



Economic Overview

Lee County, Texas



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Demographic Profile

The population in Lee County, Texas was 17,393 per American Community Survey data for 2017-2021.

The region has a civilian labor force of 8,190 with a participation rate of 58.7%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Lee County, Texas, 15.9% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.1% in the nation.

The median household income in Lee County, Texas is \$60,750 and the median house value is \$189,400.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Lee County, Texas	Rural Capital, TX WDA	Texas	Lee County, Texas	Rural Capital, TX WDA	Texas
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	17,393	1,089,326	28,862,581
Male	48.6%	49.8%	49.9%	8,454	542,465	14,398,171
Female	51.4%	50.2%	50.1%	8,939	546,861	14,464,410
Median Age ²	—	—	—	41.8	37.3	35.0
Under 18 Years	21.9%	24.2%	25.8%	3,814	263,724	7,446,176
18 to 24 Years	7.3%	9.7%	9.7%	1,270	105,534	2,796,936
25 to 34 Years	11.3%	13.3%	14.5%	1,968	144,548	4,180,029
35 to 44 Years	12.9%	14.8%	13.8%	2,247	161,486	3,979,307
45 to 54 Years	12.0%	12.7%	12.4%	2,090	138,694	3,575,796
55 to 64 Years	15.0%	11.5%	11.3%	2,615	125,251	3,263,539
65 to 74 Years	11.7%	8.7%	7.7%	2,042	94,998	2,233,217
75 Years and Over	7.7%	5.1%	4.8%	1,347	55,091	1,387,581
Race: White	79.6%	73.5%	64.3%	13,848	800,285	18,566,027
Race: Black or African American	11.1%	5.7%	12.1%	1,939	61,607	3,499,862
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	12	5,570	147,892
Race: Asian	1.2%	4.6%	5.0%	208	50,068	1,452,713
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0	1,113	24,608
Race: Some Other Race	1.8%	5.1%	7.0%	321	56,073	2,019,394
Race: Two or More Races	6.1%	10.5%	10.9%	1,065	114,610	3,152,085
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	24.4%	30.2%	39.8%	4,247	329,497	11,479,932
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	17,954	1,225,006	30,029,572
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.8%	3.7%	1.4%	145	37,265	394,545
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	28.5	164.6	114.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	58.7%	66.8%	64.9%	8,190	570,724	14,390,216
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	81.9%	84.9%	81.3%	5,163	376,802	9,491,638
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0	1,158	102,600
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.3%	6.0%	4.8%	537	40,648	841,980
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	78.4%	81.6%	78.8%	421	33,188	663,239
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$60,750	\$83,685	\$67,321
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$27,581	\$38,744	\$34,255
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	29.7	29.4	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	57	2,293	152,475
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	13.2%	8.6%	14.3%	1,178	48,954	2,140,415
High School Graduate	40.4%	22.7%	24.2%	3,604	129,648	3,628,137
Some College, No Degree	22.2%	21.7%	21.3%	1,982	123,876	3,190,758

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Lee County, Texas	Rural Capital, TX WDA	Texas	Lee County, Texas	Rural Capital, TX WDA	Texas
Associate's Degree	8.3%	8.2%	7.9%	740	46,730	1,182,642
Bachelor's Degree	11.3%	25.9%	21.3%	1,007	147,540	3,189,631
Postgraduate Degree	4.6%	12.8%	11.1%	409	73,231	1,667,088
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	7,840	436,267	11,433,880
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$189,400	\$277,310	\$202,600
Homeowner Vacancy	0.1%	1.1%	1.3%	3	2,990	85,038
Rental Vacancy	4.1%	4.9%	7.6%	55	6,507	320,865
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	20.8%	31.0%	37.6%	1,280	122,553	3,848,280
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.8%	2.8%	5.2%	295	10,872	533,515
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.8%	8.8%	14.0%	2,003	94,609	3,965,117
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	12.9%	6.1%	11.5%	791	23,964	1,178,059
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	285	15,807	421,868
Disconnected Youth ³	0.0%	2.4%	2.9%	0	1,432	48,045
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	38.0%	25.2%	34.0%	1,368	63,774	2,410,770
Uninsured	16.5%	12.6%	17.6%	2,808	135,685	4,995,381
With a Disability, Age 18-64	10.5%	9.4%	9.5%	1,054	62,754	1,651,720
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	49.1%	55.6%	48.0%	517	34,887	792,979
Foreign Born	9.1%	11.8%	17.0%	1,581	128,058	4,904,169
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	6.8%	7.0%	13.1%	1,100	71,419	3,532,172

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2017-2021, unless noted otherwise

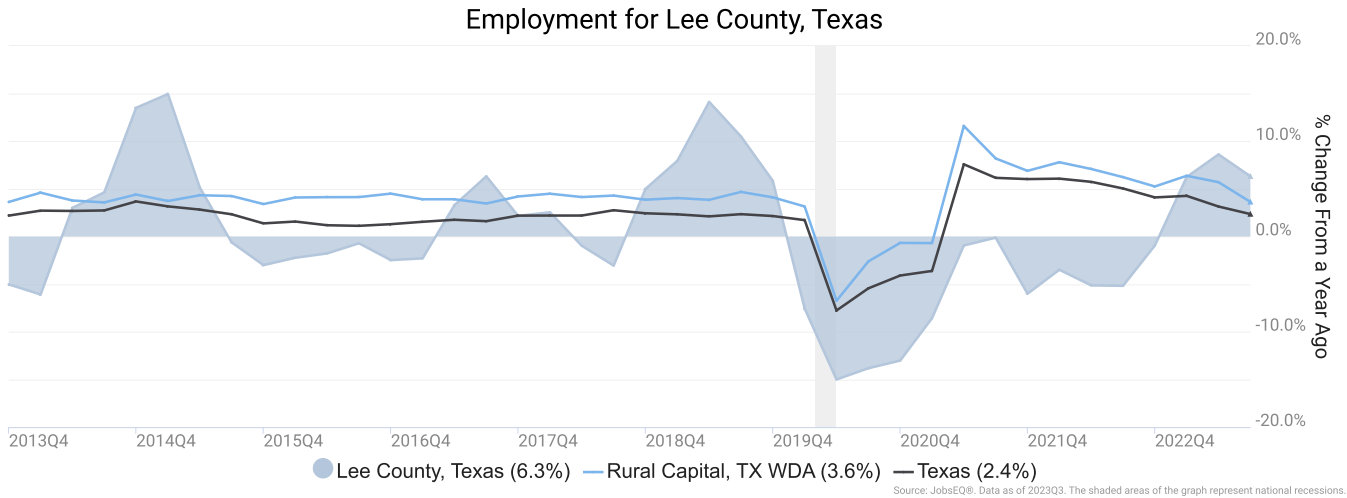
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.

Employment Trends

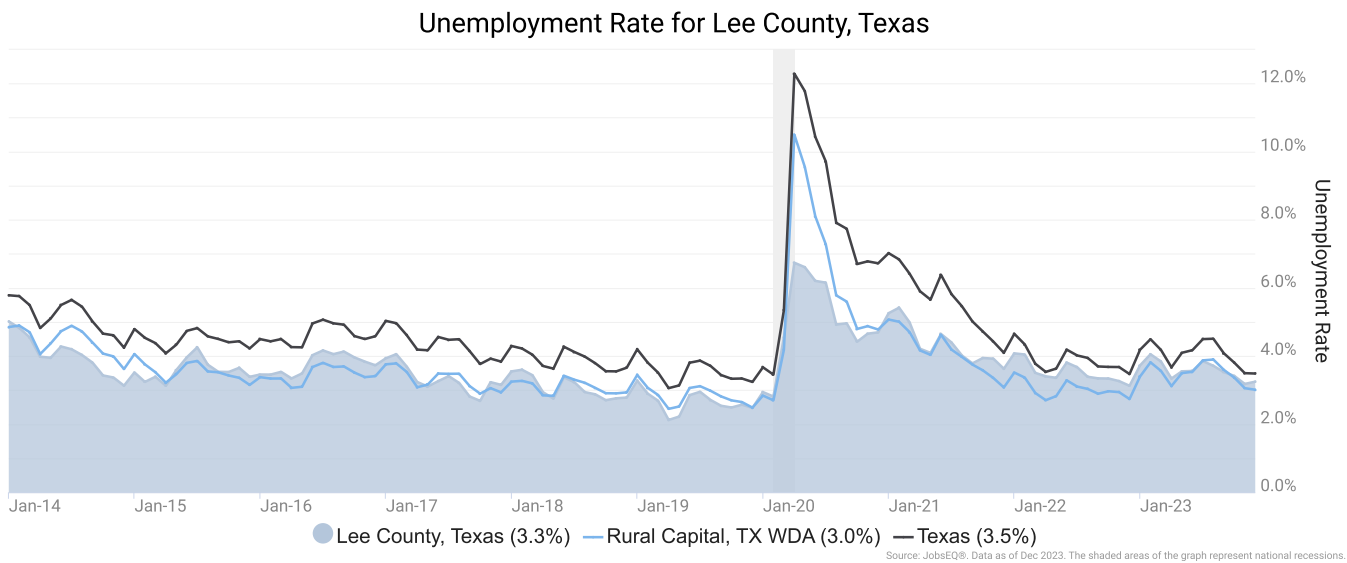
As of 2023Q3, total employment for Lee County, Texas was 8,061 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q3, employment increased 6.3% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Lee County, Texas was 3.3% as of December 2023. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.6%. One year earlier, in December 2022, the unemployment rate in Lee County, Texas was 3.1%.

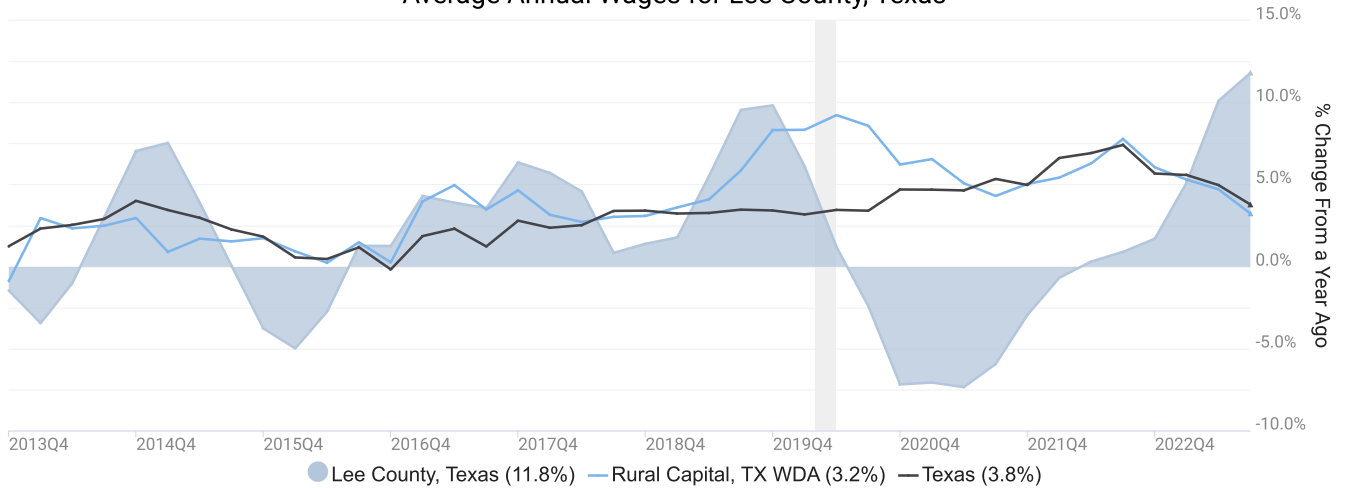


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through December 2023.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Lee County, Texas earned annual wages of \$49,955 as of 2023Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 11.8% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$70,183 in the nation as of 2023Q3.

Average Annual Wages for Lee County, Texas



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 9.8% lower in Lee County, Texas than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Lee County, Texas	\$49,955	90.2	\$55,399
Rural Capital, TX WDA	\$62,223	94.5	\$65,824
Texas	\$69,661	94.2	\$73,930
USA	\$70,183	100.0	\$70,183

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

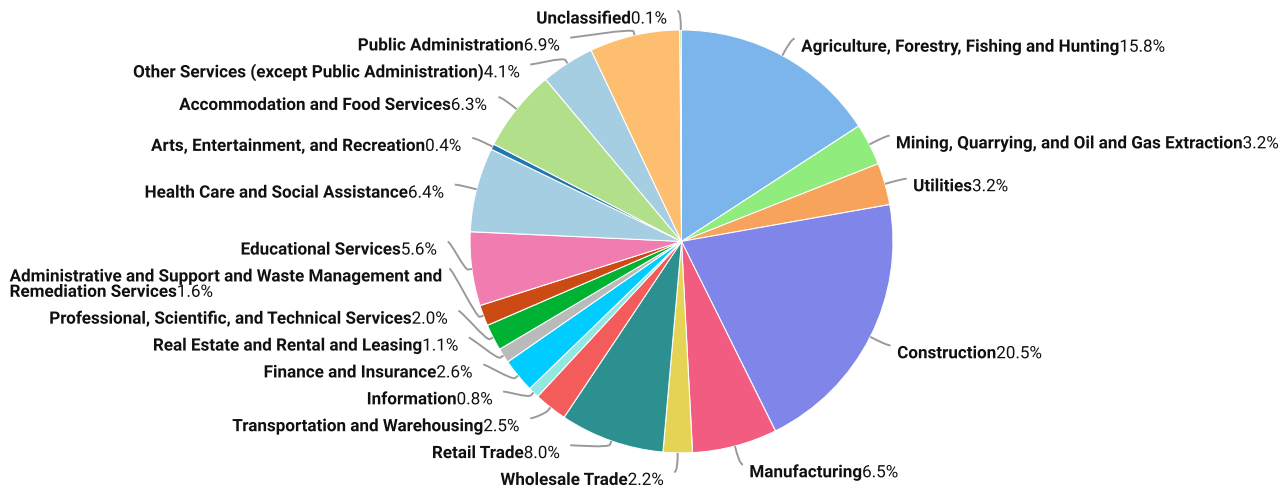
Data as of 2023Q3

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Lee County, Texas is Construction, employing 1,650 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (1,275 workers) and Retail Trade (643). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 12.46), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (8.87), and Utilities (6.29).

Total Workers for Lee County, Texas by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q3

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Sectors in Lee County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Transportation and Warehousing (\$120,383), Utilities (\$96,855), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$83,210). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Utilities (+128 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+121), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (+66).

Over the next 5 years, employment in Lee County, Texas is projected to expand by 25 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +0.8% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+22 jobs), Construction (+14), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+4).

Lee County, Texas, 2023Q3¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
23	Construction	1,650	\$76,521	3.42	-642	-6.4%	729	290	425	14	0.2%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,275	\$25,307	12.46	66	1.1%	740	367	388	-15	-0.2%
44	Retail Trade	643	\$33,511	0.80	54	1.8%	422	193	243	-14	-0.4%
92	Public Administration	557	\$52,284	1.51	-77	-2.6%	255	113	143	-1	0.0%
31	Manufacturing	524	\$70,137	0.81	59	2.4%	266	106	158	2	0.1%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	519	\$35,953	0.44	34	1.3%	280	124	134	22	0.8%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	506	\$21,494	0.72	121	5.6%	451	202	246	3	0.1%
61	Educational Services	455	\$42,215	0.71	-10	-0.5%	216	105	109	2	0.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	329	\$28,054	0.96	-76	-4.1%	192	82	106	3	0.2%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	258	\$83,210	8.87	-30	-2.2%	120	46	74	0	0.0%
22	Utilities	258	\$96,855	6.29	128	14.8%	110	46	66	-2	-0.2%
52	Finance and Insurance	211	\$76,350	0.66	-21	-1.9%	92	37	51	3	0.3%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	205	\$120,383	0.51	3	0.3%	114	49	63	2	0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	178	\$53,759	0.59	-32	-3.3%	87	36	54	-2	-0.2%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	163	\$58,248	0.27	-79	-7.6%	71	27	40	4	0.5%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	128	\$29,862	0.25	4	0.6%	76	32	42	2	0.3%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	90	\$75,744	0.63	-4	-0.8%	44	21	23	1	0.1%
51	Information	67	\$62,111	0.42	35	15.5%	28	12	18	-1	-0.4%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	35	\$19,524	0.22	8	5.0%	28	11	15	1	0.7%
99	Unclassified	9	\$27,596	0.52	6	25.8%	5	2	3	0	0.1%
Total - All Industries		8,061	\$49,955	1.00	-455	-1.1%	4,421	1,937	2,459	25	0.1%

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2023Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Lee County, Texas is Management Occupations, employing 1,219 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Construction and Extraction Occupations (1,135 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (745). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 7.46), Construction and Extraction Occupations (3.10), and Management Occupations (2.01).

Occupation groups in Lee County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$84,100), Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$83,900), and Legal Occupations (\$83,800). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Management Occupations to 6.1% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in Lee County, Texas is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.1% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Construction and Extraction Occupations (+14 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+12). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Management Occupations (534 jobs) and Construction and Extraction Occupations (490).

Lee County, Texas, 2023Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
11-0000	Management	1,219	\$84,100	2.01	12	1.2%	16	-18	-0.3%	526	292	242	-8	-0.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,135	\$45,200	3.10	57	4.8%	1	-459	-6.6%	504	192	298	14	0.2%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	745	\$39,000	0.77	28	3.4%	18	-77	-2.0%	377	191	213	-27	-0.7%
41-0000	Sales and Related	563	\$41,100	0.79	32	4.8%	20	20	0.7%	362	170	202	-10	-0.4%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	544	\$39,500	0.77	42	4.7%	22	-12	-0.4%	347	137	198	12	0.4%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	493	\$51,900	1.57	13	1.8%	8	44	1.9%	222	91	121	10	0.4%
51-0000	Production	458	\$43,200	1.02	24	3.5%	4	-4	-0.2%	234	93	146	-6	-0.3%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	431	\$26,300	0.66	40	6.1%	34	95	5.1%	413	187	223	2	0.1%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	359	\$31,500	7.46	16	5.5%	2	70	4.4%	259	101	160	-2	-0.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	335	\$49,900	0.78	7	2.3%	11	-11	-0.6%	150	73	73	4	0.2%
33-0000	Protective Service	312	\$45,800	1.81	9	3.3%	2	-52	-3.1%	137	60	80	-3	-0.2%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	311	\$68,500	0.61	5	2.3%	4	6	0.4%	127	47	76	4	0.3%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	212	\$30,400	0.81	15	4.8%	0	-9	-0.8%	143	64	77	2	0.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	155	\$28,600	0.43	8	3.4%	15	3	0.4%	119	52	58	9	1.1%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	149	\$46,900	1.03	2	1.8%	8	-12	-1.6%	73	30	37	7	0.9%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	143	\$73,700	0.30	3	1.5%	34	-7	-1.0%	49	24	21	4	0.6%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	128	\$31,100	0.64	5	4.1%	1	-3	-0.4%	114	43	67	5	0.7%

Lee County, Texas, 2023Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	122	\$83,900	0.93	1	1.6%	3	1	0.2%	43	17	24	2	0.3%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	89	\$77,500	0.34	1	2.2%	3	13	3.2%	30	10	17	3	0.7%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	77	\$50,300	0.52	1	3.9%	3	0	0.0%	39	17	21	1	0.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	54	\$69,000	0.77	1	2.4%	4	-10	-3.5%	29	6	20	2	0.8%
23-0000	Legal	27	\$83,800	0.41	0	n/a	0	-8	-5.2%	8	4	4	1	0.4%
Total - All Occupations		8,061	\$50,500	1.00	325	3.6%	213	-431	-1.0%	4,307	1,904	2,378	25	0.1%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

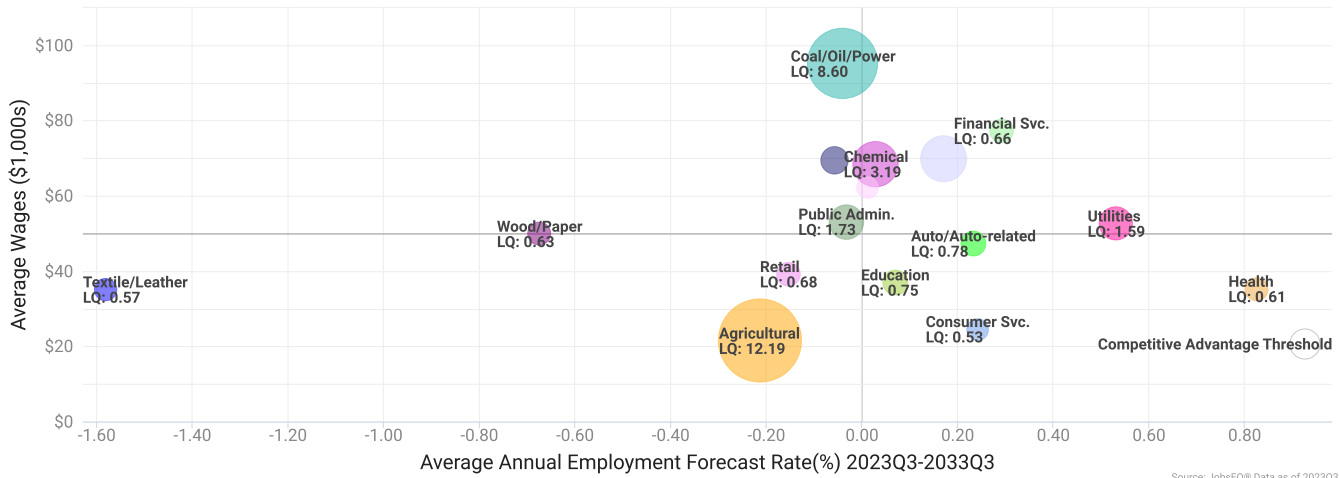
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2023Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Lee County, Texas with the highest relative concentration is Agricultural with a location quotient of 12.19. This cluster employs 1,310 workers in the region with an average wage of \$21,591. Employment in the Agricultural cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.2% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Lee County, Texas as of 2023Q3



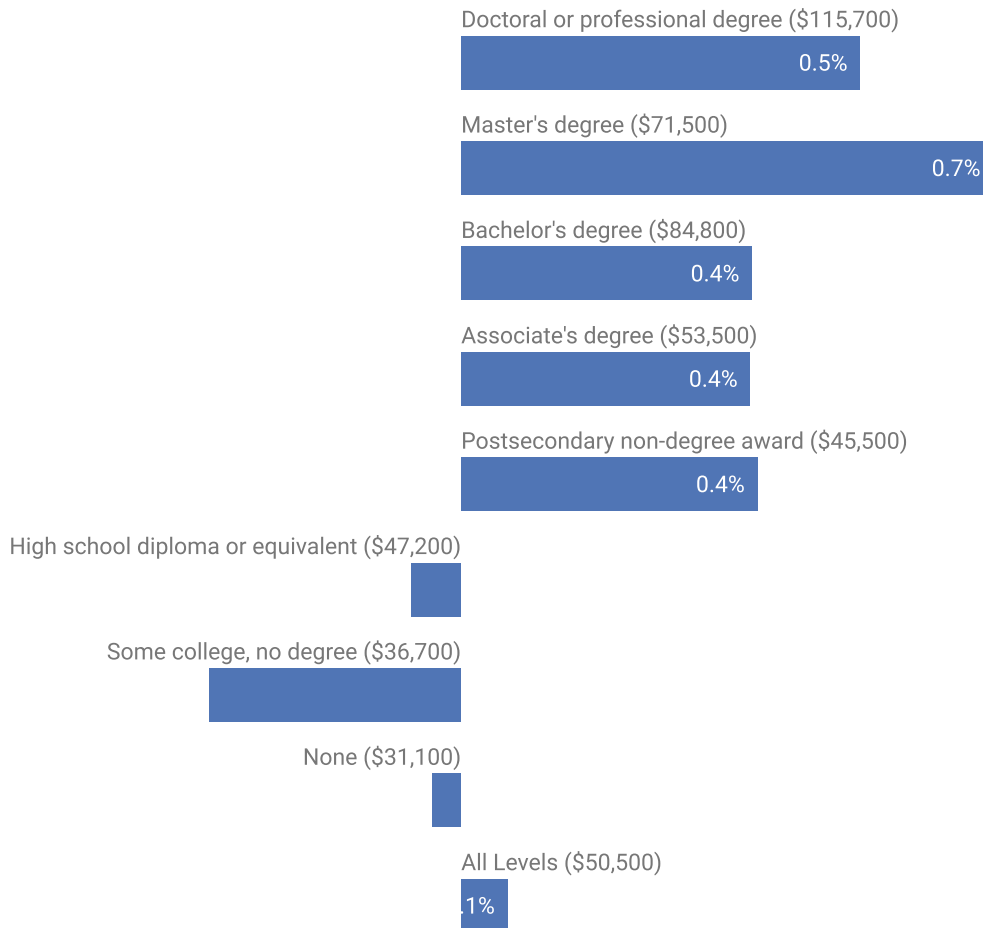
Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2023Q3

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Lee County, Texas is projected to grow 0.1% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.5% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 0.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.4% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

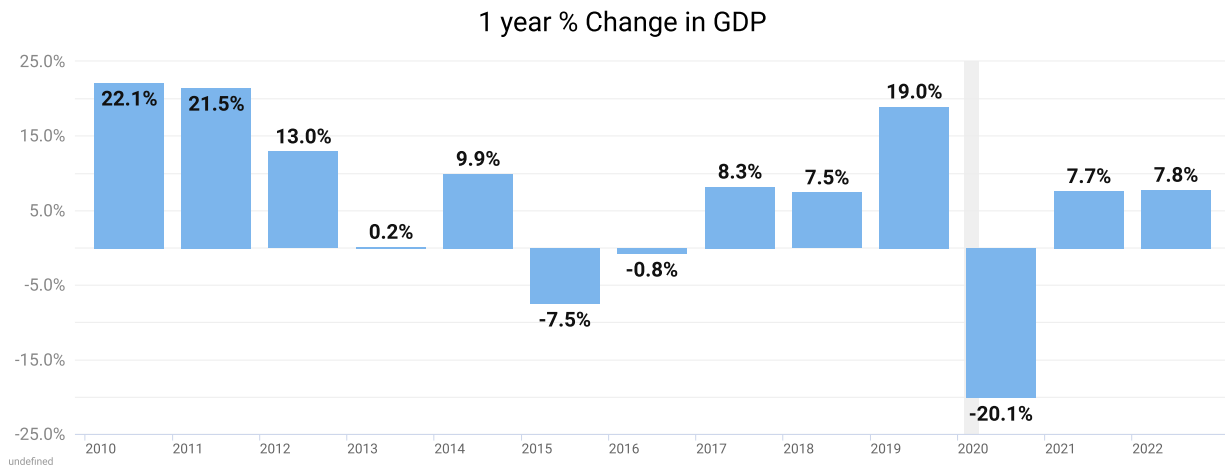


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2023Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in Lee County, Texas expanded 7.8%. This follows growth of 7.7% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in Lee County, Texas was \$918,239,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in Lee County, Texas, Construction contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$131,128,000. The next-largest contributions came from Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$120,394,000); Utilities (\$104,537,000); and Manufacturing (\$75,065,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Construction (23)



Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)



Utilities (22)



Manufacturing (31)



Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)



Transportation and Warehousing (48)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Public Administration (92)



Retail Trade (44)



Wholesale Trade (42)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Lee County, Texas Regional Map



Region Definition

Rural Capital, TX WDA is defined as the following counties:

Bastrop County, Texas

Blanco County, Texas

Burnet County, Texas

Caldwell County, Texas

Fayette County, Texas

Hays County, Texas

Lee County, Texas

Llano County, Texas

Williamson County, Texas

FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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