

Non-Farm Employment in Louisiana: A Breakdown by Sectors

The quarterly forecasts of Louisiana employment are for total non-farm employment. This total includes both private sector and government sector employment. To better understand employment trends in Louisiana, this section provides historical information on the breakdown of total employment between private sector and government employment and then for specific sectors within the government and private sectors. The period from the first quarter of 1990 to the fourth quarter of 2024 is examined. Quarterly sectoral data is available beginning in the first quarter of 1990.

Within the government sector, we look at state, local, and federal employment, and within the private sector, we look at the industry groups defined in [Louisiana Economy at a Glance](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The sectors and industry groups are defined as follows. The government sector provides services, and the private sector provides both goods and services.

Government Sector:

Federal: agencies, defense, post office, hospitals

State: agencies, education, hospitals

Local: agencies, education, hospitals, Indian tribes, transportation

Private Sector:

Goods Producing

a. Mining & Logging: all forms of mining and logging to include oil & gas extraction & support activities for oil & gas operations

b. Construction: all types of construction as well as building equipment and finishing contractors and specialty trade contractors

c. Manufacturing: all types of durable and non-durable goods manufacturing to include ship & boat building, grain milling

Services

d. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities: wholesale & retail trade, all forms of transportation (air, rail, water, truck, taxi & limo, couriers & messengers, & support activities), electric power & natural gas generation, transmission, & distribution, and warehousing & storage

e. Information: motion picture, video, sound, publishers (software, newspaper, book, etc.), broadcasters (radio, tv), content providers (media networks), telecom (wired & wireless), computer infrastructure, data processing

f. Financial Activities: FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate), banking, financial investment, and rental & leasing

g. Professional & Business Services: legal, accounting, architectural, engineering, consulting services, admin, facilities support, travel, investigation, waste management, etc.

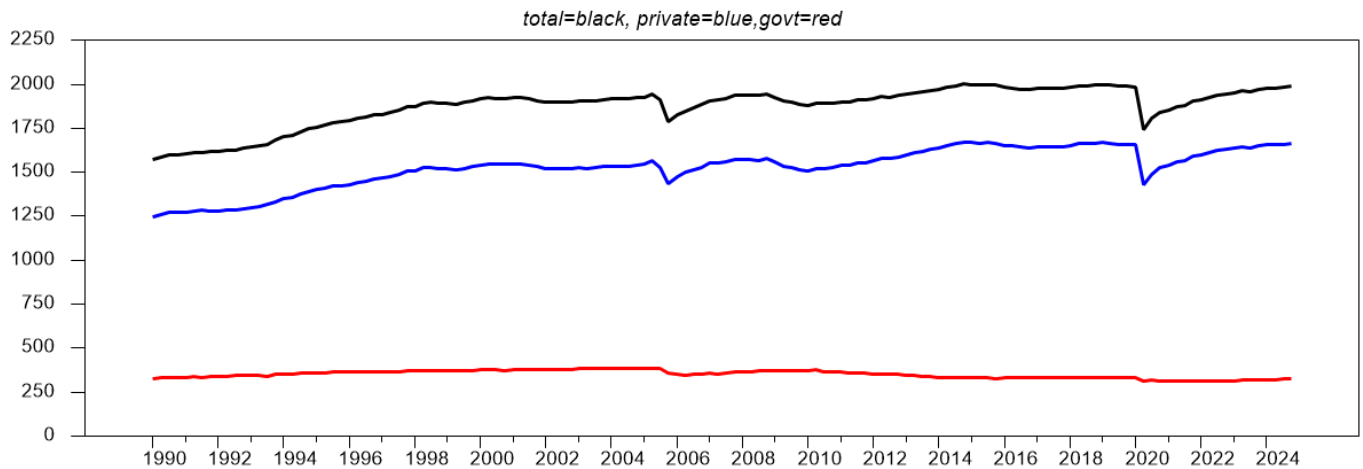
h. Private Education: all levels of private school education

i. Health Care & Social Assistance: physicians, hospitals, home health, medical labs, residential care facilities, individual & family services, elderly & disabled services, vocational rehab, child care

j. Leisure & Hospitality: arts, entertainment, recreation, gambling, fitness & sports centers, accommodation & food services, restaurants, bars, etc.

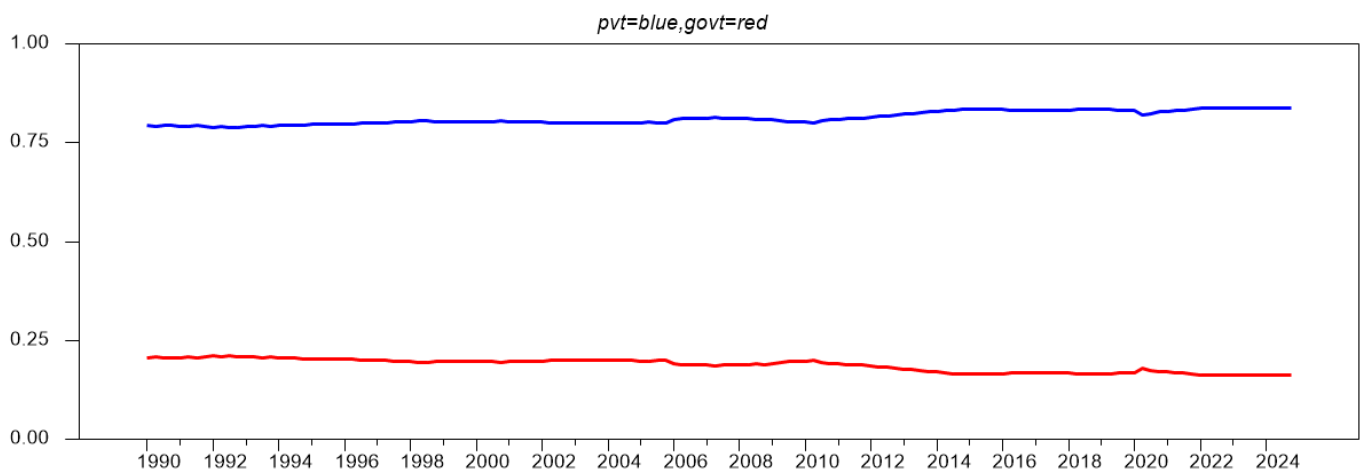
k. Other Services: repair & maintenance, personal care facilities (drycleaning, laundry), religious organizations, civic & social organizations, etc.

Louisiana Non-Farm Employment, Total, Private, & Government, thousands of Workers

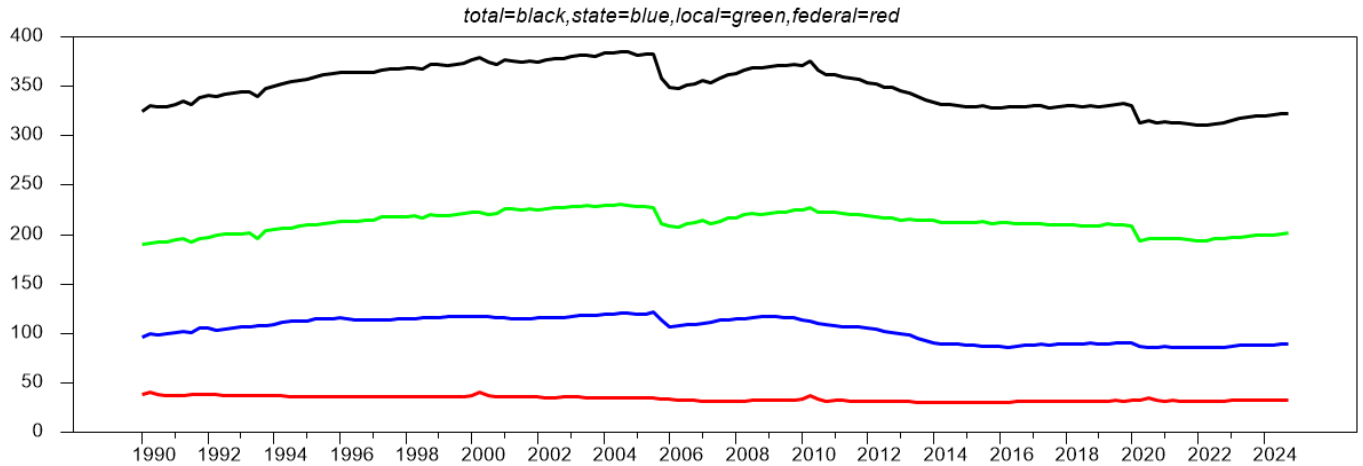


Total non-farm employment grew 415,800 (26.4%) from the first quarter of 1990 to the fourth quarter of 2024. Breaking down the total, private sector employment is much greater than government employment and the fluctuations and growth in private sector employment largely account for the fluctuations and growth in total employment. Private sector employment was 1,248,600 in the first quarter of 1990 and rose 418,500 to 1,667,100 in the fourth quarter of 2024; growth of 33.5%. Government employment was 325,300 in the first quarter of 1990 and peaked in the third quarter of 2004. It slowly declined thereafter and fell 2,700 to 322,600 in the fourth quarter of 2024, a decline of 0.8%. Thus, the share of private employment in total employment has risen slightly over time and government employment's share has fallen slightly over time. See graph below.

Ratio Louisiana Pvt & Govt Employment to Total Employment

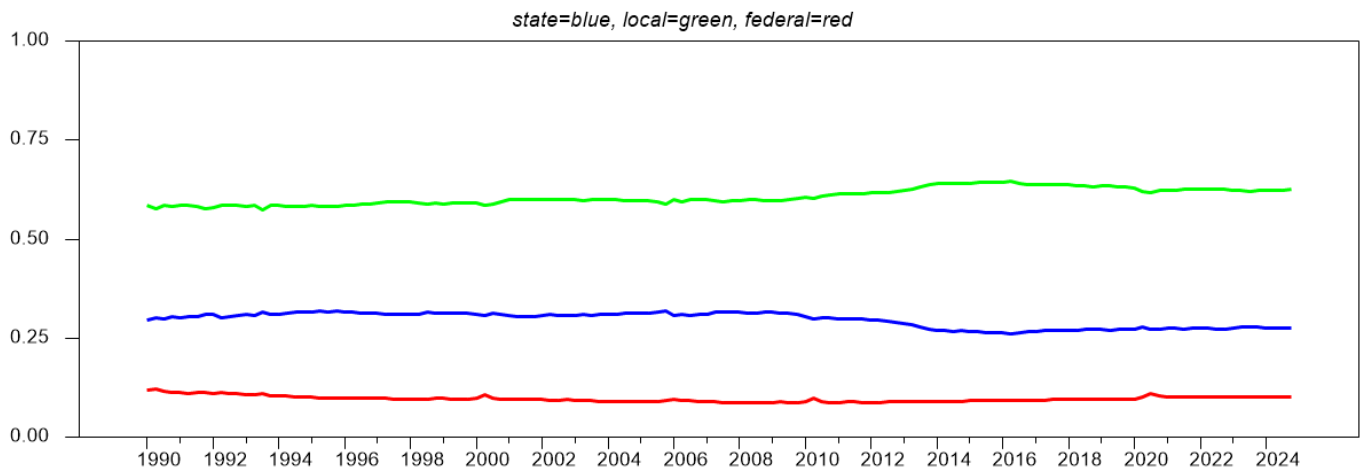


Louisiana Govt Employment--Total, State, Local, Federal, Thousands of Workers



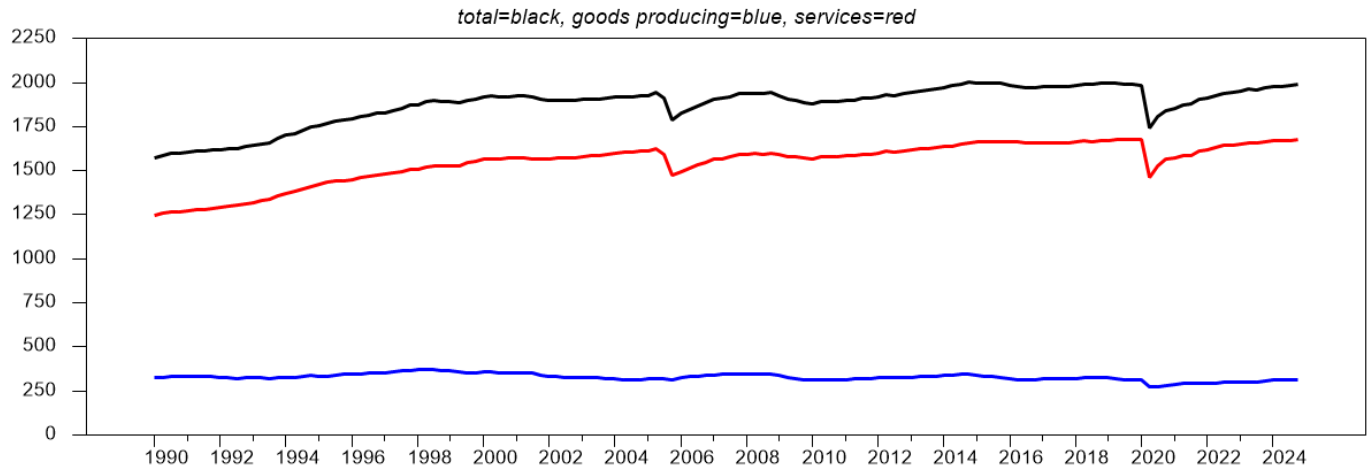
This graph breaks down government employment into its components. Local government employment is the largest component and rose from 190,300 in the first quarter of 1990 to 201,700 in the last quarter of 2024. However, local employment in the last quarter of 2024 is well below its peak of 230,500 in the third quarter of 2004. Local government employment never rebounded fully from the effects of Katrina and Rita and took a further hit from the Pandemic. State government employment is the second largest component but fell from 96,500 in the first quarter of 1990 to 88,600 in the last quarter of 2024 and never fully recovered from its peak of 121,100 just before Katrina and Rita. Federal government employment in Louisiana is much smaller than either state or local government employment and fell from 38,500 in the first quarter of 1990 to 32,300 in the fourth quarter of 2024. The regular small peaks in federal government employment reflect temporary Census hiring.

Ratio Louisiana State, Local, & Federal Govt Employment to Total Govt Employment



Not surprisingly given the information in the previous graph, the share of local government employment in total government employment rose slightly over time, and the shares of state and federal government employment fell over time.

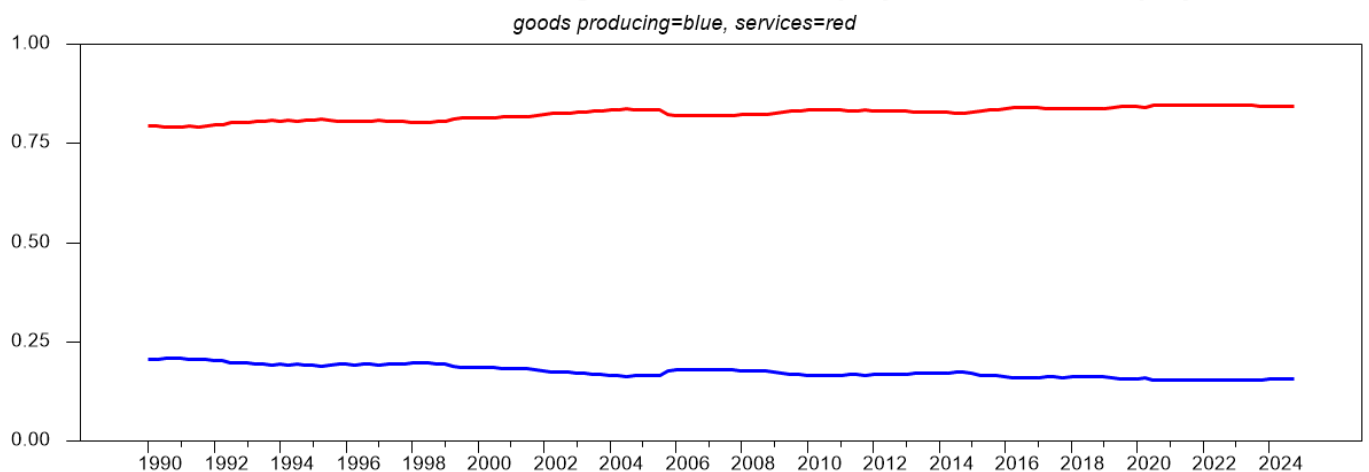
Louisiana Non-Farm Employment, Goods Producing vs Services, thousands of Workers



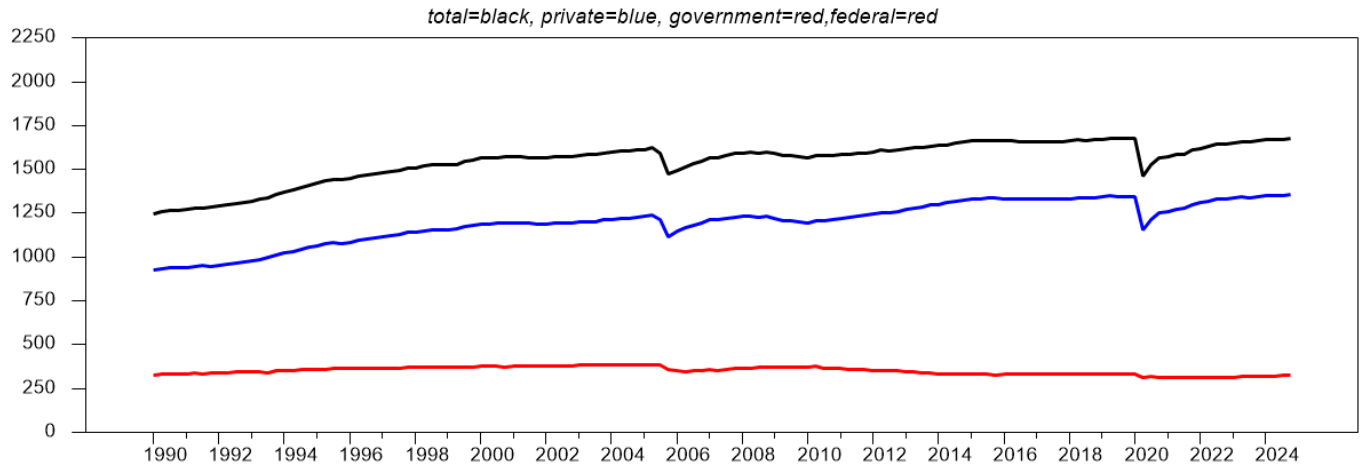
This graph breaks down total non-farm employment between the goods producing sectors (manufacturing, mining & logging, and construction) and the service sectors (trade, transportation, & utilities, information, financial activities, professional & business services, private education, private health care & social assistance, leisure & hospitality, other services, *and* government).

Employment in the services sector grew 34% from 1,248,500 in the first quarter of 1990 to 1,678,100 in the fourth quarter of 2024, accounting for all the growth in total employment over this period. Employment in goods producing industries fell 4% from 325,300 in the first quarter of 1990 to 311,800 in the fourth quarter of 2024. Consequently, the share of services employment in total employment rose slightly and the share of goods producing employment fell slightly as seen in the graph below.

Ratios Louisiana Goods Producing and Services Employment to Total Employment

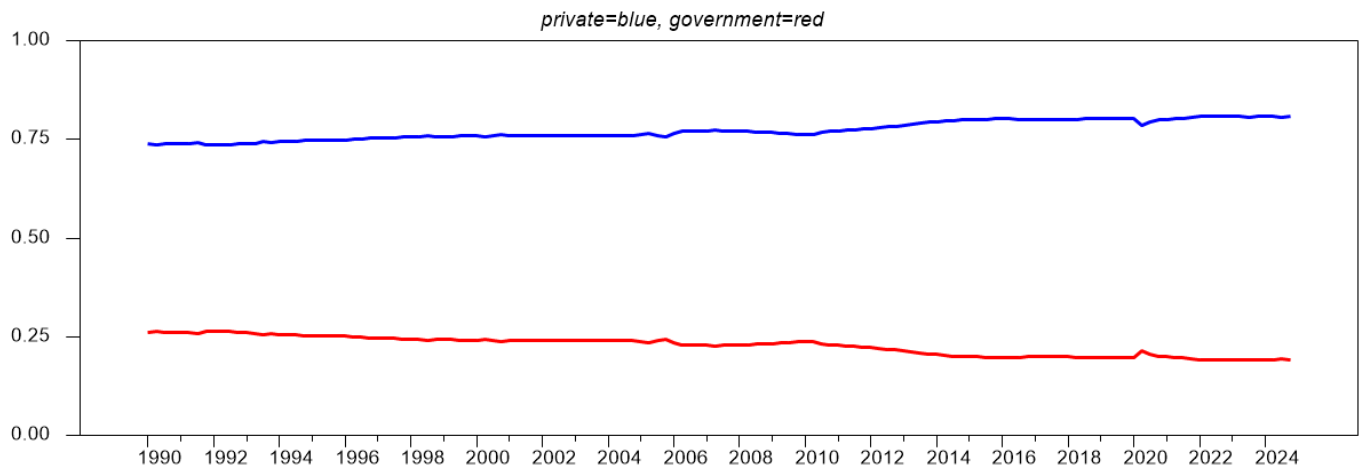


Louisiana Services Employment--Total, Pvt Sector, Govt, Thousands of Workers



If we break down services employment between the private and government sectors, we see that growth in private services sector employment accounts for all the growth in total services sector employment and that government sector employment has fallen over the period shown in the graph. Thus, the share of private sector employment in total services employment has risen somewhat over time and the share of government employment in total services employment has fallen over time. See the graph below.

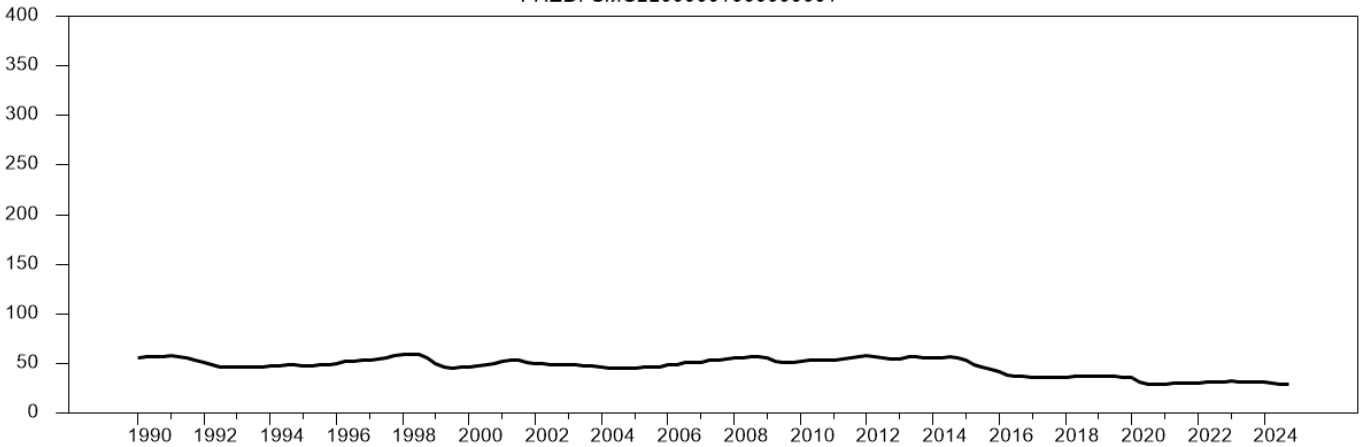
Ratios Louisiana Pvt Services Employment & Govt Employment to Total Services Employment



GOODS PRODUCING SECTORS

Louisiana Mining & Logging Employment, Thousands of Workers

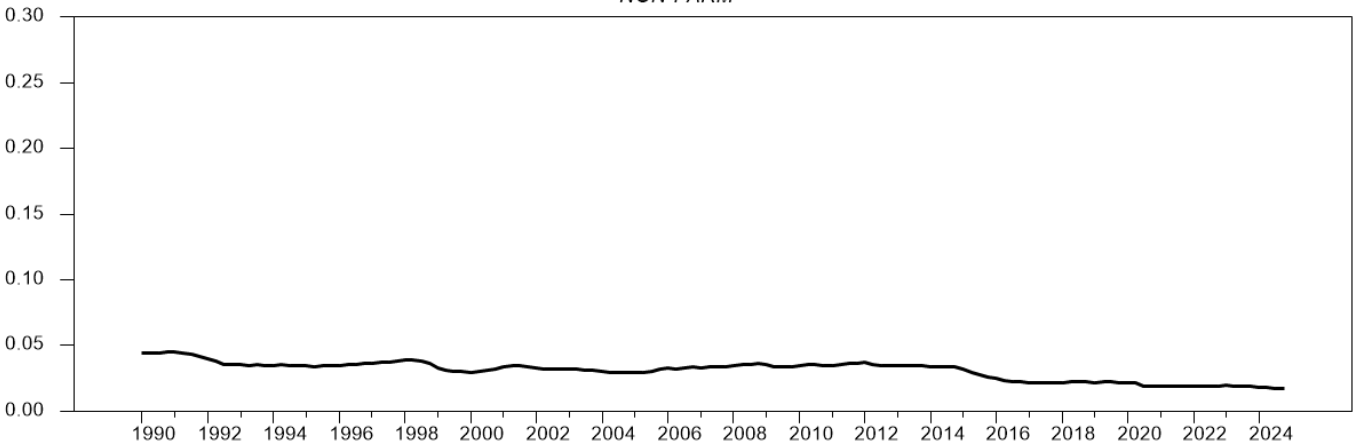
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From the first quarter of 1990 to the fourth quarter of 2024, employment in the mining & logging sector fell almost 50%, from 55,600 to 28,800. As a share of private employment, employment in the mining & logging sector fell from 4.5% to 1.7% as pictured in the graph below.

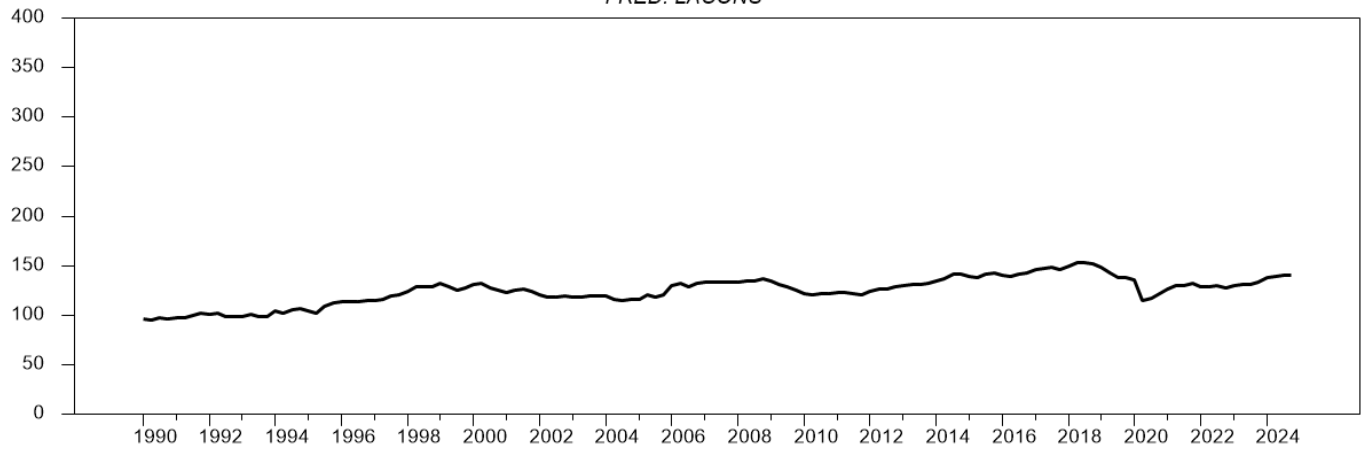
Ratio Louisiana Mining & Logging Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Construction Employment, Thousands of Workers

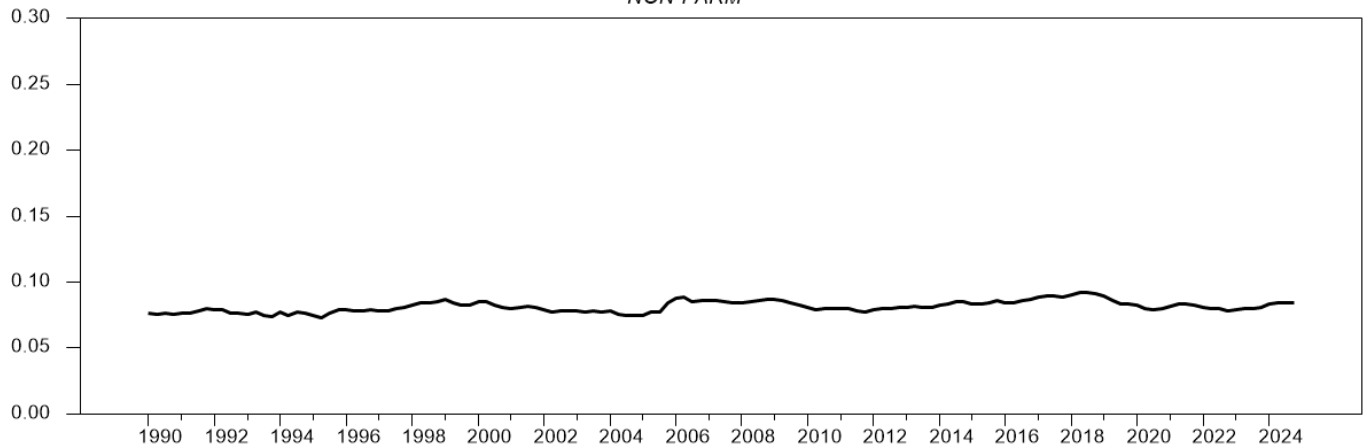
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Construction employment has risen 47% over time from 95,800 in the first quarter of 1990 to 140,800 in the fourth quarter of 2024. As a share of private employment, construction rose to 8.4% from 7.7% (see graph below).

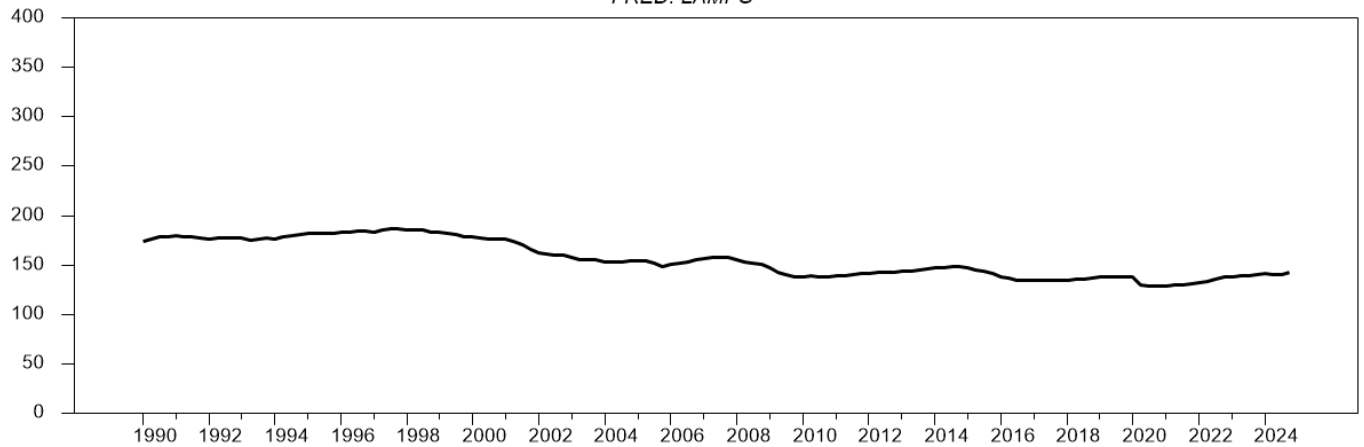
Ratio Louisiana Construction Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Manufacturing Employment, Thousands of Workers

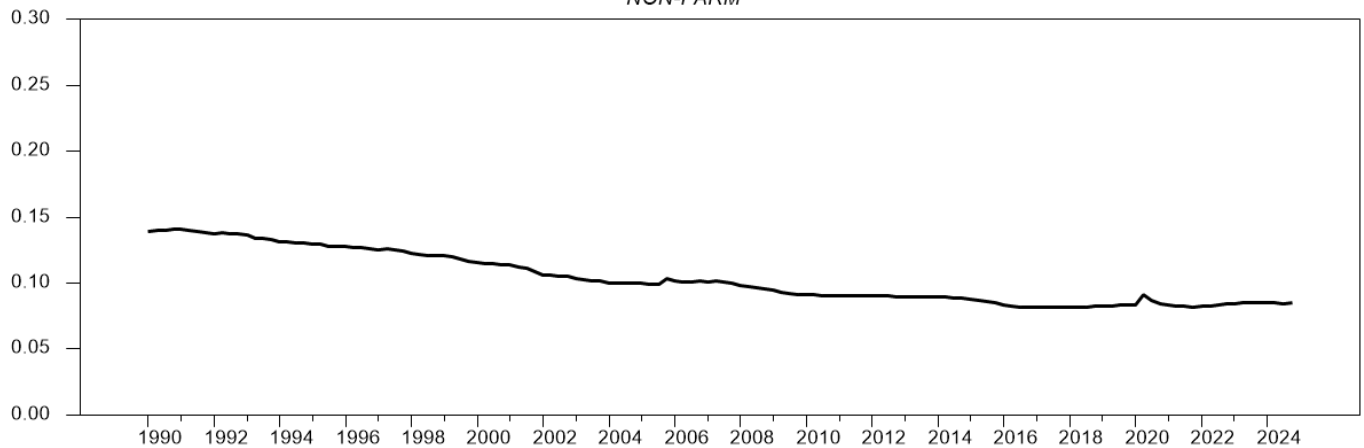
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Manufacturing employment fell from 173,900 in the first quarter of 1990 to 142,200 in the fourth quarter of 2024 and, as a share of private employment, fell from 13.9% in the first quarter of 1990 to 8.5% in the fourth quarter of 2024 (see graph below).

Ratio Louisiana Manufacturing Employment to Private Employment

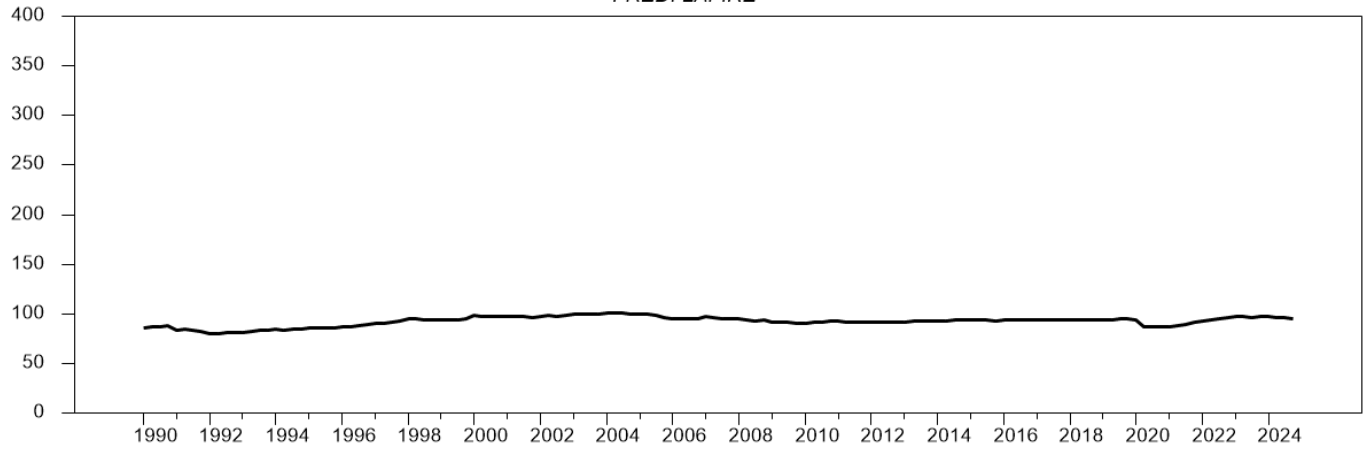
NON-FARM



PRIVATE SECTOR SERVICES INDUSTRIES

Louisiana Financial Activities Employment, Thousands of Workers

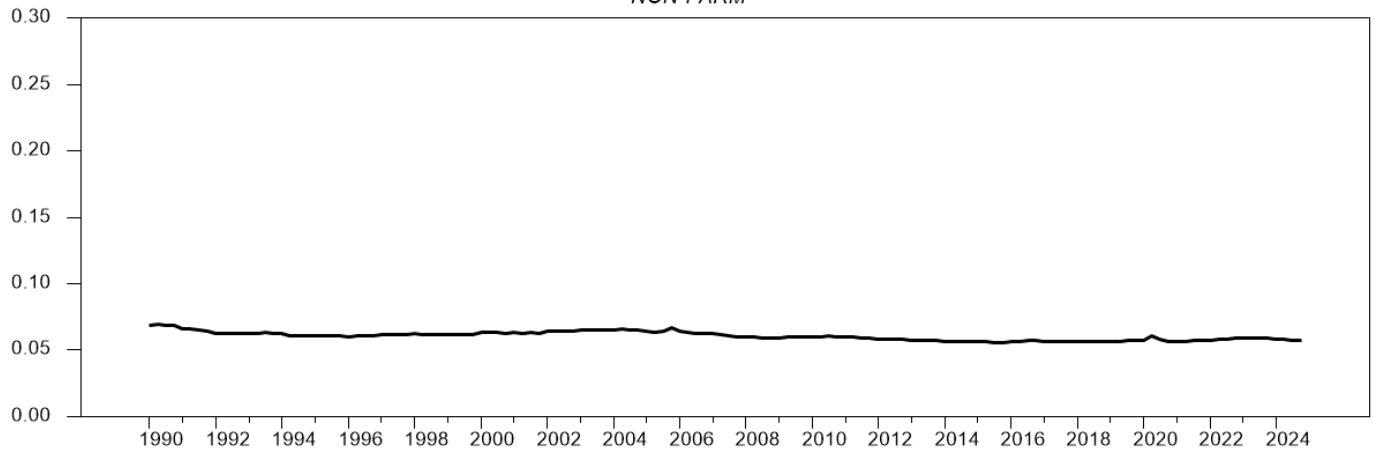
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Financial Activities employment grew by a small amount from the first quarter of 1990 to the fourth quarter of 2024, from 86,000 to 94,900 (10.3%). However, as a share of private employment, financial activities employment fell from 6.9% to 5.7% (see graph below).

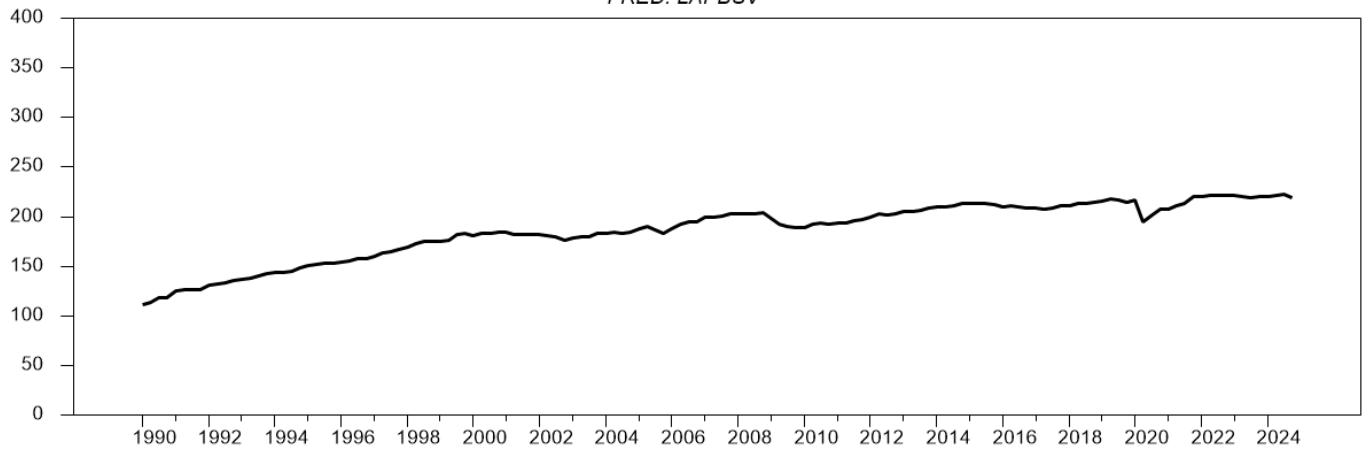
Ratio Louisiana Financial Activities Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Professional & Business Services Employment, Thousands of Workers

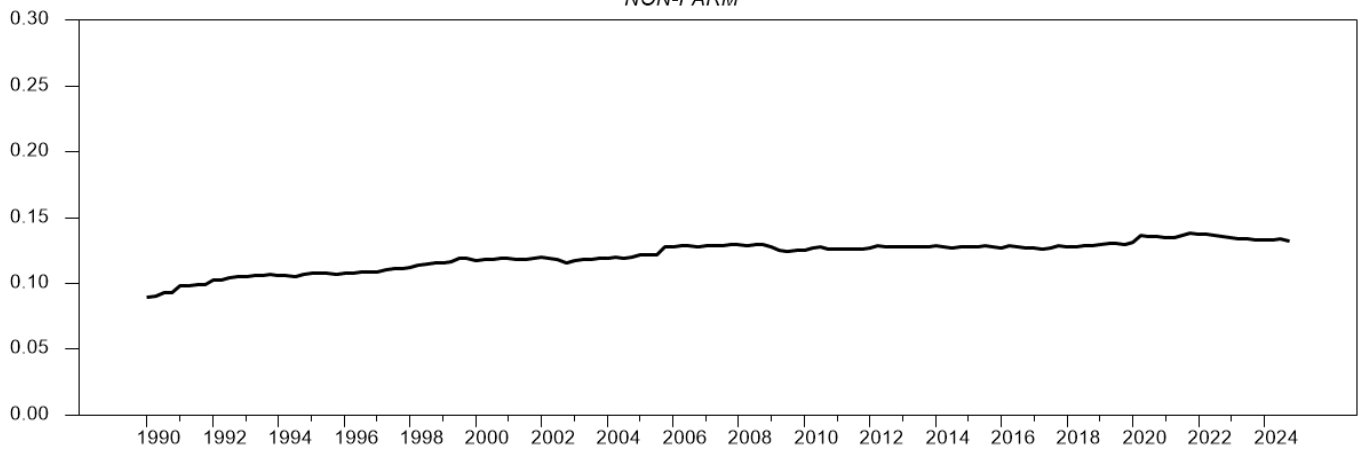
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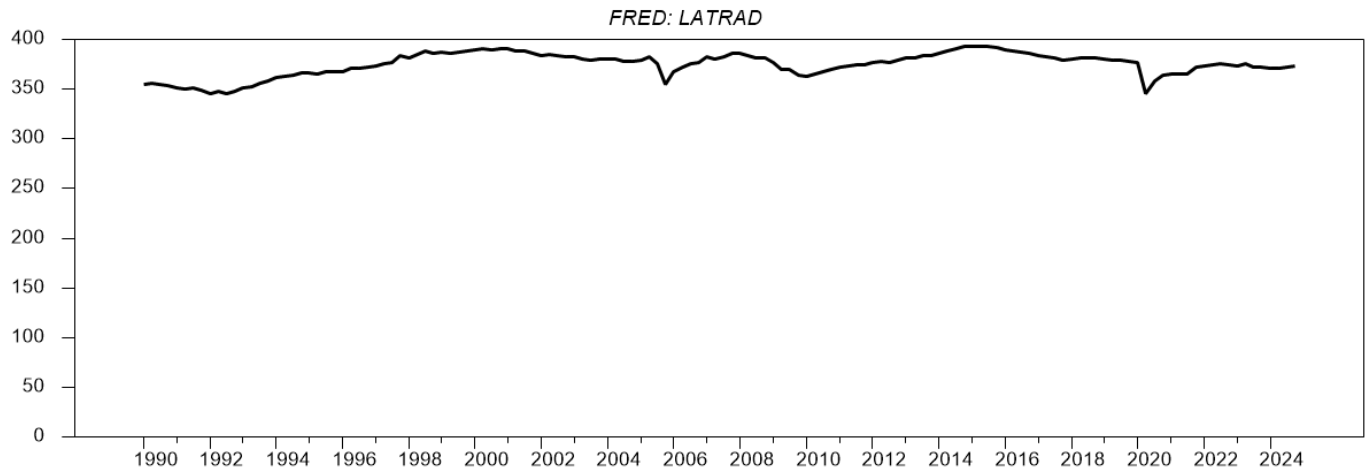
Professional & Business Services employment almost doubled from 111,400 in the first quarter of 1990 to 219,700 in the fourth quarter of 2024, and the share of professional & business services employment rose from 8.9% to 13.2% (see graph below).

Ratio Louisiana Professional & Business Services Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM

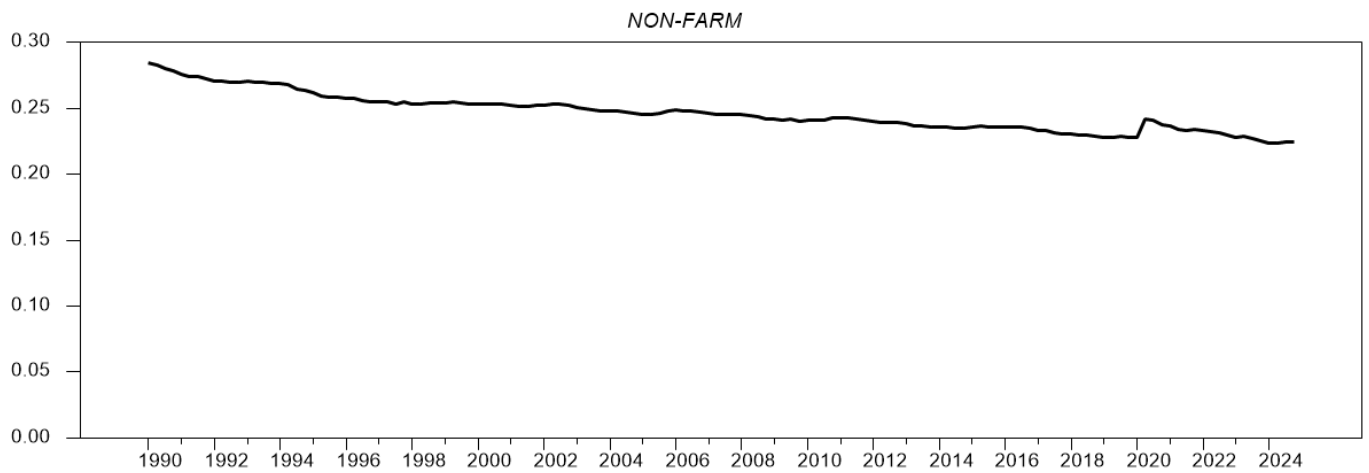


Louisiana Trade, Transportation, & Utilities Employment, Thousands of Workers



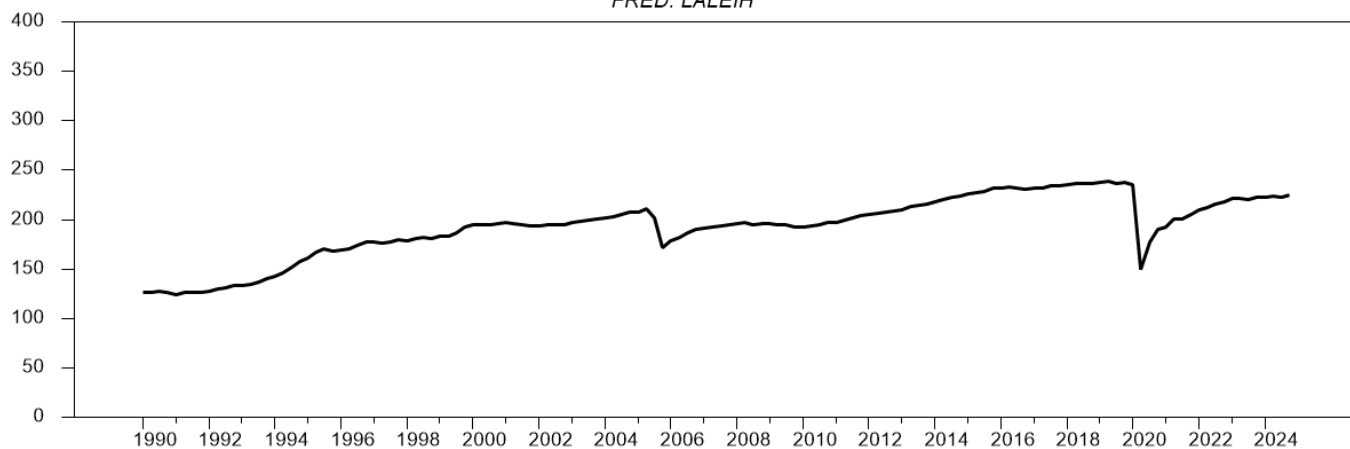
Employment in the trade, transportation, & utilities sector rose from 355,000 in the first quarter of 1990 to 373,800 in the fourth quarter of 2024, but the share of private employment fell from 28.4% to 22.4%.

Ratio Louisiana Trade, Transportation, & Utilities Employment to Private Employment



Louisiana Leisure & Hospitality Employment, Thousands of Workers

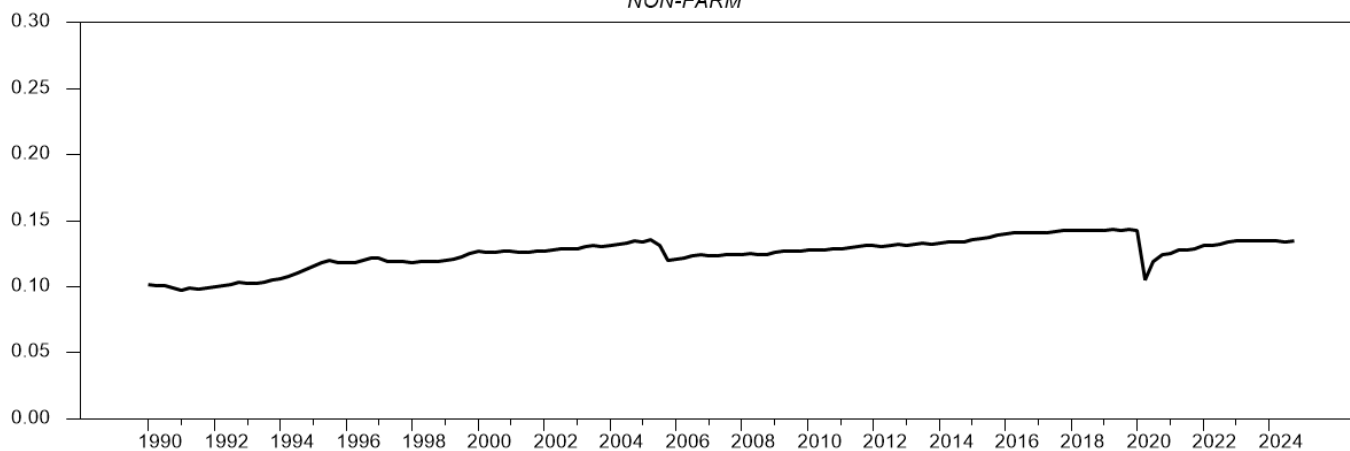
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Leisure & Hospitality employment rose 78% from 126,700 in the first quarter of 1990 to 224,900 in the fourth quarter of 2024, and its share of private employment rose from 10.1% to 13.5%.

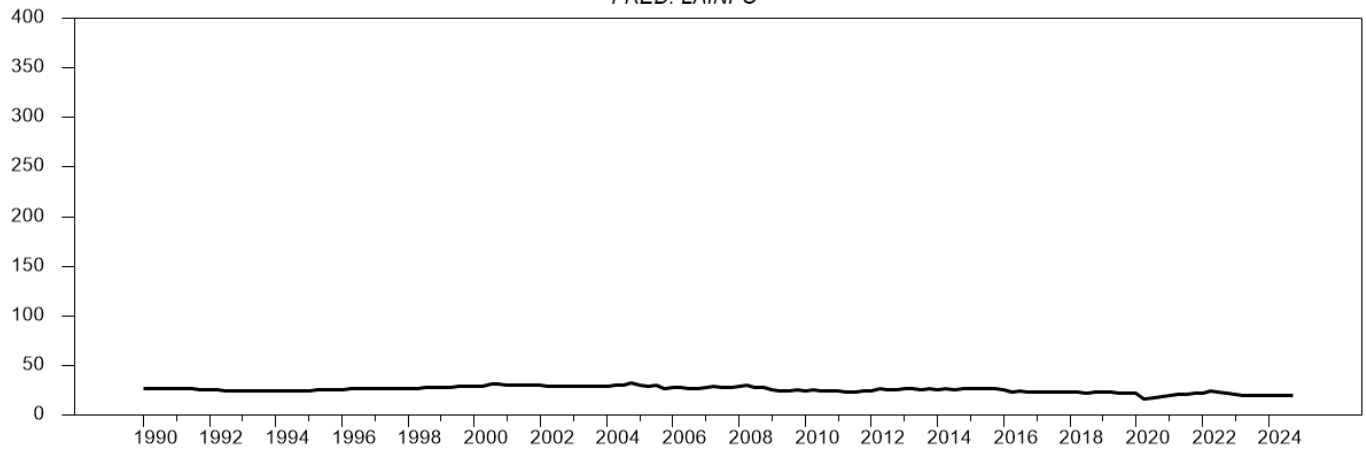
Ratio Louisiana Leisure & Hospitality Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Information Employment, Thousands of Workers

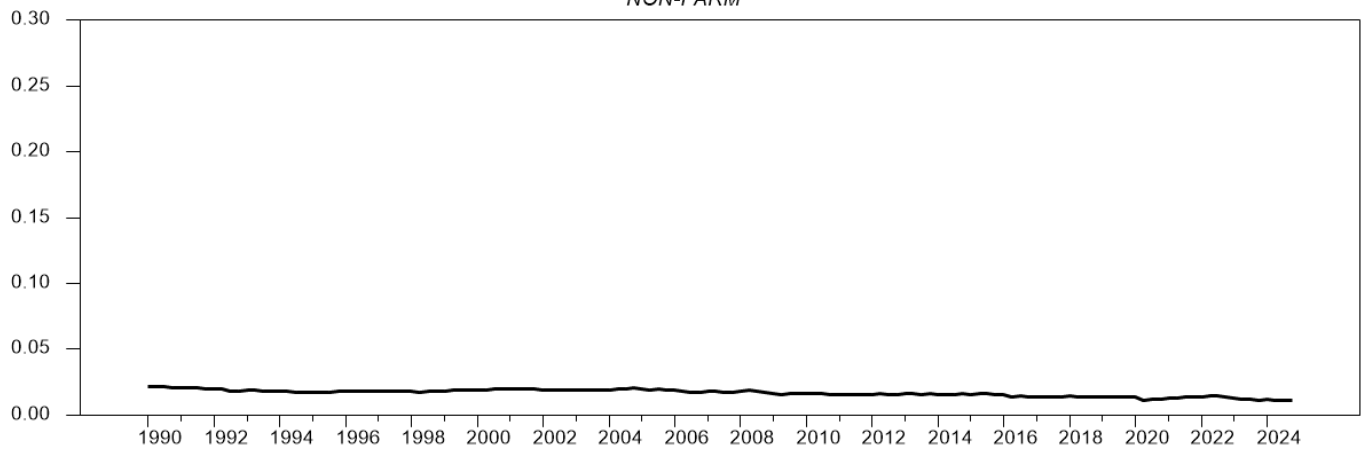
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Employment in the Information sector fell from 26,700 in the first quarter of 1990 to 19,000 in the fourth quarter of 2024, and its share of private employment fell a percentage point from 2.1% to 1.1%.

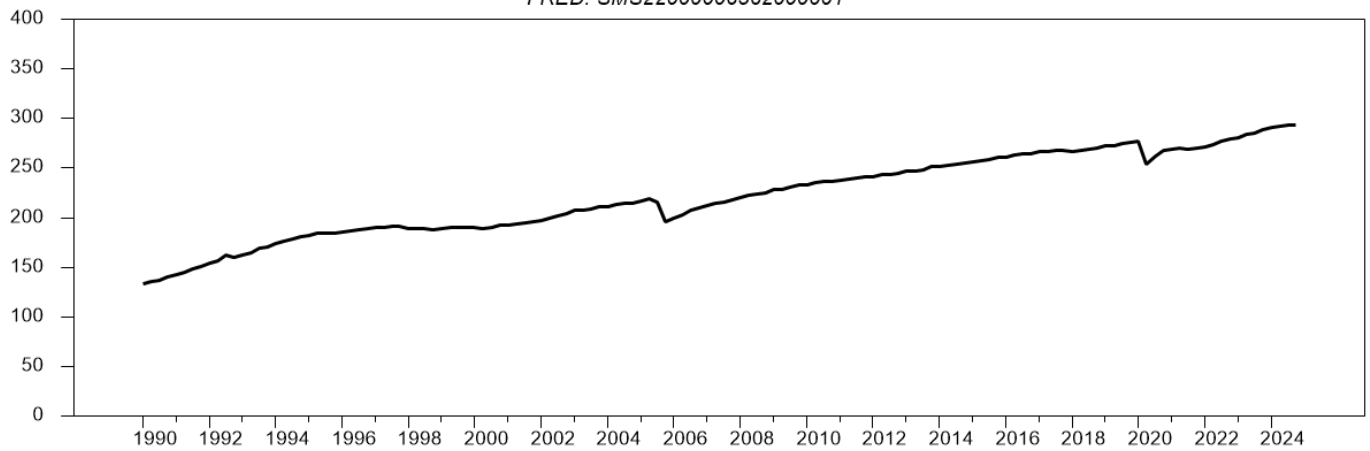
Ratio Louisiana Information Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Private Health Care & Social Assistance Employment, Thousands of Workers

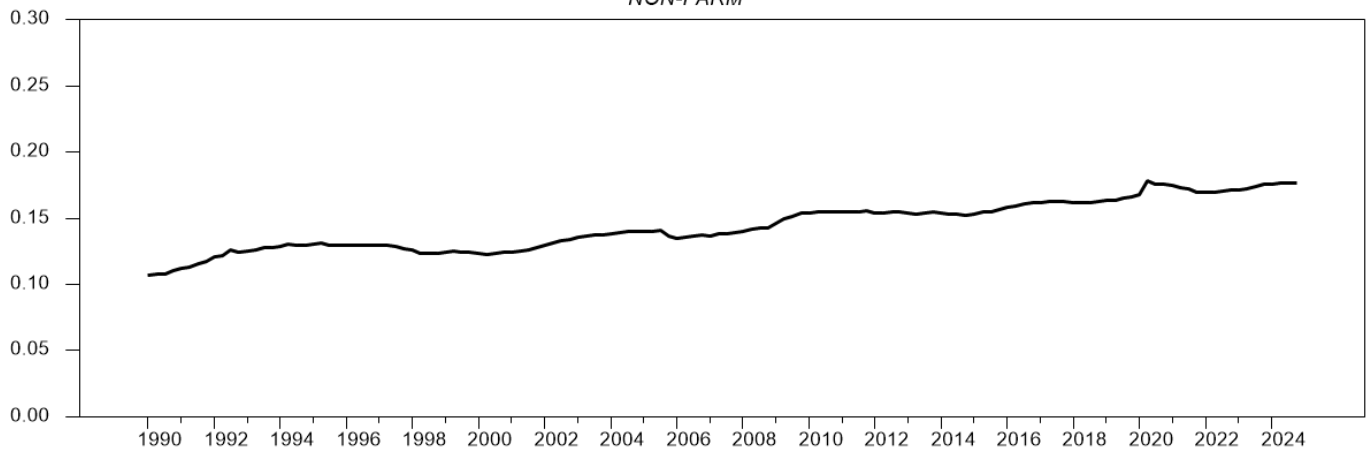
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Private Health Care & Social Assistance employment more than doubled from 133,100 in the first quarter of 1990 to 293,900 in the fourth quarter of 2024. Its share of private employment rose 7.5 percentage points from 10.1% to 17.6%.

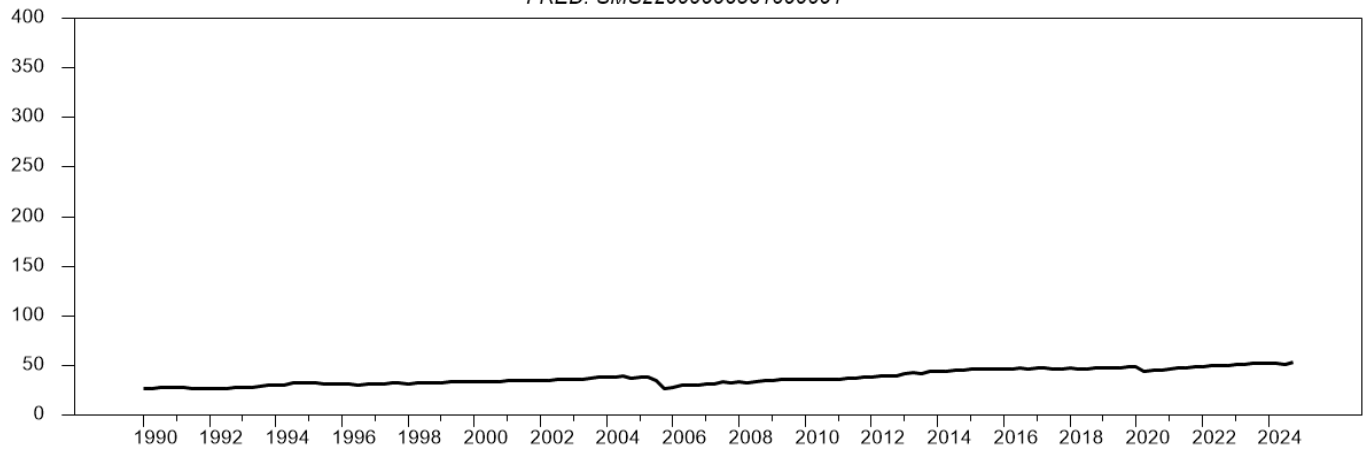
Ratio Louisiana Pvt Health Care & Social Assistance Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Private Education Services, Thousands of Workers

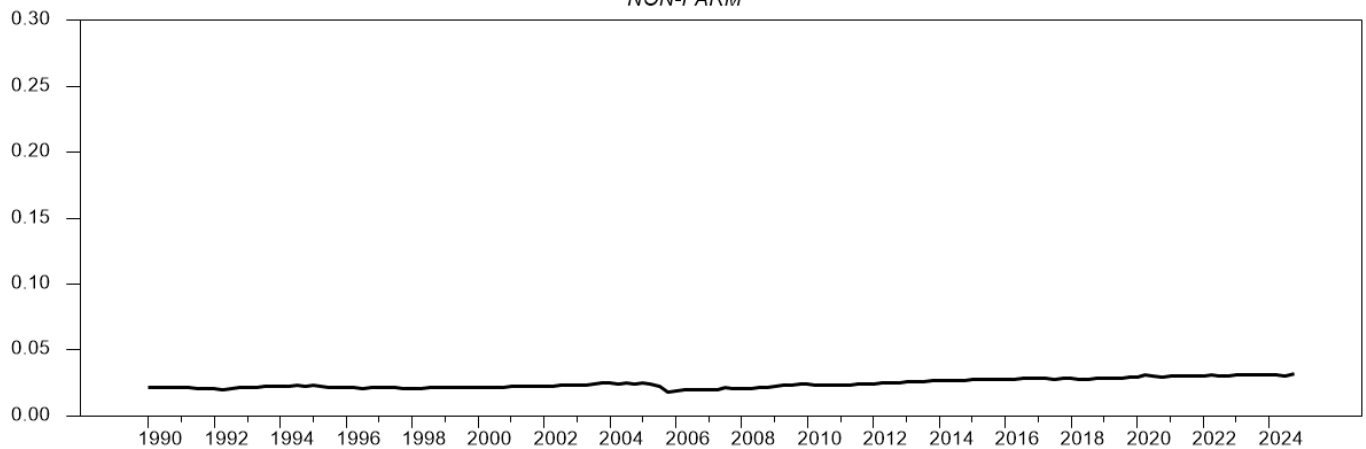
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Employment in Private Education Services doubled from 26,700 in the first quarter of 1990 to 53,300 in the fourth quarter of 2024. Its share in private employment rose a percentage point from 2.1% to 3.2%.

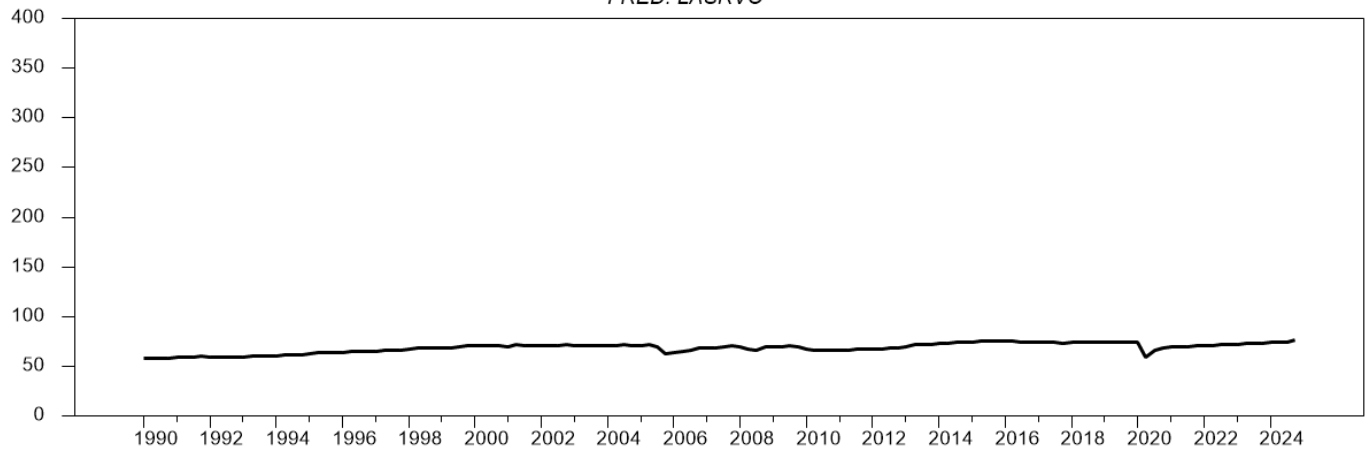
Ratio Louisiana Private Education Services Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Louisiana Other Services Employment, Thousands of Workers

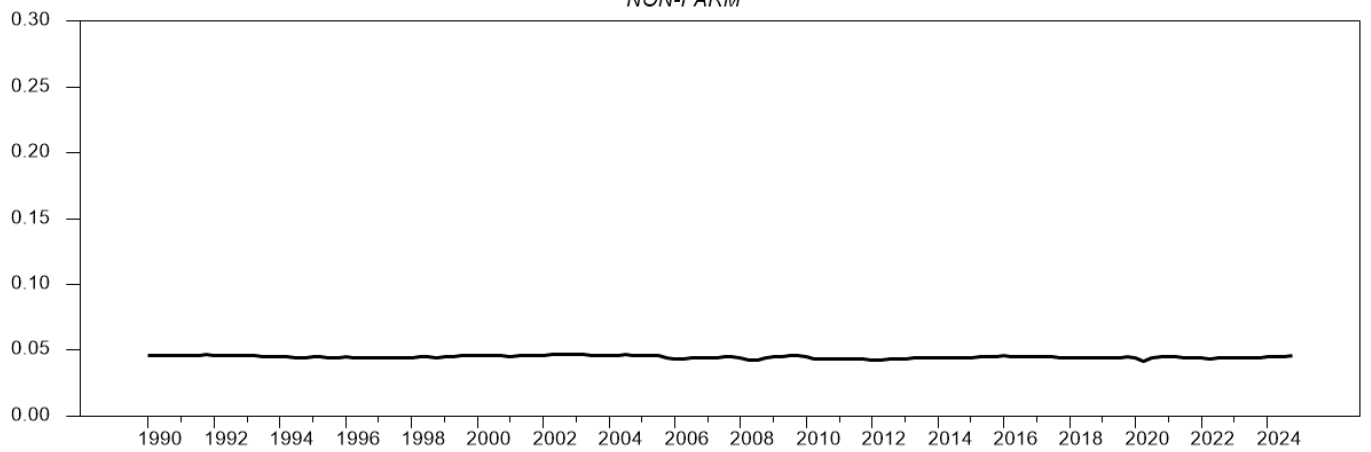
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Other Services employment rose from 57,600 in the first quarter of 1990 to 76,000 in the fourth quarter of 2024. Its share of private employment remained unchanged at 4.6%.

Ratio Louisiana Other Services Employment to Private Employment

NON-FARM



Some highlights for the period from the first quarter of 1990 to the fourth quarter of 2024

- a. Most employment in Louisiana is in the private sector; as a share of total employment, private sector employment rose from 79% of total non-farm employment in the first quarter of 1990 to 84% in the fourth quarter of 2024.
- b. Growth in private-sector non-farm employment accounts for all the growth in total non-farm employment; employment in the government sector fell over time.
- c. Within the government sector, local government employment rose by 11,400, but employment at the state and federal levels fell enough for total government employment to decline.
- d. All the growth in employment in Louisiana over the last 34 years has come in the private component of the services sector. Employment in the goods producing sector has fallen, as has employment in government (which is counted in the overall service sector).
- e. Within the goods producing sector, employment in mining & logging fell 50%, employment in manufacturing fell 18%, and construction employment rose 47%, but the rise in construction employment was not large enough to offset the declines in mining & logging and manufacturing.
- f. Within the private component of the services sector, all sub-sectors except for information services employment experienced employment growth. The largest percentage increase in employment was private health care & social assistance at 121%, with its share of private sector employment rising from 10.1% to 17.6%. This was followed by a 100% increase in private education employment (its share of private sector employment rising from 2.1% to 3.2%), a 97% increase in professional & business services employment (its share of private sector employment rising from 8.9% to 13.2%), a 78% increase in leisure & hospitality employment (its share of private sector employment rising from 10.1% to 13.5%), a 32% increase in other services employment (its share of private sector employment staying constant at 4.6%), a 10.3% increase in financial activities employment (its share of private sector employment falling from 6.9% to 5.7%), and a 5.3% increase in trade, transportation, & utilities employment (its share of private sector employment falling from 28.4% to 22.4%). Employment in information services fell 28.8%, with its share of private sector employment falling from 2.1% to 1.1%.