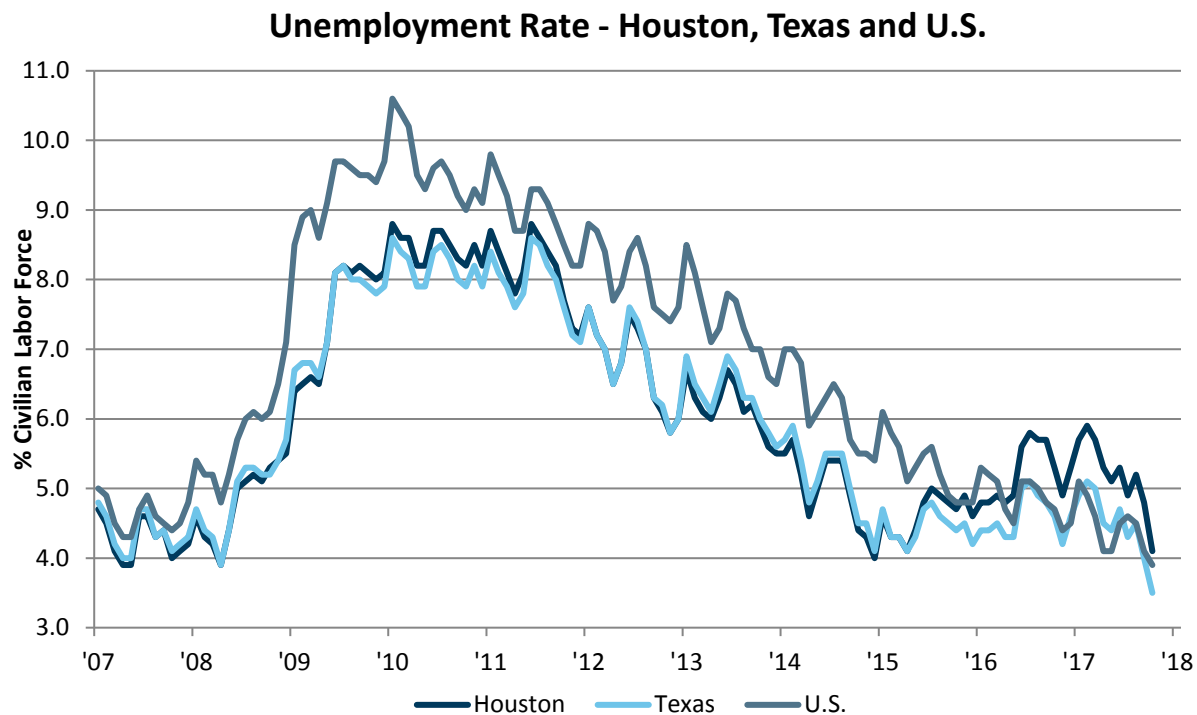


Unemployment Rate

Houston's unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in October '17, the lowest for the region since April '15.



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

- Houston's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October '17, down from 4.8 percent in September '17 and 5.3 percent a year ago. Texas' unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in October, down from 4.0 percent in September and 4.6 percent in October '16. The U.S. rate was 3.9 percent in October, down from 4.1 percent in September and 4.7 percent in October '16. The rates are not seasonally adjusted.
- Houston's unemployment rate remained relatively low through the beginning of the energy downturn, not creeping up until May '15, nearly a year after oil prices plummeted. It reached a high of 5.9 percent in February '17 but has since trended down. Although the unemployment rate has fallen from its recent peak, the civilian labor force has also shrunk by 20,500 during this 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.