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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rural Capital Area Unemployment Rate Rises to 3.7% in March Amid COVID-19 Concerns

CEDAR PARK, Texas – The unadjusted unemployment rate in the Rural Capital Area of central Texas rose to 3.7 percent in March 2020 amid [novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) concerns, up from 2.8 percent in February, according to figures released today by the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC). The 3.7 percent unemployment rate in the nine-county [Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area](#) (WSRCA), represented 20,814 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment rate remained below both the Texas (4.7 percent)* and national (4.5 percent)* rates.

Within the WSRCA counties, Blanco recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent in March. Burnet and Hays counties were at 3.6 percent. Fayette and Williamson counties were at 3.7 percent. Bastrop and Lee counties were at 3.9 percent, while Caldwell County was at 4.3 percent, and Llano County was at 4.6 percent.

As Governor Greg Abbott has declared a [state of disaster in Texas](#) due to COVID-19, and our communities continue to feel the increased impact of its global effects, the WSRCA team has mobilized to ensure the health and safety of customers and staff, while ensuring that our business services, early childhood development programs and workforce services, continue throughout our Rural Capital Area communities.

“Our hearts are with all of those who have been affected,” said WSRCA CEO Paul Fletcher. “We recognize that circumstances of this nature are concerning, and we would like to reassure our fellow Texans that WSRCA is here to serve our communities in the best possible way.”

The WSRCA team is committed to meeting the needs of job seekers, essential workers and employers in our nine-county region, and we want to ensure that the health and safety of our customers and staff are taken into consideration in these difficult times. Although our career centers are temporarily closed to the public, our talented teams will continue to ensure that our customers find world-class workforce solutions through our available services online and by phone. Please visit our website at www.workforcesolutionsrca.com, login in to www.workintexas.com, or call us toll free, at 1-844-344-2780.

As local employers within our nine-county region contact us with job openings they need to fill immediately, we are posting them to the [Jobs Now!](#) section of our website by county, to connect job seekers to these opportunities.

For our business community, we have set up the email address, rapidresponse@ruralcapital.net, to connect employers with a Rapid Response specialist, for assistance with customized proactive outplacement services or layoff aversion strategies at no cost. Our [Rapid Response](#) services are tailored to each company, based on the needs of the affected employees.

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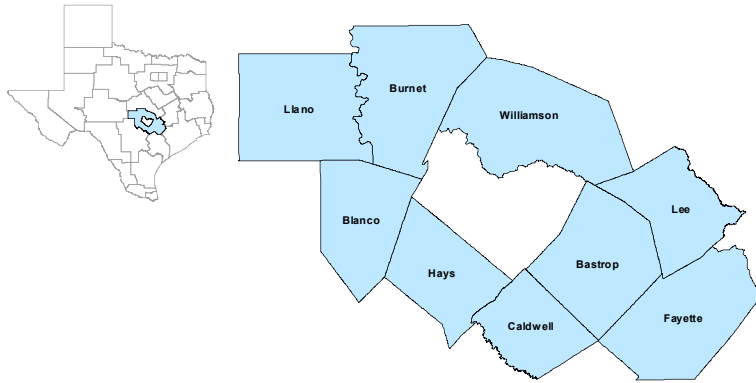
Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit texaslmi.com.

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.

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

Rural Capital Workforce Development Area

March 2020



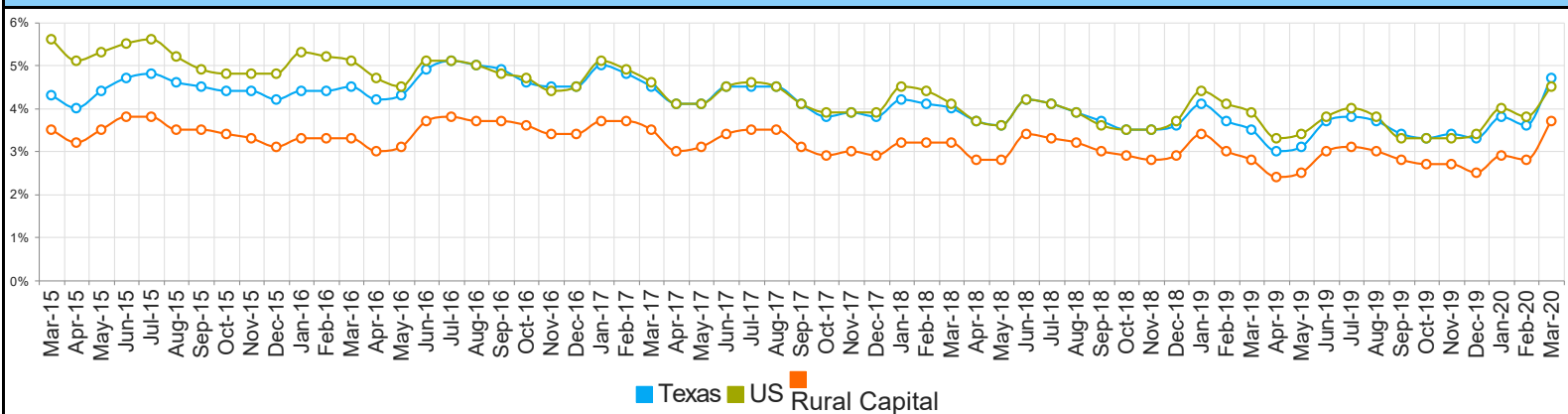
WDA Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	558,584	568,715	553,990	4,594
Employed	537,770	552,906	538,283	-513
Unemployed	20,814	15,809	15,707	5,107
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	2.8%	2.8%	0.9%

Texas Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	14,075,576	14,283,348	13,976,212	99,364
Employed	13,409,275	13,775,210	13,486,329	-77,054
Unemployed	666,301	508,138	489,883	176,418
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.6%	3.5%	1.2%

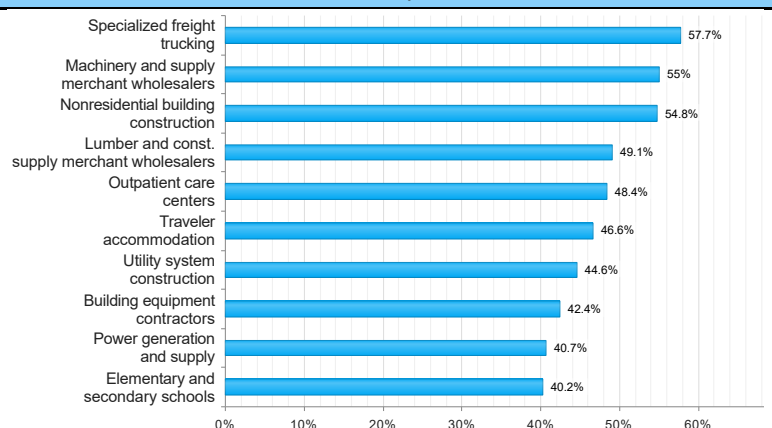
US Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	162,537,000	164,235,000	162,823,000	-286,000
Employed	155,167,000	158,017,000	156,441,000	-1,274,000
Unemployed	7,370,000	6,218,000	6,382,000	988,000
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	3.8%	3.9%	0.6%

Continued Claims for the Week of the 12th				
	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Yearly Change
WDA	2,649	2,592	2,543	106
Texas	108,000	104,801	95,617	12,383

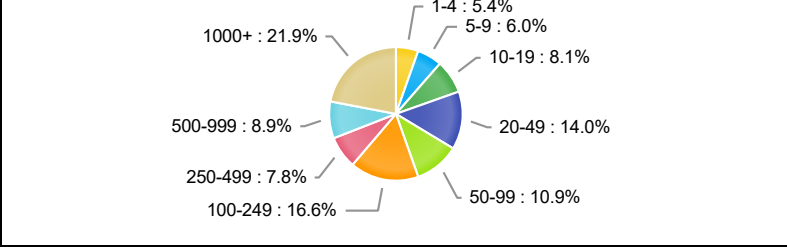
Historical Unemployment Rates



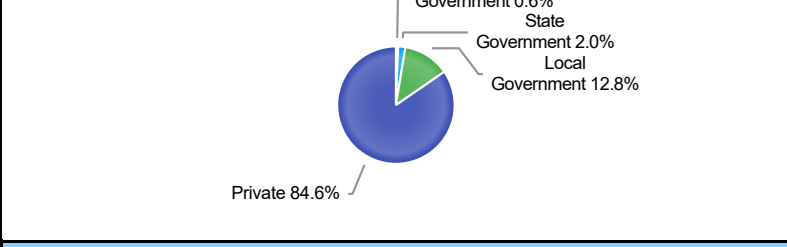
Projected Top Ten Fastest Growing Industries in WDA (% Growth 2016-2026)



Employment by Size Class (3rd Quarter 2019)



Employment by Ownership (3rd Quarter 2019)



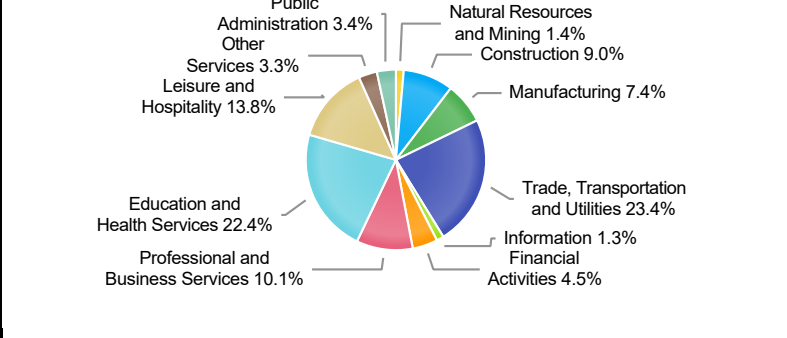
Average Weekly Wage (3rd Quarter 2019)

	Q3 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2018	Quarterly Change	Yearly Change
WDA	\$1,003	\$952	\$916	\$51	\$87
Texas	\$1,109	\$1,101	\$1,065	\$8	\$44
US	\$1,093	\$1,095	\$1,055	\$-2	\$38

Employment by Industry (3rd Quarter 2019, Percent Change)

Industry	Employment	% of Total	% Quarterly Change	% Yearly Change
Natural Resources and Mining	4,453	1.4%	-3.2%	3.6%
Construction	29,142	9.0%	1.1%	8.1%
Manufacturing	23,839	7.4%	0.8%	4.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	75,460	23.4%	0.9%	2.0%
Information	4,208	1.3%	-2.9%	13.7%
Financial Activities	14,410	4.5%	2.1%	5.0%
Professional and Business Services	32,404	10.1%	2.2%	11.2%
Education and Health Services	72,162	22.4%	-3.9%	3.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	44,516	13.8%	0.3%	3.5%
Other Services	10,756	3.3%	2.0%	6.7%
Public Administration	10,948	3.4%	2.3%	4.4%

Employment by Industry (3rd Quarter 2019)



RURAL CAPITAL

		March-20				February-20				March-19				Change from Last Month (March-20 vs. February-20)				Change from Last Year (March-20 vs. March-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	14,075,576	13,409,275	666,301	4.7	14,283,348	13,775,210	508,138	3.6	13,976,212	13,486,329	489,883	3.5	-207772	-365935	158163	1.10	99364	-77054	176418	(1.20)
Austin-Round Rock	MSA	1,240,100	1,196,129	43,971	3.5	1,264,917	1,231,485	33,432	2.6	1,228,466	1,195,419	33,047	2.7	-24817	-35356	10539	0.90	11634	710	10924	(0.80)
Rural Capital	WDA	558,584	537,770	20,814	3.7	568,715	552,906	15,809	2.8	553,990	538,283	15,707	2.8	-10131	-15136	5005	0.90	4594	-513	5107	(0.90)
Bastrop	County	43,015	41,340	1,675	3.9	43,806	42,528	1,278	2.9	42,594	41,346	1,248	2.9	-791	-1188	397	1.00	421	-6	427	(1.00)
Blanco	County	6,532	6,329	203	3.1	6,651	6,494	157	2.4	6,463	6,296	167	2.6	-119	-165	46	0.70	69	33	36	(0.50)
Burnet	County	23,596	22,740	856	3.6	23,887	23,225	662	2.8	23,590	22,938	652	2.8	-291	-485	194	0.80	6	-198	204	(0.80)
Caldwell	County	19,734	18,887	847	4.3	20,078	19,433	645	3.2	19,543	18,886	657	3.4	-344	-546	202	1.10	191	1	190	(0.90)
Fayette	County	12,029	11,586	443	3.7	12,110	11,788	322	2.7	12,579	12,230	349	2.8	-81	-202	121	1.00	-550	-644	94	(0.90)
Hays	County	120,130	115,792	4,338	3.6	122,502	119,193	3,309	2.7	118,951	115,708	3,243	2.7	-2372	-3401	1029	0.90	1179	84	1095	(0.90)
Lee	County	10,000	9,610	390	3.9	10,079	9,801	278	2.8	10,264	9,987	277	2.7	-79	-191	112	1.10	-264	-377	113	(1.20)
Llano	County	8,741	8,336	405	4.6	8,742	8,442	300	3.4	8,550	8,239	311	3.6	-1	-106	105	1.20	191	97	94	(1.00)
Williamson	County	314,807	303,150	11,657	3.7	320,860	312,002	8,858	2.8	311,456	302,653	8,803	2.8	-6053	-8852	2799	0.90	3351	497	2854	(0.90)
Cedar Park	City	42,982	41,436	1,546	3.6	43,870	42,648	1,222	2.8	42,577	41,373	1,204	2.8	-888	-1212	324	0.80	405	63	342	(0.80)
Georgetown	City	31,837	30,401	1,436	4.5	32,384	31,289	1,095	3.4	31,438	30,351	1,087	3.5	-547	-888	341	1.10	399	50	349	(1.00)
Hutto	City	14,945	14,422	523	3.5	15,237	14,843	394	2.6	14,802	14,398	404	2.7	-292	-421	129	0.90	143	24	119	(0.80)
Kyle	City	25,503	24,612	891	3.5	26,012	25,335	677	2.6	25,277	24,594	683	2.7	-509	-723	214	0.90	226	18	208	(0.80)
Leander	City	30,215	29,095	1,120	3.7	30,802	29,945	857	2.8	29,860	29,049	811	2.7	-587	-850	263	0.90	355	46	309	(1.00)
Round Rock	City	72,132	69,675	2,457	3.4	73,617	71,711	1,906	2.6	71,442	69,562	1,880	2.6	-1485	-2036	551	0.80	690	113	577	(0.80)
San Marcos	City	33,713	32,412	1,301	3.9	34,379	33,364	1,015	3.0	33,393	32,389	1,004	3.0	-666	-952	286	0.90	320	23	297	(0.90)