

Waller County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Waller County's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in August 2026, down 0.1 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.

Waller County added 283 jobs (1.0 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, outperforming its historical average first-quarter decline of 0.2 percent. Six of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs during the quarter. The largest gains occurred in:

Manufacturing: +266 jobs (+5.1 percent)

Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities: +144 jobs (+1.5 percent)

Construction: +79 jobs (+4.2 percent)

These gains were partially offset by a seasonal decline in Leisure and Hospitality, which lost 330 jobs (17.7 percent).

On a year-over-year basis, Waller County added 1,867 jobs (6.8 percent) between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. The pace of annual growth accelerated from 4.6 percent in the previous quarter, and nine of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs. The largest contributors were:

Manufacturing: +717 jobs (+15.0 percent)

Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities: +543 jobs (+5.9 percent)

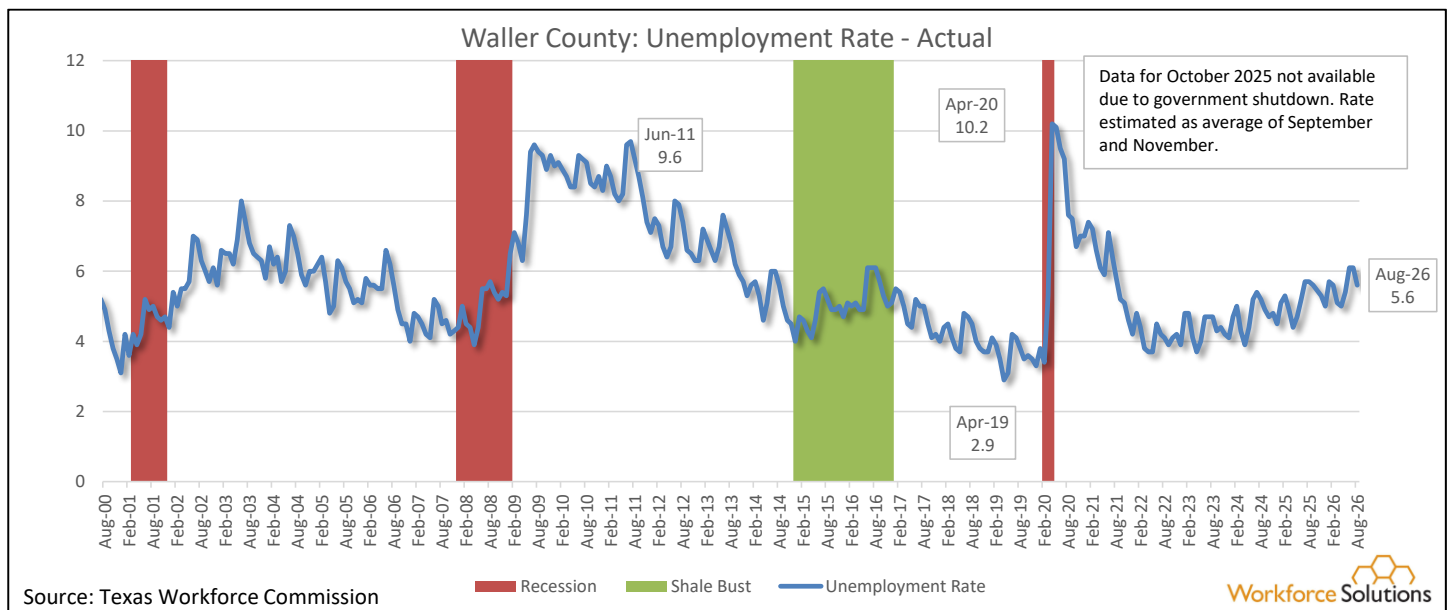
Public Administration: +352 jobs (+6.3 percent)

The only notable annual decline occurred in Financial Activities, which lost 35 jobs (7.0 percent).

Overall, Waller County entered 2026 with strong and relatively broad-based employment momentum. First-quarter growth was particularly notable because it exceeded the county's normal seasonal pattern despite a substantial decline in Leisure and Hospitality. Annual growth accelerated to 6.8 percent and was led by Manufacturing and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities, indicating continued expansion in the county's industrial and logistics base. Construction growth also suggests ongoing development activity. Although the unemployment rate declined over the year, it remained elevated relative to state and national levels, which may indicate that labor-force growth or population gains continued alongside the expansion in payroll employment.

Additional details are provided on pages 2–7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	31,375	31,489	31,177
Total Employment	29,603	29,569	29,408
Unemployed	1,772	1,920	1,769
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	6.1%	5.7%
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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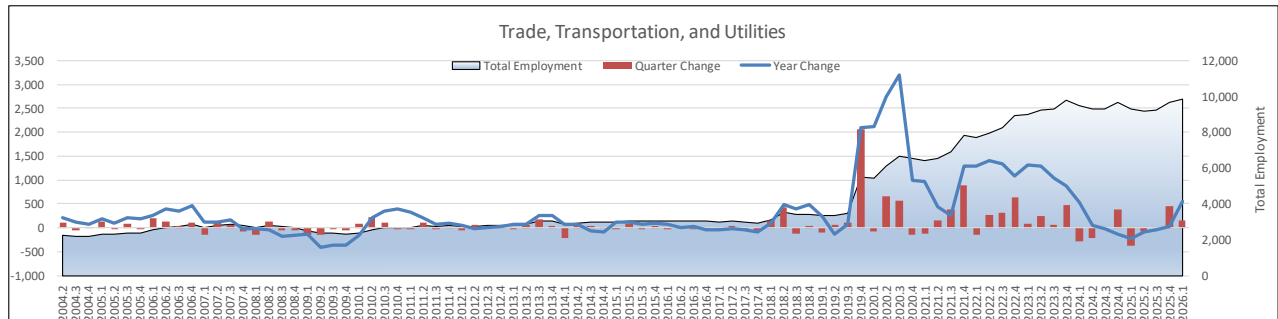
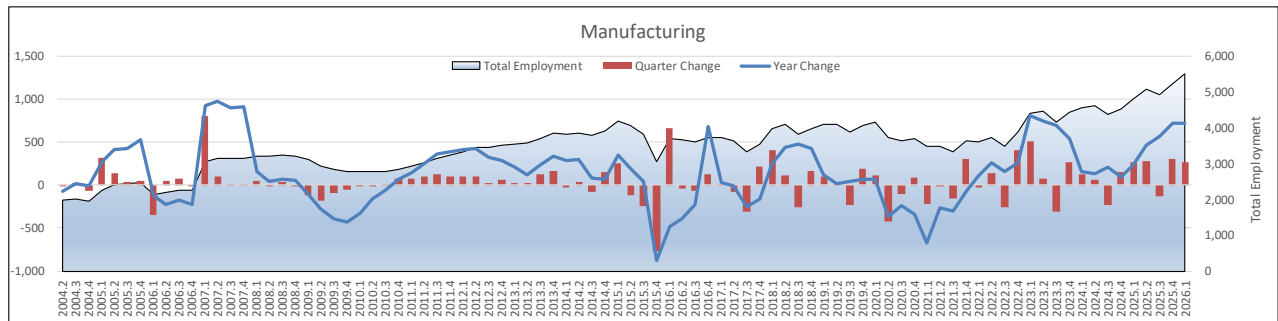
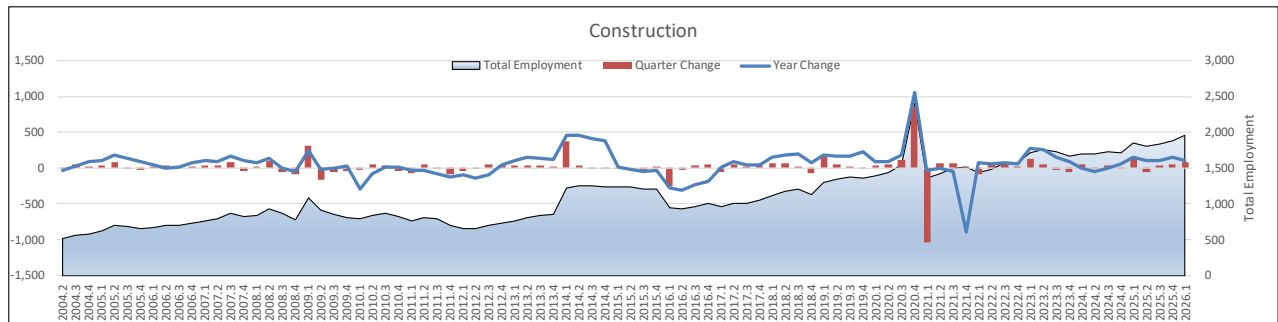
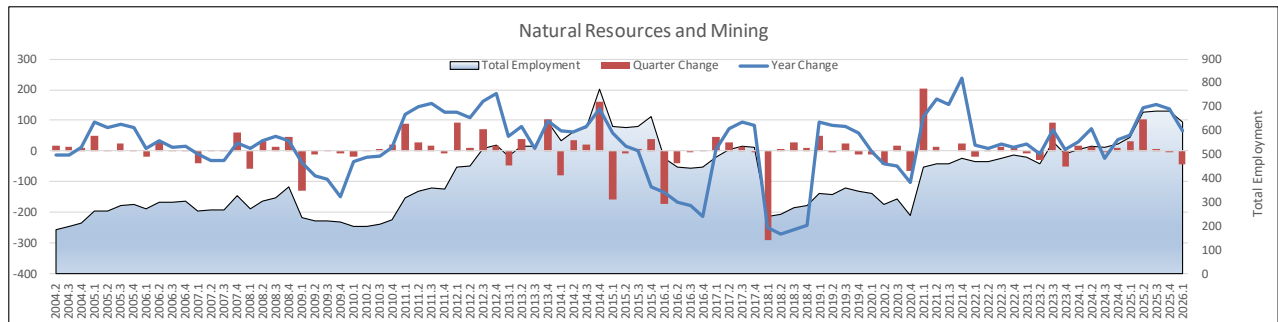
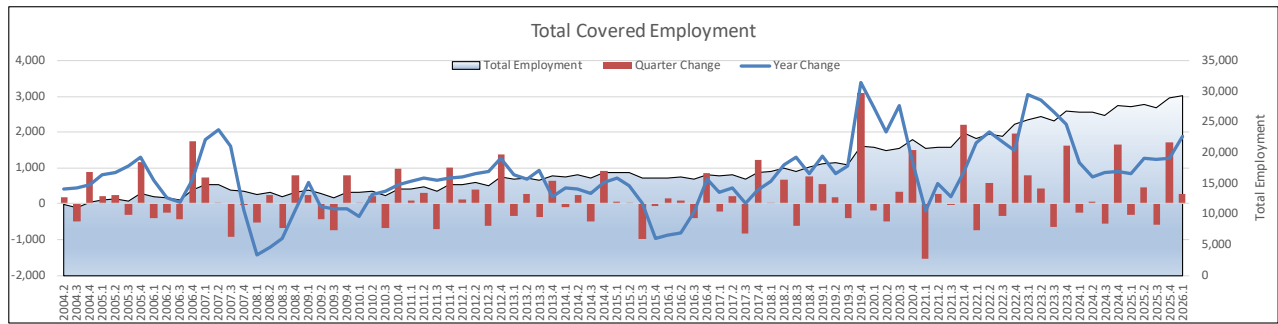
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg.		Annual Chg.		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	29,251	28,968	27,384	283	1.0%	1,867	6.8%	\$1,278
Natural Resources & Mining	638	680	573	-42	-6.2%	65	11.3%	\$1,712
Construction	1,951	1,872	1,852	79	4.2%	99	5.3%	\$1,334
Manufacturing	5,509	5,243	4,792	266	5.1%	717	15.0%	\$1,762
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9,819	9,675	9,276	144	1.5%	543	5.9%	\$1,233
Information	20	20	21	0	0.0%	-1	-4.8%	\$1,162
Financial Activities	462	469	497	-7	-1.5%	-35	-7.0%	\$1,358
Professional & Business Services	1,760	1,668	1,686	92	5.5%	74	4.4%	\$1,258
Education & Health Services	1,215	1,169	1,202	46	3.9%	13	1.1%	\$809
Leisure & Hospitality	1,537	1,867	1,522	-330	-17.7%	15	1.0%	\$623
Other Services	388	393	360	-5	-1.3%	28	7.8%	\$1,332
Nonclassifiable	23	22	23	1	4.5%	0	0.0%	\$1,069
Public Administration	5,930	5,888	5,578	42	0.7%	352	6.3%	\$1,102
Federal Government	227	221	235	6	2.7%	-8	-3.4%	\$1,540
State Government	2,627	2,637	2,406	-10	-0.4%	221	9.2%	\$1,088
Local Government	3,076	3,030	2,937	46	1.5%	139	4.7%	\$1,079

*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.

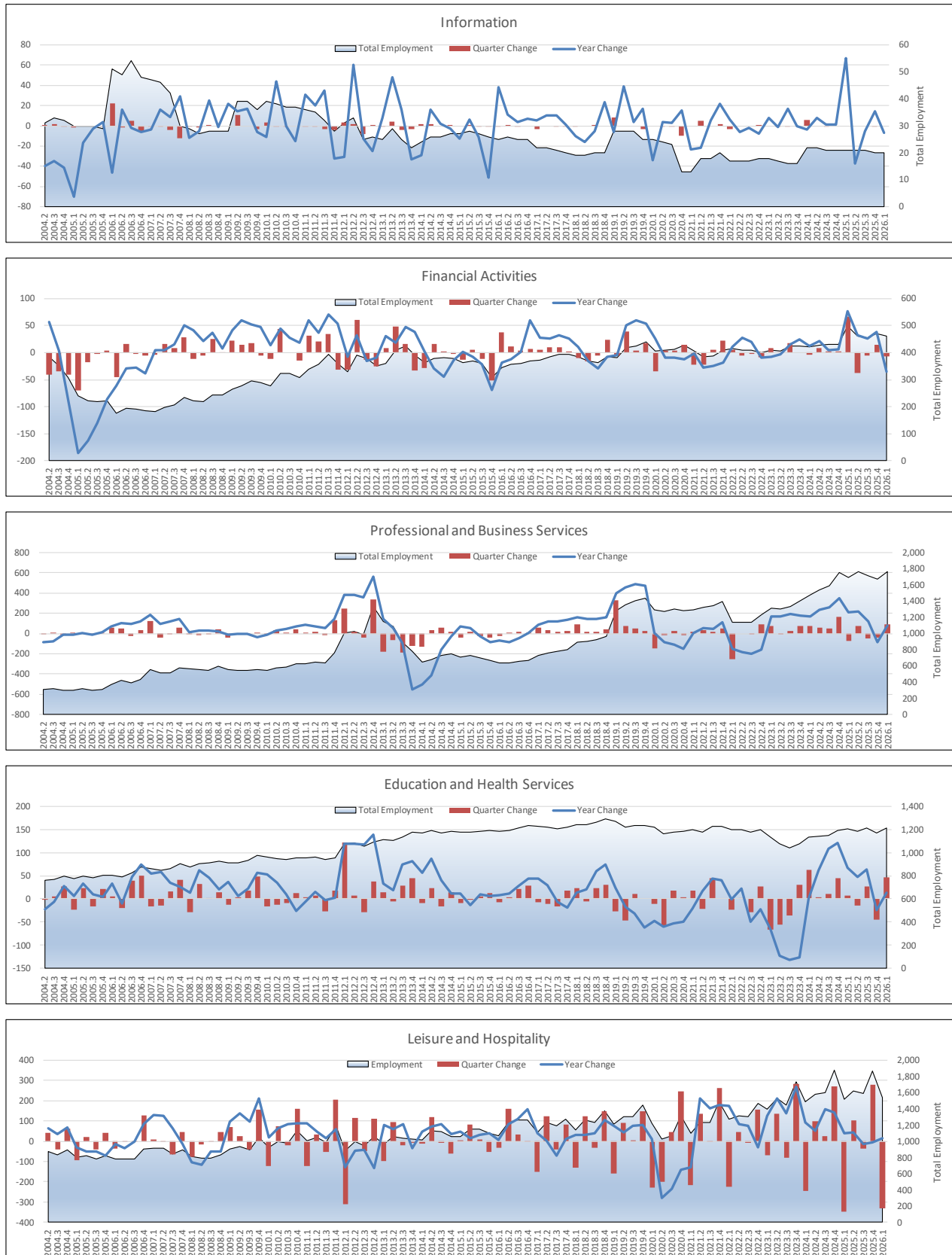
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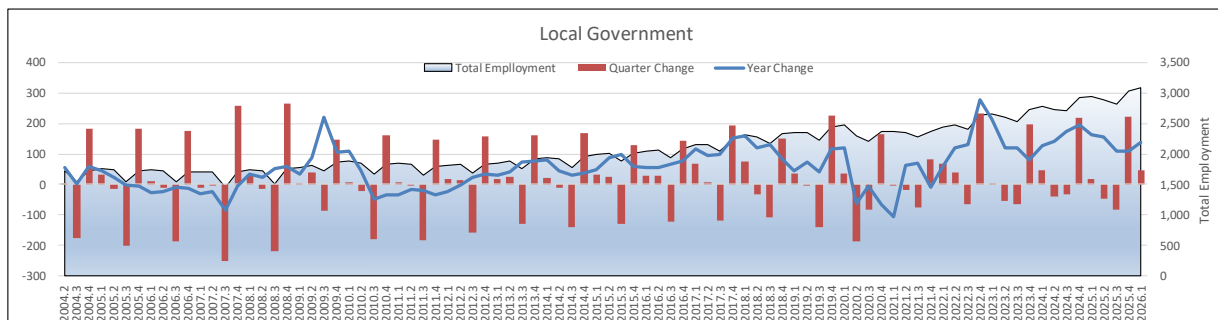
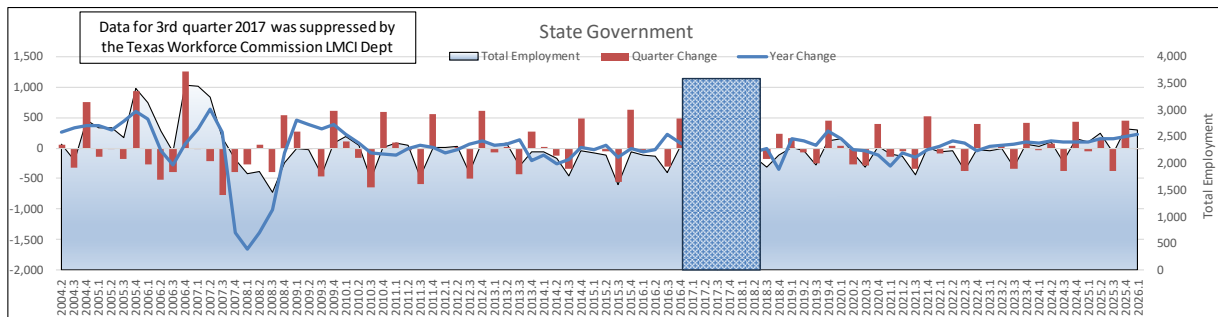
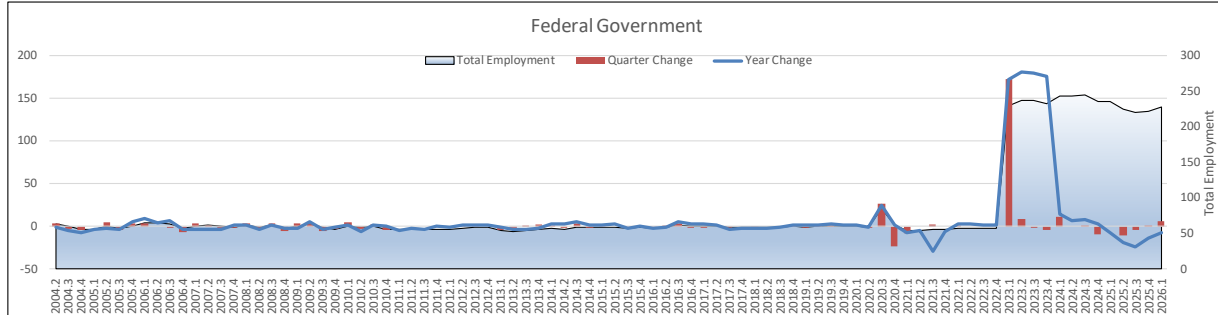
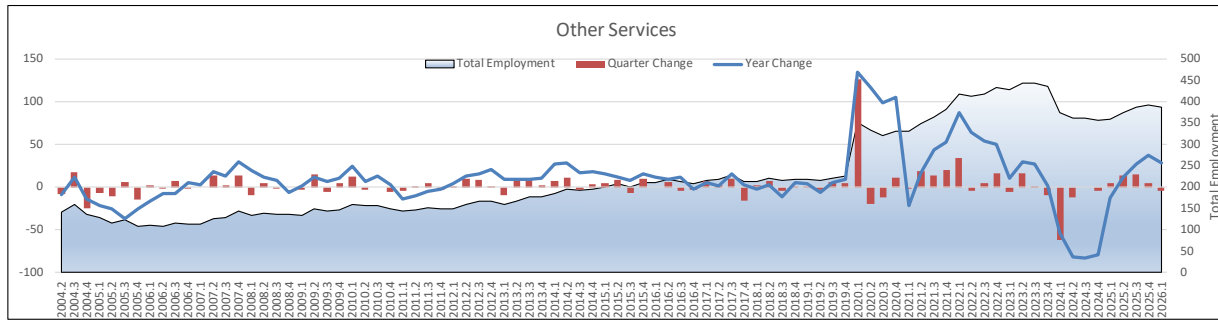
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	29,251	2026.1	10,655	2003.3
Natural Resources and Mining	774	2014.4	169	2004.1
Construction	2,405	2020.4	489	2003.4
Manufacturing	5,509	2026.1	1,950	2004.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	9,819	2026.1	2,013	2003.2
Information	54	2006.3	13	2020.4
Financial Activities	497	2025.1	177	2006.1
Professional and Business Services	1,760	2026.1	300	2004.4
Education and Health Services	1,293	2018.4	764	2004.2
Leisure and Hospitality	1,871	2024.4	779	2005.3
Other Services	444	2023.3	109	2005.4
Federal Government	244	2024.3	53	2013.2
State Government	3,466	2006.4	1,459	2008.3
Local Government	3,076	2026.1	1,451	2007.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-62	-0.2%	168	1.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	-23	-1.1%	6	2.0%
Construction	-4	2.6%	28	3.1%
Manufacturing	146	4.7%	2	0.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-23	-0.8%	122	3.4%
Information	1	4.8%	1	4.4%
Financial Activities	-4	-1.4%	10	3.4%
Professional and Business Services	12	3.2%	11	1.5%
Education and Health Services	2	0.2%	-7	-0.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	-127	-9.2%	61	5.8%
Other Services	4	2.0%	3	1.8%
Federal Government	8	13.6%	1	0.9%
State Government	-53	-2.0%	-59	-2.1%
Local Government	28	1.3%	-11	-0.4%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-525	-3.4%	1,177	7.3%
Natural Resources and Mining	17	4.8%	16	3.5%
Construction	17	1.6%	23	0.8%
Manufacturing	-91	-2.1%	70	1.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	73	1.5%	197	4.0%
Information	-1	-2.8%	-2	-4.5%
Financial Activities	4	1.4%	-2	-0.4%
Professional and Business Services	-3	-0.4%	41	4.2%
Education and Health Services	4	0.3%	23	2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	-19	-1.9%	111	10.0%
Other Services	3	1.6%	0	-0.4%
Federal Government	1	1.9%	-3	-2.8%
State Government	na	na	na	na
Local Government	-132	-6.9%	176	9.6%

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.

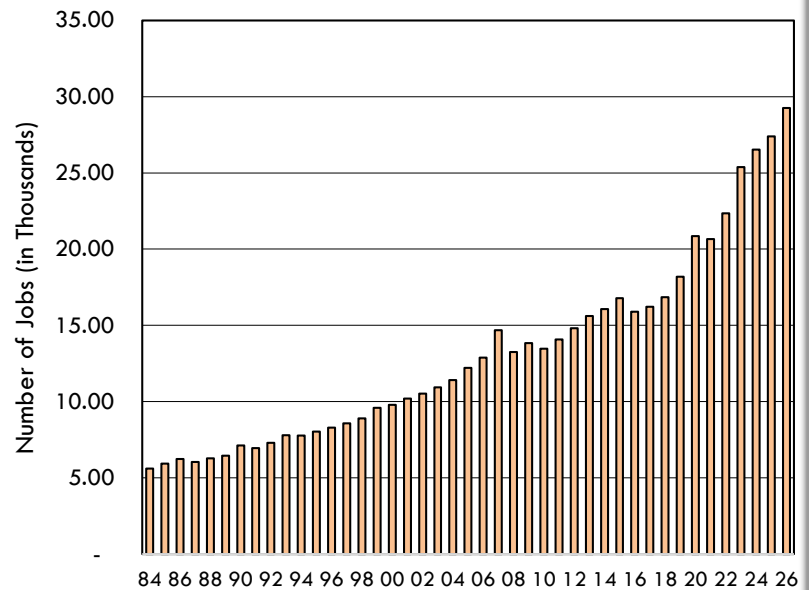
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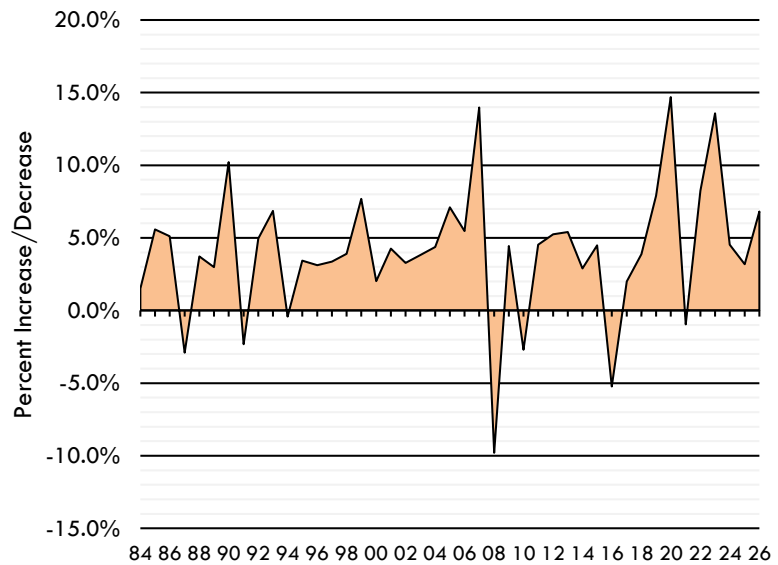
Waller County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	5,531		
84	5,615	84	1.5%
85	5,928	313	5.6%
86	6,231	303	5.1%
87	6,050	(181)	-2.9%
88	6,275	225	3.7%
89	6,463	188	3.0%
90	7,123	660	10.2%
91	6,957	(166)	-2.3%
92	7,302	345	5.0%
93	7,803	501	6.9%
94	7,771	(32)	-0.4%
95	8,037	266	3.4%
96	8,287	250	3.1%
97	8,565	278	3.4%
98	8,900	335	3.9%
99	9,584	684	7.7%
00	9,777	193	2.0%
01	10,194	417	4.3%
02	10,527	333	3.3%
03	10,928	401	3.8%
04	11,406	478	4.4%
05	12,217	811	7.1%
06	12,884	667	5.5%
07	14,684	1,800	14.0%
08	13,245	(1,439)	-9.8%
09	13,832	587	4.4%
10	13,460	(372)	-2.7%
11	14,069	609	4.5%
12	14,807	738	5.2%
13	15,606	799	5.4%
14	16,057	451	2.9%
15	16,776	719	4.5%
16	15,900	(876)	-5.2%
17	16,217	317	2.0%
18	16,845	628	3.9%
19	18,179	1,334	7.9%
20	20,848	2,669	14.7%
21	20,651	(197)	-0.9%
22	22,354	1,703	8.2%
23	25,386	3,032	13.6%
24	26,536	1,150	4.5%
25	27,384	848	3.2%
26	29,251	1,867	6.8%

Number of Jobs in Covered Employment



Annual Change in Covered Employment **



**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.