



August 2020 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the August 2020 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -1.8% to 8.4%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by -1.2% to 6.8%.

Statewide Overview for August: Texas had a gain of 106,800 non-agricultural jobs in August and has a loss of -616,600 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment decrease rate of -4.8%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 1,600 jobs in August and a total of -140,200 jobs were lost in the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job gains for this month with 3,300 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a decrease of -5.0% over the past twelve months.

The Service-Providing sector gained in total 105,200 jobs in August and has a total loss of -476,400 jobs in the past year. This sector is decreasing at a -4.4% annual rate. The Professional and Business Services sector had the most job gains in August with an estimated 33,200 employees hired and an annual decreasing rate of -1.3%. The Trade Transportation and Utilities sector follows with a gain of 28,800 jobs and a -3.0% annual decreasing rate.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The August unemployment rates show significant decreases across the region. Starr and Hidalgo counties reflect the most significant decreases of -1.9% and -1.7% respectively.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -1.7% to 10.9%
- Cameron County decreased by -1.7% to 9.3%
- Starr County decreased by -1.9%, to 15.7%
- Willacy County decreased by -1.6% to 10.6%
- Webb County decreased by -1.4% to 7.8%

Cities:

- Edinburg had the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) with a decrease of -1.6% and a rate of 8.2%.
- McAllen had the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with a decrease of -1.4% and a rate of 8.7%
- Harlingen was third with a decrease of -1.7% and a rate of 8.9%
- Laredo had the lowest unemployment rate in the border region with a decrease of -1.3% and a rate of 7.8%.

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	-500	-300	-100	-900
Leisure & Hospitality	-800	-100		-900
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	1,200	1,600	500	3,300
Professional & Business Services	400	100		500
Mining & Construction				
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	300	300	1,300
Manufacturing	200	100		300
Information			-100	-100
Financial Activities			100	100
Other Services	100			100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	1,300	1,700	700	3,700

The August 2020 Labor Market Report reflects job growth for all of three regional metropolitan areas. The primary sectors with the largest job loss in the border region in August are Healthcare & Private Education and Leisure & Hospitality, with an estimate of -900 jobs lost in each sector, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government sector is the main contributor to the total jobs in the region with an estimated 3,300 new hires depicting the end of the summer break in public education. The August total non-agricultural job growth for our border region is an estimated 3,700 jobs, which reflects a significant recovery from last month estimates.

Educational Institution Partnerships:

Workforce Solutions (WFS) has been collaborating with South Texas College (STC), through the WFS Healthcare Industry Taskforce, with a Department Of Labor (DOL) Strengthening Community College grant proposal. The purpose of the grant is to assist community colleges build capacity to further collaborate with employers and the workforce development system to meet the regional demand for a skilled workforce. In addition, WFS has been actively involved in convening Weslaco ISD and STC to create a dual credit Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) program to assist with the nursing shortage.

2020 The Strong Entrepreneur Bootcamp:

WFS in collaboration with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Small Business Development Center (SBDC), hosted the first of a series of virtual entrepreneurship bootcamps on June 25th utilizing an online meeting platform. The second bootcamp was hosted on September 24th in collaboration with the Starr County Industrial Foundation (SCIF) and the Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation (RGCEDC) who served as hosts for the event. The training connected business owners and entrepreneurs with business recovery experts to cover topics such as service(s) delivery, safety and personnel, financing, social media and more. The training was available at no-cost to both start-up and existing business owners.

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>