

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until 9 a.m. **CONTACT:** Labor Market and Career Information
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Texas Labor Market Continues to Show Strength

AUSTIN — Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 4,400 jobs in April and a total of 244,400 jobs over the last 12 months. Texas employers now have added jobs for 32 of the last 33 months, for a total of 584,400 jobs since July 2003. April's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.1 percent is up slightly from March but down from 5.3 percent in April 2005.

Decreasing unemployment rates over the year were widespread, with nearly all Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Texas experiencing a decline from April 2005 through April 2006.

“The Texas labor market is still doing well, with the addition of jobs over the month and over the year,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “Over-the-year job growth remains broad based, with the addition of jobs in 10 of 11 major industries.”

Total Nonagricultural Employment grew for the 19th consecutive month. All industry groups in the Goods-Producing Sector added jobs, while increases and decreases in the Service-Providing Sector offset one another. Annual growth for Total Nonagricultural employment in Texas remained strong at 2.5 percent.

“Business activity remains strong, as Texas employers are experiencing growth in virtually every major industry and every area of the state,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “Annual job growth rates in Professional & Business Services, Financial Activities, and Education & Health Services remain particularly strong over the last twelve months.”

Professional & Business Services has added 59,400 jobs over the year, while Financial Activities has added 21,000 jobs in the same period, showing annual growth rates of 5.2 and 3.5 percent respectively. Education & Health Services added 33,600 jobs over the year, for an annual growth rate of 2.9 percent.

Employment in Construction gained 2,600 jobs in April, following an increase of 5,000 jobs in March. Since April 2005, 29,100 jobs were created in Construction. Consequently, the annual growth rate was 5.2 percent in April and has remained positive for the past 18 months.

“I am particularly pleased to note that over the last 12 months, 225,100 more Texans have found work,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “While we still have a lot to do, the economic picture continues to improve across the state as more and more workers find employment.”

Initial claims for unemployment compensation in April 2006 were 48,632, down 26.2 percent from April 2005.

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**Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas
Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)**

	April 2006				March 2006				April 2005			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	150,209.0	143,405.0	6,804.0	4.5	150,027.0	142,772.0	7,255.0	4.8	148,274.0	140,939.0	7,335.0	4.9
State of Texas	11,345.4	10,797.1	548.3	4.8	11,354.7	10,790.9	563.8	5.0	11,151.0	10,578.0	573.0	5.1
Abilene	82.2	78.8	3.4	4.1	82.3	78.8	3.5	4.3	80.0	76.6	3.4	4.3
Amarillo	130.5	125.7	4.8	3.6	130.7	125.7	5.0	3.8	127.4	122.5	4.9	3.9
Austin-Round Rock	822.8	790.7	32.1	3.9	820.6	787.1	33.5	4.1	800.2	766.6	33.6	4.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	173.9	163.0	10.9	6.3	175.7	164.3	11.4	6.5	178.3	166.2	12.1	6.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	143.4	134.0	9.4	6.6	143.8	134.1	9.7	6.7	142.1	131.3	10.8	7.6
College Station-Bryan	106.2	102.2	4.0	3.7	106.8	102.7	4.1	3.8	104.9	101.0	3.9	3.7
Corpus Christi	199.2	189.0	10.2	5.1	200.6	190.3	10.3	5.1	201.6	190.6	11.0	5.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,072.0	2,928.7	143.3	4.7	3,072.2	2,925.3	146.9	4.8	2,997.0	2,846.6	150.4	5.0
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,057.2	1,960.2	97.0	4.7	2,056.8	1,957.3	99.5	4.8	2,004.4	1,902.4	102.0	5.1
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,014.8	968.5	46.3	4.6	1,015.4	968.0	47.4	4.7	992.6	944.2	48.4	4.9
El Paso	295.4	275.4	20.0	6.8	296.0	276.1	19.9	6.7	291.8	271.0	20.8	7.1
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,657.7	2,527.3	130.4	4.9	2,666.5	2,533.2	133.3	5.0	2,597.2	2,462.1	135.1	5.2
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	153.3	145.5	7.8	5.1	153.2	145.2	8.0	5.2	150.9	143.5	7.4	4.9
Laredo	90.0	85.0	5.0	5.5	90.1	85.1	5.0	5.6	85.3	80.1	5.2	6.0
Longview	104.6	99.9	4.7	4.5	104.6	99.8	4.8	4.6	103.0	98.0	5.0	4.9
Lubbock	142.0	136.5	5.5	3.8	142.8	136.6	6.2	4.3	141.5	135.9	5.6	3.9
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	270.4	251.5	18.9	7.0	271.7	252.1	19.6	7.2	263.7	244.1	19.6	7.4
Midland	69.3	66.9	2.4	3.4	68.7	66.3	2.4	3.5	65.8	63.4	2.4	3.7
Odessa	64.5	61.8	2.7	4.2	64.8	62.1	2.7	4.2	61.9	59.0	2.9	4.6
San Angelo	53.0	50.8	2.2	4.1	52.9	50.7	2.2	4.2	53.4	51.1	2.3	4.2
San Antonio	907.8	867.4	40.4	4.4	909.8	867.9	41.9	4.6	895.1	853.0	42.1	4.7
Sherman-Denison	57.5	54.8	2.7	4.7	57.5	54.7	2.8	4.9	57.0	54.1	2.9	5.1
Texarkana	63.7	60.5	3.2	5.0	64.0	60.8	3.2	5.0	62.2	59.1	3.1	5.0
Tyler	96.4	92.4	4.0	4.2	97.0	92.8	4.2	4.3	96.1	91.7	4.4	4.6
Victoria	58.1	55.5	2.6	4.4	57.6	55.0	2.6	4.5	57.3	54.6	2.7	4.6
Waco	113.9	108.7	5.2	4.6	114.3	108.8	5.5	4.8	112.6	107.3	5.3	4.7
Wichita Falls	75.7	72.5	3.2	4.3	75.6	72.2	3.4	4.5	74.9	71.5	3.4	4.5

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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.