

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas' Unemployment Rate Drops to Lowest Since 2001

Texas gains 217,700 jobs over the past year

AUSTIN – The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in August, the lowest rate of unemployment for Texas since January of 2001. The Texas rate continued to trend below the national unemployment rate, which stood at 5.1 percent in August.

Leisure and Hospitality led all major industries in Texas with an expansion of 5,900 jobs in August. The Professional and Business Services industry added 4,000 positions over the month, and Construction gained 3,200 jobs in August. Other Services, which includes religious and civic organizations, personal services and repair businesses, added 600 jobs in August.

“The increase in jobs for key industries in August, such as the addition of 3,200 positions in the Construction industry, and the decline in the unemployment rate to the lowest point in 14 years, demonstrates the resilience and strength of the Texas economy,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. “TWC is committed to helping these expanding industries meet their workforce needs while connecting job seekers to a variety of services and job-training opportunities.”

“We are continuing to see a steady decline in the rate of unemployment in our state and at 4.1 percent, the August rate is among the lowest our state has ever seen,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “While most regions of our state are seeing these declines, we are working hard with our local workforce partners to address the needs in those regions that are still struggling. I urge all job seekers to contact their local Workforce Solutions office for assistance with training and job placement.”

The state’s overall seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs contracted by a net 13,700 positions in August following four consecutive months of employment increases, including a revised gain of 25,800 jobs in July.

“As advanced job skills are a growing demand throughout the world, we encourage all employers to utilize TWC’s many resources to aid in the search for highly qualified Texans to fit their needs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughes. “Workforce Solutions offices across Texas can help employers with job-matching assistance, applicant screening and local labor market information.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) recorded the month’s lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 3.1 percent. The Midland and Austin-Round Rock MSAs each posted a rate of 3.2 percent in August.

Audio downloads with comments from Chairman Alcantar on the latest labor market data are available on the TWC website [press release page](#). 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 [tracer2.com](#).

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

	August 2015				July 2015				August 2014			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	157,390.0	149,228.0	8,162.0	5.2	158,527.0	149,722.0	8,805.0	5.6	156,434.0	146,647.0	9,787.0	6.3
Texas	13,029.5	12,459.7	569.8	4.4	13,082.1	12,485.0	597.1	4.6	13,093.4	12,399.7	693.7	5.3
Abilene	74.7	71.9	2.8	3.8	75.3	72.3	3.0	4.0	76.3	72.9	3.4	4.5
Amarillo	127.9	123.9	4.0	3.1	129.0	124.7	4.3	3.4	130.6	125.6	5.0	3.8
Austin-Round Rock	1,053.6	1,019.5	34.1	3.2	1,056.6	1,020.1	36.5	3.5	1,049.3	1,003.2	46.1	4.4
Beaumont-Port Arthur	179.9	168.3	11.6	6.5	180.4	168.5	11.9	6.6	180.4	165.5	14.9	8.3
Brownsville-Harlingen	163.6	152.5	11.1	6.8	164.2	152.6	11.6	7.0	166.6	152.4	14.2	8.5
College Station-Bryan	113.1	109.0	4.1	3.6	114.3	109.8	4.5	3.9	116.4	111.3	5.1	4.4
Corpus Christi	209.6	199.0	10.6	5.0	210.2	199.4	10.8	5.1	211.6	200.2	11.4	5.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,569.6	3,429.7	139.9	3.9	3,576.1	3,428.8	147.3	4.1	3,566.8	3,380.9	185.9	5.2
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,385.7	2,294.1	91.6	3.8	2,387.0	2,290.3	96.7	4.0	2,375.4	2,251.4	124.0	5.2
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,183.8	1,135.6	48.2	4.1	1,189.1	1,138.5	50.6	4.3	1,191.5	1,129.5	62.0	5.2
El Paso	337.8	320.4	17.4	5.2	337.8	319.4	18.4	5.5	346.6	322.9	23.7	6.8
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	3,231.1	3,081.8	149.3	4.6	3,250.2	3,097.1	153.1	4.7	3,256.9	3,089.4	167.5	5.1
Killeen-Temple	166.9	159.3	7.6	4.6	167.3	159.2	8.1	4.9	168.9	158.7	10.2	6.0
Laredo	111.9	106.7	5.2	4.7	112.1	106.5	5.6	5.0	111.6	105.8	5.8	5.2
Longview	104.6	99.5	5.1	4.9	104.9	99.5	5.4	5.1	105.1	99.8	5.3	5.0
Lubbock	151.8	146.6	5.2	3.4	153.2	147.3	5.9	3.8	153.8	147.4	6.4	4.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	328.1	302.3	25.8	7.9	328.1	301.6	26.5	8.1	330.3	300.4	29.9	9.1
Midland	96.5	93.4	3.1	3.2	96.9	93.7	3.2	3.4	95.2	92.4	2.8	2.9
Odessa	85.3	81.6	3.7	4.3	85.3	81.5	3.8	4.5	83.5	80.6	2.9	3.5
San Angelo	55.2	53.0	2.2	4.0	55.1	52.7	2.4	4.3	55.4	53.1	2.3	4.2
San Antonio-New Braunfels	1,096.9	1,056.6	40.3	3.7	1,102.8	1,059.5	43.3	3.9	1,095.6	1,043.1	52.5	4.8
Sherman-Denison	59.8	57.4	2.4	4.1	60.1	57.6	2.5	4.1	60.7	57.7	3.0	5.0
Texarkana	62.8	59.7	3.1	4.9	63.6	60.1	3.5	5.5	63.8	59.7	4.1	6.4
Tyler	101.5	96.9	4.6	4.5	101.7	96.8	4.9	4.8	103.0	97.7	5.3	5.2
Victoria	50.3	48.2	2.1	4.1	50.4	48.2	2.2	4.3	50.2	48.0	2.2	4.4
Waco	117.0	112.2	4.8	4.1	117.9	112.6	5.3	4.5	120.1	113.5	6.6	5.5
Wichita Falls	63.3	60.6	2.7	4.2	63.9	61.0	2.9	4.6	66.3	62.9	3.4	5.2

**TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

INDUSTRY TITLE	August 2015*	July 2015	August 2014	July '15 to August '15		August '14 to August '15	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Total Nonagricultural	11,809,000	11,822,700	11,591,300	-13,700	-0.1	217,700	1.9
Total Private	9,957,800	9,965,300	9,761,100	-7,500	-0.1	196,700	2.0
Goods Producing	1,810,800	1,818,500	1,853,800	-7,700	-0.4	-43,000	-2.3
Mining and Logging	289,100	294,400	311,600	-5,300	-1.8	-22,500	-7.2
Construction	666,600	663,400	655,200	3,200	0.5	11,400	1.7
Manufacturing	855,100	860,700	887,000	-5,600	-0.7	-31,900	-3.6
Service Providing	9,998,200	10,004,200	9,737,500	-6,000	-0.1	260,700	2.7
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,372,800	2,379,000	2,319,200	-6,200	-0.3	53,600	2.3
Information	206,600	207,300	203,200	-700	-0.3	3,400	1.7
Financial Activities	705,000	707,200	702,500	-2,200	-0.3	2,500	0.4
Professional and Business Services	1,589,600	1,585,600	1,553,000	4,000	0.3	36,600	2.4
Education and Health Services	1,593,100	1,594,300	1,527,600	-1,200	-0.1	65,500	4.3
Leisure and Hospitality	1,260,800	1,254,900	1,191,400	5,900	0.5	69,400	5.8
Other Services	419,100	418,500	410,400	600	0.1	8,700	2.1
Government	1,851,200	1,857,400	1,830,200	-6,200	-0.3	21,000	1.1

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org. To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).