



## Workforce Solutions November 2023 Labor Market Report

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) released the November Labor Market and Employment reports. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate decreased by (0.2) to 3.7%. The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.

**Statewide Overview:** Texas had a gain of 26,800 non-agricultural jobs in November and a gain of 407,100 jobs in the past year (seasonally adjusted). This represents an annual employment increase rate of 3.0%.

Goods-Producing employment increased by 7,100 jobs in November, and a total of 78,200 jobs were gained in the past twelve months. The Goods-Producing sector has seen an increase of 4.0% over the past twelve months. The Construction sector had the most job growth for this month with 9,200 jobs added.

The Service-Providing sector increased by 19,700 jobs in November and had a total gain of 328,900 jobs in the past year. This sector increased at a 2.8% annual rate. The Professional and Business Services sector had the most job growth with an additional 9,900 jobs increasing at a 2.4% annual rate. The Education and Health Services sector, which had an annual increasing rate of 5.0%, had the second most job gains in November with an estimated 5,100 employees.

**Regional Unemployment Recap:** The November unemployment rates increased in Hidalgo (0.1%) and Starr (0.3%) Counties and decreased in Willacy (-0.8%) County.

### Counties:

- Hidalgo County increased by 0.1% to 5.3%
- Cameron County decreased by -0.2% to 4.7%
- Starr County increased by 0.3% to 8.0%
- Willacy County decreased by -0.8% to 5.8%
- Webb County decreased by -0.2% to 3.5%

### Cities:

- McAllen has the lowest unemployment rate in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) at a rate of 3.8%
- Edinburg has the second lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at a rate of 4.0%.
- Mission unemployment rate decreased by -0.1% to 5.0%
- Laredo unemployment rate decreased by -0.2% to 3.5%
- Harlingen unemployment rate decreased by -0.4% to 4.6%
- Brownsville unemployment rate decreased by -0.3% to 4.7%



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

Employment Sectors	MSA			Total Region
	McAllen	Brownsville	Laredo	
Mining, Logging & Construction				
Manufacturing				
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,300	500	500	2,300
Information				
Financial Activities				
Professional & Business Services	-100	-100		-200
Education (Private) & Health Services	100	300		400
Leisure & Hospitality	300	200	100	600
Other Services	100			100
Government (Public Ed, Law Enforcement)	1,000	200		1,200
<b>Total All Non-Agriculture Sectors:</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>4,400</b>

The November 2023 Employment Change Estimates reflect a **decrease** for the border region from last month's employment estimates. The primary sector with the largest job growth in the border region is the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities sector with an estimated 2,300 new jobs.

The Professional & Business Services sector in the region showed -100 jobs lost in the McAllen MSA and -100 jobs lost in the Brownsville MSA. The November total non-agricultural job growth for the border region is an estimated 4,400 jobs.

**RGV Economy:** During the month of November, the RGV's (McAllen & Brownsville MSA's) economy experienced a job gain as 3,800 individuals entered the workforce. Workforce Solutions (WFS) directly contributed employment efforts by assisting 705 individuals enter employment. WFS partnered with businesses to address their hiring needs by hosting 16 hiring events with 117 participating employers and 1,007 job seekers in attendance, resulting in 262 job offers. Additionally, WFS served a total of 1,377 employers representing 1,374 job openings, resulting in 403 direct hires and another 302 indirect hires.

### Business Engagement:

#### Prosperity Task Force

The Business Relations Department and the Prosperity Task Force stakeholders convened to discuss collaboration regarding maximizing WFS resources and services available to the community as well as increasing awareness of [WorkInTexas.com](http://WorkInTexas.com), a job platform available to job seekers and employers in Texas. Both parties expressed their commitment to further intensifying their efforts in order to foster career awareness among our youth and adult population.

#### Hiring Red White and You Hiring Event

The Hiring Red, White, and You event was a successful event hosted by Workforce Solutions Lower Rio, offering employment opportunities for veterans and job seekers. Participants had the chance to meet and network with over 100 employers and community-based organizations, taking the next step in building their careers. The event took place at the McAllen Convention Center on November 9, 2023. This year's event featured an array of services including complimentary headshots, haircuts, and health screenings for all participants. The opening ceremony was elevated with a presentation by the Border Patrol Color Guard and speeches were delivered by prominent figures, including Francisco "Frank" Almaraz, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions, and Omar Quintanilla, Mayor Pro-Tem and Commissioner of the City of McAllen.

#### Department of Labor Infrastructure Grant

In collaboration with WFS Cameron, WFS Lower Rio received one of only two Department of Labor (DOL) Infrastructure Grants awarded in Texas called the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs grant that supports worker-centered training programs. This \$2 million award is aimed at improving infrastructure in the Rio Grande Valley as well as developing career pathways to high-quality jobs in the renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors. The funding will not only provide valuable opportunities for job seekers, but also, improve infrastructure in the region tremendously. To read more about this initiative, please click [here](#).

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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>

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