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Austin job growth flat since May

By [Laylan Copelin](#) Austin American-Statesman

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Austin-area job growth slowed in June and the region's unemployment rate increased to 7.6 percent from 6.8 percent in May as more people were looking for work.

Job growth during June was essentially flat since May, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, but year-over-year numbers showed Central Texas adding 9,200 job since June of 2010, a 1.2 percent growth rate.

The anemic jobs report mirrored what is happening nationally. The U.S. economy added only 18,000 net jobs during June as the unemployment rate inched up to 9.2 percent from 9.1 percent.

Likewise, Texas added 32,000 jobs in June but saw its jobless figure rise to 8.2 percent from 8 percent in May.

The Austin-area economy was a mixed bag, according to June's preliminary numbers.

During June alone, government and the professional and business services sectors recorded job losses of 1,100 and 1,600 respectively. Those sectors lost jobs at an annual rate of 1.2 percent in government and 1.4 percent in professional and business services.

The Legislature cut spending by 8 percent for the next two-year budget and state agencies as well as school districts are shedding jobs because of those cuts.

Jobs growth in other sectors offset those losses in Central Texas. Mining, logging and construction added 1,400 jobs in June, while the leisure and hospitality industry contributed 1,100.

Over the past year, two sectors have led the Austin-area job growth but both recorded job losses in June.

Education and health services, which is growing at a 3.7 percent annual clip, lost 500 jobs in June. Trade, transportation and utilities gave back 300 jobs in June though its annual growth rate is 3.2 percent.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin