



## October 2021 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions (Serving the Lower Rio Grande Valley)

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the October Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 4.6%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 5.4%.

**Statewide Overview:** Texas had a gain of 56,600 non-agricultural jobs in October and a gain of 661,300 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment increase rate of 5.4%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 7,900 jobs in October and a total of 73,300 jobs were gained in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen an increase of 4.2% over the past twelve months. The Manufacturing sector had the most job growth for this month with 2,800 jobs added.

The Service-Providing sector increased by 48,700 jobs in October and has a total gain of 588,000 jobs in the past year. This sector increased at a 5.6% annual rate. The Professional and Business Services sector had the most job growth with an additional 21,900 jobs increasing at a 9.9% annual rate. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector had the second most job gains in October with an estimated 15,000 employees hired and an annual increasing rate of 5.0%.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The October unemployment rates had significant changes across the region showing decreasing rates in Hidalgo (-0.4%), Starr (-0.5%) and Willacy (-0.2%) counties.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -0.4% to 7.6%
- Cameron County decreased by -0.2% to 7.1%
- Starr County decreased by -0.5%, to 13.9%
- Willacy County decreased by -0.2% to 9.1%
- Webb County decreased by -0.1% to 5.3%

### Cities:

- McAllen has the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) at a rate of 5.6%.
- Edinburg has the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at a rate of 5.8%
- Laredo unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 5.2%
- Harlingen unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 6.9%.
- Brownsville unemployment rate decreased by -0.5% and a rate of 7.0%.

## Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
<b>Healthcare &amp; Private Education</b>	<b>-600</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>-200</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	300	300		600
<b>Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,100</b>
Professional & Business Services	300	100	100	500
Mining & Construction		100		100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600		200	800
Manufacturing	300	-100		200
Information				
Financial Activities	100	100		200
Other Services	100			100
<b>Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>3,400</b>

The October 2021 Employment Change Estimates reflect a decrease for the border region from last month's employment estimates. The primary sector with the largest job growth in the border region is the Government sector with an estimated 1,100 new jobs. The Healthcare and Private Education sector reflects the most significant job loss with -200 jobs lost. The October total non-agricultural job growth for the border region is an estimated 3,400 jobs, with a slight decrease from last month's employment growth.

### RGV Economy:

The economy has steadily seen a rebound, with the continued reopening of the Texas economy. With a focus on getting Texans back to work, employers have continued to struggle to recruit workers, especially in the retail and service sector. Workforce Solutions (WFS) has continued to assist businesses with hiring needs by hosting numerous job fairs and shifted towards in person hiring events. In October, WFS partnered with the City of Edinburg and The Edinburg Economic Development Corporation to host the Employ RGV Job Fair. In total for October, WFS hosted 8 hiring events with 125 employers and 750 job seekers, which resulted in 190 hires. Additionally, WFS continues to assist job seekers by offering online training to unemployed individuals through the Metrix online learning platform. [WorkInTexas - METRIX LEARNING Online Courses.](#)

### Manufacturing:

WFS continues to work with Economic Development (EDC) and Chamber partners to promote the economic development of the regional manufacturing industry and provide information vital to business recovery and training opportunities through the Texas Workforce Commissions Skills Development Fund. Throughout October, WFS actively worked with Solar Power and Plastic Molding Manufacturing Employers and EDC partners through business retention and expansion efforts. WFS staff have been instrumental in providing labor market information and workforce development insight to prospective employers considering relocating to the region or for businesses seeking to expand their operations.

### Information Technology (IT):

WFS continues to engage the Information Technology Industry of the region through the efforts of the WFS IT Taskforce, which was established to address industry challenges and leverage resources to promote industry growth. The IT Taskforce will convene on December 14, 2021, to discuss funding and training opportunities for the IT workforce. Additionally, WFS continues to partner with Economic Development Corporation partners to attract IT employers to the region. For further information regarding the WFS IT Taskforce initiative you may contact Aaron Gonzalez at [aaron@wfsolutions.org](mailto:aaron@wfsolutions.org).

**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>