

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until 9 a.m.

DATE: April 17, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Givens

PHONE: 512-463-8556

Texas Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.2 Percent in March

State unemployment rate at lowest level since July 2007

AUSTIN –Texas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in March, down from 4.3 percent in February. The state has not seen a rate this low since July 2007 and Texas continues to trend below the national average of 5.5 percent.

Texas’ total nonfarm seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 25,400 jobs in March’s preliminary estimate. This comes on the heels of an impressive string of 53 straight months of job growth for the state. Over the year, the state has added 327,500 jobs for an overall growth rate of 2.9 percent, outpacing the national growth rate of 2.3 percent.

“Maintaining a diversity of employment opportunities has kept Texas strong for the past four years,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. “We must continue to build and support partnerships that will help connect employers to a quality supply of skilled workers and equip job seekers with training that will help them succeed.”

The Mining and Logging industry, which includes oil and gas employment, saw a decline in March with the loss of an estimated 2,800 jobs statewide.

“While some workers may be temporarily impacted by statewide reductions in the oil and gas industry, our 28 local workforce boards stand ready to help these and all job seekers identify transferrable skills for other employment opportunities or obtain training that will help them quickly transition to new jobs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

The Education and Health Services industry added 3,400 jobs in March, followed in job gains by the Financial Activities industry which increased by 2,400 positions. Job gains were also experienced in the Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services.

“Connecting employers with the workers they need is critical to our state’s success,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. “Employers and job seekers can access the largest job-matching network in the state through WorkInTexas.com. Today, the site offers more than 250,000 available positions for those seeking work, and a tremendous pool of outstanding job seekers for employers to choose from for their workforce needs.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest March unemployment rate in the state at 2.9 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA with a 3.0 percent rate and the Lubbock, College Station-Bryan and Austin-Round Rock MSAs at 3.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from Chairman Alcantar on the latest labor market data are available at: <http://texasworkforce.org/news/press/2015/press-releases-2015.html#pressReleaseAudio>. Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit www.tracer2.com.

-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)

	March 2015				February 2015				March 2014			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	156,318	147,635	8,682	5.6	156,213	147,118	9,095	5.8	155,627	145,090	10,537	6.8
Texas	13,087.9	12,533.3	554.6	4.2	13,114.5	12,549.6	564.9	4.3	13,073.4	12,367.9	705.5	5.4
Abilene	76.8	74.0	2.8	3.7	77.3	74.4	2.9	3.8	77.1	73.5	3.6	4.6
Amarillo	129.9	126.1	3.8	3.0	130.7	126.7	4.0	3.1	132.0	126.9	5.1	3.9
Austin-Round Rock	1,048.7	1,014.5	34.2	3.3	1,049.8	1,013.8	36.0	3.4	1,050.4	1,004.1	46.3	4.4
Beaumont-Port Arthur	180.8	169.5	11.3	6.2	182.1	170.6	11.5	6.3	179.9	164.4	15.5	8.6
Brownsville-Harlingen	165.9	154.1	11.8	7.1	165.5	153.6	11.9	7.2	169.0	154.1	14.9	8.8
College Station-Bryan	118.6	114.7	3.9	3.3	119.0	114.9	4.1	3.4	120.9	115.9	5.0	4.1
Corpus Christi	212.9	203.1	9.8	4.6	212.6	202.7	9.9	4.7	212.3	200.8	11.5	5.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,559.6	3,416.2	143.4	4.0	3,573.5	3,426.9	146.6	4.1	3,536.6	3,347.6	189.0	5.3
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,372.6	2,277.8	94.8	4.0	2,381.2	2,283.8	97.4	4.1	2,350.2	2,224.0	126.2	5.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,187.0	1,138.4	48.6	4.1	1,192.4	1,143.2	49.2	4.1	1,186.4	1,123.6	62.8	5.3
El Paso	341.3	323.4	17.9	5.2	343.4	324.9	18.5	5.4	351.9	327.8	24.1	6.8
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	3,254.4	3,117.4	137.0	4.2	3,263.3	3,124.5	138.8	4.3	3,244.1	3,076.5	167.6	5.2
Killeen-Temple	168.6	160.8	7.8	4.6	169.2	161.1	8.1	4.8	170.1	159.7	10.4	6.1
Laredo	111.9	106.9	5.0	4.5	112.2	107.2	5.0	4.5	111.5	105.5	6.0	5.4
Longview	105.6	101.2	4.4	4.2	105.7	101.3	4.4	4.1	104.4	98.8	5.6	5.3
Lubbock	153.2	148.2	5.0	3.3	153.9	148.8	5.1	3.3	154.4	148.1	6.3	4.1
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	333.8	308.7	25.1	7.5	333.1	307.4	25.7	7.7	335.9	304.7	31.2	9.3
Midland	97.2	94.4	2.8	2.9	97.4	94.7	2.7	2.8	91.9	89.1	2.8	3.1
Odessa	85.8	82.6	3.2	3.7	86.0	83.0	3.0	3.5	81.4	78.4	3.0	3.6
San Angelo	56.0	53.8	2.2	3.9	55.9	53.8	2.1	3.8	55.7	53.3	2.4	4.3
San Antonio-New Braunfels	1,096.7	1,056.6	40.1	3.7	1,099.0	1,057.5	41.5	3.8	1,091.0	1,037.5	53.5	4.9
Sherman-Denison	60.6	58.2	2.4	3.9	60.5	58.0	2.5	4.1	61.2	58.0	3.2	5.2
Texarkana	63.9	60.6	3.3	5.2	64.0	60.5	3.5	5.5	64.6	60.3	4.3	6.7
Tyler	102.2	97.8	4.4	4.3	102.4	98.0	4.4	4.3	102.2	96.5	5.7	5.6
Victoria	50.6	48.7	1.9	3.7	50.5	48.7	1.8	3.6	49.9	47.7	2.2	4.4
Waco	118.0	113.2	4.8	4.1	118.8	114.0	4.8	4.1	119.1	112.7	6.4	5.4
Wichita Falls	65.0	62.3	2.7	4.1	65.3	62.6	2.7	4.2	66.7	63.4	3.3	5.0

TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

INDUSTRY TITLE	Mar 2015*	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb '15 to Mar '15		Mar '14 to Mar '15	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Total Nonagricultural	11,753,200	11,778,600	11,425,700	-25,400	-0.2	327,500	2.9
Total Private	9,916,900	9,941,300	9,605,500	-24,400	-0.2	311,400	3.2
Goods Producing	1,863,300	1,874,200	1,811,700	-10,900	-0.6	51,600	2.8
Mining and Logging	308,600	311,400	298,700	-2,800	-0.9	9,900	3.3
Construction	673,100	678,900	633,800	-5,800	-0.9	39,300	6.2
Manufacturing	881,600	883,900	879,200	-2,300	-0.3	2,400	0.3
Service Providing	9,889,900	9,904,400	9,614,000	-14,500	-0.1	275,900	2.9
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,363,000	2,373,300	2,287,300	-10,300	-0.4	75,700	3.3
Information	204,400	205,800	202,300	-1,400	-0.7	2,100	1.0
Financial Activities	715,800	713,400	693,400	2,400	0.3	22,400	3.2
Professional and Business Services	1,571,100	1,579,200	1,520,900	-8,100	-0.5	50,200	3.3
Education and Health Services	1,562,600	1,559,200	1,510,400	3,400	0.2	52,200	3.5
Leisure and Hospitality	1,223,500	1,223,100	1,173,000	400	0.0	50,500	4.3
Other Services	413,200	413,100	406,500	100	0.0	6,700	1.6
Government	1,836,300	1,837,300	1,820,200	-1,000	-0.1	16,100	0.9

###dhp

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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.