

MARCH 2026

Current Employment Overview



On May 1st, 2026, the Texas Workforce Commission released employment statistics for **March 2026**. Our detailed regional report for researchers and analysts is at <https://www.wrksolutions.com/regional-economic-data/houston-area-employment-situation>. Below are highlights.

4.4%

MARCH Regional Unemployment Rate
(not seasonally adjusted)

- Represents 171,469 people looking for a job
- **DOWN** from a peak of 13.5% in April 2020
- **DOWN** from 4.7% last month
- **UP** from 4.2% last year
- **HIGHER** than the statewide rate of 4.1%
- **HIGHER** than the national rate of 4.3%

Monthly Change – Employers in the Houston region added 16,400 jobs over the month, which is moderately above the long-term average of March each year.

- The top-3 drivers of over-the-month Job gain this March were:
 - Leisure and Hospitality: +6,000
 - Professional and Business Services: +3,200
 - Government: +2,500

Year-over-Year Change – Total Nonfarm employment was up 18,900 jobs or 0.5%.

- A year prior, growth stood at 46,200. 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, 6 of 11 sectors show over-the-year decline led by Mining and Logging (-5,000), Financial Activities (-2,700), and Manufacturing (-2,300).

If you have any questions, please contact Mohammad Ahmadizadeh: Mohammad.Ahmadizadeh@wrksolutions.net or Parker Harvey: parker.harvey@wrksolutions.net. The Texas Workforce Commission will release April 2026 employment figures on May 22, 2026.

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

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