



WORKFORCE
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Area
Connecting People to Jobs

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Solutions Helping Austin's Employers and Workers Navigate Recovery as Unemployment Rises to 12.2% in April 2020

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission today show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA* increased from 3.8% in March 2020 to 12.2% in April 2020. The 12.2% unemployment rate represented 138,089 residents seeking jobless benefits. The region's unemployment rate remained below both the Texas (13.0%)** and national (14.4%)** rates.

Further, unemployment in the Capital Area/Travis County*** rose from 3.7% in March 2020 to 12.4% in April 2020. The 12.4% unemployment rate represented 84,222 residents who have applied for jobless benefits. The Capital Area/Travis County unemployment rate rose above the overall Austin-Round Rock MSA rate, but remained below the state of Texas and national rates.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area is providing assistance to affected residents and businesses while the COVID-19 health crisis impacts our region's economy.

"We are the first responders for employment during this disaster," said Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer for Workforce Solutions Capital Area. "We are here to help Travis County return to work, by assisting impacted workers to find a job or businesses to keep their doors open."

"Our plan to support our community through this crisis now focuses on recovery," said Melanie Flowers, Chair of the Board of Directors for Workforce Solutions Capital Area. "Workforce Solutions is helping businesses navigate re-opening and helping our workforce understand about both employment and virtual education opportunities."

Residents seeking assistance can contact us at 512.549.4967 or visit www.wfscapitalarea.com. Workforce Solutions stands with Austin and offers many resources, including:

- **Jobs Now:** This online tool features over 1,000 job openings for over thousands of listings with employers across Austin and is updated daily. Job seekers can search openings at www.wfscapitalarea.com/Job-Seekers/Jobs-Now.
- **Childcare assistance for Austin's workforce.** Residents returning to work who will need child care may be eligible for tuition scholarships. To begin, parents can online apply to join the childcare waitlist at <http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/ChildCareServices>.
- **Resources for businesses.** Workforce Solutions offers outplacement assistance, layoff aversion strategies, and potential financial assistance at no cost to Austin's employers. To get started, go to www.wfscapitalarea.com/Employer-Services/COVID-19-Resources-for-Employers.

Key Points by Industry in the Austin-Round Rock MSA in April 2020:

- Financial Activities was the only industry to not gain or lose any jobs.

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- Leisure & Hospitality experiences the greatest decrease with the loss of 58,700 jobs, followed by Education & Health Services (-19,300), Other Services (-14,200), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-14,100).
 - Other industries that experienced a loss in jobs include Professional & Business Services (-5,600), Government (-5,300), and Information (-2,700).
- Mining, Logging & Construction experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 6.2%, followed by Financial Activities (6.0%).
- Industries that experienced a significant decrease in regional annual job growth include Leisure & Hospitality (-48.3%), Other Services (-25.4%), and Education & Health Services (-13.9%).

The Austin-Round Rock region has experienced an annual growth rate of -9.1%, representing the collective loss of 100,500 jobs since April 2019.

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.*

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