



HIBBS INSTITUTE
FAMILY INDEX

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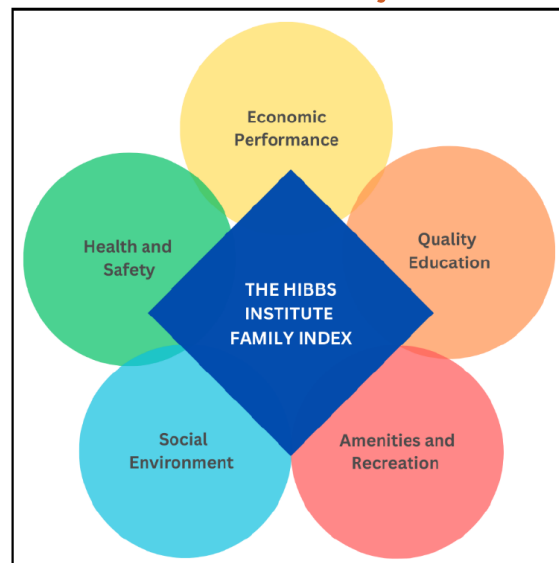
The Best Places to Raise a Family in Texas: Developing the Hibbs Institute Family Index

Manuel Reyes, D.E.D. and Cecilia Cuellar, Ph.D.

Introduction

The Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research, a unit of the Soules College of Business at the University of Texas at Tyler, has developed the Hibbs Institute Family Index (HIFI). HIFI is a tool that assesses family well-being by examining 18 factors grouped into five categories to produce an index. These categories are Health and Safety, Economic Performance, Quality Education, Amenities and Recreation, and Social Environment. **Figure 1** illustrates the HIFI and its five categories in a diagram model. This report details the use of the HIFI in comparison conducted among the 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)¹ in Texas.

Figure 1. Hibbs Institute Family Index Categories



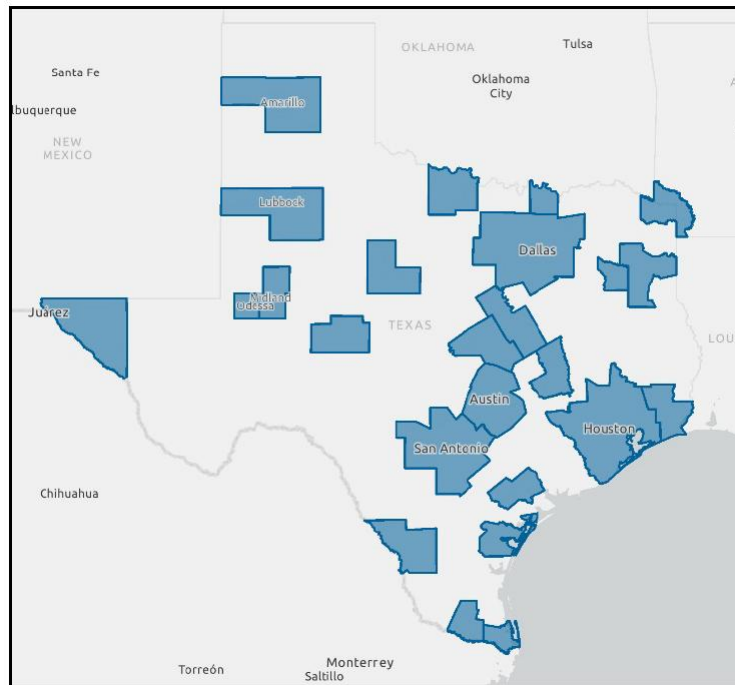
Source: Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Methodology

The Hibbs Institute developed a methodology in which 18 important factors for family well-being were thoroughly analyzed. The factors were grouped into five categories (Health and Safety, Economic Performance, Quality Education, Amenities and Recreation, and Social Environment) and weighted to produce a score between 0 and 100 (the higher the score, the better the conditions). The combined scores for all 18 factors were used to generate an overall index, which was then employed to compare the 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Texas (**Figure 2**).

¹ The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) describes a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as an area containing a large population nucleus and adjacent communities with a high degree of integration with that nucleus and an urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants.

Figure 2. Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Source: Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research using ESRI Business Analyst.

The corresponding weights for the categories and factors are as follows:

Health and Safety (30%)

- Primary Care Physicians (10%)
- Registered Nurses (10%)
- Uninsured Children (5%)
- Crime Rates (5%)

Economic Performance (25%)

- Unemployment Rate (10%)
- Basic Needs Affordability Ratio (5%)
- Per Capita Income (5%)
- Housing Affordability Ratio (5%)

Quality Education (20%)

- Highschool Diploma Rates (10%)
- Bachelor's Degree Rates (5%)
- School Enrollment Rates (2%)
- Student per Teacher Ratio (3%)

Amenities and Recreation (15%)

- Food and Grocery Stores (5%)
- Recreation and Entertainment Places (5%)
- Restaurants, Bars, and Clubs (5%)

Social Environment (10%)

- Children in Poverty (5%)
- Income Inequality (3%)
- Children in Single-Parent Households (2%)

The values of each factor for the 25 MSAs were converted into a normalized number between zero and 100, using their lowest and highest values, respectively. The resulting numbers represent the MSA score for each factor. Once all scores are calculated, they are multiplied by their corresponding weights, which represent the HIFI score for each MSA. A high HIFI score (e.g., an index score of 96) implies a highly evaluated MSA, regarding its family-friendly conditions. A more detailed description of each factor is depicted in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Factors description by categories

Category	Factors	Description
Health and Safety	Primary Care Physicians	Number of Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 in habitants.
	Registered Nurses	Number of Registered Nurses per 100,000 in habitants.
	Uninsured Children	Percentage of children who does not have health insurance.
	Crime Rates	Number of crimes per 100,000 inhabitants.
Economic Performance	Unemployment Rate	The percentage of the total unemployed labor force actively seeking employment and willing to work.
	Basic Needs Affordability Ratio	The proportion of a household's income required to cover essential expenses, such as food, healthcare, transportation, and utilities, excluding housing.
	Per Capita Income	The amount of income earned per person in a geographic region.
	Housing Affordability Ratio	Measures the ability of a household earning the median family income to qualify to purchase the median-priced home.
Quality Education	Highschool Diploma Rates	The percentage of individuals aged 25 and over, who have successfully completed high school or obtained an equivalent credential
	Bachelor's Degree Rates	The percentage of individuals aged 25 and over who have earned a bachelor's degree.
	School Enrollment Rates	The percentage of individuals enrolled in educational institutions, such as primary, secondary, or higher education.
	Student per Teacher Ratio	The average number of students assigned to each teacher in a school or educational system (from Preschool to Secondary School).
Amenities and Recreation	Food and Grocery Stores	Number of Food and Grocery Stores per 100,000 inhabitants.
	Recreation and Entertainment Places	Number of Recreation and Entertainment Places (such as movie theaters, museums, zoos) per 100,000 inhabitants.
	Restaurants, Bars, and Clubs	Number of restaurants, bars and clubs per 100,000 inhabitants.
Social Environment	Children in Poverty	The percentage of children under 18 living in households with income below the poverty threshold.
	Income Inequality	The Gini Index (or Gini Coefficient) is a statistical measure of income or wealth inequality within a population. It ranges from 0 to 1, where: 0 indicates perfect equality (everyone has the same income). 1 indicates perfect inequality (one person has all the income, and everyone else has none).
	Children in Single-Parent Households	The percentage of children under 18 living with only one parent, either a mother or father, instead of both.

Source: The Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Health and Safety

Health and safety indicators play a crucial role in assessing family-friendly environments, particularly in terms of access to primary healthcare and a robust health infrastructure. In this report, we evaluated four key indicators that shaped our index: availability of primary care physicians, registered nurses, percentage of uninsured children, and crime rates. These metrics provide a comprehensive view of the factors influencing community well-being, offering valuable insights for families to make informed decisions about where to settle.

Primary Care Physicians and Registered Nurses

The availability of primary care physicians and registered nurses are both critical indicators of healthcare access across MSAs. The Primary Care Physician metric, measured per 100,000 residents, allows for consistent comparisons, with a higher number translating to a higher Primary Care Physician Index score. Similarly, the Registered Nurses metric gauges healthcare accessibility, where a greater number of registered nurses per 100,000 residents results in a higher Registered Nurses Index score. **Table 2** presents the primary care physicians per 100,000 residents, along with the index scores and rankings for each MSA, while **Table 3** provides the same information for registered nurses.

Uninsured Children

The percentage of uninsured children is an indicator that helps measure healthcare accessibility within a community. Children without health insurance face significant barriers to receiving timely and preventative care, which can impact long-term health outcomes and place additional strain on emergency services. In our index, a low percentage of uninsured children reflects better healthcare access and positively contributes to the overall health and safety ranking of each MSA. **Table 4** presents the percentage of uninsured children across the MSAs, along with their corresponding index scores and rankings.

Crime Rates

Crime rates serve as key indicators of community safety, directly influencing the overall quality of life and desirability of an area. A low crime rate signifies a safer environment, which is critical for families when choosing a place to settle. In our index, areas with low crime rates achieved high safety scores, reflecting their ability to provide a secure living environment. **Table 5** summarizes local crime rates, along with their respective index scores and rankings for each MSA, offering a clear comparison of safety levels across the regions analyzed.

Table 2. Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 inhabitants and Primary Care Physicians Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Primary Care Physicians (per 100,000)	Primary Care Physicians Index	Ranking
Tyler, TX Metro Area	293	100.0	1
Abilene, TX Metro Area	246	74.4	2
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	244	73.7	3
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	242	72.5	4
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	242	72.5	5
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	241	71.9	6
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	237	69.9	7
Longview, TX Metro Area	233	67.5	8
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	229	65.3	9
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	229	65.3	10
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	216	58.7	11
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	213	56.6	12
Waco, TX Metro Area	208	54.1	13
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	207	53.6	14
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	200	49.9	15
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	188	43.2	16
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	187	42.6	17
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	184	41.4	18
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	183	40.8	19
El Paso, TX Metro Area	177	37.6	20
Victoria, TX Metro Area	174	35.7	21
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	163	29.9	22
Midland, TX Metro Area	153	24.3	23
Laredo, TX Metro Area	140	17.8	24
Odessa, TX Metro Area	107	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 3. Registered Nurses per 100,000 inhabitants and Registered Nurses Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Registered Nurses (per 100,000)	Registered Nurses Index	Ranking
Tyler, TX Metro Area	1,732	100.0	1
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	1,088	46.9	2
Abilene, TX Metro Area	1,070	45.4	3
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	1,044	43.2	4
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	1,040	42.9	5
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	1,040	42.9	6
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	1,012	40.6	7
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	979	37.9	8
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	969	37.0	9
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	968	37.0	10
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	967	36.9	11
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	963	36.5	12
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	948	35.3	13
Waco, TX Metro Area	879	29.6	14
El Paso, TX Metro Area	878	29.5	15
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	877	29.4	16
Victoria, TX Metro Area	872	29.0	17
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	827	25.3	18
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	812	24.1	19
Laredo, TX Metro Area	742	18.3	20
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	683	13.4	21
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	676	12.9	22
Midland, TX Metro Area	640	9.9	23
Longview, TX Metro Area	584	5.2	24
Odessa, TX Metro Area	520	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 4. Percentage of Uninsured Children and Uninsured Children Index with ranking MSA

MSA	Uninsured Children (%)	Uninsured Children Index	Ranking
Abilene, TX Metro Area	4.8	100.0	1
Midland, TX Metro Area	5.1	98.2	2
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	5.2	97.1	3
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	5.3	96.3	4
Waco, TX Metro Area	7.2	83.5	5
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	7.5	81.9	6
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	8.4	76.0	7
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	8.6	74.1	8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	8.7	73.3	9
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	8.9	72.6	10
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	10.1	64.2	11
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	10.8	59.7	12
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	11.5	55.0	13
Tyler, TX Metro Area	11.5	54.5	14
Longview, TX Metro Area	11.6	54.3	15
Victoria, TX Metro Area	12.1	50.7	16
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	12.3	49.6	17
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	12.3	49.5	18
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	12.7	46.7	19
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	12.9	45.0	20
El Paso, TX Metro Area	13.0	44.6	21
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	13.0	44.4	22
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	14.1	37.0	23
Laredo, TX Metro Area	18.8	5.3	24
Odessa, TX Metro Area	19.6	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

**Table 5. Crime Rates per 100,000 inhabitants and
Criminality Index with ranking MSA**

MSA	Crime Rates (per 100,000)	Criminality Index	Ranking
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	60.5	100.0	1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	236.2	78.6	2
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	253.6	76.5	3
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	262.4	75.4	4
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	264.4	75.2	5
Midland, TX Metro Area	268.9	74.6	6
Abilene, TX Metro Area	317.3	68.7	7
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	318.7	68.6	8
Laredo, TX Metro Area	321.9	68.2	9
Longview, TX Metro Area	324.1	67.9	10
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	328.3	67.4	11
Tyler, TX Metro Area	334.1	66.7	12
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	357.4	63.8	13
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	375.1	61.7	14
Waco, TX Metro Area	427.8	55.3	15
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	451.9	52.3	16
Victoria, TX Metro Area	464.4	50.8	17
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	515.9	44.6	18
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	541.2	41.5	19
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	595.4	34.9	20
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	595.4	34.9	21
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	736.9	17.6	22
El Paso, TX Metro Area	736.9	17.6	23
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	838.5	5.3	24
Odessa, TX Metro Area	881.8	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Economic Performance

Economic performance is a fundamental aspect of evaluating the overall well-being and livability of a region. This section explores four key factors that serve as proxy variables to evaluate economic conditions across the MSAs: Unemployment Rate, Basic Needs Affordability Ratio, Per Capita Income, and Housing Affordability Index. Each of these indicators provides insights into the economic health, stability, and accessibility of resources within a community, which are essential for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Unemployment Rate

The Unemployment Rate is a critical measure of labor market performance, reflecting the percentage of the labor force that is actively seeking but unable to find employment. A low unemployment rate indicates a robust job market and economic stability, both of which are vital for community growth and resilience. **Table 6** presents the unemployment rates across MSAs along with their respective index scores and rankings.

Basic Needs Affordability Ratio

The Basic Needs Affordability Ratio assesses the proportion of income that residents in a locality allocate to essential expenses such as food, utilities, and transportation. A low ratio suggests greater affordability and financial flexibility, which are key components of economic well-being. This metric helps identify regions where residents can better meet their basic needs without undue financial constraints. **Table 7** provides affordability ratios, index scores, and rankings for each MSA.

Per Capita Income

The Per Capita Income factor serves as an indicator of the average economic output and earnings potential per individual within a region. The higher the per capita income, the greater the wealth generation and purchasing power assumed in a location, which is a signal of strong economic performance. This metric is instrumental in evaluating regional prosperity and the MSA residents' ability to achieve a relatively high standard of living. **Table 8** details the per capita income figures along with their corresponding index scores and rankings.

Housing Affordability Ratio

The Housing Affordability Ratio measures the relative affordability of housing within an MSA by considering factors such as median household income and median home prices. A high index score indicates that buying a house is more accessible to residents with average income. **Table 9** presents the housing affordability ratios, index scores, and rankings for the analyzed MSAs.

**Table 6. Unemployment Rate and
Unemployment Index with ranking by MSA**

MSA	Unemployment Rate (%)	Unemployment Index	Ranking
Odessa, TX Metro Area	1.9	100.0	1
Midland, TX Metro Area	2.2	93.9	2
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	2.7	79.7	3
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	2.8	75.7	4
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	2.9	72.8	5
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	3.3	61.5	6
Abilene, TX Metro Area	3.4	59.1	7
Tyler, TX Metro Area	3.5	56.4	8
Waco, TX Metro Area	3.7	52.5	9
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	3.9	47.6	10
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	3.9	45.7	11
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	3.9	45.4	12
Victoria, TX Metro Area	4.1	41.9	13
Longview, TX Metro Area	4.1	41.0	14
El Paso, TX Metro Area	4.2	37.3	15
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	4.3	34.4	16
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	4.4	32.8	17
Laredo, TX Metro Area	4.5	28.6	18
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	4.7	24.9	19
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	4.8	21.6	20
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	5.2	11.3	21
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	5.2	9.2	22
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	5.4	5.8	23
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	5.6	0.0	24
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	5.6	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 7. Basic Needs Affordability Ratio and Basic Needs Affordability Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Basic Needs Affordability Ratio	Basic Needs Affordability Index	Ranking
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	0.55	100.0	1
Midland, TX Metro Area	0.63	81.3	2
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	0.67	72.0	3
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	0.68	69.5	4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	0.68	69.4	5
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	0.75	54.5	6
Tyler, TX Metro Area	0.76	51.8	7
Victoria, TX Metro Area	0.77	49.7	8
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	0.79	44.8	9
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	0.80	42.9	10
Longview, TX Metro Area	0.81	40.6	11
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	0.82	39.6	12
Waco, TX Metro Area	0.82	39.2	13
Laredo, TX Metro Area	0.83	36.5	14
Abilene, TX Metro Area	0.84	35.0	15
Odessa, TX Metro Area	0.84	34.4	16
El Paso, TX Metro Area	0.85	33.1	17
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	0.85	32.3	18
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	0.88	24.9	19
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	0.90	20.8	20
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	0.92	16.0	21
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	0.92	15.8	22
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	0.95	9.5	23
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	0.98	3.7	24
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	1.00	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 8. Per Capita Income and Per Capita Income Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Income Index	Ranking
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	\$ 76,312	100.0	1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	\$ 63,378	72.1	2
Midland, TX Metro Area	\$ 61,841	68.8	3
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	\$ 55,129	54.3	4
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	\$ 47,671	38.2	5
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	\$ 45,255	33.0	6
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	\$ 45,228	32.9	7
Tyler, TX Metro Area	\$ 44,956	32.3	8
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	\$ 43,134	28.4	9
Odessa, TX Metro Area	\$ 42,299	26.6	10
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	\$ 41,235	24.3	11
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	\$ 40,991	23.8	12
Longview, TX Metro Area	\$ 40,934	23.6	13
Victoria, TX Metro Area	\$ 40,520	22.7	14
Waco, TX Metro Area	\$ 40,044	21.7	15
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	\$ 39,624	20.8	16
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	\$ 38,057	17.4	17
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	\$ 37,511	16.3	18
Abilene, TX Metro Area	\$ 36,471	14.0	19
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	\$ 35,650	12.2	20
El Paso, TX Metro Area	\$ 34,416	9.6	21
Laredo, TX Metro Area	\$ 32,114	4.6	22
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	\$ 30,684	1.5	23
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	\$ 30,632	1.4	24
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	\$ 29,982	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 9. Housing Affordability Ratio and Housing Affordability Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Housing Affordability Ratio	Housing Affordability Index	Ranking
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	1.76	100.0	1
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	1.71	93.8	2
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	1.45	61.7	3
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	1.44	60.5	4
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	1.41	56.8	5
Longview, TX Metro Area	1.28	40.7	6
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	1.28	40.7	7
Midland, TX Metro Area	1.27	39.5	8
Abilene, TX Metro Area	1.23	34.6	9
Waco, TX Metro Area	1.18	28.4	10
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	1.16	25.9	11
Victoria, TX Metro Area	1.16	25.9	12
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	1.13	22.2	13
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	1.13	22.2	14
Odessa, TX Metro Area	1.13	22.2	15
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	1.13	22.2	16
Laredo, TX Metro Area	1.09	17.3	17
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	1.08	16.0	18
Tyler, TX Metro Area	1.08	16.0	19
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	1.08	16.0	20
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	1.06	13.6	21
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	1.06	13.6	22
El Paso, TX Metro Area	0.99	4.9	23
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	0.96	1.2	24
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	0.95	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Quality Education

Access to and quality of education are indicators that are often used to assess long-term economic growth and individual success. Education shapes workforce readiness, economic mobility, and overall community well-being, making it the cornerstone of regional development. This section evaluates Quality Education through four key indicators: High School Diploma Rates, Bachelor's Degree Rates, School Enrollment Rates, and Student-to-Teacher Ratio. Each metric provides valuable insights into the accessibility and effectiveness of educational systems across different MSAs in Texas.

High School Diploma Rate

The High School Diploma Rate or high school graduation rate is a fundamental measure of educational achievement, student success, and workforce preparedness. Communities where high school graduates are substantial are often better positioned to cultivate a skilled labor force, attract employers, and promote social mobility. This metric is critical for assessing a region's baseline educational success. **Table 10** outlines the high school diploma rates, their corresponding index scores, and rankings for each MSA.

Bachelor's Degree Rates

The percentage of a population holding a bachelor's degree is a key indicator of advanced educational attainment and economic competitiveness. Regions with high Bachelor's Degree Rates often experience greater innovation, higher incomes, and a more dynamic workforce. **Table 11** presents the bachelor's degree rates, along with their index scores and rankings.

School Enrollment Rates

School Enrollment Rates reflect the accessibility and prioritization of education within a community. High enrollment rates are indicative of effective educational policies and infrastructure that support ongoing learning for residents of all ages. This metric is essential for evaluating how communities invest in education and how they prepare for future generations. **Table 12** shows the school enrollment rates, index scores, and rankings of the analyzed MSAs.

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

The Student-to-Teacher Ratio is a widely recognized measure of education quality, as lower ratios typically allow for more individualized attention and improved academic outcomes. This indicator contributes to assessing the capacity of educational systems to deliver effective instruction and foster student success. **Table 13** provides the student-to-teacher ratios, index scores, and rankings for each MSA.

Table 10. High School Diploma Rate and High School Diploma Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	High School Diploma Rate (%)	High School Diploma Index	Ranking
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	40.7	100.0	1
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	37.0	84.9	2
Victoria, TX Metro Area	34.4	74.3	3
Odessa, TX Metro Area	34.1	73.1	4
Abilene, TX Metro Area	33.2	69.4	5
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	32.8	67.8	6
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	31.5	62.4	7
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	30.9	60.0	8
Longview, TX Metro Area	29.8	55.5	9
Midland, TX Metro Area	29.5	54.3	10
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	28.3	49.4	11
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	28.1	48.6	12
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	27.1	44.5	13
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	27.0	44.1	14
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	26.4	41.6	15
Waco, TX Metro Area	26.0	40.0	16
El Paso, TX Metro Area	26.0	40.0	17
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	25.6	38.4	18
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	25.1	36.3	19
Tyler, TX Metro Area	23.9	31.4	20
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	23.9	31.4	21
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	22.5	25.7	22
Laredo, TX Metro Area	21.9	23.3	23
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	21.3	20.8	24
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	16.2	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 11. Bachelor's Degree Rate and Bachelor's Degree Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Bachelor's Degree Rate (%)	Bachelor's Degree Index	Ranking
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	52.1	100.0	1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	40.0	65.3	2
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	39.7	64.5	3
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	36.0	53.9	4
Midland, TX Metro Area	33.7	47.3	5
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	33.1	45.6	6
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	30.1	37.0	7
Tyler, TX Metro Area	29.7	35.8	8
Waco, TX Metro Area	27.3	28.9	9
Abilene, TX Metro Area	27.0	28.1	10
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	27.0	28.1	11
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	26.5	26.6	12
El Paso, TX Metro Area	25.9	24.9	13
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	25.7	24.4	14
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	25.5	23.8	15
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	25.3	23.2	16
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	24.5	20.9	17
Laredo, TX Metro Area	22.9	16.3	18
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	22.7	15.8	19
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	20.7	10.0	20
Longview, TX Metro Area	20.2	8.6	21
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	19.8	7.4	22
Victoria, TX Metro Area	19.5	6.6	23
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	18.5	3.7	24
Odessa, TX Metro Area	17.2	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 12. School Enrollment Rate and School Enrollment Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	School Enrollment Rate (%)	School Enrollment Index	Ranking
Victoria, TX Metro Area	79.2	100.0	1
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	78.8	99.0	2
Laredo, TX Metro Area	77.9	96.7	3
Midland, TX Metro Area	76.5	93.1	4
Longview, TX Metro Area	76.1	92.1	5
Odessa, TX Metro Area	74.8	88.7	6
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	74.5	87.9	7
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	73.5	85.4	8
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	73.2	84.6	9
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	73.2	84.6	10
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	72.8	83.6	11
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	72.5	82.8	12
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	71.8	81.0	13
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	71.3	79.7	14
Tyler, TX Metro Area	71.3	79.7	15
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	70.8	78.5	16
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	70.6	77.9	17
El Paso, TX Metro Area	70.0	76.4	18
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	69.9	76.2	19
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	68.5	72.6	20
Abilene, TX Metro Area	63.9	60.8	21
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	63.7	60.3	22
Waco, TX Metro Area	61.7	55.1	23
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	57.4	44.1	24
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	40.2	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 13. Student-to-Teacher Ratio and Student-to-Teacher Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Student-to-Teacher Ratio	Student-to-Teacher Index	Ranking
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	7.4	100.0	1
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	7.6	96.6	2
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	7.6	96.5	3
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	7.6	94.4	4
Laredo, TX Metro Area	7.7	92.2	5
Abilene, TX Metro Area	7.8	89.9	6
Tyler, TX Metro Area	7.9	88.1	7
Longview, TX Metro Area	7.9	86.4	8
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	7.9	85.8	9
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	8.0	85.7	10
Waco, TX Metro Area	8.0	83.7	11
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	8.0	83.0	12
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	8.2	79.4	13
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	8.2	79.1	14
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	8.2	78.4	15
El Paso, TX Metro Area	8.5	69.9	16
Victoria, TX Metro Area	8.7	65.5	17
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	8.8	62.4	18
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	8.8	62.3	19
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	8.9	58.6	20
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	9.0	57.5	21
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	9.0	56.8	22
Odessa, TX Metro Area	9.0	56.0	23
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	9.0	54.9	24
Midland, TX Metro Area	11.0	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Amenities and Recreation

The availability of amenities and recreational opportunities significantly enhances quality of life within a community. Access to food and grocery stores, recreational facilities, and social venues contribute to a vibrant, well-rounded lifestyle that supports both residents' daily needs and leisure activities. This section examines three key indicators: Food and Grocery Stores, Recreation and Entertainment Places, and Restaurants, Bars and Clubs. Each metric was measured as the number of establishments per 100,000 residents, allowing for consistent comparisons across MSAs.

Food and Grocery Stores

The availability of Food and Grocery Stores is a fundamental indicator of a community's accessibility to essential goods. A high number of stores per 100,000 residents suggests greater convenience and variety in meeting the daily nutritional needs. This metric also reflects the development of the local retail infrastructure. **Table 14** presents the number of food and grocery stores per 100,000 residents, along with the index scores and rankings for each MSA.

Recreation and Entertainment Places

Recreation and Entertainment Places or facilities play key roles in fostering social cohesion, promoting physical activity, and enhancing leisure opportunities. This factor includes parks, gyms, cinemas, and other venues that contribute to the community's cultural and recreational composition. A large number of this type of facility per 100,000 residents indicates a significant emphasis on the quality of life. **Table 15** highlights the number of recreational and entertainment places per 100,000 residents, along with their corresponding index scores and rankings.

Restaurants, Bars and Clubs

The presence of Restaurants, Bars, and Clubs reflects a region's culinary diversity and social vibrancy, serving as a measure of nightlife and entertainment options. These establishments not only provide leisure opportunities but also play a role in driving the local economy. A high concentration of these venues per 100,000 residents indicates high accessibility to dining and socializing experiences. **Table 16** details the number of restaurants, bars, and clubs per 100,000 residents, with the corresponding index scores and rankings.

Table 14. Food and Grocery Stores per 100,000 inhabitants and Food and Grocery Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Food and Grocery Stores (per 100,000)	Food and Grocery Stores Index	Ranking
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	192.7	100.0	1
Abilene, TX Metro Area	182.6	93.1	2
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	181.6	92.4	3
Longview, TX Metro Area	173.8	87.0	4
Tyler, TX Metro Area	168.0	83.1	5
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	166.1	81.7	6
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	164.8	80.8	7
Victoria, TX Metro Area	161.0	78.3	8
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	159.3	77.1	9
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	155.8	74.7	10
Waco, TX Metro Area	154.2	73.6	11
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	150.7	71.2	12
Odessa, TX Metro Area	145.9	67.9	13
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	136.7	61.6	14
Midland, TX Metro Area	134.8	60.3	15
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	130.6	57.4	16
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	118.4	49.0	17
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	118.4	49.0	18
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	117.6	48.5	19
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	65.2	12.5	20
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	60.8	9.5	21
Laredo, TX Metro Area	58.3	7.8	22
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	55.1	5.5	23
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	53.1	4.2	24
El Paso, TX Metro Area	47.0	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 15. Recreation and Entertainment Places per 100,000 inhabitants and Recreation and Entertainment Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Recreation and Entertainment Places (per 100,000)	Recreation and Entertainment Index	Ranking
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	135.4	100.0	1
Victoria, TX Metro Area	129.0	94.1	2
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	128.8	93.9	3
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	124.1	89.5	4
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	122.9	88.3	5
Abilene, TX Metro Area	122.6	88.1	6
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	121.2	86.8	7
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	117.4	83.2	8
Midland, TX Metro Area	115.1	81.1	9
Tyler, TX Metro Area	113.8	79.9	10
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	113.7	79.8	11
Waco, TX Metro Area	111.0	77.3	12
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	106.6	73.2	13
Longview, TX Metro Area	105.3	72.0	14
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	100.0	67.1	15
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	96.0	63.4	16
Odessa, TX Metro Area	92.4	60.1	17
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	92.0	59.7	18
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	78.7	47.4	19
Laredo, TX Metro Area	72.5	41.5	20
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	63.4	33.2	21
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	31.4	3.4	22
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	29.3	1.4	23
El Paso, TX Metro Area	27.8	0.0	24
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	27.7	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 16. Restaurants, Bars, and Clubs per 100,000 inhabitants and Restaurants, Bars, and Clubs Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Restaurants, Bars and Clubs (per 100,000)	Restaurants, Bars and Clubs Index	Ranking
Victoria, TX Metro Area	283.1	100.0	1
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	278.8	98.3	2
Waco, TX Metro Area	274.7	96.7	3
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	274.3	96.6	4
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	272.1	95.7	5
Tyler, TX Metro Area	270.0	94.9	6
Odessa, TX Metro Area	266.9	93.7	7
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	259.2	90.6	8
Laredo, TX Metro Area	227.0	78.0	9
Longview, TX Metro Area	213.3	72.6	10
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	208.5	70.7	11
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	190.7	63.8	12
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	163.3	53.0	13
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	162.2	52.6	14
Midland, TX Metro Area	160.1	51.7	15
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	159.4	51.5	16
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	146.7	46.5	17
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	131.5	40.5	18
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	128.9	39.5	19
Abilene, TX Metro Area	127.1	38.8	20
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	59.0	12.1	21
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	36.7	3.3	22
El Paso, TX Metro Area	29.6	0.6	23
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	29.3	0.4	24
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	28.2	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Social Environment

The social environment of a community plays a critical role in shaping its residents' well-being and opportunities. Factors, such as poverty, income inequality, and household structure, profoundly influence the stability and development of families, particularly children. This section evaluates the social environment through three key indicators: Percentage of Children in Poverty, Income Inequality, and Percentage of Children in Single-Parent Households.

Children in Poverty

The percentage of children living in poverty reflects the economic hardship faced by the most vulnerable members of a community. High rates of child poverty are often associated with limited access to education, healthcare, and other essential services, posing long-term challenges to individual and community development. This metric is a critical indicator of social equity and well-being. **Table 17** presents the Percentage of Children in Poverty for each MSA, along with their index scores and rankings.

Income Inequality

Income Inequality measures the distribution of income within a community and highlights disparities in economic opportunities and wealth. High levels of income inequality can exacerbate social divides and hinder collective progress, making it a crucial factor for assessing the overall social environment. **Table 18** details the income inequality levels across MSAs, accompanied by their index scores and rankings.

Children in Single-Parent Households

The percentage of Children in Single-Parent Households serves as an indicator of the family structure and social support systems within a community. Single-parent households often face unique challenges, including financial strain and limited access to resources, which can impact children's well-being and development. This metric highlights areas in which additional support may be necessary to ensure equitable opportunities for all families. **Table 19** provides the percentage of Children in Single-Parent Households along with the corresponding index scores and rankings for each MSA.

Table 17. Percentage of Children in Poverty and Children in Poverty Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Children in Poverty (%)	Children in Poverty Index	Ranking
Odessa, TX Metro Area	9.5	100.0	1
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	10.6	96.2	2
Abilene, TX Metro Area	11.5	93.1	3
Victoria, TX Metro Area	13.3	86.9	4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	13.3	86.9	5
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	14.1	84.1	6
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	14.3	83.4	7
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	14.8	81.7	8
Midland, TX Metro Area	14.9	81.4	9
Tyler, TX Metro Area	16.5	75.9	10
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	16.9	74.5	11
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	18.0	70.7	12
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	19.3	66.2	13
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	19.3	66.2	14
Waco, TX Metro Area	19.4	65.9	15
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	19.7	64.8	16
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	20.0	63.8	17
Longview, TX Metro Area	20.3	62.8	18
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	20.5	62.1	19
El Paso, TX Metro Area	24.2	49.3	20
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	25.7	44.1	21
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	26.3	42.1	22
Laredo, TX Metro Area	32.6	20.3	23
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	35.5	10.3	24
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	38.5	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 18. Income Inequality (Gini Index) and Income Inequality Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Income Inequality (Gini Index)	Income Inequality Index	Ranking
Odessa, TX Metro Area	0.420	100.0	1
Laredo, TX Metro Area	0.438	80.7	2
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	0.446	72.7	3
Abilene, TX Metro Area	0.449	68.9	4
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	0.454	64.0	5
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	0.456	61.5	6
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	0.459	58.4	7
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	0.462	55.0	8
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	0.463	54.4	9
Victoria, TX Metro Area	0.464	53.3	10
El Paso, TX Metro Area	0.465	52.0	11
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	0.466	50.7	12
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	0.467	49.6	13
Tyler, TX Metro Area	0.471	45.4	14
Waco, TX Metro Area	0.472	45.3	15
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	0.473	43.3	16
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	0.475	41.9	17
Longview, TX Metro Area	0.476	40.2	18
Midland, TX Metro Area	0.477	39.2	19
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	0.478	38.4	20
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	0.481	35.3	21
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	0.491	24.4	22
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	0.493	22.5	23
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	0.501	14.4	24
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	0.514	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Table 19. Percentage of Children in Single-Parent Household and Children in Single-Parent Household Index with ranking by MSA

MSA	Children in Single-Parent Household (%)	Children in Single-Parent Household Index	Ranking
College Station-Bryan, TX Metro Area	3.1	100.0	1
Killeen-Temple, TX Metro Area	4.4	80.6	2
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metro Area	4.6	77.8	3
Longview, TX Metro Area	4.7	76.3	4
San Angelo, TX Metro Area	4.8	74.4	5
Wichita Falls, TX Metro Area	4.8	73.3	6
Sherman-Denison, TX Metro Area	5.1	70.1	7
Amarillo, TX Metro Area	5.1	69.5	8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	5.1	68.7	9
Abilene, TX Metro Area	5.3	66.6	10
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	5.3	65.7	11
Waco, TX Metro Area	5.4	64.8	12
Tyler, TX Metro Area	5.6	62.3	13
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX Metro Area	5.8	58.8	14
Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area	5.8	58.5	15
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX Metro Area	6.1	54.3	16
Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area	6.1	54.1	17
Lubbock, TX Metro Area	6.1	54.0	18
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area	6.4	49.1	19
Victoria, TX Metro Area	7.0	40.0	20
El Paso, TX Metro Area	7.2	36.7	21
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area	7.8	28.4	22
Midland, TX Metro Area	7.9	26.9	23
Odessa, TX Metro Area	8.5	16.6	24
Laredo, TX Metro Area	9.6	0.0	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

Findings

Table 20 depicts the Hibbs Institute Family Index calculations arranged by total scores (last two columns). Other columns in the table depict the MSAs rankings for different factors examined in the index (where 1 represents the best and 25 the worst).

Tyler is at the top of the list, excelling in several factors. In health care, it ranks first with the highest number of primary care physicians and registered nurses per 100,000 inhabitants. Additionally, Tyler benefits from strong economic performance, particularly in its unemployment rate and per capita income. Wichita Falls landed in second place, showing very good numbers in housing affordability and unemployment rates. Furthermore, a low cost of living and robust health care access strengthens its position as an attractive metropolitan area for families. Abilene is third on the list, with the lowest percentage of uninsured children from the assessed group and a solid overall economic performance.

On the other hand, El Paso and Laredo obtained the lowest scores of the group. Factors such as high crime rates, many uninsured children, and considerable income inequality position these two cities at the end of the list.

Large metro areas in Texas ranked lower than expected. Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos is 12th on the list with low housing affordability and significant income disparities. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington and Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands are 19th and 21st on the list, respectively, with substantial challenges in health care access and social issues. San Antonio-New Braunfels comes in 14th, facing similar difficulties and challenges.

In East Texas, Texarkana and Longview obtained 8th and 13th, respectively. Texarkana excels in education, leading the index in high school diploma attainment rates and ranking second in student enrollment rates. Texarkana's housing affordability indicator also positively contributed to its score. Longview is positioned in the middle of the list, showing acceptable economic performance factors in housing affordability and basic needs affordability but struggling with social environment factors like child poverty and income inequality.

The Hibbs Institute Family Index highlights the strengths and areas for improvement of Texas metropolitan areas. Families can use this data to identify the quality-of-life indicators that match their priorities and find the location that best fits their needs and lifestyle.

Table 20. Hibbs Institute Family Index, Ranking Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Texas

Metropolitan Areas	Health and Safty				Economic Performance				Education Quality				Amenities and Recreation			Social Environment			Total Score	Ranking
	Primary Care Physicians	Registered Nurses	Share of Uninsured Children	Criminality Rates	Unemployment Rate	Basic Needs Affordability Ratio	Per Capita Income	Housing Affordability Index	Higschool Diploma Rates	Bachelor's Degree Rates	School Enrollment Rates	Student per Teacher Ratio	Food & Grocery Stores	Recreation & Entertainment Places	Restaurants, Bars & Clubs	Children in Poverty	Income Inequality	Children in Single-Parent Households		
Tyler, TX	1	1	14	12	8	7	8	19	20	8	15	7	5	10	6	10	14	13	65.2	1
Wichita Falls, TX	6	5	12	8	3	9	16	1	7	15	20	19	6	8	5	21	6	6	63.4	2
Abilene, TX	2	3	1	7	7	15	19	9	5	10	21	6	2	6	20	3	4	10	61.8	3
Amarillo, TX	4	12	22	21	5	10	6	4	11	12	13	13	7	7	14	8	13	8	57.2	4
Midland, TX	23	23	2	6	2	2	3	8	10	5	4	25	15	9	15	9	19	23	56.0	5
Sherman-Denison, TX	19	8	23	3	4	25	7	21	6	14	11	4	9	11	4	7	8	7	55.8	6
San Angelo, TX	5	4	6	11	6	23	17	7	13	16	12	1	10	4	13	11	22	5	55.6	7
Texarkana, TX-AR	10	13	7	16	19	24	23	3	1	22	2	15	1	13	2	16	24	15	55.4	8
Lubbock, TX	3	6	10	24	11	19	9	5	14	7	24	3	12	1	8	17	23	18	53.7	9
Victoria, TX	21	17	16	17	13	8	14	12	3	23	1	17	8	2	1	4	10	20	52.7	10
Waco, TX	13	14	5	15	9	13	15	10	16	9	23	11	11	12	3	15	15	12	52.4	11
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	17	22	8	20	10	1	1	18	25	1	22	14	18	3	19	2	16	3	51.9	12
Longview, TX	8	24	15	10	14	11	13	6	9	21	5	8	4	14	10	18	18	4	50.6	13
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	12	16	9	18	16	6	5	14	19	6	19	20	17	16	16	12	7	11	47.7	14
Killeen-Temple, TX	11	2	3	5	21	4	18	16	12	11	16	22	23	25	12	6	3	2	46.7	15
College Station-Bryan, TX	7	11	4	4	20	22	11	22	21	3	25	2	14	15	22	13	25	1	45.3	16
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	22	21	20	19	23	12	20	2	2	24	8	21	3	18	17	19	5	14	44.8	17
Odessa, TX	25	25	25	25	1	16	10	15	4	25	6	23	13	17	7	1	1	24	44.3	18
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	14	19	13	2	12	5	2	11	24	2	17	24	24	22	25	5	12	9	43.5	19
Corpus Christi, TX	9	10	11	22	17	18	12	20	8	17	9	10	20	5	21	22	9	17	43.0	20
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	18	18	18	13	22	3	4	13	22	4	14	18	21	23	24	14	21	16	35.4	21
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	16	7	17	1	25	20	25	24	18	20	7	12	16	21	11	25	20	22	35.3	22
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX	15	9	19	14	24	21	24	25	15	19	10	9	19	19	18	24	17	19	33.8	23
Laredo, TX	24	20	24	9	18	14	22	17	23	18	3	5	22	20	9	23	2	25	30.7	24
El Paso, TX	20	15	21	23	15	17	21	23	17	13	18	16	25	24	23	20	11	21	29.6	25

Source: Indexes calculated by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research.

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Health and Safety

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