[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox U.S. state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state) **Texas** ([Template:Lang-es](/wiki/Template:Lang-es) [Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)) is the second largest [state](/wiki/U.S._state) in the [United States](/wiki/United_States) by both [area](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) and [population](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population). Geographically located in the [south central](/wiki/South_Central_United_States) part of the country, Texas shares borders with the other US states of [Louisiana](/wiki/Louisiana) to the east, [Arkansas](/wiki/Arkansas) to the northeast, [Oklahoma](/wiki/Oklahoma) to the north, [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico) to the west, and the [Mexican states](/wiki/States_of_Mexico) of [Chihuahua](/wiki/Chihuahua_(state)), [Coahuila](/wiki/Coahuila), [Nuevo León](/wiki/Nuevo_León), and [Tamaulipas](/wiki/Tamaulipas) to the southwest, while the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico) is to the southeast.

[Houston](/wiki/Houston) is the [most populous city](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Texas_by_population) in Texas and the [fourth largest](/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population) in the US, while [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio) is the second most populous in the state and seventh largest in the US. [Dallas–Fort Worth](/wiki/Dallas–Fort_Worth_metroplex) and [Greater Houston](/wiki/Greater_Houston) are the fourth and fifth largest [metropolitan statistical areas](/wiki/List_of_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas) in the country, respectively. Other major cities include [Austin](/wiki/Austin,_Texas), the second most populous [state capital](/wiki/List_of_capitals_in_the_United_States) in the US, and [El Paso](/wiki/El_Paso,_Texas). Texas is nicknamed the *Lone Star State* to signify its former status as an independent republic, and as a reminder of the state's struggle for independence from [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico). The "Lone Star" can be found on the Texan state flag and on the Texan state seal.[[1]](#cite_note-1) The origin of the state name, Texas, is from the word, "Tejas", which means 'friends' in the [Caddo](/wiki/Caddo) language.[[2]](#cite_note-2) refers to several nations that have ruled over the territory. Spain was the [first European country to claim the area](/wiki/Spanish_Texas) of Texas. France held a [short-lived colony](/wiki/French_colonization_of_Texas). Mexico controlled the territory until 1836 when Texas won its independence, becoming an independent [Republic](/wiki/Republic_of_Texas). In 1845, Texas joined the United States as the 28th state. The state's [annexation](/wiki/Texas_Annexation) set off a chain of events that caused the [Mexican–American War](/wiki/Mexican–American_War) in 1846. A [slave state](/wiki/Slave_and_free_states) before the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), Texas declared its secession from the US in early 1861, and officially joined the [Confederate States of America](/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America) on March 2 of the same year. After the Civil War and the restoration of its representation in the federal government, Texas entered a long period of economic stagnation.

One Texan industry that thrived after the Civil War was [cattle](/wiki/Cattle). Due to its long history as a center of the industry, Texas is associated with the image of the [cowboy](/wiki/Cowboy). The state's economic fortunes changed in the early 20th century, when [oil](/wiki/Petroleum) [discoveries](/wiki/Spindletop) initiated an [economic boom](/wiki/Boom_and_bust) in the state. With strong investments in universities, Texas developed a diversified [economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Texas) and [high tech](/wiki/High_tech) industry in the mid-20th century. As of 2010 it shares the top of the list of the most [Fortune 500](/wiki/Fortune_500) companies with California at 57.[[5]](#cite_note-5) With a growing base of industry, the state leads in many industries, including agriculture, [petrochemicals](/wiki/Petrochemicals), [energy](/wiki/Energy_industry), [computers](/wiki/Computer_industry) and [electronics](/wiki/Consumer_electronics), [aerospace](/wiki/Aerospace), and [biomedical sciences](/wiki/Medical_research). Texas has led the nation in export revenue since 2002 and has the [second-highest](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_GDP) [gross state product](/wiki/Gross_State_Product).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name Texas, based on the [Caddo word](/wiki/Caddo_language) *tejas* meaning "friends" or "allies", was applied by the Spanish to the [Caddo](/wiki/Caddo) themselves and to the region of their settlement in [East Texas](/wiki/East_Texas).[[6]](#cite_note-6) During Spanish colonial rule, the area was officially known as the *Nuevo Reino de Filipinas: La Provincia de Texas*.[[7]](#cite_note-7)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumbnail|250px|](/wiki/File:Sam_Rayburn_Reservoir.jpg)[Sam Rayburn Reservoir](/wiki/Sam_Rayburn_Reservoir) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Texas_Hill_Country_187N-2.JPG)[Texas Hill Country](/wiki/Texas_Hill_Country) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Big_Bend_National_Park_PB112599.jpg)[Big Bend National Park](/wiki/Big_Bend_National_Park). [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Palo_Duro_landscape_IMG_0101.JPG)[Palo Duro Canyon](/wiki/Palo_Duro_Canyon) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Lake_Alan_Henry.jpg)[Lake Alan Henry](/wiki/Lake_Alan_Henry) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Summitanthonysnose1b.jpg)[Franklin Mountains State Park](/wiki/Franklin_Mountains_State_Park) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Martin-Dies-Jr-State-Park.jpg)[Steinhagen Reservoir](/wiki/Steinhagen_Reservoir) Texas is the [second largest](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) U.S. state, behind [Alaska](/wiki/Alaska), with an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Though 10 percent [larger than France](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_area) and almost twice as large as Germany or Japan, it ranks only 27th worldwide amongst [country subdivisions by size](/wiki/List_of_the_largest_country_subdivisions_by_area). If it were an independent country, Texas would be the [40th largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_area) behind Chile and Zambia.

Texas is in the [south central](/wiki/South_Central_United_States) part of the United States of America. Three of its borders are defined by rivers. The [Rio Grande](/wiki/Rio_Grande) forms a natural border with the Mexican states of [Chihuahua](/wiki/Chihuahua_(state)), [Coahuila](/wiki/Coahuila), [Nuevo León](/wiki/Nuevo_León), and [Tamaulipas](/wiki/Tamaulipas) to the south. The [Red River](/wiki/Red_River_of_the_South) forms a natural border with Oklahoma and Arkansas to the north. The [Sabine River](/wiki/Sabine_River_(Texas-Louisiana)) forms a natural border with Louisiana to the east. The [Texas Panhandle](/wiki/Texas_Panhandle) has an eastern border with Oklahoma at [100° W](/wiki/100th_meridian_west), a northern border with Oklahoma at [36°30' N](/wiki/Parallel_36°30'_north) and a western border with New Mexico at [103° W](/wiki/103rd_meridian_west). [El Paso](/wiki/El_Paso) lies on the state's western tip at [32° N](/wiki/32nd_parallel_north) and the Rio Grande.[[8]](#cite_note-8) With 10 [climatic regions](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification), 14 [soil regions](/wiki/Agricultural_soil_science) and 11 distinct [ecological regions](/wiki/Ecoregion), regional classification becomes problematic with differences in soils, topography, geology, rainfall, and plant and animal communities.[[9]](#cite_note-9) One classification system divides Texas, in order from southeast to west, into the following: [Gulf Coastal Plains](/wiki/Gulf_Coastal_Plains), Interior Lowlands, [Great Plains](/wiki/Great_Plains), and Basin and Range Province.

The Gulf Coastal Plains region wraps around the Gulf of Mexico on the southeast section of the state. Vegetation in this region consists of thick piney woods. The Interior Lowlands region consists of gently rolling to hilly forested land and is part of a larger pine-hardwood forest.

The Great Plains region in central Texas is located in spans through the state's [panhandle](/wiki/Texas_Panhandle) and [Llano Estacado](/wiki/Llano_Estacado) to the state's [hill country](/wiki/Texas_Hill_Country) near Austin. This region is dominated by [prairie](/wiki/Prairie) and [steppe](/wiki/Steppe). "Far West Texas" or the "[Trans-Pecos](/wiki/Trans-Pecos)" region is the state's Basin and Range Province. The most varied of the regions, this area includes Sand Hills, the Stockton Plateau, desert valleys, wooded mountain slopes and desert grasslands.

Texas has 3,700 named streams and 15 major rivers,[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) with the [Rio Grande](/wiki/Rio_Grande) as the largest. Other major rivers include the [Pecos](/wiki/Pecos_River), the [Brazos](/wiki/Brazos_River), [Colorado](/wiki/Colorado_River_(Texas)), and [Red River](/wiki/Red_River_of_the_South). While Texas has few natural lakes, Texans have built over 100 [artificial reservoirs](/wiki/List_of_lakes_in_Texas).[[12]](#cite_note-12) The size and unique history of Texas make its regional affiliation debatable; it can be fairly considered a Southern or a Southwestern state, or both. The vast geographic, economic, and cultural diversity within the state itself prohibits easy categorization of the whole state into a [recognized region of the United States](/wiki/List_of_regions_of_the_United_States). Notable extremes range from [East Texas](/wiki/East_Texas) which is often considered an extension of the [Deep South](/wiki/Deep_South), to [Far West Texas](/wiki/Trans-Pecos) which is generally acknowledged to be part of the [interior Southwest](/wiki/Southwestern_United_States).

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Texas is the southernmost part of the Great Plains, which ends in the south against the folded [Sierra Madre Occidental](/wiki/Sierra_Madre_Occidental) of Mexico. The [continental crust](/wiki/Continental_crust) forms a stable [Mesoproterozoic](/wiki/Mesoproterozoic) [craton](/wiki/Craton) which changes across a broad continental margin and transitional crust into true [oceanic crust](/wiki/Oceanic_crust) of the Gulf of Mexico. The oldest rocks in Texas date from the Mesoproterozoic and are about 1,600 million years old.

These [Precambrian](/wiki/Precambrian) [igneous](/wiki/Igneous) and [metamorphic rocks](/wiki/Metamorphic_rock) underlie most of the state, and are exposed in three places: [Llano](/wiki/Llano,_Texas) uplift, [Van Horn](/wiki/Van_Horn,_Texas), and the [Franklin Mountains](/wiki/Franklin_Mountains_(Texas)), near El Paso. [Sedimentary rocks](/wiki/Sedimentary_rocks) overlay most of these ancient rocks. The oldest sediments were deposited on the flanks of a rifted continental margin, or [passive margin](/wiki/Passive_margin) that developed during [Cambrian](/wiki/Cambrian) time.

This margin existed until [Laurasia](/wiki/Laurasia) and [Gondwana](/wiki/Gondwana) collided in the [Pennsylvanian](/wiki/Pennsylvanian_(geology)) subperiod to form [Pangea](/wiki/Pangea). This is the buried crest of the [Appalachian Mountains](/wiki/Appalachian_Mountains)–[Ouachita Mountains](/wiki/Ouachita_Mountains) zone of Pennsylvanian [continental collision](/wiki/Continental_collision). This [orogenic](/wiki/Orogeny) crest is today buried beneath the Dallas–[Waco](/wiki/Waco,_Texas)—Austin–San Antonio trend.

The late [Paleozoic](/wiki/Paleozoic) mountains collapsed as [rifting](/wiki/Rifting) in the [Jurassic](/wiki/Jurassic) period began to open the Gulf of Mexico. Pangea began to break up in the [Triassic](/wiki/Triassic), but [seafloor spreading](/wiki/Seafloor_spreading) to form the Gulf of Mexico occurred only in the mid and [late Jurassic](/wiki/Late_Jurassic). The shoreline shifted again to the eastern margin of the state and the Gulf of Mexico passive margin began to form. Today [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of sediments are buried beneath the Texas continental shelf and a large proportion of remaining US [oil reserves](/wiki/Oil_reserves) are located here. At the start of its formation, the incipient Gulf of Mexico basin was restricted and seawater often evaporated completely to form thick [evaporite](/wiki/Evaporite) deposits of Jurassic age. These salt deposits formed [salt dome](/wiki/Salt_dome) [diapirs](/wiki/Diapir), and are found in East Texas along the Gulf coast.[[13]](#cite_note-13) East Texas outcrops consist of [Cretaceous](/wiki/Cretaceous) and [Paleogene](/wiki/Paleogene) sediments which contain important deposits of [Eocene](/wiki/Eocene) [lignite](/wiki/Lignite). The Mississippian and Pennsylvanian sediments in the north; Permian sediments in the west; and Cretaceous sediments in the east, along the Gulf coast and out on the Texas [continental shelf](/wiki/Continental_shelf) contain oil. [Oligocene](/wiki/Oligocene) [volcanic](/wiki/Volcanic) rocks are found in far west Texas in the [Big Bend](/wiki/Big_Bend,_Texas) area. A blanket of [Miocene](/wiki/Miocene) sediments known as the [Ogallala formation](/wiki/Ogallala_Aquifer) in the western high plains region is an important [aquifer](/wiki/Aquifer).[[14]](#cite_note-14) Located far from an active [plate tectonic](/wiki/Plate_tectonic) boundary, Texas has no [volcanoes](/wiki/Volcanoes) and few earthquakes.[[15]](#cite_note-15)

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

*See also:* [*List of mammals of Texas*](/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_Texas)*,* [*List of birds of Texas*](/wiki/List_of_birds_of_Texas)*,* [*List of reptiles of Texas*](/wiki/List_of_reptiles_of_Texas)*,* [*List of amphibians of Texas*](/wiki/List_of_amphibians_of_Texas)

A wide range of animals and insects live in Texas. It is the home to 65 species of mammals, 213 species of reptiles and amphibians, and the greatest diversity of bird life in the United States—590 native species in all.[[16]](#cite_note-16) At least 12 species have been introduced and now reproduce freely in Texas.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Texas plays host to several species of wasps. Texas is one of the regions that has the highest abundance of [*Polistes exclamans*](/wiki/Polistes_exclamans).[[18]](#cite_note-18) Additionally, Texas has provided an important ground for the study of [*Polistes annularis*](/wiki/Polistes_annularis).

During the spring Texas [wildflowers](/wiki/Wildflowers) such as the state flower, the [bluebonnet](/wiki/Lupinus_texensis), line highways throughout Texas. During the Johnson Administration the first lady, [Lady Bird Johnson](/wiki/Lady_Bird_Johnson), worked to draw attention to Texas wildflowers.

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Texas map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Texas_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) The large size of Texas and its location at the intersection of multiple [climate zones](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) gives the state highly variable weather. The [Panhandle](/wiki/Panhandle) of the state has colder winters than North Texas, while the Gulf Coast has mild winters. Texas has wide variations in precipitation patterns. El Paso, on the western end of the state, averages [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of annual rainfall,[[19]](#cite_note-19) while parts of southeast Texas average as much as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Dallas in the North Central region averages a more moderate [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year.

Snow falls multiple times each winter in the Panhandle and mountainous areas of West Texas, once or twice a year in North Texas, and once every few years in Central and East Texas. Snow falls south of San Antonio or on the coast in rare circumstances only. Of note is the [2004 Christmas Eve snowstorm](/wiki/2004_Christmas_Eve_snowstorm), when [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snow fell as far south as [Kingsville](/wiki/Kingsville,_Texas), where the average high temperature in December is 65 °F.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Maximum temperatures in the summer months average from the 80s °[F](/wiki/Fahrenheit) (26 °C) in the mountains of West Texas and on [Galveston Island](/wiki/Galveston_Island) to around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the [Rio Grande Valley](/wiki/Rio_Grande_Valley), but most areas of Texas see consistent summer high temperatures in the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) range.

Night-time summer temperatures range from the upper 50s °F (14 °C) in the West Texas mountains[[22]](#cite_note-22) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in Galveston.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The table below consists of averages for August (generally the warmest month) and January (generally the coldest) in selected cities in various regions of the state. El Paso and Amarillo are exceptions with July and December respectively being the warmest and coldest months respectively, but with August and January only being narrowly different.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected cities in Texas[[24]](#cite_note-24) | | | | |
| **Location** | **August (°F)** | **August (°C)** | **January (°F)** | **January (°C)** |
| [Houston](/wiki/Houston,_Texas) | 94/75 | 34/24 | 63/42 | 17/6 |
| [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio,_Texas) | 96/74 | 35/23 | 63/40 | 17/5 |
| [Dallas](/wiki/Dallas,_Texas) | 96/77 | 36/25 | 57/37 | 16/3 |
| [Austin](/wiki/Austin,_Texas) | 97/74 | 36/23 | 61/45 | 16/5 |
| [El Paso](/wiki/El_Paso,_Texas) | 92/67 | 33/21 | 57/32 | 14/0 |
| [Laredo](/wiki/Laredo,_Texas) | 100/77 | 37/25 | 67/46 | 19/7 |
| [Amarillo](/wiki/Amarillo,_Texas) | 89/64 | 32/18 | 50/23 | 10/–4 |
| [Brownsville](/wiki/Brownsville,_Texas) | 94/34 | 34/24 | 70/51 | 21/11 |

### Storms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorm) strike Texas often, especially the eastern and northern portions of the state. [Tornado Alley](/wiki/Tornado_Alley) covers the northern section of Texas. The state experiences the most [tornadoes](/wiki/Tornado) in the United States, an average of 139 a year. These strike most frequently in North Texas and the Panhandle.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Tornadoes in Texas generally occur in the months of April, May, and June.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Some of the most destructive hurricanes in U.S. history have impacted Texas. A hurricane in 1875 killed about 400 people in [Indianola](/wiki/Indianola,_Texas), followed by [another hurricane](/wiki/1886_Indianola_hurricane) in 1886 that destroyed the town. These events allowed [Galveston](/wiki/Galveston,_Texas) to take over as the chief port city. The [1900 Galveston hurricane](/wiki/1900_Galveston_hurricane) subsequently devastated that city, killing about 8,000 people or possibly as many as 12,000. This makes it the deadliest [natural disaster](/wiki/Natural_disaster) in U.S. history.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Other devastating Texas hurricanes include the [1915 Galveston hurricane](/wiki/1915_Galveston_hurricane), [Hurricane Audrey](/wiki/Hurricane_Audrey) in 1957 which killed over 600 people, [Hurricane Carla](/wiki/Hurricane_Carla) in 1961, [Hurricane Beulah](/wiki/Hurricane_Beulah) in 1967, [Hurricane Alicia](/wiki/Hurricane_Alicia) in 1983, [Hurricane Rita](/wiki/Hurricane_Rita) in 2005, and [Hurricane Ike](/wiki/Hurricane_Ike) in 2008.[[27]](#cite_note-27) [Tropical storms](/wiki/Tropical_cyclone) have also caused their share of damage: [Allison](/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Allison_(1989)) in 1989 and again [during 2001](/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Allison), and [Claudette](/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Claudette_(1979)) in 1979 among them.

### Greenhouse gases[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Texas emits the most [greenhouse gases](/wiki/Greenhouse_gas) in the U.S.[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) The state emits nearly 1.5 trillion pounds (680 billion kg) of carbon dioxide annually. As an independent nation, Texas would rank as the world's seventh-largest producer of greenhouse gases.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Causes of the state's vast greenhouse gas emissions include the state's large number of [coal power plants](/wiki/Fossil_fuel_power_plant) and the state's refining and manufacturing industries.[[29]](#cite_note-29) In 2010, there were 2,553 "emission events" which poured 44.6 million pounds of contaminants into the Texas sky.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Texas History](/wiki/Template:Texas_History)

### Pre-European era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Texas lies between two major cultural spheres of [Pre-Columbian North America](/wiki/Pre-Columbian_North_America): the [Southwestern](/wiki/Southwestern_tribes) and the [Plains](/wiki/Plains_Indians) areas. [Archaeologists](/wiki/Archaeologists) have found that three major indigenous cultures lived in this territory, and reached their developmental peak before the first European contact. These were:[[32]](#cite_note-32)\* the [Pueblo](/wiki/Ancient_Pueblo_Peoples) from the upper [Rio Grande](/wiki/Rio_Grande) region, centered west of Texas;

* the [Mississippian culture](/wiki/Mississippian_culture), also known as [Mound Builders](/wiki/Mound_Builders), which extended along the [Mississippi River Valley](/wiki/Mississippi_River_Valley) east of Texas; and
* the civilizations of [Mesoamerica](/wiki/Mesoamerica), centered south of Texas. Influence of [Teotihuacan](/wiki/Teotihuacan) in northern Mexico peaked around AD 500 and declined over the 8th to 10th centuries.

No culture was dominant in the present-day Texas region, and many peoples inhabited the area.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Native American tribes that lived inside the boundaries of present-day Texas include the [Alabama](/wiki/Alabama_people), [Apache](/wiki/Apache), [Atakapan](/wiki/Atakapa), [Bidai](/wiki/Bidai), [Caddo](/wiki/Caddo), [Coahuiltecan](/wiki/Coahuiltecan_people), [Comanche](/wiki/Comanche), [Choctaw](/wiki/Choctaw), [Coushatta](/wiki/Coushatta), [Hasinai](/wiki/Hasinai), [Jumano](/wiki/Jumano_people), [Karankawa](/wiki/Karankawa_people), [Kickapoo](/wiki/Kickapoo_people), [Kiowa](/wiki/Kiowa), [Tonkawa](/wiki/Tonkawa), and [Wichita](/wiki/Wichita_people).[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) The name ***Texas*** derives from *táyshaʔ*, a word in the [Caddoan language](/wiki/Caddoan_languages) of the *Hasinai*, which means "friends" or "allies".[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) Whether a Native American tribe was friendly or warlike was critical to the fates of European explorers and [settlers](/wiki/Settler) in that land.[[39]](#cite_note-39) Friendly tribes taught newcomers how to grow indigenous crops, prepare foods, and hunt [wild game](/wiki/Game_(food)). Warlike tribes made life difficult and dangerous for Europeans through their attacks and resistance to the newcomers.[[40]](#cite_note-40)

### Colonization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|left|Flag of the](/wiki/File:Six_Flags_over_Texas.jpg) [six nations](/wiki/Six_flags_over_Texas) that have had sovereignty over some or all of the current territory of Texas [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|250px|Texas in 1718,](/wiki/File:Map_of_Texas_1718.jpg) [Guillaume de L'Isle](/wiki/Guillaume_de_L'Isle) map, approximate state area highlighted, northern areas indefinite. [thumb|Nicolas de La Fora's 1771 map of the northern frontier of New Spain clearly shows the Provincia de los Tejas](/wiki/File:LaFora_1771_2.jpg)[[41]](#cite_note-41) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Stephen_f_austin.jpg)[Stephen F. Austin](/wiki/Stephen_F._Austin) was the first American [*empresario*](/wiki/Empresario) given permission to operate a colony within [Mexican Texas](/wiki/Mexican_Texas).

The first historical document related to Texas was a map of the [Gulf Coast](/wiki/Gulf_Coast), created in 1519 by Spanish explorer [Alonso Álvarez de Pineda](/wiki/Alonso_Álvarez_de_Pineda).[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43) Nine years later, shipwrecked Spanish explorer [Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca](/wiki/Álvar_Núñez_Cabeza_de_Vaca) and his cohort became the first Europeans in what is now Texas.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) Cabeza de Vaca reported that in 1528, when the Spanish landed in the area, "half the natives died from a disease of the bowels and blamed us."[[46]](#cite_note-46) Cabeza de Vaca also made observations about the way of life of the Ignaces Natives of Texas: "They went about with a firebrand, setting fire to the plains and timber so as to drive off the mosquitos, and also to get lizards and similar things which they eat, to come out of the soil. In the same manner they kill deer, encircling them with fires, and they do it also to deprive the animals of pasture, compelling them to go for food where the Indians want."[[47]](#cite_note-47) [Francisco Vázquez de Coronado](/wiki/Francisco_Vázquez_de_Coronado) describes his 1541 encounter with "Two kinds of people travel around these plains with the cows; one is called [Querechos](/wiki/Querecho_Indians) and the others [Teyas](/wiki/Teyas_Indians); they are very well built, and painted, and are enemies of each other. They have no other settlement or location than comes from traveling around with the cows. They kill all of these they wish, and tan the hides, with which they clothe themselves and make their tents, and they eat the flesh, sometimes even raw, and they also even drink the blood when thirsty. The tents they make are like field tents, and they set them up over some poles they have made for this purpose, which come together and are tied at the top, and when they go from one place to another they carry them on some dogs they have, of which they have many, and they load them with the tents and poles and other things, for the country is so level, as I said, that they can make use of these, because they carry the poles dragging along on the ground. The sun is what they worship most."[[48]](#cite_note-48) European powers ignored the area until accidentally settling there in 1685. Miscalculations by [René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle](/wiki/René-Robert_Cavelier_de_La_Salle) resulted in his establishing the colony of [Fort Saint Louis](/wiki/French_colonization_of_Texas) at [Matagorda Bay](/wiki/Matagorda_Bay) rather than along the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River).[[49]](#cite_note-49) The colony lasted only four years before succumbing to harsh conditions and hostile natives.[[50]](#cite_note-50) In 1690 Spanish authorities, concerned that France posed competitive threat, constructed several [missions](/wiki/Spanish_missions_in_Texas) in [East Texas](/wiki/East_Texas).<ref name=chipman89>Chipman (1992), p. 89.</ref> After Native American resistance, the Spanish missionaries returned to Mexico.[[51]](#cite_note-51) When France began settling [Louisiana](/wiki/Louisiana_(New_France)), mostly in the southern part of the state, in 1716 Spanish authorities responded by founding a new series of missions in East Texas.<ref name=chipman111and2>Chipman (1992), pp. 111–112.</ref>[[52]](#cite_note-52) Two years later, they created [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio) as the first Spanish civilian settlement in the area.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Hostile native tribes and distance from nearby Spanish colonies discouraged settlers from moving to the area. It was one of New Spain's least populated provinces.<ref name=chipman205>Chipman (1992), p. 205.</ref> In 1749, the Spanish peace treaty with the [Lipan Apache](/wiki/Lipan_Apache_people)[[54]](#cite_note-54) angered many tribes, including the [Comanche](/wiki/Comanche), [Tonkawa](/wiki/Tonkawa), and [Hasinai](/wiki/Hasinai).[[55]](#cite_note-55) The Comanche signed a treaty with Spain in 1785[[56]](#cite_note-56) and later helped to defeat the Lipan Apache and [Karankawa](/wiki/Karankawa_people) tribes.[[57]](#cite_note-57)<ref name=chipman200>Chipman (1992), p. 200.</ref> With more numerous missions being established, priests led a peaceful conversion of most tribes. By the end of the 18th century only a few [nomadic](/wiki/Nomadic) tribes had not converted to Christianity.<ref name=chipman202>Chipman (1992), p. 202.</ref>

When the United States [purchased Louisiana](/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase) from France in 1803, American authorities insisted that the agreement also included Texas. The boundary between New Spain and the United States was finally set at the [Sabine River](/wiki/Sabine_River_(Texas–Louisiana)) in 1819, at what is now the border between Texas and Louisiana.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Eager for new land, many United States settlers refused to recognize the agreement. Several [filibusters](/wiki/Filibuster_(military)) raised armies to invade the area west of the Sabine River.<ref name=davis46>Davis (2006), p. 46.</ref> In 1821, the [Mexican War of Independence](/wiki/Mexican_War_of_Independence) included the Texas territory, which became part of Mexico.[[59]](#cite_note-59) Due to its low population, Mexico made the area part of the state of [Coahuila y Tejas](/wiki/Coahuila_y_Tejas).<ref name=manchaca162>Manchaca (2001), p. 162.</ref> [left|thumb|Mexico in 1824.](/wiki/File:Mexico_1824_(equirectangular_projection).png) [Coahuila y Tejas](/wiki/Coahuila_y_Tejas) is the northeastern-most state.

Hoping that more settlers would reduce the near-constant Comanche raids, [Mexican Texas](/wiki/Mexican_Texas) liberalized its immigration policies to permit immigrants from outside Mexico and Spain.<ref name=manchaca164>Manchaca (2001), p. 164.</ref> Under the Mexican immigration system, large swathes of land were allotted to [*empresarios*](/wiki/Empresario), who recruited settlers from the United States, Europe, and the Mexican interior. The first grant, to [Moses Austin](/wiki/Moses_Austin), was passed to his son [Stephen F. Austin](/wiki/Stephen_F._Austin) after his death.

Austin's settlers, the [Old Three Hundred](/wiki/Old_Three_Hundred), made places along the [Brazos River](/wiki/Brazos_River) in 1822.<ref name=manchaca198>Manchaca (2001), p. 198.</ref> Twenty-three other empresarios brought settlers to the state, the majority of whom were from the United States.[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61) The population of Texas grew rapidly. In 1825, Texas had about 3,500 people, with most of Mexican descent.<ref name=edmondson75>Edmondson (2000), p. 75.</ref> By 1834, the population had grown to about 37,800 people, with only 7,800 of Mexican descent.<ref name=manchaca201and172>Manchaca (2001), pp. 172, 201.</ref>

Many immigrants openly flouted Mexican law, especially the prohibition against [slavery](/wiki/Slavery). Combined with United States' attempts to purchase Texas, Mexican authorities decided in 1830 to prohibit continued immigration from the United States.[[62]](#cite_note-62) New laws also called for the enforcement of [customs duties](/wiki/Duty_(economics)) angering both native Mexican citizens ([*Tejanos*](/wiki/Tejano)) and recent immigrants.<ref name=davis77>Davis (2006), p. 77.</ref>

The [Anahuac Disturbances](/wiki/Anahuac_Disturbances) in 1832 were the first open revolt against Mexican rule and they coincided with a revolt in Mexico against the nation's president.<ref name=davis85>Davis (2006), p. 85.</ref> [Texians](/wiki/Texian) sided with the [federalists](/wiki/Federalism) against the current government and drove all Mexican soldiers out of East Texas.<ref name=davis86to89>Davis (2006), pp. 86–9.</ref> They took advantage of the lack of oversight to agitate for more political freedom. Texians met at the [Convention of 1832](/wiki/Convention_of_1832) to discuss requesting independent statehood, among other issues.<ref name=davis92>Davis (2006), p. 92.</ref> The following year, Texians reiterated their demands at the [Convention of 1833](/wiki/Convention_of_1833).

### Republic[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|Republic of Texas. The present-day outlines of the U.S. states superimposed on the boundaries of 1836–1845](/wiki/File:Wpdms_republic_of_texas.svg) [thumb|left|The surrender of Mexican General](/wiki/File:SantaAnnaSurrender.jpg) [Santa Anna](/wiki/Antonio_López_de_Santa_Anna) at the [Battle of San Jacinto](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Jacinto)

Within Mexico, tensions continued between federalists and centralists. In early 1835, wary [Texians](/wiki/Texians) formed Committees of Correspondence and Safety.<ref name=huson4>Huson (1974), p. 4.</ref> The unrest erupted into armed conflict in late 1835 at the [Battle of Gonzales](/wiki/Battle_of_Gonzales).[[63]](#cite_note-63) This launched the [Texas Revolution](/wiki/Texas_Revolution), and over the next two months, the Texians defeated all Mexican troops in the region.<ref name=barr64>Barr (1990), p. 64.</ref> Texians elected delegates to the [Consultation](/wiki/Consultation_(Texas)), which created a provisional government.<ref name=winders72>Winders (2004), p. 72.</ref> The provisional government soon collapsed from infighting, and Texas was without clear governance for the first two months of 1836.<ref name=winders90and92>Winders (2004), pp. 90, 92.</ref><ref name=hardin109>Hardin (1994), p. 109.</ref>

During this time of political turmoil, Mexican President [Antonio López de Santa Anna](/wiki/Antonio_López_de_Santa_Anna) personally led an army to end the revolt.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The Mexican expedition was initially successful. General [José de Urrea](/wiki/José_de_Urrea) defeated all the Texian resistance along the coast culminating in the [Goliad massacre](/wiki/Goliad_massacre).<ref name=Handbook>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Santa Anna's forces, after a [thirteen-day siege](/wiki/Siege_of_the_Alamo), overwhelmed Texian defenders at the [Battle of the Alamo](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Alamo). News of the defeats sparked panic amongst Texas settlers.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The newly elected Texian delegates to the [Convention of 1836](/wiki/Convention_of_1836) quickly signed a [Declaration of Independence](/wiki/Texas_Declaration_of_Independence) on March 2, forming the [Republic of Texas](/wiki/Republic_of_Texas). After electing interim officers, the Convention disbanded.<ref name=roberts144>Roberts and Olson (2001), p. 144.</ref> The new government joined the other settlers in Texas in the [Runaway Scrape](/wiki/Runaway_Scrape), fleeing from the approaching Mexican army.<ref name=todish68>Todish *et al.* (1998), p. 68.</ref> After several weeks of retreat, the [Texian Army](/wiki/Texian_Army) commanded by [Sam Houston](/wiki/Sam_Houston) attacked and defeated Santa Anna's forces at the [Battle of San Jacinto](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Jacinto).<ref name=todish69>Todish *et al.* (1998), p. 69.</ref> Santa Anna was captured and forced to sign the [Treaties of Velasco](/wiki/Treaties_of_Velasco), ending the war.<ref name=todish70>Todish *et al.* (1998), p. 70.</ref>

While Texas had won its independence, political battles raged between two factions of the new Republic. The nationalist faction, led by [Mirabeau B. Lamar](/wiki/Mirabeau_B._Lamar), advocated the continued independence of Texas, the expulsion of the Native Americans, and the expansion of the Republic to the Pacific Ocean. Their opponents, led by Sam Houston, advocated the annexation of Texas to the United States and peaceful co-existence with Native Americans. The conflict between the factions was typified by an incident known as the [Texas Archive War](/wiki/Texas_Archive_War).[[66]](#cite_note-66) Mexico launched two small expeditions into Texas in 1842. The town of San Antonio was captured twice and Texans were defeated in battle in the [Dawson massacre](/wiki/Dawson_massacre). Despite these successes, Mexico did not keep an occupying force in Texas, and the republic survived.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The republic's inability to defend itself added momentum to Texas's eventual annexation into the United States.

### Statehood[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|Proposals of 1850 for Texas northwestern boundary](/wiki/File:Texas_proposed_boundaries.svg) As early as 1837, the Republic made several attempts to negotiate [annexation](/wiki/Annexation) with the United States.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Opposition within the republic from the nationalist faction, along with strong [abolitionist](/wiki/Abolitionism_in_the_United_States) opposition within the United States, slowed Texas's admission into the Union. Texas was finally [annexed](/wiki/Texas_annexation) when the expansionist [James K. Polk](/wiki/James_K._Polk) won the [election of 1844](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1844).[[69]](#cite_note-69) On December 29, 1845, [Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) admitted Texas to the U.S. as a constituent state of the Union.[[70]](#cite_note-70) After Texas's annexation, Mexico broke diplomatic relations with the United States. While the United States claimed that Texas's border stretched to the Rio Grande, Mexico claimed it was the [Nueces River](/wiki/Nueces_River). While the former Republic of Texas could not enforce its border claims, the United States had the military strength and the political will to do so. President Polk ordered General [Zachary Taylor](/wiki/Zachary_Taylor) south to the Rio Grande on January 13, 1846. A few months later Mexican troops routed an American cavalry patrol in the disputed area in the [Thornton Affair](/wiki/Thornton_Affair) starting the [Mexican–American War](/wiki/Mexican–American_War). The first battles of the war were fought in Texas: the [Siege of Fort Texas](/wiki/Siege_of_Fort_Texas), [Battle of Palo Alto](/wiki/Battle_of_Palo_Alto) and [Battle of Resaca de la Palma](/wiki/Battle_of_Resaca_de_la_Palma). After these decisive victories, the United States invaded Mexican territory ending the fighting in Texas.[[71]](#cite_note-71) After a series of United States victories, the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](/wiki/Treaty_of_Guadalupe_Hidalgo) ended the two-year war. In return, for US$18,250,000, Mexico gave the U.S. undisputed control of Texas, ceded the [Mexican Cession](/wiki/Mexican_Cession) in 1848, most of which today is called the American Southwest, and Texas's borders were established at the Rio Grande.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The [Compromise of 1850](/wiki/Compromise_of_1850) set Texas's boundaries at their present form. U.S. Senator [James Pearce](/wiki/James_Pearce) of Maryland drafted the final proposal[[8]](#cite_note-8) where Texas ceded its claims to land which later became half of present-day [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico), a third of [Colorado](/wiki/Colorado), and small portions of [Kansas](/wiki/Kansas), [Oklahoma](/wiki/Oklahoma), and [Wyoming](/wiki/Wyoming) to the federal government, in return for the assumption of $10 million of the old republic's debt.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Post-war Texas grew rapidly as migrants poured into the cotton lands of the state.[[72]](#cite_note-72) They also brought or purchased enslaved African Americans, whose numbers tripled in the state from 1850 to 1860, from 58,000 to 182,566.[[73]](#cite_note-73)

### Civil War and Reconstruction (1860–1900)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|200px|Civil war monument in](/wiki/File:Glory_to_the_defeated_-_dignified_resignation.jpg) [Galveston, Texas](/wiki/Galveston,_Texas) Texas was at war again after the [election of 1860](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1860). At this time, blacks comprised 30 percent of the state's population, and they were overwhelmingly enslaved.<ref name=HTO>[W. Marvin Dulaney, "African Americans"](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pkaan), *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed February 22, 2014</ref> When [Abraham Lincoln](/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) was elected, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Five other [Lower South states](/wiki/Deep_South) quickly followed. A State Convention considering secession opened in Austin on January 28, 1861. On February 1, by a vote of 166–8, the Convention adopted an [Ordinance of Secession](/wiki/Ordinance_of_Secession) from the United States. Texas voters approved this Ordinance on February 23, 1861. Texas joined the newly created Confederate States of America on March 4, 1861 ratifying the permanent [C.S. Constitution](/wiki/Confederate_States_Constitution) on March 23.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[74]](#cite_note-74) Not all Texans favored secession initially, although many of the same would later support the Southern cause. Texas's most notable [Unionist](/wiki/Union_(American_Civil_War)) was the state Governor, [Sam Houston](/wiki/Sam_Houston). Not wanting to aggravate the situation, Houston refused two offers from President Lincoln for Union troops to keep him in office. After refusing to swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, Houston was deposed as governor.[[75]](#cite_note-75) While far from the [major battlefields](/wiki/Eastern_Theater_of_the_American_Civil_War) of the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), Texas contributed large numbers of men and equipment to the rest of the Confederacy.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Union troops briefly [occupied](/wiki/First_Battle_of_Galveston) the state's primary port, Galveston. Texas's border with Mexico was known as the "backdoor of the Confederacy" because trade occurred at the border, bypassing the Union blockade.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The Confederacy repulsed all Union attempts to shut down this route,[[76]](#cite_note-76) but Texas's role as a supply state was marginalized in mid-1863 after the Union capture of the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River). The [final battle of the Civil War](/wiki/Battle_of_Palmito_Ranch) was fought near Brownsville, Texas at [Palmito Ranch](/wiki/Palmito_Ranch_Battlefield)[[78]](#cite_note-78) with a Confederate victory.

Texas descended into anarchy for two months between the [surrender](/wiki/Battle_of_Appomattox_Courthouse) of the [Army of Northern Virginia](/wiki/Army_of_Northern_Virginia) and the assumption of authority by Union General [Gordon Granger](/wiki/Gordon_Granger). Violence marked the early months of [Reconstruction](/wiki/Reconstruction_Era).[[76]](#cite_note-76) [Juneteenth](/wiki/Juneteenth) commemorates the announcement of the [Emancipation Proclamation](/wiki/Emancipation_Proclamation) in Galveston by General Gordon Granger, almost two and a half years after the original announcement.[[79]](#cite_note-79)[[80]](#cite_note-80) President Johnson, in 1866, declared the civilian government restored in Texas.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Despite not meeting reconstruction requirements, Congress resumed allowing elected Texas representatives into the federal government in 1870. Social volatility continued as the state struggled with agricultural depression and labor issues.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### 20th century to present[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|right|upright|Spindletop, the first major oil gusher](/wiki/File:Lucas_gusher.jpg) In 1900, Texas suffered the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history during the [Galveston hurricane](/wiki/1900_Galveston_hurricane).[[27]](#cite_note-27) On January 10, 1901, the first major [oil well](/wiki/Oil_well) in Texas, [Spindletop](/wiki/Spindletop), was found south of [Beaumont](/wiki/Beaumont,_Texas). Other fields were later discovered nearby in [East Texas](/wiki/East_Texas_Oil_Field), [West Texas](/wiki/West_Texas), and under the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico). The resulting "[oil boom](/wiki/Texas_oil_boom)" transformed Texas.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Oil production eventually averaged three million barrels per day at its peak in 1972.[[84]](#cite_note-84) In 1901, the Democratic-dominated state legislature passed a bill requiring payment of a [poll tax](/wiki/Poll_tax_(United_States)) for voting, which effectively [disenfranchised](/wiki/Disenfranchisement_after_the_Reconstruction_Era) most blacks, and many poor whites and [Latinos](/wiki/Latinos). In addition, the legislature established [white primaries](/wiki/White_primaries), ensuring that minorities were excluded from the formal political process. The number of voters dropped dramatically, and the Democrats crushed competition from the Republican and Populist parties.[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86) The [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) and the [Dust Bowl](/wiki/Dust_Bowl) dealt a double blow to the state's economy, which had significantly improved since the Civil War. Migrants abandoned the worst hit sections of Texas during the Dust Bowl years. Especially from this period on, blacks left Texas in the [Great Migration](/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)) to get work in the Northern United States or California and to escape the oppression of segregation.<ref name=TX&GreatMigration>[Template:Handbook of Texas](/wiki/Template:Handbook_of_Texas)</ref> In 1940, Texas was 74 percent [Anglo](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites), 14.4 percent black, and 11.5 percent Hispanic.[[87]](#cite_note-87) World War II had a dramatic impact on Texas, as federal money poured in to build military bases, munitions factories, POW detention camps and Army hospitals; 750,000 young men left for service; the cities exploded with new industry; the colleges took on new roles; and hundreds of thousands of poor farmers left the fields for much better paying war jobs, never to return to agriculture.[[88]](#cite_note-88)[[89]](#cite_note-89) Texas manufactured 3.1 percent of total United States military armaments produced during World War II, ranking eleventh among the 48 states.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Texas modernized and expanded its [system of higher education](/wiki/Education_in_Texas#Public_colleges_and_universities) through the 1960s. The state created a comprehensive plan for higher education, funded in large part by oil revenues, and a central state apparatus designed to manage state institutions more efficiently. These changes helped Texas universities receive federal research funds.[[91]](#cite_note-91) On November 22, 1963, President [John F. Kennedy was assassinated](/wiki/Assassination_of_John_F._Kennedy) in Dallas.[[92]](#cite_note-92) On 18 April 2016, Houston experienced [severe flooding](/wiki/2016_Houston_floods).[[93]](#cite_note-93) On 31 May 2016, several cities experienced [record setting flooding](/wiki/May_2016_United_States_storm_complex)[[94]](#cite_note-94)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Ever since the discovery of oil at [Spindletop](/wiki/Spindletop), energy has been a dominant force politically and economically within the state.[[134]](#cite_note-134) If Texas were its own country it would be the sixth largest oil producer in the world.[[135]](#cite_note-135) The [Railroad Commission of Texas](/wiki/Railroad_Commission_of_Texas), contrary to its name, regulates the state's [oil and gas industry](/wiki/Oil_industry), gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the [liquefied petroleum gas](/wiki/Liquefied_petroleum_gas) industry, and surface coal and [uranium](/wiki/Uranium) mining. Until the 1970s, the commission controlled the price of petroleum because of its ability to regulate Texas's oil reserves. The founders of the [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries](/wiki/Organization_of_Petroleum_Exporting_Countries) (OPEC) used the Texas agency as one of their models for petroleum price control.[[136]](#cite_note-136) Texas has known petroleum deposits of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), which makes up about one-fourth of the known U.S. reserves.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The state's [refineries](/wiki/Oil_refinery) can process [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of oil a day.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The [Baytown Refinery](/wiki/Baytown_Refinery) in the Houston area is the largest refinery in America.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Texas also leads in natural gas production, producing one-fourth of the nation's supply.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Several [petroleum companies](/wiki/List_of_petroleum_companies) are based in Texas such as: [Anadarko Petroleum Corporation](/wiki/Anadarko_Petroleum_Corporation), [Conoco-Phillips](/wiki/Conoco-Phillips), [Exxon-Mobil](/wiki/Exxon-Mobil), [Halliburton](/wiki/Halliburton), [Marathon Oil](/wiki/Marathon_Oil), [Tesoro](/wiki/Tesoro), and [Valero](/wiki/Valero_Energy_Corporation), [Western Refining](/wiki/Western_Refining).

According to the [Energy Information Administration](/wiki/Energy_Information_Administration), Texans consume, on average, the fifth most energy (of all types) in the nation per capita and as a whole, following behind Wyoming, Alaska, Louisiana, North Dakota, and Iowa.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Unlike the rest of the nation, most of Texas is on its own [alternating current](/wiki/Alternating_current) [power grid](/wiki/Power_grid), the [Texas Interconnection](/wiki/Texas_Interconnection). Texas has a [deregulated](/wiki/Deregulation_of_the_Texas_electricity_market) electric service. Texas leads the nation in total net electricity production, generating 437,236 MWh in 2014, 89% more MWh than Florida, which ranked second.[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139) As an independent nation, Texas would rank as the world's eleventh-[largest producer of electricity](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_electricity_consumption), after South Korea, and ahead of the United Kingdom.

The state is a leader in [renewable energy commercialization](/wiki/Renewable_energy_commercialization); it produces the most [wind power](/wiki/Wind_power_in_Texas) in the nation.[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[140]](#cite_note-140) In 2014, 10.6% of the electricity consumed in Texas came from [wind turbines](/wiki/Wind_turbine).[[141]](#cite_note-141) The [Roscoe Wind Farm](/wiki/Roscoe_Wind_Farm) in [Roscoe, Texas](/wiki/Roscoe,_Texas), is one of the world's largest [wind farms](/wiki/Wind_farm) with a 781.5 [megawatt](/wiki/Megawatt) (MW) capacity.[[142]](#cite_note-142) The Energy Information Administration states that the state's large agriculture and forestry industries could give Texas an enormous amount [biomass](/wiki/Biomass) for use in biofuels. The state also has the highest [solar power](/wiki/Solar_power) potential for development in the nation.[[137]](#cite_note-137)

### Technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

With large universities systems coupled with initiatives like the Texas Enterprise Fund and the [Texas Emerging Technology Fund](/wiki/Texas_Emerging_Technology_Fund), a wide array of different [high tech](/wiki/High_tech) industries have developed in Texas. The Austin area is nicknamed the "Silicon Hills" and the north Dallas area the "[Silicon Prairie](/wiki/Silicon_Prairie)". Texas has the headquarters of many high technology companies, such as [Dell](/wiki/Dell), Inc., [Texas Instruments](/wiki/Texas_Instruments), [Perot Systems](/wiki/Perot_Systems), [Rackspace](/wiki/Rackspace) and [AT&T](/wiki/AT&T).

The [National Aeronautics and Space Administration's](/wiki/National_Aeronautics_and_Space_Administration) [Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center](/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson_Space_Center) (NASA JSC) located in Southeast Houston, sits as the crown jewel of Texas's aeronautics industry. [Fort Worth](/wiki/Fort_Worth,_Texas) hosts both [Lockheed Martin's](/wiki/Lockheed_Martin) [Aeronautics division](/wiki/Lockheed_Martin_Aeronautics) and [Bell Helicopter Textron](/wiki/Bell_Helicopter_Textron).[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) Lockheed builds the [F-16 Fighting Falcon](/wiki/F-16_Fighting_Falcon), the largest Western fighter program, and its successor, the [F-35 Lightning II](/wiki/F-35_Lightning_II) in Fort Worth.[[145]](#cite_note-145)

### Commerce[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Texas's [affluence](/wiki/Affluence_in_the_United_States) stimulates a strong commercial sector consisting of retail, wholesale, banking and insurance, and construction industries. Examples of Fortune 500 companies not based on Texas traditional industries are [AT&T](/wiki/AT&T_Inc), [Kimberly-Clark](/wiki/Kimberly-Clark), [Blockbuster](/wiki/Blockbuster_Inc.), [J. C. Penney](/wiki/J._C._Penney), [Whole Foods Market](/wiki/Whole_Foods_Market), and [Tenet Healthcare](/wiki/Tenet_Healthcare).[[146]](#cite_note-146)Nationally, the Dallas–Fort Worth area, home to the [second shopping mall](/wiki/Highland_Park_Village) in the United States, has the most shopping malls per capita of any American metropolitan area.[[147]](#cite_note-147) Mexico, the state's largest trading partner, imports a third of the state's exports because of the [North American Free Trade Agreement](/wiki/North_American_Free_Trade_Agreement) (NAFTA). NAFTA has encouraged the formation of controversial [maquiladoras](/wiki/Maquiladoras) on the Texas/Mexico border.[[148]](#cite_note-148)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

[thumb|350px|Texas population density map.](/wiki/File:Texas_population_map2.png) The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates that the population of Texas was 27,469,114 on July 1, 2015, a 9.24 percent increase since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=PopEstUS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

As of 2004, the state had 3.5 million foreign-born residents (15.6 percent of the state population), of which an estimated 1.2 million are [illegal](/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States). Texas from 2000–2006 had the fastest growing illegal immigration rate in the nation.[[149]](#cite_note-149) In 2010, illegal immigrants constituted an estimated 6.0 percent of the population. This was the fifth highest percentage of any state in the country.[[150]](#cite_note-150)[[151]](#cite_note-151) In 2015, the population of illegal immigrants living in Texas was around 0.8 million.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Texas' [Rio Grande Valley](/wiki/Rio_Grande_Valley) is ground zero for illegal immigration across the Southwest border. According to a June 2014 *Los Angeles Times* article, illegal immigrants are arriving at a rate of more than 35,000 a month. It is expected that the number of minors traveling alone from [Guatemala](/wiki/Guatemala), [Honduras](/wiki/Honduras), and [El Salvador](/wiki/El_Salvador) is growing and will reach up to 90,000 by the end of 2014.<ref name=latimes-immigration>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Hondurans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans make up roughly 75% of illegal immigrants in South Texas.[[153]](#cite_note-153)[[154]](#cite_note-154) Texas's population density is 34.8 persons/km2 which is slightly higher than the average [population density](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_density) of the U.S. as a whole, at 31 persons/km2. In contrast, while Texas and France are similarly sized geographically, the European country has a population density of 116 persons/km2.

Two-thirds of all Texans live in a major metropolitan area such as Houston. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area is the largest in Texas. While Houston is the largest city in Texas and the fourth largest city in the United States, the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area is larger than that of Houston.

### Race and ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

According to the 2010 [United States census](/wiki/United_States_census), the racial composition of Texas was the following:[[155]](#cite_note-155)\* [White American](/wiki/White_American) 70.4 percent ([Non-Hispanic whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_whites) 45.3 percent)

* [Black or African American](/wiki/Black_American): 11.8 percent
* [American Indian](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States): 0.7 percent
* [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American): 3.8 percent (1.0 percent [Indian](/wiki/Indian_people), 0.8 percent [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_American), 0.6 percent [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_American), 0.4 percent [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_American), 0.3 percent [Korean](/wiki/Korean_American), 0.1 percent [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_American), 0.6 percent Other Asian)
* [Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander_American): 0.1 percent
* Some other race: 10.5 percent
* [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American): 2.7 percent

In addition, 37.6 percent of the population are [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) (31.6 percent [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American), 0.9 percent [Salvadoran](/wiki/Salvadoran_American), 0.5 percent [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Ricans_in_the_United_States), 0.4 percent [Honduran](/wiki/Honduran_American), 0.3 percent [Guatemalan](/wiki/Guatemalan_American) 0.3 percent [Spaniard](/wiki/Spanish_American), 0.2 percent [Colombian](/wiki/Colombian_American), 0.2 percent [Cuban](/wiki/Cuban_American))[[156]](#cite_note-156) As of 2011, 69.8% of the population of Texas younger than age 1 were minorities (meaning that they had at least one parent who was not non-Hispanic white).[[157]](#cite_note-157)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Texas Racial Breakdown of Population** | | | | |
| **Racial composition** | **1970**[**[158]**](#cite_note-158) | **1990<ref name=census>**[**Template:Cite web**](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)**</ref>** | **2000**[**[159]**](#cite_note-159) | **2010**[**[160]**](#cite_note-160) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) | 86.8% | 75.2% | 71.0% | 70.4% |
| [Black](/wiki/African_American) | 12.5% | 11.9% | 11.5% | 11.9% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 0.2% | 1.9% | 2.7% | 3.8% |
| [Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 0.7% |
| [Native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and [other Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) | – | – | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| [Other race](/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | 0.4% | 10.6% | 11.7% | 10.5% |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | – | – | 2.5% | 2.7% |

[thumb|right|War on the plains.](/wiki/File:Comanche_Osage_fight.jpg) [Comanche](/wiki/Comanche) (right) trying to lance Osage warrior. Painting by [George Catlin](/wiki/George_Catlin), 1834 [German](/wiki/German_American), [Irish](/wiki/Irish_American), and [English Americans](/wiki/English_American) are the three largest European ancestry groups in Texas. German Americans make up 11.3 percent of the population, and number over 2.7 million members. Irish Americans make up 8.2 percent of the population, and number over 1.9 million members. There are roughly 600,000 [French Americans](/wiki/French_American) and 472,000 Italian Americans residing in Texas; these two ethnic groups make up 2.5 percent and 2.0 percent of the population respectively. In the [1980 United States Census](/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) the largest ancestry group reported in Texas was [English](/wiki/English_American) with 3,083,323 Texans citing that they were of [English](/wiki/English_American) or mostly [English](/wiki/English_American) ancestry making them 27 percent of the state at the time.[[161]](#cite_note-161) Their ancestry primarily goes back to the original thirteen colonies and thus many of them today identify as "American" in ancestry, though they are of predominately [British](/wiki/British_Isles) stock.[[162]](#cite_note-162)[[163]](#cite_note-163) There are nearly 200,000 [Czech-Americans](/wiki/Czech_Texan) living in Texas, the largest number of any state.[[164]](#cite_note-164) African Americans are the largest racial minority in Texas. Their proportion of population has declined since the early 20th century, after many left the state in the [Great Migration](/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)). Blacks of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin make up 11.5 percent of the population; blacks of non-Hispanic origin form 11.3 percent of the populace. African Americans of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin number at roughly 2.7 million individuals.

Native Americans are a smaller minority in the state. Native Americans make up 0.5 percent of Texas' population, and number over 118,000 individuals. Native Americans of non-Hispanic origin make up 0.3 percent of the population, and number over 75,000 individuals. [Cherokee](/wiki/Cherokee) made up 0.1 percent of the population, and numbered over 19,400 members. In contrast, only 583 identified as [Chippewa](/wiki/Chippewa).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Emory-El_Paso.jpg)[El Paso](/wiki/El_Paso,_Texas), founded by Spanish settlers in 1659 Asian Americans are a sizable minority group in Texas. Americans of Asian descent form 3.8 percent of the population, with those of non-Hispanic descent making up 3.7 percent of the populace. They total more than 808,000 individuals. Non-Hispanic Asians number over 795,000. Just over 200,000 [Indians](/wiki/Indian_American) make Texas their home. Texas is also home to over 187,000 [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_American) and 136,000 [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_American). In addition to 92,000 [Filipinos](/wiki/Filipino_American) and 62,000 [Koreans](/wiki/Korean_American), there are 18,000 [Japanese Americans](/wiki/Japanese_American) living in the state. Lastly, over 111,000 people are of other Asian ancestry groups, such as [Cambodian](/wiki/Cambodian_American), [Thai](/wiki/Thai_American), and [Hmong](/wiki/Hmong_American). [Sugar Land](/wiki/Sugar_Land,_TX), a city within the Houston metropolitan area, and [Plano](/wiki/Plano,_TX), located within the Dallas metropolitan area, both have high concentrations of ethnic Chinese and Korean residents. The Houston and Dallas areas, and to a lesser extent, the Austin metropolitan area, all contain substantial Vietnamese communities.

Americans with origins from the Pacific are the smallest minority in Texas. According to the survey, only 18,000 Texans are Pacific Islanders; 16,400 are of non-Hispanic descent. There are roughly 5,400 [Native Hawaiians](/wiki/Native_Hawaiians), 5,300 Guamanians, and 6,400 people from other groups. [Samoan Americans](/wiki/Samoan_American) were scant; only 2,920 people were from this group. The city of [Euless](/wiki/Euless), a suburb of [Fort Worth](/wiki/Fort_Worth,_Texas), contains a sizable population of [Tongan Americans](/wiki/Tongan_American), at nearly 900 people, over one percent of the city's population. [Killeen](/wiki/Killeen,_Texas) has a sufficient population of Samoans and Guamanian, and people of Pacific Islander descent surpass one percent of the city's population.

Multiracial individuals are also a visible minority in Texas. People identifying as multiracial form 1.9 percent of the population, and number over 448,000 people. Almost 80,000 Texans claim African and European heritage, and make up 0.3 percent of the population. People of European and Native American heritage number over 108,800 (close to the number of Native Americans), and make up 0.5 percent of the population. People of European and Asian heritage number over 57,600, and form just 0.2 percent of the population. People of African and Native American heritage were even smaller in number (15,300), and make up just 0.1 percent of the total population.

[thumb|German trek on its way to](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_137-005007,_Zeichnung,_Deutscher_Einwandererzug_in_Texas.jpg) [New Braunfels](/wiki/New_Braunfels,_Texas) Hispanics and Latinos are the second largest group in Texas after non-Hispanic [European Americans](/wiki/European_American). Over 8.5 million people claim Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This group forms over 37 percent of Texas' population. People of [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American) descent alone number over 7.9 million, and make up 31.6 percent of the population. The vast majority of the Hispanic/Latino population in the state is of Mexican descent, the next two largest groups are Salvadorans and Puerto Ricans. There are over 222,000 [Salvadorans](/wiki/Salvadoran_American) and over 130,000 [Puerto Ricans](/wiki/Puerto_Ricans_in_the_United_States) in Texas. Other groups with large numbers in Texas include [Hondurans](/wiki/Honduran_American), [Guatemalans](/wiki/Guatemalan_American), [Nicaraguans](/wiki/Nicaraguan_American) and [Cubans](/wiki/Cuban_American), among others.[[165]](#cite_note-165)[[166]](#cite_note-166) The Hispanics in Texas are more likely than in some other states (such as California) to identify as white; according to the 2010 U.S. Census, Texas is home to 6,304,207 [White Hispanics](/wiki/White_Hispanics) and 2,594,206 Hispanics of "some other race" (usually [mestizo](/wiki/Mestizo)). [thumb|right|Welcome to](/wiki/File:Praha_texas.jpeg) [Praha, Texas](/wiki/Praha,_Texas), "Czech Capital of Texas".

German descendants inhabit much of central and southeast-central Texas. Over one-third of Texas residents are of Hispanic origin; while many have recently arrived, some [Tejanos](/wiki/Tejanos) have ancestors with multi-generational ties to 18th century Texas. In addition to the descendants of the state's former slave population, many African American college graduates have come to the state for work recently in the [New Great Migration](/wiki/New_Great_Migration).[[167]](#cite_note-167) Recently, the Asian population in Texas has grown—primarily in Houston and Dallas. Other communities with a significantly growing Asian American population is in Austin, Corpus Christi, and the Sharyland area next [McAllen, Texas](/wiki/McAllen,_Texas). Three federally recognized Native American tribes reside in Texas: the [Alabama-Coushatta](/wiki/Alabama-Coushatta) Tribe, the [Kickapoo](/wiki/Kickapoo_people) Traditional Tribe, and the [Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo](/wiki/Ysleta_Del_Sur_Pueblo).[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 2010, 49 percent of all births were Hispanics; 35 percent were non-Hispanic whites; 11.5 percent were non-Hispanic blacks, and 4.3 percent were Asians/Pacific Islanders.[[168]](#cite_note-168) Based on Census Bureau data released on February 2011, for the first time in recent history, Texas' white population is below 50 percent (45 percent) and Hispanics grew to 38 percent. Between 2000 and 2010, the total population growth by 20.6 percent, but Hispanics growth by 65 percent, whereas non-Hispanic whites only grew by 4.2 percent.[[169]](#cite_note-169) Texas has the fifth highest rate of teenage births in the nation and a plurality of these are to Hispanics.[[170]](#cite_note-170)

### Cities and towns[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**Largest city in Texas**](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Texas_by_population) **by year**[**[171]**](#cite_note-171) | |
| **Year(s)** | **City** |
| 1850–1870 | [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio)[[172]](#cite_note-172) |
| 1870–1890 | [Galveston](/wiki/Galveston,_Texas)[[173]](#cite_note-173) |
| 1890–1900 | [Dallas](/wiki/Dallas)[[171]](#cite_note-171) |
| 1900–1930 | [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio)[[172]](#cite_note-172) |
| 1930–present | [Houston](/wiki/Houston)[[174]](#cite_note-174) |

The state has three cities with populations exceeding one million: Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas.<ref name=PopEstBigCities>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) [Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref> These three rank among the 10 most populous cities of the United States. As of 2010, six Texas cities had populations greater than 600,000 people. Austin, Fort Worth, and El Paso are among the 20 [largest U.S. cities](/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population). Texas has four [metropolitan areas](/wiki/List_of_Texas_metropolitan_areas) with populations greater than a million: [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), and [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap). The Dallas–Fort Worth and Houston metropolitan areas number about 6.3 million and 5.7 million residents, respectively.

Three [interstate highways](/wiki/Interstate_Highway_System)—[I-35](/wiki/Interstate_35_(Texas)) to the west (Dallas–Fort Worth to San Antonio, with Austin in between), [I-45](/wiki/Interstate_45_(Texas)) to the east (Dallas to Houston), and [I-10](/wiki/Interstate_10_(Texas)) to the south (San Antonio to Houston) define the [Texas Urban Triangle](/wiki/Texas_Urban_Triangle) region. The region of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) contains most of the state's largest cities and metropolitan areas as well as 17 million people, nearly 75 percent of Texas's total population.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Houston and Dallas have been recognized as beta [world cities](/wiki/Global_city).[[176]](#cite_note-176) These cities are spread out amongst the state. Texas has [254 counties](/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Texas), which is more than any state by 95 (Georgia).[[177]](#cite_note-177) In contrast to the cities, unincorporated rural settlements known as [colonias](/wiki/Colonia_(border_settlement)) often lack basic infrastructure and are marked by poverty.[[178]](#cite_note-178) The office of the Texas Attorney General in 2011 that Texas had about 2,294 colonias and estimates that about 500,000 lived in the colonias. [Hidalgo County](/wiki/Hidalgo_County,_Texas), as of 2011, has the largest number of colonias.[[179]](#cite_note-179) Texas has the largest number of people of all states, living in colonias.[[178]](#cite_note-178) [Template:Largest cities](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

The most common [accent](/wiki/Accent_(sociolinguistics)) and/or [dialect](/wiki/Dialect) spoken by natives throughout Texas is sometimes referred to as [Texan English](/wiki/Texan_English), which itself is a sub-variety of a broader category of [American English](/wiki/American_English) known as [Southern American English](/wiki/Southern_American_English).[[180]](#cite_note-180)[[181]](#cite_note-181) [Creole language](/wiki/Creole_language) is spoken in East Texas.[[182]](#cite_note-182) In some areas of the state—particularly in the large cities – [Western American English](/wiki/Western_American_English) and [General American English](/wiki/General_American_English), have been on the increase. [Chicano English](/wiki/Chicano_English)—due to a growing Hispanic population—is widespread in South Texas, while [African American Vernacular English](/wiki/African_American_Vernacular_English), is especially notable in historically minority areas of urban Texas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Top 10 Non-English Languages Spoken in Texas** | |
| **Language** | **Percentage of population (as of 2010)**[**[183]**](#cite_note-183) |
| [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language) | 29.21% |
| [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_language) | 0.75% |
| [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_language) (including [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese) and [Cantonese](/wiki/Cantonese)) | 0.56% |
| [German](/wiki/German_language) | 0.33% |
| [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language) | 0.29% |
| [French](/wiki/French_language) | 0.25% |
| [Korean](/wiki/Korean_language) and [Urdu](/wiki/Urdu_language) (tied) | 0.24% |
| [Hindi](/wiki/Hindi_language) | 0.23% |
| [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) | 0.21% |
| [Niger-Congo languages](/wiki/Niger-Congo_languages) of [West Africa](/wiki/West_Africa) ([Ibo](/wiki/Igbo_language), [Kru](/wiki/Kru_languages), and [Yoruba](/wiki/Yoruba_languages)) | 0.15% |

As of 2010, 65.8% (14,740,304) of Texas residents age 5 and older spoke only [English](/wiki/English_language) at home, while 29.2% (6,543,702) spoke [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language), 0.75 percent (168,886) [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_language), and [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_language) (which includes [Cantonese](/wiki/Cantonese) and [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese)) was spoken by 0.56% (122,921) of the population over the age of five.[[183]](#cite_note-183) Other languages spoken include [German](/wiki/German_language) (including [Texas German](/wiki/Texas_German)) by 0.33% (73,137,) [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language) with 0.29% (73,137) speakers, and [French](/wiki/French_language) (including [Cajun French](/wiki/Cajun_French)) was spoken by 0.25% (55,773) of Texans.[[183]](#cite_note-183) Reportedly, [Cherokee](/wiki/Cherokee_language) is the most widely spoken [Native American language](/wiki/Native_American_language) in Texas.[[184]](#cite_note-184) In total, 34.2% (7,660,406) of Texas's population aged five and older spoke a language at home other than English.[[183]](#cite_note-183)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

The 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Survey showed the religious makeup of the state was as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Religious affiliation in Texas (2014)[[185]](#cite_note-185) | | |
| **Affiliation** | **% of Texas population** | |
| [Christian](/wiki/Christianity) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Evangelical Protestant](/wiki/Evangelical_Protestant) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Mainline Protestant](/wiki/Mainline_Protestant) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Black church](/wiki/Black_church) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Mormon](/wiki/Mormon) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Other Christian | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Unaffiliated](/wiki/Irreligion) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Nothing in particular | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Agnostic](/wiki/Agnosticism) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Atheist](/wiki/Atheism) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Non-Christian faiths | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Hindu](/wiki/Hindu) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Other Non-Christian faiths | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Don't know/refused answer | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| **Total** | [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Lakewood_church.jpg) [Lakewood Church](/wiki/Lakewood_Church) in [Houston](/wiki/Houston) is the largest church in the United States. The largest denominations by number of adherents in 2010 were the Roman Catholic Church (4,673,500); the [Southern Baptist Convention](/wiki/Southern_Baptist_Convention) (3,721,318); the [United Methodist Church](/wiki/United_Methodist_Church) with (1,035,168); and [Islam](/wiki/Islam) (421,972).[[186]](#cite_note-186) Known as the buckle of the [Bible Belt](/wiki/Bible_Belt), East Texas is socially conservative.[[187]](#cite_note-187) The [Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex](/wiki/Dallas–Fort_Worth_metroplex) is home to three major evangelical seminaries and a host of Bible schools. [Lakewood Church](/wiki/Lakewood_Church) in Houston, boasts the largest attendance in the nation averaging more than 43,000 weekly.[[188]](#cite_note-188) Adherents of many other religions reside predominantly in the urban centers of Texas. In 1990, the Islamic population was about 140,000 with more recent figures putting the current number of Muslims between 350,000 and 400,000.[[189]](#cite_note-189) The Jewish population is around 128,000.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Around 146,000 adherents of religions such as [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism) and [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism) live in Texas.[[191]](#cite_note-191) It is the fifth-largest [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim)-populated state in the country.[[192]](#cite_note-192)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Mission_San_Antonio_aka_Alamo.jpg)[The Alamo](/wiki/Alamo_Mission_in_San_Antonio) is one of the most recognized symbols of Texas. Historically, Texas culture comes from a blend of Southern [(Dixie)](/wiki/Southern_United_States), Western [(frontier)](/wiki/Frontier_Strip), and Southwestern [(Mexican/Anglo fusion)](/wiki/Southwestern_United_States) influences, varying in degrees of such from one intrastate region to another. A popular food item, the [breakfast burrito](/wiki/Breakfast_burrito), draws from all three, having a soft flour tortilla wrapped around bacon and scrambled eggs or other hot, cooked fillings. Adding to Texas's traditional culture, established in the 18th and 19th centuries, immigration has made Texas a [melting pot](/wiki/Melting_pot) of cultures from around the world. [East Texas](/wiki/East_Texas) and the [Gulf Coastal Plains](/wiki/Gulf_Coastal_Plains) regions near the Louisiana border have a Cajun/Creole influence.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Texas has made a strong mark on national and international pop culture. The state is strongly associated with the image of the [cowboy](/wiki/Cowboy) shown in [westerns](/wiki/Westerns) and in [country western music](/wiki/Country_western_music). The state's numerous oil tycoons are also a popular pop culture topic as seen in the hit TV series [*Dallas*](/wiki/Dallas_(1978_TV_series)).

The internationally known slogan "[Don't Mess with Texas](/wiki/Don't_Mess_with_Texas)" began as an anti-littering [advertisement](/wiki/Advertising_campaign). Since the campaign's inception in 1986, the phrase has become "an identity statement, a declaration of Texas swagger".<ref name=DMWTexas>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Texas self perception[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

Texas-sized is an expression that can be used in two ways: to describe something that is about the size of the [U.S. state](/wiki/U.S._state) of Texas,[[194]](#cite_note-194)[[195]](#cite_note-195) or to describe something (usually but not always originating from Texas) that is large compared to other objects of its type.[[196]](#cite_note-196)[[197]](#cite_note-197)[[198]](#cite_note-198) Texas was the largest U.S. state, until [Alaska](/wiki/Alaska) became a state in 1959. The phrase, "everything is bigger in Texas," has been in regular use since at least 1950;[[199]](#cite_note-199) and was used as early as 1913.[[200]](#cite_note-200)

### Arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Big_Tex.JPG)[Big Tex](/wiki/Big_Tex) presided over every [Texas State Fair](/wiki/State_Fair_of_Texas) since 1952 until it was destroyed by fire in 2012 Houston is one of only five American cities with permanent professional resident companies in all of the major performing arts disciplines: the [Houston Grand Opera](/wiki/Houston_Grand_Opera), the [Houston Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Houston_Symphony_Orchestra), the [Houston Ballet](/wiki/Houston_Ballet), and [The Alley Theatre](/wiki/The_Alley_Theatre).[[201]](#cite_note-201) Known for the vibrancy of its [visual](/wiki/Visual_arts) and [performing arts](/wiki/Performing_arts), the [Houston Theater District](/wiki/Houston_Theater_District)—a 17-block area in the heart of [Downtown Houston](/wiki/Downtown_Houston)— ranks second in the country in the number of theater seats in a concentrated downtown area, with 12,948 seats for live performances and 1,480 movie seats.[[201]](#cite_note-201) Founded in 1892, [Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth](/wiki/Modern_Art_Museum_of_Fort_Worth), also called "The Modern", is Texas's oldest art museum. Fort Worth also has the [Kimbell Art Museum](/wiki/Kimbell_Art_Museum), the [Amon Carter Museum](/wiki/Amon_Carter_Museum), the [National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame](/wiki/National_Cowgirl_Museum_and_Hall_of_Fame), the [Will Rogers Memorial Center](/wiki/Will_Rogers_Memorial_Center), and the [Bass Performance Hall](/wiki/Bass_Performance_Hall) downtown. The [Arts District](/wiki/Arts_District,_Dallas) of [Downtown Dallas](/wiki/Downtown_Dallas) has arts venues such as the [Dallas Museum of Art](/wiki/Dallas_Museum_of_Art), the [Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center](/wiki/Morton_H._Meyerson_Symphony_Center), [the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House](/wiki/The_Margot_and_Bill_Winspear_Opera_House), [the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art](/wiki/The_Trammell_&_Margaret_Crow_Collection_of_Asian_Art), and the [Nasher Sculpture Center](/wiki/Nasher_Sculpture_Center).[[202]](#cite_note-202) The [Deep Ellum](/wiki/Deep_Ellum) district within Dallas became popular during the 1920s and 1930s as the prime [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) and [blues](/wiki/Blues) hotspot in the Southern United States. The name Deep Ellum comes from local people pronouncing "Deep Elm" as "Deep Ellum".[[203]](#cite_note-203) Artists such as [Blind Lemon Jefferson](/wiki/Blind_Lemon_Jefferson), [Robert Johnson](/wiki/Robert_Johnson_(musician)), Huddie "[Lead Belly](/wiki/Lead_Belly)" Ledbetter, and [Bessie Smith](/wiki/Bessie_Smith) played in early Deep Ellum clubs.[[204]](#cite_note-204) Austin, [*The Live Music Capital of the World*](/wiki/Music_of_Austin), boasts "more live music venues per capita than such music hotbeds as Nashville, Memphis, Los Angeles, Las Vegas or New York City."[[205]](#cite_note-205) The city's music revolves around the [nightclubs](/wiki/Nightclub) on [6th Street](/wiki/6th_Street_(Austin)); events like the film, music, and [multimedia](/wiki/Multimedia) festival [South by Southwest](/wiki/South_by_Southwest); the longest-running concert music program on American television, [*Austin City Limits*](/wiki/Austin_City_Limits); and the [Austin City Limits Music Festival](/wiki/Austin_City_Limits_Music_Festival) held in [Zilker Park](/wiki/Zilker_Park).[[206]](#cite_note-206) Since 1980, San Antonio has evolved into "The [Tejano Music](/wiki/Tejano_Music) Capital Of The World."[[207]](#cite_note-207) The [Tejano Music Awards](/wiki/Tejano_Music_Awards) have provided a forum to create greater awareness and appreciation for Tejano music and culture.[[208]](#cite_note-208)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The second [president of the Republic of Texas](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_Republic_of_Texas), [Mirabeau B. Lamar](/wiki/Mirabeau_B._Lamar), is the *Father of Texas Education*. During his term, the state set aside three [leagues](/wiki/League_(unit)) of land in each county for equipping public schools. An additional 50 leagues of land set aside for the support of two universities would later become the basis of the state's [Permanent University Fund](/wiki/Permanent_University_Fund).[[209]](#cite_note-209) Lamar's actions set the foundation for a Texas-wide public school system.<ref name=hen37>Hendrickson (1995), p. 37.</ref>

Between 2006 and 2007, Texas spent $7,275 per pupil ranking it below the national average of $9,389. The pupil/teacher ratio was 14.9, below the national average of 15.3. Texas paid instructors $41,744, below the national average of $46,593. The [Texas Education Agency](/wiki/Texas_Education_Agency) (TEA) administers the state's public school systems. Texas has [over 1,000](/wiki/List_of_school_districts_in_Texas) [school districts](/wiki/School_district)- all districts except the [Stafford Municipal School District](/wiki/Stafford_Municipal_School_District) are independent from municipal government and many cross city boundaries.[[210]](#cite_note-210) School districts have the power to [tax](/wiki/Taxation) their residents and to assert [eminent domain](/wiki/Eminent_domain) over privately owned property. Due to court-mandated equitable school financing for school districts, the state has a controversial tax redistribution system called the"[Robin Hood plan](/wiki/Robin_Hood_plan)". This plan transfers property tax revenue from wealthy school districts to poor ones.[[211]](#cite_note-211) The TEA has no authority over private or [home school](/wiki/Homeschooling) activities.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Students in Texas take the [State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness](/wiki/State_of_Texas_Assessments_of_Academic_Readiness) (STAAR) in primary and secondary school. STAAR assess students' attainment of [reading](/wiki/Reading_(activity)), writing, [mathematics](/wiki/Mathematics), science, and [social studies](/wiki/Social_studies) skills required under Texas education standards and the [No Child Left Behind Act](/wiki/No_Child_Left_Behind_Act). The test replaced the [Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills](/wiki/Texas_Assessment_of_Knowledge_and_Skills) (TAKS) test in the 2011–2012 school year.[[213]](#cite_note-213)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Higher education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:The_University_of_Texas_at_Austin_-_Littlefield_Fountain_and_Main_Building.jpg)[The University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/University_of_Texas_at_Austin) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The state's two most widely-recognized flagship universities are [The University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_Austin) and [Texas A&M University](/wiki/Texas_A&M_University), ranked as the 52nd[[214]](#cite_note-214) and 69th[[215]](#cite_note-215) best universities in the nation according to the 2014 edition of [U.S. News & World Report's](/wiki/US_News_and_World_Report) "Best Colleges", respectively. Some observers[[216]](#cite_note-216) also include the [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston) and [Texas Tech University](/wiki/Texas_Tech_University) as tier one flagships alongside UT Austin and A&M.[[217]](#cite_note-217)[[218]](#cite_note-218) The [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](/wiki/Texas_Higher_Education_Coordinating_Board) (THECB) ranks the state's public universities into three distinct tiers:[[219]](#cite_note-219)\* National Research Universities (Tier 1)[[220]](#cite_note-220)\*\* [The University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_Austin)

* + [Texas A&M University](/wiki/Texas_A&M_University)
  + [Texas Tech University](/wiki/Texas_Tech_University)
  + [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston)
* Emerging Research Universities (Tier 2)[[219]](#cite_note-219)\*\* [The University of Texas at Arlington](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_Arlington)
  + [The University of Texas at Dallas](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_Dallas)
  + [The University of Texas at El Paso](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_El_Paso)
  + [The University of Texas at San Antonio](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_at_San_Antonio)
  + [The University of North Texas](/wiki/The_University_of_North_Texas)
  + [Texas State University](/wiki/Texas_State_University)
* Comprehensive Universities (Tier 3)[[219]](#cite_note-219)\*\* All other public universities (25 in total)

Texas's controversial alternative affirmative action plan, [Texas House Bill 588](/wiki/Texas_House_Bill_588), guarantees Texas students who graduated in the [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) percent of their high school class automatic admission to state-funded universities. The bill encourages demographic diversity while avoiding problems stemming from the [*Hopwood v. Texas*](/wiki/Hopwood_v._Texas) (1996) case.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:TAMUcampus.jpg)[Texas A&M University](/wiki/Texas_A&M_University) Thirty-six (36) separate and distinct public universities exist in Texas, of which 32 belong to one of the six state university systems.[[221]](#cite_note-221)[[222]](#cite_note-222) Discovery of minerals on [Permanent University Fund](/wiki/Permanent_University_Fund) land, particularly oil, has helped fund the rapid growth of the state's two largest university systems: [The University of Texas System](/wiki/University_of_Texas_System) and the [Texas A&M System](/wiki/Texas_A&M_University_System). The four other university systems: the [University of Houston System](/wiki/University_of_Houston_System), the [University of North Texas System](/wiki/University_of_North_Texas_System), the [Texas State System](/wiki/Texas_State_University_System), and the [Texas Tech System](/wiki/Texas_Tech_University_System) are not funded by the Permanent University Fund.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Ezekiel_W._Cullen_Building_(Alternate).JPG)[University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston) The Carnegie Foundation classifies three of Texas's universities as Tier One research institutions: [The University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/University_of_Texas_at_Austin), the [Texas A&M University](/wiki/Texas_A&M_University), and the [University of Houston](/wiki/University_of_Houston). The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University are flagship universities of the state of Texas. Both were established by the Texas Constitution and hold stakes in the Permanent University Fund. The state has been putting effort to expand the number of flagship universities by elevating some of its seven institutions designated as "emerging research universities." The two that are expected to emerge first are the University of Houston and Texas Tech University, likely in that order according to discussions on the House floor of the 82nd Texas Legislature.[[223]](#cite_note-223) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Lovett_Hall.jpg)[Rice University](/wiki/Rice_University) The state is home to various private institutions of higher learning—ranging from liberal arts colleges to a nationally recognized top-tier research university. [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) in Houston is one of the leading teaching and research universities of the United States and is ranked the nation's 17th-best overall university by *U.S. News & World Report*.[[224]](#cite_note-224) [Trinity University](/wiki/Trinity_University_(Texas)), a private, primarily undergraduate liberal arts university in San Antonio, has ranked first among universities granting primarily bachelor's and select master's degrees in the Western United States for 20 consecutive years by *U.S. News*.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Private universities include [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), and [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap).[[226]](#cite_note-226)[[227]](#cite_note-227)[[228]](#cite_note-228) Universities in Texas host three presidential libraries: [George Bush Presidential Library](/wiki/George_Bush_Presidential_Library) at Texas A&M University, the [Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum](/wiki/Lyndon_Baines_Johnson_Library_and_Museum) at The University of Texas at Austin, and the [George W. Bush Presidential Library](/wiki/George_W._Bush_Presidential_Library) at [Southern Methodist University](/wiki/Southern_Methodist_University). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [The Commonwealth Fund](/wiki/The_Commonwealth_Fund) ranks the Texas [healthcare system](/wiki/Healthcare_system) the third worst in the nation.[[229]](#cite_note-229) Texas ranks close to last in access to healthcare, quality of care, avoidable hospital spending, and equity among various groups.[[229]](#cite_note-229) Causes of the state's poor rankings include politics, a high poverty rate, and the highest rate of illegal immigration in the nation.[[149]](#cite_note-149) In May 2006, Texas initiated the program "code red" in response to the report that the state had 25.1 percent of the population without health insurance, the largest proportion in the nation.[[230]](#cite_note-230) Texas also has controversial [non-economic damages caps](/wiki/Non-economic_damages_caps) for [medical malpractice](/wiki/Medical_malpractice) lawsuits, set at $250,000, in an attempt to "curb rising malpractice premiums, and control escalating healthcare costs".[[231]](#cite_note-231) The [Trust for America's Health](/wiki/Trust_for_America's_Health) ranked Texas 15th highest in adult [obesity](/wiki/Obesity), with 27.2 percent of the state's population [measured](/wiki/Measured) as obese.[[232]](#cite_note-232) The 2008 [Men's Health](/wiki/Men's_Health_(magazine)) obesity survey ranked four Texas cities among the top 25 fattest cities in America; Houston ranked 6th, Dallas 7th, El Paso 8th, and [Arlington](/wiki/Arlington,_Texas) 14th.[[233]](#cite_note-233) Texas had only one city, Austin, ranked 21st, in the top 25 among the "fittest cities" in America.[[233]](#cite_note-233) The same survey has evaluated the state's obesity initiatives favorably with a "B+".[[233]](#cite_note-233) The state is ranked forty-second in the percentage of residents who engage in regular exercise.[[234]](#cite_note-234)

### Medical research[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

Many elite research medical centers are located in Texas. The state has nine [medical schools](/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_Texas#Health_science),[[235]](#cite_note-235) three dental schools,[[236]](#cite_note-236) and two [optometry](/wiki/Optometry) schools.[[237]](#cite_note-237) Texas has two [Biosafety Level 4](/wiki/Biosafety_Level_4) (BSL-4) laboratories: one at [The University of Texas Medical Branch](/wiki/The_University_of_Texas_Medical_Branch) (UTMB) in Galveston,[[238]](#cite_note-238) and the other at the [Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research](/wiki/Southwest_Foundation_for_Biomedical_Research) in San Antonio—the first privately owned BSL-4 lab in the United States.[[239]](#cite_note-239) The [Texas Medical Center](/wiki/Texas_Medical_Center) in Houston, holds the world's largest concentration of research and healthcare institutions, with 47 member institutions.[[240]](#cite_note-240) Texas Medical Center performs the most heart transplants in the world.[[241]](#cite_note-241) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston is a highly regarded academic institution that centers around cancer patient care, research, education and prevention.[[242]](#cite_note-242) San Antonio's [South Texas Medical Center](/wiki/South_Texas_Medical_Center) facilities rank sixth in clinical medicine research impact in the United States.[[243]](#cite_note-243) The [University of Texas Health Science Center](/wiki/UTHSCSA) is another highly ranked research and educational institution in San Antonio.[[244]](#cite_note-244)[[245]](#cite_note-245) Both the [American Heart Association](/wiki/American_Heart_Association) and the [University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center](/wiki/University_of_Texas_Southwestern_Medical_Center) call Dallas home. The Southwestern Medical Center ranks "among the top academic medical centers in the world".[[246]](#cite_note-246) The [institution's medical school](/wiki/University_of_Texas_Southwestern_Medical_School) employs the most medical school [Nobel laureates](/wiki/Nobel_laureates) in the world.[[246]](#cite_note-246)[[247]](#cite_note-247)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|250px|The](/wiki/File:High_Five.jpg) [High Five Interchange](/wiki/High_Five_Interchange) in [Dallas](/wiki/Dallas) is a five level interchange. Texans have historically had difficulties traversing Texas due to the state's large size and rough terrain. Texas has compensated by building both America's largest highway and railway systems in length. The [regulatory authority](/wiki/Regulatory_authority), the [Texas Department of Transportation](/wiki/Texas_Department_of_Transportation) (TxDOT) maintains the state's immense highway system, regulates aviation,[[248]](#cite_note-248) and [public transportation](/wiki/Public_transportation) systems.[[249]](#cite_note-249) Located centrally in North America, the state is an important [transportation hub](/wiki/Transportation_hub). From the Dallas/Fort Worth area, trucks can reach 93 percent of the nation's population within 48 hours, and 37 percent within 24 hours.[[250]](#cite_note-250) Texas has 33 [foreign trade zones](/wiki/Special_Economic_Zone) (FTZ), the most in the nation.[[251]](#cite_note-251) In 2004, a combined total of $298 billion of goods passed though Texas FTZs.[[251]](#cite_note-251)

### Highways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|250px|Welcome to Texas road sign.](/wiki/File:Welcome_to_Texas_sign,_2008.jpg) The first Texas freeway was the [Gulf Freeway](/wiki/Gulf_Freeway) opened in 1948 in Houston.[[252]](#cite_note-252) As of 2005, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of public highway crisscrossed Texas (up from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1984).[[253]](#cite_note-253) To fund recent growth in the state highways, Texas has 17 toll roads (see [list](/wiki/List_of_Toll_Roads_in_the_United_States#Texas)) with several additional [tollways](/wiki/Tollway) proposed.[[254]](#cite_note-254) In central Texas, the southern section of the [State Highway 130](/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_130) toll road has a speed limit of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the highest in the nation.[[255]](#cite_note-255) All federal and state highways in Texas are paved.

### Airports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Texas has 730 airports, second most of any state in the nation. Largest in Texas by size and passengers served, [Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport](/wiki/Dallas/Fort_Worth_International_Airport) (DFW) is the second largest by area in the United States, and fourth in the world with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[256]](#cite_note-256) In traffic, DFW is the busiest in the state, the fourth busiest in the United States,[[257]](#cite_note-257) and sixth worldwide.[[258]](#cite_note-258) [American Airlines Group's](/wiki/American_Airlines_Group) [American](/wiki/American_Airlines) / [American Eagle](/wiki/American_Eagle_Airlines), the world's largest airline in total passengers-miles transported and passenger fleet size,[[259]](#cite_note-259) uses DFW as its largest and main [hub](/wiki/Airline_hub). [Southwest Airlines](/wiki/Southwest_Airlines), headquartered in Dallas, has its operations at [Dallas Love Field](/wiki/Dallas_Love_Field).[[260]](#cite_note-260) It ranks as the largest airline in the United States by number of passengers carried domestically per year and the [largest airline in the world](/wiki/World's_largest_airlines#Scheduled_domestic_passengers_carried) by number of passengers carried.[[261]](#cite_note-261) Texas's second-largest air facility is Houston's [George Bush Intercontinental Airport](/wiki/George_Bush_Intercontinental_Airport) (IAH). It served as the largest hub for the former [Continental Airlines](/wiki/Continental_Airlines), which was based in Houston; it serves as the largest hub for [United Airlines](/wiki/United_Airlines), the world's third-largest airline, by passenger-miles flown.[[262]](#cite_note-262)[[263]](#cite_note-263) IAH offers service to the most Mexican destinations of any U.S. airport.[[264]](#cite_note-264)[[265]](#cite_note-265) The next five largest airports in the state all serve over 3 million passengers annually; they include [Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](/wiki/Austin-Bergstrom_International_Airport), [William P. Hobby Airport](/wiki/William_P._Hobby_Airport), [San Antonio International Airport](/wiki/San_Antonio_International_Airport), [Dallas Love Field](/wiki/Dallas_Love_Field) and [El Paso International Airport](/wiki/El_Paso_International_Airport). The smallest airport in the state to be designated an international airport is [Del Rio International Airport](/wiki/Del_Rio_International_Airport).

### Ports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Around 1,150 [seaports](/wiki/Seaports) dot Texas's coast with over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [channels](/wiki/Channel_(geography)).[[266]](#cite_note-266) Ports employ nearly one-million people and handle an average of 317 million [metric tons](/wiki/Metric_tons).[[267]](#cite_note-267) Texas ports connect with the rest of the U.S. Atlantic seaboard with the [Gulf](/wiki/Gulf_Intracoastal_Waterway) section of the [Intracoastal Waterway](/wiki/Intracoastal_Waterway).[[266]](#cite_note-266) The [Port of Houston](/wiki/Port_of_Houston) today is the busiest port in the United States in foreign tonnage, second in overall tonnage, and [tenth](/wiki/List_of_world's_busiest_ports_by_cargo_tonnage) worldwide in tonnage.[[268]](#cite_note-268) The [Houston Ship Channel](/wiki/Houston_Ship_Channel) spans [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) wide by [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) deep by [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long.[[269]](#cite_note-269)

### Railroads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Part of the state's [tradition](/wiki/Cowboy#Texas_tradition) of cowboys is derived from the massive [cattle drives](/wiki/Cattle_drives_in_the_United_States) which its ranchers organized in the nineteenth century to [drive](/wiki/Cattle_drives_in_the_United_States) livestock to railroads and markets in Kansas, for shipment to the East. Towns along the way, such as [Baxter Springs](/wiki/Baxter_Springs,_Kansas), the first cow town in Kansas, developed to handle the seasonal workers and tens of thousands of head of cattle being driven.

The first railroad to operate in Texas was the [Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway](/wiki/Buffalo_Bayou,_Brazos_and_Colorado_Railway), opening in August 1853.[[270]](#cite_note-270) The first railroad to enter Texas from the north, completed in 1872, was the [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap).[[271]](#cite_note-271) With increasing railroad access, the ranchers did not have to take their livestock up to the Midwest, and shipped beef out from Texas. This caused a decline in the economies of the cow towns.

Since 1911, Texas has led the nation in length of railroad miles within the state. Texas railway length peaked in 1932 at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), but declined to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) by 2000. While the [Railroad Commission of Texas](/wiki/Railroad_Commission_of_Texas) originally regulated state railroads, in 2005 the state reassigned these duties to TxDOT.[[272]](#cite_note-272) Both Dallas and Houston feature [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) systems. [Dallas Area Rapid Transit](/wiki/Dallas_Area_Rapid_Transit) (DART) built the first light rail system in the Southwest United States, completed in 1996.[[273]](#cite_note-273)The [Trinity Railway Express](/wiki/Trinity_Railway_Express) (TRE) [commuter rail](/wiki/Commuter_rail) service, which connects Fort Worth and Dallas, is provided by the [Fort Worth Transportation Authority](/wiki/Fort_Worth_Transportation_Authority) (the T) and DART.[[274]](#cite_note-274) In the Austin area, [Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority](/wiki/Capital_Metropolitan_Transportation_Authority) operates a commuter rail service known as [Capital MetroRail](/wiki/Capital_MetroRail) to the northwestern suburbs. The [Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas](/wiki/Metropolitan_Transit_Authority_of_Harris_County,_Texas) (METRO) operates light rail lines in the Houston area.

[Amtrak](/wiki/Amtrak) provides Texas with limited intercity passenger rail service. Three scheduled routes serve the state: the daily [*Texas Eagle*](/wiki/Texas_Eagle) [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap); the tri-weekly [*Sunset Limited*](/wiki/Sunset_Limited) [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), with stops in Texas; and the daily [*Heartland Flyer*](/wiki/Heartland_Flyer) [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap).

<gallery mode="packed"> File:20110123 DFW terminal D.jpg|Terminal D at [DFW Airport](/wiki/Dallas_Fort_Worth_International_Airport) in Dallas. File:Bush terminal E.jpg|Terminal E at [George Bush Intercontinental Airport](/wiki/George_Bush_Intercontinental_Airport) in Houston. File:Houston Ship Channel.jpg|[Port of Houston](/wiki/Port_of_Houston) along the [Houston Ship Channel](/wiki/Houston_Ship_Channel) </gallery> <gallery mode="packed"> File:METRO Light Rail3.jpg|[METRORail](/wiki/METRORail) in Houston File:DallasZooStn2.jpg|[DART](/wiki/Dallas_Area_Rapid_Transit) Rail in Dallas File:Austin Metrorail.jpg|[Capital MetroRail](/wiki/Capital_MetroRail) in Austin </gallery>

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

While [American football](/wiki/American_football) has long been considered "king" in the state, Texans today enjoy a wide variety of sports.[[275]](#cite_note-275) Texans can cheer for a plethora of professional sports teams. Within the ["Big Four" professional leagues](/wiki/Major_North_American_professional_sports_leagues), Texas has two [NFL](/wiki/National_Football_League) teams (the [Dallas Cowboys](/wiki/Dallas_Cowboys) and the [Houston Texans](/wiki/Houston_Texans)), two [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) teams (the [Texas Rangers](/wiki/Texas_Rangers_(baseball)) and the [Houston Astros](/wiki/Houston_Astros)), three [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) teams (the [Houston Rockets](/wiki/Houston_Rockets), the [San Antonio Spurs](/wiki/San_Antonio_Spurs), and the [Dallas Mavericks](/wiki/Dallas_Mavericks)), and one National Hockey League team (the [Dallas Stars](/wiki/Dallas_Stars)). The [Dallas – Fort Worth Metroplex](/wiki/Dallas_–_Fort_Worth_Metroplex) is one of only [twelve American metropolitan areas that hosts sports teams from all the "Big Four" professional leagues](/wiki/U.S._cities_with_teams_from_four_major_league_sports). Outside of the "Big Four" leagues, Texas also has one [WNBA](/wiki/Women's_National_Basketball_Association) team (the [San Antonio Stars](/wiki/San_Antonio_Silver_Stars)) and two [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) teams (the [Houston Dynamo](/wiki/Houston_Dynamo) and [FC Dallas](/wiki/FC_Dallas)).

[Collegiate athletics](/wiki/College_athletics) have deep significance in Texas culture, especially [football](/wiki/American_football). The state has ten [Division I-FBS](/wiki/Division_I-FBS) schools, the most in the nation. Four of the state's universities, the [Baylor Bears](/wiki/Baylor_Bears), [Texas Longhorns](/wiki/Texas_Longhorns), [TCU Horned Frogs](/wiki/TCU_Horned_Frogs), and [Texas Tech Red Raiders](/wiki/Texas_Tech_Red_Raiders), compete in the [Big 12 Conference](/wiki/Big_12_Conference). The [Texas A&M Aggies](/wiki/Texas_A&M_Aggies) left the Big 12 and joined the [Southeastern Conference](/wiki/Southeastern_Conference) in 2012, which led the Big 12 to invite TCU to join; TCU was previously in the [Mountain West Conference](/wiki/Mountain_West_Conference). The [Houston Cougars](/wiki/Houston_Cougars) and the [SMU Mustangs](/wiki/SMU_Mustangs) compete in the [American Athletic Conference](/wiki/American_Athletic_Conference). The [Texas State Bobcats](/wiki/Texas_State_Bobcats) and the [UT Arlington Mavericks](/wiki/Texas–Arlington_Mavericks) compete in the [Sun Belt Conference](/wiki/Sun_Belt_Conference). Four of the state's schools claim at least one national championship in football: the Texas Longhorns, the Texas A&M Aggies, the TCU Horned Frogs, and the SMU Mustangs.

According to a survey of Division I-A coaches the [rivalry](/wiki/College_rivalry) between the [University of Oklahoma](/wiki/University_of_Oklahoma) and the University of Texas at Austin, the [Red River Shootout](/wiki/Red_River_Shootout), ranks the third best in the nation.[[276]](#cite_note-276) The TCU Horned Frogs and SMU Mustangs also share a rivalry and compete annually in the [Battle for the Iron Skillet](/wiki/Battle_for_the_Iron_Skillet). A fierce rivalry, the [Lone Star Showdown](/wiki/Lone_Star_Showdown), also exists between the state's two largest universities, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. The athletics portion of the Lone Star Showdown rivalry has been put on hold after the Texas A&M Aggies joined the Southeastern Conference.

The [University Interscholastic League](/wiki/University_Interscholastic_League) (UIL) organizes most primary and secondary school competitions. Events organized by UIL include contests in athletics (the most popular being [high school football](/wiki/High_school_football)) as well as artistic and academic subjects.[[277]](#cite_note-277) Texans also enjoy the [rodeo](/wiki/Rodeo). The world's first rodeo was hosted in [Pecos, Texas](/wiki/Pecos,_Texas).[[278]](#cite_note-278) The annual [Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo](/wiki/Houston_Livestock_Show_and_Rodeo) is the largest rodeo in the world. It begins with trail rides that originate from several points throughout the state that convene at [Reliant Park](/wiki/Reliant_Park).[[279]](#cite_note-279) The [Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show](/wiki/Southwestern_Exposition_and_Livestock_Show) in Fort Worth is the oldest continuously running rodeo incorporating many of the state's most historic traditions into its annual events. Dallas hosts the [State Fair of Texas](/wiki/State_Fair_of_Texas) each year at [Fair Park](/wiki/Fair_Park).[[280]](#cite_note-280) [Texas Motor Speedway](/wiki/Texas_Motor_Speedway) hosts annual [NASCAR Cup Series](/wiki/NASCAR_Cup_Series) and [IndyCar Series](/wiki/IndyCar_Series) auto races since 1997. Since 2012, Austin's [Circuit of the Americas](/wiki/Circuit_of_the_Americas) plays host to a round of the [Formula 1](/wiki/Formula_1) World Championship[[281]](#cite_note-281) —the first at a permanent road circuit in the United States since the [1980 Grand Prix](/wiki/1980_United_States_Grand_Prix) at [Watkins Glen International](/wiki/Watkins_Glen_International)—, as well as [Grand Prix motorcycle racing](/wiki/Grand_Prix_motorcycle_racing), [FIA World Endurance Championship](/wiki/FIA_World_Endurance_Championship) and [United SportsCar Championship](/wiki/United_SportsCar_Championship) races.

<gallery mode="packed"> File:Cowboys Stadium full view.jpg|[Cowboys Stadium](/wiki/Cowboys_Stadium), home of the [Dallas Cowboys](/wiki/Dallas_Cowboys) File:Spurs vs. Lakers.jpg|Playoff game between the [San Antonio Spurs](/wiki/San_Antonio_Spurs) and the [Los Angeles Lakers](/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers) in 2007 File:Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.jpg|The [Ballpark in Arlington](/wiki/Ballpark_in_Arlington), home of the [Texas Rangers](/wiki/Texas_Rangers_(baseball)) File:BBVA Compass Stadium Inaugural Goal Celebration.jpg|[BBVA Compass Stadium](/wiki/BBVA_Compass_Stadium), home of the [Houston Dynamo](/wiki/Houston_Dynamo) </gallery>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Index of Texas-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Texas-related_articles)
* [Outline of Texas](/wiki/Outline_of_Texas) – organized list of topics about Texas
* [LGBT rights in Texas](/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Texas)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

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[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [The Texas State History Museum](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/)
* [The Handbook of Texas Online](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/)—Published by the *Texas State Historical Association*
* [*Texas Register*](http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TR/browse/), hosted by the *University of North Texas Libraries*
* [South and West Texas: A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/tx/)
* [Texas Heritage Society](http://texasheritagesociety/)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [View historical photographs at the University of Houston Digital Library.](http://digital.lib.uh.edu/)
* [Oklahoma Digital Maps: Digital Collections of Oklahoma and Indian Territory](http://www.library.okstate.edu/okmaps/)

State government

* [The State of Texas](http://www.texasonline.com/portal/tol)
* [Texas State Databases](http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Texas)—Annotated list of searchable databases produced by Texas state agencies and compiled by the *Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association*.
* [Texas Politics](http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/). An online textbook from the College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas.

U.S. Government

* [Energy Profile for Texas- Economic, environmental, and energy data](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=TX)
* [USGS real-time, geographic, and other scientific resources of Texas](http://www.usgs.gov/state/state.asp?State=TX)
* [Texas State Facts from USDA](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/state-data.aspx?StateFIPS=48&StateName=Texas#.U856MfldVu0)
* [South and West Texas, a National Park Service *Discover Our Shared Heritage* Travel Itinerary](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/tx/)

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[Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Texas](/wiki/Category:Texas) [Category:Southern United States](/wiki/Category:Southern_United_States) [Category:States and territories established in 1845](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1845) [Category:States of the Confederate States of America](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_Confederate_States_of_America) [Category:States of the Gulf Coast of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_Gulf_Coast_of_the_United_States) [Category:States of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_United_States) [Category:U.S. states with multiple time zones](/wiki/Category:U.S._states_with_multiple_time_zones) [Category:1845 establishments in the United States](/wiki/Category:1845_establishments_in_the_United_States)