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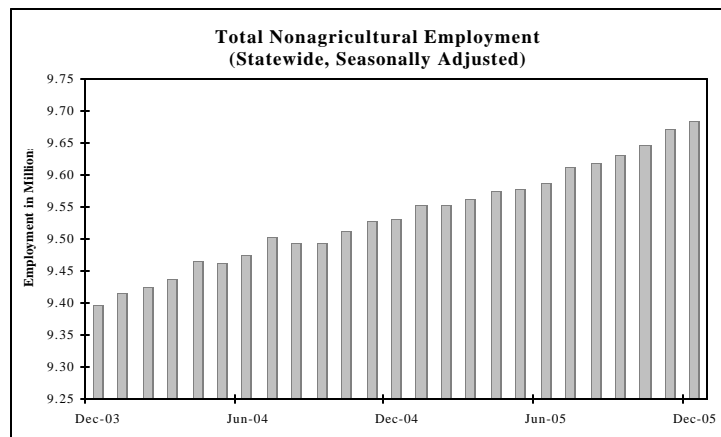
# TEXAS

## LABOR MARKET REVIEW

JANUARY 2006

### Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas rose by 13,400 jobs in December, which marked sixteen months of employment increases. Seven of the nine major industry sectors added jobs over the month, with Education and Health Services adding the most jobs. In the last 12 months, Texas has added 153,500 jobs for an annual growth rate of 1.6 percent.



Employment in Education and Health Services observed a gain of 3,800 jobs in December, following a modest increase of 800 positions in November. This was the second largest over-the-month increase this year. As a result, the annual growth rate rose slightly from 2.1 percent in November to 2.2 percent in December.

Natural Resources and Mining employment ended 2005 with an increase of 500 jobs in December. This industry sector experienced only two monthly losses in 2005. Annual employment change within Natural Resources and Mining has exhibited thirty-three consecutive months of positive growth. A total of 4,200 positions were added over the year, bringing the annual growth rate to 2.7 percent in December.

Construction employment quadrupled November's gain of 400 jobs with the addition of 1,600 positions in December. Only one monthly employment loss was recorded in Construction in 2005. A total of 17,200 jobs were added in Construction since December 2004. Consequently, the annual growth rate rose to 3.2 percent in December and has remained in positive territory since March 2005.

Manufacturing employment posted an increase of 1,400 jobs in December, the sixth over-the-month job gain this year. This is the first year Manufacturing finished off the year with positive job growth since 2000, recording a total of 4,900 job additions over the year. The annual growth rate of 0.6 percent is also the highest recorded annual growth rate since November 2000.

Employment within Financial Activities was unchanged in December. Two monthly losses were recorded within the sector in 2005. The annual growth rate decreased slightly to 1.4 percent in December; however, Financial Activities has sustained positive annual growth for over a decade. A total of 8,300 jobs were added in Financial Activities since December 2004.

Following a significant increase of 8,100 jobs in November, employment in Professional and Business Services posted a gain of 2,400 positions in December. The annual growth rate rose from 2.7 percent in November to 3.3 percent in December, a boost of 36,100 jobs over the year. This was the largest annual growth rate since September 2004.

Following a gain of 3,600 jobs in November, employment in Leisure and Hospitality booked an increase of 2,600 positions in December. Consequently, the annual growth rate rose to 2.2 percent, an increase of 19,700 positions over the year. This was the largest annual growth rate since February 2005.

Government employment ended the year with a gain of 500 jobs in December, following an increase of 1,900 positions in November. As a result, the annual growth rate remained at 0.6 percent for the second consecutive month, representing an increase of 10,100 jobs since December 2004.

#### REMINDER TO OUR READERS:

We will not be producing a TLMR issue in February. The next issue will be released on Thursday, March 9th.

For information regarding when data will be released in 2006, please see page 11.

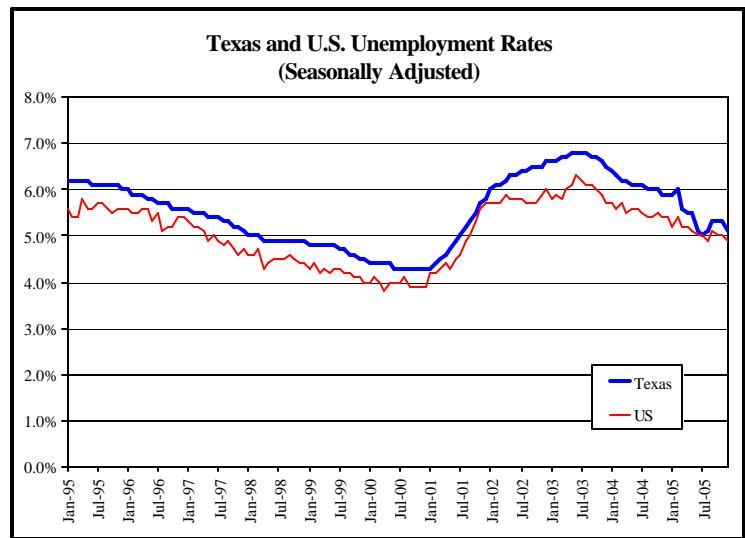
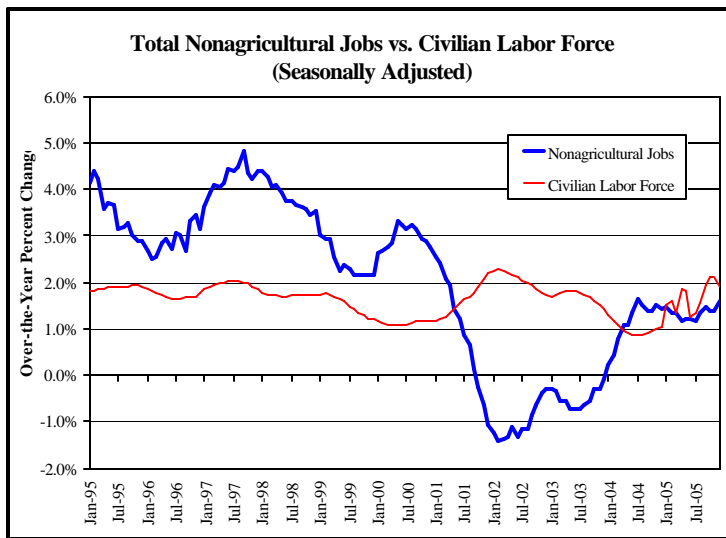
**TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED<sup>+</sup>**

INDUSTRY TITLE	Dec. 2005*	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2004	Nov. '05 to Dec. '05		Dec. '04 to Dec. '05	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
<b>TOTAL NONAG. W&amp;S EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>9,684,100</b>	<b>9,670,700</b>	<b>9,530,600</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>153,500</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>							
Natural Resources & Mining	158,300	157,800	154,100	500	0.3	4,200	2.7
Construction	560,100	558,500	542,900	1,600	0.3	17,200	3.2
Manufacturing	892,200	890,800	887,300	1,400	0.2	4,900	0.6
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>							
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,973,400	1,975,900	1,954,300	-2,500	-0.1	19,100	1.0
Financial Activities	607,800	607,800	599,500	0	0.0	8,300	1.4
Professional & Business Services	1,126,300	1,123,900	1,090,200	2,400	0.2	36,100	3.3
Education & Health Services	1,182,100	1,178,300	1,157,000	3,800	0.3	25,100	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	910,000	907,400	890,300	2,600	0.3	19,700	2.2
Government	1,674,800	1,674,300	1,664,700	500	0.0	10,100	0.6

Note: The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers. Total Nonagricultural employment is independently seasonally adjusted and employment for the individual sectors is not additive to the total. Seasonally adjusted estimates are not calculated for the *Information and Other Services* industries.

\*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision.

+All elements of seasonality are factored out to achieve an estimate which reflects the basic underlying trend.



**TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

		TEXAS*				UNITED STATES**			
Not Seasonally Adjusted		CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
December	2005	11,302,800	10,757,600	545,200	4.8	149,874,000	142,918,000	6,956,000	4.6
November	2005	11,329,300	10,738,600	590,700	5.2	150,239,000	142,968,000	7,271,000	4.8
December	2004	11,128,200	10,485,900	642,300	5.8	147,877,000	140,278,000	7,599,000	5.1
Seasonally Adjusted		CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
December	2005	11,310,200	10,733,000	577,200	5.1	150,153,000	142,779,000	7,375,000	4.9
November	2005	11,316,700	10,714,700	602,000	5.3	150,183,000	142,611,000	7,572,000	5.0
December	2004	11,094,000	10,439,500	654,500	5.9	148,173,000	140,133,000	8,040,000	5.4

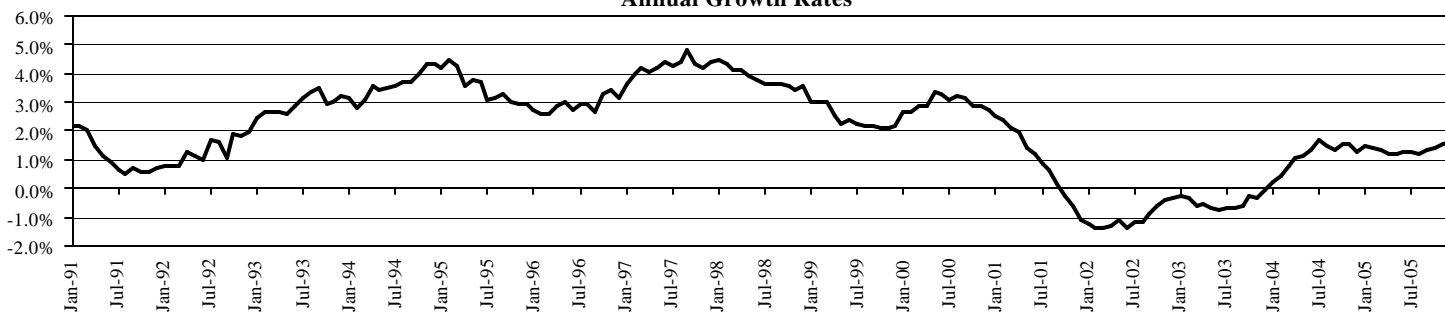
Note: Only the actual series estimates for Texas and the U.S. are comparable to sub-state estimates. Current month estimates for Texas are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. In seasonally adjusted estimates, all elements of seasonality are factored out to achieve an estimate which reflects the basic underlying trend.

\*Source - Labor Market and Career Information Department, Texas Workforce Commission (model-based methodology)

\*\*Source - Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (Current Population Survey)

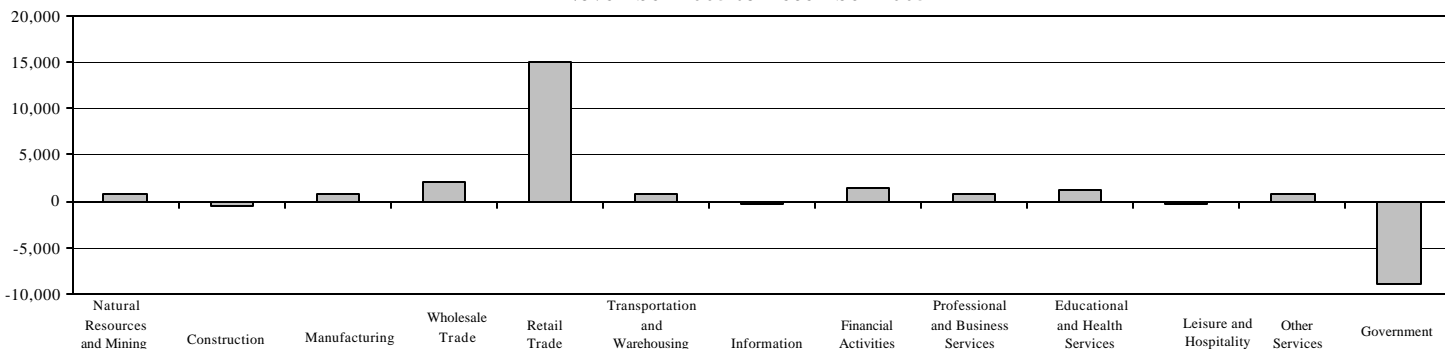
Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Annual Growth Rates



	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Nov '05 to Dec '05		Dec '04 to Dec '05	
				Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>9,739,300</b>	<b>9,725,800</b>	<b>9,585,900</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>153,400</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE (total nonfarm less government)</b>	<b>8,040,700</b>	<b>8,018,200</b>	<b>7,897,600</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>143,100</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>1,606,800</b>	<b>1,606,000</b>	<b>1,580,700</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>26,100</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Natural Resources and Mining (NAICS 1133 [logging], NAICS 21)</b>	<b>158,600</b>	<b>157,900</b>	<b>154,400</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Mining (NAICS 21)	157,100	156,500	152,500	600	0.4%	4,600	3.0%
Oil and Gas Extraction (NAICS 211)	63,600	63,500	63,700	100	0.2%	-100	-0.2%
Support Activities for Mining (NAICS 213)	83,400	82,900	78,400	500	0.6%	5,000	6.4%
<b>Construction (NAICS 23)</b>	<b>555,400</b>	<b>556,000</b>	<b>538,200</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Construction of Buildings (NAICS 236)	131,500	131,500	130,000	0	0.0%	1,500	1.2%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (NAICS 237)	104,400	104,300	96,900	100	0.1%	7,500	7.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors (NAICS 238)	319,500	320,200	311,300	-700	-0.2%	8,200	2.6%
<b>Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33)</b>	<b>892,800</b>	<b>892,100</b>	<b>888,100</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Durable Goods	568,400	567,900	560,500	500	0.1%	7,900	1.4%
Wood Product Manufacturing (NAICS 321)	27,500	27,700	26,400	-200	-0.7%	1,100	4.2%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (NAICS 327)	43,000	43,200	43,300	-200	-0.5%	-300	-0.7%
Primary Metal Manufacturing (NAICS 331)	26,200	26,300	25,600	-100	-0.4%	600	2.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (NAICS 332)	112,200	112,100	108,900	100	0.1%	3,300	3.0%
Machinery Manufacturing (NAICS 333)	78,200	78,300	77,300	-100	-0.1%	900	1.2%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (NAICS 334)	110,800	111,100	112,500	-300	-0.3%	-1,700	-1.5%
Electric Equipment, Appliance, and Component Mfg (NAICS 335)	18,700	18,500	17,300	200	1.1%	1,400	8.1%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (NAICS 336)	87,800	87,400	84,500	400	0.5%	3,300	3.9%
Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing (NAICS 337)	30,200	29,800	30,400	400	1.3%	-200	-0.7%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing (NAICS 339)	33,800	33,500	34,300	300	0.9%	-500	-1.5%
Nondurable Goods	324,400	324,200	327,600	200	0.1%	-3,200	-1.0%
Food Manufacturing (NAICS 311)	91,000	91,100	92,500	-100	-0.1%	-1,500	-1.6%
Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing (NAICS 312)	10,800	10,600	10,400	200	1.9%	400	3.8%
Paper Manufacturing (NAICS 322)	21,100	21,100	21,700	0	0.0%	-600	-2.8%
Printing and Related Support Manufacturing (NAICS 323)	36,300	36,300	37,000	0	0.0%	-700	-1.9%
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing (NAICS 324)	23,800	23,700	23,600	100	0.4%	200	0.8%
Chemical Manufacturing (NAICS 325)	72,800	72,500	72,700	300	0.4%	100	0.1%
Plastics and Rubber Manufacturing (NAICS 326)	45,400	45,600	44,800	-200	-0.4%	600	1.3%

Statewide Over-the-Month Change (Not Seasonally Adjusted)  
November 2005 to December 2005



\*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Nov '05 to Dec '05		Dec '04 to Dec '05	
				Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>8,132,500</b>	<b>8,119,800</b>	<b>8,005,200</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>127,300</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Private Service Providing</b>	<b>6,433,900</b>	<b>6,412,200</b>	<b>6,316,900</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (NAICS 42,44,45,48,49,22)</b>	<b>2,024,100</b>	<b>2,006,100</b>	<b>2,004,600</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Wholesale Trade (NAICS 42)</b>	<b>476,500</b>	<b>474,400</b>	<b>467,000</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<i>Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods (NAICS 423)</i>	<i>273,200</i>	<i>272,300</i>	<i>268,100</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>5,100</i>	<i>1.9%</i>
<i>Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods (NAICS 424)</i>	<i>155,800</i>	<i>155,300</i>	<i>153,900</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
<b>Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)</b>	<b>1,145,100</b>	<b>1,130,000</b>	<b>1,135,100</b>	<b>15,100</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers (NAICS 441)</i>	<i>149,100</i>	<i>149,400</i>	<i>149,700</i>	<i>-300</i>	<i>-0.2%</i>	<i>-600</i>	<i>-0.4%</i>
<i>Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores (NAICS 442)</i>	<i>45,300</i>	<i>44,700</i>	<i>43,900</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>3.2%</i>
<i>Electronics and Appliance Stores (NAICS 443)</i>	<i>44,000</i>	<i>43,600</i>	<i>45,300</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>-1,300</i>	<i>-2.9%</i>
<i>Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies (NAICS 444)</i>	<i>86,700</i>	<i>86,000</i>	<i>84,900</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
<i>Food and Beverage Stores (NAICS 445)</i>	<i>195,600</i>	<i>194,500</i>	<i>194,800</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>0.4%</i>
<i>Health and Personal Care Stores (NAICS 446)</i>	<i>58,800</i>	<i>58,200</i>	<i>58,400</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>0.7%</i>
<i>Gasoline Stations (NAICS 447)</i>	<i>67,400</i>	<i>68,000</i>	<i>67,900</i>	<i>-600</i>	<i>-0.9%</i>	<i>-500</i>	<i>-0.7%</i>
<i>Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores (NAICS 448)</i>	<i>110,100</i>	<i>104,600</i>	<i>110,200</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-0.1%</i>
<i>Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores (NAICS 451)</i>	<i>39,900</i>	<i>37,800</i>	<i>40,200</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>-300</i>	<i>-0.7%</i>
<i>General Merchandise Stores (NAICS 452)</i>	<i>262,400</i>	<i>258,000</i>	<i>256,300</i>	<i>4,400</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>6,100</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers (NAICS 453)</i>	<i>65,000</i>	<i>63,800</i>	<i>63,300</i>	<i>1,200</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>2.7%</i>
<i>Nonstore Retailers (NAICS 454)</i>	<i>20,800</i>	<i>21,400</i>	<i>20,200</i>	<i>-600</i>	<i>-2.8%</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>3.0%</i>
<b>Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (NAICS 48-49,22)</b>	<b>402,500</b>	<b>401,700</b>	<b>402,500</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Transportation and Warehousing (NAICS 48,49)	355,700	354,900	355,600	800	0.2%	100	0.0%
<i>Air Transportation (NAICS 481)</i>	<i>62,200</i>	<i>62,300</i>	<i>65,400</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-0.2%</i>	<i>-3,200</i>	<i>-4.9%</i>
<i>Rail Transportation (NAICS 482)</i>	<i>17,700</i>	<i>17,700</i>	<i>16,800</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>5.4%</i>
<i>Truck Transportation (NAICS 484)</i>	<i>104,200</i>	<i>104,300</i>	<i>103,200</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-0.1%</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1.0%</i>
<i>Pipeline Transportation (NAICS 486)</i>	<i>10,900</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>11,800</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-0.9%</i>	<i>-900</i>	<i>-7.6%</i>
<i>Support Activities for Transportation (NAICS 488)</i>	<i>63,900</i>	<i>63,300</i>	<i>63,000</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
<i>Couriers and Messengers (NAICS 492)</i>	<i>36,500</i>	<i>36,400</i>	<i>37,400</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>-900</i>	<i>-2.4%</i>
<i>Warehousing and Storage (NAICS 493)</i>	<i>37,400</i>	<i>37,400</i>	<i>37,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>1.1%</i>
Utilities (NAICS 22)	46,800	46,800	46,900	0	0.0%	-100	-0.2%
<b>Information (NAICS 51)</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>232,400</b>	<b>226,800</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<i>Publishing Industries (Except Internet) (NAICS 511)</i>	<i>52,000</i>	<i>51,600</i>	<i>49,700</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>4.6%</i>
<i>Telecommunications (NAICS 517)</i>	<i>92,600</i>	<i>92,100</i>	<i>93,400</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>-800</i>	<i>-0.9%</i>
<i>Internet Service Providers, Web Search Portals (NAICS 518)</i>	<i>36,100</i>	<i>36,400</i>	<i>34,800</i>	<i>-300</i>	<i>-0.8%</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>3.7%</i>
<b>Financial Activities (NAICS 52,53)</b>	<b>608,900</b>	<b>607,400</b>	<b>600,600</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Finance and Insurance (NAICS 52)	436,200	435,300	429,500	900	0.2%	6,700	1.6%
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities (NAICS 522)</i>	<i>225,800</i>	<i>225,300</i>	<i>220,700</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>5,100</i>	<i>2.3%</i>
<i>Securities, Commodities Contracts, and Other Financial (NAICS 523)</i>	<i>39,800</i>	<i>39,600</i>	<i>39,000</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities (NAICS 524)</i>	<i>159,500</i>	<i>159,100</i>	<i>159,200</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>0.2%</i>
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (NAICS 53)	172,700	172,100	171,100	600	0.3%	1,600	0.9%
<i>Real Estate (NAICS 531)</i>	<i>113,600</i>	<i>113,600</i>	<i>111,400</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2.0%</i>
<i>Rental and Leasing Services (NAICS 532)</i>	<i>58,700</i>	<i>58,400</i>	<i>57,800</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>1.6%</i>
<b>Professional and Business Services (NAICS 54,55,56)</b>	<b>1,128,300</b>	<b>1,127,600</b>	<b>1,092,400</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>35,900</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (NAICS 54)	466,400	464,500	466,800	1,900	0.4%	-400	-0.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises (NAICS 55)	50,200	50,000	48,300	200	0.4%	1,900	3.9%
Admin and Support and Waste Mgmt and Remediation (NAICS 56)	611,700	613,100	577,300	-1,400	-0.2%	34,400	6.0%
<i>Administrative and Support Services (NAICS 561)</i>	<i>588,200</i>	<i>589,600</i>	<i>554,900</i>	<i>-1,400</i>	<i>-0.2%</i>	<i>33,300</i>	<i>6.0%</i>
<b>Educational and Health Services (NAICS 61,62)</b>	<b>1,186,000</b>	<b>1,184,700</b>	<b>1,161,000</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Educational Services (NAICS 61)	138,000	139,500	137,700	-1,500	-1.1%	300	0.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance (NAICS 62)	1,048,000	1,045,200	1,023,300	2,800	0.3%	24,700	2.4%
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services (NAICS 621)</i>	<i>463,600</i>	<i>461,100</i>	<i>447,600</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>3.6%</i>
<i>Hospitals (NAICS 622)</i>	<i>259,800</i>	<i>259,600</i>	<i>257,900</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>0.7%</i>
<i>Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 623)</i>	<i>149,900</i>	<i>149,900</i>	<i>148,300</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>1.1%</i>
<i>Social Assistance (NAICS 624)</i>	<i>174,700</i>	<i>174,600</i>	<i>169,500</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>3.1%</i>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality (NAICS 71,72)</b>	<b>893,000</b>	<b>893,200</b>	<b>873,600</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (NAICS 71)	97,900	99,200	94,300	-1,300	-1.3%	3,600	3.8%
<i>Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation (NAICS 713)</i>	<i>66,500</i>	<i>67,500</i>	<i>66,500</i>	<i>-1,000</i>	<i>-1.5%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
Accommodation and Food Services (NAICS 72)	795,100	794,000	779,300	1,100	0.1%	15,800	2.0%
<i>Accommodation (NAICS 721)</i>	<i>91,400</i>	<i>92,600</i>	<i>90,000</i>	<i>-1,200</i>	<i>-1.3%</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>1.6%</i>
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places (NAICS 722)</i>	<i>703,700</i>	<i>701,400</i>	<i>689,300</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>14,400</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
<b>Other Services (NAICS 81)</b>	<b>361,600</b>	<b>360,800</b>	<b>357,900</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<i>Repair and Maintenance (NAICS 811)</i>	<i>102,100</i>	<i>101,500</i>	<i>102,000</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.1%</i>
<i>Personal and Laundry Services (NAICS 812)</i>	<i>98,200</i>	<i>97,400</i>	<i>94,600</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>3,600</i>	<i>3.8%</i>
<i>Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof Organizations (NAICS 813)</i>	<i>161,300</i>	<i>161,900</i>	<i>161,300</i>	<i>-600</i>	<i>-0.4%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<b>Government</b>	<b>1,698,600</b>	<b>1,707,600</b>	<b>1,688,300</b>	<b>-9,000</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Federal Government	180,800	180,500	182,700	300	0.2%	-1,900	-1.0%
State Government	340,300	343,400	346,000	-3,100	-0.9%	-5,700	-1.6%
Local Government	1,177,500	1,183,700	1,159,600	-6,200	-0.5%	17,900	1.5%

\*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Nonagricultural Employment for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) increased by 18,300 jobs in December. The Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA contributed the most new jobs in December with 8,500, followed by the Dallas-Plano-Irving area with 5,600. The Fort Worth-Arlington area had the third largest employment increase with 2,000 jobs. Retail Trade added the most jobs with 16,000 new positions mostly due to the holiday shopping season.

Since the beginning of 2005, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas have added 272,800 Total Nonagricultural jobs. Over the summer, employment dipped as schools let out for the summer break. Employment returned to full levels when schools resumed for the fall semester. The seasonal holiday hiring helped finish 2005 with strong job gains. The MSAs have recorded twenty-four consecutive months of year-over-year employment growth.

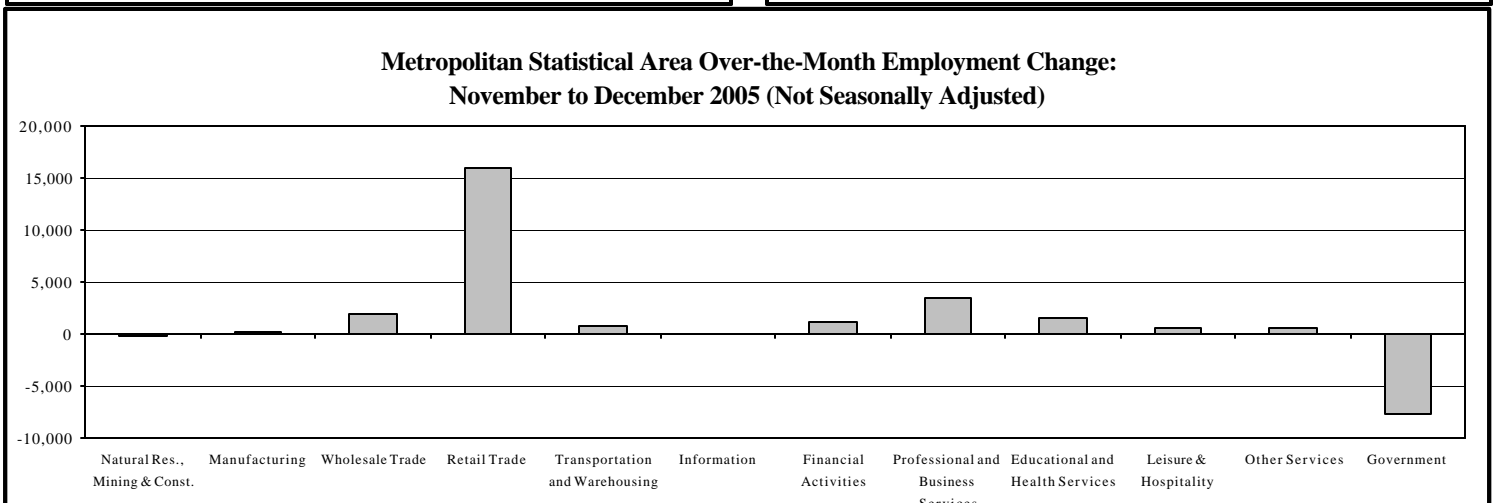
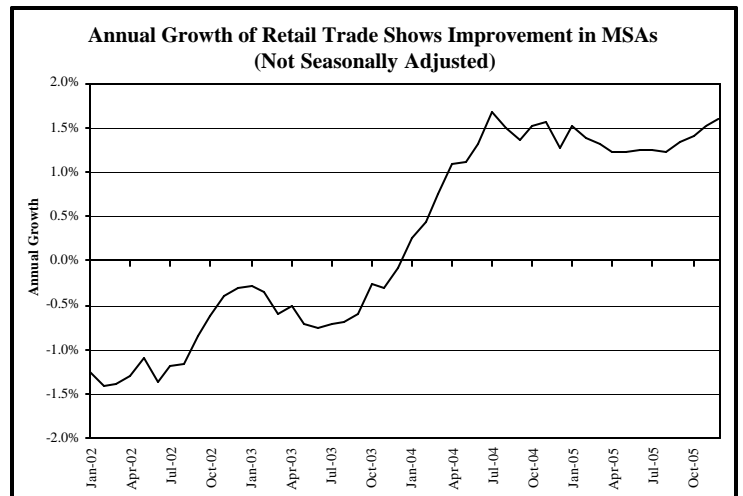
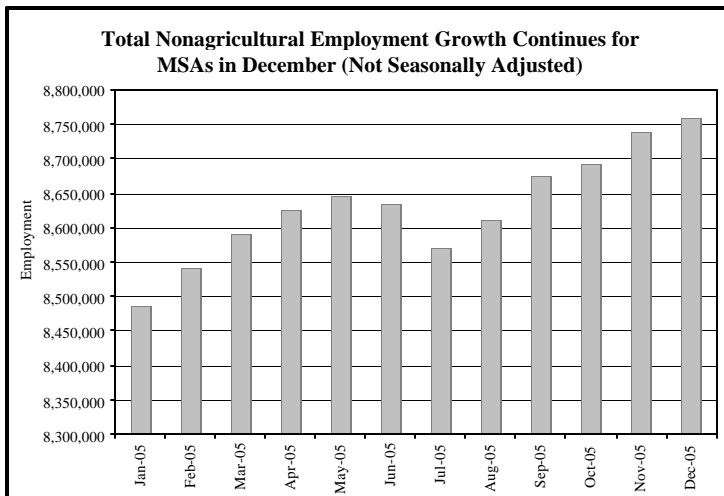
Retail Trade employment contributed the overwhelming majority of jobs created in December as retailers continued to add staff for the holidays. This seasonal increase amounted to a gain of 16,000 jobs in the MSAs. The largest Retail Trade employment increases were in the Dallas-Plano-Irving area and Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA.

Government employment in the MSAs experienced a seasonal decrease of 7,600 jobs in December. This was primarily due to colleges, universities, and local school districts reducing staff for the semester break.

Professional and Business Services employment grew by 3,400 jobs during December, following a gain of 4,300 in November. The largest contributor this month to this industry was the Dallas-Plano-Irving area, which added 800 jobs. Since January, Professional and Business Services has increased by 44,500 jobs.

Educational and Health Services employment gained 3,400 jobs in December. The largest contribution came from the Dallas-Plano-Irving area, which increased by 1,300 jobs during December. This was an improvement from last December when the Dallas-Plano-Irving area lost 800 jobs.

Wholesale Trade employment gained 1,900 jobs in December, marking a slightly higher than average increase for the last five years. Employment increases were experienced in several MSAs with larger concentrations of additional employment found in the Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA and the Dallas-Plano-Irving area.



Largest Four MSAs Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	DALLAS-FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON			DALLAS-PLANO-IRVING MD**			HOUSTON-BAYTOWN-SUGARLAND		
	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04
<b>TOTAL NONEARM</b>	<b>2,771,500</b>	<b>2,763,900</b>	<b>2,734,900</b>	<b>1,959,600</b>	<b>1,954,000</b>	<b>1,933,000</b>	<b>2,357,800</b>	<b>2,349,300</b>	<b>2,315,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>458,500</b>	<b>457,300</b>	<b>451,300</b>	<b>307,000</b>	<b>306,600</b>	<b>304,000</b>	<b>451,600</b>	<b>452,100</b>	<b>437,200</b>
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	161,000	160,800	157,000	109,200	109,000	107,000	242,800	243,100	230,300
Manufacturing	297,500	296,500	294,300	197,800	197,600	197,000	208,800	209,000	206,900
Durable Goods	209,800	208,700	206,900	138,500	138,200	137,700	127,300	127,100	124,400
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	-	-	-	20,700	20,700	20,100	40,300	40,200	38,700
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	53,300	53,100	53,700	46,300	46,100	46,600	18,900	18,500	19,100
Nondurable Goods	87,700	87,800	87,400	59,300	59,400	59,300	81,500	81,900	82,500
Food Manufacturing	-	-	-	15,600	15,700	16,300	12,800	12,700	12,400
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>2,313,000</b>	<b>2,306,600</b>	<b>2,283,600</b>	<b>1,652,600</b>	<b>1,647,400</b>	<b>1,629,000</b>	<b>1,906,200</b>	<b>1,897,200</b>	<b>1,878,100</b>
Private Service Providing	1,944,000	1,936,500	1,925,000	1,400,000	1,395,000	1,385,500	1,558,000	1,548,200	1,534,400
Wholesale Trade	160,700	160,200	159,200	121,900	121,600	121,400	121,100	120,500	119,100
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	93,200	93,000	93,200	70,300	70,200	70,300	72,400	72,000	71,900
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	48,200	48,000	48,400	36,800	36,600	36,900	38,200	38,000	37,100
Retail Trade	311,200	306,600	312,400	212,600	209,600	213,600	259,100	254,000	254,900
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	-	-	-	27,100	27,000	26,800	34,600	34,500	34,400
Bldg. Material and Garden Equipmt. and Supplies Dlr.	22,500	22,400	21,900	14,600	14,500	14,400	17,800	17,900	18,100
Food and Beverage Stores	47,900	47,700	47,800	32,500	32,400	32,300	48,600	48,400	48,000
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	-	-	-	24,700	23,200	24,400	25,700	24,500	25,400
General Merchandise Stores	71,200	70,100	70,300	49,000	48,300	48,300	59,100	58,000	57,600
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	134,900	135,000	137,400	78,100	78,200	78,100	111,900	111,000	112,800
Utilities	-	-	-	7,000	6,900	7,100	15,700	15,700	15,800
Information	93,200	93,200	92,300	75,900	76,000	74,800	37,600	37,400	37,700
Telecommunications	42,800	42,900	42,500	34,900	35,000	34,100	16,200	16,100	16,400
Financial Activities	218,000	217,900	216,400	171,300	171,500	170,900	138,800	138,300	135,700
Finance and Insurance	162,000	162,100	160,100	127,100	127,400	126,700	89,000	88,700	87,400
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	80,900	80,900	81,100	61,400	61,600	62,100	42,600	42,400	41,300
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	61,000	60,900	59,800	49,500	49,500	48,700	32,600	32,700	32,900
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	-	-	-	44,200	44,100	44,200	49,800	49,600	48,300
Professional and Business Services	384,900	383,800	374,800	295,700	294,900	289,600	322,100	321,400	315,800
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	159,600	159,500	157,100	129,700	129,600	127,900	153,600	152,300	151,500
Admin. Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remediation	204,900	204,200	198,800	149,700	149,100	147,400	155,800	156,000	153,400
Education and Health Services	281,700	280,100	277,200	194,800	193,500	191,100	261,700	261,400	258,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	243,100	241,800	238,400	165,400	164,300	162,700	221,500	220,700	217,700
Ambulatory Health Care Services	-	-	-	77,000	76,500	74,700	91,700	91,200	90,100
Hospitals	63,100	62,700	63,000	40,600	40,600	40,900	64,700	64,800	63,300
Leisure and Hospitality	252,900	253,400	248,200	176,500	176,700	172,200	208,900	207,900	204,600
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-	-	-	20,600	21,000	19,700	25,400	25,800	25,600
Accommodation and Food Services	224,100	224,000	219,900	155,900	155,700	152,500	183,500	182,100	179,000
Food Services and Drinking Places	194,600	194,400	191,400	134,500	134,400	131,600	163,800	162,300	159,400
Other Services	106,500	106,300	107,100	73,200	73,000	73,800	96,800	96,300	95,500
Government	369,000	370,100	358,600	252,600	252,400	243,500	348,200	349,000	343,700
Federal	45,100	45,400	46,600	29,600	29,600	30,700	28,400	28,400	28,000
State	42,600	42,500	40,800	32,700	32,700	31,000	68,100	68,400	69,100
Local	281,300	282,200	271,200	190,300	190,100	181,800	251,700	252,200	246,600
	AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK			FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON MD**			SAN ANTONIO		
	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04
<b>TOTAL NONEARM</b>	<b>689,500</b>	<b>690,900</b>	<b>675,300</b>	<b>811,900</b>	<b>809,900</b>	<b>801,900</b>	<b>780,900</b>	<b>779,800</b>	<b>768,900</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>96,600</b>	<b>96,700</b>	<b>95,400</b>	<b>151,500</b>	<b>150,700</b>	<b>147,300</b>	<b>91,400</b>	<b>91,200</b>	<b>90,300</b>
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	39,300	39,300	38,400	51,800	51,800	50,000	45,600	45,500	44,200
Manufacturing	57,300	57,400	57,000	99,700	98,900	97,300	45,800	45,700	46,100
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>592,900</b>	<b>594,200</b>	<b>579,900</b>	<b>660,400</b>	<b>659,200</b>	<b>654,600</b>	<b>689,500</b>	<b>688,600</b>	<b>678,600</b>
Private Service Providing	444,500	442,900	434,100	544,000	541,500	539,500	542,900	542,000	533,500
Wholesale Trade	37,100	37,000	36,600	38,800	38,600	37,800	27,700	27,600	27,400
Retail Trade	73,600	72,300	72,300	98,600	97,000	98,800	94,900	94,300	93,600
Food and Beverage Stores	14,700	14,600	14,100	15,400	15,300	15,500	14,900	14,900	15,000
General Merchandise Stores	12,400	12,400	12,700	22,200	21,800	22,000	19,300	19,100	18,800
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	11,400	11,400	11,200	56,800	56,800	59,300	20,900	20,900	20,800
Information	20,800	20,800	20,500	17,300	17,200	17,500	21,200	21,300	21,800
Telecommunications	4,800	4,800	4,800	7,900	7,900	8,400	6,900	6,800	7,100
Financial Activities	40,300	40,200	40,300	46,700	46,400	45,500	63,000	62,800	62,400
Finance and Insurance	28,700	28,600	28,600	34,900	34,700	33,400	48,600	48,400	48,200
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	11,600	11,600	11,800	19,500	19,300	19,000	21,800	21,600	21,600
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	14,300	14,200	14,100	11,500	11,400	11,100	22,100	22,000	21,900
Professional and Business Services	93,300	93,000	90,400	89,200	88,900	85,200	92,200	91,800	91,100
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45,700	45,600	44,400	29,900	29,900	29,200	35,900	35,700	35,000
Admin Support and Waste Mgmt and Remediation Svcs	43,900	43,700	41,900	55,200	55,100	51,400	50,700	50,600	49,200
Education and Health Services	69,900	70,200	68,700	86,900	86,600	86,100	106,900	106,900	104,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	61,100	61,200	59,900	77,700	77,500	75,700	92,900	92,800	90,900
Hospitals	15,500	15,500	15,200	22,500	22,100	22,100	20,400	20,500	19,900
Leisure and Hospitality	71,100	71,000	67,800	76,400	76,700	76,000	87,200	87,500	84,000
Accommodation and Food Services	62,400	62,200	59,800	68,200	68,300	67,400	78,800	79,000	75,900
Other Services	27,000	27,000	26,300	33,300	33,300	33,300	28,900	28,900	28,100
Government	148,400	151,300	145,800	116,400	117,700	115,100	146,600	146,600	145,100
Federal	10,200	10,300	9,600	15,500	15,800	15,900	28,900	28,900	28,600
State	67,800	69,100	66,900	9,900	9,800	9,800	16,200	16,300	16,200
Local	70,400	71,900	69,300	91,000	92,100	89,400	101,500	101,400	100,300

\*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. The number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas is without reference to place of residence of workers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. \*\*Metropolitan Division (MD). The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA is comprised of the Dallas-Plano-Irving MD and the Fort Worth-Arlington MD.

Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

INDUSTRY	ABILENE			AMARILLO			BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR			BROWNSVILLE-HARLINGEN		
	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04	Dec '05*	Nov '05	Dec '04
TOTAL	66,300	66,500	64,400	109,900	109,900	108,500	153,100	152,400	156,800	121,900	121,100	117,900
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	4,800	4,800	4,200	7,700	7,700	7,200	12,900	12,900	13,800	4,700	4,700	4,500
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,100	12,000	12,000	11,800	18,100	18,200	18,800	7,700	7,800	7,800
Wholesale Trade	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,800	5,800	5,800	4,400	4,400	4,300	3,700	3,600	3,600
Retail Trade	8,800	8,700	8,300	14,400	14,200	14,200	19,000	18,800	21,000	17,100	16,400	16,000
Trans. Ware. & Util.	1,700	1,700	1,700	3,500	3,500	3,600	6,300	6,300	6,700	4,500	4,500	4,200
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200	2,500	2,600	2,400	2,800	2,800	2,800	1,400	1,400	1,400
Financial Activities	3,100	3,200	3,100	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,000	6,800	6,500	4,900	4,900	4,600
Prof. & Business Services	4,300	4,300	4,200	8,300	8,300	8,200	12,500	12,200	13,100	7,600	7,500	7,500
Educ. & Health Services	14,300	14,500	13,900	15,100	15,100	14,900	23,300	23,300	23,300	27,400	27,300	26,300
Leisure & Hospitality	6,400	6,400	6,300	11,300	11,200	11,300	14,100	14,000	13,300	11,600	11,600	11,100
Other Services	3,200	3,200	3,100	4,700	4,700	4,700	5,900	5,900	6,000	4,100	4,100	3,900
Government	12,800	12,800	12,800	18,600	18,800	18,400	26,800	26,800	27,200	27,200	27,300	27,000
INDUSTRY	COLLEGE STATION-BRYAN			CORPUS CHRISTI			EL PASO			KILLEEN-TEMPLE-FORT HOOD		
TOTAL	89,800	90,500	88,800	168,300	167,600	168,100	269,700	270,000	258,600	116,700	116,400	114,100
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	6,500	6,500	5,800	16,800	16,700	16,600	12,300	12,300	11,600	6,000	6,000	5,800
Manufacturing	6,000	6,000	5,800	11,600	11,600	11,100	22,300	22,500	22,600	8,400	8,400	8,100
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,500	1,500	5,500	5,400	5,400	10,400	10,300	10,100	3,600	3,500	3,600
Retail Trade	10,300	10,100	10,100	19,400	19,200	19,900	37,300	36,800	34,700	13,900	13,800	13,800
Trans., Ware., & Util.	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,500	5,500	5,400	13,300	13,200	12,900	3,800	3,800	4,000
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100	2,100	2,100	2,600	4,700	4,800	4,800	1,600	1,600	1,500
Financial Activities	3,800	3,800	3,600	8,100	8,100	7,900	12,000	11,900	11,400	6,100	6,100	5,700
Prof. & Business Services	5,300	5,400	5,100	16,600	16,300	15,800	32,900	32,500	27,900	8,800	8,800	9,200
Educ. & Health Services	9,900	9,100	8,900	25,800	25,600	26,000	31,400	31,600	30,400	16,100	16,000	15,900
Leisure & Hospitality	9,000	9,000	9,000	17,400	17,500	17,600	24,900	24,800	24,600	10,900	10,900	10,400
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,700	6,800	6,900	7,000	8,100	8,100	7,600	4,800	4,800	4,600
Government	33,500	34,200	34,200	32,700	32,700	32,800	60,100	61,200	60,000	32,700	32,700	31,500
INDUSTRY	LAREDO			LONGVIEW			LURROCK			MCALLEN-EDINBURG-PHARR		
TOTAL	82,100	81,700	79,200	89,800	89,700	87,600	127,800	128,100	127,000	199,400	197,800	191,100
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	4,400	4,500	4,000	10,800	10,700	10,100	5,800	5,800	5,200	10,500	10,500	10,800
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,700	11,500	11,500	11,000	5,500	5,500	5,300	8,500	8,500	8,300
Wholesale Trade	2,500	2,500	2,400	3,200	3,200	3,300	5,400	5,400	5,200	6,700	6,700	6,600
Retail Trade	11,600	11,300	11,600	11,700	11,600	11,600	16,400	16,000	16,200	29,500	28,700	28,400
Trans., Ware., & Util.	11,700	11,700	11,700	2,800	2,800	3,000	3,600	3,600	3,700	5,900	5,900	5,500
Information	700	700	700	1,900	1,900	1,900	6,100	6,100	5,800	3,300	3,200	2,900
Financial Activities	3,600	3,500	3,300	3,100	3,000	3,200	7,100	7,100	7,000	8,400	8,400	8,000
Prof. & Business Services	4,100	4,200	4,000	7,000	7,000	6,600	11,200	11,200	11,000	12,300	12,300	12,100
Educ. & Health Services	11,700	11,600	10,800	15,000	15,100	14,600	18,700	18,700	18,500	41,500	41,100	38,400
Leisure & Hospitality	8,600	8,500	7,900	7,500	7,600	7,300	13,800	14,200	14,200	16,800	16,600	16,100
Other Services	1,900	1,900	1,800	3,300	3,300	3,200	5,500	5,500	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,100
Government	19,500	19,500	19,300	12,000	12,000	11,800	28,700	29,000	29,000	50,500	50,400	48,900
INDUSTRY	MIDLAND			ODESSA			SAN ANGELO			SHERMAN-DENISON		
TOTAL	57,400	57,600	57,300	53,100	53,200	52,400	45,500	45,500	43,800	45,500	45,600	44,400
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	10,600	10,600	10,500	7,200	7,300	7,100	3,200	3,200	2,800	3,200	3,300	2,900
Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,000	4,100	4,100	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,800	6,700	6,700	6,500
Wholesale Trade	2,500	2,500	2,600	3,900	3,900	3,900	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,000	900	900
Retail Trade	6,500	6,500	6,700	6,400	6,400	6,700	5,300	5,200	5,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Trans. Ware. & Util.	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,800	800	800	800	1,100	1,100	1,200
Information	1,900	1,900	1,800	600	600	600	1,800	1,800	1,700	600	600	500
Financial Activities	3,100	3,100	3,000	2,300	2,300	2,300	1,900	1,900	1,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Prof. & Business Services	6,300	6,300	6,000	3,800	3,800	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,500	2,700	2,700	2,600
Educ. & Health Services	6,500	6,600	6,400	5,700	5,800	5,600	7,500	7,600	7,400	8,600	8,600	8,500
Leisure & Hospitality	5,800	5,800	5,600	5,100	5,000	5,000	4,300	4,300	4,200	4,400	4,400	4,000
Other Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,800	2,800	2,800	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,700	1,700	1,700
Government	8,100	8,200	8,600	9,500	9,500	9,100	10,000	10,000	9,000	6,200	6,300	6,300
INDUSTRY	TEXARKANA			TYLER			VICTORIA			WACO		
TOTAL	55,700	55,800	55,000	90,700	90,700	89,100	48,700	48,700	47,500	104,600	104,700	103,700
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	2,800	2,800	2,400	5,300	5,300	4,800	6,700	6,700	6,100	6,200	6,200	5,500
Manufacturing	5,500	5,500	5,300	9,400	9,500	9,800	5,400	5,500	5,500	13,600	13,600	13,400
Wholesale Trade	2,400	2,400	2,400	3,700	3,600	3,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	3,900	3,900	3,900
Retail Trade	7,600	7,500	7,500	12,700	12,600	12,700	6,900	6,800	6,600	11,100	11,000	11,200
Trans., Ware., & Util.	2,300	2,300	2,400	3,200	3,200	3,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,700	2,800	3,000
Information	500	500	500	2,100	2,100	2,000	700	700	700	1,900	1,900	1,800
Financial Activities	2,700	2,700	2,700	4,200	4,300	4,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	6,700	6,700	6,200
Prof. & Business Services	3,300	3,300	3,100	6,700	6,700	7,100	2,900	2,900	2,700	8,600	8,600	8,500
Educ. & Health Services	9,200	9,300	9,000	18,100	18,000	17,100	6,500	6,500	6,300	18,600	18,700	19,100
Leisure & Hospitality	5,300	5,200	5,100	8,200	8,300	8,200	4,100	4,100	4,000	9,700	9,600	9,500
Other Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	3,900	3,900	3,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	4,500	4,500	4,400
Government	12,300	12,400	12,800	13,200	13,200	12,700	8,600	8,600	8,700	17,600	17,700	17,200
INDUSTRY	WICHITA FALLS			<p>Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. The number of nonagricultural jobs in each MSA is without reference to place of residence of workers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.</p> <p>Beginning with January 2005 estimates, definitions of the MSAs were updated to reflect the 2000 Census-based configurations. Please see <a href="http://www.tracer2.com">www.tracer2.com</a> for details on these changes.</p>								
TOTAL	62,300	62,300	61,100									
Nat. Res., Mining. & Const.	3,600	3,600	3,100									
Manufacturing	7,700	7,700	7,500									
Wholesale Trade	1,800	1,800	1,800									
Retail Trade	8,200	8,100	8,100									
Trans., Ware., & Util.	1,400	1,400	1,400									
Information	1,600	1,600	1,500									
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300									
Prof. & Business Services	3,200	3,200	3,100									
Educ. & Health Services	10,100	10,100	9,900									
Leisure & Hospitality	5,800	5,800	5,700									
Other Services	3,400	3,400	3,300									
Government	13,200	13,300	13,400									

## Highlights of the Texas Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The Texas jobless rate dropped over the month, falling to 4.8 percent in December. December's rate was the lowest for the state since May 2001's 4.5 percent. This month's reduction was slightly more than the average decrease of three-tenths of a percentage point that typically occurs from November to December. The December rate was a full percentage point lower than last December's rate of 5.8 percent. The United States' jobless rate declined over the month to 4.6 percent. December's rate tied this past October's for the lowest national rate since May 2001's 4.1 percent. In addition, this month's rate was also five-tenths of a percentage point lower than last year's rate of 5.1 percent.

The number of jobholders in the state rose over the month, climbing by 19,000 employed. This increase raised the employment level for December to 10,757,600—the largest number of Texas jobholders ever. December's addition of 19,000 was the largest gain for the month since 2003's increase of 21,700. This month's gain was slightly larger than the average addition of 18,850 that is usually observed between November to December. Since the beginning of 2005, employment has risen by 343,500 workers.

The number of Texans seeking work dropped over the month, sliding by 45,500 to 545,200 job seekers. This month's reduction was larger than the average decrease of 21,700 that typically occurs between November to December. December's level of unemployment was the lowest since May 2001's level of 468,500. Unemployment has declined by 141,900 job seekers since the beginning of this year.

The number of people receiving unemployment benefits decreased for a second straight month, declining by 15,000 to 110,300 in December. Of the twenty-five MSAs, nineteen observed decreases in their claims load over the month, while the remaining six MSAs registered gains. The McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr MSA recorded the largest over-the-month gain with 600 additional claims, while the Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA reported the largest reduction with 7,600 fewer claims. The largest decreases in claims within the twenty-eight WDAs occurred in the Gulf Coast (7,700) and Dallas County (1,900). The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Middle Rio Grande WDAs recorded the largest gains for the month with 800 and 100 claims respectively.

## MSAs Ranked by Unemployment Rate December 2005 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

1 (tie)	Amarillo	3.3
	Midland	3.3
3	Lubbock	3.4
4 (tie)	Abilene	3.6
	San Angelo	3.6
6	College Station-Bryan	3.7
7 (tie)	Austin-Round Rock	3.9
	Wichita Falls	3.9
9	Odessa	4.0
10	Tyler	4.1
11	Victoria	4.2
12 (tie)	San Antonio	4.3
	Waco	4.3
14	Longview	4.4
15	Sherman-Denison	4.5
16	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	4.6
	<b>Texas</b>	<b>4.8</b>
17 (tie)	Corpus Christi	5.0
	Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	5.0
	Laredo	5.0
20	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land	5.3
21	El Paso	6.0
22	Brownsville-Harlingen	6.2
23	McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr	6.9
24	Beaumont-Port Arthur	7.3
	Texarkana Not Available	

## Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

	December 2005*				November 2005				December 2004			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	149,874	142,918	6,956	4.6	150,239	142,968	7,271.0	4.8	147,877	140,278	7,599.0	5.1
State of Texas	11,302.8	10,757.6	545.2	4.8	11,329.3	10,738.6	590.7	5.2	11,128.2	10,485.9	642.3	5.8
Abilene	84.0	81.0	3.0	3.6	84.3	81.1	3.2	3.8	81.4	77.8	3.6	4.4
Amarillo	131.1	126.7	4.4	3.3	131.5	126.8	4.7	3.6	129.0	123.8	5.2	4.0
Austin-Round Rock	804.5	773.0	31.5	3.9	809.9	775.7	34.2	4.2	785.4	748.6	36.8	4.7
Beaumont-Port Arthur	177.5	164.5	13.0	7.3	179.5	164.1	15.4	8.6	181.4	166.8	14.6	8.1
Brownsville-Harlingen	146.7	137.6	9.1	6.2	146.5	137.0	9.5	6.5	144.3	131.7	12.6	8.7
College Station-Bryan	105.1	101.2	3.9	3.7	106.4	102.0	4.4	4.1	103.4	99.2	4.2	4.0
Corpus Christi	197.5	187.6	9.9	5.0	197.2	186.7	10.5	5.3	198.5	185.7	12.8	6.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,043.2	2,902.3	140.9	4.6	3,049.0	2,896.3	152.7	5.0	2,999.5	2,833.6	165.9	5.5
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,039.9	1,943.9	96.0	4.7	2,044.5	1,940.5	104.0	5.1	2,009.7	1,895.9	113.8	5.7
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,003.3	958.4	44.9	4.5	1,004.3	955.7	48.6	4.8	989.8	937.7	52.1	5.3
El Paso	302.3	284.1	18.2	6.0	303.2	284.0	19.2	6.3	292.9	269.8	23.1	7.9
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land	2,653.0	2,512.6	140.4	5.3	2,657.9	2,501.9	156.0	5.9	2,599.7	2,445.2	154.5	5.9
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	151.6	144.1	7.5	5.0	152.3	144.2	8.1	5.3	147.4	139.5	7.9	5.3
Laredo	87.5	83.1	4.4	5.0	87.2	82.7	4.5	5.2	85.0	79.5	5.5	6.4
Longview	103.5	99.0	4.5	4.4	103.7	98.8	4.9	4.7	101.2	95.7	5.5	5.5
Lubbock	143.9	139.0	4.9	3.4	144.8	139.5	5.3	3.6	142.3	136.4	5.9	4.2
McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr	268.7	250.1	18.6	6.9	266.2	247.8	18.4	6.9	262.4	238.0	24.4	9.3
Midland	65.3	63.1	2.2	3.3	65.5	63.2	2.3	3.5	64.6	62.0	2.6	4.1
Odessa	62.3	59.8	2.5	4.0	62.5	59.9	2.6	4.2	61.8	58.5	3.3	5.3
San Angelo	55.4	53.4	2.0	3.6	55.7	53.5	2.2	4.0	53.2	50.8	2.4	4.5
San Antonio	903.2	864.4	38.8	4.3	904.7	862.5	42.2	4.7	890.1	843.2	46.9	5.3
Sherman-Denison	58.7	56.1	2.6	4.5	58.9	56.1	2.8	4.7	57.9	54.5	3.4	5.8
Texarkana		Data Not Available				Data Not Available			62.7	59.3	3.4	5.4
Tyler	97.3	93.3	4.0	4.1	97.7	93.3	4.4	4.5	95.9	90.8	5.1	5.3
Victoria	57.4	55.0	2.4	4.2	57.7	55.1	2.6	4.5	56.2	53.2	3.0	5.4
Waco	112.9	108.0	4.9	4.3	113.2	108.0	5.2	4.6	111.4	105.9	5.5	4.9
Wichita Falls	76.0	73.0	3.0	3.9	76.2	73.0	3.2	4.3	74.7	71.2	3.5	4.7

\*Estimates for the current month are preliminary. All estimates are subject to revision. Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Civilian Labor Force (C.L.F.) includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family, domestics in private households, agricultural workers, workers involved in labor disputes and the unemployed, all by place of residence. Employment and Unemployment data are first rounded then added together to derive the rounded CLF total. Because of this rounding technique, this rounded total of the CLF may not agree with a rounding of the CLF total itself. Percent Unemployed is based upon unrounded Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment numbers. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Beginning with January 2005 estimates, definitions of the MSAs were updated to reflect the 2000 Census-based configurations. Please see www.tracer2.com for details on these changes. The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA is comprised of the Dallas-Plano-Irving Metropolitan Division (MD) and the Fort Worth-Arlington MD.

Employment and Unemployment Estimates for Texas Counties - December 2005

County	CLF	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	CLF	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	County	CLF	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Anderson	20,658	19,533	1,125	5.4	Gillespie	12,437	12,114	323	2.6	Moore	10,167	9,817	350	3.4
Andrews	6,316	6,077	239	3.8	Glasscock	619	597	22	3.6	Morris	5,803	5,491	312	5.4
Angelina	40,812	38,939	1,873	4.6	Goliad	3,478	3,315	163	4.7	Motley	674	646	28	4.2
Aransas	10,667	10,166	501	4.7	Gonzales	9,642	9,292	350	3.6	Nacogdoches	32,258	30,846	1,412	4.4
Archer	5,364	5,193	171	3.2	Gray	10,218	9,819	399	3.9	Navarro	21,309	20,293	1,016	4.8
Armstrong	1,127	1,090	37	3.3	Gravson	58,671	56,055	2,616	4.5	Newton	5,652	5,172	480	8.5
Atascosa	19,210	18,426	784	4.1	Gregg	61,578	58,912	2,666	4.3	Nolan	7,340	7,009	331	4.5
Austin	12,958	12,467	491	3.8	Grimes	9,949	9,396	553	5.6	Nueces	157,375	149,703	7,672	4.9
Bailev	3,489	3,343	146	4.2	Guadalupe	51,003	49,085	1,918	3.8	Ochiltree	5,137	4,989	148	2.9
Bandera	9,805	9,435	370	3.8	Hale	16,925	16,147	778	4.6	Oldham	1,034	994	40	3.9
Bastrop	34,095	32,766	1,329	3.9	Hall	1,533	1,448	85	5.5	Orange	40,633	37,616	3,017	7.4
Baylor	2,040	1,970	70	3.4	Hamilton	4,337	4,176	161	3.7	Palo Pinto	13,489	12,910	579	4.3
Bee	10,918	10,235	683	6.3	Hansford	2,603	2,522	81	3.1	Panola	11,290	10,784	506	4.5
Bell	115,425	109,776	5,649	4.9	Hardeman	2,115	2,018	97	4.6	Parker	50,318	48,373	1,945	3.9
Bexar	725,685	693,664	32,021	4.4	Hardin	24,014	22,602	1,412	5.6	Parmer	4,919	4,749	170	3.5
Blanco	4,877	4,718	159	3.3	Harris	1,887,395	1,781,841	105,554	5.6	Pecos	6,968	6,672	296	4.2
Borden	517	505	12	2.3	Harrison	32,115	30,555	1,560	4.9	Polk	17,161	16,237	924	5.4
Bosque	8,506	8,128	378	4.4	Hartlev	2,311	2,230	81	3.5	Potter	58,629	56,395	2,234	3.8
Bowie	43,668	41,635	2,033	4.7	Haskell	3,030	2,931	99	3.3	Presidio	3,282	2,988	294	9.0
Brazoria	132,814	126,536	6,278	4.7	Havs	65,131	62,797	2,334	3.6	Rains	5,059	4,858	201	4.0
Brazos	89,146	85,898	3,248	3.6	Hemphill	2,414	2,360	54	2.2	Randall	67,695	65,721	1,974	2.9
Brewster	5,802	5,635	167	2.9	Henderson	34,778	33,177	1,601	4.6	Reagan	1,559	1,504	55	3.5
Briscoe	713	677	36	5.0	Hidalgo	268,728	250,082	18,646	6.9	Real	1,430	1,376	54	3.8
Brooks	3,215	3,026	189	5.9	Hill	15,048	14,259	789	5.2	Red River	6,367	6,043	324	5.1
Brown	18,057	17,319	738	4.1	Hockley	12,029	11,595	434	3.6	Reeves	4,086	3,814	272	6.7
Burleson	8,521	8,209	312	3.7	Hood	23,719	22,776	943	4.0	Refugio	4,144	3,980	164	4.0
Burnet	20,553	19,854	699	3.4	Hookins	17,433	16,737	696	4.0	Roberts	520	505	15	2.9
Caldwell	16,460	15,743	717	4.4	Houston	9,331	8,844	487	5.2	Robertson	7,447	7,103	344	4.6
Calhoun	9,382	8,939	443	4.7	Howard	13,399	12,748	651	4.9	Rockwall	29,706	28,573	1,133	3.8
Callahan	7,101	6,864	237	3.3	Hudspeth	1,380	1,257	123	8.9	Runnels	5,076	4,865	211	4.2
Cameron	146,748	137,645	9,103	6.2	Hunt	40,022	38,139	1,883	4.7	Rusk	23,060	22,030	1,030	4.5
Camp	5,912	5,643	269	4.6	Hutchinson	10,556	10,108	448	4.2	Sabine	3,881	3,579	302	7.8
Carson	3,653	3,536	117	3.2	Irion	992	968	24	2.4	San Augustine	3,826	3,496	330	8.6
Cass	13,688	12,943	745	5.4	Jack	3,839	3,690	149	3.9	San Jacinto	10,334	9,779	555	5.4
Castro	3,481	3,317	164	4.7	Jackson	6,701	6,421	280	4.2	San Patricio	29,435	27,754	1,681	5.7
Chambers	14,287	13,553	734	5.1	Jasper	15,778	14,643	1,135	7.2	San Saba	2,747	2,648	99	3.6
Cherokee	20,952	19,865	1,087	5.2	Jeff Davis	1,389	1,349	40	2.9	Schleicher	1,428	1,380	48	3.4
Childress	3,193	3,030	163	5.1	Jefferson	112,867	104,281	8,586	7.6	Scurry	7,244	6,941	303	4.2
Clav	6,440	6,230	210	3.3	Jim Hogg	2,894	2,777	117	4.0	Shackelford	2,211	2,154	57	2.6
Cochran	1,540	1,463	77	5.0	Jim Wells	20,347	19,402	945	4.6	Shelby	12,214	11,285	929	7.6
Coke	1,426	1,368	58	4.1	Johnson	71,774	68,862	2,912	4.1	Sherman	1,505	1,453	52	3.5
Coleman	4,215	4,038	177	4.2	Jones	8,359	7,977	382	4.6	Smith	97,268	93,295	3,973	4.1
Collin	351,990	338,499	13,491	3.8	Karnes	5,813	5,507	306	5.3	Somervell	4,017	3,829	188	4.7
Collingsworth	1,648	1,579	69	4.2	Kaufman	41,830	39,879	1,951	4.7	Starr	22,242	19,465	2,777	12.5
Colorado	10,152	9,742	410	4.0	Kendall	13,709	13,243	466	3.4	Stephens	4,027	3,855	172	4.3
Comal	46,748	45,023	1,725	3.7	Kenedv	239	233	6	2.5	Sterling	836	814	22	2.6
Comanche	6,710	6,440	270	4.0	Kent	442	424	18	4.1	Stonewall	819	793	26	3.2
Concho	1,328	1,248	80	6.0	Kerr	21,146	20,411	735	3.5	Sutton	2,712	2,647	65	2.4
Cooke	19,474	18,761	713	3.7	Kimble	2,126	2,050	76	3.6	Swisher	3,684	3,541	143	3.9
Coryell	26,122	24,606	1,516	5.8	King	267	261	6	2.2	Tarrant	853,422	814,421	39,001	4.6
Cottle	866	825	41	4.7	Kinney	1,577	1,498	79	5.0	Taylor	68,526	66,150	2,376	3.5
Crane	1,491	1,417	74	5.0	Kleberg	16,293	15,557	736	4.5	Terrell	445	422	23	5.2
Crockett	2,037	1,968	69	3.4	Knox	1,837	1,767	70	3.8	Terrv	5,564	5,287	277	5.0
Crosby	3,040	2,901	139	4.6	Lamar	23,411	22,189	1,222	5.2	Throckmorton	943	914	29	3.1
Culberson	1,495	1,432	63	4.2	Lamb	7,377	7,087	290	3.9	Titus	15,234	14,629	605	4.0
Dallam	3,225	3,129	96	3.0	Lampasas	10,128	9,766	362	3.6	Tom Green	54,370	52,400	1,970	3.6
Dallas	1,202,326	1,139,503	62,823	5.2	La Salle	2,357	2,232	125	5.3	Travis	515,474	494,911	20,563	4.0
Dawson	5,482	5,188	294	5.4	Lavaca	10,375	10,059	316	3.0	Trinity	5,898	5,582	316	5.4
Deaf Smith	7,743	7,372	371	4.8	Lee	8,725	8,400	325	3.7	Tvler	8,238	7,668	570	6.9
Delta	2,528	2,420	108	4.3	Leon	7,958	7,588	370	4.6	Unshur	18,914	18,072	842	4.5
Denton	305,991	294,513	11,478	3.8	Libertv	32,405	30,600	1,805	5.6	Upton	1,557	1,502	55	3.5
DeWitt	9,307	8,942	365	3.9	Limestone	10,717	10,281	436	4.1	Uvalde	12,152	11,485	667	5.5
Dickens	1,071	1,024	47	4.4	Lipscomb	1,920	1,872	48	2.5	Val Verde	19,788	18,634	1,154	5.8
Dimmit	4,061	3,755	306	7.5	Live Oak	5,017	4,798	219	4.4	Van Zandt	25,215	24,168	1,047	4.2
Donlev	1,875	1,809	66	3.5	Llano	7,453	7,154	299	4.0	Victoria	44,568	42,745	1,823	4.1
Duval	5,235	4,944	291	5.6	Loving	49	46	3	6.1	Walker	25,948	24,779	1,169	4.5
Eastland	8,925	8,560	365	4.1	Lubbock	140,850	136,059	4,791	3.4	Waller	16,608	15,807	801	4.8
Ector	62,305	59,843	2,462	4.0	Lynn	2,900	2,765	135	4.7	Ward	4,327	4,109	218	5.0
Edwards	1,069	1,028	41	3.8	McCulloch	3,882	3,718	164	4.2	Washington	15,725	15,095	630	4.0
Ellis	65,536	62,424	3,112	4.7	McLennan	112,823	107,962	4,861	4.3	Webb	87,490	83,092	4,398	5.0
El Paso	302,337	284,146	18,191	6.0	McMullen	415	400	15	3.6	Wharton	21,420	20,471	949	4.4
Erath	18,574	17,971	603	3.2	Madison	4,964	4,720	244	4.9	Wheeler	2,684	2,590	94	3.5
Falls	7,637	7,232	405	5.3	Marion	4,854	4,596	258	5.3	Wichita	64,141	61,558	2,583	4.0
Fannin	13,979	13,139	840	6.0	Martin	2,141	2,051	90	4.2	Wilbarger	5,842	5,581	261	4.5
Fayette	11,933	11,547	386	3.2	Mason	1,981	1,927	54	2.7	Willacy	7,168	6,458	710	9.9
Fisher	2,032	1,960	72	3.5	Matazorda	16,838	15,604	1,234	7.3	Williamson	173,306	166,797	6,509	3.8
Floyd	3,265	3,098	167	5.1	Maverick	19,421	16,990	2,431	12.5	Wilson	17,373	16,702	671	3.9
Foard	609	580	29	4.8	Medina	19,686	18,833	853	4.3	Winkler	2,979	2,836	143	4.8
Fort Bend	224,657	214,494	10,163	4.5	Menard	1,110	1,067	43	3.9	Wise	27,733	26,716	1,017	3.7
Franklin	5,217	5,006	211	4.0	Midland	65,277	63,126	2,151	3.3	Wood	17,198	16,427	771	4.5
Freestone	10,036	9,672	364	3.6	Milam	11,582	11,015	567	4.9	Yoakum	3,301	3,176	125	3.8
Frio	6,274	5,924	350	5.6	Mills	2,828	2,748	80	2.8	Young	9,023	8,687	336	3.7
Gaines	6,531	6,270	261	4.0	Mitchell	3,207	3,030	177	5.5	Zapata	5,442	5,146	296	5.4
Galveston	139,672	132,763	6,909	4.9	Montague	9,581	9,202	379	4.0	Zavala	4,132	3,678	454	11.0
Garza	2,367	2,273	94	4.0	Montgomery	181,833	174,721	7,112	3.9	Texas	11,302,720	10,757,559	545,161	4.8

Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Employment and Unemployment Estimates for Texas Cities - December 2005

City	CLF	Emp.	Unemp	Rate	City	CLF	Emp.	Unemp	Rate	City	CLF	Emp.	Unemp	Rate
Abilene	59,358	57,206	2,152	3.6	Fort Worth	291,634	277,594	14,040	4.8	Missouri City	36,274	34,632	1,642	4.5
Allen	35,461	34,232	1,229	3.5	Friendswood	18,073	17,372	701	3.9	Nacogdoches	16,715	16,018	697	4.2
Amarillo	100,778	97,464	3,314	3.3	Frisco	32,333	31,195	1,138	3.5	New Braunfels	22,608	21,851	757	3.3
Arlington	207,023	197,627	9,396	4.5	Galveston	27,589	26,031	1,558	5.6	North Richland Hills	35,825	34,431	1,394	3.9
Austin	407,888	391,874	16,014	3.9	Garland	118,009	112,176	5,833	4.9	Odessa	46,468	44,636	1,832	3.9
Baytown	32,627	30,281	2,346	7.2	Georgetown	17,377	16,721	656	3.8	Paris	11,890	11,206	684	5.8
Beaumont	53,918	49,993	3,925	7.3	Grand Prairie	72,293	68,715	3,578	4.9	Pasadena	68,736	64,992	3,744	5.4
Bedford	31,994	30,773	1,221	3.8	Grapevine	28,882	27,884	998	3.5	Pearland	27,906	26,809	1,097	3.9
Big Spring	9,249	8,750	499	5.4	Greenville	11,966	11,361	605	5.1	Pharr	22,197	21,051	1,146	5.2
Brownsville	61,068	57,419	3,649	6.0	Haltom City	22,274	21,277	997	4.5	Plano	143,172	137,638	5,534	3.9
Bryan	37,371	35,915	1,456	3.9	Harlingen	25,793	24,388	1,405	5.4	Port Arthur	22,900	20,726	2,174	9.5
Burleson	14,195	13,699	496	3.5	Houston	1,023,715	962,520	61,195	6.0	Richardson	58,517	56,192	2,325	4.0
Carrollton	71,282	68,537	2,745	3.9	Houstonville	14,528	13,882	646	4.4	Rosenberg	13,807	13,243	564	4.1
Cedar Hill	22,665	21,520	1,145	5.1	Hurst	21,304	20,377	927	4.4	Round Rock	45,030	43,435	1,595	3.5
Cedar Park	23,933	23,296	637	2.7	Irving	116,026	110,722	5,304	4.6	Rowlett	28,750	27,614	1,136	4.0
Cleburne	13,494	12,968	526	3.9	Keller	18,728	18,166	562	3.0	San Angelo	45,765	44,063	1,702	3.7
College Station	40,537	39,171	1,366	3.4	Killeen	40,644	38,448	2,196	5.4	San Antonio	596,898	571,482	25,416	4.3
Conroe	20,406	19,662	744	3.6	Kingsville	13,037	12,492	545	4.2	San Juan	11,792	11,004	788	6.7
Coppell	22,088	21,297	791	3.6	Lake Jackson	14,199	13,571	628	4.4	San Marcos	24,951	24,249	702	2.8
Copperas Cove	13,444	12,776	668	5.0	Lancaster	14,441	13,345	1,096	7.6	Sherman	17,849	17,007	842	4.7
Corpus Christi	141,254	134,602	6,652	4.7	La Porte	18,793	17,873	920	4.9	Socorro	10,671	10,011	660	6.2
Corsicana	10,888	10,322	566	5.2	Laredo	82,399	78,474	3,925	4.8	Sugar Land	39,020	37,559	1,461	3.7
Dallas	616,157	583,117	33,040	5.4	League City	31,756	30,608	1,148	3.6	Temple	29,242	28,053	1,189	4.1
Deer Park	16,520	15,769	751	4.5	Lewisville	55,498	53,537	1,961	3.5	Texarkana	16,655	15,803	852	5.1
Del Rio	15,504	14,629	875	5.6	Longview	39,660	37,913	1,747	4.4	Texas City	20,699	19,447	1,252	6.0
Denton	53,949	52,329	1,620	3.0	Lubbock	116,890	112,978	3,912	3.3	The Colony	20,748	20,014	734	3.5
DeSoto	24,119	22,741	1,378	5.7	Lufkin	16,678	15,886	792	4.7	Tyler	46,968	44,984	1,984	4.2
Duncanville	19,683	18,595	1,088	5.5	McAllen	57,949	55,286	2,663	4.6	Victoria	32,097	30,780	1,317	4.1
Edinburg	26,013	24,966	1,047	4.0	McKinney	42,290	40,867	1,423	3.4	Waco	55,024	52,320	2,704	4.9
El Paso	258,920	244,505	14,415	5.6	Mansfield	18,891	18,151	740	3.9	Weslaco	13,046	12,156	890	6.8
Eules	31,814	30,522	1,292	4.1	Mesquite	73,437	69,893	3,544	4.8	Wichita Falls	48,578	46,511	2,067	4.3
Farmers Branch	15,387	14,743	644	4.2	Midland	53,473	51,689	1,784	3.3					
Flower Mound	34,337	33,221	1,116	3.3	Mission	23,385	22,206	1,179	5.0					

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Civilian Labor Force Estimates for WDAs December 2005				
	CLF	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
Alamo	948,889	908,367	40,522	4.3
Brazos Valley	143,710	138,009	5,701	4.0
Cameron County	146,748	137,645	9,103	6.2
Capital Area	515,474	494,911	20,563	4.0
Central Texas	173,169	164,735	8,434	4.9
Coastal Bend	263,300	250,198	13,102	5.0
Concho Valley	75,787	73,059	2,728	3.6
Dallas	1,202,326	1,139,503	62,823	5.2
Deep East Texas	165,383	156,070	9,313	5.6
East Texas	378,851	361,915	16,936	4.5
Golden Crescent	93,453	89,713	3,740	4.0
Gulf Coast	2,716,987	2,573,378	143,609	5.3
Heart Of Texas	164,767	157,534	7,233	4.4
Lower Rio Grande Valley	298,138	276,005	22,133	7.4
Middle Rio Grande	65,987	60,676	5,311	8.0
North Central Texas	1,066,008	1,023,757	42,251	4.0
North East Texas	133,349	127,093	6,256	4.7
North Texas	109,860	105,534	4,326	3.9
Panhandle	214,187	206,652	7,535	3.5
Permian Basin	184,489	177,223	7,266	3.9
Rural Capital	342,533	329,776	12,757	3.7
South East Texas	177,514	164,499	13,015	7.3
South Plains	204,659	197,125	7,534	3.7
South Texas	95,826	91,015	4,811	5.0
Tarrant County	853,422	814,421	39,001	4.6
Texoma	92,124	87,955	4,169	4.5
Upper Rio Grande	315,685	296,807	18,878	6.0
West Central Texas	160,101	153,991	6,110	3.8

Hours and Earnings for Texas and Selected Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas & Metro Divisions									
Area	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '05	Nov. '05	Dec. '04	Dec. '05	Nov. '05	Dec. '04	Dec. '05	Nov. '05	Dec. '04
<b>Texas</b>									
Manufacturing	\$572.42	\$569.39	\$564.20	40.8	40.7	40.3	\$14.03	\$13.99	\$14.00
Durable Goods	\$560.14	\$565.97	\$564.81	41.4	41.8	41.9	\$13.53	\$13.54	\$13.48
Nondurable Goods	\$591.32	\$573.00	\$565.06	39.9	38.9	38.0	\$14.82	\$14.73	\$14.87
<b>Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington MSA</b>									
Manufacturing	\$613.45	\$601.29	\$583.69	40.2	39.9	39.2	\$15.26	\$15.07	\$14.89
Durable Goods	\$680.86	\$667.77	\$650.76	40.6	40.3	40.8	\$16.77	\$16.57	\$15.95
Nondurable Goods	\$486.98	\$480.59	\$468.30	39.4	39.2	36.5	\$12.36	\$12.26	\$12.83
<b>Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land MSA</b>									
Manufacturing	\$693.67	\$719.38	\$697.53	40.4	41.8	39.7	\$17.17	\$17.21	\$17.57
Durable Goods	\$591.86	\$619.50	\$570.91	40.4	42.2	39.4	\$14.65	\$14.68	\$14.49
Nondurable Goods	\$876.28	\$898.57	\$872.98	40.4	41.2	40.1	\$21.69	\$21.81	\$21.77
<b>San Antonio MSA</b>									
Manufacturing	\$426.41	\$419.04	\$429.07	39.3	38.8	39.4	\$10.85	\$10.80	\$10.89
Durable Goods	\$449.77	\$460.06	\$442.80	41.0	41.9	41.0	\$10.97	\$10.98	\$10.80
Nondurable Goods	\$390.49	\$375.59	\$412.50	36.7	35.5	37.5	\$10.64	\$10.58	\$11.00
<b>Dallas-Plano-Irving MD*</b>									
Manufacturing	\$521.65	\$518.76	\$516.96	38.3	38.2	37.9	\$13.62	\$13.58	\$13.64
Durable Goods	\$520.88	\$523.32	\$548.34	37.1	37.3	39.0	\$14.04	\$14.03	\$14.06
Nondurable Goods	\$523.00	\$510.34	\$468.43	40.2	39.5	36.2	\$13.01	\$12.92	\$12.94
<b>Ft. Worth-Arlington MD*</b>									
Manufacturing	\$784.90	\$768.21	\$721.94	43.8	43.5	41.9	\$17.92	\$17.66	\$17.23
Durable Goods	\$931.22	\$915.46	\$833.36	46.1	45.5	44.0	\$20.20	\$20.12	\$18.94
Nondurable Goods	\$395.55	\$401.28	\$466.49	37.6	38.4	37.2	\$10.52	\$10.45	\$12.54

Estimates of the TWC are in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Estimates reflect actual (not seasonally adjusted) data. Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. \*Metropolitan Division (MD). The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA is comprised of the Dallas-Plano-Irving MD and the Fort Worth-Arlington MD.

## GLOSSARY OF LABOR MARKET TERMS

**Actual or Not Seasonally Adjusted** - This term is used to describe data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.

**Civilian Labor Force (CLF)** - Is that portion of the population age 16 and older who are employed or unemployed. To be considered unemployed, a person has to be not working but willing and able to work and actively seeking work.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - Is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI provides a way for consumers to compare what the market basket of goods and services costs this month with what the same market basket cost a month or a year ago.

**Current Employment Statistics (CES)** - A monthly survey of nonfarm business establishments used to collect wage and salary employment, workers hours, and payroll, by industry and area. It is sometimes known as Nonagricultural Employment.

**Employed (Emp)** - Persons 16 years and over in the civilian noninstitutional population who, during the reference week, (a) did any work at all (at least 1 hour) as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

**Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** - The Federal/State cooperative program which produces employment and unemployment

estimates for states and local areas. These estimates are developed by State Employment Security Agencies in accordance with Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) definitions and procedures. Data is used for planning and budgetary purposes as an indication of need for employment and training services programs. Estimates are also used to allocate Federal funds.

**Metropolitan Division (MD)** - A Metropolitan Statistical Area which contains a single core with a population of 2.5 million or more may be subdivided into smaller groupings of counties referred to as Metropolitan Divisions. Titles of Metropolitan Divisions are typically based on principal city names. Texas has two Metropolitan Divisions, the Dallas-Plano-Irving MD and the Fort Worth-Arlington MD, which combine to form the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** - A geographic area that contains at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core urban area. An MSA in Texas is made up of one or more counties. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines metropolitan areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data. Texas has 25 MSAs and two Metropolitan Divisions (MD).

**Seasonally Adjusted (SA)** - Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements in a data series.

**Unemployed (Unemp)** - Persons 16 years and over who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

### “HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE”

**New Combat System Awarded to Fort Bliss**

EL PASO, Tex (El Paso Times)—Fort Bliss was the only installation that met all the Army’s requirements to become home for a new experimental combat team—created to test cutting-edge war-fighting technology—that is the centerpiece of a servicewide modernization program, according to a Pentagon spokesman.

Hundreds of lucrative high-tech jobs will be created in the near future, and there’s a potential for thousands of similar jobs in the long run, said Bob Cook, interim director of the El Paso Regional Economic Development Corp. Although other lead contractors—Boeing and Science Applications International Corp.—already have said they will expand or set up offices in El Paso, Cook said, the corporation has been talking to many of the 25 subcontractors already involved in the project.

**Former Naval Air Station Buildings Leased**

BEEVILLE, Tex (Beeville Bee-Picayune)—Government contractor Kay and Associates has agreed to lease three buildings at Chase Field for a project to renovate military helicopters at the former Naval Air Station. More than 300 people are expected to be hired with the jobs expected to pay between \$40,000-\$50,000 annually.

“It is our first opportunity to revive Chase Field, not as we once knew it, but to bring in aviation-related activity,” according to Bee Development Authority Executive Director Joe B. Montez.



**2006 Labor Market & Career Information Release Dates**

Reference Month	Release Date
December 2005	* Friday, January 20th, 2006
January 2006	* Thursday, March 9th
February 2006	* Thursday, March 30th
March 2006	* Friday, April 21st
April 2006	* Friday, May 19th
May 2006	* Friday, June 16th
June 2006	* Friday, July 21st
July 2006	* Friday, August 18th
August 2006	* Friday, September 15th
September 2006	* Friday, October 20th
October 2006	* Friday, November 17th
November 2006	* Friday, December 22nd
December 2007	* Friday, January 19, 2007

\*Statewide (seasonally adjusted and actual series) data will be released on these dates. Sub-state estimates may be delayed depending on availability of data from other states.

## INDICATORS

### Texas Unemployment Rate

Actual (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			Seasonally Adjusted		
DEC	2005	4.8%	DEC	2005	5.1%
NOV	2005	5.2%	NOV	2005	5.3%
DEC	2004	5.8%	DEC	2004	5.9%

### U.S. Unemployment Rate

Actual (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			Seasonally Adjusted		
DEC	2005	4.6%	DEC	2005	4.9%
NOV	2005	4.8%	NOV	2005	5.0%
DEC	2004	5.1%	DEC	2004	5.4%

### Texas Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
DEC	2005	9,739,300	DEC	2005	9,684,100
NOV	2005	9,725,800	NOV	2005	9,670,700
DEC	2004	9,585,900	DEC	2004	9,530,600
OTM Change		13,500	OTM Change		13,400
OTY Change		153,400	OTY Change		153,500

### Unemployment Insurance Claims

Initial Claims			Continued Claims		
DEC	2005	63,436	DEC	2005	621,724
NOV	2005	66,595	NOV	2005	622,691
DEC	2004	78,424	DEC	2004	638,820

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Annual Change			Help Wanted Index - Texas		
U.S.	DEC 2005	3.4%	DEC	2005	64.2
Dallas-Fort Worth	NOV 2005	4.4%	NOV	2005	61.2
Houston-Galveston	DEC 2005	4.2%	DEC	2004	62.9

### West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil (\$/barrel)

DEC	2005	\$ 59.43	OTM Change	\$ 1.13
NOV	2005	\$ 58.30	OTY Change	\$ 16.10
DEC	2004	\$ 43.33		

## Texas Labor Market Review Labor Market & Career Information



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