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Terry County unemployment rate falls to 5.7%

Terry County's unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent for the month of November 2012, according to figures released just before the Christmas holidays by the Texas Workforce Commission.

According to the TWC, Terry County's rate fell from a 6.1 percent rate reported by local employers in October 2012, and down from 6.7 percent seen by the county in November 2011.

According to the TWC, Texas' unemployment rate fell to 6.2 percent in November, down from 6.6 percent in October and 7.3 percent at the start of 2012.

The unemployment rate in Texas remains well below the national rate of 7.7 percent.

Texas employers added 22,100 total nonfarm jobs in November for a total of 278,800 jobs added over the year.

"Texas employers have added 278,800 jobs over the past 12 months with growth in 10 of 11 industry sectors during that period," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "TWC is committed to working with our local workforce development boards and other partners to deliver quality workforce solutions that contribute to economic success."

Eight out of 11 major industries in Texas added jobs in November. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities led the way with 20,600 jobs added over the month—the largest monthly jump ever seen in that industry.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has added a total of 69,600 jobs over the last year.

"Texas is showing sustained economic strength, and our unemployment rate is now the lowest that it has been since December 2008," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "For those Texans still looking for work, TWC can help. Visit WorkInTexas.com to find a job that's right for you."

Leisure and Hospitality employment grew by 6,500 positions in November.

This industry has now experienced growth for four consecutive months.

Leisure and Hospitality has added 49,900 jobs since November 2011.

Education and Health Services added 4,700 jobs over the month, totaling 45,700 jobs added over the year.

"Private sector employers continue to lead the way to growth and prosperity in Texas," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken. "We've seen 266,400 private sector jobs added in Texas over the past year, and we're maintaining a 3.0 percent annual growth rate."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest November unemployment rate in the state at 3.0 percent.

The Odessa MSA came in second at 3.6 percent, and the Amarillo MSA third at 4.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press
Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and stories

1. WILL ANYONE BUDGE

Top congressional leaders will meet with President Barack Obama at the White House in a last-ditch effort to bridge the fiscal divide, but there's no sign a deal is taking shape.

2. WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME

To many, retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf will always be "Stormin' Norman," the no-nonsense Desert Storm commander. But the general who died Thursday preferred a lighter sobriquet: "The Bear."

3. WHO SHOULD HAVE GUNS IN SCHOOLS

The NRA envisions armed volunteers to protect schools from attacks like the one in Newtown, Conn. School safety experts say trained police are needed.

4. TRYING TO KEEP A LID ON THE INTERNET

China passes rules aimed at tightening controls on Internet, following online postings about graft and abuses that rattled the ruling party.

5. CLOSING THE DOOR ON ADOPTIONS

Russia's President Vladimir Putin signs a bill banning Americans from adopting Russian children.

6. WHAT'S THREATENING TO CRIPPLE PORTS

If 14,500 longshoremen strike, ships that move much of American commerce would be unable to use most major ports on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico.

7. ANOTHER TRAGEDY ON THE TRACKS

Police in New York City were seeking a woman seen fleeing a subway station after a man was pushed onto the tracks and killed by an approaching train. It was the second such fatality this month.

8. WHEN RONALD REAGAN SOUGHT FASHION ADVICE

Confidential documents released by Britain's National Archives reveal the inner workings of the government led by Margaret Thatcher, including a query asking what former President Reagan should wear to go riding with the Queen.

9. PAVING THE WAY HOME WITH MUSIC

Voices of Valor, a pilot program helping veterans re-enter civilian life, uses music to ease the way.

10. BUSH SENIOR STILL IN HOSPITAL

As former President George H.W. Bush remains in intensive care at a Houston hospital, a longtime aide says, "put the harps back in the closet," Bush is in good hands.

We are pleased to present the first newspaper of 2013.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year and pledge our best efforts of offering you, our readers, coverage of Brownfield and Terry County as no one else can or will.

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2013 looks to be an exciting and newsy year coming our way.

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It has been our pleasure to serve you, our reader, during 2012.

We look forward to a bright future in 2013.

Please have a happy and safe new year.