

Harris County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Harris County's unemployment rate was 5.0 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.

Harris County payroll employment declined by 32,107 jobs (1.3 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, nearly twice the county's historical average first-quarter decline of 0.8 percent. Manufacturing was the only one of the 11 major industry sectors to add jobs, gaining 1,832 jobs (1.0 percent). Losses were widespread, and many sectors experienced larger declines than are typical during the first quarter. The largest quarterly losses occurred in:

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: -9,247 jobs (-1.8 percent)
Professional and Business Services: -8,350 jobs (-1.9 percent)

On a year-over-year basis, Harris County lost 6,876 jobs (0.3 percent) between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. This marked a reversal from the 0.3 percent annual increase recorded in the previous quarter. Only four major industry sectors added jobs over the year, down from six in the previous quarter. The largest annual declines occurred in:

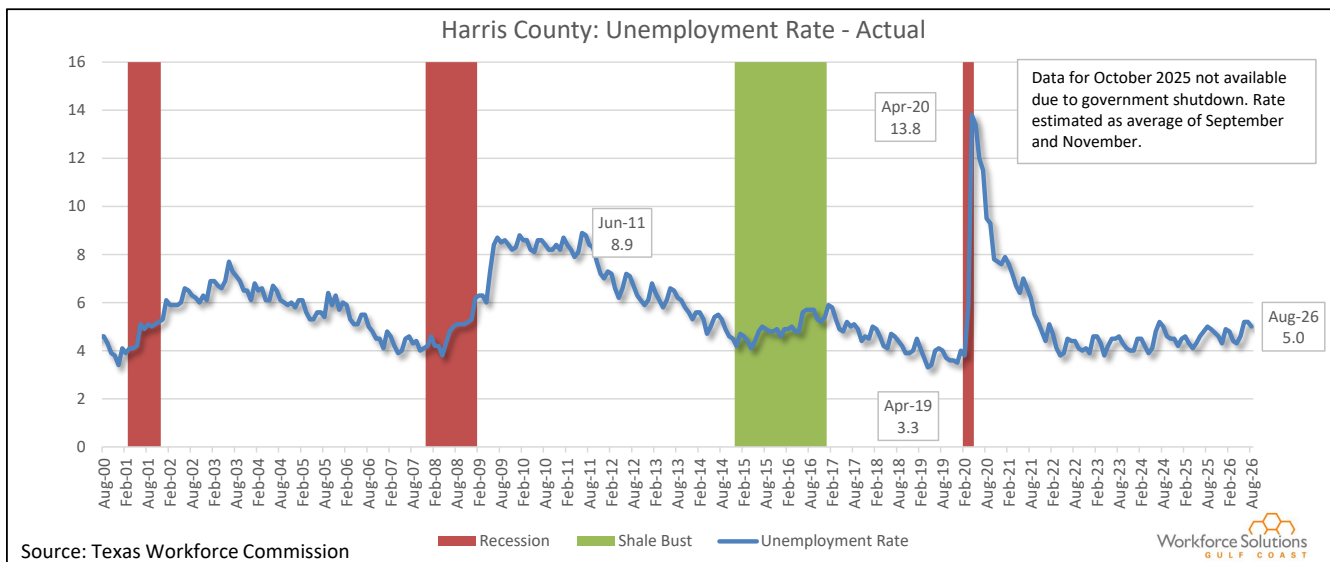
Natural Resources and Mining: -4,306 jobs (-6.8 percent)
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: -4,013 jobs (-0.8 percent)
Public Administration: -3,048 jobs (-1.1 percent)
The largest annual gains were recorded in:

Construction: +5,435 jobs (+3.1 percent)
Education and Health Services: +3,524 jobs (+1.1 percent)

Overall, the first-quarter decline was both broader and more severe than the county's typical seasonal contraction, with Manufacturing providing the only source of quarterly growth. The year-over-year loss also suggests that weakness extended beyond normal first-quarter seasonality. Continued gains in Construction and Education and Health Services provided some stability, but they were insufficient to offset losses in the energy-related, trade and transportation, government, and business-services portions of the economy. The unchanged unemployment rate, despite declining payroll employment, may reflect changes in the labor force as well as differences between the household-based unemployment measure and establishment-based payroll data.

Additional details are provided on pages 2–7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	2,548,851	2,546,812	2,533,139
Employed	2,421,852	2,414,918	2,407,148
Unemployed	126,999	131,894	125,991
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.2%	5.0%
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.

Harris County

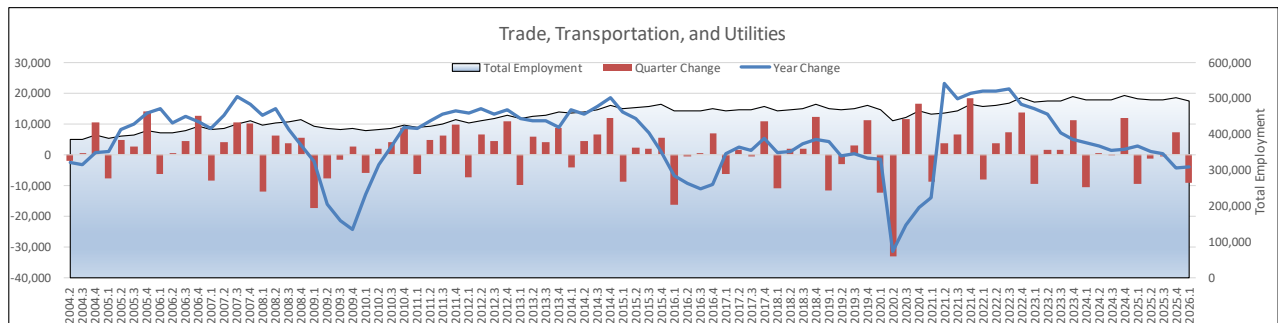
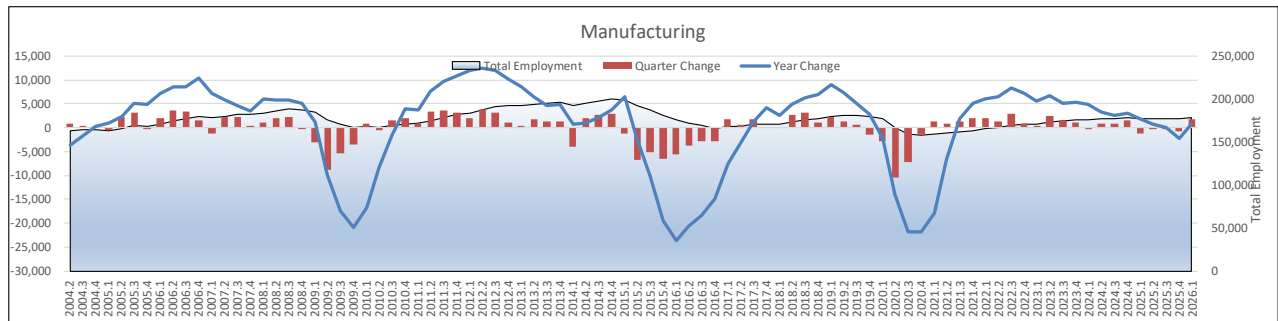
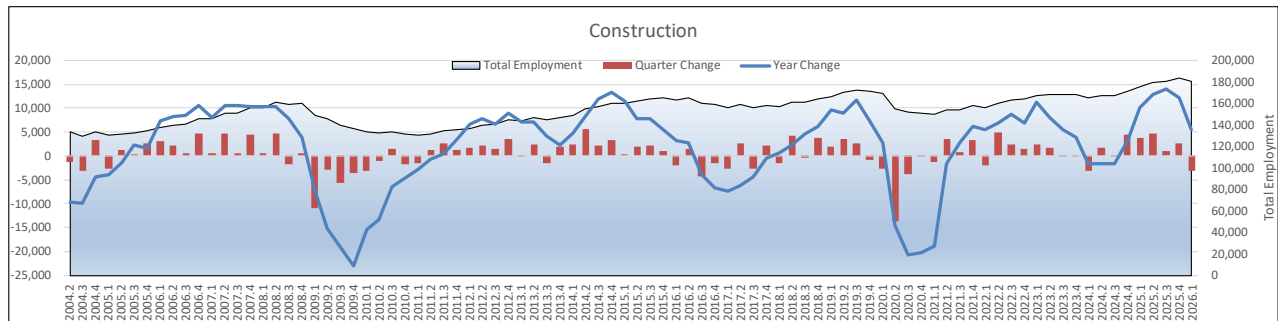
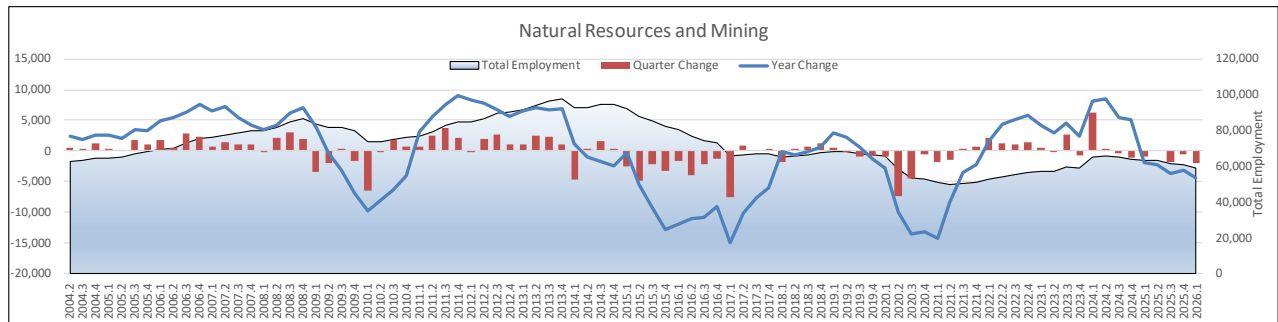
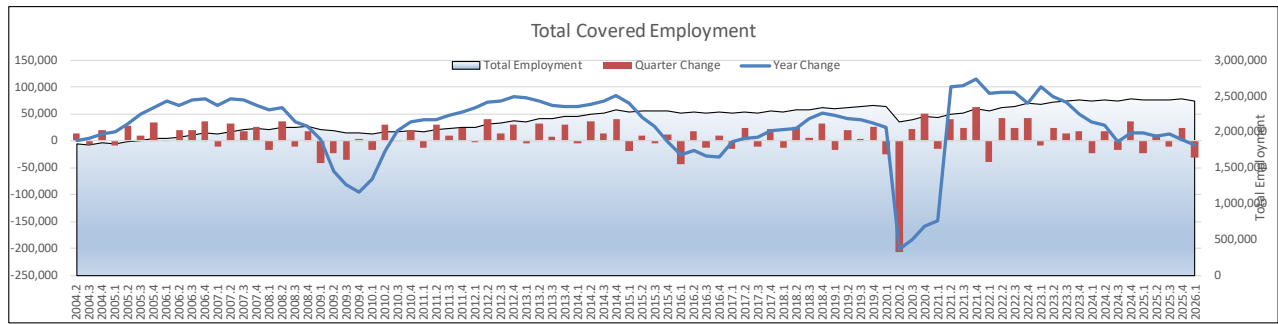
Labor Market Information

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	2,434,008	2,466,115	2,440,884	-32,107	-1.3%	-6,876	-0.3%	\$2,013
Natural Resources & Mining	59,080	61,085	63,386	-2,005	-3.3%	-4,306	-6.8%	\$6,850
Construction	180,620	183,658	175,185	-3,038	-1.7%	5,435	3.1%	\$1,924
Manufacturing	178,276	176,444	177,484	1,832	1.0%	792	0.4%	\$2,287
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	493,327	502,574	497,340	-9,247	-1.8%	-4,013	-0.8%	\$1,970
Information	19,057	20,016	20,275	-959	-4.8%	-1,218	-6.0%	\$2,496
Financial Activities	126,491	127,473	125,848	-982	-0.8%	643	0.5%	\$3,630
Professional & Business Services	428,679	437,029	429,414	-8,350	-1.9%	-735	-0.2%	\$2,534
Education & Health Services	339,133	343,667	335,609	-4,534	-1.3%	3,524	1.1%	\$1,388
Leisure & Hospitality	248,956	251,570	251,372	-2,614	-1.0%	-2,416	-1.0%	\$651
Other Services	73,175	73,307	75,188	-132	-0.2%	-2,013	-2.7%	\$1,220
Nonclassifiable	2,619	2,717	2,139	-98	-3.6%	480	22.4%	\$1,367
Public Administration	284,595	286,575	287,643	-1,980	-0.7%	-3,048	-1.1%	\$1,576
Federal Government	26,432	27,117	28,272	-685	-2.5%	-1,840	-6.5%	\$2,480
State Government	64,111	64,139	64,028	-28	0.0%	83	0.1%	\$2,028
Local Government	194,052	195,319	195,343	-1,267	-0.6%	-1,291	-0.7%	\$1,304

*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.

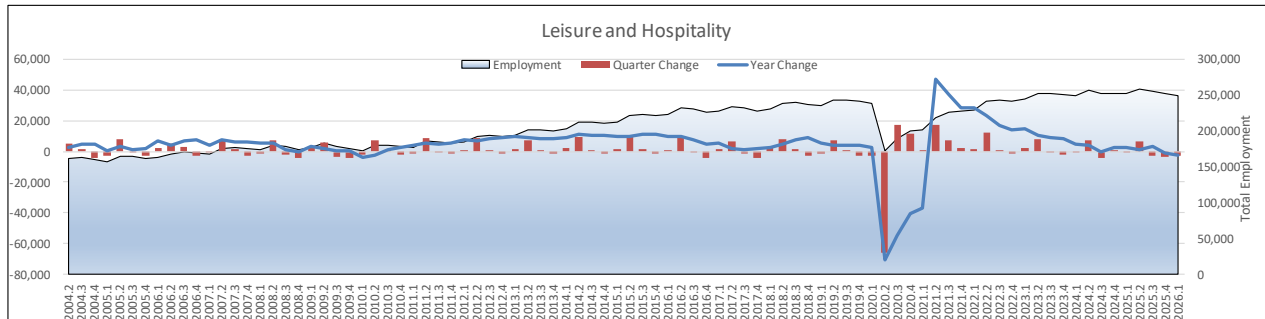
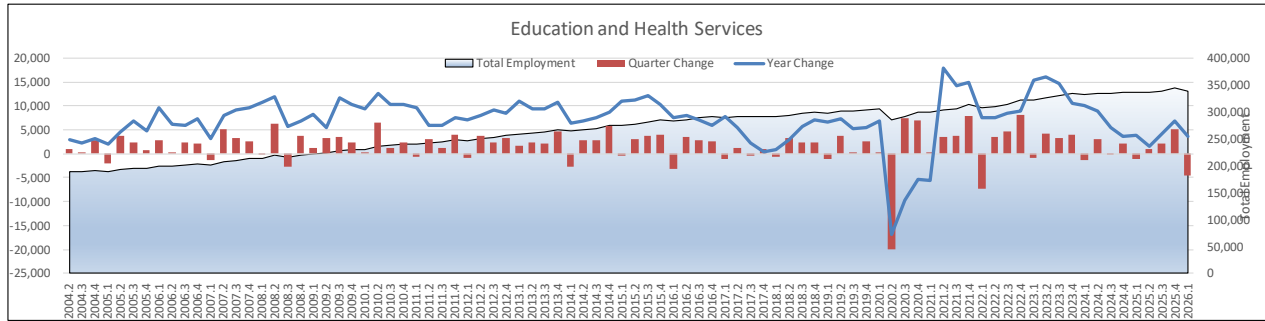
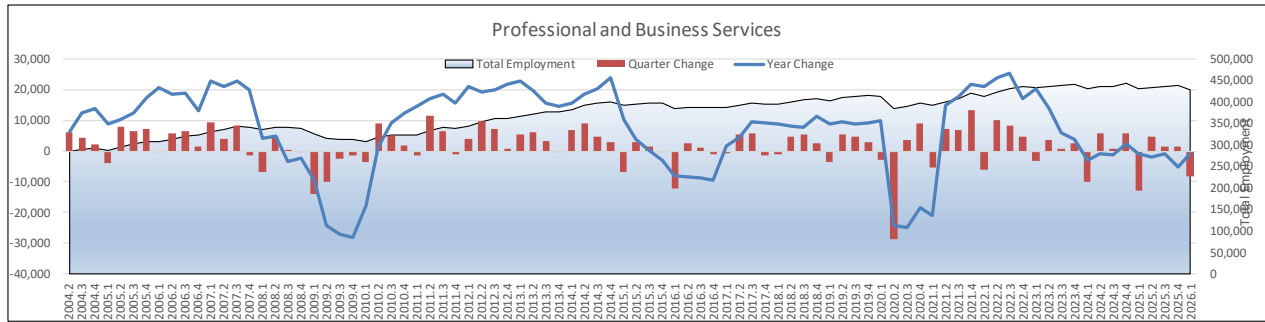
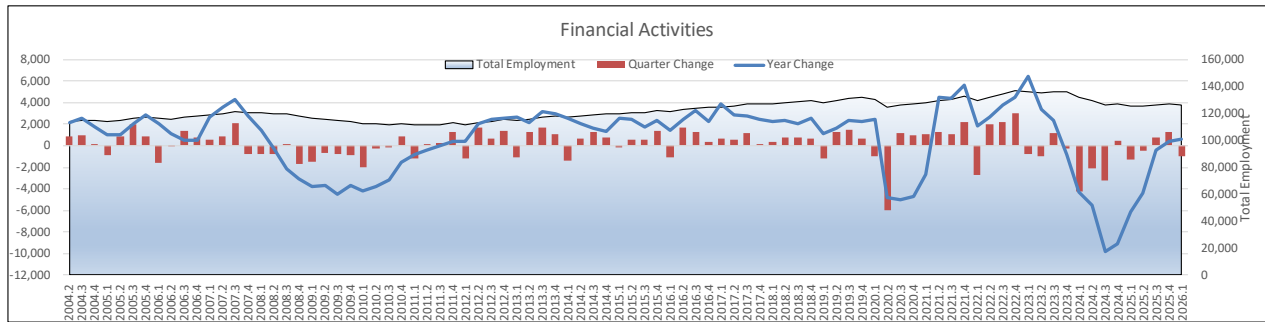
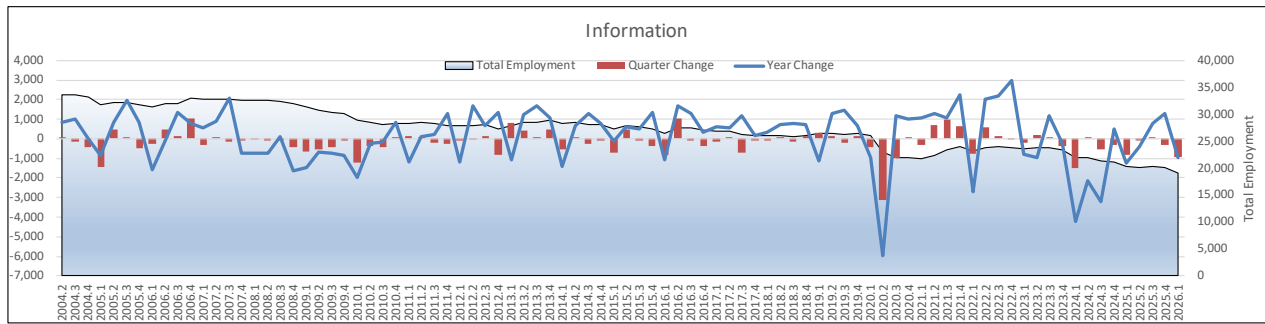
Harris County

Labor Market Information



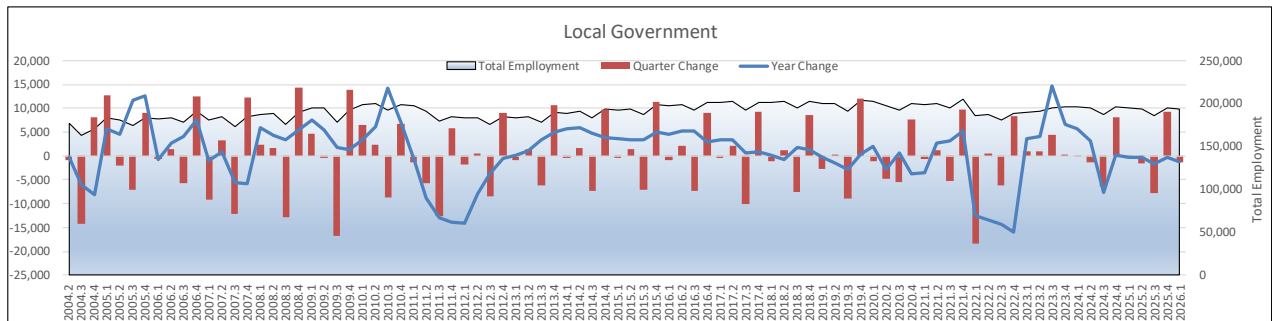
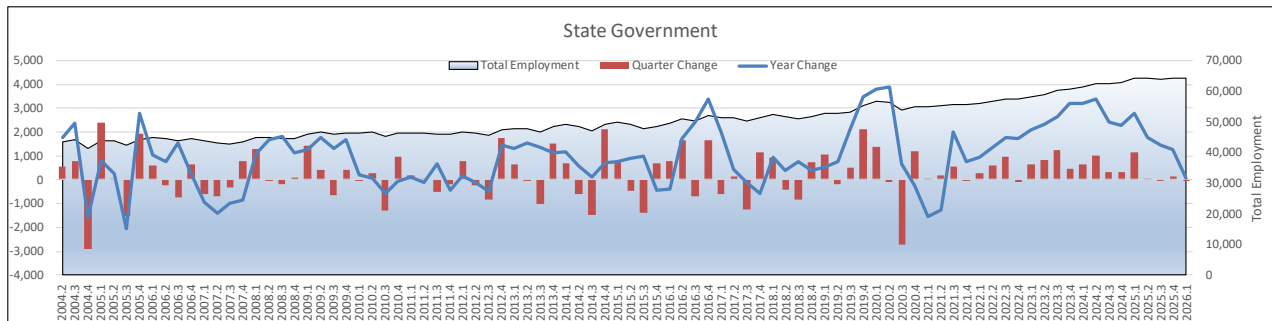
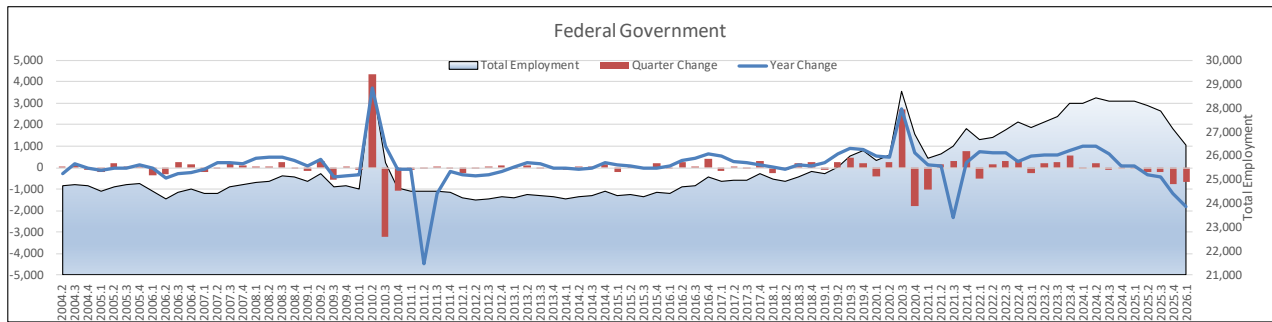
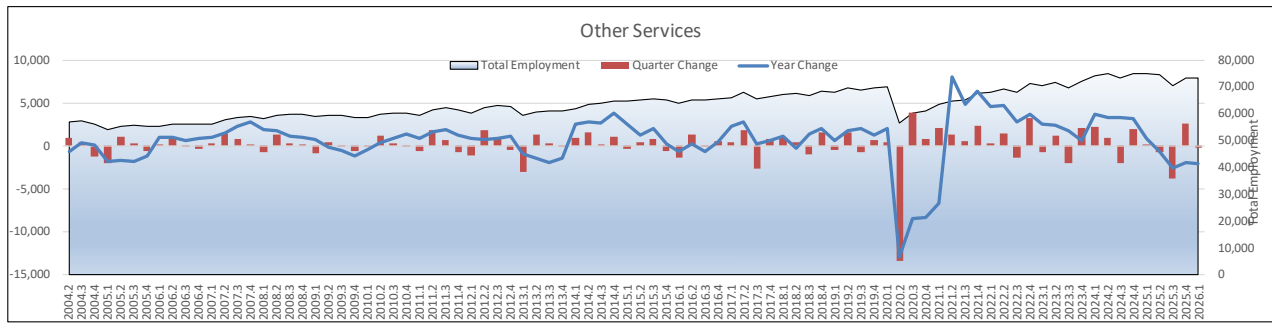
Harris County

Labor Market Information



Harris County

Labor Market Information



Harris County

Labor Market Information

Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	2,466,115	2025.4	1,819,245	2004.1
Natural Resources and Mining	97,391	2013.4	49,872	2021.2
Construction	183,658	2025.4	129,802	2004.3
Manufacturing	200,528	2014.4	158,098	2020.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	506,814	2024.4	385,695	2004.2
Information	34,436	2003.2	19,057	2026.1
Financial Activities	137,103	2022.4	111,405	2011.1
Professional and Business Services	442,150	2024.4	276,899	2003.3
Education and Health Services	343,667	2025.4	185,018	2003.2
Leisure and Hospitality	257,825	2025.2	154,955	2003.4
Other Services	75,188	2025.1	54,324	2005.1
Federal Government	28,957	2010.2	24,148	2012.2
State Government	64,139	2025.4	41,312	2004.4
Local Government	204,807	2021.4	162,213	2004.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-17,584	-0.8%	13,895	0.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	-854	-0.9%	-229	-0.3%
Construction	-1,035	-0.7%	1,467	1.0%
Manufacturing	-190	-0.1%	73	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-9,298	-2.1%	297	0.1%
Information	-447	-1.7%	32	0.1%
Financial Activities	-966	-0.8%	177	0.2%
Professional and Business Services	-3,318	-0.8%	3,927	1.2%
Education and Health Services	-1,093	-0.4%	2,228	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	126	0.1%	4,765	2.7%
Other Services	-148	-0.3%	544	1.0%
Federal Government	-225	-0.9%	297	1.2%
State Government	621	1.3%	126	0.2%
Local Government	-658	-0.3%	287	0.2%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	3,012	0.1%	27,683	1.3%
Natural Resources and Mining	686	0.9%	355	0.5%
Construction	-354	-0.2%	1,438	1.0%
Manufacturing	598	0.3%	57	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3,440	0.8%	10,475	2.3%
Information	-137	-0.5%	-103	-0.3%
Financial Activities	800	0.7%	643	0.5%
Professional and Business Services	3,806	1.1%	2,270	0.6%
Education and Health Services	2,154	0.8%	3,502	1.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	823	0.5%	-1,577	-0.8%
Other Services	-200	-0.2%	462	0.6%
Federal Government	30	0.2%	28	0.1%
State Government	-476	-1.0%	743	1.5%
Local Government	-8,170	-4.3%	9,391	5.2%

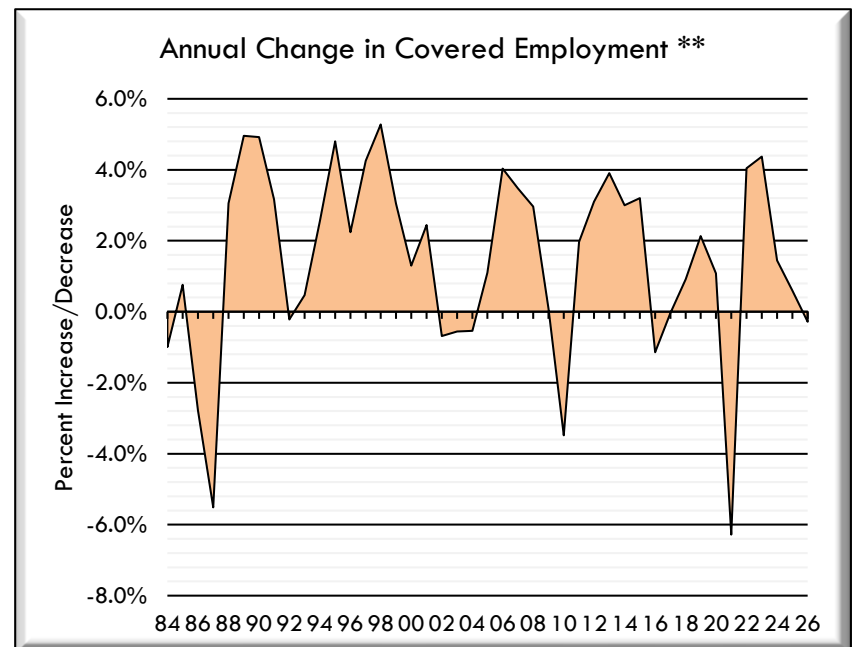
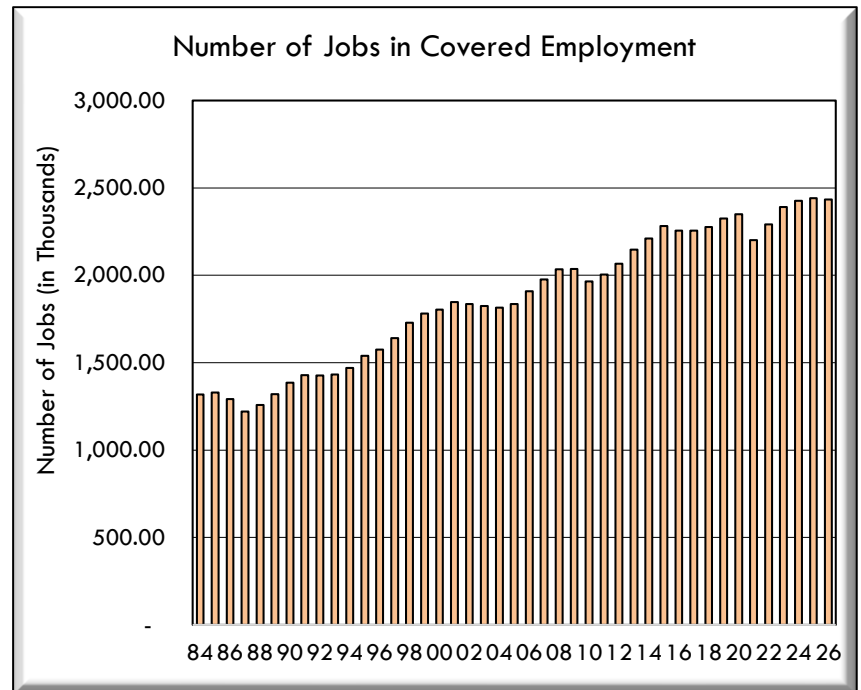
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

Harris County

Labor Market Information

Harris County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ /(-)	% +/-
83	1,332,179		
84	1,318,891	(13,288)	-1.0%
85	1,328,977	10,086	0.8%
86	1,292,088	(36,889)	-2.8%
87	1,220,869	(71,219)	-5.5%
88	1,258,130	37,261	3.1%
89	1,320,449	62,319	5.0%
90	1,385,405	64,956	4.9%
91	1,429,301	43,896	3.2%
92	1,426,216	(3,085)	-0.2%
93	1,432,853	6,637	0.5%
94	1,469,444	36,591	2.6%
95	1,540,031	70,587	4.8%
96	1,574,596	34,565	2.2%
97	1,641,593	66,997	4.3%
98	1,728,169	86,576	5.3%
99	1,780,815	52,646	3.0%
00	1,803,910	23,095	1.3%
01	1,848,040	44,130	2.4%
02	1,835,377	(12,663)	-0.7%
03	1,825,209	(10,168)	-0.6%
04	1,815,440	(9,769)	-0.5%
05	1,835,463	20,023	1.1%
06	1,909,566	74,103	4.0%
07	1,975,901	66,335	3.5%
08	2,034,465	58,564	3.0%
09	2,036,427	1,962	0.1%
10	1,965,500	(70,927)	-3.5%
11	2,004,248	38,748	2.0%
12	2,066,426	62,178	3.1%
13	2,147,197	80,771	3.9%
14	2,211,537	64,340	3.0%
15	2,282,431	70,894	3.2%
16	2,256,393	(26,038)	-1.1%
17	2,255,676	(717)	0.0%
18	2,276,257	20,581	0.9%
19	2,324,801	48,544	2.1%
20	2,350,017	25,216	1.1%
21	2,202,403	(147,614)	-6.3%
22	2,291,516	89,113	4.0%
23	2,391,707	100,191	4.4%
24	2,426,353	34,646	1.4%
25	2,440,884	14,531	0.6%
26	2,434,008	(6,876)	-0.3%



**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.

Harris County

Labor Market Information

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.