

MARCH 2020

Current Employment Overview



On April 17, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission released employment statistics for **March 2020**. Our detailed regional report for researchers and analysts is at <http://www.wrksolutions.com/LocalStats>. Below are highlights.

5.1%

MARCH Regional Unemployment Rate
(not seasonally adjusted)

- Represents 176,566 people looking for a **new job**
- **UP** from 3.9% last month
- **UP** from 3.7% from last year
- **HIGHER** than the statewide rate of 4.7%
- **HIGHER** than the national rate of 4.5%

- **Monthly Change – Employers in the Houston-Galveston region LOST 8,200 jobs in March 2020**

Government-manded closures of non-essential businesses and further decline in oil prices are the primary cause for the decline in employment in March

- **Year-over-Year Change – Total Nonfarm employment was UP 1.9%**

This represents an increase of 59,000 jobs from March 2019 to March 2020

- **COVID-19**

While these numbers reflect the beginning of the impact from business interruptions and unstable oil prices, we expect the numbers released next month and beyond to provide a clearer picture of where the labor market stands.

The Texas Workforce Commission will release April 2020 employment figures on May 22, 2020.

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Additional labor market data is available at <http://www.wrksolutions.com/for-employers/understand-the-local-labor-market>

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