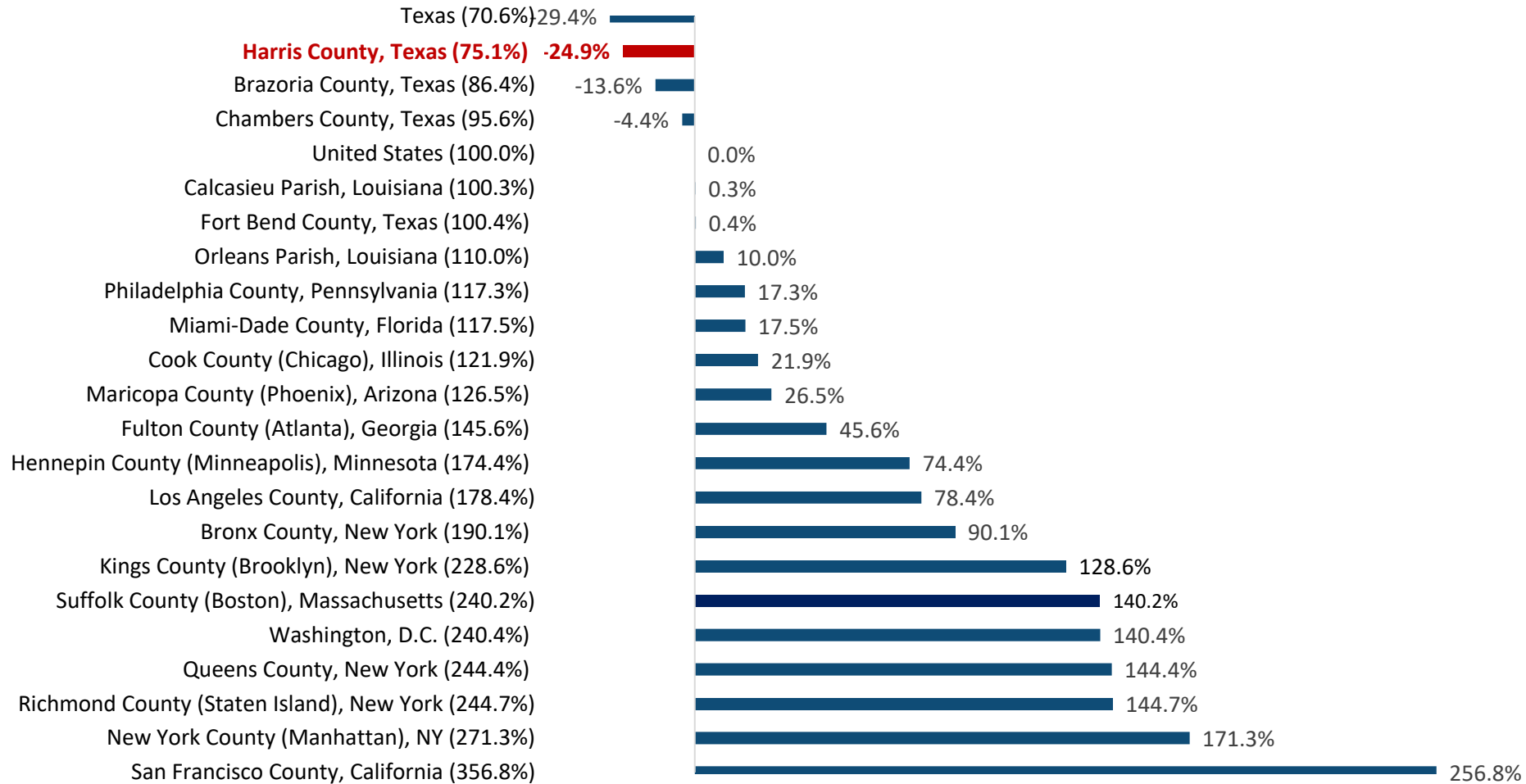


Source: Index calculations based on research from the [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#) (as of January 2025)

Taxes Cost Index

Compared to U.S. Average

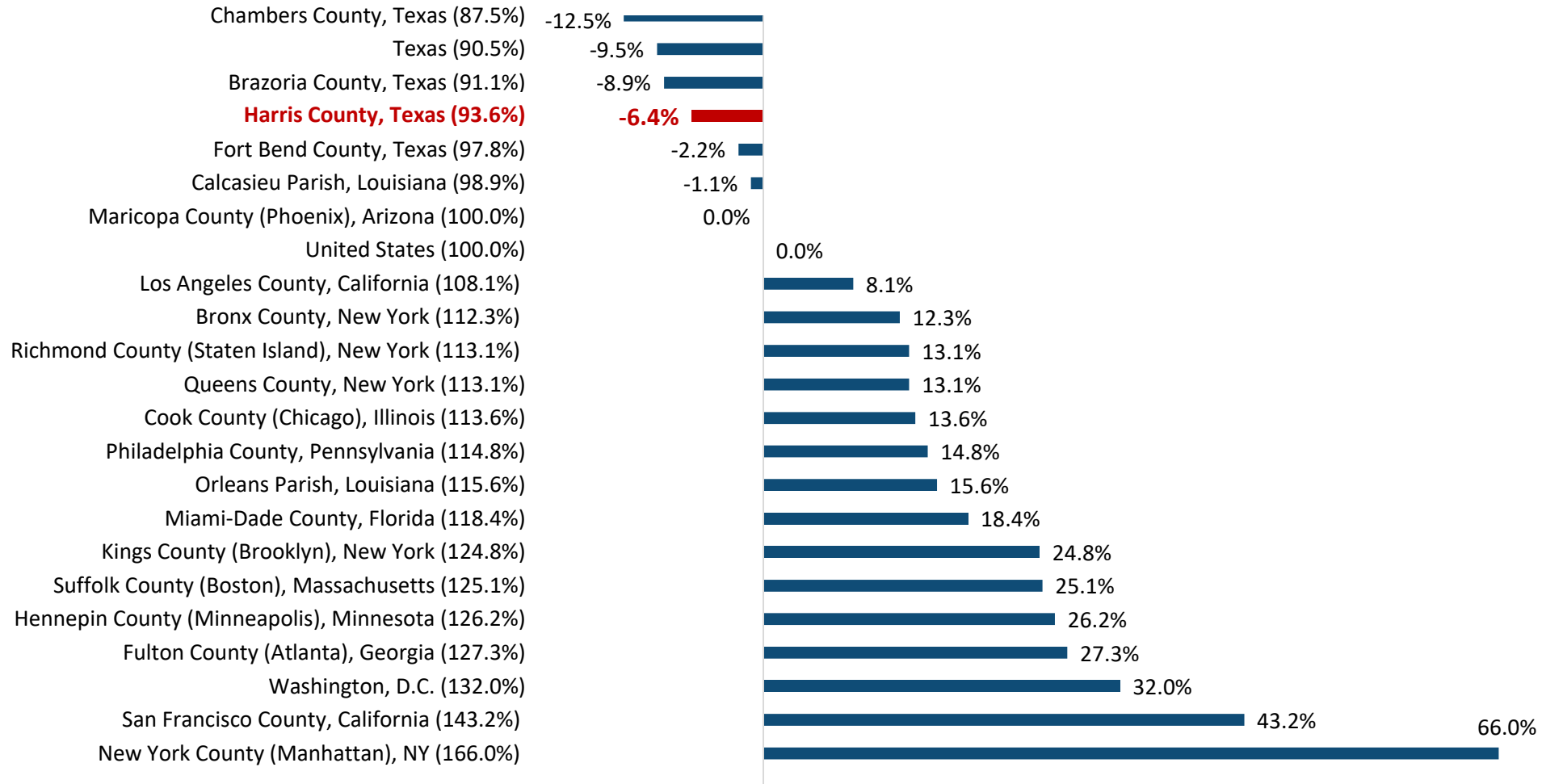
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Source: Index calculations based on research from the [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#) (as of January 2025)

Groceries Cost Index

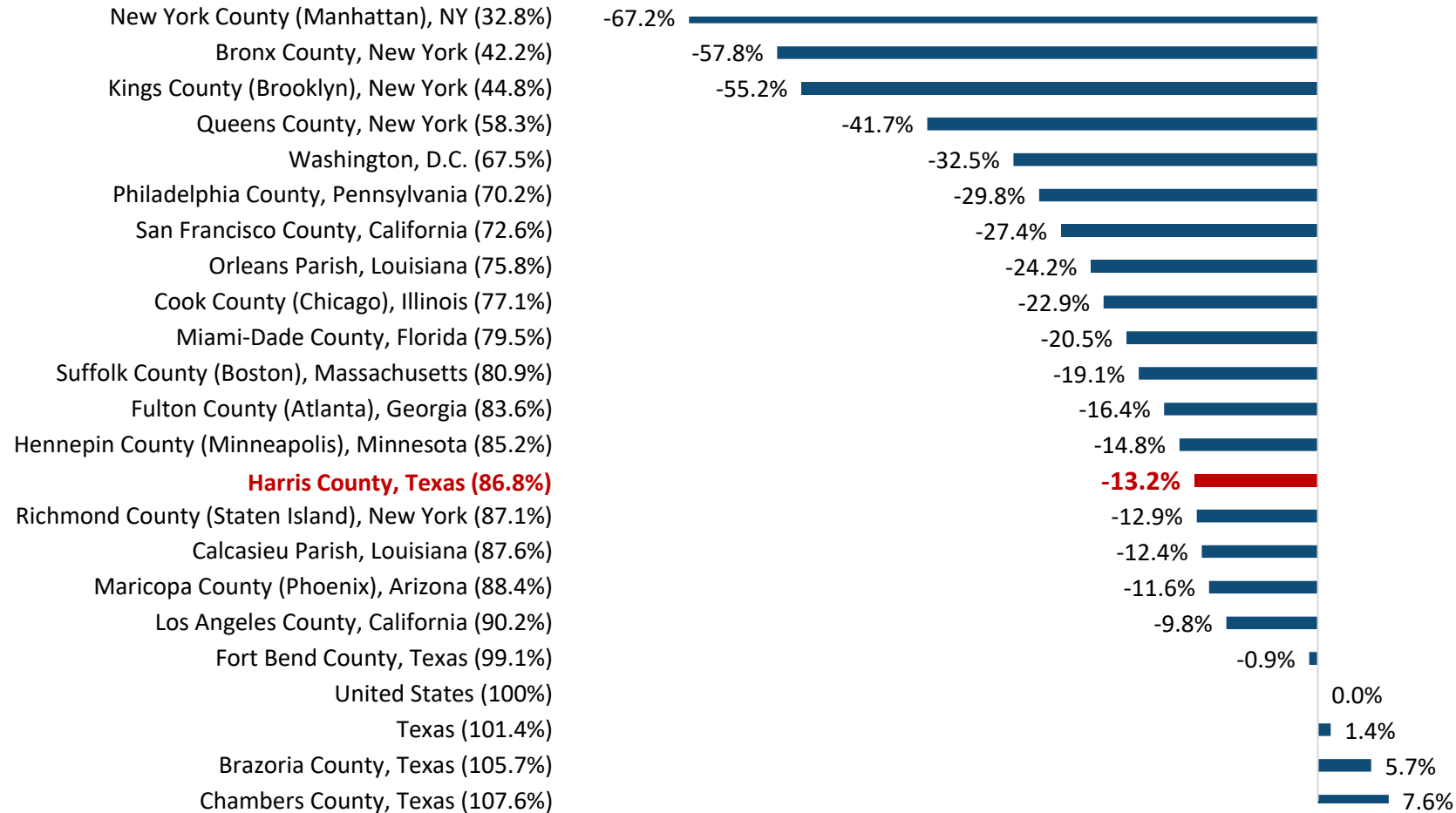
Compared to U.S. Average



Source: Index calculations based on research from the [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#) (as of January 2025)

Transportation Cost Index

Compared to U.S. Average



Source: Index calculations based on research from the [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#) (as of January 2025)

Cost of Doing Business & Tax Climate

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State and Local Personal Income Tax	0% for the State of Texas and all its taxing jurisdictions		
State and Local Corporate Income Tax	0% for the State of Texas and all its taxing jurisdictions		
Franchise Tax (Varies by Report Year)	0.75% tax rate (other than retail or wholesale) 0.375% tax rate (retail or wholesale) 0.331 E-Z Computation rate, \$20 million total revenue threshold		
Sales & Use Tax Maximum sales tax composite is 8.25%	0% for Harris County 6.25% for the State of Texas Up to 2% for other entities, as applicable		
Property Tax (2025 rates) Tax rates are per \$100 Certified Taxable Appraised Value The same tax rates apply to all items The following items are taxed in the State of Texas <u>Real Property</u> (includes land and building) <u>Tangible Personal Property</u> means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or otherwise perceived by the senses. See Property Tax Code for definitions.	State of Texas Harris County Flood Control District Port of Houston Hospital District Total* Property Tax	\$0 \$0.38096 \$0.04966 \$0.00590 \$0.18761 \$0.62413	
*Depending on the property’s location, tax rates from other entities apply. Check the Harris County Appraisal District to find out the entities levying taxes for your property.			
Unemployment Insurance	2.7% general entry rate, charged on first \$9,000 in earnings, reassessed after 6 quarters and charged at own experience rate.		
Workers’ Compensation Insurance	Not required for most private employers by the State of Texas. Options include self insurance, state-operated Texas Workers’ Compensation Insurance Fund or licensed private insurance company.		
Licenses & Permits	Varies by industry and regulatory agency. Please visit the State of Texas Portal and/or the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations .		
Application for Registration to do Business	\$750, required to do business in Texas for non-U.S. corporations, LLC, LPs and out-of-state entities. Please visit the Texas Secretary of State for details. Foreign businesses must also file Benefit Ownership Information within 30 days of Texas Secretary of State Approval. Please visit U.S. Department of Treasury for details.		
Doing Business As (DBA)	\$24 (or \$22 if veteran with notarized application) + \$0.50 for each additional name filed in Harris County (a DBA filing is required if not incorporated or if doing business under a name other than that in which the business was incorporated). Please visit Harris County Clerk’s Office for details.		

Harris County has

✓ No State or Local Individual Income Tax

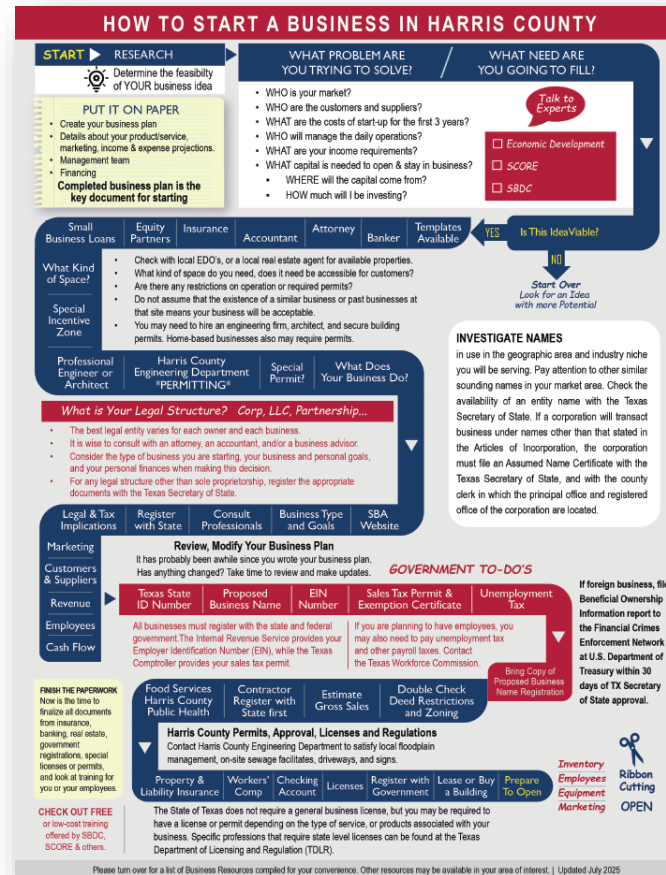
✓ No State or Local Corporate Income tax

With a deregulated energy market in the State of Texas, Harris County electricity users enjoy a selection of retail providers competing for their business.

Sources: Harris County; Harris Central Appraisal District; Harris County Clerk's Office; Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector; Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; Texas Department of Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance Guide; Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations; Texas Secretary of State; Texas Workforce Commission, Unemployment Insurance Tax Rates, U.S. Department of Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

One Stop Shop – Starting a Business

[View the roadmap in detail here.](#)



One Stop Shop/Business Resources - Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting a Business

- STEP 1:** Research your idea. Talk to your local chamber of commerce, Houston Office of Business Opportunity (832-383-6600), US Small Business Administration (Houston Office) (713-773-6500), or your local EDC or EDO. For Harris County Partners click here or see below.
 - STEP 2:** If you determine that your business plan is viable, then look for a location. Would you qualify for special incentives? Will you need to hire a professional architect or engineer, submit a site plan to the zoning office or obtain special permits? For Harris County permits click here (713-274-3800). For city permits, please visit their websites.
 - STEP 3:** Name your business. Research websites and phonebooks for other businesses that may have a similar name to the one you are considering. Check the availability of your name on the U.S. Patent website (800-786-9199) to see if it has been trademarked. If you plan on incorporating, you'll need to file with the Texas Secretary of State (512-463-5555) to make sure that your name is not claimed already. For Harris County Assumed Business Names searches, click on DBA or call 713-274-8600.
 - STEP 4:** Depending on what type of business entity you form, you may have to register with the Texas Secretary of State. Some of the more common forms are Sole Proprietorship, For Profit Corporation, Professional Corporation, Professional Association, General Partnership, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership and Limited Liability Company. Foreign and out of state entities also have to file an application for registration with the Texas Secretary of State in order to transact business in Texas. If approved by the Secretary of State, and are a foreign business, you have 30 days to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) report with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network at the U.S. Department of Treasury. Determine whether your business is a reporting company at <https://www.filenx.gov/boi>. An Assumed Name or Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate with the County Clerk in the county in which the business is located and/or will conduct business must be filed. See Harris County Clerk's Office (713-274-8600) for details.
 - STEP 5:** Texas Business Organization Code requires every business to maintain a registered agent and office in Texas. File this information with the Texas Secretary of State.
 - STEP 6:** Determine federal, state, and local tax obligations for your business. Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) with the IRS (800-829-4933). Determine sales, use and excise taxes. Apply for a Texas sales tax permit with the Texas Comptroller (800-531-5441 x3-0929). Property taxes are assessed by the Harris County Appraisal District (713-957-7800) and collected by the Harris County Tax Office (713-274-8000). The Texas Workforce Commission (512-463-2222) requires most employees to pay an Unemployment Insurance tax. More information can be found at the TWCO website.
 - STEP 7:** The state of Texas does not require a general business license, but you may be required to have a license or permit depending on the type of service, or products associated with your business. Specific professions that require state level licenses can be found at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) (512-463-6599). Also contact your county and city to determine if there are any additional requirements.
- The list below is intended for your convenience. Other resources may be available in the region.
- Texas Secretary of State (512-463-5555) (registering businesses formed in Texas or outside of Texas)
 Texas Comptroller's Office (888-334-4112) (State Sales Tax ID and other useful information)
 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (512-463-6599 or 800-803-8202) (licensing requirements)
 Texas Workforce Commission (512-463-2222 or 512-377-6559) (workforce information & Employer's ID)
 Texas Workers' Compensation & Texas Department of Insurance (800-578-4677 or 512-476-6000)
 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (512-238-1000 or 800-447-2827) (environmental & permitting)
 Texas.gov (information about Texas and links to all State of Texas Departments)
 Office of the Texas Governor (800-843-5789) - For more information on business resources in Texas, please visit gov.texas.gov/business
- US Export Assistance (800-USA-TRAD (872-8723) (trade counseling and information)
 US Small Business Administration, Houston District (713-773-6500)
 US Patent and Trademark Office (800-786-9199)
 Internal Revenue Service (Businesses 800-829-4833) (Federal Tax ID and other tax matters)
 US Census Bureau (800-923-8282)
 US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (202-691-5200 or 877-850-4800)
 US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Houston Area (836-760-3800)
 Greater Houston Partnership (713-844-3600)
 Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (832-536-3255)
 Baytown/West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation (281-420-2961)
 Economic Alliance-Houston Port Region (281-476-9176)
 Katy Area Economic Development Council (281-396-2200)
 Harris County (713-755-5000)
 Harris Public Infrastructure Department (713-274-3800) (permits)
 Harris County Tax Office (713-274-8000)
 Harris County Clerk's Office (713-274-8600)
 Harris Central Appraisal District (713-957-7800)
 Harris County Industrial Development Corporation (713-775-8871)
 Port of Houston (713-670-2400)
 METRO - Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (713-635-4000)
 CenterPoint Energy, Houston Metro Area (713-659-2111 or 800-752-8036)
 Houston Office of Business Opportunity (832-393-0600)
 Houston Airports - <http://www.flyhouston.com/>
- If the business is operated in a home, check the deed restrictions and contact the homeowners association.
 If the business is located in a city or its jurisdiction, contact the city for possible permit requirements.
 Contact the Harris County Public Health Department (713-439-6000) for a business involved in food preparation or handling.
 Contact the Harris County Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity, Economic Development Division at 713-274-1400 or EconDev@harriscountytexas.gov or scan here:



One Stop Shop - Starting A Business

[View Roadmap
here](#)

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Step 1:

Research your idea. Talk to your local chamber of commerce, [Houston Office of Business Opportunity](#) (832-393-0600), [US Small Business Administration](#) (Houston Office) (713-773-6500), or your local EDC or EDO. For Harris County Partners [click here](#).

Step 2:

If you determine that your business plan is viable, then look for a location. Would you qualify for special incentives? Will you need to hire a professional architect or engineer, submit a site plan to the zoning office or obtain special permits? For Harris County permits [click here](#) (713-274-3900). For city permits, please visit [their websites](#).

Step 3:

Name your business. Research websites and phonebooks for other businesses that may have a similar name to the one you are considering. Check the availability of your name on the [U.S. Patent website](#) (800-786-9199) to see if it has been trademarked. If you plan on incorporating you'll need to file with the [Texas Secretary of State](#) (512-463-5555) to make sure that your name is not claimed already. For Harris County Assumed Business Names searches click on [DBA](#) or call 713-274-8600.

Step 4:

Depending on what type of business entity you form, you may have to register with the Texas Secretary of State. Some of the more common forms are Sole Proprietorship, For Profit Corporation, Professional Corporation, Professional Association, General Partnership, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership and Limited Liability Company. Foreign and out of state entities also have to file an application for registration with the Texas Secretary of State in order to transact business in Texas. If approved by the Secretary of State, and are a foreign business, you have 30 days to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) report with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network at the U.S. Department of Treasury. Determine whether your business is a reporting company at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>. An Assumed Name or Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate with the County Clerk in the county in which the business is located and/or will conduct business must be filed. See Harris County Clerk's Office (713-274-8600) for details.

Step 5:

[Texas Business Organization Code](#) requires every business to maintain a registered agent and office in Texas. File this information with the [Texas Secretary of State](#).

Step 6:

Determine federal, state, and local tax obligations for your business. Apply for an Employer Identification number (EIN) with the [IRS](#) (800-829-4933). Determine sales, use and excise taxes. Apply for a Texas sales tax permit with the [Texas Comptroller](#) (800-531-5441 x3-0925). Property taxes are assessed by the [Harris County Appraisal District](#) (713-957-7800) and collected by the [Harris County Tax Office](#) (713-274-8000). The [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) (512-463-2222) requires most employers to pay an Unemployment Insurance tax. More information can be found at the TWC website.

Step 7:

The state of Texas does not require a general business license, but you may be required to have a license or permit depending on the type of service, or products associated with your business. Specific professions that require state-level licenses can be found at the [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#) (512-463-6599). Also, contact your county and city to determine if there are any additional requirements.

One Stop Shop

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The list below is intended for your convenience. Other resources may be available in the region.

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[Texas Secretary of State](#) (512-463-5555) (registering businesses formed in Texas or outside of Texas)
[Texas Comptroller's Office](#) (888-334-4112) (State Sales Tax ID and other useful information)
[Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation](#) (512-463-2222 or 512-377-0559) (licensing requirements)
[Texas Workforce Commission](#) (800-628-5115) (workforce information & Employer's ID)
Texas Worker's Compensation & [Texas Department of Insurance](#) (800-578-4677 or 512-676-6000)
[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (512-239-1000 or 800-447-2827) (environmental & permitting)
[Texas.gov](#) (information about Texas and links to all State of Texas Departments)
[Office of the Texas Governor](#) (800-843-5789)
For more information on business resources in Texas, please visit <https://businessintexas.com/>
[US Export Assistance](#) (800-USA-TRAD (872-8723)) trade counseling and information)
[US Small Business Administration, Houston District](#) (713-773-6500)
[US Patent and Trademark Office](#) (800-786-9199)
[Internal Revenue Services](#) (Businesses 800-829-4933) (Federal Tax ID and other tax matters)
[US Census Bureau](#) (301-763-INFO (4636) or 800-923-8282)
[US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (202-691-5200 or 972-850-4800 or TDD 800-877-8339)
[US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), Houston Area (936-760-3800)
[Greater Houston Partnership](#) (713-844-3600)
[Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership](#) (832-536-3255)
[Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation](#) (281-420-2961)
[Economic Alliance-Houston Port Region](#) (281-476-9176)
[Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) (713-644-7070)
[Katy Area Economic Development Council](#) (281-396-2200)
[Chambers of Commerce](#) (**40+ chambers of commerce in Harris County**)

[Harris County](#)
[Harris Engineering Department](#) (713-274-3900) (permits)
[Harris County Fire Marshal](#) (713-274-1700) (permits)
[Harris County Tax Office](#) (713-274-8000)
[Harris County Clerk's Office](#) (713-274-8600)
[Harris Central Appraisal District](#) (713-957-7800)
[Harris County Industrial Development Corp](#) (713-775-8971)
[Port of Houston](#) (713-670-2400)
[METRO](#) – Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (713-635-4000)
[CenterPoint Energy, Houston Metro Area](#) (713-659-2111 or 800-752-8036)
[Houston Office of Business Opportunity](#) (832-393-0600)
[Houston Airports](#)

If the business is operated in a home, check the deed restrictions and contact the homeowner's association.

If the Business is located in a [city](#) or its jurisdiction, contact the city for possible permit requirements.

Contact the [Harris County Public Health Department](#) (713-439-6000) for a business involved in food preparation or handling.

Chambers of Commerce

The list below is intended for your convenience. Other resources may be available in the region.

Acres Home Chamber of Commerce	Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
Asian Chamber of Commerce	Houston West Chamber of Commerce
Australian American Chamber of Commerce	Indo American Chamber of Commerce
Baytown Chamber of Commerce	Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Texas
Bilateral US Arab Chamber of Commerce	Japanese Business Association of Houston
Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce	Katy Area Chamber of Commerce
Caribbean Chamber of Commerce	La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce
Christian Business Fellowship Association	Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce	League City Regional Chamber of Commerce
Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce	North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce
Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce	Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce
Deer Park Chamber of Commerce	Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
East End Chamber of Commerce	Pearland Chamber of Commerce
French American Chamber of Commerce	South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce
German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern US	South Houston Chamber of Commerce
Ghana-Houston Chamber of Commerce	Swedish American Chamber of Commerce
Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce	Texas Argentina Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce	Tri-County Regional Black Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership	US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce	Waller Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce	World Chamber of Commerce
Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce	

Cities

Harris County is home to 34 cities, including the City of Houston, the County seat.

<u>Baytown</u>	<u>Missouri City</u>
<u>Bellaire</u>	<u>Morgan's Point</u>
<u>Bunker Hill</u>	<u>Nassau Bay</u>
<u>Deer Park</u>	<u>Pasadena</u>
<u>El Lago</u>	<u>Pearland</u>
<u>Friendswood</u>	<u>Piney Point</u>
<u>Galena Park</u>	<u>Seabrook</u>
<u>Hedwig Village</u>	<u>Shoreacres</u>
<u>Hilshire Village</u>	<u>South Houston</u>
<u>Houston</u>	<u>Southside Place</u>
<u>Humble</u>	<u>Spring Valley</u>
<u>Hunters Creek</u>	<u>Stafford</u>
<u>Jacinto City</u>	<u>Taylor Lake Village</u>
<u>Jersey Village</u>	<u>Tomball</u>
<u>Katy</u>	<u>Waller</u>
<u>La Porte</u>	<u>Webster</u>
<u>League City</u>	<u>West University Place</u>

Top Industries and Emerging Trends

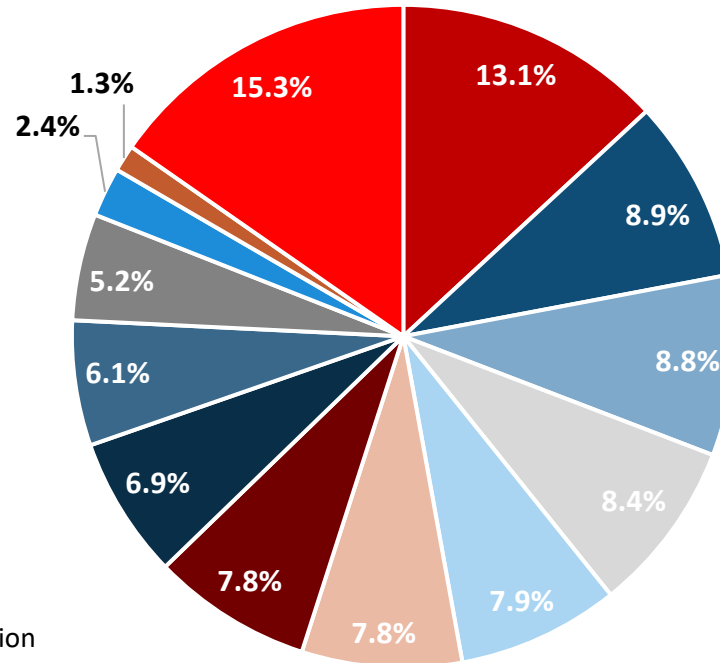
Harris County is home to:

- Major **manufacturing** with 5,180 manufacturing facilities and nearly 177,500 workers.
- The [Texas Medical Center](#) – the world’s largest medical complex and the 8th largest Business District in the U.S., where 60+ institutions provide clinical health, cutting-edge research, and education.
- The [Johnson Space Center](#) – NASA’s mission control center and an aerospace hub and transfer site for NASA-developed technology.
- The **Energy Capital of the Future**, leading in both traditional and clean forms of energy technology and innovation.
- An emerging center in **Venture Capital Investment**, with more than \$1.6 billion raised in 2023 in Metro Houston.
- A star hub for the development of an **artificial intelligence** (an estimated \$6B global AI) in the industry ecosystem, balancing research and enterprise growth and driving energy efficiency and sustainability.

Sources: Brookings Institute, [2025 Mapping the AI Economy](#); Greater Houston Partnership, [Houston Energy Capital](#); Greater Houston Partnership, [2022 Venture Capital Report](#); [Texas Medical Center, 2025 About \(as of 9/16/25\)](#); [NASA Johnson Space Center](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Average 2024 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; [Houston Innovation Map](#)

Industry Sectors, Harris County

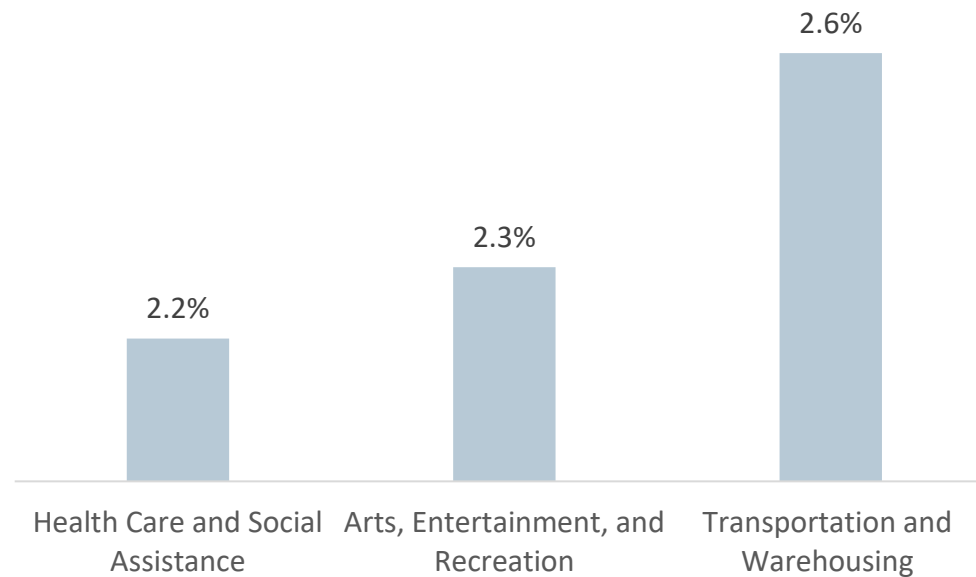
- 13.1% Health Care and Social Assistance
- 8.9% Professional, Technical Services
- 8.8% Accommodation and Food Services
- 8.4% Retail Trade
- 7.9% Construction
- 7.8% Educational Services
- 7.8% Administrative and Waste Management
- 6.9% Manufacturing
- 6.1% Transportation and Warehousing
- 5.2% Wholesale Trade
- 2.4% Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- 1.3% Management of Companies and Enterprises
- 15.3% Other Industry Sectors



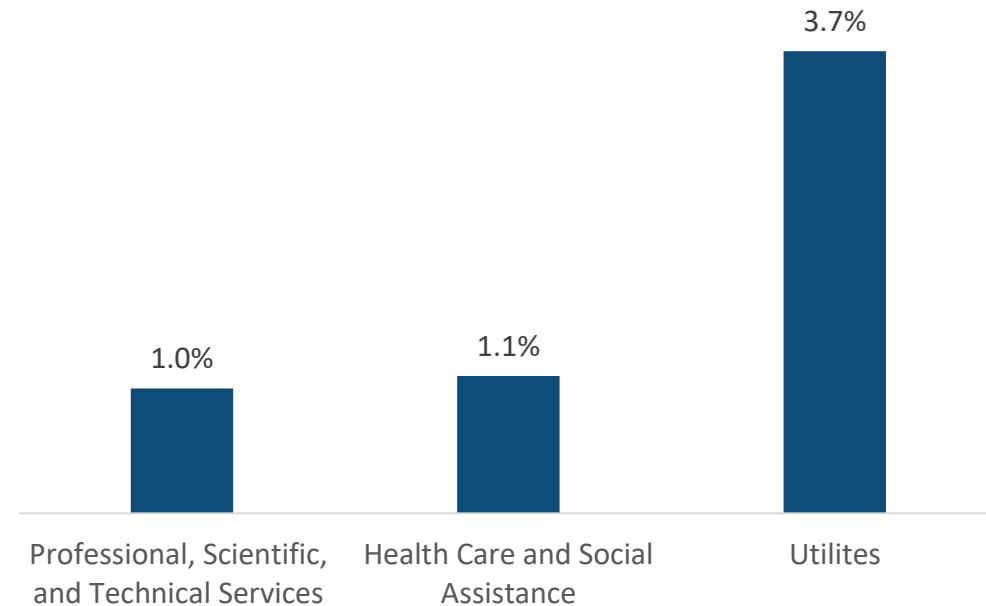
The **Health Care and Social Assistance** industry sector employs the highest number of people at **346,062**. The highest concentration of interrelated industry sectors in Harris County comprises the **Coal/Oil/Power** industry supercluster, at over 4 times the national average, employing **96,211** workers with an average wage of **\$226,045**. Such high concentration signals a regional competitive advantage over the U.S. and other areas.

Selected Industry Sectors' Annual Growth

10-YEAR GROWTH HISTORY
2014 to 2024



10-YEAR FORECAST
2024 to 2024



Sources: JobsEQ 2024Q4 Industry Snapshot

Top Industries

Advanced Manufacturing and Technology

Large concentration of industrial space...
with room to grow

- ✓ **5,180** manufacturers who employ nearly 177,500 skilled workers.
- ✓ **45¹** data centers providing companies with access to high quality data storage and management.

Aerospace and Aviation

An aerospace hub and
transfer site for NASA

- ✓ The [Johnson Space Center](#) – a **\$1.5 billion** complex housing one of NASA's largest R&D facilities and a source of the nation's best high-tech professionals in science and engineering.
- ✓ **Nearly 250** companies involved in aircraft or space vehicle manufacturing, air transportation, cutting-edge space research, and technology.

¹For Metro Houston. All other statistics on this slide are for Harris County, TX.

Sources: [NASA Johnson Space Center](#); [Greater Houston Partnership, Digital Technology](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Average Annual 2022 (aerospace) and 2024 (manufacturing) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Top Industries

Distribution and Logistics

A hub of major logistics network for the U.S.
Equidistant from the East and West Coasts

- ✓The gateway for trade to Mexico, Canada and the enormous expanding markets of Latin America.
- ✓A strategic location – equidistant from both the U.S. East and West coasts – makes the region a transportation hub to the U.S. heartland.
- ✓Geographic advantages coupled with overall [low cost of living](#) and proximity to major population centers throughout the U.S. Midwest makes it the ideal place to set up manufacturing and logistics facilities with fewer supply chain costs.
- ✓Houston Ship Channel recently maintained its ranking as the [#1 waterway](#) in the nation for 2025.

Biotechnology and Life Sciences

The birthplace of nanotechnology
More than 5,000 tech related establishments

- ✓[69 cutting edge hospitals and numerous clinics](#) along with some of the world's top research institutions thrive in Harris County. Houston Methodist ranks among [the top 25 hospitals nationwide](#).
- ✓10,000 workers are employed in the manufacturing of computer, peripheral and communications equipment, semiconductors and electronic components.
- ✓Over 36,700 workers are employed in IT and tech services
- ✓Texas Medical Center (the world's largest medical center) houses 60+ institutions involved in cutting edge medical care, medical and biotechnology research, and development.
- ✓More than 62,900 total tech workers.

Energy

Home to virtually every segment of the oil and gas industry

- ✓Harris County – home to the [Energy Capital of the World](#) – is the U.S. energy headquarters and a leading world center for virtually every segment of the oil and gas industry including exploration, production, transmission, marketing, supply and technology.
- ✓Harris County – home to the [largest petrochemical complex in the U.S.](#) (second largest in the world).
- ✓A growing non-hydrocarbon-based fuels sector in large part due to the critical mass of energy talent produced by decades of research and innovation.

Sources: [Greater Houston Partnership, Energy Capital](#) (as of 1/30/24); Port Houston 2024 Statistics, [Press Release 5/5/25](#); [Texas Medical Center, 2025 About](#); [Texas Department of State Health Services, 2023 Facility Count](#) (as of 9/23/25); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024 Annual Average from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (using tech industry workforce classification by NAICS defined by [CompTIA, 2024 State of the Tech Workforce](#) see page 146); U.S. News & World Report, [2025-2026 Hospital Rankings](#) (as of 9/17/25)

Strategic Advantages

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Population... **Education and Workforce**... Transportation... Medicine...

Harris County is...

- The **most diverse** and the 3rd most populous in the U.S., where **residents** and **businesses thrive** and **expand** by benefiting from:
 - ✓ An overall cost of living that is **3%** below the national average. 65% less than in Suffolk County (Boston), and 75% less than in New York County (Manhattan).
 - ✓ Health costs 21% less than the national average, 36% less than Washington D.C., and 40% less than San Francisco County.
- Where **global networks**, connecting Harris County and the Gulf of Mexico to the interior of the U.S. and the world, are **powered by**:
 - ✓ 1 [Sea Port](#) – ranked 1st in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage and 2nd in the U.S. in total foreign cargo value
 - ✓ 2 [major airports](#) with 190+ non-stop destinations
 - ✓ 1 [spaceport](#) (10th licensed in the nation)
 - ✓ A world-class highway system including I-610 Loop, I-10, I-45, SH 288, SH 6, SH 225, SH 146, US 59/I-69, US 290, Beltway 8, Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, and the Westpark Tollway, and
 - ✓ 2 major railroad companies directly servicing Harris County – [Union Pacific](#) (UP), [Burlington Northern Santa Fe](#) (BNSF) – and a 3rd major railroad, Canada Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad Company, serving Harris County in partnership with other railroad companies, see [CPKC Network Map](#).
- Where the [Port of Houston](#) ranked as the **largest Gulf Coast container port**, handling **97%** market share in containers by total TEUs.
- A **world-class science and innovation hub**, is at the forefront of research and treatment of cancer and heart disease, where the [Texas Medical Center](#) (the **world's largest medical complex**) **occupies 1,345 acres and has \$3 billion in construction projects underway.**

Source: [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map](#); [Google Maps, Harris County Highway System](#); Houston Airport System [Bush IAH](#) & [Hobby HOU](#) Destinations; [Port Houston, 2024 Statistics](#); [Texas Department of Transportation, 2025 Statewide Railroad Map](#); [Texas Medical Center, About \(as of 9/16/25\)](#)

Demographics

Population Highlights

Population Estimate	5,009,302
Age	
Persons under 18 years	25.6%
Persons 65 years and older	12.1%
Median Age	34.8
Race	
White alone	33.8%
Two or more races	22.9%
Black or African American	19.4%
Some other race	15.1%
Asian	7.5%
American Indian & Alaska Native	1.2%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic/Latino (White)	44.1%
White (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	29.9%
Other (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	26.0%
Foreign Born	27.3%
Educational Attainment	
High School Graduate or Higher (Age 25 years+)	83.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (Age 25 years+)	34.2%
No. of Households	1,791,013
Median Household Income	\$72,336
Per Capita Personal Income	\$73,862
Total Personal Income	\$357,130,669

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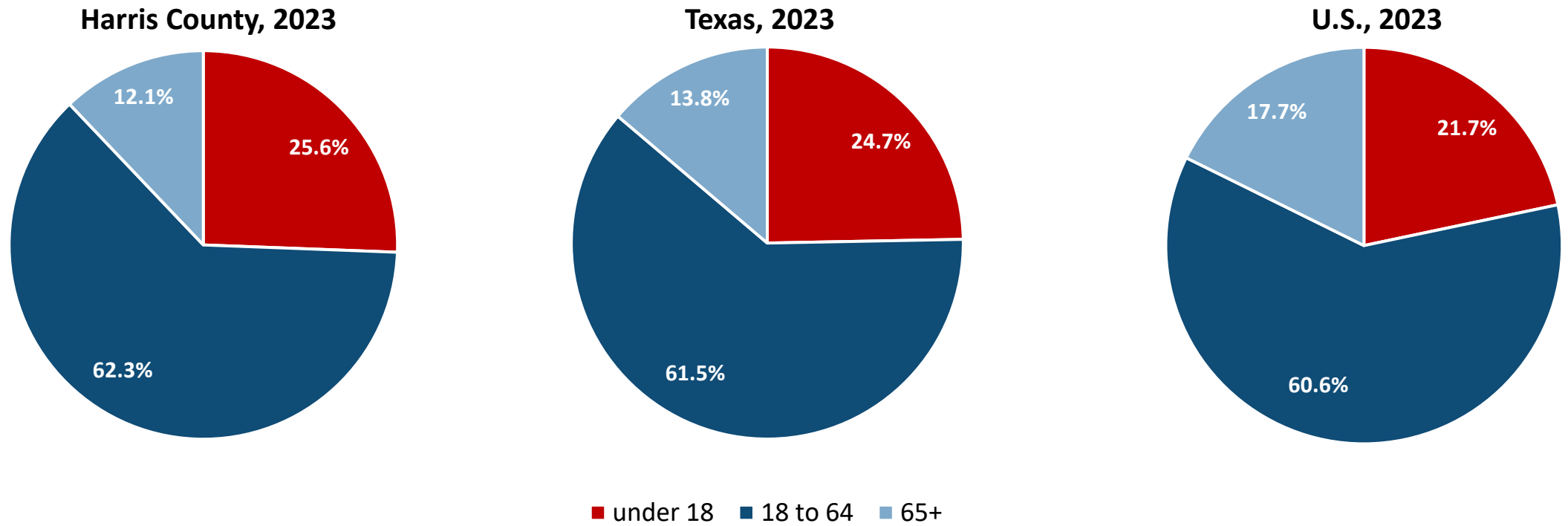
- 3rd largest County in the U.S. – larger than 25 U.S. states and 67 countries.
- If Harris County was a state, it would be the 25th most populous state, behind Alabama (5.1 million) and ahead of Louisiana (4.6 million) and of Kentucky (4.5 million).
- Well educated where over 83% of its residents have a high school diploma or higher.
- A young and vibrant population where 25.6% are under the age of 18 – a much higher share of the total county population compared to the U.S.'s 21.7%
- Diverse where more than 1 in 4 residents is foreign-born.

Sources: International Monetary Fund, 1980-2030 World Outlook; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023 Personal Income; U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Population Estimates, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Age Distribution

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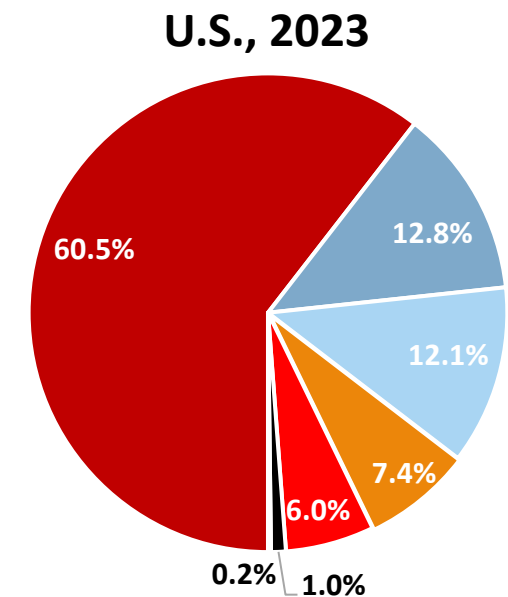
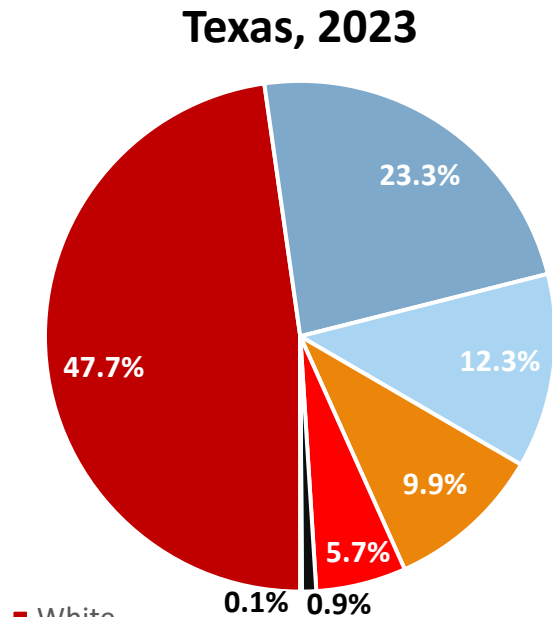
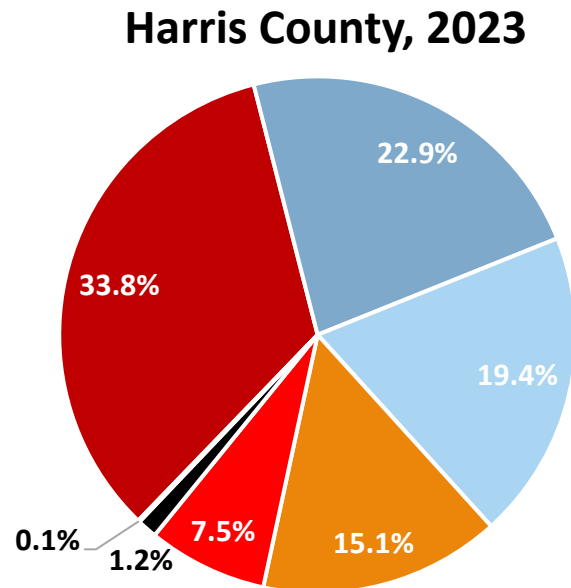
A young and vibrant population where **25.6%** of Harris County's total population is ***under the age of 18*** – a much higher share than Texas and the U.S.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Age and Sex

Race

A very diverse population enhances Harris County's cultural tapestry, providing varied perspectives and innovation opportunities.



- White
- Two or More Races
- Black or African American
- Some Other Race
- Asian
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

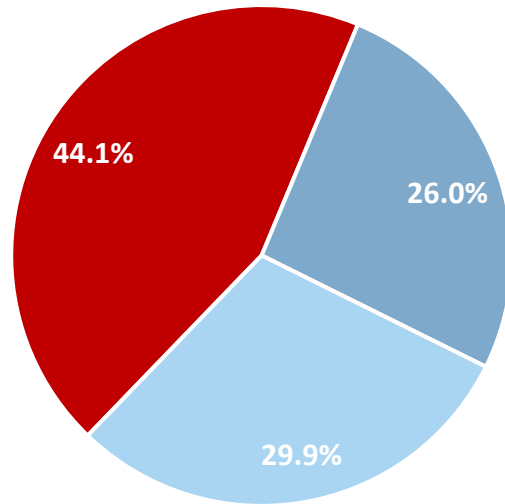
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Ethnicity

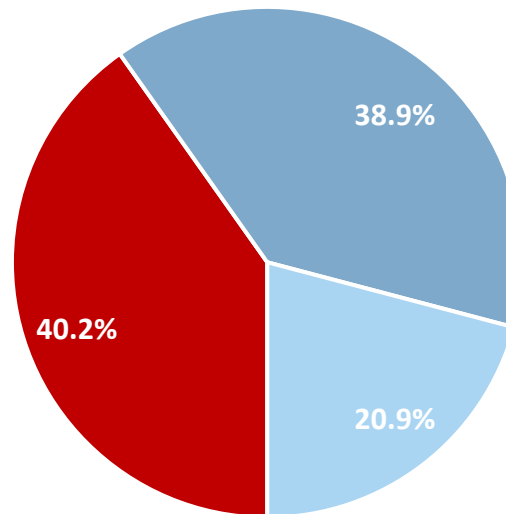
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A very diverse population enhancing Harris County's cultural tapestry, providing varied perspectives, and innovation opportunities.

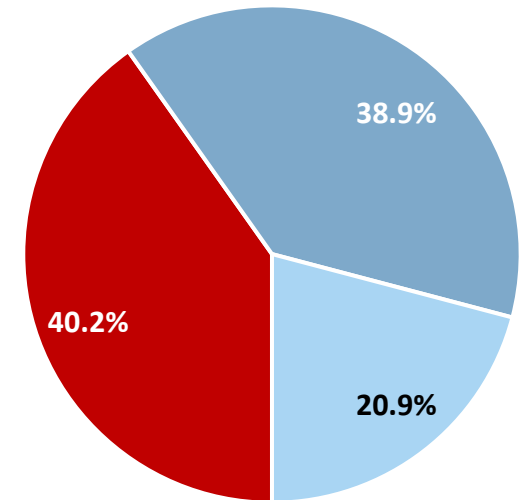
Harris County, 2023



Texas, 2023



U.S., 2023



- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- Other (Non-Hispanic or Latino)
- White alone (Non-Hispanic or Latino)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Diversity

80+ nations have **consular** representation in Harris County offering services to both visitors and residents.

2nd largest Hispanic population of all U.S. Counties. Harris County has ranked among the top 5 counties for Hispanic population since 1990.

Virtually unlimited entertainment choices in arts, culture, food, leisure, sports, and more

111 languages spoken in Harris County.

More than 1 in 4 Harris County residents is foreign-born.

A dozen of [Harris County's largest companies](#) are also ranked as America's Best Employers for Diversity in 2024 by Forbes, including H-E-B, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Houston Methodist.

Sources: Forbes, [2024 America's Best Employers for Diversity](#); Greater Houston Partnership, International Investment and Trade Consular Offices; [Pew Research Center, 1980-2020 Hispanic Population by County](#); U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Selected Social Characteristics of Foreign-Born Population

Education & Workforce

Harris County's Education and Labor Force Assets:

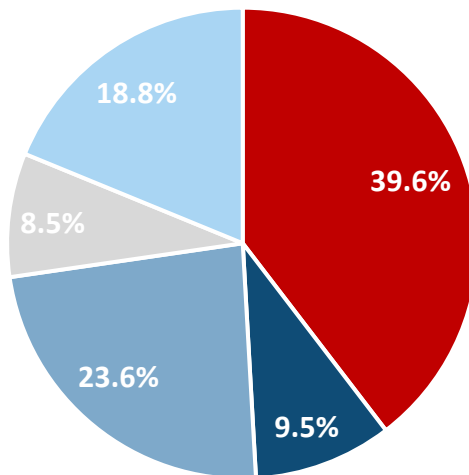
- A population of over 5 million and a civilian labor force of over 2.64 million people
- Nearly 83% of persons over the age of 25 have a high school diploma or higher
- Over 34% of persons over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher
- **39.6% of total bachelor's degrees earned are in the fields of Science and Engineering – a higher concentration than 36.1% for the U.S. and 36.4% for Texas.**
- Home to 61,121 engineers and architects in Metro Houston

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via Texas Workforce Commission 2023 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, Educational Attainment; U.S. Census Bureau, JobsEQ 2024Q4 Industry Snapshot

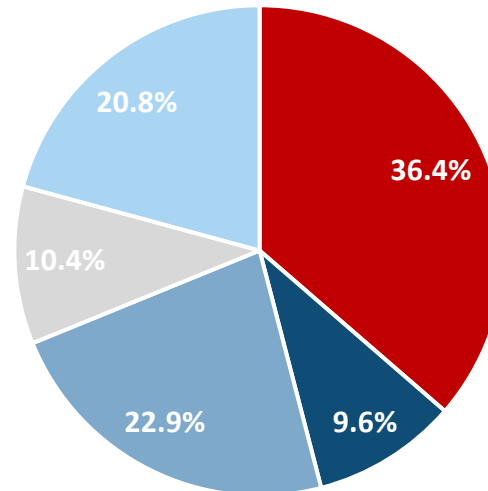
Education: Bachelor's Degrees

A vibrant and educated population where 39.6% of total bachelor's degrees earned are in the fields of Science and Engineering – a higher concentration than the U.S. and Texas

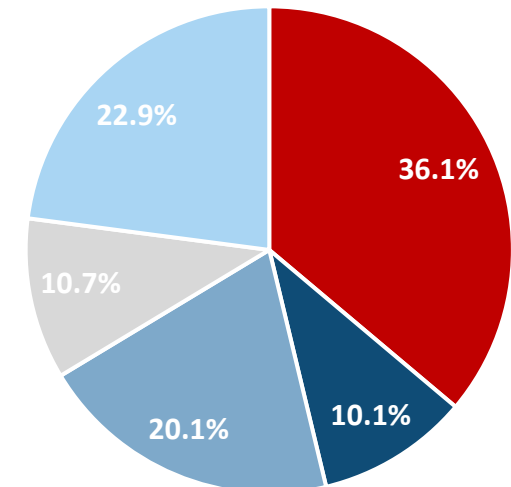
Harris County, 2023



Texas, 2023



U.S., 2023



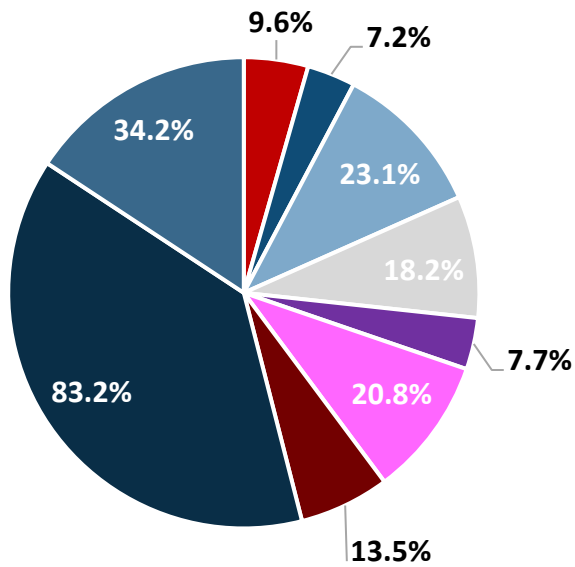
- Science and Engineering
- Science and Engineering Related Fields
- Business
- Education
- Arts, Humanities and Others

Note: For population age 25 years and over

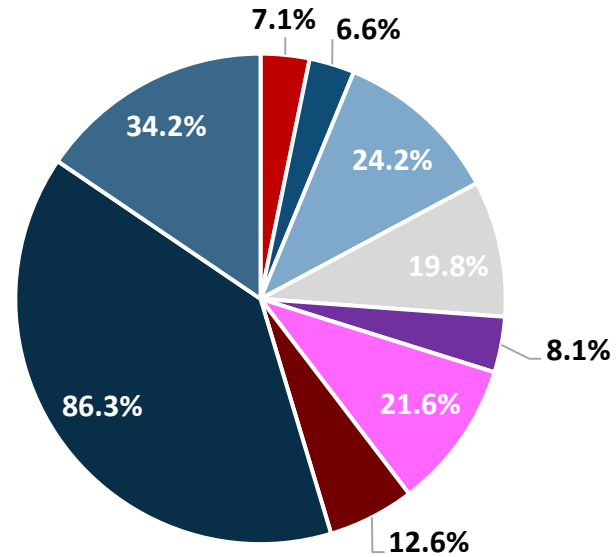
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Field of Bachelor's Degree for First Major

Educational Attainment

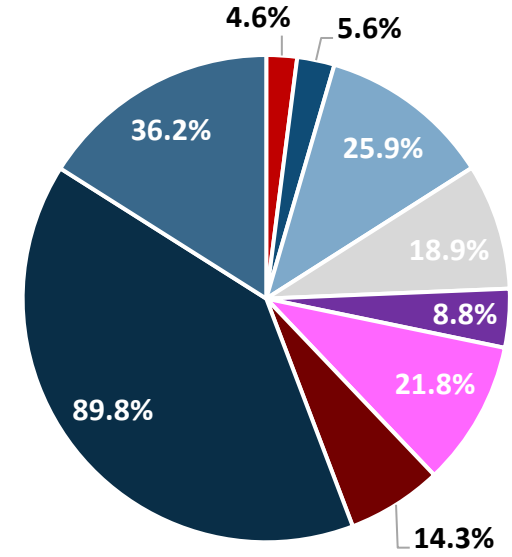
Harris County, 2023



Texas, 2023



U.S., 2023



- Less than 9th grade
- 9th to 12th grade, no diploma
- High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Some college, no degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree
- High school graduate or higher
- Bachelor's degree or higher

Note: For population age 25 years and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Educational Attainment

Universities, Colleges & Independent School Districts

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14 UNIVERSITIES

[Baylor College of Medicine](#)
[Chamberlain University](#)
[Houston Christian University](#)
[Rice University](#)
[South Texas College of Law](#)
[Texas Southern University](#)
[Texas Woman's University – Houston](#)
[University of Houston](#)
[University of Houston - Clear Lake](#)
[University of Houston – Downtown](#)
[University of Houston – Katy](#)
[University of St. Thomas](#)
[University of Texas Health Science Center](#)
[University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#)

4 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

[Houston City College System](#)
[Lee College District](#)
[Lone Star College System District](#)
[San Jacinto College District](#)

25 K-12 EDUCATION

[Aldine ISD](#)
[Alief ISD](#)
[Channelview ISD](#)
[Clear Creek ISD](#)
[Crosby ISD](#)
[Cypress-Fairbanks ISD](#)
[Dayton ISD](#)
[Deer Park ISD](#)
[Galena Park ISD](#)
[Goose Creek ISD](#)
[Houston ISD](#)
[Huffman ISD](#)
[Humble ISD](#)
[Katy ISD](#)
[Klein ISD](#)
[La Porte ISD](#)
[New Caney ISD](#)
[Pasadena ISD](#)
[Pearland ISD](#)
[Sheldon ISD](#)
[Spring ISD](#)
[Spring Branch ISD](#)
[Stafford MSD](#)
[Tomball ISD](#)
[Waller ISD](#)

Sources: Harris County Department of Education; JobsEQ, 2024

Training & Educational Partners

Harris County has the resources to educate and train current and future employees for your business.

Click the below tiles for additional information.

Lone Star College
Corporate College

Lone Star College
Process Technology Center

Lone Star College
Westway Park
Technology Center

Texas Workforce Commission
– Skills Development Fund

Lee College
McNair Center

Lee College
*Center for Workforce and
Community Development*

San Jacinto College
LyondellBasell Center For
Petrochemical, Energy, &
Technology

Houston City College Centers
of Excellence

Houston City College
Roustabout Drilling
Technician Training Center

Greater Houston Partnership
– Upskill Houston

Among other workforce development entities operating in Harris County.

Transportation System

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Harris County's Transportation System By the Numbers

Total Area (square miles)	1,777
Daily Vehicle Miles	69,420,211
Lane Miles	5,660
Vehicles Registered	3,488,097
METRO No. of Clean-running diesel-electric hybrid buses	400+
METRO Bus Routes	80+
Major Airports	2
Spaceport	1
Passenger Airlines	29
Passengers	57,700,000+
Non-stop Destinations	190+
Regional Airports (public use)	10
Other Airports (private use)	10
Heliports	114
Ports (Sea Port)	1
Industrial Terminals (Public & Private)	200+
Vessels	8,300
Major Railway Companies ¹ (class-1 railroads)	3

Transportation Advantages

- **Harris County's transportation costs are** (see [Cost of Living Index](#)):
✓ 3.4% less than in Los Angeles County (Los Angeles and Long Beach), California – the most populous county in the U.S.
- **Auspicious geographic location** as the gateway to Latin American markets
- **A world-class highway system** including I-610 Loop, I-10, I-45, SH 288, SH 6, SH 225, SH 146, US 59/I-69, US 290, US 90, Beltway 8 (AKA Sam Houston Tollway), Fort Bend Tollway, Grand Parkway 99, Hardy Tollway, and the Westpark Tollway

¹Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad Company, in partnerships with Union Pacific and other railroad companies, indirectly serves Harris County. See [CPKC Network Map](#) for details.

Sources: [Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Family Budget Map \(as of January 2025\)](#); [Google Maps, Harris County Highway System](#); [Houston Airport System, 2024 Annual Report](#); [Port Houston 2023 Statistics](#); [Houston-Galveston Area Council, Airport Inventory](#); [TollFreeAirline.com, Harris County Public and Private Airports](#); [Texas Department of Transportation, 2021 Houston District Statistics \(as of 2024\)](#); [METRO, 2025 Climate Action Plan](#)

Transportation System:

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Port Houston and the Houston Ship Channel

Top 5 Containerized COMMODITIES (EXPORTS, 2024)	Top 5 Containerized COMMODITIES (IMPORTS, 2024)
Resins & Plastics	Machinery, Appliances & Electronics
Chemicals & Minerals	Retail Consumer Goods
Automotive	Hardware & Construction Material
Apparel & Accessories	Furniture
Food & Drink	Food & Drink

Top 10 Containerized TRADING COUNTRY PARTNERS (EXPORTS, 2024)	
China (PRC)	11.2%
Brazil	9.9%
Belgium	6.4%
India	4.6%
Colombia	3.3%
UAE	3.3%
Turkey	3.1%
Spain	2.5%
Singapore	2.5%
Vietnam	2.3%
Others	50.9%
Total	100.0%

Top 10 Containerized TRADING COUNTRY PARTNERS (IMPORTS, 2024)	
China (PRC)	34.5%
Vietnam	8.1%
India	6.3%
Germany	4.7%
Republic of Korea	4.3%
Brazil	4.1%
Italy	3.4%
Thailand	3.1%
Belgium	2.2%
Spain	2.1%
Others	27.1%
Total	100.0%

Sources: Port Houston, 2024 Containerized Trading by Country, 2024 Container Volume by Commodity

Transportation System:

Port Houston and the Houston Ship Channel

Largest Texas port with:

- 74% of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic
- 152 million consumers within 1,000 miles
- 200+ industrial terminals including the nation's largest break-bulk terminal
- Boasts an extensive intermodal network of terminals, roads, rails (access to class-1 railroads) and pipelines

Ranked:

- ✓ 1st ranked in U.S. waterborne tonnage
- ✓ 1st ranked in U.S. exports
- ✓ 1st ranked in U.S. deep water vessel traffic
- ✓ 1st ranked in production and exports of Ethylene, Propylene, Butylene and Butadiene
- ✓ 1st ranked in resin exports with 60% market share
- ✓ Busiest U.S. waterway with 8,300 large ships and 200,000 smaller commercial crafts including barges
- ✓ Nation's largest importer and exporter of petroleum and petroleum products
- ✓ Home to the nation's largest petrochemical complex (second largest in the world)

Weekly Container Service Overview:

- ✓ East Asia – 6 services
- ✓ East Coast South America – 4 services
- ✓ Mediterranean – 4 services
- ✓ North Europe – 4 services
- ✓ Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, North Coast South America – 3 services
- ✓ Other trade lanes – 3 services

For details, please visit [Port of Houston's Container Service Schedule](#) and [Port of Houston's Trade Carrier Schedules](#).

Transportation System: Houston Airport System

- ✓ Accommodates nonstop air service to five of the flight-accessible continents
- ✓ Recognized worldwide as a gateway to Latin America

George Bush Intercontinental ([IAH](#)) – the largest airport in the Harris County region and a global gateway

- ✓ One of the top 10 global hubs
- ✓ Major connecting hub for United Airlines, which handles nearly 75% of IAH passenger traffic

Passenger Airlines --- 28 Non-stop Destinations --- 186 Passengers --- 44.1 million

William P. Hobby ([HOU](#)) – a medium-sized regional and international airport

- ✓ Home to one of Southwest Airline's most active hubs
- ✓ 5-star rated airport by Skytrax, the first and only 5-star airport in North America

Passenger Airlines --- 5 Non-stop Destinations --- 62 Passengers --- 13.5 million

Ellington Airport ([EFD](#)) – a commerce and general aviation center

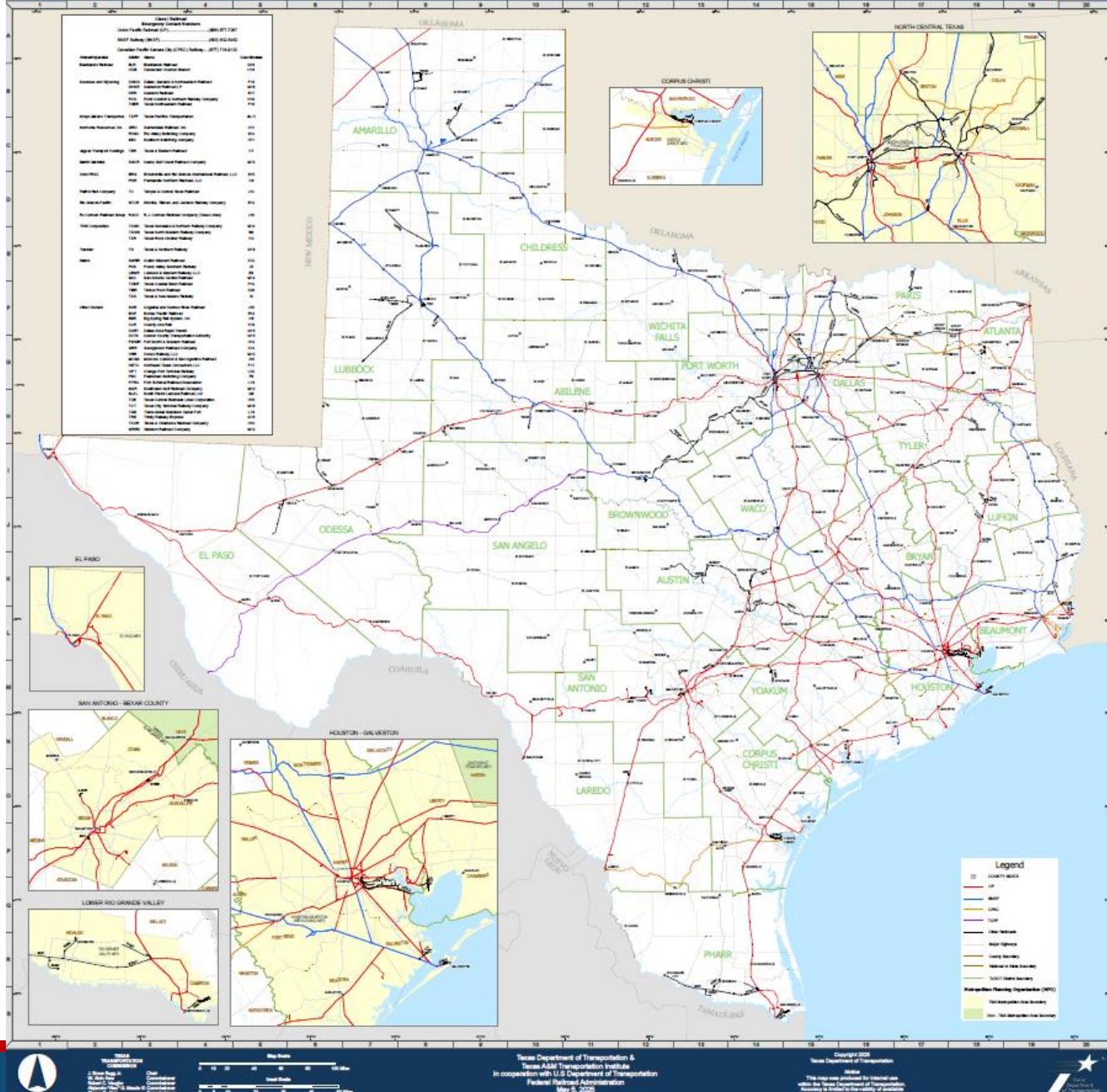
- ✓ Home to the 10th licensed commercial [SPACEPORT](#)
- ✓ With NASA as a tenant, EFD is home to ongoing U.S. Military and space training
- ✓ Disaster Relief – Home to the regional headquarters for the U.S. Coast Guard

Other Regional Airports

Ready to Serve Customers

- 10 Regional Airports for public use
- 10 Regional Airports for private use

Sources: Houston Airport System, [IAH](#) and [HOU](#) Airlines, [IAH](#) and [HOU](#) Destinations (2024); [Houston Airport System, 2024 Annual Report](#); [Houston-Galveston Area Council, Airport Inventory](#); [TollFreeAirline.com, Harris County Public and Private Airports](#)

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State Railroad Map

[View map in detail here.](#)

Sources: [Texas Department of Transportation, 2025](#)
[Statewide Railroad Map](#)

Texas Medical Center

World's largest:

- Medical complex by any measure – number of hospitals, number of physicians, square footage, and patient volume
- Children's Hospital
- Cancer Hospital

8th largest business district in the U.S.

Is at the forefront of advancing life sciences

Home to:

- ✓ 21 hospitals
- ✓ 8 academic and research institutions

Expansion:

- TMC Helix Park now open
 - 37 acres
 - 1,000 seat amphitheater
 - Merging state-of-the-art facilities with diverse recreation

By the Numbers

Total Area ¹	----- 1,345+ Acres
Area Developed	----- 50 million square feet
Medical & Research Institutions	----- 60+
Employees	----- 120,000+
Patient Visits Per Year	----- 10 million
Total Patient Beds	----- 9,200
Annual Surgeries	----- 180,000+
Total Heart Surgeries	----- 13,600+

Sources: [Texas Medical Center, 2025 About \(as of 9/16/25\)](#); [Texas Medical Center, Helix Park \(as of 9/16/25\)](#)

Education... **Standard of Living**... Sports, Leisure,
and Parks... Diverse Arts and Cultural Venues ...
Shopping, Dining and Nightlife... **Area Events**
Calendar...

Quality of Life

Education With a diverse collection of school systems – **25 public K-12 school districts, a plethora of private K-12 schools, 14 universities, and colleges, and 4 community colleges** – choices abound to prepare our children and the workforce. Workforce development entities also provide skills development and certifications.

Given Harris County's strong biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and energy industry clusters, it is not surprising that **39.6%** of all bachelor's degrees are in science, engineering, and related fields.

Standard of Living Our overall low cost of living at **3% below** the national average coupled with a diverse economic base and top educational facilities make us a great community to live, work, play, and invest.

The median sales price of a single-family home was \$335,000 in 2024. Find your next home or rental at [Houston Association of Realtors® \(HAR\)](#).

Harris County's diverse economy provides work opportunities in a wide range of fields where the 2023 per capita personal income was \$73,862 – 5.3% higher than U.S.'s and 9.5% higher than Texas's per capita personal income.

Our residents and visitors can receive top of the line health care at world renowned medical facilities, such as the distinguished [M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#), the No. 1 cancer hospital in the world. Other distinguished health institutions include [Baylor College of Medicine](#), [Houston Methodist Hospital](#), [CHI St. Luke's Health](#), [Memorial Hermann](#), [Texas Medical Center](#), [Texas Heart Institute](#) and the [University of Texas Health Science Center](#), just to name a few.

Sources: Houston Association of Realtors, [2024 Annual Multiple Listing Service Report](#) (January 2025 report for 2024 annual data); U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, [2023 Per Capita Income by State and County](#); U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Income in the Past 12 Months; U.S. News & World Report [2024 Best Hospitals for Cancer](#)

Quality of Life

SPORTS, LEISURE AND PARKS

There is no downtime when keeping up with the area's professional sports teams – the [Houston Texans](#), the [Houston Rockets](#), the [Houston Astros](#), the [Houston Dynamo](#) and the [Houston Dash](#).

In addition to catching a Houston Texans game at Harris County's state-of-the-art NRG Stadium, rock concerts, jewelry shows, professional conferences, and a multitude of other events attract people from around the world.

Quality of life is enhanced by over 200 Harris County parks and over 600 city and other district parks.

Abundant miles of walk/run/hike and bike trails open the door to Harris County's wildlife and natural biodiversity.

DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURAL VENUES

Staying true to our [diversity](#), many cultural communities feel right at home in Harris County.

Anyone's calendar can be filled quickly with events performed by world-class, year-round resident companies in all of the major performing arts—symphony, opera, drama, and ballet.

There is no shortage of choice with concert and performing arts genres and venues abounding - from classical music and opera to pop music and indie rock concerts to blues and honky-tonk, from classical ballet to modern plays and avant-garde dance and to everything in between with world class performers from around the world. See [your independent](#) guide at [Houston-theater.com](#) to the best shows around.

Come discover area events and unique venues at [visithoustontexas.com](#), or check out the [Houston.culturemap.com](#), or visit any of over 150 [museums](#), art galleries, cultural institutions, art fairs, festivals and markets (at [365thingsinhouston.com](#)) covering everything from nature, art, science, history, and more.

SHOPPING, DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

Choose from over 8,000 restaurants with an abundance of international cuisines. Make your plans by visiting [visithouston.com](#), or [Yelp](#).

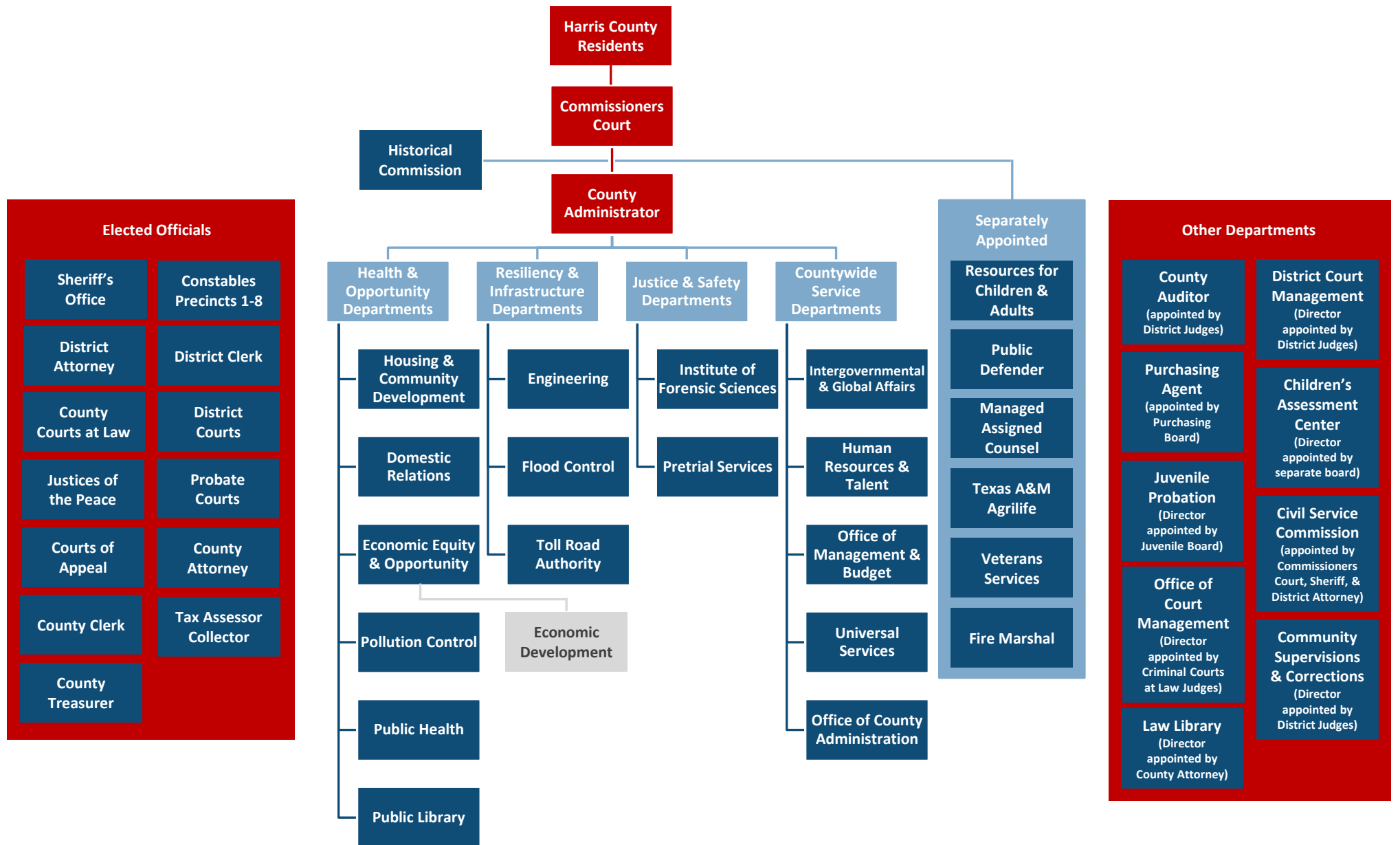
A variety of shopping centers and malls all around Harris County provide a plethora of styles and products to satisfy your needs. You may find some by visiting USA Today's [10best.com](#).

Whether you're looking for high-energy dance clubs or Texas honky-tonks, action-packed sports pubs or low-key wine bars, there's something for every taste by looking [visithouston.com](#).

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2023 Annual Number of Establishments

Harris County

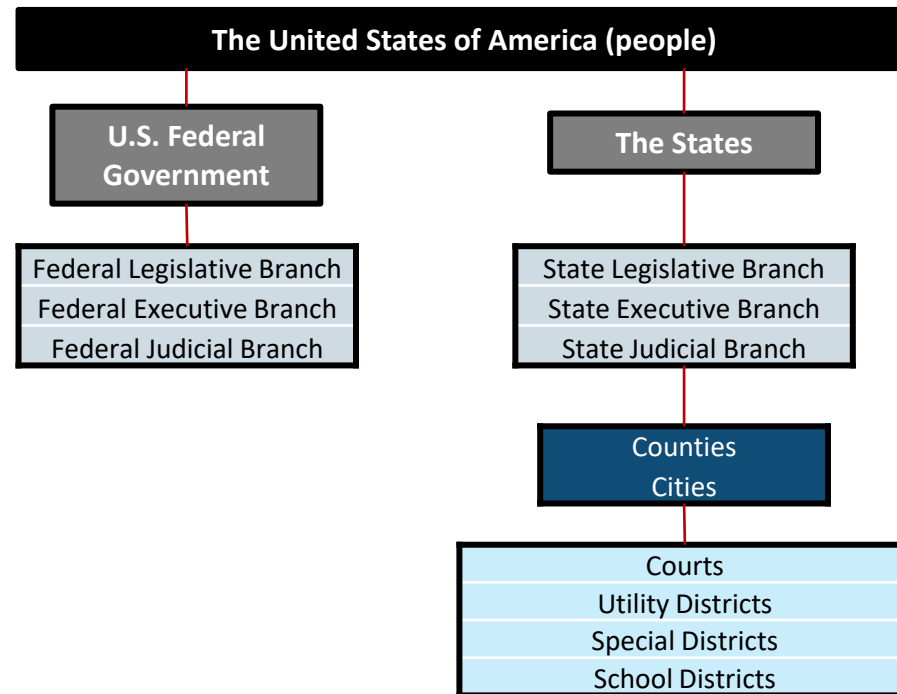
Organizational Chart



Source: Harris County [FY26 Adopted Budget Book Volume I](#)

United States of America

Government Branches



Thank you!

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