

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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## **Texas Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.1 Percent**

*Employment increased by 37,200 in March*

AUSTIN — Texas total nonfarm employment was up by 37,200 jobs in March for a total gain of 251,100 jobs from a year ago. The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March is 8.1 percent, down slightly from 8.2 percent in February and well below the U.S. unemployment rate for March of 8.8 percent.

“The Professional and Business Services industry led Texas’ job growth in March with an increase of 10,800 jobs,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “This industry has shown positive monthly growth for the past year with a total employment increase of 53,800 jobs.”

Leisure and Hospitality employment increased by 9,900 jobs in March for a total of 28,000 positions added over the year; Manufacturing added 4,000 jobs in March for its fourth consecutive month of expansion and a total of 12,100 positions added over the year.

Employment in Mining and Logging increased for the fifth consecutive month, adding 4,300 jobs in March. The annual growth rate for this industry was more than 15 percent as employers have added 31,100 jobs over the past year.

“More jobs and more Texans working are the bottom lines,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Our labor force, strong and diverse, continues to grow, but our goal is a job for every Texan who wants to work.”

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 2,300 jobs in March, representing the addition of 33,900 jobs over the year; Construction employment increased in March by 2,200 jobs and has had six consecutive months of annual growth for a total of 34,600 jobs since last year.

“The Texas labor market continues to make positive gains with the addition of jobs and a decline in the unemployment rate,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “These job gains occurred across most major industry sectors.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest March unemployment rate in the state at 4.6 percent. The Amarillo MSA had the second lowest unemployment rate in March at 5.4 percent, followed by the College Station-Bryan MSA at 5.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on the latest labor market data are available at the following link: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2011/praudio11.html>.

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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 2011				February 2011				March 2010			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,022.0	138,962.0	14,060.0	9.2	152,635.0	138,093.0	14,542.0	9.5	153,660.0	137,983.0	15,678.0	10.2
State of Texas	12,216.1	11,231.7	984.4	8.1	12,152.4	11,160.3	992.1	8.2	12,074.6	11,076.7	997.9	8.3
Abilene	81.3	76.0	5.3	6.5	83.1	77.7	5.4	6.5	83.3	78.0	5.3	6.4
Amarillo	132.4	125.2	7.2	5.4	132.2	124.9	7.3	5.5	130.9	123.5	7.4	5.7
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	913.5	851.0	62.5	6.8	908.4	845.7	62.7	6.9	907.4	842.2	65.2	7.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	190.4	169.4	21.0	11.0	188.8	168.0	20.8	11.0	186.7	166.5	20.2	10.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	157.5	138.6	18.9	12.0	159.7	140.5	19.2	12.0	157.4	140.2	17.2	10.9
College Station-Bryan	117.3	110.3	7.0	5.9	116.1	108.9	7.2	6.2	115.3	108.3	7.0	6.0
Corpus Christi	216.9	199.7	17.2	7.9	213.3	195.8	17.5	8.2	212.9	196.3	16.6	7.8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,237.8	2,976.2	261.6	8.1	3,222.8	2,960.7	262.1	8.1	3,190.7	2,922.0	268.7	8.4
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,160.8	1,985.3	175.5	8.1	2,157.7	1,981.7	176.0	8.2	2,128.2	1,948.6	179.6	8.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,077.0	990.9	86.1	8.0	1,065.1	979.1	86.0	8.1	1,062.7	973.5	89.2	8.4
El Paso	322.8	290.5	32.3	10.0	322.3	289.7	32.6	10.1	316.8	287.4	29.4	9.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,917.4	2,675.6	241.8	8.3	2,905.5	2,662.2	243.3	8.4	2,873.6	2,627.4	246.2	8.6
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	169.5	156.2	13.3	7.9	169.5	156.0	13.5	8.0	166.2	154.1	12.1	7.3
Laredo	94.5	86.7	7.8	8.3	95.3	87.3	8.0	8.4	95.7	87.0	8.7	9.0
Longview	112.9	105.2	7.7	6.9	112.0	104.1	7.9	7.0	110.9	102.6	8.3	7.5
Lubbock	145.7	137.0	8.7	6.0	145.8	136.9	8.9	6.1	146.4	137.6	8.8	6.0
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	312.6	275.4	37.2	11.9	311.3	273.4	37.9	12.2	306.1	270.1	36.0	11.7
Midland	78.4	74.8	3.6	4.6	77.7	74.0	3.7	4.8	75.9	71.7	4.2	5.6
Odessa	74.1	69.4	4.7	6.3	73.2	68.4	4.8	6.6	71.6	65.7	5.9	8.3
San Angelo	55.3	51.9	3.4	6.1	54.9	51.4	3.5	6.4	54.6	51.1	3.5	6.4
San Antonio-New Braunfels	996.0	923.2	72.8	7.3	984.4	911.1	73.3	7.4	984.4	913.2	71.2	7.2
Sherman-Denison	58.0	53.1	4.9	8.4	57.2	52.4	4.8	8.5	57.1	52.2	4.9	8.6
Texarkana	65.1	60.3	4.8	7.4	65.4	60.5	4.9	7.5	64.8	59.8	5.0	7.6
Tyler	101.4	93.7	7.7	7.6	101.4	93.5	7.9	7.8	100.7	92.7	8.0	7.9
Victoria	58.9	54.6	4.3	7.3	58.7	54.4	4.3	7.4	59.0	54.3	4.7	7.9
Waco	117.3	108.6	8.7	7.4	115.3	106.6	8.7	7.5	114.6	106.2	8.4	7.4
Wichita Falls	71.6	66.5	5.1	7.1	71.9	66.7	5.2	7.3	72.7	67.0	5.7	7.9

**TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED<sup>+</sup>**

INDUSTRY TITLE	Mar. 2011	Feb. 2011	Mar. 2010	Feb. '11 to Mar. '11		Mar. '10 to Mar. '11	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
<b>TOTAL NONAG. W&amp;S EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>10,526,100</b>	<b>10,488,900</b>	<b>10,275,000</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>251,100</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>TOTAL NONGOVERNMENT**</b>	<b>8,662,200</b>	<b>8,625,800</b>	<b>8,426,500</b>	<b>36,400</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>235,700</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>							
Mining & Logging	229,800	225,500	198,700	4,300	1.9	31,100	15.7
Construction	598,800	596,600	564,200	2,200	0.4	34,600	6.1
Manufacturing	821,500	817,500	809,400	4,000	0.5	12,100	1.5
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>							
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,073,900	2,071,600	2,040,000	2,300	0.1	33,900	1.7
Information	187,500	188,400	196,100	-900	-0.5	-8,600	-4.4
Financial Activities	622,300	621,600	623,400	700	0.1	-1,100	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	1,312,700	1,301,900	1,258,900	10,800	0.8	53,800	4.3
Education & Health Services	1,418,400	1,417,000	1,376,000	1,400	0.1	42,400	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	1,028,400	1,018,500	1,000,400	9,900	1.0	28,000	2.8
Other Services	368,900	367,200	359,400	1,700	0.5	9,500	2.6
Government	1,863,900	1,863,100	1,848,500	800	0.0	15,400	0.8

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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) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).