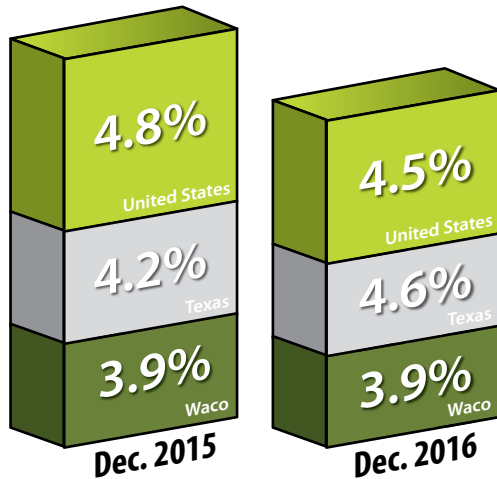


GREATER WACO ECONOMY

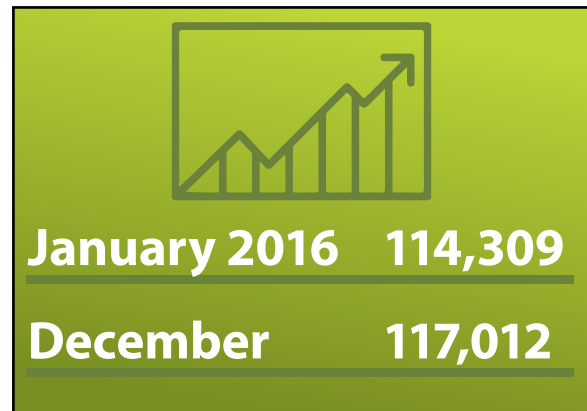


February 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



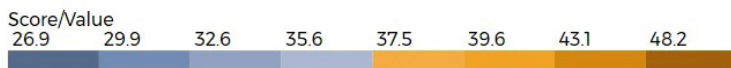
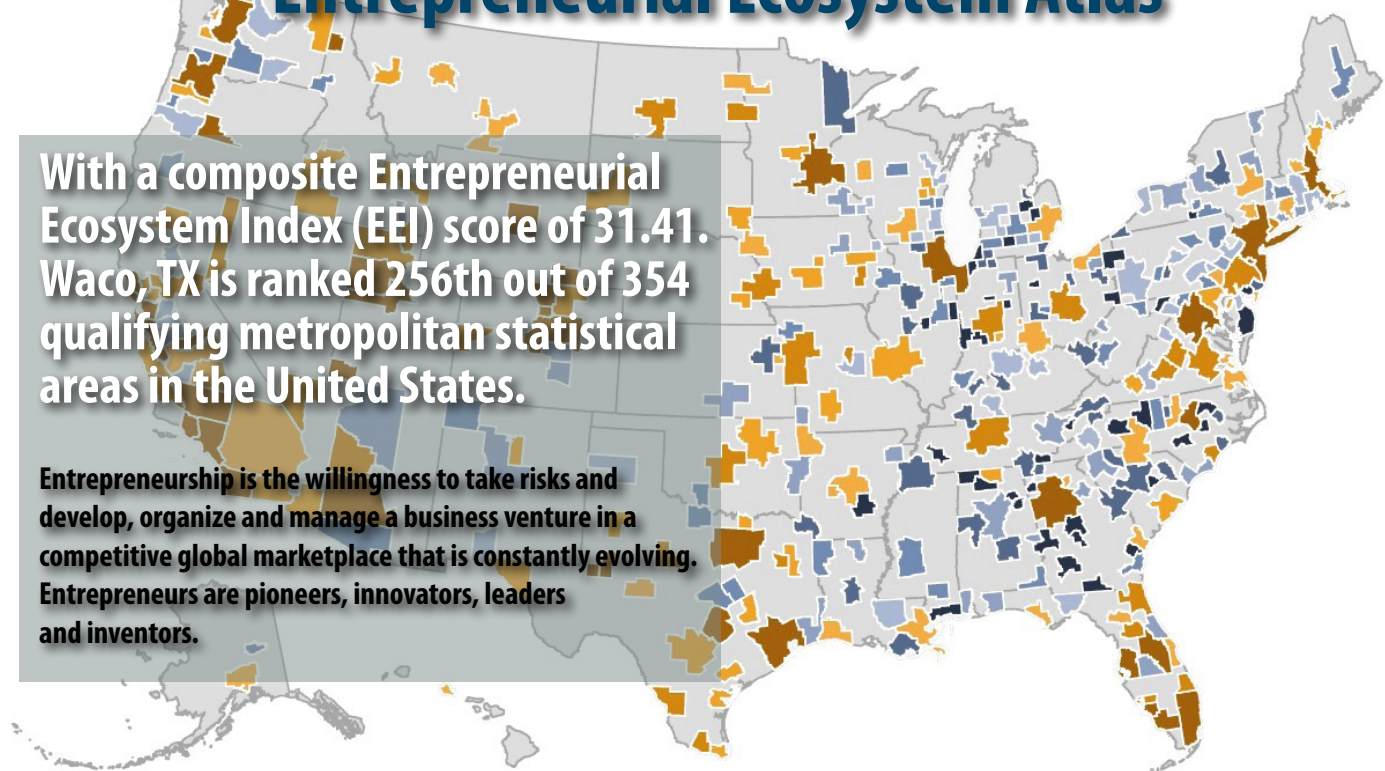
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH



Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Atlas

With a composite Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Index (EEI) score of 31.41, Waco, TX is ranked 256th out of 354 qualifying metropolitan statistical areas in the United States.

Entrepreneurship is the willingness to take risks and develop, organize and manage a business venture in a competitive global marketplace that is constantly evolving. Entrepreneurs are pioneers, innovators, leaders and inventors.



Source: eea.availabs.org

Color by:

ranks

scores

Display:

map

graph



PROJECT UPDATES

Third Quarter 2016

Channel Control Merchants, LLC (CCM) selected Greater Waco for the site of its first Texas distribution operation. The company acquired a 200,000 square foot building located at 401 Precision Drive and will invest \$1,050,000 in capital improvements and hire 116 employees. The company also opened a 38,000-square-foot retail location at 300 North Valley Mills Drive under its Dirt Cheap brand with plans for multiple retail locations throughout Texas. Dirt Cheap is the largest retailer of customer returns and marked out of stock merchandise in the United States.

Let's Gel announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas facility with the addition of 15 new production jobs and \$600,000 capital investment to support new production capacity. Initially opening its Greater Waco operation in 2014, the Let's Gel's product line popularity accelerated company growth plans creating the need for added production capacity. Let's Gel operates a 64,000 square-foot manufacturing facility located at 501 Precision Drive in Waco. The expansion grew the site's workforce to 50 full-time positions.

City of Bellmead/Economic Development Administration. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the city of Bellmead a \$1.9 million EDA grant to aid in the \$2.8 million replacement and expansion of Tirey Road in Bellmead, Texas. The project is anticipated to promote economic development for the region, reduce traffic congestion on adjacent residential roadways and improve storm water management for the surrounding area. The project involved other partners including local businesses, the city of Waco, the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, Waco Industrial Foundation, Heart of Texas Council of Governments and Texas State Technical College.

Second Quarter 2016

Allergan broke ground on a \$200 million expansion of its Waco, Texas facility. The expansion will add 322,000-square-feet of manufacturing space to the current facility, nearly doubling its footprint. Once completed, the expansion is expected to add approximately 100 full-time jobs, with the potential for the expanded operations adding as many as 250 full-time jobs as the facility reaches full utilization.

Central Tube and Bar opened operations in Waco, Texas with a 40,000-square-foot facility, adding 20 jobs. The company will invest \$2 million on an existing building in Lacy Lakeview.

Polyglass U.S.A, Inc. announced plans to establish a state-of-the-art manufacturing operation in Waco, Texas. Polyglass will invest \$19 million in the 145,000-square-foot facility located at 1701 Exchange, to produce modified bitumen roofing membranes. Employment will reach 45 full-time associates within the first three years of operation.

Fourth Quarter 2015

Coca-Cola Refreshments announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas presence with the construction of a new \$13.3 million blow-molding line for internal plastic bottle production.

Time Manufacturing announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas presence with a total investment of \$5.85 million. The project will add 50,000-square-feet to accommodate new production capacity and add 121 new jobs.

MEERS Engineering began operations to provide mechanical engineering services and industrial panel assembly in Waco, Texas. With an investment of \$100,000 and absorption of 3,000-square-feet for office and assembly space, the company added three, high-paying, jobs.

Owens-Illinois announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas facility with a \$16 million investment. The project will include a rail yard expansion to accommodate new customer growth.

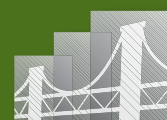
Sherwin-Williams announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas presence with the construction of a new state-of-the-art, 600,000-square-foot distribution facility in the Waco International Aviation Park. Sherwin-Williams will invest \$39 million including a 49-acre land acquisition, personal and real property. The facility will retain 264 permanent, full-time positions and is expandable to accommodate additional growth. The company currently occupies 440,000-square-feet in Texas Central Park, also located in Waco.

Third Quarter 2015

Sonoco Flexible Packaging, a facility of global packaging company, announced plans to expand its Waco, Texas location in 2015 with completion in early 2016. Sonoco will install a new rotary die-cut machine, slitter and rotogravure printing press, investing \$13.5 million in equipment at the facility and will add an estimated 15 jobs to the area - a 27% increase to its employment base.

Kingsdown, Inc., the nation's largest independent and employee-owned mattress manufacturer, is investing \$2 million in a 100,000-square-foot facility to convert it into a state-of-the-art sleep products manufacturing and distribution center that will support its growing business in the central portion of the country. The new plant will create 50 new local jobs.

Waco Mammoth Site was declared by President Barack Obama as a national monument, giving Waco community leaders the prize they have pursued for more than a decade. The designation means that the National Park Service will manage the five-acre mammoth dig site in partnership with the city and Baylor University. The agency also will provide nationwide marketing for the educational attraction at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive, which now is operated by the City of Waco.



**GREATER
WACO
CHAMBER™**