

Borderplex Region

February 2015 Unemployment Rates at a Glance

Brewster	4.5%
Culberson	4.2%
El Paso	5.4%
Hudspeth	5.9%
Jeff Davis	4.3%
Presidio	10.6%

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Chief Executive Officer

March 2015

Workforce Solutions Borderplex is pleased to present the second issue of the Labor Market Review for 2015.

In February 2015, the County of El Paso's unemployment rate was 5.4%, a decrease from the previous month, and slightly lower than the United States' unemployment rate of 5.8%. The City of El Paso's unemployment rate decreased to 4.9%, lower than a year ago which was 6.7%. The unemployment rate for the City of El Paso, although higher than Texas at 4.3%, fell below the United States 5.8% unemployment rate.

This issue examines how the workforce area performed during February 2015 as compared to January 2015. Further, the information presented in this newsletter was gathered from federal and state sources and pertains to the El Paso MSA, the Workforce Solutions Borderplex region, and the City of El Paso.

Providing you access to the most recent and relevant labor statistics is our priority. We will continue presenting this information on a monthly basis.

If there is additional information that you would like to see presented here, please send your comments and suggestions to me at joyce.wilson@borderplexjobs.com.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Workforce Solutions Borderplex

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The actual/not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the El Paso MSA decreased from January 2015 yet is significantly different from February 2014. In February 2015, the El Paso MSA unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for the City of El Paso. The February 2015 El Paso MSA unemployment rate was 5.4%, which signified a 0.4 percentage point decrease from the previous month. In comparison, the unemployment rate in February 2015 was 5.4% for the El Paso MSA which signified a decrease by 1.8 percentage points from February 2014.

Further, the February 2015 unemployment rate for the City of El Paso was 4.9%. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points from the previous month for the City of El Paso. In comparison, the February 2015 unemployment rate for the City of El Paso was 4.9% which signified a 1.8 percentage point decrease from February 2014.

The unemployment rate for the El Paso MSA remained higher than the unemployment rate for Texas; which stood at 4.3%, and lower than the unemployment rate for the United States; which was 5.8%. The unemployment rate for the City of El Paso was at 4.9%, although higher than Texas at 4.3%, fell below the United States which was 5.8%.

	FEB 2015			JAN 2015			FEB 2014		
	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Texas	12,548,481	565,503	4.3	12,523,797	602,874	4.6	12,277,432	735,665	5.7
El Paso MSA	325,186	18,527	5.4	324,911	20,017	5.8	326,230	25,420	7.2
Borderplex Region	334,015	19,097	5.4	333,621	20,635	5.8	335,423	26,170	7.2
Brewster County	3,777	152	3.9	3,753	178	4.5	3,920	204	4.9
Culberson County	969	40	4.0	957	42	4.2	917	47	4.9
El Paso County	323,972	18,456	5.4	323,722	19,942	5.8	325,000	25,334	7.2
Hudspeth County	1,214	71	5.5	1,189	75	5.9	1,230	86	6.5
Jeff Davis County	1,062	40	3.6	1,033	46	4.3	1,119	51	4.4
Presidio County	3,021	338	10.1	2,967	352	10.6	3,237	448	12.2
El Paso City	271,894	14,133	4.9	271,685	15,414	5.4	272,757	19,476	6.7
Socorro City	12,392	693	5.3	12,382	780	5.9	12,431	1,016	7.6

Source: Labor Market & Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission

The El Paso MSA ranked 21st out of 25 Texas MSAs in terms of unemployment rates. The Midland MSA had the lowest unemployment rate in the state - 2.8%. Amarillo had the second lowest unemployment rates in the state - 3.1%.

Other notable February MSAs unemployment rates in the state were as follows:

- Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos - 3.4%
- San Antonio-New Braunfels - 3.8%
- Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown - 4.3%
- Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington - 4.1%
- Corpus Christi - 4.7%
- Brownsville-Harlingen - 7.2%
- McAllen-Edinburg-Mission - 7.7%

Average Weekly Wage Snapshot		
	Workforce Solutions Borderplex Region	Texas
3rd Quarter 2014	\$684.23	\$988.00
2nd Quarter 2014	\$674.24	\$973.32
Unemployment Insurance Claims Snapshot		
February 2015	3,540	118,880
OTY	-923	-11,788

Source: Labor Market & Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission

Employment by Super-sector in El Paso MSA for February 2015

Total nonfarm employment by industry, actual/non-seasonally adjusted, for the El Paso Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) increased in February 2015 when compared with January 2015. This was a 0.6% change in employment from January 2015. Total nonfarm employment increased by 0.4% from a year ago.

The El Paso MSA was one of four Texas MSAs with an annual job growth rate between the range of 0.0% to 0.9%; with the El Paso MSA achieving a 0.4% annual job growth rate. In comparison, the state of Texas averaged a job growth rate of 3.2%.

The El Paso MSA employment is categorized into 10 super-sectors. When comparing February 2015 with February 2014 job growth, of the 10 super-sectors, four experienced an increase in employment, four experienced a decrease in employment while two employment levels remained static.

The three super-sectors that provided the greatest employment opportunities and experienced an increase monthly in February 2015 for the El Paso MSA were: (1) Government; (2) Leisure and Hospitality and (3) Professional and Business Services. Together, these three super-sectors accounted for approximately 45% of total employment in the El Paso MSA during February 2015.

NAICS Industry	February 2015	January 2015	February 2014	Monthly Change	Monthly %	Yearly Change	Yearly %
Total Nonfarm	295,600	293,800	294,400	1,800	0.6%	1200	0.4%
Total Private	226,600	225,300	225,000	1,300	0.6%	1600	0.7%
Goods Producing	30,200	30,000	31,000	200	0.7%	-800	-2.6%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	13,000	12,800	13,800	200	1.6%	-800	-5.8%
Manufacturing	17,200	17,200	17,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Service Providing	265,400	263,800	263,400	1,600	0.6%	2000	0.8%
Private Service Providing	196,400	195,300	194,000	1,100	0.6%	2400	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	63,900	64,300	62,900	-400	-0.6%	1000	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	11,100	11,000	10,800	100	0.9%	300	2.8%
Retail Trade	38,600	39,200	38,100	-600	-1.5%	500	1.3%
General Merchandise Stores	11,200	11,400	10,900	-200	-1.8%	300	2.8%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	14,200	14,100	14,000	100	0.7%	200	1.4%
Information	5,900	5,900	5,800	0	0.0%	100	1.7%
Financial Activities	11,600	11,700	12,000	-100	-0.9%	-400	-3.3%
Professional and Business Services	31,000	30,300	31,500	700	2.3%	-500	-1.6%
Administrative Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services	21,600	21,500	21,900	100	0.5%	-300	-1.4%
Employment Services	5,800	5,900	5,800	-100	-1.7%	0	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	41,700	41,400	40,900	300	0.7%	800	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	32,700	32,100	31,300	600	1.9%	1400	4.5%
Other Services	9,600	9,600	9,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	69,000	68,500	69,400	500	0.7%	-400	-0.6%
Federal Government	12,700	12,700	12,800	0	0.0%	-100	-0.8%
State Government	10,200	10,100	10,100	100	1.0%	100	1.0%
Local Government	46,100	45,700	46,500	400	0.9%	-400	-0.9%

Source: Labor Market & Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission

Employment by Super-sector in El Paso MSA for February 2015

The two super-sectors showing decreases for February 2015 were (1) Trade, Transportation & Utilities and (2) Financial Activities.

The Trade, Transportation, & Utilities super-sector had the greatest monthly decrease in employment numbers in the El Paso MSA. Employment decreased by 400 or -0.6%. In comparison to February 2014, employment in the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities super-sector increased by 1,000 or 1.6%.

Employment in the Financial Activities super-sector provided the second greatest monthly decrease in employment in the El Paso MSA during February 2015. This sector's employment decreased by 100 or -0.9%, from January 2015. In comparison to February 2014, employment in the Financial Activities super-sector decreased by 400 or -3.3%.

U.S./Mexico Exchange Rates

Exchange rate to pay obligations entered into in U.S. dollars payable in the Mexican Republic

Daily information			
Date	FIX	"Published in DOF"	"In order to pay obligations"
03/01/2015	N/E	N/E	14.9624
03/02/2015	14.9862	14.9553	14.9624
03/03/2015	14.9544	14.9862	14.9553
03/04/2015	15.0756	14.9544	14.9862
03/05/2015	15.1686	15.0756	14.9544
03/06/2015	15.4445	15.1686	15.0756
03/07/2015	N/E	N/E	15.1686
03/08/2015	N/E	N/E	15.1686
03/09/2015	15.4544	15.4445	15.1686
03/10/2015	15.5837	15.4544	15.4445
03/11/2015	15.4455	15.5837	15.4544
03/12/2015	15.4003	15.4455	15.5837
03/13/2015	15.4892	15.4003	15.4455
03/14/2015	N/E	N/E	15.4003
03/15/2015	N/E	N/E	15.4003
03/16/2015	N/E	N/E	15.4003
03/17/2015	15.4271	15.4892	15.4003
03/18/2015	15.4192	15.4271	15.4892
03/19/2015	15.2960	15.4192	15.4271
03/20/2015	15.0317	15.2960	15.4192
03/21/2015	N/E	N/E	15.2960
03/22/2015	N/E	N/E	15.2960
03/23/2015	14.9644	15.0317	15.2960
03/24/2015	14.9347	14.9644	15.0317
03/25/2015	14.9524	14.9347	14.9644
03/26/2015	15.1056	14.9524	14.9347
03/27/2015	15.1542	15.1056	14.9524

Source: <http://www.banxico.org.mx/>

Population Rates

Population Estimate of El Paso County – 827,718
 Population Estimate of City of El Paso, Texas – 674,433
 Population Estimate of Brewster County, Texas – 9,286
 Population Estimate of Culberson County, Texas – 2,277
 Population Estimate of Hudspeth County, Texas – 3,318
 Population Estimate of Jeff Davis County, Texas – 2,253
 Population Estimate of Presidio County, Texas – 7,201
 Population Estimate of Dona Ana County, New Mexico – 213,460

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 State & County Quick Facts

Appendix

Actual or Not Seasonally Adjusted – This term is used to describe data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.

Civilian Labor Force (CLF) – Is that portion of the population age 16 and older who are employed or unemployed. To be considered unemployed, a person has to be not working but willing and able to work and actively seeking work.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) – Is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI provides a way for consumers to compare what the market basket of goods and services costs this month with what the same market basket cost a month or a year ago.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) – A monthly survey of nonfarm business establishments used to collect wage and salary employment, workers hours, and payroll, by industry and area. It is sometimes known as Nonagricultural Employment.

Employed (EMP) – Persons 16 years and over in the civilian noninstitutional population who, during the reference week, (a) did any work at all (at least 1 hour) as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is = counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

Local Area Unemployment statistics (LAUS) – Federal/state cooperative program which produces employment and unemployment estimates for states and local areas. These estimates are developed by State Employment Security Agencies in accordance with Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) definitions and procedures, Data is used for planning and budgetary purposes as an indication of need for employment and training services programs. Estimates are also used to allocate Federal funds.

Metropolitan Division (MD) – A Metropolitan Statistical Area which contains a single core with a population of 2.5 million or more may be subdivided into smaller groupings of countless referred to as Metropolitan Divisions. Titles of Metropolitan Divisions are typically based on principal city names. Texas has two Metropolitan Divisions, the Dallas-Plano-Irving MD and the Fort Worth-Arlington MD, which combine to form the Dallas-Fort Worth- Arlington MSA.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) – A geographic area that contains at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core urban area. An MSA in Texas is made up of one or more counties. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines metropolitan areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data, Texas has 25 MSAs and two Metropolitan Divisions (MD).

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

Seasonally Adjusted (SA) – Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements in a data series.

Unemployed (Unemp) – Persons 16 years and over who had no employment during the reference week, where available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

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|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. MLC - Mining, Logging, and Construction | 6. PB- Professional & Business Services |
| 2. Man - Manufacturing | 7. EH - Education & Health Services |
| 3. TTU - Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 8. LH- Leisure & Hospitality |
| 4. Info - Information | 9. OS- Other Services |
| 5. Fin - Financial Activities | 10. GOVT - Government |

Sources

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Department of Labor,
2. Banco De Mexico, March 2015
3. Texas Labor Market Review, Texas Workforce Commission, February 2015
4. Labor Market & Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission, February 2015