

Crockett County Appraisal District

2024 Mass Appraisal Report

The Crockett County Appraisal District (CAD) has prepared and published this report to provide our citizens and taxpayers with a better understanding of the appraisal district's responsibilities and activities. This report has several parts: a general introduction and then several sections describing the appraisal effort by the appraisal district.

The Crockett CAD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas created in 1979. The provisions of the Property Tax Code govern the legal, statutory, and administrative requirements of the appraisal district. A member board of directors (BOD), appointed by the taxing units within the boundaries of Crockett County, constitutes the appraisal district's governing body. The chief appraiser, appointed by the BOD, is the chief administrator and chief executive officer of the appraisal district.

The appraisal district is responsible for local property tax appraisal and exemption administration for 4 jurisdictions or taxing units in the county. Each taxing unit, such as the county, school district, underground water conservation district, etc., sets its own tax rate to generate revenue to pay for such things as police and fire protection, public schools, road and street maintenance, courts, and other public services. Appraisals established by the appraisal district allocate the year's tax burden on the basis of each taxable property's January 1st market value. We also determine eligibility for various types of property tax exemptions such as those for homeowners, the elderly, disabled veterans and charitable and religious organizations.

Except as otherwise provided by the Property Tax Code, all taxable property is appraised at its market value as of January 1st. Under Property Tax Code Section 1.04 (7), market value means the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- Exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- Both the seller and buyer know all of the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on its use, and;
- Both the seller and buyer seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other.

The Property Tax Code defines special appraisal provisions for the valuation of residential homestead property (Sec. 23.23), productivity (Sec. 23.41), real property inventory (Sec. 23.12), dealer inventory (Sec. 23.121, 23.124, 12.1241 and 23.127), nominal (Sec 23.18) or restricted use properties (Sec. 23.83) and allocation of interstate property (Sec. 23.03). The owner of real property inventory may elect to have the inventory appraised at its market value as of September 1st of the year preceding the tax year to which the appraisal applies by filing an application with the chief appraiser requesting that the inventory be appraised as of September 1st.

Property Code Sec. 25.18, requires each appraisal district board to adopt a written plan each even-numbered year for the periodic reappraisal of all property within the boundaries of the appraisal district. The written plan must provide for the update of appraised values for all real property and personal property in the appraisal district at least once every three years. The appraisal district's current policy is to conduct a general reappraisal every 3 year(s). However, appraised values are reviewed annually and are subject to change for purposes of equalization.

The appraised value of real estate is calculated using specific information about each property. Using computer-assisted appraisal programs, and recognized appraisal methods and techniques, we compare that information with the data for similar properties, and with recent market data. The appraisal district follows the technical standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) regarding its appraisal practices and procedures, and subscribes to the standards promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation known as the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) to the extent they are applicable. In cases where the appraisal district contracts for professional valuation services, the contract that is entered into by each appraisal firm requires adherence to similar professional standards.

Personnel Resources

The chief appraiser/Administrator is primarily responsible for overall planning, organizing, staffing, coordinating, and controlling of appraisal district operations. He/She also directs and control the business support functions related to human resources, budget, finance, records management, purchasing, fixed assets, facilities and postal services. The appraisal department is responsible for the valuation of all real and personal property accounts. The property types appraised include commercial, residential, business personal and industrial. The appraisal district's appraisers are subject to the provisions of the Property Taxation Professional Certification Act and must be duly registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Support functions including records maintenance, information and assistance to property owners, and hearings support are coordinated by the support services department. The appraisal district staff consists of 2 employees with the following classifications:

- 1 Official/Professional/Administrator (Executive level administration, appraiser)
- 1 Administrative Support (customer service, clerical)

Data

The appraisal district is responsible for establishing and maintaining approximately **10,151** real and personal property accounts covering **2,807** square miles within Crockett County. This data includes property characteristics and ownership and exemption information. Property characteristics data on new construction is updated through an annual field effort; existing property data is maintained through a field review that is prioritized by last field inspection date. The appraisal district's website makes a broad range of information available for public access, including detailed information on location, property characteristics data, certified values, etc. Downloadable files of related tax information and appraisal district forms, including exemption applications and business personal property renditions are also available.

PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION:

A calendar of key events with critical completion dates is prepared for each area of work. This calendar identifies key events for appraisal, clerical, customer service, and information systems. Production standards for field activities are calculated and incorporated in the planning and scheduling process.

The projected dates incorporated into the calendar may be adjusted within the overall plan due to unforeseen changes in staffing, budgetary constraints, weather, and/or reevaluation of the priorities of the projects within the plan.

Periodic and concurrent examination of production standards, goals, and progress in the plan may very well require adjustments to the on-going plan or to the plan for the succeeding year(s). The CAD and the Chief Appraiser, together with the field staff provided by Pritchard and Abbott, Inc., will work together closely to identify issues that may affect the successful completion of the on-going plan and to resolve them.

MASS APPRAISAL SYSTEM:

Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system revisions are completed by the Information Systems Software Provider. System revisions and procedures are performed by the Provider. Crockett County Appraisal District contracts with the firm of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. for these services.

Real Property Valuation

Revisions to cost models, income models, and market models are specified, updated, and tested each tax year, as information is available.

Value schedules are tested with market data (sales) to insure that the appraisal district is in compliance with Texas Property Tax Code, Section 23.011. Value tables, as well as depreciation tables, are tested for accuracy and uniformity using ratio study tools and compared with cost data from recognized industry leaders, such as Marshall & Swift as necessary.

Land schedules are updated using current market data (sales) and then tested with ratio study tools. Value schedules are developed and tested on a pilot basis with ratio study tools.

Personal Property Valuation

Valuation procedures are reviewed, modified as needed, and tested. The latest edition of the Comptroller's Guide and Marshall & Swift are utilized, as necessary, in the appraisal of personal property in the district.

Noticing Process

25.19 appraisal notice forms are provided by the IS Provider. The Provider reviews and edits for updates and changes required by legislative mandates.

The district publishes, in the local newspaper, information about the notices and how to protest. The district makes available the latest copy of the Comptroller's pamphlet *Taxpayer's Rights, Remedies, and Responsibilities*.

Hearing Process

Protest hearing scheduling for informal and formal Appraisal Review Board hearings is reviewed and updated as required. Standards of documentation are reviewed and amended as required. The appraisal district hearing documentation is reviewed and updated to reflect the current valuation process and requirements. Compliance with House Bill 201 is insured.

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS:

Field and office procedures are reviewed and revised as required for data collection. Projects for each tax year include new construction, demolition, remodeling, re-inspection of problematic market areas, re-inspection of the universe of properties on a specific cycle, and office (or field) verification of sales data and property characteristics.

New Construction/Demolition

New construction field and office review procedures are identified and revised as required. Sources of new building information are confirmed. Demolition of existing structures is noted and re-inspections planned.

Remodeling

Properties with extensive improvement remodeling are identified and field inspections are scheduled to update property characteristic data. Official Public Records provide indications of properties that may be undergoing enhancement through Deeds of Trust, Mechanics Liens, etc.

Re-inspection of Problematic Market Areas

Real property market areas (neighborhoods), by property classification, are tested for consistently low or high sales ratios and/or high coefficients of dispersion. Market areas that fail any or all of these tests, or are known to be in a state of growth or change, are determined to be problematic. Field inspections are scheduled to verify and/or correct property characteristic data. Additional sales data is researched and verified.

Re-inspection of the Universe of Properties

The International Association of Assessing Officers' *Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property*, specifies that the universe of properties should be re-inspected on a cycle of 3 years. The re-inspection includes physically viewing the property, photographing (if possible), and verifying the accuracy of the existing data. The field appraiser has an appraisal card of each property to be inspected and makes notes of changes, depreciation, remodeling, additions, etc. The annual re-inspection requirements are identified and scheduled in the written reappraisal plan.

Verification of Sales Data and Property Characteristics

Sales information must be verified and property characteristic data contemporaneous with the date of sale captured. The sales ratio analysis requires that the sales record must accurately reflect the property appraised in order that statistical analysis results will be valid and therefore be an accurate example of the universe of properties to which any adjustments will be applied. The conditions of each sale are investigated and confirmed, to the greatest extent possible, to determine its applicability to the overall market analysis. Properties exhibiting atypically high or low sales ratios (outliers) are especially scrutinized with reference to

the Texas Property Tax Code definition of Market Value, Sec. 1.04(7), and may be excluded from the general market analysis if the transaction conditions do not correspond to the aforementioned definition of Market Value.

PILOT STUDY BY TAX YEAR:

New and/or revised mass appraisal models are tested each tax year. Ratio studies, by market category, are conducted on proposed values each tax year. Proposed values on each category are tested for accuracy and reliability. Actual test results are compared with anticipated results and those models not performing satisfactorily are refined and retested. The procedures used for model specification and calibration are in compliance with USPAP, STANDARD RULE 6. The appraisal model used to determine property value is listed as follows.

1. Market Value of Residential Property =
Replacement Cost New x Total Percent Good + Depreciated Additive Values+ Land Value
(Adjusted by Market Indicators as determined by Sales Data, as available)
2. Market Value of Commercial Property =
Replacement Cost New x Total Percent Good + Depreciated Additive Values+ Land Value
(Adjusted by Market Indicators as determined by Sales Data, as available)
3. Market Value of Manufactured Housing =
Replacement Cost New x Total Percent Good + Depreciated Additive Values
4. Market Value of Commercial Personal Property =
Units x (Price/Unit of Inventory) + Units x (Price/Unit of FFE x Percent Good) + Additive Values
(Verified and adjusted by yearly Personal Property Renditions)
5. Market Value of Vacant Lots or Acreage =
Units x Price/Unit
(As determined by Market Transactions)
6. 1-d-1 Special Use Valuation (Ag Value) =
Units x Value per Acre of Agricultural Use
(As determined by Net Income per Acre/State Mandated Cap Rate)

VALUATION BY TAX YEAR:

Using market analysis of comparable sales and locally tested cost data (if available), valuation models (Value Per Square Foot Schedules) are specified and calibrated in compliance with supplemental standards from the International Association of Assessing Officers and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The calculated values are tested for accuracy and uniformity using ratio studies. Performance standards are those as established by the *IAAO Standard on Ratio Studies*. Property values in all market categories are analyzed and updated as necessary each reappraisal year.

In order to evaluate the accuracy of the schedule values, property sales information is collected throughout the year. Each property buyer receives a sales letter along with any other necessary forms as soon as the CAD office updates the ownership in the appraisal records. When the sales letter is returned, the sale

amount and any other pertinent information are recorded within that parcel's sales records. Information is gathered also from real estate offices, other appraisers, other appraisal districts, and state reviewers. All credible information is included in the sales records and confirmation is attempted through additional sales letters (to buyers and sellers as necessary) or other personal contact. Given that the State of Texas is a non-disclosure state, and that the information needed by the Appraisal District is often confidential in nature, the market analysis performed is limited by the availability of pertinent and complete data, including sales prices, sales conditions and circumstances, income and expense data, etc. As discussed hereafter, each sale is initially considered (assumed) to be a market transaction unless otherwise proved. The resulting conclusions from the market analysis are therefore limited by those assumptions. The Mass Appraisal conducted yearly by the Crockett CAD also can claim the Jurisdiction Exemption (USPAP) due to the limited scope and purpose of the appraisal, and considering the guidelines of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Each sale is analyzed to determine the conditions of the sale. All sales included in the study must be a "market value" transaction, as defined in the Texas Property Tax Code, Section 1.04(7), and quoted earlier in this manual. Any sale determined to not be an "arm's length" transaction is then omitted from the final study. Several criteria are also considered when determining if each sales price needs any adjustment including, but not limited to: date of sale (in comparison to date of appraisal), special or unusual financing terms, inclusion of personal property, inclusion of intangible value, and significant variances between the market value and the sale price due to physical changes to the property that cannot be accounted for due to the January 1 target date. If adjustments can be made to the sales price to show a current, "arm's length" value (including time and financing adjustments), the adjusted value is used in the ratio study. Any adjustments to reported sales prices must be discussed, debated, and approved by the appraisal supervisor and the Chief Appraiser.

Sales used to determine real estate value should not include value that can be attributed to personal property or intangible value. For example, if a home sells, and the transaction included personal property (vehicles, boats, furniture, free-standing appliances, tools, etc.), the value associated with that personal property should be deducted from the reported sales price. The resulting, adjusted sales price is then used in the ratio study. Likewise, commercial property transactions often include both personal property and intangible value. For example, if a motel sells and the buyer purchased the motel franchise along with the real estate, the value of the franchise (being intangible) should be deducted from the sales price before being used in any market study. Determining the value of any intangibles in any transactions can be problematic and will require research into the industry and the local and similar markets. Although suspected by the appraisal staff, and often reported by buyers, adjustment for intangibles requires confirmation from outside sources and the seller.

Financing adjustments occur rarely. Typically, prudent buyers will strive to acquire the most reasonable financing available, and then purchase the property of their choice using that same financing. Atypical financial arrangements usually accompany transactions that would not be considered "arms length" and would therefore be omitted from the ratio study.

Time adjustments are adjustments to the reported sales price of the property that are made when and if it can be proven that the general market trend in an area is changing over a given time period. While relatively simple to calculate in the abstract, time adjustments are extremely difficult to quantify without substantial data, especially in small, rural markets. If a typical property transfers more than one time in a given time period (ideally no more than 1 year), each time being an arms-length transaction, with typical financing, and without physical changes to the property, the difference in the sales prices can be attributed to the general market. This difference, expressed as a positive or negative percentage per month, can then be applied to other property's sales prices to adjust the price to a standard date, usually January 1st of the appraisal year. For example, a residence may sell for \$50,000 on June 1st and then sell again October 1st (5 months later) for \$55,000. The difference of \$5,000 (or 10% of the original sales price) is

allocated as a market increase of 2% per month. A market Decrease is calculated in the same way. If this was an arms-length transaction of a typical property, that same percentage of increase or decrease can be used on other sales to adjust their sales prices to the January 1 target date.

A statistical analysis of each class of property is conducted using the available, credible, and adjusted sales information. Within each class of property, the appraisal district looks for not only an acceptable median value, but also a reasonable COD. Each of these values is considered when determining whether to adjust a class schedule, and by how much. The sample size of each class analysis is also a major consideration. Classes that exhibit little or slow activity are allowed a larger variance due to the fact that minimal data sets (small samples) may tend to give incomplete analysis or biased results for an entire statistical population.

Once a median value indicates that a particular property type or class needs adjustment, and the COD value reflects a consistent result, schedule values are recalculated to produce a revised analysis. The resulting median ratio should indicate that the adjusted appraised values of property more closely matches the current market value, as tested by the sales used in the analysis. The appraised values of all properties, sold and unsold, within that type or class are then recalculated, using the increase or decrease indicated by the ratio study, and submitted for notification.

A similar process is used to determine whether any neighborhood factors are needed by analyzing sales within a specific area (market segments) in comparison to the overall general market. These areas could be neighborhoods, cities, school districts or any other definable area within the appraisal district that displays market trends or values differing from the trends or values derived from the market as a whole. Any significant and quantifiable differences then need to be addressed with economic adjustments to the properties within the pertinent area.

Circuit Breaker Limitation-Property Tax Code Section 23.231

Beginning in 2024, real property valued at \$5,000,000 or less will benefit from a 20% limitation on the net appraised value of the property used to calculate your taxes, with the exclusion of land receiving the agriculture-use special appraisal and homestead properties that could qualify for the 10% homestead limitation.

The circuit breaker provision limits the amount the appraisal district can increase the appraised value of a property. The appraised value of qualifying real property is limited to an increase of no more than 20% per year unless new improvements, excluding ordinary maintenance, have been made. This limitation takes effect on January 1 of the tax year following the first tax year in which the owner owns the property. The Texas Legislature has currently only authorized the circuit breaker limitation for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 tax years. The appraised value that the circuit breaker applies to is set at \$5,000,000 or less for 2024; however, the State Comptroller can increase or decrease the appraised value limit for 2025 and 2026 based on the consumer price index.

Ratio Study Procedures

I. Collect and Post Sales Data

- A. Solicit sales information from all new property owners through sales letters and/or personal contact
- B. Collect sales information from outside appraisers and from fee appraisals presented
- C. Utilize sales information from Comptroller's office.

- D. Post sales information to the sales database
 - 1. Record actual sale price
 - 2. Note unusual financing
 - 3. Note non-arm length participants
 - 4. Adjust sales price for inclusion of personal property or intangible value
 - 5. Initiate frozen characteristics/partial sale codes if necessary
 - a) Imminent construction/renovation can bias any later analysis by including values not part of the original transaction
 - b) Sale including only a portion of the property described can also produce skewed results

II. Preliminary Analysis

- A. Run sales analysis (by type, group, or class) which includes any and all sales collected to date
- B. Note median result and COD
- C. Examine each sale included
 - 1. Compare sale ratio to median result
 - 2. Ratios substantially higher or lower than the median result (outliers) are singled out for further, in-depth analysis
 - a) Note seller-financial institutions, known real estate opportunists, probates, known persons who finance their own transactions
 - b) Note buyer-financial institutions, known real estate opportunists, and re-location companies
 - c) Examine deed records to confirm "arm's length" violations not evident from examination of buyer and seller
 - i) contract for deed
 - ii) assumption of previous note
 - iii) atypical financing
 - d) Re-inspect properties to rule out any physical differences from the current property records
 - e) Outlier sales that cannot be excluded or adjusted due to the reasons given above are nonetheless included in the subsequent analysis
- D. Adjust original data set
 - 1. Omit sales that are not arm's length
 - 2. Adjust sales values for time or financing if necessary and possible
 - 3. Adjust appraisal values for physical differences if applicable

III. Secondary Analysis

- A. Run sales analysis (by type, group, or class) utilizing information from preliminary analysis
- B. Note median result and COD
 - 1. Median value may or may not change significantly
 - 2. COD value should improve
- C. Note sample size
 - 1. Compare number of sales within the class to the perceived number of total properties within the class
 - 2. From experience and discussion among the appraisal staff, determine whether any median result different from 1.00 is significant
- D. Attempt to increase sample size—if necessary
 - 1. Utilize time adjustments if determinable
 - 2. Keep in mind marketing time for local market and any trends
 - 3. Be careful to not include more sales just for sales sake
 - 4. Changing markets and trends cannot be reflected in sales that are too old without accurate time adjustments.
- E. Apply results of analysis to current records

1. Any class whose median value is **NOT SIGNIFICANTLY** different from 1.00 does not require adjustment.
2. Any class whose median value indicates that an adjustment is necessary should be analyzed
 - a) Look at typical depreciation (age/condition) for that class as reflected in the sales analysis
 - b) Calculate increase necessary to raise the individual ratios to produce a median result of 1.00 (keeping in mind that because of depreciation, the percentage increase required is going to be necessarily larger than the difference in percentage points needed to reach a 1.00 result)
 - c) Apply the calculated increase to the database
3. Repeat procedure for all classes determined to need adjustment
- F. Run analysis again to test results
- IV. Examine results to identify neighborhoods that need adjustment
 - A. As individual sales are examined, note any areas/neighborhoods/sub-divisions that consistently show ratios significantly different from the median result
 - B. Run analysis excluding the area in question
 - C. Run analysis including only the neighborhood in question
 - D. Check for significant variance between the two results
 - E. Apply neighborhood factor to correct variance

VALUE DEFENSE:

Evidence to be used by the appraisal district to meet its burden of proof for market value and equity in both informal and formal appraisal review board hearings is specified and tested. Taxpayers have the option to present their concerns informally to the chief appraiser, or by appointment with the Pritchard & Abbott staff. Should an understanding not be reached informally, the taxpayer may present their arguments to the Appraisal Review board as a formal appeal. The appraisal staff provided by Pritchard & Abbott Inc. defends the position of the chief appraiser before the ARB. The Appraisal District has the burden of proof for the value as notified. Evidence for further consideration by the CAD or the ARB should be presented by the taxpayer.

Limiting Conditions

The appraised value estimated provided by the appraisal district are subject to the following conditions:

1. The appraisals were prepared exclusively for ad valorem tax purposes.
2. The property characteristic data upon which the appraisals are based is assumed to be correct. Exterior inspections of the property appraised were performed as staff resources and time allowed.
3. Validation of sales transactions was attempted through questionnaires to buyer and seller, telephone survey and field review. In the absence of such confirmation, residential sales data obtained from vendors was considered reliable.
4. I have attached a list of staff providing significant mass appraisal assistance to the person signing this certification.
5. Attached are the appraisal district's latest ratio study results.

Certification Statement:

"I, Janet M. Thompson, Chief Appraiser for the Crockett County Appraisal District, solemnly swear that I have made or caused to be made a diligent inquiry to ascertain all property in the appraisal district subject to appraisal by me, and that I have included in the records all property that I am aware of at an appraised value which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, was determined as required by law".

Janet M. Thompson, Chief Appraiser

STAFF PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT MASS APPRAISAL ASSISTANCE

NAME	TITLE	TDLR NUMBER	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE
JANET M. THOMPSON	CHIEF APPRAISER	74199	DIRECTOR OF APPRAISAL OPERATIONS