

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT:

NORTHWEST 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 Northwest Region support some of the state's backbone industries — cattle, petroleum and cotton. They also house military operations and a burgeoning wind-energy sector.

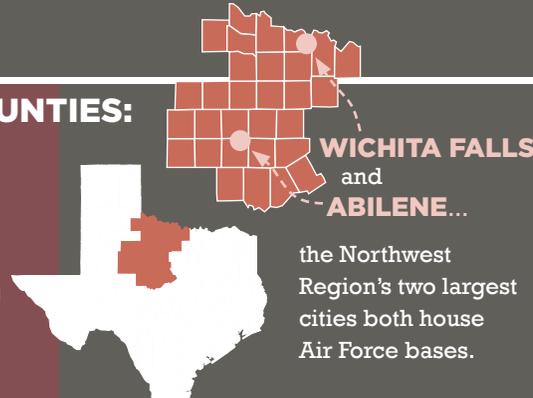
Below, we track regional trends in population growth, personal income, jobs and wages, education and demographic challenges — a wildcard issue that, if left unaddressed, could curtail continued economic expansion.

-GLENN HEGAR

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

NORTHWEST REGION COUNTIES:

ARCHER	FOARD	RUNNELS
BAYLOR	HARDEMAN	SCURRY
BROWN	HASKELL	SHACKELFORD
CALLAHAN	JACK	STEPHENS
CLAY	JONES	STONEWALL
COLEMAN	KENT	TAYLOR
COMANCHE	KNOX	THROCKMORTON
COTTLE	MITCHELL	WICHITA
EASTLAND	MONTAGUE	WILBARGER
FISHER	NOLAN	YOUNG



KEY INDUSTRIES 2016:

- FABRICATED METAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
- HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
- NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
- OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION
- ANIMAL PRODUCTION
- PLASTICS AND RUBBER PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR MINING
- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
- TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING
- TRUCK TRANSPORTATION

POPULATION GROWTH

20%



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

9%



1%



REGION

TEXAS

U.S.

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

THE MEDIAN AGE OF THE NORTHWEST REGION IN 2010:

37.5

THE MEDIAN AGE OF TEXAS:

33.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

THE TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE OF 2013 BEEF PRODUCTION IN THE NORTHWEST REGION?

\$527 MILLION

Source: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income in the Northwest Region rose from \$14.6 billion in 2004 to \$23.4 billion in 2014. It accounted for 2 percent of the state's \$1.23 trillion in personal income in 2014.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH 2004-2014

REGION

58%

47%

TEXAS

U.S.

34%

Per-capita personal income grew 58 percent, faster than the state's 47 percent average.

Source: U.S. Economic Bureau and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

COUNTY	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	10-YR PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH
Shackelford	\$97,227	220%
Eastland	\$68,513	156%
Cottle	\$56,269	49%
Stephens	\$53,179	119%
Archer	\$52,139	67%
Stonewall	\$52,132	72%
Scurry	\$51,998	90%
Throckmorton	\$51,935	46%
Young	\$51,473	90%
Clay	\$49,808	92%
Montague	\$49,513	94%
Jack	\$47,543	126%
Kent	\$44,827	49%
Fisher	\$42,920	63%
Taylor	\$42,318	50%

COUNTY	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	10-YR PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH
Baylor	\$41,473	51%
Foard	\$40,967	61%
Wichita	\$40,593	38%
Comanche	\$39,449	44%
Knox	\$39,229	33%
Wilbarger	\$39,075	47%
Hardeman	\$37,222	54%
Nolan	\$36,501	52%
Haskell	\$36,268	32%
Runnels	\$36,152	51%
Callahan	\$36,138	57%
Coleman	\$35,709	56%
Brown	\$32,743	45%
Mitchell	\$31,964	72%
Jones	\$28,720	42%

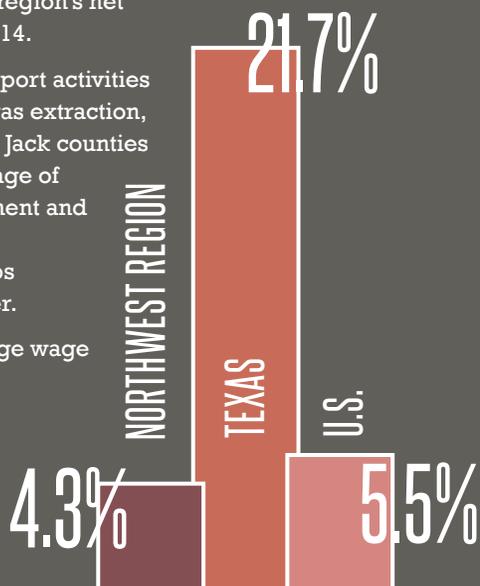
JOBS & WAGES

Taylor County added 5,836 jobs — nearly two-thirds of the region's net gains — from 2004 to 2014.

Bolstered by jobs in support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction, Shackelford, Scurry and Jack counties had the largest percentage of growth in both employment and average wages. Nearly half the counties lost jobs over the period, however.

The region's 2014 average wage was \$39,169.

JOB GROWTH 2004-2014



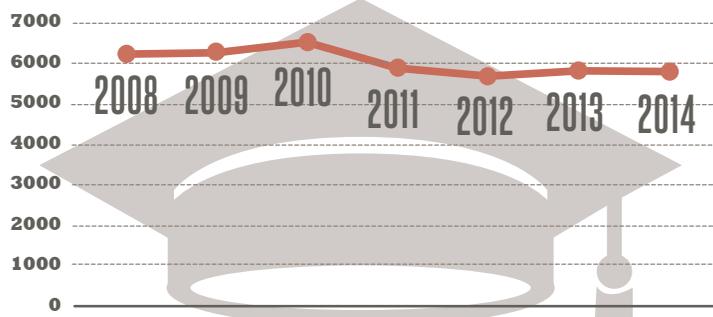
Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

SWEETWATER'S POPULATION QUADRUPLES IN SIZE DURING RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP.

Source: Sweetwater Jaycees

EDUCATION

NORTHWEST REGION PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2008-2014



The Northwest Region had 272 fewer public high school graduates in 2014 than in 2004, a decrease of 4.4 percent.

While the total number of graduates declined, the percentage of students who graduated actually increased at a faster pace than the state average from 2010-2014.

Source: Texas Education Agency

WICHITA FALLS' SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE U.S. OFFERING BOTH TECHNICAL AND AVIATION TRAINING.

Source: Sheppard Air Force Base

DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

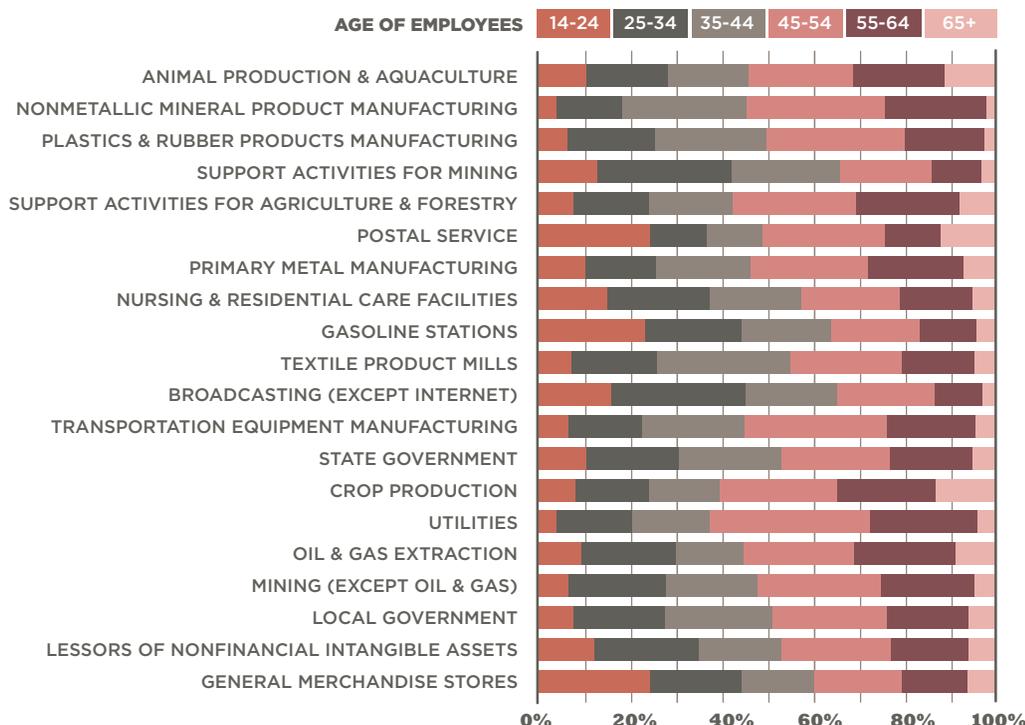
The Northwest Region is both the least populous region and one of the state's slowest growing. From 2003 to 2013, its population expanded only 1.3 percent, while Texas' rose by 20 percent.

This slow growth could presage workforce troubles, given the large share of workers who are nearing retirement in some of the region's strongest industries.

Animal production operations offer a prime example. The Northwest Region has a dense concentration of these jobs, and 31 percent of these workers are at least 55 years old.

Another industry provides a brighter picture, however. Support activities for mining is a relatively young industry and enjoyed the region's largest job gains over the decade.

NORTHWEST REGION JOB TYPES BY AGE GROUP AND INDUSTRY CONCENTRATION, 2013



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

CONCLUSION

The Northwest Region supports bedrock Texas industries such as farming, ranching and oil and gas production. It has a strong military presence and, in recent years, has become known for the wind turbines that dot its wide-open vistas.

Although the region recently suffered through one of the state's most severe droughts,

per capita income surged ahead of the state's average. Yet job gains have varied dramatically by county. Slow population growth also could create difficulties for some industries.

In all, the region has a diverse economy with some high-growth areas that have produced employment opportunities for workers.



THE NEWBY-MCMAHON BUILDING IN WICHITA FALLS IS KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SKYSCRAPER.

Source: Times Record News

Glenn Hegar

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THE NORTHWEST 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