

# Unemployment rate dips to 3.8%

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Central Texas' unemployment rate dropped in September.

According to the **Texas Workforce Commission**, the September unemployment rate for the Austin-Round Rock area totaled 3.8 percent, down from 4.2 percent in August. This rate is also lower than the September 2005 unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

Total nonagricultural employment in the Austin-Round Rock area increased by 3,800 jobs, or .5 percent during the month of September. State and local government employment increased by 2,100 and 1,700 workers, respectively, as universities and school districts continued to add staff for the new school year.

Education and health services in the Austin-Round Rock area gained 1,000 jobs over the month, while the leisure and hospitality sector dropped 600 jobs in September.

Since September 2005, total nonagricultural employment in the Austin-Round Rock area increased by 18,800 jobs, or 2.7 percent.

Local government gained 3,700 workers, while the professional and business services sector added 3,400 employees since September 2005.

The natural resources, and mining and construction sectors added 2,900 jobs, while leisure and hospitality employment increased by 2,800 positions since September 2005.

Across the state, the unemployment rate was also down. The Texas rate for September totaled 4.7 percent, compared with a rate of 5.1 percent in August, and 4.3 percent in September 2005.