

DECEMBER 2019

Current Employment Overview



On January 24, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission released employment statistics for **December 2019**. Our detailed regional report for researchers and analysts is at <http://www.wrksolutions.com/LocalStats>. The highlights below tell us what is happening in the current job market that is relevant to people looking for work and employers who need to fill open jobs.

3.6%

DECEMBER Regional Unemployment Rate
(not seasonally adjusted)

- Represents 126,011 people looking for a **new job**
- **UNCHANGED** from 3.6% last month
- **DOWN** from 3.9% from last year
- **HIGHER** than the statewide rate of 3.3%
- **HIGHER** than the national rate of 3.4%

Monthly Change – Employers in the Houston-Galveston region **ADDED 2,500 JOBS** in December 2019

- December historically shows an average monthly gain of 10,700 jobs
- Gains in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; and Leisure and Hospitality
- Losses in Professional and Business Services, Mining and Logging, and Manufacturing reflect the current weakness in the oil and gas industry

Year-over-Year Change – Total Nonfarm employment was **UP 2.8%**

- This represents an increase of 88,000 jobs from December 2018 to December 2019
- Professional and Business Services leads year-over-year growth with an increase of 26,300 jobs

Other Tidbits

- Last week, Parker Harvey spoke with Fox 26 about the low unemployment rate. Included at the end of the video is strong praise for the work done by Workforce Solutions. To watch the video, click [here](#).
- The employment numbers for January 2020 will not be released until March 13. Revisions for previous months will also be released on that date.

The Texas Workforce Commission will release January 2020 employment figures on March 13, 2020.

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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