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NEWS RELEASE

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Rural Capital Area Economy Rounds Out 2020 With 5.1% Unemployment Rate, Jobs Added in December

CEDAR PARK, Texas – The unadjusted unemployment rate of the Rural Capital Area of Central Texas rounded out 2020 by dropping to 5.1 percent in December, down from 5.8 percent in November, with 3,604 jobs added, 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 28,870 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment rate remained below both the Texas (7.1 percent) * and national (6.5 percent) * rates.

All counties within the Rural Capital Area region saw unemployment rate drops in December. Among them, Blanco County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.8 percent (down from 4.0 percent in November), followed by Lee County at 4.5 percent (down from 5.1 percent), and Burnet County at 4.7 percent (down from 5.2 percent). Williamson County was at 5.0 percent (down from 5.7 percent), while Hays County was at 5.2 percent (down from 6.0 percent). Bastrop and Fayette counties were at 5.3 percent (down from 6.1 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively), while Caldwell County was at 5.8 percent (down from 6.5 percent) and Llano County was at 6.0 percent (down from 6.5 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.

Looking for work? The [Workforce Wednesdays Virtual Career Expo](#) connects employers and job seekers at weekly online hiring events. Workforce Wednesdays represents 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 at a global level.

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>.

For those looking to upskill, our partners at TWC have begun offering free online training courses for all Texans through [Metrix Learning's Skillsoft courseware](#). When combined with the 16,000-plus virtual courses WSRCA offers 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.

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.

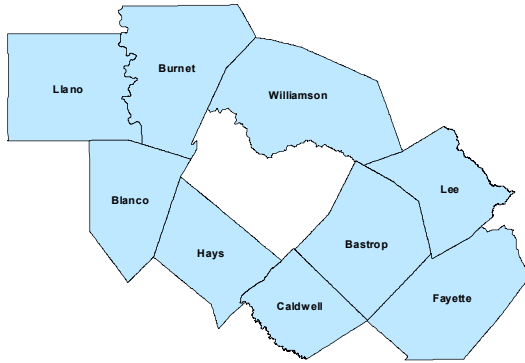
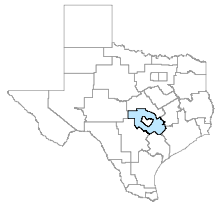
Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit texaslmi.com.

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

December 2020



WDA Labor Force Statistics

	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	567,973	568,308	564,173	3,800
Employed	539,103	535,499	549,805	-10,702
Unemployed	28,870	32,809	14,368	14,502
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.8%	2.5%	2.6%

Texas Labor Force Statistics

	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	14,170,462	14,200,317	14,192,255	-21,793
Employed	13,163,725	13,070,145	13,722,119	-558,394
Unemployed	1,006,737	1,130,172	470,136	536,601
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	8.0%	3.3%	3.8%

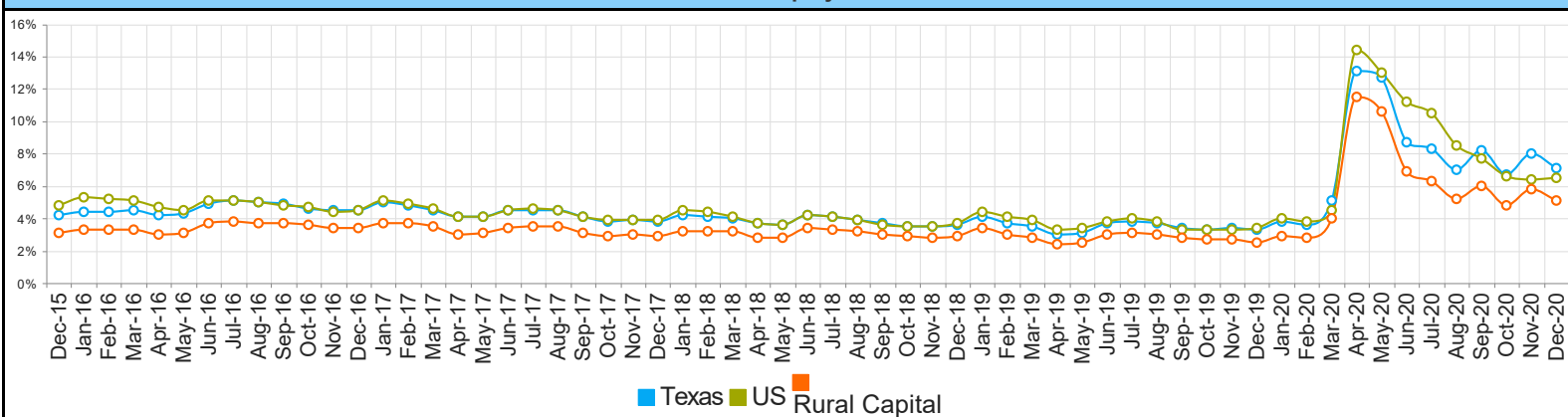
US Labor Force Statistics

	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Yearly Change
Civilian Labor Force	160,017,000	160,468,000	164,007,000	-3,990,000
Employed	149,613,000	150,203,000	158,504,000	-8,891,000
Unemployed	10,404,000	10,264,000	5,503,000	4,901,000
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.4%	3.4%	3.1%

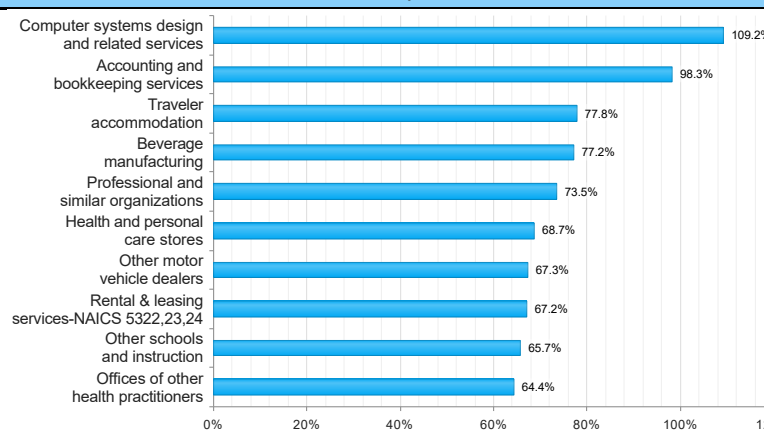
Continued Claims for the Week of the 12th

	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Yearly Change
WDA	5,696	6,920	2,514	3,182
Texas	242,000	283,871	102,136	139,864

Historical Unemployment Rates



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



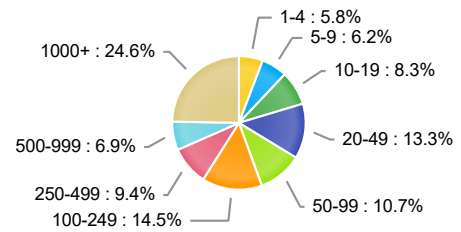
Average Weekly Wage (2nd Quarter 2020)

	Q2 2020	Q1 2020	Q2 2019	Quarterly Change	Yearly Change
WDA	\$1,045	\$1,111	\$953	-\$66	\$92
Texas	\$1,156	\$1,231	\$1,101	-\$75	\$55
US	\$1,188	\$1,222	\$1,094	-\$34	\$94

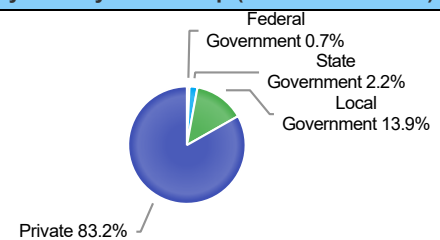
Employment by Industry (2nd Quarter 2020, Percent Change)

Industry	Employment	% of Total	% Quarterly Change	% Yearly Change
Natural Resources and Mining	4,002	1.3%	-6.8%	-13.0%
Construction	29,270	9.8%	0.6%	1.5%
Manufacturing	23,165	7.7%	-4.7%	-2.1%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	71,425	23.9%	-5.9%	-4.0%
Information	3,326	1.1%	-14.5%	-23.3%
Financial Activities	14,318	4.8%	-0.8%	1.4%
Professional and Business Services	31,776	10.6%	-3.2%	0.3%
Education and Health Services	70,454	23.5%	-9.5%	-6.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	32,306	10.8%	-25.8%	-27.2%
Other Services	8,465	2.8%	-21.1%	-19.7%
Public Administration	10,951	3.7%	-0.5%	2.3%

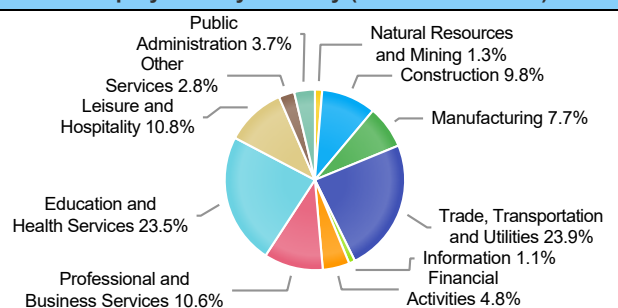
Employment by Size Class (2nd Quarter 2020)



Employment by Ownership (2nd Quarter 2020)



Employment by Industry (2nd Quarter 2020)



RURAL CAPITAL AREA																													
December-20														November-20				December-19				Change from Last Month (Dec-20 vs.Nov-20)				Change from Last Year (Dec-20 vs. Dec-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	14,170,462	13,163,725	1,006,737	7.1	14,200,317	13,070,145	1,130,172	8.0	14,192,255	13,722,119	470,136	3.3	-29855	93580	-123435	(0.90)	-21793	-558394	536601	(3.80)								
Austin-Round Rock	MSA	1,267,150	1,202,103	65,047	5.1	1,268,520	1,193,947	74,573	5.9	1,255,200	1,224,993	30,207	2.4	-1370	8156	-9526	(0.80)	11950	-22890	34840	(2.70)								
Rural Capital	WDA	567,973	539,103	28,870	5.1	568,308	535,499	32,809	5.8	564,173	549,805	14,368	2.5	-335	3604	-3939	(0.70)	3800	-10702	14502	(2.60)								
Bastrop	County	43,790	41,452	2,338	5.3	43,833	41,163	2,670	6.1	43,487	42,291	1,196	2.8	-43	289	-332	(0.80)	303	-839	1142	(2.50)								
Blanco	County	6,480	6,237	243	3.8	6,444	6,184	260	4.0	6,515	6,376	139	2.1	36	53	-17	(0.20)	-35	-139	104	(1.70)								
Burnet	County	23,427	22,332	1,095	4.7	23,392	22,166	1,226	5.2	23,540	22,958	582	2.5	35	166	-131	(0.50)	-113	-626	513	(2.20)								
Caldwell	County	20,111	18,947	1,164	5.8	20,126	18,816	1,310	6.5	19,898	19,326	572	2.9	-15	131	-146	(0.70)	213	-379	592	(2.90)								
Fayette	County	11,880	11,249	631	5.3	11,867	11,168	699	5.9	12,026	11,740	286	2.4	13	81	-68	(0.60)	-146	-491	345	(2.90)								
Hays	County	122,718	116,350	6,368	5.2	122,908	115,567	7,341	6.0	121,589	118,563	3,026	2.5	-190	783	-973	(0.80)	1129	-2213	3342	(2.70)								
Lee	County	9,955	9,503	452	4.5	9,943	9,440	503	5.1	10,003	9,749	254	2.5	12	63	-51	(0.60)	-48	-246	198	(2.00)								
Llano	County	8,675	8,157	518	6.0	8,650	8,090	560	6.5	8,678	8,399	279	3.2	25	67	-42	(0.50)	-3	-242	239	(2.80)								
Williamson	County	320,937	304,876	16,061	5.0	321,145	302,905	18,240	5.7	318,437	310,403	8,034	2.5	-208	1971	-2179	(0.70)	2500	-5527	8027	(2.50)								
Cedar Park	City	43,734	41,669	2,065	4.7	43,761	41,397	2,364	5.4	43,542	42,428	1,114	2.6	-27	272	-299	(0.70)	192	-759	951	(2.10)								
Georgetown	City	32,524	30,574	1,950	6.0	32,602	30,376	2,226	6.8	32,082	31,128	954	3.0	-78	198	-276	(0.80)	442	-554	996	(3.00)								
Hutto	City	15,387	14,504	883	5.7	15,316	14,410	906	5.9	15,138	14,767	371	2.5	71	94	-23	(0.20)	249	-263	512	(3.20)								
Kyle	City	26,127	24,730	1,397	5.3	26,243	24,564	1,679	6.4	25,885	25,201	684	2.6	-116	166	-282	(1.10)	242	-471	713	(2.70)								
Leander	City	30,760	29,260	1,500	4.9	30,834	29,070	1,764	5.7	30,567	29,791	776	2.5	-74	190	-264	(0.80)	193	-531	724	(2.40)								
Round Rock	City	73,451	70,072	3,379	4.6	73,316	69,618	3,698	5.0	73,038	71,343	1,695	2.3	135	454	-319	(0.40)	413	-1271	1684	(2.30)								
San Marcos	City	34,490	32,569	1,921	5.6	34,476	32,349	2,127	6.2	34,104	33,188	916	2.7	14	220	-206	(0.60)	386	-619	1005	(2.90)								