

# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

## Demographics, Geography and Climate

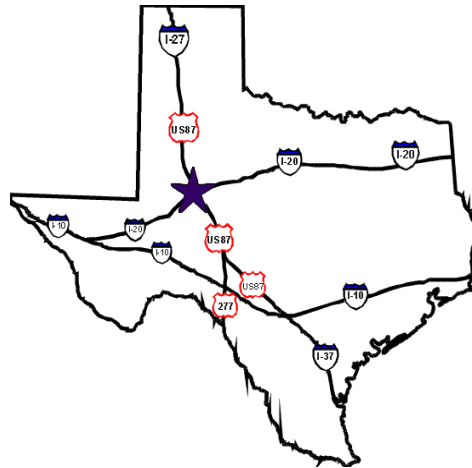


# Demographics, Geography and Climate

## WELCOME TO BIG SPRING, TEXAS

BIG SPRING is located at the crossroads of U.S. Interstate Highway 20, State Highway 87, State Highway 350 and State Highway 176 in West Texas. It is the County seat of Howard County and home of caring residents, friendly families, beautiful landscapes, and a multitude of cultural, sporting, recreational events to engage individuals looking for a wonderful place to call home.

### *BIG SKY-BIG HEART-BIG SPRING*



Big Spring's unique topography is a mixture of wide open plains mixed with the convergence of the northern limit of the Edwards Plateau and the southern most hills of the Caprock. Big Spring is nestled in a gorge between two high foothills creating beautiful vistas and an oasis in the West Texas prairie.

Big Spring has a diverse and varied economy. Early settlers began ranching operations and soon began to farm the land. Oil and gas production became a major economic force in the early 1900's and continues today. Today the economy has grown to include refining, manufacturing, wind energy production, transportation, governmental services, and a broad range of health care services.



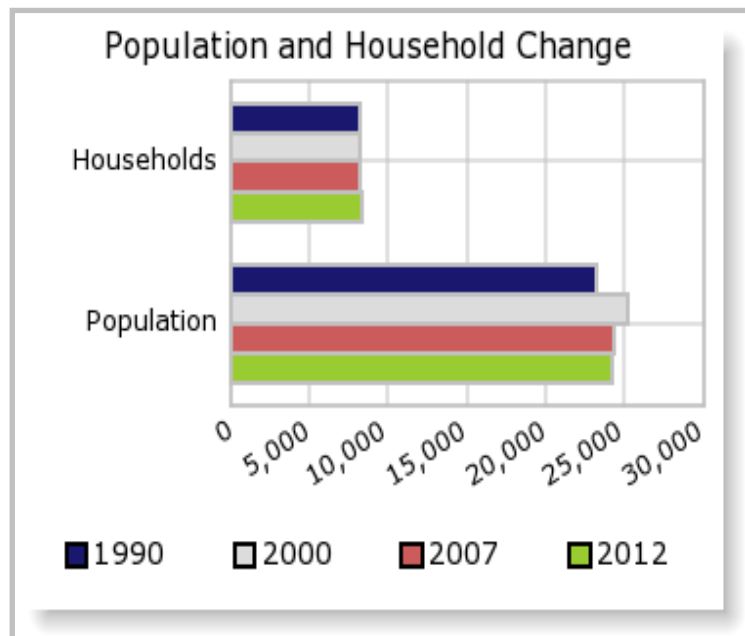
# Demographics

## Executive Summary Report with Charts

### Population Demographics:

The number of households in the study area in 1990 was **8,199** and changed to **8,155** in 2000, representing a change of **-0.5%**. The household count in 2007 was **8,184** and the household projection for 2012 is **8,297**, a change of **1.4%**.

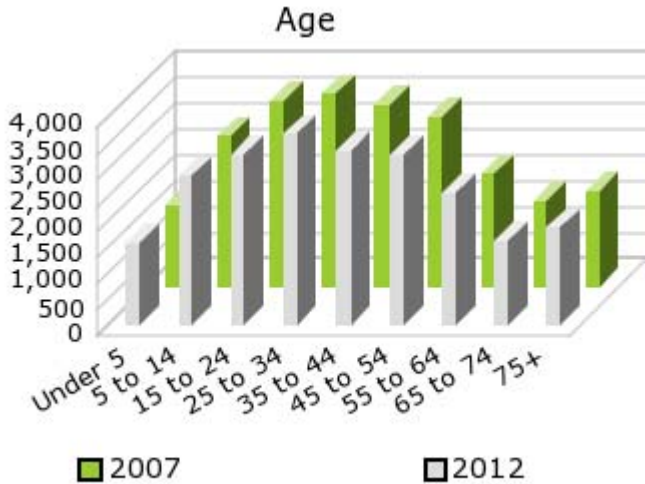
The population in the study area in 1990 was **23,199** and in 2000 it was **25,232**, roughly a **8.8%** change. The population in 2007 was **24,344** and the projection for 2012 is **24,234** representing a change of **-0.5%**.



	1990 Census	2000 Census	2007 Estimate	2012 Projection	Percent Change	
					1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
<b>Total Population</b>	23,199	25,232	24,344	24,234	8.8%	-0.5%
<b>Total Households</b>	8,199	8,155	8,184	8,297	-0.5%	1.4%

# Demographics

## Population by Age

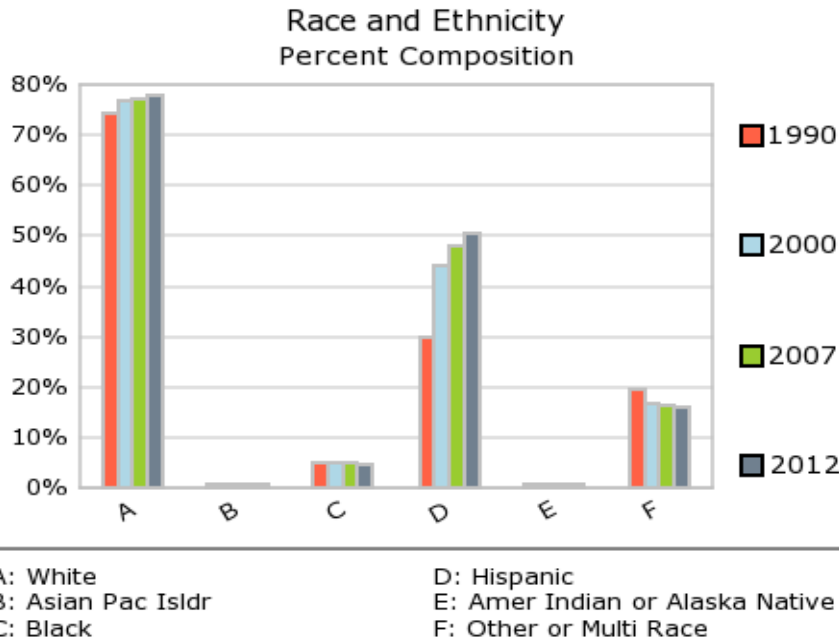


In 1990, the median age of the total population in the study area was **33.8**, and in 2000, it was **35.3**. The median age in 2007 is **35.9** and it is predicted to change in five years to **36.9** years. In 2007, females represented **44.2%** of the population with a median age of **38.3** and males represented **55.8%** of the population with a median age of **35.0** years. In 2007, the most prominent age group in this geography is **Age 25 to 34** years. The age group least represented in this geography is **0 to 4** years.

Age Groups	Percent Change									
	1990 Census	%	2000 Census	%	2007 Estimate	%	2012 Projection	%	1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
0 to 4	1,835	7.9%	1,546	6.1%	1,603	6.6%	1,594	6.6%	-15.8%	-0.6%
5 to 14	3,452	14.9%	3,384	13.4%	2,916	12.0%	2,884	11.9%	-2.0%	-1.1%
15 to 19	1,641	7.1%	1,777	7.0%	1,639	6.7%	1,465	6.1%	8.3%	-10.6%
20 to 24	1,431	6.2%	1,731	6.9%	1,947	8.0%	1,826	7.5%	21.0%	-6.2%
25 to 34	3,657	15.8%	4,068	16.1%	3,730	15.3%	3,694	15.2%	11.2%	-1.0%
35 to 44	3,009	13.0%	4,135	16.4%	3,522	14.5%	3,361	13.9%	37.4%	-4.6%
45 to 54	2,205	9.5%	3,080	12.2%	3,300	13.6%	3,297	13.6%	39.7%	-0.1%
55 to 64	2,291	9.9%	1,916	7.6%	2,195	9.0%	2,567	10.6%	-16.4%	17.0%
65 to 74	2,091	9.0%	1,829	7.2%	1,648	6.8%	1,644	6.8%	-12.5%	-0.3%
75 +	1,588	6.8%	1,765	7.0%	1,844	7.6%	1,902	7.8%	11.1%	3.1%

# Demographics

## Population by Race/Ethnicity



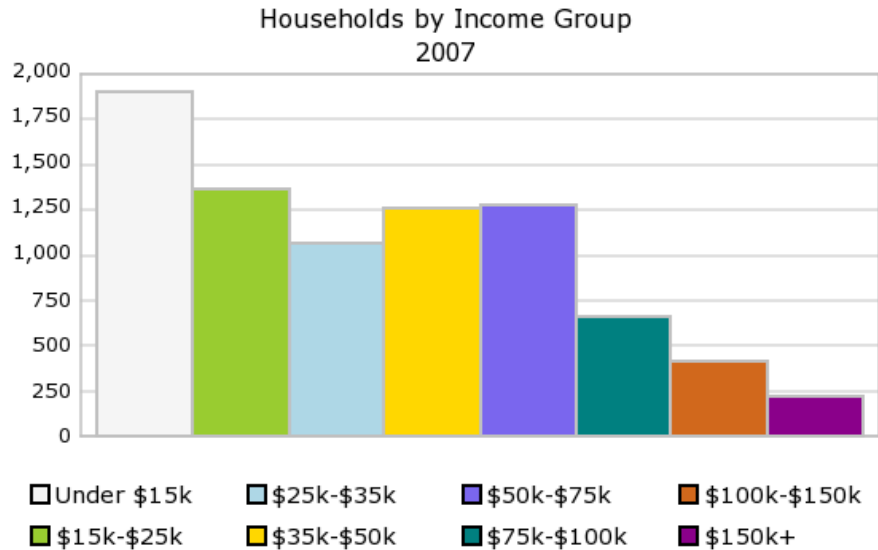
In 2007, the predominant race/ethnicity category in this study area is **White**. The race & ethnicity category least represented in this geography is **Asian or Pacific Islander**.

Race & Ethnicity	1990 Census		2000 Census		2007 Estimate		2012 Projection		Percent Change	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
White	17,244	74.3%	19,394	76.9%	18,796	77.2%	18,847	77.8%	12.5%	0.3%
Black	1,155	5.0%	1,306	5.2%	1,229	5.1%	1,198	4.9%	13.0%	-2.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	137	0.6%	150	0.6%	145	0.6%	139	0.6%	9.9%	-4.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	127	0.6%	146	0.6%	144	0.6%	148	0.6%	15.2%	2.3%
Other Race	4,536	19.6%	3,640	14.4%	3,455	14.2%	3,402	14.0%	-19.8%	-1.5%
Two or More Races			597	2.4%	574	2.4%	500	2.1%		-12.9%
Hispanic Ethnicity	6,954	30.0%	11,119	44.1%	11,683	48.0%	12,258	50.6%	59.9%	4.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	16,245	70.0%	14,113	55.9%	12,661	52.0%	11,976	49.4%	-13.1%	-5.4%

# Demographics

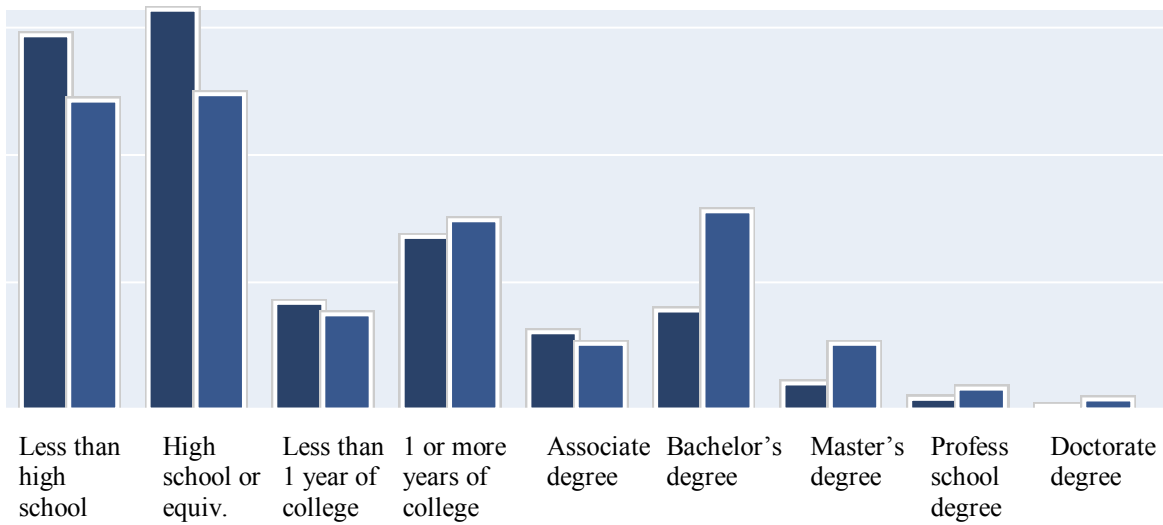
## Households by Income

In 2007 the predominant household income category in this study area is **\$0 - \$15K**, and the income group that is least represented in this geography is **\$150K +**.



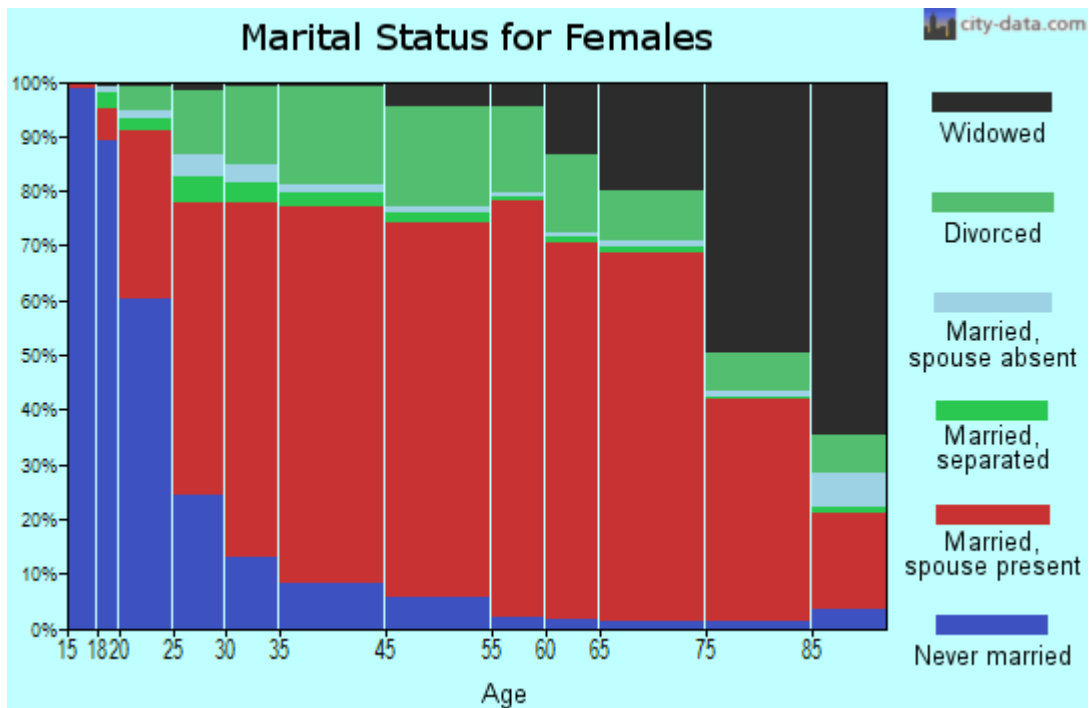
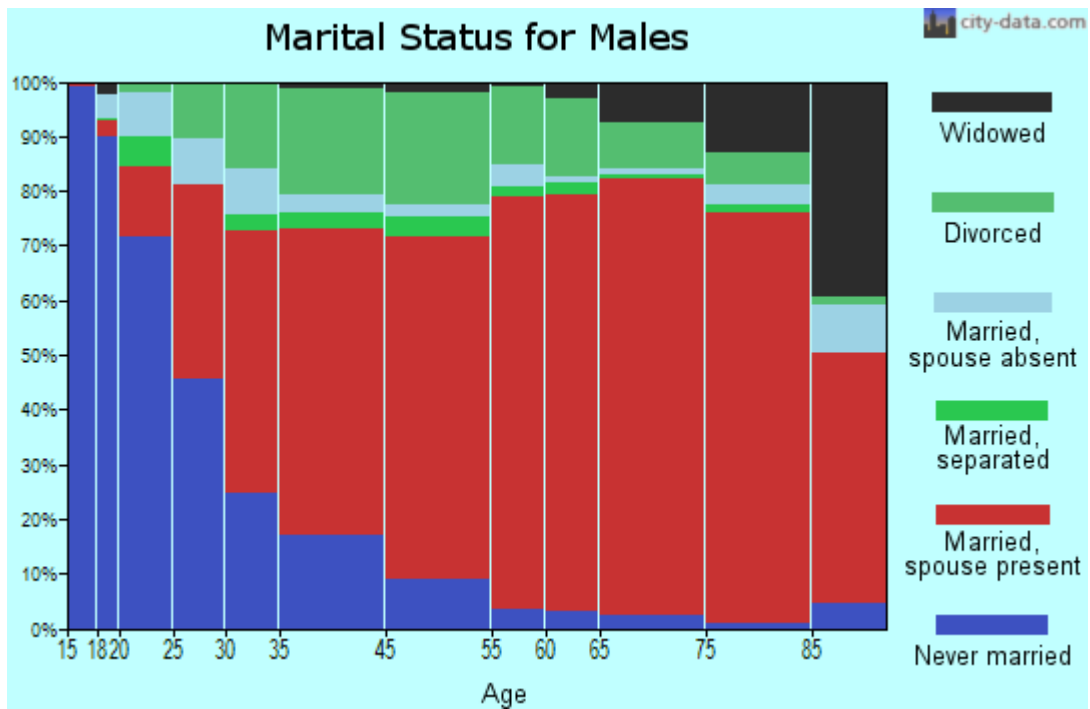
HH Income Categories	Percent Change									
	1990 Census	%	2000 Census	%	2007 Estimate	%	2012 Projection	%	1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
\$0 - \$15,000	3,008	36.7%	2,199	27.0%	1,910	23.3%	1,785	21.5%	-26.9%	-6.5%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	1,604	19.6%	1,526	18.7%	1,370	16.7%	1,308	15.8%	-4.9%	-4.5%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1,397	17.0%	1,167	14.3%	1,066	13.0%	962	11.6%	-16.4%	-9.8%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	1,137	13.9%	1,326	16.3%	1,262	15.4%	1,238	14.9%	16.7%	-1.9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	806	9.8%	1,153	14.1%	1,275	15.6%	1,388	16.7%	43.1%	8.8%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	180	2.2%	391	4.8%	661	8.1%	764	9.2%	117.8%	15.6%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	37	0.4%	282	3.5%	419	5.1%	543	6.5%	668.3%	29.6%
\$150,000 +	41	0.5%	111	1.4%	220	2.7%	308	3.7%	172.2%	40.3%
Average Hhld Income	\$27,270		\$38,547		\$40,613		\$42,875		41.4%	5.6%
Median Hhld Income	\$21,429		\$27,751		\$32,377		\$35,945		29.5%	11.0%
Per Capita Income	\$10,168		\$12,459		\$16,265		\$17,405		22.5%	7.0%

## Educational Attainment



◆ Howard County ◆ Texas Average

City-data.com



# Demographics

## Executive Demographic Summary Report

### Population

The current year population in this selected geography is 24,344. The 2000 Census revealed a population of 25,232, and in 1990 it was 23,199 representing a 8.8% change. It is estimated that the population in this area will be 24,234 in 2012, representing a change of -0.5% from 2007. The current population is 55.8% male and 44.2% female. In 2007, the median age of the population in this area was 35.9, compared to the US median age which was 36.7. The population density in your area is 1,268.8 people per square mile.

### Households

There are currently 8,184 households in this selected geography. The Census revealed household counts of 8,155 in 2000, up from 8,199 in 1990, representing a change of -0.5%. It is estimated that the number of households in this area will be 8,297 in 2012, representing a change of 1.4% from the current year. For the current year, the average household size in this area is 2.97 persons.

In 2007, the median number of years in residence in this geography's population is 3.24. The average household size in this geography was 2.41 people and the average family size was 3.00 people. The average number of vehicles per household in this geography was 1.5.

### Income

In 2007, the median household income in this selected geography was \$32,377, compared to the US median which was \$51,680. The Census revealed median household incomes of \$27,751 in 2000 and \$21,429 in 1990 representing a change of 29.5%. It is estimated that the median household income in this area will be \$35,945 in 2012, which would represent a change of 11.0% from the current year.

In 2007, the per capita income in this area was \$16,265, compared to the \$US per capita, which was \$25,232. The 2007 average household income for this area was \$40,613, compared to the US average which was \$65,273.

### Race & Ethnicity

In 2007, the racial makeup of this selected area was as follows: 77.2% White; 5.1% Black; 0.6% Native American; 0.6% Asian/Pacific Islander; and 14.2% Other. Compare these to the US racial makeup which was: 74.5% White, 12.0% Black, 0.8% Native American, 4.6% Asian/Pacific Islander and 5.3% Other.

People of Hispanic ethnicity are counted independently of race. People of Hispanic origin make up 48.0% of the current year population in this selected area. Compare this to the US makeup of 15.1%. Changes in the population within each race and ethnicity category from the 1990 Census to the 2000 Census are as follows: 9.9% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut Population; 15.2% Asian, Pacific Islander; 13.0% Black; 59.9% Hispanic Ethnicity; -19.8% Other; White 12.5%.

### Housing

The median housing value in this area was \$32,726 in 1990, compare this to the US median of \$78,382 for the same year. The 2000 Census median housing value was \$35,724, which is a 9.2% change from 1990. In 1990, there were 5,417 owner occupied housing units in this area vs. 5,222 in 2000. Also in 1990, there were 2,782 renter occupied housing units in this area vs. 2,934 in 2000. The average rent in 1990 was \$252 vs. \$313 in 2000.

### Employment

In 2007, there were 9,163 people over the age of 16 in the labor force in your geography. Of these 94.9% were employed, 5.1% were unemployed, 53.0% were not in the labor force and 0.0% were in the Armed Forces. In 1990, unemployment in this area was 7.2% and in 2000 it was 7.9%.

In 2007, there were 9,405 employees in this selected area (daytime population) and there were 975 establishments. For this area in 1990, 50.1% of employees were employed in white-collar occupations and 49.9% were employed in blue-collar occupations. In 2000, white collar workers made up 50.3% of the population, and those employed in blue collar occupations made up 49.7%. In 1990, the average time traveled to work was 6 minutes and in 2000 it was 12 minutes.

# Demographics

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## GEOGRAPHY

Big Spring and Howard County are located in an area where three ecological regions merge. To the north and east are the Western Rolling Plains, to the south is the Edwards Plateau, and to the north are the Southern High Plains (also know as the Llano Estacado or the Staked Plains). The merging of these ecological regions results in a variety of plant and animal life with representatives from each region overlapping in Howard County. The merging of these regions has also created some very scenic terrain around Big Spring, including Scenic Mountain offering a panoramic view of Big Spring, South Mountain and Signal Peak.

The region consists mostly of level plains with some canyons interspersed over the landscape. The Caprock escarpment in the region is caused by surface erosion. Along the edge of the high plains, this escarpment is a striking feature rising abruptly 2,500 feet above sea level and as much as 1,000 feet above the plains creating dramatic vistas.

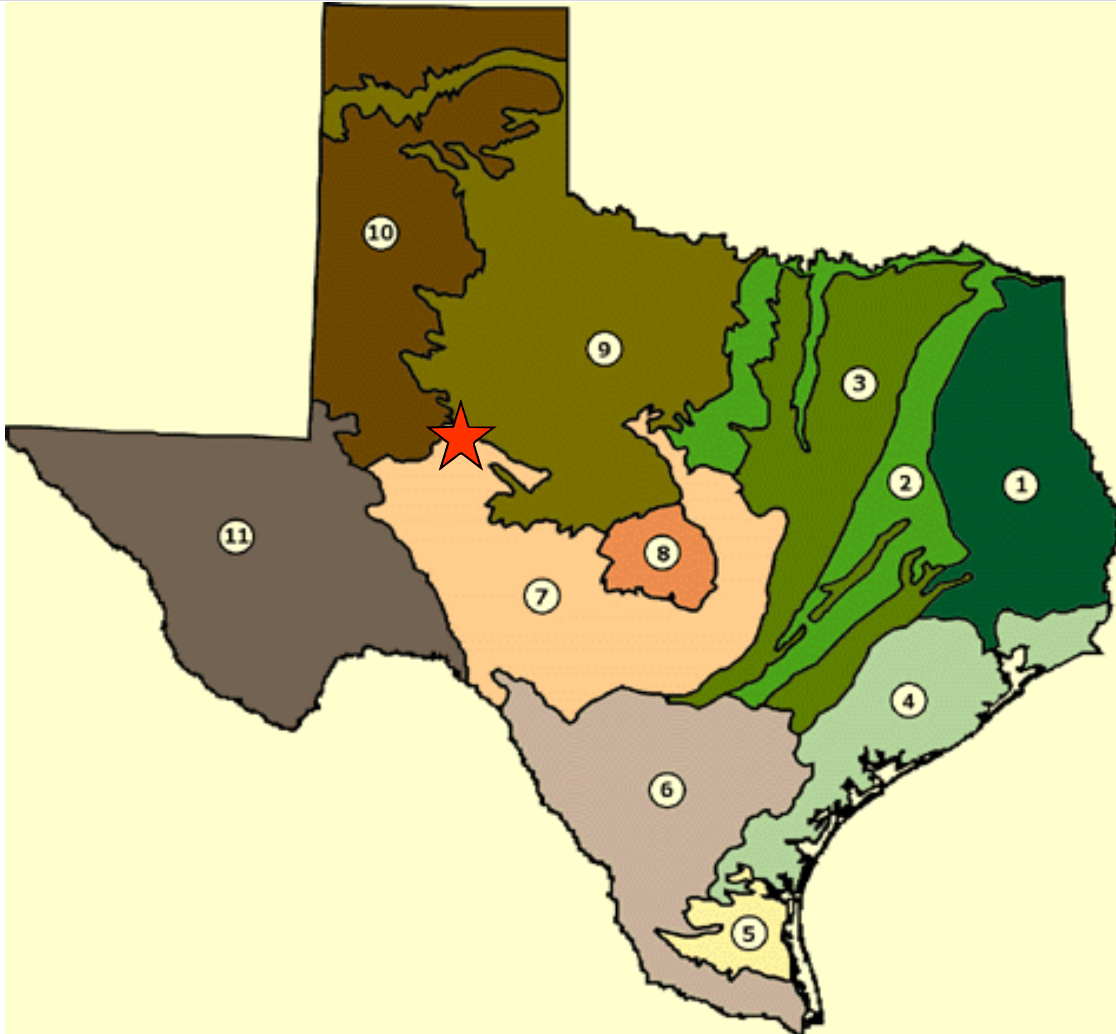
The plains are fairly dry with low lying bushes, small areas of grass, and small clusters of wooded plants. On the Southern High Plains, the dominate vegetation types are woody plants and grasses. The woody plants consist of mesquite, lotebush, catclaw, junipers, and shinary oak. The grasses are primarily of the buffalo grass and plains bristle types. Grain sorghum, cotton, and a variety of small grains have been successfully cultivated. The Western Rolling Plains accommodate similar vegetation to the Southern High Plains with the addition of chinaberry, pecan and little leaf sumac. Prickly pear cactus and cottonwood are common in this area.

Soil types are dominated by sandy loams and clays. Howard County is located in the Colorado River watershed.<sup>1</sup>



# Demographics

## Ecological regions of Texas



### REGIONS

- |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">1</a> Piney Woods                   | <a href="#">5</a> Coastal Sand Plains       | <a href="#">9</a> Rolling Plains |
| <a href="#">2</a> Oak Woods & Prairies          | <a href="#">6</a> South Texas Brush Country | <a href="#">10</a> High Plains   |
| <a href="#">3</a> Blackland Prairies            | <a href="#">7</a> Edwards Plateau           | <a href="#">11</a> Trans Pecos   |
| <a href="#">4</a> Gulf Coast Prairies & Marshes | <a href="#">8</a> Llano Uplift              |                                  |

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1995 (1997), 38.

# Demographics

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## CLIMATE

The Big Spring area is located on the southern extension of the South Plains of Texas at an elevation of 2800 feet and is approximately halfway between Ft. Worth and El Paso. The terrain is generally level with only slight changes in height.

The climate is typical of a semi-arid region. The vegetation of the area consists mostly of native grasses and a few trees, mostly of the mesquite variety.

Most of the annual precipitation in the area comes as a result of strong spring and early summer thunderstorms. These are usually accompanied by excessive rainfall over limited areas with occasional hail.

Daytime temperatures are quite hot in the summer, but there is a large diurnal range of temperature and most nights are comfortable. The temperature drops below 32 degrees in the fall about mid-November and the last temperature below 32 degrees in spring come early in April. Winters are characterized by frequent cold periods followed by rapid warming. Cold frontal passages are followed by chilly weather for two or three days. Cloudiness is at a minimum, with annual percent possible sunshine at 73%. Summers are hot and dry with numerous small convective showers.

The prevailing wind direction in this area is from the southeast. This, together with the upslope flow of the terrain from the same direction, causes occasional low cloudiness and drizzle during winter and spring months. Snow is infrequent. Maximum temperatures during the summer months frequently are from 2 to 6 degrees cooler than those at places 100 miles southeast, due to cooling effect of the upslope winds.

Summer afternoon temperatures frequently exceed 90 degrees, but low humidity results in comfortable conditions. The climate of the area is generally pleasant with the most disagreeable weather concentrated in the late winter and spring months.



# Demographics

	Max Temp	Min Temp	Avg Temp	Rain-fall	Avg Wind Velocity
	Deg F	Deg F	Deg F	Inches	Miles/Hour
January	55	27	41	0.59	4.2
February	61	32	46	0.70	4.9
March	69	39	54	0.80	5.8
April	78	49	64	1.55	5.6
May	86	58	72	2.96	4.9
June	93	67	80	2.12	4.9
July	95	70	82	2.01	4.1
August	94	69	80	1.43	3.7
September	87	62	74	2.47	3.7
October	77	51	64	1.91	3.6
November	65	38	52	0.90	3.7
December	58	30	44	0.76	4.0

Highest Temperature 115 degrees June 27, 1994  
 Lowest Temperature -11 degrees February 1, 1985

November 7<sup>th</sup> Average First Freeze  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> Average Last Freeze

# Average climate in Big Spring, Texas

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations

