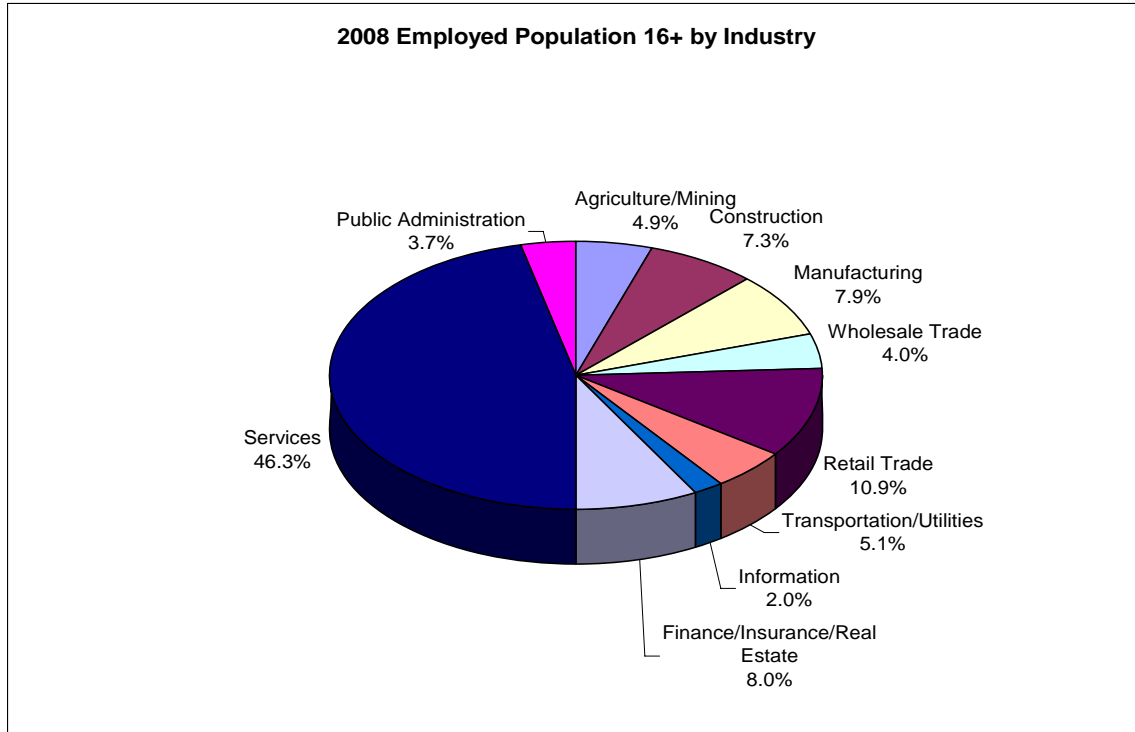

THE ECONOMY

Recognized as a very fast growing business and industrial area, Fort Bend County still maintains a viable agricultural base, dating all the way back to the original settlers who raised cattle, cotton, and sugar cane. Agriculture, petrochemicals, technology industries, and sugar refining are the major businesses in Fort Bend County. The following table shows employment by industry in the County.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2008.

The County has a low unemployment rate, around 4.8 percent in August 2008 compared to 5.1 percent for the state of Texas and 6.1 percent nationally. Many new companies, particularly “high tech” ones, are locating their offices and plants in the county due to the favorable business environment, quality living conditions and outstanding educational facilities. The County is expected to grow in commercial and retail developments. More companies are considering Fort Bend County to locate their offices, as well as manufacturing and distribution facilities.
