



DECEMBER 2011

Texas Jobs Snapshot: November

## Texas' Jobs Still Scarce Heading into 2012

Texas' unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent in November 2011. Far too many Texans are still looking for work as we enter 2012. With federal unemployment insurance (UI) extensions set to expire this month, more than 100,000 long-term unemployed Texans will begin to lose UI benefits in January.

### Unemployment

- Texas' unemployment rate remains elevated at 8.1% in November, up from 4.4% in December 2007 when the recession began.
- Unemployed Texans are eligible for the maximum of up to 99 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits as the state's three-month unemployment rate averaged 8.5 percent between July and September 2011.
- Texas' unemployment rate is high by historical standards. Texas' unemployment rate has exceeded 8% for more than two years (27 months). This exceeds the modern-day stretch set in the wake of the 1980s oil and real estate bust (Feb. 1986-Dec. 1987).
- 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 666,700 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past 24 months, Texas has added 414,900 jobs.
- Texas must add 32,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In November, the state added 20,800 net new jobs, still too low for the state's economy to recover.
  - o In November, the public sector shed 1,900 jobs, bringing total job losses in the sector to nearly 33,700 over the last three months.
  - o In October, the private sector added 22,700 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 68,300 over the last three months.
- Since December 2007 when the recession began, the Texas working-age population has grown by 7.2%, the second highest rate after Utah.

### Unemployment Insurance

- Texas ranks 48th in the proportion of unemployed workers receiving regular unemployment insurance assistance (18%). (BLS, 2nd quarter 2011)
- Texas ranks 47th in the proportion of unemployed Texans receiving either regular or federally extended unemployment insurance assistance (38%).
- Roughly 150,000 long-term unemployed Texans will lose unemployment insurance assistance due to federally-funded UI benefits expiring at the end of 2011.

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### Trends by Sector: First Quarter 2007 - Second Quarter 2011

- Employment has grown by a net of nearly 394,000 jobs.
- Texas' public sector created 29% of the net new jobs since the beginning of 2007, Texas private sector 71%.
- Texas public sector employment grew at a 6.7% clip; Texas private sector 3.4%.
- The Texas public sector added a net of 114,091 jobs; Texas private sector added a net of 279,638 jobs.
- Texas did not buck the national jobs decline related to construction (-9.5%) and manufacturing (-10.9%)
- Information technology also experienced a decline of 11.2%

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