Key Manufacturing Industries

Key goods-producing industries are energy, chemicals, electronics, and software.

- **Energy -** Approximately 3,600 energy-related establishments are located within the Houston region, including more than 500 exploration and production firms, more than 70 pipeline operators, and hundreds of manufacturers of energy sector products. Nine of the 25 largest publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms are headquartered in Houston; 10 of the remaining 16 have subsidiaries, major divisions or other significant operations here. Houston has 31.0% of the nation's jobs in crude petroleum and natural gas extraction (38,300 of 123,400) and 14.0% of oil and gas field services jobs (28,100 of 200,900). The Houston CMSA has more than 2.2 million barrels/day of refining capacity in nine plants. Two of the four largest U.S refineries are here. Houston's capacity accounts for over one-eighth (13.8 percent) of the U.S. total. Fourteen of the nation's top 20 natural gas transmission companies have their corporate or divisional headquarters in Houston, controlling two-thirds (57.5 percent) of U.S. capacity, as do 15 of the nation's top 20 petroleum pipelines, controlling nearly half (44.2 percent) of U.S. capacity.

- **Chemicals -** Houston is the center of the U.S. chemical industry. The region is home to 382 chemical manufacturers producing over 600 chemicals employing 34,200. Houston has nearly 40% of the nation's base petrochemical capacity (benzene, butadiene, ethylene, propylene, toluene and xylene), more than quadruple that of its nearest U.S. competitor.

- **Electronics** - Approximately 250 establishments employ more than 20,000 people in Houston's electronics manufacturing industries. Hewlett Packard employs more people in its Houston operations than any other HP facility in the world. Houston's electronic assembly firms also work in the energy-service, aerospace, consumer and medical segments of the economy.

- **Software -** There are more than 300 software development companies with estimated revenues of more than $4.2 billion annually and more than 49,000 software professionals in the Houston area according to The Houston Technology Center's 2003 study. Major players in the region include BMC Software, Universal Computer Systems, Landmark Graphics Corporation, Cimarron and Aspen Technology.