



## July 2020 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the July 2020 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -0.9% to 10.2%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by -0.4% to 8.0%.

**Statewide Overview for July:** Texas had a gain of 31,400 non-agricultural jobs in July and has a loss of -694,400 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment decrease rate of -5.4%.

Goods-Producing employment decreased by -12,100 jobs in July and a total of -138,800 jobs were lost in the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job losses for this month with -6,300 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a decrease of -7.2% over the past twelve months.

The Service-Providing sector gained in total 43,500 jobs in July and has a total loss of -555,600 jobs in the past year. This sector is decreasing at a -5.1% annual rate. The Government sector had the most job gains in July with an estimated 43,700 employees hired and an annual decreasing rate of -2.2%. The Professional & Business Services sector follows with a gain of 16,400 jobs and a -2.9% annual decreasing rate.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The July unemployment rates show slight decreases. Starr and Willacy counties reflect the most significant decreases of -0.9% and -0.8% respectively.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -0.3% to 12.5%
- Cameron County decreased by -0.2% to 11.0%
- Starr County decreased by -0.9%, to 17.6%
- Willacy County decreased by -0.8% to 12.2%
- Webb County decreased by -0.7% to 9.1%

### Cities:

- Edinburg had the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) with a decrease of -0.2% and a rate of 9.8%.
- McAllen had the second lowest unemployment rate in the border region with a decrease of -0.2% and a rate of 10.1%
- Harlingen was third with a decrease of -0.3% and a rate of 10.6%
- Laredo had the lowest unemployment rate in the border region with a decrease of -0.9% and a rate of 9.1%.

**Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for July 2020:**

<b>Employment Sectors</b>	<b>McAllen MSA</b>	<b>Brownsville MSA</b>	<b>Laredo MSA</b>	<b>Total Region</b>
Healthcare & Private Education	-400	100	100	-200
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,000	-500	-200	-1,700
<b>Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)</b>	<b>-4,600</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-5,600</b>
Professional & Business Services	100	100	100	300
Mining & Construction		100	100	200
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Manufacturing		100		100
Information		-100	100	
Financial Activities				
Other Services	100	100		200
<b>Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:</b>	<b>-5,400</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-5,700</b>

As the efforts to revitalize the local economy during the COVID-19 pandemic continue, the July 2020 Labor Market Report reflects upward trends of job recovery for most of the sectors despite three of them reflecting significant job losses. The primary sector with the largest job loss in the border region in July is the Government, with an estimate of -5,600 jobs lost which continues to reflect the summer break seasonal adjustment. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector is the main contributor to the total jobs in the region for the second consecutive month with an estimated 1,000 new hires. The July total non-agricultural job loss for our border region is an estimated -5,700 jobs, which reflects a setback in the recovery process due to the worsening condition of the pandemic during the month.

**Customer Care Industry:** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic businesses are still looking to expand and relocate to the region. Workforce Solutions (WFS) continues to actively engage with local partners and Customer Care employers looking to relocate to the region and capitalize on the local bilingual labor force. WFS supports these efforts by providing insights into the regional talent pool and collaborating with Economic Development partners and employers.

**Information Technology (IT) Industry:** Due to the current pandemic circumstances, WFS secured an extension to continue to support and allocate funding for the IT Workforce Assessment through August 2021. The primary areas to assess are the workforce availability, educational programs, infrastructure capacity, and economic growth potential for the IT field in the region. The project's new timeline, along with a Request for Proposals, is being developed by the IT Advisory Committee and is expected to solidify after the committee has met early in the month of September 2020.

**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/workforce-intelligence.html>