



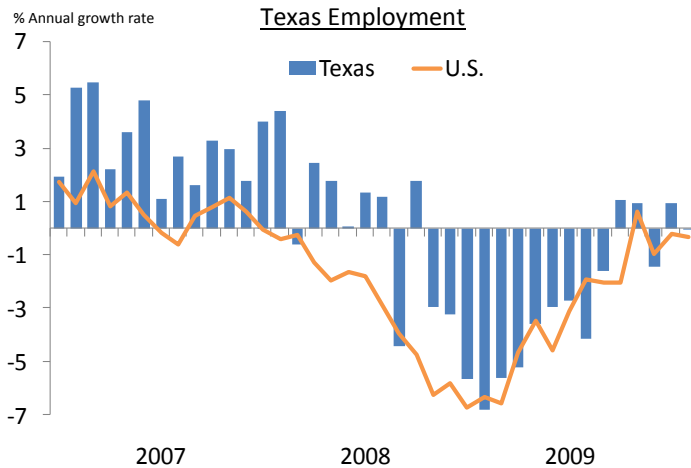
APRIL 2010

Texas Economic Indicators

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Summary

Further evidence confirms a mild recovery is taking hold in Texas. Employment is up 7,700 jobs year-to-date, and the Texas unemployment rate held steady in February at 8.2 percent. Existing-home sales rose in February, though other housing indicators weakened. Texas factory activity expanded for the fifth straight month in March, with the production index rising to its highest level in two years.



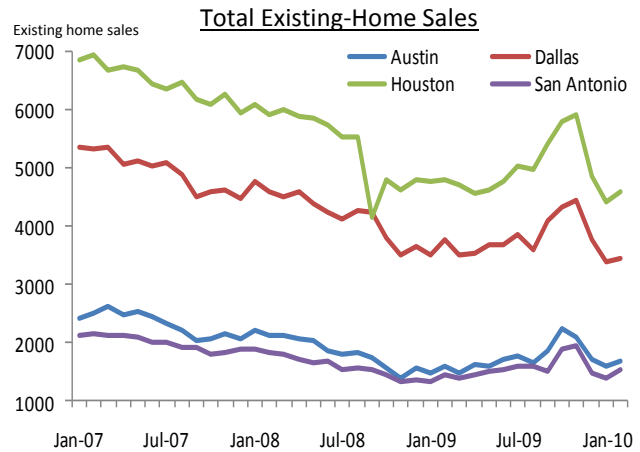
Texas lost 100 jobs in February after gaining 7,800 in January. Current Texas employment stands at 10.24 million.

The February Texas unemployment rate was unchanged from January at 8.2 percent. The Texas rate remains below the U.S. rate, which was 9.7 percent in February.

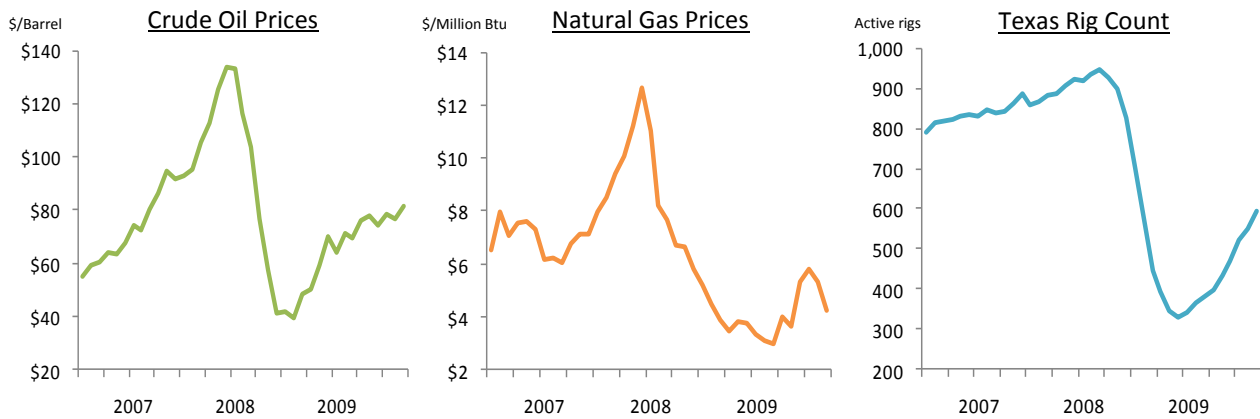
Existing-home sales rose in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio in February. For Texas, existing-home sales were up 2.1 percent from January.

Texas single-family housing permits edged down 2.4 percent in January but remain 31 percent higher than the year-ago level.

Housing starts in Texas fell 17.9 percent in February and are down 20 percent from February 2009. Texas had a 7.2 months' supply of housing inventory in February, up from 7.0 in January.



Monthly real Texas exports fell 6.2 percent in January. The January level of real exports is 20 percent higher than a year ago.



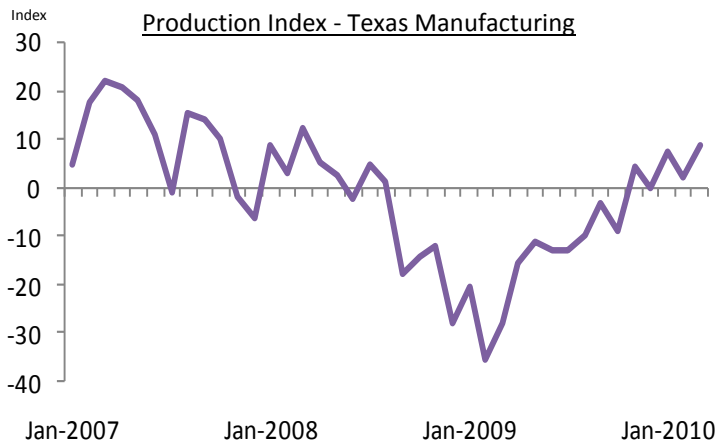
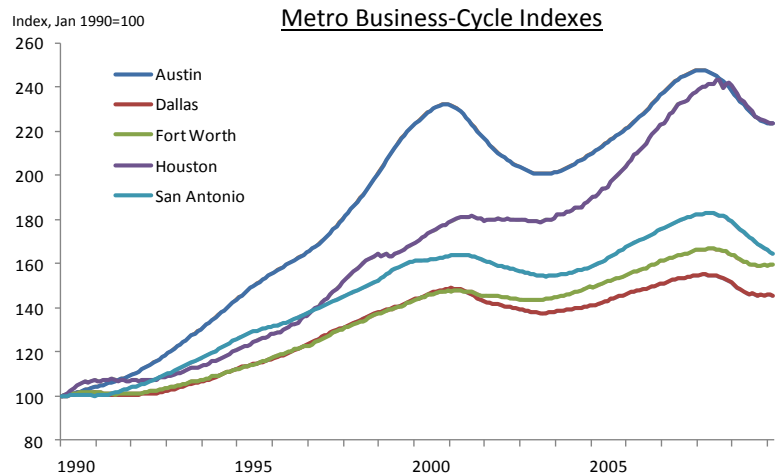
West Texas intermediate crude oil prices rose 6.3 percent to \$81.24 per barrel in March. Oil prices have recovered some ground in the past year after bottoming out in February 2009, and the March price was up nearly 70 percent year-over-year.

Natural gas prices fell to \$4.29 per million Btu in March, down 19.5 percent from February. The March price was 9 percent higher than a year ago.

The rig count for Texas increased by 44 rigs in March and has been steadily increasing since June 2009. The March rig count was 33 percent above its year-ago level.

The Metro Business-Cycle Indexes show the broad movements in local Texas economies. These indexes summarize changes in nonagricultural employment, the unemployment rate, wages and retail sales.

The indexes show that Texas metros are stabilizing, with slight growth in Fort Worth.



The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas conducts the monthly Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey to obtain a timely assessment of the state's factory activity.

Texas factory activity expanded for the fifth straight month in March. The production index, a key indicator of state manufacturing conditions, rose to its highest level in two years.

Note: Data may not match previously published numbers due to data revisions.

Sources: Employment: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Texas Workforce Commission; seasonal and other adjustments by Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Housing: U.S. Census Bureau; Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ; Multiple Listing Service. Exports: U.S. Census Bureau; World Institute for Strategic Economic Research; seasonal and other adjustments by Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Energy: *Wall Street Journal*; Henry Hub; Baker Hughes. Metro Business-Cycle Indexes: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Texas Manufacturing Production Index: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

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