HOUSTON AT A GLANCE

The City of Houston was founded on August 30, 1836, by brothers Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen, and named after General Sam Houston. The City of Houston's simple 19th century city seal – the noble locomotive (heralding Houston's spirit of progress) and the humble plow (symbol of the agricultural empire of Texas from which Houston would draw her wealth), clearly speaks to the roots of Houston's economy and to the visionary leadership of its citizens.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

7.5 million residents for Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA

Nation's 5th most populous metro area

Metro Houston ranks between Arizona and Washington by population



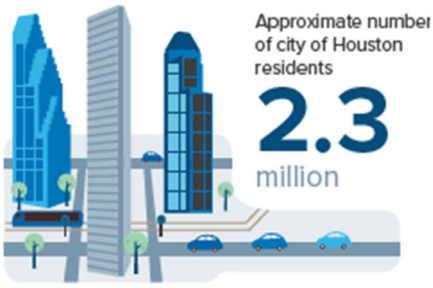
Race/Ethnicity: Houston MSA

Houston today mirrors the U.S. in 4 decades





Nearly 1 in 4 Houstonians are foreign born



Approximate number of city of Houston residents **2.3** million

Houston is the nation's 4TH most populous city

GLOBAL PRESENCE

15 foreign governments maintaining trade and commercial offices

39 Active International Chambers of Commerce or Trade Associations

In '22, cargo activity at the Houston Ship Channel **supported 1.5 million** direct, indirect, and induced jobs across the state of Texas.

141 Houston firms operate more than 3,200+ subsidiaries

2 international airports
George Bush Intercontinental **(IAH)**
William P. Hobby Airports **(HOU)**

IAH ranks 6th in the nation in number of international destinations

Houston Airport System

69 international destinations
116 domestic destinations

185 non-stop destinations

$362.1 billion in trade was handled by the Houston-Galveston Customs Districts in '23
*Numbers may not sum due to rounding

$124.8 billion in imports (in '23)

$238.3 billion in exports (in '23)



Houston is the #1 exporting metro

The Houston Ship Channel is ranked

1st U.S. port in foreign waterborne tonnage

1st U.S. port in total foreign and domestic waterborne tonnage

Port Houston is the busiest Gulf Coast container port

2ND U.S. port in total foreign cargo value



5,000+ Houston companies doing business abroad

1,800+ Houston firms report foreign ownership

Since '21, more than **130** foreign-owned firms have announced projects in Metro Houston.

19 sister-city relationships

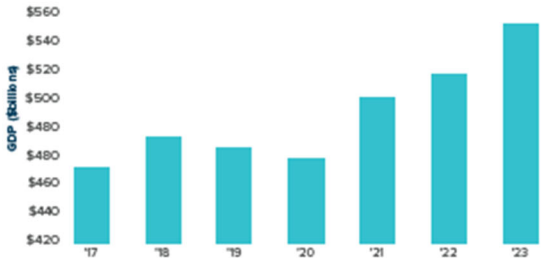
17 foreign banks are located in Houston from 9 nations

Source: Greater Houston Partnership. "*Houston Briefs: Talking Points.*" Q1/25, pp 1.

ECONOMY

If Houston were a country, it would rank as the 23rd largest economy in the world, between Belgium and Taiwan

Metro Houston - '18-'23 Real GDP ($ billions '17 constant dollars)



Houston – The Woodlands – Sugarland MSA GDP has grown at a

2.3 compound annual growth rate
percent Since '18, after adjusting for inflation

7TH largest U.S. metro economy

24 Fortune 500 Companies call Houston home

EMPLOYMENT

3.5 million jobs in the Houston MSA



Health, Education, and Business & Professional Services account for over **1 in 4** of the region's jobs

The goods-producing sector accounts for nearly **1 in 6** of the region's jobs



Industry Share of Houston MSA Employment

- **20.3%** Trade, Transportation, and Utilities
- **16.2%** Professional and Business Services
- **13.5%** Educational and Health Services
- **13.3%** Government
- **10.4%** Leisure and Hospitality
- **9.2%** Mining, Logging and Construction
- **6.8%** Manufacturing
- **5.6%** Finance Activities
- **0.9%** Information
- **3.8%** Other Services

INDUSTRIES

The Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical complex.

TMC employs 120,000+ workers



$3 billion in construction projects underway

50 million developed square feet

10 million annual patient encounters

180,000+ annual surgeries

Houston is home to 72,220 engineers and architects and related techs.

Approximately **239,000** people work in the region's manufacturing industry sector

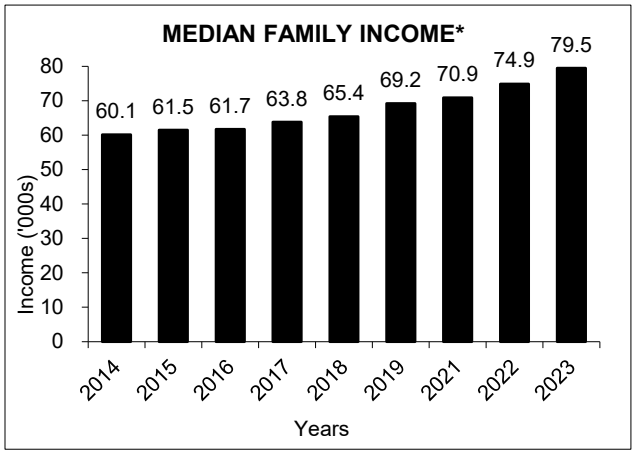
Houston has more than **500** aviation and aerospace-related companies

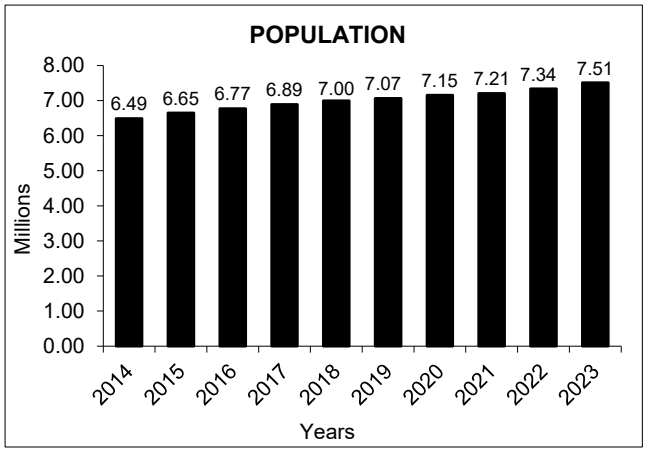
Houston is home to **9,300** tech-related firms, including more than 1,000 venture-backed startups

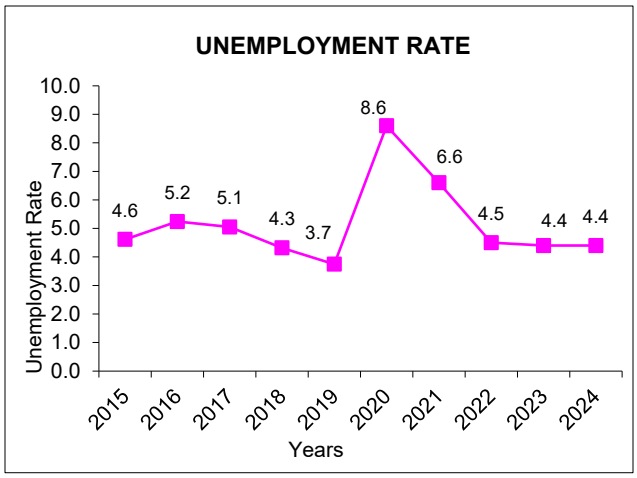
Houston employs 87,400 workers in computer & mathematical occupations

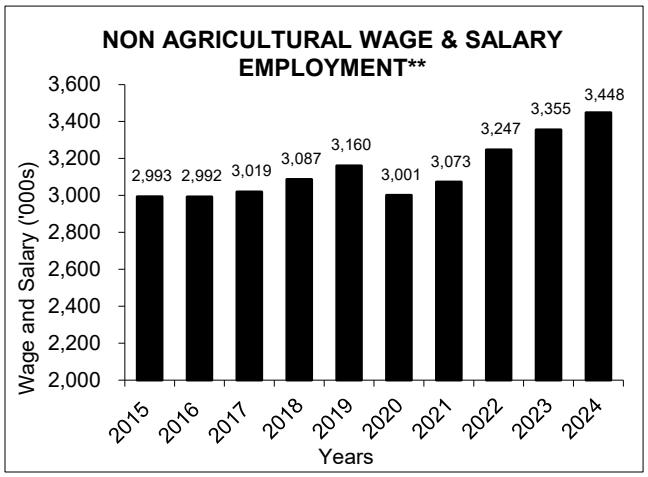
Source: Greater Houston Partnership. "*Houston Briefs: Talking Points.*" Q1/25, pp 2.

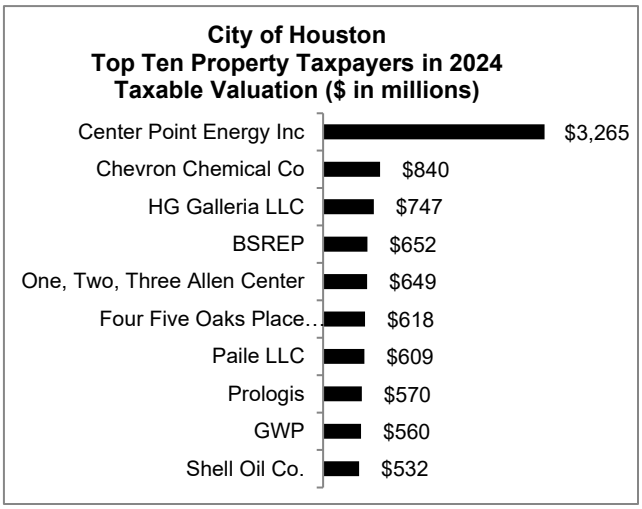
HOUSTON MSA AT A GLANCE

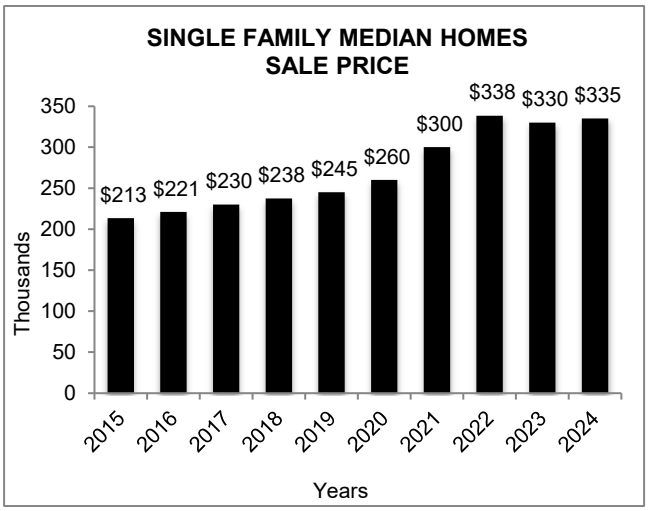












** 2020 Data Unavailable Due to Covid-19 Pandemic*
***Seasonally Adjusted*

Source: US Census Bureau, S Bureau of Labor Statistics, Harris County Appraisal District.

The Houston MSA contains 64 independent school districts (ISDs) and 43 state-approved charter management organizations. 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 the state, in the Fall '23 academic year. Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the ninth largest public-school system in the nation and the largest in Texas. HISD has 274 campuses and enrolled more than 184,000 students in '22-'23 academic year.

The Houston region enrolled nearly 435,000 students across 33 academic institutions in the fall of '23, according to the Texas Higher Education Board.

- Of the students enrolled in colleges and universities in the Houston area, 46.7 percent of them are attending a community college.
- Houston MSA benefits from three Tier I research universities in proximity: Rice University, University of Houston and Texas A&M University.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Greater Houston Area, Fall 2023

TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES	FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT
Lone Star College System District	76,672
Houston Community College System	40,255
San Jacinto College	31,255
Blinn College	18,086
Lee College	8,150
Wharton County Junior College*	5,691
Alvin Community College	5,279
Lamar Institute of Technology*	5,035
College of the Mainland Community College District	4,967
Brazosport College	4,125
Galveston College	2,124
Texas State Technical College - Fort Bend	959
	202,598 STUDENTS
FOUR-YEAR OR ABOVE	**FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT**
Texas A&M University*	69,598
University of Houston	46,502
Sam Houston State University*	20,762
Lamar University*	16,721
University of Houston-Downtown	14,113
Prairie View A&M University	9,508
Texas Southern University	8,472
University of Houston-Clear Lake	8,232
University of Houston-Victoria*	3,813
Texas A&M University at Galveston	2,142
Rice University	8,446
Houston Christian University	4,182
University of St. Thomas	3,816
South Texas College of Law	1,040
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	5,078
The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	3,454
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3,327
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	356
University of Houston Medical School	171
Baylor College of Medicine	1,653
Texas Chiropractic College	267
	231,653 STUDENTS
TOTAL	**434,251 STUDENTS**

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
*Located outside Houston MSA but within 100-mile radius.

Source: Greater Houston Partnership. "*Houston Facts.*" July 2024, pp 38.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Houston provides a wide variety of arts and entertainment including theater arts, museums, and sports. The City is home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is the largest rodeo in the world. Texas has 54 cultural districts, of which 7 are in Houston (Texas Commission on the Arts). Houston is one of only a few U.S cities with resident professional companies in the four disciplines of performing arts: ballet, opera, symphony, and theater. Houston's Theater District, located in downtown Houston, features seven renowned performing art organizations and many smaller ones in five venues: Alley Theatre, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Jones Hall, Bayou Music Center (Formerly the Revention Music Center), and Wortham Theater Center. The Theater District also includes one venue dedicated solely to dance: Houston Ballet's Center for Dance.

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.

Houston has professional sports teams including those representing football, baseball, basketball, and soccer.

Houston has established itself as a destination for hosting major sporting events along with World Series, USA Gymnastics Men's Visa Championship, Major League Soccer All Star Game, NCAA Men's Final Four, Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games, NBA All-Star Game, 2015 Major League Lacrosse All-Star Game. Houston hosted its third Super Bowl in 2017, five PGA tour Championships, U.S. Women's Open Tournament in 2020, the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Final Four in 2023, as well as the College Football National Championship in 2024. In 2026, for the first time in history, Houston will host FIFA World Cup matches.

The section below highlights the professional sports teams that call Houston or the Greater Houston area home.

PROFESSIONAL TEAMS IN GREATER HOUSTON

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

HOUSTON ROCKETS
Western Conference in the
National Basketball Association
Toyota Center

HOUSTON DASH
National Women's Soccer League
Shell Energy Stadium

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

HOUSTON DYNAMO
Major League Soccer's
Western Conference
Shell Energy Stadium

HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS
West Division of the
Xtreme Football League
TDECU Stadium

HOUSTON ROLLER DERBY
Women's Flat Track Derby Association
Bayou Music Center

SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS
'18 Atlantic League World Champions
Pacific Coast League
Constellation Field

HOUSTON SABERCATS
Major League Rugby
Aveva Stadium

Sources: 1. Greater Houston Partnership. "*Houston Facts.*" July 2024 pp 52-64.
2. Texas Commission on the Arts (www.arts.texas.gov).