

INDICATORS

Texas Unemployment Rate

Actual Series		
August	2002	6.3%
July	2002	6.6%
August	2001	5.2%

Seasonally Adjusted

August	2002	6.1%
July	2002	6.1%
August	2001	5.1%

U.S. Unemployment Rate

Actual Series		
August	2002	5.7%
July	2002	6.0%
August	2001	4.9%

Seasonally Adjusted

August	2002	5.7%
July	2002	5.9%
August	2001	4.9%

Texas Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

Actual Series		9,409,100
OTM Change		29,200
OTY Change		-88,000

Seasonally Adjusted		9,431,300
OTM Change		18,600
OTY Change		-87,600

Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits

August	2002	89,469
July	2002	102,455
August	2001	82,640

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Annual Change

U.S.	1.8%
Dallas-Fort Worth (July)	0.8%
Houston-Galveston	0.9%

# TEXAS

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## Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas increased for the sixth time this year, adding 18,600 positions in August, its largest over-the-month gain in two years. Government and Services accounted for almost all of the employment increase, while Trade and Manufacturing suffered the largest employment losses for the month. The annual growth rate for Total Nonagricultural Employment climbed from -1.1 percent in July to -0.9 percent in August.

Government rebounded in August by recording a gain of 13,500 positions. Local Government was responsible for the growth, as both Federal Government and State Government were on the decline.

The Services industry added 9,000 jobs in August, its fifth increase this year and also its most substantial. Health Services, Educational Services, and Business Services experienced the largest job growth within the industry, while Membership Organization Services displayed the biggest decline.

After two previous monthly job losses, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) recorded its largest monthly gain since July 1999, adding 1,800 positions in August. The largest increase was seen in Nondepository

Institutions, with a gain of 700 jobs. Insurance Carriers and Real Estate added 400 positions each. Depository Institutions was the only industry within FIRE to post losses. Despite August's employment increase, FIRE has lost 4,600 jobs over the year. Although annual growth remained negative for the seventh straight month, it improved slightly from a rate of -1.1 percent in July to -0.9 percent in August.

Construction experienced a gain of 1,200 jobs in August—its second largest increase this year. The additions were centered entirely in Special Trade Contractors, which has added 7,200 jobs since January 2002. Over the year, Special Trade Contractors has added 3,300 jobs for a 1.0 percent annual growth rate.

Employment in Manufacturing continued a downward trend, shedding 3,100 jobs in August. It has been nearly two years since this industry has experienced an over-the-month job gain. Durable Goods Manufacturing lost 1,000 positions, primarily centered in Electronic Equipment Manufacturing, while Nondurable Goods Manufacturing dropped 2,100 jobs. A total of 45,400 jobs have been cut in Manufacturing since August 2001 for an annual growth rate of -4.3 percent.

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

Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary employment in the MSAs increased by 24,900 jobs in August, the largest over-the-month gain since March 2002. Local Government gains reflected the beginning of the new school year, accounting for almost 71 percent of the increase.

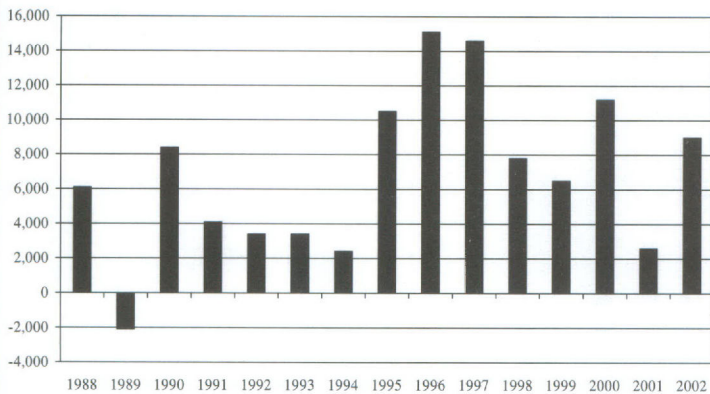
Government employment grew by 13,500 jobs in the MSAs in August. Local Government added 17,600 positions, while Federal and State Government combined for a loss of 4,100 jobs. The increase in Local Government employment due to seasonal hiring in education posted the smallest gain at the beginning of a school year since 1995. The average August increase over the past four years was 26,200. A slight delay in the beginning of the school year and difficulty in finding enough qualified new teachers may have contributed to slower staffing patterns.

Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (TCPU) added 1,600 jobs in August, the largest over-the-month gain noted since December 2000. While this increase was 700 more than the gain posted for August 2001, annual growth rates for TCPU showed a marked decline beginning in June of 2001. At that time, the annual rate dropped by 1.0 percent, when business is usually expanding because of vacation travel. Over the year, TCPU lost 17,700 jobs with at least half of those centered in airline travel industries. The events of September 2001 accelerated the slump in the travel industry.

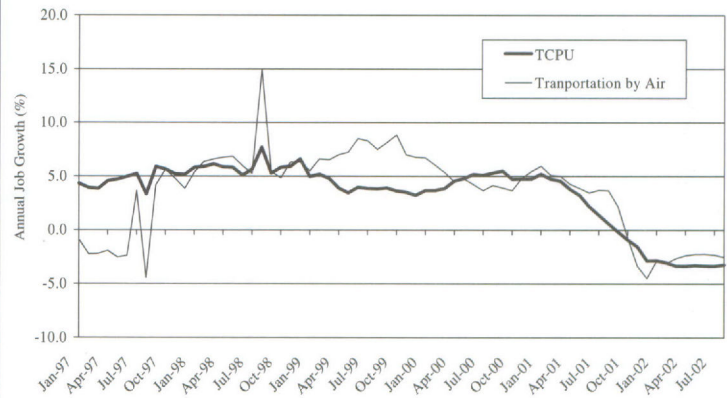
Retail Trade employment, spurred by back to school shopping, added 5,600 positions in August. This year's seasonal hiring lagged behind that of previous years. More cautious spending by consumers could have weakened demand by retailers for increased staff.



**Services Records 2nd Highest August Job Gain in Five Years  
(Statewide, Seasonally Adjusted)**



**Transportation by Air Drives Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (TCPU) in the MSAs**



**TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

TEXAS*					UNITED STATES**				
Actual	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	
August '02	10,747,400	10,074,100	673,300	6.3	143,176,000	135,028,000	8,148,000	5.7	
July '02	10,817,900	10,105,400	712,500	6.6	143,885,000	135,289,000	8,595,000	6.0	
August '01	10,539,000	9,990,300	548,700	5.2	141,862,000	134,905,000	6,956,000	4.9	
Seas. Adjusted	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	
August '02	10,697,100	10,044,000	653,100	6.1	142,616,000	134,474,000	8,142,000	5.7	
July '02	10,676,400	10,025,200	651,200	6.1	142,390,000	134,045,000	8,345,000	5.9	
August '01	10,492,700	9,961,000	531,700	5.1	141,380,000	134,408,000	6,972,000	4.9	

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<sup>+</sup>**

INDUSTRY TITLE	Aug. 2002*	Jul. 2002	Aug. 2001	Jul. '02 to Aug. '02		Aug. '01 to Aug. '02	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
<b>TOTAL NONAG. W&amp;S EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>9,431,300</b>	<b>9,412,700</b>	<b>9,518,900</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-87,600</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>1,720,600</b>	<b>1,721,800</b>	<b>1,775,900</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-55,300</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Mining	157,300	156,600	164,200	700	0.4	-6,900	-4.2
Construction	560,800	559,600	563,800	1,200	0.2	-3,000	-0.5
Manufacturing	1,002,500	1,005,600	1,047,900	-3,100	-0.3	-45,400	-4.3
Durable Goods	608,800	609,800	639,600	-1,000	-0.2	-30,800	-4.8
Nondurable Goods	393,700	395,800	408,300	-2,100	-0.5	-14,600	-3.6
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	<b>7,710,700</b>	<b>7,690,900</b>	<b>7,743,000</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-32,300</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Transportation, Comm., Utilities	574,800	574,000	596,600	800	0.1	-21,800	-3.7
Trade	2,240,000	2,245,300	2,274,800	-5,300	-0.2	-34,800	-1.5
Wholesale Trade	522,000	523,300	531,400	-1,300	-0.2	-9,400	-1.8
Retail Trade	1,718,000	1,722,000	1,743,400	-4,000	-0.2	-25,400	-1.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	530,000	528,200	534,600	1,800	0.3	-4,600	-0.9
Services	2,744,200	2,735,200	2,750,400	9,000	0.3	-6,200	-0.2
Government	1,621,700	1,608,200	1,586,600	13,500	0.8	35,100	2.2

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.

The Goods Producing Sector and Wholesale Trade estimates are probability-based. (See text box on page 9 for more information)



## Labor Market Information 101

by John Villarreal and Rene Cantu

When most people think of labor market information, they immediately think of unemployment statistics; yet, unemployment statistics are only one component of the wide array of available information concerning the labor market. Other types of information may be useful economic indicators but are not as easily understood as unemployment rates. The Texas Workforce Commission's Labor Market Information Department (LMI) has recognized a need for greater understanding of the usefulness of the available body of labor market information and how the figures are produced. In order to facilitate this understanding, the LMI department has begun working on a product that describes the various types of labor market information and explains how the data is compiled. The new product is titled "LMI 101."

The LMI 101 booklet, which has been arranged into three parts, is a workbook for a day-and-a-half training course aimed at workforce development professionals, but the potential audience is much larger. The workbook is not designed to make someone a full-fledged economist. Rather, it is designed to help them obtain an understanding of what labor market information is, where to find this information, and how to use it in career or economic planning. The tools and techniques that are shown can be used to analyze a local labor market and help someone understand and explain economic changes.

Labor market information is the body of data that can be used to describe a local area's economic picture. Moreover, labor market information is the science of collecting, analyzing, and reporting on economic activities and describing the labor supply and demand relationships within an area. The information produced can help individuals make informed career choices, help policy makers allocate funding, help employers establish job descriptions and wage ranges, and help educators tailor programs for in-demand occupations.

Each section of the LMI 101 workbook will start off with a major theme. As each topic is covered, an overview of the topic will be given, some examples, and finally, in some sections, an exercise that will further illustrate the topic will also be presented. The sections, topics covered, examples, and exercises are arranged and presented to trainees in order to fulfill some basic training objectives, including:

- Provide additional knowledge about labor market information to new LMI staff
- Share knowledge about labor market information with our Workforce Network Partners
- Instruct trainees on labor market terms and concepts
- Familiarize trainees with the products and services of LMI
- Assist Workforce Development Board (WDB) Labor Market Information Specialists in analyzing and interpreting local data
- Make the local Labor Market Information Specialists more valuable to their boards

The workbook explores in detail eight main topics related to labor market information:

- Basic statistics
- What is a labor market?
- Unemployment
- Wages and money
- Employment projections
- Data dissemination
- Other data sources
- Advanced concepts

The first section explains some basic statistics in order to provide a foundation of understanding of terms and concepts that will be referred to throughout the booklet. The word "statistics" may be intimidating to some, but the LMI 101 workbook shows how different statistical measures are calculated using basic math. The trainee is only required to have a basic knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; calculations that can be performed on many hand-held or pocket calculators. Terms like mean, median, mode, and percentile are a common part of labor market vocabulary. The basic statistics section of the LMI 101 workbook is intended to provide the trainee knowledge of simple terms and calculations that are commonly used to describe and measure an area's labor market.

The next section titled "What is a labor market?" explains how labor markets are defined. The LMI Department provides information on a variety of geographical areas or labor markets such as:

- State of Texas
- Workforce Development Board Area (WDBA)
- Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
- County
- City

The rest of the section is concerned with employment and the various ways that the LMI department measures industrial employment. This portion of the workbook also includes a brief discussion on how industries are classified.

The topic of unemployment usually gets a lot of attention and the LMI 101 workbook contains an entire section dedicated to unemployment concepts. The information in this section will enable the trainee to answer basic questions about the unemployment rate. There are several examples and exercises that are designed to further educate the trainee and provide a greater understanding of the factors surrounding unemployment.

Some of the most requested data from the LMI Department is wage information. There are several different types of wage data, and the specific uses and limitations of each type are examined. Wages are a pertinent topic across all occupations, and the LMI Department has wage information (and employment information) for most occupations in the state of Texas. The LMI 101 workbook also includes other resources pertaining to wages from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

*Continued on page 4*



*Continued from page 3*

Much of what has been discussed so far has dealt with either historical or current data. In order to complete the picture for a local area, one should obtain information about where the economy is going. It is important to know what jobs will be available in the coming months and years, and which jobs will be phased out. The LMI Department currently produces long-term industry and occupation employment projections for Texas and the twenty-eight WDBAs every two years. The projections are done for a ten-year period with the base year being an even year. The growth and decline of individual industries affect the growth and decline of occupations, which affect the skills that will be in demand (or not) in the coming years.

Even with the wealth of information covered up to this point in the workbook, there are still some key aspects of the labor market that haven't been explored because some of these items fall outside the scope of the normal body of labor market information. In order to fill these data gaps, the LMI Department has developed and piloted some special surveys that can be used to better understand a specific facet of a local area. The surveys, which have only been piloted in a few specific areas, are listed below along with a brief description:

- Job Vacancy Survey (Odessa-Midland MSA)—seeks to answer “What geographic areas currently have the greatest need for workers?” and “What occupations and industries are most affected by worker shortages.”
- Benefits Survey (Waco MSA)—sent to businesses to gain a better understanding of the level of total compensation that employees receive in an area.
- Community Audit (Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA)—brings together information on economic and labor market trends to enhance strategic planning and workforce training activity.
- Skills Survey (Statewide-Nursing)—employer based survey which allows for respondents to identify those particular skills which their employees must have.

One of the primary missions of the LMI Department is data dissemination—or getting the word out on the street. In order to accomplish this mission, LMI has several different sources that are used to help get the information to the customer. The Data Dissemination section provides titles and brief descriptions of LMI publications as well as information on how to obtain them. The next section of the LMI 101 workbook focuses on other data sources and the types of information they provide. Some other sources of labor market information include:

- Census Bureau
- Texas State Data Center
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- InfoUSA
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Employment and Training Administration
- Social Security Administration

The last main theme or section is “Advanced Concepts.” The use of these concepts will further enhance the trainee’s understanding of the local labor market. The topics for this section are:

- Building a basic Targeted Industry and Occupational List
- Location quotients
- Shift-share analysis
- Industry Evaluation (Indeval)
- Diffusion index
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Employers Cost Index (ECI)
- Statistical analysis

The LMI Department is also in the process of creating a Labor Market Information Specialist certification for some of their customers. LMI Specialist certification is a way of recognizing those who have worked to gain a greater understanding of the available labor market data and how to use it effectively. The LMI 101 booklet and successful completion of the training course will be a component of certification, but certification will require quite a bit more. The certification process will teach a plethora of topics from something as simple as the definition of a labor market, to the statistical formulas used to calculate industry employment projections. The Certified LMI Specialist will also be required to know how to navigate through labor market information websites and how to find any relevant information contained on the sites. They will also be required to know all of the LMI Department publications that are available and what the timeline is for updating these publications. LMI Specialist certification and LMI 101 training classes will be available in early 2003. For those who wish to enroll in the LMI Specialist certification program or want to participate in LMI 101 training classes, email the Labor Market Information Department at [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us), or contact John Villarreal at (512) 491-4818 or email [john.villarreal@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:john.villarreal@twc.state.tx.us).

The benefits of LMI Specialist certification are many. First, local areas will benefit greatly by having someone at their disposal that can analyze and interpret local area data. Secondly, due to their expertise and expanded knowledge, Specialists will be able to field questions about labor market information from local elected officials and the media. Also, the area audits will provide local areas with results that can be published and distributed as another valuable and localized study. Finally, the Specialist will gain credibility, not from their title, but from the knowledge gained through a rigorous and concentrated curriculum.

The LMI Department of the Texas Workforce Commission has gone to great lengths to inform and educate its customers about the information it produces and how to use it. After receiving feedback from our customers on what is needed to make their job easier, the Department has created new publications, new websites, new training classes, and made our information more “user-friendly.” If knowledge is power, then the LMI Department and the LMI 101 workbook are preparing to make our Workforce Network Partners the strongest in the country.



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

The Texas actual series unemployment rate continued its decline for a second consecutive month by dropping three-tenths of a percentage point from a July rate of 6.6 to 6.3 percent in August. August's rate is the highest Texas has experienced for the month since 1994 when it also reached 6.3 percent as Texas was emerging from the 1991-92 national recession. The over-the-month decrease matches the average three-tenths of a percentage point reduction that is typical between July and August. Nationally, the United State's unemployment rate dipped by three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent in August after remaining unchanged the previous two months. This is the fifth consecutive month that the state rate has tied or been higher than the national rate.

✚ The number of employed Texans declined in August after gaining ground for five consecutive months. This is the typical employment dip observed prior to the start of the school year. August's decrease is the lowest reduction for the month since 1997, which, on average, declines by 43,200. August's employment level is still 83,800 higher than last August's level of 9,990,300.

✚ The number of unemployed Texans decreased for the second straight month, slipping 39,200 over the month from 712,500 in July to 673,300 in August. August's unemployment level is the highest reported for the month since 1992, but is also the largest over-the-month decrease since December 2000. This month's unemployment level declined more than the average August decrease of 30,800, however even with August's larger than expected decline the level is still 124,600 higher than last year's level of 548,700.

✚ The number of claims for unemployment benefits without earnings declined by 12,800 from 178,700 in July to 165,900 in August. In a year-to-date comparison, claims levels are 23,400 lower than in January and are at the lowest level since November of 2001. Since January, claims have remained on a constant downward trend, however, August's claims level is still 27,500 higher than last year's level of 138,400. All industry super sectors registered over-the-month decreases in claims for unemployment benefits.

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

1	Bryan-College Station	2.0
2	Lubbock	3.1
3	San Angelo	3.7
4	Amarillo	3.8
5	Abilene	4.4
6	Tyler	4.5
7	Waco	4.8
8	Killeen-Temple	5.0
9 (tie)	San Antonio	5.2
	Texarkana	5.2
11	Victoria	5.4
12	Wichita Falls	5.5
13	Austin-San Marcos	5.6
14	Houston	5.9
15	Fort Worth-Arlington	6.0
16	Odessa-Midland	6.1
	<b>Texas</b>	<b>6.3</b>
17	Corpus Christi	6.3
18	Sherman-Denison	6.6
19	Laredo	6.7
20	Longview-Marshall	6.8
21	Dallas	7.0
22	Brazoria	7.8
23	Galveston-Texas City	8.0
24	El Paso	8.4
25	Beaumont-Port Arthur	8.5
26	Brownsville-Harlingen	10.8
27	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	12.7

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

	August 2002*				July 2002				August 2001			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
State of Texas	10,747.4	10,074.1	673.3	6.3	10,817.9	10,105.4	712.5	6.6	10,539.0	9,990.3	548.7	5.2
Abilene	56.3	53.8	2.5	4.4	56.9	54.4	2.5	4.4	57.2	54.9	2.3	4.0
Amarillo	112.0	107.8	4.2	3.8	112.7	108.4	4.3	3.8	111.7	108.1	3.6	3.2
Austin-San Marcos	774.8	731.8	43.0	5.6	773.2	727.7	45.5	5.9	759.7	724.5	35.2	4.6
Beaumont-Port Arthur	178.5	163.3	15.2	8.5	180.9	164.7	16.2	8.9	178.4	162.3	16.1	9.0
Brazoria	110.6	101.9	8.7	7.8	112.3	102.9	9.4	8.4	107.0	100.0	7.0	6.6
Brownsville-Harlingen	137.5	122.6	14.9	10.8	136.4	122.9	13.5	9.9	133.5	121.5	12.0	9.0
Bryan-College Station	74.7	73.2	1.5	2.0	76.5	74.8	1.7	2.2	75.1	73.7	1.4	1.9
Corpus Christi	177.4	166.2	11.2	6.3	179.9	167.8	12.1	6.7	175.0	164.7	10.3	5.9
Dallas	2,067.8	1,923.6	144.2	7.0	2,078.1	1,928.5	149.6	7.2	2,023.7	1,913.4	110.3	5.4
El Paso	285.6	261.5	24.1	8.4	288.0	262.4	25.6	8.9	286.5	262.4	24.1	8.4
Fort Worth-Arlington	956.8	899.4	57.4	6.0	964.8	902.9	61.9	6.4	941.9	900.7	41.2	4.4
Galveston-Texas City	121.2	111.5	9.7	8.0	122.7	112.4	10.3	8.4	119.4	111.1	8.3	6.9
Houston	2,279.1	2,144.1	135.0	5.9	2,291.0	2,149.2	141.8	6.2	2,229.0	2,124.8	104.2	4.7
Killeen-Temple	118.9	112.9	6.0	5.0	119.8	113.3	6.5	5.4	116.9	111.6	5.3	4.6
Laredo	77.3	72.1	5.2	6.7	78.0	71.9	6.1	7.8	74.5	69.6	4.9	6.6
Longview-Marshall	103.3	96.3	7.0	6.8	104.3	96.8	7.5	7.2	102.5	96.9	5.6	5.5
Lubbock	129.9	125.8	4.1	3.1	130.8	126.0	4.8	3.7	126.8	123.4	3.4	2.7
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	210.4	183.7	26.7	12.7	212.0	183.3	28.7	13.5	201.9	175.6	26.3	13.0
Odessa-Midland	123.8	116.3	7.5	6.1	124.2	116.4	7.8	6.3	120.7	115.4	5.3	4.4
San Angelo	51.6	49.7	1.9	3.7	51.5	49.5	2.0	3.8	50.3	48.8	1.5	2.9
San Antonio	813.2	770.7	42.5	5.2	818.8	773.7	45.1	5.5	799.4	765.7	33.7	4.2
Sherman-Denison	49.8	46.5	3.3	6.6	50.6	47.0	3.6	7.1	50.7	47.5	3.2	6.4
Texarkana	55.6	52.7	2.9	5.2	56.2	53.1	3.1	5.5	55.2	52.6	2.6	4.6
Tyler	95.0	90.7	4.3	4.5	95.0	90.6	4.4	4.6	92.6	88.6	4.0	4.4
Victoria	45.0	42.6	2.4	5.4	45.3	42.7	2.6	5.8	44.2	42.2	2.0	4.5
Waco	100.8	95.9	4.9	4.8	101.9	96.6	5.3	5.2	101.0	96.9	4.1	4.1
Wichita Falls	64.5	60.9	3.6	5.5	65.4	61.6	3.8	5.9	63.4	61.1	2.3	3.7

\*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 - August 2002

County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Anderson	19,165	1,005	5.0	Donley	1,546	39	2.5	Kaufman	33,261	3,153	8.7	Real	1,570	75	4.6
Andrews	4,730	255	5.1	Duval	4,981	554	10.0	Kendall	16,328	480	2.9	Red River	4,841	374	7.2
Angelina	34,209	2,325	6.4	Eastland	9,405	354	3.6	Kenedy	214	2	0.9	Reeves	6,429	1,602	19.9
Aransas	10,439	655	5.9	Ector	56,940	4,647	7.5	Kent	390	7	1.8	Refugio	2,462	124	4.8
Archer	3,920	128	3.2	Edwards	828	34	3.9	Kerr	18,322	599	3.2	Roberts	394	14	3.4
Armstrong	1,126	15	1.3	Ellis	55,990	3,396	5.7	Kimble	2,400	61	2.5	Robertson	6,433	357	5.3
Atascosa	18,608	1,024	5.2	El Paso	261,529	24,059	8.4	King	173	5	2.8	Rockwall	22,988	1,288	5.3
Austin	14,230	580	3.9	Erath	16,267	463	2.8	Kinney	1,060	44	4.0	Runnels	4,628	189	3.9
Bailey	3,486	170	4.6	Falls	7,495	303	3.9	Kleberg	11,681	855	6.8	Rusk	20,985	1,339	6.0
Bandera	7,307	279	3.7	Fannin	12,460	874	6.6	Knox	1,811	68	3.6	Sabine	3,693	510	12.1
Bastrop	29,020	1,761	5.7	Fayette	11,232	342	3.0	Lamar	20,704	1,359	6.2	San Augustine	3,112	245	7.3
Baylor	1,643	90	5.2	Fisher	1,853	99	5.1	Lamb	6,440	332	4.9	San Jacinto	9,320	468	4.8
Bee	9,822	619	5.9	Floyd	2,908	211	6.8	Lampasas	9,915	340	3.3	San Patricio	28,434	1,886	6.2
Bell	92,040	4,904	5.1	Foard	689	49	6.6	La Salle	2,543	189	6.9	San Saba	2,542	75	2.9
Bexar	671,295	36,828	5.2	Fort Bend	190,196	9,139	4.6	Lavaca	8,167	177	2.1	Schleicher	1,501	46	3.0
Blanco	3,765	194	4.9	Franklin	4,656	175	3.6	Lee	6,408	279	4.2	Scurry	6,697	352	5.0
Borden	411	5	1.2	Freestone	8,339	422	4.8	Leon	6,738	497	6.9	Shackelford	1,372	51	3.6
Bosque	6,470	345	5.1	Frio	5,076	510	9.1	Liberty	28,498	2,934	9.3	Shelby	8,299	704	7.8
Bowie	36,017	2,060	5.4	Gaines	6,769	301	4.3	Limestone	9,997	454	4.3	Sherman	2,004	29	1.4
Brazoria	101,873	8,675	7.8	Galveston	111,460	9,701	8.0	Lipscomb	1,456	46	3.1	Smith	90,711	4,288	4.5
Brazos	73,159	1,502	2.0	Garza	2,777	95	3.3	Live Oak	4,620	133	2.8	Somervell	2,140	192	8.2
Brewster	5,573	143	2.5	Gillespie	9,969	233	2.3	Llano	5,715	223	3.8	Starr	16,574	3,128	15.9
Briscoe	693	36	4.9	Glasscock	656	15	2.2	Loving	52	2	3.7	Stephens	3,648	240	6.2
Brooks	3,562	279	7.3	Goliad	2,615	141	5.1	Lubbock	125,767	4,084	3.1	Terrell	600	29	4.6
Brown	17,041	740	4.2	Gonzales	7,480	437	5.5	Lynn	2,467	107	4.2	Stonewall	596	15	2.5
Burleson	7,257	330	4.3	Gray	8,424	515	5.8	Mc Culloch	3,313	126	3.7	Sutton	2,276	61	2.6
Burnet	15,505	733	4.5	Grayson	46,507	3,310	6.6	Mc Lennan	95,883	4,858	4.8	Swisher	3,601	158	4.2
Caldwell	16,539	1,072	6.1	Gregg	54,629	4,289	7.3	Mc Mullen	280	7	2.4	Tarrant	777,135	50,358	6.1
Calhoun	9,270	789	7.8	Grimes	7,840	626	7.4	Madison	4,294	182	4.1	Taylor	53,814	2,453	4.4
Callahan	6,846	296	4.1	Guadalupe	43,592	2,460	5.3	Marion	3,137	238	7.1	Terrell	680	24	3.4
Cameron	122,612	14,863	10.8	Hale	16,391	905	5.2	Martin	2,276	97	4.1	Terry	5,738	267	4.4
Camp	5,363	333	5.8	Hall	1,773	87	4.7	Mason	1,473	39	2.6	Throckmorton	717	24	3.2
Carson	3,160	121	3.7	Hamilton	4,456	124	2.7	Matagorda	14,595	1,898	11.5	Titus	12,708	710	5.3
Cass	13,985	1,060	7.0	Hansford	2,447	61	2.4	Maverick	13,700	3,125	18.6	Tom Green	49,698	1,905	3.7
Castro	3,229	146	4.3	Hardeman	1,774	102	5.4	Medina	14,598	677	4.4	Travis	477,853	29,032	5.7
Chambers	11,742	649	5.2	Hardin	21,414	1,763	7.6	Menard	946	27	2.8	Trinity	4,746	279	5.6
Cherokee	18,457	968	5.0	Harris	1,755,767	114,286	6.1	Midland	59,317	2,861	4.6	Tyler	6,054	716	10.6
Childress	3,195	107	3.2	Harrison	25,692	1,756	6.4	Milam	9,362	658	6.6	Upshur	15,957	958	5.7
Clay	5,327	240	4.3	Hartley	3,023	36	1.2	Mills	2,385	49	2.0	Upton	1,508	78	4.9
Cochran	1,124	95	7.8	Haskell	3,175	133	4.0	Mitchell	3,246	170	5.0	Uvalde	9,810	925	8.6
Coke	1,524	41	2.6	Hays	54,412	3,180	5.5	Montague	6,472	456	6.6	Val Verde	17,517	1,041	5.6
Coleman	2,869	204	6.6	Hemphill	1,882	32	1.7	Montgomery	145,117	7,004	4.6	Van Zandt	19,906	1,058	5.0
Collin	284,101	20,533	6.7	Henderson	30,335	1,625	5.1	Moore	9,280	332	3.5	Victoria	42,609	2,414	5.4
Collingsworth	1,702	17	1.0	Hidalgo	183,682	26,745	12.7	Morris	6,005	485	7.5	Walker	21,176	621	2.8
Colorado	8,342	328	3.8	Hill	14,726	808	5.2	Motley	546	7	1.3	Waller	12,740	942	6.9
Comal	40,057	2,455	5.8	Hockley	11,160	483	4.1	Nacogdoches	26,276	1,208	4.4	Ward	3,497	359	9.3
Comanche	6,321	187	2.9	Hood	17,264	1,189	6.4	Navarro	20,563	1,327	6.1	Washington	14,536	473	3.2
Concho	1,593	22	1.4	Hopkins	13,789	767	5.3	Newton	4,629	746	13.9	Webb	72,074	5,159	6.7
Cooke	17,831	755	4.1	Houston	10,091	456	4.3	Nolan	6,575	330	4.8	Wharton	18,849	1,133	5.7
Coryell	20,896	1,070	4.9	Howard	13,796	915	6.2	Nueces	137,805	9,283	6.3	Wheeler	2,557	75	2.8
Cottle	910	39	4.1	Hudspeth	1,364	75	5.2	Ochiltree	4,888	119	2.4	Wichita	57,006	3,434	5.7
Crane	1,296	211	14.0	Hunt	36,196	2,327	6.0	Oldham	1,274	22	1.7	Wilbarger	7,544	252	3.2
Crockett	1,702	73	4.1	Hutchinson	8,574	745	8.0	Orange	36,741	3,835	9.5	Willacy	5,068	1,034	16.9
Crosby	2,866	129	4.3	Irion	806	22	2.7	Palo Pinto	11,393	607	5.1	Williamson	154,003	7,964	4.9
Culberson	992	116	10.5	Jack	3,081	90	2.8	Panola	7,579	638	7.8	Wilson	15,804	746	4.5
Dallam	3,626	95	2.6	Jackson	8,187	342	4.0	Parker	42,932	2,030	4.5	Winkler	2,650	354	11.8
Dallas	1,205,648	98,780	7.6	Jasper	11,893	1,516	11.3	Parmer	4,371	104	2.3	Wise	25,540	1,206	4.5
Dawson	6,326	349	5.2	Jeff Davis	1,259	29	2.3	Pecos	5,575	439	7.3	Wood	13,728	745	5.1
Deaf Smith	6,859	463	6.3	Jefferson	105,168	9,602	8.4	Polk	13,261	922	6.5	Yoakum	2,828	146	4.9
Delta	2,598	146	5.3	Jim Hogg	1,915	155	7.5	Potter	51,572	3,432	6.2	Young	7,746	461	5.6
Denton	255,040	13,091	4.9	Jim Wells	17,727	1,407	7.4	Presidio	2,544	1,002	28.3	Zapata	4,406	379	7.9
De Witt	8,367	345	4.0	Johnson	62,079	3,777	5.7	Rains	3,648	226	5.8	Zavala	3,311	558	14.4
Dickens	677	22	3.1	Jones	9,053	398	4.2	Randall	56,269	802	1.4				
Dimmit	3,141	371	10.6	Karnes	5,854	330	5.3	Reagan	1,721	68	3.8				

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 - August 2002

City	Emp	Unemp	Rate	City	Emp	Unemp	Rate	City	Emp	Unemp	Rate	City	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Abilene	47,540	2,278	4.6	Denton	56,717	4,277	7.0	La Joya	1,070	249	18.9	Quanah	1,105	74	6.3
Addison	8,012	492	5.8	Diboll	1,643	227	12.1	La Marque	6,642	843	11.3	Rankin	340	24	6.6
Alamo	2,500	266	9.6	Dickinson	4,854	513	9.6	La Porte	17,388	837	4.6	Raymondville	2,526	551	17.9
Alamo Heights	4,246	117	2.7	Donna	5,561	1,072	16.2	Lago Vista	1,520	103	6.3	Rendon	4,835	257	5.0
Aldine	6,086	479	7.3	Dripping Springs	828	26	3.0	Lake Jackson	13,571	728	5.1	Richardson	55,596	3,226	5.5
Alice	9,364	732	7.3	Dumas	6,766	248	3.5	Lakeway	2,922	93	3.1	Richland Hills	4,968	227	4.4
Allen	19,620	1,301	6.2	Duncanville	23,813	1,393	5.5	Lamesa	4,670	312	6.3	Richmond	7,367	753	9.3
Alton	1,357	234	14.7	Eagle Pass	8,140	1,635	16.7	Lampasas	4,294	195	4.3	Rio Grande City	4,633	649	12.3
Alvarado	1,594	53	3.2	Edcouch	1,116	293	20.8	Lancaster	13,994	975	6.5	River Oaks	3,656	320	8.0
Alvin	10,685	808	7.0	Edinburg	16,091	2,041	11.3	Laredo	67,563	4,694	6.5	Roanoke	1,433	74	4.9
Amarillo	89,819	3,836	4.1	El Campo	4,805	331	6.4	League City	18,008	673	3.6	Robert Lee	572	16	2.7
Anderson Mill	10,836	623	5.4	El Paso	235,871	20,728	8.1	Leander	3,578	117	3.2	Robinson	4,228	95	2.2
Andrews	3,483	197	5.4	Eldorado	942	38	3.9	Leon Valley	6,508	230	3.4	Robstown	4,445	453	9.2
Angleton	9,470	825	8.0	Electra	1,286	87	6.3	Levelland	6,527	269	4.0	Rockdale	1,945	129	6.2
Arlington	189,860	10,688	5.3	Elgin	3,215	270	7.7	Lewisville	45,466	2,075	4.4	Rockwall	9,410	681	6.7
Athens	6,018	331	5.2	Elsa	2,345	318	11.9	Liberty	4,159	670	13.9	Rosenberg	15,909	971	5.8
Atlanta	3,049	185	5.7	Ennis	8,511	589	6.5	Linden	1,087	70	6.1	Round Rock	35,164	1,681	4.6
Austin	386,380	25,075	6.1	Eules	30,002	1,381	4.4	Littlefield	2,750	148	5.1	Rowlett	16,754	655	3.8
Azle	5,758	362	5.9	Everman	3,419	378	10.0	Live Oak	6,805	198	2.8	Saginaw	5,603	495	8.1
Balch Springs	10,685	712	6.2	Fabens	1,953	263	11.9	Llano	1,831	92	4.8	San Angelo	42,074	1,724	3.9
Bastrop	2,902	267	8.4	Fairfield	1,663	62	3.6	Lockhart	5,516	423	7.1	San Antonio	526,249	31,487	5.6
Bay City	7,352	968	11.6	Falfurrias	2,396	98	3.9	Longview	36,944	2,991	7.5	San Benito	9,361	1,192	11.3
Baytown	34,897	2,616	7.0	Farmers Branch	16,633	1,157	6.5	Lubbock	106,227	3,470	3.2	San Juan	5,250	702	11.8
Beaumont	51,856	4,578	8.1	First Colony	15,665	351	2.1	Lufkin	15,065	973	6.1	San Marcos	22,737	1,962	7.9
Bedford	34,265	1,336	3.8	Flower Mound	13,853	593	4.1	Lumberton	4,045	201	4.7	Santa Fe	4,461	288	6.1
Beeville	5,393	400	6.9	Forest Hill	7,003	478	6.4	Mc Allen	47,569	4,743	9.1	Schertz	7,434	400	5.1
Bellaire	9,965	241	2.4	Fort Stockton	3,281	293	8.2	Mc Gregor	2,238	98	4.2	Seabrook	5,448	241	4.2
Bellmead	4,017	172	4.1	Fort Worth	268,541	23,320	8.0	Mc Kinney	18,909	2,444	11.4	Seagoville	4,749	439	8.5
Belton	6,364	329	4.9	Fredericksburg	3,701	87	2.3	Mansfield	9,908	577	5.5	Seguin	11,125	875	7.3
Benbrook	13,857	561	3.9	Freeport	5,289	884	14.3	Marble Falls	3,086	103	3.2	Seminole	3,367	107	3.1
Bertram	537	44	7.6	Friendswood	14,253	581	3.9	Marlin	2,647	141	5.1	Sherman	15,669	1,231	7.3
Big Lake	1,339	62	4.4	Frisco	6,267	541	7.9	Marshall	10,158	704	6.5	Silsbee	3,171	306	8.8
Big Spring	9,440	703	6.9	Gainesville	7,662	385	4.8	Marshall Creek	231	19	7.6	Sinton	2,345	188	7.4
Blanco	712	49	6.4	Galena Park	4,877	385	7.3	Mason	810	37	4.4	Smithville	2,057	142	6.5
Bonham	2,944	287	8.9	Galveston	28,951	3,337	10.3	Mathis	1,992	231	10.4	Snyder	4,478	255	5.4
Borger	5,261	535	9.2	Garland	123,142	7,728	5.9	Memphis	1,086	66	5.7	Socorro	9,007	1,409	13.5
Bowie	1,802	144	7.4	Gatesville	3,368	150	4.3	Menard	650	27	4.0	Sonora	1,516	38	2.4
Brady	2,068	89	4.1	Georgetown	14,639	928	6.0	Mercedes	5,499	1,010	15.5	South Houston	7,367	575	7.2
Brenham	6,228	237	3.7	Gladewater	2,741	262	8.7	Merkel	1,098	74	6.3	South Padre Island	1,287	46	3.5
Bridge City	3,716	349	8.6	Glen Rose	603	98	14.0	Mertzton	360	9	2.4	Southlake	5,036	170	3.3
Bridgeport	2,340	115	4.7	Graham	3,835	233	5.7	Mesquite	68,154	4,134	5.7	Spring	21,990	899	3.9
Brownsville	45,299	6,456	12.5	Granbury	2,421	118	4.6	Mexia	3,187	164	4.9	Stafford	7,531	360	4.6
Brownwood	8,685	445	4.9	Grand Prairie	64,089	4,846	7.0	Midland	50,020	2,386	4.6	Stanton	1,174	59	4.8
Bryan	34,717	724	2.0	Grapevine	21,673	738	3.3	Midlothian	3,437	212	5.8	Stephenville	7,969	275	3.3
Buda	1,575	59	3.6	Greenville	12,867	822	6.0	Mineral Wells	6,396	425	6.2	Sterling City	447	29	6.1
Burkburnett	5,036	358	6.6	Gregory	1,280	94	6.8	Mission Bend	19,881	709	3.4	Sugar Land	21,497	849	3.8
Burleson	10,680	639	5.6	Groesbeck	1,488	72	4.6	Mission	13,323	1,604	10.7	Sulphur Springs	6,570	442	6.3
Cameron	2,202	199	8.3	Groves	7,120	385	5.1	Missouri City	32,981	1,030	3.0	Sweetwater	4,646	265	5.4
Canyon	6,924	121	1.7	Haltom City	21,037	1,329	5.9	Monahans	2,178	232	9.6	Taylor	10,400	945	8.3
Canyon Lake	7,295	622	7.9	Harker Heights	6,567	214	3.2	Mount Pleasant	6,488	253	3.8	Temple	27,083	1,048	3.7
Carrollton	71,426	3,283	4.4	Harlingen	26,024	2,195	7.8	Mount Vernon	1,233	68	5.2	Terrell	7,117	1,000	12.3
Carthage	2,230	189	7.8	Haslet	585	25	4.1	Nacogdoches	14,757	795	5.1	Texasarkana	13,202	905	6.4
Cedar Hill	12,983	596	4.4	Henderson	5,429	326	5.7	Navasota	2,819	183	6.1	Texas City	19,701	2,036	9.4
Cedar Park	5,527	401	6.8	Henrietta	1,527	89	5.5	Nederland	8,187	340	4.0	The Colony	19,349	1,062	5.2
Channelview	14,785	979	6.2	Hereford	5,178	434	7.7	New Braunfels	20,282	1,216	5.7	The Woodlands	24,019	696	2.8
Clarksville	1,478	143	8.8	Hewitt	5,799	95	1.6	Nocona	1,070	71	6.2	Trophy Club	3,634	131	3.5
Cleburne	12,716	1,067	7.7	Hidalgo	1,303	148	10.2	N Richland Hills	33,095	1,619	4.7	Tyler	45,008	2,528	5.3
Clifton	1,313	61	4.4	Highland Park	4,817	134	2.7	Odessa	43,759	3,509	7.4	Universal City	7,921	298	3.6
Cloverleaf	10,818	815	7.0	Highland Village	6,171	258	4.0	Olney	1,263	87	6.4	University Park	13,404	471	3.4
Clute	5,051	394	7.2	Hillsboro	3,531	247	6.5	Orange	8,044	896	10.0	Uvalde	5,979	659	9.9
College Station	29,105	629	2.1	Houston	1,007,990	78,691	7.2	Ozona	1,358	66	4.6	Vernon	5,742	205	3.4
Colleyville	8,662	297	3.3	Humble	8,251	392	4.5	Paducah	699	38	5.2	Victoria	31,598	1,902	5.7
Columbus	1,458	50	3.3	Huntsville	11,373	395	3.4	Paint Rock	150	2	1.3	Vidor	5,035	427	7.8
Commerce	3,536	349	9.0	Hurst	23,755	1,462	5.8	Palacios	1,534	349	18.5	Waco	48,158	3,228	6.3
Conroe	21,870	1,118	4.9	Iowa Park	3,004	162	5.1	Palestine	8,864	478	5.1	Waller	808	40	4.7
Converse	5,584	213	3.7	Irving	114,511	7,710	6.3	Pampa	7,030	418	5.6	Watauga	13,760	495	3.5
Cooper	1,012	112	10.0	Jacinto City	4,448	542	10.9	Paris	10,938	804	6.8	Waxahachie	11,335	859	7.0
Coppell	12,403	352	2.8	Jacksonville	5,715	349	5.8	Pasadena	69,150	4,828	6.5	Weatherford	9,129	405	4.2
Copperas Cove	10,376	590	5.4	Jasper	2,787	263	8.6	Pearland	11,821	595	4.8	Webster	3,705	99	2.6
Corpus Christi	123,913	8,279	6.3	Johnson City	536	42	7.3	Pearsall	2,494	339	12.0	Wells Branch	7,732	214	2.7
Corsicana	11,809	820	6.5	Jonestown	982	88	8.2	Pecan Grove	8,439	232	2.7	Weslaco	10,341	1,929	15.7
Cotulla	1,782	129	6.8	Junction	1,453	49	3.3	Pecos	4,960	1,434	22.4	West Odessa	7,301	612	7.7
Crane	996	171	14.7	Katy	4,960	168	3.3	Perryton	4,068	108	2.6	West University Pl	8,306	122	1.4
Crockett	3,410	202	5.6	Keller	9,515	303	3.1	Pflugerville	3,871	126	3.2	Wharton	3,935	335	7.8
Crowley	4,517	285	5.9	Kennedale	2,666	101	3.7	Pharr	14,185	2,530	15.1	White Settlement	9,136	593	6.1
Cuero	2,788	142	4.8	Kermit	2,041	301	12.9	Plainview	10,476	554	5.0	Wichita Falls	44,046	2,715	5.8
Dalhart	4,448	103	2.3	Kerrville	8,204	308	3.6	Plano	140,101	8,630	5.8	Wink	396	30	7.0
Dallas	658,041	63,835	8.8	Kilgore	5,780	422	6.8	Pleasanton	4,608	265	5.4	Woodway	5,324	68	1.3
Daingerfield	1,132	101	8.2	Killeen	26,447	2,332	8.1	Port Arthur	21,949	3,346	13.2	Wylie	8,493	711	7.7
De Soto	21,366	1,117	5.0	Kingsville	9,885	736	6.9	Port Isabel	2,557	196	7.1	Yoakum	2,440	84	3.3
Deer Park	17,410	850	4.7	Kingwood	23,061	503	2.1	Port Lavaca	5,218	560	9.7				
Del Rio	14,486	901	5.9	Kirby	5,135	324	5.9	Port Neches	6,342	408	6.0				
Denison	10,052	799	7.4	Kyle	1,524	136	8.2	Portland	7,365	270	3.5				

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

			July '02 to Aug '02		Aug '01 to Aug '02		
	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>TOTAL NONAG. W &amp; S EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>9,409,100</b>	<b>9,379,900</b>	<b>9,497,100</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-88,000</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>1,731,500</b>	<b>1,733,200</b>	<b>1,788,800</b>	<b>-1,700</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-57,300</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
Mining	158,100	157,400	165,300	700	0.4	-7,200	-4.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	149,300	148,600	156,200	700	0.5	-6,900	-4.4
Construction	568,000	568,600	572,600	-600	-0.1	-4,600	-0.8
Manufacturing	1,005,400	1,007,200	1,050,900	-1,800	-0.2	-45,500	-4.3
Durable Goods	610,100	611,400	641,400	-1,300	-0.2	-31,300	-4.9
Lumber & Wood Products	45,500	45,200	46,000	300	0.7	-500	-1.1
Lumber Camps, Sawmills, Planing Mills	6,700	6,800	7,000	-100	-1.5	-300	-4.3
Furniture & Fixtures	20,000	20,000	20,600	0	0.0	-600	-2.9
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	46,000	46,300	46,700	-300	-0.6	-700	-1.5
Concrete, Gypsum, & Plaster Products	24,600	24,600	24,800	0	0.0	-200	-0.8
Primary Metal Industries	29,300	29,100	31,600	200	0.7	-2,300	-7.3
Fabricated Metal Industries	98,100	98,000	103,800	100	0.1	-5,700	-5.5
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	53,100	52,900	55,200	200	0.4	-2,100	-3.8
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	130,100	130,300	137,000	-200	-0.2	-6,900	-5.0
Oil & Gas Field Machinery	30,500	30,700	31,300	-200	-0.7	-800	-2.6
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	114,900	116,000	126,400	-1,100	-0.9	-11,500	-9.1
Transportation Equipment	73,200	73,400	75,300	-200	-0.3	-2,100	-2.8
Aircraft & Parts	38,500	38,800	40,100	-300	-0.8	-1,600	-4.0
Instruments & Related Products	33,900	34,100	34,600	-200	-0.6	-700	-2.0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19,100	19,000	19,400	100	0.5	-300	-1.5
Nondurable Goods	395,300	395,800	409,500	-500	-0.1	-14,200	-3.5
Food & Kindred Products	97,800	96,700	100,000	1,100	1.1	-2,200	-2.2
Meat Products	36,500	36,100	36,200	400	1.1	300	0.8
Dairy Products	5,200	5,200	5,300	0	0.0	-100	-1.9
Bakery Products	9,300	9,200	8,900	100	1.1	400	4.5
Malt Beverages	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0	-100	-5.6
Textile Mill Products	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	0.0	-100	-2.4
Apparel & Other Finished Textile Products	31,300	31,300	35,700	0	0.0	-4,400	-12.3
Paper & Allied Products	26,300	26,500	27,400	-200	-0.8	-1,100	-4.0
Printing & Publishing	72,900	73,300	75,100	-400	-0.5	-2,200	-2.9
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, & Miscellaneous	34,800	35,100	35,500	-300	-0.9	-700	-2.0
Chemicals & Allied Products	81,000	81,300	81,900	-300	-0.4	-900	-1.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	24,800	24,800	25,200	0	0.0	-400	-1.6
Petroleum Refining	21,000	21,100	21,600	-100	-0.5	-600	-2.8
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	52,500	53,000	54,800	-500	-0.9	-2,300	-4.2
Leather & Leather Products	4,700	4,800	5,300	-100	-2.1	-600	-11.3
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	<b>7,677,600</b>	<b>7,646,700</b>	<b>7,708,300</b>	<b>30,900</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-30,700</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Transportation, Communications, Utilities	575,900	574,000	598,200	1,900	0.3	-22,300	-3.7
Transportation	357,300	355,600	369,600	1,700	0.5	-12,300	-3.3
Railroad Transportation	15,800	15,800	16,000	0	0.0	-200	-1.3
Transportation by Air	117,900	117,000	125,700	900	0.8	-7,800	-6.2
Communications	143,500	143,200	150,600	300	0.2	-7,100	-4.7
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	75,100	75,200	78,000	-100	-0.1	-2,900	-3.7
Electric Services	35,900	35,900	35,600	0	0.0	300	0.8
Gas Production & Distribution	21,600	21,800	25,300	-200	-0.9	-3,700	-14.6
Trade	2,249,300	2,245,200	2,280,600	4,100	0.2	-31,300	-1.4
Wholesale Trade	523,300	524,100	532,900	-800	-0.2	-9,600	-1.8
Retail Trade	1,726,000	1,721,100	1,747,700	4,900	0.3	-21,700	-1.2
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	68,700	69,300	67,300	-600	-0.9	1,400	2.1
General Merchandise Stores	219,000	219,700	229,000	-700	-0.3	-10,000	-4.4
Food Stores	245,400	246,300	254,700	-900	-0.4	-9,300	-3.7
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	181,900	181,200	181,600	700	0.4	300	0.2
Apparel & Accessory Stores	83,000	81,000	88,500	2,000	2.5	-5,500	-6.2
Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores	82,500	82,100	82,400	400	0.5	100	0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	662,800	660,900	655,800	1,900	0.3	7,000	1.1
Other Retail Trade	182,700	180,600	188,400	2,100	1.2	-5,700	-3.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	533,200	532,300	537,900	900	0.2	-4,700	-0.9
Depository Institutions including Banks	132,500	132,800	133,100	-300	-0.2	-600	-0.5
Insurance Carriers, Agents, Brokers, & Service	166,100	165,800	166,900	300	0.2	-800	-0.5
Other Finance Insurance & Real Estate	234,600	233,700	237,900	900	0.4	-3,300	-1.4
Services	2,763,400	2,757,000	2,770,900	6,400	0.2	-7,500	-0.3
Hotel & Other Lodging Places	97,700	98,500	97,800	-800	-0.8	-100	-0.1
Personal Services	91,600	91,200	92,900	400	0.4	-1,300	-1.4
Business Services	669,700	668,400	704,500	1,300	0.2	-34,800	-4.9
Auto Repair Services	97,400	96,900	97,500	500	0.5	-100	-0.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	33,500	33,500	34,400	0	0.0	-900	-2.6
Amusement & Recreation, including Motion Pictures	128,200	131,900	131,100	-3,700	-2.8	-2,900	-2.2
Health Services	741,700	738,000	722,900	3,700	0.5	18,800	2.6
Legal Services	71,700	71,700	71,800	0	0.0	-100	-0.1
Educational Services	120,100	116,000	117,000	4,100	3.5	3,100	2.6
Social Services	208,800	205,900	203,200	2,900	1.4	5,600	2.8
Membership Organizations	146,400	148,300	146,400	-1,900	-1.3	0	0.0
Engineering & Management Services	271,300	270,800	270,500	500	0.2	800	0.3
Agricultural Services	64,900	65,200	63,200	-300	-0.5	1,700	2.7
Government	1,555,800	1,538,200	1,520,700	17,600	1.1	35,100	2.3
Federal	180,600	180,800	179,300	-200	-0.1	1,300	0.7
State	322,800	326,800	319,400	-4,000	-1.2	3,400	1.1
Local	1,052,400	1,030,600	1,022,000	21,800	2.1	30,400	3.0

\*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)



Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment  
(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	ABILENE			AMARILLO			AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS			BMT.-PT. ARTHUR			BRAZORIA		
	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	52.9	53.0	53.9	96.7	96.3	97.6	669.8	664.2	671.4	156.2	156.8	157.2	77.7	78.1	77.1
Mining	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.5
Construction	2.4	2.4	2.3	5.0	5.0	5.4	40.4	40.6	40.7	15.6	15.7	15.8	10.9	11.2	10.4
Manufacturing-Dur.	1.5	1.5	1.6	3.2	3.2	3.3	56.2	56.7	63.9	7.5	7.8	7.7	3.4	3.4	3.7
Manufacturing-Nondur.	1.6	1.6	1.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	13.0	12.9	13.0	13.8	13.8	14.4	10.2	10.3	10.4
Trans., Comm. & Util.	2.4	2.4	2.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	20.5	20.4	21.3	8.1	8.1	8.4	3.1	3.2	2.9
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.7	5.9	5.9	6.0	38.0	37.9	37.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	2.6	2.6	2.5
Retail Trade	11.3	11.2	11.7	21.7	21.5	21.2	116.4	115.6	116.7	31.2	31.3	31.1	13.3	13.3	13.8
Fin., Ins., & Real Est.	2.5	2.5	2.5	5.2	5.2	5.4	34.6	34.7	34.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Services	18.4	18.5	18.9	29.3	29.1	29.0	203.3	202.8	203.2	44.2	44.0	42.6	16.2	16.2	15.7
Federal Government	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.9	9.9	10.0	9.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
State Government	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	67.8	68.7	65.1	5.6	5.6	5.7	3.0	3.0	2.8
Local Government	6.0	6.1	5.8	9.3	9.3	10.0	68.0	62.2	63.8	16.6	16.9	17.7	10.8	10.8	10.8
BROWNSVILLE-HARL.															
INDUSTRY	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	111.0	111.1	111.2	73.1	74.2	74.4	159.4	159.6	159.6	1975.9	1973.5	1990.6	252.4	251.4	255.6
Mining	**	**	**	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.4	2.4	2.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	**	**	**
Construction	4.4	4.5	4.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	14.0	14.0	12.9	107.1	106.8	109.8	12.2	12.2	11.7
Manufacturing-Dur.	5.6	5.6	5.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	155.9	156.2	162.7	14.1	14.2	15.0
Manufacturing-Nondur.	5.3	5.2	5.8	2.4	2.4	2.5	7.9	7.9	8.0	75.6	75.6	75.3	18.5	18.1	20.3
Trans., Comm. & Util.	5.5	5.5	5.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	8.1	7.9	7.9	138.3	138.3	141.4	14.2	14.2	15.0
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.5	4.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	5.8	5.8	5.9	145.1	145.7	150.8	11.7	11.7	11.7
Retail Trade	22.8	22.9	22.9	14.0	13.7	14.2	30.5	30.5	31.1	343.8	342.6	345.9	49.3	49.3	49.8
Fin., Ins., & Real Est.	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	6.3	6.4	6.5	157.6	157.2	158.3	11.3	11.3	11.2
Services	33.4	33.4	33.4	17.1	17.0	17.4	50.1	50.2	50.9	623.7	624.4	626.8	62.5	62.3	63.5
Federal Government	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	31.4	31.5	31.0	8.8	8.8	8.7
State Government	3.9	3.8	3.8	19.7	21.1	19.7	4.1	4.4	4.2	25.9	26.7	26.0	8.6	8.7	8.0
Local Government	19.4	19.5	19.1	5.9	6.0	6.6	19.1	19.1	18.9	162.3	159.4	153.6	41.2	40.6	40.7
BRYAN-COLL. STA.															
INDUSTRY	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	793.2	789.7	802.8	86.8	86.7	87.3	2117.9	2109.7	2119.9	103.5	103.1	103.4	71.2	70.8	69.4
Mining	4.6	4.6	4.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	68.1	67.8	69.9	**	**	**	1.2	1.2	1.3
Construction	47.0	46.9	46.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	163.9	163.5	159.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	2.3	2.3	2.3
Manufacturing-Dur.	69.3	69.3	72.9	2.3	2.3	2.5	130.4	130.0	132.7	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Manufacturing-Nondur.	35.9	35.8	35.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	81.0	81.3	82.5	4.8	4.9	5.0	0.5	0.5	0.6
Trans., Comm. & Util.	79.9	79.2	81.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	146.0	145.7	154.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	12.1	12.1	12.3
Wholesale Trade	42.9	42.9	42.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	125.1	125.0	126.0	3.8	3.8	4.1	2.8	2.8	2.9
Retail Trade	153.7	153.1	157.1	18.5	18.6	18.6	356.2	354.9	355.1	21.4	21.3	21.2	16.2	16.1	15.4
Fin., Ins., & Real Est.	41.7	41.7	41.7	5.4	5.4	5.5	116.4	116.3	116.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.1	3.1	2.9
Services	219.0	218.0	220.7	20.5	20.5	20.4	668.3	666.4	663.2	28.7	28.5	28.6	15.9	15.7	15.5
Federal Government	14.1	14.1	14.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	26.2	26.2	26.2	7.9	8.0	8.0	2.1	2.2	2.1
State Government	9.2	9.2	9.2	12.0	11.7	12.0	47.2	47.4	45.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	1.4	1.4	1.5
Local Government	75.9	74.9	75.5	12.3	12.5	12.3	189.1	185.2	187.9	16.3	16.2	15.8	12.7	12.5	11.7
CORPUS CHRISTI															
INDUSTRY	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	111.0	111.1	111.2	73.1	74.2	74.4	159.4	159.6	159.6	1975.9	1973.5	1990.6	252.4	251.4	255.6
Mining	**	**	**	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.4	2.4	2.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	**	**	**
Construction	4.4	4.5	4.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	14.0	14.0	12.9	107.1	106.8	109.8	12.2	12.2	11.7
Manufacturing-Dur.	5.6	5.6	5.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	155.9	156.2	162.7	14.1	14.2	15.0
Manufacturing-Nondur.	5.3	5.2	5.8	2.4	2.4	2.5	7.9	7.9	8.0	75.6	75.6	75.3	18.5	18.1	20.3
Trans., Comm. & Util.	5.5	5.5	5.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	8.1	7.9	7.9	138.3	138.3	141.4	14.2	14.2	15.0
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.5	4.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	5.8	5.8	5.9	145.1	145.7	150.8	11.7	11.7	11.7
Retail Trade	22.8	22.9	22.9	14.0	13.7	14.2	30.5	30.5	31.1	343.8	342.6	345.9	49.3	49.3	49.8
Fin., Ins., & Real Est.	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	6.3	6.4	6.5	157.6	157.2	158.3	11.3	11.3	11.2
Services	33.4	33.4	33.4	17.1	17.0	17.4	50.1	50.2	50.9	623.7	624.4	626.8	62.5	62.3	63.5
Federal Government	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	31.4	31.5	31.0	8.8	8.8	8.7
State Government	3.9	3.8	3.8	19.7	21.1	19.7	4.1	4.4	4.2	25.9	26.7	26.0	8.6	8.7	8.0
Local Government	19.4	19.5	19.1	5.9	6.0	6.6	19.1	19.1	18.9	162.3	159.4	153.6	41.2	40.6	40.7
DALLAS															
INDUSTRY	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	793.2	789.7	802.8	86.8	86.7	87.3	2117.9	2109.7	2119.9	103.5	103.1	103.4	71.2	70.8	69.4
Mining	4.6	4.6	4.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	68.1	67.8	69.9	**	**	**	1.2	1.2	1.3
Construction	47.0	46.9	46.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	163.9	163.5	159.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	2.3	2.3	2.3
Manufacturing-Dur.	69.3	69.3	72.9	2.3	2.3	2.5	130.4	130.0	132.7	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Manufacturing-Nondur.	35.9	35.8	35.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	81.0	81.3	82.5	4.8	4.9	5.0	0.5	0.5	0.6
Trans., Comm. & Util.	79.9	79.2	81.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	146.0	145.7	154.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	12.1	12.1	12.3
Wholesale Trade	42.9	42.9	42.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	125.1	125.0	126.0	3.8	3.8	4.1	2.8	2.8	2.9
Retail Trade	153.7	153.1	157.1	18.5	18.6	18.6	356.2	354.9	355.1	21.4	21.3	21.2	16.2	16.1	15.4
Fin., Ins., & Real Est.	41.7	41.7	41.7	5.4	5.4	5.5	116.4	116.3	116.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.1	3.1	2.9
Services	219.0	218.0	220.7	20.5	20.5	20.4	668.3	666.4	663.2	28.7	28.5	28.6	15.9	15.7	15.5
Federal Government	14.1	14.1	14.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	26.2	26.2	26.2	7.9	8.0	8.0	2.1	2.2	2.1
State Government	9.2	9.2	9.2	12.0	11.7	12.0	47.2	47.4	45.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	1.4	1.4	1.5
Local Government	75.9	74.9	75.5	12.3	12.5	12.3	189.1	185.2	187.9	16.3	16.2	15.8	12.7	12.5	11.7
EL PASO															
INDUSTRY	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01	Aug '02	July '02	Aug '01
TOTAL	111.0	111.1	111.2	73.1	74.2	74.4	159.4	159.6	159.6	1975.9	1973.5	1990.6	252.4	251.4	255.6
Mining	**	**	**	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.4	2.4	2.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	**	**	**
Construction	4.4	4.5	4.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	14.0	14.0	12.9	107.1	106.8	109.8	12.2	12.2	11.7
Manufacturing-Dur.	5.6	5.6	5.6	2.8	2.8	2.9									



## “ASK THE EXPERT”

### “What is a business cycle and how can we measure this at the local level?”

by Sarah Rummery, Ph.D.

In economics the term business cycle is used to refer to the cyclical fluctuations in real gross domestic product (hereafter GDP). GDP is a monetary measure of the economy's production, valued using the prices from a selected base year. For example, the economy's production for each year will be evaluated using the prices from 1996. This ensures that the prices used for evaluation are held constant and the only reason for an increase in the calculated value of GDP would be higher production from the nation's businesses. The health of the economy at the national, state and local level is reflected in the rate of change in GDP (known as economic growth). As a matter of course the economy's growth rate varies over time, from periods of strong growth (observed from 1991 through the end of 2000) to periods of economic slow down, as observed during the first three quarters of 2001. If economic growth decreases for two consecutive quarters, the economy is officially in a recession. These fluctuations in GDP are termed the “business cycle”.

A business cycle has four phases; expansion, peak, recession and trough. Each phase is of an undetermined length of time, varying from weeks to years. However when looking at historical data, the economy seems to move from one phase to another in a somewhat cyclical manner, hence the term business cycle.

The states that make up the national economy also have their own measure of production, known as Gross State Product (GSP). According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the GSP for Texas was \$742.27 billion in June 2002, behind only California and New York.

There are many observable characteristics or indicators of the economy that are measured and reported on by different government departments, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB).

At the national, state and local levels there are economic indicators that vary either directly or indirectly with the business cycle, and which are observable at the local level. For example, as the rate of economic growth picks up, businesses produce more, which requires more resources, and employment rises. As employment rises, consumer incomes and more importantly expenditures rise, fueling more growth. According to the BEA, the national savings rate in the United States is only 3.1%. This tells us that consumers spend most of their incomes. As such consumer expenditure is a key determinant of economic growth, in fact it is the largest single component of GDP. Expenditure and employment vary directly with the business cycle. At the local level, businesses would observe higher sales and business revenues would be increasing.

Unemployment varies indirectly with the business cycle. This means that when the economy grows, unemployment falls and visa versa. During a recession, businesses may lay workers off, for example IBM announced a layoff of 15,000 employees on the sixteenth of August 2002. Some businesses may even close permanently. Unemployment rates at the local level will be a reflection of unemployment at the national level. Local unemployment rates can vary considerably by region and state, depending on the industries that exist and how vulnerable their product demand is to an economic slow down. According to the BLS, the unemployment rate for Texas in June 2002 was 5.8%. This means that 5.8% of the Texas labor force is actively seeking employment. This unemployment rate of 5.8% placed Texas 37<sup>th</sup> in a ranking of all states (including the District of Columbia). In Texas, the industry that employs the largest number of people is “Services”. This industry category includes restaurants, hotels and all businesses that provide a service as opposed to a tangible product. Employment in this industry is sensitive to fluctuations in economic growth. Unemployment rates are published monthly by the BLS and are widely reported in the press.

Another economic variable that varies directly with the business cycle and would be observed at the national, state and local level is the inflation rate. Inflation is the increase in the general price level and is measured by both the consumer and producer price indexes. Changes in both indexes are calculated and reported monthly by the BLS. One theory that explains why inflation may accompany economic growth focuses on the labor market. As economic growth accelerates, employment levels rise, and possibly labor shortages arise in some industries, again this will vary across states and regions. To attract workers, wage levels in these industries will rise, which in turn may be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. Higher wages are a higher cost to businesses. Profit maximizing businesses will attempt to recover this additional cost by raising prices. Another explanation for higher price levels during periods of strong economic growth is that higher levels of consumer demand put upward pressure on prices. The reverse scenario would explain why price levels do not increase as much during recessions. The BLS reports that for the

#### 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.



twelve months prior to June 2002, the percentage change in the national urban consumer price index was 1.1%. There is considerable variation by state and by metropolitan areas within states. For example, in Houston, Texas, the consumer price index for the same period changed by minus 0.8%. This was primarily attributed to lower gas and electricity prices.

Another indicator of the business cycle, observable at the local level is interest rates. Interest rates have historically varied directly with the business cycle, increasing in periods of expansion and decreasing in recessions. Currently we have observed interest rates falling. For example, you may notice the 0% financing offers on many vehicles, and many credit card companies offering 0% balance transfer opportunities. Fifteen-year mortgage rates are at a many-year low of 5.6%. The prime-lending rate is 4.75%, the lowest since 1972. The Federal Open Market Committee (which has eight scheduled meetings for 2002), composed of Alan Greenspan (FRB chairman), the seven Federal Reserve Bank board members, the New York Federal Reserve Bank president and four other members, has decreased the federal funds rate to 1.75%, which is the lowest rate in 40 years. These rate decreases are designed to increase consumer spending. The vehicle and housing markets are particularly sensitive to interest rate changes. If consumer spending can be stimulated, economic growth will be recharged. The eight scheduled meetings of the FOMC are widely anticipated and reported in the press.

Bankruptcies, for both businesses and consumers, increase during recessions and decrease during expansions. Bankruptcies are often widely reported in the media, especially when they involve prominent businesses such as US Air, WorldCom and Enron.

To conclude, we are not immune to the business cycle at the local level, and indicators of the business cycle are numerous and widely reported. Local economies are made up of households, workers, businesses, banks and government agencies. They are a microcosm of the national economy, and as such are a reflection of what is happening at the national level. You may notice changes in the level of employment and unemployment in your local area. You may notice changes in interest rates offered at local banks and on your flexible rate mortgage or credit cards. You may notice changes in the price levels of gasoline, electricity and other consumer goods. Such economic indicators are reported in both local and national media and will help inform all citizens of the state of the economy and where the economy is in relation to the business cycle.

*Dr. Rummery is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Finance at Stephen F. Austin State University. Contact Dr. Rummery at [rrummery@sfasu.edu](mailto:rrummery@sfasu.edu) or by phone at (936) 468-1783.*

## “HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE”

### **Odessa Distribution Facility Breaks Ground**

ODESSA, Tex. (Odessa American-Julie Breaux)—Groundbreaking occurred in August on a Family Dollar distribution center in Odessa. Following intense negotiations that involved the Odessa Development Corporation, local water and electricity utilities, oil companies and land owners, the 90,000-square-foot, \$91 million facility is expected to add 350 to 500 jobs to the area's economy. The facility, which is to be built and operated by the North Carolina-based discount store retailer, will be located on a 100-acre tract of land at John Ben Shepperd Parkway and I-20.

### **Ice Cream Company Adding New Facility**

BRENNHAM, Tex. (Wright Review: Texas Business Report)—Blue Bell Creameries plans to build a 60,000-square-foot facility in the near future. Blue Bell, which employs more than 2,800 people, will use the new facility as a warehouse and multi-media training area. Fifteen jobs may be added at Blue Bell's headquarters complex.

### **San Antonio's Tourism Recovers Quickly from 9/11**

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (San Antonio Business Journal- W. Scott Bailey)—A recent report by Smith Travel Research indicates that while most all major tourism area occupancy rates in the United States were falling during the first seven months of 2002, San Antonio's hotel occupancy climbed compared to the year before. San Antonio's one-percent increase was better than 27 of the nations 30 largest tourism markets. San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau's public relations manager Robert Salluce said, "In this environment, one-percent is a great success."

San Antonio led other Texas metropolitan areas that showed weakness as occupancies fell. Dallas' rate dropped 7.4 percent while Houston dropped 8 percent. Brad Garner, director of research for Smith Travel, indicated that 9/11 was not the only reason hurting the travel economy saying, "It was already in a downturn prior to the attacks because of the economy. The attacks were a second blow."

### **Large Distribution Building Begins North of DFW Airport**

DALLAS, Tex. (DallasNews.com)—The Container Store is building a new 1.1-million-square-foot headquarters and distribution center north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. This is the largest industrial-office transaction signed in North Texas this year. More than 400 people will work at the complex which will be the length of six football fields with a scheduled opening in early 2004.

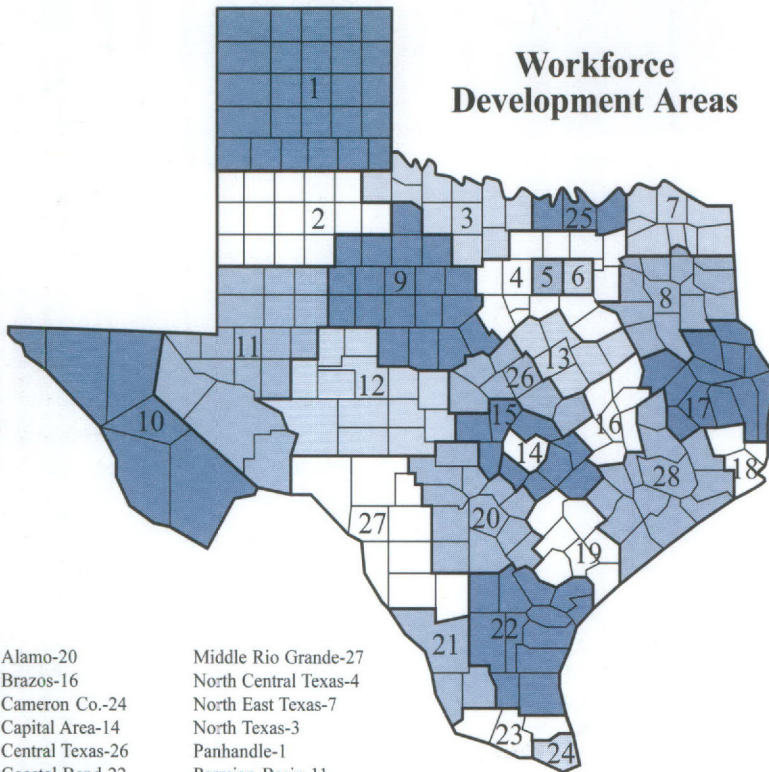
### **National Headquarters Locating in Austin**

AUSTIN, Tex. (Austin Business Journal-Matt Hudgins)—Austin is scheduled to become the U.S. headquarters for Seiko Instruments USA Inc. next month. Austin-based SII Marketing, a subsidiary of Japanese watchmaker Seiko Instruments, will merge with another Seiko subsidiary located in California to form the new company.

The company will look for a larger facility than Austin's current 75,000-square-foot location to handle more business and begin a new round of hiring. While California manufacturing facilities will remain on the West Coast, administrative functions will be transferred to Austin.



## Workforce Development Areas



Alamo-20	Middle Rio Grande-27
Brazos-16	North Central Texas-4
Cameron Co.-24	North East Texas-7
Capital Area-14	North Texas-3
Central Texas-26	Panhandle-1
Coastal Bend-22	Permian Basin-11
Concho Valley-12	Rural Capital Area-15
Dallas-6	South East Texas-18
Deep East Texas-17	South Plains-2
East Texas-8	South Texas-21
Golden Crescent-19	Tarrant Co.-5
Gulf Coast-28	Texoma-25
Heart of Texas-13	Upper Rio Grande-10
Lower Rio Grande-23	West Central Texas-9

Effective September 1, 2002, Starr County moved from the South Texas Workforce Development Area (WDA) to the Lower Rio Grande WDA. The South Texas WDA now consists of Webb, Zapata, and Jim Hogg Counties. The Lower Rio Grande WDA consists of Starr, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties

## Texas Labor Market Review Labor Market Information



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Phone (512) 491-4922 Toll Free 1-866-938-4444  
 Fax (512) 491-4904  
 Website [www.texasworkforce.org/lmi](http://www.texasworkforce.org/lmi)  
 E-mail [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us)  
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**James Barnes, LMI Director**

### TLMR Staff:

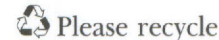
**Clayton Griffis, Editor**

**Rachel Tello Sanchez, Layout and Design**

Contributors: Phil Arnold, Bryce Bayles, Honor Byrd, Robert Crawley, Rita Evans, Spencer Franklin, Becky Frye, Larbi Hanni, Sonia Haque, Betty Whalen, and Stanley Whiting.

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 101 E 15TH ST STE 103 A2  
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