

Fort Bend County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

Fort Bend County's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in August 2026, up 0.1 percentage point from one year earlier. The county's rate remained slightly above both the Texas rate of 4.6 percent and the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent.

Fort Bend County payroll employment declined by 3,227 jobs (1.2 percent) during the first quarter of 2026. This contrasted with the county's historical average first-quarter increase of 0.5 percent. Four of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs during the quarter. The quarterly decline appears to reflect short-term or seasonal weakness rather than a broad contraction in the county's labor market.

The largest gains occurred in:

Construction: +495 jobs (+3.2 percent)

Manufacturing: +267 jobs (+1.6 percent)

Education and Health Services: +250 jobs (+0.6 percent)

These gains were more than offset by declines in several sectors, led by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, down 2,338 jobs (3.9 percent), and Professional and Business Services, down 1,584 jobs (5.3 percent).

On a year-over-year basis, Fort Bend County added 5,439 jobs (2.1 percent) between the first quarters of 2025 and 2026. However, the pace of annual growth slowed by nearly half from 4.1 percent in the previous quarter. Ten of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs over the year. The largest contributors to growth were:

Education and Health Services: +1,651 jobs (+4.0 percent)

Professional and Business Services: +1,211 jobs (+4.4 percent)

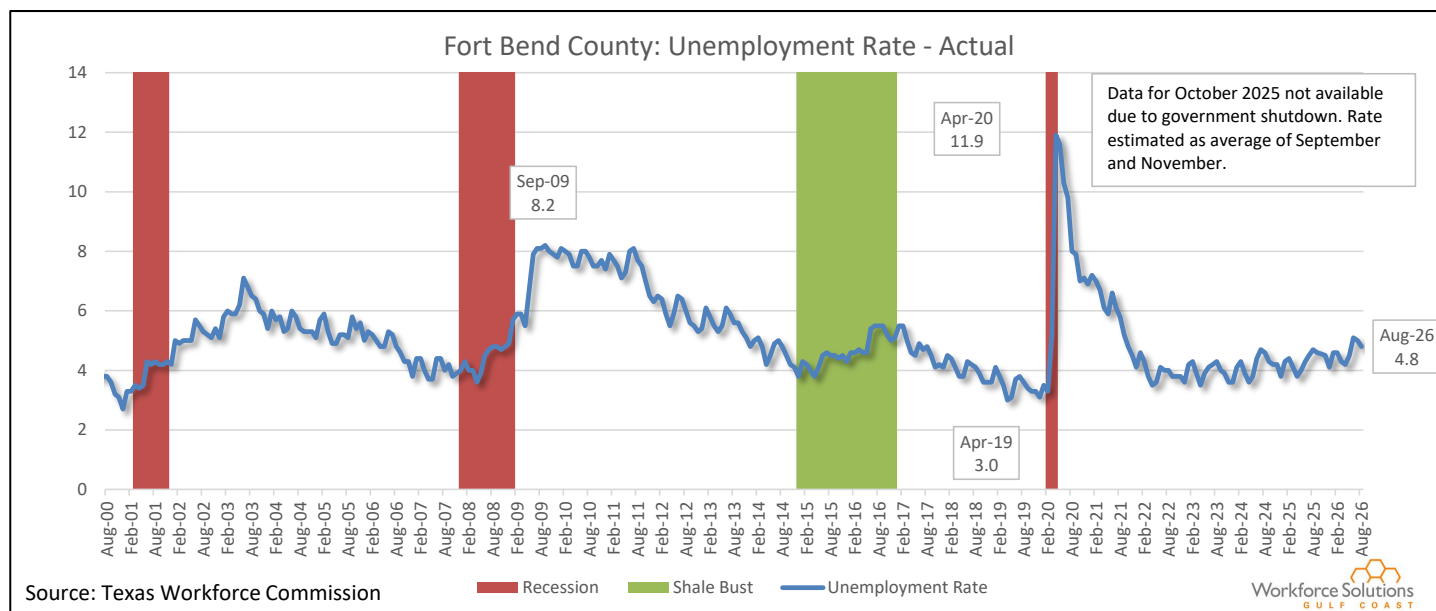
Construction: +779 jobs (+5.2 percent)

Public Administration: +784 jobs (+1.7 percent)

Natural Resources and Mining was the only major sector to record an annual decline, losing 256 jobs (8.3 percent).

Additional details are provided on pages 2–7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	485,682	485,308	482,153
Total Employment	462,397	461,121	459,521
Unemployed	23,285	24,187	22,632
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.0%	4.7%
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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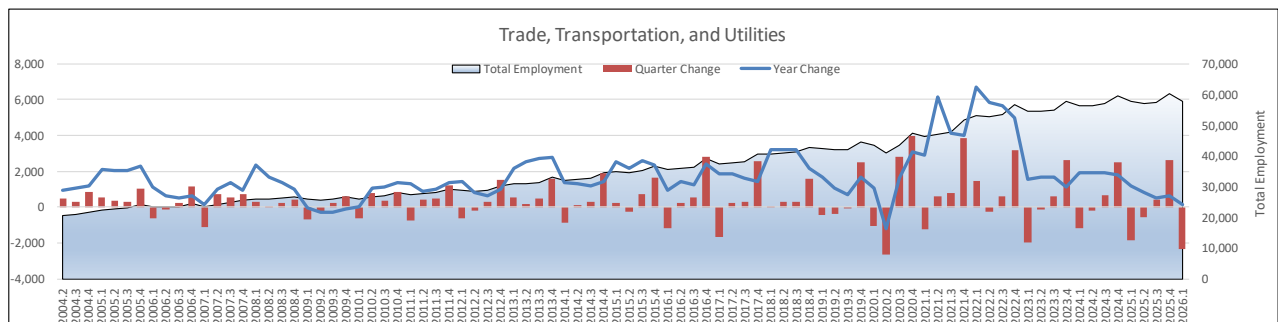
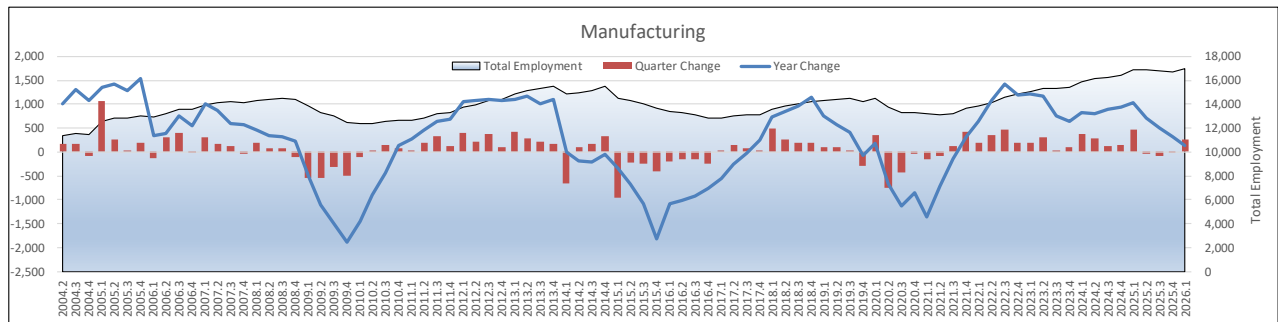
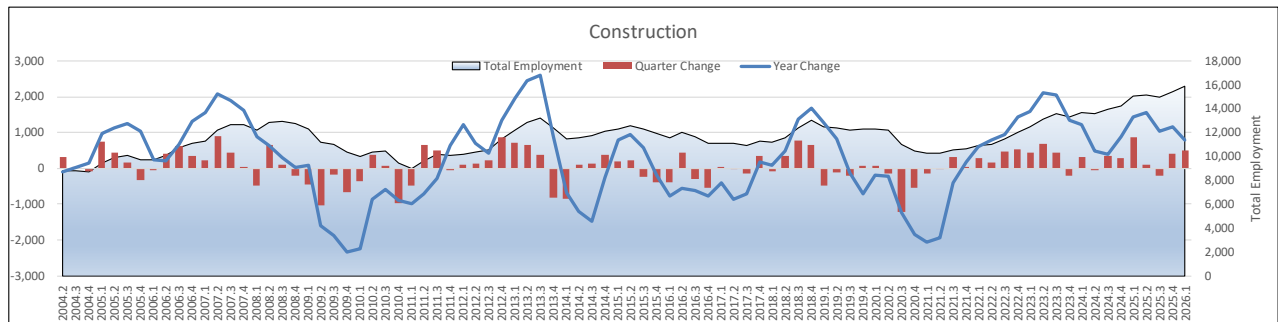
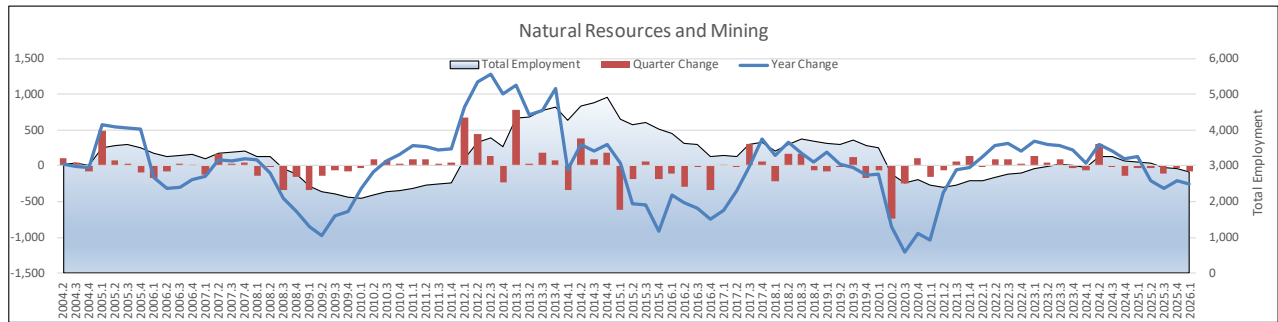
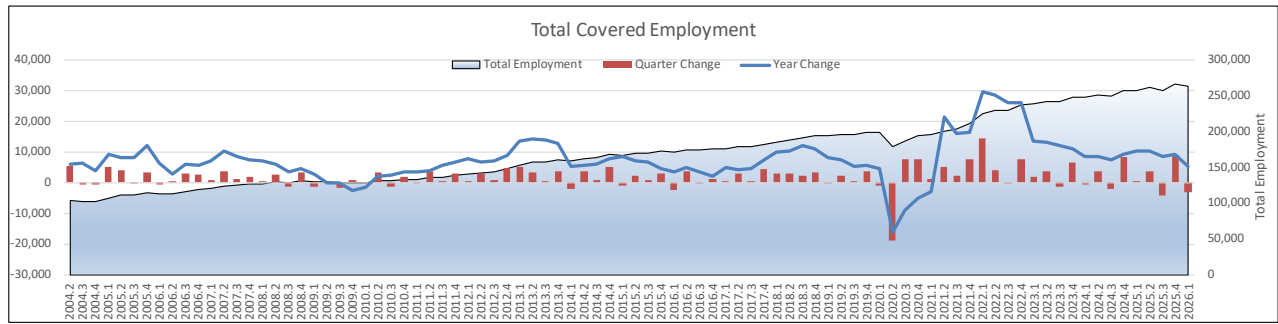
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	262,787	266,014	257,348	-3,227	-1.2%	5,439	2.1%	\$1,287
Natural Resources & Mining	2,836	2,917	3,092	-81	-2.8%	-256	-8.3%	\$4,954
Construction	15,867	15,372	15,088	495	3.2%	779	5.2%	\$2,235
Manufacturing	17,006	16,739	16,878	267	1.6%	128	0.8%	\$1,908
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	57,865	60,203	57,716	-2,338	-3.9%	149	0.3%	\$1,096
Information	2,018	2,101	1,920	-83	-4.0%	98	5.1%	\$1,725
Financial Activities	9,682	9,792	9,401	-110	-1.1%	281	3.0%	\$2,161
Professional & Business Services	28,544	30,128	27,333	-1,584	-5.3%	1,211	4.4%	\$1,656
Education & Health Services	42,676	42,426	41,025	250	0.6%	1,651	4.0%	\$1,005
Leisure & Hospitality	30,562	30,513	30,390	49	0.2%	172	0.6%	\$476
Other Services	7,097	7,116	6,757	-19	-0.3%	340	5.0%	\$873
Nonclassifiable	443	438	341	5	1.1%	102	29.9%	\$952
Public Administration	48,190	48,270	47,406	-80	-0.2%	784	1.7%	\$1,184
Federal Government	1,930	2,008	2,044	-78	-3.9%	-114	-5.6%	\$1,748
State Government	3,273	3,263	3,161	10	0.3%	112	3.5%	\$1,118
Local Government	42,987	42,999	42,201	-12	0.0%	786	1.9%	\$1,164

*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.

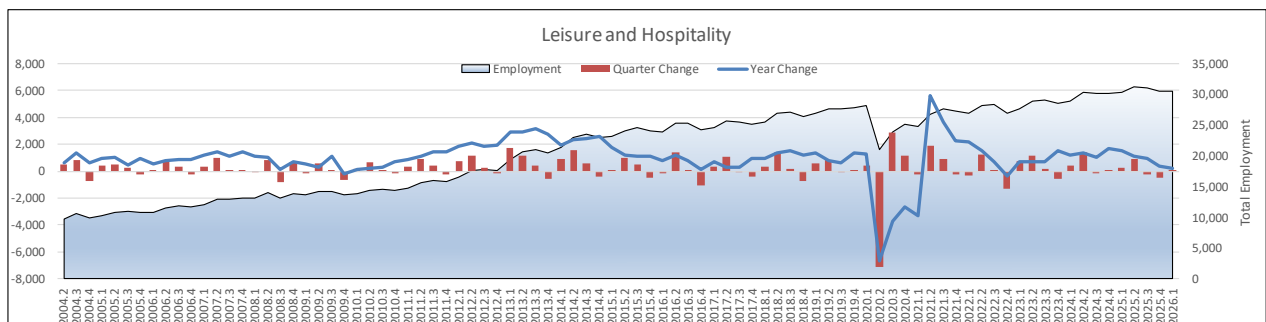
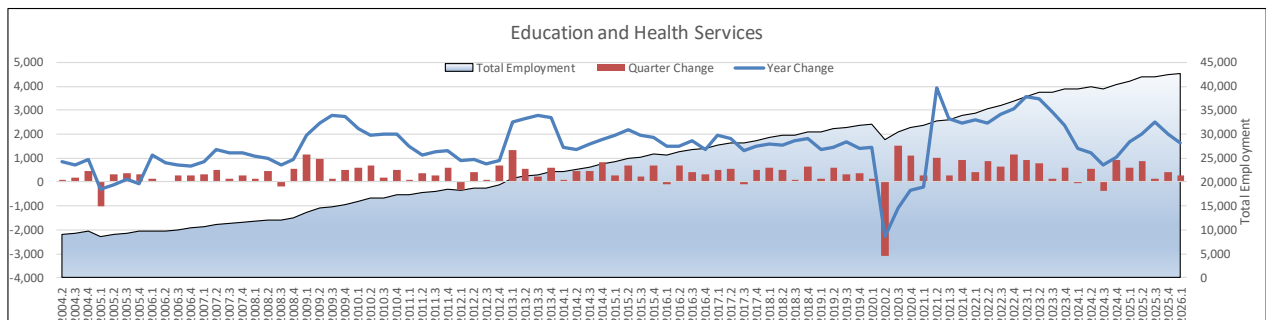
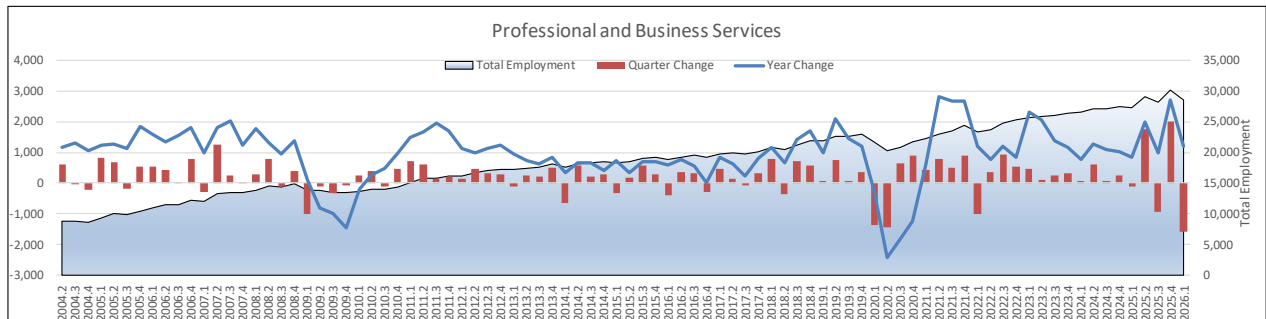
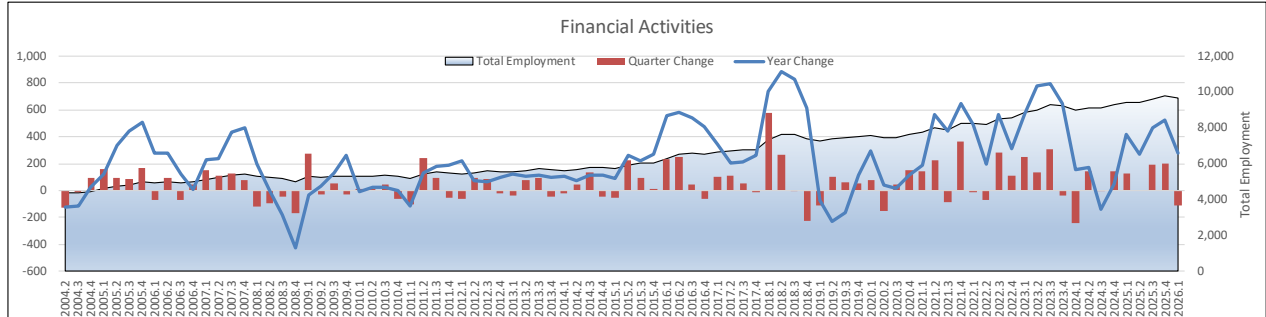
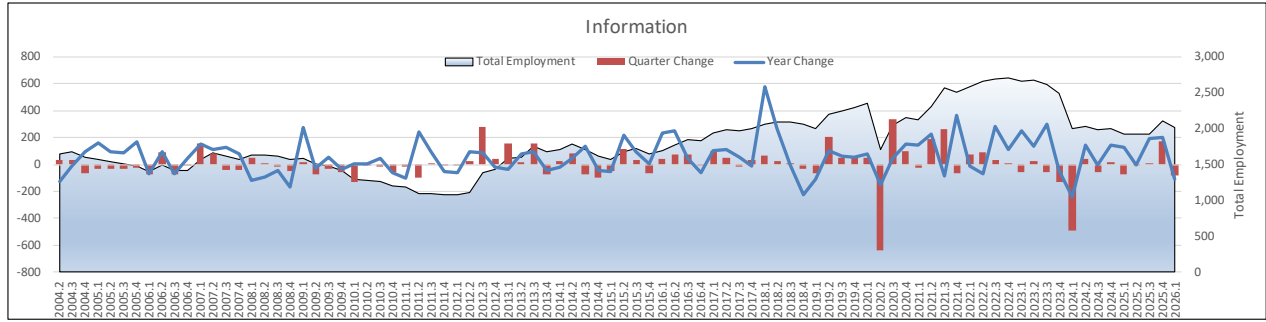
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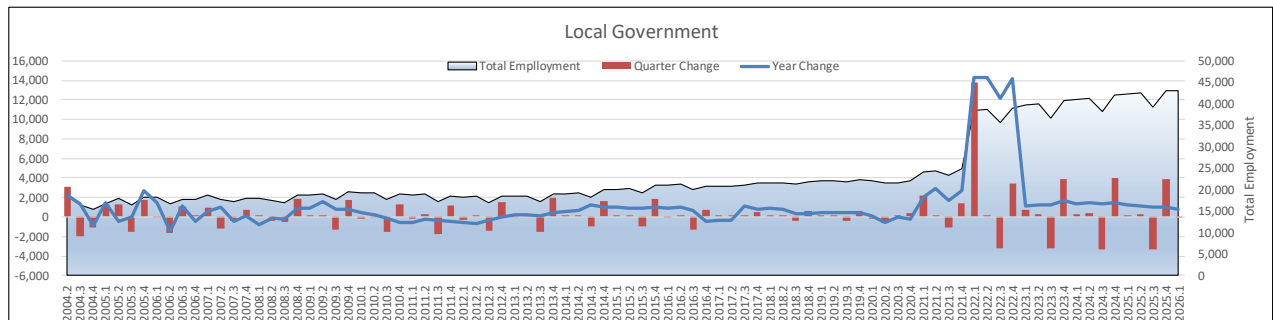
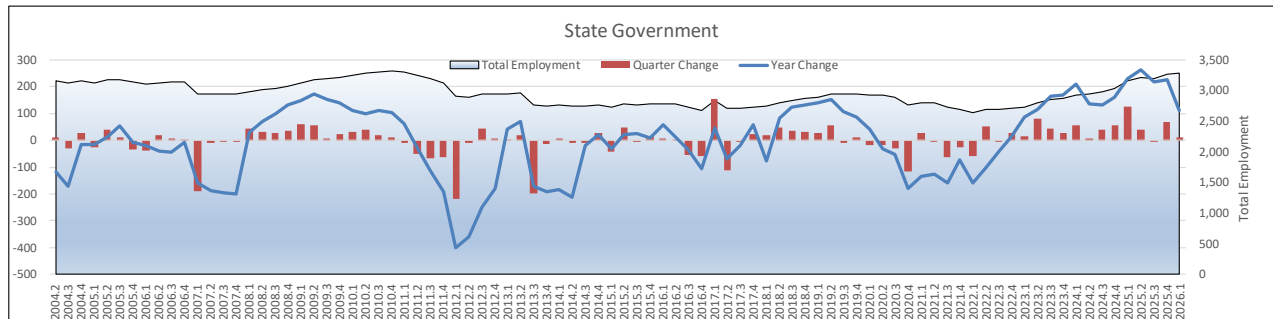
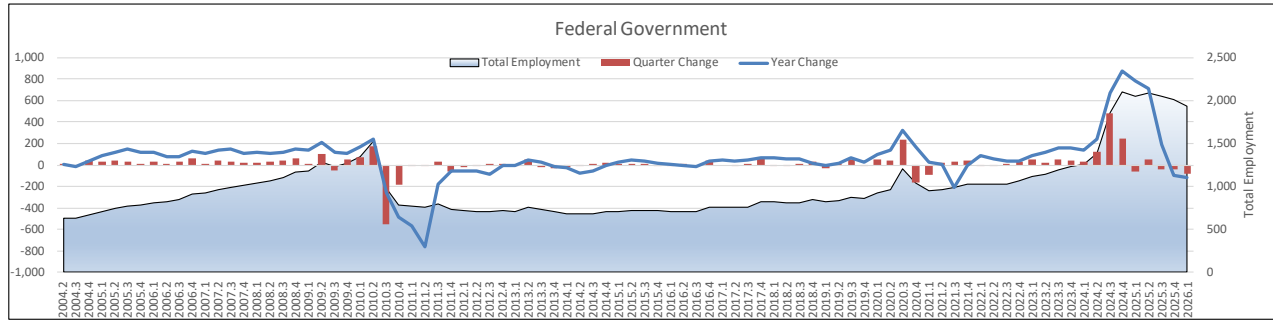
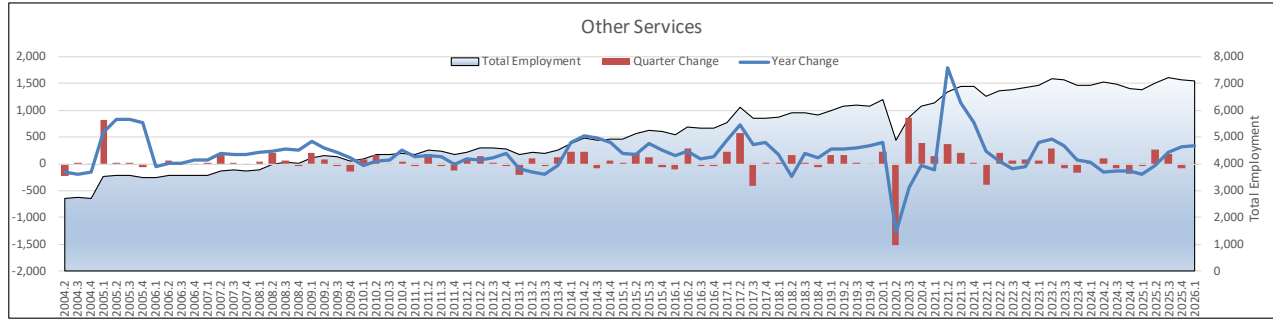
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	266,014	2025.4	96,052	2003.3
Natural Resources and Mining	4,927	2014.4	2,106	2010.1
Construction	15,867	2026.1	8,474	2004.1
Manufacturing	17,006	2026.1	10,252	2003.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	60,203	2025.4	19,685	2003.2
Information	2,705	2022.4	1,080	2012.1
Financial Activities	9,792	2025.4	4,364	2004.3
Professional and Business Services	30,128	2025.4	7,486	2003.3
Education and Health Services	42,676	2026.1	8,246	2003.2
Leisure and Hospitality	31,285	2025.2	9,169	2003.2
Other Services	7,196	2025.3	2,726	2004.2
Federal Government	2,105	2024.4	617	2004.1
State Government	3,310	2010.4	2,637	2022.1
Local Government	42,999	2025.4	15,259	2003.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	841	0.5%	2,115	1.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	-21	0.0%	21	0.8%
Construction	22	0.2%	242	2.3%
Manufacturing	128	1.1%	70	0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-458	-1.7%	7	0.3%
Information	-29	-1.2%	14	1.0%
Financial Activities	55	0.9%	83	1.3%
Professional and Business Services	-48	0.5%	351	2.6%
Education and Health Services	288	1.2%	378	2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	291	1.6%	655	4.1%
Other Services	66	2.0%	94	2.0%
Federal Government	-1	0.1%	31	3.0%
State Government	-2	0.0%	14	0.5%
Local Government	769	3.1%	145	0.9%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	246	0.2%	3,810	2.2%
Natural Resources and Mining	36	1.0%	-41	-1.1%
Construction	105	1.0%	-68	-0.6%
Manufacturing	74	0.5%	24	0.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	502	1.4%	1,815	5.0%
Information	34	2.2%	-28	-1.6%
Financial Activities	67	1.0%	19	0.2%
Professional and Business Services	146	0.7%	342	2.0%
Education and Health Services	244	1.3%	590	2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	288	1.6%	-277	-1.3%
Other Services	37	0.8%	-14	-0.3%
Federal Government	17	2.3%	13	1.1%
State Government	-10	-0.3%	-5	-0.1%
Local Government	-1,284	-5.1%	1,426	6.4%

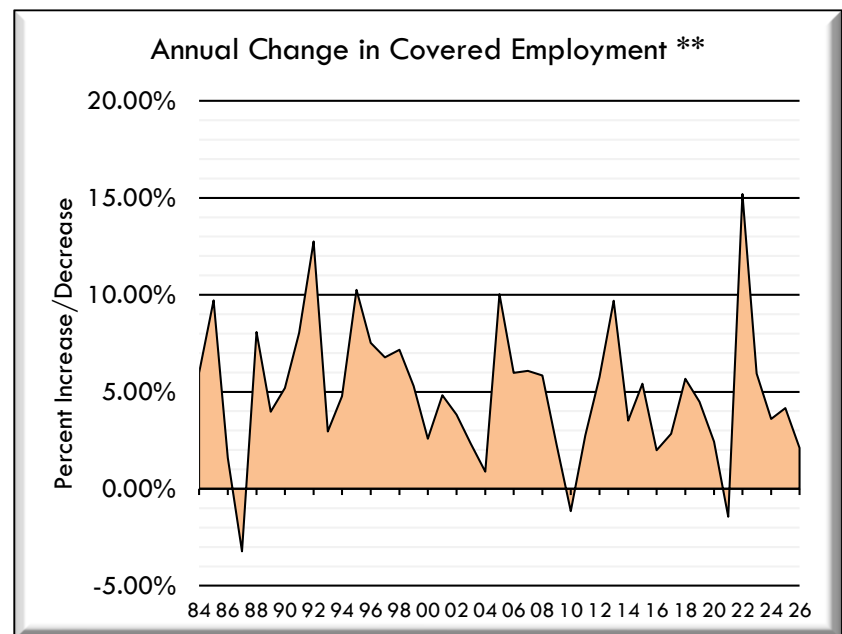
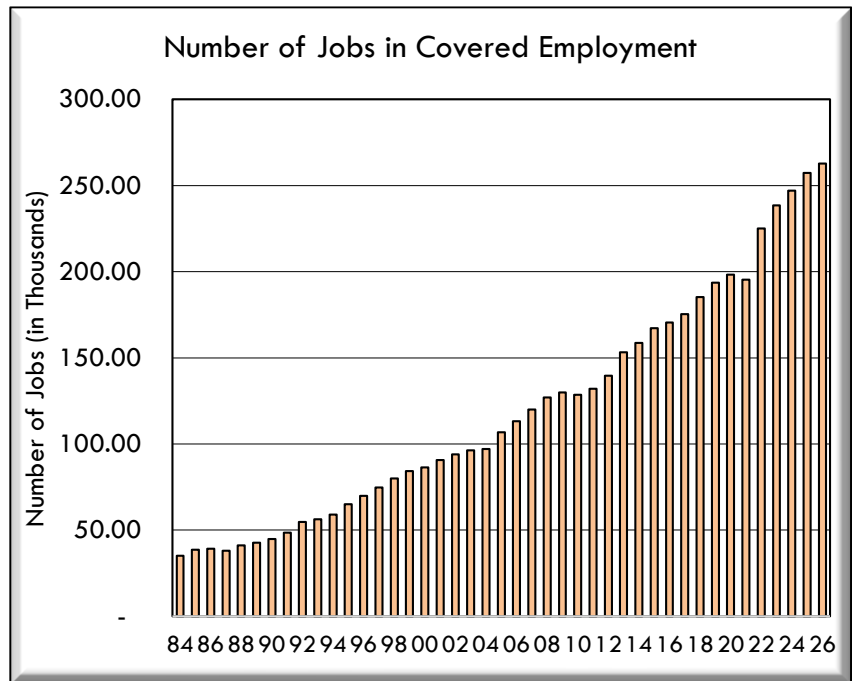
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Fort Bend County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	33,224		
84	35,208	1,984	6.0%
85	38,627	3,419	9.7%
86	39,241	614	1.6%
87	37,974	(1,267)	-3.2%
88	41,045	3,071	8.1%
89	42,677	1,632	4.0%
90	44,893	2,216	5.2%
91	48,499	3,606	8.0%
92	54,682	6,183	12.7%
93	56,302	1,620	3.0%
94	58,988	2,686	4.8%
95	65,035	6,047	10.3%
96	69,926	4,891	7.5%
97	74,664	4,738	6.8%
98	80,010	5,346	7.2%
99	84,244	4,234	5.3%
00	86,421	2,177	2.6%
01	90,583	4,162	4.8%
02	94,050	3,467	3.8%
03	96,235	2,185	2.3%
04	97,080	845	0.9%
05	106,825	9,745	10.0%
06	113,212	6,387	6.0%
07	120,091	6,879	6.1%
08	127,097	7,006	5.8%
09	129,996	2,899	2.3%
10	128,501	(1,495)	-1.2%
11	132,044	3,543	2.8%
12	139,642	7,598	5.8%
13	153,193	13,551	9.7%
14	158,576	5,383	3.5%
15	167,172	8,596	5.4%
16	170,500	3,328	2.0%
17	175,326	4,826	2.8%
18	185,269	9,943	5.7%
19	193,574	8,305	4.5%
20	198,265	4,691	2.4%
21	195,395	(2,870)	-1.4%
22	225,085	29,690	15.2%
23	238,450	13,365	5.9%
24	247,051	8,601	3.6%
25	257,348	10,297	4.2%
26	262,787	5,439	2.1%



**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. 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.

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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.