

# REGIONAL SNAPSHOT:

# WEST REGION

As the state's chief financial officer, I am charged with monitoring the economic health of our state. Therefore, it's vitally important that my office studies factors related to our regional economies.

The 30 counties comprising the West Region, while sparsely populated, have enjoyed a renaissance over the past decade, yet falling oil prices have exposed the vulnerability that comes with reliance on a volatile oil and gas industry.

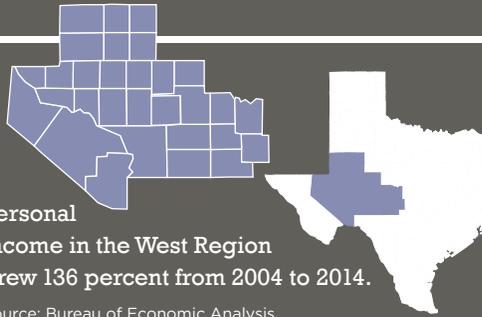
Below, we track regional trends in population growth, personal income, jobs and wages, education and economic vulnerability — a wildcard issue that, if left unaddressed, could curtail continued economic expansion.

**-GLENN HEGAR**

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

## WEST REGION COUNTIES:

ANDREWS	HOWARD	REAGAN
BORDEN	IRION	REEVES
COKE	KIMBLE	SCHLEICHER
CONCHO	LOVING	STERLING
CRANE	MARTIN	SUTTON
CROCKETT	MASON	TERRELL
DAWSON	MCCULLOCH	TOM GREEN
ECTOR	MENARD	UPTON
GAINES	MIDLAND	WARD
GLASSCOCK	PECOS	WINKLER



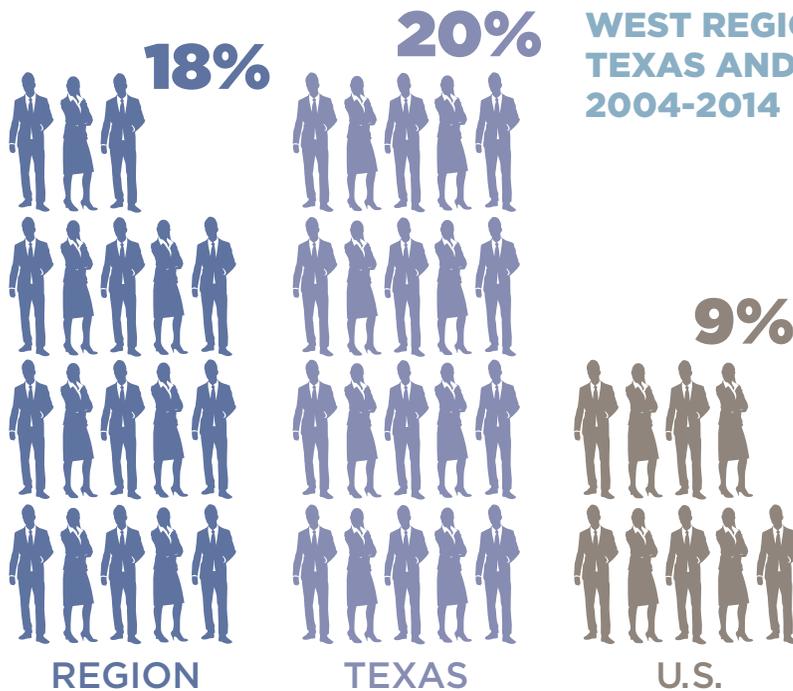
Personal income in the West Region grew 136 percent from 2004 to 2014.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Comptroller of Public Accounts

## KEY INDUSTRIES 2016:

- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR MINING
- OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION
- PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION
- CROP PRODUCTION
- MACHINERY MANUFACTURING
- UTILITIES
- TRUCK TRANSPORTATION
- RENTAL AND LEASING SERVICES
- SPECIALTY TRADE CONTRACTORS
- MERCHANT WHOLESALERS
- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

## POPULATION GROWTH



WEST REGION VS. TEXAS AND U.S. 2004-2014

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

THE WEST REGION ENCOMPASSES

# 39,731

SQUARE MILES...

...MAKING IT THE LARGEST OF THE STATE'S ECONOMIC REGIONS.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

MIDLAND/ODESSA HAVE BEEN HOME TO:

- TWO PRESIDENTS
- TWO FIRST LADIES
- ONE TEXAS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
- THREE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; personal biographies

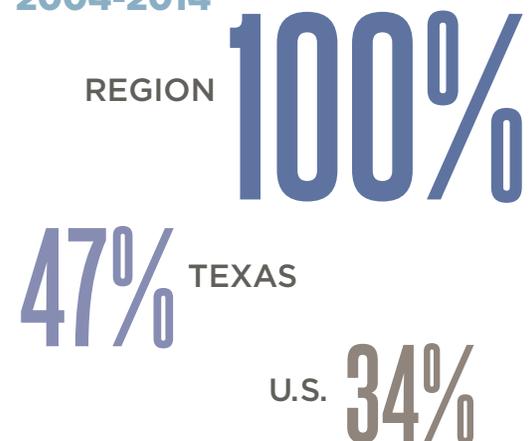
## PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income in the West Region more than doubled between 2004 and 2014, from \$14.9 billion to \$35.2 billion. It accounted for 2.9 percent of the state's \$1.23 trillion in personal income in 2014.

COUNTY	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	10-YR PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH
Midland	\$96,463	140%
Sutton	\$66,362	134%
Glasscock	\$65,970	109%
Irion	\$60,959	121%
Upton	\$60,551	130%
Reagan	\$59,221	138%
Terrell	\$55,079	74%
Andrews	\$54,928	104%
Sterling	\$53,564	107%
Martin	\$49,193	70%
Borden	\$48,928	37%
Ward	\$48,094	115%
Ector	\$47,069	97%
Crane	\$45,308	99%
Schleicher	\$44,732	84%

COUNTY	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	10-YR PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH
McCulloch	\$42,574	76%
Tom Green	\$42,114	48%
Crockett	\$41,534	76%
Kimble	\$41,000	63%
Winkler	\$40,441	68%
Mason	\$39,689	58%
Gaines	\$36,333	46%
Howard	\$36,313	60%
Coke	\$33,588	53%
Dawson	\$33,539	49%
Menard	\$33,538	44%
Loving	\$33,453	-56%
Pecos	\$32,710	85%
Reeves	\$27,247	59%
Concho	\$23,920	26%

## PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH 2004-2014



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

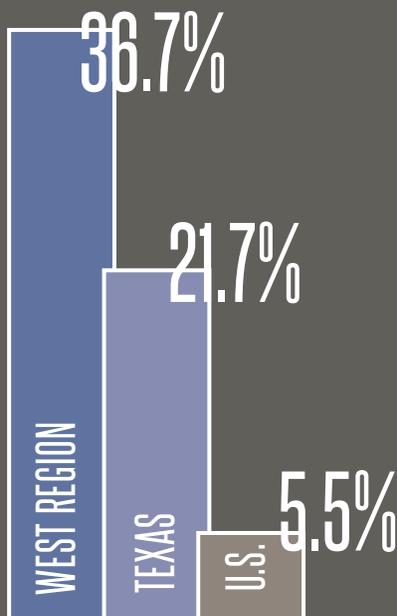
# JOBS & WAGES

## JOB GROWTH 2004-2014

The West Region added 80,000 jobs from 2004 to 2014. Midland and Ector counties led this expansion. Their principal cities, Midland and Odessa, accounted for 78 percent of net job growth.

Regional wages grew quickly as well. At \$55,278, average wages topped the state average of \$52,537.

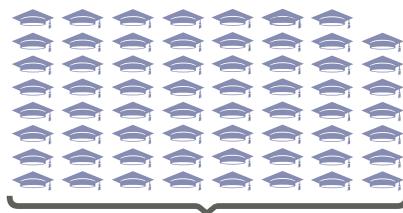
Wages in Midland averaged \$61,158 in 2014 — a 93 percent increase from 2004.



Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

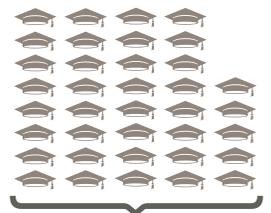
# EDUCATION

## WEST REGION PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2014



**3 COUNTIES**

63% • ECTOR, MIDLAND & TOM GREEN COUNTIES

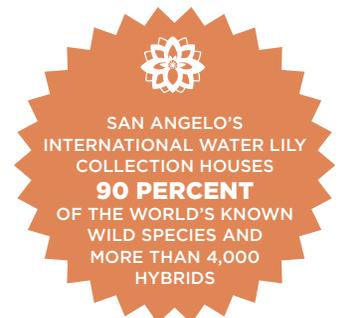


**27 COUNTIES**

37% • THE 27 OTHER COUNTIES IN THE WEST REGION

Ector, Midland and Tom Green counties produced 63 percent of West Region's public high school graduates in 2014.

Source: Texas Education Agency



Source: International Waterlily Collection

# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

No other Texas region relies more heavily on oil and gas jobs than the West Region. Activities related to oil and gas account for up to 90 percent of the region's county tax base, and the mining sector comprised 16 percent of regional jobs in 2014, up from 8 percent in 2004. Mining jobs in Texas, by comparison, accounted for 2.6 percent of all jobs in 2014.

Workers in oil and gas occupations contribute an estimated 4 times more toward gross state product than average Texas workers; consequently, these workers earn above-average wages for their high productivity.

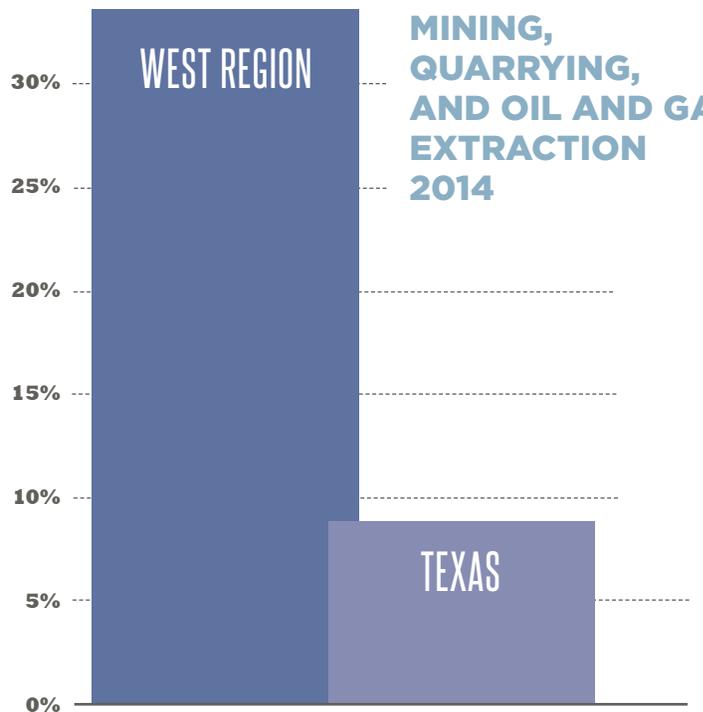
Yet the West Region is one of the state's most economically vulnerable. Industry activity relies heavily on notoriously volatile crude oil prices.

Source: Federal Aviation Administration



## GROSS PRODUCT SHARES:

### MINING, QUARRYING, AND OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION 2014



Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

# CONCLUSION

Perhaps more than any other part of Texas, the West Region embodies our state's virtues of endurance, resilience and determination. When times are good, they are very good. Workers in these wide-open expanses enjoy some of the nation's highest earnings.

For the past decade, West Texans in and around the Permian Basin have reaped the benefits — and the burdens — of a petroleum renaissance. Lured by lucrative and quickly growing wages, workers have flocked to the region.

Fluctuating oil markets have once again exposed the vulnerability of

the region's economy, yet growth has not slowed completely. For those who were born there — and those who came as fast as they could — West Texas remains a place to dream big.

**Glenn Hegar**

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**THE WEST REGION IS ONE OF THE COMPTROLLER'S 12 ECONOMIC REGIONS.**

To see a complete list of these regions, plus more in-depth county-by-county data, visit:

[TEXASAHEAD.ORG/REGIONALRPTS](http://TEXASAHEAD.ORG/REGIONALRPTS)