



Texas Jobs Snapshot: August

Unemployment at Historic Highs

Texas must add 634,000 jobs to return to our state's pre-recession unemployment level. At Texas' unemployment rate of 8.5 percent, more than one million working-age Texans do not have a job.

Unemployment

- Texas' unemployment rate is high by historical standards. Texas' unemployment rate rose to 8.5 percent in August 2011, marking twenty-four consecutive months at 8 percent or above, breaking the modern-day stretch set in the wake of the 1980s oil and real estate bust (Feb. 1986-Dec. 1987).
- Texas unemployment has risen considerably since the end of the recession: Texas is one of only twelve states with a rising unemployment rate since the end of the recession (June 2009).
- Texas' unemployment rate has nearly doubled from 4.4 percent in December 2007 to 8.5 percent in August 2011.
- The share of Texas workers experiencing long-term unemployment (more than six months) doubled from 15.8 percent in 2007 to 33.8 percent in 2010.

Jobs Shortfall

- Texas needs to add more than 633,648 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past 24 months, Texas has added 359,100 jobs.
- During the recession, the Texas working-age population grew by 6.9 percent, the second highest rate after Utah.

Unemployment Insurance

- Texas ranks 51st in the proportion of unemployed workers receiving regular unemployment insurance assistance (19 percent).
- In the 2nd quarter of 2011, 59.3 percent of Texans (283,000) receiving unemployment insurance, were unemployed for more than 6 months.
- Roughly 150,000 long-term unemployed Texans will lose unemployment insurance assistance due to federally-funded UI benefits expiring at the end of 2011

Trends by Sector—First Quarter 2007-2011

- Texas' employment has grown by a net of nearly 205,000 jobs.
- The Texas public sector has created nearly 60 percent of the net new jobs since the beginning of 2007.
- Texas public sector employment grew at a 7.1 percent clip; Texas private sector 1 percent.
- Texas did not buck the national jobs decline related to construction (-11.8 percent) and manufacturing (-12.1 percent)

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