

Unemployment and Workforce Development

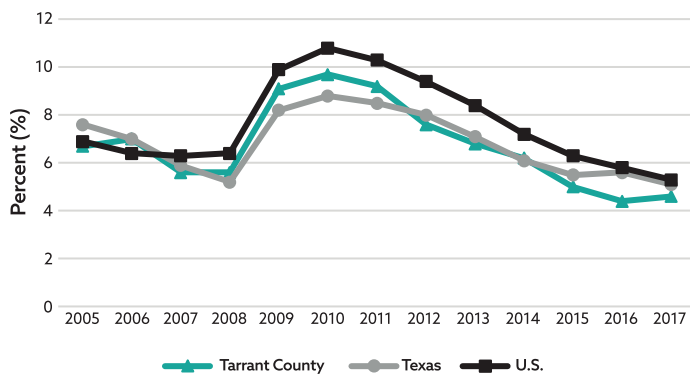


Center for
Transforming Lives
From Poverty to Possibility

Who is unemployed in Tarrant County?

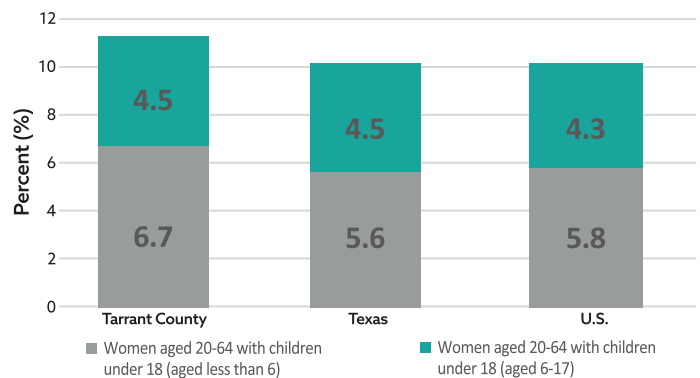
Over time, unemployment rates have returned to pre-Recession rates (Figure 1).¹ Tarrant County (4.6%) currently has better (i.e. lower) unemployment rates than Texas (5.1%), and Texas in turn has better unemployment rates than the U.S. (5.3%).¹

Figure 1. Unemployment rate by geographical location, 2005 - 2017¹



Data Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year Estimates, 2013-2017

Figure 2. Unemployment rate for women with children by geographical location, 2017¹



Data Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year Estimates, 2017

Unfortunately, disparities exist in employment. Tarrant County has the highest percentage of unemployment for women with children under the age of 18 years compared to the U.S. and Texas (Figure 2).¹ Unemployment was consistently higher among women with children less than 6 years of age across all three geographical locations, with Tarrant County having the highest rate of unemployment for women with children under 6 years of age (6.7%).¹

Who receives workforce development services in Texas?

The Texas Workforce Commission aims to develop the workforce, provide support services including child care for some populations who participate in workforce training, and provide adult education and literacy services.² They also administer unemployment benefits. The amount of unemployment benefits received depends on past wages for eligible participants, calculated by dividing the participants base period quarter with the highest wages by 25 and rounding to the nearest dollar, with no more than \$507 and no less than \$68 per week.³

Employed



\$15,080 per year*
or **\$290 per week***

*before taxes, calculated by Omni Calculator's Hourly to Salary - Wage Calculator.

For a qualified applicant who was laid off their full-time, minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour in the state of Texas) position, their estimated weekly benefit amount would be \$151, and they cannot receive more than \$3,926 per year.³



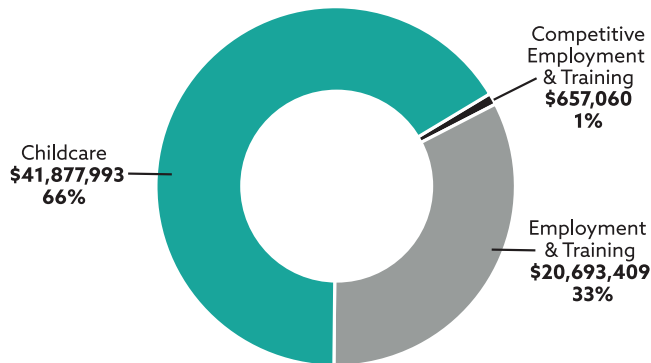
Unemployed

\$3,926 per year
or **\$151 per week**

Who receives workforce development services in Tarrant County?

The Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County offers support to the general public and additional assistance for eligible individuals.⁴ In general, they offer free job search databases and resources throughout six different Tarrant County locations and weekly professional workshops that build career skills (e.g., resume writing, interviewing, etc.).⁴

Figure 3. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County: Total budget, 2018⁵



Data Source: 2018 Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County Infographic

Note: Child care funding goes to Child Care Management Services (CCMS), which provide child care support to qualifying participants. Child care is not offered as a direct service of the Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County; they refer job seekers to Child Care Management Services, where they must meet certain qualifications.

In 2018, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County had a total budget of \$63,228,462.⁵ This money was primarily spent on Child Care supports (Figure 3).⁵

In 2018, considerably more money was spent on child care expenditures than in 2016, when Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County spent \$25,259,515 to 540 child care providers, allowing over 11,000 families the opportunity to work or attend school.⁶

Although most Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County costs are spent on child care support, child care services are *not guaranteed* and made only for certain qualified participants via a referral to Texas Health and Human Services.⁴

If families are unable to arrange for child care prior to obtaining a job due to long wait lists or application time tables, it would be difficult to maintain the job during the earliest training and onboarding phase.

In 2018, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County served 58,869 persons who found 41,829 jobs (Table 1).⁵ Among those served, 798 were homeless adults and run-away youth.⁵ On an average day, 6,239 children were served through child care assistance.⁵

Most people who access employment services find employment, but little data are available to determine how much income is made, whether insurance is provided, and length of employment (Table 1).⁵⁻⁸

Table 1. Tarrant County: Unemployment rates and people served by Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County, 2016 - 2018⁵⁻¹⁰

Tarrant County	2016	2017	2018
Unemployment rate*	4.0%	3.7%	3.5%
Jobseekers served	75,264**	68,970	58,869
Jobs found	53,357	49,327	41,829
Homeless adults and run-away youth	701	795	798
Children served per day (on average) through child care assistance	5,546	6,286	6,239

* Unemployment rate is calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics

** 2016 data for jobseekers served found in the Workforce Development Board Meeting report. Previous 2016 Annual Report data only notes that "1 out of every 16 working age residents of Tarrant County were served."

Data Source: Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration PY 2016 Participant Individual Record Layout Annual Report, unless otherwise specified below.

How does employment relate to family homelessness?

- According to the Tarrant County Point in Time Count 2018, the primary cause of homelessness was a loss of job, unemployment, or lack of income. Unemployment is a key driver of homelessness.¹¹
- For families, child care is also essential for job seeking, which is one of the services administered by Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County.

1. U.S. Census Bureau (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html?#>

2. Texas Workforce Commission. (2018). About Texas Workforce. Retrieved from <https://twc.texas.gov/about-texas-workforce>

3. Texas Workforce Commission. (2019). Eligibility & Benefit Amounts. Retrieved from <https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/eligibility-benefit-amounts#unemploymentBenefitsEligibility>

4. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. (2019a). About Us. Retrieved from <http://workforcesolutions.net/about/>

5. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. (2019b). Tarrant County Workforce. Retrieved from <http://workforcesolutions.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Infographic-2018-1.pdf>

6. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (2017). 2016 Annual Report. Retrieved from http://workforcesolutions.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL_TarrantCounty_AR_2016.pdf

7. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (2016). Workforce Development Board Meeting. Retrieved from <http://workforcesolutions.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/WDB-Packet-for-the-Web.pdf>

8. Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (2019c). End of the Year System Impact FY 2018.

9. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019). Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>

10. Employment and Training Administration. (2018). WIOA. Retrieved from <https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>

11. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. (2018). 2018 State of the Homeless Report. Retrieved from <https://ahomewithhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-SoHo-Report-FINAL.pdf>