

Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley Factsheet

Hidalgo

Cameron

Starr

Willacy

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Texas Population ~ 24,326,974

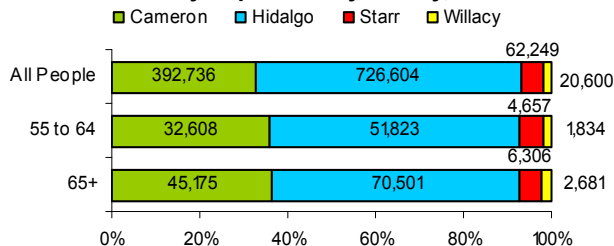
TX Population 55 and over ~ 4,829,430

Valley Population ~ 1,202,189

Valley Population 55 and over ~ 215,585

Age and Race/Ethnicity

Valley Population by County, 2008



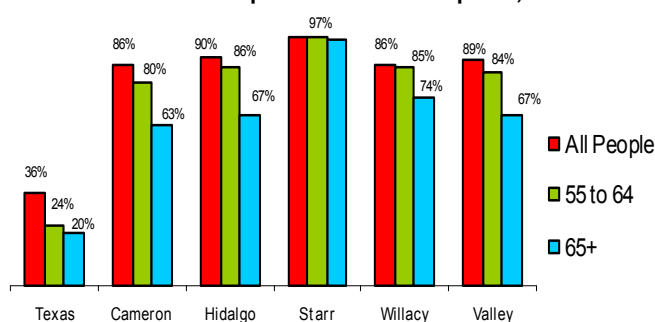
Percent of Population that is a Senior

Age Grp	Texas	Cameron	Hidalgo	Starr	Willacy	Valley
55 to 64	10%	8%	7%	7%	9%	8%
65+	10%	12%	10%	10%	13%	10%

Age

- About 5% of Texas' general population and 4% of its Older Adults (55+) reside in the Valley (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties).
- Hidalgo is the most populated county in the Valley followed, in order, by Cameron, Starr, then Willacy.
- The Senior (65+) population in the Valley is the same as Texas' (10%). The percent of people ages 55-64 is slightly lower.
- Willacy County has the highest concentration of people who are ages 65+.

Percent of Population that is Hispanic, 2008



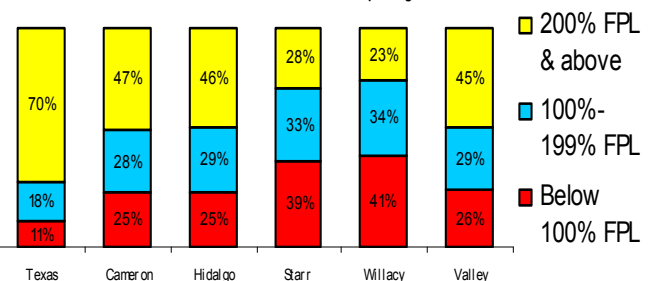
Race/Ethnicity

- The percent of the population that is Hispanic in the valley is more than twice that of Texas. Hispanics over the ages of 55, it is more than three times greater.
- Starr County has the highest concentration of Hispanics, 97%.
- The Black population in the Valley is very low, only 0.5%. There are an estimated 516 Blacks over the age of 55 living in the area.

Income

	Texas	Valley	High	Low
Below 55-64	10%	26%	Willacy (56%)	Cameron (24%)
100% FPL 65+	12%	27%	Starr (39%)	Hidalgo (25.6%)
100%- 55-64	14%	26%	Starr (30%)	Cameron (25%)
199% FPL 65+	22%	31%	Willacy (37%)	Cameron (30%)
200% FPL 55-64	75%	48%	Cameron (51%)	Willacy (19%)
& above 65+	65%	42%	Cameron (44%)	Starr (25%)

Ratio of Income to FPL for People Age 55 & Above



- The percent of Older Adults living below the FPL in the Valley is more than twice that of Texas.
- Almost half, 41%, of all people over the age of 55 living in Willacy County are living below the FPL. When just looking at people 55-64, it is 65%.
- In Hidalgo, the area's most populated county, more than half (54%) of older adults live below 200% of FPL.

Uninsured

Uninsured People Ages 45 to 64, 2005

Texas	Valley	High	Low
21%	36%	Hidalgo (37%)	Willacy (33%)

- The uninsured rates of people in the Valley ages 45 to 64 is higher than the Texas rate.
- In the Valley, people ages 45 to 64 were virtually as likely to be uninsured as people under the age of 45, 36% to 37%.
- When looking only at Hispanics the rate of uninsured (45-64) increases slightly, from 36% to 39%.

Fast Facts

- Older adults living in the Valley were less likely to still be in the work force when compared to Texas.
 - 55-64 => TX—60% Valley—48%
 - 65+ => TX—16% Valley—9%
- About 34% of Grandparents in the Valley were responsible for their grandchildren.
- When compared to Texas, the percent of people in the Valley, ages 18 and above, who were 'Not a Citizen' (legal status unknown) was higher, 27% compared to 13%.

Sources

“Age and Race/Ethnicity” - U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates, 2008

“Income” and “Fast Facts” - U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

“Uninsured” - U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 County Estimates for the Uninsured for Texas Tables

Lower Rio Grande Valley

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (Spanish: Valle del Río Grande), commonly known as the Rio Grande Valley or locally as the Valley or RGV, is a region spanning the border of Texas and Mexico located in a floodplain of the Rio Grande near its mouth. The region includes the southernmost tip of South Texas and a portion of northern Tamaulipas, Mexico. It consists of the Brownsville, Harlingen, Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen, Edinburg, Mission, San Juan, and Rio Grande City metropolitan areas in the United States and the Matamoros, Río Bravo, and Reynosa metropolitan areas in Mexico. The area is generally bilingual in English and Spanish, with a fair amount of Spanglish due to the region's diverse history and transborder agglomerations. It is home to some of the poorest cities in the nation, as well as many unincorporated, persistent poverty communities called colonias. A large seasonal influx occurs of "winter Texans" — people who come down from the north for the winter and then return north before summer arrives.

History

Pre-Spanish colonization

Native peoples lived in small tribes in the area before the Spanish conquest. The native tribes in South Texas were known to be hunter-gatherer peoples. The area was known for its smaller nomadic tribes collectively called Coahuiltecan. Native archaeological excavations near Brownsville have shown evidence of prehistoric shell trading.

Spanish colonization

Initially, the Spanish had a hard time conquering the area due to the differences in native languages, so they mainly focused on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico also known as the Seno Mexicano. Also, a major conflict existed on who would conquer the region. Antonio Ladrón de Guevara wanted to colonize the region, but the Viceroy of New Spain José Tienda de Cuervo doubted Ladrón de Guevara's character, eventually leading to a royal Spanish declaration preventing Ladrón de Guevara from participating in colonization efforts.

The first villas in the region were settled in Laredo and Reynosa in 1767. In 1805, the Spanish government solidified the autonomy of the region by defining the territory of Nuevo Santander as south of the colony of Tejas from the Nueces River south to Tampico, Charcas, and Valles. The local government of the region had a rough start with various indigenous wars up until 1812. In 1821 after the Mexican War of Independence, the state was renamed Tamaulipas.

Republic of Texas and annexation by the United States

The Texas Revolution of 1835-1836 put the majority of what is now called the Rio Grande Valley under contested Texan sovereignty. The area also became a thoroughfare for runaway slaves fleeing to Mexico.

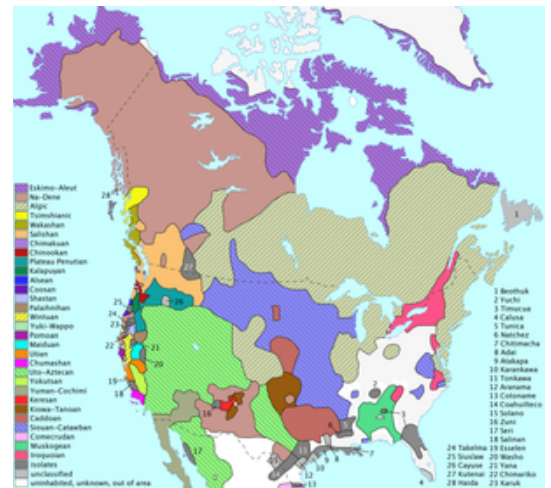
In 1844, the United States under President James K. Polk annexed the Republic of Texas, against British and Mexican sentiments, contributing to the onset of the Mexican–American War. The area along the Rio Grande was the source of several major battles, including the Battle of Resaca de la Palma near Brownsville. The war ended in 1848 with the

Table with 2 columns: Label, Value. Rows include: Region, Map of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Coordinates: 26.22°N 98.12°W, Country (United States, Mexico), State (Texas, Tamaulipas), Principal cities (United States: Brownsville, Harlingen, Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen, Edinburg, Mission, Rio Grande City, Raymondville; Mexico: Matamoros, Río Bravo, Reynosa), Largest city (Reynosa), Area (Land: 12,620 km² (4,872 sq mi)), Population (Total: 2,671,028; Metro (US): 1,291,798; Metro (Mexico): 1,379,230).



Map of Spanish Colonies along the Gulf of Mexico in 1815

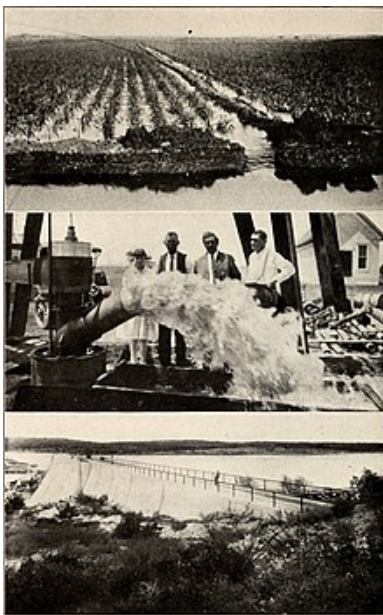
signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which defined the United States' southern border as the Rio Grande. The change in government led to a mass migration from Tamaulipas to the United States side of the river.^[19]



Map of indigenous peoples in North America

From the end of the Mexican-American War, the population of the Valley began to grow, and farmers began to raise cattle in the area.^[19] Despite the end of the formal war in 1848, interracial strife continued between native peoples and the white settlers over land through the 1920s.^{[9][20]}

Early 1900s and the Mexican Revolution



Irrigation outside of San Benito, Texas in 1916

At the turn of the 20th century trade and immigration between Mexico and the United States was a normal part of society.^[2]

The development of the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway in 1903 and the irrigation of the Rio Grande allowed the Rio Grande Valley to develop into profitable farmland.^[21] Droughts in the 1890s and early 1900s caused smaller farmers and cattle ranchers to lose their lands. Rich white settlers brought by the railroad bought the land and displaced the Tejano ranchers.^[22]



Map of the Republic of Texas 1841 with expansive borders

Meanwhile, across the river, Mexico was dealing with the Mexican Revolution.^[21] The revolution spilled over the border through cross-border supply raids, and in response President Taft sent the United States Army into the region beginning in 1911 and continuing until 1916 when the majority of the United States armed forces were stationed in the region. Texas governor Oscar Colquitt also sent the Texas Rangers into the area to keep the peace between Mexicans and Americans.^[2]

The region played host to several well known conflicts including the backlash from the Plan of San Diego, and the racially fueled violence of Texas Ranger Harry Ransom.^[2] In 1921 the United States Border Patrol came to the region with less than 10 officers.^[23] Initially the agency was focused on import and export business, especially alcohol during Prohibition in the United States, but later moved to detaining illegal aliens.^[24]

The region had a significant increase of Border Patrol agents during World War I in conjunction with the Zimmermann Telegram.^[25] The Texas Rangers also increased their presence as law enforcement in the region with a new class of Ranger that focused on determining Tejano loyalty.^[26] They were often violent, carrying out retaliatory murders.^[25] They were

never held accountable to the law even though charges were brought in the Texas senate.^[27]

There were two major military training facilities in the Valley in Brownsville and Harlingen during World War II.^[28]

Post World War II to present

The North American Free Trade Agreement, also known as NAFTA, was established in 1994 as a trade agreement between the three North American countries, The United States, Mexico, and Canada. NAFTA was supposed to increase trade with Mexico as they lowered or eliminated tariffs on Mexican goods.^[29] Exports and imports tripled in the region and accounted for a trade surplus of \$75 billion.^[29] The Rio Grande Valley benefited from NAFTA in retail, manufacturing, and transportation. Due to the influx of jobs and exportation, many people migrated to the RGV, both documented and undocumented.^[30]



United States Border Patrol officers on horseback near McAllen, Texas

According to Akinloye Akindayomi in *Drug violence in Mexico and its impact on the fiscal realities of border cities in Texas: evidence from Rio Grande Valley counties*, NAFTA also indirectly aids the rise in immigration and drug smuggling practices between cartels in the region, with cartels profiting with over \$80 billion.^[30] The Trump Administration decided to make new accords with Mexico and Canada and replaced NAFTA with the new trade agreement, United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2018.^[31]



Border Patrol vehicle along a portion of the Mexico-United States border wall

After the September 11 attacks, the Customs Border Security Act of 2001 established United States Border Patrol interior checkpoints with some situated at the north end of the Rio Grande Valley. This allows for a second line of defense in the ever increasing subtlety of smuggling.

More recently the organization We Build The Wall has begun construction on a section of the border wall in the Valley. Local residents have express concerns about the project including the site's proximity to the National Butterfly Center and the Rio Grande with its potential for seasonal flooding.^[32] The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission has ordered We Build The Wall to stop until they can review whether or not the construction violates a Treaty to resolve pending boundary differences and maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado

River as the international boundary between the United States and Mexico signed in 1970.^[33]

Geography

The Rio Grande Valley is not a true valley, but a river delta. "Valley" is often used in the western United States to refer to a large expanse with rivers. Most such valleys, including the Rio Grande, have good agricultural production.^{[34][1]} Early 20th-century land developers, attempting to capitalize on unclaimed land, utilized the name "Magic Valley" to attract settlers and appeal to investors. The Rio Grande Valley is also called *El Valle*, the Spanish translation of "the valley", by those who live there.^[35] The main region is within four Texan counties: Starr County, Hidalgo County, Willacy County, and Cameron County.

Major settlements



Texas Rangers with dead Mexicans after the Raid on Norias Ranch outside Kingsville, TX



Poster recruiting men to serve in the US Army along the Rio Grande

The largest city on the American side of the region is Brownsville (Cameron County), followed by McAllen (Hidalgo County). Other major cities include Harlingen, San Benito, Edinburg, Mission, Rio Grande City, Raymondville, Weslaco, Hidalgo and Pharr.^[36] On the Mexican side of the border Matamoros, Río Bravo, and Reynosa are major cities in this region.^{[2][3]}



This is a bi-national map showing the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

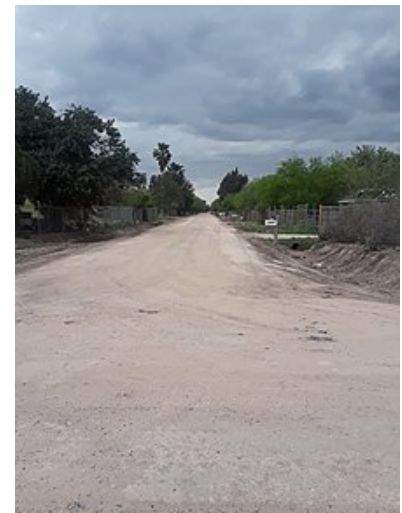
Demographics

As of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the population of the Rio Grande Valley at 1,368,723. Hidalgo County has the largest population with an estimate of 861,137.^[37] Cameron County has the second-highest population estimated at 422,135. Starr County has the third-largest population estimated at 64,032. Willacy County has the fourth-largest population estimated at 21,419.^[38]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2008, 86 percent of Cameron County, 90 percent of Hidalgo County, 97 percent of Starr County, and 86 percent of Willacy County are Hispanic.^[39]

Colonias

The major metropolitan areas in the Rio Grande Valley are surrounded by smaller rural communities called colonias.^[40] These communities are primarily poor and Hispanic.^[41] The areas often lack basic services like sanitation and sewage, and suffer from flooding.^{[42][40]} Many of these colonias are mixes of mobile homes and self-constructed houses owned by the residents.^[43] The Bracero program enacted in the 1940s allowed Mexicans to cross the border and work in the agricultural fields. Most worked in the Rio Grande Valley, and due to a shortage of affordable houses, developers started selling them land in unincorporated areas; these clusters of homes over time became what are now known as colonias.^[40] According to the Housing Assistance Council, a nonprofit organization that tracks rural housing, approximately 1.6 million people live in 1,500 recognized colonias alongside the Mexico–United States border.^[40]



A dirt road in a colonia near Edinburg, Texas

Language use

The residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley are generally bilingual in English and Spanish often mixing into Spanglish depending on demographics and context.^{[41][44]} Government statistics for the region are often underreported due to underlying immigration issues.^[45]

The Spanish language plays an important role in all aspects of life. In 1982 a statistically significant majority of people in the Rio Grande Valley spoke Spanish.^[46] People speak Spanish to communicate in all aspects of life including business, government, and at home.^[44]

2017 United States Census American Community Survey Estimates^[47]

	Cameron County	Hidalgo County	Starr County	Willacy County
Population 5 years and older	384,007	759,143	56,972	20,442
Speaks English only	102,074	119,489	2,072	8,252
Language other than English	281,933	639,654	54,900	12,190
Spanish	278,451	631,638	54,838	12,005
Other Indo- European Languages	1,302	2,126	3	155
Asian and Pacific Islander Languages	1,511	5,460	53	22
Other Languages	669	430	6	8

People often prefer Spanish to English when interacting with government officials as seen in the response to the region's 2018 flooding.^[48]

Religion

The Catholic Church has been present in the Rio Grande Valley since the Spanish colonization of the region.^[49] In San Juan, Texas the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle is a major Catholic shrine.

One of the offshoots of the Catholic Church, worship of Santa Muerte, has a small but significant following in the valley. There has been public outcry against followers erecting shrines at their homes and in public places.^{[50][51]} In 2015 a Santa Muerte statue was involved with a bomb scare in San Benito, Texas.^[52] This followed the desecration of a Santa Muerte statue in the San Benito Municipal Cemetery in January of the same year.^{[53][51]}

In addition to the Catholic Church, several other Christian denominations are present in the Rio Grande Valley, including several organized Protestant churches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley^[54] and 26 congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with about 17,000 members.^[54] The church began with a small branch serving the area in the early 1900s, and by 1952 there were two stakes.^[55] The El Paso 3rd Ward became the Church's first Spanish-speaking ward when it was created in 1952.^[56] In 2019, the Church announced the construction of the McAllen Texas Temple.^[57]

Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist and Bahá'í Faith communities thrive in the Rio Grande Valley.^{[58][59][60][61][62][63]}

Climate

The Lower Rio Grande Valley experiences a warm and fair climate that brings visitors from many surrounding areas.^[8] Temperature extremes range from triple digits during the summer months to freezing during the winter.^[64] While the Valley has seen severe cold events before, such as the 2004 Christmas snow storm and 2021 cold snap, the region rarely experiences temperatures at or below freezing, especially by the coast, which transitions into a Tropical climate.^[64]

The regions's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico makes it a target for hurricanes. Though not impacted as frequently as other areas of the Gulf Coast of the United States, the Valley has experienced major hurricanes in the past. Hurricanes that have made landfall in or near the area include: Hurricane Beulah (1967), Hurricane Allen (1980), Hurricane Gilbert, Hurricane

Bret, Hurricane Dolly (2008), Hurricane Alex (2010), and Hurricane Hanna (2020). Having an especially flat terrain, the Valley usually experiences the catastrophic effects of tropical cyclones in the form of flooding.^[48]

Tourism

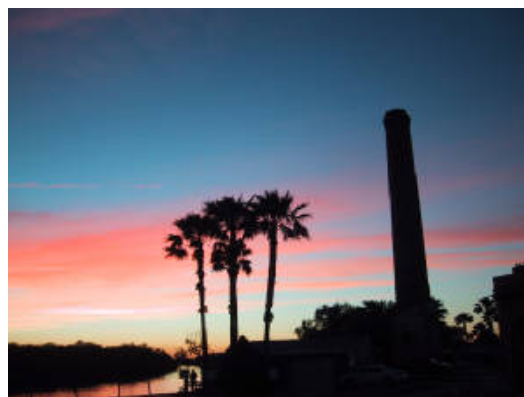
The Lower Rio Grande Valley encompasses landmarks that attract tourists. Popular destinations include Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, South Padre Island, Brazos Island, and the Port Isabel Lighthouse.

The Valley is a popular waypoint for tourists visiting northeast Mexico.^[65] Popular destinations across the border and Rio Grande include: Matamoros, Nuevo Progreso, Río Bravo, and Reynosa, all located in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

The region also attracts tourists from the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Mexico, D.F. (México City).

Places of historical interest

- Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle
- First Lift Station
- Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
- Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
- Hugh Ramsey Nature Park
- Los Ebanos Ferry, last hand-operated ferry on the Rio Grande
- La Lomita Historic District
- Fort Brown
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site
- Resaca de la Palma
- Rancho de Carricitos^[66]
- USMC War Memorial original plaster working model, located on the campus of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen
- Museum of South Texas History, originally the County Court House and Jail, built in the late 19th century
- Battle of Palmito Ranch, location of the last battle of the Civil War
- Brownsville Raid
- Battle of Resaca de la Palma



The First Lift Station in Mission, Texas once provided water for irrigating the crops of the early Rio Grande Valley.

Economy

The Valley is historically reliant on agribusiness and tourism. Cotton, grapefruit, sorghum, maize, and sugarcane are its leading crops, and the region is the center of citrus production and the most important area of vegetable production in the State of Texas. Over the last several decades, the emergence of maquiladoras (factories or fabrication plants) has caused a surge of industrial development along the border, while international bridges have allowed Mexican nationals to shop, sell, and do business in the border cities along the Rio Grande. The geographic inclusion of South Padre Island also drives tourism, particularly during the Spring Break season, as its subtropical climate keeps temperatures warm year-round.^[67] During the winter months, many retirees (commonly referred to as "Winter Texans") arrive to enjoy the warm weather,^[8] access to pharmaceuticals and healthcare in Mexican border crossings such as Nuevo Progreso.^[68] There is a substantial health-care industry with major hospitals and many clinics and private practices in Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen.

Texas is the third largest producer of citrus fruit in the United States, the majority of which is grown in the Rio Grande Valley. Grapefruit make up over 70% of the Valley citrus crop, which also includes orange, tangerine, tangelo and Meyer lemon production each Winter.^[69]

There are two minor professional sports teams that play in the Rio Grande Valley: The Rio Grande Valley Vipers (basketball), and Rio Grande Valley FC Toros (soccer). Defunct teams that previously played in the region include: the Edinburg Roadrunners (baseball), La Fiera FC (indoor soccer), Rio Grande Valley Ocelots FC (soccer), Rio Grande Valley WhiteWings (baseball), Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees (ice hockey), and the Rio Grande Valley Sol (indoor football).

One of the Valley's major tourist attractions is the semi-tropical wildlife. Birds and butterflies attract a large number of visitors every year all throughout the entire region. Ecotourism is a major economic force in the Rio Grande Valley.^{[70][71]}



Box of Oranges, from the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas (postcard, c. 1912–1924)

Transportation

Valley International Airport serves the Rio Grande Valley community, with service on seven passenger and two cargo airlines, including one international passenger airline, Mexico's VivaAerobus.

There are several bus lines that run through the United States side of the Lower Rio Grande Valley including Metro Connect (McAllen), McAllen Paratransit, McAllen Metro Services, Brownsville Metro/ADA Paratransit Service Island Metro (South Padre Island), and Greyhound Lines.^{[72][73]} On the Mexican side of the border there are several bus companies that run including Greyhound, Tornado, Ave Senda Ejecutiva, Enlaces Terrestres Nacionales, Futua, Noreste, Omnibus de Oriente, Transpais, Transportes del Norte, Transportes Frontera, and Turistar Lujo.^{[74][73]}

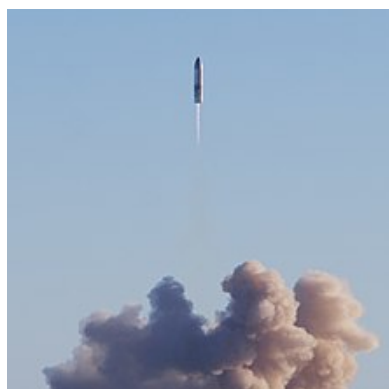
The Interstate Highway System in the United States is well developed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and connects Brownsville, Hidalgo, McAllen, Raymondville, Edinburg, Pharr, and Laredo.^[75] On the Mexican side, there are several major highways between Matamoros, Reynosa, and Nuevo Laredo. As of 2015 car travel on the Mexican side was considered dangerous and the Mexican Federal Police offered a police escort between Ciudad Victoria, Matamoros, and Reynosa.^[76]

Freight trains run between Harlingen, Mission, Edinburg, and Santa Rosa connecting to the Union Pacific Railroad. In Mexico, Kansas City Southern de México runs freight service and crosses from Matamoros into Brownsville over the Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge.^[77]



The Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge

Sea trade runs through the deepwater seaport, the Port of Brownsville and the Foreign Trade Zone 62.^[78]



Starship SN8 launching from SpaceX South Texas launch site

SpaceX South Texas launch site is located near Brownsville. Elon Musk is also building an ocean spaceport named Deimos intended for transport to and from Mars.^[79]

Politics

The region is represented by Ted Cruz and John Cornyn in the United States Senate and by Filemon Vela Jr. and Vicente Gonzalez in the United States House of Representatives.^[80]

Presidential election results

Year	Republican	Democratic	Third parties
2020	41.6% 147,286	57.6% 203,435	0.9% 3,382
2016	29.0% 81,885	67.6% 190,922	3.4% 9,544
2012	29.6% 68,927	69.3% 161,804	1.0% 4,433
2008	31.2% 69,287	67.8% 150,424	1.0% 2,033
2004	45.8% 90,493	53.8% 106,300	0.4% 789
2000	39.5% 69,801	59.1% 104,327	1.4% 2,505
1996	29.2% 44,959	65.8% 101,327	5.0% 7,605
1992	30.7% 49,798	56.6% 91,667	12.7% 20,523
1988	37.0% 56,479	62.5% 95,425	0.5% 671

In the twenty-first century, the dominance of agribusiness has caused political issues, as jurisdictional disputes regarding water rights have caused tension between farmers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Scholars, including Mexican political scientist Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, have argued that this tension has created the need for a re-developed strategic transnational water management.^[81] Some have declared the

disputes tantamount to a "war" over diminishing natural resources.^[82] Climatologists believe water scarcity in the Valley will only increase as climate change alters the precipitation patterns of the region.^[83]

Democratic candidate Beto O'Rourke received 164,232 votes from the region, compared to incumbent Ted Cruz's 79,049, in his failed bid to replace Cruz in the Senate in 2018.^[84]

Unlike most of Texas the Rio Grande Valley is strongly Democratic having last voting for a Republican presidential candidate in 1972 and only 3 times since 1912 along with 1952 and 1956.

In 2016, Donald Trump's won only 29 percent of the region's vote, an 80-year low for Republicans. However, in 2020, he significantly strengthened the Republican vote in the Rio Grande Valley, reducing, among other things, Hillary Clinton's 2016 60-point margin of victory in 96% Hispanic Starr County to only 5 points.^{[85][86][87]}

Education

Historically education has posed significant challenges to schools in the region. Schools in the early 1920s through the 1940s were racially segregated in the Rio Grande Valley. In 1940 a study showed the need for improvement in cultural differentiation of instruction.^[88] The Texas Supreme Court in *Del Rio ISD v. Salvatierra* reinforced the racial segregation.^[89] In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Bilingual Education Act, helping students whose second language was English. The Act gave financial assistance to local schools to create bilingual programs, enabling Mexican students to integrate white schools.^[89] The area like many others had a hard time integrating.^[90] Texas still has the bilingual program, while states like California, Arizona, and Massachusetts, have removed the bill and passed similar propositions stating that students would only be taught in English.^[89] The bilingual program in the Rio Grande Valley is still in effect especially with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students in the area.^[89]

Colleges and universities located in the Rio Grande Valley include:

- Texas A&M Health Science Center, School of Public Health - McAllen
- Texas A&M University - McAllen Campus
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley — Entered into full operation in 2015 with the merger of the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Texas–Pan American.
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- Texas Southmost College
- Texas State Technical College
- South Texas College
- University of Texas Health Science Center - Regional Academic Health Center^[91]

Sports

Club	Sport	League	Venue	Capacity
Rio Grande Valley FC Toros	Soccer	USLC	H-E-B Park	9,735
Rio Grande Valley Vipers	Basketball	NBA G League	Bert Ogden Arena	9,000
RGV Barracudas FC	Indoor Soccer	MASL	Payne Arena	6,800
UTRGV Basketball Men	NCAA Division I Basketball	WAC	UTRGV Fieldhouse	2,500
Rio Grande Valley Dorados	Arena Football	afa	Traveling Team	

1984	46.5% 68,602	53.2% 78,625	0.3% 435
1980	42.9% 51,233	54.9% 65,571	2.1% 2,559
1976	35.3% 37,853	64.0% 68,661	0.7% 772
1972	56.8% 48,442	42.7% 36,410	0.1% 390
1968	38.1% 28,831	55.1% 41,665	6.8% 5,147
1964	34.1% 23,002	65.7% 44,374	0.2% 169
1960	40.4% 25,465	59.0% 37,239	0.6% 360
1956	54.2% 27,425	44.7% 22,621	1.0% 525
1952	60.2% 32,185	39.6% 21,189	0.2% 79
1948	36.8% 11,764	60.8% 19,439	2.5% 786
1944	37.5% 10,211	56.6% 15,406	5.9% 1,595
1940	36.4% 9,065	63.4% 15,789	0.3% 63
1936	26.1% 5,818	71.7% 15,960	2.2% 498
1932	20.9% 5,045	78.0% 18,837	1.1% 275
1928	49.7% 8,368	50.1% 8,897	0.2% 27
1924	24.6% 2,395	71.3% 6,950	4.2% 407
1920	38.0% 2,115	60.9% 3,382	1.1% 59
1916	19.5% 805	78.8% 3,250	1.7% 69
1912	9.17% 445	85.0% 4,125	5.8% 283

Defunct

Club	Sport	League
<u>Rio Grande Valley Dorados</u>	<u>Arena football</u>	<u>af2</u> (2004–09)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Bravos FC</u>	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>PDL</u> (2008–010)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Magic</u>	<u>Arena football</u>	<u>SIFL</u> (2011) <u>LSFL</u> (2012)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Sol</u>	<u>Arena football</u>	<u>LSFL</u> (2014) <u>XLIF</u> (2015)
<u>Hidalgo La Fiera</u>	<u>Arena soccer</u>	<u>MASL</u> (2012–14)
<u>Edinburg Roadrunners</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Texas–Louisiana League</u> (2001) <u>Central Baseball League</u> (2002–05) <u>United League Baseball</u> (2006–10) <u>North American League</u> (2011–12)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Giants</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Texas League</u> (1960–61)
<u>Rio Grande Valley WhiteWings</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Texas–Louisiana League</u> (1994–2001) <u>Central Baseball League</u> (2002–03) <u>United League Baseball</u> (2006–10) <u>North American League</u> (2011–12)
<u>Texas Thunder</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>United League Baseball</u> (2009–10) <u>North American League</u> (2011–12) <u>United League Baseball</u> (2013)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees</u>	<u>Ice hockey</u>	<u>CHL</u> (2003–12)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees</u>	<u>Ice hockey</u>	<u>NAHL</u> (2013–15)
<u>Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees</u>	<u>Ice hockey</u>	<u>USA Central Hockey League</u> (2018)

Hospitals

- Cornerstone Regional Hospital, Edinburg, Texas
- Edinburg Children's Hospital, Edinburg, Texas
- Edinburg Regional Medical Center, Edinburg, Texas
- Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, Edinburg, Texas
- Harlingen Medical Center, Harlingen, Texas
- McAllen Heart Hospital, McAllen, Texas
- McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas
- Rio Grande Regional Hospital, McAllen, Texas
- Rio Grande State Hospital, Harlingen, Texas
- Solara Hospital, Harlingen, Texas
- VA Health Care Center at Harlingen. Harlingen, Texas
- Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, Texas
- Valley Baptist Medical Center, Brownsville, Texas
- Valley Regional Medical Center, Brownsville, Texas
- Knapp Medical Center, Weslaco, Texas
- Mission Regional Medical Center, Mission, Texas

Media

Magazines

- *The Go Guide* (published by Above Group Advertising Agency)
- *Rio Grande Magazine*
- *Viva el Valle*

- *RGV Drives Magazine* (published by MAT Media Solutions)
- *RGVision Magazine* (published by RGVision Media)

Newspapers

- *Valley Town Crier* - owned by Gatehouse Media
- *The Edinburg Review* - owned by Gatehouse Media
- *Valley Bargain Book* - owned by Gatehouse Media
- *El Periódico USA*
- *El Nuevo Herald* - owned by AIM Media Texas
- *Mega Doctor News*
- *Texas Border Business*
- *The Brownsville Herald* - owned by AIM Media Texas
- *The Island Breeze* - owned by AIM Media Texas
- *The Monitor* - owned by AIM Media Texas
- *Valley Morning Star* - owned by AIM Media Texas
- *Valleywood Magazine* - owned by Valleywood Publications
- *The Donna News* - owned by Valleywood Publications
- *Weslaco World* - owned by Valleywood Publications
- *La Feria Journal* - owned by Valleywood Publications
- *South Padre Island Post* - owned by Valleywood Publications

Television

- KGBT-TV/DT channel 4, Antenna TV Affiliate
- KRGV-TV/DT Channel 5 News, ABC Affiliate
- KVEO-TV/DT Local 23/CBS 4 (DT-2), NBC/CBS Affiliate
- KCWT-CD 21, The CW Affiliate
- KTFV-CD 32, UniMás Affiliate
- KFXV TV/DT 60, FOX Affiliate
- KLUJ-TV/DT 44, TBN Affiliate
- KTLM-TV/DT 40, Telemundo Affiliate
- KNVO TV/DT 48, Univision Affiliate
- KMBH-LD 67, Fox 2 News, Fox Affiliate
- XERV-TDT 9.1 Las Estrellas, Televisa
- XHAB-TDT 8.1 Vallevisión, Televisa
- XHOR-TDT 14.1 Azteca 7, TV Azteca
- XHREY-TDT1.1 Azteca Uno, TV Azteca

Radio

- KBFM Wild 104 (Hip Hop/Top 40 - IHeart Media)
- XEEW-FM Los 40 Principales 97.7 (Top 40 Spanish/English)
- KBTQ 96.1 Exitos (Spanish Oldies) Univision
- KCAS 91.5 FM (Christian, Teaching/Preaching/Music)
- KESO 92.7 KESO (Classic Hits)
- KFRQ Q94.5 The Rock (Classic Rock) (All Rock All The Time)
- KGBT 1530 La Tremenda (Univision)
- KGBT-FM 98.5 FM (Regional Mexican) Univision
- KHKZ Kiss FM 105.5 & 106.3 (Hot Adult Contemporary)
- KIRT 1580 AM Radio Imagen (Variety, Spanish contemporary)
- KIWW (Spanish)

- [KJAV Ultra 104.9 Sonamos Diferente](#) (Spanish AC & English HAC) (AC)
- [KKPS Fuego 99.5](#) (Spanish Hot AC (International hits)
- [KJJF/KHID 88.9/88.1 Religious](#) (Relevant Radio)
- [KNVO-FM La Suavecita 101.1](#) (Spanish Hits)
- [KQXX Kiss FM 105.5 & 106.3](#) (Hot Adult Contemporary, simulcast of KHKZ - IHeart Media)
- [KTEX 100.3](#) (Mainstream Country - IHeart Media)
- [KURV 710 AM Heritage Talk Radio](#) (part of the BMP family of stations)
- [KVLV 107.9 RGV FM \(AC\)](#) (More Hits, More Variety)
- [KVMV 96.9 FM](#) (Christian, Contemporary Music) World Radio Network
- [KVNS 1700AM](#) (Fox Sports Radio - IHeart Media)
- [XHRYA-FM 90.9 Mas Music](#) (Spanish/English Mix)
- [KBUC Super Tejano 102.1](#) (Tejano)

Notable people

A list of notable people who were born, lived, or died in the Rio Grande Valley includes:

- [Abraham Ancer](#) (professional golfer, Olympian)
- [Ramón Ayala](#) (singer)
- [David V. Aguilar](#) (Chief Border Patrol Agent, United States Border Patrol)
- [Cristela Alonzo](#) (comedian, actress, writer, producer)
- [Micaela Alvarez](#) (federal judge)
- [Natalia Anciso](#) (contemporary artist)
- [Gloria E. Anzaldúa](#) (writer, poet, philosopher)
- [Cathy Baker](#) (television performer)
- [Lloyd Bentsen](#) (U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; U.S. Senator; 1988 Vice-Presidential candidate)
- [James Carlos Blake](#) (novelist)
- [Harlon Block](#) (Iwo Jima flag raiser)
- [William S. Burroughs](#) (writer; his time as a farmer in the Valley in [Pharr, Texas](#), is briefly chronicled in his books *Junky* and *Queer*)
- [Pedro Cano](#) (Medal of Honor recipient)
- [Rolando Cantú](#) (football player)
- [Raúl Castillo](#) (actor)
- [Thomas Haden Church](#) (actor)
- [Freddy Fender](#) (actor, musician, lyricist)
- [Mike Fossum](#) (astronaut)
- [Reynaldo Guerra Garza](#) (United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit judge)
- [Kika de la Garza](#) (U.S. Representative)
- [Roberto Garza](#) (football player)
- [Xavier Garza](#) (author and illustrator)
- [Tony Garza](#) (U.S. Ambassador to Mexico)
- [Alfredo C. Gonzalez](#) (Medal of Honor Recipient, U.S. Marine Veteran)
- [Matt Gonzalez](#) (2008 Vice-Presidential candidate; former president of the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, California)
- [Esteban Jordan](#) (accordionist)
- [Bill Haley](#) (musician)
- [Catherine Hardwicke](#) (writer; film director-producer)
- [Rolando Hinojosa](#) (author)
- [Rubén Hinojosa](#) (U.S. Representative)
- [Kris Kristofferson](#) (musician, actor, songwriter)
- [Tom Landry](#) (American football coach, Mission, Texas)
- [Bobby Lackey](#) (College Football Player; Weslaco, Texas)

- José M. López (Medal of Honor Recipient)
- Domingo Martinez (author)
- Eduardo Martinez (Historian, Journalist)
- Roy Mitchell-Cárdenas (musician)
- Jack Morava (mathematician)
- Rachel McLish (Ms. Olympia; actress)
- Bobby Morrow (Olympic gold medalist)
- Billy Gene Pemelton (1964 Olympian)
- Major Samuel Ringgold (father of modern artillery)
- Charles M. Robinson III (author)
- Valente Rodriguez (actor)
- Ricardo Sanchez (U.S. Army lieutenant general; Ground forces commander in Iraq)
- Julian Schnabel (filmmaker)
- Adela Sloss Vento
- Merced Solis aka Tito Santana (wrestler)
- Nick Stahl (actor)
- Emeraude Toubia (actress)
- Filemon Bartolome Vela (federal judge)
- Eric Miles Williamson (novelist, literary critic, professor)
- Raquel Gonzalez (wrestler)

See also



- Flora of the Rio Grande valleys

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External links

- Texas State Historical Association — Lower Rio Grande Valley (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ryr01>)
- Rio Grande Valley Partnership: Valley Chamber (<http://www.valleychamber.com>)
- Rio Grande Valley Sports Information Center (<http://www.rgvsports.com>)
- South Padre Island Turtle Cam (<http://www.seaturtleinc.com/turtlecam.html>)
- Rgvattractions.com: Attractions in the Rio Grande Valley (<http://www.rgvattractions.com>)
- Rio Grande Valley Community Foundation (<http://www.rgvcommunityfoundation.com>)
- RGVPrize.com (<http://www.rgvprize.com>)

- Los Ebanos, TX (http://www.moma.org/collection/browse_results.php?object_id=50669)
 - Wintertexaninfo.com: The Winter Texan Connection (<http://wintertexaninfo.com>)
 - KERA documentary about agricultural workers, "A Thirst in the Garden," (<https://americanarchive.org/catalog/cpb-aacip-526-p843r0r27w>) The Walter J. Brown Media Archives & Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia, American Archive of Public Broadcasting
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley&oldid=1138209904"

South Texas

South Texas is a region of the U.S. state of Texas that lies roughly south of—and includes—San Antonio. The southern and western boundary is the Rio Grande, and to the east it is the Gulf of Mexico. The population of this region is about 4.96 million according to the 2017 census estimates.

Greater Houston and Beaumont–Port Arthur are occasionally tied to the region, both for physically being on the southern end of the state and for businesses that use "South Texas" in its name. (i.e. South Texas School of Law, South Texas State Fair, etc). However, the two are more commonly associated with East Texas or Southeast Texas.

Geography

There is no defined northern boundary, although it is believed to be at the city of San Antonio and from an east to west line extending from the Rio Grande near Maverick County to the Gulf of Mexico, but turning southeast at or near Lavaca County, and continuing towards the Gulf of Mexico to separate it from East Texas and Southeast Texas. The Rio Grande serves as the western and southern boundaries and separates Texas from Mexico. The eastern portion of South Texas is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico. South Texas consists of 41 counties. Its terrain is flat, lying on the coastal plain. South Texas is so vast, that there are even subregions. The very southern tip of South Texas, called the Rio Grande Valley, has fertile soils and is known for its citrus production. The eastern portion of South Texas is often referred to as the Coastal Bend; here, coastal salt marshes, estuaries, and wetlands are scattered all around. The western and central parts are known as the South Texas Plains or the Brush Country. Mesquite trees and crop fields dominate the Brush Country.

Counties

- Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Matagorda, Maverick, Medina, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Uvalde, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata, Zavala

- The fastest growing county in South Texas is Guadalupe County, growing by 31.3% from 2010 to 2020.

South Texas
Region
San Antonio skyline
South Texas counties in red
Country: United States
State: Texas
Largest city: San Antonio
Population: 4,992,597



Corpus Christi is the second largest city in South Texas.

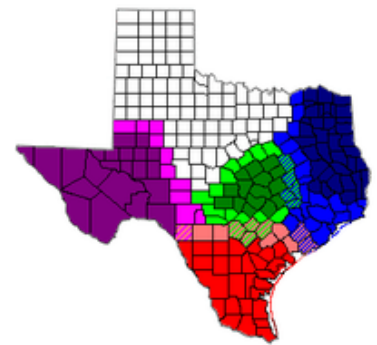
- The slowest growing county in South Texas is Refugio County, shrinking by 8.7% from 2010 to 2020.

Cities

Region Rank	City	2020 Census	2010 Census	% change	County
1	<u>San Antonio</u>	1,434,625	1,327,407	+8.08%	<u>Bexar County</u>
2	<u>Corpus Christi</u>	317,863	305,215	+4.14%	<u>Nueces County</u>
3	<u>Laredo</u>	263,640	236,091	+11.67%	<u>Webb County</u>
4	<u>Brownsville</u>	186,738	175,023	+6.69%	<u>Cameron County</u>
5	<u>McAllen</u>	142,210	129,877	+9.50%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
6	<u>Edinburg</u>	100,243	77,100	+30.02%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
7	<u>Mission</u>	85,778	77,058	+11.32%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
8	<u>Pharr</u>	79,715	70,400	+13.23%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
9	<u>Harlingen</u>	71,829	64,849	+0.95%	<u>Cameron County</u>
10	<u>Victoria</u>	65,534	62,592	+4.70%	<u>Victoria County</u>
11	<u>Schertz</u>	42,002	31,465	+33.49%	<u>Guadalupe County</u>
12	<u>Weslaco</u>	40,160	35,670	+12.59%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
13	<u>San Juan</u>	35,294	33,856	+4.25%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>
14	<u>Seguin</u>	29,433	25,175	+16.91%	<u>Guadalupe County</u>
15	<u>Eagle Pass</u>	28,130	26,248	+7.17%	<u>Maverick County</u>
16	<u>Converse</u>	27,466	18,198	+50.93%	<u>Bexar County</u>
17	<u>Kingsville</u>	25,402	26,213	-3.09%	<u>Kleberg County</u>
18	<u>San Benito</u>	24,861	24,250	+2.52%	<u>Cameron County</u>
19	<u>Universal City</u>	19,720	18,530	+6.42%	<u>Bexar County</u>
20	<u>Alamo</u>	19,493	18,353	+6.21%	<u>Hidalgo County</u>



Laredo is the third largest city in South Texas. The San Agustín Cathedral was built during the Spanish Texas period.



South Texas is depicted in red. Counties sometimes considered part of South Texas are in a lighter shade of red.



Brownsville is the fourth largest city in South Texas.

Some people consider Houston to be in South Texas for several reasons: numerous businesses in the Houston region contain 'South Texas' in their titles.^[2] The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas includes the Houston division. However, Houston is most accurately classified as being within Southeast Texas, a subregion of East Texas.

Rivers

Name	Note
<u>Rio Grande</u>	The border between <u>Texas</u> and Mexico
<u>Nueces River</u>	At one time considered by Mexico as the border between Texas and Mexico
<u>San Antonio River</u>	Part of the river is the location of <u>San Antonio's Famous River Walk</u> .
<u>Aransas River</u>	A short river that drains in <u>Copano Bay</u> .
<u>Frio River</u>	A fairly cold river, hence the name Frio, which means "cold" in Spanish.
<u>Atascosa River</u>	A short river that empties into the Frio River
<u>Mission River</u>	Flows into <u>Mission Bay</u>
<u>Leona River</u>	A tributary of the Frio River, within the Nueces River Basin
<u>Guadalupe River</u>	Flows into the San Antonio Bay estuary at Guadalupe Bay

Lakes and reservoirs

- Choke Canyon Reservoir
- Lake Corpus Christi
- Falcon Lake
- Lake Amistad
- Lake Findley
- Mitchell Lake
- Lake Casa Blanca
- Brauning Lake
- Calaveras Lake

Bays

- Corpus Christi Bay
- San Antonio Bay
- Baffin Bay
- Nueces Bay
- Oso Bay
- Copano Bay
- Aransas Bay
- Matagorda Bay
- Lavaca Bay
- Redfish Bay



McAllen is the fifth largest city in South Texas.



Padre Island is a popular beach destination.

- Mission Bay

Estuaries and waterways

- Rincon Bayou - a bayou in the Nueces River Delta, just north of the mouth of the Nueces River, for Location, see Nueces Bay
- Elm Bayou - a bayou on the Victoria-Refugio County line
- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway - a navigable route along the Gulf of Mexico without many of the hazards of travel on the open sea
- Resacas of the Rio Grande Valley - many oxbow lakes found scattered throughout the lower Rio Grande Valley
- Laguna Madre - a long, hypersaline bay that creates a barrier between Padre Island and mainland Texas

Islands

- Padre Island
 - North Padre Island
 - South Padre Island
- Mustang Island
- Matagorda Island
- Ward Island
- San José Island

Climate

The climate of South Texas is varied. The area along the Mexican border is generally semi-arid (Köppen climate classification *BSh*), while the area from the coast inland to just west of San Antonio has a humid subtropical climate (Köppen *Cfa*). South Texas weather is affected by the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains to the west, the Gulf of Mexico to the east, and the Chihuahuan Desert to the west/northwest. Moisture from the Pacific is cut off by the Mexican Sierra Madre Occidental and Oriental mountain ranges. Along the coast the climate is best exemplified in the summers when humidity is extremely high though at times arid, depending upon whether tropical moisture from the Gulf and sometimes from the Pacific is flowing in or if the region is cut off from any moisture by high pressure systems, causing long droughts, which occur every few years. Temperatures reach freezing only a few times in the winter and snowfall is rare, usually three inches or less. Summers in this zone are hot and humid, with daily averages above 90 °F or 32.2 °C. In addition, areas in Texas that are slightly inland from the Gulf of Mexico, such as San Antonio that border the semi-arid climate zone, generally see a peak of precipitation in the spring, and a deep, drought-like nadir in midsummer. The region itself sees a short wet season from March to May and another one from late August to October, and a dry season elsewhere in the year. Night-time temperatures are around 85 °F or 29.4 °C in summer. The region of South Texas includes the semi-arid ranch country and the wetter Rio Grande Valley. Considered to be the southernmost tip of the American Great Plains region, the inland region has rainfall similar to that of the Northern Plains. The coastal areas are warm most of the year due to currents of the Gulf of Mexico, but can get cold in winter if a strong front comes in, occasionally causing snow at sea level. Rain in the coastal region is more abundant than in the inland region, and subtropical forests line the Rio Grande. Inland, where it is drier, ranches dominate the landscape, characterized by thick, spiny brush and grasslands. The winters in the inland region are cooler and drier, as Arctic air can make it into the region, but snow is rare due to the lack of humidity. Summers are for the most part hot and dry, but at times can be humid if winds come off the warmer Gulf of Mexico. Tornadoes can occur in this region, but less frequently than in other parts of the state.

Climate data for San Antonio (San Antonio Int'l), 1991–2020 normals, ^[a] extremes 1885–present ^[b]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	89 (32)	100 (38)	100 (38)	101 (38)	104 (40)	108 (42)	107 (42)	110 (43)	111 (44)	99 (37)	94 (34)	90 (32)	111 (44)
Mean maximum °F (°C)	80.3 (26.8)	84.9 (29.4)	88.9 (31.6)	92.2 (33.4)	96.0 (35.6)	98.9 (37.2)	100.5 (38.1)	102.1 (38.9)	98.7 (37.1)	93.1 (33.9)	85.1 (29.5)	80.6 (27.0)	103.8 (39.9)
Average high °F (°C)	63.3 (17.4)	67.5 (19.7)	73.8 (23.2)	80.3 (26.8)	86.6 (30.3)	92.4 (33.6)	94.9 (34.9)	96.0 (35.6)	90.1 (32.3)	82.2 (27.9)	71.7 (22.1)	64.7 (18.2)	80.3 (26.8)
Average low °F (°C)	41.0 (5.0)	45.1 (7.3)	51.8 (11.0)	58.4 (14.7)	66.4 (19.1)	72.7 (22.6)	74.7 (23.7)	74.9 (23.8)	69.6 (20.9)	60.4 (15.8)	49.8 (9.9)	42.4 (5.8)	58.9 (14.9)
Mean minimum °F (°C)	26.2 (−3.2)	29.0 (−1.7)	33.7 (0.9)	41.6 (5.3)	53.1 (11.7)	65.3 (18.5)	70.2 (21.2)	69.4 (20.8)	57.4 (14.1)	41.8 (5.4)	32.2 (0.1)	27.4 (−2.6)	23.5 (−4.7)
Record low °F (°C)	0 (−18)	4 (−16)	19 (−7)	31 (−1)	42 (6)	48 (9)	60 (16)	57 (14)	41 (5)	27 (−3)	21 (−6)	6 (−14)	0 (−18)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	1.96 (50)	1.74 (44)	2.31 (59)	2.42 (61)	4.40 (112)	3.28 (83)	2.41 (61)	2.15 (55)	3.88 (99)	3.75 (95)	2.08 (53)	2.00 (51)	32.38 (823)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	0.0 (0.0)	0.1 (0.25)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.1 (0.25)	0.2 (0.51)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	6.9	7.4	8.5	6.4	8.3	7.0	5.0	4.7	6.9	6.4	6.4	7.4	81.3
Average snowy days (≥ 0.1 in)	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Average relative humidity (%)	67.1	65.2	63.2	66.3	70.5	68.8	65.0	64.7	68.0	67.2	68.3	68.0	66.9
Average dew point °F (°C)	37.0 (2.8)	39.9 (4.4)	46.8 (8.2)	55.6 (13.1)	63.7 (17.6)	68.4 (20.2)	68.9 (20.5)	68.5 (20.3)	65.7 (18.7)	57.0 (13.9)	48.0 (8.9)	40.1 (4.5)	55.0 (12.8)
Mean monthly sunshine hours	159.4	169.7	215.5	209.7	221.8	275.9	308.8	293.9	234.9	218.0	171.9	149.7	2,629.2
Percent possible sunshine	49	54	58	54	52	66	72	72	63	61	54	47	59
Source: NOAA (relative humidity, dew point and sun 1961–1990), ^{[3][4][5]}													

Climate data for Brownsville, Texas													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	91 (33)	94 (34)	106 (41)	102 (39)	102 (39)	103 (39)	103 (39)	104 (40)	105 (41)	99 (37)	98 (37)	94 (34)	106 (41)
Average high °F (°C)	70.7 (21.5)	73.9 (23.3)	79.0 (26.1)	83.9 (28.8)	88.6 (31.4)	92.3 (33.5)	93.7 (34.3)	94.5 (34.7)	90.6 (32.6)	85.7 (29.8)	79.2 (26.2)	72.0 (22.2)	83.7 (28.7)
Daily mean °F (°C)	61.2 (16.2)	64.3 (17.9)	69.3 (20.7)	74.9 (23.8)	80.5 (26.9)	84.0 (28.9)	85.0 (29.4)	85.4 (29.7)	81.9 (27.7)	76.3 (24.6)	69.4 (20.8)	62.4 (16.9)	74.6 (23.7)
Average low °F (°C)	51.6 (10.9)	54.7 (12.6)	59.6 (15.3)	65.9 (18.8)	72.3 (22.4)	75.7 (24.3)	76.3 (24.6)	76.2 (24.6)	73.1 (22.8)	66.9 (19.4)	59.6 (15.3)	52.7 (11.5)	65.4 (18.6)
Record low °F (°C)	18 (−8)	12 (−11)	28 (−2)	37 (3)	41 (5)	56 (13)	57 (14)	63 (17)	51 (11)	35 (2)	27 (−3)	16 (−9)	12 (−11)
Average rainfall inches (mm)	1.27 (32)	1.12 (28)	1.23 (31)	1.54 (39)	2.64 (67)	2.57 (65)	2.04 (52)	2.44 (62)	5.92 (150)	3.74 (95)	1.82 (46)	1.15 (29)	27.48 (696)
Average rainy days (≥ 0.01 in)	7.7	5.4	4.2	4.0	5.0	6.6	5.0	7.2	9.3	7.3	5.9	7.2	74.8
Mean monthly sunshine hours	130.2	152.6	207.7	234.0	266.6	306.0	334.8	306.9	252.0	229.4	165.0	130.2	2,715.4
Source 1: National Weather Service (normals 1981–2010) ^[7]													
Source 2: Hong Kong Observatory (sun, 1961–1990) ^[8]													

Climate data for Victoria, Texas													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	88 (31)	96 (36)	99 (37)	100 (38)	102 (39)	107 (42)	110 (43)	109 (43)	111 (44)	109 (43)	93 (34)	88 (31)	111 (44)
Average high °F (°C)	62.8 (17.1)	66.6 (19.2)	73.4 (23.0)	79.2 (26.2)	85.1 (29.5)	90.3 (32.4)	93.4 (34.1)	93.7 (34.3)	89.9 (32.2)	83.0 (28.3)	73.0 (22.8)	65.2 (18.4)	79.6 (26.5)
Average low °F (°C)	43.6 (6.4)	46.7 (8.2)	53.9 (12.2)	60.1 (15.6)	68.1 (20.1)	73.3 (22.9)	75.0 (23.9)	74.6 (23.7)	70.3 (21.3)	61.6 (16.4)	52.3 (11.3)	45.2 (7.3)	60.4 (15.8)
Record low °F (°C)	9 (−13)	15 (−9)	21 (−6)	33 (1)	40 (4)	54 (12)	61 (16)	61 (16)	45 (7)	31 (−1)	18 (−8)	9 (−13)	9 (−13)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	2.44 (62)	2.04 (52)	2.25 (57)	2.97 (75)	5.12 (130)	4.96 (126)	2.90 (74)	3.05 (77)	5.00 (127)	4.26 (108)	2.64 (67)	2.47 (63)	40.1 (1,018)
Source: National Weather Service ^[9]													

Hurricanes are the most dangerous weather systems to affect South Texas. Hurricane season is between June and November. However, the Texas coast gets affected usually between August and September, when systems sporadically organize in the southern Gulf around the Bay of Campeche or western Caribbean and the latter months forming off the coast of Africa.

Droughts- Although South Texas summers generally see rainfall in summer months, some years the lack of rain is persistent and leads to water shortages; lake levels drop significantly and lead to municipal water restrictions. In the summer of 2011, numerous records were set. On August 28, 2011, most of South Texas had temperatures reaching 110 °F, breaking many cities' record highs. Furthermore, 95% of the state faced an extreme or exceptional drought, according to the office of the Texas state climatologist. These drought conditions led to a string of dangerous wildfires across the state, and the enforcement of burn bans in 250 of the 254 counties in Texas.

Tornadoes do occur in this part of the state, but not as frequently as other parts. They approach, usually from the northwest to southeast, as a line of severe thunderstorms, mostly in the summer months and by cold fronts in fall.

Snow rarely falls south of San Antonio or on the coast except in rare circumstances. Of note is the 2004 Christmas Eve snowstorm, when 6 inches (150 mm) of snow fell as far south as McAllen.

Wildlife

Reptiles

- Texas tortoise
- Texas horned lizard
- Texas spiny lizard
- Green anole
- American alligator
- Western diamondback rattlesnake
- Texas coral snake
- Desert massasauga rattlesnake
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle
- Loggerhead sea turtle
- Leatherback sea turtle
- Green sea turtle
- Hawksbill sea turtle

Mammals

- Coyote
- Javelina
- Virginia opossum
- Bobcat
- West Indian manatee
- White-tailed deer
- Mountain lion
- Jaguar
- Jaguarundi
- Ocelot
- Nine-banded armadillo
- Black-tailed jackrabbit
- Desert cottontail
- Striped skunk
- Ring-tailed Cat

Sealife

- Bottlenose dolphins
- Barracuda
- Bluefish
- Tarpon
- Tiger shark
- Red drum
- Blue crab
- Stone crab
- Fiddler crab
- Lightning whelk
- Atlantic Spanish mackerel
- King mackerel
- Pinfish
- Pigfish^[10]
- Gafftopsail catfish
- Hardhead catfish
- Atlantic cutlassfish
- Atlantic croaker
- Striped mullet
- American eel
- Black drum
- Spotted seatrout
- Greater amberjack
- Florida pompano
- Common snook
- Crevalle jack
- Tripletail
- Cobia
- Eastern oyster
- red snapper
- Vermilion snapper
- Sheepshead
- Lane snapper
- Bull shark
- Shortfin mako
- Atlantic blue marlin
- Southern flounder

Arthropods

- [Southern black widow](#)
- [Black widow](#)
- [Brown recluse](#)
- [Texas brown tarantula](#)
- [Giant desert centipede](#)
- [Texas tan tarantula](#)
- [fire ant](#)

Birds

- [Northern mockingbird](#)
- [Laughing gull](#)
- [American herring gull](#)
- [White-winged dove](#)
- [Green jay](#)
- [Brown pelican](#)
- [American white ibis](#)
- [Great white heron](#)
- [Osprey](#)
- [Anhinga](#)
- [Monk parakeet](#)
- [Roseate spoonbill](#)
- [Reddish egret](#)
- [Red-crowned parrot](#)

Demographics and culture

Multicultural influences

South Texas is well known for strong [Hispanic](#), primarily [Mexican American](#) and *Tejano* (the Spanish term for "Texan") influences, due to its proximity to [Mexico](#). Tejanos and Mexicans living in South Texas are descended from the Spanish and [Sephardic Jewish](#) settlers of Mexico, from Mexican indigenous groups allied with the Spanish, such as [Tlaxcaltec](#) and [Otomi](#) peoples, and from local indigenous groups of South Texas who were missionized by the Spanish, particularly [Coahuiltecans](#). These migrations occurred and have been ongoing since the early 1700s in South Texas. The [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#) in the 1840s failed to secure land belonging to the Mexican settlers. The disputed area was between the [Nueces River](#) south of San Antonio and Corpus Christi, the [King Ranch](#), and the Rio Grande. Recognized by neither Mexico nor the United States, the [Republic of the Rio Grande](#) was established in this region in 1840, lasting less than a year. Laredo served as its capital.

The Rio Grande Valley area played a significant role in the [Mexican War of Independence](#), the [Texas Revolution](#), the [Mexican–American War](#), and the [American Civil War](#), with many historical battle sites around the area. General Robert E. Lee resided at Fort Ringold (Rio Grande City) during this time as a colonel. President [Zachary Taylor](#) was General of the Army at [Fort Brown](#) (Brownsville) during the Mexican–American War.

The [Texas Rangers](#) gained popularity for their actions in South Texas during the Mexican bandit raids in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On May 25, 1876, a band of 40 Texas Rangers rode out of Laredo and headed north to the Nueces Strip. Their mission was to find, kill or capture [John King Fisher](#), leader of a band of cattle rustlers and cut-throats who had been terrorizing the area. The Rangers were members of a select group known as the Special Force. Led by Leander McNelly, the Special Force was given the task to bring law and order to an area of South Texas that lay between [Corpus Christi](#) and the [Mexican border](#).^[11] San Antonio has the most significant African American population in all of South Texas.^[12]

Economy

Rice

An important event in the development of South Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast rice industry was the introduction of seed imported from Japan in 1904. The Houston Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Pacific Railroad invited Japanese farmers to Texas to help area farms in the production of rice. The seed the Japanese farmers brought with them was a gift from the Japanese emperor. The production of Japanese rice began at Webster in Harris County. The Gulf Coast rice industry is credited to the Saibara family.^[13]



Hauling rice in South Texas
(postcard, circa 1909)

Transportation

Air

- [San Antonio International Airport](#)
- [Corpus Christi International Airport](#)
- [Laredo International Airport](#)
- [Valley International Airport](#)
- [Victoria Regional Airport](#)
- [McAllen Miller International Airport](#)
- [Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport](#)
- [Alice International Airport](#)
- [South Texas International Airport at Edinburg](#)
- [Aransas County Airport](#)^[14]
- [Kleberg County Airport](#)
- [Duval-Freer Airport](#)
- [Mustang Beach Airport](#)
- [San José Island Airport](#)

Passenger rail

- [San Antonio Amtrak station](#), serving two Amtrak lines; the *[Sunset Limited](#)* and the *[Texas Eagle](#)*; and [Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach](#) route serving [Harlingen](#), [Brownsville](#), and [McAllen](#), Texas.






Major highways

Interstate















- [!\[\]\(3168ddc4389f6b417dd71f084513be9c_img.jpg\) I-2](#)
- [!\[\]\(17332056424eb04f01463711418ba65a_img.jpg\) I-10](#)
- [!\[\]\(4bb72d34295215b367c2a8fe4ff5b637_img.jpg\) I-35](#)
- [!\[\]\(37e0a546ebe55ca4a497b5baea1c9b32_img.jpg\) I-37](#)
- [!\[\]\(bbf293445c8a24a32fef9a96a789af14_img.jpg\) I-69C](#)
- [!\[\]\(e57e1c05233d931e47e19e86bc8e5416_img.jpg\) I-69E](#)
- [!\[\]\(c4ccc701654bbfa2abacfe95f4b7ede2_img.jpg\) I-69W](#)
- [!\[\]\(5a52b7fcc6ad02f692fe4d2bb773b995_img.jpg\) I-169](#)
- [!\[\]\(d8ec0a199f213d77f0954762386fdd9a_img.jpg\) I-410](#)

US Routes

- [!\[\]\(91f916b54a4c6447ad9638d4638be954_img.jpg\) US 59](#)
- [!\[\]\(f1f3815424e59f897c916108e2f1d706_img.jpg\) US 77](#)

-  [US 83](#)
-  [US 87](#)
-  [US 90](#)
-  [US 181](#)
-  [US 281](#)

Texas State Highways

-  [TX 4](#)
-  [TX 16](#)
-  [TX 44](#)
-  [TX 107](#)
-  [TX 141](#)
-  [TX 151](#)
-  [TX 255](#)
-  [TX 285](#)
-  [TX 286](#)
-  [TX 336](#)
-  [TX 358](#)
-  [TX 359](#)
-  [TX 361](#)
-  [TX 495](#)

International bridges

Laredo

- [Gateway to the Americas International Bridge](#)
- [Juárez–Lincoln International Bridge](#)
- [Texas Mexican Railway International Bridge](#)
- [World Trade International Bridge](#)
- [Laredo–Colombia Solidarity International Bridge](#)

Eagle Pass

- [Eagle Pass–Piedras Negras International Bridge](#)
- [Camino Real International Bridge](#)
- [Union Pacific International Railroad Bridge](#)

Brownsville

- [Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge](#)
- [Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates](#)
- [Gateway International Bridge](#)

Los Indios

- [Free Trade International Bridge](#)

Falcon Heights

- [Lake Falcon Dam International Crossing](#)

Hidalgo McAllen

- [McAllen–Hidalgo–Reynosa International Bridge](#)
- [Anzalduas International Bridge](#)

Pharr

- [Pharr–Reynosa International Bridge](#)

Progreso

- [Progreso–Nuevo Progreso International Bridge](#)

Rio Grande City

- [Rio Grande City–Camargo International Bridge](#)

Roma

- [Roma–Ciudad Miguel Alemán International Bridge](#)

Tourism

San Antonio

- [San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#)
- [The Alamo](#)
- [Tobin Center for the Performing Arts](#)
- [Six Flags Fiesta Texas](#)
- [San Antonio River Walk](#)
- [San Antonio Zoo](#)
- [SeaWorld San Antonio](#)
- [San Antonio Museum of Art](#)
- [San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo](#)

Corpus Christi

- [Mirador de la Flor \(Selena Memorial Statue\)](#)
- [Texas State Aquarium](#)
- [USS Lexington Museum Ship](#)
- [Mustang Island and Mustang Island State Park](#)
- [Padre Island National Seashore](#) near Corpus Christi
- [Bayfest](#)
- [Schlitterbahn](#)

Laredo

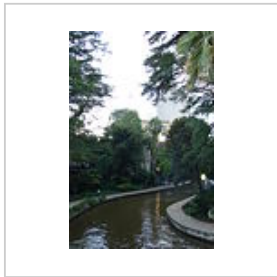
- [San Agustin de Laredo Historic District](#)
- [Republic of the Rio Grande Capitol Building Museum](#)
- [Washington's Birthday Celebration](#) festivities during January and February

Rio Grande Valley

- [South Padre Island](#)
- [Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville](#)
- [Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle](#)

Other

- [King Ranch near Kingsville](#)
- [Aransas National Wildlife Refuge](#)



[San Antonio River Walk](#)



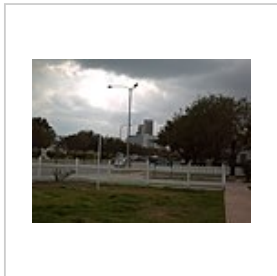
[South Padre Island](#)



[SeaWorld San Antonio](#)



[The Alamo](#)



[Corpus Christi](#)



[USS Lexington floating museum in Corpus Christi](#)



[San Agustin Cathedral in Laredo's San Agustin de Laredo Historic District](#)



[Republic of the Rio Grande Capitol building is located in Laredo](#)



[Basilica of San Juan del Valle in San Juan](#)

Education

Colleges

- [Alamo Community College District](#)

- [San Antonio College](#)
- [Palo Alto College](#)
- [St. Philip's College](#)
- [Northeast Lakeview College](#)
- [Northwest Vista College](#)
- [Coastal Bend College](#)
 - [Alice Campus](#)
 - [Main Campus \(Beeville\)](#)
 - [Kingsville Campus](#)
 - [Pleasanton Campus](#)
- [Del Mar College](#)
- [Laredo Community College](#)
 - [Laredo Community College South Campus](#)
- [South Texas College](#)
 - [Main Campus, McAllen](#)
 - [Tech Campus, McAllen](#)
 - [Nursing and Allied Health Campus, McAllen](#)
 - [Mid-Valley Campus, Weslaco](#)
 - [Starr County Campus, Rio Grande City](#)
- [Texas State Technical College](#)
- [Texas Southmost College](#)

Public universities

- [Texas A&M International University \(Laredo\)](#)
- [Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi](#)
- [Texas A&M University–Kingsville \(Texas A&I\)](#)
- [Texas A&M University–San Antonio](#)
- [University of Houston–Victoria](#)
- [University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio](#)
- [University of Texas at San Antonio](#)
- [University of Texas Rio Grande Valley \(2015\)](#)
 - [University of Texas at Brownsville](#)
 - [University of Texas–Pan American](#)

Private universities

- [Our Lady of the Lake University](#)
- [St. Mary's University](#)
- [University of the Incarnate Word](#)
- [Trinity University](#)
- [Texas Lutheran University](#)

Sports

The only major professional sports team in South Texas is the [San Antonio Spurs](#) in the [NBA](#).

Team	Sport	League	Venue
San Antonio Spurs	Basketball	NBA	AT&T Center
San Antonio Silver Stars		WNBA	
Rio Grande Valley Vipers		NBA D-League	State Farm Arena
San Antonio Talons	Arena Football	AFL	Alamodome
Corpus Christi Hammerheads		Lone Star Football League	American Bank Center
Corpus Christi Hooks	Baseball	Texas League	Whataburger Field
San Antonio Missions			Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium
Laredo Lemurs		AAIPB	Uni-Trade Stadium
Brownsville Charros		United League Baseball	Harlingen Field
Rio Grande Valley WhiteWings			Harlingen Field
San Antonio Rampage	Ice hockey	American Hockey League	AT&T Center
Corpus Christi IceRays		North American Hockey League	American Bank Center
San Antonio Scorpions FC	Soccer	NASL	Toyota Field
Laredo Heat		PDL	TAMU Soccer Complex
La Fiera FC	Indoor soccer	PASL	State Farm Arena

Area codes

- [210](#) - [San Antonio](#), [Bexar County](#)
- [361](#) - [Corpus Christi](#), [Alice](#), [Victoria](#), [Kingsville](#), [Rockport](#), [Falfurrias](#)
- [726](#) - [San Antonio metropolitan area](#)
- [830](#) - [Eagle Pass](#), [Floresville](#)
- [956](#) - [Laredo](#), [Brownsville](#), [McAllen](#), [Mission](#), [Edinburg](#)
- [979](#) - only the southern half of this area is in South Texas

See also

- [List of geographical regions in Texas](#)
- [List of Texas regions](#)
- [Port of Corpus Christi](#)
- *[Tejano South Texas](#)*

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 - Official records for San Antonio were kept at downtown from March 1885 to December 1940, at [Stinson Municipal Airport](#) from January 1941 to June 1942, and at San Antonio Int'l since July 1942. For more information, see [Threadex](#) (<http://threadex.rcc-acis.org>)
- [1] (<https://www.census.gov/popest/data/counties/totals/2013/CO-EST2013-01.html>)
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West South Central states

The **West South Central states**, colloquially known as the **South Central states**, is a region of the United States defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as covering four states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The West South Central or South Central region is located within the Southern United States and Gulf Coast regions,^[3] bordering the Mountain states and Midwestern U.S. regions to its north and west. The Gulf of Mexico is to the south of the region. Houston is the South Central's largest city, and the Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington metropolitan statistical area is the region's largest metropolis.

A geographically diverse region, the southern portion of the states are covered by coastal plains and swamps,^{[4][5][6][7]} while the remainder is covered by forests such as the Cross Timbers,^{[8][9][10]} hills and mountains,^{[11][12][13]} and deserts near the Texas–Mexico border.

With European colonization of the Americas, this region of the U.S. has been heavily influenced by the French and Spanish.^{[14][15][16][17]} With American settlement, Anglo-American culture began to influence the states covering the region. Distinct from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, and in common with the Western U.S. and South Atlantic states, the majority of its non-Anglo culture descends from the Spanish Empire and Mexico,^{[14][18]} within Louisiana, there is a significant French influence preserved through its Cajun and Louisiana Creole populations.^{[19][20][21]} In Oklahoma, Native American culture is prevalent through tribes such as the Cherokee and Seminole nations among others.^[22]

Within the region, Christianity is the prevalent religion as part of the Bible Belt; southern and southeastern Texas,^[23] and southern Louisiana are predominantly Roman Catholic and non- or inter-denominational Protestant, with Baptists constituting a great majority.^[24] From central and northern Texas, and central and northern Louisiana to the states of

West South Central



Left to right from top: Downtown Houston, San Antonio, Downtown Dallas, Austin, Oklahoma City, El Paso, Tulsa and New Orleans skyline



States in dark red are traditionally included in the West South Central states, while

Oklahoma and Arkansas, Baptists, Methodists, and non- or inter-denominational Protestants constituted the majority.^[24]

History

The history of the West South Central states is dominated by the conflict and interaction between three cultural-linguistic groups: the Anglosphere (first Great Britain and then the United States), the Hispanidad (first Spain then Mexico), and the Francophonie (France).

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Spain and France maneuvered for control of Texas,^[25] with the Spanish based in Mexico and the French in Louisiana. During the War of the Quadruple Alliance hostilities spread to the New World and the French troops from Natchitoches briefly captured the capital of Spanish Texas, Los Adaes, in what is now western Louisiana. The French were not able to wrest control of Texas from Spain, and by the early 19th century sold their North American holdings to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase,^{[26][27]} which comprised slightly less than half of what is today the West South Central United States.

During the Texas Revolution (1835–1836), a rebellion of United States immigrants and Tejanos (Texas Mexicans), put up an armed resistance against the Centralist Republic of Mexico.^[28] The Battle of the Alamo was a major turning point during the Texas Revolution.^[29] This battle would lead to many Texians deciding to join the Texian Army. Texians would defeat the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto later on,^{[30][31]} leading to Texas declaring themselves an independent country in 1836, however Mexico viewed them as a rebellious province. Texas would eventually be admitted as a U.S. state in 1845.^[32]

The official West and East South Central states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee would secede from the Union and join the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Kentucky was a border state that remained with the Union. Oklahoma, although Indian Territory at the time, was home to five major Native American tribes (the Five Civilized Tribes), of which the majority allied themselves with the Confederacy.^{[33][34]} Oklahoma territory and Indian Territory would merge into the state of Oklahoma, when it became the 46th U.S. state in 1907.^[35] All of these states are usually considered to make up a larger part of the American South, both historically and culturally, as well as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Geography

The climate varies from the semi-tropical in the Mississippi Delta, south Louisiana, and southeast Texas, to the dry Chihuahuan desert in West Texas.^{[7][6][13]} A large portion of the northeastern quarter of the region is mountainous, with the Ozark and Ouachita mountains of Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. The northwest quarter of the region is dominated by the Great Plains which become progressively drier west of 100° W, forming the North American Llano Estacado. The southwestern portions border the Rio Grande, and are generally drier than other areas of the West South Central United States.

states in pink may be broadly included, although they form part of the <u>Mountain states</u> and <u>East South Central states</u> regions	
States	<u>Arkansas</u> · <u>Louisiana</u> · <u>Oklahoma</u> · <u>Texas</u>
Largest metropolitan areas	<u>Dallas-Fort Worth</u> · <u>Greater Houston</u> · <u>Greater San Antonio</u> · <u>Greater Austin</u> · <u>Oklahoma metroplex</u> · <u>Greater New Orleans</u>
Largest city	Houston
Area ^[1]	
• Total	444,052.01 sq mi (1,150,089.4 km ²)
• Land	425,066.01 sq mi (1,100,915.9 km ²)
• Water	18,986.00 sq mi (49,173.5 km ²)
Population (2019) ^[2]	
• Total	40,619,450
• Density	91/sq mi (35/km ²)

Two megaregions exist within this region:

- The Texas Triangle is formed by interstates 10, 35, and 45 connecting in the shape of a triangle to link the four metropolitan areas of Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin.
- The Gulf Coast megaregion is located along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and primarily along the I-10 corridor centered upon the urban areas of Houston and New Orleans, this megaregion extends into the southeastern region.

States in the West South Central region

State	2020 census	Land Area
<u>Arkansas</u>	3,011,524	53,179
<u>Louisiana</u>	4,657,757	51,843
<u>Oklahoma</u>	3,986,639	69,898
<u>Texas</u>	29,527,941	268,581

Demographics

Texas is the largest West South Central state by both area and population; Texas is still home to over half the region's population. The largest city in the region, Houston, is located in Texas. New Orleans was tied with Oklahoma City in population but, after Hurricane Katrina, the population of the New Orleans metro area declined to approximately 1 million.^[36] By 2017, the population of the New Orleans metropolitan area had bounced back to almost 1.3 million;^[37] overall, Louisiana and Arkansas are the two-slowest growing states of the region in contrast with Texas and Oklahoma.^{[38][39]} In contrast with the population growth of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, Louisiana has experienced the fifth highest population loss in the U.S. according to 2021 census estimates (making it the second-slowest growing state along the entire Gulf Coast megaregion, yet still experiencing more natural births than Mississippi in the East South Central states).^[40]

Ten largest cities by population

	City	2020 Pop.
1	<u>Houston, Texas</u>	2,288,250
2	<u>San Antonio, Texas</u>	1,451,853
3	<u>Dallas, Texas</u>	1,288,457
4	<u>Austin, Texas</u>	964,177
5	<u>Fort Worth, Texas</u>	935,508
6	<u>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</u>	687,725
7	<u>El Paso, Texas</u>	678,415
8	<u>Tulsa, Oklahoma</u>	411,401
9	<u>Arlington, Texas</u>	392,786
10	<u>New Orleans, Louisiana</u>	376,971

Ten largest metropolitan areas by population

	MSA	2021 Pop.
1	<u>Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington, TX MSA</u>	7,759,615
2	<u>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA</u>	7,206,845
3	<u>San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX MSA,</u>	2,601,795
4	<u>Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX MSA</u>	2,352,435
5	<u>Oklahoma City, OK MSA</u>	1,441,655
6	<u>New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA</u>	1,261,735
7	<u>Tulsa, OK MSA</u>	1,142,906
8	<u>McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA</u>	868,707
9	<u>Baton Rouge, LA MSA</u>	854,757
10	<u>El Paso, TX MSA</u>	844,124

Politics

Parties					
<u>Democratic-Republican</u>	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Whig</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Dixiecrat</u>	<u>American Independent</u>

- **Bold** denotes election winner.

Presidential electoral votes in the West South Central States since 1812				
Year	Arkansas	Louisiana	Oklahoma	Texas
<u>1812</u>	No election	<u>Madison</u>	No election	No election
<u>1816</u>	No election	<u>Monroe</u>	No election	No election
<u>1820</u>	No election	<u>Monroe</u>	No election	No election
<u>1824</u>	No election	<u>Jackson</u>	No election	No election
<u>1828</u>	No election	<u>Jackson</u>	No election	No election
<u>1832</u>	No election	<u>Jackson</u>	No election	No election
<u>1836</u>	<u>Van Buren</u>	<u>Van Buren</u>	No election	No election
<u>1840</u>	<u>Van Buren</u>	<u>Harrison</u>	No election	No election
<u>1844</u>	<u>Polk</u>	<u>Polk</u>	No election	No election
<u>1848</u>	<u>Cass</u>	<u>Taylor</u>	No election	<u>Cass</u>
<u>1852</u>	<u>Pierce</u>	<u>Pierce</u>	No election	<u>Pierce</u>
<u>1856</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	No election	<u>Buchanan</u>
<u>1860</u>	<u>Breckinridge</u>	<u>Breckinridge</u>	No election	<u>Breckinridge</u>
<u>1864</u>	No election	<u>Lincoln</u>	No election	No election
<u>1868</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Seymour</u>	No election	No election
<u>1872</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Grant</u>	No election	<u>Hendricks</u>
<u>1876</u>	<u>Tilden</u>	<u>Hayes</u>	No election	<u>Tilden</u>
<u>1880</u>	<u>Hancock</u>	<u>Hancock</u>	No election	<u>Hancock</u>
<u>1884</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	No election	<u>Cleveland</u>
<u>1888</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	No election	<u>Cleveland</u>
<u>1892</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	No election	<u>Cleveland</u>
<u>1896</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	No election	<u>Bryan</u>
<u>1900</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	No election	<u>Bryan</u>
<u>1904</u>	<u>Parker</u>	<u>Parker</u>	No election	<u>Parker</u>
<u>1908</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Bryan</u>
<u>1912</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>
<u>1916</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>
<u>1920</u>	<u>Cox</u>	<u>Cox</u>	<u>Harding</u>	<u>Cox</u>
<u>1924</u>	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Davis</u>
<u>1928</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Hoover</u>	<u>Hoover</u>
<u>1932</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
<u>1936</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
<u>1940</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
<u>1944</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
<u>1948</u>	<u>Truman</u>	<u>Thurmond</u>	<u>Truman</u>	<u>Truman</u>

<u>1952</u>	<u>Stevenson</u>	<u>Stevenson</u>	<u>Eisenhower</u>	<u>Eisenhower</u>
<u>1956</u>	<u>Stevenson</u>	<u>Eisenhower</u>	<u>Eisenhower</u>	<u>Eisenhower</u>
<u>1960</u>	<u>Kennedy</u>	<u>Kennedy</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Kennedy</u>
<u>1964</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Goldwater</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Johnson</u>
<u>1968</u>	<u>Wallace</u>	<u>Wallace</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Humphrey</u>
<u>1972</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Nixon</u>
<u>1976</u>	<u>Carter</u>	<u>Carter</u>	<u>Ford</u>	<u>Carter</u>
<u>1980</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>
<u>1984</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Reagan</u>
<u>1988</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>
<u>1992</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>
<u>1996</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Dole</u>
<u>2000</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>
<u>2004</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Bush</u>
<u>2008</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>McCain</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Romney</u>
<u>2016</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>
<u>2020</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Trump</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Texas</u>

Sports

Within the major professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada, the first team in the region were founded in 1960: the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League and the Houston Oilers of the American Football League. The Oilers relocated after 1996, whereas two more teams in the region joined the NFL: the Houston Texans (2002) and New Orleans Saints (1967).^[41]

Two Major League Baseball teams are based in the region: Houston Astros (1962) and Texas Rangers (1972).^[42] The region has five NBA teams: San Antonio Spurs (1967), Houston Rockets (1971), Dallas Mavericks (1980), New Orleans Pelicans (2002) and Oklahoma City Thunder (2008).^[43] National Hockey League features the Dallas Stars since 1993.^[44]






Texas also has three Major League Soccer teams: FC Dallas (1996), Houston Dynamo (2006), and Austin FC (2021), whereas the Dallas Tornado played in the North American Soccer League from 1968 to 1981.^[45]

Collegiate athletics have deep significance in the region's culture, especially football. The Southwest Conference was based in the region from 1914 to 1996. Currently the Big 12 Conference has four teams from Texas and two from Oklahoma, whereas the Southeastern Conference has one team from Texas, one from Arkansas and one from Louisiana.

According to a survey of Division I-A coaches, the Red River Shootout, the rivalry between the Oklahoma Sooners and Texas Longhorns, ranks the third best in the nation.^[46] The Bedlam Series is the rivalry between the Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys. The TCU Horned Frogs and SMU

Mustangs also share a rivalry and compete annually in the Battle for the Iron Skillet.

Major professional teams

Team	Sport	League	Venue
 <u>Austin FC</u>	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>MLS</u>	<u>Q2 Stadium</u>
 <u>Dallas Cowboys</u>	<u>Football</u>	<u>NFL</u>	<u>AT&T Stadium</u>
 <u>Dallas Mavericks</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	<u>NBA</u>	<u>American Airlines Center</u>
 <u>Dallas Stars</u>	<u>Hockey</u>	<u>NHL</u>	<u>American Airlines Center</u>
 <u>FC Dallas</u>	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>MLS</u>	<u>Toyota Stadium</u>



Houston Astros

Baseball

MLB

Minute Maid Park



Houston Dynamo

Soccer

MLS

BBVA Stadium



Houston Rockets

Basketball

NBA

Toyota Center



Houston Texans

Football

NFL

NRG Stadium



New Orleans Pelicans

Basketball

NBA

Smoothie King Center

 <p><u>New Orleans Saints</u></p>	<p><u>Football</u></p>	<p><u>NFL</u></p>	<p><u>Mercedes-Benz Superdome</u></p>
 <p><u>Oklahoma City Thunder</u></p>	<p><u>Basketball</u></p>	<p><u>NBA</u></p>	<p><u>Chesapeake Energy Arena</u></p>
 <p><u>San Antonio Spurs</u></p>	<p><u>Basketball</u></p>	<p><u>NBA</u></p>	<p><u>AT&T Center</u></p>
 <p><u>Texas Rangers</u></p>	<p><u>Baseball</u></p>	<p><u>MLB</u></p>	<p><u>Globe Life Field</u></p>

[47][48][49]

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Areal Flood Advisory

Source: U.S. National Weather Service

START


7:28 PM

Monday, May 29

END

8:30 PM

Monday, May 29



...FLOOD ADVISORY IN EFFECT UNTIL 830 PM CDT THIS EVENING...

* WHAT...Flooding caused by excessive rainfall is expected.

* WHERE...A portion of Deep South Texas, including the following county, Hidalgo.

* WHEN...Until 830 PM CDT.

* IMPACTS...Minor flooding in low-lying and poor drainage areas.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS... - At 728 PM CDT, Doppler radar indicated heavy rain due to thunderstorms. Minor flooding is ongoing or expected to begin shortly in the advisory area. Between 1 and 2 inches of rain have fallen. - Additional rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches are expected over the area. This additional rain will result in minor flooding. - Some locations that will experience flooding include... Palmhurst, North McAllen, Alton, Sharyland North Junior High School, Donna Werneck Elementary School, Olivero Garza Sr Elementary School, Hendricks Elementary School, Mcallen Recycling Center, Josefa Garcia Park, Mcauliffe Elementary School, Rowe High School, Bill Schupp Park, Sylvia Vela Park, Las Palmas Community Center, Mission Fire Station Number 3, Veterans Memorial High School, Mcallen High School, Sharyland High School, Mcallen Memorial Stadium and Mcallen Municipal Park. - <http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...


Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.

&&

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
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
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VIDEO

Close video shows tornado beginning to end in Texas

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0:26

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