

The Brazos Valley Region has experienced incremental growth in Civilian Labor Force (CLF) and employment over last year. In February of 2012 the unemployment rate was 5.9%, but the current rate is 5.4%. The unemployment rate is well below the state and national unemployment rates which are at 6.5% and 7.7%. The trending information shows that there is population growth and job creation in the region. The region will experience a 17.3% growth rate from now until 2020. Several industry groups have reported slight declines most notably state and local government agencies.

The industries most prominent in job growth are:

Education & Health Services- The following industry group has seen 6.8% growth the past year while adding 913 jobs. The prospective growth rate for this industry cluster is extremely encouraging especially in Elementary and Secondary education, Colleges & Universities and Ambulatory Health Care Services. The demand for teacher aides, administrative assistant, general administrative staff, LVN and medical assistants (especially in home care) is going to dramatically rise in this area over the coming years. The population increases along with the proliferation of school and medical facilities; will add 11,510 jobs to the local economy by 2020.

Manufacturing- The past year this industry group has seen 8.35% growth. Fabricated metal production and machinery will be the group leaders for a category that has already had 980 jobs added this year alone. The next few years manufacturing will be adding almost 2,000 jobs to the local economy.

Natural Resources and Mining- The energy boom has helped spur growth 10.55% in this area and added 630 jobs. The next few years will see this industry sector add about 1,000 jobs. The discovery and innovation of new drilling and energy types could see this sector grow even more than preliminary analysis is indicating.

Leisure & Hospitality- The Accommodations & Food Services sector will see the greatest jump in jobs over the next few years. The past year this group has seen a miniscule decline of 1.61%, but with the anticipated growth of the region especially, Texas A&M University, the next few years will see a large increase in job opportunities. The anticipated growth is about 3,780 jobs by 2020. The service industry and restaurants will have the greatest impact in this sector.

Trade, Transportation, & Utilities- The growth in this industry group was 2.45% the past year with 496 jobs created. The anticipated growth in this industry will be about 3,000 jobs by 2020. The largest growth will take place in retail and sales.

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