



West Central Texas WDA



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Report Parameters

19 Counties

48049	Brown County, TX	48151	Fisher County, TX
48059	Callahan County, TX	48207	Haskell County, TX
48083	Coleman County, TX	48253	Jones County, TX
48093	Comanche County, TX	48263	Kent County, TX
48133	Eastland County, TX	<i>See Appendix A for all 19 Counties</i>	

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical areas.

Economy Overview

339,756

Population (2023)

Population **grew by 11,287** over the last 5 years and is projected to **grow by 18,591** over the next 5 years.

153,429

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **grew by 3,885** over the last 5 years and are projected to **grow by 10,810** over the next 5 years.

\$59.7K

Avg. Earnings Per Job (2023)

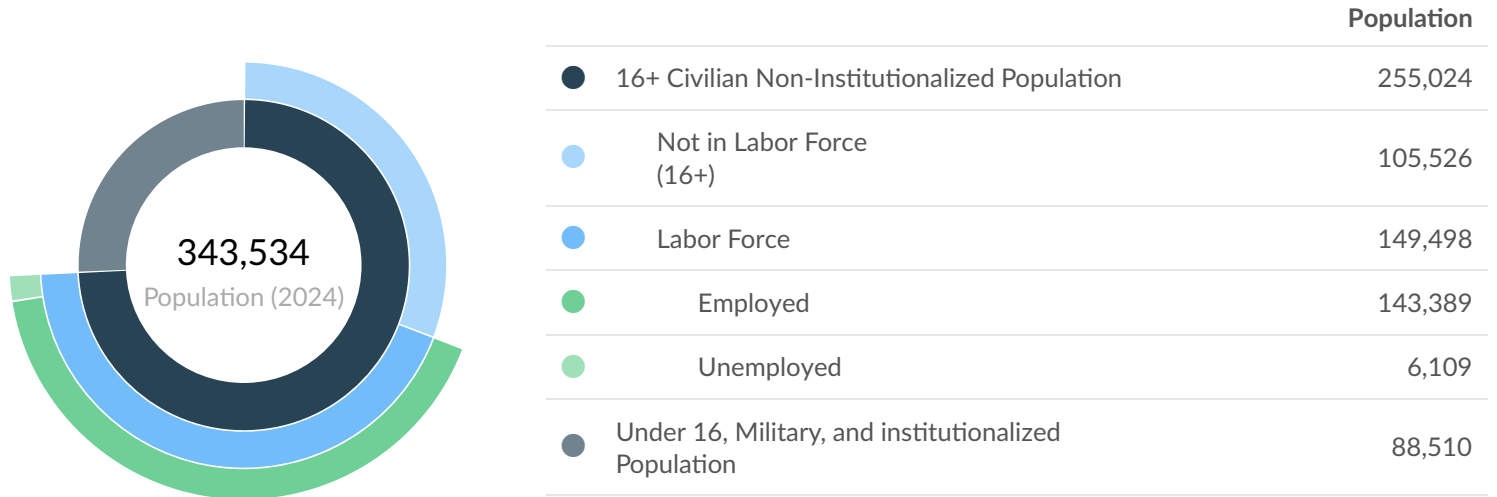
Regional average earnings per job are **\$22.9K below** the national average earnings of \$82.6K per job.

Takeaways

- As of 2023 the region's population **increased by 3.4%** since 2018, growing by 11,287. Population is expected to **increase by 5.5%** between 2023 and 2028, adding 18,591.
- From 2018 to 2023, jobs **increased by 2.6%** in West Central Texas WDA from 149,544 to **153,429**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 3.9% by 1.3%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate increased from 58.2% to 58.4% between 2018 and 2023**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **15.5% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.7% below the national average), and **8.5% hold an Associate's Degree** (0.4% below the national average).
- The top three industries in 2023 are Education and Hospitals (Local Government), Restaurants and Other Eating Places, and Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals.

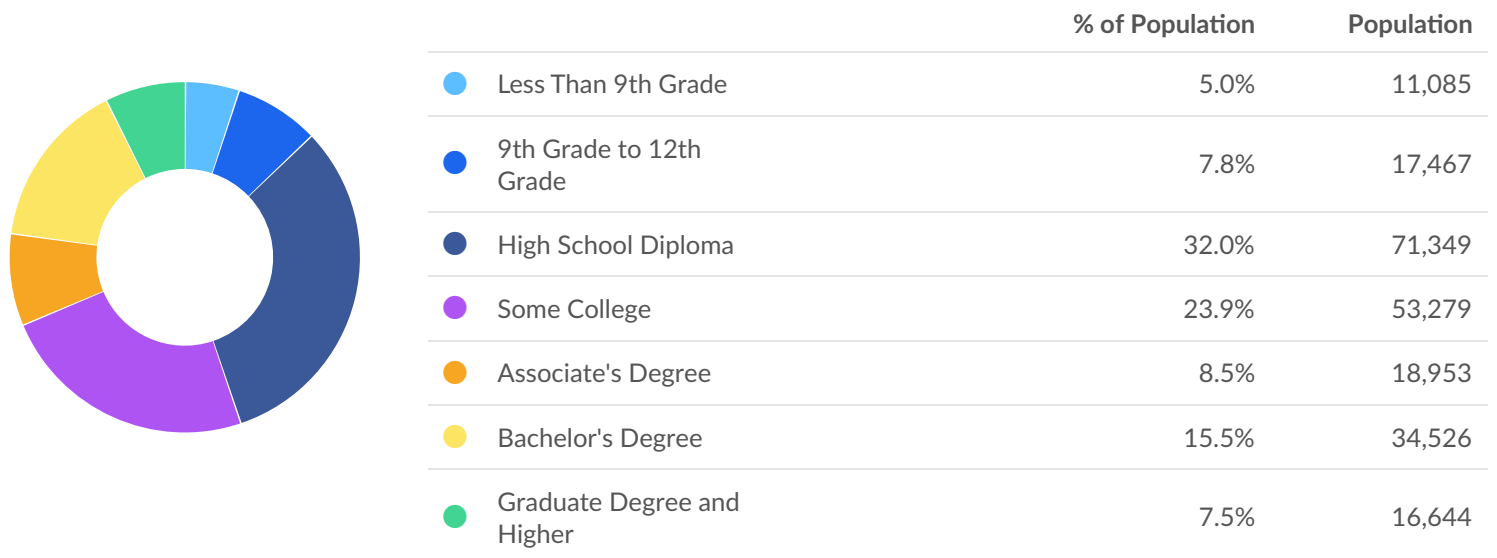
	Population (2024)	Labor Force (Feb 2024)	Jobs (2023)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	343,534	149,498	153,429	98.4	\$20.70B	\$27.36B	\$27.12B
State	30,752,082	15,295,672	15,458,671	96.6	\$2.40T	\$1.49T	\$1.91T

Feb 2024 Labor Force Breakdown



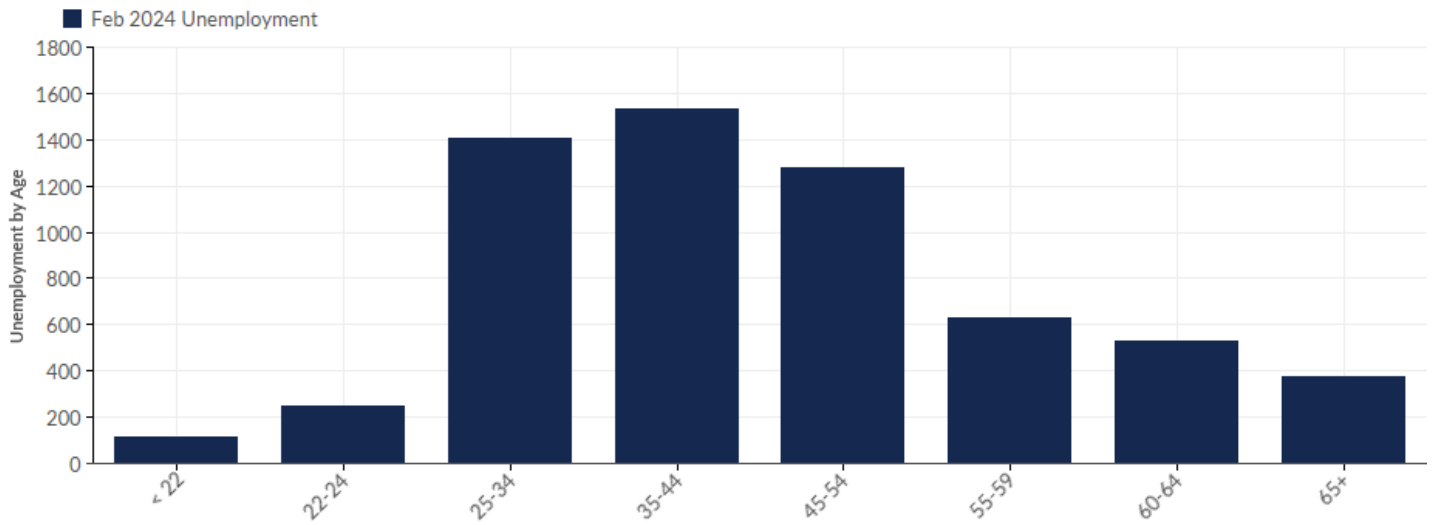
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **15.5% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.7% below the national average), and **8.5% hold an Associate's Degree** (0.4% below the national average).



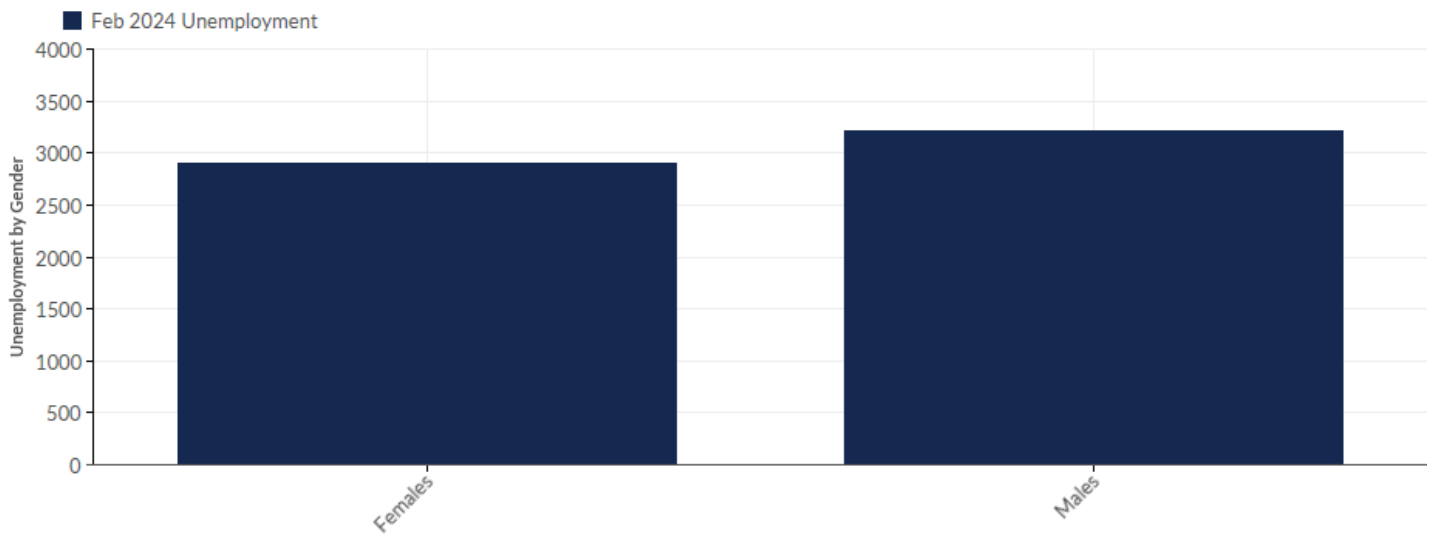
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



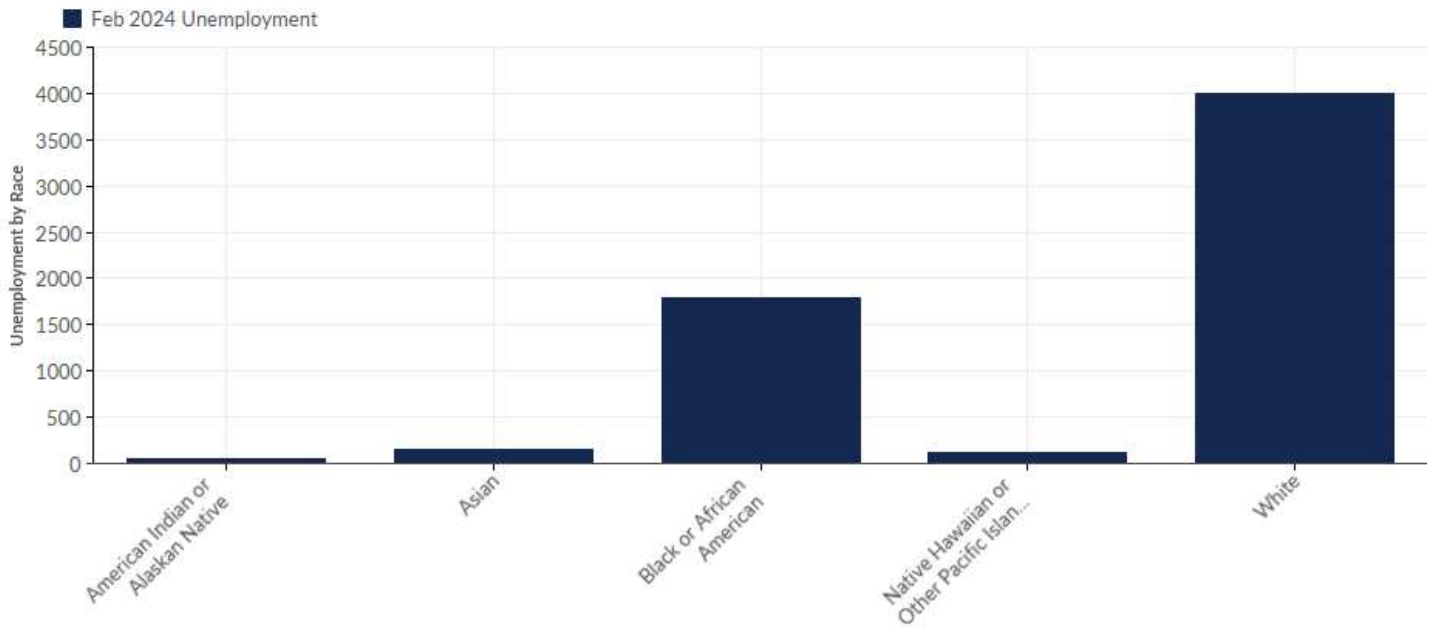
Age	Unemployment (Feb 2024)	% of Unemployed
< 22	111	1.82%
22-24	250	4.09%
25-34	1,407	23.03%
35-44	1,531	25.06%
45-54	1,278	20.92%
55-59	629	10.30%
60-64	528	8.64%
65+	375	6.14%
Total	6,109	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



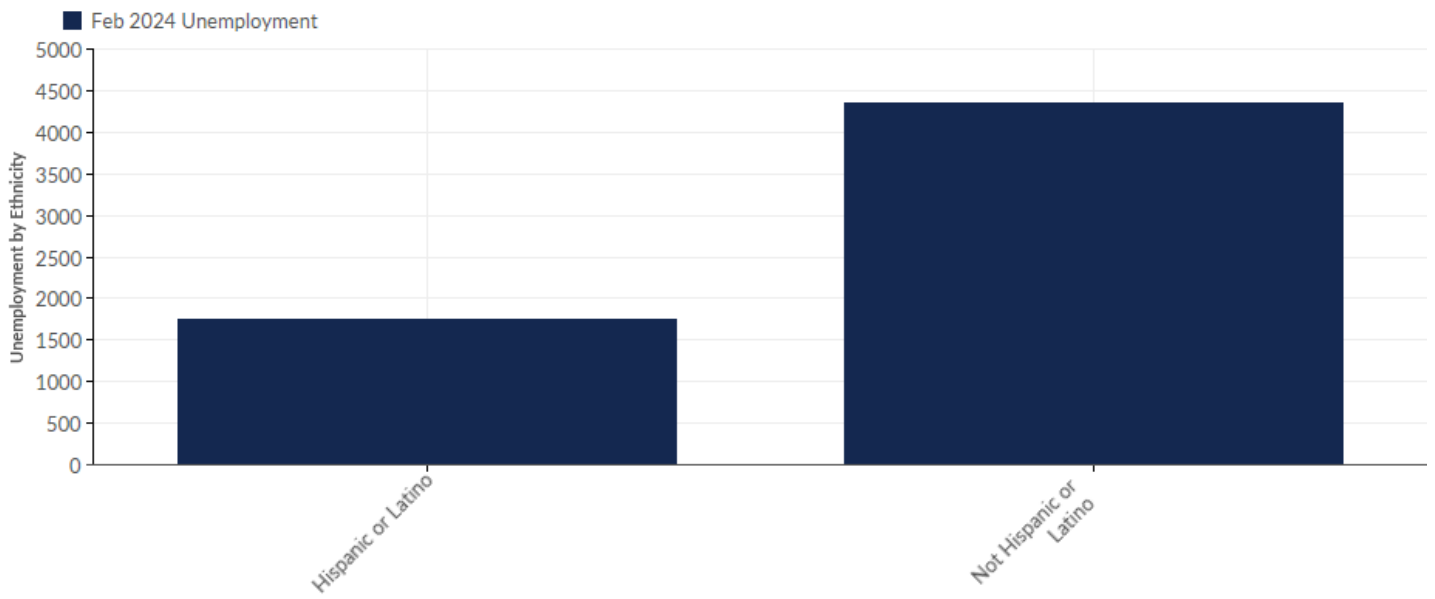
Gender	Unemployment (Feb 2024)	% of Unemployed
Females	2,902	47.50%
Males	3,207	52.50%
Total	6,109	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Feb 2024)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	51	0.83%
Asian	155	2.54%
Black or African American	1,797	29.42%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	111	1.82%
White	3,995	65.40%
Total	6,109	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

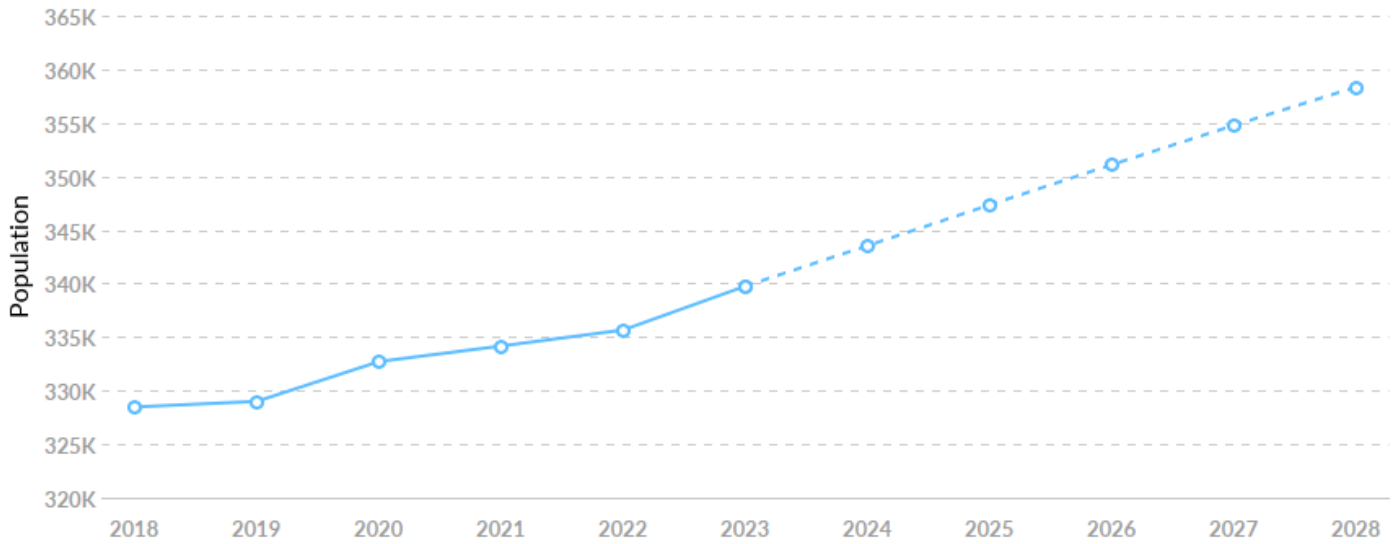


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Feb 2024)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	1,755	28.73%
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,354	71.27%
Total	6,109	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

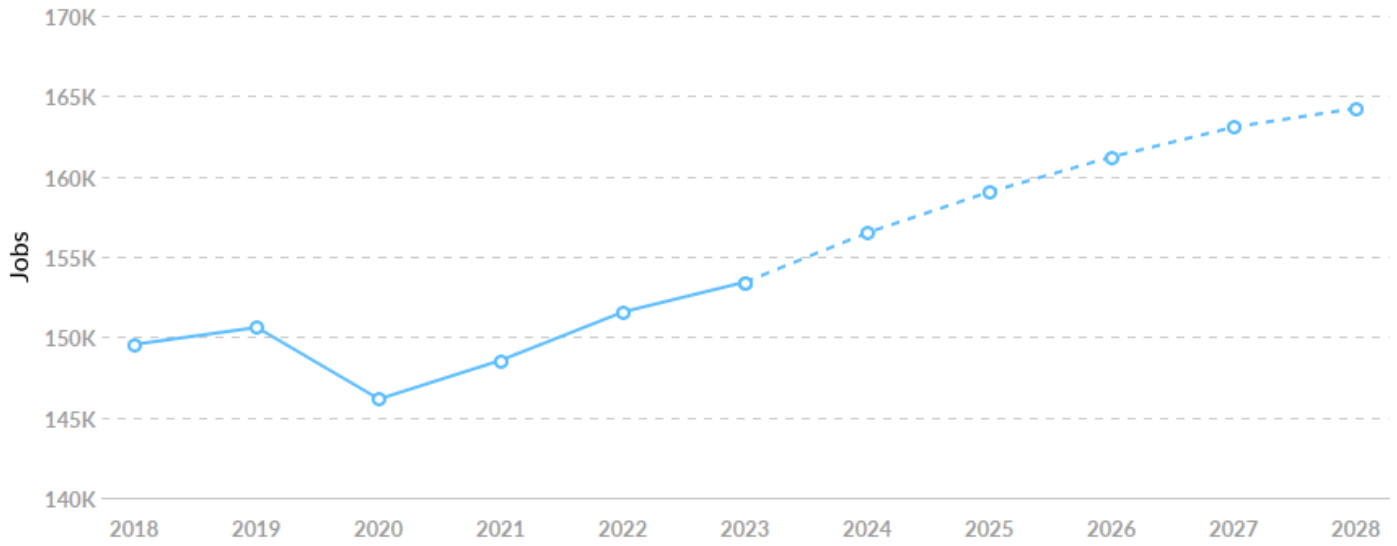
As of 2023 the region's population increased by 3.4% since 2018, growing by 11,287. Population is expected to increase by 5.5% between 2023 and 2028, adding 18,591.



Timeframe	Population
2018	328,469
2019	328,995
2020	332,712
2021	334,161
2022	335,660
2023	339,756
2024	343,534
2025	347,340
2026	351,094
2027	354,771
2028	358,347

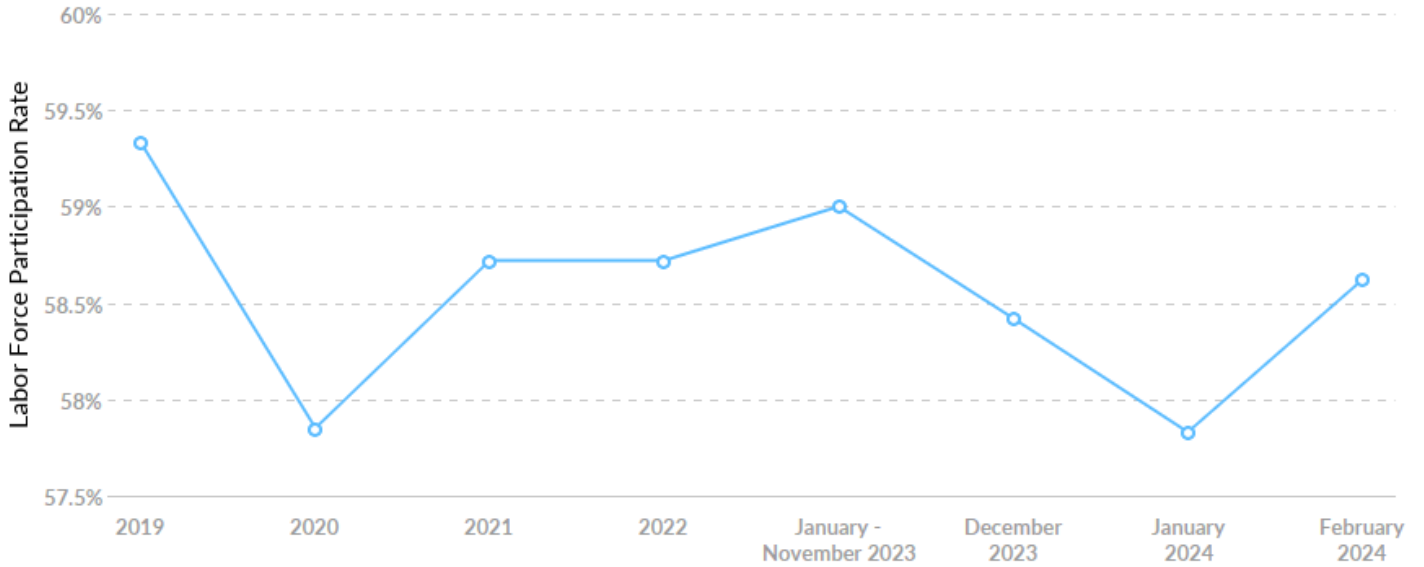
Job Trends

From 2018 to 2023, jobs increased by 2.6% in West Central Texas WDA from 149,544 to 153,429. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 3.9% by 1.3%.



Timeframe	Jobs
2018	149,544
2019	150,596
2020	146,139
2021	148,562
2022	151,567
2023	153,429
2024	156,497
2025	159,040
2026	161,213
2027	163,071
2028	164,239

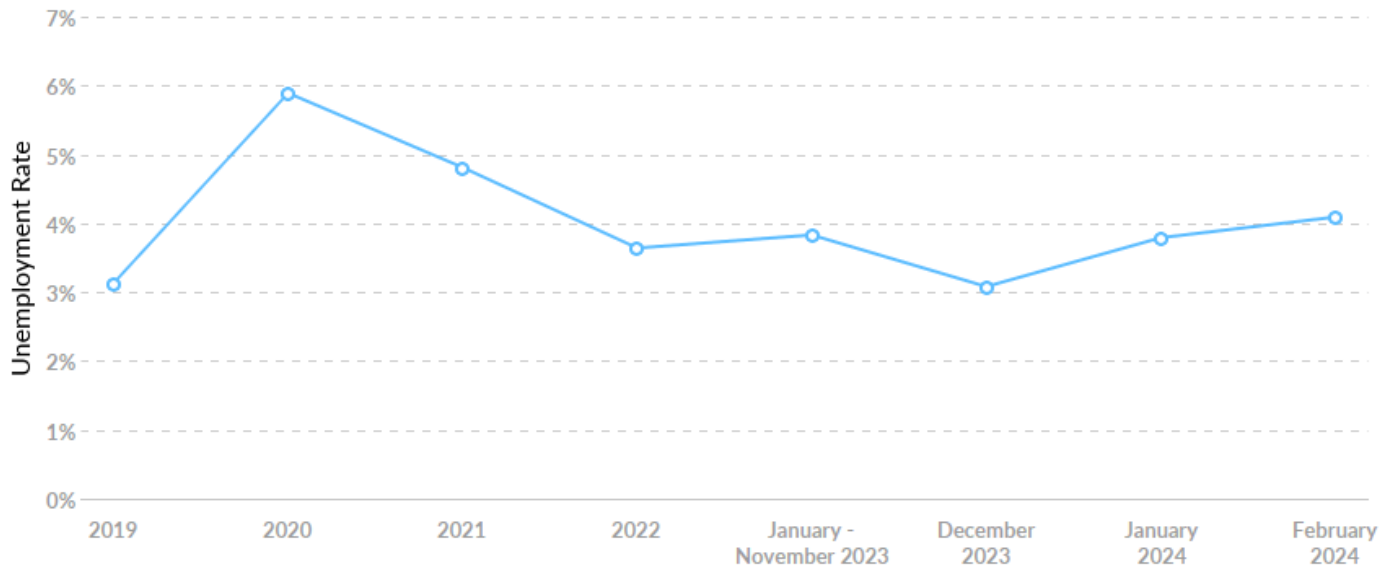
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2019	59.33%
2020	57.85%
2021	58.72%
2022	58.72%
January - November 2023	59.00%
December 2023	58.42%
January 2024	57.83%
February 2024	58.62%

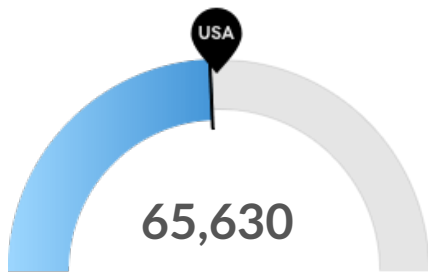
Unemployment Rate Trends

Your areas had a February 2024 unemployment rate of 4.09%, increasing from 3.13% 5 years before.



Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2019	3.13%
2020	5.89%
2021	4.81%
2022	3.64%
January - November 2023	3.83%
December 2023	3.08%
January 2024	3.79%
February 2024	4.09%

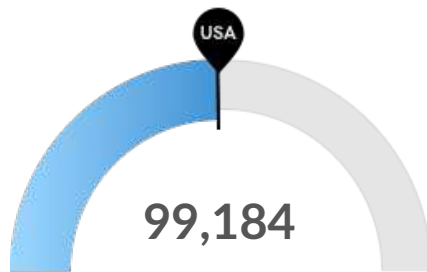
Population Characteristics



65,630

Millennials

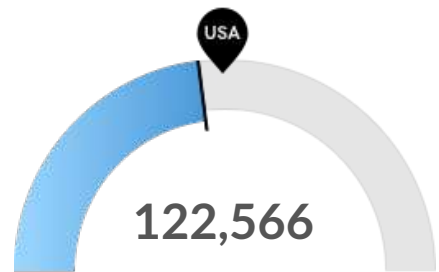
Your area has 65,630 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 68,252.



99,184

Retiring Soon

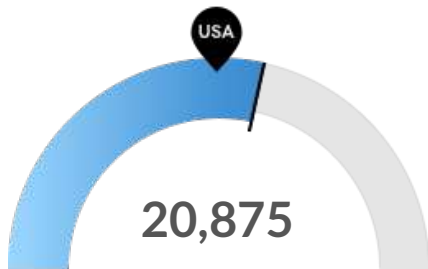
Retirement risk is about average in your area. The national average for an area this size is 100,591 people 55 or older, while there are 99,184 here.



122,566

Racial Diversity

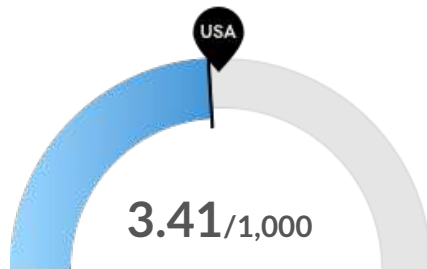
Racial diversity is low in your area. The national average for an area this size is 138,037 racially diverse people, while there are 122,566 here.



20,875

Veterans

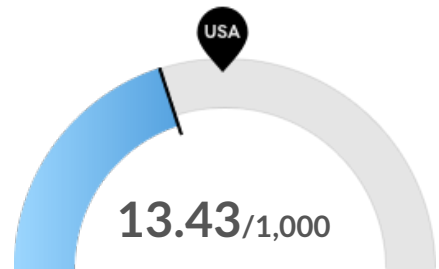
Your area has 20,875 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 17,160.



3.41/1,000

Violent Crime

Your area has 3.41 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.6 per 1,000 people.



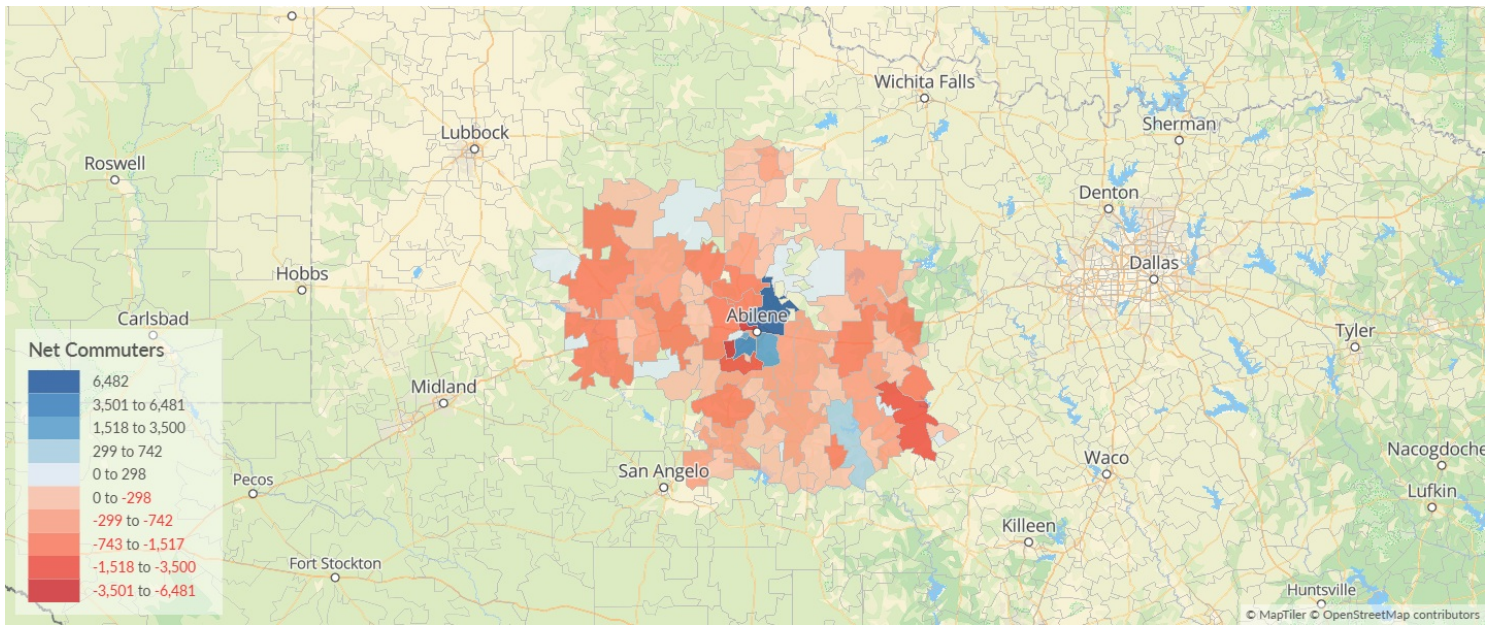
13.43/1,000

Property Crime

Your area has 13.43 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 18.22 per 1,000 people.

Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in the region currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions. For example, the #1 ranked ZIP for employment ranks #2 for resident workers. The top ZIP for resident workers is 79605.



Where Talent Works

ZIP	Name	2023 Employment
79606	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	17,491
79601	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	17,481
79602	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	15,691
79605	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	14,593
76801	Brownwood, TX (in Bro...	13,328

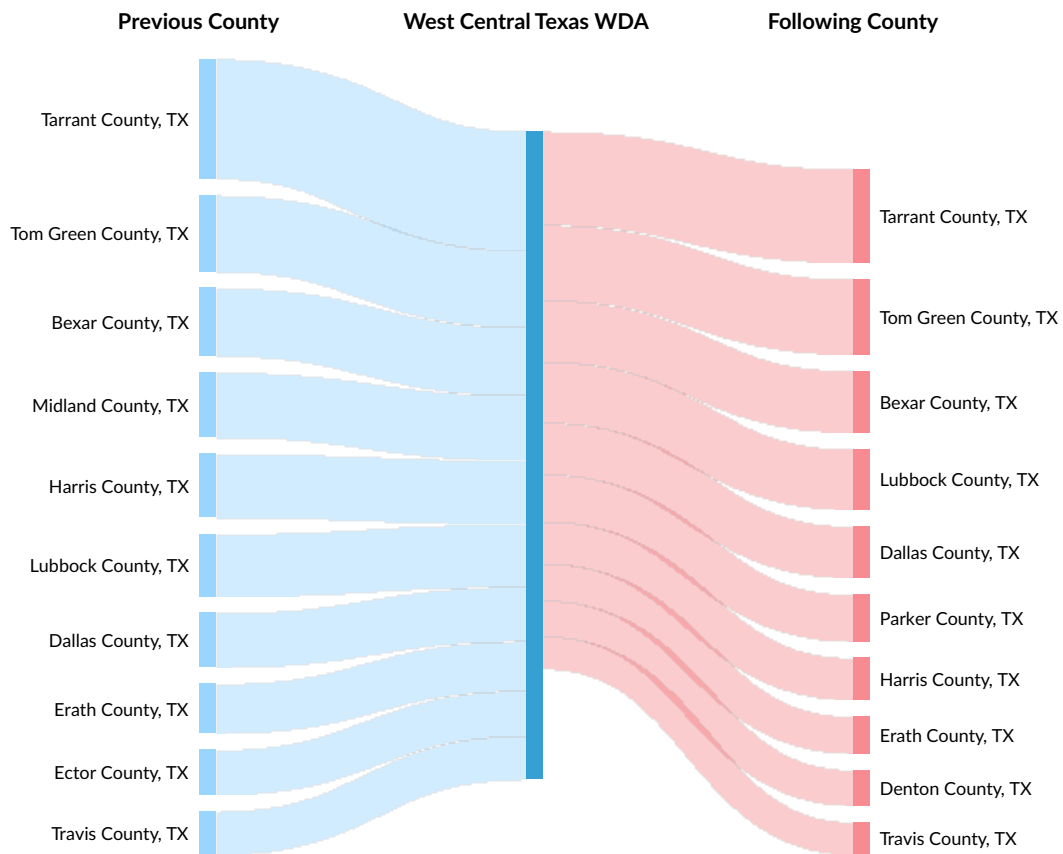
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2023 Workers
79605	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	15,266
79606	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	13,990
79602	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	13,930
76801	Brownwood, TX (in Bro...	12,639
79603	Abilene, TX (in Taylor co...	11,431

Inbound and Outbound Migration

The table below analyzes past and current residents of West Central Texas WDA. The left column shows residents of other counties migrating to West Central Texas WDA. The right column shows residents migrating from West Central Texas WDA to other counties.

As of 2021, 690 people have migrated from Tarrant County, TX to West Central Texas WDA. In the same year, 539 people left West Central Texas WDA migrating to Tarrant County, TX. The total Net Migration for West Central Texas WDA in 2021 was 1,648.



Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Tarrant County, TX	690
Tom Green County, TX	439
Bexar County, TX	392
Midland County, TX	374
Harris County, TX	367

Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Lubbock County, TX	360
Dallas County, TX	313
Erath County, TX	285
Ector County, TX	259
Travis County, TX	250
Williamson County, TX	240
Denton County, TX	233
Montgomery County, TX	166
Howard County, TX	152
Bell County, TX	147
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Tarrant County, TX	539
Tom Green County, TX	434
Bexar County, TX	355
Lubbock County, TX	350
Dallas County, TX	298
Parker County, TX	271
Harris County, TX	243
Erath County, TX	213
Denton County, TX	205
Travis County, TX	188
Williamson County, TX	168
Midland County, TX	164
Bell County, TX	144
McLennan County, TX	137

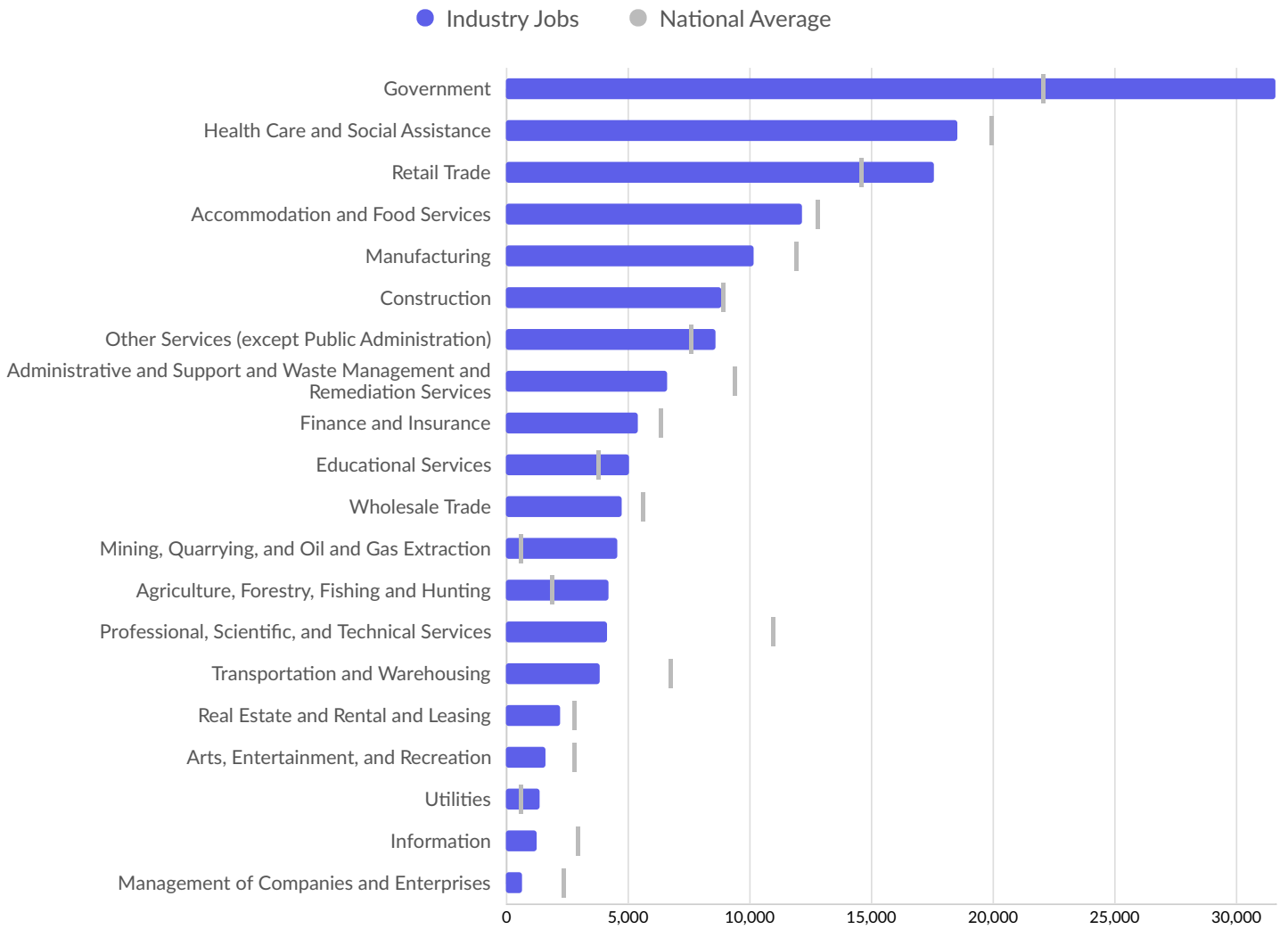
Top Following Counties**Migrations**

Wichita County, TX

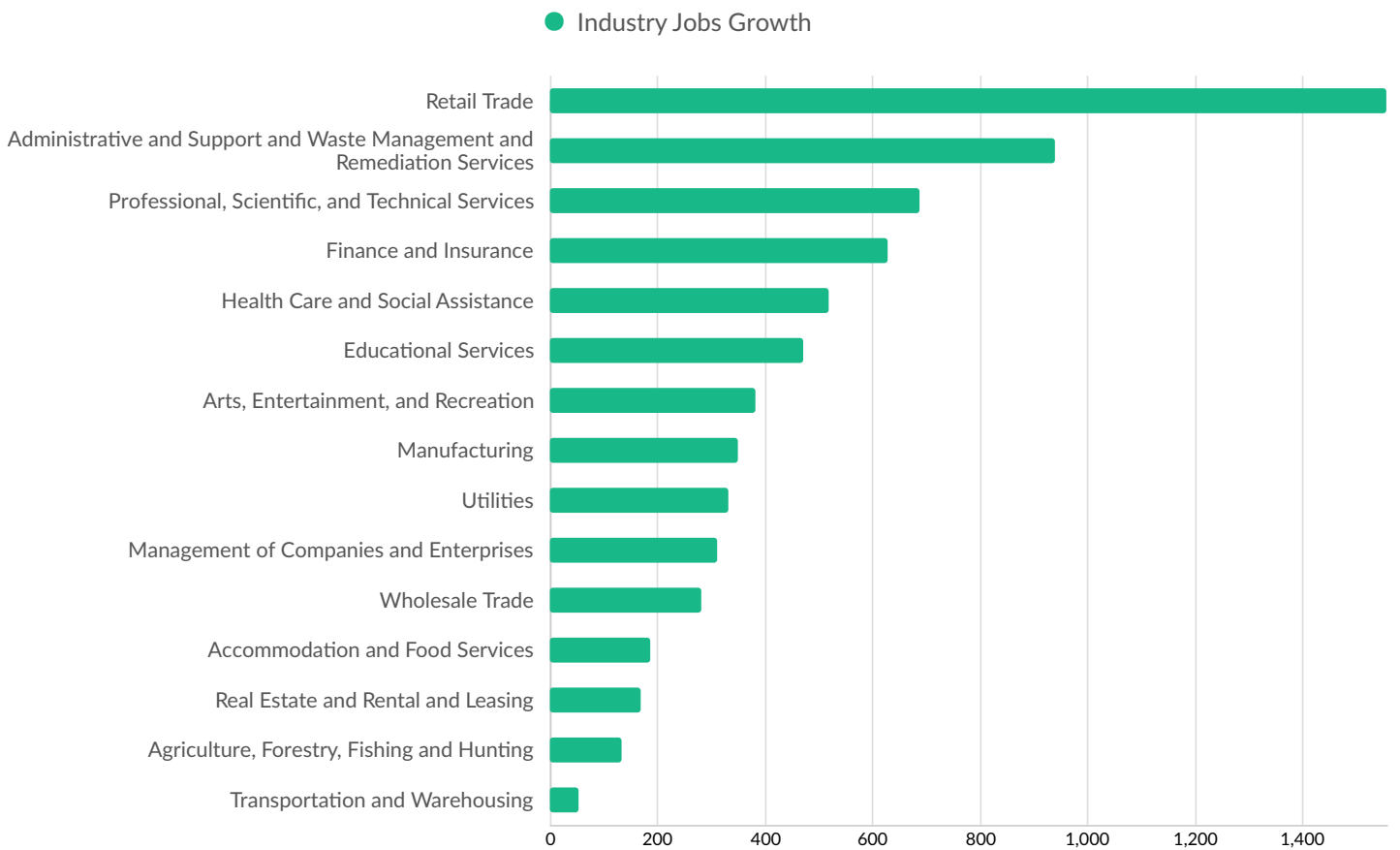
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Industry Characteristics

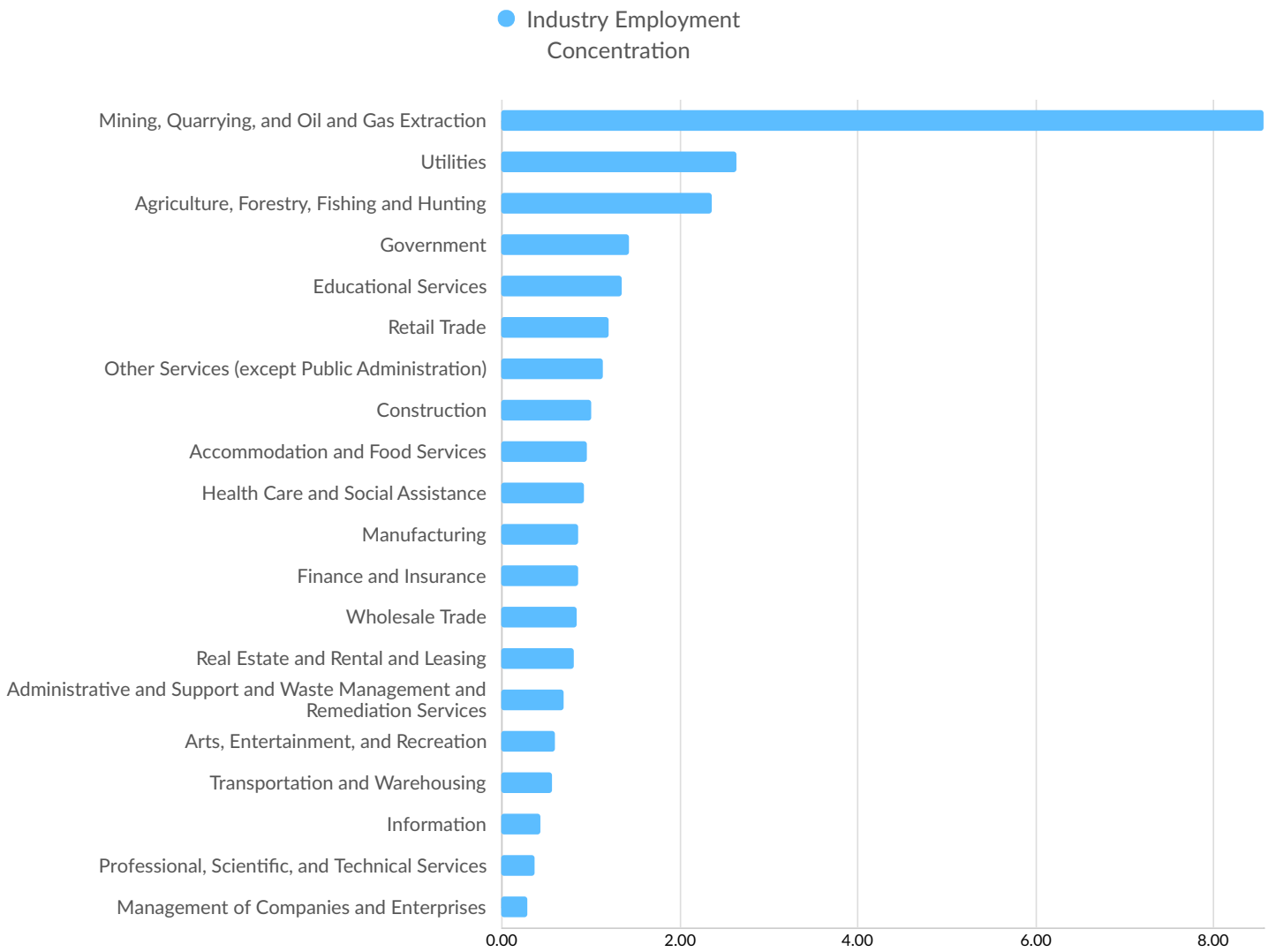
Largest Industries



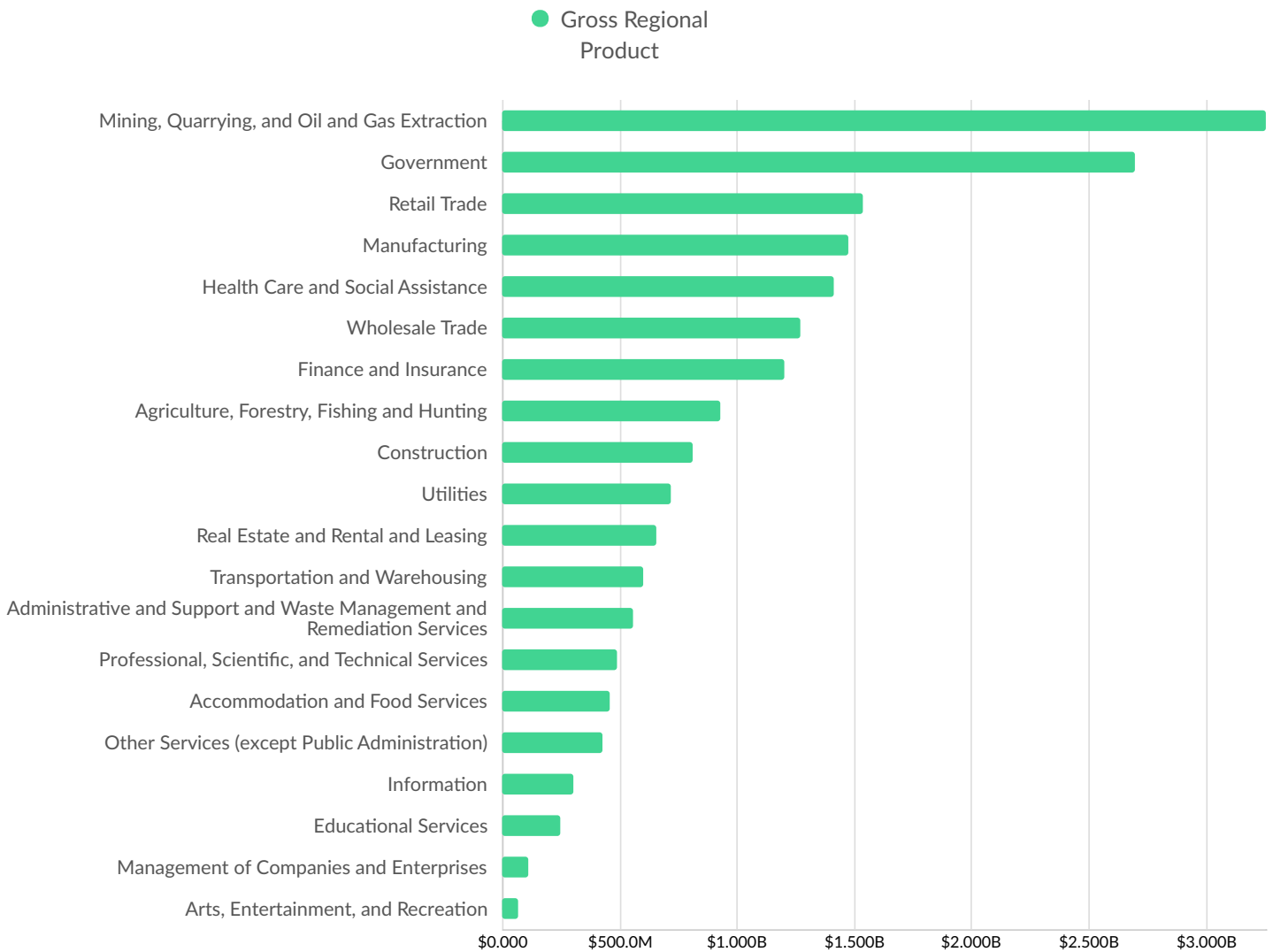
Top Growing Industries



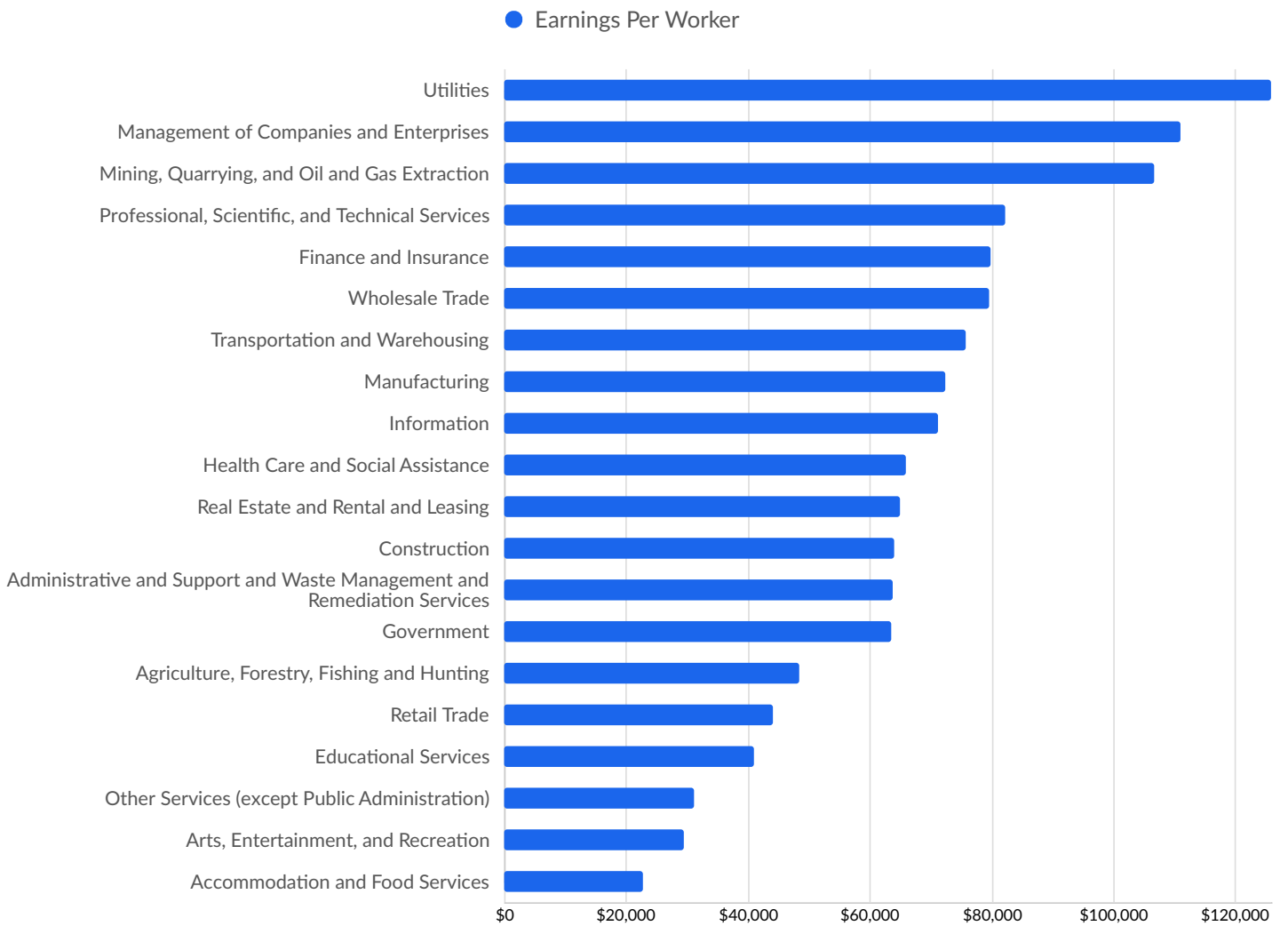
Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP























Top Industry Earnings



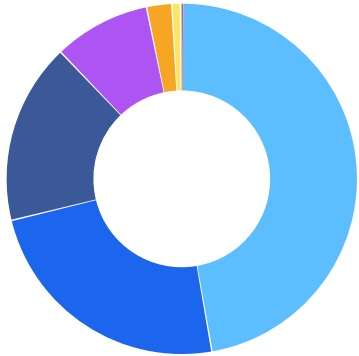
Business Characteristics

27,178 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 27,178 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 3,556 companies in your area posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
United States Air Force	1,878 	Hendrick Medical Center	905 
Abilene Christian University	1,249 	Hendrick Health System	679 
Hendrick Health System	1,230 	State Of Texas	412 
Abilene Isd	798 	Encompass Health	362 
State Of Texas	750 	Walmart	274 
Walmart	489 	Brookshire Grocery Company	233 
Hardin-Simmons University	448 	Dollar General	223 
First Financial Bank Texas	378 	Delek US	220 
Texas State Technical College	313 	Hilton	220 
Health Care Service Corporation	301 	Brownwood Regional Medical C...	217 

Business Size

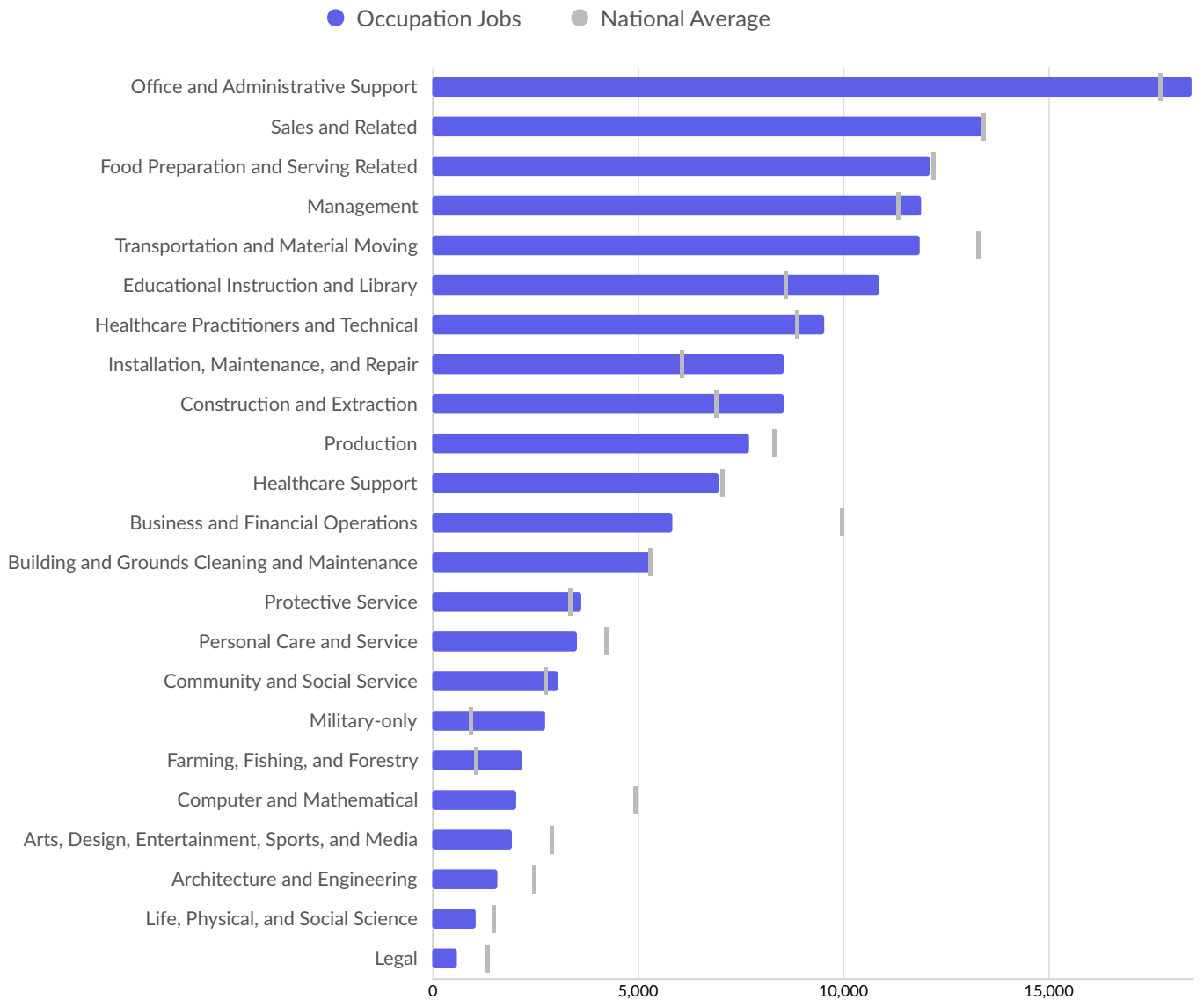


	Percentage	Business Count
● 1 to 4 employees	47.2%	8,527
● 5 to 9 employees	23.9%	4,328
● 10 to 19 employees	16.7%	3,014
● 20 to 49 employees	8.9%	1,611
● 50 to 99 employees	2.3%	419
● 100 to 249 employees	0.8%	141
● 250 to 499 employees	0.2%	32
● 500+ employees	0.0%	4

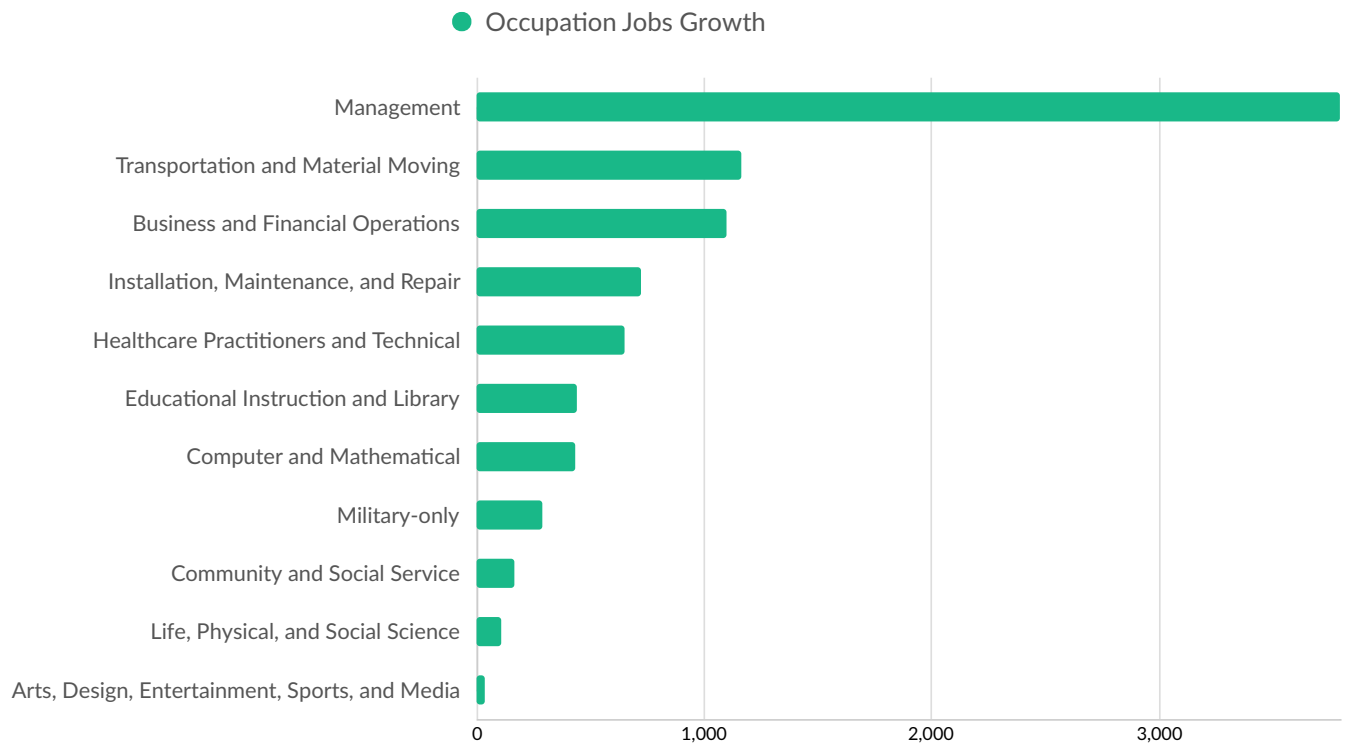
*Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.

Workforce Characteristics

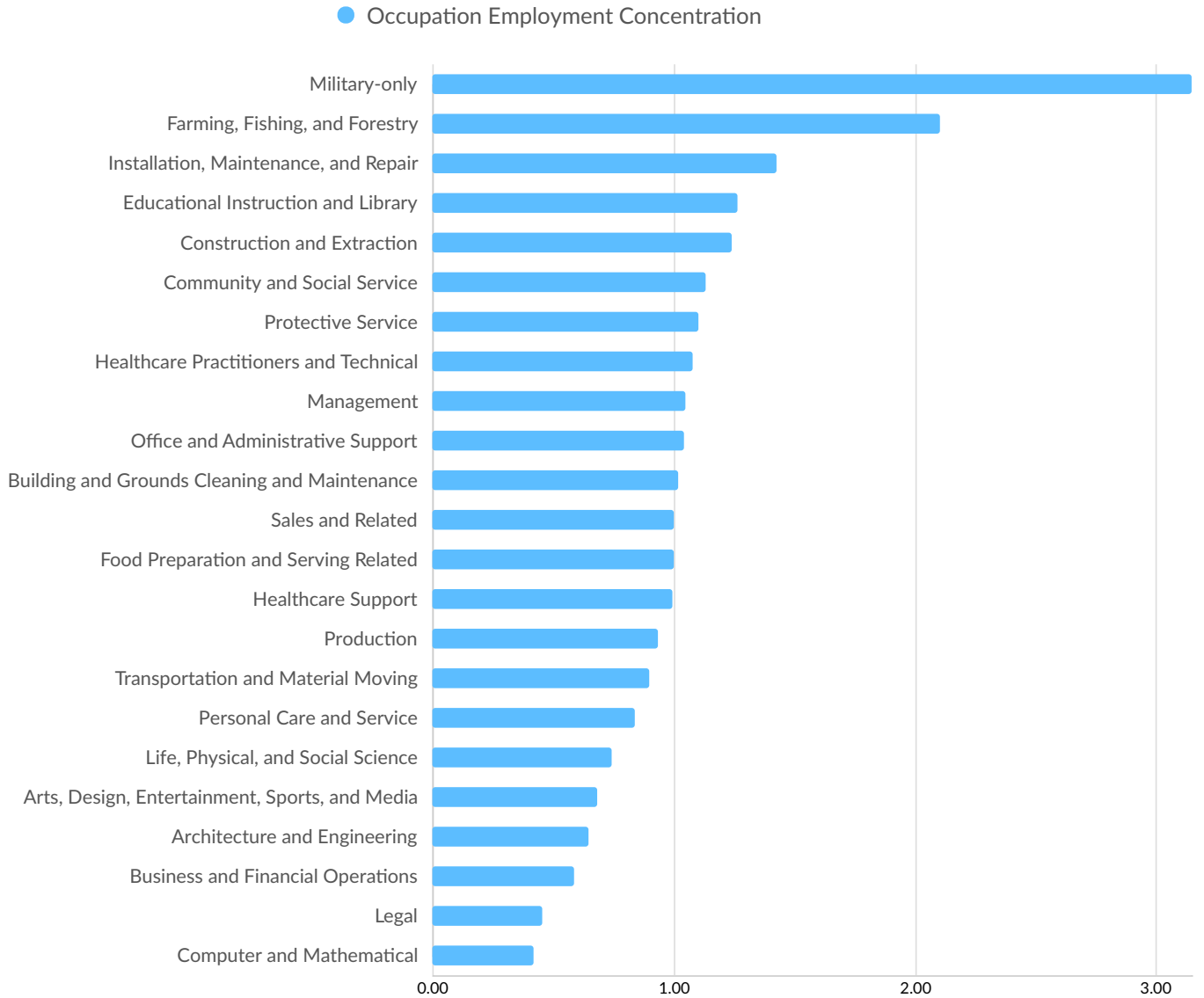
Largest Occupations



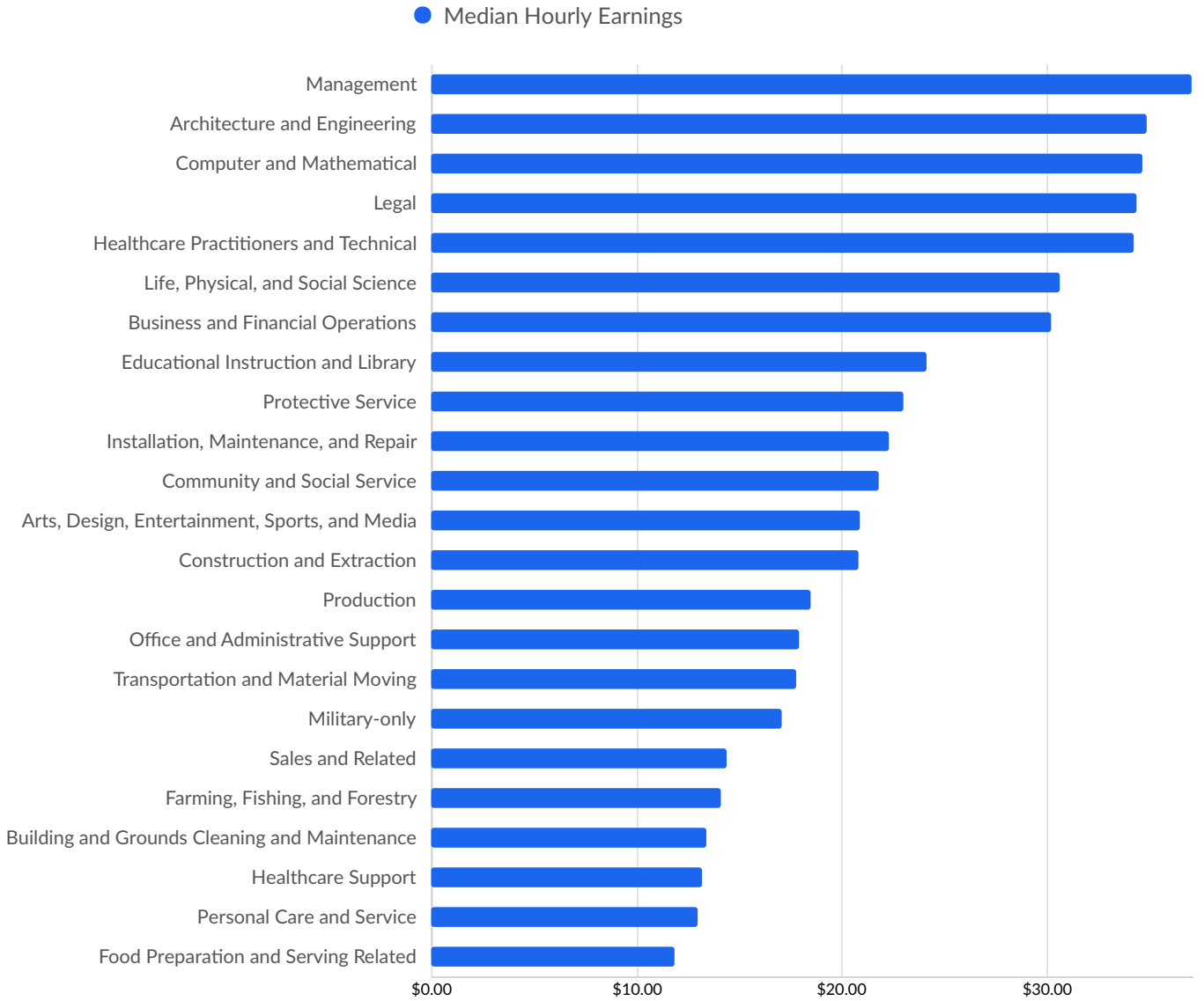
Top Growing Occupations



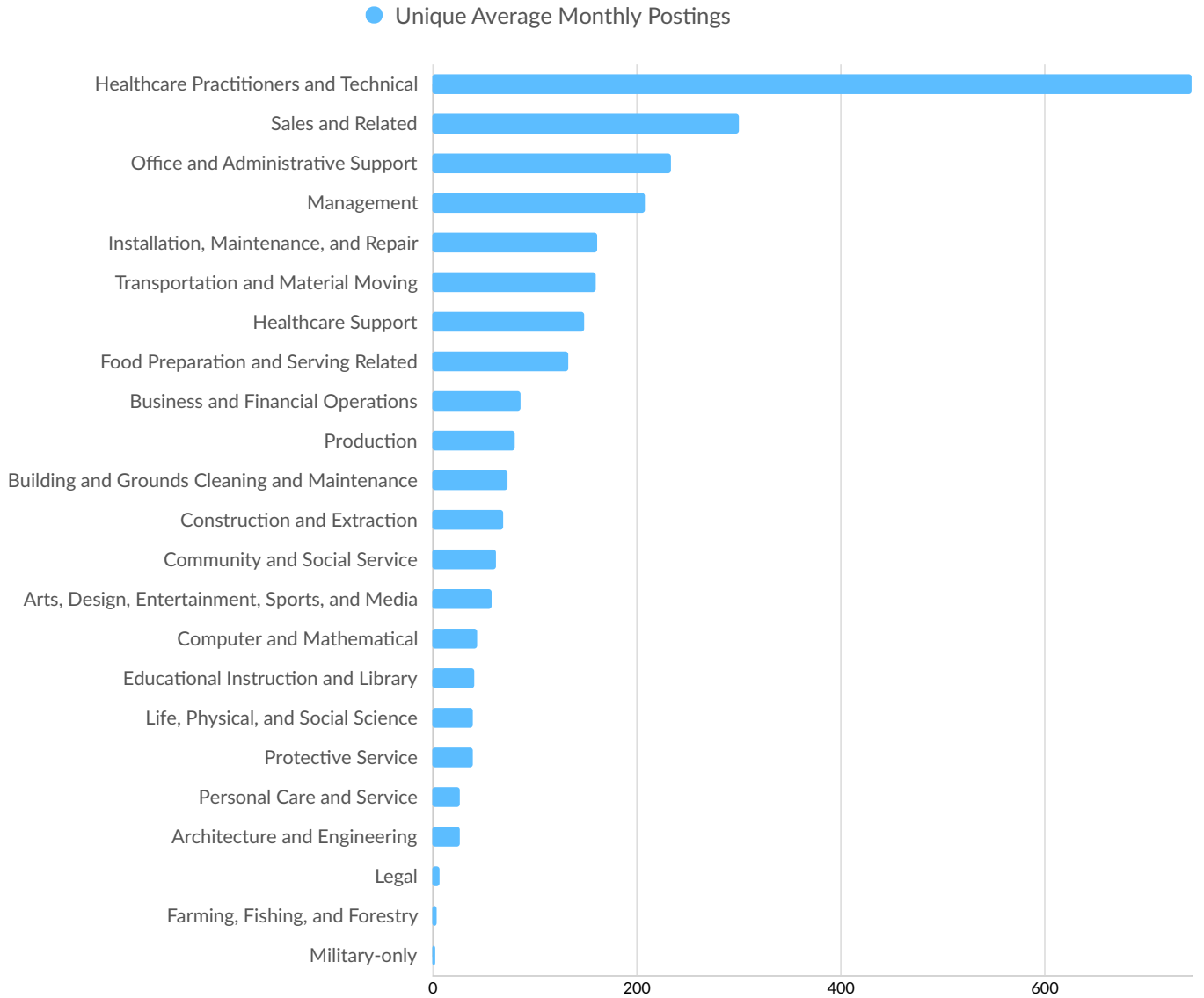
Top Occupation Employment Concentration



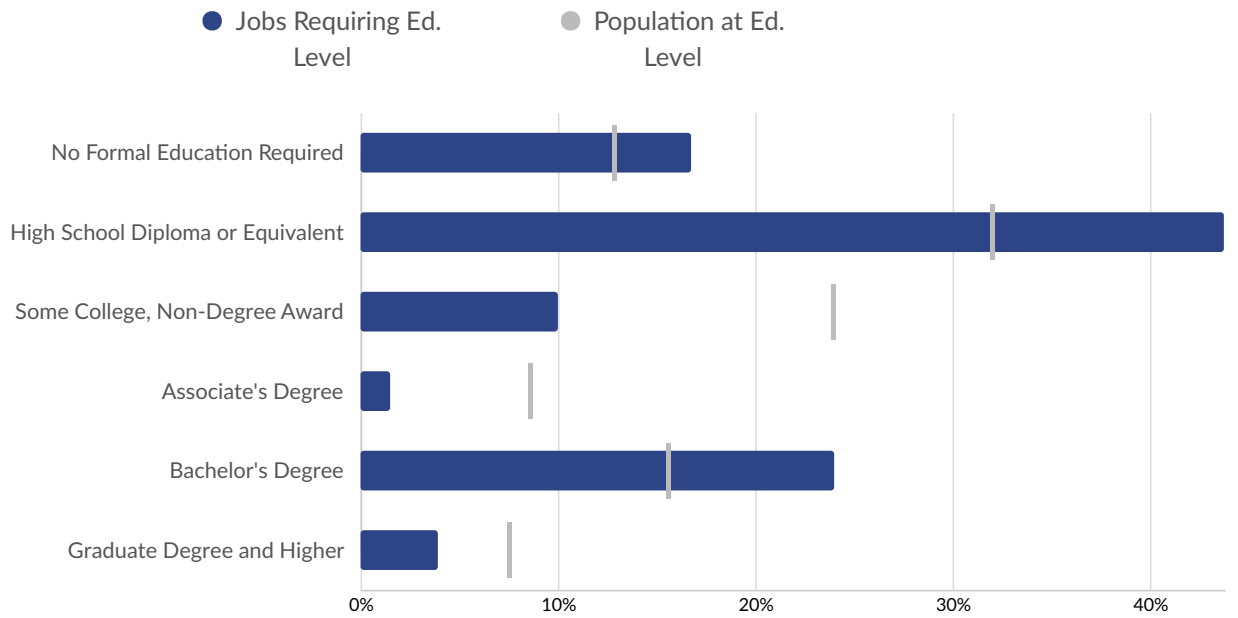
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations

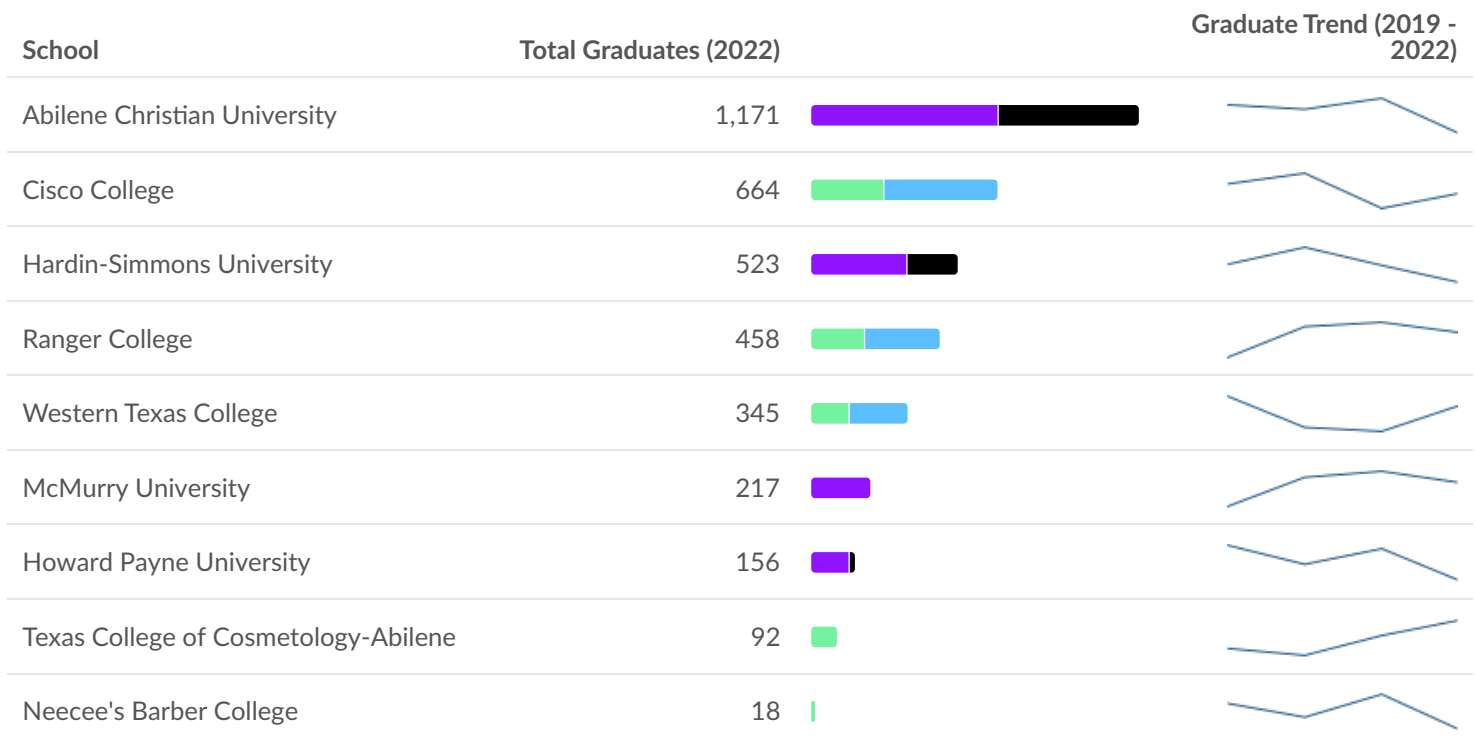


Underemployment

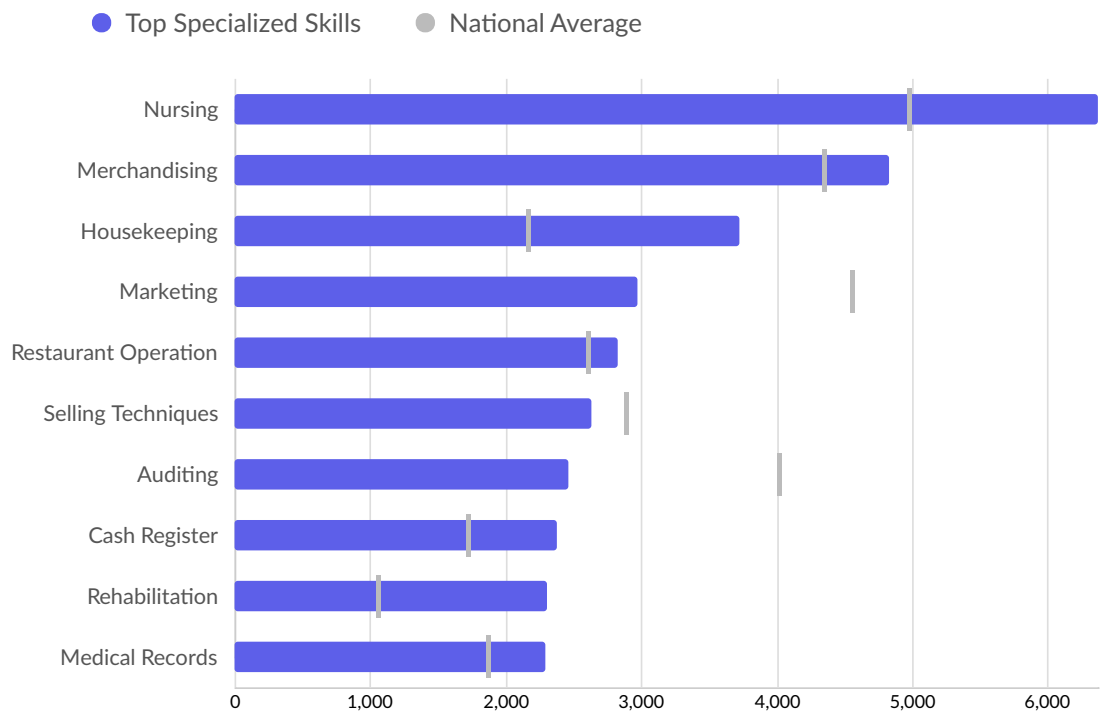


Educational Pipeline

In 2022, there were 3,644 graduates in West Central Texas WDA. This pipeline has shrunk by 5% over the last 4 years. The highest share of these graduates come from "General Studies" (Associate's), "Business Administration and Management, General" (Bachelor's), and "Welding Technology/Welder" (Certificate).



In-Demand Skills



Appendix A (Geographies)

Code	Description
48049	Brown County, TX
48059	Callahan County, TX
48083	Coleman County, TX
48093	Comanche County, TX
48133	Eastland County, TX
48151	Fisher County, TX
48207	Haskell County, TX
48253	Jones County, TX
48263	Kent County, TX
48275	Knox County, TX

Code	Description
48335	Mitchell County, TX
48353	Nolan County, TX
48399	Runnels County, TX
48415	Scurry County, TX
48417	Shackelford County, TX
48429	Stephens County, TX
48433	Stonewall County, TX
48441	Taylor County, TX
48447	Throckmorton County, TX