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Austin-Area Unemployment Creeps Up in December

AUSTIN – According to the Texas Workforce Commission, unemployment in the Austin – Round Rock MSA* crept up from 3.0%** in November 2016 to 3.2% in December 2016. The 3.2% unemployment rate represented 35,500 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment remained more than one point below both the Texas (4.6%) and national (4.5%) rates.

The Austin-Round Rock MSA collectively lost 1,100 jobs in December 2016. The region's annual growth rate was 1.9%, representing the addition of 18,800 jobs since December 2015.

Key Points by Industry in the Austin – Round Rock MSA in December 2016:

- Trade, Transportation & Utilities again accounted for the single greatest gain with the addition of 1,800 jobs.
 - Job gains were also seen in Leisure & Hospitality (1,000) and Manufacturing (900).
- Professional & Business Services and Government experienced the greatest declines with the loss of 1,500 jobs each.
 - Job losses were also seen in Education & Health Services (-800), Mining, Logging & Construction (-700), Financial Activities (-200), and Other Services (-100).
- Financial Activities experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 4.8%.
 - Significant annual job growth was also experienced in Other Services (4.6%), Mining, Logging & Construction (2.9%), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (2.7%), Education & Health Services (2.7%) and Information (2.6%).
- Manufacturing was again the only industry to experience a negative annual growth rate (-4.0%).

Further, unemployment in the Capital Area/Travis County*** increased from 2.9%** in November 2016 to 3.1% in December 2016. The 3.1% unemployment rate represented more than 21,000 residents seeking employment. The Capital Area/Travis County unemployment rate remained below the overall Austin – Round Rock MSA, state of Texas and national rates.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board is the publicly-funded workforce board for Travis County. Through strong partnerships and strategic collaborations, Workforce Solutions is leading the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce.

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*The Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties.

**Unemployment rates listed are not seasonally adjusted.

***The Capital Area Workforce Development Area includes Travis County.