



August 2019 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the August 2019 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment held steady for the third consecutive month at 3.7%. Texas also remained solid for the third consecutive month at 3.4%.

Statewide Overview for August: Texas had a net gain of 18,200 nonagricultural jobs in August, and has added 303,500 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents a 2.4% annual employment growth rate.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 1,100 jobs in August, and a total of 75,300 jobs were added in the past twelve months. The Construction sector led again this month, with a gain of 2,200 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a 4.0% growth rate over the past twelve months.

The Service sectors in total gained 17,100 jobs in August and a total of 228,200 jobs in the past year. This sector is growing at a 2.1% annual rate. The Education and Health services sector led in August, with an estimated 8,800 employees added and an annual growth rate of 2.9%. The Financial services sector follows with a gain of 3,200 jobs and a 3.6% annual growth rate.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The August unemployment rates show decreases at the county and city levels. Starr and Willacy counties reflect the most significant decreases of 0.9% and 1.2% respectively.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by 0.3% to 6.4%
- Cameron County decreased by 0.2 %, to 5.6%
- Starr County decreased by 0.9%, to 10.0%
- Willacy County decreased by 1.2% to 8.3%
- Webb County decreased by 0.3% to 3.7%

Cities:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with 4.3%, a decrease of 0.3% from July
- Edinburg remain steady and was second at 4.9%
- Harlingen was third at 5.1%, a decrease of 0.2% from July
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 3.7%, a decrease of 0.2% from July

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for July 2019:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	800	300		1,100
Leisure & Hospitality	-400	-600	200	-800
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	1,600	-200	100	1,500
Professional & Business Services	800	-100		700
Mining & Construction	100		100	200
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	-300	-100	100	-300
Manufacturing		-100		-100
Information	-100			-100
Financial Activities			100	100
Other Services				
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	2,500	-800	600	2,300

The primary contributor to the August employment gains in our region was the Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement) sector, with an estimated 1,500 more jobs. The Leisure & Hospitality sector had the most job losses with -800. The total non-agricultural job growth for our border region is an estimated 2,300 new jobs.

The Information Technology (IT) Industry

There is an estimate of 3,335 IT jobs in the Lower Rio Grande region with an expected growth of 25% by the year of 2028. In the nation, the demand of IT skilled professionals is growing exponentially each year and is expected to exceed the supply by 2021 with a deficit of 3 million workers. This makes the IT industry to be considered the sector with the largest growth potential for the next 3 years. To help prepare local workforce for future IT jobs, the Texas Workforce Commission and Workforce Solutions (WFS) awarded a Wagner-Peyser Grant in the amount of \$490,268 to a local Economic Development Council to upskill approximately 130 IT professionals by accessing IT industry certifications. Furthermore, WFS is collaborating with regional partners, from different sectors, to conduct an IT Workforce Assessment to identify and assess the region's needs in terms of workforce, education, infrastructure, and economic growth potential to help drive future workforce development initiatives.

As always, thanks again for your support and participation!

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC: <https://texaslmi.com/api/GetHomeLinks/TLMR>

Local Labor Market Reports: <https://www.wfsolutions.org/how-we-help/workforce-intelligence.html>