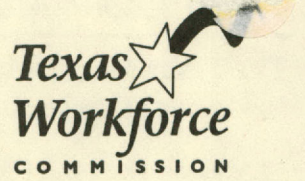


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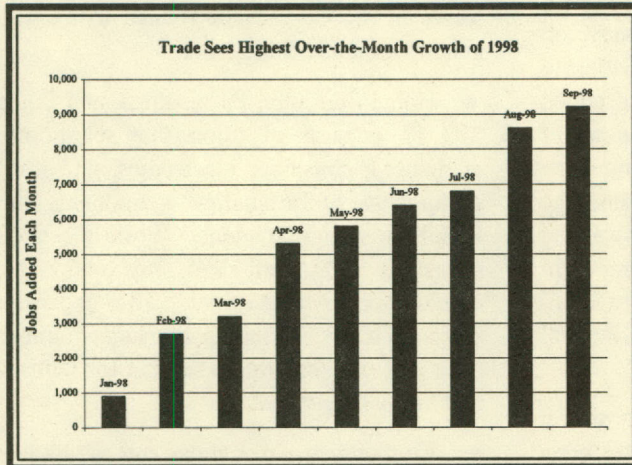
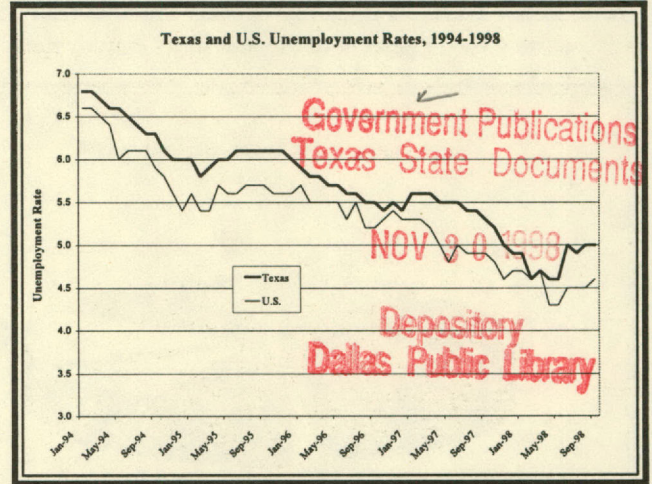
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged

The September statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged from August at 5.0 percent, matching June's and August's rates as the highest unemployment rate for the year. Although the unemployment rate remained unchanged, it is still three-tenths of a percentage point lower than last year's level.

Government, Trade, and Services Lead Seasonally Adjusted Employment Gains

Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment added 20,900 jobs over the month. The Service Producing Sector provided 25,000 positions as all its major industries grew; Government, Trade, and Services led the increase. Conversely, the Goods Producing Sector displayed employment drops, losing 4,100 jobs in September, its largest decline since February 1992.

Mining employment witnessed its third consecutive monthly decline, losing 1,000 jobs in September. This drop reflected the seven-month decline of the Texas seasonally adjusted rig count. The annual growth rate also remained negative for the second month in a row, posting a one percent drop from September 1997.



With heavy rains and flooding in various parts of the state, Construction employment experienced its biggest over-the-month employment drop since December 1996. Although employment in *General Building Contractors* did not change, *Heavy Construction* and *Special Trade Contractors* both saw significant losses.

Nondurable Goods Manufacturing lost 600 jobs in its fourth monthly decline of the year. This brings the year-to-date job loss to 5,800, with *Apparel and Other Textile Products* accounting for over half of that loss.

Trade gained 5,600 new jobs in September, representing the largest over-the-month increase in 1998. *Retail Trade* accounted for over 89 percent of this growth.

Nonseasonally Adjusted Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Employment

Spurred by seasonal increases in Government, Total Nonagricultural Employment in the MSAs increased by 40,700 jobs during September. All MSAs except Houston, Galveston-Texas City and Killeen-Temple contributed to the growth. Despite the growth in Government employment, this month's total gain was the smallest September increase of the decade.

Manufacturing fell by 1,600 jobs; the largest September drop since 1991. Eighty-eight percent of the decline was centered in *Durable Goods Manufacturing*. A loss of 700 jobs in Houston in *Industrial Machinery and Equipment* was related in part to depressed oil prices, while Austin experienced layoffs in the semiconductor industries.

In Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities, the Dallas MSA lost 1,100 jobs while the Fort Worth-Arlington MSA gained 900. Delta Airlines moved its reservations department from Dallas to Fort Worth during September, accounting for a significant number of these jobs.

Labor Market Review



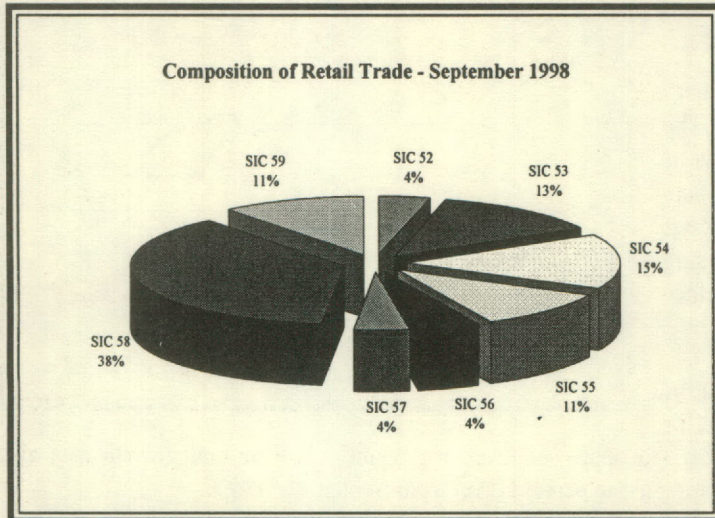
September 1998

Texas Unemployment Rate		Texas Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment	
Actual Series	Seasonally Adjusted	Actual Series	Seasonally Adjusted
5.0%	5.0%	8,940,400	8,936,000

The Texas Marketplace: Retail Trade in Perspective

by Veronica Sanchez Downey and Jennifer Hall

Texas provides over 8.9 million jobs to workers. Approximately one-half of those jobs can be found in two of the eight major industry divisions, Trade and Services, with Trade alone constituting nearly one-fourth of the total jobs in Texas. Although Trade is comprised of two components, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Retail Trade significantly impacts Trade overall because it is responsible for 75 percent of the industry's employment.



During the last several years, Texas has experienced steady job growth due to a healthy economy. From January 1990 to September 1998, Total Nonagricultural employment added 2,049,600 jobs. Although Trade accounts for nearly a quarter of Total Nonagricultural Employment and Retail Trade constitutes the majority, Retail Trade has not been a driving force behind the steady growth in the Texas economy. Retail Trade has only added 324,700, or 15.8 percent, of the new jobs in Texas in the last eight years. Nevertheless, Retail Trade has remained solid. While Retail Trade has maintained a steady pace, many of the individual components have experienced extreme volatility.

◆ The major group containing Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, and Mobile Homes Dealers (SIC 52), has been one of the smallest components of Retail Trade, accounting for 4 percent in September 1998. However, since 1992, there has been an explosion of hardware and home repair stores, keeping annual growth rates of this group up around 5 to 6 percent. The growth in SIC 52 may be due to strong growth in General Building Construction, which has maintained positive annual growth rates since 1992. Average annual growth rates in SIC 52 have fallen below five percent only once in the past six years.

◆ General Merchandise Stores (SIC 53), this decade accounted for 13 percent of employment in Retail Trade. Department Stores make up 90 percent of this major group which also includes Variety Stores. General Merchandise Stores maintained a bountiful annual growth rate of around 7 percent from 1993 to 1995. By 1996, annual growth rates became negative and only recently (during 1998) have started a recovery, rebounding to positive rates for the first time in three years. Department Stores began adding employment in September 1997 and became the driving force behind the growth in the major group. Department

stores peaked in May 1998 with an annual growth rate of 4.4 percent.

◆ Food Stores, coded in SIC 54, added 7,700 jobs between September 1990 and September 1998, increasing by only 3 percent. Furthermore, in September 1998, Food Stores accounted for 15 percent of Retail Trade employment compared to 18 percent in 1990. During 1996 and 1997, Food Stores (SIC 54) peaked at over 3 percent annual growth, but fell to almost negative 2 percent in recent months. The evolution of certain general merchandise stores into "super" stores, which include food products, could possibly be taking employment away from traditional grocery stores.

◆ Automotive Dealers and Gasoline Service Stations (SIC 55) account for 11 percent of Retail Trade. Automotive Dealers exhibited strong annual growth rates in the past eight years. This stability is not surprising considering the high consumer confidence, low interest rates, and the prosperous Texas economy.

◆ At present, Apparel and Accessory Stores make up 4 percent of the employment in Retail Trade. Apparel and Accessory Stores (SIC 56) has experienced the largest decline in annual growth rates of any major group in Retail Trade, plummeting to negative 3.6 percent in September 1998. While this may appear extreme, from mid-1994 to early 1997, Apparel and Accessory Stores experienced negative annual growth rates, with the largest decline in October 1995 at negative 6.5 percent. Like SIC 54, employment losses in SIC 56 may be related to the expansion of the "super" general merchandising store.

◆ Home Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment Stores, coded in SIC 57, consists of stores that sell home furnishings including appliances, consumer electronics, and music stores. This major group is one of the smallest components claiming only 4 percent of Retail Trade employment. While recent years have not been as robust as 1994 and 1995, this major group continues to add employment over the year. This expansion can be attributed to various factors, including the large number of new homes being built in Texas, creating a market for items sold at Home Furniture and Furnishing stores.

◆ Employment in Eating and Drinking Places (SIC 58) has continued to increase, thus claiming a larger percentage of total Retail Trade employment. SIC 58 grew from 34 percent of Retail Trade in 1990 to 38 percent in 1998. Eating and Drinking Places added 161,000 jobs to the economy in the past eight years, bringing the September 1998 total to 597,600. Eating and Drinking Places sustained positive annual growth rates throughout this decade. From 1993 to present, the rates have remained around 4.0 percent. The increasing population in Texas has created greater demand for growth in SIC 58. Going out to dinner has become a social affair in our culture while fast food has become a way of life for more and more families with hectic schedules.

◆ The final component of Retail Trade is Miscellaneous Retail, SIC 59, contributing 11 percent of total employment. This major group includes establishments that are not classified elsewhere such as drug stores, liquor stores, and nonstore retailers, like catalog and mail-order establishments. Miscellaneous specialty stores which include bookstores, jewelry stores, sporting goods

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

stores, and hobby shops are also categorized in SIC 59. Besides Eating & Drinking Places, Miscellaneous Retail (SIC 59) is the only other major group to maintain positive annual growth rates for the past eight consecutive years. Like SIC 55, Miscellaneous Retail has profited from the increase in consumer confidence and the healthy Texas economy.

In a comparison of the most current data available for Retail Trade in the four largest states, California, Florida, New York and Texas, all are maintaining stable growth patterns. California has approximately 40 percent more employment in Retail Trade than Texas, Florida, or New York; nevertheless, Texas has added more jobs from August 1990 to August 1998. Retail Trade in Texas gained 291,000 jobs during this eight-year span. Florida followed, adding 186,000 jobs. California grew by 100,600 during this time period while New York grew by 5,000 jobs.

In the seasonally adjusted series, annual growth in Trade also remained positive in September; however, the rate of growth appears to be slowing in both Retail and Wholesale Trade. Trade added 48,900 jobs over the year, yet this 2.4 percent growth rate was below 1997's average annual growth rate of 3.1 percent. Retail Trade contributed the majority of the annual growth but the 2.3 percent growth rate was the third smallest addition in the past 16 months.

Although certain components of Retail Trade in Texas have recently demonstrated signs of a slowdown, Retail Trade, overall, remains a very integral part of the Texas economy. The stability in Retail Trade over the past decade has provided a solid base to support growth in other industries. Not only is Retail Trade important to Texas, but it also shines in comparison to Retail Trade in other large states. Because Retail Trade accounts for such a large portion of the Texas workforce, it is certainly a major division that will continue to impact our economy.



**Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
Seasonally Adjusted⁺**

INDUSTRY TITLE	Sep. 1998*	Aug. 1998	Sep. 1997	Aug. '98 to Sep. '98		Sep. '97 to Sep. '98	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
TOTAL NONAG. W&S EMPLOYMENT	8,936,000	8,915,100	8,682,600	20,900	0.2	253,400	2.9
GOODS PRODUCING	1,749,600	1,753,700	1,718,200	-4,100	-0.2	31,400	1.8
Mining	165,500	166,500	167,200	-1,000	-0.6	-1,700	-1.0
Construction	486,800	488,700	463,200	-1,900	-0.4	23,600	5.1
Manufacturing	1,097,300	1,098,500	1,087,800	-1,200	-0.1	9,500	0.9
Durable Goods	664,200	664,800	649,300	-600	-0.1	14,900	2.3
Nondurable Goods	433,100	433,700	438,500	-600	-0.1	-5,400	-1.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,186,400	7,161,400	6,964,400	25,000	0.3	222,000	3.2
Transportation, Comm., Utilities	546,500	546,500	519,900	0	0.0	26,600	5.1
Trade	2,107,800	2,102,200	2,058,900	5,600	0.3	48,900	2.4
Wholesale Trade	513,800	513,200	501,300	600	0.1	12,500	2.5
Retail Trade	1,594,000	1,589,000	1,557,600	5,000	0.3	36,400	2.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	484,900	484,000	467,900	900	0.2	17,000	3.6
Services	2,524,100	2,521,700	2,425,100	2,400	0.1	99,000	4.1
Government	1,523,100	1,507,000	1,492,600	16,100	1.1	30,500	2.0

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.

TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

TEXAS*					UNITED STATES**			
Actual	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
Sep. '98	10,196,400	9,690,600	505,800	5.0	137,903,000	131,864,000	6,039,000	4.4
Aug. '98	10,223,200	9,709,200	514,000	5.0	138,379,000	132,206,000	6,173,000	4.5
Sep. '97	9,907,100	9,393,000	514,100	5.2	136,375,000	129,972,000	6,403,000	4.7
Seas. Adjusted	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
Sep. '98	10,212,800	9,700,300	512,500	5.0	138,075,000	131,765,000	6,310,000	4.6
Aug. '98	10,169,800	9,660,900	508,900	5.0	137,415,000	131,168,000	6,247,000	4.5
Sep. '97	9,922,500	9,397,600	524,900	5.3	136,439,000	129,761,000	6,678,000	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)



Highlights of Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The Texas actual series unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.0 percent from August to September. The September actual unemployment rate is the lowest September rate since 1979. In the 20-year period since 1978, the highest September actual unemployment rate occurred in 1986 at 9.2 percent. The September level of unemployment has been decreasing since 1992 and is at its lowest level since 1984.

◆ The number of insured unemployed Texans without earnings decreased over the month by 3.2 percent from almost 92,000 in August to 89,000 in September. However, the September level represents an over-the-year increase of 1,700 claims. The county with the most significant increase in claims was Webb with 124 additional claims. Bexar, Harris, and Lubbock Counties had the largest decreases in claims. The Mining industry experienced the highest percentage change over the month as well as over the year. From September 1997 to September 1998, the Mining industry has seen a 212.5 percent increase in unemployment insurance claims.

◆ Texas' civilian labor force decreased by 26,700 in September, bringing the number of labor force participants to 10,196,400. The number of employed Texans decreased by 18,500 over the month to 9,690,600 while the number of unemployed fell by 8,200 to 505,800. In the current 20-year period, the number of unemployed workers is growing at a slightly faster rate than the number employed.

◆ Of the state's 27 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), six had an increase, three remained unchanged and 17 had a decrease in their unemployment rates over the month (Texarkana data was not available). Compared to their year-ago unemployment rates, 10 MSAs had an increase, two remained unchanged and 14 showed a decrease. Bryan-College Station had the state's lowest MSA unemployment rate at 1.7 percent while McAllen-Edinburg-Mission had the highest rate at 17.7 percent. Among counties, Hartley had the lowest county rate of 1.5 percent and Presidio had the highest rate at 34.2 percent.

Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas Ranked by Unemployment Rate September 1998

1	Bryan-College Station	1.7
2	Austin-San Marcos	2.8
3	Lubbock	3.0
4	Fort Worth-Arlington	3.3
5	Dallas	3.4
6	San Antonio	3.7
7	Abilene	3.8
8	Amarillo	3.9
9	Waco	4.0
10	Houston	4.2
11	Killeen-Temple	4.3
12	Victoria	4.5
13	Wichita Falls	4.7
14	Tyler	5.0
15	San Angelo	5.3
16	Sherman-Denison	5.7
17	Odessa-Midland	6.1
18	Brazoria	6.3
19	Galveston-Texas City	6.6
20	Corpus Christi	7.3
21	Beaumont-Port Arthur	7.7
22	Longview-Marshall	7.9
23	Laredo	9.7
24	El Paso	10.5
25	Brownsville-Harlingen	12.4
26	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	17.7
	Texarkana data not available	

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

	September 1998*				August 1998				September 1997			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
State of Texas	10,196.4	9,690.6	505.8	5.0	10,223.2	9,709.2	514.0	5.0	9,907.1	9,393.0	514.1	5.2
Abilene	62.1	59.7	2.4	3.8	61.5	59.1	2.4	3.9	59.9	57.7	2.2	3.7
Amarillo	113.4	109.0	4.4	3.9	113.7	109.1	4.6	4.0	110.1	105.9	4.2	3.8
Austin-San Marcos	681.0	662.0	19.0	2.8	677.7	658.3	19.4	2.9	657.1	637.0	20.1	3.1
Beaumont-Port Arthur	184.3	170.2	14.1	7.7	184.2	170.3	13.9	7.6	181.4	167.4	14.0	7.7
Brazoria	107.7	100.9	6.8	6.3	107.5	100.6	6.9	6.4	105.8	98.3	7.5	7.1
Brownsville-Harlingen	127.8	111.9	15.9	12.4	129.6	113.3	16.3	12.6	124.8	110.1	14.7	11.8
Bryan-College Station	72.7	71.5	1.2	1.7	69.9	68.6	1.3	1.9	71.9	70.5	1.4	2.0
Corpus Christi	178.6	165.6	13.0	7.3	179.7	166.6	13.1	7.3	176.9	163.9	13.0	7.4
Dallas	1,892.3	1,828.7	63.6	3.4	1,898.3	1,834.3	64.0	3.4	1,829.2	1,760.7	68.5	3.7
El Paso	300.8	269.3	31.5	10.5	301.9	270.1	31.8	10.5	292.8	260.2	32.6	11.1
Fort Worth-Arlington	877.5	848.3	29.2	3.3	878.0	847.9	30.1	3.4	851.6	821.0	30.6	3.6
Galveston-Texas City	125.9	117.5	8.4	6.6	127.3	118.6	8.7	6.9	124.7	114.9	9.8	7.9
Houston	2,117.7	2,028.0	89.7	4.2	2,136.3	2,044.7	91.6	4.3	2,063.0	1,962.6	100.4	4.9
Killeen-Temple	116.4	111.4	5.0	4.3	117.6	112.3	5.3	4.5	113.8	107.9	5.9	5.1
Laredo	71.3	64.4	6.9	9.7	70.3	63.8	6.5	9.3	69.8	63.1	6.7	9.6
Longview-Marshall	106.1	97.7	8.4	7.9	105.6	97.4	8.2	7.8	103.5	96.0	7.5	7.2
Lubbock	124.7	120.9	3.8	3.0	126.3	121.6	4.7	3.7	122.1	117.7	4.4	3.6
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	190.9	157.1	33.8	17.7	190.2	156.3	33.9	17.8	185.9	153.7	32.2	17.3
Odessa-Midland	129.4	121.5	7.9	6.1	128.9	121.2	7.7	5.9	123.9	118.0	5.9	4.7
San Angelo	52.6	49.8	2.8	5.3	52.7	50.0	2.7	5.2	51.3	49.6	1.7	3.4
San Antonio	774.2	745.2	29.0	3.7	775.7	745.3	30.4	3.9	745.6	714.8	30.8	4.1
Sherman-Denison	51.4	48.5	2.9	5.7	50.7	48.0	2.7	5.3	49.9	47.7	2.2	4.4
Tyler	91.3	86.7	4.6	5.0	91.8	87.0	4.8	5.2	88.4	83.0	5.4	6.2
Victoria	44.4	42.4	2.0	4.5	44.7	42.6	2.1	4.6	43.2	41.3	1.9	4.5
Waco	102.8	98.6	4.2	4.0	101.8	97.0	4.8	4.7	101.0	96.2	4.8	4.7
Wichita Falls	67.0	63.8	3.2	4.7	66.8	63.4	3.4	5.0	65.0	62.3	2.7	4.2

* Texarkana data not available

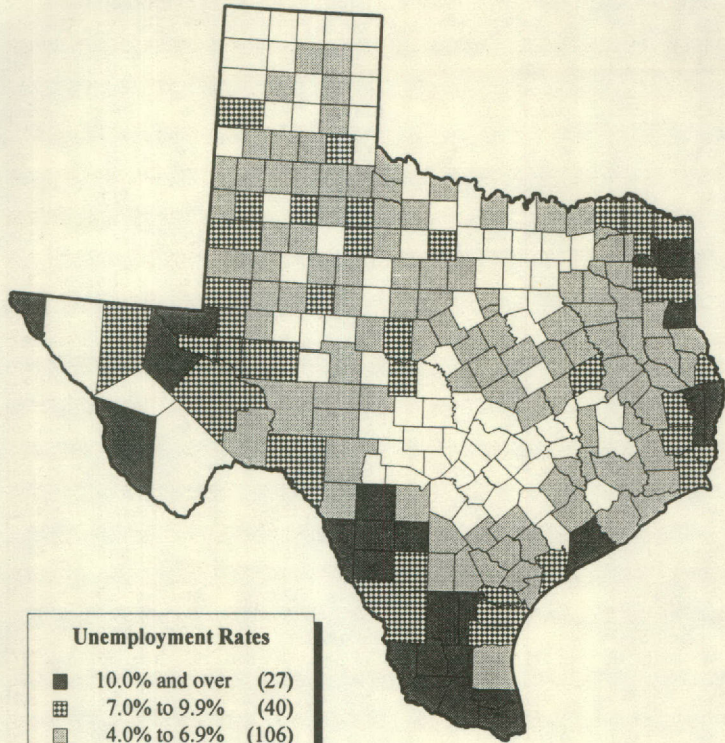
*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Civilian Labor Force (C.L.F.) includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family, domestics in private households, agricultural workers, workers 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.

Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

	Sep. '98*	Aug. '98	Sep. '97	Aug. '98 to Sep. '98		Sep. '97 to Sep. '98	
				Change	% Change	Change	% Change
TOTAL NONAG. W & S EMPLOYMENT	8,940,400	8,902,700	8,686,400	37,700	0.4	254,000	2.9
GOODS PRODUCING	1,755,100	1,760,900	1,723,500	-5,800	-0.3	31,600	1.8
Mining	165,500	167,200	167,200	-1,700	-1.0	-1,700	-1.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	157,400	159,100	158,900	-1,700	-1.1	-1,500	-0.9
Construction	490,200	493,600	466,600	-3,400	-0.7	23,600	5.1
Manufacturing	1,099,400	1,100,100	1,089,700	-700	-0.1	9,700	0.9
Durable Goods	665,000	665,500	650,100	-500	-0.1	14,900	2.3
Lumber & Wood Products	47,200	47,500	45,800	-300	-0.6	1,400	3.1
Lumber Camps, Sawmills, Planing Mills	7,500	7,600	7,500	-100	-1.3	0	0.0
Furniture & Fixtures	19,900	19,900	19,700	0	0.0	200	1.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	42,900	43,100	41,400	-200	-0.5	1,500	3.6
Concrete, Gypsum, & Plaster Products	20,300	20,400	19,400	-100	-0.5	900	4.6
Primary Metal Industries	30,000	30,300	30,700	-300	-1.0	-700	-2.3
Fabricated Metal Industries	102,300	102,500	100,400	-200	-0.2	1,900	1.9
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	52,500	52,500	51,100	0	0.0	1,400	2.7
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	149,500	150,100	144,900	-600	-0.4	4,600	3.2
Oil & Gas Field Machinery	31,900	32,100	30,300	-200	-0.6	1,100	3.6
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	130,500	130,300	126,100	200	0.2	4,400	3.5
Transportation Equipment	81,000	80,200	79,600	800	1.0	1,400	1.8
Aircraft & Parts	45,100	44,400	45,200	700	1.6	-100	-0.2
Instruments & Related Products	42,100	42,100	41,800	0	0.0	300	0.7
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19,600	19,500	19,700	100	0.5	-100	-0.5
Nondurable Goods	434,400	434,600	439,600	-200	0.0	-5,200	-1.2
Food & Kindred Products	101,500	100,300	101,400	1,200	1.2	100	0.1
Meat Products	34,600	34,400	34,400	200	0.6	200	0.6
Dairy Products	5,300	5,300	5,200	0	0.0	100	1.9
Bakery Products	9,000	8,500	9,600	500	5.9	-600	-6.3
Malt Beverages	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0	0	0.0
Textile Mill Products	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	0.0	100	2.4
Apparel & Other Finished Textile Products	53,200	53,500	57,600	-300	-0.6	-4,400	-7.6
Paper & Allied Products	29,400	29,600	29,900	-200	-0.7	-500	-1.7
Printing & Publishing	75,400	75,700	75,300	-300	-0.4	100	0.1
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, & Miscellaneous	33,400	33,600	33,400	-200	-0.6	0	0.0
Chemicals & Allied Products	84,000	83,900	84,000	100	0.1	0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	25,300	25,500	26,500	-200	-0.8	-1,200	-4.5
Petroleum Refining	21,800	22,000	22,800	-200	-0.9	-1,000	-4.4
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	54,200	54,500	53,300	-300	-0.6	900	1.7
Leather & Leather Products	7,200	7,200	7,500	0	0.0	-300	-4.0
SERVICE PRODUCING	7,185,300	7,141,800	6,962,900	43,500	0.6	222,400	3.2
Transportation, Communications, Utilities	546,500	547,000	520,100	-500	-0.1	26,400	5.1
Transportation	339,400	339,400	324,200	0	0.0	15,200	4.7
Railroad Transportation	17,600	17,600	17,200	0	0.0	400	2.3
Transportation by Air	108,600	108,800	103,900	-200	-0.2	4,700	4.5
Communications	137,000	137,200	124,900	-200	-0.1	12,100	9.7
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	70,100	70,400	71,000	-300	-0.4	-900	-1.3
Electric Services	30,100	30,200	30,800	-100	-0.3	-700	-2.3
Gas Production & Distribution	22,700	22,900	23,700	-200	-0.9	-1,000	-4.2
Trade	2,106,500	2,111,700	2,057,600	-5,200	-0.2	48,900	2.4
Wholesale Trade	513,500	513,800	500,900	-300	-0.1	12,600	2.5
Retail Trade	1,593,000	1,597,900	1,556,700	-4,900	-0.3	36,300	2.3
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	62,000	62,300	58,400	-300	-0.5	3,600	6.2
General Merchandise Stores	206,500	206,400	201,600	100	0.0	4,900	2.4
Food Stores	245,200	244,900	250,000	300	0.1	-4,800	-1.9
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	169,400	170,200	164,900	-800	-0.5	4,500	2.7
Apparel & Accessory Stores	71,500	72,800	74,200	-1,300	-1.8	-2,700	-3.6
Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores	69,800	69,300	68,100	500	0.7	1,700	2.5
Eating & Drinking Places	597,600	601,700	574,700	-4,100	-0.7	22,900	4.0
Other Retail Trade	171,000	170,300	164,800	700	0.4	6,200	3.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	485,500	486,500	468,500	-1,000	-0.2	17,000	3.6
Depository Institutions Including Banks	120,800	121,400	117,700	-600	-0.5	3,100	2.6
Insurance Carriers, Agents, Brokers, & Service	157,800	157,700	153,400	100	0.1	4,400	2.9
Other Finance Insurance & Real Estate	206,900	207,400	197,400	-500	-0.2	9,500	4.8
Services	2,533,000	2,535,200	2,433,900	-2,200	-0.1	99,100	4.1
Hotel & Other Lodging Places	91,700	93,400	90,300	-1,700	-1.8	1,400	1.6
Personal Services	88,300	88,000	87,200	300	0.3	1,100	1.3
Business Services	633,000	651,700	609,200	1,300	0.2	43,800	7.2
Auto Repair Services	86,100	86,400	83,500	-300	-0.3	2,600	3.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	31,400	31,600	31,300	-200	-0.6	100	0.3
Amusement & Recreation, including Motion Pictures	116,800	122,800	117,500	-6,000	-4.9	-700	-0.6
Health Services	705,400	704,200	678,200	1,200	0.2	27,200	4.0
Legal Services	67,900	68,800	66,300	-900	-1.3	1,600	2.4
Educational Services	105,100	96,900	102,900	8,200	8.5	2,200	2.1
Social Services	170,100	170,400	163,900	-300	-0.2	6,200	3.8
Membership Organizations	135,700	138,300	133,100	-2,600	-1.9	2,600	2.0
Engineering & Management Services	222,900	223,400	213,700	-500	-0.2	9,200	4.3
Agricultural Services	49,600	50,700	48,800	-1,100	-2.2	800	1.6
Government	1,513,800	1,461,400	1,482,800	52,400	3.6	31,000	2.1
Federal	183,800	184,500	185,700	-700	-0.4	-1,900	-1.0
State	330,100	315,300	325,400	14,800	4.7	4,700	1.4
Local	999,900	961,600	971,700	38,300	4.0	28,200	2.9

*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.

September 1998 County Unemployment Rates



Unemployment Rates	
■	10.0% and over (27)
▣	7.0% to 9.9% (40)
▤	4.0% to 6.9% (106)
□	0.0% to 3.9% (81)

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Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market Information Department

What's New

The 1998 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey is being mailed to sampled employers in October, November, and December. This survey is used to collect employment and wage data used by TWC to provide occupational wages and employment projections. 1996 occupational wages and 1994-2005 employment projections are currently available on the LMI website.

Contacting the LMI Department

Additional statistics are available from the Labor Market Information (LMI) Department. Contact LMI at:

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