



DFW
LABOR MARKET
UPDATE
December 2024

Published February 12, 2025

SUMMARY

From November to December, the DFW labor market gained **6,000** jobs (net). This represents about **0.14%** of its labor force as it stood as of December, which totaled **4,371,500**. Primary gains in employment were felt most in the **wholesale and retail trade** which grew by **1.2%**, adding **8,100** jobs. This was followed by the **professional and business services** sector, which grew by **0.3%** and added **2,400** jobs to the local economy. In contrast, the **educational and health services** sector experienced a decline, losing **2,800** jobs - a loss of **0.5%**.

The local unemployment rate declined in December, with DFW's rate going down from **4%** to **3.5%**. The state and national labor markets followed suit, with the Texas rate falling from **4.2%** to **3.7%** and the U.S. rate declining from **4%** to **3.8%**.

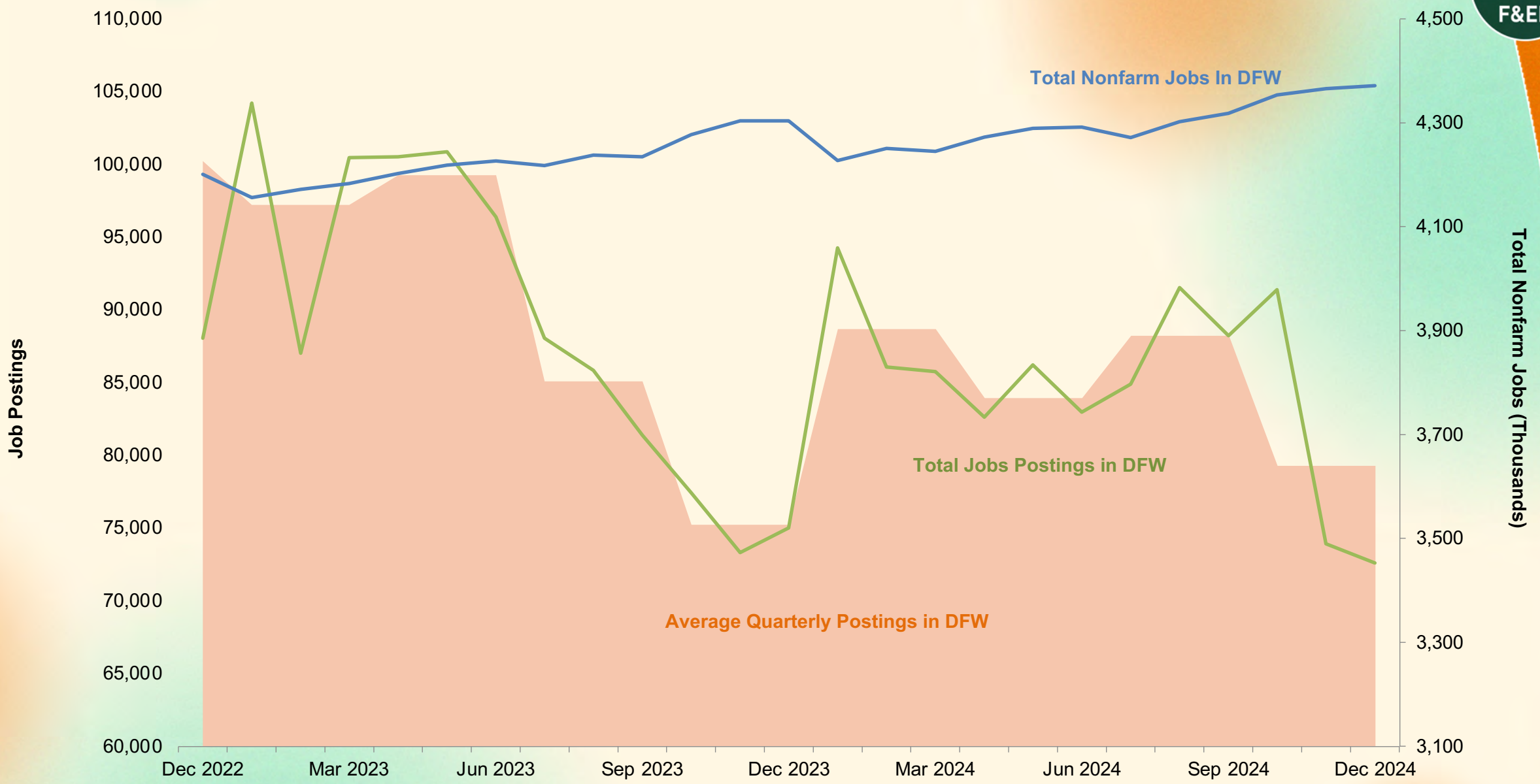
Total job postings saw a month-over-month decrease of **1.8%** in December. The top posted job in the region was **registered nurse**, with a month-over month gain of over **10.6%**, from **2,966** to **3,279** postings. This was followed by **software developers** with **2,212** postings - representing a month-over-month loss of **12.9%**. In terms of *fastest* growing occupations, **emergency medical technicians** took first rank with **86** new jobs, representing a month-over-month growth rate of over **390.9%**. In contrast, the fastest shrinking occupation was **cardiovascular technicians**, which saw a month-over month decrease of **54.5%**.

The **Consumer Price Index** for DFW will not be released for December. The CPI for U.S and southern region rose slightly by **0.04%**. The state of Texas experienced a fall of **-0.51%** in it's CPI metric over the same time span.

See the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' [Texas Employment Forecast](#) and [DFW Economic Indicators](#) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [DFW](#) and [Southwest](#) CPI releases for a deeper analysis of these dynamics.

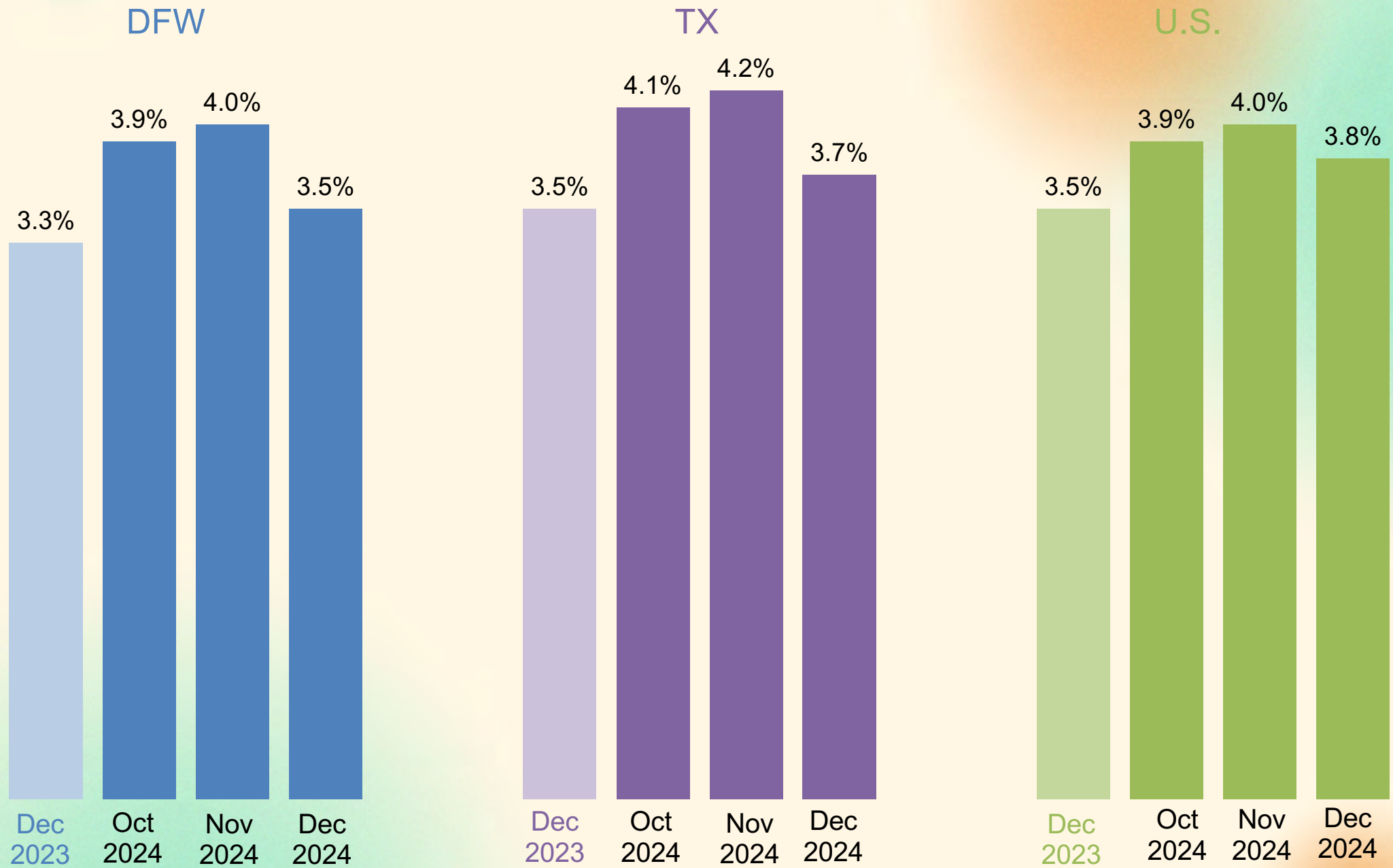


DFW – Job Postings vs. Nonfarm Jobs



* 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, Feb 2025. Lightcast, 2025.

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



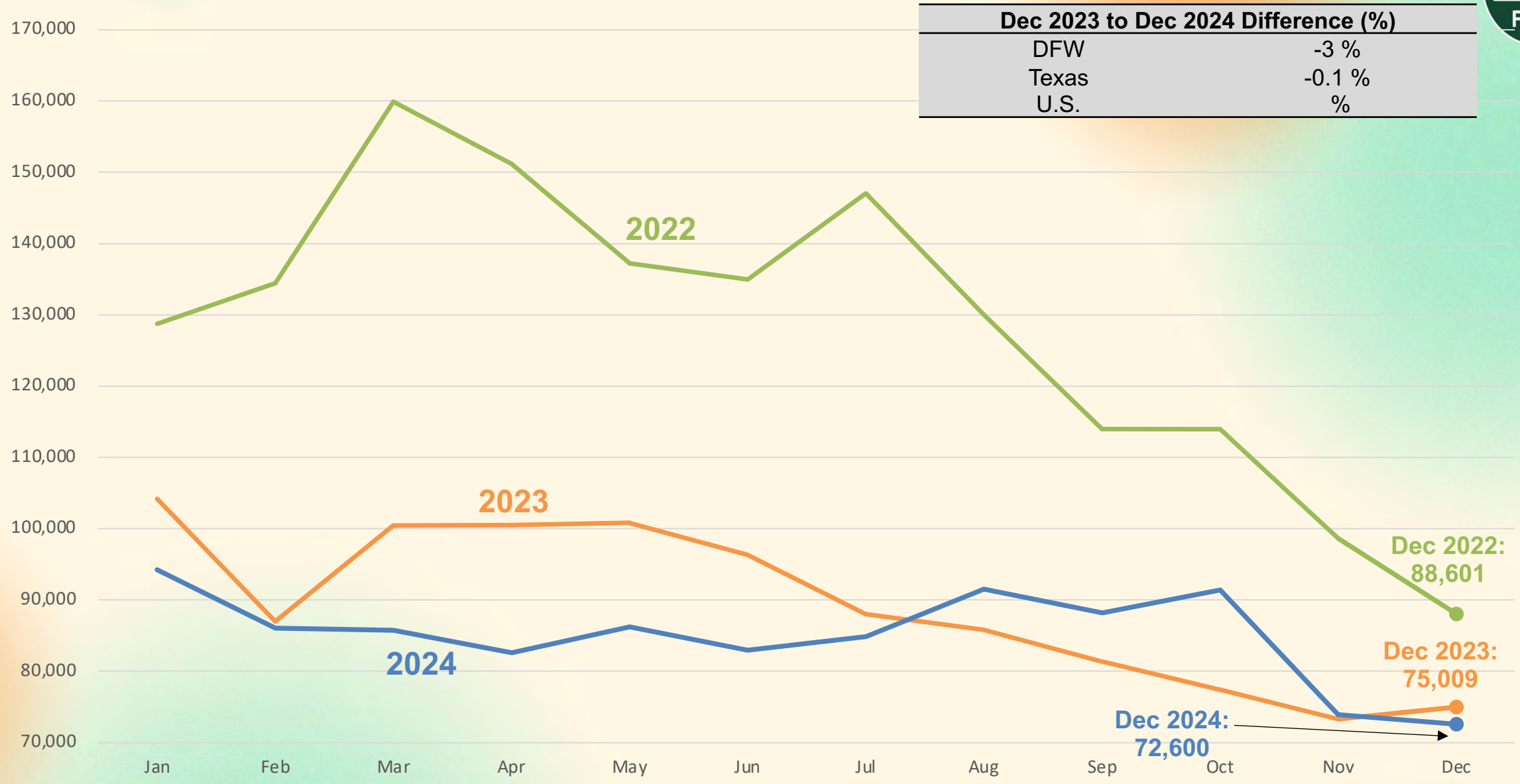
*Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics, Feb 2025.

DFW Total Job Postings Over the Years



Job Postings



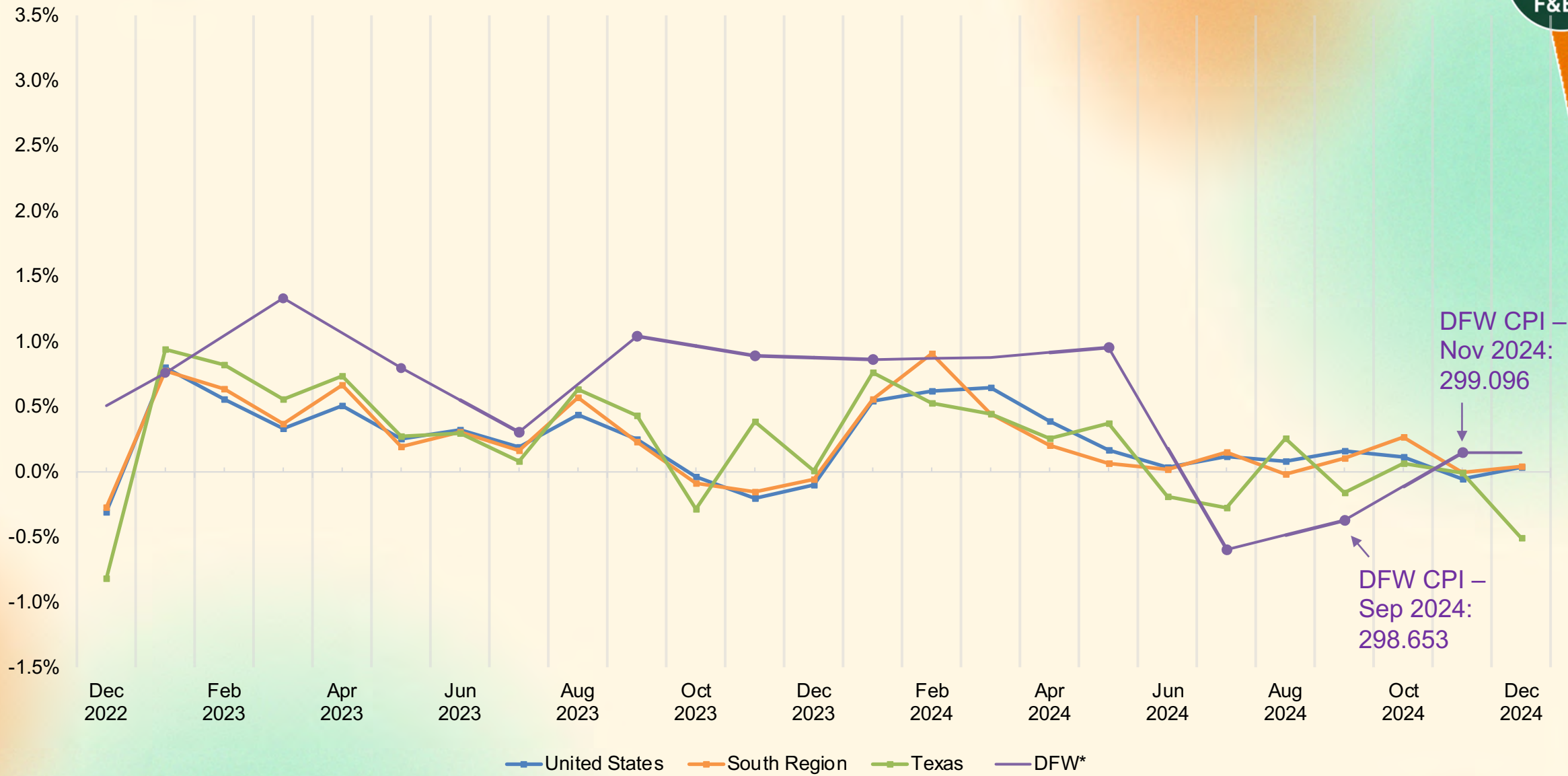
| Dec 2023 to Dec 2024 Difference (%) | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| DFW | -3 % |
| Texas | -0.1 % |
| U.S. | % |

Source: Lightcast, 2025.
 Note: Data for 'Unclassified Industries' is unavailable as of time of publication and calculated using total.



Change in Consumer Price Index

Monthly Change in Consumer Price Index



DFW CPI –
Nov 2024:
299.096

DFW CPI –
Sep 2024:
298.653

Note: Data for DFW is reported every other month. All other figures are reported monthly.
 Sources: Texas data sourced from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, *Key Economic Indicators*, Feb 2025.
 All data for the U.S., South and DFW sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)*, Feb 2025, and is not seasonally adjusted.

Top Occupations by Job Postings in DFW

| Occupation | Median Annual Earnings | Median Advertised Salary | Average Monthly Hires | Dec. 2023 Unique Job Postings | Dec. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Change, Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024 (%) |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Registered nurses | \$93,338 | \$88,448 | 3,097 | 4,750 | 3,279 | -31.0% |
| 2 Software developers | \$129,603 | \$135,936 | 2,865 | 1,836 | 2,212 | 20.5% |
| 3 Retail salespersons | \$31,379 | \$33,408 | 6,652 | 1,942 | 1,844 | -5.0% |
| 4 Computer occupations, all other | \$102,793 | \$141,184 | 886 | 1,364 | 1,526 | 11.9% |
| 5 Customer service representatives | \$40,241 | \$39,552 | 7,369 | 1,342 | 1,361 | 1.4% |
| 6 Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers | \$56,418 | \$71,552 | 3,781 | 1,433 | 1,335 | -6.8% |
| 7 Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products | \$63,505 | \$75,136 | 916 | 1,188 | 1,315 | 10.7% |
| 8 First-line supervisors of retail sales workers | \$44,520 | \$44,160 | 1,173 | 1,325 | 1,239 | -6.5% |
| 9 Fast food and counter workers | \$26,308 | \$29,056 | 18,424 | 1,042 | 971 | -6.8% |
| 10 General and operations managers | \$102,071 | \$70,016 | 5,257 | 987 | 949 | -3.9% |
| All occupations | - | - | - | 74,988 | 72,617 | -3.2% |

Source: Lightcast, 2025.

Top Occupations by Job Postings in DFW

| | Occupation | Oct. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Nov. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Dec. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Change, Nov. 2024 to Dec. 2024 (%) |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Registered nurses | 3,500 | 2,966 | 3,279 | 10.6% |
| 2 | Software developers | 3,314 | 2,541 | 2,212 | -12.9% |
| 3 | Retail salespersons | 2,578 | 2,006 | 1,844 | -8.1% |
| 4 | Computer occupations, all other | 2,223 | 1,755 | 1,526 | -13.0% |
| 5 | Customer service representatives | 1,724 | 1,290 | 1,361 | 5.5% |
| 6 | Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers | 1,497 | 1,278 | 1,335 | 4.5% |
| 7 | Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products | 1,571 | 1,290 | 1,315 | 1.9% |
| 8 | First-line supervisors of retail sales workers | 1,433 | 1,137 | 1,239 | 9.0% |
| 9 | Fast food and counter workers | 1,164 | 956 | 971 | 1.6% |
| 10 | General and operations managers | 1,171 | 1,041 | 949 | -8.8% |
| | All occupations | 91,369 | 73,912 | 72,617 | -1.8% |

Source: Lightcast, 2025.

Positive Change in Demand by Jobs Postings in DFW

| Occupation | Median Annual Earnings | Median Advertised Salary | Average Monthly Hires | Nov. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Dec. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Month-over-month Change |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Emergency Medical Technicians | \$38,311 | \$41,600 | 132 | 22 | 108 | 390.9% |
| 2 Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians | \$83,567 | \$72,960 | 217 | 54 | 127 | 135.2% |
| 3 Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists | \$93,649 | \$113,408 | 21 | 275 | 435 | 58.2% |
| 4 Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics | \$48,863 | \$48,768 | 1,022 | 395 | 577 | 46.1% |
| 5 Real Estate Sales Agents | \$45,963 | \$43,904 | 353 | 219 | 319 | 45.7% |
| 6 Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks | \$32,569 | \$31,104 | 582 | 196 | 275 | 40.3% |
| 7 Postsecondary Teachers | \$92,449 | \$60,032 | 664 | 241 | 321 | 33.2% |
| 8 Medical Assistants | \$40,198 | \$40,064 | 1,047 | 489 | 587 | 20.0% |
| 9 Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other | \$47,355 | \$42,112 | 152 | 459 | 526 | 14.6% |
| 10 Food Service Managers | \$64,178 | \$54,912 | 205 | 744 | 840 | 12.9% |
| All occupations | - | - | - | 73,912 | 72,617 | -1.8% |

Source: Lightcast, 2025.

Negative Change in Demand by Jobs Postings in DFW

| | Occupation | Median Annual Earnings | Median Advertised Salary | Average Monthly Hires | Nov. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Dec. 2024 Unique Job Postings | Month-over-month Change |
|----|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians | \$47,076 | \$76,032 | 38 | 387 | 176 | -54.5% |
| 2 | Tax Preparers | \$57,628 | \$72,064 | 160 | 264 | 160 | -39.4% |
| 3 | Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers | \$36,113 | \$36,480 | 234 | 368 | 243 | -34.0% |
| 4 | Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians | \$58,494 | \$76,160 | 322 | 342 | 239 | -30.1% |
| 5 | Physical Therapists | \$106,635 | \$103,296 | 200 | 369 | 278 | -24.7% |
| 6 | Marketing Managers | \$136,715 | \$134,912 | 705 | 604 | 473 | -21.7% |
| 7 | Cashiers | \$27,967 | \$28,032 | 7,991 | 464 | 382 | -17.7% |
| 8 | Financial and Investment Analysts | \$90,789 | \$94,976 | 362 | 464 | 386 | -16.8% |
| 9 | Waiters and Waitresses | \$27,912 | \$37,504 | 7,615 | 573 | 490 | -14.5% |
| 10 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | \$37,666 | \$37,504 | 8,268 | 1005 | 893 | -11.1% |
| | All occupations | - | - | - | 73,912 | 72,617 | -1.8% |

Source: Lightcast, 2025.

DFW Employment by Industry



| Industry | Dec. 2023 Employment | Oct. 2024 Employment | Nov. 2024 Employment | Dec. 2024 Employment | Change, Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024 (%) | Change, Nov. 2024 to Dec. 2024 (%) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction | 108,700 | 112,300 | 112,000 | 111,600 | 2.7% | -0.4% |
| Construction | 142,900 | 145,700 | 145,700 | 144,900 | 1.4% | -0.5% |
| Manufacturing | 311,200 | 315,700 | 314,900 | 315,500 | 1.4% | 0.2% |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 650,700 | 644,600 | 650,200 | 658,300 | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Transportation and utilities | 280,900 | 275,800 | 281,000 | 282,700 | 0.6% | 0.6% |
| Information | 90,800 | 91,800 | 92,500 | 92,400 | 1.8% | -0.1% |
| Financial activities | 369,100 | 382,600 | 383,500 | 383,900 | 4.0% | 0.1% |
| Professional and business services | 784,600 | 792,900 | 789,300 | 791,700 | 0.9% | 0.3% |
| Education and health services | 511,500 | 525,600 | 527,700 | 524,900 | 2.6% | -0.5% |
| Leisure and hospitality | 427,000 | 430,900 | 430,300 | 428,700 | 0.4% | -0.4% |
| Other services | 139,200 | 142,900 | 142,100 | 140,700 | 1.1% | -1.0% |
| Government | 487,100 | 493,000 | 496,300 | 496,200 | 1.9% | 0.0% |
| Total nonfarm | 4,303,700 | 4,353,800 | 4,365,500 | 4,371,500 | 1.6% | 0.1% |

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, Feb 2025.

DFW vs. U.S. Employment by Industry



| Industry | DFW Dec. 2024 Employment | DFW Dec. 2024 Employment Share (%) | DFW Employment Change, Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024 (%) | U.S. Dec. 2024 Employment | U.S. Dec. 2024 Employment Share (%) | U.S. Employment Change, Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024 (%) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction | 111,600 | 2.6% | 2.7% | 634,000 | 0.4% | -1.2% |
| Construction | 144,900 | 3.3% | 1.4% | 8,242,000 | 5.1% | 2.4% |
| Manufacturing | 315,500 | 7.2% | 1.4% | 12,898,000 | 8.0% | -0.7% |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 658,300 | 15.1% | 1.2% | 22,314,800 | 13.9% | 0.4% |
| Transportation and utilities | 282,700 | 6.5% | 0.6% | 7,526,700 | 4.7% | 1.4% |
| Information | 92,400 | 2.1% | 1.8% | 3,020,000 | 1.9% | -0.3% |
| Financial activities | 383,900 | 8.8% | 4.0% | 9,317,000 | 5.8% | 0.6% |
| Professional and business services | 791,700 | 18.1% | 0.9% | 23,045,000 | 14.4% | 0.3% |
| Education and health services | 524,900 | 12.0% | 2.6% | 26,962,000 | 16.8% | 3.8% |
| Leisure and hospitality | 428,700 | 9.8% | 0.4% | 16,784,000 | 10.5% | 1.8% |
| Other services | 140,700 | 3.2% | 1.1% | 5,917,000 | 3.7% | 1.2% |
| Government | 496,200 | 11.4% | 1.9% | 23,797,000 | 14.8% | 1.8% |
| Total nonfarm | 4,371,500 | 100.0% | 1.6% | 160,458,000 | 100.0% | 1.4% |

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, Feb 2025.

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