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**TEXAS RETAILERS**  
ASSOCIATION

# TRA NEWSLETTER

News affecting Retailers & Grocers in Texas Industry

Sponsored By

*President Circle Members*

## Texas Retailers Newsletter: May 2018

- [Letter from the President](#)
- [2018 Texas Retailers Forum](#)
- [Legislative Update](#)
- [Austin's Paid Sick Leave Ordinance](#)
- [House Speaker Prioritizing Farm Bill](#)
- [Chairman Brady Says Tax Reform "2.0 is Real"](#)
- [Upcoming Sales Tax Holiday](#)
- [Member Spotlight: Macy's](#)
- [University of Houston's Salute to Retail](#)
- [NEW TREF Website Page](#)
- [Same FedEx Service. Lower Cost](#)
- [TRA-Endorsed Insurance Provider: ANCO Insurance](#)
- [NRF PROTECT Conference](#)
- [FMI Legal Conference](#)
- [Grocers Corner - In the Cart](#)
- [Follow us on Social Media!](#)
- [About the Texas Retailers Association](#)

**Letter from the President**



Hello Texas Retailers!

Summer is almost upon us, as is evidenced by the rising temperatures, graduations, proms and sales tax holidays on energy efficiency, as well as water sense items coming up in late May. I hope everyone is having a nice spring and gearing up for the summer months ahead.

Summer signals the end of school, and the beginning of vacations, camps and the annual Texas Retailers Forum, which will be held July 22-23 in Corpus Christi. There is more information on this year's Forum below, so register and book your hotel rooms now. In addition to preparing for Forum the TRA team has been busy tracking and lobbying on issues ranging from the Farm Bill to Trade and NAFTA at the federal level; to the Inventory Tax and Paid Sick Leave at the state and local levels. Updates on our advocacy efforts are included in this month's newsletter.

Later this month, on May 22, all the runoff elections for the primaries for elective offices, ranging from State Legislature to Congress, will take place in several key districts across the state. The results of the runoff elections should give us a better sense of what the make-up of the 86th Texas Legislature, as well as our next Congressional delegation will look like, as in many of these districts it's the primary results that matter most. In the meantime, TRA continues to track and lobby on several key state and federal issues of importance to our members.

This is a critical time for trade related issues, such as trade tariffs and NAFTA renegotiation. Earlier this month TRA joined with the National Retail Federation (NRF) to express our concerns to the Trump Administration regarding their proposed tariffs on trade with China. We have also weighed in and continue to lobby aggressively for a constructive renegotiation of NAFTA, which does not diminish the spirit of the original agreement. This month we are also anticipating that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on the e-fairness case which it considered and heard oral arguments on in mid-April. It is our hope that the court will rule in our favor and set the stage for leveling the playing field for all retailers, regardless of presence. Lastly, the House version of the Farm Bill will likely be debated on the floor of the U.S. House this month. TRA was instrumental in the lobbying effort which yielded a House bill which is consistent with our priorities, and as a result we have formally endorsed the House Farm bill and are lobbying for its passage by the House. Our letter of support can be viewed [here](#).

On the state level during this interim time in between legislative sessions, we continue to educate state lawmakers on the inventory tax and why it is so detrimental to business in Texas. Additionally, we are actively involved in the effort to educate Austin area retailers on the recently passed Paid Sick Leave ordinance, which takes effect in October, so they are

best prepared to deal with this anti-business new regulation. However, we are committed to playing a key role in preparing the legislative effort to preempt the Austin Paid Sick Leave ordinance and others like it, when the 86th Legislature convenes next January.

All these important issues and much more will be discussed in detail at the 3rd [Texas Retailers Forum](#), in Corpus Christi this year, July 22-23. Our annual educational Forum, hosted by the Texas Retailers Association and the Texas Retail Education Foundation (TREF), will provide retailers with timely, topical and quality program sessions and speakers, in addition to highlighting the work of TREF. Specifically, attendees will hear from experts in tax policy, electoral politics, journalism, national associations, as well as local, state and federal representatives during panel discussions which will focus on the most topical issues facing the retail industry. Additionally, Forum attendees will have the opportunity to meet with retail industry leaders from across the state and nation at networking functions such as our Awards Dinner, networking breaks, and our popular closing night casino party. Registration is [now open](#) and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Make plans now to secure a spot for you and your company at this can't miss annual industry event.

As always, thank you for supporting TRA and please feel free to reach out to the TRA team anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.F. Klumb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "F" and a distinct "K" and "L".

President/CEO

Texas Retailers Association

## 2018 Texas Retailers Forum



The Texas Retailers Forum is at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel July 22-23, 2018. Our 2018 educational Forum, hosted by the Texas Retailers Association and the Texas Retail Education Foundation, provides retailers with timely, topical and quality program sessions and speakers. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with hundreds of retail industry leaders from across the state at networking functions such as our Awards Dinner, networking breaks, and a closing night party - aboard the U.S.S. Lexington.

**Register for the Texas Retailers Forum!**

**Book Your Hotel Room for the Texas Retailers Forum!**

**Legislative Update**



## Austin's Paid Sick Leave Ordinance

By Pamela Williams and Lariza Pruneda Hebert

In February of 2018, Austin became the first city in Texas – scratch that, the first city in the South – to pass a paid sick leave law. The ordinance was backed by various workers' rights organizations and passed 9-2 after five hours of testimony from local employee-citizens.

According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, at least 40% of private-sector workers don't have paid days off. The first city in the U.S. to implement a paid sick leave law was San Francisco over a decade ago, and since then, other cities and states have passed similar ordinances such as California, Oregon, Washington, D.C., and New York City. However, unlike some of these cities' ordinances, the Austin ordinance applies to the private sector across the board, and does not carve out exceptions.

### **Austin requires six to eight paid sick days for all private employees.**

The ordinance is scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2018. The law requires that all private employers with more than 15 employees must allow employees who work at least 80 hours in Austin in a calendar year to accrue up to 64 hours, or eight days, of paid sick leave. Similarly, small businesses with 15 or fewer employees shall give up to 48 hours. And most surprising, micro-businesses, those with five or fewer employees, will be required to provide 48 hours of paid sick leave, but these micro-businesses will have until October 1, 2020 to comply.

Employees will accrue paid sick leave at the rate of one hour per 30 worked. Businesses are permitted to count current paid time off toward the required paid sick leave days. Beginning in October 2018, an estimated 87,000 Austin workers will begin to accrue one paid hour off

per 30 hours worked. Notably, the City of Austin could begin bringing fines against companies by June 1, 2019 for noncompliance.

Paid sick leave may be used either for the employee's or a family member's illness, injury, health condition or preventive care, and also include "safe days," for families dealing with the legal and health repercussions of domestic violence.

### **Some particulars for which employers should take note.**

Employers should take precautions to ensure compliance with all of the requirements of the ordinance. Specifically, employee handbooks must provide notice of employees' paid sick leave rights, and posters to be issued by the City of Austin must be displayed. Likewise, employers must provide a monthly statement (at minimum) showing an employee's available paid sick leave.

Employers may create reasonable policies to verify employees' paid sick leave requests. The ordinance specifically requires employees' to timely request paid sick leave "before their scheduled work time," although employers may not prevent employees from using earned sick time for an "unforeseeable qualified absence." Employers cannot condition the use of sick time on the employee finding a replacement for the time missed.

Unused sick time is carried over to the following year, but an employer may cap annual sick leave use (as opposed to accrual) at eight days. Employers may restrict an employee's use of accrued paid sick leave during an employee's first 60 days of employment if the employer can establish "that the employee's term of employment is at least one year." It is unclear how this could be established, especially with regards to an at-will employment relationship. If an employee transfers within the same company, it does not impact the amount of earned sick time or the employee's right to use it; if an employee returns to work for the same employer in a six month period, the employee may use previously earned sick time.

Importantly, employers cannot retaliate against employees for requesting or using earned sick time, for reporting a violation, or for trying to exercise their rights to paid sick leave pursuant to the ordinance.

### **Employers' best practices.**

There is a chance this ordinance may be short lived; many state representatives and local Austin businesses have promised that they will take action to ensure that the bill is repealed. But until then, employers who have locations in Austin that fit the bill (no pun intended), must comply with the ordinance. As October approaches, private employers with employees in Austin should review leave policies, procedures, payroll practices and notices to ensure compliance.

The bottom line is this: paid sick leave laws aren't going anywhere: the federal government has taken up the issue with separate bills from both sides addressing paid sick leave.

Likewise, nine states have already passed paid sick leave laws. Employers must remain vigilant in staying current with local laws. Like other areas of employment law (e.g. protective classes in the discrimination context), cities are taking action to implement their own laws where the state or federal government has not done so.

[Click here to learn more about Austin's Paid Sick Leave and Fisher Phillips.](#)

Although the Austin ordinance is set to take effect in October, there is currently a lawsuit against the City of Austin, brought by The State of Texas and several business groups, which seeks to keep the ordinance from going into effect. Additionally, TRA is part of a working group of business groups that is actively working with the state's leadership and key legislators to prepare a statewide preemption bill on ordinances like the Austin paid sick leave ordinance. TRA will keep you updated on these developments in the coming months.

## House Speaker Prioritizing Farm Bill

U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan shared in an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that the House Farm Bill will be a priority for floor consideration. The House introduced its farm bill in mid-April, and it was marked up by the House Agriculture Committee the next week. The bill will likely head to the House floor for a vote in May, although the date is yet to be determined. It depends on whether or not the legislation is supported by a sufficient number of Republicans to pass the House. Some conservatives have been rumbling privately that the legislation does not go far enough to reform farm programs and SNAP. Democrats are likely uniform in their opposition to the legislation because of increased work requirements and eligibility restrictions on SNAP recipients. The Senate has not released the text of its version of the farm bill yet, but Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) told reporters after a recent hearing that he and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) are close to reaching a deal. If you have not already, please check [NGA's summary of provisions](#) out in the bill that impacts retailers.

## Chairman Brady Says Tax Reform "2.0 is Real"

U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) has reiterated that there will be a solid effort by House Republicans to pass a second round of tax cuts. One of the main drivers for pursuing this second round of tax reform is to provide permanency for tax cuts affecting individuals and pass-through businesses. In the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,

the 21% corporate tax rate is permanent but the individual rates and the 20% pass-through deduction sunset after 2025. Tax Cuts 2.0 would likely face opposition by Democrats in the Senate. Legislation would require 60 votes. To read a full report from the Heritage Foundation on the proposed Tax Reform 2.0 [click here](#).



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### **April Retail Jobs Increase 3,700 from March and Nearly 49,000 from 2017**

WASHINGTON, May 4, 2018 – With the economy boosted by tax reform and other factors, retail industry employment increased by 3,700 jobs seasonally adjusted in April over March and 48,900 jobs unadjusted year-over-year, the National Retail Federation said today. The numbers exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants. Overall, U.S. businesses added 164,000 jobs, the Labor Department said.

"The jobs gains are looking very good and are in line with the continuing growth of the economy," NRF Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz said. "Irregular weather patterns have put some noise into the data this year in terms of fluctuating monthly numbers, but the overall trends show the underlying strength of the economy. Tax reform and regulatory reform seen over the past few months are expected to continue to provide traction for the economy and further job growth."

April's numbers followed a monthly increase of 5,600 jobs in March. The three-month moving average in April showed an increase of 17,200 jobs.

Monthly gains were seen in general merchandise stores, which were up 7,800 jobs; grocery stores, up 2,300; non-store, which includes online, up 2,000; and sporting goods stores, up 1,700. Losses were concentrated in weather-sensitive sectors such as clothing, down 5,300, and building materials and garden supplies stores, down 4,800, along with and health and personal care stores, down 1,700.

Economy-wide, average hourly earnings in April increased by 4 cents – 2.6 percent – year-over-year. The Labor Department said the unemployment rate dropped from 4.1 percent to 3.9 percent, the lowest level since December 2000.

Kleinhenz noted that retail job numbers reported by the Labor Department do not provide an accurate picture of the industry because they count only employees who work in stores while excluding retail workers in other parts of the business such as corporate headquarters, distribution centers, call centers and innovation labs.

# Upcoming Sales Tax Holiday

## WATER-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS SALES TAX HOLIDAY

**May 26-28, 2018**



You can buy certain water-efficient and water-conserving products tax free during the [Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday](#). There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy. If you are a contractor, landscaper or other service provider, see the link at the bottom of the page for specific information.

The 2018 holiday begins Saturday, May 26, and goes through Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day).

### WaterSense Products

During the holiday period, you can buy any [product](#) tax free that displays a [WaterSense label or logo](#). These items can be bought for either personal or business purposes.

### Water-Conserving Products

You can also buy certain water-conserving products tax free during the holiday period.

Unlike WaterSense-labeled items, these items are only exempt when you buy them for use at your residential property.

You can buy items tax free during the holiday that are used or planted for:

- conserving or retaining groundwater;
- recharging water tables; or
- decreasing ambient air temperature, and so limiting water evaporation.

Examples of items that qualify for the exemption include:

- a soaker or drip-irrigation hose
- a moisture control for a sprinkler or irrigation system
- mulch

- a rain barrel or an alternative rain and moisture collection system
- a permeable ground cover surface that allows water to reach underground basins, aquifers or water collection points
- plants, trees and grasses
- water-saving surfactants
- soil and compost

Examples of items that do not qualify for the exemption include:

- construction/building materials
- awnings and other items used to create shade
- air conditioners\*
- ceiling fans\*
- sprinklers

\*Certain air conditioners and ceiling fans can be bought tax free as part of the [Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday](#) during Memorial Day weekend.

### Contractors, Landscapers and other Service Providers

[WaterSense Products](#)

[Water-Conserving Products](#)

Learn More: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-1018.php>

## Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday

May 26-28, 2018



You can buy certain [ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup>](#) energy-efficient products tax-free during the annual Texas [ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday](#). There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy items tax free.

This year's tax-free ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday begins Saturday, May 26, and goes through midnight on Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day).

### Qualifying Products

You can buy, rent or lease only the following ENERGY STAR-labeled items tax free:

- air conditioners (with a sales price of \$6,000 or less)
- refrigerators (with a sales price of \$2,000 or less)

- ceiling fans
- incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs
- clothes washers
- dishwashers
- dehumidifiers
- programmable thermostats

### Non-Qualifying Products

Examples of items that do not qualify and are taxable, even if they are ENERGY STAR-labelled include:

- water heaters
- clothes dryers
- freezers
- stoves
- attic fans
- heat pumps
- wine refrigerators
- kegerators
- beverage chillers

### Additional Charges Affect the Sales Price

Delivery, shipping, handling, and transportation charges by the seller are part of the item's sales price. Charges for installing free-standing items are also part of the item's sales price. If the item you buy is not taxable, then these charges are not taxable.

For air conditioners and refrigerators (because they have a price cap), you have to look at the item's total sales price to determine if you can buy it tax free.

For example, you buy an ENERGY STAR refrigerator for \$1,995 with a \$50 delivery charge for a total sales price of \$2,045. Because the refrigerator's total sales price is more than the \$2,000 cap for refrigerators, tax is due on the entire \$2,045 sales price.

If a delivery charge is billed "per item", and an invoice has both exempt and taxable items, only the qualifying exempt item's delivery charge is exempt.

For a flat-rate delivery charge, the total delivery charge is applied to the tax-exempt items and is exempt if it does not cause the item's sales price to be more than its price cap.

Learn More: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/96-1331.php>

# Member Spotlight: Macy's



macy's inc

As America's Department stores, Macy's delivers fashion and affordable luxury to customers at approximately 650 locations nationwide with 43 Macy's in the state of Texas and employs more than 8000 people in this great state. Building on a more than 150-year tradition, and with the collective support of customers and employees, Macy's helps strengthen communities by supporting local and national charities giving more than \$52 million each year, plus 153,000 hours of volunteer service, to help make a difference in the lives of our customers.

We strive to strengthen each Texas community we serve by supporting the causes that matter most locally. To support those Texas communities affected by the devastations of Hurricane Harvey, Macy's was one of the first corporations to donate to the America Red Cross relief efforts and continued to support those efforts for Harvey by matching its employee donations and conducting a customer "Round-Up" national campaign where customers at Macy's stores could donate by rounding up their purchase to the nearest dollar. As a result, Macy's raised more than \$1M for recovery in the Houston area

Additionally, Macy's has opened 7 Macy's Backstage stores to date in the great state of Texas, offering an exciting and unique off-price concept. These stores within a store are designed for the savvy and cost-conscious shopper who enjoys finding great fashion at a great price and shops often. Macy's Backstage offers a vast selection of fashion-forward merchandise for men, women and children while including an expanded assortment of beauty brands, jewelry and designer handbags, as well as adding categories such as gourmet foods, home décor, pet supplies and kid's shoes and toys – making it truly a one-stop-shop.

Macy's continues to be known as a fashion retail authority with a commitment to its stores

while continuing momentum in mobile and digital platforms to set the foundation for future growth.





## University of Houston's Salute to Retail



Honoring retail industry professionals and recognizing student scholarship recipients was the focus at the 2018 “Salute to Retail Innovators” luncheon, held April 25, 2018 at River Oaks Country Club. Hosted by the University of Houston (UH) College of Technology and co-chaired by Chris Goins (The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston), Kevin Black (Tenenbaum Jewelers), and Tony Bradfield (Tenenbaum Jewelers), the event was attended

by nearly 300 retail and fashion professionals, community giants, and UH faculty, staff, and students.

Proceeds from the biennial “Salute to Retail” benefit student scholarships and the Star Endowment for Retailing and Consumer Science and Global Retailing in the UH College of Technology. This year’s luncheon recognized the two students selected as recipients of the Rising Star Scholarship, Taylor Harris and Blake Mudd, both from the Global Retailing master’s program. “Salute to Retail” began in 2004 as a way to honor the field and reflect the UH retailing program’s active advisory board and alumni. The awards honor individuals who have

contributed to the field.

The 2018 “Salute to Retail Innovators” honorees included:

- **Joe Williams – Texas Retailers Association (Lifetime Achievement)**
- Betty Newton – à bientôt (Fashion Retailer)
- Christina Mitchell – Abejas Boutique (Fashion Retailer)
- Tina Davis – Cheeky Vintage (Fashion Retailer)
- Regina Garcia – Events (Lifestyle Retailer)
- Cyndy Garza Roberts – HEB (Community Service)
- Holly Moore – PaperCity (Media)
- John Sheehan – Target (National Retailer)

“We would like to express our gratitude to the numerous individuals and companies that purchase tickets and help sponsor this event every other year,” says Shirley Ezell, associate professor of retailing and consumer science at UH. “Without their generous support and financial commitment, our endowment and scholarships would not be possible.”

## NEW TREF Website Page



The Texas Retailers Association is currently building a new website page for the Texas Retailers Education Foundation. This new page will include a "Retail Job Center" for high school and college students to find retail jobs in their area. Members interested in having their job website pages linked should email Justin Williamson at [jwilliamson@txretailers.org](mailto:jwilliamson@txretailers.org).

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Agents Cassie Doolittle  
and Gina O'Hara



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[www.insuranceforretailers.com](http://www.insuranceforretailers.com)

# NRF PROTECT Conference



**Gaylord Texan Resort | Dallas, Texas | June 11–13, 2018**

Texas Retailer Association Members receive NRF retail member rates to NRF PROTECT! Hear from top loss prevention leaders, network with peers and find solutions to your largest LP challenges. Retailers, register today and save up to \$300 by May 4th! As always, the retailer EXPO pass is FREE!

**Register for NRF PROTECT!**

## FMI Legal Conference



**Please Join Us - FMI Legal Conference 2018**

The food retail industry continues to face new regulatory challenges, many of which we will discuss in great detail at [FMI's 2018 Legal Conference](#) to be held June 24-26th in Washington, DC. The conference will be held at the [Mandarin Oriental](#), which overlooks the beautiful DC Tidal Basin and is walkable to many popular hotspots.

Regarding topics, many sessions will address the current outlook of regulations and issues you have likely been following, such as FSMA enforcement, food labeling, employment and labor for food retail, antitrust concerns, customer privacy and data, and more. Additionally, we will also spend a significant portion of the conference discussing legal issues that you will likely face as customer demands and wishes continue to morph over time. In particular, we will have detailed dialogues with subject matter experts on both the food side and the business side of industry trends such as meal kits, an increase in prepared foods, online sales, and home delivery services.

We are pleased to offer you the following discount code for 15% off conference registration. Simply use code **LEG18** on the payment screen.



In addition to some great sessions, we are excited to have you join us at the fabulous Mandarin Oriental on the DC waterfront. One of the best times to visit the DC monuments is at dusk and nighttime, and the FMI Legal Conference is located only a quick walk from many of the most popular monuments. In particular, the World War II Memorial and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial have water features that are particularly beautiful when lit up at night. Finally, if memorials and history are not your thing, the Mandarin Oriental is also an easy walk the recently remodeled [District Wharf](#), which houses boutique shops, restaurants, ample outdoor seating area to relax by the water, and even views of the capitol building from select bars.

We hope to see you in June!

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**Register for FMI Legal Conference**

**Grocers Corner - In the Cart**

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## Menu Labeling Rule Update

Courtesy of our National Partners: Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the National Grocers Association (NGA)

To ensure you have all available compliance resources for the menu labeling rule that requires grocery stores with 20 or more locations to provide calorie counts (and nutritional information upon request) for “restaurant-type foods” beginning May 7, please note the following:

- **Implementation Guide:** You can find the implementation guide and more resources [here](#). This guide has been reviewed by FDA, and provides a more simplistic explanation of the rule and its requirements.
- **FMI Webinar and Slides:** On April 19th, FMI's chief regulatory officer, Stephanie Barnes, conducted a webinar to explain the requirements of the rule and answer questions to help members successfully implement its requirements in their stores. A link to the webinar recording and materials can be found [here](#).
- **Nutritional Information Signage:** As a resource to those who are not covered and would like to provide calorie information (or for covered stores who would like sample signage, or are interested in labeling commonly sold items in a single sign format), FMI has created the following reference signs for popular salad bar, rotisserie and bakery items. These also serve as a way to highlight the many items you offer that are 100 calories or less.

- [Salad Bar Nutrition Information](#)
- [Rotisserie Nutrition Information](#)
- [Bakery Nutrition Information](#)
- Enforcement Recommendations: If a state or local official enters a store to enforce the menu labeling rule, we recommend of course that you be courteous, but also to document both their identification and the information they are requesting, and to share it with FMI as soon as possible. FDA has indicated that the Agency plans to educate rather than enforce in the early months; however, state and local officials have not received standardized training or criteria on enforcing the requirements. We plan to make FDA and Congress aware of any enforcement prior to the conclusion of this “education period” and provide our legal team to help with any challenges you face.

TRA continues to work with our national partners to push for passage of the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act in the Senate, following an unsuccessful attempt to have the legislation included in the recently passed Omnibus spending bill. The legislation, which would provide additional flexibility to covered entities, was passed in the House earlier this year.

## **SNAP Program Statistics Update**

SNAP program participation continues to drop in Texas. This past month a little over 1% so not as bad as the last few months but when you compare April statistics to the rolling twelve month average you can see the cumulative impact over the year. Participation is down over 5% and the benefit dollars available to participants are down close to \$30 million monthly. A look back at last year indicates there should be a slight increase from April to May.

The Houston SNAP Task Force will hold its next meeting on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Houston Food Bank. Members HEB, Lewis Food Town as well as TRA are participating on the Task Force and will share recommendations the Task Force will propose to close the gap of those eligible in Houston ( 824,133) to receive SNAP benefits compared to those actually participating (565,765), according to The Food Trust and FRAC (Food Research & Action Center). Again according to these organizations if these numbers represent only the Houston market, and if you consider that only approximately 70% of the eligible folks are participating, the number of folks not participating state wide is large (5,507,193 compared to those actually participating of 3,855,035). It has been mentioned that a large number of the eligible but not participating are seniors who aren't comfortable with the process of applying for SNAP or the idea of a federal hand out.

Please contact Gary Huddleston [ghuddleston@txretailers.org](mailto:ghuddleston@txretailers.org) or 972-670-6814 if you have

any questions regarding the statistics update.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Participates</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Avg per Case</u>
Mar 18	1,620,359	3,791,777	\$426,974,689.00	\$264.00
Apr 18	1,596,320	3,736,499	\$421,644,473.00	\$264.00

**Twelve Month Running Average**

5/17-4/18	1,670,629	3,937,960	\$451,372,536.00	\$270.00
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**Look Back To Last Year (2017) at This Time**

April 17	1,614,563	3,807,266	\$436,122,969.00	\$270.00
May 17	1,620,494	3,823,612	\$438,660,725.00	\$271.00

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## About the Texas Retailers Association

The Texas Retailers Association (TRA) is a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization dedicated to keeping Texas “retail friendly” for business owners through legislative advocacy. Since 1926, our diverse membership has represented every segment of the retail industry throughout Texas – from the smallest neighborhood store to the largest corporate chain. Recognized as the Voice of Texas Retail, TRA effectively advocates for Texas retailers at the State and Federal level while providing value-added services and partner programs for its members. Visit [www.txretailers.org](http://www.txretailers.org) and join today!

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