

2026
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
IRION COUNTY
APPRAISAL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this summary report is to aid the taxpaying public in better understanding the methods and techniques utilized by the Irion County Appraisal District in the valuation and revaluation of property within Irion County. This report attempts to comply with Standard 6 of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, effective January 1, 2026– December 31, 2026. Irion County Appraisal District maintains a more detailed operations manual for appraisal use.

Irion County Appraisal District was formed by the Texas Legislature in 1980 and is charged with the appraisal of all taxable property within the taxing entities within the District's boundaries. The taxing entities are as follows:

1. Irion County
2. Irion County I.S.D.
3. City of Mertzon
4. Irion County Water Conservation District

There are no school districts that overlap into Irion County Appraisal District. Current state law requires that overlapping jurisdictions to match values in the overlapping areas, none are necessary.

The Chief Appraiser is the chief administrative and executive officer of the Appraisal District. The Chief Appraiser employs and directs the District's staff, oversees all aspects of the Appraisal District operations and performs either directly or through the District staff a variety of operations.

The Chief Appraiser's responsibilities are as follows:

1. Discover, list and appraise
2. Determine exemption and special use requests
3. Organize periodic reappraisals
4. Notify taxpayers, taxing units and the public about matters that affect property values

Irion County Appraisal District is a small office consisting of the Chief Appraiser and Secretary. The District employs the services of Thomas Y Pickett & Company, Inc. as an Appraisal consulting firm, to appraise all minerals, industrial plants, pipelines, industrial personal property and utilities within the boundaries of the Appraisal District and contracts Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. for the appraisal of real estate properties and data processing of all Appraisal records.

The 2026 Certified Tax Roll for Irion County indicates a total of 15,336 parcels. The breakdown of these parcels is as follows:

1. Residential	522
2. Mobile homes	124
3. Vacant lots	399
4. Vacant acreage	3,093
5. Commercial	148
6. Minerals	12,130
7. Utilities	64
8. Personal Property	284
Total	16,764

Certified Appraisal Roll Information for 2026

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Total Market Value</u>	<u>Total Taxable Value</u>
Irion County	\$ 2,806,697,680	\$ 1,721,260,340
County Road	\$ 2,806,697,680	\$ 1,720,616,650
I.C. W.C.D.	\$ 2,781,339,780	\$ 1,824,758,670
City of Mertzon	\$ 48,660,870	\$ 39,233,560
Irion County I.S.D.	\$ 2,781,339,780	\$ 1,661,553,490
Irion County I.S.D. I&S	\$ 2,781,339,780	\$ 1,781,687,110

VALUATION APPROACH

MARKET VALUE

The definition of market value as established by the Texas Property Tax Code differs from the definition established by USPAP; therefore, a **JURISDICTIONAL EXCEPTION** applies.

The following definition of market value, 1.04 of the Texas Property Tax Code, is the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

1. Exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser.
2. Both the seller and the purchaser 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 uses.
3. Both the seller and purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other.

The effective date of appraisals is January 1 with the exception of inventory, which may be appraised at its market value as of September 1. To receive the September 1st appraisal date, a taxpayer must file an application by July 31.

The purpose of and intended use of the appraisal performed by the Irion County Appraisal District is to estimate market value for ad valorem tax purposes for the taxing entities located within the boundaries of the Irion County Appraisal District. It is the goal of the Irion County Appraisal District staff to provide the best possible service to the public and the taxing entities. The Irion County Appraisal District staff promotes and adheres to the professional standards and ethics as set forth by the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts and the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

AREA ANALYSIS

The universe of properties appraised by the Irion County Appraisal District falls within the physical boundaries of Irion County and does not extend into any other school district. Irion County is located in West Texas and is bordered to the north by Sterling County, to the east by Tom Green County, to the west by Reagan County and to the south by Crockett & Schleicher Counties.

Irion County is a rural county with one city, Mertzon being the County Seat.

Oil & Gas production has grown to be the economic base for the County, with Oil & Gas service companies comprising a majority of the workforce within the County

The closest major city to Irion County is San Angelo in Tom Green County located 20 miles east of Mertzon. The closest urban area is San Angelo, also known as the heart of the Concho Valley with a population of over 100,000.

OVERVIEW OF TYPES OF PROPERTIES APPRAISED

There are four major categories of property appraised by the Irion County Appraisal District. There categories are:

1. Real Properties: Residential, Multi-Family, commercial, Vacant Lots, Farm/Ranch land and Farm/Ranch improvements.
2. Personal Properties: Business Personal Properties and Industrial Personal Properties
3. Utilities: Telephone Companies, Television Cable, Gas Companies, etc.
4. Minerals: Oil and Gas Production.

The Property Tax Division of the State Comptroller's office requires properties to be identified by type by using a standard identification code. The codes are currently used by the Irion County Appraisal District are as follows:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>
A	Real Residential Single Family
A2	Real Residential Mobile home-Land/Mobile Home owned by same person
C1	Vacant lot in town

C1I	Vacant lot w/non-residential improvements
C2	Business vacant lot
C2I	Business vacant lot w/non-commercial improvements
C3	Rural vacant lot
D1	Qualified Ag land
D1, D2	Ag land w/Ag improvements
D1, E	Ag Land w/non-Ag improvements
D2	Non-qualified Ag land
F1	Commercial Real Property
F1I	Commercial Improvements
F2	Industrial Real Property
G1	Minerals
J	Real & Tangible Personal Property: Utilities
L1	Personal Property: Commercial
L2	Personal Property: Industrial
M1	Mobile Home- Personal Property
XV	Exempt

HIGHEST AND BEST USE ANALYSIS

The highest and best use of real estate is defined as the most reasonable and profitable use of the land that will generate the highest return to the property owner over a period of time. This use must be legal, physically possible, economically feasible and most profitable of the potential uses. An appraiser's identification of a property's highest and best use is always a statement of opinion, never a statement of fact.

In order to complete the highest and best use analysis of a property, an appraiser must estimate its highest and best use as if the land were vacant. This estimate ignores the value of improvements and the restrictions created by them. It is the highest value the land could have if it were available for any legal, physically possible and economically feasible kind of development.

In determining highest and best use, preliminary judgements are made in the field by appraisers. The appraisers are normally aware of zoning regulations within the physical boundaries of the city.

The Irion County Appraisal District property cards contain information regarding lot size and frontage; therefore, appraisers normally make judgements on physically possible uses of sites in the field. Economically feasible and most profitable uses are determined by observing surrounding property. However, changes in property use require a more detailed and technical highest and best use analysis. These studies are usually performed in the office.

MARKET ANALYSIS

Economic trends, national, regional and local trends affect the universe of property appraised in Irion County. An awareness of social, economic, governmental and environmental conditions is essential in understanding, analyzing and identifying local trends that affect the real estate market.

Market analysis is performed throughout the year. Both general and specific data is collected and analyzed.

Examples of sources of general data include "Trends" issued by The Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, "The Statement" published by the State Comptroller's Office, and "The Appraiser" published by The Texas Association of Appraisal Districts. When possible local sources such as lending institutions and the Chamber of Commerce are used to obtain financing information, demographics and labor statistics.

Sales information is received from various sources. Asking prices are gathered from the local paper and realtor listings. Information is also gathered from conversations with local real estate appraisers, agents and brokers.

The Irion County Appraisal District office will check all property transactions recorded in the Irion County Clerk's office on a monthly basis. From this information, sales letters are mailed to both the seller & purchaser to obtain information on the sale. The Property Tax Division also sends out sales letters and that data is made available to the Irion County Appraisal District at least once a year.

The Irion County Appraisal District currently does revaluation on a yearly basis by property classification.

The revaluation includes the inspection of properties and the updating of all information on the properties. Sales and market analysis are performed each year on residential properties, as information is available. Each year new properties are inspected, measured and added to the roll. Individual properties are also re-appraised with changes to the condition as the property warrants; for example, fire, remodeling, or an addition or demolition of a portion of the improvement. Appraisers will perform detailed field inspections of properties if requested by the owner.

The appraisers performing revaluation in the field have property record cards that contain specific information regarding the property being appraised. These cards contain brief legal descriptions, ownership interest, property use codes, property addresses, land size, sketches of improvements as well as any available detailed information of the improvements.

Revaluation field inspections require the appraiser to check all information on the property record cards and to update if necessary. If physical inspection of the property indicates changes to improvements, the appraiser notes these changes in the field. Examples of types of

changes may be condition or effective age of the improvements as well as additions to the improvements. The classification of residential properties is also reviewed during the revaluation process. New improvements are also added at this time.

DATA COLLECTION/VALIDATION

DATA COLLECTION AND SOURCES

The Irion County Appraisal District's cost and valuation schedules include land and residential improvements. Commercial schedules come from Marshall and Swift Valuation Service and personal property schedules come from the Property Tax Division Appraisal Manual or Marshall and Swift. Personal property renditions provided by property owners are also used in the valuation of business personal and personal property. Marshall and Swift Valuation Service is a national based cost manual and is generally accepted throughout the nation by the real estate industry. The cost manual is based on cost per square foot and also the unit in place method. The unit in place involved the estimated cost by using actual building components. This nation based cost information service provides the base price of buildings as per classification with modifications for equipment and additional items. The schedule is then modified for time and location.

Renditions are confidential sources and cannot be used for specific information. However, data from renditions may be compared with data from cost manuals and used to test their accuracy.

The Irion County Appraisal District's schedules are then formulated from a combination of each of these sources. Schedules may also be modified by use of local market data (sales information) to further ensure the accuracy of the cost and value schedules.

Data on individual properties is also collected from the field, compiled and analyzed. Buildings and other improvements are inspected in the field, measured and classified. The appraiser estimates the age of improvements and determines the condition of the improvements. This data is used to compile depreciation (loss of value) tables, and any notes pertaining to the improvements are made at this time.

Currently, single family dwellings are classified for quality and type of construction, whether frame or brick veneer. The classifications range from a class 1 to a class 8. Class 1 being the most basic of structures using the poorest quality materials and lowest workmanship while class 8 structures are of the highest quality using only the best materials and the highest and best quality of workmanship available.

Age of buildings is used to estimate depreciation and based on effective age of improvements. Effective age is the age the property appears to be due to maintenance and upkeep. Effective age for a house that is properly maintained may be actual or chronological age. However, if a structure suffers from deferred maintenance due to neglect, its effective age may be older than

the actual age. In contract, if a house is an older structure and has been remodeled or updated, its effective age may be less than its actual age.

Depreciation is also estimated by condition of the improvements. Condition ranges from unsound to excellent. Appraisers in the field usually inspect structures from the exterior perspectives. The interior condition is assumed to be similar to the exterior. However, if the taxpayer requests, an interior inspection will be made by appointment.

Foundation failure may occur in varying degrees and may also result in loss of value. The Irion County Appraisal District make allowances for foundation problems on a case by case basis.

Additional depreciation may be estimated for a variety of reasons including functional obsolescence resulting from bad floor plans or out of date construction methods. Economic obsolescence results from a loss of value to a property due to adverse influences from outside the physical boundaries of the property. Examples on economic obsolescence may be proximity to correction facilities, location of residential outside city limits with no access to city amenities, residence located on farm and ranch land, etc.

VALUATION ANALYSIS

Irion County Appraisal District's valuation schedules are divided into three main classifications, residential, commercial and personal property. These schedules are based on the most appropriate data available. Miscellaneous special categories such as mobile homes, special inventory and agricultural land are appraised using different techniques, which will be discussed later in the report. Depreciation tables/schedules (loss of value schedules) are also included within these schedules. These tables are calibrated from cost as well as sales data and updated as needed.

RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULES

Residential valuation schedules are cost based tables modified by actual sales data from the county. That is, the cost reflects actual replacement cost new of the subject property. Market research indicates that the common unit of comparison for new residential construction as well as sales of existing housing is the price paid per square foot. The value of extra items is based on their contributory value to the property. This value may be estimated by the price per square foot or a value of the item as a whole. This data is extracted from the market by paired sales analysis and conversations with local appraisers and brokers.

The residential schedule is based on the size, age and condition of structure, quality of construction, contributory value of extra items and land value. Each of these variables has a direct impact on the cost as well as the property. The following is an example of each of the variables and how they may affect market value.

1. **Quality of construction:** Residential construction may vary greatly in quality of construction. The type of construction effects the quality and cost of material used, the quality of the workmanship as well as the attention paid to detail. The cost and value of residential property will vary greatly depending on the quality of the construction. As stated above, the Irion County Appraisal District residential schedules currently class houses based on quality of construction. This classification schedule is based on the Property Tax Division's definitions of residential classes of dwelling with modifications for local markets.
2. **Size of structure:** The size of a structure also has a direct impact on its cost as well as value. The larger the structure, the less the cost per square foot. The Irion County Appraisal District's schedules are graduated in size increments from 100 to 200 square feet, depending on market conditions. The property Tax Division and Marshall and Swift also support the size factor.
3. **Condition of improvements:** The Irion County Appraisal District rates conditions from unsound to excellent. Properties that in the opinion of the appraiser are unlivable may be taken off schedule and given a fair market value or salvage value.
4. **Age of structure:** The Irion County Appraisal District residential depreciation schedule groups age categories from 0 to 4, 4 to 8 and in increments of 5 years up to 38 years and 39 to 50 in increments of 10 years. Age 51 and over is given the maximum amount of depreciation. As stated above, effective age and chronological age may be the same or different depending on the condition of the structure.
5. **Extra items:** As stated above, extra items are valued according to their contributory value to the whole. Examples of extra items include storage buildings, swimming pools, fireplaces, etc.
6. **Land value:** The Irion County Appraisal District values land based on market transactions when possible. As there are not always market transactions available, other recognized methods of land valuation may be used. The two most common methods are the land residual method and the land ration method. Land schedules are available at the Appraisal District Office.

COMMERCIAL SCHEDULES

Commercial properties are valued using Marshall and Swift Valuation schedules for commercial property. Replacement cost new is determined and then adjusted for location. Depreciation is applied using physical observation of the property.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SCHEDULES

Business personal property value are derived from several sources. Business owners are required by Texas Law to render their business personal property each year. It is the experience of the District that we receive less than one third (1/3) of business renditions each year. Effective 9/1/05, law was passed to apply a 10% penalty if a rendition is not rendered. Therefore, beginning with the 2005 tax year the District started receiving around 97% of business renditions each year. Rendered values are used on business personal property if the value is reasonable for the type of business and is within acceptable ranges when compared to the PTD or Marshall and Swift personal property schedules for the type of business rendered. Should the rendered values not be acceptable then PTD or Marshall and Swift schedules are applied to establish a value. Value on all business personal property not rendered is established using PTD or Marshall and Swift schedules for the type of business being valued. Depreciation is determined by the age of the property and its expected life. Schedules are available in the Appraisal District Office.

Both business and personal vehicles are valued based on N.A.D.A. Used Car Guide trade-in value for the particular make, model and age of the vehicle. The Appraisal District uses a report obtained from Just Texas Commercial Vehicle Guide which list vehicles registered in Irion County on January 1, of each year. This report uses the vehicle identification number to determine make, model, and vehicle characteristics to determine N.A.D.A. trade in value. This report along with renditions, and physical observations are used to discover and list vehicles that are taxable within the county and city. When adverse factors such as high mileage are known, then the appropriate adjustments are made to value.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistics is a way to analyze data and study characteristics of a collection of properties. In general, it is not feasible to study the entire population, therefore, statistics are introduced into the process.

The Irion County Appraisal District's statistical analysis of real estate is based on measure of central tendency and measures of dispersion. The measure of central tendency determines the center of a distribution. The measure of central tendency utilized with the aid of computer based programs are the mean, median, mode and weighted mean.

The measure of dispersion calculated is the coefficient of dispersion. This analysis is used to indicate the spread from the measure of central tendency. Statistical bias is measured by the Price Related Differential (PRD). The PRD indicates how high price properties are appraised in relation to low price properties.

INDIVIDUAL VALUE REVIEW PROCEDURES

In order for comparable sales data to be considered reliable it must contain a sales date, sales price, financing information, tract size, and details of the improvements. Sales data is gathered by sending sales letters to both the buyer and seller of properties that the District knows changed ownership. Commercial sales are confirmed from the direct parties involved whenever possible. Confirmation of sales from local real estate appraiser is also considered a reliable source.

Sales data is compiled and the improved properties are physically inspected and photographed. All data listed on the property record card is verified and updated as needed including classification, building size, additions or added out buildings, condition of structure and any type change in data or characteristics that would affect the value of the property.

Individual sales are analyzed to meet the test of market value. Only arms- length transactions are considered. Examples of reasons why sales may be deleted or not considered are:

1. Properties are acquired through foreclosure or auction.
2. Properties are sold between relatives.
3. The buyer or seller is under duress and may be compelled to sell or purchase.
4. Financing may be non-typical or below or above prevailing market sales.
5. Considerable improvements or remodeling have been done since the date of the sale and the appraiser is unable to make judgement on the property's condition at the time of the transaction.
6. Sales may be unusually high or low when compared with typical sales located in the market area. Some sales may be due to relocation or through divorce proceedings.
7. The property is purchased through an estate sale.
8. The sale involves personal property that is difficult to value.
9. There are value-related data problems associated with the sale; i.e., incorrect land size or square footage of living area.
10. Property use changes occurring after the sale.

Due to the population size and nature of Irion County, it is extremely difficult to obtain sufficient sales data to meet USPAP Standards for analysis of sales and an exception is taken to USPAP Standard Six in this area.

PERFORMANCE TESTS

Sales ratio studies are used to evaluate the District's mass appraisal performance. These studies not only provide a measure of performance but also are an excellent means of improving mass appraisal performance. The Irion County Appraisal District uses ratio studies not only to aid in the evaluation of properties, but also to test the Comptroller's Property Tax Division annual value study results.

Sales ratio studies are usually performed year round to test cost schedules. At this time, individual properties which have sold are reviewed for accuracy in their data. Property record cards indicating the results of the field inspections are used to further aid in the analysis and decision making.

Ratio studies are usually done on a county-wide base of all residential sales in the county and then by residential classification. The median ratio within each classification is then compared to the desired ratio to determine if schedule adjustments should be made. The co-efficient of dispersion is also studied to indicate how tight the ratios are in relation to measure of central tendency. The median and co-efficient of dispersion are good indicators of the types of changes, if any, that need to be made.

Prepared by:
Byron Bitner, RPA
Chief Appraiser