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.

July Newsletter
Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for July 2018 was 3.4%, down 0.2% from June's 3.6%. Midland MSA's recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%, followed by Amarillo and Odessa MSA's at 2.9%. Austin Round Rock was the fourth lowest at 3.1% for July.

*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:

- Governors Small Business Forum -
  Overton Hotel & Conference Center
  2322 Mac Davis Lane
  - September 6 -
  - 8:00am - 2:00pm -

- Save the Date -
  Fall 2018 Rural Careers in Texas Industries Events
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>
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Highlights:
- Seventeen of 26 areas grew in April for a combined increase of 22,700 jobs, 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 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 fewest jobs annually. The loss of 2,000 jobs in Retail was primarily responsible for the contraction in the Beaumont-PA MSA, while employment losses in Texarkana were spread across industries.

for 8th grade students
8am - 12:00pm for all events below

- Muleshoe -
  Tuesday, September 11, 2018

- Plainview -
  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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(Image located on page 6)
Cotton Incorporated Combats FOV4 In The Southwest

July 1, 2018 in Feature Story, Southwest Report

By Shelley Heinrich
Slaton, Texas

Across the South Plains, Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma and Kansas, the vast diversity of challenges in this year’s crop is clearly noticeable. Weather conditions, seed varieties and weed control issues have brought growers together on the turnrow to discuss critical production practice decisions for the 2018 cotton crop.

In recent months, the discovery of *Fusarium* wilt race 4 (FOV4) in fields in the Southwest has been quite alarming in the cotton industry. This race of *Fusarium* devastated the Pima cotton industry until resistant varieties were screened, developed and made commercially available. Acres and markets were lost, and financial viability was diminished. As quickly as FOV4 was discovered in the Southwest, Cotton Incorporated began developing a strategy to keep Upland cotton production protected and viable.

*Tolerance And Containment*
Fusarium wilt race 4 can cause plant mortality. Cotton Incorporated is investing funds to screen and breed for FOV4 tolerance and containment in Upland cotton - photo by Bob Hutmacher, University of California

“Even when FOV4 was predominately a Pima problem, we knew it could attack Upland cotton,” says Dr. Kater Hake, vice president of ag research for Cotton Incorporated. “Cotton Incorporated proactively invested in breeders and pathologists to address this threat.

“With FOV4 now expanding into the Upland production area, this investment has been substantially ramped up in both Upland screening/breeding for FOV4 tolerance and for FOV4 containment. Through Cotton Incorporated, growers are funding six scientists to screen and breed Upland varieties with FOV4 tolerance and four scientists to work on management and detection of FOV4.”

Cotton Incorporated is investing both core funds from the ag research department and funds from the Texas State Support program into combatting FOV4. Today, 17 programs are working diligently on genetic development and resistance, plant pathology and field research.

The goal is to minimize the financial impact to producers and maximize their knowledge of the influences of FOV4. Without this type of diligence and quick reaction, the pathogen’s spread could overcome existing cotton acres with no remedy or crop options.

“Hopefully in 2018, scientists will identify readily available commercial Upland varieties with good tolerance to FOV4. But if they don’t, we will have advanced the development of tolerant germplasm and learned more about FOV4 management practices under Southwest conditions,” Hake says.
Quick Reaction Pays Off

Scientists do not know how FOV4 was introduced in the field. However, it is a soil pathogen that can be spread from field to field. It can be carried on planting seed or in dirt on equipment, such as cotton harvesters or module haulers. Symptoms, such as dead seedlings and black streaks inside tap roots, have been seen in El Paso area screening trials.

Although there is still much work being done to combat and contain FOV4, cotton producers can be proud that Cotton Incorporated’s ag research team has reacted quickly when cotton production profitability, quality and viability are being threatened. A quality crop delivered to the marketplace is the end goal and that is where investment in the Cotton Research and Promotion Program pays dividends.

_Shelley Heinrich is the Cotton Board Southern Plains regional communication manager. Email her at sheinrich@cottonboard.org._

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**Texas Adds 377,100 Jobs Over the Year**

*State unemployment rate is 4.0 percent in July*

AUSTIN – Texas has added 377,100 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the year including 23,500 jobs added in July. The State has experienced 25 consecutive months of employment growth.

Read the full press release.