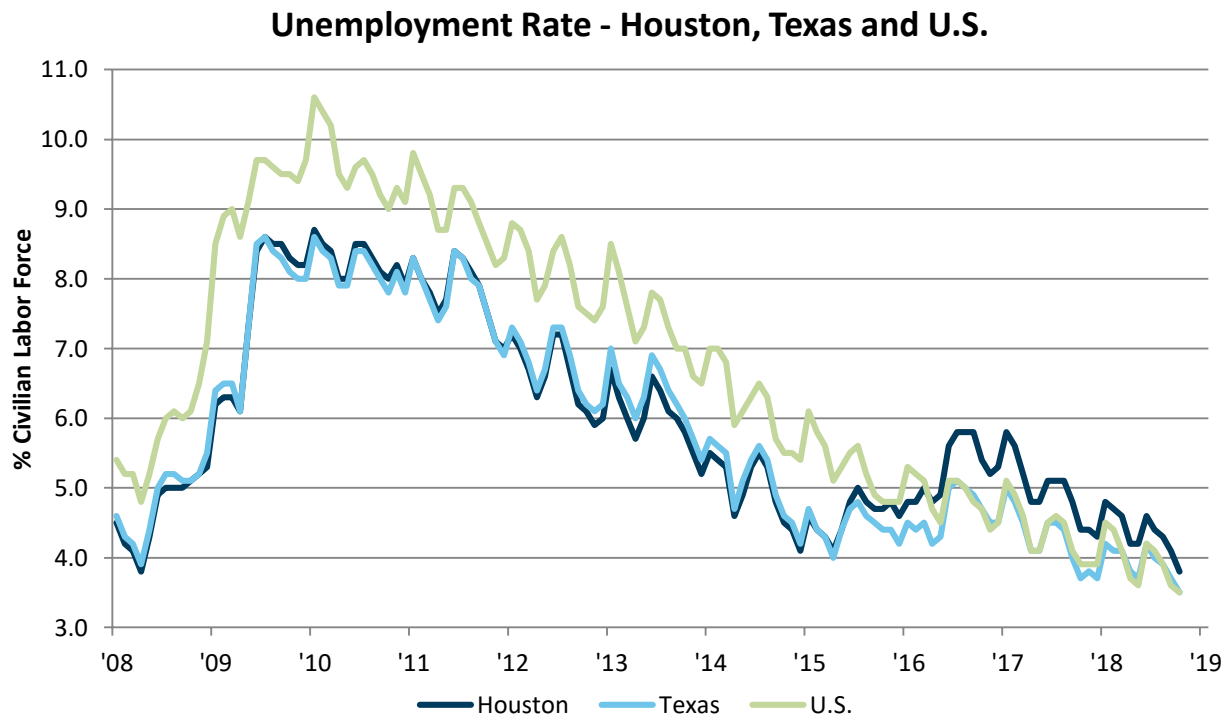


Unemployment Rate

Houston's unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent in October '18, the third lowest rate in 20 years.



Source: Texas Workforce Commission, not seasonally adjusted

- Houston's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in October '18, down from 4.1 percent last month and 4.4 percent a year ago. Texas' unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in October '18, down from 3.7 percent in both September '18 and October '17. The U.S. rate was 3.5 in October '18, down from 3.6 last month and 3.9 in October '17. The rates are not seasonally adjusted.
- Houston's unemployment rate remained relatively low through the energy downturn. It reached a high of 5.8 percent in January '17 but has since trended down. Subsequent to the unemployment rate's recent peak, the size of the civilian labor force has been trending upwards, gaining nearly 179,800 jobs over the same period.
- Houston's unemployment rate tracked below the U.S. rate for nearly a decade from December '06 to early '16. During much of this period, the region's unemployment rate was below the national rate by at least one percentage point. Since April '16, Houston's unemployment rate has tracked above the national rate.