

Host cities in Texas fail to see benefits of petrochemical facility expansion

Promises of boosted economic conditions and new jobs have failed to materialize along the Texas Gulf Coast hosting a wave of petrochemical expansion experienced over the last 15 years. Rather than the boom that was promised, host cities have instead seen lower median incomes, slower population growth, less job growth, higher unemployment, and higher poverty levels.

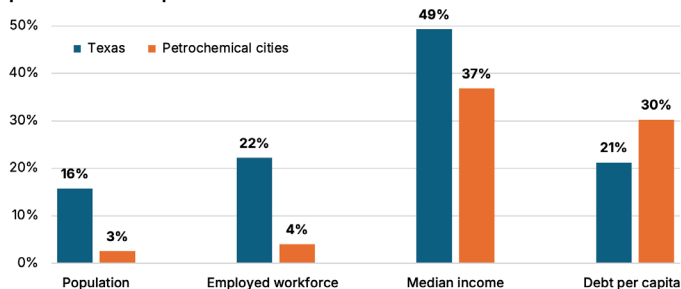
What have the host cities received? Additional health costs associated with elevated levels of toxic pollutants that are affecting communities close to petrochemical plants.

While recent findings from the report, *Texas petrochemical expansion lacks rewards for host cities*, does not find that the facilities caused the downturn, it finds that the common claims from oil and gas companies that petrochemical capacity expansion will economically benefit communities is overblown.

U.S. ethane steam crackers by location



Changes in key economic indicators between 2014 and 2024 for Texas and its petrochemical complex host cities

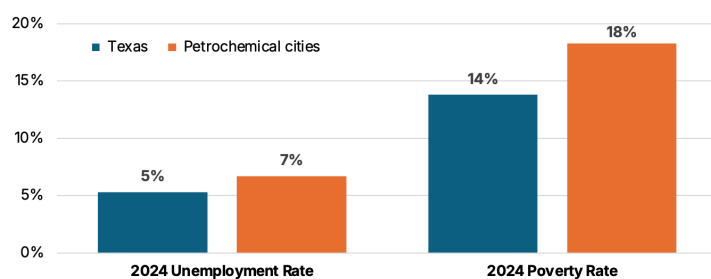


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys (5-year averages)

Executives have claimed that every job at a petrochemical plant results in another seven jobs in the community. The National Energy Technology Laboratory has suggested that \$1 million in petrochemical investment leads to 13 jobs. Any prosperity derived from the petrochemical complexes in the three host regions is not evident in the economic indicators.

Greater poverty and high unemployment rates exist in these towns compared to statewide figures. These trends are quite contrary to industry claims of economic improvement in areas of expansion.

Texas cities surrounding petrochemical plants experience higher unemployment and poverty rates than the state as a whole



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys (5-year averages)

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