



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

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“The Texas unemployment rate has been at or below the national rate for 60 consecutive months.” –Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

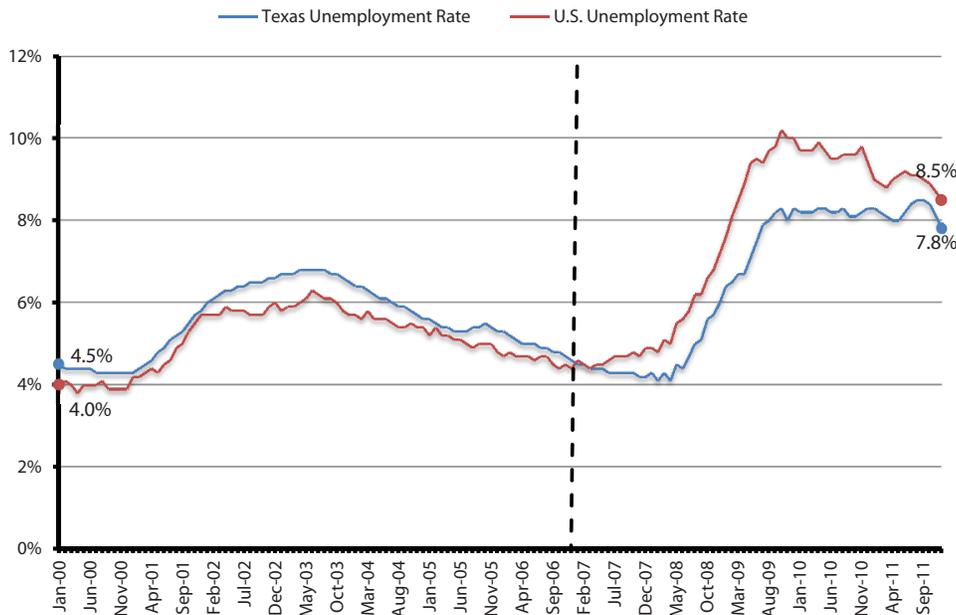
Texas’ labor market—bolstered by the state’s low-tax, limited government approach—continues to show signs of resurgence and recovery. According to the Texas Workforce Commission’s latest employment report, the state’s economy added 20,200 net new jobs in December 2011, bringing the total number of jobs created in 2011 to 204,500. For the year, private sector employment increased by 260,000 positions, while the number of government jobs shrank by 55,500 positions.

Other major industries to see growth this year included: Professional and Business Services (+53,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+45,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+41,200); Mining and Logging (+40,700); Education and Health Services (+36,900); Manufacturing (+25,200); Financial Services (+18,000); and Other Services (+13,300). Only three industries—Government (-55,500), Information (-7,900), and Construction (-6,300)—saw their employment numbers decline for the year.

Perhaps most impressively is the fact that the state’s unemployment rate declined from 8.1 percent in November to 7.8 percent in December, marking the 60th consecutive month—or 5th year in a row—that Texas’ unemployment rate has matched or been better than the national average. Not since December 2006 has the state’s unemployment rate been higher than the national average.

Clearly, there is something special happening in Texas. ★

Texas v. U.S. Unemployment Rate



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Workforce Commission

¹ Texas Workforce Commission, “Texas Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.8 Percent,” January 20, 2012.

² Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, “Comptroller’s Economic Outlook,” January 20, 2012.