

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR RELEASE:** Embargoed until 9 a.m. **CONTACT:** Labor Market and Career Information  
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## **Texas Employers Continue Adding Jobs As Employment Grows At 2.6 Percent Rate**

AUSTIN — Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 14,800 jobs in May and 251,500 jobs over the last 12 months. Texas employers have added jobs for 33 of the last 34 months, for a total of 603,900 jobs since July 2003. The May seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.1 percent.

The Midland and Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) experienced the lowest unemployment rates in the state at 3.5 and 3.8 percent, respectively (not seasonally adjusted). Decreasing unemployment rates over the year were widespread, with nearly all MSAs in Texas declining from May 2005 through May 2006.

“The addition of jobs is often the best indicator of a healthy labor market, and Texas has shown a consistent pattern of job growth over the last three years,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “Over-the-year job growth remains broad based, with statewide employment growing at a 2.6 percent clip.”

Following a gain of 1,300 jobs in April, Education & Health Services employment saw an increase of 5,100 positions in May. This was the largest over-the-month increase since October 2005. The annual growth rate rose from 2.9 percent in April to 3.2 percent in May, a gain of 38,100 positions since May 2005.

“Nine of 11 major industries saw growth over the last 12 months, with Professional & Business Services, Construction, and Natural Resources & Mining leading the way,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “In fact, all three of those industries grew at an annual rate of 5.2 percent or greater over the last 12 months.”

Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment added 4,800 jobs in May 2006. This was a sizeable increase when compared to the five-year average May increase of 2,400 jobs. Employment in Leisure & Hospitality posted a boost of 2,600 positions in May, while employment in Construction grew by 1,900 jobs over the month. Since the beginning of the year, 13,800 jobs have been created in Construction. The annual growth rate for May reached 5.4 percent, while maintaining its positive status for 19 straight months.

“I am pleased to note more than 229,500 Texans have found work over the last year,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “The civilian labor force is both vibrant and growing, and now stands at an all-time record 11,418,100.”

Initial claims for unemployment compensation in May 2006 were 61,002, down 15.0 percent from May 2005 and 17.8 percent since May 2004.

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

	May 2006				April 2006				May 2005			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	150,696.0	144,041.0	6,655.0	4.4	150,209.0	143,405.0	6,804.0	4.5	148,878.0	141,591.0	7,287.0	4.9
State of Texas	11,382.1	10,820.3	561.8	4.9	11,345.4	10,797.1	548.3	4.8	11,166.0	10,587.4	578.6	5.2
Abilene	82.6	79.1	3.5	4.3	82.2	78.8	3.4	4.1	79.8	76.3	3.5	4.4
Amarillo	131.3	126.3	5.0	3.8	130.5	125.7	4.8	3.6	127.9	122.9	5.0	3.9
Austin-Round Rock	826.2	793.2	33.0	4.0	822.8	790.7	32.1	3.9	802.9	768.7	34.2	4.3
Beaumont-Port Arthur	175.2	164.1	11.1	6.3	173.9	163.0	10.9	6.3	178.5	166.2	12.3	6.9
Brownsville-Harlingen	144.0	134.6	9.4	6.6	143.4	134.0	9.4	6.6	141.0	130.4	10.6	7.5
College Station-Bryan	106.5	102.3	4.2	4.0	106.2	102.2	4.0	3.7	104.9	100.9	4.0	3.8
Corpus Christi	199.2	188.8	10.4	5.2	199.2	189.0	10.2	5.1	200.8	189.6	11.2	5.6
Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington	3,089.9	2,942.6	147.3	4.8	3,072.0	2,928.7	143.3	4.7	3,005.0	2,853.8	151.2	5.0
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,073.7	1,974.1	99.6	4.8	2,057.2	1,960.2	97.0	4.7	2,008.6	1,906.2	102.4	5.1
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,016.1	968.4	47.7	4.7	1,014.8	968.5	46.3	4.6	996.3	947.5	48.8	4.9
El Paso	295.3	274.8	20.5	6.9	295.4	275.4	20.0	6.8	292.3	271.4	20.9	7.1
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,665.6	2,532.2	133.4	5.0	2,657.7	2,527.3	130.4	4.9	2,605.0	2,467.4	137.6	5.3
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	154.1	146.0	8.1	5.2	153.3	145.5	7.8	5.1	151.4	143.7	7.7	5.1
Laredo	89.9	84.9	5.0	5.6	90.0	85.0	5.0	5.5	85.4	80.2	5.2	6.0
Longview	104.5	99.6	4.9	4.7	104.6	99.9	4.7	4.5	102.9	97.8	5.1	4.9
Lubbock	142.3	136.6	5.7	4.0	142.0	136.5	5.5	3.8	141.3	135.7	5.6	4.0
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	268.8	250.0	18.8	7.0	270.4	251.5	18.9	7.0	261.4	242.1	19.3	7.4
Midland	69.8	67.3	2.5	3.5	69.3	66.9	2.4	3.4	65.9	63.4	2.5	3.8
Odessa	64.7	61.9	2.8	4.3	64.5	61.8	2.7	4.2	62.1	59.2	2.9	4.7
San Angelo	53.2	50.8	2.4	4.4	53.0	50.8	2.2	4.1	53.0	50.7	2.3	4.3
San Antonio	910.5	868.9	41.6	4.6	907.8	867.4	40.4	4.4	898.8	856.2	42.6	4.7
Sherman-Denison	57.8	55.0	2.8	4.8	57.5	54.8	2.7	4.7	56.8	53.9	2.9	5.2
Texarkana	63.8	60.5	3.3	5.1	63.7	60.5	3.2	5.0	62.3	59.1	3.2	5.2
Tyler	96.6	92.4	4.2	4.4	96.4	92.4	4.0	4.2	96.1	91.5	4.6	4.8
Victoria	58.2	55.6	2.6	4.5	58.1	55.5	2.6	4.4	57.6	54.9	2.7	4.7
Waco	114.2	108.9	5.3	4.7	113.9	108.7	5.2	4.6	112.0	106.6	5.4	4.8
Wichita Falls	76.3	72.9	3.4	4.5	75.7	72.5	3.2	4.3	75.3	71.9	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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*