

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

by Beverly Kerr, Austin Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Research

Many of these "Economic Indicators" items in @theChamber focus on the labor market and, thus far in the current recession, usually tell something about Austin's experience of job growth and unemployment departing from trends elsewhere.

A recent piece in the online magazine Slate provides a remarkable illustration of how the economic crisis has moved through the country, striking the most vulnerable regions first and its subsequent spread: [When Did Your County's Jobs Disappear? An interactive map of vanishing employment across the country.](#) [Scroll down on Slate's page until you see the map, then click "start" then the green go arrow.] Slate uses county level data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) federal/state cooperative program from which produces estimates of civilian labor force, employment and unemployment. The numbers on Slate's series of 26 interactive maps represent the year-over-year change in employment over all months from January 2007 to February 2009.

Best Performing Among Top 50 Metro Areas

	Employment March 2009	Growth Mar. 2008-Mar. 2009		Rank
		Difference	% Ch.	
Austin MSA	827,200	800	0.1%	1
San Antonio MSA	896,800	-300	-0.0	2
Houston MSA	2,619,500	-11,600	-0.4	3
Fort Worth MDiv	978,800	-5,200	-0.5	4
Pittsburgh MSA	1,121,000	-16,400	-1.4	5
Philadelphia MDiv	1,810,000	-35,200	-1.9	6
Dallas MDiv	1,947,500	-38,400	-1.9	7
New York MDiv	5,272,100	-104,100	-1.9	8
Kansas City MSA	958,100	-19,700	-2.0	9
Virginia Beach MSA	769,700	-17,300	-2.2	10

Austin is the 41st largest metro based on civilian labor force in March.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (LAUS).

Courtesy of JB Goodwin