

# 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 8.2 percent in September, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.8 percent.

The Texas Civilian Labor Force continued to increase remaining above the mark of 12 million workers for the third consecutive month. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas fell by 44,700 positions in September.

“The Texas job market continued to tighten as most industries experienced job losses in September,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “While unemployment in Texas remains well below the national rate of 9.8 percent, this serious national recession continues to affect us adversely in Texas.”

Other Services, which include automotive, electronic, and commercial repair and maintenance, had the largest over-the-month gain adding 8,800 jobs. A total of 9,400 jobs have been added to the payrolls of Other Services since September 2008. Mining and Logging posted a gain for the first time this year, adding 2,100 jobs. Education and Health Services employment growth remained positive in September with the addition of 2,700 jobs. Information employment grew by 800 jobs last month.

“The Texas labor force is growing as more people enter the job market, but job seekers are hampered by fewer jobs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC and our workforce boards located around the state remain committed to helping out-of-work Texans acquire skills and find jobs.”

The largest job losses occurred in the Leisure and Hospitality industry which was down 16,900 positions, followed by Professional and Business Services, down 16,500 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 13,000 positions in September.

“Job gains in Mining and Logging, Education and Health Services, and Other Services were offset by losses in most industries in September,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “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.”

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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)

|                             | September 2009 |           |          |      | August 2009 |           |          |      | September 2008 |           |         |      |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|------|-------------|-----------|----------|------|----------------|-----------|---------|------|
|                             | C.L.F.         | Emp.      | Unemp.   | Rate | C.L.F.      | Emp.      | Unemp.   | Rate | C.L.F.         | Emp.      | Unemp.  | Rate |
| United States               | 153,617.0      | 139,079.0 | 14,538.0 | 9.5  | 154,897.0   | 140,074.0 | 14,823.0 | 9.6  | 154,509.0      | 145,310.0 | 9,199.0 | 6.0  |
| State of Texas              | 12,069.4       | 11,073.4  | 996.0    | 8.3  | 12,062.0    | 11,079.5  | 982.5    | 8.1  | 11,773.0       | 11,167.7  | 605.3   | 5.1  |
| Abilene                     | 84.1           | 78.8      | 5.3      | 6.3  | 83.8        | 78.7      | 5.1      | 6.1  | 83.1           | 79.8      | 3.3     | 4.0  |
| Amarillo                    | 131.6          | 124.0     | 7.6      | 5.8  | 131.1       | 123.7     | 7.4      | 5.6  | 129.9          | 125.0     | 4.9     | 3.8  |
| Austin-Round Rock           | 904.3          | 839.2     | 65.1     | 7.2  | 898.6       | 833.6     | 65.0     | 7.2  | 873.2          | 832.7     | 40.5    | 4.6  |
| Beaumont-Port Arthur        | 183.0          | 163.3     | 19.7     | 10.8 | 183.7       | 164.1     | 19.6     | 10.7 | 180.9          | 168.2     | 12.7    | 7.0  |
| Brownsville-Harlingen       | 150.7          | 134.5     | 16.2     | 10.8 | 150.7       | 134.9     | 15.8     | 10.5 | 145.0          | 134.4     | 10.6    | 7.3  |
| College Station-Bryan       | 108.1          | 101.1     | 7.0      | 6.5  | 104.1       | 97.4      | 6.7      | 6.4  | 109.5          | 104.9     | 4.6     | 4.2  |
| Corpus Christi              | 206.5          | 190.1     | 16.4     | 8.0  | 206.8       | 190.7     | 16.1     | 7.8  | 206.3          | 196.1     | 10.2    | 5.0  |
| Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington | 3,229.5        | 2,959.9   | 269.6    | 8.3  | 3,230.7     | 2,963.4   | 267.3    | 8.3  | 3,149.1        | 2,984.4   | 164.7   | 5.2  |
| Dallas-Plano-Irving MD      | 2,153.0        | 1,973.3   | 179.7    | 8.3  | 2,153.9     | 1,976.3   | 177.6    | 8.2  | 2,106.0        | 1,993.7   | 112.3   | 5.3  |
| Fort Worth-Arlington MD     | 1,076.5        | 986.6     | 89.9     | 8.3  | 1,076.8     | 987.1     | 89.7     | 8.3  | 1,043.1        | 990.7     | 52.4    | 5.0  |
| El Paso                     | 310.1          | 279.8     | 30.3     | 9.8  | 306.0       | 276.5     | 29.5     | 9.6  | 300.0          | 280.4     | 19.6    | 6.5  |
| Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown  | 2,834.5        | 2,593.0   | 241.5    | 8.5  | 2,831.1     | 2,594.2   | 236.9    | 8.4  | 2,786.0        | 2,644.4   | 141.6   | 5.1  |
| Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood    | 161.8          | 150.0     | 11.8     | 7.3  | 161.4       | 150.1     | 11.3     | 7.0  | 158.9          | 150.6     | 8.3     | 5.2  |
| Laredo                      | 97.4           | 88.5      | 8.9      | 9.1  | 96.5        | 87.7      | 8.8      | 9.1  | 92.6           | 87.6      | 5.0     | 5.4  |
| Longview                    | 110.9          | 101.7     | 9.2      | 8.3  | 111.4       | 102.2     | 9.2      | 8.3  | 108.6          | 103.9     | 4.7     | 4.3  |
| Lubbock                     | 144.0          | 135.8     | 8.2      | 5.7  | 143.6       | 135.4     | 8.2      | 5.7  | 142.6          | 137.1     | 5.5     | 3.9  |
| McAllen-Edinburg-Mission    | 299.1          | 264.5     | 34.6     | 11.6 | 298.2       | 264.1     | 34.1     | 11.4 | 282.7          | 260.6     | 22.1    | 7.8  |
| Midland                     | 78.3           | 73.5      | 4.8      | 6.2  | 78.1        | 73.4      | 4.7      | 6.1  | 76.5           | 74.2      | 2.3     | 3.0  |
| Odessa                      | 75.9           | 68.9      | 7.0      | 9.2  | 75.9        | 68.8      | 7.1      | 9.3  | 72.4           | 69.8      | 2.6     | 3.5  |
| San Angelo                  | 53.8           | 50.0      | 3.8      | 7.0  | 53.9        | 50.3      | 3.6      | 6.7  | 53.0           | 50.7      | 2.3     | 4.4  |
| San Antonio                 | 975.3          | 905.8     | 69.5     | 7.1  | 975.7       | 907.7     | 68.0     | 7.0  | 954.2          | 907.4     | 46.8    | 4.9  |
| Sherman-Denison             | 57.5           | 52.5      | 5.0      | 8.7  | 57.8        | 52.9      | 4.9      | 8.5  | 56.4           | 53.4      | 3.0     | 5.3  |
| Texarkana                   | 64.8           | 60.4      | 4.4      | 6.8  | 64.3        | 60.0      | 4.3      | 6.6  | 64.7           | 61.6      | 3.1     | 4.8  |
| Tyler                       | 102.0          | 93.5      | 8.5      | 8.3  | 102.2       | 94.2      | 8.0      | 7.8  | 100.0          | 95.1      | 4.9     | 4.9  |
| Victoria                    | 59.2           | 54.4      | 4.8      | 8.1  | 59.2        | 54.5      | 4.7      | 7.9  | 58.6           | 56.1      | 2.5     | 4.2  |
| Waco                        | 113.9          | 105.8     | 8.1      | 7.1  | 114.4       | 106.1     | 8.3      | 7.3  | 111.7          | 106.4     | 5.3     | 4.8  |
| Wichita Falls               | 74.1           | 68.2      | 5.9      | 7.9  | 73.8        | 68.0      | 5.8      | 7.9  | 73.0           | 69.1      | 3.9     | 5.3  |

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