



## March 2021 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the March Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 6.0%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained steady at 6.9%.

**Statewide Overview for March:** Texas had a gain of 99,000 non-agricultural jobs in March and a loss of -405,200 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment decrease rate of -3.1%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 32,100 jobs in March and a total of -123,600 jobs were lost in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a decrease of -6.4% over the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job gains for this month with 19,100 jobs.

The Service-Providing sector gained in total 66,900 jobs in March and has a total loss of -281,600 jobs in the past year. This sector is decreasing at a -2.6% annual rate. Leisure & Hospitality sector had the most job gains of 23,100 jobs and a -10.4% annual decreasing rate. The Professional & Business Services sector had the second most job gains in March with an estimated 14,800 employees hired and an annual decreasing rate of -0.1%.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The March unemployment rates slightly changed in the region. Starr and Hidalgo counties reflect the most significant decreases of -1.0% and -0.8% respectively.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -0.8% to 11.2%
- Cameron County decreased by -0.9% to 10.0%
- Starr County decreased by -1.0%, to 18.4%
- Willacy County decreased by -0.6% to 13.2%
- Webb County decreased by -0.7% to 7.9%

### Cities:

- Edinburg had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) and border region at 7.7%.
- McAllen and Laredo had the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV and border region at 7.9%
- Harlingen had the third lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at 9.0%
- Brownsville unemployment rate had a decrease of -1.2% at a rate of 10.4%

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

| Employment Sectors                        | McAllen MSA | Brownsville MSA | Laredo MSA   | Total Region |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Healthcare & Private Education            | 100         | 600             | 200          | 900          |
| <b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>          | <b>400</b>  | <b>400</b>      | <b>400</b>   | <b>1,200</b> |
| Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)   | -300        | 400             |              | 100          |
| Professional & Business Services          | 300         |                 |              | 300          |
| Mining & Construction                     |             |                 | 100          | 100          |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities         | 100         | -100            | 500          | 500          |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                      | <b>-200</b> |                 |              | <b>-200</b>  |
| Information                               |             |                 |              |              |
| Financial Activities                      |             |                 |              |              |
| Other Services                            | 100         |                 |              | 100          |
| <b>Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:</b> | <b>500</b>  | <b>1,300</b>    | <b>1,200</b> | <b>3,000</b> |

The March 2021 Labor Market Report reflects job growth for all regional metropolitan areas. The primary sector with the largest job growth in the border region in March is the Leisure & Hospitality sector with an estimated 1,200 new jobs. The sector with the largest job loss is the Manufacturing sector with -200 jobs. The March total non-agricultural job growth for the border region is an estimated 3,000 jobs.

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#### Information Technology:

Workforce Solutions signed a contract with Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA) to work on an Information Technology Assessment for the Rio Grande Valley. The assessment is already underway and includes intensive labor market data analysis, education and training mapping, stakeholder engagement, and an asset inventory of the four-county region.

#### Healthcare Industry:

Workforce Solutions (WFS) continues to work with local healthcare employers to fill healthcare vacancies, in March WFS hosted a virtual job fair for three employers and 47 candidates. In addition, WFS continues the efforts to partner with educational institutions in the healthcare field to help address the nursing program capacity through the Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund Grants.

**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>