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Visualizing Texas

Provided by Texas 2036
Introduction

Rural lands in Texas comprise approximately 85% of the land mass and play a vital role in the state’s economy, along with providing various ecological benefits and/or ecosystem services including clean water, soil conservation, and clean air. Public benefits derived from these predominantly privately-owned rural lands not only include native environments, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities, but also support a large portion of the state’s agricultural economy, approximately $100B annually. Although rural working lands contribute significantly to the state, they and their communities are impacted by external pressures, including rapid population growth, urban sprawl, and increased demands on land and water resources compounded by cuts in federal aid programs and services.

The complexity and diversity of Texas can be difficult to fully imagine and comprehend. The following pages offer a visual look at Texas to contribute to our collective understanding of Texas’ rural people and places and the opportunities that exist to ensure a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future for the rural areas of our state.
Texas is a Big Place

4 of 50 Counties with Highest Unemployment are in Texas

Rural Counties Face Greater Challenges than Texas as a Whole

### Ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Maverick</td>
<td>Zavala</td>
<td>Starr</td>
<td>Willacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>56,830</td>
<td>12,107</td>
<td>63,008</td>
<td>21,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$37,155</td>
<td>$26,639</td>
<td>$26,682</td>
<td>$28,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Census Bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rural Overall</th>
<th>Texas Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Annual Wage</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured Rate</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Deaths per 10,000 Live Births</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population to Primary Care Physician</td>
<td>2500:1</td>
<td>1600:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Math Proficiency</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.SDA / OMB rural vs. urban county classification

268,581 Sq. Miles in Texas
268,356 Sq. Miles in 9 Other States
82 Urban Counties
172 Rural Counties

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Land Use in Texas

Population Change (2017, Percent Change Over One Year)

* includes national parks, wildlife areas, highways, railroads and military bases
Here’s How America Uses Its Land, Dave Merrill and Lauren Leatherby. Bloomberg, July 31, 2018

Units:
(Percent Change from Year Ago)
- ≤ -5
- ≤ -2.50
- ≤ 0
- ≤ 2.50
- ≤ 5
- ≤ 10
- ≤ 20
- No Data Available

geofred.stlouisfed.org
High School Graduate or Higher (2016, 5-Year Estimate)

People 25 Years and Over with an Associate’s Degree or Higher by County (2016, percent)

Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (2016, 5-Year Estimate)
Visualizing Texas

Civilian Labor Force (June 2018)

Unemployment Rate (June 2018)

Per Capita Personal Income (2016, in US Dollars)
2016 Percent of Population Below the Poverty Level by County

Units: (Percent)
- ≤ 5
- ≤ 10
- ≤ 15
- ≤ 20
- ≤ 25
- ≤ 30
- ≤ 35
- ≤ 40
- No Data Available

2016 Median Household Income by County

Median Household Income:
- $18,972
- $75,027

2016 Foreign-born Percent of Population
Areas within 60 Minute Drive of 2-Year or 4-Year Institution

Census Block Groups Beyond Driving Distance to Higher Education

Population of Census Blocks Beyond Driving Distance to Higher Education

Number of residents more than 60 min. from college:

- 1,001 to 2.5K
- 2,501 to 5K
- 5,001 to 18K
- 18,001+
- Less than 1K
Poverty Levels in Education Deserts Census Blocks Beyond Driving Distance to Higher Education

Education desert...

- Below
- At or above median national poverty rate

Chronicle of Higher Education