

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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## **Texas Unemployment Rate Returns to Record Low of 4.1 Percent** *Employers Add 15,400 Jobs in April*

AUSTIN — The April statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in March and 4.4 percent in April 2007, once again matching the record low. The 4.1 percent April unemployment rate in Texas remains far below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0 percent. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 15,400 jobs in April.

“Texas continues to outpace national trends with its record low unemployment rate,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Texas employers now have added 262,000 jobs in the past 12 months.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo and Odessa MSAs were second at 2.8 percent, followed by the Lubbock MSA at 3.0 percent.

Financial Activities gained 6,900 positions in April, which represent more than half the annual job growth of 12,700 for that sector. Leisure and Hospitality added another 4,200 jobs last month, for a total of 41,300 positions added in the past 12 months.

“Business in Texas continues to expand with an annual job growth rate of 2.5 percent,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “Industries like Professional and Business Services and Natural Resources and Mining recorded annual growth rates of 5.0 percent or above.”

Construction increased by 3,000 jobs in April, for a gain of 23,200 jobs over the year. Education and Health Services grew by 2,800 positions this month, with 40,800 jobs added in the past 12 months.

“Texas workers are finding jobs across many industry sectors,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Our record low unemployment rate gives job seekers many choices and more chances to find a job.”

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

	April 2008				March 2008				April 2007			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,208.0	145,921.0	7,287.0	4.8	153,135.0	145,108.0	8,027.0	5.2	151,829.0	145,297.0	6,532.0	4.3
State of Texas	11,628.5	11,179.8	448.7	3.9	11,590.4	11,101.6	488.8	4.2	11,398.2	10,943.9	454.3	4.0
Abilene	81.1	78.5	2.6	3.2	80.9	78.1	2.8	3.5	79.5	76.9	2.6	3.3
Amarillo	129.3	125.7	3.6	2.8	128.7	124.7	4.0	3.1	129.7	125.5	4.2	3.2
Austin-Round Rock	861.4	833.0	28.4	3.3	859.1	827.7	31.4	3.7	841.5	814.2	27.3	3.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	179.6	170.5	9.1	5.0	179.0	169.4	9.6	5.4	178.8	170.2	8.6	4.8
Brownsville-Harlingen	143.6	135.8	7.8	5.4	143.4	135.0	8.4	5.8	143.5	135.6	7.9	5.5
College Station-Bryan	105.4	102.2	3.2	3.1	104.8	101.3	3.5	3.3	102.7	99.3	3.4	3.3
Corpus Christi	199.3	191.6	7.7	3.8	198.5	190.2	8.3	4.2	197.1	189.1	8.0	4.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,130.0	3,007.9	122.1	3.9	3,116.5	2,984.4	132.1	4.2	3,069.3	2,948.1	121.2	3.9
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,091.4	2,008.4	83.0	4.0	2,084.6	1,995.1	89.5	4.3	2,051.2	1,969.8	81.4	4.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,038.6	999.5	39.1	3.8	1,031.9	989.3	42.6	4.1	1,018.1	978.3	39.8	3.9
El Paso	296.4	281.6	14.8	5.0	295.2	278.9	16.3	5.5	290.8	274.4	16.4	5.6
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,765.8	2,661.5	104.3	3.8	2,760.1	2,646.9	113.2	4.1	2,696.7	2,590.9	105.8	3.9
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	152.9	146.8	6.1	4.0	153.2	146.4	6.8	4.4	150.4	144.1	6.3	4.2
Laredo	89.7	85.6	4.1	4.6	89.4	85.0	4.4	4.9	86.9	83.0	3.9	4.5
Longview	107.4	103.8	3.6	3.3	106.9	103.0	3.9	3.7	104.8	101.1	3.7	3.5
Lubbock	139.4	135.2	4.2	3.0	138.9	134.3	4.6	3.3	138.3	133.8	4.5	3.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	277.6	261.8	15.8	5.7	275.6	258.0	17.6	6.4	272.5	255.7	16.8	6.2
Midland	72.3	70.6	1.7	2.4	72.1	70.2	1.9	2.6	70.8	68.9	1.9	2.7
Odessa	68.4	66.5	1.9	2.8	68.0	65.9	2.1	3.0	65.7	63.7	2.0	3.1
San Angelo	53.0	51.3	1.7	3.2	53.0	51.2	1.8	3.5	53.1	51.3	1.8	3.3
San Antonio	937.3	903.4	33.9	3.6	932.1	895.4	36.7	3.9	917.3	883.7	33.6	3.7
Sherman-Denison	57.0	54.5	2.5	4.4	56.7	54.1	2.6	4.6	55.4	53.1	2.3	4.1
Texarkana	62.7	60.2	2.5	3.9	62.1	59.4	2.7	4.3	61.7	58.9	2.8	4.6
Tyler	97.2	93.4	3.8	4.0	97.0	92.7	4.3	4.4	95.7	92.1	3.6	3.8
Victoria	57.7	55.9	1.8	3.1	57.9	55.9	2.0	3.4	57.2	55.3	1.9	3.4
Waco	114.1	110.1	4.0	3.5	113.4	109.0	4.4	3.9	112.1	107.8	4.3	3.8
Wichita Falls	74.3	71.7	2.6	3.5	74.3	71.4	2.9	3.9	73.2	70.5	2.7	3.7

**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.**

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on latest labor market data are available at the following link:

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2008/praudio08.html>

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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 unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*