

WACO AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 2023

POPULATION

City of Waco: **139,245** 

Waco MSA: **261,906**

7-County Region: **852,051**

CLIMATE

Average Annual Rainfall: 36 inches
Elevation: 515 feet above sea level
Average Annual Temp.: 66.5 degrees F
Minimum: 35.9 degrees F (Jan)
Maximum: 95.1 (July)

EMPLOYMENT



Labor Force: 131,532
Employment: 127,125
Unemployment: 4,407
Unemployment Rate: 3.4%



Labor Force: 14,704,535
Employment: 14,160,347
Unemployment: 544,188
Unemployment Rate: 3.7%

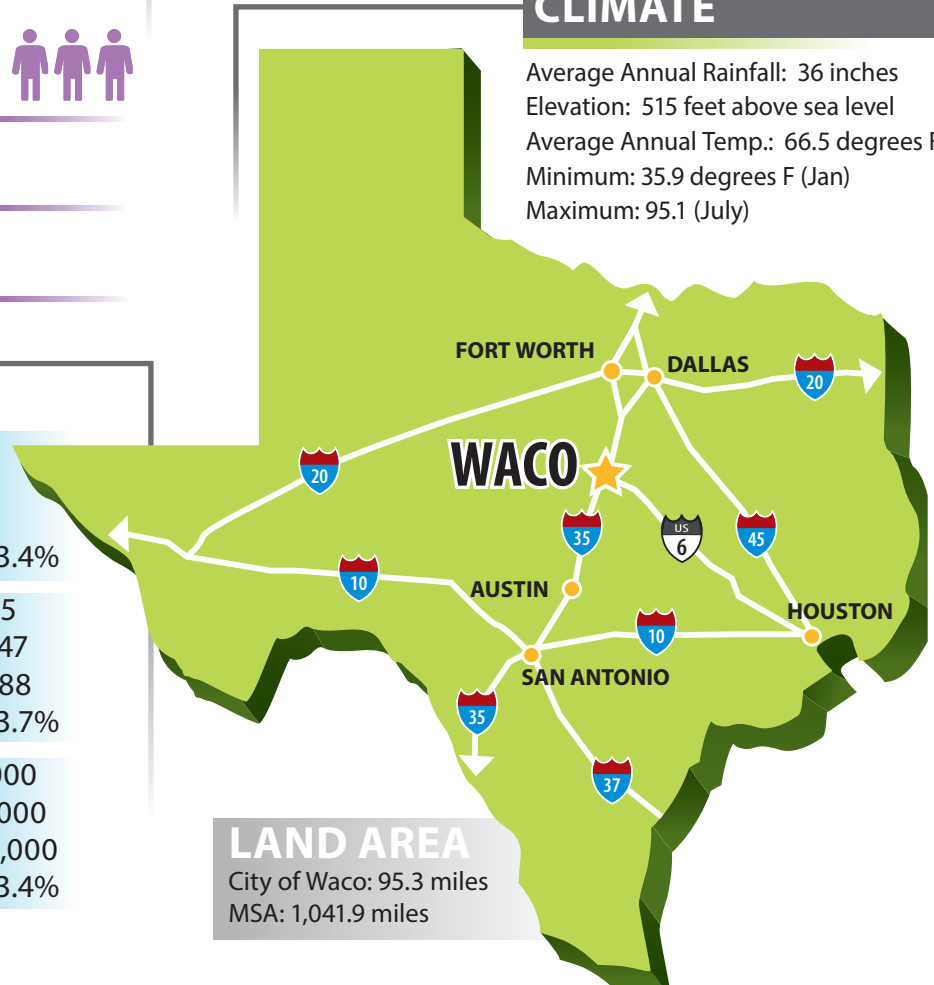


Labor Force: 164,272,000
Employment: 158,749,000
Unemployment: 5,523,000
Unemployment Rate: 3.4%

Numbers from November 2022

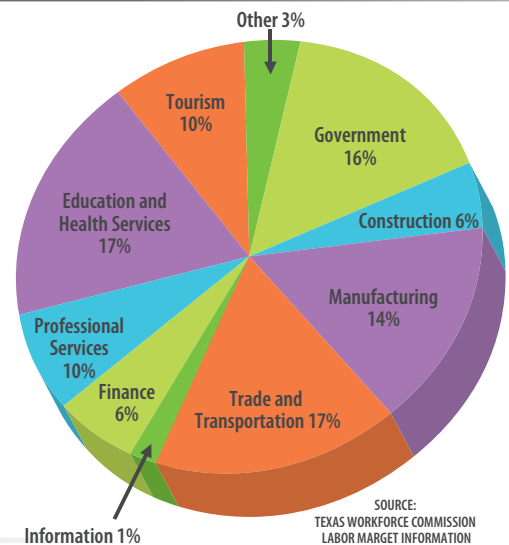
LAND AREA

City of Waco: 95.3 miles
MSA: 1,041.9 miles



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- 5698 Baylor University
- 2518 Ascension Providence
- 2373 Waco ISD
- 2283 Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Hospital
- 2000 HEB Stores
- 1706 Texas State Technical College - Waco
- 1522 City of Waco
- 1200 Sanderson Farms, Inc. (Waco Production & Processing)
- 1302 Midway ISD
- 1088 McLennan County
- 1174 WAL-MART
- 886 Veterans Administration Medical Center
- 843 L3Harris
- 796 Dept of Veterans Affairs Regional Office
- 747 AbbVie



PURPOSE

To promote policies conducive to the economic development and growth of Waco and the Central Texas region.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION PRIORITIES

- Support solutions and funding to attract and retain high-quality teachers and improve the overall teacher experience.
- Ensure school districts receive their full Tier 1 entitlement to support a strong and equitable public-school system.
- Support the Texas Commission on Community College Finance's concept and funding of the new community college outcomes funding model.
- Increase funding of the state financial aid programs, such as the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant program, to ensure opportunities for all Texans to attend an institution of higher education.
- Support training programs like the TRUE (Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education) program that will reskill, upskill, and strengthen the Texas workforce across all industry sectors.
- Support solutions and funding to unlock and retain more workers that will strengthen the talent pipeline and addresses the barriers to entering or re-entering the workforce such as affordable housing, high quality childcare, transportation, healthcare, food security and broadband access.

BUSINESS CLIMATE PRIORITIES

- Support tax provisions that spur private sector innovation and development and that encourage the formation of new businesses large and small.
- Support solutions that reduce the property tax burden on businesses and promotes a fair, professional appraisal process that retains local authority and spurs business development and growth.
- Ensure regulations reflect a cost-benefit perspective and support legislative efforts to maintain a regulatory climate that does not impose hidden taxes on employers through excessive fees and fines, but rather reduces excessive regulations to promote economic growth and job creation.
- Oppose any regulations or policies that incentivize able-bodied workers to not join or return to the workforce.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Reauthorize Chapter 311 and reimplement or replace Chapter 313 for large capital investment projects.
- Support the Texas Enterprise Fund, the state's deal-closing incentive fund, and all other competitive economic development incentives and tools.
- Permanently fund the Spaceport Trust Fund (minimum \$10 million per biennium) for communities with designated Spaceport Development Corporations.
- Advocate for using the state's record budget surplus towards funding long term impact capital and infrastructure projects.
- Support policies and programs that increase access to capital for small business loans and that provide resources for small business development.

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

- Support increased transportation funding and dedicated funds for small/mid-size MPOs and preserve the local decision-making ability of MPOs in the prioritization, planning and designation of funding for regional transportation projects.
- Support completing the reconstruction and expansion of Waco's section of Interstate 35 without requiring the sacrifice of additional local resources.
- Support innovative water management strategies including reuse, conservation and conjunctive use of quality ground and surface water along with providing incentives for the implementation of these strategies to ensure adequate supply of water that supports future economic growth and development of the region.
- Support the further implementation and funding of the statewide broadband plan that fairly serves all Texans.
- Support the domestic production of efficient energy sources to further Texas' position as a global energy leader.

