

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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## **Texas Unemployment Rate Drops to Historic 4.1 Percent Low** *Texas Employers Add 22,700 Jobs in May*

AUSTIN — The May seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, its lowest point since the current series began in 1976. The unemployment rate dropped from 4.2 percent in April and 5.0 percent a year ago. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 22,700 jobs in May, with 10 industries gaining jobs from the previous month. Texas employers now have added 239,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

“Sustained job growth and a strong Texas economy have driven the unemployment rate to this historic low,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. “Texas employers are prospering which means more opportunities for working Texans.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo and Odessa MSAs were second at 3.0 percent, followed by the College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs at 3.1 percent.

Professional & Business Services continued to surge forward with 10 consecutive months of job growth, gaining 5,400 positions in May. This industry has added 61,600 jobs this past year. Education & Health Services showed the largest over-the-month increase since last summer, gaining 4,900 jobs. The industry has now logged 38 months of job growth since January 2004.

“Texas employers are making enormous strides across a wide spectrum of industries,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “Our state’s annual job growth rate at 2.4 percent now outpaces the U.S. rate at 1.4 percent.”

Trade, Transportation & Utilities recorded employment gains for the sixth consecutive month, adding 2,600 positions in May and 20,900 jobs in the past 12 months. The Mining industry added 1,600 positions this past month and 19,100 jobs in the past year, achieving a 10.5 percent annual job growth rate.

“As more and more people find work, the economy improves for all Texans,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “The state has added more than 104,000 jobs since the first of the year.”

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

	May 2007				April 2007				May 2006			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	152,350.0	145,864.0	6,486.0	4.3	151,829.0	145,297.0	6,532.0	4.3	150,696.0	144,041.0	6,655.0	4.4
State of Texas	11,491.3	11,048.2	443.1	3.9	11,496.8	11,045.1	451.7	3.9	11,428.1	10,862.2	565.9	5.0
Abilene	81.7	79.1	2.6	3.2	81.5	78.8	2.7	3.3	82.3	78.9	3.4	4.2
Amarillo	130.0	126.0	4.0	3.0	130.1	125.9	4.2	3.2	130.9	125.9	5.0	3.8
Austin-Round Rock	840.4	813.7	26.7	3.2	843.3	816.5	26.8	3.2	826.6	792.1	34.5	4.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	180.5	171.9	8.6	4.8	180.1	171.4	8.7	4.8	180.7	169.9	10.8	6.0
Brownsville-Harlingen	142.7	135.1	7.6	5.3	143.3	135.4	7.9	5.5	144.0	134.5	9.5	6.6
College Station-Bryan	104.3	101.0	3.3	3.1	105.0	101.6	3.4	3.2	105.9	101.5	4.4	4.1
Corpus Christi	200.6	192.7	7.9	4.0	201.2	193.1	8.1	4.0	200.4	190.3	10.1	5.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,119.0	3,000.3	118.7	3.8	3,118.6	2,998.4	120.2	3.9	3,091.6	2,943.0	148.6	4.8
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,093.4	2,013.9	79.5	3.8	2,093.3	2,012.6	80.7	3.9	2,073.1	1,972.8	100.3	4.8
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,025.5	986.4	39.1	3.8	1,025.3	985.8	39.5	3.9	1,018.4	970.1	48.3	4.7
El Paso	291.9	276.2	15.7	5.4	291.9	275.5	16.4	5.6	293.7	273.6	20.1	6.8
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,709.8	2,607.5	102.3	3.8	2,708.3	2,604.4	103.9	3.8	2,683.7	2,549.8	133.9	5.0
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	150.1	143.8	6.3	4.2	150.9	144.6	6.3	4.2	152.5	144.7	7.8	5.1
Laredo	89.5	85.8	3.7	4.2	89.6	85.7	3.9	4.4	88.6	83.6	5.0	5.6
Longview	103.2	99.4	3.8	3.7	103.1	99.4	3.7	3.6	103.3	98.5	4.8	4.7
Lubbock	144.4	140.0	4.4	3.1	144.5	140.0	4.5	3.1	142.8	137.1	5.7	4.0
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	267.8	252.5	15.3	5.7	271.0	254.5	16.5	6.1	267.4	248.1	19.3	7.2
Midland	71.6	69.7	1.9	2.6	71.6	69.7	1.9	2.7	70.0	67.6	2.4	3.4
Odessa	67.3	65.3	2.0	3.0	67.1	65.1	2.0	3.0	65.7	63.1	2.6	4.0
San Angelo	53.5	51.8	1.7	3.3	53.5	51.7	1.8	3.3	54.1	51.8	2.3	4.3
San Antonio	929.0	896.0	33.0	3.6	929.0	895.5	33.5	3.6	925.8	883.3	42.5	4.6
Sherman-Denison	57.5	55.2	2.3	4.0	57.4	55.1	2.3	4.0	57.1	54.3	2.8	5.0
Texarkana	62.8	60.0	2.8	4.5	62.6	59.8	2.8	4.5	63.2	59.9	3.3	5.2
Tyler	96.7	93.1	3.6	3.7	96.6	93.0	3.6	3.8	97.0	92.6	4.4	4.5
Victoria	58.1	56.2	1.9	3.3	58.1	56.2	1.9	3.3	58.1	55.6	2.5	4.4
Waco	112.0	107.8	4.2	3.8	112.2	107.9	4.3	3.8	112.3	106.8	5.5	4.9
Wichita Falls	75.6	72.9	2.7	3.5	75.4	72.6	2.8	3.7	76.1	72.8	3.3	4.3

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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 programs 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).*