



JANUARY 2012

Texas Jobs Snapshot: December

Texas' showed strong job growth in December 2011, unemployment rate dropped to 7.8 percent down from 8.1 percent in November

Congress will consider continuing emergency and extended unemployment insurance (UI) in the coming weeks. Even with strong job gains in Texas and across the country, the economy is not adding jobs fast enough for the more than 959,000 unemployed workers to find jobs. Over 392,000 Texans receiving UI during the last half of 2011 were unemployed for longer than 26 weeks. Continuing the UI federal programs would allow thousands of Texas workers to continue covering their basic needs while the economy continues to recover. Cutting UI too soon would harm Texas families and the economy.

Trends by Sector: First Quarter 2007 - Second Quarter 2011

- Texas' employment up by a net of nearly 394,000 jobs.
- Texas' public sector has 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%.
- 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%

Unemployment

- Texas' unemployment rate dropped to 7.8% (959,443 Texans) in December 2011.
- December ended more than two years (27 months) of Texas' high unemployment stretch of 8% and above. The average unemployment rate in 2011 was 8.1%.
- Unemployed Texans may be 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.
- The share of Texas workers experiencing long-term unemployment (more than six months) doubled from 15.8% in 2007 to 33.8% in 2010.
- During the last half of 2011, 62% of Texans (393,000) receiving unemployment insurance, were unemployed for more than six months.

Jobs Shortfall

- Texas needs to add more than 660,000 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past three months, Texas has added 35,200 jobs.
- Texas must add 32,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In December, the state added 20,200 net new jobs, still too low for the state's economy to recover.
 - o In December, the public sector added 10,100 jobs, decreasing total job losses in the sector to 7,600 over the last three months.
 - o In December, the private sector added 10,100 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 42,800 over the last three months.
- Since December 2007, the Texas working-age population has grown by 7.4%, the second highest rate after Utah.

Unemployment Insurance

- Texas ranks 48th in the proportion of unemployed workers receiving regular unemployment insurance assistance (18%). (BLS, 3rd quarter 2011, 12 month average)
- Texas ranks 47th in the proportion of unemployed Texans receiving either regular or federally extended unemployment insurance assistance (35%).

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