

Area workforce adds jobs across all sectors

Austin Business Journal - 10:45 AM CDT Friday

The unemployment rate in Central Texas dropped slightly in August.

According to the **Texas Workforce Commission**, the August unemployment rate for the Austin-Round Rock area totaled 4.2 percent, a small dip from the July 2006 rate of 4.4 percent. This rate is also lower than the August 2005 unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

Total nonagricultural employment in the Austin-Round Rock area increased by 4,200 jobs, or .6 percent last month. Locally, government employment gained 2,900 workers as schools hired staff in preparation for the new school year.

Natural resources, mining and construction, professional and business services, and education and health services added 300 jobs each during the month.

Since August 2005, total nonagricultural employment in the Austin-Round Rock area increased by 19,400 jobs, or 2.8 percent. During that time, the professional and business services sector added 3,600 employees, an increase of 3.8 percent, while local government employment added 3,500 jobs, an increase of 5.1 percent in the same period.

Employment in natural resources, mining and construction, and leisure and hospitality added 2,900 workers each since August 2005.

Across the state, the unemployment rate dropped slightly for August, totaling 5.1 percent, compared with a rate of 5.5 percent for July 2006 and a rate of 5.2 percent for August 2005.