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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.

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## **May Newsletter**

### **Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment**

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for May 2018 is 2.8%, unchanged from April's 2.8%. Midland MSA's recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.1% followed by Amarillo at 2.6%. Austin Round Rock, College Station-Bryan, Lubbock and Odessa MSA's came in at 2.8% for May.

\*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](http://tracer2.com).

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **- Save the Date -**

Fall 2018 Rural Careers in Texas Industries Events for 8th grade students  
8am - 12:00pm for all events below

#### **- Muleshoe -**

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

#### **- Plainview -**

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	3,044,300	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.

Thursday, September 13,  
2018

- Crosbyton -

Tuesday, September 18,  
2018

- Levelland -

Thursday, September 20,  
2018

- South Plains Job Fair -  
Lubbock Memorial Civic  
Center

- October 10, 2018 -

- 10:00am - 2:00pm -

- South Plains Career  
Expo -  
Lubbock Memorial Civic  
Center

~ October 23, 2018 ~

- 8:30am - 1:00pm -

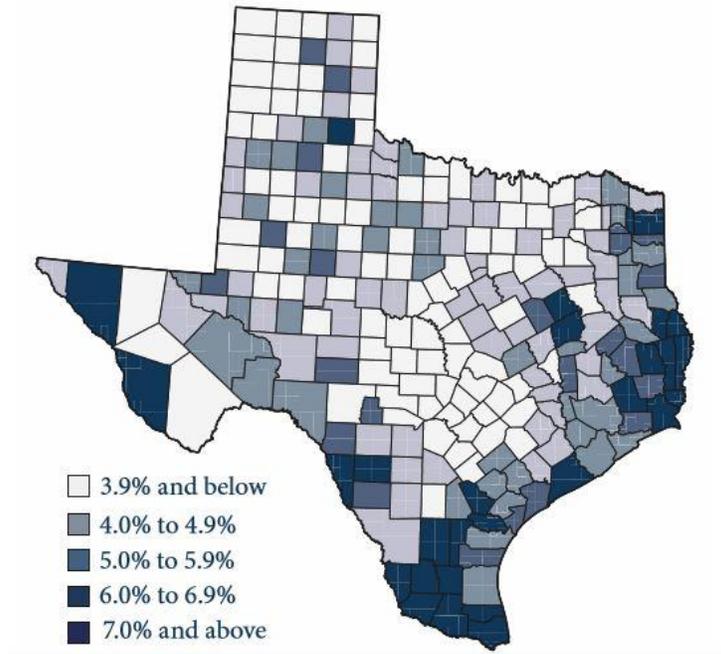
Hiring Red, White & You  
Veterans Job Fair

- November 8, 2018 -

-10:00am - 2:00pm-

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## County Unemployment Rates



(Image located on page 6)

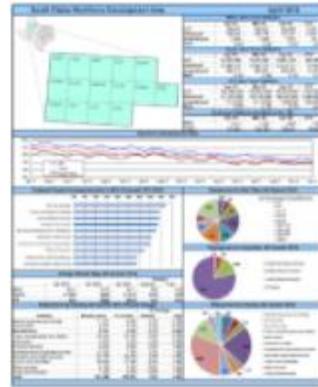
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**Click image to  
view full report:**  
Lubbock Metropolitan  
Statistical Area (MSA)



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

Area	Year	2010				2011				2012			
		Population	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Change	Population	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Change	Population	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Change
State	2010	31,000,000	10,000,000	32.3%	1,000,000	32,000,000	10,500,000	32.8%	500,000	31,500,000	11,000,000	35.0%	2,200,000
County	2010	1,000,000	300,000	30.0%	50,000	1,050,000	350,000	33.3%	50,000	1,100,000	400,000	36.4%	100,000
County	2011	1,000,000	300,000	30.0%	50,000	1,050,000	350,000	33.3%	50,000	1,100,000	400,000	36.4%	100,000
County	2012	1,000,000	300,000	30.0%	50,000	1,050,000	350,000	33.3%	50,000	1,100,000	400,000	36.4%	100,000

**Click image to  
view full report:**  
Lubbock LAUS  
County-by-County  
Unemployment Rates

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## When Wind Turbines Move to Town – How Do Rural Communities Benefit?



By [Anna Luke](#), American Wind Energy Association

[Originally published on Into the Wind](#)

It wasn't always the case, but nowadays rural places are often among those in greatest need of new economic development. Sadly, the farm belt and [Rust Belt](#) have been losing jobs and investment for decades. It will take significant change to raise up rural communities, including welcoming new opportunities like wind. Rural areas already are home to 99 percent of the country's wind turbines, with more on the way. Building a wind farm can be a big change for a small town, but a number of benefits come along with those changes, including:

### **1. [Job Creation](#)**

Hundreds of construction workers come to town during the build-out, bringing new regulars to the local diner. And full-time employees will have jobs at the wind farm, often a major new town employer. There are now more than 100,000 people working in the wind industry, and [wind turbine technician](#) is the [fastest growing job](#) in America. This is a huge opportunity for young men and women who are looking for good-paying jobs in rural towns.

### **2. [Economic Development](#)**

It's typically pretty rare when a multi-million dollar economic investment comes knocking at the door of a small town. When else does that happen? Maybe when a new superstore wants to open a location near you or a sports team relocates to your area.

### **3. Increased tax revenue and/or lower taxes for individuals**

When April 15 rolls around, how would you like to pay no local taxes? For the town of Sheldon, N.Y., the project generated so much tax revenue that local residents [paid no taxes](#) for eight years. Payments went to improving roads, building a basketball court at the town park, and erecting new walls at the town's cemeteries.

### **4. Landowner Lease Payments**

Rural landowners receive nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in lease payments every year for hosting wind turbines, acting as their new "drought-resistant cash crop." Many project developers also provide payments to other residents living nearby as a goodwill gesture as well. These payments are significant income streams and can help keep the farm in the family.

### **5. Funding for Community Projects**

The companies that own wind projects want to be good corporate citizens, and often donate to local charities and community projects like parades, restoration efforts, and youth clubs. For example, Enel Green Power North America and TradeWind donated \$50,000 to [renovate Leonardo Children's Museum](#) in Enid, Oklahoma, which included improvements like an interactive Power Tower exhibit on oil, natural gas, wind and solar power. Utility-scale wind projects are a big adjustment for small communities, but they bring significant benefits to town.

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## **Texas Adds 352,100 Jobs Over the Year**

*State unemployment rate is 4.1 percent in May*

AUSTIN – Texas has added 352,100 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the year including 34,700 jobs added in May. The State has experienced 23 consecutive months of employment growth.

[Read the full press release.](#)

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Sources:

Texas Labor Market Review

[http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/2138\\_TLMR-Current\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/2138_TLMR-Current_Edition.pdf)

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