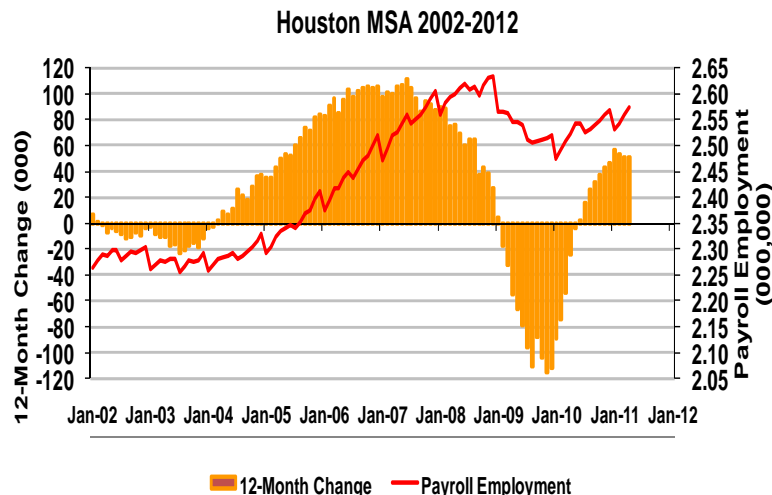


# Payroll Employment

The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area gained 51,100 jobs, growing 2.0 percent, from April '10 to April '11.

## Employment



Source: Texas Workforce Commission, May 2011

### DATA

- Rapid job growth in upstream energy during '06 and '07 led a broad-based expansion that extended to nearly all industries by August '08, after which job growth fell sharply in the face of a deepening national recession. February '09 brought the first negative reading in five years.
- As recently as November '09, the 12-month loss stood at 103,800 jobs. However, the loss declined consistently each month and the 12-month change finally turned positive in September '10.
- Since January '10 when the local recession hit bottom, the region has created 97,200 net new jobs, recouping 63.6 percent of the jobs lost during the recession
- Oil prices are 30 percent higher than a year ago, which has spurred a 20 percent jump in the U.S. rig count. This has fueled growth in the energy sector. Oil and gas extraction added 2,200 jobs, up 4.8 percent, and oil field services added 4,800 jobs, up 14.7 percent over the past 12 months.
- Retail sales have been trending up since last summer. Retail trade added 8,300 jobs, an increase of 3.2 percent over the past 12 months.
- Wholesale trade added 3,900 jobs, up 3.0 percent. This matches the trend in traffic through the Houston-Galveston Customs District, which is up in tonnage and dollar value compared to last year.