

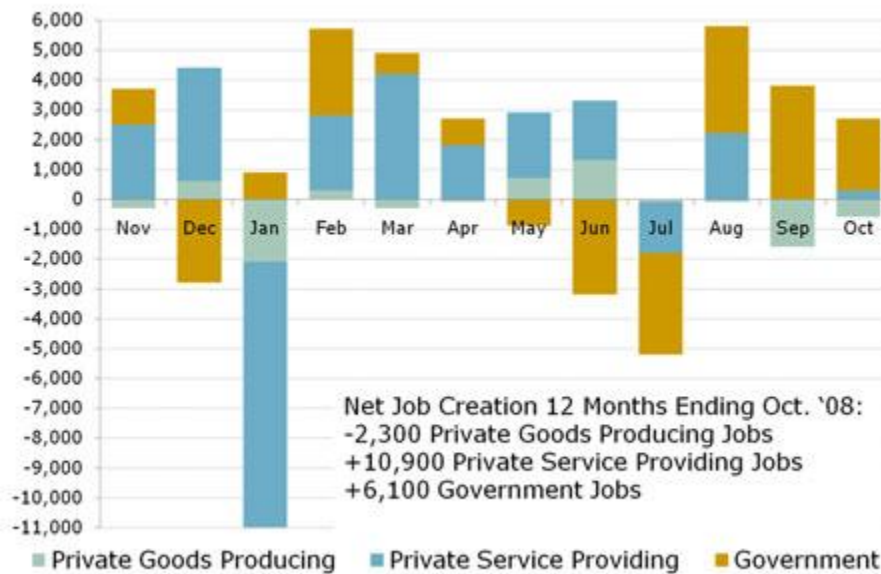
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Central Texas Economy In Perspective

by Beverly Kerr, Chamber Vice President of Research

Austin saw 14,700 net new jobs created during the last 12 months, or an average of 1,225 new jobs monthly. This performance places the Austin metropolitan area as the third fastest growing among the nation's 50 largest metros for the period.

Analyzing Austin's Job Growth



Source: Texas Workforce Commission.

Goods producing industries (manufacturing, natural resources and construction) account for 107,200 (14%) of the metropolitan area's 781,000 total nonfarm payroll jobs in October. Private service providing industries employ 508,900 (65%) and the government sector employs 164,900 (21%).

Austin's loss of 2,300 goods producing jobs over the 12 months ending in October represents a decline of 2%, while the private service providing sector gained 10,900 jobs or 2% and the government sector added 6,100 jobs or 4%. For the same period, Texas saw net growth in all three sectors: 26,000 new goods producing jobs (an increase of 1%), 196,400 new private service providing jobs (3%), and 59,200 new government jobs (3%). Nationally there were losses in goods producing (-1,293,000 or -6%) and private service

providing (-838,000 or -1%), and gains in government (394,000 or 2%).

The net loss of 2,300 goods producing jobs comprises a 4,400 job (7%) decline in manufacturing and a 2,100 job gain in natural resources and construction. The only major category of private service providing jobs seeing a loss over the period was the information industry which declined from 21,700 jobs to 21,400 jobs. The information industry includes telecommunications, broadcasting, publishing, motion picture, sound recording, and data processing, hosting & related services.

Of manufacturing's net job loss, computers and peripheral equipment contributed 1,900 jobs to the decline. Wholesale trade saw a net increase in total jobs, however, the professional and commercial equipment component of wholesale trade lost 1,000 jobs. In Austin, this segment of wholesale trade is largely made up of computer and peripheral equipment wholesalers.

The private service providing industries with largest net gains in jobs were in leisure and hospitality (2,400), retail trade (2,300) and education and health services (2,000).

This data is not seasonally adjusted and January's 2% drop in private employment is typical of the change that occurs from December to January each year. Similar declines are seen in unadjusted state and national private employment as well and about one third of the drop is due to retail trade employment. The declines seen in government employment during the summer months are also typical and due to seasonal levels of state and local education services.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin