

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.8 Percent

Unemployment rate lowest since July 2009

AUSTIN — Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 7.8 percent in December, down from 8.1 percent in November and down from 8.3 percent in December 2010. The Texas Civilian Labor Force grew by more than 17,000 individuals in December, and now stands at more than 12.3 million Texans.

Texas added 20,200 nonfarm jobs in December for a total of 204,500 jobs added over the year. Private employers in Texas added 10,100 jobs in December for a total of 260,000 private sector jobs added over the year. Texas has experienced positive annual job growth for the last 20 consecutive months with annual growth rates at or above 2.0 percent for the last seven months.

“Texas continues to see signs of improvement in the labor market,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Texas' unemployment rate has decreased for the third consecutive month, and now stands at 7.8 percent, which is the lowest since July 2009. Our state's unemployment rate remains below the national unemployment rate of 8.5 percent.”

The Leisure and Hospitality industry added 4,100 jobs in December, totaling 41,200 jobs added over the year. This resulted in a robust annual growth rate of 4.0 percent. Growth in the Manufacturing industry continued as this industry added 2,200 jobs in December for a total of 25,200 jobs over the year for an annual growth rate of 3.1 percent. The Mining and Logging industry expanded by 2,000 jobs over the month, totaling 40,700 jobs gained over the year. Large employment gains in Mining and Logging have resulted in this industry's annual growth rate ranking highest among all of the major industries at 18.7 percent.

“I am encouraged to see our state's unemployment rate continuing to drop,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC and our local workforce boards stand ready to help those seeking work in Texas find good jobs to provide for themselves and their families.”

Employment in Financial Activities expanded by 2,100 jobs in December, totaling 18,000 jobs added over the year for a 2.9 percent annual job growth rate—the highest for that industry since March 2007. Professional and Business Services employment expanded by 1,600 jobs in December and added 53,100 jobs over the year. Having added jobs in nine of the past 12 months, the annual job growth rate for Professional and Business Services in December was 4.1 percent.

“Eight of the 11 major industries in Texas added jobs in December, and that's good news for job seekers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “We encourage those looking for work to utilize TWC's services and resources, such as the state's online job database [WorkInTexas.com](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2012/praudio12.html).”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest December unemployment rate in the state at 3.9 percent. The Amarillo MSA came in second at 4.9 percent, and the Odessa MSA third at 5.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on the latest labor market data are available at the following link: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2012/praudio12.html>.

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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.

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

	December 2011				November 2011				December 2010			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,373.0	140,681.0	12,692.0	8.3	153,683.0	141,070.0	12,613.0	8.2	153,156.0	139,159.0	13,997.0	9.1
State of Texas	12,347.3	11,454.7	892.6	7.2	12,344.3	11,423.6	920.7	7.5	12,191.5	11,215.6	975.9	8.0
Abilene	79.1	74.3	4.8	6.0	79.2	74.3	4.9	6.2	83.1	77.9	5.2	6.2
Amarillo	134.4	127.8	6.6	4.9	134.5	127.6	6.9	5.1	132.1	125.0	7.1	5.4
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	918.2	860.7	57.5	6.3	917.8	857.5	60.3	6.6	902.6	840.5	62.1	6.9
Beaumont-Port Arthur	188.7	169.6	19.1	10.1	190.1	170.5	19.6	10.3	189.7	169.0	20.7	10.9
Brownsville-Harlingen	158.4	140.7	17.7	11.2	157.8	139.9	17.9	11.4	159.3	140.6	18.7	11.7
College Station-Bryan	115.0	108.7	6.3	5.5	116.1	109.5	6.6	5.7	116.9	109.9	7.0	6.0
Corpus Christi	220.6	205.5	15.1	6.9	220.0	204.5	15.5	7.1	214.3	196.7	17.6	8.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,264.5	3,031.3	233.2	7.1	3,269.3	3,027.1	242.2	7.4	3,230.8	2,972.9	257.9	8.0
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,180.8	2,023.3	157.5	7.2	2,185.9	2,022.3	163.6	7.5	2,158.5	1,985.5	173.0	8.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,083.6	1,007.9	75.7	7.0	1,083.4	1,004.8	78.6	7.3	1,072.2	987.4	84.8	7.9
El Paso	325.2	295.1	30.1	9.3	324.6	293.6	31.0	9.5	322.3	291.2	31.1	9.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,986.6	2,767.4	219.2	7.3	2,985.0	2,759.7	225.3	7.5	2,917.4	2,676.3	241.1	8.3
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	168.4	155.5	12.9	7.7	168.8	155.5	13.3	7.9	168.9	156.0	12.9	7.6
Laredo	99.4	92.5	6.9	6.9	99.7	92.6	7.1	7.1	95.8	88.1	7.7	8.1
Longview	114.9	108.1	6.8	5.9	113.4	106.2	7.2	6.3	112.5	104.7	7.8	6.9
Lubbock	150.7	142.7	8.0	5.3	150.9	142.5	8.4	5.5	146.6	137.9	8.7	5.9
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	317.7	282.2	35.5	11.2	316.8	281.6	35.2	11.1	311.8	273.7	38.1	12.2
Midland	79.5	76.4	3.1	3.9	78.6	75.4	3.2	4.1	77.5	73.9	3.6	4.7
Odessa	74.5	70.8	3.7	5.0	74.2	70.3	3.9	5.3	73.8	68.8	5.0	6.7
San Angelo	55.6	52.6	3.0	5.5	55.9	52.7	3.2	5.7	54.8	51.4	3.4	6.2
San Antonio-New Braunfels	992.8	925.5	67.3	6.8	995.2	925.5	69.7	7.0	989.7	918.0	71.7	7.2
Sherman-Denison	58.3	53.9	4.4	7.6	58.1	53.5	4.6	8.0	57.3	52.6	4.7	8.1
Texarkana	66.1	61.6	4.5	6.8	66.0	61.5	4.5	6.9	65.5	60.9	4.6	7.1
Tyler	105.2	97.5	7.7	7.3	105.2	96.7	8.5	8.1	102.6	94.6	8.0	7.8
Victoria	60.2	56.4	3.8	6.3	60.5	56.6	3.9	6.5	58.8	54.6	4.2	7.1
Waco	117.4	109.4	8.0	6.8	117.2	108.9	8.3	7.0	116.0	107.6	8.4	7.2
Wichita Falls	70.7	66.0	4.7	6.6	71.0	66.2	4.8	6.8	72.4	67.2	5.2	7.2

**TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED⁺**

INDUSTRY TITLE	Dec. 2011*	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2010	Nov. '11 to Dec. '11		Dec. '10 to Dec. '11	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Total Nonagricultural	10,649,200	10,629,000	10,444,700	20,200	0.2	204,500	2.0
Total Nongovernment**	8,843,900	8,833,800	8,583,900	10,100	0.1	260,000	3.0
Goods-Producing							
Mining and Logging	257,900	255,900	217,200	2,000	0.8	40,700	18.7
Construction	590,800	590,500	597,100	300	0.1	-6,300	-1.1
Manufacturing	837,400	835,200	812,200	2,200	0.3	25,200	3.1
Service-Providing							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,108,000	2,107,800	2,062,200	200	0.0	45,800	2.2
Information	184,900	186,400	192,800	-1,500	-0.8	-7,900	-4.1
Financial Activities	638,800	636,700	620,800	2,100	0.3	18,000	2.9
Professional and Business Services	1,343,700	1,342,100	1,290,600	1,600	0.1	53,100	4.1
Education and Health Services	1,443,500	1,444,300	1,406,600	-800	-0.1	36,900	2.6
Leisure and Hospitality	1,060,200	1,056,100	1,019,000	4,100	0.4	41,200	4.0
Other Services	378,700	378,800	365,400	-100	0.0	13,300	3.6
Government	1,805,300	1,795,200	1,860,800	10,100	0.6	-55,500	-3.0

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.