September 2020 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the September 2020 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -0.5% to 7.9%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 1.5% to 8.3%.

Statewide Overview for September: Texas had a gain of 40,700 non-agricultural jobs in September and has a loss of -583,600 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment decrease rate of -4.5%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 7,700 jobs in September and a total of -132,400 jobs were lost in the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job gains for this month with 3,700 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a decrease of -6.8% over the past twelve months.

The Service-Providing sector gained in total 33,000 jobs in September and has a total loss of -451,200 jobs in the past year. This sector is decreasing at a -4.1% annual rate. The Leisure & Hospitality sector had the most job gains in September with an estimated 23,600 employees hired and an annual decreasing rate of -16.1%. The Government sector follows with a gain of 5,400 jobs and a -0.9% annual decreasing rate.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The September unemployment rates show significant increases across the region. Starr and Hidalgo counties reflect the most significant increases of -2.8% and -2.0% respectively.

Counties:
- Hidalgo County increased by 2.0% to 12.8%
- Cameron County increased by 1.8% to 11.1%
- Starr County increased by 2.8%, to 18.5%
- Willacy County increased by 1.9% to 12.4%
- Webb County increased by 1.5% to 9.4%

Cities:
- Edinburg had the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) with an increase of 1.7% and a rate of 9.9%.
- McAllen had the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with an increase of 1.5% and a rate of 10.2%
- Harlingen was third with an increase of 1.5% and a rate of 10.4%
- Laredo had the lowest unemployment rate in the border region with an increase of 1.6% and a rate of 9.4%.

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	100	-400		-300
Leisure & Hospitality	**800**	**700**	**200**	**1,700**
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	**800**	**-1,800**	**300**	**-700**
Professional & Business Services		200		200
Mining & Construction	-100	-100		-200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-100	-200	-500
Manufacturing	-300			-300
Information				
Financial Activities	-100			-100
Other Services	-100	-100		-200
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	**900**	**-1,600**	**300**	**-400**

The September 2020 Labor Market Report reflects slight job growth for two regional metropolitan areas. The primary sector with the largest job loss in the border region in September is the Government sector, with an estimate of -700 jobs lost. As the local economy slowly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leisure & Hospitality sector is the main contributor to the total jobs in the region with an estimated 1,700 new hires. The September total non-agricultural job loss for our border region is an estimated -400 jobs, which reflects a slight setback from last month estimates.

Food Serving Industry:
Workforce Solutions (WFS) has been actively engaging the food service industry to provide training through the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development COVID-19 Special Initiative. WFS has developed a needs assessment survey to gauge the current needs of the regional food service sector. As a result of the survey WFS will develop a consortium of business partners in order to submit an SDF COVID-19 proposal for sanitization and safety protocols training.

Healthcare Industry:
WFS will be hosting the Healthcare Industry Taskforce meeting on October 28, 2020. The WFS Healthcare Industry Taskforce is comprised of healthcare industry representatives representing major healthcare employers, educational institutions, and industry stakeholders within the RGV. Workforce Solutions, in partnership with The RGV Partnership, was awarded a Texas Industry Partnership Grant from the TWC to conduct a Biomedical Study to measure the impact of the Healthcare Industry in the Rio Grande Valley. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) will be presenting the results of the study at the upcoming meeting.

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