



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Austin-Area Unemployment Continued to Creep Up in January to 3.5%

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA* increased from 3.2%** in December 2016 to 3.5% in January 2017. The 3.5% unemployment rate represented 39,000 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment remained more than one point below both the state of Texas (4.8%) and national (4.8%) rates***.

Despite the collective loss of 10,000 jobs in the Austin-Round Rock MSA in January 2017, the region's 3.5% annual growth rate represented the overall addition of 34,000 jobs since January 2016.

Key Points by Industry in the Austin-Round Rock MSA in January 2017:

- Modest gains of 300 jobs each were seen in Mining, Logging & Construction, Education & Health Services, and Government.
- Trade, Transportation, & Utilities experienced the greatest decline with the loss of 3,800 jobs.
 - Job losses were also seen in Leisure & Hospitality (-2,100), Professional & Business Services (-2,000), Other Services (-1,200), Manufacturing (-900), Information (-700), and Financial Activities (-200).
- Mining, Logging & Construction experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 7.5%.
 - Significant annual job growth was also experienced in Other Services (4.8%), Leisure & Hospitality (4.7%), Financial Activities (4.6%), and Education & Health Services (4.3%).
- Manufacturing saw the first positive annual job growth (0.5%) for the industry in 20 months.

Further, the unemployment rate in the Capital Area/Travis County**** increased from 3.1%** in December 2016 to 3.3% in January 2017. The 3.3% unemployment rate represented nearly 23,000 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.

**Austin-Round Rock MSA and Capital Area/Travis County Unemployment rates listed are not seasonally adjusted.

***Texas and national unemployment rates listed are seasonally adjusted.

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