Coastal Bend Economic Development District

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

COASTAL BEND
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2021–2026

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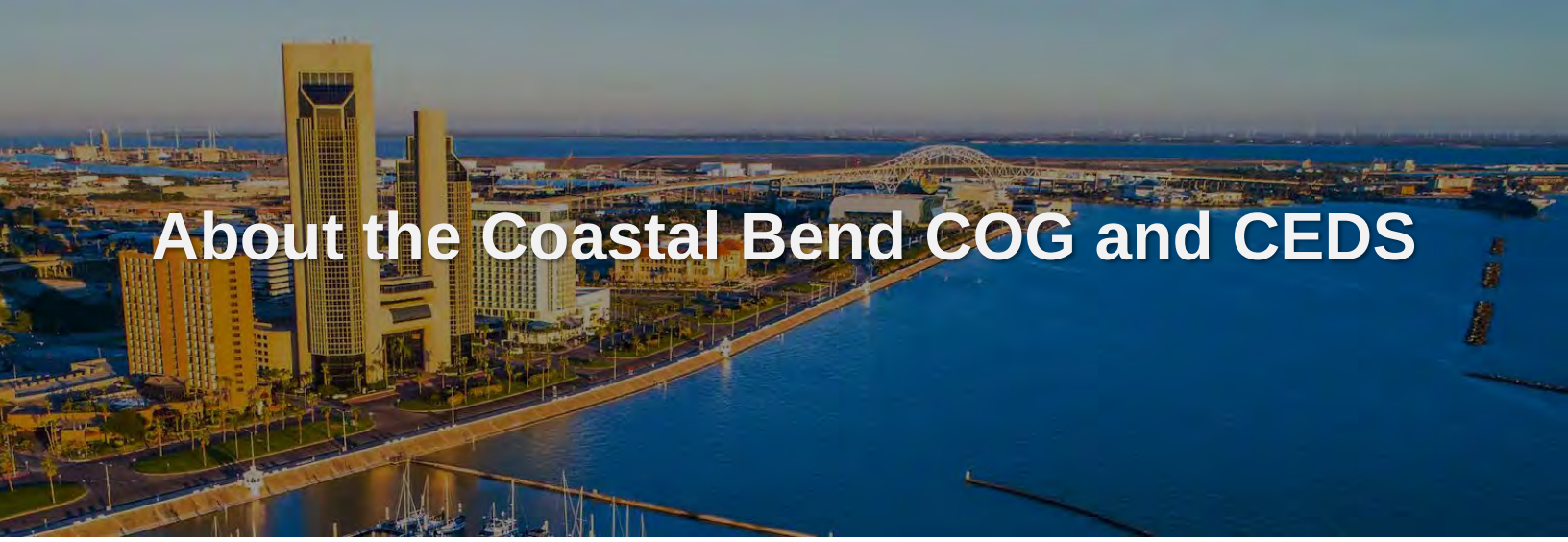


About the Coastal Bend COG and CEDS

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) was formed in 1966. In 1973 the CBCOG was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to coordinate regional economic development priorities. The CBCOG is one of 24 Councils of Government in the State of Texas serving as the Economic Development District and covers an 11-county region: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio counties. The CBCOG develops and implements regional economic development strategies with the support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), through the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. It is a planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic resiliency of a region resulting in a document by which input from the region's public and private stakeholders establishes a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration and prosperity.

The CEDS is required by the EDA and is considered a priority for all of EDA's programs. The CEDS must be updated at least every five years and is meant to look forward and address a strategy for the next five years.

The EDA works in partnership with the CBCOG as the designated EDD for the region. Through an EDA Planning Grant, the CBCOG provides support to communities within the region to address problems associated with long-term economic distress as well as sudden and severe economic dislocations including recovering from the economic impacts of natural and man-made disasters, the closure of military installations and other federal facilities, and more. The EDD staff also serve as the local affiliate to the Texas State Data Center, which is responsible for the census.

E·D·A
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Texas Coastal Bend comprises an 11-county region situated along the bountiful Gulf of Mexico where diverse assets and opportunities for economic prosperity abound, yet a variety of natural and man-made risks threaten local to regional resilience. This 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Coastal Bend was carefully crafted to address those risks while strengthening regional collaboration and partnerships to advance common economic resilience goals.

The 2021 CEDS builds on previous versions with updated economic statistics and analyses, while considering significant growth and challenges the region faced over the past 5 years. Both past challenges and those yet to come require a paradigm shift toward economic resilience and prosperity that centers on community well-being while fostering growth. This CEDS aims to reflect that aim by focusing on our greatest asset – our people. Using a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis, the CEDS highlights four key themes around which goals, objectives and strategic actions will be advanced, including: Resilience Economic Development, Resilient Infrastructure Investments, Workforce Agility and Community Well-Being. Importantly, in each theme, the cross-cutting theme of regional partnerships is carefully woven throughout.

It is only because of our partnerships and collaborations that we can address regional challenges, rebound from disasters and make gains toward economic resilience. Key among these is the CEDS Committee, a diverse group of 20 members from across the region representing varied interests, from economic development to municipal planning, academic resilience analysis, non-profit community issues and more. In finalizing the CEDS, the Committee also worked with additional key collaborative groups, including the Regional Resilience Partnership formed by the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and Texas A&M University Corpus Christi following Hurricane Harvey, the Coastal Bend Business Resources Working Group led by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, as well as key individual organizations such as Workforce, Port industries and community organizations.

The CEDS further looks to its partners at state and federal levels to inform its actions and help strengthen its collaborations, including by incorporating key datasets and processes such as the Texas General Land Office's Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study and the U.S. Economic Development Administration's evolving work and guidance on economic resilience. This is critical, as the CEDS Committee and Council of Governments do not have direct mission authority to address many of the actions contained herein, but will rely on partnerships and people to share capacity, data and information, strengthen regional assets and build resilience.

This Strategy is intended to guide regional collaborations and priorities over the next 5 years. Progress will be annually evaluated using performance metrics to ensure actions are being implemented while obstacles are identified and addressed. We invite all regional stakeholders to join us in advancing this vision for economic resilience and community well-being, which will make the Coastal Bend an even more remarkable place to work, live, raise our children and prosper.

We look forward to working with you toward our common, resilient future.

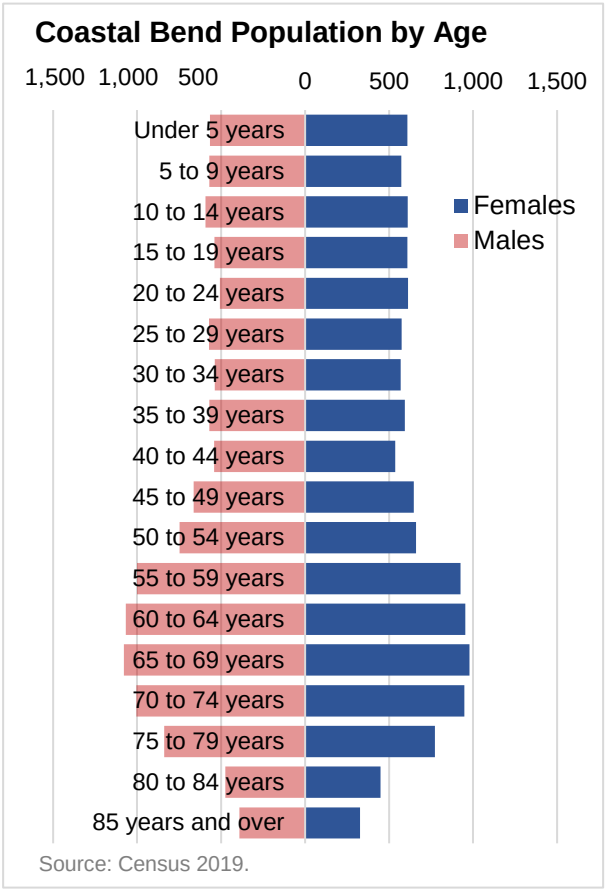
Dr. Katya Wowk
CEDS Committee Chair
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

BACKGROUND

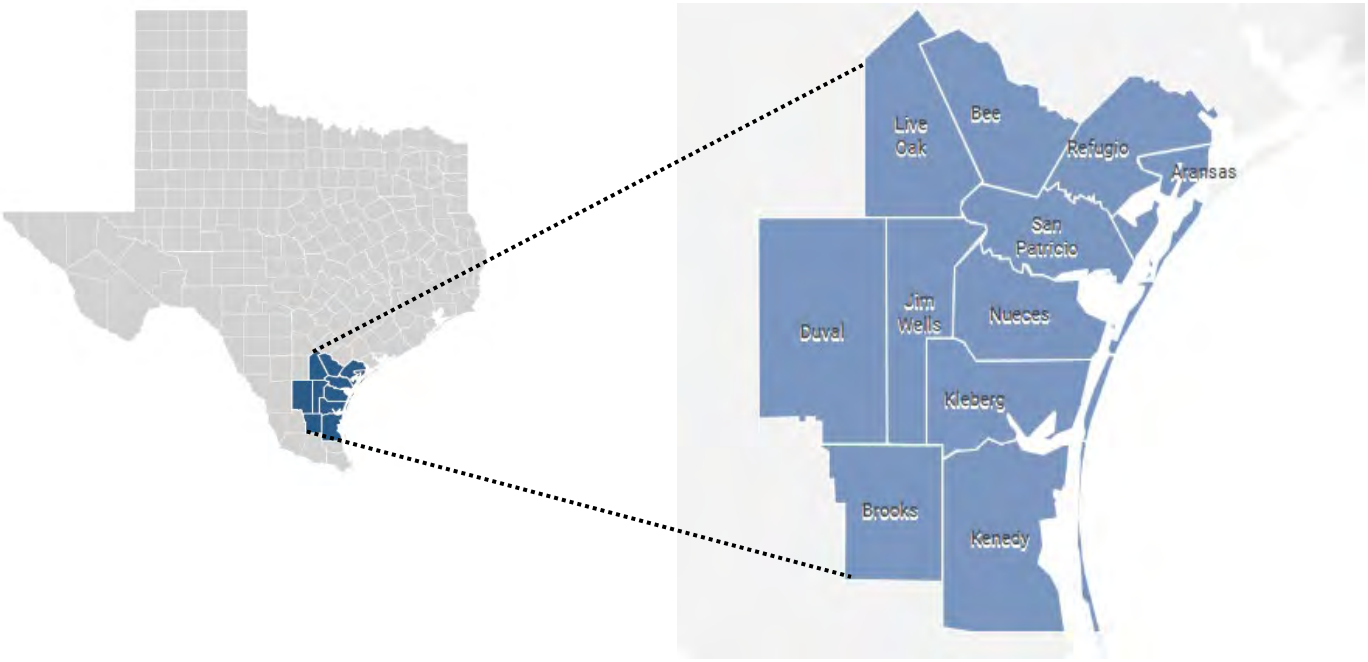
Demographic and Socioeconomic Profiles

The Coastal Bend region had a population of 594,070 in 2019, according to Census figures. The three counties of the Corpus Christi metro area (Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio) made up 76 percent of the regional population. The region experienced a 4 percent population growth between 2010 and 2019, compared with 15.3 percent for the state of Texas. The relatively slow regional population growth was attributable to outmigration, which occurred in all years after 2015. Population losses were more severe among rural counties as opposed to the urban counties of the metro area.

Outmigration of younger aged residents has resulted in an overall aging regional population. In 2019, opposite to national patterns, the population of cohorts between the ages of 50 and 79 exceeded that of the younger cohorts. The relatively smaller prime working age population between the ages of 25 and 54 has contributed to a relatively lower labor force participation rate.



Coastal Bend Economic Development District and Counties



Environmental, Geographic, Climate, and Natural Resource Profiles

The Coastal Bend Region is located on the broad Gulf coastal plain of Texas. CBCOG contains 11 counties in South Texas with a total land area of approximately 10,273 square miles. From the low-lying tidelands along the Gulf Coast, the surface rises gently culminating in gently rolling hill country in the inland counties. The coastal counties include Aransas, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio, all of which are separated from the Gulf of Mexico by barrier islands. Between the coastal counties and the barrier islands lie numerous shallow bays, tidal flats and estuaries. The inland counties include Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, and Live Oak. The land in these counties is primarily gentle to rolling hills and principal use is for cattle rangeland.

The Coastal Bend is rich in natural resource assets, including multiple river systems that drain central Texas and feed productive estuaries. The region is internationally known as a migratory bird hotspot – including the last wild migratory population of the federally endangered whooping crane – and also boasts grasslands to woody species that provide key habitat. These assets form the basis of the tourism industry, which is the region's third largest industry and a significant portion of the economy in some counties. For example, according to NOAA data, in 2018 employment in tourism and recreation represented some 80 percent of the economy in Aransas County (NOAA ENOW 2018).

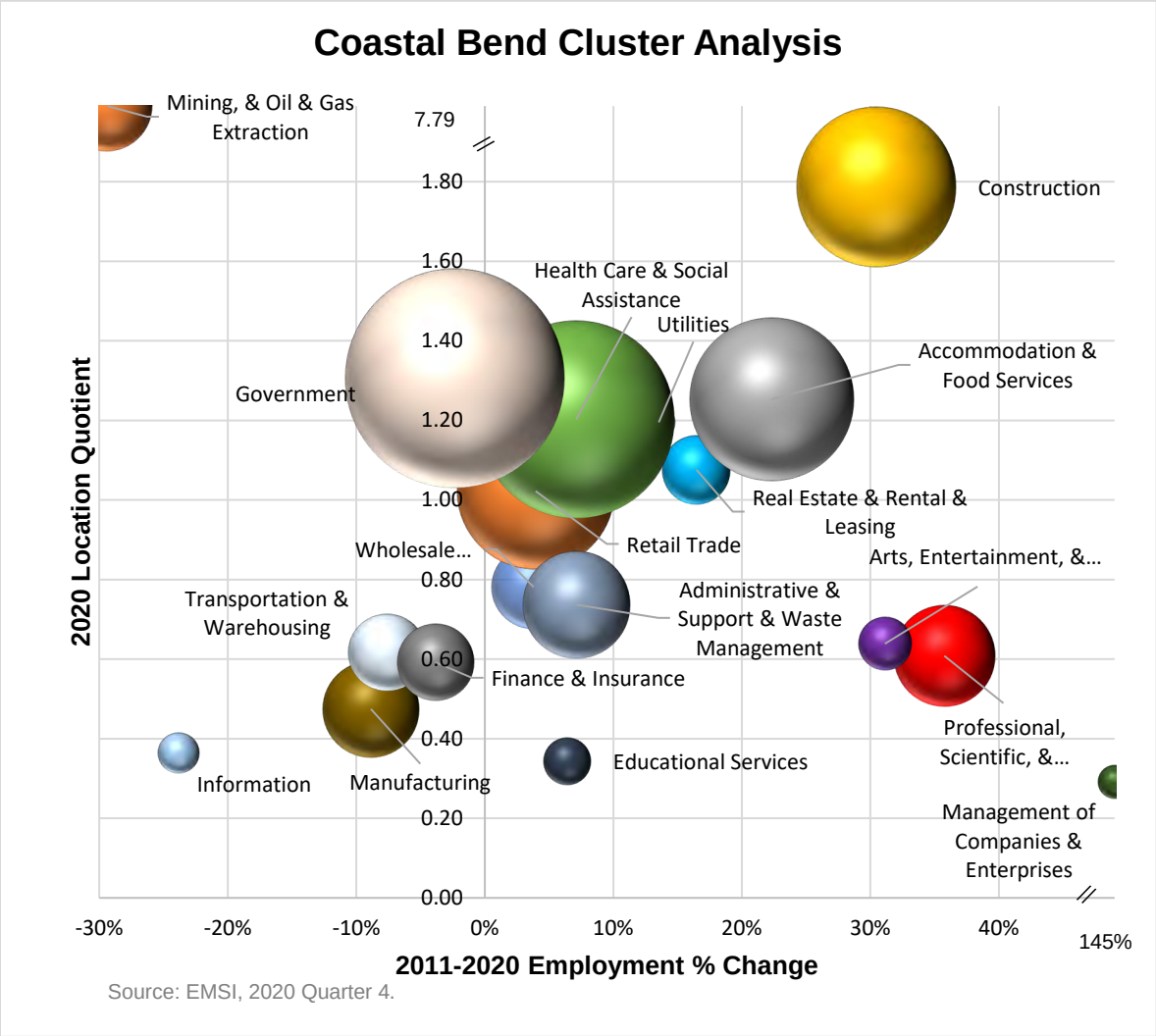
Notably, the region is exposed to a number of climate and environmental risks, which are further discussed below, and is limited by access to freshwater supplies. With growth projections this has become a priority issue, including through the pursuit of desalination technology. Such options will prove critical to the future development and prosperity of the Coastal Bend, though they should be developed with a view to also strengthen environmental health by, e.g., ensuring careful design of intake and discharge locations, and limiting impacts to water quality.

Infrastructure Assets

The Coastal Bend region is near two major metropolitan areas. Houston, which is 200 miles to the northeast, attracts Coastal Bend labor and provides a marketing area for the region. San Antonio is 150 miles to the northwest and attracts Coastal Bend residents with jobs, tourist attractions and markets, while the Coastal Bend also is an attractive and regular tourist destination for San Antonio. To the south is the Rio Grande Valley and Mexican border with an urban area extending from Brownsville in the east to McAllen in the west. This area has a population of about 1,350,000 on the U.S. side and a greater amount on the Mexican side of the border. Laredo is directly west of the region and provides an inland port serving commerce on both sides of the International Border. Within the Coastal Bend, the Corpus Christi International Airport offers full commercial services. The region is also served by local airports and assets.

The Port of Corpus Christi is the third largest U.S. seaport by tonnage and is well positioned to take advantage of the increased traffic through the newly expanded Panama Canal and opening of trade opportunities with South America. The Port has continued to grow due to a 50-year ban on crude oil exports being lifted in 2015, emerging as the nation's top crude oil exporter in early 2020. Along with expansion in oil and gas export infrastructure, the Coastal Bend was able to attract the development of industrial manufacturing plants that use oil and gas as feedstock or energy, including a $10 billion Exxon-Mobil/SABIC plastics plant and a $1.9 billion Steel Dynamics steel mill. In addition, Cheniere Energy Inc.'s $20 billion LNG facility yielded a significant number of local permanent jobs since opening in 2018. The development of these industrial facilities expanded the region's manufacturing sector and accompanying requirements for a skilled workforce.

The Coastal Bend also is home to significant and longstanding institutions, including two Naval Air Stations – NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville – that provide jobs and security to the region. In fact, NAS Corpus Christi includes the Corpus Christi Army Depot, which is the largest industrial employer in South Texas. Several higher education assets also exist in the region, including Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University Kingsville, Del Mar College, Coastal Bend College, and the University of the Incarnate Word Corpus Christi Center. Further key programs offer training services, e.g., the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend and the Electrical Apprenticeship program at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Finally, Coastal Bend counties are part of Regional HealthCare Partnership 4, which includes a wide variety of public and private institutions focused on addressing chronic disease and health disparities, as well as enhancing access to primary and behavioral health care services.



Source: EMSI, 2020 Quarter 4.

Industry Sectors and Clusters

An industry cluster is "a concentration of businesses and industries in a geographic region that are interconnected by the markets they serve, the products they produce, their suppliers, the trade associations to which their employees belong, or the educational institutions from which their employees or prospective employees receive training," according to the Texas Workforce Commission (2005). Industry cluster analysis is a framework that organizes observed business and economic data into meaningful groups called clusters. The objective is to identify key drivers in a regional economy.

The 2016 Coastal Bend CEDS identified five industry clusters for the region: Oil and gas, construction, industrial manufacturing, healthcare, and hospitality. The oil and gas cluster includes the upstream industries of oil and gas extraction and supporting activities; the construction cluster consists of residential, industrial, and roadwork construction. Industrial manufacturing is made up primarily of petrochemical and iron and steel manufacturing in the region. The healthcare cluster consists of the region's hospital systems, clinics, and other medical care facilities. The hospitality cluster includes visitor-oriented businesses, such as hotels and motels, as well as restaurants and arts and entertainment agencies that also cater to local residents.

One common approach for assessing industry clusters draws on quantitative data, such as location quotients and shift-share ratios. A location quotient is a measure of an industry's concentration within a region relative to a benchmark, such as the nation. It is computed as the ratio of an industry's share of regional employment over that industry's share of national employment. If an industry's location quotient is greater than 1.0, then it has a larger concentration of employment within the region than employment in the same industry for the nation as a whole. Conversely, if a location quotient is less than 1.0, then the industry is not well represented in the region. Industries with a high location quotient are identified as key economic engines of a region. However, location quotients tell little about the growth patterns of regional industries, which can be measured as the percentage change of the employment level over a recent period.

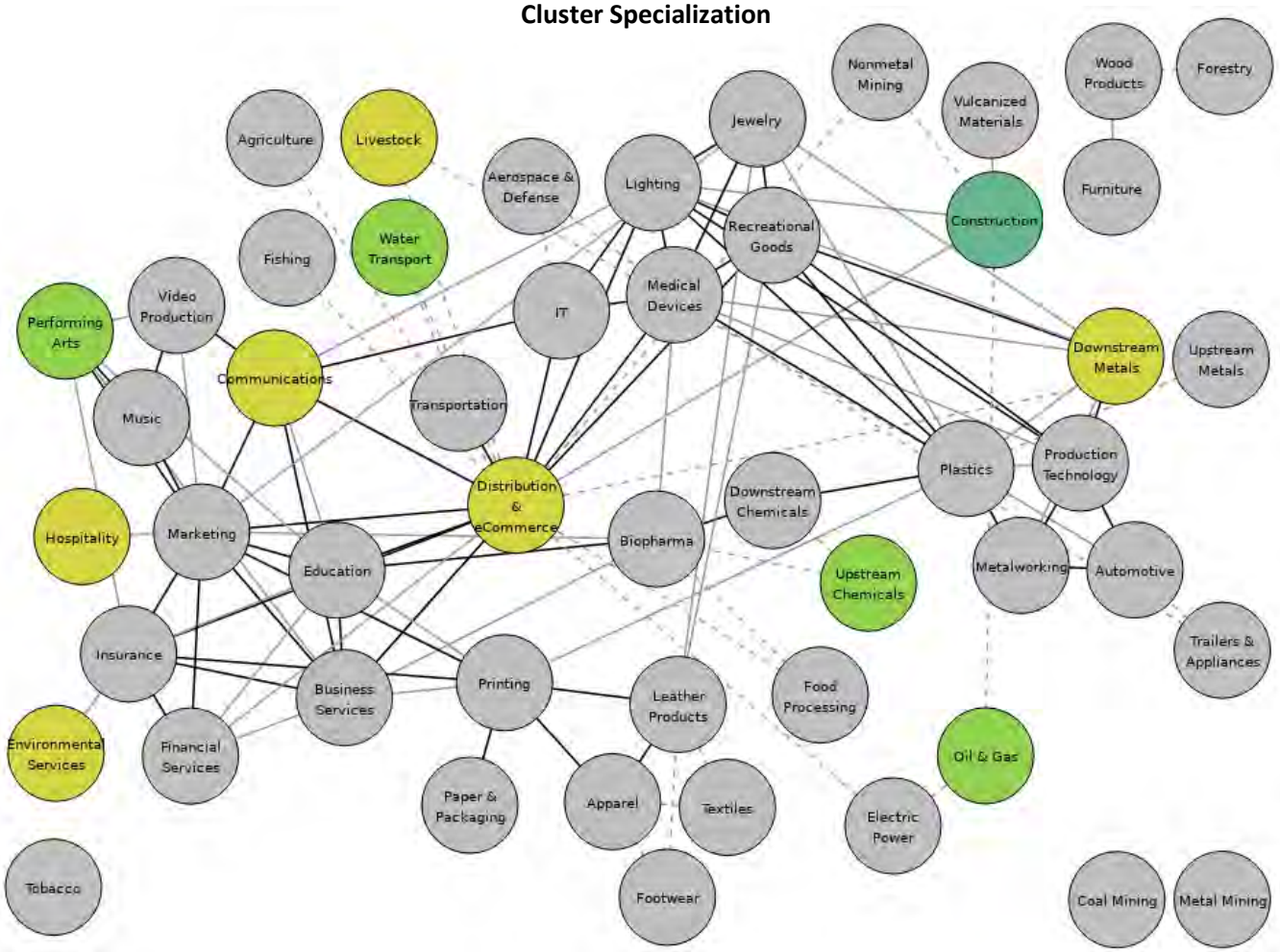
The accompanying bubble chart plots the location quotients against the percentage changes of employment over the 2011-2020 period for a list of industries classified according to the 2-digit North American Industrial Classification Standards (NAICS). The size of each bubble represents the current employment size of an industry. Bubbles that are closer to the top right corner represent relatively larger regional industries that have also been growing at a relatively rapid pace. For the Coastal Bend, construction, which made up about 10% of the regional overall employment, stands out as one of those sectors. The construction industry's location quotient of 1.79 means its employment within the region is nearly 80% higher than the corresponding employment in the nation, and its employment has grown at a relatively strong pace of 30% between 2011 and 2020. Another relatively large industry that has also been expanding rapidly is accommodation and food services.

Opposite to those industries near the top right corner are industries that are relatively small and have been declining. These industries are information, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and finance and insurance. In contrast to those industries that exhibit the same relative size and growth patterns are two industries near the other corners of the bubble chart. These two industries are outliers that in fact fall off the scale for all other industries in the region. The first is the oil and gas extraction industry, which has a location quotient of 7.79, meaning an employment size nearly 8 times that of the nationwide average. However, employment in the region's oil and gas extraction industry has shrunk by about 30% since 2011. The other outlier is the industry of management of companies with employment only 30% of the size nationwide, but a relatively rapid expansion rate of 50% since 2011.

Overall, the industry cluster analysis highlights some key industries in the Coastal Bend that have continued to thrive (e.g., construction and hospitality), while identifying major but declining economic drivers (e.g., oil and gas) as well as new, emerging industries (e.g., business management).

Cluster Linkages and Economic Diversification

Cluster Specialization



Cluster Linkages

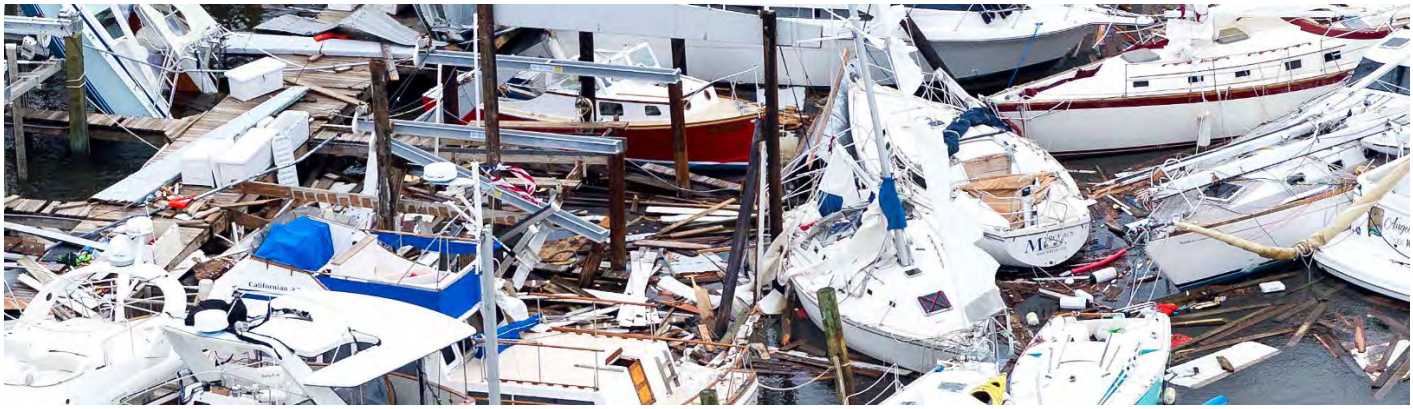
Cluster Specialization

- Strong clusters above 90th percentile specialization
- Strong clusters above 75th percentile specialization
- Other specialized clusters (LQ > 1.0)

- BCR >= 95th pctile & RI >= 20%
- BCR 90th-94th pctile & RI >= 20%
- Next closest clusters not meeting above criteria

To further evaluate the strengths of the industry clusters identified in the Coastal Bend, the above diagram shows the cluster linkages as part of Harvard Business School's Cluster Mapping Project. The analysis identifies "strong" clusters by comparing a cluster's location quotient to the location quotients of other regions throughout the United States. Clusters in the top 90th percentile of specialization (different from other regions) are in dark green, clusters in the top 75th percentile in light green, and other specialized clusters (i.e., LQ >1) are in yellow. Clusters are linked by lines, with solid black lines representing the strongest connection, followed by solid grey lines and then dotted grey lines.

Overall, the diagram indicates that the region is specialized in some clusters already identified above: construction, oil and gas, and hospitality. Also, the identified industrial manufacturing cluster includes upstream metals and downstream chemicals. In addition, this diagram highlights the economic significance of the Port of Corpus Christi in water transportation, as well as the two related industries of communications and ecommerce.



Building Resilience Through Change

It is important to recognize that though there have been key areas of growth, there also have been setbacks, including widespread disasters the region faced that threatened life and property. Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 winter storm all tore at the very fabric of our communities. Beyond those major disasters, there are also smaller, more localized disaster events that continue to cause destruction and challenge our way of life. Being situated along the Gulf of Mexico, the Coastal Bend is especially subjected to flooding and climate impacts, which are already occurring and are expected to worsen. When these events occur in areas with higher rates of poverty or vulnerable communities, the longstanding social and economic impacts are especially devastating. In addition, as oil prices have fallen against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Port of Corpus Christi and its industrial customers face challenging "bust" conditions once again, while the once-thriving tourism industry struggles to rebound after both a major hurricane and pandemic disaster.

As difficult as these crises have been, however, they also provide the necessity and opportunity to reimagine regional resilience. By identifying our **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats – both locally and across the region – Coastal Bend partners can prioritize actions needed for resilient change.

Strategic Assessment for the Coastal Bend

The Committee conducted a SWOT analysis to assess the Coastal Bend's unique assets and competitive advantages, while also determining critical internal and external challenges. Key data gathered, summarized and analyzed for the exercise includes (among other data sets): US Census Demographic Data; Coastal Bend Cluster Analysis; Innovation 2.0 Comparison; AARP Livability Index; Stats America Opportunity Zones; US Bureau of Labor Statistics Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics; Census Bureau's On The Map; Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports; HUD Consolidated Planning/CHAS Data; Debt Delinquency; Headwater Economics Neighborhoods at Risk - Headwaters Economics; Regional Healthcare Partnership 4 Assessment; Texas Land Trends Data; Texas Almanac Geographic Data; and Post-Harvey Economic Recovery Data.

SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis is a powerful tool to exploit opportunities and minimize threats, using relevant data to determine the regional picture and point in future directions. The below graphic identifies prioritized items from the Coastal Bend SWOT analysis that speak to the region's competitive cultural, economic, technological, intellectual and physical assets, as well as challenges. These elements were used to develop strategic goals and objectives for priority action over the next five years. The full SWOT analysis can be found in the Appendix.

STRENGTHS

- Infrastructure assets (e.g., Port of Corpus Christi / deep ship channel; established pipeline and rail networks; healthcare system for acute care; higher education system; land and abundant space)
- Strong existing sectors (e.g., Mining, Oil and Gas; Construction; Health Care; Hospitality; Agriculture; Military assets)
- Strong growth sectors (e.g., Renewable energy; UAV test center; Cybercommand; Logistics/Warehousing/Shipping)
- Competitive workforce skills (e.g., hospitality; welding; engineering; crafts/trades; scientific monitoring; agriculture)
- Key livability factors (e.g., climate, beach to bay lifestyle; ranching/hunting; decent paying jobs; cluster of higher academic institutions; Corpus Christi designated a Dementia Friendly City)

WEAKNESSES

- Affordable and accessible housing options to meet the needs of aging, low-income and workforce populations
- Health challenges and lack of access to care in rural areas
- Degraded water infrastructure systems, street systems
- Distressed industry sectors such as oil and gas (on a decades-long decline) and hospitality (due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as hurricanes/storms)
- Strategic needs such as meeting workforce needs of new large employers, providing innovative development opportunities requiring specialized skills, preparing workforce for high-paying jobs
- Local "brain drain"
- Broadband/fiberoptics access in certain areas
- Engagement from the region's vulnerable and/or underserved populations
- Using technology-based tools to widen the distribution of information and increase feedback

OPPORTUNITIES

- Existing logistical advantages of the region with a deep-sea port
- Sources of tourism investment, e.g., birdiest city designation as well as vast ranchland
- Seventeen Opportunity Zones
- Growth potential of industry sectors, e.g., healthcare, manufacturing, remote work, renewable energy
- Shortened supply chain links with Mexico
- Workforce training program development
- Data-driven strategies through the Regional Resilience Partnership
- Integration of planning efforts, e.g., assessing housing and land use policies, streamlining processes for developers, promoting standardized building codes
- Redevelop brownfields and vacant space
- Distributed and advanced energy

THREATS

- Economy-wide risk as well as industry-specific risks to petrochemical and heavy manufacturing
- Energy transmission
- Base realignment and closure
- Rail and roadway congestion
- Water quality and quantity
- Coastal flooding and land subsidence
- Climate change and increasing strength and frequency of tropical storms, as well as drought

GOALS & STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Vision: The Coastal Bend region has strong local to regional assets to build economic resilience and attract sustainable economic prosperity while enhancing the quality, livability, cooperation and character of all communities.

Mission: Coastal Bend Council of Governments leads integrated planning to promote and coordinate projects of regional significance that advance and sustain economic vitality and resilience.

Resilience is the ability to prepare for, withstand and adapt to, and rapidly recover from changing conditions and acute disruptions. This includes economic resilience, which is a measure of a region's ability to continue functioning at certain capacity after a disruption or event. The following Goals, Objectives and Strategic Actions focus on advancing economic resilience in an era of climate, environmental and technological change. They are based on the foundation provided by the revised 2019 CEDS as well as the updated SWOT analysis, which found that the CEDS should continue to advance Goals to develop the region's economy, infrastructure and workforce. Given the risks posed by disasters to the Coastal Bend, including natural, industrial, technological and health-related disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it was further determined that an additional Goal on community well-being is needed. Because the CEDS Committee and CBCOG do not have direct mission authority over these areas, but rely on partnerships to strengthen regional assets, the cross-cutting theme of regional partnerships is included throughout.

Working with regional partners, the CEDS Committee will focus on advancing these Goals, Objectives and Strategic Actions over the next five years. Action Groups and Performance Metrics also are included to specify how/by whom progress will be tracked in achieving Goals as well as the CEDS Vision and Mission. A general timeline for all actions can be found at the end of this section.

GOAL 1: Catalyze Resilient Economic Development

Economic resilience is especially important to a region like the Coastal Bend that faces multiple risks from potential downturns and external shocks such as natural and man-made disasters. Building economic resilience will facilitate the region's ability to anticipate and evaluate how risks may impact key economic assets, while advancing a responsive capacity that can address regional needs pre- and post-disaster. Strategic Actions will strengthen and diversify the regional economy through a comprehensive economic development approach that works with partners to achieve common objectives.

Objective 1.1: Coastal Bend counties have county-wide resilient economic development plans

Strategic Actions

1. Conduct an annual Resilient Economy Workshop to provide research, technical assistance and economic data for the development of resilient economic development plans.
2. Advance GIS tools to facilitate inventories of public and privately owned land within county and city jurisdictions and to identify shovel ready sites, as well as persistent barriers.
3. Engage lower capacity communities to identify public and private needs and assets with a view toward promoting sub-regional economic development partnerships.
4. Support alliances to exchange information, share ideas, identify high priority needs and collaborate, with an aim to evolve the Texas Triangle to the *Texas Star*, an extension of the premier economic

Objective 1.2: Resilient and diverse industries expand while local partners support innovation and entrepreneurship across small and mid-sized business

Strategic Actions

6. Market regional strengths in computer science programs to industry partners.
7. Identify new services and clients for the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Center.
8. Facilitate expansion of new, innovative business, e.g., in telemedicine, farm to market, aquaculture, logistics and shipping, energy storage, manufacturing and renewable energy technology.
9. Provide opportunities for small and mid-sized business to network with large business.
10. Increase awareness of the Small Business Development Center around the region and to key national partners in support of enhanced use of services and resources for rural counselors.

Objective 1.3: Coastal Bend has heightened attractiveness to global visitors and businesses

Strategic Actions

1. Identify and promote tourism assets in the region with promotional advertising.
2. Create a shared regional website to market goods and services.
3. Promote the 17 opportunity zones in the Coastal Bend to attract diverse partners.
4. Advance GIS tools to facilitate inventories of utilities accessibility (power and water) to attract industry.
5. Develop an inventory of capital providers to expand access to investments for existing and new businesses and entrepreneurs in the region.

Action Groups:

- CBCOG CEDS Committee, local economic development and planning agencies, local convention & visitors bureaus (e.g., Visit Corpus Christi), local chambers of commerce, higher learning institutions (regional universities and community colleges) and their research units

Measuring Progress:

- Number of new and existing businesses; number of visitors; amounts of capital investments; evidence of regional collaboration and partnerships (e.g., regional websites)

GOAL 2: Strengthen Resilient Infrastructure Investments

Strengthened and expanded physical and digital infrastructure is critical to the Coastal Bend Region's economic development and quality of life. CEDS entities will support cooperative and regional planning on issues related to broadband, water resources, housing, transportation connectivity, supply chains, land use, storm water management and more, especially considering infrastructure assets in light of climate and environmental change, e.g., increased intensity or frequency of hurricanes, flooding and drought.

Objective 2.1: Digital infrastructure assets are expanded and strengthened

Strategic Actions

1. Encourage communities to incorporate planning for future fiber optics in public improvement projects.

2. Advance partnerships to improve reliability and functionality of information, communication and energy infrastructure.
3. Pursue regional funding for improved broadband throughout the 11-county region to ensure a minimum service level enabling online education and work.

Objective 2.2: Water infrastructure assets are expanded and strengthened

Strategic Actions

1. Support initiatives to secure additional water supply sources to meet future development in the region, including responsible seawater desalination.
2. Advance water conservation partnerships and programs to safeguard existing water supplies.
3. Encourage low impact development and resilient stormwater management practices.
4. Strengthen wastewater infrastructure and expand where needed.

Objective 2.3: Transportation connectivity and mobility are enhanced

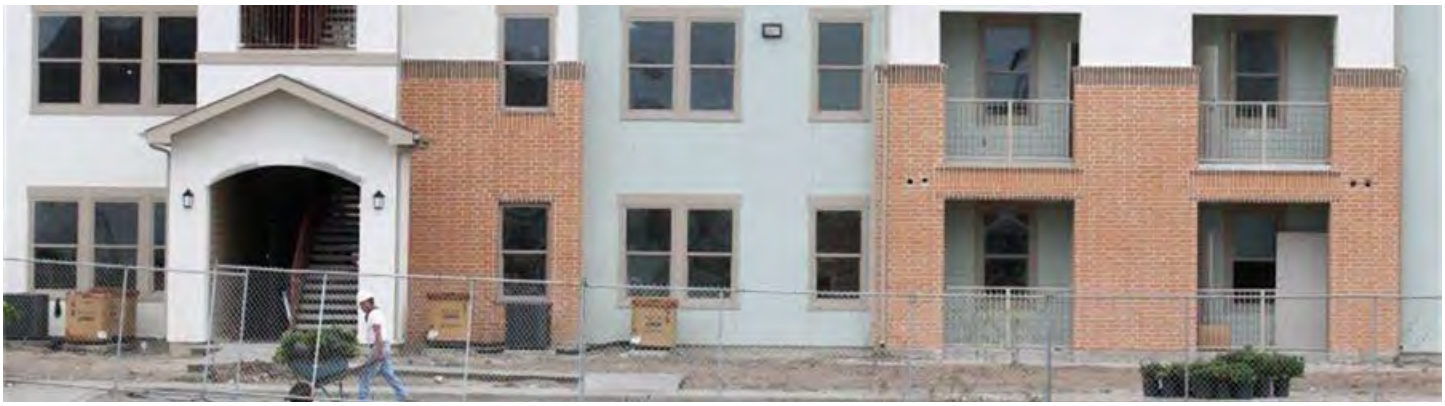
Strategic Actions

1. Enhance access to coordinated public and private regional transportation services.
2. Advocate for novel transportation approaches, such as passenger rail linkage to San Antonio and Houston, local water transportation options, etc.
3. Advance feasibility studies for new airports and facilities in the region.
4. Identify transportation connectivity needs related to affordable housing.

Objective 2.4: Housing affordability is advanced with a diversity of resilient housing options to all

Strategic Actions

1. Facilitate discussions to build consensus among stakeholders on resilient housing needs and options.
2. Increase housing supply with a priority on affordability and attainability for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and households at the lowest income levels.
3. Increase opportunities for home ownership among lower income households and rural communities
4. Advocate for best practices and streamlined processes for developers that focus on building resilient housing for vulnerable populations.



Objective 2.5: Development opportunities are maximized by minimizing vacant properties

Strategic Actions

1. Engage communities where vacant properties exist to gather local input in visioning processes.
2. Assist city officials in formulating incentives for infill development.
3. Develop regional best practices for ordinances that encourage occupancy of vacant land.

Action Groups:

- CBCOG CEDS Committee, local economic development and planning agencies, local government and housing development agencies, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Measuring Progress:

Number of infrastructure projects funded by federal or state government; funding for enhancing broadband infrastructure; capital investments in water supply, wastewater treatment infrastructure; income-based housing supply; numbers of vacant properties

GOAL 3: Promote Workforce Agility

Regional workforce development is needed to support a growing, competitive and resilient economy. CEDS focuses on building a trained, educated, highly skilled and diversified workforce to support alignment of workforce activities throughout the region, including through new partnerships for expanded community outreach.

Objective 3.1: A regional, highly skilled workforce is strengthened and positioned for higher wages

Strategic Actions

1. Support development of vocational and technical training for K-16 to better prepare youth entering the workforce, and for continuing adult education, particularly in innovation and technology.
2. Build partnerships to facilitate the Texas 60x30 goal, including by advocating for state and local funding to expand apprenticeship programs focused on upskilling rural communities.
3. Expand and market technology programs, including in advanced manufacturing, computer science, Unmanned Aircraft Systems and artificial intelligence.
4. Support development of green industry job training, such as in renewable energy, soil science, conservation, etc.

5. Promote remote Coastal Bend workforce and business support capabilities to leverage fast-growing markets in large cities, e.g., San Antonio and Austin.

Objective 3.2: Collaboration is expanded for workforce planning, information networks and outreach

Strategic Actions

1. Expand access to workforce goals, strategies, studies and plans through the CBCOG economic development web page.
2. Advance marketing to expand MSA strategic educational and workforce plans to the broader region.
3. Facilitate recruitment of retiring workforce experts as instructors.
4. Support the Texas Veterans Commission in connecting retirees to Coastal Bend Workforce Solutions, and particularly with military at the Corpus Christi and Kingsville locations.

Action Groups:

- CBCOG CEDS Committee, local economic development and planning agencies, Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend and its workforce training partners (e.g., Citizens for Educational Excellence), local ISDs and regional higher learning institutions, Coastal Bend Craft Training Center

Measuring Progress:

- Enrollment in the region's apprenticeship, vocational training, STEM and other post-secondary degree programs; composition of job skills and occupations; wage and employment growth; K-12 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test results

GOAL 4: Support Community Well-Being

Advancing community well-being is a theme that underpins and intersects with strong and resilient economies, infrastructure and workforce. Building community well-being and resilience is about fostering the collective ability to understand risks, diversify community strengths and establish safeguards to better mitigate disaster impacts. This goes beyond the physical aspects of disaster events to create stronger economies and social systems while providing access to and expertise in technologies that enable self-healing, such as smart grid systems. This is a critical point for small and rural communities that do not have the resources and capacity needed to pursue such goals, and as such, a key priority for this theme is to build local to regional capacity.

Objective 4.1: Quality of life programs and opportunities are made accessible to all Coastal Bend communities

Strategic Actions

1. Increase the percentage of children enrolled in pre-K programs.
2. Build on regional healthcare and wellness assets to improve access to quality care and programs, with a focus on small town and rural areas.
3. Promote and support Corpus Christi's designation as a Dementia Friendly City.
4. Support and expand partnerships for air quality, water quality and natural capital assets.
5. Conduct an annual survey on quality-of-life issues and provide opportunities to build social resilience.

Objective 4.2: Capacity is built across local agencies and businesses to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events

Strategic Actions

1. Implement and expand the Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) and additional networks to provide capacity building services and innovation for data-driven resilience strategies.
2. Use Leadership Corpus Christi as a model to develop a Regional Leadership Program.
3. Support loan funds such as LiftFund for local governments after a disaster, with targeted assistance to small communities that do not compete well in funding options.
4. Strengthen coordination of support networks in disaster emergency management and response to assist low-income households and other vulnerable populations.
5. Conduct education campaigns to the general public and business communities that focus on disaster mitigation and local sustainability initiatives.

Objective 4.3: Local to regional projects are advanced to mitigate disaster risk

Strategic Actions

1. Coordinate GIS dataset integration across Coastal Bend communities and provide training on applications and use for resilience planning, especially through the launch and expansion of the Geospatial Resilience Economic Development tool (GeoRED).
2. Advance natural infrastructure projects to protect against storm surge and flooding while providing additional opportunities such as recreation.
3. Enhance collaboration between the scientific community, engineering professionals, university researchers and municipal government, especially to advance adaptation planning for regional land-use, extreme weather events and environmental change.

Action Groups:

- CBCOG CEDS Committee, local economic development and planning agencies, local civic and social support networks (e.g., Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group), higher learning institutions (regional universities and community colleges) and their research units (e.g., GeoRED team), Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend and its workforce training partners (e.g., Citizens for Educational Excellence), local ISDs and regional higher learning institutions,

Measuring Progress:

- Enrollment in pre-K and other early childhood programs; local quality of life rankings in the U.S.; natural disaster mitigation workshops and infrastructure investments; evidence of collaboration and applications of GIS-based data for disaster risk mitigation and emergency response

Timeline

Over the next five years, the CEDS Committee will work with Action Groups and additional partners to implement strategic actions to advance objectives and goals. The Committee will carefully track progress and identify and document barriers to progress, such that challenges can be identified and, where possible, addressed. In following a methodological process of engagement, data collection and assessment, evaluation and revision, the Committee will be able to work with partners to advance regional economic resilience.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Numerous factors determine a region's resilience to natural disasters. The Hazard and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina has developed the Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC) as quantitative measures of those factors. BRIC consists of six broad sub-categories of indicators: social (e.g., educational attainment, access to transportation and physicians), economic (e.g., homeownership, income equality and economic diversity), housing and infrastructure (e.g., temporary housing availability, housing construction standards, high-speed internet availability), community capital (e.g., participation in civic organizations and other social networks), institutional (e.g., mitigation spending, disaster aid applications, insurance coverage), and environmental (e.g., flood buffers, storm frequency).

BRIC values in each sub-category range from 0-1 and are summed to create an overall score theoretically ranging from 0-6 for each county, with 0 being less resilient and 6 being more resilient. The following table shows values for Coastal Bend counties calculated from 2015 Census data. While there are strengths across the breadth of factors that contribute to overall resilience in Coastal Bend communities, there also is a need for progress. The CEDS will work to achieve that progress by strengthening BRIC indicators while also working with communities on locally tailored approaches that also build regional resilience.

Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (2015)

County	Social	Economic	Housing /Infra-structure	Community Capital	Institutional	Environ-mental	Overall
Aransas	0.59	0.39	0.26	0.33	0.46	0.66	2.69
Bee	0.62	0.37	0.17	0.36	0.40	0.55	2.49
Brooks	0.53	0.41	0.28	0.40	0.38	0.57	2.56
Duval	0.54	0.36	0.24	0.44	0.37	0.59	2.54
Jim Wells	0.64	0.41	0.27	0.38	0.40	0.58	2.68
Kenedy	0.58	0.33	0.27	0.28	0.35	0.58	2.39
Kleberg	0.65	0.41	0.31	0.38	0.39	0.59	2.73
Live Oak	0.63	0.38	0.26	0.36	0.38	0.57	2.58
Nueces	0.68	0.44	0.31	0.35	0.49	0.57	2.84
Refugio	0.60	0.39	0.29	0.44	0.42	0.60	2.73
San Patricio	0.67	0.43	0.23	0.36	0.48	0.58	2.74

Source: Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina.

Overall, more urbanized counties, such as those in the Corpus Christi metro area and Kleberg, tend to exhibit greater resilience. A recent study (Lee, 2021) finds that the particular indicators for social, economic and community capital attributes help explain how fast the communities in the Coastal Bend and Southeastern Texas recovered from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

To foster the region's economic resilience, the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and CEDS committee members will continue to review and implement the action plans in the Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study recently conducted by the Texas General Land Office (January 2021). According to the study, regional resilience is fostered through economic inclusion and diversification. The study's recommended strategies also align with the CEDS, including to:

1. Expand capacity of economic development agencies to pursue economic resilience initiatives and focus on business retention and expansion efforts.
2. Provide resources for branding and marketing locally produced goods and expand global market demand.
3. Develop a collaborative of workforce training entities to identify "in demand" occupations and transferable skills.
4. Enhance collaboration across stakeholders to grow an innovation ecosystem and start a business incubation program.
5. Promote investments in healthcare to improve economic opportunity as well as quality of care.
6. Collaborate with economic development entities to establish a "Business Recovery One-Stop Center" to provide resources to businesses in the wake of disasters.
7. Improve access to job opportunities through the expansion of transit services.

The CEDS Committee and partners will continue to advance the goals, objectives and strategies outlined herein to strengthen the economic and community resilience of the Coastal Bend – this special place to live, work and raise our children, and as one County Judge put it, the *crown jewel* of Texas.

> "I call our Coastal Bend the crown jewel of Texas … From our beaches to the bay, from city to country, we are blessed with natural beauty and resources. I was born and raised here, and as County Judge, I took an oath to ensure that future generations will be able to live, work, prosper, and enjoy this magnificent region. Today is an important step in delivering on this promise."

Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales' remark on the approval of a $2.7 million grant from the Texas Water Development Board on May 20, 2021, for studying watershed shared by Nueces, Jim Wells, and Kleberg Counties.

Coastal Bend Economic Development District

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Member Name	Area of Representation	Affiliation
Bennis, Ashley	Coastal Bend	Texas Sea Grant
Bryant, Christine	City of Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation
Casper, Craig	Corpus Christi Metropolitan Area	Corpus Christi MPO
Costanzo, Keren	City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County	City of Corpus Christi
Cross, Ginny	Corpus Christi and Regional Partners	United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
Echeozo, Uche	Kleberg County	City of Kingsville
Fierova, Ann	Coastal Bend	Del Mar College
Herring, Virginia	City of Three Rivers, Live Oak County	City of Three Rivers
Laubach, Wendy	Aransas County	County commissioner
Johnson, Marty	Coastal Bend	World Affairs Texas
Korus, Dan	Coastal Bend	Del Mar College & Military Task Force
Lee, Jim	Coastal Bend	Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Martinez, Larry	City of Alice and Jim Wells County	Alice & Jim Wells County Economic Development Corporation
Matula, Anne	San Patricio County	San Patricio County
Oetting, Brett	Corpus Christi	Visit Corpus Christi
Paulison, Bob	Corpus Christi Metropolitan Area	Port Industries
Pollack, Jeff	Port of Corpus Christi	Port of Corpus Christi
Rhoades, Philip	Coastal Bend	Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Telge, Judy	Coastal Bend	Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
Wowk, Katya (Chair)	Coastal Bend	Harte Research Institute / TAMUCC

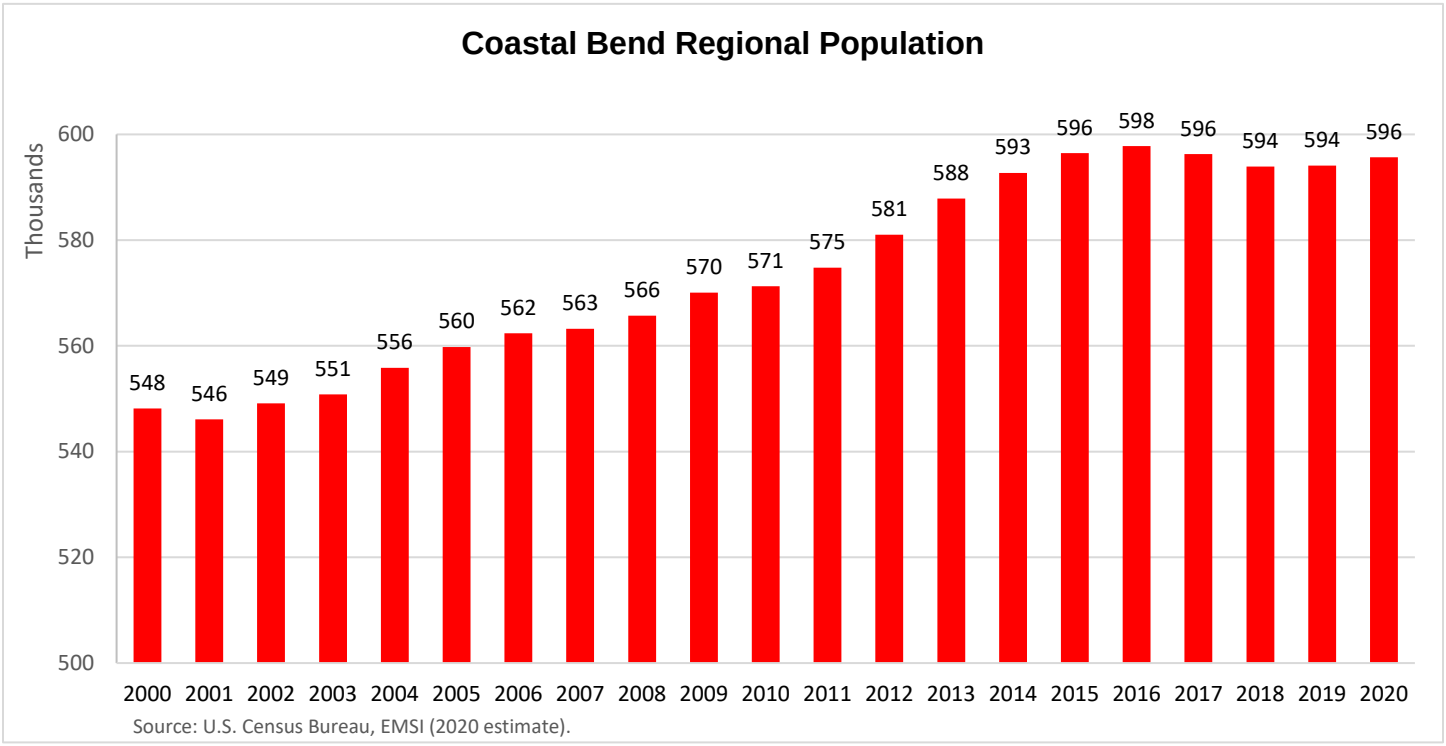
Staff Name	Area of Representation	Affiliation
Martinez, Emily	Coastal Bend	Coastal Bend Council of Governments
Afuso, Mary	Coastal Bend	Coastal Bend Council of Governments
Simms, Shelby	Coastal Bend	Coastal Bend Council of Governments
Sheasby, Yvonne	Coastal Bend	Harte Research Institute / TAMUCC
Hale, Chris	Coastal Bend	Harte Research Institute / TAMUCC

APPENDIX:

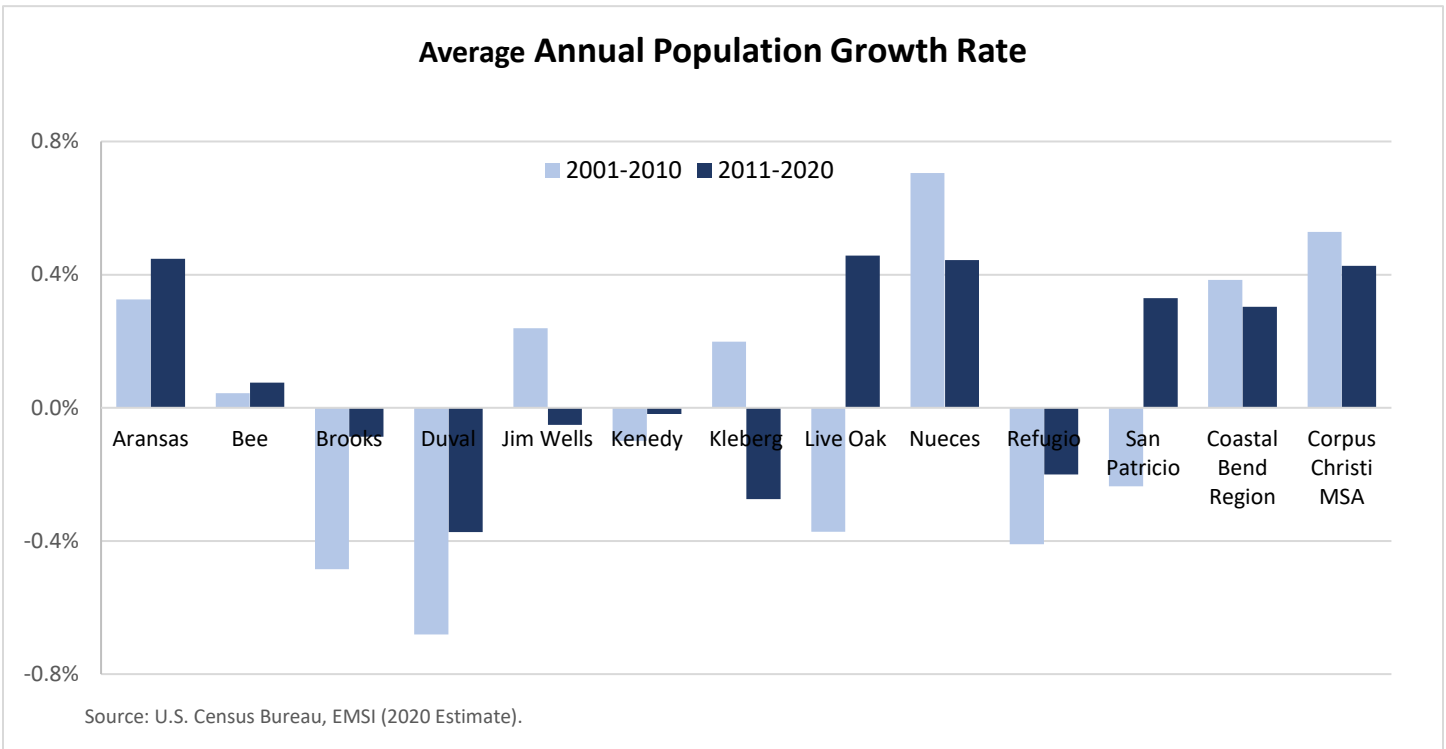
REGIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND FULL SWOT ANALYSIS

AND

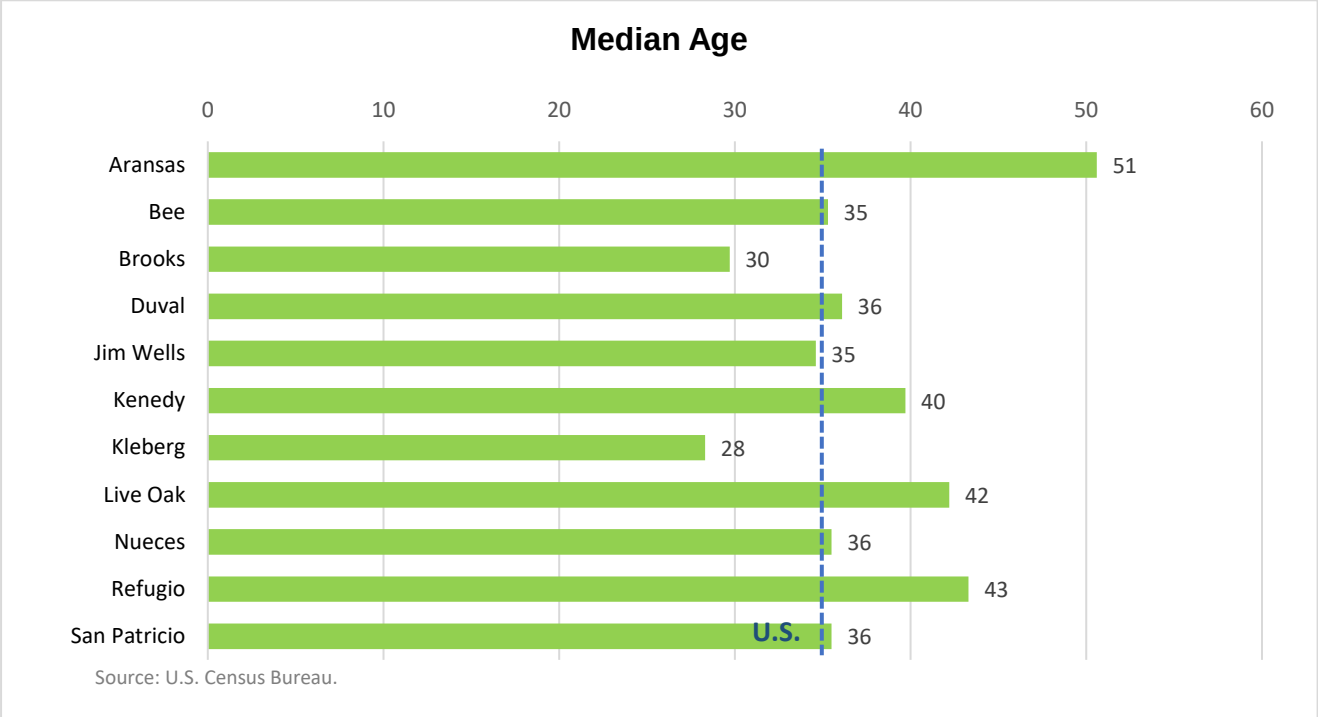
Comparative Statistics

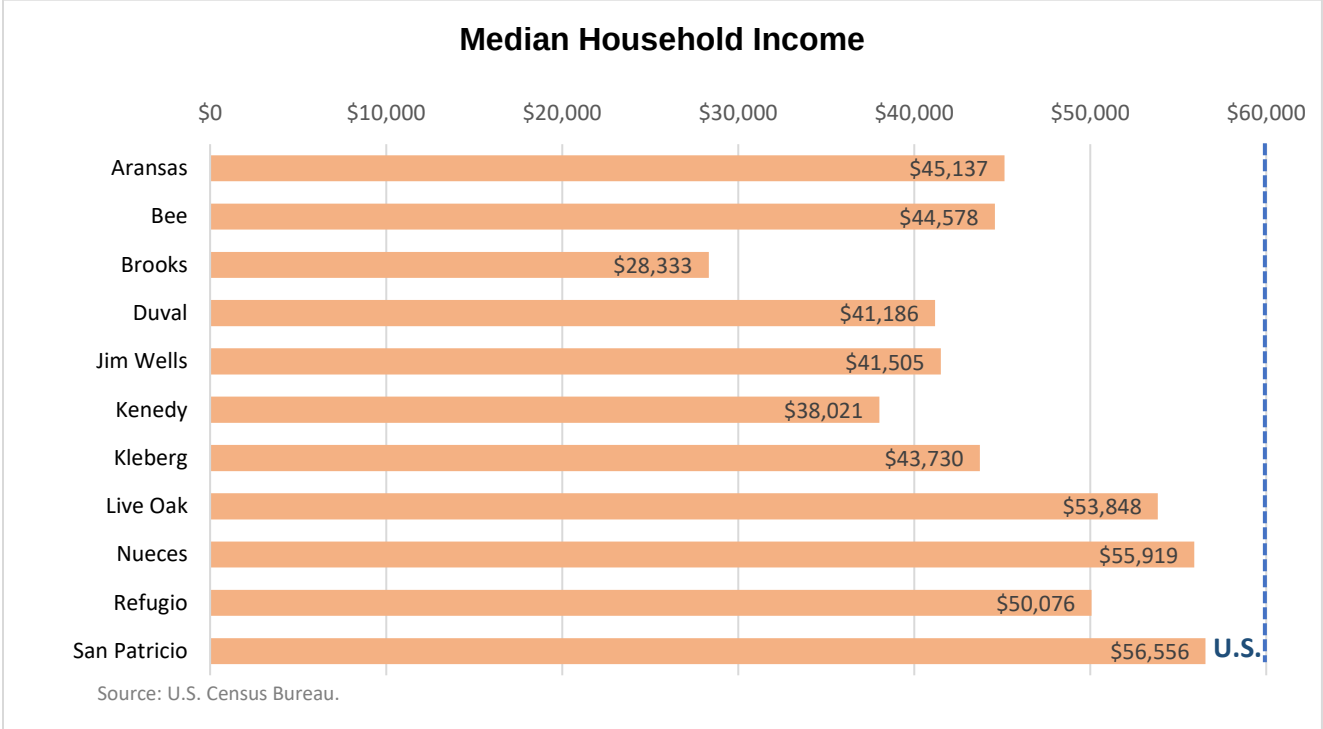


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, EMSI (2020 estimate).

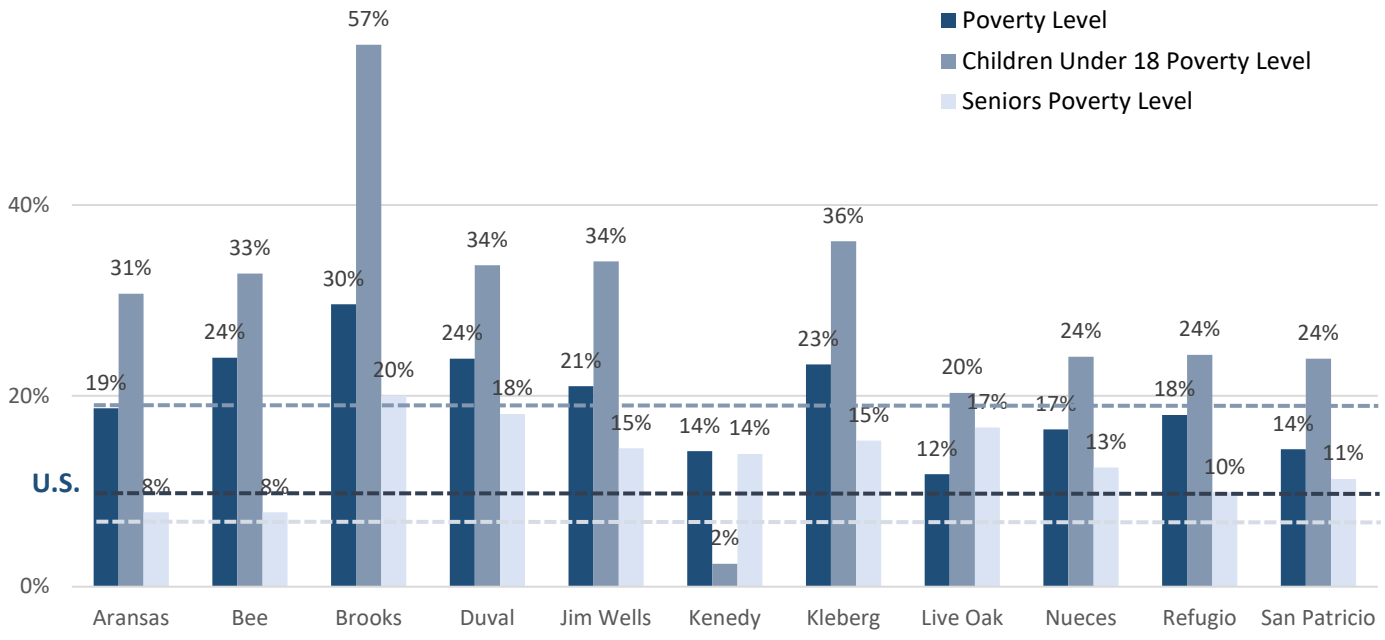


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, EMSI (2020 Estimate).


Median Age
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
Aransas
Bee
Brooks
Duval
Jim Wells
Kenedy
Kleberg
Live Oak
Nueces
Refugio
San Patricio
51
35
30
36
35
40
28
42
36
43
36
U.S.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

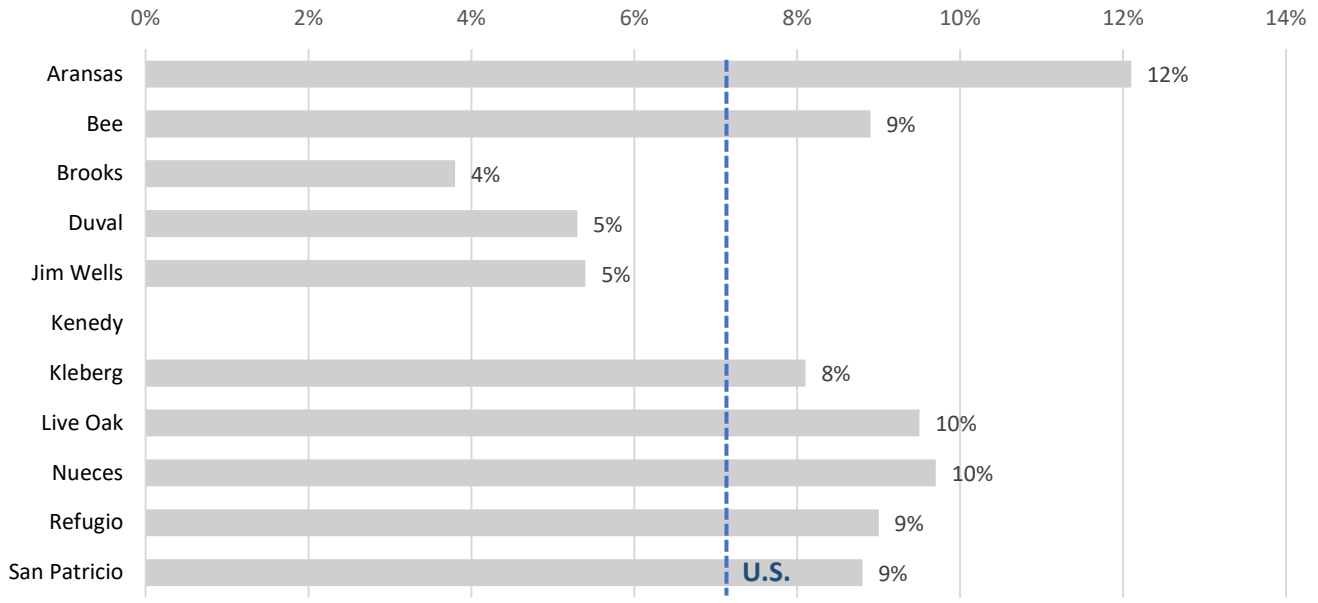

Median Household Income
$0
$10,000
$20,000
$30,000
$40,000
$50,000
$60,000
Aransas
Bee
Brooks
Duval
Jim Wells
Kenedy
Kleberg
Live Oak
Nueces
Refugio
San Patricio
$45,137
$44,578
$28,333
$41,186
$41,505
$38,021
$43,730
$53,848
$55,919
$50,076
$56,556
U.S.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Poverty Levels by County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, EMSI.

% Veteran Status



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Coastal Bend Region Population Change by Age Group

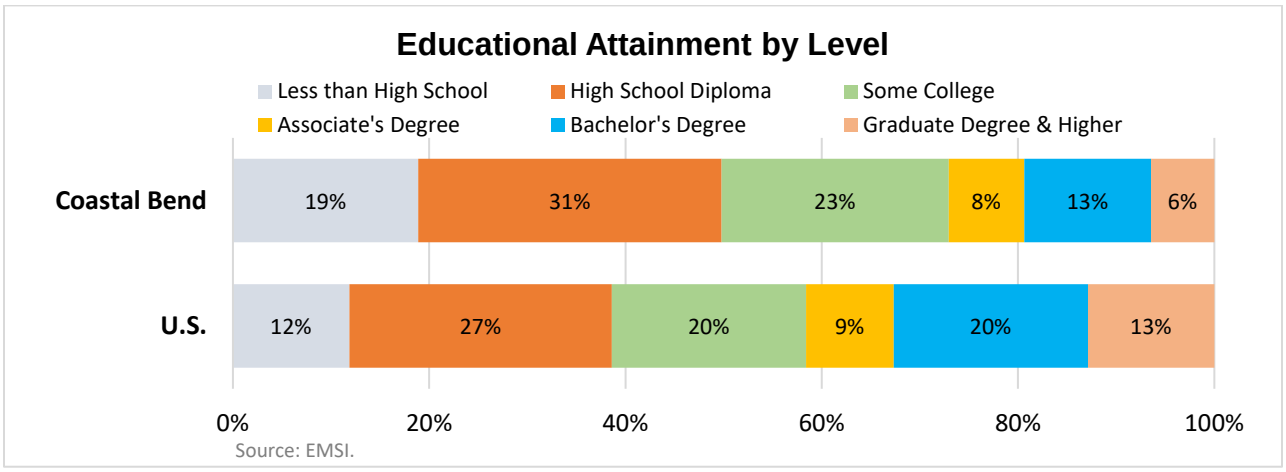
	2001	2020	Change
Under 20	170,536	159,633	-6%
20 to 24	40,304	43,003	7%
25 to 39	110,190	123,558	12%
40 to 54	112,248	103,520	-8%
55 to 69	65,461	100,433	53%
70 to 84	38,964	54,796	41%
85 & Over	7,103	10,919	54%

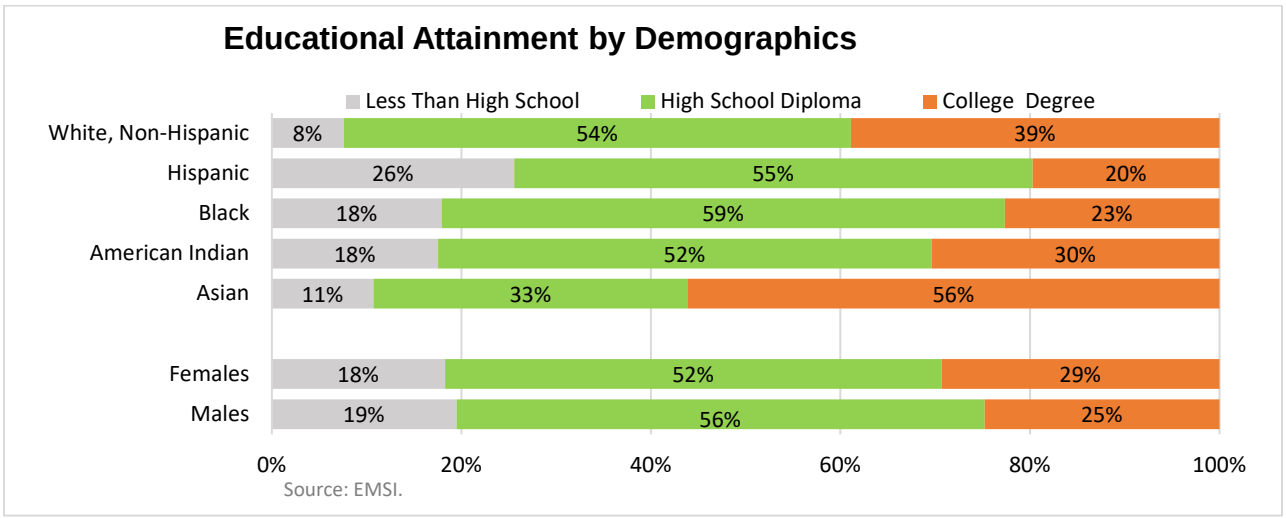
Source: EMSI.

Coastal Bend Population by Race/Ethnicity

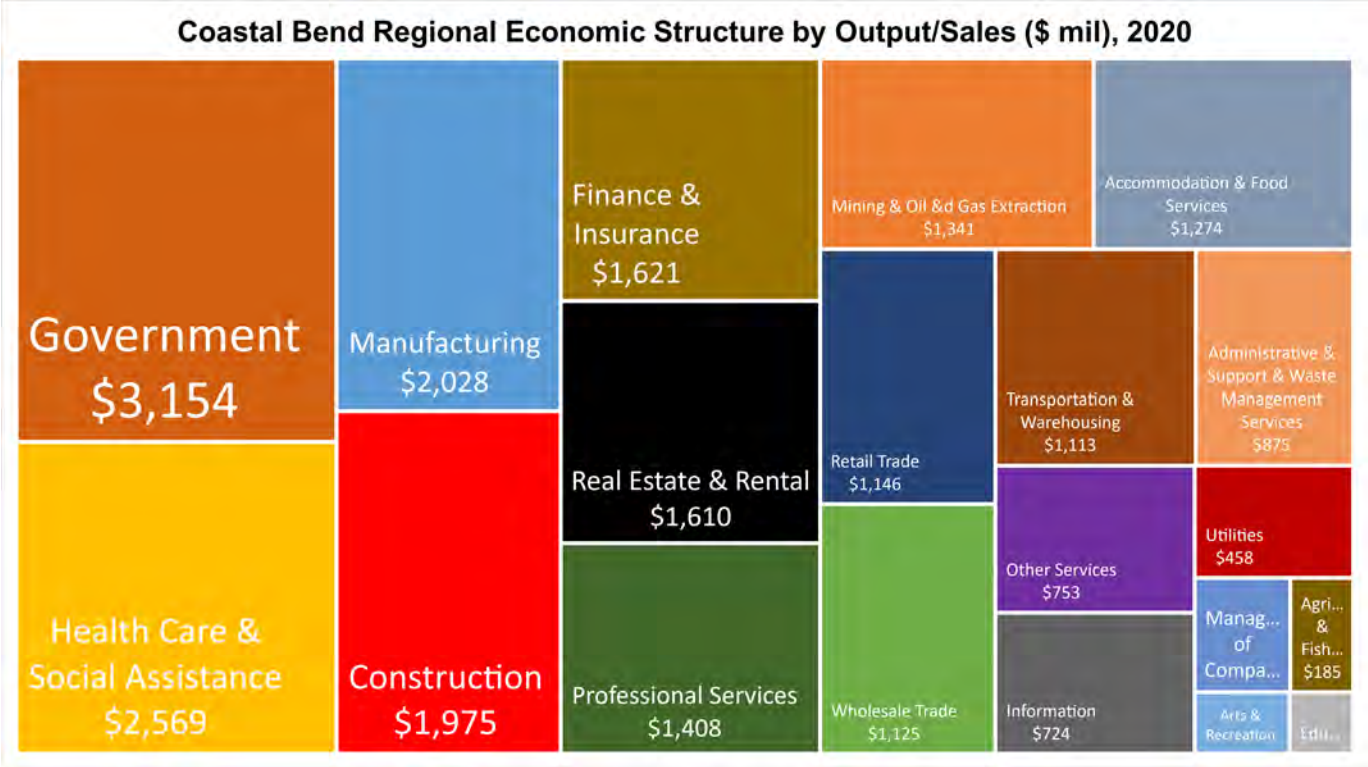
Race/Ethnicity	2001	2020	Change	% Change	% 2020 Total
Hispanic	302,586	368,859	66,273	22%	62%
White, Non-Hispanic	204,632	177,251	-27,381	-13%	30%
Black	20,014	18,906	-1,108	-6%	3%
Asian	5,553	9,989	4,436	80%	2%
Two or More Races	3,358	5,433	2,075	62%	1%
American Indian	2,433	3,853	1,420	58%	1%
Other	6,230	11,570	5,340	186%	2%
Total	**544,806**	**595,861**	**51,055**	**9%**	**100%**

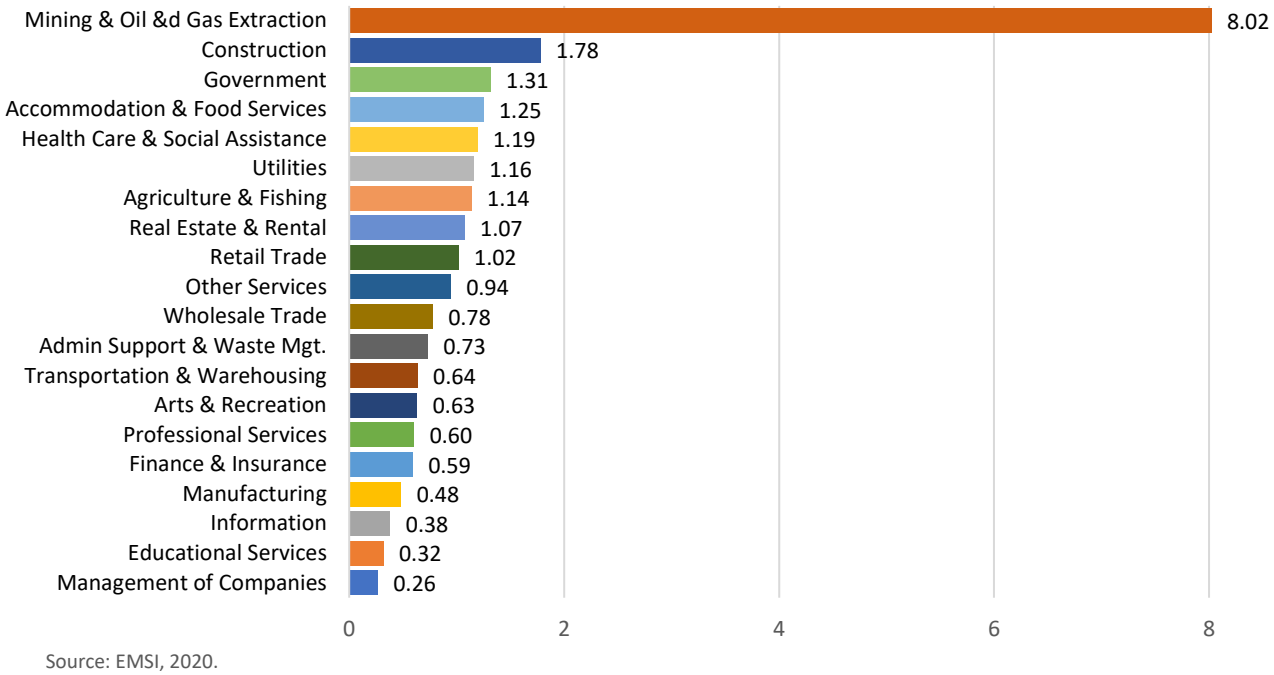
Source: EMSI.





Economic Sectors

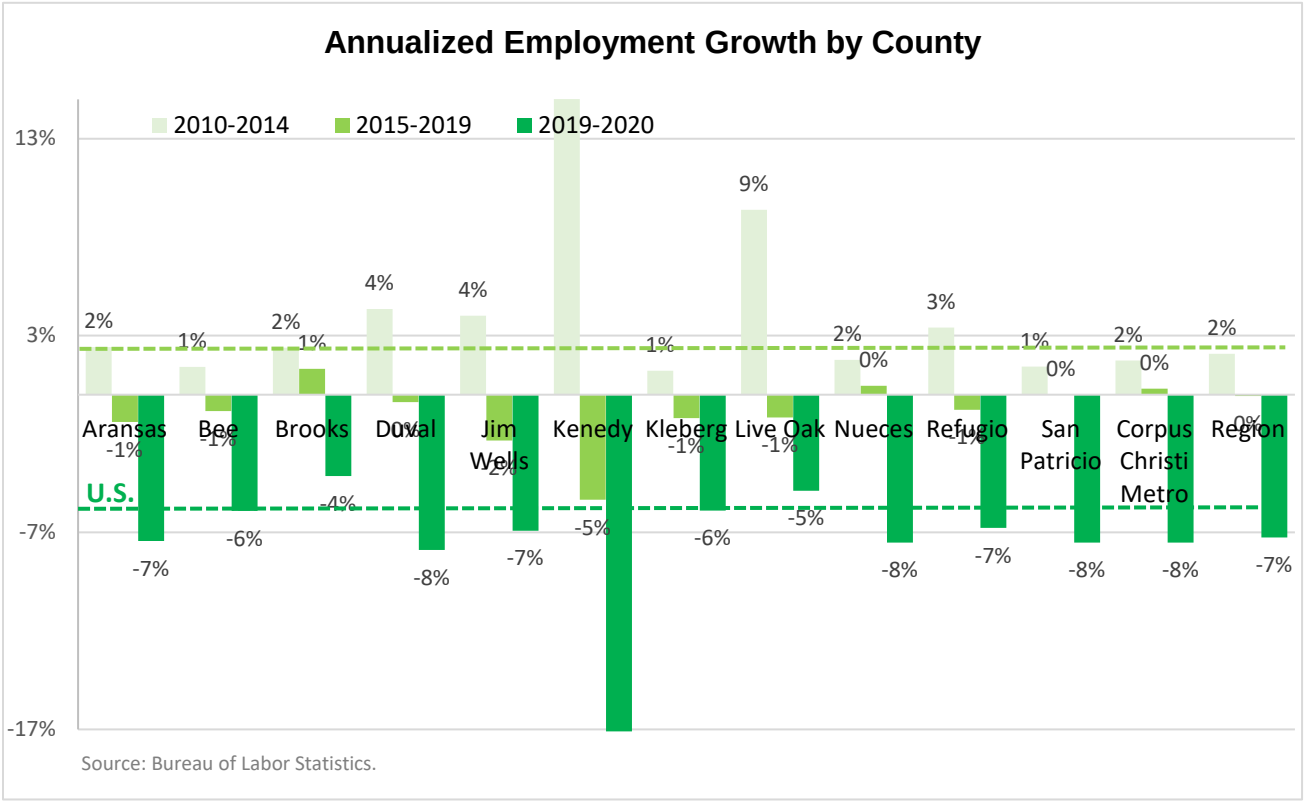




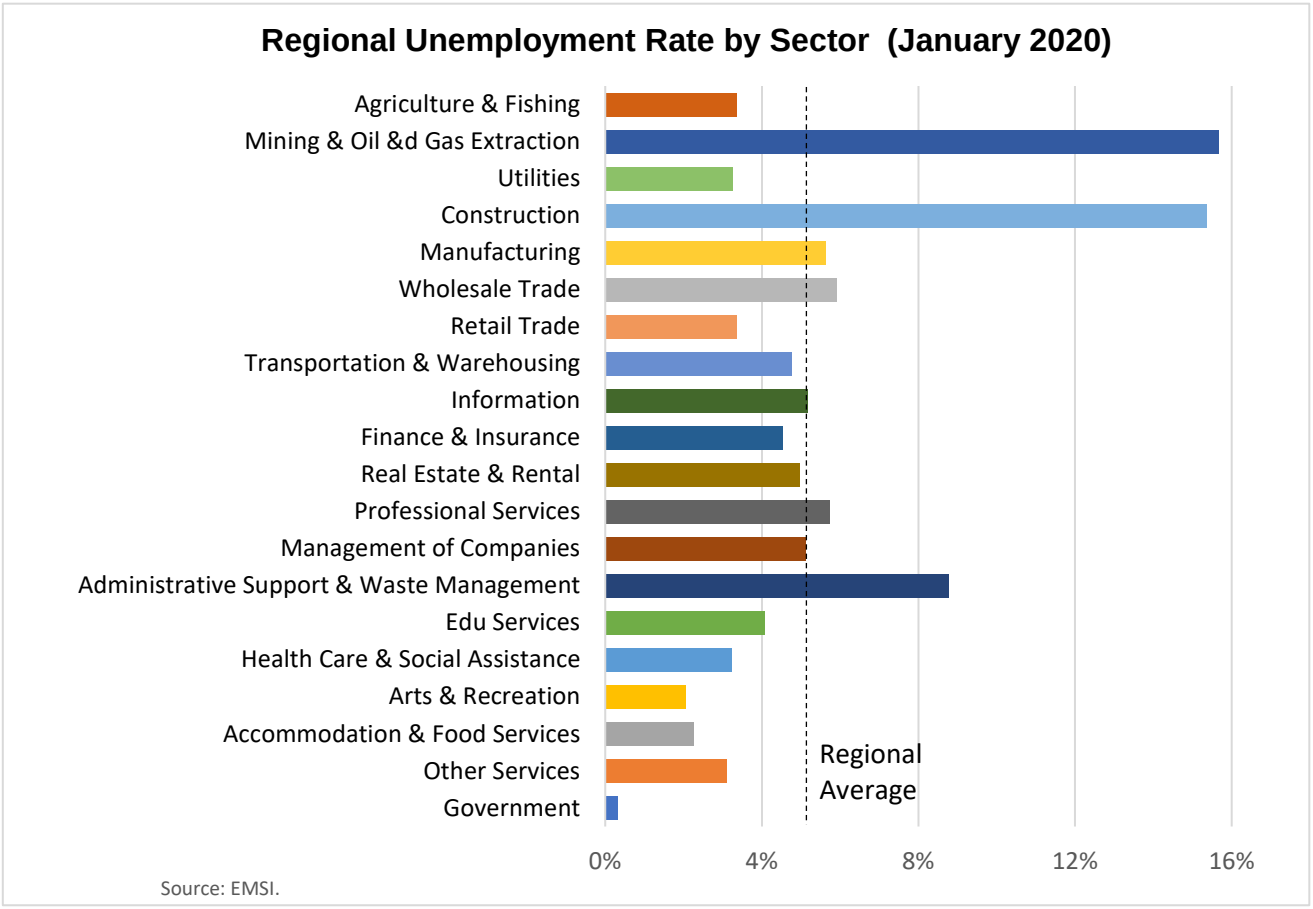
Source: EMSI, 2020.

Note: A location quotient higher than 1 means regional employment share higher than U.S.; a location quotient lower than 1 means regional employment share lower than U.S.

Labor Markets



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.



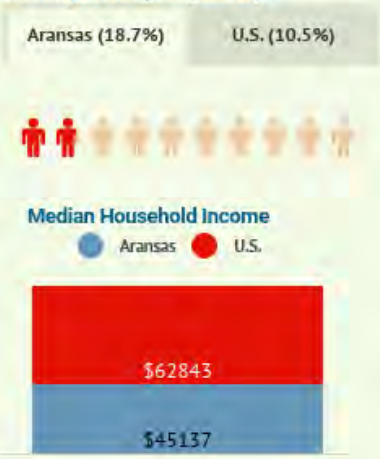
Source: EMSI.

Aransas County
Socioeconomic Profile

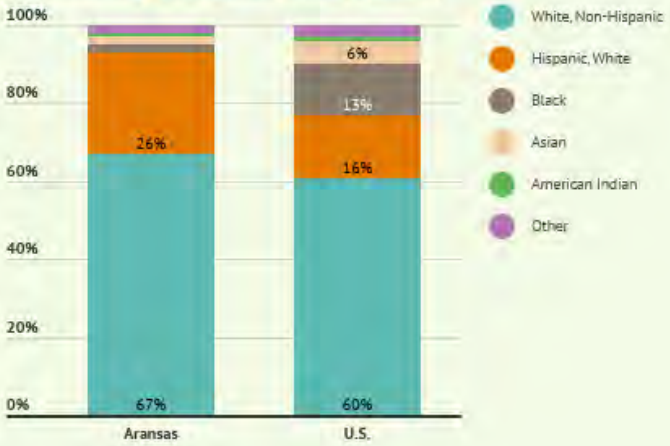
SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

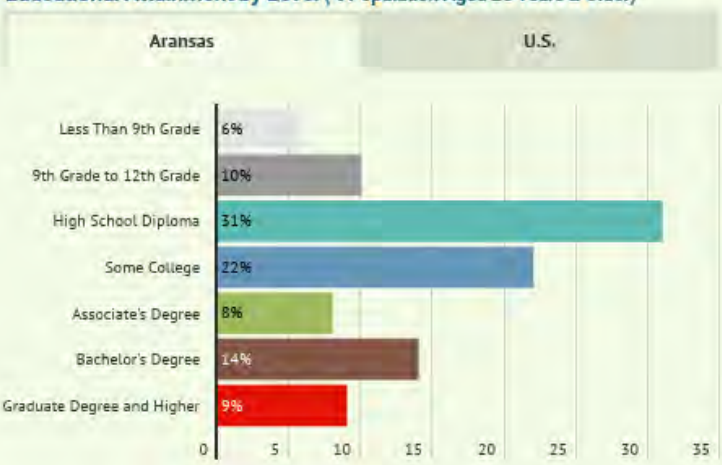
Poverty Level (% Population)



Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



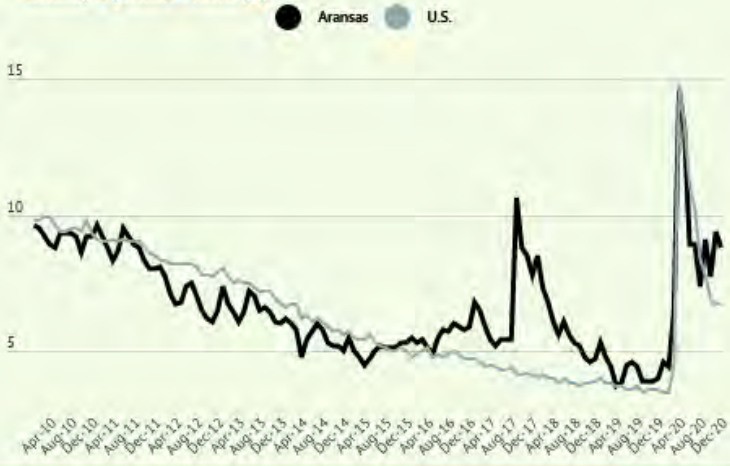
Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)



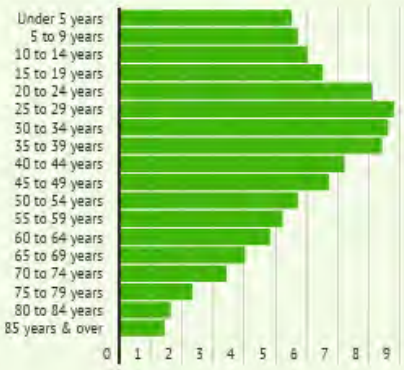
Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Bee County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

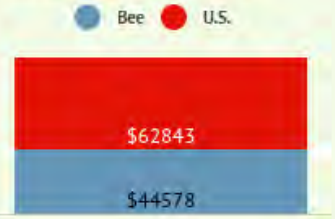
Bee | U.S.



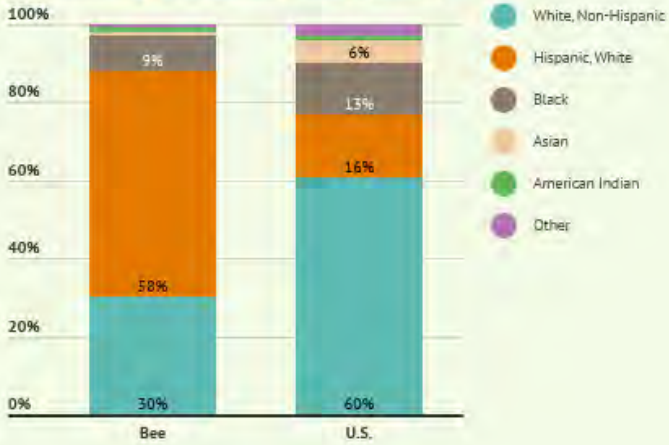
Poverty Level (% Population)

Bee (24%) | U.S. (10.5%)

Median Household Income

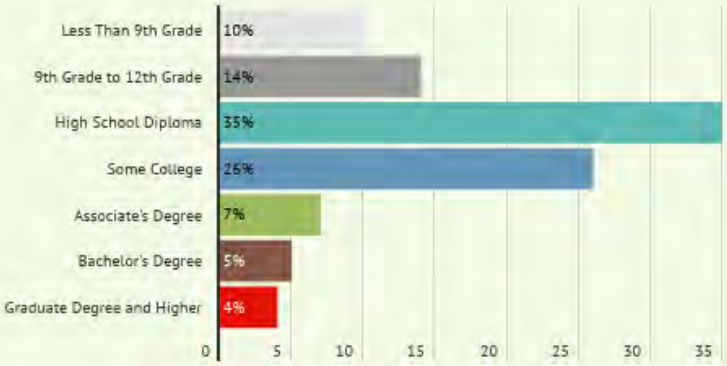


Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)

Bee | U.S.

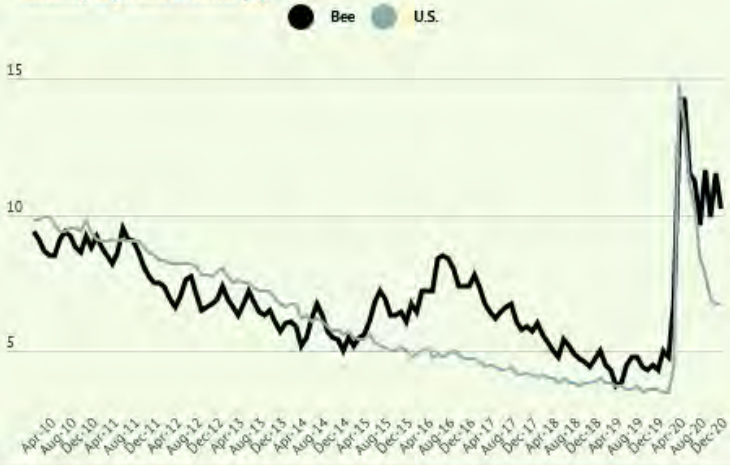


Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Sales ($M) | Employment

Unemployment Trend (%)

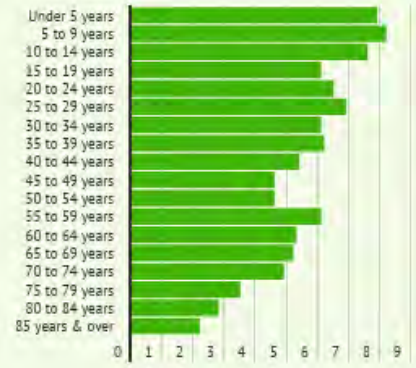


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Brooks County
Socioeconomic Profile

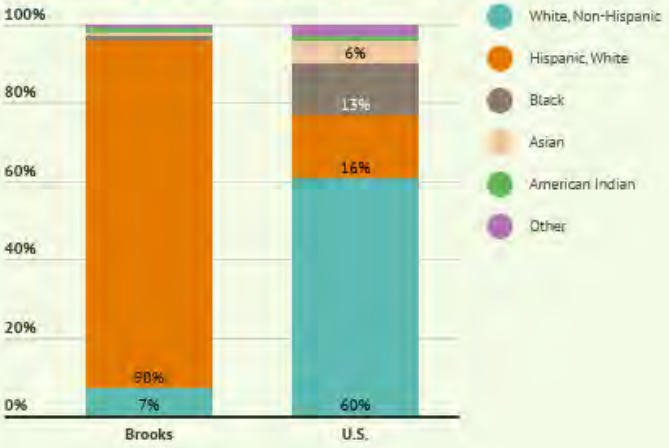
SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

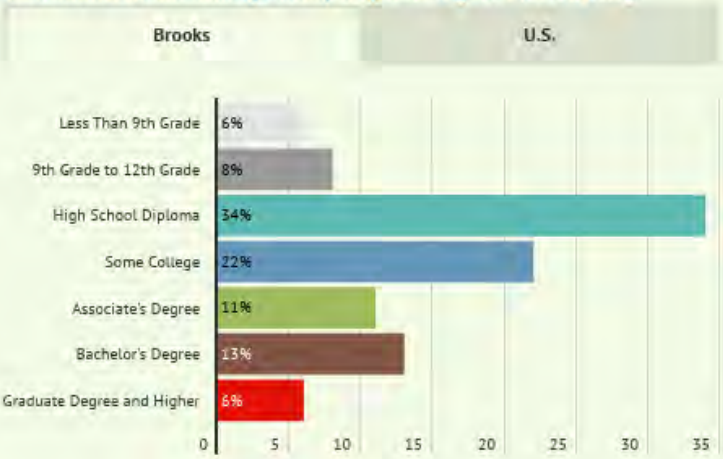


Poverty Level (% Population)

Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



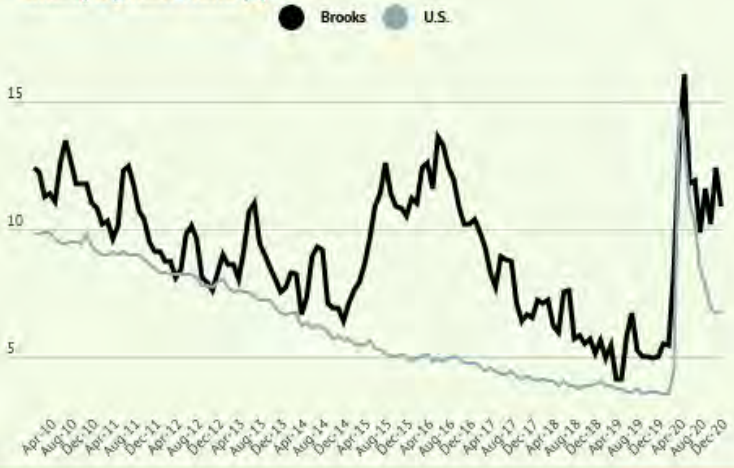
Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)

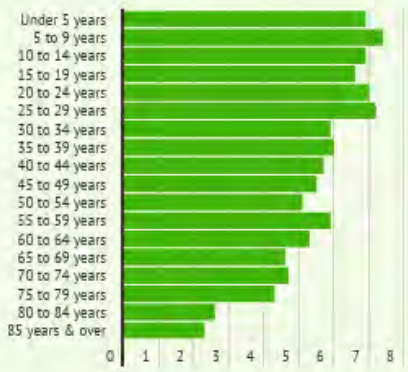


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

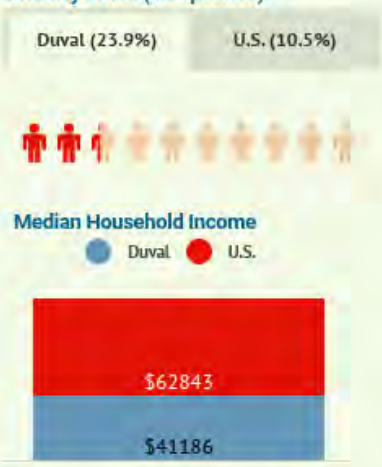
Duval County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

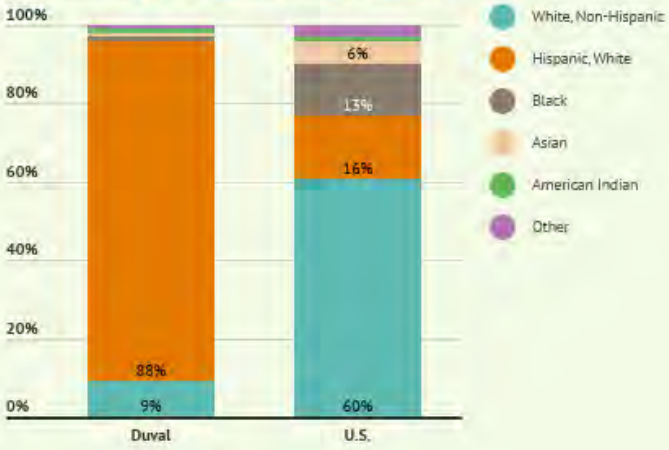
Age Distribution (% Total Population)



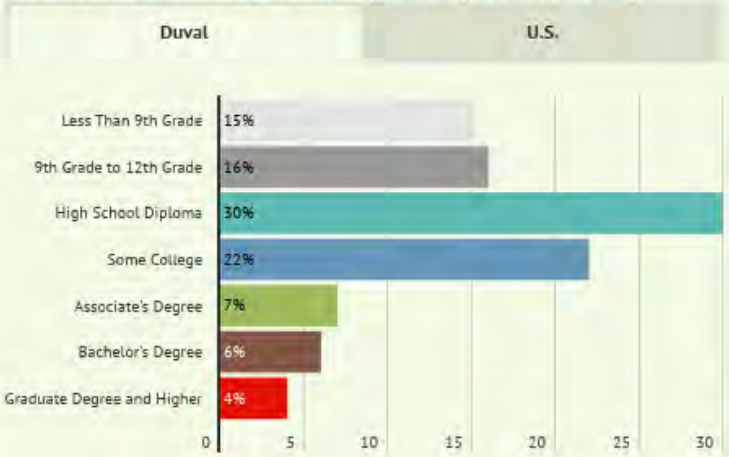
Poverty Level (% Population)



Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



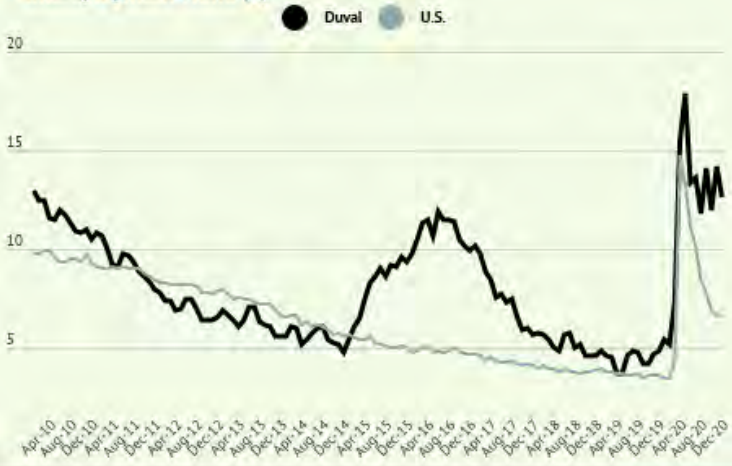
Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)

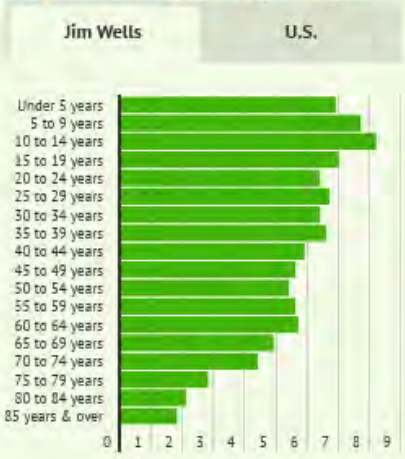


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

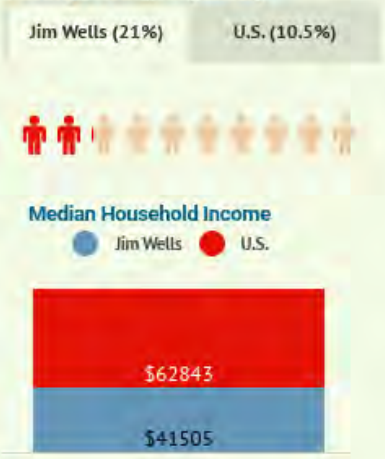
Jim Wells County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

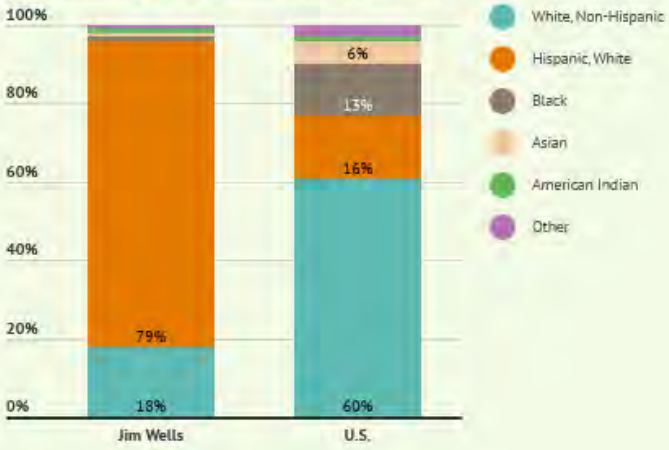
Age Distribution (% Total Population)



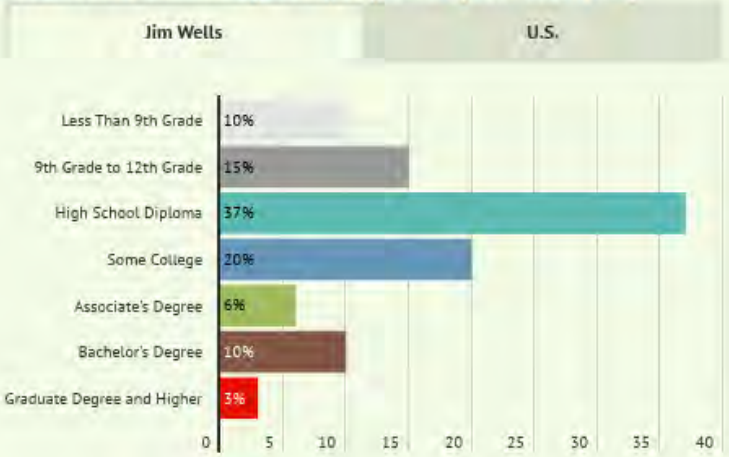
Poverty Level (% Population)



Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)

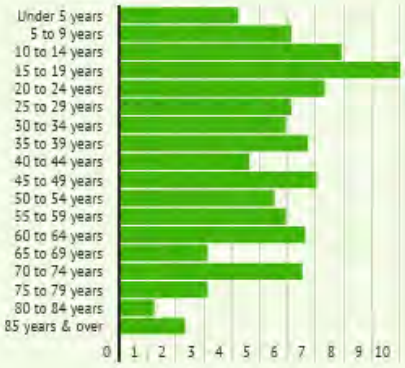
Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Kenedy County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

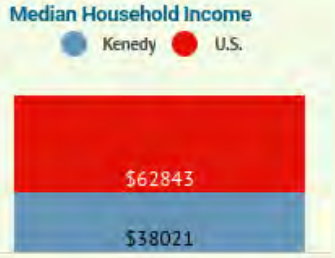
Kenedy | U.S.



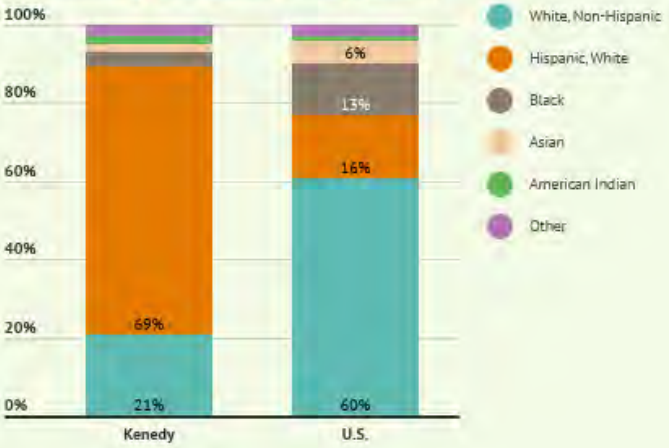
Poverty Level (% Population)

Kenedy (14.2%) | U.S. (10.5%)

Median Household Income

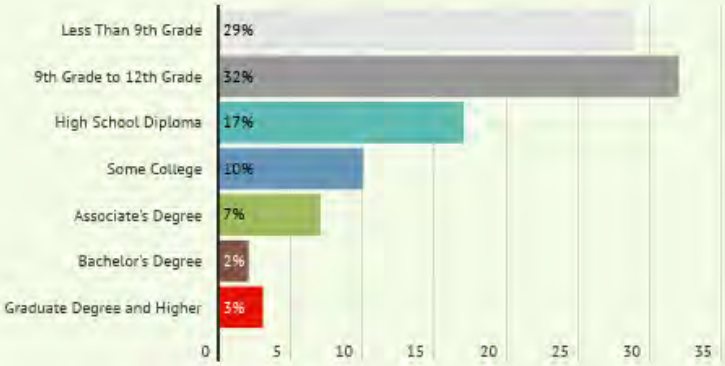


Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)

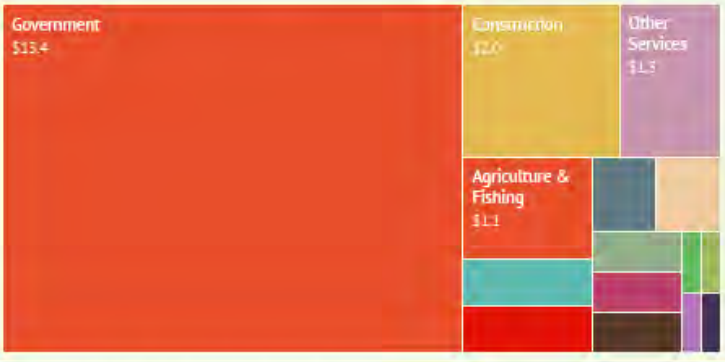
Kenedy | U.S.



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Sales ($M) | Employment



Unemployment Trend (%)

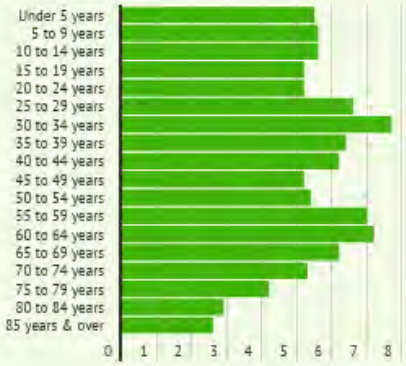
Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Live Oak County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

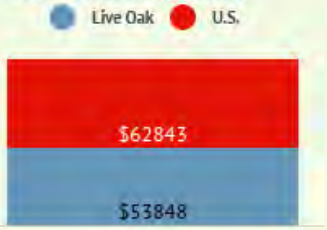
Live Oak | U.S.



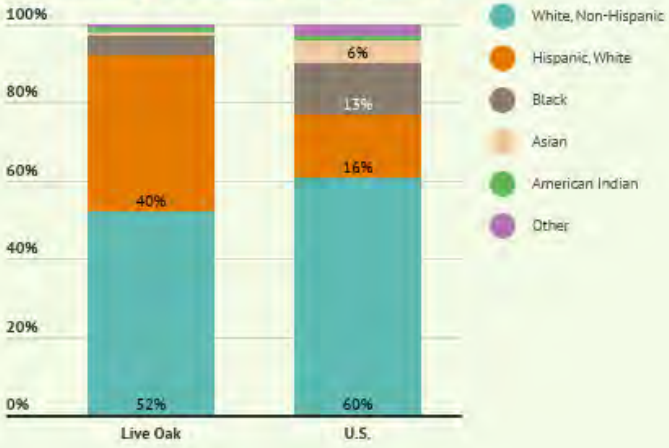
Poverty Level (% Population)

Live Oak (11.8%) | U.S. (10.5%)

Median Household Income

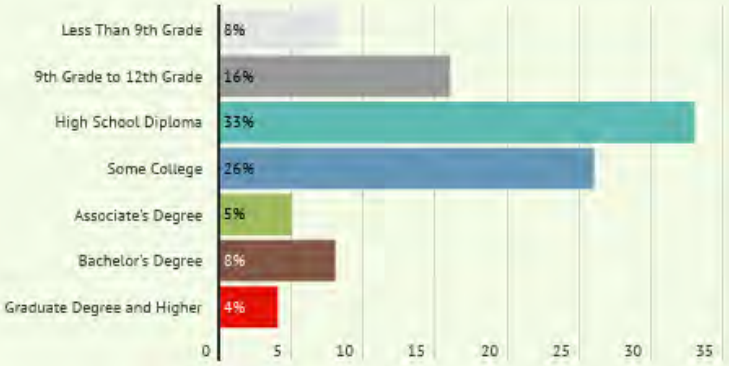


Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)

Live Oak | U.S.

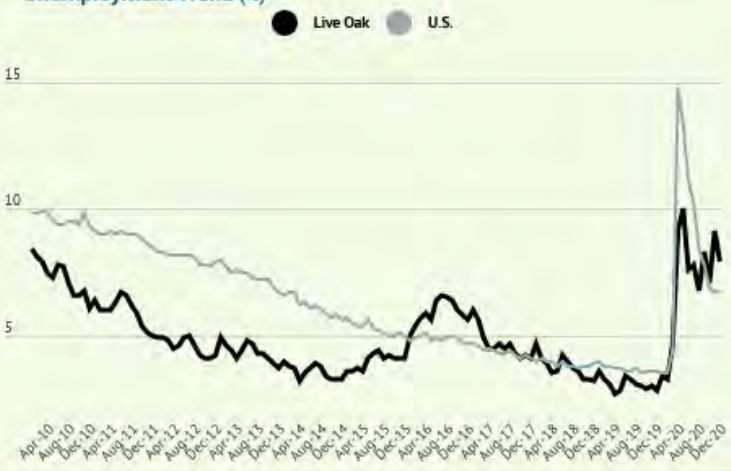


Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Sales ($M) | Employment

Unemployment Trend (%)

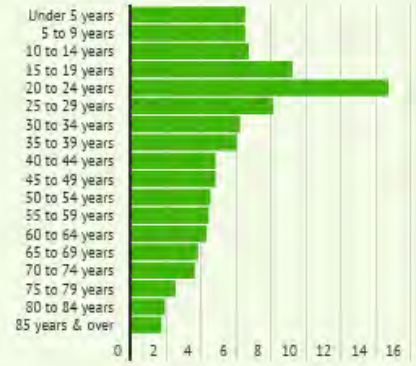


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

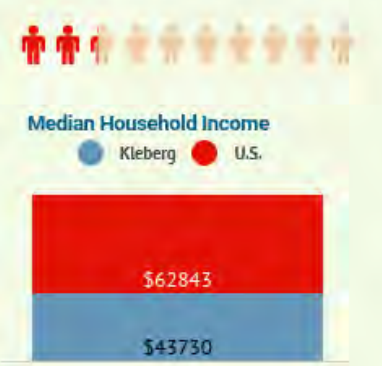
Kleberg County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

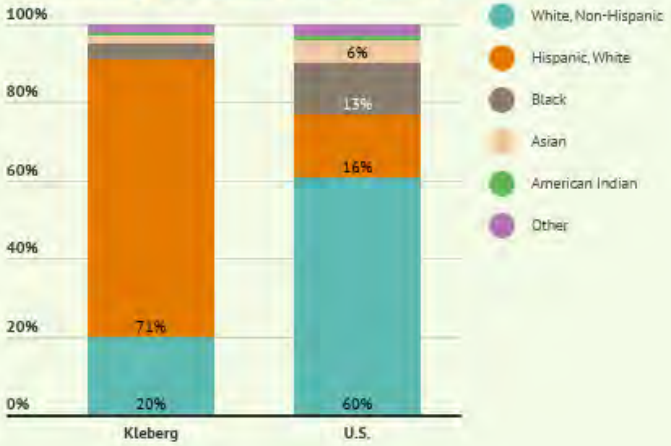
Age Distribution (% Total Population)



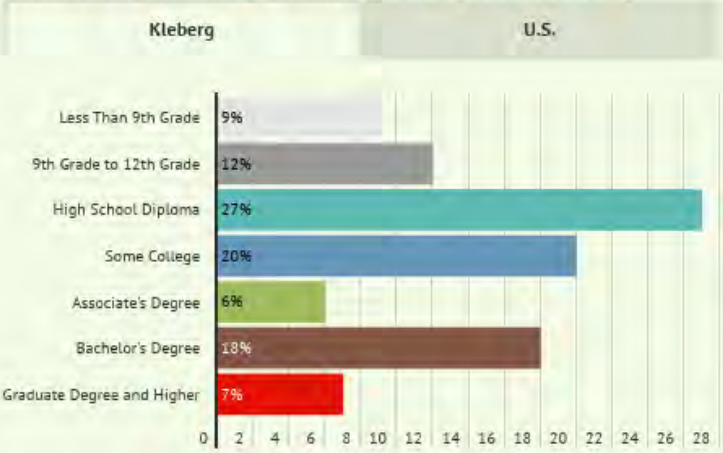
Poverty Level (% Population)



Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)

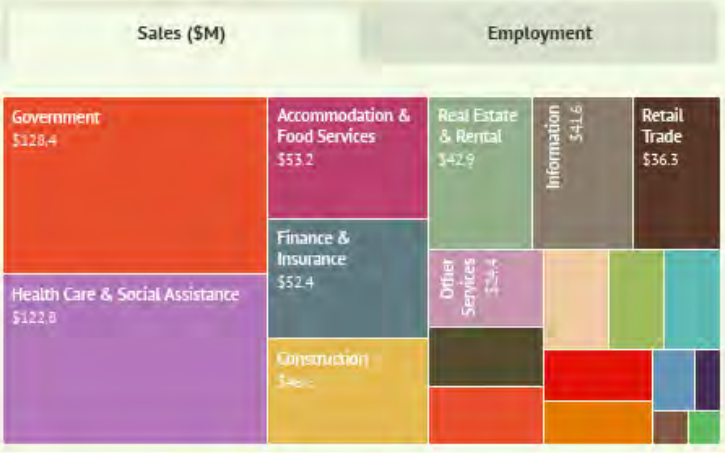


Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)

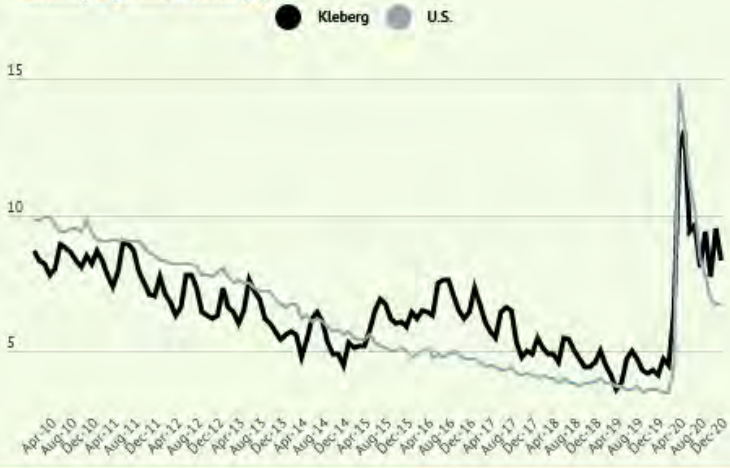


Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector



Unemployment Trend (%)



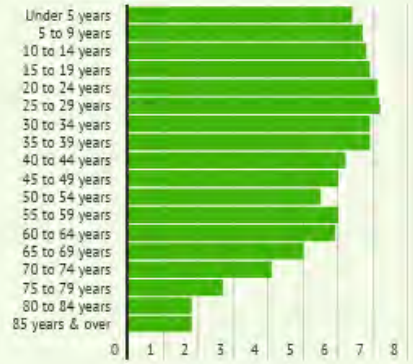
Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Nueces County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

Nueces | U.S.

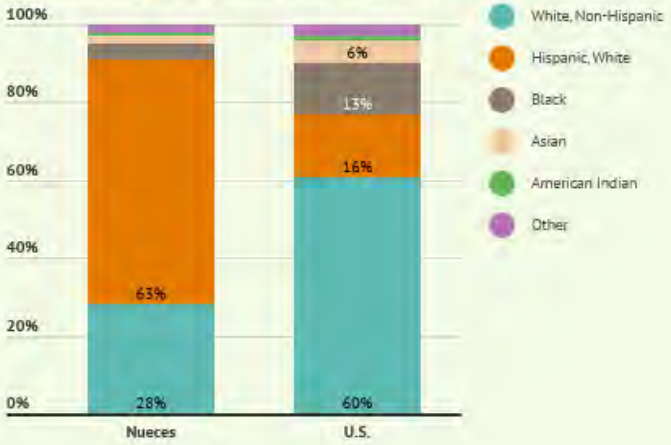


Poverty Level (% Population)

Nueces (16.5%) | U.S. (10.5%)

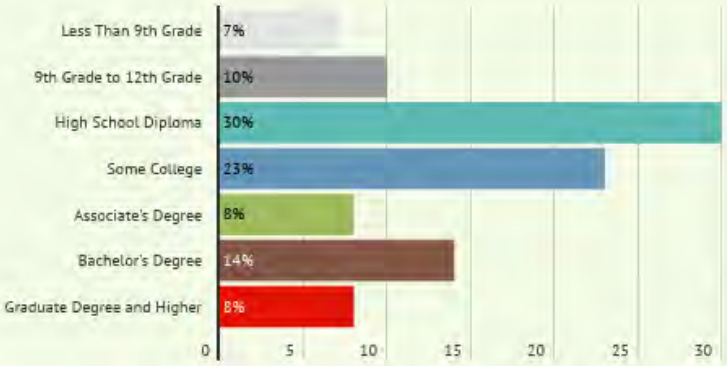
Median Household Income

Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)

Nueces | U.S.

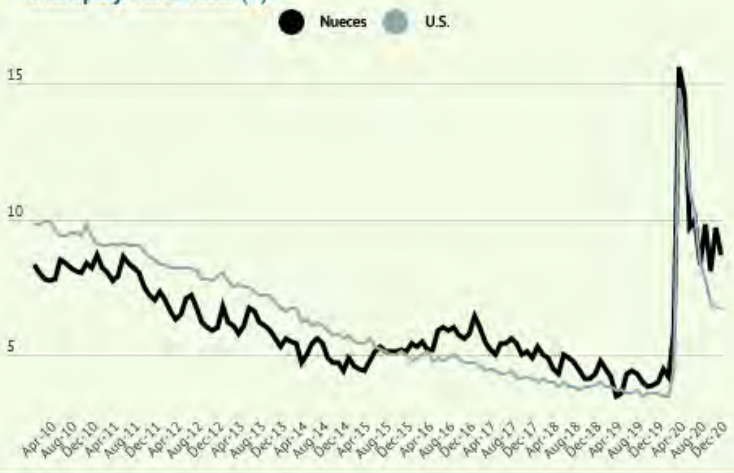


Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Sales ($M) | Employment

Unemployment Trend (%)

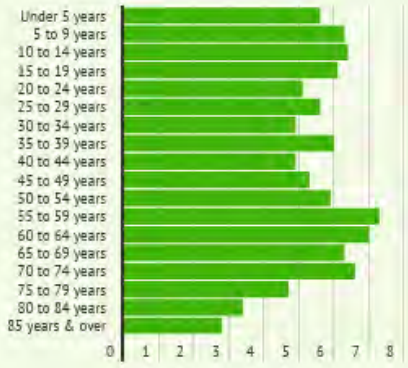


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

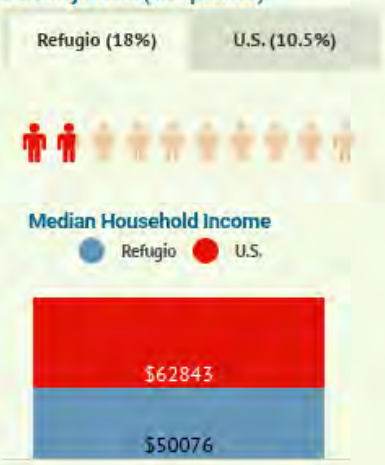
Refugio County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

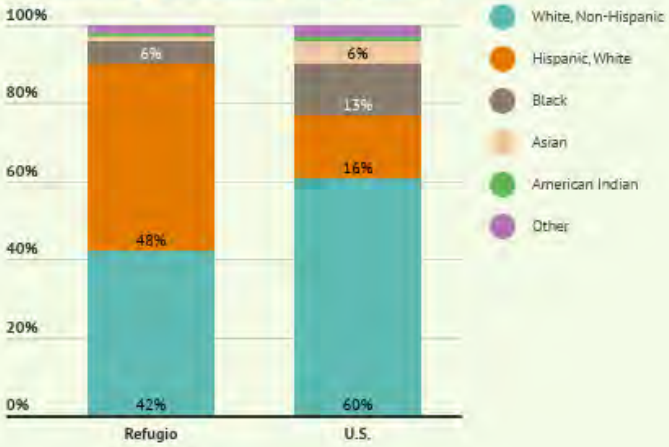
Age Distribution (% Total Population)



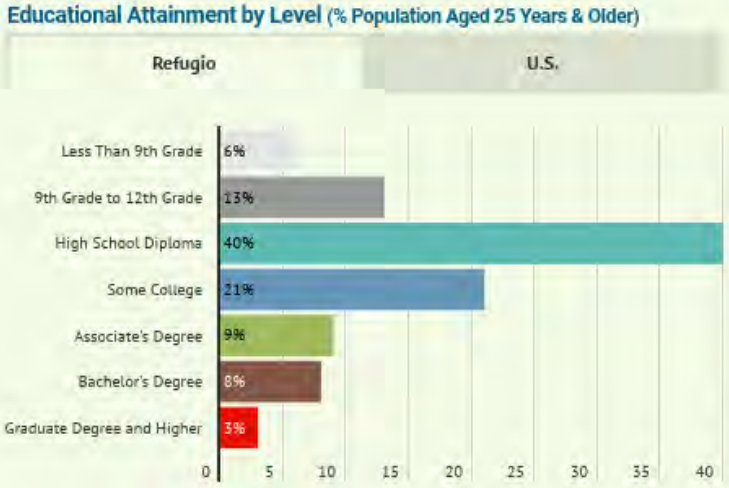
Poverty Level (% Population)



Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



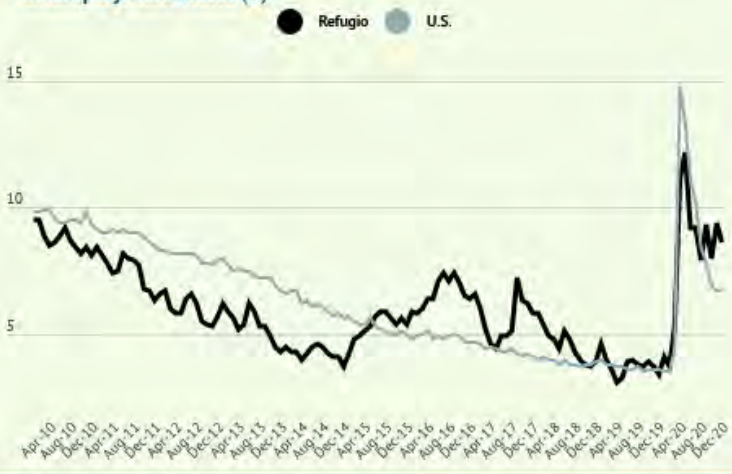
Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)

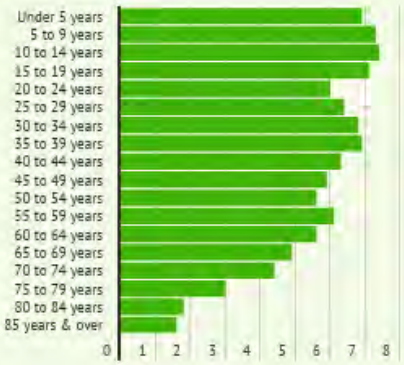


Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

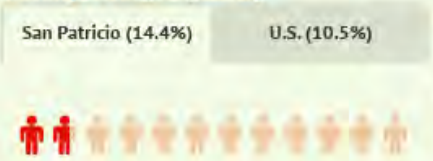
San Patricio County
Socioeconomic Profile

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Age Distribution (% Total Population)

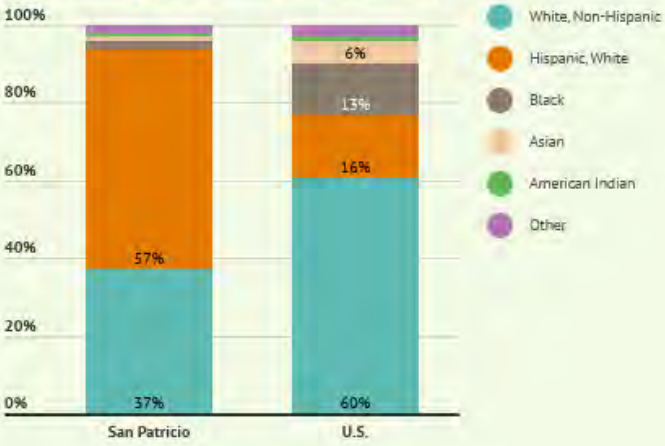


Poverty Level (% Population)

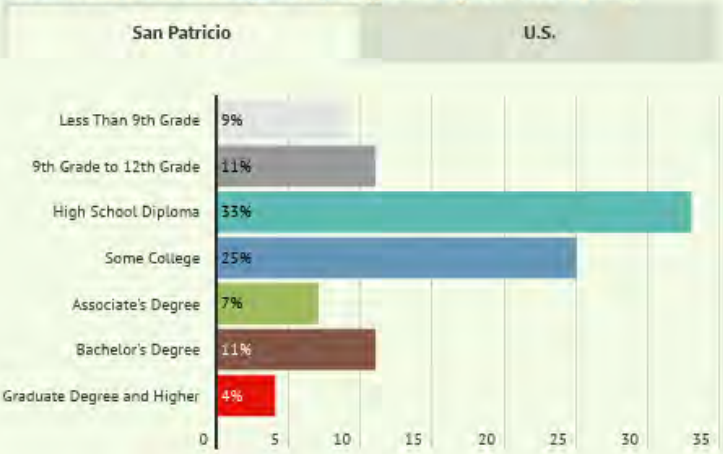


Median Household Income

Race/Ethnicity Distribution (% Total Population)



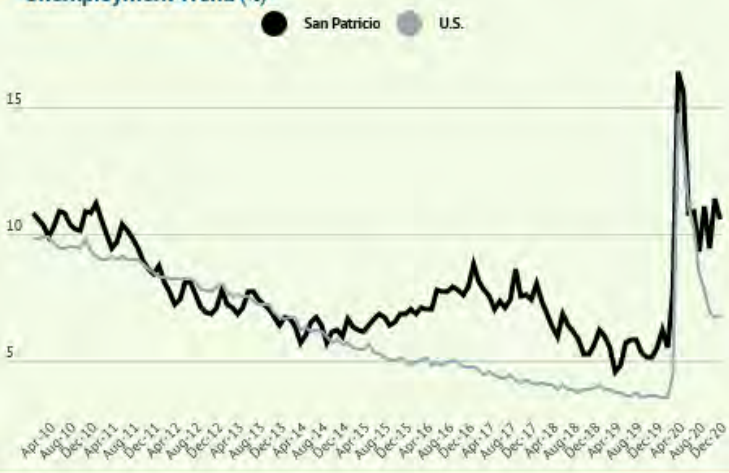
Educational Attainment by Level (% Population Aged 25 Years & Older)



Population Trend

Economic Composition by Sector

Unemployment Trend (%)



Data Sources: EMSI, TAMU Real Estate Center, Texas Workforce Commission.

Innovation Index – Indicators by County

Source: https://www.statsamerica.org/ii2/

ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

67.5
Business Dynamics Index

598
Rank of 3110 Counties

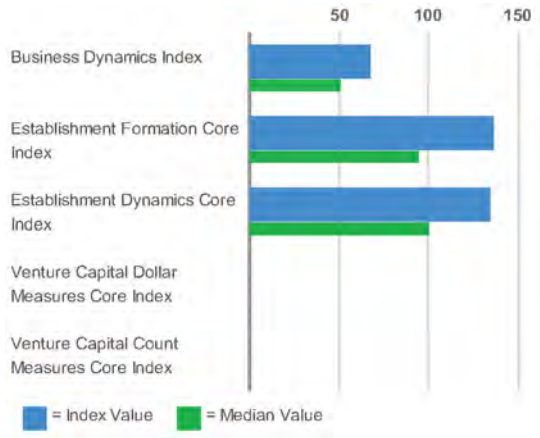
This area has a high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**135.8**	**241**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	135.8	688
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	126.4	481
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	192.0	90
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	88.9	1,955
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**133.8**	**359**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	168.9	263
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	129.6	566
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	103.0	1,031
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

58.6
Business Profile Index

2,729
Rank of 3110 Counties

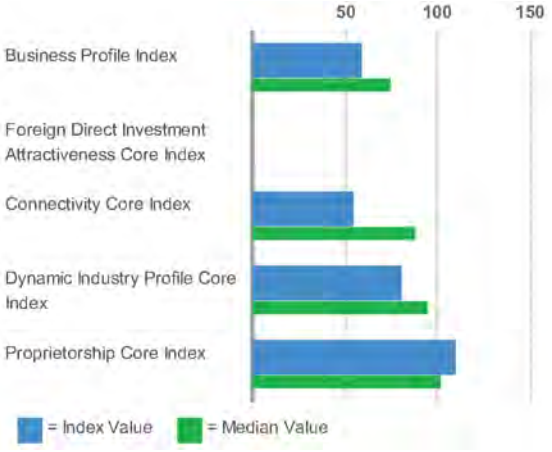
This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**53.8**	**2,755**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,182
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	87.1	2,227
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**79.7**	**2,246**
Small Establishments (Average)	117.4	1,101
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	121.9	850
Proprietorship Core Index	**109.0**	**1,137**
Proprietorship Rate	188.2	206
Change in Proprietorship Rate	78.7	2,321
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	85.4	1,973
Availability of Capital from All Banks	83.6	2,253



ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

104.9
Economic Well-Being Index

1,773
Rank of 3110 Counties

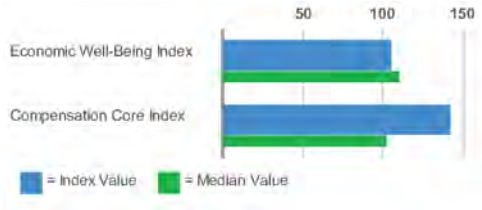
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	96.7	1,501
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	57.7	2,867
Poverty Rate (Average)	82.1	2,267
Unemployment Rate (Average)	125.6	1,209
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	93.1	1,818
Net Migration (Average)	100.6	1,602
Compensation Core Index	**141.8**	**466**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	155.2	498
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	128.3	908



ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

86.9
Headline Index

1,283
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has normal relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — **84.3**
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

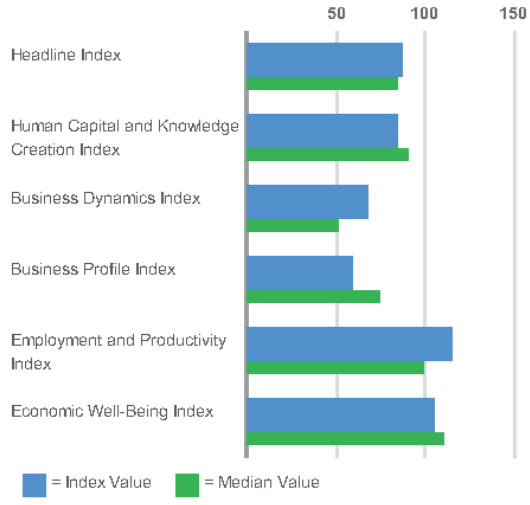
Business Dynamics Index — **67.5**
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — **58.6**
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — **114.4**
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — **104.9**
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

84.3
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

1,871
Rank of 3110 Counties

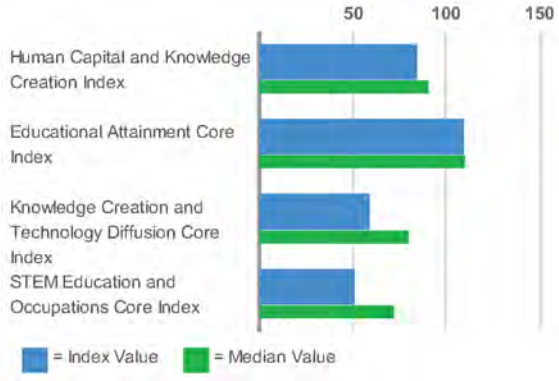
This area has a normal human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	139.3	781
Educational Attainment Core Index	**108.7**	**1,575**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	91.9	1,978
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	195.4	90
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	60.5	2,808
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	96.5	1,445
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	99.2	1,120
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**58.7**	**1,983**
Patent Technology Diffusion	99.0	1,198
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	77.2	1,566
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**50.9**	**2,618**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	59.0	2,934
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	93.6	1,360



ARANSAS COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

114.4
Employment and Productivity Index

460
Rank of 3110 Counties

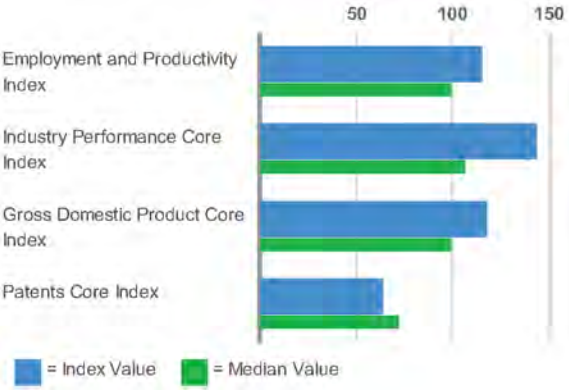
This area has a high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Rockport city
Population:	23,510
Per Capita Income:	$51,614
Dominant Sector:	Retail Trade

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	178.7	289
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	60.9	2,791
Industry Performance Core Index	**142.9**	**264**
Cluster Diversity	166.5	437
Cluster Strength	90.4	1,887
Cluster Growth Factor	171.8	379
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**117.3**	**993**
GDP per Worker	80.6	2,262
Change in GDP per Worker	154.0	532
Patents Core Index	**63.4**	**1,713**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	67.5	2,067
Patent Diversity	59.3	1,443



BEE COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

80.8
Business Dynamics Index

341
Rank of 3110 Counties

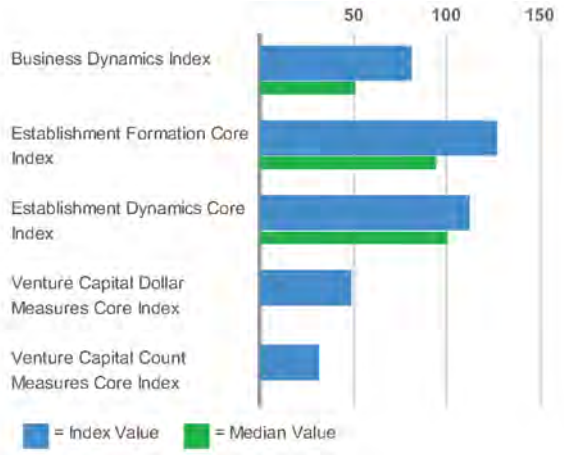
This area has a very high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**126.8**	**388**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	117.2	1,002
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	87.1	1,799
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	130.2	520
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	172.8	195
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**111.7**	**947**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	137.1	606
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	109.3	953
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	88.8	1,735
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**48.8**	**367**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	92.4	209
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	102.7	85
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**31.1**	**360**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	93.3	213
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



BEE COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

70.2
Business Profile Index

1,848
Rank of 3110 Counties

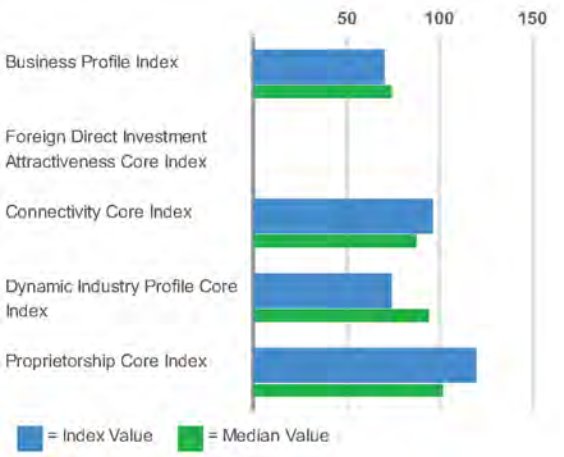
This area has a normal business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**96.0**	**992**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	120.7	190
Farm Operators with Internet Access	93.1	1,718
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**74.0**	**2,465**
Small Establishments (Average)	72.2	2,498
Large Establishments (Average)	56.9	1,991
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	92.9	1,488
Proprietorship Core Index	**119.3**	**858**
Proprietorship Rate	85.5	1,852
Change in Proprietorship Rate	130.9	705
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	172.0	277
Availability of Capital from All Banks	88.7	878



BEE COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

129.9
Economic Well-Being Index

677
Rank of 3110 Counties

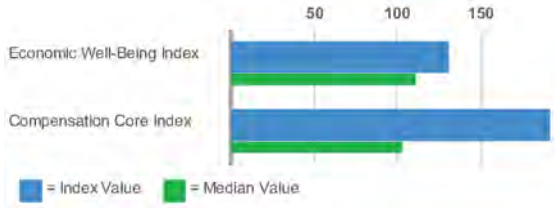
This area has a high economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	141.8	679
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	89.7	2,080
Poverty Rate (Average)	66.5	2,639
Unemployment Rate (Average)	122.0	1,272
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	99.4	1,648
Net Migration (Average)	138.3	595
Compensation Core Index	**190.6**	**55**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	188.0	183
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	193.3	113



BEE COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

82.5
Headline Index

1,737
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has normal relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 63.9
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

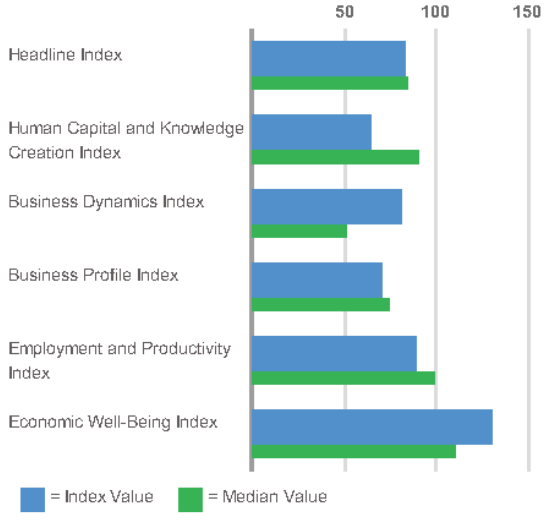
Business Dynamics Index — 80.8
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 70.2
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 88.5
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 129.9
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



BEE COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

63.9
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,874
Rank of 3110 Counties

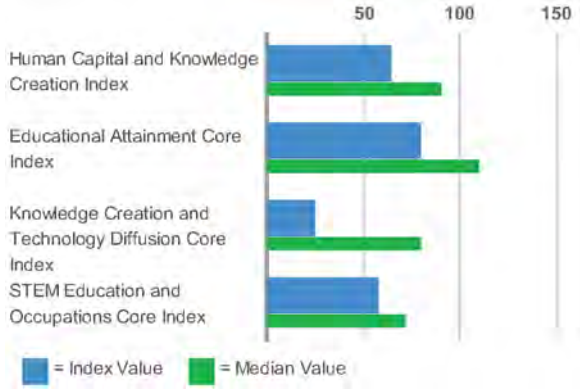
This area has a very low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	124.9	992
Educational Attainment Core Index	**79.2**	**2,667**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	59.4	2,817
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	125.1	1,133
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	87.2	1,917
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	59.3	2,978
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	65.3	2,985
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**24.8**	**2,667**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	74.4	1,870
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**57.3**	**2,181**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	97.8	1,528
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	74.0	2,577



BEE COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

88.5
Employment and Productivity Index

2,227
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a low employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Beeville city
Population:	32,565
Per Capita Income:	$29,792
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	131.2	798
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	78.2	2,315
Industry Performance Core Index	**88.9**	**2,311**
Cluster Diversity	100.2	1,674
Cluster Strength	87.7	2,288
Cluster Growth Factor	78.6	2,154
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**160.2**	**226**
GDP per Worker	129.4	722
Change in GDP per Worker	190.9	193
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722

BROOKS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

65.2
Business Dynamics Index

666
Rank of 3110 Counties

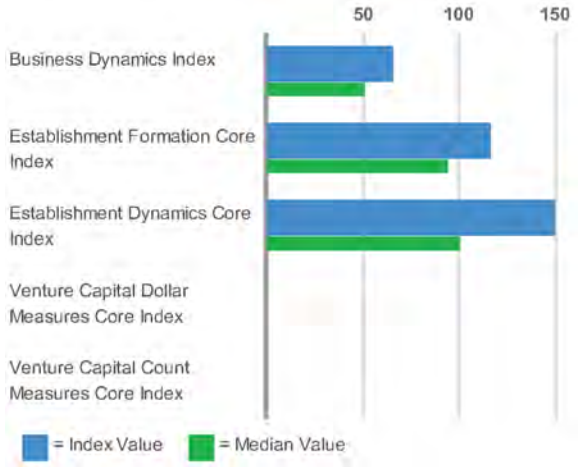
This area has a high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**116.3**	**631**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	131.9	738
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	186.3	71
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	82.9	1,641
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	64.1	2,966
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**149.5**	**191**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	108.7	1,207
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	139.9	452
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	199.9	16
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



BROOKS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

53.6
Business Profile Index

2,951
Rank of 3110 Counties

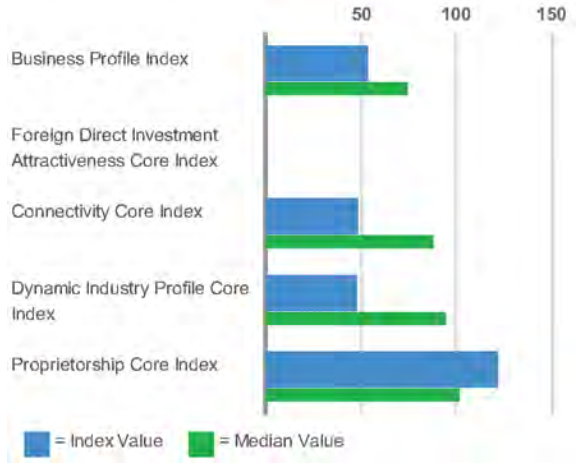
This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**47.7**	**2,975**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	68.7	2,819
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**47.5**	**2,986**
Small Establishments (Average)	72.5	2,486
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	70.1	2,589
Proprietorship Core Index	**121.3**	**593**
Proprietorship Rate	70.0	2,545
Change in Proprietorship Rate	72.8	2,634
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	142.8	545
Availability of Capital from All Banks	199.5	109



BROOKS COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

111.8
Economic Well-Being Index

1,453
Rank of 3110 Counties

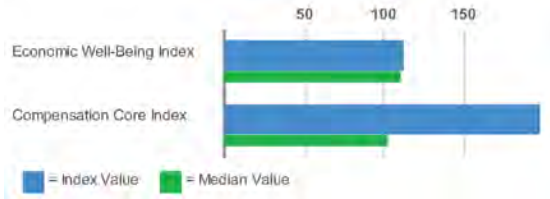
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	178.2	271
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	50.0	3,078
Poverty Rate (Average)	50.0	3,084
Unemployment Rate (Average)	80.7	2,242
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	53.8	2,971
Net Migration (Average)	87.9	2,303
Compensation Core Index	**197.0**	**28**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	199.7	50
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	194.3	106



BROOKS COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

76.2
Headline Index

2,318
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has low relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 56.5
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

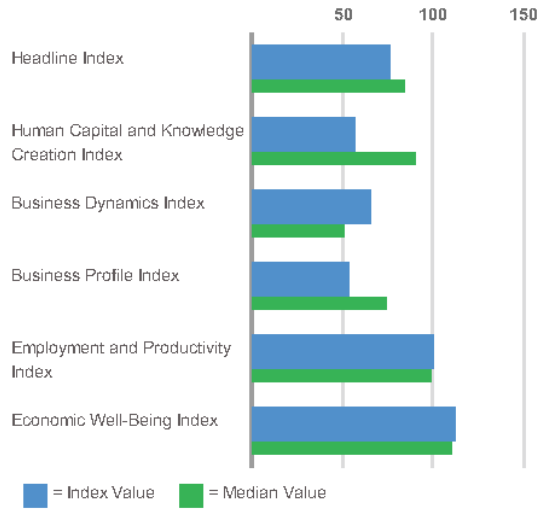
Business Dynamics Index — 65.2
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 53.6
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 99.8
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 111.8
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



BROOKS COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

56.5
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

3,037
Rank of 3110 Counties

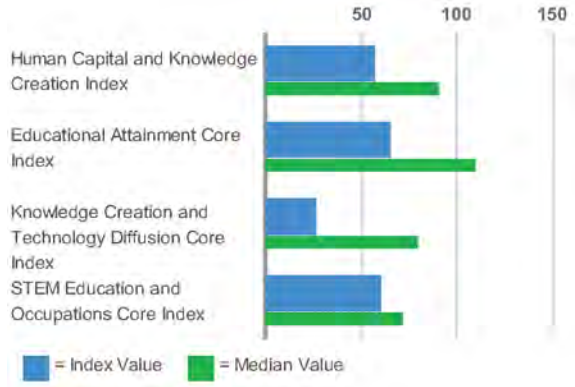
This area has a very low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	97.0	1,479
Educational Attainment Core Index	**64.8**	**3,048**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	71.6	2,552
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	64.9	2,653
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	50.1	3,109
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	61.0	2,924
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	76.6	2,284
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**25.9**	**2,591**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	77.8	1,509
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**59.8**	**2,012**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	87.0	1,963
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	92.6	1,405



BROOKS COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

99.8
Employment and Productivity Index

1,451
Rank of 3110 Counties

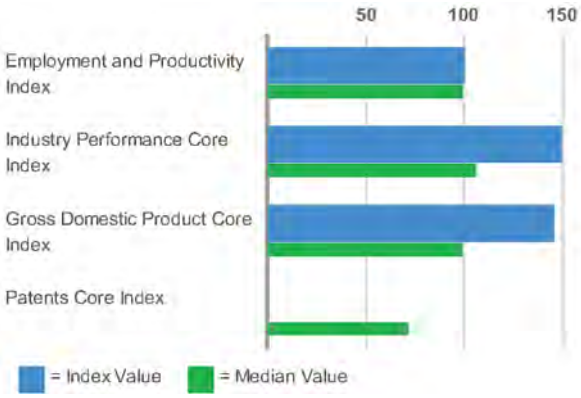
This area has a normal employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Falfurrias city
Population:	7,093
Per Capita Income:	$36,558
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	109.1	1,170
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	51.9	2,968
Industry Performance Core Index	**149.1**	**165**
Cluster Diversity	174.6	309
Cluster Strength	99.8	849
Cluster Growth Factor	173.0	364
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**145.1**	**412**
GDP per Worker	96.0	1,470
Change in GDP per Worker	194.2	159
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722



DUVAL COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

61.8
Business Dynamics Index

818
Rank of 3110 Counties

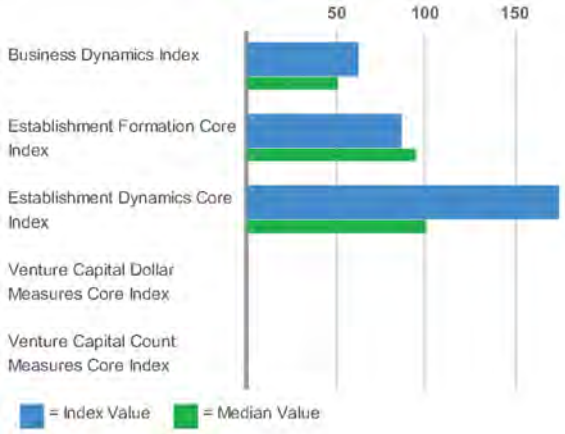
This area has a high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
Population:	11,157
Per Capita Income:	$39,029
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**85.8**	**2,010**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	178.6	220
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	0.0	2,766
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	0.0	2,416
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	164.7	240
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**174.3**	**43**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	173.6	224
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	167.6	257
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	181.6	156
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



DUVAL COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

54.9
Business Profile Index

2,907
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
Population:	11,157
Per Capita Income:	$39,029
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**91.4**	**1,338**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	199.9	37
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**47.3**	**2,987**
Small Establishments (Average)	53.4	3,052
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	88.5	1,689
Proprietorship Core Index	**93.0**	**2,067**
Proprietorship Rate	73.9	2,352
Change in Proprietorship Rate	83.0	2,086
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	118.5	883
Availability of Capital from All Banks	96.8	667

DUVAL COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

114.7
Economic Well-Being Index

1,338
Rank of 3110 Counties

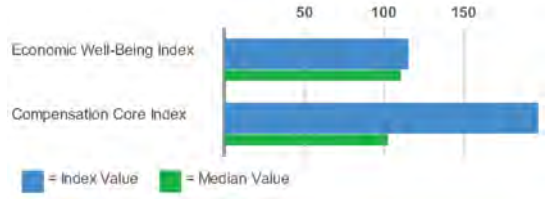
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
Population:	11,157
Per Capita Income:	$39,029
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	92.6	1,682
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	50.0	3,078
Poverty Rate (Average)	71.6	2,514
Unemployment Rate (Average)	126.6	1,192
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	68.5	2,537
Net Migration (Average)	115.6	1,125
Compensation Core Index	**196.3**	**31**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	195.9	111
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	196.7	87



DUVAL COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

74.7
Headline Index

2,451
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has low relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
Population:	11,157
Per Capita Income:	$39,029
Dominant Sector:	Mining

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 59.9
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

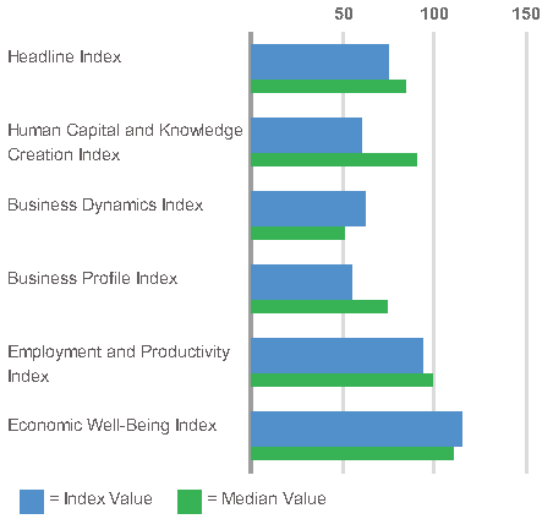
Business Dynamics Index — 61.8
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 54.9
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 93.1
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 114.7
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



DUVAL COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

59.9
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,987
Rank of 3110 Counties

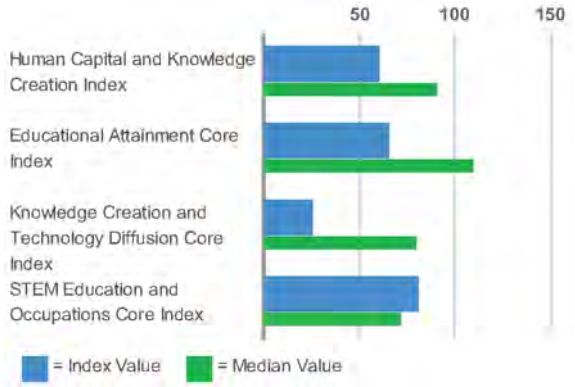
This area has a very low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
Population:	11,157
Per Capita Income:	$39,029
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	73.9	2,404
Educational Attainment Core Index	**65.2**	**3,043**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	64.0	2,718
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	76.8	2,273
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	68.6	2,523
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	57.7	3,033
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	58.8	3,100
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**25.4**	**2,608**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	76.2	1,669
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**80.9**	**1,253**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	171.2	336
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	71.4	2,768



DUVAL COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

93.1
Employment and Productivity Index

1,932
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a normal employment and productivity level.

About this Area

argest City/Town:	San Diego city (pt.)
opulation:	11,157
er Capita Income:	$39,029
ominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	168.9	389
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	76.3	2,362
Industry Performance Core Index	**101.9**	**1,725**
Cluster Diversity	58.5	2,899
Cluster Strength	96.3	1,149
Cluster Growth Factor	150.8	602
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**143.7**	**436**
GDP per Worker	97.0	1,415
Change in GDP per Worker	190.5	197
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722

JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

83.9
Business Dynamics Index

303
Rank of 3110 Counties

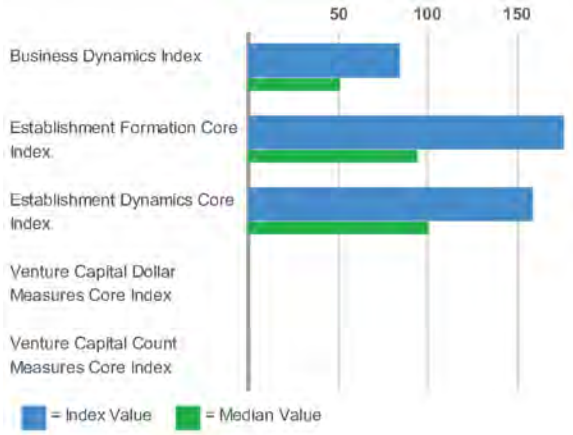
This area has a very high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Alice city
Population:	40,482
Per Capita Income:	$42,174
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**175.2**	**23**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	173.1	267
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	169.5	150
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	181.1	146
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	177.0	173
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**158.1**	**122**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	168.9	263
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	175.3	217
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	130.2	549
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

84.0
Business Profile Index

840
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a high business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Alice city
Population:	40,482
Per Capita Income:	$42,174
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**56.9**	**778**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source ...	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source ...	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source ...	133.9	142
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source ...	93.8	485
Connectivity Core Index	**92.3**	**1,289**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	120.7	190
Farm Operators with Internet Access	82.0	2,530
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**87.0**	**1,893**
Small Establishments (Average)	66.9	2,719
Large Establishments (Average)	106.9	840
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	87.3	1,752
Proprietorship Core Index	**100.1**	**1,644**
Proprietorship Rate	73.6	2,363
Change in Proprietorship Rate	72.8	2,634
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	170.3	288
Availability of Capital from All Banks	83.6	2,253

JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

122.5
Economic Well-Being Index

947
Rank of 3110 Counties

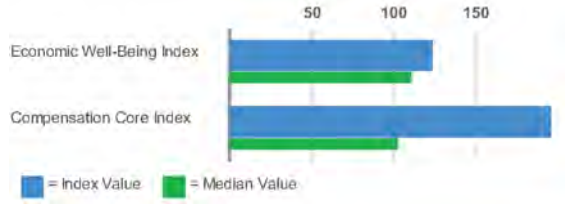
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Alice city
Population:	40,482
Per Capita Income:	$42,174
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	83.2	2,153
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	58.1	2,852
Poverty Rate (Average)	73.9	2,456
Unemployment Rate (Average)	140.1	968
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	93.6	1,803
Net Migration (Average)	141.1	537
Compensation Core Index	**194.8**	**37**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	199.7	50
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	190.0	144



JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

97.7
Headline Index

518
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has high relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

ɪrgest City/Town:	Alice city
ɔpulation:	40,482
ɛr Capita Income:	$42,174
ominant Sector:	Mining

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 77.8
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

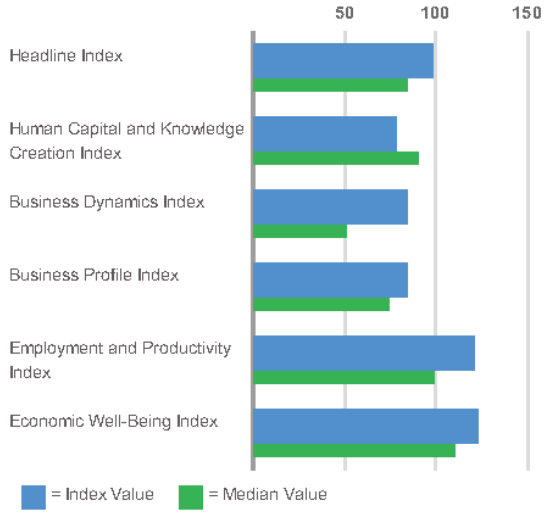
Business Dynamics Index — 83.9
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 84.0
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 120.9
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 122.5
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

77.8
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,245
Rank of 3110 Counties

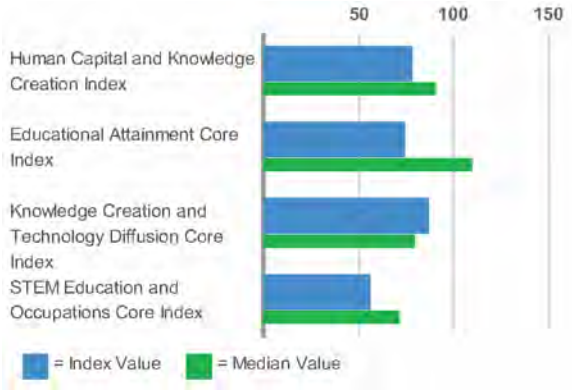
This area has a low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Alice city
Population:	40,482
Per Capita Income:	$42,174
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	137.1	815
Educational Attainment Core Index	**74.0**	**2,855**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	58.5	2,841
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	115.0	1,276
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	60.5	2,808
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	60.8	2,933
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	75.2	2,404
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**86.4**	**1,342**
Patent Technology Diffusion	163.8	329
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	95.5	848
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**55.8**	**2,271**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	99.2	1,468
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	68.2	2,953



JIM WELLS COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

120.9
Employment and Productivity Index

228
Rank of 3110 Counties

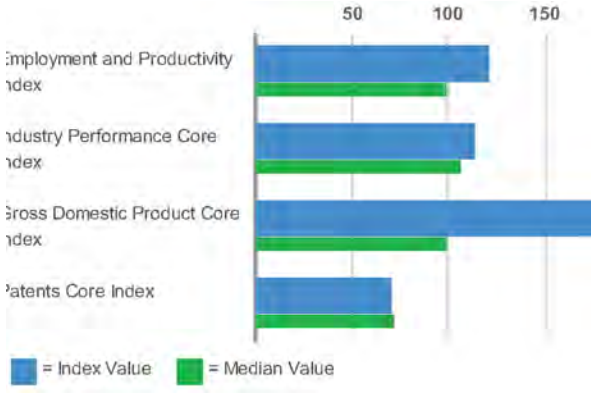
This area has a very high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Alice city
Population:	40,482
Per Capita Income:	$42,174
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	191.1	171
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	57.5	2,866
Industry Performance Core Index	**113.0**	**1,218**
Cluster Diversity	52.8	3,023
Cluster Strength	91.6	1,724
Cluster Growth Factor	194.5	139
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**180.3**	**93**
GDP per Worker	163.5	342
Change in GDP per Worker	197.2	111
Patents Core Index	**70.2**	**1,572**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	81.1	1,554
Patent Diversity	59.3	1,443



KENEDY, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

23.9
Business Dynamics Index

3,077
Rank of 3110 Counties

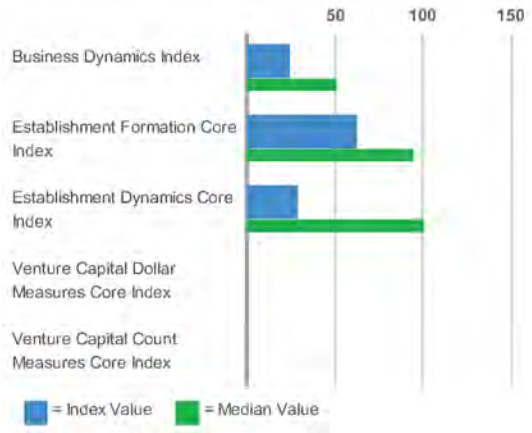
This area has a very low business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**61.9**	**2,811**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	72.6	2,604
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	0.0	2,766
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	0.0	2,416
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	175.2	183
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**28.9**	**3,100**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	0.0	3,104
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	86.8	1,962
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	0.0	2,991
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



KENEDY COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

58.7
Business Profile Index

2,721
Rank of 3110 Counties

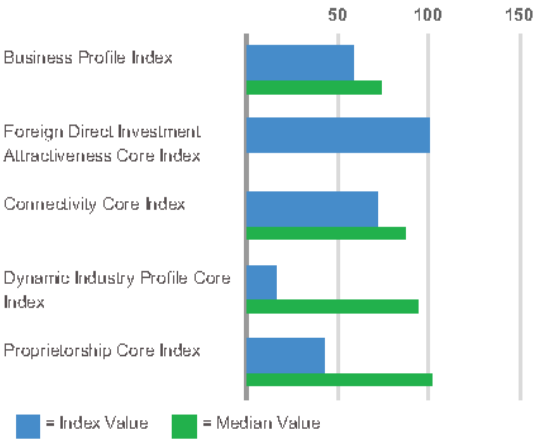
This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**100.0**	**81**
FDIEmployment Index, Foreign Source .	200.0	1
FDI$ Investment Index, Foreign Source ..	200.0	1
FDIEmployment Index, National Source ...	0.0	1,182
FDI$ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**72.3**	**2,097**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	142.5	73
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**16.8**	**3,102**
Small Establishments (Average)	50.4	3,092
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	0.0	3,041
Proprietorship Core Index	**42.6**	**3,110**
Proprietorship Rate	66.6	2,706
Change in Proprietorship Rate	50.3	3,100
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	53.6	3,109
Availability of Capital from All Banks	0.0	3,087



KENEDY COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

116.4
Economic Well-Being Index

1,241
Rank of 3110 Counties

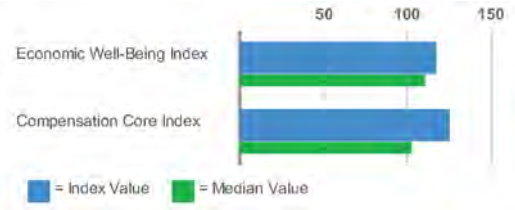
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	50.0	3,098
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	155.7	654
Poverty Rate (Average)	52.4	2,985
Unemployment Rate (Average)	179.6	289
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	191.5	96
Net Migration (Average)	51.9	3,067
Compensation Core Index	**124.9**	**793**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	199.9	11
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	50.0	3,075



KENEDY COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

76.3
Headline Index

2,303
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has low relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 77.7
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

Business Dynamics Index — 23.9
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 58.7
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 108.6
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 116.4
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.

KENEDY COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

77.7
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,254
Rank of 3110 Counties

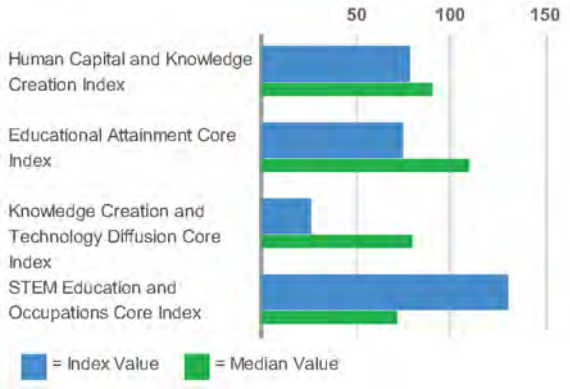
This area has a low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	90.8	1,712
Educational Attainment Core Index	**74.8**	**2,835**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	79.7	2,328
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	88.4	1,906
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	50.5	3,103
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	73.2	2,341
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	82.3	1,869
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**25.7**	**2,600**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	77.3	1,554
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**130.1**	**288**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	197.5	58
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	192.8	149



KENEDY COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

108.6
Employment and Productivity Index

788
Rank of 3110 Counties

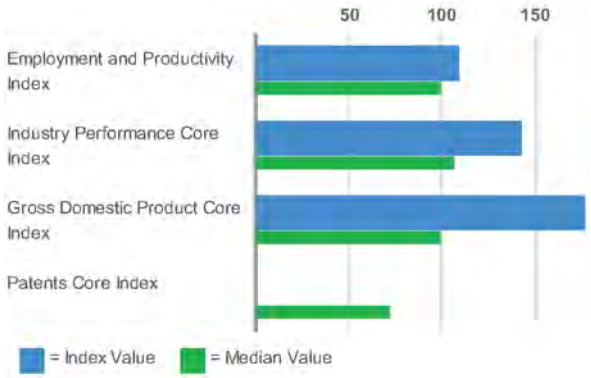
This area has a high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	N/A
Population:	404
Per Capita Income:	$42,262
Dominant Sector:	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	200.0	1
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	0.0	3,018
Industry Performance Core Index	**141.9**	**285**
Cluster Diversity	189.5	73
Cluster Strength	160.5	142
Cluster Growth Factor	75.5	2,285
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**176.0**	**115**
GDP per Worker	164.6	332
Change in GDP per Worker	187.3	220
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722



KLEBERG, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

54.8
Business Dynamics Index

1,213
Rank of 3110 Counties

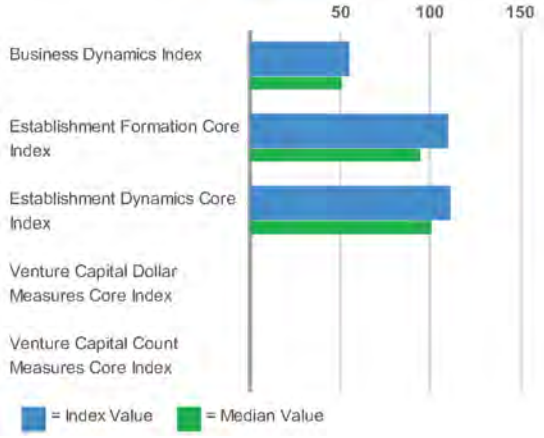
This area has a normal business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**109.1**	**867**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	108.9	1,204
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	92.1	1,483
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	117.0	675
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	120.3	711
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**110.6**	**995**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	96.1	1,622
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	110.4	934
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	125.1	607
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



KLEBERG COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

45.6
Business Profile Index

3,096
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**55.1**	**2,625**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	90.9	1,909
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**49.0**	**2,966**
Small Establishments (Average)	66.7	2,724
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	80.3	2,118
Proprietorship Core Index	**88.8**	**2,351**
Proprietorship Rate	68.5	2,612
Change in Proprietorship Rate	88.1	1,758
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	115.2	942
Availability of Capital from All Banks	83.6	2,253

KLEBERG COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

108.8
Economic Well-Being Index

1,595
Rank of 3110 Counties

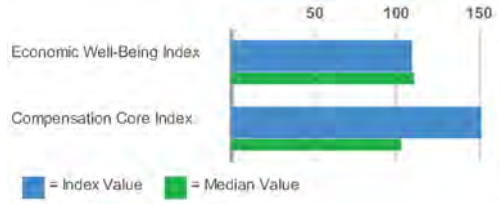
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	65.5	2,838
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	58.4	2,843
Poverty Rate (Average)	59.1	2,812
Unemployment Rate (Average)	128.0	1,173
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	93.0	1,820
Net Migration (Average)	164.7	244
Compensation Core Index	**150.6**	**368**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	118.7	922
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	182.5	212



KLEBERG COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

80.9
Headline Index

1,883
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has normal relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 105.0
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

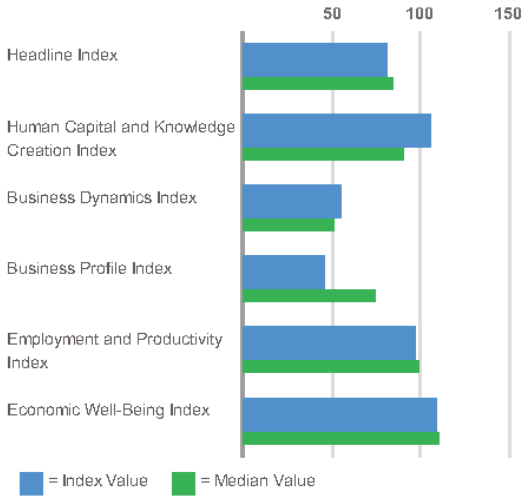
Business Dynamics Index — 54.8
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 45.6
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 96.4
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 108.8
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



KLEBERG COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

105.0
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

901
Rank of 3110 Counties

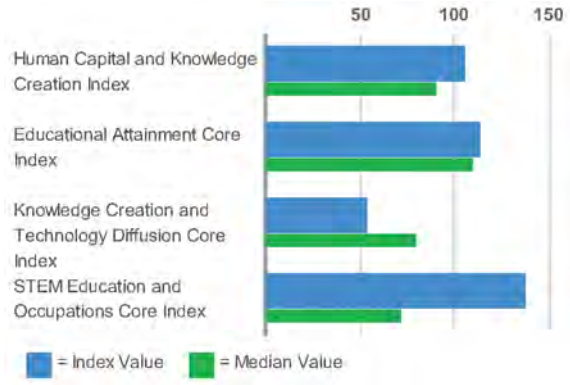
This area has a normal human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	123.6	1,016
Educational Attainment Core Index	**113.2**	**1,401**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	119.9	1,346
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	114.0	1,293
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	66.3	2,604
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	149.7	664
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	116.3	886
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**53.2**	**2,142**
Patent Technology Diffusion	55.3	2,197
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	104.4	645
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**137.1**	**218**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	199.9	8
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	112.2	1,197
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	99.1	1,148



KLEBERG COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

96.4
Employment and Productivity Index

1,670
Rank of 3110 Counties

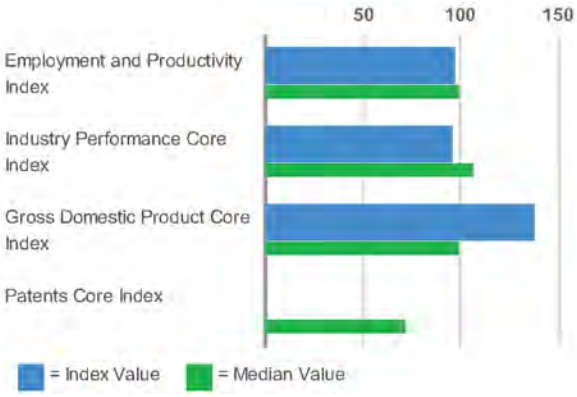
This area has a normal employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Kingsville city
Population:	30,680
Per Capita Income:	$41,526
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	168.2	397
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	139.8	676
Industry Performance Core Index	**95.0**	**2,040**
Cluster Diversity	70.5	2,585
Cluster Strength	86.5	2,462
Cluster Growth Factor	128.0	918
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**137.6**	**549**
GDP per Worker	113.9	975
Change in GDP per Worker	161.3	465
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722



LIVE OAK, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

111.4
Business Dynamics Index

47
Rank of 3110 Counties

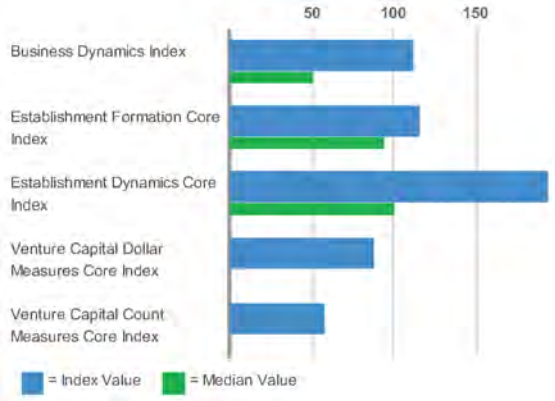
This area has a very high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**115.1**	**565**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	199.9	15
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	71.9	2,628
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	0.0	2,416
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	186.7	113
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**193.1**	**11**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	188.2	137
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	199.3	61
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	191.6	131
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**87.3**	**218**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	153.7	38
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	195.6	9
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**57.1**	**220**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	171.5	35
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



LIVE OAK COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

99.3
Business Profile Index

185
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a very high business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**48.0**	**960**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	95.5	252
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	96.7	301
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**121.9**	**280**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	199.8	17
Farm Operators with Internet Access	91.7	1,843
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**84.3**	**2,040**
Small Establishments (Average)	98.1	1,425
Large Establishments (Average)	63.5	1,801
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	91.5	1,551
Proprietorship Core Index	**138.7**	**214**
Proprietorship Rate	95.1	1,472
Change in Proprietorship Rate	72.7	2,640
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	188.0	162
Availability of Capital from All Banks	199.0	126

LIVE OAK COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

142.2
Economic Well-Being Index

304
Rank of 3110 Counties

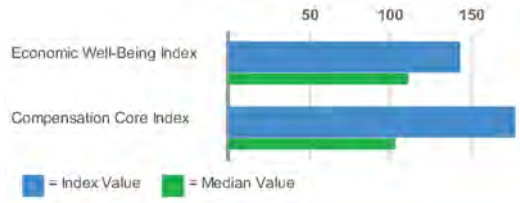
This area has a very high economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	66.5	2,808
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	115.7	1,464
Poverty Rate (Average)	105.5	1,613
Unemployment Rate (Average)	176.6	345
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	158.0	685
Net Migration (Average)	163.2	261
Compensation Core Index	**176.0**	**142**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	154.8	504
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	197.1	73



LIVE OAK COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

101.4
Headline Index

370
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has very high relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 62.3
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

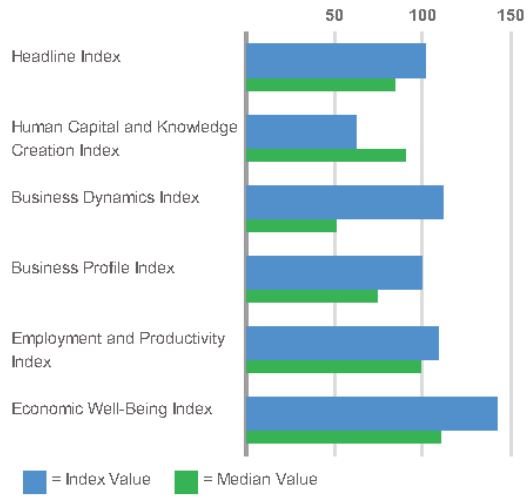
Business Dynamics Index — 111.4
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 99.3
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 108.6
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 142.2
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



LIVE OAK COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

62.3
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,916
Rank of 3110 Counties

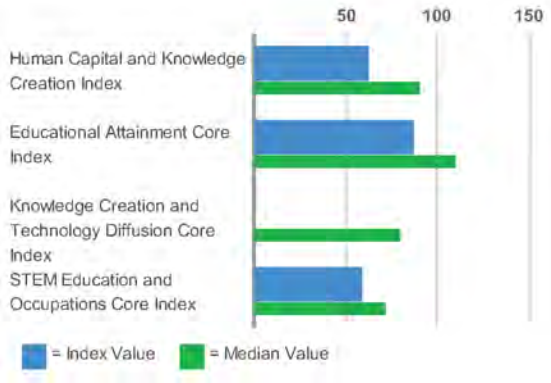
This area has a very low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	140.4	762
Educational Attainment Core Index	**86.5**	**2,403**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	67.1	2,655
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	142.5	859
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	56.9	2,929
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	82.9	1,900
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	83.3	1,813
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**0.0**	**2,829**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	0.0	2,124
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**58.4**	**2,103**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	92.4	1,761
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	82.7	1,950



LIVE OAK COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

108.6
Employment and Productivity Index

788
Rank of 3110 Counties

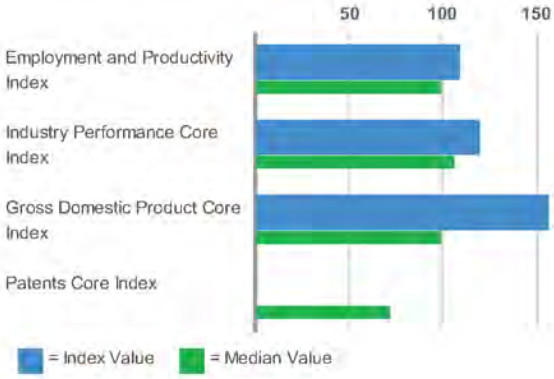
This area has a high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	George West city
Population:	12,207
Per Capita Income:	$37,415
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	199.1	63
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	108.2	1,150
Industry Performance Core Index	**119.6**	**948**
Cluster Diversity	55.9	2,958
Cluster Strength	102.9	756
Cluster Growth Factor	199.9	9
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**155.8**	**270**
GDP per Worker	124.8	782
Change in GDP per Worker	186.7	227
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722



NUECES, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

50.8
Business Dynamics Index

1,541
Rank of 3110 Counties

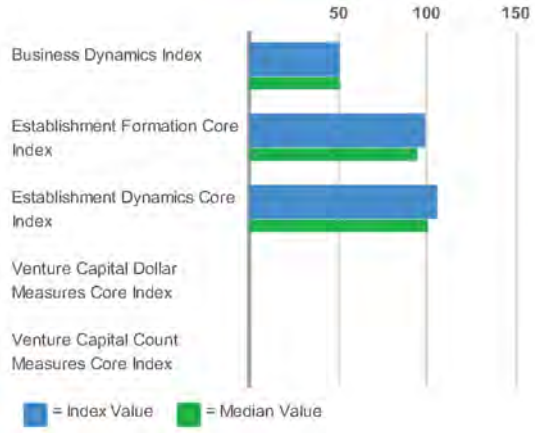
This area has a normal business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**98.7**	**1,303**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	95.6	1,520
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	102.6	952
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	106.1	831
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	90.5	1,837
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**105.5**	**1,229**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	110.7	1,145
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	95.6	1,475
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	110.2	864
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



NUECES COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

92.9
Business Profile Index

399
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a very high business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**92.9**	**280**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source ...	89.9	495
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source ...	97.1	165
FDI Employment Index, National Source ...	89.1	633
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source ...	95.4	289
Connectivity Core Index	**74.3**	**2,051**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	135.3	512
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	87.7	2,183
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**99.6**	**1,328**
Small Establishments (Average)	74.3	2,386
Large Establishments (Average)	103.3	884
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	121.3	858
Proprietorship Core Index	**112.6**	**947**
Proprietorship Rate	79.0	2,129
Change in Proprietorship Rate	90.2	1,648
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	197.2	85
Availability of Capital from All Banks	83.9	1,637

NUECES COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

125.6
Economic Well-Being Index

832
Rank of 3110 Counties

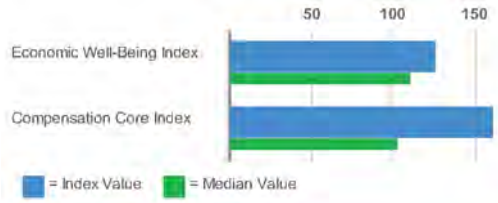
This area has a high economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	109.3	1,215
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	86.8	2,164
Poverty Rate (Average)	90.0	2,022
Unemployment Rate (Average)	137.7	1,022
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	143.4	953
Net Migration (Average)	116.0	1,113
Compensation Core Index	**160.7**	**265**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	139.4	643
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	181.9	216



NUECES COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

98.6
Headline Index

471
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has high relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 108.7
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

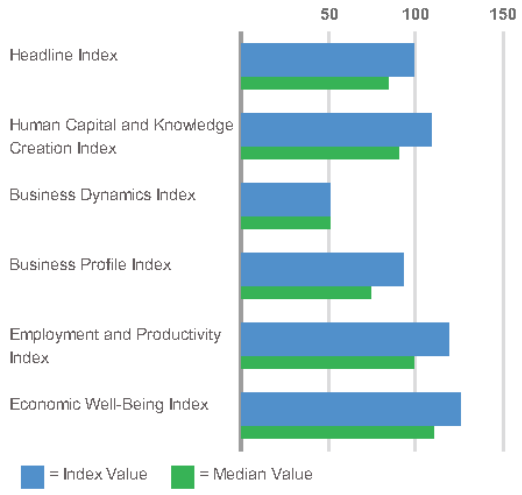
Business Dynamics Index — 50.8
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 92.9
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 118.7
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 125.6
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



NUECES COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

108.7
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

778
Rank of 3110 Counties

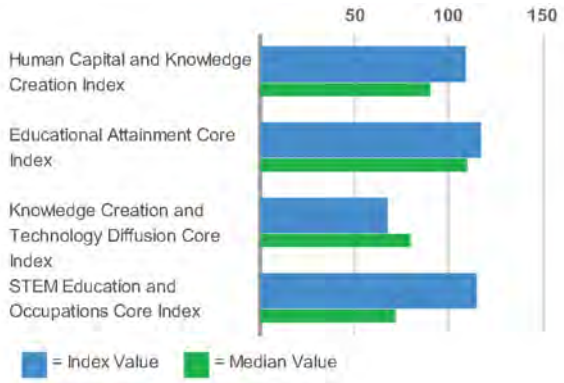
This area has a high human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	175.6	362
Educational Attainment Core Index	**116.6**	**1,281**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	124.7	1,246
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	160.7	585
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	86.4	1,948
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	98.1	1,386
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	113.2	926
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**67.2**	**1,839**
Patent Technology Diffusion	97.4	1,243
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	104.3	646
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**114.7**	**482**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	83.1	494
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	128.9	915
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	132.2	671



NUECES OAK COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

118.7
Employment and Productivity Index

288
Rank of 3110 Counties

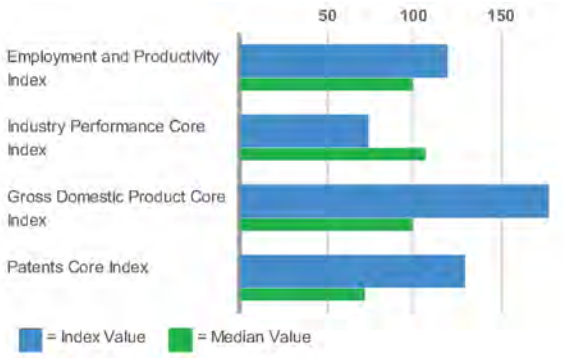
This area has a very high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Corpus Christi city (pt.)
Population:	362,294
Per Capita Income:	$44,889
Dominant Sector:	Health Care and Social Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	143.7	664
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	93.7	1,609
Industry Performance Core Index	**73.4**	**2,955**
Cluster Diversity	63.0	2,800
Cluster Strength	84.0	2,805
Cluster Growth Factor	73.2	2,401
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**176.7**	**113**
GDP per Worker	180.5	203
Change in GDP per Worker	173.0	357
Patents Core Index	**128.4**	**603**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	87.0	1,232
Patent Diversity	169.7	382



REFUGIO, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

56.5
Business Dynamics Index

1,132
Rank of 3110 Counties

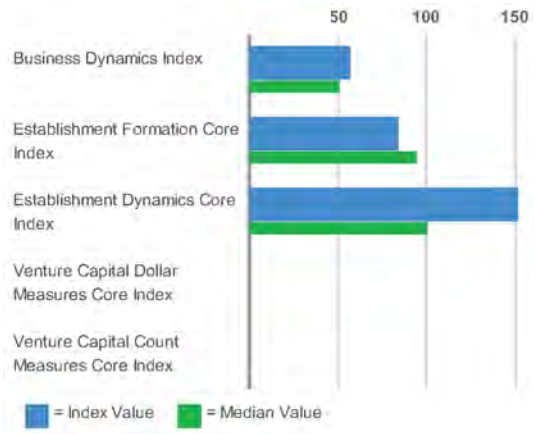
This area has a normal business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**84.3**	**2,094**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	76.7	2,424
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	176.8	117
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	0.0	2,416
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	83.6	2,290
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**151.4**	**172**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	162.2	318
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	95.2	1,510
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	196.7	83
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



REFUGIO COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

49.6
Business Profile Index

3,058
Rank of 3110 Counties

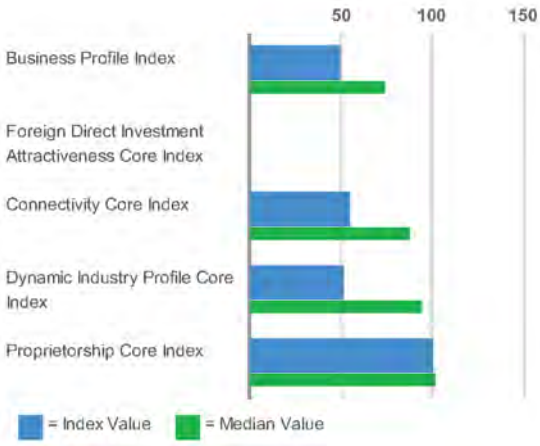
This area has a very low business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**0.0**	**1,370**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	0.0	770
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**54.9**	**2,667**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	74.3	1,192
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	0.0	1,702
Farm Operators with Internet Access	90.4	1,963
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**51.5**	**2,925**
Small Establishments (Average)	87.2	1,858
Large Establishments (Average)	0.0	2,019
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	67.4	2,696
Proprietorship Core Index	**100.1**	**1,644**
Proprietorship Rate	106.0	1,222
Change in Proprietorship Rate	81.3	2,172
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	122.3	825
Availability of Capital from All Banks	90.6	821



REFUGIO COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

118.4
Economic Well-Being Index

1,157
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	55.1	3,026
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	74.8	2,485
Poverty Rate (Average)	103.7	1,640
Unemployment Rate (Average)	156.1	703
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	98.4	1,681
Net Migration (Average)	86.0	2,377
Compensation Core Index	**186.7**	**76**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	196.6	104
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	176.7	269

REFUGIO COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

79.1
Headline Index

2,044
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has normal relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — 67.5
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

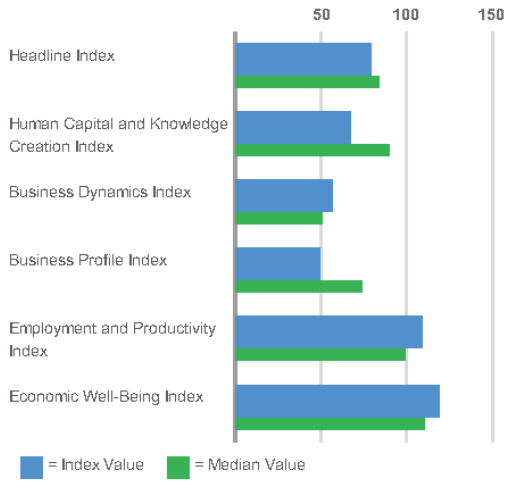
Business Dynamics Index — 56.5
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — 49.6
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — 108.4
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — 118.4
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



REFUGIO COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

67.5
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

2,749
Rank of 3110 Counties

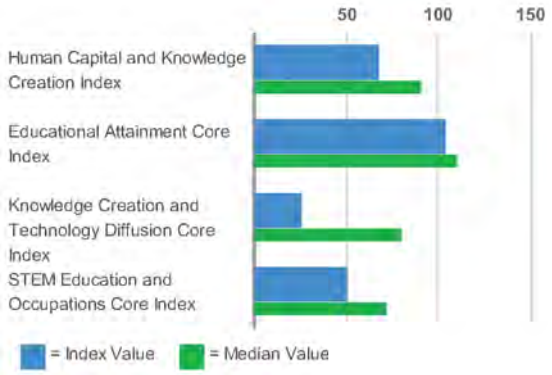
This area has a very low human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	69.4	2,598
Educational Attainment Core Index	**103.0**	**1,814**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	91.8	1,983
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	157.7	633
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	134.2	968
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	62.4	2,855
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	68.9	2,831
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**25.2**	**2,629**
Patent Technology Diffusion	0.0	2,345
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	75.6	1,747
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**49.9**	**2,674**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	76.7	2,346
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	73.1	2,656



REFUGIO COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

108.4
Employment and Productivity Index

802
Rank of 3110 Counties

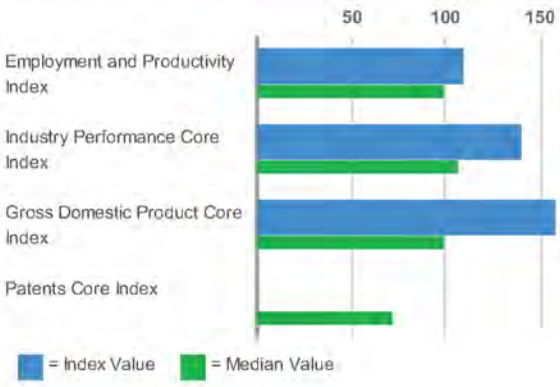
This area has a high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Refugio town
Population:	6,948
Per Capita Income:	$46,464
Dominant Sector:	Mining

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	188.9	189
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	55.0	2,915
Industry Performance Core Index	**139.2**	**334**
Cluster Diversity	117.2	1,361
Cluster Strength	101.6	798
Cluster Growth Factor	198.9	58
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**157.2**	**255**
GDP per Worker	120.2	855
Change in GDP per Worker	194.3	156
Patents Core Index	**0.0**	**2,156**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	0.0	2,095
Patent Diversity	0.0	1,722



SAN PATRICO, TX – BUSINESS DYNAMICS INDEX

65.0
Business Dynamics Index

680
Rank of 3110 Counties

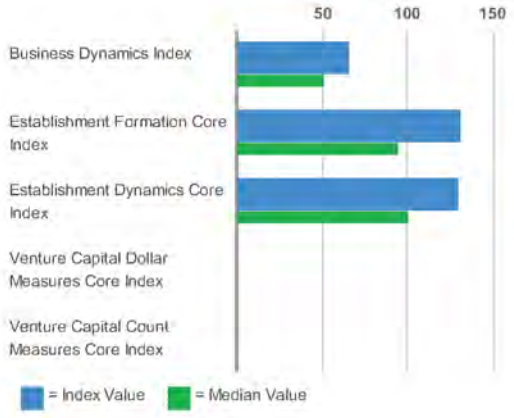
This area has a high business dynamics level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pt.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Establishment Formation Core Index	**130.9**	**300**
Establishment Births to All Establishments Ratio	120.4	932
Traded Sector Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	129.5	432
Jobs Attributed to Estab. Births to Total Employment Ratio	178.4	166
Change in Estab. Births to All Estab. Ratio	95.2	1,515
Establishment Dynamics Core Index	**129.1**	**448**
Estab. Expansions Divided by Estab. Contractions	131.4	714
Estab. Births Divided by Estab. Deaths	108.6	978
Traded Sector Establishment Dynamics	147.1	380
Venture Capital Dollar Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**548**
Venture Capital (Average Annual $)	0.0	548
Expansion Stage Venture Capital $	0.0	366
High-Tech Venture Capital $	0.0	407
Change in Venture Capital $	0.0	283
Venture Capital Count Measures Core Index	**0.0**	**586**
Initial Public Offerings	0.0	100
Venture Capital Deals (Average Annual)	0.0	586
Change in Venture Capital Deals	0.0	275



SAN PATRICO COUNTY, TX – BUSINESS PROFILE INDEX

88.4
Business Profile Index

611
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a high business profile level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pt.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Foreign Direct Investment Attractiveness Core Index	**74.8**	**632**
FDI Employment Index, Foreign Source	169.8	27
FDI $ Investment Index, Foreign Source	129.3	14
FDI Employment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
FDI $ Investment Index, National Source	0.0	1,182
Connectivity Core Index	**117.1**	**357**
Residential High-Speed Connection Density	135.3	512
Change in Residential High-Speed Connections	120.7	190
Farm Operators with Internet Access	95.4	1,478
Dynamic Industry Profile Core Index	**96.5**	**1,453**
Small Establishments (Average)	78.7	2,222
Large Establishments (Average)	77.5	1,450
High-Tech, Early-in-Life-Cycle Establishment Ratio	133.2	716
Proprietorship Core Index	**86.0**	**2,550**
Proprietorship Rate	85.4	1,859
Change in Proprietorship Rate	95.7	1,371
Proprietor Income to Total Wages and Salaries	79.5	2,330
Availability of Capital from All Banks	83.6	2,253

SAN PATRICO COUNTY, TX – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDEX

114.2
Economic Well-Being Index

1,357
Rank of 3110 Counties

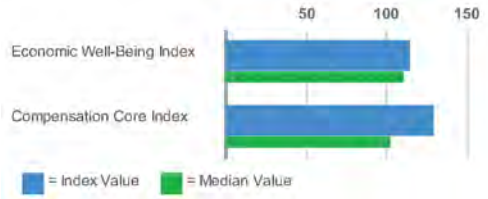
This area has a normal economic well-being level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pt.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Per Capita Personal Income Growth	105.1	1,293
Income Inequality (Mean to Median Ratio)	127.3	1,231
Poverty Rate (Average)	99.7	1,710
Unemployment Rate (Average)	105.9	1,528
Dependency Based on Income Sources (Ratio)	112.8	1,431
Net Migration (Average)	105.0	1,463
Compensation Core Index	**128.9**	**692**
Growth in Wage/Salary Earnings per Worker (Average Annual)	105.8	1,152
Change in Proprietors' Income per Proprietor (Average Annual)	152.0	543



SAN PATRICO COUNTY, TX – INNOVATION INDEX FOR U.S. COUNTIES

93.6
Headline Index

746
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has high relative capacity for innovation.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pt.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

Drill into the underlying data for each major index category:

Innovation Inputs

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index — **88.7**
Explore the population and labor force's ability to innovate.

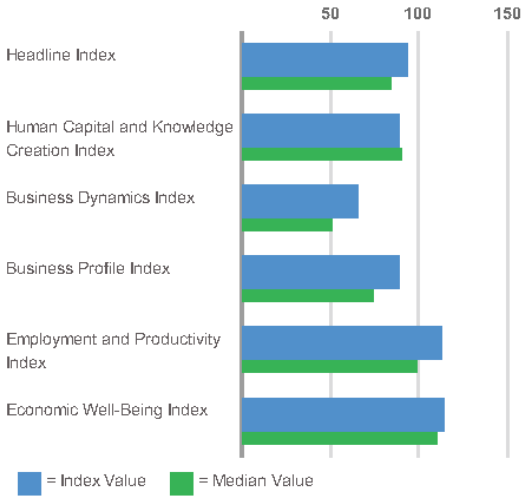
Business Dynamics Index — **65.0**
Gauge the region's competitiveness by looking at entry and exit of individual firms.

Business Profile Index — **88.4**
Assess local business conditions and resources available to entrepreneurs.

Innovation Outputs

Employment and Productivity Index — **112.4**
Measure economic improvement and the direct outcomes of innovation.

Economic Well-Being Index — **114.2**
Evaluate economic well-being and standard of living for residents.



SAN PATRICO COUNTY, TX – HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION INDEX

88.7
Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

1,627
Rank of 3110 Counties

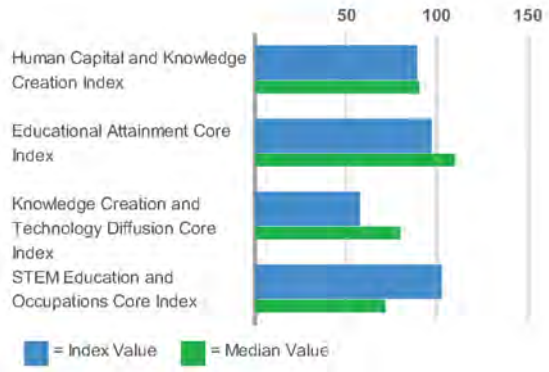
This area has a normal human capital and knowledge creation level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pl.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
"Salad Days" Population Growth (Ages 25-44)	103.9	1,311
Educational Attainment Core Index	**96.4**	**2,048**
High School Attainment (Ages 18-24)	78.3	2,374
Some College, No Degree (Age 25+)	167.0	498
Associate Degree (Age 25+)	78.6	2,186
Bachelor's Degree (Age 25+)	77.8	2,112
Graduate Degree (Age 25+)	80.3	2,015
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion Core Index	**57.4**	**2,020**
Patent Technology Diffusion	75.8	1,746
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	96.4	819
Business Incubator Spillovers	0.0	2,415
STEM Education and Occupations Core Index	**102.0**	**700**
STEM Degree Creation (per 1,000 Population)	0.0	802
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	182.0	217
High-Tech Industry Employment Share	124.1	772



SAN PATRICO COUNTY, TX – EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY INDEX

112.4
Employment and Productivity Index

564
Rank of 3110 Counties

This area has a high employment and productivity level.

About this Area

Largest City/Town:	Portland city (pt.)
Population:	66,730
Per Capita Income:	$46,506
Dominant Sector:	Educational Services

This major index is composed of the following measures:

Measure	Index	Rank
Job Growth to Population Growth Ratio	133.1	769
Change in Share of High-Tech Industry Employment	92.1	1,694
Industry Performance Core Index	**120.9**	**877**
Cluster Diversity	103.0	1,605
Cluster Strength	96.3	1,149
Cluster Growth Factor	163.3	465
Gross Domestic Product Core Index	**143.7**	**436**
GDP per Worker	146.1	514
Change in GDP per Worker	141.3	680
Patents Core Index	**68.3**	**1,616**
Change in Average Patenting Rate	77.6	1,683
Patent Diversity	58.9	1,656

Economic Designations for Federal Funding

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Difficult Development Counties:
• Bee County
• Jim Wells County
• Kenedy County
• Kleberg County

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Persistent Poverty Counties:
• Bee County
• Brooks County
• Duval County
• Jim Wells County
• Kleberg County

CEDS Committee: SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

Infrastructure assets:

- Port of Corpus Christi / deep ship channel in the Texas Gulf
- Hub of pipeline networks for crude oil and natural gas from upstream production in as far as West Texas and New Mexico
- Established rail network
- I69 corridor in progress
- Availability of electricity and natural gas as fuel
- City of Corpus Christi has a record of proactively pursuing diversified water resources
- Strong healthcare system for acute care
- Higher education system
- Longest stretch of undeveloped beach and the dunes
- Land and abundant space

Strong existing sectors:

- By location quotient (LQ), "strongest" sectors are (1) mining, and oil and gas extraction, (2) construction, (3) health care and social assistance, and (2) accommodation and food services
- Portion of the regional workforce employed by the hotels/motels and restaurants collectively in the Coastal Bend is 25% greater than the U.S. average
- Diversification moving in the right direction with natural gas and manufacturing moving in
- Strong agricultural sector
- Military assets

Strong growth sectors:

- By employment growth rate 2011-2020: (1) management of companies (145%), (2) professional, scientific, and technical services (36%), and (3) arts, entertainment, and recreation (31%)
- Also: Agriculture; Manufacturing; Renewable energy; Staging offshore wind; Oyster aquaculture; UAV test center; Cybercommand; Logistics/Warehousing/shipping related to ecommerce

Influential actors:

- Elected officials, representatives.
- Local governments
- Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce
- Port of Corpus Christi Authority
- Workforce development agencies
- City Managers, Emergency Mgmt. Officials
- Academic Institutions
- Regional Resilience Partnership

Local partnerships to increase the export base:

- Port of Corpus Christi ranked #1 Free Trade Zone in the country
- Oil export terminals

Alignment of colleges, workforce boards, economic development agencies, and industry groups:

- Collaboration among v education and workforce training agencies, and major employers
- Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend provides and facilitates training programs
- In Corpus Christi, the City's Education and Workforce Stakeholder Group consists of K-16 representatives and all local economic and workforce development agencies
- Del Mar Workforce Training programs with private industry
- Higher education programs and alignment

Specialized workforce skills and higher education levels:

- Marine sciences, UAV center, Nursing, GIS
- Regional workforce educational attainment level relatively lower than the Texas and U.S. average at the Bachelor level; of those with advanced degrees, the following areas had the highest number of degrees:

- Associates: Engineering, engineering related tech., health, precision production, science technician (2011-2015)
- Bachelors: Computer and information sciences, engineering, engineering related tech., health, physical sciences, visual and performing arts (2010-2015)
- Masters: Health, computer and information sciences, business management and marketing, education, engineering (2011-2015)

Alignment of regional workforce strategy with the workforce strategy of local elected officials, the Workforce Investment Board, and education:

- Workforce Solutions and Del Mar update a list of Targeted Occupations
- The strategies and visions among Workforce Solutions, Del Mar, TAMUCC and ISDs are aligned
- Corpus Christi has strategic educational and workforce plan
- Education and workforce committee is working on a strategy toward an action plan

Workforce skills that are critically important to the region's economic growth strategy, and how they can be leveraged as competitive assets:

- Hospitality; Welding; Engineering – civil, mechanical, electrical; Crafts / Trades – electricians, plumbers, carpenters; Ecological restoration and scientific monitoring; Agriculture/Ranching training for newer generations

Active engagement by businesses, industry associations, labor organizations in developing training curriculum or work-based learning opportunities:

- Major employers in the Port district have sponsored workforce training programs
- Workforce training programs at the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend

Agencies providing support and funding to build capacity for economic development activities:

- Community Foundations
- Type B Board
- Texas Workforce Commission and the Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend
- Opportunity Zones
- General Land Office
- Texas Dept. of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Other potential funders, depending on development activities: Department of Defense; Department of Energy; Health & Human Services; USDA; Private sector

Livability that makes this region where people want to settle and raise their families:

- Climate, beach to bay lifestyle opportunities near the coast; ranching/hunting inland
- Gauging solely by the rankings of public health, crimes, and individual financial health, the region fares relative to the U.S. average in terms of 'livability'
- Decent paying jobs that do not require a degree (oil & gas); cluster of higher academic institutions that offer a variety of degree programs, comprehensive healthcare, abundance of natural and recreational offerings
- Corpus Christi designated a Dementia Friendly City
- Additional strong factors from AARP livability index include: Housing affordability-cost/month (other than Nueces & San Patricio); Housing affordability-subsidized units (other than Kenedy); Lack of traffic congestion (other than Nueces); Air quality-roadway & industrial pollution (other than Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio); Social engagement-social involvement

WEAKNESSES

Livability as challenges in this region:

- Affordable/accessible housing options do not meet the need of aging / low-income populations
- Health challenges, as well as access to care in rural areas
- Financial fitness
- Degraded water infrastructure systems, street systems
- Coastal Bend additional challenging factors from AARP livability index include:

- Access to jobs by transit or auto (other than Nueces); Access to parks (other than Bee, Jim Wells, Nueces, Refugio); Mixed-use neighborhoods (other than Brooks, Nueces); Neighborhood quality (other than Nueces); Frequency of local transit service; Safe streets – speed limit and crash rate (other than Brooks, Duval, Kleberg, Nueces); Access to exercise opportunities (other than Aransas, Duval, Nueces); Access to healthcare (other than Kleberg, Nueces); Quality of healthcare (other than Aransas, Nueces); Voting rate (other than Aransas, Kenedy); Income inequality (other than Kenedy, Live Oak, Nueces, San Patricio); Jobs per worker (other than Jim Wells, Kenedy)

Areas most distressed:

- Oil and gas extraction sector due to historically low energy prices and declining production
- COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted tourism and low-wage workers
- Finance and insurance, information, other occupations not well represented locally
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index lists following counties with high vulnerability (range 0-1): Bee (0.921); Refugio (0.8959); San Patricio (0.7781); Nueces (0.8204); Duval (0.9981); Jim Wells (0.9118); Kleberg (0.9850); Brooks (0.9990)

Declining industries:

- Oil and gas sector has been on a decades-long decline
- Outlook of less reliance on fossil fuels means the historical downtrend will prevail

Strategic needs to implement export investment:

- Short Term: Meeting the workforce needs of new large employers
- Short Term: No marketing plan or budget to broadcast efforts of Regional Workforce Strategy
- Long Term: Developing a skilled workforce that drives future regional economic growth
- Long Term: Providing innovative development opportunities requiring specialized skills
- Local “brain drain”

Access of the workforce to jobs and housing options:

- Much of the region's workforce is ill-prepared for the high-paying jobs of the future
- Hosing options are limited for low-income groups
- Region in need of workforce housing to support tourism industry
- Affordable and resilient housing is a big need – there is not nearly enough new single-family housing under construction, and lots planned to meet the single-family demand

Agreement to the broadband/ telecommunications needs of the region:

- Need better broadband/fiber access in certain areas
- Need to incorporate planning for future fiber in public improvement projects (though there is a multi-jurisdiction agreement between Refugio, Aransas, Nueces, San Patricio and Victoria)
- Areas in particular need of broadband (lacking broadband access beyond the 25.4% average): Refugio (Austwell/Tivoli ISD-100%; WoodsborISD-30%); Bee (Skidmore/Tynan-61.8%; Pettus ISD-100%; Pawnee ISD-100%); Live Oak (George West ISD-55.3%); Jim Wells (Orange Grove-66.8%); San Patricio (Sinton ISD-25.7%; Odem ISD-26%); Nueces (Banquete ISD-80.3%; Driscoll ISD-49.9%; Bishop-37.2%); Duval (San DiegISD-26%; Benavides ISD-32.2%; Freer ISD-99.1%; Ramirez CSD-56.4%); Jim Wells (La Gloria ISD-100%); Kleberg (Santa Gertrudis ISD-100%; Riviera ISD-92.7%; RicardISD-84.1%) Kenedy (Kenedy CSD-94.8%)

Active engagement from the region’s vulnerable and/or underserved populations:

- The region’s Inclusive Development Network has spearheaded initiatives aimed at promoting a level-playing field for the advancement of Hispanics and women in workforce and business. However, the IDN is primarily focused on the metro area. Also, lower income and Spanish-speaking residents are not well represented in public meetings

Using technology-based tools to widen the distribution of information and increase feedback from residents:

- For the majority of the region such systems are lacking, however there are some strengths:
  - Upskill Coastal Bend (upskillcoastalbend.com) platform is an initiative aimed at promoting career planning and workforce training in the region
  - Addition of 211
  - Corpus Christi COVID-19 dashboard
  - GIS platform under development for four counties (Aransas, Bee, Refugio, San Patricio)

OPPORTUNITIES

Drivers of job creation:

- Growth in traditional industries has occurred in large part to the "friendly" regulatory environment in Texas and the existing logistical advantages of the region with a deep-sea port

Drivers of economic gains:

- Secondary or spillover effects from the growing industries (exports and tourism)
- Making the Texas Triangle the Texas Star

Sources of exports, tourism, or foreign investment to bring wealth:

- Capitalize on birdiest city designation as well as vast ranchland
- Advance a “Regional-wares” website to make goods and services broadly available
- Promote opportunities zones- there are 17 in the Coastal Bend
- Legalization of the growth of industrial hemp

Industry sectors/clusters with growth potential:

- Healthcare; Manufacturing; Education; Logistics/ecommerce; Remote work occupations; Oyster aquaculture; Farm-to-Market business model; Ecological fields; Renewable energy

The region's target foreign markets:

- Exports of agriculture and petrochemical products
- Reshoring
- Shortened supply chain links with Mexico
- Export middle distillate and other fuels to Mexico
- Crude to Europe and Asia

Workforce strategies that lead to career pathways and credentials:

- Develop green industry job training programs – such as renewable energy

Program evaluations and approach to continuous improvement:

- Regional Resilience Partnership could be expanded
- Annual homelessness survey – largely Corpus Christi
- Regional hospitals conduct a health needs assessment and evaluation
- Social service agencies also do annual planning and assessment with input from end-users
- Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership Group

Integration of land use, housing, economic development, transportation, and infrastructure planning to support regional prosperity:

- Regional Resilience Partnership to strengthen improved use of data-driven strategies
- Framework for coordination – Metropolitan Planning Organization, Regional Transportation Agency, local municipalities, Economic Development Corporations, large employers
- Identify employee needs and concerns to aide with talent retention and recruitment
- Identify employer workforce needs to focus housing and land use policy recommendations
- Streamlined process for developers/contractors/roofers
- Regionally promoted or standardized building codes
- Coordinated private and public transportation services for increased frequency and range
- Connecting cities with passenger rail – San Antonio, Corpus, Dallas
- Affordable housing is both a huge need and opportunity - consensus is needed

Opportunities to redevelop brownfields and vacant space:

- The ongoing Corpus Christi downtown revitalization process serves as a model
- Opportunity for collaboration with scientific community, engineering professionals, University researchers and municipal government on bioremediation, monitoring and redevelopment

Opportunities for distributed and advanced energy:

- Region lacks consensus among stakeholders to leverage Port’s potential to export energy
- Manufacturing renewable energy technology
- Energy storage (e.g., battery fields)
- Offshore Wind energy-repurposing Platforms / Wind farms
- Energy transmission (limiting factor currently) and transition (part of the solution)

Planned future energy needs in light of changes in demand and climate:
• Desalination to meet water needs of the region, however less clear with respect to energy • Need to diversify to keep up with global trends – could be strongly positioned to take advantage of net-zero policy by 2050
THREATS
Threats to existing strong sectors:
• Newly developed industry in petrochemical and heavy manufacturing is subject to economy-wide risk as well as industry-specific risks • Energy transmission is currently a limiting factor • Base realignment and closure • Rail and roadway connectivity to Mexico - border congestion/bottlenecks are limiting factors • Terminal expansion and ferries on water transportation • Water quality (other than Aransas, Live Oak, Brooks), Air quality (other than Kleberg, Nueces) • Climate change and increasing strength and frequency of tropical storms • Future water supplies
Drivers of job losses:
• Shifts in energy sector/price oil • Impacts of the COVID-19
Drivers of economic losses:
• Region is subjected to external economic shocks arising from man-made or natural disasters
Understanding of energy needs of the region:
• Ongoing controversy over the construction of a desalination plant in the region • Vulnerability of the environment needs to be part of the energy needs assessment
Regional hazard mitigation planning that takes into account future risk from events such as droughts, floods, storm surges and fires:
• Coastal Bend Mitigation Action Plan considers 18 different types of natural hazards for 7 counties of the Coastal Bend (Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, San Pat, Nueces, Kleberg, Jim Wells); however, does not rely on data/modeling to assess future risks • Need to consider innovative risk mitigation approaches from around the country that could work well in the Coastal Bend
The region's climate adaptation and hazard mitigation planning that integrates land use and workforce planning to ensure a resilient and prosperous region:
• There is no regional climate adaptation planning • There is no regional land-use planning or common standards to be used such as building codes • Unclear on the extent of integration in regional hazard mitigation • Ozone air nonattainment is considered a threat to further industrial development • Level of resilience planning varies across the Coastal Bend – need to leverage capacity
Climate change's impact on flood risk, water supply, wildfire risk, sea levels and storm surges, extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and other extreme weather events:
• Gulf coast is at risk for sea level rise as was recently reported in the NOAA Technical Report "Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States" • Subsidence will also increase coastal flooding • Warming climate can lead to wetter and bigger tropical storms and prolonged periods of drought • Lack of natural drainage due to soil composition and topography • Although projected changes in annual precipitation are uncertain, increases in extreme precipitation events are projected; higher temperatures will increase soil moisture loss during dry spells, increasing the intensity of naturally occurring drought

Coastal Bend Economic Development District

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2021–2026

COASTAL BEND
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS