



**DFW  
LABOR MARKET  
UPDATE  
FEBRUARY 2021**

Published April 9, 2021



# Summary

**Job postings in the Dallas-Fort Worth area rose 2% between January and February 2021, exceeding February 2020 job postings by 18 percent. The top three positions posted were heavy truck drivers, registered nurses, and software developers.**

DFW posted a **net loss of 5,900 jobs** in February. **Employment in the professional & business services and natural resources extraction** sectors dipped 2 percent, with all other sectors remaining essentially unchanged. While employment in most sectors was down from last year, **transportation & utilities** employment was **5% higher** than in February 2020. Despite large employment gains since the start of the pandemic, DFW slipped below October levels, **142,900 jobs short of February 2020** employment.

**Unemployment rates worsened slightly** in Texas and DFW, at **7.5%** and **6.8%**, respectively, exceeding those seen during the November spike. Nationwide unemployment was **6.6 percent**. See the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' [Texas Employment Forecast](#) and [DFW Economic Indicators](#) for deeper analysis of these dynamics.



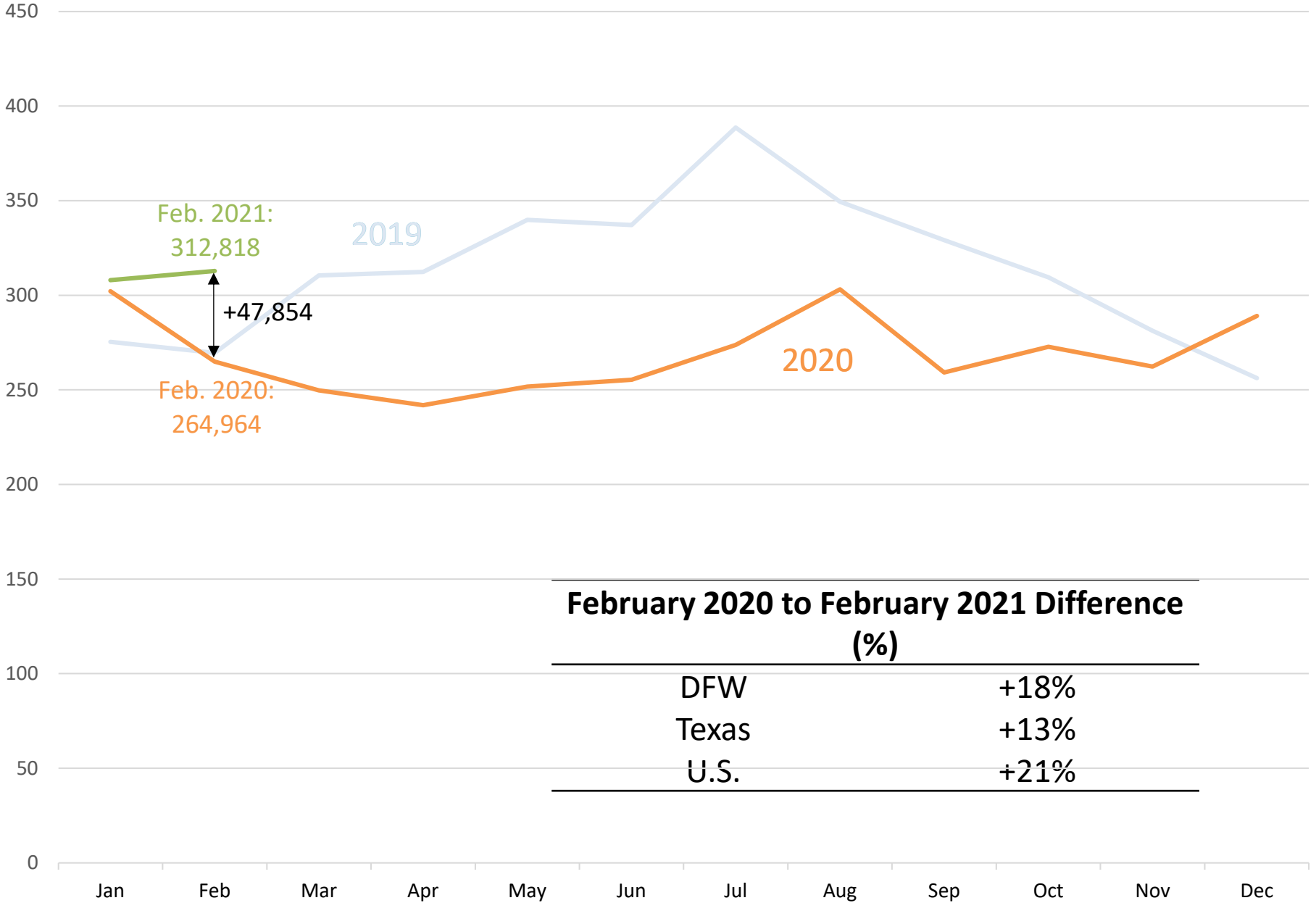
# Top Occupations by Job Postings in DFW

	Median Annual Earnings	Median Advertised Salary	Median Posting Duration	February 2021 Unique Job Postings	February 2020 Unique Job Postings	Change, Feb. 2020 to Feb. 2021 (%)
<b>1</b> Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	\$46,155	\$70,016	23	21,023	10,916	93%
<b>2</b> Registered nurses	\$75,649	\$98,560	25	17,755	10,019	77%
<b>3</b> Software developers and software quality assurance analysts and testers	\$109,586	\$114,432	20	17,575	11,201	57%
<b>4</b> Computer occupations, all other	\$94,280	\$105,344	27	9,122	6,985	31%
<b>5</b> First-line supervisors of retail sales workers	\$43,279	\$32,512	43	7,523	7,570	-1%
<b>6</b> Retail salespersons	\$24,520	\$32,128	43	7,344	7,599	-3%
<b>7</b> Customer service representatives	\$35,976	\$33,408	30	6,987	6,197	13%
<b>8</b> Marketing managers	\$133,457	\$100,096	26	5,064	3,541	43%
<b>9</b> Stockers and order fillers	\$28,043	\$30,080	33	4,784	3,530	36%
<b>10</b> Accountants and auditors	\$77,254	\$75,008	29	4,444	4,586	-3%
<b>All occupations</b>	-	-	-	<b>312,818</b>	<b>264,964</b>	<b>18%</b>



# DFW Total Job Postings: 2021 vs. 2020

Job postings, thousands



Feb. 2021:  
312,818

+47,854

Feb. 2020:  
264,964

2019

2020

## February 2020 to February 2021 Difference (%)

DFW	+18%
Texas	+13%
U.S.	+21%



# Top Occupations by Job Postings in DFW

		December 2020	January 2021	February 2021	Change, Jan. 2021 to Feb. 2021 (%)
	Occupation	Unique Job Postings	Unique Job Postings	Unique Job Postings	
1	Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	19,270	20,524	21,023	2%
2	Registered nurses	16,872	18,713	17,755	-5%
3	Software developers and software quality assurance analysts and testers	14,681	16,018	17,575	10%
4	Computer occupations, all other	7,760	8,586	9,122	6%
5	First-line supervisors of retail sales workers	7,807	7,609	7,523	-1%
6	Retail salespersons	7,916	7,523	7,344	-2%
7	Customer service representatives	6,951	7,157	6,987	-2%
8	Marketing managers	4,112	4,639	5,064	9%
9	Stockers and order fillers	4,997	4,791	4,784	0%
10	Accountants and auditors	3,755	4,087	4,444	9%
	<b>All occupations</b>	<b>289,094</b>	<b>308,054</b>	<b>312,818</b>	<b>2%</b>



# DFW Employment by Industry

Industry	February 2020 Employment	December 2020 Employment	January 2021 Employment	February 2021 Employment	Change, Feb. 2020 to Feb. 2021 (%)	Change, Jan. 2021 to Feb. 2021 (%)
Professional and business services	655,400	646,000	645,200	633,000	-3%	-2%
Wholesale and retail trade	579,200	588,400	575,900	575,500	-1%	0%
Government	461,500	457,200	449,000	453,800	-2%	1%
Education and health services	470,600	454,100	449,600	451,800	-4%	0%
Leisure and hospitality	396,100	338,400	330,800	332,200	-16%	0%
Financial activities	325,800	328,400	326,400	326,600	0%	0%
Manufacturing	291,000	281,000	280,800	281,700	-3%	0%
Transportation and utilities	221,900	248,700	234,600	233,100	5%	-1%
Construction	130,500	127,900	126,800	127,000	-3%	0%
Other services	128,600	114,600	114,000	114,200	-11%	0%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	95,100	91,400	89,600	87,900	-8%	-2%
Information	83,100	78,900	79,100	79,100	-5%	0%
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>3,838,800</b>	<b>3,755,000</b>	<b>3,701,800</b>	<b>3,695,900</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>0%</b>

Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Employment is not seasonally adjusted.

\* DFW includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise counties.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings, April 2021.



# DFW vs. U.S. Employment by Industry

Industry	DFW February 2021 Employment	DFW February 2021 Employment Share (%)	DFW Employment Change, Feb. 2020 to Feb. 2021 (%)	U.S. February 2021 Employment	U.S. February 2021 Employment Share (%)	U.S. Employment Change, Feb. 2020 to Feb. 2021 (%)
Professional and business services	633,000	17%	-3%	20,442,000	14%	-3%
Wholesale and retail trade	575,500	16%	-1%	20,612,100	15%	-3%
Government	453,800	12%	-2%	21,765,000	15%	-6%
Education and health services	451,800	12%	-4%	23,393,000	16%	-5%
Leisure and hospitality	332,200	9%	-16%	13,037,000	9%	-20%
Financial activities	326,600	9%	0%	8,734,000	6%	-1%
Manufacturing	281,700	8%	-3%	12,188,000	9%	-4%
Transportation and utilities	233,100	6%	5%	6,193,100	4%	-2%
Construction	127,000	3%	-3%	7,006,000	5%	-4%
Other services	114,200	3%	-11%	5,453,000	4%	-7%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	87,900	2%	-8%	584,000	<1%	-13%
Information	79,100	2%	-5%	2,670,000	2%	-8%
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>3,695,900</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>142,077,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

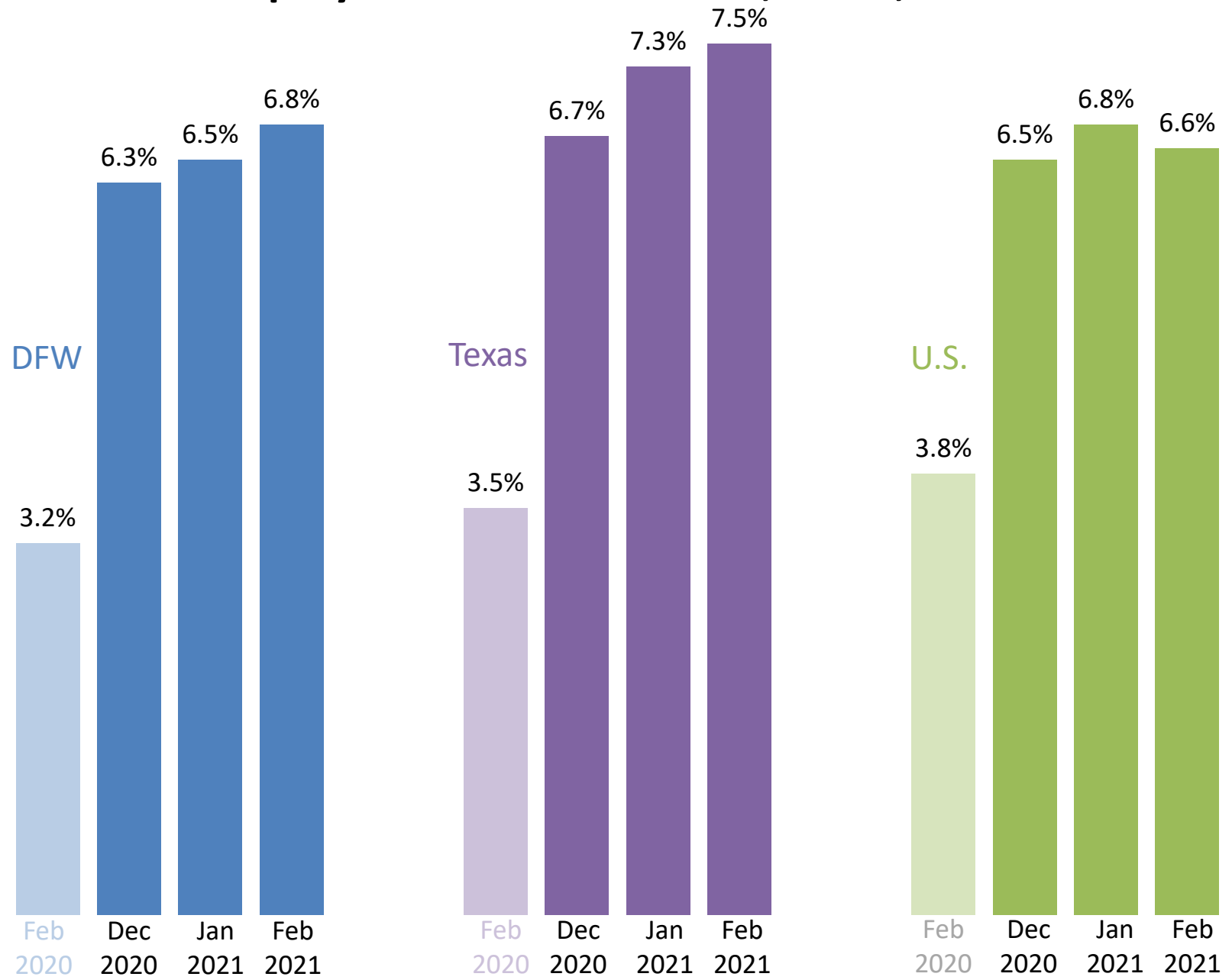
Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Employment is not seasonally adjusted.

\* DFW includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise counties.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings, and Current Employment Statistics, April 2021.



# Unemployment Rates\* in DFW, Texas, and U.S.



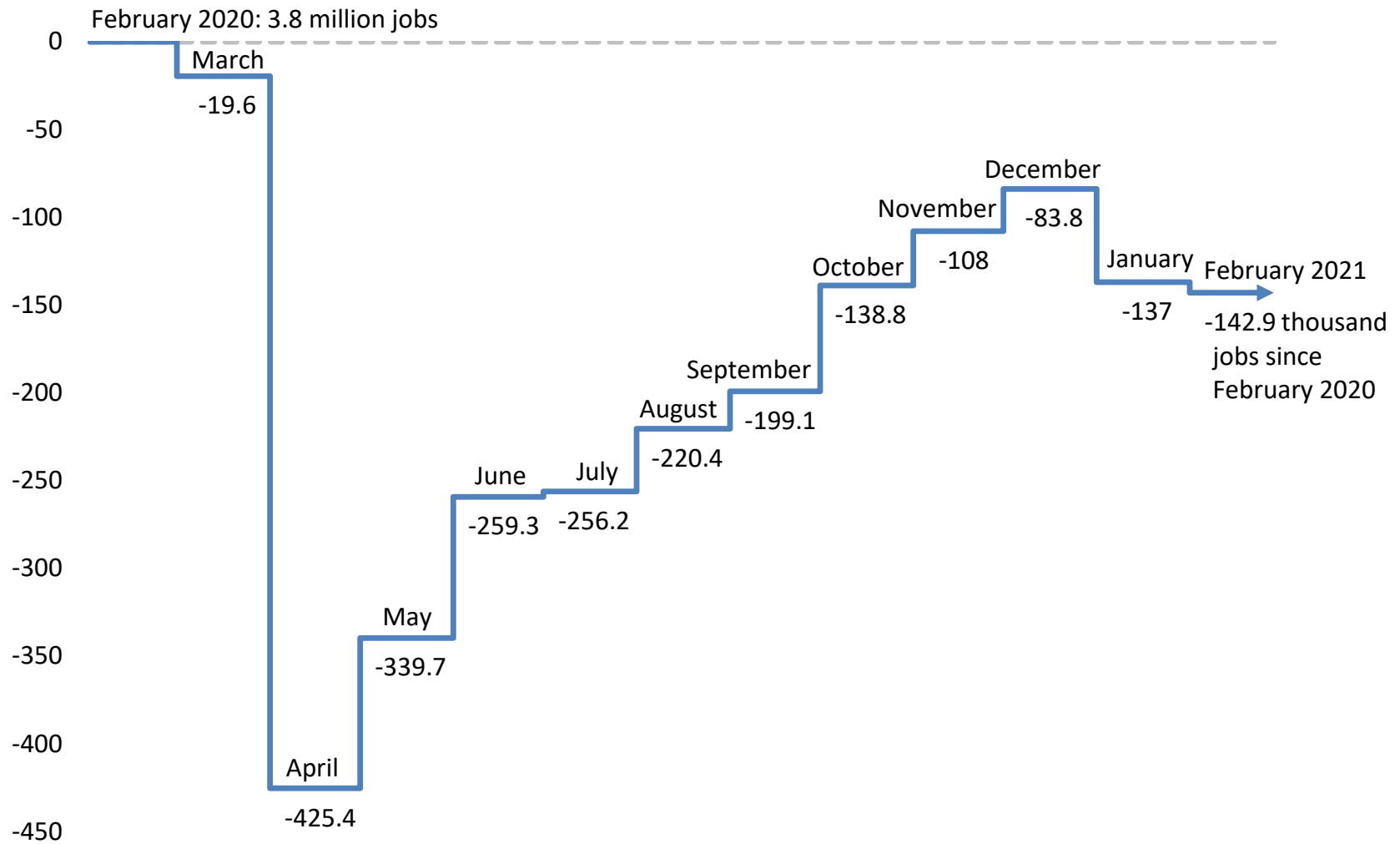
\*Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics, April 2021.



# DFW Cumulative Job Change Since Before the Pandemic

Cumulative change in jobs since February 2020 (thousands)



Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Employment is not seasonally adjusted.

\* DFW includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise counties.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings, and Current Employment Statistics, April 2021.



## Questions?

Please contact Rachel Brasier at [Rachel.Brasier@UTDallas.edu](mailto:Rachel.Brasier@UTDallas.edu)  
or visit us at <https://economicengine.utdallas.edu/>

[Subscribe](#) to the Economic Development Update, released the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.