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.

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.

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro Areas</th>
<th>April 2018</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
<th>Annual % Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abilene MSA</td>
<td>68,100</td>
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**Highlights**

- Seventeen of 26 areas grew in April for a combined increase of 22,200 jobs. Intensive 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 MSA 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 -

Like us on Facebook!
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)
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

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