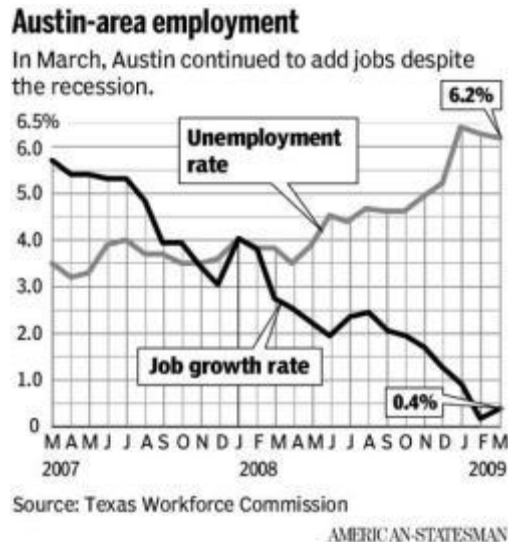


Austin job picture brightens a bit

By [Claudia Grisales](#) | Friday, April 17, 2009, 09:23 AM



The Austin region's job picture improved slightly in March with an uptick in the job growth rate and a small drop in the unemployment rate from February, according to figures released Friday by the Texas Workforce Commission.

The **6.2 percent** unemployment rate was down slightly from 6.3 percent in February. But it remains well above the 3.8 percent rate from March 2008.

However, job growth was at a 0.4 percent annual rate, up from 0.2 percent in February. **In February, Austin was the only one among the nation's 50 largest metro areas to have any job growth.**

Statewide, the jobless rate rose to 6.7 percent in March from 6.5 percent a month earlier. A year ago, the Texas unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

Nationally, the jobless rate was **8.5 percent** in March.

"The Texas unemployment rate remained well below that of the nation, although Texas suffered a net loss of jobs in March," said Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken. The "national recession continues to have an impact."

Courtesy of JB Goodwin