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Houston, Dallas posted best private-sector jobs gains in 2011

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Texas continues to post the biggest employment gains across America.

The state's largest markets, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth, added more private-sector jobs than any other U.S. metropolitan area during the past year, according to a new On Numbers study.

The Houston area supported an average of 2.21 million private-sector jobs in 2011, up 63,400 from 2010's average of 2.15 million. Dallas-Fort Worth was next with a year-to-year increase of 62,500.

Rounding out the top five were New York City (up 61,100 private-sector jobs in a year), Los Angeles (up 40,500) and Boston (up 40,100).

The leaders in percentage terms were Ogden, Utah, which expanded its private-sector job base by 3.78 percent between 2010 and 2011; Akron, Ohio, which grew by 3.14 percent; and Houston, which was up by 2.95 percent.

On Numbers used preliminary data from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) to estimate 2011's private-sector employment totals for the nation's 100 biggest

metros. (The official 2011 figures will be released at the end of February.)

The database below contains a comparison of these 2011 estimates and the official 2010 totals for all markets. The chart can be re-sorted by any column. Just click the appropriate header. Click again to reverse the sort.

The 2011 figures offer a hint of economic optimism. Eighty-seven of the 100 markets added private-sector jobs last year, suggesting that a broad-based recovery could be taking hold.

Atlanta fared the worst among the 13 markets that continued to decline. It lost 5,100 private-sector jobs between 2010 and 2011. Richmond was next with a drop of 4,000.

METRO PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT (2010-2011)

Metro area	Private-sector jobs (2010 annual average)	Private-sector jobs (estimated 2011 annual average)	1-year raw change	Rank	1-year percent change	Rank ▲
Ogden, Utah	145,600	151,100	5,500	46	3.78%	1
Akron, Ohio	267,800	276,200	8,400	35	3.14%	2
Houston	2,148,900	2,212,300	63,400	1	2.95%	3
San Jose	758,800	781,100	22,300	10	2.94%	4
Provo, Utah	150,400	154,700	4,300	53	2.86%	5
Worcester, Mass.	202,000	207,600	5,600	45	2.77%	6
Oklahoma City	436,100	448,100	12,000	24	2.75%	7
Tulsa	350,200	359,400	9,200	29	2.63%	8
Grand Rapids, Mich.	328,300	336,700	8,400	35	2.56%	9
Dallas-Fort Worth	2,466,200	2,528,700	62,500	2	2.53%	10


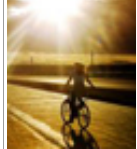
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