Summary

The Texas economy continues to expand, although at a slow pace, with employment growing at a 0.1 percent annual rate in September. Texas home sales fell in September, but single-family permits and housing starts rose. Texas exports inched up in August, and manufacturing activity increased in October, according to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey’s production index.

Texas gained 800 jobs in September after adding 4,400 jobs in August. The addition of 24,000 jobs in the private sector was offset by the loss of 23,200 jobs in government. Current Texas employment stands at 10.6 million.

The Texas unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.5 percent in September. The Texas rate is still lower than the U.S. rate, which was 9.1 percent in September.

Housing starts in Texas rose 13.4 percent in September after falling 0.5 percent in August. September starts were up 24.2 percent from last year.

Texas existing-home sales decreased by 2.1 percent in September and are up 11.8 percent year over year. Home inventories remain at 7.1 months.

Texas single-family housing permits rose 2.6 percent from August to September.

Monthly real Texas exports rose 1.3 percent in August after increasing 3.2 percent in July. The August level of real exports was 11.4 percent higher than a year earlier.
Texas factory activity increased in October, according to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, fell from 5.9 to 4.1, suggesting growth slowed slightly.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas conducts the monthly Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey to obtain a timely assessment of the state’s factory activity.