



# The Texas Jobs Crisis

## **AMERICA'S JOBS CRISIS is Texas's crisis too.**

Like all Americans, Texans *are looking for* good jobs, affordable health care and wages that support their families. But what they *are seeing* are corporations and CEOs shipping good jobs overseas, drug companies and HMOs ratcheting up health costs and prices rising faster than wages.

For Texans, the chinks in the nation's economic armor mean too few jobs, too many jobless workers, shrinking health coverage, lower incomes, greater poverty and more bankruptcies.

**Too few good jobs:** Since January 2001, Texas has experienced heavy **job losses in industries that typically provide higher wages and good benefits**—177,600 lost manufacturing jobs and 41,900 lost information jobs. Despite offsetting gains in other industries, Texas still experienced a net job loss of 81,200 jobs between January 2001 and August 2004.

Texas is losing jobs, in part, because of unfair trade rules and because corporations here, as around the United States, are shipping good jobs overseas. In 2003, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that at least 76 Texas companies slashed jobs from their payrolls due to trade. These cuts affected an estimated 9,255 workers.

**Advanced Micro Devices, First International Computer of TX and Levi Strauss and Co. alone cut 2,654 jobs;** some of these jobs were shipped overseas. NAFTA has cost Texas 50,270 jobs.

Meanwhile, jobs in Texas's growing industries aren't as good as the jobs in Texas's shrinking industries.\* **Average wages in the state's growing industries are 31.4 percent lower**—\$14,205 per year less—than those in Texas's shrinking industries.

*\*Note: A growing industry is one that is expanding (between March 2001 and March 2004) as a share of overall employment, while a shrinking industry is one that is contracting as a share of overall employment.*

Sources: American Bankruptcy Institute, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Economic Policy Institute, Public Citizen, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. For further information on sources and methodology, see [www.showusthejobs.com](http://www.showusthejobs.com).

In Texas, growing industries have **lower health coverage rates** than industries that are shrinking; 58 percent of workers in Texas's shrinking industries have employer-provided health coverage. But in Texas's growing industries, 53.2 percent of the workers have employer-provided health insurance.

## **Too many workers unemployed:**

In August, **624,383 Texans were unemployed**, a whopping 48 percent more than in January 2001. Workers unemployed the longest suffer most. From the end of December 2003 through September 2004, **179,191 Texans reached the end of eligibility for unemployment benefits** but still could not find jobs. Because the president and allies in Congress have refused to renew the emergency unemployment program, these jobless workers no longer have federal benefits to fall back on for basic support.

**Declining health coverage:** Job loss and exploding health costs have shrunk the rolls of Texans with job-based health coverage and swelled the ranks of the uninsured. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of Texans with employer-provided health care fell by 347,000, a 3.1 percent drop. In 2003, **5,374,000 Texans were uninsured**, an increase of 626,000—13.2 percent—in three years.

**Lower incomes, greater poverty and more bankruptcies:** Texans are struggling to get by with less. Between 2000 and 2003, **incomes for typical households fell \$1,970**, to \$39,271. More Texans slipped into poverty: In 2003, **3,705,000 Texans were poor**—501,000 more than in 2000. And **personal bankruptcies rose 49 percent**, from 59,529 in 2000 to 88,687 in 2003.