



## February 2019 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the February 2019 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted Texas unemployment held steady at 3.8%. The National unemployment rate decreased by .2%, to 3.8%.

**Statewide Overview for February:** Texas had a net gain of 17,700 nonagricultural jobs in February, and has added 268,800 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents a 2.2% annual employment growth rate.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 800 jobs in February, and a total of 74,700 jobs were added in the past twelve months. The Manufacturing sector had the best performance last month, with a gain of 1,400 jobs, and total employment of 900,000 in Texas. The Goods Producing sector has seen a 4.1% growth rate over the past twelve months.

The Service sectors in total gained 16,900 jobs in February and a total of 194,100 jobs in the past year. This sector is growing at a 1.8% annual rate. The Leisure & Hospitality sector led in February, with an estimated 5,500 employees added.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The February data shows the unemployment rates decreasing across our region at the county and city levels. This is a normal occurrence in February, as shown on the attached unemployment trend graph.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by 1.0%, to 6.6%
- Cameron County decreased by .4 %, to 6.3%
- Starr County decreased by .7%, to 10.4%
- Willacy County decreased by .1% to 9.5%
- Webb County decreased by .1% to 4.2%

### Cities:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with 4.6%, a decrease of .6%
- Edinburg was second, at 4.9%, a decrease of .3%
- Harlingen was third at 5.8%, unchanged for the month
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region, at 4.2%, a decrease of 0.1% from January

We typically experience a steady decline in our unemployment rates from February to May.

**Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb County MSA Regional Employment Change Estimates for February 2019:**

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

The primary contributor to the February employment gains in our region was the Government sector, with an estimated 1,500 more jobs, followed by Healthcare. The losses in the Trade sector reflect layoffs of seasonal workers that take place in the Retail Trade sector as business slows down after the holiday shopping season. The Government sector includes primarily public education and law enforcement jobs.

**Texas Labor Market Review from TWC:** <https://texaslmi.com/api/GetHomeLinks/TLMR>