

TEXAS

Labor Market Comparison Report

Texas Workforce Commission • Labor Market Information Department • Austin, Texas

Published April 2004 with February 2004 Data

The Labor Market Comparison Report is a monthly publication highlighting Texas economic indicators and comparing them against those of other large states, Texas' border states, and the United States. Economic indicators are typically used to analyze the health of the economy in a particular area and to predict future economic activity. The indicators presented here are by no means the only ones available for the chosen areas but are instead those indicators that are most easily compared over the many regions.

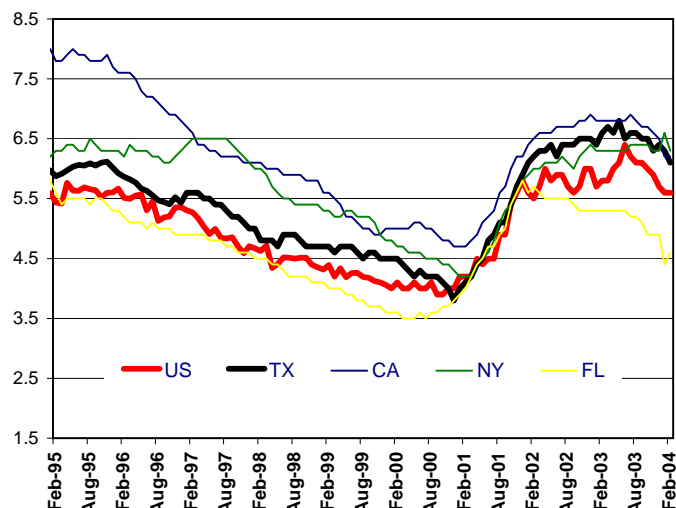
Local Area Unemployment Statistics for February 2004 Seasonally Adjusted Series

	Texas			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	10,962,587	10,295,515	667,072	6.1
Jan-04	10,969,920	10,275,595	694,325	6.3
Feb-03	10,942,769	10,217,300	725,469	6.6
	California			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	17,569,869	16,487,324	1,082,545	6.2
Jan-04	17,576,940	16,480,142	1,096,798	6.2
Feb-03	17,429,043	16,244,069	1,184,974	6.8
	Florida			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	8,301,486	7,920,437	381,049	4.6
Jan-04	8,283,980	7,919,893	364,087	4.4
Feb-03	8,123,048	7,692,384	430,664	5.3
	New Mexico			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	897,238	846,679	50,559	5.6
Jan-04	897,186	846,165	51,021	5.7
Feb-03	888,409	835,809	52,600	5.9
	Arkansas			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	1,310,643	1,238,824	71,819	5.5
Jan-04	1,307,866	1,239,979	67,887	5.2
Feb-03	1,283,946	1,213,319	70,627	5.5

	US			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	146,147,000	138,301,000	8,170,000	5.6
Jan-04	146,863,000	138,566,000	8,297,000	5.6
Feb-03	145,857,000	137,408,000	8,450,000	5.8
	New York			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	9,294,088	8,706,630	587,458	6.3
Jan-04	9,325,203	8,714,263	610,940	6.6
Feb-03	9,347,426	8,763,127	584,299	6.3
	Louisiana			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	2,042,730	1,923,942	118,788	5.8
Jan-04	2,039,715	1,915,634	124,081	6.1
Feb-03	2,029,957	1,899,292	130,665	6.4
	Oklahoma			
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	1,702,103	1,616,917	85,186	5.0
Jan-04	1,699,662	1,612,211	87,451	5.1
Feb-03	1,696,135	1,605,766	90,369	5.3

Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. 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.

CA, NY, TX, FL and US Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



Large States Unemployment Rates

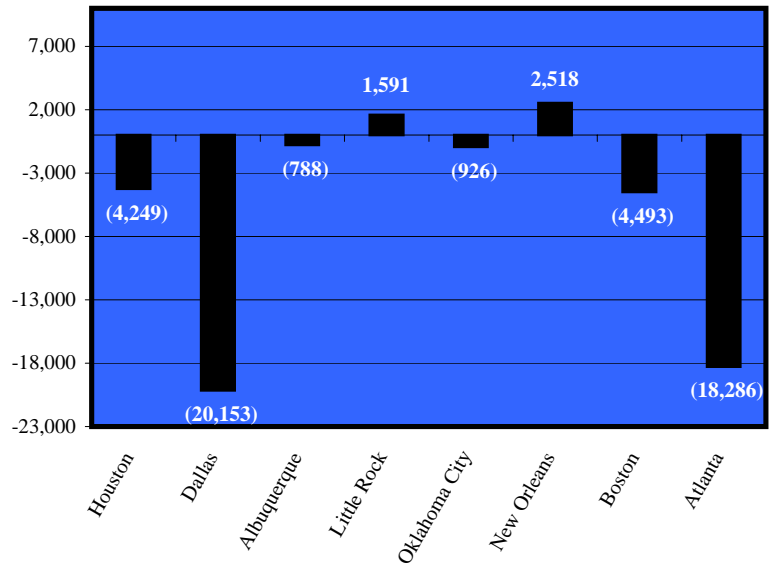
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03
US	5.6	5.6	5.8
Texas	6.1	6.3	6.6
California	6.2	6.2	6.8
New York	6.3	6.6	6.3
Florida	4.7	4.9	5.3

Unadjusted Series for Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Houston, TX				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	2,110,043	2,166,921	143,122	6.2
Jan-04	2,316,389	2,160,030	156,359	6.8
Feb-03	2,295,017	2,147,646	147,371	6.4
Boston, MA-NH				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	1,849,751	1,760,871	88,880	4.8
Jan-04	1,854,708	1,758,547	96,161	5.2
Feb-03	1,886,447	1,793,074	93,373	4.9
Albuquerque, NM				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	388,721	370,836	17,885	4.6
Jan-04	386,731	367,828	18,903	4.9
Feb-03	391,282	372,609	18,673	4.8
Oklahoma City, OK				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	578,185	551,287	26,907	4.7
Jan-04	569,932	543,122	26,810	4.7
Feb-03	575,228	547,395	27,833	4.8
Dallas, TX				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	2,016,723	1,890,701	126,022	6.2
Jan-04	2,020,770	1,884,215	136,555	6.8
Feb-03	2,034,712	1,888,537	146,175	7.2
Atlanta, GA				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	2,430,597	2,335,336	95,261	3.9
Jan-04	2,424,096	2,321,273	102,832	4.2
Feb-03	2,394,375	2,280,828	113,547	4.7
Little Rock - North Little Rock, AR				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	317,297	301,868	15,427	4.9
Jan-04	315,374	300,021	15,353	4.9
Feb-03	311,426	297,590	13,836	4.4
New Orleans, LA				
	C.L.F.	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Feb-04	600,983	568,988	31,995	5.3
Jan-04	600,453	562,395	38,058	6.3
Feb-03	597,480	568,003	29,477	4.9

Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. Estimates reflect unadjusted (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.

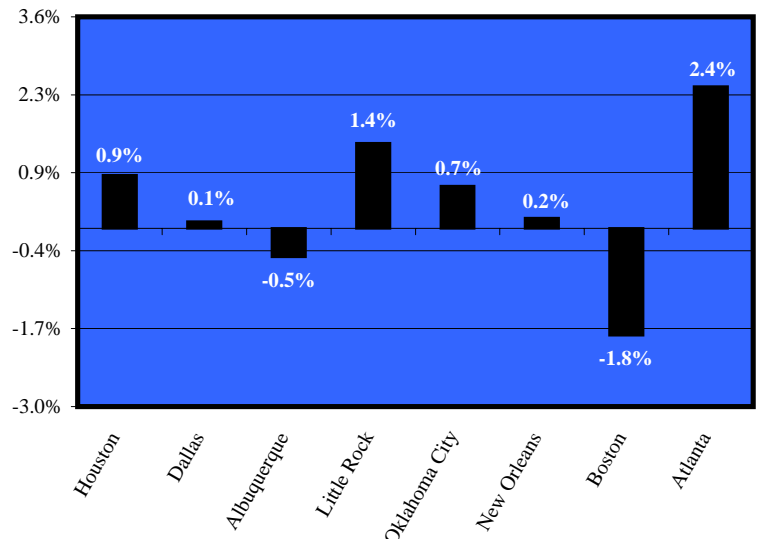
Over-the-Year Change in Unemployment by MSA
Feb-04



Metropolitan Statistical Area Population

	(Census) 2000	(Census) 1990	Numeric Change	Growth
Houston, TX	4,669,571	3,731,131	938,440	20.1%
Dallas, TX	5,221,801	4,037,282	1,184,519	22.7%
Albuquerque, NM	712,738	589,131	123,607	17.3%
Little Rock, AR	513,026	556,295	-43,269	-8.4%
Oklahoma City, OK	1,083,346	958,839	124,507	11.5%
New Orleans, LA	1,337,726	1,285,270	52,456	3.9%
Boston, MA-NH	5,819,100	5,455,403	363,697	6.3%
Atlanta, GA	4,112,198	2,959,950	1,152,248	28.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Growth by MSA
Feb-04



Local Area Unemployment Statistics for All States
(February 2004 preliminary data)

Seasonally Adjusted Series
(Numbers in thousands)

State	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Alabama	2,156.0	2,036.2	119.8	5.6
Alaska	342.9	317.7	25.2	7.4
Arizona	2,750.4	2,605.7	144.7	5.3
Arkansas	1,310.6	1,238.8	71.8	5.5
California	17,569.9	16,487.4	1,082.5	6.2
Colorado	2,505.7	2,370.3	135.4	5.4
Connecticut	1,795.2	1,710.1	85.1	4.7
Delaware	421.6	407.3	14.3	3.4
Florida	8,301.5	7,920.5	381.0	4.6
Georgia	4,395.9	4,227.7	168.2	3.8
Hawaii	625.1	599.1	26.0	4.2
Idaho	700.7	667.0	33.7	4.8
Illinois	6,391.6	5,994.3	397.3	6.2
Indiana	3,188.1	3,019.4	168.7	5.3
Iowa	1,629.0	1,562.0	67.0	4.1
Kansas	1,463.5	1,392.9	70.6	4.8
Kentucky	1,977.2	1,872.9	104.3	5.3
Louisiana	2,042.7	1,923.9	118.8	5.8
Maine	698.6	663.7	34.9	5.0
Maryland	2,937.1	2,820.5	116.6	4.0
Massachusetts	3,412.9	3,230.9	182.0	5.3
Michigan	5,071.2	4,738.5	332.7	6.6
Minnesota	2,949.3	2,812.1	137.2	4.7
Mississippi	1,313.9	1,241.1	72.8	5.5
Missouri	2,992.8	2,840.1	152.7	5.1

State	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Montana	480.8	461.5	19.3	4.0
Nebraska	985.1	948.4	36.7	3.7
Nevada	1,175.6	1,123.5	52.1	4.4
New Hampshire	726.3	696.1	30.2	4.2
New Jersey	4,401.4	4,165.5	235.9	5.4
New Mexico	897.2	846.6	50.6	5.6
New York	9,294.1	8,706.6	587.5	6.3
North Carolina	4,195.2	3,944.4	250.8	6.0
North Dakota	347.8	337.1	10.7	3.1
Ohio	5,871.9	5,525.4	346.5	5.9
Oklahoma	1,702.1	1,616.9	85.2	5.0
Oregon	1,870.4	1,736.9	133.5	7.1
Pennsylvania	6,212.7	5,894.6	318.1	5.1
Rhode Island	563.2	534.1	29.1	5.2
South Carolina	2,039.4	1,910.6	128.8	6.3
South Dakota	423.3	409.8	13.5	3.2
Tennessee	2,943.5	2,797.0	146.5	5.0
Texas	10,961.5	10,294.2	667.3	6.1
Utah	1,199.1	1,141.7	57.4	4.8
Vermont	353.8	340.8	13.0	3.7
Virginia	3,830.7	3,700.1	130.6	3.4
Washington	3,171.3	2,977.0	194.3	6.1
West Virginia	797.8	754.3	43.5	5.4
Wisconsin	3,120.2	2,957.0	163.2	5.2
Wyoming	277.6	267.8	9.8	3.5

Unadjusted Series
(Numbers in thousands)

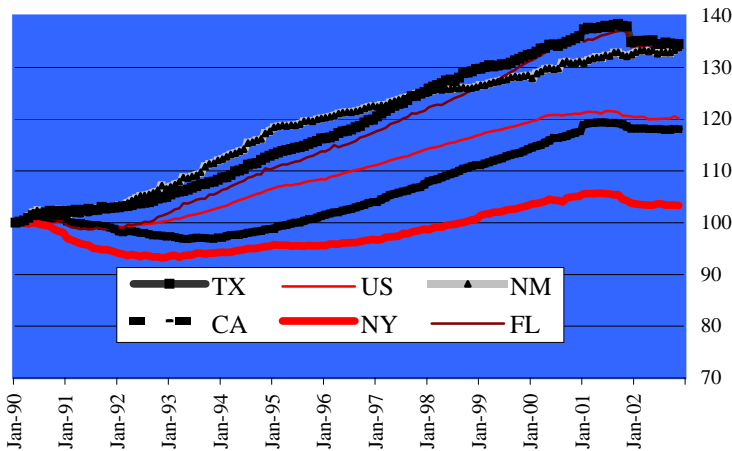
State	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Alabama	2,144.6	2,024.4	120.2	5.6
Alaska	339.2	309.1	30.1	8.9
Arizona	2,717.4	2,582.2	135.2	5.0
Arkansas	1,296.9	1,216.3	80.6	6.2
California	17,519.1	16,381.3	1,137.8	6.5
Colorado	2,469.7	2,330.0	139.7	5.7
Connecticut	1,773.6	1,679.3	94.3	5.3
Delaware	419.8	402.4	17.4	4.1
Florida	8,198.7	7,833.3	365.4	4.5
Georgia	4,373.8	4,206.7	167.1	3.8
Hawaii	622.5	598.5	24.0	3.8
Idaho	692.2	650.0	42.2	6.1
Illinois	6,334.7	5,904.5	430.2	6.8
Indiana	3,149.3	2,964.1	185.2	5.9
Iowa	1,620.3	1,539.3	81.0	5.0
Kansas	1,451.6	1,376.1	75.5	5.2
Kentucky	1,955.1	1,835.2	119.9	6.1
Louisiana	2,021.6	1,903.3	118.3	5.9
Maine	685.6	645.1	40.5	5.9
Maryland	2,918.0	2,789.2	128.8	4.4
Massachusetts	3,379.5	3,185.7	193.8	5.7
Michigan	5,013.9	4,648.4	365.5	7.3
Minnesota	2,912.3	2,757.0	155.3	5.3
Mississippi	1,311.8	1,238.6	73.2	5.6
Missouri	2,972.5	2,808.7	163.8	5.5

State	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Montana	476.1	451.6	24.5	5.1
Nebraska	980.6	939.6	41.0	4.2
Nevada	1,174.5	1,119.7	54.8	4.7
New Hampshire	721.4	689.6	31.8	4.4
New Jersey	4,374.5	4,127.4	247.1	5.6
New Mexico	890.6	841.1	49.5	5.6
New York	9,259.7	8,617.9	641.8	6.9
North Carolina	4,159.3	3,893.1	266.2	6.4
North Dakota	340.2	327.3	12.9	3.8
Ohio	5,798.2	5,414.9	383.3	6.6
Oklahoma	1,688.4	1,595.9	92.5	5.5
Oregon	1,857.4	1,700.5	156.9	8.4
Pennsylvania	6,156.7	5,786.9	369.8	6.0
Rhode Island	563.8	528.8	35.0	6.2
South Carolina	2,016.5	1,882.7	133.8	6.6
South Dakota	413.8	398.2	15.6	3.8
Tennessee	2,914.5	2,760.1	154.4	5.3
Texas	10,855.2	10,191.2	664.0	6.1
Utah	1,190.4	1,128.1	62.3	5.2
Vermont	352.8	336.3	16.5	4.7
Virginia	3,795.7	3,659.3	136.4	3.6
Washington	3,165.7	2,949.1	216.6	6.8
West Virginia	787.1	736.5	50.6	6.4
Wisconsin	3,100.4	2,900.7	199.7	6.4
Wyoming	274.0	261.4	12.6	4.6

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment for December 2002 (latest available data for comparison)

U.S., Texas, and Other Large States

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment Index
January 1990 = 100

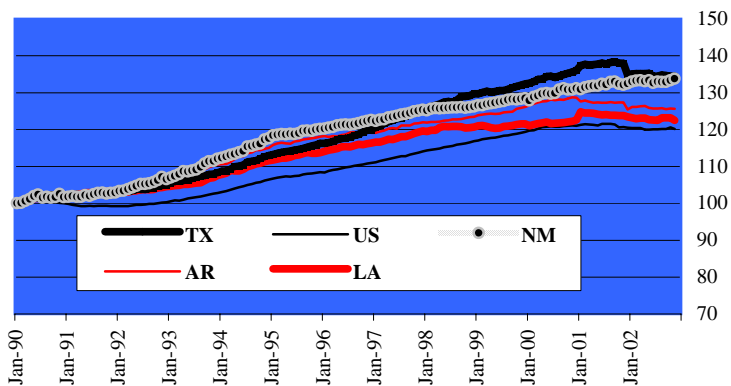


Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment			
	Dec-02	Nov-02	Dec-01
Texas	9,410,600	9,410,600	9,437,000
US	130,670,000	130,867,000	131,321,000
California	14,630,400	14,645,800	14,656,200
New York	8,524,200	8,531,000	8,568,500
Florida	7,230,600	7,239,400	7,166,300

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Growth		
	OTM	OTY
Texas	0.0%	-0.3%
US	-0.2%	-0.5%
California	-0.1%	-0.2%
New York	-0.1%	-0.5%
Florida	-0.1%	0.9%

The U.S., Texas, and its Border States

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment Index
January 1990 = 100



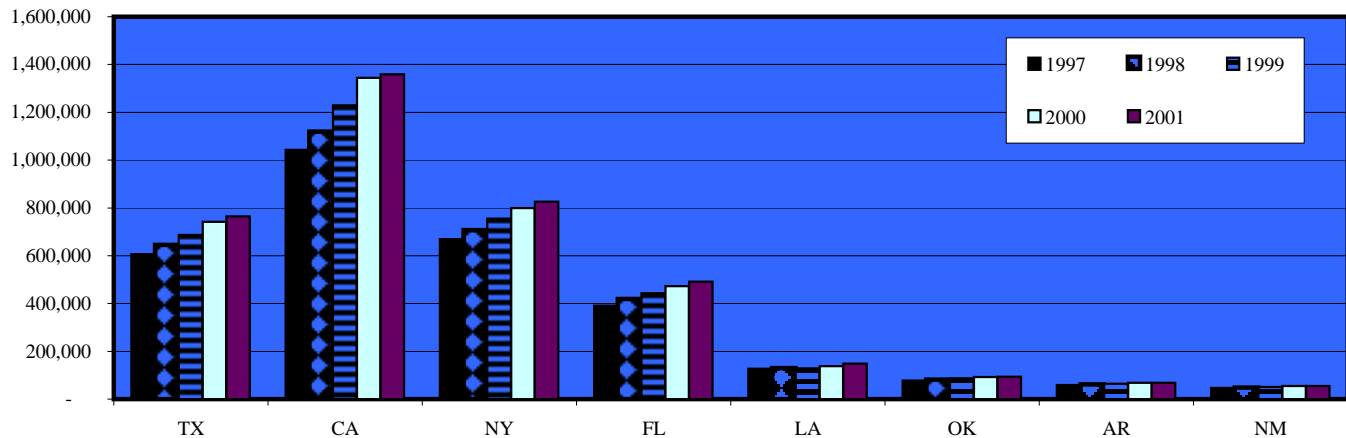
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment			
	Dec-02	Nov-02	Dec-01
Texas	9,410,600	9,410,600	9,452,500
US	130,670,000	130,867,000	131,195,000
New Mexico	764,200	765,700	760,900
Oklahoma	1,521,300	1,521,900	1,509,900
Arkansas	1,149,400	1,149,400	1,154,100
Louisiana	1,931,100	1,921,900	1,933,200

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Growth		
	OTM	OTY
Texas	0.0%	-0.3%
US	-0.2%	-0.5%
New Mexico	-0.2%	0.4%
Oklahoma	0.0%	0.8%
Arkansas	0.0%	-0.4%
Louisiana	0.5%	-0.1%

Gross State Product

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross State Product is defined as the value added in production by the labor and property located in a state. GSP for a state is derived as the sum of the GSP originating in all industries in the state.

Gross State Product
(millions of current dollars)



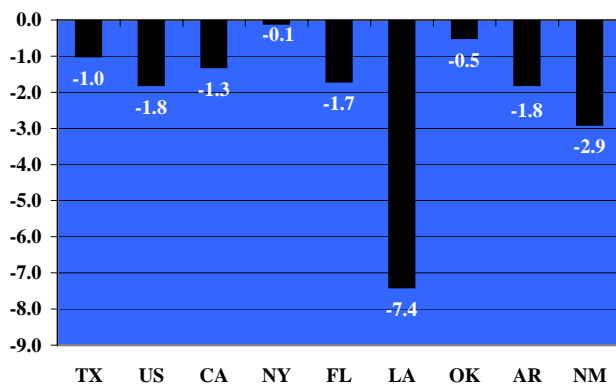
Poverty

How the Census Bureau Measures

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, medicaid, and food stamps). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children). They are excluded from the poverty universe--that is, they are considered neither as "poor" nor as "nonpoor."

Source: Dalaker, Joseph, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-207, Poverty in the United States: 1998, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1999.

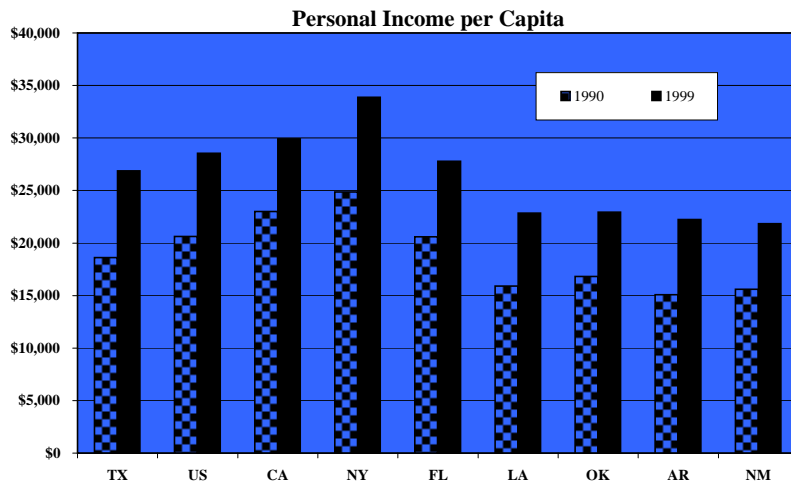
Percentage Point Change in Poverty Rate
1990-2001



Percentage of People Living in Poverty			
	1990	2001	Percentage Point Difference
Texas	15.9%	14.9%	-1.0
US	13.5%	11.7%	-1.8
California	13.9%	12.6%	-1.3
New York	14.3%	14.2%	-0.1
Florida	14.4%	12.7%	-1.7
Louisiana	23.6%	16.2%	-7.4
Oklahoma	15.6%	15.1%	-0.5
Arkansas	19.6%	17.8%	-1.8
New Mexico	20.9%	18.0%	-2.9

Income

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, per capita income is the average income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. The Census Bureau derived per capita income by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group (excluding patients or inmates in institutional quarters).

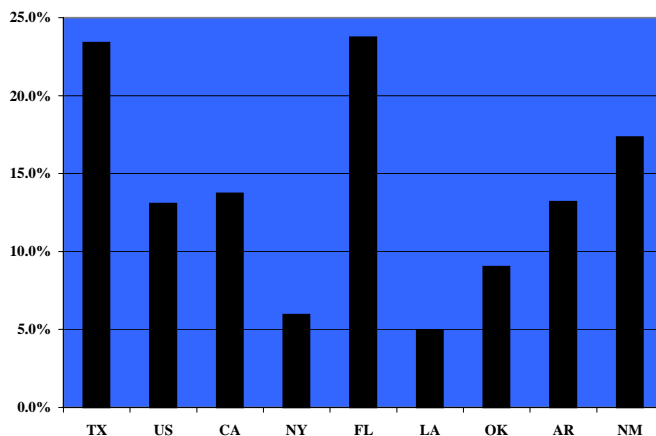


Personal Income per Capita			
	1990	1999	Growth
Texas	\$18,609	\$26,858	44.3%
US	\$20,618	\$28,542	38.4%
California	\$22,993	\$29,910	30.1%
New York	\$24,869	\$33,890	36.3%
Florida	\$20,587	\$27,780	34.9%
Louisiana	\$15,900	\$22,847	43.7%
Oklahoma	\$16,804	\$22,953	36.6%
Arkansas	\$15,095	\$22,244	47.4%
New Mexico	\$15,585	\$21,853	40.2%

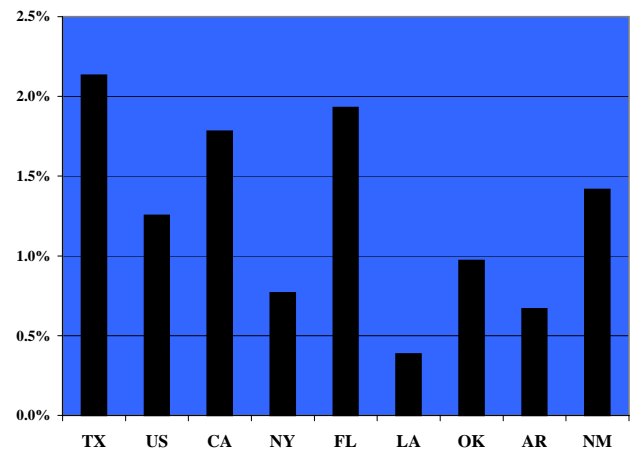
Population

Selected State's Population Totals 1992-2002											
	Jul-92	Jul-93	Jul-94	Jul-95	Jul-96	Jul-97	Jul-98	Jul-99	Jul-00	Jul-01	Jul-02
Texas	17,650,479	17,996,764	18,338,319	18,679,706	19,006,240	19,355,427	19,712,389	20,044,141	20,946,503	21,325,018	21,779,893
US	255,029,699	257,782,608	260,327,021	262,803,276	265,228,572	267,783,607	270,248,003	272,690,813	282,124,631	284,796,887	288,368,698
California	30,875,920	31,147,208	31,317,179	31,493,525	31,780,829	32,217,708	32,682,794	33,145,121	34,000,446	34,501,130	35,116,033
New York	18,082,032	18,140,894	18,156,652	18,150,928	18,143,805	18,143,184	18,159,175	18,196,601	18,989,332	19,011,378	19,157,532
Florida	13,504,775	13,713,593	13,961,798	14,185,403	14,426,911	14,683,350	14,908,230	15,111,244	16,054,328	16,396,515	16,713,149
Louisiana	4,270,849	4,284,749	4,306,500	4,327,978	4,338,763	4,351,390	4,362,758	4,372,035	4,469,970	4,465,430	4,482,646
Oklahoma	3,204,174	3,228,829	3,246,119	3,265,547	3,289,634	3,314,259	3,339,478	3,358,044	3,453,250	3,460,097	3,493,714
Arkansas	2,394,098	2,423,743	2,450,605	2,480,121	2,504,858	2,524,007	2,538,202	2,551,373	2,678,030	2,692,090	2,710,079
New Mexico	1,580,750	1,614,937	1,653,329	1,682,417	1,706,151	1,722,939	1,733,535	1,739,844	1,821,282	1,829,146	1,855,059

**Population Growth Rate
1992 - 2002**



**Population Growth Rate
2001-2002**



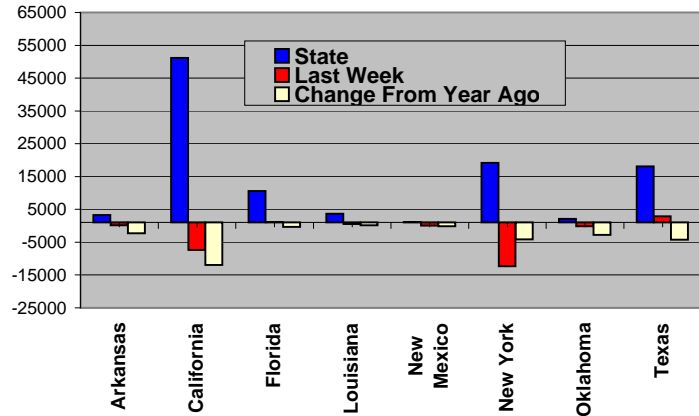
Initial Unemployment Claims

Initial unemployment claims represent the number of people filing first-time claims for state unemployment insurance and can often be a good measure of the condition of the labor market as a whole. Data included in this publication are for the most current month available.

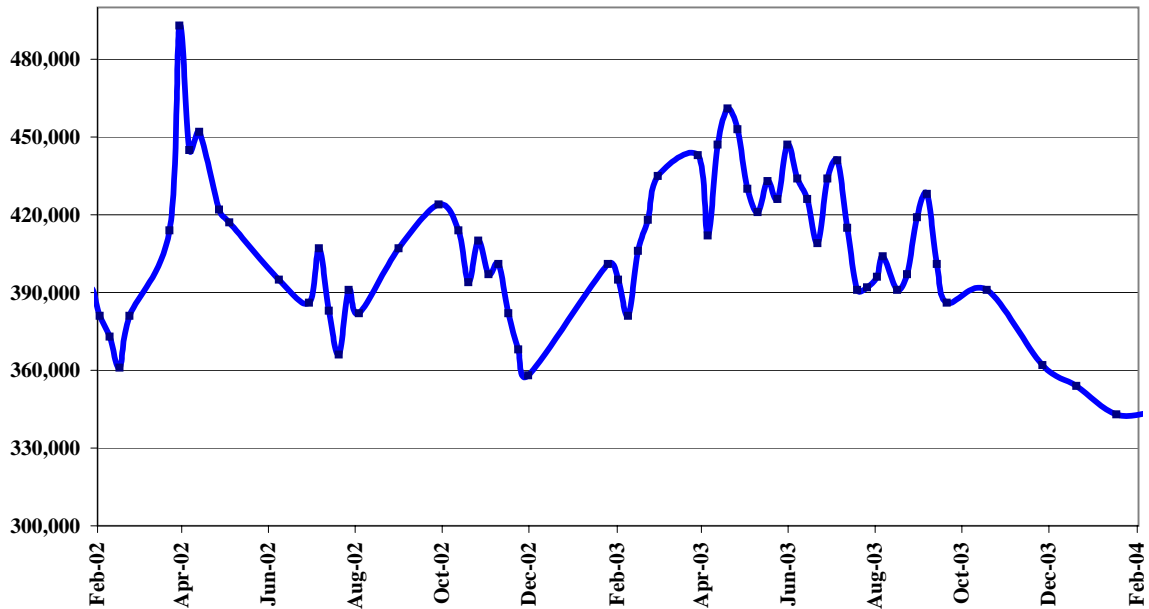
**Initial Claims Filed During Week of
March 6, 2004**

NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM	
		LAST WK	YR AGO
Arkansas	3323	205	-2325
California	51112	-7363	-11887
Florida	10583	1126	-358
Louisiana	3663	511	170
New Mexico	1142	35	-166
New York	19181	-12349	-4090
Oklahoma	2140	-124	-2725
Texas	18113	2878	-4197

**Initial Claims Filed During Week of
March 6, 2004**



US Weekly Initial Unemployment Claims Sept 2002 to Sept 2003



Regional LMI Contacts

Arkansas Employment Security Department

#2 Capitol Mall
P.O. Box 2981
Little Rock, AR 72203
Phone: 501-682-5227
Fax: 501-682-3223
www.state.ar.us/esd/labormarketinformation.htm

Office of Occupational Information

Research & Statistics Division
Louisiana Department of Labor
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America's Career InfoNet

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Labor Market Information

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