



## July 2018 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the July 2018 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by .1% to 3.9%, and Texas held steady at 4.0%.

**Statewide Overview for July:** Texas had a net gain of 27,200 nonagricultural jobs in July and has added 359,500 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents a 2.9% annual employment growth rate.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 7,400 jobs in July, and a total of 111,600 jobs were added in the past twelve months. The Construction sector led this month, with a gain of 10,500 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a 6.2% growth rate over the past twelve months, and the growth rate is continuing to accelerate.

The Service sectors in total gained 16,100 jobs in July and a total of 265,500 jobs in the past year. This sector is growing at a 2.5% annual rate. The Healthcare sector led in July with an estimated 6,400 employees added, followed closely by the Leisure & Hospitality sector, which added 5,700 new jobs.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The July data shows the unemployment rates decreasing across our region at the county and city levels. We continue to see significantly lower unemployment rates than reported one year ago.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by .3%, to 6.9%
- Cameron County decreased by .3 %, to 6.6%
- Starr County decreased by .8%, to 10.2%
- Willacy County decreased by .3% to 11.5%
- Webb County decreased by .3% to 4.0%

### Cities:

The cities all decreased as well in July:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with 4.9%, a decrease of .2%
- Edinburg was second at 5.1%, a decrease of .1%.
- Harlingen was third at 6.1%, a decrease of .3%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region, at 4.0%, a decrease of .3%.

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

| <b>Employment Sectors</b>                      | <b>McAllen MSA</b> | <b>Brownsville MSA</b> | <b>Laredo MSA</b> | <b>Total Region</b> |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Healthcare & Private Education                 | 100                | -200                   | -200              | -300                |
| Leisure & Hospitality                          | -300               | -300                   | 300               | -300                |
| <b>Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)</b> | <b>-5,800</b>      | <b>-1,100</b>          | <b>-600</b>       | <b>-7,500</b>       |
| Business & Professional Services               |                    | -200                   |                   | -200                |
| Mining & Construction                          | 100                |                        | -100              | 0                   |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities               | 700                | -100                   |                   | 600                 |
| Manufacturing                                  |                    |                        |                   |                     |
| Information                                    |                    |                        |                   |                     |
| Financial Activities                           |                    |                        |                   |                     |
| Other Services                                 |                    | -100                   |                   | -100                |
| <b>Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:</b>      | <b>-5,200</b>      | <b>-2,000</b>          | <b>-600</b>       | <b>-7,800</b>       |

The primary contributor to the employment losses in our region was once again the Government sector, which lost an estimated 7,500 jobs. This is likely a continuation of temporary seasonal unemployment occurring in the public school systems.

**Tightening Labor Market**

As business conditions continue to improve, we are experiencing a very “tight” labor market both in our region and across the country. Many businesses continue to report recruitment difficulties across all sectors, as well as rising wage rates, as they compete for increasingly scarce labor.

As always, thanks again for your support and participation!

**Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:**

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