



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Solutions Supporting Austin's Impacted Workers, Families and Businesses as Unemployment Rises to 3.5% in March 2020

AUSTIN – Figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission today show the unemployment rate in the Austin-Round Rock MSA* increased from 2.6% in February 2020 to 3.5% in March 2020. The 3.5% unemployment rate represented 43,971 residents seeking jobless benefits. The region's unemployment rate remained below both the Texas (4.7%)** and national (4.5%)** rates.

Further, unemployment in the Capital Area/Travis County*** rose from 2.6% in February 2020 to 3.4% in March 2020. The 3.4% unemployment rate represented 25,454 residents who have applied for jobless benefits. The Capital Area/Travis County unemployment rate remained below the overall Austin-Round Rock MSA rate, and 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're here to help our community weather this storm, whether it's helping impacted workers to find a job, childcare for Austin's essential workforce, or businesses to keep their doors open and their people working," said Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer for Workforce Solutions Capital Area.

"Workforce Solutions connects local people to local jobs, working virtually and by phone to personally support Austinites seeking work or training to gain new skills," said Melanie Flowers, Chair of the Board of Directors for Workforce Solutions Capital Area.

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 200 job openings for over 1,000 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 essential workforce.** We can help connect essential workers to providers accepting new children and provide tuition scholarships for childcare. Apply online at www.wfscapitalarea.com/Child-Care-Services/COVID-19ResourcesChildCare.
- **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 March 2020:

- Financial Activities experienced the greatest increase with the addition of 1,100 jobs.
 - Other industries that experienced an increase in jobs included Government (700), Mining, Logging & Construction (600), and Other Services (400).

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- Leisure & Hospitality experiences the greatest decrease with the loss of 5,600 jobs.
 - Other industries that experienced a loss in jobs include Education & Health Services (-2,300), Professional & Business Services (-1,200), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).
- Mining, Logging & Construction experienced the greatest regional annual job growth with an increase of 7.9%.
 - Other industries that experienced significant regional annual job growth include Financial Activities (6.7%) and Other Services (6.5%).
- Leisure & Hospitality was the only industry to experience a decrease in regional annual job growth (-1.6%).

The Austin-Round Rock region has experienced an annual growth rate of 2.5.%, representing the collective addition of 27,200 jobs since March 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.*