



February 2020 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the February 2020 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment decreased by -0.1% to 3.5%. Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.5% for the second consecutive month this year.

Statewide Overview for February: Texas had a net gain of 50,400 nonagricultural jobs in February and has added 314,500 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents a 2.5% annual employment growth rate.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 12,100 jobs in February and a total of 31,100 jobs were added in the past twelve months. The Manufacturing sector led for this month with a gain of 5,300 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a 1.6% growth rate over the past twelve months.

The Service-Providing sector in total gained 38,300 jobs in February and a total of 283,400 jobs in the past year. This sector is growing at a 2.6% annual rate. The Professional & Business Services sector led in February with an estimated 16,700 employees added and an annual growth rate of 4.0%. The Leisure & Hospitality sector follows with a gain of 9,300 jobs and a 3.3% annual growth rate.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The February unemployment rates show slight decreases at the county and city levels. Starr and Willacy counties reflect the most significant increases of 1.3% and 0.9% respectively.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County decreased by -0.9% to 6.7%
- Cameron County decreased -0.5% to 5.8%
- Starr County decreased by -0.9%, to 12.9%
- Willacy County decreased -0.1% at 8.2%
- Webb County decreased by -0.2% to 4.0%

Cities:

- McAllen and Edinburg had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at 4.5%
- Harlingen was second with a decrease of -0.1% and a rate of 4.9%
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region with a decrease of -0.2% and a rate of 3.9%

This report is for February 2020 and does not include the impact of COVID-19.

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	800	300	200	1,300
Leisure & Hospitality	400	500	300	1,200
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	1,000	300	500	1,800
Professional & Business Services	200		100	300
Mining & Construction				
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	-700	-200	-100	-1,000
Manufacturing	-100	200		100
Information	-100			-100
Financial Activities				
Other Services		100		100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	1,500	1,200	1,000	3,700

The primary contributor to the February employment gains in the border region is the Government sector, with an estimated 1,800 more jobs followed by Leisure & Hospital with 1,200 jobs. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector had the most job losses of -1,000 jobs in the border region. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector shows less loss of jobs compare to the previous month and is part of the seasonal adjustment for this industry. The February total non-agricultural job loss for our border region is an estimated 3,700 jobs.

Manufacturing: A new produce company and McAllen Economic Development Corporation hosted a ground-breaking ceremony. The new company will be building a 100,000 sq. ft. facility and employed more than 100 employees with potential room for expansion located in McAllen’s industrial park. Another company that manufactures cabinets and kitchen pieces in the Weslaco area and has a distribution facility in Mercedes, is planning an expansion of approximately 44 employees to be able to double daily production.

Information Technology: Workforce Solutions hosted a meeting with the IT Workforce Assessment Advisory Committee to move forward with procurement of services to conduct the assessment in the region. This initiative is in efforts to improve the alignment of the talent pipeline with the needs of employers, and to help position the Lower Rio Grande Valley in a competitive advantage to produce skilled IT talent and attract a larger pool of IT employers. In addition, Workforce Solutions is beginning to recruit employers to integrate an IT Industry Taskforce to collaborate and help address regional IT industry challenges.

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>

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