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.

November Newsletter

Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for October was 2.6%, down 0.3% from September. Amarillo and Midland MSA's recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.4% followed by College Station-Bryan MSA of 2.5%. Austin-Round Rock and Lubbock MSA's were at 2.6%.

*Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are

Upcoming Events:

South Plains Career Expo
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
~October 23, 2018~

South Plains Job Fair
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
-April 2018-
-October 2018-

Hiring Red, White & You
Veterans Job Fair
-November 2018-

subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit tracer2.com.

The TWC Lubbock MSA and South Plains 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)

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	3,044,500	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 seasonall...

- Seventeen of 26 areas grev for a combined increase jobs. Nineteen areas grev year, while seven areas cor

- The Houston-The Woodla Land MSA accounted for half of all area employn over the month. The MSA its annual growth rate to 1

- The San Angelo MSA grev percentage terms with a 0 April expansion. Per not adjusted industry data, Re and Other Services each jobs over the month, whil ment was down 200 positio

- The Dallas-Plano-Irving actual and percentage jo annually. Professional an Services led all major indu 21,000 positions gained, f Leisure and Hospitality w jobs added.

- The Beaumont-PA and the na MSAs lost the most job The loss of 2,100 jobs in primarily responsible for traction in the Beaumont while employment losses in na were spread across ind

County Unemployment Rates

3.9% and below
4.0% to 4.9%
5.0% to 5.9%
6.0% to 6.9%
7.0% and above
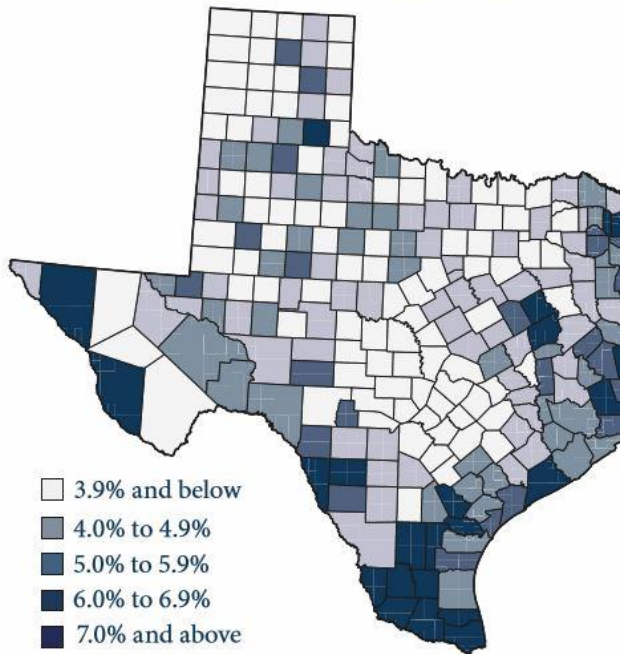
(Image located on page 6)

**Click image to
view full report:**
Lubbock Metropolitan
Statistical Area (MSA)

**Click image to
view full report:**
South Plains Regional
Workforce Development Area

Click image to

view full report:

Lubbock LAUS

County-by-County

Unemployment Rates

What are oil and gas companies doing to embrace robotics and automation and what type of workers do they need to execute these missions?

Robotics, by definition, encompasses several different types of engineering that work to develop robots, which are then used to substitute for humans in a myriad of work environments.
Robotics engineering isn't new; however, it has gained steam in recent years in the oil and gas industry as companies work toward safer, more efficient means of operations.

The right path forward is finding value and once you find value in automation and big data, then you get an efficient and cost-effective way of playing in that space. "

Frank Springett, Director of Engineering for Research and Development and NOVOS, National Oilwell Varco

RIGZONE

"In the drilling space, most people look at robotics as 'how do we move tubulars from Point A to Point B?'" said Frank Springett, National Oilwell Varco's (NOV) director of engineering for research and development and NOVOS. "NOV's been doing robotics in that sense for more than 50 years … looking at just the mechanization and the machine – it's been happening for quite a while."

The company's latest foray into automated sequencing has been through NOVOS, a process automation platform that manages rig equipment to execute drilling programs. NOV has been working on NOVOS for five years.

"NOVOS is taking it to the next level with process automation," Springett told Rigzone. "Process automation is not necessarily looking at 'how do I move pipe from Point A to Point B?' It's 'how are we manufacturing a wellbore?'"

With how efficient drilling operations are today, the importance of automation is becoming more prevalent, Springett said. He maintains that it is still a huge part of NOV's strategy.

"With the downturn, we have to be very selective of what we invest in," he said. "We see process automation has far greater reach into impact to customer operations than just one specific machine. Automation is a pretty big and important part of our strategy right now."

Still, Springett warns that automation and big data analytics for automation and big data analytics' sake is bad. You have to find the value.

"That's been a big focus for us," he said. "Our entire process for anything we're going to do data analytics on is to first find the value. What's the cost to the customer and how can we impact that? The right path forward is finding value and once you find value in automation and big data, then you get an efficient and cost-effective way of playing in that space."

What's Needed of the Workforce

The move toward robotics and automation has undoubtedly changed the skills companies are looking for in workers. But industry leaders maintain that they are not looking to replace workers, per se.

"We're not looking for robots to replace people. What we're looking for is to free up some of the routine tasks and automate them to get a safer environment," Smith said. "The skills of our workforce will have to upgrade a little, but it frees them up to absorb a lot of the other things we're doing."

Smith said skillsets include design and development of hardware and software over a robotics system, field operation and maintenance, troubleshooting, use of electrical controls and electric motors, to name a few.

Dr. Eric van Oort, a professor in the Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering at University of Texas, is also the director of RAPID (Rig Automation & Performance Improvement in Drilling), a consortium of engineering students and researchers whose goal is to bring advanced automation technologies to the oil and gas industry. Van Oort spent more than 20 years working with Shell Oil Company before becoming a professor in 2012.

"Robotics gets a lot of interest from our students; they love this stuff!" van Oort told Rigzone. "We are at a watershed moment in the progressive adoption of automation and big data analytics and techniques in the

upstream industry. It's moving at an accelerated pace and operators are figuring out that they can have significant savings through these technologies."

He said industry roles such as roughnecks and roustabouts will be affected by automation and robotics.

"Full automation with no people on the rig floor – you'll see that more and more. There'll be less people screwing pipes together," said van Oort. "It would be silly to think that pool of people would not be affected."

On the other hand, he said, it creates new subject areas for robotics, particularly data analytics and controls system engineers.

"Engineers are going to need to have skills in data analytics, writing control algorithms and control systems that make automated machinery work," van Oort said. "They'll be a shift to higher-level jobs, away from working at the rig site to sophisticated data analysis and control systems engineering."

It's engineers with these skills and abilities that will be in high demand.

"These are the engineers who will come fresh out of college with six-figure salaries. These will be the individual's companies will compete for, said van Oort. "Companies are actually calling me now and asking if I have people with these kinds of skills because those are the workers they want."

Texas Adds 256,100 Jobs Over the Past Year

State unemployment rate falls to record low 3.9 percent

AUSTIN – The Texas economy added 71,500 seasonally adjusted jobs in October. Annual employment growth for Texas was 2.6% in October, marking 90 consecutive months of annual growth. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, setting a record for the lowest unemployment rate recorded in four decades.

Read the full press release.

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