

**Business**

June 15, 2007, 1:48PM

## Texas unemployment rate dips to 4.1 percent

Associated Press

The Texas unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in May, the lowest point since at least 1976, the Texas Workforce Commission said today.

That was down a notch from April's jobless rate of 4.2 percent. A year ago, the Texas jobless rate was 5 percent.

The commission estimated that Texas added 22,700 jobs in May and 239,000 over the past 12 months. The agency estimated the annual job growth rate at 2.4 percent, nearly double the national increase of 1.4 percent.

"Sustained job growth and a strong Texas economy have driven the unemployment rate to this historic low," said commission Chairwoman Diane Rath. "Texas employers are prospering, which means more opportunities for working Texans."

The commission said the 4.1 percent jobless rate was the lowest since the current system of tracking the work force began in 1976.

The figures were adjusted for seasonal trends in hiring and firing, which most economists believe gives a better picture of the job market.

Midland had the lowest unemployment rate of any Texas metropolitan area, at 2.6 percent, followed by neighboring Odessa and Amarillo at 3 percent, the commission said.

The Rio Grande Valley area around McAllen, Edinburg and Mission had the highest rate, 5.7 percent. Local figures are not adjusted for seasonal patterns.

The biggest increase in jobs came in professional and business services, which added 5,400 jobs. Education and health services gained 4,900 jobs, according to commission estimates.

Trade, transportation and utilities gained 2,600 jobs. Mining, which includes the oil and gas industry, added 1,600 positions, the commission said.

Following are the preliminary May unemployment rates for local areas in Texas, with revised April figures in parentheses. The figures are not seasonally adjusted. The statewide unadjusted jobless rate was 3.9 percent.

Abilene 3.2 (3.3)

Amarillo 3.0 (3.2)

Austin-Round Rock 3.2 (3.2)

Beaumont-Port Arthur 4.8 (4.8)

Brownsville-Harlingen 5.3 (5.5)

College Station-Bryan 3.1 (3.2)

Corpus Christi 4.0 (4.0)

Dallas-Plano-Irving 3.8 (3.9)  
El Paso 5.4 (5.6)  
Fort Worth-Arlington 3.8 (3.9)  
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown 3.8 (3.8)  
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood 4.2 (4.2)  
Laredo 4.2 (4.4)  
Longview 3.7 (3.6)  
Lubbock 3.1 (3.1)  
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 5.7 (6.1)  
Midland 2.6 (2.7)  
Odessa 3.0 (3.0)  
San Angelo 3.3 (3.3)  
San Antonio 3.6 (3.6)  
Sherman-Denison 4.0 (4.0)  
Texarkana 4.5 (4.5)  
Tyler 3.7 (3.8)  
Victoria 3.3 (3.3)  
Waco 3.8 (3.8)  
Wichita Falls 3.5 (3.7)

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POWERED BY **prdad007** wrote:

One of the reasons that the unemployment numbers are down relates to the fact that many people have received their full benefits and are no longer on the roll. For example, my benefits ran out in November 2006. So, since that time, although I am still unemployed, am I still counted in these statistics? Probably not. Unemployment is still high. It's just that many of the unemployed have fallen through the cracks, and out of the system.

6/15/2007 11:43:47 AM

[Recommend \(1\)](#)[Report abuse](#)**jazzman** wrote:

Are those stats counting illegal aliens?

6/15/2007 11:58:04 AM

[Recommend](#)[Report abuse](#)**buck16** wrote:

The illegals are working, jazzman, doing more for less. It's the legal citizen that's puahws out of his job and is now unemployed.

6/15/2007 12:41:54 PM

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