

Liberty County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Liberty County's unemployment rate was 6.0 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.

Liberty County payroll employment declined by 145 jobs (0.7 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, matching the county's historical-average first-quarter decline. The primary contributors were seasonal losses in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, down 155 jobs (3.6 percent), and Education and Health Services, down 66 jobs (3.6 percent). Leisure and Hospitality declined for the third consecutive quarter, losing 59 jobs (3.4 percent) and bringing payrolls to their lowest level since the first quarter of 2023. The only substantial private-sector gain occurred in Construction, which added 91 jobs (3.1 percent).

On a year-over-year basis, Liberty County lost 18 jobs, leaving payroll employment essentially unchanged between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. This marked the second consecutive quarter with an annual employment decline. Only four of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs over the year. The largest gains occurred in:

Construction: +279 jobs (+12.2 percent)

Manufacturing: +80 jobs (+7.4 percent)

These gains were offset by widespread losses, led by:

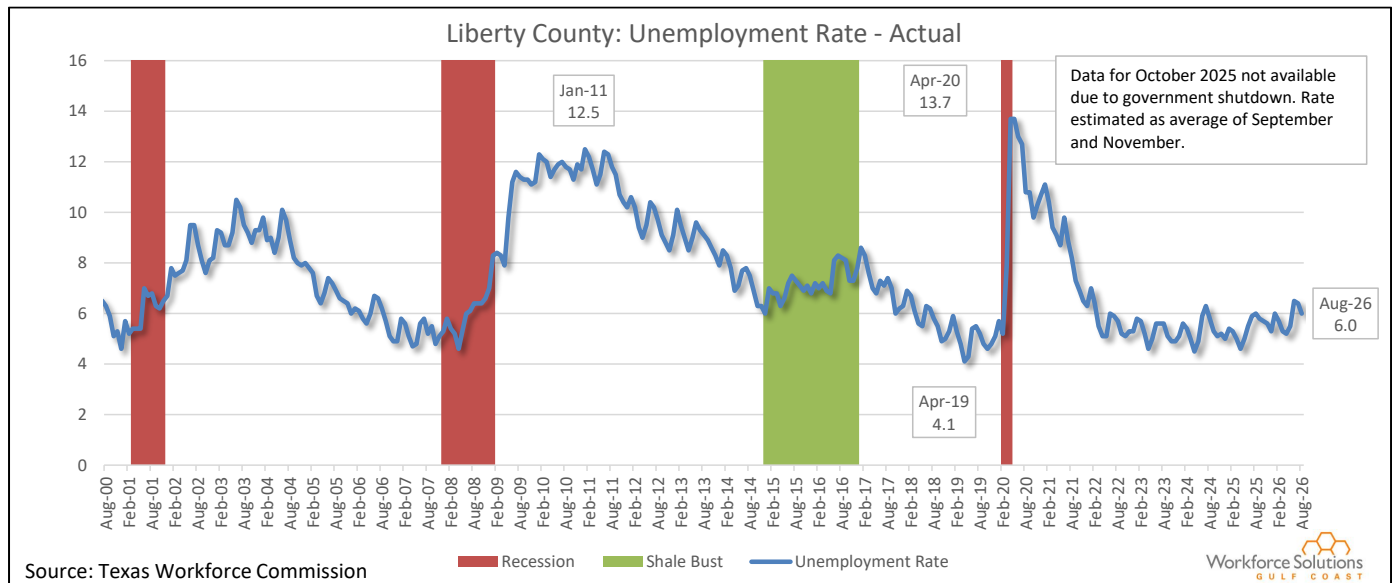
Education and Health Services: -181 jobs (-9.3 percent)

Leisure and Hospitality: -86 jobs (-4.9 percent)

Overall, the quarterly decline was consistent with the county's typical seasonal pattern, but the second consecutive annual loss indicates continued weakness in the broader labor market. Strong gains in Construction and Manufacturing were not sufficient to overcome declines across most other sectors. Continued weakness in Education and Health Services and Leisure and Hospitality warrants monitoring, particularly because Leisure and Hospitality has contracted for three consecutive quarters. The county's unemployment rate also remained substantially above state and national levels, indicating comparatively challenging labor-market conditions.

Additional details are provided on pages 2–7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	44,831	44,946	44,546
Total Employment	42,126	42,062	41,861
Unemployed	2,705	2,884	2,685
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	6.4%	6.0%
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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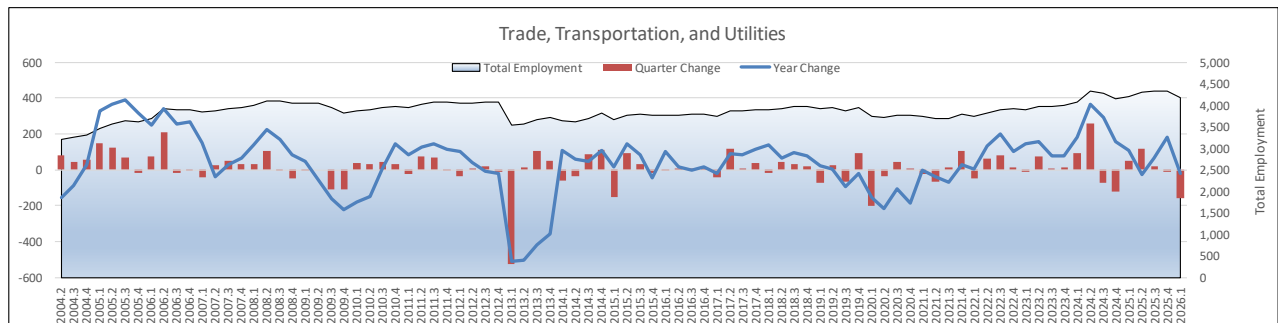
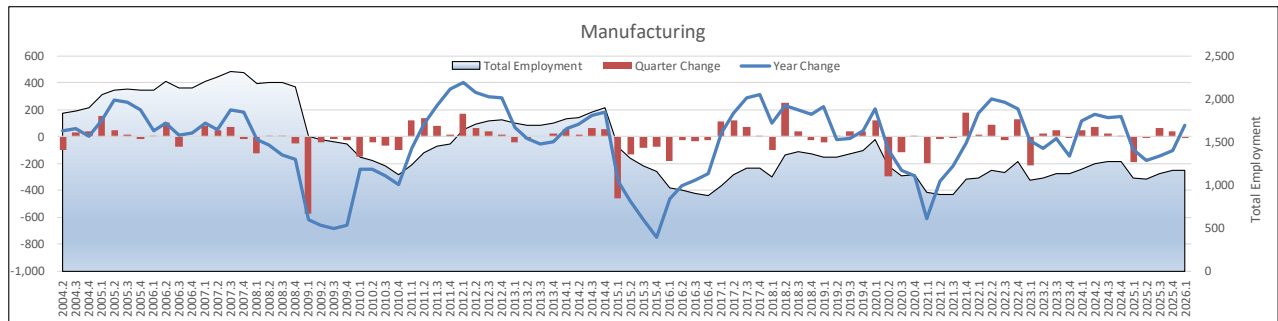
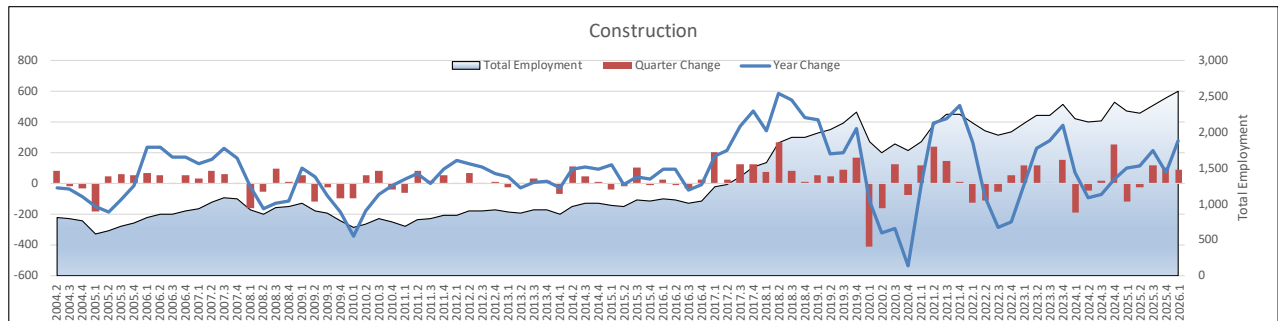
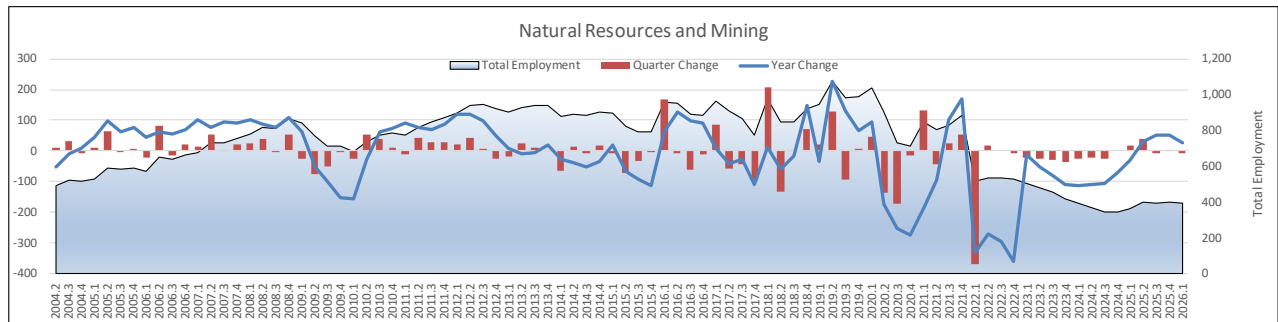
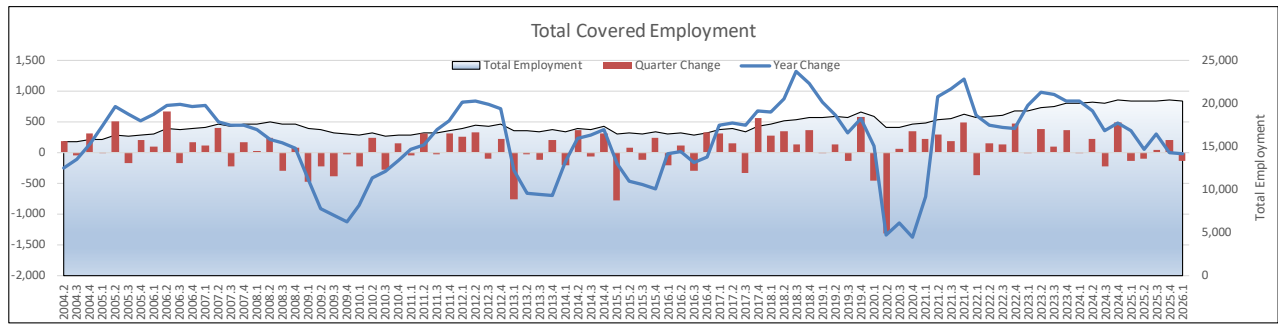
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	20,289	20,434	20,307	-145	-0.7%	-18	-0.1%	\$1,113
Natural Resources & Mining	392	399	364	-7	-1.8%	28	7.7%	\$1,594
Construction	2,567	2,476	2,288	91	3.7%	279	12.2%	\$1,563
Manufacturing	1,164	1,173	1,084	-9	-0.8%	80	7.4%	\$1,448
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4,172	4,327	4,195	-155	-3.6%	-23	-0.5%	\$1,040
Information	51	58	72	-7	-12.1%	-21	-29.2%	\$1,719
Financial Activities	513	514	525	-1	-0.2%	-12	-2.3%	\$1,554
Professional & Business Services	972	953	1,016	19	2.0%	-44	-4.3%	\$1,395
Education & Health Services	1,763	1,829	1,944	-66	-3.6%	-181	-9.3%	\$987
Leisure & Hospitality	1,680	1,739	1,766	-59	-3.4%	-86	-4.9%	\$445
Other Services	360	380	352	-20	-5.3%	8	2.3%	\$972
Nonclassifiable	14	6	15	8	133.3%	-1	-6.7%	\$525
Public Administration	6,641	6,580	6,686	61	0.9%	-45	-0.7%	\$1,028
Federal Government	140	133	140	7	5.3%	0	0.0%	\$1,371
State Government	1,168	1,125	1,239	43	3.8%	-71	-5.7%	\$1,185
Local Government	5,333	5,322	5,307	11	0.2%	26	0.5%	\$985

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. 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.

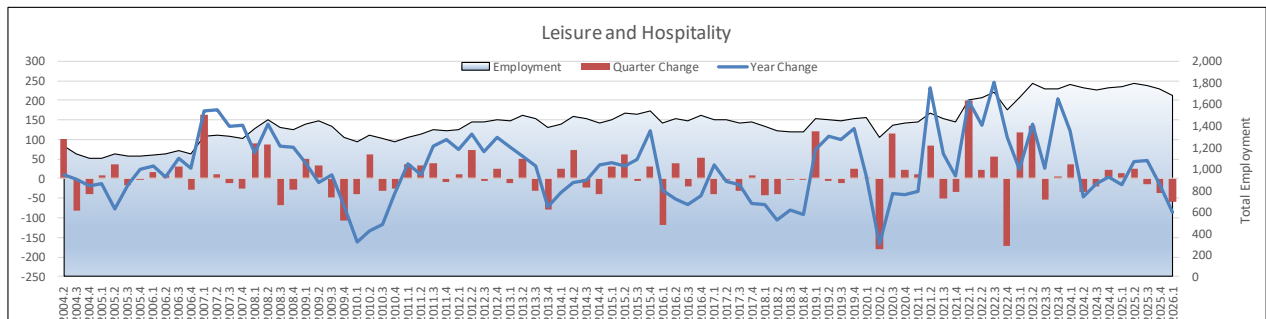
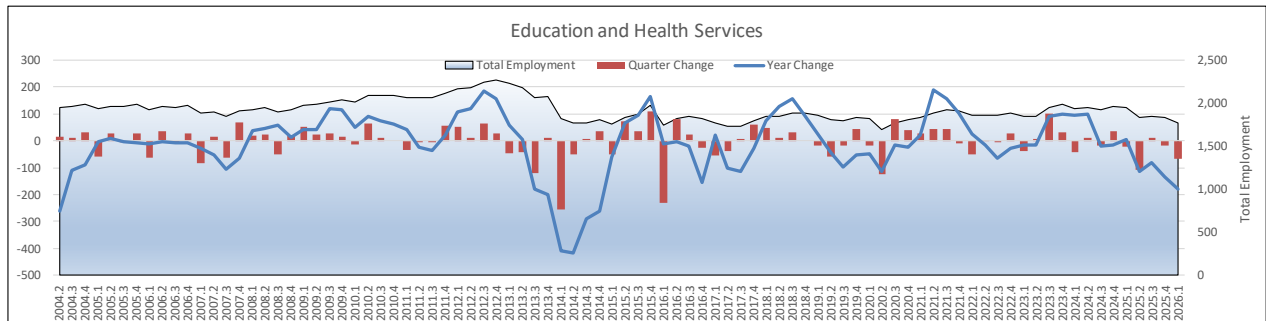
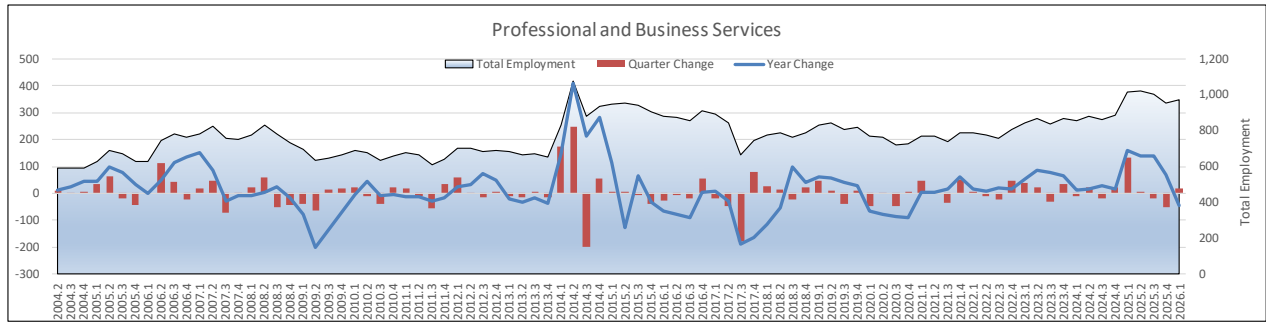
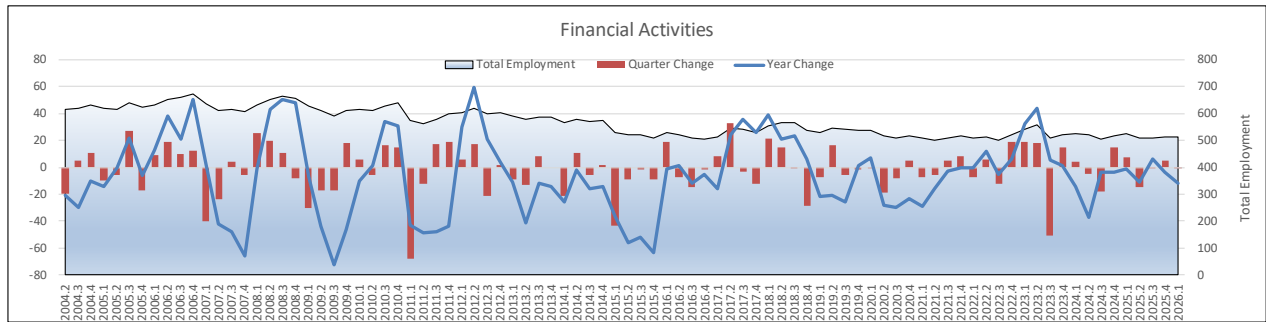
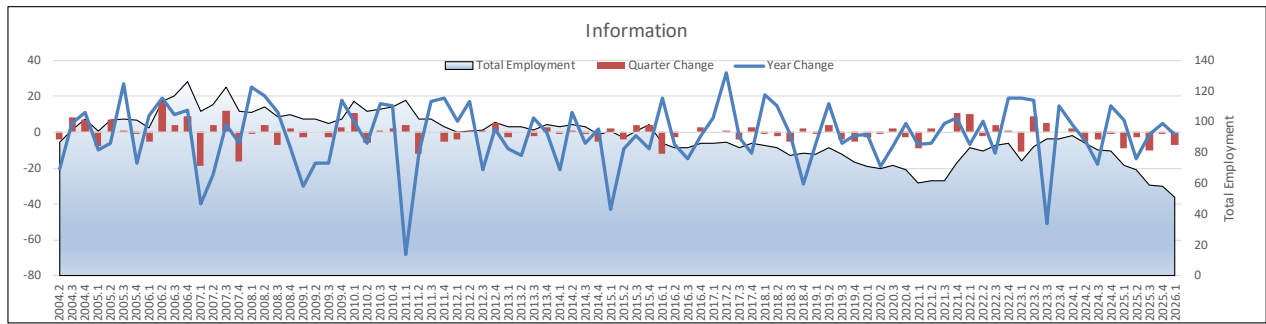
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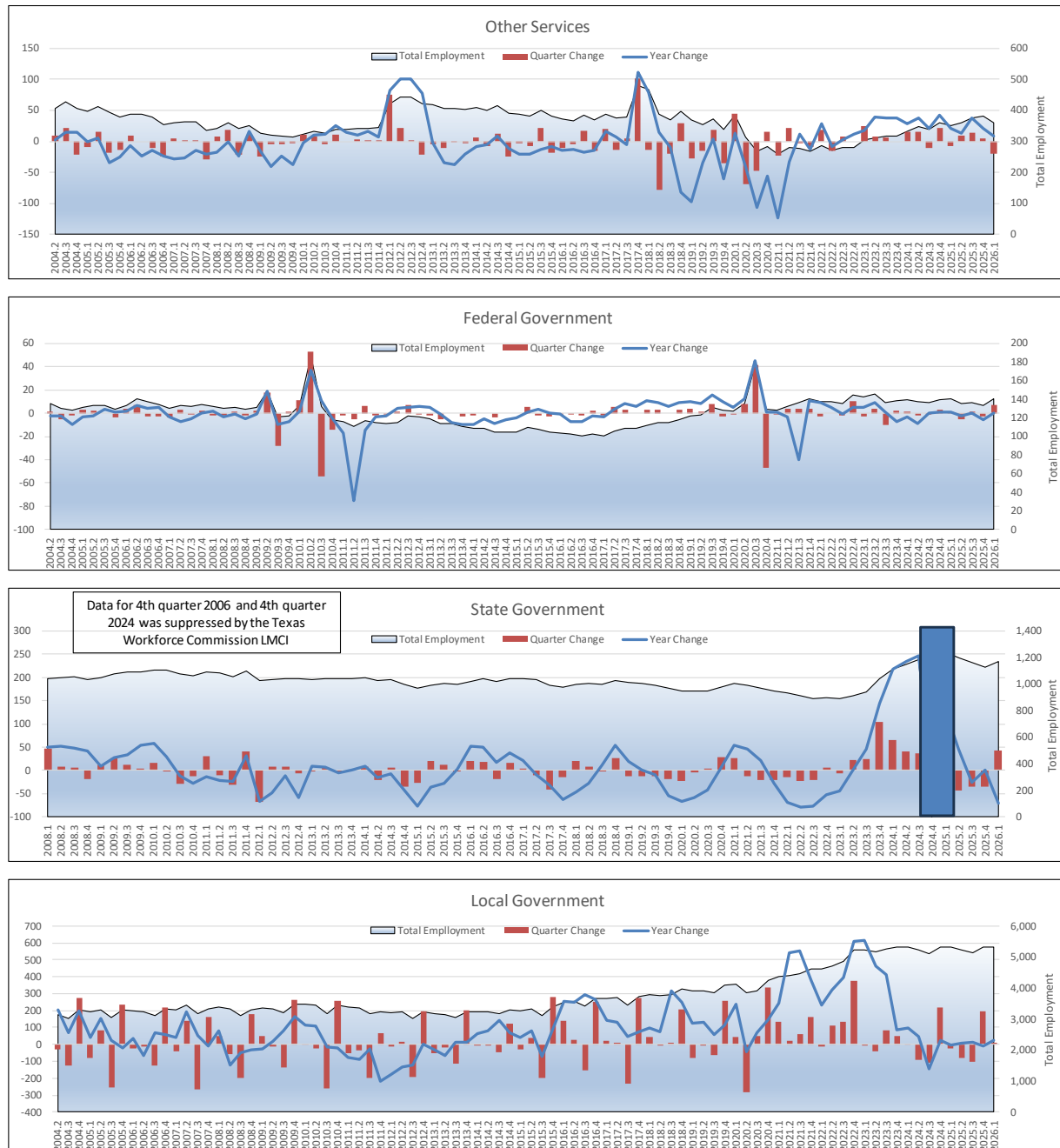
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	20,437	2024.4	15,409	2004.1
Natural Resources and Mining	1,074	2019.2	346	2024.3
Construction	2,567	2026.1	573	2005.1
Manufacturing	2,326	2007.3	881	2016.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	4,342	2024.2	3,124	2004.1
Information	126	2006.4	51	2026.1
Financial Activities	674	2006.4	502	2021.2
Professional and Business Services	1,076	2014.2	549	2003.4
Education and Health Services	2,270	2012.4	1,691	2020.2
Leisure and Hospitality	1,796	2023.2	1,093	2004.4
Other Services	480	2017.4	259	2021.1
Federal Government	186	2010.2	101	2016.3
State Government	1,239	2025.1	891	2023.1
Local Government	5,333	2026.1	2,946	2003.2

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-124	-0.7%	164	1.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	6	0.8%	0	0.7%
Construction	-35	-2.7%	34	3.6%
Manufacturing	-61	-3.5%	15	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-52	-1.2%	58	1.5%
Information	-3	-2.7%	1	0.8%
Financial Activities	-5	-0.8%	1	0.1%
Professional and Business Services	24	3.5%	21	2.8%
Education and Health Services	-48	-2.4%	6	0.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	27	2.1%	31	2.3%
Other Services	4	1.5%	-5	-1.0%
Federal Government	0	0.3%	5	3.7%
State Government	na	na	na	na
Local Government	7	0.2%	-9	-0.2%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-113	-0.7%	288	1.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	-18	-2.1%	4	0.2%
Construction	45	3.7%	32	1.8%
Manufacturing	7	0.4%	12	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18	0.5%	9	0.3%
Information	0	-0.1%	0	0.6%
Financial Activities	-2	-0.4%	2	0.4%
Professional and Business Services	-37	-4.3%	13	1.7%
Education and Health Services	1	0.1%	29	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	-15	-1.1%	-20	-1.4%
Other Services	0	-0.1%	-2	-0.4%
Federal Government	-2	-0.8%	-2	-1.4%
State Government	na	na	na	na
Local Government	-106	-3.1%	215	6.2%

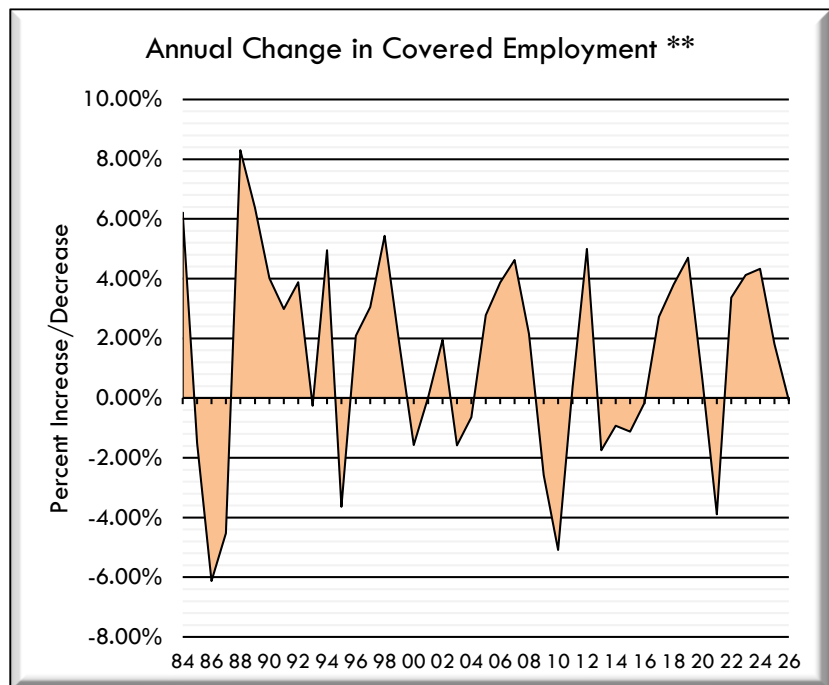
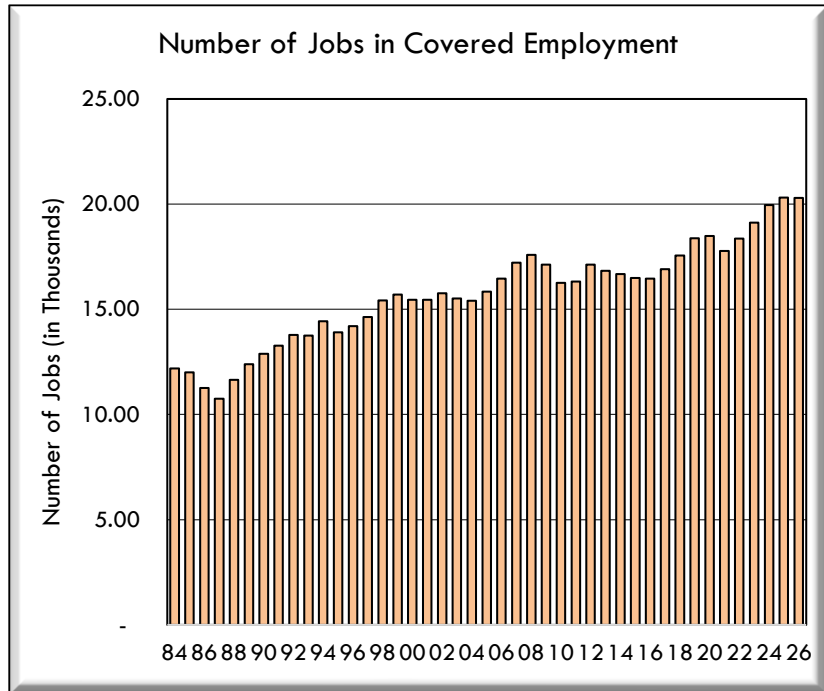
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Liberty County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	11,469		
84	12,181	712	6.2%
85	11,998	(183)	-1.5%
86	11,263	(735)	-6.1%
87	10,753	(510)	-4.5%
88	11,646	893	8.3%
89	12,387	741	6.4%
90	12,884	497	4.0%
91	13,268	384	3.0%
92	13,783	515	3.9%
93	13,747	(36)	-0.3%
94	14,428	681	5.0%
95	13,902	(526)	-3.6%
96	14,192	290	2.1%
97	14,625	433	3.1%
98	15,419	794	5.4%
99	15,698	279	1.8%
00	15,452	(246)	-1.6%
01	15,456	4	0.0%
02	15,757	301	1.9%
03	15,508	(249)	-1.6%
04	15,409	(99)	-0.6%
05	15,836	427	2.8%
06	16,449	613	3.9%
07	17,210	761	4.6%
08	17,580	370	2.1%
09	17,127	(453)	-2.6%
10	16,256	(871)	-5.1%
11	16,311	55	0.3%
12	17,126	815	5.0%
13	16,827	(299)	-1.7%
14	16,672	(155)	-0.9%
15	16,485	(187)	-1.1%
16	16,459	(26)	-0.2%
17	16,906	447	2.7%
18	17,559	653	3.8%
19	18,373	814	4.7%
20	18,482	109	0.6%
21	17,763	(719)	-3.9%
22	18,361	598	3.4%
23	19,117	756	4.1%
24	19,945	828	4.3%
25	20,307	362	1.8%
26	20,289	(18)	-0.1%



**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** 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.