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Workforce Solutions Releases January Labor Market Report *RGV Cities Remain Below the National Unemployment Rate for Five Consecutive Months*

McAllen, TX – Since September, several Rio Grande Valley (RGV) cities have remained below the national unemployment rate. McAllen had the lowest unemployment rate in the RGV at 4.7 percent. Edinburg was a close second at 4.8 percent, and Harlingen was third at 5.6 percent.

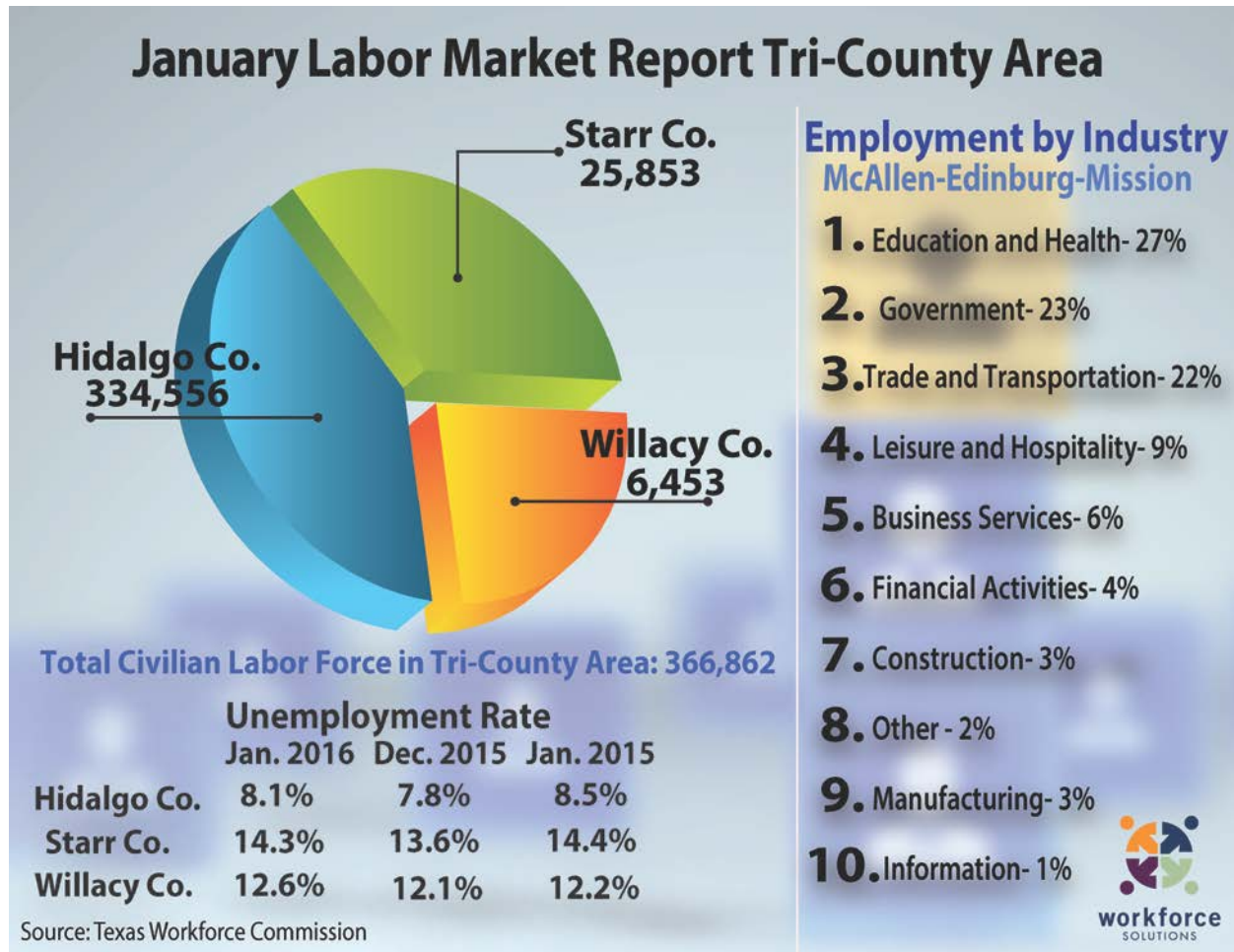
Employment in the education and professional/business services sectors saw the largest increase in the McAllen metropolitan statistical area (MSA). In January, McAllen MSA added 700 jobs in the education sector and 600 jobs in the business industry.

"We're doing reasonably well given what's happened to the energy sector," said Workforce Solutions Chief Executive Officer Francisco Almaraz. "The Rio Grande Valley has shown over the last five months a strong economy that is comparable to the success the nation has seen since the last recession."

Texas employers expanded their payrolls in January with the addition of 31,400 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs, marking the tenth consecutive month of job growth for Texas. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in January, down from a revised 4.6 percent in December.

The Bureau of Labor reported that the U.S. economy added 118,000 new jobs in January as the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent.

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Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision.

Workforce Solutions

Workforce Solutions (WFS), under the direction of the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce boards located throughout the state. This workforce board services Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. The primary goal of TWC and the 28 workforce boards is to respond to needs of Texas employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers, and job seekers are encouraged to take advantage of these services. To learn more about the programs and services WFS has to offer, please call (877) 687-1121 or visit WFSolutions.org.

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