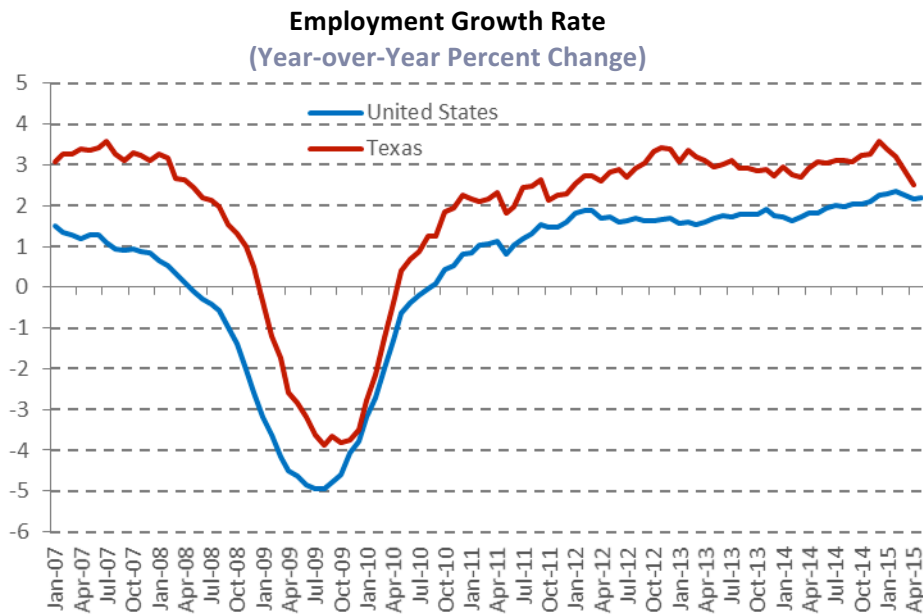


About this Reference Document

This document helps you understand and interpret a particular economic indicator that is part of the larger *Outlook for the Texas Economy*. Note that all data, charts, and explanations presented are from prior reports and thus are not current. Your feedback is always appreciated. Send comments and suggestions to info@recenter.tamu.edu.

Dr. Luis Torres and Wayne Day

Employment



Note: Seasonally adjusted. May 2015 (U.S.) and April 2015 (Texas and U.S.) are preliminary.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program is a monthly survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It is a federal and state cooperative program that provides detailed industry data on employment, hours and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions. The first monthly studies of employment and payroll by BLS began in 1915 and covered four manufacturing firms. Now the program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 588,000 individual worksites.

Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. An *establishment* is an economic unit, such as a factory, mine, store or office that produces goods and services. Establishments are classified in an industry on the basis of their principal product or activity in accordance with the most recent North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Manual. Persons are

counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll.

Data exclude proprietors, the unincorporated self-employed, unpaid volunteers or family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers. Salaried officers of corporations are included. Government employment covers only civilian employees; military personnel are excluded. Employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Agency also are excluded.

Most employment data are estimated using a “link relative” technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. All estimates from a sample survey are subject to sampling and other types of errors, such as those which can be introduced in to the data collection and data processing operations. The sums of individual terms may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Texas employment growth has slowed, expanding at a moderate pace and is showing signs of decelerating towards national levels of employment growth. The weakness in the oil industry is arguably spilling into other sectors. Many of the nonenergy sectors are contributing to positive employment growth. Still, the outlook for Texas employment is slower growth for the remainder of the year.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>

