

Jobless rate drops in Austin area

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The Austin area economy improved slightly in August, with the unemployment rate declining from 7.6 percent to 7.3 percent, as the capital city stopped bleeding government jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Texas, however, was not so lucky.

The state's jobless rate inched up to 8.5 percent, from 8.4 percent a month earlier, as job losses in local government offset gains in the private sector.

"Texas continues to feel the pressures of a stagnant national economy," said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken.

The state lost 1,300 jobs in August, breaking an 11-month run of job gains. Pauken said losing 9,400 government jobs in August offset the 8,100 jobs in the state's private sector.

Year-to-year figures, however, remained positive.

Texas has added jobs at a rate of 2.4 percent, compared to the Austin area's 2.0 percent.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin