

Texas Workforce Press Release

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State Unemployment Dips Slightly in April

AUSTIN — Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.6 percent in April from 6.7 percent in March, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Education & Health Services and Leisure & Hospitality lead the way in new jobs, with gains of 5,200 and 2,200 jobs respectively. Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas fell by a modest 900 positions in April, after a gain of 6,000 jobs in March.

"I'm pleased with the decrease in Texas' unemployment rate in April," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "However, the overall loss of jobs in Total Nonagricultural Employment is disappointing after the large increase we saw last month."

Employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (TTU) fell for the second month in a row with a decline of 9,300 jobs over the month. Continued instability in the airline and other travel-related industries contributed to these losses.

"The continued loss of jobs in Trade, Transportation & Utilities is reason for concern, but I am pleased with the growth in some of our other sectors," said Commissioner for Labor T.P. O'Mahoney. "The gains in Construction and Natural Resources & Mining are encouraging."

Employment in Construction increased by 2,000 positions in April, topping the 1,600 new jobs created in March. Over the year, 5,700 jobs have been added in this industry, for an annual growth rate of 1.0 percent. Employment in Natural Resources & Mining grew by 1,000 jobs in April.

"I also am somewhat heartened by April's drop in unemployment," said Commissioner for Employers Ron Lehman. "Plenty of uncertainty remains, though the fact that most of our industries experienced job growth provides some reason for guarded optimism."

Overall, seven of the Total Nonagricultural industries experienced job growth in April. Professional & Business Services added 1,500 jobs and 700 more jobs were created in Financial Activities. In addition to the losses in TTU, 1,800 jobs were lost in Manufacturing.

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**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
Ranked by March Unemployment Rate
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

Rank	Area	Rate
1	Bryan-College Station	1.9
2	Lubbock	2.9
3	Amarillo	3.4
4	San Angelo	3.5
5	Abilene	3.9
6 (tie)	Tyler	4.1
	Wichita Falls	4.1
8	Waco	4.5
9	San Antonio	4.8
10	Victoria	4.9
11	Killeen-Temple	5.1
12 (tie)	Austin-San Marcos	5.3
	Odessa-Midland	5.3
14	Fort Worth-Arlington	5.9
15	Houston	6.2
16	Corpus Christi	6.3
17	Longview-Marshall	6.4
18 (tie)	Dallas	6.6
	Sherman-Denison	6.6
20	Laredo	7.2
21	Galveston-Texas City	7.3
22	Brazoria	8.1
23	El Paso	8.3
24	Beaumont-Port Arthur	8.5
25	Brownsville-Harlingen	10.0
26	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	11.9
	Texarkana data not available	

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

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