



January 2018 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the January 2018 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1%, and Texas held steady at 4.0%.

Statewide Overview for January: Texas had a net gain of 16,000 nonagricultural jobs in January, and has added a total of 240,500 in the past year (seasonally adjusted).

Goods-Producing employment increased by 7,200 jobs, with gains of 3,300 in Mining & Logging, 1,500 in Construction, and 2,400 in Manufacturing.

The Service sectors in total gained 8,800 jobs in January and a total of 169,200 jobs in the past year. The Government sector led with an estimated 3,600 employees added, followed by Healthcare with 2,800.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The January data shows the unemployment rates increasing significantly across our region. Looking back the past four years (see trend chart), January has consistently had the highest unemployment rates of the year, so this is a normal seasonal cycle. All of our counties have significantly lower unemployment rates now than in January 2017.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County increased by .9%, to 7.6%
- Cameron County increased by .8 %, to 6.8%
- Starr County increased by 2.0%, to 12.2%
- Willacy County increased by 1.9%, to 10.9%
- Webb County increased by .5, to 3.9%

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

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at 5.0%, an increase of .5% from December
- Edinburg was the second-lowest at 5.2%, an increase of .3%
- Harlingen was next at 6.0%, an increase of .5%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 3.8%, an increase of .4%

Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for January 2018:

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	-400		-100	-500
Leisure & Hospitality	-100		-100	-200
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	-500	-500	-200	-1,200
Business & Professional Services	-800	-200	200	-800
Mining & Construction	-200	-100	100	-200
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	-900	-700	-900	-2,500
Manufacturing				
Information				
Financial Activities	-100			-100
Other Services	-100	100	-100	-100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	-3,100	-1,400	-1,100	-5,600

The primary contributor to the employment losses in our region was the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities super-sector. Retail likely accounted for most of the estimated 2,500 lost jobs. This is normally the time of year when retailers lay off the additional staff hired during the holiday shopping season. The Government sector also lost an estimated 1,200 jobs in January here.

Even with the significant increase in unemployment rates in January, all cities and counties are still significantly lower than they were in January 2017.

As always, thanks again for your support and participation!

Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:

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