

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Some of the largest employers in the Rio Grande Valley include public schools, hospitals, health care agencies, restaurants, food stores, and social service agencies. The service industry accounts for 36 percent of the total economy, followed by local government (20%) and trade (17%).

There is a continued shift towards expenditures on consumer services such as restaurants, health services, and amusement expenditures. Many of the industries supplying these services employ a large number of people, so even modest growth in the demand for these industries can result in sizable job growth.

Also fueling strong overall growth will be services provided to business, including personnel supply services, legal services, management and public relations and miscellaneous business services. This growth will serve to aid businesses involved in trade with Mexico and will help existing firms continue a trend of outsourcing jobs. Increased trade with Mexico will continue to fuel growth in trucking and warehousing activity.