

Matagorda County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Matagorda County's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in August 2026, down 0.3 percentage point 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.

Total covered employment in Matagorda County declined by 47 jobs (0.4 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, a smaller decrease than the county's historical average first-quarter decline of 1.1 percent. Four of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs during the quarter. The largest gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality, up 22 jobs (1.7 percent), and Education and Health Services, up 20 jobs (2.1 percent). These gains were offset by losses in several sectors, led by Construction, down 40 jobs (5.6 percent), and Natural Resources and Mining, down 34 jobs (7.7 percent).

On a year-over-year basis, Matagorda County added 34 jobs (0.3 percent), leaving total employment nearly unchanged between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. Five of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs over the year. The largest gains occurred in:

Leisure and Hospitality: +37 jobs (+3.0 percent)

Education and Health Services: +34 jobs (+3.6 percent)

Professional and Business Services: +32 jobs (+5.7 percent)

These gains were largely offset by declines in:

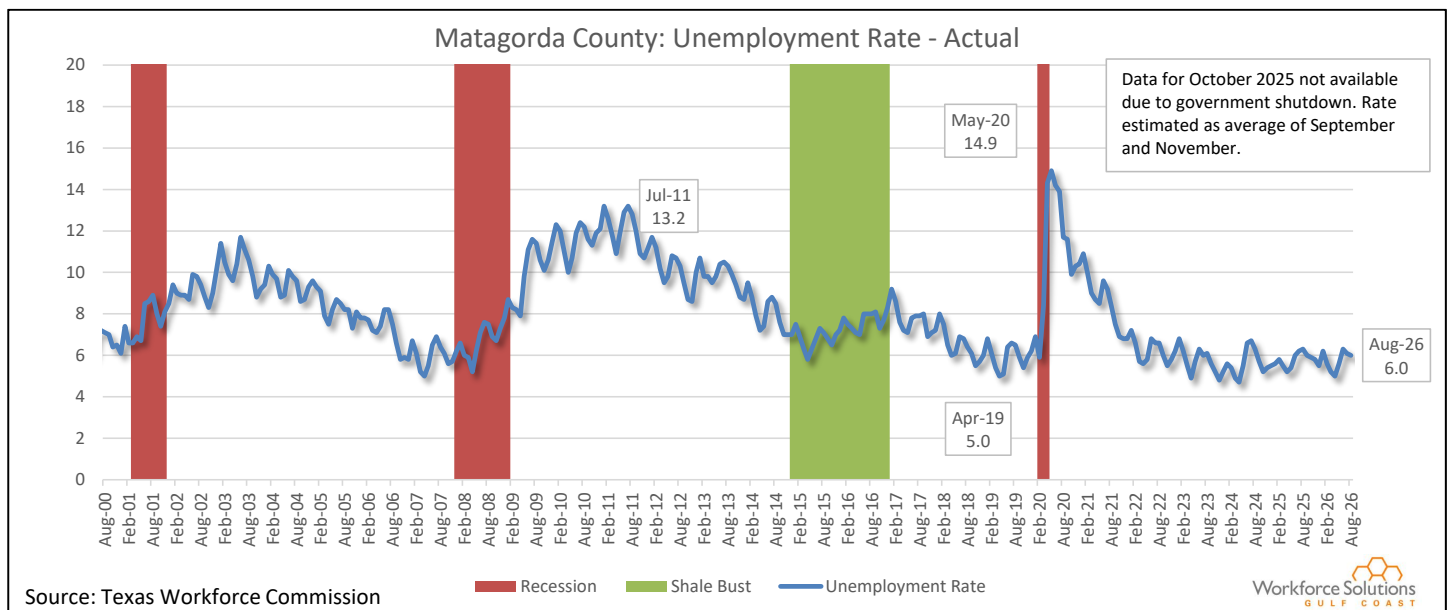
Public Administration: -46 jobs (-1.9 percent)

Construction: -44 jobs (+6.2 percent)

Overall, the county's first-quarter decline was milder than its typical seasonal contraction, while the modest year-over-year increase points to limited underlying employment growth. Gains in service-related industries provided some support, but continued weakness in Construction and Public Administration constrained the overall expansion. Although the unemployment rate remained elevated relative to state and national levels, its decline from one year earlier indicates some improvement in local labor-market conditions.

Additional details are provided on pages 2-7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	17,436	17,434	17,086
Total Employment	16,398	16,33	17,086
Unemployed	1,038	1,061	1,076
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	6.1%	6.3%
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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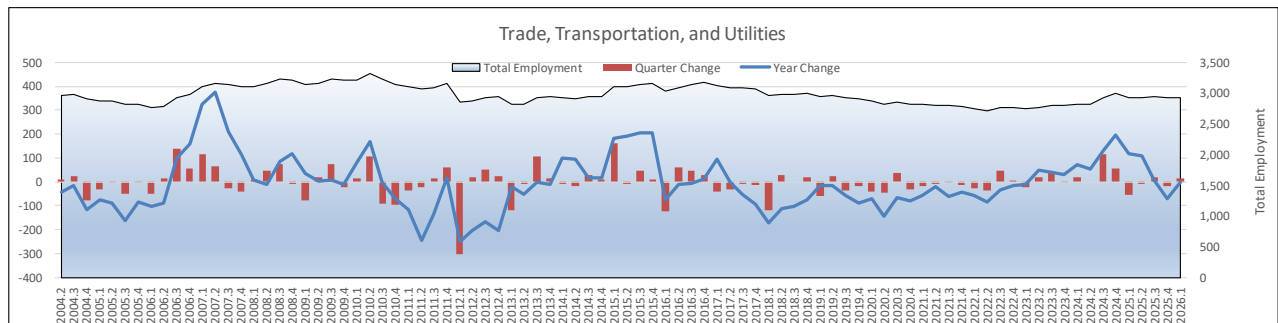
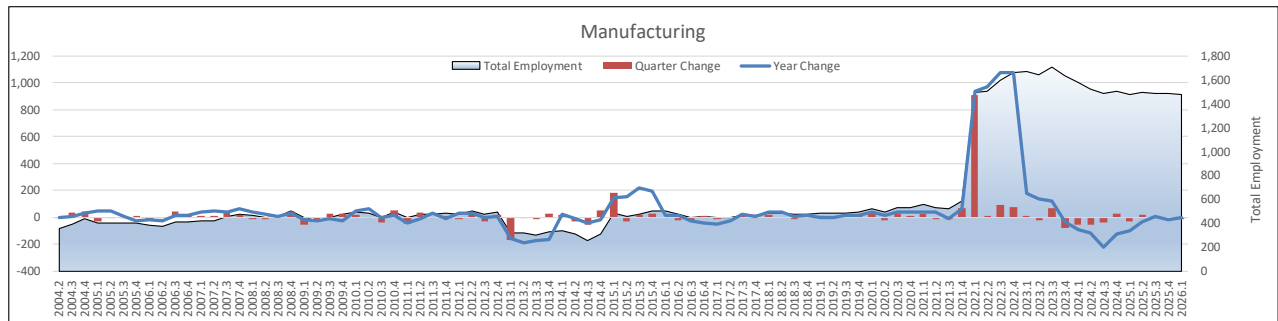
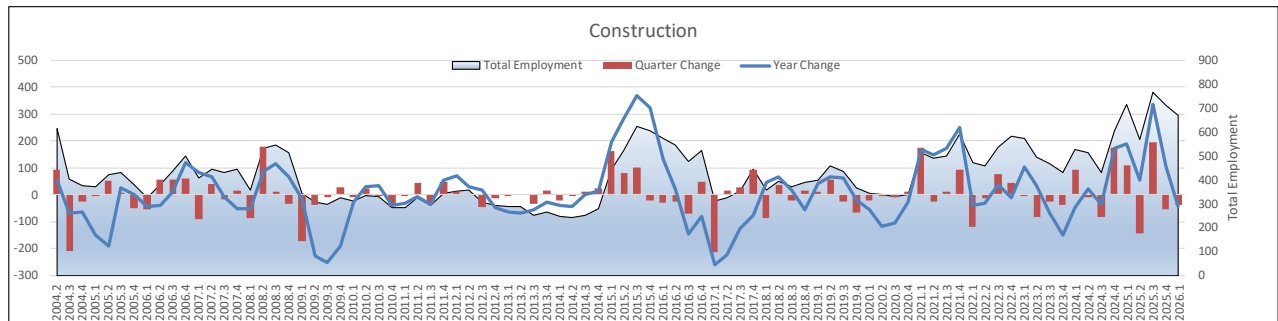
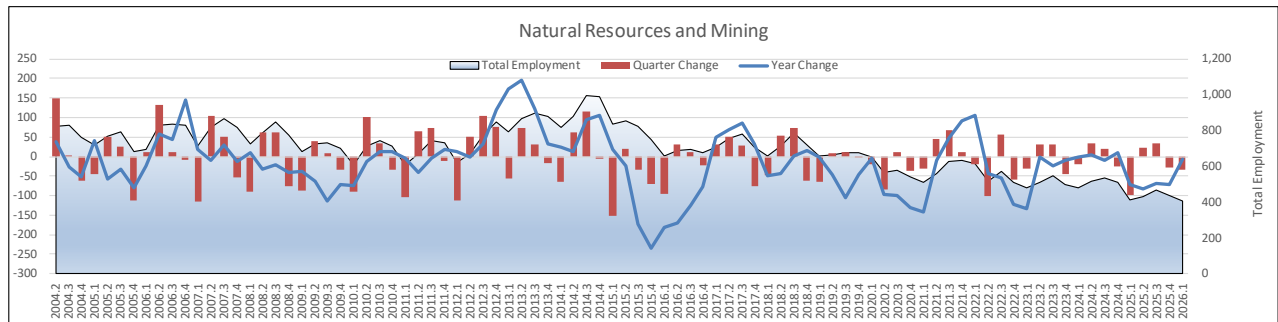
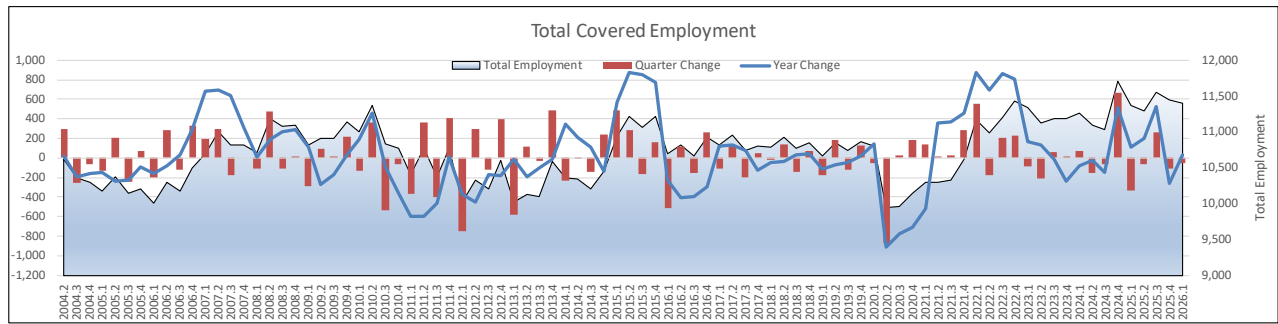
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg.		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	11,402	11,449	11,368	-47	-0.4%	34	0.3%	\$1,510
Natural Resources & Mining	405	439	411	-34	-7.7%	-6	-1.5%	\$942
Construction	670	710	714	-40	-5.6%	-44	-6.2%	\$1,357
Manufacturing	1,473	1,490	1,475	-17	-1.1%	-2	-0.1%	\$2,205
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,931	2,919	2,932	12	0.4%	-1	0.0%	\$2,392
Information	116	120	117	-4	-3.3%	-1	-0.9%	\$688
Financial Activities	352	349	333	3	0.9%	19	5.7%	\$1,139
Professional & Business Services	595	601	563	-6	-1.0%	32	5.7%	\$1,579
Education & Health Services	979	959	945	20	2.1%	34	3.6%	\$1,023
Leisure & Hospitality	1,289	1,267	1,252	22	1.7%	37	3.0%	\$421
Other Services	247	251	236	-4	-1.6%	11	4.7%	\$785
Nonclassifiable	16	20	16	-4	na	na	na	na
Public Administration	2,329	2,323	2,375	6	0.3%	-46	-1.9%	\$1,073
Federal Government	70	74	79	-4	-5.4%	-9	-11.4%	\$1,575
State Government	103	104	110	-1	-1.0%	-7	-6.4%	\$1,193
Local Government	2,156	2,145	2,186	11	0.5%	-30	-1.4%	\$1,051

*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.

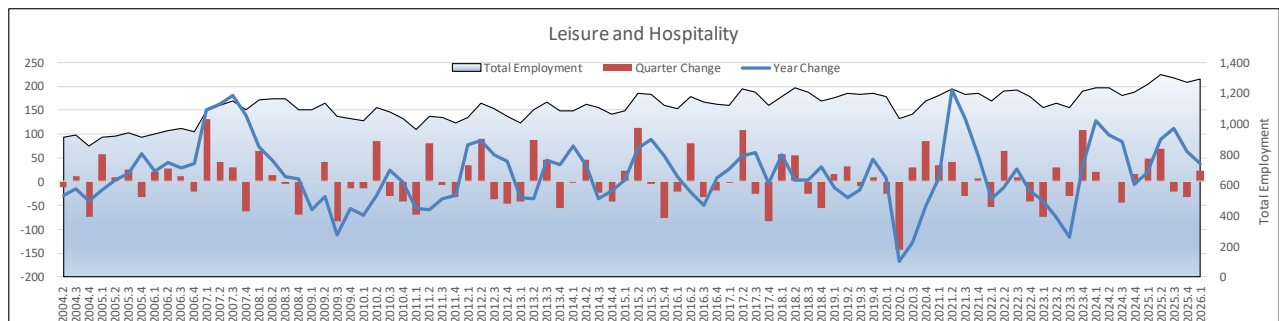
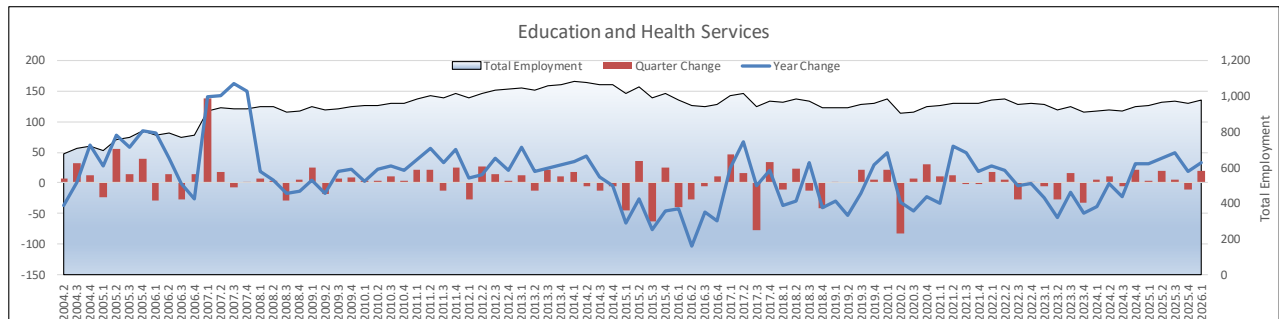
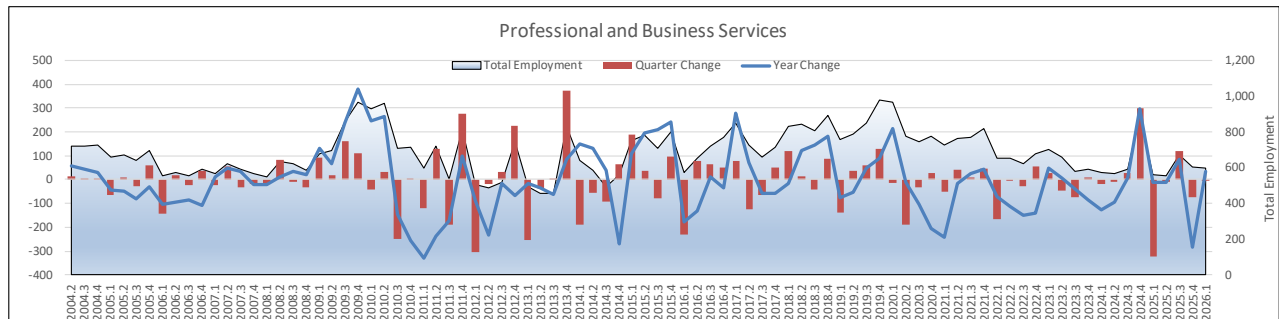
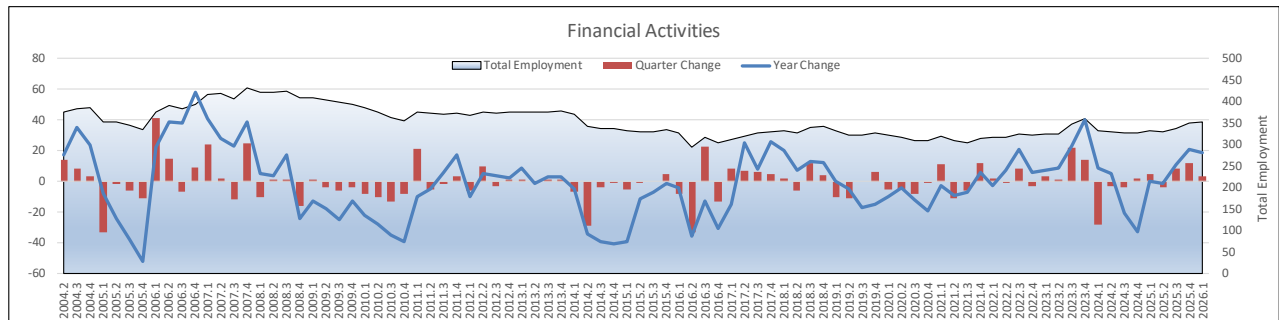
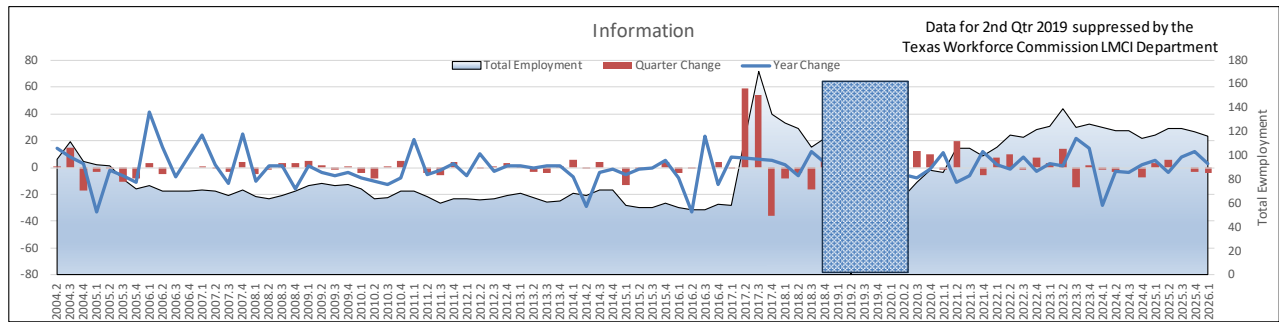
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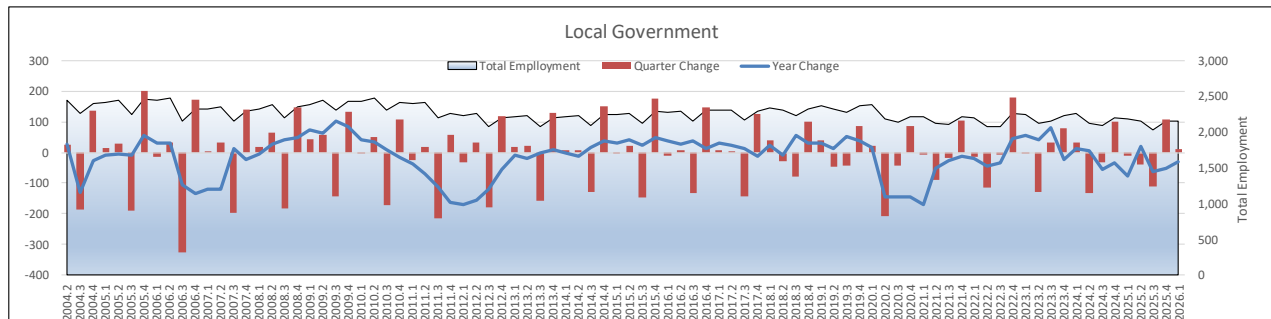
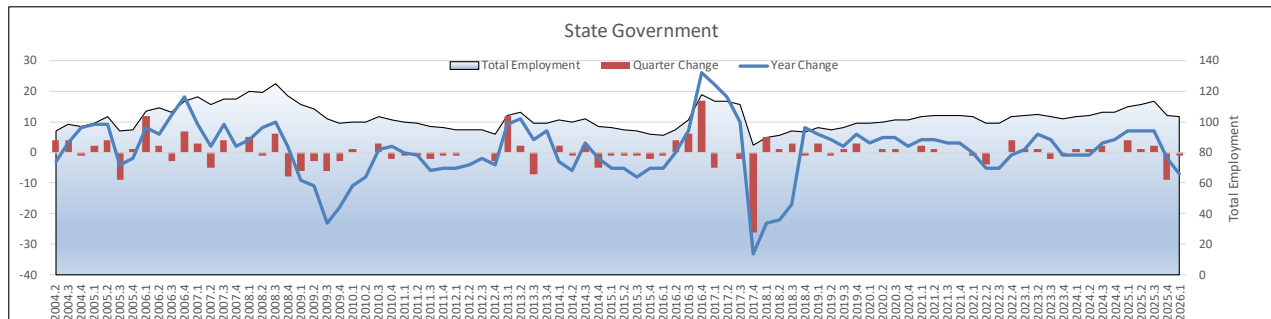
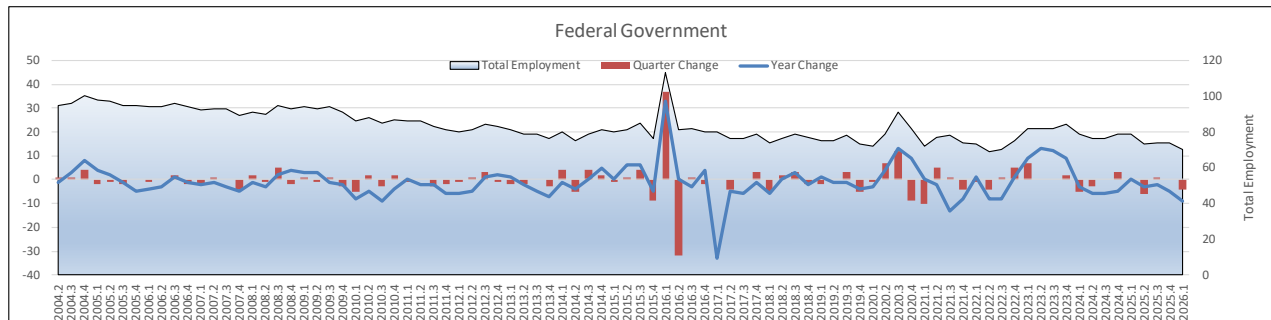
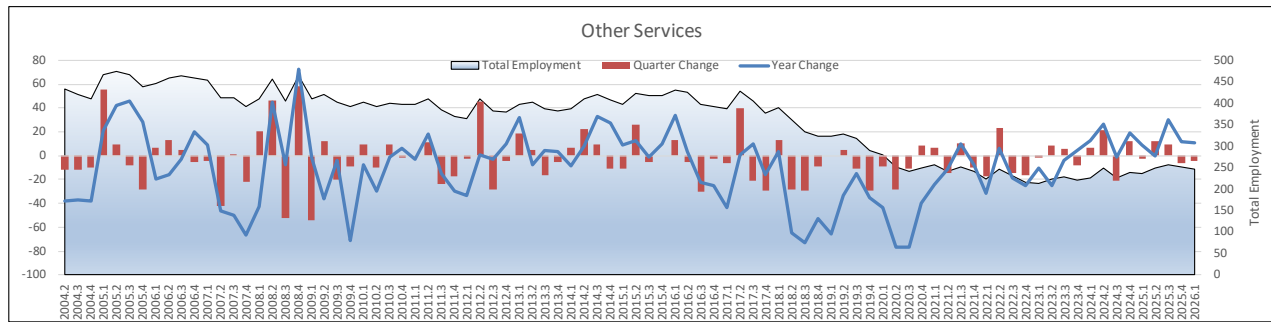
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	11,706	2024.4	9,938	2020.2
Natural Resources and Mining	993	2014.3	405	2026.1
Construction	766	2025.3	242	2014.2
Manufacturing	1,711	2023.3	256	2014.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3,321	2010.2	2,716	2022.2
Information	171	2017.3	55	2016.2
Financial Activities	432	2007.4	295	2016.2
Professional and Business Services	979	2019.4	455	2013.2
Education and Health Services	1,083	2014.1	660	2003.4
Leisure and Hospitality	1,321	2025.2	851	2004.4
Other Services	474	2005.2	214	2023.1
Federal Government	113	2016.1	69	2022.2
State Government	125	2008.3	85	2017.4
Local Government	2,480	2010.2	2,036	2025.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-122	-1.1%	107	1.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	-64	-8.8%	46	6.9%
Construction	-14	-1.0%	22	6.5%
Manufacturing	30	6.3%	-9	-1.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-47	-1.2%	11	0.3%
Information	0	0.3%	na	na
Financial Activities	0	0.1%	-3	-1.0%
Professional and Business Services	-69	-8.0%	4	1.3%
Education and Health Services	8	1.0%	4	0.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	11	1.2%	42	4.0%
Other Services	2	0.4%	7	2.1%
Federal Government	0	0.7%	-2	-1.3%
State Government	2	1.8%	0	0.3%
Local Government	6	0.3%	-17	-0.8%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-106	-1.0%	181	1.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	39	5.7%	-35	-4.7%
Construction	-8	-1.7%	16	4.3%
Manufacturing	7	0.8%	20	4.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	27	1.0%	-1	0.0%
Information	na	na	-1	0.4%
Financial Activities	0	0.2%	2	0.6%
Professional and Business Services	-19	-2.1%	89	15.4%
Education and Health Services	-6	-0.5%	6	0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	-11	-0.8%	-27	-2.5%
Other Services	-12	-2.9%	-7	-1.8%
Federal Government	1	1.7%	-1	-1.4%
State Government	0	0.0%	-1	-1.1%
Local Government	-123	-5.2%	123	5.7%

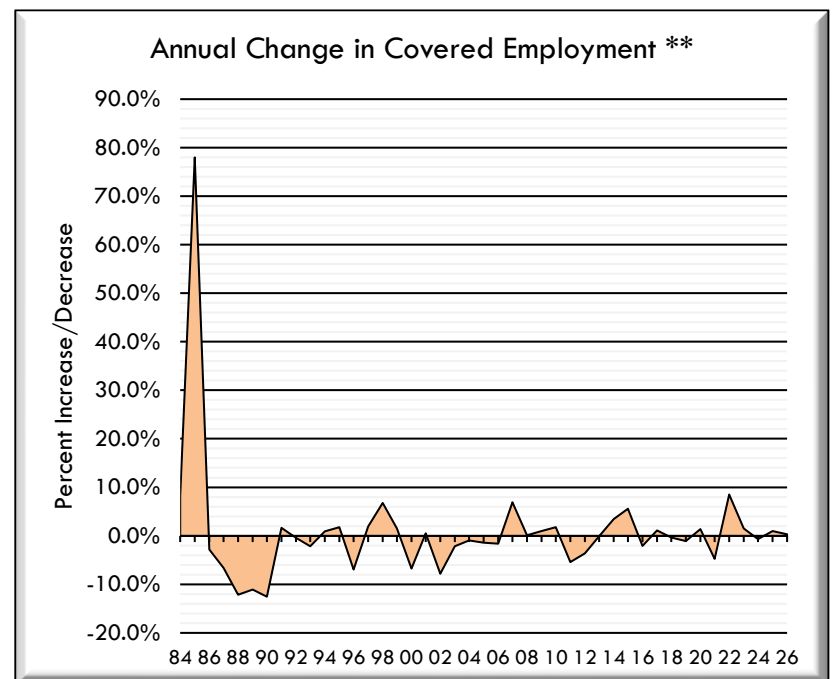
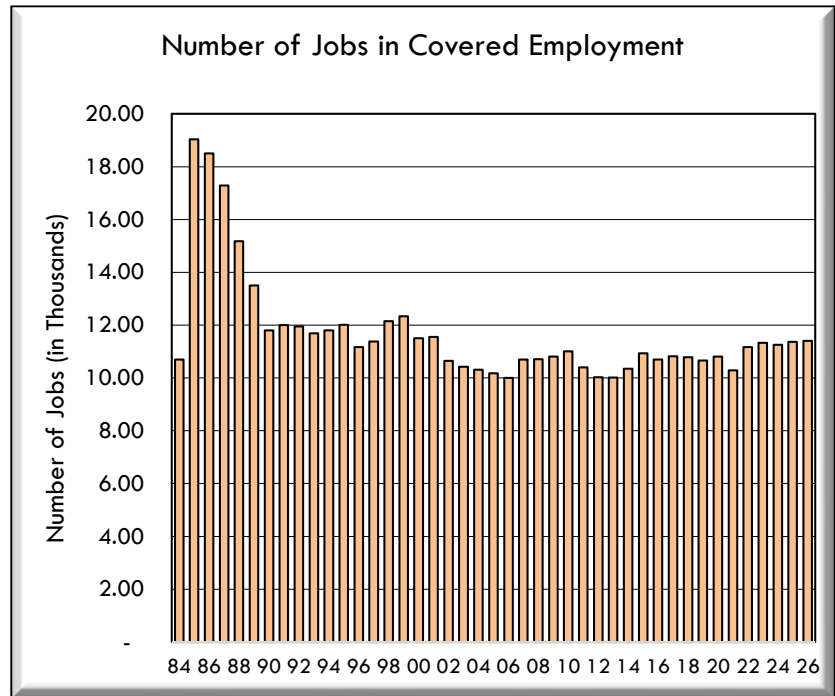
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Matagorda County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	9,889		
84	10,696	807	8.2%
85	19,040	8,344	78.0%
86	18,506	(534)	-2.8%
87	17,283	(1,223)	-6.6%
88	15,183	(2,100)	-12.2%
89	13,499	(1,684)	-11.1%
90	11,806	(1,693)	-12.5%
91	12,000	194	1.6%
92	11,952	(48)	-0.4%
93	11,692	(260)	-2.2%
94	11,798	106	0.9%
95	12,008	210	1.8%
96	11,172	(836)	-7.0%
97	11,384	212	1.9%
98	12,151	767	6.7%
99	12,332	181	1.5%
00	11,500	(832)	-6.7%
01	11,557	57	0.5%
02	10,652	(905)	-7.8%
03	10,420	(232)	-2.2%
04	10,318	(102)	-1.0%
05	10,170	(148)	-1.4%
06	10,007	(163)	-1.6%
07	10,696	689	6.9%
08	10,709	13	0.1%
09	10,815	106	1.0%
10	11,004	189	1.7%
11	10,404	(600)	-5.5%
12	10,026	(378)	-3.6%
13	10,014	(12)	-0.1%
14	10,356	342	3.4%
15	10,933	577	5.6%
16	10,702	(231)	-2.1%
17	10,822	120	1.1%
18	10,780	(42)	-0.4%
19	10,665	(115)	-1.1%
20	10,808	143	1.3%
21	10,292	(516)	-4.8%
22	11,169	877	8.5%
23	11,336	167	1.5%
24	11,258	(78)	-0.7%
25	11,368	110	1.0%
26	11,402	34	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. 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.