



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Austin-Area Unemployment Drops Slightly in March

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA\* decreased from 3.7%\*\* in February 2017 to 3.6% in March 2017. The 3.6% unemployment rate represented 41,300 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment remained more than one point below the state of Texas (5.0%) and nearly one point below the national (4.5%) rates\*\*\*.

The Austin-Round Rock MSA collectively added 9,500 jobs in March 2017. The region's 3.3% annual growth rate represented the overall addition of more than 32,000 jobs since March 2016.

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

- Professional & Business Services experienced the greatest increase with the addition of 2,200 jobs.
  - Significant job gains were also seen in Leisure & Hospitality (2,100), Education & Health Services (1,100), and Government (1,000).
- Information was the only industry to experience a decline with the loss of 100 jobs.
- Mining, Logging & Construction again experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 5.7%.
  - Significant annual job growth was also experienced in Education & Health Services (5.5%), Other Services (5.2%), and Leisure & Hospitality (4.5%).
  - Manufacturing continued a trend of positive annual job growth (3.4%).

Further, the unemployment rate in the Capital Area/Travis County\*\*\*\* decreased from 3.6%\*\* in February 2017 to 3.5% in March 2017. The 3.5% unemployment rate represented more than 24,200 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.