

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR RELEASE:** Embargoed until 9 a.m.

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**DATE:** September 19, 2008

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## **Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.0 Percent**

*Texas Employers Add 6,700 Jobs in August*

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.0 percent in August, up from 4.7 percent in July 2008 and 4.3 percent in August 2007. Texas' unemployment rate remained well below the national rate of 6.1 percent. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 6,700 jobs in August. Texas employers now have added 252,000 jobs over the past 12 months for an annual job-growth rate of 2.4 percent.

“The rise in the Texas unemployment rate for August reflects the economic challenges facing our nation as a whole,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “While employment figures nationally have turned negative, here in Texas, employment growth continued with 6,700 new jobs.”

“For Texas employers and workers affected by Hurricane Ike, TWC stands ready to provide employment assistance,” said Pauken.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Odessa MSA was second at 3.7 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 3.8 percent.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities posted gains of 3,200 positions in August, for a total of 41,500 jobs created since August 2007. Education and Health Services increased by 2,900 positions last month, for a total of 38,700 jobs added in the past 12 months. Professional and Business Services saw gains of 2,000 positions in August, with 61,600 jobs added over the year.

“Although the Texas unemployment rate of 5.0 percent is below the U.S. rate of 6.1 percent, it is still a matter of concern,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC staff at more than 250 local workforce centers across the state can provide help for all Texans searching for work, especially those impacted by Hurricane Ike.”

Natural Resources and Mining increased by 1,500 jobs this month, adding 15,800 in the past 12 months. Financial Activities also saw increases of 1,200 jobs in August, with gains of 10,500 over the past year. Leisure and Hospitality added 1,100 positions this month, for an increase of 38,800 jobs since August 2007.

“Despite a rise in the unemployment rate, a strong 2.4 percent annual job growth rate is encouraging with employers continuing to add jobs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “Our state will face economic challenges in the coming months with many employers and workers rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.”

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

	August 2008				July 2008				August 2007			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	155,387.0	145,909.0	9,479.0	6.1	156,300.0	146,867.0	9,433.0	6.0	153,493.0	146,406.0	7,088.0	4.6
State of Texas	11,785.7	11,181.8	603.9	5.1	11,809.2	11,215.2	594.0	5.0	11,463.0	10,967.2	495.8	4.3
Abilene	81.4	78.0	3.4	4.2	81.8	78.4	3.4	4.1	80.0	77.1	2.9	3.6
Amarillo	129.7	124.7	5.0	3.8	130.3	125.4	4.9	3.8	128.7	124.3	4.4	3.4
Austin-Round Rock	870.2	831.0	39.2	4.5	868.1	830.0	38.1	4.4	849.3	818.2	31.1	3.7
Beaumont-Port Arthur	181.8	169.5	12.3	6.7	182.3	170.2	12.1	6.6	177.2	167.5	9.7	5.5
Brownsville-Harlingen	145.6	134.8	10.8	7.4	145.5	135.3	10.2	7.0	141.4	133.1	8.3	5.9
College Station-Bryan	102.1	97.6	4.5	4.4	102.4	97.9	4.5	4.4	97.5	93.6	3.9	4.0
Corpus Christi	200.7	190.4	10.3	5.2	202.0	191.7	10.3	5.1	196.5	187.8	8.7	4.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,179.4	3,016.0	163.4	5.1	3,182.5	3,023.0	159.5	5.0	3,107.7	2,976.2	131.5	4.2
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,125.6	2,014.4	111.2	5.2	2,126.9	2,019.6	107.3	5.0	2,077.7	1,989.1	88.6	4.3
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,053.8	1,001.6	52.2	5.0	1,055.7	1,003.5	52.2	4.9	1,030.0	987.2	42.8	4.2
El Paso	298.3	279.1	19.2	6.4	298.1	279.3	18.8	6.3	288.0	271.3	16.7	5.8
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,807.2	2,666.4	140.8	5.0	2,818.2	2,680.1	138.1	4.9	2,739.3	2,622.5	116.8	4.3
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	155.1	147.0	8.1	5.2	155.2	147.1	8.1	5.2	151.5	144.6	6.9	4.5
Laredo	90.9	85.6	5.3	5.9	91.0	85.7	5.3	5.8	87.6	83.5	4.1	4.7
Longview	108.7	103.9	4.8	4.4	109.5	104.5	5.0	4.5	105.4	101.2	4.2	3.9
Lubbock	139.1	133.4	5.7	4.1	139.8	133.8	6.0	4.3	140.1	135.0	5.1	3.7
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	281.8	259.9	21.9	7.8	280.7	258.9	21.8	7.8	265.3	248.1	17.2	6.5
Midland	73.1	70.8	2.3	3.1	73.4	71.1	2.3	3.1	71.7	69.6	2.1	2.9
Odessa	69.1	66.5	2.6	3.7	69.4	66.8	2.6	3.7	66.9	64.6	2.3	3.5
San Angelo	52.8	50.5	2.3	4.4	52.9	50.7	2.2	4.2	52.3	50.4	1.9	3.7
San Antonio	950.2	902.9	47.3	5.0	952.4	906.3	46.1	4.8	924.9	886.7	38.2	4.1
Sherman-Denison	57.4	54.4	3.0	5.2	57.7	54.6	3.1	5.4	55.3	52.6	2.7	4.8
Texarkana	63.5	60.5	3.0	4.8	63.9	60.9	3.0	4.7	61.2	58.4	2.8	4.6
Tyler	98.3	93.4	4.9	5.0	99.1	94.0	5.1	5.1	95.7	91.7	4.0	4.2
Victoria	58.0	55.5	2.5	4.3	58.3	55.8	2.5	4.2	57.3	55.2	2.1	3.7
Waco	115.4	109.8	5.6	4.8	116.0	110.4	5.6	4.8	113.4	108.5	4.9	4.3
Wichita Falls	75.5	71.8	3.7	4.9	75.5	72.1	3.4	4.6	73.3	70.3	3.0	4.1

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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).*