# Economic Overview Dallas County, Texas





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### **Demographic Profile**

The population in Dallas County, Texas was 2,552,213 per American Community Survey data for 2013-2017.

The region has a civilian labor force of 1,330,742 with a participation rate of 68.6%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Dallas County, Texas, 30.3% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 32.3% in the nation.

The median household income in Dallas County, Texas is \$53,626 and the median house value is \$148,300.

Summary <sup>1</sup>											
		Percent			Value						
	Dallas County,			Dallas County,							
	Texas	Texas	USA	Texas	Texas	USA					
Demographics											
Population (ACS)	_	—	—	2,552,213	27,419,612	321,004,407					
Male	49.3%	49.7%	49.2%	1,257,751	13,616,977	158,018,753					
Female	50.7%	50.3%	50.8%	1,294,462	13,802,635	162,985,654					
Median Age <sup>2</sup>				33.3	34.3	37.8					
Under 18 Years	26.8%	26.3%	22.9%	682,882	7,213,117	73,601,279					
18 to 24 Years	9.7%	10.0%	9.7%	247,569	2,752,064	31,131,484					
25 to 34 Years	16.1%	14.6%	13.7%	411,723	4,002,129	44,044,173					
35 to 44 Years	14.0%	13.5%	12.7%	357,390	3,705,119	40,656,419					
45 to 54 Years	12.8%	12.7%	13.4%	327,923	3,494,999	43,091,143					
55 to 64 Years	10.6%	11.1%	12.7%	269,342	3,036,278	40,747,520					
65 to 74 Years	6.0%	7.0%	8.6%	153,384	1,915,612	27,503,389					
75 Years, and Over	4.0%	4.7%	6.3%	102,000	1,300,294	20,229,000					
Race: White	61.3%	74.6%	73.0%	1,565,175	20,459,525	234,370,202					
Race: Black or African American	22.4%	12.0%	12.7%	572,491	3,286,950	40,610,815					
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	8,310	130,360	2,632,102					
Race: Asian	6.0%	4.5%	5.4%	153,214	1,236,852	17,186,320					
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	1,394	23,531	570,116					
Race: Some Other Race	7.2%	5.8%	4.8%	182,833	1,580,393	15,553,808					
Race: Two or More Races	2.7%	2.6%	3.1%	68,796	702,001	10,081,044					
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	39.6%	38.9%	17.6%	1,011,374	10,673,909	56,510,571					
Population Growth											
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>5</sup>	—	—	—	2,618,148	28,304,596	325,719,178					
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>5</sup>	1.3%	1.7%	0.8%	32,626	447,261	2,448,797					
Economic											
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	68.6%	64.4%	63.3%	1,330,742	13,473,957	161,159,470					
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	82.1%	80.2%	81.6%	899,870	8,945,583	103,761,701					
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	708	91,081	1,024,855					
Veterans, Age 18-64	3.3%	5.2%	4.9%	53,840	872,423	9,667,749					
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	78.7%	77.6%	75.8%	42,380	677,079	7,326,514					
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	_	_	_	\$53,626	\$57,051	\$57,652					
Per Capita Income	_	_	_	\$29,810	\$28,985	\$31,177					
Poverty Level (of all people)	17.7%	16.0%	14.6%	446,611	4,291,384	45,650,345					
Households Receiving Food Stamps	13.9%	12.7%	12.6%	125,896	1,196,016	15,029,498					
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	_		_	27.2	26.1	26.4					



### Summary<sup>1</sup>

		Percent			Value	
	Dallas County,			Dallas County,		
	Texas	Texas	USA	Texas	Texas	USA
Commute via Public Transportation	2.8%	1.5%	5.1%	34,917	187,311	7,607,907
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	21.6%	16.1%	11.4%	295,590	2,287,734	19,230,541
High School Graduate	22.3%	24.7%	26.0%	304,849	3,517,552	43,784,920
Some College, No Degree	19.9%	22.4%	21.2%	272,130	3,183,316	35,803,629
Associate's Degree	5.9%	7.4%	9.0%	80,160	1,051,162	15,199,517
Bachelor's Degree	19.6%	19.7%	20.5%	267,276	2,808,143	34,602,913
Postgraduate Degree	10.7%	9.8%	11.8%	146,373	1,390,618	19,917,735
Housing						
Total Housing Units	_	_	_	985,738	10,611,386	135,393,564
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>		_	_	\$148,300	\$151,500	\$193,500
Homeowner Vacancy	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%	6,392	94,134	1,346,331
Rental Vacancy	6.8%	7.6%	6.1%	33,041	300,975	2,838,344
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	49.5%	38.0%	36.2%	448,928	3,579,373	42,992,786
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	7.1%	5.5%	8.8%	64,249	517,945	10,468,418
Social						
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	36,750	398,124	4,437,324
Disconnected Youth <sup>4</sup>	3.3%	3.0%	2.7%	4,452	47,251	456,548
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	41.3%	34.9%	34.5%	268,595	2,396,094	24,106,567
With a Disability, Age 18-64	8.2%	9.7%	10.3%	131,545	1,613,122	20,276,199
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	45.7%	44.4%	41.4%	60,079	716,525	8,395,884
Foreign Born	24.0%	16.9%	13.4%	611,400	4,622,395	43,028,127
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	21.2%	14.1%	8.5%	500,877	3,576,480	25,654,421
Union Membership						
Total <sup>3</sup>	4.7%	4.3%	10.7%	_	_	_
Private Sector <sup>3</sup>	3.1%	2.3%	6.4%	_	_	_
Manufacturing <sup>3</sup>	4.8%	3.5%	8.7%	_	_	
Public Sector <sup>3</sup>	19.2%	15.5%	35.1%	_	_	_

Source: JobsEQ®

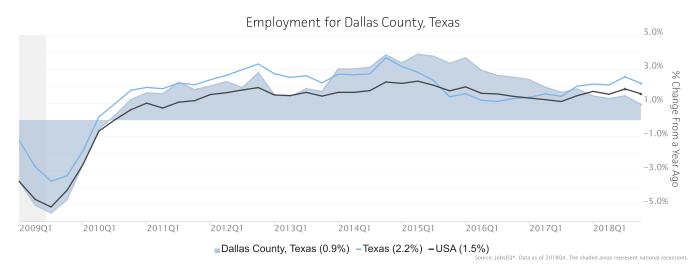
1. American Community Survey 2013-2017, unless noted otherwise

Anterican Continuing Survey 2013-2017, unless hole of one wise
Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.
2017; Current Population Survey, unionstats.com, and Chmura; county- and zip-level data are best estimates based upon industry-, MSA-, and state-level data
Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
Census 2017, annual average growth rate since 2007



### **Employment Trends**

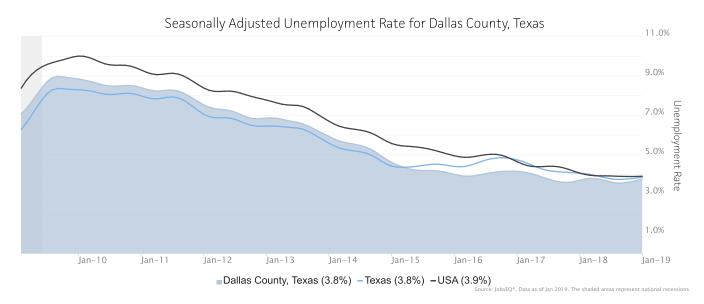
As of 2018Q4, total employment for Dallas County, Texas was 1,806,459 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2018Q4, employment increased 0.9% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.

### **Unemployment Rate**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Dallas County, Texas was 3.8% as of January 2019. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in January 2018, the unemployment rate in Dallas County, Texas was 3.7%.

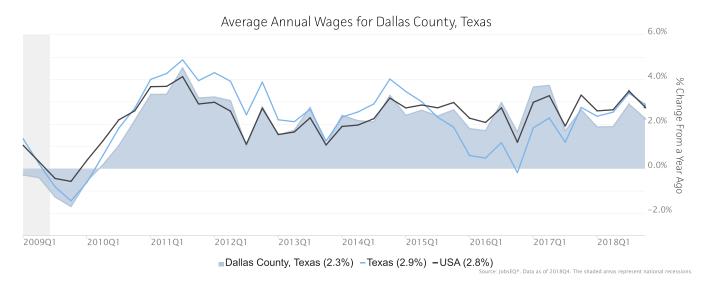


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through January 2019.



### Wage Trends

The average worker in Dallas County, Texas earned annual wages of \$66,789 as of 2018Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 2.3% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$55,713 in the nation as of 2018Q4.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.



## Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 0.5% higher in Dallas County, Texas than the U.S. average.

#### **Cost of Living Information**

		Cost of Living Index	ĸ
	Annual Average Salary	(Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Dallas County, Texas	\$66,789	100.5	\$66,468
Texas	\$55,784	94.2	\$59,247
USA	\$55,713	100.0	\$55,713

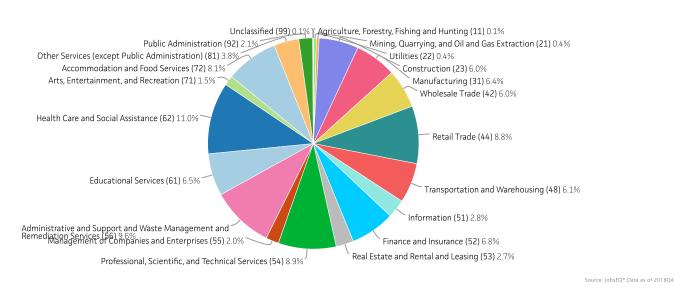
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2018Q4

Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2018q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.



### **Industry Snapshot**

The largest sector in Dallas County, Texas is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 198,242 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (173,573 workers) and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (160,280). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Finance and Insurance (LQ = 1.72), Wholesale Trade (1.56), and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (1.56).



#### Total Workers for Dallas County, Texas by Industry

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.

Sectors in Dallas County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$205,603), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$130,493), and Information (\$104,789). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Transportation and Warehousing (+30,907 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+25,593), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+22,394).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Dallas County, Texas is projected to expand by 26,193 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +2.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+5,298 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+3,057), and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+2,870).



			Current 5-Year Hist				1-Year Forecast						
					Total	Avg Ann %		Separations (Approximate)					
		Four Quar	ters Ending wit	th 2018q4	Change	Chg in Empl		(Appro	oximate)	Gro	wth		
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl	Region	Total New Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl	Avg Ann Rate		
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,209	\$31,324	0.05	-10	-0.2%	144	57	75	13	1.1%		
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	7,733	\$205,603	0.98	-717	-1.8%	971	260	531	180	2.3%		
22	Utilities	7,186	\$103,995	0.76	275	0.8%	753	236	415	101	1.4%		
23	Construction	109,151	\$64,784	1.07	19,683	4.1%	12,731	3,878	6,910	1,943	1.8%		
31	Manufacturing	115,099	\$83,132	0.77	4,088	0.7%	12,079	4,445	7,577	56	0.0%		
42	Wholesale Trade	107,719	\$87,303	1.56	5,515	1.1%	12,214	4,288	7,066	860	0.8%		
44	Retail Trade	159,321	\$37,555	0.84	13,912	1.8%	22,845	9,428	11,903	1,514	1.0%		
48	Transportation and Warehousing	110,270	\$51,978	1.38	30,907	6.8%	13,281	5,013	6,722	1,546	1.4%		
51	Information	51,213	\$104,789	1.44	1,475	0.6%	5,204	1,821	3,169	214	0.4%		
52	Finance and Insurance	122,739	\$104,302	1.72	6,693	1.1%	13,460	4,464	7,186	1,810	1.5%		
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	48,586	\$84,065	1.56	8,696	4.0%	5,601	2,270	2,693	638	1.3%		
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	160,280	\$103,896	1.33	25,593	3.5%	16,898	5,195	8,647	3,057	1.9%		
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	35,674	\$130,493	1.32	13,412	9.9%	3,701	1,210	2,039	452	1.3%		
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	173,573	\$46,269	1.49	21,781	2.7%	22,987	8,547	11,570	2,870	1.7%		
61	Educational Services	117,112	\$53,951	0.79	11,380	2.1%	12,418	5,243	5,639	1,535	1.3%		
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	198,242	\$61,568	0.77	22,394	2.4%	24,100	9,237	9,565	5,298	2.7%		
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	26,748	\$46,578	0.75	5,173	4.4%	4,201	1,693	2,074	434	1.6%		
72	Accommodation and Food Services	145,540	\$24,445	0.89	19,724	3.0%	25,667	10,471	13,182	2,014	1.4%		
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	69,212	\$40,435	0.87	4,504	1.4%	8,819	3,606	4,289	925	1.3%		
92	Public Administration	37,958	\$74,500	0.45	1,133	0.6%	3,882	1,488	2,015	379	1.0%		
99	Unclassified	1,894	\$56,711	0.68	1,500	36.9%	242	91	124	27	1.4%		
	Total - All Industries	1,806,459	\$66,789	1.00	217,109	2.6%	224,419	84,975	113,250	26,193	1.4%		

Source: JobsEQ® Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.



### **Occupation Snapshot**

The largest major occupation group in Dallas County, Texas is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 319,697 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (192,357 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (152,239). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Computer and Mathematical Occupations (LQ = 1.47), Business and Financial Operations Occupations (1.23), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.23).

Occupation groups in Dallas County, Texas with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$138,400), Legal Occupations (\$115,200), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$95,100). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.0% among Legal Occupations to 6.8% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Dallas County, Texas is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +3.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Office and Administrative Support Occupations (+2,822 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+2,155). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (36,707 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (25,612).

		Current						5-Year	History Avg Ann	1-Year Forecast					
		Four Qua	arters Ending 2018q4	; with	201	8q4		Total Change	% Chg in Empl		Separations			Growth	
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>2</sup>	Empl	Region	Total New Demand	Exits	Transfer	Empl	Avg Ann Rate	
11-0000	Management	94,152	\$138,400	0.86	1,127	1.7%	8,504	12,052	2.8%	9,341	2,460	5,275	1,607	1.7%	
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	115,949	\$83,100	1.23	1,738	2.3%	8,822	14,794	2.8%	12,711	3,582	7,189	1,939	1.7%	
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	78,397	\$94,500	1.47	1,181	2.3%	12,629	12,208	3.4%	6,973	1,417	4,013	1,543	2.0%	
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	32,653	\$95,100	1.05	517	2.4%	1,734	2,130	1.4%	2,908	864	1,577	466	1.4%	
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	8,562	\$77,600	0.58	100	1.6%	456	900	2.2%	957	246	574	138	1.6%	
21-0000	Community and Social Service	16,658	\$54,800	0.57	196	1.4%	1,039	1,521	1.9%	2,245	727	1,181	337	2.0%	
23-0000	Legal	17,684	\$115,200	1.20	121	1.0%	538	1,094	1.3%	1,463	472	687	304	1.7%	
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library	75,215	\$56,400	0.74	1,063	1.7%	2,889	7,260	2.1%	7,701	3,338	3,262	1,101	1.5%	
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	30,368	\$56,400	0.94	435	2.1%	1,365	2,667	1.9%	3,357	1,217	1,764	377	1.2%	
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	90,969	\$84,600	0.89	874	1.4%	3,817	10,177	2.4%	7,186	2,613	2,520	2,053	2.3%	
31-0000	Healthcare Support	43,156	\$31,900	0.86	1,171	3.5%	918	5,171	2.6%	6,711	2,674	2,669	1,367	3.2%	
33-0000	Protective Service	37,048	\$43,800	0.96	825	3.3%	746	3,404	1.9%	5,013	2,134	2,379	500	1.4%	
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	136,917	\$25,500	0.89	7,170	5.3%	5,445	19,032	3.0%	26,642	10,958	13,642	2,042	1.5%	
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	56,983	\$27,100	0.91	2,518	4.4%	1,315	5,371	2.0%	8,393	3,694	3,820	879	1.5%	

#### Occupation Snapshot in Dallas County, Texas, 2018q4



#### Occupation Snapshot in Dallas County, Texas, 2018q4

				Cu	urrent			5-Year	History	1-Year Forecast				
			Four Quarters Ending with 2018q42018q4		2018q4			Total Change	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl		Sepa	rations	Gro	owth
			Avg Ann			Unempl	Online			Total New				Avg Ann
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Rate	Job Ads <sup>2</sup>	Empl	Region	Demand	Exits	Transfer	Empl	Rate
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	55,061	\$25,400	0.72	1,294	2.9%	1,401	7,229	2.9%	10,080	4,525	4,189	1,367	2.5%
41-0000	Sales and Related	192,357	\$49,000	1.06	4,841	3.3%	10,949	17,306	1.9%	27,708	10,589	15,023	2,096	1.1%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	319,697	\$40,400	1.22	7,512	3.3%	10,140	37,211	2.5%	39,529	16,783	19,924	2,822	0.9%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	2,308	\$27,600	0.20	228	6.8%	22	209	1.9%	361	89	254	18	0.8%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	82,569	\$43,900	0.99	3,634	4.4%	1,228	12,652	3.4%	10,382	3,055	5,863	1,463	1.8%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	76,314	\$48,800	1.10	1,503	2.6%	2,950	9,280	2.6%	8,521	2,755	4,788	977	1.3%
51-0000	Production	91,202	\$37,700	0.83	3,162	3.8%	2,315	5,921	1.4%	11,017	3,968	6,637	411	0.5%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	152,239	\$39,800	1.23	5,713	4.3%	4,358	29,524	4.4%	21,426	7,714	11,557	2,155	1.4%
	Total - All Occupations	1,806,459	\$54,500	1.00	n/a	n/a	83,578	217,109	2.6%	230,855	85,874	118,788	26,193	1.4%

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2018Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Occupation wages are as of 2017 and should be taken as the average for all Covered Employment

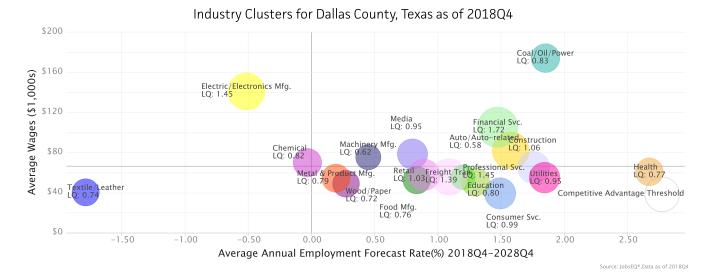
2. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list).

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2018Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2017 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



### **Industry Clusters**

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Dallas County, Texas with the highest relative concentration is Financial Svc. with a location quotient of 1.72. This cluster employs 123,371 workers in the region with an average wage of \$105,339. Employment in the Financial Svc. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.5% per year over the next ten years.

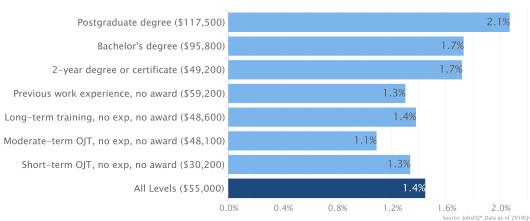


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



### **Education Levels**

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Dallas County, Texas is projected to grow 1.4% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 2.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.7% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.7% per year.



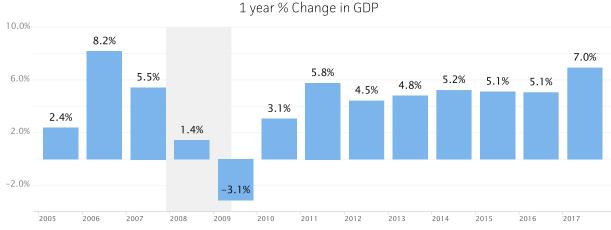
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required for Dallas County, Texas

Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2018Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



### Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2017, nominal GDP in Dallas County, Texas expanded 7.0%. This follows growth of 5.1% in 2016. As of 2017, total GDP in Dallas County, Texas was \$279,411,491,000.

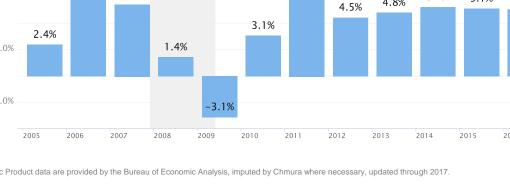


Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.

Of the sectors in Dallas County, Texas, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2017, \$44,851,853,000 The next-largest contributions came from Manufacturing (\$28,139,324,000); Finance and Insurance (\$26,577,093,000); and Wholesale Trade (\$25,106,089,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.





### FAQ

#### What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

#### What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

#### What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a *competitive advantage* in that cluster.

#### What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

#### What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the "all industry" level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the "sector," which is the level examined in this report.

#### What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 23 major groups, 96 minor groups, and 449 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

#### About This Report

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