



For Immediate Release
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As Grim Unemployment Numbers Are Released, New Report Outlines Roots of Texas' Jobs Crisis

Report cites Texas' lack of good jobs, stagnant earnings, rising costs, and shrinking economic opportunity

READ THE REPORT: <http://www.cphp.org/research.php?aid=1131>

(AUSTIN, Texas) — The American Dream means working hard to learn, earn, save, and build assets so that our families are financially secure. These opportunities are in short supply in Texas. As today's new jobs numbers show, Texas' unemployment rate rose to 8.4 percent, marking the 23rd month the state unemployment rate has exceeded 8 percent, which ties the modern-day stretch set in the wake of the 1980s oil and real estate bust (Feb. 1986-Dec. 1987). With the state's jobless rate higher than the past two recessions, many more Texans are experiencing sharp losses in their family income. A new report released today titled, "Under Attack: Texas' Middle Class and the Job Crisis" suggests that stagnant incomes, a lack of good-paying jobs, and a lack of health insurance are the real issues that are crippling Texas' middle class.

The report, co-published by the Texas-based Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) and national policy center Demos, examines how stagnant wages, falling union participation, the lack of good jobs and health benefits, and the rising cost of a college education are all squeezing the Texas' middle class.

Quick facts from the report:

- In 2010, 27 percent of working-age individuals in Texas lacked health insurance compared to nearly 17 percent nationally.
- Young workers with only a high school diploma have seen their earnings decrease by about 16 percent in the past generation.
- 58 percent of college graduates in Texas entered the labor force with student debt in 2009, and their average debt totaled \$20,015.

"With nearly two years of persistently high unemployment, Texas' job creation strategies are not keeping pace with our booming population," says Don Baylor, senior policy analyst at CPPP. "With July's job numbers, we're running in place in regards to chipping away at our growing jobs shortfall, currently more than 620,000. We need to forge policies and partnerships that reduce unemployment, create good jobs, and rebuild pathways to the middle class."

"We cannot rebuild America's middle class without bold public investment and a commitment among companies to hire new workers," explains Tamara Draut, vice president of Policy & Programs at Demos. "Expanding and strengthening the middle class today will require investments in the public structures that ensure individuals and businesses can flourish—our infrastructure, our schools and our colleges."



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For more information on the report and to interview a Demos or Center for Public Policy Priorities analyst, please see contact information above.

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The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans. You can learn more about CPPP at www.cppp.org.

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