

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until 9 a.m.
DATE: December 22, 2006

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

Texas Employers Continue Adding Jobs in November *Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.7 Percent*

AUSTIN — Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 16,400 jobs from October to November as Texas employers continue adding jobs. Over the last 12 months, the Texas economy grew by 204,300 jobs, with an over-the-year growth rate of 2.1 percent. Texas employers now have added jobs for 26 consecutive months. November's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.7 percent from last month's 4.8 percent and from 5.3 percent in November 2005.

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

“Job growth has steadily increased for more than two years which indicates a robust Texas labor market,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “With broad-based job gains posted again this month, the state's annual growth rate of 2.1 percent continues to significantly outpace the U.S. rate of 1.3 percent.”

Following banner October gains of 9,700 jobs, Professional & Business Services grew by another 4,400 positions in November. The industry posted an annual growth rate of 4.1 percent in November, adding 48,600 jobs since November 2005. Leisure & Hospitality posted a fifth consecutive month of job growth, gaining 3,400 jobs.

“Texas businesses continue to expand and thrive, strengthening the state's job-growth figures,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “I'm encouraged by growth in many sectors, including large year-over-year gains in Professional & Business Services and Construction.”

In the past 12 months, the construction industry showed significant growth of 7.4 percent in comparison to the overall U.S. rate of 0.7 percent. Construction grew by 42,800 jobs, further contributing to the health of the Texas economy.

“Our low unemployment rate means more and more Texans are finding jobs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “I'm proud to say over the past year, more than 370,300 workers became employed.”

Initial claims for unemployment compensation in November 2006 were 56,392, down 8.9 percent from November 2005.

- more -

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

	November 2006				October 2006				November 2005			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	152,590.0	146,014.0	6,576.0	4.3	152,397.0	146,125.0	6,272.0	4.1	150,239.0	142,968.0	7,271.0	4.8
State of Texas	11,634.9	11,101.9	533.0	4.6	11,622.4	11,088.1	534.3	4.6	11,333.7	10,755.1	578.6	5.1
Abilene	84.0	80.7	3.3	3.9	83.8	80.5	3.3	3.9	81.8	78.6	3.2	3.9
Amarillo	133.3	128.5	4.8	3.6	133.1	128.3	4.8	3.6	129.2	124.6	4.6	3.6
Austin-Round Rock	844.8	813.8	31.0	3.7	840.9	809.5	31.4	3.7	818.7	785.0	33.7	4.1
Beaumont-Port Arthur	176.5	166.1	10.4	5.9	177.1	166.8	10.3	5.8	178.1	163.1	15.0	8.4
Brownsville-Harlingen	146.2	137.1	9.1	6.2	145.7	136.8	8.9	6.1	141.2	131.8	9.4	6.7
College Station-Bryan	108.6	104.7	3.9	3.6	108.9	104.9	4.0	3.7	106.4	102.1	4.3	4.0
Corpus Christi	203.5	193.7	9.8	4.8	202.6	192.7	9.9	4.9	198.7	188.4	10.3	5.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,157.4	3,016.3	141.1	4.5	3,155.6	3,013.6	142.0	4.5	3,069.2	2,919.2	150.0	4.9
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,115.7	2,020.7	95.0	4.5	2,116.0	2,020.6	95.4	4.5	2,057.4	1,955.3	102.1	5.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,041.7	995.5	46.2	4.4	1,039.5	993.0	46.5	4.5	1,011.8	963.9	47.9	4.7
El Paso	305.3	284.9	20.4	6.7	304.2	283.6	20.6	6.8	294.7	275.7	19.0	6.4
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,751.9	2,627.8	124.1	4.5	2,747.3	2,622.4	124.9	4.5	2,666.2	2,516.2	150.0	5.6
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	155.9	147.7	8.2	5.3	156.1	147.9	8.2	5.3	153.4	145.3	8.1	5.3
Laredo	93.5	89.1	4.4	4.7	93.0	88.6	4.4	4.8	87.9	83.4	4.5	5.1
Longview	106.5	101.9	4.6	4.3	106.5	101.9	4.6	4.3	104.4	99.6	4.8	4.6
Lubbock	145.0	139.7	5.3	3.7	144.8	139.4	5.4	3.7	143.0	137.8	5.2	3.6
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	278.4	259.9	18.5	6.6	276.2	258.7	17.5	6.3	265.9	247.7	18.2	6.8
Midland	71.3	68.9	2.4	3.3	71.2	68.8	2.4	3.4	68.5	66.2	2.3	3.3
Odessa	66.2	63.7	2.5	3.8	66.1	63.5	2.6	3.9	64.0	61.4	2.6	4.1
San Angelo	53.4	51.2	2.2	4.2	53.4	51.1	2.3	4.2	53.2	51.0	2.2	4.1
San Antonio	933.2	893.1	40.1	4.3	931.9	891.3	40.6	4.4	905.2	863.5	41.7	4.6
Sherman-Denison	59.1	56.5	2.6	4.4	59.1	56.5	2.6	4.4	57.2	54.4	2.8	4.8
Texarkana	NA	NA	NA	NA	64.4	61.2	3.2	5.0	63.7	60.7	3.0	4.7
Tyler	97.8	93.4	4.4	4.5	98.0	93.7	4.3	4.4	97.5	93.2	4.3	4.5
Victoria	59.5	57.1	2.4	4.0	59.0	56.6	2.4	4.1	57.8	55.2	2.6	4.5
Waco	116.7	111.7	5.0	4.3	116.6	111.6	5.0	4.3	113.8	108.6	5.2	4.5
Wichita Falls	77.3	74.0	3.3	4.2	77.4	74.1	3.3	4.3	75.5	72.3	3.2	4.3

###ah

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.