



February 2018 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the February 2018 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1%, and Texas held steady at 4.0%.

Statewide Overview for February: Texas had a net gain of 40,500 nonagricultural jobs in February and has added a total of 285,200 in the past year (seasonally adjusted).

Goods-Producing employment increased by 12,600 jobs in February, and a total of 78,300 jobs added in the past twelve months. The Construction sector led with a gain of 33,900 jobs in the past year. Energy added another 28,300, and Manufacturing added 16,100 jobs in the previous twelve-month period.

The Service sectors in total gained 27,900 jobs in February and a total of 206,900 jobs in the past year. The Professional & Business Services sector led in February with an estimated 13,200 employees added, followed by Trade/Transportation with 11,800.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The February data shows the unemployment rates generally decreasing across our region from the spike we saw in January. All of our cities and counties continue to show significantly lower unemployment rates than reported one year ago. January and June typically have the highest unemployment rates each year at the county and city level, since their numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by .5%, to 7.1%
- Cameron County decreased by .1 %, to 6.7%
- Starr County decreased by .8%, to 11.4%
- Willacy County increased by .4%, to 11.3%
- Webb County was unchanged at 3.9% in February

Cities: The cities in the region mostly showed decreases in their unemployment rates in February:

- McAllen and Edinburg were tied for the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with 4.9%, a decrease of .1% for McAllen and .3% for Edinburg.
- Mission was the third-lowest at 6.0%, a decrease of .4%
- Harlingen was fourth at 6.1%, an increase of .1%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 3.9%, an increase of .1%

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for February 2018:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	1,200	100	0	1,300
Leisure & Hospitality	400	300	400	1,100
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	300	200	200	700
Business & Professional Services	100	100	300	500
Mining & Construction	-100	100	0	0
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	-700	100	-100	-700
Manufacturing	200	0	0	200
Information	-100	0	0	-100
Financial Activities	0	-100	0	-100
Other Services	0	-100	100	0
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	1,300	700	900	2,900

The primary contributors to the employment gains in our region were the Healthcare and Leisure & Hospitality sectors. The Trade sector had the largest decrease, with an estimated loss of 700 jobs. This is probably the tail end of the post-holiday season layoffs in the Retail subsector.

All cities and counties in our region continue to show significantly lower unemployment rates than estimated one year ago.

As always, thanks again for your support and participation!

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:

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