

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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## **Texas Unemployment Rate Matches 4.1 Percent Record Low** *Texas Employers Add 24,200 Jobs in October*

AUSTIN — The October statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in September and 4.8 percent in October 2006. For the third month in 2007, the statewide unemployment rate reached the lowest point since the current series began in 1976. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 24,200 jobs in October. Texas employers now have added 206,400 jobs over the past 12 months for an annual growth rate of 2.0 percent.

“The strength of the Texas economy is reflected in this record low unemployment rate,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “Texas employers continue to expand at a tremendous pace, offering workers strong opportunities.”

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

Employment in Professional and Business Services led the gains with 5,600 jobs in October, for an increase of 56,400 positions over the year and an annual job growth rate of 4.5 percent. Leisure and Hospitality recorded a monthly increase of 3,200 jobs, for a total of 37,200 since October 2006, a 3.9 percent annual job growth rate.

“Texas employers continue their impressive run by adding jobs and fueling the state’s economy,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “We have job growth in 10 of 11 industry sectors over the past month, with notable annual job growth rates in Natural Resources and Mining, as well as Professional and Business Services.”

Education and Health Services gained 3,400 jobs in October, contributing to an annual job growth of 24,100. Natural Resources and Mining continues to maintain the highest annual job growth rate at 8.0 percent, adding 1,400 jobs during the month and 15,300 over the year.

“Job availability and low unemployment rates position Texas workers to succeed,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “This historically low unemployment rate indicates that workers are taking advantage of all the opportunities available to them.”

Construction employment posted a significant gain of 2,100 jobs in October, bringing the number of jobs added in Construction since October 2006 to 10,800. Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 2,100 jobs in October for a total of 23,600 positions since October 2006.

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

	October 2007				September 2007				October 2006			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,516.0	146,743.0	6,773.0	4.4	153,400.0	146,448.0	6,952.0	4.5	152,397.0	146,125.0	6,272.0	4.1
State of Texas	11,572.3	11,123.9	448.4	3.9	11,585.0	11,078.9	506.1	4.4	11,576.1	11,071.4	504.7	4.4
Abilene	81.6	78.9	2.7	3.3	82.0	78.9	3.1	3.7	82.0	79.0	3.0	3.7
Amarillo	128.4	124.4	4.0	3.1	130.5	126.0	4.5	3.5	130.2	125.7	4.5	3.4
Austin-Round Rock	851.9	823.7	28.2	3.3	854.3	822.6	31.7	3.7	843.5	812.7	30.8	3.6
Beaumont-Port Arthur	181.4	172.4	9.0	4.9	182.0	171.9	10.1	5.6	181.6	172.2	9.4	5.2
Brownsville-Harlingen	142.8	135.5	7.3	5.1	143.6	135.2	8.4	5.8	143.7	135.3	8.4	5.8
College Station-Bryan	106.2	102.8	3.4	3.2	105.4	101.5	3.9	3.7	107.3	103.5	3.8	3.6
Corpus Christi	201.3	193.4	7.9	3.9	201.7	192.7	9.0	4.5	202.1	193.1	9.0	4.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,142.4	3,021.4	121.0	3.8	3,141.7	3,006.5	135.2	4.3	3,135.8	3,001.4	134.4	4.3
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,108.6	2,026.5	82.1	3.9	2,110.6	2,019.0	91.6	4.3	2,103.0	2,012.9	90.1	4.3
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,033.7	994.9	38.8	3.8	1,031.0	987.4	43.6	4.2	1,032.8	988.5	44.3	4.3
El Paso	294.4	279.2	15.2	5.2	294.9	277.8	17.1	5.8	298.1	279.3	18.8	6.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,745.1	2,641.2	103.9	3.8	2,744.8	2,626.9	117.9	4.3	2,740.8	2,623.2	117.6	4.3
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	149.7	143.2	6.5	4.3	150.3	143.1	7.2	4.8	152.4	145.0	7.4	4.9
Laredo	89.5	85.8	3.7	4.1	89.7	85.6	4.1	4.6	90.0	85.9	4.1	4.6
Longview	104.2	100.4	3.8	3.6	103.5	99.2	4.3	4.2	105.1	100.8	4.3	4.1
Lubbock	145.9	141.4	4.5	3.1	145.0	139.9	5.1	3.5	145.5	140.4	5.1	3.5
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	274.8	260.2	14.6	5.3	273.9	257.0	16.9	6.2	269.8	252.9	16.9	6.3
Midland	71.7	69.8	1.9	2.7	72.1	69.9	2.2	3.0	71.7	69.5	2.2	3.1
Odessa	68.0	65.9	2.1	3.1	67.7	65.3	2.4	3.5	67.8	65.5	2.3	3.4
San Angelo	53.4	51.6	1.8	3.4	53.6	51.6	2.0	3.7	54.0	51.9	2.1	3.9
San Antonio	934.9	900.9	34.0	3.6	935.3	896.7	38.6	4.1	935.4	896.4	39.0	4.2
Sherman-Denison	58.0	55.5	2.5	4.4	57.8	55.1	2.7	4.7	57.8	55.3	2.5	4.3
Texarkana	62.9	60.1	2.8	4.4	62.9	59.9	3.0	4.8	62.6	59.5	3.1	4.9
Tyler	97.9	94.2	3.7	3.8	97.3	93.2	4.1	4.2	98.1	93.9	4.2	4.3
Victoria	58.1	56.1	2.0	3.4	58.2	56.0	2.2	3.8	58.4	56.2	2.2	3.7
Waco	114.1	109.7	4.4	3.8	113.8	108.9	4.9	4.3	114.2	109.4	4.8	4.2
Wichita Falls	74.8	72.0	2.8	3.7	76.1	73.0	3.1	4.1	75.9	72.9	3.0	3.9

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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).

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