

Wharton County

Labor Market Information

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County Employment Data*

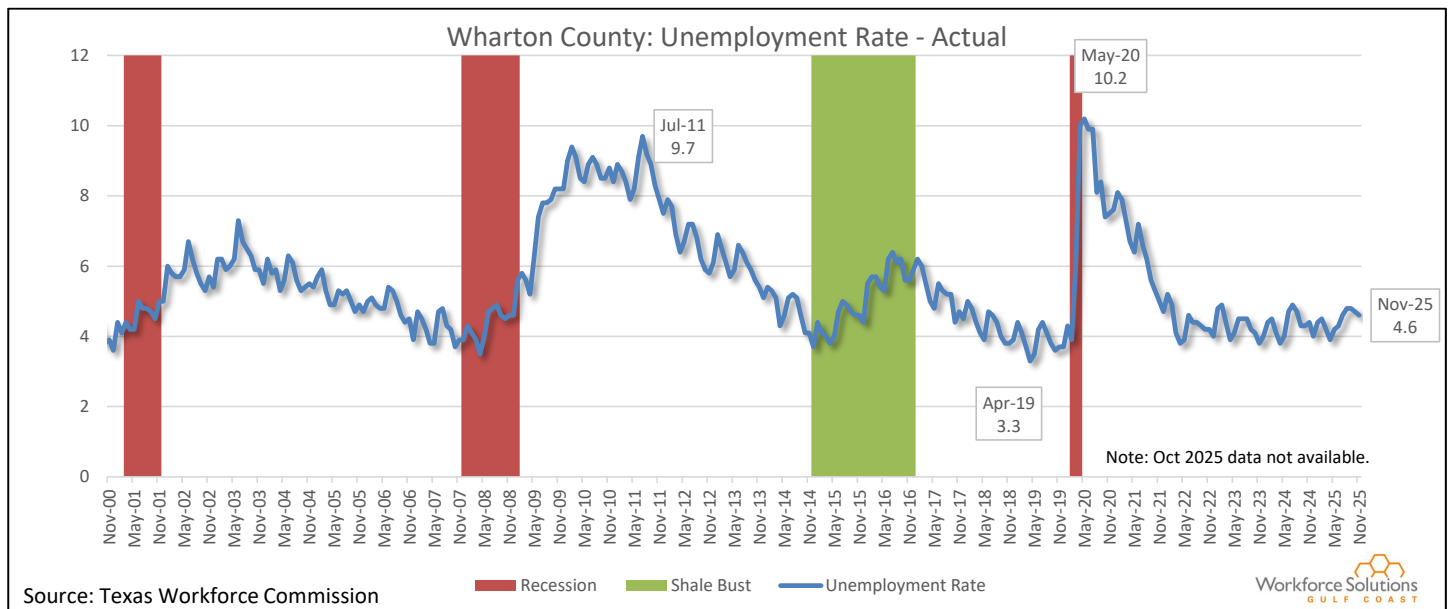
Wharton County's unemployment rate measured 4.69 percent in November 2025, representing a 0.2 percentage-point increase from one year earlier. The local rate remained slightly above both the Texas rate (4.2 percent) and the national rate (4.3 percent). October unemployment data were unavailable due to reporting delays associated with the federal government shutdown.

Total covered employment in Wharton County declined by 39 jobs (-0.2%) during the second quarter of 2025. While the county typically experiences job growth during the second quarter, averaging a 1.7 percent increase, this represented a modest improvement compared with 2024, when employment fell by 58 jobs (-0.4%). Only five of the eleven major industry sectors reported quarterly gains. The largest increases occurred in Leisure and Hospitality, which added 81 jobs (+6.3%); Manufacturing, up 25 jobs (+1.7%); and Professional and Business Services, up 23 jobs (+4.0%). These gains were offset by declines in Construction, down 67 jobs (-7.3%); Education and Health Services, down 67 jobs (-2.6%); and Public Administration, down 43 jobs (-1.6%), driven by losses in Local Government.

On a year-over-year basis, Wharton County recorded a net job loss for the fifth consecutive quarter, with payroll employment declining by 85 jobs (-0.5%) from Q2 2024 to Q2 2025. This marked a slight improvement from the prior quarter, when employment fell by 104 jobs (-0.6%). Seven of the eleven major industry sectors posted annual job losses. The largest decline occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which lost 218 jobs (-5.2%). Among the four sectors reporting notable annual gains, Construction posted the strongest increase, adding 210 jobs (+32.7%). Additional gains were recorded in Manufacturing, up 42 jobs (+2.9%); Leisure and Hospitality, up 60 jobs (+4.6%); and Professional and Business Services, up 39 jobs (+7.0%).

Additional details can be found on pages 2 through 7.

	NOV 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2024
Civilian Labor Force	19,811	NA	19,349
Employed	18,892	NA	18,505
Unemployed	919	NA	844
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	NA	4.4%
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.

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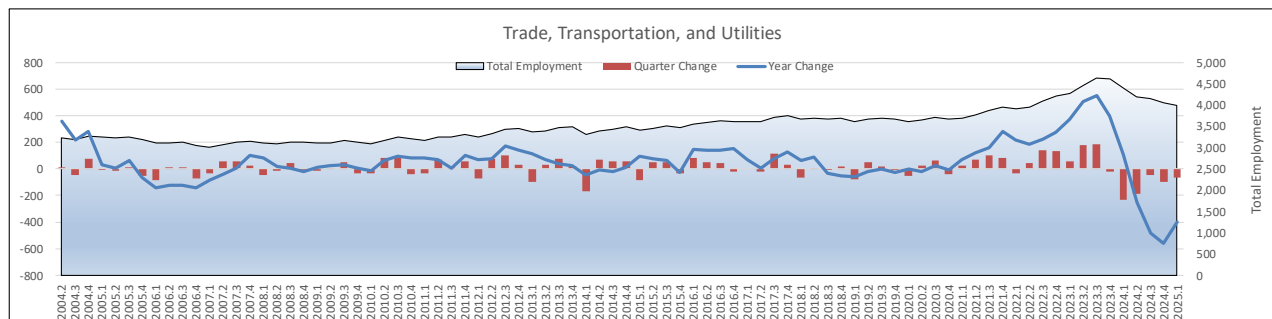
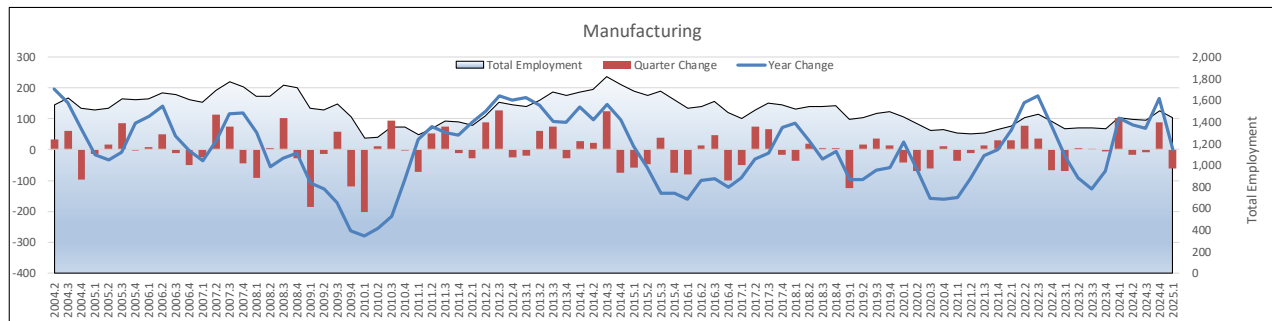
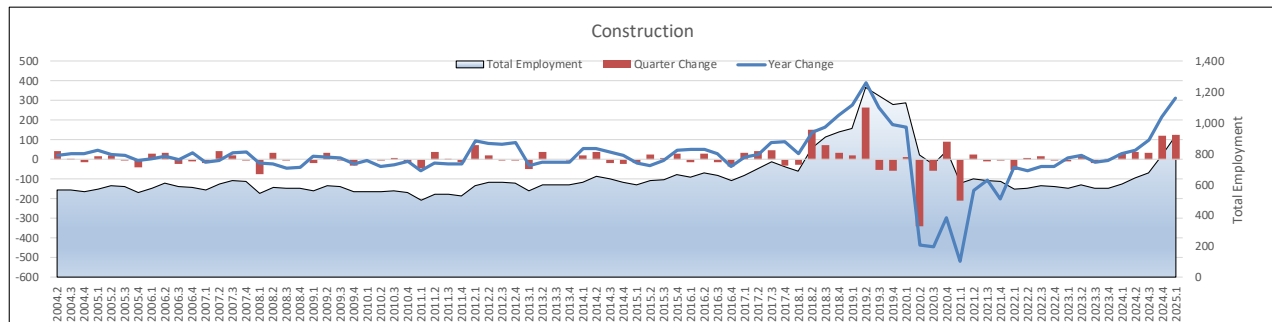
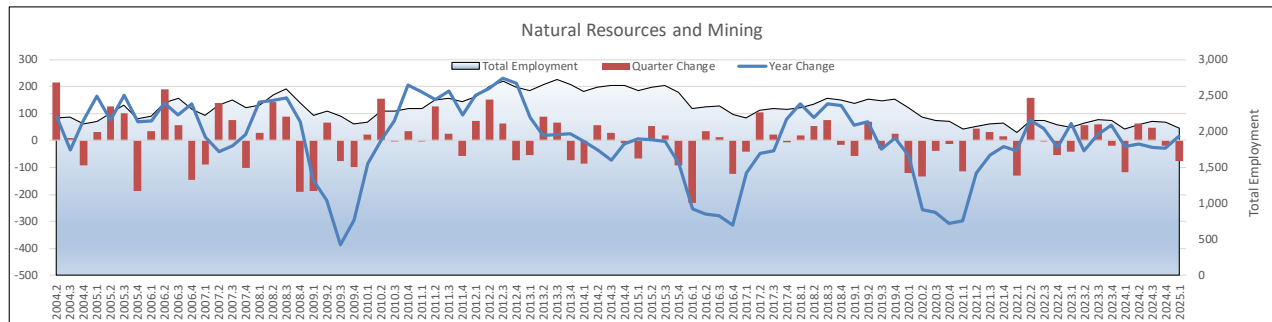
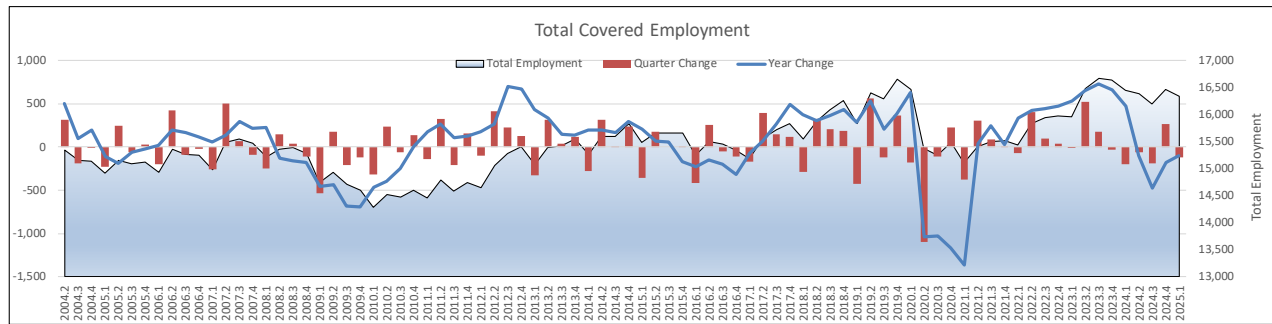
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Industrial Sector	Number of Jobs			Quarter Chg.		Annual Chg.		Avg Wkly Wage*
	2ND QTR 2025	1ST QTR 2025	2ND QTR 2024	Actual	%	Actual	%	
Total Employment	16,302	16,341	16,387	-39	-0.2%	-85	-0.5%	\$1,022
Natural Resources & Mining	2,047	2,048	2,098	-1	0.0%	-51	-2.4%	\$1,069
Construction	852	919	642	-67	-7.3%	210	32.7%	\$1,233
Manufacturing	1,466	1,441	1,424	25	1.7%	42	2.9%	\$1,396
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,979	3,982	4,197	-3	-0.1%	-218	-5.2%	\$1,061
Information	49	51	50	-2	-3.9%	-1	-2.0%	\$665
Financial Activities	481	478	529	3	0.6%	-48	-9.1%	\$1,582
Professional & Business Services	593	570	554	23	4.0%	39	7.0%	\$1,053
Education & Health Services	2,474	2,541	2,519	-67	-2.6%	-45	-1.8%	\$1,011
Leisure & Hospitality	1,359	1,278	1,299	81	6.3%	60	4.6%	\$363
Other Services	271	261	275	10	3.8%	-4	-1.5%	\$650
Nonclassifiable	3	3	5	0	0.0%	-2	-40.0%	na
Public Administration	2,727	2,770	2,794	-43	-1.6%	-67	-2.4%	\$923
Federal Government	88	92	91	-4	-4.3%	-3	-3.3%	\$1,461
State Government	104	103	98	1	1.0%	6	6.1%	\$1,269
Local Government	2,535	2,575	2,605	-40	-1.6%	-70	-2.7%	\$890

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

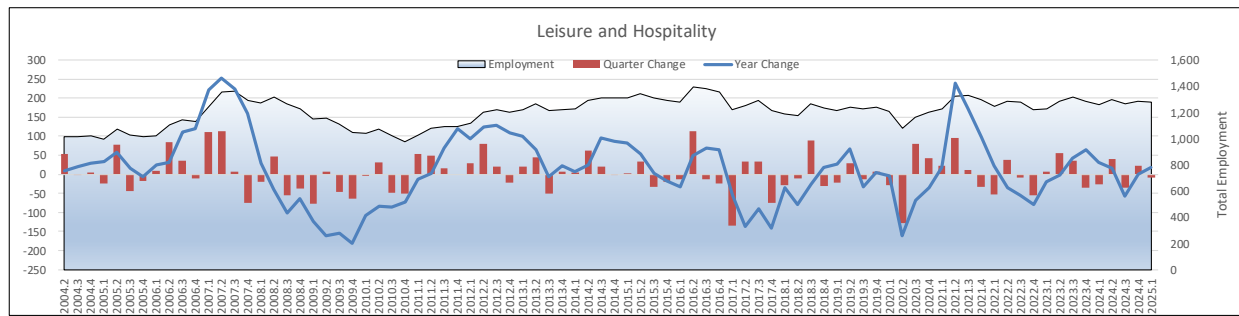
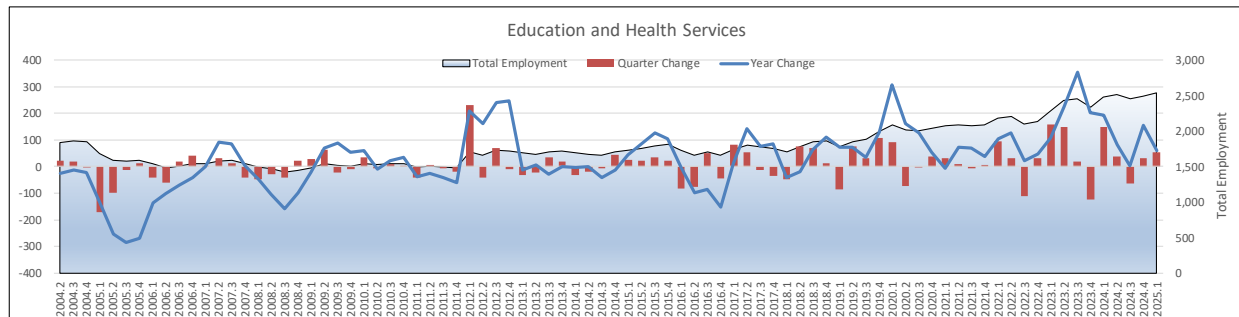
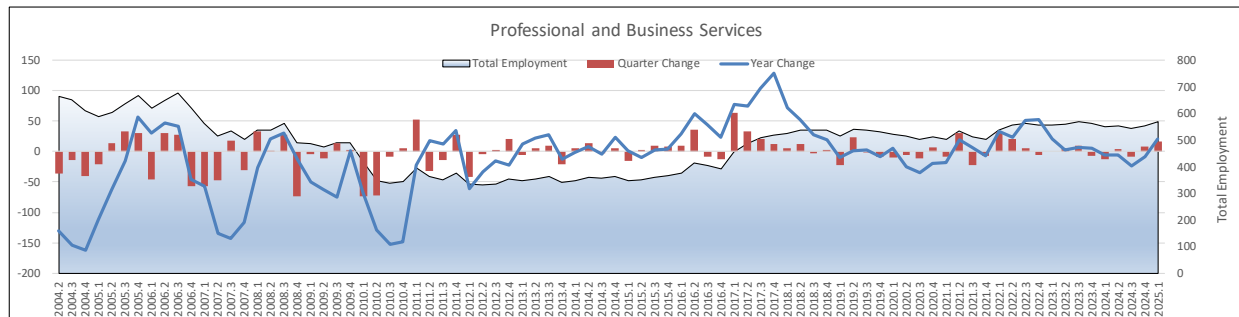
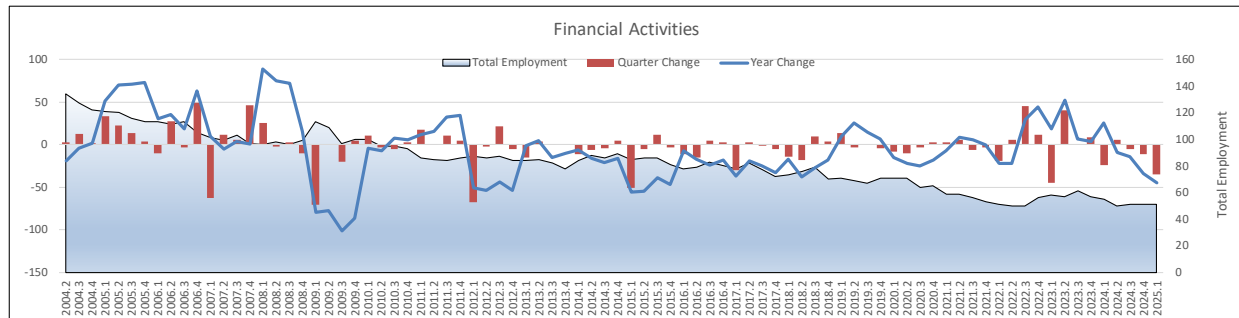
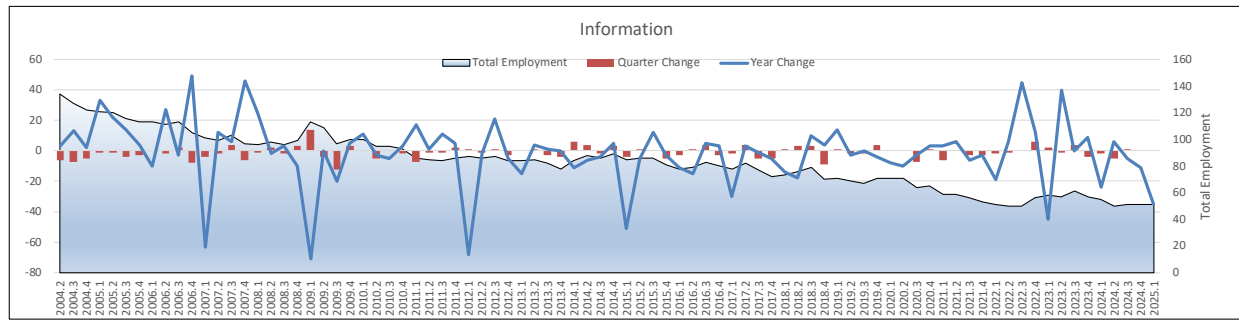
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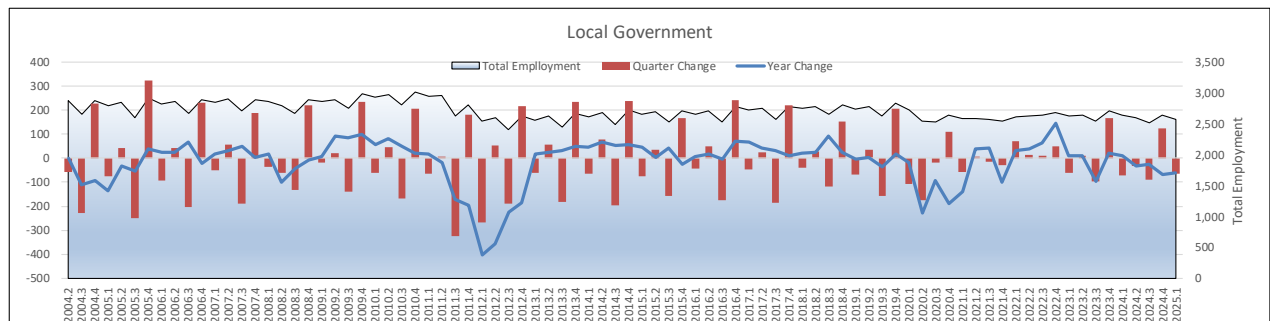
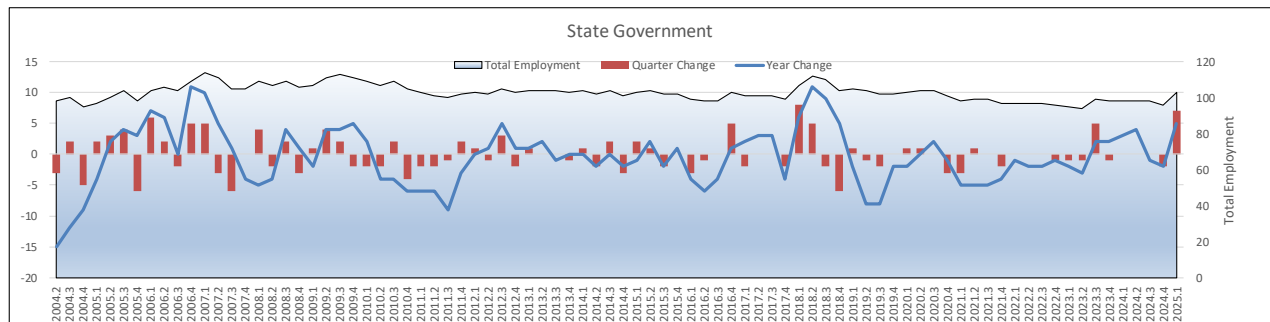
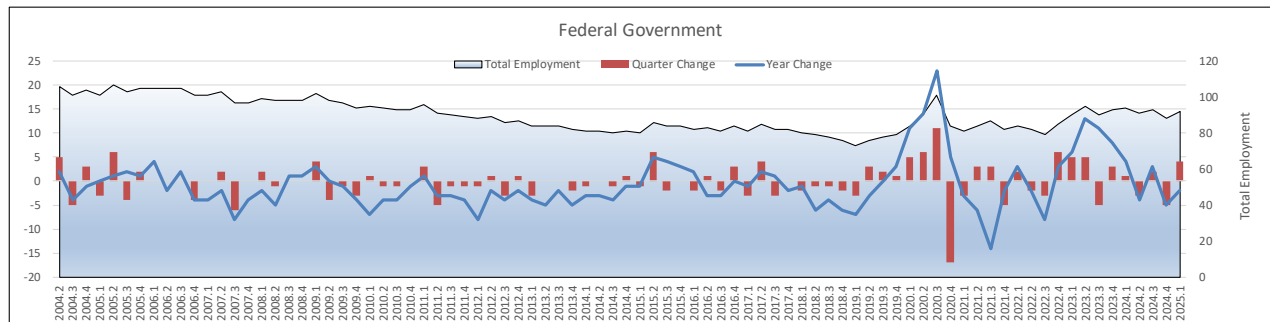
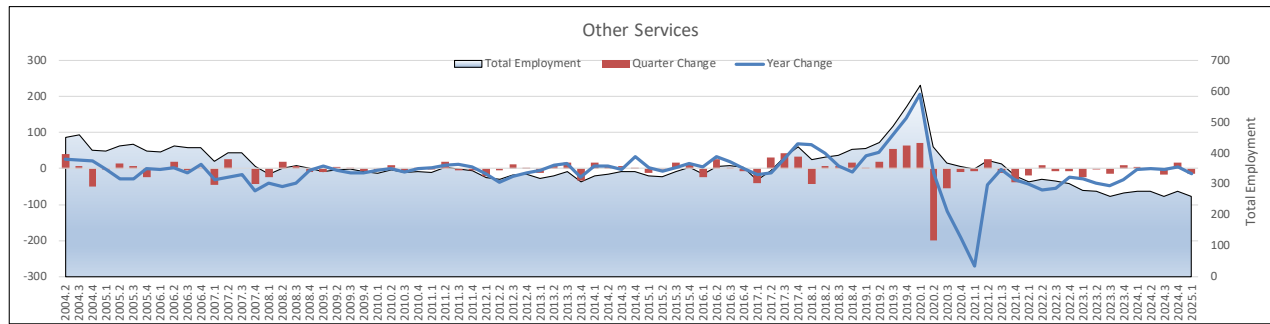
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Historical Employment Highlights

	All-Time High	All-Time High Quarter	All-Time Low	All-Time Low Qtr
Total	16,669	2023.3	14,282	2010.1
Natural Resources and Mining	2,717	2013.3	1,972	2004.1
Construction	1,228	2019.2	500	2011.1
Manufacturing	1,822	2014.3	1,248	2010.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	4,635	2023.3	2,875	2003.2
Information	143	2003.3	50	2022.2
Financial Activities	762	2008.3	478	2025.1
Professional and Business Services	805	2003.3	331	2012.2
Education and Health Services	2,541	2025.1	1,427	2008.3
Leisure and Hospitality	1,392	2016.2	963	2004.1
Other Services	620	2020.1	259	2024.3
Federal Government	107	2005.2	73	2019.1
State Government	114	2007.1	94	2023.2
Local Government	3,011	2010.4	2,409	2012.3

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	1st Qtr Avg Chg #	1st Qtr Avg Chg %	2nd Qtr Avg Chg #	2nd Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	-236	-1.5%	248	1.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	-57	-2.4%	93	4.2%
Construction	-9	-1.2%	28	5.2%
Manufacturing	-44	-2.8%	24	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-32	-0.9%	30	0.9%
Information	0	-0.4%	-1	-0.7%
Financial Activities	-18	-2.8%	3	0.5%
Professional and Business Services	-8	-0.9%	1	0.3%
Education and Health Services	16	0.8%	7	0.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	-9	-0.6%	45	3.9%
Other Services	-9	-2.7%	4	2.1%
Federal Government	0	0.0%	1	1.4%
State Government	1	1.1%	0	0.0%
Local Government	-63	-2.2%	13	0.5%

Average Change from Previous Quarter

	3rd Qtr Avg Chg #	3rd Qtr Avg Chg %	4th Qtr Avg Chg #	4th Qtr Avg Chg %
Total	1	0.0%	66	0.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	34	1.5%	-68	-2.8%
Construction	0	0.1%	-1	-0.3%
Manufacturing	52	3.5%	-28	-1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	54	1.5%	4	0.1%
Information	-1	-1.2%	-2	-1.9%
Financial Activities	4	0.8%	5	0.7%
Professional and Business Services	4	0.7%	-8	-1.0%
Education and Health Services	4	0.3%	5	0.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	-1	0.0%	-21	-1.7%
Other Services	3	0.8%	-6	-1.3%
Federal Government	-1	-0.9%	-1	-0.8%
State Government	0	0.3%	-2	-1.7%
Local Government	-151	-5.4%	188	7.2%

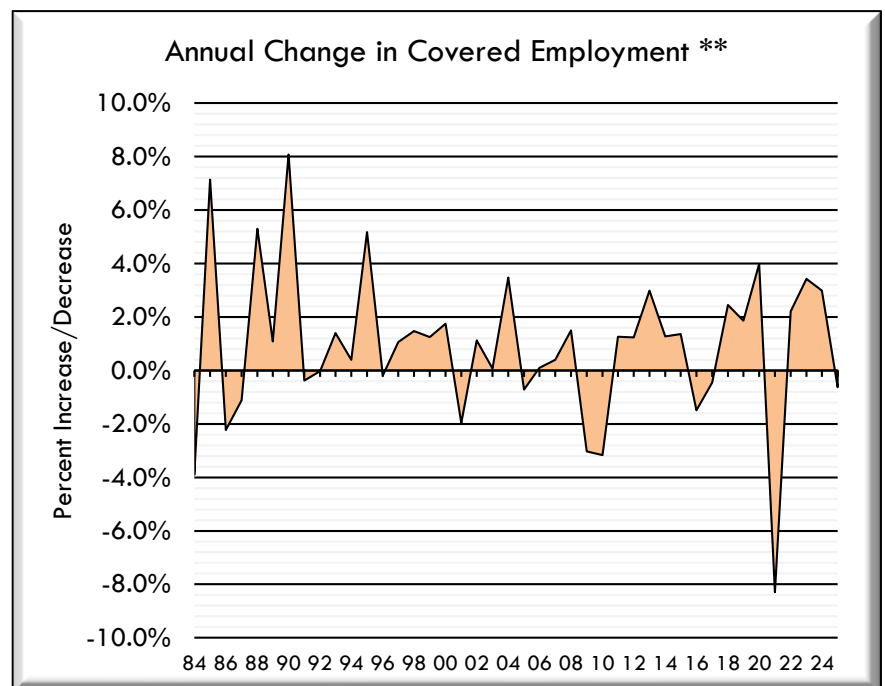
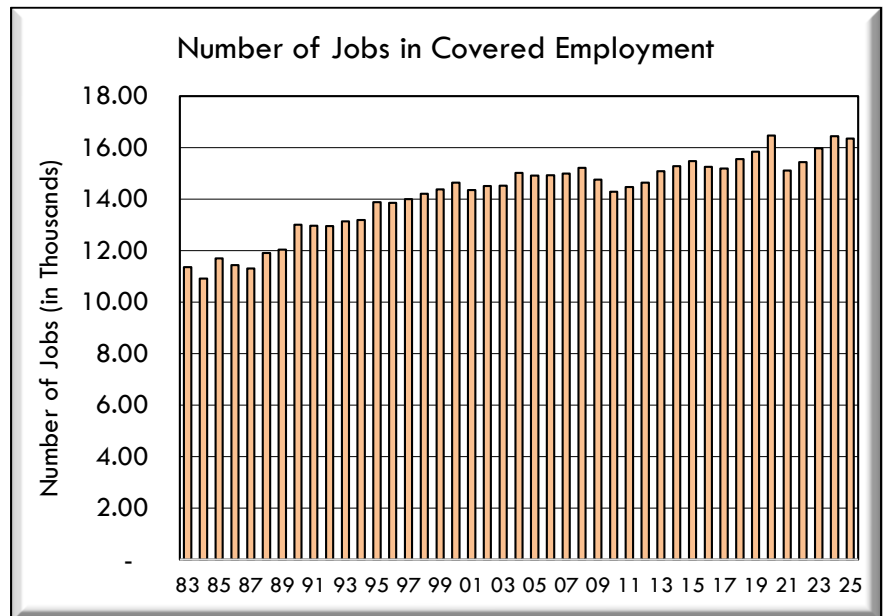
Covered employment data compiled from contribution and wage reports submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission by employers' subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Source: Texas Workforce Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Historical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

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Wharton County 1983-2025 Covered Employment**

YEAR	JOBS	+ / (-)	% +/-
83	11,356		
84	10,913	(443)	-3.9%
85	11,693	780	7.1%
86	11,433	(260)	-2.2%
87	11,306	(127)	-1.1%
88	11,905	599	5.3%
89	12,034	129	1.1%
90	13,007	973	8.1%
91	12,958	(49)	-0.4%
92	12,955	(3)	0.0%
93	13,137	182	1.4%
94	13,189	52	0.4%
95	13,872	683	5.2%
96	13,845	(27)	-0.2%
97	13,992	147	1.1%
98	14,199	207	1.5%
99	14,377	178	1.3%
00	14,629	252	1.8%
01	14,342	(287)	-2.0%
02	14,504	162	1.1%
03	14,515	11	0.1%
04	15,019	504	3.5%
05	14,911	(108)	-0.7%
06	14,925	14	0.1%
07	14,985	60	0.4%
08	15,209	224	1.5%
09	14,749	(460)	-3.0%
10	14,282	(467)	-3.2%
11	14,462	180	1.3%
12	14,641	179	1.2%
13	15,078	437	3.0%
14	15,270	192	1.3%
15	15,478	208	1.4%
16	15,247	(231)	-1.5%
17	15,178	(69)	-0.5%
18	15,549	371	2.4%
19	15,839	290	1.9%
20	16,471	632	4.0%
21	15,104	(1,367)	-8.3%
22	15,438	334	2.2%
23	15,967	529	3.4%
24	16,445	478	3.0%
25	16,341	(104)	-0.6%



**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** 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 Repairs	\$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.