



MEDIA RELEASE

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Gulf Coast Region's Job Growth Continues To Outperform Nation and State

HOUSTON —News continues to be good for Gulf Coast employers and residents when it comes to the area's job growth outlook. Recently released numbers for the month of June indicate that the Gulf Coast Region's over-the-year job growth of 3.1 % was twice the nation's rate of 1.4 % and over a full percentage point above the state's 2.1% rate. That translates into 76,500 new jobs for the region.

While the local job market is strong, it is below last year's level of 103,800 jobs and there are signs it is slowing.

"The area's job growth has been slowing since October 2006," says Joel Wagher, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's labor market analyst. "The slowdown can be attributed in part to a drop in the region's unemployment rate of 4.4%, the lowest it has been in this area since the early 1980's."

Wagher notes that industry growth in the Gulf Coast region is strong in the professional, business service and construction industries.

"Employers are also adding jobs in the government sector," he says. "The only industry losing jobs in the region is information technology."

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board is the board of directors for The WorkSource, which serves 13 counties in the Houston-Galveston region. The board sets policy and annually directs expenditures that underwrite services for more than 90,000 businesses and 4.5 million residents in the region. The board itself is business-led, with a majority of its 63 members representing the private sector. Other board members come from labor and community-based organizations, education, economic development organizations and state agencies.

For more detailed labor market information and services provided by The WorkSource – Gulf Coast Workforce Board, go to www.theworksource.org.

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