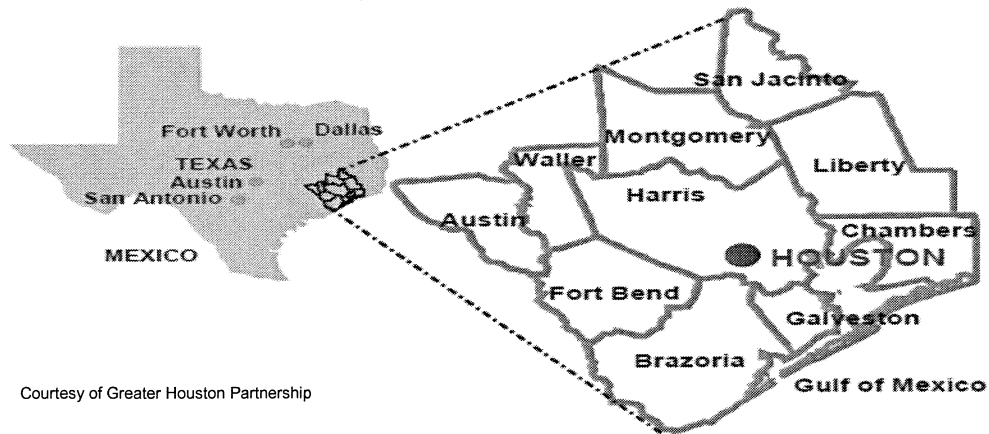


## DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF THE CITY

The City of Houston was founded on August 30, 1836, by brothers Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen, and named after General Sam Houston. The City of Houston's simple 19th century city seal – the noble locomotive (heralding Houston's spirit of progress) and the humble plow (symbol of the agricultural empire of Texas from which Houston would draw her wealth) – clearly speaks to the roots of Houston's economy and to the visionary leadership of its citizens.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Houston has a total area of 600 square miles comprising of 579.4 square miles of land and 22.3 square miles of water. Downtown Houston stands about 50 feet above sea level, and the highest point in far northwest Houston is about 125 feet in elevation. Houston is the fourth most populous city in the nation with the estimated population of 2,195,914 (3,660 people per square mile), just behind New York, Los Angeles and Chicago; and is the largest city in the southern U.S. and Texas.

With 6,313,158 inhabitants in 2013, the 10-county Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is the nation's fifth most populous metro area. The entire MSA covers more than 10,000 square miles and includes all or part of the Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller counties. Houston is the center city of one of the most dynamic urban centers in the United States.



Courtesy of Greater Houston Partnership

2013 Cities Population				
New York	Los Angeles	Chicago	Houston	Philadelphia
8,405,837	3,884,307	2,718,782	2,195,914	1,553,165
2013 Metro Area Population				
New York, Newark, Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA				19,949,502
Los Angeles, Long Beach, Anaheim, CA				13,131,431
Chicago, Naperville, Elgin, IL-IN-WI				9,537,289
Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, TX				6,810,913
Houston, The Woodlands, Sugar Land, TX				6,313,158
Philadelphia, Camden, Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD				6,034,678
Washington D.C., Arlington, Alexandria, VA-MD-WV				5,949,859

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2010, Houston's population diversity consists of: Hispanic or Latino origin 43.8%; White (not Hispanic) 25.6%; African-Americans 23.7%; Asian 6.0%; American Indian and Alaska Native 0.7%; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders 0.1%; and persons of two or more races 3.3%. Additionally, as it pertains to Houston's diverse population, 49.8% is female; 25.9% of all persons are under 18 years of age and 9.0% are over 65 years; 28.3% of all persons are foreign born; and 46.3% of all households speak a language other than English.

Houston boasts many firsts and number one rankings in a variety of areas. Below is a list of just a few of Houston's top rankings and awards:

**Houston Ratings and Rankings**

**Top Labor Markets in the U.S.**

Forbes – February 10, 2015

**Largest Homes in the Nation**

Houston Business Journal (as reported by 24/7 Wall Street) – January 15, 2015

**Fastest Growing City in 2014**

The Houston Chronicle (as reported by Forbes) – January 27, 2015

**Most Favorable Metro for Stem Workers (Nationally)**

January 14, 2015

**Top Selling Master-Planned Communities in 2014**

John Burns Real Estate Consulting (as reported by the Houston Business Journal) – January 7, 2015

**Number of Multifamily Units Permitted in 2014**

Houston Business Journal (as reported by Analysis of U.S. Census Building Permit Data by CBRE Group, Inc.) – January 15, 2015

**Interstate and Cross-Border Household Moves [to Houston]**

Atlas Van Lines' Migration Pattern Study – January 1, 2015

**Best Places for Veterans: Mid-Career**

Houston Business Journal – November 6, 2014

**Top Market for Real Estate Investment And Development Expectations For 2015**

Houston Chronicle – October 22, 2014

**Top Destination Cities for College Graduates**

The New York Times – October 20, 2014

**U.S. Metro for Exports in 2013**

Department of Commerce (as reported by Houston Business Journal) – September 2, 2014

**Most Conservative Students – Texas A&M University**

The Princeton Review – August, 2014

**Most Competitive Metros in America**

Forbes – July 2, 2014

**Top Global University Business Incubator – Rice University**

UBI Index, University Business Incubator – June 24, 2014

**Fastest Growth in Foreign Visitors**

U.S. Commerce Department (as reported by Houston Business Journal) – June 20, 2014

**Best Cities for Manufacturing**

Forbes – June 19, 2014

**Top Destinations City-Fifth Consecutive Year**

U-Haul International – April 10, 2014

**Top U.S. Manufacturing Cities**

Manufacturers' News – January 2014

**Top Blue-Collar Hot Spots**

Forbes – January 30, 2014

**Country Radio Station of the Year – KKBQ**

National Association of Broadcasters – September 19, 2013

**Spanish Radio Station of the Year - KLOL**

National Association of Broadcasters – September 19, 2013

**Top City for Christian Hip-Hop**

Wade-O Radio – September 18, 2013

**Best Cities for Jobs this Fall**

Forbes – September 10, 2013

**Top Global University Business Incubator – Rice University**

University Business Incubator – June 10, 2013

**Top Cities for Global Trade**

Global Trade – August 2013

**Best Quality of Life – Rice University**

The Princeton Review (as reported by Rice University) – August 5, 2013

**Best Domestic Airport – IAH**

Executive Travel – July/August 2013

**Top Gulf Coast Counties for New Plants & Expansions From Oct.'09 - Oct'11 – Harris County**

Conway Data Inc., New Plant Database - January 2012

**America's Favorite Cities 2014**

Travel + Leisure – November 2014

**Top Undergraduate Schools for Entrepreneurship Programs for 2015 – University of Houston**

The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur Magazine – September 16, 2014

**Best Quality of Life – Rice University**

The Princeton Review – August, 2014

**Most Inc. 5000 Winners of All Time, Based on Number of Companies**

Inc. - June 2014

**Top Metros of 2013**

Site Selection – March 2014

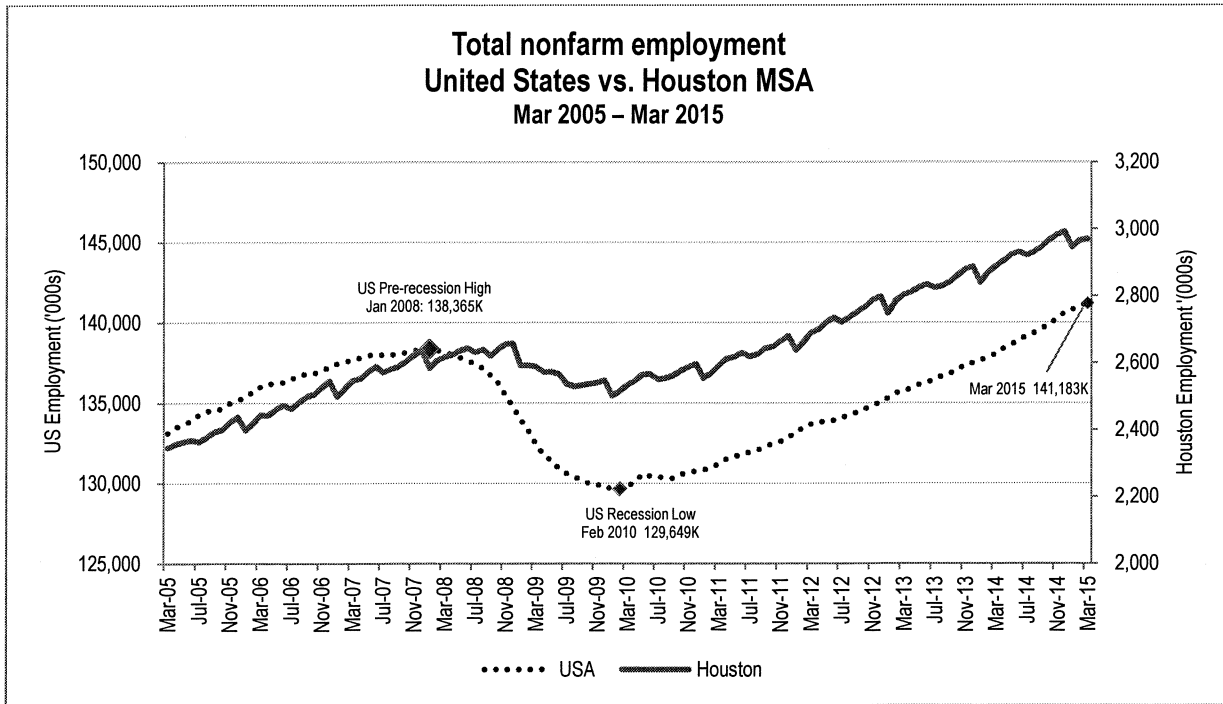
**Highest Concentration of Engineers**

EMSI – January 2014

Source: Greater Houston Partnership

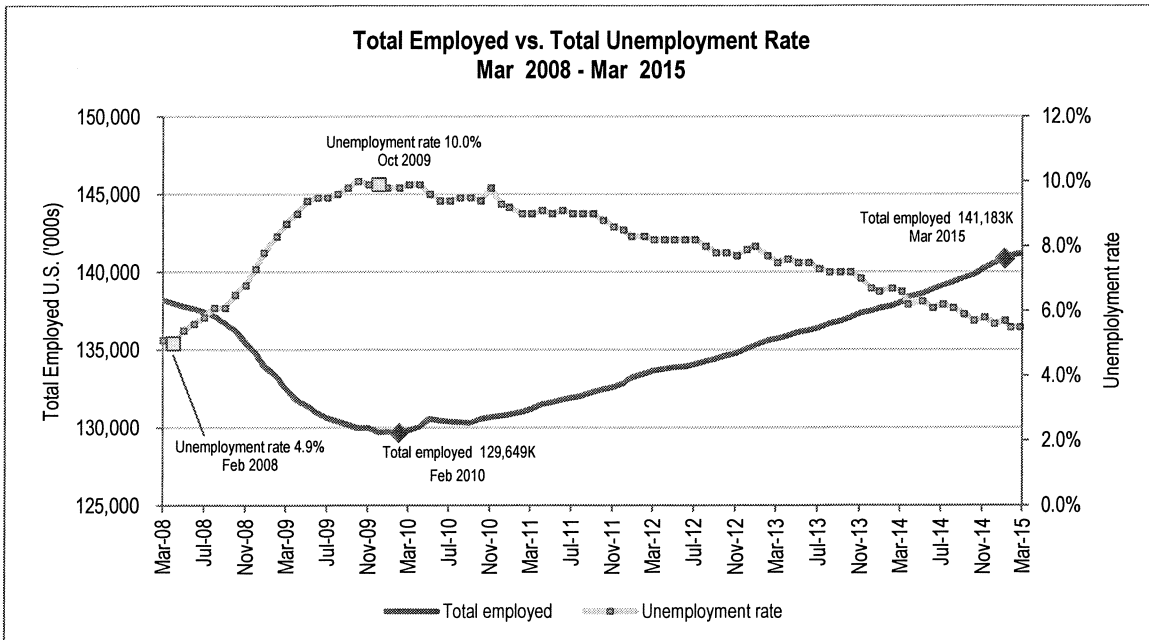
**ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Houston's economy is poised to show continued growth in FY2016. This is evidenced by its total employment which has continued its growth since January 2010 and has consistently been higher than the national average, but will be tempered by the impact of lower oil and gas prices on the upstream energy sector.



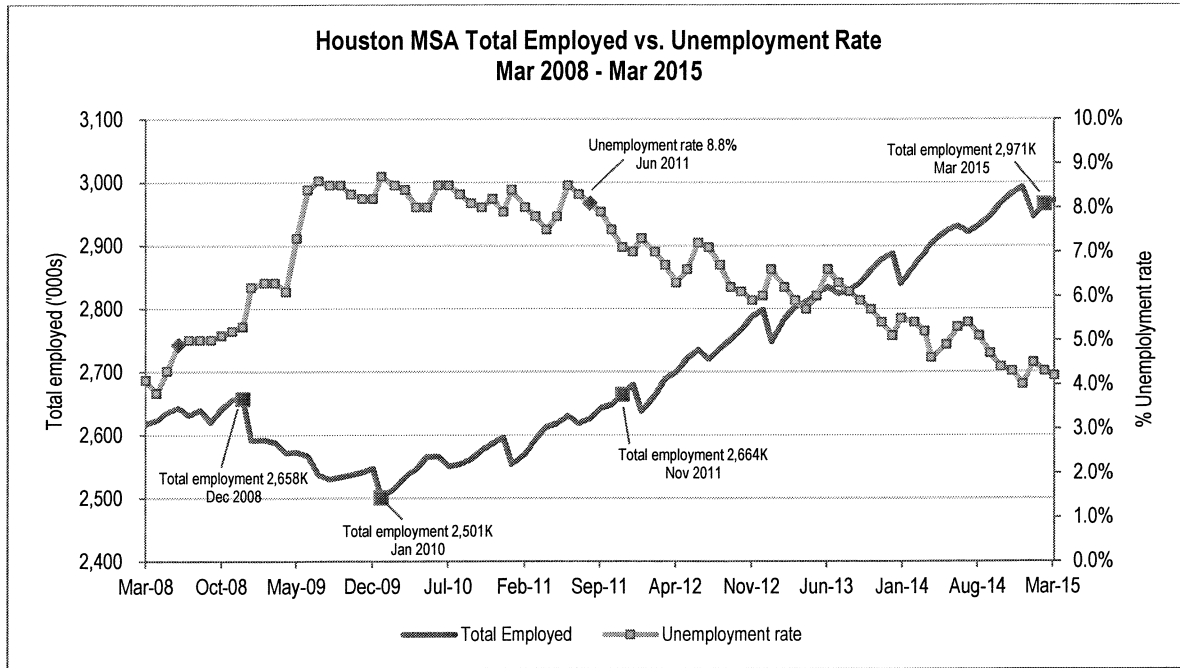
Source: US Census Bureau

Nationally, the slow but steady job growth has moved the nation beyond its pre-recession high of 138.4 million jobs in January 2008. As of March 2015, some 5 years after the recession low of 129.7 million jobs in February 2010, the U.S. has recovered 11.5 million jobs with an estimated 141.2 million jobs, easily surpassing the pre-recession highs.



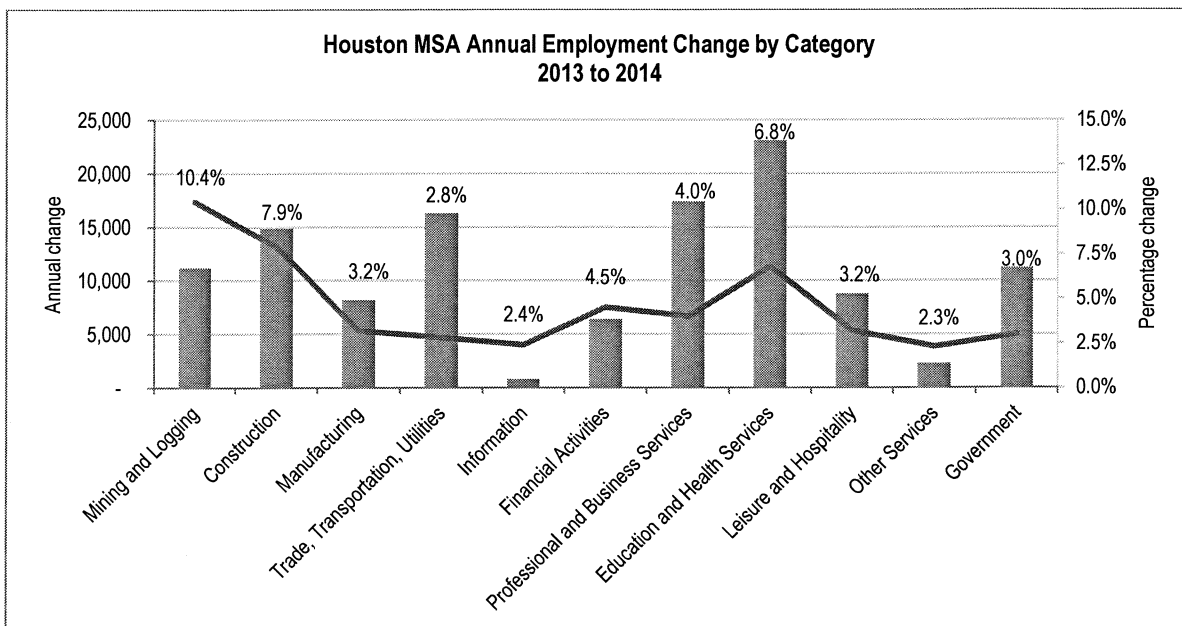
Source: US Census Bureau

Houston's story is very different: Houston lost 156,400 jobs from December 2008 to January 2010. Houston recovered much more quickly, regaining the pre-recession jobs level by November 2011, only twenty two months after the low point of the recession. Since that time, Houston has experienced a mini-boom attributable as much to its historical economic advantages as a region, compared to the slack caused by the downturn.



Source: US Census Bureau

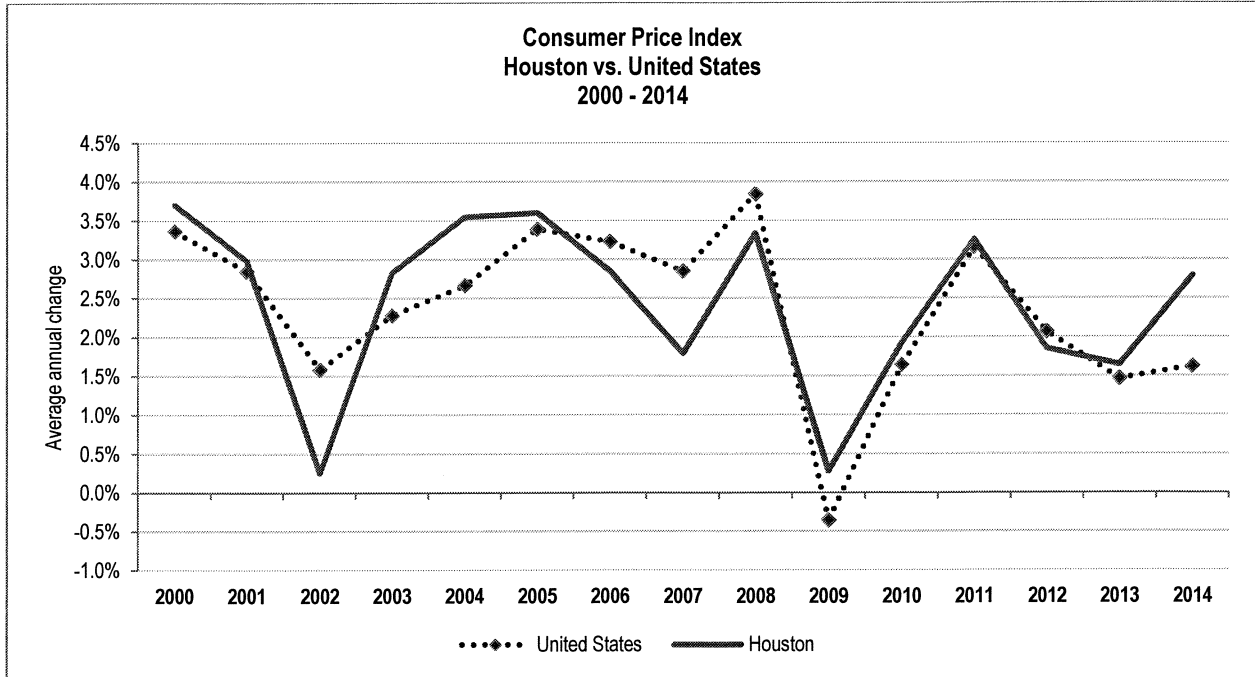
While Houston has recovered at a faster pace than the country as a whole, much of that growth was attributable to expansion in energy exploration due to higher oil prices. The recent downturn in prices will have a negative impact on employment growth in Houston. The impact will be offset by the completion of active construction projects started during the recent building boom and new projects in downstream energy refining that are now more economical with lower energy prices. How much of an offset construction and other sectors will provide to the slowdown in energy exploration remains to be seen, but some are projecting continued job growth, albeit at a lower rate than in 2014.



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

**COST OF LIVING AND INFLATION**

A significant reason for Houston's sustained growth is its lower cost of living. Houston prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose 2.8% in 2014 compared to the national increase of 1.6%, explained largely by the faster growth rate of the Houston economy. However, Houston's overall average CPI for 2014 was 213.4 versus 238.0 nationally, the result of which, is that Houston residents have a cost of living that is approximately 10% less than the national average.



Source: US Bureau of Labor and Statistics

The cost of consumer goods and services, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Houston, is trending higher than the national average for 2013 compared to 2014 as evidenced in the chart above. This is due partially to the increase in the cost of oil and gas prices and construction upturn in the construction industry in the Houston MSA. With oil and gas prices on the decline in the latter half of 2014, Houston should expect to see a slight cooling of inflation as the construction industry and the markets adjust to the reduction in oil and gas prices.

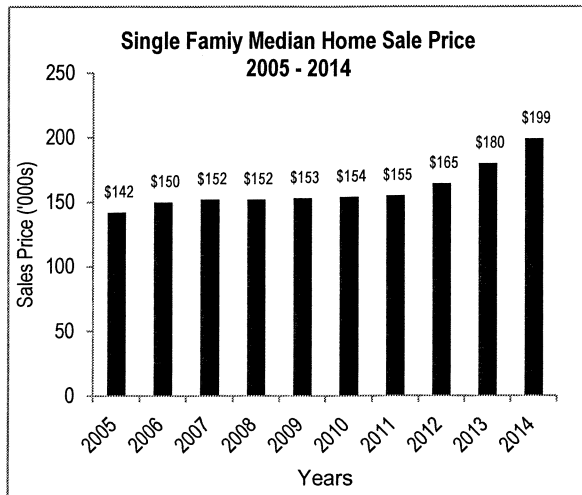
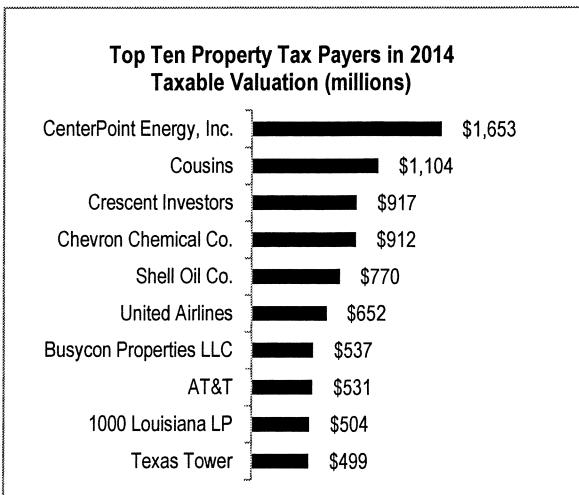
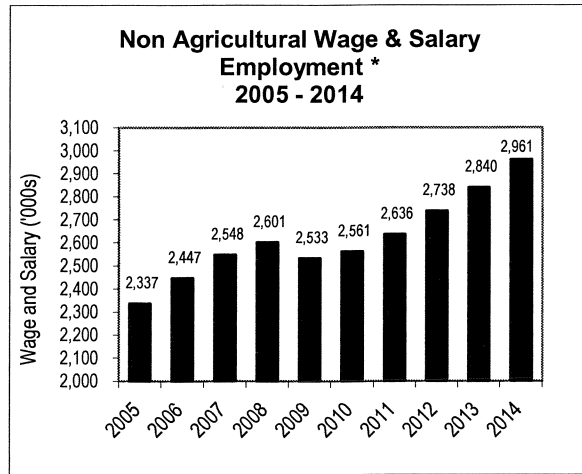
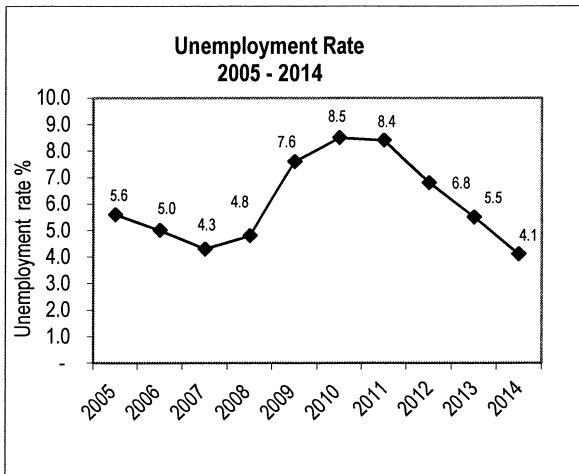
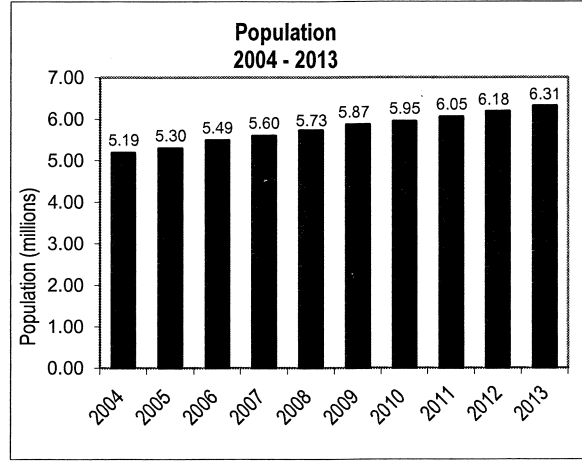
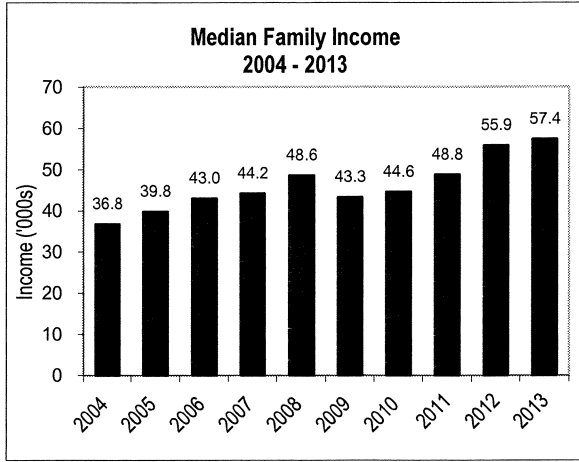
A survey of cost of living comparison in the 20 most populous US Metropolitan areas shows Houston's composite cost of goods ranking at the bottom quartile of these comparable cities. This is primarily due to the more modest grocery, housing, utilities and healthcare costs that Houston boasts when compared to the other major cities.

The table below outlines Houston's cost of living compared to other major US metro areas.

Cost of Living Comparisons 20 Most Populous U.S. Metros (Average for 281 Urban Areas = 100)							
Metropolitan Statistical Area	Composite	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Miscellaneous Goods & Services
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	153.8	123.9	259.2	101.1	108.6	117.5	113.5
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	150.4	116.4	234.1	118.5	112.4	108.5	122.4
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	137.7	113.9	175.0	135.6	107.1	120.6	130.1
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	135.4	105.6	204.2	111.3	117.0	112.9	105.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	135.1	104.8	205.1	112.2	112.1	112.2	106.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	135.0	109.7	223.3	102.8	104.8	94.2	95.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	116.1	115.8	131.3	113.7	114.2	107.3	105.4
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ- DE-MD	113.9	110.8	122.5	118.1	105.5	99.4	111.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	113.3	108.5	135.1	97.8	110.9	100.4	103.8
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	113.0	104.9	129.1	96.2	110.8	116.9	108.1
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	109.5	108.6	143.6	92.6	100.4	89.6	91.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	107.9	104.1	115.0	91.9	104.4	101.3	110.5
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	106.9	98.3	118.9	99.1	117.8	102.1	99.1
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	97.2	102.4	92.9	90.6	98.4	103.9	99.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	96.9	97.6	86.9	96.8	100.6	100.6	103.5
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	96.2	100.6	92.9	96.5	103.0	101.6	93.6
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	95.1	93.1	91.7	100.8	99.9	96.0	95.1
<b>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>97.9</b>
St. Louis, MO-IL	93.7	105.2	73.2	115.3	98.6	102.6	96.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	92.4	98.8	76.3	103.7	102.3	91.3	96.3

Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), Cost of Living Index, Annual 2014 (Data based on a survey of 281 urban areas, published January 2015). Note: Data are unweighted averages for all reporting places in each metropolitan area.

EXHIBIT 4 - HOUSTON MSA AT A GLANCE



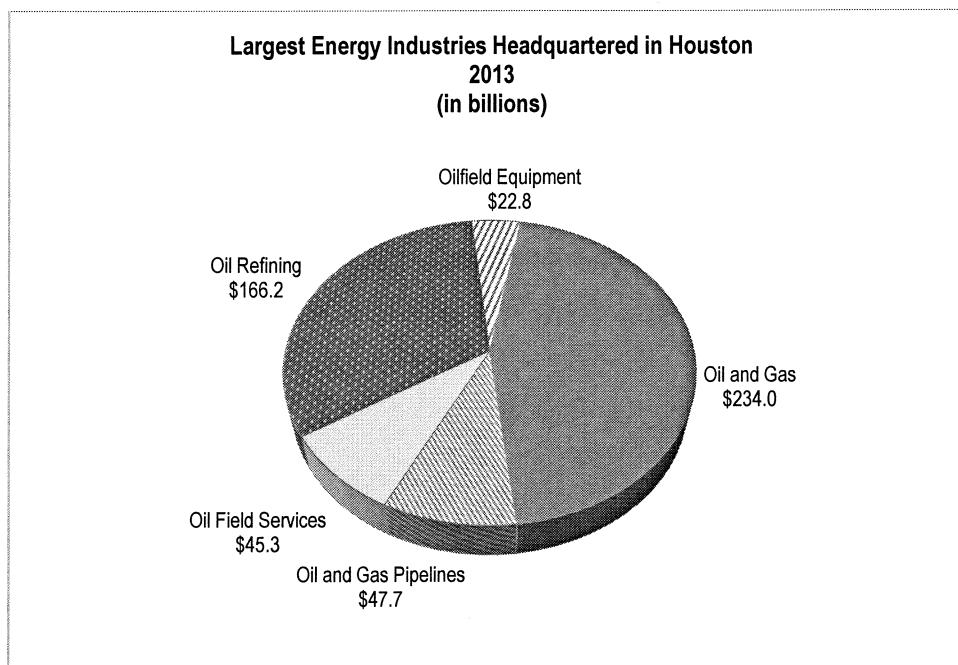
MSA: Metropolitan Statistical Area

\* Not Seasonally Adjusted

Sources: Greater Houston Partnership, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

## ENERGY

Houston is the U.S. energy headquarters and a world center for virtually every segment of the oil and gas industry including: exploration, production, transmission, marketing, supply, and technology. Houston is also a major center of alternative energy, positioning the region for continued leadership and participation in world demand for all types of energy for the foreseeable future. This is visible by the Offshore Technology Conference held here annually which presents the best exploration and development technology in the industry.



Source: State of Texas – Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism

When oil prices plummeted in 1982, Houston's energy sector was riding the crest of the largest growth in energy exploration and manufacturing jobs in the City's history. At the peak in 1983, energy jobs comprised over 80% of the City's economic base. When prices began to drop, so did the number of energy jobs. However, over time, the growth in Houston's two other base economic sectors, medicine and space, offset our energy job losses. By 2000, Houston reached equilibrium in its economic base where half of the base was comprised of energy jobs. With the booms of the last ten years, first for natural gas and then for oil, this equilibrium has been maintained, providing a stability to the City's economy that supports continued growth.

### Houston's Oil & Gas Sector by the Numbers:

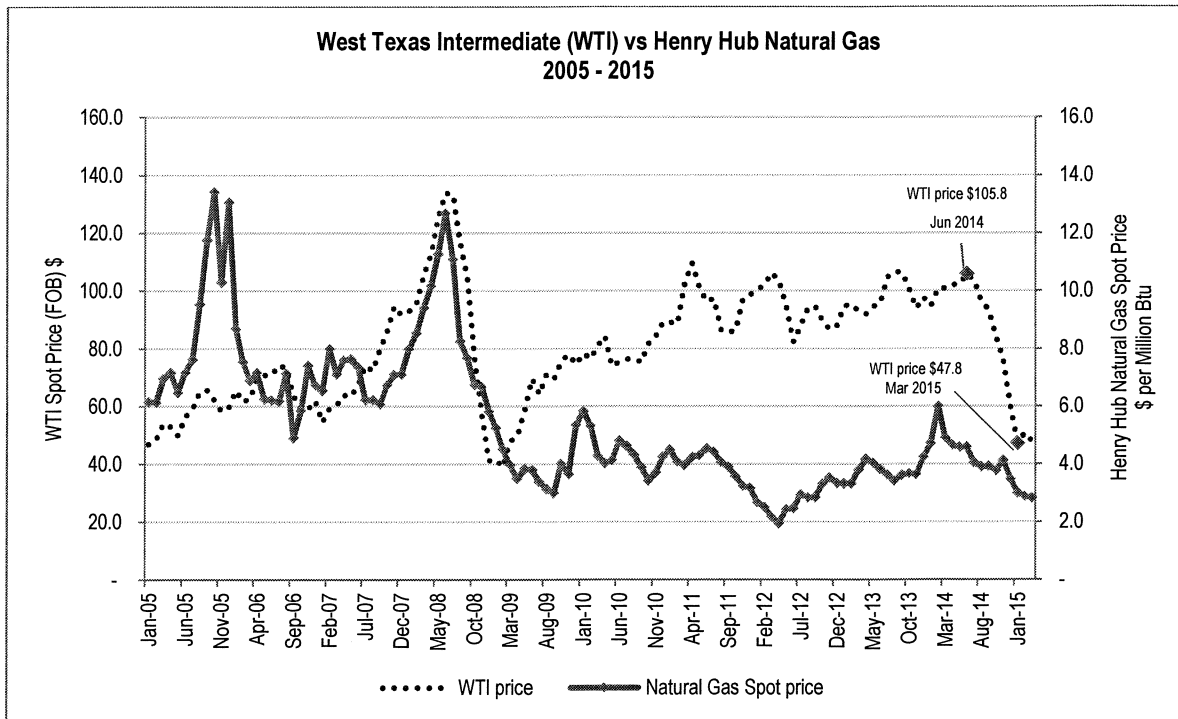
- 500+ exploration and production firms with a continuing number of energy company headquarters' relocation to Houston including: BP (2007), Calpine (2009), CITGO (2004), ConocoPhillips (2002), Direct Energy (2012), GE Oil & Gas (2008), Heartland Oil and Gas Corporation (2007), Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. (2012) and Schlumberger (2006)
- 150+ pipeline transportation establishments
- Home to 40 of the nation's top 134 publicly traded oil and gas exploration/production firms
- Nine refineries that produce 2.3 million barrels of crude oil per day which is 13.2% of total U.S. capacity
- 31.6% of U.S. jobs in oil and gas extraction



**Recent Trends and 2015 Outlook**

Houston remains the internationally recognized global energy capital. Oil prices, after achieving a high of \$105.8 in June of 2014, tumbled to \$47.8 in March 2015, lows of which have not been seen since March 2009. Many expect oil to remain below \$70 per barrel into 2016. As previously stated, this will have an impact on job growth in Houston, as Houston holds 31.6% of the nation’s jobs in oil and gas extraction. The nine refineries in Houston process more than 2.3 million barrels of crude oil per day which is approximately half of the state’s total production (Source: Greater Houston Partnership), and lower prices mean higher profits for refiners.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is forecasting West Texas Intermediate (WTI) will average \$55 in 2015 and a further appreciation in prices in 2016 to \$70 per barrel, a faster return to \$70 would bode well for Houston and the overall oil and gas industry.

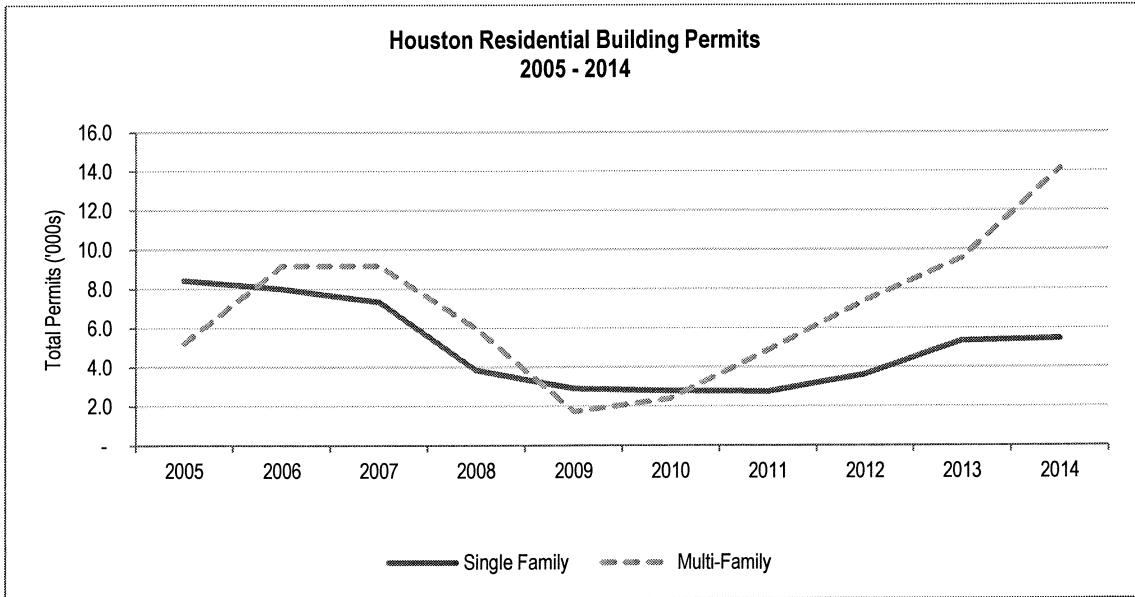


Source: US Energy Information Administration

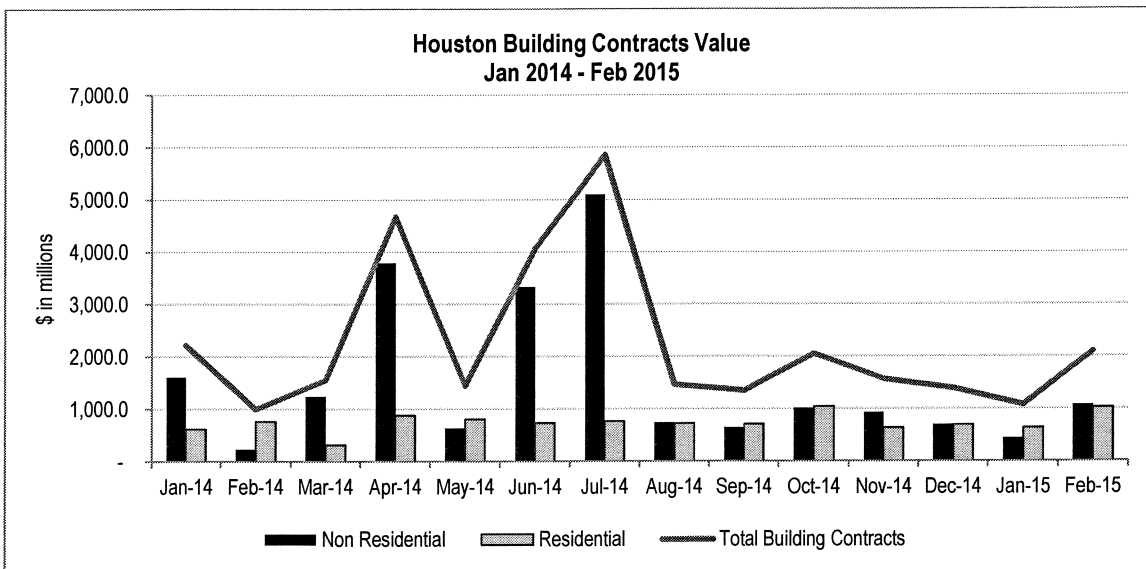
In the alternative fuels sector, Houston’s energy sector is diversifying. This will lessen the risk of overdependence on classic sources. Houston represents more than one-sixth (17.8%) of the nation’s biofuel refining capacity and 92.8% of capacity in Texas. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has named Houston a “Solar America City,” one of 25 cities to receive this distinction for commitment to solar technology adoption at the local level. Houston is the top municipal purchaser of green power in the nation. In June 2013 the City of Houston signed a two-year agreement to purchase more than 620 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of Green e-certified renewable energy.

**CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE**

The City of Houston issued approximately 20 thousand single and multi-family residential permits in 2014 marking a historic high. After the recession hit in 2010, the City saw its lowest single family permits issued in 2011. This is showing signs of rebounding with non-residential construction are projected to show strong increases in 2015. The Houston Airport System is expanding and constructing the Hobby International Airport. The health care construction will see expansion to the Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center, the Methodist North Tower, and the Texas Children’s Hospital, as well as many area school districts anticipate increase in construction.



Last calendar year was a banner year for new construction in Houston, with a new high reached for non-residential construction in July 2014. A record \$31.7 billion in construction contracts was awarded in the Houston metro area. The City of Houston home prices rose in 2014, driven largely by the growing demand and the employment increases within the last few years. In the residential market, Metro Study projects 30,000 single family homes to be built this year. The addition of new homes will provide some relief to the resale home market.



Source: Greater Houston Partnership

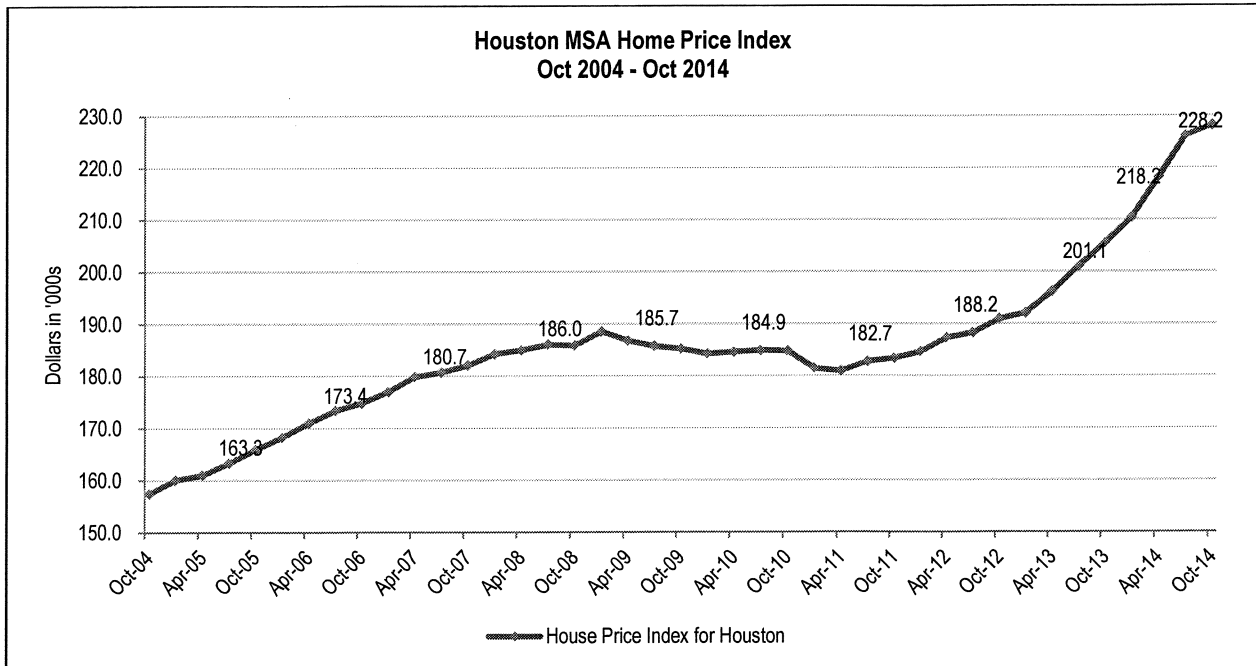
### Single Family Housing

The three-year trend represented in the chart below provided by the Houston Association of Realtors illustrates the vitality of the Houston housing market during the recent employment boom. Demand for single family homes has prompted the value of total sales volume to jump from \$20.8 billion in 2013 to \$23.6 billion in 2014, a 47% increase. The high level of demand was felt in January when sales fell due to a lack of supply of homes for sale. Sales inventory was down to 2.6 months of supply from 3.6 months in January, a year before. This trend has continued unabated into the spring.

SUMMARY OF HOUSTON RESIDENTIAL SALES ACTIVITY			
	2014	2013	2012
Total Sales (units)	91,202	88,080	74,116
<b>Total dollar volume</b>	<b>\$23,553,542,859</b>	<b>\$20,891,392,084</b>	<b>\$16,040,186,637</b>
Single-family sales	75,319	73,266	62,374
Average sales price*	\$270,182	\$248,591	\$225,330
Median sales price*	\$199,000	\$180,000	\$164,500

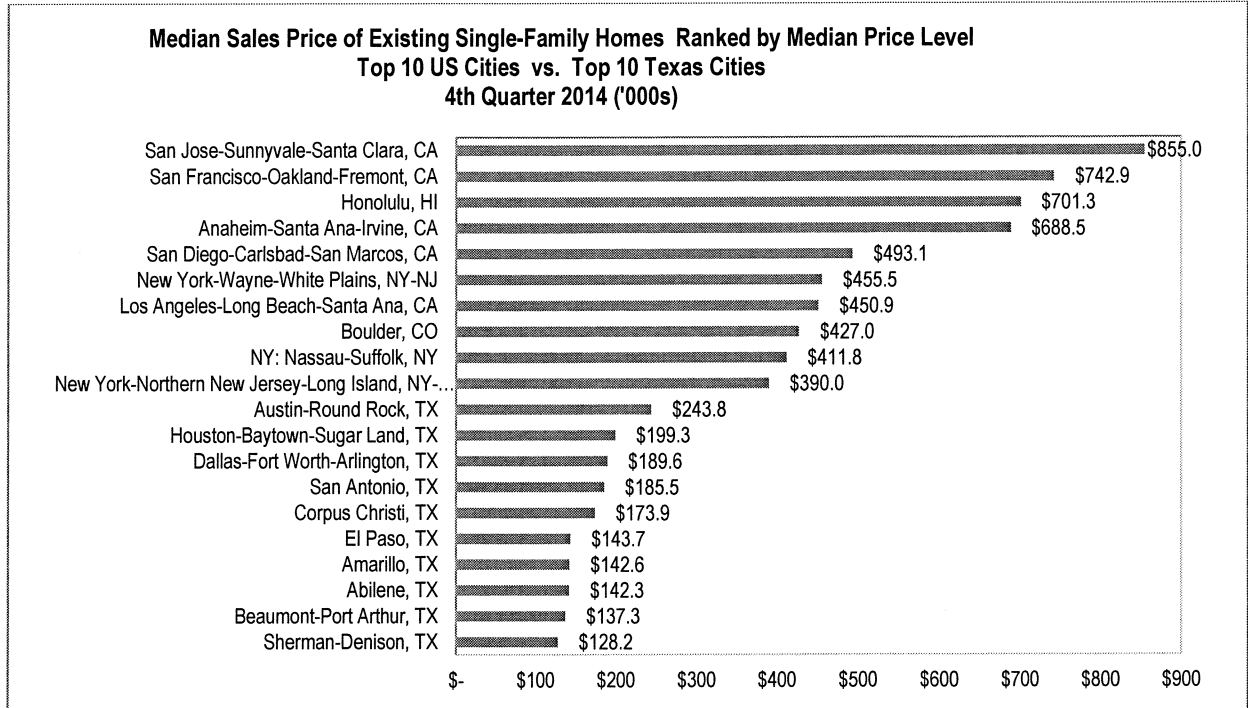
Source: Houston Area Realtors, February 18, 2014 press release

The effect of this active market and the increase in sales prices is impacting the value of new homes throughout the MSA. The Houston home price index bears this out. After several years of sluggish growth in home prices, the most recent spurt in employment and the consequent impact on demand for single family homes caused a one year jump in home prices in 2013. That has not happened since the rebound from the recession in 2009.



Source: Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED)

As of the fourth quarter 2014, Houston’s median sales price for a single family home is \$199,300, according to the National Association of Realtors. This was less than the national average of \$208,700 and well below median prices in the major metropolitan areas shown below. Houston’s affordable housing market was not overpriced prior to the recession of 2008-2009 and was a major reason the recession was not as prolonged or as severe as in other parts of the country.



Source: National Association of Realtors

**MAJOR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

Houston is an international city with the third largest consular corps in the nation as well as trade and business connections across the U.S. and around the world. One in five Houstonians are foreign born and there are 17 sister-cities to Houston on five continents. Two major transportation facilities provide the backbone for Houston in these regards: the Port of Houston and the Houston Airport System.

The **Port of Houston** is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours by ship from the Gulf of Mexico. The Port of Houston is made up of the public terminals owned, managed and leased by the Port of Houston Authority, and the 150-plus private industrial companies along the 52-mile long Houston Ship Channel. A study done in 2012 by Martin Associates says Ship Channel related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs throughout Texas, up from more than 785,000 jobs cited in a 2007 study. This activity helped generate more than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic impact, up from nearly \$118 billion. Additionally, more than \$4.5 billion in state and local tax revenues are generated by business activities related to the port, up from \$3.7 billion.

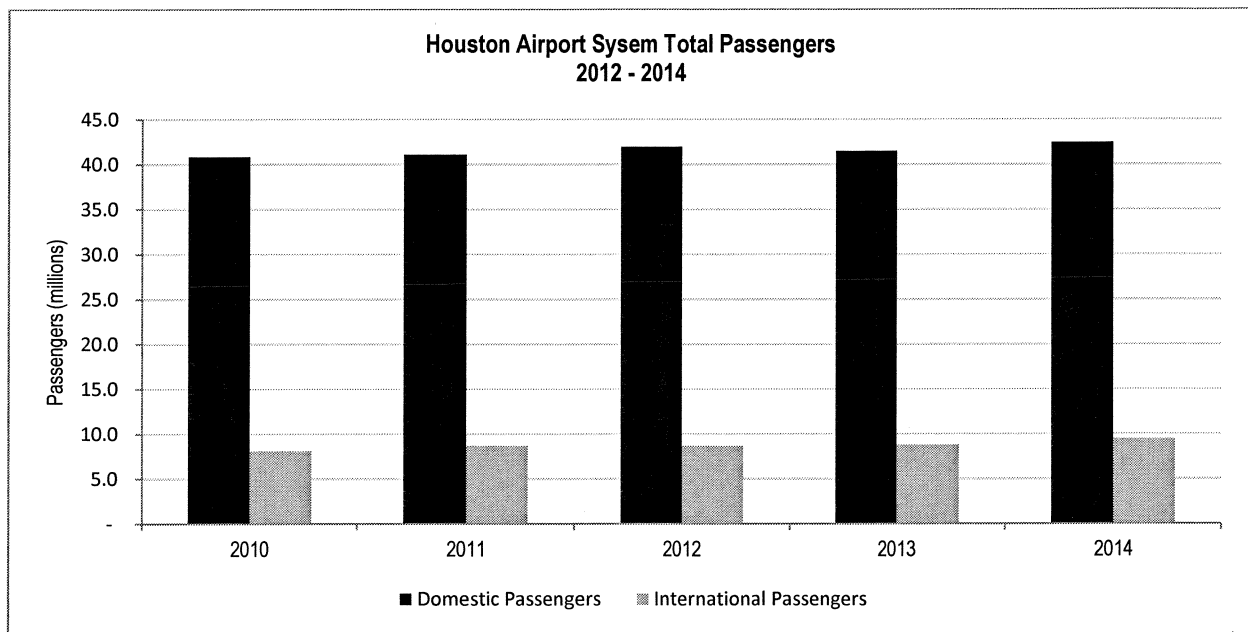
Houston claims 38.6% of the U.S. petrochemical production capacity and the heavy concentration of downstream energy processing industrial facilities along the Houston Ship Channel. It is largely responsible for the volume of trade entering and leaving the Port. The Port is also a major container handling facility and an entry and exit point for a wide variety of domestically produced and consumed goods. It is the largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67% of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2014.

Always looking ahead, the Port is nearing approval for dredging operations that will deepen the channel from 40 to 45 feet. Once completed, this will open the ship channel to larger container ship traffic that is expected to increase with the scheduled completion of the Panama Canal expansion project in 2016. The Houston Ship Channel connects Houston to the world and the Port remains the nation’s leading Port in terms of foreign tonnage and 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall tonnage.

The **Houston Airport System (HAS)** ranks as one of the largest multi-airport systems in the world. The system includes George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) and Ellington Airport (EFD). Chartered passenger and cargo carriers fly directly to approximately 124 domestic and 74 international destinations in 39 countries from Houston.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), Houston’s largest airport and the largest hub for United Airlines, offers daily nonstop and direct flights to major cities in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Latin America, Mexico, and the Middle East. IAH is ranked as the 12th busiest U.S. airport for total passenger traffic. Since 2014, IAH has welcomed direct international flights provided by four new carriers: Korean Air to South Korea, Scandinavian Airlines to Norway, and Interjet and Volaris to Mexico. In 2015, IAH will further welcome new service by All Nippon Airways to Japan (June 2015), EVA Air to Taiwan (June 2015), WestJet to Canada (September 2015), and Air New Zealand to New Zealand (Dec. 2015), and will see the first international operations by Spirit Airlines (starting seven international destinations in May 2015).

William P. Hobby (HOU), Houston's original municipal airport, will open a five gate international terminal facility in October 2015, providing service options primarily to Mexico and Latin America. Southwest Airlines has announced plans to begin operating six international routes from HOU when the facility opens. HOU currently handles domestic passengers for five airlines and is a focus market for Southwest Airlines. HOU ranks as the nation’s 36th-busiest airport for passenger traffic, nearly 12 million passengers in 2014. Ellington Airport (EFD)—a joint military and civilian airport—serves as a base of operations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and general aviation operations. HAS is in the process of obtaining licensing for EFD to become the nation’s ninth spaceport, opening it to use for horizontal-takeoff spacecraft that are owned by private carriers.



Source: Houston Airport System

Known worldwide as the place for NASA mission control, **Johnson Space Center (JSC)** is a \$1.5-billion complex which was established as the Manned Spacecraft Center in 1961 and renamed in 1973 to honor the late President and Texas native Lyndon B. Johnson. NASA JSC occupies 1,620 acres 24 miles southeast of downtown Houston. While the NASA workforce continues a global reputation for achievement in space exploration, JSC is an economic powerhouse paying for salaries, contracts and grants that create jobs and strengthen business in the Clear Lake and Houston regions and across Texas. JSC is one of NASA’s largest Research & Development facilities and a source of the nation’s best high-tech professionals in science and engineering. The Space Center welcomes over 800 thousand visitors annually. Houston’s aviation community also includes more than 150 companies involved in aircraft or space vehicle manufacturing, space research and technology.

**HEALTH**

The Houston region's health care system provides quality care, from specialized to routine care, for patients that come from around the world. The Houston MSA has over 14,700 physicians and 130 hospitals with over 20,500 beds. Houston is also home to the **Texas Medical Center (TMC)**, the largest medical center in the world. TMC is comprised of 54 non-profit and government institutions, including six general hospitals and 11 specialized hospitals, three medical schools, five schools of nursing, two schools of pharmacy, a dental school, and a health sciences-focused community college. The TMC provides over 7.2 million patient visits per year, and employs 106,000 healthcare workers, including 25,700 physicians, researchers and advanced degree professionals.

**EDUCATION**

The **Houston Independent School District (HISD)** is the largest school district in the Houston area. Ranked as the nation's seventh largest district, HISD serves 301 square miles with 276 schools, 11,500 teachers and more than 215,000 students. HISD serves a dynamic, highly diversified community and is one of Houston's largest business enterprises.

Houston boasts more than 100 colleges, universities, technical and trade schools – offering higher education options in more than 500 degrees and certification programs.

<b>SELECTED HOUSTON AREA UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES</b>	
<b>Community Colleges</b>	<b>Houston Area Universities</b>
Alvin Community College Brazosport College College of the Mainland Galveston College Houston Community College System Lee College Lone Star College System San Jacinto College District Wharton County Junior College	Baylor College of Medicine Houston Baptist University Lamar University Prairie View A&M University Rice University Sam Houston State University South Texas College of Law Texas A&M University Texas A&M University at Galveston Texas A&M University Health Science Center Texas Southern University Texas Woman's University University of Houston – University Park University of Houston – Clear Lake University of Houston – Downtown University of Phoenix – Houston Campus University of St. Thomas University of Texas – M.D. Anderson Cancer Center University of Texas Health Science Center University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Houston provides a wide variety of arts and entertainment including theater arts, museums and sports. The City is home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is the largest rodeo in the world, attracting 2.48 million visitors and committing to \$24 million in academic scholarships in 2015. With the nation's fifth largest ballet and opera companies, Houston is also one of only five cities in the United States with permanent professional resident companies in all of the major performing arts disciplines of opera, ballet, music, and theater. Home to nine world-class performing arts organizations, Houston Theater District is second only to New York in the number of theater seats in a concentrated area. The Houston Grand Opera is the only opera company in the U.S. to win a Grammy, a Tony and an Emmy while the Alley Theatre is the only regional theatre in Texas to win a Tony award. Other performing arts companies such as Broadway in Houston, Da Camera of Houston, Houston Symphony, Society for the Performing Arts, Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Ensemble Theater and Uniquely Houston also serve to enrich the lives of Houston area residents.

The distinctive Houston Museum district is one of the best in the country. It entertained over 8 million visitors in 2012. It offers a range of museums, galleries, art and cultural institutions. With its nineteen members within a 1.5 mile radius, the district offers a wide array of exhibits featuring themes of art, history, culture, nature, and science. Among the country's best are The Children's Museum of Houston, the Health Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts. Houston has more than 500 cultural, visual and performing arts organizations, 90 of which are devoted to multicultural and minority arts.

<b>MEMBERS OF HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT</b>	
Asia Society Texas Center Buffalo Soldiers National Museum Children's Museum of Houston Czech Center Museum Houston Houston Center for Contemporary Craft Houston Museum of Natural Science The John C. Freeman Weather Museum The Jung Center of Houston The Menil Collection Rice University Art Gallery	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston Holocaust Museum Houston Houston Center for Photography Houston Zoo, Inc. The Health Museum Lawndale Art Center Houston Museum of African American Culture Museum of Fine Arts, Houston The Rothko Chapel Diverse Works

**SPORTS AND RECREATION**

Houston has professional sports teams representing football, baseball, basketball and soccer. With four stadiums all less than 15 years old, they are a sports lover’s paradise. The Houston Dash Woman Professional Soccer Team was founded in 2013 and joined the National Women Soccer League in the 2014 season. The City boasts an array of championship teams such as the Houston Texans, Houston Dynamo, Houston Rockets, and Houston Astros.

Houston has established itself as a destination for hosting major sporting events such as: Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004, Major League Baseball and National Basketball Association All-Star Games, 2005 World Series, 2005 Big 12 Conference Football Championship, USA Gymnastics 2008 Men’s Visa Championships, 2010 NCAA Men’s Basketball South Region Tournament, 2010 Major League Soccer All-Star Game, 2011 NCAA Men’s Final Four, as well as the annual Shell Houston Open. Additionally, Houston hosted the 2011 Summer National Senior Games, the 2012 Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic games, and the 2013 NBA All Star Games. The City also looks forward to the 2015 Major League Lacrosse all Star Game, 2016 NCAA Men’s Final Four and 2017 Super Bowl LI. Houston’s racing facilities include Sam Houston Race Park, a Class 1 thoroughbred/quarter horse race track, Gulf Greyhound Park, and a dog race track.

<b>HOUSTON AREA SPORTS TEAMS</b>		
<b>Professional Teams</b>		<b>Collegiate Teams/Mascots</b>
Astros	Major League Baseball – American League	Houston Baptist University – Huskies
Dynamo	Major League Soccer	Rice University – Owls
Energy	Women’s Independent Football League	Texas Southern University – Tigers
Rockets	National Basketball Association	University of Houston – Cougars
Texans	National Football League – American Conference	Prairie View A&M – Panthers

**Sources:**

- Houston Facts – The Greater Houston Partnership
- Houston Association of Realtors
- National Association of Realtors Quarterly Report
- City of Houston
- The Port of Houston Authority
- Houston Economics – University of Houston Center for Public Policy
- Facts and Figures about the Texas Medical Center – Texas Medical Center
- The Official Guide to Houston – Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Downtown Houston Association
- Harris County – Houston Sports Authority
- Harris County Appraisal District
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- US Census Bureau
- US Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Houston Independent School District
- Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED)
- US Government Energy Information Administration
- Houston Business Journal
- Fly-2-Houston – The Houston Airport System
- Forbes Magazine
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Office of the Governor/Economic Development and Tourism
- American Chamber of Commerce Research Association (ACCRA)