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.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro Areas</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
<th>Annual % Change</th>
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</table>

Hiring Red, White & You Veterans Job Fair
- November 8, 2018 -
-Hotel Ava-
-3201 South Loop 289-
-10:00am - 2:00pm-

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Highlights:
- Seventeen of 26 areas grew in April for a combined increase of 22,300 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 1.8 percent April expansion. Per not seasonally adjusted industry data, Retail Trade and Other Services added the most 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 10,000 jobs added.
- The Beaumont-PA and the Texarkana MSAs lost the most jobs annually. The loss of 2,300 jobs in Retail was primarily responsible for the contraction in the Beaumont-PA MSA, while employment losses in Texarkana were spread across industries.
County Unemployment Rates

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

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

(Image located on page 6)
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 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.

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**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


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