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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

OK FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: Texas House of Representatives
FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam
DATE: January 22, 2010
SUBJECT: Texas Unemployment Rate and Traffic Signal Grants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Dunnam", written over a horizontal line.

Texas Unemployment Hits 8.3 Percent in December

The Texas Workforce Commission announced today that Texas unemployment rose in December reaching 8.3 percent; up from 8.0 percent in November. The National unemployment rate remained unchanged from November to December, however Texas continues to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December at 10.0 percent. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 23,900 jobs in December. Trade, Transportation and Utilities represented the bulk of December's job losses at 7,400; Leisure and Hospitality jobs were down by 6,500, and Professional and Business Services recorded a loss of 5,300 jobs in December. However, Education and Health Services employment increased by 4,800 positions in December. Attached is a copy for the TWC's press release for your review. The 8.3% rate is seasonally adjusted and the chart on page 2 showing unemployment rates for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas is not seasonally adjusted.

Grants for Traffic Signal Projects

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced recently that 15 cities and one county have been selected to receive \$6 million in ARRA grants for traffic signal project in Texas. The money will be used to synchronize traffic lights and to install light emitting diodes (LEDs) in traffic signals. The stimulus grant will be administered by the Comptroller's State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) as part of the Transportation Efficiency Program. Some entities will also use funds to replace traffic signal bulbs with clusters of tiny red, yellow, and green LEDs at those signals. This can reduce

electricity use by almost 85 percent at a signal because of the difference in wattage, helping cut utility costs.

The following entities have been selected for the federal stimulus grants:

City of Bedford	\$1,856,000
City of Fort Worth	\$750,000
City of Grand Prairie	\$419,000
City of Allen	\$392,000
City of Bryan	\$373,866
City of North Richland Hills	\$362,500
City of Cedar Hill	\$308,688
City of Grapevine	\$308,000
City of Killeen	\$270,080
City of Beaumont	\$251,590
Montgomery County	\$191,195
Missouri City	\$166,880
City of Frisco	\$134,400
City of Brownsville	\$100,000
City of Cedar Park	\$86,400
City of Waco	\$28,000

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until 9 a.m.
DATE: January 22, 2010

CONTACT: Ann Hatchitt
PHONE: 512-463-8556

Texas Unemployment Rate 8.3 Percent in December *After two months of employment gains, Texas employers reduce jobs*

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.3 percent in December, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, but continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December of 10.0 percent. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 23,900 jobs in December. Texas has gained nearly 50,000 jobs in the last three months.

“Texas continues to feel the effects of this serious national recession with unemployment in our state now at 8.3 percent,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Nonetheless, unemployment in Texas remains well below the national level of 10.0 percent.”

Education and Health Services employment increased by 4,800 positions in December, representing the addition of 60,400 jobs in the past 12 months. Mining and Logging employment posted a modest gain of 300 jobs in December.

“December job losses offset some of the gains from the last couple of months,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC and the 28 workforce boards are committed to assisting Texas job seekers and connecting them with available jobs.”

Trade, Transportation and Utilities represented the bulk of December’s job losses at 7,400 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality employment was down 6,500 jobs in December, and Professional and Business Services recorded a loss of 5,300 jobs.

“Education and Health Services continued to add jobs while other industries experienced a tough month in December,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “Job seekers are encouraged to register on WorkInTexas.com, TWC’s online job matching Web site.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 5.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA and the Midland MSA, both with 5.4 percent. The unemployment rate stood at 5.9 percent in the College Station-Bryan MSA.

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Please note that the unemployment estimates for the United States and Texas in this chart are “Not Seasonally Adjusted” for purposes of comparison to the “Not Seasonally Adjusted” Metropolitan Statistical Area data.

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

	December 2009				November 2009				December 2008			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	152,693.0	137,953.0	14,740.0	9.7	153,539.0	139,132.0	14,407.0	9.4	154,349.0	143,350.0	10,999.0	7.1
State of Texas	12,078.7	11,115.7	963.0	8.0	12,101.2	11,148.9	952.3	7.9	11,788.7	11,120.8	667.9	5.7
Abilene	83.4	78.4	5.0	6.0	83.8	78.8	5.0	5.9	82.3	78.9	3.4	4.2
Amarillo	130.8	123.9	6.9	5.3	131.7	124.7	7.0	5.3	128.7	123.9	4.8	3.7
Austin-Round Rock	903.2	840.7	62.5	6.9	906.8	844.4	62.4	6.9	873.1	827.6	45.5	5.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	183.2	163.6	19.6	10.7	183.4	164.4	19.0	10.4	181.3	166.9	14.4	7.9
Brownsville-Harlingen	151.5	134.7	16.8	11.1	151.2	135.3	15.9	10.5	146.6	134.6	12.0	8.2
College Station-Bryan	109.6	103.2	6.4	5.9	110.5	104.0	6.5	5.9	109.7	105.2	4.5	4.1
Corpus Christi	207.6	191.4	16.2	7.8	207.8	192.2	15.6	7.5	205.2	194.4	10.8	5.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,233.9	2,976.1	257.8	8.0	3,235.0	2,978.1	256.9	7.9	3,155.3	2,970.0	185.3	5.9
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,153.7	1,982.2	171.5	8.0	2,153.5	1,982.6	170.9	7.9	2,109.3	1,983.2	126.1	6.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,080.2	993.9	86.3	8.0	1,081.6	995.6	86.0	7.9	1,046.0	986.8	59.2	5.7
El Paso	309.6	281.0	28.6	9.2	310.7	282.0	28.7	9.2	301.6	280.1	21.5	7.1
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,841.5	2,604.3	237.2	8.3	2,843.9	2,610.3	233.6	8.2	2,805.0	2,649.3	155.7	5.6
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	162.7	151.3	11.4	7.0	163.2	151.8	11.4	7.0	159.8	151.0	8.8	5.5
Laredo	97.0	88.7	8.3	8.6	97.4	89.0	8.4	8.6	93.5	88.0	5.5	5.9
Longview	111.1	102.4	8.7	7.8	111.5	103.0	8.5	7.6	108.1	103.3	4.8	4.5
Lubbock	144.5	136.7	7.8	5.4	145.2	137.5	7.7	5.3	140.8	135.5	5.3	3.8
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	306.0	270.1	35.9	11.7	304.4	270.3	34.1	11.2	290.2	264.1	26.1	9.0
Midland	77.3	73.1	4.2	5.4	77.7	73.4	4.3	5.5	76.1	73.9	2.2	2.9
Odessa	75.3	69.0	6.3	8.3	75.7	69.3	6.4	8.4	72.2	69.5	2.7	3.8
San Angelo	53.5	50.2	3.3	6.3	53.8	50.4	3.4	6.4	52.8	50.4	2.4	4.5
San Antonio	971.2	904.7	66.5	6.8	974.5	908.6	65.9	6.8	948.6	898.2	50.4	5.3
Sherman-Denison	57.6	52.8	4.8	8.3	57.7	53.0	4.7	8.2	56.2	52.7	3.5	6.1
Texarkana	64.7	60.5	4.2	6.5	65.2	61.1	4.1	6.3	64.3	61.1	3.2	5.0
Tyler	102.3	94.1	8.2	8.0	102.6	94.5	8.1	7.9	99.8	94.3	5.5	5.5
Victoria	59.2	54.6	4.6	7.7	59.3	54.8	4.5	7.6	58.5	55.7	2.8	4.7
Waco	113.4	105.6	7.8	6.9	113.9	106.1	7.8	6.9	111.5	106.0	5.5	4.9
Wichita Falls	73.8	68.3	5.5	7.5	74.2	68.7	5.5	7.4	72.7	68.6	4.1	5.7

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on latest labor market data are available at the following link:

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2010/praudio10.html>.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.