

Dallas-Fort Worth employers added 66,500 jobs in 2007

07:30 AM CDT on Wednesday, March 12, 2008

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Dallas-Fort Worth employers added 66,500 nonfarm jobs last year, a hair above the previously announced 65,800, according to revised figures released Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Labor.

That puts D-FW among the top U.S. metro areas for 2007 job gains, alongside such leaders as New York and red-hot Houston.

Still, 2007 was the weakest year for North Texas job growth since 2004, a sign the region has not been immune from the national economic downturn.

The 66,500 gain, based on the change from December 2006 to December 2007, translates to a 2.3 percent increase in payroll jobs.

In comparison, the New York area added 75,300 jobs last year, a 0.9 percent increase.

The Houston area, buoyed by high oil prices, gained a whopping 94,200 jobs, for a 3.7 percent increase.

The Labor Department provides monthly estimates of job growth in states and cities, as well as in the nation as a whole, using payroll information from a sampling of establishments.

Government number crunchers revise those figures once a year, using more comprehensive data. The April-to-December 2007 numbers are subject to further revision.

Despite the economic turmoil of recent months, Texas was up 28,000 nonfarm jobs this January from the month before, after adjusting for seasonal factors, the Texas Workforce Commission said last week.

But the nation as a whole has been losing jobs in recent months, according to the preliminary data.

The U.S. economy shed 63,000 payroll jobs in February compared with January. That was after losing a seasonally adjusted 22,000 from December to January.