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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL  
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

TO: Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: April 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Unemployment Update

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Today, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the March jobs report. The report states that Texas lost an additional 47,100 jobs in March (for a total of 155,400 jobs lost in 2009) bringing the statewide unemployment rate to 6.7 percent, up from 6.5 percent in February. Texas lost more jobs than any other state, except California (62,100) and Florida (51,900), two of the biggest contributors to the national housing downturn.

As stated in the Select Committee's *Preliminary Mid-Session Report*, under the Recovery Act, if Texas' unemployment rate reaches 6.8 percent for three consecutive months, we will qualify for a higher Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) "match rate." The Health and Human Services Commission estimates that Texas will meet the higher unemployment rate beginning in Fiscal Year 2010 and will receive an additional \$600 million as a result. That amount could be even higher, of course, if Texas unemployment rates continue to climb each month.

Please see the latest TWC press release and regional unemployment figures attached below.

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

	March 2009				February 2009				March 2008			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	153,728.0	139,833.0	13,895.0	9.0	153,804.0	140,105.0	13,699.0	8.9	153,135.0	145,108.0	8,027.0	5.2
State of Texas	11,820.1	11,028.1	792.0	6.7	11,776.4	10,993.8	782.6	6.6	11,577.9	11,075.1	502.8	4.3
Abilene	82.7	78.4	4.3	5.2	82.2	78.1	4.1	5.0	81.3	78.4	2.9	3.6
Amarillo	129.2	123.5	5.7	4.4	129.0	123.2	5.8	4.5	128.3	124.2	4.1	3.2
Austin-Round Rock	881.8	827.3	54.5	6.2	877.0	821.9	55.1	6.3	859.2	826.3	32.9	3.8
Beaumont-Port Arthur	181.6	165.7	15.9	8.8	181.0	165.6	15.4	8.5	179.2	169.4	9.8	5.5
Brownsville-Harlingen	147.4	134.0	13.4	9.1	147.2	133.5	13.7	9.3	145.6	137.1	8.5	5.9
College Station-Bryan	106.7	101.5	5.2	4.8	106.6	101.4	5.2	4.9	106.4	102.7	3.7	3.5
Corpus Christi	205.7	193.0	12.7	6.2	205.0	192.7	12.3	6.0	203.5	195.0	8.5	4.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,146.1	2,926.4	219.7	7.0	3,141.8	2,924.3	217.5	6.9	3,106.1	2,969.9	136.2	4.4
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,095.4	1,947.6	147.8	7.1	2,095.2	1,948.1	147.1	7.0	2,078.2	1,985.9	92.3	4.4
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,050.7	978.8	71.9	6.8	1,046.6	976.2	70.4	6.7	1,027.9	984.0	43.9	4.3
El Paso	303.7	278.8	24.9	8.2	302.2	277.5	24.7	8.2	298.0	281.0	17.0	5.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,803.0	2,619.5	183.5	6.5	2,793.5	2,613.0	180.5	6.5	2,747.3	2,631.1	116.2	4.2
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	159.6	150.1	9.5	5.9	159.3	149.6	9.7	6.1	155.2	148.1	7.1	4.6
Laredo	95.0	87.9	7.1	7.5	94.5	87.5	7.0	7.4	91.7	87.2	4.5	4.9
Longview	109.4	102.6	6.8	6.2	108.9	102.4	6.5	6.0	107.0	103.0	4.0	3.7
Lubbock	141.3	135.0	6.3	4.4	140.9	134.6	6.3	4.5	139.9	135.2	4.7	3.4
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	291.3	263.6	27.7	9.5	290.6	262.6	28.0	9.6	280.2	262.2	18.0	6.4
Midland	76.8	73.5	3.3	4.3	76.4	73.4	3.0	3.9	73.9	72.0	1.9	2.6
Odessa	73.9	69.3	4.6	6.2	73.0	69.1	3.9	5.3	69.1	67.0	2.1	3.1
San Angelo	53.3	50.3	3.0	5.6	53.0	50.1	2.9	5.4	52.7	50.8	1.9	3.6
San Antonio	953.4	896.9	56.5	5.9	949.9	892.8	57.1	6.0	934.9	897.1	37.8	4.0
Sherman-Denison	56.6	52.2	4.4	7.7	56.2	52.2	4.0	7.1	55.2	52.5	2.7	4.9
Texarkana	63.8	60.3	3.5	5.5	64.1	60.4	3.7	5.7	62.8	60.1	2.7	4.2
Tyler	100.9	94.2	6.7	6.7	100.3	93.7	6.6	6.6	97.4	93.0	4.4	4.5
Victoria	57.9	54.3	3.6	6.2	57.8	54.4	3.4	5.9	57.7	55.7	2.0	3.5
Waco	111.9	105.2	6.7	6.0	111.2	104.8	6.4	5.8	109.5	105.0	4.5	4.1
Wichita Falls	72.8	68.0	4.8	6.6	72.6	67.7	4.9	6.7	72.5	69.5	3.0	4.1

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.

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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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).