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MAY 2002

2002/05

INDICATORS

Texas Unemployment Rate

Actual Series

April	2002	5.6%
March	2002	5.6%
April	2001	4.1%

Seasonally Adjusted

April	2002	6.1%
March	2002	5.8%
April	2001	4.5%

U.S. Unemployment Rate

Actual Series

April	2002	5.7%
March	2002	6.1%
April	2001	4.2%

Seasonally Adjusted

April	2002	6.0%
March	2002	5.7%
April	2001	4.5%

Texas Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

Actual Series

	9,461,600
OTM Change	21,700
OTY Change	-87,200

Seasonally Adjusted

	9,461,000
OTM Change	5,300
OTY Change	-89,500

Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits

April	2002	101,786
March	2002	81,174
April	2001	76,798

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TEXAS

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Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas expanded by 5,300 positions in April, marking four straight months of job growth statewide and bringing year-to-date growth to 8,500 jobs. Services and Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (TCPU) had the largest employment increases for the month while Manufacturing and Trade experienced the biggest decreases. The annual growth rate for Total Nonagricultural Employment improved slightly to -0.9 percent.

The Services industry added 4,600 jobs in April, its fourth expansion in the past five months. *Engineering & Management Services, Amusement & Recreation, and Health Services* showed the largest job gains over the month, while *Business Services* had the largest decline. Services grew by 7,900 jobs since January of this year and was the primary driver of statewide employment growth in April.

Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities posted a gain of 1,300 jobs in April. Considering that TCPU has recorded job losses in 10 of the

past 12 months, April's growth was noteworthy. Most of the industries within TCPU showed very little movement in April, with the exception of *Transportation by Air*, which grew by 800 jobs. With a loss of 400 jobs, *Communications* continued to show signs of weakness. A total of 24,200 jobs have been shed in TCPU since April 2001, with most losses occurring late in 2001.

Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE) posted a healthy gain of 600 jobs in April. *Insurance Carriers*, with the addition of 1,200 positions, contributed the bulk of FIRE's growth, but was partially offset by decreases in *Real Estate*. Year-to-date growth for *Insurance Carriers* reached 1,300 jobs, its highest April posting in over a decade.

Mining employment increased by 400 jobs in April, its first monthly gain since September 2001. The annual growth rate for Mining fell to -0.2 percent in April after peaking at 9.9 percent in June 2001. The last time Mining experienced negative annual growth rates was in March 2000.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Employment (Non-Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonagricultural Employment within the MSAs grew by 17,600 jobs in April. Trade and Services accounted for 97 percent of the total monthly job growth, while all other industries within the MSA's posted little change.

Construction employment grew by 400 jobs in April. The Houston MSA recorded the largest monthly gain which was largely due to an increase in *Special Trade Contractors*.

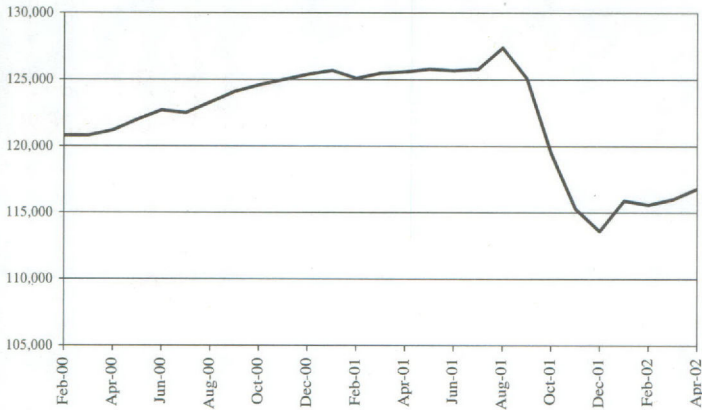
Retail Trade booked an increase of 5,400 jobs during April. The Dallas and Fort Worth-Arlington MSAs were responsible for the majority of this gain, with additions of 1,400 and 1,500 jobs

respectively. Significant job growth in *Eating and Drinking Establishments* overshadowed any other gains or losses within the Dallas and Fort Worth-Arlington MSAs. Notably, these two MSAs have posted only one April job loss between them in this industry over the past ten years.

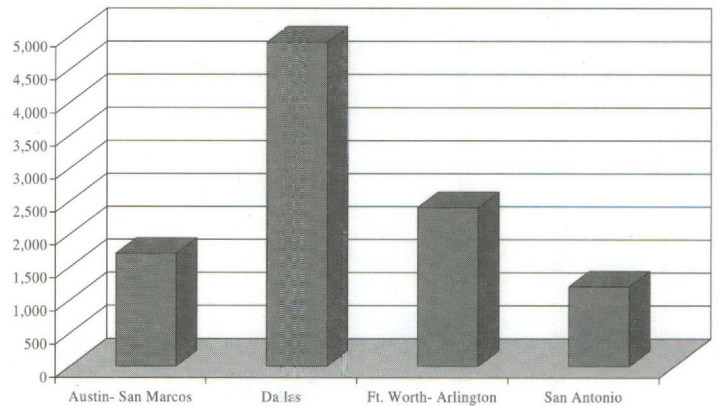
The Services industry added 11,800 jobs in April. The Dallas MSA had the largest gain, adding 4,900 new positions. Seasonal employment gains in the Dallas, Fort Worth-Arlington and San Antonio MSAs were driven by *Amusement and Recreation* as well as landscaping-related services. In the Austin-San Marcos MSA an increase of 1,700 jobs was largely the result of hiring in *Business Services*.



Texas Employment Levels Rebounding in Transportation by Air



Texas MSA's Showing the Strongest Employment Growth in Services in April 2002



TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

TEXAS*					UNITED STATES**			
Actual	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
Apr. '02	10,600,200	10,003,100	597,100	5.6	141,886,000	133,740,000	8,146,000	5.7
Mar. '02	10,576,900	9,980,200	596,700	5.6	142,092,000	133,433,000	8,659,000	6.1
Apr. '01	10,355,500	9,930,700	424,800	4.1	141,073,000	135,122,000	5,951,000	4.2
Seas. Adjusted	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
Apr. '02	10,687,900	10,033,200	654,700	6.1	142,570,000	133,976,000	8,594,000	6.0
Mar. '02	10,648,700	10,030,300	618,400	5.8	142,005,000	133,894,000	8,111,000	5.7
Apr. '01	10,427,800	9,962,300	465,500	4.5	141,734,000	135,424,000	6,310,000	4.5

Note: Only the actual series estimates for Texas and the U.S. are comparable to sub-state estimates. Current month estimates for Texas are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. In seasonally adjusted estimates all elements of seasonality are factored out to achieve an estimate which reflects the basic underlying trend.

*Source - Labor Market Information Department, Texas Workforce Commission (model-based methodology)

**Source - Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (Current Population Survey)

TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED⁺

INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr. 2002*	Mar. 2002	Apr. 2001	Mar. '02 to Apr. '02		Apr. '01 to Apr. '02	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
TOTAL NONAG. W&S EMPLOYMENT	9,461,000	9,455,700	9,550,500	5,300	0.1	-89,500	-0.9
GOODS PRODUCING	1,732,600	1,733,000	1,804,000	-400	0.0	-71,400	-4.0
Mining	160,300	159,900	160,700	400	0.3	-400	-0.2
Construction	559,600	559,700	568,100	-100	0.0	-8,500	-1.5
Manufacturing	1,012,700	1,013,400	1,075,200	-700	-0.1	-62,500	-5.8
Durable Goods	612,800	613,400	659,100	-600	-0.1	-46,300	-7.0
Nondurable Goods	399,900	400,000	416,100	-100	0.0	-16,200	-3.9
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,728,400	7,722,700	7,746,500	5,700	0.1	-18,100	-0.2
Transportation, Comm., Utilities	578,000	576,700	602,200	1,300	0.2	-24,200	-4.0
Trade	2,253,600	2,254,300	2,277,900	-700	0.0	-24,300	-1.1
Wholesale Trade	524,100	524,800	536,600	-700	-0.1	-12,500	-2.3
Retail Trade	1,729,500	1,729,500	1,741,300	0	0.0	-11,800	-0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	531,200	530,600	533,100	600	0.1	-1,900	-0.4
Services	2,752,900	2,748,300	2,757,900	4,600	0.2	-5,000	-0.2
Government	1,612,700	1,612,800	1,575,400	-100	0.0	37,300	2.4

Note: The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers.

*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision.

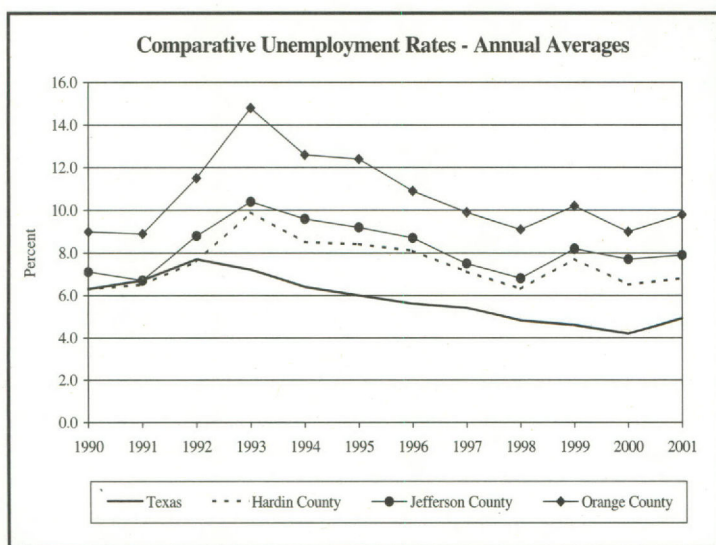
⁺All elements of seasonality are factored out to achieve an estimate which reflects the basic underlying trend.

Wholesale Trade estimates are probability-based. (See text box on page 9 for more information)

Study of the Unemployed in Southeast Texas

by Jim Van Geffen

The Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board (WDA) wanted to analyze the characteristics of the unemployed persons in their three-county area (Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties). Some jobs were apparently going unfilled while the area's unemployment rate was relatively high among the metropolitan areas in Texas. For example, the 2001 annual average unemployment rate for the area was 8.2%, which tied for the third-highest MSA unemployment rate, and it was the only non-Mexico border MSA to make the top four.



This study attempts to show the common characteristics of the unemployed in the local area. Although the study was requested by the Southeast Texas WDA, information presented may also have implications for employers, job seekers, economic developers, and the Texas Workforce Network.

Labor Force Trends

The Southeast Texas Community Audit was conducted in the three-county area known as the Golden Triangle. Data was analyzed for the time period covering 1990 to 2001.

The number of employed residents in the Southeast Texas WDA peaked at an annual average of 168,760 people in 1998 and has been on a decline through the end of 2001. During the past twelve years, the number of unemployed has varied between 12,000 and 21,000, with the 1993 annual average number of unemployed topping in at slightly over 21,000.

This area has a higher concentration of population age 55 and older than does Texas as a whole. The concentration of older workers in the Southeast Texas WDA may have some effects on the jobs that

unemployed workers are willing to accept. For instance, younger employed workers may be more flexible in the type of work they will accept because they lack extensive experience in any particular field.

Industrial Composition

The Southeast Texas WDA is heavily dependent on the Construction, Manufacturing, and Local Government industries to bring in dollars from outside the area to fuel the local economy. The Construction industry was the last industry of employment for nearly 38 percent of those laid off over the last two years.

Industry	Texas	% of Total*	Southeast Texas WDA	% of Total
Total	9,414,353	100.0%	157,369	100.0%
Agriculture	119,699	1.3%	927	0.6%
Mining	154,306	1.6%	908	0.6%
Construction	561,404	6.0%	17,795	11.3%
Manufacturing	1,088,750	11.6%	22,981	14.6%
Transportation & Public Util.	593,445	6.3%	7,734	4.9%
Trade	2,302,006	24.5%	36,682	23.3%
Fin., Insurance, & Real Est.	512,505	5.4%	5,052	3.2%
Services	2,516,757	26.7%	38,673	24.6%
State Government	322,567	3.4%	5,102	3.2%
Local Government	1,064,999	11.3%	18,789	11.9%
Federal Government	177,915	1.9%	2,726	1.7%

It appears major structural shifts have taken place in the area's economy. As this occurred, workers were displaced, and forced to seek employment in a different industry. This caused a real problem for the job seeker that did not have skills that were easily transferable from one industry to another.

Only two industries in Southeast Texas—Agriculture and Manufacturing—had an average weekly wage above the statewide average. Each of these industries suffered substantial employment declines from 1990 to 2000.

One of the contributing factors to the decline in employment has been a number of layoffs. The hardest hit industry was Construction with 21 of nearly 40 layoffs in the area during the past two years. These confirmed layoffs affected over 3,100 individuals. The second largest number of layoffs came from the Manufacturing industry with nine layoffs and over 2,000 separations. With the Construction and Manufacturing industries comprising over 17 percent of the industrial base, these layoffs have far reaching impacts. While these are not the largest industries, they have been two of the highest paying industries.

Occupational Analysis

Any analysis of a local economy is not complete by looking only at the industrial side. To have the complete picture, one needs to look at the

Continued on page 4

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occupational distribution of jobs as well. A person's occupation is often how they describe their job, rather than just the skill sets involved in their work. In the Southeast Texas WDA, the top ten fastest growing occupations (in terms of percentage growth) include Systems Analysts, Correctional Officers, Special Education Teachers, and Police Patrol Officers. An examination of Texas Workforce Commission administrative data for jobseekers showed that the top six most sought after occupations were Cashier, Administrative Clerk, General Office Clerk, Laborer (warehouse worker), Construction Worker, and Welder.

One sign of the local labor market flux is the apparent mismatch between desired jobs and available jobs. Of the most sought after occupations, six of them (Cooks - both Fast Food and Restaurants, Welders, Construction Workers, Heavy Truck Drivers, and Cashiers) were also found among the occupations that were projected to be growing the fastest within the area.

Within the Golden Triangle, the job of a Cashier was the single most desired occupation and was listed by the greatest number of applicants as their top priority. However, that occupation was the 12th lowest-paying occupation with an average salary of \$6.69 per hour. Of over 45,700 registered applicants, nearly 1,600 listed Cashier as their last occupation. The second most listed occupation was Laborer (1,029), followed by Cook (758), Welder (714), and Helper (591).

Each Workforce Development Board develops a targeted occupation list that is used for job training. The majority of the Southeast Texas Board's targeted occupations, 28 of 45 jobs (nearly 60 percent), require only some form of on-the-job training. There is a match between the education level the job seekers possess and the training required for the targeted occupations. Among the insured unemployed, 53 percent of them possessed at least a high school diploma or a GED.

Job Seeker Concerns

One of the main concerns of job seekers is wages. The average desired wage by the insured unemployed was \$9.65. The median desired wage was \$8.00. When the job seekers were looking for full-time employment they were expecting \$9.63 per hour, while part-time applicants were expecting only \$6.64 per hour.

According to the study, the three main things employees desire are to be treated fairly, to have employers operate out of care and concern for them, and to be trusted to do their job. Employees are more inclined to stay with an employer, even for lower wages, if job satisfaction (as measured by the three most common intangible benefits) is high. This is not necessarily the case with job seekers that are unemployed. While these other qualities are also important, money becomes their bottom line.

After interviewing several unemployed job seekers in the area, a few common themes were found. The first was pay based. Unemployed individuals are more willing to work for less pay if they are able to

secure a job, and if certain other intangible factors are satisfied. The inclusion of other benefits, both tangible and intangible, would help attract workers to certain jobs. Most of them believe that \$9.00 an hour is a livable wage, however, that figure falls to \$8.00 when benefits are offered.

A second theme from the job seekers was a belief that transportation and childcare issues had an impact on whether or not they could find suitable employment. Many of the unemployed job seekers said they lacked transportation (reliable or otherwise) to commute from their place of residence to where the available jobs were. Others also commented that childcare was generally only available during normal first-shift hours.

Conclusion

The Southeast Texas WDA is experiencing some structural changes in employment and the shift in job opportunities among industries is causing some workers to re-evaluate their work options. Workers are concerned about issues such as pay, transportation, and childcare. However, employees may require assistance in moving from working in one industry to working in another industry, a move that may make their current job skills obsolete.

Nearly 40 percent of the insured unemployed have been out of work for over 15 weeks. This is slightly higher than the 35 percent statewide who have been unemployed for over 15 weeks. Most of the individuals, 38 percent, come from the Construction industry, the Services industry was second.

Most of the unemployed (39 percent) were from the construction crafts: Welders, Carpenters, and Pipe Fitters. Skill sets that are not readily transferable to telemarketing or other services or retail trade occupations. The second highest unemployed occupation was service occupations like Waiters and Waitresses, Security Guards, and Cosmetologists.

The area's industrial mix has long been dominated by the Construction and Manufacturing industries. While these industries still play an important role, their dominance has diminished. In fact, of the two, only the Construction industry has continued to grow, with the Manufacturing industry declining by over eight percent in the last ten years. These two industries have also been the hardest hit industries in terms of mass layoffs. The Construction industry has seen 21 layoffs that have impacted 3,130 individuals during the survey period. In addition, the Manufacturing industry experienced nine layoff events with over 2,040 separations. Many people employed in construction jobs find themselves unemployed upon the completion of a contract. In fact, according to data from the Mass Layoff Statistics Program, the number-one cited reason for layoffs was contract completion. The cyclical nature of the construction industry may be one contributing factor to the higher unemployment rate in the region.

Highlights of Local Area Unemployment Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The Texas actual series unemployment rate held steady at 5.6 percent in April. This was the highest April unemployment rate recorded for Texas since 1995 when it also registered 5.6 percent. Historically, April's unemployment rate declines by two-tenths of a percentage point from March levels. The U.S. unemployment rate decreased by four-tenths of a percentage point from March's 6.1 percent to 5.7 percent in April. This was the fifth straight month that the state rate has been lower than the national rate.

✚ The number of employed Texans grew by 22,900 from 9,980,200 in March to 10,003,100 in April. April's gain was only the second increase in employment since October 2001. On average, April experiences a 35,600 increase in employment from March. April's level of employment was the highest ever recorded for the month and it was the first time employment exceeded the 10 million mark since October of last year.

✚ The number of unemployed Texans inched upward by 400 over the month from 596,700 in March to 597,100 in April. Since 1978, unemployment in April has, on average, decreased by 19,400. April's unemployment level was the highest reported for the month since 1993 and is 172,200 higher than last April's level of 424,800.

✚ The number of claims for unemployment benefits without earnings shrank by 14,200 over the month, from 179,500 in March to 165,300 in April. Though this was the third straight month of declines, claims levels are 56,000 higher than last April's level of 109,300.

NOTE:

As of April 2002, we have converted all claims data from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Under this new system, all major industries have been replaced by NAICS "super sectors". To see how the SIC industries are incorporated into the NAICS super sectors follow this link to our web site: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/lmi/naics/naicshome.html> View an article about the conversion at: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/lmi/publications/tlmr/tlmr0012art.pdf> All of the super sectors recorded decreases in claims for unemployment benefits over the month. Manufacturing had greatest over-the-month decrease in claims of 3,100.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas Ranked by Unemployment Rate April 2002

1	Bryan-College Station	1.6
2	Lubbock	2.5
3	Amarillo	3.1
4	San Angelo	3.3
5	Wichita Falls	3.7
6	Abilene	3.8
7	Tyler	3.9
8	Waco	4.4
9	San Antonio	4.5
10 (tie)	Killeen-Temple	4.7
	Texarkana	4.7
12	Victoria	4.8
13	Houston	5.1
14	Odessa-Midland	5.2
15	Austin-San Marcos	5.3
16	Corpus Christi	5.4
17	Fort Worth-Arlington	5.5
	Texas	5.6
18	Longview-Marshall	6.0
19	Galveston-Texas City	6.2
20	Brazoria	6.3
21	Dallas	6.5
22	Sherman-Denison	6.6
23 (tie)	Beaumont-Port Arthur	7.3
	Laredo	7.3
25	El Paso	7.8
26	Brownsville-Harlingen	8.1
27	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	11.3

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas (In Thousands)

	April 2002*				March 2002				April 2001			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
State of Texas	10,600.2	10,003.1	597.1	5.6	10,576.9	9,980.2	596.7	5.6	10,355.5	9,930.7	424.8	4.1
Abilene	56.0	53.9	2.1	3.8	55.8	53.7	2.1	3.8	57.4	55.3	2.1	3.7
Amarillo	110.7	107.2	3.5	3.1	110.4	106.8	3.6	3.2	110.8	107.7	3.1	2.8
Austin-San Marcos	764.0	723.6	40.4	5.3	764.2	724.0	40.2	5.3	747.2	726.3	20.9	2.8
Beaumont-Port Arthur	176.6	163.7	12.9	7.3	177.0	165.0	12.0	6.8	175.9	162.5	13.4	7.6
Brazoria	110.0	103.0	7.0	6.3	109.7	103.2	6.5	5.9	104.9	99.4	5.5	5.3
Brownsville-Harlingen	132.6	121.8	10.8	8.1	135.9	122.5	13.4	9.9	131.5	121.3	10.2	7.8
Bryan-College Station	79.3	78.0	1.3	1.6	79.4	78.1	1.3	1.6	78.7	77.5	1.2	1.5
Corpus Christi	175.0	165.5	9.5	5.4	174.1	165.1	9.0	5.2	174.0	164.4	9.6	5.5
Dallas	2,034.2	1,902.5	131.7	6.5	2,033.1	1,903.2	129.9	6.4	1,985.0	1,913.8	71.2	3.6
El Paso	280.7	258.9	21.8	7.8	281.2	258.8	22.4	7.9	280.4	258.7	21.7	7.7
Fort Worth-Arlington	949.9	898.0	51.9	5.5	943.3	891.6	51.7	5.5	924.2	893.1	31.1	3.4
Galveston-Texas City	119.0	111.6	7.4	6.2	118.7	111.7	7.0	5.9	116.9	111.1	5.8	4.9
Houston	2,227.0	2,113.0	114.0	5.1	2,218.7	2,108.0	110.7	5.0	2,171.1	2,092.2	78.9	3.6
Killeen-Temple	118.3	112.7	5.6	4.7	118.3	112.6	5.7	4.8	115.5	111.0	4.5	3.9
Laredo	77.0	71.4	5.6	7.3	76.9	71.3	5.6	7.2	74.5	69.3	5.2	6.9
Longview-Marshall	103.2	97.0	6.2	6.0	102.8	96.7	6.1	5.9	102.0	97.3	4.7	4.6
Lubbock	129.6	126.4	3.2	2.5	128.8	125.0	3.8	3.0	126.6	123.8	2.8	2.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	217.6	192.9	24.7	11.3	216.0	189.8	26.2	12.1	209.4	185.0	24.4	11.7
Odessa-Midland	121.6	115.2	6.4	5.2	120.5	114.4	6.1	5.1	117.6	113.0	4.6	3.9
San Angelo	50.8	49.1	1.7	3.3	50.5	48.9	1.6	3.1	49.6	48.4	1.2	2.4
San Antonio	798.3	762.7	35.6	4.5	797.1	760.8	36.3	4.6	776.2	750.5	25.7	3.3
Sherman-Denison	50.1	46.8	3.3	6.6	49.9	46.5	3.4	6.8	49.7	47.7	2.0	4.0
Texarkana	55.8	53.2	2.6	4.7	55.6	53.0	2.6	4.7	55.2	52.9	2.3	4.2
Tyler	93.0	89.4	3.6	3.9	93.2	89.5	3.7	4.0	90.6	87.7	2.9	3.2
Victoria	44.4	42.3	2.1	4.8	44.3	42.3	2.0	4.6	43.7	42.2	1.5	3.4
Waco	102.2	97.7	4.5	4.4	102.0	97.6	4.4	4.3	100.5	97.0	3.5	3.5
Wichita Falls	63.9	61.5	2.4	3.7	63.6	61.3	2.3	3.7	63.0	61.2	1.8	2.8

*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Civilian Labor Force (C.L.F.) includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family, domestics in private households, agricultural workers, workers involved in labor disputes and the unemployed, all by place of residence. Employment and Unemployment data are first rounded then added together to derive the rounded CLF total. Because of this rounding technique, this rounded total of the CLF may not agree with a rounding of the CLF total itself. Percent Unemployed is based upon unrounded Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment numbers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Employment and Unemployment Estimates for Texas Counties - April 2002

County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Anderson	18,714	915	4.7	Donley	1,607	33	2.0	Kaufman	32,898	2,844	8.0	Real	1,256	52	4.0
Andrews	4,801	273	5.4	Duval	4,892	431	8.1	Kendall	15,969	419	2.6	Red River	4,906	413	7.8
Angelina	34,091	2,358	6.5	Eastland	9,227	378	3.9	Kenedy	221	11	4.7	Reeves	6,356	506	7.4
Aransas	9,810	644	6.2	Ector	56,433	3,716	6.2	Kent	389	9	2.3	Refugio	2,381	109	4.4
Archer	3,957	104	2.6	Edwards	825	37	4.3	Kerr	17,626	461	2.5	Roberts	390	10	2.5
Armstrong	1,164	13	1.1	Ellis	55,378	3,046	5.2	Kimble	2,271	48	2.1	Robertson	6,265	306	4.7
Atascosa	18,362	856	4.5	El Paso	258,935	21,754	7.8	King	162	4	2.4	Rockwall	22,736	1,317	5.5
Austin	13,721	452	3.2	Erath	16,903	454	2.6	Kinney	1,046	122	10.4	Runnels	4,634	151	3.2
Bailey	3,275	155	4.5	Falls	7,433	271	3.5	Kleberg	12,079	757	5.9	Rusk	20,903	1,050	4.8
Bandera	7,358	262	3.4	Fannin	12,263	856	6.5	Knox	1,774	81	4.4	Sabine	3,696	428	10.4
Bastrop	28,695	1,680	5.5	Fayette	11,325	288	2.5	Lamar	20,257	1,417	6.5	San Augustine	2,947	190	6.1
Baylor	1,584	81	4.9	Fisher	1,889	68	3.5	Lamb	6,052	395	6.1	San Jacinto	9,085	393	4.1
Bee	9,880	491	4.7	Floyd	2,643	260	9.0	Lampasas	9,796	360	3.5	San Patricio	28,304	1,666	5.6
Bell	91,883	4,464	4.6	Foard	704	24	3.3	La Salle	2,456	207	7.8	San Saba	2,569	65	2.5
Bexar	664,315	31,830	4.6	Fort Bend	187,439	7,715	4.0	Lavaca	8,362	216	2.5	Schleicher	1,491	59	3.8
Blanco	3,656	131	3.5	Franklin	4,593	143	3.0	Lee	6,313	286	4.3	Scurry	6,740	317	4.5
Borden	412	7	1.7	Freestone	8,134	413	4.8	Leon	6,628	365	5.2	Shackelford	1,320	35	2.6
Bosque	6,191	362	5.5	Frio	5,221	362	6.5	Liberty	28,085	2,283	7.5	Shelby	8,263	655	7.3
Bowie	36,430	1,799	4.7	Gaines	6,216	247	3.8	Limestone	9,776	347	3.4	Sherman	1,911	26	1.3
Brazoria	102,986	6,977	6.3	Galveston	111,626	7,427	6.2	Lipscomb	1,458	31	2.1	Smith	89,354	3,637	3.9
Brazos	78,021	1,279	1.6	Garza	2,574	96	3.6	Live Oak	4,483	105	2.3	Somervell	2,053	138	6.3
Brewster	5,786	138	2.3	Gillespie	10,079	207	2.0	Llano	5,337	223	4.0	Starr	17,404	4,316	19.9
Briscoe	776	22	2.8	Glasscock	690	17	2.4	Loving	51	2	3.8	Stephens	3,600	194	5.1
Brooks	3,525	234	6.2	Goliad	2,662	103	3.7	Lubbock	126,375	3,229	2.5	Sterling	583	22	3.6
Brown	16,803	736	4.2	Gonzales	7,492	323	4.1	Lynn	2,363	109	4.4	Stonewall	599	24	3.9
Burleson	7,028	301	4.1	Gray	8,352	520	5.9	Mc Culloch	3,311	142	4.1	Sutton	2,058	63	3.0
Burnet	14,881	718	4.6	Grayson	46,777	3,288	6.6	Mc Lennan	97,661	4,475	4.4	Swisher	3,272	127	3.7
Caldwell	16,353	914	5.3	Gregg	55,016	3,652	6.2	Mc Mullen	294	7	2.3	Tarrant	775,955	45,498	5.5
Calhoun	8,712	847	8.9	Grimes	8,032	541	6.3	Madison	4,284	122	2.8	Taylor	53,914	2,107	3.8
Callahan	6,335	203	3.1	Guadalupe	43,139	1,565	3.5	Marion	3,131	288	8.4	Terrell	655	9	1.4
Cameron	121,819	10,806	8.1	Hale	15,958	788	4.7	Martin	1,998	92	4.4	Terry	5,035	299	5.6
Camp	5,290	317	5.7	Hall	1,811	65	3.5	Mason	1,454	44	2.9	Throckmorton	690	17	2.4
Carson	3,080	122	3.8	Hamilton	4,386	114	2.5	Matagorda	14,438	1,633	10.2	Titus	12,535	498	3.8
Cass	13,887	1,004	6.7	Hansford	2,408	44	1.8	Maverick	14,101	4,888	25.7	Tom Green	49,097	1,650	3.3
Castro	3,114	140	4.3	Hardeman	1,743	105	5.7	Medina	14,792	703	4.5	Travis	472,499	27,342	5.5
Chambers	11,572	489	4.1	Hardin	21,458	1,591	6.9	Menard	906	39	4.1	Trinity	5,074	266	5.0
Cherokee	18,967	812	4.1	Harris	1,730,322	96,768	5.3	Midland	58,790	2,647	4.3	Tyler	6,142	554	8.3
Childress	2,939	116	3.8	Harrison	25,874	1,711	6.2	Milam	9,147	620	6.3	Upshur	16,070	861	5.1
Clay	5,448	151	2.7	Hartley	2,942	30	1.0	Mills	2,420	44	1.8	Upton	1,477	74	4.8
Cochran	1,085	96	8.1	Haskell	3,277	103	3.0	Mitchell	3,219	155	4.6	Uvalde	10,320	762	6.9
Coke	1,429	31	2.1	Hays	53,803	2,419	4.3	Montague	6,360	367	5.5	Val Verde	17,368	1,369	7.3
Coleman	2,855	238	7.7	Hemphill	1,836	37	2.0	Montgomery	143,014	6,070	4.1	Van Zandt	20,167	1,048	4.9
Collin	280,995	19,091	6.4	Henderson	30,003	1,445	4.6	Moore	9,118	290	3.1	Victoria	42,264	2,122	4.8
Collingsworth	1,681	15	0.9	Hidalgo	192,930	24,653	11.3	Morris	5,924	576	8.9	Walker	22,213	537	2.4
Colorado	7,842	323	4.0	Hill	14,622	836	5.4	Motley	586	9	1.5	Waller	12,556	693	5.2
Comal	39,641	1,614	3.9	Hockley	10,997	456	4.0	Nacogdoches	25,826	904	3.4	Ward	3,530	262	6.9
Comanche	6,250	170	2.6	Hood	17,238	896	4.9	Navarro	20,268	1,284	6.0	Washington	14,674	310	2.1
Concho	1,507	35	2.3	Hopkins	13,691	627	4.4	Newton	4,851	607	11.1	Webb	71,403	5,584	7.3
Cooke	17,142	954	5.3	Houston	9,971	356	3.4	Nolan	6,406	295	4.4	Wharton	18,474	1,059	5.4
Coryell	20,861	1,131	5.1	Howard	13,805	532	3.7	Nueces	137,175	7,850	5.4	Wheeler	2,554	72	2.7
Cottle	935	44	4.5	Hudspeth	1,431	114	7.4	Ochiltree	4,660	144	3.0	Wichita	57,546	2,273	3.8
Crane	1,292	220	14.6	Hunt	35,800	2,126	5.6	Oldham	1,159	22	1.9	Wilbarger	7,436	216	2.8
Crockett	1,674	72	4.1	Hutchinson	8,653	681	7.3	Orange	36,817	3,478	8.6	Willacy	5,210	1,072	17.1
Crosby	2,778	170	5.8	Irion	798	11	1.4	Palo Pinto	11,419	723	6.0	Williamson	152,278	8,004	5.0
Culberson	962	85	8.1	Jack	3,004	90	2.9	Panola	7,439	668	8.2	Wilson	15,640	572	3.5
Dallam	3,529	77	2.0	Jackson	8,007	343	4.1	Parker	42,867	1,921	4.3	Winkler	2,589	231	8.2
Dallas	1,192,468	89,751	7.1	Jasper	12,463	1,382	10.0	Parmer	4,049	114	2.7	Wise	25,007	1,085	4.2
Dawson	5,851	360	5.8	Jeff Davis	1,369	28	2.0	Pecos	5,664	293	4.9	Wood	13,715	744	5.1
Deaf Smith	6,821	443	6.1	Jefferson	105,387	7,801	6.9	Polk	13,745	851	5.8	Yoakum	2,850	157	5.2
Delta	2,492	109	4.2	Jim Hogg	2,001	105	5.0	Potter	51,269	2,778	5.1	Young	7,613	347	4.4
Denton	252,252	12,095	4.6	Jim Wells	17,409	1,265	6.8	Presidio	2,662	589	18.1	Zapata	4,428	323	6.8
De Witt	8,329	413	4.7	Johnson	61,984	3,596	5.5	Rains	3,596	183	4.8	Zavala	3,624	766	17.4
Dickens	704	22	3.0	Jones	8,804	275	3.0	Randall	55,938	682	1.2				
Dimmit	3,389	397	10.5	Karnes	5,798	240	4.0	Reagan	1,590	52	3.2				

Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. To obtain the civilian labor force, add total employment to total unemployment. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

				Mar '02 to Apr '02		Apr '01 to Apr '02	
	Apr '02	Mar '02	Apr '01	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
TOTAL NONAG. W & S EMPLOYMENT	9,461,600	9,439,900	9,548,800	21,700	0.2	-87,200	-0.9
GOODS PRODUCING	1,725,400	1,726,600	1,798,300	-1,200	-0.1	-72,900	-4.1
Mining	159,300	159,400	159,900	-100	-0.1	-600	-0.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	150,300	150,400	150,800	-100	-0.1	-500	-0.3
Construction	557,100	556,500	566,900	600	0.1	-9,800	-1.7
Manufacturing	1,009,000	1,010,700	1,071,500	-1,700	-0.2	-62,500	-5.8
Durable Goods	611,500	612,300	657,400	-800	-0.1	-45,900	-7.0
Lumber & Wood Products	44,700	44,800	44,900	-100	-0.2	-200	-0.4
Lumber Camps, Sawmills, Planing Mills	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	0.0	0	0.0
Furniture & Fixtures	19,800	19,700	21,300	100	0.5	-1,500	-7.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	46,000	45,900	46,800	100	0.2	-800	-1.7
Concrete, Gypsum, & Plaster Products	24,500	24,400	24,500	100	0.4	0	0.0
Primary Metal Industries	29,100	29,200	32,300	-100	-0.3	-3,200	-9.9
Fabricated Metal Industries	99,000	99,200	106,400	-200	-0.2	-7,400	-7.0
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	52,900	52,800	56,700	100	0.2	-3,800	-6.7
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	130,000	129,800	138,900	200	0.2	-8,900	-6.4
Oil & Gas Field Machinery	30,800	30,900	29,700	-100	-0.3	1,100	3.7
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	117,500	117,900	136,400	-400	-0.3	-18,900	-13.9
Transportation Equipment	72,200	72,700	75,600	-500	-0.7	-3,400	-4.5
Aircraft & Parts	38,000	38,500	39,600	-500	-1.3	-1,600	-4.0
Instruments & Related Products	34,100	34,000	34,900	100	0.3	-800	-2.3
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19,100	19,100	19,900	0	0.0	-800	-4.0
Nondurable Goods	397,500	398,400	414,100	-900	-0.2	-16,600	-4.0
Food & Kindred Products	97,300	97,300	98,000	0	0.0	-700	-0.7
Meat Products	35,500	35,600	35,500	-100	-0.3	0	0.0
Dairy Products	5,200	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bakery Products	9,300	9,300	8,900	0	0.0	400	4.5
Malt Beverages	1,800	1,700	1,800	100	5.9	0	0.0
Textile Mill Products	3,900	4,000	4,400	-100	-2.5	-500	-11.4
Apparel & Other Finished Textile Products	31,800	32,300	38,300	-500	-1.5	-6,500	-17.0
Paper & Allied Products	26,700	26,700	27,700	0	0.0	-1,000	-3.6
Printing & Publishing	73,300	73,400	75,900	-100	-0.1	-2,600	-3.4
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, & Miscellaneous	34,400	34,400	35,900	0	0.0	-1,500	-4.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	81,600	81,600	83,600	0	0.0	-2,000	-2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	24,700	24,700	24,600	0	0.0	100	0.4
Petroleum Refining	21,000	21,100	21,100	-100	-0.5	-100	-0.5
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	53,200	53,200	56,200	0	0.0	-3,000	-5.3
Leather & Leather Products	5,000	5,100	5,400	-100	-2.0	-400	-7.4
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,736,200	7,713,300	7,750,500	22,900	0.3	-14,300	-0.2
Transportation, Communications, Utilities	575,100	574,400	598,400	700	0.1	-23,300	-3.9
Transportation	354,200	353,000	367,700	1,200	0.3	-13,500	-3.7
Railroad Transportation	15,800	15,800	16,100	0	0.0	-300	-1.9
Transportation by Air	115,700	115,000	124,000	700	0.6	-8,300	-6.7
Communications	146,000	146,600	154,500	-600	-0.4	-8,500	-5.5
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	74,900	74,800	76,200	100	0.1	-1,300	-1.7
Electric Services	35,900	35,900	34,500	0	0.0	1,400	4.1
Gas Production & Distribution	21,600	21,600	25,200	0	0.0	-3,600	-14.3
Trade	2,242,500	2,233,900	2,264,300	8,600	0.4	-21,800	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	523,800	523,900	536,000	-100	0.0	-12,200	-2.3
Retail Trade	1,718,700	1,710,000	1,728,300	8,700	0.5	-9,600	-0.6
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	69,500	68,100	68,700	1,400	2.1	800	1.2
General Merchandise Stores	217,400	216,400	221,800	1,000	0.5	-4,400	-2.0
Food Stores	249,100	248,100	255,500	1,000	0.4	-6,400	-2.5
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	178,900	178,000	177,400	900	0.5	1,500	0.8
Apparel & Accessory Stores	80,600	80,400	85,300	200	0.2	-4,700	-5.5
Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores	82,200	83,200	83,500	-1,000	-1.2	-1,300	-1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	659,600	653,400	647,100	6,200	0.9	12,500	1.9
Other Retail Trade	181,400	182,400	189,000	-1,000	-0.5	-7,600	-4.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	529,200	528,200	531,000	1,000	0.2	-1,800	-0.3
Depository Institutions including Banks	132,000	131,800	131,700	200	0.2	300	0.2
Insurance Carriers, Agents, Brokers, & Service	165,300	164,600	165,300	700	0.4	0	0.0
Other Finance Insurance & Real Estate	231,900	231,800	234,000	100	0.0	-2,100	-0.9
Services	2,751,500	2,739,900	2,754,900	12,500	0.5	-3,400	-0.1
Hotel & Other Lodging Places	96,200	94,400	97,000	1,800	1.9	-800	-0.8
Personal Services	99,500	99,500	99,400	0	0.0	100	0.1
Business Services	673,300	673,300	711,500	0	0.0	-38,200	-5.4
Auto Repair Services	96,100	95,900	96,800	200	0.2	-700	-0.7
Miscellaneous Repair Services	34,100	33,900	34,700	200	0.6	-600	-1.7
Amusement & Recreation, including Motion Pictures	120,400	115,800	121,800	4,600	4.0	-1,400	-1.1
Health Services	731,500	731,200	706,000	300	0.0	25,500	3.6
Legal Services	69,400	69,400	70,100	0	0.0	-700	-1.0
Educational Services	127,700	126,900	124,000	800	0.6	3,700	3.0
Social Services	207,400	206,800	200,700	600	0.3	6,700	3.3
Membership Organizations	144,600	144,200	144,400	400	0.3	200	0.1
Engineering & Management Services	270,200	269,600	271,100	600	0.2	-900	-0.3
Agricultural Services	62,500	58,900	61,200	3,600	6.1	1,300	2.1
Government	1,637,900	1,637,800	1,601,900	100	0.0	36,000	2.2
Federal	180,800	180,100	177,400	700	0.4	3,400	1.9
State	344,900	345,100	338,100	-200	-0.1	6,800	2.0
Local	1,112,200	1,112,600	1,086,400	-400	0.0	25,800	2.4

*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Wholesale Trade estimates are probability-based. (See text box on page 9 for more information)

"ASK THE EXPERT"**What is the Impact of Immigration on the Texas Labor Force?***by José A. Pagán, Ph.D.*

According to data from the January 2002 Current Population Survey, immigrants represent about 19.9% of the Texas population. About 57.8% of immigrants residing in Texas are originally from Mexico followed by 18.1% from Asia, 9.3% from Latin America and 7.4% from Europe.

Immigrants have relatively low employment rates compared to non-immigrants (see Table 1). They also have lower educational levels than non-immigrants. For example, 66.3% of Mexican immigrants and 53.6% of those originating from other Latin American countries have not completed high school compared to 20.4% of non-immigrants. In contrast, only 9.6% of Asian immigrants have not completed a high school degree.

Only 7.0% of Mexican immigrants have a bachelors or a graduate degree, compared to 60.1% of Asian immigrants and 23.1% of non-immigrants. Thus, the educational gap between immigrants and non-immigrants is considerable, particularly for immigrants from Mexico and Latin America. This has a detrimental impact on their ability to enter the Texas labor force and on their potential earnings.

Immigrants contribute to the Texas economy by providing their labor services to employers. Businesses benefit from immigration because they gain access to a larger labor pool and this allows them to keep costs down. Immigrants who are entrepreneurs also bring in human and financial capital that generates jobs in the state. However, immigrants could potentially have a detrimental effect on the employment opportunities and earnings of non-immigrants, particularly in areas of the state with relatively high levels of immigration, and in areas in which immigrants have similar skills to non-immigrants.

Immigration can also increase the demand for some non-immigrant workers if they happen to be complements with each other. In this case, high levels of immigration reduce labor costs and increase the demand for the non-immigrant complementary labor. Lastly, immigrants also buy goods and services in the communities where they reside and work and this in turn increases the demand for all the goods and services that they normally purchase.

What Role Do Seasonal/Migrant Workers Play on the Texas Economy?

According to the Migrant Health Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a seasonal farmworker is defined as an individual whose principal employment is in agriculture on a seasonal basis and has been employed within the last 24 months. A migrant

farmworker is someone who is a seasonal farmworker but, for employment purposes, they temporarily reside away from their home.

Typically, migrant workers are employed in orchard agriculture, packing, sorting and horticulture. During the summer months, Texas migrants engage in work both in and out of state, and many of them are also employed in the agricultural sector during the winter months.

A September 2000 enumeration study conducted for the Health Resources and Services Administration, reports that there are 196,704 migrant/seasonal farmworkers in Texas (131,638 migrants and 65,066 seasonal farmworkers). Mostly they reside in the western and southern counties of the state. Cameron and Hidalgo counties, located in the Rio Grande Valley, have by far the largest share of migrant/seasonal workers. There are 40,500 migrant/seasonal farmworkers in Hidalgo county and 9,219 in Cameron county.

For most migrant/seasonal workers, earnings are the major source of family income (which includes the combined income of all family members, business and rental income, interest, social security payments and all other income sources). Yet, the family income of farm workers is much lower than that of wage/salary workers. Roughly half of all farmworkers have a family income of less than \$20,000 per year while about only a quarter of all wage/salary workers earn less than \$20,000. A November 2000 report from the USDA Economic Research Service presents a profile of farmworkers and reports that they earned median weekly earnings of \$260, which is about 57 percent of the earnings of wage/salary workers.

Access to seasonal farm labor helps employers keep costs down by allowing them to utilize workers according to their demand needs. For example, the harvesting season can last from 26 days for broccoli to 113 days for lemons. Seasonal/migrant workers are mostly paid piece-rate wages although many of them are also paid an hourly wage. For

Have a question for us?

If you have a question regarding labor markets, the economy, or anything related, please let us hear from you. All questions will be answered, with selected questions being featured in this section of the *Texas Labor Market Review*. Depending on the topic, questions will be answered by LMI staff or by guest "experts" from academia or government who have graciously volunteered their expertise.

Table 1: Texas Labor Market Statistics by National Origin, January 2002

	Mexico	Latin America	Asia	Europe	Other	U.S. Born	All
Employed	1,048,824	171,294	309,840	127,559	115,596	7,721,774	9,494,887
Unemployed	53,486	9,823	24,640	11,179	7,032	493,600	599,760
Out of the Labor Force	454,457	70,387	153,240	60,455	76,224	2,617,281	3,432,044
Total	1,556,767	251,504	487,720	199,193	198,852	10,832,655	13,526,691
Unemployment Rate	4.85%	5.42%	7.37%	8.06%	5.73%	6.01%	5.94%
Employment Rate	67.37%	68.11%	63.53%	64.04%	58.13%	71.28%	70.19%

Source: Author's own estimates from the Current Population Survey, January 2002.

Note: Estimates based on working age population (ages 16 to 64).

example, employers usually pay piece-rates whenever they want to keep labor costs fairly constant or whenever they find it difficult to monitor workers. On the other hand, an employer will pay hourly wages in vegetable field packing or pruning, because they can readily assess the level of work.

[I would like to thank Luis T. Ramos for his excellent research assistance]

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“HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE”

Sprinkler Head Plant Construction Planned

LUBBOCK, Tex. (Lubbock Avalanche—Journal)—A 250,000-square-foot manufacturing facility will be built soon according to Tyco International Ltd. of Exeter, New Hampshire. The company plans to build the world's largest automatic fire sprinkler head plant near Lubbock International Airport. The plant is expected to create at least 300 jobs according to a company spokesman. Tyco is a diversified manufacturing and services company.

Kroger to Purchase Albertson Stores

CINCINNATI, OH (Kroger.com)—The Kroger Co. has announced it has reached an agreement to purchase 16 Albertson's supermarkets and two vacant parcels of land located primarily in the Houston area. Both companies expect to complete the transaction within 45 days. Financial terms were not disclosed. All of the stores will become part of Kroger's Southwest Division, which currently operates 190 stores in Texas and Louisiana.

Albertsons recently reported planst to pull out of the market in San Antonio, Corpus Christi, The Rio Grande Valley and Laredo areas in South Texas.

Winn-Dixie Moves Out of Texas

DALLAS, Tex. (Dallas Business Journal)—Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc., is pulling out of Texas and Oklahoma altogether, selling many of its 71 Texas grocery stores, a distribution center and a dairy plant in Fort

Worth and closing the rest. Most stores are located in North Texas reaching as far south as Waco.

Winn-Dixie is in negotiations now to sell the dairy plant and the majority of the stores. Approximately 5,300 employees will be affected.

Krispy Kreme Plans New Panhandle Store

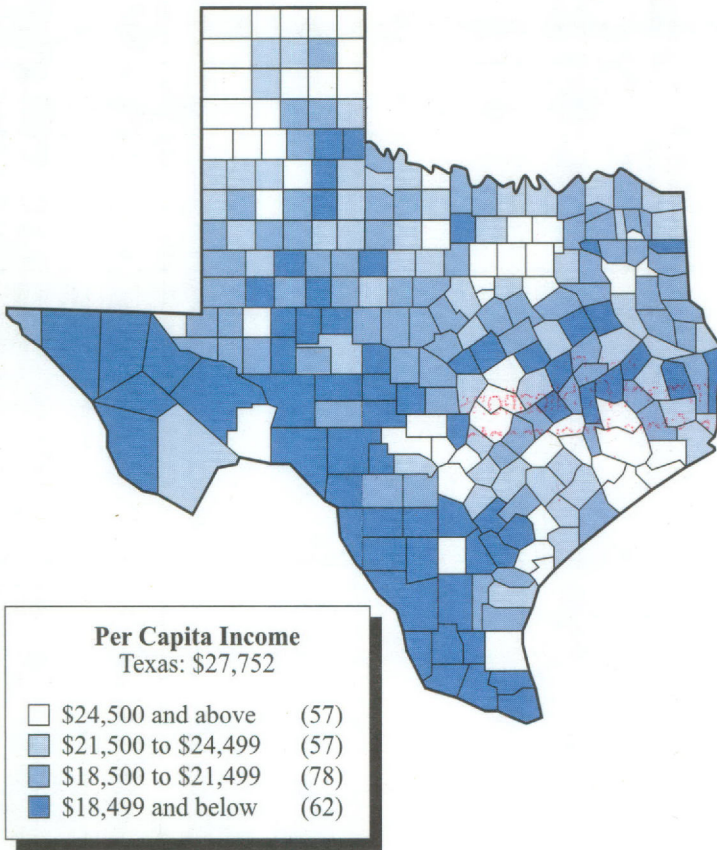
AMARILLO, Tex. (Amarillonet.com-Mark Werbney)—A 4,500-square-foot store is planned for west Amarillo to become a new Krispy Kreme facility. The store will employ 100 to 125 people and should open in September or October, according to Brent Kennedy, operations manager for Hal Smith Restaurant Group. The company currently operates Krispy Kreme franchises in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Six New Austin Super-Retail Stores Planned

AUSTIN, Tex. (Austin American-Statesman-Shonda Novak)—Construction on a new SuperTarget with Archer Farms Market grocery will begin this summer at the northeast corner of U.S. 183 and Lakeline Mall. The store, which will be the area's first SuperTarget, will employ 500 and is expected to open in summer 2003.

A SuperTarget is planned for I-35 northeast of Parmer Lane. The Village of Bee Cave and Capital Plaza are also future Target sites. The locations of two more Target stores have not been confirmed. Target chooses to build in areas with at least 100,000 people in the immediate or surrounding community.

**Per Capita Personal Income
by County for 2000**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Development

Texas Labor Market Review
Labor Market Information



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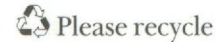
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