

# REGIONAL Profile



## West Texas



### West Texas Counties

Andrews	Borden	Coke	Crane	Crockett	Dawson	Ector	Fisher
Gaines	Glasscock	Howard	Irion	Loving	Martin	Midland	Mitchell
Nolan	Pecos	Reagan	Reeves	Schleicher	Scurry	Sterling	Sutton
Terrell	Tom Green	Upton	Ward	Winkler			



### About the West Texas Region

Covering much of the landscape west of the Hill Country, the West Texas region spans over 38,200 square miles. It reaches from the city of Mason in the east to the Rio Grande in the west and contains the Odessa, Midland, and San Angelo metropolitan areas. Driving through West Texas, pumpjacks fill the serene mountainous landscape and the occasional stadium lights stand out in the night sky — especially on Friday nights.

West Texas, though primarily known for its oil and gas exports, is home to a plethora of natural resources, which has laid the groundwork for robust mining and construction industries. Regional economic development efforts have focused on leveraging these natural resources, with target industries including tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, resource mining, and utilities.

West Texas is served by The University of Texas Permian Basin and by Angelo State University among other institutions. The region is experiencing growth in multiple occupations, including personal care, management, and architecture and engineering.



### West Texas Fast Facts

	Population	Industry	Exports	Workforce
<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>0.7M</b> <i>Population (2021)</i>	<b>\$67B</b> <i>Contribution to GDP (2021)</i>	<b>\$12B</b> <i>Foreign Exports (2021)</i>	<b>0.4M</b> <i>Total Employment (2021)</i>
<b>Share</b>	<b>2%</b> <i>Share of Texas Population (2021)</i>	<b>3%</b> <i>Share of Texas GDP (2021)</i>	<b>5%</b> <i>Share of Texas Foreign Exports (2021)</i>	<b>2%</b> <i>Share of Texas Employment (2021)</i>
<b>Growth</b>	<b>10%</b> <i>Total Population Growth (2011–21)</i>	<b>34%</b> <i>Total GDP Growth (2011–21)</i>	<b>148%</b> <i>Total Foreign Export Growth (2011–21)</i>	<b>14%</b> <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



## West Texas



### Business and Industry

Top 5 Industry Clusters by LQ (2021)	LQ (2021)	Emp. (2021)	GDP (2021)	Top 5 Industry Clusters by Emp. Growth (2015-21)	Emp. Growth (2015-21)	Emp. (2021)	GDP (2021)
Nonmetal Mining	11.72	3,470	\$2,121M	Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence	34%	2,360	\$187M
Metal Mining	11.13	2,040	\$1,902M	Environmental Services	29%	1,330	\$219M
Oil and Gas Production and Transportation	10.95	63,910	\$26,738M	Business Services	26%	32,410	\$2,717M
Construction Products and Services	1.97	10,170	\$1,268M	Electric Power Generation and Transmission	19%	1,620	\$1,118M
Renewables	1.93	9,960	\$1,959M	Hospitality and Tourism	16%	8,670	\$532M

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	32.44	12,391	Top Executives	26%	8,430
Supervisors of Construction and Extraction Workers	3.09	4,475	Material Moving Workers	25%	15,490
Plant and System Operators	2.59	1,810	Business Operations Specialists	20%	10,490
Agricultural Workers	1.73	3,890	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers	14%	1,620
Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	1.53	5,840	Operations Specialties Managers	10%	3,800

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

##### Export Focused

West Texas experienced rapid growth in foreign exports from 2011–21 (148%), resulting in the region contributing relatively more to statewide foreign exports than it does to statewide GDP.

##### Natural Resources

West Texas offers a wealth of natural resources, with a strong presence of industries such as mining, oil and gas, and renewables.

##### Technical Workforce

West Texas has distinct concentrations in highly technical occupations such as extraction workers, plant operators, and mechanics, which support the growth of natural resource industries.

#### Opportunities

Export-focused industries such as oil, gas, and mining make up a major part of the region's economy, and fostering these export-driven industries will help to further Texas' status as a global economic powerhouse.

As rare earth metals and minerals become more critical to the national economy, West Texas is well-positioned to support the expansion of mining industries with notable strengths in both metal and nonmetal mining services.

West Texas can leverage its tailored workforce to target the growth of adjacent, emerging industries such as electric power generation and transmission to support diversified economic growth.

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