



The Buzz

June 2014

The Buzz is a monthly newsletter from Workforce Solutions- Employer Service Division and is issued to provide local labor market information that is timely and meaningful to our partners in the Gulf Coast Region.

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Workforce Solu

Your feedback along with any questions you might have can be directed to

Houston's 10-county region benefits from a skilled workforce, world-class infrastructure and transportation system, and a pro-business environment that stimulates business growth. Houston's labor force fills 2.7 million jobs and counting, providing many career opportunities for Houstonians, particularly veterans, as well as state

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and local business incentives.

Following are highlights on economic developments and business opportunities across the region.

Houston Economy Highlights

- The thriving economy, fueled by the oil and gas industry, puts Houston as a leader for relocation.

- Houston continues to



Local & State Business Incentives

Business Consultants working together with economic development groups can offer several incentive programs of interest to prospective investors and businesses considering relocating or opening new branches within the Gulf Coast Region. Along with customized labor market information, these incentives include:

State Incentives:

- Texas Enterprise Fund
- Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF)
- Skills Development Fund
- Skills for Small Businesses
- State Sales Tax Refunds
- Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center
- Manufacturing Sales Tax Exemption
- Sales Tax Exemption On Utilities
- Pollution Control Property Tax Abatements

Local Incentives:

- Property Tax Abatement
- A and B Sales Tax

lead the country in job creation with an unemployment rate of less than 4.8 percent.

- Enterprise Zone Program
- Green Building Tax Abatement
- Freeport Exemption
- Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB's)
- Goods-in-Transit Exemption
- Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ's)
- Employer Tax Credits
- Economic Development Act
- City of Houston Brownfield Redevelopment Program

Business Consultants also work with the Greater Houston Partnership and The City of Houston to offer various resources that facilitate continued economic growth for the Houston metro area.

- Houston has added 337,300 jobs to the region since 2010.

Hiring Heroes

There are many programs that provide resources to veterans to obtain employment, start a business, or further develop a business for self-employment. Energy companies throughout Houston have begun programs and heavy recruitment of veterans.

Veterans Entrepreneur Program (VEP)

Promotes entrepreneurship throughout the state of Texas

University of Houston Veterans Services

It is a cooperative with UH Veteran Services

Texas Veterans Leadership Program

A Texas Workforce Commission resource and referral network

- The Greater Houston Partnership forecasts the Houston metro area will create 69,800 jobs in 2014.



Employers Hiring Veterans in the Houston Area

Phillip 66

- Environmental Permit Engineer
- Operations Analyst (Crude Oil)

Baker Hughes

- Solution Manager - Production Surveillance
- Completions Engineer

Flour

- Construction Engineer
- Fuel Data Administrator

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- 1 out of 5 jobs created since January 2010 has been in energy.

Opportunity Houston

Opportunity Houston is a six year marketing program that generates leads for economic development organizations throughout Houston. It is a direct result of Greater Houston Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan to attract capital investment and expand foreign trade for the greater Houston area by 2015. The focus is on the following areas:

- Proactive and targeted marketing and public relations' campaigns
 - Identification and pursuit of foreign direct investment
 - Further refinement of marketing and industries
 - Focus on long-term Economic Development Objectives (Ports, NASA, Texas Medical Center, Universities, Energy Sector)
 - Staffing to handle increase in project leads
- The Houston area exports \$16.8 billion dollars in chemicals. The researchers show that a 15% increase in chemical exports would support 23,787 jobs.

New Economic Development

Metrorail North Line

- Since provisions have been made on the Patient Production and Affordable Health Care Act, Houston forecasted this sector to add 7,900 jobs in 2014.

- 5.3-mile extension of the existing Red Line north of downtown. Estimated completion in 2014.

Metrorail Southeast & East End Lines

- New light rail lines extending 6.6 miles southeast of downtown and 3.3 miles east, respectively. Estimated completion in 2014.

High School for the Visual and Performing Arts

- Construction of a new magnet school by Houston Independent School District. Estimated construction start in 2014.

For more information on job development, contact your local Workforce Solutions Business Consultant.

[Click here to view more](#)

For more information on any of these projects or other jobs in demand in your area, contact your Workforce Solutions Business Consultant, names and location listed below:

**wrksolutions.com
wrksolutionsonline.com**

References:
<http://www.houston.org/>
<http://www.houstontx.gov/vetaffairs/>
<http://www.lonestarveterans>

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