

DECEMBER 2018

Current Employment Overview



On January 18, 2019, the Texas Workforce Commission released employment statistics for **December 2018**. Our complete and detailed local analysis for researchers and business analysts is at www.wrksolutions.com/LocalStats. The highlights below can be used by workforce professionals when helping individuals looking for work, or helping employers fill open jobs.

3.9%

DECEMBER Regional Unemployment Rate
(not seasonally adjusted)

- Represents **135,422** individuals looking for a job
- **UP** from 3.8% last month
- **DOWN** from 4.3% from last year
- **HIGHER** than the statewide rate of 3.6%
- **HIGHER** than the national rate of 3.7%

Employers in the Houston-Galveston region **ADDED 3,700 JOBS** during the month of **December 2018**

- December 2018 gains fell short of the gains in December 2017 as well as the historical average for the month of December.
- The largest drivers of December's growth were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Leisure and Hospitality, and Manufacturing.

Employers in the Houston-Galveston region **ADDED 108,300 JOBS** over the past year

- Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities is one of the big drivers of growth over the past year, mirroring anecdotal evidence of a surge in warehousing and distribution activity in the region.
- Job growth in Retail Trade has fallen from 11,600 jobs in October to just 800 jobs in December.

What This Means for our Customers

- As our regional economy continues to grow and our customers earn more money, it is important to make them aware of the financial literacy resources available through United Way THRIVE. Dial 211 for more information about these resources.
- The federal government shutdown occurred after the December employer survey was completed and is not reflected in this month's report. Any impact on our region will be reflected in the January statistics scheduled for release in March.

The Texas Workforce Commission will release January 2019 employment figures on March 8, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Borski: ron.borski@wrksolutions.com or Parker Harvey: parker.harvey@wrksolutions.com

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

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