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JUNE 2002

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

INDICATORS

Texas Unemployment Rate

Actual Series		
May	2002	5.8%
April	2002	5.7%
May	2001	4.4%

Seasonally Adjusted

May	2002	6.2%
April	2002	6.2%
May	2001	4.6%

U.S. Unemployment Rate

Actual Series		
May	2002	5.5%
April	2002	5.7%
May	2001	4.1%

Seasonally Adjusted

May	2002	5.8%
April	2002	6.0%
May	2001	4.4%

Texas Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

Actual Series		9,480,400
OTM Change		21,100
OTY Change		-92,500

Seasonally Adjusted

Actual Series		9,459,500
OTM Change		800
OTY Change		-91,800

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Annual Change

U.S.		1.2%
Dallas-Fort Worth		2.1%
Houston-Galveston (April)		-0.4%

Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits

May	2002	104,615
April	2002	101,786
May	2001	83,045

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Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

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Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas expanded by 800 positions in May, marking five straight months of job growth statewide. This gain brought year-to-date job growth to 7,000, which is modest year-to-date growth when compared to the prior ten years. Government and Services experienced the largest employment increases for the month while Manufacturing and Construction had the biggest decreases. The annual growth rate for Total Nonagricultural Employment held steady for the fourth consecutive month at -1.0 percent.

Government posted a substantial increase in May of 3,400 jobs, which was spread throughout the *Federal, State and Local Government* sectors. Annual growth in Total Government for May was 2.5 percent, up slightly from April's rate of 2.4 percent.

The Services industry added 1,800 jobs in May, its fifth expansion in the past six months. Within Services, *Educational Services and Engineering & Management Services* saw the largest job growth, while *Personal Services*, which includes

tax preparation services, experienced the largest decline. Since January, Services has grown by 9,400 jobs.

Trade added 900 jobs in May. This was somewhat sluggish growth compared to the prior ten-year average May gain of 4,400 jobs. *Retail Trade* contributed 500 jobs, while *Wholesale Trade* added 400 jobs. Trade has lost 23,800 jobs since May 2001.

After four consecutive months of growth, Construction experienced a loss of 2,700 jobs statewide, the largest May decrease in over a decade. *Special Trade Contractors* experienced the heaviest decline. The annual growth rate fell to -1.8 percent, marking eight consecutive months of negative annual growth.

Mining employment fell by 800 jobs in May, its third decline in the last four months. Mining's annual growth rate fell to -1.5 percent in May, a rate nearly six percentage points below its January 2002 level of 4.4 percent.

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

Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary employment within the MSAs increased by 17,000 jobs in May. Trade and Services accounted for over three-fourths of the gain by adding 5,900 and 7,100 jobs respectively. This is typical of pre-summer employment trends.

The increase in Services was largely due to seasonal staffing of parks and pools, as well as major amusement parks. These increases were most notable in the Houston, Fort Worth-Arlington and San Antonio MSAs.

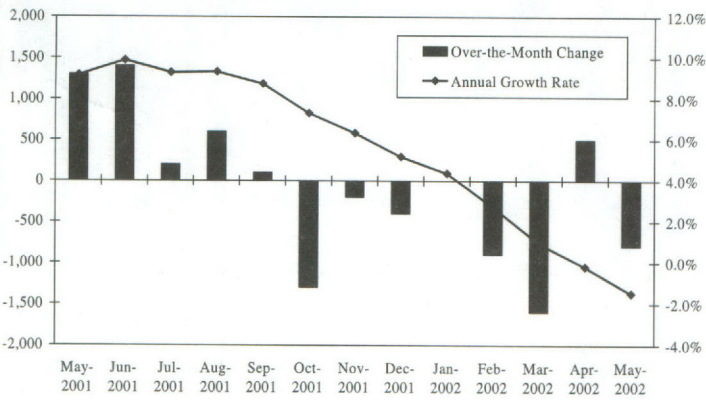
Federal Government employment throughout the MSAs experienced minimal changes with the exception of the Austin-San Marcos MSA, which lost 300 jobs over the month. Austin-San Marcos's

loss can be largely attributed to the tax season coming to a close.

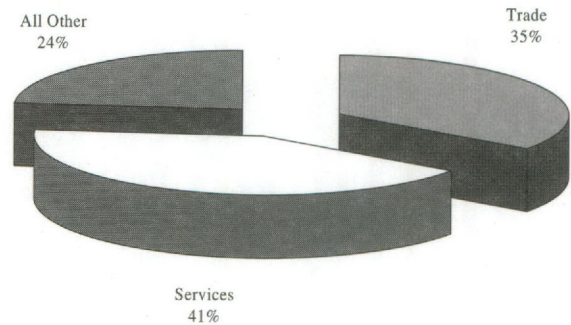
The Construction industry gained a total of 2,800 jobs throughout the MSAs. The Houston MSA led the way with an increase of 700 jobs over the month. However, growth in this industry was fairly widespread throughout the MSAs.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) gained 1,000 jobs throughout the MSAs over the month of May. The increase was driven by 300-job gains in the Fort Worth-Arlington and San Antonio MSAs. These increases represented the largest over-the-month addition this year for both MSAs within FIRE.

Hard Times Continue in the Mining Industry
Seasonally Adjusted Employment Data



Trade And Services Drive
Total MSA Nonagricultural Employment Growth For May 2002



TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

TEXAS*					UNITED STATES**			
	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
Actual								
May '02	10,644,700	10,022,700	622,000	5.8	142,253,000	134,365,000	7,888,000	5.5
Apr. '02	10,606,700	10,002,100	604,600	5.7	141,886,000	133,740,000	8,146,000	5.7
May '01	10,398,700	9,941,400	457,300	4.4	141,048,000	135,202,000	5,846,000	4.1
Seas. Adjusted								
May '02	10,702,300	10,042,800	659,500	6.2	142,769,000	134,417,000	8,351,000	5.8
Apr. '02	10,695,100	10,032,200	662,900	6.2	142,570,000	133,976,000	8,594,000	6.0
May '01	10,445,200	9,959,900	485,300	4.6	141,445,000	135,235,000	6,210,000	4.4

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	May 2002*	Apr. 2002	May 2001	Apr. '02 to May '02		May '01 to May '02	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
TOTAL NONAG. W&S EMPLOYMENT	9,459,500	9,458,700	9,551,300	800	0.0	-91,800	-1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	1,725,800	1,732,200	1,799,000	-6,400	-0.4	-73,200	-4.1
Mining	159,600	160,400	162,000	-800	-0.5	-2,400	-1.5
Construction	557,300	560,000	567,800	-2,700	-0.5	-10,500	-1.8
Manufacturing	1,008,900	1,011,800	1,069,200	-2,900	-0.3	-60,300	-5.6
Durable Goods	610,800	612,400	654,800	-1,600	-0.3	-44,000	-6.7
Nondurable Goods	398,100	399,400	414,400	-1,300	-0.3	-16,300	-3.9
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,733,700	7,726,500	7,752,300	7,200	0.1	-18,600	-0.2
Transportation, Comm., Utilities	578,100	577,200	601,400	900	0.2	-23,300	-3.9
Trade	2,253,400	2,252,500	2,277,200	900	0.0	-23,800	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	523,600	523,200	535,400	400	0.1	-11,800	-2.2
Retail Trade	1,729,800	1,729,300	1,741,800	500	0.0	-12,000	-0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	530,500	530,300	534,200	200	0.0	-3,700	-0.7
Services	2,754,400	2,752,600	2,761,000	1,800	0.1	-6,600	-0.2
Government	1,617,300	1,613,900	1,578,500	3,400	0.2	38,800	2.5

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)

Immigration After 9/11

by Edith Austin and Spencer Franklin

In the aftermath of the events of September 11th, the policies of the United States with regard to immigration have become much more prominent in our national consciousness. Never in our nation's history has it seemed more important for our government to know exactly who is entering the country every day, where they are going once they arrive, and what they are doing while they are here. As lawmakers consider proposed changes to immigration law and agencies such as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) come under review, it is useful to look at the policies that our country currently has in place governing entrance to the United States and to examine statistics from recent years that provide some information about the people who have been entering its borders.

The total population entering the United States each year from other countries may be divided into two groups: immigrants and non-immigrants. Immigrants are those people who seek to make the U.S. their place of permanent residence, while non-immigrants are those who are visiting, even if their visit may span several years, as in the case of a university student.

Immigrant Aliens

Since 1995, the number of legal immigrants to the United States each year has been limited to 675,000. This number is a "soft cap", however, which can be exceeded if the number of people meeting the admission criteria requires it. First consideration is given to those people who fall into the category of "unlimited immigrants", which is comprised of the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and returning permanent U.S. residents who have been abroad for more than a year. An immediate relative is defined as the spouse, widow or widower, minor unmarried child, or parent of an individual. As the name implies, there is no numerical limit placed on immigration by people who meet the criteria of this category.

All remaining immigration takes place in the category of "limited immigrants", which is itself divided into three sub-categories. A minimum of 226,000 visas are issued each year for "family-based" immigration, which are claimed by immigrants who are non-immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens. A minimum of 140,000 visas are issued each year for immigration related to employment, which includes (among other cases) workers with exceptional ability in their fields and professionals holding advanced degrees. Finally, a maximum of 55,000 visas are issued each year through a lottery that is designed to bring in immigrants from countries with historically low rates of emigration to the United States.

Non-Immigrant Aliens

A non-immigrant is an alien admitted to the United States for a specific purpose and a limited period of time. Although the typical non-immigrant is a tourist who visits for a relatively short period of time, there are numerous classes of non-immigrant admission, covering everything from students to ambassadors.

According to statistics from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), more than 31.4 million non-immigrant visas were issued during fiscal year 1999 - the largest number of non-immigrant admissions in U.S. history. The vast majority of non-immigrant aliens (76.7%) entered as tourists, while more than 567,000 foreign students entered the United States to pursue degrees at American colleges and universities. In addition, these students were accompanied by nearly 37,000 of their spouses and children.

Annual Number of Non-Immigrants Admitted to Texas

1999	1,716,120
1998	1,559,033
1997	data unavailable
1996	705,420

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Non-Immigrants Admitted to Texas in 1999 by Type

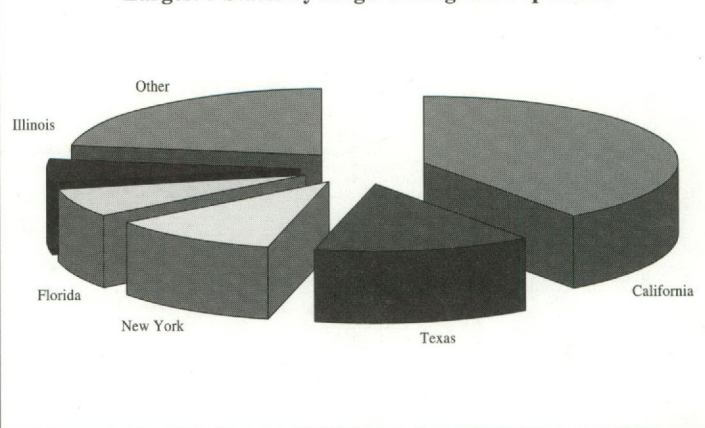
Visitors for pleasure (tourists)	1,207,000
Visitors for business	342,000
Intra-company transferees & family	38,000
Students & family	33,000
International officials	11,000
NAFTA agreement (work visas)	7,000
Other	62,000

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Illegal Immigration

The United States has traditionally been seen as the "land of opportunity". This leads people from around the world who are unable to qualify for legal immigrant status to risk deportation by taking up residence illegally. Often, the economic benefits of working in the United States, even for a limited period of time, outweigh any possible repercussions stemming from illegal alien status. In fact, Mexican

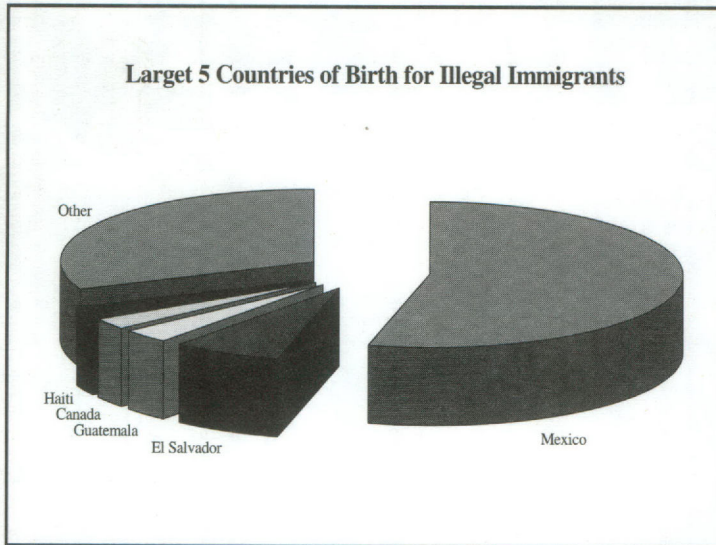
Largest 5 States by Illegal Immigrant Population



Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (Estimated, as of October 1996)

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (Estimated, as of October 1996)

President Vicente Fox said in July 2001 that the 9% of his countrymen living in the United States earn more, collectively, than the 91% living in Mexico. (Rolling Stone Magazine, April 11, 2002 p. 64)

Immigration and Texas

The economic ties between Texas and Mexico have only been strengthened in recent years by legislation such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Texas economy expanded rapidly in the 1990s, and as a result many more workers were needed to fill the newly created jobs. Texas has come to rely upon immigration from other countries, most prominently our nearest neighbor Mexico, to supply a good deal of these much-needed workers. In fact, some of the fastest growing areas in Texas have been able to achieve that growth largely through their proximity to Mexico and their role in commerce between the two nations, as the data in the chart below helps to show.

The chart presents a look into the relationship between immigration and expansion as it has occurred in Texas in areas that border Mexico. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, all three of the metropolitan

statistical areas listed were among the top 30 in the nation in percentage population growth from 1990 to 2000, with both the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission and Laredo MSA's making the top 10. In all three of these border area MSA's, the percentage growth of their Hispanic populations exceeded even the high level of general population growth. Without immigration, these areas would not have experienced such levels of growth, and may instead have stagnated or even contracted in size. This in turn would have limited the growth of the local labor force, which would have slowed any local economic expansion.

Illegal Immigration and Texas

President Vicente Fox of Mexico and President Bush have continued a dialogue on illegal immigration, border security and other matters of bi-national concern that began during President Bush's tenure as the governor of Texas. One approach to the problem of illegal immigration would be to expand the work-visa programs that are currently in place so that more foreign nationals working in the United States could reside here legally. Another approach would be an amnesty program to grant permanent legal resident status to the several million Mexican nationals who have already been living in the United States illegally for a substantial period of time.

A Bush-backed amnesty proposal was criticized last year by some members of Congress who said it unfairly favored Mexican immigrants over those from other countries. Also, the United States does not want to be seen as rewarding people who have broken its laws, therefore becoming a magnet for additional illegal immigrants.

Immigration in the Post-September 11th World

Clearly, it is in the best interest of the United States to find an approach to immigration that will continue to allow our economy to profit from foreign tourism, foreign business travel and investment, and the enrichment of our workforce through the immigration process. At the same time, lawmakers are looking to improve the systems that are currently being used to track those people who visit our country to insure that they abide by the terms of their visas, whether as students, workers, diplomats, or tourists. Finding a middle ground between these two desires will hopefully allow both Texas and the United States to continue to reap the many benefits that come from the free-flowing exchange of people among nations.

	Pop. (1990)	Pop. (2000)	Percent Growth	Labor Force (1990)	Labor Force (2000)	Percent Growth	Hipanic Pop. (1990)	Hispanic Pop. (2000)	Percent Growth
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA	383,545	569,463	48.5%	172,602	205,820	19.2%	326,972	503,100	53.9%
Laredo MSA	133,239	193,117	44.9%	54,688	73,880	35.1%	125,069	182,070	45.6%
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito MSA	260,120	335,227	28.9%	102,587	128,900	25.6%	212,995	282,736	32.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Highlights of Local Area Unemployment Statistics
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

The Texas actual series unemployment rate nudged upward by a tenth of a percentage point to 5.8 from April's 5.7 percent. This is the highest May unemployment rate Texas has recorded since 1994 when it rose to 6.3 percent. The rate is 1.4 percentage points higher than last May's rate of 4.4 percent. Nationally, the United States unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point from April's rate of 5.7 to 5.5 percent in May.

➔ The number of employed Texans climbed by 20,600 from 10,002,100 in April to May's level of 10,022,700. This year's April-to-May addition is nearly double last year's gain of 10,700.

➔ The number of unemployed Texans increased by 17,400 over the month from 604,600 in April to 622,000 in May. Since 1978, May's average increase in unemployment has been 6,500; however, even with May's higher than average gain its level is still almost half that of last year's increase of 32,400.

➔ The number of claims for unemployment benefits without earnings dipped by 3,200 from 171,000 in April to 167,800 in May. Since February of this year claims have decreased each month on average by 5,400, yet May's claims level is still 52,100 higher than last May's level of 115,700.

➔ Of the industry super sectors, only Natural Resources & Mining, Manufacturing, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities recorded over-the-month decreases in claims for unemployment benefits. Manufacturing had the largest decrease in claims, falling by 980 over the month.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas
Ranked by Unemployment Rate
May 2002**

1	Bryan-College Station	1.8
2	Lubbock	2.6
3 (tie)	Amarillo	3.3
	San Angelo	3.3
5	Abilene	3.9
6	Tyler	4.2
7	Wichita Falls	4.3
8	Waco	4.5
9	San Antonio	4.7
10 (tie)	Killeen-Temple	4.9
	Victoria	4.9
12	Texarkana	5.2
13	Odessa-Midland	5.3
14	Austin-San Marcos	5.4
15	Houston	5.5
16	Fort Worth-Arlington	5.7
	Texas	5.8
17	Corpus Christi	5.8
18	Longview-Marshall	6.4
19 (tie)	Dallas	6.7
	Sherman-Denison	6.7
21	Brazoria	6.8
22	Galveston-Texas City	6.9
23	Laredo	7.0
24	El Paso	8.0
25 (tie)	Beaumont-Port Arthur	8.2
	Brownsville-Harlingen	8.2
27	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	10.8

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

	May 2002*				April 2002				May 2001			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
State of Texas	10,644.7	10,022.7	622.0	5.8	10,606.7	10,002.1	604.6	5.7	10,398.7	9,941.4	457.3	4.4
Abilene	56.2	54.0	2.2	3.9	56.1	54.0	2.1	3.8	57.5	55.2	2.3	4.0
Amarillo	111.4	107.8	3.6	3.3	110.6	107.1	3.5	3.2	111.2	108.0	3.2	2.9
Austin-San Marcos	763.0	722.0	41.0	5.4	764.3	723.7	40.6	5.3	747.7	722.1	25.6	3.4
Beaumont-Port Arthur	178.2	163.7	14.5	8.2	176.8	163.7	13.1	7.4	176.5	161.3	15.2	8.6
Brazoria	110.9	103.3	7.6	6.8	110.2	103.1	7.1	6.4	105.6	99.9	5.7	5.4
Brownsville-Harlingen	133.3	122.4	10.9	8.2	133.3	122.2	11.1	8.3	131.7	121.2	10.5	8.0
Bryan-College Station	79.2	77.8	1.4	1.8	79.3	78.0	1.3	1.6	78.2	77.0	1.2	1.6
Corpus Christi	175.5	165.4	10.1	5.8	175.0	165.4	9.6	5.5	173.3	163.4	9.9	5.7
Dallas	2,039.3	1,902.8	136.5	6.7	2,036.3	1,903.4	132.9	6.5	1,989.2	1,908.0	81.2	4.1
El Paso	282.2	259.6	22.6	8.0	281.0	259.0	22.0	7.8	282.7	260.3	22.4	7.9
Fort Worth-Arlington	952.9	898.8	54.1	5.7	949.0	896.6	52.4	5.5	927.3	893.5	33.8	3.6
Galveston-Texas City	120.2	111.9	8.3	6.9	119.1	111.5	7.6	6.4	117.9	111.5	6.4	5.4
Houston	2,242.5	2,119.3	123.2	5.5	2,227.6	2,112.0	115.6	5.2	2,186.1	2,099.2	86.9	4.0
Killeen-Temple	119.2	113.3	5.9	4.9	118.8	113.1	5.7	4.8	115.9	111.2	4.7	4.1
Laredo	77.1	71.7	5.4	7.0	76.9	71.3	5.6	7.3	75.0	69.9	5.1	6.8
Longview-Marshall	103.4	96.8	6.6	6.4	103.2	96.9	6.3	6.1	102.3	97.3	5.0	4.9
Lubbock	129.5	126.2	3.3	2.6	129.6	126.3	3.3	2.5	126.6	123.8	2.8	2.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	215.6	192.2	23.4	10.8	218.4	192.9	25.5	11.7	208.1	185.3	22.8	11.0
Odessa-Midland	122.1	115.6	6.5	5.3	121.7	115.3	6.4	5.3	118.7	113.8	4.9	4.1
San Angelo	51.2	49.5	1.7	3.3	50.8	49.1	1.7	3.3	50.0	48.7	1.3	2.6
San Antonio	804.1	766.2	37.9	4.7	799.0	763.1	35.9	4.5	783.7	756.6	27.1	3.5
Sherman-Denison	49.9	46.6	3.3	6.7	50.1	46.8	3.3	6.6	50.1	47.6	2.5	5.0
Texarkana	56.0	53.1	2.9	5.2	55.7	53.0	2.7	4.9	55.5	53.0	2.5	4.4
Tyler	93.1	89.2	3.9	4.2	93.0	89.3	3.7	4.0	90.6	87.5	3.1	3.4
Victoria	44.5	42.3	2.2	4.9	44.4	42.3	2.1	4.8	44.0	42.3	1.7	3.8
Waco	101.4	96.8	4.6	4.5	102.3	97.8	4.5	4.4	99.6	96.1	3.5	3.5
Wichita Falls	63.7	60.9	2.8	4.3	63.8	61.4	2.4	3.8	62.8	60.9	1.9	3.1

*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 - May 2002

County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Anderson	18,815	957	4.8	Donley	1,636	35	2.1	Kaufman	32,902	2,940	8.2	Real	1,401	53	3.6
Andrews	4,913	275	5.3	Duval	4,995	473	8.7	Kendall	16,042	425	2.6	Red River	4,881	398	7.5
Angelina	34,353	2,372	6.5	Eastland	9,380	394	4.0	Kenedy	221	8	3.5	Reeves	6,359	649	9.3
Aransas	9,860	653	6.2	Ector	56,630	3,801	6.3	Kent	393	7	1.8	Refugio	2,462	130	5.0
Archer	3,916	99	2.5	Edwards	783	46	5.5	Kerr	17,758	466	2.6	Roberts	390	13	3.2
Armstrong	1,170	13	1.1	Ellis	55,384	3,303	5.6	Kimble	2,290	55	2.3	Robertson	6,323	330	5.0
Atascosa	18,305	942	4.9	El Paso	259,640	22,566	8.0	King	167	4	2.3	Rockwall	22,739	1,323	5.5
Austin	14,035	447	3.1	Erath	17,059	466	2.7	Kinney	1,074	106	9.0	Runnels	4,667	141	2.9
Bailey	3,397	156	4.4	Falls	7,474	306	3.9	Kleberg	12,055	861	6.7	Rusk	20,756	1,155	5.3
Bandera	7,397	255	3.3	Fannin	12,380	827	6.3	Knox	1,917	73	3.7	Sabine	3,698	491	11.7
Bastrop	28,629	1,701	5.6	Fayette	11,354	315	2.7	Lamar	20,364	1,476	6.8	San Augustine	2,988	198	6.2
Baylor	1,620	84	4.9	Fisher	1,897	77	3.9	Lamb	6,264	392	5.9	San Jacinto	9,210	442	4.6
Bee	9,923	530	5.1	Floyd	2,681	233	8.0	Lampasas	9,838	337	3.3	San Patricio	28,289	1,688	5.6
Bell	92,298	4,712	4.9	Foard	715	26	3.5	La Salle	2,464	194	7.3	San Saba	2,672	68	2.5
Bexar	667,323	34,078	4.9	Fort Bend	187,998	8,222	4.2	Lavaca	8,338	198	2.3	Schleicher	1,520	59	3.7
Blanco	3,694	141	3.7	Franklin	4,612	145	3.0	Lee	6,427	288	4.3	Scurry	6,737	341	4.8
Borden	413	13	3.1	Freestone	8,300	398	4.6	Leon	6,816	407	5.6	Shackelford	1,359	53	3.8
Bosque	6,326	363	5.4	Frio	5,556	392	6.6	Liberty	28,169	2,654	8.6	Shelby	8,279	656	7.3
Bowie	36,347	2,011	5.2	Gaines	6,508	251	3.7	Limestone	9,722	361	3.6	Sherman	1,903	26	1.3
Brazoria	103,300	7,566	6.8	Galveston	111,888	8,345	6.9	Lipscomb	1,431	31	2.1	Smith	89,177	3,896	4.2
Brazos	77,797	1,406	1.8	Garza	2,600	110	4.1	Live Oak	4,527	108	2.3	Somervell	2,088	169	7.5
Brewster	5,654	134	2.3	Gillespie	10,303	220	2.1	Llano	5,285	213	3.9	Starr	18,079	3,430	15.9
Briscoe	772	11	1.4	Glasscock	688	13	1.9	Loving	51	2	3.8	Stephens	3,608	189	5.0
Brooks	3,509	227	6.1	Goliad	2,665	103	3.7	Lubbock	126,158	3,342	2.6	Sterling	589	26	4.2
Brown	16,811	834	4.7	Gonzales	7,408	330	4.3	Lynn	2,372	106	4.3	Stonewall	624	22	3.4
Burleson	7,096	343	4.6	Gray	8,349	508	5.7	Mc Culloch	3,308	141	4.1	Sutton	2,086	64	3.0
Burnet	14,940	671	4.3	Grayson	46,567	3,331	6.7	Mc Lennan	96,817	4,611	4.5	Swisher	3,421	136	3.8
Caldwell	16,316	1,017	5.9	Gregg	54,942	3,861	6.6	Mc Mullen	302	7	2.3	Tarrant	776,642	47,257	5.7
Calhoun	8,621	799	8.5	Grimes	7,984	620	7.2	Madison	4,283	145	3.3	Taylor	53,954	2,191	3.9
Callahan	6,331	255	3.9	Guadalupe	43,334	1,707	3.8	Marion	3,168	268	7.8	Terrell	663	11	1.6
Cameron	122,435	10,901	8.2	Hale	16,007	812	4.8	Martin	2,020	88	4.2	Terry	5,096	257	4.8
Camp	5,312	356	6.3	Hall	1,835	64	3.4	Mason	1,484	42	2.8	Throckmorton	694	20	2.8
Carson	3,092	134	4.2	Hamilton	4,424	130	2.9	Matagorda	14,185	1,716	10.8	Titus	12,587	617	4.7
Cass	13,869	1,069	7.2	Hansford	2,425	53	2.1	Maverick	14,265	3,782	21.0	Tom Green	49,466	1,685	3.3
Castro	3,193	123	3.7	Hardeman	1,725	110	6.0	Medina	14,948	702	4.5	Travis	471,407	27,689	5.5
Chambers	11,606	551	4.5	Hardin	21,463	1,724	7.4	Menard	858	51	5.6	Trinity	4,963	288	5.5
Cherokee	18,888	849	4.3	Harris	1,735,482	104,400	5.7	Midland	58,995	2,665	4.3	Tyler	6,190	678	9.9
Childress	3,134	112	3.5	Harrison	25,839	1,805	6.5	Milam	9,248	576	5.9	Upshur	16,048	959	5.6
Clay	5,433	202	3.6	Hartley	2,953	27	0.9	Mills	2,425	51	2.1	Upton	1,507	79	5.0
Cochran	1,132	77	6.4	Haskell	3,178	112	3.4	Mitchell	3,255	139	4.1	Uvalde	10,749	744	6.5
Coke	1,428	33	2.3	Hays	53,679	2,657	4.7	Montague	6,356	405	6.0	Val Verde	17,436	1,219	6.5
Coleman	2,877	213	6.9	Hemphill	1,849	35	1.9	Montgomery	143,441	6,536	4.4	Van Zandt	20,358	1,100	5.1
Collin	281,028	19,204	6.4	Henderson	30,007	1,533	4.9	Moore	9,132	306	3.2	Victoria	42,325	2,185	4.9
Collingsworth	1,737	15	0.9	Hidalgo	192,234	23,375	10.8	Morris	5,948	521	8.1	Walker	21,918	656	2.9
Colorado	7,870	328	4.0	Hill	14,633	843	5.4	Motley	556	7	1.2	Waller	12,593	821	6.1
Comal	39,820	1,563	3.8	Hockley	11,049	444	3.9	Nacogdoches	26,056	939	3.5	Ward	3,512	260	6.9
Comanche	6,315	191	2.9	Hood	17,253	1,067	5.8	Navarro	20,675	1,364	6.2	Washington	14,750	381	2.5
Concho	1,471	24	1.6	Hopkins	13,744	711	4.9	Newton	4,847	645	11.7	Webb	71,697	5,375	7.0
Cooke	17,350	893	4.9	Houston	10,056	392	3.8	Nolan	6,500	312	4.6	Wharton	18,588	1,181	6.0
Coryell	20,955	1,147	5.2	Howard	13,855	533	3.7	Nueces	137,106	8,454	5.8	Wheeler	2,601	66	2.5
Cottle	912	40	4.2	Hudspeth	1,404	106	7.0	Ochiltree	4,741	136	2.8	Wichita	56,943	2,660	4.5
Crane	1,322	222	14.4	Hunt	35,804	2,200	5.8	Oldham	1,207	29	2.3	Wilbarger	7,473	220	2.9
Crockett	1,686	70	4.0	Hutchinson	8,684	722	7.7	Orange	36,825	4,063	9.9	Willacy	5,276	1,069	16.8
Crosby	2,799	165	5.6	Irion	783	15	1.9	Palo Pinto	11,387	722	6.0	Williamson	151,926	7,919	5.0
Culberson	979	99	9.2	Jack	3,055	99	3.1	Panola	7,606	680	8.2	Wilson	15,711	598	3.7
Dallam	3,542	79	2.2	Jackson	8,034	352	4.2	Parker	42,905	2,027	4.5	Winkler	2,581	260	9.2
Dallas	1,192,606	93,639	7.3	Jasper	12,453	1,581	11.3	Parmer	3,971	128	3.1	Wise	25,544	1,096	4.1
Dawson	5,937	348	5.5	Jeff Davis	1,380	40	2.8	Pecos	5,712	301	5.0	Wood	13,743	697	4.8
Deaf Smith	6,779	453	6.3	Jefferson	105,409	8,748	7.7	Polk	13,931	902	6.1	Yoakum	2,932	139	4.5
Delta	2,550	130	4.9	Jim Hogg	2,049	134	6.1	Potter	51,532	2,915	5.4	Young	7,700	409	5.0
Denton	252,282	12,328	4.7	Jim Wells	17,779	1,274	6.7	Presidio	2,651	590	18.2	Zapata	4,480	337	7.0
De Witt	8,344	403	4.6	Johnson	62,039	3,703	5.6	Rains	3,631	233	6.0	Zavala	3,590	528	12.8
Dickens	710	35	4.7	Jones	8,860	277	3.0	Randall	56,225	728	1.3				
Dimmit	3,365	339	9.2	Karnes	5,789	227	3.8	Reagan	1,619	51	3.1				

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.

Employment and Unemployment Estimates for Texas Cities - May 2002

Table with 4 columns: City, Emp, Unemp, Rate. Rows list 118 Texas cities with their respective employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate statistics for May 2002.

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

				Apr '02 to May '02		May '01 to May '02	
	May '02	Apr '02	May '01	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
TOTAL NONAG. W & S EMPLOYMENT	9,480,400	9,459,300	9,572,900	21,100	0.2	-92,500	-1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	1,726,200	1,725,000	1,800,000	1,200	0.1	-73,800	-4.1
Mining	159,100	159,400	161,100	-300	-0.2	-2,000	-1.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	150,100	150,300	152,100	-200	-0.1	-2,000	-1.3
Construction	560,600	557,500	571,600	3,100	0.6	-11,000	-1.9
Manufacturing	1,006,500	1,008,100	1,067,300	-1,600	-0.2	-60,800	-5.7
Durable Goods	610,000	611,100	654,100	-1,100	-0.2	-44,100	-6.7
Lumber & Wood Products	44,800	44,700	45,200	100	0.2	-400	-0.9
Lumber Camps, Sawmills, Planing Mills	6,900	6,800	7,000	100	1.5	-100	-1.4
Furniture & Fixtures	19,800	19,900	21,300	-100	-0.5	-1,500	-7.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	45,700	46,000	47,000	-300	-0.7	-1,300	-2.8
Concrete, Gypsum, & Plaster Products	24,400	24,500	24,700	-100	-0.4	-300	-1.2
Primary Metal Industries	29,100	29,100	31,900	0	0.0	-2,800	-8.8
Fabricated Metal Industries	98,300	98,900	105,800	-600	-0.6	-7,500	-7.1
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	52,600	52,900	56,300	-300	-0.6	-3,700	-6.6
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	130,300	129,800	138,500	500	0.4	-8,200	-5.9
Oil & Gas Field Machinery	30,800	30,700	30,200	100	0.3	600	2.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	116,200	117,000	134,000	-800	-0.7	-17,800	-13.3
Transportation Equipment	72,600	72,400	75,700	200	0.3	-3,100	-4.1
Aircraft & Parts	38,000	38,000	39,600	0	0.0	-1,600	-4.0
Instruments & Related Products	34,100	34,200	34,700	-100	-0.3	-600	-1.7
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19,100	19,100	20,000	0	0.0	-900	-4.5
Nondurable Goods	396,500	397,000	413,200	-500	-0.1	-16,700	-4.0
Food & Kindred Products	96,500	96,600	98,000	-100	-0.1	-1,500	-1.5
Meat Products	35,400	35,300	35,400	100	0.3	0	0.0
Dairy Products	5,200	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bakery Products	9,300	9,100	8,900	200	2.2	400	4.5
Malt Beverages	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	0.0	-100	-5.3
Textile Mill Products	3,900	3,900	4,400	0	0.0	-500	-11.4
Apparel & Other Finished Textile Products	31,700	31,900	38,000	-200	-0.6	-6,300	-16.6
Paper & Allied Products	26,400	26,600	27,600	-200	-0.8	-1,200	-4.3
Printing & Publishing	73,200	73,300	76,100	-100	-0.1	-2,900	-3.8
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, & Miscellaneous	34,400	34,500	36,100	-100	-0.3	-1,700	-4.7
Chemicals & Allied Products	81,500	81,700	83,200	-200	-0.2	-1,700	-2.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	24,700	24,700	24,700	0	0.0	0	0.0
Petroleum Refining	21,100	21,000	21,100	100	0.5	0	0.0
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	53,300	53,200	55,900	100	0.2	-2,600	-4.7
Leather & Leather Products	5,100	5,100	5,400	0	0.0	-300	-5.6
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,754,200	7,734,300	7,772,900	19,900	0.3	-18,700	-0.2
Transportation, Communications, Utilities	575,200	574,300	598,600	900	0.2	-23,400	-3.9
Transportation	355,200	353,700	368,600	1,500	0.4	-13,400	-3.6
Railroad Transportation	15,800	15,800	16,000	0	0.0	-200	-1.3
Transportation by Air	116,100	115,400	124,500	700	0.6	-8,400	-6.7
Communications	145,100	145,700	153,200	-600	-0.4	-8,100	-5.3
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	74,900	74,900	76,800	0	0.0	-1,900	-2.5
Electric Services	35,900	35,900	34,400	0	0.0	1,500	4.4
Gas Production & Distribution	21,600	21,600	25,700	0	0.0	-4,100	-16.0
Trade	2,250,200	2,241,400	2,273,100	8,800	0.4	-22,900	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	522,900	522,900	535,700	0	0.0	-12,800	-2.4
Retail Trade	1,727,300	1,718,500	1,737,400	8,800	0.5	-10,100	-0.6
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	69,800	69,400	69,000	400	0.6	800	1.2
General Merchandise Stores	218,800	217,700	223,600	1,100	0.5	-4,800	-2.1
Food Stores	248,700	248,700	255,500	0	0.0	-6,800	-2.7
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	179,800	178,900	178,600	900	0.5	1,200	0.7
Apparel & Accessory Stores	80,800	80,700	85,500	100	0.1	-4,700	-5.5
Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores	82,000	82,200	82,700	-200	-0.2	-700	-0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	665,300	659,600	652,700	5,700	0.9	12,600	1.9
Other Retail Trade	182,100	181,300	189,800	800	0.4	-7,700	-4.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	529,500	528,300	534,000	1,200	0.2	-4,500	-0.8
Depository Institutions including Banks	132,100	132,200	132,100	-100	-0.1	0	0.0
Insurance Carriers, Agents, Brokers, & Service	165,700	164,900	166,000	800	0.5	-300	-0.2
Other Finance Insurance & Real Estate	231,700	231,200	235,900	500	0.2	-4,200	-1.8
Services	2,760,500	2,751,200	2,767,300	9,300	0.3	-6,800	-0.2
Hotel & Other Lodging Places	97,300	95,900	98,000	1,400	1.5	-700	-0.7
Personal Services	92,900	99,600	93,000	-6,700	-6.7	-100	-0.1
Business Services	677,000	673,700	713,400	3,300	0.5	-36,400	-5.1
Auto Repair Services	96,600	96,100	97,400	500	0.5	-800	-0.8
Miscellaneous Repair Services	33,700	34,000	34,500	-300	-0.9	-800	-2.3
Amusement & Recreation, including Motion Pictures	127,300	120,100	128,900	7,200	6.0	-1,600	-1.2
Health Services	732,100	731,200	711,300	900	0.1	20,800	2.9
Legal Services	69,700	69,500	70,500	200	0.3	-800	-1.1
Educational Services	125,900	127,800	122,600	-1,900	-1.5	3,300	2.7
Social Services	208,600	207,600	201,800	1,000	0.5	6,800	3.4
Membership Organizations	145,400	144,500	145,300	900	0.6	100	0.1
Engineering & Management Services	270,100	270,100	270,300	0	0.0	-200	-0.1
Agricultural Services	64,100	62,400	63,000	1,700	2.7	1,100	1.7
Government	1,638,800	1,639,100	1,599,900	-300	0.0	38,900	2.4
Federal	180,800	180,700	177,600	100	0.1	3,200	1.8
State	343,800	345,700	336,300	-1,900	-0.5	7,500	2.2
Local	1,114,200	1,112,700	1,086,000	1,500	0.1	28,200	2.6

*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”

“How Does the Minimum Wage Impact Employment?”

by Yoshi Fuksawa, Ph.D.

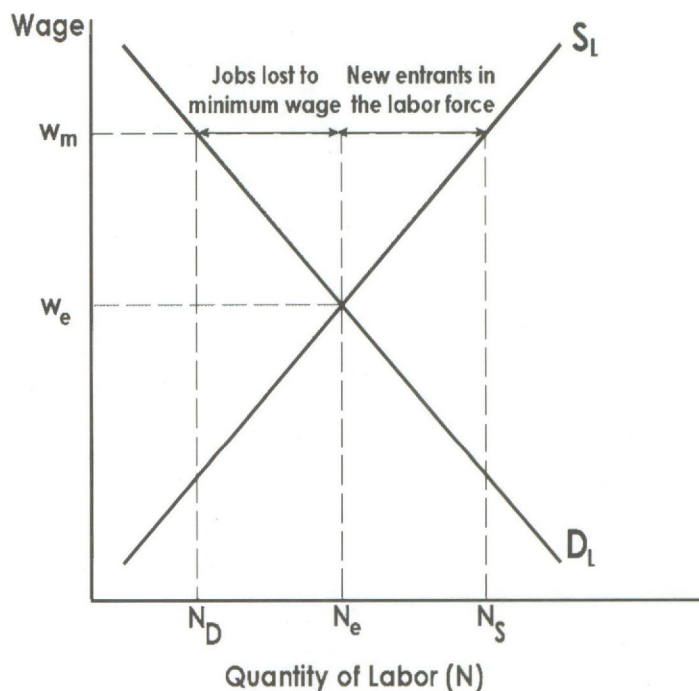
Like many issues in economics, minimum wage has been a popular political mandate with unclear economic ramifications. The minimum wage was established in 1938 with the good intention to help provide a decent living for the working class in the U.S., often referred to as an income maintenance program. The minimum wage has been a politically popular proposition in our country. Over time, the minimum wage rate has occasionally been raised to remain effective in the face of the loss of purchasing power brought on by inflation. The minimum wage rate today is \$5.15 per hour, which is about 36 percent of the average hourly manufacturing wage in the United States.¹ The workers at or below the minimum wage represented approximately 4 percent of all the hourly wage earners in 2000.² The annualized income of \$10,712 of the minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour is equivalent to about 126 percent of the one-person poverty threshold income in 1999.³

Many studies have analyzed economic ramifications, especially the effect on unemployment, of an increase in the minimum wage. Unfortunately, economists are divided theoretically on the issue and empirical results are not conclusive.

At the theoretical level, some economists would argue that the minimum wage helps those workers whose wages are covered, but may create unintended economic burden to others. By raising the cost of labor, businesses may be forced to hire less workers, causing higher unemployment in the economy as a whole. Yet, other economists would believe that the government-set wage is a way to effectively counter the market power of monopolistic employers without causing unemployment.

The opponents of the minimum wage recognize that the effective minimum wage, the wage rate set by the government above the competitive market wage rate creates higher unemployment. Figure 1 shows a standard competitive labor market with a demand for (D_L) and a supply of (S_L) labor. The equilibrium wage rate (W_e) would clear the market at the point where demand equals supply. The government set minimum wage rate (W_m) creates unemployment of ($N_s - N_D$). The total unemployment at the minimum wage rate is divided into two parts. First, a higher wage rate means a higher cost of labor, thus reducing the number of workers to be employed ($N_e - N_D$). Secondly, a higher wage attracts those who would not otherwise participate in the labor force to a work place, thereby increasing the number of workers available in the labor force ($N_s - N_e$). A rise in the minimum wage may also have a ratcheting effect of pushing the wages of the other workers by establishing a higher floor. Thus, an upward push in the minimum wage without a comparable increase in the workers' productivity may cause an increase in the unit labor cost, making our industry less competitive in the world market.

Figure 1: Labor Market Effects of a Minimum Wage



The burden of the minimum wage, they would contend, usually falls heaviest on small businesses. Small businesses, especially in the service sector, tend to be labor intensive, hiring a relatively large share of young and less skilled, less experienced workers. Furthermore, minimum wage is not the most efficient way for income maintenance. They would point out that those in poverty often do not work and that many minimum wage jobs are held by teen-agers from families not in poverty.

The proponents of the minimum wage recognize the monopolistic behavior of employers who tend to employ fewer workers and pay a lower wage rate (The market with monopolistic buyers is often referred

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.

to as a *monopsony* in economics). Today, large fast-food chains and mass merchandisers employ many young, less skilled workers at or near minimum wage. If set at a right level, the minimum wage, they would argue, counter-balances the power of such large employers by forcing them to pay a higher wage without creating unemployment. Furthermore, they contend that a minimum wage job is temporary. Most workers who begin with a minimum job will eventually move on to a higher paying job as they gain more experience.

The proponents would also add that higher wage will force the employers to find more productive tasks using better equipment for low wage employees, making them more valuable workers. This may also reduce the turn-over rate of workers, thereby increasing their productivity.

The empirical results of the effect of a rise in the minimum wage are mixed. Some evidence exists that an increase in the minimum wage reduces minimum wage employment, particularly teen-age employment. One study found, for example, that a 10-percent increase in wage seemed to reduce teen-age (16 to 19 years-old) employment by 1 to 3 percent.⁴ On the other hand, the evidence by other economists shows less or no significant impact (0.5 percent) of a rise in the minimum wage on teen-age unemployment.⁵ Moreover, a 1999 study revealed that three quarters of the small businesses surveyed by the Levy Institute responded that their employment practice would not be affected by an increase in the minimum wage to \$6.00.⁶ The economic expansion of the U.S. in the 1990s, characterized by increasing productivity and relatively contained labor cost, may have contributed to a sustained

increase in the overall demand for labor, and thus minimizing the impact of a rise in the minimum wage on unemployment. On the other hand, minimum wage jobs may not be always temporary. Another recent study estimated that a not-so-insignificant number of workers (8 percent of those surveyed) stayed on a near minimum wage job for as long as ten years even after finishing high school or college.⁷

Notes:

1. U.S. Department of Commerce, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001*, p. 400.
2. *Ibid.* p. 405.
3. *Ibid.* p. 443.
4. Campbell R. McConnell and Stanley L. Brue, *Economics (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002)*, p. 562.
5. Alan Krueger, "Teaching the Minimum Wage in Econ 101 in Light of the New Economics of the Minimum Wage," *Journal of Economic Education*, Summer 2001.
6. Oren Levin-Waldman, "The Minimum Wage Can Be Raised," *Challenge*, March-April 2000, pp. 86-96.
7. William J. Carrington and Bruce C. Fallick, "Do Some Workers Have Minimum Wage Careers?" *Monthly Labor Review*, May 2001, pp. 17-27.

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"HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE"

New Plastics Plant to Add Over 200 Jobs

ABILENE, Tex.—Orange Plastics will open a plant in Abilene that is expected to create 239 full-time jobs over the next three years. The plant, scheduled to open later this year, will manufacture polyethylene packaging products.

Orange plastics will move into a 100,000-square-foot facility constructed by the Development Corporation of Abilene, Inc. to help recruit employers into the area. Sam Bana, president of Orange Plastics indicated an important reason for the new manufacturing facility was, "Abilene's central location for product distribution and receipt of inventory supplies."

Distribution Facility Opens North of DFW Airport

DFW AIRPORT, Tex. (Dallas Business Journal-Christine Perez) Exel North American Logistics is opening a 270,000-square-foot facility in Coppell. The company, which has more than doubled the size of its Metroplex operations since December, will use the space located north of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to provide warehousing, light assembly, inventory management and distribution for its clients. Exel will hire between 100 and 200 people to handle the new accounts.

Chief Financial Officer Rajan Sobhani says, "More of our clients are moving here. It has a first-class airport and competitive pricing. You can get fully loaded warehouse space here for less than \$4.50 per square foot. We just signed a lease for the same type of space in San Francisco, and it cost \$18 per square foot. You can do the math."

Satellite Internet Scheduled for Rural Texas

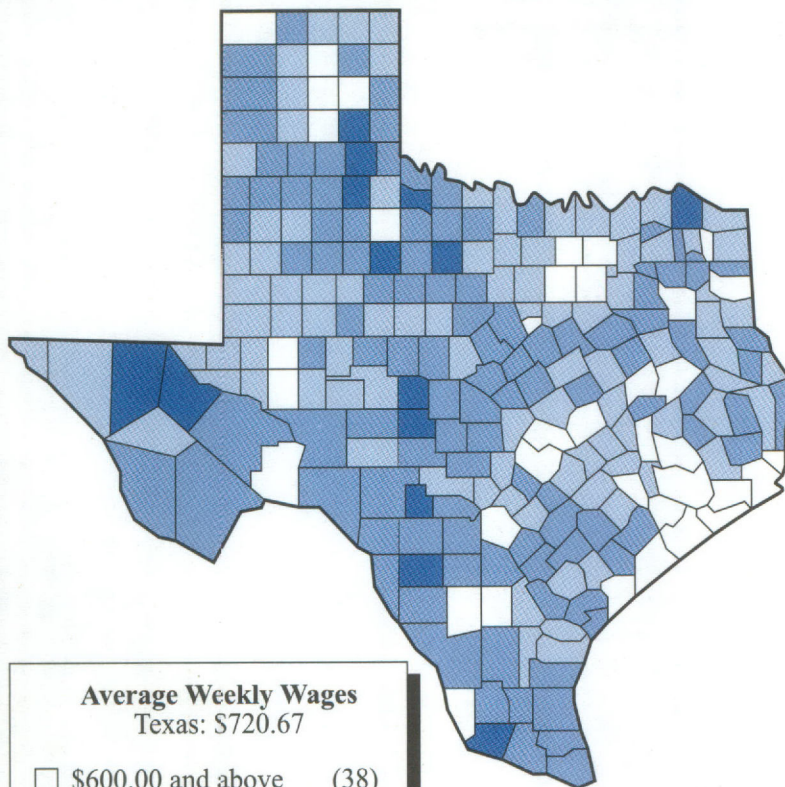
SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (San Antonio Business Journal)—SBC Communications Inc., the San Antonio-based telecom giant, plans to supply two-way satellite Internet service to areas of Texas that previously have not had access to DSL telephone service. The service is aimed at rural areas served by subsidiary SBC Southwestern Bell.

The broadband service will use a satellite dish and indoor receiving and transmitting units capable of connection speeds of 400 kilobytes per second and is expected to start operation this summer.

Manufacturing Plant Construction Starts

MESQUITE, Tex. (Wright Review: Texas Business Report)—Iris USA, Inc. has begun construction on its new manufacturing facility in Mesquite. The company plans to hire 120 people and start production on plastic injection molding products at the new site this September. The company, a subsidiary of Iris Ohyama headquartered in Sendai, Japan, is based in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin.

**Average Weekly Wage of Workers
in Covered Employment by County
Fourth Quarter 2001**



Average Weekly Wages
Texas: \$720.67

□ \$600.00 and above	(38)
■ \$500.00 to \$599.99	(93)
■ \$400.00 to \$499.99	(109)
■ \$399.99 and below	(14)

Source: Covered Employer Records, Labor Market Information, Texas Workforce Commission (includes private and government employment)

Texas Labor Market Review
Labor Market Information



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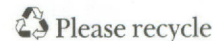
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