

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Ends 2014 with Another Month of Job Growth

Unemployment rate falls to 4.6 percent in December, lowest since May 2008

AUSTIN –Texas employers added jobs in impressive fashion in 2014 with the increase of 457,900 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs over the year. December was the fifth straight month of record-breaking annual job growth for the Lone Star State. Over the month, the state gained 45,700 jobs, marking 51 straight months of employment growth.

In addition, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in December down from 4.9 percent in November, and down from 6.0 percent a year ago. This was the lowest Texas unemployment rate since May 2008.

“Texas finished 2014 on a positive note adding 457,900 jobs over the year, its fifth straight month of record-setting annual job growth,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. “Every major industry added jobs over the year, benefiting from a strong business climate and a growing, competitive and high quality Texas workforce.”

Seven of 11 major industries saw an increase in jobs in Texas in December. Those increases included 14,800 positions in Professional and Business Services, 6,800 jobs in Education and Health Services and 5,100 Construction jobs added.

“The state’s steady job growth is great news for Texas workers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “We continue to work with our local Workforce Solutions partners to strive for an environment where there is a good-paying job for every Texan who wants one. Many great opportunities can be found on WorkInTexas.com. We encourage employers and job seekers to use this valuable resource.”

Mining and Logging employment rebounded in December, adding 4,900 jobs after a loss of 2,400 positions in November. This was the second largest monthly gain for the year for the industry, which saw an 11.5 percent annual growth rate over the year with the addition of 33,900 positions. Job gains were also seen in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry with 5,900 positions added in December.

“Texas’ private-sector employers added 420,200 jobs over the year,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. “This growth continues to position our state as one of the best places in the world to live, work and do business.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest December unemployment rate in the state at 2.1 percent. The Odessa MSA came in second at 2.6 percent and the Amarillo MSA ranked third at 2.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from Commissioner Alcantar on the latest labor market data are available at: <http://texasworkforce.org/news/press/2014/press-releases-2014.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.

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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)

	December 2014				November 2014				December 2013			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	155,521.0	147,190.0	8,331.0	5.4	156,297.0	147,666.0	8,630.0	5.5	154,408.0	144,423.0	9,984.0	6.5
Texas	13,005.5	12,466.8	538.7	4.1	13,068.8	12,464.3	604.5	4.6	12,864.2	12,141.7	722.5	5.6
Abilene	82.7	80.0	2.7	3.2	83.2	80.2	3.0	3.6	84.4	80.7	3.7	4.4
Amarillo	132.4	128.6	3.8	2.9	133.8	129.4	4.4	3.3	134.8	129.4	5.4	4.0
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	1,023.2	988.3	34.9	3.4	1,031.1	991.3	39.8	3.9	1,016.1	970.4	45.7	4.5
Beaumont-Port Arthur	181.5	169.9	11.6	6.4	182.4	169.8	12.6	6.9	182.9	166.0	16.9	9.2
Brownsville-Harlingen	162.4	150.7	11.7	7.2	163.2	150.7	12.5	7.7	165.1	149.6	15.5	9.4
College Station-Bryan	121.9	118.2	3.7	3.0	123.0	118.7	4.3	3.5	121.4	116.2	5.2	4.3
Corpus Christi	221.1	211.5	9.6	4.3	222.2	211.7	10.5	4.7	218.0	206.0	12.0	5.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,478.0	3,337.6	140.4	4.0	3,483.6	3,324.5	159.1	4.6	3,412.6	3,226.1	186.5	5.5
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,323.8	2,229.5	94.3	4.1	2,327.5	2,220.7	106.8	4.6	2,273.7	2,148.1	125.6	5.5
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,154.2	1,108.1	46.1	4.0	1,156.1	1,103.8	52.3	4.5	1,138.9	1,078.0	60.9	5.3
El Paso	322.3	304.0	18.3	5.7	324.7	304.0	20.7	6.4	324.8	299.2	25.6	7.9
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	3,198.0	3,067.3	130.7	4.1	3,211.9	3,066.0	145.9	4.5	3,130.9	2,959.4	171.5	5.5
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	172.3	164.0	8.3	4.8	173.1	163.6	9.5	5.5	172.8	161.7	11.1	6.4
Laredo	102.0	97.6	4.4	4.4	102.8	97.8	5.0	4.9	102.3	96.3	6.0	5.9
Longview	117.9	113.8	4.1	3.5	118.5	113.8	4.7	4.0	114.9	109.1	5.8	5.1
Lubbock	150.6	146.0	4.6	3.0	151.4	146.1	5.3	3.5	150.0	143.7	6.3	4.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	320.8	295.6	25.2	7.8	322.3	295.8	26.5	8.2	321.8	288.4	33.4	10.4
Midland	100.0	97.9	2.1	2.1	100.2	97.9	2.3	2.3	96.2	93.4	2.8	2.9
Odessa	88.0	85.7	2.3	2.6	88.2	85.7	2.5	2.8	85.6	82.6	3.0	3.5
San Angelo	57.0	55.2	1.8	3.1	57.5	55.4	2.1	3.6	57.5	55.0	2.5	4.4
San Antonio-New Braunfels	1,058.6	1,018.8	39.8	3.8	1,063.4	1,017.9	45.5	4.3	1,048.8	993.7	55.1	5.3
Sherman-Denison	58.8	56.4	2.4	4.0	59.0	56.3	2.7	4.5	58.4	55.1	3.3	5.6
Texarkana	61.6	58.5	3.1	5.0	62.2	58.9	3.3	5.2	62.3	58.0	4.3	7.0
Tyler	103.5	99.3	4.2	4.1	103.9	99.1	4.8	4.7	104.3	98.3	6.0	5.8
Victoria	64.4	62.4	2.0	3.1	64.7	62.4	2.3	3.6	63.7	60.8	2.9	4.6
Waco	113.2	108.8	4.4	3.9	113.7	108.6	5.1	4.5	114.8	108.8	6.0	5.2
Wichita Falls	69.2	66.5	2.7	3.9	69.1	66.0	3.1	4.5	70.9	67.2	3.7	5.2

TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED⁺

INDUSTRY TITLE	Dec 2014*	Nov 2014	Dec 2013	Nov '14 to Dec '14		Dec '13 to Dec '14	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Total Nonagricultural	11,783,300	11,737,600	11,325,400	45,700	0.4	457,900	4.0
Total Private	9,920,700	9,882,900	9,500,500	37,800	0.4	420,200	4.4
Goods Producing	1,885,500	1,876,100	1,792,300	9,400	0.5	93,200	5.2
Mining and Logging	328,600	323,700	294,700	4,900	1.5	33,900	11.5
Construction	666,700	661,600	619,200	5,100	0.8	47,500	7.7
Manufacturing	890,200	890,800	878,400	-600	-0.1	11,800	1.3
Service Providing	9,897,800	9,861,500	9,533,100	36,300	0.4	364,700	3.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,365,800	2,359,900	2,280,000	5,900	0.3	85,800	3.8
Information	210,400	210,600	202,900	-200	-0.1	7,500	3.7
Financial Activities	717,700	714,700	682,900	3,000	0.4	34,800	5.1
Professional and Business Services	1,563,700	1,548,900	1,477,900	14,800	1.0	85,800	5.8
Education and Health Services	1,567,400	1,560,600	1,500,700	6,800	0.4	66,700	4.4
Leisure and Hospitality	1,205,100	1,206,100	1,163,900	-1,000	-0.1	41,200	3.5
Other Services	405,100	406,000	399,900	-900	-0.2	5,200	1.3
Government	1,862,600	1,854,700	1,824,900	7,900	0.4	37,700	2.1

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