# **Texas** Economic Activity Index

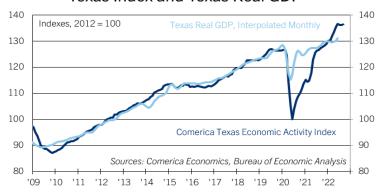


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## **Texas Economic Snapshot, September 2022**

	Sep-22	Aug-22	<u>Jul-22</u>	<u>Jun-22</u>	May-22
Comerica Texas Index 3-month % change, annual rate Year-over-year % change	-0.6 7.0	2.4 7.6	9.0 7.8	15.0 8.7	16.6 10.3
Real GDP (Quarterly) Quarterly change, annual rate Year-over-year % change	<u>Jun-22</u> 1.8 2.4			Mar-22 0.5 2.7	
Unemployment Rate, % Percent	<u>Sep-22</u> 4.0	Aug-22 4.1	Jul-22 4.0	<u>Jun-22</u> 4.1	May-22 4.2

#### Texas Index and Texas Real GDP



#### coming months.

### **Texas Index Declined in September**

The Comerica Texas Economic Activity Index declined at a 0.6% annualized rate in the three months through September. The index has slowed sharply after robust increases in the first half of the year. The index was up 7.0% from a year earlier in September.

Six of the index's nine components declined in September. Employment continues to rise in Texas and the number of employed is about 600,000 above the pre-pandemic level. Active oil-drilling rigs fell in the month, though, as energy prices moved lower. The energy sector could be less supportive of growth going forward.

Housing starts fell 17.5% in the third quarter compared to the second. Texas's housing market is set to be a big drag on the state's economy, as surging mortgage interest rates and high prices push would-be homebuyers to the sidelines. House prices declined for the third consecutive month in September, and further declines are likely in the

Texas GDP rose by 1.8% in the second quarter of 2022 and just 0.5% in the first quarter. The slowdown of the Comerica Texas Index shows the state's economy slowed down sharply in the third quarter following a strong second quarter. High inflation, surging interest rates, a softening national economy, and weak economies outside the US will be persistent headwinds in Texas, likely causing growth in the state to hold below trend into 2023.

**The Comerica Texas Economic Activity** Index is a monthly composite indicator of state economic activity. The Index provides a wholistic advance view of the state of Texas's economy, using economic data that are available about one quarter earlier than real GDP is released.

The index is comprised of nine components: Nonfarm payroll employment, continuing claims for unemployment insurance, housing starts, house prices, industrial electricity sales, the Texas rotary rig count, foreign trade, hotel occupancy, and sales tax revenue. All data are seasonally adjusted with nominal values converted to constant dollar values as appropriate. To filter out month-to-month volatility in the index components, the index is calculated from the three-month moving averages of its components. Values for a minority of components are projected from the prior months' release due to the timing of data releases.

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