

## Economic Trends

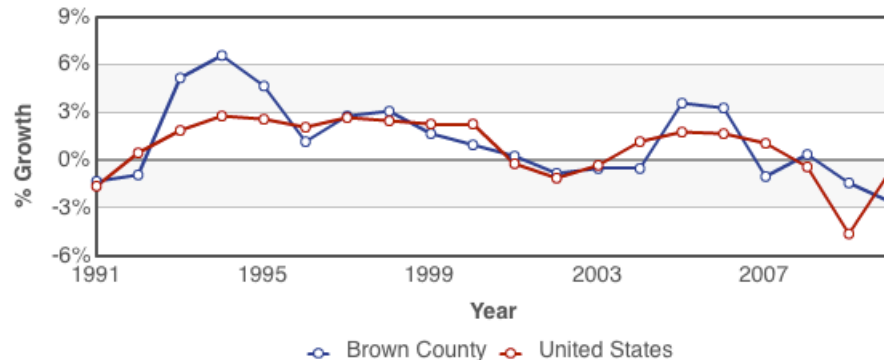
### Employment Growth

Employment growth is a primary measure of a region’s economic health, and job creation is the most frequent metric used by the economic development community to demonstrate success. Companies gravitate to regions with high employment growth because they tend to attract a talented workforce, provide a strong customer and supplier base, and have demonstrated their competitiveness.

Employment growth in Brown County has roughly followed US growth cycles for the past 20 years. Growth in Brown County rapidly exceeded US growth briefly in the early 1990s during the Texas energy boom. Another “mini-boom” occurred in 2005 and 2006. However, from 2000-2010, employment in Brown County has remained relatively flat, with an average annual growth rate of 0.1%, exactly on par with population growth.

During the recent recession, employment declines in Brown County trailed US declines and recovery has been slow. Brown County was late to enter the recession and is late to recover.

**Annual Growth Rate, Employment, All Industries, 1991-2010**  
Brown County vs. U.S.



**Year-over-Year Growth Rate, Employment, All Industries, 2006-2011**  
Brown County vs. U.S.

