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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Workforce Solutions releases May Labor Market Report**

McAllen, TX – Nationally, the unemployment rate increased by .1% to a level of 5.5%, seasonally adjusted. Texas also increased by .1% to 4.3%.

Unemployment rates generally continued to drop across most of the region. Hidalgo and Cameron Counties dropped by .1%, Starr and Willacy Counties both dropped by .3%, and Webb County increased by .1% to 4.6%.

McAllen had the lowest reported city rate in the RGV, at 4.6%, followed closely by Edinburg with 4.8%. Harlingen was third at 5.6%, and Mission was fourth at 5.7%. Laredo had the lowest in the border region, at 4.1%.

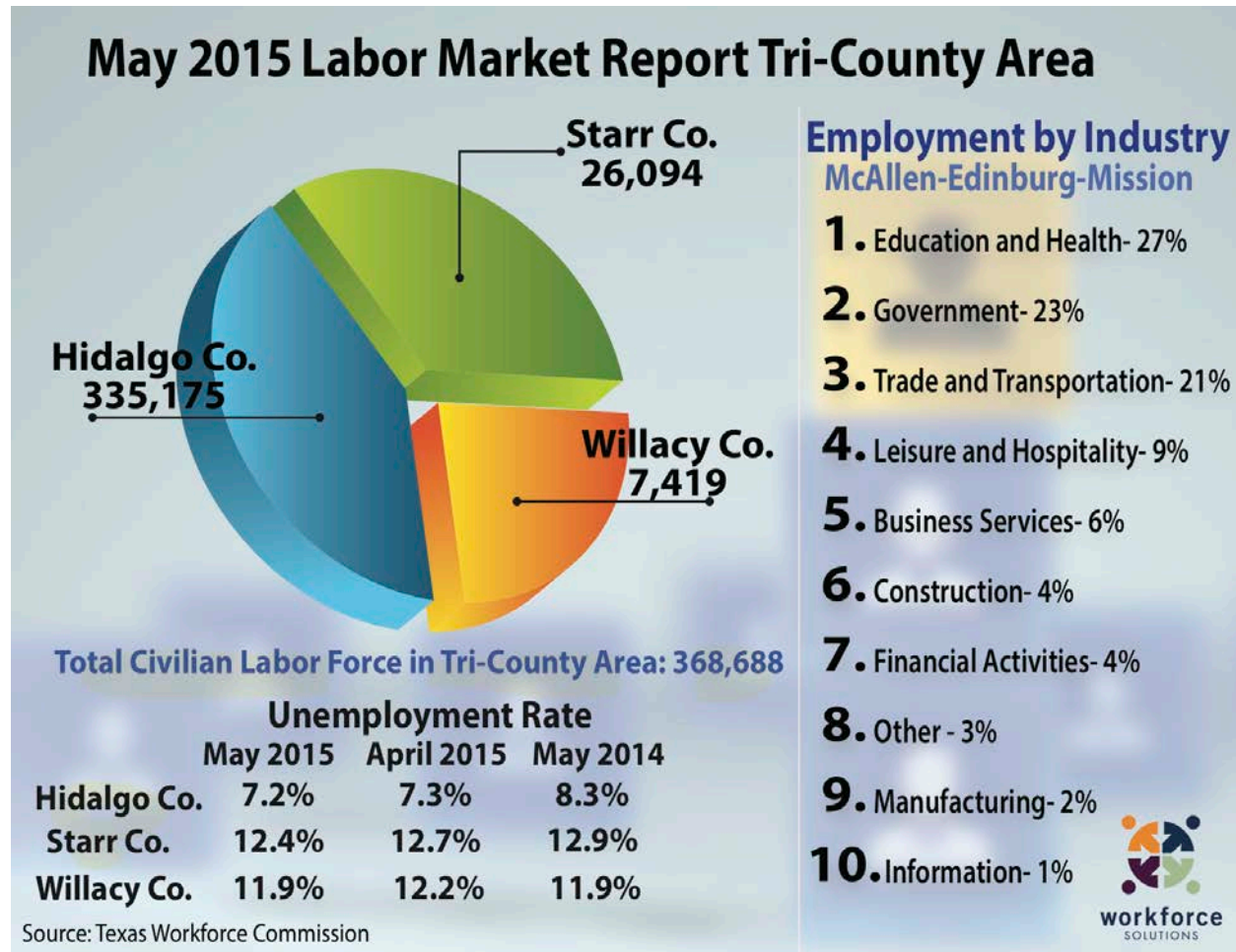
“We’ve seen a strong increase in the trade, healthcare, education and hospitality sectors in our area,” said Frank Almaraz, CEO Workforce Solutions LRGV. “This is a trend that we’ve had all year and it shows that the Rio Grande Valley is continuing to create more jobs while keeping up with the constant increase in population.”

May Job Growth by Sector (includes Laredo to Brownsville)

Our region’s four largest sectors all continued to add jobs in May:

- 1,500 added to Healthcare
- 1,300 to Leisure & Hospitality
- 1,200 to Trade & Transportation
- 700 to the Government category (led by the Public Education & Law Enforcement sub-sectors)





**Total Civilian Labor Force in Tri-County Area: 368,688**

### Unemployment Rate

	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014
<b>Hidalgo Co.</b>	7.2%	7.3%	8.3%
<b>Starr Co.</b>	12.4%	12.7%	12.9%
<b>Willacy Co.</b>	11.9%	12.2%	11.9%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission



Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision.

#### Workforce Solutions

Workforce Solutions (WFS), under the direction of the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce boards located throughout the state. This workforce board services Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. The primary goal of TWC and the 28 workforce boards is to respond to needs of Texas employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers, and job seekers are encouraged to take advantage of these services. To learn more about the programs and services WFS has to offer, please call (877) 687-1121 or visit [WFSolutions.org](http://WFSolutions.org).

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