

Central Texas Economy In Perspective

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

The Austin metropolitan area added 15,200 jobs, or 2.0% in the 12 months ending in December according to Friday’s release of preliminary payroll jobs numbers by the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) and the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). This is a somewhat more moderate year-over-year growth rate than had been seen in recent months. Year-over-year growth has been as high as 2.4% in July and August and 2.3% in October. Texas 12-month change was 2.3% this month and this is the first instance this year of Austin’s growth lagging the state.

Best Performing Among Top 50 Metro Areas

	Nonfarm jobs Dec. 2010	Dec. '09-Dec. '10 Difference	% Ch.	Rank
Austin MSA	774,000	15,200	2.0%	1
Washington MDiv	2,436,600	45,900	1.9	2
Phoenix MSA	1,741,700	28,800	1.7	3
Santa Ana MDiv	1,372,300	20,900	1.5	4
Dallas MDiv	2,050,700	28,400	1.4	5
Seattle MDiv	1,398,300	17,400	1.3	6
Baltimore MSA	1,283,800	14,500	1.1	7
Cleveland MSA	1,000,800	11,200	1.1	8
Orlando MSA	1,016,800	11,100	1.1	9
Minneapolis MSA	1,702,600	17,000	1.0	10

*Austin is the 42nd largest metro based on nonfarm jobs in December.
Data is not seasonally adjusted.*

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Jobs in Austin are down from November to December, by 3,000, in the not seasonally adjusted series. The month-to-month change is negative on a seasonally adjusted basis as well—by 0.2% or 1,200 jobs. On the seasonally adjusted basis, Texas jobs are up 0.2% while the national jobs total is up by 0.1% in December.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin