

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until 9 a.m.

DATE: March 25, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT: Ann Hatchitt

PHONE: (512) 463-8556

Texas Unemployment Rate Remained at 8.2 Percent for February

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 8.2 percent in February, unchanged from 8.2 percent in January 2010, and continuing to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February of 9.7 percent. Now at more than 12.1 million workers, the Texas Civilian Labor Force grew by another 40,200 workers in February.

Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 13,000 positions in February, offsetting the revised January gain of 12,600 jobs. Four industries added jobs including Professional and Business Services employment, which increased by 9,000 jobs, which is the largest monthly gain since January 2008.

“The Texas unemployment rate remained at 8.2 percent for the fourth month in a row,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Although this serious national recession continues to have a negative impact here in Texas, the unemployment rate appears to have stabilized.”

Other industries adding jobs in February included Manufacturing, which added 2,900 jobs, Mining and Logging, which increased by 1,200 jobs and Information employment, which increased by 200 jobs.

“While it is encouraging to see job gains in February across several major employment sectors, our job market remains tight for those seeking new opportunities in the Lone Star State,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC and the 28 workforce boards are committed to assisting Texas job seekers and connecting them with available jobs.”

In February, Leisure and Hospitality employment recorded a loss of 4,300, Education and Health Services decreased by 3,000 jobs and Financial Activities employment was down by 3,200 jobs. Construction posted a loss of 4,600 jobs, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities also decreased by 7,700 jobs.

“Although we sustained overall job losses in February, we experienced job gains in critical industries such as Manufacturing and Professional and Business Services,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “Texans searching for work can look to TWC for assistance at workforce centers across the state and search for jobs on WorkInTexas.com.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 5.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Midland MSA with 5.8 percent, and third lowest was the Lubbock MSA and College Station-Bryan MSA, each at 6.0 percent.

-more-

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)**

	<i>February 2010</i>				<i>January 2010</i>				<i>February 2009</i>			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,194.0	137,203.0	15,991.0	10.4	152,957.0	136,809.0	16,147.0	10.6	153,804.0	140,105.0	13,699.0	8.9
State of Texas	12,093.0	11,085.5	1,007.5	8.3	12,094.4	11,049.7	1,044.7	8.6	11,760.0	10,940.0	820.0	7.0
Abilene	83.8	78.4	5.4	6.5	83.9	78.3	5.6	6.7	81.9	77.5	4.4	5.4
Amarillo	131.8	124.3	7.5	5.7	132.6	124.7	7.9	6.0	127.8	121.5	6.3	4.9
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	906.3	840.6	65.7	7.2	902.9	834.4	68.5	7.6	872.4	814.4	58.0	6.6
Beaumont-Port Arthur	185.2	165.4	19.8	10.7	185.7	165.4	20.3	11.0	184.6	168.7	15.9	8.6
Brownsville-Harlingen	155.8	138.2	17.6	11.3	156.0	138.0	18.0	11.5	148.8	134.6	14.2	9.5
College Station-Bryan	117.6	110.5	7.1	6.0	114.9	107.5	7.4	6.4	111.2	105.5	5.7	5.1
Corpus Christi	210.7	193.8	16.9	8.0	210.1	192.5	17.6	8.4	206.0	193.1	12.9	6.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,205.1	2,935.0	270.1	8.4	3,211.5	2,933.0	278.5	8.7	3,116.4	2,889.4	227.0	7.3
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,133.7	1,953.5	180.2	8.4	2,140.5	1,954.9	185.6	8.7	2,075.6	1,922.0	153.6	7.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,071.4	981.5	89.9	8.4	1,071.0	978.1	92.9	8.7	1,040.8	967.4	73.4	7.1
El Paso	311.6	281.7	29.9	9.6	312.5	281.6	30.9	9.9	302.7	276.9	25.8	8.5
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,883.5	2,637.4	246.1	8.5	2,881.7	2,627.0	254.7	8.8	2,816.0	2,626.7	189.3	6.7
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	166.1	154.0	12.1	7.3	165.5	152.6	12.9	7.8	157.8	147.4	10.4	6.6
Laredo	95.4	86.5	8.9	9.3	95.8	86.6	9.2	9.6	94.0	86.6	7.4	7.9
Longview	110.3	101.6	8.7	7.9	110.2	101.1	9.1	8.3	108.2	101.4	6.8	6.3
Lubbock	147.2	138.3	8.9	6.0	146.8	137.7	9.1	6.2	142.3	135.4	6.9	4.8
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	307.0	270.8	36.2	11.8	308.0	270.5	37.5	12.2	290.8	261.9	28.9	9.9
Midland	74.5	70.2	4.3	5.8	74.0	69.4	4.6	6.2	75.1	71.8	3.3	4.3
Odessa	70.0	63.8	6.2	8.8	70.5	64.0	6.5	9.2	71.6	67.5	4.1	5.7
San Angelo	54.3	50.7	3.6	6.7	54.2	50.4	3.8	7.0	53.1	50.0	3.1	5.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels	975.4	903.4	72.0	7.4	972.7	897.4	75.3	7.7	950.1	889.5	60.6	6.4
Sherman-Denison	57.5	52.5	5.0	8.7	57.4	52.3	5.1	8.9	55.8	51.6	4.2	7.5
Texarkana	65.5	60.3	5.2	7.9	65.5	60.3	5.2	7.9	63.9	60.1	3.8	5.9
Tyler	102.8	94.5	8.3	8.0	102.5	93.7	8.8	8.6	99.1	92.2	6.9	7.0
Victoria	58.4	53.5	4.9	8.3	58.4	53.5	4.9	8.4	57.9	54.3	3.6	6.2
Waco	116.8	108.5	8.3	7.1	116.4	107.8	8.6	7.4	111.4	104.6	6.8	6.1
Wichita Falls	72.4	66.5	5.9	8.2	72.6	66.5	6.1	8.4	72.4	67.3	5.1	7.0

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on latest labor market data are available at the following link:

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2010/praudio10.html>.

###ash

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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.