



July 2019 Labor Market Report - Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the July 2019 Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment held steady at 3.7%. Texas also remained solid at 3.4%.

Statewide Overview for July: Texas had a net gain of 35,200 nonagricultural jobs in July, and has added 323,300 in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents a 2.6% annual employment growth rate.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 6,700 jobs in July, and a total of 84,400 jobs were added in the past twelve months. The Construction sector led again this month, with a gain of 6,300 jobs. The Goods-Producing sector has seen a 4.5% growth rate over the past twelve months.

The Service sectors in total gained 28,500 jobs in July and a total of 238,900 jobs in the past year. This sector is growing at a 2.2% annual rate. The Leisure and Hospitality sector led in July, with an estimated 8,300 employees added. The Education and Health Services sector was close behind, with a gain of 6,100 jobs.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The July unemployment rates show slight increases at the county and city levels. This is a normal seasonal cycle, as public schools lay off employees for the summer, and many young people completing school enter the workforce seeking employment opportunities. Even with these increases, the July 2019 unemployment rates are well below the levels we experienced in July 2018.

Counties:

- Hidalgo County increased by 0.5% to 6.7%
- Cameron County increased by 0.2 %, to 5.8%
- Starr County increased by 1.1%, to 10.9%
- Willacy County increased by 0.4% to 9.5%
- Webb County increased by 0.1% to 4.0%

Cities:

- McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV with 4.6%, an increase of 0.3% from June
- Edinburg was second at 4.9%, an increase of 0.4% from June
- Harlingen was third at 5.3%, an increase of 0.2% from June
- Laredo again had the lowest rate in our border region at 3.9%, an increase of 0.1% from June

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

Employment Sectors	McAllen MSA	Brownsville MSA	Laredo MSA	Total Region
Healthcare & Private Education	1,100	200	-100	1,200
Leisure & Hospitality		200	-300	-100
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	-5,900	-1,000	-700	-7,600
Professional & Business Services				
Mining & Construction	-100		300	200
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	100		-100	
Manufacturing	-100			-100
Information	100			100
Financial Activities				
Other Services		-100		-100
Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:	-4,800	-700	-900	-6,400

The primary contributor to the July employment gains in our region was the Healthcare and Private Education sector, with an estimated 1,200 more jobs. The Government sector had the most job losses with -7,600. This is a temporary and seasonal occurrence, as many public education workers are sent home for all or part of the summer.

The Healthcare Sector

The healthcare sector in McAllen MSA continues to grow steadily, and this growth can be attributed to the expansion of healthcare facilities in Hidalgo County with one hospital projecting an expansion in bed size from 530 to 1,160. Additionally, Workforce Solutions (WFS), in partnership with local healthcare institutions received a Skills Development Fund Grant (SDFG) in the amount of \$1,057,620 to provide customized training to upskill approximately 4,000 new and incumbent healthcare employees to meet the current healthcare industry demand. In conjunction with the SDFG, WFS is collaborating with regional partners to conduct an industry wage study to quantify and validate the impact of the healthcare industry in the Rio Grande Valley, as well as, guide future workforce initiatives.

As always, thanks again for your support and participation!

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