



## The Texas Model: Texas v. U.S. Unemployment Rate

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*“The Texas unemployment rate has been at or below the national rate for 55 consecutive months.”*

*~Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts*

The Texas labor market—bolstered by the state’s low-tax, limited government approach—continues to post healthy gains despite fears of another national economic recession.

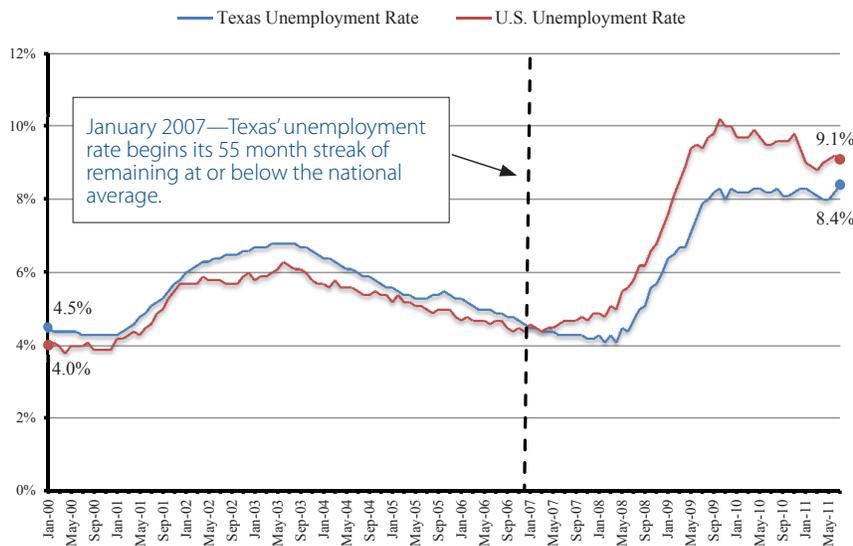
According to the latest Texas Workforce Commission update, the state’s economy created 38,700 new private sector jobs while shedding 9,400 government positions for a net gain of 29,300 new jobs.<sup>1</sup> This brings the year-to-date total of net new jobs created in the state to just under 270,000<sup>2</sup> and makes for the 10th consecutive month of job creation in Texas.

In terms of the state’s unemployment rate, that figure rose slightly from 8.2 percent in June 2011 to 8.4 percent in July 2011. It is important to note, however, that while the state’s unemployment rate edged up this month, it still remains well below the national average, 9.1 percent, and, perhaps even more importantly, continues an impressive multi-year trend of outperforming the national average.

In fact, according to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the state’s unemployment rate, even with this month’s slight increase, has been at or below the national average for 55 consecutive months.<sup>3</sup> This means that the last time that Texas’ unemployment rate was higher than the national average was December 2006 when the state rate was 4.6 percent and the national rate was 4.4 percent.

All in all, Texas’ economic picture continues to look much brighter than the nation’s. ★

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Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Workforce Commission

<sup>1</sup> Texas Workforce Commission, “Mixed Employment Results for July” (19 Aug. 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Regional and State Employment and Unemployment Summary” (19 Aug. 2011).

<sup>3</sup> Texas Ahead, *Comptroller’s Economic Outlook* (12 Aug. 2011).

