



THE IMPACT OF

AGRIBUSINESS

In the High Plains Trade Area



Dear Friends,

The Texas High Plains is one of the most diverse and intense agricultural areas in the world. It is a major economic driver not only in the region, but the State of Texas as well. The scope and economic impact of the agriculture sector of the Panhandle economy would rival the entire output of most states and many countries.

The mission of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Council of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce is to represent the business of agriculture to the business community at large and to foster cooperation within the entire community to ensure that we continue the beneficial relationship that has made Amarillo the thriving city it is. This publication details the contribution of agriculture and agribusiness to the regional economy and its importance to all who live here.

Our farmers and ranchers face many forces that affect their ability to produce and market a successful product, from the ups and downs of the area weather (droughts to excessive rain at the wrong time), available labor and of course market prices. These ups and downs of agriculture can certainly take their toll, and it is critical that those farmers and ranchers know that they have the support of the business community at large, and their interests are represented to the members of the Chamber as well as local, state and national leaders. I know our community and business leaders are squarely behind natural resources, agriculture and agribusiness on the High Plains. Thank you for that commitment.

I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Ag & Natural Resources Council, and I look forward to continuing to work with you toward our common goals.

Sincerely,

Brice Sheets
 Ag & Natural Resources Council Chairman
 Sales Manager - Alpha Media Amarillo
 KGNC AM, KGNC FM, KXGL FM, KWVE FM "The Panhandle Sports Star"

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Linda & Lenny Sadler



Introduction

As you drive across the Texas High Plains, it is clear agricultural production and its associated industries are at the center of local economies in this region. Farm and ranch operators of the Texas High Plains are responsible for producing a significant volume of grain crops, hay and forages, cotton fiber, fed beef, and milk.

This study details the economic impact of agriculture in a 26-county region called the Texas “High Plains Trade Area” (HPTA). Parmer, Castro, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall and Childress counties form the southern border, which extends north to include the entire Texas Panhandle (Figure 1). This area covers approximately 16.5 million acres, with over 90% dedicated to agriculture (Figure 2).

Fast Facts

The significance of agricultural production in the Texas High Plains to the rest of the world cannot be overstated. In the last five years, if this 26-county area was considered its own state:

- It would rank in the top three states for value added from fed beef, and in some years, would rank first.
- It would rank in the top three states for sorghum production.
- It would rank in the top five states for cotton production.
- It would rank in the top five states for dairy production.

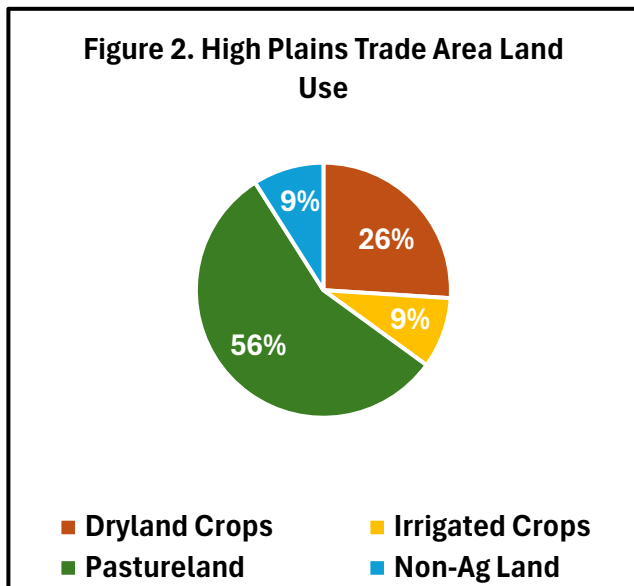
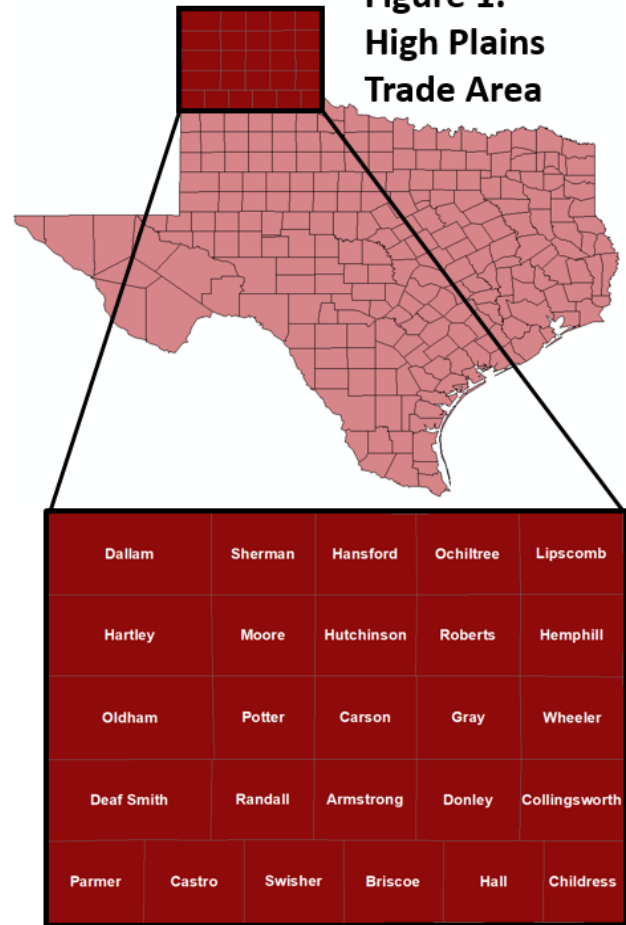


Figure 1. High Plains Trade Area



- It would rank in the top 15 states for corn and wheat production.

Even individual counties within the High Plains Trade Area account for a significant share of overall Texas agricultural production.

- Seven of the top 10 counties (Sherman, Hartley, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Castro, Hansford and Parmer) with the highest value of wheat, sorghum, hay and corn production are in the High Plains Trade Area.
- Swisher and Carson counties rank in the top 20 for value of cotton and cottonseed produced.
- Sherman, Ochiltree, Dallam, Hansford and Lipscomb make up the top five counties in value of hogs produced.
- Five of the top seven counties in dairy production (Hartley, Parmer, Deaf Smith, Castro and Moore) are in the High Plains Trade Area.

The Agricultural Industry's Overall Impact

The total value of Texas High Plains agriculture is immense, and the industry continues to evolve as progressive operators adapt to changing markets and production practices. Total cash receipts, government program payments and agribusiness payroll for the region averaged \$10.3 billion annually from 2018-2022 (Table 1). Annual average agricultural cash receipts for the area totaled almost \$8.2 billion across all crops, livestock products and value-added livestock such as fed beef (Table 2). This value represents an increase of over 40% compared to a 2013-2017 value of \$5.7 billion (Figure 3). The largest growth was seen in dairy receipts due to a doubling of dairy cow inventory. Forage sales for silage production also increased significantly because of rising feed demands from the larger dairy herd. While the impact of direct agricultural cash receipts in this region is substantial, it fails to account for the full effect of Texas High Plains production, or its importance to the rest of the state.

Table 1. Annual Total Agricultural Cash Receipts, Government Payments, and Agribusiness Payroll High Plains Trade Area 2018-2022

Agricultural cash receipts	\$8,191,060,000
Government program payments	\$209,816,000
Agribusiness payroll	\$1,883,835,000
Total	\$10,284,711,000

Figure 3. Crop and Livestock Average Annual Cash Receipts, High Plains Trade Area (Millions Dollars)

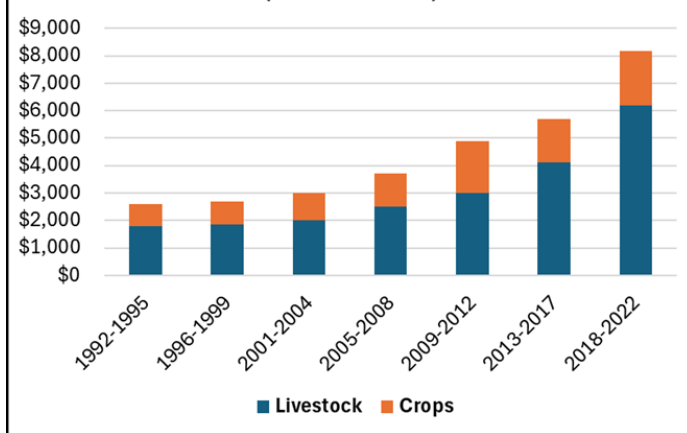


Table 2. Average Annual Agricultural Cash Receipts, High Plains Total, 2018-2022

	Value (\$1,000,000)	Percent of State Total	Regional Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)	State Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)
Livestock and Livestock Products:				
Fed Beef - Value Added	\$3,064.55	85.1%	\$6,061.57	\$6,496.34
Cow-Calf and Stockers	\$394.27	7.2%	\$779.85	\$835.79
Hogs	\$170.49	91.0%	\$339.93	\$263.77
Dairy	\$2,493.71	76.0% ▲	\$4,582.70 ▲	\$5,591.66
Other	\$55.26	2.30%	\$110.18	\$85.49
Total L&LP	\$6,178.28		\$11,874.24	\$13,273.05
Crops:				
Corn	\$572.34	44.00%	\$1,069.18	\$1,357.74
Wheat	\$200.56	36.30%	\$374.66	\$475.78
Cotton	\$415.26	14.70% ▲	\$733.43 ▲	\$857.64
Sorghum	\$129.16	23.20%	\$241.28	\$306.40
Ensilage	\$375.14	73.50%	\$672.98	\$822.97
Hay	\$216.61	12.20%	\$388.59	\$475.19
Other Crops	\$87.86	3.10%	\$157.62	\$192.75
Total Crop Receipts	\$1,996.93		\$3,637.73	\$4,488.47
Other Ag Related	\$15.85		\$28.65	\$24.36
Total Agricultural Receipts	\$8,191.06		\$15,540.62	\$17,785.87

*Does not include impacts of forward linkages through the processing sectors.

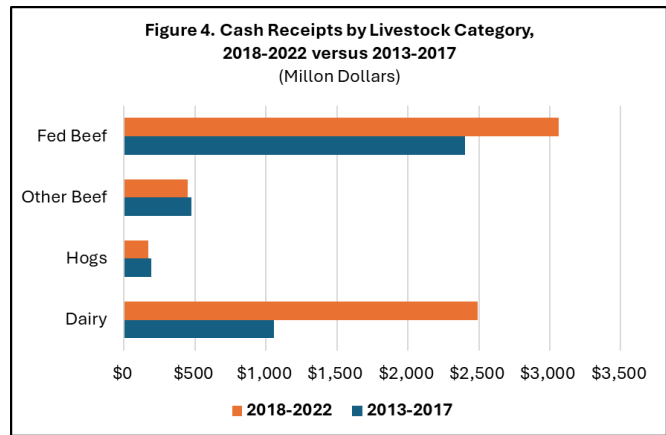
**Totals may not equal exact summation of categories due to rounding.

Local economies benefit from input purchases made by producers who grow food and fiber. Farmers, ranchers, agricultural employees and agribusinesses also spend part of their incomes purchasing vehicles, buying durable goods and eating out. In turn, employees of these businesses spend money on similar activities, and the cycle continues, multiplying the impact of the original dollar as it moves through the economy. As a result, the almost \$8.2 billion economic contribution from production agriculture leads to a regional impact of \$15.5 billion. This multiplier effect of High Plains agriculture also extends beyond the region. Some money earned by farmers and ranchers is spent outside of the trade area through vacations, shopping, etc. and contributes to the state economy even though it does not add to the regional economic impact. A substantial portion of dollars spent outside of the area are still spent in Texas, which leads to an overall annual state-level impact of \$17.8 billion.



Livestock Production

Receipts from livestock and livestock products include fed beef, cow calf and stocker operations, commercial hog production, and dairy operations along with a host of other products (Figure 4). The value of fed beef almost exceeds all other categories combined, averaging \$3.1 billion annually from 2018-2022; this value represents a 27% increase over the previous five-year period. In addition, the value of fed beef exceeds total crop receipts. Dairy made up an ever-increasing portion of livestock and livestock product income, totaling almost \$2.5 billion annually from 2018-2022. Cash receipts from dairy more than doubled over the previous five-year period due to rising cow inventories. In contrast to other livestock categories, cow-calf and stocker receipts saw a slight decrease in cash income, averaging \$394 million annually versus \$409 million in

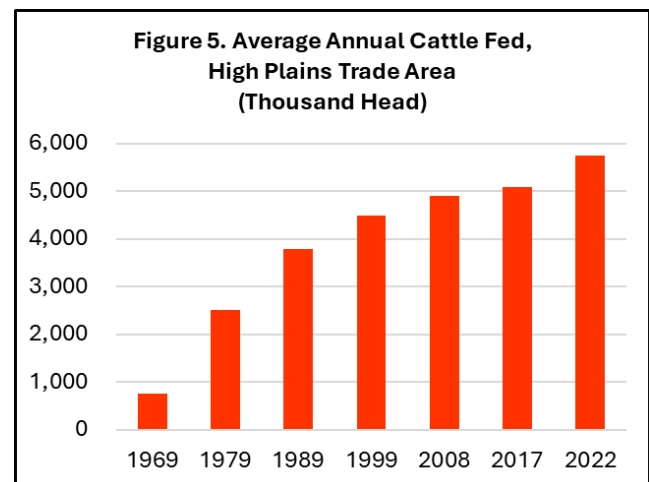


the previous period. Hogs also exhibited a marginal decline in annual cash receipts, averaging \$170 million from 2018-2022 compared to \$192 million from 2013-2017. Overall, High Plains livestock production had average annual regional and statewide impacts of \$11.8 billion and \$13.2 billion, respectively.

Fed Beef, Cow-Calf and Stockers

Fed cattle remain the driving force of Texas High Plains agriculture. If measured as a single state, this 26-county area would rank in the top three states for cattle-on-feed production. The region averages 2.2 million head of cattle on feed, leading to approximately 5.8 million head marketed annually (Figure 5). Cattle fed in the High Plains Trade Area account for approximately 85% of the state’s total cattle fed and marketed each year.

Between the 1970s and 1990s, the fed cattle industry saw a significant amount of growth. This increase in livestock, a temperate climate, and the availability of water in the Ogallala Aquifer are the primary reasons for the substantial grain acreage seen in the area today. Since 2000, the number of fed cattle marketed has stabilized. However, the High Plains Trade Area did



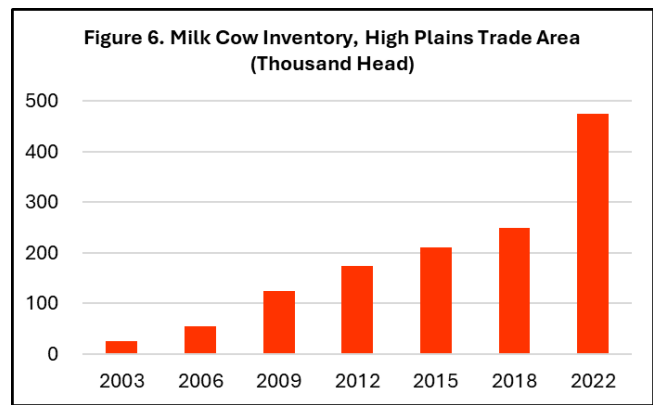
show an increase in average annual number of cattle fed from 2018-2022 over the previous five-year period; this result can be attributed to a trend towards larger animals in the feed yards.

In addition to several million head of cattle on feed at any given time, over a quarter of a million momma cows and over three quarters of a million stocker cattle were in the 26-county area in 2022. Almost 1.5 million acres of winter wheat planted in the 2021-2022 crop year provided forage for grazing cows, calves and stockers, prior to their entry into nearby feedlots.

The economic impact of cattle goes well beyond the value added in feedlot and cash receipts from cow and calf sales. The livestock processing sector also has a significant economic footprint. Industry leaders like Cargill, Tyson and JBS, and family-owned area processors such as Caviness Beef Packers, all produce beef products from calves, cows and bulls raised in the region. JBS’ beef production plant in Cactus employs more than 3,000 workers alone. Caviness Beef Packers has also expanded recently and can now process 2,800 head per day at its Hereford facility and produce over 900,000 pounds of ground beef annually at its Amarillo location. A Producer Owned Beef (PBO) packing facility will also come online within the next few years and be able to process approximately 3,000 head per day.

Dairy

The High Plains dairy industry has seen explosive development in the past 20 years, helping propel Texas to the No. 3 milk producing state in the nation. The total number of regional cows increased from approximately 3,700 head in 2000 to almost 475,000 head by 2022 (Figure 6). Total herd size grew by more than 225,000 cows between 2018 and 2022 alone! Furthermore, in the period from 2018 to 2022, over three fourths (76%)



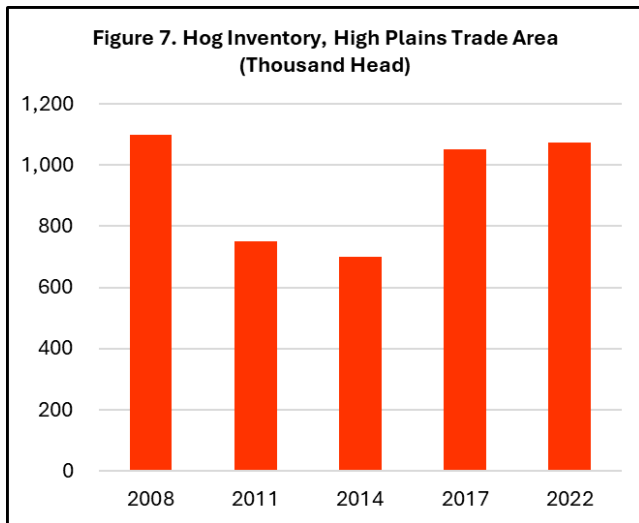
of all Texas dairy cows were located in the 26-county High Plains Trade Area. Increased demand for raw milk, relatively cool temperatures compared to the rest of the state, fewer environmental restrictions, adequate feed and water availability, and a dry climate have all driven this impressive growth.

Another significant driver behind a rapidly increasing High Plains dairy herd is a substantial expansion in local processing capacities since the mid-2000s. Hilmar Cheese in Dalhart and the Southwest Cheese Plant in Clovis, N.M., initiated the growth in this sector. Other processors that followed include Lone Star Milk Producers’ processing plant in Canyon, Select Milk Producers’ powder milk and butter facility in Littlefield, Amarillo’s Pacific cheese and Cacique cheese plants and a Leprino cheese plant in Lubbock. As milk production in the region has grown, dairy farmers continue to meet the processing needs of these facilities, which produce cheddar, Monterey Jack, Colby, mozzarella, asadero and pepper jack as well as whey proteins, milk powders, fluid milk products and butters, all from locally sourced milk. This robust demand continues to encourage an increase in the number of dairy cows, who are currently capable of producing approximately 12 billion pounds of milk annually.

Swine

Much like the cattle industry, hog production arose because of access to water, the temperate climate, and readily accessible feed. The region’s hog industry saw explosive growth in the 1990s and 2000s. In 1992, only 10% (approximately 50,000 head) of Texas’ hog inventory was in the High Plains Trade Area. By 2000, this share grew to around 85% (775,000) of the state’s total. Since 2008, over 90% of Texas hog production has occurred in the 26-county region (Figure 7), which





now contains all five of the top hog producing counties in Texas.

Despite historic growth in the sector, hog revenues did see a slight decline in value compared to the prior study. There was a 13% decrease in total cash receipts from 2018-2022 versus 2013-2017. This drop was largely due to lower prices during 2018-2022 compared to the previous period. Despite falling prices, regional hog numbers remained relatively stable over the last five years, with just over 1 million head of sows, piglets and feeder hogs in 2022.

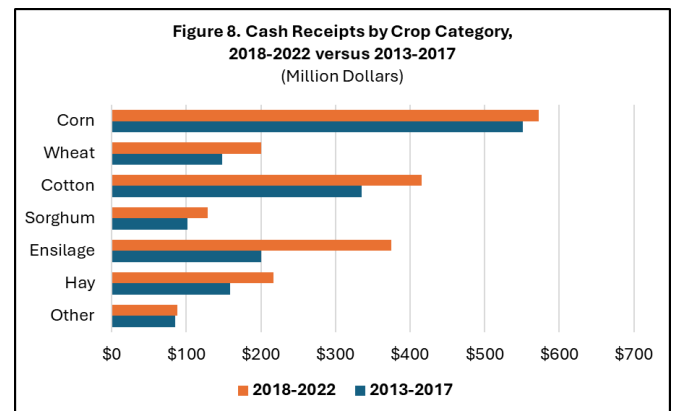
Crop Production

The High Plains Trade Area remains one of the most prolific crop producing areas in the world. The highest total value crops in this region include wheat, corn, ensilage, hay, sorghum and cotton. From 2018-2022, the High Plains Trade Area was responsible for over 73% of the state's ensilage, 44% of the state's corn, 36% of the state's wheat, 23% of the state's sorghum,



14% of the state's cotton, and 12% of the state's hay production. Compared to the 2013-2017 period, the largest growth was seen in wheat, sorghum and ensilage production. This change was due to rising feed demands from a growing dairy industry and a trend towards less water-intensive crops, which caused a shift away from corn production to commodities like ensilage and sorghum.

In addition to the major field crops grown in this region, the climate of the High Plains Trade Area is well-suited for vegetable production. A partnership between West Texas A&M University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service produced the first specialty crop budgets in several decades. These budgets provide information on the costs and returns for growing tomatoes and peppers and are available online at amarillo.tamu.edu.



The total value of crops sold within the High Plains Trade Area increased considerably (26%) from \$1.6 billion during 2013-2017 to almost \$2 billion from 2018-2022. This growth was largely a function of historically high commodity prices for major row crops in 2021 and 2022. As prices rose to annual highs of over \$8/bushel for corn and sorghum, and relative highs in other row crops, the total value of production increased even though crop acreage remained similar.

Corn maintained its position as the highest total value crop produced in the region and averaged \$572.3 million in cash receipts from 2018-2022 (Figure 8). The average value of regional cotton during the same period was \$415.3 million, which represented 20.8% of total crop receipts. This percentage is slightly lower than cotton's 2013-2017 value of almost 22% due to fewer acres planted and poorer dryland yields in 2022 from excessive drought conditions. Ensilage accounted for \$375.1 million in cash receipts, followed by hay

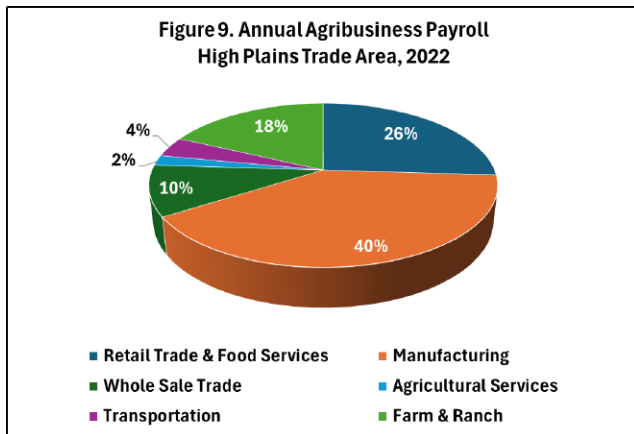
Table 3. Agribusiness Employment and Payroll High Plains Trade Area, 2022			
Industry	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Total Firms
Retail Trade & Food Services	23,252	\$485,462	1245
Manufacturing	14,337	\$759,798	78
Wholesale Trade	3,231	\$196,258	148
Agricultural Services	324	\$25,340	66
Transportation	1,199	\$76,850	104
Farm & Ranch	12,244	\$340,127	
Total	54,587	\$1,883,835	1,641

(\$216.6 million) and wheat (\$200.6 million). Sorghum showed \$129.2 million in yearly revenues during 2018-2022, and other crops such as peanuts, soybeans and alfalfa had a combined annual value of \$87.9 million. After accounting for the multiplier effect of expenditures incurred in crop production, the total annual regional and state impact of crops produced in the High Plains Trade Area was \$3.6 billion and \$4.5 billion, respectively.

Analysis of Agribusiness

Agribusiness encompasses output and activities from farms and ranches and the processing, manufacturing and transportation of products that occurs beyond the farm gate.

According to “2022 County Business Patterns” and the “2022 Census of Agriculture,” 54,587 salaried employees work jobs related to agribusiness in the High Plains Trade Area, not including government or higher education employees. These publications along with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that employment in agribusinesses had a payroll of almost \$1.9 billion in 2022. Five sectors from the “2022



County Business Patterns” considered to be agriculturally related are included in Table 3, along with farm and ranch employment and payroll estimated from the Ag Census and BLS data. Figure 9 displays a breakdown of employment in each industry.

Agricultural Manufacturing

Manufacturing firms in the agribusiness wholesale trade sector employed 14,337 people in 2022 and had an estimated payroll of \$759.8 million (Table 4). Manufacturing is divided into five sub sectors related to agriculture in the High Plains Trade Area: food and kindred products, lumber and wood products, furniture and fixtures, textile mill products, and machinery and apparel manufacturing.



Food and Kindred Products

This category is the largest sub-sector within the agricultural manufacturing group, and accounts for more employees and payroll than the rest of the sectors combined. Food and Kindred Products includes firms that manufacture meat products, dairy products, sugar and confectionary products, fats and oils, and other food products. These companies employ 14,099 people with a total annual payroll of \$751.3 million.

Firms that process livestock and livestock products account for most of the employment in this group. The world’s three largest meat processing firms, Tyson, Cargill and JBS, all have a manufacturing footprint in the High Plains Trade Area and are major employers within their communities. The Cargill plant alone employs approximately 2,000 workers in three shifts. Alongside these firms are familiar regional names such as Caviness Packing and Keeter’s Meat. Other major employers include Azteca Milling, which produces corn masa flour, and Hilmar Cheese, Cacique Cheese

**Table 4. Agricultural Manufacturing Sector
High Plains Trade Area, 2022**

Industry	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Total Firms
Food and Kindred Products	14,099	\$751,283	57
Lumber and Wood Products	72	\$2,734	11
Furniture and Fixtures	12	\$491	3
Textile Mill Products	94	\$2,502	4
Machinery and Apparel Manufacturing	60	\$2,788	3
Total	14,337	\$759,798	78

and Pacific Cheese, which produce a variety of dairy products in the High Plains region.

Other Manufacturing Categories

The remaining categories within agricultural-related manufacturing account for fewer than 2% of employees and payroll. **Lumber and wood products** employ approximately 72 people with a payroll of \$2.7 million. **Furniture and fixtures** are an important agricultural commodity market as their construction requires wood, cotton and processed textiles. This industry is concentrated largely in Randall and Potter counties and employs 12 people with an annual payroll of \$491,000. **Textile mill products** include goods woven from synthetic and natural fibers. When compared to the 2016 County Business Pattern publication, this group saw an increase in employees and payroll. In 2022, the textile sector employed 94 people within the region and had an annual payroll of \$2.5 million. **Machinery and Apparel Manufacturing** are reported as separate categories in the County Business Pattern publication, but due to their relatively small size, they are presented as a combined category here. Agribusiness machinery manufacturing involves firms that make equipment used to produce commodities, such as tractors, trailers, feed mill components, gin equipment, etc. Apparel manufacturing encompasses the fabrication of apparel,

**Table 5. Agricultural Wholesale Trade Sector
High Plains Trade Area, 2022**

Goods	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Total Firms
Durable Goods	234	\$23,212	23
Nondurable Goods	2,997	\$173,046	125
Total	3,231	\$196,258	148

hats, caps and textile products such as curtains, as well as automotive components. This sector experienced a decline from 2016 to 2022 and currently employs 60 people with an annual payroll of approximately \$2.8 million.

Agricultural Wholesale Trade

Agricultural wholesale trade is split into durable and nondurable goods. In 2022, this sector employed 3,231 people with an annual payroll of approximately \$196.3 million (Table 5). These numbers are lower than in 2016, which reported 4,901 employees and a payroll of \$237.8 million. Firms that trade in **Nondurable Goods**, the larger sub-sector, distribute paper and paper products, groceries, and raw farm products. This sub-sector employed 2,997 people in 2022 with an annual payroll of \$173 million. Much of the sub-sector’s activity comes from servicing area grocery stores with general groceries, poultry, meat and dairy. Affiliated Foods, which serves seven states, has a major warehousing facility in Amarillo. Other firms in the area include Ben E. Keith, Frito-Lay, and a local distributor, H&R foods.



The **Durable Goods** category includes firms responsible for the distribution of furniture, lumber, plywood, mill products and farm implements. This sub-sector is responsible for employing 234 workers and provides an annual payroll of approximately \$23.2 million. Farm and garden machinery and equipment wholesalers are responsible for the bulk of the activity in this group.

Retail Trade, Agricultural Services and Transportation

Retail categories included in this study are food services, food and beverage stores, building materials and garden supplies, miscellaneous retail, agricultural services, and transportation. Each of the sub-sectors examined accrue some inputs from agricultural production. This sector is responsible for the

Table 6. Retail Trade, Agricultural Services, and Transportation Sector High Plains Trade Area, 2022

Industry	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	Total Firms
Food Service	16,274	\$311,049	861
Food and Beverage Stores	4,037	\$87,151	128
Building Materials and Garden Services	1,751	\$63,091	125
Miscellaneous Retail	1,190	\$24,171	131
Agricultural Services	324	\$25,340	66
Transportation	1,199	\$76,850	104
Total	24,775	\$587,652	1,415

employment of 24,775 people with a payroll of over \$587.6 million (Table 6).

Food service accounts for over 65% of the sector’s jobs and includes all places serving food. Employment numbers within this group grew from 15,150 people in 2016 to 16,274 in 2022 with an annual payroll of \$311 million. Since 2016, continued growth has occurred in locally owned single-location food service firms both nationwide and within the region. Additionally, national chains are widely present across the trade area.

Food and beverage stores include grocery stores, meat markets, candy stores, bakeries and dairy product stores. This sub-sector employed 4,037 people in 2022 with an annual payroll of approximately \$87.1 million, up from \$76.8 million in 2016. **Building materials and garden supplies** include lumber yards, retail nurseries and garden stores. In 2022, this sub-sector employed 1,751 people with an annual payroll of \$63 million.

Agricultural services include veterinary care, animal services other than veterinary, and landscape and horticulture. In 2022, this group accounted for 324 employees with an annual payroll of \$25.3 million. The **Transportation** subsector includes firms that warehouse, store and/or transport commodities. Attebury Grain and Ag Producers Co-op are examples of firms engaged in warehousing and transportation. This sector grew from 98 firms in 2016 to 104 firms in 2022. Total employment from transportation, warehousing and storage is almost 1,200 people with an annual payroll of \$76.8 million.

Farm and Ranch

Farm size within the High Plains Trade Area is substantially larger than the rest of Texas. In this

region, farms average roughly 1,891 acres, while the state average is 544 acres. The “2022 County Business Patterns” report does not include employment from farm and ranch workers within the data set, and thus underestimates total agricultural employment. However, farm and ranch employment data (which includes workers of confined livestock operations) is available through the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The Ag Census reports there are 12,244 employees in the farm and ranch sector of the High Plains Trade Area. According to data derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total annual wage for these employees is around \$340 million. The number of workers and the value of annual wages are second only to the retail trade and food services and manufacturing sectors. According to the “2022 Census of Agriculture,” the total number of farms in the High Plains Trade Area was 8,327, compared to 8,157 in the 2017 Ag Census.



Higher Education, Agricultural Research and Extension

While including those working at the farm and ranch level improves agricultural employment estimates, it still undervalues the total impact. Other sectors that contribute to agricultural production and agribusiness do not have readily available data on total employment and payroll. These include numerous firms such as Panhandle-Plains Land Bank, Ag Texas Farm Credit, commodity traders, and trade organizations in the private sector.

Furthermore, public sector employees are not accounted for in this analysis. West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), a member institution of the Texas A&M University System, is located in Canyon. The Department of Agricultural Sciences at WTAMU provides access to a bachelor’s degree in eight programs, a master’s in four programs, and a doctoral degree. Bachelor’s degrees are in Agribusiness, Agricultural Business and Economics, Agriculture–Teacher Certification and Non-Certification,



Agricultural Media and Communication, Animal Science, Equine Industry and Business, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, and Plant Soil and Environmental Science. Graduate degrees center on issues relevant to the Texas High Plains, including dryland agriculture, water management, livestock production, concentrated animal feeding and production agriculture. In addition to WTAMU, Frank Phillips College, Amarillo College and Clarendon College offer technical training and preparatory courses geared towards degrees in agriculture.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo, which will move to Canyon in 2025, houses faculty and staff of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, two agencies within the Texas A&M University System. These agencies function together by developing research programs that are delivered via the Extension educational model to provide solutions to issues facing Texas High Plains producers. Some common programs include agronomy and crop production, air quality, ruminant animal health, crop physiology and plant pathology, dairy, entomology, environmental quality and natural resources, 4-H and youth development, irrigation and water management, rangeland resource and management, small grain breeding and genetics, agricultural law, and the economics surrounding many of these topics. Additionally, the Center serves as a base for AgriLife Extension District 1, a 22-county region that covers the majority of the High Plains Trade Area. Each AgriLife District provides a delivery network through the local county agents for research-based information relevant to the community.

WTAMU, AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service at Bushland, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory combine expertise, research and education through multidisciplinary teamwork to enhance agricultural science in

the High Plains. Texas A&M University and West Texas A&M University also oversee a Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) facility and program aimed at producing Panhandle-educated vets for the Texas High Plains.



Significance of Findings

The economic impact of agriculture in the High Plains Trade Area continues to grow. From 2018-2022, this industry was responsible for an annual regional impact of \$15.5 billion, employment of at least 54,587 people, and a payroll exceeding \$1.8 billion. Annual agricultural cash receipts increased by over 40% from about \$5.7 billion during the 2013-2017 period to \$8.2 billion from 2018-2022. This growth was driven largely by a change in dairy (+135%), ensilage (+87%), hay (+36%), and fed beef (+27%) production. Average annual cash receipts for crops averaged almost \$2 billion from 2018-2022, and livestock and livestock products receipts averaged over \$6 billion. This area will continue to be a major contributor of food and fiber to Texas as well as the rest of the country for many years to come.



Seventh Edition By

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