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Retail sector perks up in six states, led by Texas

The Business Journals by G. Scott Thomas

Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 12:01am EST - Last Modified: Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 1:00am EST



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Things may be looking up for the retail sector, but it's still a long way from a full recovery.

Just six of the 50 states have more retail jobs today than they did at the end of 2006, according to an On Numbers analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The study reflects the devastating impact of the recession that officially began in December 2007. The nation lost 753,800 retail jobs between November 2006 and November 2011, the latest month for which official figures are available.

Texas had the most success in bucking this national trend, increasing its retail employment base by 30,100 jobs over five years. North Dakota posted the biggest gain in percentage terms, up 4.8 percent.

The database below contains statistics for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Click any column header to re-sort the chart.

California, Florida and Michigan have borne the brunt of the retail downturn.

California experienced the sharpest decline in raw numbers, losing 157,400 retail jobs in half a decade. Florida and Michigan are next with respective drops of 57,700 and

47,900 jobs in their retail sectors.

Michigan also ranks last on the percentage side, with a five-year retail loss of 9.7 percent.

STATE-BY-STATE RETAIL EMPLOYMENT (NOVEMBER 2011)

State	Retail jobs (Nov. 2006)	Retail jobs (Nov. 2011)	5-year raw change	Rank ▲	5-year percent change	Rank
Texas	1,141,000	1,171,100	30,100	1	2.64%	2
Oklahoma	169,400	172,700	3,300	2	1.95%	3
North Dakota	43,400	45,500	2,100	3	4.84%	1
Alaska	35,700	36,100	400	4	1.12%	4
South Dakota	49,600	49,900	300	5	0.61%	5
Nebraska	107,100	107,200	100	6	0.09%	6
District of Columbia	18,000	17,600	-400	7	-2.22%	11
Wyoming	31,300	29,700	-1,600	8	-5.11%	30
Montana	56,800	55,100	-1,700	9	-2.99%	16
New Mexico	94,500	92,600	-1,900	10	-2.01%	9

[Online Database](#) by Caspio

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