



**North East Texas Economic  
Development District**

Serving the counties of:

**Bowie  
Camp  
Cass  
Delta  
Franklin  
Hopkins  
Lamar  
Marion  
Morris  
Red River  
Titus**

**Comprehensive Economic  
Development Strategy  
2008**

Submitted to

**U. S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
September 2008**

# **NORTH EAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

## **Executive Summary 2008**

The North East Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) consists of eleven counties in the “Right Corner of Texas” or the far northeastern part of the state. This eleven-county region has an area of almost 6,547 square miles and approximately 292,958 people.

In consideration of the size of the district, the Board and staff relied on a variety of resources and partners to obtain input into the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Meetings with partners were used as a springboard to evoke discussion of economic development issues affecting the region. These partners provide the information that is an integral part of this report and the partners include:

### **Community and Private Sector Participation**

- Members of the North East Texas Economic Developers Roundtable (NETEDR) were vital to the planning process. The Roundtable is a group of professionals interested in economic development in North East Texas. The professionals come from city, county, and state governments, private developers and consultants, utilities, non-profits, and quasi-governmental units such as Councils of Governments and River Authorities. The regular, open meetings are held in different communities in the district and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information related to economic development in North East Texas. The Roundtable’s website ([www.therightcorner.com](http://www.therightcorner.com)) contains information about available sites for development and community profiles for the region,
- Elected officials from counties and cities in NETEDD region were involved in the process,
- City managers/Economic Development Administrators/Chambers of Commerce staff and Board members were involved,
- Northeast Texas Workforce Commission Staff and Board members were primary contributors,
- The Ark-Tex Council of Governments staff and board members were an essential source of information,
- Local Community Leader from Educational and Religious organizations provide information concerning their communities,
- Major Business Owners from various areas within the Region gave input and information

## **STRENGTHS**

The strengths that were reported for the NETEDD region in the 2003 CEDS Report continue in 2008 as strong attributes for the region:

- Affordable housing,
- Good water resources,
- Available land for development,
- Available workforce,
- Existing educational institutions such as universities, community colleges, and technical schools,
- Good natural resources,
- Location along transportation corridors/crossroads for major highways,
- Adequate hospitals and other medical facilities,
- Fairly good industrial diversity,
- Growth potential in agribusiness, logistics and ecotourism.

## **WEAKNESSES**

Many of the weaknesses that were reported in 2003 continue to plague the NETEDD region as well in 2008:

- Relatively low wage levels,
- Higher than state average mortality rates, illiteracy rates and poverty rates,
- Aging population [According to Texas Dept. of Aging estimates, approximately 14% of those over the age of 60 live in poverty],
- Unemployment rates are higher than state average,
- Disability rates are higher than state average,
- Per capita income is lower than state and nation,
- Average value of owned homes is low,
- Educational attainment rates are low,
- Shortage of highly skilled labor,
- Job growth is slow,
- New business growth is low,
- Infrastructure is aging and inadequate,
- Public transportation and air transportation are inadequate,
- A high percentage of the population is without health insurance,
- There are environmental concerns in some areas.

## **GROWTH SECTORS**

The logical growth sectors for the NETEDD economy include healthcare, forest products and added value agriculture and distribution centers because of geographic location and transportation opportunities. Some of the Industry Clusters that exist or could exist in the region include:

1. Forest products,
2. Added value forest products manufacturing,
3. Petroleum,
4. Poultry,
5. Medical Districts,
6. Trucking Facilities,
7. Prison Facilities

## **NETEDD REGIONAL BACKGROUND ECONOMICS**

The overall economy in the NETEDD Region continues to grow slowly, but naturally at higher momentum, in the more populated communities with interstate highway or corridor highway access. Texarkana (Bowie), Sulphur Springs (Hopkins) and Mt. Pleasant (Titus) have seen the benefits of multiple industrial and retail expansions and relocations. However, many of the rural communities and rural portions of the counties, which continue to be dependent upon agriculture and commuting to employment, are still threatened with high unemployment and stagnant population growth or population decline.

The April 2008 average unemployment rate of 4.2% for the eleven-county region was 8% higher than the April 2008 Texas average of 3.9%. According to data reported by the U. S. Census Bureau the NETEDD Region had a population of approximately 292,958 in 2000 and an estimated 2006 population of 300,825 and is considered a predominantly rural region with the exception of Bowie County. The region had on average approximately 16.9% of its population under the U. S. poverty rate in 2004 as compared to a statewide average of 16.2%. The estimated civilian labor force for the region was 144,692 as of May 2008 and the average Per Capita Income for the region was \$24,932 in 2005 as compared to the statewide average of \$32,460 and a nationwide average of \$36,764 for the same period. Average weekly wages for the first quarter of 2007 for the region was \$600 as compared \$871 statewide for the same period. Consequently, the economic indicators for the region stack up poorly when compared to the State of Texas and the nation as whole.

Remote communities in the NETEDD Region that are dependent upon agriculture and those surrounding the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and Red River Army Depot continue to experience higher than average unemployment rates and no change in this situation is expected in the near future. Unemployment varies among the counties. Franklin County for example, consistently has a lower unemployment rate (3.0%) than the other counties and the state average. It also has the lowest rate of poverty (13.6%) for all ages, the highest per capita income (\$27,784), and the highest percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees, in addition to having the fastest population growth rate.

Cass, Marion, Morris and Red River counties, on the other hand, have tended to have the highest unemployment (4.8% av.) and poverty rates (18.4% av.), and the lowest per capita income (\$23,560 av.). They are the counties that have stagnant or declining populations. They also have the lowest percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees and the highest percentage of young people living in poverty. Red River, Marion and Delta counties have the lowest per capita income (\$21,267 av.). There is definitely a link between educational attainment, unemployment, per capita income, and poverty.

The NETEDD Region has a less well-educated workforce than state averages. While somewhat equal numbers hold a high school diploma, the percentage with associate's and bachelor's degrees or higher is significantly less than state averages. In Red River and Titus counties, more than one third of adults over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma. To the extent that education relates to skills, these low education levels results in low wages and high poverty rates for the region.

Consequently, average annual wages continue to be significantly lower in the NETEDD Region than all comparison areas. Wages are growing more slowly than the state and national averages as well, with only an 8% growth rate during the latter years of the economically booming 1990s, while wages grew by 16.4% in the U.S., and 17.7% in the state of Texas.

Education is vital to the region's continued growth and development. The region's community colleges continue to attempt to provide educational preparation and technical training for the workforce. Texas A&M-*Texarkana* created a graduate program in engineering and a downward expansion to offer additional undergraduate classes and has opened a new campus in *Texarkana, Texas* (*Bowie County*).

The civilian workforce for the NETEDD Region grew by only 1.1% between 2003 and 2004 as compared to 2.0% or one-half the pace of the State of Texas for the same time period. The rate of growth of both business establishments and jobs has been low over time, with the region significantly behind the state and national averages. Over the 10-year period of 1994-2004, jobs grew at a rate of 6.8% regionally, while Texas enjoyed a growth of 19.3% and the nation 20.8%. During the boom years of the late 1990s, business establishments grew by a meager 1.5% in the NETEDD Region, while growing 5.2% statewide and 6.5% nationally.

The NETEDD Region has a far higher percentage of federal government employment compared to the rest of the state: over twice the state average, undoubtedly due to the presence of military depots. It also has a higher percentage of local government employment. Because of the high government employment rates, the region has a lower percentage of private sector employment than the state average.

The NETEDD Region is only very slightly less diverse than the neighboring *Arkansas* region, but considerably less diverse than the state and nation. Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group in the US today, and that is true for the NETEDD Region. A significant part of that growth is the higher percentage of children of Hispanic origin. In all except *Bowie County*, Hispanics make up a higher percentage of the child population than of the total population, sometimes significantly so. This has potential implications for the region's educators in terms of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and cultural sensitivity issues.

Industrial diversity in the NETEDD Region is fairly good. While lower than the state and national averages, it is only slightly so. Industrial diversity is a measure of the extent to which an area is insulated from a sharp downturn in one of its top industries. The measure looks at 14 different industrial sectors, separates the top three based on total employment, and then calculates the total employment distribution of the remaining sectors. NETEDD's industrial diversity rate is 64.3% compared to the national rate of 68.3%.

The NETEDD Region continues to diversify its economic base. No longer an economy dominated by defense related industries, wood products and manufacturing companies, the NETEDD Region has begun to diversify into other products and services. Agriculture, primarily poultry-related and the timber industry, continues to be an integral part of the area's economy in that two of the nation's largest poultry processors, *Tyson* and *Pilgrim*, are significant employers in the region. The continued expansion of poultry processors is particularly taxing to the water and waste water systems of the region. Natural resources will continue to play a major role in the economic development of the region. One such venture is

through vineyards and wineries- Camp County is now home to two vineyards, both growing their own grapes.

Companies in wood-related industries have been attracted to this region due to the abundance of yellow pine. Plywood, wood chip products, and wood product companies consider the area a prime location but require considerable investment for infrastructure and capital. International Paper, Louisiana Pacific, Georgia-Pacific, Nexor/Norboard, and Weyerhaeuser, are among the nationally known wood products companies in the area along with regional and local companies such as the Anthony Wood Products Company, and others. Current market conditions and an oversupply of timber have joined to put an economic strain on the producers in the region. With the available timber supply and the capacity to expand production, the entire region should examine what appears to be a need to attract new or expanded mills or wood processors.

Available water is going to be an important part of the region's future. NETEDD has an abundance of water and that water easily could become a significant resource as other parts of the state have water demands that outstrip capacity. An active Water Development Board will control much of the future of the water supply produced in the region and work with regions like the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex in determining the water needs and availability. Environmental groups, property rights groups and the logging industry spearheaded a campaign to force changes in the water plan for Northeast Texas. Their efforts were aimed at removal of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir from the water plan. This issue will continue to be the focus of many political, legal, economic, and environmental arguments over the next few years.

The decision by the Department of Defense to reduce and/or eliminate selected defense-related facilities has forced this region, like many others, to adjust their long-term visions for sustainability and growth. **In February 1999 the EDA awarded Bowie County \$1,500,000** to develop basic infrastructure and access improvements to two tracts of land (196 acres) located at the site of the Red River Army Depot (RRAD). This funding was awarded to help finance the development of an industrial park (Red River Commerce Park) at the location as well as help implement the defense conversion program established by the State of Texas and the RRAD Comprehensive Base Reuse Plan established by the United States Department of the Army. The initial \$1,500,000 EDA investment in the project has resulted in **1)** the placement of 17 private companies in the park, **2)** the generation 325+ new jobs, **3)** the investment of an additional \$2,250,000 in local/state funding and **4)** the investment of \$5,400,000 (\$3.4 million in inventory) in private capital. This process will continue to result in the creation of jobs as a replacement for jobs lost to downsizing by the Dept. of Defense. Continued funding of repair and replacement of infrastructure will be needed as the effort to privatize continues.

In 2005 the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant (LSAAP) was identified by the Base Realignment And Closure Commission (BRAC) as a target for closure and a total of 350 direct employees are projected to be impacted. The contractor operating the facility (Day & Zimmermann, Inc.) is pursuing a commercialization strategy to keep the plant open. In the event that commercialization is approved, the contractor will be allowed to pursue competitively won contracts utilizing the existing workforce and facilities. Dependence on RRAD and LSAAP for jobs is still strong although the area is continuing its efforts at diversification.

Economic ups and downs continue in the region. The decline in the dairy industry continues to plague the rural portions of Hopkins and Franklin Counties. Sulphur Springs has seen industries come and go and now has an expanding business at the local airport. Additional demands on the city's infrastructure have been difficult to overcome. Texarkana and Bowie County benefited from an expansion at Cooper Tire in Texarkana, Arkansas and from the expansion of several smaller businesses in the new Nash Industrial Park.

Because of the location of this region between Dallas and the Port of Shreveport, its central location between the east and west coasts of the U.S., and the fact that it lies within the north-south transportation corridor connecting Mexico and eastern half of the U.S., our region has drawn attention from numerous industries in regards to sites for distribution centers. A trade zone at the Red River Army Depot west of Texarkana will be an attraction for the region. The plans for proposed Interstate 69 and Interstate 49, the upgrade of U.S. 59, and the availability of U. S. 271, U. S. 259, U. S. 82 and several state highways should increase the attractiveness of this region for distribution centers and other industries dependent upon access to major highways. Continued expansion of area airports will be an important part of this growth as will development of large industrial parks near major transportation corridors.

Tourism continues to grow in the region. This industry can be accommodated by small communities, which have limited financial resources and infrastructure. There are currently several companies looking at sites for hotels with conference facilities to complement this region's tourism popularity. Because of the natural beauty, the availability of resources, and the small population density in the rural areas, the region has several sites that would be appropriate for eco-tourism development.

The availability of natural resources, a low-cost labor force and the interstate highway infrastructure, combined with the geographic location of the region continue to be the most attractive assets for new companies in reviewing the region. The business climate survey conducted of Texarkana area businesses for the Red River Redevelopment Authority listed geographic location as the single most important site location factor for businesses of the area. The advancement of communications and transportation networks have provided many companies located in this area, and those looking to relocate, the opportunity to compete in a world-wide market place rather than just regionally.

As more industries look to locate or expand their operations to Northeast Texas, the demand for prime industrial properties with access to major transportation arteries and local utilities will only increase. Those communities with industrial parks and those that are planning for new industrial sites will be the communities during the next several years enjoying the benefits of new industrial plants. Atlanta and Mt. Pleasant have industrial parks that are adjacent to existing or new airport facilities and Clarksville, DeKalb and Nash have developed industrial parks near major highways. The single largest facility is the 800-acre Red River Commerce Park facility in Bowie County.

Announcements for new or expanding manufacturing facilities in this region have been more numerous during the past five years than in the last three decades. Industries relatively new to this region have also emerged, such as food processing plants; distribution centers which were previously discussed and privately owned and public prisons.

Developing new and expanding industrial opportunities will produce the benefits of creating new jobs, an increased tax base and business opportunities, and new and expanding industrial development. The development would propose some significant challenges for our region such as: (1) providing regional economic development coordination and technical assistance

(2) the need for new infrastructure (3) the need for business financing capital and (4) workforce development and technical training. The availability of municipal utilities, business capital, and a trained labor force are vital for this region to sustain its current and future economic growth. These challenges must be met for Northeast Texas to remain attractive to existing and new industry and to remain competitive with other regions, both nationally and internationally.

Without question, these challenges will require substantial financial resources. The implementation of the economic development sales tax in some communities has greatly assisted in facilitating economic growth in this region. Within the eleven-county region served by NETEDD, there are now 16 cities out of a total 35 which have passed the local 4a or 4b economic development sales tax for economic development. These 16 cities set a side a percentage of annual local sales tax to be utilized by City Economic Development Corporations for economic development. However, this type funding is being quickly outpaced as (1) the demand for small business credit increases (2) the demand and cost of infrastructure increases, (3) the need to leverage local funds increases, (4) the need to access state and federal infrastructure grants increases, and (5) the need for government sponsored and competitively priced loan and loan guarantee programs increases. In short, the demand for the services and programs administered by NETEDD continues to increase as well.

The demand for federal assistance programs, such as those administered through EDA, will continue to increase and probably outpace available federal funding. Local communities will continue to search for additional resources and ways to leverage existing resources such as public-private partnerships and creative financing vehicles, to ensure the challenges and costs for tomorrow's economic growth is met.

NETEDD, like similar organizations, is faced with insufficient staffing, increasing demands for services and limited resources. As a result NETEDD under its affiliation with the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is supported and supplemented by other organizations and programs such as the Ark-Tex Regional Development Company, a SBA 504 Certified Development Company, the East Texas Rural Access Program and the Chapman Revolving Loan Fund. These are primarily financing programs that supplement the NETEDD Revolving Loan Fund and allow NETEDD the opportunity to continue services as well as increase it's presence in the region. In addition under the ATCOG other services and programs are rendered in the region including Housing Services, Environmental Services, Transportation Services, Mapping/Addressing Services, Grant Writing, Homeland Security, as well as an Area Agency for the Aging. Over the next five years NETEDD in conjunction with ATCOG will have to expand its involvement in creating solutions to the following challenges:

- Development of a skilled and technological workforce byway of enhanced cooperation and support between the North East Texas Workforce Commission, new/existing employers and regional educational institutions.
- Creation of higher paying and meaningful jobs in an economically depressed region by attracting new businesses to the region that offer higher skilled and higher wage jobs.
- Continuation of business incentives and competitively priced financing for existing and new small businesses in the region by offering SBA loans, SBDC training, Microloans, RLF loans, SCORE assistant, Workforce Commission cooperation and other services that promote small business retention and growth.
- Solicitation of increased public sector subsidies for economic assistance to develop infrastructure, industrial parks and other public works projects.
- Preservation and protection of the environment while encouraging economic

development by management of water resources, remediation of Brownfields sites and control over existing and proposed waste disposal facilities.

- Capitalize on the regions geographical location to the proposed I-69 and I-49 by promoting new and existing distribution center throughout the region.

These challenges will not be easily resolved and probably cannot be resolved in one year or one decade. As one of the most distressed parts of the State, the NETEDD region will continue to be plagued with many economic challenges in the coming years. However resolution of these challenges is attainable with the support from the following partners and advocates:

- Economic Development Administration
- U. S. Department of Agriculture
- Small Business Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Homeland Security
- Ark-Tex Council of Governments
- Northeast Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Dept. of Economic Development
- Texas Office of Rural and Community Affairs
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- NETEDR & [www.therightcorner.com](http://www.therightcorner.com)
- Counties
- Cities
- Housing authorities & affordable housing developers
- Educational Institutions
- Private foundations

These partners will help us assess our position and plan our action in addressing the threats of:

- (1) Declining rural population,
- (2) Inability of some of our communities to adequately communicate,
- (3) An undereducated under trained workforce
- (4) Aging and inadequate infrastructure.

Our partners will also help us find ways to maximize the opportunities we have in (1) our natural resources, (2) our location, (3) our land available for development, and (4) our water resources.

The vision for North East Texas has changed little from the days of Rep. Wright Patman. He was credited with saying that he wanted to see residents in his part of Texas earn at the national average, be educated at the national average, and have fewer than the national average living below the poverty level. North East Texas has made changes and improvements but our vision remains to have a workforce that is competitive nationally, earn wages at the national average, and relieve the burden of poverty from as many residents as possible.

Goals	Measurable Outcomes	Objective
Increased involvement with local governments and businesses to promote economic development of the region.	Number of jobs created in measurable period and/or number of projects resulting in job retention; number of technical assistance visits made on job creation/retention projects; decreased unemployment in the region.	Assist local government in planning to support economic development and leadership development that results in lower unemployment and poverty rates in the local community and the region.
Development of higher educated, skilled and technological workforce ready to fill the employment needs of new and existing businesses.	Increase in per capita income, decrease in unemployment, increase in skilled and semi-skilled jobs.	Raise standard of living for residents of the region by emphasizing higher education & technical skills as route to higher wages.
Adequate infrastructure for residential, commercial, and industrial growth.	Increased accessibility & capacity of basic utilities, growth in industrial parks and other public works needs.	Decrease in the number of residents living at or below the national poverty rate in substandard housing; increase per capita income through additional job creation/retention.
Provide assistance to governmental entities in region to promote economic development.	Number of EDA proposals submitted during fiscal year; number of technical assistance visits to communities during fiscal year; completed CEDS for region.	Provide planning and technical assistance to communities in the region that results in new businesses or expansion & job creation.
Make available affordable financing to businesses in region for expansion.	Number of loans outstanding in NETEDD RLF, SBA 504, ETRAP RLF, Chapman RLF & Microloan portfolios.	Source of economic development finance programs for small businesses and local Economic Development Corporations.
Improved transportation corridors	Work with area agencies on continued development of I-69 and I-49	Development of additional North/South routes for trade with Latin America.
Promote positive stewardship of the environment.	Work with EPA on existing environmental assessment grants and pursue RLF Cleanup Grant.	Combine economic growth with preservation and protection of the environment.

Information sources for this report include:

- U. S. Census Bureau
- Texas Department of Economic Development
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Ark-Tex Council of Governments
- Socrates –American Labor Market Information System

# County Narrative Profile

## Lamar County Report

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### What are County Narrative Profiles?

The Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI) department of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has developed the County Narrative Profile (CNP) as a tool for presenting Texas county based statistical data in an easy-to-read narrative format. This CNP module is one of many analytical tools available from the . The narrative approach is an alternative to looking through stacks of tables and charts which can be confusing and difficult to understand or interpret. It allows the user to easily request an easy to understand report on one or more of the 254 counties in Texas. To review all the current TWC's initiatives and services, link to: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us>

### Geography

**Regional Information:** The Lamar County region (FIPS code:48277) had an estimated population of 48,499 in 2000. The region consists of 932 square miles with a **population density** of 52.04 residents per square mile compared to a statewide density of 79.54. This county ranked 56<sup>th</sup> in 2000 population compared to all 254 counties in Texas. Lamar County is a member of TWC's North East Texas Local Workforce Development region. This area is a **rural** county. This county also ranked 110<sup>th</sup> in size by square miles when compared to all counties in Texas. The Lamar County area is assigned to the following district(s): Texas Representative District(s) of 3 and State Senatorial District(s) of 1. The area is in the U.S. Congressional District(s) of: 1. The county seat is Paris and the county's **major city, town or place** is Paris. See Texas Online at <http://www.state.tx.us/category.jsp?language=eng&categoryId=11.1> for State and local updates. Lamar County is classified as a rural county by virtue of either its close relationship with a significant central city or lack thereof. Using 2000 Census population data, roughly 86.05 percent of all Texas population could be found in the 76 metropolitan counties defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for 2003. In 1993 the county was classified as a rural county. Texas has established a network of 24 **Councils of Government** (COGs) to assist local governments in planning for common needs and to coordinate regional economic development activity. Lamar County falls within the Ark-Tex Council of Governments region. For additional information and links to the COG regions see [www.txregionalcouncil.org/](http://www.txregionalcouncil.org/).

The Office of the State Climatologist in College Station, under the guidance of the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, maintains 10-year intervals of weather compilations. For most recent interval as of January 1, 1993, the **rainfall** in the region averages 46.1 inches per year compared to the Texas average of 30.1 inches per year. The average **growing season** in the Lamar County region is 235 days. Texas is so climatically diverse that statewide averages are generally irrelevant as a means of comparison. The **average temperature** in January gathered by the Office of the State Climatologist ranges from 30 degrees to an average for July of 94 degrees. The Texas Department of Agriculture estimates the **freeze dates** range from Nov 14 to Mar 25. Current and past climate information can be found at <http://www.farmersalmanac.com/weather/uszone5.html> and <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>.

Natural amenities of the area, according to the U.S. Department of Interior, reflect an overall percent of **surface water** of 1.7 percent compared to 2.5 percent statewide. The land surface form topography for the region is described as irregular plains. Considerably more detailed information can be found at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/sb1/> and [http://www.netstate.com/states/geography/tx\\_geography.htm](http://www.netstate.com/states/geography/tx_geography.htm).

**Local Workforce Boards:** Lamar County is a member of the TWC North East Texas local workforce board area. In order to contact the board or TWC's Tele Center by phone, call 1-800-939-6631. Local addresses, references to specific needs and services can be found at the North East Texas web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdas/wda07.html>. For further information on all Local Workforce Board go to <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdbs/wdbmap.html>.

## Population

According to the 2000 Census, Texas grew from 16,986,510 in 1990 to 20,851,820 in 2000 reflecting an increase of 22.8 percent growth. During this same time period, the Lamar County region had an increase from 43,949 persons to 48,499 persons which reflected a 10.4 percent change. A variety of data topics for Texas and all the counties is available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>.

The region's race/ethnic distribution in 2000 is estimated by the Census Bureau to be:

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Area Percent</u>	<u>Statewide Percent</u>
White	39,990	82.5	70.97
Black	6,534	13.5	11.53
Other	725	1.5	3.33
Hispanic <sup>o</sup>	1,614	3.3	31.99

° Hispanic count includes White, Black and other representation when reported.

### Population Age

The age distribution of an area can provide valuable insight into the region's economic composition and income potential. By national standards, Texas has a relatively young population. The 2000 Census estimates for Texas show a population composition as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Area Percent</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
<b>Under 5</b>	3,422	7.1	7.8
<b>5-14</b>	7,123	14.7	15.8
<b>15-19</b>	3,516	7.2	7.8
<b>20-44</b>	15,779	32.5	38.5
<b>45-64</b>	11,086	22.9	20.2
<b>65+</b>	7,573	15.6	9.9

While the median age for Texas was 32.30 years in 2000, the Lamar County area had a median age of 36.90 according to the 2000 Census.

### Population Gender

The gender distribution of an area can provide additional insight into the region's overall distribution in the population by male and female. Of the area's population, 23,147 were male which represents 47.7 percent and 25,352 were female which represents 52.3 percent. This compares to the statewide percentage of 49.6 percent for male and 50.4 percent for female.

### Special Age Groups and Gender

**Youth and Older Workers:** Other age cohorts may be of special interest for Workforce Development Board's summer youth programs and older worker programs. The Lamar County region has 2,405 persons **age 14-21** representing 14.7 percent of the population. This compares with 13.3 percent statewide. For the potential older age cohort, 2,650 persons or 16.2 percent are **55 or over** in the Lamar County region based on the 2000 Census. This compares to 9.9 percent statewide.

**Ages 25-44:** If the population cohort 45 and over is higher than the state average, this suggests a stable, mature population comprised of mainly "empty-nesters," retirees and the aged. When the 25-44 age cohort is higher

than the state average, this is a healthy economic situation since this group contains the greatest share of the labor force. Decreases over time in this group, especially when similar changes are not occurring statewide, can be an indication that people are moving out of an area they consider to be a poor labor market. In Lamar County the total number in the age groups of 25 to 44, was 4,123 or 25.2 percent. This compares to a statewide percentage of 31.9 percent.

**Ages 18 and Older:** For the population generally considered in the ages to participate in the labor market, the total population who were 18 years and over totaled 14,965,061 in Texas which represented 71.8 percent of the total population. In this study area, the total persons in this age group was 35,831 or 73.9 percent of the total population. Within this age group in Texas the number of males in 2000 who were 18 years and over represented 7,338,177 persons or 35.2 percent of the total population while females age 18 years and over represented 7,626,884 or 36.6 percent. In the Lamar County area, males 18 and over represented 16,648 or 34.3 percent in comparison and females totaled to 19,183 or 39.6 percent.

**Veteran Status:** According to the U.S. Bureau of Census, the area had 35,773 persons in the population age 18 years and older in the year 2000. Of that number, 5,415 or 15.1 percent responded as being a civilian veteran, compared to 11.8 percent statewide. A "civilian veteran" is a person 18 years old or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps.

**Disability Status:** From the 2000 Census, data on Disability Status were derived when respondents reported long-lasting conditions: (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment, (sensory disability) and (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying (physical disability). Disability status was also derived if the individuals in the working age range of 21 to 64 years had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities such as: (a) learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability); (b) dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office (going outside the home disability); and (d) working at a job or business (employment disability).

It was reported in the 2000 Census that the area had an estimated 11,222 persons residing there between the ages of 5 to 20 years of age with

approximately 984 or 8.8 percent with a **disability**. In Texas, the percent with disabilities in this same age bracket was 7.9 percent. In the working age population group - ages 21 to 64 years, the area had approximately 25,913 persons, of which 6,278 were categorized to be in a disability status. This represented 24.2 percent compared to 19.9 percent in the state overall. For those persons in this age group that had a disability, approximately 3,239 or 51.6 percent were employed. For those who had no disability, an estimated 14,687 or 74.8 percent were employed. For the retirement age group of 65 years of age and older, 7,100 persons resided of which 3,513 were disabled. The percent of this age group with a disabled status was 49.5 percent and this compared to 44.8 percent in Texas overall.

**Ages 65 and Older:** For the population who are considered to be at the age of retirement or older - 65 years and older, the total number of persons in Texas was 2,072,532 or 9.9 percent of the total population in 2000. This region had a total of 7,573 or 15.6 percent in this older age group. In the same age group of 65 years and over, males in Texas represented 862,181 or 4.1 percent of the total population and females totaled to 1,210,351 or 5.8 percent, while in this study area, males totaled to 3,004 or 6.2 percent of all persons in this area and females represented 4,569 or 9.4 percent of all persons. For other general and special population information from the 2000 Census as well as specific populations topics, link to <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/tx.html>.

### **Population Projections**

The Office of the State Demographer for the State of Texas distributes the most widely used population projections for Texas. **Projection estimates** in these tables and the methodology for **migration scenarios** have been revised as of 2006 by the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer - now housed at University of Texas San Antonio. Each projection series includes three scenarios resulting in three alternative sets of population values for the State and each county are presented in these projections. These scenarios assume the same set of mortality and fertility assumptions in each scenario but differ in their assumptions relative to net migration. The net migration assumptions made for three scenarios are derived from 1990-2000 patterns which have been altered relative to expected future population trends. This is done by systematically and uniformly altering the adjusted 1990-2000 net migration rates by age, sex and race/ethnicity. The scenarios so produced are referred to as the zero migration (0.0) scenario, the one-half 1990-2000 (0.5) scenario, the 1990-2000 (1.0) scenario and the 1990-2000 (2.0) scenario.

The recommended scenario for most county based projection reporting used is believed to be the 0.5 scenario as most appropriate scenario for most counties in Texas. This scenario has been prepared as an approximate average of the zero (0.0) and 1990-2000 (1.0) scenarios. It assumes rates of net

migration one-half of those of the 1990s. The reason for including this scenario is that many counties in the State are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relatively extensive growth of the 1990s. A scenario which projects rates of population growth that are approximately an average of the zero and the 1990-2000 scenarios is one that suggests slower but steadier growth than occurred during 1990-2000 (For a more detailed discussion see <http://txsdc.utsa.edu>).

Using this projection scenario, the following table represents population projections for Lamar County:

Year	Total	Pct Chg	Anglo	Pct Chg	Black	Pct Chg	Hispanic	Pct Chg	Other	Pct Chg
2000	48,499	---	39,496	---	6,653	---	1,614	---	736	---
2005	49,455	2.0	39,837	0.9	7,026	5.6	1,811	12.2	781	6.1
2010	50,353	3.8	40,143	1.6	7,395	11.2	1,995	23.6	820	11.4
2015	51,121	5.4	40,363	2.2	7,718	16.0	2,175	34.8	865	17.5
2020	51,535	6.3	40,266	1.9	7,983	20.0	2,375	47.1	911	23.8
2025	51,651	6.5	39,903	1.0	8,210	23.4	2,593	60.7	945	28.4
2030	51,334	5.8	39,213	-0.7	8,379	25.9	2,776	72.0	966	31.3
2035	50,591	4.3	38,262	-3.1	8,457	27.1	2,902	79.8	970	31.8
2040	49,523	2.1	37,132	-6.0	8,429	26.7	3,003	86.1	959	30.3

\* Anglo, Black, and Other excludes Hispanic counts.

For comparison purposes, the Texas population projections, using the same scenario methodology, are as follows:

Year	Total	Pct Chg	Anglo	Pct Chg	Black	Pct Chg	Hispanic	Pct Chg	Other	Pct Chg
2000	20,851,820	---	11,074,716	---	2,421,653	---	6,669,666	---	685,785	---
2005	22,556,054	8.2	11,327,875	2.3	2,588,604	6.9	7,820,854	17.3	818,721	19.4
2010	24,330,612	16.7	11,533,974	4.1	2,754,744	13.8	9,080,436	36.1	961,458	40.2
2015	26,156,715	25.4	11,694,533	5.6	2,913,063	20.3	10,436,536	56.5	1,112,583	62.2
2020	28,005,788	34.3	11,796,493	6.5	3,052,401	26.0	11,882,998	78.2	1,273,896	85.8
2025	29,897,443	43.4	11,830,579	6.8	3,170,986	30.9	13,448,469	101.6	1,447,409	111.1
2030	31,830,589	52.7	11,789,298	6.5	3,268,616	35.0	15,140,100	127.0	1,632,575	138.1
2035	33,789,668	62.0	11,682,014	5.5	3,345,684	38.2	16,934,444	153.9	1,827,526	166.5
2040	35,761,201	71.5	11,525,112	4.1	3,403,169	40.5	18,804,298	181.9	2,028,622	195.8

\* Anglo, Black, and Other excludes Hispanic counts.

## County to County Migration

**Out Migration:** Using Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information regarding changes in residences between two filing years 2005 and 2006, statistics regarding moving in and out of counties can reveal patterns of migration as well as patterns of

out-of-state and foreign migration to and from selected counties. During this time Lamar County reported 16,368 total tax were matched to tabulate outflow migration. Of these returns approximately 5.8 percent showed a change in residences by moving out from their originating county in 2005 to another county in 2006. Of these who moved out of their original county, 63.7 percent moved to another county within Texas, while 35.3 percent moved to a different state but within the U.S. Those who moved from their originating county in the year 2005 to a foreign country in 2006 was approximately 1.0 percent.

**In-Migration:** During the period 2005 to 2006, there were approximately 16,342 total tax returns were matched to calculate inflow migration. Of these returns approximately 5.7 percent showed a change in residences by moving in from their originating county in 2005 to a county in the study area in 2006. Of these who moved into the study area from another county, 64.5 percent moved from other counties in Texas, while 34.4 percent moved from a county in a different state but within the U.S. Those who moved into the study area during the 2005-2006 period from a foreign country was approximately 1.1 percent.

**Vital Statistics:** According to the Texas Department of State Health Services for vital statistics for the year 2004, the Lamar County area had a total of 688 live births which represents a **live birth rate** of 13.8 births for every 1,000 persons in the study area compared to a statewide rate of 17.0 births per 1,000 persons in the population. The area had a total of 584 **deaths** representing a rate of 11.7 for every 1,000 persons compared to a statewide rate of 6.8.

## Employment

**Civilian Labor Force (CLF):** The most recent civilian labor force estimates from TWC for Texas statewide in April 2008 is 11,628,481 which is an increase in the labor force of 230,299 persons since April 2007. This represents a 2.0 percent change in Texas during this time period. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Lamar County had a civilian labor force of 24,892 for April 2008 which was a change of 642 in CLF since April 2007. This change represented an increase of 2.6 percent for the study area. For another glimpse into TWC/LMI's Texas and County information, link to:  
<http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce>.

**Economic Diversification:** Relative to the Texas economy, the LMCI economic diversification index measures the degree to which a county economy is diversified. Significant concentrations of employment in only one or two industrial sectors makes an area less diversified and more susceptible to widespread economic decline should a key sector suffer a significant loss. While economic diversification or a balanced distribution of employment across all major industry sectors, is generally desirable, in some cases, especially where a region is exploiting a comparative advantage (such as access to raw materials, access to transportation routes, etc.) a

statistically diverse economy does not necessarily correlate with higher growth. Of the three levels of diversification ranging from below average, average and above average, Lamar County had an economic base which is of below average diversity.

**Employment By Major Industry Sector:** The most recent employment data from TWC by major industrial sector for Lamar County compared to Texas are shown below in a table for two years. The Department of Labor calls these major categories "Super Sectors". One advantage in reviewing employment changes at broad industrial levels is that it allows for a unique snapshot of major differences in the total civilian labor force for a selected study area when compared to any larger statewide trend. When employment changes at a higher rate than the state, there may be comparative advantages in the local economy which are driving these changes. Conversely, when change is at a lower rate, then the Super Sector is showing less growth in comparison to the state and may consequently have a smaller comparative **change impact**.

Lamar County Industry Sector	AREA EMPLOYMENT				STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT			
	2006	2007	Abs	Pct	2006	2007	Abs	Pct
	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>Chg</u>	<u>Chg</u>	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>Chg</u>	<u>Chg</u>
Total, All Industries	19,823	20,628	805	4.06	9,719,010	10,048,199	329,189	3.39
Natural Resources & Mining	50	56	6	12.00	236,212	257,039	20,827	8.82
Construction	1,075	1,395	320	29.77	622,232	657,740	35,508	5.71
Manufacturing	4,487	4,425	-62	-1.38	915,190	936,812	21,622	2.36
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	3,906	4,022	116	2.97	2,103,698	2,164,776	61,078	2.90
Information	236	208	-28	-11.86	229,088	227,164	-1,924	-0.84
Financial Activities Group	787	866	79	10.04	613,457	631,936	18,479	3.01
Prof., Business & Other Svcs	1,413	1,613	200	14.15	1,204,538	1,272,803	68,265	5.67
Education & Health Svcs.	5,329	5,479	150	2.81	2,173,510	2,238,883	65,373	3.01
Leisure & Hospitality Group	1,492	1,528	36	2.41	926,049	960,510	34,461	3.72
Other Services	456	439	-17	-3.73	275,605	281,953	6,348	2.30
Public Administration	588	596	8	1.36	408,486	410,548	2,062	0.50

Compared to Texas, the table above shows employment sectors in Lamar County changed at a higher rate for *Natural Resources & Mining, Construction, Trade, Transport. & Utilities, Financial Activities Group, Prof., Business & Other Svcs* and *Public Administration* between 1st quarter 2006 and 1st quarter 2007. During that same time period, area employment for *Manufacturing, Information, Education & Health Svcs., Leisure & Hospitality Group* and *Other Services* changed at a lower rate when compared to Texas.

**Occupations:** The best source of occupational information at the county level is from the 2000 Census. The total number of persons 16 years of age or older who were employed in Lamar County during the 2000 Census was 20,416. The following presents a table of those employed by occupational categories for this region compared to statewide percentages:

<u>Occupational Categories</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Area Percent</u>	<u>Statewide Percent</u>
<b>Mgmt., Professional Occs.</b>	5,504	27.0	33.3
<b>Service Occupations</b>	3,473	17.0	14.6
<b>Sales and Office Occupations</b>	5,107	25.0	27.2
<b>Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occs.</b>	162	0.8	0.7
<b>Constr., Extraction Occs.</b>	2,279	11.2	10.9
<b>Production, Transport. Occs.</b>	3,891	19.1	13.2

**Class of Worker:** Another way to view the types of workers in an area's labor force is by class of worker. According to the 2000 Census, the area had 15,484 employees who were private wage and salary workers representing 75.8 percent of all workers. The region had another 2,794 persons who were government workers or 13.7 percent, 2,059 who were self employed workers or 10.1 percent and 79 who were unpaid family workers representing 0.4 percent. This compares to the Texas statewide distribution of 78.0 percent for private wage and salary workers, 14.6 percent for government workers, 7.1 percent for self employed, and 0.3 percent for unpaid family workers.

**Unemployment:** According to TWC unemployment figures for April 2008 Lamar County had an unemployment estimate of 1,047 persons which represents a rate of 4.2 compared to a Texas statewide unemployment rate of 3.9 for the same month. For the study area these estimates represent an increase from April 2007 unemployment rate of 4.3 percent. The Texas statewide unemployment rate was 4.0 for April 2007. For the latest unemployment rates, see TWC's LMI website - Unemployment Rates (LAUS):

<http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce>  
and for a description of methodology link to:  
<http://www.tracer2.com/article.asp?ARTICLEID=148>.

**Reporting Establishments:** The TWC indicates 1,129 business reporting units operating in Lamar County in the first quarter of 2007 with an average of 18.27 workers per unit. Average firm size makes a difference for job hunting and job development strategy because larger firms tend to have better defined ports of entry and in-house training capabilities. Although definitions vary greatly, small business can be defined as less than 50 workers and medium sized is 250 or less. The Texas average is 22.86 workers per unit. Regions with higher than average number of workers per unit tend to be dominated economically by a few very large employers.

**Commuting to Work:** Commuting to work for workers 16 years and over has a number of implications for transportation and municipal services study. Lamar County had a total of 16,367 or 81.3 percent who drove their car to work alone, 2,660 or 13.2 percent who car pooled, 57 or 0.3 percent used public transportation, 352 or 1.7 percent who walked to work, 229 or 1.1 percent of regional workers who

used other means to work, and 459 or 2.3 percent who worked at home. These methods of commuting to work compare to the Texas statewide results by: car alone (77.7%), car pool (14.5%), public transportation (1.9%), walked (1.9%), other means (1.3%), and worked at home (2.8%). The average travel time to work in minutes was 20.10 for the region as compared to an overall statewide average of 25.4 minutes.

**Employers by Employee Size Class:** According to the information used by the which utilizes the American Labor Market Information System's (ALMIS) employer contact data from INFOUSA, Inc. for Fall, 2004, the area had approximately 382 establishments which employed 10 or more employees. Of these employers, approximately 0.3 percent employed over 1000 employees. 1.3 percent employed between approximately 500 and 999 employees, 4.7 percent employed between approximately 100 and 499 employees, 12.8 percent employed between 50 and 99 employees, 30.9 percent employed between 20 and 49 employees, and 50.0 percent employed between approximately 10 and 19 employees.

#### **Top 10 Manufacturers for the Lamar County Region:**

- Campbell Soup Co
- Sara Lee Bakery Group
- Paris Industries
- Paris Packaging Inc
- P J Trailers
- Load Trail Inc
- Hydro Conduit Corp
- Rodgers-wade Mfg Co
- Flex-O-Lite Inc
- Jemasco's Mulch Inc

#### **Income**

**Personal Income:** According to the most recent data released by the BEA 2005, Lamar County's total personal income, excluding farm, was \$1,242,294,000 which represented an increase of \$66,591,000 when compared to the 2004 **total personal income**, excluding farm, of \$ 1,175,703,000. For Statewide personal income, the total of \$686,943,289,000 for 2004 and \$741,099,703,000 for the year 2004, shows an increase of \$54,156,414,000. This indicates that Lamar County has a personal income showing a rate change of 5.7 percent compared to the statewide income at a rate change of 7.9 percent for the same period. Income from all government and government enterprises for the area was a total of \$125,885,000 for the year 2005. This was an increase of 1.7 percent from the 2004 figure of \$123,823,000. Texas statewide had an increase of 5.7 percent for **government income**. **Military income**, excluding federal civilian income, for 2005 was \$4,627,000 compared to \$4,139,000 in 2004 for the study area. This was an increase of 11.8 percent

compared to a statewide change of no change percent for the same period. For further information link to: <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

**Per Capita Income:** Total personal income is a widely used measure of regional economic health while per capita income is generally used to compare the relative well-being of residents across areas (not accounting for differences in area cost of living). The per capita personal income for 2005 was \$24,993 in Lamar County while Texas statewide had a per capita income of \$32,460. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

**Government Transfer Payments:** The Lamar County region received over \$299,952,000 in transfer of payments in FY2005 which reflected a \$6,048 per capita transfer payment compared to the Texas per capita payment of \$4,194. Transfer payments includes the total amount of government allocations to people who qualify for income assistance. This consists largely of supplemental security income payments, family assistance, general assistance payments, food stamp payments, and other assistance payments, including emergency assistance. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

**Residence Adjustment:** Some areas function as major employment centers and others serve as "bedroom communities". This means that residents may work in one region but live, pay taxes and spend most of their income in their resident region. The degree to which a regional area serves as a bedroom community can be measured by a "residence adjustment" to the area personal income. The residence adjustment in the Lamar County region was \$-46,675 in 2004. By 2005 the adjustment represented a decrease to \$-48,408. A negative number implies that workers commute into the region to earn income but do not reside there. Growth over time of negative residence adjustments generally implies an eroding tax base for the region. Similarly, a positive figure implies that on balance the region exports jobs and income to residents of other regions. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis>.

**Average Weekly Wage:** TWC reported an average weekly wage during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2006 for all covered wages and salaried employment in the Lamar County region to be \$569.13. Average weekly wages for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2007 was \$583.07, an increase of 2.4 percent. This is compared to an increase of 5.5 percent statewide for the same period of time. The Texas statewide average weekly wage in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007 was \$871.46. These wage data are the result of the reported quarterly wages and salaries paid by employers divided by 13 weeks. For the most current information, link to:

<http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Industry>

**UI Benefits:** The region had \$5,020,245 in Unemployment Insurance benefits paid during calendar year 2001. In the Lamar County region, the average duration before exhausting regular UI benefits in calendar year 2001 was approximately 14.77 weeks, while the statewide average duration before exhausting regular UI benefits

in calendar year 2001 was approximately 15.85 weeks. The most likely interpretation of longer duration times is greater difficulty finding a job. Therefore, duration can serve as a good barometer for local general economic conditions. The average weekly benefits payment for Regular UI in 2001 was \$229.31 for the Lamar County region compared to \$238.53 in Texas statewide.

**Personal Income by Place of Residence:** Personal income by place of residence, based on the 2000 Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates was roughly \$57,309 for the Lamar County region. This compares to \$78,626 statewide. This figure is much higher than the per capita income level because it includes all wage earners living within a single household. Also, income data from BEA will be different than income data from other agencies due to that fact the BEA includes other sources of income such as farm wages, dividends, interest, rent and transfer payments. For more information on this data, please go to <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis>.

**Poverty Population:** The U.S. Department of Census estimated a 2002 poverty population for the Lamar County region for people of all ages at 8,692 persons. That figure represents 17.7 percent of the non-institutional population compared to a Texas percentage of 15.4 percent for people of all ages. The estimated number of people under the age of 18 in the study area in poverty was 2,878 in 1999. This figure was 6.6 percent of all people under 18 in the study area compared to Texas statewide which was 6.0 percent of all people under 18 as estimated in 1999. According to the 2000 Census, the number of families living below poverty status in 1999 were 1,734 which was 12.8 percent of all families in the study area. This compared to 12.0 percent of all families statewide living in poverty status in 1999. The total number of individuals living below poverty status was 7,737 in 1999 which was 16.0 percent of all individuals in the study area. This compared to 15.0 percent of all individuals living below poverty status statewide. For the most recent Poverty information, see: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html> .

**Gross Retail Sales:** Income can be viewed in several ways and under different definitions. Per capita income tends to have a direct relationship with the growth of gross sales and most service sector industries in an area. **Gross sales** for the region estimated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts were \$287,349,075 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006 which represented an increase of 19.9 percent to \$344,517,480.00 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007. The statewide change for the same period was an increase of 5.4 percent in gross sales. The total number of **reporting outlets** for the same period was 1,224 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006 and 1,268 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007. This region had an increase of 3.6 percent in the study area compared to the statewide change for the same period of an increase of 2.4 percent. For the most recent Gross Retail Sales information, please see: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/>.

## **Housing**

**Household Units and Size:** The total number of **housing units** in 2000 in Lamar County according to the Census was 19,077 with an average household size of 2.5 persons. The average **household size** for Texas was 2.7 persons for the same period. **Home ownership rates** for this area was 67.2 percent compared to Texas statewide which had a rate of 63.8 percent. While in Texas statewide the percent of households with persons under 18 years of age in 2000 was 40.9 percent, this study area had a percent of 36.3. The percent of households with persons 65 years of age or older was 19.9 percent in Texas statewide while 27.7 percent of Lamar County had households with individuals 65 years of age and older.

**Types of Structures:** While Texas had approximately 63.4 percent of the housing units in the category of one **detached structures** in 2000 according to the census, the study area had approximately 76.7 percent. **Mobile homes** in the area made up 8.0 percent when compared to a statewide percentage of 9.0 percent. More recently built housing structures in the area shows new development has taken place in the region. The total number of **new housing structures** built between 1995 and March 2000 was 2,313 or 11.0 percent in Lamar County compared to 13.2 percent statewide.

**Owner and Renter Occupied:** According to the 2000 Census, the percent of **owner-occupied** units with a value of \$100,000 or greater in Lamar County was 15.6 percent compared to 36.7 percent for the state. The percent of **renter-occupied** units with rent values of \$500 per month or greater was 30.6 percent as compared to the Texas percentage of 60.4 percent. The **median home value** in Lamar County according to the 2000 census was \$57,300.00 compared to a statewide median value of \$82,500.00. **Median rent** for the area was \$430.00 compared to \$574.00 for the state. For this area, the total number of renter-occupied housing units was 6,251 which represented 32.8 percent of all occupied housing units in 2000. This compares to a Texas statewide percentage of 36.2 percent for the same period.

## Education

The total number of public independent school districts in Lamar County for the school year 1999-2000 was 5 according to the Texas Education Agency. The overall average daily attendance for the same year was 8,548.

**Enrollment:** School enrollment data from the 2000 Census showed that there were 12,054 persons in the population who were 3 years of age and older and enrolled in school in the study area during the census collection period. Of this population, the following table shows a breakdown of what types of schools persons were enrolled compared to similar statewide information:

<u>Type of School</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Area Percent</u>	<u>Statewide Percent</u>
Nursery school or preschool	852	7.1	6.6
Kindergarten	734	6.1	5.9

<b>Elementary School (grades 1-8)</b>	5,750	47.7	45.5
<b>High School (grades 9-12)</b>	2,871	23.8	21.9
<b>College or graduate school</b>	1,847	15.3	20.2

**Educational Attainment:** The total number of persons 25 years of age or older who responded to the level of educational attainment during the 2000 Census was 31,612. Of those persons, the following presents a table on various levels of educational attainment for this region compared to statewide percentages:

<b><u>Educational Attainment</u></b>	<b><u>Count</u></b>	<b><u>Area Percent</u></b>	<b><u>Statewide Percent</u></b>
<b>Less than 9th Grade</b>	2,584	8.2	11.5
<b>9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma</b>	4,898	15.5	12.9
<b>H.S. graduate (inc. equiv.)</b>	10,501	33.2	24.8
<b>Some college, no degree</b>	7,237	22.9	22.4
<b>Associate Degree</b>	1,824	5.8	5.2
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	2,987	9.4	15.6
<b>Graduate or Prof. Degree</b>	1,581	5.0	7.6

Another useful grouping of these statistics shows that the percent of high school graduates or higher was 76.3 percent for the area compared to 75.7 percent for Texas. Also, the percent with bachelor's degree or higher was 14.5 percent as compared to 23.2 percent for Texas.

**Dropout and Attrition Rates:** Information from the Texas Education Agency on student **dropouts** from public schools for 2004-2005 shows that 20 students, grades 7-12, dropped out of school in this study area. This represents a dropout rate of 0.46 percent as compared to a Texas statewide percentage of 0.90 percent of all students who dropped out during this period. **Attrition** rates are often viewed as measures of the percentage of students that begin high school but do not graduate with a diploma. It is arguably a more reasonable way to view dropouts from an economic viewpoint. One way to view educational progress in a region is to estimate the number of persons who persist to high school graduation as opposed to standard dropout statistics. Attrition rates are calculated by the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA). IDRA conducts research and development activities; creates, implements and administers innovative education programs; and provides teacher, administrator, and parent training and technical assistance. The attrition rates for Lamar County during the period 2004-2005 by race and ethnicity were 29 percent for all students, 38 percent for Blacks, 27 percent for Whites, and 12 percent for Hispanics. In order to review the latest Secondary Schools Enrollment and Dropouts information posted on the Texas Education Agency, link to:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/research/>.

## Health

**Health Facilities** - The number of acute and psychiatric care **hospitals** in Lamar County as of October 2007 was 3, with an average total beds capacity of approximately 129.7 compared to a statewide ratio of 123.1 beds per hospital according to statistical reports from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data reporting on health care facilities. The Texas State Board of Pharmacy data for October 2007 shows there are 17 licensed **pharmacies** in the study area. The total number of licensed pharmacies statewide is 5,919. For additional information on Texas Pharmacies, link to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy at <http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/index.htm>.

**Health Practitioners** - According to the Texas Department of State Health Services October 2007 report, there were 145 direct patient care and primary care **physicians** who practiced in the region. The ratio of total persons to each physician in the area was 347.7 residents per each physician. This compares to a statewide ratio of 460.5 persons for each physician in Texas. Another way of reporting these figures is by showing the number of physicians as a ratio per 100,000 residents. In this study area, the ratio in direct patient care was 475.7 as compared to the statewide ratio of 638.3 in direct patient care physicians per 100,000 population as of 2007. The ratio of physicians in primary care was 1,260.5 compared to a statewide ratio of 1,472.0 physicians in primary care per 100,000 persons in the population statewide. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data.

The study area had a total of 534 **registered nurses** (RN) working in the study area, representing a ratio of 94.4 persons for each RN in the area. The statewide ratio was 152.2 persons for each RN in the state. For the same time period, the ratio of RNs per 100,000 population was 1,059.3 compared to 657.0 per 100,000 statewide. Link to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more data.

The number of **licensed vocational nurses** (LVN) who practiced in the area was 371 representing a ratio of 135.9 persons per each LVN in the area. This compared to 363.8 persons per each LVN statewide. The ratio of LVNs per 100,000 population was 735.8 compared to 274.9 per 100,000 population statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services information for October 2007 also reports that there were 22 **dentists** in the study area, with a ratio of 2,291.8 persons for each dentist in the area. The ratio of dentists per 100,000 residents was 43.6. By comparison, there was a statewide ratio of 42.8 dentists per 100,000 residents, with a total of 10,151 dentists statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

According to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services for October 2007, there were 226 licensed **Emergency Medical Technicians**, or EMTs, for the

study area; a ratio of 448.2 licensed EMTs per 100,000 residents. The statewide ratio was 218.0 EMTs per 100,000 residents, with a total of 51,718 EMTs statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

Also, according to the October 2007 report from the Texas Department of State Health Services, there were 35 **pharmacists** in this area, which is a ratio of 1,440.5 persons for each pharmacist. Texas has 18,138 pharmacists statewide, or a ratio of 1,308.2 persons for each pharmacist in the area. The ratio of pharmacists per 100,000 residents was 69.4 compared to 76.4 per 100,000 residents statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services information for October 2007 shows that for the study area there were 6 **occupational therapists**; a ratio of 8,403.2 persons for each occupational therapist. The statewide ratio was 11,072.6 persons for each occupational therapist, with a total of 2,143 occupational therapists statewide. The ratio of occupational therapists per 100,000 residents was 11.9 compared to 9.0 statewide. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Health Professionals and related information.

### Medical & Health Services Employment\*

Area			Statewide		
2006 1st Qtr	2007 1st Qtr	Pct Change	2006 1st Qtr	2007 1st Qtr	Pct Change
1,850	1,959	5.89%	994,043	1,015,987	2.21%

\* Includes: Hospitals, Medical/Health Offices; Home Health, Nursing, Elderly Residential facilities; Individual/Family, Emergency & Other Relief Svcs., Vocational Rehab. Svcs.  
 [NAICS: 6211,6212-19,6221-23,6231-32,6239,6242-43]  
 Due to confidentiality, employment for small areas may be suppressed and reported as zero.

**Health Statistics** - Some of the leading **causes of mortality** in Texas include malignant neoplasms or cancer, heart disease, and chronic lower respiratory disease. From information gathered by Texas Department of State Health Services for 2004, the study area had a total of 113 reported deaths from malignant neoplasm **cancer**. On a statewide level, Texas had 33,836 reported deaths from malignant neoplasm cancer. Texas Department of State Health Services reports that for 2004 there were 181 deaths from **heart disease**, and 31 deaths from lower respiratory disease in the selected study area. By contrast, Texas statewide had 40,091 deaths from heart disease and 7,387 deaths from **chronic lower respiratory disease**. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

Several state agencies collect statistics on health status indicators that can be used to assess the strengths or weaknesses of public health in a local area or community. For this study area, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported for August 2004 there were 4 **infant deaths**, as compared with a statewide rate of 2,398. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported that for August 2003 there were 39 total **teen pregnancies** in this area. There were different teen pregnancy rates in the study area depending on race, with 14 for Black teens, 1 for Hispanic teens and 24 for White teens. Statewide rates for teenage pregnancy were 19,730 for total teenage pregnancies, with 3,003 for Black teens, 12,693 for Hispanic teens and 4,034 for White teens. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for a wider variety of Texas health, disease and related information.

In the Health and Human Services 2003 Data Book, figures show that the number of children under 19 in this area whom were **not covered by health insurance** is 1,955, which is 6.8% of the reported population in that age group. The number of **uninsured children** statewide is 885,999, or 7.1% of the reported population for children under 19. For more information, or to view or download the entire data book, see <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us>.

## Information On The Web

The Bureau of Census has a variety of useful Quick Facts for each county in Texas. The Quick Fact report for Lamar county can be accessed at the following URL: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48277.html>. Some counties maintain their own Internet sites for local information. If a county hosts its own Web site, it may be accessed through a URL with the following format <http://www.co.County Name Goes Here.tx.us>.

To research additional websites on Counties, consider any of the following:

Texas A-Z List of counties with web sites:

<http://www.state.tx.us/category.jsp?language=eng&categoryId=6.2.1>

Texas Conference on Urban Counties: <http://www.cuc.org>

State of Texas Web Site - Texas Counties: <http://www.state.tx.us>

Texas Economic Development: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev>

TWC's LMI unit, Tracer: <http://www.tracer2.com/>

Texas Association of Counties: <http://www.county.org>

V.G. Young Institute of County Government: <http://vgyi.tamu.edu/>

Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University: <http://recenter.tamu.edu>

Bureau of Business Research, University of Texas:

<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/bbr>

National Association of Counties: <http://www.naco.org>

"Uniform Crime Statistics, County Reports" Geostat-Geospatial & Statistical Data Center, University of Virginia: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/crime>  
Compare County Data Nationwide:  
[http://www.stats.indiana.edu/uspr/a/sbs\\_profile\\_frame.html](http://www.stats.indiana.edu/uspr/a/sbs_profile_frame.html)

## Other Facts of Interest

- According to the Texas Secretary of State's Office, for the November 2004 presidential election, there were 30,584 **registered voters** in Lamar County. The **voter turnout** was 17,470 representing 57.1 percent of **eligible voters**. The **election results** were 12,054 or 69.0 percent for Bush/Cheney, 5,338 or 30.6 percent for Kerry/Edwards, and 78 or 0.4 percent for all other presidential candidates. The statewide results were 61.1 percent for Bush/Cheney, 38.2 percent for Kerry/Edwards, and approximately 0.7 percent for all other candidates. See: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml> for other topics of interest.
- Information on the three categories of child placement services from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for 2006 showed that the area had 0 **foster homes**, 7 **foster/adoptive homes** and 0 **adoptive homes**. The total number of **licensed day care facilities** were 28 with a total capacity of 1,695. The total number of **family homes licensed for 24-hour care** was 4. Link to [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data\\_Books\\_and\\_Annual\\_Reports/2006/databook/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2006/databook/default.asp) for further information.
- In Lamar County, there were approximately 71 **crimes** reported for every 1,000 persons in 1998 and 75 crimes reported in 1999 for every 1,000 persons. This compares to a statewide total of approximately 52 crimes in 1998 and 51 crimes reported for every 1,000 person in Texas. See the U.S. Dept. of Justice site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dtdata.htm> for the most recent reported data.
- The total **jail capacity** for public and private jails in the region was 196 as of October 1, 2006 according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

**Jail population** was at 89.8 percent capacity when compared to maximum capacity. At this same time, this compared to a statewide capacity of 90.4 percent. For more detailed information, see to:

<http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/index.php?linkid=320>.

- The region had 7 **commercial banks** in 2007, as reported by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), with **total deposits** of \$581,000,000 and **assets** of \$444,877,000. The 2007 **deposit to population ratio** was \$11,673 for the Lamar County region compared to the Texas ratio of \$13,816. A ratio less than the state average generally indicates either the presence of an adjacent city or county not within the described region serving as a regional financial center, or per capita income well below the state average. These numbers do not reflect assets and deposits which are held in branch offices of banks whose headquarters are in another city or state. The most recent FDIC data for this area is at <http://www2.fdic.gov/sod/index.asp>.
- While all counties in Texas are served by banks, savings and loan institutions and credit unions, many counties may not show these offices directly reported in its geography by the FDIC or other governing agencies. For the period for reporting for 2007 in Lamar County, the number of **saving and loans** was 1 which had a total of savings and loan assets of \$30,771,600 and deposits of \$20,200,000. These figures are in contrast to the statewide total of 54 savings and loans, with \$7,767,193,400 in assets and \$12,067,400,000 in deposits. For more information, please see: <http://www2.fdic.gov/sdi/index.asp>. There were 5 **credit unions** in the study area according to the National Credit Union Administration data. For 2007, the latest year of reported data, these credit unions had a total of \$28,955,060 in assets and \$21,543,444 in deposits, as compared to a total of 615 credit unions statewide, with \$48,883,686,146 in assets and \$36,648,314,014 in deposits. Credit union statistics and other information on credit unions can be found at <http://www.ncua.gov/data/custmqry.html>.

This report is brought to you by:

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Lamar County is in North Texas on the Oklahoma border. Paris, the county's largest town and the county seat, is about 100 miles northeast of Dallas. The largest towns are Paris, Blossom, Deport, Reno, and Roxton. Lamar County, FIPSCODE 48283, is the 56th largest of the 254 counties in Texas, with an estimated population of 48,499 in 2000.

The county consists of 932 square miles with a 2000 population density of 52.9 residents per square mile. The average density in Texas is 79.6 persons per square mile which is the same as the national average. Rainfall in Lamar County averages 46.1 inches per year as compared to the Texas average of 28.1 inches per year.

### FARMING

The average growing season in Lamar County is 235 days with the first freeze generally occurring around November 14. Texas is so climatically diverse that statewide averages are irrelevant as a means of comparison.

Farming	1987	1997
Number of Farms	1,488	1,539
Acres of Farmland	406,639	431,136
Average Size of Farm (acres)	273	280

### POPULATION

According to the Census, Lamar County's population changed 10 percent from 1990 to 2000. The county's population was 43,949 in 1990 and 48,499 in 2000, an increase of 4,550. In 2000, the median age was 36.9 years versus a statewide average of 32.3 years and a national average of 35.3 years. The Texas Department of Human Services reported there were 724 births and 582 deaths in Lamar County in 2000.

The 2000 Census estimates for Texas show a population composition as follows:

Age Breakdown	Lamar County	Texas
Under 18	26.1%	28.2%
18-24	8.6%	10.5%
25-44	26.8%	31.1%
45-64	22.9%	20.2%
65+	15.6%	9.9%

The 2000 Census Bureau's race/ethnic distribution estimates are as follows:

Group	Lamar County	Lamar County (Percent)	Texas	Texas (Percent)
White	39,990	82%	14,799,505	71.0%
Black	6,534	13%	2,404,566	11.5%
Hispanic	1,614	3%	6,669,666	32.0%
Asian	192	0%	562,319	2.7%

American Indian and Alaska Native	522	1%	118,362	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	11	0%	14,434	0.1%

"Numbers may add up to more than the total population and more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race."

## HOUSEHOLDS

The county had approximately 19,077 households in 2000 according to the Census. This represents an average of 2.48 persons per household. The housing per square mile rate was 11.2 percent and the county's homeowner rate was 67.2 percent. "

The mean travel time to work was 20.1 minutes compared to a state average of 25.4 minutes. The number of people over 16 who commuted to work was 20,124 while the number that worked at home was 459. The commuting to work breakdown was as follows: drove alone (16,367), carpooled (2,660), public transportation (57), walked (352), and other means (229)."

## EDUCATION

According to the Census, 12,054 people in Lamar County were enrolled in school in 2000. Countywide, 76.3 percent had a high school diploma or higher and 14.5 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. The equivalent statewide figures for a high school diploma or higher and a bachelor's degree or higher were 75.7 percent and 23.2 percent, respectively. "

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT*		EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school		Population 25 years and over	
Nursery school, preschool	852	Less than 9th grade	2,584
Kindergarten	734	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,898
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	5,750	High school graduate	10,501
High school (grades 9-12)	2,871	Some college, no degree	7,237
College or graduate school	1,847	Associate degree	1,824
		Bachelor's degree	2,987
		Graduate or professional degree	1,581
Total	12,054		31,612

## FISCAL INFORMATION

In 1999, the Health and Human Services Commission's poverty estimates for Lamar County was 8,262 or 18.83 percent of the non-institutional population. Approximately 3,307,787 Texans or 16.54 percent of the total population fell beneath the poverty line in 1999; this exceeded the U.S. poverty rate of 11.8 percent. "There were 6,805 people enrolled in Medicaid in April 2002 with 3,589 of those being under the age of 18.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts reported total state expenditures of \$120,347,791 for Lamar County in their "State Expenditures by County 2000" report. The State spent \$42,684,430 on public assistance and \$18,348,848 on highway construction and maintenance in Lamar County. During the third quarter of 2001, gross sales for all industries totaled \$250,454,887. Comparing the third quarter of 2000 to the third quarter of 2001, gross sales changed 9 percent (from \$229,287,999). The county had 16 bank offices in 2001, as reported by the FDIC, with total deposits of \$720 million. This represents 0.30 percent of total deposits in Texas (\$243,390 million).

## LABOR FORCE

The county civilian labor force was 24,892 in April 2008 and the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 3.9 percent in April 2008.

In the first quarter of 2007, Lamar County had 20,628 employed persons and an average weekly wage of \$583 as compared to the statewide average of \$871.

Lamar County Industry Sector	AREA EMPLOYMENT				STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT			
	2006 1st Qtr	2007 1st Qtr	Abs Chg	Pct Chg	2006 1st Qtr	2007 1st Qtr	Abs Chg	Pct Chg
Total, All Industries	19,823	20,628	805	4.06	9,719,010	10,048,199	329,189	3.39
Natural Resources & Mining	50	56	6	12.00	236,212	257,039	20,827	8.82
Construction	1,075	1,395	320	29.77	622,232	657,740	35,508	5.71
Manufacturing	4,487	4,425	-62	-1.38	915,190	936,812	21,622	2.36
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	3,906	4,022	116	2.97	2,103,698	2,164,776	61,078	2.90
Information	236	208	-28	-11.86	229,088	227,164	-1,924	-0.84
Financial Activities Group	787	866	79	10.04	613,457	631,936	18,479	3.01
Prof., Business & Other Svcs	1,413	1,613	200	14.15	1,204,538	1,272,803	68,265	5.67
Education & Health Svcs.	5,329	5,479	150	2.81	2,173,510	2,238,883	65,373	3.01
Leisure & Hospitality Group	1,492	1,528	36	2.41	926,049	960,510	34,461	3.72
Other Services	456	439	-17	-3.73	275,605	281,953	6,348	2.30
Public Administration	588	596	8	1.36	408,486	410,548	2,062	0.50

## Lamar County

Lamar County had an estimated 2006 population of 49,863 and is considered a rural county. Lamar County has approximately 17.7% of its population under the U. S. poverty rate. It covers approximately 932 square miles and borders Red River County to the east and Delta County in the south. The April 2008 unemployment rate for Lamar County was 4.2%. Lamar County has an estimated labor force of 24,892 as of April 2008 and a Per Capita Income of \$24,993 in 2005.

According to the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce, Lamar County has a strong industrial base. The City of Paris, Texas is the largest incorporated area in Lamar County. Some of its major strengths are the regional medical community and Paris Junior College, whose enrollment is increasing and is committed to educating a well-trained workforce. Paris Junior College is a two-year community college with several technical programs that have received financial support from the Paris Economic Development Corporation. Paris Junior College also has a branch in nearby Sulphur Springs (Hopkins County) and is very receptive to developing industry-related programs. Turner Industries launched a welder training program with Paris Junior College in an effort to increase the skill level of their welders and increase the number of jobs at their facility by 32 individuals by 2009.

As a result of its proximity, Lamar County is linked with the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metro area and is influenced by activities in that area. The Lamar County area is also impacted by NAFTA, due to its location. Lamar County's major employers include Campbell Soup, with approximately 800 employees; Kimberly Clark, with approximately 850 employees; Turner Pipe, with approximately 500 employees; Sara Lee Bakery Group, with approximately 600 employees; and Wal-mart Supercenter, with approximately 400 employees. Some of the industries competing in the national market include Kimberly Clark; Rogers Wade, which employs approximately 120 persons and makes cabinetry for Blockbuster Video; and Phillips Lighting, which is a Belgian owned company. Sesaco is the only sesame seed processing plant in the United States and employs approximately 26 persons.

One of the weaknesses in the economy is the lack of transportation links. The area is dependent on the bus lines as a source of public transportation. There are no commercial airlines coming into the Lamar County area and no interstate quality highway. Only short line rail service is available in the area. The lack of interstate quality highways may be a liability but Paris and Lamar County have done a remarkable job of attracting and retaining industry without an interstate.


However, Lamar County is fortunate to have an abundant natural water supply at Pat Mayes Lake and Lake Crook. The majority of the Lake water is designated for industrial development. Lamar County tourism should benefit from development of the Pat Mayes Lake area. The historic area around Paris' downtown is also an attraction for tourists visiting in the area.

With the purchase of two tracts of adjacent land, Paris Economic Development Corporation (**PEDC**) is adding about 38 acres to the Paris Industrial Park. The addition of these sites to the Park not only provides more land for industrial development, but also



















opens up a southern point of access to the Park. This expansion increases the Industrial Park acreage to approximately 190 acres of rail-accessible industrial land.

Continued development in industrial areas will require considerable investment for infrastructure improvements. Lamar County continues to participate in NETEDD activities, provide leadership and the City of Paris has participated in the NETEDD revolving loan fund.

# Lamar County, Texas

 Further information

Want more? [Browse data sets for Lamar County](#)

	Lamar		Texas
People QuickFacts	County		
 Population, 2006 estimate	49,863		23,507,783
 Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006	2.8%		12.7%
 Population, 2000	48,499		20,851,820
 Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2006	6.8%		8.2%
 Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2006	25.1%		27.6%
 Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2006	16.0%		9.9%
 Female persons, percent, 2006	52.3%		50.2%
 White persons, percent, 2006 (a)	83.6%		82.7%
 Black persons, percent, 2006 (a)	13.2%		11.9%
 American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2006 (a)	1.1%		0.7%
 Asian persons, percent, 2006 (a)	0.5%		3.4%
 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2006 (a)	Z		0.1%
 Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2006	1.5%		1.2%
 Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2006 (b)	4.8%		35.7%
 White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2006	79.2%		48.3%
 Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	49.6%		49.6%
 Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	2.1%		13.9%
 Language other than English spoken at home, pct age	4.7%		31.2%

5+, 2000

<input type="checkbox"/> High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	76.3%	75.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	14.5%	23.2%
<input type="checkbox"/> Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	10,775	3,605,542
<input type="checkbox"/> Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	20.1	25.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing units, 2006	22,041	9,224,361
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeownership rate, 2000	67.2%	63.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	13.8%	24.2%
<input type="checkbox"/> Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$57,300	\$82,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Households, 2000	19,077	7,393,354
<input type="checkbox"/> Persons per household, 2000	2.48	2.74
<input type="checkbox"/> Median household income, 2004	\$32,581	\$41,645
<input type="checkbox"/> Per capita money income, 1999	\$17,000	\$19,617
<input type="checkbox"/> Persons below poverty, percent, 2004	17.7%	16.2%

**Lamar**

**Business QuickFacts**

**County Texas**

<input type="checkbox"/> Private nonfarm establishments, 2005	1,209	497,758 <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> Private nonfarm employment, 2005	15,966	8,305,102 <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2005	-4.9%	3.5% <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonemployer establishments, 2005	3,568	1,686,274
<input type="checkbox"/> Total number of firms, 2002	4,369	1,734,509

<input type="checkbox"/> Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	S	5.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	4.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	S	18.4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	25.9%	27.0%

<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000)	2,236,310	310,815,965
<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale trade sales, 2002 (\$1000)	152,069	397,405,111
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000)	535,974	228,694,755
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail sales per capita, 2002	\$10,918	\$10,528
<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 (\$1000)	52,029	29,914,774
<input type="checkbox"/> Building permits, 2006	81	216,642
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal spending, 2004 (\$1000)	313,133	141,858,480 <sup>1</sup>

**Lamar**

**Geography QuickFacts**

**County Texas**

<input type="checkbox"/> Land area, 2000 (square miles)	916.81	261,797.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Persons per square mile, 2000	52.9	79.6
<input type="checkbox"/> FIPS Code	277	48
<input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Paris, TX	
	Micro Area	

1: Includes data not distributed by county.

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information

F: Fewer than 100 firms

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data

NA: Not available

S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards

X: Not applicable

Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report  
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