



MARCH 2012

Texas Jobs Snapshot: January

Texas' showed strong job growth in January 2012, unemployment rate dropped to 7.3 percent down from 7.4 percent in December¹

Texas led the U.S. in the number of jobs added during January. The private sector added 185,800 jobs over the past six months, while the public sector continued to lose jobs, bringing total losses to nearly 58,000 over the same time period.

Unemployment

- The Texas unemployment rate dropped to 7.3 percent in January 2012.
- The average Texas unemployment rate in 2011 was 7.8%.
- The share of Texas workers experiencing long-term unemployment (more than six months) more than doubled from 15.8% in 2007 to 35.8% in 2011.
- During the last half of 2011, 62% of Texans (393,000) receiving unemployment insurance, were unemployed for more than 6 months.

Jobs Shortfall

- Texas needs to add more than 773,700 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past three months, Texas has added 104,600 jobs.
- Texas must add 40,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In January, the state added 67,200 net new jobs.
 - In January, the public sector lost 6,600 jobs, bringing total job losses in the sector to 8,900 over the last three months.
 - In January, the private sector added 73,800 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 113,500 over the last three months.
- Since December 2007, the Texas working-age population has grown by 9.1%, the highest rate in the United States.

Trends by Sector – First Quarter 2007- Second Quarter 2011

- Texas' employment has grown by a net of nearly 394,000 jobs.
- The 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%.
- 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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Unemployment Insurance

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

Endnotes

¹ In January, the Department of Labor estimated a 7.8 percent unemployment for Texas in December with job gains estimated at 20,200. The Department's revised job numbers for Texas adjusted the unemployment rate to 7.4 percent, reflecting stronger job gains of 24,500.

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