



October 2020 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the October 2020 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by -1.0% to 6.9%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by -1.4% to 6.9%.

Statewide Overview for October: Texas had a gain of 118,100 non-agricultural jobs in October and a loss of -499,200 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment decrease rate of -3.9%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 19,400 jobs in October and a total of -99,500 jobs were lost in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a decrease of -5.2% over the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job gains for this month with 9,400 jobs.

The Service-Providing sector gained in total 98,700 jobs in October and has a total loss of -399,700 jobs in the past year. This sector is decreasing at a -3.6% annual rate. The Professional & Business Services sector had the most job gains in October with an estimated 45,200 employees hired and an annual increasing rate of 1.0%. The Leisure & Hospitality sector follows with a gain of 27,700 jobs and a -14.7% annual decreasing rate.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The October unemployment rates show significant decreases across the region suggesting more individuals are returning to work. Starr and Hidalgo counties reflect the most significant decreases of -3.1% and -2.4% respectively.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -2.4% to 10.5%
- Cameron County decreased by -1.6% to 9.5%
- Starr County decreased by -3.1%, to 15.4%
- Willacy County decreased by -2.1% to 10.3%
- Webb County decreased by -1.5% to 7.8%

Cities:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) with a decrease of -2.3% and a rate of 7.8%.
- Edinburg had the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with a decrease of -2.0% and a rate of 7.9%
- Harlingen was third with a decrease of -1.9% and a rate of 8.5%
- Laredo unemployment rate had a decrease of -1.6% and a rate of 7.8% that was identical to the unemployment rate in McAllen.

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	800	-300	300	800
Leisure & Hospitality	800	-200	200	800
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	-100	300		200
Professional & Business Services	400	200	100	700
Mining & Construction	100		100	200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	100	100	600
Manufacturing	100			100
Information				
Financial Activities				
Other Services	100			100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	2,600	100	800	3,500

The October 2020 Labor Market Report reflects job growth for all regional metropolitan areas. The primary sector with the largest job growth in the border region in October is the Healthcare & Private Education sector with an estimated 800 new jobs. As the local economy continues to adapt to the changing environment brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leisure & Hospitality sector is the second contributor to the total jobs in the region with an estimated 800 new hires. The October total non-agricultural job growth for our border region is an estimated 3,500 jobs, which reflects a solid growth from last month estimates.

Information Technology:

The initial Information Technology (IT) Taskforce Meeting was held on November 17, 2020 to discuss the local IT cross-industry field. The purpose of the taskforce meeting is to initiate an employer-led strategic discussion between local leaders to help improve the talent pipeline and alignment with the needs of employers. The IT Taskforce initiative strives to position the Lower Rio Grande Valley in a competitive advantage to produce skilled IT talent and attract a larger group of IT employers.

Workforce Solutions (WFS) is soliciting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Information Technology (IT) Workforce Assessment. The primary areas to assess are the workforce availability, educational programs, infrastructure capacity, and economic growth potential for the IT field in the region. An RFP packet is currently available here: <https://www.wfsolutions.org/who-we-are/do-business-with-us/procurement.html>

Healthcare Industry:

WFS has continued to engage in Business Retention and Expansion visits virtually in order to assist prospective businesses. Recently, WFS met with a McAllen based Healthcare Call Center employer that is looking to expand operations. The employer will need to obtain larger real estate in order to accommodate expansion, additional funding to train workforce, and assistance with the recruitment of a well-trained labor force. WFS facilitated a meeting with the McAllen Economic Development Corporation to assist with property expansion and will provide information regarding available funding opportunities for training new and existing employees. The employer is currently occupying 10,000 square feet in McAllen with about 15 employees but with this new expansion, they are projected to hire up to 3,000 Customer Care Representatives (CCR).

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>