







FISCAL NOTES

A Monthly Review of the Texas Economy from the Office of Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, May 2008

MARCH REVENUE (IN MILLIONS): SALES TAX: \$1,652.8 OIL PRODUCTION: \$106.6 NATURAL GAS: \$190.8 MOTOR FUELS: \$248.0 MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: \$271.1 TOBACCO: \$113.7

Job Expansion

Texas' total employment is projected to grow by 20 percent by 2014.

Industry	Projected increase (%)	
Aerospace product and parts manufacturing	20	
Automotive repair and maintenance	17	
Oil and gas extraction	15	
Machinery manufacturing	14	
Steel product manufacturing	14	
Plastics product manufacturing	10	

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Building on Success

School's end in 2008 will close the second year for Denton's Sarah and Troy Lagrone Advanced Technology Complex (ATC). The ATC, featured in the December 2006 issue of *Fiscal Notes*, will soon expand its class offerings.

"We jumped from about 1,200 students the first year to about 1,400 in the second," says Marty Thompson, the ATC's director.

The ATC offers specialized coursework in engineering and aerospace, among others. In 2009, it will add pre-veterinary and pre-law internships to the course list along with preparatory L.V.N. and computer technology coursework.

And they are starting early in Denton, reaching out to middle school students and encouraging them to think about the future.

"You have to motivate them early, when they're entering middle school," says Thompson. "We're trying to teach them that if you're going to be successful in high school or college, you have to plan. You have to know what the high-demand occupations are looking for."

The ATC opened its doors to middle-school students in summer 2007 for a week-long camp. Round two is slated for summer 2008.

About 45 percent of ATC students are at-risk students from socioeconomically disadvantaged homes. Giving them chances to help themselves is what it's about, Thompson says.

"We try to reach that kid and that family and show them ways to double or even triple their income through education or professional certifications," she says. "If we can do that, the chances are greater they'll take that next step and go to college."

