



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Austin-Area Unemployment Inches Up in February to 3.7%

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA\* increased from 3.5%\*\* in January 2017 to 3.7% in February 2017. The 3.7% unemployment rate represented 41,700 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment remained one point below both the state of Texas (4.9%) and national (4.7%) rates\*\*\*.

The Austin-Round Rock MSA collectively added 2,700 jobs in February 2017. The region's 2.7% annual growth rate represented the overall addition of 27,000 jobs since February 2016.

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

- Leisure & Hospitality experienced the greatest increase with the addition of 1,700 jobs.
  - Job gains were also seen in Government (1,100), Manufacturing (900), Education & Health Services (700), and Other Services (500).
- Trade, Transportation, & Utilities again experienced the greatest decline with the loss of 2,100 jobs.
  - Job losses were also seen in Financial Activities (-300) and Professional & Business Services (-200).
- Mining, Logging & Construction again experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 5.6%.
  - Significant annual job growth was also experienced in Other Services (4.8%), Leisure & Hospitality (4.1%), and Education & Health Services (3.4%).
  - Manufacturing continued a trend of positive annual job growth (1.8%).

Further, the unemployment rate in the Capital Area/Travis County\*\*\*\* increased from 3.3%\*\* in January 2017 to 3.6% in February 2017. The 3.6% unemployment rate represented more than 24,500 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.