



Texas Jobs Snapshot: September

Unemployment at Historic Highs

In September 2011, Texas' unemployment rate remained elevated at 8.5 percent as public sector job losses continue for the third consecutive month.

Unemployment

- Texas' unemployment rate is high by historical standards. Texas' unemployment stands at 8.5% in September 2011, marking more than two years the Texas' unemployment rate has exceeded 8%. This exceeds the modern-day stretch set in the wake of the 1980s oil and real estate bust (Feb. 1986-Dec. 1987).
- Texas unemployment has risen considerably since the end of the recession: Texas is one of only twelve states with a rising unemployment rate since the end of the recession (June 2009).
- Texas' unemployment rate has nearly doubled from 4.4% in December 2007 to 8.5% in September 2011.
- The share of Texas workers experiencing long-term unemployment (more than six months) doubled from 15.8% in 2007 to 33.8% in 2010.
- In the 2nd quarter of 2011, 59.3% of Texans (283,000) receiving unemployment insurance, were unemployed for more than 6 months.

Jobs Shortfall

- Texas needs to add more than 654,000 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past 24 months, Texas has added 379,100 jobs.
- Texas must add 32,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In September the state added 15,400 net new jobs, far below what is needed for the state's economy to recover.
 - o In September, the public sector shed 11,100 jobs, bringing total job losses in the sector to nearly 48,000 since July.
 - o In September, the private sector added 26,500 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 67,400 since July.
- Since December 2007 when the recession began, the Texas working-age population has grown by 7%, the second highest rate after Utah.

Unemployment Insurance

- Texas ranks 50th in the proportion of unemployed workers receiving regular unemployment insurance assistance (19%).
- Texas ranks 47th in the proportion of unemployed Texans receiving either regular or federally extended unemployment insurance assistance (41%).
- Roughly 150,000 long-term unemployed Texans will lose unemployment insurance assistance due to federally-funded UI benefits expiring at the end of 2011.

Trends by Sector – First Quarter 2007-2011

- Texas' employment has grown by a net of nearly 205,000 jobs.
- The Texas public sector has created nearly 60% of the net new jobs since the beginning of 2007.
- Texas public sector employment grew at a 7.1% clip; Texas private sector 1%.
- The Texas public sector added a net of 121,767 jobs; Texas private sector added a net of 82,838 jobs.
- Texas did not buck the national jobs decline related to construction (-11.8%) and manufacturing (-12.1%).

900 LYDIA STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78702

T 512.320.0222
F 512.320.0227

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For more information:

Don Baylor
Senior Policy Analyst
512.320.0222, ext. 108
baylor@cPPP.org

Leslie Helmcamp
Policy Analyst
512.320.0222, ext. 113
helmcamp@cPPP.org