

# Eagle Ford Shale activity helping to reduce unemployment

San Antonio Business Journal by James Aldridge, Web Editor

Date: Friday, November 18, 2011, 3:31pm CST - Last Modified: Friday, November 18, 2011, 3:43pm CST

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Unemployment in the San Antonio-New Braunfels metropolitan area dropped to 7.5 percent in October. This is down from 8 percent in September, according to figures released Friday by Workforce Solutions Alamo.

San Antonio area employers added 1,400 non-agricultural jobs to their payrolls over the month and 8,100 jobs over the past 12 months. Officials with Workforce Solutions Alamo are attributing the reduction in unemployment, in large part, to job growth in the oil and gas industry.

Oil and gas industry jobs grew 17.7 percent over the past year in the Alamo region, the largest job growth rate for this industry since 2001. About 100 jobs were added between September and October and 600 jobs were added since this time last year.

Large employers have been busily setting up shop in the San Antonio area to drill for oil the Eagle Ford Shale, a geologic formation that spans 24 South Texas counties. Earlier this week, [Halliburton Co.](#) broke ground on a new operation in south Bexar County to provide services to well operators in the Eagle Ford region. Halliburton plans to hire some 1,500 individuals once the facility is completed.

"The Eagle Ford Shale impact on job numbers is significant," says [Patrick W. Newman](#), executive director of Workforce Solutions Alamo. "The continued opportunities for resources and the expansion of various companies into the Alamo region will continue to contribute positively to this industry, possibly offsetting any



losses that may occur in other industries, thereby changing any previous expectations of future unemployment rates or job numbers.”

In other industry news, Education and Health Services sector added 2,600 jobs over the month and 8,000 jobs over the year. The Government sector added 2,300 jobs over the month but posted a loss of 4,300 jobs over the year. The majority of the cuts were due to public schools trimming staff because of budget cuts.

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James Aldridge oversees online content of the newspaper; edits and reports stories for the online edition.

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