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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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### **Rural Capital Area Unemployment Rate Continues Slide to Pre-COVID Levels; Drops to 5.1% in August**

CEDAR PARK, Texas – The unadjusted unemployment rate in the Rural Capital Area of central Texas has continued its three month slide to pre-pandemic levels, dropping to 5.1 percent in August 2020, down from 6.3 percent in July, according to figures released today by the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC). The 5.1 percent unemployment rate in the nine-county [Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area](#) (WSRCA), represented 29,333 residents seeking employment. The region’s unemployment rate remained below both the Texas (7 percent)\* and national (8.5 percent)\* rates.

Within the WSRCA counties, Blanco recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4 percent in August. Burnet and Lee counties came in at 4.1 percent. Fayette County was at 4.2 percent, while Llano County was at 4.8 percent. Williamson County was at 5.1 percent, Bastrop County was at 5.3 percent, while Hays County came in at 5.6 percent and Caldwell County was at 5.7 percent.

“We’re excited to help fuel the economies of our communities by empowering Rural Capital Area employers to grow their operations, with a talented, world-class workforce of all ages and abilities, that continues to upskill to meet industry demands,” said WSRCA CEO Paul Fletcher. “Utilize our [Skill-Based Career Progression Lattices](#) and work with our teams to develop a customized training plan to help you enhance your skills and create sustainable career outcomes.”

“We’re pleased that our partners at TWC have begun to offer free online training courses for unemployment customers through [Metrix Learning’s Skillsoft courseware](#),” said WSRCA COO Diane Tackett. “When combined with the 16,000-plus virtual courses our teams offer through [LinkedIn Learning](#) as well as Academy, there’s no better time to ramp up your skills and marketability for local careers in high-demand industries.”

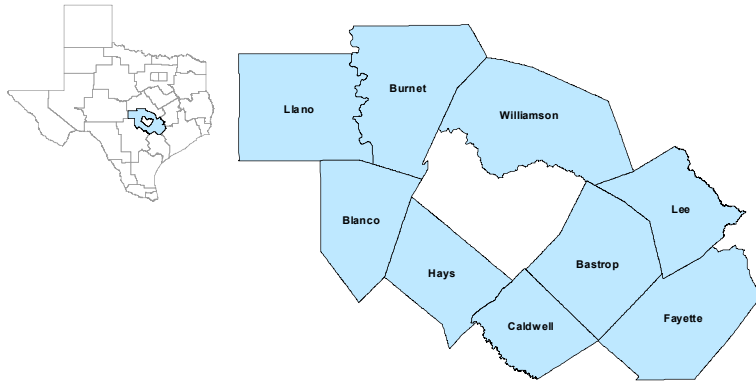
The WSRCA team is eager to help you find workforce solutions in person and has begun a phased reopening of our offices for curbside and in-center customers with appointments. Services continue to be available virtually. For more information please visit our website at [www.workforcesolutionsrca.com](http://www.workforcesolutionsrca.com), call us toll free, at 1-844-344-2780, and begin your job search on [www.workintexas.com](http://www.workintexas.com).

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 [texaslmi.com](http://texaslmi.com).

*Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area is a nonprofit community partnership providing no cost recruitment, employment services and childcare assistance, to businesses, employers, and job seekers in the Rural Capital Area of central Texas. This nine-county region includes Bastrop; Blanco; Burnet; Caldwell; Fayette; Hays; Lee; Llano; and Williamson counties. For more details on WSRCA, and the services it offers, visit [www.workforcesolutionsrca.com](http://www.workforcesolutionsrca.com).*

*\*All unemployment rates listed are not seasonally adjusted.*

## Rural Capital Workforce Development Area



## August 2020

WDA Labor Force Statistics				
	Aug-20	Jul-20	Aug-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	571,937	547,221	557,152	14,785
Employed	542,604	512,559	540,501	2,103
Unemployed	29,333	34,662	16,651	12,682
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	6.3%	3.0%	2.1%

Texas Labor Force Statistics				
	Aug-20	Jul-20	Aug-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	14,325,524	13,858,302	14,030,092	295,432
Employed	13,329,260	12,706,679	13,506,644	-177,384
Unemployed	996,264	1,151,623	523,448	472,816
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	8.3%	3.7%	3.3%

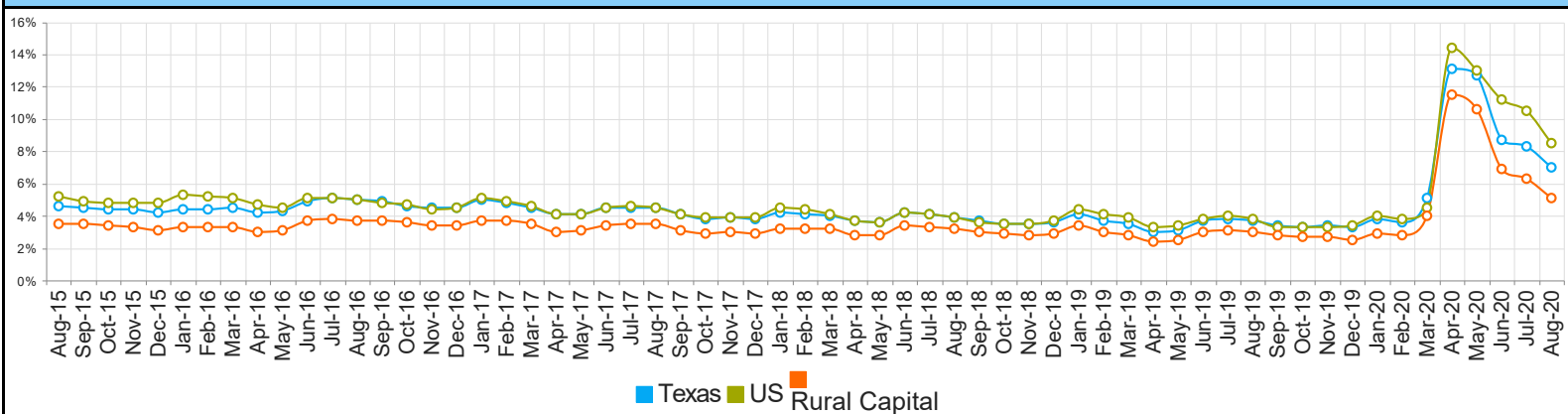
  

US Labor Force Statistics				
	Aug-20	Jul-20	Aug-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	160,966,000	161,374,000	164,019,000	-3,053,000
Employed	147,224,000	144,492,000	157,816,000	-10,592,000
Unemployed	13,742,000	16,882,000	6,203,000	7,539,000
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	10.5%	3.8%	4.7%

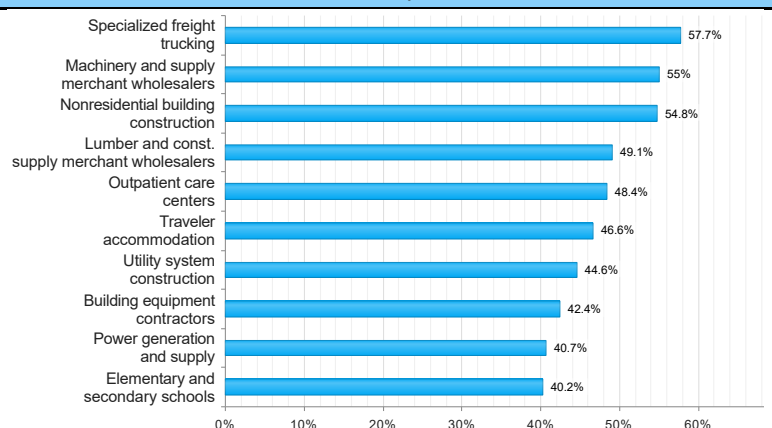
  

Continued Claims for the Week of the 12th				
	Aug-20	Jul-20	Aug-19	Yearly Change
WDA	21,332	26,964	2,517	18,815
Texas	769,869	938,497	95,110	674,759

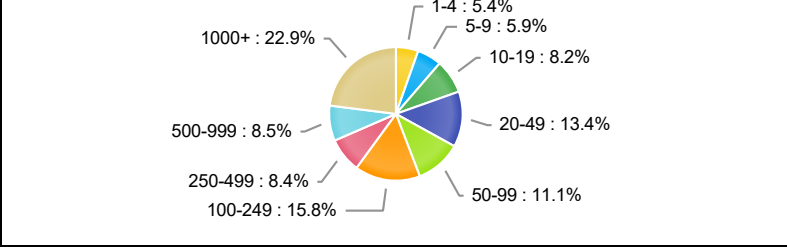
## Historical Unemployment Rates



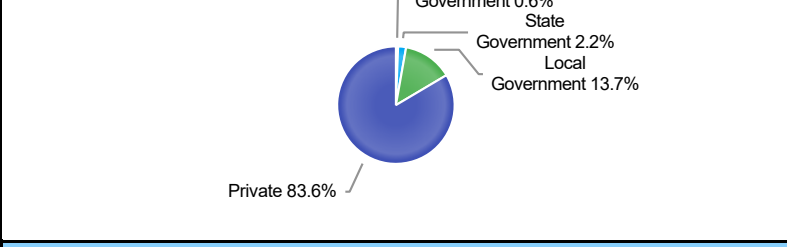
## Projected Top Ten Fastest Growing Industries in WDA (% Growth 2016-2026)



## Employment by Size Class (1st Quarter 2020)



## Employment by Ownership (1st Quarter 2020)



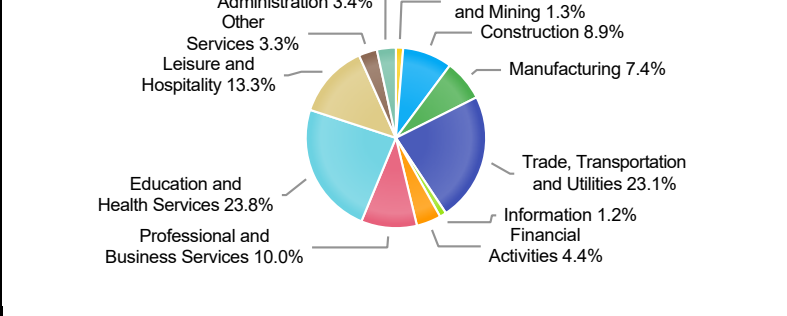
### Average Weekly Wage (1st Quarter 2020)

	Q1 2020	Q4 2019	Q1 2019	Quarterly Change	Yearly Change
WDA	\$1,111	\$1,108	\$1,049	\$3	\$62
Texas	\$1,232	\$1,187	\$1,204	\$45	\$28
US	\$1,222	\$1,185	\$1,183	\$37	\$39

## Employment by Industry (1st Quarter 2020, Percent Change)

Industry	Employment	% of Total	% Quarterly Change	% Yearly Change
Natural Resources and Mining	4,285	1.3%	-7.0%	-3.0%
Construction	29,013	8.9%	-2.0%	5.9%
Manufacturing	24,299	7.4%	2.2%	3.2%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	75,692	23.1%	-2.2%	1.7%
Information	3,889	1.2%	-8.8%	-3.3%
Financial Activities	14,492	4.4%	0.1%	5.5%
Professional and Business Services	32,813	10.0%	0.2%	5.4%
Education and Health Services	77,798	23.8%	-0.2%	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	43,483	13.3%	1.2%	2.8%
Other Services	10,706	3.3%	-0.1%	3.8%
Public Administration	10,988	3.4%	1.1%	5.2%

## Employment by Industry (1st Quarter 2020)



RURAL CAPITAL																					
		August-20				July-20				August-19				Change from Last Month (August-20 vs. July-20)				Change from Last Year (August-20 vs. August-19)			
Area	Area Type	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Texas	State	14,325,524	13,329,260	996,264	7.0	13,858,302	12,706,679	1,151,623	8.3	14,030,092	13,506,644	523,448	3.7	467222	622581	-155359	(1.30)	295432	-177384	472816	(3.30)
Austin-Round Rock	MSA	1,279,008	1,208,919	70,089	5.5	1,224,494	1,141,697	82,797	6.8	1,235,631	1,200,565	35,066	2.8	54514	67222	-12708	(1.30)	43377	8354	35023	(2.70)
Rural Capital	WDA	571,937	542,604	29,333	5.1	547,221	512,559	34,662	6.3	557,152	540,501	16,651	3.0	24716	30045	-5329	(1.20)	14785	2103	12682	(2.10)
Bastrop	County	44,143	41,801	2,342	5.3	42,153	39,438	2,715	6.4	42,911	41,567	1,344	3.1	1990	2363	-373	(1.10)	1232	234	998	(2.20)
Blanco	County	6,612	6,389	223	3.4	6,285	6,033	252	4.0	6,496	6,331	165	2.5	327	356	-29	(0.60)	116	58	58	(0.90)
Burnet	County	23,685	22,720	965	4.1	22,615	21,492	1,123	5.0	23,599	22,909	690	2.9	1070	1228	-158	(0.90)	86	-189	275	(1.20)
Caldwell	County	20,251	19,096	1,155	5.7	19,344	18,019	1,325	6.8	19,670	18,984	686	3.5	907	1077	-170	(1.10)	581	112	469	(2.20)
Fayette	County	12,011	11,502	509	4.2	11,437	10,873	564	4.9	12,232	11,881	351	2.9	574	629	-55	(0.70)	-221	-379	158	(1.30)
Hays	County	123,930	117,012	6,918	5.6	118,851	110,500	8,351	7.0	119,765	116,237	3,528	2.9	5079	6512	-1433	(1.40)	4165	775	3390	(2.70)
Lee	County	10,061	9,647	414	4.1	9,610	9,128	482	5.0	10,144	9,866	278	2.7	451	519	-68	(0.90)	-83	-219	136	(1.40)
Llano	County	8,770	8,348	422	4.8	8,379	7,896	483	5.8	8,951	8,623	328	3.7	391	452	-61	(1.00)	-181	-275	94	(1.10)
Williamson	County	322,474	306,089	16,385	5.1	308,547	289,180	19,367	6.3	313,384	304,103	9,281	3.0	13927	16909	-2982	(1.20)	9090	1986	7104	(2.10)
Cedar Park	City	44,041	41,842	2,199	5.0	42,110	39,530	2,580	6.1	42,782	41,568	1,214	2.8	1931	2312	-381	(1.10)	1259	274	985	(2.20)
Georgetown	City	32,554	30,696	1,858	5.7	31,200	29,000	2,200	7.1	31,644	30,497	1,147	3.6	1354	1696	-342	(1.40)	910	199	711	(2.10)
Hutto	City	15,394	14,562	832	5.4	14,762	13,757	1,005	6.8	14,871	14,467	404	2.7	632	805	-173	(1.40)	523	95	428	(2.70)
Kyle	City	26,396	24,871	1,525	5.8	25,301	23,487	1,814	7.2	25,425	24,706	719	2.8	1095	1384	-289	(1.40)	971	165	806	(3.00)
Leander	City	30,965	29,378	1,587	5.1	29,598	27,755	1,843	6.2	30,101	29,187	914	3.0	1367	1623	-256	(1.10)	864	191	673	(2.10)
Round Rock	City	73,788	70,353	3,435	4.7	70,538	66,466	4,072	5.8	71,930	69,895	2,035	2.8	3250	3887	-637	(1.10)	1858	458	1400	(1.90)
San Marcos	City	35,153	32,754	2,399	6.8	33,981	30,931	3,050	9.0	33,661	32,537	1,124	3.3	1172	1823	-651	(2.20)	1492	217	1275	(3.50)