

TEXAS

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



MARCH 2020



The monthly Texas Labor Market Review brings you the most current labor market highlights and happenings across the Lone Star State. The information that follows is produced and published on a monthly basis and includes data on nonagricultural job trends, the labor force, job postings, and other relevant indicators for both the state and sub-state areas. Additional data and historical information is available on our website: TexasLMI.com.

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FEBRUARY 2020 MONTHLY INDICATORS



INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

↑ 50,400

CES program

Page 2



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.5%
NO CHANGE

LAUS program

Page 5



HWOL INDEX

↑ 1.2%

HWOL

Page 8



INITIAL CLAIMS

↓ 2,650

More Indicators

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Statewide Industry Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

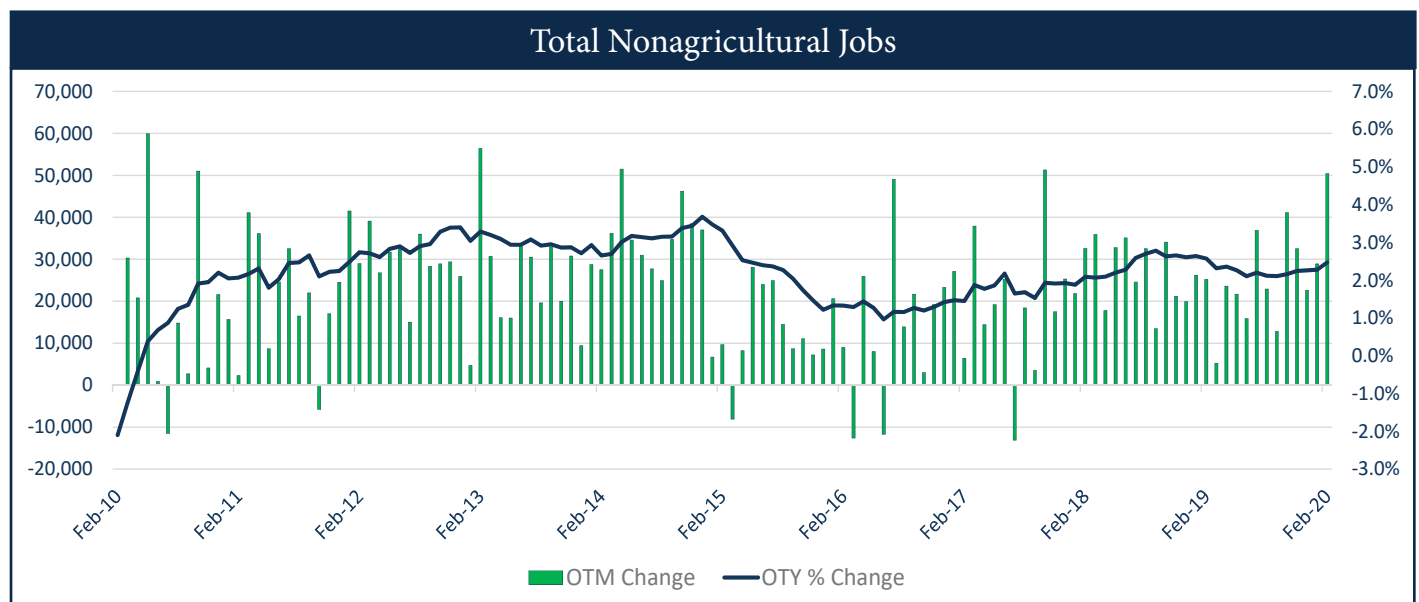
Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary employment in Texas showed positive monthly growth for the 31st consecutive period, with 50,400 jobs added in February. Private sector employment increased by 48,100 positions which contributed to an annual employment gain of 287,000 jobs. Nine of 11 major industries expanded over the month, while 10 of 11 achieved positive annual growth.

Since February 2019, Texas added 314,500 jobs as Total Nonfarm employment reached 118 consecutive months of annual growth. The annual growth rate rose to 2.5 percent, its highest since February 2019. The Private Sector grew annually at 2.7 percent.

Industry	Feb 2020	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Total Nonagricultural	13,024,300	50,400	314,500	2.5
Private	11,037,900	48,100	287,000	2.7
Goods-Producing	1,953,000	12,100	31,100	1.6
Mining & Logging	240,300	4,000	-15,700	-6.1
Construction	799,200	2,800	35,700	4.7
Manufacturing	913,500	5,300	11,100	1.2
Service-Providing	11,071,300	38,300	283,400	2.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,549,200	1,400	44,900	1.8
Information	209,900	0	2,600	1.3
Financial Activities	812,300	-600	20,200	2.6
Professional & Business Services	1,844,800	16,700	70,400	4.0
Education & Health Services	1,779,400	6,100	55,200	3.2
Leisure & Hospitality	1,429,100	9,300	45,200	3.3
Other Services	460,200	3,100	17,400	3.9
Government	1,986,400	2,300	27,500	1.4

Highlights

- Professional and Business Services employment increased by 16,700 jobs over the month, the most among major industries. The industry also led over the year with the addition of 70,400 positions.
- Leisure and Hospitality employment expanded by 9,300 jobs over the month.
- Construction employment increased by 2,800 jobs over the month, which contributed to a gain of 35,700 positions over the year. At 4.7 percent, the industry continues to have the highest annual growth rate among major industries.



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Metro Areas (Seasonally Adjusted)

Metro Areas	Feb 2020	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Abilene MSA	73,400	100	2,000	2.8
Amarillo MSA	122,500	400	2,400	2.0
Austin-Round Rock MSA	1,140,700	3,900	38,000	3.4
Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA	166,000	100	1,000	0.6
Brownsville-Harlingen MSA	146,300	600	2,700	1.9
College Station-Bryan MSA	126,000	500	3,600	2.9
Corpus Christi MSA	194,200	100	1,100	0.6
Dallas-FW-Arlington MSA	3,866,800	13,400	124,400	3.3
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,751,500	7,500	91,400	3.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,114,000	5,200	31,200	2.9
El Paso MSA	328,800	800	6,700	2.1
Houston MSA	3,218,500	18,000	78,400	2.5
Killeen-Temple MSA	147,800	300	3,300	2.3
Laredo MSA	109,100	500	1,800	1.7
Longview MSA	99,100	-200	-500	-0.5
Lubbock MSA	151,100	-100	1,200	0.8
McAllen MSA	275,100	200	6,600	2.5
Midland MSA	115,900	500	2,000	1.8
Odessa MSA	82,600	-200	-1,900	-2.2
San Angelo MSA	50,100	100	-100	-0.2
San Antonio MSA	1,095,500	400	25,300	2.4
Sherman-Denison MSA	48,600	0	100	0.2
Texarkana MSA	61,400	300	1,100	1.8
Tyler MSA	107,100	400	600	0.6
Victoria MSA	41,400	0	-400	-1.0
Waco MSA	124,300	300	2,000	1.6
Wichita Falls MSA	60,100	300	600	1.0

Highlights

- Employment increased in 21 of 26 metro areas over the month in February for a total increase of 40,500 jobs.
- The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA added the most positions over the month, with 18,000 jobs gained – its highest monthly gain since October 2017. MSA employment expanded by 78,400 positions over the year in February which equaled a 2.5 percent annual growth rate.
- The Dallas-Plano-Irving Metropolitan Division led all areas with 91,400 jobs added since February 2019. The annual growth rate tied with the Austin-Round Rock MSA for the highest among metro areas at 3.4 percent.
- The Austin-Round Rock MSA has added jobs year over year for 120 consecutive months. Since February 2019, the MSA added 38,000 positions.
- Of the 26 metro areas, 22 grew in employment since February 2019. The San Angelo, Victoria, Longview and Odessa MSAs each contracted annually.

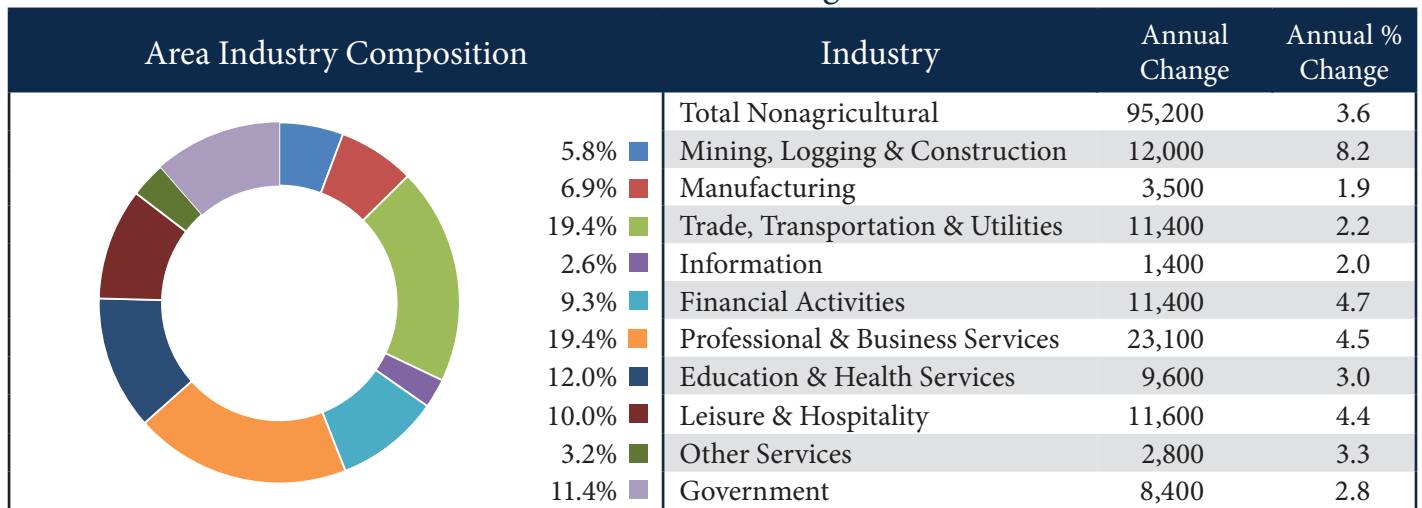
Fastest Growing Metro Areas Over the Year



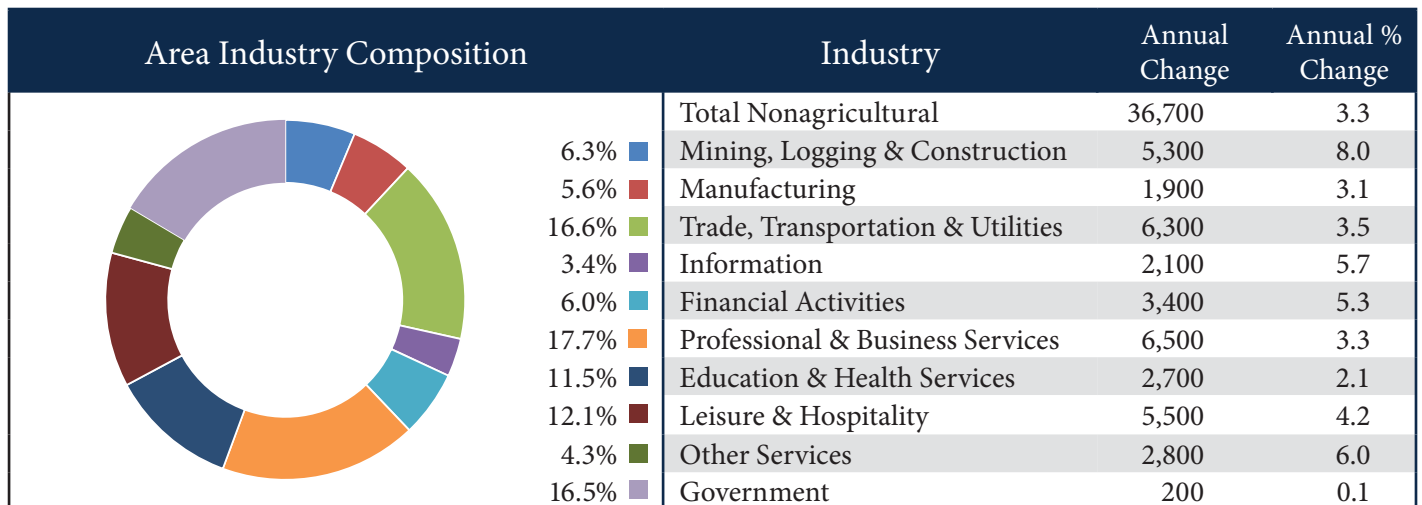
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Fastest Growing Metro Areas Over-the-Year (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

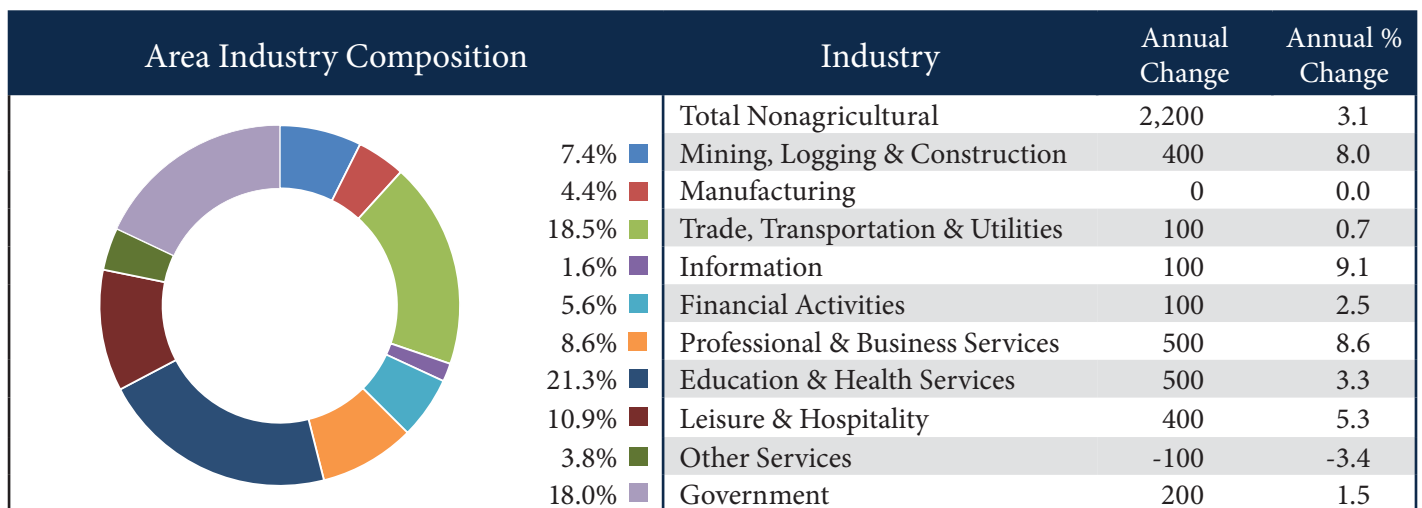
Dallas - Plano - Irving MD



Austin - Round Rock MSA



Abilene MSA

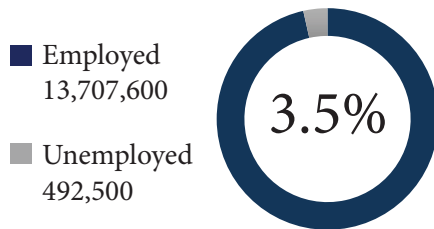


[Download CES excel data sheets \(include industry-level data\)](#)

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

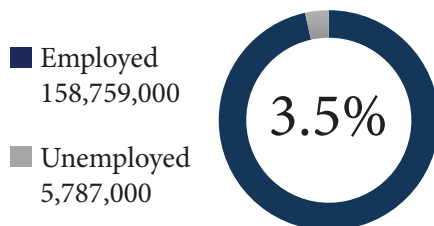
Texas & the U.S. (Seasonally Adjusted)

Texas February 2020



Date	CLF	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Feb 2020	14,200,100	13,707,600	492,500	3.5
Jan 2020	14,180,800	13,686,400	494,400	3.5
Feb 2019	13,939,300	13,438,000	501,300	3.6

U.S. February 2020

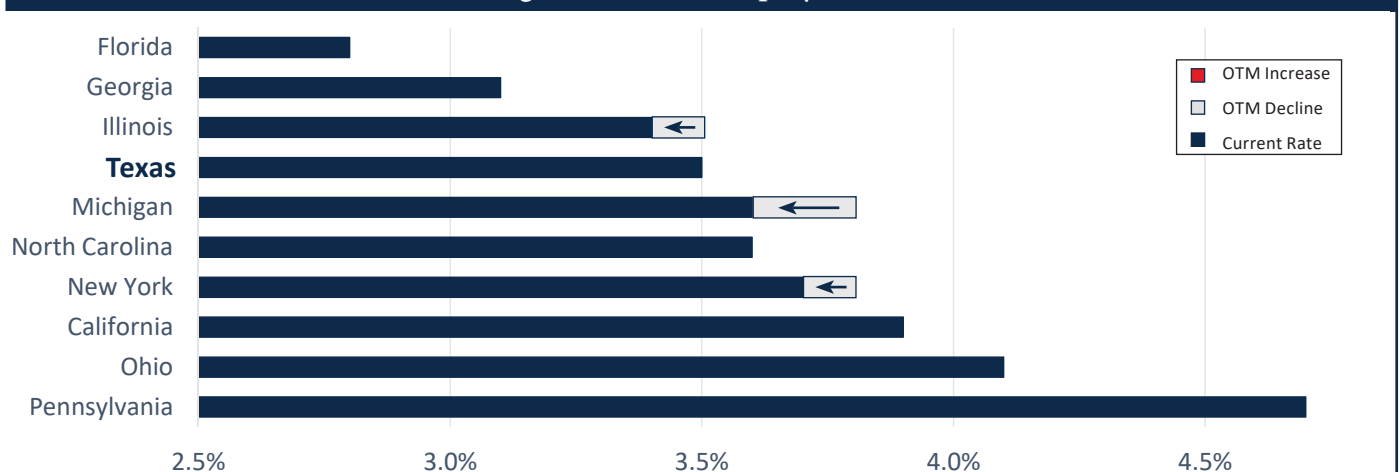


Date	CLF	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Feb 2020	164,546,000	158,759,000	5,787,000	3.5
Jan 2020	164,606,000	158,714,000	5,892,000	3.6
Feb 2019	163,047,000	156,866,000	6,181,000	3.8

Highlights

- Over the month the Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.5 percent, the same as the U.S. rate of 3.5 percent.
- The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was 64.1 percent in February.
- Texas' seasonally adjusted LAUS employment was up 21,200 from last month.
- Summarizing the not seasonally adjusted estimates, the Texas unemployment rate decreased to 3.6 percent in February. This was one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the unemployment rate in February 2019.

10 Largest States' Unemployment Rates



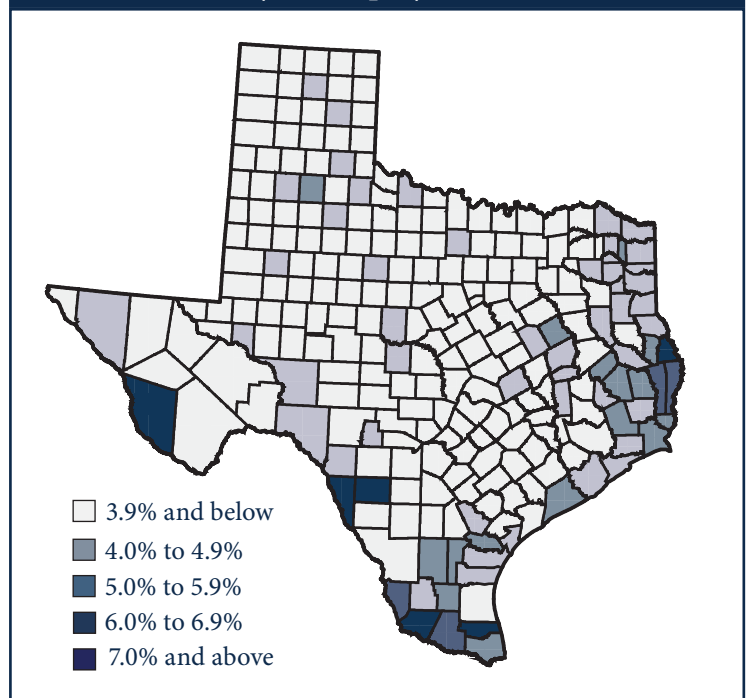
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Substate Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

County Highlights

- Unemployment rates varied considerably across counties, ranging from a low of 0.6 percent in Loving County to a high of 12.9 percent in Starr County.
- Seventy-two counties had an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent or less.
- Milam County experienced the largest unemployment rate decrease of 1.4 percentage points over the year.
- In February 2020, unemployment rates increased over the month in 16 of the 254 counties. 205 counties experienced a decrease while 33 counties were unchanged.
- Over the year, the civilian labor force increased in 193 counties, while 61 counties in the state experienced a decline.

County Unemployment Rates



Texas Metro Areas Ranked by Unemployment Rate

Rank	Area	Rate	Rank	Area	Rate
1	Midland	2.3	0	Texas	3.6
2	Amarillo	2.6	15	Killeen-Temple	3.7
2	Austin-Round Rock	2.6	0	United States	3.8
4	College Station-Bryan	2.7	16	El Paso	3.8
5	Lubbock	2.8	16	Victoria	3.8
6	Abilene	3.0	18	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	3.9
6	San Angelo	3.0	18	Laredo	3.9
8	San Antonio-New Braunfels	3.1	20	Longview	4.1
8	Wichita Falls	3.1	21	Texarkana	4.3
10	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3.2	22	Corpus Christi	4.4
10	Sherman-Denison	3.2	23	Beaumont-Port Arthur	5.5
12	Odessa	3.3	24	Brownsville-Harlingen	5.8
12	Waco	3.3	25	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	6.7
14	Tyler	3.5			

Metro Area Highlights

- Over the month, all 25 metropolitan areas experienced a decrease in their unemployment rates.
- Over the year, 18 Texas metropolitan areas saw a decrease in their unemployment rate, while six metro areas experienced an increase and one experienced no change. The Texarkana MSA experienced the largest over-the-year decrease, dropping 0.6 percentage points.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

12-Month Moving Average Unemployment Rates

Texas Unemployment Rates by Demographic

Gender (age 16+)	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019
Female	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%
Male	3.3%	3.3%	3.7%

Age (16+)	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019
Age 16-19	12.5%	13.1%	12.3%
Age 20-24	6.2%	6.2%	7.3%
Age 25-34	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Age 35-44	2.1%	2.1%	2.9%
Age 45-54	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%
Age 55-64	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%
Age 65+	2.4%	2.5%	2.9%

Race (age 16+)	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019
White	3.2%	3.2%	3.6%
Black	5.1%	5.2%	5.6%
Hispanic	4.1%	4.0%	4.3%

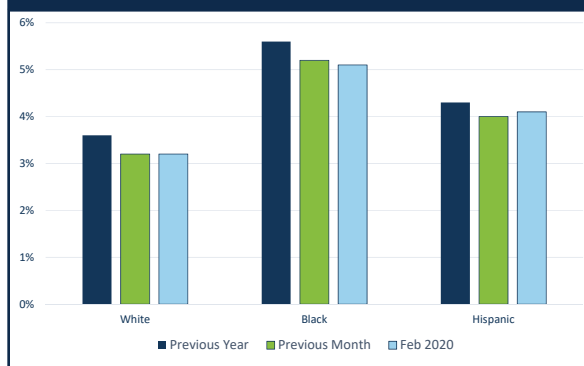
Other Categories (age 18+)	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019
Veterans	3.3%	3.3%	2.9%

Education (age 25+)	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019
Less than High School	3.6%	3.5%	3.7%
High School Diploma	3.5%	3.3%	3.4%
Some College or Associate Degree	2.6%	2.7%	3.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%

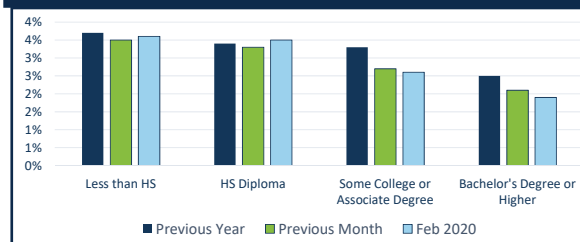
Highlights

- The unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.4 percentage points over the year to a rate of 3.3 percent, while the rate for women decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 3.6 percent.
- The veteran unemployment rate remained at 3.3 percent in February.
- Individuals with some college education or associate degree had an unemployment rate of 2.6 percent. Those with a bachelor's degree and higher had an unemployment rate of 1.9 percent and those with a high school diploma had a rate of 3.5 percent.
- Of the new entrants into Texas' labor force in February, more were men (25,600) than women (24,400).
- The number of people not in the labor force because they are discouraged over job prospects in Texas decreased to 30,700, down from a level of 32,400 a year ago.

Unemployment Rates by Race



Unemployment Rates by Education

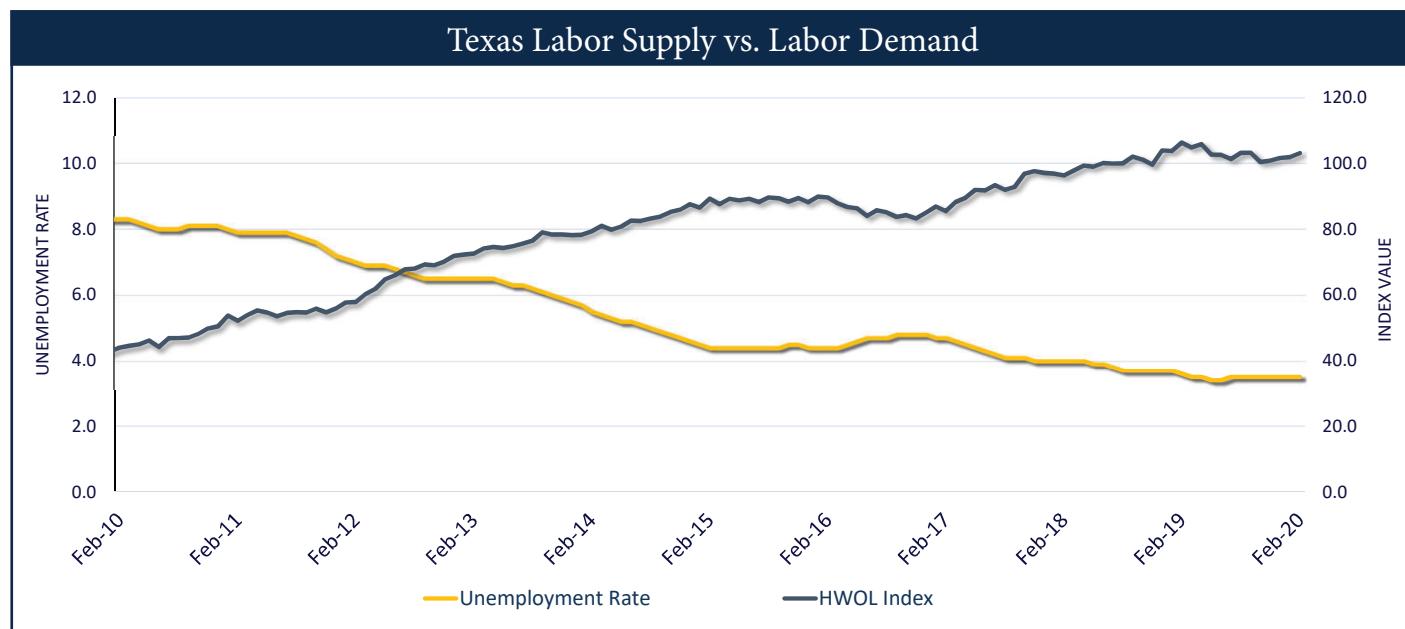


[Download all LAUS excel data sheets](#)



HELP WANTED ONLINE

Statewide Online Job Postings Data (Seasonally Adjusted)



Highlights

- The Conference Board Experimental Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Index increased over the month to 103.2 in February, an increase of 1.2 percent.
- The February Supply/Demand rate was 0.98 unemployed for each advertised vacancy with a total of 10,741 more advertised vacancies than the number of unemployed workers.

Top Employers by Postings

Employer	Feb 2020
Hospital Corporation of America	3,353
Baylor Scott & White Health	2,421
Houston Methodist	1,943
Languageline Solutions	1,853
Varsity Tutors	1,739
Christus Health	1,737
Anthem Blue Cross	1,659
AutoZone Auto Parts	1,511
IBM	1,478
Lowe's Companies, Inc	1,421

Top Occupations by Postings

Occupation	Feb 2020
Registered Nurses	20,570
Software Developers, Applications	20,564
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manuf., Except Technical and Scientific Products	17,870
Computer Occupations, All Other	15,890
Retail Salespersons	14,255
Customer Service Representatives	13,405
Managers, All Other	11,894
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	11,115
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,238
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	6,186

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Media Update

Job Gains

Uber Hiring Up to 3,000 in Dallas

Dallas Morning News

DALLAS, TX — Uber is looking for employees to staff up new teams in Texas for the launch of its temporary staffing service Uber Works. Uber has been recruiting up to 30 employees per week at its offices in Deep Ellum. Its Dallas location is intended to be Uber's largest hub outside San Francisco. The company's goal is to expand the Dallas office to 3,000 workers by 2023. It has brought about 150 employees on board so far.

"Following successful launches in Chicago and Miami, we are now exploring the possibility of bringing Uber Works to Dallas and Houston," an Uber spokesperson told the Dallas Morning News. Janeesa Hollingshead, whose position on LinkedIn is listed as "General Manager, Launch at Uber Works," said, "I'm seeking onboarding coordinators to join the Works team in Dallas and Houston this month." She added, "Candidates should be fluent in Spanish and have at least one year of customer service, recruiting or HR/onboarding experience."

Corsicana's Water Park Nearing Completion

Corsicana Daily Sun

CORSICANA, TX — The Corsicana City Council approved a deadline extension for Corsicana Water and Adventure Park (CWAP) to June 15. With the extension, it is expected that CWAP will create the necessary jobs required to fulfill the contract and close out the project. The required number of jobs has been reduced from 51 to 42.

While the park is set to open by early to mid-April, John McClung, the CWAP general partner and park manager, said he plans to finalize several additions before opening, including the completion of a parking lot and sidewalks, exterior and interior signage, the installation of a chairlift for handicapped guests, and a sprinkler-alarm system. The Altitude H2O section of the park will reopen in time for summer.

Job Losses

SXSW Reeling From Cancellation

Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN, TX — SXSW LLC, the company behind the South by Southwest festival held in Austin each year since 1987, is reeling financially from the city's decision to cancel the 2020 event over coronavirus fears, apparently putting its future in jeopardy as it scrambles to ascertain how much money it stands to lose. SXSW said it has laid off about a third of its 175 year-round employees.

The company "has been rigorously reviewing our operations, and we are in the unimaginable position of reducing our workforce," a SXSW spokesperson said. "We are planning for the future, and this was a necessary, but heartbreaking step," SXSW added. SXSW co-founder and CEO Roland Swenson told the Wall Street Journal in an interview that SXSW is "planning to carry on and do another event in 2021." But "how we're going to do that I'm not entirely sure," Swenson said.

Houston Rodeo Closed Down Midway Through Run

Houston Chronicle and KPRC Channel 2

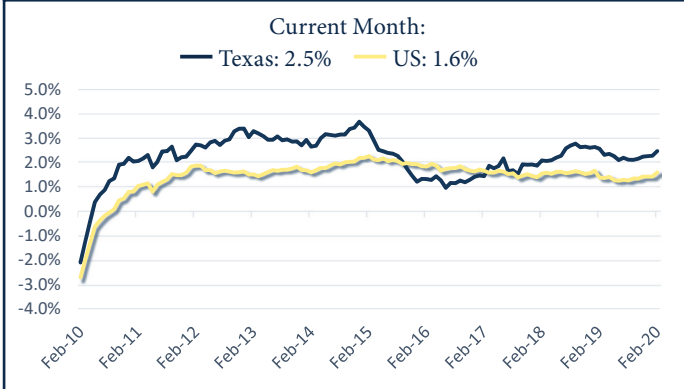
HOUSTON, TX — The remainder of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo was cancelled on March 11 as officials in both Houston and Harris County declared a health emergency. Houston mayor Sylvester Turner said the decision to cancel was due to concerns about the positive case of coronavirus after a Montgomery County man with no recent travel history tested positive for COVID-19. Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo declared the closure at a news conference.

Montgomery County officials said the man attended a barbecue cookoff at the rodeo but was not exhibiting symptoms at the time. According to rodeo attendance figures, 73,433 people attended the "World Champion Bar-B-Que Contest" that the man attended on February 28.



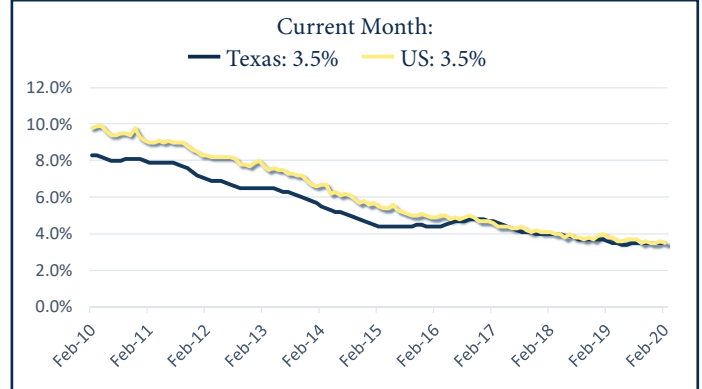
KEY INDICATORS

Total Nonag Annual Employment Growth (Seasonally Adjusted)



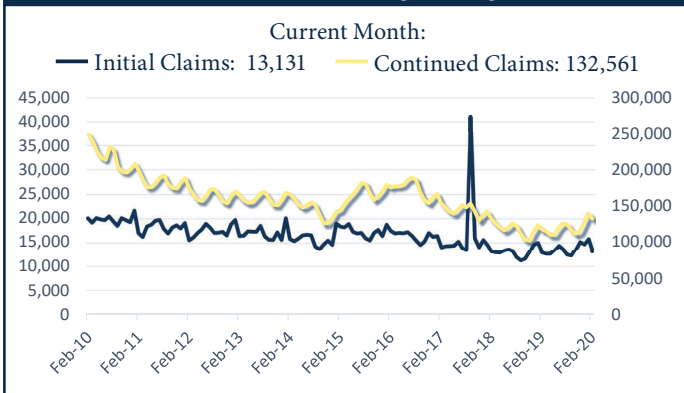
Source: TWC/Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)



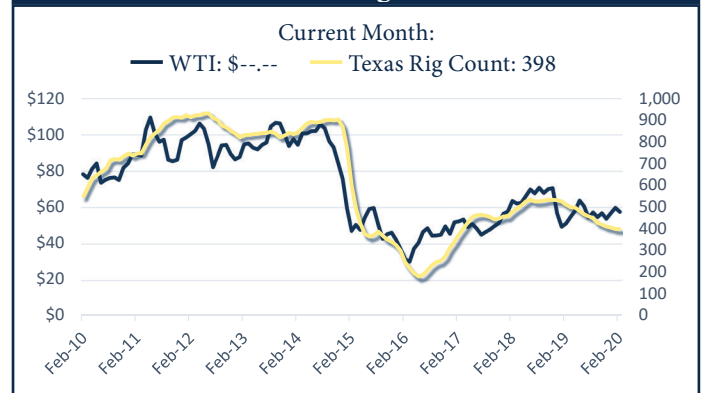
Source: TWC/Bureau of Labor Statistics

Initial and Continued Claims (Four-Week Moving Average)



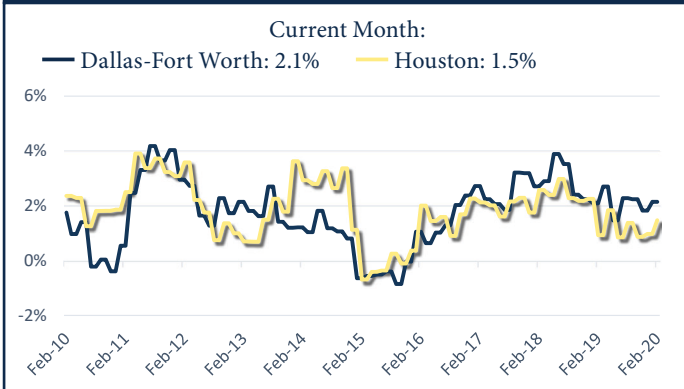
Source: TWC

West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil vs. Texas Rig Count



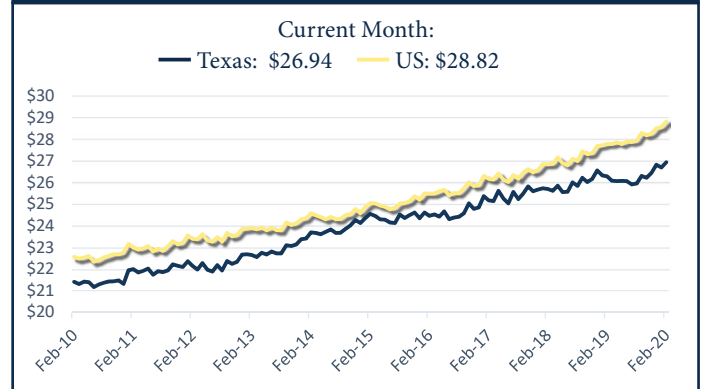
Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA) & Baker Hughes

Consumer Price Index Annual Growth (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Average Hourly Earnings (Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

[Download Key Indicators data in excel](#)



GLOSSARY

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

This Federal/State cooperative program produces estimates drawn from a monthly survey of nonfarm business establishments used to collect wage and salary employment, worker hours and payroll by industry and area. It counts the number of jobs, not of people.

Nonagricultural Jobs - The total number of persons on establishment payrolls employed full or part time. Persons on the payroll of more than one establishment are counted in each. Data exclude proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers, and domestic workers. Government employment only covers civilian employees.

Actual or Not Seasonally Adjusted - Describes the data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.

Seasonally Adjusted - The effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns of hiring or layoffs (holidays, weather, etc.) have been removed from these series. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements in a data series.

HELP WANTED ONLINE

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series and index (July 2018=100) provides monthly measures of labor demand (advertised vacancies) at the national, regional, state, and metropolitan area levels.

Supply-Demand rate - A ratio measuring the number of unemployed persons per Help Wanted Online job openings.

INDICATORS

Initial Claims - A count of notices of unemployment received requesting a determination of eligibility for UI benefits. A person can file multiple claims.

Continued Claims - A count of claimants who have qualified for and are receiving UI benefits.

Consumer Price Index - An index of the variation in prices paid by typical consumers for retail goods and other items.

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

This Federal/State cooperative program produces employment and unemployment estimates by place of residence.

Employed - All persons 16 years and over who, during the reference week, (a) did any work at all (at least 1 hour) as paid employees, worked on their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid family workers, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Each employed person is counted only once, even if the person holds more than one job.

Unemployed - All persons aged 16 years and over who had no employment, were available for work, and had made specific efforts to find employment. Includes persons who were waiting to be recalled to jobs from which they had been laid off.

Civilian Labor Force (CLF) - All persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment Rate - The unemployed number divided by the civilian labor force number.

MISCELLANEOUS

Metropolitan Division (MD) - A Metropolitan Statistical Area with a population of 2.5 million which is subdivided into smaller groupings is referred to as Metropolitan Divisions (MDs).

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - A geographic area that contains at least one urbanized center of 50,000 or more population plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core urban location. An MSA in Texas is made up of one or more counties.

Metro Area - Can refer either to a Metropolitan Statistical Area or a Metropolitan Division. Texas has 25 MSAs, including the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA which is subdivided into two MDs.

Workforce Development Area (WDA) - The State of Texas is divided into twenty-eight (28) local workforce development areas.

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