

Walker County

Labor Market Information

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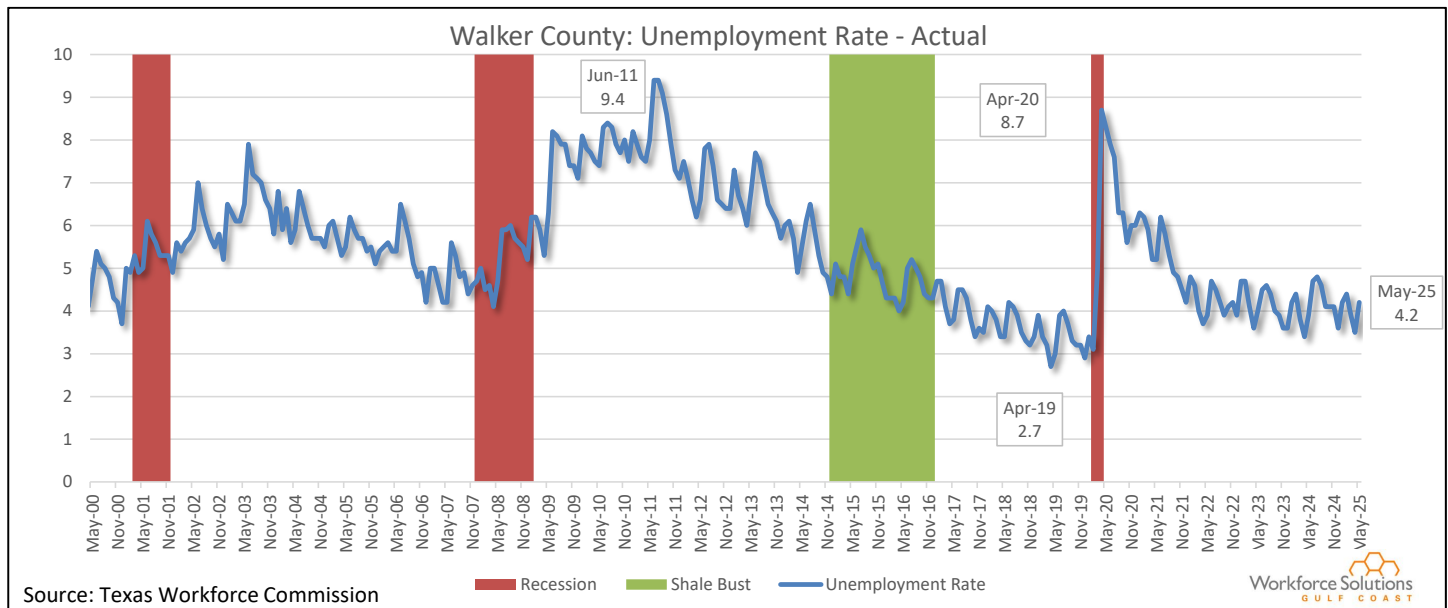
County Employment Data*

Walker County's unemployment rate rose to 4.2% in May, an increase of 0.7 percentage points from the previous month and 0.3 points higher than a year earlier. The local rate was slightly above both the state and national averages, which stood at 4.0%. In the fourth quarter of 2024, Walker County added 700 jobs, a 2.7% increase. This pace of growth is consistent with recent years and well above the county's historical fourth-quarter average of 1.5%. The largest contributor to the increase was Leisure and Hospitality, which added 422 jobs (+17.7%). Minor losses were recorded in several sectors, with the most notable decline in Manufacturing, down 64 jobs (-4.6%). Over the year, from Q4 2023 to Q4 2024, the county added 1,015 jobs, representing a 3.9% annual growth rate, though down slightly by 0.2 percentage points from the third quarter. Eight of the eleven major industry sectors reported annual job gains. The largest increase came from Public Administration, which added 615 jobs, largely driven by State Government, up 574 jobs (+5.4%). Walker County's employment trends are often closely tied to State Government, as it is home to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice headquarters and Sam Houston State University. The second-largest contributor to job growth was Leisure and Hospitality, up 345 jobs (+14.0%). The only significant annual loss was in Construction, which declined by 71 jobs (-6.1%). Additional details can be found pages 2 through 7.

	MAY 2025	APR 2024	MAY 2024
Civilian Labor Force	31,208	31,456	30,379
Total Employment	29,908	30,348	29,191
Unemployed	1,300	1,108	1,188
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.5%	3.9%

Comparative Actual Rates

Texas	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%
U.S.	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%



*Estimates reflect actual (not seasonal adjusted) data. Civilian Labor Force includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family, domestics in private households, agricultural workers, workers involved in labor disputes and the unemployed, all by place of residence. Covered employment data compiled from 4th quarter 2024 contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. All data is subject to revision.

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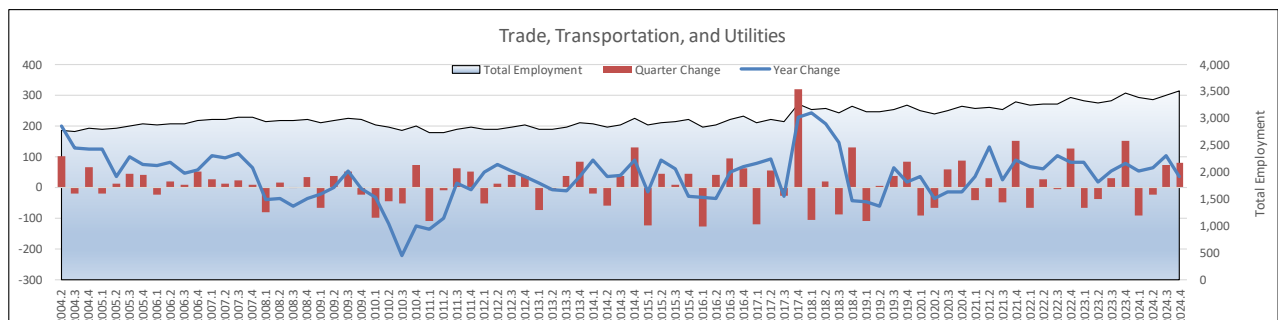
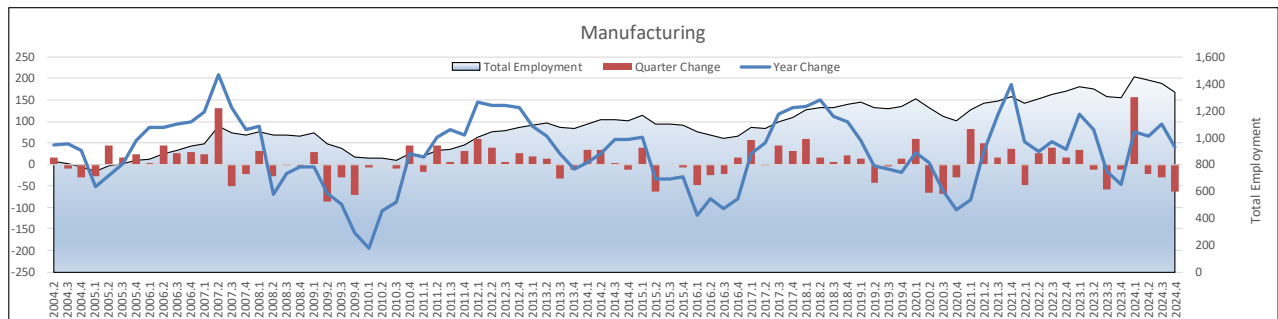
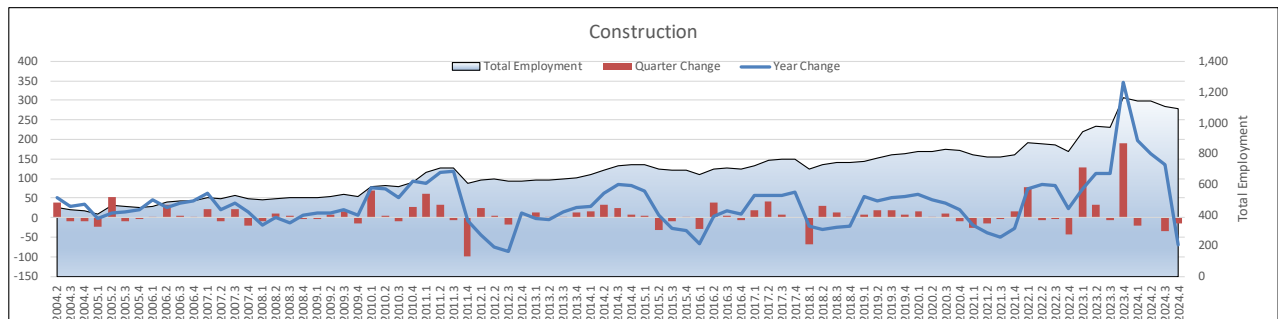
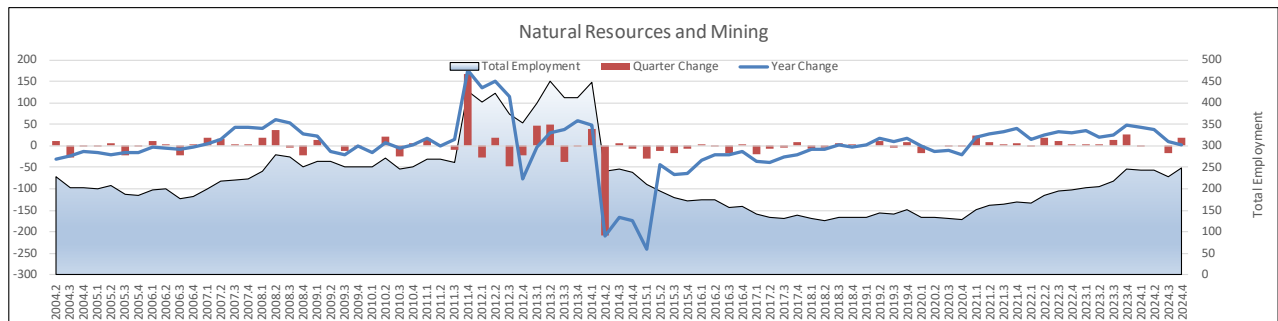
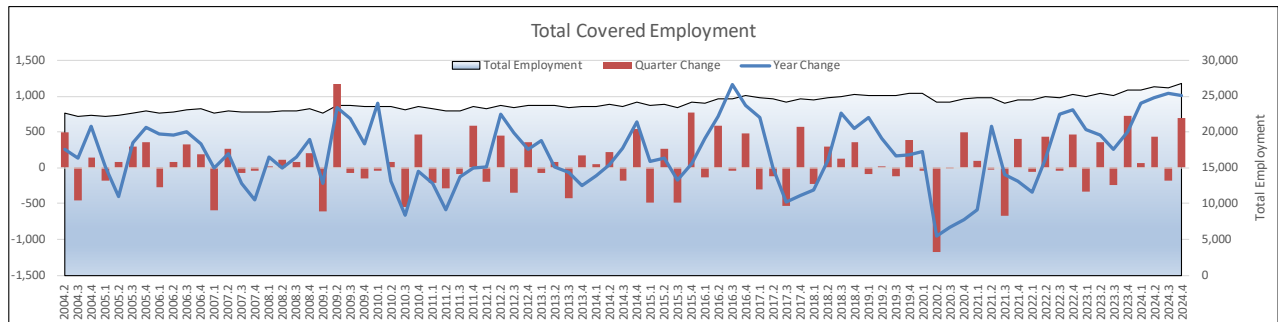
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	4TH QTR 2024	3RD QTR 2024	4TH QTR 2023	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	26,809	26,109	25,794	700	2.7%	1,015	3.9%	\$1,006
Natural Resources & Mining	248	228	245	20	8.8%	3	1.2%	\$1,256
Construction	1,089	1,105	1,160	-16	-1.4%	-71	-6.1%	\$1,323
Manufacturing	1,337	1,401	1,296	-64	-4.6%	41	3.2%	\$1,372
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,499	3,419	3,465	80	2.3%	34	1.0%	\$776
Information	89	83	84	6	7.2%	5	6.0%	\$1,030
Financial Activities	665	664	677	1	0.2%	-12	-1.8%	\$991
Professional & Business Services	836	850	816	-14	-1.6%	20	2.5%	\$831
Education & Health Services	2,219	2,243	2,193	-24	-1.1%	26	1.2%	\$885
Leisure & Hospitality	2,808	2,386	2,463	422	17.7%	345	14.0%	\$389
Other Services	370	349	376	21	6.0%	-6	-1.6%	\$698
Nonclassifiable	27	9	11	18	200.0%	16	145.5%	\$1,329
Public Administration	13,623	13,372	13,008	251	1.9%	615	4.7%	\$1,145
Federal Government	147	148	146	-1	-0.7%	1	0.7%	\$1,535
State Government	11,209	11,009	10,635	200	1.8%	574	5.4%	\$1,174
Local Government	2,267	2,215	2,227	52	2.3%	40	1.8%	\$978

*Wages compiled from 1st quarter 2024 contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Data source: the Texas Workforce Commission, Labor and Career Market Information Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

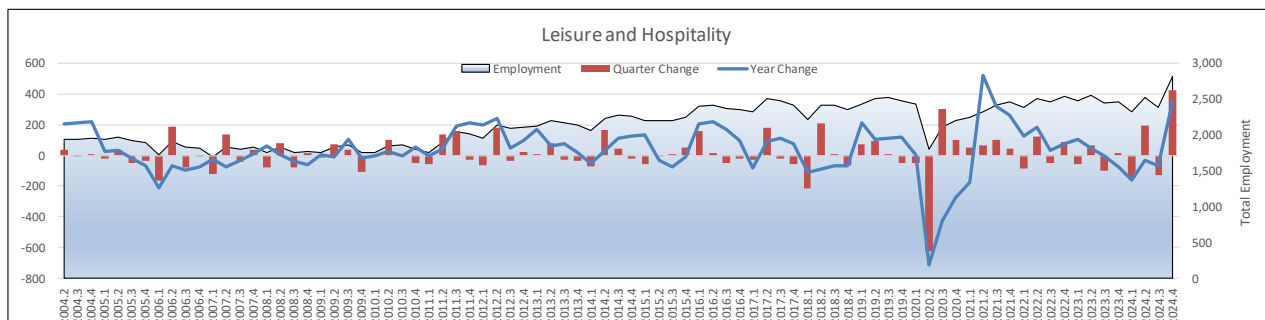
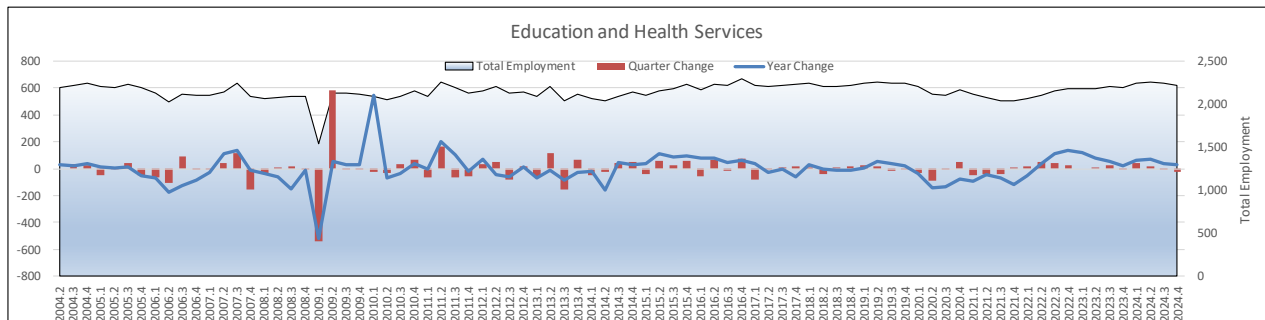
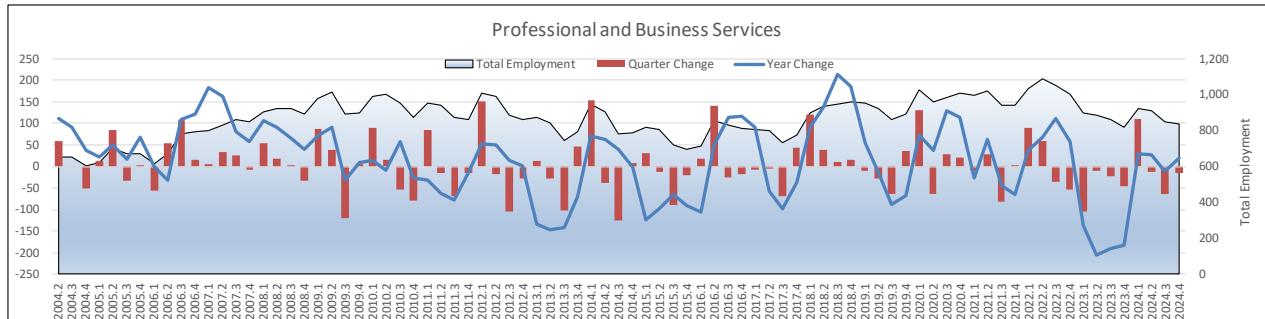
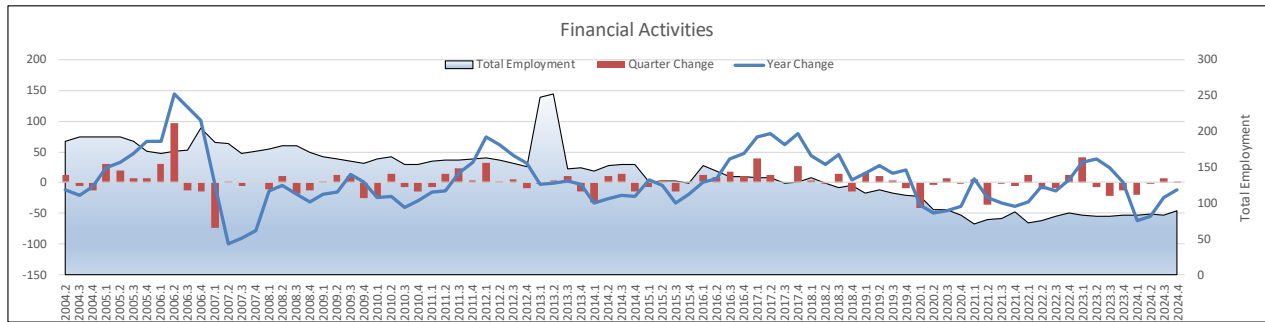
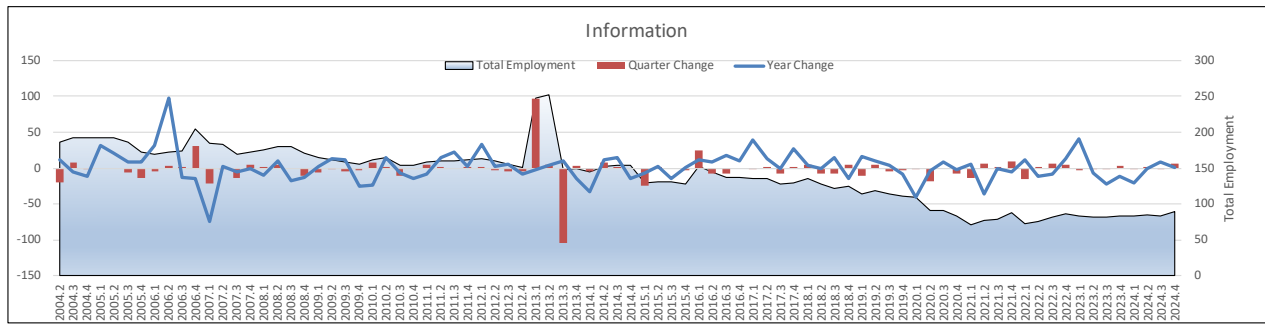
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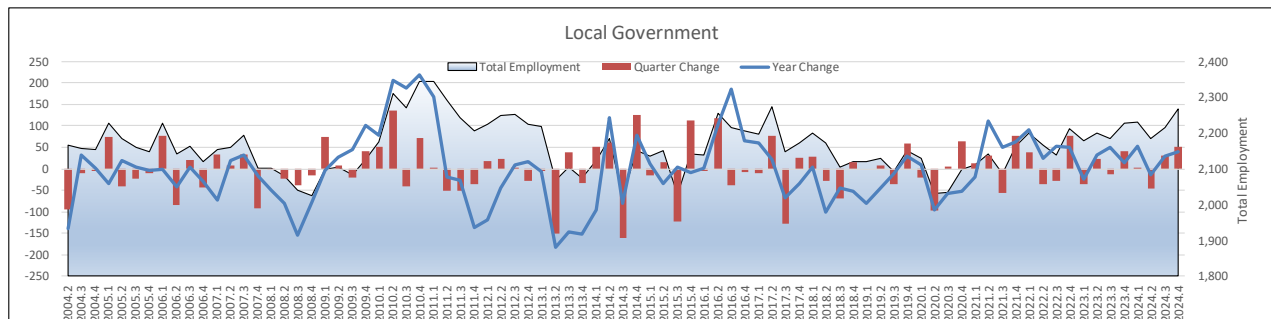
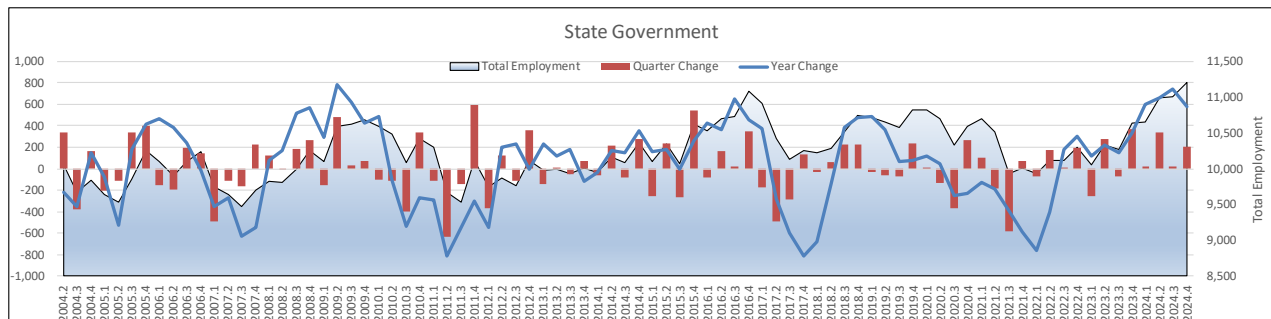
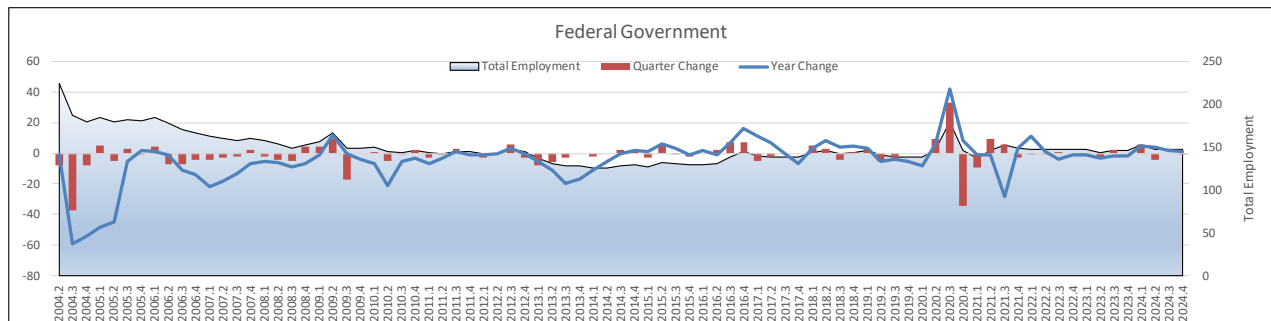
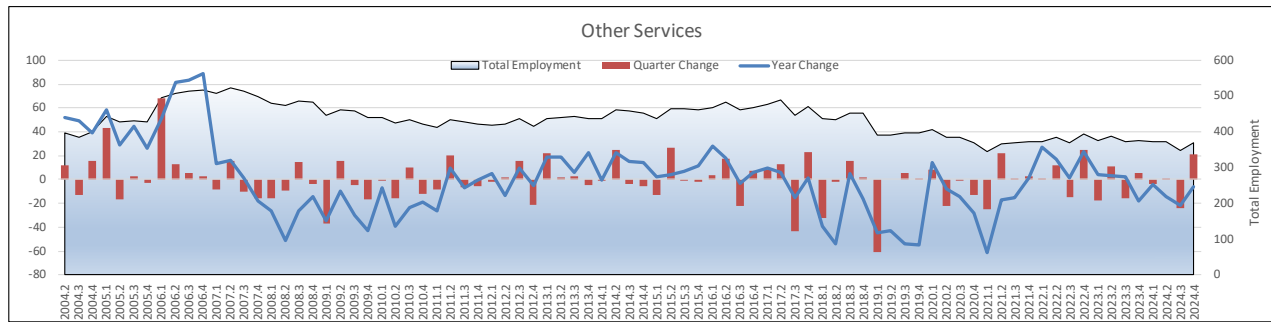
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	26,809	2024.4	21,775	2003.4
Natural Resources and Mining	450	2013.2	127	2018.2
Construction	1,160	2023.4	395	2003.2
Manufacturing	1,452	2024.1	745	2003.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3,499	2024.4	2,578	2003.2
Information	252	2013.2	71	2021.1
Financial Activities	758	2019.3	543	2004.4
Professional and Business Services	1,090	2022.2	543	2003.2
Education and Health Services	2,293	2016.4	1,538	2009.1
Leisure and Hospitality	2,808	2024.4	1,695	2007.1
Other Services	523	2007.2	335	2003.3
Federal Government	246	2003.3	126	2014.1
State Government	11,209	2024.4	9,475	2007.3
Local Government	2,344	2011.1	2,024	2008.4

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-155	-0.6%	180	0.8%
Natural Resources and Mining	5	1.6%	-1	1.2%
Construction	14	2.3%	15	2.8%
Manufacturing	29	2.6%	5	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-71	-2.3%	8	0.3%
Information	1	0.5%	-1	-0.4%
Financial Activities	0	0.2%	8	1.4%
Professional and Business Services	47	5.7%	16	2.5%
Education and Health Services	-50	-2.3%	40	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	-36	-1.6%	73	3.8%
Other Services	-2	-0.3%	7	1.6%
Federal Government	-1	-0.5%	-1	-0.3%
State Government	-114	-1.1%	18	0.2%
Local Government	23	1.1%	-7	-0.3%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-182	-0.8%	358	1.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	-12	-4.3%	8	3.7%
Construction	2	0.5%	1	-0.2%
Manufacturing	-7	-0.6%	0	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18	0.6%	84	2.8%
Information	-7	-3.3%	1	1.3%
Financial Activities	2	0.3%	-6	-0.9%
Professional and Business Services	-39	-4.0%	-8	-0.8%
Education and Health Services	6	0.3%	7	0.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	0	0.2%	14	0.5%
Other Services	-4	-1.0%	1	0.5%
Federal Government	0	0.4%	-2	-1.1%
State Government	-99	-0.9%	234	2.3%
Local Government	-40	-1.8%	23	1.1%

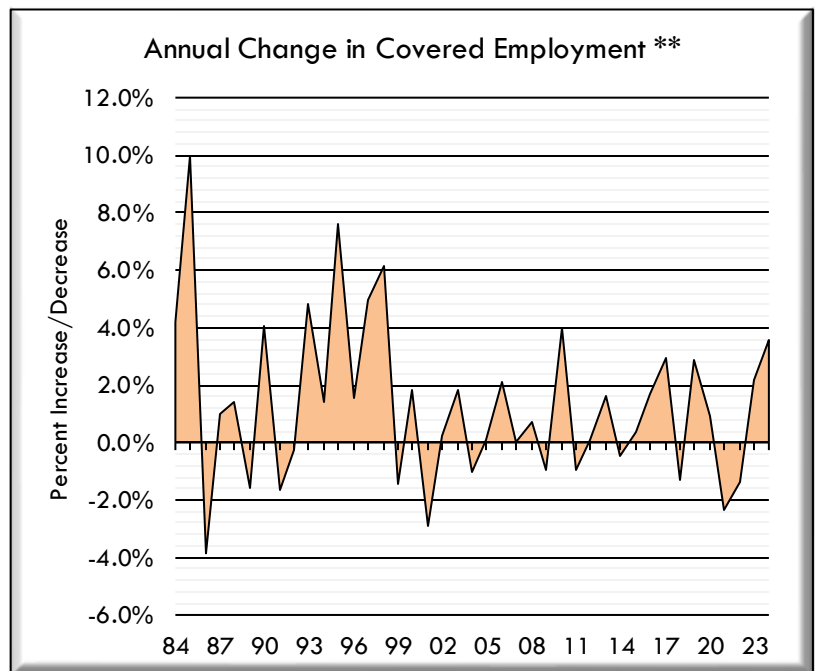
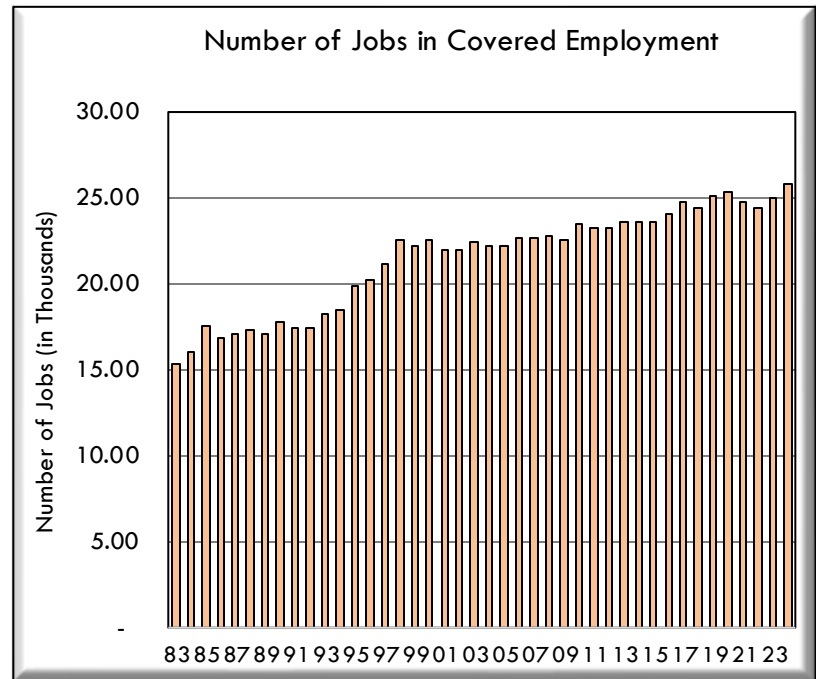
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical data was only available for second quarter 2003 and forward. All data is subject to revision.

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Walker County 1983-2024 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	15,346		
84	15,986	640	4.2%
85	17,580	1,594	10.0%
86	16,902	(678)	-3.9%
87	17,073	171	1.0%
88	17,314	241	1.4%
89	17,042	(272)	-1.6%
90	17,737	695	4.1%
91	17,448	(289)	-1.6%
92	17,408	(40)	-0.2%
93	18,243	835	4.8%
94	18,499	256	1.4%
95	19,906	1,407	7.6%
96	20,218	312	1.6%
97	21,218	1,000	4.9%
98	22,517	1,299	6.1%
99	22,185	(332)	-1.5%
00	22,588	403	1.8%
01	21,936	(652)	-2.9%
02	21,983	47	0.2%
03	22,392	409	1.9%
04	22,159	(233)	-1.0%
05	21,926	(233)	0.1%
06	22,642	716	2.1%
07	22,643	1	0.0%
08	22,797	154	0.7%
09	22,578	(219)	-1.0%
10	23,480	902	4.0%
11	23,263	(217)	-0.9%
12	23,280	17	0.1%
13	23,658	378	1.6%
14	23,552	(106)	-0.4%
15	23,640	88	0.4%
16	24,043	403	1.7%
17	24,746	703	2.9%
18	24,430	(316)	-1.3%
19	25,126	696	2.8%
20	25,356	230	0.9%
21	24,766	(590)	-2.3%
22	24,431	(335)	-1.4%
23	24,959	528	2.2%
24	25,856	897	3.6%



**Data Compiled from 1st quarter contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. For more information on a specific industry, please call 832/681-2535. Data source: the Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market and Career Information Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

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Gulf Coast** 2024 Wages*

(High-Skill High-Growth Occupations Targeted by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board)

Std. Occ. Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	Average Annual Wage	Employment
13-2011	Accountants & Auditors	\$45.18	\$93,971	27,680
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$27.04	\$56,235	14,890
19-4021	Biological Technicians	\$25.05	\$52,098	1,870
43-3031	Bookkeepers, Acctg and Auditing Clerks	\$24.62	\$51,211	28,210
49-3031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$29.78	\$61,932	6,510
53-3052	Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity	\$23.45	\$48,772	3,260
13-1020	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$39.83	\$82,839	9,420
47-2031	Carpenters	\$24.91	\$51,806	9,590
41-2011	Cashiers	\$14.07	\$29,273	62,770
39-9011	Childcare Workers	\$14.17	\$29,467	13,190
17-2051	Civil Engineer	\$53.01	\$110,264	11,330
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	\$28.97	\$60,262	11,360
47-2061	Construction Laborers	\$20.10	\$41,802	33,540
35-2012	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	\$16.33	\$33,958	7,620
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	\$15.97	\$33,215	32,510
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	\$20.38	\$42,385	64,870
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$39.15	\$81,435	3,310
47-3013	Electrician Helpers	\$21.58	\$44,897	1,940
47-2111	Electricians	\$28.40	\$59,077	18,100
43-6011	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$35.86	\$74,596	7,400
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$12.76	\$26,537	91,450
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$34.90	\$72,590	40,050
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$24.00	\$49,913	21,900
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	\$15.25	\$31,728	23,480
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$37.16	\$77,300	3,640
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$66.54	\$138,394	107,460
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$19.02	\$39,552	5,520
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics	\$28.68	\$59,648	7,090
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$33.43	\$69,541	18,750
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operator	\$21.96	\$45,678	24,150
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$15.20	\$31,618	47,750
53-7062	Laborers and Freight Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$18.93	\$39,380	53,740
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$30.06	\$62,530	11,660
11-9081	Lodging Managers	\$44.31	\$92,155	490
51-4041	Machinists	\$28.61	\$59,501	7,640
11-2021	Marketing Managers	\$75.16	\$156,330	9,250
31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$20.17	\$41,949	16,880
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$31.75	\$66,044	5,460
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	\$18.70	\$38,892	19,970
19-5011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$40.82	\$84,898	5,200
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	\$19.61	\$40,780	46,500
29-1051	Pharmacists	\$65.44	\$136,114	6,310
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$29.24	\$60,814	11,280
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$35.89	\$74,659	16,170
43-5061	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$26.87	\$55,891	8,140
43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$16.93	\$35,212	19,050
29-1141	Registered Nurses	\$46.42	\$96,552	66,090
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	\$16.25	\$33,805	77,290
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	\$24.28	\$50,512	5,900
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, except Technical and Scientific Products	\$38.17	\$79,398	24,900
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$22.01	\$45,783	34,340
33-9032	Security Guards	\$18.27	\$37,994	27,390
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	\$18.19	\$37,829	64,370
53-1047	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, Exc. Aircraft Cargo Handling	\$31.12	\$64,727	13,970
53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$27.46	\$57,112	50,120
53-3033	Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	\$23.24	\$48,334	17,180
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$27.16	\$56,496	18,010

*Data compiled by the Texas Workforce Commission, LMC Dept. in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of the Occupational Employment Survey. Employment is the estimate of employment based upon the sample, not the sample employment. Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Base rate, cost-of-living allowances, guaranteed pay, hazardous-duty pay, incentive pay including commissions and production bonuses, tips, and on-call pay are included. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, nonproduction bonuses, employer cost of supplementary benefits, and tuition reimbursements. **The Gulf Coast Region is defined as Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties.