

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Employers Add 13,500 Jobs in March

Unemployment Rate Rises from Record Low to 4.3 Percent

AUSTIN — Texas seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment grew by 13,500 jobs in March. Texas employers now have added 213,700 jobs in the past 12 months for an annual job growth rate of 2.1 percent. After a record low of 4.1 percent in February, the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.3 percent in March, down from 4.4 percent a year ago. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent this month, up from 4.8 percent in February and 4.4 percent in March 2007.

“Our Texas economy continues to show significant underlying strength with gains of nearly 40,000 jobs during the last three months,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Unemployment rates remain near record lows, and our annual job growth rate remains a strong 2.1 percent, well above the U.S. job growth rate of 0.4 percent.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Odessa MSA was second at 3.0 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 3.1 percent.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 7,800 positions in March, for a total of 36,900 jobs created since March 2007. Leisure and Hospitality increased by 4,300 jobs last month, for a total of 41,300 positions added in the past 12 months.

“Texas employers continue to create jobs in virtually every industry sector, outpacing the nation as a whole,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “Notable annual job growth rates include Natural Resource and Mining at 7.5 percent, and Leisure and Hospitality at 4.3 percent.”

Education and Health Services grew by 2,200 positions in March, with 36,100 jobs added over the year. The Natural Resource and Mining sector gained 1,300 jobs, for a gain of 15,100 jobs over the year.

“Significant job gains continue to provide opportunities for Texas workers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Job seekers are in tremendous demand as employers try to fill open positions during this period of such low unemployment.”

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

	March 2008				February 2008				March 2007			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,135.0	145,108.0	8,027.0	5.2	152,503.0	144,550.0	7,953.0	5.2	152,236.0	145,323.0	6,913.0	4.5
State of Texas	11,590.6	11,101.7	488.9	4.2	11,501.2	11,009.0	492.2	4.3	11,422.1	10,943.0	479.1	4.2
Abilene	80.8	77.9	2.9	3.5	80.3	77.5	2.8	3.5	79.8	77.0	2.8	3.5
Amarillo	128.7	124.7	4.0	3.1	128.1	124.0	4.1	3.2	127.7	123.4	4.3	3.3
Austin-Round Rock	860.7	829.3	31.4	3.6	855.2	824.2	31.0	3.6	841.7	812.5	29.2	3.5
Beaumont-Port Arthur	179.2	169.6	9.6	5.4	178.0	168.2	9.8	5.5	180.4	171.8	8.6	4.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	143.3	134.9	8.4	5.8	142.4	134.0	8.4	5.9	143.8	135.6	8.2	5.7
College Station-Bryan	104.3	100.8	3.5	3.3	103.4	100.0	3.4	3.3	104.1	100.5	3.6	3.5
Corpus Christi	198.2	189.9	8.3	4.2	196.4	187.9	8.5	4.3	198.4	190.0	8.4	4.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,114.9	2,982.8	132.1	4.2	3,101.0	2,968.1	132.9	4.3	3,074.9	2,948.3	126.6	4.1
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,083.0	1,993.5	89.5	4.3	2,076.7	1,986.6	90.1	4.3	2,054.8	1,970.2	84.6	4.1
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,031.9	989.3	42.6	4.1	1,024.3	981.5	42.8	4.2	1,020.0	978.1	41.9	4.1
El Paso	294.7	278.4	16.3	5.5	292.5	276.4	16.1	5.5	290.3	273.6	16.7	5.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,763.2	2,650.1	113.1	4.1	2,742.6	2,628.6	114.0	4.2	2,702.6	2,591.7	110.9	4.1
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	153.1	146.3	6.8	4.4	152.3	145.4	6.9	4.5	151.0	144.4	6.6	4.4
Laredo	89.2	84.8	4.4	5.0	88.5	84.1	4.4	5.0	89.0	84.9	4.1	4.7
Longview	106.8	102.9	3.9	3.7	105.7	101.7	4.0	3.8	105.3	101.3	4.0	3.8
Lubbock	138.7	134.1	4.6	3.3	138.2	133.6	4.6	3.3	139.4	134.1	5.3	3.8
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	275.3	257.8	17.5	6.4	272.7	254.8	17.9	6.6	271.9	254.4	17.5	6.4
Midland	72.3	70.4	1.9	2.6	72.0	70.1	1.9	2.6	70.5	68.5	2.0	2.9
Odessa	68.1	66.0	2.1	3.0	67.5	65.4	2.1	3.1	65.7	63.5	2.2	3.3
San Angelo	53.0	51.2	1.8	3.5	52.9	51.0	1.9	3.5	52.6	50.7	1.9	3.5
San Antonio	932.6	895.8	36.8	3.9	925.4	888.1	37.3	4.0	920.6	883.7	36.9	4.0
Sherman-Denison	56.1	53.5	2.6	4.7	56.1	53.4	2.7	4.7	55.4	52.9	2.5	4.4
Texarkana	62.2	59.5	2.7	4.3	61.6	58.7	2.9	4.7	62.2	59.2	3.0	4.8
Tyler	96.9	92.6	4.3	4.4	96.0	91.7	4.3	4.4	96.4	92.5	3.9	4.0
Victoria	57.8	55.8	2.0	3.4	57.5	55.5	2.0	3.5	56.6	54.6	2.0	3.6
Waco	113.3	108.9	4.4	3.9	112.5	108.1	4.4	3.9	111.4	106.8	4.6	4.1
Wichita Falls	74.4	71.5	2.9	3.9	74.1	71.1	3.0	4.0	73.9	71.0	2.9	3.9

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on latest labor market data available at the following link:

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2008/praudio08.html>

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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 services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.