



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Austin-Area Unemployment Slightly Increases in March

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission today show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA\* increased slightly from 3.0% in February 2018 to 3.1% in March 2018. The 3.1% unemployment rate represented 36,800 residents seeking employment. The region's unemployment rate remained one point below both the Texas (4.1%)\*\* and national (4.1%)\*\* rates.

The Austin-Round Rock MSA collectively added 3,300 jobs in March 2018. The region's 3.6% annual growth rate represented the collective addition of 36,800 jobs since March 2017.

### Key Points by Industry in the Austin-Round Rock MSA in March 2018:

- Professional & Business Services experienced the greatest increase with the addition of 1,800 jobs.
  - Significant job gains were also seen in Leisure & Hospitality (900), Government (900), and Manufacturing (700).
- Education & Health Services experienced the greatest decrease with the loss of 1,400 jobs.
  - The only other industry to experience job losses was Financial Activities (-700).
  - Employment remained unchanged, however, in both Mining, Logging & Construction and Information.
- Professional & Business Services again experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 7.9%.
  - Significant annual job growth was also experienced in Mining, Logging & Construction (5.5%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (5.1%), and Leisure & Hospitality (4.2%).
- The only industry to experience negative annual job growth was again Government with a decrease of 1.6%.

Further, unemployment in the Capital Area/Travis County\*\*\* also increased slightly from 2.9% in February 2018 to 3.0% in March 2018. The 3.0% unemployment rate represented 21,561 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.