

Texas

The largest sector of the economy in Texas is oil and gas. But that's closely followed by the defense and military sector. Given the size of the state, there are plenty of options for geography and industry.

While salaries in Texas tend to be lower than the national average, the cost of living is also lower. Given the state's strong military and defense presence, job opportunities continue to be good. And with a strong economy, the state continues to add jobs despite sequestration. Among Department of Defense agencies, those with secret clearances earn about \$14,000 less than national averages, and those with top secret clearances earn about \$10,000 less. The gap starts to close with military pay, as members of the Army earn around \$8,000 less than national pay averages. But it widens again among senior career level and management level professionals who earn about \$17,000 less per year.

But the cost of living is so much lower in Texas, it more than offsets the lower wages. To put it in perspective, senior career professionals earning \$78,000 annually would need to earn \$43,000 more in the D.C. region to maintain their current standard of living. Overall, civilians in Texas working with the military and Department of Defense earn about \$15,000 less than the nationwide average.

Average Total Compensation

\$73,722

NATIONAL \$84,404



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY EMPLOYER TYPE

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
Government Employee	\$ 86,218	\$ 75,652
Government Contractor	\$ 99,339	\$ 86,113
Military	\$ 69,508	\$ 61,688



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY CLEARANCE LEVEL

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
DoD Secret	\$ 76,865	\$ 62,308
DoD Top Secret	\$ 95,120	\$ 85,576
DoD Top Secret/SCI	\$ 96,280	\$ 78,717
DoE; Homeland Sec; Other	\$ 92,289	\$ 92,328



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY POLYGRAPH LEVEL

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
Counter Intelligence	\$ 101,917	\$ 82,235
Don't Have One	\$ 84,453	\$ 72,103



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY CAREER LEVEL

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
Entry/Early	\$ 54,694	\$ 43,387
Mid-Level (5+ yrs)	\$ 71,985	\$ 63,457
Senior (10+ yrs)	\$ 95,536	\$ 78,862
Management	\$ 110,612	\$ 93,173



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
DoD and All Military	\$ 96,445	\$ 81,635



AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY MILITARY BRANCH

	NATIONAL	TEXAS
Army	\$ 69,690	\$ 61,494