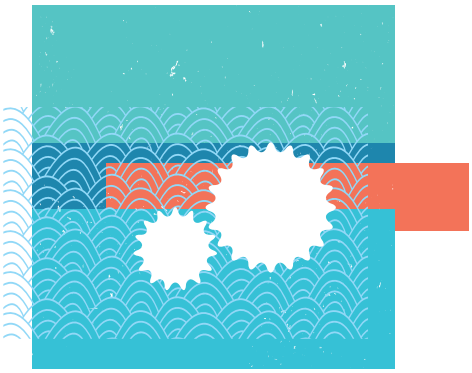
# Hydro



While only a small contributor to Texas' energy portfolio, hydropower plays an important role. Hydropower is a rechargeable and endless cycle of generation in which water flows through turbines to create energy. Hydropower uses existing water supplies like lakes and reservoirs and costs relatively little to produce.

## Texas Hydropower

- THE 26 HYDROPOWER PLANTS IN TEXAS HAVE A MAXIMUM COMBINED CAPACITY OF UP TO 481 MILLION MEGAWATT-HOURS (MWH).
- THE STATE'S HYDROPOWER PLANTS SERVE ALMOST 3 MILLION TEXANS.
- DURING TIMES OF ENERGY CRISES, HYDROPOWER PLANTS CAN DIRECT THEIR GENERATED ENERGY TO AREAS OF NEED, SUCH AS THOSE EXPERIENCING OUTAGES OR ROLLING BLACKOUTS.

## Hydroelectric Power Energy in Texas

TRADITIONAL HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION JOBS, 2022

**2,098**

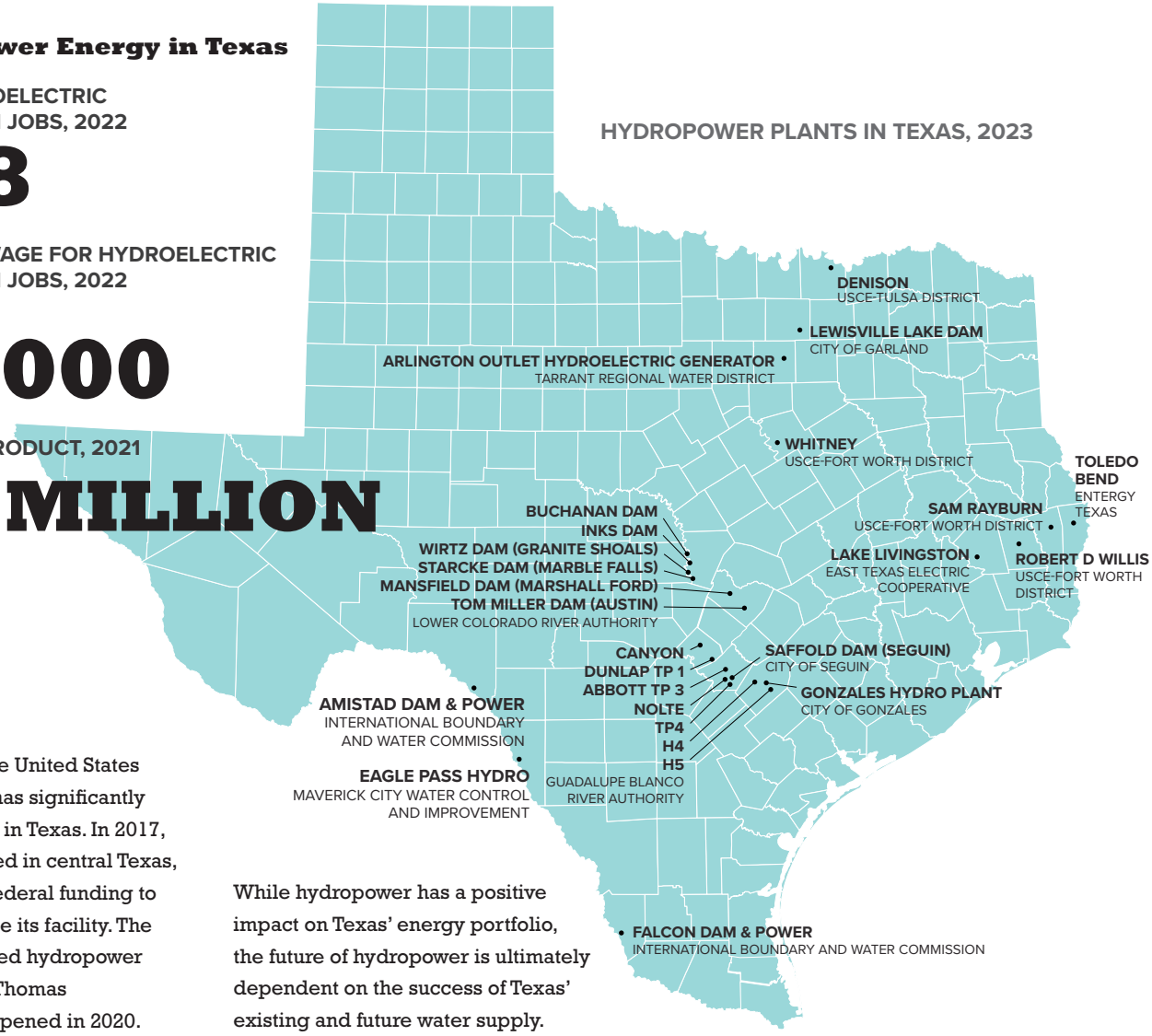
AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE FOR HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION JOBS, 2022

**NEARLY $172,000**

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, 2021

**$700 MILLION**

HYDROPOWER PLANTS IN TEXAS, 2023




## Outlook

Federal funding from the United States Department of Energy has significantly benefitted hydropower in Texas. In 2017, the Whitney Dam, located in central Texas, received $2 million in federal funding to rehabilitate and upgrade its facility. The most recently constructed hydropower plant in Texas, the R.C. Thomas Hydroelectric Project, opened in 2020.

While hydropower has a positive impact on Texas' energy portfolio, the future of hydropower is ultimately dependent on the success of Texas' existing and future water supply.

Source: National Hydropower Association

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**THIS IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REPORTS THE COMPTROLLER HAS PREPARED ON ENERGY IN TEXAS**
To see more information on energy issues and the Texas economy: https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/energy/

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