



April 2017 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the April 2017 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by .1%, to 4.4%, and Texas was unchanged at 5.0%.

Statewide Overview for April: Texas had a net gain of 30,400 Nonagricultural jobs in April, and has added a total of 258,900 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). Goods-Producing employment increased by 1,100 jobs, with a gain of 8,100 in Manufacturing and 3,300 in Mining & Logging, but a loss of 10,300 in Construction.

The Service sectors in total gained 29,300 jobs. The Healthcare sector led all others in the Services group with a gain of 10,400 new jobs in April, and 58,000 in the past twelve months. The Trade sector only added 1,900 jobs in April, as we continue to see slower job growth in Retail Trade than in years past.

Regional Recap: The April data shows the unemployment rate decreasing 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, all had decreases in April:

- Hidalgo County decreased by .5%, to 8.0%
- Cameron County decreased by .4% to 7.5%
- Starr County decreased by 1.0%, to 13.9%
- Willacy County decreased by .2%, to 13.1%
- Webb County decreased by .4, to 4.6%

Cities: The cities in the region all experienced decreases in their unemployment rates in April:

- Edinburg had the lowest rate in the RGV at 5.4%, a decrease of .7%
- McAllen was second lowest at 5.5%, an decrease of .5%
- Harlingen was next at 6.9%, a decrease of .6%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 4.5%, a decrease of .5%

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	700	100	100	900
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	100	300	300
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	-300	100	0	-200
Business & Professional Services	200	-100	100	200
Mining & Construction	200	200	0	400
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	-200	-400	-100	-700
Manufacturing	-100	-100	0	-200
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	300	0	400	700

Healthcare created the largest number of new jobs, with the April projections showing a gain of 900 jobs.

The Trade sector lost 700 jobs in April. This sector also had an estimated 700 job losses in April 2016. Retail Trade is the largest sub-sector in the Trade sector.

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:

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