

Texas Workforce Press Release

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CONTACT: Labor Market and Career Information
PHONE: (toll free)1-866-938-4444 or (512) 491-4922

Texas Employers Add More Jobs *Unemployment Rate Drops*

AUSTIN — Seasonally Adjusted Nonagricultural Employment in Texas grew by 13,200 jobs in January, the 16th consecutive month of job growth. Seven of eleven industry sectors reported job growth over the month. Employment increased by 269,600 positions over the year, for an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent. The unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent in January, down from 5.2 percent in December and 5.5 percent in January 2005.

Initial claims for unemployment compensation for January were down 20.1 percent over the last 12 months, and down 32.0 percent, compared to initial claims for unemployment compensation in January 2004.

“The addition of jobs by Texas employers, as well as the declining unemployment rate, is great news for the labor market,” said TWC Chair Diane Rath. “These positive trends underscore the economic growth we are experiencing across the state.”

In the Service Providing Sector, Professional & Business Services added 4,200 jobs in January and 67,000 jobs since January 2005, representing an annual growth rate of 6.0 percent. Employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities rose by 4,000 jobs in January, for an increase of 47,300 jobs since January 2005.

Education & Health Services employment rose by 2,800 jobs, adding 40,500 jobs over the year. Financial Activities employment increased by 1,900 jobs in January, more than double its December gain of 800 jobs.

“Texas employers have added nearly 270,000 jobs in the last year, demonstrating increased confidence in the strength of the marketplace,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “I’m encouraged by growth in both service providing and goods producing sectors, including large year over year gains in Professional & Business Services and Construction.”

In the Goods Producing Sector, Construction added 1,500 jobs for the month and 29,000 jobs for the year, marking an annual growth rate of 5.2 percent. Natural Resources & Mining employment rose by 12,800 jobs over the year, for an annual growth rate of 8.1 percent.

“The number of employed Texans has grown to 10.8 million workers, and the unemployment rate continues to go down,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Texas’ abundant, skilled workforce is one of the strongest factors in attracting and retaining business in our state.”

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Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas												
Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)												
	<i>January 2006</i>				<i>December 2005</i>				<i>January 2005</i>			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	149,090.0	141,481.0	7,608.0	5.1	149,874.0	142,918.0	6,956.0	4.6	147,125.0	138,682.0	8,444.0	5.7
State of Texas	11,289.6	10,696.2	593.4	5.3	11,325.8	10,785.0	540.8	4.8	11,081.1	10,424.9	656.2	5.9
Abilene	82.0	78.5	3.5	4.3	82.0	79.0	3.0	3.6	80.0	76.3	3.7	4.7
Amarillo	128.8	123.9	4.9	3.8	129.7	125.3	4.4	3.4	125.4	119.9	5.5	4.4
Austin-Round Rock	814.4	779.5	34.9	4.3	814.1	782.7	31.4	3.9	788.6	750.6	38.0	4.8
Beaumont-Port Arthur	175.2	162.4	12.8	7.3	176.7	163.7	13.0	7.3	177.8	163.8	14.0	7.9
Brownsville-Harlingen	143.0	132.9	10.1	7.1	142.1	133.0	9.1	6.4	141.6	129.1	12.5	8.8
College Station-Bryan	101.2	96.8	4.4	4.3	105.5	101.6	3.9	3.7	100.1	95.7	4.4	4.4
Corpus Christi	198.4	187.8	10.6	5.4	199.3	189.5	9.8	4.9	198.8	186.3	12.5	6.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,055.5	2,902.4	153.1	5.0	3,066.0	2,925.9	140.1	4.6	2,977.8	2,806.4	171.4	5.8
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,050.0	1,945.9	104.1	5.1	2,053.7	1,958.4	95.3	4.6	1,988.6	1,873.8	114.8	5.8
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,005.5	956.5	49.0	4.9	1,012.2	967.5	44.7	4.4	989.2	932.6	56.6	5.7
El Paso	291.7	271.8	19.9	6.8	294.0	275.8	18.2	6.2	291.7	268.2	23.5	8.1
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,660.1	2,511.8	148.3	5.6	2,668.8	2,531.9	136.9	5.1	2,591.8	2,437.6	154.2	5.9
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	152.5	144.0	8.5	5.6	152.7	145.1	7.6	5.0	149.1	140.8	8.3	5.5
Laredo	88.7	83.7	5.0	5.6	88.4	84.0	4.4	5.0	85.2	79.3	5.9	6.9
Longview	104.3	99.3	5.0	4.8	104.3	99.8	4.5	4.4	101.8	96.2	5.6	5.5
Lubbock	141.3	135.7	5.6	4.0	142.4	137.5	4.9	3.5	140.3	134.1	6.2	4.4
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	270.5	249.4	21.1	7.8	269.1	250.4	18.7	6.9	262.6	238.2	24.4	9.3
Midland	67.9	65.5	2.4	3.5	68.5	66.3	2.2	3.1	65.5	62.8	2.7	4.2
Odessa	63.8	61.1	2.7	4.3	64.2	61.7	2.5	3.8	61.8	58.5	3.3	5.4
San Angelo	52.9	50.6	2.3	4.3	52.9	50.9	2.0	3.8	53.2	50.7	2.5	4.7
San Antonio	899.3	856.3	43.0	4.8	902.8	864.1	38.7	4.3	885.2	836.4	48.8	5.5
Sherman-Denison	56.6	53.8	2.8	5.0	57.2	54.6	2.6	4.6	56.5	53.2	3.3	5.9
Texarkana	63.3	60.1	3.2	5.0	63.7	60.8	2.9	4.5	61.5	58.0	3.5	5.7
Tyler	96.9	92.5	4.4	4.6	97.3	93.3	4.0	4.1	96.5	91.3	5.2	5.4
Victoria	57.4	54.8	2.6	4.6	57.7	55.3	2.4	4.2	56.6	53.5	3.1	5.5
Waco	112.4	107.1	5.3	4.8	113.7	108.8	4.9	4.3	112.3	106.5	5.8	5.1
Wichita Falls	75.1	71.8	3.3	4.5	75.4	72.4	3.0	3.9	74.3	70.5	3.8	5.1

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.