

REGIONAL Profile



Northwest Texas



Northwest Texas Counties

Archer	Baylor	Brown	Callahan	Clay	Coleman
Comanche	Eastland	Foard	Hardeman	Haskell	Jack
Jones	Knox	Montague	Runnels	Shackelford	Stephens
Taylor	Throckmorton	Wichita	Wilbarger	Young	



About the Northwest Texas Region

Spanning from the Oklahoma border in the north to the Colorado River in the south, the Northwest Texas region covers roughly 21,000 square miles and contains the Abilene and Wichita Falls metropolitan areas. The region comprises much of Big Country, a moniker which originated in Abilene. Northwest Texas is known for its proximity to the Red River, the canyons of the High Plains, and the greenery of North Texas, all of which make it a desirable region to visit, live, and work.

An abundance of natural resources has made Northwest Texas a hotbed for mining, which is highly concentrated in the region. Oil and gas production also makes up a sizable share of the Northwest Texas economy. The aerospace manufacturing industry is steadily growing in the region as well, with companies like Pratt & Whitney and Howmet Aerospace maintaining a presence in Wichita Falls.

Transportation jobs are rapidly growing in Northwest Texas and allow the region to export the many materials it produces. The region has also seen an uptick in computer and mathematical occupations, along with architectural and engineering jobs. Northwest Texas is served by Midwestern State and Abilene Christian University, among other higher education institutions.



Northwest Texas Fast Facts

	Population	Industry	Exports	Workforce
Magnitude	0.5M <i>Population (2021)</i>	\$26B <i>Contribution to GDP (2021)</i>	\$4B <i>Foreign Exports (2021)</i>	0.3M <i>Total Employment (2021)</i>
Share	2% <i>Share of Texas Population (2021)</i>	1% <i>Share of Texas GDP (2021)</i>	2% <i>Share of Texas Foreign Exports (2021)</i>	2% <i>Share of Texas Employment (2021)</i>
Growth	1% <i>Total Population Growth (2011–21)</i>	2% <i>Total GDP Growth (2011–21)</i>	27% <i>Total Foreign Export Growth (2011–21)</i>	2% <i>Total Employment Growth (2011–21)</i>

Quantitative and qualitative research was performed May 2023 through May 2024; data cited reflects the then-most current and/or granular information for the time periods noted.

Data Sources: IMPLAN, Data Library, Texas, (2011–21); Guidehouse Analysis.

REGIONAL Detail



Northwest Texas



Business and Industry

Top Industry Clusters by LQ (2021)	LQ (2021)	Emp. (2021)	GDP (2021)	Top Industry Clusters by Emp. Growth (2015-21)	Emp. Growth (2015-21)	Emp. (2021)	GDP (2021)
Footwear	9.71	250	\$6M	Industrial Chemical Products	140%	530	\$304M
Nonmetal Mining	8.73	1,550	\$315M	Furniture	92%	670	\$44M
Metal Mining	7.26	800	\$214M	Wood Products	85%	250	\$19M
Oil and Gas Production and Transportation	4.30	15,040	\$2,834M	Automotive	60%	720	\$92M
Agricultural Inputs and Services	2.82	2,500	\$78M	Information Technology and Analytical Instruments	58%	340	\$45M

Note: Industry clusters consisting of less than 0.1% of total regional employment are not shown in tables.



Workforce

Top Occupations by LQ (2021)	LQ (2021)	Emp. (2021)	Top Occupations by Emp. Growth (2018-21)	Emp. Growth (2018-21)	Emp. (2021)
Extraction Workers	5.38	1,430	Material Moving Workers	45%	8,760
Agricultural Workers	1.96	3,060	Top Executives	29%	4,290
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	1.37	7,700	Postsecondary Teachers	23%	2,030
Other Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	1.30	3,020	Business Operations Specialists	23%	6,900
Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	1.22	3,230	Operations Specialties Managers	14%	2,330

Note: Occupations that predominately serve the local community and occupations consisting of less than 0.5% of total regional employment not shown in tables.



Regional Opportunities

Strengths

Growth in Exports

Northwest Texas has experienced rapid growth in foreign exports relative to GDP from 2011–21, indicating an increase in exports from industries such as oil and gas, petroleum, and chemical production.

Rich in Resources

Northwest Texas has a strong presence of resource extraction industries, including mining and oil and gas, and shows growth in other resource-related industries like chemical and wood products.

Technical Strengths

Northwest Texas' workforce has strengths in technical occupations, showing high concentrations in roles such as extraction workers, agriculture workers, and vehicle and equipment mechanics.

Opportunities

The region can continue to grow its exports and bring money into the economy by focusing on export-heavy industries in the region, such as oil and gas, mining, and consumer goods.

Northwest Texas can leverage its strengths in natural resources such as mining and oil and gas to expand its economic base and diversify into emerging industries like manufacturing, chemical products, and wood products.

As the region expands into emerging industries, there is an opportunity to leverage transferable skills within the workforce to attract new businesses as well as identify and address any anticipated skill gaps.

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