



Arkansas, Texas unemployment continues to rise

A border isn't the only thing Arkansas and Texas share.

The neighboring states also share an increase in unemployment for August.

However, Texarkana, Texas, saw a decrease in its jobless rate—from 8.2 percent in July to 8 percent in August.

Figures for Texarkana, Ark., were unavailable Friday.

The Department of Workforce Services in Arkansas said the unemployment rate for August rose a tenth of a percentage point to 8.3 percent.

The national rate for August remained unchanged at 9.1 percent.

The big losers for the month in Arkansas were construction, which showed a decline of 1,300 jobs; leisure and hospitality, which lost 1,000 jobs; and scientific and technical, which lost 800 jobs.

Manufacturing had a net gain of 200 jobs, adding 500 in durable goods manufacturing while losing 300 in non-durable goods.

Another 700 jobs were lost in the retail sector.

The Texas unemployment rate edged up slightly to 8.5 percent for August, and the job count fell for the first time in almost a year, the state's employment agency said Friday.

The Texas Workforce Commission said the jobless rate increased from 8.4 percent in July, and the loss of 1,300 total nonfarm jobs was the first drop since September 2010.

The state is experiencing its highest unemployment rate in nearly 25 years, when it was reeling from the energy, real estate and banking crisis of the late 1980s.

"Texas continues to feel the pressure of a stagnant national economy," commission Chairman Tom Pauken said.

An uptick in private sector jobs was offset by the loss of

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9,400 government positions, Pauken said.

Five of the 11 sectors shed jobs last month, which is higher than usual.

The biggest gain came in education and health services, which added 9,600 positions. Professional and business services added 4,200 jobs.

The other big drop came in trade, transportation and utilities with 4,600 jobs lost.

Unemployment rates are adjusted for seasonal trends in hiring and firing, which most economists believe give a more accurate picture of the job market. Without the seasonal adjustment, the jobless rate in Texas fell to 8.5 in August from 8.7 percent in July.

—FROM WIRE REPORTS

UNEMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE U.S.

The Associated Press

Unemployment rates rose in a majority of states in August for a third straight month. The Labor Department said Friday that unemployment rates increased in 26 states, fell in 12 and remained unchanged in 12. Here's a look at state unemployment rates:

	Rates in percentages		
	August 2011	July 2011	August 2010
Alabama	9.9	10	9.1
Alaska	7.7	7.7	7.9
Arizona	9.3	9.4	9.9
Arkansas	8.3	8.2	7.8
California	12.1	12	12.4
Colorado	8.5	8.5	8.8
Connecticut	9	9.1	9.1
Delaware	8.1	8.1	8.3
Washington, D.C.	11.1	10.8	9.8
Florida	10.7	10.7	11.6
Georgia	10.2	10.1	10.2
Hawaii	6.2	6.1	6.6
Idaho	9.2	9.4	9.4
Illinois	9.9	9.5	10
Indiana	8.7	8.5	10
Iowa	6.1	6	6.2
Kansas	6.7	6.5	7
Kentucky	9.5	9.5	10.2
Louisiana	7.2	7.6	7.7
Maine	7.6	7.7	7.7
Maryland	7.3	7.1	7.4
Massachusetts	7.4	7.6	8.4
Michigan	11.2	10.9	12.2
Minnesota	7.2	7.2	7.1
Mississippi	10.3	10.3	10.1
Missouri	8.8	8.8	9.6
Montana	7.8	7.7	7.3
Nebraska	4.2	4.2	4.5
Nevada	13.4	12.9	14.9
New Hampshire	5.3	5.2	5.8
New Jersey	9.4	9.5	9.3
New Mexico	6.6	6.7	8.5
New York	8	8	8.4
North Carolina	10.4	10.1	10.1
North Dakota	3.5	3.3	3.9
Ohio	9.1	9	9.9
Oklahoma	5.6	5.6	7
Oregon	9.6	9.5	10.7
Pennsylvania	8.2	7.8	8.6
Rhode Island	10.6	10.8	11.5
South Carolina	11.1	10.9	11
South Dakota	4.7	4.7	4.6
Tennessee	9.7	9.8	9.4
Texas	8.5	8.4	8.2
Utah	7.6	7.5	7.6
Vermont	5.9	5.7	6
Virginia	6.3	6.1	6.8
Washington	9.3	9.3	9.4
West Virginia	8.1	8.1	9.2
Wisconsin	7.9	7.8	8
Wyoming	5.8	5.7	6.8