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Our Mission:

The mission of the South Plains workforce system is to meet the needs of the region's employers for a highly skilled workforce by educating and preparing workers.

June Newsletter

Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for June was 3.9%, up 0.7% from April's 3.2%. Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock MSA's recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSA's at 3.4%. Midland's MSA was next at 3.5% followed by College Station-Bryan's MSA at 3.8%.

*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. To access this and more employment data, visit tracer2.com.

The TWC Lubbock MSA and South Plains

Upcoming Events:

Annual Awards of
Excellence &
Board Meeting
~July 26, 2017~


South Plains Career Expo
~October 18, 2017~


South Plains Job Fair
-October 24, 2017-


Hiring Red, White & You
Veterans Job Fair
-November 9, 2017-

WDA Economic Profiles provide a breakdown of employment by industry. Click on the images to the right to access the profiles.

(Image located on page 3)

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Metro Areas (Seasonally Adjusted)

Metro Areas	Apr 2017	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Abilene MSA	68,100	100	700	1.0
Amarillo MSA	121,300	-1,100	1,200	1.0
Austin-Round Rock MSA	1,021,900	-400	29,300	3.0
Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA	164,000	900	-800	-0.5
Brownsville-Harlingen MSA	143,000	100	2,700	1.9
College Station-Bryan MSA	115,900	-400	2,500	2.2
Corpus Christi MSA	192,400	-100	1,400	0.7
Dallas-FW-Arlington MSA	3,582,400	-18,000	99,600	2.9
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,555,000	-15,600	76,600	3.1
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,027,800	-3,200	22,600	2.2
El Paso MSA	317,000	400	9,200	3.0
Houston MSA	3,044,300	13,700	44,000	1.5
Killeen-Temple MSA	146,600	500	3,600	2.5
Laredo MSA	104,000	100	2,300	2.3
Longview MSA	96,700	300	-600	-0.6
Lubbock MSA	146,300	-1,000	800	0.5
McAllen MSA	256,700	600	4,900	1.9
Midland MSA	87,800	-100	100	0.1
Odessa MSA	69,800	100	-200	-0.3
San Angelo MSA	48,600	400	-500	-1.0
San Antonio MSA	1,035,600	3,800	24,800	2.5
Sherman-Denison MSA	47,000	100	1,000	2.2
Texarkana MSA	60,200	-500	-800	-1.3
Tyler MSA	106,200	400	2,300	2.2
Victoria MSA	42,000	200	-300	-0.7
Waco MSA	120,400	600	2,200	1.9
Wichita Falls MSA	58,000	400	-100	-0.2

Highlights

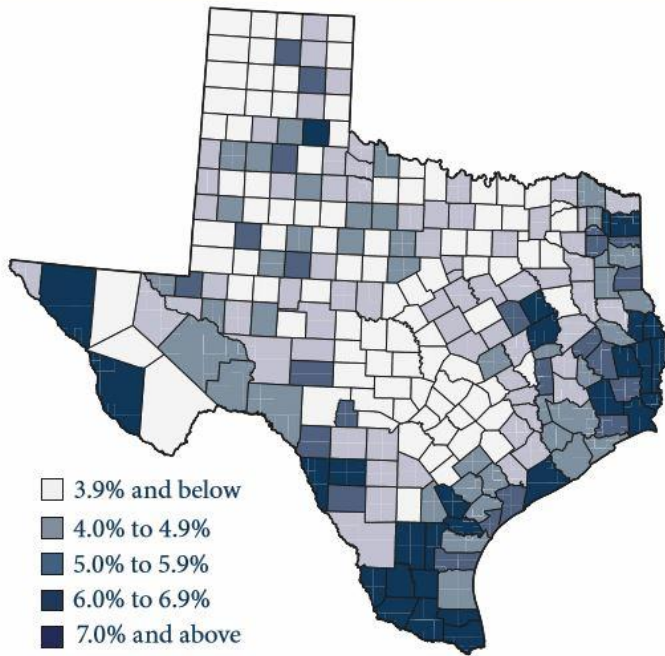
(MSA industry data are not seasonally adjusted)

- Seventeen of 26 areas grew in April for a combined increase of 22,700 jobs. Nineteen areas grew over the year, while seven areas contracted.
- The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA accounted for more than half of all area employment gains over the month. The MSA increased its annual growth rate to 1.5 percent.
- The San Angelo MSA grew fastest in percentage terms with a 0.8 percent April expansion. Per not seasonally adjusted industry data, Retail Trade and Other Services each added 200 jobs over the month, while Government was down 200 positions.
- The Dallas-Plano-Irving MD led in actual and percentage job growth annually. Professional and Business Services led all major industries with 21,000 positions gained, followed by Leisure and Hospitality with 10,900 jobs added.
- The Beaumont-PA and the Texarkana MSAs lost the most jobs annually. The loss of 2,100 jobs in Retail was primarily responsible for the contraction in the Beaumont-PA MSA, while employment losses in Texarkana were spread across industries.



Click image to view full report:

County Unemployment Rates



(Image located on page 6)

Lubbock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



Click image to
view full report:

South Plains Regional
Workforce Development Area

LUBBOCK												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pop	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152	248,152
Unemp	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408	12,408
Rate	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

Click image to
view full report:

Lubbock LAUS
County-by-County
Unemployment Rates

Fossil fuels continue to power America



Alex Mills, executive director, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

Even though renewable energy has been the darling of state and federal governments for more than a decade, the old fossil fuels – oil, natural gas and coal – continue to generate most of America’s energy.

Fossil fuels have provided more than 80% of total U.S. energy consumption for more than 100 years, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

EIA released a report last week stating that fossil fuels accounted for 81 percent of U.S. energy consumption in 2016.

Petroleum, which encompasses nearly all transportation fuels and several petroleum-based fuels used in homes, businesses, and industries, continues to be the largest source of energy consumption. Petroleum consumption has increased in each of the past 4 years.

Consumption of natural gas has risen in 9 of the past 10 years. As recently as 2006, the United States consumed more coal than natural gas (in energy-equivalent terms), but as natural gas consumption has increased, particularly in the electric power sector, natural gas use in 2016 was about twice that of coal.

Coal consumption fell nearly 9 percent in 2016, following a 14 percent drop in 2015. Overall, US coal consumption has declined almost 38 percent since 2005. In each of the past 20 years, the power sector has accounted for more than 90% of total U.S. coal consumption.

In 2016, the renewable share of energy consumption in the United States was 10.5 percent, according to EIA. This was the largest renewable share since the 1930s, when overall energy consumption was lower, and the amount of biomass consumption (mainly wood) was relatively high. The greatest growth in renewables over the past decade has been in solar and wind electricity generation. Liquid biofuel consumption—more than half of which is ethanol blended into motor gasoline—has also increased in recent years, contributing to the growing renewable share of total energy consumption. Many of the federal tax subsidies for wind and solar were scheduled to expire, but were extended in 2015.

The Investment Tax Credit provides a 30 percent tax credit for the cost to develop solar energy projects. This credit is now extended until the end of 2019, when it will begin to decrease incrementally until 2022. In 2022 and beyond, a 10 percent tax credit for both utility and commercially operated solar projects will be available, while the tax credits for residential solar projects will expire in 2022. Before the extension took effect, the tax credit was set to decrease from 30 percent to 10 percent, or expire completely, depending on the sector, in 2016.

The Production Tax Credit, as it relates to the generation of electricity from wind plants, provides a 2.3 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) tax credit for the first 10 years of production. This rate currently applies to plants that are under construction by the end of 2016. After 2016, the value of the tax credit for wind generation will decrease incrementally until it expires in 2020. Before the extension, the tax credit had expired at the end of 2014.

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Alex Mills is President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. The opinions expressed are solely of the author.

San Angelo Published 1:51 p.m. CT July 9, 2017 | Updated 1:51 p.m. CT July 9, 2017

Texas Ends 2016 with 210,200 Jobs Added Over the Year

State unemployment rate remains at 4.6 percent in December

AUSTIN – Texas has added an estimated 210,200 seasonally adjusted jobs since December 2015 with the addition of 800 nonfarm jobs this December. The state has added jobs in 20 of the past 21 months. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate maintained a 4.6 percent rate in December.

Read the full [press release](#).

Sources:

Texas Labor Market Review

http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/2138_TLMR-Current_Edition.pdf

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Workforce Solutions South Plains Community Stakeholder

Our mailing address is:

Workforce Solutions South Plains Board Administration

1301 Broadway, Ste. 201, Lubbock, TX 79401

(806) 744-1987

www.spworkforce.org

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