

Galveston County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Galveston County's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in August 2026, unchanged from one year earlier. The county's rate remained above both the Texas rate of 4.6 percent and the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent.

Galveston County added 2,256 jobs (1.8 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, outperforming its historical average first-quarter decline of 0.2 percent. Employment increased in five of the 11 major industry sectors. Most of the quarterly growth, nearly three quarters, was concentrated in State Government, which added 1,636 jobs (11.7 percent), and Other Services, which added 583 jobs (12.1 percent). Although several sectors recorded losses, the largest private-sector decline occurred in Financial Activities, down 134 jobs (2.2 percent). Overall, the county entered 2026 with stronger employment momentum than in the previous quarter heavily influenced by State Government, while the private-sector results were more mixed.

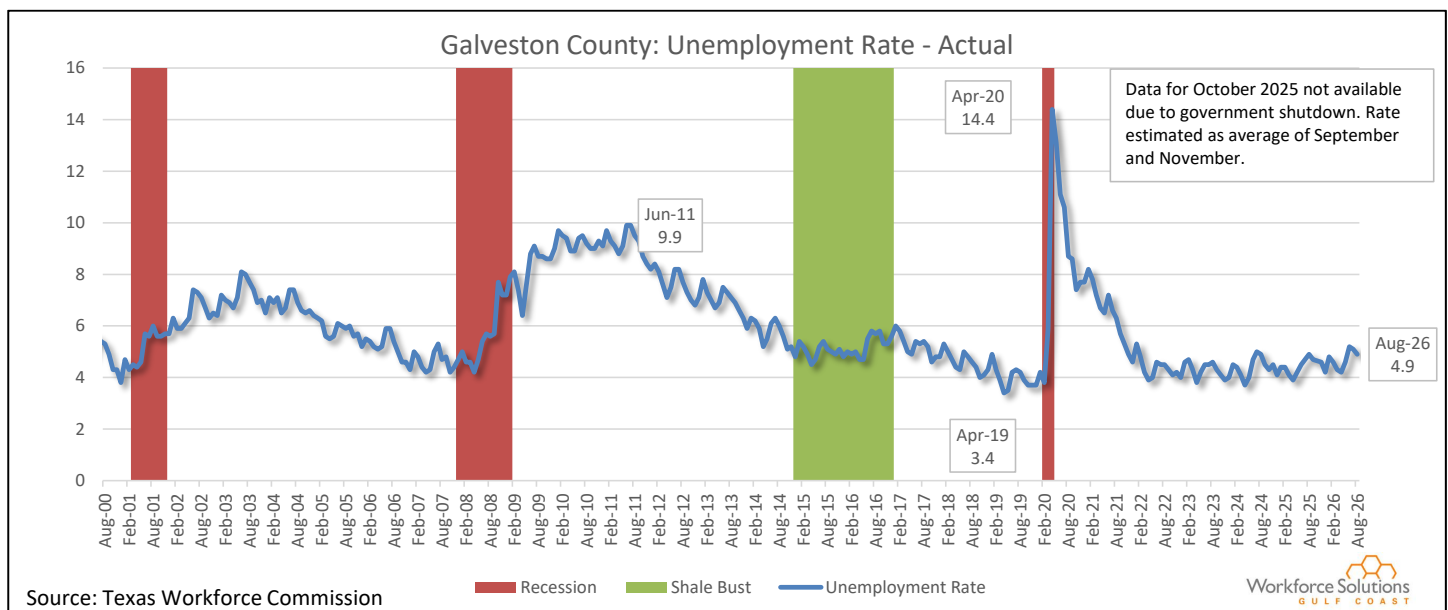
On a year-over-year basis, Galveston County added 3,543 jobs (2.9 percent) between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. The pace of annual growth accelerated from 1.1 percent in the previous quarter, with employment increasing in eight of the 11 major industry sectors. The leading private-sector contributors were:

Other Services: +568 jobs (+11.8 percent)
Professional and Business Services: +460 jobs (+4.5 percent)
Construction: +456 jobs (+6.0 percent)
Financial Activities: +406 jobs (+4.5 percent)
Annual growth was partially offset by losses in:

Education and Health Services: -173 jobs (-1.5 percent)
Manufacturing: -151 jobs (-2.4 percent)
Information: -57 jobs (-8.4 percent)

Additional details are provided on pages 2-7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	183,493	183,346	182,162
Total Employed	174,476	173,959	173,316
Unemployed	9,017	9,387	8,846
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.1%	4.9%
Comparative Actual Rates			
Texas	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%
U.S.	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%



*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 1st quarter 2026 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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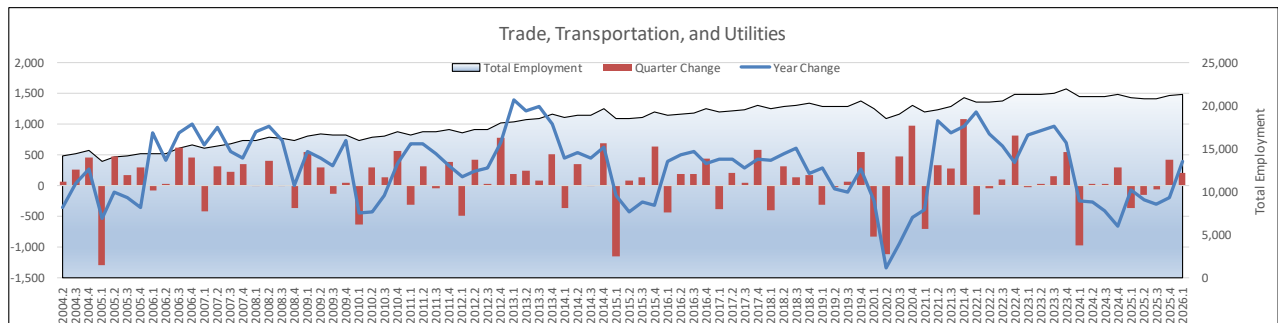
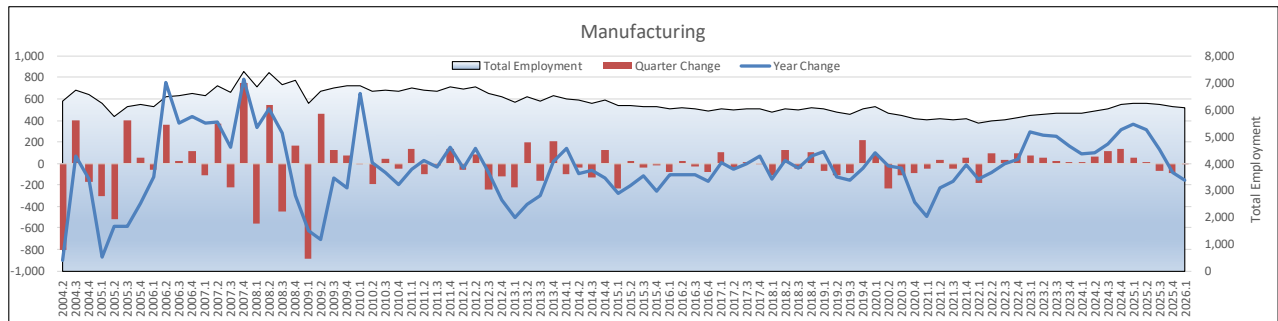
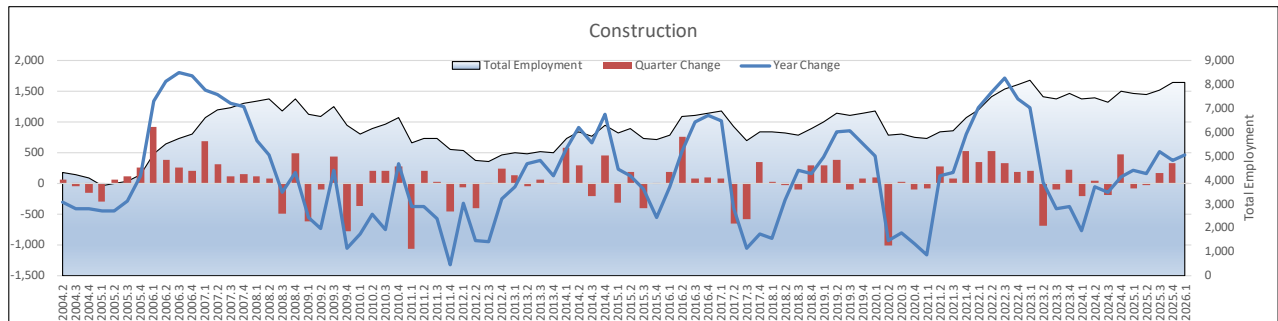
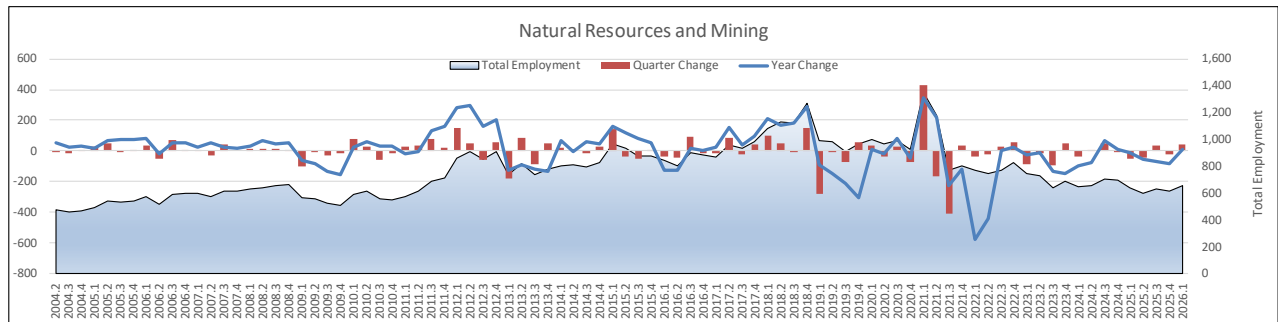
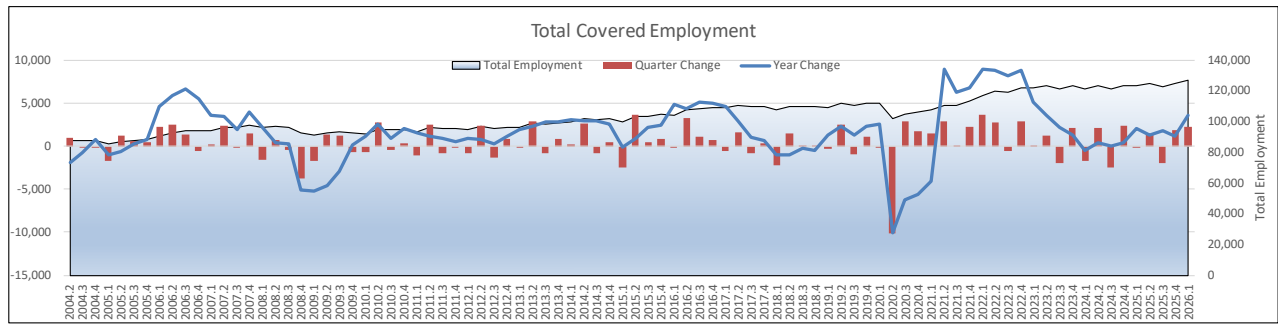
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	127,103	124,847	123,560	2,256	1.8%	3,543	2.9%	\$1,269
Natural Resources & Mining	654	613	641	41	6.7%	13	2.0%	\$3,255
Construction	8,060	8,070	7,604	-10	-0.1%	456	6.0%	\$1,715
Manufacturing	6,088	6,095	6,239	-7	-0.1%	-151	-2.4%	\$2,851
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	21,309	21,108	20,924	201	1.0%	385	1.8%	\$1,044
Information	618	654	675	-36	-5.5%	-57	-8.4%	\$1,718
Financial Activities	6,059	6,193	5,653	-134	-2.2%	406	7.2%	\$1,749
Professional & Business Services	10,636	10,342	10,176	294	2.8%	460	4.5%	\$1,293
Education & Health Services	11,166	11,296	11,339	-130	-1.2%	-173	-1.5%	\$1,073
Leisure & Hospitality	21,119	21,141	20,833	-22	-0.1%	286	1.4%	\$499
Other Services	5,387	4,804	4,819	583	12.1%	568	11.8%	\$1,381
Nonclassifiable	157	149	119	8	5.4%	38	31.9%	\$1,092
Public Administration	35,851	34,381	34,537	1,470	4.3%	1,314	3.8%	\$1,401
Federal Government	1,058	1,079	1,243	-21	-1.9%	-185	-14.9%	\$2,061
State Government	15,598	13,962	13,363	1,636	11.7%	2,235	16.7%	\$1,672
Local Government	19,195	19,340	19,931	-145	-0.7%	-736	-3.7%	\$1,145

*Wages compiled from 1st quarter 2026 contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Date source: the Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market and Career Information Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

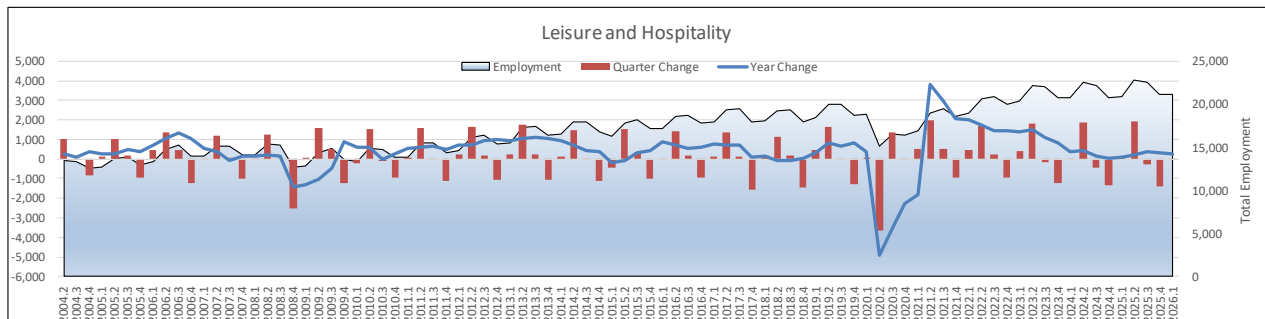
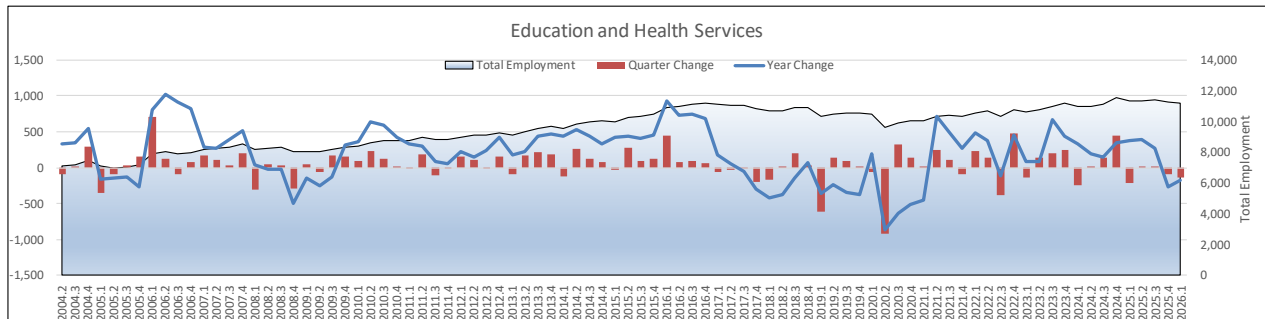
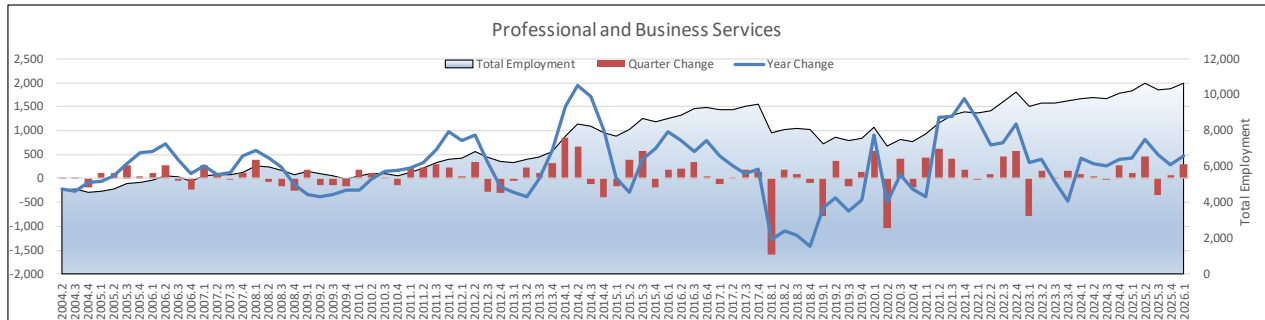
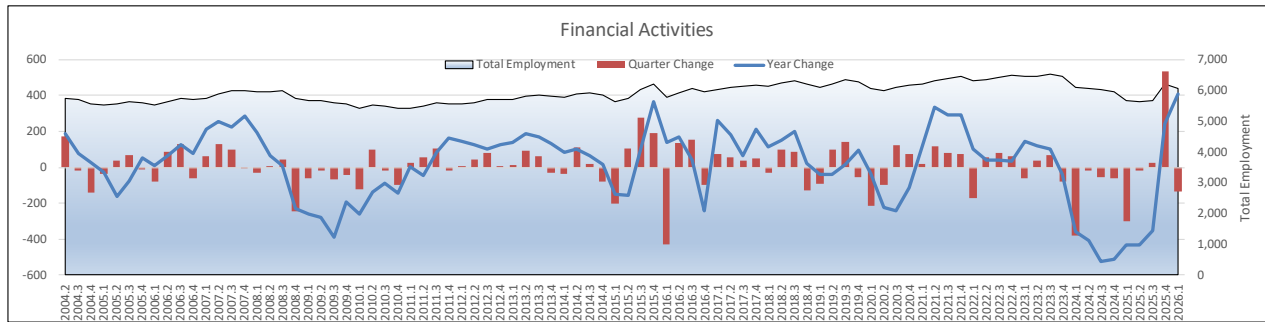
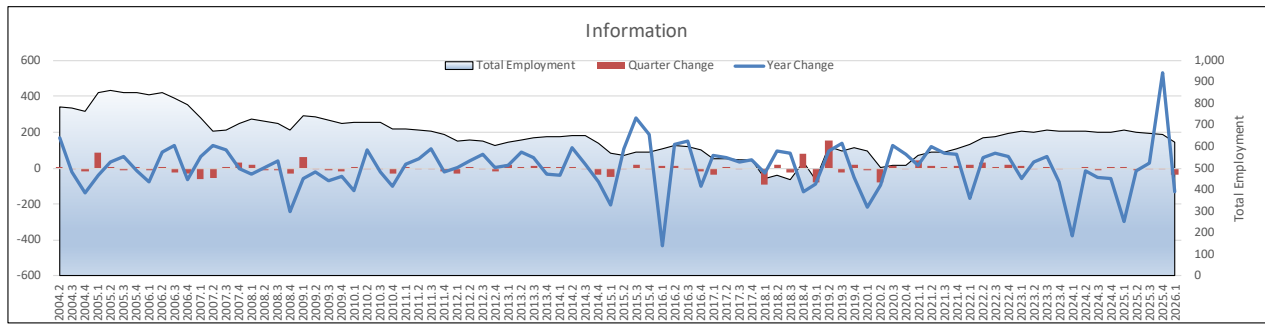
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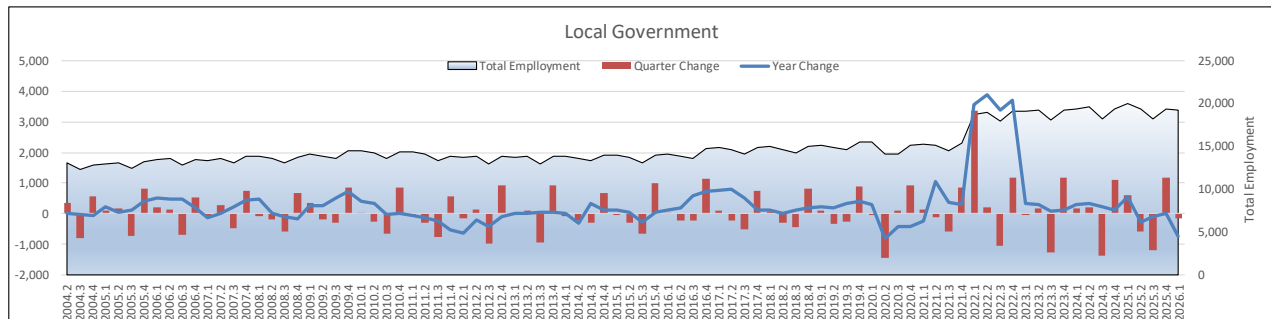
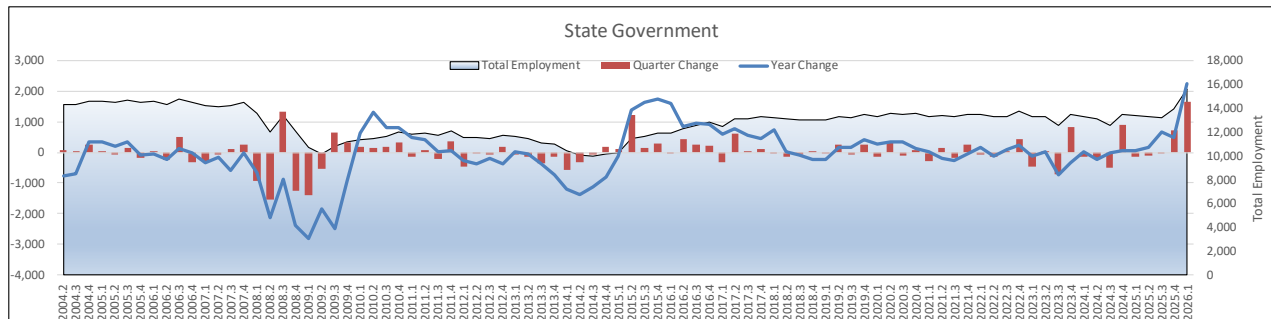
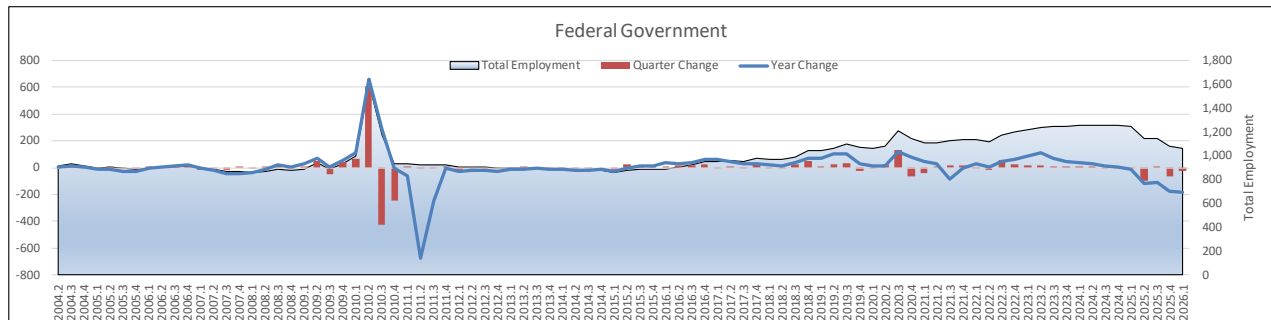
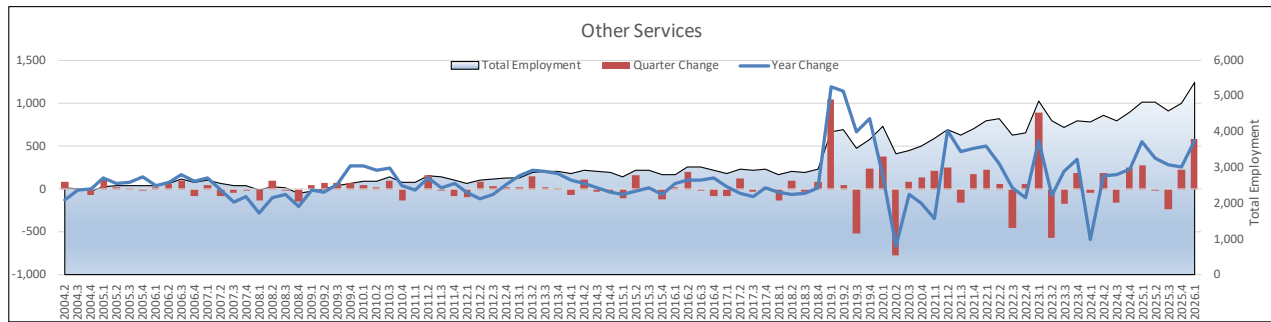
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	127,103	2026.1	85,813	2005.1
Natural Resources and Mining	1,348	2021.1	421	2003.2
Construction	8,167	2023.1	3,775	2005.1
Manufacturing	7,409	2007.4	5,490	2022.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	21,965	2023.4	13,473	2005.1
Information	860	2005.2	444	2019.1
Financial Activities	6,538	2023.3	5,402	2010.4
Professional and Business Services	10,636	2025.2	4,542	2004.4
Education and Health Services	11,560	2024.4	6,806	2003.2
Leisure and Hospitality	22,775	2025.2	12,160	2003.4
Other Services	5,387	2026.1	2,293	2008.4
Federal Government	1,602	2010.2	855	2015.1
State Government	15,598	2026.1	9,989	2014.3
Local Government	19,931	2025.1	12,252	2004.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-221	-0.2%	1,616	1.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	14	2.8%	-1	0.4%
Construction	10	0.5%	36	0.9%
Manufacturing	-93	-1.4%	18	0.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-382	-2.2%	145	0.9%
Information	-5	-1.0%	5	1.3%
Financial Activities	-94	-1.5%	66	1.1%
Professional and Business Services	27	1.0%	137	2.0%
Education and Health Services	-15	0.1%	52	0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	128	0.8%	1,244	8.1%
Other Services	141	3.8%	27	1.6%
Federal Government	-3	-0.2%	36	3.6%
State Government	-151	-1.2%	-9	0.0%
Local Government	188	1.2%	-101	-0.7%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-311	-0.3%	571	0.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	-20	-1.3%	20	2.4%
Construction	-16	-0.2%	116	1.9%
Manufacturing	-46	-0.6%	80	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	113	0.7%	469	2.6%
Information	-4	-0.6%	-3	0.0%
Financial Activities	70	1.2%	-36	-0.6%
Professional and Business Services	85	1.2%	-12	-0.6%
Education and Health Services	60	0.6%	104	1.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	149	1.0%	-1,141	-6.7%
Other Services	-69	-1.6%	18	0.1%
Federal Government	-9	-0.3%	-8	-0.6%
State Government	39	0.4%	121	1.1%
Local Government	-663	-4.4%	847	6.0%

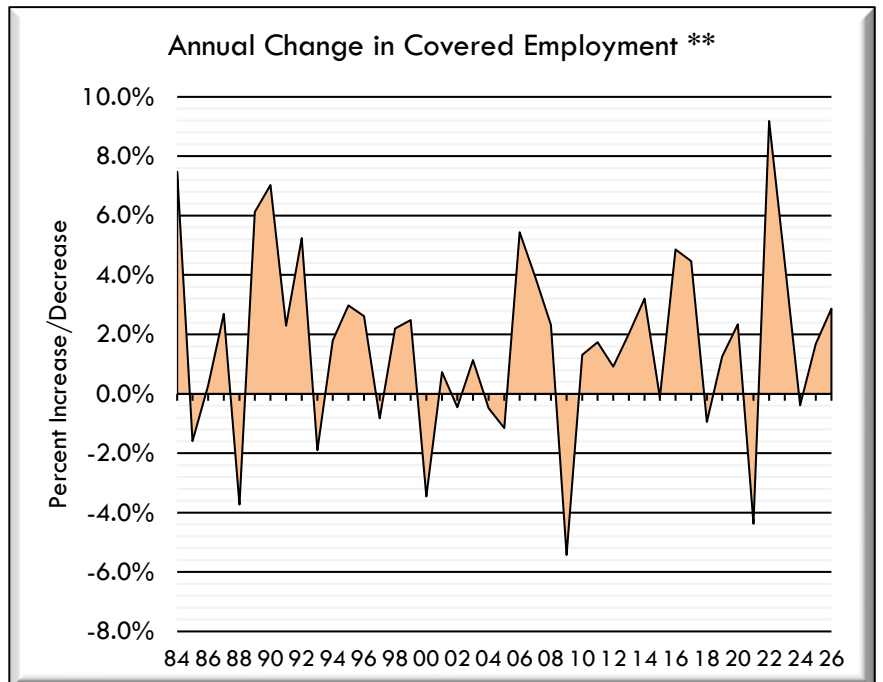
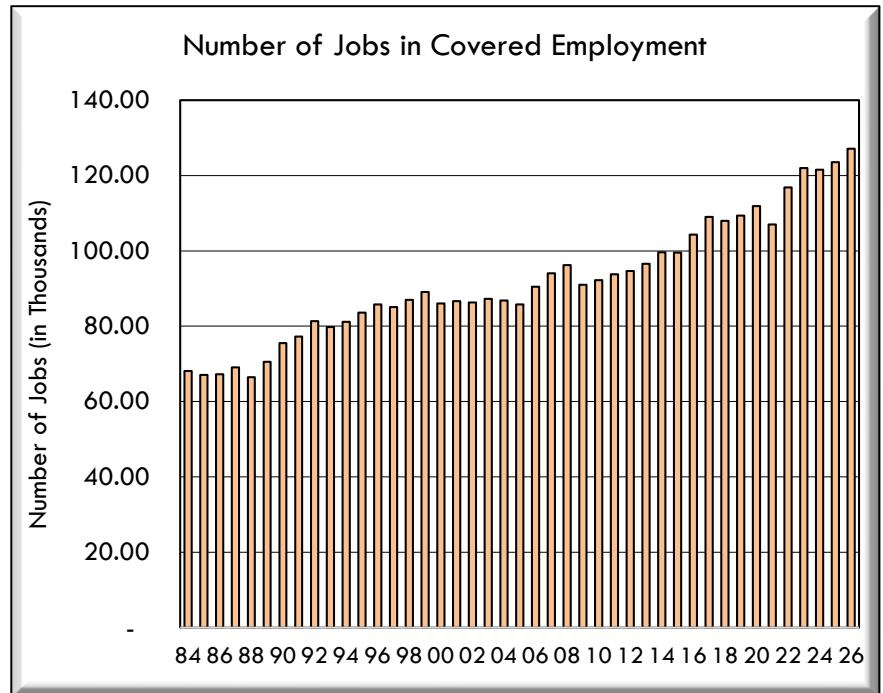
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Galveston County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	63,412	0	
84	68,155	4,743	7.5%
85	67,070	(1,085)	-1.6%
86	67,261	191	0.3%
87	69,074	1,813	2.7%
88	66,495	(2,579)	-3.7%
89	70,562	4,067	6.1%
90	75,525	4,963	7.0%
91	77,263	1,738	2.3%
92	81,312	4,049	5.2%
93	79,769	(1,543)	-1.9%
94	81,202	1,433	1.8%
95	83,621	2,419	3.0%
96	85,803	2,182	2.6%
97	85,094	(709)	-0.8%
98	86,963	1,869	2.2%
99	89,117	2,154	2.5%
00	86,034	(3,083)	-3.5%
01	86,657	623	0.7%
02	86,264	(393)	-0.5%
03	87,246	982	1.1%
04	86,820	(426)	-0.5%
05	85,813	(1,007)	-1.2%
06	90,479	4,666	5.4%
07	94,033	3,554	3.9%
08	96,208	2,175	2.3%
09	90,985	(5,223)	-5.4%
10	92,175	1,190	1.3%
11	93,773	1,598	1.7%
12	94,627	854	0.9%
13	96,542	1,915	2.0%
14	99,641	3,099	3.2%
15	99,511	(130)	-0.1%
16	104,348	4,837	4.9%
17	109,008	4,660	4.5%
18	107,974	(1,034)	-0.9%
19	109,333	1,359	1.3%
20	111,892	2,559	2.3%
21	107,001	(4,891)	-4.4%
22	116,831	9,830	9.2%
23	121,983	5,152	4.4%
24	121,512	(471)	-0.4%
25	123,560	2,048	1.7%
26	127,103	3,543	2.9%



**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. Date 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** 2025 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	\$45.86	\$95,386	28,750
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$26.34	\$54,782	15,230
19-4021	Biological Technicians	\$25.84	\$53,744	1,660
43-3031	Bookkeepers, Acctg and Auditing Clerks	\$25.08	\$52,163	26,620
49-3031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$30.77	\$64,003	7,530
53-3052	Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity	\$23.81	\$49,528	3,420
13-1020	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$39.17	\$81,470	10,990
47-2031	Carpenters	\$25.47	\$52,975	9,700
41-2011	Cashiers	\$14.46	\$30,074	56,290
39-9011	Childcare Workers	\$14.44	\$30,033	8,820
17-2051	Civil Engineer	\$53.47	\$111,213	12,200
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	\$30.15	\$62,706	12,980
47-2061	Construction Laborers	\$21.06	\$43,800	34,510
35-2012	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	\$17.03	\$35,414	5,000
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	\$15.84	\$32,938	33,180
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	\$20.83	\$43,328	66,170
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$40.16	\$83,541	4,490
47-3013	Electrician Helpers	\$21.33	\$44,357	1,830
47-2111	Electricians	\$29.60	\$61,574	19,980
43-6011	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$36.71	\$76,367	7,680
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$13.27	\$27,601	108,070
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$35.04	\$72,889	37,870
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$24.31	\$50,556	23,290
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	\$15.94	\$33,156	16,660
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$33.35	\$69,374	5,130
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$70.07	\$145,740	98,820
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$19.53	\$41,255	5,540
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics	\$28.98	\$60,282	7,780
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$32.99	\$68,617	18,630
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operator	\$21.95	\$45,652	21,160
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$15.70	\$32,658	49,540
53-7062	Laborers and Freight Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$19.14	\$39,820	53,160
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$31.31	\$65,117	11,150
11-9081	Lodging Managers	\$35.49	\$73,827	780
51-4041	Machinists	\$29.98	\$62,351	8,250
11-2021	Marketing Managers	\$77.60	\$161,401	8,980
31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$19.97	\$41,532	18,580
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$32.46	\$67,511	5,400
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	\$19.38	\$40,316	19,690
19-5011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$43.34	\$90,153	5,730
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	\$20.78	\$43,216	50,990
29-1051	Pharmacists	\$65.90	\$137,073	6,500
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$30.66	\$63,782	11,090
33-3051	Police and Sherriff's Patrol Officers	\$35.62	\$74,090	16,560
43-5061	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$29.43	\$61,210	8,940
43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$17.19	\$35,760	17,430
29-1141	Registered Nurses	\$48.13	\$100,112	66,750
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	\$16.64	\$34,610	80,470
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	\$24.01	\$49,931	6,040
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, except Technical and Scientific Products	\$39.67	\$82,520	25,940
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$22.72	\$47,248	34,870
33-9032	Security Guards	\$18.46	\$34,802	29,550
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	\$18.57	\$38,630	74,310
53-1047	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, Exc.Aircraft Cargo Handling	\$31.40	\$65,307	15,500
53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy an Tractor-Trailer	\$27.93	\$58,091	50,590
53-3033	Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	\$23.42	\$48,712	19,220
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$28.60	\$59,491	16,090

*Data compiled by the Texas Workforce Commission, LMCI 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. **Data by individual county is not available for many occupations. The Gulf Coast Region is defined as Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties.