

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Employers Add 8,700 Jobs in May *Texas Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.5 Percent*

AUSTIN — Texas' seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment grew by 8,700 jobs in May. Texas employers now have added 238,700 jobs in the past 12 months for an annual job growth rate of 2.3 percent, compared with a 0.2 percent annual job growth rate nationally. After a record low Texas unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in April, the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.5 percent in May, up from 4.4 percent a year ago. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in May, up from 5.0 percent in April 2008.

“Job growth in Texas remained strong, outpacing the national trend,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Despite the fact that the number of those seeking work went up this month, the Texas unemployment rate remained at historically low levels, staying below the 5.0 percent mark for nearly two years.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo and Odessa MSAs were second at 3.1 percent, respectively.

The Education and Health Services industry saw the biggest job gains with 5,400 positions added in May, for an over-the-year increase of 38,500 jobs. Professional and Business Services followed with 1,700 jobs added for an industry gain of 64,500 positions in the past year.

“Across nearly every industry, Texas employers added jobs at a stronger pace than the nation as a whole,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “For example, our Natural Resources and Mining industry reached an annual job growth rate of 6.8 percent, followed by Professional and Business Services at 5.0 percent, and Leisure and Hospitality at 4.0 percent.”

Leisure and Hospitality grew by 1,300 jobs in May, adding 38,900 positions in the past 12 months, followed by Construction, which grew by 1,100 jobs this month for an annual gain of 23,300 jobs.

“The state continues to gain jobs, providing opportunities for those seeking work,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “In May, Texas recorded the largest number ever in the civilian labor force at 11.7 million people.”

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

	May 2008				April 2008				May 2007			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	154,003.0	145,926.0	8,076.0	5.2	153,208.0	145,921.0	7,287.0	4.8	152,350.0	145,864.0	6,486.0	4.3
State of Texas	11,675.1	11,175.0	500.1	4.3	11,628.8	11,180.0	448.8	3.9	11,407.6	10,952.0	455.6	4.0
Abilene	81.0	78.2	2.8	3.5	81.0	78.4	2.6	3.2	79.8	77.2	2.6	3.3
Amarillo	129.5	125.4	4.1	3.1	129.1	125.5	3.6	2.8	128.0	124.0	4.0	3.1
Austin-Round Rock	862.3	830.4	31.9	3.7	860.1	831.6	28.5	3.3	842.3	814.6	27.7	3.3
Beaumont-Port Arthur	180.8	170.6	10.2	5.6	179.9	170.8	9.1	5.0	179.0	170.3	8.7	4.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	144.1	135.5	8.6	5.9	143.6	135.8	7.8	5.4	141.7	133.9	7.8	5.5
College Station-Bryan	105.5	101.9	3.6	3.4	105.6	102.4	3.2	3.0	102.3	99.0	3.3	3.2
Corpus Christi	200.1	191.5	8.6	4.3	199.4	191.7	7.7	3.8	196.9	188.9	8.0	4.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,149.7	3,012.5	137.2	4.4	3,133.3	3,011.2	122.1	3.9	3,072.2	2,949.8	122.4	4.0
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,103.5	2,011.5	92.0	4.4	2,094.8	2,011.8	83.0	4.0	2,053.6	1,971.5	82.1	4.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,046.1	1,000.9	45.2	4.3	1,038.6	999.4	39.2	3.8	1,018.6	978.3	40.3	4.0
El Paso	296.8	280.6	16.2	5.5	295.6	280.8	14.8	5.0	290.4	274.3	16.1	5.5
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,776.3	2,659.2	117.1	4.2	2,765.4	2,661.1	104.3	3.8	2,704.4	2,597.8	106.6	3.9
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	153.6	146.8	6.8	4.4	152.9	146.8	6.1	4.0	150.3	143.9	6.4	4.2
Laredo	90.2	85.9	4.3	4.8	90.0	85.9	4.1	4.6	87.4	83.6	3.8	4.4
Longview	107.8	103.7	4.1	3.8	107.4	103.8	3.6	3.3	104.4	100.5	3.9	3.7
Lubbock	139.4	134.7	4.7	3.4	139.3	135.1	4.2	3.0	138.1	133.6	4.5	3.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	277.1	260.2	16.9	6.1	276.7	260.9	15.8	5.7	269.8	253.9	15.9	5.9
Midland	72.5	70.5	2.0	2.7	72.3	70.6	1.7	2.4	70.7	68.8	1.9	2.7
Odessa	68.6	66.5	2.1	3.1	68.4	66.5	1.9	2.8	66.0	63.9	2.1	3.2
San Angelo	52.9	51.0	1.9	3.6	53.0	51.3	1.7	3.2	52.7	50.9	1.8	3.3
San Antonio	941.1	903.5	37.6	4.0	937.4	903.5	33.9	3.6	920.0	886.2	33.8	3.7
Sherman-Denison	57.4	54.8	2.6	4.6	57.4	54.9	2.5	4.3	55.5	53.2	2.3	4.2
Texarkana	63.0	60.3	2.7	4.3	62.6	60.1	2.5	3.9	62.1	59.3	2.8	4.5
Tyler	97.5	93.3	4.2	4.3	97.0	93.2	3.8	4.0	95.6	91.9	3.7	3.9
Victoria	58.0	55.9	2.1	3.5	57.7	55.9	1.8	3.1	57.5	55.6	1.9	3.4
Waco	114.3	109.8	4.5	3.9	113.8	109.8	4.0	3.5	112.2	107.9	4.3	3.8
Wichita Falls	74.7	71.8	2.9	3.8	74.4	71.8	2.6	3.5	73.3	70.6	2.7	3.7

Please note that the unemployment estimates for the United States and Texas in this chart are “Not Seasonally Adjusted” for purposes of comparison to the “Not Seasonally Adjusted” Metropolitan Statistical Area data.

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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 union with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.