

Montgomery County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

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

Montgomery County payroll employment declined by 312 jobs (0.1 percent) during the first quarter of 2026, underperforming the county's historical average first-quarter increase of 0.3 percent. Employment trends were mixed, with four of the 11 major industry sectors adding jobs. The largest gains occurred in:

Education and Health Services: +1,217 jobs (+3.8 percent)
Construction: +943 jobs (+4.5 percent)

These gains were offset by declines across several sectors. The largest losses, both of which were seasonal in nature, occurred in Public Administration, down 764 jobs (2.1 percent), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, down 685 jobs (1.5 percent).

On a year-over-year basis, Montgomery County added 6,994 jobs (3.0 percent), with the pace of annual growth accelerating slightly from 2.9 percent in the previous quarter. Eight of the 11 major industry sectors added jobs over the year. Growth continued to be supported by population gains, which fueled residential development, infrastructure investment, and demand for healthcare, education, government, retail, and other population-serving services. The largest annual gains occurred in:

Construction: +2,762 jobs (+14.3 percent)
Education and Health Services: +2,099 jobs (+6.8 percent)
Public Administration: +761 jobs (+2.2 percent)

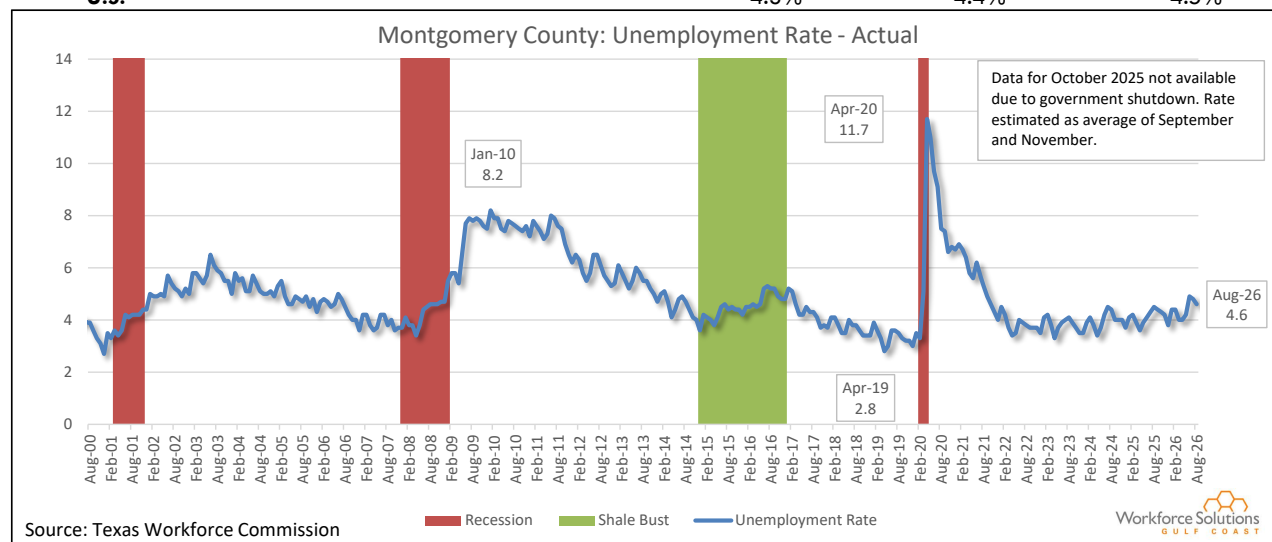
The most notable annual declines occurred in:

Financial Activities: -578 jobs (-5.3 percent)
Natural Resources and Mining: -165 jobs (-3.3 percent)

Overall, the small first-quarter decline appears to reflect seasonal weakness rather than a broader contraction. Construction and Education and Health Services expanded over both the quarter and the year, underscoring the continuing influence of population growth on the county's economy. The acceleration in annual job growth and gains across eight major sectors indicate that Montgomery County maintained relatively strong and broadly based employment momentum entering 2026. However, continued weakness in Financial Activities and Natural Resources and Mining warrants monitoring.

Additional details are provided on pages 2–7.

	AUG 2026	JULY 2026	AUG 2025
Civilian Labor Force	372,641	372,165	369,933
Total Employment	355,381	354,425	353,227
Unemployed	17,260	17,740	16,706
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%
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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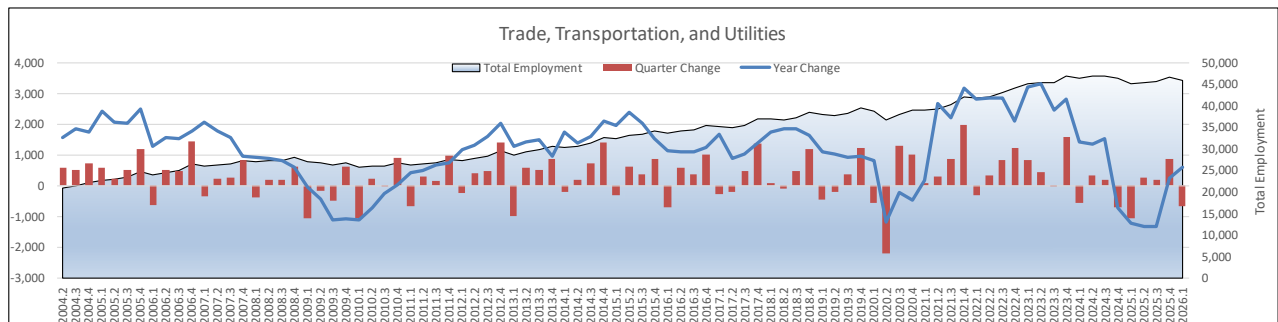
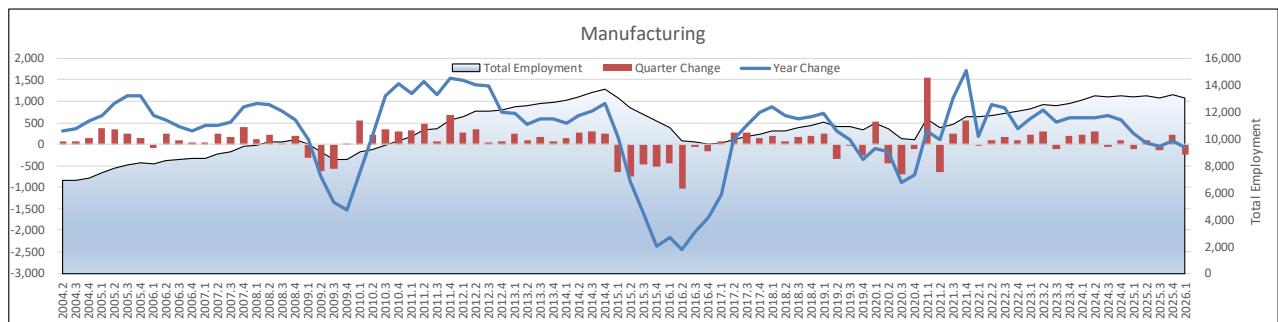
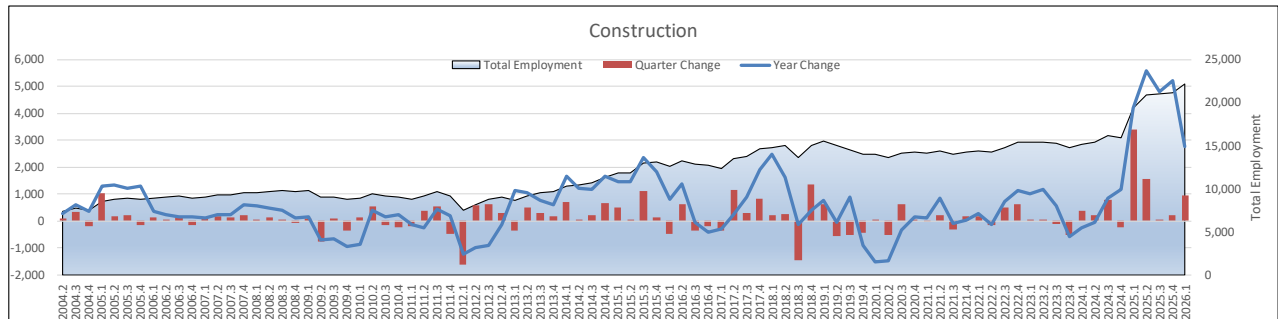
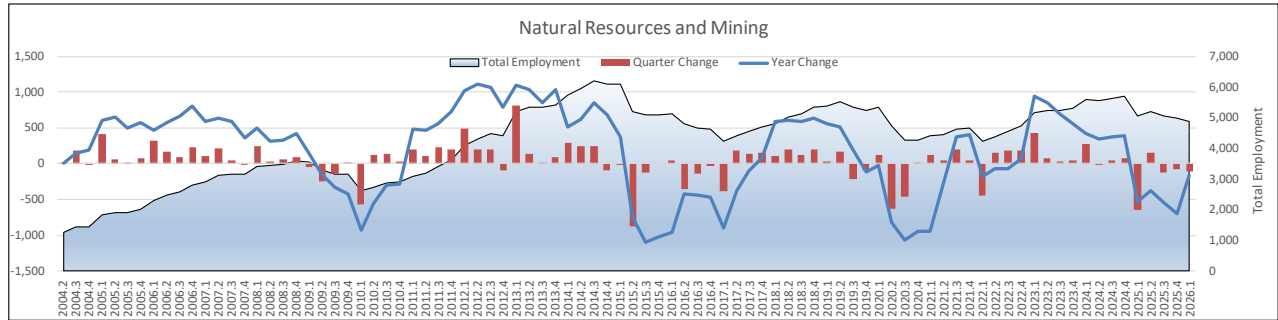
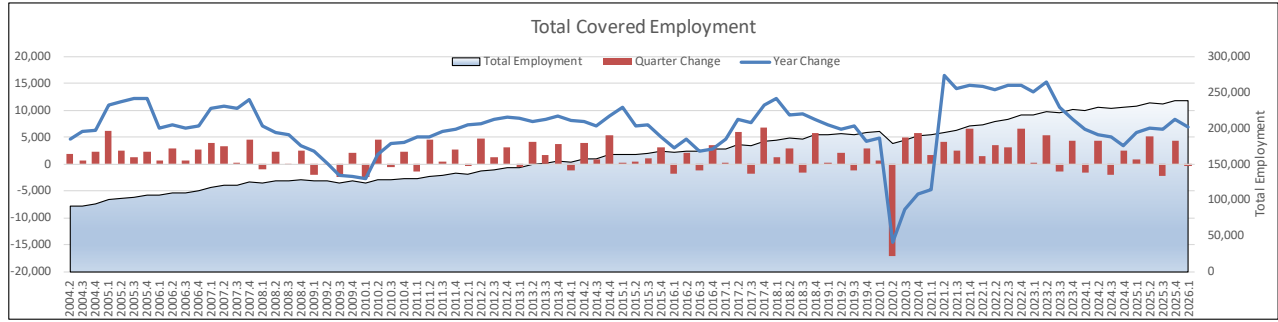
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COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	1ST QTR 2026	4TH QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	237,959	238,271	230,965	-312	-0.1%	6,994	3.0%	\$1,590
Natural Resources & Mining	4,884	4,993	5,049	-109	-2.2%	-165	-3.3%	\$5,900
Construction	22,128	21,185	19,366	943	4.5%	2,762	14.3%	\$1,754
Manufacturing	13,048	13,296	13,120	-248	-1.9%	-72	-0.5%	\$2,243
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	45,835	46,520	45,224	-685	-1.5%	611	1.4%	\$1,550
Information	2,019	1,945	1,908	74	3.8%	111	5.8%	\$ 2,018
Financial Activities	10,420	10,448	10,998	-28	-0.3%	-578	-5.3%	\$2,684
Professional & Business Services	30,998	31,423	30,636	-425	-1.4%	362	1.2%	\$2,414
Education & Health Services	32,999	31,782	30,900	1,217	3.8%	2,099	6.8%	\$1,215
Leisure & Hospitality	32,128	32,552	31,328	-424	-1.3%	800	2.6%	\$540
Other Services	7,414	7,345	7,222	69	0.9%	192	2.7%	\$928
Nonclassifiable	288	220	177	68	30.9%	111	62.7%	\$1,098
Public Administration	35,798	36,562	35,037	-764	-2.1%	761	2.2%	\$1,086
Federal Government	1,401	1,419	1,554	-18	-1.3%	-153	-9.8%	\$2,150
State Government	683	691	677	-8	-1.2%	6	0.9%	\$1,432
Local Government	33,714	34,452	32,806	-738	-2.1%	908	2.8%	\$1,035

*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 and Career Market Information Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

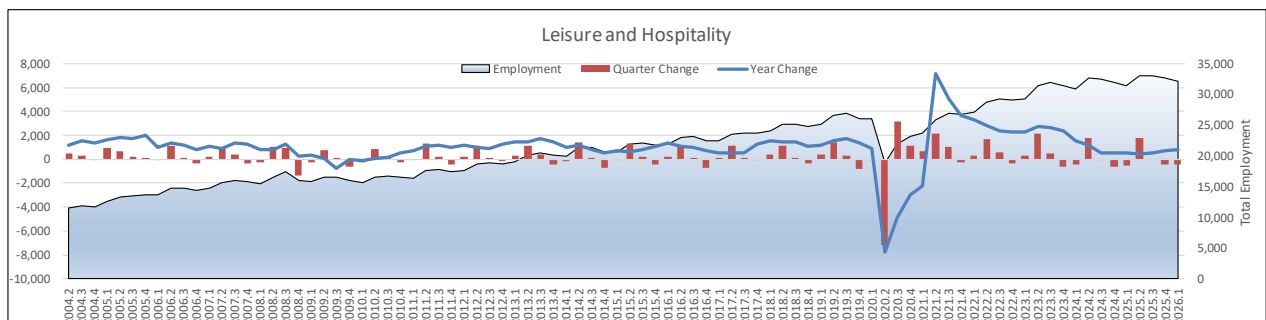
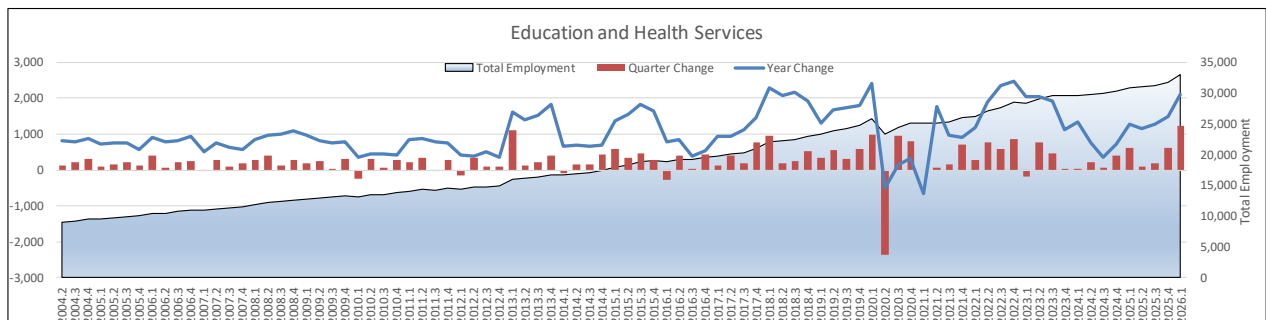
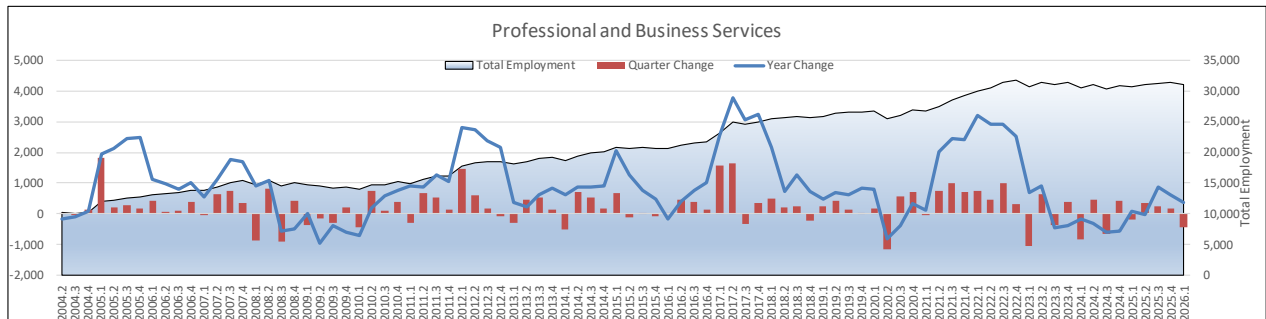
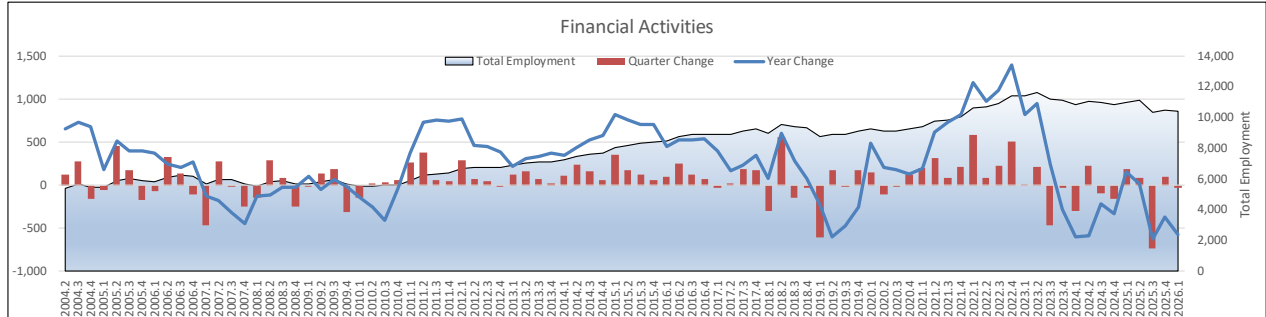
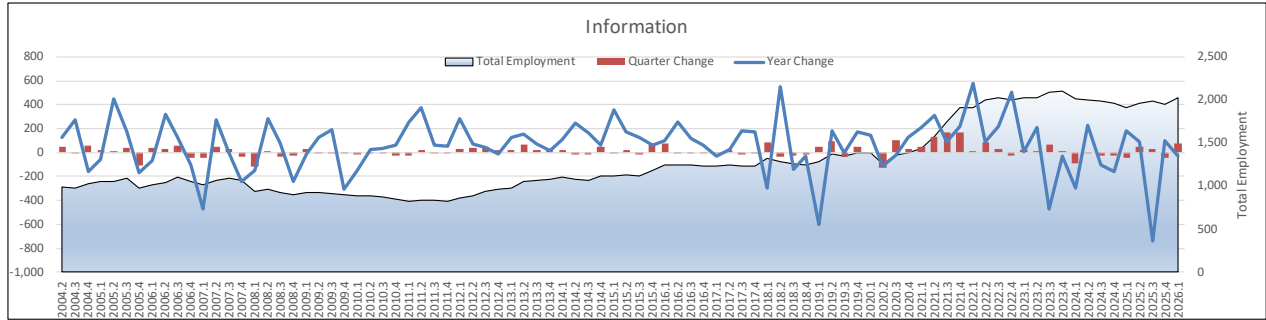
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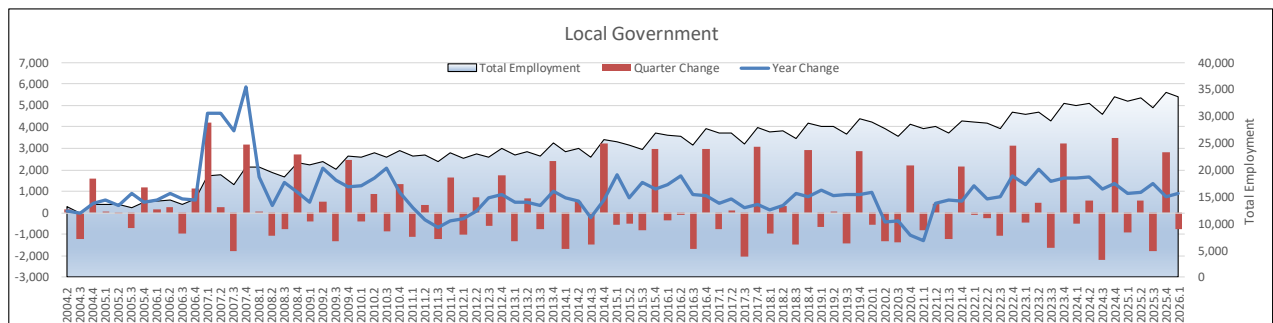
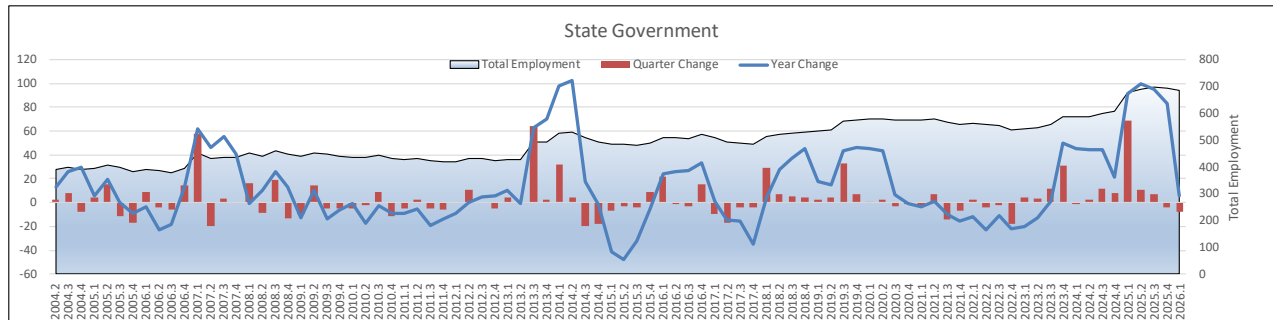
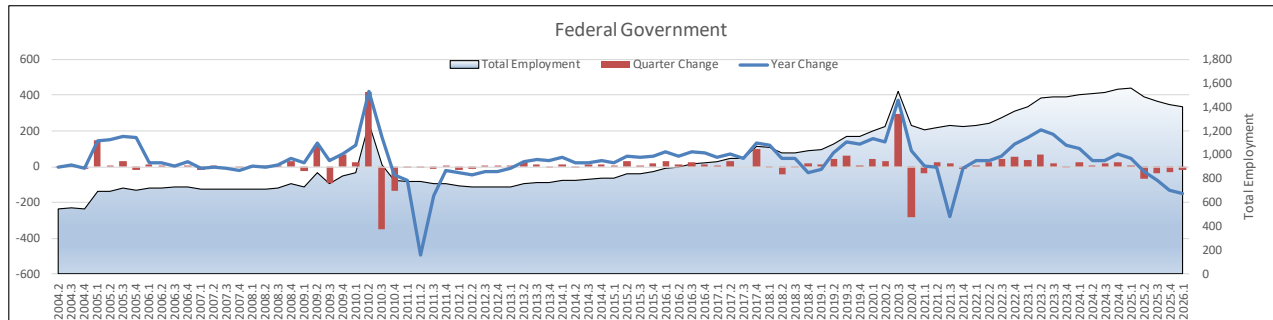
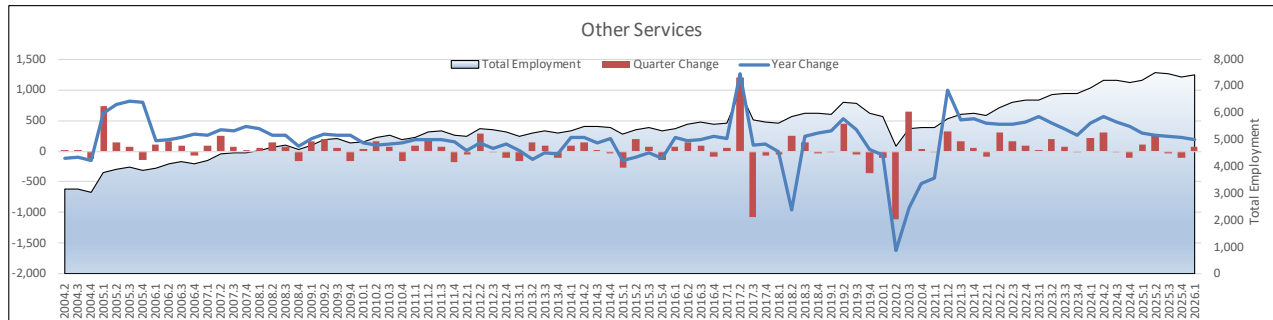
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	238,271	2025.4	85,474	2003.3
Natural Resources and Mining	6,194	2014.3	1,234	2004.1
Construction	22,128	2026.1	7,099	2003.2
Manufacturing	13,702	2014.4	6,559	2003.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	47,019	2023.4	19,294	2003.2
Information	2,099	2023.4	824	2011.1
Financial Activities	11,654	2023.2	4,722	2003.2
Professional and Business Services	31,752	2022.4	10,139	2004.3
Education and Health Services	32,999	2026.1	8,131	2003.2
Leisure and Hospitality	33,061	2025.2	10,219	2003.3
Other Services	7,487	2025.2	3,039	2004.4
Federal Government	1,554	2025.1	542	2004.2
State Government	695	2025.3	359	2003.4
Local Government	34,452	2025.4	11,957	2004.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	278	0.3%	2,307	1.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	76	3.1%	0	0.8%
Construction	241	1.6%	152	1.7%
Manufacturing	152	1.7%	-10	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-424	-1.2%	147	0.6%
Information	8	0.7%	20	1.8%
Financial Activities	27	0.5%	207	3.0%
Professional and Business Services	99	0.9%	411	2.2%
Education and Health Services	288	1.5%	184	1.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	89	0.7%	834	4.6%
Other Services	47	1.3%	195	3.8%
Federal Government	11	1.6%	36	4.0%
State Government	10	2.2%	1	0.2%
Local Government	-390	-0.9%	142	0.7%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	148	0.1%	3,821	2.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	33	1.6%	49	1.3%
Construction	135	1.5%	65	0.4%
Manufacturing	14	0.2%	115	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	387	1.2%	1,023	3.4%
Information	18	1.3%	6	0.3%
Financial Activities	28	0.8%	-4	-0.4%
Professional and Business Services	171	0.8%	238	1.2%
Education and Health Services	225	1.3%	386	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	369	1.9%	-345	-1.6%
Other Services	33	0.9%	-89	-1.8%
Federal Government	3	0.4%	-5	0.0%
State Government	4	0.8%	-2	-0.4%
Local Government	-1,280	-5.6%	2,392	10.9%

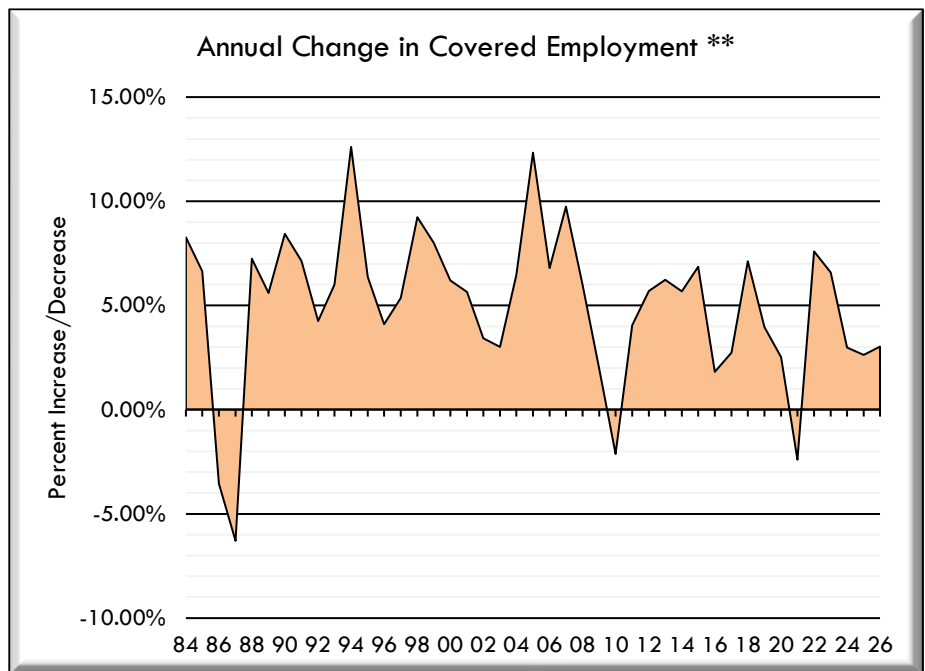
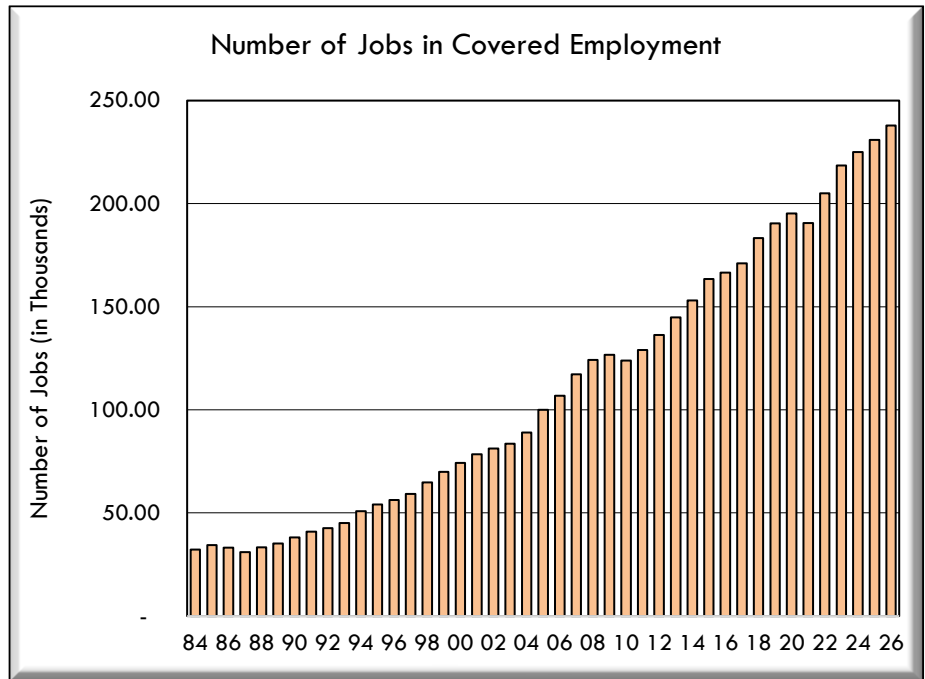
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Montgomery County 1983-2026 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	29,735		
84	32,193	2,458	8.3%
85	34,334	2,141	6.7%
86	33,117	(1,217)	-3.5%
87	31,030	(2,087)	-6.3%
88	33,280	2,250	7.3%
89	35,145	1,865	5.6%
90	38,111	2,966	8.4%
91	40,829	2,718	7.1%
92	42,566	1,737	4.3%
93	45,121	2,555	6.0%
94	50,812	5,691	12.6%
95	54,048	3,236	6.4%
96	56,264	2,216	4.1%
97	59,278	3,014	5.4%
98	64,752	5,474	9.2%
99	69,938	5,186	8.0%
00	74,276	4,338	6.2%
01	78,475	4,199	5.7%
02	81,168	2,693	3.4%
03	83,613	2,445	3.0%
04	89,019	5,406	6.5%
05	99,994	10,975	12.3%
06	106,787	6,793	6.8%
07	117,189	10,402	9.7%
08	124,210	7,021	6.0%
09	126,631	2,421	1.9%
10	123,943	(2,688)	-2.1%
11	128,972	5,029	4.1%
12	136,319	7,347	5.7%
13	144,822	8,503	6.2%
14	153,042	8,220	5.7%
15	163,531	10,489	6.9%
16	166,508	2,977	1.8%
17	171,069	4,561	2.7%
18	183,238	12,169	7.1%
19	190,487	7,249	4.0%
20	195,280	4,793	2.5%
21	190,577	(4,703)	-2.4%
22	205,057	14,480	7.6%
23	218,543	13,486	6.6%
24	225,051	6,508	3.0%
25	230,965	5,914	2.6%
26	237,959	6,994	3.0%



**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.