



# Texas in Focus: South Texas

## Table of Contents

### 1 Introduction

### 5 Economic Development

Through the year 2012, the South Texas region will create jobs faster than the state as a whole. Education, health services and finance will be particularly bright spots in the burgeoning regional economy.

#### 27 Industry Profile – Fishing

#### 28 Industry Profile – Agriculture

#### 30 Industry Profile – Ports and International Trade

### 35 Demographics

The South Texas population is predominately Hispanic, relatively young and growing faster than that of the state. Personal income has not caught up with the state average yet, but is rising quickly.

### 45 Infrastructure

South Texas depends heavily upon two major rivers and its reservoirs for agriculture. Recreation and tourism benefit from several state parks and the region’s long Gulf coastline. The region is also home to six of the state’s top 25 natural gas fields.

### 75 Health Care

Health care is a vital and growing part of the South Texas economy, with rapid employment growth. The region, however, faces a number of challenges in providing health care to its residents.

### 87 Education

The South Texas region has a higher share of school districts ranked Academically Acceptable than the state as a whole, and its higher education institutions are increasing enrollment and the number of degrees they award.

### 105 Conclusion

