

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Unemployment Rate Remains Well Below National Rate

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.0 percent in August, up from 7.9 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August at 9.7 percent. The Texas Civilian Labor Force continued to increase in August remaining above the mark of 12 million workers. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas fell by 62,200 positions in August.

“Despite our strong Texas economic foundation, the national recession continues to have an adverse impact on our state,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Nonetheless, the unemployment rate in Texas remained well below the 9.7 percent national rate.”

Education and Health Services employment grew by 5,200 jobs in August, following a revised gain of 8,600 jobs in July. This was the 11th consecutive monthly gain in this industry. Since August 2008, employment in Education and Health Services increased by 58,600 jobs, a 4.5 percent gain.

“The Texas labor force continued to grow in August, remaining above 12 million workers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “To help connect workers with available jobs, staff at more than 240 workforce centers across the state is available to provide job-search assistance and other services.”

Financial Activities employment increased by 600 jobs in August. This was the fifth monthly gain since January, and the eighth monthly job increase in the last 12 months. Since January, this industry added 3,100 jobs. The hardest hit industries in August were Leisure and Hospitality recording a month-over-month drop of 12,900 positions. Construction was down 11,700 jobs, and Manufacturing industry employment fell by 10,900 jobs.

“Aside from job gains in Financial Activities and Education and Health Services, the employment situation in most industries was tough in August,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “TWC and our workforce boards located around the state remain committed to helping out-of-work Texans acquire skills and find jobs.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 5.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA with 5.7 percent, and the Midland and Abilene MSAs with 6.1 percent.

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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)

	August 2009				July 2009				August 2008			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	154,897.0	140,074.0	14,823.0	9.6	156,255.0	141,055.0	15,201.0	9.7	155,387.0	145,909.0	9,479.0	6.1
State of Texas	12,061.4	11,079.4	982.0	8.1	12,136.6	11,138.2	998.4	8.2	11,750.7	11,129.8	620.9	5.3
Abilene	83.8	78.7	5.1	6.1	84.6	79.2	5.4	6.3	82.6	79.1	3.5	4.2
Amarillo	131.2	123.8	7.4	5.6	132.1	124.4	7.7	5.8	129.9	124.9	5.0	3.9
Austin-Round Rock	896.4	831.5	64.9	7.2	900.9	834.9	66.0	7.3	869.5	828.3	41.2	4.7
Beaumont-Port Arthur	184.0	164.2	19.8	10.8	184.5	164.9	19.6	10.6	182.8	170.4	12.4	6.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	150.7	134.8	15.9	10.5	152.0	135.9	16.1	10.6	145.5	134.4	11.1	7.6
College Station-Bryan	104.7	98.0	6.7	6.4	105.3	98.4	6.9	6.5	102.8	98.0	4.8	4.6
Corpus Christi	206.6	190.5	16.1	7.8	209.1	192.4	16.7	8.0	205.0	194.5	10.5	5.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,228.1	2,961.3	266.8	8.3	3,251.1	2,981.1	270.0	8.3	3,154.5	2,985.8	168.7	5.3
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,152.8	1,975.5	177.3	8.2	2,173.1	1,993.1	180.0	8.3	2,113.1	1,998.2	114.9	5.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,075.3	985.8	89.5	8.3	1,078.0	988.0	90.0	8.3	1,041.4	987.6	53.8	5.2
El Paso	306.0	276.6	29.4	9.6	309.1	279.1	30.0	9.7	296.1	276.2	19.9	6.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,834.1	2,597.2	236.9	8.4	2,855.4	2,616.1	239.3	8.4	2,801.7	2,657.2	144.5	5.2
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	161.2	150.0	11.2	7.0	162.7	151.0	11.7	7.2	158.7	150.2	8.5	5.3
Laredo	96.5	87.7	8.8	9.1	97.6	88.4	9.2	9.4	91.7	86.2	5.5	6.0
Longview	111.5	102.3	9.2	8.3	112.4	102.9	9.5	8.5	108.6	103.7	4.9	4.5
Lubbock	143.6	135.5	8.1	5.7	144.8	136.0	8.8	6.1	140.8	135.0	5.8	4.1
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	300.1	265.8	34.3	11.4	299.7	265.2	34.5	11.5	280.8	258.4	22.4	8.0
Midland	78.2	73.5	4.7	6.1	79.2	74.2	5.0	6.3	76.0	73.7	2.3	3.1
Odessa	75.9	68.8	7.1	9.3	76.6	69.4	7.2	9.4	71.4	68.7	2.7	3.7
San Angelo	53.9	50.3	3.6	6.7	54.0	50.3	3.7	6.8	53.0	50.6	2.4	4.5
San Antonio	975.7	907.8	67.9	7.0	982.6	913.0	69.6	7.1	951.0	902.3	48.7	5.1
Sherman-Denison	57.8	52.9	4.9	8.5	58.1	53.2	4.9	8.5	56.1	53.1	3.0	5.4
Texarkana	64.2	60.1	4.1	6.4	64.8	60.6	4.2	6.4	63.7	60.6	3.1	4.9
Tyler	102.1	94.1	8.0	7.8	102.9	94.6	8.3	8.1	99.9	94.8	5.1	5.1
Victoria	59.1	54.4	4.7	7.9	59.5	54.8	4.7	7.9	58.3	55.8	2.5	4.3
Waco	114.6	106.3	8.3	7.3	115.0	106.7	8.3	7.2	111.9	106.3	5.6	5.0
Wichita Falls	73.8	68.0	5.8	7.9	74.6	68.6	6.0	8.0	73.0	69.2	3.8	5.3

TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

		TEXAS*				UNITED STATES**			
Not Seasonally Adjusted		CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
August	2009	12,061,400	11,079,400	982,000	8.1	154,897,000	140,074,000	14,823,000	9.6
July	2009	12,136,600	11,138,200	998,400	8.2	156,255,000	141,055,000	15,201,000	9.7
August	2008	11,750,700	11,129,800	620,900	5.3	155,387,000	145,909,000	9,479,000	6.1
Seasonally Adjusted		CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
August	2009	12,025,700	11,059,700	966,000	8.0	154,577,000	139,649,000	14,928,000	9.7
July	2009	12,017,900	11,068,900	949,000	7.9	154,504,000	140,041,000	14,462,000	9.4
August	2008	11,734,800	11,145,100	589,700	5.0	154,823,000	145,273,000	9,550,000	6.2

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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.