



August 2021 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the August Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 5.2%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by -0.3% to 5.9%.

Statewide Overview: Texas had a gain of 39,300 non-agricultural jobs in August and a gain of 681,000 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment increase rate of 5.6%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 1,000 jobs in August and a total of 60,100 jobs were gained in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen an increase of 3.5% over the past twelve months. The Mining & Logging sector had the most job growth for this month with 2,900 jobs added.

The Service-Providing sector increased by 38,300 jobs in August and has a total gain of 620,900 jobs in the past year. This sector is increasing at a 6.0% annual rate. The Professional & Business Services sector had the most job growth with an additional 29,600 jobs increasing at a 10.0% annual rate. The Education & Health Services sector had the second most job gains in July with an estimated 17,800 employees hired and an annual increasing rate of 4.2%.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The August unemployment rates had significant changes across the region with Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties reflecting decreases of -1.1%, -1.9%, -1.4% respectively.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -1.1% to 8.9%
- Cameron County decreased by -0.9% to 7.9%
- Starr County decreased by -1.9%, to 15.3%
- Willacy County increased by -1.4% to 10.6%
- Webb County increased by -0.9% to 5.8%

Cities:

- McAllen has the lowest unemployment rates in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) at a rate of 6.2%.
- Edinburg has the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at a rate of 6.3%
- Laredo unemployment rate decreased by -0.8% to 5.8%
- Harlingen unemployment rate decreased by -0.3% to 7.7%.
- Brownsville unemployment rate decreased by -1.2% and a rate of 8.0%.

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for July 2021:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	2,100	300	300	2,700
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-500	-100	-900
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	700		400	1,100
Professional & Business Services	400			400
Mining & Construction	-100			-100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	-200	-100	
Manufacturing	-100	100		
Information	100			100
Financial Activities	-100			-100
Other Services				
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	3000	-300	500	3,200

The August 2021 Employment Change Estimates reflect an increase for the border region from last month's estimates. The primary sector with the largest job growth in the border region is the Healthcare & Private Education sector with an estimated 2,700 new jobs. The Leisure & Hospitality sector reflects the most significant job loss with -900 jobs lost. The August total non-agricultural job growth for the border region is an estimated 3,200 jobs, causing a recovery from last month's negative estimates.

RGV Economy:

The economy has steadily seen a rebound, because of eased COVID 19 restrictions and the reopening of the Texas economy. With a focus on getting Texans back to work, WFS has continued to assist businesses with hiring needs by hosting numerous job fairs and shifted towards in person hiring events. In August, WFS hosted 8 hiring events with 119 participating employers and 1,101 job seekers, resulting in 321 hires. In order to address the impacts of COVID-19 and to support Texas' continued economic recovery, our partners at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) approved funding to support a new **child care** program to help workers in TWC-specified service industries. The Service Industry Recover (SIR) child care program offers 12 months of child care services to individuals employed in a targeted service industry. While **TWC** is targeting aspects of the service sector with **SIR child care**, all families continue to have access to Workforce Solutions' regular income-based **child care** program.

Healthcare Industry:

The healthcare industry in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) continues to see exponential growth with the expansion of healthcare facilities to meet the healthcare needs of the region. Healthcare facilities in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) have continued expansion efforts with a strong industry focus on creating a local talent pipeline and to fill the shortage of healthcare professionals in the region.

Information Technology:

Workforce Solutions (WFS) worked with Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA) on the Information Technology (IT) Workforce Assessment for the Rio Grande Valley. The project was completed by TPMA in August 2021. Within the assessment TPMA provided short term and long-term recommendations in terms of funding opportunities, regional collaboration, asset mapping, educational programs, and training opportunities. The full report is available on the Workforce Solutions website at [Final IT Workforce Assessment 002.pdf \(wfsolutions.org\)](https://www.wfsolutions.org/workforce-intelligence.html).

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>