



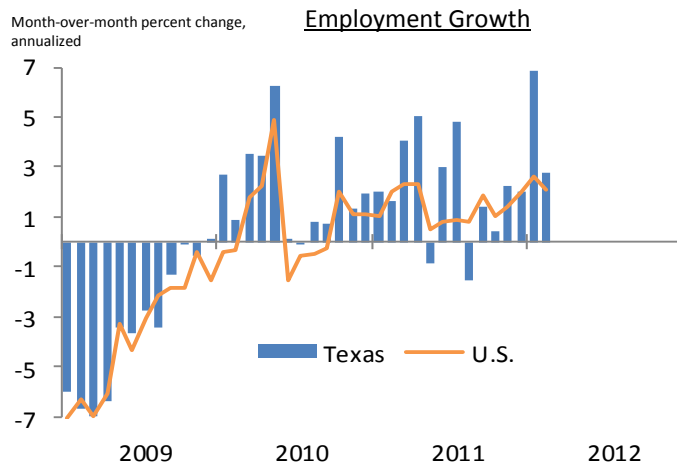
APRIL 2012

Texas Economic Indicators

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Summary

The Texas economy continued to grow, with employment expanding at a 2.8 percent annual rate in February. The energy sector remained strong in March. Exports increased slightly in January and were up 6 percent from last year. Existing home sales rose in February, but other housing indicators showed weakness. Growth in Texas manufacturing activity continued apace in March, according to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey.

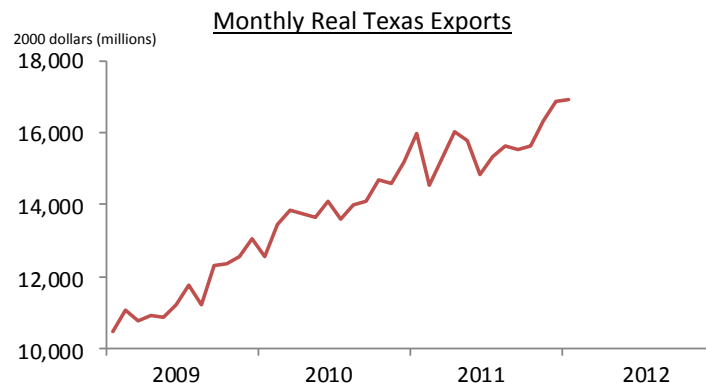
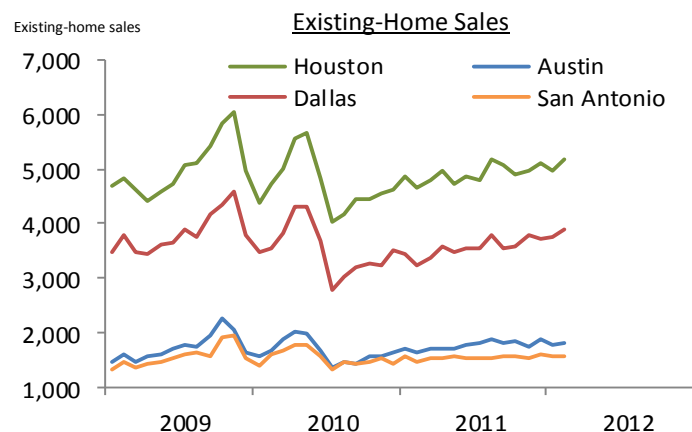


Texas gained 24,600 jobs in February after adding 58,900 jobs in January. Current Texas employment stands at 10.72 million.

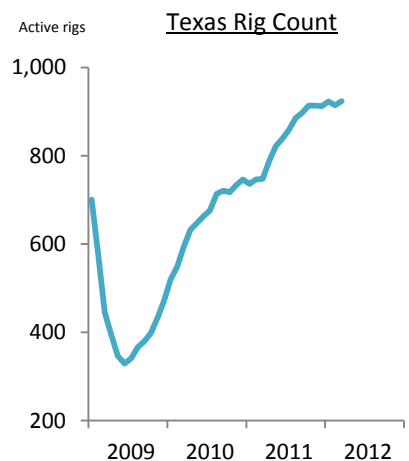
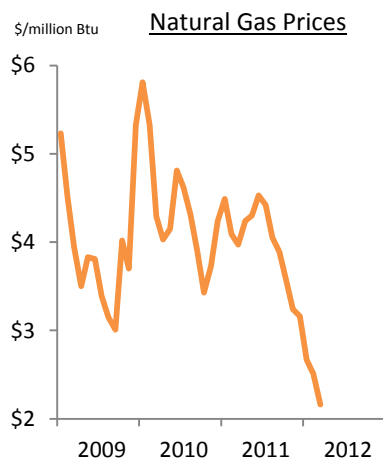
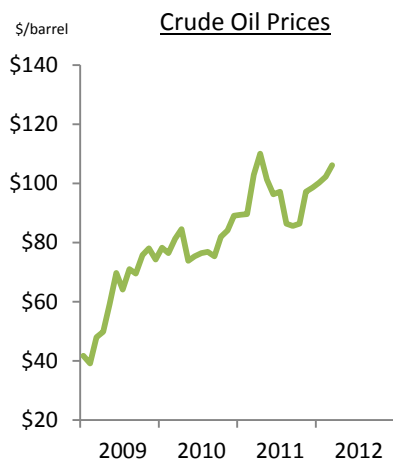
The Texas unemployment rate declined to 7.1 percent in February from 7.3 percent in January. The Texas rate continued to be lower than the U.S. rate, which was 8.3 percent in February.

Existing-home sales increased 2.8 percent in February and are up 16.5 percent year over year. Sales in Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio were all up from January levels.

Texas single-family housing construction permits fell 8.2 percent from January to February. Texas housing starts declined 0.1 percent in February after strong growth in January. Home inventories fell to 6.1 months of available supply.



Monthly real Texas exports increased 0.2 percent in January after growing 3.4 percent in December. The January level of real exports was 6 percent higher than a year earlier.



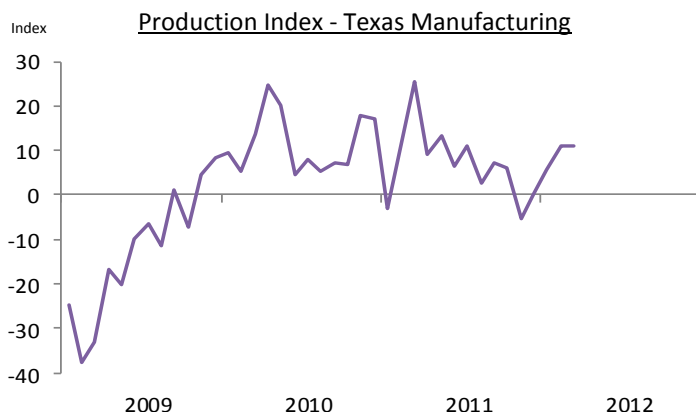
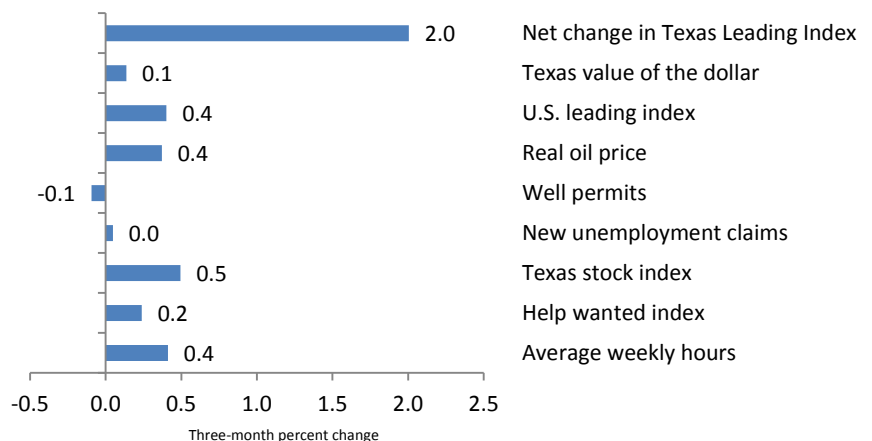
West Texas Intermediate crude oil prices edged up 3.9 percent to \$106.19 per barrel in March. The price was up 3.2 percent year over year.

Natural gas prices declined to \$2.16 per million Btu in March, down 13.9 percent from February. The price was 45.6 percent lower than in March 2011.

The Texas rig count increased by 9 rigs to 924 in March and was up 23.6 percent from a year earlier.

Texas Leading Index Components

The Texas Leading Index, which uses key economic indicators to forecast future economic activity, rose 2.0 percent from November to January.



Texas factory activity continued to increase in March, according to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, held steady at 11.1, suggesting growth continued at about the same pace as last month.

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

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: FHFA; Multiple Listing Service; U.S. Census Bureau; Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. All housing data are seasonally adjusted. 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. Texas Leading Index: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Data are seasonally adjusted. Texas Manufacturing Production Index: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Data are seasonally adjusted.

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