

DECEMBER 2025

Current Employment Overview



On January 30, 2026, the Texas Workforce Commission released employment statistics for **December 2025**. Our detailed regional report for researchers and analysts is at <https://www.wrksolutions.com/regional-economic-data/houston-area-employment-situation>. Below are highlights.

4.2%

DECEMBER Regional Unemployment Rate
(not seasonally adjusted)

- Represents 165,548 people looking for a job
- **DOWN** from a peak of 13.5% in April 2020
- **DOWN** from 4.5% last month
- **UP** from 4.0% last year
- **HIGHER** than the statewide rate of 3.9%
- **HIGHER** than the national rate of 4.1%

Monthly Change – Employers in the Houston region added 700 jobs over the month, which is substantially below the long-term average increase of December.

- The top-3 drivers of over-the-month Job increase this November were:
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: 8,700
 - Government: 1,800
 - Manufacturing: 900

Year-over-Year Change – Total Nonfarm employment was up 14,800 jobs or 0.4%.

- A year prior, growth stood at 49,500. Workforce Solutions currently forecasts a gain of 40,000 jobs by the end of 2026 subject to evolving developments across the local, state, and national economies.
- Currently, 8 of 11 sectors show over-the-year growth led by Private Education and Health Services (12,900), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (6,300), and Government (5,500).

If you have any questions, please contact Mohammad Ahmadizadeh: Mohammad.Ahmadizadeh@wrksolutions.net or Parker Harvey: parker.harvey@wrksolutions.com. The release date for the January Employment Situation and 2025 annual benchmark revisions has yet to be determined pending an announcement by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Additional labor market data is available at <https://www.wrksolutions.com/regional-economic-data>

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