

Evaluation Framework

This CEDS report utilized government data from various sources including U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Energy, StatsAmerica, and the Internal Revenue Service, as well as local data sources including Texas Demographic Center, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Labor Market Information. Additional information was retrieved from various news sources and local Economic Development websites, including Heart of Texas Economic Development District, Fairfield Texas Economic Development the Greater Waco Chamber. The report used the most up-to-date data available, and to the best ability, ensured that parameters of different metrics coincided to ensure the best possible comparisons.

Data that described the current state of the Heart of Texas region were chosen focusing on demographic and socioeconomic data, population, age, race/ethnicity, sex, and special groups, workforce, employment and unemployment, industries, environmental, geographic, climatic, and cultural resources, infrastructure assets and other factors affecting economic performance, including housing metrics and educational attainment. The goal is to compare the metrics listed above that describe the current state of the Heart of Texas region, with metrics in 2025, to determine the success of the 2020-2025 CEDS.

Performance Measures Include:

- Number of jobs created or retained in the region
- Population changes
- Attraction of a younger workforce
- Lower unemployment rates and higher labor force participation
- Increased levels of educational attainment
- Introduction of new, sustainable industries
- Environmental impact
- Infrastructure investments
- Amount of private investment in the region
- Number of business formations and expansions in the region
- Regional median income change
- Number of people receiving job training in the region
- Business starts