

Walker County

Labor Market Information

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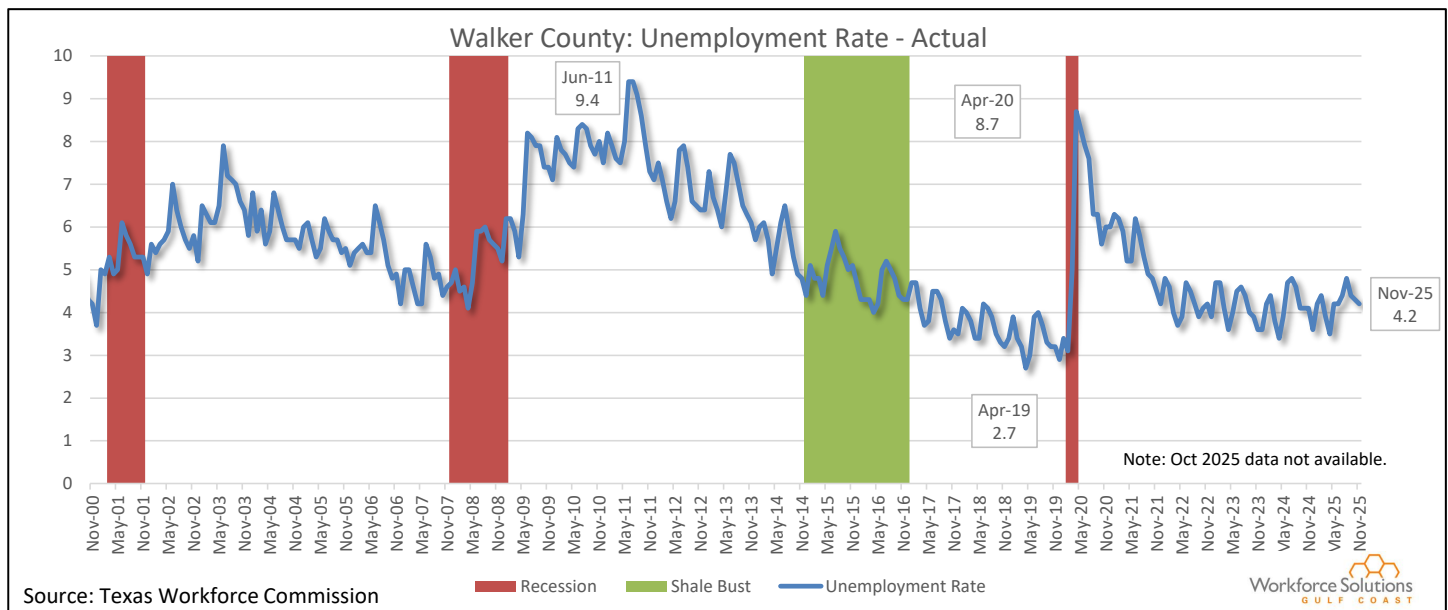
County Employment Data*

Walker County's unemployment rate measured 4.2 percent in November 2025, representing a 0.1 percentage-point increase from one year earlier. The local rate matched the Texas rate (4.2 percent) and remained slightly below the national rate (4.3 percent). October unemployment data were unavailable due to reporting delays associated with the federal government shutdown.

Walker County recorded its smallest second-quarter employment increase since 2021, adding 60 jobs over the quarter. While the county typically experiences second-quarter job growth, the current 0.2 percent increase was well below the historical average of 0.8 percent. The largest contributors to the quarterly gain were Public Administration, which added 53 jobs (+0.4%) driven by growth in State Government, and Education and Health Services, which increased by 51 jobs (+2.3%). These gains were partially offset by declines in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, down 31 jobs (-0.9%), and Leisure and Hospitality, down 27 jobs (-1.0%).

On an over-the-year basis, Walker County reported a net job loss for the first time since the first quarter of 2021, declining by 73 jobs (-0.3%) from Q2 2024 to Q2 2025. Seven of the eleven major industry sectors posted annual job gains. The largest increases occurred in Leisure and Hospitality, which added 137 jobs (+5.4%), and Public Administration, which gained 100 jobs (+4.6%), primarily due to growth in State Government employment. Walker County's employment trends are often closely tied to State Government, as the county is home to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice headquarters and Sam Houston State University. These gains were outweighed by significant losses in Construction, down 248 jobs (-21.8%), and Manufacturing, down 106 jobs (-7.4%). Additional details can be found on pages 2 through 7.

	NOV 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2024
Civilian Labor Force	31,832	NA	30,775
Total Employment	30,491	NA	29,507
Unemployed	1,341	NA	1,268
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	NA	4.1%
Comparative Actual Rates			
Texas	4.2%	NA	4.1%
U.S.	4.3%	NA	4.0%



*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 2nd quarter 2025 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.

Walker County

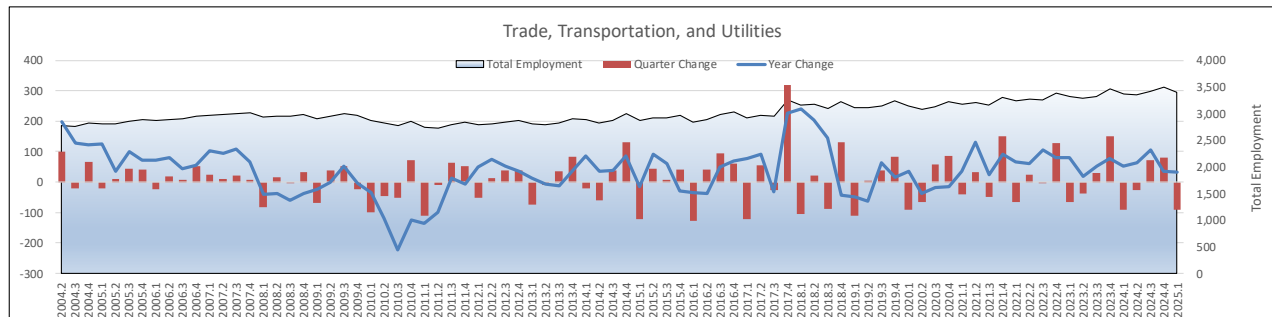
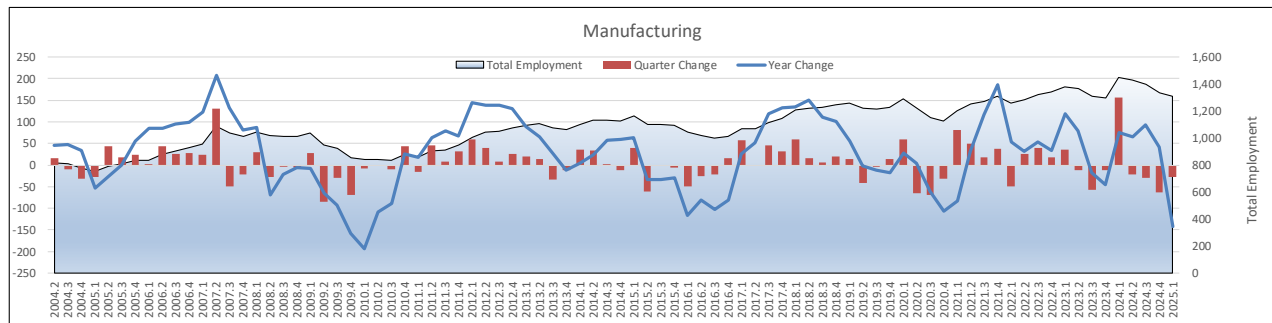
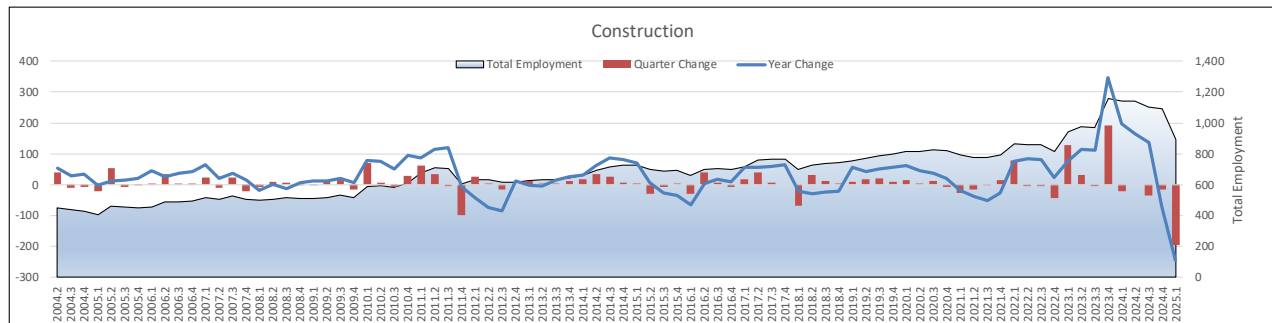
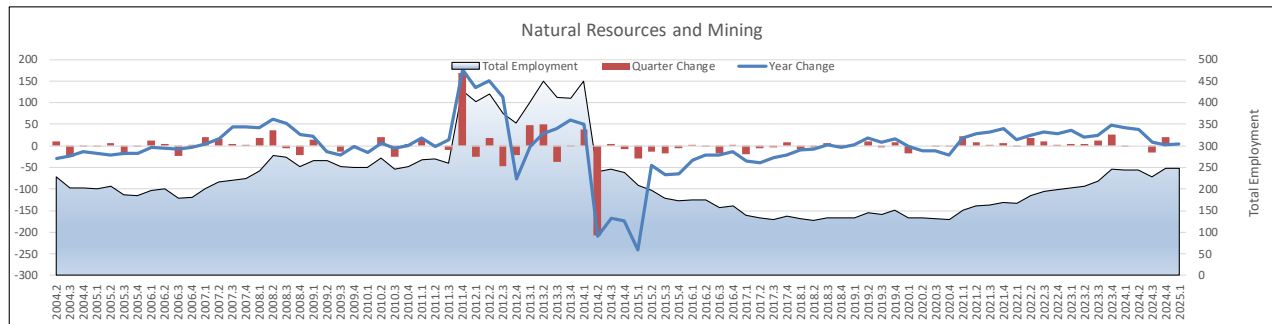
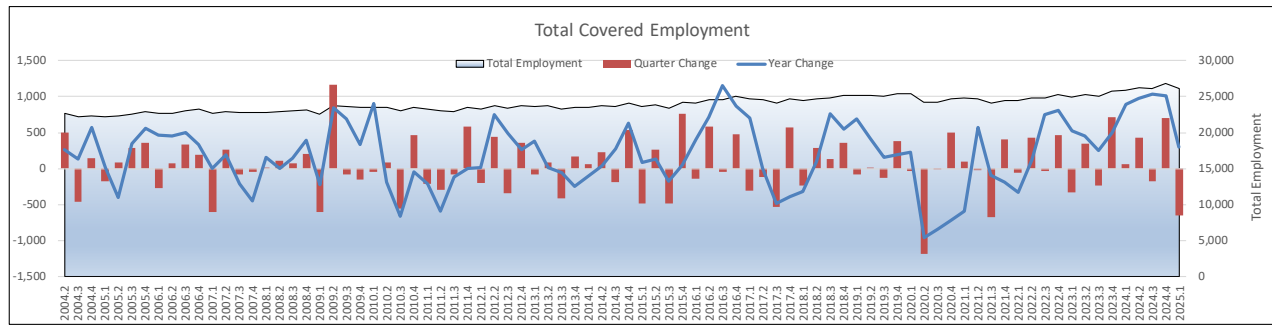
Labor Market Information

COVERED EMPLOYMENT Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg		Annual Chg		Avg Wkly Wage*
	2ND QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	2ND QTR 2024	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	26,214	26,154	26,287	60	0.2%	-73	-0.3%	\$1,044
Natural Resources & Mining	250	248	244	2	0.8%	6	2.5%	\$1,264
Construction	891	893	1,139	-2	-0.2%	-248	-21.8%	\$1,348
Manufacturing	1,324	1,309	1,430	15	1.1%	-106	-7.4%	\$1,959
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,376	3,407	3,348	-31	-0.9%	28	0.8%	\$783
Information	92	89	85	3	3.4%	7	8.2%	\$1,020
Financial Activities	673	675	656	-2	-0.3%	17	2.6%	\$1,051
Professional & Business Services	879	880	913	-1	-0.1%	-34	-3.7%	\$944
Education & Health Services	2,268	2,217	2,251	51	2.3%	17	0.8%	\$883
Leisure & Hospitality	2,654	2,681	2,517	-27	-1.0%	137	5.4%	\$376
Other Services	351	357	373	-6	-1.7%	-22	-5.9%	\$721
Nonclassifiable	35	31	13	4	12.9%	22	169.2%	\$512
Public Administration	13,421	13,368	13,318	53	0.4%	103	0.8%	\$1,177
Federal Government	148	145	148	3	2.1%	0	0.0%	\$1,807
State Government	10,989	11,003	10,986	-14	-0.1%	3	0.0%	\$1,223
Local Government	2,284	2,220	2,184	64	2.9%	100	4.6%	\$909

*Wages compiled from 1st quarter 2025 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.

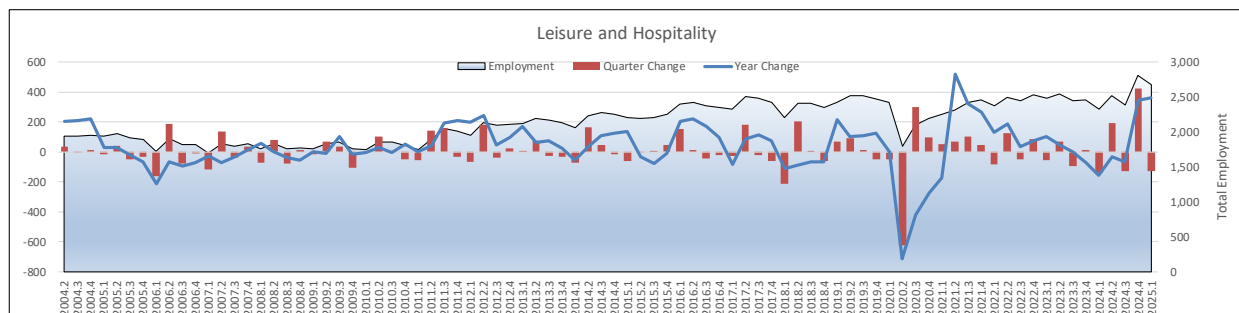
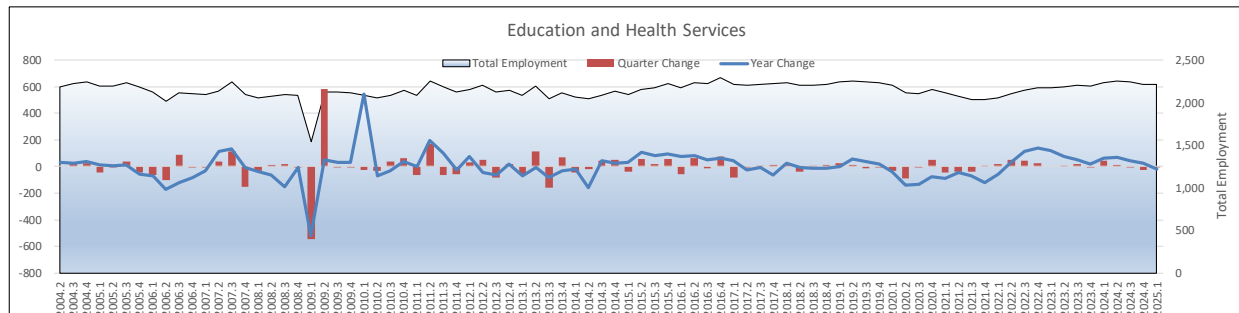
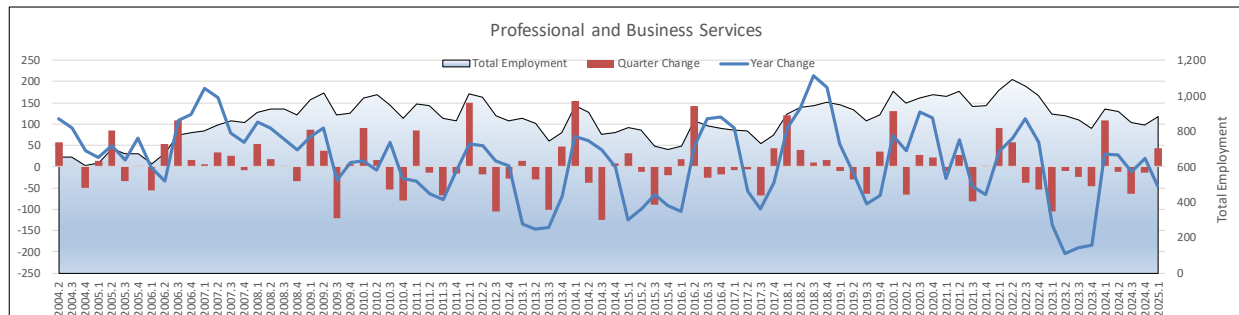
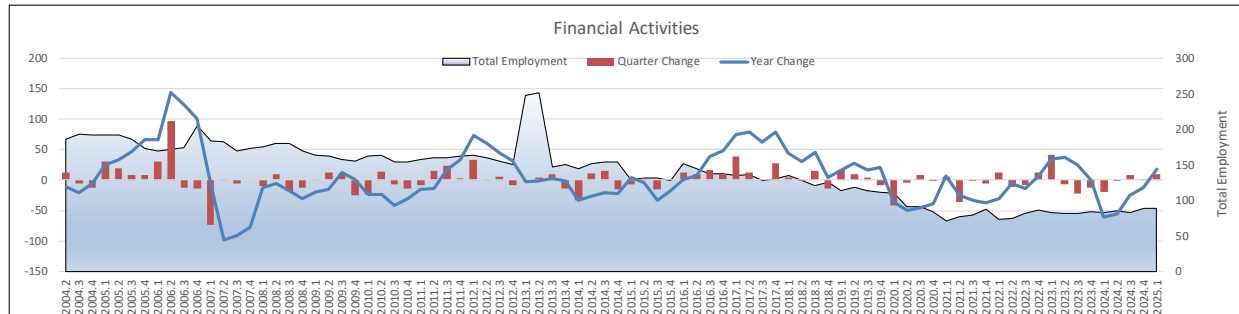
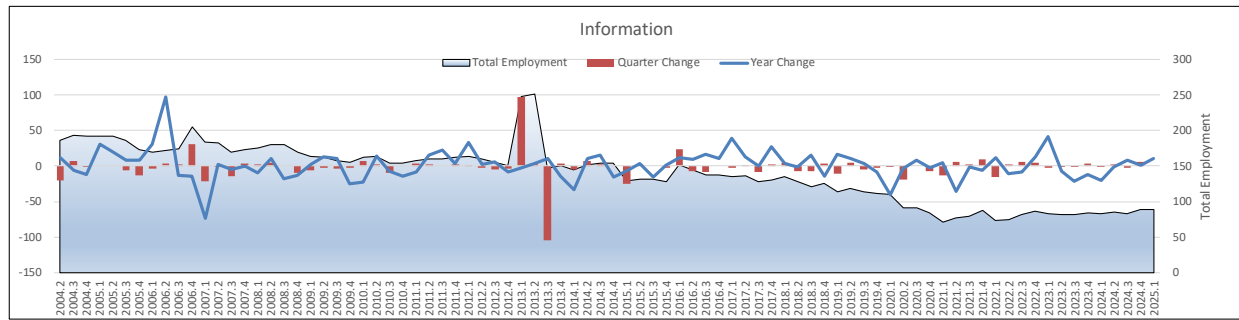
Walker County

Labor Market Information



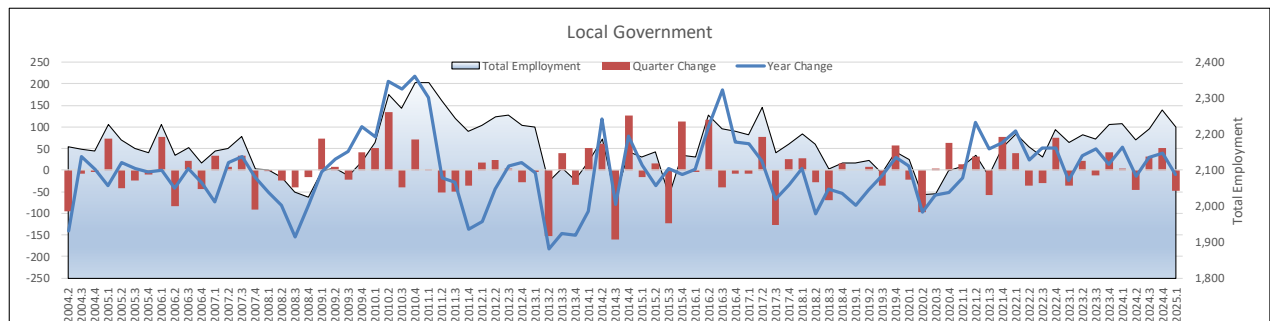
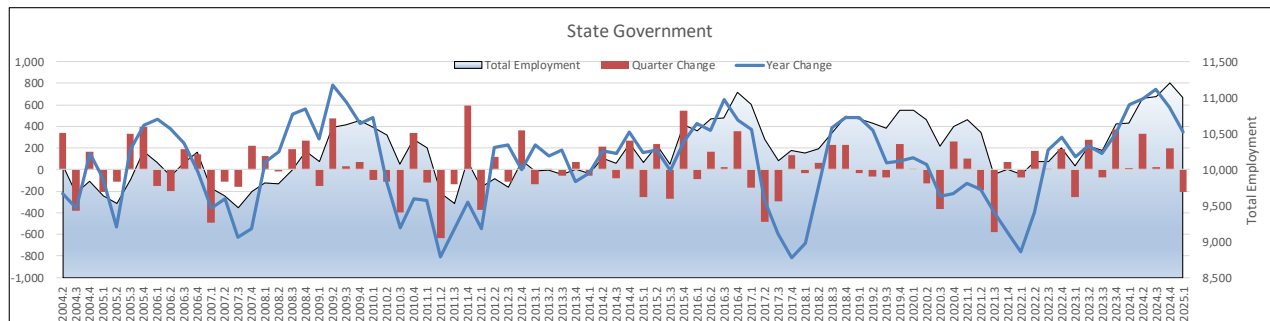
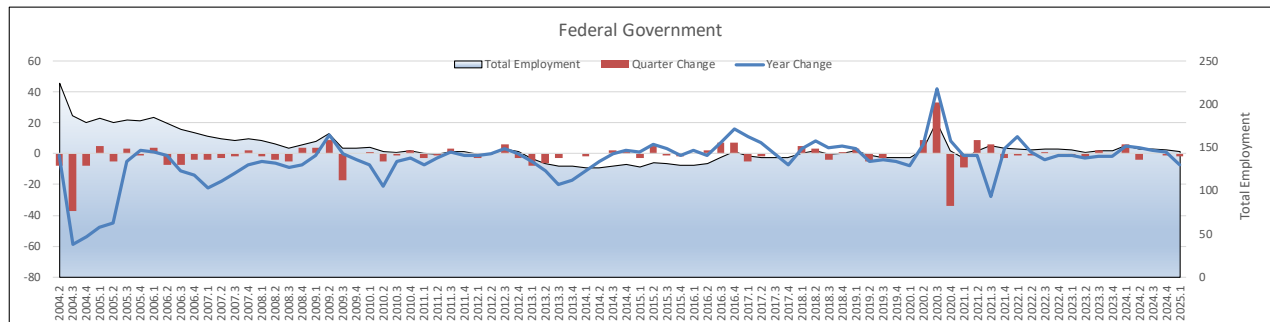
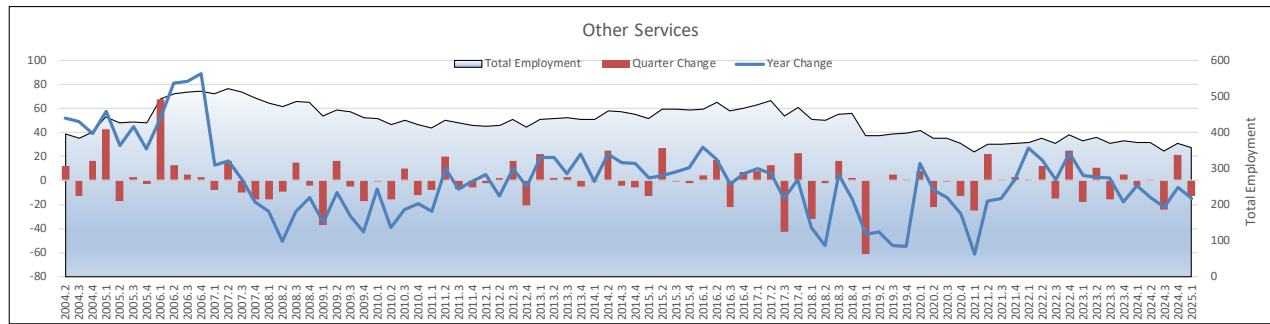
Walker County

Labor Market Information



Walker County

Labor Market Information



Walker County

Labor Market Information

Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	26,809	2024.4	21,775	2003.4
Natural Resources and Mining	450	2013.2	127	2018.2
Construction	1,160	2023.4	395	2003.2
Manufacturing	1,452	2024.1	745	2003.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3,499	2024.4	2,578	2003.2
Information	252	2013.2	71	2021.1
Financial Activities	758	2019.3	543	2004.4
Professional and Business Services	1,090	2022.2	543	2003.2
Education and Health Services	2,293	2016.4	1,538	2009.1
Leisure and Hospitality	2,808	2024.4	1,695	2007.1
Other Services	523	2007.2	335	2003.3
Federal Government	246	2003.3	126	2014.1
State Government	11,209	2024.4	9,475	2007.3
Local Government	2,344	2011.1	2,024	2008.4

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-177	-0.7%	180	0.8%
Natural Resources and Mining	4	1.5%	-1	1.2%
Construction	5	1.3%	15	2.8%
Manufacturing	26	2.4%	5	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-71	-2.3%	8	0.3%
Information	1	0.5%	-1	-0.4%
Financial Activities	1	0.2%	8	1.4%
Professional and Business Services	47	5.7%	16	2.5%
Education and Health Services	-48	-2.2%	40	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	-40	-1.8%	73	3.8%
Other Services	-3	-0.5%	7	1.6%
Federal Government	-1	-0.5%	-1	-0.3%
State Government	-118	-1.1%	18	0.2%
Local Government	20	0.9%	-7	-0.3%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-182	-0.8%	358	1.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	-12	-4.3%	8	3.7%
Construction	2	0.5%	1	-0.2%
Manufacturing	-7	-0.6%	0	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18	0.6%	84	2.8%
Information	-7	-3.3%	1	1.3%
Financial Activities	2	0.3%	-6	-0.9%
Professional and Business Services	-39	-4.0%	-8	-0.8%
Education and Health Services	6	0.3%	7	0.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	0	0.2%	14	0.5%
Other Services	-4	-1.0%	1	0.5%
Federal Government	0	0.4%	-2	-1.1%
State Government	-99	-0.9%	234	2.3%
Local Government	-40	-1.8%	23	1.1%

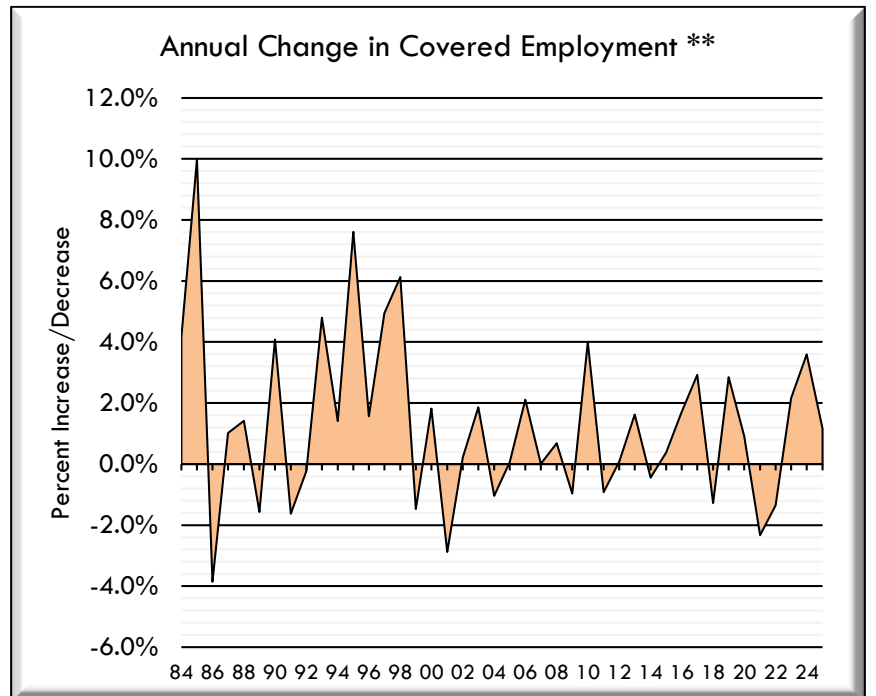
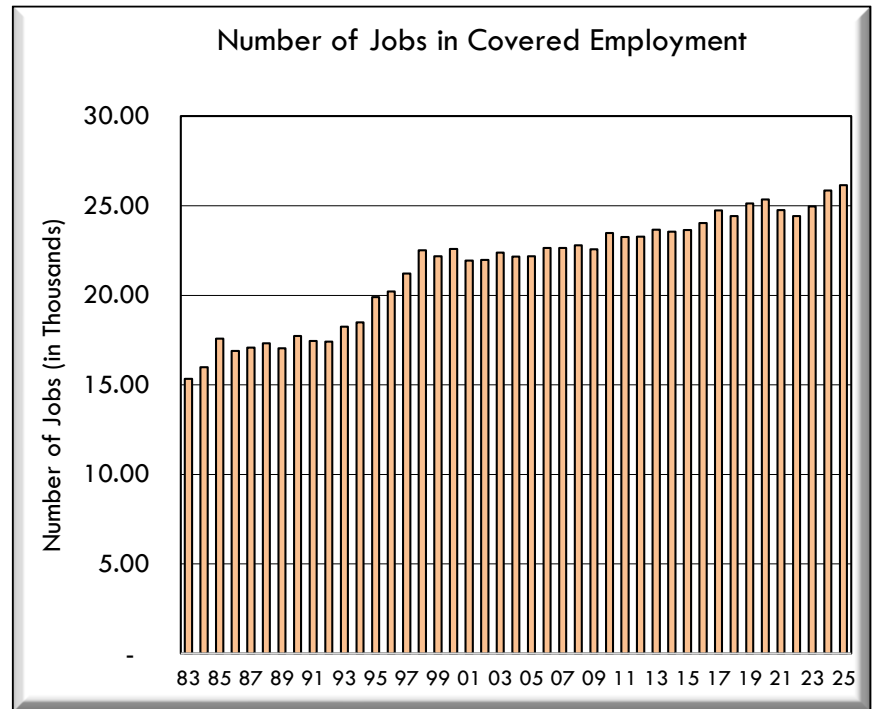
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

Walker County

Labor Market Information

Walker County 1983-2025 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	15,346		
84	15,986	640	4.2%
85	17,580	1,594	10.0%
86	16,902	(678)	-3.9%
87	17,073	171	1.0%
88	17,314	241	1.4%
89	17,042	(272)	-1.6%
90	17,737	695	4.1%
91	17,448	(289)	-1.6%
92	17,408	(40)	-0.2%
93	18,243	835	4.8%
94	18,499	256	1.4%
95	19,906	1,407	7.6%
96	20,218	312	1.6%
97	21,218	1,000	4.9%
98	22,517	1,299	6.1%
99	22,185	(332)	-1.5%
00	22,588	403	1.8%
01	21,936	(652)	-2.9%
02	21,983	47	0.2%
03	22,392	409	1.9%
04	22,159	(233)	-1.0%
05	21,926	(233)	0.1%
06	22,642	716	2.1%
07	22,643	1	0.0%
08	22,797	154	0.7%
09	22,578	(219)	-1.0%
10	23,480	902	4.0%
11	23,263	(217)	-0.9%
12	23,280	17	0.1%
13	23,658	378	1.6%
14	23,552	(106)	-0.4%
15	23,640	88	0.4%
16	24,043	403	1.7%
17	24,746	703	2.9%
18	24,430	(316)	-1.3%
19	25,126	696	2.8%
20	25,356	230	0.9%
21	24,766	(590)	-2.3%
22	24,431	(335)	-1.4%
23	24,959	528	2.2%
24	25,856	897	3.6%
25	26,154	298	1.2%



**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.

Walker County

Labor Market Information

Gulf Coast** 2024 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	\$45.18	\$93,971	27,680
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$27.04	\$56,235	14,890
19-4021	Biological Technicians	\$25.05	\$52,098	1,870
43-3031	Bookkeepers, Acctg and Auditing Clerks	\$24.62	\$51,211	28,210
49-3031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$29.78	\$61,932	6,510
53-3052	Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity	\$23.45	\$48,772	3,260
13-1020	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$39.83	\$82,839	9,420
47-2031	Carpenters	\$24.91	\$51,806	9,590
41-2011	Cashiers	\$14.07	\$29,273	62,770
39-9011	Childcare Workers	\$14.17	\$29,467	13,190
17-2051	Civil Engineer	\$53.01	\$110,264	11,330
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	\$28.97	\$60,262	11,360
47-2061	Construction Laborers	\$20.10	\$41,802	33,540
35-2012	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	\$16.33	\$33,958	7,620
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	\$15.97	\$33,215	32,510
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	\$20.38	\$42,385	64,870
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$39.15	\$81,435	3,310
47-3013	Electrician Helpers	\$21.58	\$44,897	1,940
47-2111	Electricians	\$28.40	\$59,077	18,100
43-6011	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$35.86	\$74,596	7,400
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$12.76	\$26,537	91,450
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$34.90	\$72,590	40,050
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$24.00	\$49,913	21,900
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	\$15.25	\$31,728	23,480
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$37.16	\$77,300	3,640
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$66.54	\$138,394	107,460
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$19.02	\$39,552	5,520
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics	\$28.68	\$59,648	7,090
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$33.43	\$69,541	18,750
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operator	\$21.96	\$45,678	24,150
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$15.20	\$31,618	47,750
53-7062	Laborers and Freight Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$18.93	\$39,380	53,740
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$30.06	\$62,530	11,660
11-9081	Lodging Managers	\$44.31	\$92,155	490
51-4041	Machinists	\$28.61	\$59,501	7,640
11-2021	Marketing Managers	\$75.16	\$156,330	9,250
31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$20.17	\$41,949	16,880
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$31.75	\$66,044	5,460
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	\$18.70	\$38,892	19,970
19-5011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$40.82	\$84,898	5,200
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	\$19.61	\$40,780	46,500
29-1051	Pharmacists	\$65.44	\$136,114	6,310
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$29.24	\$60,814	11,280
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$35.89	\$74,659	16,170
43-5061	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$26.87	\$55,891	8,140
43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$16.93	\$35,212	19,050
29-1141	Registered Nurses	\$46.42	\$96,552	66,090
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	\$16.25	\$33,805	77,290
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	\$24.28	\$50,512	5,900
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, except Technical and Scientific Products	\$38.17	\$79,398	24,900
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$22.01	\$45,783	34,340
33-9032	Security Guards	\$18.27	\$37,994	27,390
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	\$18.19	\$37,829	64,370
53-1047	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, Exc. Aircraft Cargo Handling	\$31.12	\$64,727	13,970
53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$27.46	\$57,112	50,120
53-3033	Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	\$23.24	\$48,334	17,180
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$27.16	\$56,496	18,010

*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. **The Gulf Coast Region is defined as Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties.