

Labor Force Estimates

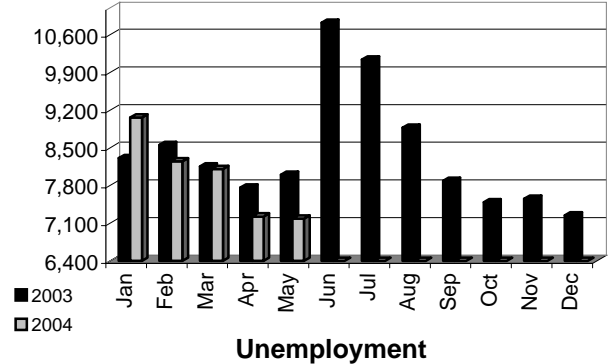
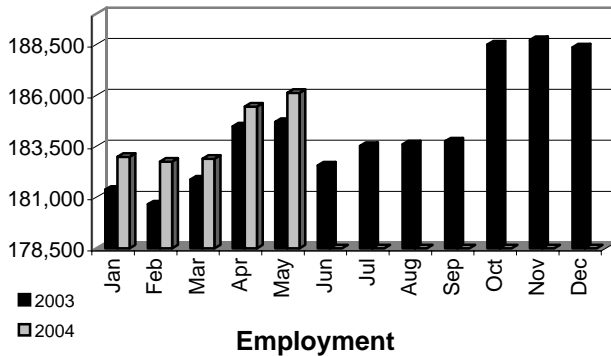
Civilian Labor Force Estimates (non-seasonally adjusted)

	South Plains WDA				Texas			
	CLF	Empl	Unempl	Rate	CLF	Empl	Unempl	Rate
MAY 2004	193,313	186,128	7,185	3.7	10,918,980	10,296,902	622,078	5.7
APRIL 2004	192,673	185,448	7,225	3.7	10,904,975	10,290,614	614,361	5.6
MAY 2003	192,691	184,692	7,999	4.2	10,869,243	10,146,812	722,431	6.6

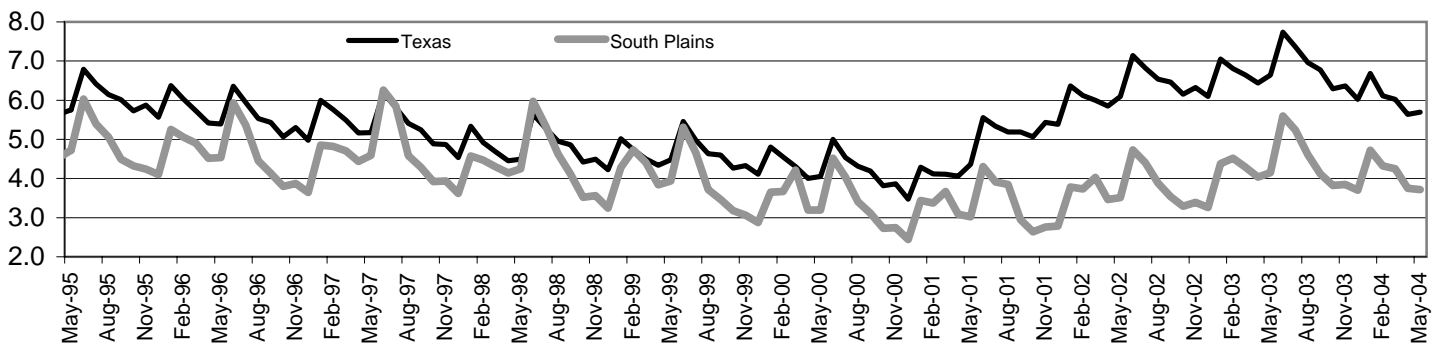
South Plains WDA

The South Plains' jobless rate held steady at 3.7 for a second consecutive month. Typically, the over-the-month change in May averages an increase of one-tenth of a percentage point, however the rate has remained unchanged in six of the last thirteen years. The number of jobholders rose for a third straight month, rising by 680 employed in May. The majority of the WDA's employment increases were attributed to the gains in Lamb County (210), Lubbock County (178), and Hockley County (141). The number of Texans in the WDA seeking work decreased for a fourth consecutive month, slipping by 40 workers over the month. This slight decrease lowered May's level to 7,185—its lowest level since December 2002. The largest increase in unemployment for the month occurred in Lubbock County (113). Continued claims for unemployment insurance decreased for the fourth straight month, slipping to 1,229—the lowest level of claims since October 2002.

South Plains WDA

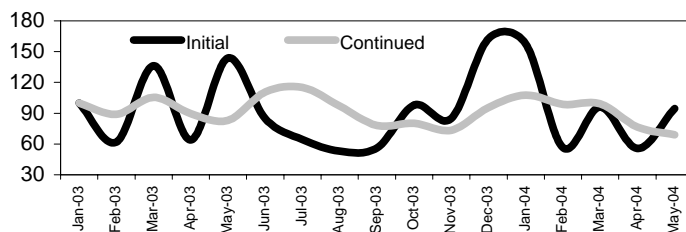


Historical Unemployment Rates



Unemployment Claims Data

Indexed Growth Rates for Claims
(Base Period = January 2003)



Total Claims

	May-04	Apr-04	May-03	OTY Change
Initial	1,503	887	2,289	-786
Continued	6,993	7,748	8,398	-1,405
Continued Claims for the Week of the 12th				
Continued	1,229	1,393	1,680	-451

Occupational Information

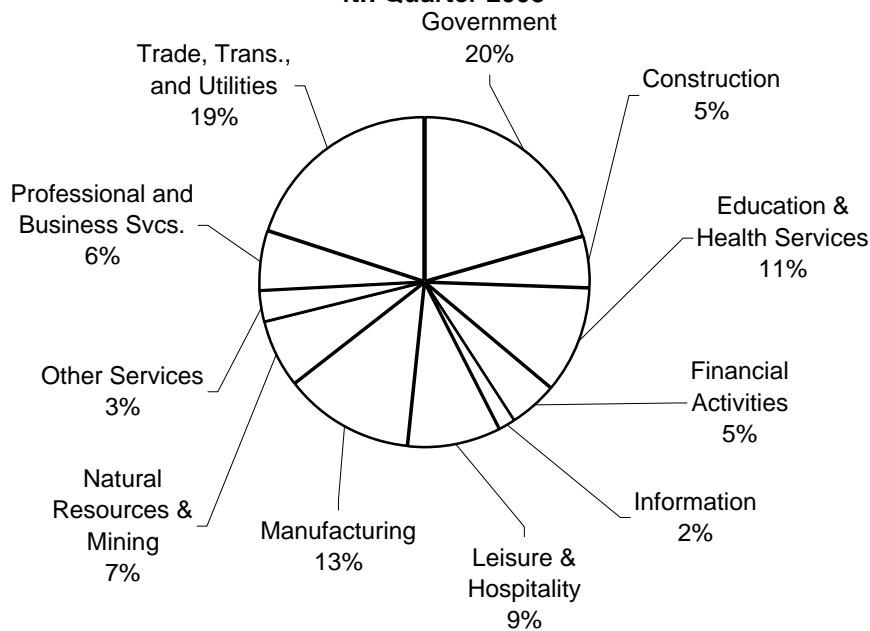
South Plains WDA's Mean Wages for the Top 10 occupations

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Wage</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Wage</u>
Surgeons	\$100.84	Petroleum Engineers	\$41.93
Dentists	\$92.91	Physician Assistants	\$38.32
Family & General Practitioners	\$88.94	Computer & Information Systems Managers	\$38.17
Physicians & Surgeons, All Other	\$72.16	Engineering Managers	\$37.87
Chief Executives	\$51.64	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$36.88

Industrial Employment

South Plains WDA Industry Composition

4th Quarter 2003



Top 20 Private Employers in the WDA

- AMERICAN STATE BANK
- ARAMARK SCHOOLS INC
- BENEFIT STAFFING INC
- BUFFET PARTNERS LP
- CINGULAR WIRELESS EMPLOYEE
- CONVERGYS CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT
- COVENANT HEALTH SYSTEM
- EXCEL CORPORATION
- GBS
- WELLS FARGO BANK
- MCDONALD'S
- OPERATOR SERVICE COMPANY
- PAY & SAVE CORPORATION
- PLAINS COTTON COOPERATIVE ASSN
- SOUTH PLAINS COMMUNITY
- SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE LP
- ST MARY MEDICAL GROUP
- TEXAS BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION
- UNITED SUPERMARKETS LTD
- WAL-MART ASSOCIATES INC

NAICS COVERED EMPLOYMENT QUARTERLY DATA

SUPER SECTOR	4th QTR 2003		Change	
	Total	Quarter	Year	Year
Natural Resources & Mining	10,005	75	-1,026	
Construction	6,658	-163	255	
Manufacturing	9,512	-200	-460	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	32,993	654	-160	
Information	6,047	-23	133	
Financial Activities	8,197	-70	50	
Professional and Business Svcs.	11,059	519	118	
Education & Health Services	19,936	-51	-443	
Leisure & Hospitality	16,509	188	-855	
Other Services	5,812	-66	117	
Federal Government	1,799	57	-165	
State Government	10,663	-115	-340	
Local Government	22,018	1,191	77	
Nonclassified & Confidential	292	64	-31	
TOTAL	161,500	2,060	-2,730	

Average Weekly Wage	South Plains	Change	Texas	Change
4th QTR 2003	\$556.64	\$41.12	\$753.81	\$56.74
2002 Average	\$515.51	\$16.81	\$697.07	\$3.95
2001 Average	\$498.70		\$693.12	