



Texas Jobs Snapshot: March 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%). (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%).

Unemployment

- The Texas unemployment rate dropped from 7.1% to 7.0% in March 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 771,672 jobs to account for the state's job losses and booming population. Over the past twelve months, Texas has added 300,600 jobs.
- Texas must add 40,000 jobs per month for the next three years to return to our pre-recession unemployment rate. In March the state added 10,900 net new jobs, much lower than the number needed to bring the economy to a full recovery.
 - In March, the public sector gained 2,900 jobs. Job-killing cuts in the sector have resulted in a total loss of 54,900 jobs over the past twelve months.
 - In March, the private sector added 8,000 jobs bringing total job gains in the sector to 300,600 over the last twelve months.
- Since December 2007, the Texas working-age population has grown by 9.3%, 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%; Texas private sector 4.5%.
- The Texas public sector added a net of 15,608 jobs, 4% of total net new jobs; Texas private sector added a net of 377,999 jobs, 96% 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%, and nearly 89,500 manufacturing jobs lost, a decline of -9.6%.
- Information technology also experienced a loss of 24,000 jobs, a decline of 10.9%.

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