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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rural Capital Area Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3% in March

CEDAR PARK, Texas – The unadjusted unemployment rate of the Rural Capital Area of Central Texas slid down to 5.3 percent in March 2021, a drop from the 5.6 percent rate recorded in February, according to figures released today by the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC). The 5.3 percent unemployment rate in the nine-county [Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area](#) (WSRCA) represented 30,334 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment rate remained below Texas' (7.2 percent) * and the national (6.2 percent) * rates.

All counties within the Rural Capital Area region saw a mix of unemployment rate changes in March. Among them, Blanco County rose slightly to 4.1 percent (up from 4.0 percent in February). Burnet County dropped to 4.7 percent (down from 4.9 percent), while Williamson County dropped to 5.2 percent (down from 5.4 percent), and Hays and Lee counties both dropped to 5.3 percent (down from 5.7 percent and 5.8 percent respectively). Fayette County slid to 5.4 percent (down from 5.6 percent), while Bastrop County dropped to 5.7 percent (down from 6.0 percent), and Caldwell County dropped to 6.0 percent (down from 6.3 percent), and Llano County slid to 6.4 percent (down from 6.6 percent).

The WSRCA team is eager to help you find workforce solutions and offers curbside and in-center assistance by appointment. Services continue to be available virtually. 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.

Are you looking for work? The [Workforce Wednesdays Virtual Career Expo](#) connects employers and job seekers at weekly online hiring events. Workforce Wednesdays represent a collective effort among Rural Capital Area communities and industries to empower their workforce through virtual interactive events and continue to help the region compete globally.

Employers looking to host free hiring booths and interview sessions should email the WSRCA Business Services Team at businessservices@ruralcapital.net, or visit <https://ruralcapitalarea.getyourbooth.com>.

There's no better time to ramp up your skills and marketability for local careers in high-demand industries. Through our partnerships, WSRCA offers more than 20,000 online courses in various occupations through [Metrix Learning](#), [LinkedIn Learning](#), Academy, the [Dynamic Works Institute's 5-Minute Countdown Series](#). We are proud to continue innovating our service offerings to maximize our ability to deliver customized and sustainable outcomes for you.

For more information, please visit WSRCA at www.workforcesolutionsrca.com, call toll-free, at 1-844-344-2780, and begin your job search on www.workintexas.com.

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's

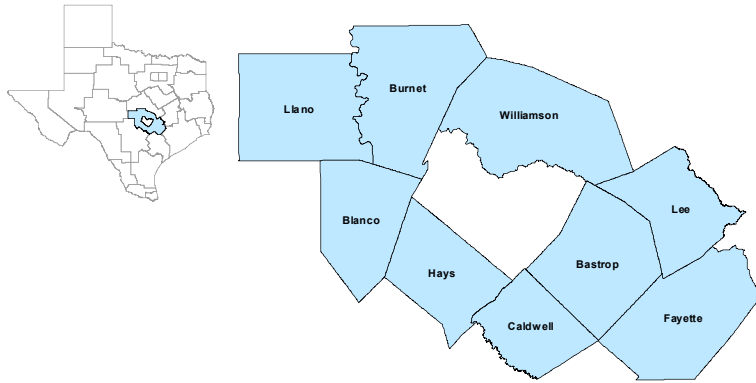
Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit texaslmi.com.

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 2021



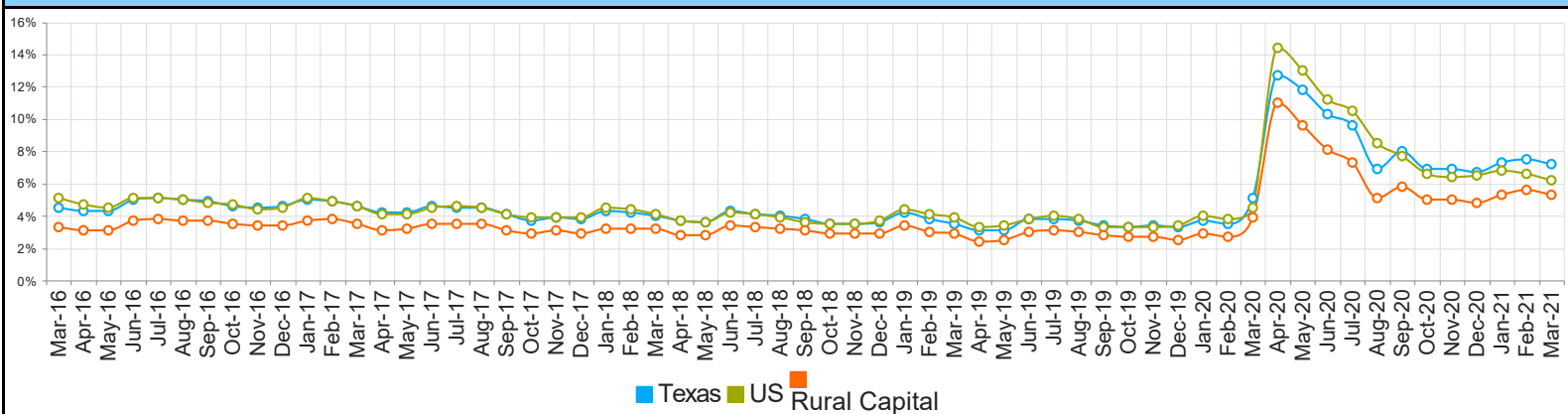
WDA Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	574,953	570,578	562,406	12,547
Employed	544,619	538,897	540,284	4,335
Unemployed	30,334	31,681	22,122	8,212
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.6%	3.9%	1.4%

Texas Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	14,096,630	14,047,933	13,953,661	142,969
Employed	13,086,898	12,989,157	13,248,772	-161,874
Unemployed	1,009,732	1,058,776	704,889	304,843
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.5%	5.1%	2.1%

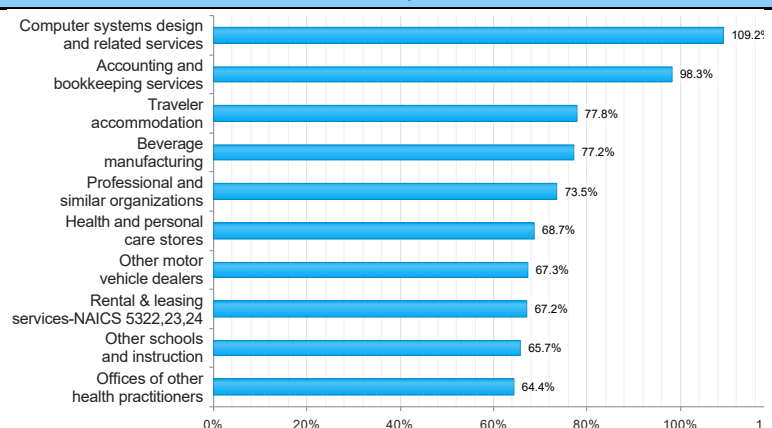
US Labor Force Statistics				
	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	160,397,000	160,008,000	162,537,000	-2,140,000
Employed	150,493,000	149,522,000	155,167,000	-4,674,000
Unemployed	9,905,000	10,486,000	7,370,000	2,535,000
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.6%	4.5%	1.7%

Continued Claims for the Week of the 12th				
	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Yearly Change
WDA	5,166	5,445	3,039	2,127
Texas	204,996	221,149	124,065	80,931

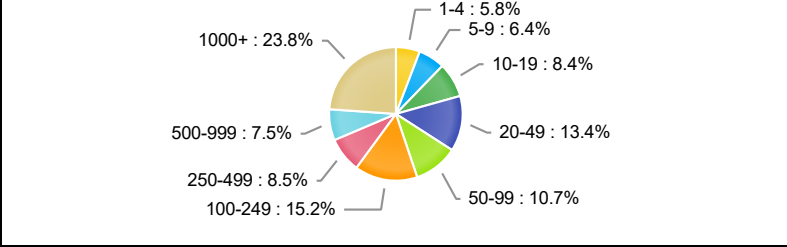
Historical Unemployment Rates



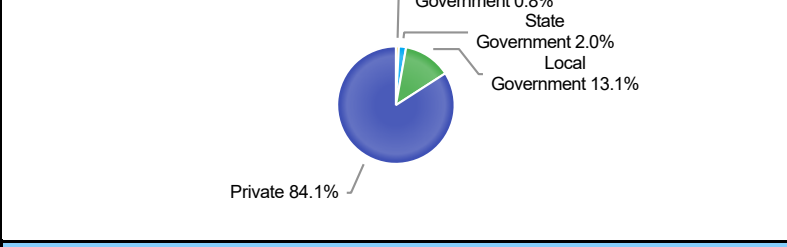
Projected Top Ten Fastest Growing Industries in WDA (% Growth 2018-2028)



Employment by Size Class (3rd Quarter 2020)



Employment by Ownership (3rd Quarter 2020)

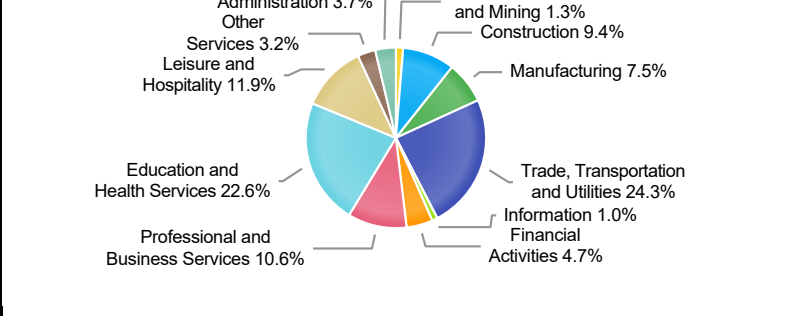


Average Weekly Wage (3rd Quarter 2020)					
	Q3 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2019	Quarterly Change	Yearly Change
WDA	\$1,072	\$1,045	\$1,003	\$27	\$69
Texas	\$1,149	\$1,156	\$1,108	-\$7	\$41
US	\$1,173	\$1,188	\$1,092	-\$15	\$81

Employment by Industry (3rd Quarter 2020, Percent Change)

Industry	Employment	% of Total	% Quarterly Change	% Yearly Change
Natural Resources and Mining	3,963	1.3%	-0.9%	-13.0%
Construction	29,282	9.4%	-0.6%	-0.3%
Manufacturing	23,378	7.5%	0.4%	-1.9%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	75,955	24.3%	6.3%	1.1%
Information	3,227	1.0%	-2.9%	-23.3%
Financial Activities	14,582	4.7%	2.0%	1.0%
Professional and Business Services	33,107	10.6%	4.1%	2.3%
Education and Health Services	70,556	22.6%	-0.2%	-2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	37,088	11.9%	14.5%	-16.7%
Other Services	9,946	3.2%	17.3%	-7.8%
Public Administration	11,568	3.7%	5.4%	5.7%

Employment by Industry (3rd Quarter 2020)



RURAL CAPITAL

Area	Area Type	March-21				February-21				March-20				Change from Last Month (March-21 vs. Feb-21)				Change from Last Year (March-21 vs. March-20)			
		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	14,096,630	13,086,898	1,009,732	7.2	14,047,933	12,989,157	1,058,776	7.5	13,953,661	13,248,772	704,889	5.1	48697	97741	-49044	(0.30)	142969	-161874	304843	(2.10)
Austin-Round Rock	MSA	1,271,187	1,203,742	67,445	5.3	1,261,016	1,190,580	70,436	5.6	1,240,287	1,193,282	47,005	3.8	10171	13162	-2991	(0.30)	30900	10460	20440	(1.50)
Rural Capital	WDA	574,953	544,619	30,334	5.3	570,578	538,897	31,681	5.6	562,406	540,284	22,122	3.9	4375	5722	-1347	(0.30)	12547	4335	8212	(1.40)
Bastrop	County	43,950	41,457	2,493	5.7	43,505	40,903	2,602	6.0	42,733	40,978	1,755	4.1	445	554	-109	(0.30)	1217	479	738	(1.60)
Blanco	County	6,834	6,556	278	4.1	6,727	6,456	271	4.0	6,618	6,400	218	3.3	107	100	7	0.10	216	156	60	(0.80)
Burnet	County	24,446	23,285	1,161	4.7	24,342	23,140	1,202	4.9	23,580	22,692	888	3.8	104	145	-41	(0.20)	866	593	273	(0.90)
Caldwell	County	19,933	18,734	1,199	6.0	19,749	18,495	1,254	6.3	19,419	18,529	890	4.6	184	239	-55	(0.30)	514	205	309	(1.40)
Fayette	County	11,855	11,209	646	5.4	11,800	11,139	661	5.6	11,948	11,501	447	3.7	55	70	-15	(0.20)	-93	-292	199	(1.70)
Hays	County	123,901	117,354	6,547	5.3	123,051	116,059	6,992	5.7	120,942	116,311	4,631	3.8	850	1295	-445	(0.40)	2959	1043	1916	(1.50)
Lee	County	9,142	8,655	487	5.3	9,037	8,509	528	5.8	9,284	8,885	399	4.3	105	146	-41	(0.50)	-142	-230	88	(1.00)
Llano	County	8,701	8,148	553	6.4	8,565	7,997	568	6.6	8,561	8,146	415	4.8	136	151	-15	(0.20)	140	2	138	(1.60)
Williamson	County	326,191	309,221	16,970	5.2	323,802	306,199	17,603	5.4	319,321	306,842	12,479	3.9	2389	3022	-633	(0.20)	6870	2379	4491	(1.30)
Cedar Park	City	44,071	41,875	2,196	5.0	43,738	41,461	2,277	5.2	43,217	41,548	1,669	3.9	333	414	-81	(0.20)	854	327	527	(1.10)
Georgetown	City	33,650	31,640	2,010	6.0	33,853	31,947	1,906	5.6	33,749	32,599	1,150	3.4	-203	-307	104	0.40	-99	-959	860	(2.60)
Hutto	City	15,681	14,788	893	5.7	15,770	14,931	839	5.3	15,681	15,236	445	2.8	-89	-143	54	0.40	0	-448	448	(2.90)
Kyle	City	26,164	24,638	1,526	5.8	26,192	24,872	1,320	5.0	26,100	25,392	708	2.7	-28	-234	206	0.80	64	-754	818	(3.10)
Leander	City	33,133	31,490	1,643	5.0	33,274	31,795	1,479	4.4	33,354	32,445	909	2.7	-141	-305	164	0.60	-221	-955	734	(2.30)
Round Rock	City	73,523	70,008	3,515	4.8	73,891	70,686	3,205	4.3	74,107	72,130	1,977	2.7	-368	-678	310	0.50	-584	-2122	1538	(2.10)
San Marcos	City	34,186	32,056	2,130	6.2	34,171	32,360	1,811	5.3	34,154	33,036	1,118	3.3	15	-304	319	0.90	32	-980	1012	(2.90)