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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.

October Newsletter

Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for September was 2.9%, down 0.7% from August. Amarillo recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.7% followed by Midland's MSA's at 2.8%. Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSA's were all at 2.9%.

*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:

South Plains Job Fair
10:00am - 2:00pm
Lubbock Memorial Civic
Center
1501 Mac Davis Lane
-October 24, 2017-

Hiring Red, White & You
Veterans Job Fair
10:00am - 2:00pm
Clarion Hotel

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

3201 S. Loop 289
-November 9, 2017-

(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.





What Wind Turbine Technicians Do

Wind turbine technicians often monitor turbines from the ground. Wind turbine service technicians, also known as *windtechs*, install, maintain, and repair wind turbines.

Duties

Wind turbine service technicians typically do the following:

- Inspect the exterior and physical integrity of towers
- Climb towers to inspect or repair wind turbine equipment
- Perform routine maintenance on wind turbines
- Test and troubleshoot electrical, mechanical, and hydraulic components and systems
- Replace worn or malfunctioning components
- Collect turbine data for testing or research and analysis
- Service underground transmission systems, wind field substations, or fiber optic sensing and control systems

Wind turbines are large mechanical devices that convert wind energy into electricity. They are in areas where there is consistent wind. The turbine is made up of three major components: a tower, three blades, and a nacelle, which is composed of an outer case, generator, gearbox, and brakes. Wind turbine service technicians install and repair the various components of these structures. Although some windtechs are involved in building new wind turbines, most of their work is in maintaining them, particularly the nacelles, which contain the equipment that generates electricity.

Maintenance schedules are largely determined by a turbine's hours in operation, but can also vary by manufacturer. Turbines are monitored electronically from a central office, 24 hours a day. When a problem is detected, windtechs travel to the worksite and make the repairs. Most manufacturers recommend annual maintenance, which includes inspecting components and lubricating parts. For turbines that operate year-

round, routine maintenance may occur one to three times a year.

Windtechs use safety harnesses and a variety of hand and power tools to do their work. They also use computers to diagnose electrical malfunctions. Most turbine monitoring equipment is located in the nacelle, which can be accessed both on-and offsite.

Job Outlook

Wind Turbine Technicians

Percent change in employment, projected 2014-24

Wind turbine service technicians - 108%

Total, all occupations - 7%

Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations - 6%

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment of wind turbine service technicians, also known as *windtechs*, is projected to grow 108 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 4,800 new jobs over the 10-year period.

Development of taller towers with larger blades has reduced the cost of wind power generation, making it more competitive with coal, natural gas, and other forms of power generation. As additional wind turbines are erected, more windtechs will be needed to install and maintain turbines.

The most consistent winds are found offshore, and several offshore wind projects are currently being explored. If approved and developed, many more technicians will be needed.

Job Prospects

Job prospects for qualified windtechs are expected to be excellent. The number of wind turbines being installed is increasing, which should result in continuing demand for windtechs. There is also a shortage of qualified workers in some areas. Because many people prefer not to work in confined spaces or at great heights, competition for jobs is lessened.

Job opportunities vary by individual state. Wind farms are generally more prevalent in the Great Plains, the Midwest, and along coasts, and windtechs will likely find more job opportunities in these areas.

Texas Adds 256,100 Jobs over the Past Year

State unemployment rate is 4.0 percent in September

AUSTIN – Texas has added an estimated 256,100 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year. Annual employment growth for Texas was 2.1 percent.

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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