



Friday, January 18, 2008 - 2:49 PM CST

TWC: Texas added 218,000 jobs in 2007

Austin Business Journal

Texas experienced positive job growth in December and finished out the year strong, according to the **Texas Workforce Commission**.

Texas employers added 18,600 jobs in December for a total of 218,600 jobs over the past 12 months, according to TWC.

"Texas employers finished 2007 at a vibrant pace," says TWC chair Diane Rath. "The state's annual job growth rate leads the nation's by a ratio of more than 2 to 1."

The Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in December. To compare, the average unemployment rate for the state of Texas was 4.3 percent in December, while nationally the unemployment rate was 4.8 percent at last month.

"Our economy continues to display broad-based vitality across most sectors," says TWC Commissioner Ron Lehman. "At 18,600 jobs, December 2007 job growth is almost twice the average December gain for the past five years."

Texas gained 8,900 professional and business service jobs for December for a total of 59,000 jobs for the last 12 months, up 4.7 percent over 2006.

The leisure and hospitality sector added 2,200 positions in December. That sector gained 37,900 jobs in 2007 for an annual job growth rate of 3.9 percent.

Additionally, the state gained 1,300 construction jobs last month for a total of 12,900 positions in 2007, up 2.1 percent year-to-year.

"Texans saw many new job opportunities in December," says TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton. "From Construction and Manufacturing to Professional and Business Services and Education and Health Services, our state's businesses continue creating positions for those seeking work."

Courtesy of JB Goodwin