



Austin-area jobs report shows first hint of government, education job cuts

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Austin-area employers added 13,700 jobs in the 12 months that ended in May, a 1.8 percent annual gain, the Texas Workforce Commission reported Friday.

But the region's largest job sector, government — which includes local school districts and higher education — lost 600 jobs, a 0.3 percent decline. That was the first sign of local and state budget cuts that are expected to grow over the summer, as the full impact of teacher and state agency layoffs is felt.

That sector accounts for 22 percent of the 785,300 jobs in Central Texas.

The cutbacks were even deeper in other large Texas cities.

The Dallas area lost 3,200 government jobs last month, a 1.2 percent drop. Houston was down 7,300 jobs, or 1.9 percent, and San Antonio was down 2,400 jobs, or 1.4 percent.

In the Austin area, economists have said they think private sector employers will pick up their hiring pace this year, mitigating the impact of government and school district job losses.

The Central Texas unemployment rate was 6.7 percent, up from 6.5 percent in April but down from 6.9 percent a year ago.

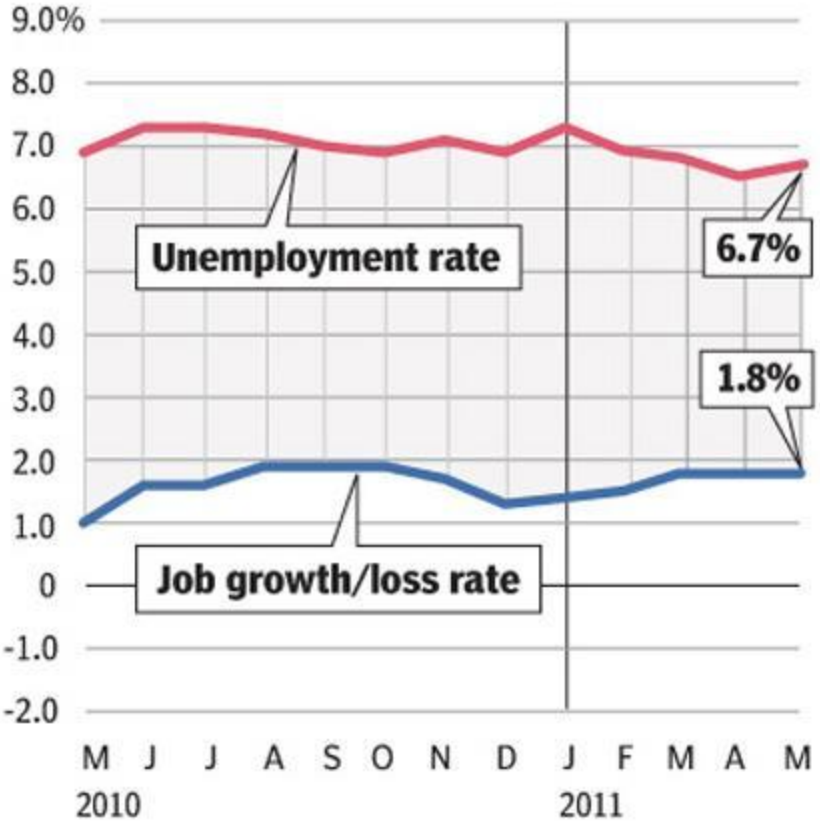
Statewide, the unemployment rate was 8 percent, down from 8.1 percent a year ago.

The state job growth rate was 2 percent.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin

Central Texas jobs report

The region had a total of 785,300 jobs last month.



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

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