



## Texas Jobs Snapshot: February 2012



**What we need are good jobs that pay us a living wage, provide health benefits, and allow us to build assets.**

And what businesses really need are customers. They hire when we are buying more. Our policies should encourage growth in good jobs that provide ALL of us the opportunity to be productive Texans.

— Don Baylor  
Senior Policy Analyst

### Unemployment Insurance

- Texas ranks 47th in the proportion of unemployed workers receiving regular unemployment insurance assistance (19 percent). (BLS, 3rd quarter 2011, 12 month average)
- Texas ranks 42nd in the proportion of unemployed Texans receiving either regular or federally extended unemployment insurance assistance (38 percent).

### Unemployment

- The Texas unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in February 2012.
- The average Texas unemployment rate in 2011 was 7.8 percent.
- The share of Texas workers experiencing long-term unemployment (more than six months) more than doubled from 15.8 percent in 2007 to 35.8 percent in 2011.
- During the last half of 2011, 62 percent of Texans (393,000) receiving unemployment insurance, were unemployed for more than 6 months.

### Jobs Shortfall

- Texas needs to add more than 760,100 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past three months, Texas has added 120,100 jobs.
- Texas must add 40,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In February, the state added 27,000 net new jobs, down from 67,200 jobs in January.
  - In February, the public sector gained 12,800 jobs, but over the past six months, as a result of job-killing cuts to the state budget, the public sector has lost a total of 35,400 jobs.
  - In February, the private sector added 15,100 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 188,100 over the last six months.
- Since December 2007, the Texas working-age population has grown by 9.2 percent, the highest rate in the country.

### Trends by Sector – First Quarter 2007- Third Quarter 2011

- Texas' employment has grown by a net of nearly 394,000 jobs.
- Texas public sector employment grew 0.9 percent; Texas private sector 4.5 percent.
- The Texas public sector added a net of 15,608 jobs, 4 percent of total net new jobs; Texas private sector added a net of 377,999 jobs, 96 percent of total net new jobs.
- Texas did not buck the national jobs decline related to construction with more than 47,300 job losses, down 7.6 percent, and nearly 89,500 manufacturing jobs lost, a decline of 9.6 percent.
- Information technology also experienced a loss of 24,000 jobs, a decline of 10.9 percent.

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