



August 2017 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the August 2017 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate increased by .1%, to 4.4%, and Texas held steady at 4.3%.

Statewide Overview for August: Texas had a net gain of 5,500 Nonagricultural jobs in August, and has added a total of 298,600 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). Goods-Producing employment increased by 5,800 jobs, with gains of 2,200 in Manufacturing, 1,000 in Mining & Logging, and 2,600 in Construction.

The Service sectors in total lost 300 jobs. The Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector led all others in the Services group with a gain of 9,100 jobs. There was a reported loss of 6,500 job in the Other Services sector. This sector includes Repair & Maintenance services, Personal & Laundry services, Membership Associations and Organizations, and Social Advocacy organizations.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The August data shows the unemployment rates increasing in Cameron and Hidalgo counties and cities, but decreasing in both Starr and Willacy counties.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County increased by .3%, to 8.0%
- Cameron County increased by .3%, to 7.3%
- Starr County decreased by .2%, to 11.1%
- Willacy County decreased by .5%, to 11.2%
- Webb County increased by .2, to 4.4%

Cities: The cities in the region all showed increases in their unemployment rates in August:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at 5.5%, an increase of .3% from July
- Edinburg was the second-lowest at 6.2%, an increase of .5%
- Harlingen was next at 6.7%, an increase of .2%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 4.3%, an increase of .1%

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Employment Change Estimates for August 2017:

| Employment Sectors | McAllen MSA | Brownsville MSA | Laredo MSA | Total Region |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Healthcare & Private Education | -800 | 500 | -100 | -400 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | -400 | -200 | -300 | -900 |
| Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement) | 1,600 | -300 | 100 | 1,400 |
| Business & Professional Services | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Mining & Construction | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities | 100 | 200 | 200 | 500 |
| Manufacturing | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors: | 600 | 100 | -100 | 600 |

Across our region, the Government sector recouped some of the reported June-July job losses, adding a total of 1,400 in August.

The Leisure & Hospitality sector had a reported net job loss of 900 regionally in August. However, this sector has added 2,200 jobs over the previous twelve months, a 4.1% increase.

The Trade sector had an increase of 500 jobs in August, but has lost 1,300 jobs across the region in the past twelve months, a 1.1% decrease in total employment.

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:

http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/2138_TLMR-Current_Edition.pdf