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Texas tech sector not too shabby, report says

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Texas' technology industry hasn't been hit as hard as the total private-sector nationally, according to a new report.

The number of tech jobs in the Lone Star State declined 0.6 percent during fourth-quarter 2008 compared with 1.3 percent for the national private-sector. Texas lost 38,000 tech jobs during the three-month period, trade association **TechAmerica** reported.

The decline came one year after Texas' tech job growth (14,700) was the largest in the United States. The number of tech workers in Texas ranks the state No. 2 in the nation following California, the report shows.

During 2007, the average tech wage in Texas reached \$83,900, 84 percent higher than the state's private-sector average.

In October 2008, a report by the **American Electronics Association** ranked Texas No. 2 in the nation in tech exports, with close to \$36 billion in exports in 2007.

Texas generated \$35.9 billion in technology exports in 2007. The study said those exports supported nearly 184,000 Texas jobs. California ranked No. 1 overall, with tech exports of \$48.2 billion in 2007.

The leading destinations for Texas technology exports in 2007 included Mexico, about \$13 billion; Canada, \$3.5 billion; and South Korea, \$1.9 billion.

TechAmerica, a Washington, D.C.-based trade association for technology companies, was formed in late 2008 by the merger of the AeA and the **Technology Association of America**. The newly combined group represents nearly 1,500 companies.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin