

Texas Workforce Press Release

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

Texas Job Growth Continues for 24th Consecutive Month *Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.8 Percent*

AUSTIN — Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 15,200 jobs in September and 226,200 jobs over the last 12 months, representing a 2.3 percent growth rate over the year. The nation as a whole has seen job growth of 1.3 percent during the same period. Texas employers have added jobs for 24 consecutive months and 37 of the last 38 months. A total of 676,700 jobs have been added since July 2003. The September seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo MSA was second at 3.6 percent, followed by College Station-Bryan MSA at 3.7 percent.

“The decline in the statewide unemployment rate combined with continued job growth speaks very well for the health of the Texas labor market,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “Job growth continues to outstrip U.S. job growth, and the unemployment rate of 4.8 percent has not been seen in the last five years.”

In September, hiring activities remained strong in Manufacturing. Employment in this industry experienced its second over-the-month job increase since July adding 3,400 jobs. This increase brings the total employment in the Manufacturing industry to its highest level in over three years. The annual growth rate rose from 0.6 percent in August to 0.9 percent in September, representing the addition of 8,400 jobs since September 2005.

“For the first time in Texas history, nonagricultural employment reached the 10 million mark over the last two months,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “With a record of 10,020,400 jobs, expansion continues to be broad-based across many industries and geographic areas.”

Financial Activities employment increased in September, with the addition of 3,300 jobs, continuing the industry’s three-month streak of employment gains. The annual growth rate remained unchanged at 3.0 percent for a total of 18,300 jobs added in Financial Activities since September 2005.

“A declining unemployment rate and continued job growth are both positive signs for Texas workers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Job gains over the month and over the year are both good trends for the Texas labor market.”

Initial claims for unemployment compensation in September 2006 were 47,016, down 30.1 percent from September 2005.

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September Unemployment

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

Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)	September 2006				August 2006				September 2005			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	151,635.0	145,010.0	6,625.0	4.4	152,465.0	145,379.0	7,086.0	4.6	149,838.0	142,579.0	7,259.0	4.8
State of Texas	11,535.5	10,995.4	540.1	4.7	11,538.6	10,949.9	588.7	5.1	11,295.6	10,707.2	588.4	5.2
Abilene	83.7	80.4	3.3	3.9	83.6	79.8	3.8	4.5	81.9	78.6	3.3	4.0
Amarillo	132.5	127.7	4.8	3.6	132.7	127.3	5.4	4.1	128.5	123.7	4.8	3.7
Austin-Round Rock	834.0	802.2	31.8	3.8	836.2	801.5	34.7	4.2	809.5	775.0	34.5	4.3
Beaumont-Port Arthur	175.7	165.1	10.6	6.0	176.9	165.4	11.5	6.5	179.0	166.2	12.8	7.1
Brownsville-Harlingen	144.6	135.6	9.0	6.2	145.6	135.8	9.8	6.7	140.3	130.8	9.5	6.8
College Station-Bryan	107.4	103.5	3.9	3.7	102.4	98.1	4.3	4.2	105.9	101.6	4.3	4.1
Corpus Christi	201.3	191.2	10.1	5.0	200.5	189.6	10.9	5.5	199.6	188.7	10.9	5.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,123.1	2,980.0	143.1	4.6	3,133.0	2,978.5	154.5	4.9	3,047.4	2,893.7	153.7	5.0
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,093.4	1,997.0	96.4	4.6	2,105.9	2,001.6	104.3	5.0	2,040.4	1,935.9	104.5	5.1
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,029.6	983.0	46.6	4.5	1,027.1	976.8	50.3	4.9	1,007.0	957.8	49.2	4.9
El Paso	301.3	281.0	20.3	6.8	298.7	277.6	21.1	7.1	295.4	276.0	19.4	6.6
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,723.1	2,595.4	127.7	4.7	2,714.5	2,576.0	138.5	5.1	2,661.2	2,507.8	153.4	5.8
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	156.1	147.9	8.2	5.3	155.2	146.4	8.8	5.7	151.8	143.7	8.1	5.3
Laredo	91.7	87.3	4.4	4.8	91.8	86.7	5.1	5.6	86.7	82.1	4.6	5.3
Longview	105.5	100.8	4.7	4.4	105.9	100.6	5.3	5.0	104.3	99.4	4.9	4.7
Lubbock	143.3	137.8	5.5	3.8	143.2	137.0	6.2	4.3	141.9	136.5	5.4	3.8
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	273.5	255.4	18.1	6.6	271.8	252.4	19.4	7.1	260.9	242.9	18.0	6.9
Midland	71.4	69.0	2.4	3.3	71.0	68.3	2.7	3.8	68.0	65.6	2.4	3.5
Odessa	65.8	63.2	2.6	3.9	65.5	62.6	2.9	4.4	63.3	60.6	2.7	4.3
San Angelo	52.9	50.6	2.3	4.3	53.8	51.2	2.6	4.8	52.8	50.6	2.2	4.2
San Antonio	926.1	885.2	40.9	4.4	926.5	881.9	44.6	4.8	907.0	864.3	42.7	4.7
Sherman-Denison	58.7	56.1	2.6	4.4	58.4	55.5	2.9	4.9	57.1	54.2	2.9	5.0
Texarkana	64.1	60.9	3.2	5.0	63.8	60.4	3.4	5.4	63.1	59.9	3.2	5.1
Tyler	98.1	93.8	4.3	4.4	98.2	93.7	4.5	4.6	97.5	92.9	4.6	4.7
Victoria	58.9	56.5	2.4	4.1	59.1	56.4	2.7	4.6	57.3	54.6	2.7	4.7
Waco	115.3	110.3	5.0	4.4	115.3	109.6	5.7	5.0	113.3	108.1	5.2	4.6
Wichita Falls	76.7	73.4	3.3	4.2	77.0	73.4	3.6	4.7	75.1	71.8	3.3	4.4

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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.