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WORKFORCESolutions
S O U T H P L A I N S

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.

August Newsletter

Lubbock MSA and Regional Unemployment

Lubbock's MSA unemployment rate for August 2018 is 3.2%, down 0.2% from July's 3.4%. Midland MSA recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%, followed by Amarillo MSA at 2.8% and Odessa MSA at 2.9%. Austin- Round Rock was the fourth lowest at 3.0% for August.

*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:

- 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 -

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)

Hiring Red, White & You

Veterans Job Fair

- November 8, 2018 -

-Hotel Ava-

-3201 South Loop 289-

-10:00am - 2:00pm-

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.

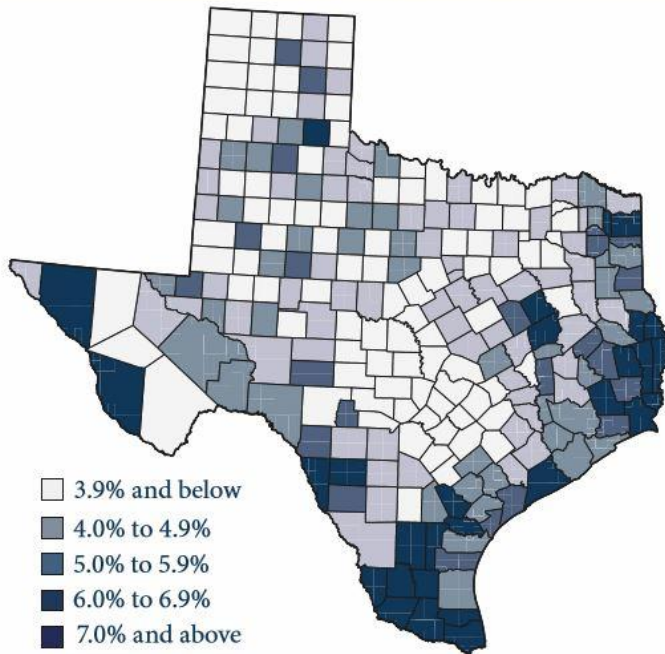
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County Unemployment Rates



(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

LUBBOCK												
	2010 (1)			2011 (2)			2012 (3)			2013 (4)		
Area	Unemp	Pop	Rate	Unemp	Pop	Rate	Unemp	Pop	Rate	Unemp	Pop	Rate
Lubbock	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%
Big Bend	1,000	100,000	1.00%	1,000	100,000	1.00%	1,000	100,000	1.00%	1,000	100,000	1.00%
... (rows for other counties) ...												
Total	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%	10,000	1,000,000	1.00%

[Click image to view full report: Lubbock LAUS County-by-County Unemployment Rates](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Amazon invests in massive Texas wind farm

By [Jordan Blum](#)

Updated 12:56 pm CDT, Thursday, September 15, 2016



Amazon Wind Farm Texas

Amazon is investing in West Texas wind for its largest renewable energy project ever. Seattle-based Amazon is teaming up with Chicago's Lincoln Clean Energy to build the 253-megawatt Amazon Wind Farm Texas west of Abilene in Scurry County. One megawatt typically powers 200 homes on a hot Texas day.

The wind farm, slated to open by the end of 2017, will feature more than 100 wind turbines designed to power Amazon cloud data centers and more.

"Amazon Wind Farm Texas is our largest renewable energy project to date and the newest milestone in our long-term sustainability efforts across the company," said Kara Hurst, Amazon director of sustainability, in the announcement.

Amazon is continuing to expand in Texas. The online shopping juggernaut opened a new, "Silicon Hills" corporate hub last year in Austin and, in 2014, leased out a large chunk of office space at the Dallas Galleria complex. Amazon has Dallas-area warehouses, called fulfillment centers, in Coppell and Haslet.

There's also a large Amazon warehouse and customer service center outside of San Antonio in Schertz. Earlier this summer, Amazon pledged to open a new 855,000-square-foot distribution warehouse in north Houston at the Pinto Business Park near Interstate 45 and Beltway 8 that's under development. The Amazon fulfillment center is expected to employ 1,000 people. That's in addition to Amazon's Prime Now warehouse hub in Humble.

Amazon also just opened more than 20 "Pop UP" electronics stores nationwide, including two in Texas in San Antonio and Arlington.

As for the wind farm, the project costs were not released, but Lincoln CEO Declan Flanagan has described the cost of a 200-megawatt Texas wind farms at about \$300 million.

Amazon already has announced smaller wind and solar farms in Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia. However, Texas leads the nation by far in wind power. Google, Microsoft, Wal-Mart, General Motors, Procter & Gamble, Dow Chemical Co. and Hewlett-Packard all count among the companies buying power from Texas wind farms. Ikea even owns a wind farm in the state.

Lincoln Clean Energy will build and own the Amazon wind farm, but Amazon is contracting to buy 90 percent of the generated power. Lincoln, which also has offices in Austin, is developing other Texas wind projects as well. Its planned Horse Creek Wind project north of Abilene and the Electra Wind development

near Wichita Falls — both 200-megawatt wind farms — are still in the works. However, Lincoln's 201-megawatt Nazareth Solar project in the Texas Panhandle has faced ongoing delays.

Lincoln previously developed and sold the Hereford and Jumbo Road wind farms in Texas that opened in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Texas Adds 394,500 Jobs Over the Year

State unemployment rate is 3.9 percent in August

AUSTIN – Texas has added 377,100 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the year including 32,000 jobs added in August. The State has experienced 26 consecutive months of employment growth.

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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