The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the May Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate increased by (0.3) to 3.7%. The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by (0.1) to 4.1%.

Statewide Overview: Texas had a gain of 51,000 non-agricultural jobs in May and a gain of 529,800 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment increase rate of 4.0%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 6,400 jobs in May, and a total of 70,500 jobs were gained in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen an increase of 3.7% over the past twelve months. The Mining and Logging sector had the most job growth for this month with 7,000 jobs added.

The Service-Providing sector increased by 44,600 jobs in May and has a total gain of 459,300 jobs in the past year. This sector increased at a 4.0% annual rate. The Professional & Business Services sector had the most job growth with an additional 21,500 jobs increasing at a 4.3% annual rate. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities Sector, which had an annual increasing rate of 2.9%, the Information sector, which had an annual increasing rate of 5.9%, and the Education & Health Services sector, which had an annual increasing rate of 5.0%, had the second most job gains in May with an estimated 21,500 employees, 11,800 employees, and 6,800 employees, respectively.

Regional Unemployment Recap: The May unemployment rates increased in Hidalgo (0.6%), Starr (0.1%), and Willacy (0.7%) counties.

Counties:
- Hidalgo County increased by 0.6% to 6.2%
- Cameron County increased by 0.5% to 5.7%
- Starr County increased by 0.1%, to 9.3%
- Willacy County increased by 0.7% to 8.1%
- Webb County increased by 0.5% to 4.3%

Cities:
- McAllen has the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) at a rate of 4.5%.
- Edinburg has the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at a rate of 4.8%
- Laredo unemployment rate increased by 0.5% to 4.3%
- Mission unemployment rate increased by 0.4% to 5.4%
- Harlingen unemployment rate increased by 0.6% to 5.5%.
- Brownsville unemployment rate decreased by 0.7% to a rate of 5.9%.

Regional Employment Change Estimates
Hidalgo, Cameron, and Webb Counties' Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)

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

The May 2023 Employment Change Estimates reflect a decrease for the border region from last month's employment estimates. The primary sectors with the largest job growth in the border region are the Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector, and the Education (Private) & Health Services sector with an estimated 400 new jobs each.

The Government sector in the region showed -400 jobs lost in the McAllen and Laredo MSAs. The May total non-agricultural job growth for the border region is an estimated 1,000 jobs.

RGV Economy: During the month of May, the RGV's (McAllen & Brownsville MSA's) economy experienced a job gain as 500 individuals entered the workforce. Workforce Solutions (WFS) directly contributed employment efforts by assisting 1,042 individuals enter employment. WFS partnered with businesses to address their hiring needs by hosting 22 hiring events with 88 participating employers and 1,085 job seekers in attendance, resulting in 143 job offers. Additionally, WFS served a total of 3,165 employers representing 1,304 job openings, resulting in 424 direct hires and another 618 indirect hires.

Business Engagement:

Education – The Education sector in the Rio Grande Valley has a higher supply of jobs in comparison to the national average, the most demand coming from The University of Texas System, IDEA Public Schools, and the McAllen Independent School District. Average annual earnings for this industry fall around $68,630. Most occupations within the education industry fall within the Educational Instruction & Library Occupations, Office and Administrative Support Occupations, and Building Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations. The skills that are most sought in job postings for this industry include handling office equipment, organizational communications, curriculum development, and bilingualism (English/Spanish) (Lightcast 2023.2). To help bridge the gap between those looking to work in the education industry and the large number of job openings in education, Region One ESC hosted a Job Fair on June 8, 2023, in Edinburg for both educators and paraprofessionals. Various school districts and employers were present, and a lucky few were granted the opportunity to interview on-the-spot. This was a great opportunity for sharing resumes, networking, and finding employment in a school district in the Rio Grande Valley.

Information Technology (IT) – Region One ESC also hosted an initiative to advance knowledge of educational technology. The 2023 Region One ESC Technology Conference occurred at South Padre Island from May 16, 2023, to May 18, 2023, and included an assortment of engaging discussions about topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and classroom technologies. Speakers from NASA, Cisco, South Texas College, Netsync, Barracuda, and more presented on a variety of thought-provoking topics. Not only were attendees able to hop from one discussion to the next and browse the various booths available but also, they were able to test new technologies that are being implemented in classrooms to improve and facilitate instruction. This conference highlighted the importance of staying aware of changes in technology not just for teachers, but for everyone, in order to advance the field of IT in the RGV. On a similar note, Workforce Solutions will be hosting an IT Job Fair on July 20, 2023 at the Mission CEED Building. It will be a great opportunity to network and explore the array of IT related job openings available in the Valley. Both the employer and job seeker registration links are now available for this event—you can view the event flyer here. For more information, please reach out to the Business Relations team at BusinessRelations@wfsolutions.org.

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Texas Labor Market Review from TWC: https://texaslmi.com/api/GetHomeLinks/TLMR **| Local Labor Market Reports:** https://www.wfsolutions.org/workforce-intelligence.html