



March 2017 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the March 2017 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by .2 to 4.5%, and Texas increased by .1% to 5.0%.

Statewide Overview for March: Texas had a net gain of 9,500 Nonagricultural jobs in March, and has added a total of 249,400 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). Goods-Producing employment increased by 10,500 jobs in March, and 4,800 were in the Energy sector.

The Professional & Business Services sector led all others with a gain of 13,200 new jobs in March, and 58,000 in the past twelve months. This group overtook Healthcare as the fastest growing sector both for the month and the past twelve months. Staffing agencies and Customer Care Centers are a component of this sector, along with many other professional services-related businesses.

The Service sectors in total lost 1,000 jobs, led by Leisure & Hospitality with a loss of 12,300. The Trade sector lost 5,500 jobs in March.

Regional Recap: The March data shows the unemployment rate generally improving in both cities and counties across the region. Unemployment rates typically decline in the March - May period, and then increase during the summer months.

Counties: At the county level, most had decreases in March

- Hidalgo County decreased by .3%, to 8.5%
- Cameron County decreased by .3% to 7.9%
- Starr County decreased by .6%, to 14.9%
- Willacy County increased by .1%, to 13.3%
- Webb County decreased by .1, to 5.0%

Cities: The cities in the region also generally experienced decreases in their unemployment rates in March

- McAllen had the lowest rate in the RGV at 6.0%, a decrease of .2%
- Edinburg was second lowest at 6.1%, an decrease of .3%
- Harlingen was next at 7.5%, an increase of .1%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 5.0%, a decrease of .1%

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Combined Total Employment Change Estimates for March 2017:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	400	-100	0	300
Leisure & Hospitality	300	500	100	900
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	100	400	100	600
Business & Professional Services	-100	100	0	0
Mining & Construction	0	-100	0	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	0	200	200	400
Manufacturing	-100	0	0	-100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	600	1,000	400	2,000

Leisure & Hospitality created the largest number of new jobs, with the March projections showing a gain of 900 jobs.

The Trade sector added 400 jobs in March. This compares to a total of 1,100 new jobs created in March 2016 in this sector, in which Retail Trade is the largest sub-sector.

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:

http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/2138_TLMR-Current_Edition.pdf