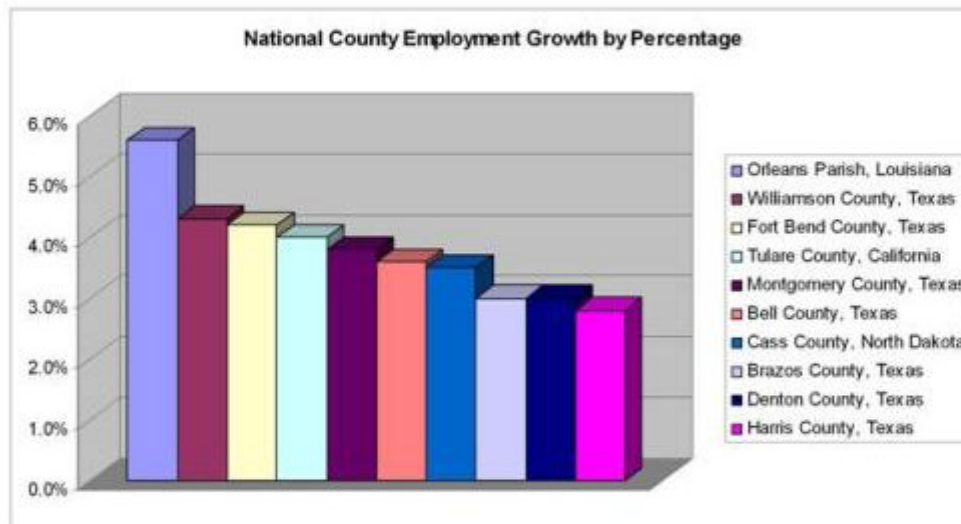




## Williamson County Employment Rate Ranks High

*Courtesy of the Real Estate Council of Austin, [The Regional Review](#)*



Williamson County's employment growth rate ranks among the best in the nation, according to a report released January 13, 2009 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The one-year study tracked job growth in more than 300 of the country's largest counties between June 2007 and June 2008. Williamson County saw an increase of 4.3 percent, while more than half of the counties experienced declining rates. The national average was a decrease of 0.3 percent.

Seven of the top 10 job growth counties were in Texas, which ranked third in state-wide job growth.

*Percent growth in employment June 2007 to June 2008:*

1.	Orleans Parish	Louisiana	5.6%
2.	Williamson County	Texas	4.3%
3.	Fort Bend County	Texas	4.2%
4.	Tulare County	California	4.0%
5.	Montgomery County	Texas	3.8%
6.	Bell County	Texas	3.6%
7.	Cass County	North Dakota	3.5%
8.	Brazos County	Texas	3.0%
9.	Denton County	Texas	3.0%
10.	Harris County	Texas	2.8%

### In This Issue . . .

[Williamson County  
Employment Rate Ranking](#)

[Positive Growth in the Job  
Market](#)

[New Commercial Real  
Estate Portal Launched](#)

[March Power Breakfast](#)

[February Power Breakfast](#)

[Texas State SBDC  
Schedule](#)

[Texas Home Prices Up](#)

[New Chief Appraiser  
Named for WCAD](#)

[Did You Know...](#)

### Quick Links

[News](#)  
[Related Topics](#)  
[More On Us](#)

### Did you Know...

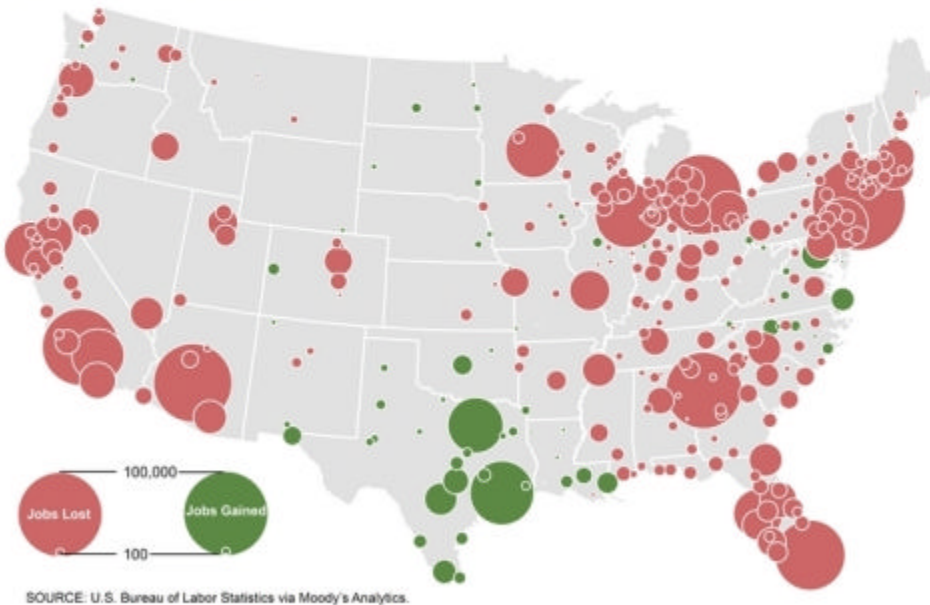
...that the Hutto EDC is funded by the 4A Economic Development Sales Tax? A half cent of retail sales tax collected in the City of Hutto funds the Hutto Economic Development Corporation. This was approved by a majority of the registered voters in the City of Hutto.

## Positive Growth in Job Market for Texas

### Texas Region Still Increases Job Growth Despite National Decline

According to recent information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are still a few areas of the country where job growth is occurring. Texas is one of these regions. As shown by the map below, jobs throughout the Central Texas region as well as throughout the state still show positive growth. This trend bodes well for future growth and economic development expansion.

Net Change in Jobs,  
Dec 2007 - Dec 2008



Statistical map courtesy of [TIP Strategies, Inc.](#)

## Hutto EDC Launches New Commercial Real Estate Portal on its Website

### Hutto EDC Partners with Xceligent to Improve Searching Capabilities

The Hutto EDC recently upgraded the real estate portion of its website, [www.huttoedc.com](http://www.huttoedc.com), through collaboration with Xceligent, a nationwide provider of property and listing information for the commercial real estate industry. The enhanced real estate section includes a search engine, aerials, and birds eye property views. For more information, please [click here](#).



## March Power Breakfast

### March Power Breakfast to take place March 12, 2009

Please join the Hutto community leaders on Thursday, March 12 at the [Holiday Inn Express](#), located at 323 Ed Schmidt Blvd., starting at 7:30 am. Each month community leaders give brief updates as to what is new for each aspect of the city, followed by a monthly featured speaker. The Hutto EDC looks forward to seeing you there!

For more information on the sales tax, visit our website, [www.huttoedc.com](http://www.huttoedc.com). You can also find out more information by visiting the Texas Comptroller's Website or by [clicking here](#).



Join Our Mailing List!

## Jonas Miller, U.S. Congressman John Carter's Texas Chief of Staff, Speaks at February Power Breakfast

Jonas Miller, U.S. Congressman John Carter's Texas Chief of Staff, addresses Hutto community on Congressional outlook



At the February 12, 2009 Power Breakfast, Jonas Miller, Texas Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman John Carter, spoke about the current congressional outlook. Miller spoke about the pros and cons regarding the federal economic stimulus package.

### About Jonas Miller

Jonas Miller is currently the Texas Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman, John "Judge" Carter. He has been a senior advisor for numerous campaigns for the U.S. Congress, State Senate, State Representative and county elections. Prior to his political career, Miller had a successful career in the banking industry. He currently serves on the boards of the Hutto Economic Development Corporation, Round Rock Serving Center, Cris Love, Jr. Foundation and the Nathan Chapman Foundation. He is a graduate of West Texas A & M University and the Campaign Leadership Institute in Washington, DC.

## Texas State University Small Business Development Center Offers Training Courses

The Round Rock Higher Education Center Offers Training for New and Existing Small Businesses

*Information Courtesy of the Texas State Small Business Development Center*

The Texas State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) works with existing and new or emerging small businesses to help them advance and compete in the current economy. The Texas State University SBDC invites you to attend one of our professional training seminars in March. A schedule of the seminars is listed below, and there are several more in the works.

The Texas State SBDC [training web pages](#) will be updated very soon with the seminars listed below. Please bear with the Texas State SBDC during this transitional time!

### Training Sessions - QuickBooks & Taxes

For existing small businesses and business owners interested in improving your QuickBooks accounting skills, or your tax preparation skills, please join us for .....

#### **Intermediate QuickBooks (\$75 for all 3 sessions; or \$35 per session)**

- This 3-part series will include topics such as Recording Sales, Receipts and Invoices, Understanding Job Costs and Classes, Customized Reports & Troubleshooting, Beginning Balances, Inventory and Payroll.
- Presented by Maureen Sittig, SoCo Business Solutions. Ms. Sittig has many years of experience in banking, tax preparation, and bookkeeping. She works with small businesses to set up financial and sales operations, and to provide training in QuickBooks and its applications.

1. **Intermediate QuickBooks Session #1**  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM,  
Round Rock Higher Education Center, Room 351
2. **Intermediate QuickBooks Session #2**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM,  
Round Rock Higher Education Center, Room 351
3. **Intermediate QuickBooks Session #3**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM,  
Round Rock Higher Education Center, Room 351

**How to Navigate Your Business Taxes (\$40 special pricing, additional coupon savings for Texas State SBDC clients)**

- This two-hour seminar on navigating your micro-business taxes will address taxes affecting the self-employed. Topics include finding hidden deductions, tax code changes for 2008, and saving by employing your spouse or children. The seminar is jointly sponsored by the National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) and the Texas State Small Business Development Center.
- Presented by Keith Hall, CPA, and co-author of the book, *Schedule C: from A to Z. The Sole Proprietor's Guide to Tax Savings*, published by NASE. Mr. Hall serves as the national tax advisor for the NASE. He has extensive experience in accounting and finance in banking and other industries. For the past ten years, he has been providing consulting and tax services to small businesses through his own accounting firm.

1. **How to Navigate Your Business Taxes**  
Friday, March 27, 2009, 8:30-11:00AM  
Embassy Suites San Marcos Conference Center, 1001 McCarty Lane,  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
**CONTACT INFO:** Seats are limited! Please register directly with  
NASE: [www.NASE.org](http://www.NASE.org) or 800.232.NASE

**Training Sessions - FastStart Series**

For new small business owners and for others interested in starting your own business, please join us for our 4-part FastStart series. Small business owners who are planning to grow their business or seek outside financing may be interested in the business planning sessions. All FastStart sessions are presented by experienced business advisors from the Texas State Small Business Development Center.....

**FastStart Series - Session #1, Requirements for Starting Your Business (\$100 for all 4 sessions, or \$35 per session)**

- This session introduces the requirements for starting and operating a small business including:
    - choosing a name and legal structure, importance of a business plan, available resources.
  - Presented by a business advisor on staff at the Texas State SBDC.
1. **FastStart Session #1 - Requirements for Starting Your Business**  
Monday, March 2, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM  
One Highland Center, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752 -  
1st Floor Conference Room
  2. **FastStart Session #1 - Requirements for Starting Your Business**  
Friday, March 6, 2009, 9:00-11:00AM  
Round Rock Higher Education Center, 1555 University Blvd., Round  
Rock, TX 78664

**FastStart Series - Session #2, Setting Up Your Company Books (\$100 for all 4 sessions, or \$35 per session)**

- This session reviews the basics of sound financial recordkeeping to enable small business owners to develop reliable financial data. Building reliable financial data aids in communicating with financial advisors and managing growth.
  1. ***FastStart Session #2 - Setting Up Your Company Books***  
Monday, March 9, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM  
One Highland Center, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752 - 1st Floor Conference Room
  2. ***FastStart Session #2 - Setting Up Your Company Books***  
Friday, March 6, 2009, 1:00-3:00PM  
Round Rock Higher Education Center

**FastStart Series - Session #3, Design Your Business Plan-I (\$100 for all 4 sessions, or \$35 per session)**

- This session is designed for those planning to start a new business or business owners who have never written a business plan. The major components of a business plan will be discussed in detail and a case study will be used as an example.
- Learn why the business plan is an important tool for determining market feasibility, projecting costs, developing strategies, and planning for contingencies.
  1. ***FastStart Session #3 - Design Your Business Plan I***  
Monday, March 23, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM  
One Highland Center, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752 - 1st Floor Conference Room
  2. ***FastStart Session #3 - Design Your Business Plan I***  
Friday, March 13, 2009, 9:00-11:00AM  
Round Rock Higher Education Center

**FastStart Series - Session #4, Design Your Business Plan-II (\$100 for all 4 sessions, or \$35 per session)**

- This session examines the components of the financial analysis section of the business plan. It discusses start-up costs, monthly expenses, source and use of funds, and what financial statements to include in your plan.
  1. ***FastStart Session #4 - Design Your Business Plan II***  
Monday, March 30, 2009, 6:00-8:00PM  
One Highland Center, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752 - 1st Floor Conference Room
  2. ***FastStart Session #4 - Design Your Business Plan II***  
Friday, March 13, 2009, 1:00-3:00PM  
Round Rock Higher Education Center

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** To reserve a seat in a seminar or for more information, please contact: F.C. Caranikas, PhD, at the Texas State SBDC (phone - 512.716.4820; email - [fc16@txstate.edu](mailto:fc16@txstate.edu)).

## Texas Home Prices Up, Reports FHFA

Courtesy of [Texas Real Estate Center, FHFA](#)

Latest home appreciation rates released this week by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) indicate Texas home prices increased 2.1 percent last year.

Midland led the way with a 10.4 percent increase between fourth quarter 2007 and fourth quarter 2008. At the other end of the spectrum were Odessa and Brownsville, where prices fell 2.7 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

In the final quarter of 2008, Texas home prices increased 0.2 percent.

"The data indicate what we have believed all along," said Real Estate Center Research Economist Dr. Jim Gaines. "Texas fared well in 2008, especially compared with the rest of the country."

According to FHFA, here's how home prices in select Texas cities did last year:

Abilene	up 2.7%
Amarillo	up 0.1%
Austin–Round Rock	up 4.4%
Beaumont–Port Arthur	up 3.1%
Brownsville-Harlingen	down 2.6%
College Station–Bryan	up 5.5%
Corpus Christi	up 1.8%
Dallas-Plano-Irving	up 1.9%
El Paso	down 0.4%
Fort Worth–Arlington	up 1.2%
Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown	up 3.7%
Killeen–Temple–Fort Hood	up 2.5%
Laredo	up 4.7%
Longview	up 1.9%
Lubbock	up 4.5%
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	up 0.1%
Midland	up 10.4%
Odessa	down 2.7%
San Angelo	up 4.1%
San Antonio	down 1.6%
Sherman-Denison	up 2%
Texarkana	up 1.1%
Tyler	up 1%
Victoria	up 6.2%
Waco	down 1.7%
Wichita Falls	down 2%

Nationally, prices dropped 4.5 percent last year for the overall index (which includes financings and refinancing) and 8.2 percent based on purchases-only data.

The FHFA's complete report is available [online](#).

## New Chief Appraiser at Williamson County Central Appraisal District

### Alvin Lankford Named New Chief Appraiser

Williamson County's Central Appraisal District (WCAD) has a new chief appraiser. Alvin Lankford will replace Bill Carroll as chief appraiser at the WCAD. Lankford holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Texas State University and currently serves as the deputy chief appraiser at the WCAD.

Lankford is also a 2007 graduate of the Texas Association of Appraisal District's Chief Appraiser Institute and received his Registered Professional Appraiser designation in 2003. He is a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers, the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts, and the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

Lankford spoke at the December 8, 2008 Hutto EDC Power Breakfast.



## Top 100 Banks by Asset Size

### Data Published September 2008

Recently the list of the Top 100 Banks in Texas has been published. For a copy of this list, [click here](#), or visit our website at [www.huttoedc.com](http://www.huttoedc.com).

## City of Hutto - News

### Tim Howell Receives Appointment to Serve on 2009 Advisory Committee for State Strategic Plan



The City recently received notice that Tim Howell, IT Analyst, has been appointed to serve on the 2009 Advisory Committee for the State Plan for Information Resources Management (State Strategic Plan). His committee nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Department of Information Resources Board of Directors at their February 11 meeting.

The State Strategic Plan, once developed, will set the direction for information resources management across Texas government for the next five years. Texas state agencies will use the State Strategic Plan to develop the information resources sections of their own strategic plans.

In 1989, the Legislature enacted the Information Resources Management Act which comprehensively addressed major aspects of information technology (IT) management. This legislation established the Department of Information Resources to coordinate and direct the use of information resources technologies by state agencies and provide the most cost-effective and useful retrieval and exchange of information within and among state agencies, and to Texas residents and their elected representatives.

The Department of Information Resources' responsibilities and authority have evolved since its creation. The 79th Texas Legislature signaled a clear mandate for the state to restructure the roles and responsibilities for its investment in information and communications technology. The Department of Information Resources responded to this mandate in its 2005 State Strategic Plan for Information Resources Management.

The Department of Information Resources continues to ensure the effective and efficient use of public funds by promoting opportunity and economic prosperity for the state's citizens through the successful application of statewide services and technologies that are beneficial, secure, accessible, and utilize a statewide shared infrastructure.

Howell, a two year veteran of the City of Hutto, was the first full time employee dedicated to Information Technology. During his first year he worked on enhancing the City's technology infrastructure pointing out key areas in need of improvement.

In 2008, Howell completed over 10 major projects while keeping up with the day to day operations of his division. A couple of the projects worth noting are the City's new website redesign and the phone system replacement. This is an astonishing feat for even the most seasoned of technology specialists and for that his nomination and appointment to serve on this committee is well deserved.

For additional information, please call Tim Howell at the City, 759-4037.

### **March 2009 Calendar of Events**

#### **Hutto City Council Filing for Office Period - Feb. 7 - Mar. 9**

Where: City Secretary's Office  
401 W. Front Street  
Hutto, Texas 78634  
When: 8:30 am until 5:00 pm (excluding holidays)  
Cost: \$ 50.00 filing fee

#### **Friends of the Library - Mar. 3**

The Friends of the Library support the library by hosting a book sale twice a year and help with a variety of other activities and projects.  
Where: Hutto Public Library  
205 West Street  
Hutto, Texas 78634  
When: 10:00 am

#### **Hutto Citizens University Class - Mar. 3**

Where: Council Chambers  
401 W. Front Street  
Hutto, Tx 78634  
When: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm  
Cost: Free to class participants

#### **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - Mar. 3**

Where: City Hall - Council Chambers  
When: 7:00 pm

#### **Leadership Training with Hutto's Finest - Mar. 4**

Where: Hutto Council Chambers  
When: Wednesday from 11:30-1:00

#### **No City Council Meeting (moved to 3-12-09) - Mar. 5**

Where: City Council Chambers  
401 West Front Street  
When: Begins at 7:00 pm

#### **Hutto Citizens University Class - Mar. 10**

Where: Public Works Facility  
356 CR 199  
Hutto, Texas 78634  
When: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm  
Cost: Free to class participants

**Leadership Training with Hutto's Finest - Mar. 11**

Where: Hutto Council Chambers  
When: Wednesday from 11:30-1:00

**City Council Meeting and Work Session - Mar. 12**

Where: City Council Chambers  
401 W. Front Street  
When: 7:00 pm

**EDC Meetings - Mar. 17**

Where: Council Chambers  
When: 5:30pm

**Hutto Citizens University Class - Mar. 17**

Where: Public Works Facility  
356 CR 199  
Hutto, Texas 78634  
When: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm  
Cost: Free to class participants

**Leadership Training with Hutto's Finest - Mar. 18**

Where: Hutto Council Chambers  
When: Wednesday from 11:30-1:00

**City Council Meeting - Mar. 19**

Where: City Council Chambers  
401 West Front Street  
When: Meetings begin at 7:00 pm

**Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - Mar. 24**

Where: Hutto Commons Building - Suite 200  
Community Development Department  
When: 6:30 pm

**Hutto Citizens University - Mar. 24**

Where: 401 W. Front Street  
When: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm  
Cost: Free to class participants

**Leadership Training with Hutto's Finest - Mar. 25**

Where: Hutto Council Chambers  
When: Wednesday from 11:30-1:00

**Hutto Citizens University - Mar. 31**

Where: Hutto Fire Station  
501 Exchange Blvd  
Hutto, Texas 78634  
When: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm  
Cost: Free to class participants

## Community Demographic Information

### 4A Economic Development Sales Tax Allocation (Cumulative)

Fiscal Year	January	Total
1997/98	\$ 2,011.07	\$40,417.02
1998/99	\$ 1,361.54	\$32,045.20
1999/00	\$ 1,725.50	\$35,093.61
2000/01	\$ 2,558.70	\$50,940.93
2001/02	\$ 2,988.40	\$58,299.83
2002/03	\$ 4,718.02	\$73,572.84
2003/04	\$ 6,506.99	\$98,841.25
2004/05	\$11,334.17	\$216,990.28
2005/06	\$22,115.05	\$336,629.05
2006/07	\$25,860.50	\$376,036.41
2007/08	\$32,124.82	\$481,309.64
2008/09	\$34,358.28	\$220,429.50

### Single Family Building Permit Requests by Month

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	63	93	71	64	18
February	51	70	49	49	
March	56	101	84	47	
April	67	91	75	46	
May	53	66	37	29	
June	58	68	44	22	
July	61	56	34	32	
August	78	70	25	41	
September	67	66	24	28	
October	65	58	51	5	
November	49	37	60	9	
December	46	46	7	12	

### January 2009 Unemployment Rates

Area	Rate
Austin/Round Rock MSA	5.2%*
Williamson County	5.7%*
Texas	6.0%*
National (Rate for Jan. '09)	7.6%

\*Unemployment Rates for December 2008

### Hutto Police Department Monthly Crime Statistics

Part I Crimes	Jan-08	Jan-09	Difference
1. Murder	0	0	0
2. Rape	0	0	0
3. Assault	4	6	2
4. Robbery	0	0	0
5. Burglary	0	1	1
6. Larceny	11	6	-5
7. Auto Theft	0	0	0
8. Arson	0	0	0
Cumulative	15	13	-2

Part II Crimes	Jan-08	Jan-09	Difference
Cumulative	31	53	22

Thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with feedback or questions..

Sincerely,

Scott Martinez, CEcD  
Hutto Economic Development Corporation  
[Email](#)

#### [Forward email](#)

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