



# TEXAS

## LABOR MARKET REVIEW

**APRIL 2024**

The Texas Labor Market Review brings you the most current labor market highlights and happenings across the Lone Star State. The information that follows is produced and published on a monthly basis and includes data on nonagricultural job trends, the labor force, job postings, and other relevant indicators for both the state and sub-state areas. Additional data and historical information is available at [TexasLMI.com](https://TexasLMI.com).

### March 2024 Monthly Indicators

#### INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT



**19,100 jobs**

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



**0.0 points**

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#### JOB ADS INDEX



**0.1%**

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#### INITIAL UI CLAIMS



**827 claims**

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# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

## Statewide Industry Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonfarm employment increased by 19,100 jobs in March, which marked the 29th series-high job count in the last 30 months. With the monthly increase, employment rose by 61,800 so far in 2024. Private sector jobs also increased with the addition of 13,000 positions over the month. Since March 2023, Total Nonfarm employment

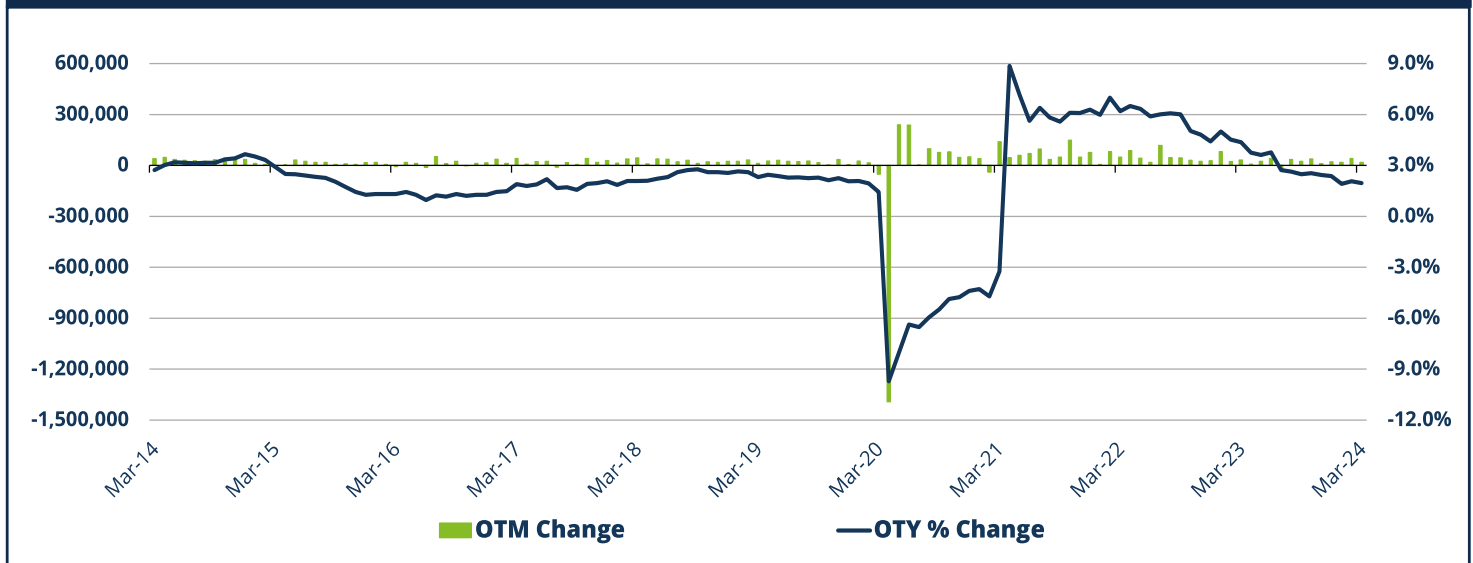
expanded by 270,700 positions for an annual growth rate of 2.0 percent. Eight of 11 major industries added jobs over the month, and nine major industries showed positive annual growth since March 2023. Six major industries reached new series employment highs in March.

### Highlights

- Private Education and Health Services followed up a revised gain of 2,900 jobs in February with an increase of 2,300 jobs in March, the 23rd series employment high in 24 months.
- Following a revised gain of 9,300 jobs in February, Leisure and Hospitality employment rose 7,300 jobs in March.
- Mining and Logging employment rose for the third time in four months with 3,700 positions added in March, which equaled a 1.8 percent expansion that led all major industries.

| Industry                             | Mar 2024   | Monthly Change | Annual Change | Annual % Change |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total Nonagricultural                | 14,115,700 | 19,100         | 270,700       | 2.0             |
| Total Private                        | 12,019,900 | 13,000         | 202,500       | 1.7             |
| Goods Producing                      | 2,025,900  | 2,300          | 43,900        | 2.2             |
| Mining and Logging                   | 212,900    | 3,700          | -2,200        | -1.0            |
| Construction                         | 845,200    | 300            | 28,600        | 3.5             |
| Manufacturing                        | 967,800    | -1,700         | 17,500        | 1.8             |
| Service Providing                    | 12,089,800 | 16,800         | 226,800       | 1.9             |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 2,765,100  | -1,500         | 13,600        | 0.5             |
| Information                          | 233,400    | 200            | -3,800        | -1.6            |
| Financial Activities                 | 913,000    | -1,700         | 11,500        | 1.3             |
| Professional and Business Services   | 2,145,500  | 1,700          | 25,000        | 1.2             |
| Private Education & Health Services  | 1,931,500  | 2,300          | 52,800        | 2.8             |
| Leisure and Hospitality              | 1,514,800  | 7,300          | 37,800        | 2.6             |
| Other Services                       | 490,700    | 2,400          | 21,700        | 4.6             |
| Government                           | 2,095,800  | 6,100          | 68,200        | 3.4             |

### Total Nonagricultural Jobs



# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

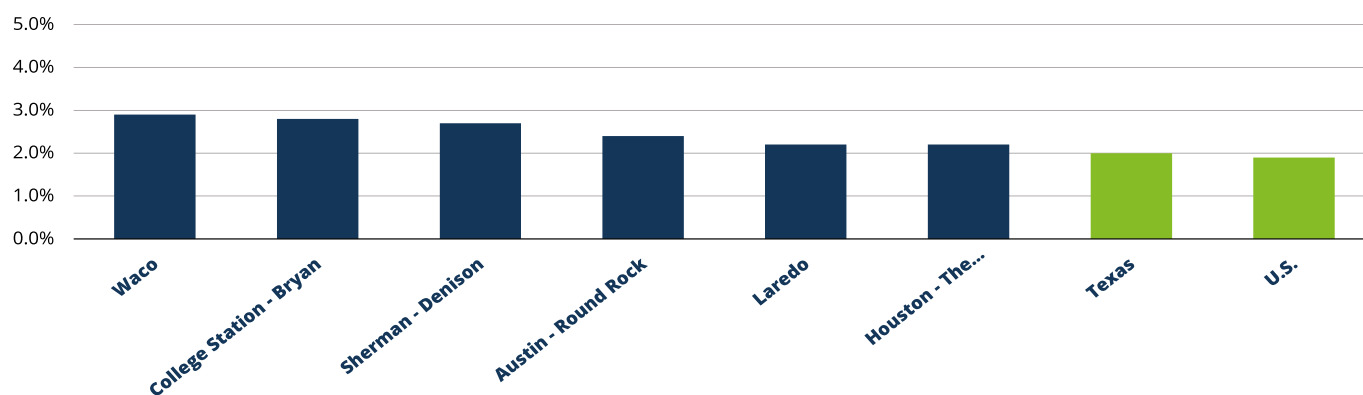
## Metro Areas (Seasonally Adjusted)

| Metro Areas               | Mar 2024  | Monthly Change | Annual Change | Annual % Change |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Abilene MSA               | 77,400    | 100            | 900           | 1.2             |
| Amarillo MSA              | 128,600   | -100           | 1,400         | 1.1             |
| Austin-Round Rock MSA     | 1,352,600 | -1,600         | 32,000        | 2.4             |
| Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA  | 164,400   | 0              | 3,200         | 2.0             |
| Brownsville-Harlingen MSA | 163,000   | 100            | 2,800         | 1.7             |
| College Station-Bryan MSA | 142,000   | 0              | 3,900         | 2.8             |
| Corpus Christi MSA        | 200,000   | -300           | 3,800         | 1.9             |
| Dallas-FW-Arlington MSA   | 4,273,800 | 4,000          | 75,600        | 1.8             |
| Dallas-Plano-Irving MD    | 3,061,100 | 1,800          | 49,000        | 1.6             |
| Fort Worth-Arlington MD   | 1,210,400 | 500            | 19,400        | 1.6             |
| El Paso MSA               | 346,400   | -300           | 6,600         | 1.9             |
| Houston MSA               | 3,430,300 | 300            | 72,700        | 2.2             |
| Killeen-Temple MSA        | 155,100   | -200           | 2,600         | 1.7             |
| Laredo MSA                | 113,000   | 200            | 2,400         | 2.2             |
| Longview MSA              | 100,900   | 0              | -100          | -0.1            |
| Lubbock MSA               | 161,300   | 200            | 3,100         | 2.0             |
| McAllen MSA               | 299,500   | -500           | 3,500         | 1.2             |
| Midland MSA               | 122,100   | 600            | 2,300         | 1.9             |
| Odessa MSA                | 81,700    | 500            | 1,300         | 1.6             |
| San Angelo MSA            | 52,900    | 200            | 1,000         | 1.9             |
| San Antonio MSA           | 1,179,700 | 2,300          | 25,500        | 2.2             |
| Sherman-Denison MSA       | 53,900    | 200            | 1,400         | 2.7             |
| Texarkana MSA             | 59,600    | 100            | -100          | -0.2            |
| Tyler MSA                 | 116,500   | 0              | 500           | 0.4             |
| Victoria MSA              | 40,300    | 0              | 0             | 0.0             |
| Waco MSA                  | 138,000   | 0              | 3,900         | 2.9             |
| Wichita Falls MSA         | 59,700    | 200            | 300           | 0.5             |

## Highlights

- Employment in 14 of 26 metro areas experienced growth in March for a combined monthly increase of 7,300 jobs. Six areas saw no change in monthly employment while six areas experienced job declines. As of March, 23 areas experienced positive annual job growth, while 22 areas exceeded their pre-COVID employment levels set in February 2020.
- The Odessa MSA added jobs again in March with a gain of 500 positions over the month, achieving the largest percentage monthly growth of any metro area.
- Following a revised increase of 600 jobs in February, employment in the San Antonio MSA rose by 2,300 positions in March, which led all metro areas.
- The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA added 300 positions in March, which drove employment in the MSA to a new series high for the eighth consecutive month.

## Fastest Growing Metro Areas Over the Year



# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Fastest Growing Metro Areas Over-the-Year (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

## Sherman-Denison MSA

| Area Industry Composition | Industry                                  | Annual Change | Annual % Change |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|
|                           | Total Nonagricultural                     | 1,600         | 3.1             |
|                           | 6.9% Mining, Logging & Construction       | 200           | 5.7             |
|                           | 14.9% Manufacturing                       | 100           | 1.3             |
|                           | 17.3% Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | 0             | 0.0             |
|                           | 0.7% Information                          | 0             | 0.0             |
|                           | 3.5% Financial Activities                 | -100          | -5.0            |
|                           | 8.9% Professional & Business Services     | 500           | 11.6            |
|                           | 19.0% Private Education & Health Services | 200           | 2.0             |
|                           | 11.0% Leisure & Hospitality               | 300           | 5.4             |
|                           | 2.2% Other Services                       | 100           | 9.1             |
| 15.5% Government          | 300                                       | 3.8           |                 |

## College Station-Bryan MSA

| Area Industry Composition | Industry                                  | Annual Change | Annual % Change |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|
|                           | Total Nonagricultural                     | 4,100         | 2.9             |
|                           | 5.4% Mining, Logging & Construction       | 100           | 1.3             |
|                           | 4.3% Manufacturing                        | -100          | -1.6            |
|                           | 13.1% Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | 300           | 1.6             |
|                           | 1.0% Information                          | -100          | -6.3            |
|                           | 3.3% Financial Activities                 | 200           | 4.3             |
|                           | 9.2% Professional & Business Services     | -200          | -1.5            |
|                           | 11.2% Private Education & Health Services | 200           | 1.3             |
|                           | 14.3% Leisure & Hospitality               | 1,100         | 5.6             |
|                           | 2.8% Other Services                       | 300           | 8.1             |
| 35.2% Government          | 2,300                                     | 4.8           |                 |

## Waco MSA

| Area Industry Composition | Industry                                  | Annual Change | Annual % Change |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|
|                           | Total Nonagricultural                     | 3,800         | 2.8             |
|                           | 6.4% Mining, Logging & Construction       | 200           | 2.3             |
|                           | 11.7% Manufacturing                       | 0             | 0.0             |
|                           | 17.4% Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | -100          | -0.4            |
|                           | 0.7% Information                          | 0             | 0.0             |
|                           | 6.5% Financial Activities                 | 300           | 3.4             |
|                           | 10.0% Professional & Business Services    | 800           | 6.2             |
|                           | 19.3% Private Education & Health Services | 1,000         | 3.9             |
|                           | 9.8% Leisure & Hospitality                | 300           | 2.3             |
|                           | 2.9% Other Services                       | 200           | 5.3             |
| 15.3% Government          | 1,100                                     | 5.5           |                 |

[Download CES data \(including industry-level data\) in Excel](#)

# LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Texas & the U.S. (Seasonally Adjusted)

## Texas March 2024

■ **Employed**  
14,590,800

■ **Unemployed**  
599,100

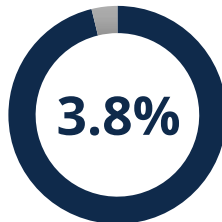


| Date          | CLF        | Employment | Unemployment | Rate |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|------|
| March 2024    | 15,189,900 | 14,590,800 | 599,100      | 3.9  |
| February 2024 | 15,169,100 | 14,578,700 | 590,400      | 3.9  |
| March 2023    | 14,995,700 | 14,394,800 | 600,900      | 4.0  |

## U.S. March 2024

■ **Employed**  
161,466,000

■ **Unemployed**  
6,429,000

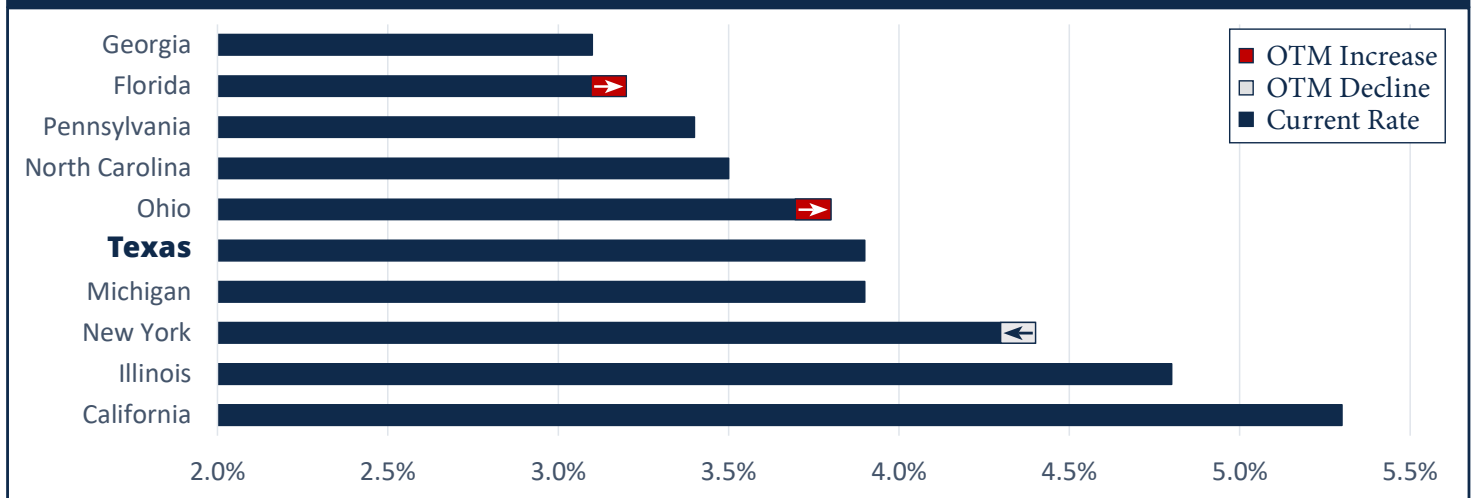


| Date          | CLF         | Employment  | Unemployment | Rate |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------|
| March 2024    | 167,895,000 | 161,466,000 | 6,429,000    | 3.8  |
| February 2024 | 167,426,000 | 160,968,000 | 6,458,000    | 3.9  |
| March 2023    | 166,690,000 | 160,824,000 | 5,866,000    | 3.5  |

## Highlights

- Over the month the Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.9 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the U.S. rate of 3.8 percent.
- The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was 64.1 percent in March.
- Texas' seasonally adjusted LAUS employment was up 12,100 from last month.
- Summarizing the not seasonally adjusted estimates, the Texas unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 percent in March. This was 0.1 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate in March 2023.

## 10 Largest States' Unemployment Rates



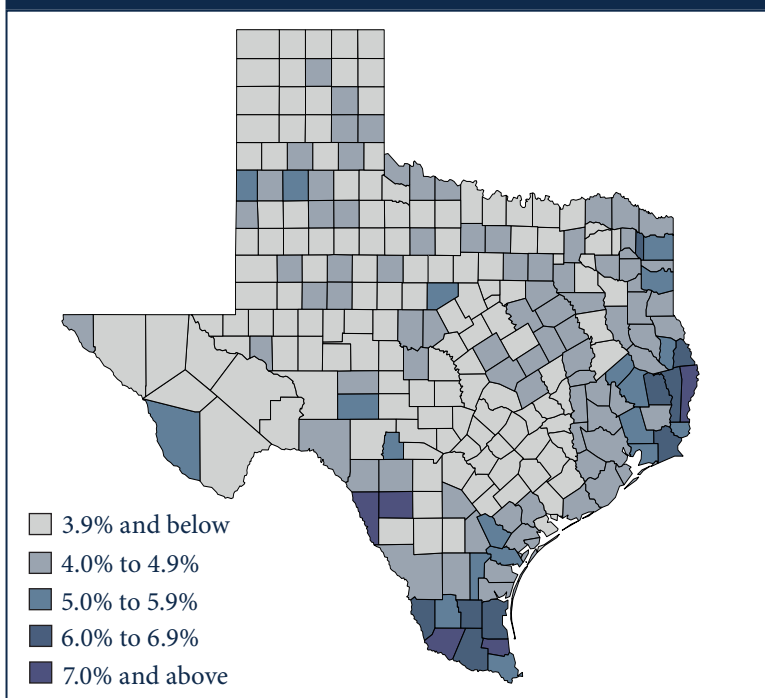
# LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

## Substate Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

### County Highlights

- Unemployment rates varied considerably across counties, ranging from a low of 0.2 percent in Loving County to a high of 9.8 percent in Starr County.
- 32 counties had an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent or less.
- Reeves County experienced the largest unemployment rate decrease of 1.4 percentage points over the year.
- In March 2024, three counties experienced an increase in their unemployment rates over the month, while 243 counties experienced a decrease and eight experienced no change.
- Over the year, the civilian labor force increased in 151 counties, while 101 counties in the state experienced a decline and two experienced no change.

### County Unemployment Rates



### Texas Metro Areas Ranked by Unemployment Rate

| Rank | Area                        | Rate | Rank | Area                             | Rate |
|------|-----------------------------|------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| 1    | Midland                     | 2.6  | 0    | Texas                            | 4.1  |
| 2    | Amarillo                    | 3.1  | 14   | Victoria                         | 4.1  |
| 2    | College Station-Bryan       | 3.1  | 15   | Texarkana                        | 4.2  |
| 4    | Odessa                      | 3.4  | 15   | Wichita Falls                    | 4.2  |
| 5    | Abilene                     | 3.5  | 17   | Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land | 4.3  |
| 5    | Austin-Round Rock           | 3.5  | 17   | Laredo                           | 4.3  |
| 5    | San Angelo                  | 3.5  | 19   | Corpus Christi                   | 4.4  |
| 8    | Lubbock                     | 3.6  | 19   | Longview                         | 4.4  |
| 9    | Waco                        | 3.7  | 21   | El Paso                          | 4.5  |
| 10   | San Antonio-New Braunfels   | 3.8  | 21   | Killeen-Temple                   | 4.5  |
| 10   | Sherman-Denison             | 3.8  | 23   | Brownsville-Harlingen            | 5.4  |
| 10   | Tyler                       | 3.8  | 24   | Beaumont-Port Arthur             | 5.7  |
| 13   | Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington | 3.9  | 25   | McAllen-Edinburg-Mission         | 6.0  |
| 0    | United States               | 3.9  |      |                                  |      |

### Metro Area Highlights

- Over the month, all 25 metropolitan areas experienced a decrease in their unemployment rates.
- Over the year, six Texas metropolitan areas saw a decrease in their unemployment rates, while ten metro areas experienced an increase and nine experienced no change.

[Download LAUS data in Excel](#)

# CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

## 12-Month Moving Average State Unemployment Rates

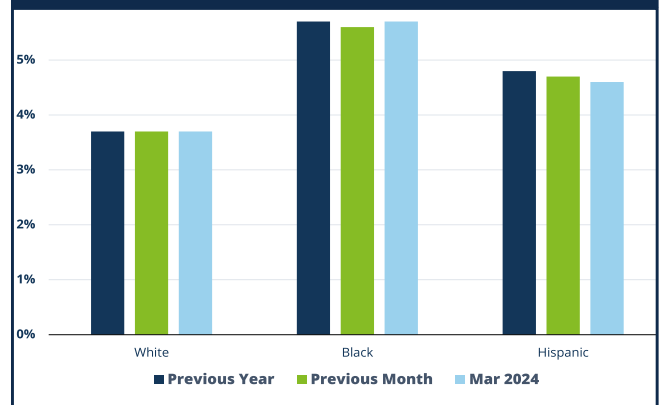
### Unemployment Rates by Demographic

| Gender (age 16+)              | Mar 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Female                        | 4.0%     | 4.1%     | 3.9%     |
| Male                          | 3.8%     | 3.8%     | 3.9%     |
| Age (16+)                     | Mar 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2023 |
| Age 16-19                     | 11.6%    | 11.2%    | 11.5%    |
| Age 20-24                     | 7.0%     | 7.2%     | 7.5%     |
| Age 25-34                     | 4.6%     | 4.5%     | 3.7%     |
| Age 35-44                     | 2.6%     | 2.7%     | 2.7%     |
| Age 45-54                     | 2.4%     | 2.5%     | 3.1%     |
| Age 55-64                     | 2.7%     | 2.7%     | 2.9%     |
| Age 65+                       | 3.9%     | 3.8%     | 4.0%     |
| Race (age 16+)                | Mar 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2023 |
| White                         | 3.7%     | 3.7%     | 3.7%     |
| Black                         | 5.7%     | 5.6%     | 5.7%     |
| Hispanic                      | 4.6%     | 4.7%     | 4.8%     |
| Education (age 25+)           | Mar 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2023 |
| Less than High School         | 5.5%     | 5.4%     | 4.8%     |
| High School Diploma           | 3.8%     | 3.8%     | 3.7%     |
| Some College/Associate Degree | 3.7%     | 3.5%     | 3.2%     |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher   | 2.1%     | 2.1%     | 2.4%     |
| Other Categories (age 18+)    | Mar 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2023 |
| Veterans                      | 2.9%     | 3.1%     | 3.7%     |

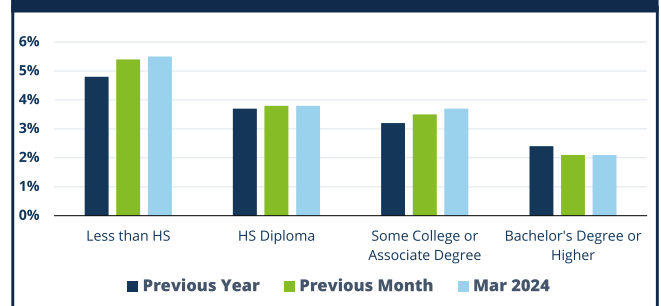
### Highlights

- The unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the year to a rate of 3.8 percent, while the rate for women increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.0 percent.
- The veteran unemployment rate decreased over the month by 0.2 percentage points to 2.9 percent in March.
- Individuals with some college education or associate degree had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. Those with a bachelor's degree and higher had an unemployment rate of 2.1 percent and those with a high school diploma had a rate of 3.8 percent.
- Of the new entrants into Texas' labor force in March, more were men (31,900) than women (24,400).

### Unemployment Rates by Race



### Unemployment Rates by Education

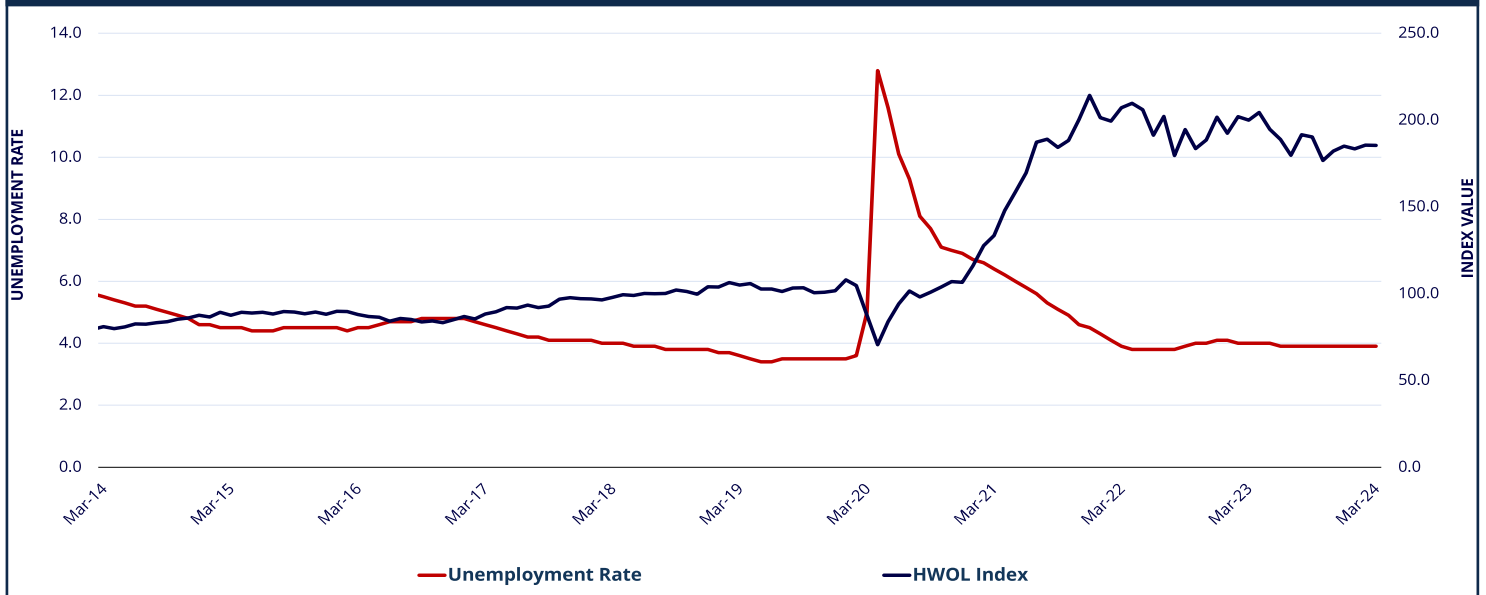


[View notes on CPS data](#)

# HELP WANTED ONLINE

## Statewide Online Job Ads Data (Seasonally Adjusted)

### Texas Labor Supply vs. Labor Demand



### Highlights

- The Conference Board–Lightcast Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Index decreased over the month to 185.4 in March, a change of 0.2 points.
- The March Supply/Demand rate was 1.1 unemployed for each advertised vacancy, with a total of 36,592 more unemployed workers than advertised vacancies.

### Top Employers by Postings

| Employer                       | Mar 2024 |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Walmart                        | 4,838    |
| The University of Texas System | 3,790    |
| HCA Healthcare                 | 3,500    |
| Houston Methodist              | 3,192    |
| CHRISTUS Health                | 2,665    |
| State Of Texas                 | 2,476    |
| Baylor Scott & White Health    | 2,373    |
| H-E-B                          | 2,174    |
| Texas Health Resources         | 1,770    |
| Medical City Healthcare        | 1,767    |

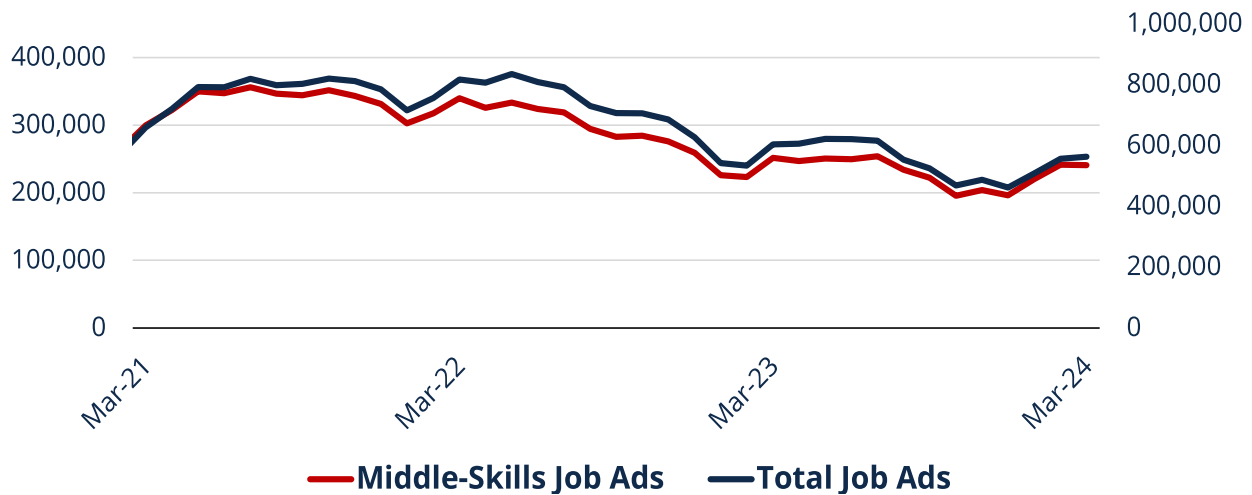
### Top Occupations by Postings

| Occupation   | Mar 2024 |
|--|----------|
| Registered Nurses  | 23,798   |
| Retail Salespersons  | 17,127   |
| Sales Representatives (except Technical and Scientific Products) | 16,309   |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers                   | 13,245   |
| Fast Food and Counter Workers                                    | 12,066   |
| Customer Service Representatives                                 | 10,217   |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General                          | 8,758    |
| Managers, All Other  | 8,547    |
| Software Developers  | 7,581    |
| Medical and Health Services Managers                             | 7,104    |



# DEMAND FOR MIDDLE-SKILLS JOBS

## Total Middle-Skills Job Ads in Texas



Source: Lightcast®

## Highlights

- Middle-Skill occupations require more education than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree.
- March Help Wanted OnLine® Middle-Skills Job Ads decreased 4.2 percent over the year to 241,147.
- Job ads for Middle-Skill occupations represented 42.8 percent of all live postings in March.

## Top Middle-Skills Employers by Postings

| Employer                           | Mar 2024 |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| HCA Healthcare                     | 2,548    |
| CHRISTUS Health                    | 1,837    |
| Houston Methodist                  | 1,801    |
| Baylor Scott & White Health        | 1,629    |
| Walmart                            | 1,417    |
| Medical City Healthcare            | 1,317    |
| Texas Health Resources             | 1,251    |
| The University of Texas System     | 1,180    |
| Memorial Hermann                   | 1,118    |
| St. David's Healthcare Partnership | 1,102    |

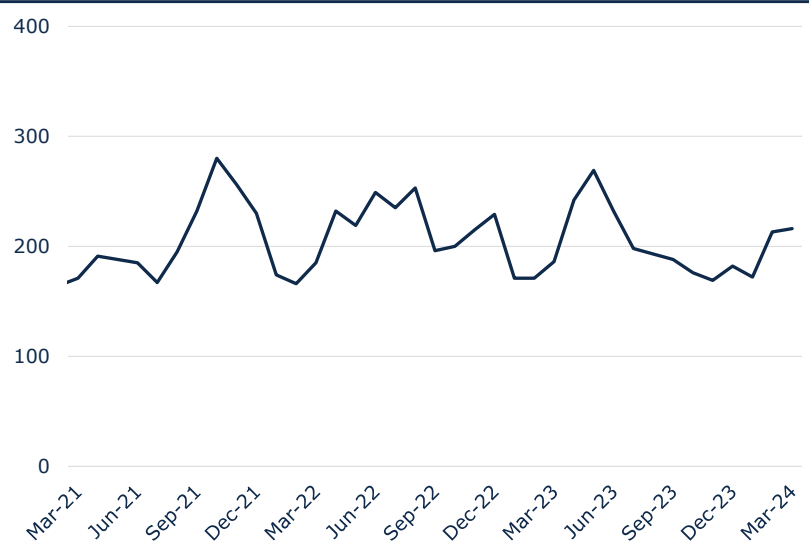
## Top Middle-Skills Occupations by Postings

| Occupation   | Mar 2024 |
|--|----------|
| Registered Nurses  | 23,798   |
| Sales Representatives (except Technical and Scientific Products)                 | 16,309   |
| Customer Service Representatives   | 10,217   |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General  | 8,758    |
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides  | 6,281    |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers  | 6,070    |
| Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses   | 5,819    |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (except Legal, Medical, and Executive) | 5,561    |
| Health Technologists/Technicians, All Other                                      | 5,144    |
| Stockers and Order Fillers   | 4,976    |

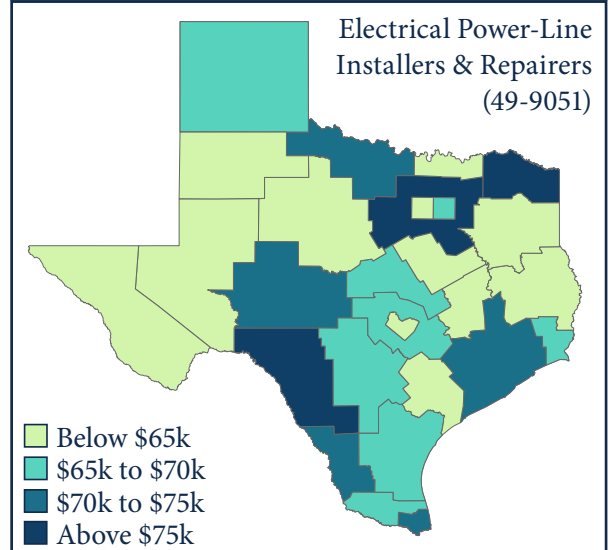
# OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

## Standard Occupational Classification: Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers (49-9051)

Monthly Job Ads for SOC 49-9051



Annual Median Wages by WDA



### Job Description

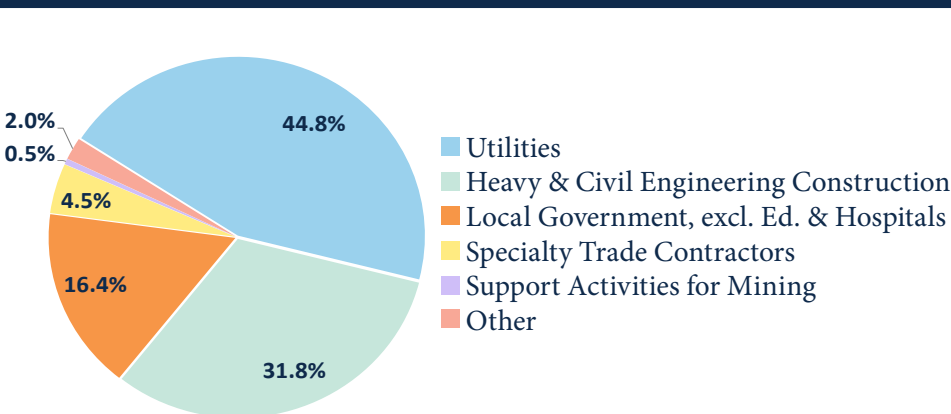
Install or repair cables or wires used in electrical power or distribution systems. May erect poles and light or heavy-duty transmission towers. Perform a combination of the following duties:

- Open switches or attach grounding devices to remove electrical hazards from disturbed lines or to facilitate repairs.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment to locate and identify problems, using testing instruments.
- Dig holes, using augers, and set poles, using cranes and power equipment

### Education, Experience & Training for SOC 49-9051

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Typical education needed for entry:      | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Work experience in a related occupation: | None                              |
| Typical training needed:                 | Long-term on-the-job training     |

### Top Industries for Employment for SOC 49-9051



### Occupational Outlook

- The 2022 median annual wage for Power-Line Installers and Repairers in Texas was \$65,733, ranging from \$60,557 to \$78,292 among WDAs.
- Wages in the 90th percentile averaged \$98,234 in Texas and reached \$106,448 in Northeast Texas WDA.
- 2020-2030 Projections estimate this occupation will grow 23.8 percent in Texas, with highest growth expected in Permian Basin WDA at 51.7 percent.
- Learn more: [TexasLMI.com](https://www.texaslmi.com).

# UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMY

## Data in Context

### Regional Round-Up: A Look at the Golden Triangle's Labor Market

by Mindy Vu

The area between Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange in Southeast Texas is famously known as the “Golden Triangle”, a region that got its nickname from the wealth produced by the Spindletop oil boom in the early 1900s. Officially, the Texas Workforce Commission defines the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Area (WDA) as Jefferson County, Orange County, and Hardin County.

March 2024 non-seasonally adjusted preliminary data from the Labor Market Information (LMI) department's Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program reveals the WDA is home to a civilian labor force of 166,139, with 156,766 of those people considered employed. The unemployment rate (UR) settled in at 5.6 percent, an annual decrease of 0.4 percentage points, compared to that of Texas increasing by 0.1 and the nation's UR rising by 0.3 points during the same period. The area's historical rates peaked in April 2020 at 16.9 percent during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic but recorded a series-low of 4.6 percent exactly a year prior (April 2019). Just 0.4 points away from a February 2020 pre-COVID UR of 5.2 percent, recent labor market statistics signal the region's steady economic recovery as weekly numbers for March 2024 unemployment insurance continued claims only increased by 106 over the year.

#### ***"Employment by industry numbers reinforce...the unique relevance of Manufacturing and Construction to this WDA specifically."***

Not-seasonally adjusted employment by size class and ownership for the third quarter of (Q3) 2023 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) indicates 15.6 percent of firms in Southeast Texas employ more than 1,000 persons while 85.1 percent are considered privately owned. Average weekly wages across all industries in the WDA decreased by \$5 over the year but increased by \$13 over the quarter. Employment by industry numbers reinforce the significance of Education and Health Services and Trade, Transportation and Utilities for most Texas economies while highlighting the unique relevance of Manufacturing and Construction to this WDA specifically. As of Q3 2023, the Education and Health Services industry made up 22.1 percent of employment in Southeast Texas while Trade, Transportation and Utilities made up 20.3 percent. These sectors grew annually by a modest 1.6 percent and 1.9 percent, arriving at 34,092 and 31,377 jobs, respectively.

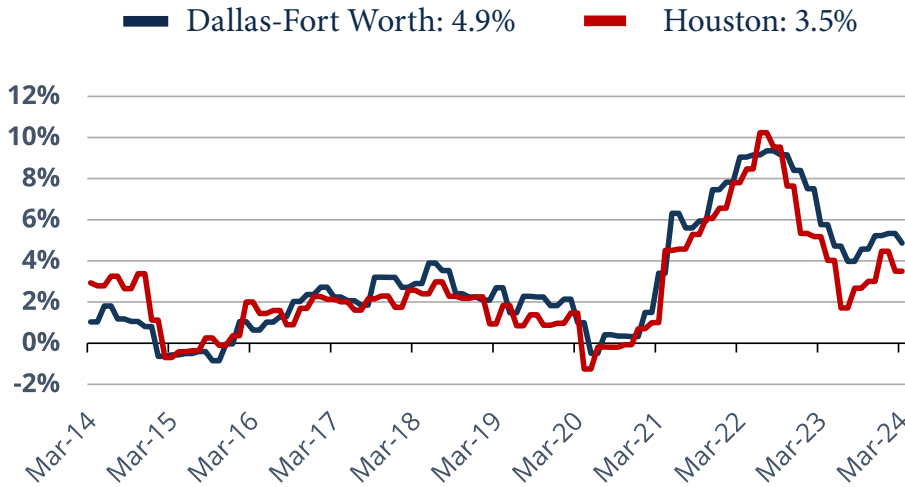
The QCEW program estimates Manufacturing made up 13.4 percent (or 20,712 jobs) while Construction comprised 11.8 percent (or 18,238 jobs) of employment in the WDA during Q3 2023. Although the former grew by a humble 1.1 percent and the latter declined by 1.2 percent annually, their employment makeup in Southeast Texas surpasses statewide numbers by 6.4 and 5.5 percentage points, respectively. Robust quarter-on-quarter growth in both Manufacturing (2.5 percent) and Construction (1.7 percent) jobs further calls attention to the importance of these industries for the Golden Triangle's economy.

Looking ahead, the projected top fastest growing industries in the WDA by percentage change from 2020-2030 include: Residential Building Construction (74.6 percent), Electronics and Appliance Stores (48.6 percent), Outpatient Care Centers (37.3 percent), Computer Systems Design and Related Services (34.0 percent), and Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services (32.9 percent).

Local workforce boards and everyday Texans alike can get a better understanding of the past, present, and future of their local economy's labor market using regional Economic Profiles. This month's Regional Round-Up features Southeast Texas, but profiles for all 28 WDAs are available to download on [TexasLMI.com](https://www.texaslmi.com). Updated between release cycles with the latest data, the area Economic Profiles are equipped with all the different datasets LMI has to offer. They feature a variety of charts and tables that serve as a comprehensive overview of how the area's labor market has performed, and help users understand how regional statistics compare to statewide and nationwide numbers.

# KEY INDICATORS

## Consumer Price Index Annual Growth (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an index of the variation in prices paid by typical consumers for retail goods and other items.

### Highlights

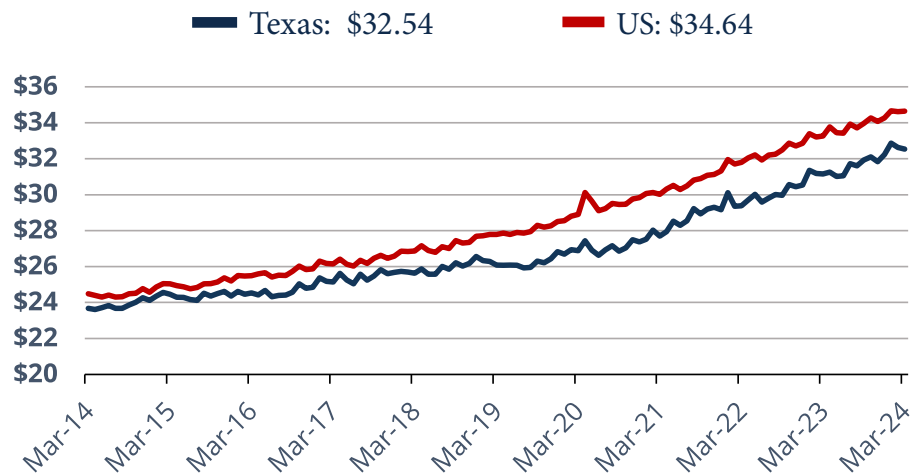
- Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington CPI annual growth rate decreased 0.4 percentage points from the previous reading to 4.9 percent in March, 1.4 percentage points higher than the U.S. city average of 3.5 percent.
- Since March 2023, Food increased 3.7 percent while Motor fuel increased 2.9 percent.

### Highlights

- In March, AHE for Texas employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by \$1.39 over the year to \$32.54, an increase of 4.5 percent.
- Over the year, Texas AHE increased 9.6 percent in the Goods Producing Sector and 3.1 percent in the Private Service Providing sector.
- U.S. AHE increased by \$1.38 over the year to \$34.64, an increase of 4.1 percent.

Average hours and earnings data are derived from reports of hours and payrolls for all employees.

## Average Hourly Earnings (Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

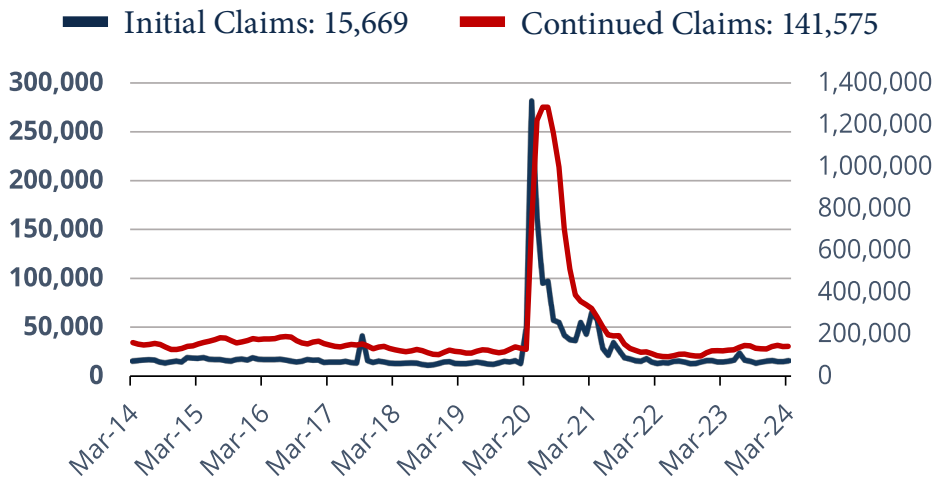


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

[Download Key Indicators data in Excel](#)

# KEY INDICATORS

## Initial and Continued Claims (Four-Week Moving Average)



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Initial Claims refers to the number of requests for unemployment benefits; a person can file multiple claims. Continued Claims is the number of claimants receiving benefits.

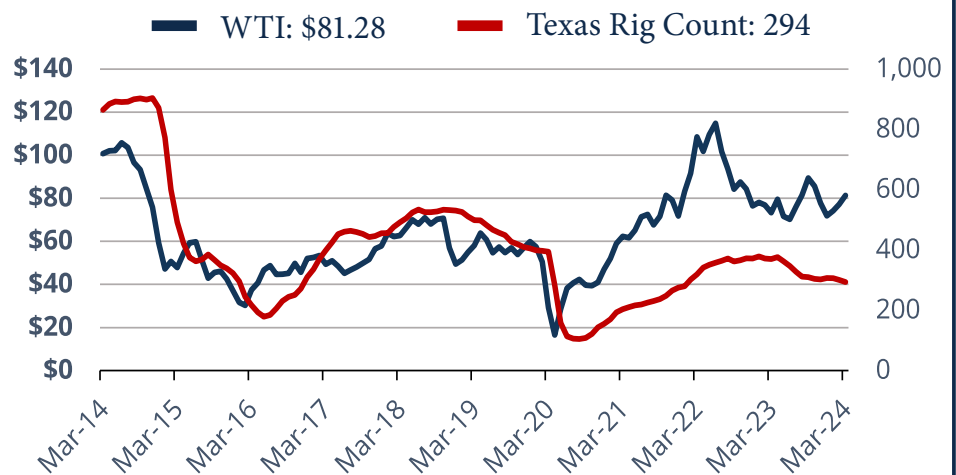
### Highlights

- The four-week moving average increased 7.3 percent over the year for initial claims and 17.2 percent for continued claims.
- The four-week moving average increased by 827 claims over the month to 15,669 for initial claims and by 562 claims to 141,575 for continued claims.

### Highlights

- In March, the West Texas Intermediate Spot Price averaged \$81.28, increasing \$4.03 over the month and \$8.00 over the year.
- Rig count in Texas decreased by 77 rigs over the year and 7 rigs over the month, averaging 294 rigs in March. Rig count is below 300 for the first time since January 2022.

## West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil vs. Texas Rig Count



Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA) & Baker Hughes

West Texas Intermediate is a crude oil stream produced in Texas and southern Oklahoma that serves as reference for pricing a number of other streams. Rig Count refers to a weekly census of drilling rigs that are actively exploring for or developing oil or natural gas in the United States and Canada.

[Download Key Indicators data in Excel](#)

# GLOSSARY

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES)

- **Nonagricultural Jobs:** The total number of persons on establishment payrolls employed full or part time. Persons on the payroll of more than one establishment are counted in each. Data exclude proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers, and domestic workers. Government employment only covers civilian employees.
- **Actual or Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Describes data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.
- **Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns of hiring or layoffs (holidays, weather, etc.) have been removed from these series. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements in a data series.

## HELP WANTED ONLINE (HWOL)

- **Supply-Demand Rate:** Ratio measuring the number of unemployed persons per HWOL job openings.
- **Middle-Skills Jobs:** Jobs requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree.

## LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

- **Employed:** All persons 16 years and over who, during the reference week, (a) did any work (at least one hour) as paid employees, worked on their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid family workers, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Each employed person is counted only once, even if the person holds more than one job.
- **Unemployed:** All persons aged 16 years and over who had no employment, but were available for work and had made specific efforts to find employment. Includes persons who were waiting to be recalled to jobs from which they had been laid off.
- **Civilian Labor Force (CLF):** All persons classified as employed or unemployed.
- **Unemployment Rate:** The unemployed number divided by the civilian labor force number.

## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT & WAGE STATISTICS (OEWS)

- **Mean Wage:** The average wage, calculated by summing the wages of all the employees in an occupation and dividing the sum by the number of employees.
- **Percentile Wage:** The wage below which a certain percentage of employees in an occupation earn. E.g., 25th Percentile Wage: 25 percent of employees in an occupation earn at or below this wage.
- **Median Wage:** A percentile wage boundary demarcating the 50th percentile; half of employees in an occupation earn more than the median wage, and half earn less than the median wage.
- **Standard Occupational Classification:** A hierarchical taxonomy that assigns a numeric code to an occupation according to tasks performed. This allows narrowly defined occupations to be grouped together at higher levels of aggregation reflecting common functions among similar occupations.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** Geographic area containing 1+ urban center with a population of 50,000+, plus adjacent territory with high social/economic integration with the urban center. In Texas, an MSA consists of 1+ counties.
- **Metropolitan Division (MD):** Smaller areas within a large MSA. The MSA must have a population of 2.5 million+ to be subdivided into Metropolitan Divisions (MDs).
- **Metro Area (MA):** Refers to either an MSA or MD. Texas has 25 MSAs, including the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA, which is subdivided into two MDs.
- **Workforce Development Area (WDA):** The State of Texas is divided into 28 local workforce development areas.

**LMI Director:** Mariana Vega

**TLMR Editor:** Gabriel Guzman | **Layout:** Abigail Schmidt | **Design:** Abigail Schmidt

**TLMR Contributors:** Joann Coronado, Gabriel Guzman, Sarah Juarez, Mark Lavergne, William Lutz, Nancy Moore, David Munoz, Josue Perez, Vijaya Vasavi Seenivasan, Robert Sparkman, Mindy Vu, and Chase Winters



**TEXAS**  
Labor Market  
Information

## **Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market Information**

101 East 15th Street, Room 354  
Austin, Texas 78778-0001

**Toll Free:** 1-866-938-4444

**Phone:** 512-936-3278

**Fax:** 512-961-4861

[www.lmci.state.tx.us](http://www.lmci.state.tx.us)